

# Stable $\infty$ -categories

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**Def** A 1-category  $\mathcal{A}$  is called additive :  $\Leftrightarrow$

- It has a zero object (i.e. both initial and terminal)
- It has products and coproducts
- $\forall X, Y \in \mathcal{A}$  the map  $X \sqcup Y \xrightarrow{\begin{pmatrix} \text{id}_X & 0 \\ 0 & \text{id}_Y \end{pmatrix}} X \times Y$  is an isomorphism  $\therefore X \oplus Y$
- For  $f, g: X \rightarrow Y$ , define their sum

$$f+g: X \xrightarrow{\Delta} \bigoplus X \xrightarrow{\begin{matrix} f \\ g \end{matrix}} \bigoplus Y \xrightarrow{\nabla} Y$$

Then, for any  $f$  there should exist a morph.  $-f: X \rightarrow Y$  s.t.  $f + (-f) = 0$

**Equivalently**, an additive category is an  $\text{Ab}$ -enriched category with finite coproducts.

Reason: Let  $\emptyset$  be the initial object, then  $\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{A}}(\emptyset, \emptyset) = \{\text{id}_{\emptyset}\} \in \text{Ab}$  so  $\text{id}_{\emptyset} = 0$  is the zero object. Therefore, for all  $X \in \mathcal{A}$  and  $f \in \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{A}}(X, \emptyset)$ , we have

$$f = \text{id}_{\emptyset} \circ f = 0 \circ f = 0 \text{ by Ab-enrichment.}$$

The argument for direct sums is similar:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X & \xrightarrow{i_1} & X \sqcup Y \\ Y & \xrightarrow{i_2} & X \sqcup Y \end{array} \xrightarrow{\text{id}_{X \sqcup Y}} X \sqcup Y \cong X \sqcup Y \cong X \sqcup Y \cong Y \quad \square$$

**Reu**: Deeper reason is that finite coproducts (and idempotent splittings) are the absolute colimits over  $\text{Ab}$ , i.e. those presented by all  $\text{Ab}$ -enriched functors.

**Def** An additive category  $\mathcal{A}$  is abelian :  $\Leftrightarrow$

- It has kernels and cokernels
- $\begin{array}{ccccccc} \ker(f) & \longrightarrow & X & \xrightarrow{f} & Y & \longrightarrow & \text{coker}(f) \\ \downarrow & \lrcorner & \downarrow & & \downarrow & \lrcorner & \downarrow \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & \text{im}(f) & \xrightarrow{\cong} & \text{im}(f) & \longrightarrow & 0 \end{array}$

**Def** An  $\infty$ -category  $\mathcal{C}$  is called stable :  $\Leftrightarrow$

- It admits a zero object  $0$
- It admits fibers and cofibers (analogue of kernels & cokernels)
- A sequence  $X' \xrightarrow{f} X \xrightarrow{g} X''$  exhibits  $X'$  as fiber of  $g$  iff it exhibits  $X''$  as the cofiber of  $f$

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc} \text{fib}(f) & \longrightarrow & X \\ \downarrow \lrcorner & & \downarrow f \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & Y \end{array}, \begin{array}{ccc} X & \longrightarrow & Y \\ \downarrow \lrcorner & & \downarrow \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & \text{coker}(f) \end{array} \right)$$

**Def** For  $X \in \mathcal{C}$ , let  $\begin{array}{ccc} \Omega X & \longrightarrow & 0 \\ \downarrow \lrcorner & & \downarrow \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & X \end{array}$  and  $\begin{array}{ccc} X & \longrightarrow & 0 \\ \downarrow \lrcorner & & \downarrow \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & \Sigma X \end{array}$

then  $\Omega: \mathcal{C} \xrightarrow{\cong} \mathcal{C}: \Sigma$  are inverse equivalences if  $\mathcal{C}$  stable.

$\rightarrow$  Explains the name. Also write  $X[1] = \Sigma X$ .

**Reason**:  $\begin{array}{ccc} \Omega X & \longrightarrow & 0 \longrightarrow X \\ X & \longrightarrow & 0 \longrightarrow \Sigma X \end{array}$  (co)fiber sequences

$$\pi_0 \text{Map}(Y, Y) = \pi_0 \text{Map}(Y, \Omega^2 \Sigma^2 Y) = \pi_0 \Omega^2 \text{Map}(Y, \Sigma^2 Y) = \pi_0 \text{Map}(Y, Y)$$

→ Explains the name. Also write  $X[1] = \Sigma X$ .

Reason:  $\Omega X \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow X$  (co) fiber sequences  
 $X \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow \Sigma X$

Note:  $\pi_0 \text{Map}(X, Y) = \pi_0 \text{Map}(X, \Omega^2 \Sigma^2 Y) = \pi_0 \Omega^2 \text{Map}(X, \Sigma^2 Y) = \pi_2 \text{Map}(X, Y)$

⇒ We can add & subtract morphisms, abelian group pointed by  $X \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow Y$   
 In fact, get a spectrum / infinite loop space. subtract by reversing loops in  $\Omega \text{Map}(X, \Sigma Y)$

Rem: A square  $\begin{array}{ccc} X & \xrightarrow{\quad} & 0 \\ \downarrow & \lrcorner & \downarrow \\ 0 & \xrightarrow{\quad} & \Sigma Y \end{array}$  classifies a morphism  $X \xrightarrow{f} \Omega \Sigma Y = Y$

The mirroring  $\Delta' \times \Delta' \rightarrow \Delta' \times \Delta'$  swapping the components acts on it by reversing the commutation homotopy  $\begin{array}{ccc} X & \xrightarrow{\quad} & 0 \\ \downarrow & \lrcorner & \downarrow \\ 0 & \xrightarrow{\quad} & \Sigma Y \end{array}$ , thereby inserting a loop in

$\text{Map}(X, Y) = \Omega \text{Map}(X, \Sigma Y)$ , so the new square classifies  $-f$ .

