

Action representability of internal 2-groupoids

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Goal of the talk

- 1 Explain the concept of **action representability** that provides a common categorical description of
 - the automorphism group $\text{Aut}(G)$ of a group G ,
 - the Lie algebra $\text{Der}(L)$ of derivations of a Lie algebra L ,
 - the actor $\text{Act}(\mathbb{X})$ of a crossed module \mathbb{X} .

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- 2 Explain under which conditions $\text{Grpd}^2(\mathcal{C})$ and $2\text{-Grpd}(\mathcal{C})$ are action representable categories.

Motivation

An **action** of a group G on a group H is a function

$$\triangleright : G \times H \rightarrow H$$

such that:

$$g \triangleright (hh') = (g \triangleright h)(g \triangleright h')$$

$$e \triangleright h = h$$

$$(gg') \triangleright h = g \triangleright (g' \triangleright h)$$

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Consequently, the functor

$$\text{Act}(-, H) : \text{Grp}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \text{Set}, \quad G \mapsto \{G\text{-actions on } H\}$$

is representable:

$$\text{Act}(-, H) \approx \text{Hom}_{\text{Grp}}(-, \text{Aut}(H)).$$

Consider the functor:

$$\text{SplExt}(-, H) : \text{Grp}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \text{Set},$$

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We have that:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Act}(-, H) & \approx & \text{SplExt}(-, H) \\ \triangleright : G \times H \rightarrow H & \mapsto & [0 \rightarrow H \rightarrow G \rtimes H \rightrightarrows G \rightarrow 0] \end{array}$$

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Hence:

$$\mathrm{SplExt}(-, H) \approx \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathrm{Grp}}(-, \mathrm{Aut}(H))$$

Furthermore,

$$1_{\text{Aut}(H)} \in \text{Hom}_{\text{Grp}}(\text{Aut}(H), \text{Aut}(H))$$

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satisfies the following universal property: For any split extension

$$0 \rightarrow H \rightarrow K \hookrightarrow G \rightarrow 0$$

there exist unique (up to isomorphism) morphisms φ, ψ such that

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & H & \longrightarrow & K & \xrightleftharpoons{\quad} & G \longrightarrow 0 \\ & & \parallel & & \downarrow \exists! \psi & & \downarrow \exists! \varphi \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & H & \longrightarrow & \text{Aut}(H) \rtimes H & \xrightleftharpoons{\quad} & \text{Aut}(H) \longrightarrow 0 \end{array}$$

commutes.

Structure of the talk

- 1 Semi-direct products
- 2 Actors
- 3 Split extension classifiers
- 4 $\text{Grpd}(\mathcal{C})$
- 5 $2\text{-Grpd}(\mathcal{C})$

1. Semi-direct products

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For an abelian category \mathcal{C} , the functor

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathrm{Pt}(\mathcal{C}) & \xrightarrow{K} & \mathcal{C} \times \mathcal{C} \\ A \xrightleftharpoons[s]{f} B & \mapsto & (\mathrm{Ker}(f), B) \end{array}$$

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Proposition (Bourn; 1991)

Let \mathcal{C} be a pointed category with pullbacks. TFAE:

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Let \mathcal{C} be a pointed category with pullbacks. TFAE:

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2 The *split short five lemma* holds.

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & \mathrm{Ker}(f) & \xrightarrow{k} & A & \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{f} \\ \xleftarrow{s} \end{array} & B \\ & & \textcolor{brown}{c} \downarrow & & \downarrow \textcolor{red}{a} & & \downarrow \textcolor{brown}{b} \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & \mathrm{Ker}(f') & \xrightarrow{k'} & A' & \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{f'} \\ \xleftarrow{s'} \end{array} & B' \end{array} \quad \textcolor{brown}{b}, \textcolor{brown}{c} \text{ isomorphisms} \Rightarrow \textcolor{red}{a} \text{ isomorphism}$$

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- 4 $p^* : \mathrm{Pt}_B(\mathcal{C}) \rightarrow \mathrm{Pt}_E(\mathcal{C})$ is conservative for all $p : E \rightarrow B$ in \mathcal{C} .

$$\begin{array}{ccc} P & \longrightarrow & A \\ f' \downarrow \uparrow s' & \lrcorner & f \downarrow \uparrow s \\ E & \xrightarrow{p} & B \end{array}$$

Definition (Bourn, 1991)

A category \mathcal{C} with pullbacks is **protomodular** if

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Definition (Janelidze, Màrki, Tholen; 2002)

A category \mathcal{C} is **semi-abelian** if it is:

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- **protomodular**
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- finitely cocomplete

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Examples of semi-abelian categories

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- Grp , $\text{Grp}(\text{HComp})$, $\text{XMod}(\text{Grp})$, Rng , Assoc_K , Lie_K , $\text{Hopf}_{K,\text{coc}}$

Definition (Bourn, Janelidze;1998)

A category \mathcal{C} with pullbacks **has semi-direct products** if

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has a left-adjoint and is monadic for all $p : E \rightarrow B$ in \mathcal{C} .

