

# Stabilization of 2-Crossed Modules

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Gadget



K-theory



Space with interesting homotopy groups

- Examples of such gadgets.
  - ▶ Category of finitely generated projective  $R$ -modules.  
If  $X$  is the output of its K-theory, then we have:
    - ★  $\pi_1(X) = K_0(R)$ .
    - ★  $\pi_2(X) = K_1(R) = R^\times = \text{Units of } R$ .
  - ▶ A Waldhausen Category.

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## Definition 1

A **Waldhausen category**<sup>a</sup>  $\mathcal{C}$  is a category with a zero object,  $0$  equipped with two classes of morphisms: **weak equivalences** (WE) and **cofibrations** (CO) such that it has a notion of taking quotients, and satisfy certain conditions.

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<sup>a</sup>Charles A. Weibel. *The K-book An Introduction to Algebraic K-theory*. American Mathematical Society, 2010, pp. 172–174.

## Examples of Waldhausen categories

- 1 The category **R-Mod**, for any ring  $R$ .
  - ▶ Injective maps (CO).
  - ▶ Isomorphisms (WE).
- 2 An exact category.
  - ▶ Monomorphisms (CO).
  - ▶ Isomorphisms (WE).

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- 2 An exact category.
  - ▶ Monomorphisms (CO).
  - ▶ Isomorphisms (WE).
- 3 Category  $\mathcal{R}(X)$  of spaces that retract to  $X$ .
  - ▶ Serre cofibrations (CO).
  - ▶ Maps that induce isomorphisms for chosen homology theory (WE).
- 4 The category of finite sets.
  - ▶ Inclusions (CO).
  - ▶ Isomorphisms (WE).

Gadget



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*n*-types





## Algebraic model of a 1-type

Groups can be considered as algebraic models for the 1-type.

- If a space  $X$  is such that,

$$\pi_i(X) = \begin{cases} G & \text{for } i = 1 \\ 0 & \text{for } i \neq 1 \end{cases}$$

- $BG := |N(G \rightrightarrows *)|$ .
- $X \simeq BG$ .

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- $X \simeq BG$ .

$n$ -types	Categorical model	Algebraic model
1-type	$\mathcal{G} = (G \rightrightarrows *)$	$G$

## Theorem 2 (Homotopy Hypothesis (Grothendieck))

*By taking classifying spaces and fundamental  $n$ -groupoids, there is an equivalence between the theory of weak  $n$ -groupoids and that of homotopy  $n$ -types.*

$n$ -types	Categorical model	Algebraic model	Groups
0-type	0-category	Set	
1-type	1-category	Group	1 group
2-type	2-category	Crossed Module <sup>1</sup>	2 groups
3-type	3-category	2-Crossed Module	3 groups

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<sup>1</sup>Fernando Muro and Andrew Tonks. “The 1-type of a Waldhausen K-theory spectrum”. In: *Advances in Mathematics* 216 (2007), pp. 179–183.

### Definition 3

A **2-crossed module**<sup>a</sup>  $G_*$  consists of a complex of  $G_0$ -groups

$$\begin{array}{c} G_1 \times G_1 \\ \{\cdot, \cdot\} \downarrow \\ G_2 \xrightarrow{\partial_2} G_1 \xrightarrow{\partial_1} G_0 \end{array}$$

- $\partial$ 's are  $G_0$ -equivariant.
- $G_2 \xrightarrow{\partial_2} G_1$  is a **crossed module**.
  - ▶  $\partial_2$  is  $G_1$ -equivariant.
  - ▶  $f^{\partial_2 g} = g^{-1} f g$  for all  $f, g \in G_2$ .

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  - ▶  $f^{\partial_2 g} = g^{-1} f g$  for all  $f, g \in G_2$ .
- $(\alpha^f)^x = (\alpha^x)^{f^x}$  for all  $\alpha \in G_2, f \in G_1, x \in G_0$ .
- Compatibility conditions.

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<sup>a</sup>Ronald Brown and İlhan İçen. "Homotopies and Automorphisms of Crossed Modules of Groupoids". In: *Applied Categorical Structures* (2003), p. 193.

