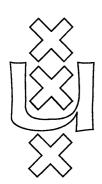


# Institute for Logic, Language and Computation

# REMARKS ON THE THEORY OF SEMI-FUNCTORS

Raymond Hoofman Ieke Moerdijk

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# REMARKS ON THE THEORY OF SEMI-FUNCTORS

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# Remarks on the Theory of Semi-Functors

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#### Abstract

By establishing an appropriate equivalence, we show that the theory of semi-functors can be fully embedded in the theory of (ordinary) functors. As a result, standard properties and constructions on functors extend automatically to semi-functors.

#### 1 Introduction

Categories and functors play a central role in the semantics of various formal languages. For example, it is well-known that extensional typed lambda calculi are essentially equivalent to cartesian closed categories (see e.g. [12]).

In order to develop a similar categorical semantics for non-extensional typed lambda calculi, S. Hayashi introduced in [3] the notion of a semi-functor between categories. He developed in loc. sit. the theory of semi-adjunctions and semi cartesian closed categories, and showed that the latter correspond to non-extensional typed lambda calculi. He also showed how the theory of semi-functors provides a natural approach to the "extensionalization" of models of the lambda calculus. Later on, semi-functors were studied in the context of linear logic and the second-order lambda calculus; see e.g. [4, 7, 9, 14, 15, 16]. A systematic exposition of the theory of semi-functors is given in [5].

\*Email: raymond@fwi.uva.nl. †Email: moerdijk@math.ruu.nl. Although the introduction of semi-functors at first sight appears to be a proper extension of ordinary category theory, we show in this paper that the theory of semi-functors can be fully embedded into the theory of (ordinary) functors. More specifically, we establish an appropriate equivalence between, on the one hand, the theory of categories, semi-functors, and natural transformations between such semi-functors, and, on the other hand, the theory of Karoubi-complete categories, ordinary functors, and ordinary natural transformations. A precise statement of this equivalence occurs as our main Theorem 1 below.

As a consequence of this result, many standard properties and constructions of functors extend automatically to semi-functors (see section 3). In particular, many results of [5] are immediate consequences of our main theorem.

In a next section (section 4), we investigate the relation of our approach to the work of Koymans [10], while in the final section we will present an extension of our main theorem to the context of fibred (or indexed) categories. We are motivated by the fact that such fibred categories (with appropriate properties) provide models of second-order languages (see e.g. [9, 17]). Indeed, in [8] we will show that this extension to fibred categories provides a method for the extensionalization of second-order calculi.

# 2 Semi-Functors and the Karoubi Envelope

In this preliminary section we review some basic definitions. We assume that the reader is familiar with the notions of 2-category, 2-functor, etc. (a basic reference is [11]). For a 2-category C, the category obtained by forgetting the 2-cells of C will again be denoted by C.

Let C and D be categories. Recall from [3, 5] and the introduction that a semi-functor  $F: C \to D$  maps objects, respectively arrows, in C to objects, respectively arrows, in D, preserving domain, codomain and composition. Hence a semi-functor is defined just as a functor, except that a semi-functor need not preserve identities. For semi-functors F and  $G: C \to D$ , a natural transformation between semi-functors  $\alpha: F \to G$  is a family  $(\alpha_C: FC \to GC \mid C \in C)$  of arrows in the category D, satisfying the two conditions

1. 
$$\alpha_D \circ F(f) = G(f) \circ \alpha_C$$

2. 
$$\alpha_C \circ F(id_C) = \alpha_C$$
.

Semi-functors and natural transformations between semi-functors can be composed in the obvious ways, thus yielding a 2-category denoted by  $\mathsf{Cat}_s$ . The usual 2-category  $\mathsf{Cat}$  of categories, functors and natural transformations is a subcategory of  $\mathsf{Cat}_s$ , full on 2-cells.

