# NOTE ON STAR-AUTONOMOUS COMONADS

### CRAIG PASTRO

ABSTRACT. We develop an alternative approach to star-autonomous comonads via linearly distributive categories. It is shown that in the autonomous case the notions of star-autonomous comonad and Hopf comonad coincide.

# 1. Introduction

Given a linearly distributive category  $\mathcal{C}$ , this note determines what structure is required of a comonad G on  $\mathcal{C}$  so that  $\mathcal{C}^G$ , the category of Eilenberg-Moore coalgebras of G, is again a linearly distributive category. Furthermore, if  $\mathcal{C}$  is equipped with negations (and is hence a star-autonomous category), the structure required to lift the negations to  $\mathcal{C}^G$  is determined as well. This latter is equivalent to lifting star-autonomy and it is shown that the notion presented is equivalent to a star-autonomous comonad [PS09]. As a consequence of the presentation given here, it may be easily seen that any star-autonomous comonad on an autonomous category is a Hopf monad [BV07].

### 2. Lifting linear distributivity

Suppose  $\mathcal{C}$  is a monoidal category and  $G : \mathcal{C} \to \mathcal{C}$  is a comonad on  $\mathcal{C}$ . Recall that  $\mathcal{C}^G$ , the category of (Eilenberg-Moore) coalgebras of G, is monoidal if and only if G is a monoidal comonad [M02]. In this section we are interested in the structure required to lift linear distributivity to the category of coalgebras.

A linearly distributive category C is a category equipped with two monoidal structures  $(C, \star, I)$  and  $(C, \diamond, J)$ ,<sup>1</sup> and two compatibility natural transformations (called "linear distributions")

$$\partial_l : A \star (B \diamond C) \to (A \star B) \diamond C$$
$$\partial_r : (B \diamond C) \star A \to B \diamond (C \star A),$$

satisfying a large number of coherence diagrams [CS97].

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>For simplicity we assume that the monoidal structures are strict, although this is not necessary. Furthermore, in their original paper [CS97] the tensor products  $\star$  and  $\diamond$  are respectively denoted by  $\otimes$  and  $\oplus$ , and called *tensor* and *par*, emphasizing their connection to linear logic.

Suppose  $G = (G, \delta, \epsilon)$  is a comonad on a linearly distributive category  $\mathcal{C}$  which is a monoidal comonad on  $\mathcal{C}$  with respect to both  $\star$  and  $\diamond$ , with structure maps  $(G, \phi, \phi_0)$  and  $(G, \psi, \psi_0)$  respectively. If, for G-coalgebras A, B, and C, the comonad G satisfies

$$\begin{array}{c} GA \star (GB \diamond GC) \xrightarrow{1 \star \psi} GA \star G(B \diamond C) \xrightarrow{\phi} G(A \star (B \diamond C)) \\ & & \downarrow \\ & & \downarrow \\ (GA \star GB) \diamond GC \xrightarrow{\phi \diamond 1} G(A \star B) \diamond GC \xrightarrow{\psi} G((A \star B) \diamond C), \end{array}$$

$$(1)$$

it may be seen that the morphism  $\partial_l$  becomes a *G*-coalgebra morphism. If *G* satisfies a similar axiom for  $\partial_r$ , i.e.,

then  $\partial_r$  also becomes a *G*-coalgebra morphism. Thus,

2.1. PROPOSITION. Given a linearly distributive category C and a comonad  $G : C \to C$  satisfying axioms (1) and (2), the category  $C^G$  is a linearly distributive category.

2.2. EXAMPLE. Let C be a symmetric linearly distributive category and  $(B, \mu, \eta, \delta, \epsilon)$  a bialgebra in C with respect to  $\diamond$ . That is, the structure morphisms are given as

$$\mu: B \diamond B \to B \qquad \qquad \delta: B \to B \diamond B \\ \eta: J \to B \qquad \qquad \epsilon: B \to J.$$

Then,  $G = B \diamond -$  is a comonad and is monoidal with respect to both  $\diamond$  and  $\star$ . The latter via  $I \cong J \diamond I \xrightarrow{\eta \diamond 1} B \diamond I$ , and the following,

$$\begin{array}{c} (B \diamond U) \star (B \diamond V) \xrightarrow{\partial_r} B \diamond (U \star (B \diamond V)) \\ \xrightarrow{1 \diamond (1 \star c)} B \diamond (U \star (V \diamond B)) \\ \xrightarrow{1 \diamond \partial_l} B \diamond ((U \star V) \diamond B) \\ \xrightarrow{1 \diamond c} B \diamond (B \diamond (U \star V)) \\ \xrightarrow{\cong} (B \diamond B) \diamond (U \star V) \\ \xrightarrow{\mu \star 1} B \diamond (U \star V). \end{array}$$

Rather large diagrams, which we leave to the faith of the reader, prove that  $B \diamond -$  satisfies (1) and (2), so that  $\mathcal{C}^B = \mathbf{Comod}_{\mathcal{C}}(B)$ , the category of comodules of B, is a linearly distributive category.

