

# Monoidal 2-Categories and $K$ -theory of Waldhausen Categories

Milind Gunjal

Department of Mathematics  
Florida State University

July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025



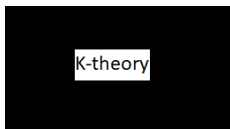
This thesis consists of two parts:

- ① Connected 3-type of  $K$ -theory of Waldhausen Categories.
- ② Symmetric Monoidal Bicategories and Biextensions.<sup>[1]</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Ettore Aldrovandi and Milind Gunjal. “Symmetric Monoidal Bicategories and Biextensions”. In: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2411.10530> (2024).

Waldhausen Category



Spectrum  $\{X_i\}_{i \geq 0}$  with interesting homotopy groups



$n$ -types (in terms of Algebraic Models)



*Stabilize* the Algebraic Models

## Definition of Waldhausen Categories

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

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

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A & \rightarrowtail & B \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ C & \rightarrowtail & B \sqcup_A C \end{array}$$

- In particular, coproduct of two objects  $B \sqcup C = B \sqcup_0 C$  exists.

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<sup>a</sup>Friedhelm Waldhausen. “Algebraic  $K$ -theory of spaces”. In: vol. 1126. Lecture Notes in Math. Springer, Berlin, 1985, pp. 318–419.

## Definition of Waldhausen Categories

- Gluing axiom:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 & & B \sqcup_A C & & \\
 & \nearrow \text{dotted} & \uparrow \text{dotted} & \nwarrow \text{dotted} & \\
 C & \xleftarrow{\quad} & A & \xrightarrow{\quad} & B \\
 \sim \downarrow & & \downarrow \sim & & \downarrow \sim \\
 C' & \xleftarrow{\quad} & A' & \xrightarrow{\quad} & B' \\
 & \nwarrow \text{dotted} & \downarrow \text{dotted} & \nearrow \text{dotted} & \\
 & & B' \sqcup_{A'} C' & & 
 \end{array}$$

A blue dashed arrow points from  $B \sqcup_A C$  to  $B' \sqcup_{A'} C'$ , and a blue wavy arrow points from  $A$  to  $A'$ .

- Extension axiom:

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

A blue wavy arrow points from  $B$  to  $B'$ .

## Examples of Waldhausen Categories

- ① The category of finitely generated projective  $R$ -Mod, for any commutative ring  $R$ .
  - ▶ Injective maps (CO).
  - ▶ Isomorphisms (WE).
- ② An exact category.
  - ▶ Monomorphisms (CO).
  - ▶ Isomorphisms (WE).
- ③ Category  $\mathcal{R}(X)$  of spaces that retract to  $X$ .
  - ▶ Serre cofibrations (CO). *To apply*
  - ▶ Maps that induce isomorphisms for chosen homology theory (WE).
- ④ The category of finite sets.
  - ▶ Inclusions (CO).
  - ▶ Isomorphisms (WE).

- A spectrum is a sequence of pointed spaces  $\{X_i\}_{i \geq 0}$  with the structure maps  $\Sigma X_i \rightarrow X_{i+1}$ .
- The  $K$ -theory spectrum is an  $\Omega$ -spectrum, i.e.,  $X_n \simeq \Omega X_{n+1}$ . So, studying the base space is enough.
- The  $K$ -theory space of a Waldhausen category  $\mathcal{C}$

$$K(\mathcal{C}) = \Omega \left| \begin{array}{ccccccc} & & \xrightarrow{s_0} & & \xrightarrow{s_1} & & \xrightarrow{s_1} & & \xrightarrow{s_1} & & \dots \\ NwS_0\mathcal{C} & \xleftarrow{d_1} & NwS_1\mathcal{C} & \xleftarrow{d_1} & NwS_2\mathcal{C} & \xleftarrow{d_1} & NwS_3\mathcal{C} & \xleftarrow{d_1} & \dots \end{array} \right|$$

- ▶  $N$  is the Nerve.
- ▶  $\Omega$  is the loop space.

## $S_{\bullet}$ -Construction

- $wS_0\mathcal{C}$ : Trivial category (One object, its identity morphism)
- $wS_1\mathcal{C}$ :  $w\mathcal{C}$

$$\begin{array}{c} A \\ \downarrow \sim \\ B \end{array}$$

- $wS_2\mathcal{C}$ :

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} & & C' & & \\ & & \uparrow & \nearrow \sim & \\ A' & \xrightarrow{\quad} & B' & & \\ & \nwarrow \sim & \uparrow \sim & \nwarrow \sim & C \\ & & A & \xrightarrow{\quad} & B \end{array}$$

## $S_\bullet$ -Construction

- $wS_3\mathcal{C}$ :

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} & & & & F \\ & & & & \uparrow \\ & & D & \longrightarrow & E \\ & & \uparrow & & \uparrow \\ A & \longrightarrow & B & \longrightarrow & C \end{array}$$

- The  $K$  groups of a Waldhausen category  $\mathcal{C}$  are

$$K_n(\mathcal{C}) := \pi_n(K(\mathcal{C})).$$

## Homotopy groups of a Spectrum

For a spectrum  $\mathbb{X} = \{X_n\}_{n \geq 0}$ , the following sequence exists due to structure maps  $\Sigma X_n \rightarrow X_{n+1}$ .

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

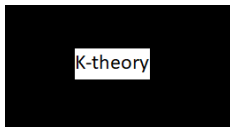
The  $i^{\text{th}}$  homotopy group of  $\mathbb{X}$  is:

$$\pi_i^s(\mathbb{X}) := \varinjlim_k \pi_{i+k}(X_k).$$

- Since  $K(\mathbb{C})$  is an  $\Omega$ -spectrum

$$K_n(\mathbb{C}) = \pi_n^s(K(\mathbb{C})).$$

Waldhausen Category



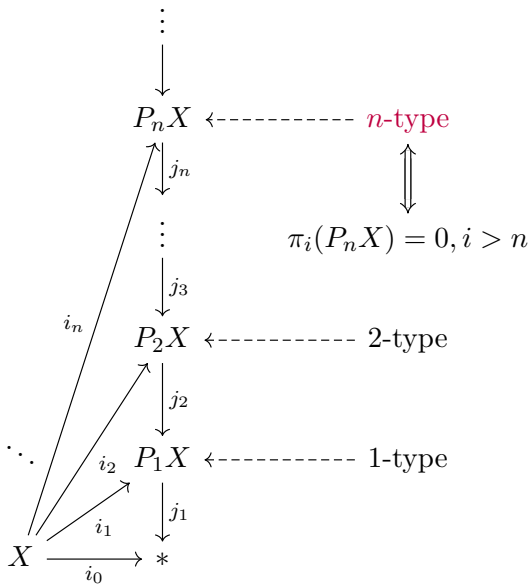
Spectrum  $\{X_i\}$  with interesting homotopy groups



*n*-types (in terms of Algebraic Models)



Stabilize the Algebraic Models



Postnikov Tower for a connected pointed space  $X$ .

## Theorem (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**.*

Connected types	Algebraic model		Categorical model
1-type	Group	$G$	$G \rightrightarrows *$
2-type	Crossed Module	$G_1 \xrightarrow{\partial} G_0$	$\Gamma(G_*) \rightrightarrows *$
3-type	Quadratic Module	$H_2 \xrightarrow{\delta} H_1 \xrightarrow{\partial} H_0$	$\Gamma(H_*) \rightrightarrows *$

- Muro and Tonks construct a **stable crossed module**

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

explicitly using generators and relations.<sup>[2]</sup>

- ▶ The generators for  $G_0$  are:
    - ★  $[A]$  for any  $A \in \text{Ob}(\mathcal{C})$ .
  - ▶ The generators for  $G_1$  are:
    - ★  $[A_0 \xrightarrow{\sim} A_1]$  for any w.e.
    - ★  $[A \rightharpoonup B \twoheadrightarrow B/A]$  for any cofiber sequence.
  - ▶ Boundary maps are:
    - ★  $\partial([A_0 \xrightarrow{\sim} A_1]) = -[A_1] + [A_0]$ .
    - ★  $\partial([A \rightharpoonup B \twoheadrightarrow B/A]) = -[B] + [B/A] + [A]$ .
  - ▶ Satisfying certain relations.
- $\pi_1(G_*) = \text{coker } \partial = K_0(\mathcal{C})$ .
  - $\pi_2(G_*) = \ker \partial = K_1(\mathcal{C})$ .

