

# New reasoning techniques for monoidal algebra

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DEPARTMENT OF  
**COMPUTER  
SCIENCE**



# Algebra and rewriting

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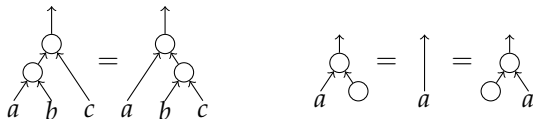
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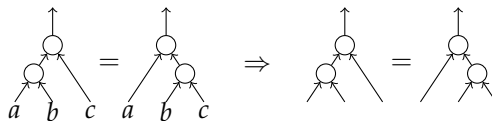
$$(a \cdot b) \cdot c \longrightarrow a \cdot (b \cdot c) \quad a \cdot e \longrightarrow a \quad e \cdot a \longrightarrow a$$

- It is also possible to write these equations as trees:



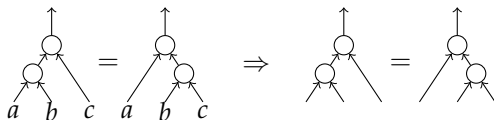
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- Since these equations are (left- and right-) linear in the free variables, we can drop them:

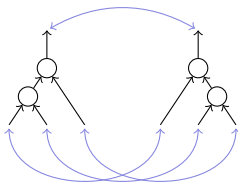


## Algebra and rewriting

- Since these equations are (left- and right-) linear in the free variables, we can drop them:



- The role of variables is replaced by the notion that the LHS and RHS have a *shared boundary*



## Diagram substitution

- One could apply the rule “ $(a \cdot b) \cdot c \rightarrow a \cdot (b \cdot c)$ ” using the usual “instantiate, match, replace” style:

$$w \cdot ((x \cdot (y \cdot e)) \cdot z) \quad \rightarrow \quad w \cdot (x \cdot ((y \cdot e) \cdot z))$$

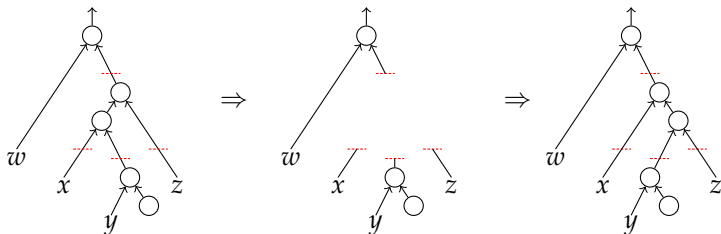


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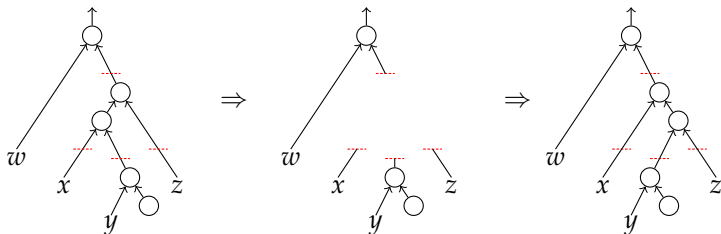


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- This treats inputs and outputs symmetrically

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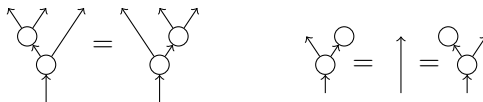
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- E.g. *comonoids*, which consist of a *comultiplication* operation  $\circlearrowleft$  and a *counit*  $\circlearrowright$  satisfying:

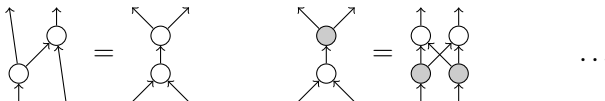


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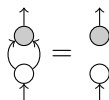


- Algebra and coalgebra can interact in many interesting ways:



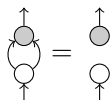
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- As before, we can use graphical identities to perform substitutions, but on graphs, rather than trees

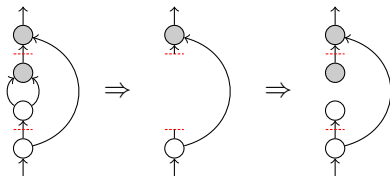


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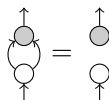
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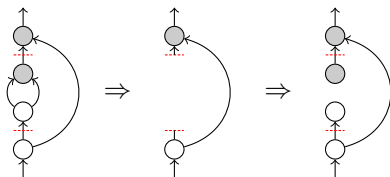


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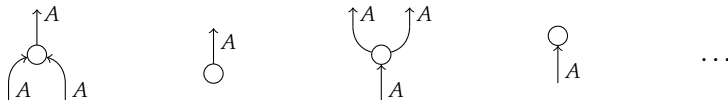
- For example:



- This style of rewriting works for any (co)algebraic structure in a *monoidal category*, a.k.a. *monoidal algebras*.

