

LAX DOUBLE FUNCTORS INTO
Span-LIKE DOUBLE CATEGORIES

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OUTLINE OF THE TALK

①

- 0) The category of elements
- 1) Background on double categories
- 2) A generalised category of elements via lax double functors into $\mathcal{S}pan$
- 3) Lax double functors into $\mathcal{I}Rel$, $\mathcal{I}Par$, $\mathcal{I}Mult$

- 4) Brief review of lenses
- 5) A certain construction on double categories
- 6) Lenses as lax double functors:

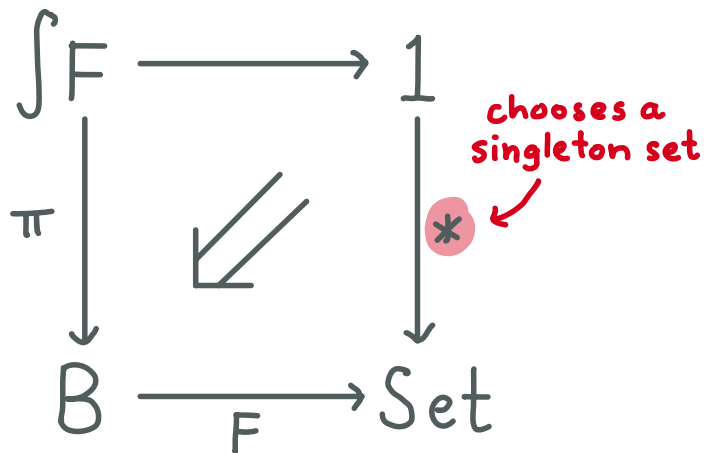
$$\mathcal{L}ens(B) \simeq [\mathcal{V}B, s/\mathcal{M}ult]_{lax}$$

- 7) Summary

BACKGROUND: THE CATEGORY OF ELEMENTS

②

Given a functor $F: B \rightarrow \text{Set}$, we may construct the following comma category:



The **category of elements** $\int F$ has:

- objects given by pairs $(b \in B, x \in F_b)$
- morphisms $(b, x) \rightarrow (b', x')$ given by $\beta: b \rightarrow b' \in B$ such that $x' = F_\beta(x)$.

The resulting projection functor,

$$\int F \xrightarrow{\pi} B$$

$$(b, x) \longmapsto b$$

is a **discrete opfibration**.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} E & e & \overset{3!}{\dashrightarrow} e' \\ f \downarrow & \vdots & \vdots \\ B & fe & \xrightarrow{\beta} b \end{array}$$

Conversely, every discrete opfibration yields a functor into Set .

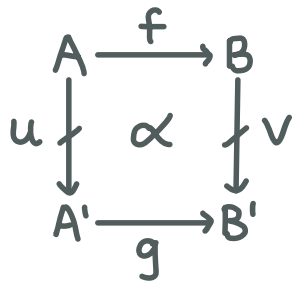
$$\text{DOpf}(B) \simeq [B, \text{Set}]$$

DOUBLE CATEGORIES

③

A **double category** \mathbb{A} consists of:

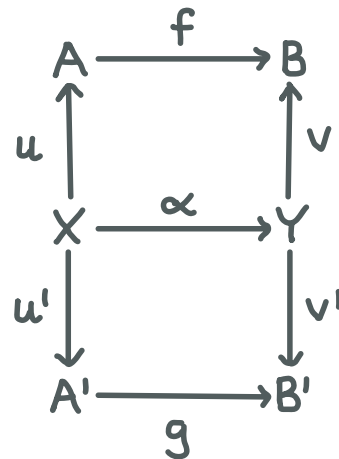
- a collection of objects A, B, \dots
- horizontal morphisms $f: A \rightarrow B, \dots$
- vertical morphisms $u: A \twoheadrightarrow A', \dots$
- cells given by diagrams:



Horizontal composition is strict, while vertical composition is associative up to comparison isocells.

Main example: $\mathbb{S}pan$

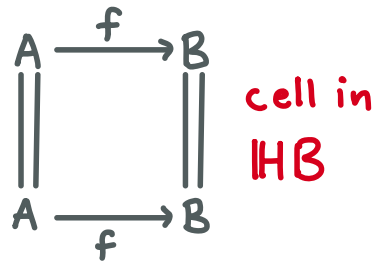
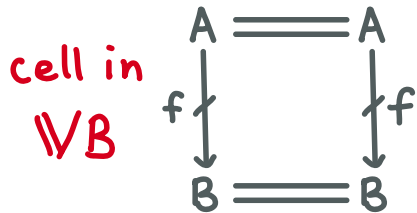
- objects are sets;
- horizontal morphisms are functions;
- vertical morphisms are spans;
- cells are span morphisms:



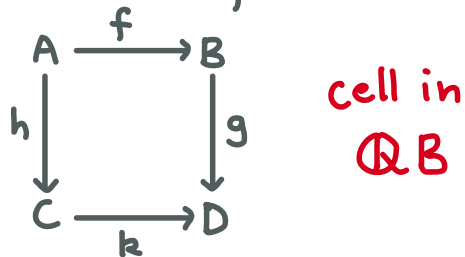
MORE EXAMPLES OF DOUBLE CATEGORIES

④

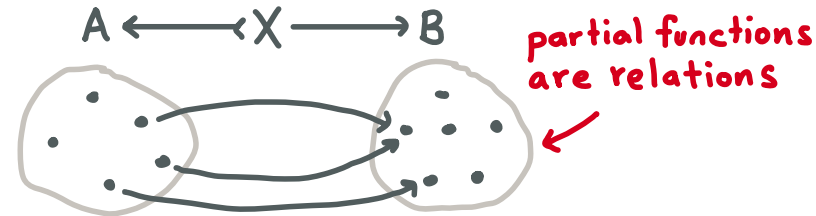
- The terminal double category $\mathbb{1}$.
- Every category B may be made into a double category $\mathbb{V}B$ which is horizontally discrete, and a double category $\mathbb{H}B$ which is vertically discrete.



