



OPETOPES

Syntactic and Algebraic Aspects

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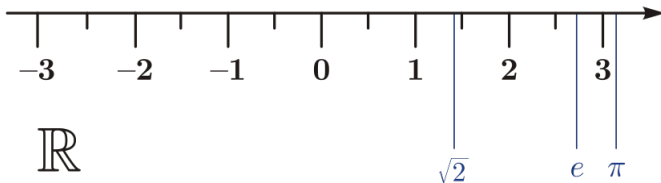
Opetopic algebras

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Introduction

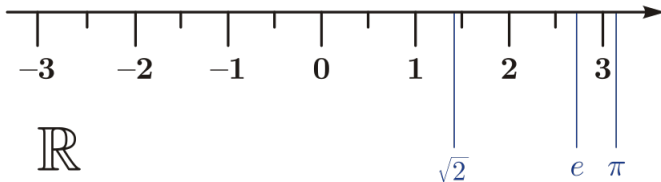
Des nombres avec plus de dimensions

Considérons la droite des nombres réels :



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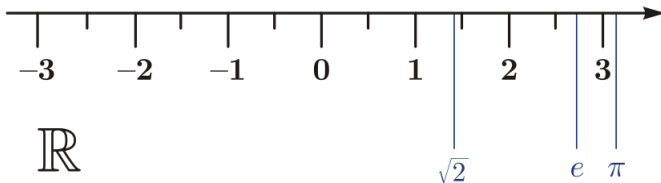
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Elle contient les nombres réels, qui servent à quantifier quasiment tout ce qui est... réel : le volume d'essence dans le réservoir d'une voiture, la masse du soleil, le PIB, l'aire d'un polygone, etc.

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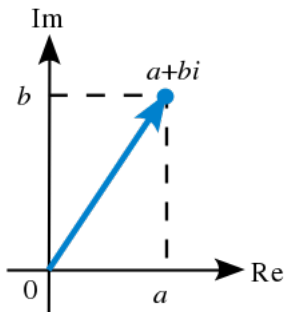
Une droite est un objet à 1 dimension. On peut donc dire que les nombres réels sont des “nombres à 1 dimension”.

Des nombres avec plus de dimensions

A quoi ressemblerait un nombre à 2 dimensions ?

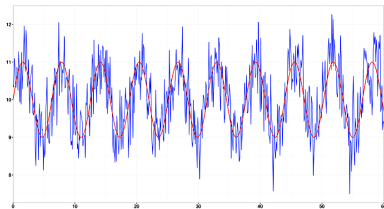
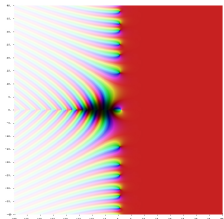
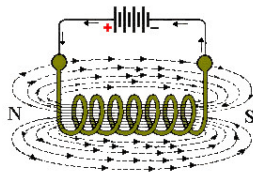
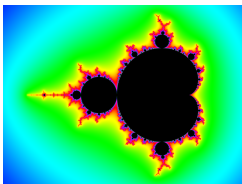
Des nombres avec plus de dimensions

A quoi ressemblerait un nombre à 2 dimensions ? C'est précisément ce que l'on appelle un *nombre complexe*.



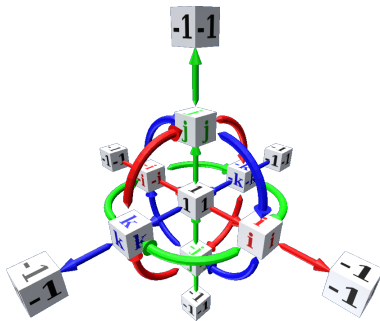
Des nombres avec plus de dimensions

Ils ne quantifient pas nécessairement quelque chose de réel, mais ils trouvent des applications en géométrie, en physique, en théorie des nombres, en traitement de signaux, etc.



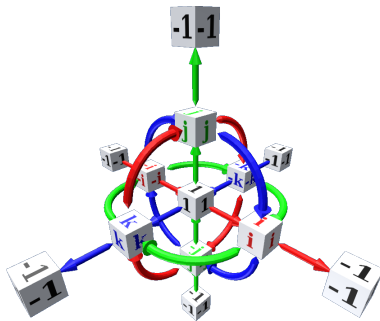
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Des nombres avec plus de dimensions

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Ils sont beaucoup utilisés informatique (e.g. les moteurs 3D), et en physique.

Des nombres avec plus de dimensions

Il existe même des nombres à 8 dimensions (*octonions*) et à 16 dimensions (*sédénions*).

Ils sont également utilisés en physique théorique et dans certaines branches des mathématiques. De récents travaux leur ont également trouvé des applications en robotique.

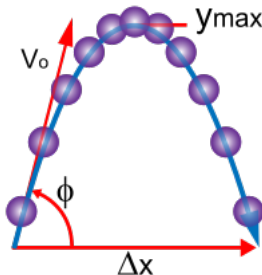
La physique avec plus de dimensions

Cette idée d'ajouter toujours plus de dimensions se retrouve également en physique.

