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Internal lenses as monad morphisms

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Motivation

Formal monads, functors, and cofunctors

The 2-category of internal lenses

Bonus: Mealy morphisms and symmetric lenses



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Motivation

- It depends on who you ask ...
- Lenses are a mathematical structure which aim to capture the notion of **synchronisation** between a pair of systems (e.g. databases).
- Originally lenses were defined to precisely present synchronisation between a pair of sets, called **state-based lenses**.
- However when generalising to categories, there are at least two useful ways to define lenses: **split opfibrations**¹ and (asymmetric) **delta lenses**².
- In this talk, I will show how delta lenses may be internalised to a category with pullbacks and motivated as a kind of monad morphism.
- Link: **Internal lenses as functors and cofunctors, *Proceedings of ACT2019***

¹Called “c-lenses” in: Johnson, Rosebrugh, Wood, *Lenses, fibrations and universal translations* (2012)

²Diskin, Xiong, & Czarnecki, *From State- to Delta-Based Bidirectional Model Transformations: the Asymmetric Case* (2011)

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 \mathbf{A} & & a & \xrightarrow{k(a,\beta)} & p(a,\beta) & \xrightarrow{\alpha} & & \dashrightarrow^{\exists!} & a' \\
 \downarrow F & & \vdots & & \vdots & & & & \vdots \\
 \mathbf{B} & & F(a) & \xrightarrow{\beta} & b & \xrightarrow{\gamma} & & & b' \\
 & & & & & \searrow^{F(\alpha)=\gamma\beta} & & &
 \end{array}$$

A **split opfibration** is a functor $F: \mathbf{A} \rightarrow \mathbf{B}$ such that for all pairs (a, β) as shown, there is a morphism $k(a, \beta): a \rightarrow p(a, \beta)$ with $F(p(a, \beta)) = b$ such that:

1. $Fk(a, \beta) = \beta$
2. The morphisms $k(a, \beta)$ are opcartesian, satisfying the universal property illustrated above, thus defining a **cleavage**.
3. The cleavage respects identities and composition, thus defining a **splitting**.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathbf{A} & a \xrightarrow{k(a,\beta)} & p(a,\beta) \\ F \downarrow & \vdots & \vdots \\ \mathbf{B} & F(a) \xrightarrow{\beta} & b \end{array}$$

A **delta lens** is a functor $F: \mathbf{A} \rightarrow \mathbf{B}$ such that for all pairs (a, β) as shown, there is a morphism $k(a, \beta): a \rightarrow p(a, \beta)$ with $F(p(a, \beta)) = b$ such that:

1. $Fk(a, \beta) = \beta$
- 2.
3. The **lifting** k respects identities and composition.

Cofunctors (not contravariant functors!)

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathbf{A} & a & \xrightarrow{k(a,\beta)} & p(a,\beta) \\ \Downarrow & \vdots & & \vdots \\ \mathbf{B} & F(a) & \xrightarrow{\beta} & b \end{array}$$

A **cofunctor** is an *function* $F: A_0 \rightarrow B_0$ such that for all pairs (a, β) as shown, there is a morphism $k(a, \beta): a \rightarrow p(a, \beta)$ with $F(p(a, \beta)) = b$ such that:

- 1.
- 2.
3. The **lifting** k respects identities and composition.

- First defined by Higgins & Mackenzie³ as “comorphisms” between vector bundles, modules, Lie algebroids, and Lie pseudo-algebras.
- Generalised by Aguiar⁴ where “cofunctors” are between categories internal to a monoidal category with equalizers.
- Rediscovered by Ahman & Uustalu⁵ as directed container morphisms or “split pre-opcleavages”.
- Considered recently in talks by Garner (groupoids and cofunctors)⁶, Cockett (internal partite categories and cofunctors)⁷ and Paré (Retrocells, CT2019).

³*Duality for base-changing morphisms of vector bundles, modules, Lie algebroids and Poisson structures* (1993)

⁴*Internal Categories and Quantum Groups* (1997)

⁵*Directed Containers as Categories* (2016)

⁶*Inner automorphisms of groupoids*, Australian Category Seminar (13 March 2019)

⁷*Hyperconnections*, Australian Category Seminar (20 March 2019)



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Formal monads, functors, and cofunctors

A **monad**⁸ (A, t) in a 2-category \mathcal{K} consists of an object A , a 1-cell $t: A \rightarrow A$ and 2-cells $\eta: 1_A \rightarrow t$ and $\mu: t^2 \rightarrow t$ such that the following diagrams commute:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} t & \xrightarrow{t\eta} & t^2 & \xleftarrow{\eta t} & t \\ & \searrow & \downarrow \mu & \swarrow & \\ & & t & & \end{array}$$

