

New model structures on simplicial sets

Matt Feller

University of Virginia

CT 2019 — Edinburgh

① Background

② Cisinski's Theory

③ New Stuff

Category Theory in Simplicial Sets

- 0-simplices: •

Category Theory in Simplicial Sets

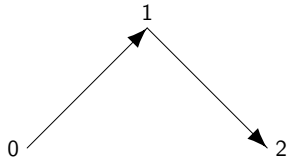
- 0-simplices: •
- 1-simplices: $\bullet \xrightarrow{\quad} \bullet$

Category Theory in Simplicial Sets

- 0-simplices: •

- 1-simplices: • \longrightarrow •

- 2-simplices:

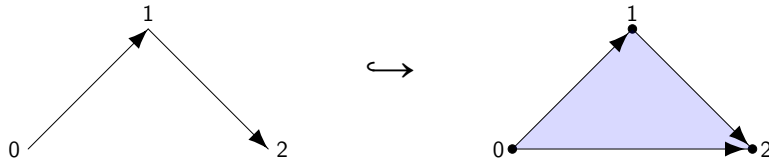


Category Theory in Simplicial Sets

- 0-simplices: •

- 1-simplices: • \longrightarrow •

- 2-simplices:

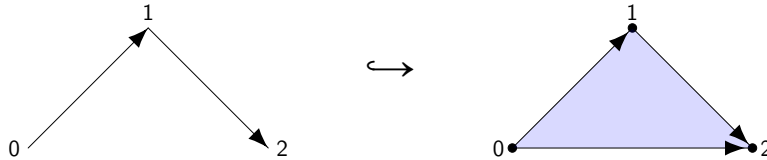


Category Theory in Simplicial Sets

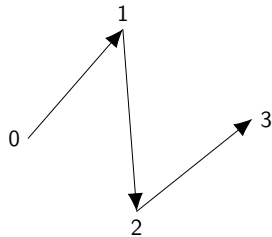
- 0-simplices: •

- 1-simplices: • \longrightarrow •

- 2-simplices:



- 3-simplices:

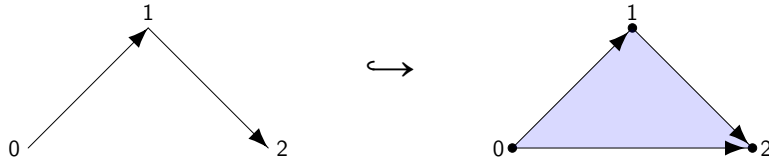


Category Theory in Simplicial Sets

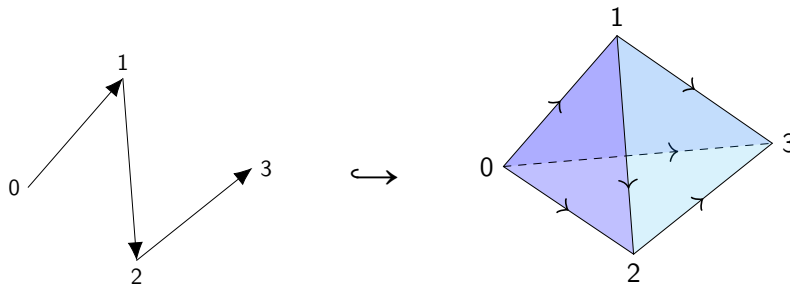
- 0-simplices: •

- 1-simplices: $\bullet \longrightarrow \bullet$

- 2-simplices:



- 3-simplices:

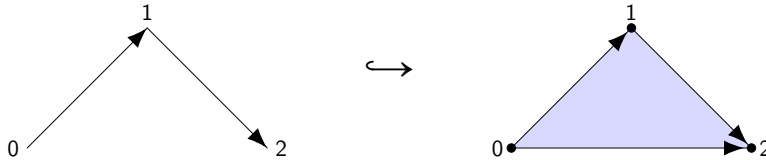


Category Theory in Simplicial Sets

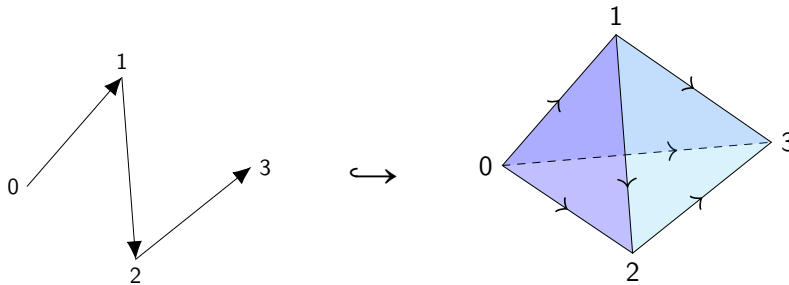
- 0-simplices: •

- 1-simplices: $\bullet \longrightarrow \bullet$

- 2-simplices:



- 3-simplices:



- (etc.)

Nerves of Categories

Definition

Given a small category C , define a simplicial set $N(C)$ as follows:

Definition

Given a small category C , define a simplicial set $N(C)$ as follows:

- $N(C)_0 = \text{objects of } C$

Definition

Given a small category C , define a simplicial set $N(C)$ as follows:

- $N(C)_0 =$ objects of C
- $N(C)_1 =$ morphisms of C

Definition

Given a small category C , define a simplicial set $N(C)$ as follows:

- $N(C)_0$ = objects of C
- $N(C)_1$ = morphisms of C
- $N(C)_2$ = pairs of composable morphisms in C

Definition

Given a small category C , define a simplicial set $N(C)$ as follows:

- $N(C)_0$ = objects of C
- $N(C)_1$ = morphisms of C
- $N(C)_2$ = pairs of composable morphisms in C
- $N(C)_3$ = triples of composable morphisms in C

Definition

Given a small category C , define a simplicial set $N(C)$ as follows:

- $N(C)_0$ = objects of C
- $N(C)_1$ = morphisms of C
- $N(C)_2$ = pairs of composable morphisms in C
- $N(C)_3$ = triples of composable morphisms in C
- \vdots

Definition

Given a small category C , define a simplicial set $N(C)$ as follows:

- $N(C)_0$ = objects of C
- $N(C)_1$ = morphisms of C
- $N(C)_2$ = pairs of composable morphisms in C
- $N(C)_3$ = triples of composable morphisms in C
- \vdots

$$N: \text{Cat} \hookrightarrow \text{Set}^{\Delta^{op}} \quad (\text{full/faithful})$$

