Attribution of Graphs by Composition of $\mathcal{M},\mathcal{N}$-adhesive Categories

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Abstract. This paper continues the work on $\mathcal{M},\mathcal{N}$-adhesive categories and shows some important constructions on these categories. We use these constructions for an alternative, short proof for the $\mathcal{M},\mathcal{N}$-adhesiveness of partially labelled graphs. We further present a new concept of attributed graphs and show that the corresponding category is $\mathcal{M},\mathcal{N}$-adhesive. As a consequence, we inherit all nice properties for $\mathcal{M},\mathcal{N}$-adhesive systems such as the Local Church-Rosser Theorem, the Parallelism Theorem, and the Concurrency Theorem for this type of attributed graphs.

Keywords: Graph transformation, attributed graphs, composition, adhesive categories, adhesive systems

1 Introduction

The double-pushout approach to graph transformation, which was invented in the early 1970's, is the best studied framework for graph transformation [Roz97], [EEKR99, EKMR99, EEPT06b]. As applications of graph transformation come with a large variety of graphs and graph-like structures, the double-pushout approach has been generalized to the abstract settings of high-level replacement systems [EHKP91], adhesive categories [LS05], $\mathcal{M}$-adhesive categories [EGH10], $\mathcal{M},\mathcal{N}$-adhesive categories [HP12], and $\mathcal{W}$-adhesive categories [Gol12]. This paper continues the work of Habel and Plump [HP12] on $\mathcal{M},\mathcal{N}$-adhesive categories.

In the literature, there are several variants of attribution concepts, e.g. typed attributed graphs in the sense of Ehrig et al. [EEPT06b], attributed graphs in the sense of Plump [Plu09], attributed graphs as a graph with a marked sub-graph in the sense of Kastenberg and Rensink [KR12], separation of the graph structure and their attribution and data in the sense of Golas [Gol12], and attributed structures in the sense of Duval et al. [DEPR14].

Our main aim is to introduce a simple, alternative concept for attributed graphs and attributed graph transformation. Our approach is to define a category

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AttGraphs of attributed graphs from the well-known category **Graphs** of unlabelled graphs and a category **Att** of attribute collections by a multiset construction and the comma category construction. By closure results for $\mathcal{M},\mathcal{N}$-adhesive categories, we obtain that the category **AttGraphs** is $\mathcal{M},\mathcal{N}$-adhesive. By the results in [HP12], the Local Church-Rosser Theorem, the Parallelism Theorem and the Concurrency Theorem hold for the new type of attributed graphs provided that the HLR$^+$-properties are satisfied.

The paper is structured as follows. In Section 2, we recall the definition of $\mathcal{M},\mathcal{N}$-adhesive categories. In Section 3, we prove some basic composition results and show that constructions for a string and a multiset category are $\mathcal{M},\mathcal{N}$-adhesive for suitable classes $\mathcal{M}$ and $\mathcal{N}$ provided that the underlying category is. As a consequence, the category of partially labelled graphs is $\mathcal{M},\mathcal{N}$-adhesive, as shown in Section 4. In Section 5, we introduce a new concept of attributed graphs - similar to partially labelled graphs - and show that the corresponding category of attributed graphs is $\mathcal{M},\mathcal{N}$-adhesive. In Section 6, we present a precise relationship between $\mathcal{M},\mathcal{N}$-adhesive and $\mathcal{W}$-adhesive categories, in Section 7 some related work, and in Section 8 some concluding remarks.

Note that this paper comes with a long version [PH15] containing the proofs and additional examples.

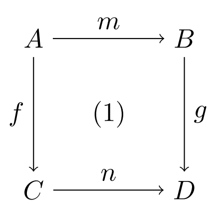
2 $\mathcal{M},\mathcal{N}$-adhesive Categories

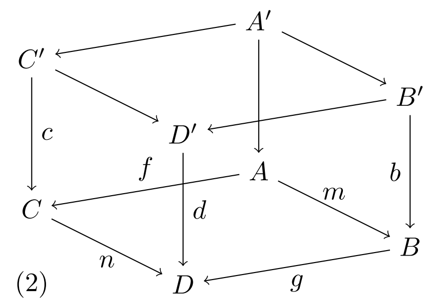
In this section, we recall the definition of $\mathcal{M},\mathcal{N}$-adhesive categories, introduced in [HP12], generalizing the one of $\mathcal{M}$-adhesive categories [EGH10]. We assume that the reader is familiar with the basic concepts of category theory; standard references are [EEPT06b, Awo10].

Definition 1 ($\mathcal{M},\mathcal{N}$-adhesive). A category **C** is $\mathcal{M},\mathcal{N}$-adhesive, where $\mathcal{M}$ is a class of monomorphisms and $\mathcal{N}$ a class of morphisms, if the following properties are satisfied:

1. $\mathcal{M}$ and $\mathcal{N}$ contain all isomorphisms and are closed under composition and decomposition. Moreover, $\mathcal{N}$ is closed under $\mathcal{M}$-decomposition, that is, $f;g \in \mathcal{N}$, $g \in \mathcal{M}$ implies $f \in \mathcal{N}$.
2. **C** has $\mathcal{M},\mathcal{N}$-pushouts and $\mathcal{M}$-pullbacks. Also, $\mathcal{M}$ and $\mathcal{N}$ are stable under pushouts and pullbacks.
3. $\mathcal{M},\mathcal{N}$-pushouts are $\mathcal{M},\mathcal{N}$-van Kampen squares.

