

SHEAF THEORY
FOR
PASTRY CHEFS

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UC - IRVINE

WHAT IS THIS?

IT'S AN EXPOSITORY TALK ABOUT
SHEAVES, CATEGORIES OF SHEAVES, AND
CLASSIFYING CATEGORIES OF SHEAVES.

WHAT'S "COMPASSIONATE" ABOUT IT?

OBSERVATION:

WHEN THINGS ARE VERY COMPLICATED, I (AND
MY STUDENTS) TEND NOT TO GET MUCH
FROM TALKS/LECTURES OTHER THAN **MERE**
EXPOSURE.

WHAT'S "COMPASSIONATE" ABOUT IT?

IDEA:

ASSUME FROM THE START THAT THIS WILL HAPPEN, AND INSTEAD OF PRESENTING CONCEPTS IN PERFECT, RIGOROUS DETAIL, TRY TO PRESENT A MEMORABLE SKETCH.

WHAT'S "COMPASSIONATE" ABOUT IT?

(AS A STUDENT, I'M ALWAYS MORE HUNGRY FOR INFORMAL MENTAL MODELS AND HEURISTICS FROM MY TEACHERS - I CAN GET RIGOR FROM BOOKS / PAPERS . MAYBE I'M IN FAVOR OF LESS FORMALITY IN FACE - TO - FACE MATH PEDAGOGY??)

WHAT'S "COMPASSIONATE" ABOUT IT?

MORE OBSERVATIONS:

- I'M ESPECIALLY BAD AT REMEMBERING NEW IDEAS WHEN THEY LACK CONTEXT.
- EVEN THE SILLIEST CONNECTION/BIT OF CONTEXT CAN HELP WITH RETENTION.
- SO CAN EVOKING EMOTION.

WHAT'S "COMPASSIONATE" ABOUT IT?

- EVEN IF THE SKETCH ISN'T ^{MATHEMATICALLY} PERFECT,
HAVING SEEN THE CONCEPTS BEFORE AND
MADE SOME CONNECTIONS TRICKS MY
BRAIN INTO BELIEVING THEY'RE EASIER TO
UNDERSTAND WHEN I SEE THEM AGAIN.

WHAT'S "COMPASSIONATE" ABOUT IT?

THE HOPE IS THAT A DISCUSSION LIKE THIS IS
A STARTING POINT FOR STUDENTS TO LEARN
THE TOPIC MORE RIGOROUSLY.

WHY PASTRY?

- FASHION
- B/C I CAN!



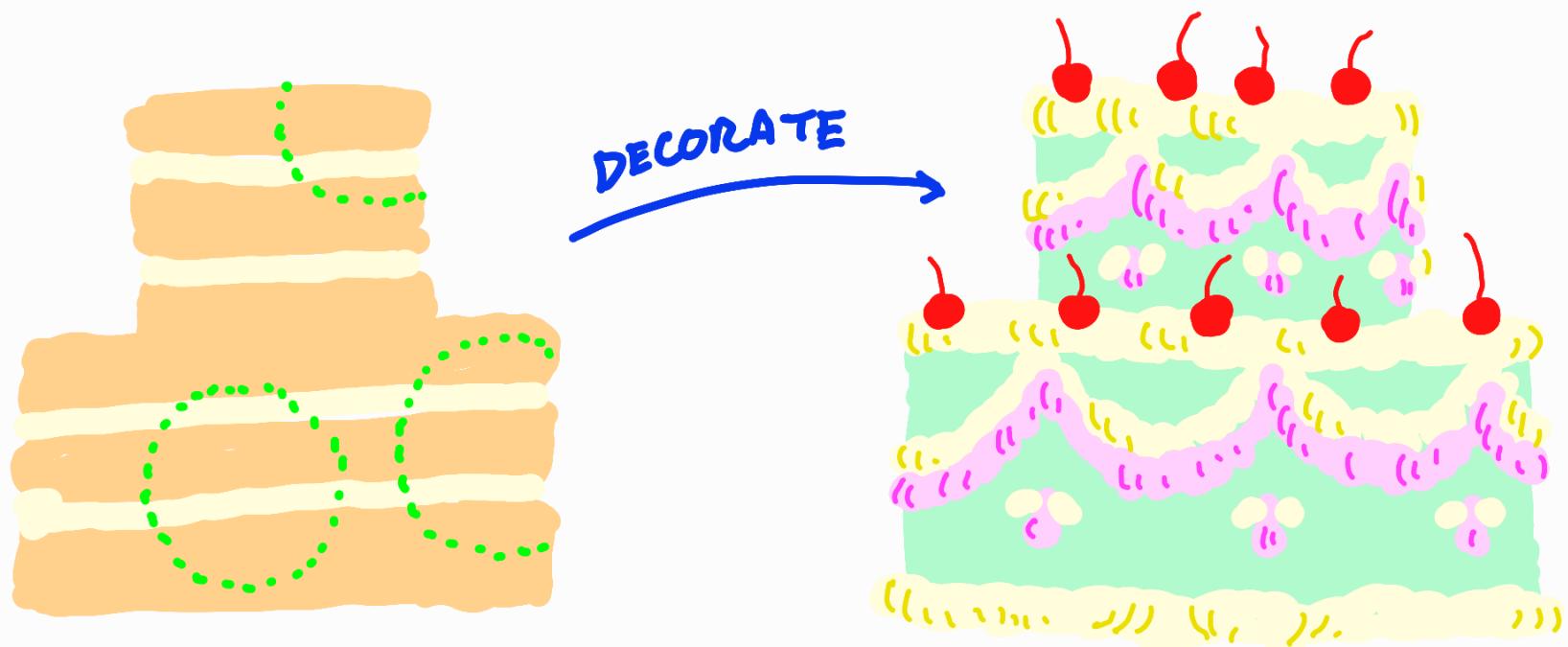
PRETEND...

