

# $F$ -MAGMAS

MARKUS ROST

preliminary version

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You are looking at the text “*F*-magmas” [pdf].

### Introduction

A (classical) magma is a multiplication in the simplest sense, a set  $M$  together with a map  $\mu: M \times M \rightarrow M$ .

In Bourbaki (Algebra) such a pair  $(M, \mu)$  is called a magma with  $\mu$  the composition law on  $M$  [2, Chapter I, §1, 1. Definition 1, p. 1]. The term magma appears also in Bourbaki (Groupes et algèbres de Lie) [1, Chap. II, §2 Algèbres de Lie libres, p. 17] and in Serre (Lie algebras and Lie groups) [5, Chap. IV. Free Lie Algebras, 1. Free magmas, Definition 1.1, p. 18].

If  $M_X$  is the free magma on a set  $X$ , the map

$$(*) \quad X \amalg (M_X \times M_X) \rightarrow M_X$$

given by inclusion and multiplication is bijective [5, Properties 2), p. 18]. A similar fact holds for multi-magmas as described in [4], see [4, (1.3), p. 6].

The decomposition  $M_X = X \amalg M_X^2$  is immediate from the explicit construction of  $M_X$  in [5], but can be also directly deduced from the universality of  $X \rightarrow M_X$ . Namely one may define right away on  $X \amalg M_X^2$  the structure of a magma (that is, a multiplication) and the universality of  $M_X$  gives a map  $M_X \rightarrow X \amalg M_X^2$  yielding the inverse of  $(*)$ .

The starting point of this text was to formalize this argument. We ended up with a very simple generalization of magmas, *F*-magmas. Here *F* is an endofunctor on a category  $\mathcal{C}$  and an *F*-magma is an object  $M$  together with a morphism  $\mu_M: F(M) \rightarrow M$ .

The basic idea to construct the free *F*-magma on an object  $X$  of  $\mathcal{C}$  is to take the limit of a straightforward iteration, see Summary (4.4). The rest of the paper arose from that.

If  $\mathcal{C}$  has colimits and *F* preserves filtered colimits there are universal *F*-magmas and the free *F*-magma on an object. Further, the bijectivity of  $(*)$  generalizes to the *F*-decomposition (4.2).

Interestingly, in the case of classical magmas the construction of free magmas is different from that in [5]. The result is the same of course, but the constructions yield different filtrations. See Example (5.2) and also Example (5.3).

The dual notion of an *F*-comagma appears naturally when constructing universal *F*-magmas. I haven’t looked much into *F*-comagmas themselves and further possible interplays with *F*-magmas.

There is an apparent formal similarity of convolution-stable morphisms between comagmas and magmas (see §2 and Proposition (3.3)) to twisting morphisms for differential graded associative (co)algebras [3, Chapter 2, Twisting Morphisms, p. 37]. Again, I haven’t looked into this further.

### General provisions

The general framework is a category  $\mathcal{C}$  and an endofunctor  $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  of  $\mathcal{C}$ . Beginning in §3 we assume that colimits (aka direct limits) of the form

$$L = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} X_k$$

exist in  $\mathcal{C}$  and that  $F$  preserves such limits:

$$F(L) = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} F(X_k)$$

From §4 on we assume that  $\mathcal{C}$  has coproducts  $X \amalg Y$  and an initial object  $0$  (that is,  $\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(0, X)$  consists of single element). The latter is not really necessary, see Remark (4.3).

The basic example is the category **Sets** of sets and  $F(Z) = Z^2$ . Here  $X \amalg Y$  is disjoint union and  $0 = \emptyset$ .

Another example is the category of  $R$ -modules for some ring  $R$  and  $F(Z) = Z^{\otimes 2}$ . Here  $X \amalg Y = X \oplus Y$  is the direct sum and  $0$  is, well,  $0$ .

