

# ON PAVLOV'S CONJECTURE ON SYMMETRIC MONOIDAL MODEL CATEGORIES

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ABSTRACT. We prove that the localization of the category of combinatorial monoidal model categories and left Quillen monoidal functors at the left Quillen monoidal equivalences is equivalent, via monoidal localization, to that of presentably monoidal  $\infty$ -categories.

This paper is **not complete** yet, although the proof of the main theorem (Theorem 1.1) is complete. I plan to include the following topics in the near future:

- Stating and proving variations of the main theorem, such as for simplicial model categories.
- Explain the extent to which our approach extends to the monoidal case, and explain how it relates to Hovey's open problem on monoidal model categories [Hov, Problem 10].
- Localizing the subcategory of CombSMMC at Quillen equivalences recover the core of  $\mathcal{P}\mathcal{S}\mathcal{M}$ .
- Applications to the comparison of models of enriched  $\infty$ -operads.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Combinatorial model categories are among the most widely used models of presentable  $\infty$ -categories. Given a combinatorial model category  $\mathcal{M}$ , one can associate its underlying  $\infty$ -category  $L(\mathcal{M})$ , which is the localization of  $\mathcal{M}$  at weak equivalences. A classical theorem of Dugger and Lurie [Dug01, Lur09] asserts that not only  $L(\mathcal{M})$  is presentable, but also that every presentable  $\infty$ -categories arises in this way. Their result validates the catchy slogans, such as “presentable  $\infty$ -categories are the  $\infty$ -categories *presented* by combinatorial model categories,” and “combinatorial model categories are *models* of presentable  $\infty$ -categories.”

In a recent work [Pav25], Pavlov upgraded these slogans to the level of entire homotopy theories. More precisely, he showed that the localization of the relative category of combinatorial model categories (with left Quillen functors as morphisms and left Quillen equivalences as weak equivalences) is equivalent to the  $\infty$ -category  $\mathcal{P}\mathcal{L}$  of presentable  $\infty$ -categories and left adjoints. This result confirmed one precise formulation of one of open problems in Hovey's list [Hov, Problem 11].

Beyond this foundational equivalence, Pavlov also conjectured some natural conjectures extending this comparison to categories equipped with additional structure. Chief among them is Conjecture 1.9 of loc. cit., which says that there is a similar equivalence of homotopy theories of (a) combinatorial symmetric monoidal model categories; and (b) presentably symmetric monoidal  $\infty$ -categories. Just as in the case of plain model categories and plain  $\infty$ -categories, there are some supporting evidence for this conjecture: For example, a theorem of Nikolaus–Sagave says that every presentably symmetric monoidal  $\infty$ -category is the localization of a combinatorial, symmetric monoidal  $\infty$ -category [NS17]. (The monoidal version of this

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*Date:* December 6, 2025.

claim was also proved recently in [Ara25].) However, the conjecture has proved to be difficult and remained open to this day.

In this paper, we prove this conjecture in its full generality. More precisely, we prove that:

**Theorem 1.1** (Theorem3.4). *The functor*

$$L: \text{CombSMMC} \rightarrow \mathcal{P}\text{rSM}$$

*is a localization at left Quillen equivalences, where:*

- *CombSMMC denotes the (very large) category of combinatorial symmetric monoidal categories (Definition 2.2) and left Quillen symmetric monoidal functors.*
- *$\mathcal{P}\text{rSM}$  denotes the (very large)  $\infty$ -category of presentably symmetric monoidal  $\infty$ -categories and symmetric monoidal functors whose underlying functor preserve small colimits.*
- *The functor  $L$  assigns to each combinatorial symmetric monoidal category its underlying symmetric monoidal  $\infty$ -category.*

*A similar theorem holds in the monoidal case, too.*

Our approach to Theorem 1.1 is similar in spirit to that of Pavlov, but extending his argument to the symmetric monoidal setting is entirely nontrivial. His approach is built upon the work of Barwick–Kan [BK12b], which says that  $\infty$ -categories can be modeled by relative  $\infty$ -categories, and the work of Dugger and Low on presenting combinatorial model categories [Dug01, Low16]. Both of these work have to be extended to the symmetric monoidal setting. We will replace Barwick–Kan’s result by the author’s earlier work on symmetric monoidal relative categories [Ara25]. Dugger and Low’s results will be replaced by the new model category of symmetric cubical sets (Subsection 6.1).

**1.1. Organization of the paper.** In Section 2, we recall the definition of monoidal model categories and their variations. In Section 3, we state the main theorem, and then show that it follows from three separate propositions. The proof of these propositions will be given in the next three sections (Section 4, 5, and 6.2). The appendix contains some miscellaneous results that will be used in the paper.

## 1.2. Notation and Convention.

- In addition to the ZFC axioms, we will assume the existence of three nested Grothendieck universes whose elements are called small sets, large sets, and very large sets.<sup>1</sup> All locally presentable categories are assumed to be large, so that the collection of locally presentable categories themselves form a very large set.
- We assume that model categories are at most large.
- We use the term “regular cardinal” to mean “small regular cardinal.”
- By  $\infty$ -categories, we mean *quasicategories* in the sense of [Joy02, Lur09]. We mostly follow the terminology and notation of [Lur09].
- We let  $\text{SMCat}_\infty$  denote the  $\infty$ -category of small symmetric monoidal  $\infty$ -categories (defined as the localization of the model category described in [Lur17, Variant 2.1.4.13]). We write  $\widehat{\text{SMCat}}_\infty$  for the  $\infty$ -category of large symmetric monoidal  $\infty$ -categories.

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<sup>1</sup>Although Pavlov did not make this assumption in his paper [Pav25], it seems extremely inconvenient to drop this assumption due to the very nature of the statements we will prove. For example, the statement of the main theorem itself needs to be adjusted if we only use ZFC.

- We will not notationally distinguish between ordinary categories and their nerves. We will also regard every  $(2, 1)$ -category as an  $\infty$ -category by taking its Duskin nerve. Recall that this converts  $(2, 1)$ -categories into  $\infty$ -categories, and it is functorial in strictly unitary pseudofunctors [Lur25, Tag 00AU].

## 2. MONOIDAL MODEL CATEGORIES AND THEIR VARIATIONS

The use of the term “monoidal model category” and its variations is not entirely standardized in the literature. The goal of this section is to record the precise definition we will use.

**2.1. Plain case.** We start with the definition of monoidal model categories. There are several competing definitions in the literature: Most definitions in the literature require the pushout-product axiom, but they often differ in their requirement on how “flat” the unit object should be. In some literature (e.g., [Lur17]), the unit object is required to be cofibrant. This assumption is convenient for theoretical purposes but ends up excluding many interesting examples, such as [Examples]. At the other extreme (e.g., [PS18]), no condition on the unit object is assumed. In this paper, we go for a middle ground that is satisfied by most monoidal model categories we encounter in practice.

**Definition 2.1.** Let  $\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B}, \mathbf{C}$  be model categories. A functor  $F: \mathbf{A} \times \mathbf{B} \rightarrow \mathbf{C}$  is called a **left Quillen bifunctor** if it satisfies the following pair of conditions:

- (1) The functor  $F$  preserves small colimits in each variable.
- (2) For every pair of cofibrations  $f: A \rightarrow A'$  in  $\mathbf{A}$  and  $g: B \rightarrow B'$  in  $\mathbf{B}$ , the map

$$F(A, B') \amalg_{F(A, B)} F(A', B) \rightarrow F(A, B)$$

is a cofibration, and moreover it is a weak equivalence if  $f$  or  $g$  is one.

**Definition 2.2.**

- A **monoidal model category** is a biclosed monoidal category  $(\mathbf{M}, \otimes, \mathbf{1})$  equipped with a model structure, satisfying the following axioms:
  - (1) (**Pushout-product axiom**) The functor  $\otimes: \mathbf{M} \times \mathbf{M} \rightarrow \mathbf{M}$  is a left Quillen bifunctor (Definition 2.1).
  - (2) (**Very strong unit axiom** [Mur15]) There is a weak equivalence  $q: \tilde{\mathbf{1}} \rightarrow \mathbf{1}$ , with  $\tilde{\mathbf{1}}$  cofibrant, such that for every object  $X \in \mathbf{M}$ , the maps  $X \otimes q$  and  $q \otimes X$  are weak equivalences.
- We say that a monoidal model category is **combinatorial** if its underlying model category is combinatorial.
- If  $\mathbf{M}$  and  $\mathbf{N}$  are monoidal model categories, then a **monoidal left Quillen functor** is a monoidal functor<sup>2</sup>  $\mathbf{M} \rightarrow \mathbf{N}$  whose underlying functor of model categories is left Quillen. We will write  $\text{Fun}^{\otimes, L}(\mathbf{M}, \mathbf{N})$  for the category of monoidal left Quillen functors  $\mathbf{M} \rightarrow \mathbf{N}$  and monoidal natural transformations between them.
- We will write **CombMMC** for the (very large) category of combinatorial monoidal model categories and monoidal left Quillen functors, and write **CombMMC**<sup>1</sup>  $\subset$  **CombMMC** for the full subcategory spanned by the combinatorial monoidal model categories with cofibrant unit.

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<sup>2</sup>By a monoidal functor, we mean a strong monoidal functor in the sense of [ML98, Chapter XI].

- **Symmetric monoidal model categories** and **symmetric monoidal left Quillen functors** are defined similarly. (We will use the notation  $\text{Fun}^{\otimes, L}(-, -)$  in the symmetric monoidal case, too. This is abusive but is rarely confusing.) The categories  $\text{CombSMMC}$  and  $\text{CombSMMC}^1$  are also defined similarly, using combinatorial symmetric monoidal model categories.

The reason why we adopt Muro's unit axiom is that it allows us to turn every monoidal model category into one with cofibrant unit. More precisely, we have the following theorem.

**Theorem 2.3.** [Mur15, Theorem 1, Proposition 12] *The inclusion  $\text{CombMMC}^1 \subset \text{CombMMC}$  admits a left adjoint. Moreover, the unit of this adjunction preserves and reflects weak equivalences and induces an isomorphism of underlying monoidal categories. A similar claim holds for combinatorial symmetric monoidal model categories.*

The categories  $\text{CombMMC}$  can be upgraded to a  $(2, 1)$ -category  $\text{CombMMC}_{(2,1)}$ , whose mapping groupoid are given by the maximal subgroupoid  $\text{Fun}^{\otimes, L}(\mathbf{M}, \mathbf{N}) \subset \text{Fun}^{\otimes, L}(\mathbf{M}, \mathbf{N})$ . We will use similar notations for the categories introduced in Definition 2.2. These  $\infty$ -categories satisfy the following universal property:

**Proposition 2.4.** *The functors*

$$\begin{aligned} \text{CombMMC} &\rightarrow \text{CombMMC}_{(2,1)}, \\ \text{CombMMC}^1 &\rightarrow \text{CombMMC}_{(2,1)}^1, \\ \text{CombSMMC} &\rightarrow \text{CombSMMC}_{(2,1)}, \\ \text{CombSMMC}^1 &\rightarrow \text{CombSMMC}_{(2,1)}^1 \end{aligned}$$

*are  $\infty$ -categorical localizations at the left Quillen functors whose underlying functors are equivalences of categories.*

*Proof.* We will prove the assertion for the first functor; the remaining assertions can be proved in a similar way. According to (the dual of) [ACK25, Corollary 3.16], it suffices to show that  $\text{CombMMC}_{(2,1)}$  admits weak cotensor by  $[1]$ . That is, it suffices to show that for each  $\mathbf{N} \in \text{CombMMC}_{(2,1)}$ , there is an object  $[1] \pitchfork \mathbf{N}$  admitting an isomorphism of groupoids

$$\text{Fun}^{\otimes, L}(\mathbf{M}, [1] \pitchfork \mathbf{N}) \xrightarrow{\sim} \text{Fun}\left([1], \text{Fun}^{\otimes, L}(\mathbf{M}, \mathbf{N})\right)$$

natural in  $\mathbf{M} \in \text{CombMMC}$ . For this, we consider the groupoid  $J$  with two objects  $0, 1$ , and with exactly one morphism between any pair of objects. We can make  $\mathbf{N}^J$  into a monoidal model category by using the degreewise tensor product and the model structure coming from the equivalence of categories  $\mathbf{N} \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathbf{N}^J$ . Then  $\mathbf{N}^J$  is a weak cotensor of  $\mathbf{N}$  by  $[1]$ , and we are done.  $\square$

**2.2. Enriched case.** We next turn to the definition of enriched monoidal model categories.

**Definition 2.5.** Let  $\mathbf{V}$  be a combinatorial symmetric monoidal model category.

- A  **$\mathbf{V}$ -monoidal model category** is a tensored and cotensored  $\mathbf{V}$ -monoidal category  $\mathbf{M}$  (in the sense of [Day70]) equipped with a model structure on its underlying category, such that the tensor bifunctor

$$\mathbf{V} \times \mathbf{M} \rightarrow \mathbf{M}$$

is a left Quillen bifunctor.