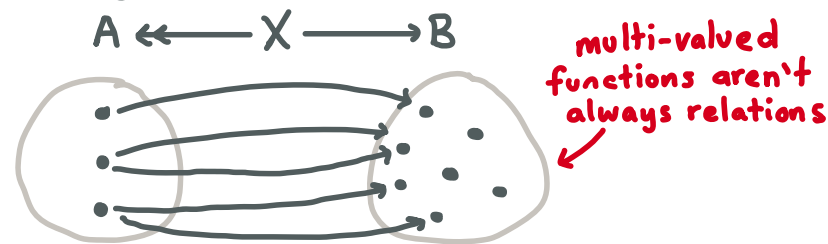
- For each category B , there is also the double category of squares $\mathbb{Q}B$, whose cells are commutative squares in B .



- $\mathbb{R}el$: double category of sets, functions, and relations (jointly monic spans) with usual composition.
- $\mathbb{P}ar$: double category of sets, functions, and partial functions (spans with monic left leg).



- $\mathbb{M}ult$: double category of sets, functions, and multi-valued functions (spans with epic left leg).



LAX DOUBLE FUNCTORS

(5)

A **lax double functor** $F: \mathbb{A} \rightarrow \mathbb{B}$ is given by an assignment,

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 A & \xrightarrow{f} & B \\
 u \downarrow & \alpha & \downarrow v \\
 A' & \xrightarrow{g} & B'
 \end{array}
 \xrightarrow{F}
 \begin{array}{ccc}
 FA & \xrightarrow{Ff} & FB \\
 Fu \downarrow & F\alpha & \downarrow Fv \\
 FA' & \xrightarrow{Fg} & FB'
 \end{array}$$

which preserves horizontal direction strictly, vertical direction up to comparison cells:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 FA & \xlongequal{\quad} & FA \\
 Fu \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 FB & \xrightarrow{\phi(u,v)} & FB \\
 Fv \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 FC & \xlongequal{\quad} & FC
 \end{array}
 \quad
 \begin{array}{ccc}
 FA & \xlongequal{\quad} & FA \\
 1_{FA} \downarrow & \phi(A) & \downarrow F(1_A) \\
 FA & \xlongequal{\quad} & FA
 \end{array}$$

+ naturally & coherence conditions

• Also have colax, normal, strong, and strict double functors.

• **Example:** A lax functor $\mathbb{1} \rightarrow \mathbb{Span}$ is the same as a small category.

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 A_0 & \xlongequal{\quad} & A_0 \\
 s \uparrow & & \uparrow s \\
 A_1 & & A_1 \\
 \pi_0 \uparrow & & \uparrow \pi_1 \\
 A_2 & \xrightarrow{c} & A_1 \\
 \pi_1 \downarrow & \uparrow \text{composition} & \downarrow t \\
 A_1 & & A_1 \\
 t \downarrow & & \downarrow t \\
 A_0 & \xlongequal{\quad} & A_0
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 A_0 & \xlongequal{\quad} & A_0 \\
 1 \uparrow & & \uparrow s \\
 A_0 & \xrightarrow{i} & A_1 \\
 1 \downarrow & \uparrow \text{identities} & \downarrow t \\
 A_0 & \xlongequal{\quad} & A_0
 \end{array}$$

domain (red arrow pointing to s)
 codomain (red arrow pointing to t)
 identities (red arrow pointing to i)

• A lax functor $\mathbb{1} \rightarrow \mathbb{Rel}$ is the same as a preorder.

HORIZONTAL TRANSFORMATIONS

⑥

A **horizontal transformation** $t: F \Rightarrow G$ between lax double functors $F, G: \mathbb{A} \rightarrow \mathbb{B}$ consists of:

- for each object A in \mathbb{A} , a horizontal morphism $tA: FA \rightarrow GA$ in \mathbb{B} ;
- for each vertical morphism $u: A \rightarrow B$ in \mathbb{A} , a cell in \mathbb{B} :

