

Morphisms of a Lawvere theory are (dually) homomorphisms between the algebras of that theory that are free and finitely generated [8]. For $\mathbb{L}_{\text{CAlg}_q}$, a morphism is just a tuple of polynomials over \mathbb{F}_q . For example, for the polynomial tuple $f = (x_1 + x_2, x_1x_3 + x_1^2) \in (\mathbb{F}_q[x_1, x_2, x_3])^2$, we have

$$\begin{array}{c} 3 \\ \xrightarrow{f} \\ 2 \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \circ \text{---} \\ \text{---} \circ \text{---} \\ \text{---} \circ \text{---} \end{array} \begin{array}{c} x_1 + x_2 \\ x_1x_3 + x_1^2 \end{array} \quad (1)$$

Structured Spans of Affine Varieties

In general, for a field k , a k -rational affine variety is (for our purposes) a subset of a space k^n carved out by some polynomial constraints:

$$V(f_1, \dots, f_m)^{(k)} = \{\mathbf{x} \in k^n : f_1(\mathbf{x}) = \dots = f_m(\mathbf{x}) = 0\}. \quad (2)$$

If $V_1 \subset k^{n_1}$, $V_2 \subset k^{n_2}$ are affine varieties, a morphism $V_1 \rightarrow V_2$ is just a polynomial function $g \in (k[x_1, \dots, x_{n_1}])^{n_2}$ such that $g(V_1) \subset V_2$. These form a category $\text{AffVar}_k^{(k)}$. When k is finite, this category is equivalent to the category of finite sets: every subset of \mathbb{F}_q^n is an affine variety; and every function between subsets is a polynomial mapping. However, treating these as algebraic constructs is crucial to our results.

On a variety $V(f_1, \dots, f_m)^{(k)}$, any other polynomial f in the ideal generated by f_1, \dots, f_m also vanishes. Thus we think of varieties always as varieties of *ideals*.

In particular, the spaces \mathbb{F}_q^n themselves are trivial varieties $V(0)^{(\mathbb{F}_q)} = \mathbb{F}_q^n$. Let $G : \{\mathbb{F}_q^n : n \in \mathbb{N}\} \hookrightarrow \text{AffVar}_{\mathbb{F}_q}^{(\mathbb{F}_q)}$ be the inclusion of these among all \mathbb{F}_q -rational varieties. A G -structured span of affine varieties is a diagram in $\text{AffVar}_{\mathbb{F}_q}^{(\mathbb{F}_q)}$ of the form $\mathbb{F}_q^n \leftarrow V \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_q^m$, modulo the usual notion of isomorphisms of spans.

These G -structured spans of affine varieties form a PROP ${}_G\text{Span}(\text{AffVar}_{\mathbb{F}_q}^{(\mathbb{F}_q)})$, where composition is the usual composition of spans by pullback. This forms the target semantic of graphical algebraic geometry: the Lawvere theory $\mathbb{L}_{\text{CAlg}_q}$ suffices as a language of the ‘‘forward-going’’ polynomials; we now seek a language for a span-semantic of polynomials.

Graphical Algebraic Geometry

To create a graphical language for algebraic geometry over finite fields, we take the Lawvere theory $\mathbb{L}_{\text{CAlg}_q}$, freely adjoin it to its own opposite, to obtain a self-dual PROP $\mathbb{L}_{\leftrightarrow} = \mathbb{L}_{\text{CAlg}_q} + \mathbb{L}_{\text{CAlg}_q}^{\text{op}}$. This has semantics in ${}_G\text{Span}(\text{AffVar}_{\mathbb{F}_q}^{(\mathbb{F}_q)})$ by sending a polynomial $f \in (\mathbb{F}_q[x_1, \dots, x_n])^m$ to the ‘‘graph’’ span $(k^n = k^n \xrightarrow{f} k^m)$, and dually, to the ‘‘cograph’’ span $(k^m \xleftarrow{f} k^n = k^n)$.

We then find a set of rewrite rules E which tell us how generators of $\mathbb{L}_{\text{CAlg}_q}$ and $\mathbb{L}_{\text{CAlg}_q}^{\text{op}}$ should interact. We show an extract of E in below.

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{---} \circ \text{---} \\ \text{---} \circ \text{---} \end{array} \stackrel{\text{(Z-SPEC)}}{=} \text{---} \quad \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \circ \text{---} \\ \text{---} \circ \text{---} \end{array} \stackrel{\text{(Z-FROB)}}{=} \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \circ \text{---} \\ \text{---} \circ \text{---} \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \circ \text{---} \\ \text{---} \circ \text{---} \end{array} \stackrel{\text{(CUP)}}{=} \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \circ \text{---} \\ \text{---} \circ \text{---} \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \circ \text{---} \\ \text{---} \circ \text{---} \end{array} \stackrel{\text{(K-TRP)}}{=} \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \circ \text{---} \\ \text{---} \circ \text{---} \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \circ \text{---} \\ \text{---} \circ \text{---} \end{array} \stackrel{\text{(QRED)}}{=} \text{---}$$

Here, f ranges over the generators of $\mathbb{L}_{\text{CAlg}_q}$. This yields a the PROP $\mathbb{L}_{\text{Span}_q} = \mathbb{L}_{\leftrightarrow} / E$. The rule set E is sound for our semantic, meaning that the functor $\mathbb{L}_{\leftrightarrow} \rightarrow {}_G\text{Span}(\text{AffVar}_{\mathbb{F}_q}^{(\mathbb{F}_q)})$ factors through $\mathbb{L}_{\text{Span}_q}$, yielding a semantic functor $[-]_q : \mathbb{L}_{\text{Span}_q} \rightarrow {}_G\text{Span}(\text{AffVar}_{\mathbb{F}_q}^{(\mathbb{F}_q)})$. Our main result is:

Theorem. *The semantic functor $[-]_q$ is well-defined as a PROP morphism, and fully faithful. In other words, $\mathbb{L}_{\text{Span}_q}$ is a sound, universal, and complete language for ${}_G\text{Span}(\text{AffVar}_{\mathbb{F}_q}^{(\mathbb{F}_q)})$.*

For any polynomial mapping $f \in (\mathbb{F}_q[x_1, \dots, x_n])^m$, we have in $\mathbb{L}_{\text{Span}_q}$ diagrams of the form $\text{---} \circ \xrightarrow{f} \text{---}$ whose semantic is the span $\mathbb{F}_q^n \leftarrow V(f) \hookrightarrow \mathbb{F}_q^m$. These can be shown to respect the generation of ideals in the way we expect, so that we may safely speak of gadgets of the form

$$\begin{array}{c} \triangle \\ \text{---} \circ \end{array} := \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \circ \\ \text{---} \circ \end{array} \quad \dots \quad \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \circ \\ \text{---} \circ \end{array} \quad \xrightarrow{[-]_q} \quad (\mathbb{F}_q^n \leftarrow V(I) \hookrightarrow \mathbb{F}_q^m) \quad (3)$$

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