- We say that a  $\mathbf{V}$ -monoidal model category is **combinatorial** if its underlying model category is combinatorial.
- If  $\mathbf{M}$  and  $\mathbf{N}$  are  $\mathbf{V}$ -monoidal model categories, we write  $\text{Fun}_{\mathbf{V}}^{\otimes, L}(\mathbf{M}, \mathbf{N})$  for the category of  $\mathbf{V}$ -monoidal functors  $\mathbf{M} \rightarrow \mathbf{N}$  that are  $\mathbf{V}$ -cocontinuous and whose underlying functors are left Quillen.
- We write  $\text{CombMMC}_{\mathbf{V},(2,1)}$  for the  $(2, 1)$ -category whose objects are the combinatorial  $\mathbf{V}$ -monoidal model categories, with hom-groupoids given by the maximal subgroupoids of  $\text{Fun}_{\mathbf{V}}^{\otimes, L}(-, -)$ .
- We write  $\text{CombMMC}_{\mathbf{V}}$  for the underlying category of  $\text{CombMMC}_{\mathbf{V},(2,1)}$ .

We define  $\mathbf{V}$ -symmetric monoidal model categories similarly, and define a  $(2, 1)$ -category  $\text{CombSMMC}_{\mathbf{V},(2,1)}$  and an ordinary category  $\text{CombSMMC}_{\mathbf{V}}$  similarly.

The definition of enriched symmetric monoidal model categories can be equivalently (?) stated in terms of *symmetric algebras*. The category of symmetric algebras, however, looks slightly different from  $\text{CombSMMC}_{\mathbf{V}}$ .

**Definition 2.6.** Let  $\mathbf{V}$  be a combinatorial symmetric monoidal model category.

- A **symmetric  $\mathbf{V}$ -algebra** is a monoidal model category  $\mathbf{M}$  equipped with a monoidal left Quillen functor  $\mathbf{V} \rightarrow \mathbf{M}$ .
- We say that a central  $\mathbf{V}$ -algebra is **combinatorial** if its underlying model category is combinatorial.
- We write  $\text{CombSymV-Alg}_{(2,1)} = \int^{\mathbf{M} \in \text{CombSMMC}_{(2,1)}} \text{Fun}^{\otimes, L}(\mathbf{V}, \mathbf{M})$  for the  $(2, 1)$ -category of combinatorial symmetric  $\mathbf{V}$ -algebras, where  $\int$  denotes the 2-Grothendieck construction [Str80, 1.10]. Explicitly:
  - Objects are combinatorial symmetric  $\mathbf{V}$ -algebras.
  - A 1-morphism  $(F: \mathbf{V} \rightarrow \mathbf{M}) \rightarrow (G: \mathbf{V} \rightarrow \mathbf{N})$  is a pair  $(H, \alpha)$ , where  $H: \mathbf{M} \rightarrow \mathbf{N}$  is a symmetric monoidal functor and  $\alpha: HF \Rightarrow G$  is a symmetric monoidal natural transformation.
  - A 2-morphism  $(H, \alpha) \Rightarrow (H', \alpha'): (F: \mathbf{V} \rightarrow \mathbf{M}) \rightarrow (G: \mathbf{V} \rightarrow \mathbf{N})$  is a symmetric monoidal natural isomorphism  $\beta: H \xrightarrow{\cong} H'$  satisfying  $\alpha' \circ \beta F = \alpha$ :

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
\begin{array}{c} \mathbf{V} \\ \swarrow F \quad \searrow G \\ \mathbf{M} \xrightarrow{H} \mathbf{N} \end{array} & = & \begin{array}{c} \mathbf{V} \\ \swarrow F \quad \searrow G \\ \mathbf{M} \xrightarrow{H} \mathbf{N} \\ \text{with } \alpha' \Rightarrow H' \\ \text{and } \beta: H \xrightarrow{\cong} H' \end{array}
\end{array}$$

- We write  $\text{CombSymV-Alg}$  for the underlying category of  $\text{CombSymV-Alg}_{(2,1)}$ .

*Remark 2.7.* There is a related notion of *central algebras* [Hov99, Definition 4.1.10], but they are not amenable to the techniques we use in this paper.

As in Proposition 2.4, we have:

**Proposition 2.8.** Let  $\mathbf{V}$  be a combinatorial symmetric monoidal model category. The functors

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{CombMMC}_{\mathbf{V}} &\rightarrow \text{CombMMC}_{\mathbf{V},(2,1)} \\
\text{CombSMMC}_{\mathbf{V}} &\rightarrow \text{CombSMMC}_{\mathbf{V},(2,1)} \\
\text{CombSymV-Alg} &\rightarrow \text{CombSymV-Alg}_{(2,1)}
\end{aligned}$$

are all localizations.

**2.3. Semi case (draft).** A (left) **semi-model category** is a weakening of a Quillen model category in which the axioms of lifting and factorization are only required to hold for cofibrations with *cofibrant* source [BW24, Definition 2.1]. While this leads to a less attractive sets of axioms, semi-model categories are essentially indistinguishable from model categories. The main advantages of semi-model categories over ordinary model categories is that they are much easier to construct than a full model structure, and that they are fully compatible with (left) Bousfield localizations [BW24, Theorem A]. For these reasons, semi-model categories have become increasingly popular, and we have no reason not to include them in this paper.

**Definition 2.9.** The definition of monoidal model categories carries over to the semi-model categorical case. We define categories  $\text{CombMMC}_{\text{semi}}$ ,  $\text{CombMMC}_{\text{semi}}^1$ ,  $\text{CombSMMC}_{\text{semi}}$ , and  $\text{CombSMMC}_{\text{semi}}^1$  exactly as in Definition 2.2. These categories have associated  $(2, 1)$ -categories, which we denote by  $\text{CombMMC}_{\text{semi},(2,1)}$ , etc.

Given a combinatorial symmetric monoidal semi-model category  $\mathbf{V}$ , we also define  $\text{CombSym}\mathbf{V}\text{-Alg}_{\text{semi}}$  exactly as in

*Remark 2.10.* Theorem 2.3 and Proposition 2.4 remains valid for semi-model categories, with the same proof. [Check this!]

### 3. MAIN RESULT

In this section, we state the main result of this paper, and then indicate how we will prove it.

To state our main result, we need a bit of terminology and notation.

**Definition 3.1.** [Ara25, Definition 0.1] A **symmetric monoidal relative category** is a symmetric monoidal category  $\mathbf{C}$  equipped with a subcategory  $\mathbf{W} \subset \mathbf{C}$  of **weak equivalences**, which contains all isomorphisms and is stable under tensor products.

We write  $\text{SMRelCat}$  for the category of small symmetric monoidal relative categories and symmetric monoidal relative functors that preserve weak equivalences. We define the category  $\widehat{\text{SMRelCat}}$  of *large* symmetric monoidal relative categories similarly.

**Example 3.2.** Let  $\mathbf{M}$  be a symmetric monoidal model category. Weak equivalences of  $\mathbf{M}$  are generally not stable under tensor products, so  $\mathbf{M}$  is generally *not* a symmetric monoidal relative category. Nonetheless, its full subcategory  $\mathbf{M}^\flat \subset \mathbf{M}$  of cofibrant objects and the objects isomorphic to the unit objects is a symmetric monoidal relative category.

For the next definition, we recall that localization of symmetric monoidal relative categories assembles to a functor  $L: \text{SMRelCat} \rightarrow \widehat{\text{SMCat}_\infty}$  [Ara25, Notation 2.1].

**Definition 3.3.** We define a functor

$$(-)_\infty : \text{CombSMMC} \rightarrow \text{PrSM}$$

as the codomain restriction of the composite

$$\text{CombSMMC} \xrightarrow{(-)^\flat} \widehat{\text{SMRelCat}} \xrightarrow{L} \widehat{\text{SMCat}_\infty}.$$

(Note that this is well-defined by [Lur17, Proposition 1.3.4.22 and Corollary 1.3.4.26].) If  $\mathbf{M}$  is a combinatorial symmetric monoidal model category, we refer to  $\mathbf{M}_\infty$  as its **underlying symmetric monoidal  $\infty$ -category**.

We now arrive at the statement of the main result.

**Theorem 3.4.** *The functor  $(-)_\infty$  of Definition 3.3 is a localization at Quillen equivalences, i.e., it induces a categorical equivalence*

$$\text{CombSMMC}[\text{Quill.eq}^{-1}] \xrightarrow{\sim} \text{PrSM}.$$

We will prove Theorem 3.4 as follows: Fix a left proper tractable symmetric monoidal model category  $\mathbf{S}$  with cofibrant unit, whose underlying symmetric monoidal  $\infty$ -category is equivalent to the cartesian monoidal  $\infty$ -category  $\mathcal{S}$  of  $\infty$ -groupoids.<sup>3</sup> (Examples include the cartesian model category of simplicial sets with the Kan–Quillen model structure.) We also define a category  $\widehat{\text{SMRelCat}}_{\text{PrSM}}$  by the pullback

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \widehat{\text{SMRelCat}}_{\text{PrSM}} & \longrightarrow & \widehat{\text{SMRelCat}} \\ \downarrow & \lrcorner & \downarrow L \\ \text{PrSM} & \longrightarrow & \widehat{\text{SMCat}}_\infty. \end{array}$$

We then contemplate the following commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \text{CombSymS-Alg} & \xrightarrow{U} & \text{CombSMMC}^1 & \xleftarrow{\iota} & \text{CombSMMC} \\ (-)_b \downarrow & & & & \downarrow (-)_\infty \\ \widehat{\text{SMRelCat}}_{\text{PrSM}} & \xrightarrow{L} & & & \widehat{\text{PrSMCat}}_\infty, \end{array}$$

where  $U$  is the forgetful functor and  $\iota$  is the inclusion. We will then prove that:

**Proposition 3.5.** *The functor  $L: \widehat{\text{SMRelCat}}_{\text{PrSM}} \rightarrow \widehat{\text{PrSMCat}}_\infty$  induces a categorical equivalence*

$$\widehat{\text{SMRelCat}}_{\text{Pr}}[\text{loc.eq}^{-1}] \rightarrow \widehat{\text{PrSMCat}}_\infty,$$

where  $\text{loc.eq}$  denotes the subcategory of **local equivalences**, i.e., morphisms inverted by  $L$ .

**Proposition 3.6.** *The functor  $(-)_b$  induces a categorical equivalence*

$$\text{CombSymS-Alg}[\text{Quill.eq}^{-1}] \xrightarrow{\sim} \widehat{\text{SMRelCat}}_{\text{PrSM}}[\text{loc.eq}^{-1}].$$

**Proposition 3.7.** *The functor  $U$  induces a categorical equivalence*

$$\text{CombSymS-Alg}[\text{Quill.eq}^{-1}] \xrightarrow{\sim} \text{CombSMMC}^1[\text{Quill.eq}^{-1}].$$

The proof of these propositions will be given in the next three sections (Section 4, 5, and 6). Since we know that  $\iota$  induces a categorical equivalence upon localizing at Quillen equivalences (Theorem 2.3), these proposition will prove Theorem 3.4.

#### 4. PROOF OF PROPOSITION 3.5

We first prove Proposition 3.5, which asserts that the functor

$$\widehat{\text{SMRelCat}}_{\text{PrSM}}[\text{loc.eq}^{-1}] \rightarrow \text{PrSM}$$

is an equivalence. This will be follow from the following more general assertion:

**Lemma 4.1.** *For every subcategory  $\mathcal{X} \subset \widehat{\text{SMCat}}_\infty$  containing all equivalences, the functor*

$$\text{SMRelCat}_{\mathcal{X}} = \mathcal{X} \times_{\widehat{\text{SMCat}}_\infty} \text{SMRelCat} \rightarrow \mathcal{X}$$

*is a localization.*

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<sup>3</sup>Since  $\mathcal{S}$  is the initial presentably symmetric monoidal  $\infty$ -category [Lur17, Corollary 3.2.1.9, Example 4.8.1.20], such an equivalence is unique up to a contractible space of choices if it exists.

Replacing  $\mathcal{SM}\mathcal{C}\mathbf{at}_\infty$  by  $\widehat{\mathcal{SM}\mathcal{C}\mathbf{at}}_\infty$  and then substituting  $\mathcal{P}\mathcal{R}\mathcal{SM}$  for  $\mathcal{X}$ , we obtain Proposition 3.5.

For the proof of Lemma 4.1, we need to set up some definitions.

