

1 Lifting problems

One often encounters problems of the following form.

Given some commuting square

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A & \longrightarrow & B \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ C & \longrightarrow & D \end{array}$$

construct a dashed arrow making the triangles formed commute.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A & \longrightarrow & B \\ \downarrow & \nearrow & \downarrow \\ C & \longrightarrow & D \end{array}$$

These problems are known as lifting problems. They turn out to be very important. In this chapter, we develop some powerful machines which enable us to easily solve lifting problems.

In [Section 1.1](#), we define the notion of a *saturated set*, which is a set of morphisms closed under certain operations. We see that these operations are closed under intersection, and thus one can define the *saturated hull* of any set of morphisms to be the smallest saturated hull containing them.

We then define the notion of a *lifting property*; roughly, a morphism f has the left lifting property with respect to a set \mathcal{S} of morphisms if for all $s \in \mathcal{S}$, and all commuting with f on the left and some $s \in \mathcal{S}$ on the right, one can find a dashed arrow as follows.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X & \longrightarrow & A \\ f \downarrow & \nearrow & \downarrow s \\ Y & \longrightarrow & B \end{array}$$

Similarly, a morphism g has the *right lifting property* with respect to \mathcal{S} if one can always find a dashed arrow as follows.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A & \longrightarrow & X \\ s \downarrow & \nearrow & \downarrow g \\ B & \longrightarrow & Y \end{array}$$

For any set \mathcal{S} of morphisms, we denote the set of all morphisms which have the left lifting property with respect to it by $\perp \mathcal{S}$, and the set of all morphisms with the right

lifting property with respect to it by \mathcal{S}_\perp . We then show that for any set \mathcal{M} , the set ${}_\perp\mathcal{M}$ is saturated, immediately implying that the saturated hull of any set \mathcal{S} is contained in ${}_\perp(\mathcal{S}_\perp)$.

In [Section 1.2](#), we define the notion of a compact object. Roughly speaking, a compact object is an object which satisfies a sort of finiteness condition.

In [Section 1.3](#), we prove a technical lemma called the *small object argument*. This lemma provides a factorization for morphisms whose domain is compact. This factorization immediately implies that for sets of morphisms whose domain is compact, we have the equality $\overline{M} = {}_\perp(\mathcal{M}_\perp)$.

In [Section 1.4](#), we define the set of anodyne morphisms to be the set of all morphisms with the left lifting property with respect to Kan fibrations, and show that the set of

1.1 Saturated sets

Denote by \mathcal{C} a category with small colimits.

Definition 1 (saturated). A subset $\mathcal{S} \subset \text{Morph}(\mathcal{C})$ is said to be saturated if the following conditions hold.

1. \mathcal{S} contains all isomorphisms.
2. \mathcal{S} is closed under pushouts, i.e. for any pushout square

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A & \longrightarrow & A' \\ i \downarrow & & \downarrow i' \\ B & \longrightarrow & B' \end{array}$$

with $i \in \mathcal{S}$, then $i' \in \mathcal{S}$.

3. \mathcal{S} is closed under retracts, i.e. for any commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} & & \text{id} & & \\ & \searrow & & \nearrow & \\ A & \longrightarrow & A' & \longrightarrow & A \\ i' \downarrow & & \downarrow i & & \downarrow i' \\ B & \longrightarrow & B' & \longrightarrow & B \\ & \nwarrow & & \nwarrow & \\ & & \text{id} & & \end{array}$$

with $i \in \mathcal{S}$, we also have $i' \in \mathcal{S}$.

4. \mathcal{S} is closed under countable composition, i.e. for any chain of morphisms indexed by \mathbb{N}

$$A_0 \xrightarrow{i_0} A_1 \xrightarrow{i_1} A_2 \xrightarrow{i_2} A_3 \xrightarrow{i_3} \dots$$

the map

$$A_0 \rightarrow \text{colim}_{n \in \mathbb{N}} A_n = A_\infty$$

is in \mathcal{S} .

5. \mathcal{S} is closed under small coproducts: if the family of morphisms

$$\{i_j: A_j \rightarrow B_j\}_{j \in J} \subset \mathcal{S}$$

is in \mathcal{S} , where J is a small set, then the morphism $\coprod_j i_j$ defined using the universal property of coproducts

$$\coprod_{j \in J} A_j \xrightarrow{\coprod i_j} \coprod_{j \in J} B_j$$

is in \mathcal{S} .

Saturatedness is a very powerful property. By showing that a certain set of morphisms is saturated, which is often possible based on general principles, the closure properties allow you to manipulate the morphisms in very powerful ways.

Example 2. The set

$$\{f: X \rightarrow Y \mid f \text{ is mono}\} \subset \text{Morph}(\mathbf{Set}_\Delta)$$

is saturated.

1. Clearly, every isomorphism is a monomorphism.
2. Since colimits are computed pointwise (Corollary ??) it suffices to check that every pushout of monos is mono in \mathbf{Set} .
3. Consider simplicial sets and maps as follows, with i a monomorphism.

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 & & \text{id} & & \\
 & \curvearrowright & & \curvearrowleft & \\
 A & \xrightarrow{f} & A' & \xrightarrow{g} & A \\
 j \downarrow & & \downarrow i & & \downarrow j \\
 B & \xrightarrow{k} & B' & \xrightarrow{h} & B \\
 & \curvearrowleft & & \curvearrowright & \\
 & & \text{id} & &
 \end{array}$$

Since $g \circ f = \text{id}$, we must have that f is a monomorphism, so $i \circ f$ is a monomorphism. Thus, $k \circ j$ is a monomorphism, so j must be a monomorphism.

4. Again, it suffices to check that countable composition respects monomorphisms in \mathbf{Set} . Again, this is immediate from the universal property.
5. We can check this in \mathbf{Set} . Again it is immediate from the universal property.

Definition 3 (saturated hull). Let \mathcal{M} be any set of morphisms in \mathcal{C} . We define the saturated hull $\overline{\mathcal{M}}$ of \mathcal{M} to be the smallest saturated set containing \mathcal{M} , i.e. the intersection of all saturated sets containing \mathcal{M} .

Note 4. This always exists because the set of all morphisms of \mathcal{C} is a saturated set, and because the intersection of saturated sets is again saturated (because properties of the form ‘closure under x ’ are respected by intersection).

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Example 5. Consider the set \mathcal{M} of boundary fillings

$$\mathcal{M} = \{\partial\Delta^n \hookrightarrow \Delta^n \mid n \geq 0\}.$$

We claim that the saturated hull $\overline{\mathcal{M}}$ is the set of monomorphisms. Note that by [Example 2](#), the set of all monomorphisms is saturated.

