

Why point-freeness matters

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A “rendez vous” workshop

Three institutions

- CWI
- UM
- UNL

Three towns

- Amsterdam
- Braga
- Lisbon

Three “cultures”?

Workshop “motto”

Share R&D experiences and learn more about each other

On the UM “flavour”

Who and how

- TFM — THEORY AND FORMAL METHODS GROUP
- Emphasis on “correct by construction”
- So-called *pointfree (PF) flavour* . . .

When and why

- John Backus pointed the way (1978) — FP and parallelism
- JNO’s PhD thesis (1984) — FP for dataflow reasoning
- JMV’s f-NDP notation (1987) — nondeterministic FP for software design
- Bird-Meertens-Backhouse approach (now) — do it by calculation in the PF-style

However

- Pointfree? functions? relations? monads? coalgebras?

A notation conflict

Purpose of formal modelling

Identify *properties* of real-world situations which, once expressed in maths, become abstract *models* which can be queried and reasoned about.

This often raises a kind of

Notation conflict

between

- *descriptiveness* — ie., adequacy to describe domain-specific objects and properties, and
- *compactness* — as required by algebraic reasoning and solution calculation.

Trend for notation economy

Well-known throughout the history of maths — a kind of “natural language **implosion**” — particularly visible in the syncopated phase (16c), eg.

.40.ṽ.2.ce. son yguales a .20.co

(P. Nunes, Coimbra, 1567) for nowadays $40 + 2x^2 = 20x$, or

B 3 in A quad - D plano in A + A cubo æquatur Z solido

(F. Viète, Paris, 1591) for nowadays $3BA^2 - DA + A^3 = Z$

Back to the school desk

(where it all started for any of us...)

The problem

My three children were born at a 3 year interval rate. Altogether, they are as old as me. I am 48. How old are they?

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The model

$$x + (x + 3) + (x + 6) = 48$$

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The model

$$x + (x + 3) + (x + 6) = 48$$

The calculation

$$3x + 9 = 48$$

$$\equiv \quad \{ \text{“al-djabr” rule} \}$$

$$3x = 48 - 9$$

$$\equiv \quad \{ \text{“al-hatt” rule} \}$$

$$x = 16 - 3$$

Back to the school desk

The solution

$$x = 13$$

$$x + 3 = 16$$

$$x + 6 = 19$$

Comments

- Simple problem
- Simple notation
- Questions: *“al-djabr” rule ? “al-hatt” rule ?*

Back to the school desk

The solution

$$x = 13$$

$$x + 3 = 16$$

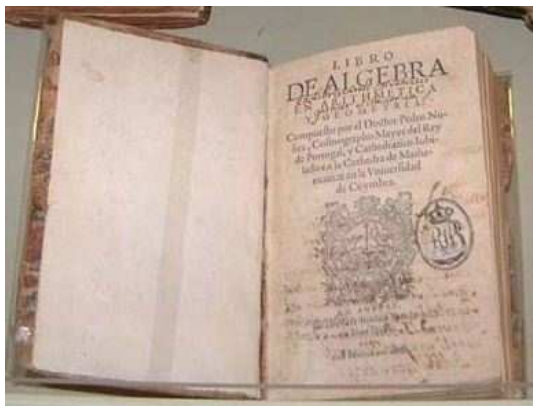
$$x + 6 = 19$$

Comments

- Simple problem
- Simple notation
- Questions: “*al-djabr*” rule ? “*al-hatt*” rule ?

Have a look at Pedro Nunes (1502-1578) *Libro de Algebra en Arithmetica y Geometria* (published in The Netherlands in 1567)

Libro de Algebra en Arithmetica y Geometria (1567)



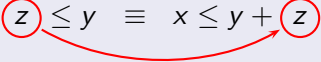
(...) *ho inuêtor desta arte foy hum Mathematico Mouro, cujo nome era Gebre, & ha em alguãs Liurias hum pequeno tractado Arauigo, que contem os capitulos de q̃ usamos*
(fol. a ij r)

Reference to *On the calculus of al-gabr and al-muqâbala*¹ by Abû Abd Allâh Muhamad B. Mûsâ Al-Huwârizmî, a famous 9c Persian mathematician.

¹Original title: *Kitâb al-muhtasar fi hisab al-gabr wa-almuqâbala*.