- We write  $\mathbf{RelCat}$  for the category of small **relative categories**, a category  $\mathcal{C}$  equipped with a subcategory  $\mathcal{W} \subset \mathcal{C}$  containing all isomorphisms. This should not be confused with the definition of Barwick–Kan [BK12b], which they only require that  $\mathcal{W}$  contains all objects. For disambiguation, we will write  $\mathbf{RelCat}_{\mathbf{BK}}$  for the slightly larger category of Barwick–Kan’s relative categories that are small.
- A morphism  $f : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$  of  $\mathbf{RelCat}_{\mathbf{BK}}$  is called a **local equivalences** if it induces an equivalence between the ( $\infty$ -categorical) localizations. If further there is a functor  $g : \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  and zig-zags of natural weak equivalences connecting  $f \circ g$  and  $g \circ f$  to the identity functors, we say that  $f$  is **homotopy equivalence**.
- Recall that a symmetric monoidal category is called a **permutative category** if its underlying monoidal category is strict (i.e., its associators and the unitors are the identity maps). We write  $\mathbf{PermRelCat} \subset \mathbf{SMRelCat}$  for the full subcategory of symmetric monoidal relative categories whose underlying symmetric monoidal categories are permutative categories.
- The categories  $\mathbf{RelCat}$ ,  $\mathbf{RelCat}_{\mathbf{BK}}$ ,  $\mathbf{PermRelCat}$ ,  $\mathbf{SMRelCat}$  can be regarded as relative categories whose weak equivalences are the local equivalences.
- We write  $\mathbf{Fin}_*$  for the category of finite pointed sets and pointed maps. We write  $\mathbf{Fun}^{\text{Seg}}(\mathbf{Fin}_*, \mathbf{RelCat}) \subset \mathbf{Fun}^{\text{Seg}}(\mathbf{Fin}_*, \mathbf{RelCat})$  for the full subcategory spanned by the functors  $F : \mathbf{Fin}_* \rightarrow \mathbf{RelCat}$  satisfying the **Segal condition**: For every  $n \geq 0$ , the map  $\rho_i : (\{0, \dots, n\}, 0) \rightarrow (\{0, 1\}, 0)$  defined by

$$\rho_i(j) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } i \neq j, \\ 1 & \text{if } i = j, \end{cases}$$

induces a local equivalence

$$F((\{0, \dots, n\}, 0)) \xrightarrow{\sim} \prod_{1 \leq i \leq n} F(\{0, 1\}, 0).$$

We define  $\mathbf{Fun}^{\text{Seg}}(\mathbf{Fin}_*, \mathbf{RelCat}_{\mathbf{BK}}) \subset \mathbf{Fun}^{\text{Seg}}(\mathbf{Fin}_*, \mathbf{RelCat}_{\mathbf{BK}})$  similarly.

*Proof of Lemma 4.1.* Since symmetric categories are functorially equivalent to permutative categories [May78, Proposition 4.2], we may replace  $\mathbf{SMRelCat}$  by  $\mathbf{PermRelCat}$ .

According to [Ara25, Theorem 1.1], there is a homotopy equivalence  $\text{Fact} : \mathbf{PermRelCat} \rightarrow \mathbf{Fun}^{\text{Seg}}(\mathbf{Fin}_*, \mathbf{RelCat})$  of relative categories. The proof of loc. cit. further shows that the localization of  $\mathbf{Fun}^{\text{Seg}}(\mathbf{Fin}_*, \mathbf{RelCat})$  is equivalent to  $\mathcal{SM}\mathcal{C}\mathbf{at}_\infty$ , and the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathbf{PermRelCat} & \xrightarrow{\text{Fact}} & \mathbf{Fun}^{\text{Seg}}(\mathbf{Fin}_*, \mathbf{RelCat}) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \text{localization} \\ \mathbf{SMRelCat} & \xrightarrow{L} & \mathcal{SM}\mathcal{C}\mathbf{at}_\infty. \end{array}$$

commutes up to natural equivalence. Consequently, it will suffice to show that the functor

$$\mathbf{Fun}^{\text{Seg}}(\mathbf{Fin}_*, \mathbf{RelCat})_{\mathcal{X}} \rightarrow \mathcal{X}$$

is a localization. Since the inclusion  $\mathbf{RelCat} \hookrightarrow \mathbf{RelCat}_{\mathbf{BK}}$  is a homotopy equivalence of relative categories, we are free to replace  $\mathbf{RelCat}$  by  $\mathbf{RelCat}_{\mathbf{BK}}$ .

We now recall from [BK12b, Theorem 6.1] and [BK12a, Theorem 1.8] that  $\mathbf{RelCat}_{\mathbf{BK}}$  and its local equivalences is part of a combinatorial model structure.

Therefore, Theorem B.1 and [Hir03, Theorem 11.6.1.] gives that the localization

$$\mathrm{Fun}(\mathrm{Fin}_*, \mathrm{RelCat}_{\mathrm{BK}}) \rightarrow \mathrm{Fun}(\mathrm{Fin}_*, \mathrm{RelCat}_{\mathrm{BK}})[\mathrm{weq}^{-1}]$$

is stable under pullback. In particular, the functor

$$\mathrm{Fun}^{\mathrm{Seg}}(\mathrm{Fin}_*, \mathrm{RelCat}_{\mathrm{BK}}) \rightarrow \mathcal{X}$$

is a localization, which was to be proved.  $\square$

## 5. PROOF OF PROPOSITION 3.6

**Notation 5.1.** Throughout this section, we fix a left proper, tractable, symmetric monoidal model category  $\mathbf{S}$  with cofibrant unit, whose underlying symmetric monoidal  $\infty$ -category is equivalent to the cartesian monoidal  $\infty$ -category  $\mathcal{S}$  of  $\infty$ -groupoids.

In this section, we give a proof of Proposition 3.6, which asserts that the functor

$$\mathrm{CombSym}\mathbf{S}\text{-Alg}[\mathrm{Quill.eq}^{-1}] \xrightarrow{\sim} \widehat{\mathrm{SMRelCat}}_{\mathrm{Pr}\mathcal{SM}}[\mathrm{loc.eq}^{-1}]$$

is an equivalence. This will need two ingredients: A relative-categorical version of the multiplicative Gabriel–Ulmer duality, and some formal cardinality argument of model categories. We will tackle each of these in the next two subsections, and then prove Proposition 3.6 at the end of this subsection.

**5.1. Relative categorical multiplicative Gabriel–Ulmer duality.** In this subsection, we state and prove a relative categorical multiplicative Gabriel–Ulmer duality (Proposition 5.7).

**Notation 5.2.** For each subcategory  $\mathcal{X} \subset \mathrm{SMCat}_\infty$  containing all equivalences, we will write  $\mathrm{SMRelCat}_{\mathcal{X}} = \mathcal{X} \times_{\mathrm{SMCat}_\infty} \mathrm{SMRelCat}$ , and define  $\mathrm{SMRelCat}_{(2,1),\mathcal{X}} \subset \mathrm{SMRelCat}_{(2,1)}$  for the sub  $(2,1)$ -category whose mapping groupoids are the components corresponding to the morphisms in  $\mathrm{SMRelCat}_{\mathcal{X}}$ .

**Lemma 5.3.** *For every subcategory  $\mathcal{X} \subset \mathrm{SMCat}_\infty$  containing all equivalences, the inclusion  $\mathrm{SMRelCat}_{\mathcal{X}} \hookrightarrow \mathrm{SMRelCat}_{(2,1),\mathcal{X}}$  is a localization.*

*Proof.* According to [ACK25, Corollary 3.15], it suffices to show that the 2-category  $\mathrm{SMRelCat}_{(2,1),\mathcal{X}}$  admits a weak cotensor by the poset  $[1] = \{0 < 1\}$ . Given an object  $\mathcal{C} \in \mathrm{SMRelCat}_{(2,1)}$ , a weak cotensor by  $[1]$  is given by  $\mathcal{C}^J$ , where  $J$  denotes the free groupoid on  $[1]$ , the functor category  $\mathcal{C}^J$  is endowed with the degreewise tensor product, and the weak equivalences of  $\mathcal{C}^J$  are the natural weak equivalences.  $\square$

**Notation 5.4.** Let  $\kappa$  be a small regular cardinal. We write  $\mathrm{SMCat}_\infty(\kappa)$  for the subcategory of  $\mathrm{SMCat}_\infty$  spanned by the symmetric monoidal  $\infty$ -categories that compatible with  $\kappa$ -small colimits. We write  $\mathrm{SMCat}_\infty^{\mathrm{idem}}(\kappa)$  for its full subcategory spanned by the objects that are idempotent complete.

**Construction 5.5.** Let  $\kappa$  be a small regular cardinal. For each  $\mathcal{C} \in \mathrm{SMRelCat}_{\mathrm{SMCat}_\infty^{\mathrm{idem}}(\kappa)}$ , we define an  $\mathbf{S}$ -algebra  $\mathbf{Ind}_\kappa^{\mathbf{S}}(L(\mathcal{C}))$  as follows:

- Its underlying category is  $\mathrm{Fun}(\mathcal{C}^{\mathrm{op}}, \mathbf{S})$ .
- The symmetric monoidal structure comes from Day's convolution product.
- The symmetric monoidal functor  $\mathbf{S} \rightarrow \mathrm{Fun}(\mathcal{C}^{\mathrm{op}}, \mathbf{S})$  is given by  $X \mapsto \mathbf{1} \otimes X$ , where  $\mathbf{1}$  denotes the unit of Day's convolution product and the tensor product is formed objectwise.
- The model structure is the left Bousfield localization of the projective model structure on  $\mathrm{Fun}(\mathcal{C}^{\mathrm{op}}, \mathbf{S})$  whose weak equivalences are the maps inverted by the composite

$$\mathrm{Fun}(\mathcal{C}^{\mathrm{op}}, \mathbf{S}) \rightarrow \mathrm{Fun}(\mathcal{C}^{\mathrm{op}}, \mathcal{S}) \rightarrow \mathrm{Fun}(L(\mathcal{C})^{\mathrm{op}}, \mathcal{S}) \rightarrow \mathrm{Ind}_\kappa(L(\mathcal{C})).$$

Here, the first functor is the postcomposition with the localization  $\mathbf{S} \rightarrow \mathcal{S}$ , the second functor is the left adjoint of the restriction along the localization functor  $\mathcal{C} \rightarrow L(\mathcal{C})$ , and the third functor is the left adjoint to the inclusion  $\text{Ind}_\kappa(L(\mathcal{C})) \hookrightarrow \text{Fun}(L(\mathcal{C}), \mathcal{S})$ .

**Lemma 5.6.** *Construction 5.5 is well-defined. More precisely, in the situation of Construction 5.5, the following holds:*

- (1) *The model category  $\text{Ind}_\kappa^{\mathbf{S}}(L(\mathcal{C}))$  exists.*
- (2) *The model category  $\text{Ind}_\kappa^{\mathbf{S}}(L(\mathcal{C}))$  satisfies the pushout-product axiom for the Day convolution product and has cofibrant counit.*
- (3) *The symmetric monoidal functor  $\mathbf{S} \rightarrow \text{Ind}_\kappa^{\mathbf{S}}(L(\mathcal{C}))$  is left Quillen.*

*Proof.* We start with (1). This is the consequence of the following more general result, which is folklore:

(ast) Let  $\mathbf{M}$  be a combinatorial left proper model category with underlying  $\infty$ -category  $\mathcal{M}$ , and let  $F : \mathcal{M} \rightarrow \mathcal{N}$  be a functor admitting a fully faithful right adjoint, where  $\mathcal{N}$  is presentable.. There is a left Bousfield localization  $\mathbf{N}$  of  $\mathbf{M}$  whose weak equivalences are the maps inverted by the composite  $\mathbf{M} \xrightarrow{F} \mathcal{N}$ . Moreover, the induced functor  $\mathbf{N} \rightarrow \mathcal{N}$  is a localization at weak equivalences.

To prove (\*), we recall from [Lur09, Proposition 5.5.4.2] that there is a small set  $S$  of morphisms of  $\mathcal{M}$  with the following property: An object  $M \in \mathcal{M}$  lies in the essential image of the right adjoint  $G : \mathcal{N} \rightarrow \mathcal{M}$  if and only if it is  **$S$ -local**, i.e.,  $\mathcal{M}(f, M)$  is an equivalence for every  $f \in S$ . By [Bar10, Theorem 4.7], there is a left Bousfield localization  $L_S \mathbf{M}$  of  $\mathbf{M}$  at  $S$ , and it has the following description:

- Fibrant objects are the fibrant objects of  $\mathbf{M}$  whose image in  $\mathcal{M}$  is  $S$ -local.
- Weak equivalences are the maps inverted by the composite  $\mathbf{M} \rightarrow \mathcal{M} \xrightarrow{F} \mathcal{N}$ .

Using the universal property of localization, we obtain a commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{M} & \xrightarrow{F} & \mathcal{N} \\ & \searrow \phi & \swarrow \psi \\ & (L_H \mathbf{M})[\text{weq}^{-1}] & \end{array}$$

The functor  $\phi$  is a localization, and by definition a morphism of  $\mathcal{M}$  is inverted by  $F$  if and only if it is inverted by  $\phi$ . So  $F$  and  $\phi$  are inverting the same morphism. Hence  $\psi$  is an equivalence, which proves that  $\mathbf{N} \rightarrow \mathcal{N}$  is a localization.