Remark. **C** has *$\mathcal{M},\mathcal{N}$-pushouts*, if there is a pushout whenever one of the given morphisms is in $\mathcal{M}$ and the other morphism is in $\mathcal{N}$. **C** has *$\mathcal{M}$-pullbacks*, if there exists a pullback whenever at least one of the given morphisms is in $\mathcal{M}$. A class $\mathcal{X} \in \{\mathcal{M},\mathcal{N}\}$ is *stable under $\mathcal{M},\mathcal{N}$-pushouts* if, given the $\mathcal{M},\mathcal{N}$-pushout (1) in the diagram below, $m \in \mathcal{X}$ implies $n \in \mathcal{X}$ and *stable under $\mathcal{M}$-pullbacks* if, given the $\mathcal{M}$-pullback (1) in the diagram below, $n \in \mathcal{X}$ implies $m \in \mathcal{X}$. An $\mathcal{M},\mathcal{N}$-pushout is an *$\mathcal{M},\mathcal{N}$-van Kampen square* if for the commutative cube (2) in the diagram below with the pushout (1) as bottom square, $b, c, d, m \in \mathcal{M}$, $f \in \mathcal{N}$, and the back faces being pullbacks, we have that the top square is a pushout if and only if the front faces are pullbacks.





In [HP12], it is shown that all $\mathcal{M}$-adhesive categories are $\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{N}$-adhesive.

Lemma 1 ($\mathcal{M}$-adhesive $\Rightarrow$ $\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{N}$-adhesive). Let **C** be any category and $\mathcal{N}$ be the class of all morphisms in **C**. Then **C** is $\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{N}$-adhesive if and only if **C** is $\mathcal{M}$-adhesive.

In the following, we give some examples of categories that are $\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{N}$-adhesive.

Lemma 2 (Basic $\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{N}$-adhesive Categories). The following categories are $\mathcal{M}$-adhesive [EEPT06b] and, by Lemma 1, $\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{N}$-adhesive where $\mathcal{N}$ is the class of all morphisms in **C**:

1. The category **Sets** of sets and functions is $\mathcal{M}$-adhesive where $\mathcal{M}$ is the class of all injective functions.
2. The category **Graphs** of graphs and graph morphisms is $\mathcal{M}$-adhesive where $\mathcal{M}$ is the class of all injective graph morphisms.
3. The category **LGraphs** of labelled graphs and graph morphisms is $\mathcal{M}$-adhesive where $\mathcal{M}$ is the class of all injective graph morphisms.

The following category is $\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{N}$-adhesive, but not $\mathcal{M}$-adhesive [HP12]:

4. The category **PLGraphs** of partially labelled graphs and graph morphisms is $\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{N}$-adhesive where $\mathcal{M}$ and $\mathcal{N}$ are the classes of all injective and all (injective) undefinedness-preserving[1] graph morphisms, respectively.

3 Construction of Categories

There are various ways to construct new categories from given ones. Beside the standard constructions (product, slice and coslice, functor and comma category) we consider the constructions of a string category and a multiset category. For each of these constructions, we prove a composition result, saying

[1] A morphism $f\colon G \to H$ *preserves undefinedness*, if it maps unlabelled items in G to unlabelled items in H.

more or less, whenever we start with $\mathcal{M}_i, \mathcal{N}_i$-adhesive categories, then the new constructed category is $\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{N}$-adhesive for some $\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{N}$. For the definitions of category-theoretic notions refer to [EEPT06b, Awo10].

First, we consider the standard constructions: product, slice and coslice, functor, and comma category. For the definitions we refer to [EEPT06b] A2 and A6. Our composition result generalizes the result from $\mathcal{M}$- to $\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{N}$-adhesive categories.

Theorem 1 (Standard Constructions). $\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{N}$-adhesive categories can be constructed as follows:

1. If $\mathbf{C_i}$ is $\mathcal{M}_i, \mathcal{N}_i$-adhesive ($i = 1, 2$), then the product category $\mathbf{C_1} \times \mathbf{C_2}$ is $\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{N}$- adhesive where $\mathcal{M} = \mathcal{M}_1 \times \mathcal{M}_2$ and $\mathcal{N} = \mathcal{N}_1 \times \mathcal{N}_2$.
2. If $\mathbf{C}$ is $\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{N}$-adhesive and X is an object of $\mathbf{C}$, then the slice category $\mathbf{C} \backslash X$ and the coslice category $X \backslash \mathbf{C}$ over X are $\mathcal{M}', \mathcal{N}'$-adhesive where the morphism classes $\mathcal{M}', \mathcal{N}'$ are restricted to the slice and coslice category, i.e., for $\mathcal{X} \in \{\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{N}\}$, $\mathcal{X}' = \mathcal{X} \cap \mathbf{C} \backslash X$ and $\mathcal{X}' = \mathcal{X} \cap X \backslash \mathbf{C}$, respectively.
3. If $\mathbf{C}$ is $\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{N}$-adhesive, then for every category $\mathbf{X}$, the functor category $[\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{C}]$ is $\mathcal{M}_{\text{ft}}, \mathcal{N}_{\text{ft}}$-adhesive with functor transformations $\mathcal{M}_{\text{ft}}$ and $\mathcal{N}_{\text{ft}}$.[2]
4. If $\mathbf{C_i}$ are $\mathcal{M}_i, \mathcal{N}_i$-adhesive and $F_i \colon \mathbf{C_i} \to \mathbf{C}$ functors ($i = 1, 2$), where F_1 preserves $\mathcal{M}_1, \mathcal{N}_1$-pushouts and F_2 preserves $\mathcal{M}_2$-pullbacks, then the comma category $\mathbf{ComCat}(F_1, F_2, \mathcal{I})$ is $\mathcal{M}^c, \mathcal{N}^c$-adhesive where $\mathcal{M}^c = (\mathcal{M}_1 \times \mathcal{M}_2) \cap$ Mor, $\mathcal{N}^c = (\mathcal{N}_1 \times \mathcal{N}_2) \cap$ Mor, and Mor is the set of all morphisms of the comma category. We will use $A \downarrow B$ as a shorthand for the comma category $\mathbf{ComCat}(A, B, \mathcal{I})$, with $|\mathcal{I}| = 1$ and both functors A, B pointing into $\mathbf{Sets}$.