- YOU ARE MY UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT.
- YOU HAVE JUST LEARNED WHAT CATEGORIES, FUNCTORS, NATURAL TRANSFORMATIONS, AND LIMITS ARE.
- YOU HAVE JUST ASKED ME "WHAT IS YOUR RESEARCH ABOUT?"

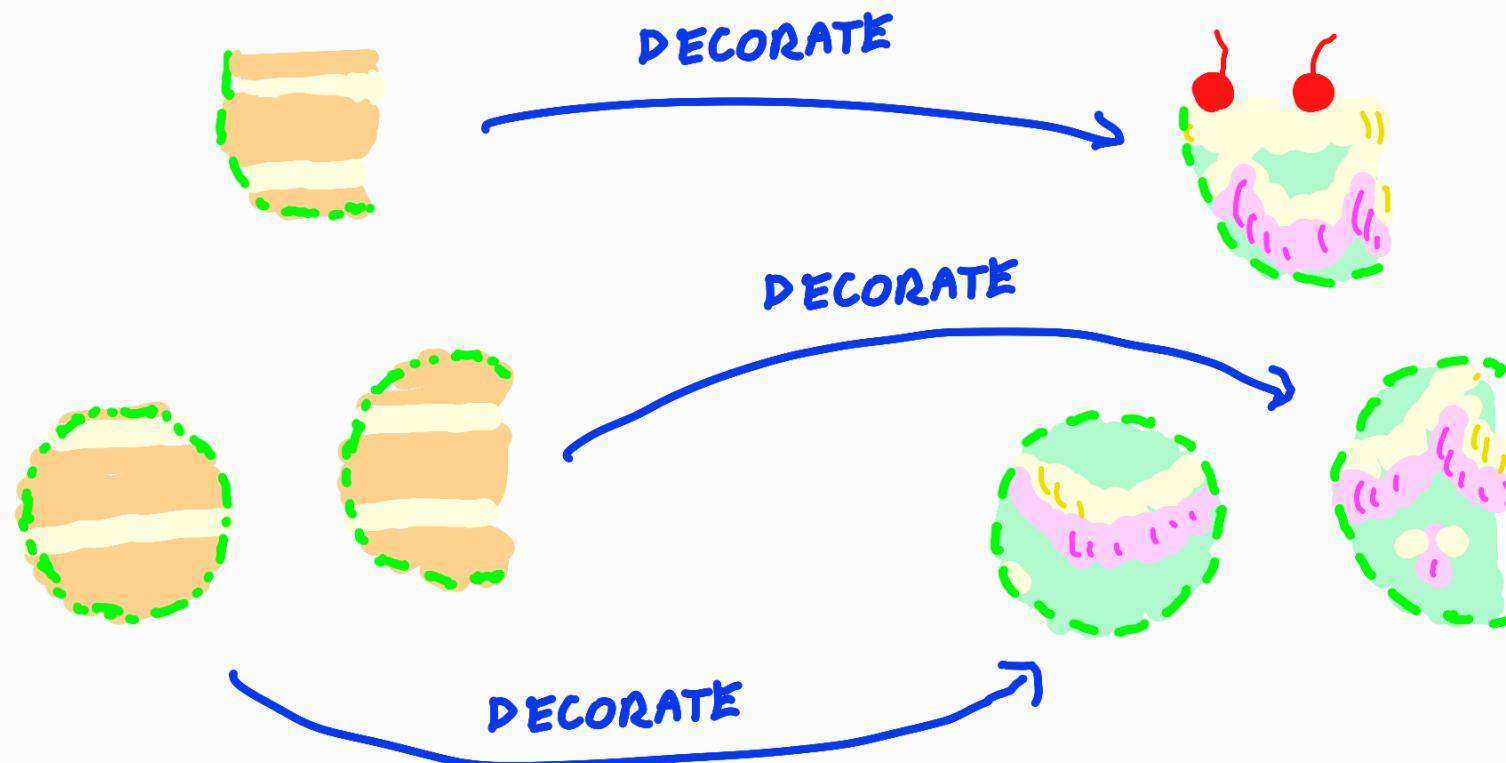
PRETEND...