Definition

Given a small category C , define a simplicial set $N(C)$ as follows:

- $N(C)_0$ = objects of C
- $N(C)_1$ = morphisms of C
- $N(C)_2$ = pairs of composable morphisms in C
- $N(C)_3$ = triples of composable morphisms in C
- \vdots

$$N: \text{Cat} \hookrightarrow \text{Set}^{\Delta^{op}} \quad (\text{full/faithful})$$

Examples

$$\Delta[n] = N(\bullet \xrightarrow{g_1} \dots \xrightarrow{g_n} \bullet)$$

Definition

Given a small category C , define a simplicial set $N(C)$ as follows:

- $N(C)_0$ = objects of C
- $N(C)_1$ = morphisms of C
- $N(C)_2$ = pairs of composable morphisms in C
- $N(C)_3$ = triples of composable morphisms in C
- \vdots

$$N: \text{Cat} \hookrightarrow \text{Set}^{\Delta^{op}} \quad (\text{full/faithful})$$

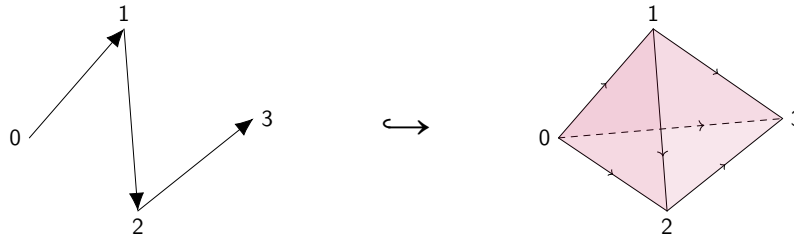
Examples

$$\Delta[n] = N(\bullet \xrightarrow{g_1} \dots \xrightarrow{g_n} \bullet)$$

$$J := N(\bullet \xleftarrow{g^{-1}} \bullet)$$

Categories are “Strict”

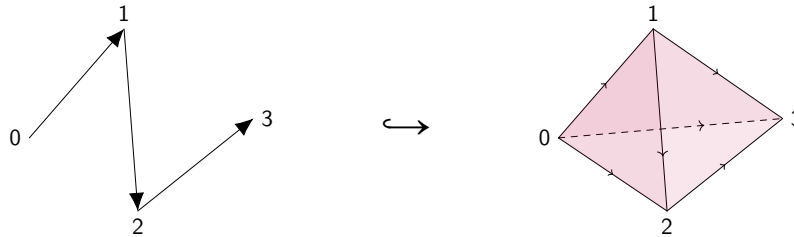
The inclusion $\mathcal{S}p[n] \hookrightarrow \Delta[n]$



is called a *spine extension*.

Categories are “Strict”

The inclusion $\mathcal{S}p[n] \hookrightarrow \Delta[n]$



is called a *spine extension*.

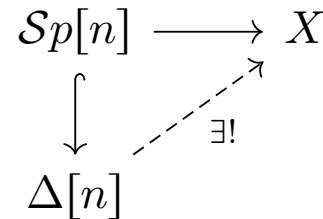
Unique Lifting = “Strict”

Categories are simplicial sets with unique spine extensions.

$$X \cong N(C)$$

(for some C)

\iff



$n \geq 2$

Categories are “1-Segal Sets”

Unique lifting condition for categories is 1-dimensional:

$\mathcal{S}p[n]$ is composed of 1-simplices.

Categories are “1-Segal Sets”

Unique lifting condition for categories is 1-dimensional:

$\mathcal{S}p[n]$ is composed of 1-simplices.

Interpretation

Categories are “1-Segal sets.”

Categories are “1-Segal Sets”

Unique lifting condition for categories is 1-dimensional:

$\mathcal{S}p[n]$ is composed of 1-simplices.

Interpretation

Categories are “1-Segal sets.”

What are 2-Segal sets?

- More general than categories

Categories are “1-Segal Sets”

Unique lifting condition for categories is 1-dimensional:

$\mathcal{S}p[n]$ is composed of 1-simplices.

Interpretation

Categories are “1-Segal sets.”

What are 2-Segal sets?

- More general than categories
- Unique “2-dimensional spine extensions”

Unique lifting condition for categories is 1-dimensional:

$S\mathit{p}[n]$ is composed of 1-simplices.

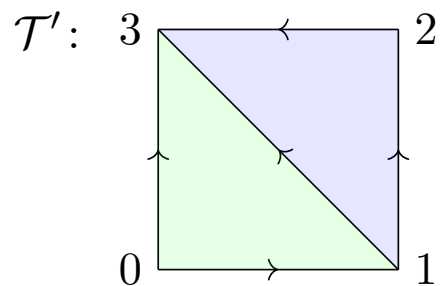
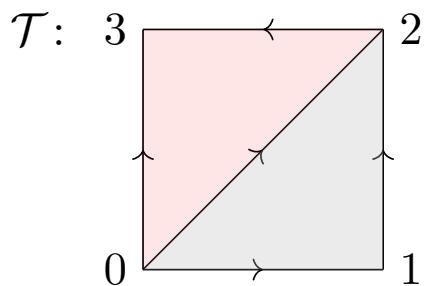
Interpretation

Categories are “1-Segal sets.”

