## The entrance path category Jānis Lazovskis

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**Abstract:** The infinity category of entrance paths of a stratified space contains information about the space itself, as well as the structures we can build on the space. I will talk about several uses of this category, by working with a simplified version and by considering what the full generality has to offer.

# 0.1 Motivation

Recall the Cech functor  $\mathcal{F} \colon \mathsf{Bsc}(\operatorname{Ran}_{\leq n}(M) \times \mathbf{R}_{\geq 0}) \to \mathsf{Cat}_{/\underline{\mathsf{SC}}}.$ Question: Can the Čech functor be simplified?

**Observation:** Vast majority of morphisms in the diagram  $\mathcal{F}(U)$  are identity. Instead make diagram with only one non-trivial map for every such homotopy class.

### 0.2 Simplicial sets and $\infty$ -categories

A simplicial set is a set of sets  $S = \{S_0, S_1, ...\}$  with compatible maps among the  $S_i$ :

face maps  $s_i \colon S_{n-1} \to S_n$ 

degeneracy maps  $d_i \colon S_{n+1} \to S_n$ 

The compatible maps come from the category  $\Delta$ .

 $Obj(\Delta) = \{ [n] = (0, 1, \dots, n) : n \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0} \}$  $Hom_{\Delta}([n], [m]) = \{ order-preserving set maps [n] \to [m] \}$ 

**Definition:** A simplicial set is a functor  $\Delta^{op} \to \text{Set}$ . **Example:** The nerve of a category. Sing(X) for a topological space X. The standard k-simplex  $\Delta^k$ .

Let  $\Lambda_k^n$  be  $\Delta^n$  without the *k*th face. It is a union of *n* copies of  $\Delta^{n-1}$ , as all but the *k*th face of  $\Delta^n$ . **Definition:** A morphism  $S \to T$  of simplicial sets is a fibration if whenever the solid maps exist, the dashed map exists.

$$\begin{array}{c} \Lambda_k^n \longrightarrow S \\ k & \swarrow & \swarrow \\ \Delta^n \longrightarrow T \end{array}$$

**Definition:** A simplicial set S is a Kan complex if  $S \to *$  is a fibration. It is a weak Kan complex, or  $\infty$ -category, if  $S \to *$  is a fibration for 0 < k < n. **Slogan:** All inner k-horns of S can be filled.

## 0.3 Stratified spaces

Let  $f: X \to (A, \leq)$  be a stratification. **Definition.** An entrance path of X is a continuous map  $\sigma: \Delta_{top}^n \to X$  such that there exists a chain  $a_0 \leq \cdots \leq a_n$  in A with

$$f(\sigma(0,\ldots,t_i,\ldots,t_n)) = a_{n-i}, \ t_i \neq 0,$$

for all i = 0, ..., n. Sing<sub>A</sub>(X) is the category of entrance paths of X. If f is conical, Sing<sub>A</sub>(X) is an  $\infty$ -category.

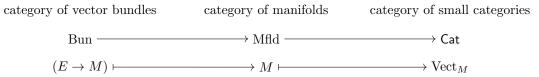
**Recall:** Stratification by the Čech map  $[\check{C}]$ : Ran $(M) \times \mathbf{R}_{\geq 0} \to [\mathsf{SC}]$ Conical stratification, refining  $[\check{C}]$ , by  $[\check{C}C]$ : Ran $\leq n(M) \times \mathbf{R}_{\geq 0} \to [\mathsf{SCC}]$ 

# 0.4 A Čech map of simplicial sets

Recall the cosheaf  $U \mapsto \left(\operatorname{Ho}(\operatorname{Sing}_{[\mathsf{SCC}]}(U)) \to \mathsf{Cat}_{/\underline{\mathsf{SC}}}\right)$  for every  $U \in \operatorname{Bsc}(\operatorname{Ran}_{\leqslant n}(M) \times \mathbf{R}_{\geqslant 0})$ .

**Goal:** Try to construct a fibration  $\operatorname{Sing}_{[\mathsf{SCC}]}(\operatorname{Ran}_{\leq n}(M) \times \mathbf{R}_{\geq 0}) \to N(\underline{\mathsf{SC}})$ Image of *n*-simplex is clear.

Motivation: Fibering by vector bundles:



Given a morphism  $f: M \to N$  of manifolds and a vector bundle  $E \to N$ , we can construct the pullback bundle  $f^*E \to M$  over M. This is filling the horn  $\Lambda_0^1$ . How does this extend?

**Straightening:** Given  $A \to B$ , does it classify the fibers of some  $B \to C$ ? **Unstraightening:** Given a fibration  $B \to C$ , can the fibers be arranged into A to get  $A \to B$ ? Answers to both are yes (in the appropriate categories).

Goal:  $sSet \to Sing_A(X) \to S$ . Question: What is in place of  $E \to M$ ? Can we fill  $\Lambda_0^1$ ? Vector bundle example has  $f^*E \subseteq \times E$ . Implication: Do we need products / limits ? Maybe over C is a sub-simplicial complex? Maybe sub-cell?

Start with inner horns. Given the simplicial map  $\operatorname{Sing}_{[\mathsf{SCC}]}(\operatorname{Ran}_{\leq n}(M) \times \mathbf{R}_{\geq 0}) \to N(\underline{\mathsf{SC}})$ , can  $\Lambda_1^2$  be filled?