

Unpacking the combinatorics of modular operads

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Operads Pop-Up

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Outline

1. Definitions and Examples
2. Overview of results and methods
3. Graphs and loops
4. Combinatorics of units

Modular operads

We develop a 'higher genus' analogue of operads ...in which graphs replace trees in the definition.

Abstract, Getzler-Kapranov 98



Getzler, E. and Kapranov, M. M.
Modular operads
Compositio Mathematica, 110(1):65–126,
1998.

Notation

\mathbb{P} : groupoid of finite sets and bijections

$$\mathbf{n} = \{1, \dots, n\}, \quad \mathbf{0} = \emptyset.$$

Definition 1

A *modular operad* is a

1. Functor $S: \mathbb{P}^{op} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}$



2. together with a **multiplication** $\diamond: S_{X \amalg \{x\}} \times S_{Y \amalg \{y\}} \rightarrow S_{X \amalg Y}$,



3. and a **contraction operation** $\zeta: S_{X \amalg \{x, y\}} \rightarrow S_X$.



Modular operads

In this talk, definition **modular operads** will correspond to **compact symmetric multicategories** introduced by **Joyal and Kock, 2011**.

- Joyal, A. and Kock, J.,
Feynman Graphs, and Nerve Theorem for
Compact Symmetric Multicategories
(Extended Abstract)
*Electronic Note in Theoretical Computer
Science*, 270(2):105–113, 2011.
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Modular operads

In this talk, definition **modular operads** will correspond to **compact symmetric multicategories** introduced by **Joyal and Kock, 2011**.

- coloured



- involutive colour set



- with multiplicative unit



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Graphical species (Joyal-Kock, 2011)

\mathbb{P}°	$\text{GS} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{PSh}(\mathbb{P}^\circ)$
<p>\mathbb{P} - groupoid of finite sets and bijections is full subcategory.</p> <p>plus a distinguished object \S with</p> $\mathbb{P}^\circ(\S, \S) = \{1, \tau\}, \quad \tau^2 = 1$ <p>For each X, and $x \in X$, morphisms</p> $ch_x, ch_x \circ \tau : \S \longrightarrow X.$	<p>A graphical species S is described by:</p> <p>\mathbb{P}-presheaf $(S_X)_X$, a symmetric sequence or combinatorial species,</p> <p>together with a pair (\mathfrak{C}, ω) of a set $\mathfrak{C} = S_\S$ and involution $\omega = S(\tau)$.</p> <p>for all X, for all $x \in X$, a map $S(ch_x) : S_X \rightarrow \mathfrak{C}$.</p>

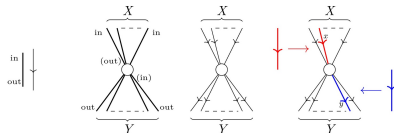
The boundary $\partial\phi$ of $\phi \in S_X$ is $(S(ch_x))_{x \in X}(\phi) \in \mathfrak{C}^X$.

Graphical species - examples

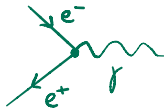
1. terminal species: $\S \mapsto \{*\}$, $X \mapsto \{*\}$ for all X .

2. directed species:

Di is terminal species on $(\mathfrak{D}i, \sigma_{\mathfrak{D}i})$: $\mathfrak{D}i = \{\text{in}, \text{out}\}$, $\sigma_{\mathfrak{D}i} \neq 1$.



3. Feynman diagrams (particle interactions):



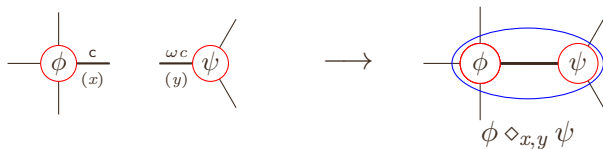
Multiplication.

Glue two elements along dual colours in boundaries:

Partial map

$$\diamond_{x,y}^{X,Y} : S_{X\Pi\{x\}} \times S_{Y\Pi\{y\}} \rightarrow S_{X\Pi Y}.$$

commutative, equivariant with respect to \mathbb{P} action



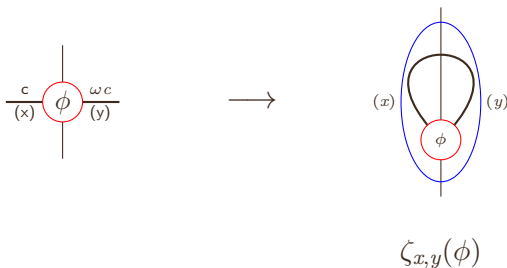
Contraction.