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## 3. Lifting negations

Suppose now that  $\mathcal{C}$  is a linearly distributive category equipped with negations S and S' (corresponding to  $^{\perp}(-)$  and  $(-)^{\perp}$  in [CS97]). That is, functors  $S, S' : \mathcal{C}^{\mathrm{op}} \to \mathcal{C}$  together with the following (dinatural) evaluation and coevaluation morphisms

$$SA \star A \xrightarrow{e_A} J \qquad A \star S'A \xrightarrow{e'_A} J$$

$$I \xrightarrow{n_A} A \diamond SA \qquad I \xrightarrow{n'_A} S'A \diamond A,$$
(3)

satisfying the four evident "triangle identities". One such is

$$\left(A \cong I \star A \xrightarrow{n \star 1} (A \diamond SA) \star A \xrightarrow{\partial_r} A \diamond (SA \star A) \xrightarrow{1 \diamond e} A \diamond J \cong A\right) = 1_A.$$

If C is equipped with such negations we say simply that C is a *linearly distributive category* with negations.

We are interested to lift negations to  $\mathcal{C}^G$ . This means we must ensure that the "negation" functors  $S, S' : \mathcal{C}^{\text{op}} \to \mathcal{C}$  lift to functors  $(\mathcal{C}^G)^{\text{op}} \to \mathcal{C}^G$ , and the evaluation and coevaluation morphisms are in  $\mathcal{C}^G$ , i.e., are *G*-coalgebra morphisms.

The following is essentially known from [S72].

3.1. PROPOSITION. A (contravariant) functor  $S : \mathcal{C}^{\mathrm{op}} \to \mathcal{C}$  may be lifted to a functor  $\widetilde{S} : (\mathcal{C}^G)^{\mathrm{op}} \to \mathcal{C}^G$  such that the diagram



(in which  $U : \mathcal{C}^G \to \mathcal{C}$  is the underlying functor) commutes, if and only if there is a natural transformation

$$\nu: S \to GSG$$

satisfying the following two axioms



This may be viewed as a distributive law of a contravariant functor over a comonad [S72]. In this case, we say that S may be lifted to  $\mathcal{C}^G$ , and a functor  $\widetilde{S} : (\mathcal{C}^G)^{\mathrm{op}} \to \mathcal{C}^G$  is defined as

$$\widetilde{S}(A,\gamma) = \left(SA, SA \xrightarrow{\nu} GSGA \xrightarrow{GS\gamma} GSA\right) \qquad \widetilde{S}(f) = Sf$$

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(To see the reverse direction, suppose  $(A, \gamma)$  is a coalgebra and  $\widetilde{S}$  is a functor  $\mathcal{C}^G \to \mathcal{C}^G$ , so that  $\widetilde{S}A = (SA, \widetilde{\gamma})$  is again a coalgebra. Define

$$\nu := SA \xrightarrow{\widetilde{\gamma}} GSA \xrightarrow{GS\epsilon_A} GSGA,$$

which may be seen to satisfy the axioms in (4).) We will usually let the context differentiate between S and  $\tilde{S}$  and simply write S in both cases.

Now, suppose S and S' may be lifted to  $\mathcal{C}^G$ , that is, they are equipped respectively with natural transformations

$$\nu: S \to GSG$$
 and  $\nu': S' \to GS'G$ ,

satisfying (4). It remains to lift the evaluation and coevaluation morphisms (3). Consider the following axioms.

$$SA * GA \xrightarrow{1 * \epsilon} SA * A \xrightarrow{e_A} J$$

$$\downarrow \psi_0$$

$$(5)$$

$$GSGA * G^2A \xrightarrow{\phi} G(SGA * GA) \xrightarrow{Ge_{GA}} GJ$$

$$I \xrightarrow{\phi_0} GI \xrightarrow{Gn} G(A \diamond SA) \xrightarrow{G(1 \diamond Se)} G(A \diamond SGA)$$

$$\downarrow f_{G(1 \diamond S\delta)}$$

$$GA \diamond SGA \xrightarrow{1 \diamond \nu} GA \diamond GSG^2A \xrightarrow{\phi} G(A \diamond SG^2A)$$