### §1. Magmas

#### (1.1) Definition.

An  $F$ -magma is a pair  $(M, \mu)$  consisting of an object  $M$  of  $\mathcal{C}$  and a  $\mathcal{C}$ -morphism

$$\mu: F(M) \rightarrow M$$

An  $F$ -comagma is a pair  $(A, \delta)$  consisting of an object  $A$  of  $\mathcal{C}$  and a  $\mathcal{C}$ -morphism

$$\delta: A \rightarrow F(A)$$

**(1.2) Examples.** In **Sets** let  $F(Z) = Z^2$ . Then an  $F$ -magma is a magma in the classical sense, consisting of a set  $M$  and a map  $M^2 \rightarrow M$ , see [5, p. 18].

In **Sets** let

$$F(Z) = \coprod_{n \geq 2} Z^n$$

Then an  $F$ -magma is a multi-magma in the sense of [4].

Let  $R$  be a ring and let  $F(V) = V^{\otimes 2}$  in the category of  $R$ -modules. Then an  $F$ -magma is an  $R$ -algebra (non-unital, non-associative, non-commutative).<sup>1</sup> Similarly, an  $F$ -comagma is an  $R$ -coalgebra.

In the following (until §4) the functor  $F$  is fixed and we call an  $F$ -magma simply a magma. Similarly for comagmas.

A magma is mostly written in the form  $M = (M, \mu_M^F) = (M, \mu_M)$  and  $\mu_M^F$  is called the  $F$ -multiplication of  $M$ . Similarly for comagmas, which appear as  $A = (A, \delta_A^F) = (A, \delta_A)$  with  $\delta_A^F$  called the  $F$ -diagonal of  $A$ .

A homomorphism of magmas is a  $\mathcal{C}$ -morphism  $f$  such that the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} M & \xrightarrow{f} & N \\ \mu_M \uparrow & & \uparrow \mu_N \\ F(M) & \xrightarrow{F(f)} & F(N) \end{array}$$

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<sup>1</sup>The prefix “non-” stands for “not required”.

is commutative. We denote by

$$\mathrm{Hom}_F(M, N) = \{ f \in \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(M, N) \mid f\mu_M = \mu_N F(f) \}$$

the set of magma homomorphisms  $M \rightarrow N$ .

If  $f \in \mathrm{Hom}_F(M, N)$  is invertible in  $\mathcal{C}$ , then  $f^{-1} \in \mathrm{Hom}_F(N, M)$ .

If  $M$  is a magma, then  $F(M)$  is a magma with

$$\mu_{F(M)} = F(\mu_M)$$

Obviously  $\mu_M \in \mathrm{Hom}_F(F(M), M)$ .

Similarly, if  $(A, \delta_A)$  is a comagma, so is  $(F(A), F(\delta_A))$ . (We don't elaborate much on comagma homomorphisms, as there is no real need for this.)

A magma  $M$  is called *stable* if  $\mu_M$  is an isomorphism. For a stable magma  $M$  the magma  $F(M)$  is stable as well.

A magma  $M$  is called *universal* if for any magma  $N$  the set  $\mathrm{Hom}_F(M, N)$  has exactly one element. In other words,  $M$  is an initial object in the category of magmas.

A key fact is that universal magmas are stable:

**(1.3) Lemma.** *If  $M$  is a universal magma, then  $\mu_M$  is an isomorphism.*

*Proof:* Let  $s: M \rightarrow F(M)$  be the unique magma homomorphism. Then  $\mu_M s = \mathrm{id}_M$  by uniqueness. Moreover

$$s\mu_M = \mu_{F(M)} F(s) = F(\mu_M) F(s) = F(\mu_M s) = F(\mathrm{id}_M) = \mathrm{id}_{F(M)} \quad \square$$

(It was this computation which started this paper.)

## §2. Convolutions

Let  $A$  be a comagma and let  $M$  be a magma.

**(2.1) Definition.** The self-map

$$\begin{aligned} c_F: \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(A, M) &\rightarrow \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(A, M) \\ c_F(f) &= \mu_M F(f) \delta_A \end{aligned}$$

is called *convolution*.

