

# ① INTRODUCTION

REWRITINGS are archetypal form of all COMPUTATIONS

For examples, all structures such that

- Finite Automata
- Turing Machines
- Grammars
- Petri Nets ...

are, in fact — in a more or less hidden mode — varied forms of REWRITING. see [Bu 02]

This examples are only low dimension Machines.

We can imagine highest

dimension similar Machines

like as <sup>Automata and</sup> Grammars for

n-dimensional objects

(for  $n = 2$ , images with pixels)

Here We limit ourselve to the

two low dimension cases:

- Rewriting of WORDS ( $n=1$ )

- Rewriting of TERMS ( $n=2$ )

[ plus a generalization of this last for  $n=3$  ]

Here, we will suppose that we know notions as

- categories
- functors
- natural transformations
- left adjoints

and familiar categories as

- Ens = category of sets
- Graph = " " graphs
- Cat = " " categories

and, also, underlying canonical functors, as for example

$$U : \underline{\text{Cat}} \longrightarrow \underline{\text{Graph}}$$

The mathematical structure

which is at the FOUNDATION

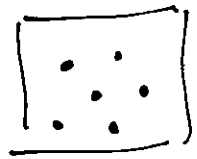
of all this rewriting forms

are the POLYGRAPHS

(also called : computads)

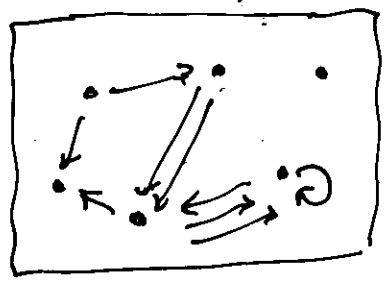
or  $n$ -polygraphs ( $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ).

For  $n = 0$ ,

$0$ -polygraphs = sets. 

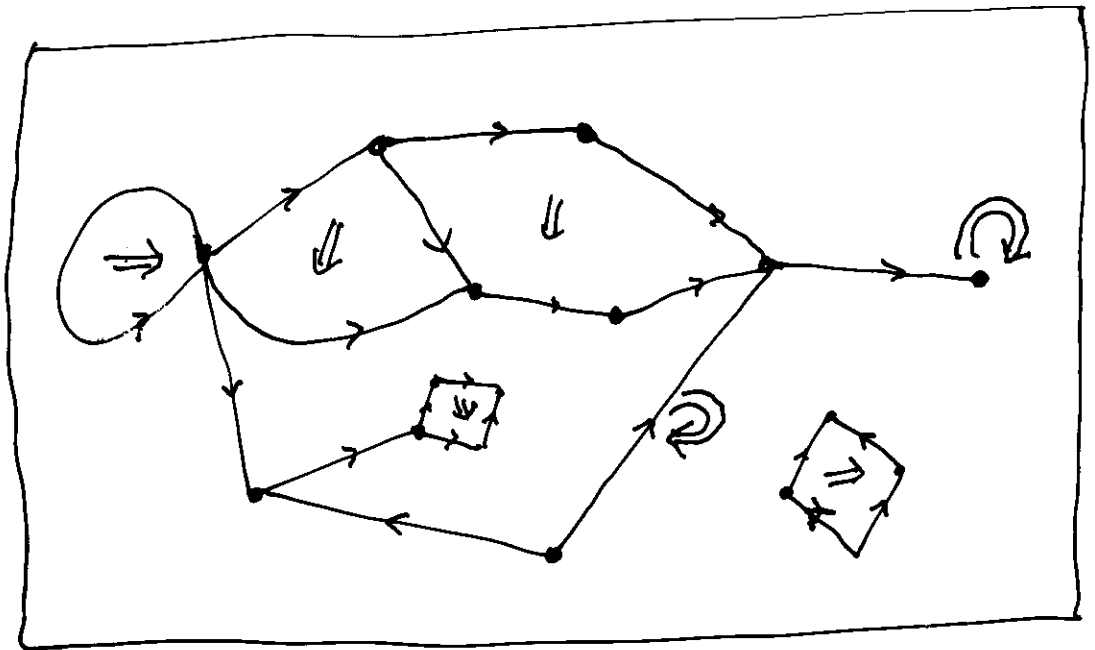
For  $n = 1$ ,

$1$ -polygraphs = graphs.



For  $n=2$ ,

2-polygraphs are graphs plus  
2-cells between paths of same  
source and target



The n-graphs (also called "globular sets") are diagrams  $G$  of the form

$$G_0 \begin{array}{c} \xleftarrow{s_0} \\ \xleftarrow{t_0} \end{array} G_1 \begin{array}{c} \xleftarrow{s_1} \\ \xleftarrow{t_1} \end{array} G_2 \dots G_{n-1} \begin{array}{c} \xleftarrow{s_{n-1}} \\ \xleftarrow{t_{n-1}} \end{array} G_n$$

With  $s_{i-1} s_i = s_{i-1} t_i$   $(1 \leq i < n-1)$   
 $t_{i-1} s_i = t_{i-1} t_i$

They form a category

$$\boxed{\text{Graph}_n} = \frac{\text{category of}}{\text{n-graphs}}$$

(Homomorphism:  $f: G \rightarrow G'$ )

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} G_0 & \begin{array}{c} \xleftarrow{\quad} \\ \xleftarrow{\quad} \end{array} & G_1 & \begin{array}{c} \xleftarrow{\quad} \\ \xleftarrow{\quad} \end{array} & G_2 & \dots & G_{n-1} & \begin{array}{c} \xleftarrow{\quad} \\ \xleftarrow{\quad} \end{array} & G_n \\ f_0 \downarrow & & f_1 \downarrow & & f_2 \downarrow & & f_{n-1} \downarrow & & f_n \downarrow \\ G'_0 & \begin{array}{c} \xleftarrow{\quad} \\ \xleftarrow{\quad} \end{array} & G'_1 & \begin{array}{c} \xleftarrow{\quad} \\ \xleftarrow{\quad} \end{array} & & & G'_{n-1} & \begin{array}{c} \xleftarrow{\quad} \\ \xleftarrow{\quad} \end{array} & G'_n \end{array}$$

The n-categories (strict) with  
n-functors form a category

$$\boxed{\text{Cat}_n} = \underline{\text{category of } n\text{-categories}}$$

We know

Compositions,

identities.

$$\begin{array}{c} \leftarrow v \quad \leftarrow u \\ \hline \leftarrow v * u \end{array}$$

$$X \xrightarrow{\text{id}^1(X)}$$

$$\begin{array}{c} \leftarrow \downarrow y \quad \leftarrow \downarrow z \\ \hline \leftarrow \downarrow y * z \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{id}^2(u) \\ \leftarrow u \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c} \leftarrow \downarrow x \\ \leftarrow \downarrow x' \\ \hline \leftarrow \downarrow x + x' \end{array}$$

⋮

... etc ...