Proof. The proof is a slight generalization of the corresponding one for $\mathcal{M}$-adhesive categories (see Theorem 4.15 in [EEPT06b]). In most cases the relevant constructions can be done componentwise from objects or morphisms in the original category. For the full proof see the long version [PH15]. □

Second, we consider the constructions of a string and a multiset category and prove that $\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{N}$-adhesive categories are closed under these constructions.

Construction (String Category). Given a category $\mathbf{C}$, we construct a *string category* $\mathbf{C}^*$ as follows:

The objects are lists (finite sequences) $A_1 \dots A_m$ of objects of $\mathbf{C}$, including the empty list λ. The morphisms between two objects $A_1 \dots A_m$ and $B_1 \dots B_n$ (given $m \leq n$) are lists (finite sequences) of morphisms $f_1 \colon A_1 \to B_i \dots f_m \colon A_m \to B_{i+m-1}$ in $\mathbf{C}$, with $B_1 \dots B_i \dots B_{i+m-1} \dots B_n$ for some $1 \leq i \leq m-n$ (i.e. $A_1 \dots A_m$ is *embedded* in $B_1 \dots B_n$). The empty list λ is an initial element for $\mathbf{C}^*$.

Our construction for a string category above is close to that of a free monoidal category. Allowing for the existence of a morphism even if $m < n$, however

[2] For a class $\mathcal{X}$, $\mathcal{X}_{\text{ft}}$ denotes the class of natural transformations $t \colon F \to G$, where all morphisms $t_X \colon F(X) \to G(X)$ are in $\mathcal{X}$.

contradicts these definitions and further prevents us from giving a workable definition of a tensor product. We need these morphisms, especially in the case of the multiset category below, to allow for the addition or removal of elements in transformation systems based on these categories.

Construction (Multiset Category). Given a category $\mathbf{C}$, we construct a *multiset category* $\mathbf{C}^{\oplus}$ as follows:

The object are lists (finite sequences) $A_1 \dots A_m$ of objects of $\mathbf{C}$, including an empty list $\emptyset$. The morphisms between two objects $A_1 \dots A_m$ and $B_1 \dots B_n$ (given $m \leq n$) are lists (finite sequences) of morphisms $f_i \colon A_i \to B_{j_i}$ in $\mathbf{C}$, where $j_i = j_k$ implies $i = k$, $i \in \{1, \dots, m\}$.In contrast to the above construction for a string category, we ignore the order of elements.

We will use $\{\!|a, a, b|\!\}$ to denote a multiset with elements a, a and b.

Theorem 2 ($\mathbf{C}$ $\mathcal{M},\mathcal{N}$-adh $\Rightarrow$ $\mathbf{C}^*$ $\mathcal{M}^*,\mathcal{N}^*$-adh, $\mathbf{C}^{\oplus}$ $\mathcal{M}^{\oplus},\mathcal{N}^{\oplus}$-adh).

1. If $\mathbf{C}$ is $\mathcal{M},\mathcal{N}$-adhesive, then the string category $\mathbf{C}^*$ over $\mathbf{C}$ is $\mathcal{M}^*,\mathcal{N}^*$-adhesive where $\mathcal{M}^*$ and $\mathcal{N}^*$ contain those morphisms which are lists of morphisms in $\mathcal{M}$ and $\mathcal{N}$, respectively. $\mathcal{N}^*$ is further restricted to morphisms that perserve length, i.e. where domain and codomain are of equal length.
2. If $\mathbf{C}$ is $\mathcal{M},\mathcal{N}$-adhesive, then the multiset category $\mathbf{C}^{\oplus}$ over $\mathbf{C}$ is $\mathcal{M}^{\oplus},\mathcal{N}^{\oplus}$-adhesive with $\mathcal{M}^{\oplus}$ and $\mathcal{N}^{\oplus}$ contain those morphisms which are lists of morphisms in $\mathcal{M}$ and $\mathcal{N}$, respectively.

