



# Diagrammatic relational algebra and applications

**CATMI, Bergen, June 26-30 2023**

**Pawel Sobocinski, Tallinn University of Technology**

# Roadmap

- **Lecture 1 - Functorial semantics 1 - algebraic theories**
- Lecture 2 - Functorial semantics 2 - partial, relational and first-order theories
- Lecture 3 - Graphical linear algebra and applications



# Compositional modelling

## What is compositionality?

- **Modularity** - a system described as a composition of its parts
- Compositionality - a combination of:
  - a language (**syntax**) for composing systems
  - with operations that are compatible with the intended meaning (**semantics**)
  - such that the translation **syntax**  $\Rightarrow$  **semantics** is homomorphic

**Goal: no “emergent” behaviour**

# Modelling status quo

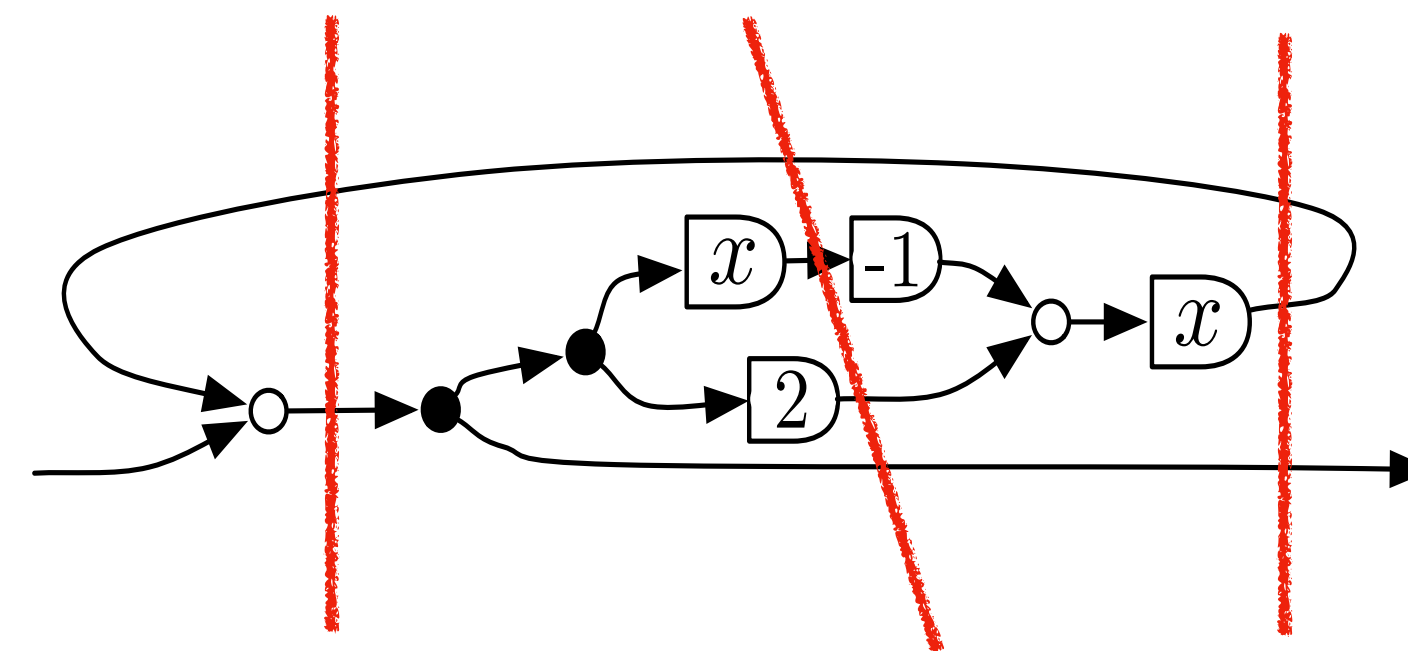
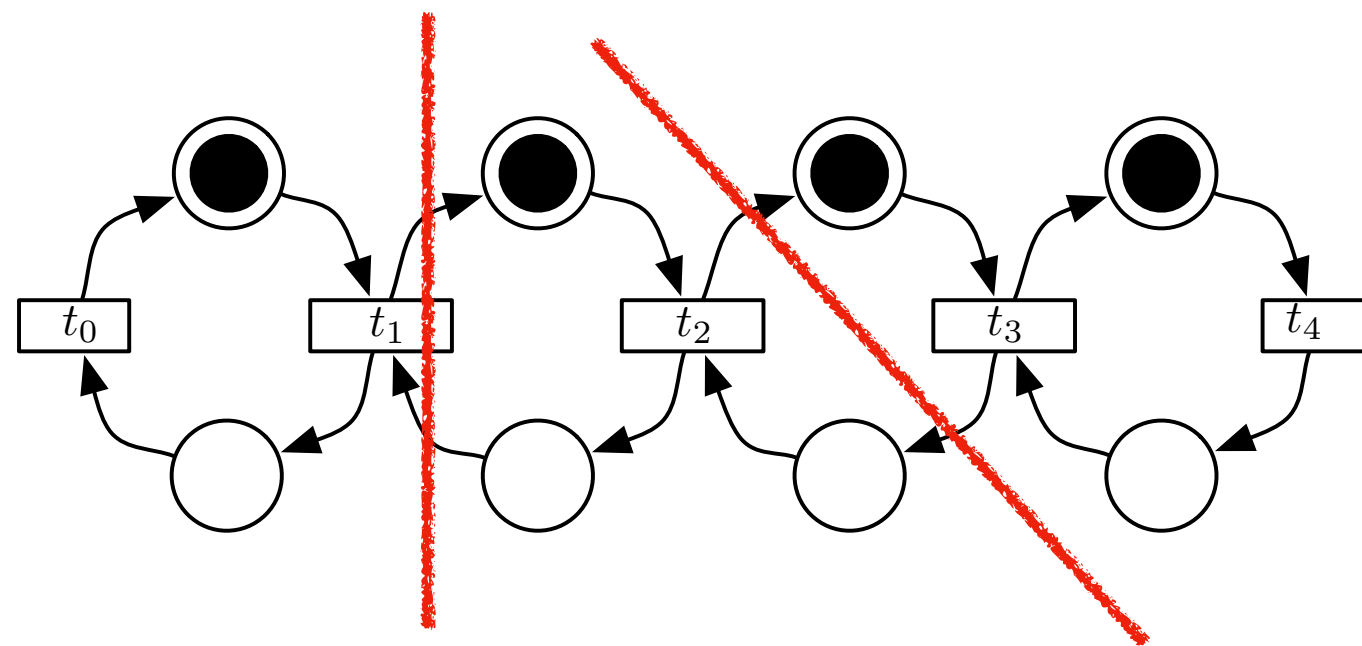
- models are global, monolithic and closed systems
- dynamics is obtained “a la physics” - analysing combinatorics of local interactions to obtain global behaviour via a set of differential equations
- not modular: often constructed fresh for each application
- interaction with environment is usually oversimplified or abstracted away
- analysis in functional terms, inputs driving outputs
- but we have more data than ever before – we need good models

# A problem with traditional modelling

The real world is not functional!

Although input/output thinking is useful in certain situations, ... as a general methodology, input/output descriptions are ill-founded and clash with system interconnection. Interconnection, as we shall see, results in *variable sharing*, not in output- to-input assignment.

Jan C Willems, The Behavioral Approach to Open and Interconnected Systems, IEEE Control Systems Magazine, 2007



In such systems composition is often relational. There are many examples.

# Towards a solution

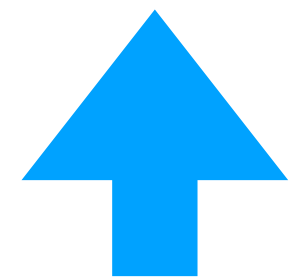
## New relational algebras?

- traditional syntax has functionality built in
  - all operations are functional
  - the main operation of term-building (substitution) is just fancy function composition
- 20th century extensions (essentially algebraic theories, first order theories) suffer from some of the same defects of term-building fundamentals
- some important insights have been obtained from the study of relational algebras: Peirce, Kleene, Tarski, Freyd and Scedrov, ...
- Lawvere's insight: "functionality" is deeply associated with cartesian structure (i.e. categorical products)
  - traditional syntax is thus built to operate on "classical data": one that can be copied and discarded
- This, and other algebraic structure, can often be studied as additional structure on a **symmetric monoidal category**
- The plan for today and tomorrow: **Set**, **Par**, **Rel** as symmetric monoidal categories with structure

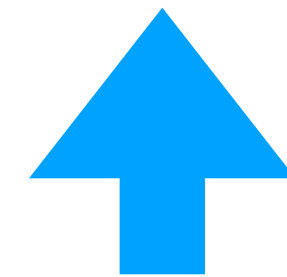
# Traditional syntax

## Theory of commutative monoids

$$( \underbrace{\{m, e\}}_{\text{signature consisting of operation symbols}}, \underbrace{\{ m(m(x, y), z) = m(x, m(y, z)), m(x, y) = m(y, x), m(e, x) = x \}}_{\text{equations}} )$$

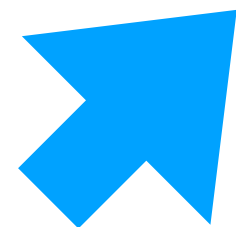


signature consisting of  
operation symbols



equations

$\{m, e\}$



arity 2



arity 0

pairs of **terms** over some set of variables  
implicit universal quantification

# Traditional syntax

## Universal algebra basics I

- A signature is a pair  $\Sigma = (S, \alpha)$  where  $S$  is a set of **operation symbols** together with an **arity function**  $\alpha : S \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$
- A  **$\Sigma$ -algebra** is a pair  $(A, [-])$  where  $A$  is a set (**semantic domain**) and  $[-]$  is a function that sends operation symbols to functions  $[\sigma] : A^{\alpha(\sigma)} \rightarrow A$
- A  **$\Sigma$ -algebra homomorphism** is the obvious thing: a map between semantic domains that's homomorphic wrt operations:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 A^n & \xrightarrow{f^n} & B^n \\
 \downarrow \llbracket t_n \rrbracket_A & & \downarrow \llbracket t_n \rrbracket_B \\
 A & \xrightarrow{f} & B.
 \end{array}$$

- Given a set of variables  $V$ , the **term  $\Sigma$ -algebra**  $T_V$  is
  - $T_V ::= V \mid t_0 \mid t_1(T_V) \mid t_2(T_V, T_V) \mid \dots \mid t_n(T_V, \dots, T_V) \mid \dots$
- The term  $\Sigma$ -algebra satisfies a universal property, any  $v : V \rightarrow A$  extends to a unique  $\Sigma$ -algebra homomorphism  $v^* : T_V \rightarrow A$ 
  - compositionality!

# Traditional syntax

## Universal algebra basics II

- An **equation** is a pair  $(s, t) \in T_V \times T_V$
- An **algebraic theory** is a pair  $(\Sigma, E)$  where  $\Sigma$  is a signature and  $E$  is a set of equations.
  - Example: the theory of commutative monoids
- A **model** is a  $\Sigma$ -algebra where every equation  $e \in E$  holds (for any valuation  $v : V \rightarrow A^*$ )
- A model homomorphism is a  $\Sigma$ -algebra homomorphism
- The class of models of a theory is called a **variety**
- **Theorem** (Birkhoff 1935) A class of  $\Sigma$ -algebras is a variety iff it is closed under homomorphic images, subalgebras and products.
- \* Note: given that equations are required to hold under any evaluations, they are implicitly **universally quantified**
- For more expressivity,
  - **essentially algebraic theories, quasi-varieties**: operations are allowed to be partial, equations involve domains of definition
  - **first order theories**: syntax contains relation symbols and formulas are more involved
    - logical operations including negation, quantifiers



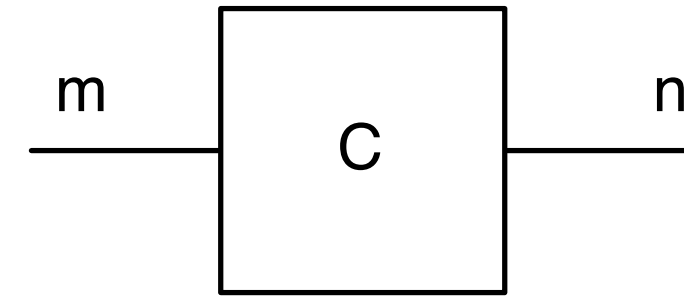
# Symmetric monoidal categories

- A **monoidal** category  $\mathbf{C}$  is a category equipped with monoidal product  $\otimes$ 
  - $\otimes : \mathbf{C} \times \mathbf{C} \rightarrow \mathbf{C}$
  - an object  $I \in \mathbf{C}$  called the monoidal unit
  - together with coherent **natural** isomorphisms
    - $\alpha_{a,b,c} : (a \otimes b) \otimes c \rightarrow a \otimes (b \otimes c)$
    - $\rho_a : a \otimes I \rightarrow a$
    - $\lambda_a : I \otimes a \rightarrow a$
- A **symmetric monoidal** category additionally has a natural isomorphism  $\sigma_{X,Y} : X \otimes Y \rightarrow Y \otimes X$  that satisfies  $\sigma_{X,Y} ; \sigma_{Y,X} = \text{id}_{X,Y}$
- Relevant examples, in all cases the **cartesian product** of sets gives a symmetric monoidal structure
  - **Set**, **Par**, **Rel**
- For any set  $X$ , there are **strict** versions, **Set<sub>X</sub>**, **Par<sub>X</sub>**, **Rel<sub>X</sub>**.
  - In each case the objects are natural numbers, and arrows from  $m$  to  $n$  are arrows  $X^m \rightarrow X^n$  in the relevant category
  - strict symmetric monoidal categories with objects natural numbers and  $\otimes$  on objects acting as  $+$  are called **props**

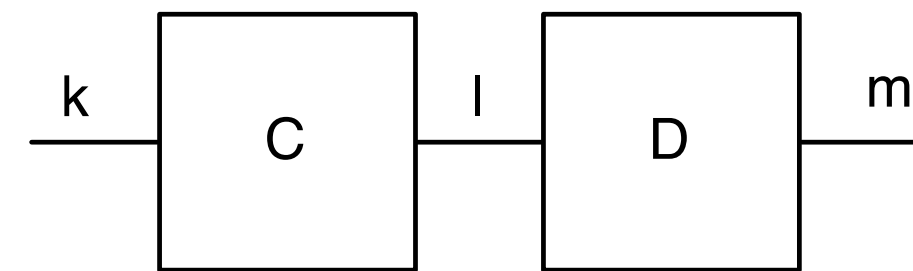


# String diagrams - a quick tutorial

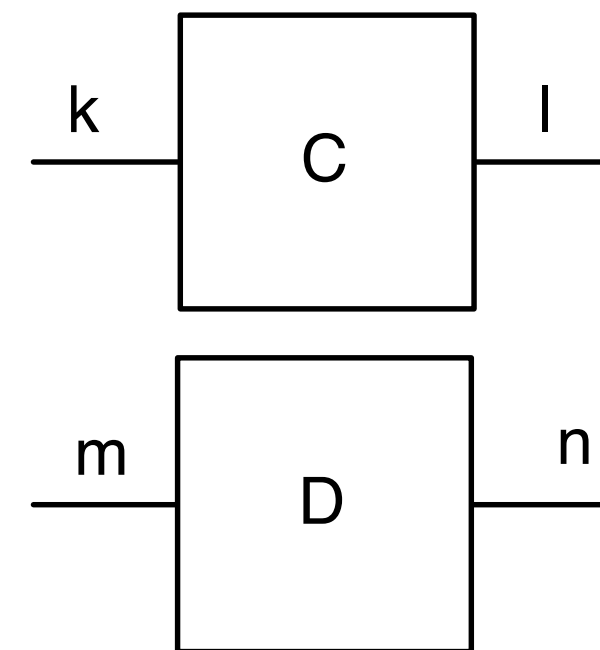
- Instead of writing  $C : m \rightarrow n$ , we draw



- composition is plugging wires

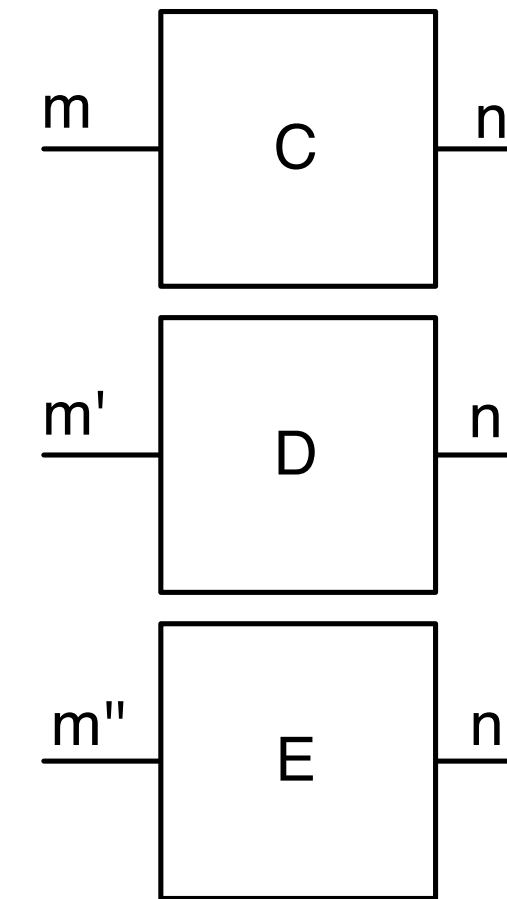
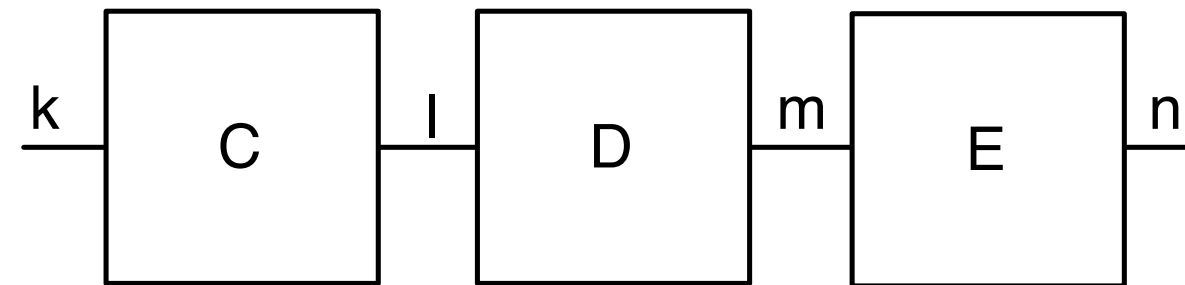