## Remark

The homotopy groups of a 2-crossed module  $G_*$  are:

- $\pi_0(G_*) = \text{Coker}(\partial_1 : G_1 \rightarrow G_0)$ ,
- $\pi_1(G_*) = \text{Ker}(\partial_1 : G_1 \rightarrow G_0) / (\text{Im}(\partial_2 : G_2 \rightarrow G_1))$ ,
- $\pi_2(G_*) = \text{Ker}(\partial_2 : G_2 \rightarrow G_1)$ .

# Current work

- From a given Waldhausen category, it is known that we can get a **group** (1-type), and a **stable crossed module** (2-type)<sup>2</sup>.
- Now, we want to find a 3-type using the same procedure by considering a **2-crossed module**  $G_*$ .

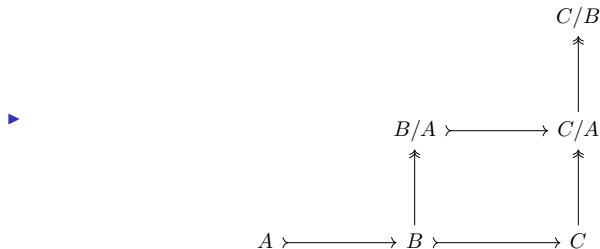
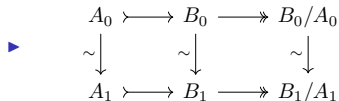
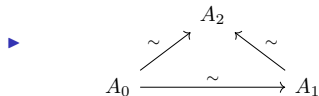
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- The generators for  $G_0$  are:
  - ▶  $[A]$  for any  $A \in Ob(\mathcal{C})$ .
- The generators for  $G_1$  are:
  - ▶  $[A_0 \xrightarrow{\sim} A_1]$  for any WE.
  - ▶  $[A \twoheadrightarrow B \twoheadrightarrow B/A]$  for any cofiber sequence.



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- The generators for  $G_2$  are:



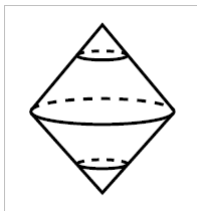
- But this is **not stable** yet. So we make it stable by realizing the monoidal 2-Cat structure on it.

# Stability

- The output of K-theory is in fact a **spectrum**  $\mathbb{X}$ , i.e., a sequence of pointed spaces  $\{X_n\}_{n \geq 0}$  with the structure maps  $\Sigma X_n \rightarrow X_{n+1}$ .

## Definition 4

For a space  $X$ , the **suspension**  $\Sigma X$  is the quotient of  $X \times I$  obtained by collapsing  $X \times \{0\}$  to one point and  $X \times \{1\}$  to another point.  
( $\Sigma X = S^1 \wedge X$ ).



Example:  $\Sigma S^n = S^{n+1}$

## Theorem 5 (Freudenthal Suspension Theorem)

For a spectrum  $\mathbb{X} = \{X_n\}_{n \geq 0}$ , the sequence

$$\pi_i(X_n) \rightarrow \pi_{i+1}(X_{n+1}) \rightarrow \pi_{i+2}(X_{n+2}) \rightarrow \cdots$$

eventually *stabilizes*.

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eventually *stabilizes*.

## Stable Homotopy Group

The  $i^{\text{th}}$  *stable* homotopy group of  $\mathbb{X}$  is:

$$\pi_i^s(\mathbb{X}) = \varinjlim_k \pi_{i+k}(X_k) \cong \pi_{i+N}(X_N), \quad N \gg 0.$$

## Theorem 6 (The Stable Homotopy Hypothesis)

<sup>a</sup> *Symmetric monoidal structure corresponds to topological stability.*



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<sup>a</sup>Niles Johnson Nick Gurski and Angélica M. Osorno. “The 2-dimensional stable homotopy hypothesis”. In: *Journal of Pure and Applied Algebra, Volume 223, Issue 10, 2019* (2019), pp. 4348–4383.

