

Polynomial functors II: Seven wonders of the composition product

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MIT Categories Seminar
2020 May 28

Outline

1 Introduction

- **Poly**: how do I love thee?
- **Poly** and mode-dependent dynamical systems

2 Categorical virtues of Poly

3 Composition product in dynamical systems

4 Theoretical wonders of the \circ monoidal structure

5 Conclusion

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As a lover of **Poly**, I feel drawn to tell you how great it is.

I hope you'll find it as fascinating as I do!

Some virtues of Poly

- **Poly** categorifies high-school math.
 - $y^2 + 2y + 1$ isn't intimidating; think inclusivity.
 - And $\mathbb{N}y^{\mathbb{Z}} + \text{String } y^{\text{Bool}}$ works the same basic way.

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- **Poly** has a laundry list of beautiful formal properties.
 - We'll discuss many of them today; some are quite surprising.
 - It's a rich categorical setting in which to work.

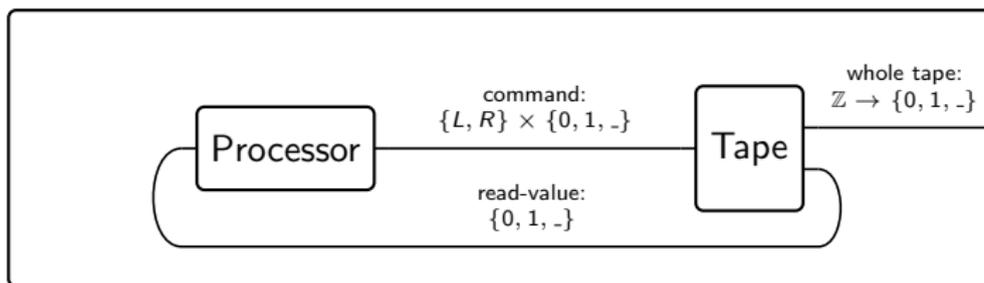
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I talked about part of the story on March 5. There's a lot more to say.

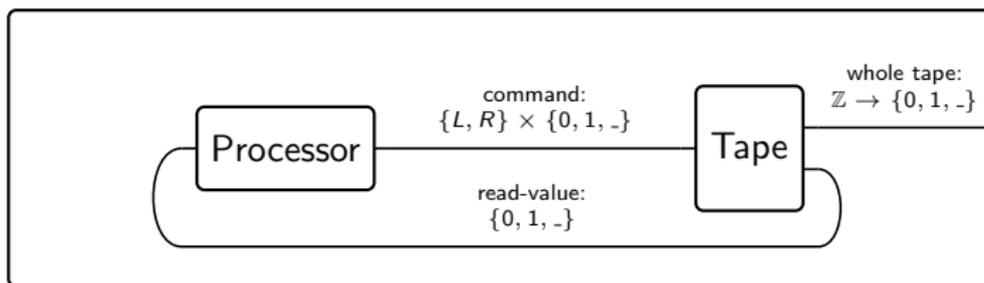
Poly and dynamical systems

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Many systems in the real world change their interaction pattern.



We can model this—a company deciding to change its supplier—in **Poly**.

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- **Poly** as a category and its relationship to “generalized lenses”.
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 - ... and how they model various ways of combining systems.

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 - ... and how they model various ways of combining systems.

But I avoided \circ because frankly I didn't know what it “did”.

In this talk I'll recall the basics of the above, and then go into \circ .

- It's got some real surprises up its proverbial sleeve.
- I'll call them the *seven wonders of composition product*.

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Acknowledgments

I learned some of what I'll present here from (separate) conversations with Richard Garner and David Jaz Myers.

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- 2 **Categorical virtues of Poly**
 - Recalling the category **Poly**
 - An abundance of structure
 - First wonder of composition product
- 3 Composition product in dynamical systems
- 4 Theoretical wonders of the \circ monoidal structure
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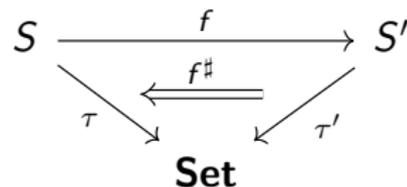
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- The category of typed sets $\tau : S \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}$ and colax maps between them

What's a morphism $(S, \tau) \rightarrow (S', \tau')$?

