

Wreath product decomposition of categories. I*

CHARLES WELLS

1. Introduction. In this paper I prove a theorem (Theorem 4.1) giving sufficient conditions for decomposing a functor $F: \mathbf{C} \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat}$ into the wreath product of two functors, given a natural transformation $\lambda: F \rightarrow G$. When the functors are discrete (set-valued) the sufficient conditions always hold.

The theorem is a double generalization of the theorem about embedding a group into a wreath product due to KALOUJNINE—KRASNER ([7], stated also in WELLS [13]). To be precise, it generalizes the one-step version of that theorem, although for any action — not just for the regular representation as it is commonly stated in group theory texts.

The generalization is double in the sense that the group is generalized to a category and the action not merely to a set-valued functor (which already gives a new theorem) but to a \mathbf{Cat} -valued one. The theorem provides a decomposition of *any* Set-valued functor with given quotient, and any \mathbf{Cat} -valued one provided the fibers of the quotient are split opfibrations. Since the wreath product itself is a split fibration, this brings the theory of fibrations into the picture in two different ways.

Some applications are given in Section 6. One, Proposition 6.4, provides a generalization of a technique used in some proofs of the Krohn—Rhodes Theorem (see KROHN—RHODES [10], WELLS [13]). (A generalization of another of the techniques to \mathbf{Cat} -valued functors is in WELLS [17].)

My hope is that both techniques might be useful in developing a theory of *state-transition systems with structured, typed states*. Any functor $F: \mathbf{C} \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat}$ can be thought of as such a system. The objects of \mathbf{C} are the types of states. For each object c , the objects of Fc are the states of type c . The transitions are the functors $Ff: Fc \rightarrow Fd$ for $f: c \rightarrow d$ in \mathbf{C} . The structure on the states of type c is the category structure on Fc (thus having a poset or monoid or group structure as possible special cases).

Received August 7, 1985.

*) Supported in part by DOE Contract DE—AC01—80RA5256.

Perhaps the theorem of the present paper will also be useful in developing a theory of varieties for categories, in the way the embedding into a wreath product has proved useful in group theory (NEUMANN [12]).

Categorical fibrations and opfibrations are discussed in Section 2, and the wreath product with categorical action in Section 3. The decomposition theorem is stated in Section 4 and proved in Section 5. Some applications are given in Section 6.

Throughout this paper, a set is identified with the category which has the elements of the set as objects and no non-identity arrows. Such a category is called *discrete*.

These results were obtained in part while I was a guest of the Forschungsinstitut für Math., E.T.H. Zürich, for whose support I am grateful. An earlier version, containing errors, called *Wreath product decomposition of categories and functors*, was distributed but never published.

2. Fibrations. In this section, I outline that part of the theory of split fibrations and opfibrations needed for the main theorems. The material is not new, and is scattered through GROTHENDIECK [5], GIRAUD [1], GRAY [2], [3], [4].

Given a functor $P: \mathbf{E} \rightarrow \mathbf{C}$ there is an induced functor S from the arrow category $\text{Ar } \mathbf{E}$ to the comma category (\mathbf{C}, P) which takes $u: e' \rightarrow e$ to (Pu, e) . A right adjoint right inverse R for S is called a *cleavage*, and a left adjoint right inverse R° to the functor $S^\circ: \text{Ar } \mathbf{E} \rightarrow (\mathbf{C}, P)$ which takes $u: e' \rightarrow e$ to (e', Pu) is an *opcleavage*. P , together with a cleavage R , is a *fibration* of \mathbf{C} . If R° is an opcleavage, (P, R°) is an *opfibration* of \mathbf{C} . Neither a cleavage nor an opcleavage necessarily exists for any given functor P .

Assume $(P: \mathbf{E} \rightarrow \mathbf{C}, R)$ is a fibration. Let $f: b \rightarrow c$ in \mathbf{C} and $u: e' \rightarrow e$ lie over c (i.e. $Pu = 1_c$). Define $\Phi f \cdot e'' = \text{dom } R(f, e'')$ for any object e'' over c , and $\Phi f \cdot u$ by requiring $R(1_b, u) = (\Phi f \cdot u, u)$ (the second component is necessarily u). Similarly for an opfibration $(P; R^\circ)$, let $\Phi^\circ f \cdot e'' = \text{cod } R^\circ(e'', f)$ for e'' over b , and $R^\circ(u, 1_c) = (u, \Phi^\circ f \cdot u)$. One then has the commutative squares

$$(2.1) \quad \begin{array}{ccc} \Phi f \cdot e' & \xrightarrow{R(f, e')} & e' \\ \Phi f \cdot u \downarrow & & \downarrow u \\ \Phi f \cdot e & \xrightarrow{R(f, e)} & e \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{ccc} e' & \xrightarrow{R^\circ(e', f)} & \Phi^\circ f \cdot e' \\ \downarrow u & & \downarrow \Phi^\circ f \cdot u \\ e & \xrightarrow{R^\circ(e, f)} & \Phi^\circ f \cdot e \end{array}$$

By setting $\Phi c = \Phi^\circ c = P^{-1}c$ (the full subcategory of \mathbf{E} lying over 1_c) one has Φ, Φ° both defined on objects and arrows of c . They may not be functors. If they are, they are functors to Cat and $R(f, -)$ and $R^\circ(-, f)$ are natural transformations for each f . If $P^{-1}c$ is a set (no non-trivial arrows) the fibration or opfibration is called *discrete*.