Calculus of al-gabr and al-muqâbala

al-djabr

$$x - z \leq y \equiv x \leq y + z$$


Calculus of al-gabr and al-muqâbala

al-djabr

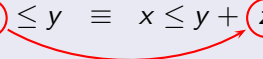
$$x - z \leq y \equiv x \leq y + z$$

al-hatt

$$x * z \leq y \equiv x \leq y * z^{-1} \quad (z > 0)$$

Calculus of al-gabr and al-muqâbala

al-djabr

$$x - z \leq y \equiv x \leq y + z$$


al-hatt

$$x * z \leq y \equiv x \leq y * z^{-1} \quad (z > 0)$$


al-muqâbala

Ex:

$$4x^2 + 3 = 2x^2 + 2x + 6 \equiv 2x^2 = 2x + 3$$

Verdict

Pedro Nunes *libro de algebra*, 1567, fol 270r.

(...) De manera, que
quien sabe por Algebra,
sabe científicamente.

(in this way, who knows by Algebra knows scientifically)

Thus — already in the 16c —

$e = m + c$

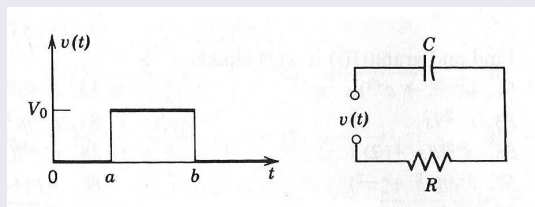
engineering = model first, then calculate ...

Not enough

More demanding problems, eg. electrical circuits:

The problem

Predict $i(t)$ for RC-circuit



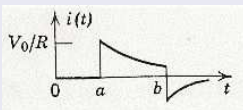
The model

$$v(t) = Ri(t) + \frac{1}{C} \int_0^t i(\tau) d\tau$$

$$v(t) = V_0(u(t-a) - u(t-b)) \quad (b > a)$$

High-school example

The solution



Calculation?

Physicists and engineers overcome difficulties in calculating integral/differential equations by changing the “mathematical space”, for instance by moving (temporarily) from the time-space to the s -space in the *Laplace transformation*.

Laplace transform

$f(t)$ is transformed into $(\mathcal{L} f)s = \int_0^{\infty} e^{-st} f(t) dt$

High-school example

Laplace-transformed RC-circuit model

$$RI(s) + \frac{I(s)}{sC} = \frac{V_0}{s}(e^{-as} - e^{-bs})$$

Algebraic solution for $I(s)$

$$I(s) = \frac{\frac{V_0}{R}}{s + \frac{1}{RC}}(e^{-as} - e^{-bs})$$

Back to the t -space

$$i(t) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } t < a \\ \left(\frac{V_0 e^{-\frac{a}{RC}}}{R}\right)e^{-\frac{t}{RC}} & \text{if } a < t < b \\ \left(\frac{V_0 e^{-\frac{a}{RC}}}{R} - \frac{V_0 e^{-\frac{b}{RC}}}{R}\right)e^{-\frac{t}{RC}} & \text{if } t > b \end{cases}$$

(after some algebraic manipulation)

Quoting Kreyszig's book, p.242

"(...) The Laplace transformation is a method for solving differential equations (...) [which] consists of three main steps:

- 1st step. The given "hard" problem is transformed into a "simple" equation (subsidiary equation).*
- 2nd step. The subsidiary equation is solved by **purely algebraic** manipulations.*
- 3rd step. The solution of the subsidiary equation is transformed back to obtain the solution of the given problem.*

*In this way the Laplace transformation reduces the problem of solving a differential equation to an **algebraic problem**".*

Question

Notations and calculi used to describe software artifacts include

- Naive set theory
- Predicate calculus
- Temporal/modal logic calculi
- Lambda calculus

Is there a “Laplace transform” applicable to these?