A  $\mathcal{C}$ -morphism  $f: A \rightarrow M$  is called *c-stable* (convolution-stable) if  $c_F(f) = f$ . We denote by

$$S_F(A, M) = \{ f \in \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(A, M) \mid c_F(f) = f \}$$

the set of *c-stable*  $\mathcal{C}$ -morphisms  $A \rightarrow M$ .

**(2.2) Example.** Let  $F(V) = V^{\otimes 2}$  in the category of  $R$ -modules. Then  $c_F(f) = f * f$  is the convolution square of an  $R$ -module homomorphism from an  $R$ -coalgebra to an  $R$ -algebra (see for instance [3, 1.6 Convolution, p.32]).

We use the notations ( $k, h \geq 0$ )

$$\begin{aligned} \mu: \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(F^k(A), F^{h+1}(M)) &\rightarrow \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(F^k(A), F^h(M)) \\ \mu(f) &= \mu_{F^h(M)} f = F^h(\mu_M) f \\ \delta: \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(F^{k+1}(A), F^h(M)) &\rightarrow \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(F^k(A), F^h(M)) \\ \delta(f) &= f \delta_{F^k(A)} = f F^k(\delta_A) \end{aligned}$$

These maps and

$$\begin{aligned} F: \operatorname{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(F^k(A), F^h(M)) &\rightarrow \operatorname{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(F^{k+1}(A), F^{h+1}(M)) \\ f &\mapsto F(f) \end{aligned}$$

commute whenever the composites are defined. More precisely, on

$$\operatorname{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(F^k(A), F^h(M))$$

one has

$$\begin{aligned} \mu\delta &= \delta\mu & (k, h \geq 1) \\ \mu F &= F\mu & (k \geq 0, h \geq 1) \\ \delta F &= F\delta & (k \geq 1, h \geq 0) \end{aligned}$$

For instance,

$$(\mu F)(f) = \mu_{F^h(M)} F(f) = F(\mu_{F^{h-1}(M)}) F(f) = F(\mu_{F^{h-1}(M)} f) = (F\mu)(f)$$

Note that  $F$ ,  $\mu F$ ,  $\delta F$  and the convolution

$$c = \mu\delta F = \delta\mu F$$

are defined on  $\operatorname{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(F^k(A), F^h(M))$  for  $k, h \geq 0$ .

In particular, the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \operatorname{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(A, M) & \begin{array}{c} \xleftarrow{\mu F} \\ \xrightarrow{\delta} \end{array} & \operatorname{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(F(A), M) \\ \begin{array}{c} \uparrow \mu \\ \downarrow \delta F \end{array} & \searrow Fc & \begin{array}{c} \uparrow \mu \\ \downarrow \delta F \end{array} \\ \operatorname{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(A, F(M)) & \begin{array}{c} \xleftarrow{\mu F} \\ \xrightarrow{\delta} \end{array} & \operatorname{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(F(A), F(M)) \end{array}$$

yields 4 commutative square diagrams (one for each corner) and 2 commutative triangles. On the  $c$ -stable subsets (defined by  $\mu\delta F = \operatorname{id}$ ) these induce bijections

$$\begin{array}{ccc} S_F(A, M) & \xleftarrow{\simeq} & S_F(F(A), M) \\ \begin{array}{c} \uparrow \simeq \\ \downarrow \end{array} & \searrow F & \begin{array}{c} \uparrow \simeq \\ \downarrow \end{array} \\ S_F(A, F(M)) & \xleftarrow{\simeq} & S_F(F(A), F(M)) \end{array}$$

### §3. Limits

For a comagma  $A$  let

$$L(F, A) = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} (F^k(A), F^k(\delta_A))$$

and let

$$\begin{aligned} j_k: F^k(A) &\rightarrow L(F, A) \\ j_k &= j_{k+1} F^k(\delta_A) \end{aligned} \quad (k \geq 0)$$

be the corresponding morphisms. In particular,  $j_0$  is a morphism  $A \rightarrow L(F, A)$ .

