

# A CALCULUS OF LAX FRACTIONS

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ABSTRACT. We present a notion of category of lax fractions, where lax fraction stands for a formal composition  $s_*f$  with  $s_*s = \text{id}$  and  $ss_* \leq \text{id}$ , and a corresponding calculus of lax fractions which generalizes the Gabriel-Zisman calculus of fractions.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Given a class  $\Sigma$  of morphisms of a category  $\mathcal{X}$ , we can construct a category of fractions  $\mathcal{X}[\Sigma^{-1}]$  where all morphisms of  $\Sigma$  are invertible. More precisely, we can define a functor  $P_\Sigma : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{X}[\Sigma^{-1}]$  which takes the morphisms of  $\Sigma$  to isomorphisms, and, moreover,  $P_\Sigma$  is universal with respect to this property. As shown in [13], if  $\Sigma$  admits a calculus of fractions, then the morphisms of  $\mathcal{X}[\Sigma^{-1}]$  can be expressed by equivalence classes of cospans  $(f, g)$  of morphisms of  $\mathcal{X}$  with  $g \in \Sigma$ , which correspond to the formal compositions  $g^{-1}f$ .

We recall that categories of fractions are closely related to reflective subcategories and orthogonality. In particular, if  $\mathcal{A}$  is a full reflective subcategory of  $\mathcal{X}$ , the class  $\Sigma$  of all morphisms inverted by the corresponding reflector functor – equivalently, the class of all morphisms with respect to which  $\mathcal{A}$  is orthogonal – admits a left calculus of fractions; and  $\mathcal{A}$  is, up to equivalence of categories, a category of fractions of  $\mathcal{X}$  for  $\Sigma$ . In [3] we presented a Finitary Orthogonality Deduction System inspired by the left calculus of fractions, which can be looked as a generalization of the Implicational Logic of [20], see [4].

Assume now that  $\mathcal{X}$  is an order-enriched category, that is, its hom-sets  $\mathcal{X}(X, Y)$  are endowed with a partial order satisfying the condition  $f \leq g \Rightarrow hfg \leq hgj$  for every morphisms  $f, g : X \rightarrow Y$ ,  $j : Z \rightarrow X$  and  $h : Y \rightarrow W$ . We call a morphism  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  of  $\mathcal{X}$  a *left adjoint section* if it is a left adjoint and has a left inverse; equivalently, there is a morphism  $f_* : Y \rightarrow X$  such that  $f_*f = \text{id}_X$  and  $ff_* \leq \text{id}_Y$ . We are interested in a category of lax fractions in the sense that, given a class  $\Sigma$  of morphisms of  $\mathcal{X}$ , we want a category  $\mathcal{X}[\Sigma_*]$  and an order-enriched functor  $P_\Sigma : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{X}[\Sigma_*]$  which takes morphisms of  $\Sigma$  to left adjoint sections of  $\mathcal{X}[\Sigma_*]$  and, moreover,  $P_\Sigma$  is universal with respect to that property. This problem is connected with the study of KZ-monads and Kan-injectivity as explained next.

In recent papers ([1, 8]) we have studied a lax version of orthogonality in order-enriched categories: Kan-injectivity. An object  $A$  is said to be (left) Kan-injective with respect to a morphism  $h : X \rightarrow Y$  provided that for every morphism  $f : X \rightarrow A$  there is a left Kan extension of  $f$  along  $h$ , denoted  $f/h$ , and, moreover,  $f = (f/h)h$ . And a morphism  $k : A \rightarrow B$  is said to be Kan-injective with respect to  $h$  if  $A$  and  $B$  are so and  $k$  preserves left Kan extensions along  $h$ , i.e.,  $(kf)/h = k(f/h)$ . Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be a subcategory of an order-enriched category  $\mathcal{X}$ . We say that  $\mathcal{A}$  is KZ-reflective if it is

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reflective and the monad induced in  $\mathcal{X}$  by the reflector functor  $F : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$  is a KZ-monad, i.e., the unit  $\eta$  satisfies the inequalities  $F\eta_X \leq \eta_{FX}$  for all objects  $X$  of  $\mathcal{X}$  ([18, 12]). If, moreover,  $\mathcal{A}$  is an Eilenberg-Moore category of a KZ-monad over  $\mathcal{X}$ , we say that  $\mathcal{A}$  is a KZ-monadic subcategory of  $\mathcal{X}$ . Let  $\mathcal{A}^{\text{LInj}}$  denote the class of all morphisms with respect to which all objects and morphisms of  $\mathcal{A}$  are Kan-injective. As shown in [8], if  $\mathcal{A}$  is KZ-reflective in  $\mathcal{X}$ ,  $\mathcal{A}^{\text{LInj}}$  consists precisely of all morphisms of  $\mathcal{X}$  whose images through the reflector functor are left adjoint sections.

In this paper we present the notion of category of lax fractions  $P_\Sigma : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{X}[\Sigma_*]$  and a calculus of lax fractions which generalize the usual non-lax versions. But now  $\Sigma$  is not just a class of morphisms, as in the ordinary case; instead, it is a subcategory of the arrow category  $\mathcal{X}^\rightarrow$ . And the calculus of lax fractions is expressed as a calculus of squares (called  $\Sigma$ -squares) which represent formal equalities of the form  $fr_* = s_*g$  (see Section 4). This way, we obtain a description of the category of lax fractions of  $\mathcal{X}$ , for  $\Sigma$  a subcategory of  $\mathcal{X}^\rightarrow$  admitting a left calculus of lax fractions, in terms of formal fractions  $s_*f$  represented by cospans  $\bullet \xrightarrow{f} \bullet \xleftarrow{s} \bullet$  with  $s$  an object of  $\Sigma$  (Theorem 4.11). The idea of “calculating” with squares of the base category  $\mathcal{X}$  instead of just with morphisms of  $\mathcal{X}$  is also used in the paper in preparation [2] in order to obtain a Kan-Injectivity Logic generalizing the Orthogonality Logic of [3].

Given a subcategory  $\mathcal{A}$  of  $\mathcal{X}$ , let  $\mathcal{A}^{\text{LInj}}$  denote the subcategory of  $\mathcal{X}^\rightarrow$  whose objects are the morphisms of  $\mathcal{A}^{\text{LInj}}$ , and whose morphisms between them are those of the form  $(u, v) : (s : X \rightarrow Y) \rightarrow (s' : Z \rightarrow W)$  such that  $(fu)/s = (f/s')v$  for all  $f$  with domain  $Z$  and codomain in  $\mathcal{A}$ . We show that, for  $\Sigma = \mathcal{A}^{\text{LInj}}$ , if  $\mathcal{A}$  is a KZ-reflective subcategory of  $\mathcal{X}$ , the category  $\mathcal{X}[\Sigma_*]$  is the Kleisli category for the monad induced by the reflector functor  $F : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$ , and  $F$  differs from the functor  $P_\Sigma : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{X}[\Sigma_*]$  at most by closedness under left adjoint retractions (Theorem 3.7); moreover,  $\Sigma$  admits a left calculus of lax fractions (Proposition 4.5).

We finish up with some properties on cocompleteness. We show that whenever  $\mathcal{X}$  has weighted colimits, any subcategory of  $\mathcal{X}^\rightarrow$  of the form  $\Sigma = \mathcal{A}^{\text{LInj}}$  also has weighted colimits (Theorem 5.1) and admits a left calculus of lax fractions, and the corresponding category of lax fractions  $\mathcal{X}[\Sigma_*]$  has (small) conical coproducts. Moreover, we present conditions on any subcategory  $\Sigma$  under which  $\mathcal{X}[\Sigma_*]$  has finite conical coproducts, provided  $\mathcal{X}$  has them.

Several examples of subcategories  $\Sigma$  of  $\mathcal{X}^\rightarrow$  admitting a left calculus of lax fractions are provided in Example 4.4 for  $\mathcal{X}$  the category Pos of posets and monotone maps, the category Loc of locales and localic maps, and the category Top<sub>0</sub> of  $T_0$  topological spaces and continuous maps.

The study of constructions of categories by freely adding adjoints to the arrows of a category has been addressed before. Although the present approach is completely different, it is worth mentioning here the works [10] and [11] of Dawson, Paré and Pronk.

## 2. PRELIMINARIES

Along this paper we work in the order-enriched context. More precisely, we consider categories and functors enriched in the category Pos of posets and monotone maps. For a category  $\mathcal{X}$  this means that each one of its hom-sets  $\mathcal{X}(X, Y)$  is equipped with a partial order  $\leq$  which is preserved by composition on the left and on the right. And a functor between order-enriched categories is order-enriched if it preserves the partial order of the morphisms. A subcategory of an order-enriched category  $\mathcal{X}$  will be considered order-enriched via the restriction of the order on the morphisms of  $\mathcal{X}$  to the morphisms of  $\mathcal{A}$ .

In this section, we recall the notions of Kan-injectivity and KZ-reflective subcategory, and some of their properties, which are presented in [8] and [1].

**2.1. Kan-injectivity.** In an order-enriched category  $\mathcal{X}$ , an object  $A$  is said to be *left Kan-injective* (or just *Kan-injective*) with respect to a morphism  $h : X \rightarrow Y$ , if, for every morphism  $f : X \rightarrow A$ , there is a morphism  $f/h : Y \rightarrow A$  such that

- (i)  $(f/h)h = f$ , and
- (ii)  $f \leq gh \Rightarrow f/h \leq g$ , for every morphism  $g : Y \rightarrow A$ .

A morphism  $k : A \rightarrow B$  is said to be (left) *Kan-injective* with respect to  $h$  provided that  $A$  and  $B$  are so, and the equality  $(kf)/h = k(f/h)$  holds for all  $f : X \rightarrow A$ .

(Left) Kan-injectivity may be equivalently defined as follows: An object  $A$  is left Kan-injective with respect to a morphism  $h : X \rightarrow Y$ , if and only if the hom-map  $\mathcal{X}(h, A) : \mathcal{X}(Y, A) \rightarrow \mathcal{X}(X, A)$  is a right adjoint retraction (short for a morphism which is simultaneously a right adjoint and a retraction) in the category  $\text{Pos}$ . In this case, if  $(\mathcal{X}(h, A))^* : \mathcal{X}(X, A) \rightarrow \mathcal{X}(Y, A)$  is the left adjoint of  $\mathcal{X}(h, A)$ , then we have that  $(\mathcal{X}(h, A))^*(f) = f/h$ .

Given a class  $\mathcal{H}$  of morphisms of  $\mathcal{X}$ , the objects and morphisms of  $\mathcal{X}$  which are (left) Kan-injective with respect to all morphisms of  $\mathcal{H}$  constitute a subcategory, denoted by

$$\text{Llnj}(\mathcal{H})$$

and said to be a *Kan-injective subcategory*<sup>1</sup>. And, given a subcategory  $\mathcal{A}$  of  $\mathcal{X}$ , we denote by

$$\mathcal{A}^{\text{Llnj}}$$

the class of all morphisms with respect to which all objects and morphisms of  $\mathcal{A}$  are Kan-injective.

**2.2. KZ-reflective subcategories.** We recall that a *KZ-monad* (or *lax idempotent monad*) on  $\mathcal{X}$  is a monad  $T : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{X}$  whose unit  $\eta$  satisfies the inequalities  $T\eta_X \leq \eta_{TX}$ ,  $X \in \mathcal{X}$  ([18], [12]). Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be a subcategory of  $\mathcal{X}$ .  $\mathcal{A}$  is said to be a *KZ-reflective subcategory* of  $\mathcal{X}$  if it is reflective in  $\mathcal{X}$  and the monad over  $\mathcal{X}$  induced by the corresponding adjunction is of KZ type; that is, the left adjoint  $F : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$  and the unit  $\eta$  satisfy the inequalities

$$(1) \quad F\eta_X \leq \eta_{FX}, \quad X \in \mathcal{X}.$$

The Eilenberg-Moore categories of KZ-monads over  $\mathcal{X}$  are, up to isomorphism of categories, KZ-reflective subcategories, called then *KZ-monadic subcategories*. Thus the concept of KZ-monadic subcategory is a lax version of the one of replete full reflective subcategory. In [8] we showed that KZ-monadic subcategories are precisely the KZ-reflective categories closed under left adjoint retractions (i.e., the equality  $gx = yf$  between morphisms of  $\mathcal{X}$  with  $f$  in  $\mathcal{A}$  and  $x$  and  $y$  both left adjoint retractions implies that  $g$  also belongs to  $\mathcal{A}$ ). In [1] we proved that in well-behaved categories, namely in locally ranked ones, every Kan-injective subcategory  $\text{Llnj}(\mathcal{H})$  with  $\mathcal{H}$  a set is indeed a KZ-monadic subcategory.

When  $\mathcal{A}$  is KZ-reflective in  $\mathcal{X}$ , with  $F : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$  the corresponding reflector functor,  $\mathcal{A}^{\text{Llnj}}$  is precisely the class of all morphisms  $f$  of  $\mathcal{X}$  such that  $Ff$  is a left adjoint section in  $\mathcal{A}$ , that is, there is a morphism  $(Fh)_*$  in  $\mathcal{A}$  with  $(Fh)_*Fh = \text{id}$  and  $Fh(Fh)_* \leq \text{id}$  ([8]). We call this kind of morphisms *F-embeddings*, following the terminology of M. Escardó [12].

<sup>1</sup>In [9] the authors used the notation  $\text{Klnj}(\mathcal{H})$  – instead of  $\text{Llnj}(\mathcal{H})$  – to refer to *left Kan-injectivity* with respect to  $\mathcal{H}$ .

## 3. CATEGORIES OF LAX FRACTIONS

It is well known that if  $\mathcal{A}$  is a full reflective subcategory of an ordinary category  $\mathcal{X}$  with reflector functor  $F : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$ , then  $\mathcal{A}$  is, up to equivalence of categories, the category of fractions of  $\mathcal{X}$  for the class of morphisms inverted by  $F$ . Indeed, this category of fractions is the Kleisli category of the idempotent monad induced by the corresponding adjunction. Formally we can think of a “fraction” as a composition of the form  $h^{-1}f$  where  $h^{-1}$  is a formal inverse of  $h$ . Here we use the term “lax fraction” evoking a composition of the form  $h_*f$  where  $h_*$  is a *formal* left inverse and right adjoint of  $h$  (that is,  $h_*$  is thought as satisfying  $h_*h = \text{id}$  and  $\text{id} \leq h_*h$ ). We show that, in the order-enriched context, a KZ-reflective subcategory  $\mathcal{A}$  of  $\mathcal{X}$ , with reflector  $F : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$ , is also closely related to the category of lax fractions of  $\mathcal{X}$  for the  $F$ -embeddings of  $\mathcal{X}$ . And this category of lax fractions coincides with the Kleisli category of the corresponding KZ-monad too.