## Algebraic structures in SMCs

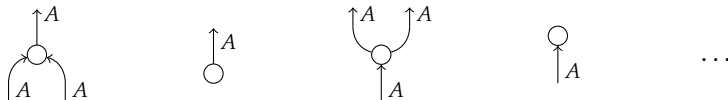
- A (single-sorted) monoidal algebra  $\mathcal{A}$  consists of an object  $A$  and a set of morphisms whose inputs/outputs have type  $A$ :



called the *generators* of  $\mathcal{A}$ ,

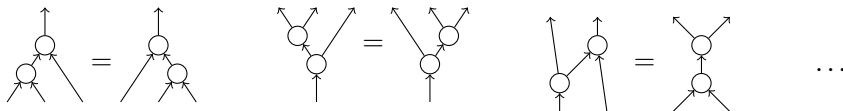
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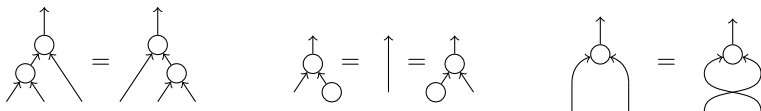
- and some equations:



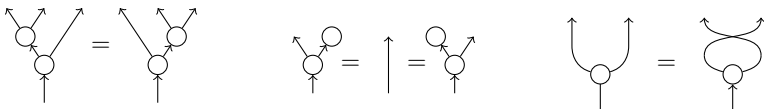
## Example: Frobenius algebras

- A *commutative Frobenius algebra* consists of a tuple  $(A, \overset{\circlearrowleft}{\circlearrowright}, \overset{\circlearrowright}{\circlearrowleft}, \overset{\circlearrowright}{\circlearrowright}, \overset{\circlearrowleft}{\circlearrowleft})$  such that:

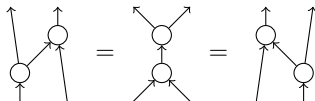
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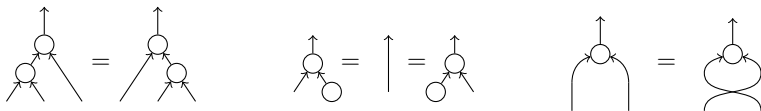
- The *Frobenius law* is satisfied:



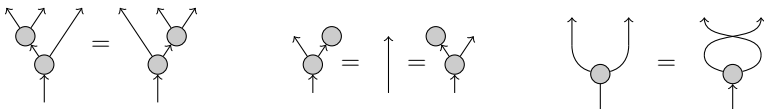
## Example: Bialgebras

- A *(bi)commutative bialgebra* consists of a tuple  $(A, \overset{\uparrow}{\circlearrowleft}, \overset{\uparrow}{\circlearrowright}, \overset{\uparrow}{\circlearrowright}, \overset{\uparrow}{\circlearrowleft})$  such that:

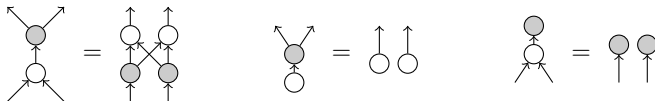
- $(A, \overset{\uparrow}{\circlearrowleft}, \overset{\uparrow}{\circlearrowright})$  forms a monoid:



- $(A, \overset{\uparrow}{\circlearrowright}, \overset{\uparrow}{\circlearrowleft})$  forms a comonoid:



- The *bialgebra laws* are satisfied:



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  1. Define a theory category  $\mathbb{T}$  whose objects are natural numbers (i.e. arities) and:

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- Syntactic* PROPs have as morphisms diagrams of generators, modulo some set of diagram equations. Deciding equality  $\Leftrightarrow$  solving a word problem.
- Semantic* PROPs have morphisms with a concrete description (functions, relations, finite matrices, etc.). Equality is usually (easily) decidable.

## Example: Commutative monoids are functions

- Let  $\mathbb{F}$  be the PROP whose morphisms  $f : m \rightarrow n$  are functions between finite sets:

$$f : \{0, \dots, m-1\} \rightarrow \{0, \dots, n-1\}$$

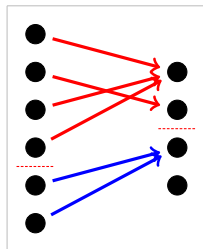
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- $f \otimes g : m + m' \rightarrow n + n'$  is given by disjoint union of functions:

$$(f \otimes g)(i) = \begin{cases} f(i) & \text{if } i < m \\ g(i - m) + n & \text{if } i \geq m \end{cases} \quad \rightsquigarrow$$