- monoidal product is “stacking” boxes

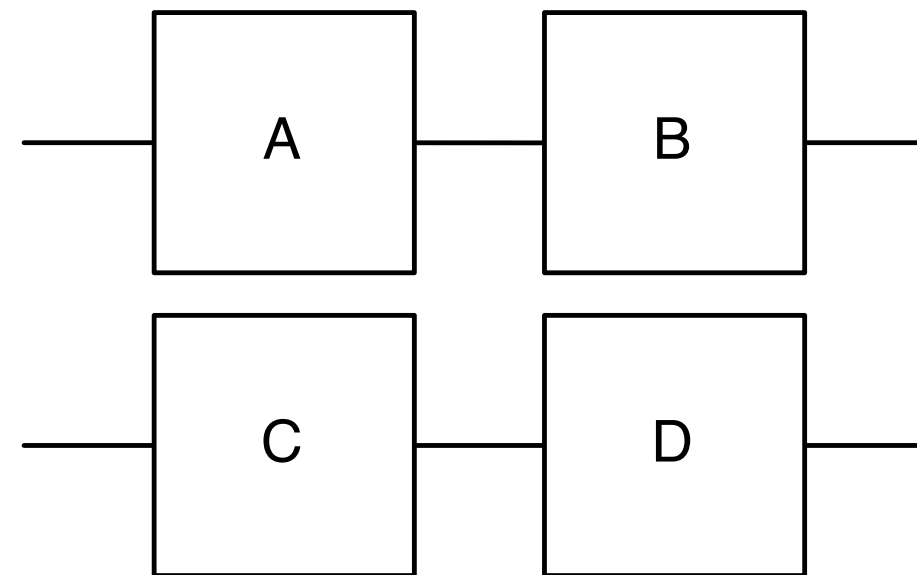


# Perks of the notation

- associativity is built in:

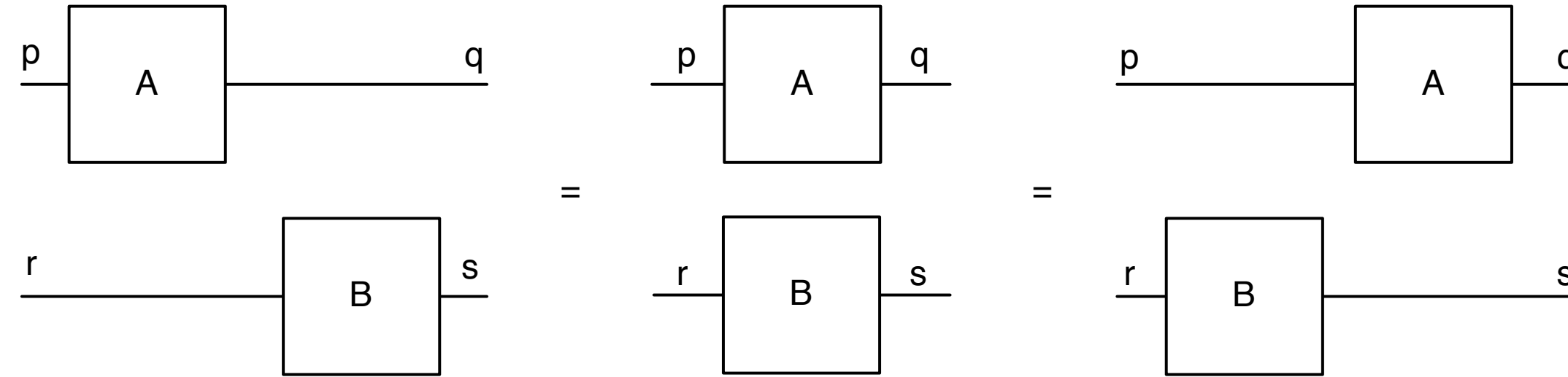


- functoriality of  $\otimes$  is built in:

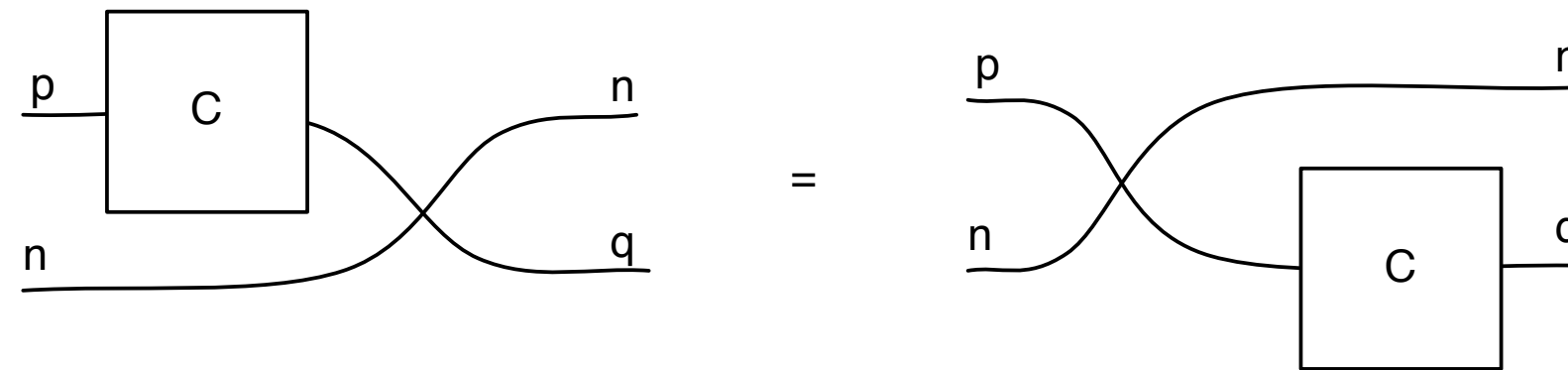


# Identities and symmetries

- Identity arrows are drawn as wires. The monoidal identity is not drawn.



- symmetries and “only connectivity matters”



- What are string diagrams exactly? Are they topological objects? Are they combinatorial objects? Are they syntactic objects?
  - Yes

# Equipping symmetric monoidal categories with structure

## Monoidal theories

- A **monoidal signature**  $\Gamma = (G, ar, coar)$  where  $G$  is a set of operations
  - $ar : G \rightarrow \mathbf{N}$  gives arities
  - $coar : G \rightarrow \mathbf{N}$  gives **coarities**

$$ar(\gamma) \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \\ \text{---} \\ \vdots \\ \text{---} \end{array} \right. \boxed{\gamma} \left. \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \\ \text{---} \\ \vdots \\ \text{---} \end{array} \right\} coar(\gamma)$$

# String diagrams as syntax

## The free prop on a monoidal signature

- A inductive term language is useful, e.g. we can use structural induction

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \hline
 \gamma : (ar(\gamma), coar(\gamma))
 \end{array}
 \quad
 \begin{array}{c}
 \hline
 \boxed{\phantom{\gamma}} : (0, 0)
 \end{array}
 \quad
 \begin{array}{c}
 \hline
 \text{---} : (1, 1)
 \end{array}
 \quad
 \begin{array}{c}
 \hline
 \text{X} : (2, 2)
 \end{array}
 \quad
 \frac{c : (n, z) \quad d : (z, m)}{c \circ d : (n, m)}
 \quad
 \frac{c : (n, m) \quad d : (r, z)}{c \otimes d : (n+r, m+z)}$$

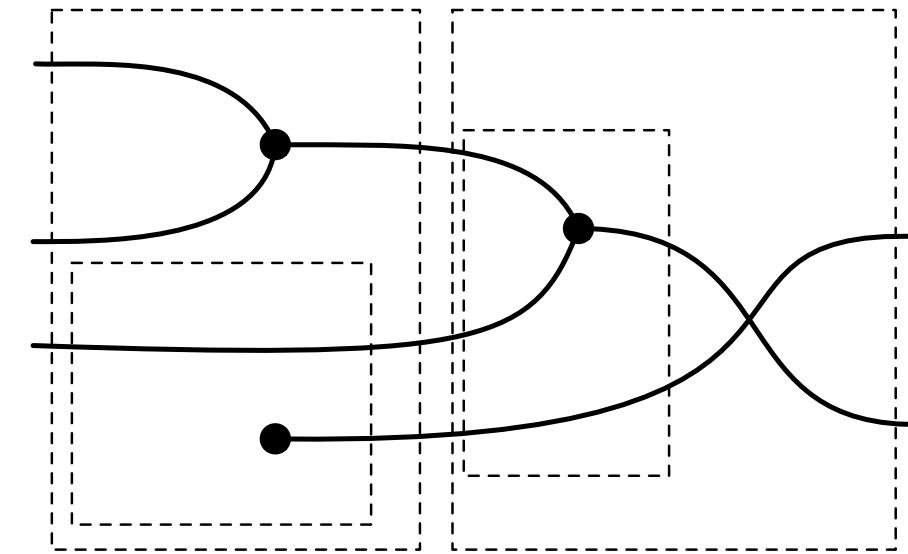
$$c \circ c' \text{ is drawn } \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \\ \vdots \\ \boxed{c} \\ \vdots \\ \text{---} \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \\ \vdots \\ \boxed{c'} \\ \vdots \\ \text{---} \end{array}$$

$$c \otimes c' \text{ is drawn } \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \\ \vdots \\ \boxed{c} \\ \vdots \\ \text{---} \\ \text{---} \\ \vdots \\ \boxed{c'} \\ \vdots \\ \text{---} \end{array}$$

# From terms to string diagrams

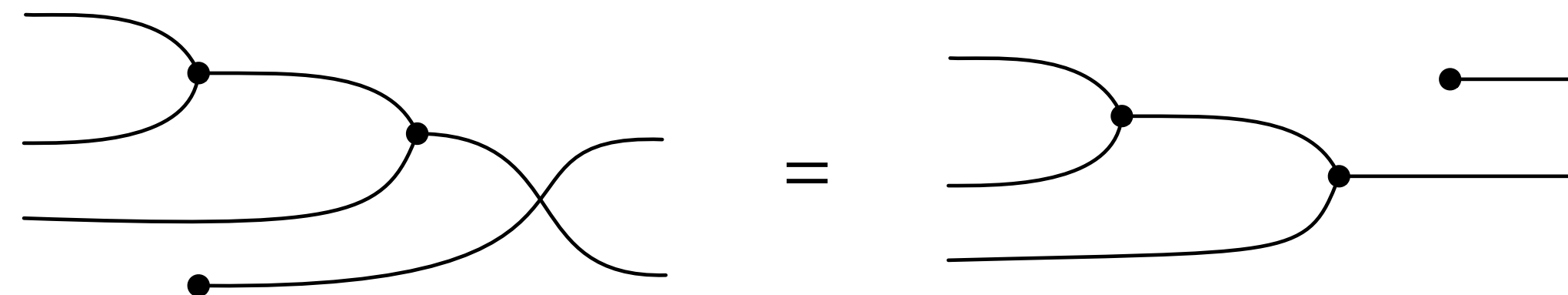
- Consider  $\Gamma \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \end{array} \right\}, \bullet \text{---} \right\}$

- then  $(\begin{array}{c} \text{---} \end{array}) \otimes (\text{---} \otimes \bullet \text{---}) ; ((\begin{array}{c} \text{---} \end{array}) \otimes \text{---}) ; \infty$  is drawn



- to go to string diagrams we need to quotient wrt the laws of symmetric strict monoidal cats. This means that:

- erasing the dotted lines
- “only connectivity matters”



- This is a nice description of the free prop on a signature: in particular it is easy to see that given a symmetric monoidal category  $\mathbf{X}$ , an object  $X \in \mathbf{X}$ , and a valuation of each  $\gamma \in \Gamma$  extends uniquely (structural induction) to a symmetric monoidal functor from string diagrams to  $\mathbf{X}$

# A recipe for functorial semantics

- We have notion of syntax, but what should be the semantics?
- Mere symmetric monoidal categories do not have enough structure for a meaningful general solution
- This additional structure (usually a universal property) is the magic potion that makes everything work
- Lawvere discovered this in the 60s for universal algebra, in that case it is the notion of **categorical product**.
  - the “free thing” on the signature is the syntax
  - functorial semantics are functors that preserve the the thing
  - as we will see symmetric monoidal categories are often convenient hosts to study “the thing” from an algebraic perspective

# Aside: Lawvere and cartesian categories

- Lawvere wasn't happy with the idea of algebraic theory as we have introduced it in the style of universal algebra (i.e. a pair  $(\Sigma, E)$  )
- Equating the notion of theory with a particular presentation is not ideal since different presentations can yield the same notion of algebraic structure
- The syntactic account has an ad hoc underlying meta-theory: e.g. inductively defined terms over a fixed countable set of variables, meta theory of substitutions, etc.



# Abstract universal algebra

- Equate a theory with a category **L** with finite products (single sorted: with one generating object)
- doesn't suffer from reliance on particular presentations
- e.g. for commutative monoids, take the free category generated by  $\{m, e\}$ , quotient by least congruence generated by eqs
- A (classical) model is a product preserving functor **L**  $\rightarrow$  **Set**
- Model homomorphisms are natural transformations
- Simple, beautiful, easily generalisable

# Finite products

- The **category with free finite products on one object** is  $\text{FinSet}^{\text{op}}$
- $\text{FinSet}^{\text{op}}$  has (up to equivalence) an alternative “operational” description
  - objects: natural numbers, we think of  $m = \{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_m\}$
  - arrows  $m \rightarrow n$ :  $n$ -tuples of variables in  $\{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_m\}$ , e.g.
    - there is exactly one arrow  $1 \rightarrow 2$ :  $(x_1, x_1)$
    - there are two arrows  $2 \rightarrow 1$ :  $(x_1)$  and  $(x_2)$
  - composition is **substitution**: e.g.  $(x_1, x_1); (x_2) = x_1$

# Finite products ctd

- The category with **free finite products on a signature  $\Sigma$**  has a similar operational description
  - objects: natural numbers, we think of  $m = \{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_m\}$
  - arrows  $m \rightarrow n$ :  $n$ -tuples of terms in  $T_{\{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_m\}}$ , e.g. for the sig of monoids
    - there is an arrow  $1 \rightarrow 2: (x_1, e)$
    - there is an arrows  $2 \rightarrow 1: (m)$
    - composition is **substitution**: e.g.  $(x_1, e); (m) = m(x_1, e)$

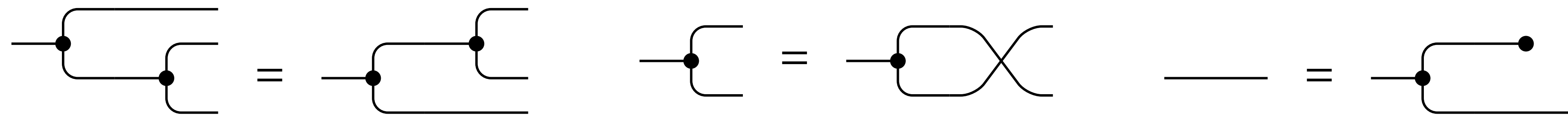
Terms demystified!

The algebra of terms and substitution is simply a convenient description of a category with free products

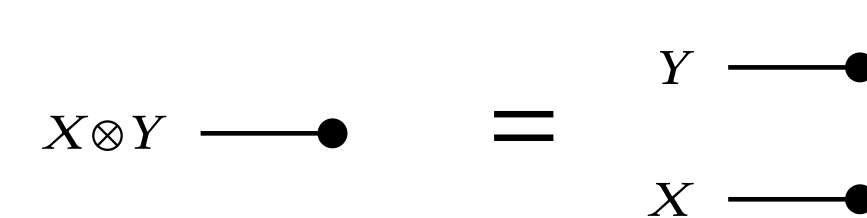
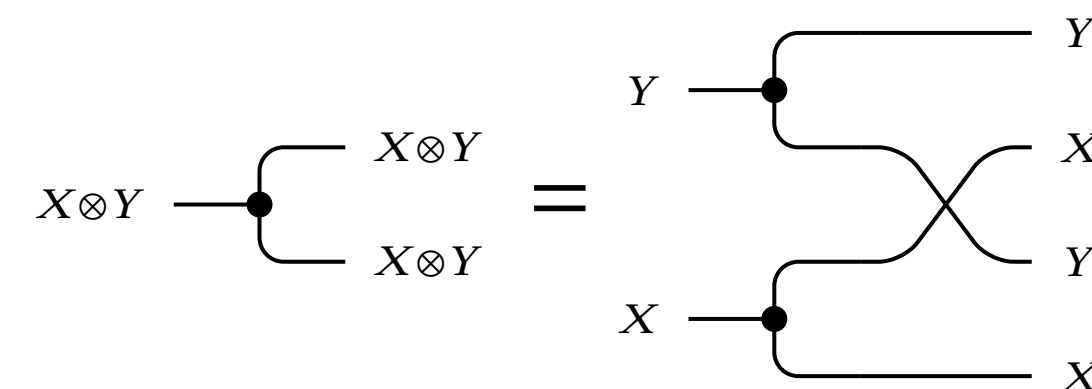
# Algebraic structure in Set

## Cartesian categories

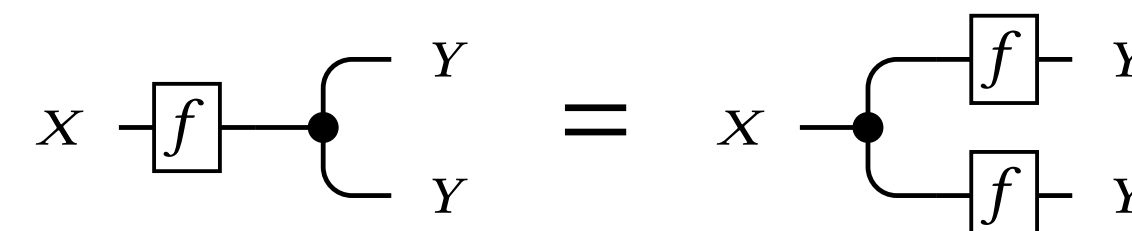
- A symmetric monoidal category is cartesian when the monoidal product satisfies the universal property of categorical product
- The symmetric monoidal category **Set** is (by definition) such an animal
- **Theorem (Fox 1976).** A symmetric monoidal category is cartesian iff every object can be equipped with a commutative comonoid structure which is **coherent** and **natural**.