To see this, consider some monomorphism $f: X \rightarrow Y$. We think of f as including X as a subobject of Y . Our goal is to construct f from boundary inclusions using pushouts, retracts, countable composition, and coproducts.

Take the coproduct

$$X^0 \equiv X \amalg \left(\coprod_{\Delta^0 \in Y_0 \setminus f_0(X_0)} \Delta^0 \right) = X \amalg \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{0-skeleton of } Y \text{ which} \\ \text{is not part of } X \end{array} \right\}.$$

Since $\partial\Delta^0 = \emptyset$, we can build a map $g^0: X \hookrightarrow X^0$ as a coproduct of boundary fillings.

$$X = X \amalg \left(\coprod_{\Delta^0 \in Y_0 \setminus f_0(X_0)} \partial\Delta^0 \right) \xrightarrow{g^0} X \amalg \left(\coprod_{\Delta^0 \in Y_0 \setminus f_0(X_0)} \Delta^0 \right).$$

Since saturated sets are closed under coproducts, $g^0 \in \overline{\mathcal{M}}$.

We get a factorization

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X & \xrightarrow{f} & Y \\ & \searrow g^0 & \nearrow f^0 \\ & X^0 & \end{array}$$

where g^0 is simply the inclusion, and f^0 takes X to $f(X)$ and the simplices of Y we added to X to themselves.

To summarize: we have a factorization $f^0: X^0 \rightarrow Y$ which is an isomorphism on 0-simplices. It is trivially an isomorphism on all 0-cells (i.e. boundaries of 0-simplices), i.e. inclusions $\partial\Delta^0 = \emptyset \hookrightarrow X \rightarrow Y$. In fact, since $\partial\Delta^1 = \Delta^0 \amalg \Delta^0$, it is an isomorphism on all 1-cells (i.e. boundaries of 1-simplices). Thus, we have the following solid maps. We call the pushout X^1 .

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \coprod_{\substack{\Delta^1 \in Y_1 \setminus f_1(X_1) \\ \text{nondegenerate}}} \partial\Delta^1 & \longrightarrow & X^0 \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow g^1 \\ \coprod_{\substack{\Delta^1 \in Y_1 \setminus f_1(X_1) \\ \text{nondegenerate}}} \Delta^1 & \dashrightarrow & X^1 \end{array}$$

Note that since g^1 is a coproduct of boundary inclusions, it is in $\overline{\mathcal{M}}$.

Schematically, we have

$$X^1 = X^0 \amalg \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{1-skeleton of } Y \text{ which} \\ \text{is not in } X \end{array} \right\}.$$

Thus, we have a commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 X & \xrightarrow{f} & Y \\
 \searrow g^0 & \nearrow f^0 & \uparrow f^1 \\
 & X^0 & \\
 & \searrow g^1 & \\
 & & X^1
 \end{array}$$

where $g^1 \in \overline{\mathcal{M}}$ and f^1 is a monomorphism and an isomorphism on 1-simplices.

We continue this process, constructing sets X^2, X^3 , etc., at each step adding another level of the skeleton via boundary inclusions of nondegenerate simplices and pushouts. At the k th step, we have a simplicial set X^k and a factorization

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 X & \xrightarrow{f} & Y \\
 \searrow \dots & \nearrow f^{k-1} & \uparrow f^k \\
 & X^{k-1} & \\
 & \searrow g^k & \\
 & & X^k
 \end{array}$$

where $g^k \in \overline{\mathcal{M}}$ and f^k is a monomorphism and an isomorphism on k -simplices.

By construction, we have

$$\operatorname{colim}_{n \in \mathbb{N}} X^n \equiv X^\infty = Y,$$

since the map f^∞ is an isomorphism on n -simplices for all n . The countable composition of the g s is equal to f , and we get a factorization

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 X & \xrightarrow{f} & Y \\
 \searrow g^\infty & \nearrow & \parallel \\
 & X^\infty &
 \end{array}$$

where g^∞ is the countable composition of elements of $\overline{\mathcal{M}}$, and hence is in $\overline{\mathcal{M}}$.

Definition 6 (lifting property). Let \mathcal{C} be a category, and let $i: A \rightarrow B$ and $p: K \rightarrow S$ be morphisms in \mathcal{C} . Suppose that for every commuting square

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 A & \longrightarrow & K \\
 i \downarrow & & \downarrow p \\
 B & \longrightarrow & S
 \end{array}$$

there exists a morphism $B \rightarrow K$ making the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 A & \longrightarrow & K \\
 i \downarrow & \nearrow & \downarrow p \\
 B & \longrightarrow & S
 \end{array}$$

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commute. Then we say either of the following, which are equivalent.

- The morphism i has the left lifting property with respect to the morphism p .
- The morphism p has the right lifting property with respect to the morphism i .

For any set of morphisms \mathcal{M} we define two sets, ${}_{\perp}\mathcal{M}$ and \mathcal{M}_{\perp} as follows.

$$\begin{aligned} {}_{\perp}\mathcal{M} &= \{f \mid f \text{ has the left lifting property with respect to all morphisms in } \mathcal{M}\} \\ \mathcal{M}_{\perp} &= \{g \mid g \text{ has the right lifting property with respect to all morphisms in } \mathcal{M}\} \end{aligned}$$

Example 7. Let $\mathcal{C} = \mathbf{Set}_{\Delta}$. Let

$$\mathcal{M} = \{f: \Lambda_i^n \rightarrow \Delta^n \mid 0 \leq i \leq n \text{ and } n > 0\}.$$

That is, \mathcal{M} is the set of all horn inclusions of the n -simplex. Then what is \mathcal{M}_{\perp} ?

Any morphism $g \in \mathcal{M}_{\perp}$ needs to satisfy the following property: for any commuting square as follows

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \Lambda_i^n & \longrightarrow & K \\ f \downarrow & & \downarrow g \\ \Delta^n & \longrightarrow & S \end{array}$$

there exists some morphism $\Delta^n \rightarrow K$ making the following diagram commute.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \Lambda_i^n & \longrightarrow & K \\ f \downarrow & \nearrow & \downarrow g \\ \Delta^n & \longrightarrow & S \end{array}$$

Checking Definition ??, we see that this says precisely that g is a Kan fibration. That is, \mathcal{M}_{\perp} is the set of all Kan fibrations.

Checking that a set of morphisms is saturated by checking each condition individually is difficult and time-consuming. The next theorem provides a very efficient way of producing saturated sets of morphisms.