Recall that an idempotent in a category C is an arrow  $p:C\to C$  in C such that  $p\circ p=p$ . A splitting of p is a triple  $\langle R,r,s\rangle$  where  $r:C\to R$  and  $s:R\to C$  are arrows satisfying  $r\circ s=id_R$  and  $s\circ r=p$ . Such a splitting of a given idempotent is unique up to isomorphism. One says that a category C  $has\ splittings$  (or that  $idempotents\ split\ in\ C$ , or that C is  $Karoubi\ complete$ ) iff a splitting exists for every idempotent arrow. (Observe that we do not require a "canonical" choice of splittings; see section 4 below.) We write  $cat_i$  for the full 2-subcategory of cat with as objects the categories that have splittings. Thus

$$Cat_i \hookrightarrow Cat \hookrightarrow Cat_s$$
.

The Karoubi envelope KC of a category C is obtained by freely adding splittings for idempotents in C: objects of KC are pairs  $\langle C, p \rangle$  where  $p: C \to C$  is an idempotent in C, while arrows  $f: \langle C, p \rangle \to \langle D, q \rangle$  in KC are arrows  $f: C \to D$  in C with the property that  $q \circ f \circ p = f$ . (Note that the identity arrow on  $\langle C, p \rangle$  is not the identity arrow  $id_C$  of C but  $p: \langle C, p \rangle \to \langle C, p \rangle$ .) It is easy to see that any idempotent  $f: \langle C, p \rangle \to \langle C, p \rangle$  in KC splits, via the object  $R = \langle C, f \rangle$ .

If  $F: C \to D$  is a semi-functor, then one obtains an ordinary functor  $\mathcal{K}(F): \mathcal{K}C \to \mathcal{K}D$  defined on objects by  $\mathcal{K}(F)\langle C, p \rangle = \langle FC, F(p) \rangle$ , while on arrows  $\mathcal{K}(F)(f) = F(f)$ . Similarly, a semi natural transformation  $\alpha: F \to G$  between semi-functors yields an ordinary natural transformation  $\mathcal{K}(\alpha): \mathcal{K}(F) \to \mathcal{K}(G)$ , with components  $\alpha_{\langle C, p \rangle} = \alpha_C \circ F(p) (= G(p) \circ \alpha_C)$ . In this way one obtains a 2-functor

$$\mathcal{K}: \mathsf{Cat}_s \to \mathsf{Cat}_i$$
.

In [2] it is observed that, when viewed as a functor  $\mathcal{K}: \mathsf{Cat}_s \to \mathsf{Cat}$ , the Karoubi envelope is right adjoint to the inclusion  $\mathsf{Cat} \hookrightarrow \mathsf{Cat}_s$ ; see also [5].

# 3 The Main Theorem

Our main result is the following:

**Theorem 1** (Main Theorem) The Karoubi envelope K defines an equivalence of 2-categories

$$\mathcal{K}: \mathsf{Cat}_{\mathfrak{s}} \overset{\cong}{\to} \mathsf{Cat}_{i}.$$

As we shall see, this theorem is not difficult to prove. Nonetheless, it is fundamental for the theory of semi-functors, since it allows us to extend properties of functors and natural transformations in a systematic way to semi-functors and natural transformations between semi-functors. Some instances are mentioned below.

For the proof of the theorem, first recall that a functor  $F: \mathsf{C} \to \mathsf{D}$  is an (ordinary) equivalence of categories iff F induces an isomorphism from  $\mathsf{C}(C,C')$  to  $\mathsf{D}(FC,FC')$  and, moreover, F is surjective up to isomorphism (in the sense that for each  $D \in \mathsf{D}$  there exists  $C \in \mathsf{C}$  such that  $FC \cong D$ ). Uniformly substituting "equivalent" for "isomorphic" in this definition yields the notion of an equivalence of 2-categories. In detail,

**Definition 2** Let C, D be 2-categories. A 2-functor  $F: C \to D$  is an equivalence of 2-categories (and C and D are 2-equivalent) iff the following conditions hold:

- 1. For any objects  $C, C' \in C$  the 2-functor F restricted to  $C(C, C') \rightarrow D(FC, FC')$  is an ordinary equivalence of categories.
- 2. The 2-functor F is surjective up to equivalence: for each  $D \in D$  there exists  $C \in C$  such that  $FC \simeq D$  (i.e., there are one-cells  $f : FC \to D$ ,  $g : D \to FC$ , and invertible 2-cells  $f \circ g \cong 1_D$  and  $g \circ f \cong 1_{FC}$ ).