Note:  $\text{fib}(X \xrightarrow{0} \Sigma Y) \rightarrow X$  shows  $X \times Y = \text{fib}(X \xrightarrow{0} \Sigma Y) \in \mathcal{C}$

$\Sigma \Sigma Y = Y \rightarrow 0$  [similarly  $X \sqcup Y = \text{cofib}(X[-1] \xrightarrow{0} Y)$ ]  
 $\downarrow \quad \downarrow \Rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  is Ab-enriched & has finite (co)products  
 $0 \rightarrow \Sigma Y$

Proposition: If  $\mathcal{C}$  is stable, then  $\mathcal{H}\mathcal{C}$  is additive, in particular finite products & coproducts in  $\mathcal{C}$  itself are isomorphic.

Fact:  $X \rightarrow X'$  in  $\mathcal{C}$  stable is a pullback iff it is a pushout square.  
 $\begin{array}{ccc} X & \rightarrow & X' \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ Y & \rightarrow & Y' \end{array}$  Thus, we can apply the pasting lemma in both directions.

Theorem: If  $\mathcal{C}$  is a stable  $\infty$ -category, then  $\mathcal{H}\mathcal{C}$  is triangulated,

with shift functor  $X[1] := \Sigma X$  and

dist. triangles  $\begin{array}{ccccc} X & \xrightarrow{f} & Y & \rightarrow & 0 \\ \downarrow & \lrcorner & \downarrow & \lrcorner & \downarrow \\ 0 & \rightarrow & Z & \xrightarrow{g} & X[1] \end{array}$

Proof:  $X \xrightarrow{f} Y$  can always be completed to dist. tr.  $X \xrightarrow{f} Y \rightarrow \text{cofib}(f)$

(TR0)  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \bullet \text{ If } f = \text{id}_X, \text{ then } \text{cofib}(f) = 0 \\ \bullet \text{ Isomorphic to dist. tr.} \Rightarrow \text{still one} \end{array} \right.$

(TR1) • Shift

$\begin{array}{ccccc} X & \rightarrow & Y & \rightarrow & 0 \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ 0 & \rightarrow & Z & \rightarrow & X[1] \\ & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ & & 0 & \rightarrow & Y[1] \end{array}$

— since mirrored  
 → "turns loop around"

$\begin{array}{ccc} X & \rightarrow & Y \\ & \searrow & \downarrow \\ & & Y \end{array}$

(TR2) •  $X \xrightarrow{f} Y$  induce  $\text{cofib}(f)$  fitting into dist. tr. ⇒ functional cone  
 $\begin{array}{ccc} X & \xrightarrow{f} & Y \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ X' & \xrightarrow{f'} & Y' \end{array}$   
 $\text{cofib}(f) \rightarrow \text{cofib}(f')$

(TR3) • Octahedron axiom

$\begin{array}{ccccccc} X & \xrightarrow{f} & Y & \xrightarrow{g} & Z & \rightarrow & 0 \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ 0 & \rightarrow & Y/X & \rightarrow & Z/X & \rightarrow & X[1] \rightarrow 0 \\ & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ & & 0 & \rightarrow & Z/Y & \rightarrow & Y/X[1] \end{array}$   
 This commut. diagram includes the octahedron diagram.

(Could go on to find "higher octahedron")  $0 \rightarrow Z/Y \rightarrow Y/X[1] \rightarrow Y/X[1]$

□

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 0 & \longrightarrow & Y/X & \xrightarrow{\tau} & X & \longrightarrow & X[1] \longrightarrow 0 \\
 & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 & & 0 & \longrightarrow & Z/Y & \longrightarrow & Y/X[1]
 \end{array}$$

(Could go on to find "higher octaves".)

□

Not every triangulated category arises this way, but "all the interesting ones", e.g.

- $\mathcal{C}h(\mathcal{A}) = \{ \text{chain cplx, chain maps, chain homotopies, ...} \}$  is stable

- Any (pre)triangulated dg-category has an associated (stable)  $\infty$ -category

- For  $\mathcal{A}$  Grothendieck abelian (for simplicity),

$D(\mathcal{A}) = \{ \text{injective chain cplx, chain maps, chain homot, ...} \}$  is stable

& has all limits and colimits (presentable stable)

- $D(\mathcal{S}h(X; \mathcal{A})) = \mathcal{S}h_{\infty}^{\text{fp}}(X; D(\mathcal{A}))$  is stable  $\rightarrow$  Factorization algebras...

- $\mathcal{S}p = \lim (S_* \xleftarrow{\Omega} S_* \xleftarrow{\Omega} \dots)$  is stable, in fact universal among them

### Conceptual Remark:

We have seen that (idempotent complete) additive categories are the same thing as

$\mathcal{A}b$ -enriched categories that admit all absolute colimits for  $\mathcal{A}b$ -enrichment.

Say:  $\{ \text{i.c. additive categories} \} = \text{CauchyCat}(\mathcal{A}b)$ .

It turns out:  $\{ \text{i.c. stable } \infty\text{-categories} \} = \text{CauchyCat}(\mathcal{S}p)$

where the absolute colimits are finite colimits, shifts and idemp. splittings.

Also:  $\{ \text{i.c. additive } \infty\text{-categories} \} = \text{CauchyCat}(\mathcal{S}p^{\text{connective}})$

Similarly i.c. additive  $(n, m)$ -categories.