A fibration (P, R) is *split* if
 a) Φ is a functor, and

b) if $f: c' \rightarrow c$, $g: c \rightarrow c''$ in C and $Pe'' = c''$, $Pe = c$, then

$$(2.2) \quad R(f, \Phi g \cdot e'') \circ R(g, e'') = R(g \circ f, e'').$$

Then Φ is a *splitting*, and I shall refer to the split fibration as $(P: E \rightarrow C, R, \Phi)$.

A split opfibration (P, R°, Φ°) requires

a)° Φ° is a functor, and

b)° if $f: c' \rightarrow c$, $g: c \rightarrow c''$ in C , $Pe' = c'$, $Pe = c$, then

$$(2.2)^\circ \quad R^\circ(e', g \circ f) = R'(\Phi^\circ f \cdot e', g) \circ R^\circ(e', f).$$

It is easy to see that $(P: E \rightarrow C, R, \Phi)$ is a split fibration if and only if $(P^{op}: E^{op} \rightarrow C^{op}, R^{op}, \Phi^{op})$ is a split opfibration.

A morphism of split fibrations is a pair $(U, V): (P: E \rightarrow C, R, \Phi) \rightarrow (P': E' \rightarrow C', R', \Phi')$ where $U: C \rightarrow C'$ and $V: E \rightarrow E'$ are functors for which

$$(2.3) \quad \begin{array}{ccc} E & \xrightarrow{V} & E' \\ P \downarrow & & \downarrow P' \\ C & \xrightarrow{U} & C' \end{array}$$

commutes and for $f: b \rightarrow c$ in C , e an object of Φc ,

$$(2.4) \quad V(R(f, e)) = R'(Uf, Ve).$$

Composition of morphisms is componentwise, giving a category F of split fibrations.

Morphisms of opfibrations are defined similarly. (2.3)° is the same as (2.3) and (2.4) becomes

$$(2.4)^\circ \quad V(R^\circ(e, f)) = R'(Ve, Uf)$$

where e is an object of $\Phi^\circ b$. The resulting category is denoted F° .

It follows from (2.4) that

$$(2.5) \quad V(\Phi f \cdot e) = \Phi'(Uf) \cdot Ve,$$

i.e. V respects fibers. A similar statement holds for morphisms of opfibrations.

Now I define another category $Scat$ which will turn out to be equivalent to both F and F° . The objects of $Scat$ are all Cat -valued functors from all categories. An arrow $(K, \lambda): F \rightarrow G$ has $K: \text{dom } F \rightarrow \text{dom } G$ a functor and $\lambda: F \rightarrow G \circ K$ a natural transformation. Composition is given by

$$(2.6) \quad (L, \mu) \circ (K, \lambda) = (L \circ K, \mu K \circ \lambda).$$

All functor categories $Func(C, Cat)$ are subcategories of $Scat$, and so is the comma category (Cat, Cat) , where the second "Cat" is an object in the first. $Scat$ is the category called $Cat_0 \circ Cat_0$ by KELLY [8, § 7].

Given any functor $F: \mathbf{C}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat}$, let $SD(F)$ be the category defined this way: an object of $SD(F)$ is a pair (c, x) with c an object of \mathbf{C} and x an object of Fc . An arrow $(f, u): (c, x) \rightarrow (c', x')$ has $f: c' \rightarrow c$ in \mathbf{C} and $u: x \rightarrow Ff \cdot x'$ in Fc . If $(g, v): (c', x') \rightarrow (c'', x'')$, then

$$(2.7) \quad (g, v) \circ (f, u) = (f \circ g, (Ff \cdot v) \circ u).$$

Likewise, given $F: \mathbf{C} \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat}$ define $SD^{\circ}(F)$ the same way except that for $(f, u): (c, x) \rightarrow (c', x')$, $f: c \rightarrow c'$ and $u: Ff \cdot x \rightarrow x'$, and

$$(2.7)^{\circ} \quad (g, v) \circ (f, u) = (g \circ f, V \circ (Fg \cdot u)).$$

There are then functors $SN(F): SD(F) \rightarrow \mathbf{C}^{\text{op}}$ and $SN^{\circ}(F): SD(F) \rightarrow \mathbf{C}$ taking (f, u) to f .

There are then functors $R_F(R_F)$ and $\bar{F}(\bar{F}^{\circ})$ for which $(SN(F), R_F, \bar{F})$ (resp. $(SN^{\circ}(F), R_F^{\circ}, \bar{F}^{\circ})$) is a split fibration (split opfibration). The definitions are, for $(f, u): (c, x) \rightarrow (c', x')$ in $SD(F)$,

$$(2.8) \quad R_F(f, (c', x')) = (f, 1_{Ff \cdot x'}): (c, Ff \cdot x') \rightarrow (c', x')$$

and for $(f, u): (c, x) \rightarrow (c', x')$ in $SD^{\circ}(F)$,

$$(2.8)^{\circ} \quad R_F^{\circ}((c, x), f) = (1_{Ff \cdot x}, f): (c, x) \rightarrow (c', Ff \cdot x).$$

As for \bar{F} and \bar{F}° the definitions are determined by R_F . In particular (because it is used later), for $F: \mathbf{C} \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat}$, u an arrow in Fc ,

$$(2.9)^{\circ} \quad \bar{F}^{\circ}f \cdot (1_c, u) = (1_{c'}, Ff \cdot u).$$

These constructions make $SN: \mathbf{Scat} \rightarrow \mathbf{F}$ and $SN^{\circ}: \mathbf{Scat} \rightarrow \mathbf{F}^{\circ}$ into the object maps of functors.