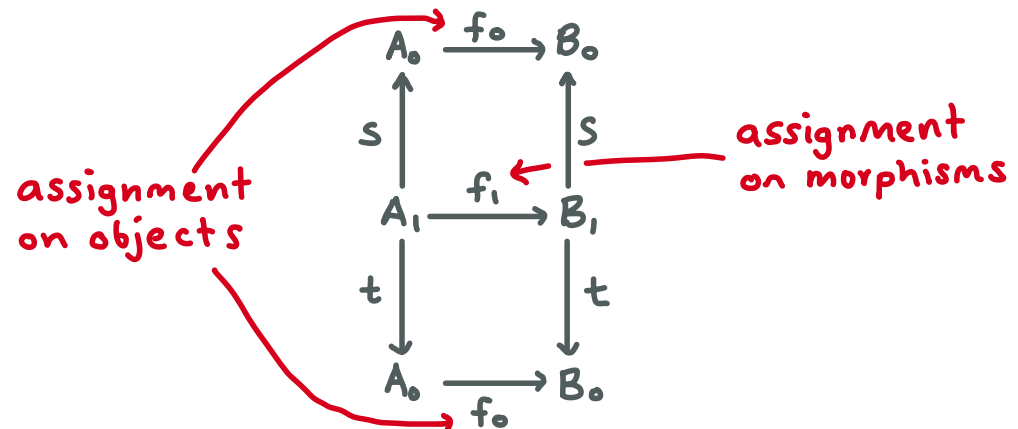
$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 FA & \xrightarrow{tA} & GA \\
 Fu \downarrow & & \downarrow Gu \\
 FB & \xrightarrow{tB} & GB
 \end{array}$$

+ naturality & coherence conditions

Proposition: Given \mathbb{A} and \mathbb{B} , there is a category $[\mathbb{A}, \mathbb{B}]_{\text{lax}}$ whose objects are lax double functors and whose morphisms are horizontal transformations.

Corollary: There is a 2-category $\text{Db}[\mathbb{A}, \mathbb{B}]_{\text{lax}}$ of double categories with homs $[\mathbb{A}, \mathbb{B}]_{\text{lax}}$. (we could also consider stricter versions).

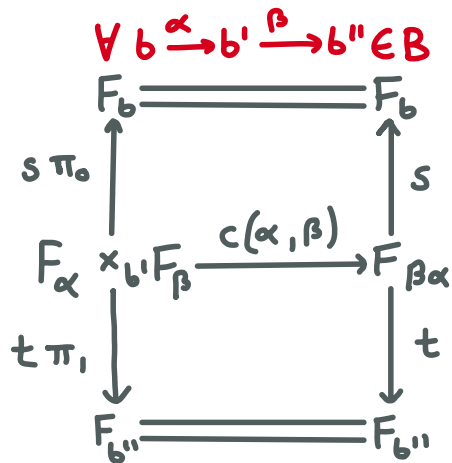
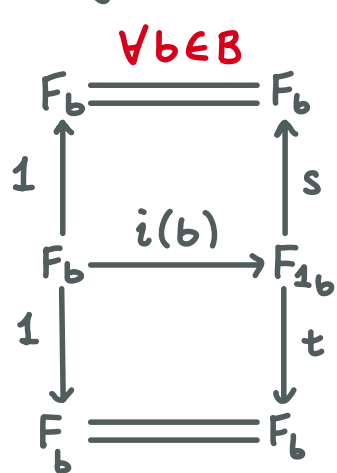
Example: $[\mathbb{1}, \text{Span}]_{\text{lax}} \simeq \text{Cat}$



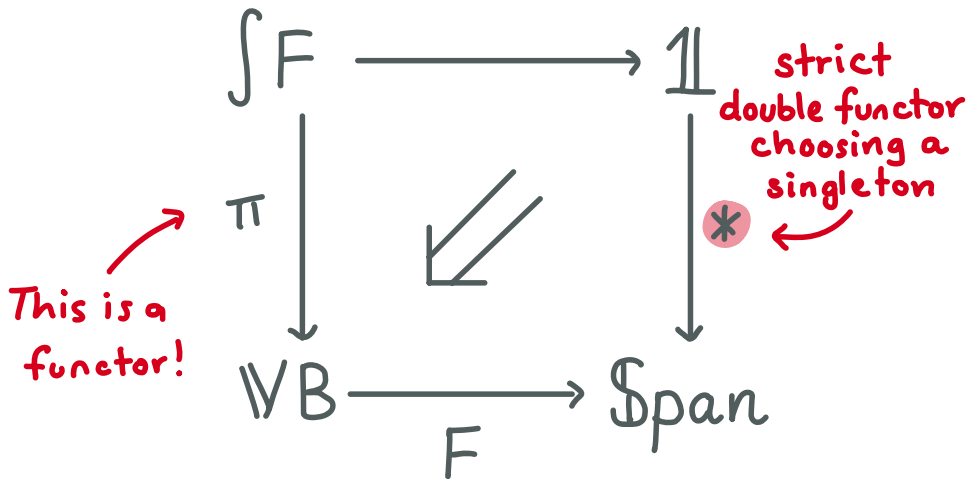
CATEGORY OF ELEMENTS FOR LAX DOUBLE FUNCTORS ⑦

Consider a category B and a lax double functor $F: \mathbb{W}B \longrightarrow \text{Span}$.