Thus a sequence of  $\mathcal{C}$ -morphisms

$$\varphi_k: F^k(A) \rightarrow N$$

with

$$\varphi_k = \varphi_{k+1} F^k(\delta_A)$$

defines a  $\mathcal{C}$ -morphism

$$\varphi = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \varphi_k: L(F, A) \rightarrow N$$

and any  $\mathcal{C}$ -morphism  $\varphi: L(F, A) \rightarrow N$  is of this form by taking  $\varphi_k = \varphi j_k$ .

We consider  $L(F, A)$  as magma with

$$\mu_{L(F, A)}: F(L(F, A)) = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} (F^{k+1}(A), F^{k+1}(\delta_A)) \rightarrow L(F, A)$$

the colimit of the sequence

$$j_{k+1}: F^{k+1}(A) \rightarrow L(F, A)$$

so that

$$\mu_{L(F, A)} F(j_k) = j_{k+1}$$

This means that  $\mu_{L(F, A)}$  is induced by the identity maps on  $F^{k+1}(A)$ :

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} L(F, A): & A & \xrightarrow{\delta_A} & F(A) & \xrightarrow{F(\delta_A)} & F^2(A) & \dots \\ \uparrow \mu_{L(F, A)} & & \searrow \text{id} & \nearrow \text{id} & & & \\ F(L(F, A)): & F(A) & \xrightarrow{F(\delta_A)} & F^2(A) & \xrightarrow{F^2(\delta_A)} & F^3(A) & \dots \end{array}$$

**(3.1) Lemma.** *The magma  $L(F, A)$  is stable.*

*Proof:* The inverse  $s$  of  $\mu_{L(F, A)}$  is the colimit of the sequence

$$s j_k = F(j_{k-1}): F^k(A) \rightarrow F(L(F, A)) \quad (k \geq 1)$$

as can be seen from the commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} L & \xrightarrow{s} & F(L) & \xrightarrow{\mu_L} & L & \xrightarrow{s} & F(L) \\ \uparrow j_k & & \nearrow F(j_{k-1}) & \uparrow F(j_k) & \uparrow j_{k+1} & & \uparrow F(j_k) \\ F^k(A) & \xrightarrow{F^k(\delta_A)} & F^{k+1}(A) & \equiv & F^{k+1}(A) & \equiv & F^{k+1}(A) \end{array}$$

with  $L = L(F, A)$ . □

On the other hand, if  $(M, \mu_M)$  is stable, then

$$(M, \mu_M) = L(F, (M, \mu_M^{-1}))$$

since all  $F^k(\mu_M^{-1})$  are isomorphisms.

**(3.2) Remark.** If  $F = \text{id}_{\mathcal{C}}$  is the identity functor, then a comagma is just an endomorphism  $\delta \in \text{End}_{\mathcal{C}}(A)$ . In this case  $L(F, A)$  is the standard construction to invert  $\delta$ . For example, in the category of abelian groups consider  $L = L(\text{id}, (\mathbf{Z}, \delta))$  with  $\delta$  the multiplication by 2. Then

$$\begin{aligned} L &= \varinjlim (\mathbf{Z} \xrightarrow{2} \mathbf{Z} \xrightarrow{2} \cdots) = \mathbf{Z}[\frac{1}{2}] \\ j_k(x) &= \frac{1}{2^k} x \\ \mu_L(x) &= \frac{1}{2} x \end{aligned}$$

**(3.3) Proposition.** For any magma  $M$ , the map

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(L(F, A), M) &\rightarrow \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(A, M) \\ \varphi &\mapsto \varphi j_0 \end{aligned}$$

induces a bijection of subsets

$$\text{Hom}_F(L(F, A), M) \rightarrow S_F(A, M)$$

*Proof:* For a  $\mathcal{C}$ -morphism  $\varphi: L(F, A) \rightarrow M$  the corresponding sequence