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<sup>2</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 of Quadratic Modules

A **quadratic module** is a diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 & & (M^{\text{cr}})^{\text{ab}} \otimes (M^{\text{cr}})^{\text{ab}} & & \\
 & \swarrow \omega & \downarrow w & & \\
 L & \xrightarrow{\delta} & M & \xrightarrow{\partial} & N
 \end{array}$$

of homomorphisms between groups such that

- ❶  $\partial: M \longrightarrow N$  is a  $\text{nil}(2)$ -module with Peiffer commutator map  $w$ .

$$w(x \otimes y) = -x - y + x + y^{\partial x}$$

- ❷  $\partial \circ \delta = 0$ .
- ❸  $L$  is an  $N$ -group and  $\delta$  and  $\partial$  are  $N$ -equivariant.
- ❹ The action of  $N$  on  $L$  satisfies the following:

$$l^{\partial m} = l + \omega(\{\delta l\} \otimes \{m\} + \{m\} \otimes \{\delta l\}) \text{ for all } l \in L, m \in M.$$

- A free quadratic module is a quadratic module that satisfies a certain universal property.
- Baues<sup>[3]</sup> defines a functor

$$Q: \mathbf{sSet}_0 \longrightarrow \mathbf{FreeQuad}$$

$Q(X_\bullet)$  is defined using bases

- ▶  $d_2: \langle X_2 \rangle \longrightarrow N$ , where  $N = \langle X_1 \rangle$ .
- ▶  $d_3: \langle X_3 \rangle \longrightarrow M$ .

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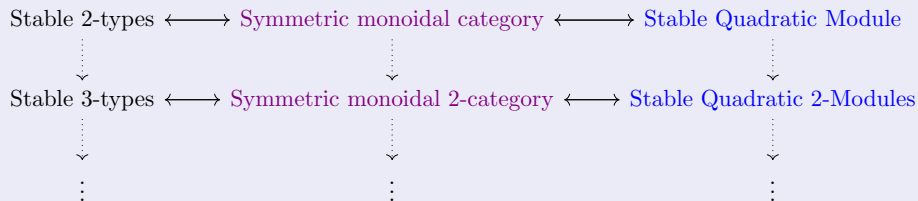
<sup>3</sup>Hans-Joachim Baues. *Combinatorial Homotopy and 4-Dimensional Complexes*. Walter de Gruyter, 1991, pp. 177–187.

- Since the  $K$ -theory is a spectrum, the types must be stable, i.e., their homotopy groups simply shift after taking suspension.
- The 2-type is stable due to its construction.
- For the 3-type, we pull the stable structure back along the **2-category** that the **quadratic module** creates.

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## Theorem (Stable Homotopy Hypothesis)

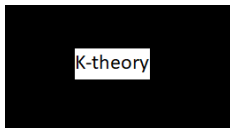
Symmetric monoidal structure corresponds to topological stability.<sup>[a]</sup>




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<sup>a</sup>Nick Gurski, Niles Johnson, 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.

Waldhausen Category



Spectrum  $\{X_i\}$  with interesting homotopy groups



$n$ -types (in terms of Algebraic Models)



Stabilize the Algebraic Models

- Recall:  $K(\mathcal{C}) = \Omega|NwS_{\bullet}\mathcal{C}|$ .
- We choose **codiagonalization** functor for geometric realization.

$$T: \mathbf{s}^2\mathbf{Set}_0 \longrightarrow \mathbf{sSet}_0$$

## Codiagonalization

Let  $X$  be a bisimplicial set.

$$(TX)_n = \{(x_{0,n}, x_{1,n-1}, \dots, x_{n,0}) \mid d_0^v x_{p,n-p} = d_{p+1}^h x_{p+1} \forall p\}.$$

Here,  $d_0^v$  and  $d_{p+1}^h$  are vertical and horizontal face maps, respectively.

- ▶  $T$  gives simpler cells compared to other possible functors.
- ▶  $T$  preserves products.

# Cells of $T(K(\mathcal{C}))$

For  $A, X, Y, U, V, W \in \text{Ob}(\mathcal{C})$

- $X_1: A$

- $X_2: \begin{array}{c} X \rightrightarrows Y \\ \sim \uparrow \\ A \end{array}$

- $X_3: \begin{array}{ccccc} U & \rightrightarrows & V & \rightrightarrows & W \\ \sim \uparrow & & \sim \uparrow & & \\ X & \rightrightarrows & Y & & \\ \sim \uparrow & & & & \\ A & & & & \end{array}$

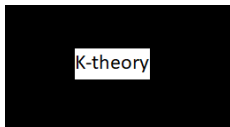
- Construct a **free quadratic module** from  $T(K(\mathcal{C}))$ .
- Bases for  $(Q(T(K(\mathcal{C}))))_n$  are the non-degenerate elements of  $(T(K(\mathcal{C})))_n$ .
- For  $\zeta \in (T(K(\mathcal{C})))_n$ , define

$$|\zeta| = \begin{cases} \zeta & \text{if } \zeta \text{ is non-degenerate,} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- $d_2 \left( \begin{array}{c} X \rightharpoonup Y \\ \sim \uparrow \\ A \end{array} \right) = -|Y| + |Y/X| + |A|.$

- $d_3 \left( \begin{array}{c} U \rightharpoonup V \rightharpoonup W \\ \sim \uparrow \quad \quad \sim \uparrow \\ X \rightharpoonup Y \\ \sim \uparrow \\ A \end{array} \right) = \left| \begin{array}{c} U \rightharpoonup W \\ \sim \uparrow \\ A \end{array} \right| + \left| \begin{array}{c} V/U \rightharpoonup W/U \\ \sim \uparrow \\ Y/X \end{array} \right|^{|A|} - \left| \begin{array}{c} X \rightharpoonup Y \\ \sim \uparrow \\ A \end{array} \right| - \left| \begin{array}{c} V \rightharpoonup W \\ \sim \uparrow \\ Y \end{array} \right|.$

Waldhausen Category



Spectrum  $\{X_i\}$  with interesting homotopy groups



$n$ -types (in terms of Algebraic Models)



*Stabilize the Algebraic Models*

## We now construct $\Gamma: \mathbf{Quad} \longrightarrow \mathbf{SM\ 2-Cat}$

- Given a Quad  $\sigma$ :

$$L \xrightarrow{\delta} M \xrightarrow{\partial} N$$

- $\text{Ob}(\Gamma(\sigma)) = N$ .

$$x_0 \in N.$$

- $1\text{-Mor}(\Gamma(\sigma)) = M \ltimes N$ .

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

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

- $2\text{-Mor}(\Gamma(\sigma)) = L \ltimes M \ltimes N$ .

A commutative diagram illustrating a 2-morphism  $\alpha$  between two 1-morphisms  $f_0$  and  $f_1$ . The objects  $x_0$  and  $x_1$  are shown on the left and right respectively.  $f_0$  is a blue curved arrow from  $x_0$  to  $x_1$ , and  $f_1$  is an orange curved arrow from  $x_0$  to  $x_1$ . A vertical double arrow labeled  $\alpha$  points from  $f_0$  to  $f_1$ .