Next, we prove (2). Choose generating sets  $I, J$  of cofibrations and trivial cofibrations of  $\mathbf{S}$ . According to [Hir03, Theorem 11.6.1], the sets  $I_{\mathcal{C}} = \{\mathcal{C}(-, C) \otimes i\}_{i \in I, C \in \mathcal{C}}$  and  $J_{\mathcal{C}} = \{\mathcal{C}(-, C) \otimes j\}_{j \in J, C \in \mathcal{C}}$  generate cofibrations and trivial cofibrations of the projective model structure on  $\text{Fun}(\mathcal{C}^{\text{op}}, \mathbf{S})$ . It follows immediately that, in the projective model structure, the unit object is cofibrant, the pushout-product axiom is satisfied, and that the model structure is tractable. Therefore, it will suffice to show that for every weak equivalence  $f : A \rightarrow B$  of cofibrant object of  $\text{Ind}_\kappa^{\mathbf{S}}(L(\mathcal{C}))$  and every cofibrant object  $X \in \text{Ind}_\kappa^{\mathbf{S}}(L(\mathcal{C}))$ , the map  $X \otimes f$  is again a weak equivalence. But this is clear, because the composite

$$\text{Fun}(\mathcal{C}^{\text{op}}, \mathbf{S})_{\text{cof}} \rightarrow \text{Fun}(\mathcal{C}^{\text{op}}, \mathcal{S}) \rightarrow \text{Fun}(L(\mathcal{C})^{\text{op}}, \mathcal{S}) \rightarrow \text{Ind}_\kappa(L(\mathcal{C}))$$

is symmetric monoidal.

Claim (3) follows from the fact that its right adjoint is the evaluation at the unit object, which is evidently right Quillen. The claim follows.  $\square$

**Proposition 5.7.** *The strictly unitary pseudofunctor*

$$\begin{aligned} \text{SMRelCat}_{\mathcal{SM}\mathcal{C}\mathcal{A}\mathcal{T}_\infty^{\text{idem}}(\kappa)} &\rightarrow \widehat{\text{SMRelCat}}_{\kappa\text{-}\mathcal{P}\mathcal{R}\mathcal{S}\mathcal{M},(2,1)} \\ (\mathcal{C}) &\mapsto \mathbf{Ind}_\kappa^{\mathbf{S}}(L(\mathcal{C}))_b \end{aligned}$$

induces a categorical equivalence

$$\text{SMRelCat}_{\mathcal{SM}\mathcal{C}\mathcal{A}\mathcal{T}_\infty^{\text{idem}}}[\text{loc.eq}^{-1}] \xrightarrow{\sim} \widehat{\text{SMRelCat}}_{\kappa\text{-}\mathcal{P}\mathcal{R}\mathcal{S}\mathcal{M},(2,1)}[\text{loc.eq}^{-1}].$$

*Proof.* The Yoneda embedding determines a pseudonatural transformation depicted as

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{SMRelCat}_{\mathcal{SM}\mathcal{C}\mathcal{A}\mathcal{T}_\infty^{\text{idem}}(\kappa)} & \xrightarrow{\mathbf{Ind}_\kappa^{\mathbf{S}}(L(-))} & \widehat{\text{SMRelCat}}_{\kappa\text{-}\mathcal{P}\mathcal{R}\mathcal{S}\mathcal{M},(2,1)} \\ & \searrow \cong \rightarrow & \downarrow \\ & & \widehat{\text{SMRelCat}}_{(2,1)}. \end{array}$$

Using Lemmas 4.1 and 5.3 to identify the localization of each category at local equivalences, we obtain a functor  $I : \mathcal{SM}\mathcal{C}\mathcal{A}\mathcal{T}_\infty^{\text{idem}}(\kappa) \rightarrow \kappa\text{-}\mathcal{P}\mathcal{R}\mathcal{S}\mathcal{M}$  and a natural transformation depicted as

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{SM}\mathcal{C}\mathcal{A}\mathcal{T}_\infty^{\text{idem}}(\kappa) & \xrightarrow{I} & \kappa\text{-}\mathcal{P}\mathcal{R}\mathcal{S}\mathcal{M} \\ & \searrow \cong \rightarrow & \downarrow \\ & & \widehat{\mathcal{SM}\mathcal{C}\mathcal{A}\mathcal{T}_\infty}(\kappa) \end{array}$$

By construction, the pair  $(I, \alpha)$  satisfies the hypothesis of Corollary A.8. It follows from this corollary that  $I$  is an equivalence, and we are done.  $\square$

**5.2. Strongly  $\kappa$ -combinatorial model categories.** Combinatorial model categories enjoy the following curious property, first articulated by Dugger in [Dug01] and later expanded by Low [Low16]: Beyond sufficiently large regular cardinals, the distinction between ordinary-categorical notion and  $\infty$ -categorical notions gets blurry. In this subsection, we record several results that embody this principle.

The following definition is essentially due to Low [Low16, Definition 5.1]:

**Definition 5.8.** Let  $\kappa$  be a regular cardinal. We say that a model category  $\mathbf{M}$  is **strongly  $\kappa$ -combinatorial** if there is a regular cardinal  $\kappa_0 \triangleleft \kappa$  with the following properties:

- (1)  $\mathbf{M}$  is locally  $\kappa_0$ -presentable.
- (2)  $\mathbf{M}_\kappa$  is closed under finite limits in  $\mathbf{M}$ .
- (3) Each hom-set in  $\mathbf{M}_{\kappa_0}$  is  $\kappa$ -small.
- (4) There are  $\kappa$ -small sets of morphisms in  $\mathbf{M}_{\kappa_0}$  that cofibrantly generate the model structure on  $\mathbf{M}$ .

The following results summarize the basic properties of strongly  $\kappa$ -combinatorial model categories.

**Proposition 5.9.** *For every combinatorial model category  $\mathbf{M}$ , there is a regular cardinal  $\kappa$  such that  $\mathbf{M}$  is  $\kappa$ -combinatorial. Moreover, in this situation,  $\mathbf{M}_\kappa$  is a model category whose cofibrations, fibrations, and weak equivalences are precisely those of  $\mathbf{M}$  of  $\kappa$ -compact objects.*

*Proof.* This is [Low16, Propositions 5.6, 5.12].  $\square$

**Proposition 5.10.** *Let  $\kappa$  be a regular cardinal. For every regular cardinal  $\kappa' \triangleright \kappa$ , every strongly  $\kappa$ -combinatorial model category is strongly  $\kappa'$ -combinatorial.*

*Proof.* This is [Low16, Remark 5.2].  $\square$

**Proposition 5.11.** *Let  $\kappa$  be a regular cardinal, and let  $\mathbf{M}$  be a strongly  $\kappa$ -combinatorial model category. Then  $L(\mathbf{M}_\kappa)$  admits  $\kappa$ -small colimits, and the functor*

$$i : L(\mathbf{M}_\kappa) \rightarrow L(\mathbf{M})$$

*exhibits  $L(\mathbf{M})$  as an  $\text{Ind}_\kappa$ -completion of  $L(\mathbf{M}_\kappa)$ .*

*Proof.* The fact that  $L(\mathbf{M}_\kappa)$  admits  $\kappa$ -small colimits follows from the argument of [Cis19a, Theorem 7.7.7]. To show that  $i$  induces a categorical equivalence  $\text{Ind}_\kappa(L(\mathbf{M}_\kappa)) \xrightarrow{\sim} L(\mathbf{M})$ , it suffices to prove the following:

- (1) The functor  $i$  is fully faithful.
- (2) The essential image of  $i$  generates  $L(\mathbf{M})$  under  $\kappa$ -filtered colimits.
- (3) The image of  $i$  lies in  $L(\mathbf{M})_\kappa$ .

Claim (1) follows from Proposition 5.9 and [ACK25, Corollary 3.1], which asserts that the classical derived mapping spaces (computed using simplicial resolutions objects) computes the mapping spaces of the localization of model categories.

For (2), we observe that weak equivalences of  $\mathbf{M}$  are stable under  $\kappa$ -filtered colimits [RR15, Proposition 4.1]. This means that  $\kappa$ -filtered colimits in  $\mathbf{M}$  are already homotopy colimits, so we only have to show that  $\mathbf{M}_\kappa$  generates  $\mathbf{M}$  under  $\kappa$ -filtered colimits. This is clear, because  $\mathbf{M}$  is locally  $\kappa$ -presentable.

For (3), suppose we are given a  $\kappa$ -filtered  $\infty$ -category  $\mathcal{I}$  and a colimit diagram  $\overline{F} : \mathcal{I}^\triangleright \rightarrow L(\mathbf{M})$ . We must show that, for every object  $X \in \mathbf{M}_\kappa$ , the diagram  $L(\mathbf{M})(X, -) \circ \overline{F} : \mathcal{I}^\triangleright \rightarrow \mathcal{S}$  is a colimit diagram. Using [Lur25, Tag 02QA], we may assume that  $\mathcal{I}$  is (the nerve of) a poset. In this case, the functor  $\text{Fun}(\mathcal{I}^\triangleright, \mathbf{M}) \rightarrow \text{Fun}(\mathcal{I}^\triangleright, L(\mathbf{M}))$  is a localization [Cis19a, Theorem 7.9.8], so we may assume that  $F$  lifts to a diagram  $\overline{G} : \mathcal{I}^\triangleright \rightarrow \mathbf{M}$ . Without loss of generality, we may assume that  $\overline{G}$  takes values in the full subcategory of fibrant objects. Set  $G = \overline{G}|_{\mathcal{I}}$ . Since weak equivalences of  $\mathbf{M}$  are stable under  $\kappa$ -filtered colimits, the map

$$\text{colim}_{\mathcal{I}} G \rightarrow \overline{G}(\infty)$$

is a weak equivalence. Moreover, since fibrations of  $\mathbf{M}$  are stable under  $\kappa$ -filtered colimits, the object  $\text{colim}_{\mathcal{I}} G \in \mathbf{M}$  is fibrant. Thus, we may assume that  $\overline{G}$  is a strict colimit diagram.

Now choose a cosimplicial resolution  $X^\bullet$  of  $X$  in  $\mathbf{M}_\kappa$ . By [ACK25, Corollary 3.1], the functor  $\mathbf{M}(X^\bullet, -) : \mathbf{M}_{\text{fib}} \rightarrow \text{sSet}$  descends to the functor  $L(\mathbf{M}) \rightarrow \mathcal{S}$  corepresented by  $X$ . Therefore, we are reduced to showing that the diagram  $\mathbf{M}(X^\bullet, \overline{G}) : \mathcal{I}^\triangleright \rightarrow \text{sSet}$  is a homotopy colimit diagram. This is clear, since each  $X^\bullet$  is  $\kappa$ -compact and  $\kappa$ -filtered colimits are homotopy colimits in  $\text{sSet}$ . The proof is now complete.  $\square$

**Corollary 5.12.** *Let  $\kappa$  be a regular cardinal, and let  $\mathbf{M}$  be a symmetric  $\mathbf{S}$ -algebra whose underlying model category is strongly  $\kappa$ -combinatorial. The inclusion  $\mathbf{M}_{\kappa, \text{cof}} \hookrightarrow \mathbf{M}$  induces a left Quillen equivalence of  $\mathbf{S}$ -algebras*

$$\begin{aligned} \theta : \text{Ind}_\kappa^{\mathbf{S}}(\mathbf{M}_{\kappa, \text{cof}}) &\xrightarrow{\sim} \mathbf{M} \\ X &\mapsto \int^{M \in \mathbf{M}_{\kappa, \text{cof}}} M \otimes X(M). \end{aligned}$$

*Proof.* We first show that  $\theta$  induces a left Quillen functor

$$\theta' : \text{Fun}\left(\mathbf{M}_{\kappa, \text{cof}}^{\text{op}}, \mathbf{S}\right) \rightarrow \mathbf{M},$$

where  $\text{Fun}\left(\mathbf{M}_{\kappa, \text{cof}}^{\text{op}}, \mathbf{S}\right)$  carries the projective model structure. Since  $\mathbf{M}$  is strongly  $\kappa$ -combinatorial, it has a generating set  $I$  of cofibrations consisting of maps in  $\mathbf{M}_\kappa$ . The maps  $\{\mathbf{M}(-, M) \otimes i\}_{M \in \mathbf{M}_{\kappa, \text{cof}}, i \in I}$  generate projective cofibrations of

$\text{Fun}(\mathbf{M}_{\kappa,\text{cof}}^{\text{op}}, \mathbf{S})$  [Hir03, Theorem 11.6.1]. The images of these maps under  $\theta$  are simply the maps  $\{M \otimes i\}_{M \in \mathbf{M}_{\kappa,\text{cof}}, i \in I}$ , which are all cofibrations. Hence  $\theta$  carries projective cofibrations to cofibrations. A similar argument shows that  $\theta$  carries projective trivial cofibrations to trivial cofibrations. Hence  $\theta'$  is left Quillen, as claimed.