I will continue the development only for opfibrations, since the constructions for fibrations are not needed. Let $F: \mathbf{C} \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat}$, $G: \mathbf{D} \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat}$, $(K, \lambda): F \rightarrow G$ in \mathbf{Scat} . Let $(f, u): (c, x) \rightarrow (c', x')$ in $SD^{\circ}(F)$. Then define

$$(2.10)^{\circ} \quad SD^{\circ}(K, \lambda)(f, u) = (Kf, \lambda c' \cdot u)$$

and

$$(2.11)^{\circ} \quad SN^{\circ}(K, \lambda) = (K, SD^{\circ}(K, \lambda)).$$

Thus $SD^{\circ}: \mathbf{Scat} \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat}$ and $SN^{\circ}: \mathbf{Scat} \rightarrow \mathbf{F}^{\circ}$ are functors.

SN° is an equivalence of categories. Define the functor $A^{\circ}: \mathbf{F}^{\circ} \rightarrow \mathbf{Scat}$ as follows.

$$(2.12)^{\circ} \quad A^{\circ}(P: \mathbf{E} \rightarrow \mathbf{C}, R^{\circ}, \Phi^{\circ}) = \Phi^{\circ}.$$

$$(2.13)^{\circ} \quad A^{\circ}(U, V) = (U, \alpha_V), \quad \text{where}$$

$$(2.14)^{\circ} \quad \alpha_V \cdot c = V | \Phi^{\circ} c$$

for c an object of \mathbf{C} .

There is a natural isomorphism $\varepsilon: \text{id}_{\text{Scat}} \rightarrow \Lambda^\circ \circ \text{SN}^\circ$, whose component at $F: \mathbf{C} \rightarrow \text{Cat}$ is

$$(2.15)^\circ \quad \varepsilon F = (1_{\mathbf{C}}, \bar{\varepsilon}F): F \rightarrow \bar{F}^\circ$$

(see (2.9)), where for an object c of \mathbf{C} , $\bar{\varepsilon}F \cdot c: Fc \rightarrow \bar{F}^\circ c$ takes an object x to (c, x) and an arrow u over 1_c to $(1_c, u)$.

There is also a natural isomorphism $\eta: \text{id}_{\text{Fo}} \rightarrow \text{SN}^\circ \circ \Lambda^\circ$, defined as follows. Given a split opfibration $(P: \mathbf{E} \rightarrow \mathbf{C}, R^\circ, \Phi^\circ)$, let $I: \mathbf{E} \rightarrow \text{SD}^\circ(\Phi^\circ)$ take an arrow u to (Pu, u) . Then the component of η at (P, R°, Φ°) is $(\text{id}_{\mathbf{C}}, I): (P, R^\circ, \Phi^\circ) \rightarrow (\text{SN}^\circ(\Phi^\circ), R_{\Phi^\circ}, \bar{\Phi}^\circ)$. Thus SN° and Λ° are equivalences.

This Lemma is needed later:

Lemma 2.1. *Let $(U, V), (U, W): (P: \mathbf{E} \rightarrow \mathbf{C}, R^\circ, \Phi^\circ) \rightarrow (P': \mathbf{E}' \rightarrow \mathbf{C}', R'^\circ, \Phi'^\circ)$ be morphisms of split opfibrations for which for every object c of \mathbf{C} , $V|Gc = W|Gc$. Then $V = W$.*

Proof. Let $m: e \rightarrow e_0$ in E lie over $f: b \rightarrow c$. It is enough to show that $Vm = Wm$. Since R° is left adjoint to S° , there is a unique morphism of $\text{Ar } \mathbf{E}$ from $R^\circ(e, f)$ to m corresponding to the identity arrow in (P, \mathbf{C}) from (e, f) to $(e, f) = S^\circ m$. Since R° is left inverse to S° , this arrow must be of the form $(1_e, k)$ where $k: \Phi^\circ f \cdot e \rightarrow e_0$ and k is in $\Phi^\circ c$. Then by definition of morphism in $\text{Ar } \mathbf{E}$, $m = k \circ R^\circ(e, f)$. Hence by (2.4)°,

$$Vm = Vk \circ VR^\circ(e, f) = Wk \circ R'^\circ(Uf, Ve) = Wk \circ R'^\circ(Uf, We) = Wk \circ WR'^\circ(f, e) = Wm$$

since k is in $\Phi^\circ c$ and e is in $\Phi^\circ b$.

3. The wreath product of categories. Given categories \mathbf{B} and \mathbf{C} and a functor $G: \mathbf{C} \rightarrow \text{Cat}$, let $G_{\mathbf{B}} = \text{Func}(G(-), \mathbf{B}): \mathbf{C}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \text{Cat}$. The *wreath product* of \mathbf{B} by \mathbf{C} with action G , denoted $\mathbf{B} \text{ wr}^G \mathbf{C}$, is $\text{SD}(G_{\mathbf{B}})$. Thus via $\text{SN}(G_{\mathbf{B}})$ it is a split fibration of \mathbf{C} in a canonical way. Note that $\text{Scat} = \text{Cat} \text{ wr}^I \text{Cat}$ with I being the identity functor.

The concept is due to KELLY [8, §5], who denotes $\mathbf{B} \text{ wr}^G \mathbf{C}$ by $[\mathbf{C}, G] \circ \mathbf{B}$ and calls it the *composite*. His definition is more general than mine, since for him \mathbf{B} can be any object in a 2-category.