## SM 2-Cat structure on a 2-CM

- Given a 2-CM  $G_*$

$$G_2 \xrightarrow{\partial} G_1 \xrightarrow{\partial} G_0$$

- $Ob(\Gamma(G_*)) = G_0$ .

$$x_0 \in G_0.$$

- $1\text{-Mor}(\Gamma(G_*)) = G_0 \times G_1$ .

$$x_0 \xrightarrow{f_0} x_1 \text{ such that } x_1 = x_0 \cdot \partial(f_0).$$

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- $2\text{-Mor}(\Gamma(G_*)) = G_0 \times G_1 \times G_2$ .

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & f_0 & \\ x_0 & \curvearrowright & x_1 \\ & \alpha \Downarrow & \\ & f_1 & \end{array}$$

Such that  $f_1 = f_0 \cdot \partial(\alpha)$ .



Figure 1: Vertical composition





Figure 1: Vertical composition

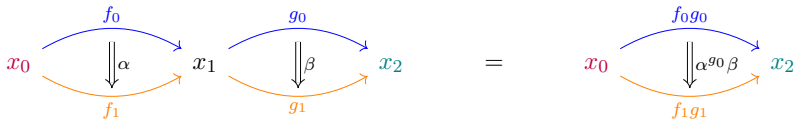


Figure 2: Horizontal composition

They satisfy certain compatibility conditions.



Figure 1: Vertical composition

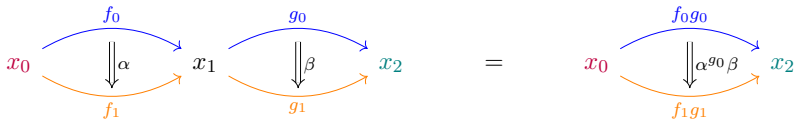


Figure 2: Horizontal composition

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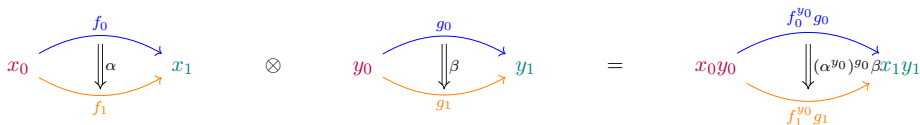


Figure 3: Monoidal structure

Components of a **Symmetric** Monoidal 2-Category<sup>3</sup> (SM 2-Cat) are:

- A 2-Cat.
- Monoidal structure ( $\otimes$ ) on the 2-Cat.

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- A 2-Cat.
- Monoidal structure ( $\otimes$ ) on the 2-Cat.
- Braiding ( $\beta$ ) on the monoidal structure.
- Left ( $\eta_{-|-}$ ) and right ( $\eta_{-|-}$ ) hexagonators.
- Syllepsis ( $\gamma$ ).
  - ▶ Symmetry axiom.
  
- Pull back the **symmetric** structure to get a **stable** 2-CM.

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*Thank You!*

# References I

- [1] Charles A. Weibel. *The K-book An Introduction to Algebraic K-theory*. American Mathematical Society, 2010, pp. 172–174.
- [2] Fernando Muro and Andrew Tonks. “The 1-type of a Waldhausen K-theory spectrum”. In: *Advances in Mathematics* 216 (2007), pp. 179–183.
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- [5] Niles Johnson and Donald Yau. *2-Dimensional Categories*. Oxford University Press, 2021, pp. 384–396.

- [6] H.-J. Baues and Daniel Conduché. “On the 2-type of an iterated loop space”. In: *Forum Mathematicum* (1997), pp. 725–733.

## Waldhausen category

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- $\text{iso}(\mathcal{C}) \subseteq \text{WE}(\mathcal{C}) \cap \text{CO}(\mathcal{C})$ .
- $0 \rightarrow X \in \text{CO}(\mathcal{C})$  for all  $X \in \text{Ob}(\mathcal{C})$ .
- If  $A \twoheadrightarrow B$  is a cofibration and  $A \rightarrow C$  is any morphism in  $\mathcal{C}$ , then the pushout  $B \cup_A C$  of these two maps exists in  $\mathcal{C}$  and  $C \twoheadrightarrow B \cup_A C$  is a cofibration.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A & \twoheadrightarrow & B \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ C & \twoheadrightarrow & B \cup_A C \end{array}$$