Now we give the proof of Theorem 1:

**Proof:** For any category C, there is an evident functor  $\eta_C: C \to \mathcal{K}(C)$  given on objects by  $\eta_C(C) = \langle C, id_C \rangle$ . This functor is full and faithful. Furthermore, it is well-known that  $\eta_C$  is an equivalence of categories when idempotents split in C. (Indeed, if  $\langle R, r, s \rangle$  is a splitting for  $\langle C, p \rangle$ , then r and s define an isomorphism  $\eta_C(R) \cong \langle C, p \rangle$  in  $\mathcal{K}C$ .) This shows that the 2-functor  $\mathcal{K}: \mathsf{Cat}_s \to \mathsf{Cat}_i$  is surjective up to equivalence.

The "forgetful" semi-functor  $\varepsilon_{\mathsf{C}} : \mathcal{K}(\mathsf{C}) \to \mathsf{C}$  runs into the opposite direction of  $\eta_{\mathsf{C}}$ , and is defined on objects by  $\varepsilon_{\mathsf{C}} \langle C, p \rangle = C$ . Both  $\eta_{\mathsf{C}}$  and  $\varepsilon_{\mathsf{C}}$  are natural in  $\mathsf{C}$  in the sense that for any functor F,

$$\eta_{\mathsf{D}} \circ F = \mathcal{K}(F) \circ \eta_{\mathsf{C}} : \mathsf{C} \to \mathcal{K}\mathsf{D},$$
(1)

and for any semi-functor G,

$$\varepsilon_{\mathsf{D}} \circ \mathcal{K}(G) = G \circ \varepsilon_{\mathsf{C}} : \mathcal{K}\mathsf{C} \to \mathsf{D}.$$
 (2)

Observe, furthermore, that for any category C we have the identity

$$\mathcal{K}(\varepsilon_{\mathsf{C}}) \circ \eta_{\mathsf{K}\mathsf{C}} = id : \mathcal{K}\mathsf{C} \to \mathcal{K}\mathsf{C},$$
 (3)

as well as a canonical natural isomorphism

$$\mathcal{K}(\eta_{\mathsf{C}}) \cong \eta_{\mathsf{KC}} : \mathcal{K}\mathsf{C} \to \mathcal{K}^2\mathsf{C}.$$
 (4)

To complete the proof of the theorem, we now show that for any categories C and D, the Karoubi envelope gives an (ordinary) equivalence of categories

$$\mathcal{K}: \mathsf{Cat}_s(\mathsf{C},\mathsf{D}) \overset{\sim}{\to} \mathsf{Cat}_i(\mathcal{K}\mathsf{C},\mathcal{K}\mathsf{D}).$$

First we show that this restriction of  $\mathcal{K}$  to hom-sets is surjective up to isomorphism. To this end, let  $F:\mathcal{K}\mathsf{C}\to\mathcal{K}\mathsf{D}$  be any functor, and consider the semi-functor  $\overline{F}=\varepsilon_\mathsf{D}\circ F\circ\eta_\mathsf{C}:\mathsf{C}\to\mathsf{D}$ . Then

$$\mathcal{K}\overline{F} = \mathcal{K}(\varepsilon_{\mathsf{D}}) \circ \mathcal{K}(F) \circ \mathcal{K}(\eta_{\mathsf{C}}) \\
\stackrel{(4)}{\cong} \mathcal{K}(\varepsilon_{\mathsf{D}}) \circ \mathcal{K}(F) \circ \eta_{\mathcal{K}\mathsf{C}} \\
\stackrel{(1)}{=} \mathcal{K}(\varepsilon_{\mathsf{D}}) \circ \eta_{\mathcal{K}\mathsf{C}} \circ F \\
\stackrel{(3)}{=} F.$$