I SAY : " SHEAVES AND CATEGORIES OF
SHEAVES ! "

WHAT IS A SHEAF ?

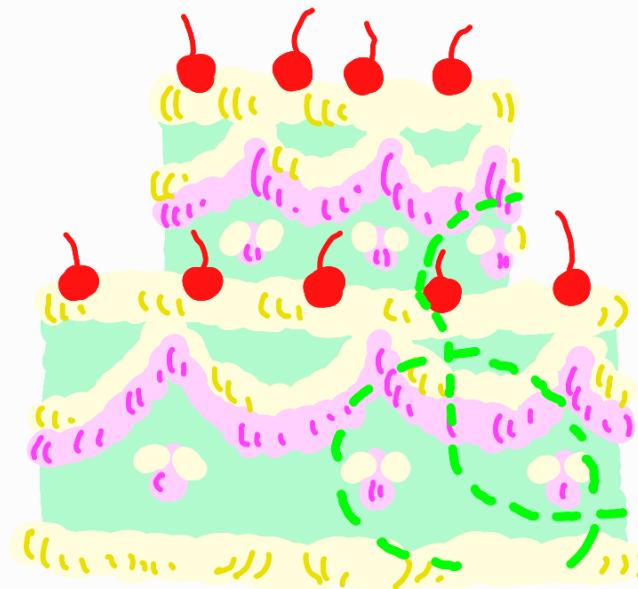
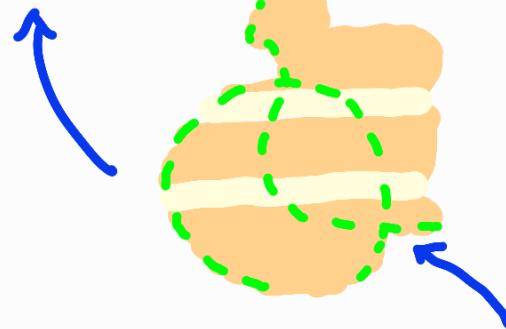
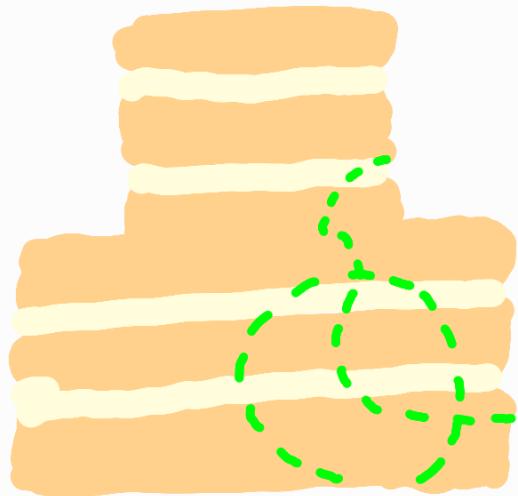


WHAT IS A SHEAF?