We now consider the following diagram, which commutes up to natural equivalence:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathbf{M}_{\kappa,\text{cof}} & \longrightarrow & L(\mathbf{M}_{\kappa,\text{cof}}) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow L(\iota) \\ L(\text{Fun}(\mathbf{M}_{\kappa,\text{cof}}^{\text{op}}, \mathbf{S})_{\text{cof}}) & \xrightarrow{L(\theta')} & L(\mathbf{M}_{\text{cof}}) \\ \downarrow & & \\ L(\text{Ind}_{\kappa}^{\mathbf{S}}(\mathbf{M}_{\kappa,\text{cof}})_{\text{cof}}) & & \end{array}$$

Here, the functor  $L(\theta')$  is induced by  $\theta'$ , and  $L(\iota)$  is induced by the inclusion  $\mathbf{M}_{\kappa,\text{cof}} \hookrightarrow \mathbf{M}_{\text{cof}}$ . By the result in the previous paragraph, the functor  $\theta'$  is a left adjoint. Moreover,  $L(\iota)$  exhibits  $L(\mathbf{M}_{\text{cof}})$  as an  $\text{Ind}_{\kappa}$ -completion of  $L(\mathbf{M}_{\kappa,\text{cof}})$ . It follows that  $L(\theta')$  can be identified with the functor

$$\text{Fun}(\mathbf{M}_{\kappa,\text{cof}}^{\text{op}}, \mathbf{S}) \rightarrow \text{Ind}_{\kappa}(\mathbf{M}_{\kappa,\text{cof}})$$

described in Construction 5.5. By the definition of weak equivalences of  $\text{Ind}_{\kappa}(\mathbf{M}_{\kappa,\text{cof}})$ , this means that  $\theta$  preserves weak equivalences of cofibrant objects of  $\text{Ind}_{\kappa}(\mathbf{M}_{\kappa,\text{cof}})$ . Since we already know that  $\theta'$  is a left Quillen functor, this is enough to conclude that  $\theta$  is a left Quillen functor. The resulting functor

$$L(\theta) : L(\text{Ind}_{\kappa}^{\mathbf{S}}(\mathbf{M}_{\kappa,\text{cof}})_{\text{cof}}) \rightarrow L(\mathbf{M}_{\text{cof}})$$

is an equivalence, because both sides are the  $\text{Ind}_{\kappa}$ -completion of  $\mathbf{M}_{\kappa,\text{cof}}$ . Hence  $\theta$  is a left Quillen equivalence, and we are done.  $\square$

We conclude this subsection by taking monoidal structures into account.

**Definition 5.13.** Let  $\kappa$  be a regular cardinal. A **monoidally  $\kappa$ -combinatorial model category** is a monoidal model category  $\mathbf{M}$  satisfying the following conditions:

- As a model category,  $\mathbf{M}$  is strongly  $\kappa$ -combinatorial.
- $\kappa$ -compact objects are stable under finite tensor products. (In particular, the unit object is  $\kappa$ -compact.)

We write  $\text{CombMMC}(\kappa) \subset \text{CombMMC}$  for the subcategory spanned by the monoidally  $\kappa$ -combinatorial model category and those maps that preserve  $\kappa$ -compact objects.

**Lemma 5.14.**

- (1) For every pair of regular cardinals  $\kappa \triangleleft \lambda$ , we have  $\text{CombMMC}(\kappa) \subset \text{CombMMC}(\lambda)$ .
- (2) Every morphism of  $\text{CombMMC}$  belongs to  $\text{CombMMC}(\kappa)$  for some regular cardinal  $\kappa$ .

*Proof.* We first show that every combinatorial monoidal model category  $\mathbf{M}$  is monoidally  $\kappa$ -combinatorial for some  $\kappa$ , and if this is true, then  $\mathbf{M}$  is monoidally  $\lambda$ -combinatorial for every  $\lambda \triangleright \kappa$ . By Proposition 5.9, there is some regular cardinal  $\kappa_0$  such that  $\mathbf{M}$  is strongly  $\kappa_0$ -combinatorial as a model category. Find a regular cardinal  $\kappa_0 \triangleleft \kappa$  such that, if  $X, Y \in \mathbf{M}_{\kappa_0}$ , then  $X \otimes Y \in \mathbf{M}_{\kappa}$ . Since every  $\kappa$ -compact object is a  $\kappa$ -small colimit of  $\kappa_0$ -compact object [MP89, Theorem 2.3.11], this ensures that  $\kappa$ -compact objects is stable under tensor product. Hence  $\mathbf{M}$  is monoidally  $\kappa$ -combinatorial. A similar argument, using Proposition

5.10, shows that every monoidally  $\kappa$ -combinatorial model category is monoidally  $\lambda$ -combinatorial.

We now prove (1) and (2). Part (1) follows from the result in the previous paragraph and [AR94, Remark 2.20]. For (2), let  $F: \mathbf{M} \rightarrow \mathbf{N}$  be a morphism of  $\text{CombMMC}$ . By the result in the previous paragraph and part (1), we can find some  $\kappa_0$  such that  $\mathbf{M}$  and  $\mathbf{N}$  are monoidally  $\kappa_0$ -combinatorial. Choose  $\kappa \triangleright \kappa_0$  such that  $F(\mathbf{M}_{\kappa_0}) \subset \mathbf{N}_\kappa$ . We claim that  $F$  belongs to  $\text{CombMMC}(\kappa)$ . Since every  $\kappa$ -compact object is a  $\kappa$ -small colimit of  $\kappa_0$ -compact object [MP89, Theorem 2.3.11], this ensures that  $F(\mathbf{M}_\kappa) \subset \mathbf{N}_\kappa$ . We also know that  $\mathbf{M}$  and  $\mathbf{N}$  are monoidally  $\kappa$ -combinatorial from the previous paragraph. Thus  $F$  belongs to  $\text{CombMMC}(\kappa)$ , as desired.  $\square$

**5.3. Proof of Proposition 3.6.** We now arrive at the proof of Proposition 3.6.

**Notation 5.15.** We write  $\text{urCard}$  for the (large) poset of (small) uncountable regular cardinals, ordered by  $\triangleleft$ . Given a functor  $F: \text{urCard} \rightarrow \widehat{\text{Cat}}$ , we write  $\int^{\text{urCard}} F \rightarrow \text{urCard}$  for the Grothendieck construction of  $F$ . Likewise, given a functor  $G: \text{urCard}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \widehat{\text{Cat}}$ , its Grothendieck construction will be denoted by  $\int_{\text{urCard}} G \rightarrow \text{urCard}$ .

*Proof of Proposition 3.6.* By Proposition 2.8 and Lemma 5.3, it suffices to show that the functor

$$\text{CombSymS-Alg}_{(2,1)}[\text{Quill.eq}^{-1}] \rightarrow \widehat{\text{SMRelCat}}_{(2,1)}[\text{loc.eq}^{-1}]$$

is an equivalence.

For each uncountable regular cardinal  $\kappa$ , let  $\text{CombSymS-Alg}(\kappa)$  denote the fiber product

$$\text{CombSymS-Alg} \times_{\text{CombMMC}} \text{CombMMC}(\kappa).$$

We now consider the following diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \int_{\text{urCard}} \text{CombSymS-Alg}(-) & \xrightarrow{F} & \int^{\text{urCard}} \text{SMRelCat}_{\text{SMCat}_\infty}(-) \\ U \downarrow & \swarrow \text{Ind}^S & \downarrow (-)_b \circ \text{Ind}^S \\ \text{CombSymS-Alg}_{(2,1)} & \xrightarrow{(-)_b} & \widehat{\text{SMRelCat}}_{\text{PrSM},(2,1)}. \end{array}$$

Here  $U$  and  $F$  are functors and  $\text{Ind}^S$  is a strictly unitary pseudofunctor, defined by the formulas

$$\begin{aligned} F(\kappa, \mathbf{M}) &= \text{sk}(\mathbf{M}_{\kappa, \text{cof}}), \\ U(\kappa, \mathbf{M}) &= \mathbf{M}, \\ \text{Ind}^S(\kappa, \mathcal{C}) &= \text{Ind}_\kappa^S(\mathcal{C}). \end{aligned}$$

The notation  $\text{sk}$  indicates the passage to skeleton, which we need to make essentially small categories *literally* small. The lower triangle commutes by construction; the upper triangle does not commute on the nose, but Corollary 5.12 gives a pseudo-natural Quillen equivalence  $\text{Ind}^S \circ F \xrightarrow{\sim} U$ . Thus, to prove the claim, it suffices to show that  $U$  and  $(-)_b \circ \text{Ind}^S$  induce equivalences of  $\infty$ -categories when localized at the maps whose images in  $\text{PrSM}$  are equivalences.

We start from the claim on  $U$ . According to Lemma 5.14, the category  $\text{CombSymS-Alg}$  is the colimit of  $\text{CombSymS-Alg}(\kappa)$  as  $\kappa$  ranges over  $\text{urCard}$ . It follows from [Lur25, Tag 02UU] that  $U$  is already a localization.

Next, for  $(-)_b \circ \mathbf{Ind}^S$ , we factor it as

$$\int^{\text{urCard}} \text{SMRelCat}_{\text{SMCat}_\infty(-)} \xrightarrow{\Phi} \int^{\text{urCard}} \widehat{\text{SMRelCat}}_{(-)\text{-PrSM},(2,1)} \\ \xrightarrow{\Psi} \widehat{\text{SMRelCat}}_{\text{PrSM}},$$

where  $\int^{\text{urCard}} \widehat{\text{SMRelCat}}_{(-)\text{-PrSM},(2,1)}$  denotes the cartesian fibration associated with the functor  $\kappa \mapsto \widehat{\text{SMRelCat}}_{\kappa\text{-PrSM},(2,1)}$ , concretely realized as (the dual of) Lurie's relative nerve [Lur09, Definition 3.2.5.2]. The functor  $\Phi$  is induced by the functors  $\{\mathbf{Ind}_\kappa^S\}_\kappa$ , and  $\Psi$  is simply the forgetful functor. As in the previous paragraph, the functor  $\Psi$  is already a localization, so it suffices to verify that  $\Phi$  induces a localization upon localizing at the maps whose images in  $\text{PrSM}$  are equivalences. This follows from (the dual of) [Ara25, Corollary B.6] and Proposition 5.7, which shows more strongly that it induces a localization when localizing at fiberwise local equivalences. The proof is now complete.  $\square$

## 6. PROOF OF PROPOSITION 3.7

We finally turn to the proof of Proposition 3.7. In light of Propositions 3.5 and 3.6, it will suffice to prove this for one *specific* choice of  $S$ . To this end, we will construct a new model category of *symmetric cubical sets* in Subsection 6.1. We then use this to prove Proposition 3.7 in Subsection 6.2.

**6.1. Symmetric cubical sets.** In this subsection, we construct the symmetric monoidal model category of symmetric cubical sets (Theorem 6.10). It models the homotopy theory of spaces, in the sense that its underlying symmetric monoidal  $\infty$ -category is equivalent to the cartesian monoidal  $\infty$ -category of spaces. We will see that every combinatorial symmetric monoidal model category with cofibrant unit can be enriched over symmetric cubical sets, and in an essentially unique manner (Corollary 6.11).

*Remark 6.1.* Part of the contents of this subsection is similar in spirit to Isaacson's papers [Isa11, Isa09]. In these papers, he considered symmetric cubical sets with a slightly different definition of symmetric box category is different from ours (his one is bigger). He then showed that every combinatorial symmetric monoidal model category with cofibrant unit and satisfying the monoid axiom can be enriched over symmetric cubical sets [Isa09, Theorem 10.1]. However, his approach does not seem to give an essential uniqueness of this enrichment.

We start by recalling the classical cube category and the Grothendieck model structure.

**Definition 6.2.** The **box category**  $\square$  has the following descriptions:

- Objects are the posets  $[1]^n$ , where  $n \geq 0$ .
- A morphism  $f : [1]^n \rightarrow [1]^m$  is a poset map that erases coordinates and inserts 0 and 1 without changing the order of the coordinates. Equivalently, they are the generated under composition by the following maps:
  - (1) The **face map**  $\delta^{i,\varepsilon} = \delta_n^{i,\varepsilon} : [1]^n \rightarrow [1]^{n+1}$  for  $n \geq 0$  and  $1 \leq i \leq n+1$ , which inserts  $\varepsilon \in \{0, 1\}$  in the  $i$ th coordinate.
  - (2) The **degeneracy map**  $\sigma_n^i : [1]^{n+1} \rightarrow [1]^n$  for  $n \geq 0$  and  $1 \leq i \leq n+1$ , which deletes the  $i$ th coordinate.

The cartesian product of posets makes  $\square$  into a monoidal category. The category  $\text{Set}^{\square^\text{op}}$  of **cubical sets** of admits an induced monoidal structure by Day convolution. We will write  $\square_{\leq 1} \subset \square$  for the full subcategory spanned by the objects  $[1]^n$  with  $n \leq 1$ . The presheaf represented by  $[1]^n$  will be denote by  $\square^n$ .