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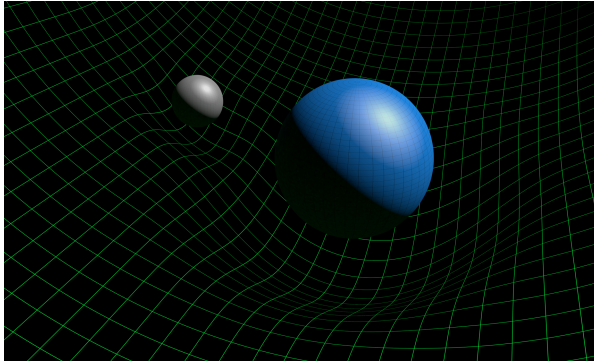
Cette idée d'ajouter toujours plus de dimensions se retrouve également en physique.

Mécanique newtonienne : 3 dimensions

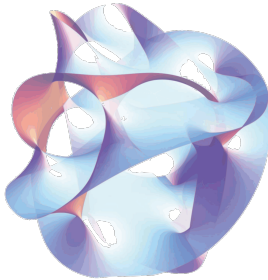


La physique avec plus de dimensions

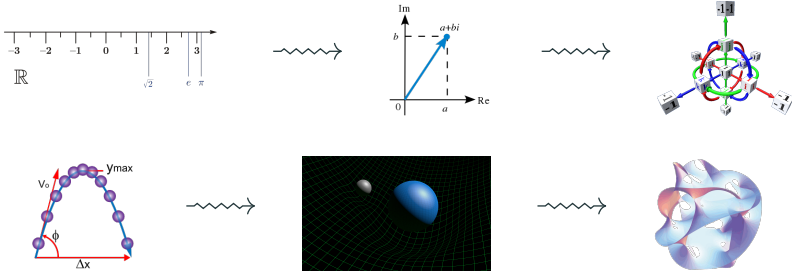
Théorie de la relativité : 4 dimensions



Théorie des cordes : 10 dimensions (ou 11, ou 26, suivant à qui vous demandez)



Moralité : plus de dimensions = plus de possibilités !



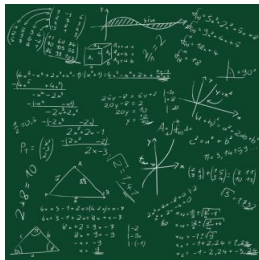
Les maths avec plus de dimensions

Depuis quelques dizaines d'années, les mathématiciens essayent d'ajouter des dimensions aux mathématiques elles-mêmes.