Next we observe that the Karoubi envelope K restricted to hom-sets is full and faithful. Indeed, if  $F, G: C \to D$  are semi-functors, then the operation

$$Nat(F,G) \to Nat(\mathcal{K}(F),\mathcal{K}(G)) : \alpha \mapsto \mathcal{K}(\alpha),$$

from natural transformations  $F \to G$  to natural transformations  $\mathcal{K}(F) \to \mathcal{K}(G)$ , is a bijection. Its inverse is

$$\operatorname{Nat}(\mathcal{K}(F), \mathcal{K}(G)) \to \operatorname{Nat}(F, G) : \beta \mapsto \beta \cdot \eta_C$$

where the components of  $\beta \cdot \eta_{\mathsf{C}}$  are given by  $(\beta \cdot \eta_{\mathsf{C}})_C = \beta_{\langle C, id \rangle}$ , for any object  $C \in \mathsf{C}$ .

Note that the inclusion  $\mathsf{Cat}_i \hookrightarrow \mathsf{Cat}_s$  is a quasi inverse for  $\mathcal{K} : \mathsf{Cat}_s \to \mathsf{Cat}_i$ . In other words, any category C is semi-equivalent to its Karoubi envelope  $\mathcal{KC}$  via  $\eta_{\mathsf{C}} : \mathsf{C} \to \mathcal{KC}$ ,  $\varepsilon_{\mathsf{C}} : \mathcal{KC} \to \mathsf{C}$ .

A large part of the theory of semi-functors presented in [5] can be viewed as an immediate application of Theorem 1. For example, when one defines a semi-adjunction between semi-functors  $F: C \to D$ ,  $G: D \to C$  in the standard way in the language of the 2-category  $\mathsf{Cat}_s$  (see [11]), then F is left semi-adjoint to G iff  $\mathcal{K}(F): \mathcal{KC} \to \mathcal{KD}$  is left adjoint to  $\mathcal{K}(G)$ . Furthermore, all well-known categorical properties of adjoint functors immediately transport along the equivalence  $\mathsf{Cat}_i \simeq \mathsf{Cat}_s$  to give the same properties of semi-adjoint semi-functors. (For example, semi-adjoints are unique up to semi natural isomorphism, semi-adjunctions compose, etc., etc.)

The same principal applies to other properties which can be expressed in the language of 2-categories. Thus a category C has semi-products iff KC has products. (Indeed, the existence of a right (semi-)adjoint to the diagonal  $C \to C \times C$  is a 2-categorical property of C as an object of  $Cat_s$ , and the equivalence between  $Cat_s$  and  $Cat_i$  preserves products and diagonals.) Similarly, a category is semi cartesian closed iff KC is cartesian closed. As a last example, one can develop a theory of semi-monads and semi-algebras by transporting the usual theory of algebras and monads (formulated for objects in a 2-category in [11, 18]) along the equivalence of Theorem 1. The notion of a semi-algebra finds an application in [6].

# 4 The Karoubi Envelope as a Monad

The main purpose of this section is to point out some relations with the work of Koymans [10]. We assume that the reader is familiar with the notions of a monad, the Kleisli category construction, and the Eilenberg-Moore category (a basic reference is [13]).

To begin with, we observe that the Karoubi envelope yields a monad on the category Cat. Indeed, the functor  $\mathcal{K}: \mathsf{Cat} \to \mathsf{Cat}$  (i.e.,  $\mathsf{Cat} \to \mathsf{Cat}_i \hookrightarrow \mathsf{Cat}$ ) comes equipped with natural transformations  $\eta: Id \to \mathcal{K}$  and  $\mu: \mathcal{K}^2 \to \mathcal{K}$  as follows: define  $\eta$  as in the proof of Theorem 1, and take  $\mu_{\mathsf{C}}\langle\langle C, p \rangle, f \rangle = \langle C, f \rangle$ . (Actually,  $\mathcal{K}$  is a 2-comonad on the 2-category Cat.)