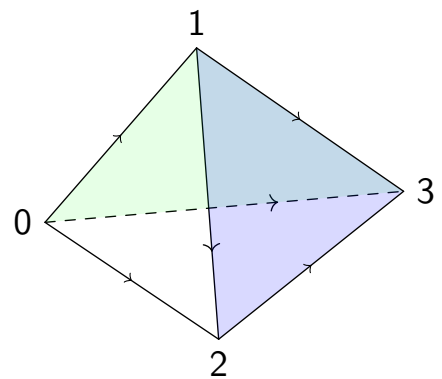
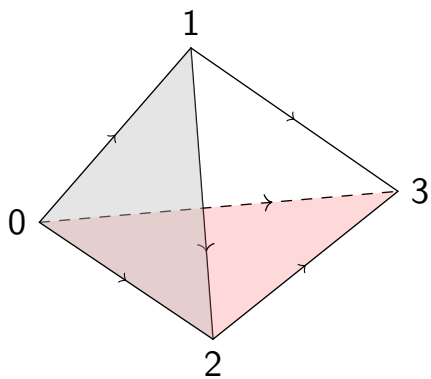
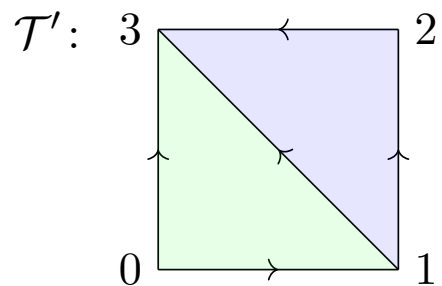
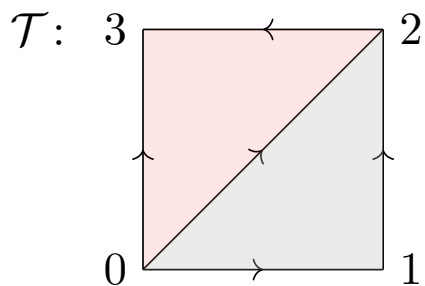
What are 2-Segal sets?

- More general than categories
- Unique “2-dimensional spine extensions”
 - ↳ still “strict”

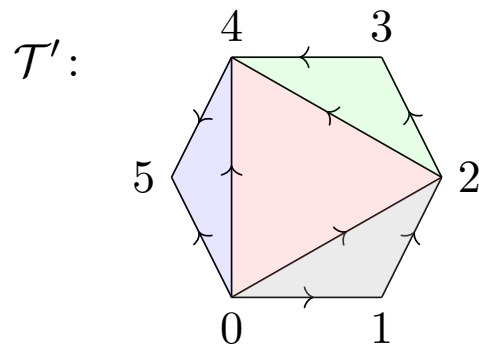
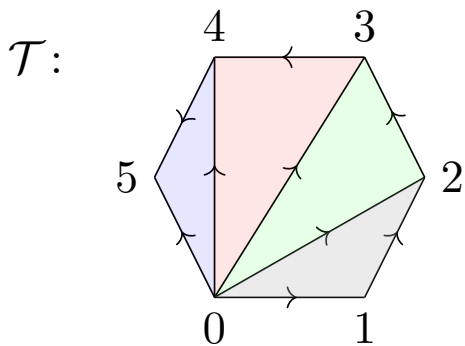
Triangulations of the square:



Triangulations of the square:



Triangulations of the hexagon:



(etc.)

Intuition

Think of the inclusions $\mathcal{T} \hookrightarrow \Delta[n]$ as “2-dimensional spine extensions.”

Intuition

Think of the inclusions $\mathcal{T} \hookrightarrow \Delta[n]$ as “2-dimensional spine extensions.”

Definition

A *2-Segal set* is a simplicial set X with a unique lifting condition:

X is 2-Segal

\iff

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \mathcal{T} & \longrightarrow & X \\
 \downarrow & \nearrow \exists! & \\
 \Delta[n] & &
 \end{array}$$

$n \geq 3$

Examples

- (Nerves of) categories are 2-Segal.

Examples

- (Nerves of) categories are 2-Segal. (1-Segal \Rightarrow 2-Segal.)

Examples

- (Nerves of) categories are 2-Segal. (1-Segal \Rightarrow 2-Segal.)
- Output of Waldhausen S_\bullet construction (from algebraic K-theory) applied to nice enough double categories.

Examples

- (Nerves of) categories are 2-Segal. (1-Segal \Rightarrow 2-Segal.)
- Output of Waldhausen S_\bullet construction (from algebraic K-theory) applied to nice enough double categories.
- Lots of other examples from combinatorics.

Examples

- (Nerves of) categories are 2-Segal. (1-Segal \Rightarrow 2-Segal.)
- Output of Waldhausen S_\bullet construction (from algebraic K-theory) applied to nice enough double categories.
- Lots of other examples from combinatorics.

Another Perspective

2-Segal sets are equivalent to *multivalued categories*, where composition is not always unique or defined, but is associative.

Homotopical/ ∞ /Non-Strict Versions

Categories have a homotopical analogue in simplicial sets.

Homotopical/ ∞ /Non-Strict Versions

Categories have a homotopical analogue in simplicial sets.

Definition

A *quasi-category* is a simplicial set X with a (non-unique) lifting condition:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X \text{ is a} & \iff & \begin{array}{ccc} \Lambda^i[n] & \longrightarrow & X \\ \downarrow & \nearrow \exists & \\ \Delta[n] & & \end{array} \\ \text{quasi-category} & & \end{array} \quad 0 < i < n$$

Homotopical/ ∞ /Non-Strict Versions

Categories have a homotopical analogue in simplicial sets.

Definition

A *quasi-category* is a simplicial set X with a (non-unique) lifting condition:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X \text{ is a} & \iff & \begin{array}{ccc} \Lambda^i[n] & \longrightarrow & X \\ \downarrow & \nearrow \exists & \\ \Delta[n] & & \end{array} \\ \text{quasi-category} & & \end{array} \quad 0 < i < n$$

- Composition is always defined, but only “unique up to homotopy.”

Homotopical/ ∞ /Non-Strict Versions

Categories have a homotopical analogue in simplicial sets.

Definition

A *quasi-category* is a simplicial set X with a (non-unique) lifting condition:

$$X \text{ is a quasi-category} \iff \begin{array}{ccc} \Lambda^i[n] & \longrightarrow & X \\ \downarrow & \nearrow \exists & \\ \Delta[n] & & \end{array} \quad 0 < i < n$$

- Composition is always defined, but only “unique up to homotopy.”
- Special Case: If all morphisms are invertible, we have a *Kan complex*—also defined by a non-unique lifting condition.

Strict	Homotopical
Category	

Strict	Homotopical
Category	Quasi-category

Strict	Homotopical
Groupoid Category	Quasi-category

Strict	Homotopical
Groupoid Category	Kan Complex Quasi-category

Strict	Homotopical
Groupoid Category 2-Segal Set	Kan Complex Quasi-category

Strict	Homotopical
Groupoid Category 2-Segal Set	Kan Complex Quasi-category ???

Model Structure = “Homotopy Theory”

We can endow a category with a “homotopy theory” by putting a *model structure* on it.

Model Structure = “Homotopy Theory”

We can endow a category with a “homotopy theory” by putting a *model structure* on it.