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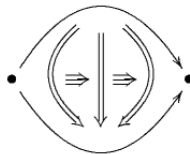
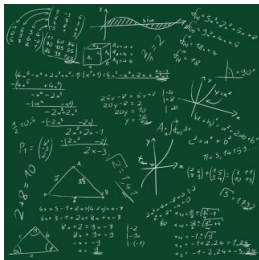
Mais qu'est-ce que ça veut dire, des “mathématiques avec plus de dimensions” ?



~~~~~> ???

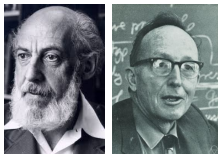
# Les maths avec plus de dimensions

Une des réponses à cette question est la *théorie des catégories supérieures* (en anglais, *higher dimensional category theory*, ou juste *higher category theory*).



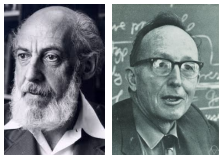
# La théorie des catégories

La *théorie des catégories* classique est une branche des mathématiques née en 1942, et se propose comme une approche synthétique aux mathématiques elles-mêmes.

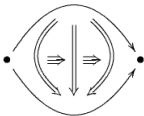


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La *théorie des catégories supérieures* est née dans les années 60-70, et pousse certains principes de la théorie des catégories classique beaucoup plus loin.



# La théorie des catégories supérieures

Analogie : Si l'on imagine une théorie mathématique comme une maison, alors elle est construite du bas vers le haut, chaque théorème étant une brique, reposant sur d'autres briques plus basses.

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En théorie des catégories supérieures, on a certains étages, mais pas les premiers malheureusement...

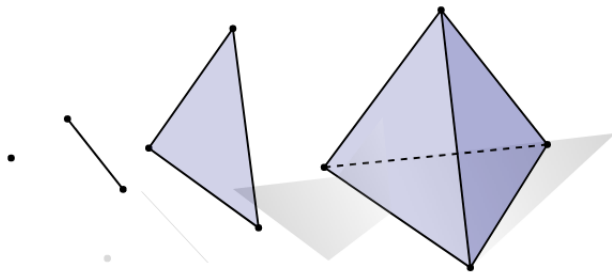




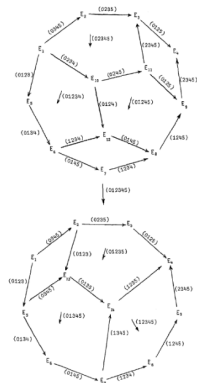
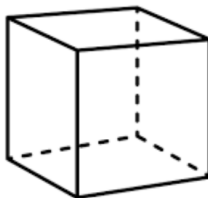
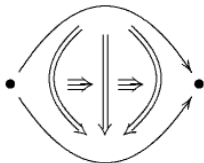
La première étape pour construire ces étages manquants est de choisir les briques.

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De nos jours, les briques les plus utilisées sont les *simplexes*

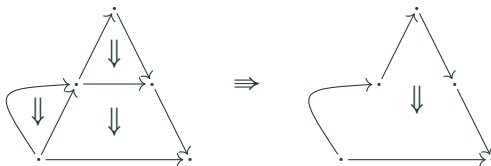


Parmi les autres modèles célèbres, on retrouve les *globules*, les *cubes*, ou encore les *orientaux* :



# Opétopes

Dans cette thèse, nous nous intéressons à un modèle de briques moins utilisé : les *opétopes*, créés par John Baez et James Dolan en 1998.



1. *Opétopes* : On détaille la spécification et la composition exacte de cette fameuse “brique opétopique”. On construit également les outils de chantier nécessaires à la bonne utilisation et au bon assemblage de ces briques.

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2. *Syntaxe* : On construit des robots qui sont également capable de manipuler ces briques.
3. *Algèbres* : On montre que certains bâtiments célèbres peuvent être reconstruits à l’identique en utilisant ces briques opétopiques. De par la nature ces briques, on pourrait même ajouter des étages.

Now we switch to English.



# Opetopes

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## In a nutshell...

Opetopes are shapes (akin to globes, cubes, simplices, dendrices, etc.) introduced in [Baez and Dolan, 1998] to describe laws and coherence in weak higher categories.



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Basically, they represent the notion of composition in every dimension. They have been actively studied in the first decade of this century, e.g. [Hermida et al., 2002], [Cheng, 2003], [Leinster, 2004], [Kock et al., 2010].

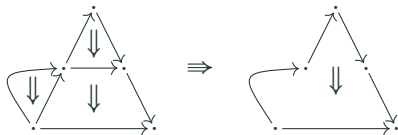
## Informal definition

Opetopes are **pasting diagrams** where every cell is **many-to-one** i.e. many inputs, one output. Here is an example of a 3-opetope:



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Every cell denoted by a  $\Downarrow$  above has dimension 2, so that a 3-opetope really is a **pasting diagram of cells of dimension 2**.

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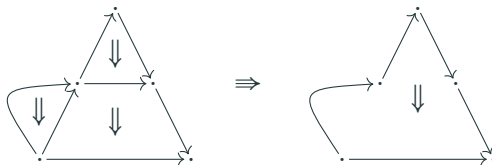