The diagram shows a commutative square. The top-left node is t , the top-right node is t^2 , and the bottom node is t . The top edge has two arrows: $t\eta$ from t to t^2 and ηt from t^2 to t . The right edge has a vertical arrow μ from t^2 to t . The left and bottom edges each have a diagonal arrow labeled 1 pointing from t to t .

$$\begin{array}{ccc} t^3 & \xrightarrow{t\mu} & t^2 \\ \mu t \downarrow & & \downarrow \mu \\ t^2 & \xrightarrow{\mu} & t \end{array}$$

The diagram shows a commutative square. The top-left node is t^3 , the top-right node is t^2 , the bottom-left node is t^2 , and the bottom-right node is t . The top edge has an arrow $t\mu$ from t^3 to t^2 . The right edge has a vertical arrow μ from t^2 to t . The bottom edge has an arrow μ from t^2 to t . The left edge has a vertical arrow μt from t^3 to t^2 .

We may similarly define a monad in a bicategory by inserting the unitors and associator where appropriate.

⁸Street, *The Formal Theory of Monads* (1972) and Lack, Street, *The Formal Theory of Monads II* (2002)

Example: Internal categories are monads in $\text{Span}(\mathcal{E})$

Let \mathcal{E} be a category with pullbacks, and $\text{Span}(\mathcal{E})$ the bicategory of spans in \mathcal{E} .

A **monad** in $\text{Span}(\mathcal{E})$ consists of an object A_0 and a span,

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & A_1 & \\ s_0 \swarrow & & \searrow t_0 \\ A_0 & & A_0 \end{array}$$

together with morphisms of spans,

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} & & A_0 & & \\ & \swarrow 1_{A_0} & \downarrow i & \searrow 1_{A_0} & \\ A_0 & \xleftarrow{s_0} & A_1 & \xrightarrow{t_0} & A_0 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} A_1 & \xleftarrow{s_1} & A_2 & \xrightarrow{t_1} & A_1 \\ s_0 \downarrow & & \downarrow c & & \downarrow t_0 \\ A_0 & \xleftarrow{s_0} & A_1 & \xrightarrow{t_0} & A_0 \end{array}$$

satisfying some conditions. This defines an **internal category** in \mathcal{E} .

A **lax monad morphism** $(A, t) \rightarrow (B, s)$ consists of a 1-cell $f: A \rightarrow B$ and a 2-cell $\phi: sf \rightarrow ft$ such that the following diagrams commute:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 & f & \\
 \eta f \swarrow & & \searrow f\eta \\
 sf & \xrightarrow{\phi} & ft
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 ssf & \xrightarrow{s\phi} & sft & \xrightarrow{\phi t} & ftt \\
 \mu f \downarrow & & & & \downarrow f\mu \\
 sf & \xrightarrow{\phi} & & & ft
 \end{array}$$

A **colax monad morphism** $(A, t) \rightarrow (B, s)$ consists of a 1-cell $f: A \rightarrow B$ and a 2-cell $\psi: ft \rightarrow sf$ such that the following diagrams commute:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 & f & \\
 f\eta \swarrow & & \searrow \eta f \\
 ft & \xrightarrow{\psi} & sf
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 ftt & \xrightarrow{\psi t} & sft & \xrightarrow{s\psi} & ssf \\
 f\mu \downarrow & & & & \downarrow \mu f \\
 ft & \xrightarrow{\psi} & & & sf
 \end{array}$$

- Since monads in $\text{Span}(\mathcal{E})$ are internal categories, we might expect that the monad morphisms give internal functors ... but they do not (in general).
- **Internal functors** are colax monad morphisms whose 1-cell is a *left adjoint*.
- A left adjoint 1-cell in $\text{Span}(\mathcal{E})$ is a span whose left leg is an identity:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & A_0 & \\ 1_{A_0} \swarrow & & \searrow f_0 \\ A_0 & & B_0 \end{array}$$

- The corresponding 2-cell simplifies to a morphism $f_1: A_1 \rightarrow B_1$ satisfying:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} A_0 & \xleftarrow{s_0} & A_1 & \xrightarrow{t_0} & A_0 \\ f_0 \downarrow & & \downarrow f_1 & & \downarrow f_0 \\ B_0 & \xleftarrow{s_0} & B_1 & \xrightarrow{t_0} & B_0 \end{array}$$

What are the lax monad morphisms in $\text{Span}(\mathcal{E})$?