We have underlying functors

$$\underline{\text{Cat}}_n \xrightarrow{U_n} \underline{\text{Graph}}_n$$

which have left adjoints

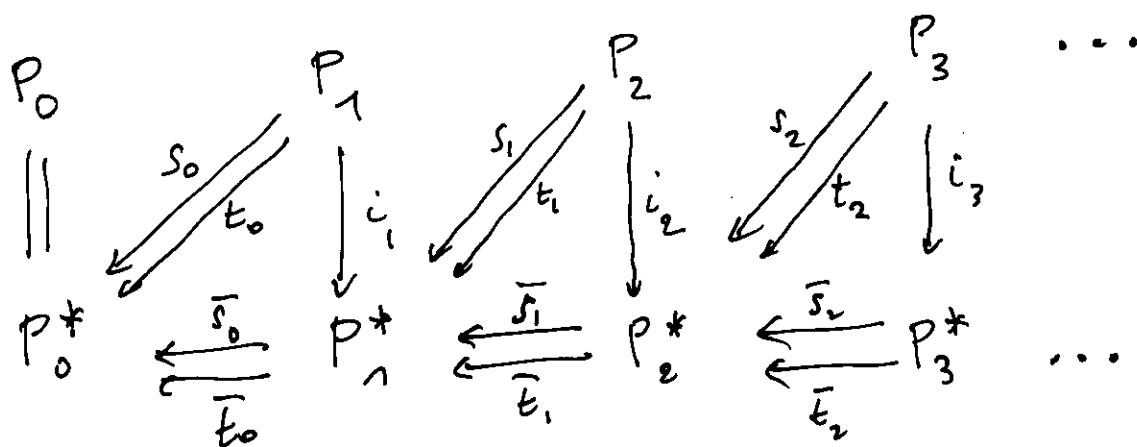
$$\underline{\text{Cat}}_n \xleftarrow{L_n} \underline{\text{Graph}}_n$$

But, in general, we will note for every n-graph G

$$G^* = L_n(G)$$

n-graph are special cases of n-polygraphs that we will define now.

## Description of $n$ -polygraphs



(see more explanations in [Bu 93])

But we can define more abstractly and globally the category  $\text{Pol}_n$  of  $n$ -polygraphs.

This definition is inductive with  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

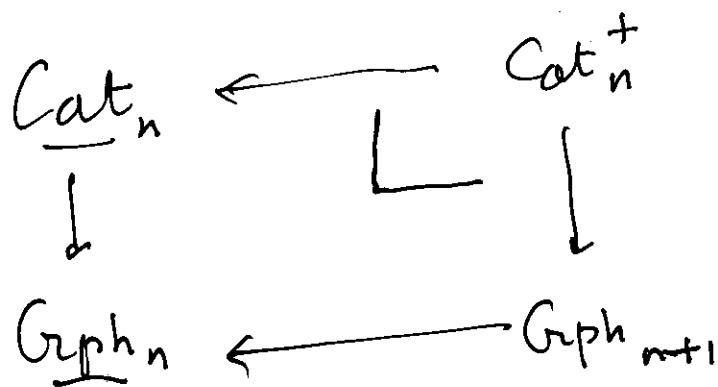
Before, we need to define another category

$$\boxed{\text{Cat}_n^+}$$

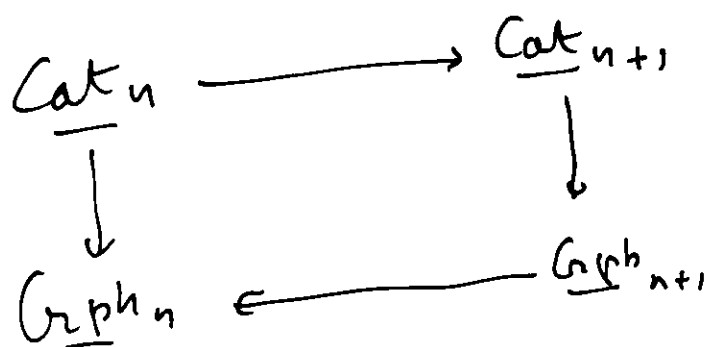
which is the category of  $(n+1)$ -marked categories.

A  $(n+1)$ -marked categories is a  $n$ -category <sup>which has</sup> ~~with~~ in addition  $(n+1)$ -cells, but without identities or compositions for such  $(n+1)$ -cell.

This category is defined by a pullback of underlying functors



But the comparison of this square with the commutative square



gives a functor evident

$$W_{n+1}: \underline{\text{Cat}}_{n+1} \longrightarrow \underline{\text{Cat}}_n^+$$

This functor forgets the compositions of  $(n+1)$ -cells (and identities data).

This last functor admits  
a left adjoint

$$K_{n+1} : \underline{\text{Cat}}_n^+ \longrightarrow \underline{\text{Cat}}_{n+1}$$

which gives formal  $(n+1)$ -identities  
and  $(n+1)$ -compositions.

For example, for  $n=0$

$$\underline{\text{Cat}}_0^+ = \underline{\text{Graph}}$$

and the functor

$$K_1 : \underline{\text{Cat}}_0^+ \longrightarrow \underline{\text{Cat}}$$

is the functor "free category  
generated by a graph".