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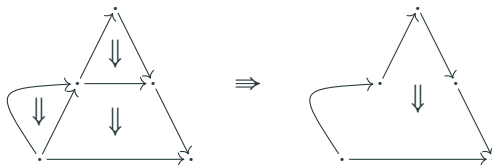
We further ask these cells of dimension 2 to be **2-opetopes**, i.e. pasting diagrams of cells of dimension 1 (the simple arrows  $\rightarrow$ ).





## Definition

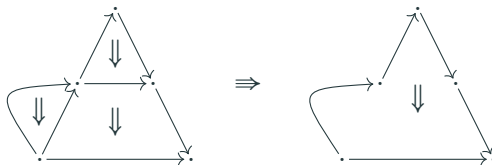
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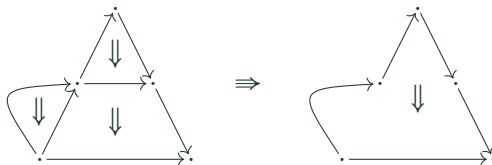
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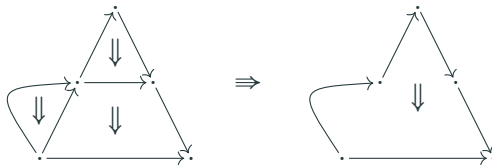
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We write  $\mathbb{O}_n$  for the set of  $n$ -opetopes, and  $\mathbb{O}$  for the set of all opetopes.

## Informal definition: low dimensions

- There is a unique 0-dimensional opetope, which we'll call the **point** and denote by  $\blacklozenge$ :

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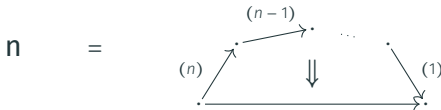
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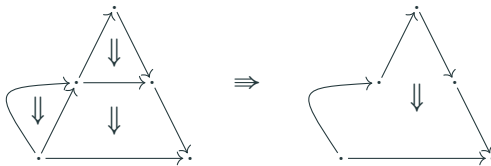
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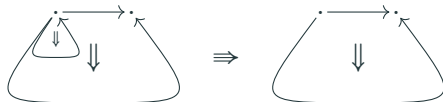
## Informal definition: dimension 3

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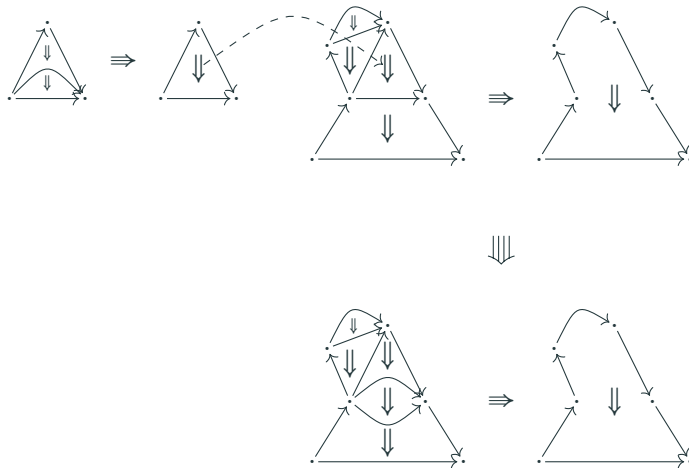
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## Informal definition: dimension 4

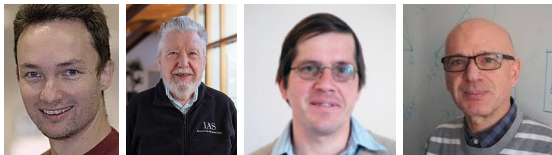
- The induction goes on: 4-opetopes are pasting diagrams of 3-opetopes:



As expected, opetopes are not easy to define formally.



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The notion of tree is supported by the theory of *polynomial functors*.

$$I \xleftarrow{s} E \xrightarrow{p} B \xrightarrow{t} I$$

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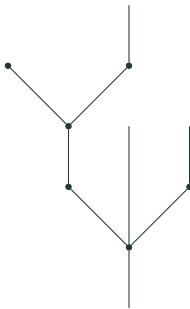
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- the set of *nodes* (or *operations*) is  $B$ ;
- the set of input and output *edges* (or *colors*) is  $I$ ;
- for a given node  $b \in B$ , the inputs of  $b$  are parametrized by  $p^{-1}(b)$ , and its output is  $t(b)$ .

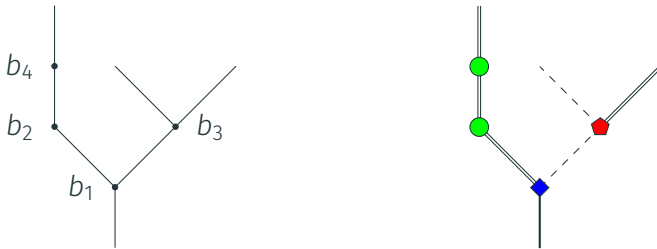
# Polynomial functors, trees, monads

A polynomial functor  $T$  is a *polynomial tree* if it is possible to label it with its operations and colors.



# Polynomial functors, trees, monads

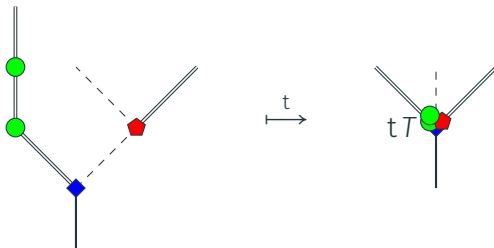
If  $T$  is polynomial tree, and  $P$  is a polynomial functor, then a morphism  $\phi: T \rightarrow P$  *decorates* the nodes of  $T$  by operations of  $P$ , and the edges of  $T$  by colors of  $P$ .



We call  $T$  (leaving  $\phi$  implicit) a  $P$ -tree, and write  $\text{tr } P$  for the category of  $P$ -trees.

# Polynomial functors, trees, monads

If  $P$  is a *polynomial monad*, then we can compute the *target* of a  $P$ -tree  $T$  by “contracting” it, yielding an operation of  $P$ :





# The Baez–Dolan construction

Given a polynomial monad  $P$

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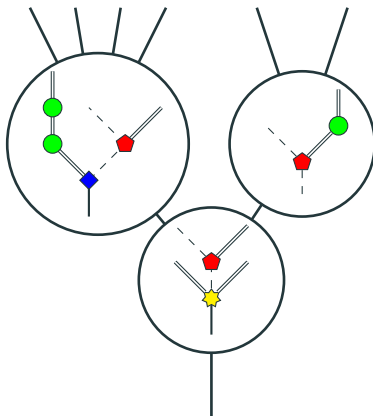
$$I \xleftarrow{s} E \xrightarrow{p} B \xrightarrow{t} I$$

the *Baez–Dolan construction*  $(-)^+$  creates a new polynomial monad  $P^+$  whose operations are precisely the  $P$ -trees:

$$B \xleftarrow{s} \mathrm{tr}^\bullet P \xrightarrow{p} \mathrm{tr} P \xrightarrow{t} B$$

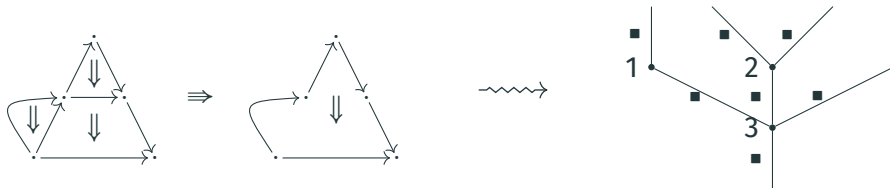
# The Baez–Dolan construction

Thus, a  $P^+$ -tree is a tree decorated by trees decorated by operations of  $P^+$ , i.e. a tree of  $P$ -trees:



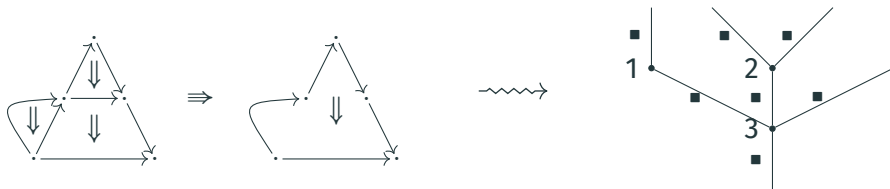
# Formal definition

Why is all that relevant? If a pasting diagram is a tree,



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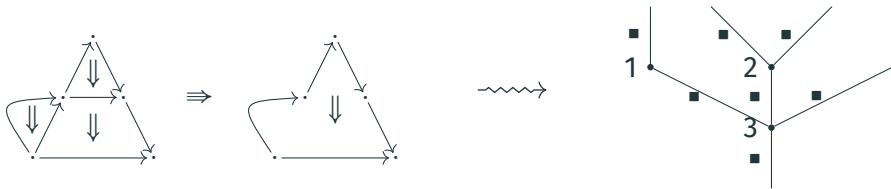