Self-gluing of one element along involutive pair of colours in its boundary:

Partial operation

$$\xi_{x,y}^X = \xi_{y,x}^X : S_{X \amalg \{x,y\}} \rightarrow S_X,$$

equivariant with respect to \mathbb{P} action.



Unit for \diamond .

Unit: injection $\epsilon : \mathfrak{C} = S_{\mathfrak{s}} \hookrightarrow S_{\mathbf{2}}$:

$$\begin{aligned}\phi \diamond \epsilon(c) &= \phi = \epsilon(c) \diamond \phi \quad \text{wherever defined,} \\ \epsilon \circ \omega &= S(\sigma) \circ \epsilon, \text{ where } \sigma \in \text{Aut}(\mathbf{2}), \sigma \neq id\end{aligned}$$

So $\partial(\epsilon(c)) = (c, \omega c)$.

A (\mathfrak{C}, ω) -coloured modular operad $(S, \diamond, \zeta, \epsilon)$
is equipped with a **contracted unit** map

$$o : \mathfrak{C} \longmapsto S_0, \quad c \longmapsto \zeta \epsilon(c).$$

For all $c \in \mathfrak{C}$

$$o(c) = o(\omega c).$$

Unit for \diamond .

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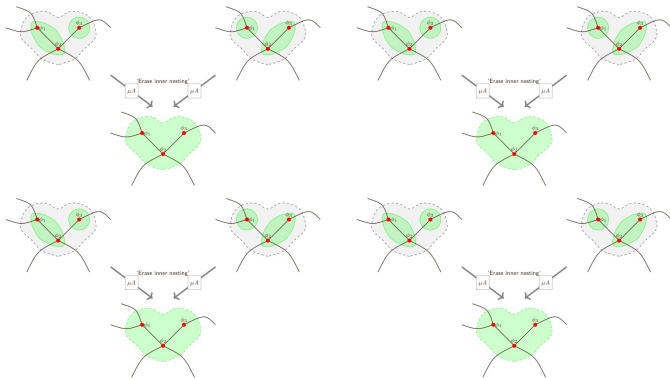
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For all $c \in \mathfrak{C}$

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Category MO of modular operads

Objects: $(S, \diamond, \zeta, \epsilon)$ with 4 axioms that generalise associativity

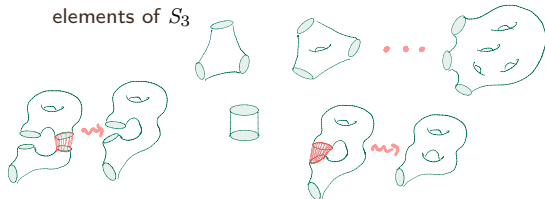


Morphisms in GS that preserve $(\diamond, \zeta, \epsilon)$.

Examples

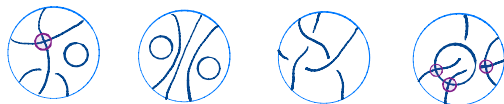
Oriented surfaces with closed boundary

elements of S_3



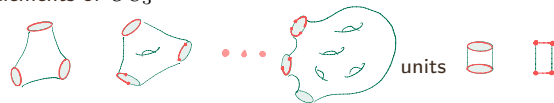
Undirected virtual tangles

elements of T_{2s} , $s = 3$



Oriented surfaces with open - closed boundary

elements of OC_3



Compact closed categories

e.g. cobordism categories

Wheeled properads (Directed modular operads)

e.g. directed virtual tangles



Main theorems

Theorem (Joyal - Kock 2011, R. 2018/20, Hackney-Robertson-Yau 2020)

*There is a category GS of coloured collections – called **graphical species** – and a monad \mathbb{O} on GS whose Eilenberg-Moore category of algebras $GS^{\mathbb{O}}$ is canonically isomorphic to the category MO of modular operads.*

Theorem (Joyal - Kock 2011, R. 2018, Hackney-Robertson-Yau 2020)

*There is a full, dense subcategory Ξ of MO whose objects are **graphs**.
The essential image of the induced fully faithful nerve $N : MO \rightarrow \mathbf{PSh}(\Xi)$ is characterised by **Segal presheaves**.*

A little context

- Stated by Joyal and Kock (2011), who constructed the category \mathbf{GS} and an endofunctor on \mathbf{GS} whose algebras are modular operads.
However, this functor does not admit a monadic multiplication.
- Proof R. (2018).
- Hackney, Robertson and Yau (2020) have recently proved versions of these theorems by different methods, with explicit goal of defining ∞ -modular operads.