$$\varphi_k = \varphi j_k: F^k(A) \rightarrow M$$

satisfies

$$(3.4) \quad \varphi_k = \varphi_{k+1} F^k(\delta_A)$$

If  $\varphi$  is a magma homomorphism, the commutative diagrams

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \varphi_{k+1}: & F^{k+1}(A) & \xrightarrow{j_{k+1}} & L(F, A) & \xrightarrow{\varphi} & M \\ & \uparrow \text{id} & & \uparrow \mu_{L(F, A)} & & \uparrow \mu_M \\ F(\varphi_k): & F^{k+1}(A) & \xrightarrow{F(j_k)} & F(L(F, A)) & \xrightarrow{F(\varphi)} & F(M) \end{array}$$

yield

$$(3.5) \quad \varphi_{k+1} = \mu_M F(\varphi_k)$$

Together with (3.4) this implies

$$\varphi_k = \mu_M F(\varphi_k) F^k(\delta_A) = c_F(\varphi_k)$$

so that  $\varphi_k \in S_F(F^k(A), M)$ .

In particular  $\varphi j_0 = \varphi_0 \in S_F(A, M)$ . On the other hand, (3.5) shows that  $\varphi = \varinjlim \varphi_k$  is determined by  $\varphi_0$ . (One has  $\varphi_k = (\mu F)^k(\varphi_0)$  in the notation of §2.)  $\square$

It follows that  $L(F, A)$  is universal if and only if  $S_F(A, N)$  consists of a single element.

**(3.6) Example.** A constant functor is a functor with constant value on objects and sending a morphism to the identity.

Let  $F(Z) = Y$  be a constant functor. Then an  $F$ -magma is a pair  $(M, Y \rightarrow M)$  and  $(Y, \text{id}_Y)$  is universal.

In this case  $L(F, A) = (Y, \text{id}_Y)$  for any  $A$ . Indeed,  $F^k(A) = Y$ ,  $F^k(\delta_A) = \text{id}_Y$  for  $k \geq 1$ . Moreover,  $S_F(A, N)$  consists of  $\mu_N \delta_A$ .

An initial object  $0$  of  $\mathcal{C}$  is a comagma with  $\delta_0$  the unique morphism  $0 \rightarrow F(0)$ .

**(3.7) Corollary.** *Let  $0$  be an initial object of  $\mathcal{C}$ . Then  $L(F, 0)$  is a universal  $F$ -magma.*

*Proof:* The unique element of  $\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(0, M)$  is clearly  $c$ -stable and therefore the only element of  $S_F(0, M)$ . The claim follows from Proposition (3.3).  $\square$

#### §4. Free magmas

Given the endofunctor  $F$  and an object  $X$  of  $\mathcal{C}$ , define the endofunctor  $F_X$  of  $\mathcal{C}$  by

$$\begin{aligned} F_X(M) &= X \amalg F(M) \\ F_X(f) &= \text{id}_X \amalg F(f) \end{aligned}$$

In other words,  $F_X$  is the coproduct of the constant functor with value  $X$  and  $F$ . Or, if  $\Phi_X$  is the endofunctor

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi_X(Y) &= X \amalg Y \\ \Phi_X(f) &= \text{id}_X \amalg f \end{aligned}$$

then  $F_X$  is the composite

$$F_X = \Phi_X \circ F$$

It follows that  $F_X$  commutes with colimits  $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty}$  since  $F$  and  $\Phi_X$  do.

An  $F_X$ -magma  $M$  consists of an  $F$ -magma  $M$  and a  $\mathcal{C}$ -morphism  $\lambda_M: X \rightarrow M$ :

$$\mu_M^{F_X} = (\lambda_M, \mu_M^F): X \amalg F(M) \rightarrow M$$

In the following definition we assume the existence of an initial object  $0$ , but see Remark (4.3).