Next we consider the Kleisli category of the Karoubi monad. Recall that

the objects in the Kleisli category are the same as in Cat, viz. categories, whereas arrows  $F: \mathsf{C} \to \mathsf{D}$  in the Kleisli category are functors  $F: \mathsf{C} \to \mathcal{K}\mathsf{D}$  in Cat. We observe that each such functor F gives rise to a semi-functor  $\eta_\mathsf{D} \circ F: \mathsf{C} \to \mathsf{D}$ , while each semi-functor  $G: \mathsf{C} \to \mathsf{D}$  yields a functor  $\mathcal{K}(G) \circ \varepsilon_{\mathcal{K}\mathsf{D}}: \mathsf{C} \to \mathsf{D}$ . As this defines a one-to-one correspondence between arrows in Cats and arrows in the Kleisli category of  $\mathcal{K}$ , it follows that the last category is actually isomorphic to Cats.

**Proposition 3** The category Cat, of categories and semi-functors is isomorphic to the Kleisli category of the Karoubi monad  $\langle \mathcal{K}, \eta, \mu \rangle$  on Cat.

We remark that this isomorphism can also be extended to an isomorphism of 2-categories. As an easy consequence of the proposition, standard monadtheory tells us that there exists a (2-)adjunction between Cat and Cat<sub>s</sub>, which is of course the adjunction mentioned in section 2.

We consider the Eilenberg-Moore category (the category of algebras) of the Karoubi monad. Recall that the objects of this category are functors of the form  $F: \mathcal{K}\mathsf{C} \to \mathsf{C}$  that satisfy  $F \circ \eta_\mathsf{C} = Id_\mathsf{C}$  and  $F \circ \mu_\mathsf{C} = F \circ \mathcal{K}(F)$ . An arrow  $H: (F: \mathcal{K}\mathsf{C} \to \mathsf{C}) \to (G: \mathcal{K}\mathsf{D} \to \mathsf{D})$  consists of a functor  $H: \mathsf{C} \to \mathsf{D}$  that satisfies the requirement  $G \circ \mathcal{K}(H) = H \circ F$ . The Eilenberg-Moore category can be described as the category  $\mathsf{Cat}_{ic}$  of categories with *chosen* splittings and splitting-preserving functors, defined as follows:

**Definition 4** A category C has chosen splittings if there is given a family  $(R_p, r_p, s_p \mid p \text{ idempotent in C})$ , where each triple  $\langle R_p, r_p, s_p \rangle$  is a splitting of p, satisfying the following requirements:

- 1.  $R_{id_A} = A$ ,
- 2.  $r_{id_A} = id_A$
- 3.  $s_{id_A} = id_A$ .

Moreover, for each pair of idempotents p, q satisfying  $p \circ q \circ p = p$ ,

- 4.  $R_{r_p \circ q \circ s_p} = R_q$
- 5.  $r_{r_p \circ q \circ s_p} \circ r_p \circ q = r_q$
- 6.  $q \circ s_f \circ s_{r_p \circ q \circ s_p} = s_q$ .

If also D has chosen splittings denoted by  $\langle R'_p, r'_p, s'_p \rangle$ , then the functor  $H: C \to D$  is said to preserve chosen splittings iff  $H(R_p) = R'_{H(p)}$ ,  $H(r_p) = r'_{H(p)}$ , and  $H(s_p) = s'_{H(p)}$ . For splitting preserving functors  $H, K: C \to D$ , a natural transformation  $\alpha: H \to K$  is said to preserve chosen splittings iff

$$r'_{K(p)} \circ \alpha_A \circ H(p) \circ s'_{H(p)} = \alpha_{R_p}.$$

The notion from [10] of a category with explicit splittings differs slightly from the notion introduced here. Specifically, in the definition of a category with explicit splittings, requirement (5) above is replaced by the somewhat stronger requirement

$$r_{r_p \circ q \circ s_p} \circ r_p = r_q$$

and analogous for requirement (6).

Let  $\mathsf{Cat}_{ic}$  denote the (2-)category of categories with chosen splittings and splitting preserving functors. Similarly,  $\mathsf{Cat}_{ie}$  denotes the full (2-)subcategory of  $\mathsf{Cat}_{ic}$  of categories with explicit splittings.

**Proposition 5** The Eilenberg-Moore category of the Karoubi monad on Cat is isomorphic to the category Cat<sub>ic</sub> of categories with chosen splittings.