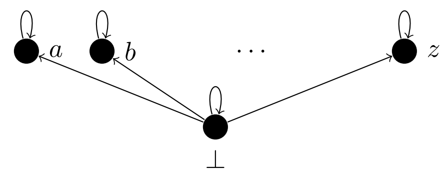
Proof. In both cases the relevant constructions can be done componentwise from objects or morphisms in the original category and the composition and decomposition properties can be inherited from morphisms in the underlying category. The restriction of $\mathcal{N}^*$ to morphisms that preserve length ensures the existence of pushouts. See the long version [PH15] for the full proof. □

4 Partially Labelled Graphs

Let us reconsider the category **PLGraphs** of partially labelled graphs, investigated e.g. in [HP02, HP12], where the labelling functions for nodes and edges are allowed to be partial. In [HP12], it is shown that **PLGraphs** is not $\mathcal{M}$-adhesive, but $\mathcal{M},\mathcal{N}$-adhesive if we choose $\mathcal{M}$ and $\mathcal{N}$ as the classes of all injective and all injective, undefinedness-preserving graph morphisms, respectively. In this section, we present an alternative proof of the statement: We show that the category **PLGraphs** can be constructed from the category **Graphs** and a category **PL** of labels by a multiset construction and the comma category construction.

First, we consider a label set L together with the symbol $\perp$ indicating undefinedness. As morphisms we use all identities as well as all morphisms from $\perp$ to a label in L.

Lemma 3 (PL is a Category). For each alphabet L, the class of all elements in $L \cup \{\perp\}$[3] as objects and all morphisms of the form $\perp \to x$ and $x \to x$ ($x \in L \cup \{\perp\}$) forms the category **PL** where the composition of $x \to y$ and $y \to z$ is $x \to z$ and the identity on x is $x \to x$.



Proof. Follows directly from the definiton. □

It can be shown that the category **PL** is $\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{N}$-adhesive.

Lemma 4 (PL is $\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{N}$-adhesive). The category **PL** is $\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{N}$-adhesive where $\mathcal{M}$ and $\mathcal{N}$ are the classes of all morphisms and all identities, respectively.

Proof. We show the properties required in Definition 1, for pushouts and van Kampen squares we can list the small number of cases exhaustively. See the long version [PH15] for the full proof. □

Partially labelled graphs generalize labelled graphs [Ehr79].

Definition 2 (PLGraphs). A *partially labelled graph* is a system $G = (V, E, s, t, l)$ consisting of finite sets V and E of nodes and edges, source and target functions $s, t \colon E \to V$, and a partial labelling function $l \colon E + V \to L$ [4], where L is a fixed set of labels.

A *morphism* $g \colon G \to H$ between graphs G and H consists of two functions $g_V : V_G \to V_H$ and $g_E : E_G \to E_H$ that preserve sources, targets and labels, that is, $g_E; s_H = s_G; g_V$, $g_E; t_H = t_G; g_V$, and $l_H(g(x)) = l_G(x)$ for all x in $\mathrm{Dom}(l_G)$.

Fact 1. The class of partially labelled graphs and its morphisms constitute a category **PLGraphs**, where morphism composition is function composition and the identity is the identity function.

As an alternative to the existing proof we prove that the comma category of the two functors $Graphs \colon$ **Graphs** $\to$ **Sets** and $PL \colon$ $\mathbf{PL}^{\oplus} \to$ **Sets** defined below is $\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{N}$-adhesive. We further prove the category **PLGraphs** is isomorphic to this comma category, thus **PLGraphs** is also $\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{N}$-adhesive. The isomorphism of categories is defined as in Ehrig et. al. [EEPT06b].

[3] We assume that $\perp$ is not an element of L.
[4] $+$ denotes the disjoint union of sets.

Definition 3 **($Graphs\colon$ Graphs $\to$ Sets).** The functor $Graphs\colon$ **Graphs** $\to$ **Sets** maps graphs to their underlying set of nodes and edges and is given as follows: For a graph $G' = (V', E', s', t')$, let $Graphs(G') = V' + E'$ and for a graph morphism $f_{G'}\colon A \to B$, let $Graphs(f_{G'})$ be a natural transformation, defined by $Graphs(f)(x) = f_{V'}(x)$ if $x \in V'$ and $f_{E'}(x)$ otherwise.

Lemma 5. The functor $Graphs\colon$ **Graphs** $\to$ **Sets** preserves $\mathcal{M},\mathcal{N}$-pushouts, where $\mathcal{M}$ is the class of injective graph morphisms, $\mathcal{N}$ is the class of all morphisms.

Proof. See the long version [PH15]. □

Definition 4 **($PL\colon \mathbf{PL}^{\oplus} \to$ Sets).** The functor $PL\colon \mathbf{PL}^{\oplus} \to$ **Sets** maps a multiset of labels to a set with distinct elements and is given as follows: For a multiset of labels $m' : L' \to \mathbb{N}$ let $PL(m) = \bigcup_{l' \in L'} \bar{m}(l')$, where for $l' \in L'$, $\bar{m}(l') = \{l'_1, ..., l'_k\}$ iff $m(l') = k$. For a morphism $f\colon m_1 \to m_2$ let $PL(f) = PL(m_1) \to PL(m_2)$ be a morphism in **Sets**, such that $PL(f)(l'_1) = l'_2$ iff $PL(l_1) = l'_1, PL(l_2) = l'_2$ and $f(l_1) = l_2$ with $l_1, l_2 \in m_1, m_2$ respectively.

Lemma 6. The functor $PL\colon \mathbf{PL}^{\oplus} \to$ **Sets** preserves $\mathcal{I}$-pullbacks, where $\mathcal{I}$ is the class of all morphisms.

Proof. See the long version [PH15]. □

For an object (G', m', op) of the comma category $Graphs \downarrow PL$ the morphism $\mathrm{op}\colon Graphs(G') \to PL(m')$ determines which node or edge is associated with which label, i.e. $\mathrm{op}(e') = l'_i$ with $e' \in E', l' \in L'$ and $i \in \mathbb{N}$ means the edge e' is labelled with l'.