It's a choice of function $f : S \rightarrow S'$ and for each $s \in S$, a choice of function $f_s^\sharp : \tau'(fs) \rightarrow \tau(s)$.



Today: represent objects in Poly as polynomials

- For each $S \in \mathbf{Set}$, there is a functor $\mathbf{Set}(S, -)$ “represented” by S .
- Denote it y^S for Yoneda, but also to look like a variable to a power.
 - As a functor, y^S sends a set X to the set of functions $S \rightarrow X$.

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Nice thing: coproducts and products in **Poly** are standard $0, +$ and $1, \times$.

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- \otimes is a third symmetric monoidal product; its unit is y .
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- Both \times and \otimes are closed monoidal structures.

$$q^p \cong \prod_{i \in p(1)} q \circ (p_i + y) \quad \text{and} \quad [p, q] \cong \prod_{i \in p(1)} q \circ (p_i y)$$

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- Composition product \circ ; unit is y .
 - This monoidal structure is non-symmetric, $p \circ q \not\cong q \circ p$.
 - We'll spend most of the remaining time discussing \circ .

A bit more structure to discuss

A bit more before we leave the formal structures of **Poly** and discuss \circ .

- Adjoint galore, (functors labeled by image of $A \in \mathbf{Set}$, $p \in \mathbf{Poly}$):

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- Poly** has a vertical/cartesian factorization system.
 - (f, f^\sharp) *vertical* means f is iso; *cartesian* means each f_i^\sharp is iso.
 - All four monoidal structures $+$, \times , \otimes , \circ preserve cartesians.
 - All three symmetric ones $+$, \times , \otimes preserve verticals.

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$$(p_1 + p_2) \circ q \cong (p_1 \circ q) + (p_2 \circ q)$$

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$$(p_1 \circ p_2) \otimes (q_1 \circ q_2) \rightarrow (p_1 \otimes q_1) \circ (p_2 \otimes q_2)$$

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The “+”-one helps me remember the form of the “ \otimes ”-one.

Behold in wonder! But seriously, **Poly** does have a great deal of structure.

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The rest of the talk is explaining 2 – 7, in order.

Outline

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Categorical virtues of Poly
- 3 Composition product in dynamical systems**
 - Recalling polynomials in dynamics
 - How \circ relates to strategies
 - How \circ relates to speeding up dynamical systems
 - How \circ relates to generalizing coalgebras
- 4 Theoretical wonders of the \circ monoidal structure
- 5 Conclusion

Imagining polynomials as arenas

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- At half, we'll see a string, at the other half we'll see a boolean.

Example: consider the polynomial Sy^S for a set S .

- A bit self-referential: there's a set of positions S .
- The distinctions available at $s \in S$ are always just elements of S .

How to think of $p \rightarrow q$ as a map of arenas

Given a morphism of polynomials $(f, f^\sharp): p \rightarrow q$,

- We might think of arena p being an *internal world* inside of arena q .
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For dynamics, call S a set of “states” and consider a morphism $Sy^S \rightarrow p$.

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Now let's talk about \circ in this context.

A description of $p \circ q$

We can rewrite a polynomial $p = \sum_{i \in p(1)} y^{p_i}$ as follows:

$$p \cong \sum_{i \in p(1)} \prod_{d \in p_i} y.$$

- “A p -position and, for every p -distinction available there: a future.”
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“A p -position and, for every p -distinction available there: a q -position and for every q -distinction available there, a future.”

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It follows that for any polynomial $p \in \mathbf{Poly}$, we have

$$p^{\circ n} \cong \sum_{i_1 \in p(1)} \prod_{d_1 \in p_{i_1}} \sum_{i_2 \in p(1)} \prod_{d_2 \in p_{i_2}} \cdots \sum_{i_n \in p(1)} \prod_{d_n \in p_{i_n}} y$$

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This sort of combinatorial game is baked into the composition product.

Introduction to our hero: comonoids

For any set S , the polynomial functor Sy^S is a comonoid in $(\mathbf{Poly}, \circ, y)$

- It is well-known in functional programming.
 - They call Sy^S the *store comonad* (cousin to the *state monad*).

