

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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 - ▶ A Waldhausen Category.

Definition 1

A **Waldhausen category**^a \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.

^aCharles 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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- 1 The category **R-Mod**, for any ring R .
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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



K-theory

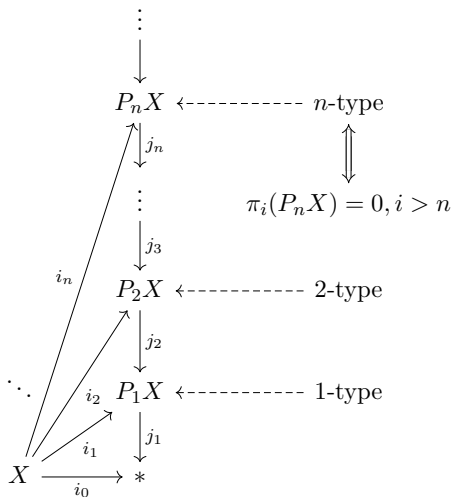


Space with interesting homotopy groups



n-types

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 ¹	2 groups
3-type	3-category	2-Crossed Module	3 groups

¹Fernando 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**^a G_* consists of a complex of G_0 -groups

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

- ∂ 's are G_0 -equivariant.
- $G_2 \xrightarrow{\partial_2} G_1$ is a **crossed module**.
 - ▶ ∂_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.

^aRonald 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:

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

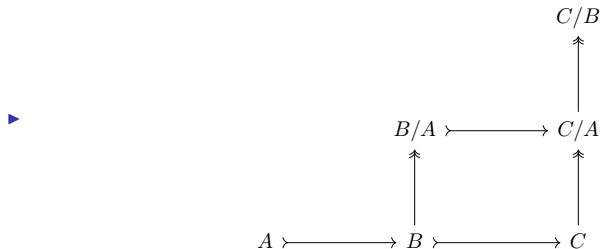
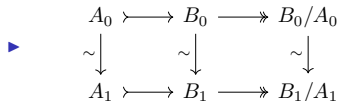
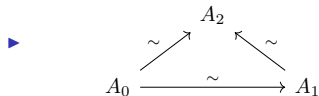
Current work

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

²Fernando Muro and Andrew Tonks. “The 1-type of a Waldhausen K-theory spectrum”. In: *Advances in Mathematics* 216 (2007), pp. 179–183.

- 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:



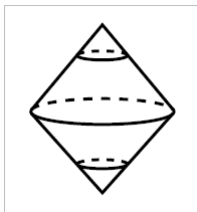
- But this is **not stable** yet. So we make it stable by realizing the monoidal 2-Cat structure on it.

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** ΣX 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^{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)

^a *Symmetric monoidal structure corresponds to topological stability.*



^aNiles 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_*

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

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

$$x_0 \in G_0.$$

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Figure 1: Vertical composition



Figure 1: Vertical composition

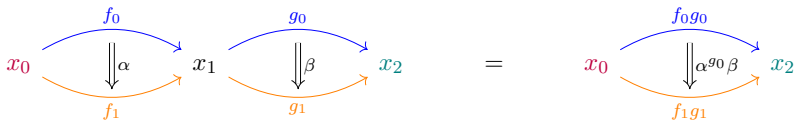


Figure 2: Horizontal composition

They satisfy certain compatibility conditions.



Figure 1: Vertical composition

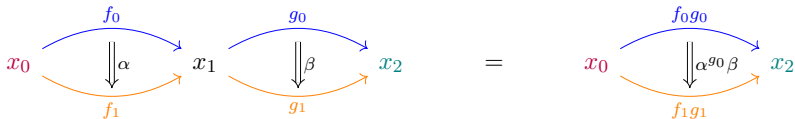


Figure 2: Horizontal composition

They satisfy certain compatibility conditions.