Perhaps there is, cf. syntactic analogy

$$\langle \int x : 0 < x < 10 : x^2 - x \rangle$$
$$\langle \forall x : 0 < x < 10 : x^2 \geq x \rangle$$

Laplace transform: t -space \longleftrightarrow s -space

$$(\mathcal{L} f)s = \int_0^{\infty} e^{-st} f(t) dt, \text{ eg.}$$

$f(t)$	$\mathcal{L}(f)$
1	$\frac{1}{s}$
t	$\frac{1}{s^2}$
t^n	$\frac{n!}{s^{n+1}}$
e^{at}	$\frac{1}{s-a}$
<i>etc</i>	\dots

An “s-space equivalent” for logical quantification

The pointfree (\mathcal{PF}) transform

ϕ	$\mathcal{PF} \phi$
$\langle \exists a :: b R a \wedge a S c \rangle$	$b(R \cdot S)c$
$\langle \forall a, b : b R a : b S a \rangle$	$R \subseteq S$
$\langle \forall a :: a R a \rangle$	$id \subseteq R$
$\langle \forall x : x R b : x S a \rangle$	$b(R \setminus S)a$
$\langle \forall c : b R c : a S c \rangle$	$a(S / R)b$
$b R a \wedge c S a$	$(b, c)\langle R, S \rangle a$
$b R a \wedge d S c$	$(b, d)(R \times S)(a, c)$
$b R a \wedge b S a$	$b(R \cap S) a$
$b R a \vee b S a$	$b(R \cup S) a$
$(f b) R (g a)$	$b(f^\circ \cdot R \cdot g)a$
TRUE	$b \top a$
FALSE	$b \perp a$

What are R , S , id ?

A transform for logic and set-theory

An old idea

$\mathcal{PF}(\text{sets, predicates}) = \text{pointfree binary relations}$

Calculus of binary relations

- 1860 - introduced by De Morgan, embryonic
- 1870 - Peirce finds interesting equational laws
- 1941 - Tarski's school, cf. *A Formalization of Set Theory without Variables*
- 1980's - coreflexive models of sets (Freyd and Scedrov, Eindhoven MPC group and others)

Unifying approach

Everything is a (binary) relation

Binary Relations

Arrow notation

Arrow $B \xleftarrow{R} A$ denotes a binary relation to B (target) from A (source).

Identity of composition

id such that $R \cdot id = id \cdot R = R$

Converse

Converse of R — R° such that $a(R^\circ)b$ iff $b R a$.

Ordering

" $R \subseteq S$ " — the " R is at most S " — the obvious $R \subseteq S$ **ordering**.

Binary Relations

Pointwise meaning

$b R a$ means that pair $\langle b, a \rangle$ is in R , eg.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} 1 & \leq & 2 \\ \text{John} & \textit{IsFatherOf} & \text{Mary} \\ 3 & = (1+) & 2 \end{array}$$

Reflexive and coreflexive relations

- Reflexive relation: $id \subseteq R$
- Coreflexive relation: $R \subseteq id$

Sets

Are represented by coreflexives, eg. set $\{0, 1\}$ is



Back to “quien sabe por Algebra, sabe científicamente”

Useful “al-djabr” rules, as those (nowadays) christened as **Galois connections**

$$\begin{array}{l}
 (f) \cdot R \subseteq S \equiv R \subseteq (f^\circ) \cdot S \\
 R \cdot (f^\circ) \subseteq S \equiv R \subseteq S \cdot (f) \\
 (T) \cdot R \subseteq S \equiv R \subseteq (T) \setminus S
 \end{array}$$

or **closure** rules, eg. (for Φ coreflexive),

$$(\Phi) \cdot R \subseteq S \equiv \Phi \cdot R \subseteq (\Phi) \cdot S$$

Back to basics

Which areas of computing have nowadays well-established, widespread theories taught in undergraduate courses ?

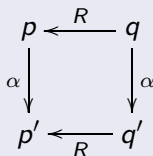
- Parsers and compilers
- Relational databases
- Automata, labelled transition systems

Let us see examples of *Why point-freeness matters* in these areas.

Example: Bisimulations

Definition 1 (orig. Milner, as in the Wikipedia):

A bisimulation is a simulation between two LTS such that its converse is also a simulation, where a simulation between two LTS $(X, \Lambda, \rightarrow_X)$ and $(Y, \Lambda, \rightarrow_Y)$ is a relation $R \subseteq X \times Y$ such that, if $(p, q) \in R$, then for all α in Λ , and for all $p' \in S$, $p \xrightarrow{\alpha} p'$ implies that there is a q' such that $q \xrightarrow{\alpha} q'$ and $(p', q') \in R$:



Typical example of classical, descriptive definition.