**coherent:**



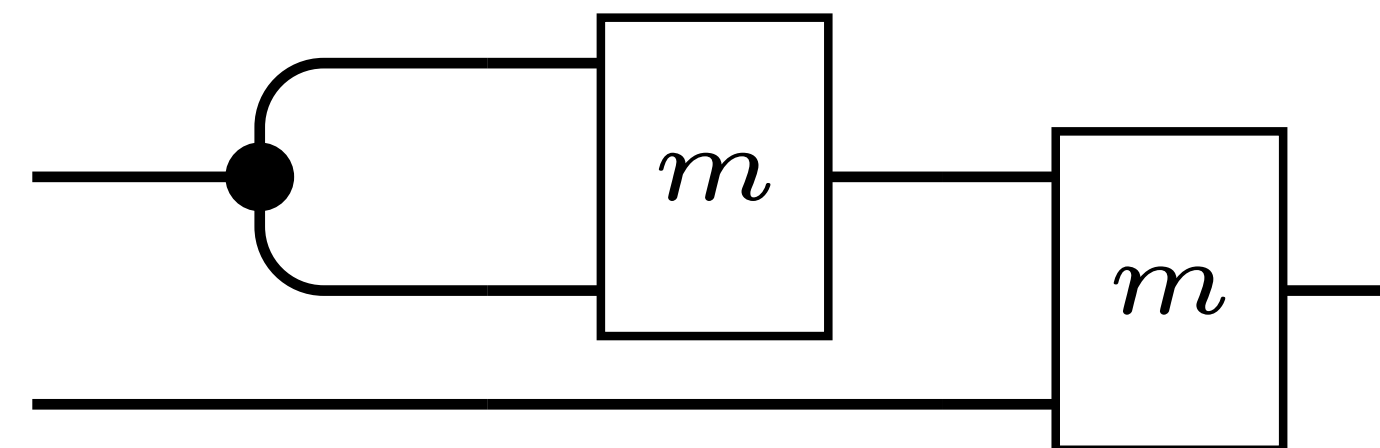
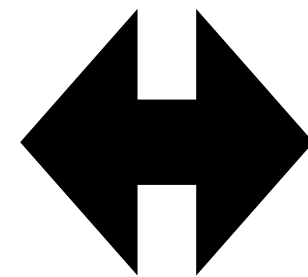
**natural:**



# Lawvere with string diagrams


- **A single sorted Lawvere theory is a cartesian prop**
  - i.e. a prop where the monoidal product is the categorical product
- We already have one concrete description of the free cartesian category on a signature - arrows: classical terms, composition: substitution
- We now have a second: string diagrams!

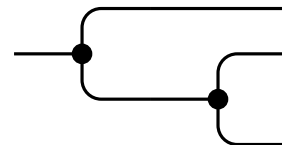
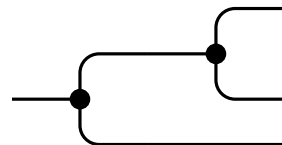
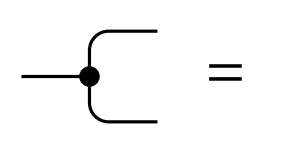
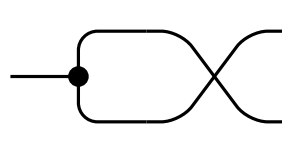
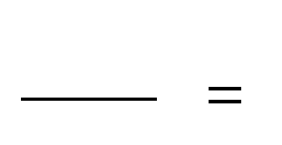
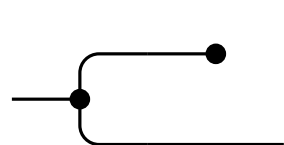
$$m(m(x, x), y)$$



# A recipe

- Turn a theory into a monoidal theory in two easy steps

- Generators:  $\Gamma \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \Sigma +$  

- Equations:  $E$  (as string diagrams)  $+$    $=$     $=$     $=$  

$$+ \quad m \text{ -- } \boxed{\sigma} \text{ -- } \bullet \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{---} \\ \text{---} \end{array} \right] = m \text{ -- } \bullet \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{---} \boxed{\sigma} \text{ ---} \\ \text{---} \boxed{\sigma} \text{ ---} \end{array} \right]$$

$$m \text{ -- } \boxed{\sigma} \text{ -- } \bullet = m \text{ -- } \bullet$$

e.g. as props, the Lawvere theory of commutative monoids is isomorphic to the monoidal theory of commutative bialgebras!



# Diagrammatic relational algebra and applications

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**Pawel Sobocinski, Tallinn University of Technology**

# Roadmap

- Lecture 1 - Functorial semantics 1
- **Lecture 2 - Functorial semantics 2**
- Lecture 3 - Graphical linear algebra and applications



# Recap from yesterday, plan for today

- Yesterday
  - traditional syntax and universal algebra
  - cartesian products and Lawvere theories
  - functorial semantics, models as functors to **Set**
  - symmetric monoidal categories as carriers of algebraic structure
  - Fox's Theorem: characterising cartesianity with algebraic structure — the presence of commutative comonoid structure that is coherent and natural
- Today
  - Replacing **Set** with **Par** and **Rel**
  - partial theories (joint work with Di Liberti, Loregian and Nester)
  - relational theories (joint work with Bonchi and Pavlovic, continued by Nester)
  - first-order theories (work in progress with Bonchi, Di Giorgio and Haydon)

# The recipe for functorial semantics

- find out the universal property at play
  - for traditional algebraic theories, this is (binary) categorical products
- find an algebraic characterisation in symmetric monoidal categories a la Fox
  - for the categorical product, this is the commutative comonoid structure that's coherent and natural
- Then:
  - **syntax** = string diagrams with the structure (the free thing!)
  - **semantics**, any category with the universal property
    - for traditional algebraic theories, this is usually **Set**, but not always
  - **models** = functors that preserve the structure
  - **homomorphisms** = the canonical notion of natural transformation

# The symmetric monoidal category **Par**

- objects are sets
  - arrows are partial functions
  - monoidal product is cartesian product
  - symmetries are inherited from **Set**
  - there is a natural poset enrichment
- 
- if **C** has finite limits, there is a symmetric monoidal category **Par(C)**
    - objects are those of **C**
    - arrows from **C** to **D** are spans  $\mathbf{C} \leftarrow \mathbf{C}' \rightarrow \mathbf{D}$  (up to iso) where the left leg is mono
    - composition is by pullback
    - monoidal product is pointwise product
- 
- NB: The monoidal product in **Par** is **not** the categorical product!

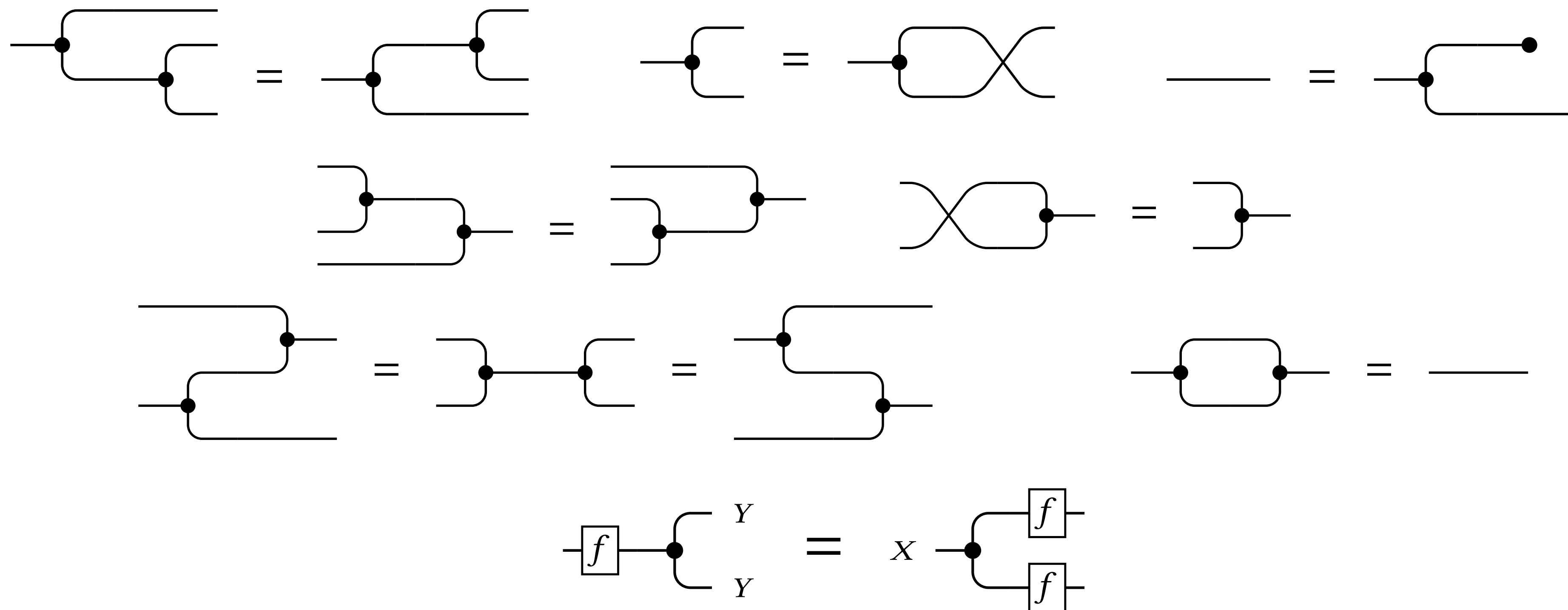
# Algebraic structure in Par

## Discrete cartesian restriction categories

- Partial theories: we want to replace **Set** with **Par** as the universe of models
- Lawvere identified cartesian categories as the categorical structure of interest for algebraic theories
- For partial theories, the corresponding categorical structure is given by **discrete cartesian restriction categories (dcr categories)**
  - **Par** is a DCR category. If **C** has finite limits, **Par(C)** is a DCR category.
- Instead of delving into the details, we can characterise them using a result similar to Fox's theorem

# “Fox’s theorem” for DCR categories

- **Theorem.** A **DCR category** is a symmetric monoidal category where every object is equipped with a coherent **partial Frobenius algebra** structure, such that the comultiplication is natural.



# Consequences

- The free DCR category on an object is  $\text{Par}(\mathbf{F}^{\text{op}})$

Given a signature  $\Sigma$ , we obtain a syntax for equations!

- Syntax = concrete description of the free DCR category on  $\Sigma$  in terms of string diagrams with partial Frobenius structure
- A presentation is then, as usual, the pair of a signature and equations
- its partial **Lawvere theory** is the induced **DCR prop**
- This is now a Lawvere-style functorial semantics for partial theories

# Functorial semantics for partial theories

- We have
  - a notion of syntax - string diagrams with the additional algebraic structure
  - a notion of semantics, any DCRC, but **Par** is a canonical choice
  - a notion of model, a functor  $\text{syntax} \rightarrow \text{semantics}$  that preserves the DCRC structure
  - a notion of model homomorphism given by the canonical notion natural transformations of such functors

# Examples

## 2-sorted

directed graphs

$$A \text{ --- } [s] \text{ --- } O \qquad A \text{ --- } [t] \text{ --- } O \qquad A \text{ -- } [s] \text{ -- } \bullet = A \text{ --- } \bullet \qquad A \text{ -- } [t] \text{ -- } \bullet = A \text{ --- } \bullet$$

reflexive graphs

$$O \text{ --- } [id] \text{ --- } A \qquad O \text{ -- } [id] \text{ -- } \bullet = O \text{ --- } \bullet \qquad O \text{ -- } [id] \text{ -- } [s] \text{ -- } O = O \text{ --- } O = O \text{ -- } [id] \text{ -- } [t] \text{ -- } O$$

categories

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \begin{array}{c} A \\ A \end{array} \text{ --- } \text{red dot} \text{ --- } A & \begin{array}{c} [t] \\ [s] \end{array} \text{ --- } \text{black dot} = \text{red dot} \text{ --- } \text{black dot} & \\ \\ \begin{array}{c} A \\ A \\ A \end{array} \text{ --- } \text{red dot} \text{ --- } A = \begin{array}{c} A \\ A \\ A \end{array} \text{ --- } \text{red dot} \text{ --- } A & A \text{ -- } \text{black dot} \text{ -- } [s] \text{ -- } [id] \text{ -- } \text{red dot} \text{ -- } A = A \text{ --- } A = A \text{ -- } \text{black dot} \text{ -- } [t] \text{ -- } [id] \text{ -- } \text{red dot} \text{ -- } A & \end{array}$$

+ monoidal categories, cartesian restriction categories, DCR categories, cartesian categories, cartesian closed categories, ...



# The symmetric monoidal category **Rel**

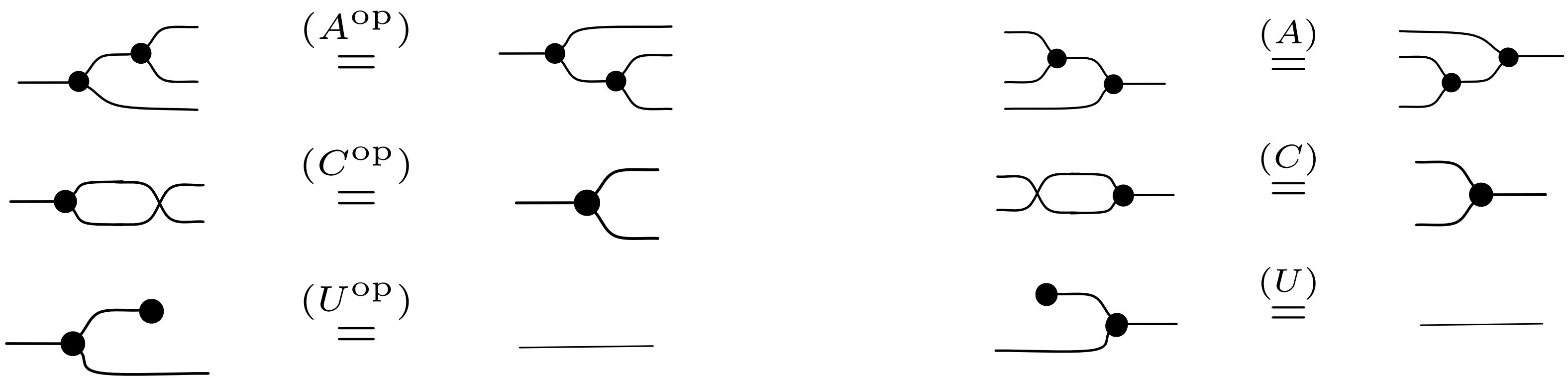
- objects are sets
- arrows from  $X$  to  $Y$  are relations  $R \subseteq X \times Y$ 
  - composition is relational composition: given  $R \subseteq X \times Y$  and  $S \subseteq Y \times Z$ , the composition  $R;S = \{ (x,z) \mid \exists y. (x,y) \in R \wedge (y,z) \in S \}$
- poset enrichment: 2-cells are inclusions of relations
- monoidal product is cartesian product on objects. On arrows, given  $R \subseteq X \times Y$  and  $R' \subseteq X' \times Y'$ ,  $R \otimes R' = \{ (xx', yy') \mid xRy \wedge x'R'y' \}$
- given a regular category **C**, there is a monoidal category **Rel(C)** with
  - objects are those of **C**
  - arrows are jointly mono spans  $X \leftarrow R \rightarrow Y$ , composition is pullback followed by factorisation
  - monoidal product is given by pointwise product
- NB. the monoidal product in **Rel** is **not** the categorical product

# Algebraic structure in Rel I

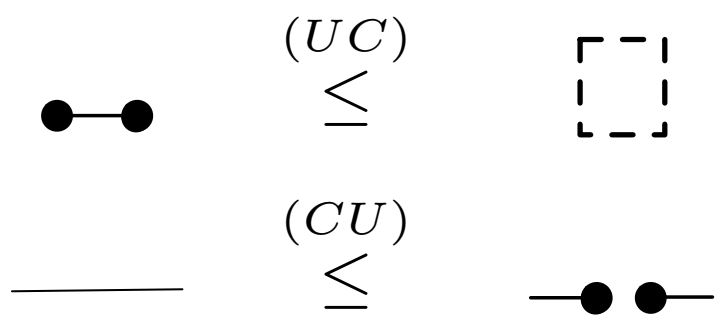
## Cartesian bicategories (of relations)

- every object has a commutative comonoid structure
- with right adjoints
- s.t. every morphism is a weak comonoid homomorphism
- and the comonoid and monoid structures together form a special Frobenius monoid
- **cartesian bicategories** are a general, category theoretic algebraic approach to relations (cf. allegories)

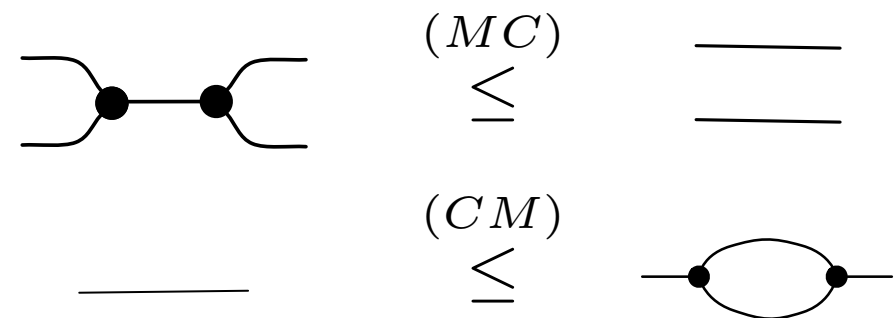
# Unpacking this data, algebraically



(unit is right adjoint to counit)