Given a full subcategory  $\mathcal{A}$  of any category  $\mathcal{X}$ , some of the nice properties of the class  $\mathcal{A}^{\text{Orth}}$  of all morphisms with respect to which  $\mathcal{A}$  is orthogonal are obtained by looking at  $\mathcal{A}^{\text{Orth}}$  as a full subcategory of the arrow category  $\mathcal{X}^{\rightarrow}$ . This is the case, for instance, of the closedness under colimits of  $\mathcal{A}^{\text{Orth}}$  in  $\mathcal{X}^{\rightarrow}$ , when  $\mathcal{X}$  is cocomplete (cf. [21]). Let  $\mathcal{X}$  be an order-enriched category, and let  $\mathcal{X}^{\rightarrow}$  be order-enriched with the coordinatewise order. KZ-reflective subcategories are not full, in general. Thus it is not surprising that, in order to generalize orthogonality properties to Kan-injectivity ones, we need to consider  $\mathcal{A}^{\text{LInj}}$  as a subcategory of  $\mathcal{X}^{\rightarrow}$  which is not necessarily full. In the same vein, we define categories of lax fractions for subcategories  $\Sigma$  of  $\mathcal{X}^{\rightarrow}$ .

**Definition 3.1.** Let  $\mathcal{X}$  be a category and  $\Sigma$  a subcategory of the arrow category  $\mathcal{X}^{\rightarrow}$ . A *category of lax fractions* of  $\mathcal{X}$  for  $\Sigma$  consists of a (quasi)category  $\mathcal{X}[\Sigma_*$ ] and a functor  $P_{\Sigma} : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{X}[\Sigma_*$ ] such that:

- (i)  $P_{\Sigma}h$  is a left adjoint section, for every object  $h$  of  $\Sigma$ .
- (ii) For every morphism  $(u, v) : h \rightarrow h'$  in  $\Sigma$ ,  $P_{\Sigma}u \cdot (P_{\Sigma}h)_* = (P_{\Sigma}h')_* \cdot P_{\Sigma}v$ .
- (iii) If  $G : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  is another functor enjoying the properties (i) and (ii), then there is a unique functor  $H : \mathcal{X}[\Sigma_*$ ]  $\rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  such that  $HP_{\Sigma} = G$ .

**Remark 3.2.** If we think of an ordinary category  $\mathcal{X}$  as an order-enriched one via the discrete order, i.e., the order  $=$ , then (ii) trivially holds, and Definition 3.1 becomes the usual definition of category of fractions.

**Definition 3.3.** Given a subcategory  $\mathcal{A}$  of  $\mathcal{X}$ , we will denote by

$$\mathcal{A}^{\text{LInj}}$$

the subcategory of the arrow category  $\mathcal{X}^{\rightarrow}$  consisting of:

- (i) Objects: all morphisms  $h$  of  $\mathcal{X}$  such that all objects and morphisms of  $\mathcal{A}$  are left-Kan injective with respect to  $h$ . That is, the class of objects of  $\mathcal{A}^{\text{LInj}}$  is  $\mathcal{A}^{\text{LInj}}$ .
- (ii) Morphisms: those morphisms  $(u, v) : (X \xrightarrow{h} Y) \rightarrow (X' \xrightarrow{h'} Y')$ , with  $h$  and  $h'$  in  $\mathcal{A}^{\text{LInj}}$ , such that, for every  $g : X' \rightarrow A$ , with  $A \in \mathcal{A}$ , we have that  $(gu)/h = (g/h')v$ :

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X & \xrightarrow{h} & Y \\ u \downarrow & & \downarrow v \\ X' & \xrightarrow{h'} & Y' \\ g \downarrow & \swarrow g/h' & \\ & & A \end{array}$$

In other words, a morphism  $(u, v) : (X \xrightarrow{h} Y) \rightarrow (X' \xrightarrow{h'} Y')$  of  $\mathcal{X} \rightarrow$  is a morphism of  $\mathcal{A}^{\underline{\text{Lnj}}}$  iff it satisfies the equality  $\mathcal{X}(h, A)^* \cdot \mathcal{X}(u, A) = \mathcal{X}(v, A) \cdot \mathcal{X}(h', A)^*$  for all objects  $A \in \mathcal{A}$ .

The next lemmas are going to be used in the proof of the main result of this section, Theorem 3.7.

**Lemma 3.4.** *Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be a KZ-reflective subcategory of  $\mathcal{X}$  with reflector functor  $F : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$ . Then, for every morphism  $h : X \rightarrow Y$  in  $\mathcal{X}$  and every morphism  $(u, v) : h \rightarrow h'$  in  $\mathcal{X} \rightarrow$ , we have that:*

- (i)  $h \in \mathcal{A}^{\underline{\text{Lnj}}}$  iff  $Fh$  is a left adjoint section in  $\mathcal{A}$ ; and
- (ii) for  $h$  and  $h'$  in  $\mathcal{A}^{\underline{\text{Lnj}}}$ , a morphism  $(u, v) : h \rightarrow h'$  lies in  $\mathcal{A}^{\underline{\text{Lnj}}}$  iff  $Fu(Fh)_* = (Fh')_*Fv$ .

*Proof.* (i) was proved in [8] (see the last paragraph of 2.2).

(ii) It is easy to verify, and it was observed in [12], that, under the present conditions, given  $a : X \rightarrow A$  with  $A \in \mathcal{A}$ , we have that

$$(2) \quad a/h = \varepsilon_A \cdot Fa \cdot (Fh)_* \cdot \eta_Y,$$

where  $\eta$  and  $\varepsilon$  are the corresponding unit and counit. Let  $(u, v) : h \rightarrow h'$  be a morphism of  $\mathcal{A}^{\underline{\text{Lnj}}}$ :

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X & \xrightarrow{h} & Y \\ u \downarrow & & \downarrow v \\ X' & \xrightarrow{h'} & Y' \end{array}$$

Then, for  $\eta_{X'} : X' \rightarrow FX'$ , we have  $(\eta_{X'}/h')v = (\eta_{X'}u)/h$ , that is, by (2),  $\varepsilon_{FX'}F\eta_{X'}(Fh')_*\eta_{Y'}v = \varepsilon_{FX'}F(\eta_{X'}u)(Fh)_*\eta_Y$ . Consequently,  $(Fh')_*\eta_{Y'}v = Fu(Fh)_*\eta_Y$ , i.e.,  $(Fh')_*Fv\eta_Y = Fu(Fh)_*\eta_Y$ ; thus,  $(Fh')_*Fv = Fu(Fh)_*$ , since from (i) we know that  $(Fh')_*Fv$  and  $Fu(Fh)_*$  are both morphisms of  $\mathcal{A}$ .

Conversely, if the equality  $(Fh')_*Fv = Fu(Fh)_*$  holds, for  $d : X' \rightarrow D$ , with  $D \in \mathcal{A}$ , we have that

$$(d/h')v = \varepsilon_DFd(Fh')_*\eta_{Y'}v = \varepsilon_DFd(Fh')_*Fv\eta_Y = \varepsilon_DFdFu(Fh)_*\eta_Y = \varepsilon_DF(du)(Fh)_*\eta_Y = (du)/h. \quad \square$$

**Remark 3.5.** ([8]) Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be a reflective subcategory of  $\mathcal{X}$ , with reflector functor  $F$ , unit  $\eta$  and counit  $\varepsilon$ . Then  $\mathcal{A}$  is KZ-reflective if and only if  $F\varepsilon_A \geq \varepsilon_{FA}$ ,  $A \in \mathcal{A}$ , if and only if  $\eta_A\varepsilon_A \geq \text{id}_{FA}$ ,  $A \in \mathcal{A}$ . Then, when  $\mathcal{A}$  is KZ-reflective,  $\varepsilon_A$  is a left adjoint retraction, with  $(\varepsilon_A)_* = \eta_A$ . Moreover, every  $F\eta_X$  is a left adjoint section, with  $(F\eta_X)_* = \varepsilon_{FX}$ . Thus,  $\varepsilon_{FX}$  is simultaneously a right adjoint and a left adjoint satisfying the inequalities  $F\eta_X\varepsilon_{FX} \leq \text{id}_{F^2X} \leq \eta_{FX}\varepsilon_{FX}$ .

**Lemma 3.6.** *Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be a KZ-reflective subcategory of  $\mathcal{X}$ , with reflector  $F$  and unit  $\eta$ . Then, for every  $f : X \rightarrow Y$ ,  $(f, Ff) : \eta_X \rightarrow \eta_Y$  is a morphism of the category  $\mathcal{A}^{\underline{\text{Lnj}}}$ .*

*Proof.* Indeed, with respect to the commutative square

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X & \xrightarrow{\eta_X} & FX \\ f \downarrow & & \downarrow Ff \\ Y & \xrightarrow{\eta_Y} & FY \end{array}$$

using Remark 3.5, we have that  $Ff(F\eta_X)_* = Ff\varepsilon_{FX} = \varepsilon_{FY}F^2f = (F\eta_Y)_*F^2f$ ; hence, by Lemma 3.4, the morphism  $(f, Ff)$  lies in  $\mathcal{A}^{\underline{\text{Lnj}}}$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 3.7.** *Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be a KZ-reflective subcategory of  $\mathcal{X}$  with reflector functor  $F : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$ . Then there exists a category  $\mathcal{X}[\Sigma_*]$  and a functor  $P_\Sigma : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{X}[\Sigma_*]$  forming a category of lax fractions of  $\mathcal{X}$  for  $\Sigma = \mathcal{A}^{\underline{\text{L}}\underline{\text{N}}}$ . Moreover, if  $H : \mathcal{X}[\Sigma_*] \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$  is the unique functor with  $HP_\Sigma = F$ , then for every  $g : A \rightarrow B$  in  $\mathcal{A}$  there is*

*some  $\bar{g} : X \rightarrow Y$  in  $\mathcal{X}[\Sigma_*]$  and a commutative diagram  $HX \xrightarrow{H\bar{g}} HY$  in  $\mathcal{X}$  with  $r$  and  $r'$  left adjoint retractions.*

$$\begin{array}{ccc} HX & \xrightarrow{H\bar{g}} & HY \\ r \downarrow & & \downarrow r' \\ A & \xrightarrow{g} & B \end{array}$$

*retractions.*

*Proof.* Let  $\eta$  and  $\varepsilon$  be the corresponding unit and counit of the KZ-reflection of  $\mathcal{X}$  into  $\mathcal{A}$ . Define a category  $\mathcal{X}[\Sigma_*]$  and a functor  $P_\Sigma : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{X}[\Sigma_*]$  as follows:

- $|\mathcal{X}[\Sigma_*]| = |\mathcal{X}|$ , where  $|\mathcal{X}|$  denotes the class of objects of  $\mathcal{X}$ .
- for every  $X, X' \in |\mathcal{X}|$ , the poset  $\mathcal{X}[\Sigma_*)(X, X')$  is  $\mathcal{A}(FX, FX')$ ;
- for every object  $X$  of  $\mathcal{X}[\Sigma_*)(X, X')$  the identity  $\text{id}_X$  is just  $\text{id}_{FX}$ , and the composition is defined as in  $\mathcal{A}$ ;
- $P_\Sigma X = X$  and  $P_\Sigma f = Ff$ , for every object  $X$  and every morphism  $f$  of  $\mathcal{X}$ .

$\mathcal{X}[\Sigma_*]$  is, up to isomorphism of categories, the Kleisli category of the monad induced in  $\mathcal{X}$  by  $F$ , and  $P_\Sigma : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{X}[\Sigma_*]$  is the corresponding reflection of  $\mathcal{X}$  in it (cf. [19]). We show that  $P_\Sigma : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{X}[\Sigma_*]$  is a category of lax fractions for  $\mathcal{A}^{\underline{\text{L}}\underline{\text{N}}}$ .

The satisfaction by  $P_\Sigma$  of conditions (i) and (ii) of Definition 3.1 follows immediately from the definition of  $P_\Sigma$  and Lemma 3.4.

Concerning (iii), let  $G : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  be a functor satisfying conditions (i) and (ii) of Definition 3.1. We want to define a functor  $H : \mathcal{X}[\Sigma_*] \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  such that  $HP_\Sigma = G$  and show that there is a unique such functor  $H$ .

First observe that if this functor  $H$  exists, then we have

$$(3) \quad HX = HP_\Sigma X = GX,$$

for every  $X \in |\mathcal{X}[\Sigma_*]|$ ; and, for every morphism  $f$  of  $\mathcal{X}$  for which  $(Ff)_*$  exists,

$$(4) \quad H((Ff)_*) = (HFf)_* = (Gf)_*,$$

since we are dealing with order-enriched functors, which preserve adjunctions and retractions. In particular (see Remark 3.5),

$$(5) \quad H(\varepsilon_{FX}) = H((F\eta_X)_*) = (G\eta_X)_*.$$

Moreover, given  $f \in \mathcal{X}[\Sigma_*)(X, X')$ , i.e.,  $f : FX \rightarrow FX'$  in  $\mathcal{A}$ , we have that  $Hf = H(f\varepsilon_{FX}F\eta_X) = H(\varepsilon_{FX'} \cdot Ff \cdot F\eta_X)$ ; then, by (5),

$$(6) \quad Hf = (G\eta_{X'})_* \cdot Gf \cdot G(\eta_X).$$

The satisfaction of (3) and (6) defines  $H$  uniquely, and the equality  $HP_\Sigma = G$  is easily verified.

It remains to show that  $H$  is indeed a functor. The preservation of identities is clear. To prove that  $H$  preserves composition, let  $f : FX \rightarrow FY$  and  $g : FY \rightarrow FZ$  be two morphisms of  $\mathcal{X}[\Sigma_*)(X, Y)$  and  $\mathcal{X}[\Sigma_*)(Y, Z)$ , respectively. We want to show that  $H(gf) = Hg \cdot Hf$ .