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Proposition (Bourn, Janelidze; 1998)

Let \mathcal{C} be a *semi-abelian* category. Then \mathcal{C} has *semi-direct products*.

Let \mathcal{C} be a pointed category with finite (co-)limits. Consider $\alpha_B : 0 \rightarrow B$. Then $\alpha_B^* \approx \text{Ker}_B$.

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 & \xleftarrow{\quad} & \\
 \text{Pt}_B(\mathcal{C}) & \xrightarrow[\quad B+(-) \quad]{\quad \perp \quad} & \mathcal{C}^{B\flat(-)} \\
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Monad

$$Bb(-) : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$$

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$B + A$ is the free product of B, A .

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$B \ltimes_{\xi} A$ is generated by B, A , with the condition that conjugation of B on A coincides with the action of B on A .

2. Actors

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[Borceux, Janelidze, Kelly; 2005]

"Categorical algebra, understood as a categorical approach to and a categorical generalization of classical algebraic constructions [...] is still full of open questions [...] – especially those that are needed for categorical reformulations and extensions of specific group- and ring-theoretic results. [Semi-abelian categories](#) ([JMT]) provide a convenient setting for such reformulations [...]. A typical group/ring theoretic result that extends (see [BJ]) to semi-abelian categories is: [Every split epimorphism is a semi-direct projection](#). It involves a new categorical notion of a [semidirect product](#), and in particular a new notion of [internal object action](#), which we continue to study in the present paper."

Let \mathcal{C} be a pointed category with finite limits and finite coproducts. There is the functor

$$(-)^{\flat} : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \text{Monad}(\mathcal{C}), \quad B \mapsto B^{\flat}(-).$$

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 For any object X in \mathcal{C} , there is the functor

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Definition (Borceux, Janelidze, Kelly; 2005)

Let \mathcal{C} be a pointed category with finite limits and finite coproducts. \mathcal{C} is **action representable** if the functor $\text{Act}(-, X)$ is representable for any object X in \mathcal{C} :

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- XMod(Grp), XMod(Lie_K)

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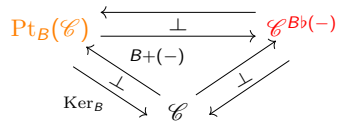
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- $\text{XMod}(\text{Grp})$, $\text{XMod}(\text{Lie}_K)$
- $\text{Hopf}_{K, \text{coc}}$

3. Split extension classifiers

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If \mathcal{C} is semi-abelian, then:

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 \text{Ker}_B & \xrightarrow{\quad \perp \quad} & \mathcal{C}
 \end{array}$$

If \mathcal{C} is semi-abelian, then:

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3. Split extension classifiers

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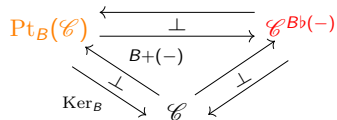
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$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 B \mapsto \text{SplExt}(B, X) = \{\text{isomorphism classes of split extensions of } B \text{ by } X\} \\
 \varphi \uparrow & & \downarrow \text{SplExt}(\varphi, X) \\
 B' \mapsto \text{SplExt}(B', X)
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 0 & \longrightarrow & X & \dashrightarrow & A' & \dashrightarrow & B' \longrightarrow 0 \\
 & & \parallel & & \downarrow & \lrcorner & \downarrow \varphi \\
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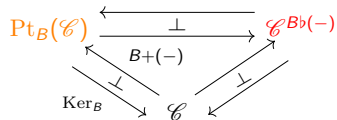
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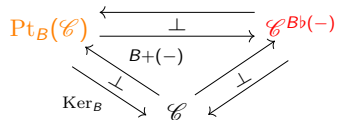
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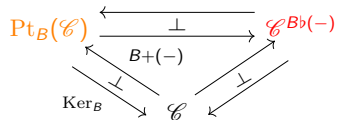
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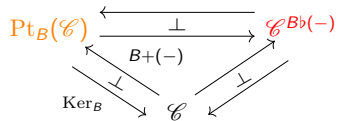
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In this case, $B^* = [X]$ and $A^* = [X] \ltimes_{\xi} X$, where $\xi \in \text{Act}([X], X)$ corresponds to $1_{[X]} \in \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}([X], [X])$.