Lemma 7 **(PLGraphs $\cong Graphs \downarrow_s PL$).** The category **PLGraphs** of partially labelled graphs is isomorphic to the comma category $Graphs \downarrow_s PL$, where $\downarrow_s$ indicates a restriction to surjective morphisms op in the comma category.

We restrict ourselves to those objects of the comma category where op is surjective, since there could otherwise be labels that are not associated with an object in the graph.

Proof. The graph components of both categories are trivially isomorphic. It remains to show that changes to a partial labelling function and a total labelling function along with changes to the labels themselves can be employed towards the same effect. For the proof see the long version [PH15]. □

Now we are able to present an alternative proof of the fact that the category **PLGraphs** of partially labelled graphs is $\mathcal{M},\mathcal{N}$-adhesive. It is based on fact that the categories **Graphs** of graphs and **PL** of labels are $\mathcal{M},\mathcal{N}$-adhesive and the constructions of a commutative monoidal category and the comma category preserve $\mathcal{M},\mathcal{N}$-adhesiveness.

Theorem 3 (PLGraphs is $\mathcal{M},\mathcal{N}$-adhesive). The category **PLGraphs** of partially labelled graphs is $\mathcal{M},\mathcal{N}$-adhesive where $\mathcal{M}$ and $\mathcal{N}$ are the classes of all injective and all injective, undefinedness-preserving graph morphisms, respectively.

Proof. The new proof of Theorem 3 is illustrated in Figure 1.

1. By Lemmata 2 and 4, **Graphs** and **PL** are $\mathcal{M}_G,\mathcal{N}_G$ and $\mathcal{M}_L,\mathcal{N}_L$-adhesive, respectively. $\mathcal{M}_G,\mathcal{N}_G$ are monomorphisms in **Graphs** and $\mathcal{M}_L,\mathcal{N}_L$ are the classes of all morphisms and all identity morphisms in **PL**, respectively.
2. By Theorem 2, $\mathbf{PL}^{\oplus}$ is $\mathcal{M}^{\oplus},\mathcal{N}^{\oplus}$-adhesive.
3. By Theorem 1 and Lemmata 5 and 6, $Graphs \downarrow_s PL$ is $\mathcal{M}^c,\mathcal{N}^c$-adhesive. Note that Theorem 1 still holds for the restriction to a surjective op, since the componentwise constructions can be still be done just as in the unrestricted case.
4. By Lemma 7, **PLGraphs** is $\mathcal{M},\mathcal{N}$-adhesive. Moreover $\mathcal{M} = F(\mathcal{M}^c)$ since both of these classes include all monomorphisms and $\mathcal{N} = F(\mathcal{N}^c)$ since the perservation of undefinedness in $\mathcal{N}$ is analogous to the restriction to identity morphisms in $\mathcal{N}^L$, which determines the treatment of labels in $\mathcal{N}^c$.

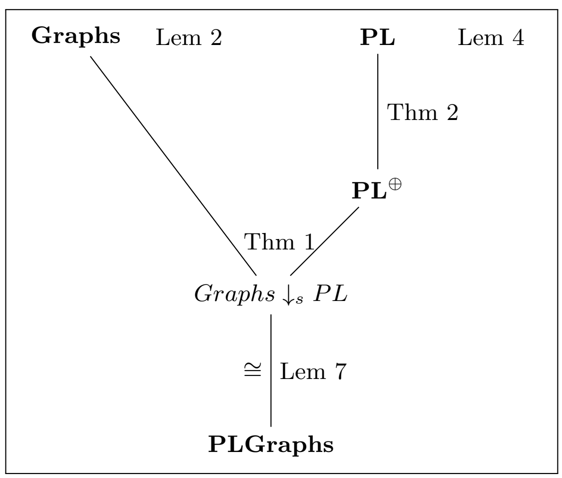


Fig. 1. Proof of "**PLGraphs** is $\mathcal{M},\mathcal{N}$-adhesive".

□

Example 1. Figure 2 shows a transformation rule for a partially labelled graph consisting of a single node which is relabelled from a to b. Below the rule we show objects of $Graphs \downarrow PL$ and their individual components. Note that, in contrast to partially labelled graphs, we do not change the assigment of items to labels but instead change the label itself.

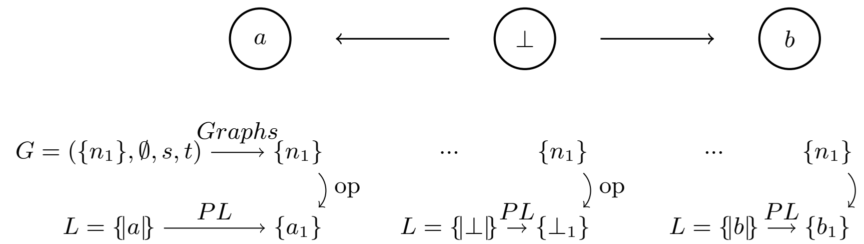


Fig. 2. Example transformation of an object of $Graphs \downarrow_s PL$

5 Attributed Graphs

Similiar to the construction for partially labelled graphs we construct attributed graphs, where the attributes can be changed analogously to relabelling.

We start with defining a category where the objects collect all the attributes of a node or an edge. These *attribute collections* consist of a set of names, each of which is associated with a value. We use the category **PL** from section 4 to represent these values.