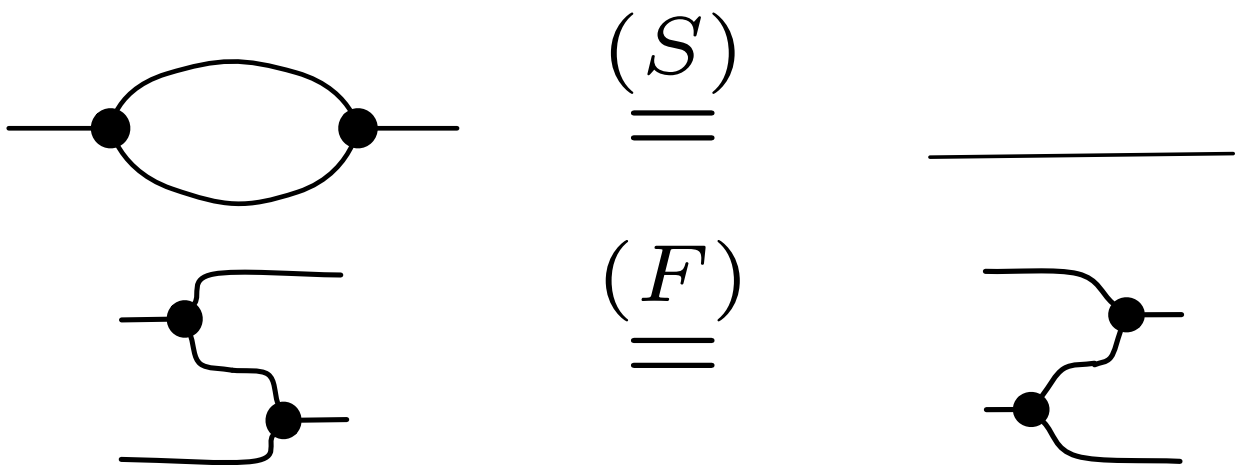
(multiplication is right adjoint to comultiplication)



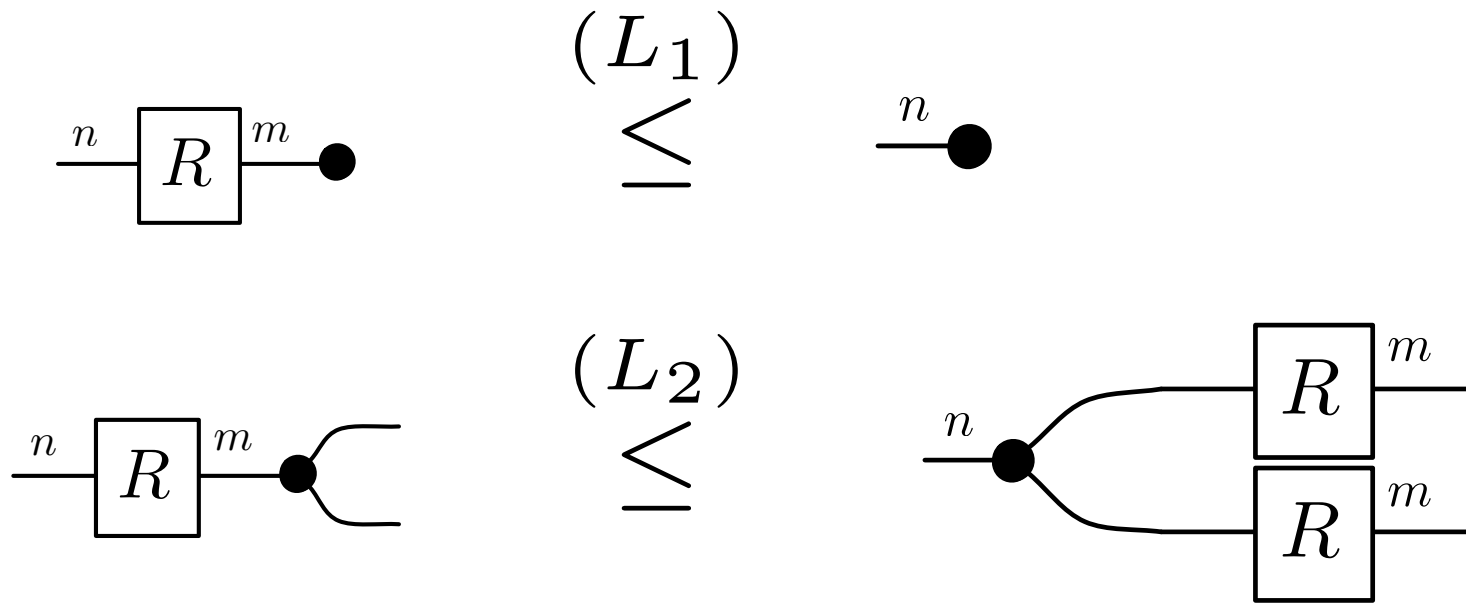
Convolution is a meet semilattice

# The Frobenius law and lax naturality

(special Frobenius)



(all relations are weak comonoid homomorphisms)



# Functorial semantics for relation theories

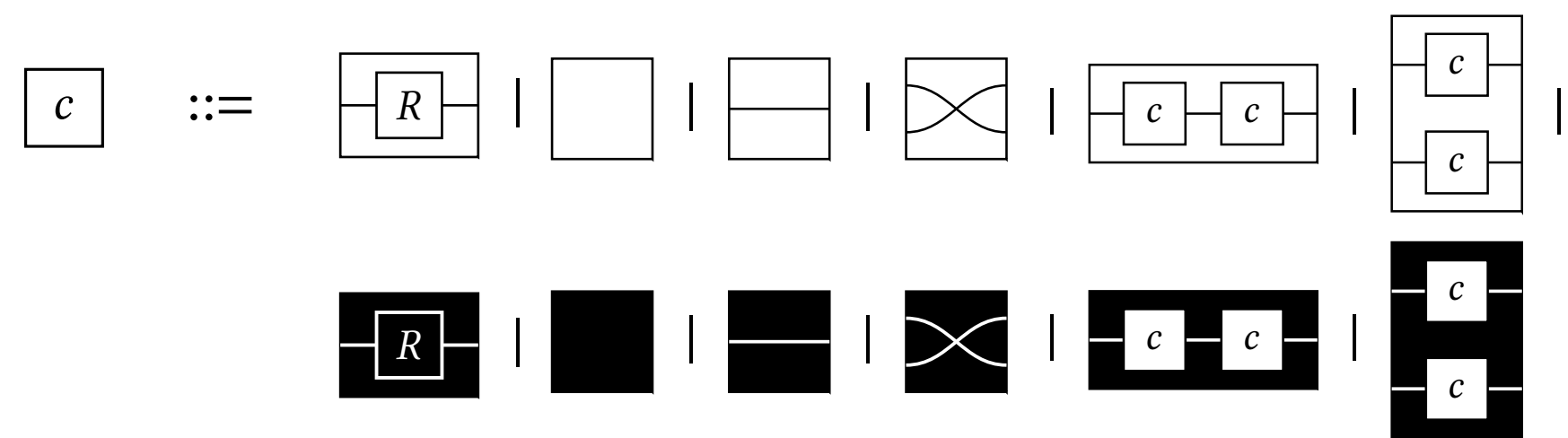
- We have
  - a notion of syntax - string diagrams with the additional algebraic structure
  - a notion of semantics - any cartesian bicategory of relations, but **Rel** is the canonical choice
  - a notion of model - functors  $\text{syntax} \rightarrow \text{semantics}$  that preserve the cartesian bicategory structure
  - a notion of homomorphism, given by the canonical notion of natural transformations of such functors

# A curious property of Rel

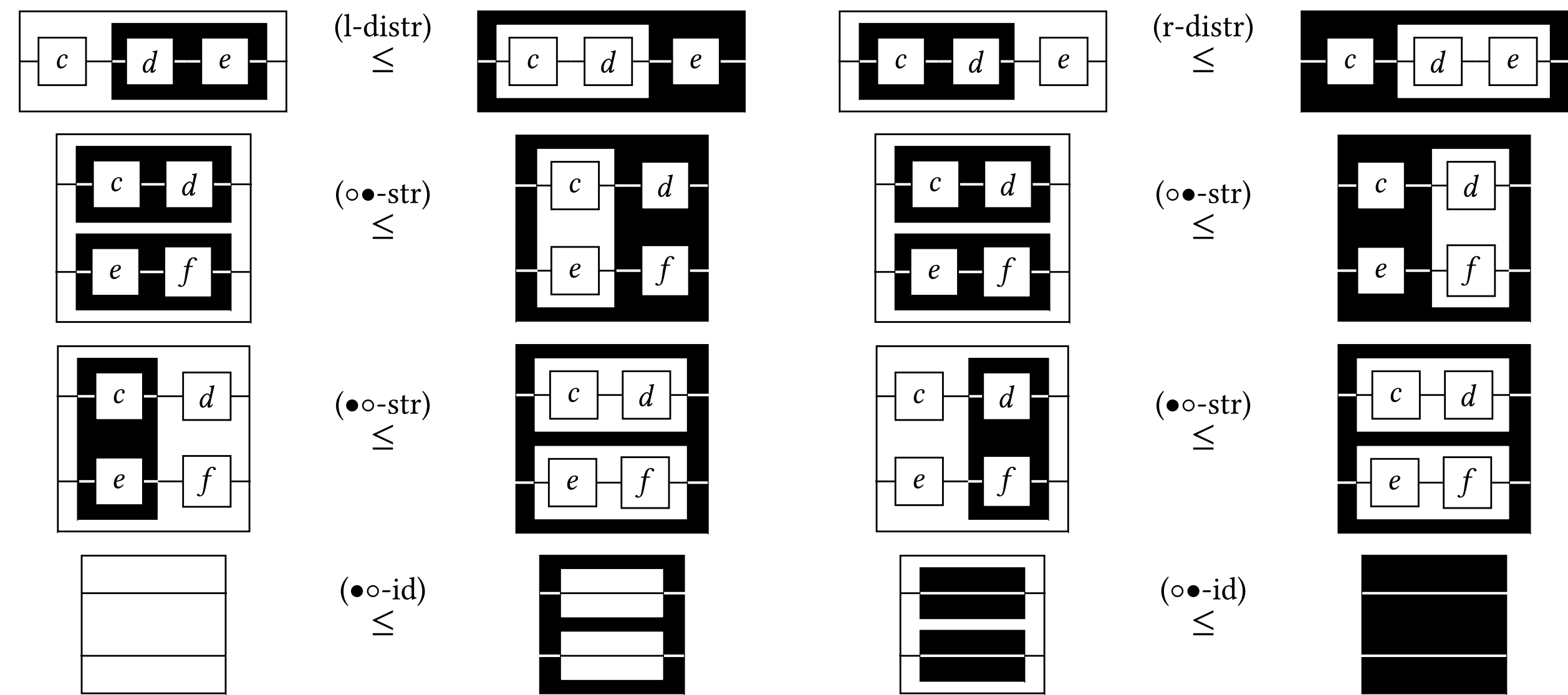
- There is a “De Morgan” version of **Rel** as a monoidal category.
- From now, let us call the usual one **Rel**<sup>+</sup>. The other we will call **Rel**<sup>-</sup>.
- Both **Rel**<sup>+</sup> and **Rel**<sup>-</sup> have the same objects, and monoidal product on objects is cartesian product. But:
  - **Rel**<sup>-</sup> composition works as follows: given  $R \subseteq X \times Y$  and  $S \subseteq Y \times Z$ ,
    - $R;S = \{ (x,z) \mid \forall y. xRy \vee ySz \}$
    - what is the identity?
  - On arrows, given  $R \subseteq X \times Y$  and  $R' \subseteq X' \times Y'$ ,
    - $R \otimes R' = \{ (xx',yy') \mid xRy \vee x'R'y' \}$
    - what are the symmetries?
- **Rel**<sup>+</sup> and **Rel**<sup>-</sup> are isomorphic as symmetric monoidal categories

# The linear bicategory Rel

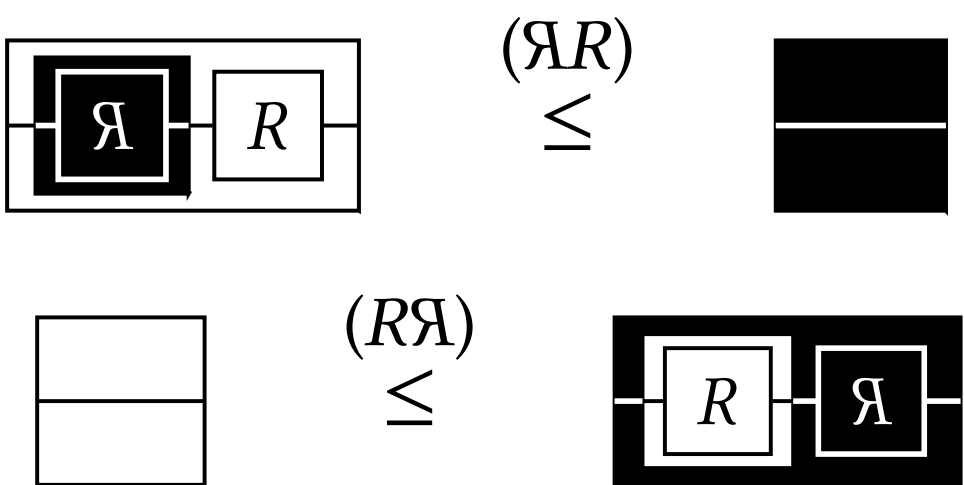
- there are two compositions and two tensors



- satisfying linear distributivity

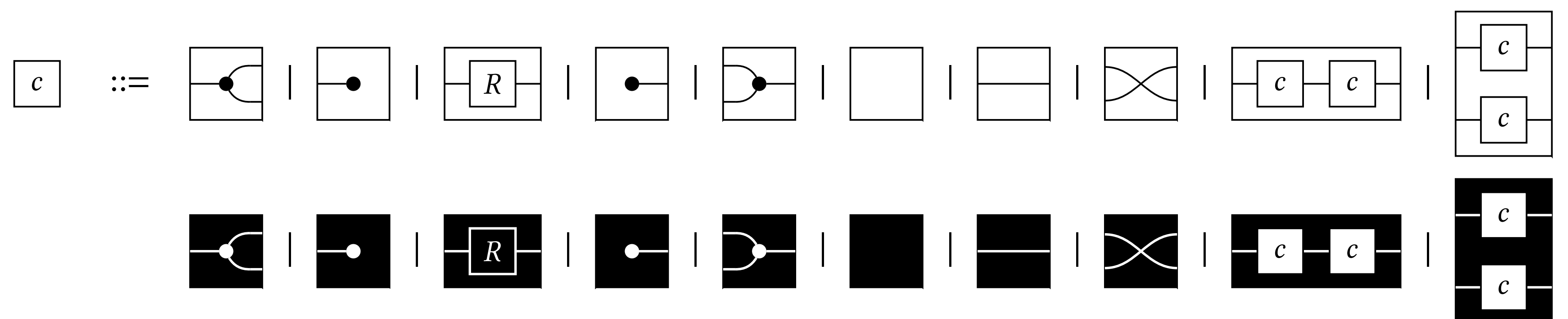


- and linear adjunctions



# Cartesian bicategories + linear bicategories = first order bicategories

**... a totally algebraic approach to first-order logic and first order theories**



**One can prove completeness (in Gödel's sense, in the style of Henkin) in this theory**



# First order theories, algebraically sans variables, quantifiers...

- natural encodings of various flavours of relational algebras
- diagrammatic syntax closely related to 19th century string diagrams: Peirce's existential graphs
- a variable free treatment of first order logic, with a sound and complete axiomatisation
- easy encoding of Quine's predicate functor logic
- a functorial semantics story, in the style we have seen so far

# Summary

- Lawvere identified a universal property - cartesian products - which via Fox's theorem gives you an algebraic structure
- Such algebraic structures can be studied as additional structure on symmetric monoidal categories
- Once you know the universal property  $\leftrightarrow$  algebraic structure, the entire functorial semantics story falls out, we have:
  - a notion of **syntax** - string diagrams with the additional algebraic data built in
  - a notion of semantic universe - any category with the right structure, but typically there is a "canonical" one - **Set**, **Par**, or **Rel** in the examples
  - a notion of model - a functor  $\text{syntax} \rightarrow \text{semantics}$  that preserves the structure
  - a notion of homomorphism - natural transformations



# Diagrammatic relational algebra and applications

**CATMI, Bergen, June 26-30 2023**

**Pawel Sobocinski, Tallinn University of Technology**

# Roadmap

- Lecture 1 - Functorial semantics 1
- Lecture 2 - Functorial semantics 2
- **Lecture 3 - Graphical linear algebra and applications**