Theorem 8. Let \mathcal{M} be any set of morphisms in \mathcal{C} . Then ${}_{\perp}\mathcal{M}$ is saturated.

Proof. We need to check conditions 1–5 in [Definition 1](#).

1. Let $f: K \rightarrow S$ be an isomorphism. We need to check that f has the left lifting property. Suppose we are given a commuting square as follows.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A & \xrightarrow{\alpha} & K \\ f \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ B & \longrightarrow & S \end{array}$$

We can define a morphism $h: B \rightarrow K$ by taking $h = \alpha \circ f^{-1}$.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A & \xrightarrow{\alpha} & K \\ f^{-1} \uparrow \downarrow f & \nearrow h & \downarrow \\ B & \longrightarrow & S \end{array}$$

2. Suppose $f \in {}_{\perp}\mathcal{M}$, and let \tilde{f} be any pushout.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A & \longrightarrow & A' \\ f \downarrow & & \downarrow \tilde{f} \\ B & \longrightarrow & B' \end{array}$$

We need to show that $\tilde{f} \in {}_{\perp}\mathcal{M}$. To this end, consider a lifting problem as follows, with $m \in \mathcal{M}$.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A' & \longrightarrow & X \\ \tilde{f} \downarrow & & \downarrow m \\ B' & \longrightarrow & Y \end{array}$$

Stacking this square next to the pushout square above, we find the following.

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} A & \longrightarrow & A' & \longrightarrow & X \\ f \downarrow & & \tilde{f} \downarrow & & \downarrow m \\ B & \longrightarrow & B' & \longrightarrow & Y \end{array}$$

We can solve the outer lifting problem.

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} A & \longrightarrow & A' & \longrightarrow & X \\ f \downarrow & & \tilde{f} \downarrow & \nearrow & \downarrow m \\ B & \longrightarrow & B' & \longrightarrow & Y \end{array}$$

This gives us a cocone under the pushout, which gives us a unique dotted morphism, which is the lift we are after.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A & \longrightarrow & A' \\ f \downarrow & & \downarrow \tilde{f} \\ B & \longrightarrow & B' \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \nearrow \\ \searrow \\ \nearrow \\ \searrow \end{array} \begin{array}{c} X \\ \\ Y \\ \\ X \end{array}$$

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3. Suppose $i \in {}_{\perp}\mathcal{M}$, and consider a commuting square as follows.

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 & & \text{id} & & \\
 & \curvearrowright & & \curvearrowleft & \\
 A' & \longrightarrow & A & \longrightarrow & A' \\
 i' \downarrow & & \downarrow i & & \downarrow i' \\
 B' & \longrightarrow & B & \longrightarrow & B' \\
 & \curvearrowleft & & \curvearrowright & \\
 & & \text{id} & &
 \end{array} \tag{1.1}$$

We need to show that i' has the left lifting property. To this end, consider a commuting square as follows.

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 A' & \longrightarrow & K \\
 i' \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 B' & \longrightarrow & S
 \end{array}$$

Sticking this onto the right of Equation 1.1, we obtain a new diagram.

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 & & \text{id} & & & & \\
 & \curvearrowright & & \curvearrowleft & & & \\
 A' & \longrightarrow & A & \longrightarrow & A' & \longrightarrow & K \\
 i' \downarrow & & \downarrow i & & \downarrow i' & & \downarrow \\
 B' & \longrightarrow & B & \longrightarrow & B' & \longrightarrow & S \\
 & \curvearrowleft & & \curvearrowright & & & \\
 & & \text{id} & & & &
 \end{array} \tag{1.2}$$

The commuting square

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 A & \longrightarrow & K \\
 i \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 B & \xrightarrow{\alpha} & S
 \end{array}$$

is a lifting problem we can solve, giving us a morphism $B \rightarrow K$ making the diagram commute. Adding this onto our original diagram and pre-composing it with α gives us the morphism required.

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 & & \text{id} & & & & \\
 & \curvearrowright & & \curvearrowleft & & & \\
 A' & \longrightarrow & A & \longrightarrow & A' & \longrightarrow & K \\
 i' \downarrow & & \downarrow i & & \downarrow i' & & \downarrow \\
 B' & \longrightarrow & B & \longrightarrow & B' & \longrightarrow & S \\
 & \curvearrowleft & & \curvearrowright & & & \\
 & & \text{id} & & & &
 \end{array}$$

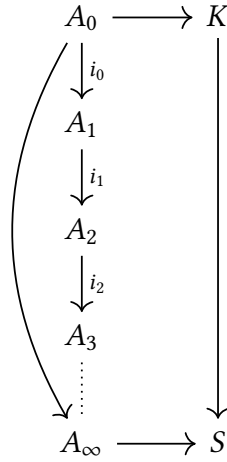
(1.3)

4. Consider a chain of morphisms

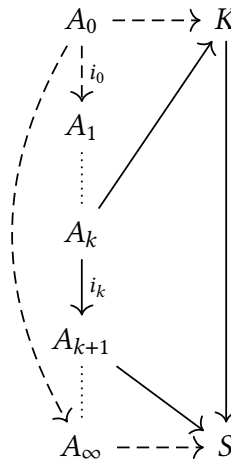
$$A_0 \xrightarrow{i_0} A_1 \xrightarrow{i_1} A_2 \xrightarrow{i_2} A_3 \xrightarrow{i_3} \dots$$

with $i_k \in {}_{\perp}\mathcal{M}$ for all k . We need to show that the map $A_0 \rightarrow A_{\infty}$ induced by the colimit has the left lifting property.

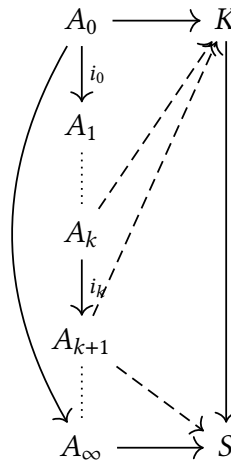
Consider a commuting square as follows.



Suppose we have a map $A_k \rightarrow K$ which makes all squares and triangles formed commute. This gives us a commuting square as below.



Because i_k has the left lifting property, we get a map $A_{k+1} \rightarrow K$ making the diagram commute.



By induction, this gives us a collection of maps $A_k \rightarrow K$, one for each $k \in \mathbb{N}$,

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which make the triangles

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A_k & \xrightarrow{i_k} & A_{k+1} \\ & \searrow & \swarrow \\ & K & \end{array}$$

commute. That is, we get a cocone under K . But this gives us a map $A_\infty \rightarrow K$ as required.