- For each $b \in B$, we have a set F_b .
- For each morphism $\alpha: b \rightarrow b'$, we have a span $F_b \leftarrow F_\alpha \rightarrow F_{b'}$.
- Together with morphisms of spans:



We may construct the following comma:



The **category of elements** $\int F$ has:

- objects given by pairs $(b \in B, x \in F_b)$
- morphisms $(b, x) \rightarrow (b', x')$ given by $\beta: b \rightarrow b' \in B$ and $u \in F_\beta$ such that $s(u) = x$ and $t(u) = x'$. ($u: x \rightarrow x'$)

FUNCTORS AS LAX DOUBLE FUNCTORS

⑧

Theorem: Given a category B ,

$$[\mathbb{V}B, \mathbb{S}pan]_{\text{lax}} \simeq \text{Cat}/B.$$

Proof (sketch): For each $F: \mathbb{V}B \rightarrow \mathbb{S}pan$ we obtain a functor,

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \int F & \xrightarrow{\pi} & B \\ (b, x) & & b \\ (\beta, u) \downarrow & \dashv & \downarrow \beta \\ (b', x') & & b' \end{array}$$

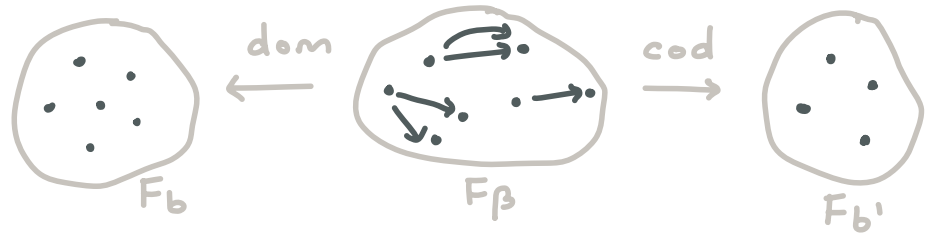
and by the universal property of the comma:

$$\mathbb{V}B \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{F} \\ \downarrow \tau \\ \xrightarrow{G} \end{array} \mathbb{S}pan \quad \rightsquigarrow \quad \begin{array}{ccc} \int F & \xrightarrow{\tau} & \int G \\ \pi \searrow & & \swarrow \pi \\ & B & \end{array}$$

Conversely, given a functor $f: A \rightarrow B$, define a lax double functor $\mathbb{V}B \xrightarrow{F} \mathbb{S}pan$ via the fibre sets:

$$F_b = f^{-1}(b) = \{a \in A \mid fa = b\}$$

$$F_{\beta} = \{u: a \rightarrow a' \in A \mid fu = \beta: b \rightarrow b'\}$$



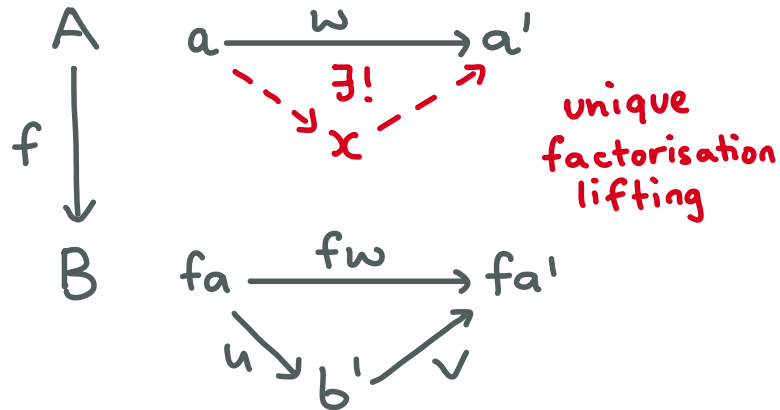
Functors $h: A \rightarrow C$ such that $f = gh$ yield horizontal transformations via restrictions to the fibres $h_b: f^{-1}(b) \rightarrow g^{-1}(b)$, etc. \square

See "Yoneda theory for double categories" by Paré for stronger result.

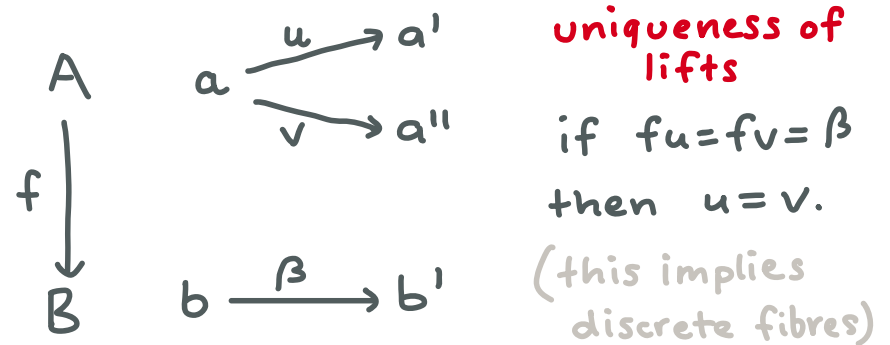
SPECIAL KINDS OF FUNCTORS

⑨

- Normal lax functors $\mathbb{V}B \rightarrow \mathbb{S}pan$ correspond to functors with **discrete fibres**.
- Strong/pseudo functors $\mathbb{V}B \rightarrow \mathbb{S}pan$ correspond to **discrete Conduché fibrations**. That is, functors with a certain lifting property:



- Lax functors $\mathbb{V}B \rightarrow \mathbb{R}el$ correspond to **faithful** functors.
- Lax functors $\mathbb{V}B \rightarrow \mathbb{R}el$ assigning each morphism $\beta: b \rightarrow b'$ to the span $F_b \xleftarrow{\pi_0} F_b \times F_{b'} \xrightarrow{\pi_1} F_{b'}$ are **fully faithful**.
- Lax functors $\mathbb{V}B \rightarrow \mathbb{P}ar$ correspond to faithful functors which satisfy a certain property:



DELTA LENSES (COPY-PASTED FROM PREVIOUS TALK)