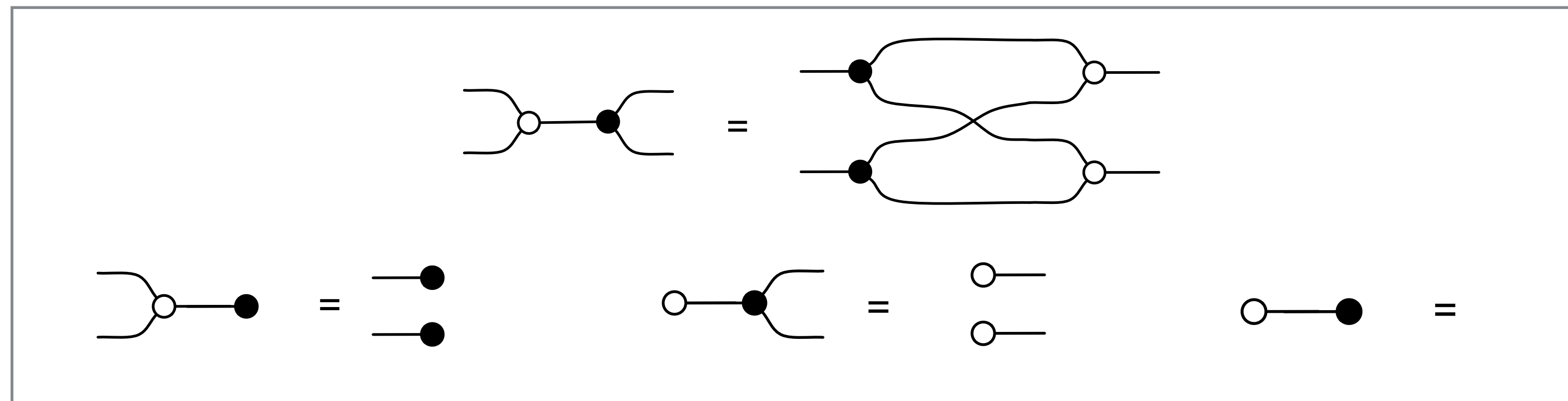
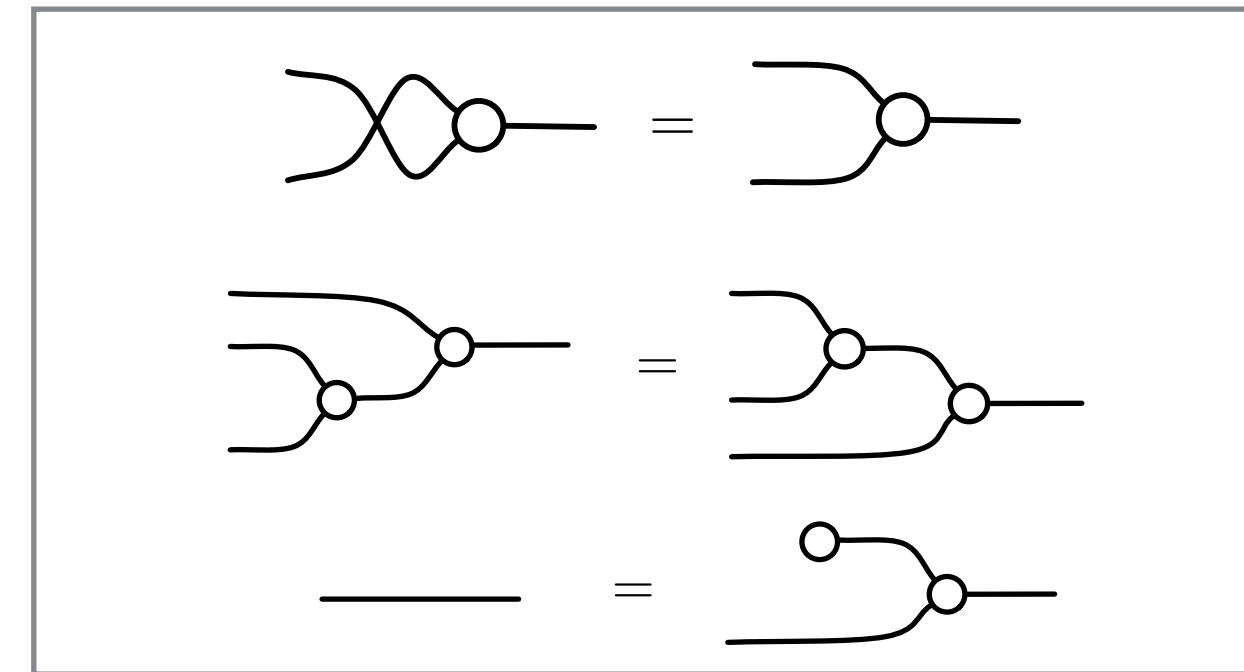
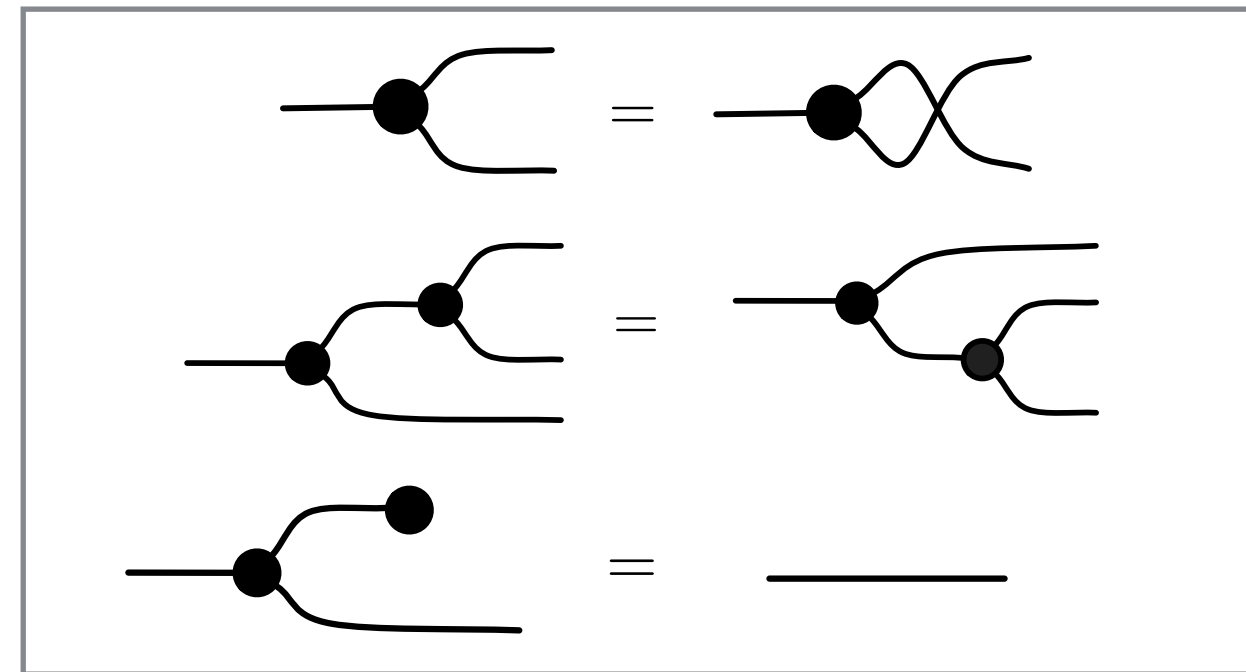
# Recap and roadmap

- In the first two lectures we generalised Lawvere's functorial semantics to
  - partial algebraic theories
  - relational theories
  - first-order theories
- in each case string diagrams in symmetric monoidal categories are useful as carriers of the relevant categorical structure, seen algebraically
- in particular, they give us a nice syntactic calculus
- **Today.** Two relational theories: graphical linear algebra and graphical affine algebra

# Two symmetric monoidal categories

- Our task is to axiomatise the following:
  - Given a field  $k$ ,  $\mathbf{LinRel}_k$  is the smc where
    - objects are natural numbers
    - arrows  $m$  to  $n$  are **linear relations**  $m \rightarrow n$ 
      - i.e. those relations  $R \subseteq k^{m+n}$  that are also  $k$ -linear subspaces
    - (ordinary) relational composition of linear relations is a linear relation
  - Similarly,  $\mathbf{AffRel}_k$  is the smc where arrows are **affine relations**
    - Given a field  $k$ , an **affine relation**  $m \rightarrow n$  is a relation  $R \subseteq k^m \times k^n$  which is either empty, or s.t. there is a linear relation  $C$  and a vector  $(a,b)$  s.t.  $R = (a,b) + C$
    - relational composition of affine relations is an affine relation

# Starting point: the theory of bialgebras



Let  $B$  be the free prop on this data - we know that it is isomorphic to the Lawvere theory of commutative monoids

# First glimpse of linear algebra

- let  $\mathbf{Mat}$  be the prop where arrows  $m \rightarrow n$  are  $n \times m$  matrices of natural numbers

- e.g.  $\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 5 \end{pmatrix} : 2 \rightarrow 1$   $\begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 15 \end{pmatrix} : 1 \rightarrow 2$   $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{pmatrix} : 2 \rightarrow 2$

- composition is matrix multiplication
- monoidal product is direct sum

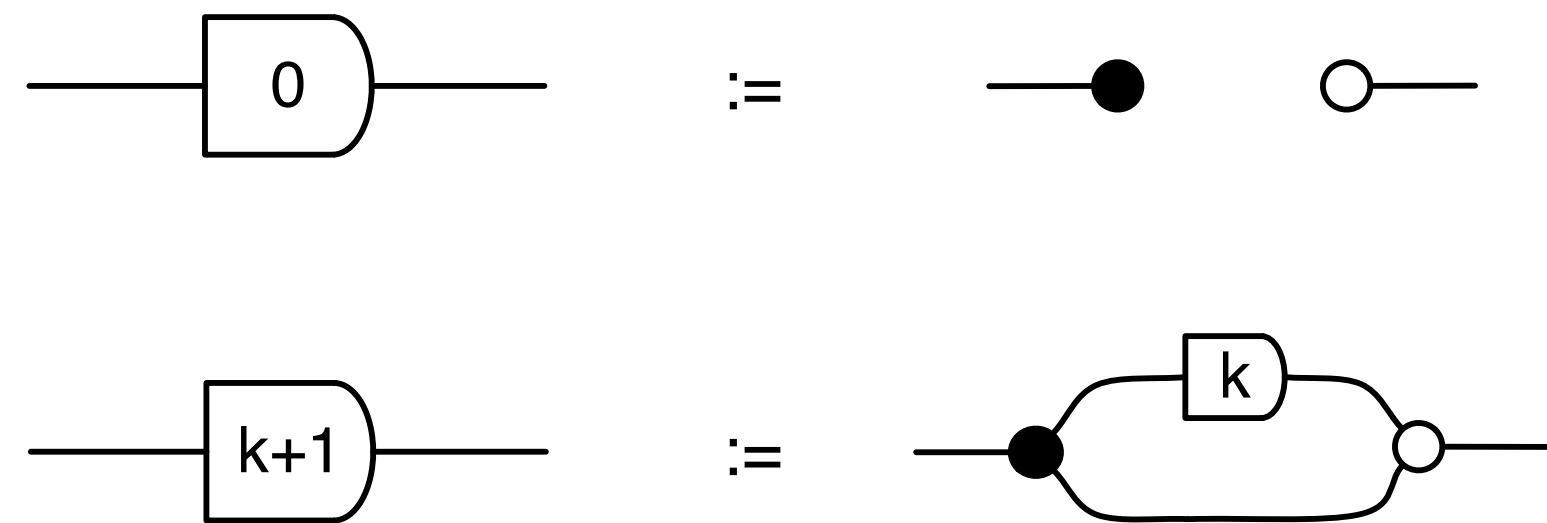
$$A_1 \oplus A_2 = \begin{pmatrix} A_1 & 0 \\ 0 & A_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

- symmetries are permutation matrices
- it's also true that  $\mathbf{B} \cong \mathbf{Mat}$



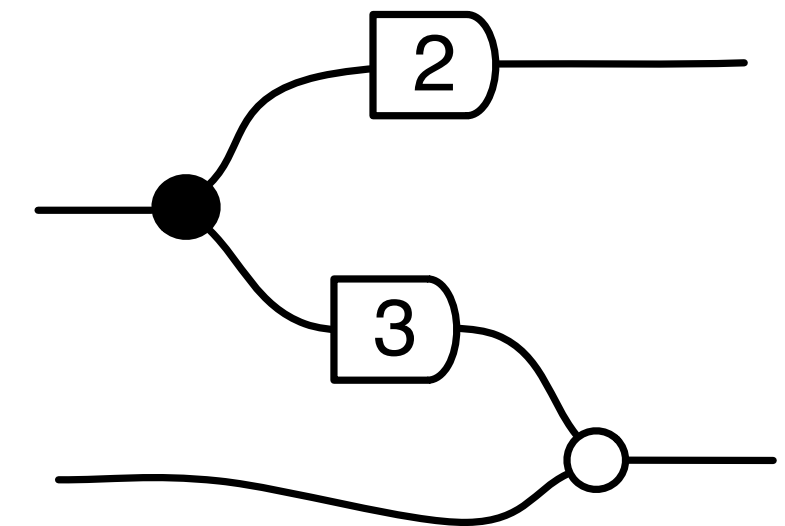
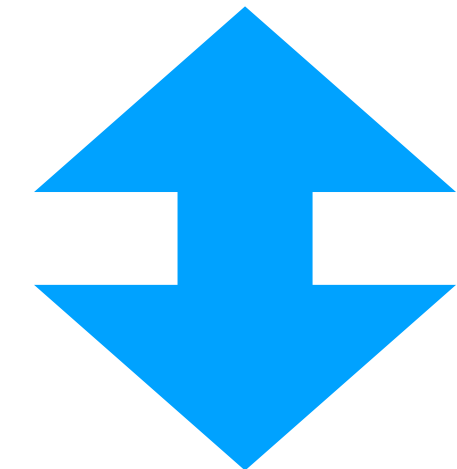
# Where do the naturals come from?

- A syntactic sugar:



+1 is “add one path”

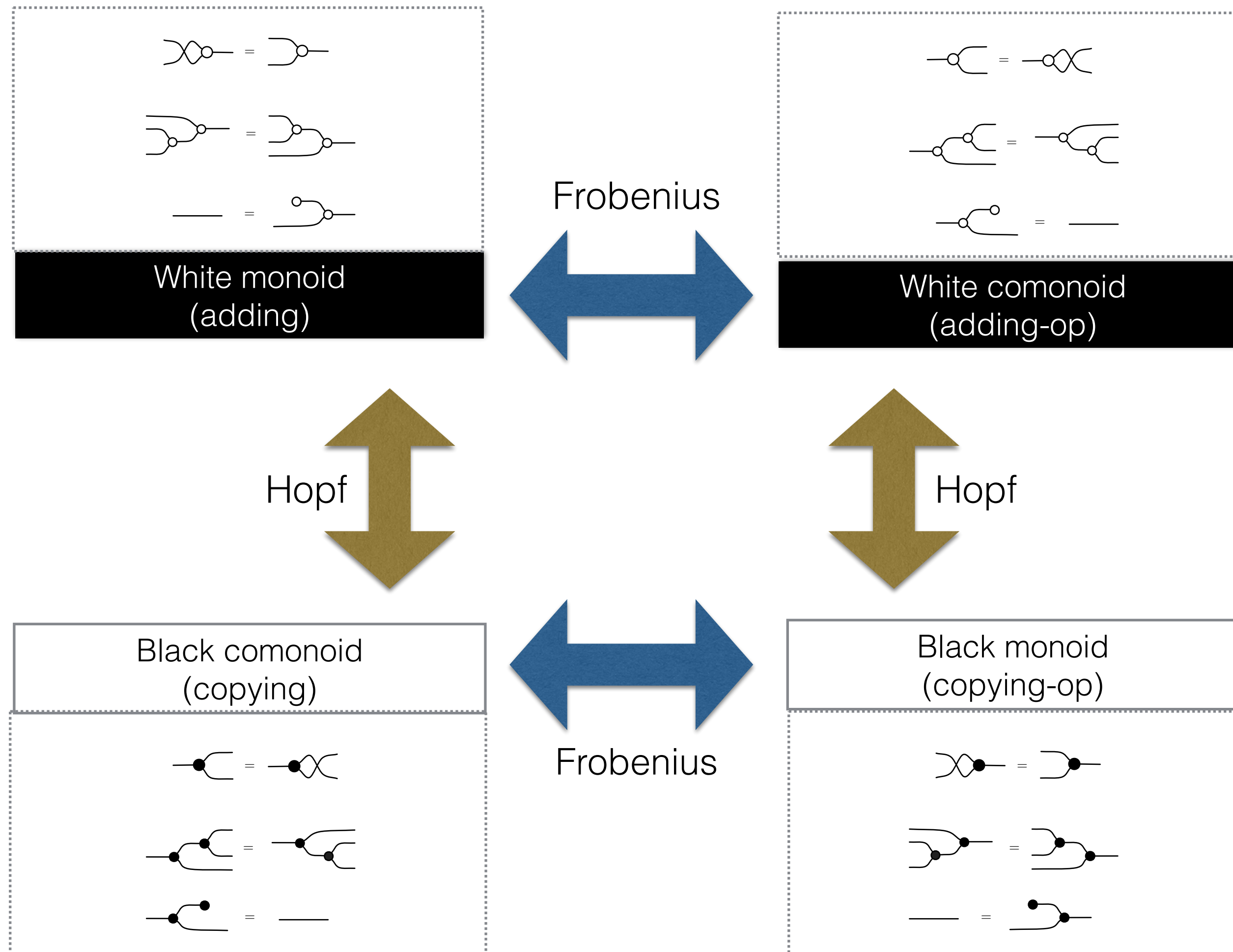
$$\begin{pmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 3 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$



- For similar reasons, the following are isomorphic
  - monoidal theory of Hopf algebra **H**
  - Lawvere theory of abelian groups
  - The prop of matrices over the integers