Example: Bisimulations

Definition 2 (by Aczel & Mendler):

Given two coalgebras $c : X \rightarrow F(X)$ and $d : Y \rightarrow F(Y)$ an F -bisimulation is a relation $R \subseteq X \times Y$ which can be extended to a coalgebra ρ such that projections π_1 and π_2 lift to F -comorphisms, as expressed by

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 & & R & & \\
 & \swarrow \pi_1 & \downarrow \rho & \searrow \pi_2 & \\
 X & & & & Y \\
 \downarrow c & & \downarrow F\rho & & \downarrow d \\
 FX & \swarrow F\pi_1 & FR & \searrow F\pi_2 & FY
 \end{array}$$

Simpler and generic (coalgebraic)

Example: Bisimulations

Definition 3 (by Bart Jacobs):

A bisimulation for coalgebras $c : X \rightarrow F(X)$ and $d : Y \rightarrow F(Y)$ is a relation $R \subseteq X \times Y$ which is “closed under c and d ”:

$$(x, y) \in R \Rightarrow (c(x), d(y)) \in \text{Rel}(F)(R).$$

for all $x \in X$ and $y \in Y$.

Coalgebraic, even simpler

Question: are these “the same” definition?

We will check the equivalence of these definitions by PF-transformation and (kind of) PF-pattern matching

Bisimulations PF-transformed

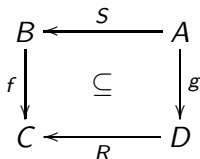
Let us implode the outermost \forall in Jacobs definition by PF-transformation:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \langle \forall x, y :: x R y \Rightarrow (c x) \text{Rel}(F)(R) (d y) \rangle \\
 \equiv & \quad \{ \text{PF-transform rule } (f b)R(g a) \equiv b(f^\circ \cdot R \cdot g)a \} \\
 & \langle \forall x, y :: x R y \Rightarrow x(c^\circ \cdot \text{Rel}(F)(R) \cdot d)y \rangle \\
 \equiv & \quad \{ \text{drop variables (PF-transform of inclusion)} \} \\
 & R \subseteq c^\circ \cdot \text{Rel}(F)(R) \cdot d \\
 \equiv & \quad \{ \text{introduce relator ; "al-djabr" rule} \} \\
 & c \cdot R \subseteq (F R) \cdot d \\
 \equiv & \quad \{ \text{introduce Reynolds combinator} \} \\
 & c(F R \leftarrow R)d
 \end{aligned}$$

About Reynolds arrow

“Reynolds arrow combinator” is a relation on functions

$$f(R \leftarrow S)g \equiv f \cdot S \subseteq R \cdot g \quad \text{cf. diagram}$$



useful in expressing properties of functions — namely *monotonicity*

$$B \xleftarrow{f} A \text{ is monotonic} \equiv f(\leq_B \leftarrow \leq_A)f$$

lifting

$$f \dot{\leq} g \equiv f(\leq \leftarrow id)f$$

polymorphism (free theorem):

$$G A \xleftarrow{f} F A \text{ is polymorphic} \equiv \langle \forall R :: f(G R \leftarrow F R)f \rangle$$

etc

Why Reynolds arrow matters?

Useful and manageable PF-properties

For example

$$id \leftarrow id = id \quad (1)$$

$$(R \leftarrow S)^\circ = R^\circ \leftarrow S^\circ \quad (2)$$

$$R \leftarrow S \subseteq V \leftarrow U \iff R \subseteq V \wedge U \subseteq S \quad (3)$$

$$(R \leftarrow V) \cdot (S \leftarrow U) \subseteq (R \cdot S) \leftarrow (V \cdot U) \quad (4)$$

recalled from Roland's "*On a relation on functions*" (1990)

Immediately useful, eg. (1) ensures id as bisimulation between a given coalgebra and itself (next slide):

Why Reynolds arrow matters

Calculation

$$\begin{aligned}
 & c(F \text{ id} \leftarrow \text{id})d \\
 \equiv & \quad \{ \text{relator } F \text{ preserves the identity} \} \\
 & c(\text{id} \leftarrow \text{id})d \\
 \equiv & \quad \{ (1) \} \\
 & c(\text{id}) d \\
 \equiv & \quad \{ \text{id } x = x \} \\
 & c = d
 \end{aligned}$$

Too simple and obvious, even *without* Reynolds arrow in the play. What about the equivalence between Jacobs and Aczel-Mendler's definition?