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## Waldhausen category

- Gluing axiom:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 & & B \cup_A C & & \\
 & \swarrow \text{dotted} & & \nwarrow \text{dotted} & \\
 C & \longleftarrow & A & \longrightarrow & B \\
 \sim \downarrow & & \sim \downarrow & & \sim \downarrow \\
 C' & \longleftarrow & A' & \longrightarrow & B' \\
 & \swarrow \text{dotted} & & \nwarrow \text{dotted} & \\
 & & B' \cup_{A'} C' & & 
 \end{array}$$

The induced map  $B \cup_A C \rightarrow B' \cup_{A'} C'$  is also a weak equivalence.

- Extension axiom:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 A & \twoheadrightarrow & B & \twoheadrightarrow & B/A \\
 \downarrow \sim & & \downarrow \sim & & \downarrow \sim \\
 A' & \twoheadrightarrow & B' & \twoheadrightarrow & B'/A'
 \end{array}$$

If  $A \rightarrow A'$  and  $B/A \rightarrow B'/A'$  are w.e. then so is  $B \rightarrow B'$ .

# Serre cofibrations

- In the category of topological spaces, a map  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  is called a Serre fibration, if for each CW-complex  $A$ , the map  $f$  has the RLP w.r.t. the inclusion  $A \times \{0\} \rightarrow A \times [0, 1]$ :

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A \times \{0\} & \longrightarrow & X \\ \downarrow & \nearrow \exists & \downarrow f \\ A \times [0, 1] & \longrightarrow & Y \end{array}$$

- A map  $f$  is called a Serre cofibration if it has the LLP w.r.t. acyclic fibrations.

# Crossed Module

## Definition 7

A **crossed module**<sup>a</sup>  $G_*$  consists of a  $G_0$ -equivariant group homomorphism, where  $G_0$  acts on itself by conjugation.

$$G_1 \xrightarrow{\partial} G_0$$

where the action of  $G_0$  on  $G_1$  satisfies

- $f^{\partial g} = g^{-1}fg$  for all  $f, g \in G_1$ .

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## Remark

The homotopy groups of the crossed module  $G_*$  are:

- $\pi_0(G_*) = \text{Coker } \partial$ ,
- $\pi_1(G_*) = \text{Ker } \partial$ .

Extending the previous idea for higher values of  $n$ :

$$X \simeq |N\mathcal{G}| \tag{1}$$

- $n = 2$ . For a given **crossed module**  $G_*$ , we can construct a **category**  $\Gamma(G_*)$  such that
  - ▶  $\text{Ob}(\Gamma(G_*)) = G_0$
  - ▶  $1\text{-Mor}(\Gamma(G_*)) = G_0 \rtimes G_1$ 
    - ★  $G_1$  acts on  $G_0$  by sending  $x_0 \mapsto x_0 \cdot \partial f$  for  $f \in G_1$ .
- For equation 1,  $\mathcal{G} = (\Gamma(G_*) \rightrightarrows *)$  works.

# Stable Crossed Module

## Definition 8

A **stable crossed module (SCM)**<sup>a</sup>  $G_*$  is a crossed module  $\partial : G_1 \rightarrow G_0$  together with a map [Back to main](#)

$$\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle : G_0 \times G_0 \rightarrow G_1$$

satisfying the following for any  $f, g \in G_1, x, y, z \in G_0$ :

- 1  $\partial \langle x, y \rangle = [y, x]$ ,
- 2  $f^x = f + \langle x, \partial(f) \rangle$ ,
- 3  $\langle x, y + z \rangle = \langle x, y \rangle^z + \langle x, z \rangle$ ,
- 4  $\langle x, y \rangle + \langle y, x \rangle = 0$ .

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<sup>a</sup>Fernando Muro and Andrew Tonks. “The 1-type of a Waldhausen K-theory spectrum”. In: *Advances in Mathematics* 216 (2007), pp. 179–183.

## Some facts

- Examples of a model category which is not a Waldhausen category: Triangulated categories.
- The functor  $-\otimes - : \Gamma(G_*) \times \Gamma(G_*) \rightarrow \Gamma(G_*)$  is in fact an oplax functor.

