

# Semiadditive Thursdays

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# I (2/12, Matthew Niemi) Trivial Notions

Abstract: The greatest stories do not begin with  $\infty$ -category theory, and neither will ours—the germs of semiadditivity subsist willingly upon *ordinary* categories, ready for swab and cultivation. We will start our seminar by documenting some basic semiadditive phenomena (in particular: bilimits, enrichments, norms, and ambidexterity for negative one and zero semiadditivity) as it is expressible in ordinary language. Then we will anticipate higher extensions of the theory. Then we will create a *hostage situation* to canvas speakers.

## I.1 Preamble to the seminar.

The theory of (*higher*) *semiadditivity* is firmly (higher) algebraic. Recent developments in chromatic and equivariant homotopy theory, trace methods, TQFTs, algebraic geometry, geometric Langlands, mirror symmetry, ... have motivated its closer study. Many folks seem familiar with some applications of semiadditivity, are interested in its other instantiations, and are not familiar with its machinations. Especially more recent work using semiadditivity requires a passing comprehension of the details to read, and this was one motivation to organize this seminar. *That in mind, this seminar will take a category-first approach.*

## I.2 (Semi)additivity, biproducts, and commutative monoids.

Here is something you know.

**Definition I.2.1.** An ordinary category  $\mathcal{C}$  is called *additive* under the following conditions.

- (1) For each pair of objects  $A, B \in \mathcal{C}$ , the hom-set  $\mathrm{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(A, B)$  is assigned an abelian group structure.
- (2) Supposing (1), the composition of morphisms is bilinear with respect to the abelian group structure assigned to hom-sets.
- (3)  $\mathcal{C}$  admits finite biproducts (including the empty one, hence a zero object).

This is *structure*. Conditions (1) and (2) amount to an *enrichment over abelian groups*. However, some pedantic category theory dissolves the amount of choice involved. *Note that such an enrichment implies that any finite product is canonically a coproduct if it exists, and vice-versa.* In fact, it implies something slightly stronger: any finite (co)product is a *biproduct*  $A \oplus B$  in a canonical way.<sup>1</sup> It likewise implies that if an initial object exists, then it is also terminal and hence a zero object. Moreover, given (1), (2), and the existence of  $B \times B$  (hence the biproduct  $B \oplus B$ ), the addition on  $\mathrm{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(A, B)$  is uniquely determined<sup>2</sup> as

$$f + g : A \xrightarrow{\Delta} A \times A \xrightarrow{f \times g} B \times B \cong B \sqcup B \rightarrow B.$$

The biproduct seems to have an important role. *In fact, as soon as finite biproducts exist, you can turn most of this around.* If  $\mathcal{C}$  admits finite biproducts (including a zero object), the induced operation  $(f, g) \mapsto f + g$  equips  $\mathcal{C}$  with an enrichment over commutative monoids, and this is the unique  $\mathbf{C}\mathbf{Mon}$ -enrichment that  $\mathcal{C}$  may possess.<sup>3</sup> Therefore, the definition of an additive category can be redisplayed as follows.

**Definition I.2.2.** An ordinary category  $\mathcal{C}$  is called *additive* under the following conditions.

- (1)  $\mathcal{C}$  is pointed.
- (2)  $\mathcal{C}$  admits finite products and finite coproducts.
- (3) Supposing (1) and (2), for each pair of objects  $A, B \in \mathcal{C}$ , the *identity matrix* morphism

$$\begin{pmatrix} \mathrm{id}_A & 0 \\ 0 & \mathrm{id}_B \end{pmatrix} : A \times B \rightarrow A \sqcup B$$

<sup>1</sup>The distinction is that biproducts are unique up to unique isomorphism while coincidental (co)products need not be, among other things. A good rabbit hole is [Yua12].

<sup>2</sup>This is forced by bilinearity.

<sup>3</sup>Two discussions of this: my older notes or [CDW24, §2].

is an isomorphism. (Thus,  $\mathbf{C}$  admits finite biproducts.)

- (4) For each pair of objects  $A, B \in \mathbf{C}$ , the canonical commutative monoid operation  $(f, g) \mapsto f + g$  defined above on  $\text{Hom}_{\mathbf{C}}(A, B)$  admits negatives.

It is now clear that additivity is a *property*. (This "structure that is actually a property" thing will be a recurring theme.) Moreover, it is clear that we should inspect a weaker underlying property.