- Given that internal functors are important, we may also wish to consider the corresponding dual notion.
- Internal cofunctors** are lax monad morphisms whose 1-cell is a left adjoint.
- The corresponding 2-cell for an internal cofunctor amounts to a morphism $k_1: A_0 \times_{B_0} B_1 \rightarrow A_1$ making the diagram commute:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} A_0 & \xleftarrow{s_0} & A_1 & \xrightarrow{t_0} & A_0 \\ \uparrow 1_{A_0} & & \uparrow k_1 & & \uparrow 1_{A_0} \\ A_0 & \xleftarrow{\pi_0} & A_0 \times_{B_0} B_1 & \xrightarrow{t_0 k_1} & A_0 \\ \downarrow f_0 & & \downarrow \pi_1 & & \downarrow f_0 \\ B_0 & \xleftarrow{s_0} & B_1 & \xrightarrow{t_0} & B_0 \end{array}$$

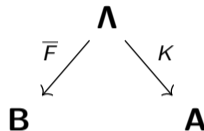
⊔

- A cofunctor $\Lambda: \mathbf{B} \rightrightarrows \mathbf{A}$ should be understood as a kind of **lifting**.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathbf{A} & & a \xrightarrow{k(a,\beta)} p(a,\beta) \\ \downarrow f \quad \uparrow k & & \vdots \qquad \qquad \qquad \vdots \\ \mathbf{B} & & f(a) \xrightarrow{\beta} b \end{array}$$

- The codomain $p(a, \beta)$ of the lift should satisfy $f(p(a, \beta)) = b$.
- The lifting should respect both identities and composition.
- Examples of cofunctors include:
 - Discrete opfibrations and split opfibrations;
 - Identity-on-objects functors, such as monoid and group homomorphisms;
 - State-based lenses and delta lenses (!)

- Every internal cofunctor may be represented as a span of internal functors,



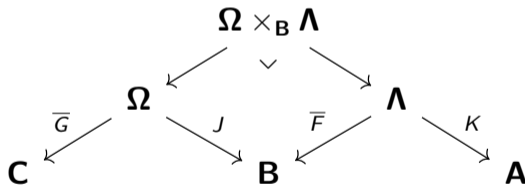
where \bar{F} is a **discrete opfibration**⁹ and K is an **identity-on-objects** functor.

- These functors appear immediately in the definition of an internal cofunctor:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 A_0 \xleftarrow{\pi_0} A_0 \times_{B_0} B_1 \xrightarrow{t_0 k_1} A_0 & & A_0 \xleftarrow{\pi_0} A_0 \times_{B_0} B_1 \xrightarrow{t_0 k_1} A_0 \\
 f_0 \downarrow \quad \quad \quad \downarrow \pi_1 \quad \quad \quad \downarrow f_0 & & 1_{A_0} \downarrow \quad \quad \quad \downarrow k_1 \quad \quad \quad \downarrow 1_{A_0} \\
 B_0 \xleftarrow{s_0} B_1 \xrightarrow{t_0} B_0 & & A_0 \xleftarrow{s_0} A_1 \xrightarrow{t_0} A_0
 \end{array}$$

⁹Also called an *internal diagram*, an *internal \mathcal{E} -valued functor*, or an *internal copresheaf*.

- Composing cofunctors is more difficult than composing functors; despite both arising from composition of the corresponding monad morphisms.
- However when a cofunctor is represented as a span of functors, composition is just via pullback.



- Every cofunctor may be factorised into a discrete opfibration part and an identity-on-objects functor part.



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The 2-category of internal lenses

- An **internal lens** is a lax monad morphism $(A, t) \rightarrow (B, t)$ whose 1-cell $f: A \rightarrow B$ is a left adjoint and whose 2-cell $\phi: sf \rightrightarrows ft$ is a *section*.
- An internal lens is a functor (f_0, f_1) and a cofunctor (f_0, k_1) satisfying:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & A_0 \times_{B_0} B_1 & \\ k_1 \swarrow & & \searrow \pi_1 \\ A_1 & \xrightarrow{f_1} & B_1 \end{array}$$

- An internal lens is a commuting diagram of internal functors,

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & \mathbf{\Lambda} & \\ K \swarrow & & \searrow \bar{F} \\ \mathbf{A} & \xrightarrow{F} & \mathbf{B} \end{array}$$

where \bar{F} is a **discrete opfibration** and K is an **identity-on-objects** functor.