Now,  $\underline{\text{Pol}}_n$ , the category of  $n$ -polygraphs is defined recursively and simultaneously with a functor

$$\bar{L}_n : \underline{\text{Pol}}_n \longrightarrow \underline{\text{Cat}}_n$$

$P^* = \bar{L}_n(P)$  will be the "free category" generated by the  $n$ -polygraph  $P$ )

To begin

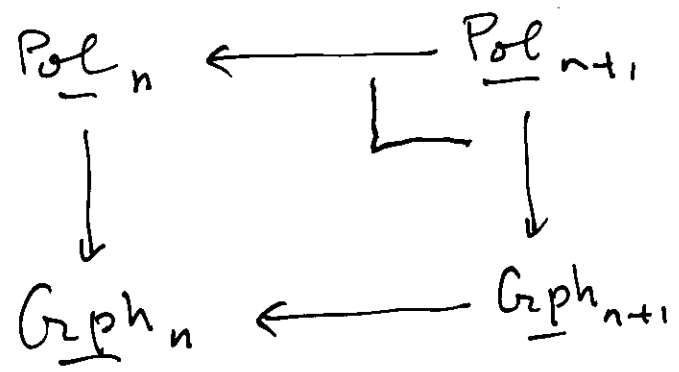
$$\text{for } n=0 \quad \underline{\text{Pol}}_0 = \underline{\text{Ens}}$$

and

$$\bar{L}_0 : \underline{\text{Pol}}_0 \longrightarrow \underline{\text{Cat}}_0 = \underline{\text{Ens}}$$

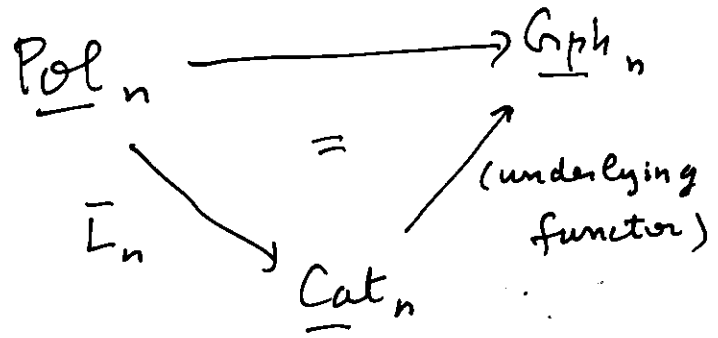
is the identity functor ( $X^* = X$ ).

Next we define  $\bar{L}_{n+1}$  from  $\bar{L}_n$  by the pullback

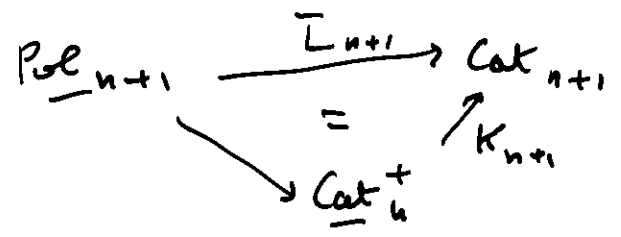


(which defines also  $\underline{Pol}_{n+1}, \dots$ )

where  $\underline{Pol}_n \longrightarrow \underline{Gph}_n$  is factorized like this



And a second factorization gives  $\bar{L}_{n+1}$



② LAWVERE THEORY  
as  
2-MONOIDS

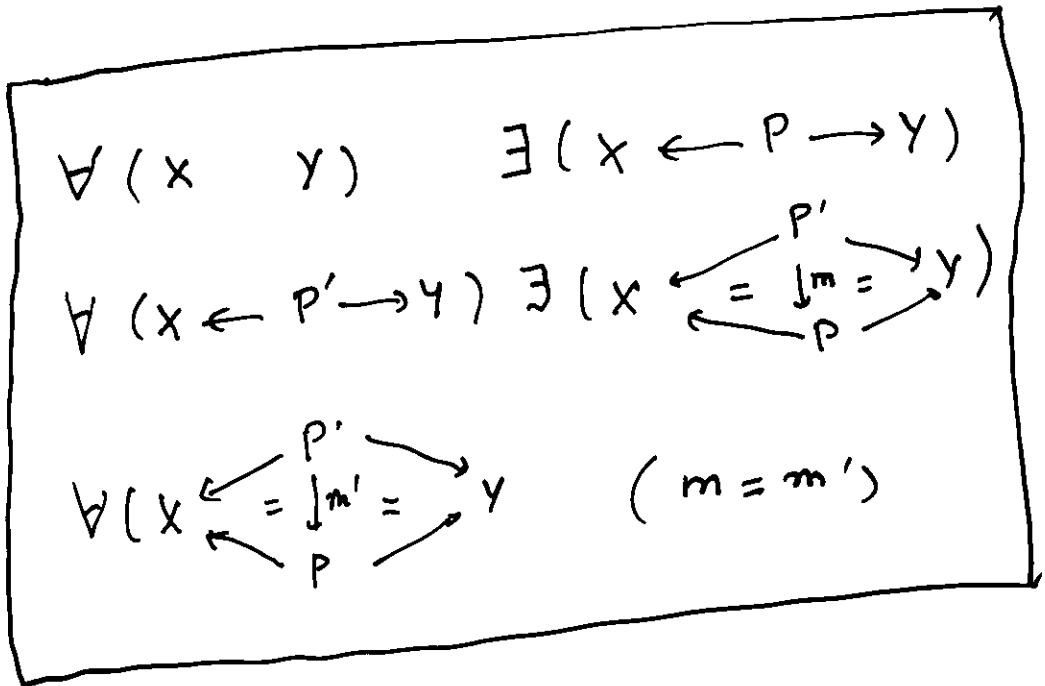
In an equational system,  
 such that Lawvere theory  
 presented by a signature and  
equational axioms, the rewriting  
 of terms

is not,  
 a priori, a rewriting in a  
 polygraph, because:

When we construct terms,  
 we use cartesian products  
 and their universal property.

Recall the definition

A cartesian category is a category which admits binary cartesian product and final object, that is to say, which satisfy this axiom:



and an analogous for final object.

This is far of equational axiom like

$\forall \dots \quad (m = m')$

This definition of cartesian category is not suitable here for two reasons:

1) This definition is given by property and not by data

2) The axiom is far to be equationnal ( $\forall \exists \forall \exists \dots$ ).

We have showed [Burroni 93] that it is possible to eliminate universal property for the benefit of an equationnal system in all cartesian category.

Then, we reformulate:

A cartesian category is a category  $\mathcal{C}$  with following data:

(i) A monoidal structure on  $\mathcal{C}$ :

$$\mathcal{C} = (\mathcal{C}, \cdot, \mathbb{1})$$

(for simplicity, we will suppose that the monoidal structures are always stricts)

(ii) We have two natural transformations  $\epsilon, \delta$ .