**Definition I.2.3.** An ordinary category possessing properties (1)-(3) is called *0-semiadditive*.

*Remark I.2.4* (Prescient remark). So there's this close relationship between the *property* of semiadditivity and the *structure* of a  $\mathbf{CMon}$ -enrichment. In particular, semiadditivity induces a canonical enrichment. The converse is false: a  $\mathbf{CMon}$ -enrichment forces finite (co)products to be biproducts, but it does not guarantee existence. The notions coincide in the category of *pointed, finitely cocomplete* categories, however. (Or pointed, finitely complete.) We sometimes call a pointed category *(-1)-semiadditive*. We point out that pointedness can be defined just like 0-semiadditivity except with finite sets replaced by just *empty* sets, and that (-1)-semiadditivity has an analogous relationship with the "structure" of  $\mathbf{Set}_*$ -enrichments. These are our first signs of the hierarchy of higher semiadditivity. Sam will expound upon this enrichment-property game.

(Tea and cookies break?)

### I.3 Biproducts and norms.

Ordinary semiadditivity concerns the existence of finite biproducts. *We can use norms to systematize their existence.* We separate the case of empty and nonempty finite biproducts.

Empty Case: A terminal (resp. initial) object in  $\mathbf{C}$  is the same thing as a limit (resp. colimit) of the empty functor  $\emptyset \rightarrow \mathbf{C}$ . If  $\mathbf{C}$  admits both an initial and terminal object, denoted  $\emptyset$  and  $*$ , then there is a unique morphism

$$\text{Nm} : \emptyset \rightarrow *.$$

In this case, the invertibility of  $\text{Nm}$  is the unique condition for  $\emptyset$  and  $*$  to coincide. This would occur as soon as there is *any* morphism  $* \rightarrow \emptyset$ , which would necessarily be the inverse  $\text{Nm}^{-1}$ .

Non-empty case: Consider a finite family of objects  $F : S \rightarrow \mathbf{C}$ . We may ask for a comparison map

$$\text{Nm}_F : \text{colim } F \rightarrow \text{lim } F.$$

This amounts to a family of morphisms  $\text{Nm}_F^{s_i, s_j} : F(s_i) \rightarrow F(s_j)$  indexed by ordered pairs  $s_i, s_j \in S$ , i.e. a family of choices  $\text{Nm}_F^{s_i, s_j} \in \text{Hom}_{\mathbf{C}}(F(s_i), F(s_j))$ , i.e. a matrix

	$s_1$	$s_2$	$s_3$	$\cdots$	$s_{n-1}$	$s_n$
$s_1$	$\text{id}_{F(s_1)}$	?	?	$\cdots$	?	?
$s_2$	?	$\text{id}_{F(s_2)}$	?	$\cdots$	?	?
$s_3$	?	?	$\text{id}_{F(s_3)}$	$\cdots$	?	?
$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\ddots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$
$s_{n-1}$	?	?	?	$\cdots$	$\text{id}_{F(s_{n-1})}$	?
$s_n$	?	?	?	$\cdots$	?	$\text{id}_{F(s_n)}$

Generally, there is *no* canonical  $\text{Nm}_F$  map because there are not generally distinguished elements of the mapping sets  $\text{Hom}_{\mathbf{C}}(F(s_i), F(s_j))$ . In other words, you do not know how to fill the ? in the matrix. *An easy fix is to stipulate that  $\mathbf{C}$  is pointed, because then we can insert zero morphisms.*

*Remark I.3.1.* The choice of a compatible family of morphisms  $\varphi_{c_1, c_2} \in \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(c_1, c_2)$  for each ordered pair  $c_1, c_2 \in \mathcal{C}$  is equivalent to a  $\text{Set}_*$ -enrichment. Moreover, this is equivalent to "having zero morphisms." In particular, this structure is unique if it exists.

**Proposition I.3.2.** *If  $\mathcal{C}$  is pointed and admits finite limits and finite colimits, then for each finite collection  $F : S \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  there is a canonical "identity matrix" morphism*

$$\text{Nm}_F : \text{colim } F \rightarrow \text{lim } F.$$

*Moreover, if  $\text{Nm}_F$  is an isomorphism, then  $\text{lim } F$  is a biproduct.*

**Corollary I.3.3.** *For an ordinary category  $\mathcal{C}$ , the following are equivalent.*

- (1) *The category  $\mathcal{C}$  is zero semiadditive.*
- (2) *For every finite collection  $F : S \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ , the (co)limit of  $F$  exists and is a biproduct.*
- (3) *The category  $\mathcal{C}$  is pointed, and for every finite collection  $F : S \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ , the canonical morphism  $\text{Nm}_F : \text{colim } F \rightarrow \text{lim } F$  is invertible.*

We made the prior discussion to sensibly state (3). But why did we bother if we can just ask for (2)? First, let me remind you that pointedness is (-1)-semiadditivity. Next, let me pose some questions. Rather than  $F : S \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ , consider a functor  $F : X \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  where now  $X$  is an anima and  $\mathcal{C}$  is an  $\infty$ -category.