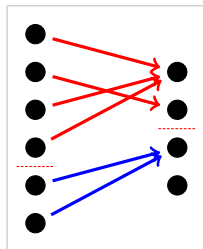
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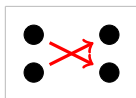
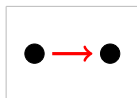
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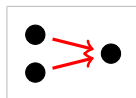
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- This whole category is generated by identities, swaps, and a single commutative monoid:



:=

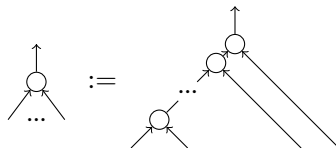


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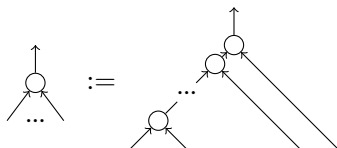
- Pretty easy to see, just consider  $n$ -ary trees of  $\begin{array}{c} \uparrow \\ \circ \\ \swarrow \quad \searrow \end{array}$ :



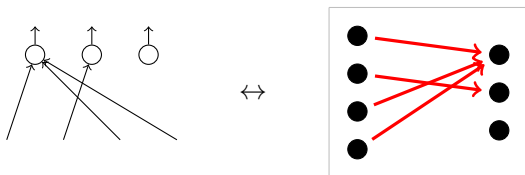


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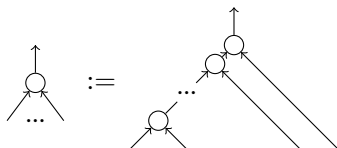


- Then, any diagram of  $\begin{array}{c} \uparrow \\ \circ \\ \swarrow \quad \searrow \\ \circ \quad \circ \end{array}$  and  $\begin{array}{c} \uparrow \\ \circ \end{array}$  can be put in normal form, and those normal forms are classified by functions:

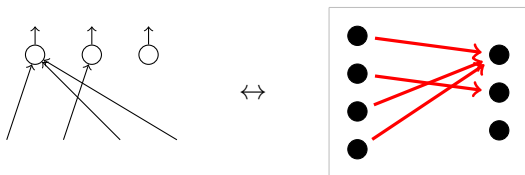


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- Similarly,  $\mathbb{F}^{\text{op}}$  is the PROP for cocommutative comonoids.

# Distributive laws

- What happens when we combine two monoidal algebras, e.g.

$(\begin{array}{c} \uparrow \\ \circlearrowleft \\ \downarrow \end{array}, \hat{\circlearrowleft})$  and  $(\begin{array}{c} \nwarrow \\ \circlearrowright \\ \nearrow \end{array}, \circlearrowright)$ ?

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- ...not much! Until we add a distributive law.
- This is a distributive law of monads in the bicategory of monoids in spans of categories *...or something like that...*

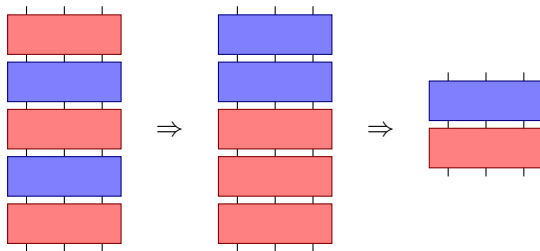


## Distributive laws

- More concretely, give us the means to move two pieces of structure past each other:



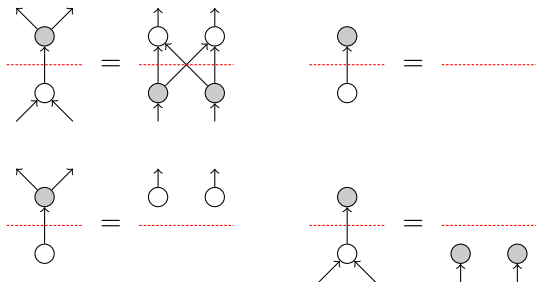
- So, normal forms for each of the individual theories become normal forms for the composed theory:





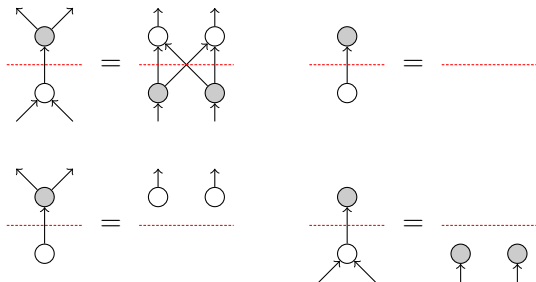
## Example: Bialgebras are matrices

- Bialgebras consist of a monoid  $(\underset{\uparrow}{\circlearrowleft}, \underset{\uparrow}{\circlearrowright})$ , a comonoid  $(\overset{\uparrow}{\circlearrowright}, \overset{\uparrow}{\circlearrowleft})$ , and a distributive law:

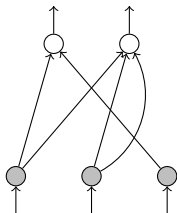


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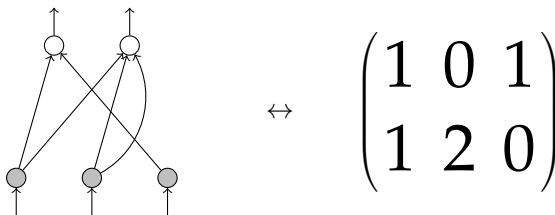


- So, normal forms look like this:



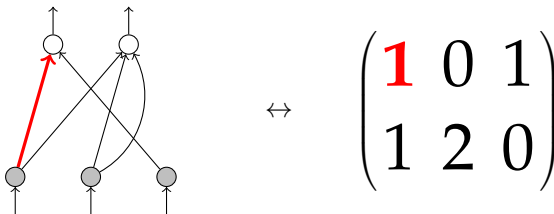
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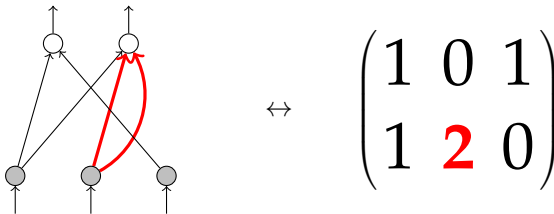
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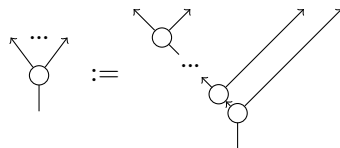
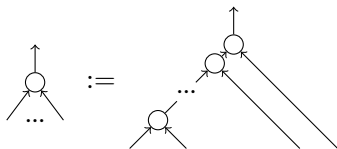
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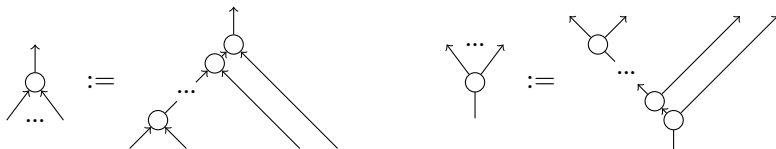
## Diagrams with repetition

- Many of these theorems have something in common: they deal with repeated structures, like **trees** and **cotrees**:

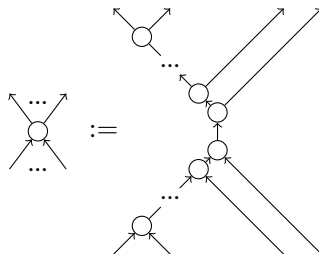


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- ...and tree/cotrees, a.k.a. **spiders**:



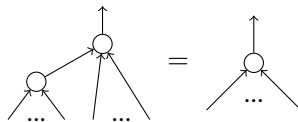
# Diagrams with repetition

- Individual rules can be by *meta-rules*



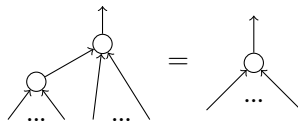
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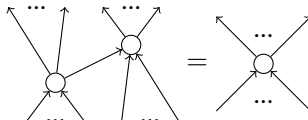


## Diagrams with repetition

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- Similarly, the rules of commutative Frobenius algebras are expressed by letting spiders fuse:

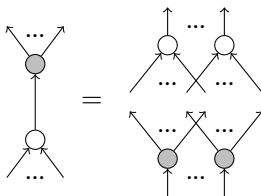


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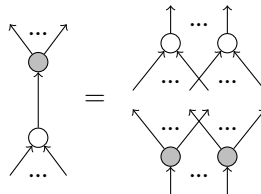
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- These three examples have something in common: they rely on your brain, and some “blah blah” to fill in the “...”

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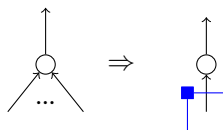
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- One answer is the *!-box language*

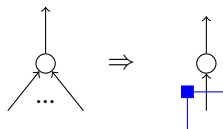
# !-boxes

- We can formalise families of diagrams (with variable-arity generators) using some graphical syntax:

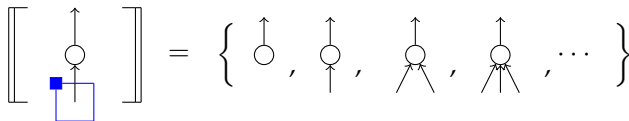


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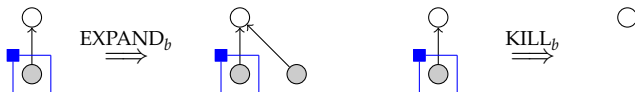


- The blue boxes are called !-boxes. A graph with !-boxes is called a !-graph. Can be interpreted as a set of concrete graphs:



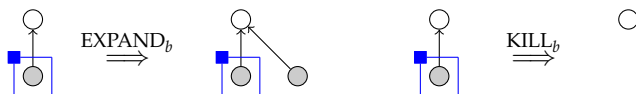
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- The diagrams represented by a !-graph are all those obtained by performing EXPAND and KILL operations on !-boxes

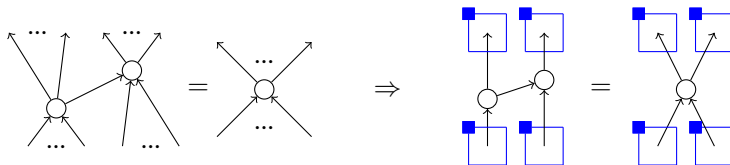


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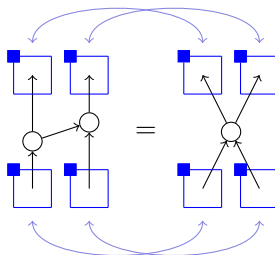


- We can also introduce equations involving !-boxes:



# !-boxes: matching

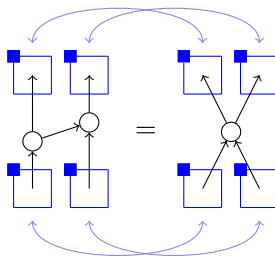
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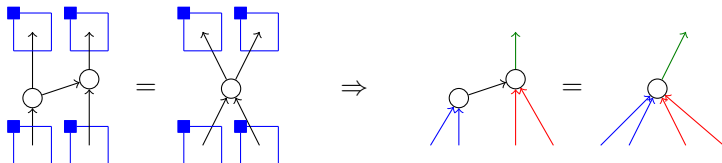
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- EXPAND and KILL operations applied to both sides simultaneously to instantiate a rule.

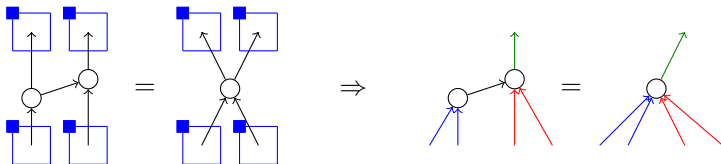
# !-graph to concrete graph rewriting

- Rewriting concrete diagrams: find an instantiation of the rule such that the LHS matches the diagram:

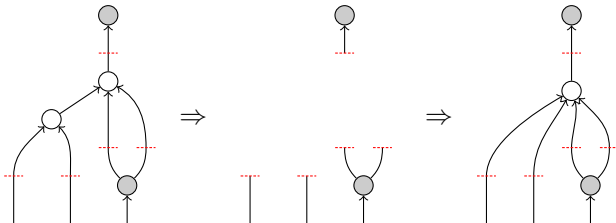


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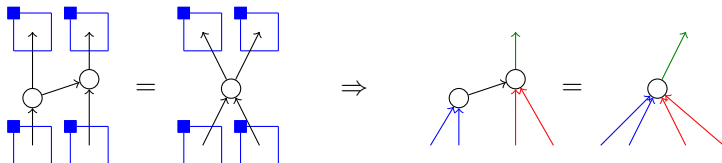


- Then apply it as usual:

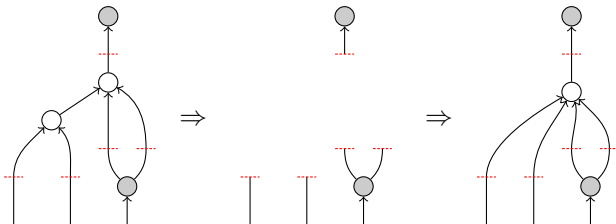


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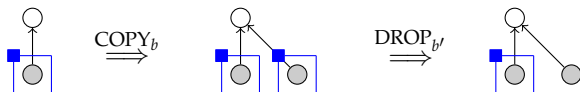
- Sound and complete, in the absence of “wild” !-boxes

# !-graph to !-graph rewriting

- The real power comes from applying !-box rewrite rules on !-graphs themselves.

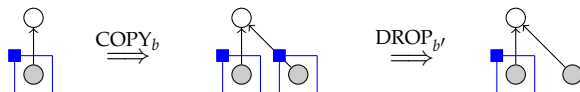
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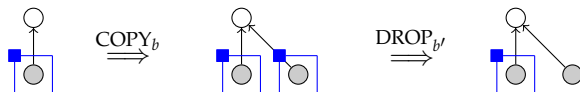
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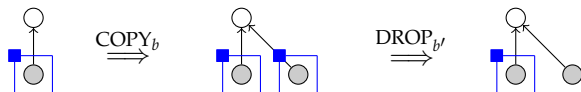