Due to the equality  $(F\eta_X)_* = \varepsilon_{FX}$ , given in Remark 3.5, we have that, for every morphism  $f : FX \rightarrow FY$  of  $\mathcal{A}$ ,  $f = (F\eta_Y)_* \cdot Ff \cdot F(\eta_X)$ . Taking this into account and the fact that  $G$  preserves

adjunctions, we have:

$$GgGf = (GF\eta_Z)_* \cdot GFg \cdot GF(\eta_Y) \cdot (GF\eta_Y)_* \cdot GFf \cdot GF(\eta_X).$$

Composing with  $(G\eta_Z)_*$  on the left-hand side and with  $G\eta_X$  on the right-hand side, and using (6), we obtain:

$$(7) \quad H(gf) = (G\eta_Z)_* \cdot (GF\eta_Z)_* \cdot GFg \cdot GF(\eta_Y) \cdot (GF\eta_Y)_* \cdot GFf \cdot GF(\eta_X) \cdot G\eta_X.$$

But the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} GFY & \xleftarrow{(G\eta_{FY})_*} & GF^2Y \\ Gg \downarrow & & \downarrow GFg \\ GFZ & \xleftarrow{(G\eta_{FZ})_*} & GF^2Z \\ (G\eta_Z)_* \downarrow & & \downarrow (GF\eta_Z)_* \\ GZ & \xleftarrow{(G\eta_Z)_*} & GFZ \end{array}$$

is commutative: the top square commutes, because  $(g, Fg) : \eta_{FY} \rightarrow \eta_{FZ}$  is a morphism of  $\Sigma = \mathcal{A}^{\underline{\text{Lnj}}}$ , by Lemma 3.6, and  $G$  satisfies condition (ii) of Definition 3.1; the bottom square commutes because all morphisms  $\eta_Z, F\eta_Z$  and  $\eta_{FZ}$  belong to  $\Sigma$ , thus  $(G\eta_Z)_*$ ,  $(GF\eta_Z)_*$  and  $(G\eta_{FZ})_*$  are defined and, from the equality  $F\eta_Z \cdot \eta_Z = \eta_{FZ} \cdot \eta_Z$ , it follows the required equality. Consequently, we have:

$$(8) \quad (G\eta_Z)_* \cdot (GF\eta_Z)_* \cdot GFg = (G\eta_Z)_* \cdot Gg \cdot (G\eta_{FY})_*.$$

Moreover,

$$(9) \quad GFf \cdot GF(\eta_X) \cdot G\eta_X = GFf \cdot G\eta_{FX} \cdot G\eta_X = G(\eta_{FY}) \cdot Gf \cdot G\eta_X.$$

Therefore, by applying (8) and (9) to the right-hand side of (7), we get

$$H(gf) = (G\eta_Z)_* \cdot Gg \cdot (G\eta_{FY})_* \cdot GF(\eta_Y) \cdot (GF\eta_Y)_* \cdot G(\eta_{FY}) \cdot Gf \cdot G\eta_X.$$

In order to conclude that the right-hand side of the last equality is precisely

$$Hg \cdot Hf = (G(\eta_Z))_* \cdot G(g) \cdot G(\eta_Y) \cdot (G(\eta_Y))_* \cdot Gf \cdot G(\eta_X),$$

it suffices to show that  $(G\eta_{FY})_* \cdot GF(\eta_Y) \cdot (GF\eta_Y)_* \cdot G(\eta_{FY}) = G(\eta_Y) (G(\eta_Y))_*$ . This is easy:

$$\begin{aligned} (G\eta_{FY})_* \cdot GF(\eta_Y) \cdot (GF\eta_Y)_* \cdot G(\eta_{FY}) &= G\eta_Y \cdot (G\eta_Y)_* \cdot (GF\eta_Y)_* \cdot G(\eta_{FY}), \quad \text{by using Lemma 3.6} \\ &= G\eta_Y \cdot (G\eta_Y)_* \cdot \text{id}_{FY} \\ &= G\eta_Y \cdot (G\eta_Y)_*. \end{aligned}$$

The order-enrichment of  $H$  is immediate from the definition of  $H$ , since  $G$  is so.

Finally, from Lemma 3.4, we know that the reflector functor  $F : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$  satisfies conditions (i) and (ii). Thus, as we have just seen, the unique functor  $H : \mathcal{X}[\Sigma_*] \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$  such that  $HP_\Sigma = F$  is defined by  $HX = FX$  and  $Hf = (F\eta_Y)_* \cdot Ff \cdot F\eta_X = \varepsilon_{FY} \cdot Ff \cdot F\eta_X = f \cdot \varepsilon_{FX} \cdot F\eta_X = f$ . For every morphism  $g : A \rightarrow B$  of  $\mathcal{A}$ , we have  $Fg \in \mathcal{X}[\Sigma_*(A, B)]$ , with  $H(Fg) = (Fg : FA \rightarrow FB)$ , and thus we have a commutative diagram of the form

$$\begin{array}{ccc} HA & \xrightarrow{H(Fg)} & HB \\ \varepsilon_A \downarrow & & \downarrow \varepsilon_B \\ A & \xrightarrow{g} & B \end{array}$$

with  $\varepsilon_A$  and  $\varepsilon_B$  left adjoint retractions in  $\mathcal{X}$  (see Remark 3.5).  $\square$

**Remark 3.8.** Under the conditions of the above theorem, let  $E : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{X}$  be the corresponding inclusion functor and put  $K = P_\Sigma E : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{X}[\Sigma_*]$ . Then  $K$  is faithful, because, for every morphism  $f : A \rightarrow A'$  of  $\mathcal{A}$ , we have that  $f = \varepsilon_{A'} F f \eta_A$ . And it has the property that, for every morphism  $g : X \rightarrow X'$  in  $\mathcal{X}[\Sigma_*]$ , there are a morphism  $f : A \rightarrow A'$  in  $\mathcal{A}$  and a commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} KA & \xrightarrow{Kf} & KA' \\ r \downarrow & & \downarrow r' \\ X & \xrightarrow{g} & X' \end{array}$$

in  $\mathcal{X}[\Sigma_*]$  with  $r$  and  $r'$  retractions which are simultaneously left and right adjoints. Indeed, it suffices to take  $r = \varepsilon_{FX}$  and  $r' = \varepsilon_{FX'}$  (see Remark 3.5).

**Remark 3.9.** As observed before, the category  $\mathcal{X}[\Sigma_*]$  described in the proof of the above theorem is the Kleisli category for the monad over  $\mathcal{X}$  induced by its KZ-reflection into  $\mathcal{A}$ . We point out that in [14] the authors show that, for every monad, the Kleisli category can always be seen as a category of (generalized) fractions.

#### 4. A LEFT CALCULUS OF LAX FRACTIONS

In this section we introduce the notion of a left calculus of lax fractions relatively to a subcategory  $\Sigma$  of the arrow category  $\mathcal{X}^\rightarrow$ , which generalizes the usual left calculus of fractions ([13]) and allows us to describe the category of lax fractions of  $\mathcal{X}$  for  $\Sigma$  in terms of formal fractions  $s_* f$  represented by cospans  $\bullet \xrightarrow{f} \bullet \xleftarrow{s} \bullet$  with  $s$  an object of  $\Sigma$ .

$\Sigma$ -squares, as described next, are going to be used to define and manipulate the left calculus of lax fractions.

**Terminology 4.1.** Given a subcategory  $\Sigma$  of  $\mathcal{X}^\rightarrow$ , we use a square of the form

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \bullet & \xrightarrow{r} & \bullet \\ f \downarrow & \Sigma & \downarrow g \\ \bullet & \xrightarrow{s} & \bullet \end{array}$$

to indicate that  $f, g, r$  and  $s$  are morphisms of  $\mathcal{X}$  such that  $(f, g) : r \rightarrow s$  is a morphism of  $\Sigma$ , and a square of this type is called a  $\Sigma$ -square.

Moreover, by a  $\Sigma$ -span we mean a span  $\bullet \xleftarrow{r} \bullet \xrightarrow{f} \bullet$  with  $r$  an object of  $\Sigma$ . And a  $\Sigma$ -cospan from  $A$  to  $B$  is a cospan  $A \xrightarrow{g} J \xleftarrow{s} B$  with  $s$  an object of  $\Sigma$ .

When we have  $(r, f)$  and  $(g, s)$  forming a  $\Sigma$ -square as above, we say that the  $\Sigma$ -span  $(r, f)$  covers the  $\Sigma$ -cospan  $(g, s)$ .

Thinking of a  $\Sigma$ -span  $\bullet \xleftarrow{r} \bullet \xrightarrow{f} \bullet$  as a formal representation of the (lax) fraction  $f r_*$ , and of the  $\Sigma$ -cospan  $\bullet \xrightarrow{g} \bullet \xleftarrow{s} \bullet$  as a formal representation of the (lax) fraction  $s_* g$ , the above  $\Sigma$ -square represents the formal equality  $f r_* = s_* g$ .

**Definition 4.2.** A subcategory  $\Sigma$  of  $\mathcal{X}^\rightarrow$  is said to admit a left calculus of lax fractions of  $\mathcal{X}$  if it satisfies the following conditions:



1. *Identity.* The identities of  $\mathcal{X}$  are objects of  $\Sigma$  and  $\bullet \xrightarrow{\text{id}} \bullet$  for all objects  $s$  of  $\Sigma$ .

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \bullet & \xrightarrow{\text{id}} & \bullet \\ \text{id} \downarrow & \Sigma & \downarrow s \\ \bullet & \xrightarrow{s} & \bullet \end{array}$$

2. *Composition.* If we have  $\bullet \xrightarrow{r} \bullet$  and  $\bullet \xrightarrow{r'} \bullet$  then also  $\bullet \xrightarrow{r'r} \bullet$ .

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \bullet & \xrightarrow{r} & \bullet & \text{and} & \bullet & \xrightarrow{r'} & \bullet & \text{then also} & \bullet & \xrightarrow{r'r} & \bullet \\ f \downarrow & \Sigma & \downarrow g & & g \downarrow & \Sigma & \downarrow h & & f \downarrow & \Sigma & \downarrow h \\ \bullet & \xrightarrow{s} & \bullet & & \bullet & \xrightarrow{s'} & \bullet & & \bullet & \xrightarrow{s's} & \bullet \end{array}$$

3. *Square.* For every  $\Sigma$ -span  $\bullet \xleftarrow{r} \bullet \xrightarrow{f} \bullet$ , there are morphisms  $r'$  and  $f'$  such that

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \bullet & \xrightarrow{r} & \bullet \\ f \downarrow & \Sigma & \downarrow f' \\ \bullet & \xrightarrow{r'} & \bullet \end{array}$$

4. *Coinsertion.* Given a diagram  $\bullet \xrightarrow{r} \bullet$  where the inner square is a  $\Sigma$ -square, and such

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \bullet & \xrightarrow{r} & \bullet \\ f \downarrow & g \downarrow & \downarrow h \\ \bullet & \xrightarrow{s} & \bullet \end{array}$$

that  $gr \leq hr$ , then there is a morphism  $t$ , whose domain is the codomain of  $s$ , satisfying the following conditions:

$$tg \leq th \quad \text{and} \quad \begin{array}{ccc} \bullet & \xrightarrow{s} & \bullet \\ \parallel & \Sigma & \downarrow t \\ \bullet & \xrightarrow{ts} & \bullet \end{array}$$

**Remark 4.3.** Combining the composition of morphisms in the category  $\Sigma$  with the one given by *Composition*, we have that any square obtained by finite horizontal and vertical compositions of  $\Sigma$ -squares is a  $\Sigma$ -square. This is going to be very useful in the proofs of this section.

**Examples 4.4. 1.** Recall that a class of morphisms  $\Sigma$  of an ordinary category  $\mathcal{X}$  admits a *left calculus of fractions* if it satisfies the following conditions:

1'.  $\Sigma$  contains all identities of  $\mathcal{X}$ .

2'.  $\Sigma$  is closed under composition.

3'. For every span  $\bullet \xleftarrow{r} \bullet \xrightarrow{f} \bullet$  with  $r \in \Sigma$ , there is a cospan  $\bullet \xrightarrow{f'} \bullet \xleftarrow{r'} \bullet$  with  $r' \in \Sigma$  and  $f'r = r'f$ .

4'. If we have a diagram  $\bullet \xrightarrow{r} \bullet \xrightarrow[h]{g} \bullet$  with  $r \in \Sigma$  and  $gr = hr$  then there is some  $t \in \Sigma$  with  $tg = th$ .

Let  $\mathcal{X}$  be an ordinary category, equivalently, a category enriched with the discrete order  $=$ . Let  $\Sigma$  be a class of morphisms of  $\mathcal{X}$ , regarded as a full subcategory of  $\mathcal{X}^\rightarrow$ . Then  $\Sigma$  admits a left calculus of lax fractions if and only if it admits a left calculus of fractions in the usual sense. Indeed, the equivalence of the three first conditions is immediately seen. To show that, in the presence of 1-3, 4 implies 4', let  $g$  and  $h$  be a pair of morphisms equalized by a morphism  $r$  of  $\Sigma$ . For  $f = gr = hr$  and  $s = \text{id}$  we obtain a diagram as the first one in Definition 4.2.4, which is a  $\Sigma$ -square because of the fullness of  $\Sigma$ . Consequently, there is some morphism  $t$  under the conditions of the second diagram of Definition 4.2.4; since  $s$  is the identity, we conclude that  $t \in \Sigma$ . Conversely, given a

diagram as the first one in Definition 4.2.4, with  $gr = hr$ , let  $t$  be a morphism of  $\Sigma$  such that  $tg = th$ . Then, the second diagram of Definition 4.2.4 is indeed a  $\Sigma$ -square, since  $ts \in \Sigma$ .

In this case  $P_\Sigma : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{X}[\Sigma_*]$  is just the category of fractions  $P_\Sigma : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{X}[\Sigma^{-1}]$ . Moreover, (i) every map of  $\mathcal{X}[\Sigma^{-1}]$  can be represented as  $(P_\Sigma s)^{-1} P_\Sigma f$  with  $s \in \Sigma$ , and (ii)  $(P_\Sigma s)^{-1} P_\Sigma f = (P_\Sigma t)^{-1} P_\Sigma g$  iff there is a commutative diagram in  $\mathcal{X}$  of the form

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & \bullet & \\ f \nearrow & \downarrow x & \nwarrow s \\ \bullet & & \bullet \\ g \searrow & \uparrow y & \swarrow t \\ & \bullet & \end{array}$$

with  $xs = yt$  in  $\Sigma$ . In [7], J. Bénabou presents a calculus of fractions which provides necessary and sufficient conditions on  $\Sigma$  for (i) and (ii).