**Proof:** Each chosen splitting on C determines an algebra  $F: \mathcal{KC} \to \mathbb{C}$  as follows. Let  $(R_p, r_p, s_p \mid p \text{ idempotent in C})$  be a family of chosen splittings on C, then take  $F\langle C, p \rangle = R_p$  and  $F(f: \langle C, p \rangle \to \langle D, q \rangle) = r_q \circ f \circ s_p$ . The other way round, algebras  $F: \mathcal{KC} \to \mathbb{C}$  give rise to chosen splittings: take  $R_p = F\langle C, p \rangle$ ,  $r_p = F(p)$ , and  $s_p = F(p)$ . It is easy to check that this yields a one-to-one correspondence between algebras and chosen splittings. Furthermore, splitting preserving functors correspond to morphisms between algebras.

As in the case of proposition 3, the isomorphism of proposition 5 can be extended to an isomorphism of 2-categories. Furthermore, by standard monadtheory we find an adjunction between Cat and  $Cat_{ic}$ , which restricts to the (2-)adjunction described in [10] between Cat and  $Cat_{ie}$ .

# 5 Extension to Fibred Categories

Motivated by the fact that the (categorical) semantics of second-order languages require fibred categories, we indicate in this section how our main Theorem 1 can be extended to this context. These results will be applied in [8]. We assume that the reader is familiar with the notions of *fibred cate-gory* and *cartesian functor* (see e.g. [1]).

Let B be a fixed category, and let Fib(B) be the 2-category of fibered categories over B. So its objects are (Grothendieck) fibrations  $P: E \to B$ , its arrows are cartesian functors over B, and its 2-cells are vertical natural transformations, all as usual. Say a fibered category  $P: E \to B$  has fibrewise splittings iff each category  $E_B = P^{-1}(B)$  has splittings. Denote by  $Fib_{vi}(B)$  the full 2-subcategory of Fib(B) whose objects have fibrewise splittings (where vi stands for vertical idempotent).

For a fibred category  $P: \mathsf{E} \to \mathsf{B}$ , we construct a new fibred category  $\mathcal{K}_v \mathsf{E} \to \mathsf{B}$  as follows. The objects in  $\mathcal{K}_v \mathsf{E}$  are pairs  $\langle E, p \rangle$  where E is an object in  $\mathsf{E}$  and  $p: E \to E$  is a vertical idempotent:  $P(p) = id_{PE}$  and  $p^2 = p$ . The arrows  $\langle E, p \rangle \to \langle E', p' \rangle$  in  $\mathcal{K}_v \mathsf{E}$  are arrows  $f: E \to E'$  in  $\mathsf{E}$  satisfying  $p' \circ f \circ p = f$ . The composition and identities for  $\mathcal{K}_v \mathsf{E}$  are obvious (just as for the ordinary  $\mathcal{K}$ ). Finally, we extend the functor  $P: \mathsf{E} \to \mathsf{B}$  to a functor  $\mathcal{K}_v \mathsf{E} \to \mathsf{B}$  by  $\langle E, p \rangle \mapsto PE$  on objects and in the obvious way on arrows. We call  $\mathcal{K}_v(P)$  the vertical Karoubi envelope of P.

**Proposition 6** The functor  $K_v E \to B$  defines a fibred category with fibrewise splittings.

**Proof:** Let  $u: B' \to B$  be an arrow in B and  $\langle E, p \rangle$  an object in  $\mathcal{K}_v \mathsf{E}$  with PE = B. We indicate how to define a cartesian lifting  $u^{\sharp}: \langle E', p' \rangle \to \langle E, p \rangle$  of u, and leave further details to the reader. First choose a cartesian lifting  $u^{\flat}: E' \to E$  of u in E. Then since E is fibred over B there is a unique  $p': E' \to E'$  with  $u^{\flat} \circ p' = u^{\flat}$ . By uniqueness, p' is idempotent. Finally, take  $u^{\sharp} = p \circ u^{\flat}: \langle E', p' \rangle \to \langle E, p \rangle$  as the desired cartesian lifting of u in  $\mathcal{K}_v \mathsf{E}$ .