5. Similar.

□

We get a similar, but dual and slightly weaker result for sets with the right lifting property.

Proposition 9. Let \mathcal{M} be any set of morphisms in \mathcal{C} . The set \mathcal{M}_\perp has the following properties.

1. \mathcal{M}_\perp contains all isomorphisms.
2. \mathcal{M}_\perp is closed under *finite* composition.
3. \mathcal{M}_\perp is closed under retracts.
4. \mathcal{M}_\perp is closed under pullbacks.
5. \mathcal{M}_\perp is closed under small products.

Corollary 10. Let \mathcal{M} be a set of morphisms in \mathcal{C} . Then

$$\overline{\mathcal{M}} \subset {}_\perp(\mathcal{M}_\perp).$$

Proof. The set \mathcal{M} clearly has the left lifting property for the set of all morphisms which have the right lifting property for \mathcal{M} , so $\mathcal{M} \subset {}_\perp(\mathcal{M}_\perp)$. Since ${}_\perp(\mathcal{M}_\perp)$ is a saturated set, it contains $\overline{\mathcal{M}}$. □

It turns out that under some conditions, we have an equality

$$\overline{\mathcal{M}} = {}_\perp(\mathcal{M}_\perp).$$

1.2 Compact objects

In many situations, objects which obey some sort of finiteness condition are especially well-behaved. In the situation of lifting problems, the small object argument, due to Quillen, guarantees us that any set of morphisms whose domains are small provides a *weak factorization system*.

Definition 11 (filtered poset). A poset (I, \leq) is called filtered if every finite subset of I has an upper bound.

Example 12. Let X be a set, and consider the poset of finite subsets $\mathcal{P}_{\text{fin}}(X)$. This is a filtered poset since every finite collection $X_i \in \mathcal{P}_{\text{fin}}(X)$ is contained in the set $\bigcup_i X_i$, which is again finite.

Definition 13 (compact object). An object $X \in \mathcal{C}$ is said to be compact if for every diagram

$$\phi: I \rightarrow \mathcal{C}; \quad i \mapsto Y_i$$

with I a filtered poset, the criteria below are satisfied.

Denote by Y_∞ the colimit of ϕ , and write the colimit maps

$$\eta_i: Y_i \rightarrow Y_\infty.$$

1. There exists some $i \in I$ and $f_i: X \rightarrow Y_i$ making the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X & \xrightarrow{f_i} & Y_i \\ & \searrow f & \downarrow \eta_i \\ & & Y_\infty \end{array}$$

commute.

2. Given maps $f_i: X \rightarrow Y_i$ and $f_j: X \rightarrow Y_j$ making the diagrams

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X & \xrightarrow{f_i} & Y_i \\ & \searrow f & \downarrow \eta_i \\ & & Y_\infty \end{array} \quad \text{and} \quad \begin{array}{ccc} X & \xrightarrow{f_j} & Y_j \\ & \searrow f & \downarrow \eta_j \\ & & Y_\infty \end{array}$$

commute, there exist k with $k \geq i, j$ such that the following diagram commutes.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X & \xrightarrow{f_i} & Y_i \\ f_j \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ Y_j & \longrightarrow & Y_k \end{array}.$$

Lemma 14. Suppose that \mathcal{C} is locally small. Then $X \in \mathcal{C}$ is compact only if the contravariant Yoneda embedding

$$\tilde{y}: X \mapsto \mathcal{C}(X, -)$$

commutes with small colimits.

Proof. Suppose that \tilde{y} commutes with small filtered colimits. Then there is a bijection

$$\mathcal{C}(X, Y_\infty) \simeq \mathcal{C}(X, \text{colim}_{i \in I} Y_i) \simeq \text{colim}_{i \in I} \mathcal{C}(X, Y_i). \quad (1.4)$$

Since each inclusion $Y_i \hookrightarrow Y_j$ gives an inclusion

$$\mathcal{C}(X, Y_i) \hookrightarrow \mathcal{C}(X, Y_j),$$

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we can think of $\text{colim}_{i \in I} \mathcal{C}(X, Y_i)$ as some sort of limit (in the analysis-y sense)

$$\text{“} \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \mathcal{C}(X, Y_i) \text{”}.$$

Given a morphism $X \rightarrow Y_\infty$, the bijection [Equation 1.4](#) gives us an element of the colimit $\text{colim}_{i \in I} \mathcal{C}(X, Y_i)$

To be continued...

□

Example 15. A set $X \in \mathbf{Set}$ is compact if and only if X is finite.

Suppose X is compact. Consider the poset $\mathcal{P}_{\text{fin}}(X)$ from [Example 12](#). The colimit over this poset is X since every element of X is contained in some finite subset, so any map out of X is completely determined by maps out of its finite subsets which agree on intersections. We can view this as a diagram in \mathbf{Set} via the inclusion map.

Now consider the identity map $\text{id}_X: X \rightarrow \text{colim } X_i$. Since X is compact, there is some set X_i such that the following diagram commutes.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X & \xrightarrow{f_i} & X_i \\ & \searrow \text{id}_X & \downarrow \\ & & X \end{array}$$

By definition, the set X_i is finite. Since f_i must be injective, X must also be finite.

Now suppose that X is finite. Let

$$\phi: I \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}$$

with I a filtered poset be a diagram, and consider a map $f: X \rightarrow \text{colim } \phi$. In set, we have the formula

$$Y_\infty \equiv \text{colim } \phi = \left(\bigsqcup_{i \in I} Y_i \right) / \sim .$$

Denote by ι_i the map $Y_i \rightarrow Y_\infty$.

For every $x \in X$, there is some (certainly not unique!) $i_x \in I$ such that Y_{i_x} contains an element e such that $\iota_{i_x}(e) = f(x)$. The set

$$\{Y_{i_x}\}_{x \in X}$$

is finite, so it has an upper bound Y_i . Therefore, each of element of x is represented by some element of Y_i , so there is a factorization as follows.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X & \xrightarrow{f_i} & Y_i \\ & \searrow f & \downarrow \\ & & Y_\infty \end{array}$$

Now suppose that we have maps $f_i: X \rightarrow Y_i$ and $f_j: X \rightarrow Y_j$ making the following diagrams commute.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X & \xrightarrow{f_i} & Y_i \\ & \searrow f & \downarrow \\ & & Y_\infty \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{ccc} X & \xrightarrow{f_j} & Y_j \\ & \searrow f & \downarrow \\ & & Y_\infty \end{array}$$

Example 16. In \mathbf{Set}_Δ , the compact objects are precisely those simplicial sets with finitely many nondegenerate simplices.