Precisely, this gives, for all objects  $X, Y$  of  $\mathcal{C}$ , two morphisms

$$1 \longleftarrow \epsilon_X \quad X \xrightarrow{\delta_X} X^2 = X \times X$$

(and their are natural in  $X$ ).

and

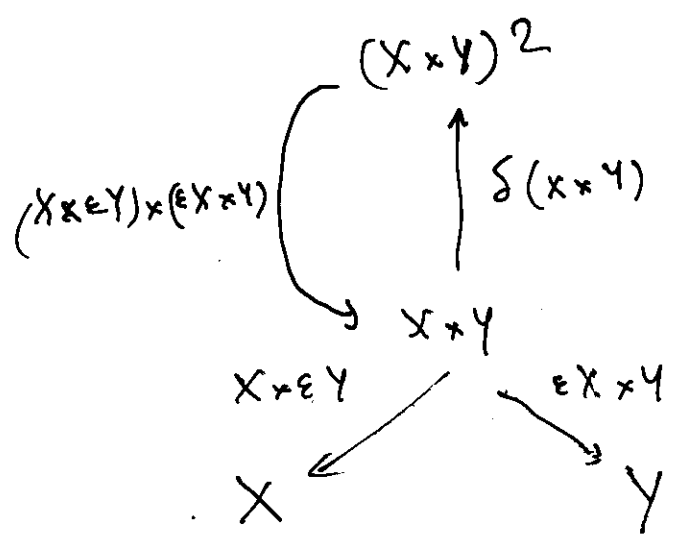
(iii) We must satisfy two equations

(\*)  $\boxed{\varepsilon 1 = \text{id}(1)}$

(\*\*\*) for all  $X, Y$  in  $\mathcal{C}$

$\boxed{(X \times \varepsilon Y) \times (\varepsilon X \times Y) \circ \delta(X \times Y) = \text{id}(X \times Y)}$

$(X \times \varepsilon Y : X \times Y \rightarrow X, \varepsilon X \times Y : X \times Y \rightarrow Y$   
 are the canonical projection of the cartesian product  $X \times Y$ )

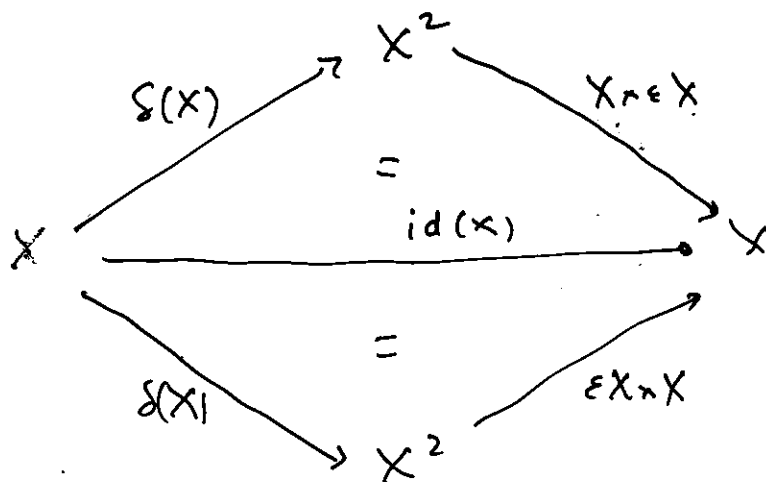
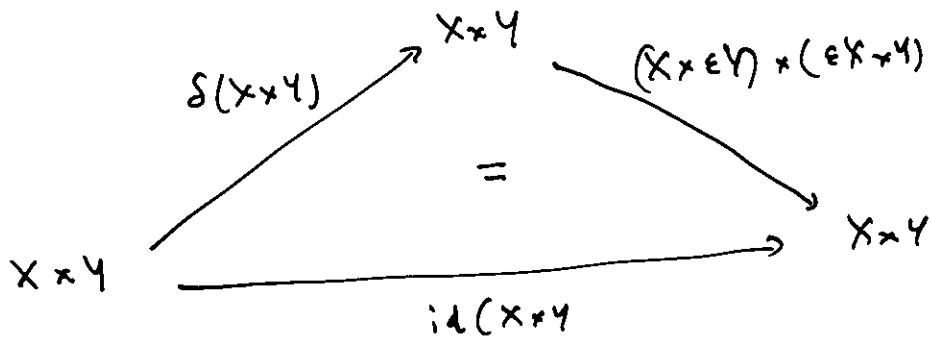


We deduce of this, for all  $X$  in  $\mathcal{C}$ :

$$\boxed{\begin{aligned} (X \times \varepsilon X) \circ \delta X &= \text{id}(X) \\ (\varepsilon X \times X) \circ \delta X &= \text{id}(X) \end{aligned}}$$

[It is a remark of Y. Lafont that this formulas, primary considered as axioms, can be deduced of  $(\ast\ast)$  for  $Y=1$  or  $X=1$ ]

In diagrammatic form



Now, a Lawvere theory  
 is a cartesian category  $T$   
 in which there is a generating  
 object  $\underline{S}$  of  $T$

That is to say, every object  
 of  $T$  is of the form

$$\underline{S}^n = \underline{S} \times \underline{S} \times \dots \times \underline{S} \quad (n \in \mathbb{N})$$

(in particular  $\underline{S}^0 = 1$ ,  $\underline{S}^1 = \underline{S}$ )

A  $T$ -algebra is a  
 functor

$$\theta : T \longrightarrow \underline{E}m$$

which preserves products,

$A = \theta(\underline{S})$  is the underlying set  
 and we write  $\theta = (A, \theta)$ .

But, with our new point of view on cartesianity, we can consider

Lauvere theory as a  
 strict monoidal category  
 with a cartesian structure

$$T = (T, 1, x, \varepsilon, \delta)$$

The same is true for the category of sets

$$\underline{E_{\text{sets}}}(T, 1, x, \varepsilon, \delta),$$

if we consider — as usually do all algebraists (classical algebraists) — the monoidal law  $x$  as like if there strict.

A  $T$ -algebra is reduced to as a homomorphism of 2-monoid

$$\theta : (T, 1, x) \rightarrow (\underline{E_{\text{sets}}}, 1, x)$$

(2-monoid = strict monoidal categorie)

We can now state [Burroni 93]:

A Lawvere theory  $T$  finitely  
presented by an equational  
 System  $(\Omega, E)$  can be equivalently  
 presented by a finite 3-polygraph

$$P = P(\Omega, E)$$

$\Omega = ($  family of operations  
 of the form  $\alpha : \underline{s}^n \rightarrow \underline{s} )$

$E = ($  family of equations  
 of the form  $\lambda = \lambda'$   
 where  $\lambda, \lambda' : \underline{s}^m \rightrightarrows \underline{s}$   
 are derived terms  
 of  $\Omega )$

Before explaining general cases, I want to illustrate with the simplest case:

$$T_{\text{set}} = \text{Lawvere } \underline{\text{theory of sets}}$$

that is to say:

- no operation  $\Omega = \emptyset$
- no equation  $E = \emptyset$ .