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Remark

- In a semi-abelian category \mathcal{C} , a reflexive graph

$$C_1 \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{d} \\ \xleftarrow{e} \\ \xrightarrow{c} \end{array} C_0$$

admits at most one internal category structure.

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- $\text{Grpd}(\mathcal{C}) \approx \text{Cat}(\mathcal{C})$
- $\text{Grpd}(\mathcal{C})$ is a Birkhoff subcategory of $\text{RG}(\mathcal{C})$, i.e. a full reflective subcategory which is closed under subobjects and regular quotients.

$$\text{Grpd}(\mathcal{C}) \begin{array}{c} \xleftarrow{\quad} \\ \xrightarrow{\perp} \end{array} \text{RG}(\mathcal{C})$$

Proposition (Bourn, Gran; 2002, Gran; 1999)

\mathcal{C} is a semi-abelian category iff $\mathbf{Grpd}(\mathcal{C})$ is semi-abelian.

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Theorem (Gran, Gray; 2021)

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Examples

\mathbf{Grp} , \mathbf{Lie}_K , $\mathbf{Hopf}_{K,\text{coc}}$.

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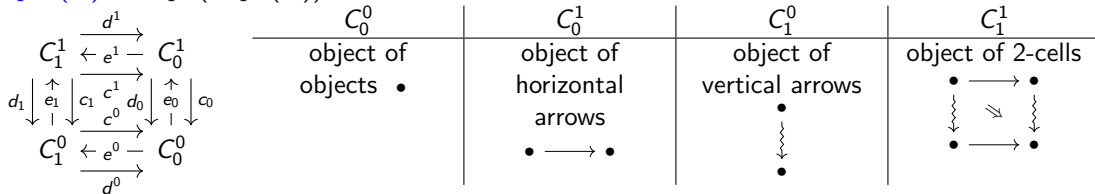
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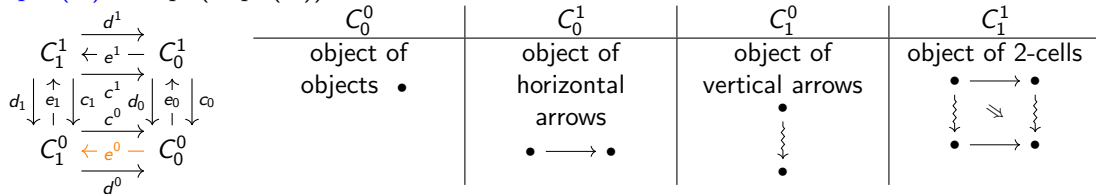
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$2\text{-Grpd}(\mathcal{C})$: full subcategory of $\text{Grpd}^2(\mathcal{C})$ with objects such that e^0 is an isomorphism.



Main result (E., Gran)

Let \mathcal{C} be a category which is

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Then $2\text{-Grpd}(\mathcal{C})$ has the same properties.

Theorem (E., Gran)

Let \mathcal{C} be a semi-abelian category. Then $2\text{-Grpd}(\mathcal{C})$ is a Birkhoff subcategory of $\text{Grpd}^2(\mathcal{C})$ and the reflector $F : \text{Grpd}^2(\mathcal{C}) \rightarrow 2\text{-Grpd}(\mathcal{C})$ is given by:

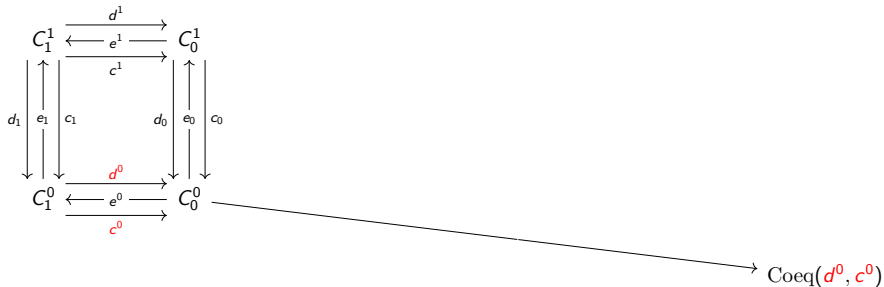
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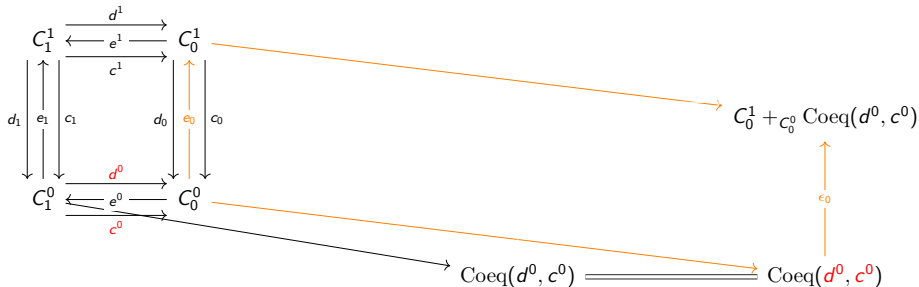
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 \xrightarrow{\quad\quad\quad} \text{Coeq}(d^0, c^0)$$