$\mathbf{B} \text{ wr}^G \mathbf{C}$ is natural in both variables in the sense that functors $U: \mathbf{B} \rightarrow \mathbf{B}'$ and $V: \mathbf{C}' \rightarrow \mathbf{C}$ induce a functor $\text{SD}(\text{Func}(G(-), U), V): \mathbf{B} \text{ wr}^{G \circ V} \mathbf{C}' \rightarrow \mathbf{B}' \text{ wr}^G \mathbf{C}$ which is natural in both variables.

More important, a functor $F: \mathbf{B} \rightarrow \text{Cat}$ induces a functor $F \text{ wr} G: \mathbf{B} \text{ wr}^G \mathbf{C} \rightarrow \text{Cat}$ which generalizes the concept of the wreath product of two actions. Given F , define $\bar{F}: \mathbf{B} \text{ wr}^G \mathbf{C} \rightarrow \text{Scat}$ as follows. For an object (c, P) of $\mathbf{B} \text{ wr}^G \mathbf{C}$ (whence $P: GC \rightarrow \mathbf{B}$ is a functor), set $\bar{F}(c, P) = F \circ P$. For an arrow $(f, \lambda): (c, P) \rightarrow (d, Q)$ (whence $f: c \rightarrow d$ in \mathbf{C} and $\lambda: P \rightarrow Q \circ Gf$), set $\bar{F}(f, \lambda) = (Gf, F\lambda)$. Then set $F \text{ wr} G = \text{SD}^\circ \circ \bar{F}: \mathbf{B} \text{ wr}^G \mathbf{C} \rightarrow \text{Cat}$.

KELLY [8, §7] shows that wreathing for categories and for functors is associative up to a 2-natural isomorphism.

If \mathbf{B} and \mathbf{C} are groups regarded as categories and G is discrete (Set-valued) then $\mathbf{B} \text{ wr}^G \mathbf{C}$ is the usual wreath product of groups. If G is not discrete then $\mathbf{B} \text{ wr}^G \mathbf{C}$ is a groupoid. If \mathbf{B} is a set regarded as a discrete category, \mathbf{C} is a monoid acting on \mathbf{B} and G is the action, then $\mathbf{B} \text{ wr}^G \mathbf{C}$ is a directed graph with objects which are functions $f: \mathbf{B} \rightarrow \mathbf{B}$ and edges $f \rightarrow fg^{-1}$ where g is an invertible element of \mathbf{C} . When \mathbf{B} and \mathbf{C} are groupoids, $\mathbf{B} \text{ wr}^G \mathbf{C}$ has as a special case the untwisted version of the wreath product due to HOUGHTON [6]. Here the functor G is discrete; its value at an object c of \mathbf{C} is the total sieve on c (the set of all arrows into c).

4. Coordinate systems. In the Kaloujnine—Krasner setup a group action is decomposed along a quotient action. The second coordinate is the quotient, and the first coordinate (the one with the most dependencies) is the action on a fiber. One can get away with this because the fibers are all isomorphic — although to get a decomposition you have to specify the isomorphisms.

In the present schema this corresponds to introducing a “typing functor” (defined below), which allows a partial skeletonization of the fibers of the quotient action. To do this we will make the fibers into a category $\mathbf{Fib}(\lambda)$ where λ is the quotient map. A “coordinate system” will then be a category and an action (Cat-valued functor) which “includes” $\mathbf{Fib}(\lambda)$ in a certain sense. All this requires that the components of λ be split normal opfibrations, a condition which is vacuous in the discrete case. The main Theorem 4.1 then says that in the presence of a coordinate system the action can be decomposed into the wreath of the action on the (partially skeletonized) fibers and the quotient action.

Let \mathbf{C} be a category, $F: \mathbf{C} \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat}$ and $G: \mathbf{C} \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat}$ functors, and $\lambda: F \rightarrow G$ a natural transformation. Then λ is *split* if for each object c of \mathbf{C} , $\lambda_c: Fc \rightarrow Gc$ is a split opfibration with splitting $Lc: Gc \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat}$, and for each $f: c \rightarrow d$ in \mathbf{C} , the pair (Gf, Ff) is an F° -morphism. The latter requirement implies that for each object x of Gc , $Ff|Lc \cdot x$ has values in $Ld(Gf \cdot x)$, and for each $u: x \rightarrow y$ in Gc ,

$$(4.1) \quad \begin{array}{ccc} Lc \cdot x & \xrightarrow{Ff|Lc \cdot x} & Ld(Gf \cdot x) \\ \downarrow Lc \cdot u & & \downarrow Ld(Gf \cdot u) \\ Lc \cdot y & \xrightarrow{Ff|Lc \cdot z} & Ld(Gf \cdot y) \end{array}$$

commutes. If F and G are discrete, any natural transformation $\lambda: F \rightarrow G$ is split.

The fibers of λ , in other words the categories $Lc \cdot x$ for c an object of \mathbf{C} and x an object of Gc , are objects of a category $\mathbf{Fib}(\lambda)$. The arrows are the functors from $Lc \cdot x$ to $Ld(Gf \cdot y)$ given by (4.1) for each $f: c \rightarrow d$ in \mathbf{C} and each $u: x \rightarrow y$ in Gc . Thus $\mathbf{Fib}(\lambda)$ is a subcategory of \mathbf{Cat} .