1.3 The Small Object Argument

The small object argument is the proof of following statement.

Lemma 17. Let \mathcal{C} be a locally small category with small colimits. Let \mathcal{M} be a small set of morphisms in \mathcal{C} such that for each $i: A \rightarrow B \in \mathcal{M}$, the domain A of i is compact. Then every morphism $f: X \rightarrow Y$ in \mathcal{C} admits a factorization

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X & \xrightarrow{f} & Y \\ & \searrow h & \swarrow g \\ & & Z \end{array}$$

with $h \in \overline{\mathcal{M}}$ and $g \in \mathcal{M}_\perp$.

Proof. Let $f: X \rightarrow Y$ be a morphism in \mathcal{C} . Any commutative diagram of the form

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A & \longrightarrow & X \\ i \downarrow & & \downarrow f \\ B & \longrightarrow & Y \end{array},$$

with i in \mathcal{M} , is certainly completely specified by the data of the morphism $i: A \rightarrow B$, the map $A \rightarrow X$, and the map $B \rightarrow Y$. Therefore, the collection of all such commuting diagrams is indexed by a small set. Denote this set by J . We can write the set of all commuting squares as follows.

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{ccc} A_j & \longrightarrow & X \\ i_j \downarrow & & \downarrow f \\ B_j & \longrightarrow & Y \end{array} \right\}_{j \in J}$$

Form the coproducts

$$A = \coprod_{j \in J} A_j \quad \text{and} \quad B = \coprod_{j \in J} B_j.$$

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By the universal property for coproducts, specifying a map out of a coproduct is the same as specifying a map from each summand. Taking $\iota_{B_j} \circ i_j: A \rightarrow B_j$ gives us a map $\Pi_j i_j: A \rightarrow B$.

Note that the following diagram commutes.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \coprod_{j \in J} A_j & \longrightarrow & X \\ \Pi_j i_j \downarrow & & \downarrow f \\ \coprod_{j \in J} B_j & \longrightarrow & Y \end{array}$$

Now consider the following pushout.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \coprod_{j \in J} A_j & \longrightarrow & X \\ \Pi_j i_j \downarrow & \lrcorner \quad h_1 \downarrow & \searrow f \\ \coprod_{j \in J} B_j & \longrightarrow & X_1 \\ & \searrow g_1 & \downarrow \\ & & Y \end{array}$$

Note that this gives us a factorization $f = g_1 \circ h_1$, but it's not the one we want: while we have that $h_1 \in \overline{\mathcal{M}}$ since it's the pushout of something in $\overline{\mathcal{M}}$, we do not yet have that $g_1 \in \mathcal{M}_\perp$. We need to keep looking.

We do this whole process again, considering the set of diagrams

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{ccc} A_j & \longrightarrow & X_1 \\ i_j \downarrow & & \downarrow g_1 \\ B_j & \longrightarrow & Y \end{array} \right\}$$

Take the pushout as before.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \coprod_{j \in J} A_j & \longrightarrow & X_1 \\ \Pi_j i_j \downarrow & \lrcorner \quad h_2 \downarrow & \searrow g_1 \\ \coprod_{j \in J} B_j & \longrightarrow & X_2 \\ & \searrow g_2 & \downarrow \\ & & Y \end{array}$$

Repeating this process, we get a chain of morphisms $h_i: X_{i-1} \rightarrow X_i$, each of which is in $\overline{\mathcal{M}}$.

$$X \xrightarrow{h_1} X_1 \xrightarrow{h_2} X_2 \xrightarrow{h_3} X_3 \cdots X_\infty$$

We can take the countable composition without leaving $\overline{\mathcal{M}}$, giving us a map $h: X \rightarrow X_\infty$.

For each X_i , we also constructed a map $g_i: X_i \rightarrow Y$. The universal property for colimits allows us to turn this into a map $g: X_\infty \rightarrow Y$. It turns out that this map is in \mathcal{M}_\perp !

In order to see that, consider the following lifting problem, with $i \in \mathcal{M}$.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A & \longrightarrow & X_\infty \\ i \downarrow & & \downarrow g \\ B & \longrightarrow & Y \end{array}$$

By assumption, Y is compact, so any map $Y \rightarrow X_\infty$ factors through some X_j .

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} A & \xrightarrow{\quad} & X_\infty & & \\ & \searrow & \uparrow & & \\ & & X_j & & \\ & \swarrow & \downarrow & & \\ B & \xrightarrow{\quad} & Y & & \end{array} \quad (1.5)$$

The lower-left square should look familiar.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A & \longrightarrow & X_j \\ i \downarrow & & \downarrow g_j \\ B & \longrightarrow & Y \end{array}$$

This is one of the diagrams that we took the coproduct of in the j th step above. The pushout gave us the following commuting diagram.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A & \longrightarrow & X_j \\ i \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ B & \longrightarrow & X_{j+1} \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} \searrow \\ \downarrow \\ \searrow \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\quad} \\ \downarrow \\ \xrightarrow{\quad} \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} X_\infty \\ \downarrow \\ Y \end{array}$$

Nestling this diagram into [Equation 1.5](#), we find

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} A & \xrightarrow{\quad} & X_\infty & & \\ & \searrow & \uparrow & & \\ & & X_j & & \\ & \swarrow & \downarrow & & \\ & & X_{j+1} & & \\ & \swarrow & \downarrow & & \\ B & \xrightarrow{\quad} & Y & & \end{array}$$

1 Lifting problems

This gives us a map $B \rightarrow X_{j+1} \rightarrow X_\infty$ which makes the diagram commute. We have solved the lifting problem! \square

The main use of the small object argument is to prove the following.

Corollary 18. Let \mathcal{C} be a locally small category with small colimits, and let \mathcal{M} be a small set of morphisms in \mathcal{C} such that for each $i: A \rightarrow B \in \mathcal{M}$, the domain A of i is compact as in Lemma 17. Then

$$\overline{\mathcal{M}} = {}_\perp(\mathcal{M}_\perp).$$

Proof. We have $\overline{\mathcal{M}} \subseteq {}_\perp(\mathcal{M}_\perp)$ by Corollary 10.