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

- Vertical composition:

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \begin{array}{ccc}
 & f_0 & \\
 & \downarrow \alpha_1 & \\
 x_0 & \xrightarrow{f_1} & x_1 \\
 & \downarrow \alpha_2 & \\
 & f_2 & 
 \end{array}
 & := &
 \begin{array}{ccc}
 & f_0 & \\
 & \downarrow \alpha_1 \alpha_2 & \\
 x_0 & \xrightarrow{f_2} & x_1
 \end{array}
 \end{array}$$

- Horizontal composition:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \begin{array}{ccc}
 & f_0 & \\
 & \downarrow \alpha & \\
 x_0 & \xrightarrow{f_1} & x_1 \\
 & \downarrow \beta & \\
 & g_1 & 
 \end{array}
 & \xrightarrow{g_0} &
 \begin{array}{ccc}
 & g_0 & \\
 & \downarrow \beta & \\
 x_1 & \xrightarrow{g_1} & x_2
 \end{array}
 & := &
 \begin{array}{ccc}
 & f_0 g_0 & \\
 & \downarrow \alpha^{g_0} \beta & \\
 x_0 & \xrightarrow{f_1 g_1} & x_2
 \end{array}
 \end{array}$$

- Monoidal structure:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \begin{array}{ccc}
 & f_0 & \\
 & \downarrow \alpha & \\
 x_0 & \xrightarrow{f_1} & x_1
 \end{array}
 \otimes y_0
 & \xrightarrow{g_0} &
 \begin{array}{ccc}
 & g_0 & \\
 & \downarrow \beta & \\
 y_0 & \xrightarrow{g_1} & y_1
 \end{array}
 & := &
 \begin{array}{ccc}
 & f_0^{y_0} g_0 & \\
 & \downarrow (\alpha^{y_0})^{g_0} \beta & \\
 x_0 y_0 & \xrightarrow{f_1^{y_0} g_1} & x_1 y_1
 \end{array}
 \end{array}$$

Components of a **Symmetric** Monoidal 2-Category are:

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

Components of a **Symmetric** Monoidal 2-Category are:

- A 2-Category.
- Monoidal structure  $(\otimes)$  on the 2-Category.
  - ▶ Braiding  $(\beta)$  on the monoidal structure.
  - ▶ Left  $(\eta_{-|-})$  and right  $(\eta_{-|-})$  hexagonators.
  - ▶ Syllepsis  $(\gamma)$ .
  - ★ Symmetry axiom.

★ Pull back the **symmetric** structure to get a **stabilized** Quad.

★ This gives us an **algebraic model** for a **connected 3-type**.

## Main Theorem [Aldrovandi, G.]

Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be a Waldhausen category.

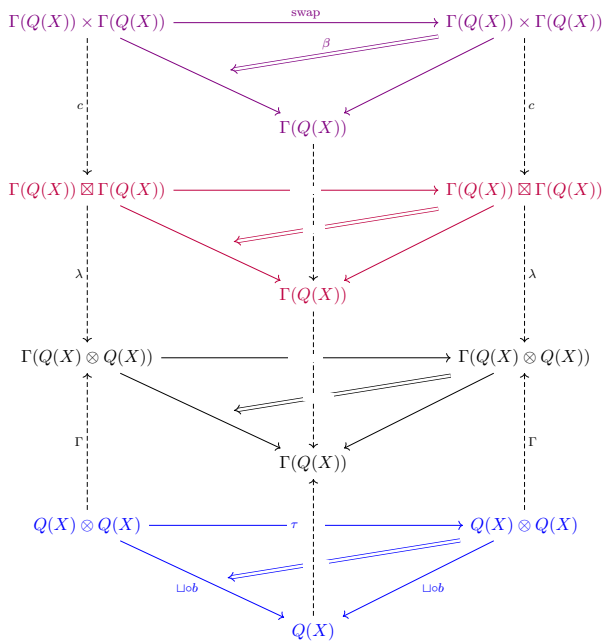
- 1  $Q(T(K(\mathcal{C})))$  is a connected 3-type of  $\mathcal{C}$ .
- 2 The braiding of the SM 2-Category is given by the following diagram in **FreeQuad**.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} Q(X) \otimes Q(X) & \xrightarrow{\tau} & Q(X) \otimes Q(X) \\ \downarrow b & \swarrow & \downarrow b \\ Q(X \times X) & \xrightarrow{Q(\text{symm})} & Q(X \times X) \\ & \searrow Q(\sqcup) \quad \swarrow Q(\sqcup) & \\ & Q(X) & \end{array}$$

- ▶  $\tau(e \otimes f) = (-1)^{|e||f|} f \otimes e$ .
- ▶  $b$  is the shuffle map. (See [Ton03].)
- ▶  $X = T(N(wS_{\bullet}\mathcal{C})) \in \mathbf{sSet}_0$ .

- We need to check that the following diagram commutes.

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 (Q(X) \otimes Q(X))_1 & \xrightarrow{\sqcup \circ b} & (Q(X))_1 \\
 d_2 \uparrow & & \uparrow d_2 \\
 (Q(X) \otimes Q(X))_2 & \xrightarrow{\sqcup \circ b} & (Q(X))_2 \\
 d_3 \uparrow & & \uparrow d_3 \\
 (Q(X) \otimes Q(X))_3 & \xrightarrow{\sqcup \circ b} & (Q(X))_3
 \end{array}$$



- Let  $Q, Q' \in \mathbf{FreeQuad}$ ; then there exists a 2-functor

$$\lambda_{Q,Q'}: \Gamma(Q) \boxtimes \Gamma(Q') \longrightarrow \Gamma(Q \otimes Q').$$

- ▶  $\lambda_{Q,Q'}^0(q, q') := q \otimes * + * \otimes q'.$
- ▶  $\lambda_{Q,Q'}^1(f \boxtimes 1_b) := (f \otimes *)^{(* \otimes b)}.$
- ▶  $\lambda_{Q,Q'}^1(1_a \boxtimes g) := * \otimes g.$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} (q_0, q'_0) & \xrightarrow{f \boxtimes 1} & (q_1, q'_0) \\ 1 \boxtimes g \downarrow & \swarrow \Sigma_{f,g} & \downarrow 1 \boxtimes g \\ (q_0, q'_1) & \xrightarrow{f \boxtimes 1} & (q_1, q'_1) \end{array}$$

- ▶  $\lambda_{Q,Q'}^2(\Sigma_{f,g}) := \omega(\{ * \otimes g \} \otimes \{ (f \otimes *)^{(* \otimes b)} \})$

# Symmetric Structure of the SM 2-Cat $\Gamma(Q(T(K(\mathcal{C}))))$

For  $Y, Z \in \text{Ob}(\mathcal{C})$ , we get the braiding

$$\beta_{|Y|,|Z|}: |Z| + |Y| \longrightarrow |Y| + |Z|$$

$$\beta_{|Y|,|Z|} = - \left| \begin{array}{c} Z \rightharpoonup Y \sqcup Z \\ \sim \uparrow \\ Z \end{array} \right| + \left| \begin{array}{c} Y \rightharpoonup Y \sqcup Z \\ \sim \uparrow \\ Y \end{array} \right|$$

We get this from the symmetry in Waldhausen categories and the shuffle map

$$b: Q(U) \otimes Q(V) \rightarrow Q(U \times V) \text{ here } U, V \in \mathbf{sSet}_0$$

$$b(x \otimes y) = -(s_0x, s_1y) + (s_1x, s_0y), \quad x \in (Q(U))_1, y \in (Q(V))_1$$

# The other project

- We analyze (symmetric) monoidal bi-categories using categorical biextensions
  - ▶ SM Bicategories are used to study higher algebraic structures like  $K$ -theory, operads, etc.
- Let  $B \in \mathbf{Grp}$ , and  $A \in \mathbf{Ab}$ , then a group  $E$  is an extension of  $B$  by  $A$  if

$0 \longrightarrow A \longrightarrow E \longrightarrow B \longrightarrow 0$  is a short exact sequence

- If  $A \rightarrow E$  factors through the center of  $E$ , it is called a central extension.
- $H^2(B, A) \cong \text{CentrExt}(B, A)$ .

