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simplicial object

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 ${\it Related topic} \qquad {\it Simplicial Category}$

Defines simplicial set

A simplicial object in a category C is a contravariant functor from the simplicial category Δ to C. Such a functor X is uniquely specified by the morphisms $X(\delta_i^n): X([n]) \to X([n-1])$ and $X(\sigma_i^n): X([n]) \to X([n+1])$, which satisfy

$$X(\delta_i^{n-1}) X(\delta_j^n) = X(\delta_{j-1}^{n-1}) X(\delta_i^n) \quad \text{for } i < j, \tag{1}$$

$$X(\sigma_i^{n+1}) X(\sigma_j^n) = X(\sigma_{j+1}^{n+1}) X(\sigma_i^n) \quad \text{for } i \le j,$$
(2)

$$X(\sigma_{i}^{n+1}) X(\sigma_{j}^{n}) = X(\sigma_{j+1}^{n+1}) X(\sigma_{i}^{n}) \text{ for } i \leq j,$$

$$X(\delta_{i}^{n+1}) X(\sigma_{j}^{n}) = \begin{cases} X(\sigma_{j-1}^{n+1}) X(\delta_{i}^{n}) & \text{if } i < j, \\ \text{id}_{n} & \text{if } i = j \text{ or } i = j+1, \\ X(\sigma_{j}^{n-1}) X(\delta_{i-1}^{n}) & \text{if } i > j+1. \end{cases}$$
(3)

In particular, a **simplicial set** is a simplicial object in **Set**. Equivalently, one could say that a simplicial set is a presheaf on Δ . The object X([n]) of a simplicial set is a set of n-simplices, and is called the n-skeleton.