2. Let  $\Sigma$  be the subcategory of  $\mathcal{X}^\rightarrow$  whose objects are all left adjoint sections of  $\mathcal{X}$ , and the morphisms between them are all  $(f, g) : r \rightarrow s$  with  $fr_* = s_*g$ . Then  $\Sigma$  is clearly a subcategory of  $\mathcal{X}$ , and it admits a left calculus of lax fractions. To show *Coinsertion*, given a morphism  $(f, g) : r \rightarrow s$ , let  $h$  be a morphism of  $\mathcal{X}$  with  $gr \leq hr$ ; then  $s_*$  plays the role of  $t$  in Definition 4.2, the inequality being obtained as follows:  $s_*g = s_*sfr_* = s_*grr_* \leq s_*hrr_* \leq s_*h$ .

3. Let  $\mathcal{X}$  be an order-enriched category with conical pushouts (see Section 5). A morphism  $e : X \rightarrow Y$  of  $\mathcal{X}$  is said to be order-epic if, for every pair of morphisms  $f, g : Y \rightarrow Z$  with  $fe \leq ge$ , we have that  $f \leq g$ . It is easily seen that every (conical) pushout of an order-epic morphism along an arbitrary morphism is also order-epic. Let  $\Sigma$  be the subcategory of  $\mathcal{X}^\rightarrow$  defined as follows. The objects are all order-epic morphisms, and the morphisms are all morphisms of  $\mathcal{X}^\rightarrow$  of the form  $(\text{id}, e) : \text{id} \rightarrow e$  with  $e$  order-epic, represented by the square

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \bullet & \xlongequal{\quad} & \bullet \\ \parallel & & \downarrow e \\ \bullet & \xrightarrow{\quad} & \bullet \end{array}$$

of  $\mathcal{X}$  such that the square

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \bullet & \xrightarrow{e} & \bullet \\ f \downarrow & & \downarrow g \\ \bullet & \xrightarrow{e'} & \bullet \end{array}$$

horizontal and vertical composition of these two types of squares. It is easy to see that  $\Sigma$  is indeed a subcategory of  $\mathcal{X}^\rightarrow$  which admits a left calculus of lax fractions.

4. In the category  $\text{Pos}$ , we say that a morphism  $m : X \rightarrow Y$  is an (*order*) *embedding* if it satisfies the condition  $m(x) \leq m(x') \Rightarrow x \leq x'$ , for all  $x, x' \in X$ . We know that, in  $\text{Pos}$ , every complete lattice is Kan-injective with respect to embeddings, and given  $f : X \rightarrow C$  with  $C$  a complete lattice  $f/m$  is defined by (see [6] and [1])

$$(10) \quad (f/m)(b) = \bigvee_{m(x) \leq b} f(x).$$

Moreover, embeddings are precisely those morphisms  $m : X \rightarrow Y$  with respect to which the two-element chain  $D = (0 < 1)$  is Kan-injective; indeed, given  $a, a' \in X$  with  $m(a) \leq m(a')$ , define  $f : X \rightarrow D$  by  $f(x) = 1$  if  $a \leq x$ , otherwise  $f(x) = 0$ . Then, if  $D$  is Kan-injective with respect to  $m$ , we have  $1 = f(a) = (f/m)m(a) \leq (f/m)m(a') = f(a')$ , and this implies the equality  $f(a') = 1$ , i.e.  $a \leq a'$ .

Let  $\Sigma$  be the subcategory of  $\text{Pos}^\rightarrow$  consisting of:

- Objects: all embeddings;
- Morphisms: all morphism  $(u, v) : m \rightarrow n$ , with  $m : X \rightarrow Y$  and  $n : Z \rightarrow W$  embeddings, satisfying the following condition, for all  $y \in Y$  and  $z \in Z$ :

$$(11) \quad n(z) \leq v(y) \implies \text{there is some } x \in X \text{ with } z \leq u(x) \text{ and } m(x) \leq y.$$

We show that  $\Sigma = D^{\text{Llnj}}$ . As a consequence,  $\Sigma$  admits a left calculus of lax fractions. Indeed, in Proposition 5.3 we will see that if  $\mathcal{X}$  has finite weighted colimits then, for every subcategory  $\mathcal{A}$  of  $\mathcal{X}$ ,  $\Sigma = \mathcal{A}^{\text{Llnj}}$  always admits a left calculus of fractions.

Since we already have seen that embeddings are precisely the morphisms of  $\mathcal{X}$  with respect to which  $D$  is Kan-injective, it remains to show that (11) characterizes the morphisms of  $D^{\text{Llnj}}$ . Let then the morphism  $(u, v) : m \rightarrow n$  of  $\text{Pos}^{\rightarrow}$  satisfy (11), and consider a morphism  $f : Z \rightarrow D$ . We want to show that  $(fu)/m = (f/n)v$ . Since  $(fu)/m \leq (f/n)v$  always holds, it suffices to show that, for each  $y \in Y$ ,  $((f/n)v)(y) = 1$  implies  $((fu)/m)(y) = 1$ ; in other words, taking into account (10), if  $y \in Y$  and  $z \in Z$  are such that  $f(z) = 1$  and  $n(z) \leq v(y)$ , then there is some  $x \in X$  with  $fu(x) = 1$  and  $m(x) \leq y$ . But the satisfaction of this last condition is clearly ensured by (11). Conversely, let  $(u, v) : m \rightarrow n$  be a morphism of  $D^{\text{Llnj}}$ , and consider  $y \in Y$  and  $z \in Z$  with  $n(z) \leq v(y)$ . Let  $f : Z \rightarrow D$  be defined by  $f(z') = 1$  if  $z \leq z'$ , otherwise,  $f(z') = 0$ . Since  $f(z) = 1$  and  $n(z) \leq v(y)$ , we have that  $((f/n)v)(y) = 1$ . Thus also  $((fu)/m)(y) = 1$ . But this means that there is some  $x \in X$  with  $m(x) \leq y$  and  $(fu)(x) = 1$ , the last equality meaning that  $z \leq u(x)$ .

Let  $\Omega_0$  be the contravariant endofunctor of  $\text{Pos}$  sending every poset  $X$  to the poset  $\Omega_0 X$  of its lower sets, and every monotone map  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  to the preimage map  $\Omega_0 f : \Omega_0 Y \rightarrow \Omega_0 X$ . In [2], we show that condition (11) above is equivalent to the Beck-Chevalley condition  $(\Omega_0 u)^* \cdot \Omega_0 m = \Omega_0 n \cdot (\Omega_0 v)^*$ , where  $-^*$  stands for the left adjoint.

5. (cf. [2]) Let  $\text{Loc}$  be the category of locales (i.e., frames) and localic maps, i.e., maps  $f$  preserving all infima and whose left adjoint  $f^*$  preserves finite meets. Recall that embeddings in  $\text{Loc}$  are precisely the localic maps  $h$  made split monomorphisms by its left adjoint:  $h^*h = \text{id}$  ([15]).

Let  $\Sigma_0$  be the subcategory of  $\text{Loc}^{\rightarrow}$  having all embeddings as objects and whose morphisms are those  $(u, v) : m \rightarrow n$  of  $\text{Loc}^{\rightarrow}$  satisfying the Beck-Chevalley condition  $v^*n = mu^*$ . We are going to show that  $\Sigma_0$  admits a left calculus of lax fractions.

In [9] we showed that for every finitely generated frame  $F$ , given an embedding  $m : X \rightarrow Y$  and  $f : X \rightarrow F$ , the map  $mf^*$  is a frame homomorphism, thus  $(mf^*)_*$  is localic, and moreover

$$(12) \quad f/m = (mf^*)_*.$$

We also proved that embeddings are precisely the localic maps with respect to which the free frame  $F_1$  generated by  $1 = \{0\}$  is Kan-injective. In order to conclude that  $\Sigma_0$  admits a left calculus of lax fractions we show that  $\Sigma_0 = F_1^{\text{Llnj}}$ . Then, since  $\text{Loc}$  has finite weighted colimits, the result follows from Proposition 5.3.

Indeed, assume that in the commutative square

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X & \xrightarrow{m} & Y \\ u \downarrow & & \downarrow v \\ Z & \xrightarrow{n} & W \end{array}$$

$m$  and  $n$  are embeddings and  $mu^* = v^*n$ . Then, for every  $f : Z \rightarrow F_1$ , we have:

$$(f/n)v = (nf^*)_*v = (v^*(nf^*))_* = (mu^*f^*)_* = (m(fu)^*)_* = (fu)/m.$$

Conversely, assume that  $(u, v) : m \rightarrow n$  lies in  $F_1^{\text{Llnj}}$ . We show  $mu^* = v^*n$ . Given  $z \in Z$ , let  $g : F_1 \rightarrow Z$  be the frame homomorphism sending the element 0 to  $z$ . The localic map  $g_* : Z \rightarrow F_1$  satisfies the equality  $(g_*/n)v = (g_*u)/m$ , i.e., by (12),  $(ng)_*v = (mu^*g)_*$ ; then, by applying the operator  $-^*$  to the last equality, we obtain  $v^*ng = mu^*g$ , thus  $v^*n(z) = v^*ng(0) = mu^*g(0) = mu^*(z)$ .

6. Recall that in Loc dense embeddings are those preserving the bottom  $\perp$ , and flat embeddings are those preserving finite joins. Let now  $F_0, F_1$  and  $F_2$  be the free frames generated by the empty set,  $1 = \{0\}$  and  $2 = \{0, 1\}$ , respectively, and let  $f_i : F_i \rightarrow F_1$ ,  $i = 0, 2$ , be the localic maps determined by  $f_0(\perp) = 0$ ,  $f_2(0 \vee 1) = 0$  and  $f_2(x) = \perp$  for  $x \neq \top, 0 \vee 1$ . In [9] dense embeddings were characterized as precisely the localic maps with respect to which the morphism  $f_0$  is Kan-injective. And flat embeddings were characterized there as precisely those morphisms with respect to which both  $f_0$  and  $f_2$  are Kan-injective. Let  $\Sigma_1$  and  $\Sigma_2$  be the full subcategories of the category  $\Sigma_0 = F_1^{\text{Llnj}}$ , described in 5, consisting of all dense embeddings, and all flat embeddings, respectively. Both  $\Sigma_1$  and  $\Sigma_2$  admit a left calculus of lax fractions. Indeed, by using the same arguments as in the previous example, we see that  $\Sigma_1 = \{f_0\}^{\text{Llnj}}$  and  $\Sigma_2 = \{f_0, f_2\}^{\text{Llnj}}$ .

7. Let  $\text{Top}_0$  be the category of  $T_0$ -topological spaces and continuous maps, considered as an order-enriched category via the dual of the specialization order. Let  $\text{Lc} : \text{Top}_0 \rightarrow \text{Loc}$  be the functor taking every space  $X$  to the frame of its open sets  $\Omega X$ , and every continuous map  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  to the right adjoint of the preimage map  $f^{-1} : \Omega Y \rightarrow \Omega X$ . Then the subcategory  $\Sigma$  of  $\text{Top}_0^{\rightarrow}$  consisting of all (topological) embeddings and all morphisms  $(u, v) : m \rightarrow n$  between embeddings such that  $(\text{Lc}(u), \text{Lc}(v)) : \text{Lc}(m) \rightarrow \text{Lc}(n)$  belongs to the category  $\Sigma_0$  described above (in 5) admits a left calculus of lax fractions. Indeed as shown in [2],  $\Sigma$  is precisely  $\mathbf{S}^{\text{Llnj}}$  in  $\text{Top}_0$  where  $\mathbf{S}$  is the Sierpiński space.

A collection of examples of subcategories  $\Sigma = \mathcal{A}^{\text{Llnj}}$  of  $\mathcal{X}^{\rightarrow}$  admitting a left calculus of lax fractions (which indeed includes Examples 3, 5 and 6 of 4.4 (see [9]), is obtained from the next proposition.

**Proposition 4.5.** *If  $\mathcal{A}$  is a KZ-reflective subcategory of  $\mathcal{X}$ , then  $\Sigma = \mathcal{A}^{\text{Llnj}}$  admits a left calculus of lax fractions.*

*Proof.* Using Lemma 3.4, the satisfaction of *Identity* and *Composition* is clear. To obtain *Square*, in 4.2.3 let  $X$  be the domain of  $r$  and let  $Y$  and  $Z$  be the codomains of  $r$  and  $f$ , respectively; put  $r' = \eta_Z$  and  $f' = Ff(Fr)_*\eta_Y$ . From Remark 3.5, we know that  $(F\eta_Z)_* = \varepsilon_{FZ}$ , and then, since  $F(Fr)_* \cdot F\eta_Y \cdot \eta_Y = F(Fr)_* \cdot \eta_{FY} \cdot \eta_Y = \eta_{FX} \cdot (Fr)_* \cdot \eta_Y$ , we have that

$$(F\eta_Z)_* \cdot F^2f \cdot F(Fr)_* \cdot F\eta_Y \cdot \eta_Y = Ff \cdot \varepsilon_{FX} \cdot \eta_{FX} \cdot (Fr)_* \cdot \eta_Y = Ff \cdot (Fr)_* \cdot \eta_Y.$$

Since  $(F\eta_Z)_* \cdot F(Ff \cdot (Fr)_* \cdot \eta_Y)$  and  $Ff \cdot (Fr)_*$  are both morphisms of  $\mathcal{A}$  (see 2.2), we conclude that they are equal; that is, by Lemma 3.4 again, our square is of  $\Sigma$  type.

To show *Coinsertion*, let us have a diagram 
$$\begin{array}{ccc} X & \xrightarrow{r} & Y \\ f \downarrow & & g \downarrow \downarrow h \\ Z & \xrightarrow{s} & W \end{array}$$
 where the inner square is a  $\Sigma$ -square

and with  $gr \leq hr$ . Put  $t = (Fs)_*\eta_W$ . Then,  $tg = (Fs)_*\eta_Wg = (Fs)_*Fg\eta_Y = Ff(Fr)_*\eta_Y = (Fs)_*FsFf(Fr)_*\eta_Y$ .