### Oplax functor

If  $F : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$  is a functor such that, for 1-cells  $f, g$ , we have  $F(f \circ g) \cong F(f) \circ F(g)$  (but not exactly equal). Then the functor  $F$  is called as an **oplax functor**.

# Suspension

## Smash product

Let  $X, Y$  be two spaces. Then their smash product  
 $X \wedge Y := X \times Y / X \vee Y$ .

## Example 9

$S^1 \wedge S^1 = S^2$ , in fact  $S^n \wedge S^m = S^{n+m}$  for any  $n, m \in \mathbb{N}$ .

## Remark

- $\Sigma X \cong S^1 \wedge X$ .
- $\Sigma^k X \cong S^k \wedge X$ .



## Remark

- In a category of  $R$ -modules, we have

$$\mathrm{Hom}(X \otimes A, Y) \cong \mathrm{Hom}(X, \mathrm{Hom}(A, Y)).$$

- Similarly, in case of pointed topological spaces, smash product plays the role of the tensor product. If  $A, X$  are compact Hausdorff then we have

$$\mathrm{Hom}(X \wedge A, Y) \cong \mathrm{Hom}(X, \mathrm{Hom}(A, Y)).$$

- So, in particular, for  $A = S^1$ , we have

$$\mathrm{Hom}(\Sigma X, Y) \cong \mathrm{Hom}(X, \mathrm{Hom}(S^1, Y)) = \mathrm{Hom}(X, \Omega Y).$$

- Here  $\Omega Y$  carries compact-open topology.
- This implies, the suspension functor  $\Omega \vdash \Sigma$ , the loop space functor.

## Definition 10

Let  $X$  and  $Y$  be two topological spaces, and let  $C(X, Y)$  denote the set of all continuous maps from  $X$  to  $Y$ . Given a compact subset  $K$  of  $X$  and an open subset  $U$  of  $Y$ , let  $V(K, U)$  denote the set of all functions  $f \in C(X, Y)$  such that  $f(K) \subseteq U$ . Then the collection of all such  $V(K, U)$  is a subbase for the compact-open topology on  $C(X, Y)$ .

## Definition 11

A **stable quadratic module**  $C_*$  is a commutative diagram of group homomorphisms [To appendix](#)

$$\begin{array}{ccc} C_0^{ab} \otimes C_0^{ab} & & \\ w \downarrow & \searrow \text{commutator} & \\ C_1 & \xrightarrow{\partial} & C_0 \end{array}$$

such that given  $c_i, d_i \in C_i, i = 0, 1$ ,

- 1  $w(\{\partial(c_1)\} \otimes \{\partial(d_1)\}) = [d_1, c_1] = d_1^{-1}c_1^{-1}d_1c_1$ ,
- 2  $w(\{c_0\} \otimes \{d_0\} + \{d_0\} \otimes \{c_0\}) = 0$ . (The stability condition).

$$\begin{array}{c} C_0 \rightarrow C_0^{ab} \\ x \mapsto \{x\} \end{array}$$

## Remark

The homotopy groups of  $C_*$  are:

- $\pi_0(C_*) = \text{Coker } \partial$ ,
- $\pi_1(C_*) = \text{Ker } \partial$ .

# Detailed Squad structure for a Waldhausen category<sup>4</sup>

- The generators for dimension 0 are:
  - ▶  $[A]$  for any  $A \in \text{Ob}(\mathcal{C})$ .
- The generators for dimension 1 are:
  - ▶  $[A_0 \xrightarrow{\sim} A_1]$  for any w.e.
  - ▶  $[A \twoheadrightarrow B \twoheadrightarrow B/A]$  for any cofiber sequence.
- such that the following relations hold (i.e., we define  $\partial, w$ ):
  - ▶  $\partial([A_0 \xrightarrow{\sim} A_1]) = -[A_1] + [A_0]$ .
  - ▶  $\partial([A \twoheadrightarrow B \twoheadrightarrow B/A]) = -[B] + [B/A] + [A]$ .
  - ▶  $[0] = 0$ .
  - ▶  $[A \xrightarrow{id} A] = 0$ .
  - ▶  $[A \xrightarrow{id} A \twoheadrightarrow 0] = 0, [0 \twoheadrightarrow A \xrightarrow{id} A] = 0$ .
  - ▶ For any composable weak equivalences  $A \xrightarrow{\sim} B \xrightarrow{\sim} C$ ,

$$[A \xrightarrow{\sim} C] = [B \xrightarrow{\sim} C] + [A \xrightarrow{\sim} B].$$