A functor $T: \mathbf{Fib}(\lambda) \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat}$ is a *typing functor* if there is a natural isomorphism $\tau: I_\lambda \rightarrow T$, where $I_\lambda: \mathbf{Fib}(\lambda) \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat}$ is inclusion. Extreme cases of typing functors are I_λ and a skeletonizing functor. An intermediate case is actually used in an application in Section 6.

(M, K, T) is a *coordinate system* for a split $\lambda: F \rightarrow G$ with splitting L if T is a typing functor for $\mathbf{Fib}(\lambda)$, \mathbf{M} is a category and $K: M \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat}$ a functor for which

CS—1. For each object c of \mathbf{C} there is a set Φ_c of functors $P: Gc \rightarrow \mathbf{M}$ for each of which $T \circ Lc$ is a subfunctor of $K \circ P$, and

CS—2. If $f: c \rightarrow d$ in \mathbf{C} and $P: Gc \rightarrow \mathbf{M}$ in Φ_c , then there is $Q: Gd \rightarrow \mathbf{M}$ in Φ_d for which for each object x of Gc there is an arrow $m: Px \rightarrow Q(Gf \cdot x)$ for which $Km|T(Lc \cdot x) = T(Ff|Lc \cdot x)$.

A transitive group action with a quotient always has a coordinate system. Let \mathbf{C} be the group, F the action, G the quotient action, λ the quotient map, so the fibers form a system of imprimitivity. T is then a way of identifying all the fibers with one of them, \mathbf{M} is the isotopy subgroup of that fiber with action K . P is then a constant map. Even a nontransitive group action with quotient has a coordinate system, but then \mathbf{M} will be a disjoint union of isotopy subgroups regarded as categories.

If $F, G: \mathbf{C} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}$, $\lambda: F \rightarrow G$ any natural transformation, then λ always has a coordinate system based on $\mathbf{Fib}(\lambda)$. This is discussed further in Section 6.

A functor $H: \mathbf{A} \rightarrow \mathbf{B}$ *lifts triangles* if for all arrows f of \mathbf{A} and h, k of \mathbf{B} for which $Hf \circ h$ and $k \circ Hf$ are defined, there are arrows u, v of \mathbf{A} for which $f \circ u$ and $v \circ f$ are defined, and $Hu = h$, $Hv = k$. A decomposition ought to lift triangles, as I explain later. Too bad, because the decomposition is trivial to construct if it needn't lift triangles.

In the following theorem, $F: \mathbf{C} \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat}$, $G: \mathbf{C} \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat}$ are functors and $\lambda: F \rightarrow G$ a natural transformation. \bar{G} is the image of G in \mathbf{Cat} , and $I_G: \bar{G} \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat}$ is inclusion.

Theorem 4.1. *If F is faithful and λ is split with coordinate system (M, K, T) , then there is a subcategory $\mathbf{S} \subset \mathbf{M}$ wr ^{I_G} \bar{G} and a triangle-lifting functor $H: \mathbf{S} \rightarrow \mathbf{C}$ for which $F \circ H$ is isomorphic to a subfunctor of the restriction of K wr I_G to \mathbf{S} .*

The proof is given in Section 5, and applications are discussed in Section 6.

If you think of this theorem as giving sufficient conditions for simulating a state-transition system triangularly (in the sense of KROHN, LANGER and RHODES [11]) by a wreath product or cascade of systems, then the simulation has the property that for any state and any transition from that state in the simulated system, there is at least one state and transition from it in the simulating system which mimics (functorially) the operation of the simulated system. Moreover *you can always simulate the next transition from the simulating state you find yourself in*. That is the meaning of triangle-lifting. Clearly it is a necessary property of typed-state simulations.

Note that the system $F: \mathbf{C} \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat}$ might very well allow a sequence of transitions which begin and end at the same state, but for which the simulation begins and ends at different states, behavior reminiscent of a path in a Riemann surface lying over a loop.

Theorem 4.1 is similar to, but apparently not exactly a generalization of, both Theorem 11.1 of WELLS [13] and the main theorem of WELLS [15].

5. Proof of Theorem 4.1. \mathbf{S} is the subcategory of $\mathbf{M} \text{ wr }^{I_G} \bar{G}$ defined this way: an object of \mathbf{S} is any pair (Gc, P) where c is an object of \mathbf{C} and $P: Gc \rightarrow \mathbf{M}$ is a functor in Φ_c . An arrow $(Gf, \gamma): (Gc, P) \rightarrow (Gd, Q)$ has $f: c \rightarrow d$ in \mathbf{C} and γ any function from the objects of Gc to the arrows of \mathbf{M} with the properties that for each object x of Gc ,

$$(5.1) \quad \gamma x: Px \rightarrow Q(Gf.x),$$

$$(5.2) \quad T(Lc.x) \subset KP_x,$$

$$(5.3) \quad T(Ff(Lc.x)) \subset KQ(Gf.x), \text{ and}$$

$$(5.4) \quad K(\gamma x) | T(Lc.x) = T(Ff | Lc.x).$$

There may not be such a γ for a given $f, P,$ and Q as above, but for a given f and P there is a Q in Φ_d for which there is at least one such γ . That follows from CS—1 and CS—2.