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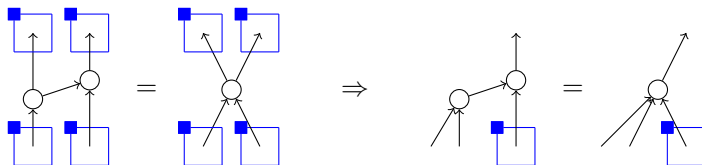
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- These operations are sound w.r.t. concrete instantiation, i.e. they don't produce any new concrete instances.
- Now, rewriting !-graphs is just the same as rewriting concrete graphs, with one extra restriction:
- If any part of an edge is in a !-box, **we must cut through it.**

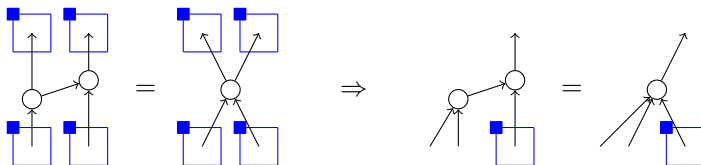
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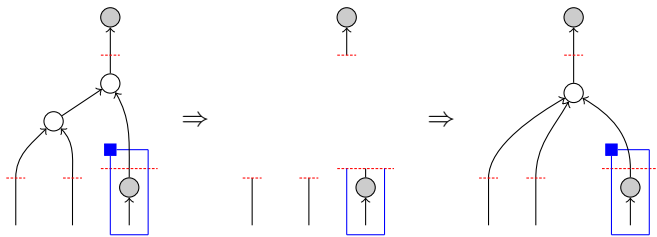


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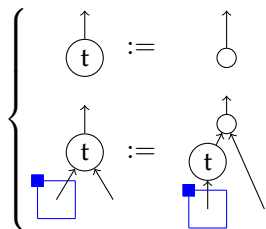


- Then apply:



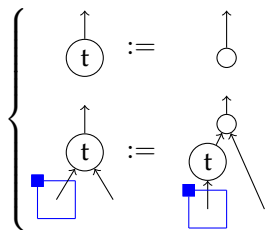
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- And, as usual, recursive definition goes hand-in-hand with inductive proof...

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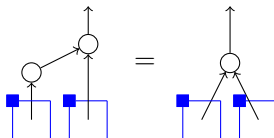
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- By (normal) induction over proofs involving concrete graphs, we can prove admissibility.



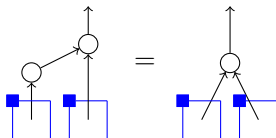
# Induction principle for !-graphs

- Using !-box induction, we can now prove standard things like:

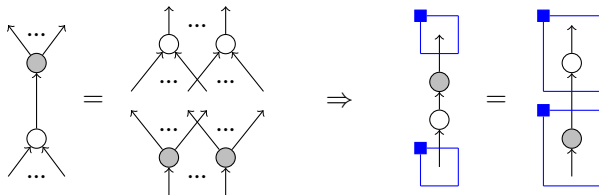


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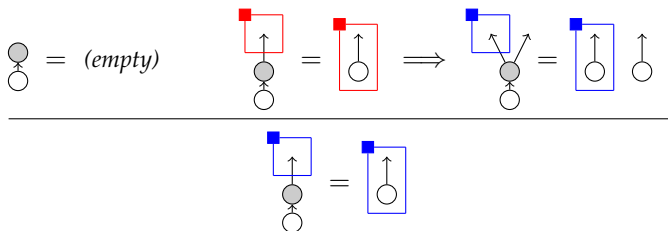


- But this just looks like something in term-land. We can actually prove much more interesting things like:



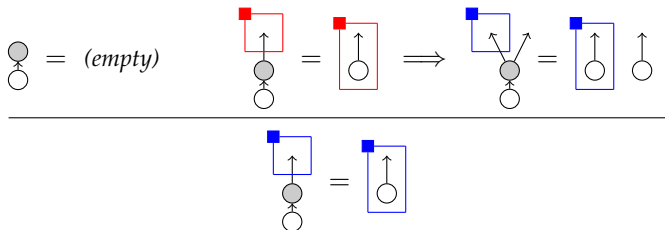
# Induction example

- First apply induction to get two sub-goals:

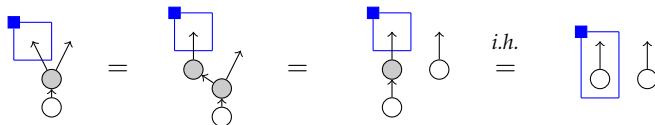


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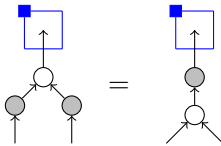


- The base case is an assumption, step case by rewriting:



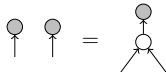
# Induction Example

## Lemma

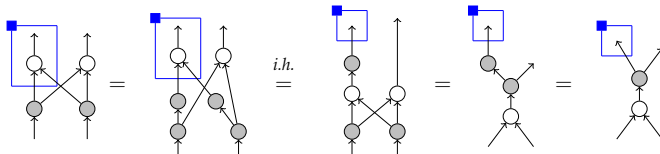


## Proof.

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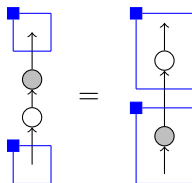