The point of this talk is not these results, but to use their proof to understand more about the combinatorics.

The plan

Theorem (Joyal - Kock 2011, R. 2018/20, Hackney-Robertson-Yau 2020)

There is a category GS of coloured collections – called *graphical species* – and a monad \mathbb{O} on GS whose Eilenberg-Moore category of algebras $GS^{\mathbb{O}}$ is canonically isomorphic to the category MO of modular operads.

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 & & \Xi^{\mathbb{C}} & \xrightarrow{\text{f.f.}} & MO & \xrightarrow{N} & PSh(\Xi) \\
 & & \uparrow \text{b.o.} & & \uparrow \text{free}^{\mathbb{O}} \downarrow \text{forget}^{\mathbb{O}} & & \downarrow j^* \\
 \mathbb{P}^{\mathbb{O}\mathbb{C}} & \xrightarrow{\text{f.f.}} & Gr^{\mathbb{C}} & \xrightarrow{\text{f.f.}} & GS^{\mathbb{C}} & \xrightarrow{\text{f.f.}} & PSh(Gr)
 \end{array}$$

The plan

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 & & \Xi & \xrightarrow{\text{f.f.}} & \text{MO} & \xrightarrow{N} & \text{PSh}(\Xi) \\
 & & \uparrow \text{b.o.} & & \uparrow \text{free}^{\mathbb{O}} \downarrow \text{forget}^{\mathbb{O}} & & \downarrow j^* \\
 \mathbb{P}^{\mathbb{O}} & \hookrightarrow & \text{Gr} & \xrightarrow{\text{f.f.}} & \text{GS} & \xrightarrow{\text{f.f.}} & \text{PSh}(\text{Gr})
 \end{array}$$

Theorem (Joyal - Kock 2011, R. 2018, Hackney-Robertson-Yau 2020)

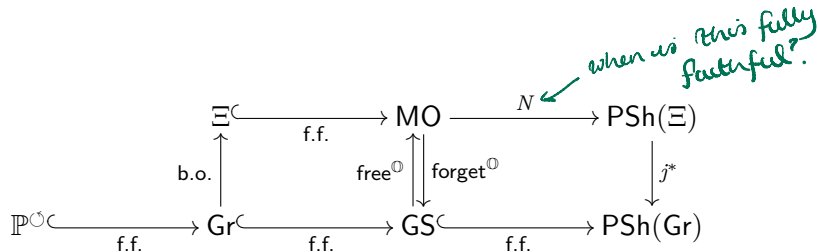
*There is a full, dense subcategory Ξ of MO whose objects are **graphs**.*

*The essential image of the induced fully faithful nerve $N : \text{MO} \rightarrow \text{PSh}(\Xi)$ is characterised by **Segal presheaves**:*

For all graphs \mathcal{G}

$$P(\mathcal{G}) \cong \lim_{(C,b) \in \mathbb{P}^{\mathbb{O}} \downarrow \mathcal{G}} P(C).$$

Abstract nerve theory



Weber, 2007:

If \mathbb{O} has arities Gr , then N is fully faithful and its essential image is characterised by Segal presheaves:

For all graphs \mathcal{G}

$$P(\mathcal{G}) \cong \lim_{(C,b) \in \mathbb{P}^{\mathbb{O}} \downarrow \mathcal{G}} P(C).$$

Example 1: Classical nerve theorem for categories

Segal condition for categorical nerve theorem:

$P : \Delta^{op} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}$ is the nerve of a category if and only if for all $n \geq 2$,

$$P_n \cong \underbrace{P_1 \times_{P_0} \cdots \times_{P_0} P_1}_{n \text{ times}}.$$

Weber picture:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 \Delta \hookrightarrow & & \mathbf{Cat} & \xrightarrow{N} & \mathbf{sSet} \\
 \uparrow j \text{ b.o.} & & \updownarrow F^{Cat} \quad U^{Cat} & & \downarrow j^* \\
 \mathcal{E} \hookrightarrow & \xrightarrow[\text{f.f.}]{\text{dense}} & \Delta_0 \hookrightarrow & \xrightarrow[\text{f.f.}]{\text{dense}} & \mathbf{PSh}(\mathcal{E}) \hookrightarrow \mathbf{PSh}(\Delta_0).
 \end{array}$$

Example 2: Dendroidal nerve theorem for operads

Σ^* : **Objects:** $n \in \mathbb{N}$, distinguished edge \downarrow

$\Sigma^*(\downarrow, n) \cong \{0, 1, \dots, n\}$.