Definition 5 (Att $= ID_{\mathbf{Sets}} \downarrow PL$). The category **Att** of attribute collections is defined as the comma category $ID_{\mathbf{Sets}} \downarrow PL$ where $ID_{\mathbf{Sets}}$ denotes the identity functor over **Sets**.

Lemma 8 (Att is $\mathcal{M}^c, \mathcal{N}^c$-adhesive). The category **Att** of attribute collections is $\mathcal{M}^c, \mathcal{N}^c$-adhesive where $\mathcal{M}^c, \mathcal{N}^c$ are the classes of morphisms induced by the comma category construction.

Proof. The proof is illustrated in Figure 3. $ID_{\mathbf{Sets}} \downarrow PL$ is $\mathcal{M}^c, \mathcal{N}^c$-adhesive, since **Sets** and **PL** are $\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{N}$-adhesive and a multiset and comma category construction preserve $\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{N}$-adhesiveness. □

To construct attributed graphs we define a functor from multisets of these attribute collections to sets for later use in the comma category construction (compare with the construction for partially labelled graphs in section 4). We also prove that this functor preserves pullbacks, since this is required for the comma category to preserve $\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{N}$-adhesiveness.

Definition 6 ($Att\colon \mathbf{Att}^{\oplus} \to \mathbf{Sets}$). The functor $Att\colon \mathbf{Att}^{\oplus} \to \mathbf{Sets}$ that maps attribute collections to sets with distinct values is given by the following: A triple $(ID_{\mathbf{Sets}}(S), PL(m), \mathrm{op})^{\oplus}$ is mapped to the set $S^{\oplus} + PL(m)^{\oplus}$ where $\oplus$ is flattened analogously to the way PL does (see Definition 4). A morphism $f\colon A \to B$ in $\mathbf{Att}^{\oplus}$ is mapped to a morphism $Att(f)\colon Att(A) \to Att(B)$, where elements in $Att(A)$ are mapped to elements in $Att(B)$ based on the original mappings in $\mathbf{Att}^{\oplus}$.

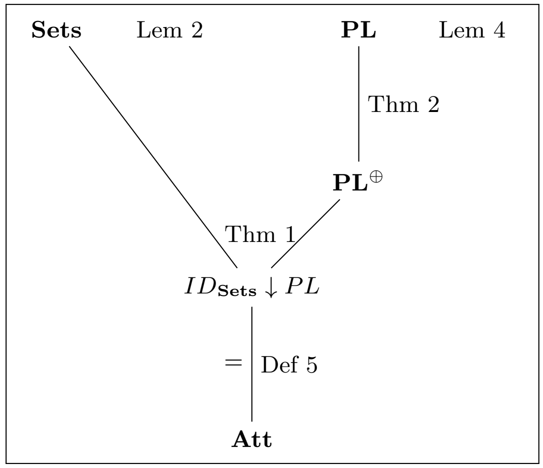


Fig. 3. Proof of "**Att** is $\mathcal{M}^c, \mathcal{N}^c$-adhesive".

Lemma 9 (*Att* preserves $\mathcal{I}$-pullbacks). The functor $Att\colon \mathbf{Att}^{\oplus} \to \mathbf{Sets}$ preserves $\mathcal{I}$-pullbacks where $\mathcal{I}$ is the class of all morphisms.

Proof. See the long version [PH15]. □

Example 2. Figure 4 shows a transformation rule in **Att**. The attribute collection consists of a single attribute a, which has its value changed from 5 to 9 by the rule. Below the rule we show the objects of **Att** with their individual components.

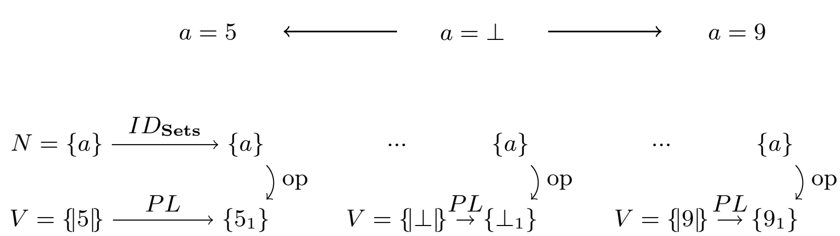


Fig. 4. Example transformation rule for objects of **Att**

Definition 7 (AttGraphs = *Graphs* ↓ *Att*). The category **AttGraphs** of attributed graphs is defined as the comma category $Graphs \downarrow Att$.

Now we are able to show that the category **AttGraphs** of attributed graphs is $\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{N}$-adhesive. It is based on the fact that the categories **Graphs** of graphs and **Att** of attribute collections are $\mathcal{M},\mathcal{N}$-adhesive and the constructions of a multiset category and a comma category preserve $\mathcal{M},\mathcal{N}$-adhesiveness.

Theorem 4 (AttGraphs is $\mathcal{M},\mathcal{N}$-adhesive). The category **AttGraphs** of attributed graphs is $\mathcal{M}^c,\mathcal{N}^c$-adhesive where $\mathcal{M}^c,\mathcal{N}^c$ are the classes of morphisms induced by the comma category construction.

Proof. The proof is illustrated in Figure 5.