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<sup>4</sup>Fernando Muro and Andrew Tonks. “The 1-type of a Waldhausen K-theory spectrum”. In: *Advances in Mathematics* 216 (2007), pp. 179–183.

- ▶ For any  $A, B \in \text{Ob}(\mathcal{C})$ , define the  $w$  as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}
 w([A] \otimes [B]) &:= \langle [A], [B] \rangle \\
 &= \\
 &-[ B \rightharpoonup^{i_2} A \amalg B \twoheadrightarrow^{p_1} A ] + [ A \rightharpoonup^{i_1} A \amalg B \twoheadrightarrow^{p_2} B ].
 \end{aligned}$$

Here,

$$A \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{i_1} \\ \xleftarrow{p_1} \end{array} A \amalg B \begin{array}{c} \xleftarrow{i_2} \\ \xrightarrow{p_2} \end{array} B$$

are natural inclusions and projections of a coproduct in  $\mathcal{C}$ .

- ▶ For any commutative diagram in  $\mathcal{C}$  as follows:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 A_0 & \rightharpoonup & B_0 & \twoheadrightarrow & B_0/A_0 \\
 \downarrow \sim & & \downarrow \sim & & \downarrow \sim \\
 A_1 & \rightharpoonup & B_1 & \twoheadrightarrow & B_1/A_1
 \end{array}$$

we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 [A_0 \xrightarrow{\sim} A_1] + [B_0/A_0 \xrightarrow{\sim} B_1/A_1] + \langle [A], -[B_1/A_1] + [B_0/A_0] \rangle \\
 = \\
 -[A_1 \rightharpoonup B_1 \twoheadrightarrow B_1/A_1] + [B_0 \xrightarrow{\sim} B_1] + [A_0 \rightharpoonup B_0 \twoheadrightarrow B_0/A_0].
 \end{aligned}$$

- ▶ For any commutative diagram consisting of cofiber sequences in  $\mathcal{C}$  as follows:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 & & & & C/B \\
 & & & & \uparrow \\
 & & B/A & \twoheadrightarrow & C/A \\
 & & \uparrow & & \uparrow \\
 A & \twoheadrightarrow & B & \twoheadrightarrow & C
 \end{array}$$

we have,

$$\begin{aligned}
 & [B \twoheadrightarrow C \twoheadrightarrow C/B] + [A \twoheadrightarrow B \twoheadrightarrow B/A] \\
 & =
 \end{aligned}$$

$$[A \twoheadrightarrow C \twoheadrightarrow C/A] + [B/A \twoheadrightarrow C/A \twoheadrightarrow C/B] + \langle [A], -[C/A] + [C/B] + [B/A] \rangle.$$

# Simplicial Set

A simplicial set  $X \in \mathbf{sSet}$  is

- for each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  a set  $X_n \in \mathbf{Set}$  (the set of  $n$ -simplices),
- for each injective map  $\partial_i : [n] \hookrightarrow [n]$  of totally ordered sets ( $[n] := \{0 < 1 < \dots < n\}$ ),
- a function  $d_i : X_n \rightarrow X_{n-1}$  (the  $i^{\text{th}}$  face map on  $n$ -simplices) ( $n > 0$  and  $0 \leq i < n$ ),
- for each surjective map  $\sigma_i : [n+1] \rightarrow [n]$  of totally ordered sets,
- a function  $s_i : X_n \rightarrow X_{n+1}$  (the  $i^{\text{th}}$  degeneracy map on  $n$ -simplices) ( $n \geq 0$  and  $0 \leq i \leq n$ ),
- such that these functions satisfy the simplicial identities:

$$d_i d_j = d_{j-1} d_i \text{ for } i < j$$
$$d_i s_j = \begin{cases} s_{j-1} d_i, & \text{when } i < j, \\ 1, & \text{when } i = j, j+1, \\ s_j d_{i-1}, & \text{when } i > j+1 \end{cases}$$
$$s_i s_j = s_{j+1} s_i \text{ when } i \leq j$$