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 & & \Omega & \hookrightarrow & \mathbf{Op} & \xrightarrow{N} & \mathbf{PSh}(\Omega) \\
 & & \uparrow j \text{ b.o.} & & \updownarrow & & \downarrow \\
 \Sigma^* & \hookrightarrow & \Omega_0 & \hookrightarrow & \mathbf{PSh}(\Sigma^*) & \hookrightarrow & \mathbf{PSh}(\Omega_0)
 \end{array}$$

$P : \Omega^{op} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}$ is the nerve of an operad if and only if,

$$P(T) \cong \lim_{(t,f) \in \Sigma^* \downarrow T} P(j(t)).$$

The key results: Distributive law

Theorem (R. 2020)

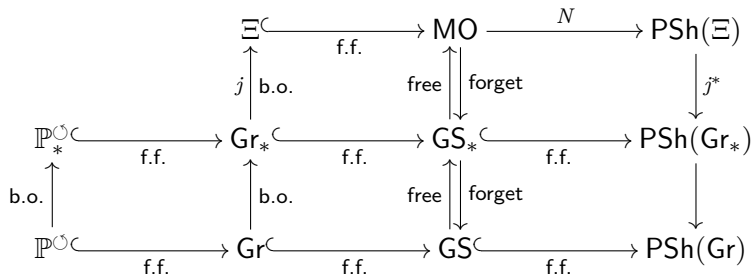
There are monads $\mathbb{T} = (T, \mu^{\mathbb{T}}, \eta^{\mathbb{T}})$ and $\mathbb{D} = (D, \mu^{\mathbb{D}}, \eta^{\mathbb{D}})$ on GS and a distributive law $\lambda : TD \Rightarrow DT$ such that $\mathbb{O} = \mathbb{D}\mathbb{T}$ on GS.

The key results: Distributive law

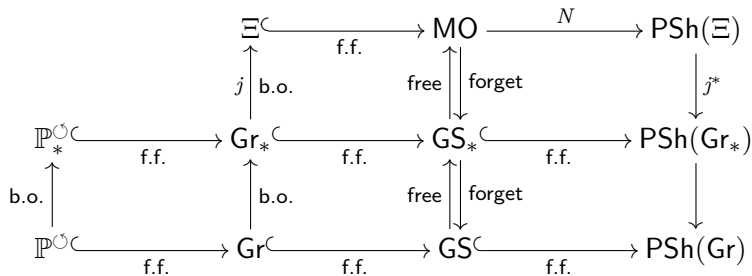
Theorem (R. 2020)

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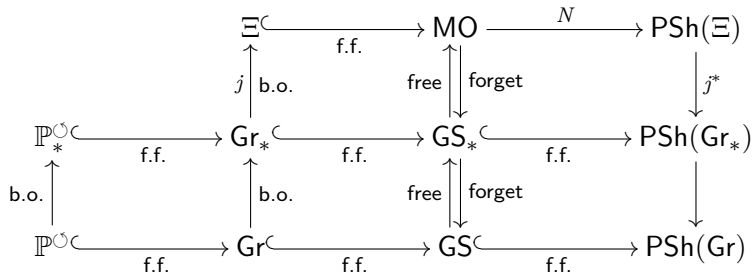
Let \mathbf{GS}_* be the category of \mathbb{D} -algebras.



The key results: Distributive law



The key results: Lift has arities



Lemma (R. 2018)

There is a full, dense subcategory Gr_* of GS_* such that the induced monad \mathbb{T}_* on GS_* , *has arities* Gr_* .

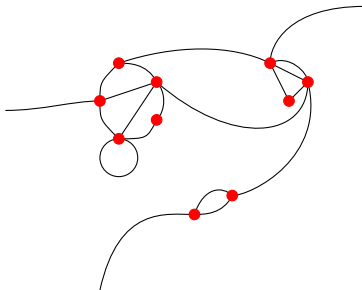
Why is this interesting?