But  $FsFf(Fr)_* = FgFr(Fr)_* \leq FhFr(Fr)_* \leq Fh$ . Thus

$$tg \leq (Fs)_*Fh\eta_Y = (Fs)_*\eta_W h = th.$$

Moreover, we have  $ts = (Fs)_*\eta_W s = (Fs)_*Fs\eta_Y = \eta_Y$ ; hence, by Lemma 3.4 and Remark 3.5,  $ts \in \Sigma$ . To show that  $(\text{id}, t) : s \rightarrow ts$  is a morphism of  $\Sigma$  we also use property (ii) of Lemma 3.4:  $(F(ts))_*Ft = (F\eta_Y)_*F(Fs)_*F\eta_W = \varepsilon_{FY}F(Fs)_*F\eta_W = (Fs)_*\varepsilon_{FW}F\eta_W = (Fs)_*$ .  $\square$

Let  $\Sigma$  be a subcategory of  $\mathcal{X}^{\rightarrow}$  admitting a left calculus of lax fractions. We are going to see that then we obtain a category of lax fractions as follows: the objects of  $\mathcal{X}[\Sigma_*]$  are those of  $\mathcal{X}$ , and the morphisms are going to be equivalence classes of  $\Sigma$ -cospans. In general,  $\mathcal{X}[\Sigma_*]$  is not locally small (even if  $\mathcal{X}$  is so), analogously to what happens in the ordinary case to  $\mathcal{X}[\Sigma^{-1}]$  for  $\Sigma$  admitting a left calculus of fractions.

The following definitions and lemmas are a preparation for Theorem 4.11 below.

**4.6. The relation  $\leq$  between  $\Sigma$ -cospans.** A  $\Sigma$ -cospan from  $A$  to  $B$  of the form

$$A \xrightarrow{f} I \xleftarrow{s} B$$

will be denoted by  $(f, I, s)$  or just by  $(f, s)$ .

Given objects  $A$  and  $B$  of  $\mathcal{X}$ , we consider a relation  $\leq$  between  $\Sigma$ -cospans from  $A$  to  $B$  given by

$$(f, I, s) \leq (g, J, t)$$

if there is a diagram of the form

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} A & \xrightarrow{f} & I & \xleftarrow{s} & B \\ \parallel & & x \downarrow & \Sigma & \parallel \\ & \nearrow & X & \longleftarrow & B \\ \parallel & & y \uparrow & \Sigma & \parallel \\ A & \xrightarrow{g} & J & \xleftarrow{t} & B \end{array}$$

where, as indicated,  $xf \leq yg$ , and the two squares on the right-hand side are  $\Sigma$ -squares, i.e.,  $(\text{id}, x) : s \rightarrow sx$  and  $(\text{id}, y) : t \rightarrow yt$  are morphisms of  $\Sigma$  with  $xs = yt$ .

**Lemma 4.7.** For  $\Sigma$  admitting a left calculus of lax fractions, let  $A \xleftarrow{r} D \xrightarrow{d} B$  be a  $\Sigma$ -span covering the two  $\Sigma$ -cospans  $A \xrightarrow{f_i} I_i \xleftarrow{s_i} B$ ,  $i = 1, 2$  (see Terminology 4.1). Then  $(f_1, I_1, s_1) \leq (f_2, I_2, s_2)$ , and, analogously,  $(f_2, I_2, s_2) \leq (f_1, I_1, s_1)$ .

*Proof.* We show that  $(f_1, I_1, s_1) \leq (f_2, I_2, s_2)$ . Using *Square*, form the  $\Sigma$ -square

$$(13) \quad \begin{array}{ccc} B & \xrightarrow{s_1} & I_1 \\ s_2 \downarrow & \Sigma & \downarrow r_1 \\ I_2 & \xrightarrow{r_2} & J \end{array}$$

Since, by hypothesis,  $(d, f_i) : r \rightarrow s_i$  is a morphism of  $\Sigma$  for  $i = 1, 2$ , by vertical composition of  $\Sigma$ -squares, we obtain the  $\Sigma$ -square

$$D \xrightarrow{r} A \quad . \text{ Moreover, } (r_1 f_1)r = r_1 s_1 d = r_2 s_2 d = (r_2 f_2)r.$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} s_2 d \downarrow & \Sigma & \downarrow r_1 f_1 \\ I_2 & \xrightarrow{r_2} & J \end{array}$$

Consequently, by *Coinsertion*, there is some morphism  $p : J \rightarrow I_0$  such that  $p(r_1 f_1) \leq p(r_2 f_2)$ , and

$$(14) \quad \begin{array}{ccc} B & \xrightarrow{r_2} & J \quad . \\ \parallel & \Sigma & \downarrow p \\ B & \xrightarrow{pr_2} & I_0 \end{array}$$

To conclude that  $(f_1, I_1, s_1) \leq (f_2, I_2, s_2)$ , it remains to verify that the two squares on the right-hand side of the following diagram are of  $\Sigma$  type:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} A & \xrightarrow{f_1} & I_1 & \xleftarrow{s_1} & B \\ \parallel & & \downarrow pr_1 & & \parallel \\ & \swarrow & I_0 & \xleftarrow{} & B \\ & & \uparrow pr_2 & & \parallel \\ A & \xrightarrow{f_2} & I_2 & \xleftarrow{s_2} & B \end{array}$$

follows from the composition of the following  $\Sigma$ -squares, where we use (14), the fact that  $\Sigma$  is a subcategory of  $\mathcal{X}^\rightarrow$ , and *Identity*:

$$(15) \quad \begin{array}{ccccc} B & \xrightarrow{s_2} & I_1 & \xlongequal{\quad} & I_1 \\ \parallel & \Sigma & \parallel & \Sigma & \downarrow r_2 \\ B & \xrightarrow{s_2} & I_1 & \xrightarrow{r_2} & Z \\ \parallel & \Sigma & \parallel & \Sigma & \downarrow p \\ B & \xrightarrow{s_2} & X & \xrightarrow{pr_2} & I_0 \end{array}$$

Concerning the top one, observe that, from (13), *Identity* and *Composition*, we have that the outside square of the diagram  $B \xlongequal{\quad} B \xrightarrow{s_1} I_1$  is a  $\Sigma$  one. Now, composing vertically with the  $\Sigma$ -square

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \parallel & \Sigma & \downarrow r_1 \\ \Sigma & s_2 \downarrow & \downarrow r_1 \\ B & \xrightarrow{s_2} I_2 & \xrightarrow{r_2} J \end{array}$$

given by the composition of the two  $\Sigma$ -squares in the bottom of (15), and taking into account that  $r_2 s_2 = r_1 s_1$ , we obtain the desired  $\Sigma$ -square.

Analogously, we can show that  $(f_2, I_2, s_2) \leq (f_1, I_1, s_1)$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 4.8.** *The relation  $\leq$  on the class of all  $\Sigma$ -cospans is reflexive and transitive.*

*Proof.* Reflexivity is clear, since  $\bullet \xrightarrow{s} \bullet$ , because  $\Sigma$  is a subcategory of  $\mathcal{X}^\rightarrow$  and  $(\text{id}, \text{id}) : s \rightarrow s$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \bullet & \xrightarrow{s} & \bullet \\ \text{id} \downarrow & \Sigma & \downarrow \text{id} \\ \bullet & \xrightarrow{s} & \bullet \end{array}$$

is the identity morphism on  $s$ .

Concerning transitivity, let  $(f, I, s)$ ,  $(g, J, t)$  and  $(h, K, u)$  be  $\Sigma$ -cospans from  $A$  to  $B$  such that  $(f, I, s) \leq (g, J, t)$  and  $(g, J, t) \leq (h, K, u)$  through the following diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 A & \xrightarrow{f} & I & \xleftarrow{s} & B \\
 \parallel & & \downarrow x & \lrcorner & \parallel \\
 & & X & \xleftarrow{} & B \\
 & & \uparrow y & \lrcorner & \parallel \\
 A & \xrightarrow{g} & J & \xleftarrow{t} & B \\
 \parallel & & \downarrow z & \lrcorner & \parallel \\
 & & Z & \xleftarrow{} & B \\
 & & \uparrow w & \lrcorner & \parallel \\
 A & \xrightarrow{h} & K & \xleftarrow{u} & B
 \end{array}$$

Then we have that the  $\Sigma$ -span  $B \xleftarrow{\text{id}_B} B \xrightarrow{t} J$  covers both the  $\Sigma$ -cospans  $J \xrightarrow{y} X \xleftarrow{yt} B$  and  $J \xrightarrow{z} Z \xleftarrow{zt} B$ . Consequently, by Lemma 4.7,  $(y, yt) \leq (z, zt)$ . Therefore, there are morphisms  $a : X \rightarrow Y$  and  $b : Z \rightarrow Y$  with which we obtain the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 A & \xrightarrow{f} & I & \xleftarrow{s} & B \\
 \parallel & & \downarrow x & \lrcorner & \parallel \\
 A & \xrightarrow{g} & J & \xrightarrow{y} & X & \xleftarrow{yt} & B \\
 \parallel & & \parallel & & \downarrow a & \lrcorner & \parallel \\
 & & & & Y & \xleftarrow{} & B \\
 & & & & \uparrow b & \lrcorner & \parallel \\
 A & \xrightarrow{g} & J & \xrightarrow{z} & Z & \xleftarrow{zt} & B \\
 \parallel & & \parallel & & \uparrow w & \lrcorner & \parallel \\
 A & \xrightarrow{h} & K & \xleftarrow{u} & B
 \end{array}$$

with  $(ax)f \leq ayg \leq bzg \leq (bw)h$ . Thus  $(f, s) \leq (h, u)$ . □

**4.9. The equivalence classes of  $\Sigma$ -cospans and their composition.** We say that two  $\Sigma$ -cospans  $(f, s)$  and  $(g, t)$  with the same domain and codomain are *equivalent*, and write

$$(f, s) \equiv (g, t)$$

whenever  $(f, s) \leq (g, t)$  and  $(g, t) \leq (f, s)$ .

Since  $\leq$  is reflexive and transitive,  $\equiv$  is an equivalence relation.

We denote the equivalence class of a  $\Sigma$ -cospan  $(f, s)$  by  $[(f, s)]$ . When there is no reason for confusion, we also represent the equivalence class by one of its elements.

Since  $\leq$  is reflexive and transitive, we obtain a partial order  $\leq$  between equivalence classes of  $\Sigma$ -cospans with the same domain and codomain as follows:

$$[(f, s)] \leq [(g, t)] \quad \text{whenever} \quad (f, s) \leq (g, t).$$

In particular, we conclude that, for two  $\Sigma$ -cospans as in Lemma 4.7,  $(f_1, I_1, s_1) \equiv (f_2, I_2, s_2)$ .

Next we define a composition between equivalence classes of  $\Sigma$ -cospans, for  $\Sigma$  admitting a left calculus of lax fractions. We give the definition and we show that it is well-defined and that it is preserved by the order  $\leq$  defined between equivalence classes of  $\Sigma$ -cospans.

Given two  $\Sigma$ -cospans  $(f, I, s) : A \rightarrow B$  and  $(g, J, t) : B \rightarrow C$ , we define

$$[(g, J, t)] \cdot [(f, I, s)]$$

as being the equivalence class of any  $\Sigma$ -cospan  $(g'f, K, s't) : A \rightarrow C$  obtained by forming a  $\Sigma$ -square as follows:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} A & \xrightarrow{f} & I & \xleftarrow{s} & B \\ & & g' \downarrow & \lrcorner & \downarrow g \\ & & K & \xleftarrow{s'} & J & \xleftarrow{t} & C \end{array}$$

From now on a composition of two  $\Sigma$ -cospans  $(f, I, s) : A \rightarrow B$  and  $(g, J, t) : B \rightarrow C$  will be denoted by

$$(g, J, t) \circ (f, I, s)$$

and it refers to any  $\Sigma$ -cospan  $(g'f, K, s't) : A \rightarrow C$  obtained as described above.

The above composition is well-defined, that is, if  $I \xrightarrow{g'} K \xleftarrow{s'} J$  and  $I \xrightarrow{\hat{g}} M \xleftarrow{\hat{s}} J$  are two  $\Sigma$ -cospans covered by the  $\Sigma$ -span  $I \xleftarrow{s} B \xrightarrow{g} J$ , then  $(g'f, K, s't) \equiv (\hat{g}f, M, \hat{s}t)$ .

Indeed, in that case, by Lemma 4.7,  $(g', K, s') \leq (\hat{g}, M, \hat{s})$ , thus we have a diagram of the form

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} A & \xrightarrow{f} & I & \xrightarrow{g'} & K & \xleftarrow{s'} & J & \xleftarrow{t} & C \\ \parallel & & \parallel & & a \downarrow & \lrcorner & \parallel & \lrcorner & \parallel \\ & & & & N & \xleftarrow{} & J & \xleftarrow{t} & C \\ \nearrow & & & & b \uparrow & \lrcorner & \parallel & \lrcorner & \parallel \\ A & \xrightarrow{f} & I & \xrightarrow{\hat{g}} & M & \xleftarrow{\hat{s}} & J & \xleftarrow{t} & C \end{array}$$

showing that  $(g'f, K, s't) \leq (\hat{g}f, M, \hat{s}t)$ ; and analogously, we have  $(\hat{g}f, M, \hat{s}t) \leq (g'f, K, s't)$ .

**Lemma 4.10.** *The relation  $\leq$  is compatible with composition, i.e., if we have a diagram of  $\Sigma$ -cospans*

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A & \xrightarrow{(f_2, s_2)} & B & \xrightarrow{(g_2, t_2)} & C \\ & \xrightarrow{(f_1, s_1)} & & \xrightarrow{(g_1, t_1)} & \end{array}$$

with  $(f_1, s_1) \leq (f_2, s_2)$  and  $(g_1, t_1) \leq (g_2, t_2)$ , then any composition of the two lower  $\Sigma$ -cospans is  $\leq$ -related to any composition of the two upper  $\Sigma$ -cospans.

*Proof.* It suffices to prove that the property holds for

- (A)  $(f, s) = (f_1, s_1) = (f_2, s_2)$ , and
- (B)  $(g, t) = (g_1, t_1) = (g_2, t_2)$ .