"AN ASSIGNMENT OF DATA TO EACH
LOCAL REGION..."

WHAT IS A SHEAF?



"... SUCH THAT DATA ATTACHED TO SMALLER REGIONS IS COMPATIBLE WITH DATA ATTACHED TO LARGER REGIONS."

WHAT IS A SHEAF?

MATHEMATICALLY:

ON A CATEGORY \mathcal{C} , A FUNCTOR

$$F : \mathcal{C}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \text{Set} \quad \leftarrow \text{"LOCAL ASSIGNMENT"}$$

WHICH IS CONTINUOUS, i.e., SUCH
THAT

$$F\left(\lim d_i\right) \cong \lim F(d_i)$$

\nearrow
"GLOBAL COHERENCE"

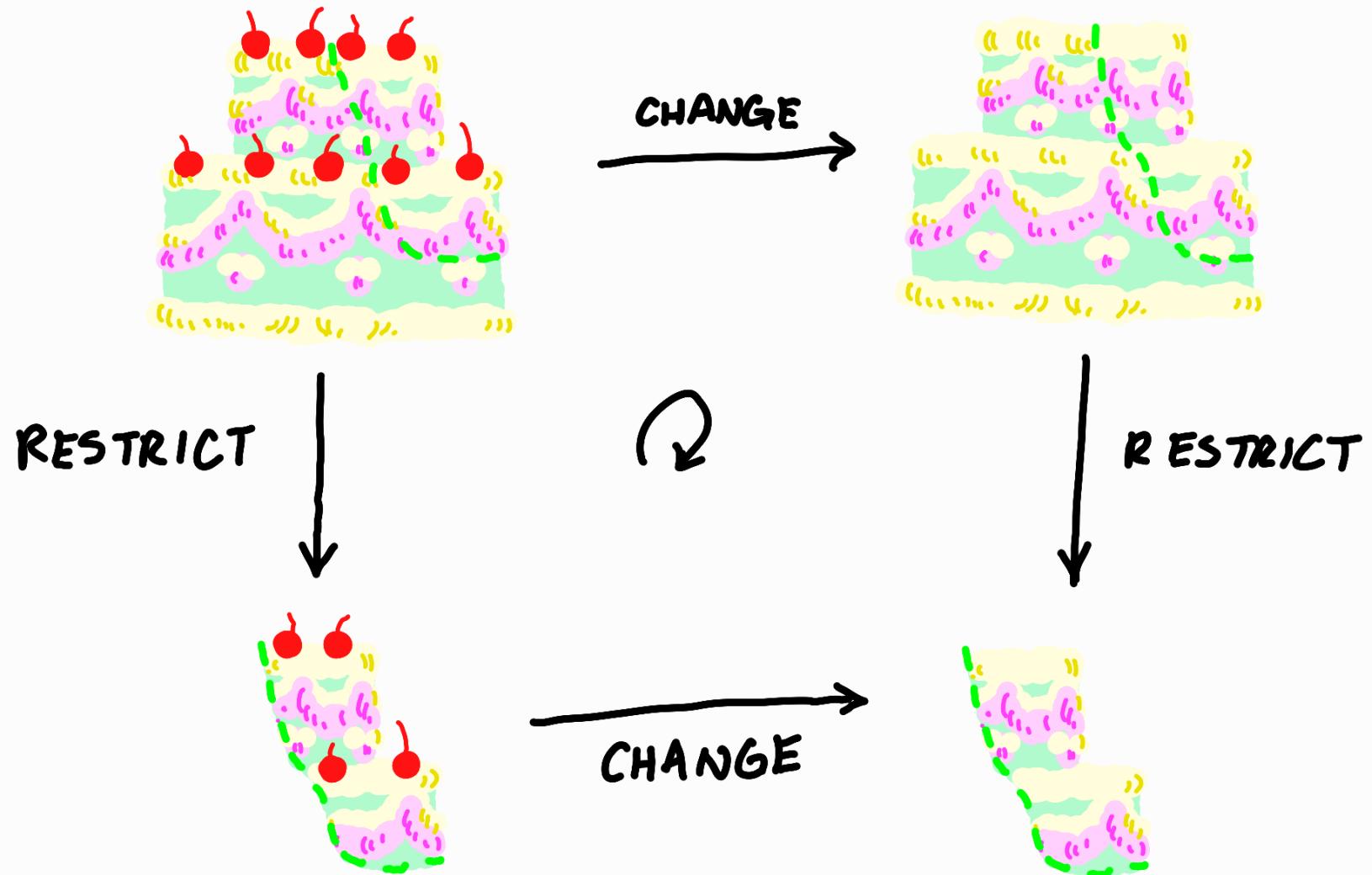
WHAT IS A SHEAF?