- (i) Proof of Joyal and Kock's theorem using the originally intended methods: [Weber nerve machinery](#) and, in particular [Berger-Mellies-Weber, 2012](#).
- (ii) The proof [exhibits the combinatorics of these structures explicitly](#).
In particular it reveals where we need to take extra care.
- (iii) Abstract methods place structures in a wider context.
Results from elsewhere may be generalised to modular operads.
- (iv) Proof method suggests ways of building related constructions.

A monad for modular operads?

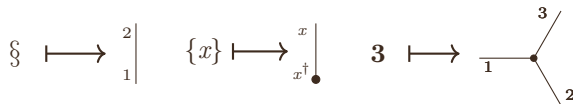
The *configurations of formal composites* are now general connected graphs, more precisely what we call Feynman graphs: they are *(non-directed) graphs*, allowed to have multiple edges and *loops*, as well as *open edges*.

Introduction, Joyal-Kock 2011



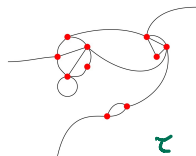
Graph category Gr - objects

Think of \S as graph with two open ends
that can be permuted,
Think of X as corolla.



In general \mathcal{G} has

- a finite set V of vertices,
- a finite set \tilde{E} of edges
(copies of \S)



If

$$E = \partial \tilde{E} \cong \tilde{E} \amalg \tilde{E},$$

\mathcal{G} is described by a partial map

$$E \rightarrowtail V$$

.

So \mathcal{G} is a diagram

$$\tau \circlearrowleft E \xrightarrow{s} H \xrightarrow{t} V.$$

Graph category Gr

Morphisms are **local isomorphisms** – they **preserve vertex valency**.



$$\begin{array}{c} \mathcal{G} \\ \downarrow f \\ \mathcal{G}' \end{array}
 \qquad
 \begin{array}{ccccccc}
 E & \xleftarrow{\tau} & E & \xleftarrow{s} & H & \xrightarrow{t} & V \\
 f_E \downarrow & & f_E \downarrow & & f_H \downarrow & \lrcorner & \downarrow f_V \\
 E' & \xleftarrow{\tau'} & E' & \xleftarrow{s'} & H' & \xrightarrow{t'} & V'
 \end{array}$$

There are **fully faithful dense embeddings**

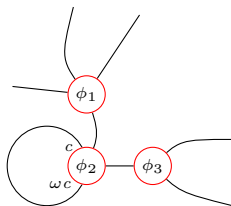
$$\mathbb{P}^\circ \xrightarrow{\iota} \mathbf{Gr} \xrightarrow{\mathcal{G} \mapsto \mathbf{Gr}(\iota-, \mathcal{G})} \mathbf{GS}.$$

A monad for modular operads?

S is a graphical species. Build a species $T \circ S$ of **formal combinations of elements of S** :

$$T \circ S(\S) = S_{\S} = (\mathfrak{C}, \omega).$$

$T \circ S_X$: **equivalence classes of graphs \mathcal{G}** , with $\partial \mathcal{G} \cong X$, **decorated by S** :



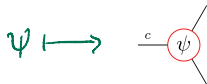
$$S(\mathcal{G}) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \lim_{(Y,b) \in (\mathbb{P}^{\circ} \downarrow \mathcal{G})} S_Y$$

Colimit over graph isomorphisms that fix the bijections

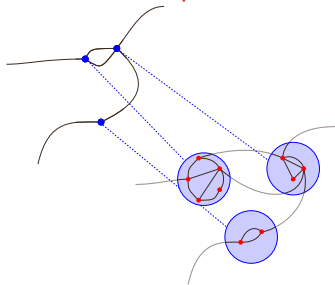
$$X \cong \partial \mathcal{G}.$$

A monad for modular operads?

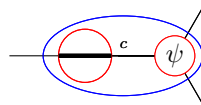
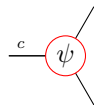
Monadic unit:



Monadic multiplication?



Units for operadic multiplication?



Take colimits of functors

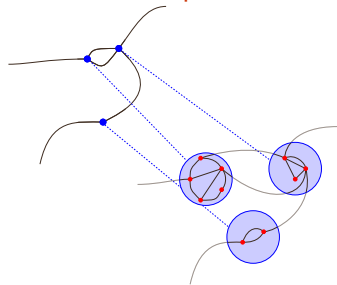
$$(\mathbb{P}^{\circ} \downarrow \mathcal{G}) \rightarrow (\text{Gr} \downarrow S), (X, f) \mapsto (\mathcal{G}, \alpha), \partial \mathcal{G} = X$$

that preserve boundaries and incidence.