Consider some morphism $f \in {}_\perp(\mathcal{M}_\perp)$. Then by Lemma 17, f has a factorization

$$f = g \circ h,$$

with $g \in \mathcal{M}_\perp$ and $h \in \overline{\mathcal{M}}$. We can write this as a commuting square.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X & \xrightarrow{h} & Z \\ {}_\perp(\mathcal{M}_\perp) \ni f \downarrow & & \downarrow g \in \mathcal{M}_\perp \\ Y & \xrightarrow{\text{id}_Y} & Y \end{array}$$

Because f has the left lifting property with respect to g , we get a morphism $r: Y \rightarrow Z$ making the diagram commute.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X & \xrightarrow{h} & Z \\ f \downarrow & \nearrow r & \downarrow g \\ Y & \xrightarrow{\text{id}_Y} & Y \end{array}$$

Unfolding this, we find the following diagram.

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} & & \text{id}_X & & \\ & \curvearrowright & & \curvearrowleft & \\ X & \xrightarrow{\text{id}_X} & X & \xrightarrow{\text{id}_X} & X \\ f \downarrow & & h \downarrow & & f \downarrow \\ Y & \xrightarrow{r} & Z & \xrightarrow{g} & Y \\ & \curvearrowleft & & \curvearrowright & \\ & & \text{id}_Y & & \end{array}$$

This says precisely that f is a retract of h , so $f \in \overline{\mathcal{M}}$. \square

1.4 Anodyne morphisms

Definition 19 (anodyne morphism). A morphism of simplicial sets is called anodyne if it has the left lifting property with respect to all Kan fibrations (Definition ??).

Example 20. By definition, horn fillings $\Lambda_i^n \hookrightarrow \Delta^n$ are anodyne.

Lemma 21. The set of anodyne morphisms is the saturated hull of the set of horn inclusions.

Proof. We have the following string of equalities.

$$\begin{aligned} {}_{\perp}\{\text{Kan fibrations}\} &= {}_{\perp}(\{\text{horn fillings}\}_{\perp}) && \text{(By Example 7)} \\ &= \overline{\{\text{horn fillings}\}} && \text{(By Corollary 10)} \end{aligned}$$

where the last equality holds because horns have finitely many non-degenerate simplices, and hence are compact by Example 16. \square

Corollary 22. The set of all anodyne morphisms is saturated.

Definition 23 (smash product). Let $f: A \rightarrow B$ and $g: A' \rightarrow B'$ be morphisms of simplicial sets. Consider the following diagram.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A \times B & \xrightarrow{f \times \text{id}} & A' \times B \\ \text{id} \times g \downarrow & & \downarrow \text{id} \times g \\ A \times B' & \xrightarrow{f \times \text{id}} & A' \times B' \end{array}$$

Taking the pushout, we find a morphism

$$f \wedge g: A' \times B \coprod_{A \times B} A \times B' \rightarrow A' \times B',$$

called the smash product of f and g .

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A \times B & \xrightarrow{f \times \text{id}} & A' \times B \\ \text{id} \times g \downarrow & & \downarrow \text{id} \times g \\ A \times B' & \longrightarrow & A' \times B \coprod_{A \times B} A \times B' \\ & \searrow f \times \text{id} & \swarrow f \wedge g \\ & & A' \times B' \end{array}$$

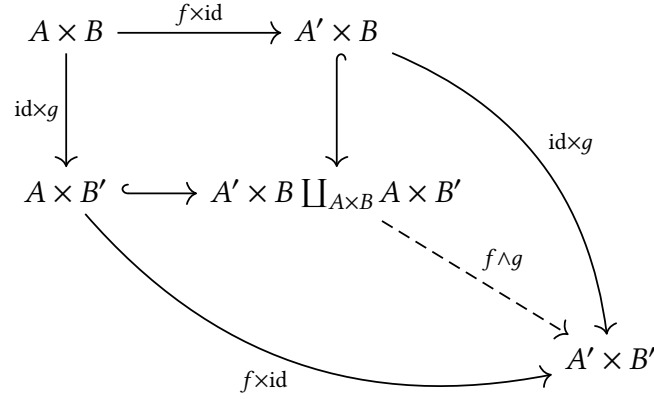
Lemma 24. Let f , g , and h be morphisms of simplicial sets. We have the following.

1. If f and g are monic, then $f \wedge g$ is monic.
2. There is a natural isomorphism $(f \wedge g) \wedge h \simeq f \wedge (g \wedge h)$

Proof.

1 Lifting problems

1. The pushout square defining the smash product takes place in \mathbf{Set}_Δ . By Corollary ??, it suffices to check that each component is monic. Therefore, consider the defining diagram now as a map of sets.



In the context of sets, we are allowed to think of f and g as including $A \subset A'$ and $B \subset B'$ respectively. The wedge product $f \wedge g$ is thus the inclusion of the union

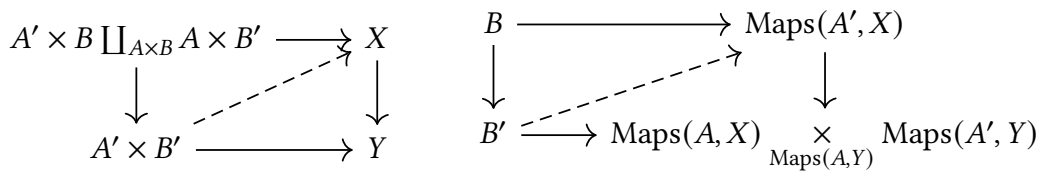
$$(A' \times B) \cup (A \times B') \subset A' \times B'.$$

2. Draw a cube.

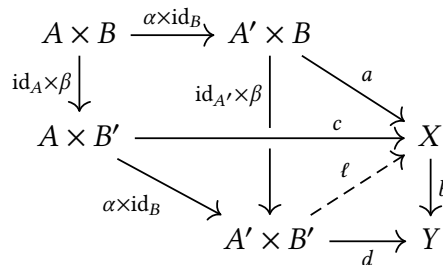
□

We will need this lemma many times.

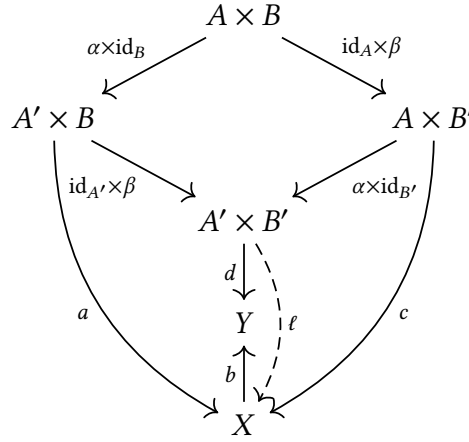
Lemma 25. The following lifting problems are equivalent.