$$GA * S'A \xrightarrow{\epsilon * 1} A * S'A \xrightarrow{e'_A} J$$

$$\downarrow \psi_0$$

$$(7)$$

$$G^2A * GS'GA \xrightarrow{\phi} G(GA * S'GA) \xrightarrow{G(S' \epsilon \circ 1)} G(S'GA \diamond A)$$

$$\downarrow \eta_0$$

$$I \xrightarrow{\phi_0} GI \xrightarrow{Gn'} G(S'A \diamond A) \xrightarrow{G(S' \epsilon \circ 1)} G(S'GA \diamond A)$$

$$\downarrow f_{G(S' \delta \circ 1)}$$

$$(8)$$

$$S'GA \diamond GA \xrightarrow{\nu' \diamond 1} GS'G^2A \diamond GA \xrightarrow{\phi} G(S'G^2A \diamond A)$$

3.2. PROPOSITION. Suppose C is a linearly distributive category with negation, G is a monoidal comonad satisfying axioms (1) and (2) (so that  $C^G$  is linearly distributive), and that S and S' may be lifted to  $C^G$ . Then, G satisfies axioms (5), (6), (7), and (8) if and only if  $C^G$  is a linearly distributive category with negation.

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PROOF. Suppose  $(A, \gamma)$  is a *G*-coalgebra. We start by proving that axiom (5) holds if and only if  $e: SA \star A \to J$  is a *G*-coalgebra morphism. The following diagram proves the "only if" direction,



and this next diagram the "if" direction



where the bottom square commutes as  $e_{GA}$  is a G-coalgebra morphism.

Next we prove that axiom (6) holds if and only if  $n : I \to A \diamond SA$  is a *G*-coalgebra morphism. The "only if" direction is given by



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and the "if" direction by



where the top square commutes as  $n_{GA}$  is a G-coalgebra morphism.

The remaining two axioms are proved similarly.

## 4. Star-autonomous comonads

Suppose  $\mathcal{C} = (\mathcal{C}, \otimes, I, S, S')$  is a star-autonomous category. A star-autonomous comonad  $G : \mathcal{C} \to \mathcal{C}$  is a comonad satisfying axioms (described below) so that  $\mathcal{C}^G$  becomes a star-autonomous category [PS09]. In this section we show that comonads as in Proposition 3.2 and star-autonomous comonads coincide.

We recall the definition of star-autonomous comonad [PS09], but, as it suits our needs better here, we present a more symmetric version. First recall that a star-autonomous category  $\mathcal{C} = (\mathcal{C}, \otimes, I, S, S')$  may be defined as a monoidal category  $(\mathcal{C}, \otimes, I)$  equipped with an adjoint equivalence

$$S \dashv S' : \mathcal{C}^{\mathrm{op}} \xrightarrow{\simeq} \mathcal{C}$$

such that

$$\mathcal{C}(A \otimes B, SC) \cong \mathcal{C}(A, S(B \otimes C)), \tag{9}$$

natural in  $A, B, C \in C$ . The functor S is called the *left star operation* and S' the *right star operation*.

By the Yoneda lemma, the isomorphism in (9) determines, and is determined by, the two following "evaluation" morphisms:

$$e = e_{A,B} : S(A \otimes B) \otimes A \to SB$$
 and  $e' = e'_{B,A} : B \otimes S'(A \otimes B) \to S'A$ .

4.1. DEFINITION. A star-autonomous comonad on a star-autonomous category C is a monoidal comonad  $G: C \to C$  equipped with

$$\nu: S \to GSG$$
 and  $\nu': S' \to GS'G$ ,

satisfying (4) (i.e., S and S' may be lifted to  $\mathcal{C}^G$ ), and this data must be such that the following four diagrams commute.



The first two diagrams above ensure that the unit and the counit of the adjoint equivalence  $S \dashv S'$  lifts to  $\mathcal{C}^G$ , while the latter two diagrams above respectively ensure that eand e' are G-coalgebra morphisms, so that the isomorphism (9) also lifts to  $\mathcal{C}^G$ .

We wish to show that star-autonomous comonads and comonads as in Proposition 3.2 coincide. It should not be surprising considering the following theorem.

4.2. THEOREM. [CS97, Theorem 4.5] The notions of linearly distributive categories with negation and star-autonomous categories coincide.

Given a star-autonomous category  $(\mathcal{C}, \otimes, I_{\otimes}, S, S')$ , identifying  $\star := \otimes$  (and the monoidal unit  $I := I_{\star} = I_{\otimes}$ ) and defining

$$A \diamond B := S'(SB \star SA) \cong S(S'B \star S'A) \qquad J := SI \cong S'I \tag{10}$$

results in a linearly distributive category with negations  $(\mathcal{C}, \star, I, \diamond, J, S, S')$  [CS97]. In [CS97], they consider the symmetric case, but the correspondence between linearly distributive categories with negation and star-autonomous categories holds in the noncommutative case as well.