A monad for modular operads?

Monadic unit:

Monadic multiplication?

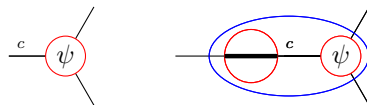


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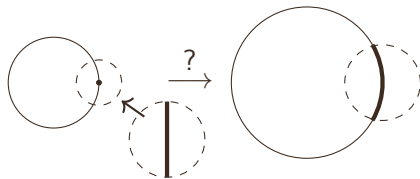
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Units for operadic multiplication?

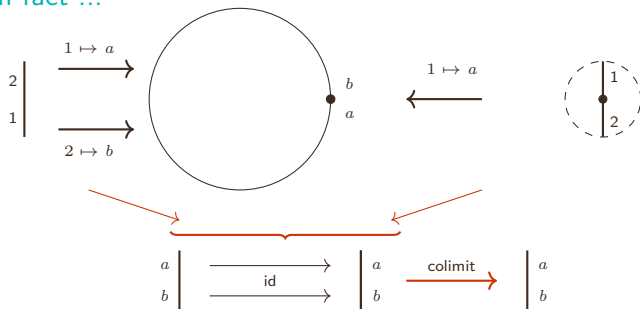


But...



Loops?

In fact ...



Can we add this object?

No!

We need

$$\zeta(\epsilon c) = \zeta(\epsilon(\omega c)), \forall c.$$

But we still need to take a colimit .

$$\begin{array}{ccc} a & \xrightarrow{\text{id}} & a \\ b & \xrightarrow{\tau} & b \end{array}$$



If the kids won't play nicely,

Separate them!

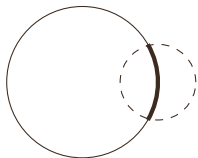


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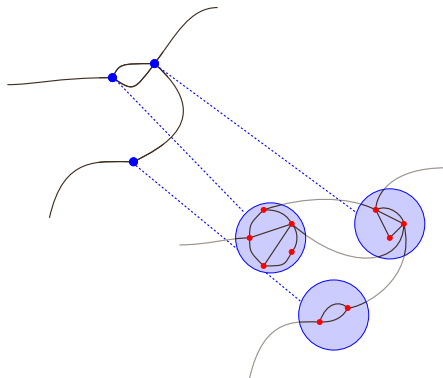
Separate them!

Non-unital monad

Besides this obstruction,



everything works fine.



Don't allow substitution by \S .

Then there's a well defined monad $\mathbb{T} = (T, \mu^{\mathbb{T}}, \eta^{\mathbb{T}})$ on GS that governs contraction and multiplication.

Just not multiplicative units.

Combinatorics of units 1: The monad

If S has a unital multiplication $\epsilon : \mathfrak{C} \rightarrow S_2$, then it has distinguished elements S_2 :

$$\epsilon(c) \in S_2, \quad \text{for all } c \in \mathfrak{C},$$

... but also in S_0 !

$$o(c) = \zeta \epsilon(c) = o(\omega c), \quad \text{for } c \in \mathfrak{C}.$$

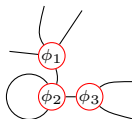
So, take endofunctor $D : \text{GS} \rightarrow \text{GS}$ that **adjoins these elements**:

- for each $c \in \mathfrak{C}$, add an extra element ϵ_c^+ to S_2 ,
- for each orbit \tilde{c} of ω in \mathfrak{C} , add an extra element $o_{\tilde{c}}^+$ to S_0 ,

This extends to a monad $\mathbb{D} = (D, \mu^{\mathbb{D}}, \eta^{\mathbb{D}})$ **on** GS .

Distributive law

Natural transformation $\lambda : TD \Rightarrow DT$

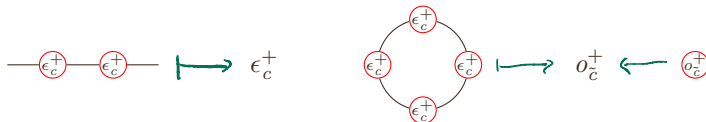


If all vertices are decorated by S , do nothing!