**(4.1) Definition.** The *free  $F$ -magma on  $X$*  is the universal  $F_X$ -magma

$$M(F, X) = L(F_X, 0)$$

Hence (abbreviating  $M_X = M(F, X)$ )

$$(M_X, \mu_{M_X}^F, \lambda_{M_X})$$

is universal among triples

$$(M, \mu: F(M) \rightarrow M, \lambda: X \rightarrow M)$$

Since universal magmas are stable (Lemma (1.3)) it follows that

$$(4.2) \quad X \amalg F(M_X) \xrightarrow{(\lambda_{M_X}, \mu_{M_X}^F)} M_X$$

is an isomorphism. We call (4.2) the  *$F$ -decomposition* of the free  $F$ -magma on  $X$ .

**(4.3) Remark.** One has

$$L(F_X, 0) = L(F_X, F_X^h(0)) \quad (h \geq 0)$$

The  $F_X$ -comagma

$$F_X(0) = X \amalg 0 = X$$

can be defined without reference to  $0$  as follows.



One considers  $X$  as  $F_X$ -comagma with

$$\delta_X: X \rightarrow F_X(X) = X \amalg F(X)$$

the inclusion of the first term.

For an  $F_X$ -magma  $M$  and a  $\mathcal{C}$ -morphism  $f: X \rightarrow M$  one finds

$$c_{F_X}(f) = \mu_M^{F_X} F_X(f) \delta_X = \lambda_M$$

as can be seen by following the commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X & \xrightarrow{c_{F_X}(f)} & M \\ \delta_X \downarrow & & \uparrow \mu_M^{F_X} = (\lambda_M, \mu_M^F) \\ X \amalg F(X) & \xrightarrow[\text{= id}_X \amalg F(f)]{F_X(f)} & X \amalg F(M) \end{array}$$

Hence  $S_{F_X}(X, M) = \{\lambda_M\}$  and  $L(F_X, X)$  is a universal  $F_X$ -magma.

Therefore one may generally define the free  $F$ -magma on  $X$  as

$$M(F, X) = L(F_X, X)$$

**(4.4) Summary.** The free  $F$ -magma on  $X$  is the limit of terms

$$\begin{aligned} M_1 &= X \\ M_2 &= X \amalg F(X) \\ M_3 &= X \amalg F(M_2) \\ M_4 &= X \amalg F(M_3) \\ &\dots \end{aligned}$$

with the transitions given by the identity on  $X$  and the  $F$ -transform of the preceding transition morphism.

## §5. Examples

**(5.1) Example.** If  $F = \text{id}_{\mathcal{C}}$  is the identity functor, then

$$F_X^k(0) = \coprod_{h=1}^k X = X \times \{1, \dots, k\}$$

and the free  $F$ -magma  $M_X = M(\text{id}_{\mathcal{C}}, X)$  on  $X$  is

$$M_X = X \times \mathbf{N} = X \amalg X \amalg X \amalg \dots$$

with  $\lambda_{M_X} = \text{id}_X \times \{1\}$  the inclusion of the first term and  $\mu_{M_X} = \text{id}_X \times \{+1\}$  the shift to the right.

For a triple  $(M, \mu: M \rightarrow M, \lambda: X \rightarrow M)$  the corresponding morphism  $\varphi: M_X \rightarrow M$  is given by

$$\varphi|_{X \times \{k\}} = \mu^{k-1} \lambda$$

The  $F$ -decomposition (4.2) is the isomorphism

$$X \amalg (X \times \mathbf{N}) \xrightarrow{\cong} X \times \mathbf{N}$$

induced from the bijection

$$\mathbf{N}_0 \xrightarrow{+1} \mathbf{N}$$

**(5.2) Example.** We consider the case of classical magmas. So let  $\mathcal{C} = \mathbf{Sets}$  and  $F(Z) = Z^2$  (this stands of course for  $F(Z) = Z \times Z$ ,  $F(f) = f \times f$ ).

Then the free magma  $M(F, X)$  on  $X$  is the limit of

$$\begin{aligned} M_1 &= X \\ M_2 &= X \amalg X^2 \\ M_3 &= X \amalg (X \amalg X^2)^2 \\ &= X \amalg X^2 \amalg (X \times X^2) \amalg (X^2 \times X) \amalg (X^2 \times X^2) \\ M_4 &= X \amalg (X \amalg (X \amalg X^2)^2)^2 \\ &\dots \end{aligned}$$

This limit is actually a union with  $M_{k+1} \setminus M_k$  consisting of the parenthesized expressions with maximal depth of nested paren pairs equal to  $k$  (here  $X^2 = (X \times X)$  counts for 1 pair).