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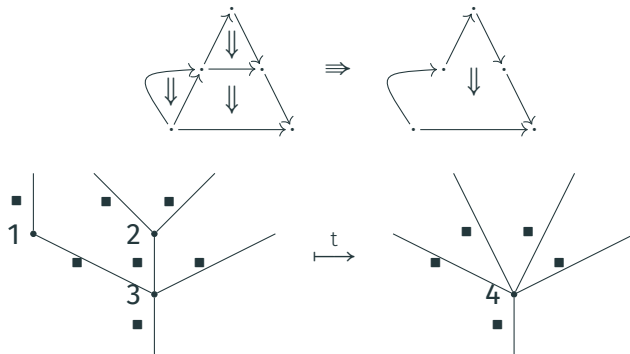


then an opetope is a tree of of opetopes, i.e. a

tree of trees of trees of trees of ... of trees of points.  
n times

# Formal definition

Furthermore, the “contraction” operation corresponds exactly to targets:



We can finally define opetopes properly. Start with the identity polynomial monad  $\mathfrak{Z}^0 := \text{id}_{\text{set}}$ , and write it as

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Unfolding the definition,

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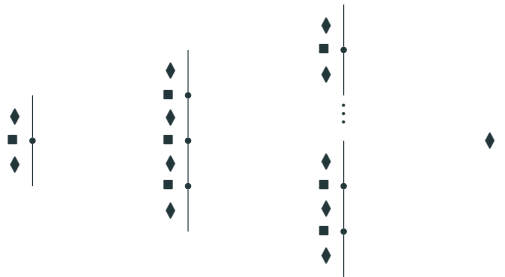
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# Formal definition

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- $\blacksquare$  is the only 1-opetope.
- A 2-opetope is a  $\mathfrak{Z}^0$ -tree. Since  $\mathfrak{Z}^0$  has only one operation, which has only one input, a  $\mathfrak{Z}^0$ -tree is necessarily a linear tree.

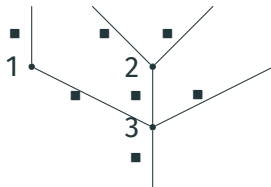


We have a correspondence  $\mathbb{O}_2 \cong \mathbb{N}$ .



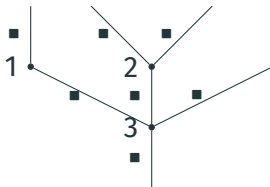
## Formal definition

- A 3-opetope is a  $\mathfrak{Z}^1$ -tree. The operations of  $\mathfrak{Z}^1 = (\mathfrak{Z}^0)^+$  are linear trees. Thus, a  $\mathfrak{Z}^1$ -tree is simply a tree.



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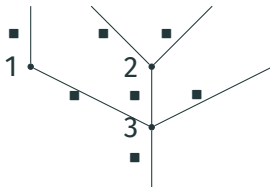
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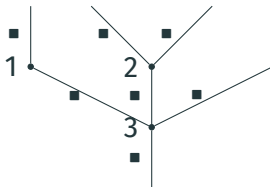
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- A  $(n + 1)$ -opetope is a tree of  $n$ -opetopes.

To summarize:

1. Intuitively, opetopes are pasting diagrams (of opetopes).

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2. Formally, we follow the definition of KJBM based on polynomial functors and trees.
3.  $n$ -opetopes are the colors of  $\mathfrak{Z}^n := (\mathfrak{Z}^0)^{++\cdots+}$

$$\mathbb{O}_n \xleftarrow{s} E \longrightarrow \mathbb{O}_{n+1} \xrightarrow{t} \mathbb{O}_n.$$

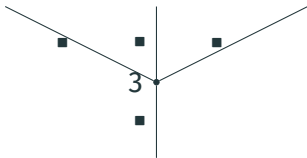
# Opetopic algebras

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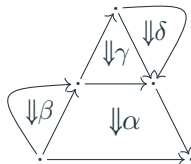
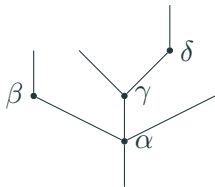
## Motivations: operads

Let  $P$  be a planar operad. An operation  $f \in P_3$  is classically represented as a corolla (left), but can also be depicted as 2-opetope (right):



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Composing operations of  $P$  amounts to assemble a “tree of operations” (left), which corresponds to forming a pasting diagram (right):



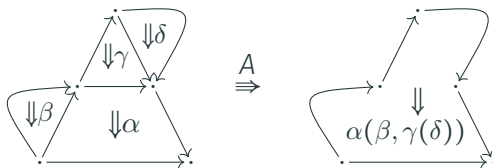
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Recall that a pasting diagram of 2-opetopes is a 3-opetope!

The associated 3-opetope then corresponds to the *compositor* of this pasting diagram:



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Categories can also be represented “opetopically”: a morphism in a category  $\mathcal{C}$  has the shape of the arrow, which is the unique 1-dimensional opetope:



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and the *compositor* is the corresponding 2-opetope

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} & b & \xrightarrow{g} & c & \xrightarrow{h} & d \\ & \uparrow f & & & & \downarrow i \\ a & \xrightarrow{\quad} & e \\ & i \cdot h \cdot g \cdot f & & & \end{array}$$

# The category of opetopes

Let  $\mathbb{O}$  be the following category

- Objects: all opetopes;

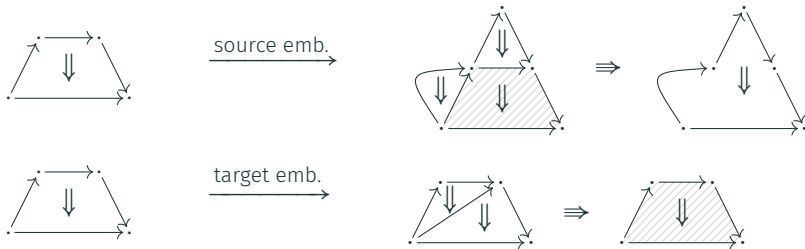


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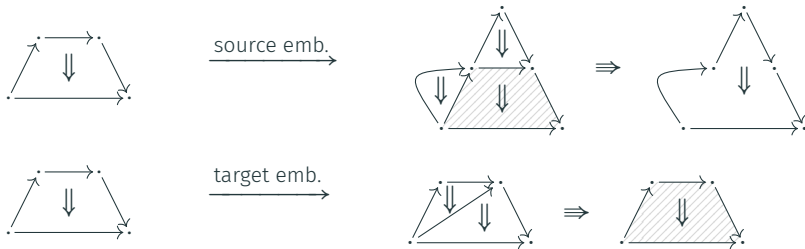