- A **delta lens** is exactly an internal lens in **Set**.
- A **state-based lens** consisting of functions,

$$g: S \rightarrow V \qquad p: S \times V \rightarrow S$$

is a delta lens between codiscrete categories, where:

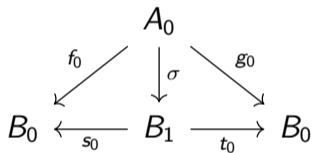
$$k_1 = \langle \pi_0, p \rangle: S \times V \rightarrow S \times S$$

- A **delta lens between monoids** is exactly a retraction.
- A **discrete opfibration** is an internal lens in **Set** where k_1 is an isomorphism.
- A **split opfibration** is an internal lens in **Cat** between double categories of squares, where k_1 is a left-adjoint right-inverse functor between categories:

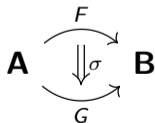
$$1 \curvearrowright (F \downarrow \mathbf{B}) \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{k_1} \\ \perp \\ \xleftarrow{\quad} \end{array} \mathbf{A}^2$$

Natural transformations between (co)functors

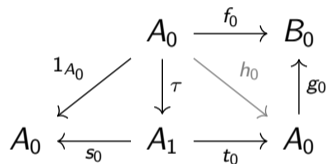
A natural transformation between internal functors $F, G: \mathbf{A} \rightarrow \mathbf{B}$ is given by a morphism $\sigma: A_0 \rightarrow B_1$ such that:



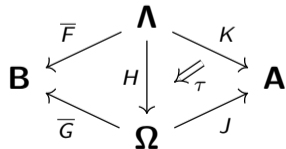
Represented by the diagram:



A natural transformation between internal cofunctors $\Lambda, \Omega: \mathbf{B} \rightrightarrows \mathbf{A}$ is given by a morphism $\tau: A_0 \rightarrow A_1$ such that:



Actually just given by a diagram:

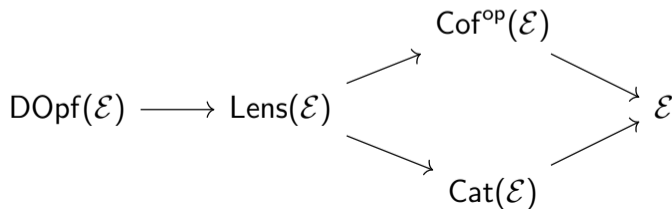


A **natural transformation between internal lenses** $(F, \Lambda), (G, \Omega): \mathbf{A} \rightleftarrows \mathbf{B}$ consists of natural transformations between the functor and cofunctor parts such that:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \Lambda & & \\
 \downarrow H & \swarrow K & \\
 \Omega & \searrow J & \mathbf{A}
 \end{array}
 \begin{array}{c}
 \xrightarrow{F} \\
 \Downarrow \sigma \\
 \xrightarrow{G}
 \end{array}
 \mathbf{B}
 =
 \begin{array}{ccc}
 \Lambda & & \\
 \downarrow H & \searrow \bar{F} & \\
 \Omega & \swarrow \bar{G} & \mathbf{B}
 \end{array}$$

- We have a 2-category $\text{Lens}(\mathcal{E})$ of whose objects are internal categories, morphisms are internal lenses, and 2-cells are natural transformations.
- There are forgetful 2-functors to the 2-categories $\text{Cat}(\mathcal{E})$ and $\text{Cof}(\mathcal{E})$.

- Both cofunctors and lenses capture the notion of lifting morphisms between categories.
- Internal lenses are lax monad morphisms in $\text{Span}(\mathcal{E})$ whose 1-cell is a left adjoint and whose 2-cell is a section.
- Every internal lens is a functor and a cofunctor, and may be represented as a particular commuting triangle of functors.
- There is a diagram of forgetful (2-)functors between (2-)categories:

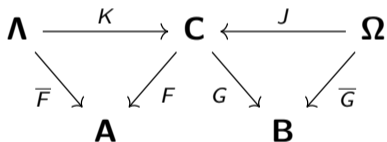




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Bonus: Mealy morphisms and symmetric lenses

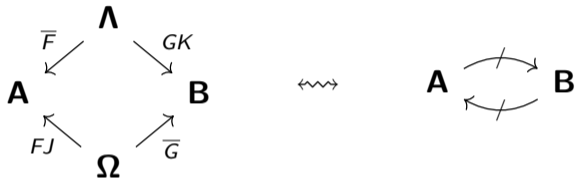
- Internal lenses capture inherently asymmetric relationship, however often applications require a kind of symmetric synchronisation¹⁰.
- The obvious way generalise is to consider morphisms from the bicategory $\text{Span}(\text{Lens}(\mathcal{E}))$ whose 1-cells are spans of internal lenses ...