- It comes from the adjunction $\mathbf{Set} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{- \times S} \\ \Rightarrow \\ \xleftarrow{-_S} \end{array} \mathbf{Set} .$

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One might ask, “how should I think about comonoids in \mathbf{Poly} , generally?”

- We’ll discuss this soon; it’s really a wonder.
- But first we’ll show how we can use them in practice.

(3) Speeding up dynamical systems

Let (s, ϵ, δ) be a comonoid in $(\mathbf{Poly}, \circ, y)$.

- We sometimes write $\delta: s \rightarrow s^{\circ n}$ for the $(n - 1)$ -fold iterate.
- For example, if $s := Sy^S$ then $\delta: s \rightarrow s^{\circ n}$ is “move n times”, as above.

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- $f^{\circ n}: s^{\circ n} \rightarrow p^{\circ n}$ by functoriality of the monoidal product \circ .
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- In every moment, s outputs an entire length- n strategy.
- A p -position, and for every p -distinction, a choice of p -position, etc.

Example: differential equations

Consider a system of differential equations:

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{x} &= f(x, a), & x(t) &\in \mathbb{R}^d, & a(t) &\in \mathbb{R}^m \\ b &= g(x) & & & b(t) &\in \mathbb{R}^n. \end{aligned}$$

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Let $X := \mathbb{R}^d$, $A := \mathbb{R}^m$, $B := \mathbb{R}^n$, and consider the polynomial map

$$(g, x+f): Xy^X \rightarrow By^A$$

- Given $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$, get $b := g(x)$, and
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- As $n \rightarrow \infty$ (categorically??), one recovers the original ODE.

(4) Generalizing [Lambek] coalgebras

For $p \in \mathbf{Poly}$, a p -coalgebra is a set S and a function $f: S \rightarrow p(S)$.

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What makes it work is that Sy^S is a comonoid.

- The map $Sy^S \rightarrow p$ induces a comonoid map $Sy^S \rightarrow \mathbf{Cofree}(p)$.
- Here's a formula for **Cofree**(p) as a directed limit:

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For any comonoid s and map $s \rightarrow p$, get $s \rightarrow \mathbf{Cofree}(p)$.

- We'll see soon that the comonoid acts as a historical recorder.
- The comonoid $s = Sy^S$ says "to me, a history is just its endpoints."
- We'll see what it means that more general comonoids record history.

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(5) Operads as cartesian monoids

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A special case of a result by Gambino and Kock says the following.

- Let $\mathbf{Poly}^{\text{cart}}$ denote the category of polynomials and cartesian maps.

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A special case of a result by Gambino and Kock says the following.

- Let $\mathbf{Poly}^{\text{cart}}$ denote the category of polynomials and cartesian maps.
- The category of monoids in $\mathbf{Poly}^{\text{cart}}$ is equivalent to...
- ...the category of (one-object, nonsymmetric, infinitary) operads.
 - Example: List has a monoid structure in $\mathbf{Poly}^{\text{cart}}$.
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- The map $\mu: p \circ p \rightarrow p$ gives the composition structure:
 - Given operation $i \in p(1)$ and, for each $d \in p_i$ an operation j_d ...
 - ... get an operation to serve as $i \circ (j_1, \dots, j_{p_i})$ with the right arity.

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This is due to Ahman and Uustalu. I learned it from Richard Garner.

- In fact, Garner offers a high-brow and a low-brow way to see this.
- I'll discuss each.

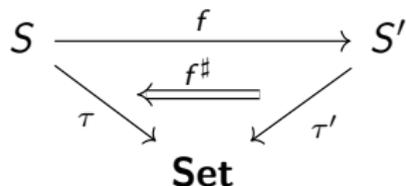
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$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 S & \xrightarrow{f} & S' \\
 \searrow \tau & \xleftarrow{f^\sharp} & \swarrow \tau' \\
 & \mathbf{Set} &
 \end{array}$$

This is equivalent to the following:

- Objects: functions $\pi: E \rightarrow B$ between sets.
- Morphisms $\mathbf{Poly}(\pi, \pi') = \{(f, f^\sharp) \mid f: B \rightarrow B', f^\sharp: f^*E' \rightarrow E\}$.