1. By Lemmata 2 and 8, **Graphs** and **Att** are $\mathcal{M}_G,\mathcal{N}_G$ and $\mathcal{M}_A,\mathcal{N}_A$-adhesive, respectively. $\mathcal{M}_G,\mathcal{N}_G$ are monomorphisms in **Graphs** and $\mathcal{M}_A,\mathcal{N}_A$ are the classes of morphisms induced by the comma category construction of **Att**.
2. By Theorem 2, $\mathbf{Att}^{\oplus}$ is $\mathcal{M}^{\oplus},\mathcal{N}^{\oplus}$-adhesive.
3. By Theorem 1 and Lemmata 5 and 9, *Graphs* ↓ *Att* is $\mathcal{M}^c,\mathcal{N}^c$-adhesive.
4. By Defintion 7, **AttGraphs** is $\mathcal{M}^c,\mathcal{N}^c$-adhesive.

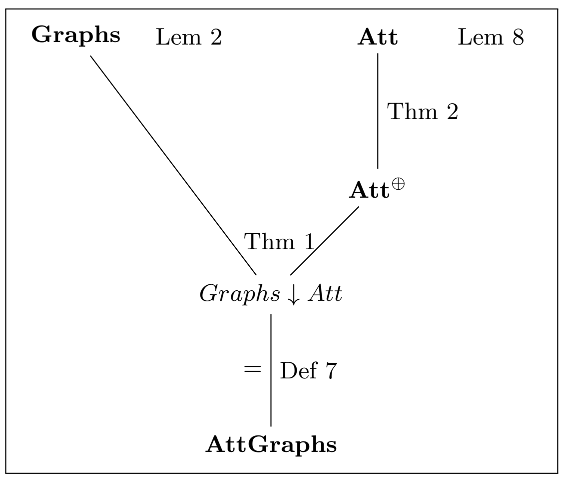


Fig. 5. Proof of "**AttGraphs** is $\mathcal{M}^c,\mathcal{N}^c$-adhesive".

□

In the following we briefly compare these attributed graphs to some existing attribution concepts. In contrast to the typed attributed graphs in [EEPT06b] these attributed graphs can have at most one value for an attribute. We constructed untyped graphs and even the attributes themselves have no types. Using the construction for the slice category from Theorem 1 we can build graphs where typing is done at either level, which allows us to have typed attributes on an untyped graphs, such that attribute values are constrained by the type but what attributes a node or edge has is not. In contrast typed attributed graphs require that the graph is typed and thus do not allow e.g. the addition of attributes to a node or edge. Compared to the attribution concepts used in [Plu09] we do not require a seperate instantiation of a rule schema and it is possible to find a match without fully specifying other, pontentially uninteresting, attributes. We do not, however base our attributes on an algebra that would allow us to perform some computations on the attributes, this would require additional work to prove $\mathcal{M},\mathcal{N}$-adhesiveness for a suitable category. Fortunately we only need to provide this proof for such attributes once, enabling us to construct many different attributed structures without concerning ourselves with e.g. the underlying graphs.

6 $\mathcal{W}$-adhesive Categories

The concept of $\mathcal{M},\mathcal{N}$-adhesive categories [HP12] was introduced as a framework for partially labeled graphs. More or less at the same time, the concept of $\mathcal{W}$-adhesive categories was introduced by Golas [Gol12] as a framework for attributed graphs. In this section, we present a precise relationship between $\mathcal{M},\mathcal{N}$-adhesive and $\mathcal{W}$-adhesive categories.

We obtain the following relationship between $\mathcal{M},\mathcal{N}$- and $\mathcal{W}$-adhesive categories.

Theorem 5 ($\mathcal{M},\mathcal{N}$-adhesive $\Rightarrow$ $\mathcal{W}$-adhesive). If the category $\mathbf{C}$ is $\mathcal{M},\mathcal{N}$-adhesive, then the tuple $(\mathbf{C},\mathcal{M},\mathcal{M},\mathcal{M}\times\mathcal{N})$ is a $\mathcal{W}$-adhesive category. Vice versa, if the tuple $(\mathbf{C},\mathcal{R},\mathcal{M},\mathcal{W})$ is $\mathcal{W}$-adhesive, then $\mathbf{C}$ is $\mathcal{R},\mathrm{Ran}(\mathcal{W})$-adhesive provided that the range $\mathrm{Ran}(\mathcal{W})$ of $\mathcal{W}$ is stable under pushout and pullback and contains all isomorphisms.

Proof. We can directly derive the properties of $\mathcal{W}$-adhesive categories from the definition of $\mathcal{M},\mathcal{N}$-adhesive categories and vice versa, except for the stability of the morphism classes $\mathcal{M},\mathcal{N}$ over pushouts and pullbacks. Due to the required properties of $\mathcal{W}$-adhesive categories, the class of $\mathcal{W}$-spans used necessarily equals the spans defined by $\mathcal{R}\times\mathcal{N}$ thus allowing us to bridge the different definitions. For the proof see the long version [PH15]. □

Remark. The situation may be summarized as follows:

- The requirements for an $\mathcal{M},\mathcal{N}$-adhesive category are slightly more strict than those for $\mathcal{W}$-adhesive categories.
- For $\mathcal{M},\mathcal{N}$-adhesive systems, the Local Church-Rosser Theorem, the Parallelism Theorem, and the Concurrency Theorem are proven. For $\mathcal{W}$-adhesive systems, up to our knowledge, there has only been a proof of (part of) the Local Church-Rosser Theorem.
- The $\mathcal{W}$-adhesive categories of attributed objects in [Gol12] are $\mathcal{M},\mathcal{N}$-adhesive: $\mathcal{N}$ is the class of $\perp$-preserving morphisms, contains all isomorphisms and is stable under pushout and pullbacks.