- ... however it is not known how to compute pullbacks in $\text{Lens}(\mathcal{E})$.
- Fortunately we can canonically construct “fake pullbacks” of internal lenses which are sent to genuine pullbacks by the functor $\text{Lens}(\mathcal{E}) \rightarrow \text{Cat}(\mathcal{E})$.

¹⁰Diskin, et al., *From State- to Delta-Based Bidirectional Model Transformations: The Symmetric Case* (2011)

- Given a span of internal lenses, we may compose the functors to obtain:



- We know how to compose in $\text{Span}(\text{Cat}(\mathcal{E}))$ and discrete opfibrations are stable under pullback – this could be a better notion for “symmetric lenses”.
- Notice the above diagram is simply a pair of spans of functors whose:
 - left leg is a discrete opfibration;
 - underlying span of object assignments are opposite.
- These spans are similar to both functors and cofunctors, but what are they?

- An (internal) **Mealy morphism**¹¹ is a lax monad morphism in $\text{Span}(\mathcal{E})$.
- The 1-cell is a span in \mathcal{E} while the 2-cell corresponds to the diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 A_0 & \xleftarrow{s_0} & A_1 & \xrightarrow{t_0} & A_0 \\
 \uparrow g_0 & & \uparrow g_1 & & \uparrow g_0 \\
 X_0 & \xleftarrow{\pi_0} & X_0 \times B_0 & \xrightarrow{p_0} & X_0 \\
 \downarrow f_0 & & \downarrow \pi_1 & & \downarrow f_0 \\
 B_0 & \xleftarrow{s_0} & B_1 & \xrightarrow{t_0} & B_0
 \end{array}$$

$\quad \quad \quad \perp \quad \quad \quad$

- Mealy morphisms are also known as **two-dimensional partial maps** between categories, and are classified by the *Fam construction*.

¹¹Paré, *Mealy Morphisms of Enriched Categories* (2012)

- Every Mealy morphism $\mathbf{B} \rightrightarrows \mathbf{A}$ may be represented as a span of internal functors,

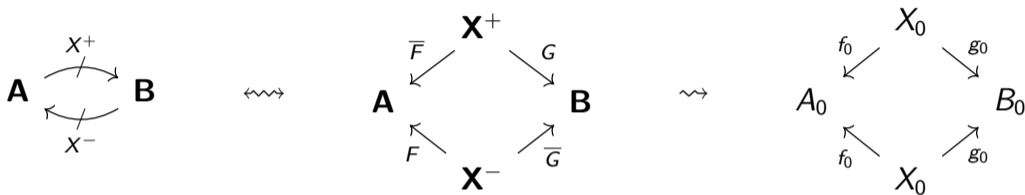
$$\begin{array}{ccc} & \mathbf{X} & \\ \bar{F} \swarrow & & \searrow G \\ \mathbf{B} & & \mathbf{A} \end{array}$$

where \bar{F} is a discrete opfibration.

- Functors and cofunctors are both examples of Mealy morphisms.
- Using the (bo, ff)-factorisation in $\mathbf{Cat}(\mathcal{E})$, every Mealy morphism **factorises** into a cofunctor and a (fully faithful) functor, where $\text{im}(F)$ is the *full image*.

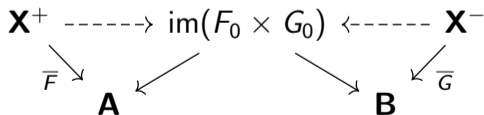
$$\begin{array}{ccccc} & \mathbf{X} & & \text{im}(G) & \\ \bar{F} \swarrow & & G_{bo} \searrow & \swarrow 1 & \searrow G_{ff} \\ \mathbf{B} & & \text{im}(G) & & \mathbf{A} \end{array}$$

- A **symmetric lens**¹² is a pair of *compatible* Mealy morphisms:



Compatibility means the underlying object spans are opposite, as depicted.

- Every symmetric lens induces a span of internal lens,



via the (bo, ff)-factorisation of the functor $F_0 \times G_0: X_0 \rightarrow A \times B$.

¹²Johnson, Rosebrugh, *Symmetric Delta Lenses and Spans of Asymmetric Delta Lenses* (2017)

- Both cofunctors and lenses capture the notion of lifting morphisms between categories.
- Internal lenses are lax monad morphisms in $\text{Span}(\mathcal{E})$ whose 1-cell is a left adjoint and whose 2-cell is a section.
- Every internal lens is a functor and a cofunctor, and may be represented as a particular commuting triangle of functors.
- Every symmetric lens is a compatible pair of Mealy morphisms, or equivalently, a span of internal lenses.
- More details can be found in the extended abstract linked below:
[*Internal lenses as functors and cofunctors, Proceedings of ACT2019.*](#)