(A) Let us have the inequality  $(g_1, t_1) \leq (g_2, t_2)$  through the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} B & \xrightarrow{g_1} & J_1 & \xleftarrow{t_1} & C \\ \parallel & & y_1 \downarrow & \Sigma & \parallel \\ & & \lrcorner & J_0 & \xleftarrow{t_1} C \\ \parallel & & y_2 \uparrow & \Sigma & \parallel \\ B & \xrightarrow{g_2} & J_2 & \xleftarrow{t_2} & C \end{array}$$

and, using *Square*, consider the compositions  $(g_i, J_i, t_i) \circ (f, I, s)$ ,  $i = 1, 2$ , given by

$$(16) \quad \begin{array}{ccc} A & \xrightarrow{f} & I \xleftarrow{s} B \\ g'_i \downarrow & \Sigma & \downarrow g_i \\ K_i & \xleftarrow{s_i} & J_i \xleftarrow{t_i} C \end{array} .$$

*Square* also ensures the existence of the following first two  $\Sigma$ -squares, which in turn, combined with (16), give rise to the third diagram:

$$(17) \quad \begin{array}{ccc} J_i \xrightarrow{s_i} K_i, & i = 1, 2, & J_0 \xrightarrow{s'_1} L_1 \\ y_i \downarrow \Sigma \downarrow y'_i & & s'_2 \downarrow \Sigma \downarrow r_1 \\ J_0 \xrightarrow{s'_i} L_i & & L_2 \xrightarrow{r_2} M \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{ccc} B \xrightarrow{s} I & & \\ s'_2 y_1 g_1 \downarrow & r_1 y'_1 g'_1 \downarrow & r_2 y'_2 g'_2 \downarrow \\ L_2 \xrightarrow{r_2} M & & \end{array} .$$

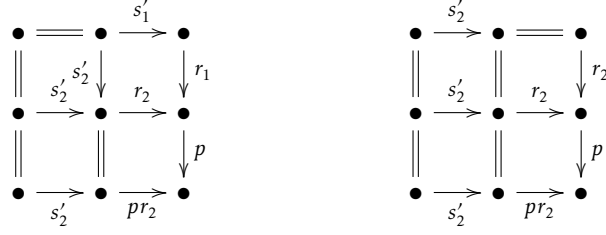
In the last diagram the inner square is of  $\Sigma$  type, because of *Composition*, and, furthermore, we have that  $(r_1 y'_1 g'_1) s = r_1 y'_1 s_1 g_1 = r_1 s'_1 y_1 g_1 = r_2 s'_2 y_1 g_1 \leq r_2 s'_2 y_2 g_2 = r_2 y'_2 s_2 g_2 = (r_2 y'_2 g'_2) s$ . Consequently, by *Coinsertion*, there is  $p : M \rightarrow P$  such that

$$(18) \quad pr_1 y'_1 g'_1 \leq pr_2 y'_2 g'_2 \quad \text{and} \quad \begin{array}{ccc} L_2 & \xrightarrow{r_2} & M \\ \parallel & \Sigma & \downarrow p \\ L_2 & \xrightarrow{pr_2} & P \end{array} .$$

Therefore, we have the following diagram, where  $t = y_i t_i$ ,

$$(19) \quad \begin{array}{ccccccc} A & \xrightarrow{f} & I & \xrightarrow{y'_1 g'_1} & L_1 & \xleftarrow{s'_1} & J_0 \xleftarrow{t} C \\ \parallel & & \parallel & & pr_1 \downarrow \textcircled{1} & \parallel & \Sigma & \parallel \\ & & & & \lrcorner & P & \xleftarrow{t} J_0 & \xleftarrow{t} C \\ \parallel & & \parallel & & pr_2 \uparrow \textcircled{2} & \parallel & \Sigma & \parallel \\ A & \xrightarrow{f} & I & \xrightarrow{y'_2 g'_2} & L_2 & \xleftarrow{s'_2} & J_0 \xleftarrow{t} C \end{array}$$

with both squares ① and ② of  $\Sigma$  type. Indeed ① and ② are the outside squares of the following diagrams obtained by vertical and horizontal composition of  $\Sigma$ -squares:



Using the first diagram of (17), and putting  $t = y_i t_i$ , we obtain the commutative diagram

$$(20) \quad \begin{array}{ccccccc} A & \xrightarrow{f} & I & \xrightarrow{g'_i} & K_i & \xleftarrow{s_i} & J_i & \xleftarrow{t_i} & C \\ \parallel & & \parallel & & y'_i \downarrow & \lrcorner & y_i \downarrow & \lrcorner & \parallel \\ A & \xrightarrow{f} & I & \xrightarrow{y'_i g'_i} & L_i & \xleftarrow{s'_i} & J_0 & \xleftarrow{t} & C \end{array}$$

Now, the diagram obtained by composing vertically first the diagram (20) with  $i = 1$ , next the diagram (19), and lastly the diagram (20) with  $i = 2$ , shows that  $(g'_1 f, s_1 t_1) \leq (g'_2 f, s_2 t_2)$ , as desired.

(B) Let us have the inequality  $(f_1, s_1) \leq (f_2, s_2)$  through the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} A & \xrightarrow{f_1} & I_1 & \xleftarrow{s_1} & B \\ \parallel & & x_1 \downarrow & \lrcorner & \parallel \\ & & I_0 & \xleftarrow{s} & C \\ \parallel & & x_2 \uparrow & \lrcorner & \parallel \\ A & \xrightarrow{f_2} & I_2 & \xleftarrow{s_2} & B \end{array}$$

Then the following diagram, where  $(\tilde{g}, \tilde{s})$  is a  $\Sigma$ -cospan obtained by *Square* applied to the  $\Sigma$ -span  $(s, g)$ ,

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} A & \xrightarrow{f_i} & I_i & \xleftarrow{s_i} & B \\ & & x_i \downarrow & \lrcorner & \parallel \\ & & I_0 & \xleftarrow{s} & B \\ & & \tilde{g} \downarrow & \lrcorner & \downarrow g \\ & & M & \xleftarrow{\tilde{s}} & J & \xleftarrow{t} & C \end{array}$$

shows that, for  $i = 1, 2$ ,  $(\tilde{g} x_i f_i, \tilde{s} t)$  is a composition of  $(f_i, s_i)$  with  $(g, t)$ . Thus, the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} A & \xrightarrow{\tilde{g} x_1 f_1} & M & \xleftarrow{\tilde{s} t} & C \\ \parallel & \lrcorner & \parallel & \lrcorner & \parallel \\ A & \xrightarrow{\tilde{g} x_2 f_2} & M & \xleftarrow{\tilde{s} t} & C \end{array}$$

tells us that  $(g, t) \circ (f_1, s) \leq (g, t) \circ (f_2, s)$ . □

Now we are ready to prove the announced theorem:

**Theorem 4.11.** *Let  $\Sigma$  be a subcategory of  $\mathcal{X}^\rightarrow$  admitting a left calculus of lax fractions. Then the category of lax fractions  $P_\Sigma : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{X}[\Sigma_*$ ] can be described as follows:*

- *the objects of  $\mathcal{X}[\Sigma_*$ ] are those of  $\mathcal{X}$ ;*
- *the morphisms of  $\mathcal{X}[\Sigma_*$ ] are  $\equiv$ -equivalence classes of  $\Sigma$ -cospans with the composition and order on morphisms as described in 4.9;*
- *$P_\Sigma A = A$  and  $P_\Sigma f = [(f, id)]$  for all objects  $A$  and morphisms  $f$  of  $\mathcal{X}$ .*

*Proof.* (A)  $\mathcal{X}[\Sigma_*$ ], as described above, is actually a category.

The identity on an object  $A$  is the equivalence class of  $(id_A, id_A)$ . Indeed, given  $(f, I, s) : A \rightarrow B$ , using the fact that  $\Sigma$  is a subcategory of  $\mathcal{X}^\rightarrow$ , *Square* and *Identity*, we obtain the diagrams

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A \xrightarrow{f} I \xleftarrow{s} B & & A \xrightarrow{f} I \xlongequal{\quad} I \xleftarrow{s} B \\ \text{id}_I \downarrow \quad \mathcal{I} \quad \downarrow \text{id}_B & \text{and} & \parallel \quad \mathcal{M} \quad d \downarrow \quad \mathcal{I} \quad \parallel \quad \mathcal{I} \quad \parallel \\ I \xleftarrow{s} B \xleftarrow{\quad} B & & A \xrightarrow{f'} I' \xleftarrow{d} B \xleftarrow{s} B \end{array}$$

which show that  $(id_B, id_B) \circ (f, s) \equiv (f, s)$  and  $(f, s) \circ (id_A, id_A) \equiv (f', ds) \equiv (f, s)$ .

Moreover, the associativity of the composition is illustrated by the following diagram, which shows that  $(h''g'f, s''t'u)$  is simultaneously a composition of the form  $((h, u) \circ (g, t)) \circ (f, s)$  and a composition of the form  $(h, u) \circ ((g, t) \circ (f, s))$ :

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} A & \xrightarrow{f} & I & \xleftarrow{s} & B & & \\ & & g' \downarrow & \mathcal{I} & \downarrow g & & \\ & & M_1 & \xleftarrow{\quad} & J & \xleftarrow{t} & C \\ & & h'' \downarrow & \mathcal{I} & h' \downarrow & \mathcal{I} & \downarrow h \\ & & M_0 & \xleftarrow{s''} & M_2 & \xleftarrow{t'} & K & \xleftarrow{u} & D \end{array}$$

(B)  $P_\Sigma$  is clearly a functor, since  $P_\Sigma(id_A) = (id_A, id_A)$ , and, given  $f : A \rightarrow B$  and  $g : B \rightarrow C$  in  $\mathcal{X}$ , we have that  $P_\Sigma(g) \cdot P_\Sigma(f) \equiv (g, id_C) \circ (f, id_B) \equiv (gf, id_C) \equiv P_\Sigma(gf)$ ; to see that indeed  $(g, id_C) \circ (f, id_B) \equiv (gf, id_C)$ , let  $(g'f, d)$  be a composition of  $(g, id)$  with  $(f, id)$ , i.e.,  $(g, g') : id \rightarrow d$  is a morphism of  $\Sigma$ , obtained by *Square*; then, using *Identity*, we have the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} A & \xrightarrow{f} & B & \xrightarrow{g} & C \xlongequal{\quad} C \\ \parallel & & \parallel & & d \downarrow \quad \mathcal{I} \quad \parallel \\ A & \xrightarrow{f} & B & \xrightarrow{g'} & \bullet \xleftarrow{d} C \end{array}$$

which shows that  $[(gf, id_C)] = [(g, id_C)] \cdot [(f, id_B)]$ .

Furthermore,  $P_\Sigma$  is order-enriched: given  $f, g : A \rightarrow B$  with  $f \leq g$ , then  $P_\Sigma f \leq P_\Sigma g$ .

(C) To verify that  $P_\Sigma$  satisfies condition (i) of Definition 3.1, let  $s : A \rightarrow B$  be an object of  $\Sigma$ . We show that  $P_\Sigma s = [(s, id_B)]$  is a left adjoint section, by showing that  $[(id_B, s)] \cdot [(s, id_B)] = [(id_A, id_A)]$  and  $(s, id_B) \circ (id_B, s) \leq (id_B, id_B)$ ; thus, in particular, we have that  $([(s, id)])_* = [(id, s)]$ . The  $\Sigma$ -cospan  $(s, s)$  is clearly a composition of the form  $(id_B, s) \circ (s, id_B)$ , and the fact that  $(s, s) \equiv (id_A, id_A)$  follows

from the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 A & \xrightarrow{s} & B & \xleftarrow{s} & A \\
 \parallel & & \parallel & \textcircled{1} & \parallel \\
 & & B & \xleftarrow{s} & A \\
 & & \uparrow s & \textcircled{2} & \parallel \\
 A & \xrightarrow{\text{id}_A} & A & \xleftarrow{\text{id}_A} & A
 \end{array}$$

where  $\textcircled{1}$  is a  $\Sigma$ -square because it is the identity morphism on the object  $s$  of  $\Sigma$ , and  $\textcircled{2}$  is a  $\Sigma$ -square because of *Identity*. In order to conclude that  $(s, \text{id}_B) \circ (\text{id}_B, s) \leq (\text{id}_B, \text{id}_B)$ , let  $(s_1, s_2)$  be a composition of  $(s, \text{id}_B)$  with  $(\text{id}_B, s)$ , as illustrated by the following diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 B & \xrightarrow{\text{id}_B} & B & \xleftarrow{s} & A \\
 & & \downarrow s_1 & \sqsupset & \downarrow s \\
 & & C & \xleftarrow{s_2} & B \xleftarrow{\text{id}_B} B
 \end{array}$$

Since  $s_1 s = s_2 s$ , by *Coinsertion* we know that there is a morphism  $d : C \rightarrow D$  such that  $ds_1 \leq ds_2$  and the  $\Sigma$ -span  $(s_2, \text{id}_B)$  covers the  $\Sigma$ -cospan  $(d, ds_2)$ . We obtain then the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 B & \xrightarrow{s_1} & C & \xleftarrow{s_2} & B \\
 \parallel & & \downarrow d & \sqsupset & \parallel \\
 & & D & \xleftarrow{\quad} & B \\
 \parallel & & \uparrow ds_2 & \sqsupset & \parallel \\
 B & \xrightarrow{\text{id}_B} & B & \xleftarrow{\text{id}_B} & B
 \end{array}$$

with  $ds_1 \leq ds_2$ . That is,  $(s_1, s_2) \leq (\text{id}_B, \text{id}_B)$ , where  $(s_1, s_2)$  is a representative of  $[(s, \text{id}_B) \circ (\text{id}_B, s)]$ .

Now, the satisfaction of (ii) of Definition 3.1 is easily seen since, given a morphism  $(u, v) : r \rightarrow s$  in  $\Sigma$ , it is clear that  $(u, \text{id}) \circ (\text{id}, r) \equiv (v, s) \equiv (\text{id}, s) \circ (v, \text{id})$ .