# The relational theory of linear relations

## Interacting Hopf algebras aka graphical linear algebra



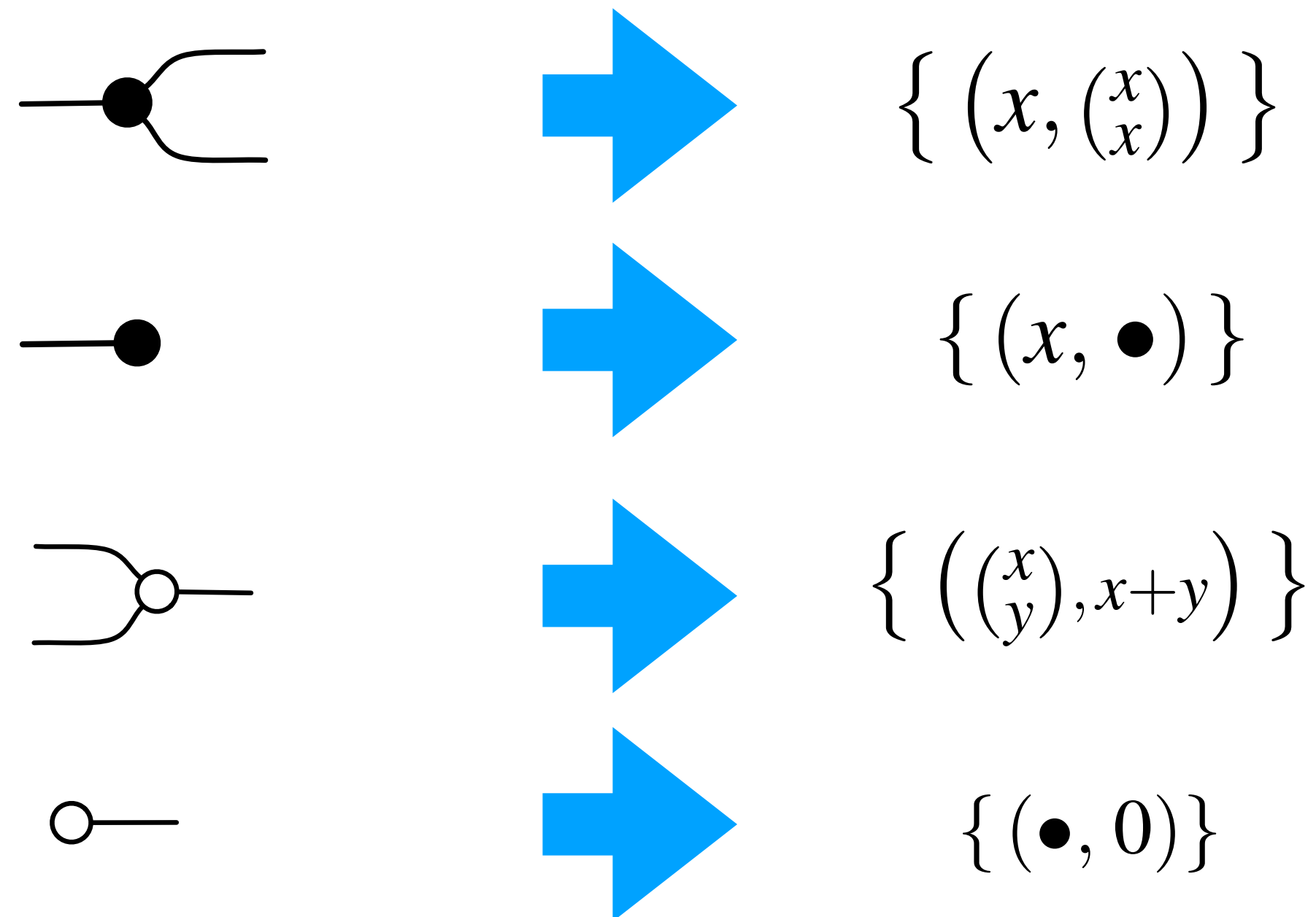
$$\begin{aligned} \text{---} \boxed{p} \boxed{p} \text{---} &= \text{---} & (p \neq 0) \\ \text{---} \boxed{p} \boxed{p} \text{---} &= \text{---} & (p \neq 0) \end{aligned}$$

This is the relational theory of linear relations. Moreover:

$$\mathbf{IH} \cong \mathbf{LinRel}_{\mathbf{Q}}$$

# $I\mathbf{H} \cong \text{LinRelQ}$

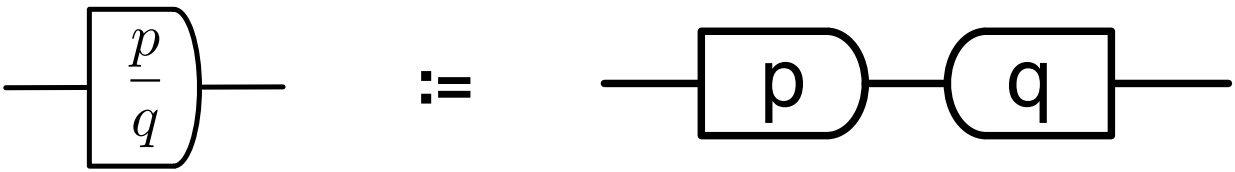
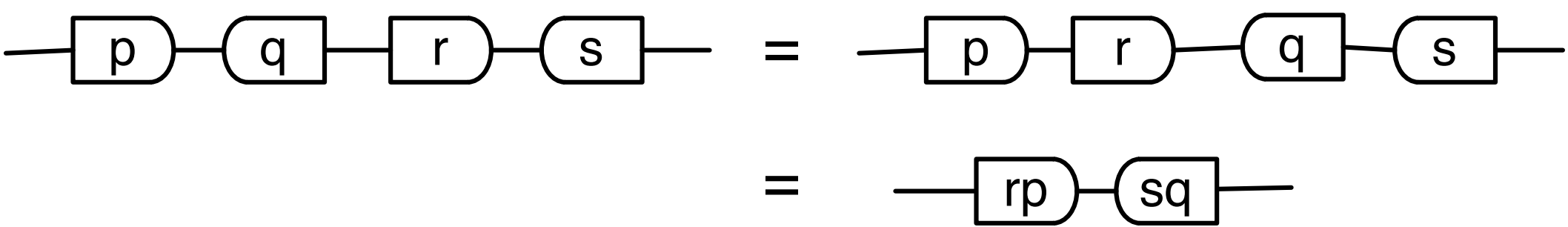
## Where do the generators go?



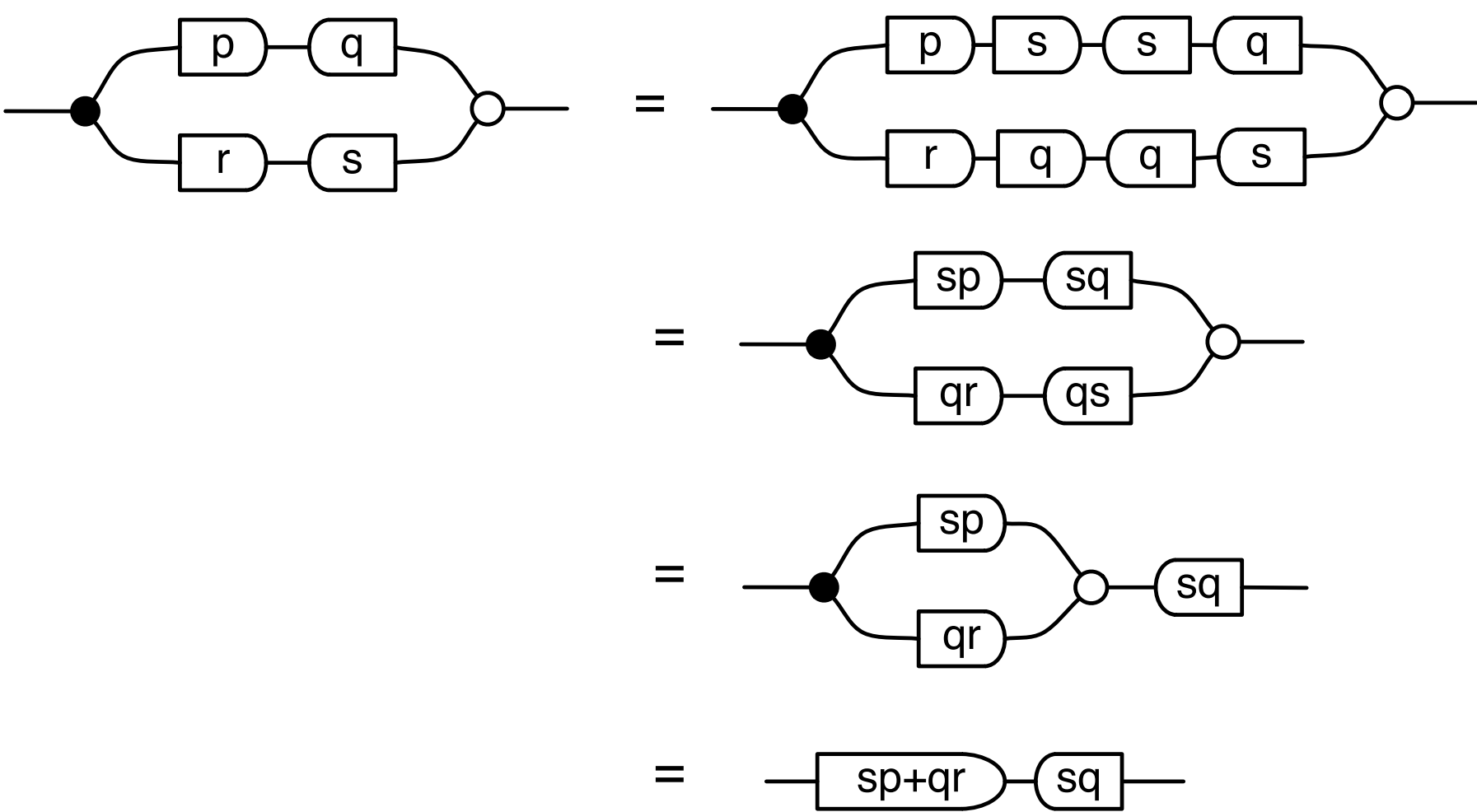
Linear algebra = how these four relations and their opposites interact

# Where do the rationals come from?

multiplication:

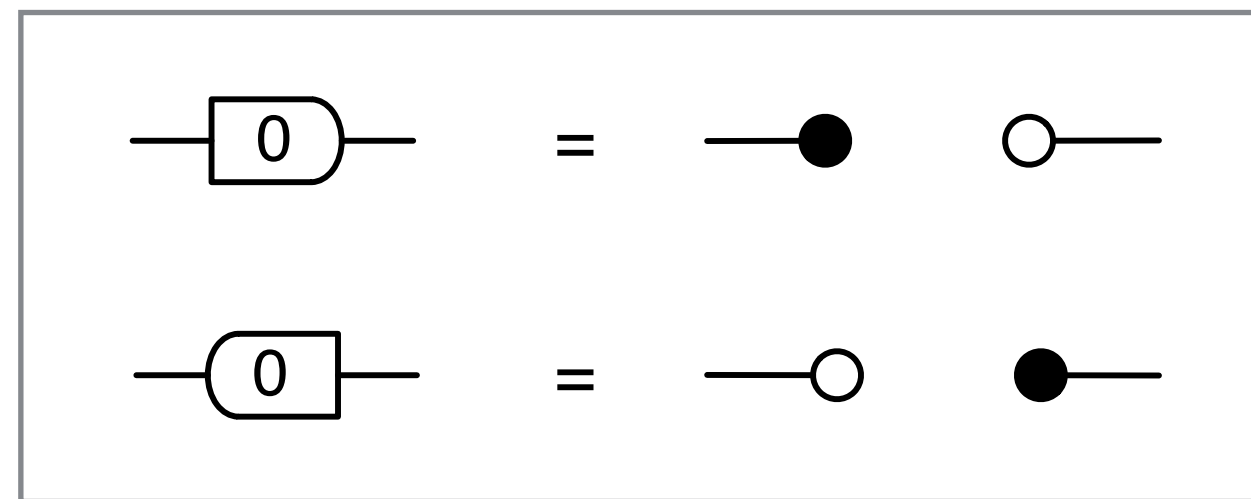


addition:

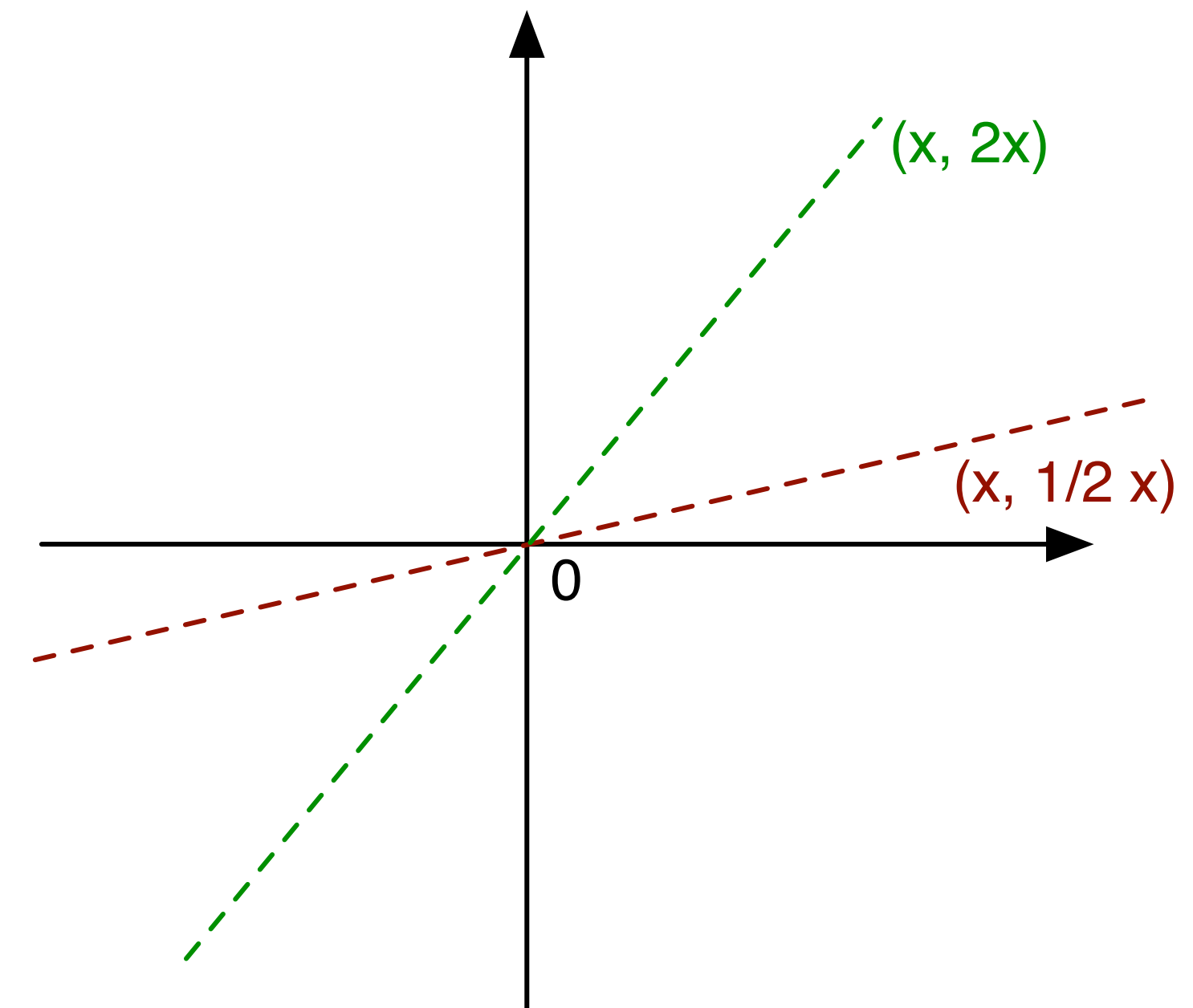
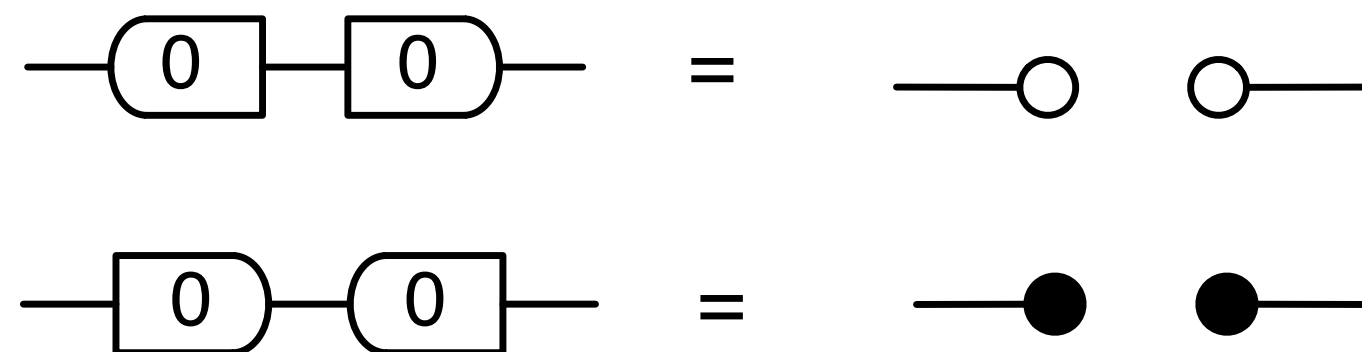