"A TOOL FOR KEEPING TRACK OF
LOCAL DATA AND HOW TO
BUILD GLOBAL DATA FROM IT."

I/T/O PASTRY:

"ONE POSSIBLE WAY TO DECORATE
A GIVEN CAKE."

WHAT IS A MORPHISM OF SHEAVES, THEN?



WHAT IS A SHEAF TOPOS?

A CATEGORY EQUIVALENT TO $\text{Sh}(X)$ FOR SOME
 $X \in \text{Top}$.

ADVANCED: TO $\text{Sh}(\mathcal{C}, J)$ FOR
SOME SITE (\mathcal{C}, J) !
↳ "CATEGORY THAT IS
SPACE-LIKE."

WHAT IS A SHEAF TOPOS ?

I/T/O PASTRY :

" THE COLLECTION OF ALL POSSIBLE WAYS OF
DECORATING A GIVEN CAKE AND ALL
WAYS OF TURNING ONE INTO ANOTHER."

CLASSIFICATION

SHEAF TOPOSES HAVE A TON OF NICE
CATEGORY - THEORETIC PROPERTIES, SO IT'S
IMPORTANT TO HAVE METHODS FOR
DETECTING THEM.

CLASSIFICATION

GIVEN $X \in \text{Top}$, I KNOW

$\text{Sh}(X)$

IS A SHEAF TOPOS.

CLASSIFICATION

WHAT IF YOU HAND ME SOME
CATEGORY \mathcal{E} AND ASK ME WHETHER
IT'S A SHEAF TOPOS?

HOW COULD I TELL?

CLASSIFICATION

TAKE EVERY SINGLE $X \in \text{Top}$, COMPUTE
 $sh(X)$, AND TRY TO FIND AN
EQUIVALENCE $\epsilon \cong sh(X) ? ! ?$

THAT'S WAY TOO HARD...

IMPOSSIBLE, EVEN.

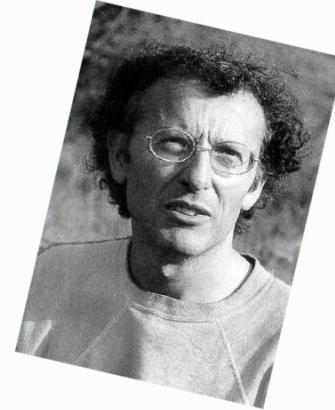
CLASSIFICATION

INSTEAD, LET'S DECIDE ON THE
ESSENTIAL PROPERTIES A SHEAF TOPOS
SHOULD HAVE,

HARD, BUT NOT IMPOSSIBLE...

THEN PROVE THAT FOR ANY \mathcal{E}
WITH THESE PROPERTIES, WE CAN EXTRACT
AN X FOR WHICH
 $\mathcal{E} \cong sh(X)$.

Giraud's Theorem



(AN AXIOMATIC CLASSIFICATION
OF SHEAF TOPOSES)

THEOREM:

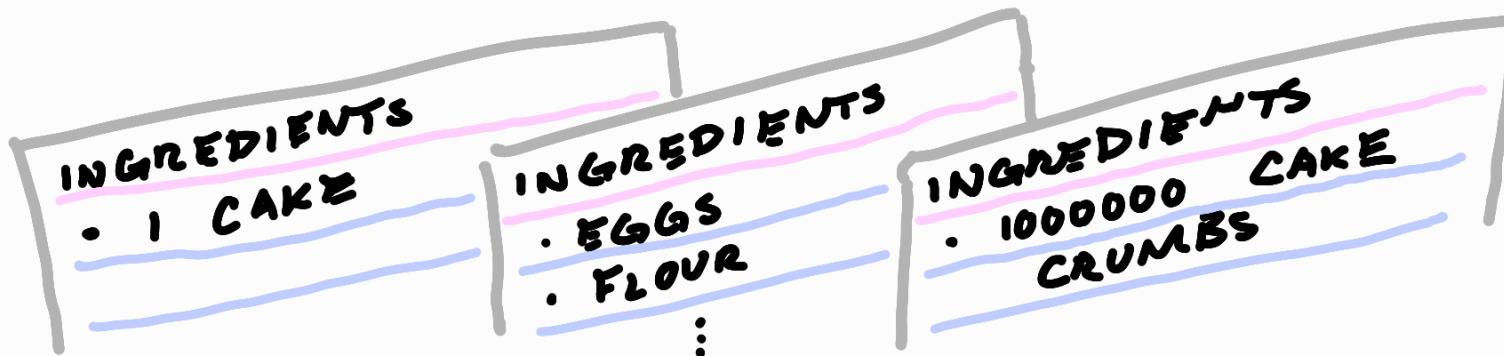
A CATEGORY \mathcal{E} IS EQUIVALENT
TO $Sh(X)$ FOR SOME X EXACTLY
WHEN IT HAS THE FOLLOWING
PROPERTIES ① - ④ :

① BEING LOCALLY PRESENTABLE

THERE'S A SET OF \mathcal{E}_{pr} 'SMALL', 'ELEMENTAL', 'FINITE' OBJECTS
OF \mathcal{E} WHICH WE CAN USE TO BUILD
ANY OTHER OBJECT BY SMUSHING TOGETHER /
AGGREGATING. (TAKING FILTERED COLIMITS.)

① BEING LOCALLY PRESENTABLE

SAY OBJECTS OF *Cake* ARE POSSIBLE
INGREDIENTS FOR CAKES (AND ANY - SIZED
BITS THEREOF).



① BEING LOCALLY PRESENTABLE

(NOTE: IN Cake, WE ALLOW "COMPOUND"
TYPES LIKE [EGGS AND SUGAR] AS
WELL AS [JUST EGGS] OR [JUST SUGAR])

① BEING LOCALLY PRESENTABLE

(SMUSHED-TOGETHER CAKE CRUMBS \approx CAKE, ETC.)

ONE POSSIBILITY FOR Cake_{pr} IS THE SET

{ MOLECULES OF FAT, PROTEIN,
CARBOHYDRATE, ETC., FOUND
IN CAKE INGREDIENTS }.

IMAGINE I
CAME UP WITH A
COMPLETE LIST.

② PULLBACK - STABLE COLIMITS

say $G : \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}$ is a diagram in \mathcal{E}

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} & & G(d_2) & & \\ & \nearrow i & & \searrow & \\ G(d_1) & \longrightarrow & G(d_3) & \longrightarrow & G(d_4) \end{array}$$

which has a colimit in \mathcal{E} . For any pullback

$$\begin{array}{ccc} (\operatorname{Colim}_d G) \times_{\mathcal{Z}} Y & \longrightarrow & \operatorname{Colim}_d G \\ \downarrow & \lrcorner & \downarrow \\ Y & \longrightarrow & Z \end{array},$$

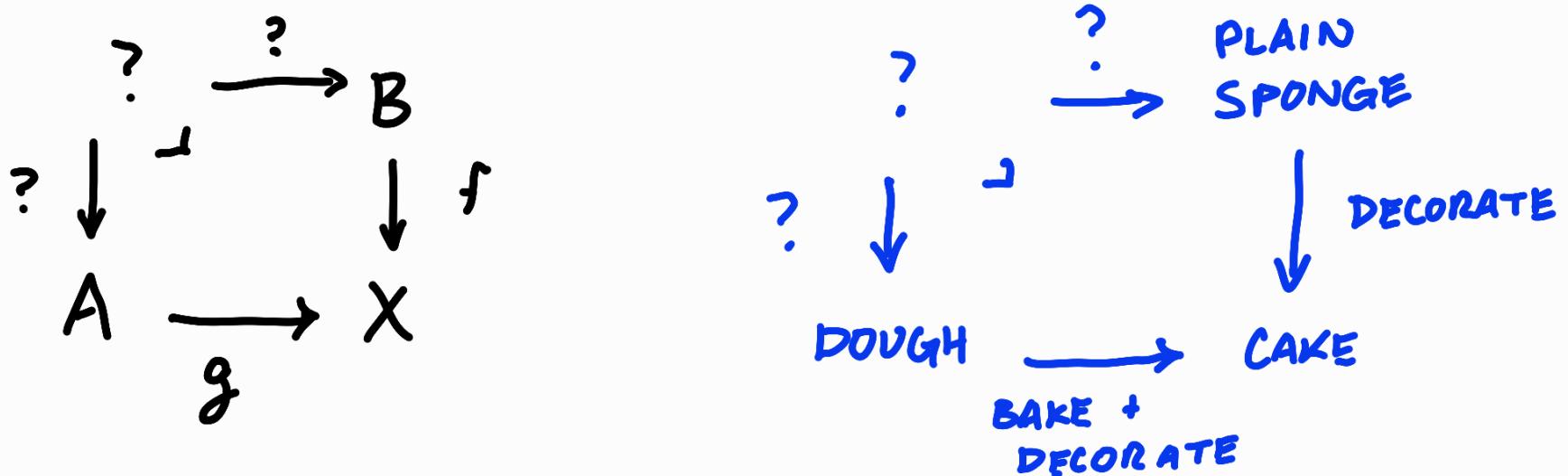
$$(\operatorname{Colim}_d G(d)) \times_{\mathcal{Z}} Y \underset{\sim}{\equiv} \operatorname{Colim}_d (G(d) \times_{\mathcal{Z}} Y).$$