In contrast, in [5, p. 18] (also in [2, Chapter I, §7.1, p. 81], [1, p. 17]) the free magma on  $X$  (denoted as  $M_X$ ) is defined as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} X_1 &= X \\ X_n &= \coprod_{p+q=n} X_p \times X_q \quad (n \geq 2) \\ M_X &= \coprod_{n=1}^{\infty} X_n \end{aligned}$$

This description corresponds to the filtration by length with first terms

$$\begin{aligned} X_1 &= X \\ X_2 &= X^2 \\ X_3 &= (X \times X^2) \amalg (X^2 \times X) \\ X_4 &= (X \times (X \times X^2)) \amalg (X \times (X^2 \times X)) \\ &\quad \amalg (X^2 \times X^2) \\ &\quad \amalg ((X \times X^2) \times X) \amalg ((X^2 \times X) \times X) \end{aligned}$$

The filtration by length is more natural and convenient for classical magmas. However for general  $F$  there is no notion similar to length.

The  $F$ -decomposition (4.2) is

$$M_X = X \amalg M_X^2$$

as noted in [5, Properties 2), p. 18] and in [2, p. 81], [1, p. 17].

**(5.3) Example.** Similar remarks apply to multi-magmas (see (1.2)). Here the  $F$ -decomposition (4.2) is

$$M_X = X \amalg \coprod_{n \geq 2} M_X^n$$

In [4] it is called arity-decomposition ([4, (1.3), p. 6]) and an indispensable tool for inductive definitions and proofs.

**(5.4) Example.** More generally, let  $P$  be a set of ordered finite nonempty sets and consider in **Sets** the endofunctor

$$F(Z) = \coprod_{I \in P} Z^I$$

This set up includes Examples (5.1) (for  $\mathcal{C} = \mathbf{Sets}$ ), (5.2), (5.3).

The general construction of  $M(F, X)$  (Definition (4.1)) establishes the existence of free  $F$ -magmas right away without much ado about the details of  $F$ .

One way to construct the free  $F$ -magma  $M_X$  directly is to consider parenthetical expressions with nested “ $I$ -paren pairs” looking like this

$$(\alpha_1 \cdots \alpha_{|I|})_I$$

Alternatively,  $M_X$  can be identified with the set of isomorphism classes of finite rooted planar trees with labels as follows: Each leaf (a vertex of valency 1, excluding the root) is marked with an element of  $X$ . Further, for each inner node (a vertex with valency  $\geq 2$ ) the ordered set of incoming edges (coming from a leaf) is identified with some  $I \in P$  (so the valency of the node is  $|I| + 1$ ).

If  $|I| = 1$  for some  $I \in P$ , then the subsets of  $M_X$  of a given number of leaves (the length in the preceding examples) are not finite already for  $|X| = 1$  since any number of nodes of valency 2 is possible.

In the particular case

$$F(Z) = Z$$

(the case  $P = \{\{*\}\}$ ) the element

$$(x, k) \in M_X = X \times \mathbf{N}$$

(see Example (5.1)) is represented in terms of parenthetical expressions by

$$(\cdots ((x)) \cdots)$$

with  $k - 1$  paren pairs and in terms of trees by

$$x \bullet \longrightarrow \circ \longrightarrow \circ \cdots \cdots \circ \longrightarrow \bullet \text{ root}$$

with  $k - 1$  inner nodes.

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FAKULTÄT FÜR MATHEMATIK, UNIVERSITÄT BIELEFELD, POSTFACH 100131, D-33501 BIELEFELD, GERMANY

*Email address:* `rost at math.uni-bielefeld.de`

*URL:* [www.math.uni-bielefeld.de/~rost](http://www.math.uni-bielefeld.de/~rost)