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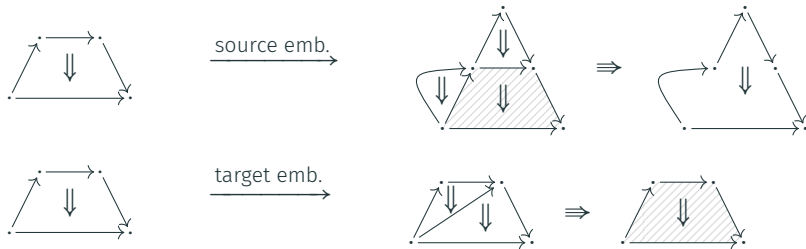


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We use the dedicated formalism of *higher addresses* to precisely identify occurrences of cells in pasting diagrams.

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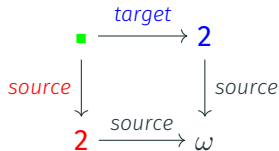


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The green arrow has two embeddings into the global 3-opetope:



Let  $\mathcal{P}\text{sh}(\mathbb{O}) := [\mathbb{O}^{\text{op}}, \text{Set}]$  be the category of *opetopic sets*.



## Opetopic sets

Let  $\mathcal{Psh}(\mathbb{O}) := [\mathbb{O}^{\text{op}}, \text{Set}]$  be the category of *opetopic sets*. Let  $\mathbb{O}_{m,n}$  be the full subcategory of  $\mathbb{O}$  spanned by opetopes of dimension between  $m$  and  $n$ , and  $\mathcal{Psh}(\mathbb{O}_{m,n}) = [\mathbb{O}_{m,n}^{\text{op}}, \text{Set}]$  be the category of presheaves over  $\mathbb{O}_{m,n}$ , or “truncated opetopic sets”.

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For example:

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$$\mathbb{O}_{0,1} = (\blacklozenge \rightrightarrows \blacksquare) \quad \text{since } \blacksquare = \cdot \longrightarrow \cdot.$$

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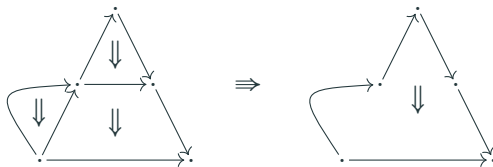
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2. Likewise,  $\mathcal{Psh}(\mathbb{O}_{1,2})$  is the category of (non-symmetric) collections.

# Opetopic sets

Some opetopic sets are of particular interest:



- For  $\omega \in \mathbb{O}$ , let  $O[\omega] = \mathbb{O}(-, \omega)$  be the *representable* at  $\omega$ .

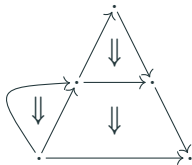
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- Let  $S[\omega] = \partial O[\omega] - \{t\omega\}$  be the *spine of  $\omega$* .

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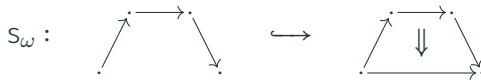
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In our previous example,



Let  $S_n = \{s_\omega : S[\omega] \hookrightarrow O[\omega] \mid \omega \in \mathbb{O}_n\}$ .

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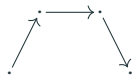
$$\begin{array}{ccc} S[\omega] & \xrightarrow{\forall} & X \\ s_\omega \downarrow & \nearrow \exists! & \\ O[\omega] & & \end{array}$$

has all compositors of  $n$ -dimensional pasting diagrams: **every pasting diagram of dimension  $n$  has a unique composite.**

For example, recall that  $\mathcal{Psh}(\mathbb{O}_{0,1}) = \mathcal{G}raph$ . Let  $X \in \mathcal{Psh}(\mathbb{O}_{0,1})$ .

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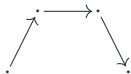
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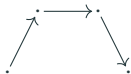
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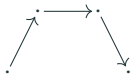
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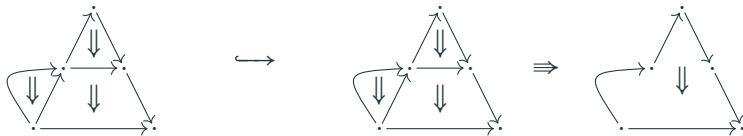
Solution: lift against  $S_{n+1,n+2} = S_{n+1} \cup S_{n+2}$ .

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Solution: lift against  $S_{n+1,n+2} = S_{n+1} \cup S_{n+2}$ .

Intuitively, if  $S_{n+2} \perp X$ , then a combination of lifting problems (in dimension  $n$ ) can be summarized into a unique one:



# Lifting against spine inclusion

For example, let  $X \in \mathcal{P}\text{sh}(\mathbb{O})$  be an opetopic set such that  $S_{2,3} \perp X$ , and consider

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A similar opetope would enforce  $f(gh) = fgh$ .