② PULLBACK - STABLE COLIMITS

IN *Cake*, MORPHISMS ARE WAYS TO TURN
ONE TYPE OF INGREDIENT INTO ANOTHER.



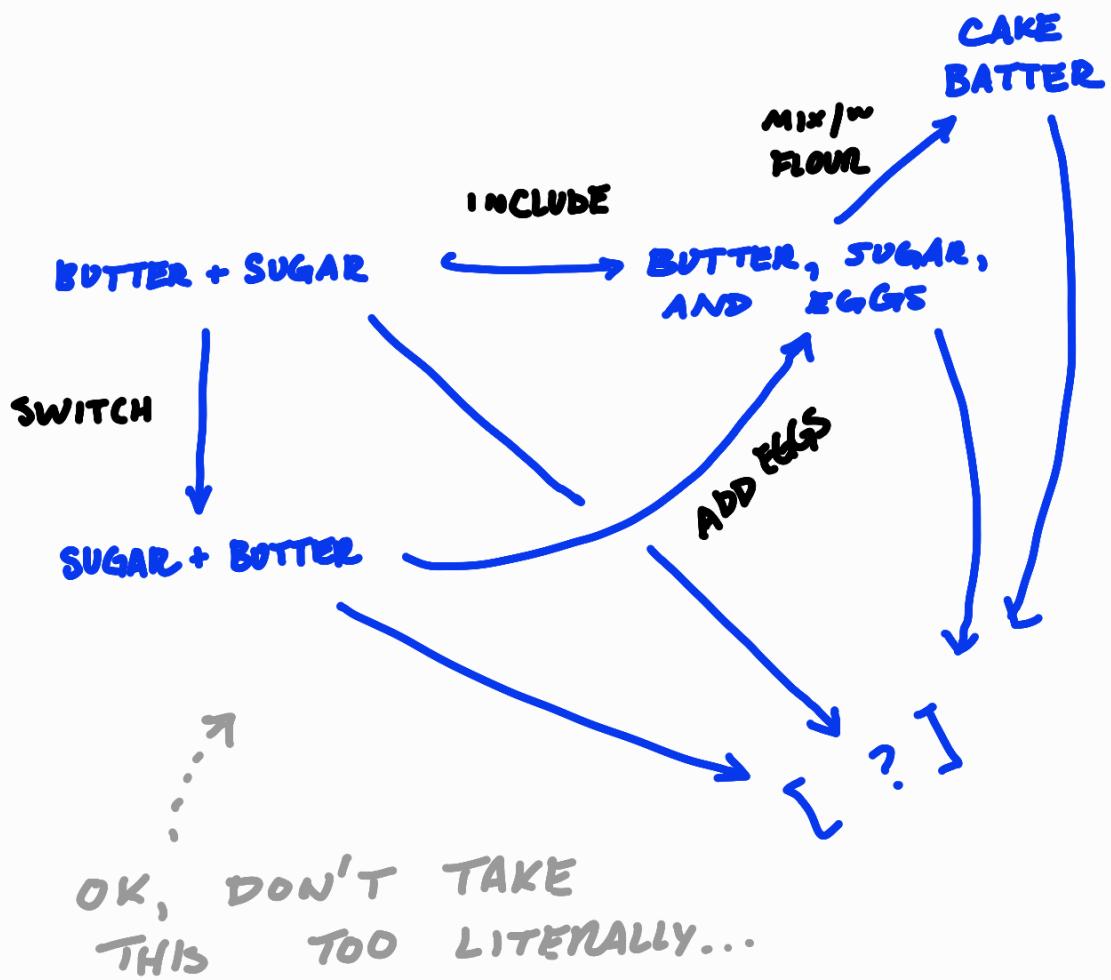
② PULLBACK - STABLE COLIMITS



TO TAKE THE PULLBACK IS TO ASK

"WHAT'S THE MOST GENERAL TYPE OF
INGREDIENT WHICH CAN BE TURNED INTO
BOTH A AND B, COMPATIBLY WITH
 $f \circ g$?"

② PULLBACK - STABLE COLIMITS



SIMILARLY, TAKING THE COLIMIT IS TO ASK:
"WHAT TYPE OF INGREDIENT DO I GET IF I COMBINE ALL THE INGREDIENTS IN THIS DIAGRAM, COMPATIBLY WITH ALL THE MORPHISMS IN IT?"

② PULLBACK - STABLE COLIMITS

AXIOM ② SAYS THAT WE SHOULD BE
ABLE TO DO THESE TWO OPERATIONS
IN EITHER ORDER AND GET
THE SAME RESULT.

③ DISJOINT COPRODUCTS

\mathcal{C} HAS AN INITIAL ("EMPTY") OBJECT \emptyset ,
AND COPRODUCTS BEHAVE LIKE THE DISJOINT
UNION OF SETS:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \emptyset & \xrightarrow{\quad} & b \\ \downarrow & \lrcorner & \downarrow \\ a & \hookrightarrow & a+b \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} a & \xrightarrow{\quad} & a \\ \downarrow & \lrcorner & \downarrow \\ a & \hookrightarrow & a+b \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} b & \xrightarrow{\quad} & b \\ \downarrow & \lrcorner & \downarrow \\ b & \hookrightarrow & a+b \end{array}$$

③

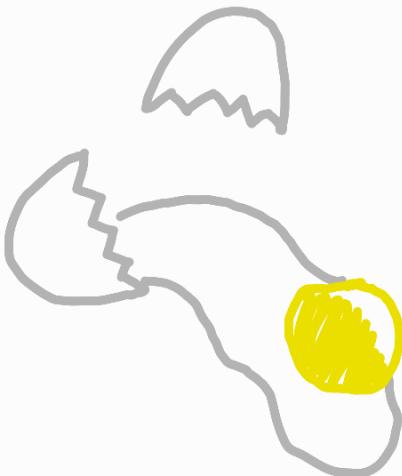
DISJOINT COPRODUCTS

IN Cake, THIS SAYS SOMETHING LIKE:

"DISTINCT TYPES OF INGREDIENT
DON'T HAVE ANYTHING IN COMMON"



" \cap "



"=" \emptyset

④ EFFECTIVE QUOTIENTS

IF $X \in \text{Ob}(\mathcal{E})$ ADMITS A CONGRUENCE ("IS INTERNALLY SORTABLE"), SAY R , THEN X/R IS ITSELF AN OBJECT OF \mathcal{E} .

(4)

EFFECTIVE QUOTIENTS

$$X := \{ \text{ALL BAGS OF SUGAR AT RALPHS} \}$$


(4)

EFFECTIVE QUOTIENTS

$$X/R = \{ \text{CANE SUGAR, POWDERED SUGAR, BROWN SUGAR, ...} \}$$



THEOREM:

A CATEGORY \mathcal{E} IS EQUIVALENT
TO $Sh(X)$ FOR SOME X EXACTLY
WHEN IT

- ① IS LOCALLY PRESENTABLE
- ② HAS PULLBACK-STABLE COLIMITS
- ③ HAS DISJOINT COPRODUCTS
- ④ HAS EFFECTIVE QUOTIENTS

THANKS FOR LISTENING!



IT'S
UNDERBAKED ...

SLIDES: ari-rosenfield.github.io