The functor $H: \mathbf{S} \rightarrow \mathbf{C}$ is defined by

$$(5.5) \quad H(Gf, \gamma) = f.$$

It is necessary to see that H is well-defined. Because $T(Lc.x)$ is naturally isomorphic to $Lc.x$, (5.4) says that the arrows which make up γ determine the effect of Ff on the categories $Lc.x$. Because (Gf, Ff) is a morphism in \mathbf{F}^0 , Lemma 2.1 says that γ and Gf determine Ff . That determines f because F is faithful. It is clear that H is triangle lifting.

To show that $F \circ H$ is a subfunctor of the restriction of $K \text{ wr } I_G$ requires several steps. In the first place

$$(5.6) \quad \begin{array}{ccc} & Gc & \\ \lambda_c \swarrow & \uparrow & \searrow p_1 \\ Fc & \xrightarrow{Ic} & SD^0(Lc) \\ Ff \downarrow & Gf \downarrow & \downarrow (Gf, Ff) \\ & Gd & \\ \lambda_d \swarrow & \uparrow & \searrow p_1 \\ Fd & \xrightarrow{Id} & SD^0(Ld) \end{array}$$

commutes, where I_c is the natural isomorphism defined by $\eta_{\lambda_c} = (\text{id}_{Gc}, I_c)$ as in Section 2, and p_1 is first projection (representing the elements as ordered pairs as in

Section 2). This follows because (Gf, Ff) is an F° -morphism and $SN^\circ(A^\circ(Fc)) = SD^\circ(Lc)$ and $SN^\circ(A^\circ(Gf, Gf)) = (Gf, Gf)$.

Because T is a typing functor, there are natural isomorphisms $\tau c, \tau d$ making this diagram of functors and natural transformations commute. The component of τc at x is $\tau(Lc . x)$, τ as in the definition of typing functor.

$$(5.7) \quad \begin{array}{ccc} Lc & \xrightarrow{\tau c} & T \circ Lc \\ A^\circ(Gf, Ff) \downarrow & & \downarrow A^\circ(Gf, TFf) \\ Ld & \xrightarrow{\tau d} & T \circ Ld. \end{array}$$

By (2.13) $^\circ$ and (2.14) $^\circ$, the left vertical arrow is $\alpha . Ff$ and the right one is $T(\alpha . Ff)$. Applying these functors at an object x of Gc and using (2.14) $^\circ$ yields

$$(5.8) \quad \begin{array}{ccc} Lc . x & \xrightarrow{\tau(Lc.x)} & T(Lc . x) \\ \downarrow Ff|_{Lc.x} & & \downarrow T(Ff|_{Lc.x}) \\ Ld . Gf . x & \xrightarrow{\tau(Ld.Gf.x)} & T(Ld . Gf . x) \end{array}$$

(the right arrow is also $TFf|_{T(Lc . x)}$). The point is not to prove that (5.8) commutes, which is easy, but to see for later use that (5.8) is (5.7) evaluated at x .

By definition of S there is an arrow $(Gf, \gamma): (Gc, P) \rightarrow (Gd, Q)$ of S for which by (5.4) the following diagram commutes. The horizontal arrows are the inclusions of (5.2).

$$(5.9) \quad \begin{array}{ccc} T(Lc . x) & \hookrightarrow & KP . x \\ \downarrow T(Ff|_{Lc.x}) & & \downarrow K(\gamma) \\ T(Ld . Gf . x) & \hookrightarrow & KQ . Gf . x \end{array}$$

By (2.14) $^\circ$, $A^\circ(Gf, Ff) = (Gf, \alpha_{Ff})$ (a *Scat*-morphism from Lc to Ld), where $\alpha_{Ff}: Lc \rightarrow Ld \circ Gf$ is a natural transformation whose component at an object x of Lc is $\alpha_{Ff} . x = Ff|_{Lc . x}$. Then putting (5.8) and (5.9) together yields a commutative diagram

$$(5.10) \quad \begin{array}{ccc} Lc & \xrightarrow{i_c} & K \circ P \\ \downarrow \alpha_{Ff} & & \downarrow K\gamma \\ Ld \circ Gf & \xrightarrow{i_d \circ Gf} & K \circ Q \circ Gf \end{array}$$

of functors and natural transformations with i_c, i_d monic. This yields a *Scat*-diagram

$$(5.11) \quad \begin{array}{ccc} Lc & \xrightarrow{(id_{Gc}, i_c)} & K \circ P \\ \downarrow A^\circ(Gf, Ff) & & \downarrow (Gf, K\gamma) \\ Ld & \xrightarrow{(id_{Gd}, i_d)} & K \circ Q. \end{array}$$

Applying the functor SD° then yields a diagram of categories and functors whose left vertical arrow is $SD^\circ(A^\circ(Gf, Ff)) = (Gf, Ff) : SD^\circ(Lc) \rightarrow SD^\circ(Ld)$, the same as the right vertical arrow in (5.6). Pasting the front face of (5.6) and (5.11) together yields

$$(5.12) \quad \begin{array}{ccc} Fc & \xrightarrow{\quad} & SD^\circ(K \circ P) \\ Ff \downarrow & & \downarrow SD^\circ(Gf, Ky) \\ Fd & \xrightarrow{\quad} & SD^\circ(K \circ Q). \end{array}$$

Now to complete the proof of Theorem 4.1. By (5.5), the left vertical arrow in (5.12) is $(F \circ H)(Gf, v)$. By the definition of wreathing functors in Section 3 (warning — the G there is I_G here, the f there is Gf), the right vertical arrow is $SD^\circ(Gf, Ky) = SD^\circ(K(Gf, \gamma)) = K \text{ wr } I_G(Gf, \gamma)$. Thus $F \circ H$ is isomorphic to a subfunctor of the restriction of $K \text{ wr } I_G$ to S , as required.