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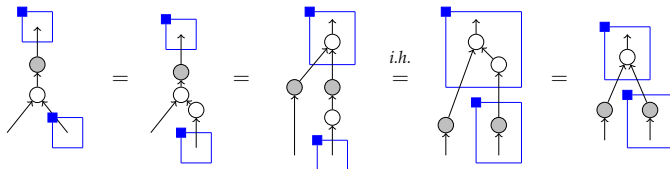
## Theorem



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**Base:** (by lemma)

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# Interacting bialgebras

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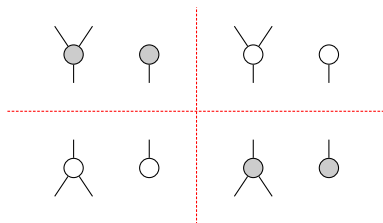
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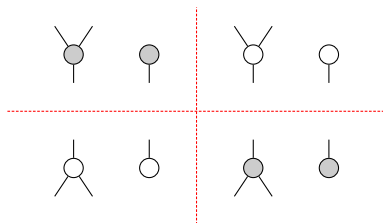
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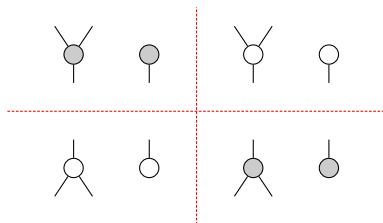
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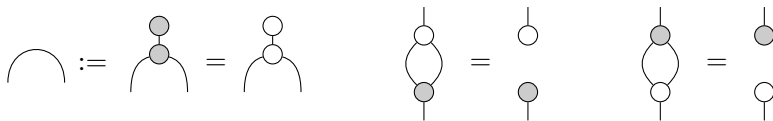
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- This theory is known as  $\mathbb{I}\mathbb{B}$ , or the phase-free fragment of the ZX-calculus.
- It pops up all over the place: signal-flow networks, Petri nets with boundaries, quantum circuits...

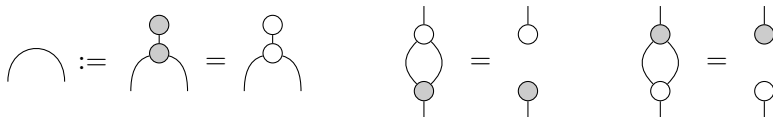
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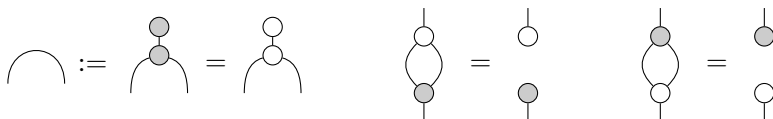
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- Last year, Sobocinski and Bonchi showed (using non-rewriting techniques) that the PROP for this thing is  $\text{VecRel}_{\mathbb{Z}_2}$ , the category of *linear relations*.

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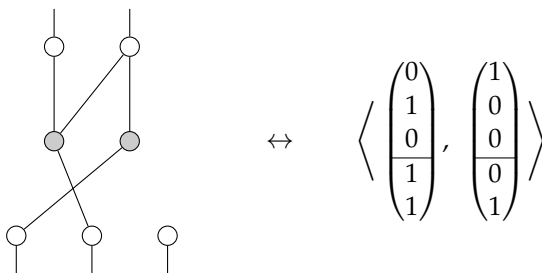
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  - **white dots** are place-holders
  - **grey dots** are vectors spanning the subspace

## Lets see how this works...

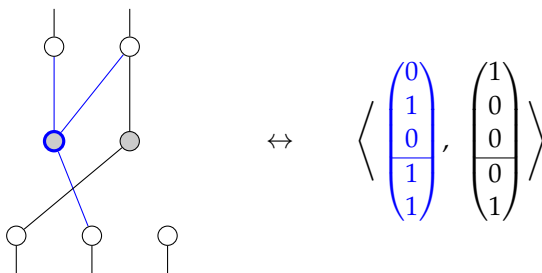
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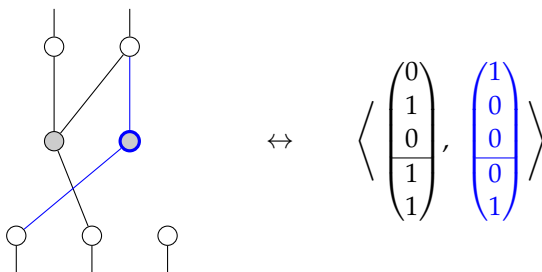
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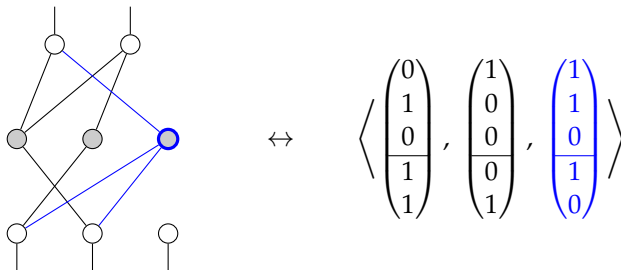
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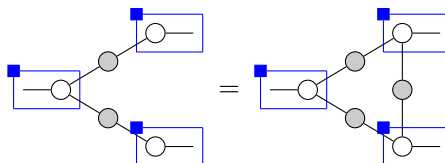
## Lets see how this works...