Every model structure comes with a class of well-behaved objects, called the *fibrant objects*, defined by a lifting condition.

Model Structure = “Homotopy Theory”

We can endow a category with a “homotopy theory” by putting a *model structure* on it.

Every model structure comes with a class of well-behaved objects, called the *fibrant objects*, defined by a lifting condition.

Examples

- Classical model structure on $\text{Set}^{\Delta^{op}}$:

Model Structure = “Homotopy Theory”

We can endow a category with a “homotopy theory” by putting a *model structure* on it.

Every model structure comes with a class of well-behaved objects, called the *fibrant objects*, defined by a lifting condition.

Examples

- Classical model structure on $\text{Set}^{\Delta^{op}}$:
 - ↳ equivalent to homotopy theory of topological spaces

Model Structure = “Homotopy Theory”

We can endow a category with a “homotopy theory” by putting a *model structure* on it.

Every model structure comes with a class of well-behaved objects, called the *fibrant objects*, defined by a lifting condition.

Examples

- Classical model structure on $\text{Set}^{\Delta^{op}}$:
 - ↳ equivalent to homotopy theory of topological spaces
 - ↳ fibrant objects: Kan complexes

Model Structure = “Homotopy Theory”

We can endow a category with a “homotopy theory” by putting a *model structure* on it.

Every model structure comes with a class of well-behaved objects, called the *fibrant objects*, defined by a lifting condition.

Examples

- Classical model structure on $\text{Set}^{\Delta^{op}}$:
 - ↳ equivalent to homotopy theory of topological spaces
 - ↳ fibrant objects: Kan complexes
- Joyal model structure on $\text{Set}^{\Delta^{op}}$:

Model Structure = “Homotopy Theory”

We can endow a category with a “homotopy theory” by putting a *model structure* on it.

Every model structure comes with a class of well-behaved objects, called the *fibrant objects*, defined by a lifting condition.

Examples

- Classical model structure on $\text{Set}^{\Delta^{op}}$:
 - ↳ equivalent to homotopy theory of topological spaces
 - ↳ fibrant objects: Kan complexes
- Joyal model structure on $\text{Set}^{\Delta^{op}}$:
 - ↳ fibrant objects: quasi-categories

Finding New Model Structure

Model structures are very finicky.

Most lifting conditions will not give us a model structure.

Model structures are very finicky.

Most lifting conditions will not give us a model structure.

Idea

Look for a model structure first, then decide if the fibrant objects have the properties we want.

Finding New Model Structure

Model structures are very finicky.

Most lifting conditions will not give us a model structure.

Idea

Look for a model structure first, then decide if the fibrant objects have the properties we want.

How do we find new model structures?

Classical/Joyal model structures share some properties:

Classical/Joyal model structures share some properties:

- Cofibrations = Monomorphisms

Classical/Joyal model structures share some properties:

- Cofibrations = Monomorphisms
- Fibrant objects defined by lifting against a **set**. (The model structures are *cofibrantly generated*.)

Classical/Joyal model structures share some properties:

- Cofibrations = Monomorphisms
- Fibrant objects defined by lifting against a **set**. (The model structures are *cofibrantly generated*.)

Cisinski gives us a way to find model structures with these properties.

Pushout-Product

Given $A \hookrightarrow B$ and $C \hookrightarrow D$, the induced map

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 A \times C & \hookrightarrow & A \times D \\
 \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 B \times C & \hookrightarrow & (B \times C) \cup (A \times D)
 \end{array}$$

$B \times D$

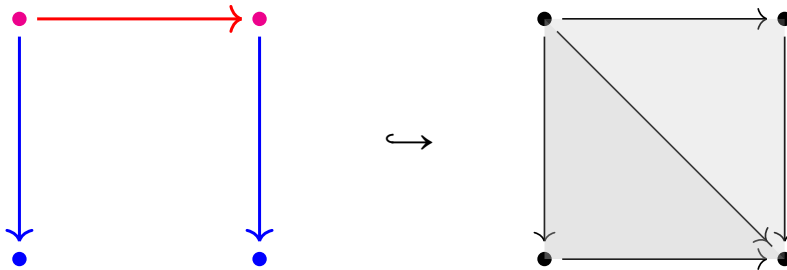
is their *pushout-product*, denoted $(A \hookrightarrow B) \square (C \hookrightarrow D)$.

Example

The pushout product of $0 \hookrightarrow \Delta[1]$ and $\partial\Delta[1] \hookrightarrow \Delta[1]$ is

$$(\Delta[1] \times \partial\Delta[1]) \cup (0 \times \Delta[1]) \hookrightarrow \Delta[1] \times \Delta[1]$$

which looks like



$$\text{Bdry} := \{\partial\Delta[n] \hookrightarrow \Delta[n]\}_{n \geq 0} \quad J = N(\bullet \rightleftarrows \bullet) \quad \partial J = 0 \cup 1$$

$$\text{Bdry} := \{\partial\Delta[n] \hookrightarrow \Delta[n]\}_{n \geq 0} \quad J = N(\bullet \overset{\leftarrow}{\hookrightarrow} \bullet) \quad \partial J = 0 \cup 1$$

S a set of
monomorphisms

$$\begin{aligned} A_J(S) := & \text{Bdry} \square (0 \hookrightarrow J) \\ & \cup S \\ & \cup S \square (\partial J \hookrightarrow J) \\ & \cup (S \square (\partial J \hookrightarrow J)) \square (\partial J \hookrightarrow J) \\ & \vdots \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Bdry} := \{\partial\Delta[n] \hookrightarrow \Delta[n]\}_{n \geq 0} \quad J = N(\bullet \overset{\leftarrow}{\rightleftarrows} \bullet) \quad \partial J = 0 \cup 1$$

S a set of
monomorphisms

$$\begin{aligned} A_J(S) := & \text{Bdry} \square (0 \hookrightarrow J) \\ & \cup S \\ & \cup S \square (\partial J \hookrightarrow J) \\ & \cup (S \square (\partial J \hookrightarrow J)) \square (\partial J \hookrightarrow J) \\ & \vdots \end{aligned}$$

Theorem (Cisinski)

- For any set S of monomorphisms, there is a model structure whose fibrant objects are those with lifts against $A_J(S)$.

$$\text{Bdry} := \{\partial\Delta[n] \hookrightarrow \Delta[n]\}_{n \geq 0} \quad J = N(\bullet \overset{\leftarrow}{\hookrightarrow} \bullet) \quad \partial J = 0 \cup 1$$

S a set of
monomorphisms

$$\begin{aligned} A_J(S) := & \text{Bdry} \square (0 \hookrightarrow J) \\ & \cup S \\ & \cup S \square (\partial J \hookrightarrow J) \\ & \cup (S \square (\partial J \hookrightarrow J)) \square (\partial J \hookrightarrow J) \\ & \vdots \end{aligned}$$

Theorem (Cisinski)

- For any set S of monomorphisms, there is a model structure whose fibrant objects are those with lifts against $A_J(S)$.
- When the fibrant objects of a given model structure all lift against S , they also lift against $A_J(S)$.