7 Related Concepts

Throughout the literature, various versions of adhesive and quasiadhesive [LS05], weak adhesive HLR [EHPP06], partial map adhesive [Hei10], and $\mathcal{M}$-adhesive [EGH10] exist. In [EGH10], all these categories are shown to be also $\mathcal{M}$-adhesive ones. The categories of labelled graphs, typed graphs, and typed attributed graphs in [EEPT06b], are known to be $\mathcal{M}$-adhesive categories if one chooses $\mathcal{M}$ to be the class of injective graph morphisms [EGH10]. Each such category induces a class of $\mathcal{M}$-adhesive systems for which several classical results of the double-pushout approach hold.

Unfortunately, the framework of $\mathcal{M}$-adhesive systems does not cover graph transformation with relabelling. In [HP12], the authors generalize $\mathcal{M}$-adhesive categories to $\mathcal{M},\mathcal{N}$-adhesive categories, where $\mathcal{N}$ is a class of morphisms containing the vertical morphisms in double-pushouts, and show that the category of partially labelled graphs is $\mathcal{M},\mathcal{N}$-adhesive, where $\mathcal{M}$ and $\mathcal{N}$ are the classes of injective and injective, undefinedness-preserving graph morphisms, respectively. Independently, Golas [Gol12] provided a general framework for attributed objects, so-called $\mathcal{W}$-adhesive systems which allows undefined attributes in the interface of a rule to change attributes, which is similar to relabelling. By Lemma 1 and Theorem 5, the hierarchy of adhesive categories in [EGH10] can be extended in the following way:

$$\text{adhesive} \underset{\not\Leftarrow}{\Rightarrow} \text{adhesive HLR} \underset{\not\Leftarrow}{\Rightarrow} \mathcal{M}\text{-adhesive} \underset{\not\Leftarrow}{\Rightarrow} \mathcal{M},\mathcal{N}\text{-adhesive} \underset{\not\Leftarrow}{\Rightarrow} \mathcal{W}\text{-adhesive}$$

In the literature, there are several variants of attribution concepts, e.g., Löwe et al. [LKW93] view graphs as a special case of algebras. These algebras can then additionally specify types for attributes. Ehrig et al. [EEPT06a] — introduce typed attributed graphs, expanding the graph by including an algebra for attribute values. To facilitate attribution, typed attributed graphs extend graphs by attribution nodes and attribution edges. All possible data values of the algebra are assumed to be part of the graph. Nodes and edges are attributed by adding an attribution edge that leads to an attribution node. Kastenberg and Rensink [KR12] take a similar approach, but instead of only encoding the data values, operations and constants are also included in the graph. Plump et al [Plu09] use a different approach to attribution. Here labels are replaced by sequences of attributes. Rules are complemented by rule schemata in which terms over the attributes are specified. These variables are substituted with attribute values and evaluated during rule application. Instead of modifying the definition of graphs and graph transformations to include attributes, Golas [Gol12] defines an attribution concept over arbitrary categories. Duval et al. [DEPR14] allow attributed graphs and allow rules to change attributes.

In [Peu13], Peuser compares the approaches of Ehrig et al. [EEPT06a] and Plump [Plu09] and introduces a useful new concept of attribution which is the basis of this work.

The idea of composition of adhesive categories is not new: For $\mathcal{M}$-adhesive categories, the standard constructions of product, slice and coslice, functor, and comma categories are given in [EEPT06b].

8 Conclusion

In this paper, we have continued the work on $\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{N}$-adhesive categories and have presented several examples (see Table 1).

category	structures	adhesiveness	reference
Sets	sets	$\mathcal{M}$-adh	[EEPT06b]
PL	sets of labels	$\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{N}$-adh	Lemma 4
Att	attribute collections	$\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{N}$-adh	Lemma 8
Graphs	unlabelled graphs	$\mathcal{M}$-adh	[EEPT06b]
LGraphs	labelled graphs	$\mathcal{M}$-adh	[Ehr79]
PLGraphs	partially labelled graphs	$\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{N}$-adh	[HP12], Thm 3
AttGraphs	attributed graphs	$\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{N}$-adh	Theorem 4

Table 1. Examples of $\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{N}$-adhesive categories

The main contributions of the paper are the following:

(1) Closure results for $\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{N}$-adhesive categories.
(2) A new, shorter proof of the result in [HP12] that the category of partially labeled graphs is $\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{N}$-adhesive.
(3) A new concept of attributed graphs together with a proof that the category of these attributed graphs is $\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{N}$-adhesive and an application to transformation systems saying that for these attributed graphs, the Local Church-Rosser Theorem, the Parallelism Theorem and the Concurrency Theorem hold provided that the HLR^+-properties are satisfied.

Further topics might be:

(1) Investigate the relationship to the approach of Parisi-Presicce et al. [PEM87] considering graphs with a structured alphabet.
(2) Proof of the HLR^+-properties for the category **AttGraphs** to obtain the Local Church-Rosser Theorem, the Parallelism Theorem and the Concurrency Theorem for this type of attributed graphs.
(3) Generalization of the approach to systems with so-called left-linear rules, i.e., rules where only the left morphism of the rule is required to be in $\mathcal{M}$ as, e.g., in [BGS11].

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