- However, this is not unique. We can always add or remove a vector that is the sum of two other spanning vectors and get the same space:



## Addition is a !-box rule

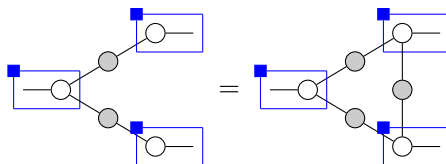
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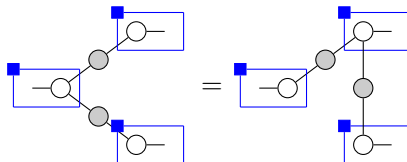


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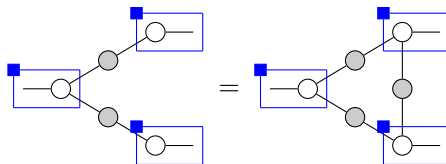


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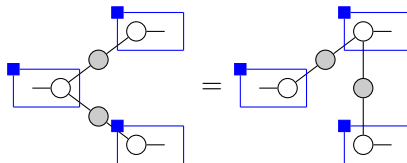


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- Note this rule decreases the arity of the white dot on the left by 1.

## A reduction strategy...

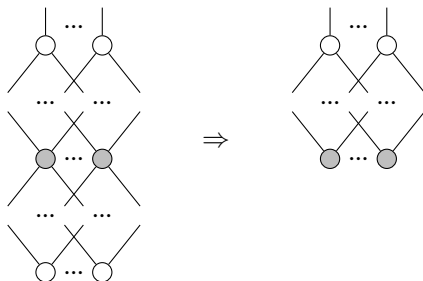
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- First, write diagram as a layer of **interior white** dots, then **interior grey** dots, then **boundary white** dots.

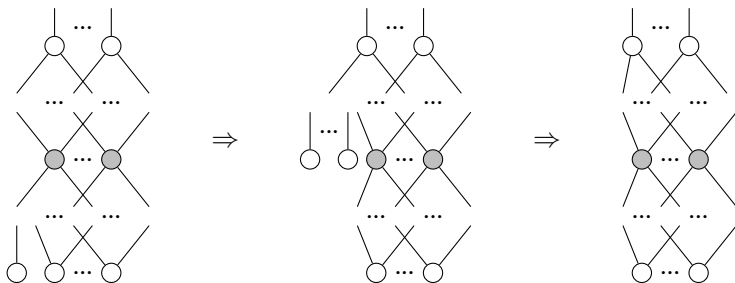
## A reduction strategy...

- This gives a reduction strategy for **IB**-diagrams.
- First, write diagram as a layer of **interior white** dots, then **interior grey** dots, then **boundary white** dots.
- To get to pseudo-normal form, we just need to get rid of the interior white dots:



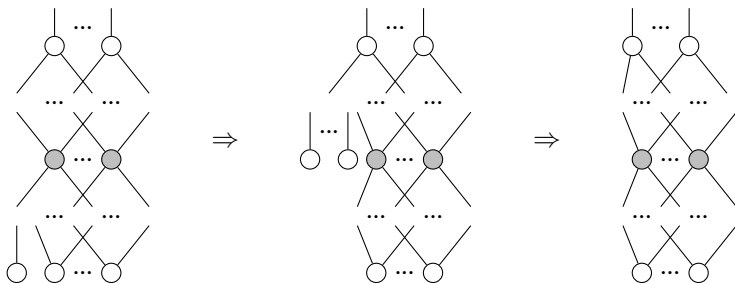
## A reduction strategy...

- We do this by applying a rule to reduce the arity of a single white dot, until the arity is 1, then copy through:



## A reduction strategy...

- We do this by applying a rule to reduce the arity of a single white dot, until the arity is 1, then copy through:



- Time to fire up Quantomatic!**

# Thanks!

- Joint work with Lucas Dixon, Alex Merry, Ross Duncan, Vladimir Zamdzhiev, David Quick, and others
- See: [quantomatic.github.io](https://quantomatic.github.io)