

Contents

Introduction	<i>page</i> 1
1 Tricategories	1
2 Gray-monads	3
3 An outline	5
Acknowledgements	12
 Part I Background	 13
1 Bicategorical background	15
1.1 Bicategorical conventions	15
1.2 Mates in bicategories	17
2 Coherence for bicategories	21
2.1 The Yoneda embedding	21
2.2 Coherence for bicategories	22
2.3 Coherence for functors	29
3 Gray-categories	35
3.1 The Gray tensor product	36
3.2 Cubical functors	38
3.3 The monoidal category Gray	45
3.4 A factorization	48
 Part II Tricategories	 57
4 The algebraic definition of tricategory	59
4.1 Basic definition	59
4.2 Adjoint equivalences and tricategory axioms	65
4.3 Trihomomorphisms and other higher cells	66
4.4 Unpacked versions	78

4.5	Calculations in tricategories	83
4.6	Comparing definitions	85
5	Examples	86
5.1	Primary example: Bicat	86
5.2	Fundamental 3-groupoids	89
6	Free constructions	97
6.1	Graphs	97
6.2	The category of tricategories	99
6.3	Free Gray -categories	103
7	Basic structure	106
7.1	Structure of functors	107
7.2	Structure of transformations	110
7.3	Pseudo-icons	114
7.4	Change of structure	123
7.5	Triequivalences	127
8	Gray-categories and tricategories	129
8.1	Cubical tricategories	129
8.2	Gray -categories	133
9	Coherence via Yoneda	138
9.1	Local structure	139
9.2	Global results	141
9.3	The cubical Yoneda lemma	144
9.4	Coherence for tricategories	154
10	Coherence via free constructions	156
10.1	Coherence for tricategories	157
10.2	Coherence and diagrams of constraints	160
10.3	A non-commuting diagram	161
10.4	Strictifying tricategories	162
10.5	Coherence for functors	171
10.6	Strictifying functors	177
Part III	Gray-monads	181
11	Codescent in Gray-categories	183
11.1	Lax codescent diagrams	184
11.2	Codescent diagrams	188
11.3	Codescent objects	190

12 Codescent as a weighted colimit	196
12.1 Weighted colimits in Gray -categories	197
12.2 Examples: coinserters and coequifiers	200
12.3 Codescent	207
13 Gray-monads and their algebras	209
13.1 Enriched monads and algebras	210
13.2 Lax algebras and their higher cells	213
13.3 Total structures	219
14 The reflection of lax algebras into strict algebras	227
14.1 The canonical codescent diagram of a lax algebra	228
14.2 The left adjoint, lax case	230
14.3 The left adjoint, pseudo case	242
15 A general coherence result	244
15.1 Weak codescent objects	245
15.2 Coherence for pseudo-algebras	266
<i>Bibliography</i>	273
<i>Index</i>	277