Why Reynolds arrow matters

Roland and Kevin Backhouse (2004) developed a number of properties of $S \leftarrow R$ to which we add the following:

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{pair } (r, s) \text{ is a tabulation} \\ & \quad \Downarrow \\ (r \cdot s^\circ) \leftarrow (f \cdot g^\circ) &= (r \leftarrow f) \cdot (s \leftarrow g)^\circ \end{aligned} \tag{5}$$

Tabulations

A pair of functions $\begin{array}{ccc} & C & \\ r \swarrow & & \searrow s \\ A & & B \end{array}$ is a tabulation iff $r^\circ \cdot r \cap s^\circ \cdot s = id$.

Example: π_1 and π_2 form a tabulation, as we very easily check:
(next slide)

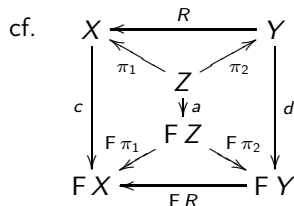
Why Reynolds arrow matters

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \pi_1^\circ \cdot \pi_1 \cap \pi_2^\circ \cdot \pi_2 = id \\
 \equiv & \quad \{ \text{go pointwise, where } \cap \text{ is conjunction} \} \\
 & (b, a)(\pi_1^\circ \cdot \pi_1)(y, x) \wedge (b, a)(\pi_2^\circ \cdot \pi_2)(y, x) \equiv (b, a) = (y, x) \\
 \equiv & \quad \{ \text{rule } (f \ b)R(g \ a) \equiv b(f^\circ \cdot R \cdot g)a \text{ twice} \} \\
 & \pi_1(b, a) = \pi_1(y, x) \wedge \pi_2(b, a) = \pi_2(y, x) \equiv (b, a) = (y, x) \\
 \equiv & \quad \{ \text{trivia} \} \\
 & b = y \wedge a = x \equiv (b, a) = (y, x)
 \end{aligned}$$

NB: it is a standard result that every R can be factored in a tabulation $R = f \cdot g^\circ$, eg. $R = \pi_1 \cdot \pi_2^\circ$.

Jacobs \equiv Aczel & Mendler

$$\begin{aligned}
& c(\mathbb{F} R \leftarrow R)d \\
\equiv & \quad \{ \text{tabulate } R = \pi_1 \cdot \pi_2^\circ \} \\
& c(\mathbb{F}(\pi_1 \cdot \pi_2^\circ) \leftarrow (\pi_1 \cdot \pi_2^\circ))d \\
\equiv & \quad \{ \text{relator commutes with composition and converse} \} \\
& c(((\mathbb{F} \pi_1) \cdot (\mathbb{F} \pi_2)^\circ) \leftarrow (\pi_1 \cdot \pi_2^\circ))d \\
\equiv & \quad \{ (5) \} \\
& c((\mathbb{F} \pi_1 \leftarrow \pi_1) \cdot ((\mathbb{F} \pi_2)^\circ \leftarrow \pi_2^\circ))d \\
\equiv & \quad \{ (2) \} \\
& c((\mathbb{F} \pi_1 \leftarrow \pi_1) \cdot (\mathbb{F} \pi_2 \leftarrow \pi_2)^\circ)d \\
\equiv & \quad \{ \text{go pointwise (composition)} \} \\
& \langle \exists a :: c(\mathbb{F} \pi_1 \leftarrow \pi_1)a \wedge d(\mathbb{F} \pi_2 \leftarrow \pi_2)a \rangle
\end{aligned}$$



Why Reynolds arrow matters

Meaning of $\langle \exists a :: c(F \pi_1 \leftarrow \pi_1)a \wedge d(F \pi_2 \leftarrow \pi_2)a \rangle :$

there exists a coalgebra a whose carrier is the “graph” of bisimulation R and which is such that projections π_1 and π_2 lift to the corresponding coalgebra morphisms.