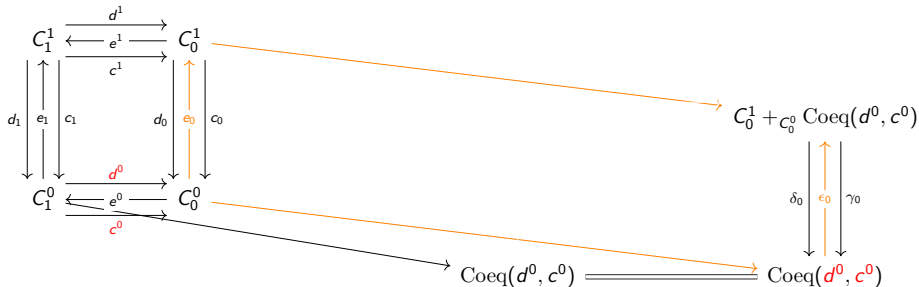
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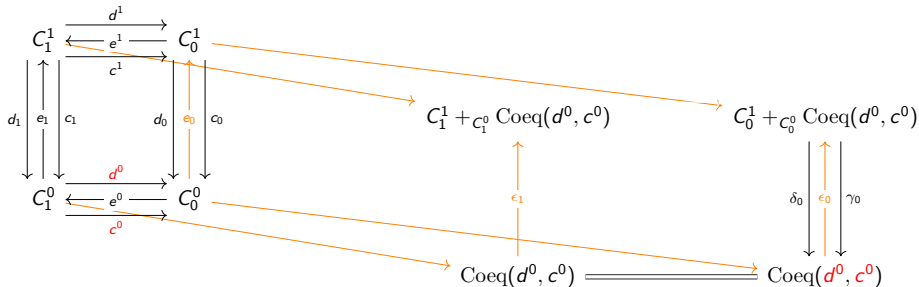
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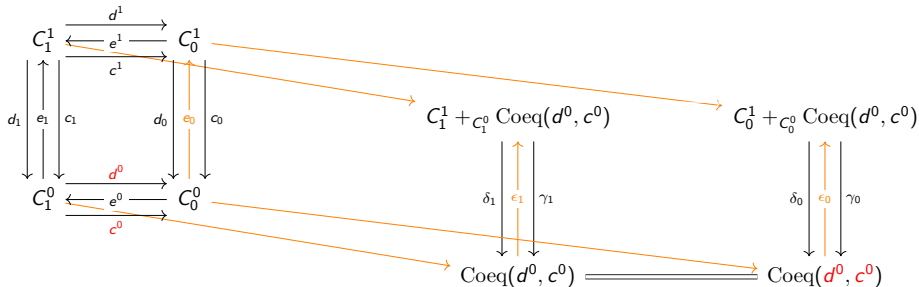
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Remark

The statement is true for any regular Mal'tsev category \mathcal{C} with finite colimits, such as $\text{Grp}(\text{Top})$, $\text{Ab}_{\text{t.f.}}$, Ban .

Proof of main result

- *The fact that $2\text{-Grpd}(\mathcal{C})$ is a Birkhoff subcategory of $\text{Grpd}^2(\mathcal{C})$ implies that $2\text{-Grpd}(\mathcal{C})$ is semi-abelian.*

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- *The fact that $2\text{-Grpd}(\mathcal{C})$ is a Birkhoff subcategory of $\text{Grpd}^2(\mathcal{C})$ implies that $2\text{-Grpd}(\mathcal{C})$ is semi-abelian.*
- *Moreover, $2\text{-Grpd}(\mathcal{C})$ is a co-reflective subcategory of $\text{Grpd}^2(\mathcal{C})$.*
- *Thus, we can use that the inclusion*

$$I : 2\text{-Grpd}(\mathcal{C}) \hookrightarrow \text{Grpd}^2(\mathcal{C})$$

is fully faithful, has a right adjoint and is itself a right adjoint to prove that $2\text{-Grpd}(\mathcal{C})$ has split extension classifiers.

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