This is the initial Lawvere theory.

But the associated 3-polygraph

$$P = P(\emptyset, \emptyset)$$

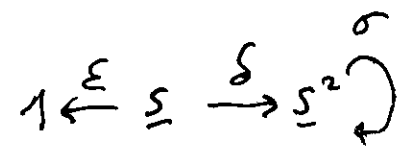
is not empty.

generator of  $T_{\text{set}}$  :

$$P_0 = \{*\}$$

$$P_1 = \{\varepsilon\}$$

$$P_2 = \{\varepsilon, \delta, \sigma\}$$



And  $P_3 = \{10 \text{ equations}\}$

that J will give further.

In fact we have an isomorphism

$$\boxed{T_{\text{set}} \cong \mathcal{F}^{\text{op}}}$$

where  $\mathcal{F}$  is the category of finite set or, rather, category of integer where, for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$

We set

$$n = \{0, 1, \dots, n-1\}$$

$\mathcal{F}$  with coproduct is a strict monoidal category:

$$\mathcal{F} = (\mathcal{F}, 0, +)$$

where  $0$  is initial object.

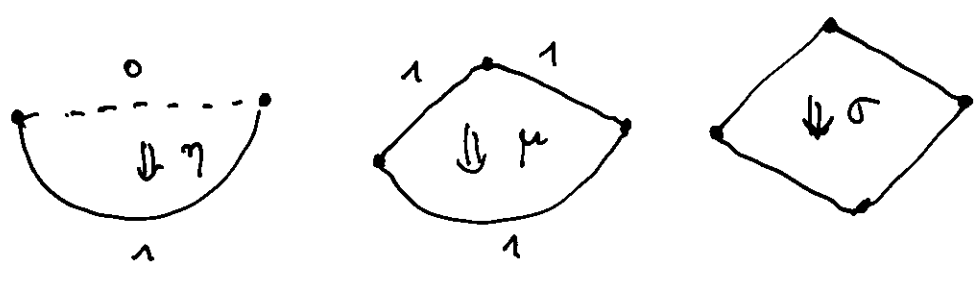
Lemma  $\mathcal{F}$ , as 2-monoid (= 2-category with one 0-cell:  $*$ ), is finitely generated by three 2-cells:

$$\eta: 0 \rightarrow 1, \quad \mu: 2 \rightarrow 1, \quad \sigma: 2 \rightarrow 2$$
$$\mu(0) = \mu(1) = 0 \qquad \sigma(0) = 1$$
$$\qquad \qquad \qquad \sigma(1) = 0$$

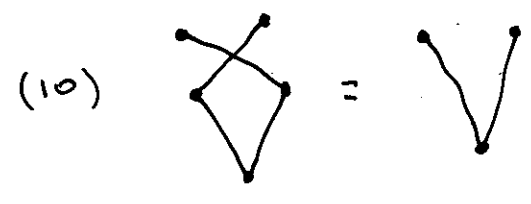
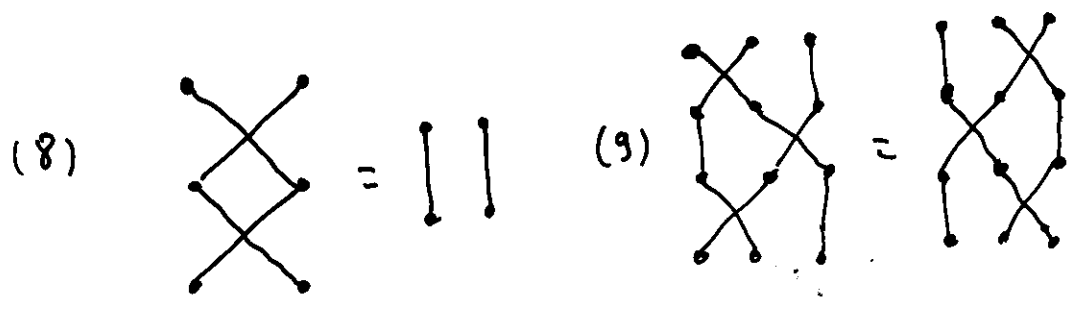
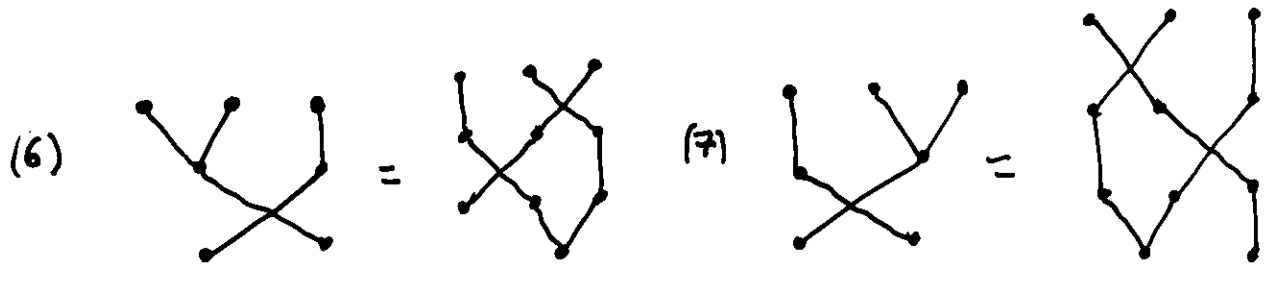
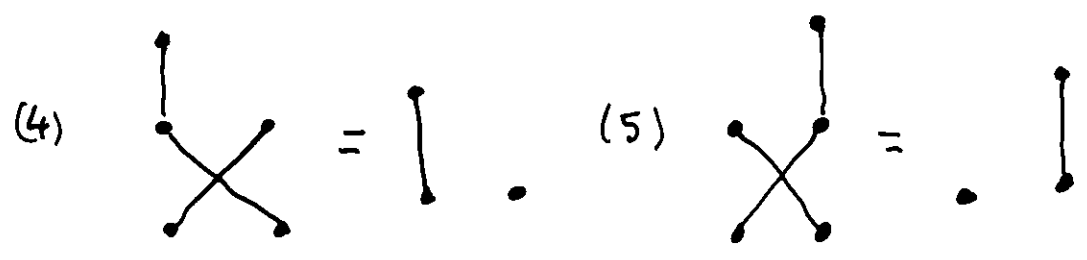
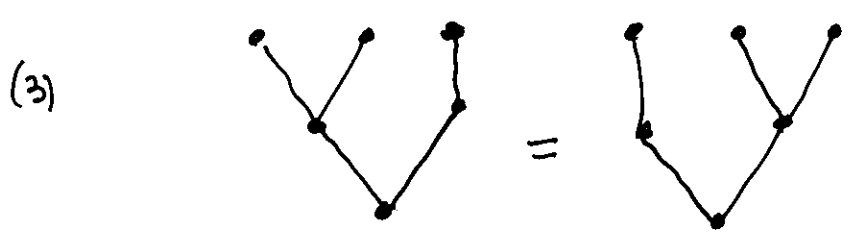
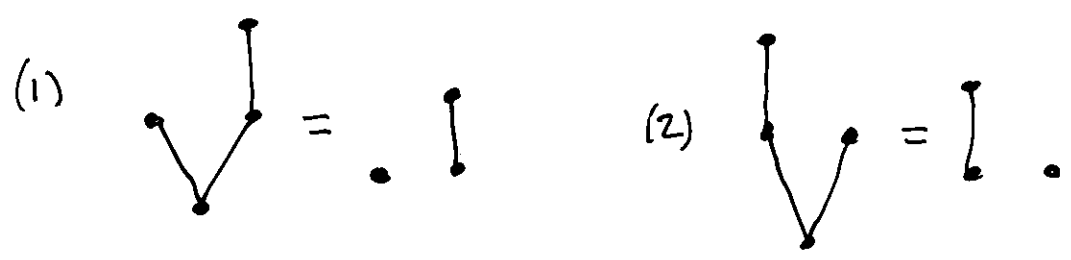
Symbolically