Example

If S is the set of spine extensions, we get the Joyal model structure.

Example

If S is the set of spine extensions, we get the Joyal model structure.

Idea

If we didn't know what a quasi-category was, we could let S be the spine extensions, and Cisinski's theory would tell us what a quasi-category should be.

Now let $S = \{\mathcal{T} \hookrightarrow \Delta[n]\}$, the “two dimensional spine extensions.”

Now let $S = \{\mathcal{T} \hookrightarrow \Delta[n]\}$, the “two dimensional spine extensions.”

Shouldn't $A_J(S)$ answer our question?

Now let $S = \{\mathcal{T} \hookrightarrow \Delta[n]\}$, the “two dimensional spine extensions.”

Shouldn't $A_J(S)$ answer our question?

Yes, but. . .

Now let $S = \{\mathcal{T} \hookrightarrow \Delta[n]\}$, the “two dimensional spine extensions.”

Shouldn't $A_J(S)$ answer our question?

Yes, but. . .

Analogy

Group presentations often don't tell us that much about a group.

Now let $S = \{\mathcal{T} \hookrightarrow \Delta[n]\}$, the “two dimensional spine extensions.”

Shouldn't $A_J(S)$ answer our question?

Yes, but. . .

Analogy

Group presentations often don't tell us that much about a group.

Similarly, even with the description from Cisinski's theory, there is still a lot we don't know about our model structure.

$$\text{Bdry} := \{\partial\Delta[n] \hookrightarrow \Delta[n]\}_{n \geq 0} \quad J = N(\bullet \xleftrightarrow{\quad} \bullet)$$

$$A_J(\emptyset) := \text{Bdry} \square (0 \hookrightarrow J)$$

Theorem (Cisinski)

There is a model structure whose fibrant objects are those with lifts against $A_J(\emptyset)$; the minimal model structure on $\text{Set}^{\Delta^{op}}$.

Minimal Model Structure

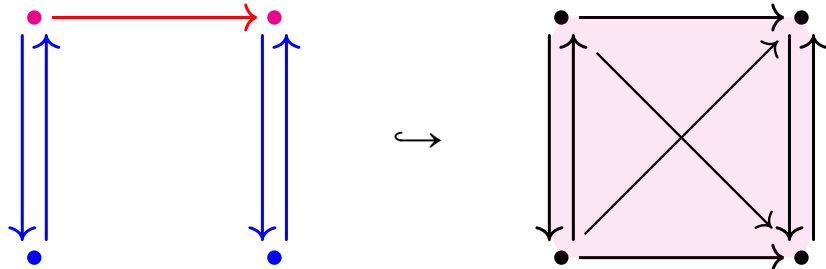
$$\text{Bdry} := \{\partial\Delta[n] \hookrightarrow \Delta[n]\}_{n \geq 0} \quad J = N(\bullet \xleftrightarrow{\quad} \bullet)$$

$$A_J(\emptyset) := \text{Bdry} \square (0 \hookrightarrow J)$$

Theorem (Cisinski)

There is a model structure whose fibrant objects are those with lifts against $A_J(\emptyset)$; the minimal model structure on $\text{Set}^{\Delta^{op}}$.

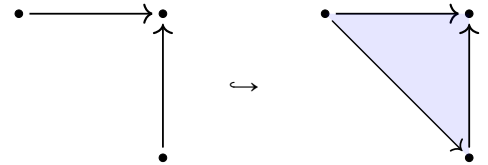
Ex: $n = 1$



Horns

- Simplex =
 $N(\bullet \rightarrow \bullet \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow \bullet \rightarrow \bullet)$
- Face = delete one vertex
- Horn = union of all faces but one

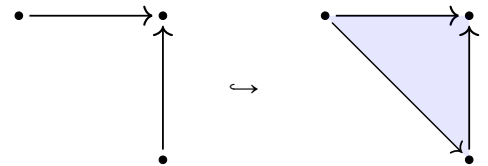
$n = 2$ Horn Extension



Horns

- Simplex =
 $N(\bullet \rightarrow \bullet \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow \bullet \rightarrow \bullet)$
- Face = delete one vertex
- Horn = union of all faces but one

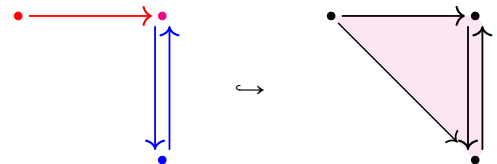
$n = 2$ Horn Extension



Iso-Horns

- Isoplex =
 $N(\bullet \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow \bullet \rightleftarrows \bullet \dots \rightarrow \bullet)$
- Face = delete one vertex
- Horn = union of all faces but one, the one opposite a vertex of the isomorphism

$n = 2$ Iso-Horn Ext'n



Theorem (F.)

The fibrant objects in the minimal model structure are those with lifts against IsoHorn.

Theorem (F.)

The fibrant objects in the minimal model structure are those with lifts against IsoHorn.

In fact, $\overline{A_J(\emptyset)} = \overline{\text{IsoHorn}}$.

Theorem (F.)

The fibrant objects in the minimal model structure are those with lifts against IsoHorn.

In fact, $\overline{A_J(\emptyset)} = \overline{\text{IsoHorn}}$.

30-Second Sketch of Proof

Theorem (F.)

The fibrant objects in the minimal model structure are those with lifts against IsoHorn.

In fact, $\overline{A_J(\emptyset)} = \overline{\text{IsoHorn}}$.

30-Second Sketch of Proof

- Elements of IsoHorn are retracts of things in $A_J(\emptyset)$.