(D)  $P_\Sigma$  is universal. Let  $F : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  be a functor such that  $Fs$  is a left adjoint section for every  $s \in \Sigma$ , and, moreover, for every morphism  $(f, g) : r \rightarrow s$  in  $\Sigma$ , the equality  $(Fs)_* g = f(Fr)_*$  holds. We define  $H : \mathcal{X}[\Sigma_*] \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  by

$$HX = FX \quad \text{and} \quad H[(f, I, s)] = (Fs)_* Ff.$$

First we show that, assuming that  $H$  is a functor, it is the unique one such that  $HP_\Sigma = F$ . Indeed we have  $H(P_\Sigma X) = HX = FX$ ; and  $H(P_\Sigma f) = H(f, \text{id}) = (F(\text{id}))_* Ff = Ff$ . Furthermore, if  $\tilde{H} : \mathcal{X}[\Sigma_*] \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  is another functor such that  $\tilde{H}P_\Sigma = F$ , taking into account that we are dealing with order-enriched functors, we have that:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \tilde{H}X &= \tilde{H}(P_\Sigma X) = FX; \text{ and} \\
 \tilde{H}[(f, I, s)] &= \tilde{H}[(\text{id}_I, I, s)] \cdot \tilde{H}[(f, I, \text{id}_I)] \\
 &= \left( \tilde{H}[(s, I, \text{id}_I)] \right)_* \cdot \tilde{H}[(f, I, \text{id}_I)] \\
 &= \left( \tilde{H}P_\Sigma s \right)_* \cdot \left( \tilde{H}P_\Sigma f \right) \\
 &= (Fs)_* Ff \\
 &= H[(f, I, s)].
 \end{aligned}$$

It remains to show that  $H : \mathcal{X}[\Sigma_*] \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  is indeed a functor.

$H$  is well-defined on equivalence classes and is order-enriched. In order to conclude these both assertions, taking into account that  $\equiv$  is defined by means of  $\leq$ , it suffices to prove that, for a pair of  $\Sigma$ -cospans  $(f, I, s), (g, J, t) : A \rightarrow B$  with  $(f, I, s) \leq (g, J, t)$ , we have that  $(Fs)_*Ff \leq (Ft)_*Fg$ . Indeed, if  $(f, I, s) \leq (g, J, t)$ , then we have a diagrama as follows:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} A & \xrightarrow{f} & I & \xleftarrow{s} & B \\ \parallel & & x \downarrow & \Sigma & \parallel \\ & & \nearrow & K & \longleftarrow B \\ \parallel & & y \uparrow & \Sigma & \parallel \\ A & \xrightarrow{g} & J & \xleftarrow{t} & B \end{array}$$

The fact that the two squares on the right-hand side are of  $\Sigma$  type implies that  $(F(xs))_*Fx = (Fs)_*$  and  $(Ft)_* = (F(yt))_*Fy$ , by assumption on  $F$ . Hence,

$$(Fs)_*Ff = (F(xs))_*Fx = (F(xs))_*FyFg = (F(yt))_*FyFg = (Ft)_*Fg.$$

$H$  is functorial. Indeed,  $H$  preserves identities since  $H[(\text{id}_A, \text{id}_A)] = (\text{Fid}_A)_*(\text{Fid}_A) = \text{id}_{F_A}$ . In order to show that  $H$  preserves composition, given  $\Sigma$ -cospans  $(f, s) : A \rightarrow B$  and  $(g, t) : B \rightarrow C$ , let  $(\tilde{g}f, \tilde{s}t)$  be a composition of them, that is,

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \bullet & \xrightarrow{s} & \bullet \\ g \downarrow & \Sigma & \downarrow \tilde{g} \\ \bullet & \xrightarrow{\tilde{s}} & \bullet \end{array}$$

$H([(g, t)] \cdot [(f, s)]) = H([\tilde{g}f, \tilde{s}t]) = (F(\tilde{s}t))_*F(\tilde{g}f) = (Ft)_*(F\tilde{s})_*F\tilde{g}Ff$ . But, by hypothesis,  $(F\tilde{s})_*F\tilde{g} = Fg(Fs)_*$ . Consequently, we obtain  $H([(g, t)] \cdot [(f, s)]) = (Ft)_*Fg(Fs)_*Ff = H([(g, t)]) \cdot H([(f, s)])$ .  $\square$

## 5. THE COCOMPLETENESS OF $\mathcal{A}^{\llbracket \text{lnj} \rrbracket}$

We recall from [17] that an order-enriched category  $\mathcal{X}$  has weighted colimits if and only if it has conical coproducts and coinserter. We also recall that  $\mathcal{X}$  has conical coproducts whenever it has coproducts and the corresponding injections are collectively order-epic, that is, for every coproduct  $v_i : X_i \rightarrow \coprod_{i \in I} X_i$  and every pair of morphisms  $f, g : \coprod_{i \in I} X_i \rightarrow Y$  with  $f v_i \leq g v_i$ ,  $i \in I$ , we have  $f \leq g$ . The coinserter of a pair of morphisms  $f, g : X \rightarrow Y$  is an order-epic morphism  $c : Y \rightarrow C$  such that  $cf \leq cg$  and every morphism  $d : Y \rightarrow D$  with  $df \leq dg$  factorizes uniquely through  $c$ ; briefly,  $c = \text{coins}(f, g)$ .

If  $\mathcal{X}$  has weighted colimits, then the arrow category  $\mathcal{X}^{\rightarrow}$  also has weighted colimits, and they are constructed coordinatewise. We are going to see that  $\mathcal{A}^{\llbracket \text{lnj} \rrbracket}$  is closed under weighted colimits in  $\mathcal{X}^{\rightarrow}$ .

**Theorem 5.1.** *Let  $\mathcal{X}$  have weighted colimits. Then, for every subcategory  $\mathcal{A}$  of  $\mathcal{X}$ , the category  $\mathcal{A}^{\llbracket \text{lnj} \rrbracket}$  is closed under weighted colimits in  $\mathcal{X}^{\rightarrow}$ .*

*Proof.* It suffices to show that  $\mathcal{A}^{\llbracket \text{lnj} \rrbracket}$  is closed under conical coproducts and coinserter.

Concerning conical coproducts, let  $h_i : X_i \rightarrow Y_i$  belong to  $\mathcal{A}^{\llbracket \text{lnj} \rrbracket}$ , and form the conical coproduct in  $\mathcal{X}^{\rightarrow}$ :

$$(21) \quad \begin{array}{ccc} X_i & \xrightarrow{h_i} & Y_i \\ v_i^X \downarrow & & \downarrow v_i^Y \\ \coprod_{i \in I} X_i & \xrightarrow{h} & \coprod_{i \in I} Y_i \end{array}$$

First we show that  $h \in \mathcal{A}^{\sqcup\text{Inj}}$  and  $(v_i^X, v_i^Y)$  are morphisms of  $\mathcal{A}^{\sqcup\text{Inj}}$ . Given  $g : \coprod_{i \in I} X_i \rightarrow A$ , with  $A \in \mathcal{A}$ , put:

$$(22) \quad g/h : \coprod_{i \in I} Y_i \rightarrow A \text{ is the unique morphism such that } (g/h)v_i^Y = (gv_i^X)/h_i, i \in I.$$

We show that  $g/h$  deserves its designation. Indeed,

$$(g/h)hv_i^X = (g/h)v_i^Y h_i = ((gv_i^X)/h_i)h_i = gv_i^X, i \in I,$$

hence  $(g/h)h = g$ . And, for  $s : \coprod_{i \in I} Y_i \rightarrow A$  with  $g \leq sh$ , we have  $gv_i^X \leq shv_i^X = sv_i^Y h_i$ , thus  $(gv_i^X)/h_i \leq sv_i^Y$ , that is,  $(g/h)v_i^Y \leq sv_i^Y$ . Since this holds for all  $i$ ,  $g/h \leq s$ . Moreover, since  $g/h$  is defined by (22), it is clear that all  $(v_i^X, v_i^Y)$  are morphisms of  $\mathcal{A}^{\sqcup\text{Inj}}$ .

Let now have morphisms  $(r_i, s_i) : h_i \rightarrow t$  in  $\mathcal{A}^{\sqcup\text{Inj}}$ ,  $i \in I$ . Then, in  $\mathcal{X}^{\rightarrow}$ , we have a unique morphism  $(r, s) : h \rightarrow t$  such that  $(r, s) \cdot (v_i^X, v_i^Y) = (r_i, s_i)$ ,  $i \in I$ :

$$(23) \quad \begin{array}{ccccc} X_i & \xrightarrow{h_i} & & & Y_i \\ & \searrow v_i^X & & & \swarrow v_i^Y \\ & & \coprod_{i \in I} X_i & \xrightarrow{h} & \coprod_{i \in I} Y_i \\ r_i \downarrow & & & & \downarrow s_i \\ R & \xrightarrow{r} & & & S \\ & & & \xrightarrow{t} & \end{array}$$

We show that  $(r, s)$  is a morphism of  $\mathcal{A}^{\sqcup\text{Inj}}$ . Consider  $a : R \rightarrow A$  with  $A \in \mathcal{A}$ . Then, using the fact that  $(v_i^X, v_i^Y)$  and  $(r_i, s_i)$  are both morphisms of  $\mathcal{A}^{\sqcup\text{Inj}}$  and formula (22), we have:

$$(a/t)sv_i^Y = (a/t)s_i = (ar_i)/h_i = (arv_i^X)/h_i = ((ar)/h)v_i^Y.$$

Consequently,  $(a/t)s = (ar)/h$ .

Concerning coinserter, let  $(u_1, v_1), (u_2, v_2) : f \rightarrow g$  be two morphisms in  $\mathcal{A}^{\sqcup\text{Inj}}$  and let  $(c, d)$  be the coinserter of  $((u_1, v_1), (u_2, v_2))$  in  $\mathcal{X}^{\rightarrow}$ :

$$(24) \quad \begin{array}{ccccc} X & \xrightarrow{u_2} & Z & \xrightarrow{c} & C \\ f \downarrow & \xrightarrow{u_1} & \downarrow g & & \downarrow t \\ Y & \xrightarrow{v_2} & W & \xrightarrow{d} & D \\ & \xrightarrow{v_1} & & & \end{array}$$

In particular,  $c = \text{coins}(u_1, u_2)$ ,  $d = \text{coins}(v_1, v_2)$ , and  $t$  is the unique morphism for which  $tc = dg$ . We want to show that the morphism  $(c, d)$  is also the coinserter of  $(u_1, v_1)$  and  $(u_2, v_2)$  in  $\mathcal{A}^{\sqcup\text{Inj}}$ .

First we show that the object  $t$  and the morphism  $(c, d) : g \rightarrow t$  lie in  $\mathcal{A}^{\sqcup\text{Inj}}$ . For that, consider  $k : C \rightarrow A$  with  $A$  in  $\mathcal{A}$ . Taking into account that  $(u_i, v_i)$ ,  $i = 1, 2$ , are morphisms in  $\mathcal{A}^{\sqcup\text{Inj}}$ , and that  $cu_1 \leq cu_2$ , we have that

$$((kc)/g)v_1 = (kcu_1)/f \leq (kcu_2)/f \leq ((kc)/g)v_2,$$

and, consequently, since  $d = \text{coins}(v_1, v_2)$ , there is a unique morphism  $w : D \rightarrow A$  with

$$(25) \quad wd = (kc)/g.$$

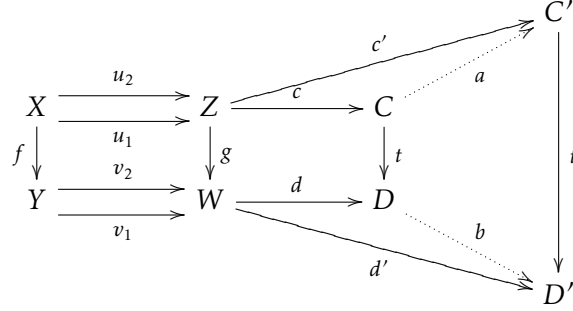
We show that  $w = k/t$ . Indeed,  $wtc = wdg = ((kc)/g)g = kc$ , thus  $wt = k$ , since  $c$  is order-epic, in particular, an epimorphism. Moreover, if  $w' : D \rightarrow A$  is such that  $k \leq w't$ , then  $kc \leq w'tc = w'dg$ ,

then  $(kc)/g \leq w'd$ , and we have that  $w'd = (kc)/g \leq w'd$ . Now, since  $d$  is order-epic, it follows that  $w \leq w'$ .

The conclusion that  $(c, d) : g \rightarrow t$  is a morphism in  $\mathcal{A}^{\underline{\text{LInj}}}$  is immediate from the definition of  $w$  in (25).

Let us now have  $t' : C' \rightarrow D'$  and a morphism  $(c', d') : g \rightarrow t'$  in  $\mathcal{A}^{\underline{\text{LInj}}}$  with  $(c', d') \cdot (u_1, v_1) \leq (c', d') \cdot (u_2, v_2)$ .

(26)



Since  $(c, d) = \text{coins}((u_1, v_1), (u_2, v_2))$  in  $\mathcal{X}^{\rightarrow}$ , there is a unique morphism  $(a, b) : t \rightarrow t'$  such that  $(ac, bd) = (c', d')$ . We want to show that  $(a, b)$  lies in  $\mathcal{A}^{\underline{\text{LInj}}}$ . Let then  $l : C' \rightarrow A$  have codomain in  $\mathcal{A}$ . From above, we know that  $(la)/t$  is the unique morphism such that  $((la)/t)d = (lac)/g$ . But, by hypothesis,  $(l/t')bd = (lac)/g$ , thus  $(l/t')bd = ((la)/t)d$  and, consequently,  $(l/t')b = (la)/t$ , as desired.  $\square$

**Remark 5.2.** Moreover, under the conditions of the above theorem,  $\mathcal{A}^{\underline{\text{LInj}}}$  is a coinserter-ideal. That is, given a parallel pair of morphisms  $(u_1, v_1), (u_2, v_2) : f \rightarrow g$  in  $\mathcal{X}^{\rightarrow}$ , if  $(u_1, v_1)$  belongs to  $\mathcal{A}^{\underline{\text{LInj}}}$  then also the coinserter of  $((u_1, v_1), (u_2, v_2))$  lies in  $\mathcal{A}^{\underline{\text{LInj}}}$ . Indeed, in the above proof of the closedness of  $\mathcal{A}^{\underline{\text{LInj}}}$  under coinserters we only used the fact that  $(u_1, v_1)$  belongs to  $\mathcal{A}^{\underline{\text{LInj}}}$ .

Next we show that the existence of finite weighted colimits in  $\mathcal{X}$  allows  $\mathcal{A}^{\underline{\text{LInj}}}$  to admit a left calculus of lax fractions.

**Proposition 5.3.** *Let  $\mathcal{X}$  have finite weighted colimits and let  $\mathcal{A}$  be a subcategory of  $\mathcal{X}$ . Then  $\Sigma = \mathcal{A}^{\underline{\text{LInj}}}$  admits a left calculus of lax fractions.*

*Proof.* Identity is obvious, since we always have that, supposing that  $g/s$  is defined,  $(g \cdot \text{id})/\text{id} = g = (g/s)s$ .