- Let  $G$  be a group,  $\mathcal{A}$  be a Picard groupoid. A monoidal category  $\mathcal{E}$  is called a **categorical extension** of  $G$  by  $\mathcal{A}$  if:

$$0 \longrightarrow \mathcal{A} \longrightarrow \mathcal{E} \longrightarrow G \longrightarrow 0$$

- Let  $\mathcal{E}$  be a **monoidal category**, then consider  $\mathcal{A} = (\pi_1(\mathcal{E}) \rightrightarrows *)$  and  $G = \pi_0(\mathcal{E})$ .
  - ▶  $\pi_0(\mathcal{E}) = \text{Ob}(\mathcal{E}) / \cong$
  - ▶  $\pi_1(\mathcal{E}) = \text{Aut}_{\mathcal{E}}(I)$

### Theorem

With  $\mathcal{E}, G, \mathcal{A}$  as above, the monoidal category  $\mathcal{E}$  can be classified by  $H^2(G, (A \rightrightarrows *)) = H^3(G, \mathcal{A})$ .

### Theorem

A monoidal bicategory can be classified by  $H^3(G, \mathcal{A})$ .

- To analyze symmetry, we need extra structure.

- Let  $A \in \mathbf{Ab}$ ,  $G, H \in \mathbf{Grp}$ . A **biextension**  $E$ , of  $G \times H$  by  $A$  is an  $A$ -torsor<sup>[4]</sup> over  $G \times H$ ,

$$A \xrightarrow{i} E \xrightarrow{p} G \times H$$

that is a central extension in each variable and has the following maps.

- **Partial composition laws** of  $A$ -torsors.

$$+_1 : E_{x,y} \wedge^A E_{x',y} \longrightarrow E_{xx',y} , x, x' \in G; y \in H$$

$$+_2 : E_{x,y} \wedge^A E_{x,y'} \longrightarrow E_{x,yy'} , x \in G; y, y' \in H$$

They are required to be

- ① associative
- ② compatible with each other, i.e.,

$$(f_{x,y} +_1 f_{x',y}) +_2 (f_{x,y'} +_1 f_{x',y'}) = (f_{x,y} +_2 f_{x,y'}) +_1 (f_{x',y} +_2 f_{x',y'}).$$

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<sup>4</sup>A left **A-torsor** is a non-empty set  $S$  equipped with a  $A$ -action,  $\rho : A \times S \rightarrow S$  such that  $(\rho, \pi_2) : A \times S \rightarrow S \times S$  is an isomorphism.

- For a (symmetric) monoidal category  $\mathcal{E}$ , Breen considers biextensions of  $\pi_0(\mathcal{E}) \times \pi_0(\mathcal{E})$  by  $\pi_1(\mathcal{E})$

$$A \xrightarrow{i} E \xrightarrow{p} G \times G$$

where  $E_{x,y} = \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{E}}(YX, XY)$  are the  $A$ -torsors.

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<sup>5</sup>Ettore Aldrovandi and Milind Gunjal. “Symmetric Monoidal Bicategories and Biextensions”. In: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2411.10530> (2024).

- For a (symmetric) monoidal category  $\mathcal{E}$ , Breen considers biextensions of  $\pi_0(\mathcal{E}) \times \pi_0(\mathcal{E})$  by  $\pi_1(\mathcal{E})$

$$A \xrightarrow{i} E \xrightarrow{p} G \times G$$

where  $E_{x,y} = \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{E}}(YX, XY)$  are the  $A$ -torsors.

- We consider **categorical biextensions** related to a monoidal bicategory  $\mathbb{E}$ :

$$\mathcal{A} \xrightarrow{i} \mathcal{E} \xrightarrow{p} G \times G$$

- ▶ Partial composition laws of  $\mathcal{A}$ -torsors  $\mathcal{E}_{x,y} = \text{Hom}_{\mathbb{E}}(YX, XY)$ .

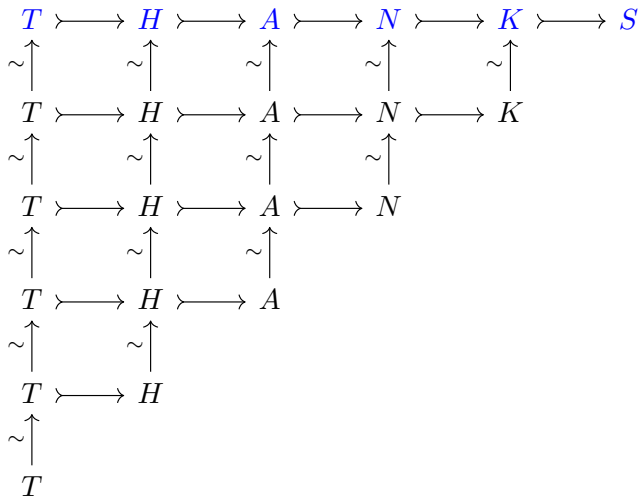
$$+_1 : \mathcal{E}_{x,y} \wedge^{\mathcal{A}} \mathcal{E}_{x',y} \longrightarrow \mathcal{E}_{xx',y}, x, x' \in G; y \in H$$

$$+_2 : \mathcal{E}_{x,y} \wedge^{\mathcal{A}} \mathcal{E}_{x,y'} \longrightarrow \mathcal{E}_{x,yy'}, x \in G; y, y' \in H$$

- We calculate cocycles explicitly using coherence conditions and classify symmetric monoidal bicategories using the cocycles.<sup>[5]</sup>

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<sup>5</sup>Ettore Aldrovandi and Milind Gunjal. “Symmetric Monoidal Bicategories and Biextensions”. In: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2411.10530> (2024).



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# 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.

# Some facts

- Examples of a model category which is not a Waldhausen category: **sSet**
  - ▶ It is a model category with monomorphisms as cofibrations, w.e. as the maps that preserve homotopy groups after taking geometric realization
  - ▶ But not a Waldhausen category as it does not have the zero object (initial object is the empty set and final object is  $\Delta^0$  (the one-point sSet)).

# 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  $\partial_i : [n-1] \rightarrow [n]$  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  $0 \leq i \leq n$ ),
- 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:

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

# Nerve of a category

Nerve of a small category  $\mathcal{C}$  is a simplicial set  $N(\mathcal{C})$ .

- $N_0(\mathcal{C}) = 0\text{-cells} = \text{Ob}(\mathcal{C})$ :

•  $A$

- $N_1(\mathcal{C}) = 1\text{-cells} = \text{Morphisms of } \mathcal{C}$ :

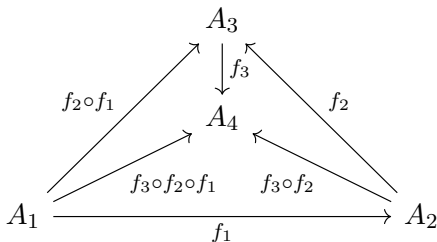
$$A_1 \xrightarrow{f} A_2$$

- $N_2(\mathcal{C}) = 2\text{-cells} = \text{A pair of composable morphisms in } \mathcal{C}$ :

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & A_3 & \\ f_2 \circ f_1 \nearrow & & \nwarrow f_2 \\ A_1 & \xrightarrow{f_1} & A_2 \end{array}$$

i.e., generated from  $A_1 \xrightarrow{f_1} A_2 \xrightarrow{f_2} A_3$ .

- $N_3(\mathcal{C}) = 3\text{-cells} = \text{A triplet of composable morphisms in } \mathcal{C}$ :



i.e., generated from  $A_1 \xrightarrow{f_1} A_2 \xrightarrow{f_2} A_3 \xrightarrow{f_3} A_4$ .