It is easy to see that if the fibred category  $E \to B$  is defined from an indexed category  $B^{op} \to Cat$ , then  $\mathcal{K}_v E \to B$  is induced from the composite indexed category  $B^{op} \to Cat \xrightarrow{\mathcal{K}} Cat$ .

Many properties of fibred categories are preserved by the vertical Karoubi envelope. For models of second order languages the most relevant ones are: (1) If  $E \to B$  is fibrewise cartesian closed, then so is  $\mathcal{K}_v E \to B$ . (2) If  $E \to B$  is complete (cocomplete), then so is  $\mathcal{K}_v E \to B$ . [For this last preservation

fibred category is a semi-fibred category. We leave it to the reader to check the following proposition: the functor  $\mathcal{K}_v\mathsf{E}\to\mathsf{B}$  defines a fibred category iff  $\mathsf{E}\to\mathsf{B}$  is a semi-fibred category.

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property, recall from [1] that  $P: E \to B$  is said to be complete (cocomplete) iff B has pullbacks and if, for each morphism u in B, the functor  $u^* = P(u)$  has a right adjoint (left adjoint) satisfying the Beck-Chevalley condition.]

Let  $P: \mathsf{E} \to \mathsf{B}$  and  $P': \mathsf{E}' \to \mathsf{B}$  be fibred categories over  $\mathsf{B}$ . A semi-functor  $F: \mathsf{E} \to \mathsf{E}'$  over  $\mathsf{B}$  (i.e.,  $P' \circ F = P$ ) induces an ordinary functor  $\mathcal{K}_v(F): \mathcal{K}_v\mathsf{E} \to \mathcal{K}_v\mathsf{E}'$ , exactly as in section 2. Furthermore, a natural transformation  $\alpha: F \to G$  between two such semi-functors induces an ordinary natural transformation  $\mathcal{K}_v(\alpha): \mathcal{K}_v(F) \to \mathcal{K}_v(G)$ . Say that F is semi-cartesian iff  $\mathcal{K}_v(F)$  is cartesian, and say that  $\alpha$  is vertical iff  $P(\alpha_E) = id_{FE}$  for all  $E \in \mathsf{E}$ . This defines a 2-category

$$Fib_s(B)$$

with fibred categories as objects, cartesian semi-functors as 1-cells, and vertical natural transformations between such semi-functors as 2-cells. The following result is now a straightforward extension of Theorem 1.

**Theorem 7** The vertical Karoubi envelope defines an equivalence of 2-categories

$$\mathcal{K}_v : \mathsf{Fib}_s(\mathsf{B}) \to \mathsf{Fib}_{vi}(\mathsf{B}).$$

Remark: For a semi-functor  $F: \mathsf{E} \to \mathsf{E}'$  over B as above, the property of being semi-cartesian can be described explicitly as follows. The semi-functor F is semi-cartesian iff for every cartesian arrow  $f: D \to E$  in E its image F(f) has the following property: F(f) can be factorized uniquely (up to isomorphism) as  $g \circ h$ , where  $h: FD \to K$  vertical and  $g: K \to FE$  cartesian; for this factorization there exists a vertical  $h': K \to FD$  so that  $h' \circ h = F(id_D)$  and  $g \circ h \circ h' = F(id_E) \circ g$ .

Remark: Various of the results in this section can be further extended. For example, proposition 6 above can be strengthened as follows. Let  $u: B' \to B$  be an arrow in B. A semi-cartesian arrow over u is an arrow  $f: E_1 \to E$  over u (i.e., P(f) = u) equipped with an operation assigning to each arrow  $g: E_2 \to E$  and factorization  $P(g) = u \circ v$  an arrow  $\overline{g}: E_2 \to E_1$  over v satisfying  $f \circ \overline{g} = g$ . Moreover, we require the operation to be natural in the sense that  $\overline{g} \circ h = \overline{g \circ h}$ , for each  $h: D \to E_2$ . A functor  $P: E \to B$  is a semi-fibred category iff for each  $u: B' \to B$  in B and  $E \in E_B$  there exists a semi-cartesian morphism over u with codomain E. Note that each

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