# But what about division by 0?

- it's ok, nothing blows up

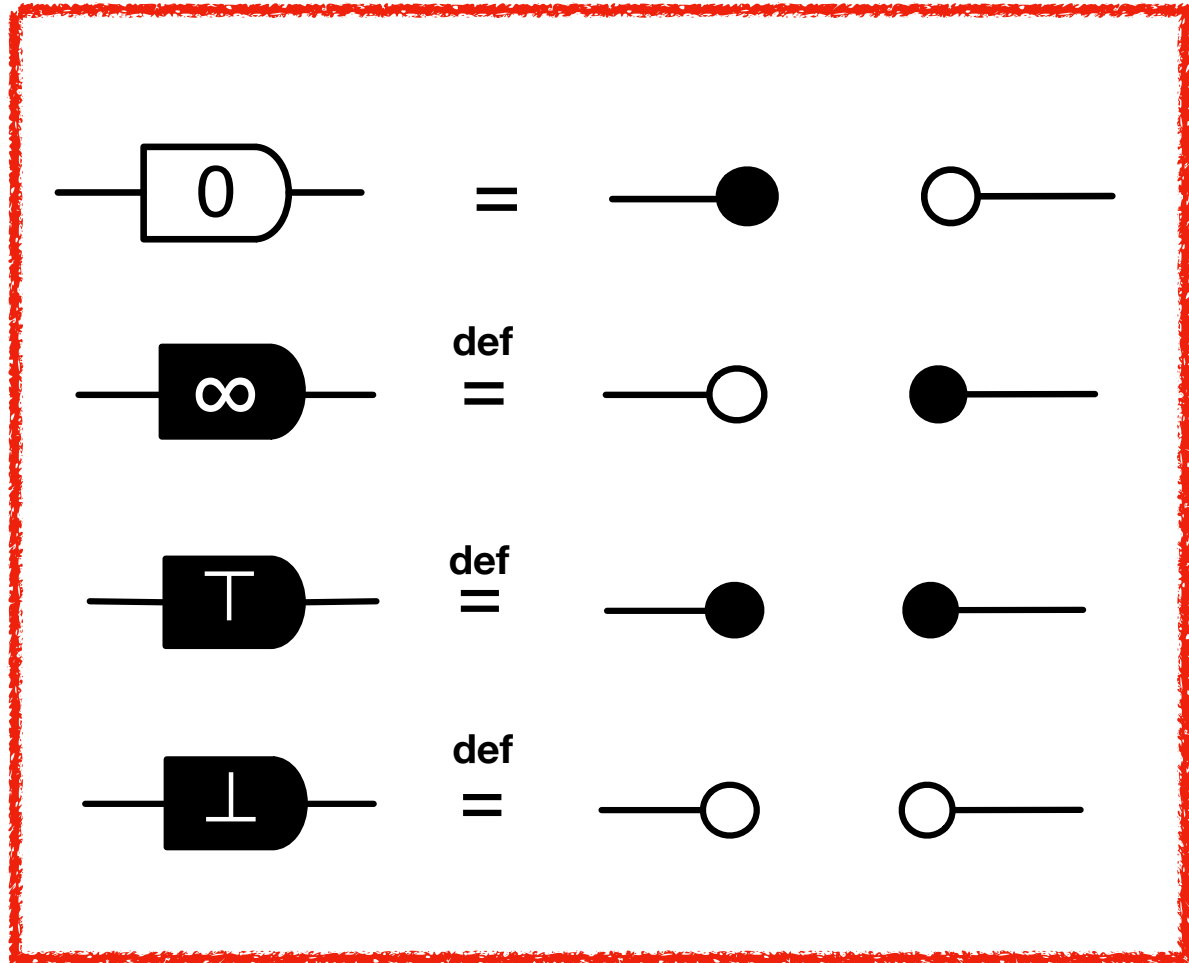


- two ways of interpreting  $0/0$



# An extended number system

- $\text{LinRel}_{\mathbb{Q}}[1,1]$
- projective arithmetic with two additional elements
  - the unique 0-dimensional subspace  $\perp = \{ (0,0) \}$
  - The unique 2-dimensional subspace  $\top = \{ (x,y) \mid x,y \in \mathbb{Q} \}$

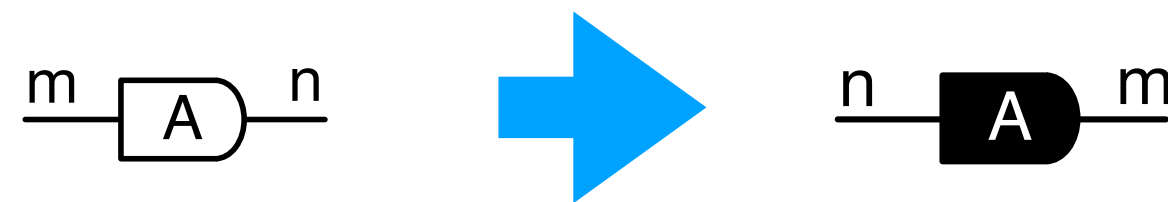






+	0	r/s	$\infty$	$\top$	$\perp$
0	0	r/s	$\infty$	$\top$	$\perp$
p/q	—	(sp+qr)/qs	$\infty$	$\top$	$\perp$
$\infty$	—	—	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$
$\top$	—	—	—	$\top$	$\infty$
$\perp$	—	—	—	—	$\perp$

$\times$	0	r/s	$\infty$	$\top$	$\perp$
0	0	0	$\perp$	0	$\perp$
p/q	0	pr/qs	$\infty$	$\top$	$\perp$
$\infty$	$\top$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\top$	$\infty$
$\top$	$\top$	$\top$	$\infty$	$\top$	$\infty$
$\perp$	0	$\perp$	$\perp$	0	$\perp$

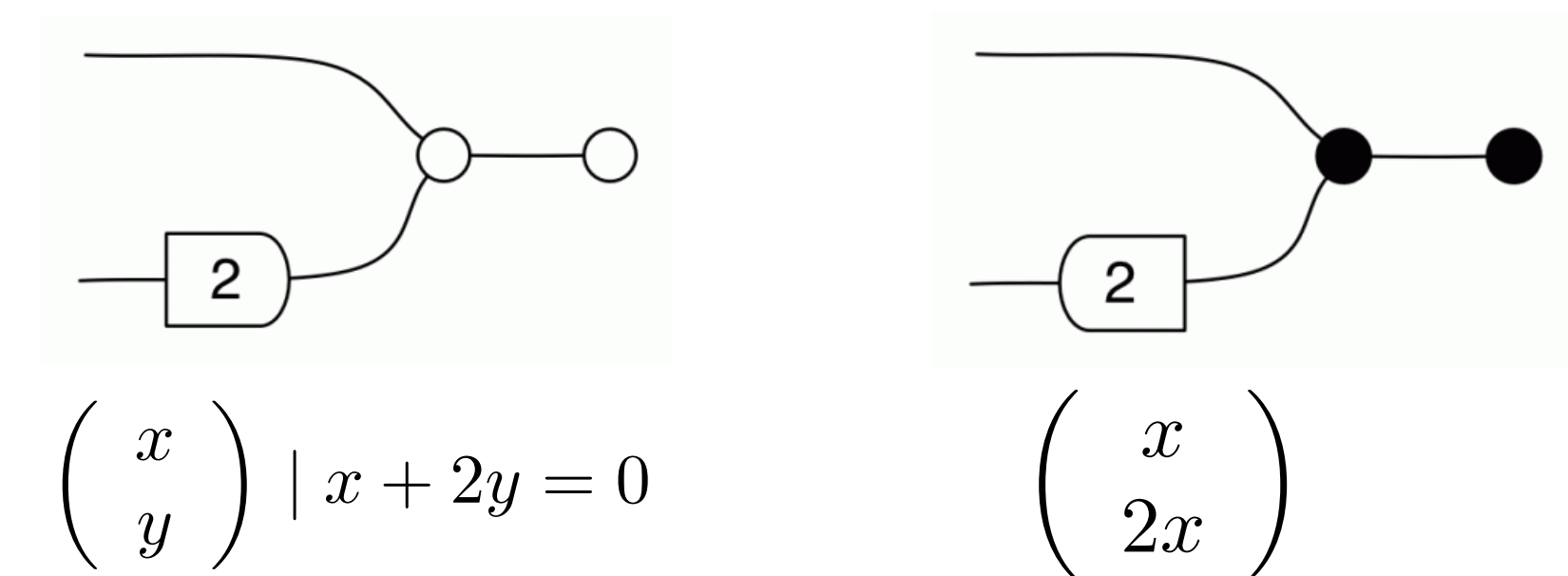
# Some linear algebraic concepts in the graphical syntax

- transpose
  - combine colour and mirror image symmetries



- kernel 
- cokernel 
- image 
- coimage 

*Fact.* Given a linear subspace  $R:0 \rightarrow k$  in **LinRel**, its orthogonal complement  $R^\perp$  is its colour inverted diagram



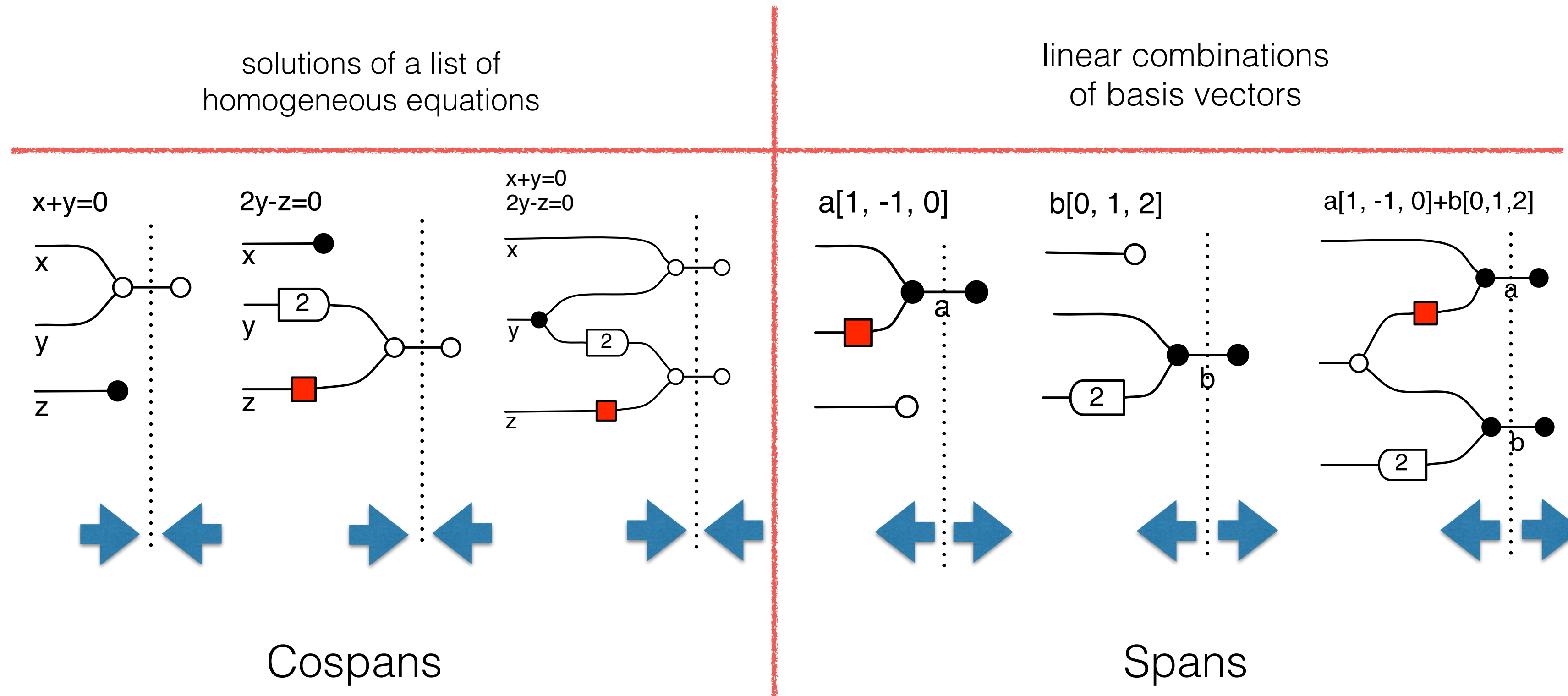
*Corollary.* The “fundamental theorem of linear algebra” has no mathematical content

$$\ker A = \operatorname{im}(A^T)^\perp$$

$$\ker A^T = \operatorname{im}(A)^\perp$$

# Factorisations

- every diagram can be factorised as a span or cospan of matrices
- two different ways to think of linear spaces

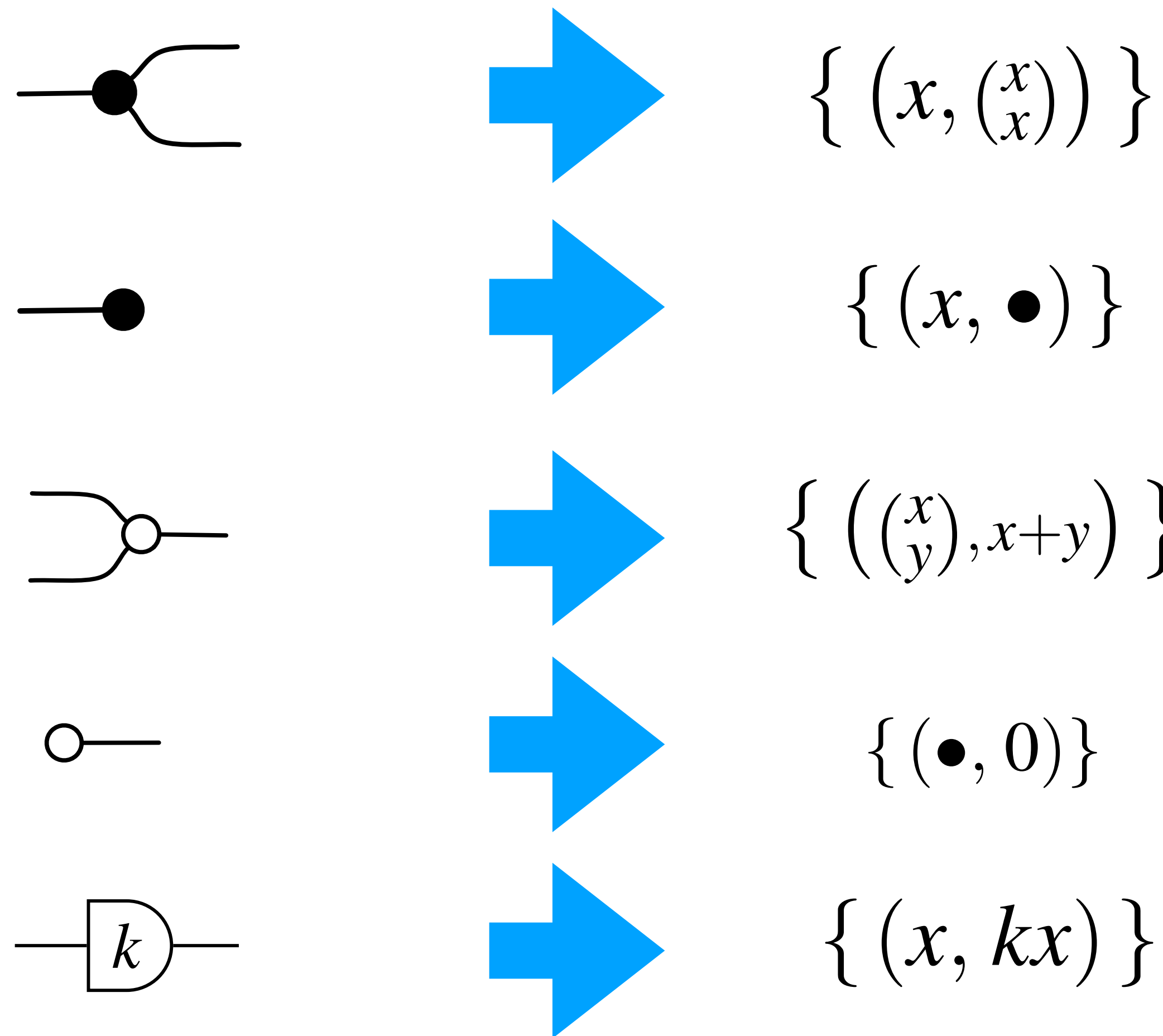




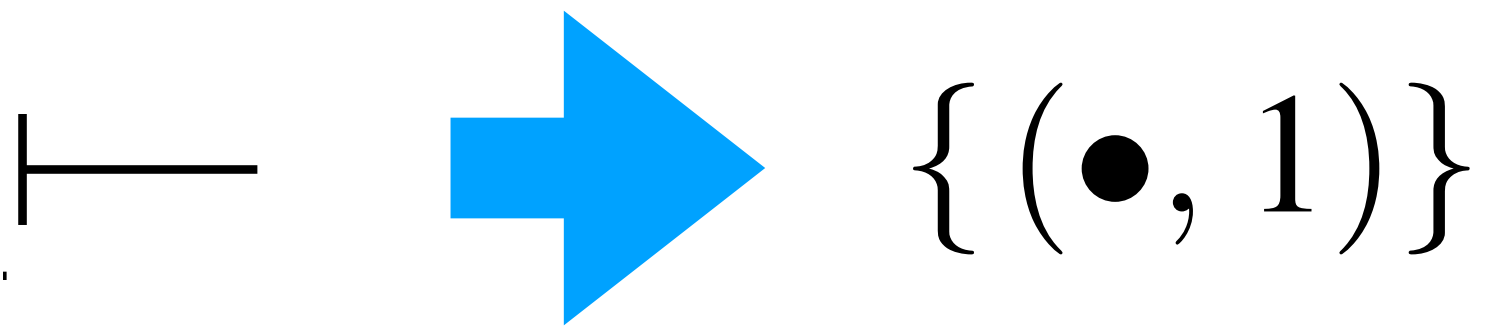
# Linear algebra with string diagrams

- the syntax exhibits the beautiful symmetries of linear algebra
  - given that the theory is sound and complete, all standard results can be proved with diagrammatic reasoning
  - linear algebra done righter?
- 
- next, affine relations

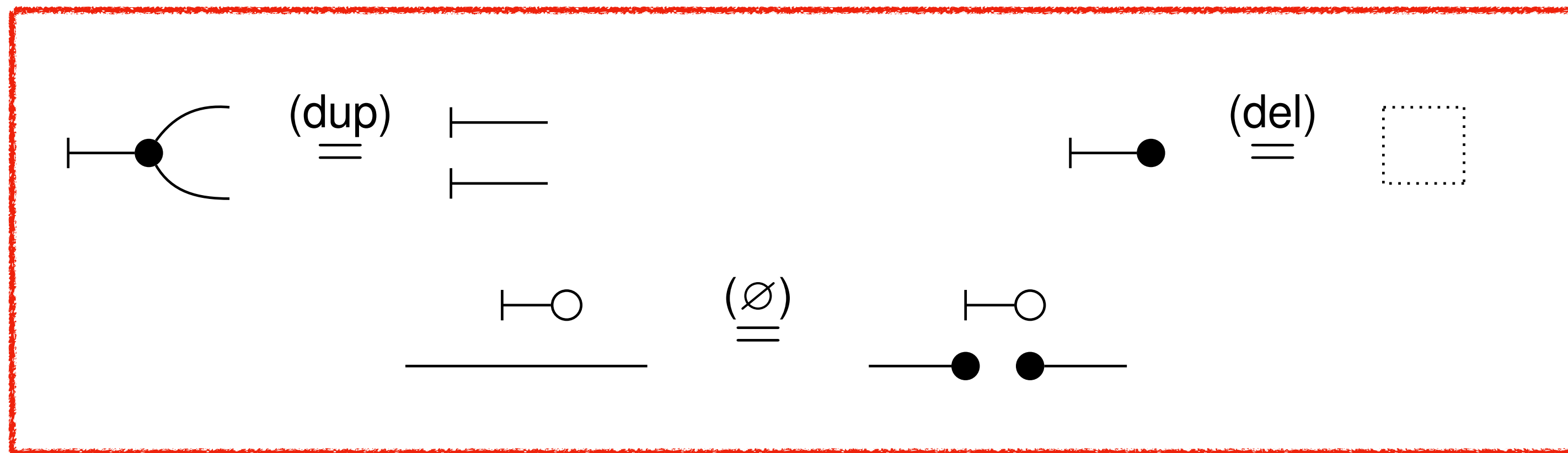
# Diagrammatic syntax for affine relations



For affine relations, we only need one new generator!