6. Applications of coordinate systems. If the actions in Theorem 4.1 are discrete (F and G are set-valued), there is no requirement on λ except that it be a natural transformation. Then the category $\mathbf{Fib}(\lambda)$ has only arrows corresponding to the horizontal arrows in (4.1). In any case, if λ is split, $\mathbf{Fib}(\lambda)$ itself, with $K = T$ the inclusion of $\mathbf{Fib}(\lambda)$ into \mathbf{Cat} , is a coordinate system; in CS—1, $\Phi_c = \{Lc\}$ where Lc is the splitting, and in CS—2, $m = Ff$. Thus we have the following corollary, in which I_F is the inclusion of $\mathbf{Fib}(\lambda)$ in \mathbf{Cat} and I_G the inclusion of $\text{Im } G$ in \mathbf{Cat} .

Corollary 6.1. *If $F : C \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat}$ is faithful, $G : C \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat}$, and $\lambda : F \rightarrow G$ a split natural transformation, then there is a subcategory S of $\mathbf{Fib}(\lambda) \text{ wr } {}^1G$ for which F is isomorphic in \mathbf{Scat} to the restriction of $I_F \text{ wr } I_G$ to S .*

Corollary 6.2. *If $F : C \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}$, $G : C \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}$ and $\lambda : F \rightarrow G$ is any natural transformation, then the conclusion to Corollary 6.1 holds.*

The preceding corollary, when C is a group, could be called the *natural Kaloujnine—Krasner theorem*. It embeds C into a groupoid. The Kaloujnine—Krasner embedding into a group is obtained by constructing an *unnatural* typing functor which identifies all the fibers with one by noncanonical isomorphisms.

If F, G are set-valued one can always construct a coordinate system which is minimal (in states) but excessively large in transitions this way: let γ be any set whose cardinality is the supremum of the cardinalities of all the sets $Lc \cdot x$, and the typing functor T a collection of injections of $Lc \cdot x$ into Y . Let M be $\text{Trans } Y$, the monoid of all transformations of Y , with K its natural action. This yields

Corollary 6.3. *If F, G, λ are as in Corollary 6.2, then there is a subcategory S of $\text{Trans } Y \text{ wr } {}^1G$ and a triangle-lifting functor $H : S \rightarrow C$ for which $F \circ H$ is isomorphic to a subfunctor of $K \text{ wr } I_G$, where K is the action of $\text{Trans } Y$ on Y .*

A more complicated construction leads to a decomposition via a subfunctor instead of a quotient functor; nevertheless it is an application of Theorem 4.1.

Some concepts are necessary. A functor $F: \mathbf{C} \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat}$ is *separated* if for distinct objects c, c' of \mathbf{C} , c is not an object of Fc and $Fc \cap Fc'$ is empty. Every functor $F: \mathbf{C} \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat}$ is isomorphic in $\mathbf{Func}(\mathbf{C}, \mathbf{Cat})$ to a separated one. (In mathematical practice people commonly assume implicitly that set-valued functors are separated.) A *transversal* of a separated functor $F: \mathbf{C} \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat}$ is a function Y with domain the objects of \mathbf{C} such that Yc is an object of Fc . Any separated functor has a transversal by the axiom of choice.

If \mathbf{D} is a subcategory of \mathbf{Cat} , the *constant completion* of \mathbf{D} , denoted \mathbf{D}^c , is the category whose objects are the objects of \mathbf{D} and whose arrows are the arrows of \mathbf{D} plus all constant functors $K_y^A: A \rightarrow B$, where A, B are objects of \mathbf{D} and y is an object of B .

Let $F, H: \mathbf{C} \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat}$ be functors with H a subfunctor of F . H is *isolated* in F if for each object c of \mathbf{C} , Hc is the union of one or more connected components of Fc . Thus if $u: x \rightarrow y$ in Fc and either x or y is an object of Hc then u is an arrow of Hc . Note that if F, H are set valued then H is automatically isolated.

If H is isolated in F and F is separated then $F/H: \mathbf{C} \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat}$ is the functor defined by

$$(6.1) \quad (F/H)c = (Fc - Hc) \{c\} \quad \text{for } c \text{ an object of } \mathbf{C}$$

(remember $\{c\}$ is the trivial category with object c), and for $f: c \rightarrow c'$ in \mathbf{C} ,

$$(6.2) \quad (F/H)f.x = \begin{cases} c' & \text{if } x = c \text{ or } Ff.x \text{ is in } Hc' \\ F.fx & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

There is a natural transformation $\lambda_H: F \rightarrow F/H$, easily seen to be split, defined by

$$(6.3) \quad \lambda_H c.y = \begin{cases} c & \text{if } y \text{ is in } Hc \\ y & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Proposition 6.4. *Let $F: \mathbf{C} \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat}$ be a separated functor with isolated subfunctor H . Then there is a subcategory \mathbf{S} of $(\text{Im } H)^c \text{ wr}^I(F/H)$ and a triangle-lifting functor $H: \mathbf{S} \rightarrow \mathbf{C}$ for which $H \circ F$ is isomorphic to a subfunctor of $\mathbf{J} \text{ wr } I$, where \mathbf{J} is the inclusion of $(\text{Im } H)^c$ in \mathbf{Cat} and I the inclusion of $\text{Im } (F/H)$ in \mathbf{Cat} .*