Theorem (F.)

The fibrant objects in the minimal model structure are those with lifts against IsoHorn.

In fact, $\overline{A_J(\emptyset)} = \overline{\text{IsoHorn}}$.

30-Second Sketch of Proof

- Elements of IsoHorn are retracts of things in $A_J(\emptyset)$.
- Elements of $A_J(\emptyset)$ are built out of elements of IsoHorn (via transfinite composition of pushouts).

Theorem (F.)

The fibrant objects in the minimal model structure are those with lifts against IsoHorn.

In fact, $\overline{A_J(\emptyset)} = \overline{\text{IsoHorn}}$.

30-Second Sketch of Proof

- Elements of IsoHorn are retracts of things in $A_J(\emptyset)$.
- Elements of $A_J(\emptyset)$ are built out of elements of IsoHorn (via transfinite composition of pushouts).
 - ↳ Codomains are categories, so n -simplices are equivalent to paths of arrows.

In category theory:

$$c \cong d \implies \text{Hom}(c, x) \cong \text{Hom}(d, x) \text{ for all } x$$

In category theory:

$$c \cong d \implies \text{Hom}(c, x) \cong \text{Hom}(d, x) \text{ for all } x$$

When c and d are isomorphic, their relationship to the rest of the category is also equivalent.

In category theory:

$$c \cong d \implies \text{Hom}(c, x) \cong \text{Hom}(d, x) \text{ for all } x$$

When c and d are isomorphic, their relationship to the rest of the category is also equivalent.

Fibrant Objects in the Minimal Model Structure

Similar thing happens: if two 0-simplices are “isomorphic,” then there is a correspondence between the n simplices of which they are vertices.

In category theory:

$$c \cong d \implies \text{Hom}(c, x) \cong \text{Hom}(d, x) \text{ for all } x$$

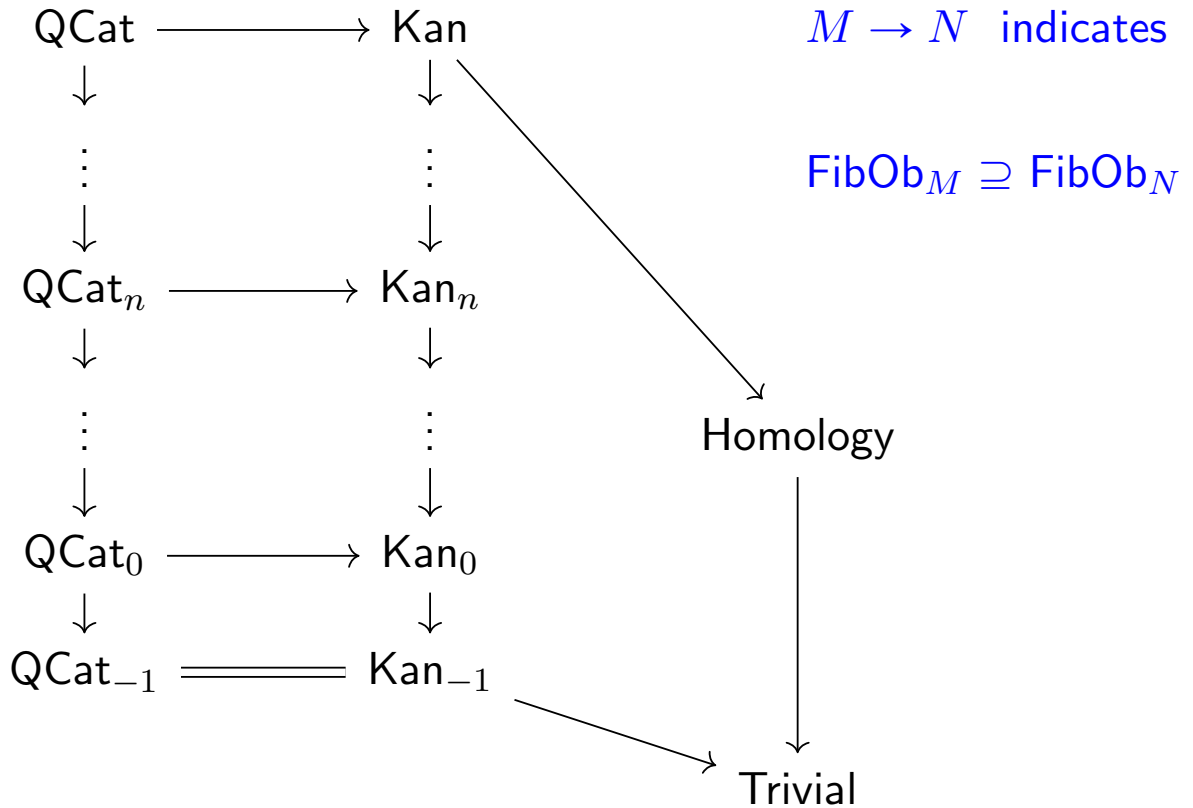
When c and d are isomorphic, their relationship to the rest of the category is also equivalent.

Fibrant Objects in the Minimal Model Structure

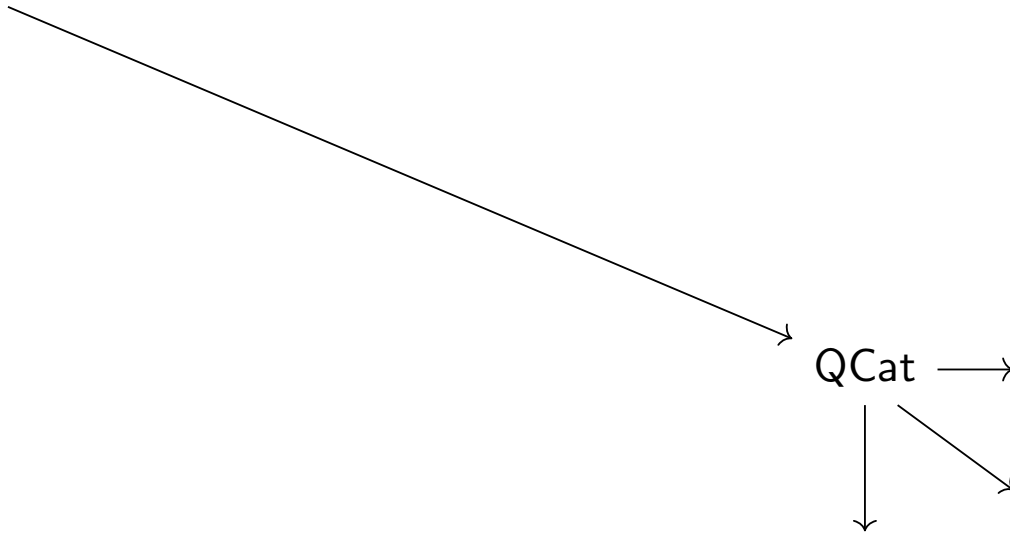
Similar thing happens: if two 0-simplices are “isomorphic,” then there is a correspondence between the n simplices of which they are vertices.

