

# Notes on orthoalgebras in categories

John Harding and Taewon Yang

Department of Mathematical Sciences  
New Mexico State University

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# Overview

We show a certain interval in the (canonical) orthoalgebra  $\mathfrak{D}A$  of an object  $A$  in a category  $\mathcal{K}$  arises from decompositions.

- What kind of category are we considering here?
- How can we obtain the orthoalgebra of decompositions of an object in such a category?

## Categories $\mathcal{K}$

Consider a category  $\mathcal{K}$  with finite products such that

- I. projections are epimorphisms and
- II. for any ternary product  $(q_i : X_1 \times X_2 \times X_3 \longrightarrow X_i)_{i \in \{1,2,3\}}$ , the following diagram is a pushout in  $\mathcal{K}$ :

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X_1 \times X_2 \times X_3 & \xrightarrow{(q_2, q_3)} & X_2 \times X_3 \\ \downarrow (q_1, q_3) & & \downarrow r_{X_3} \\ X_1 \times X_3 & \xrightarrow{p_{X_3}} & X_3 \end{array}$$

where  $p_{X_3}$  and  $r_{X_3}$  are the second projections.

## Decompositions

- An isomorphism  $A \longrightarrow X_1 \times \cdots \times X_n$  in  $\mathcal{K}$  is called an  $n$ -ary decomposition of  $A$ .
- For decompositions  $f : A \longrightarrow X_1 \times X_2$  and  $g : A \longrightarrow Y_1 \times Y_2$  of  $A$ , we say  $f$  is equivalent to  $g$  if there are isomorphisms  $\gamma_i : X_i \longrightarrow Y_i$  ( $i = 1, 2$ ) such that the following diagram is commutative in  $\mathcal{K}$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A & \xrightarrow{f} & X_1 \times X_2 \\ \downarrow id_A & & \downarrow \gamma_1 \times \gamma_2 \\ A & \xrightarrow{g} & Y_1 \times Y_2 \end{array}$$

**Notation.** Given  $A \in \mathcal{H}$ ,

$[(f_1, f_2)]$  : equivalence class of  $f : A \longrightarrow X_1 \times X_2$ .

$\mathfrak{D}(A)$  : all equivalence classes of all decompositions of  $A$  in  $\mathcal{H}$ .

## Partial operation $\oplus$ on decompositions

For  $[(f_1, f_2)]$  and  $[(g_1, g_2)]$  in  $\mathcal{D}(A)$ ,

- $[(f_1, f_2)] \oplus [(g_1, g_2)]$  is defined if there is a ternary decomposition

$$(c_1, c_2, c_3) : A \longrightarrow C_1 \times C_2 \times C_3$$

of  $A$  such that

$$[(f_1, f_2)] = [(c_1, (c_2, c_3))] \text{ and } [(g_1, g_2)] = [(c_2, (c_1, c_3))].$$

In this case, define the sum by

$$[(f_1, f_2)] \oplus [(g_1, g_2)] = [(c_1, c_2), c_3]$$

- Also, the equivalence classes  $[(\tau_A, id_A)]$  and  $[(id_A, \tau_A)]$  are distinguished elements  $\mathbf{0}$  and  $\mathbf{1}$  in  $\mathcal{D}(A)$ , respectively, where  $\tau_A : A \longrightarrow T$  is the unique map into the terminal object  $T$ .

## Orthoalgebras in $\mathcal{K}$

The following is due to Harding.

- **Proposition 1.** The structure  $(\mathfrak{D}(A), \oplus, \mathbf{0}, \mathbf{1})$  is an orthoalgebra.

An orthoalgebra is a partial algebra  $(\mathcal{A}, \oplus, \mathbf{0}, \mathbf{1})$  such that for all  $a, b, c \in \mathcal{A}$ ,

1.  $a \oplus b = b \oplus a$
2.  $a \oplus (b \oplus c) = (a \oplus b) \oplus c$
3. For every  $a$  in  $\mathcal{A}$ , there is a unique  $b$  such that  $a \oplus b = \mathbf{1}$
4. If  $a \oplus a$  is defined, then  $a = \mathbf{0}$

Note.

$$\mathbf{BAlg} \subsetneq \mathbf{OML} \subsetneq \mathbf{OMP} \subsetneq \mathbf{OA}$$



## Intervals in $\mathfrak{D}(A)$

For any decomposition

$$(h_1, h_2) : A \longrightarrow H_1 \times H_2$$

of  $A$  in  $\mathcal{K}$ , define the interval of  $(h_1, h_2)$  by

$$\mathfrak{I}_{[(h_1, h_2)]} = \{[(f_1, f_2)] \in \mathfrak{D}(A) \mid [(f_1, f_2)] \leq [(h_1, h_2)]\},$$

where  $\leq$  is the induced order from the orthoalgebra  $\mathfrak{D}(A)$ , that is,

- $[(f_1, f_2)] \leq [(h_1, h_2)]$  means

$$[(f_1, f_2)] \oplus [(g_1, g_2)] = [(h_1, h_2)]$$

for some decomposition  $(g_1, g_2)$  of  $A$  in  $\mathcal{K}$ .