Concerning *Composition*, given two  $\Sigma$ -squares as the two first ones in Definition 4.2.2, let  $a : \bullet \rightarrow A$ , with  $A$  in  $\mathcal{A}$ , be composable with  $f$ . It is easy to see that, given a composition  $\bullet \xrightarrow{s} \bullet \xrightarrow{s'} \bullet$  with  $s$  and  $s'$  in  $\mathcal{A}^{\underline{\text{LInj}}}$ , then  $a/(s's) = (a/s)/s'$  (see [8]). Thus, we have:  $(af)/(r'r) = ((af)/r)/r' = ((a/s)g)/r' = ((a/s)/s')h = (a/(s's))h$ .

To obtain *Square*, we show that every pushout  $\begin{array}{ccc} \bullet & \xrightarrow{r} & \bullet \\ f \downarrow & & \downarrow f' \\ \bullet & \xrightarrow{r'} & \bullet \end{array}$  in  $\mathcal{X}$  with  $r \in \Sigma$  is a  $\Sigma$ -square. This

follows from the closedness of  $\mathcal{A}^{\text{LInj}}$  under pushouts proven in [8], and can be derived from Theorem 5.1: the diagram  $\begin{array}{ccc} \text{id} & \xrightarrow{(\text{id}, r)} & r \\ (f, f) \downarrow & & \downarrow (f, f') \\ \text{id} & \xrightarrow{(\text{id}, r')} & r' \end{array}$  is a pushout in  $\mathcal{X}^{\rightarrow}$ , and  $(\text{id}, r)$  and  $(f, f)$  are easily seen

to be morphisms in  $\mathcal{A}^{\text{LInj}}$ ; thus, by the above theorem the same holds to  $(f, f') : r \rightarrow r'$ .

To show *Coinsertion*, given a diagram  $\begin{array}{ccc} U & \xrightarrow{r} & V \\ f \downarrow & & \downarrow g \\ W & \xrightarrow{s} & X \end{array}$  with the inner square of  $\Sigma$  type and  $gr \leq hr$ ,

$$\begin{array}{ccc} U & \xrightarrow{r} & V \\ f \downarrow & & \downarrow g \\ W & \xrightarrow{s} & X \end{array}$$

let  $t : X \rightarrow T$  be the coinsertor of  $(g, h)$ . Thus  $tg \leq th$ . We show that the morphism  $ts$  lies in  $\Sigma$  and  $(\text{id}, t) : s \rightarrow ts$  is a morphism of  $\Sigma$ . Indeed, given  $a : W \rightarrow A$  with  $A \in \mathcal{A}$ ,  $af = (a/s)sf = (a/s)gr \leq (a/s)hr$ , thus  $(af)/r \leq (a/s)h$ . But, by hypothesis,  $(af)/r = (a/s)g$ . Thus,  $(a/s)g \leq (a/s)h$  and, consequently, there is a unique morphism  $u : T \rightarrow A$  such that  $ut = a/s$ . It is easy to see that  $u = a/(ts)$ . For, if, for  $v : T \rightarrow A$ , we have  $a \leq v(ts)$ , then  $a/s \leq vt$ , that is,  $ut \leq vt$ , and, since  $t$  is an order-epimorphism,  $u \leq v$ . Moreover, we have  $(a \cdot \text{id})/s = a/s = ut = (a/(ts))t$ , that is,  $(\text{id}, t) : s \rightarrow ts$  is a morphism of  $\Sigma$ .  $\square$

In the ordinary case, we know that if  $\Sigma$  is a class of morphisms of a finitely cocomplete category  $\mathcal{X}$  admitting a left calculus of fractions then the category of fractions  $\mathcal{X}[\Sigma^{-1}]$  has finite colimits ([13]).

In the following we see that if  $\mathcal{X}$  has finite conical coproducts then, for  $\Sigma$  a subcategory of  $\mathcal{X}^{\rightarrow}$  admitting a left calculus of lax fractions and satisfying an extra condition,  $\mathcal{X}[\Sigma_*]$  has finite conical coproducts too. Moreover, if  $\mathcal{X}$  has weighted colimits then any (quasi)category  $\mathcal{X}[\Sigma_*]$  with  $\Sigma = \mathcal{A}^{\text{LInj}}$  has (small) conical coproducts.

**Definition 5.4.** For  $\mathcal{X}$  an order-enriched category, a subcategory  $\Sigma$  of  $\mathcal{X}^{\rightarrow}$  is said to satisfy the *Coequalization* condition if given two  $\Sigma$ -squares  $\begin{array}{ccc} U & \xrightarrow{r} & V \\ f \downarrow & \Sigma & \downarrow g_i \\ W & \xrightarrow{s} & X \end{array}$ ,  $i = 1, 2$ , there exists some morphism

$$\begin{array}{ccc} U & \xrightarrow{r} & V \\ f \downarrow & \Sigma & \downarrow g_i \\ W & \xrightarrow{s} & X \end{array}$$

$t : X \rightarrow Y$  with  $tg_1 = tg_2$  and  $\begin{array}{ccc} \bullet & \xrightarrow{s} & \bullet \\ \parallel & \Sigma & \downarrow t \\ \bullet & \xrightarrow{ts} & \bullet \end{array}$ .

**Remark 5.5. 1.** Let  $\mathcal{X}$  have weighted colimits. An argument similar to the one used for *Coinsertion* in the proof of Proposition 5.3 shows that  $\mathcal{A}^{\text{LInj}}$  also satisfies *Coequalization*, for every subcategory  $\mathcal{A}$  of  $\mathcal{X}$ .

2. Let  $\Sigma$  be a subcategory of  $\mathcal{X}^{\rightarrow}$  satisfying the four conditions of a left calculus of lax fractions together with *Coequalization*. Then, by using arguments analogous to the ones of the proof of Lemma 4.7, we conclude that, given two  $\Sigma$ -cospans  $(f, s)$  and  $(g, t)$  from  $A$  to  $B$ , we have that



$(f, s) \equiv (g, t)$  if and only if there is a commutative diagram of the following form:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} A & \xrightarrow{f} & I & \xleftarrow{s} & B \\ \parallel & & x \downarrow & \cong & \parallel \\ & & X & \xleftarrow{} & B \\ & & y \uparrow & \cong & \parallel \\ A & \xrightarrow{g} & J & \xleftarrow{t} & B \end{array}$$

**Proposition 5.6.** 1. If  $\mathcal{X}$  has weighted colimits and  $\Sigma = \mathcal{A}^{\underline{\text{L}}\text{nj}}$  for some subcategory  $\mathcal{A}$  of  $\mathcal{X}$ , then the (quasi)category  $\mathcal{X}[\Sigma_*]$  has, and  $P_\Sigma$  preserves, (small) conical coproducts.

2. If  $\mathcal{X}$  has finite conical coproducts and  $\Sigma$  is a subcategory of  $\mathcal{X}^\rightarrow$  satisfying the four conditions of a left calculus of lax fractions together with Coequalization, then  $\mathcal{X}[\Sigma_*]$  has, and  $P_\Sigma$  preserves, finite conical coproducts.

*Proof.* 1. Given  $X_i \in \mathcal{X}[\Sigma_*]$ ,  $i \in I$ , let  $v_i : X_i \rightarrow \coprod_{i \in I} X_i$  be a conical coproduct in  $\mathcal{X}$ . We show that  $[(v_i, \text{id})] : X_i \rightarrow \coprod_{i \in I} X_i$  constitutes a conical coproduct in  $\mathcal{X}[\Sigma_*]$ . First, we see that the morphisms  $[(v_i, \text{id})]$  are collectively order-epic. For that, let us have two  $\Sigma$ -cospans

$$\coprod_{i \in I} X_i \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{(g, J, t)} \\ \xrightarrow{(f, I, s)} \end{array} Y$$

with  $(f, s) \circ (v_i, \text{id}) \leq (g, t) \circ (v_i, \text{id})$ . It is easy to see that  $(f v_i, s) \equiv (f, s) \circ (v_i, \text{id})$ , since, for  $(\text{id}, d) : f \rightarrow f'$  a morphism of  $\Sigma$  given by *Square*, we have  $(f v_i, s) \equiv (f' v_i, ds)$ . Analogously for  $(g v_i, t)$ . Thus  $(f v_i, s) \leq (g v_i, t)$ . We show that then  $(f, s) \leq (g, t)$ . By hypothesis, there are diagrams of the form

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} X_i & \xrightarrow{v_i} & \coprod X_i & \xrightarrow{f} & I & \xleftarrow{s} & Y \\ \parallel & & \swarrow & & x_i \downarrow & \cong & \parallel \\ & & & & K_i & \xleftarrow{} & Y \\ & & & & y_i \uparrow & \cong & \parallel \\ X_i & \xrightarrow{v_i} & \coprod X_i & \xrightarrow{g} & J & \xleftarrow{t} & Y \end{array}$$

where all morphisms  $x_i s (= y_i t)$  are objects of  $\Sigma$ . Since, by *Identity*, the morphisms  $(\text{id}_Y, x_i s) : \text{id}_Y \rightarrow (x_i s)$  of  $\mathcal{X}^\rightarrow$  lie in  $\Sigma = \mathcal{A}^{\underline{\text{L}}\text{nj}}$ , it follows from Theorem 5.1 that their wide pushout

$$(27) \quad \begin{array}{ccc} \text{id} & \xrightarrow{(\text{id}, x_i s)} & x_i s \\ & \searrow & \downarrow (\text{id}, u_i) \\ & & x \end{array}$$

also lies in  $\Sigma$ . In particular, we have  $\Sigma$ -squares  $\bullet \xrightarrow{x_i s} \bullet$ ; and then, by vertical composition

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \bullet & \xrightarrow{x_i s} & \bullet \\ \parallel & \Sigma & \downarrow u_i \\ \bullet & \xrightarrow{x} & K \end{array}$$

of  $\Sigma$ -squares, we also have  $Y \xrightarrow{s} I$  with  $u_i x_i s = u_j x_j s$  for all  $i, j \in I$ . Let  $c : X \rightarrow C$  be the

$$\begin{array}{ccc} Y & \xrightarrow{s} & I \\ \parallel & \Sigma & \downarrow u_i x_i \\ Y & \xrightarrow{x} & K \end{array}$$

coequalizer of all morphisms  $u_i x_i$ . Then  $(\text{id}, c) : x \rightarrow cx$  is the coequalizer of all  $(\text{id}, u_i x_i) : s \rightarrow x$  in  $\Sigma$ , and, in particular, we obtain the  $\Sigma$ -square  $Y \xrightarrow{x} K$ . Now we have that  $cu_i x_i f v_i \leq cu_i y_i g v_i$ ,

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \parallel & \Sigma & \downarrow c \\ Y & \xrightarrow{cx} & C \end{array}$$

with  $cu_i x_i = cu_j x_j$ ,  $i, j \in I$ . Since  $(\text{id}, u_i) : y_i t = x_i s \rightarrow x$  is a morphism of  $\Sigma$  (see (27)), using vertical composition, we also obtain the  $\Sigma$ -square  $Y \xrightarrow{t} J$  with  $cu_i y_i t = cu_j y_j t$ ,  $i, j \in I$ . Consequently,

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \parallel & \Sigma & \downarrow cu_i y_i \\ Y & \xrightarrow{cx} & C \end{array}$$

for the coequalizer  $d : C \rightarrow D$  of all morphisms  $cu_i y_i$  we have that all morphisms  $dcu_i y_i$  are equal and  $Y \xrightarrow{cx} C$ . Putting  $a = dcu_i x_i$  and  $b = dcu_i y_i$ , it follows that  $af v_i \leq bg v_i$  for all  $i$ ; then

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \parallel & \Sigma & \downarrow d \\ Y & \xrightarrow{dcx} & D \end{array}$$

$af \leq bg$ . Now we have the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} X & \xrightarrow{f} & I & \xleftarrow{s} & Y \\ \parallel & & a \downarrow & \cong & \parallel \\ & & D & \xleftarrow{} & Y \\ \parallel & & b \uparrow & \cong & \parallel \\ X & \xrightarrow{g} & J & \xleftarrow{t} & Y \end{array}$$

which shows that  $(f, I, s) \leq (g, J, t)$ , as desired.

Let now  $(f_i, I_i, s_i) : X_i \rightarrow Y$  be a family of  $\Sigma$ -cospans indexed by  $I$ . Let

$$\begin{array}{ccc} Y & \xrightarrow{s_i} & I_i \\ & \searrow s & \downarrow t_i \\ & & I \end{array}$$

be the wide pushout of the morphisms  $s_i : Y \rightarrow I_i$  in  $\mathcal{X}$ . Then, by Theorem 5.1, arguing as for (27), we obtain the  $\Sigma$ -square  $Y \xrightarrow{s_i} I_i$ . By the universality of the coproduct in  $\mathcal{X}$ , there is

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \parallel & \Sigma & \downarrow t_i \\ Y & \xrightarrow{s} & I \end{array}$$

a unique morphism  $w : \coprod X_i \rightarrow I$  in  $\mathcal{X}$  with  $w v_i = t_i f_i$ , for all  $i$ . Then, composing  $\Sigma$ -cospans, we have:  $(w, s) \circ (v_i, \text{id}) \equiv (w v_i, s) = (t_i f_i, s) \equiv (f_i, s_i)$ . Hence  $[(w, s)]$  is a morphism of  $\mathcal{X}[\Sigma_*]$  with  $[(w, s)] \cdot [(v_i, \text{id})] = [(f_i, s_i)]$ . The uniqueness of  $[(w, s)]$  follows from the fact already proved that the morphisms  $[(v_i, \text{id})]$  are collectively order-epic.

By the above description of the coproducts in  $\mathcal{X}[\Sigma_*]$  it is clear that  $P_\Sigma$  preserves coproducts.

2. The fact that  $\mathcal{X}[\Sigma_*]$  has binary coproducts is proved in a completely analogous way to 1. Just in the situations where we needed to construct a wide pushout, we use now *Square*, and in the places where we needed coequalizers, we use *Coequalization*. It is easy to see that the initial object of  $\mathcal{X}$  is also the initial object of  $\mathcal{X}[\Sigma_*]$ .  $\square$

**Remark 5.7.** We leave as an open question the existence of coinserter in  $\mathcal{X}[\Sigma_*]$  for  $\Sigma = \mathcal{A}^{\underline{\text{LInj}}}$ , when  $\mathcal{X}$  has weighted colimits.

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