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The last step required to define opetopic algebra is to trivialize  $X$  in dimension  $< n$  and  $> n + 2$ .

- We want  $X$  to be “trivial” in dimension  $< n$ . Solution: require  $O_{<n} \perp X$ , where

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## Lemma

$$S_{n+1,n+2} \cup B_{>n+2} \perp X \quad \Longleftrightarrow \quad S_{\geq n+1} \perp X$$



## Definition

A  $(0, n)$ -opetopic algebra is an opetopic set  $X$  such that

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- Planar uncolored operads are exactly  $(0, 2)$ -opetopic algebras.
- Loday's combinads (over the combinatorial pattern  $\mathbb{PT}$  of planar trees) are exactly  $(0, 3)$ -opetopic algebras.

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Let  $\mathcal{A}lg_{k,n}$  be the category of  $(k,n)$ -algebras.

## Theorem

We have a reflective adjunction

$$h : \mathcal{P}sh(\mathbb{O}) \xrightleftharpoons{\perp} \mathcal{A}lg_{k,n} : M.$$

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## Corollary

$\mathcal{A}lg_{k,n}$  is locally finitely presentable.

We presented the notion of opetopic algebras, which encompasses major known kinds of algebraic structures:

|                         |                        |                           |                        |                                         |     |
|-------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-----|
| Algebraic<br>structure  | Sets<br>=0-algebras    | Categories<br>=1-algebras | Operads<br>=2-algebras | $\mathbb{PT}$ -combinads<br>=3-algebras | ... |
| Arity of<br>composition | Trivial<br>=1-opetopes | Lists<br>=2-opetopes      | Trees<br>=3-opetopes   | Trees of trees<br>=4-opetopes           | ... |

# Opetopic homotopy theory

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In this last part, we show that some results regarding the homotopy theory of these algebras (and their weak counterparts) [Rezk, 2001] [Joyal and Tierney, 2007] [Cisinski and Moerdijk, 2013] [Horel, 2015] can be unified and generalized in the framework of opetopic algebras.

## The category $\mathbb{A}$

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It is well known that  $\mathcal{Psh}(\mathbb{A})$  is a better category to deal with  $(\infty-)$ categories, and  $\mathcal{Psh}(\mathbb{N})$  for  $(\infty)$ -operads.



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It is well known that  $\mathcal{Psh}(\mathbb{\Delta})$  is a better category to deal with  $(\infty-)$ categories, and  $\mathcal{Psh}(\mathbb{Q})$  for  $(\infty)$ -operads.

It turns out that  $\mathbb{O}$  is not suitable to investigate weak opetopic algebras. For example, it does not generalize  $\mathbb{\Delta}$  or  $\mathbb{Q}$ .

## The category $\mathbb{A}$

Fix  $n \geq 1$  and  $k = 1$ . Similar to categories and operads, there is a small category  $\mathbb{A} = \mathbb{A}_{1,n}$  such that  $(1, n)$ -algebras are presheaves over  $\mathbb{A}$  satisfying some lifting condition.

### Theorem

There is a reflective adjunction

$$\tau : \mathcal{Psh}(\mathbb{A}) \xrightleftharpoons{\perp} \mathcal{Alg} : N,$$

where  $\mathbb{A}$  is the full subcategory of  $\mathcal{Alg} = \mathcal{Alg}_{1,n}$  of algebras of the form  $h\omega$ , for  $\omega \in \mathbb{O}_{n+1}$ .

# The category $\mathbb{A}$

For example,

- $\mathbb{A} = \mathbb{A}_{1,1}$ , as categories are exactly  $(1,1)$ -algebras, and simplices are exactly free categories on finite linear graphs ( $\simeq$  2-opetopes).

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- $\Delta = \mathbb{A}_{1,1}$ , as categories are exactly  $(1,1)$ -algebras, and simplices are exactly free categories on finite linear graphs ( $\simeq$  2-opetopes).