$$\eta = (\cdot) \quad , \quad \mu = \left( \begin{array}{c} \diagup \quad \diagdown \\ \vee \end{array} \right) \quad , \quad \sigma = \left( \begin{array}{c} \diagup \quad \diagdown \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \end{array} \right)$$

or, in polygraph style



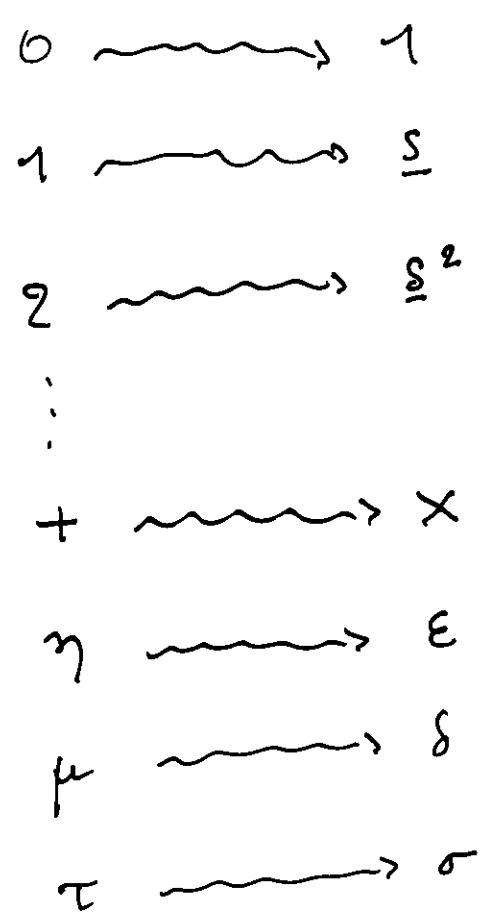
Now, Here is the promise 10 equations  
(But Yves Lafont has given  
System more compacted)



When we change

$$\mathcal{F} \text{ into } \mathcal{F}^{op} = \mathcal{T}_{set}$$

we change vocabulary



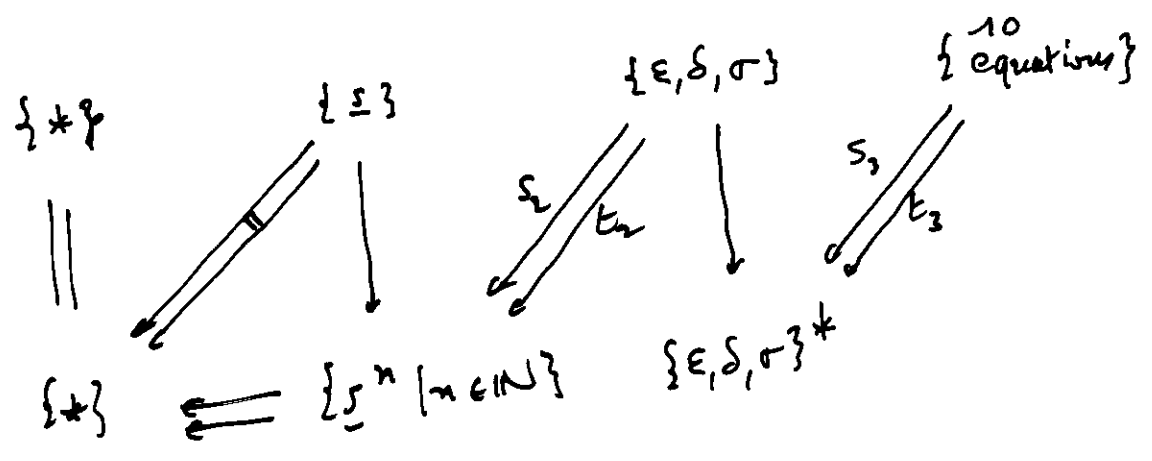
and the 1-composition (i.e. composition with contact of 1-dimension) is multiplicatively noted

$$p \xrightarrow{u} q \xrightarrow{v} r = p \xrightarrow{vu} r$$

Lemma \*

$$T_{set} = (F^{op}, 1, \times)$$

as 2-monoid is finitely presented  
by the 3-polygraph  $P(\phi, \phi)$ :



The 4-dimensional term is  
intended for quotients.

