

# PhD Studies

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# Topics of Algebraic Topology



# Chapter 1

## Simplicial sets and complexes

Simplicial complexes are more intuitive, and are the foundation of algebraic topology. Simplicial sets were also called simplicial schemes and semi-simplicial complexes.

### 1.1 Simplicial complexes

### 1.2 Simplicial sets

Let  $\Delta$  be the category of finite ordinal numbers, with order-preserving maps between them. More precisely, the objects for  $\Delta$  consist of elements  $\mathbf{n}, n \geq 0$ , where  $\mathbf{n}$  is a string of relations

$$0 \rightarrow 1 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow n$$

(in other words  $\mathbf{n}$  is a totally ordered set with  $n + 1$  elements). A morphism  $\theta : \mathbf{m} \rightarrow \mathbf{n}$  is an order-preserving set function, or alternatively a functor. We usually commit the abuse of saying that  $\Delta$  is the ordinal number category.

A simplicial set is a contravariant functor  $X : \Delta^{op} \rightarrow \text{Sets}$ , where Sets is the category of sets.

**Example 1.** *Let  $\Delta$  be the category of finite ordinal numbers, with order-preserving maps between them. More precisely, the objects for  $\Delta$  consist of elements  $\mathbf{n}, n \geq 0$ , where  $\mathbf{n}$  is a string of relations*

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*A simplicial set is a contravariant functor  $X : \Delta^{op} \rightarrow \text{Sets}$ , where Sets is the category of sets.*

**1.3 CW-complexes****1.4 Homotopy theory**



## Chapter 2

# K-theory constructions

### 2.1 Volodin's K-theory

Let  $G$  be a group and  $\{G_i\}_{i \in I}$  a family of subgroups. Define  $V(G, \{G_i\})$  to be the simplicial scheme, alias simplicial complex, (and also its geometric realization, i.e.,  $RV(G, \{G_i\})$  in the notation of, Ch. V, Prop. 7.16), whose vertices are the elements of  $G$ , where  $g_0, \dots, g_p$  ( $g_i \neq g_j$ ) form a  $p$ -simplex if for some  $G_i$  all the elements  $g_j g_k^{-1}$  lie in  $G_i$ . We'll often shorten the notation to  $V(G)$ . If  $H$  is another group with a family of subgroups  $\{H_j\}$  and  $\phi : G \rightarrow H$  is a homomorphism sending each  $G_i$  into some  $H_j$ , then  $\phi$  induces a simplicial map  $V(\phi) : V(G) \rightarrow V(H)$ .

In many situations the space  $V(G)$  is not convenient from a technical point of view and it is more convenient to use simplicial sets ([8], Ch. II) instead of simplicial schemes: Denote by  $W(G, \{G_i\})$  the geometric realization ([8], Ch. III §3) of the (semi)simplicial set whose  $p$ -simplices are the sequences  $(g_0, \dots, g_p)$  of elements of  $G$  (not necessarily distinct) such that for some  $G_i$  all  $g_j g_k^{-1}$  lie in  $G_i$ , the  $r$ -th face (resp. degeneracy) of this simplex being obtained by omitting  $g_r$  (resp., repeating  $g_r$ ). Associating with any  $p$ -simplex  $(g_0, \dots, g_p)$  the linear singular simplex of the space  $V(G)$  which sends the  $i$ -th vertex of the standard simplex to  $g_i$ , we obtain a map of simplicial sets from  $W(G)$  to the simplicial set of singular simplices of  $V(G)$  and hence a cellular map (linear on any simplex) from  $W(G)$  to  $V(G)$ . This map is a homotopy equivalence as one sees from the following lemmas.

### 2.2 Milnor's K-theory

### 2.3 Whitehead's K-theory

### 2.4 Quillen's K-theory



## Chapter 3

# Homological stability