If \mathcal{G} has vertices decorated by S , delete any vertices decorated by ϵ^+



Otherwise



A solution!

Theorem (R. 2020)

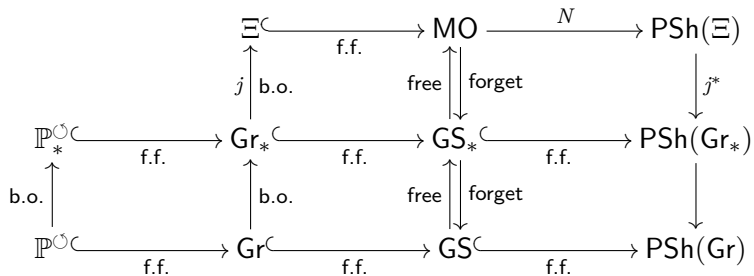
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Let \mathbf{GS}_* be the category of \mathbb{D} -algebras.

Theorem (R. 2018)

There is a full, dense subcategory \mathbf{Gr}_ of \mathbf{GS}_* such that the induced monad \mathbb{T}_* on \mathbf{GS}_* , *has arities*^{*} \mathbf{Gr}_* .*

A solution!



Combinatorics of units 2: Graph morphisms

Endofunctor $D : \mathbf{GS} \rightarrow \mathbf{GS}$ that **adjoins**:

- for each $c \in \mathfrak{C}$, add an extra element ϵ_c^+ to S_2 ,
- for each orbit \tilde{c} of ω in \mathfrak{C} , add an extra element $o_{\tilde{c}}^+$ to S_0 ,

What do the algebras look like?

Triples (S, ϵ, o)

- S is (\mathfrak{C}, ω) - graphical species
- $\epsilon : \mathfrak{C} \rightarrow S_2$ is injective **unit**.
- $o : \mathfrak{C} \rightarrow S_0$ factors through \mathfrak{C}/ω .

Pointed graphical species

$$\mathbf{GS}_* \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathbf{Alg}(\mathbb{D})$$

A pointed graphical species (S, ϵ, o) is:
a (\mathfrak{C}, ω) -graphical species S ,

$\epsilon : \mathfrak{C} \rightarrow S_2$ is injective unit .

$o : \mathfrak{C} \rightarrow S_0$ factors through \mathfrak{C}/ω .

Pointed graphical species

$$\mathbb{P}_*^{\circlearrowleft}$$

$$\mathbb{P}^{\circlearrowleft}$$

with adjointed morphisms:

$u : \mathbf{2} \rightarrow \S$ such that

- $u \circ ch_1 = id_{\S} \quad u \circ ch_2 = \tau,$
- $\tau \circ u = u \circ \sigma_{\mathbf{2}} \in \mathbb{P}^{\circlearrowleft}(\mathbf{2}, \S),$

$$z : \mathbf{0} \rightarrow \S$$

$$z = \tau \circ z$$

$$GS_* \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} PSh(\mathbb{P}_*^{\circlearrowleft})$$

A $\mathbb{P}_*^{\circlearrowleft}$ -presheaf S_* is:

a (\mathfrak{C}, ω) -graphical species S ,

$\epsilon = S_*(u) : \mathfrak{C} \rightarrow S_{\mathbf{2}}$ is injective **unit**

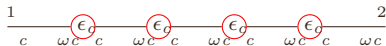
$$o = S_*(z) : \mathfrak{C} \rightarrow S_{\mathbf{0}}.$$

What should the monad \mathbb{T}_* on GS_* do?

Ignore vertices decorated by units

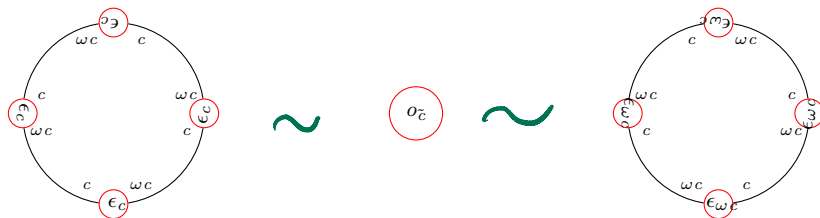


Units?