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 E & \xleftarrow{f^\sharp} & f^*E' & \longrightarrow & E' \\
 \pi \downarrow & & \downarrow & \lrcorner & \downarrow \pi' \\
 B & \xlongequal{\quad} & B & \xrightarrow{f} & B'
 \end{array}$$

Garner's bouquets of pullbacks

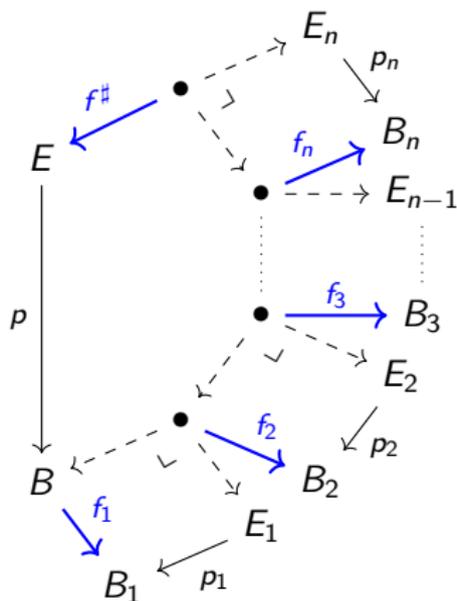
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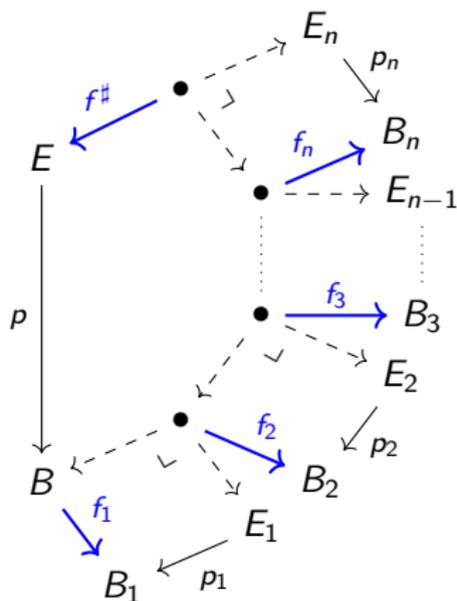
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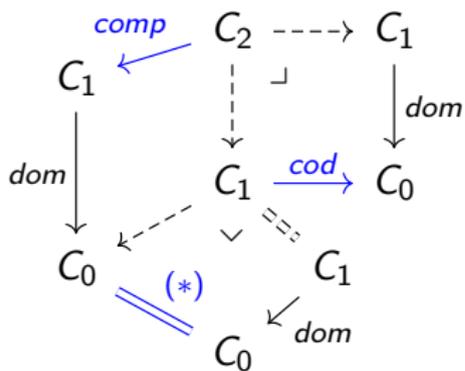
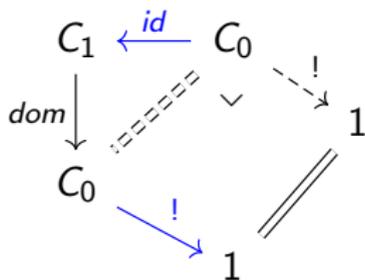
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To compose, e.g. with $p_i \rightarrow q_1 \circ q_m$, take a lot of pullbacks.

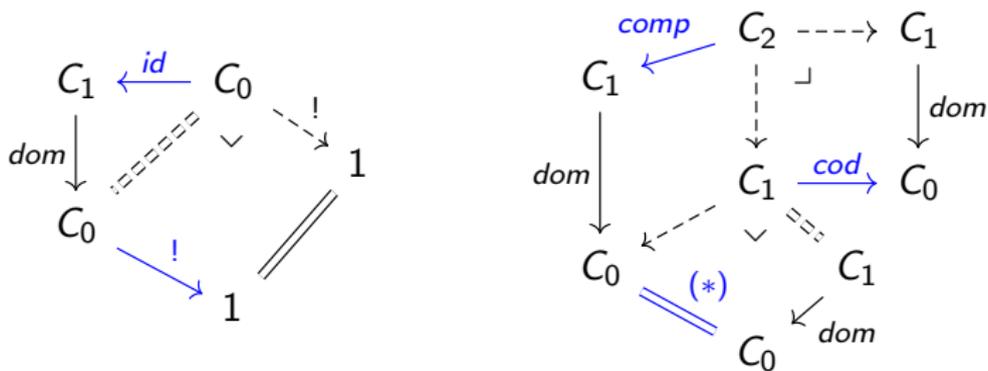
Painstaking calculation that comonoids = categories

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The comonoid laws enforce the necessary equations

- In particular, the fact that $(*)$ is identity is forced by unitality.