The category  $\text{Set}^{\square^{\text{op}}}$  can be endowed with a model structure which models the homotopy theory of spaces. To state it more precisely, let  $\partial \square^n = \bigcup \delta^{i,\varepsilon} (\square^{n-1})$  and  $\sqcap_{i,\varepsilon}^n = \bigcup_{(j,\eta) \neq (i,\varepsilon)} \delta^{i,\varepsilon} (\square^{n-1})$ . We consider the following sets of morphisms of cubical sets:

$$I = \{\partial \square^n \rightarrow \square^n \mid n \geq 0\}, J = \{\sqcap_{i,\varepsilon}^n \rightarrow \square^n \mid n \geq 1, 1 \leq i \leq n, \varepsilon \in \{0, 1\}\}.$$

**Theorem 6.3.** [Cis06], [Jar06, Theorem 6.2, Theorem 8.6, Theorem 8.8] *The category  $\text{Set}^{\square^{\text{op}}}$  of cubical sets has a combinatorial monoidal model structure called the Grothendieck model structure, whose:*

- cofibrations are the monomorphisms.
- trivial cofibrations is generated as a saturated class of morphisms by the
- weak equivalences are preserved and detected by the triangulation functor  $\text{Set}^{\square^{\text{op}}} \rightarrow \text{Set}^{\Delta^{\text{op}}}$ , which is the left adjoint carrying  $\square^n \mapsto (\Delta^1)^n$ .

Moreover,  $I$  and  $J$  cofibrantly generate this model structure, and  $T$  is a left Quillen equivalence with respect to the Kan–Quillen model structure on simplicial sets.

Our goal for now is to consider the symmetric monoidal version of this.

**Definition 6.4.** We define the symmetric monoidal category of **symmetric box category**  $\square_\Sigma$  by adjoining to the box category the permutation map  $\pi_p : [1]^n \rightarrow [1]^n$  for each  $n \geq 0$  and  $p \in \Sigma_n$ , defined by  $\pi_p(x_1, \dots, x_n) = (x_{p^{-1}(1)}, \dots, x_{p^{-1}(n)})$ . There is an inclusion  $i : \square \rightarrow \square_\Sigma$ . We denote by  $\square_\Sigma^n$  the presheaves on  $\square_\Sigma$  represented by  $[1]^n$ . We will write  $\square_{\Sigma, \leq 1} \subset \square$  for the full subcategory spanned by the objects  $[1]^n$  with  $n \leq 1$ .

**Notation 6.5.** The following proposition is immediate from the definitions:

**Proposition 6.6.** *We have the following cocubical relations for maps in  $\square_\Sigma$ :*

- $\delta^{j,\eta} \delta^{i,\varepsilon} = \delta^{i,\varepsilon} \delta^{j-1,\eta}$  for  $j \leq i$ .
- $\sigma^j \delta^{i,\varepsilon} = \begin{cases} \delta^{i,\varepsilon} \sigma^{j-1} & \text{if } i < j, \\ \text{id} & \text{if } i = j, \\ \delta^{i-1} \sigma^j & \text{if } i > j. \end{cases}$
- $\sigma^j \sigma^i = \sigma^i \sigma^{j+1}$  if  $i \leq j$ .
- $\pi_p \pi_q = \pi_{pq}$ .
- $\pi_p \delta^{i,\varepsilon} = \delta^{p(i)} \pi_q$ , where  $q$  denotes the composite

$$\{1, \dots, n\} \cong \{1, \dots, n+1\} \setminus \{i\} \xrightarrow{p} \{1, \dots, n+1\} \setminus \{p(i)\} \cong \{1, \dots, n\}.$$

$$\bullet \quad \sigma^i \pi_p = \pi_q \sigma^{p^{-1}(i)}, \text{ where } q \text{ denotes the composite}$$

$$\{1, \dots, n-1\} \cong \{1, \dots, n\} \setminus \{p^{-1}(i)\} \xrightarrow{p} \{1, \dots, n\} \setminus \{i\} \cong \{1, \dots, n-1\}.$$

Moreover, every map in  $\square_\Sigma$  factors uniquely as

$$\delta^{i_1, \varepsilon_1} \dots \delta^{i_n, \varepsilon_n} \pi_p \sigma_l^{j_1} \dots \sigma^{j_m},$$

with  $i_1 > \dots > i_n$ ,  $j_1 < \dots < j_m$ , and  $p \in \Sigma_l$ .

**Corollary 6.7.** *The symmetric cube category  $\square_\Sigma$  is generated by the face maps, degeneracy maps, and permutation maps under the cocubical relations. A similar claim holds for the classical cube category.*

**Corollary 6.8.** *Let  $(\mathcal{C}, \otimes, \mathbf{1})$  be a symmetric monoidal category. The evaluation at the unit object  $[1] \in \square_\Sigma$  determines a categorical equivalence*

$$\theta : \text{Fun}^\otimes(\square_\Sigma, \mathcal{C}) \xrightarrow{\sim} \text{Fun}(\square_{\Sigma, \leq 1}, \mathcal{C}) \times_{\text{Fun}(\{[1]^0\}, \mathcal{C})} \{\mathbf{1}\}.$$

A similar claim holds for monoidal categories and the plain cube category.

*Proof.* The functor  $\theta$  needs a bit of explanation. If  $F : \square_{\Sigma} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  is a symmetric monoidal functor, then its image in  $\text{Fun}(\square_{\Sigma, \leq 1}, \mathcal{C}) \times_{\text{Fun}(\{[1]^0\}, \mathcal{C})} \{\mathbf{1}\}$  is given by the functor  $\square_{\Sigma, \leq 1} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  obtained by modifying the value of  $F$  at  $[1]^0$  to  $\mathbf{1}$  using the structure map  $\mathbf{1} \xrightarrow{\cong} F([1]^0)$  of  $F$ .

With this in mind, we will give an explicit inverse equivalence to  $\theta$ . Given a functor  $F : \square_{\leq 1} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  carrying  $[1]^0$  to the unit object extends, we can define a new functor  $\tilde{F} : \square_{\Sigma} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  by  $\tilde{F}([1]^n) = I^{\otimes n}$ , with structure maps given by that of  $F$  and the braiding of  $\mathcal{C}$  (Corollary 6.7). The coherence maps of  $\mathcal{C}$  makes  $\tilde{F}$  into a symmetric monoidal functor. The functor  $F \mapsto \tilde{F}$  is an inverse equivalence of  $\theta$ .  $\square$

**Corollary 6.9.** *Let  $(\mathcal{C}, \otimes, \mathbf{1})$  be a cocomplete symmetric monoidal category whose tensor product preserves small colimits in each variable. The evaluation at the unit object  $\square_{\Sigma}^0 \in \text{Set}^{\square_{\Sigma}^{\text{op}}}$  induces a categorical equivalence*

$$\text{Fun}^{\otimes, cc} \left( \text{Set}^{\square_{\Sigma}^{\text{op}}}, \mathcal{C} \right) \xrightarrow{\cong} \text{Fun}(\square_{\Sigma, \leq 1}, \mathcal{C}) \times_{\text{Fun}(\{[1]^0\}, \mathcal{C})} \{\mathbf{1}\},$$

where  $\text{Fun}^{\otimes, cc} \left( \text{Set}^{\square_{\Sigma}^{\text{op}}}, \mathcal{C} \right)$  denotes the category of symmetric monoidal categories whose underlying functors preserve small colimits, and symmetric monoidal natural transformations between them.

*Proof.* This follows from Corollary 6.8 and the universal property of Day convolution product monoidal structure.  $\square$

For the following theorem, we will write  $\partial \square_{\Sigma}^n \subset \square_{\Sigma}^n$  for the subpresheaf consisting of the maps  $[1]^k \rightarrow [1]^n$  that inserts at least one 0 or 1. Note that  $i_! (\partial \square_{\Sigma}^n) = \partial \square_{\Sigma}^n$ .

**Theorem 6.10.** *The category  $\text{Set}^{\square_{\Sigma}^{\text{op}}}$  has a tractable model structure whose weak equivalences and fibrations are preserved and detected by the forgetful functor  $i^* : \text{Set}^{\square_{\Sigma}^{\text{op}}} \rightarrow \text{Set}^{\text{op}}$ . Moreover:*

(I) *The adjunction*

$$i_! : \text{Set}^{\square_{\Sigma}^{\text{op}}} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\quad} \\ \perp \\ \xleftarrow{\quad} \end{array} \text{Set}^{\square_{\Sigma}^{\text{op}}} : i^*$$

*is a Quillen equivalence.*

(II) *The model structure on  $\text{Set}^{\square_{\Sigma}^{\text{op}}}$  is symmetric monoidal with respect to the Day convolution.*

(III) *The model structure is left proper.*

(IV) *If  $\mathbf{M}$  is a symmetric monoidal model category and  $F : \text{Set}^{\square_{\Sigma}^{\text{op}}} \rightarrow \mathbf{M}$  is a symmetric monoidal functor which is also a left adjoint, then  $F$  is left Quillen precisely when the map  $F(\partial \square_{\Sigma}^1 \rightarrow \square_{\Sigma}^1)$  is a cofibration, the map  $F(\square_{\Sigma}^1) \rightarrow F(\square_{\Sigma}^0)$  is a weak equivalence, and  $\mathbf{M}$  has cofibrant unit.*

(V) *The assignment  $\square_{\Sigma}^n \mapsto (\Delta^1)^n$  determines a symmetric monoidal left Quillen equivalence  $\text{Set}^{\square_{\Sigma}^{\text{op}}} \rightarrow \text{Set}^{\Delta^{\text{op}}}$ .*

*Proof.* We start by showing that the model structure on  $\text{Set}^{\square_{\Sigma}^{\text{op}}}$  transfers to a model structure on  $\text{Set}^{\square_{\Sigma}^{\text{op}}}$ , using [Hir03, Theorem 11.3.2]. For this, we set  $I = \{\partial \square^n \rightarrow \square^n \mid n \geq 0\}$  and  $J = \{\sqcap_{i,\varepsilon}^n \rightarrow \square^n \mid n \geq 1, 1 \leq i \leq n, \varepsilon \in \{0, 1\}\}$ . We wish to show that  $i^*$  takes  $i_! J$ -cell complexes to weak equivalences. For this, it will suffice to show that each of the map in  $i^* i_! J$  is a trivial cofibration. The cofibration part is clear, because  $i_!$  and  $i^*$  preserve monomorphisms. Consequently, it will suffice to show that each of the maps in  $i^* i_! J$  is a weak equivalence. For this, it suffices to show that the unit  $\eta : \text{id} \rightarrow i^* i_!$  is a natural weak equivalence. By the standard argument using skeletal filtration, we it will suffice to show that  $\eta_{\square^n} : \square^n \rightarrow i^* i_! \square^n$  is a weak equivalence. In other words, our task it to prove that  $i^* i_! \square^n$  is weakly contractible.

We have weak equivalences

$$\operatorname{colim}_{\square^k \in \square_{/i^* i_!} \square^n} \square^k \cong i^* i_! \square^n \simeq \operatorname{hocolim}_{\square^k \in \square_{/i^* i_!} \square^n} \square^k,$$

where the last equivalence follows from the  $\infty$ -categorical density theorem [Lur09, Lemma 5.1.5.3]. Consequently, it suffices to show that the category  $\square_{/i^* i_!} \square^n \cong \square \times_{\square_\Sigma} \square_{\Sigma/\square^n}$  is weakly contractible. This is equivalent to the condition that the map  $i : \square \rightarrow \square_\Sigma$  be homotopy initial. We prove this as follows: Consider the commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & \square_+ & \\ j \swarrow & & \searrow k \\ \square & \xrightarrow{i} & \square_\Sigma \end{array}$$

where  $\square_+ \subset \square$  denotes the subcategory spanned by the face maps. Since homotopy initial functors have the right cancellation property [Cis19b, Corollary 4.1.9], it will suffice to show that  $j$  and  $k$  are homotopy initial. We will show that  $j$  is homotopy initial; the proof for  $k$  is similar. Our task is to show that the category  $\square_+ \times_{\square} \square_{/\square^n}$  is weakly contractible for every  $n \geq 0$ . But the inclusion  $\square_+ \times_{\square} \square_{/\square^n} \hookrightarrow \square_{/\square^n}$  admits a homotopy inverse, factoring a map as a composition of degeneracy maps, followed by a composition of face maps. So we are reduced to showing that  $\square_{/\square^n}$  is weakly contractible, which is clear.