Proof. First, consider the first. By expanding the pushout into its cocone and replacing maps out of it with maps out of the cocone, we find the following diagram (where we have now labelled maps).



Re-arranging to avoid overlaps, we find the following diagram.



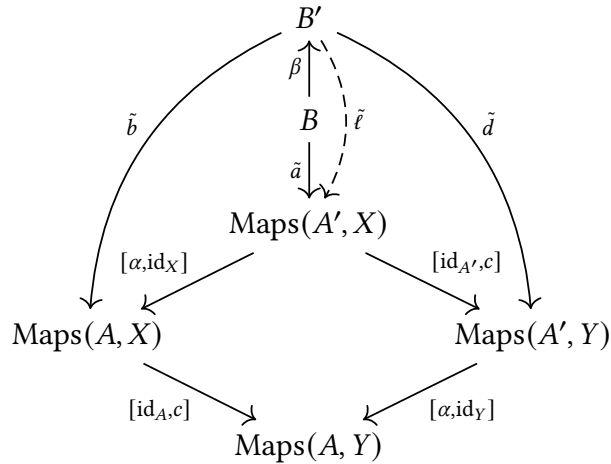
This diagram is made of several commuting squares and one triangle, which tell us the following.

1. The top square commutes trivially.
2. The left square tells us that $b \circ a = d \circ (\text{id}_{A'} \times \beta)$.
3. The right square tells us that $b \circ c = d \circ (\alpha \times \text{id}_{B'})$.
4. The outer square tells us that $a \circ (\alpha \times \text{id}_B) = c \circ (\text{id}_A \times \beta)$.
5. The triangle involving the lift tells us that $d = b \circ \ell$.

We will denote the adjoints to a , c , d , and ℓ by

$$\tilde{a}: B \rightarrow [A', X], \quad \tilde{c}: B' \rightarrow [A, X], \quad \tilde{d}: B' \rightarrow [A', Y], \quad \tilde{\ell}: B' \rightarrow [A', X].$$

Expanding the second diagram in the same way as the first, we find the following.



□

Lemma 26. Fix some morphism $i: A \rightarrow A'$ in \mathbf{Set}_Δ . The set

$$\mathcal{S} = \{f \mid i \wedge f \text{ is anodyne}\}$$

is saturated.

1 Lifting problems

Proof. Let $f: B \rightarrow B'$. By definition, $i \wedge f$ is anodyne if and only if every lifting problem

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A' \times B \coprod_{A \times B} A \times B' & \xrightarrow{\quad} & X \\ i \wedge f \downarrow & \nearrow & \downarrow g \\ A' \times B' & \xrightarrow{\quad} & Y \end{array}$$

where g is a Kan fibration has a solution. However, by [Lemma 25](#), we may equivalently say that $i \wedge f$ is anodyne if and only if every lifting problem of the following form has a solution.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} B & \xrightarrow{\quad} & \text{Maps}(A', X) \\ f \downarrow & \nearrow & \downarrow \\ B' & \xrightarrow{\quad} & \text{Maps}(A, X) \times_{\text{Maps}(A, Y)} \text{Maps}(A', Y) \end{array}$$

Defining

$$\mathcal{R} = \{ \text{Maps}(A', X) \rightarrow \text{Maps}(A, X) \times_{\text{Maps}(A, Y)} \text{Maps}(A', Y) \mid X \rightarrow Y \text{ Kan fibration} \},$$

we see that

$$\{f \mid f \wedge i \text{ anodyne}\} = {}_{\perp} \mathcal{R}.$$

Thus by [Theorem 8](#) $\{f \mid f \wedge i \text{ anodyne}\}$ is saturated. □

Theorem 27. Consider the following sets of morphisms.

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{M}_1 &= \{ \Delta_i^n \rightarrow \Delta^n \mid n > 0, 0 \leq i \leq n \} \\ \mathcal{M}_2 &= \left\{ \{e\} \times \Delta^n \coprod_{\{e\} \times \partial \Delta^n} \Delta^1 \times \partial \Delta^n \rightarrow \Delta^1 \times \Delta^n \mid n \geq 0, e = 0, 1 \right\} \\ \mathcal{M}_3 &= \left\{ \{e\} \times S \coprod_{\{e\} \times S} \Delta^1 \times S \rightarrow \Delta^1 \times S' \mid S \rightarrow S' \text{ monic}, e = 0, 1 \right\} \end{aligned}$$

Each of these sets generate the set of all anodyne morphisms in the sense that

$$\overline{\mathcal{M}}_1 = \overline{\mathcal{M}}_2 = \overline{\mathcal{M}}_3 = \{\text{anodyne morphisms}\}.$$

Proof. We will show the following inclusions.

1. $\mathcal{M}_2 \subset \overline{\mathcal{M}}_1$
2. $\mathcal{M}_1 \subset \overline{\mathcal{M}}_3$
3. $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_2 = \overline{\mathcal{M}}_3$

This will imply that

$$\overline{\mathcal{M}}_2 \subset \overline{\mathcal{M}}_1 \subset \overline{\mathcal{M}}_3 \subset \overline{\mathcal{M}}_2.$$

1. Consider a morphism in \mathcal{M}_2 with $e = 0$, i.e. an inclusion

$$C^0 = \{0\} \times \Delta^n \coprod_{\{0\} \times \partial \Delta^n} \Delta^1 \times \Delta^n \hookrightarrow \Delta^1 \times \Delta^n = C.$$

We can draw $C = N([1] \times [n])$ as follows.

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} 10 & \longrightarrow & 11 & \longrightarrow & 12 & \longrightarrow & \cdots \longrightarrow 1(n-1) \longrightarrow 1n \\ \uparrow & & \uparrow & & \uparrow & & \uparrow \\ 00 & \longrightarrow & 01 & \longrightarrow & 02 & \longrightarrow & \cdots \longrightarrow 0(n-1) \longrightarrow 0n \end{array}$$

An $(n+1)$ -simplex in C is a map of posets $[n+1] \rightarrow [1] \times [n]$. A $(n+1)$ -simplex is nondegenerate if and only if it is a monomorphism. There are exactly $n+1$ of these, of the form

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} & & & & 1i & \longrightarrow & 1(i+1) \longrightarrow \cdots \longrightarrow 1n \\ & & & & \uparrow & & \\ 00 & \longrightarrow & 01 & \longrightarrow & \cdots & \longrightarrow & 0i \end{array}$$

We denote the above $(n+1)$ -simplex by σ_i .