↳ $x \cong y \implies x$ and y interact with the rest of X equivalently.

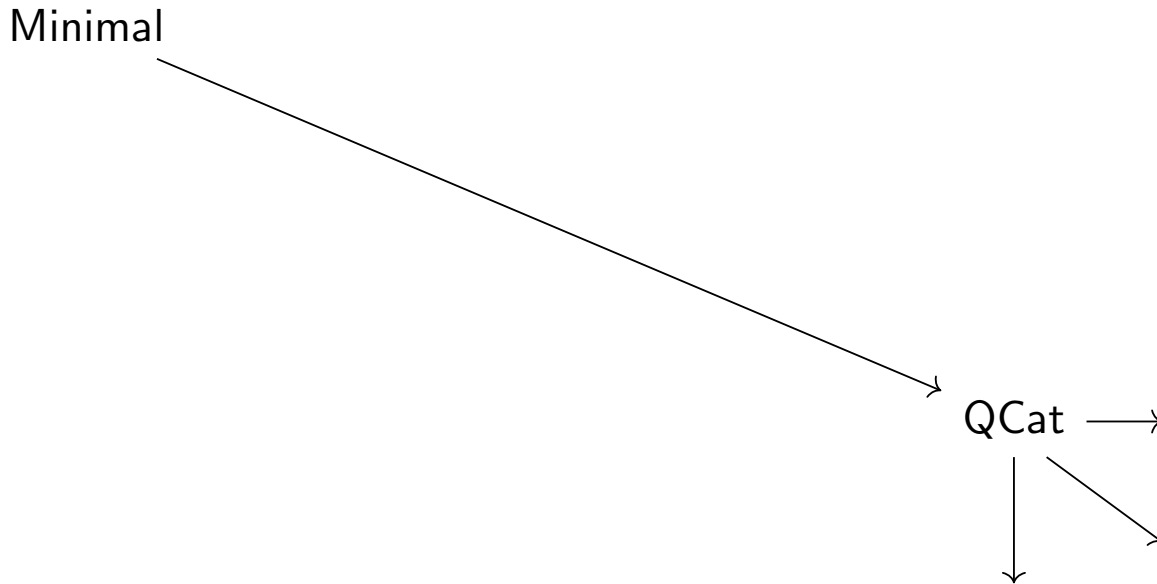
Model Structures on $\text{Set}^{\Delta^{op}}$



Minimal

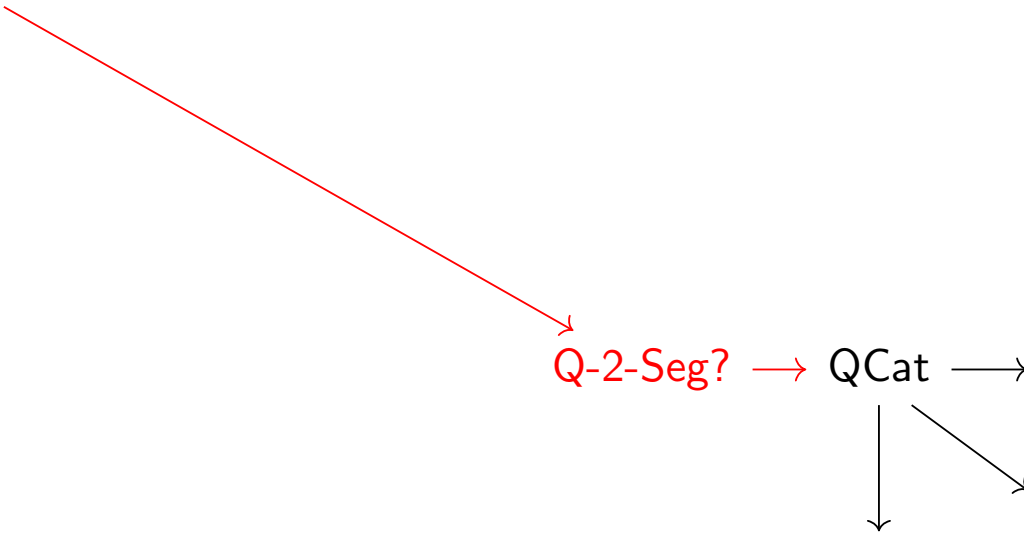


$M \rightarrow N$ indicates $\text{FibOb}_M \supseteq \text{FibOb}_N$



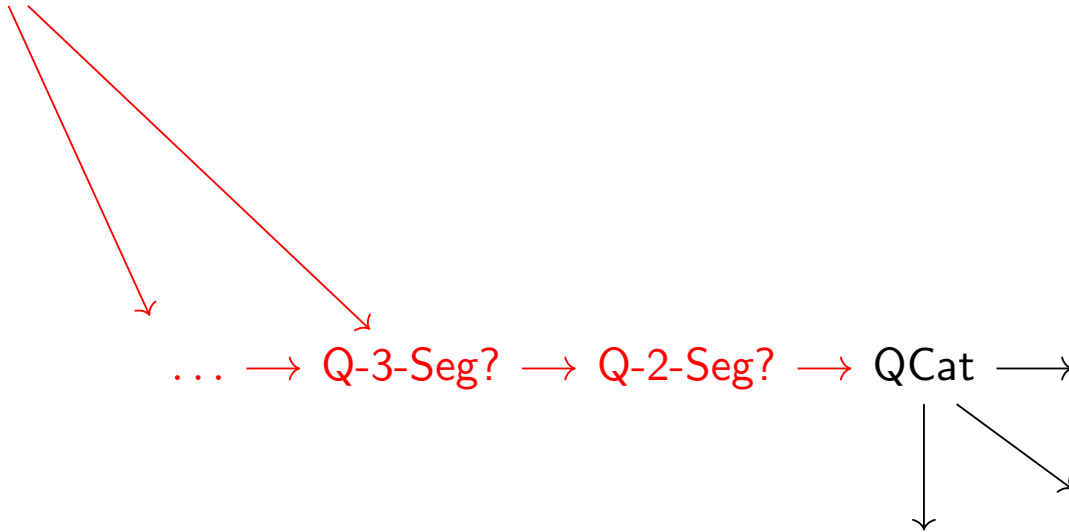
$M \rightarrow N$ indicates $\text{FibOb}_M \supseteq \text{FibOb}_N$