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- Monoids in **Span** are the same as small categories. *Tada..!*

Back to the coalgebra picture

What does “comonoids=categories” mean in the setting of coalgebras?

- We said earlier that a p -coalgebra S is just a map $Sy^S \rightarrow p$.
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 - That is, a history of interaction is recorded as a morphism in C .
 - When $C = Sy^S$, a history is just a start state and an end state.

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- The sum $C + D$ returns the coproduct of categories.
- The Dirichlet product $C \otimes D$ returns the product of categories.
- Note that $+$ is not a coproduct and \otimes is not a product in \mathbf{Cat}^\sharp .

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These are exactly parametric right adjoints (pra's) $F: \mathbf{Set}^D \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}^C$!

(7) Bimodules are parametric right adjoints

The last of the wonders of $(\mathbf{Poly}, \circ, y)$ is again due to Garner.

- Let C, D be comonoids (categories); a (C, D) -bimodule consists of:
 - a polynomial M and maps $C \circ M \xleftarrow{f} M \xrightarrow{g} M \circ D$ such that
 - $f \circ (\epsilon_C \circ M) = M$ and similar for g ;
 - $f \circ (\delta_C \circ M) = f \circ (C \circ f)$ and similarly for g ; and
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- Let $1 \in \mathbf{Set}^D$ be the terminal object; then we can lift F to...
- ... $F': \mathbf{Set}^D \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}^C / (F1)$. Say F is a *pra* if F' is a right adjoint.

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 - There's a collection of tables, each with a collection of columns.
 - Each column points to a “foreign” table, a codomain.
 - There are *integrity constraints*.
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- Bimodules are data-migration functors.
 - A (D, C) -bimodule is a parametric right adjoint $\mathbf{Set}^C \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}^D$.
 - These functors move database instances between schemas; useful!

Outline

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Categorical virtues of Poly
- 3 Composition product in dynamical systems
- 4 Theoretical wonders of the \circ monoidal structure
- 5 Conclusion**

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Thanks; comments and questions welcome!

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Supplementary material

- Composing bimodules
- Example of cofree comonoids and relation to data
- Some details of Garner's equivalence proof

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- Using the maps $C \circ M \leftarrow M$ and $M \rightarrow N \circ E$ gives (1) \rightarrow (2).
- Thus we get a new bimodule $C \circ Eq \leftarrow Eq \rightarrow Eq \circ E$, as desired.

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- Put each $s \in S$ into the table $r: \mathbf{List}(A) \rightarrow B$ that “acts like s ”
- ...that is, for which $r(\ell) = f(f^\#(\dots f^\#(s, \ell_1), \dots, \ell_n))$ for all ℓ .
- A table is a possible process. Its rows are the states that accomplish it.

Some details of Garner's equivalence proof

Claim:

$$\sum_{A \in \mathbf{Set}} \mathbf{Comon}(\mathbf{Set}/A \xrightarrow{\text{lims}^\vee} \mathbf{Set}/A) \cong \mathbf{Comon}(\mathbf{Set} \xrightarrow{\text{conn-lims}^\vee} \mathbf{Set})$$

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(\leftarrow): Given $Q: \mathbf{Set} \xrightarrow{\text{conn-lims}^\vee} \mathbf{Set}$, let $A = Q1$, send $\alpha: X \rightarrow Q1$ to α' :

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \bullet & \longrightarrow & QX \\ \alpha' \downarrow & \lrcorner & \downarrow Q\alpha \\ Q1 & \xrightarrow{\delta_1} & QQ1 \end{array}$$

One can check that these two constructions are mutually inverse.