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

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

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

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

## Definition 1

A Picard groupoid  $\mathcal{P}$  is a symmetric monoidal category such that all morphisms are invertible and tensoring with any object  $X$  in  $\mathcal{P}$  yields an equivalence of categories

$$X \otimes -: \mathcal{P} \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathcal{P}.$$

### Definition 1

A Picard groupoid  $\mathcal{P}$  is a symmetric monoidal category such that all morphisms are invertible and tensoring with any object  $X$  in  $\mathcal{P}$  yields an equivalence of categories

$$X \otimes -: \mathcal{P} \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathcal{P}.$$

### Definition 2

A Picard 2-groupoid  $\mathbb{P}$  is a symmetric monoidal 2-category such that all morphisms are invertible up to 2-morphisms, all 2-morphisms are invertible, and tensoring with any object  $X$  in  $\mathbb{P}$  yields an equivalence of 2-categories

$$X \otimes -: \mathbb{P} \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathbb{P}.$$

### Example 3

The prototypical example of a determinant functor on an exact category is the following. Suppose  $X$  is a scheme or manifold. Then the rank of a vector bundle  $E$  over  $X$  is a locally constant function  $\mathrm{rk} E : X \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ , and we can define a determinant functor  $\det : \mathbf{vect}(X) \rightarrow \mathbf{Pic}^{\mathbb{Z}}(X)$  as follows:

$$\det(E) = \left( \mathrm{rk} E, \wedge_{\mathcal{O}_X}^{\mathrm{rk} E} E \right)$$

- Associativity: Given a staircase commutative diagram

$$\Theta : \quad \begin{array}{ccccc} & & & & C^g \\ & & & \nearrow & \uparrow \\ & & C^f & \xrightarrow{\quad} & C^{gf} \\ & \uparrow & & & \uparrow \\ X & \xrightarrow{f} & Y & \xrightarrow{g} & Z \end{array}$$

the following diagram in  $\mathcal{P}$  **commutes**:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & \det(Z) & \\ \det(\Delta_g) \nearrow & & \nwarrow \det(\Delta_{gf}) \\ \det(C^{gf}) \otimes \det(X) & & \det(C^g) \otimes \det(Y) \\ \det(\tilde{\Delta}) \otimes 1 \uparrow & & \uparrow 1 \otimes \det(\Delta_f) \\ (\det(C^g) \otimes \det(C^f)) \otimes \det(X) & \xrightarrow{\text{ass}_{\mathcal{P}}} & \det(C^g) \otimes (\det(C^f) \otimes \det(X)) \end{array}$$

- Commutativity: Given two objects  $X$  and  $Y$  in  $\mathcal{C}$ , there are

$$\Delta_1 : \quad X \rightharpoonup^{i_1} X \sqcup Y \xrightarrow{p_2} \rhd Y,$$

$$\Delta_2 : \quad Y \rightharpoonup^{i_2} X \sqcup Y \xrightarrow{p_1} \rhd X,$$

then the following diagram **commutes**:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 & \det(X \sqcup Y) & \\
 \det(\Delta_1) \nearrow & & \nwarrow \det(\Delta_2) \\
 \det(Y) \otimes \det(X) & \xrightarrow{\text{comm}_{\mathcal{P}}} & \det(X) \otimes \det(Y)
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 f(\det(C^f)) \otimes f(\det(X)) & \xrightarrow{\text{mult}_f} & f(\det(C^f) \otimes \det(X)) & \xrightarrow{f(\det(\Delta))} & f(\det(Y)) \\
 \alpha(C^f) \otimes \alpha(X) \downarrow & & & & \downarrow \alpha(Y) \\
 \det'(C^f) \otimes \det'(X) & \xrightarrow{\hspace{10em} \det'(\Delta) \hspace{10em}} & & & \det'(Y)
 \end{array}$$

Moreover, if there is another factorization

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \mathcal{C} & \xrightarrow{\det} & V(\mathcal{C}) \\
 & \searrow \det' & \downarrow f' \\
 & & \mathcal{P}
 \end{array}
 \quad
 \begin{array}{c}
 \swarrow \alpha' \\
 \swarrow \alpha'
 \end{array}$$

then there exists a unique tensor natural transformation  $\beta : f \rightarrow f'$  such that

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \mathcal{C} & \xrightarrow{\det} & V(\mathcal{C}) \\
 & \searrow \det' & \downarrow f \\
 & & \mathcal{P}
 \end{array}
 \quad
 \begin{array}{c}
 \swarrow \alpha \\
 \swarrow \alpha
 \end{array}
 \quad
 = \quad
 \begin{array}{ccc}
 \mathcal{C} & \xrightarrow{\det} & V(\mathcal{C}) \\
 & \searrow \det' & \downarrow f' \\
 & & \mathcal{P}
 \end{array}
 \quad
 \begin{array}{c}
 \swarrow \alpha' \\
 \swarrow \alpha'
 \end{array}
 \quad
 \begin{array}{c}
 \leftarrow \beta \\
 \leftarrow \beta
 \end{array}
 \quad
 \begin{array}{c}
 \leftarrow f \\
 \leftarrow f
 \end{array}$$

## Definition 15

A quadratic 2-module  $(\omega, \delta, \partial)$  is a diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} & & C \otimes C & & \\ & \swarrow \omega & \downarrow w & & \\ L & \xrightarrow{\delta} & M & \xrightarrow{\partial} & N \end{array}$$

- ① Commutators in  $L$  satisfy the following:

$$[l, l'] = -l - l' + l + l' = \omega(\{\delta l\} \otimes \{\delta l'\}) \text{ for all } l, l' \in L.$$

## Remark

Homotopy groups  $\pi_n(\sigma)$  of a quadratic 2-module  $\sigma = (\omega, \delta, \partial)$  are defined as follows:

- $\pi_1(\sigma) = \text{coker}(\partial)$
- $\pi_2(\sigma) = \ker(\partial)/\text{im}(\delta)$
- $\pi_3(\sigma) = \ker(\delta)$

## An Algebraic Model for Connected 2-type

A **stable quadratic module**  $\sigma$  is a commutative diagram of group homomorphism

$$\begin{array}{ccc} N^{ab} \otimes N^{ab} & & \\ \omega \downarrow & \searrow \text{commutator} & \\ M & \xrightarrow{\partial} & N \end{array}$$

such that

- ①  $\omega(\{\partial m\} \otimes \{\partial m'\}) = [m, m'] = -m - m' + m + m'$ , for  $m, m' \in M$ ,
- ②  $\omega(\{n\} \otimes \{n'\} + \{n'\} \otimes \{n\}) = 0$ , for  $n, n' \in N$ .

### Remark

The homotopy groups of  $\sigma$  are:

- $\pi_0(\sigma) = \text{coker } \partial$ ,
- $\pi_1(\sigma) = \ker \partial$ .

# Suspension

## Smash product

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

## Example 4

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

## Remark

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

The face and degeneracy maps are defined as follows.

$$d_i(x) = (d_i^v x_0, d_{i-1}^v x_1, \dots, d_1^v x_{i-1}, d_i^h x_{i+1}, d_i^h x_{i+2}, \dots, d_i^h x_n),$$

$$s_i(x) = (s_i^v x_0, s_{i-1}^v x_1, \dots, s_0^v x_i, s_i^h x_i, s_i^h x_{i+1}, \dots, s_i^h x_n).$$

## 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.

- Given a Waldhausen category  $\mathcal{C}$ ,  $S_2\mathcal{C}$  is also a Waldhausen category. A morphism

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

is called a cofibration if the vertical maps are cofibrations and the map from  $A_1 \sqcup_{A_0} B_0 \rightarrow B_1$  is a cofibration.

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} A_0 & \xrightarrow{\quad} & B_0 & \twoheadrightarrow & B_0/A_0 \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ & \nearrow & A_1 \sqcup_{A_0} B_0 & \searrow & \\ A_1 & \xrightarrow{\quad} & B_1 & \twoheadrightarrow & B_1/A_1 \end{array}$$

- With a similar **southern arrow condition**,  $S_n\mathcal{C}$  is a Waldhausen category for every  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . (See [GH99],[Zak14].)
- Hence, one can consider  $S_\bullet(S_\bullet\mathcal{C})$  and keep on doing this. This will give us a **spectrum**.