Given Theorem 4.2, Proposition 3.2 says that if  $\mathcal{C}$  is star-autonomous, and G is such a comonad, then  $\mathcal{C}^G$  is star-autonomous. We now compare the two definitions.

Suppose now that G is a comonad on a linearly distributive category C, as in Proposition 3.2. We wish to show that it is a star-autonomous comonad. Rather than proving the axioms, it is simpler to show directly that the morphisms under consideration are G-coalgebra morphisms. To this end, the unit and the counit of the adjoint equivalence  $S \dashv S'$  are defined respectively by the composites

$$A \cong I \star A \xrightarrow{n'_{SA} \star 1} (S'SA \diamond SA) \star A \xrightarrow{\partial_r} S'SA \diamond (SA \star A) \xrightarrow{1 \diamond n} S'SA \diamond J \cong S'SA$$

and

$$S'SA \cong I \star S'SA \xrightarrow{n_A \star 1} (A \diamond SA) \star S'SA \xrightarrow{\partial_r} A \diamond (SA \star S'SA) \xrightarrow{1 \diamond e'_{SA}} A \diamond J \cong A,$$

and the evaluation morphisms  $e_{A,B}$  and  $e'_{B,A}$  respectively by the composites



and

$$\begin{array}{c} B \star S'(A \star B) & \stackrel{e'_{B,A}}{\longrightarrow} SB \\ \cong \\ I \star (B \star S'(A \star B)) & \uparrow \\ n' \star 1 \\ (S'A \diamond A) \star (B \star S'(A \star B)) & \stackrel{\partial_r}{\longrightarrow} S'A \diamond (A \star B \star S'(A \star B)). \end{array}$$

In the situation of Proposition 3.2, we see that all four of these morphisms are given as composites of G-coalgebra morphisms, and thus, are G-coalgebra morphisms themselves. Therefore, G is a star-autonomous comonad.

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In the other direction suppose G is a star-autonomous comonad on a star-autonomous category C. It is similar to show that it is a comonad satisfying the requirements of Proposition 3.2. Using the identifications in (10), the two linear distributions are defined as the following composites.



The evaluation maps  $e_A$  and  $e'_A$  are defined as  $e_{A,I}$  and  $e'_{A,I}$ , and the coevaluation maps  $n_A$  and  $n'_A$  as

$$n_A = \left( I \cong SS'I \xrightarrow{S(e'_{A,I})} S(A \otimes S'A) = A \diamond SA \right)$$
$$n'_A = \left( I \cong S'SI \xrightarrow{S'(e_{A,I})} S'(SA \otimes A) = S'A \diamond A \right)$$

Again, each morphism is a G-coalgebra morphism, or composite thereof, and therefore is itself a G-coalgebra morphism.

Thus, both notions coincide, and we will simply call either a *star-autonomous comonad*, and let context differentiate the axiomatization.

4.3. EXAMPLE. Any Hopf algebra H in a star-autonomous category  $\mathcal{C}$  gives rise to a star-autonomous comonad  $H \otimes -: \mathcal{C} \to \mathcal{C}$ . See [PS09, p. 3515] for details.

4.4. EXAMPLE. If C is a symmetric closed monoidal category with finite products, then we may apply an instance of the Chu construction [B79] to produce a star-autonomous category Chu(C, 1). The category C fully faithfully embeds into Chu(C, 1),

$$\mathcal{C} \hookrightarrow \operatorname{Chu}(\mathcal{C}, 1)$$

and this functor is strong symmetric monoidal. Thus, any Hopf algebra in C becomes a Hopf algebra in Chu(C, 1), and thus, an example of a star-autonomous comonad.

## 5. The compact case $\star = \diamond$

If  $\mathcal{C}$  is a linearly distributive category with negation for which  $\star = \diamond$  (and thus, I = J), then  $\mathcal{C}$  is an autonomous (= rigid) category. The functor S provides left duals, while S'provides right duals. It is not hard to see that, in this case, any star-autonomous monad G (after turning arrows around) is a Hopf monad [BV07]. Set  $\star = \diamond$  and I = J and

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dualize axioms (5), (6), (7), and (8). They correspond in [BV07] to axioms (23), (22), (21), and (20) respectively. (In their notation  $^{\vee}(-) = S$  and  $(-)^{\vee} = S'$ .) Therefore, we have:

5.1. PROPOSITION. Star-autonomous monads on autonomous categories are Hopf monads.

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