# Intervals as decompositions

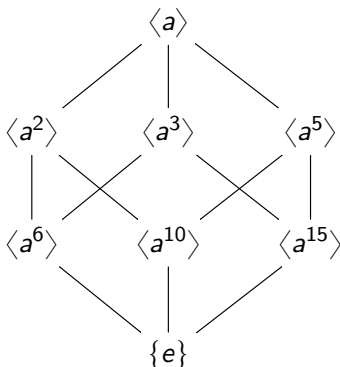
**Proposition 2.**(HY) For each decomposition

$$(h_1, h_2) : A \longrightarrow H_1 \times H_2$$

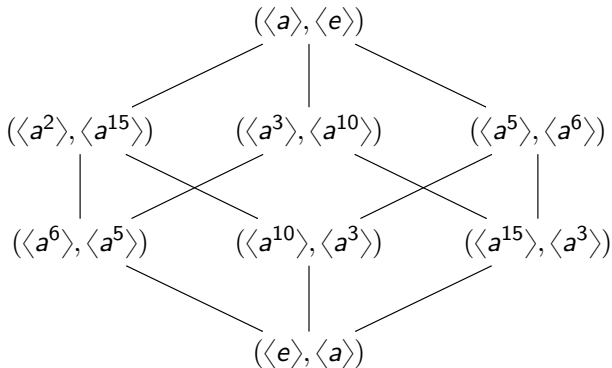
of an object  $A$  in  $\mathcal{K}$ , the interval  $\mathfrak{L}_{[(h_1, h_2)]}$  is isomorphic to  $\mathfrak{D}(H_1)$ .

## Example 1

- The category **Grp** of all groups and their maps satisfies all the necessary hypothesis. Consider a cyclic group  $G = \langle a \rangle$  of order 30. Notice  $|G| = 2 \cdot 3 \cdot 5$ .



- $\mathcal{D}(G)$  in the category **Grp**.



- The interval  $\mathfrak{L}_{(\langle a^2 \rangle, \langle a^{15} \rangle)}$  is a four element Boolean lattice. Also, we have the following:

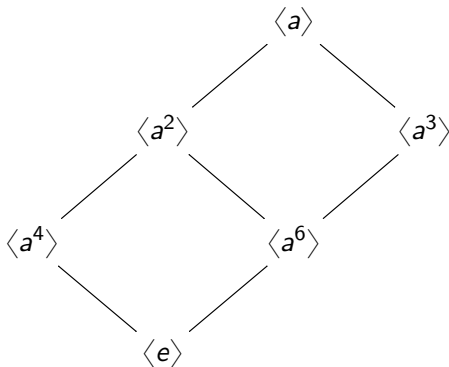
$$\mathfrak{D}(\langle a^2 \rangle) \cong \{(\langle a^6 \rangle, \langle a^{10} \rangle), (\langle a^{10} \rangle, \langle a^6 \rangle), (\langle a^2 \rangle, \langle e \rangle), (\langle e \rangle, \langle a^2 \rangle)\}$$

Thus we obtain

$$\mathfrak{L}_{(\langle a^2 \rangle, \langle a^{15} \rangle)} \cong \mathfrak{D}(\langle a^2 \rangle)$$

## Example 2

- Consider the cyclic group  $G = \langle a \rangle$  with  $|G| = 12 = 4 \cdot 3$ .



Factor pairs :  $\{(\langle a^4 \rangle, \langle a^3 \rangle), (\langle a^3 \rangle, \langle a^4 \rangle), (\langle e \rangle, \langle a \rangle), (\langle a \rangle, \langle e \rangle)\}$

(four-element Boolean lattice. Note that the poset is not isomorphic to  $Sub(G)$ )

$$\mathfrak{L}_{(\langle a^3 \rangle, \langle a^4 \rangle)} \cong \mathbf{2} \text{ and } \mathfrak{D}(\langle a^3 \rangle) \cong \mathbf{2}$$

## Proof (Sketch)

The essential part of the proof is to construct maps  $F$  and  $G$

$$\mathcal{L}[(h_1, h_2)] \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\mathbf{F}} \\ \xleftarrow{\mathbf{G}} \end{array} \mathcal{D}(H_1)$$



First define

$$\mathbf{G} : \mathcal{D}(H_1) \longrightarrow \mathfrak{L}[(h_1, h_2)]$$

by

$$[(m_1, m_2)] \rightsquigarrow [(m_1 h_1, (m_2 h_1, h_2))]$$

Conversely, seeking a map  $\mathbf{F} : \mathfrak{L}[(h_1, h_2)] \longrightarrow \mathfrak{D}(H_1)$ , consider a binary decomposition  $(f_1, f_2) : A \longrightarrow F_1 \times F_2$  in  $\mathfrak{L}[(h_1, h_2)]$ . Then there is an isomorphism  $(c_1, c_2, c_3) : A \longrightarrow C_1 \times C_2 \times C_3$  in  $\mathcal{K}$  such that

$$[(f_1, f_2)] = [(c_1, (c_2, c_3))] \text{ and } [(h_1, h_2)] = [((c_1, c_2), c_3)]$$

The latter implies that there is an isomorphism

$$(r_1, r_2) : H_1 \longrightarrow C_1 \times C_2$$

with  $(r_1, r_2)h_1 = (c_1, c_2)$ . Then define the map  $\mathbf{F}$  by

$$[(f_1, f_2)] \rightsquigarrow [(r_1, r_2)]$$

It is known-that the correspondences **F** and **G** are indeed well-defined. Moreover, they are orthoalgebra homomorphisms that are inverses to each other.

# Speculations

- Do we have more instances for the conditions I and II?
- Can we give some categorical conditions on morphisms so that  $\mathfrak{D}(A)$  is an orthomodular poset? Moreover, can we also give some order/category-theoretic conditions on  $Sub(A)$  in  $\mathcal{K}$  such that

$$Sub(A) \longrightarrow \mathfrak{D}(A)$$

is an orthomodular embedding (For example, **Hilb<sub>K</sub>**-like category)?

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Thank you