⑩

A **(delta) lens** $(f, \varphi): A \rightleftarrows B$ between small categories consists of a functor $f: A \rightarrow B$ together with a function,

$$A_0 \times_{B_0} B_1 \xrightarrow{\varphi} A_1$$

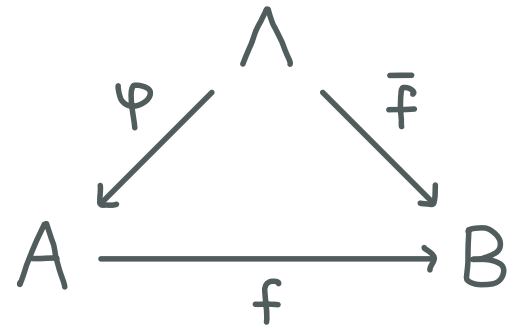
$$(a, u: fa \rightarrow b) \longmapsto \varphi(a, u): a \rightarrow p(a, u)$$

Satisfying the axioms:

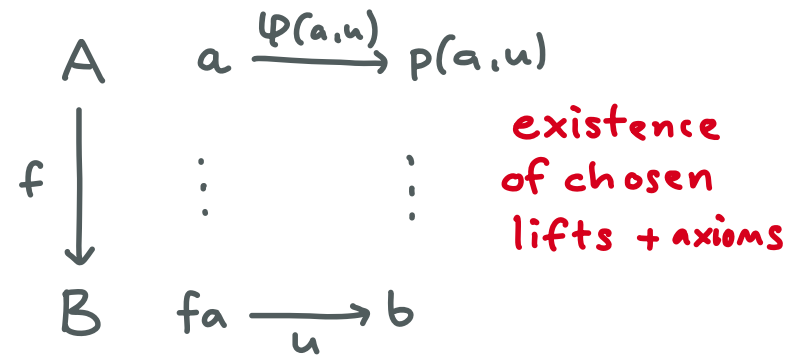
- (1) $f\varphi(a, u) = u$
- (2) $\varphi(a, 1_{fa}) = 1_a$
- (3) $\varphi(a, v \circ u) = \varphi(p(a, u), v) \circ \varphi(a, u)$

where $p(a, u) := \text{cod}(\varphi(a, u))$

Proposition: Every lens can be represented as a commutative diagram of functors,



where φ is bijective-on-objects and \bar{f} is a discrete opfibration.

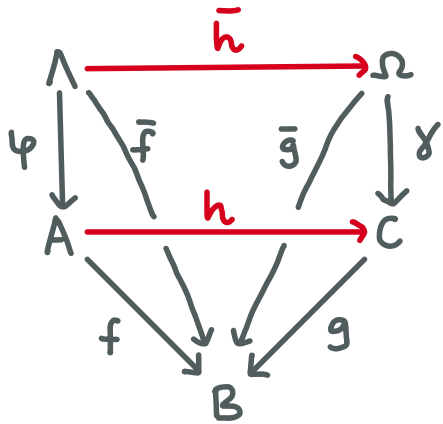


LENSES AS LAX DOUBLE FUNCTORS ?

Ⓜ

For each small category B , there is a category $\text{Lens}(B)$ whose:

- objects are lenses with codomain B ;
- morphisms are functors which make the following diagram commute:



i.e. functors h that preserve the chosen lifts:

$$h\varphi(a,u) = \gamma(ha,u)$$

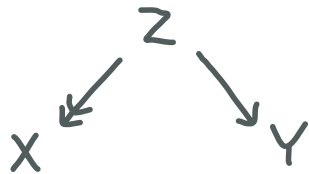
Central question: Does there exist a double category ID such that:

$$\text{Lens}(B) \simeq [WB, ID]_{\text{lax}}$$

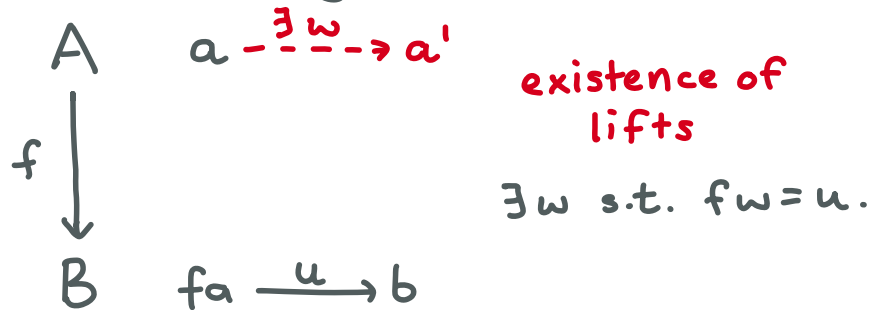
- ID should be closely related to both $\mathbb{Q}(\text{Set})$ and Span , since lenses involve both discrete opfibrations and functors.
- Not every functor admits a lens structure; can we find necessary conditions?