# Equational characterisation



Together with the equations of IH, this is the relational theory of affine relations. Moreover:

$$\text{IHA} \cong \text{AffRel}_{\mathbf{Q}}$$

# Case study

## Non-passive electrical circuits

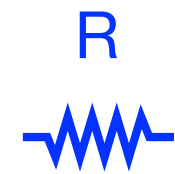
- work with the diagrammatic language for  $\text{AffRel}_{\mathbf{R}[x]}$
- introduce a syntactic prop of electrical circuits
- develop diagrammatic reasoning techniques
  - the impedance calculus
- prove classical “theorems” of electrical circuit theory

# The prop of electrical circuits

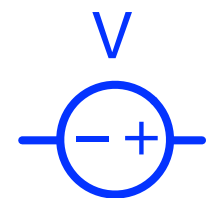
- **ECirc**, free on the following signature

$$\left\{ \overset{R}{\text{resistor}}, \overset{V}{\text{voltage source}}, \overset{I}{\text{current source}}, \overset{L}{\text{inductor}}, \overset{C}{\text{capacitor}} \right\}_{R,L,C \in \mathbb{R}_+, V,I \in \mathbb{R}} \cup \left\{ \text{wire}, \text{node} \right\}$$

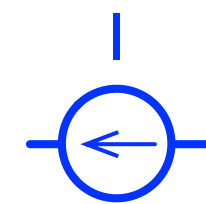
- resistor



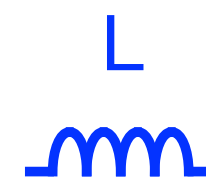
- voltage source



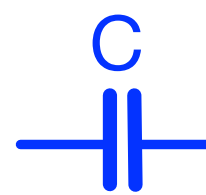
- current source



- inductor



- capacitor



# Compositional semantics

$$\mathcal{J} : \text{ECirc} \rightarrow \text{GAA}$$

$$\mathcal{J}(1) = 2$$

$$\mathcal{J} \left( \begin{array}{c} \text{R} \\ \text{---}\text{---}\text{---} \end{array} \right) = \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \\ \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \text{R} \end{array} \mapsto \left\{ ((\phi_1^i), (\phi_2^i)) \mid \phi_2 - \phi_1 = Ri \right\}$$

$$\mathcal{J} \left( \begin{array}{c} \text{L} \\ \text{---}\text{---}\text{---} \end{array} \right) = \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \\ \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \text{Lx} \end{array} \mapsto \left\{ ((\phi_1^i), (\phi_2^i)) \mid \phi_2 - \phi_1 = Lxi \right\}$$

$$\mathcal{J} \left( \begin{array}{c} \text{V} \\ \text{---}\text{---}\text{---} \end{array} \right) = \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \\ \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \text{V} \end{array} \mapsto \left\{ ((\phi_1^i), (\phi_2^i)) \mid \phi_2 - \phi_1 = V \right\}$$

$$\mathcal{J} \left( \begin{array}{c} \text{C} \\ \text{---}\text{---}\text{---} \end{array} \right) = \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \\ \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \text{Cx} \end{array} \mapsto \left\{ ((\phi_1^i), (\phi_2^i)) \mid i = Cx(\phi_2 - \phi_1) \right\}$$

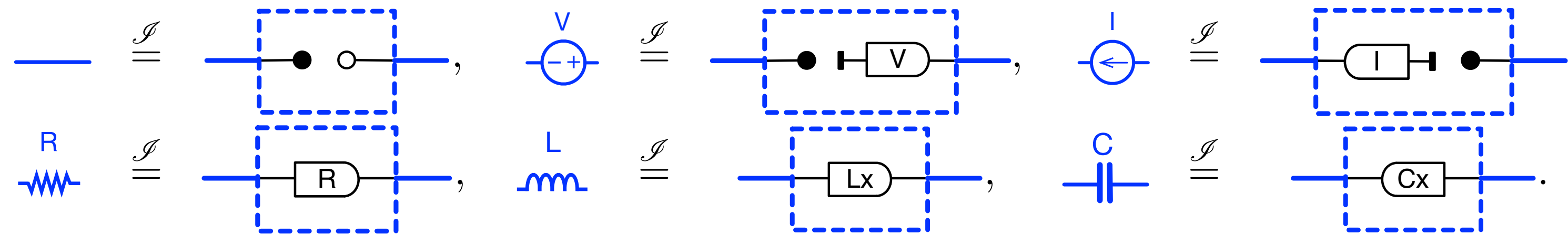
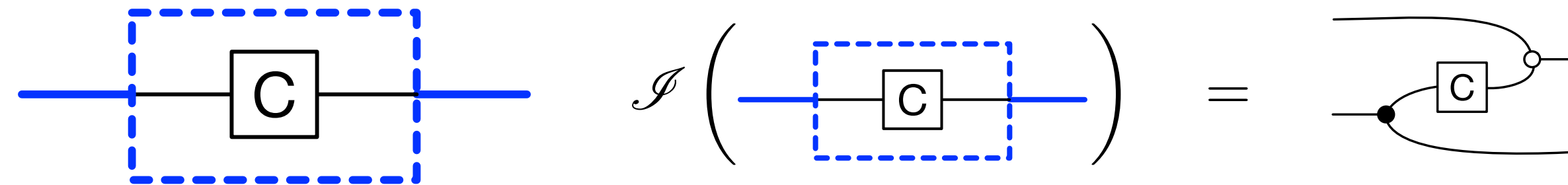
$$\mathcal{J} \left( \begin{array}{c} \text{I} \\ \text{---}\text{---}\text{---} \end{array} \right) = \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \\ \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \text{I} \end{array} \mapsto \left\{ ((\phi_1^i), (\phi_2^i)) \mid i = I \right\}$$

$$\mathcal{J} \left( \begin{array}{c} \text{---}\text{---}\text{---} \\ \text{---}\text{---}\text{---} \end{array} \right) = \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \\ \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \end{array} \mapsto \left\{ \left( (\phi_1^i), \begin{pmatrix} \phi \\ i_2 \\ \phi \\ i_3 \end{pmatrix} \right) \mid i_1 + i_2 + i_3 = 0 \right\}$$

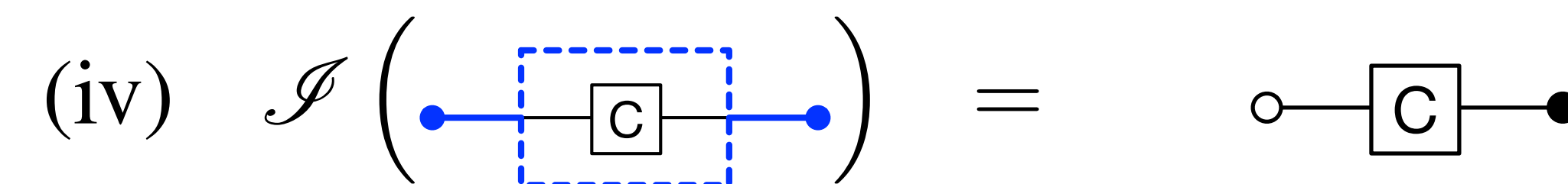
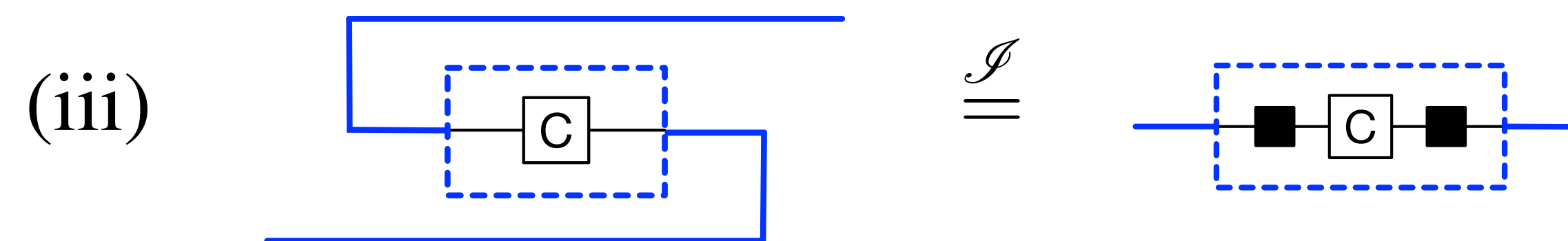
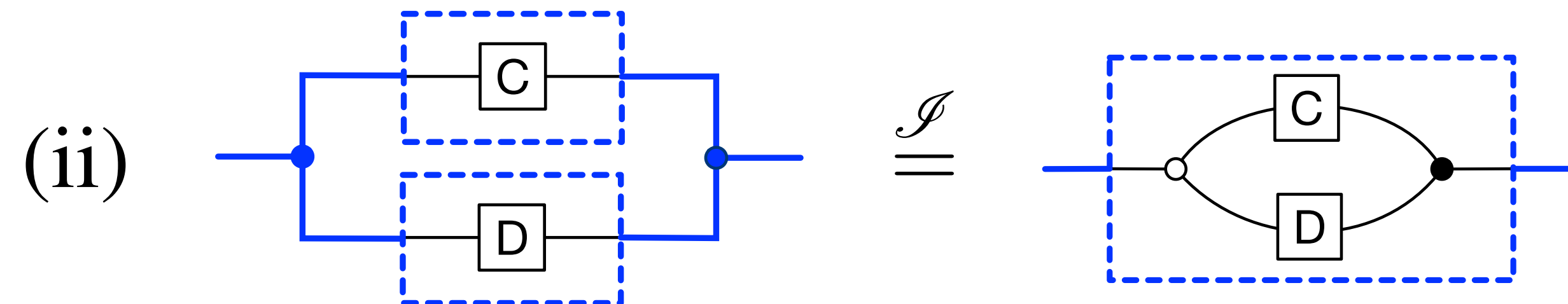
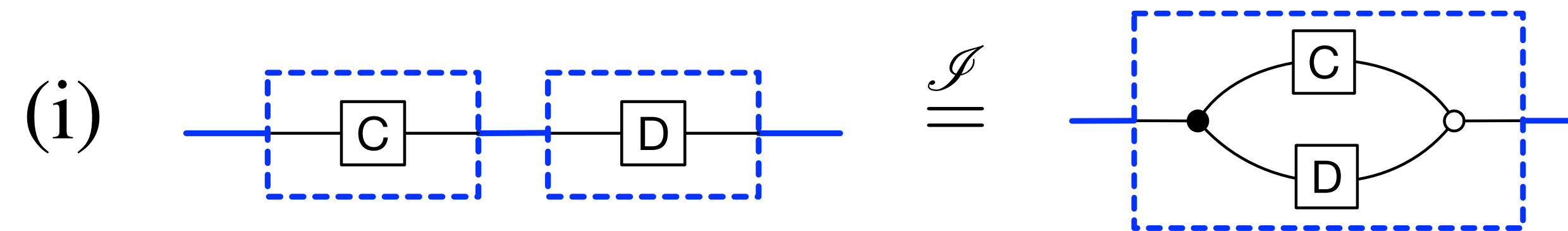
$$\mathcal{J} \left( \begin{array}{c} \text{---}\text{---}\text{---} \\ \text{---}\text{---}\text{---} \end{array} \right) = \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \\ \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \end{array} \mapsto \left\{ ((\phi^i), \bullet) \mid i = 0 \right\}$$

# Impedance calculus

- Extend the signature of **ECirc** with impedance boxes



# Impedance box lemma





# Proposition

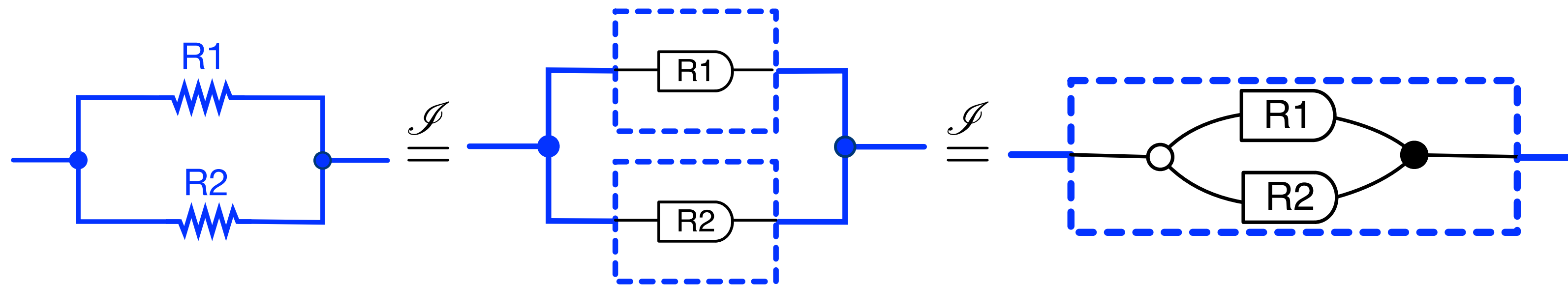
(i)  $\begin{array}{c} R1 \\ \text{---} \end{array} \begin{array}{c} R2 \\ \text{---} \end{array} \stackrel{\mathcal{I}}{=} \begin{array}{c} R3 \\ \text{---} \end{array}$  where  $\begin{array}{c} \boxed{R3} \\ \text{---} \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \bullet \begin{array}{l} \text{---} \boxed{R1} \text{---} \\ \text{---} \boxed{R2} \text{---} \end{array} \circ \text{---} \end{array}$

(ii)  $\begin{array}{c} \text{---} \bullet \begin{array}{l} \text{---} \begin{array}{c} R1 \\ \text{---} \end{array} \text{---} \\ \text{---} \begin{array}{c} R2 \\ \text{---} \end{array} \text{---} \end{array} \bullet \text{---} \end{array} \stackrel{\mathcal{I}}{=} \begin{array}{c} R3 \\ \text{---} \end{array}$  where  $\begin{array}{c} \boxed{R3} \\ \text{---} \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \circ \begin{array}{l} \text{---} \boxed{R1} \text{---} \\ \text{---} \boxed{R2} \text{---} \end{array} \bullet \text{---} \end{array}$

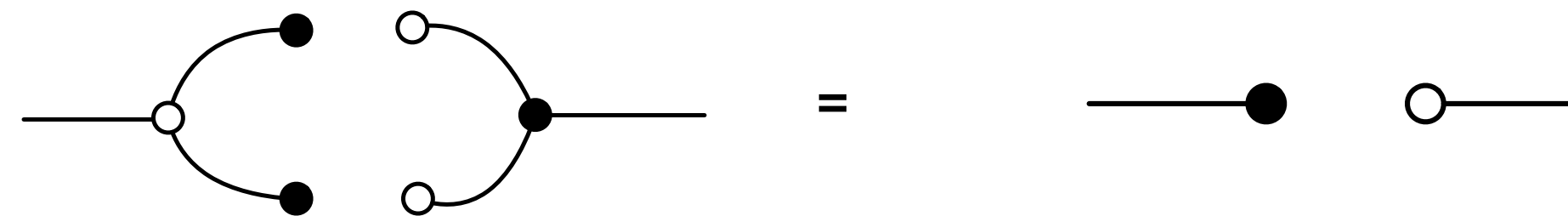
(iii)  $\begin{array}{c} \text{---} \bullet \begin{array}{l} \text{---} \begin{array}{c} I \\ \text{---} \end{array} \text{---} \\ \text{---} \begin{array}{c} R \\ \text{---} \end{array} \text{---} \end{array} \bullet \text{---} \end{array} \stackrel{\mathcal{I}}{=} \begin{array}{c} IR \\ \text{---} \end{array} \begin{array}{c} R \\ \text{---} \end{array}$

(iv)  $\begin{array}{c} \text{---} \bullet \begin{array}{l} \text{---} \begin{array}{c} V1 \\ \text{---} \end{array} \text{---} \\ \text{---} \begin{array}{c} V2 \\ \text{---} \end{array} \text{---} \end{array} \bullet \text{---} \end{array} \stackrel{\mathcal{I}}{=} \begin{array}{c} V1 \\ \text{---} \end{array}$  if  $V1 = V2$ , otherwise its semantics is  $\emptyset$  (the empty relation)

# Proof of (ii)



What if  $R_1=R_2=0$ ?



Textbook formulas fail here because of “division by zero”

# Some classical theorems

- Relativity of potentials
- Conservation of current
- Independent measurement theorem
- Superposition theorem
- Thévenin's theorem
  - see Guillaume Boisseau's thesis!

# Conclusions

- String diagrams can carry algebraic data that characterises applications that are relevant in the 21st century
  - partial functions
  - non-classical (e.g. Quantum data)
  - relational structures
- The functorial semantics methodology scales (partial theories, relational theories, first order theories)
- Compositional reasoning with string diagrams and functorial semantics is a powerful tool
  - other examples: Petri nets, signal flow graphs (with different semantics), Bayesian networks, automata, ...
- Reasoning with string diagrams fixes the deficiencies of traditional syntax and exposes errors, implicit assumptions, and conceptual inadequacies