Consider the nondegenerate $(n+1)$ -simplex σ_n given by

$$\sigma_n = \begin{array}{ccccccc} & & & & & & 1n \\ & & & & & & \uparrow \\ 00 & \longrightarrow & 01 & \longrightarrow & 02 & \longrightarrow & \cdots \longrightarrow 0n \end{array}.$$

The i th face of σ_n is given by skipping over the i th vertex of σ_n . For example, $d_1\sigma_n$ is in blue below.

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} & & & & & & 1n \\ & & & & & & \uparrow \\ 00 & \longrightarrow & 01 & \xrightarrow{\text{blue}} & 02 & \longrightarrow & \cdots \longrightarrow 0n \end{array}$$

We see that each of the faces $d_0\sigma_n, d_1\sigma_n$, etc., is in C^0 , except $d_n\sigma_n$.

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} & & & & & & 1n \\ & & & & & & \uparrow \\ 00 & \longrightarrow & \cdots & \longrightarrow & 0(n-2) & \longrightarrow & 0(n-1) \longrightarrow 0n \end{array}$$

This says precisely that $\sigma_n \cap C^0 \cong \Lambda_n^{n+1}$, giving us a pushout

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \Lambda_n^{n+1} & \xrightarrow{(d_0\sigma_n, \dots, d_{n-2}\sigma_n, -, d_n\sigma_n)} & C^0 \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \Delta^n & \xrightarrow{\sigma_n} & C^1 = C^0 \cup \sigma_n \end{array}$$

exhibiting $C^0 \hookrightarrow C^1 = C^0 \cup \sigma_n$ as a pushout of a horn inclusion. Hence, this inclusion is in $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_1$.

1 Lifting problems

Reasoning along the same lines shows that σ_{n-1} has two faces missing from C^0 : $d_n\sigma_{n-1}$ and $d_{n-1}\sigma_{n-1}$. However, $d_{n-2}\sigma_{n-2}$ is in C^1 , so we again have a pushout

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \Lambda_{n-1}^{n+1} & \xrightarrow{(\dots, d_{n-2}\sigma_{n-1}, -, d_n\sigma_{n-1}, \dots)} & C^1 \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \Delta^n & \xrightarrow{\sigma_n} & C^2 = C^1 \cup \sigma_{n-1} \end{array}$$

Proceeding, we see that we have a string of inclusions

$$C^0 \hookrightarrow C^1 \hookrightarrow \dots \hookrightarrow C^n = C,$$

where $C^i \hookrightarrow C^{i+1}$ is given by a pushout

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \Lambda_{n-i}^{n+1} & \longrightarrow & C^i \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \Delta^{n+1} & \longrightarrow & C^{i+1} = C^i \cup \sigma_{n-i} \end{array} .$$

Thus, the inclusion $C^0 \hookrightarrow C$ is a composition of morphisms in $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_1$, hence is in $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_1$

The case $e = 1$ is dual.

2.

It is easy to see that $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_2 \subset \overline{\mathcal{M}}_3$ since the inclusion $\partial\Delta^n \hookrightarrow \Delta^n$ is monic, so $\mathcal{M}_2 \subset \mathcal{M}_3$. Conversely, \square

This theorem gives us

Corollary 28. Let f be anodyne, and let $g: X \rightarrow Y$ be a monomorphism. Then $f \wedge g$ is anodyne.

Proof. \square

Example 29. Any horn filling $\Lambda_i^n \hookrightarrow \Delta^n$ is anodyne, and boundary fillings $\partial\Delta^m \rightarrow \Delta^m$ are mono, so pushouts

$$\partial\Delta^m \times \Delta^n \coprod_{\partial\Delta^m \times \Lambda_i^n} \Delta^m \times \Lambda_i^n \rightarrow \Delta^m \times \Delta^n$$

are anodyne.

1.5 A technical lemma of great importance

Lemma 30. Let $i: A \rightarrow B$ be a monomorphism, and let $p: K \rightarrow S$ be a Kan fibration (Definition ??). Consider the following pushout.

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 & & & & \\
 & & & & \\
 \text{Maps}(B, K) & \xrightarrow{\quad} & \text{Maps}(A, K) \times_{\text{Maps}(A, S)} \text{Maps}(B, S) & \longrightarrow & \text{Maps}(A, K) \\
 & \searrow \text{dashed} & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 & & \text{Maps}(B, S) & \longrightarrow & \text{Maps}(A, S)
 \end{array}$$

The dashed arrow is a Kan fibration.

Proof. We need to show that the dashed arrow solves right lifting problems of the following form,

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 A' & \longrightarrow & \text{Maps}(B, K) \\
 j \downarrow & \nearrow \text{dotted} & \downarrow \\
 B' & \longrightarrow & \text{Maps}(A, K) \times_{\text{Maps}(B, K)} \text{Maps}(B, S)
 \end{array}$$

with $j: A' \rightarrow B'$ a horn filling. It will actually be easier to solve this problem in the generality where j is any anodyne morphism; this will certainly suffice because by [Theorem 27](#), all horn fillings are anodyne.

By [Lemma 25](#), this is equivalent to the following lifting problem.

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 A' \times B \amalg_{A' \times A} B' \times A & \longrightarrow & K \\
 \downarrow & \nearrow \text{dashed} & \downarrow p \\
 B' \times B & \longrightarrow & S
 \end{array}$$

The vertical arrow on the left is the smash product $i \wedge j$. By [Corollary 28](#), this is anodyne. By assumption, p is a Kan fibration, so the lift exists. \square

Corollary 31. Let K be a Kan complex, and let B be a simplicial set. Then the simplicial set $\text{Maps}(B, K)$ is a Kan complex.

Proof. Take $A = \emptyset$ and $S = *$. Then we have that the map

$$\text{Maps}(B, K) \rightarrow \text{Maps}(\emptyset, K) \times_{\text{Maps}(\emptyset, *)} \text{Maps}(B, *) = *$$

is a Kan fibration. But by [Corollary ??](#), this means that $\text{Maps}(B, K)$ is a Kan complex. \square

1 Lifting problems

Corollary 32. For $i: A \rightarrow B$ a monomorphism of simplicial sets and K a Kan complex, the map

$$\mathrm{Maps}(i, \mathrm{id}_K): \mathrm{Maps}(B, K) \rightarrow \mathrm{Maps}(A, K)$$

is a Kan fibration.

Proof. Setting $S = *$, we find that the map

$$\mathrm{Maps}(B, K) \rightarrow \mathrm{Maps}(A, K) \times_{\mathrm{Maps}(A, *)} \mathrm{Maps}(B, *) = \mathrm{Maps}(A, K)$$

is a Kan fibration, which is what we are after. □