We now prove (I) through (V). For (I), observe that we have just shown that the derived unit is an isomorphism. Since  $Ri^*$  is conservative by construction, it follows from the triangle identities that the derived counit is also an isomorphism. Hence the adjunction is a Quillen equivalence. Part (II) follows from the fact that the model structure on  $\mathbf{Set}^{\square^{\text{op}}}$  is monoidal for the Day convolution. Part (III) follows from the left properness of  $\mathbf{Set}^{\square^{\text{op}}}$ , since  $i^*$  preserves cofibrations and small colimits and detects weak equivalences. Part (IV) is proved exactly as in [Law17, Corollary 1.5]. Finally, part (V) follows from parts (I, IV) and Theorem 6.3.  $\square$

**Corollary 6.11.** *Every cofibrantly generated symmetric monoidal model category  $\mathbf{M}$  with cofibrant unit is a symmetric  $\mathbf{Set}^{\square_\Sigma^{\text{op}}}$ -algebra in an essentially unique way. More precisely, the category  $\operatorname{Fun}^{\otimes, L}(\mathbf{Set}^{\square_\Sigma^{\text{op}}}, \mathbf{M})$  is weakly contractible.*

*Proof.* Set  $\operatorname{Fun}(\square_{\Sigma, \leq 1}, \mathbf{M})_{\mathbf{1}} = \operatorname{Fun}(\square_{\Sigma, \leq 1}, \mathbf{M}) \times_{\operatorname{Fun}(\{[1]^0\}, \mathbf{M})} \{\mathbf{1}\}$ , and define its full subcategory  $\mathcal{X}$  as follows: We can identify  $\operatorname{Fun}(\square_{\Sigma, \leq 1}, \mathbf{M})_{\mathbf{1}}$  with the category of  $\Sigma_2$ -equivariant factorization of the codiagonal map  $\mathbf{1} \amalg \mathbf{1} \rightarrow \mathbf{1}$  as

$$\mathbf{1} \amalg \mathbf{1} \rightarrow I \rightarrow \mathbf{1},$$

where  $\Sigma_2$  acts on  $\mathbf{1} \amalg \mathbf{1}$  by interchanging the factors and on  $\mathbf{1}$  by the trivial action. Such an object belongs to  $\mathcal{X}$  if and only if the map  $\mathbf{1} \amalg \mathbf{1} \rightarrow I$  is a cofibration in  $\mathbf{M}$  and the map  $I \rightarrow \mathbf{1}$  is a weak equivalence in  $\mathbf{M}$ . Theorem 6.10 and Corollary 6.9 give us an equivalence of categories  $\operatorname{Fun}^{\otimes, L}(\mathbf{Set}^{\square_\Sigma^{\text{op}}}, \mathbf{M}) \simeq \mathcal{X}$ , so it suffices to show that  $\mathcal{X}$  is weakly contractible.

Let  $B\Sigma_2 \subset \square_{\Sigma, \leq 1}$  denote the groupoid consisting of the automorphism of  $[1]$ . Fix functorial factorizations of morphisms for the projective model structure for  $\operatorname{Fun}(B\Sigma_2, \mathbf{M})$ . We define a functor  $\Phi : \operatorname{Fun}(\square_{\Sigma, \leq 1}, \mathbf{M})_{\mathbf{1}} \rightarrow \operatorname{Fun}(\square_{\Sigma, \leq 1}, \mathbf{M})_{\mathbf{1}}$  by

$$\Phi(\mathbf{1} \amalg \mathbf{1} \rightarrow I \rightarrow \mathbf{1}) = (\mathbf{1} \amalg \mathbf{1} \rightarrow I' \rightarrow \mathbf{1}),$$

where  $I'$  is obtained by factoring the map  $\mathbf{1} \amalg \mathbf{1} \rightarrow I$  as a cofibration  $\mathbf{1} \amalg \mathbf{1} \rightarrowtail I'$  followed by a weak equivalence  $I' \xrightarrow{\sim} I$ , using the functorial factorization we chose. Since projective cofibrations are levelwise cofibrations (as generating projective cofibrations have this property [Hir03, Theorem 11.6.1]), we find that  $\Phi$  restricts to

a functor  $\Phi': \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{X}$ . Moreover,  $\Phi'$  admits natural transformations to  $\text{id}_{\mathcal{X}}$  and to the constant functor at  $\Phi(\mathbf{1} \amalg \mathbf{1} \rightarrow \mathbf{1} \rightarrow \mathbf{1})$ . So the identity functor of  $\mathcal{X}$  can be connected by a zig-zag of natural transformation to a constant functor. This implies that  $\mathcal{X}$  is weakly contractible, as claimed.  $\square$

**6.2. Proof of Proposition 6.** We can now give a proof of Proposition 3.7.

*Proof of Proposition 6.* As discussed at the beginning of the section, it will suffice to prove the claim for a specific choice of  $\mathbf{S}$ .

Take  $\mathbf{S} = \mathbf{Set}^{\square_{\Sigma}^{\text{op}}}$ . The functor  $U: \mathbf{CombSymS-Alg} \rightarrow \mathbf{CombSMMC}^1$  is a cocartesian fibration, and its fibers are weakly contractible by Corollary 6.11. It follows from [Lur25, Tag 02LY] that  $U$  is already a localization, so in particular it induces an equivalence

$$\mathbf{CombSymS-Alg}[\text{Quill.eq}^{-1}] \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathbf{CombSMMC}^1[\text{Quill.eq}^{-1}].$$

$\square$

## APPENDIX A. MULTIPLICATIVE GABRIEL–ULMER DUALITY

The Gabriel–Ulmer duality [GU71] is one precise formulation of the slogan that “locally presentable categories are controlled by small data.” There is an  $\infty$ -categorical version of this duality, asserting that for every regular cardinal  $\kappa$ , the  $\text{Ind}_{\kappa}$ -completion functor

$$\text{Ind}_{\kappa}: \mathcal{C}\text{at}_{\infty}^{\text{idem}}(\kappa) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}\mathcal{r}^L(\kappa)$$

is an equivalence, where  $\mathcal{C}\text{at}_{\infty}(\kappa)$  denotes the  $\infty$ -category of small idempotent complete  $\infty$ -categories with  $\kappa$ -small colimits and functors preserving such colimits, and  $\mathcal{P}\mathcal{r}^L(\kappa)$  denotes the  $\infty$ -category of  $\kappa$ -presentable  $\infty$ -categories.<sup>4</sup>

The goal of this section is to enhance this to an equivalence of symmetric monoidal  $\infty$ -categories (Proposition A.4 and Corollary A.5). As a corollary to this, we obtain a Gabriel–Ulmer duality for  $\kappa$ -presentably monoidal  $\infty$ -categories (Corollary A.7).

**Definition A.1.** Let  $\kappa$  be a regular cardinal. We write  $\mathcal{P}\mathcal{r}^L(\kappa)^{\otimes} \subset (\mathcal{P}\mathcal{r}^L)^{\otimes}$  for the suboperad spanned by the  $\kappa$ -presentable  $\infty$ -categories and those maps  $(\mathcal{C}_1, \dots, \mathcal{C}_n) \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  whose corresponding functors  $F: \mathcal{C}_1 \times \dots \times \mathcal{C}_n \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  have the following property:

- Given a object  $(X_1, \dots, X_n) \in \mathcal{C}_1 \times \dots \times \mathcal{C}_n$ , if each  $X_i$  is  $\kappa$ -presentable, then so is  $F(X_1, \dots, X_n)$ .

Given another object  $\mathcal{D} \in \mathcal{P}\mathcal{r}^L(\kappa)$ , we write  $\text{Fun}_{\mathcal{P}\mathcal{r}^L(\kappa)}((\mathcal{C}_1, \dots, \mathcal{C}_n), \mathcal{D}) \subset \text{Fun}(\mathcal{C}_1 \times \dots \times \mathcal{C}_n, \mathcal{D})$  for the full subcategory spanned by the maps  $(\mathcal{C}_1, \dots, \mathcal{C}_n) \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$  in  $\mathcal{P}\mathcal{r}^L(\kappa)^{\otimes}$ .

The classical Gabriel–Ulmer duality states that locally finitely presentable categories are essentially determined by its full subcategory of compact objects. Our goal for the moment is to show that  $\mathcal{P}\mathcal{r}^L(\kappa)^{\otimes}$  is a symmetric monoidal  $\infty$ -category, and prove an enhanced version of this duality for  $\mathcal{P}\mathcal{r}^L(\kappa)^{\otimes}$  (Proposition A.4).

**Notation A.2.** Let  $\kappa$  be a regular cardinal. We write  $\mathcal{C}\text{at}_{\infty}^{\text{idem}}(\kappa)$  for the  $\infty$ -category of idempotent complete small  $\infty$ -categories with  $\kappa$ -small colimits. We also write  $\overline{\mathcal{C}\text{at}}_{\infty}^{\text{idem}}(\kappa)$  for the  $\infty$ -category of essentially small, idempotent complete  $\infty$ -categories with  $\kappa$ -small colimits. Note that these  $\infty$ -categories have natural symmetric monoidal structure, as explained in [Lur17, Corollary 4.8.1.4]. (Briefly, if  $\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B}, \mathcal{C} \in \mathcal{C}\text{at}_{\infty}^{\text{idem}}(\kappa)$ , then a giving a map  $\mathcal{A} \otimes \mathcal{B} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  is equivalent to giving a functor  $\mathcal{A} \times \mathcal{B} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  that preserves  $\kappa$ -small colimits in each variable.) We denote

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<sup>4</sup>An  $\infty$ -category is  $\kappa$ -presentable if it is  $\kappa$ -accessible and presentable.

these symmetric monoidal  $\infty$ -categories by  $\mathcal{C}\text{at}_\infty^{\text{idem}}(\kappa)^\otimes$  and  $\overline{\mathcal{C}\text{at}}_\infty^{\text{idem}}(\kappa)^\otimes$ . (When  $\kappa$  is uncountable, we drop idem from notation because idempotent completeness is automatic.)

**Construction A.3.** For each  $\mathcal{C} \in \mathcal{C}\text{at}_\infty^{\text{idem}}(\kappa)$ , the  $\kappa$ -ind completion  $\text{Ind}_\kappa(\mathcal{C})$  is a  $\kappa$ -presentable  $\infty$ -category and is characterized by the following universal property: For every  $\mathcal{D} \in \mathcal{P}\text{r}^L(\kappa)$ , the map

$$\text{Fun}_{\mathcal{P}\text{r}^L(\kappa)}(\text{Ind}_\kappa(\mathcal{C}), \mathcal{D}) \xrightarrow{\sim} \text{Fun}_{\overline{\mathcal{C}\text{at}}_\infty^{\text{idem}}(\kappa)}(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D}_\kappa)$$

is a categorical equivalence ([Lur09, Propositions 5.3.5.10, 5.5.1.9]). It follows that the assignment  $\mathcal{C} \mapsto \text{Ind}_\kappa(\mathcal{C})$  can be assembled into a left adjoint  $\text{Ind}_\kappa : \mathcal{C}\text{at}_\infty^{\text{idem}}(\kappa) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}\text{r}^L(\kappa)$ . By inspecting the unit and counit, we deduce that this functor is in fact an equivalence of  $\infty$ -categories. Using [Lur17, Remark 4.8.1.8], we find that the  $\kappa$ -ind completion functor  $\text{Ind}_\kappa : \mathcal{C}\text{at}_\infty^{\text{idem}}(\kappa) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}\text{r}^L$  can be enhanced to a symmetric monoidal functor  $\text{Ind}_\kappa : \mathcal{C}\text{at}_\infty^{\text{idem}}(\kappa)^\otimes \rightarrow (\mathcal{P}\text{r}^L)^\otimes$ .

**Proposition A.4.** *Let  $\kappa$  be a regular cardinal.*

- (1) *The  $\infty$ -operad  $\mathcal{P}\text{r}^L(\kappa)^\otimes$  is a symmetric monoidal  $\infty$ -category, and the inclusion  $\mathcal{P}\text{r}^L(\kappa)^\otimes \hookrightarrow (\mathcal{P}\text{r}^L)^\otimes$  is symmetric monoidal.*
- (2) *The symmetric monoidal functor  $\text{Ind}_\kappa : \mathcal{C}\text{at}_\infty^{\text{idem}}(\kappa)^\otimes \rightarrow (\mathcal{P}\text{r}^L)^\otimes$  restricts to an equivalence of symmetric monoidal  $\infty$ -categories  $\mathcal{C}\text{at}_\infty^{\text{idem}}(\kappa)^\otimes \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathcal{P}\text{r}^L(\kappa)^\otimes$ .*

*Proof.* We first prove (1). Let  $\mathcal{C}_1, \dots, \mathcal{C}_n$  be  $\kappa$ -presentable  $\infty$ -categories, and let  $\alpha : \mathcal{C}_1 \times \dots \times \mathcal{C}_n \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  be a functor exhibiting  $\mathcal{C}$  as a tensor product in  $\mathcal{P}\text{r}^L$ . We must show that  $\alpha$  determines a morphism  $(\mathcal{C}_1, \dots, \mathcal{C}_n) \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  in  $\mathcal{P}\text{r}^L(\kappa)^\otimes$ , and moreover that for every  $\mathcal{D} \in \mathcal{P}\text{r}^L(\kappa)$ , the map

$$\text{Fun}_{\mathcal{P}\text{r}^L(\kappa)}(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D}) \rightarrow \text{Fun}_{\mathcal{P}\text{r}^L(\kappa)}((\mathcal{C}_1, \dots, \mathcal{C}_n), \mathcal{D})$$

is a categorical equivalence. Since the functor

$$\text{Fun}_{\mathcal{P}\text{r}^L}(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D}) \rightarrow \text{Fun}_{\mathcal{P}\text{r}^L}((\mathcal{C}_1, \dots, \mathcal{C}_n), \mathcal{D})$$

is a categorical equivalence, it will suffice to show that the functor  $\alpha$  restricts to an functor

$$\theta : (\mathcal{C}_1)_\kappa \times \dots \times (\mathcal{C}_n)_\kappa \rightarrow \mathcal{C}_\kappa$$

whose essential image generates  $\mathcal{C}_\kappa$  under  $\kappa$ -small colimits.