MULTI-VALUED FUNCTIONS

- Recall that a multi-valued function is given by a span of functions:



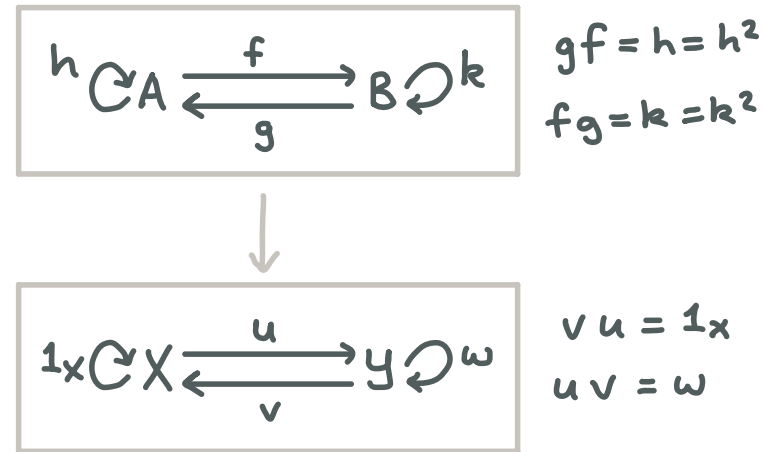
- A lax double functor $V B \longrightarrow /Mult$ corresponds to functors with a certain lifting property:



- If there exists an opcartesian lift for each $(a, u: fa \rightarrow b)$, then f is an **opfibration**.

- This property is necessary for a functor to have a lens structure, but not sufficient!

- Example:** Consider a functor



By (3), $\varphi(A, v \circ u) = \varphi(B, v) \circ \varphi(A, u)$
 $= g \circ f = h$

By (2), $\varphi(A, v \circ u) = \varphi(A, 1x) = 1_A \neq h$.

DIGRESSION: A CONSTRUCTION ON DOUBLE CATEGORIES ⑬

- Let \mathcal{A} be a (unital) double category.
- There is a double category $\widetilde{\mathcal{A}}$ with:
- same objects and horizontal morphisms
 - vertical morphisms given by cells:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 A & \xlongequal{\quad} & A \\
 1 \downarrow & \alpha & \downarrow u \\
 A & \xrightarrow{f} & B
 \end{array} \in \mathcal{A}$$

- Vertical composition and identities:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 A & \xlongequal{\quad} & A & \xlongequal{\quad} & A \\
 1 \downarrow & \alpha & \downarrow u & & \downarrow u \\
 A & \xrightarrow{f} & B & \xlongequal{\quad} & B \\
 1 \downarrow & & 1 \downarrow & \alpha' & \downarrow v \\
 A & \xrightarrow{f} & B & \xrightarrow{o} & C
 \end{array}
 \qquad
 \begin{array}{ccc}
 A & \xlongequal{\quad} & A \\
 1 \downarrow & 1 & \downarrow 1 \\
 A & \xlongequal{\quad} & A
 \end{array}$$

- cells with boundary $h: A \rightarrow C, k: B \rightarrow D$, $\alpha: \left(\begin{array}{c} A \\ f \end{array} \begin{array}{c} A \\ u \end{array} \right)$ and $\beta: \left(\begin{array}{c} C \\ g \end{array} \begin{array}{c} C \\ v \end{array} \right)$ given by cells,

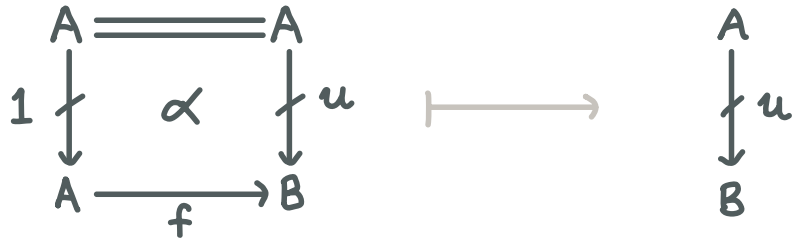
$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 A & \xrightarrow{h} & C \\
 u \downarrow & \psi & \downarrow v \\
 B & \xrightarrow{k} & D
 \end{array} \in \mathcal{A}$$

such that

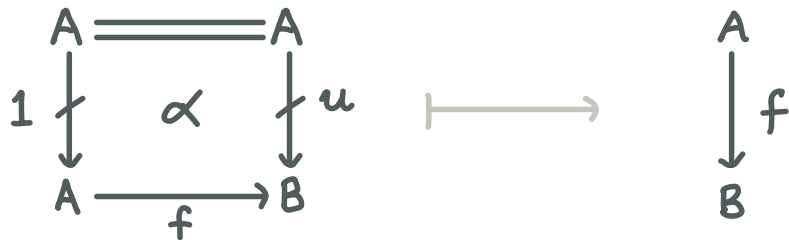
$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 A & \xlongequal{\quad} & A & \xrightarrow{h} & C \\
 1 \downarrow & \alpha & u \downarrow & \psi & \downarrow v \\
 A & \xrightarrow{f} & B & \xrightarrow{k} & D \\
 \\
 A & \xrightarrow{h} & C & \xlongequal{\quad} & C \\
 1 \downarrow & 1_h & 1 \downarrow & \beta & \downarrow v \\
 A & \xrightarrow{h} & C & \xrightarrow{g} & D
 \end{array}
 =$$

CONSTRUCTION (CONTINUED)

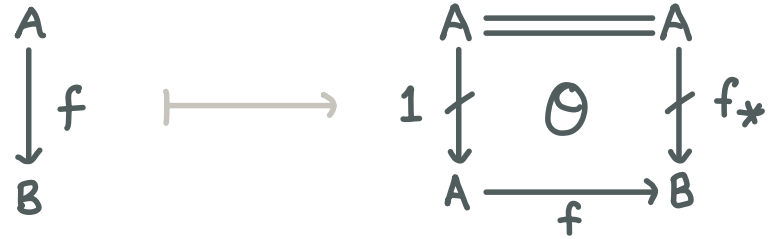
- There is a strong double functor $\widehat{\mathcal{A}} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$ which is the identity on objects/horizontal morphisms:



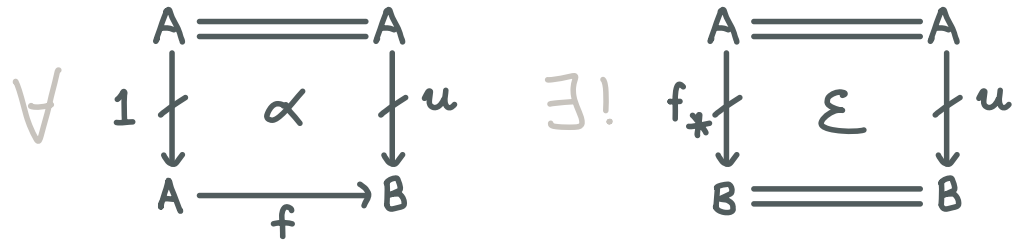
- There is also a strong double functor $\widetilde{\mathcal{A}} \xrightarrow{\mathcal{U}} \mathcal{Q}(\text{Hor}/\mathcal{A})$ given on vertical morphisms by:



- If \mathcal{A} has **companions**, then \mathcal{U} has a left adjoint \mathcal{F} which assigns each vertical arrow to its companion:



- The unit for the adjunction is the identity, and the counit is given by the universal property of the companion cell:



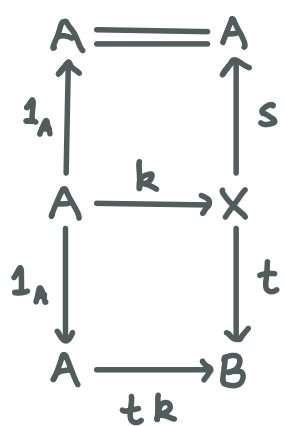
such that $\theta \circ \varepsilon = \alpha$.

THE DOUBLE CATEGORY OF SPLIT MULTI-VALUED FUNCTIONS (15)

We may apply our construct to $\mathbb{A} = \mathbb{S}pan$.

The double category of **split multi-valued functions** $sMult$ has:

- objects are sets;
- horizontal morphisms are functions;
- vertical morphisms are cells in $\mathbb{S}pan$:

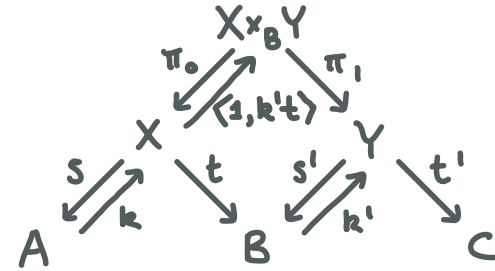


split epimorphism

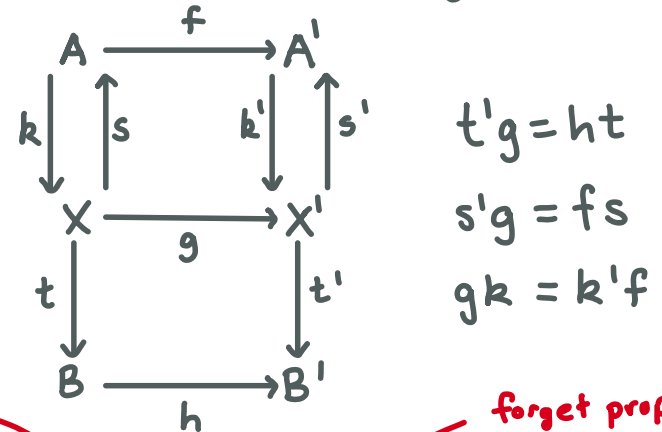
(we really want isomorphism classes of these, but lets ignore the details)

i.e. split multi-valued functions

- Vertical composition is given by pullback:



- A cell is a commutative diagram:



forget structure

forget property

$sMult \rightarrow Mult \rightarrow \mathbb{S}pan$

AN ADJUNCTION OF DOUBLE CATEGORIES

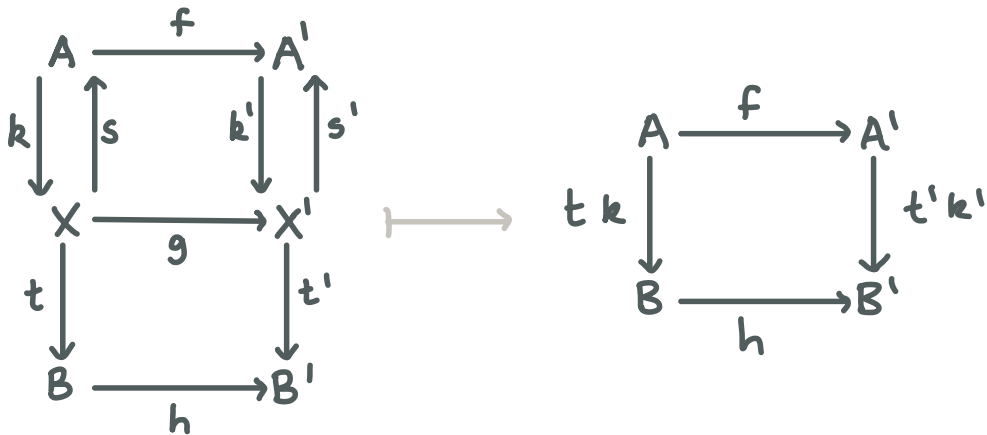
(16)