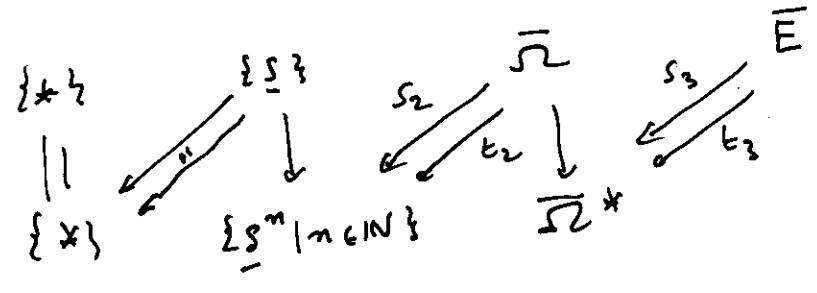
Remark. By convention

$$s_3(\lambda = \lambda') = \lambda \quad t_3(\lambda = \lambda') = \lambda$$

for every equation  $\lambda = \lambda'$ .

Now, we consider a general equational system (finite)  $(\Omega, E)$ . The

4-polygraph has the form



with

- for all  $\alpha : \underline{S}^n \rightarrow \underline{S}$  in  $\Omega$ ,  
 we have  $\alpha \in \bar{\Omega}$  with  $s_2(\alpha) = \underline{S}^n, t_2(\alpha) = \underline{S}$ .

-  $\varepsilon, \delta, \sigma \in \bar{\Omega}$  with  $s_2(\varepsilon) = \underline{S}, t_2(\varepsilon) = 1,$   
 $s_2(\delta) = \underline{S}, t_2(\delta) = \underline{S}^2,$   
 $s_2(\sigma) = \underline{S}^2 = t_2(\sigma).$

- for all  $\lambda = \lambda' : \underline{S}^n \Rightarrow \underline{S}$  in  $E$   
 we have  $(\lambda = \lambda') \in \bar{\Omega}$  with

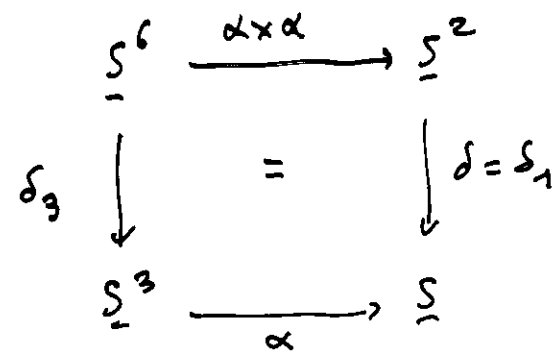
$$s_2(\lambda = \lambda') = \lambda$$

$$t_2(\lambda = \lambda') = \lambda'$$

- The "10 equations", or rather their duals, are in  $\bar{E}$  with evident source and target.

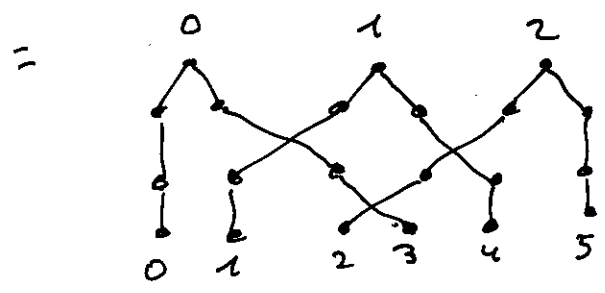
- And  $3k$  equations (where  $k = \#(\Omega)$ )  
 to ensure that the 3 2-cells  
 $\epsilon, \delta, \sigma$   
 are extended in natural transformations.

Example: for an operation  $\alpha: \underline{S^3} \rightarrow \underline{S}$ ,  
 the square



is commutative, where

$$\delta_3 = (\underline{S^2} \times \sigma \times \underline{S^2}) (\underline{S} \times \sigma^2 \times \underline{S}) \delta^3$$



(see [Bu 93])

③ 2-Lawvere theories  
as  
3-monoids

We can go further in the description of equational structures of higher dimensions presented as n-monoids.

Before, let us return to a classical example of Lawvere theory which will enlighten our generalisation.

let

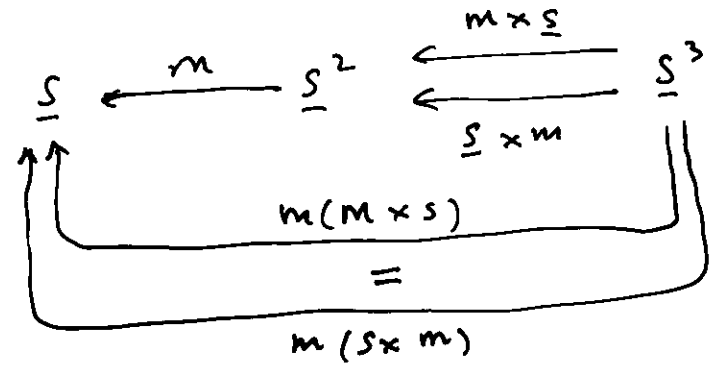
$$T_{\text{mon}} = \underline{\text{Theory of monoid}}$$

be the simplest example.

We have two operation

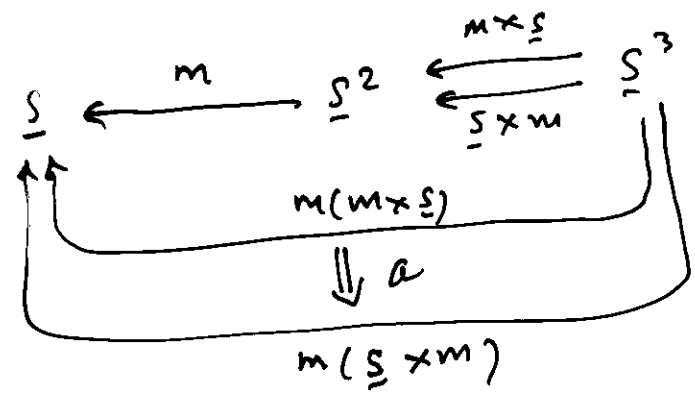
$$1 \xrightarrow{e} \underline{S} \xleftarrow{m} \underline{S}^2$$