Minimal

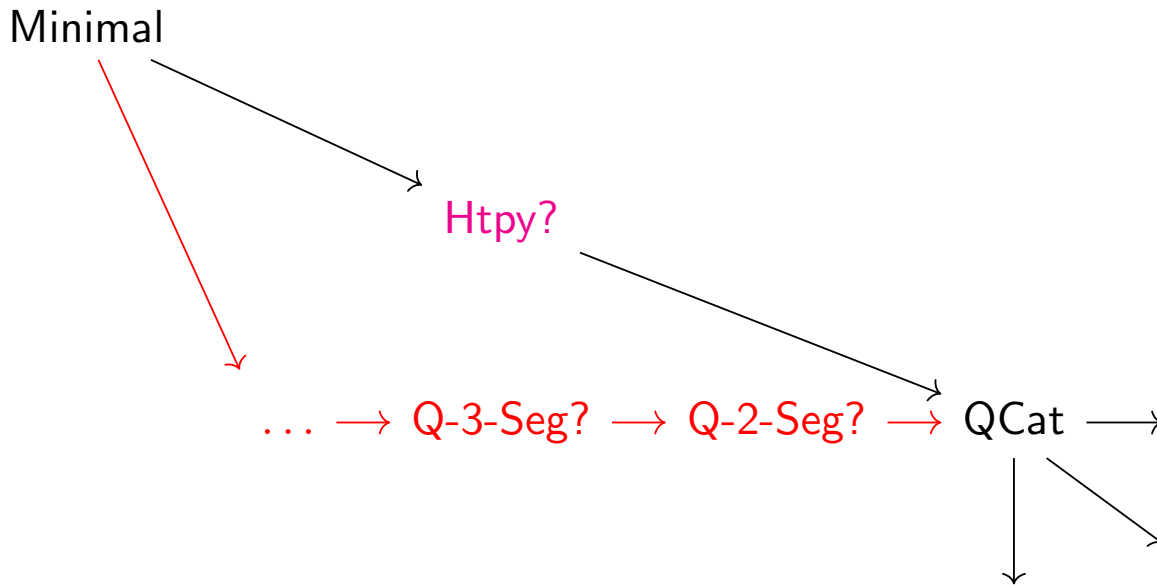


$M \rightarrow N$ indicates $\text{FibOb}_M \supseteq \text{FibOb}_N$

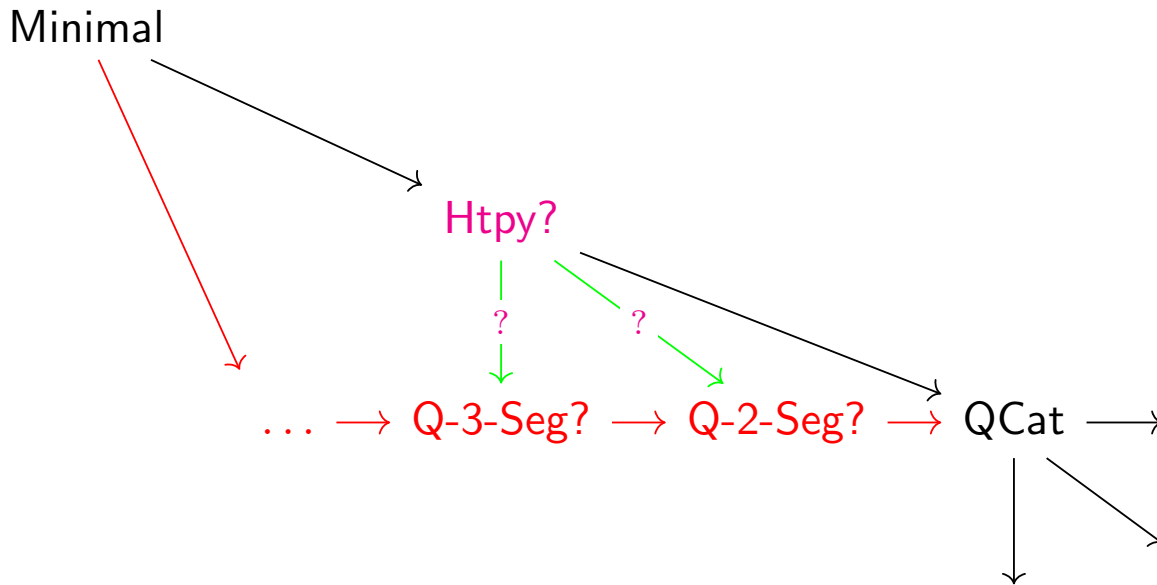
Minimal



$M \rightarrow N$ indicates $\text{FibOb}_M \supseteq \text{FibOb}_N$



$M \rightarrow N$ indicates $\text{FibOb}_M \supseteq \text{FibOb}_N$



$M \rightarrow N$ indicates $\text{FibOb}_M \supseteq \text{FibOb}_N$



J. Bergner, A. Osorno, V. Ozornova, M. Rovelli,
C. Scheimbauer.

2-Segal sets and the Waldhausen construction.

Topology and its Applications, 235,
[10.1016/j.topol.2017.12.009](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.topol.2017.12.009), 2016



A. Campbell, E. Lanari.

On truncated quasi-categories.

Preprint, [arXiv:1810.11188](https://arxiv.org/abs/1810.11188), 2018.



D.-C. Cisinski.

Les préfaisceaux comme modèles des types d'homotopie

Astérisque, no. 308, Soc. Math. France, 2006.



T. Dyckerhoff, M. Kapranov

Higher Segal Spaces I

Preprint, [arXiv:1212.3563](https://arxiv.org/abs/1212.3563), 2012.