The face maps, and degeneracy maps for the Nerve of a category are as follows:

- $d_i : N_k(\mathcal{C}) \rightarrow N_{k-1}(\mathcal{C})$ :

$$\begin{array}{c}
 (A_1 \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow A_{i-1} \xrightarrow{f_{i-1}} A_i \xrightarrow{f_i} A_{i+1} \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow A_k) \\
 \downarrow \\
 (A_1 \rightarrow \cdots A_{i-1} \xrightarrow{f_i \circ f_{i-1}} A_{i+1} \rightarrow \cdots A_k)
 \end{array}$$

- $s_i : N_k(\mathcal{C}) \rightarrow N_{k+1}(\mathcal{C})$ :

$$(A_1 \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow A_i \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow A_k) \mapsto (A_1 \rightarrow \cdots A_i \xrightarrow{\text{id}} A_i \rightarrow \cdots A_k).$$

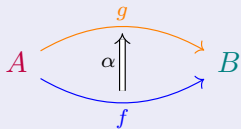


## 2-Categories

## Definition 12

A (strict) 2-category  $\mathcal{C}$  is comprised of the following:

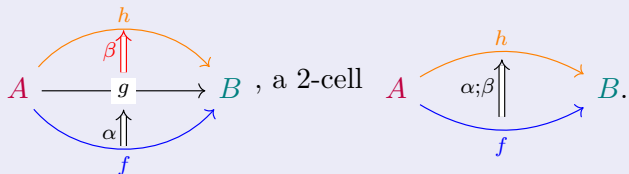
- 0-Cells (Objects): Denoted by  $Ob(\mathcal{C})$ .
- 1-Cells (Morphisms): For  $A, B \in Ob(\mathcal{C})$ , a set  $\text{Hom}(A, B)$  of 1-cells from  $A$  to  $B$ , also known as morphisms. A 1-cell is often written textually as  $f : A \rightarrow B$  or graphically as  $A \xrightarrow{f} B$ .
- 2-Cells: For  $A, B \in Ob(\mathcal{C})$ ,  $f, g \in \text{Hom}(A, B)$ , a set  $\text{Face}(f, g)$  of 2-cells from  $f$  to  $g$ . A 2-cell is often written textually as  $\alpha : f \Rightarrow g : A \rightarrow B$  or graphically as follows:



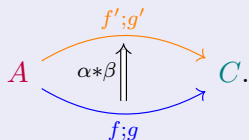
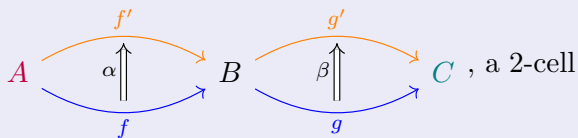
- 1-Composition: For each chain of 1-cells  $A \xrightarrow{f} B \xrightarrow{g} C$ , a 1-cell  $A \xrightarrow{f;g} C$ .

## Definition 12

- Vertical 2-Composition: For a chain of 2-cells



- Horizontal 2-Composition: For each chain of 2-cells



## Definition 12

- Associativity: For all the compositions.
- Identities of 1-cells and 2-cells exist and are compatible with all the compositions.
- 2-Interchange: Every clover of 2-cells

Diagram illustrating the 2-Interchange property. It shows two composable 2-cells. The first 2-cell has 1-cells  $g: A \rightarrow B$  and  $f: A \rightarrow B$ , with 2-cells  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ . The second 2-cell has 1-cells  $g': B \rightarrow C$  and  $f': B \rightarrow C$ , with 2-cells  $\alpha'$  and  $\beta'$ . The composition of the 2-cells is shown as a single 2-cell from  $A$  to  $C$ .

satisfies

$$(\alpha; \beta) * (\alpha'; \beta') = (\alpha * \alpha'); (\beta * \beta').$$