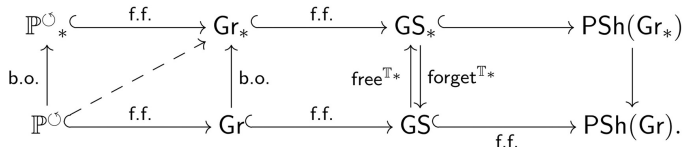
What should the monad \mathbb{T}_* on \mathbf{GS}_* do?

Contracted units? Identify **0**-graphs decorated by (contracted) units



How does this work?

More graph morphisms



Factorisation on Gr_* **Right:** Morphisms from Gr .

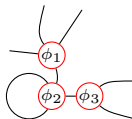
Left: Delete bivalent vertices as long as there is at least one remaining vertex (preserves graph boundary), and **Special morphisms**

$$\circ u : \mathbf{2} \rightarrow \S,$$

$$\circ z : \mathbf{0} \rightarrow \S,$$

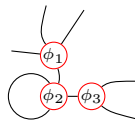
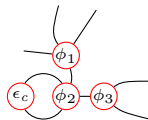
$$\circ \kappa : \mathcal{W} \rightarrow \S.$$

The lifted monad \mathbb{T}_* on \mathbb{D} algebras



If all vertices are decorated by S , do nothing!

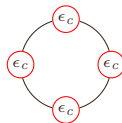
If \mathcal{G} has vertices decorated by S , delete any vertices decorated by ϵ^+



Otherwise



ϵ_c



o_c^+



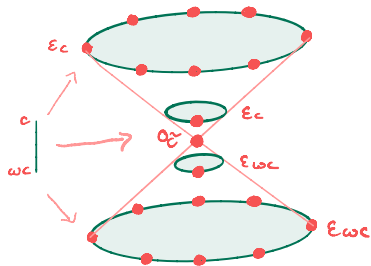
o_c^-

A monad for modular operads?

Morphisms in left class of Gr_* -factorisation preserve boundary except at $z : \mathbf{0} \rightarrow \S$ and $\kappa : \mathcal{W}^m \rightarrow \S$.

$$T_* S_{\S} = S_{\S} = (\mathfrak{C}, \omega).$$

$T_* S_X$: equivalence classes of graphs \mathcal{G} , with $\partial \mathcal{G} \cong X$, decorated by S :



$$S(\mathcal{G}) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \lim_{(Y, b) \in (\mathbb{P}^{\circ} \downarrow \mathcal{G})} S_Y$$

Colimit over graph morphisms in the left class with fixed bijection

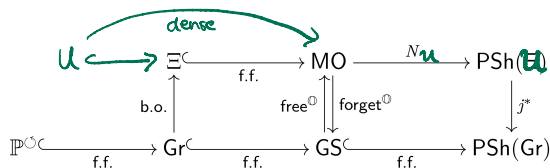
$$X \cong \partial \mathcal{G}$$

except at (\S, c) .

Remarks on construction

- No loop objects added to the construction.
- $z : \mathbf{0} \rightarrow \S$ comes directly from the definition
- $\kappa : \mathcal{W} \rightarrow \S$ gives contraction.
- Obtain multiplication for monad \mathbb{T}_* by looking at only nice representatives.

Weak modular operads: Hackney, Robertson and Yau, 2020



Theorem (Hackney, Robertson, Yau, 2020)

The graphical category $\mathbb{U} \subset \Xi$ is dense in MO.

Essential image of nerve satisfies the strict Segal condition.

*There is a model category structure on $\text{sSet}^{\mathbb{U}^{op}}$ whose fibrant objects are those S satisfying the **weak Segal condition**:*

for all \mathcal{G} ,

$$S(\mathcal{G}) \simeq \lim_{(C,b) \in \mathbb{P}^{\circ} \downarrow \mathcal{G}} S(C).$$

Weak modular operads: Corollary and observation

It follows from the proof and Caviglia and Horel, 2016

Corollary (Raynor, 2020)

*There is a model category structure on $\mathbf{sSet}^{\Xi^{op}}$ whose fibrant objects are those S satisfying the **weak Segal condition**:
for all \mathcal{G} ,*

$$S(\mathcal{G}) \simeq \lim_{(C,b) \in \mathbb{P} \circ \downarrow \mathcal{G}} S(C)$$

It remains to compare the versions of weak modular operads so obtained.

Extending the framework, concluding remarks.

Directions

- Circuit algebras/ modular operads with product and nerve theorem.
- Higher modular operads

Applications

- Extended cobordism categories.
- geometric applications from the cone..

To be continued...

THANK YOU!