- $\Omega = \mathbb{A}_{1,2}$ , as operads are exactly  $(1,2)$ -algebras, and dendrices are exactly free operads on trees ( $\simeq$  3-opetopes).

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## Theorem

In the reflective adjunction  $\tau : \mathcal{P}\text{sh}(\mathbb{A}) \xrightleftharpoons{\iota} \mathcal{A}\text{lg} : N$ ,  $\tau$  is the localization at  $S$ .



- there is a good notion of *horn* and *inner horn inclusion*:

$$H_{\text{inner}} = \{h_{\omega}^e : \Lambda^e[h\omega] \hookrightarrow h\omega \mid \omega \in \mathbb{O}_{n-k,n}, e \text{ inner face of } h\omega\};$$

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- there is a good notion of *interval objects*, parametrized by  $\mathbb{O}_{n-1}$ :

$$R = \{r_{\phi} : \mathfrak{I}_{\phi} \twoheadrightarrow h\phi \mid \phi \in \mathbb{O}_{n-1}\}$$

(for example, in the simplicial case ( $n = 1$ )  $r_{\blacklozenge} : (* \leftrightarrow *) \twoheadrightarrow \Delta[0]$ ).

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Let us denote it by  $\mathcal{Psh}(\mathbb{A})_\infty$ . If  $n = 1$ ,  $\mathcal{Psh}(\mathbb{A})_\infty = \mathcal{Psh}(\mathbb{A})_{\text{Joyal}}$ . If  $n = 2$ ,  $\mathcal{Psh}(\mathbb{A})_\infty = \mathcal{Psh}(\mathbb{N})_{\text{CM}}$ .



# Homotopy-coherent opetopic algebras

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We resort to simplicial sets as a model for the notion of homotopy. So we consider simplicial presheaves over  $\mathbb{A}$ :

$$\mathcal{S}p(\mathbb{A}) := [\mathbb{A}^{op}, \mathcal{P}sh(\mathbb{A})].$$

# Homotopy-coherent opetopic algebras

Consider  $\mathcal{S}\mathbf{p}(\mathbb{A})_v$ , the model structure on

$$\mathcal{S}\mathbf{p}(\mathbb{A}) = [\mathbb{A}^{\mathrm{op}}, \mathcal{P}\mathrm{sh}(\mathbb{A})]$$

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- A *Segal space* is a fibrant object in the left Bousfield localization

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- A *complete Segal space* is a fibrant object in the left Bousfield localization

$$\mathcal{S}p(\mathbb{A})_{\text{Rezk}} = \mathcal{S}p(\mathbb{A})_{\text{Segal}}[R^{-1}].$$

## Theorem

The adjunction

$$(-)^{\text{disc}} : \mathcal{P}\text{sh}(\mathbb{A})_{\infty} \xrightleftharpoons{\quad} \mathcal{S}\text{p}(\mathbb{A})_{\text{Rezk}} : (-)_{-,0}$$

is a Quillen equivalence.

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The proof essentially generalizes the strategy of Joyal and Tierney in the simplicial case ( $n = 1$ ) [Joyal and Tierney, 2007].

# Summary

To summarize:

- the “right” shape category for opetopic algebras

|                   |                                    |                                |                                 |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Categories        | Graph                              | $\xrightarrow{\text{upgrade}}$ | $\mathcal{P}\text{sh}(\Delta)$  |
| Operads           | Coll                               | $\xrightarrow{\quad}$          | $\mathcal{P}\text{sh}(\Omega)$  |
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- $\infty$ -opetopic algebras are the fibrant objects of  $\mathcal{P}\text{sh}(\Lambda)_{\infty}$ , i.e. presheaves having the (non unique) lifting property against  $S$ ;
- the idea of weak opetopic algebra is also modelled by *complete Segal spaces*:




$$(-)^{\text{disc}} : \mathcal{P}\text{sh}(\Lambda)_{\infty} \xrightleftharpoons[\perp]{\sim} \mathcal{S}\text{p}(\Lambda)_{\text{Rezk}} : (-)_{-,0}.$$

Thank you for your attention!

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