since $\mathcal{S}pan$ has companions

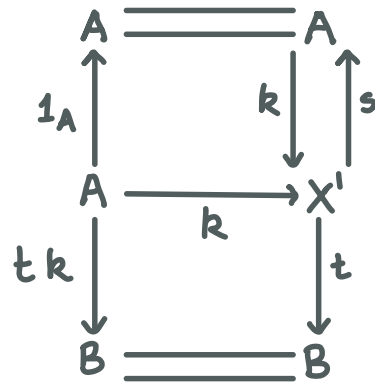
We have an adjunction of double categories (in the 2-category $\mathcal{D}bl$):

$$\mathcal{Q}(\mathcal{S}et) \begin{array}{c} \xleftarrow{L} \\ \xrightarrow{R} \end{array} \mathcal{S}/\mathcal{M}ult$$

The right adjoint has action on cells:



The counit for the adjunction takes a split multi-valued function to the cell:



Notice the horizontal components are identities.

Thus we have a horizontal transformation between strict double functors:

$$\mathcal{S}/\mathcal{M}ult \begin{array}{c} \nearrow R \\ \xrightarrow{\quad} \mathcal{Q}(\mathcal{S}et) \xrightarrow{L} \\ \searrow \downarrow \varepsilon \end{array} \mathcal{S}/\mathcal{M}ult$$

Note that $\mathcal{D}Opf(B) \simeq [WB, \mathcal{Q}Set]$

LENSES AS LAX DOUBLE FUNCTORS INTO $s/Mult$

(17)

Theorem: Given a category B ,

$$\text{Lens}(B) \cong [\mathbb{W}B, s/Mult]_{\text{lax}}$$

Proof (sketch): Given a lens $(f, \varphi): A \rightrightarrows B$, for each $u: b \rightarrow b' \in B$, we have a span from the functor f :

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & F_u & \\ s \swarrow & & \searrow t \\ F_b & & F_{b'} \end{array}$$

But from the cofunctor part of the lens, for each $a \in F_b$ and $u: b \rightarrow b'$, there exists $\varphi(a, u): a \rightarrow a' \in F_u$, giving the following:

$$s \circ \varphi = 1$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & F_u & \\ s \swarrow & & \searrow t \\ F_b & \xrightarrow{\varphi} & F_{b'} \end{array}$$

The axioms of a lens ensure these split multi-valued functions behave well with identities and composition, to give a lax double functor $F: \mathbb{W}B \rightarrow s/Mult$.

Conversely, given $F: \mathbb{W}B \rightarrow s/Mult$, we get a lens via the comma construction and the counit for the previous adjunction:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \int LRF & \xrightarrow{\text{bijective-on-objects}} & \int F & \longrightarrow & \mathbb{1} \\ & \searrow & \downarrow \pi & \swarrow & \downarrow * \\ & & \mathbb{W}B & \xrightarrow[\downarrow \varepsilon F]{LRF} & s/Mult \\ & \nearrow \pi' & & & \square \\ & \text{discrete} & & & \\ & \text{opfibration} & & & \end{array}$$

SUMMARY & FURTHER QUESTIONS

18

- Discrete opfibrations are special kinds of lenses, so we were motivated to generalise the category of elements:

$$\text{DOpf}(B) \simeq [B, \text{Set}]$$

- We examined a generalised version involving lax double functors:

$$\text{Cat}/B \simeq [\mathbb{W}B, \text{Span}]_{\text{lax}}$$

- We saw how special kinds of functors could be obtained by restricting this result.
- The main result was to show:

$$\text{Lens}(B) \simeq [\mathbb{W}B, \text{sMult}]_{\text{lax}}$$

- What is the category theory underlying the construction of $\tilde{\mathbb{A}}$?
- Can we see lenses as lax normal double functors $\mathbb{W}B \rightarrow \text{Mod}(\text{sMult})$?
- What are the exponentiable objects in $\text{Lens}(B)$? For which B ?
- Can we characterise which lax double functors $\mathbb{W}B \rightarrow \text{sMult}$ yield split opfibrations?
- Previously we saw that $\text{Lens}(B)$ is monadic over Cat/B ; can we gain a clearer perspective via the adjunction:

$$[\mathbb{W}B, \text{sMult}]_{\text{lax}} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\quad} \\ \xleftarrow{\quad} \end{array} [\mathbb{W}B, \text{Span}]_{\text{lax}}$$

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- Can we see lenses as lax normal double functors $\mathbb{W}B \rightarrow \text{Mod}(\text{sMult})$?
- What are the exponentiable objects in $\text{Lens}(B)$? For which B ?
- Can we characterise which lax double functors $\mathbb{W}B \rightarrow \text{sMult}$ yield split opfibrations?
- Previously we saw that $\text{Lens}(B)$ is monadic over Cat/B ; can we gain a clearer perspective via the adjunction:

$$[\mathbb{W}B, \text{sMult}]_{\text{lax}} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\quad} \\ \xleftarrow{\quad} \end{array} [\mathbb{W}B, \text{Span}]_{\text{lax}}$$