## Definition 5

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  $C(X, Y)$ .

- So for each bonding map  $\sigma_n: \Sigma X_n \rightarrow X_{n+1}$ , there is a corresponding map  $\tilde{\sigma}_n: X_n \rightarrow \Omega X_{n+1}$ .
- When  $\tilde{\sigma}_n$  is a weak equivalence for each  $n$ ,  $X$  is called an  $\Omega$ -spectrum.

# Detailed SQuad structure for a Waldhausen category<sup>6</sup>

- The generators for dimension 0 are:
  - ▶  $[A]$  for any  $A \in Ob(\mathcal{C})$ .
- The generators for dimension 1 are:
  - ▶  $[A_0 \xrightarrow{\sim} A_1]$  for any w.e.
  - ▶  $[A \rightarrowtail B \twoheadrightarrow B/A]$  for any cofiber sequence.
- such that the following relations hold (i.e., we define  $\partial, w$ ):
  - ▶  $\partial([A_0 \xrightarrow{\sim} A_1]) = -[A_1] + [A_0]$ .
  - ▶  $\partial([A \rightarrowtail B \twoheadrightarrow B/A]) = -[B] + [B/A] + [A]$ .
  - ▶  $[0] = 0$ .
  - ▶  $[A \xrightarrow{id} A] = 0$ .
  - ▶  $[A \xrightarrow{id} A \twoheadrightarrow 0] = 0, [0 \rightarrowtail A \xrightarrow{id} A] = 0$ .
  - ▶ 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>6</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  $A, B \in Ob(\mathcal{C})$ , define the  $w$  as follows:

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

Here,

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

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,

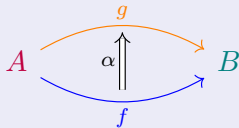
$$\begin{aligned}
 & [B \twoheadrightarrow C \twoheadrightarrow C/B] + [A \twoheadrightarrow B \twoheadrightarrow B/A] \\
 & =
 \end{aligned}$$

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

## Definition 6

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

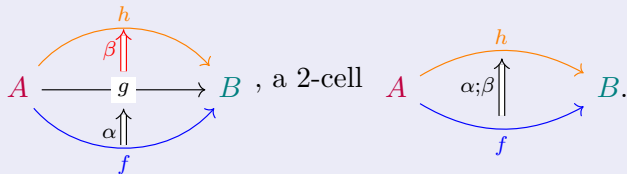
- 0-Cells (Objects): Denoted by  $Ob(\mathcal{C})$ .
- 1-Cells (Morphisms): For  $A, B \in Ob(\mathcal{C})$ , a set  $\text{Hom}(A, B)$  of 1-cells from  $A$  to  $B$ , also known as morphisms. A 1-cell is often written textually as  $f : A \rightarrow B$  or graphically as  $A \xrightarrow{f} B$ .
-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



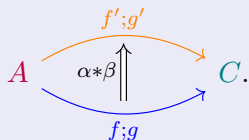
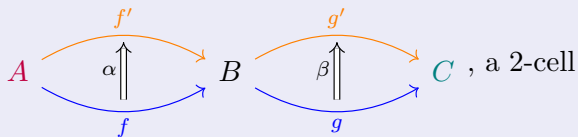
- 1-Composition: For each chain of 1-cells  $A \xrightarrow{f} B \xrightarrow{g} C$ , a 1-cell  $A \xrightarrow{f;g} C$ .

## Definition 6

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

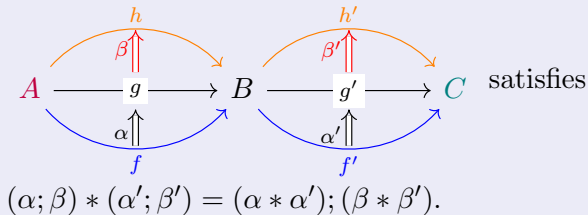


- Horizontal 2-Composition: For each chain of 2-cells



## Definition 6

- 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



## Definition 7

Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be a Waldhausen category and  $\mathbb{P}$  be a Picard 2-groupoid. A **2-determinant functor**  $\mathbb{D}et : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}$  consists of a functor, To apdx

## Definition 7

Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be a Waldhausen category and  $\mathbb{P}$  be a Picard 2-groupoid. A **2-determinant functor**  $\mathbb{D}et : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}$  consists of a functor, To apdx

$$\mathbb{D}et : \text{we}(\mathcal{C}) \rightarrow \mathbb{P},$$

with additive data: for any  $\Delta$ , a morphism

$$\det(\Delta) : \det(C^f) \otimes \det(X) \rightarrow \det(Y)$$

natural with respect to weak equivalences, and the following conditions must be satisfied.

- Associativity: Given a staircase

$$\Theta_{f,g} :$$

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 & & & & C^g \\
 & & & \Uparrow & \uparrow \\
 & & C^f & \xrightarrow{\quad} & C^{gf} \\
 & & \Uparrow & & \Uparrow \\
 X & \xrightarrow{f} & Y & \xrightarrow{g} & Z
 \end{array}$$

- Associativity: Given a staircase

$$\Theta_{f,g} :$$

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 & & & & C^g \\
 & & & \nearrow & \\
 & & C^f & \xrightarrow{\quad} & C^{gf} \\
 & \nearrow & \uparrow & & \uparrow \\
 X & \xrightarrow{f} & Y & \xrightarrow{g} & Z
 \end{array}$$

The following **2-morphism** exists in  $\mathbb{P}$ :

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 & & \text{Det}(Z) & & \\
 & \nearrow \text{Det}(\Delta_g) & & \nwarrow \text{Det}(\Delta_{gf}) & \\
 \text{Det}(C^{gf}) \otimes \text{Det}(X) & & & & \text{Det}(C^g) \otimes \text{Det}(Y) \\
 \uparrow \text{Det}(\tilde{\Delta}) \otimes 1 & \swarrow \text{Det}(\Theta_{f,g}) & & \searrow 1 \otimes \text{Det}(\Delta_f) & \\
 (\text{Det}(C^g) \otimes \text{Det}(C^f)) \otimes \text{Det}(X) & \xrightarrow{\text{ass}_{\mathbb{P}}} & & & \text{Det}(C^g) \otimes (\text{Det}(C^f) \otimes \text{Det}(X))
 \end{array}$$

such that

Given a staircase as follows:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 & & & & & & C^h \\
 & & & & & \Uparrow & \\
 & & & & C^g & \rightarrow & C^{hg} \\
 & & & \Uparrow & \uparrow & & \Uparrow \\
 & & C^f & \rightarrow & C^{gf} & \rightarrow & C^{hgf} \\
 & & \Uparrow & & \Uparrow & & \Uparrow \\
 W & \xrightarrow{f} & X & \xrightarrow{g} & Y & \xrightarrow{h} & Z
 \end{array}$$

Given a staircase as follows:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 & & & & & & C^h \\
 & & & & & \Uparrow & \\
 & & & & C^g & \rightarrow & C^{hg} \\
 & & & \Uparrow & \Uparrow & & \\
 & & C^f & \rightarrow & C^{gf} & \rightarrow & C^{hgf} \\
 & & \Uparrow & & \Uparrow & & \Uparrow \\
 W & \xrightarrow{f} & X & \xrightarrow{g} & Y & \xrightarrow{h} & Z
 \end{array}$$

We have the following cocycle condition:

$$\mathbb{D}et(\Theta_{f,hg}) \cdot \mathbb{D}et(\Theta_{g,h}) = (\mathbb{D}et(\Theta_{g,h}) \otimes \mathbb{D}et(W)) \cdot \mathbb{D}et(\Theta_{gf,h}) \cdot (\mathbb{D}et(C^h) \otimes \mathbb{D}et(\Theta_{f,g})). (1)$$