Since the functor  $\text{Ind}_\kappa : \mathcal{C}\text{at}_\infty^{\text{idem}}(\kappa) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}\text{r}^L(\kappa)$  is an equivalence of  $\infty$ -categories, and since the functor  $\text{Ind}_\kappa : \mathcal{C}\text{at}_\infty^{\text{idem}}(\kappa)^\otimes \rightarrow (\mathcal{P}\text{r}^L)^\otimes$  is symmetric monoidal, we may assume that  $\alpha$  is the image of some cocartesian morphism  $\beta : (\mathcal{A}_1, \dots, \mathcal{A}_n) \rightarrow \mathcal{A}_1 \otimes \dots \otimes \mathcal{A}_n$  in  $\mathcal{C}\text{at}_\infty^{\text{idem}}(\kappa)^\otimes$ . Thus there is a commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{A}_1 \times \dots \times \mathcal{A}_n & \xrightarrow{F_1 \times \dots \times F_n} & \mathcal{C}_1 \times \dots \times \mathcal{C}_n \\ \beta \downarrow & & \downarrow \alpha \\ \mathcal{A} & \xrightarrow{F} & \mathcal{C} \end{array}$$

in which  $F_i$  and  $F$  exhibit  $\mathcal{C}_i$  and  $\mathcal{C}$  as  $\kappa$ -ind completions of  $\mathcal{A}_i$  and  $\mathcal{A}$ . It follows immediately that  $\theta$  is well-defined and can be identified with  $\beta$ . Moreover, the proof of [Lur17, Proposition 4.8.1.3] shows that  $\mathcal{A}$  is generated under  $\kappa$ -small colimits under the essential image of  $\beta$ . Hence we have proved (1).

We next prove (2). Since  $\text{Ind}_\kappa : \mathcal{C}\text{at}_\infty^{\text{idem}}(\kappa) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}\text{r}^L(\kappa)$  is an equivalence of  $\infty$ -categories, it suffices to show that  $\text{Ind}_\kappa$  carries  $\mathcal{C}\text{at}_\infty^{\text{idem}}(\kappa)^\otimes$  into  $\mathcal{P}\text{r}^L(\kappa)^\otimes$ . (Because this and part (1) will prove that the resulting functor  $\mathcal{C}\text{at}_\infty^{\text{idem}}(\kappa)^\otimes \rightarrow \mathcal{P}\text{r}^L(\kappa)^\otimes$  is symmetric monoidal.) By part (1), the functor  $\text{Ind}_\kappa : \mathcal{C}\text{at}_\infty^{\text{idem}}(\kappa)^\otimes \rightarrow (\mathcal{P}\text{r}^L)^\otimes$

carries active cocartesian morphisms into  $(\mathcal{P}r^L(\kappa))^\otimes$ . Thus, to prove that it takes values in  $\mathcal{P}r^L(\kappa)^\otimes$ , it suffices to show that it carries  $\mathcal{C}\text{at}_\infty^{\text{idem}}(\kappa)$  into  $\mathcal{P}r^L(\kappa)$ , which is clear.

Part (3) is immediate from part (2). The proof is now complete.  $\square$

We conclude this subsection with two corollaries of Proposition A.4.

**Corollary A.5.** *Let  $\kappa$  be a regular cardinal. The forgetful functor*

$$(-)_\kappa : \mathcal{P}r^L(\kappa)^\otimes \rightarrow \overline{\mathcal{C}\text{at}}_\infty^{\text{idem}}(\kappa)^\otimes$$

*is an equivalence of symmetric monoidal  $\infty$ -categories.*

*Proof.* The composite  $\text{Ind}_\kappa : \mathcal{C}\text{at}_\infty^{\text{idem}}(\kappa)^\otimes \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathcal{P}r^L(\kappa)^\otimes \rightarrow \overline{\mathcal{C}\text{at}}_\infty^{\text{idem}}(\kappa)^\otimes$  is equivalent to the inclusion, which is an equivalence of symmetric monoidal  $\infty$ -categories.  $\square$

**Definition A.6.** Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be a monoidal  $\infty$ -category, and let  $\kappa$  be a regular cardinal. We say that  $\mathcal{C}$  is  **$\kappa$ -presentably monoidal** if it satisfies the following conditions:

- (1) The underlying  $\infty$ -category of  $\mathcal{C}$  is  $\kappa$ -presentable.
- (2) For every  $n \geq 0$  and  $\kappa$ -presentable objects  $X_1, \dots, X_n \in \mathcal{C}$ , the object  $X_1 \otimes \dots \otimes X_n$  is  $\kappa$ -presentable. (In particular, the unit object is  $\kappa$ -presentable).

**Corollary A.7.** *Let  $\kappa$  be a regular cardinal. The forgetful functor*

$$\kappa\text{-}\mathcal{P}r\mathcal{S}\mathcal{M} \rightarrow \widehat{\mathcal{S}\mathcal{M}\mathcal{C}\text{at}}_\infty^{\text{idem}}(\kappa), \mathcal{C}^\otimes \mapsto \mathcal{C}_\kappa^\otimes$$

*is a categorical equivalence, where:*

- (1)  $\kappa\text{-}\mathcal{P}r\mathcal{S}\mathcal{M} \subset \widehat{\mathcal{S}\mathcal{M}\mathcal{C}\text{at}}_\infty$  denotes the subcategory of  $\kappa$ -presentably monoidal  $\infty$ -categories and monoidal functors that preserves small colimits and  $\kappa$ -presentable objects.
- (2)  $\widehat{\mathcal{S}\mathcal{M}\mathcal{C}\text{at}}_\infty^{\text{idem}}(\kappa) \subset \widehat{\mathcal{S}\mathcal{M}\mathcal{C}\text{at}}_\infty$  denotes the subcategory of essentially small monoidal  $\infty$ -categories compatible with  $\kappa$ -small colimits, and those monoidal functors preserving  $\kappa$ -small colimits.

*Proof.* This follows from Corollary A.5 and the straightening–unstraightening equivalence.  $\square$

**Corollary A.8.** *Let  $\kappa$  be a regular cardinal, and let  $I : \widehat{\mathcal{S}\mathcal{M}\mathcal{C}\text{at}}_\infty^{\text{idem}}(\kappa) \rightarrow \kappa\text{-}\mathcal{P}r\mathcal{S}\mathcal{M}$  be a functor equipped with a natural transformation depicted as*

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \widehat{\mathcal{S}\mathcal{M}\mathcal{C}\text{at}}_\infty^{\text{idem}}(\kappa) & \xrightarrow{I} & \kappa\text{-}\mathcal{P}r\mathcal{S}\mathcal{M} \\ \searrow \alpha \cong & & \downarrow \\ & & \widehat{\mathcal{S}\mathcal{M}\mathcal{C}\text{at}}_\infty \end{array}$$

*Suppose that, for each  $\mathcal{C} \in \widehat{\mathcal{S}\mathcal{M}\mathcal{C}\text{at}}_\infty^{\text{idem}}(\kappa)$ , the map  $\alpha_{\mathcal{C}} : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow I(\mathcal{C})$  exhibits  $I(\mathcal{C})$  as an  $\text{Ind}_\kappa$ -completion of  $\mathcal{C}$ . Then  $I$  is a categorical equivalence.*

*Proof.* The natural transformation  $\alpha$  determines a natural equivalence

$$\mathcal{C} \xrightarrow{\sim} I(\mathcal{C})_\kappa$$

from the inclusion  $\iota : \widehat{\mathcal{S}\mathcal{M}\mathcal{C}\text{at}}_\infty^{\text{idem}}(\kappa) \hookrightarrow \widehat{\mathcal{S}\mathcal{M}\mathcal{C}\text{at}}_\infty(\kappa)$  to the composite  $\widehat{\mathcal{S}\mathcal{M}\mathcal{C}\text{at}}_\infty^{\text{idem}}(\kappa) \xrightarrow{I} \kappa\text{-}\mathcal{P}r\mathcal{S}\mathcal{M} \xrightarrow{(-)_\kappa} \widehat{\mathcal{S}\mathcal{M}\mathcal{C}\text{at}}_\infty(\kappa)$ . The functors  $\iota$  and  $(-)_\kappa$  are equivalences (Corollary A.7), so we find that  $I$  is also an equivalence.  $\square$

## APPENDIX B. UNIVERSAL LOCALIZATION

Recall that a functor  $L: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$  of  $\infty$ -categories is called a **universal localization** if for each pullback diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{C}' & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{D} \\ L' \downarrow & & \downarrow L \\ \mathcal{D}' & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{D} \end{array}$$

in  $\mathbf{Cat}_\infty$ , the functor  $L'$  is a localization.

A general criteria for universal localization is discussed in [Hin24]. In this section, we will show that localization of model categories yield universal localization. In fact, we will prove the following slightly more general result:

**Theorem B.1.** *Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be an  $\infty$ -category with weak equivalences and fibrations [Cis19a, Definition 7.4.12]. The localization functor*

$$\mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}[\text{weq}^{-1}]$$

*is an absolute localization.*

The proof of Theorem B.1 requires the following lemma:

**Lemma B.2.** *Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be an  $\infty$ -category, let  $\mathcal{W} \subset \mathcal{C}$  be a subcategory containing all objects, and let  $L: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$  be a functor of  $\infty$ -categories which carries every morphism in  $\mathcal{W}$  to an equivalence. If for each  $n \geq 0$ , the functor*

$$\theta_{L,n}: \text{Fun}([n], \mathcal{C}) \times_{\mathcal{C}^{n+1}} \mathcal{W}^{n+1} \rightarrow \text{Fun}([n], \mathcal{D})^{\simeq}$$

*is a weak homotopy equivalence, then  $L$  is a universal localization.*

*Proof.* In the case where  $\mathcal{W}$  is the subcategory of morphisms mapped to equivalences in  $\mathcal{D}$ , this is more or less immediate from Mazel–Gee’s localization theorem (see [MG19, Theorem 3.8] or [AC25, Theorem 1.1]) and can be deduced from [Hin24, Lemma 1.3 and 1.5]. The proof of the general case we present below is very similar. (In fact, we do not need this generality for this paper, but we record it for completeness.)

Let  $\mathcal{D}' \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$  be a categorical fibration of  $\infty$ -categories, and set  $\mathcal{C}' = \mathcal{D}' \times_{\mathcal{D}} \mathcal{C}$ . We must show that the functor  $L': \mathcal{C}' \rightarrow \mathcal{D}'$  is a localization. For this, let  $\mathcal{W}' = (\mathcal{D}')^{\simeq} \times_{\mathcal{D}} \mathcal{W} \subset \mathcal{C}'$ . We claim that  $L'$  is a localization at  $\mathcal{W}'$ . According to the generalized Mazel-Gee’s localization theorem [Ara23, Theorem 1.7], it suffices to show that for each  $n \geq 0$ , the map  $\theta_{L',n}$  is a weak homotopy equivalence. But  $\theta'_n$  is a pullback of the map  $\theta_n$  along the the Kan fibration  $\text{Fun}([n], \mathcal{D}')^{\simeq} \rightarrow \text{Fun}([n], \mathcal{D})^{\simeq}$ , so the claim follows from the right properness of the Kan–Quillen model structure.  $\square$

*Proof of Theorem B.1.* Let  $\mathcal{W} \subset \mathcal{C}$  denote the subcategory of weak equivalences. By [Cis19a, Remark 7.5.22], we may assume that  $\mathcal{W}$  is saturated, i.e., that it consists of the morphisms whose images in  $L(\mathcal{C}) = \mathcal{C}[\text{weq}^{-1}]$  are equivalences. By Lemma B.2, it will suffice to show that the functor

$$\theta_{\mathcal{C},n}: \text{Fun}([n], \mathcal{C}) \times_{\mathcal{C}^{n+1}} \mathcal{W}^{n+1} \rightarrow \text{Fun}([n], L(\mathcal{C}))$$

is a weak homotopy equivalence for every  $n \geq 0$ . By [Cis19a, Theorem 7.4.20], the  $\infty$ -category  $\text{Fun}([n], \mathcal{C})$  has the structure of an  $\infty$ -category with weak equivalences and fibrations whose subcategory of weak equivalences is given by  $\text{Fun}([n], \mathcal{C}) \times_{\mathcal{C}^{n+1}} \mathcal{W}^{n+1}$ . Moreover, by [Cis19a, Theorem 7.6.17], the functor

$$L(\text{Fun}([n], \mathcal{C})) \rightarrow \text{Fun}([n], L(\mathcal{C}))$$

is a categorical equivalence. Therefore, the map  $\theta_{L,n}$  can be identified with  $\theta_{\text{Fun}([n], \mathcal{C}), 0}$ . Thus, replacing  $\mathcal{C}$  by  $\text{Fun}([n], \mathcal{C})$ , we are reduced to showing that  $\theta_{\mathcal{C}, 0}: \mathcal{W} \rightarrow L(\mathcal{C})$  is a weak homotopy equivalence. This is the content of [Cis19a, Lemma 7.6.9], and the proof is complete.  $\square$

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