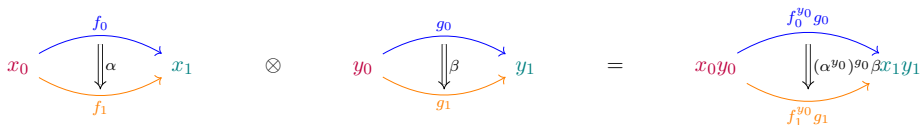


Figure 3: Monoidal structure

Components of a **Symmetric** Monoidal 2-Category³ (SM 2-Cat) are:

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

³Niles Johnson and Donald Yau. *2-Dimensional Categories*. Oxford University Press, 2021, pp. 384–396.

Components of a **Symmetric** Monoidal 2-Category³ (**SM 2-Cat**) are:

- A 2-Cat.
- Monoidal structure (\otimes) on the 2-Cat.
- Braiding (β) on the monoidal structure.
- Left ($\eta_{-|-}$) and right ($\eta_{-|-}$) hexagonators.
- Syllepsis (γ) (Exclusive for 2-Cat).
 - ▶ Symmetry axiom.

- Pull back the **symmetric** structure to get a **stable** 2-CM.

³Niles Johnson and Donald Yau. *2-Dimensional Categories*. Oxford University Press, 2021, pp. 384–396.

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.
- [3] Ronald Brown and İlhan İçen. “Homotopies and Automorphisms of Crossed Modules of Groupoids”. In: *Applied Categorical Structures* (2003), p. 193.
- [4] 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.
- [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

A **Waldhausen category**^a \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.

- $\text{iso}(\mathcal{C}) \subseteq \text{WE}(\mathcal{C}) \cap \text{CO}(\mathcal{C})$.
- $0 \rightarrow X \in \text{CO}(\mathcal{C})$ 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.

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

^aCharles A. Weibel. *The K-book An Introduction to Algebraic K-theory*. American Mathematical Society, 2010, pp. 172–174.

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**^a 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)**^a 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 $\langle x, y \rangle + \langle y, x \rangle = 0$.

^aFernando 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 ΩY 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 category⁴

- 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 ∂, 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 $A \xrightarrow{\sim} B \xrightarrow{\sim} C$,

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

⁴Fernando 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^{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^{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:

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

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

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

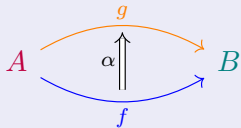
$$(A_1 \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow A_i \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow A_k) \mapsto (A_1 \rightarrow \cdots A_i \xrightarrow{\text{id}} A_i \rightarrow \cdots A_k).$$

2-Categories

Definition 12

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

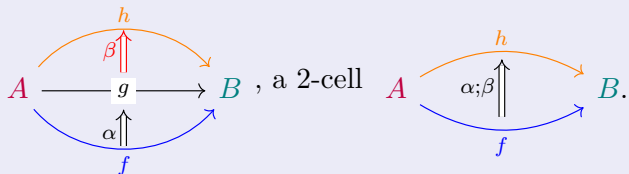
- 0-Cells (Objects): Denoted by $Ob(\mathcal{C})$.
- 1-Cells (Morphisms): For $A, B \in Ob(\mathcal{C})$, a set $\text{Hom}(A, B)$ of 1-cells from A to B , also known as morphisms. A 1-cell is often written textually as $f : A \rightarrow B$ or graphically as $A \xrightarrow{f} B$.
- 2-Cells: For $A,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



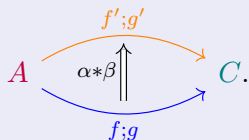
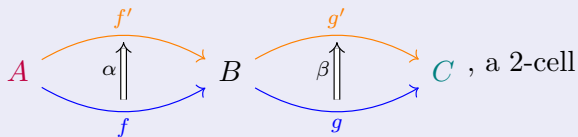
- 1-Composition: For each chain of 1-cells $A \xrightarrow{f} B \xrightarrow{g} C$, a 1-cell $A \xrightarrow{f;g} C$.

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

satisfies

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