- Commutativity: Given two objects  $X$  and  $Y$  in  $\mathcal{C}$ , the following **2-morphism** exists in  $\mathbb{P}$ :

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 & & \mathbb{D}\mathrm{et}(X \sqcup Y) & & \\
 & \nearrow^{\mathbb{D}\mathrm{et}(\Delta_2)} & & \nwarrow_{\mathbb{D}\mathrm{et}(\Delta_1)} & \\
 \mathbb{D}\mathrm{et}(X) \otimes \mathbb{D}\mathrm{et}(Y) & & & & \mathbb{D}\mathrm{et}(Y) \otimes \mathbb{D}\mathrm{et}(X) \\
 & \xrightarrow[\mathrm{comm}_{\mathcal{P}}]{} & & & 
 \end{array}$$

$\eta_{X,Y}$

- Commutativity: Given two objects  $X$  and  $Y$  in  $\mathcal{C}$ , the following **2-morphism** exists in  $\mathbb{P}$ :

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 & & \mathbb{D}\mathrm{et}(X \sqcup Y) & & \\
 & \nearrow \mathbb{D}\mathrm{et}(\Delta_2) & & \nwarrow \mathbb{D}\mathrm{et}(\Delta_1) & \\
 \mathbb{D}\mathrm{et}(X) \otimes \mathbb{D}\mathrm{et}(Y) & & \xleftarrow{\eta_{X,Y}} & & \mathbb{D}\mathrm{et}(Y) \otimes \mathbb{D}\mathrm{et}(X) \\
 & \xrightarrow{\mathrm{comm}_{\mathcal{P}}} & & & 
 \end{array}$$

such that, given three objects  $X, Y, Z$  in  $\mathcal{C}$ ,

$$\Theta_{X,Y,Z}: \quad
 \begin{array}{ccccc}
 & & Y & \multimap & Y \sqcup Z \\
 & & \uparrow & & \uparrow \\
 & & X & \multimap & X \sqcup Y \sqcup Z \\
 X & \multimap & X \sqcup Y & \multimap & X \sqcup Y \sqcup Z
 \end{array}$$

- Commutativity: Given two objects  $X$  and  $Y$  in  $\mathcal{C}$ , the following **2-morphism** exists in  $\mathbb{P}$ :

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 & & \mathbb{D}\mathrm{et}(X \sqcup Y) & & \\
 & \nearrow \mathbb{D}\mathrm{et}(\Delta_2) & & \nwarrow \mathbb{D}\mathrm{et}(\Delta_1) & \\
 \mathbb{D}\mathrm{et}(X) \otimes \mathbb{D}\mathrm{et}(Y) & & \xleftarrow{\eta_{X,Y}} & & \mathbb{D}\mathrm{et}(Y) \otimes \mathbb{D}\mathrm{et}(X) \\
 & \xrightarrow{\mathrm{comm}_{\mathcal{P}}} & & & 
 \end{array}$$

such that, given three objects  $X, Y, Z$  in  $\mathcal{C}$ ,

$$\Theta_{X,Y,Z}: \quad \begin{array}{ccccc}
 & & & & Z \\
 & & & & \uparrow \\
 & & Y & \xrightarrow{\quad} & Y \sqcup Z \\
 & & \uparrow & & \uparrow \\
 X & \xrightarrow{\quad} & X \sqcup Y & \xrightarrow{\quad} & X \sqcup Y \sqcup Z
 \end{array}$$

Then the following holds.

$$\begin{aligned}
 & (\mathrm{LHex}_{\mathbb{P}})_{\mathbb{D}\mathrm{et}(X) | \mathbb{D}\mathrm{et}(Y), \mathbb{D}\mathrm{et}(Z)} \cdot (\mathbb{D}\mathrm{et}(Y) \otimes \eta_{X,Z}) \cdot \mathbb{D}\mathrm{et}(\Theta_{Z,X,Y}) \cdot (\eta_{X,Y} \otimes \mathbb{D}\mathrm{et}(Z)) \\
 & = \mathbb{D}\mathrm{et}(\Theta_{X,Z,Y}) \cdot \eta_{X,Y \sqcup Z} \cdot \mathbb{D}\mathrm{et}(\Theta_{Z,Y,X}).
 \end{aligned}$$

## Definition 8

We define the **2-groupoid of virtual objects** in the same way as we did in definition ??.

## Proposition 9

Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be a Waldhausen category. The naturality of the monoidal product in the Picard 2-groupoid of the virtual objects of  $\mathcal{C}$  is tied to the  $\omega$  of the quadratic module associated to  $\mathcal{C}$ .

## Proof.

Let  $\mu_{f,g}$  be the 2-morphism that exists due to the naturality of the braiding as follows.

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 [Y] + [X] & \xrightarrow{\beta_{[X],[Y]}} & [X] + [Y] \\
 g+f \downarrow & \nearrow \mu_{f,g} & \downarrow f+g \\
 [Y'] + [X'] & \xrightarrow{\beta_{[X'],[Y']}} & [X'] + [Y']
 \end{array}$$

This translates to the following equation.

$$\delta(\mu_{f,g}) = -\beta_{[X'],[Y']} - f - g^{[X]} + \beta_{[X],[Y]} + f^{[Y]} + g.$$

## Proof.

This expands to give us the following diagram.

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 [Y] + [X] & \xrightarrow{\beta_{[X],[Y]}} & & & [X] + [Y] \\
 \downarrow g+f & \searrow f & & \nearrow \mu_{f,g} & \downarrow f+g \\
 & \xrightarrow{\omega(f,g)} & [Y] + [X'] & \xleftarrow{\text{id}} & [X'] + [Y] \\
 & \searrow g^{[X']} & & \nearrow g & \\
 [Y'] + [X'] & \xrightarrow{\beta_{[X'],[Y']}} & & & [X'] + [Y']
 \end{array}$$

Here  $\omega(f, g) = \omega(\{[f]\} \otimes \{[g^{[X]}]\})$ .

This can also be viewed as the monoidal product  $+: \mathcal{C} \times \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  being 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**.

$$H^2(B, A) \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\varphi} \\ \cong \\ \xleftarrow{\psi} \end{array} \text{CentrExt}(B, A)$$

### Proof.

For  $[c] \in H^2(B, A)$ :  $c : B \times B \rightarrow A$ . Define a group  $E = U(G) \times U(A)$  with,

$$(b_1, a_1) \cdot (b_2, a_2) = (b_1 \cdot b_2, a_1 + a_2 + c(b_1, b_2)).$$

The map  $E \xrightarrow{p} B$  is projection, and  $A \xrightarrow{i} E$  is inclusion.

For the other direction, choose a section  $s : U(B) \rightarrow U(E)$ , define  $c : B \times B \rightarrow A$  as

$$c(b_1, b_2) = s(b_1)s(b_2)s(b_1b_2)^{-1}.$$

Applying  $p$  to  $c(b_1, b_2)$  gives us identity, hence  $c(b_1, b_2) \in \ker(p)$ , hence by exactness, it belongs to  $A$ . □

- Let  $G$  be a group,  $S$  be a right  $G$ -torsor and  $T$  be a left  $G$ -torsor, then we define the contracted product of  $S$  and  $T$  by the  $G$ -torsor:

$$S \wedge^A T := S \times T / [(sg, t) \sim (s, gt)].$$

where  $G$  acts on  $[(s, t)]$  as

$$g \cdot [(s, t)] = [(sg, t)].$$

## Definition 10

Let  $F$  be a free group and let  $f: F \rightarrow N$  be a homomorphism. We say that a  $\text{nil}(n)$ -module  $\partial: M \rightarrow N$  is a free  $\text{nil}(n)$ -module with basis  $f$ , if a homomorphism  $i: F \rightarrow M$  is given such that  $\partial \circ i = f$  and such that the following universal property is satisfied. For each  $\text{nil}(n)$ -module  $\partial': M' \rightarrow N'$  and for each commutative diagram of unbroken arrows

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 M & \overset{m}{\dashrightarrow} & M' \\
 \downarrow \partial & \swarrow i & \nearrow m_F \\
 & F & \\
 \downarrow \partial & \swarrow f & \\
 N & \xrightarrow{n} & N' \\
 & \searrow & \downarrow \partial'
 \end{array}$$

there is a unique map  $(m, n): \partial \rightarrow \partial'$  in  $\text{cross}(n)$ —the category of  $\text{nil}(n)$ -modules. A  $\text{nil}(n)$ -module  $\partial: M \rightarrow N$  is called totally free if  $\partial$  is free as above and  $N$  is a free group.