Proof. The objects of $\mathbf{Fib}(\lambda_H)$ are (a) the categories Hc for object c of \mathbf{C} , and (b) the categories $\{x\}$ where x is an object of Fc not in Hc . Arrows are of the form (a) $Hf: Hc \rightarrow Hd$ for arrows $f: c \rightarrow d$ in \mathbf{C} , and (b) $\{x\} \rightarrow \{y\} \rightarrow \{Ff.y\}$ where $u: x \rightarrow y$ is an arrow of Fc not in Hc and $f: c \rightarrow d$ in \mathbf{C} . Arrows of type (a) do not compose with arrows of type (b) in either order. Thus $Lc.c = Hc$, $Lc.x = \{x\}$ for

x an object of $Fc-Hc$, and for $f: c \rightarrow d$, $(Lc.f)c = Hf$, $(Lc.f)u = \{Ff.x\} \rightarrow \{Ff.y\}$ for $u: x \rightarrow y$ in $Fc-Hc$.

Define a typing functor T as follows. For objects Hc of $\text{Fib}(\lambda_H)$, $T(Hc) = Hc$. For objects $\{x\}$ where x is an object of $Fc-Hc$, $T\{x\} = \{Yc\}$. For arrows $Hf: Hc \rightarrow Hd$, $T(Hf) = Hf$. For arrows $g: \{x\} \rightarrow \{y\} \rightarrow \{Ff.y\}$ where $u: x \rightarrow y$ in $Fc-Hc$ and $f: c \rightarrow d$ in \mathbf{C} , $Hg = \{Yc\} \rightarrow \{Yd\}$.

Then $((\text{Im } H)^c, J, T)$ is a coordinate system. For CS—1, let $\Phi_c = \{K_{Hc}^{(F/H).c}\}$. For CS—2, let $f: c \rightarrow d$ in \mathbf{C} and x be an object of $(F/H)c$. If $x=c$ set $m = Hf: Hc \rightarrow Hd$. If $x \in Fc-Hc$ and $Ff.x$ is in $Fd-Hd$, set $m = K_{Ff.x}^{Hc}$. If $Ff.x$ is in Hd , set $m = K_{Yd}^{Hc}$. It is straightforward to verify that CS—2 holds for this definition. The proposition now follows from Theorem 4.1.

References

- [1] J. GIRAUD, Méthode de la descente, *Bull. Soc. Math. France Mém.*, 2 (1964), viii + 150 pp.
- [2] J. GRAY, Fibered and cofibered categories, in: *Proc. Conf. on Categorical Algebra* (La Jolla, 1965), Springer-Verlag (New York, 1966); pp. 21—83.
- [3] J. GRAY, The categorical comprehension scheme, in: *Category theory, homology theory and their applications. III*, Lecture Notes in Math. 99, Springer-Verlag (Berlin, 1969), pp. 242—312.
- [4] J. GRAY, *Formal category theory: adjointness for 2-categories*, Lecture Notes in Math. 391, Springer-Verlag (Berlin—New York, 1974).
- [5] A. GROTHENDIECK, *Catégories fibrées et descente*, Séminaire de géométrie algébrique de l'Institut des Hautes Etudes Scientifiques (Paris, 1961).
- [6] C. HOUGHTON, The wreath product of groupoids, *J. London Math. Soc.* (2), 10 (1975), 179—188.
- [7] L. KALOJNINE and M. KRASNER, Produit complet des groupes de permutations et problème d'extension de groupes. I, *Acta Sci. Math.*, 13 (1950), 208—250; II, *Ibid.*, 14 (1951), 39—66; III, *Ibid.*, 14 (1951), 69—82.
- [8] G. KELLY, On clubs and doctrines, in: *Category Seminar* (Sydney, 1972—73), Lecture Notes in Math. 420, Springer-Verlag (Berlin, 1974); pp. 181—256.
- [9] G. KELLY and R. STREET, Review of the elements of 2-categories, in: *Category Seminar* (Sydney, 1972—73), Lecture Notes in Math. 420, Springer-Verlag (Berlin, 1974); pp. 75—103.
- [10] K. KROHN and J. RHODES, Algebraic theory of machines. I: Prime decomposition theorem for finite semigroups and machines, *Trans. Amer. Math. Soc.*, 116 (1965), 450—464.
- [11] K. KROHN, R. LANGER and J. RHODES, Algebraic principles for the analysis of a biochemical system, *J. Comput. System Sci.*, 1 (1976), 119—136.
- [12] H. NEUMANN, *Varieties of groups*, Springer-Verlag (New York, 1967).
- [13] C. WELLS, Some applications of the wreath product construction, *Amer. Math. Monthly*, 83 (1976), 317—338.
- [14] C. WELLS, A Krohn—Rhodes Theorem for categories, *J. Algebra*, 64 (1980), 37—45.

- [15] C. WELLS, Decomposition of actions on ordered sets, Preprint, Case Western Reserve University, 1981.
- [16] C. WELLS, Wreath products in a category, Preprint, Case Western Reserve University, 1982.
- [17] C. WELLS, Wreath product decomposition of categories. II, *Acta Sci. Math.* 52 (1988), 321—324.

CHARLES WELLS
DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS
CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY
CLEVELAND, OHIO 44106, USA

and

FORSCHUNGSINSTITUT FÜR MATHEMATIK
ETH — ZENTRUM
8092 ZÜRICH, SWITZERLAND