Comments:

- One-slide-long proofs are easier to grasp — for a (longer) bi-implication proof of the above see Backhouse & Hoogendijk’s paper on *dialgebras* (1999)
- Elegance of the calculation lies in the synergy brought about by Reynolds arrow (to the best of our knowledge, such a synergy is new in the literature)
- Rule (5) does most of the work — its proof is an example of generic, stepwise PF-reasoning (cf. last talk this afternoon)

Invariants

Fact $c(F id \leftarrow id)c$ above already tells us that id is a (trivial) F-invariant for coalgebra c . In general:

F-invariants

An F-invariant Φ is a *coreflexive* bisimulation between a coalgebra and itself:

$$c(F \Phi \leftarrow \Phi)c \quad (6)$$

Invariants bring about *modalities*:

$$\begin{aligned} c(F \Phi \leftarrow \Phi)c &\equiv c \cdot \Phi \subseteq F \Phi \cdot c \\ &\equiv \{ \text{“al-djabr” rule} \} \\ &\Phi \subseteq \underbrace{c^\circ \cdot (F \Phi) \cdot c}_{\bigcirc_c \Phi} \end{aligned}$$

since we define the “*next time X holds*” modal operator as

$$\bigcirc_c X \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} c^\circ \cdot (F X) \cdot c$$

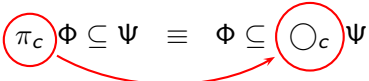
Invariants and projections

Elsewhere we have derived Galois connection

$$\pi_{g,f} R \subseteq S \equiv R \subseteq g^\circ \cdot S \cdot f \quad (7)$$

in order to get (for free) properties of lower adjoint $\pi_{g,f}$ in the context of multi-valued dependency reasoning (database theory).

Interesting enough, this time we reuse an instance of such a connection, ie. *“al-djabr” rule*

$$\pi_c \Phi \subseteq \Psi \equiv \Phi \subseteq \circ_c \Psi \quad (8)$$


(within coreflexives) to obtain (again for free) properties — now — of the upper adjoint \circ_c :

Invariants and projections

As as upper adjoint in a Galois connection,

- \circ_c is **monotonic** — thus simple proofs such as

Φ is an invariant

$$\equiv \quad \{ \text{PF-definition of invariant} \}$$

$$\Phi \subseteq \circ_c \Phi$$

$$\Rightarrow \quad \{ \text{monotonicity} \}$$

$$\circ_c \Phi \subseteq \circ_c(\circ_c \Phi)$$

$$\equiv \quad \{ \text{PF-definition of invariant} \}$$

$\circ_c \Phi$ is an invariant

- \circ_c **distributes** over conjunction, that is PF-equality

$$\circ_c(\Phi \cdot \Psi) = (\circ_c \Phi) \cdot (\circ_c \Psi)$$

holds, etc

What about Milner's original definition?

Milner's definition is recovered via

- the power-transpose relating binary relations and set-valued functions,

$$f = \Lambda R \equiv R = \epsilon \cdot f \quad (9)$$

where $A \xleftarrow{\epsilon} \mathcal{P}A$ is the membership relation.

- the powerset relator:

$$\mathcal{P}R = (\epsilon \setminus (R \cdot \epsilon)) \cap ((\epsilon^\circ \cdot R) / (\epsilon^\circ)) \quad (10)$$

which unfolds to an elaborate pointwise formula:

$$Y(\mathcal{P}R)X \equiv \langle \forall a : a \in Y : \langle \exists b : b \in X : a R b \rangle \rangle \wedge \dots etc$$

Follow up

- Further modal operators, for instance $\Box\Psi$ — *henceforth* Ψ — usually defined as *the largest invariant at most* Ψ :

$$\Box\Psi = \langle \bigcup \Phi :: \Phi \subseteq \Psi \cap \bigcirc_c \Phi \rangle$$

which shrinks to a greatest (post)fix-point

$$\Box\Psi = \langle \nu \Phi :: \Psi \cdot \bigcirc_c \Phi \rangle$$

where meet (of coreflexives) is replaced by composition, as this paves the way to agile reasoning

- Properties calculated by PF-fixpoint calculation
- etc

Summary

- Pointfree / pointwise dichotomy: PF is for reasoning in-the-large, PW is for the small
- As in the 9c and 16c, “al-djabr” rules are forever
- Back to basics: need for computer science theory “refactoring”
- Rôle of PF-patterns: clear-cut expression of complex logic structures once expressed in less symbols
- Rôle of PF-patterns: much easier to spot synergies among different theories
- Coalgebraic approach in a relational setting: a win-win approach while putting together coalgebras (functions) + relators (relations).
- Other exercises — refinement and database theories