## Definition 11

Let  $\partial: M \rightarrow N$  be a  $\text{nil}(2)$ -module and let  $f: F \rightarrow M$  be a homomorphism where  $F$  is a free group and for which  $\partial \circ f = 0$ . We say that a quadratic module  $(\omega, \delta, \partial)$  is a free quadratic module with basis  $f$  if a homomorphism  $i: F \rightarrow L$  is given such that  $\delta \circ i = f$  and the following universal property is satisfied. Consider any commutative diagram of broken arrows

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 L & \xrightarrow{\delta} & M & \xrightarrow{\partial} & N \\
 & \nwarrow i & \nearrow f & & \downarrow n \\
 & & F & & \\
 & \swarrow l_F & & & \\
 L' & \xrightarrow{\delta'} & M' & \xrightarrow{\partial'} & N' \\
 & & \downarrow m & & \\
 & & & & 
 \end{array}$$

(Note: The diagram above is a simplified representation of the commutative diagram of broken arrows. The original diagram shows a commutative diagram with nodes L, M, N, L', M', N' and F in the center. Arrows are: L to M (delta), M to N (partial), L' to M' (delta'), M' to N' (partial'), L to L' (dashed l), M to M' (solid m), N to N' (solid n), F to L (solid i), F to M (solid f), and F to L' (solid l\_F).)

where  $(\omega', \delta', \partial')$  is a quadratic module, where  $(m, n): \partial \rightarrow \partial'$  is a map of  $\text{nil}(2)$ -modules,  $l_F$  is a homomorphism, then there exists a unique map  $(l, m, n)$  in the category of quadratic modules. We say  $(\omega, \delta, \partial)$  is a totally free quadratic module if it is free and  $\partial$  is a totally free  $\text{nil}(2)$ -module.

## Construction—Free Nil( $n$ )-module

A free( $n$ )-module with basis  $f: \langle Z \rangle \rightarrow N$  can be constructed as follows. Define a pre-crossed module  $\partial_f: \langle Z \times N \rangle \rightarrow N$  where  $\partial_f(x, \alpha) = -\alpha + f(x) + \alpha$ , and the action is defined as  $(x, \alpha)^\beta = (x, \alpha + \beta)$ . Then a free nil( $n$ )-module can be constructed by modding out by the  $(n + 1)^{\text{th}}$  Peiffer commutator.

$$r_n(\partial_f): \langle Z \times N \rangle / P_{n+1}(\partial_f) \rightarrow N$$

## Construction—Free Quadratic Module

We can now construct a free quadratic module from a given  $\text{nil}(2)$ -module  $\partial: M \rightarrow N$  and a basis  $f: F \rightarrow L$ . Using universal property of sum of  $\text{nil}(n)$ -modules, we have

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 0_E & \longrightarrow & 0_E \vee \partial & \longleftarrow & \partial \\
 & \searrow f & \downarrow (f,1) & \swarrow 1 & \\
 & & \partial & & 
 \end{array}$$
  

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 J & \xhookrightarrow{j} & (C_E \oplus C)^{\otimes 2} & \xrightarrow{(f_*,1)^{\otimes 2}} & C^{\otimes 2} \\
 \downarrow w & & & \searrow \omega & \downarrow w \\
 & \text{c-push} & & L & \\
 (E \vee M)_2 & \xrightarrow{(f,1) \circ j} & & M & \xrightarrow{\partial} N
 \end{array}$$

where  $C = (M^{\text{cr}})^{\text{ab}}$ ,  $C_E$  is the free  $(\pi_1 \partial)$ -module generated by  $Z$ ,  $(E \vee M)_2 = \ker(0, 1)$ ,  $J = (C_E \otimes C_E) \oplus (C_E \otimes C) \oplus (C \otimes C_E)$ , and  $w$  is the Peiffer commutator. The pushout square is called central because the vertical maps need to be central.

## Definition 12

A  $(p, q)$ -*shuffle* is a pair of strictly increasing functions

$$\sigma_0: \{0, 1, \dots, q-1\} \longrightarrow \{0, 1, \dots, p+q-1\}$$

$$\sigma_1: \{0, 1, \dots, p-1\} \longrightarrow \{0, 1, \dots, p+q-1\}$$

with disjoint images.

Each shuffle  $(\sigma_0, \sigma_1)$  has a sign,  $\text{sg}(\sigma)$ , where  $\sigma$  is the permutation of  $\{0, \dots, p+q-1\}$  as follows

$$\sigma(i) = \begin{cases} \sigma_1(i) & \text{for } i < p \\ \sigma_0(i-p) & \text{for } p \leq i < p+q \end{cases}$$

## Proposition 13

*Let  $K, L$  be reduced simplicial sets. Let  $\rho(K), \rho(L)$  denote the associated crossed complexes. There exists a crossed complex homomorphism*

$$b: \rho(K) \otimes \rho(L) \longrightarrow \rho(K \times L)$$

*natural in  $K, L$ , defined for  $x \in K_p, y \in L_q$  by*

$$b(x \otimes y) = \begin{cases} -(s_0x, s_1y) + (s_1x, s_0y) & \text{for } (p, q) = (1, 1) \\ \sum_{(\sigma_0, \sigma_1) \in S_{p,q}} sg(\sigma) \cdot (s_{\sigma_0}x, s_{\sigma_1}y) & \text{for } (p, q) \neq (1, 1) \end{cases}$$

## Definition 14

An  $S_\bullet$ -category  $\mathcal{C}_\bullet$  is a simplicial category such that

- $\mathcal{C}_0 = *$ ,  $\mathcal{C}_n$  has finite **coproducts** for all  $n \geq 0$ ,
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- $\mathcal{C}_\bullet$  is endowed with a simplicial category  $\text{we}(\mathcal{C}_\bullet)$  containing all isomorphisms  $\text{iso}(\mathcal{C}_\bullet) \subseteq \text{we}(\mathcal{C}_\bullet)$ , whose morphisms are called **weak equivalences**.
  - ▶ Finite coproducts of weak equivalences are weak equivalences.

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Given a Waldhausen category  $\mathcal{C}$ ,  $S_{\bullet}\mathcal{C}$  is an  $S_{\bullet}$ -category.

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## Remark

- For an  $S_\bullet$ -category  $\mathcal{C}_\bullet$ , and a Picard 2-groupoid  $\mathbb{P}$ , one can define **2-determinant functors**  $\mathbb{D}\text{et}: \mathcal{C}_\bullet \rightarrow \mathbb{P}$  (see [MTW15]).
- One can also define a **quadratic module** and the associated Picard 2-groupoid that models the **2-groupoid of virtual objects** of  $\mathcal{C}_\bullet$ .

- A biextension  $E \rightarrow B \times B$  is *anti-symmetric* if the symmetric biextension  $E \wedge \sigma^* E$  is trivial as a symmetric biextension,
  - ▶  $\sigma: B \times B \rightarrow B \times B$  is the permutation map.
- $E$  is *alternating* if  $\Delta^* E$  itself is split, in a manner compatible with the canonical splitting of  $(\Delta^* E)^2$ .
  - ▶  $\Delta: B \rightarrow B \times B$  is the diagonal
- The monoidal structure on  $\mathcal{E}$  is symmetric precisely when the associated biextension given by the commutator map is alternating *and* the underlying biextension admits a trivialization compatible with the anti-symmetric structure.