and three equation, for example the associativity

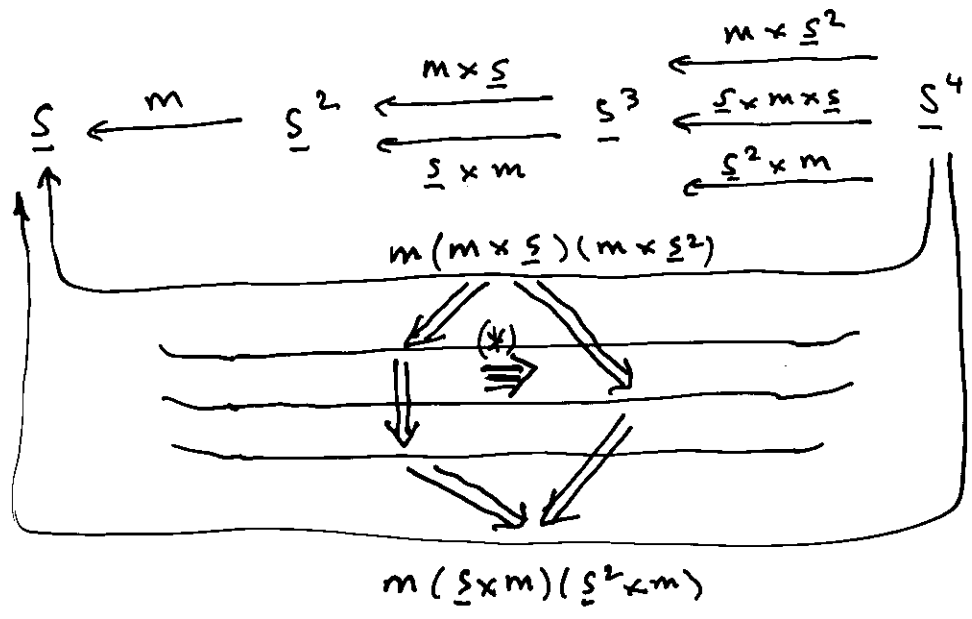


If we replace this axiom by a

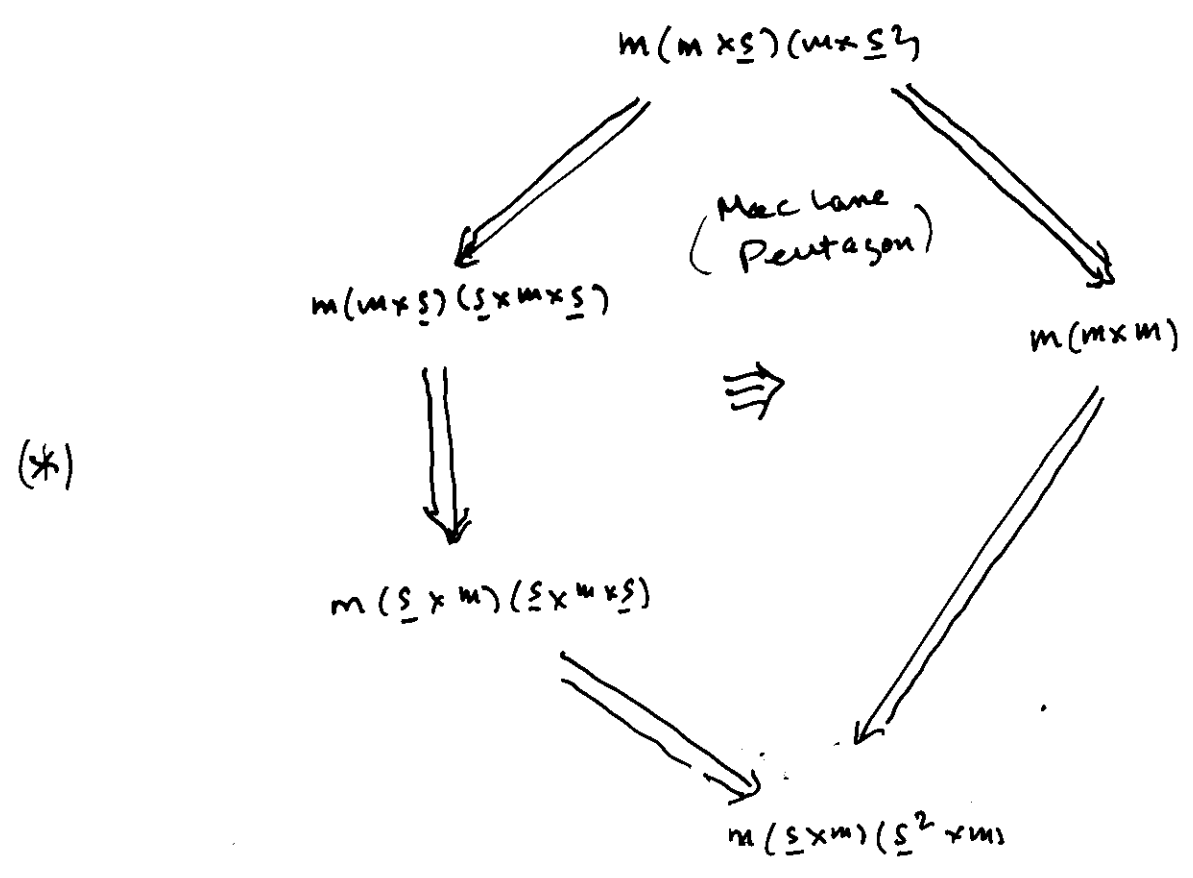
3-cell



which not collapses, but is submits to a coherence axiom expressed by a 4-cell ("Mac Lane pentagon"):



In detail



Remark, The  $i$ -cells in this diagram are, in fact,  $(i+1)$ -cells in the 3-musoid.

With this new data,  $T_{\text{mon}}$  gives a 3-monoid.

$$T_{\text{lax-mon}}$$

which is the 2-Lawvere theory of lax-monoidal category.

But, to make sense this must be realized not in  $\underline{\text{Ens}} = (\underline{\text{Ens}}, 1, \times)$  but in the cartesian 2-category

$$\underline{\text{Cat}} = (\underline{\text{Cat}}, 1, \times)$$

There is many other examples  
of 2-Lawvere theory

- monoidal symmetric categories
- " braided "
- Cartesian categories
- 
- 
- 

But, this is nothing less  
than a beginning.

## REFERENCES

[Bu 93] Higher dimensional word problem  
with application to equational logic.

Theor. Comp. Sci. 115, 43-62, Elsevier 1993

[Bu 02] Automata and Grammars  
of  
higher dimensions

(manuscript) Ecole thématique : Marseille,  
Luminy. Feb. 2002

<http://www.math.jussieu.fr/~burroni/>