- (1) What conditions guarantee that  $\text{lim } F$  or  $\text{colim } F$  exist?
- (2) If they exist, what is the *best* way the limit and colimit may coincide? The distinction between biproducts and coincidental (co)products in an ordinary category is already substantial, so this should not be overlooked.
- (3) What's all this good for?

The basic selling point of *higher semiadditivity* is its unreasonably effective, systematic, and broadly applicable answers to these questions. Our discussion of *ambidexterity and norms* will generalize the above analysis of 0- and (-1)-semiadditivity to handle these questions and define *higher semiadditivity*. Our discussion of *higher commutative monoids* will generalize the relation between zero semiadditivity and abelian monoids to characterize higher semiadditivity by its relation to  $\mathbb{E}_\infty$  (and stronger!) structures.

## I.4 Ambidexterity and biadjoints.

For a category  $\mathcal{C}$ , semiadditivity is a property concerning every finite family  $F : S \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ . Here, both  $F$  and  $S$  are variable. *Ambidexterity conveniently isolates that part of semiadditivity concerning only  $S$ .* For this, consider the map of sets

$$q : S \rightarrow *.$$

This induces a *pullback functor*  $q^* : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}^S$ .

**Proposition I.4.1.** *If  $\mathcal{C}$  admits  $S$ -indexed (co)products, then the functors*

$$\begin{aligned} q_* &:= \lim_S (-) : \mathcal{C}^S \rightarrow \mathcal{C} \\ q_! &:= \text{colim}_S (-) : \mathcal{C}^S \rightarrow \mathcal{C} \end{aligned}$$

*are right and left adjoints to  $q^*$  respectively. In particular, they are uniquely determined as adjoints.*

*Proof.* The interesting counit consists of diagonals  $u_{*, X} : X \rightarrow \prod_S X$  and the interesting counit consists of collapse maps  $c_{!, X} : \sqcup_S X \rightarrow X$ . You can now check the triangle identities. □

**Corollary I.4.2.** *For a set  $S$ , the category  $\mathcal{C}$  admits  $S$ -indexed products iff  $q^*$  admits a right adjoint  $q_*$ , and it admits  $S$ -indexed coproducts iff  $q^*$  admits a left adjoint  $q_!$ .*

typos fix  
later

This gives us a "relative with respect to  $S \rightarrow *$ " way to talk about the existence of  $S$ -products and  $S$ -coproducts. **We want to similarly understand  $S$ -bilimits.**

Let's take a moment to dwell on what we are asking. We have an adjoint triple

$$q_! \dashv q^* \dashv q_*$$

and we just identified  $q_*$  and  $q_!$  as computing  $S$ -indexed (co)products. Now, we want biproducts. We know that a biproduct is not just a coincidental product and coproduct, rather it needs compatible (co)product data. Similarly, we should not just ask for an equivalence of functors  $q_* \cong q_!$ , as this does not marry their roles as adjoints. This makes sense: if  $q_*$  (or  $q_!$ ) is to properly serve as a simultaneous left and right adjoint, its four (co)units should be compatible. **There are a few ways to go about this:**

- (1) **Explicit compatibilities:** Suppose that  $\mathcal{C}$  admits  $S$ -products and  $S$ -coproducts so that the adjoint triple in question exists. Then we may form

$$q^* q_* \xrightarrow{c_*} \text{id}_{\mathcal{C}^S} \xrightarrow{u_!} q^* q_!.$$

Morally, if we want a good simultaneously left and right adjoint  $q_*$ , then this should compose to the identity and you should interpret this as a triangle identity. **Technically, let's unwind.** Note that given  $F : S \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ , the functor  $q^* q_!$  acts by  $F \mapsto \coprod_S s_i$  and  $q^* q_*$  acts by  $F \mapsto \prod_S s_i$ . The  $s_k$ -th component of this transformation at  $F$  is the map  $i_k \circ \pi_k : \prod s_i \rightarrow \coprod s_i$ . These are *precisely* the diagonal structure maps of a biproduct, which must assemble to an identity matrix to form a biproduct. In other words, we should call our adjunction **ambidextrous** if  $u_! \circ c_* \cong \text{id}$ .

- (2) **Norms:** To study biproducts, the appeal of norms is that one can bypass the fuss of compatibilities if you could form the identity matrix  $\text{Nm}_F : \text{colim } F \rightarrow \text{lim } F$ , because its invertibility guaranteed your (co)product was a biproduct. For  $\text{Nm}_F$  to exist, we used the zero morphisms granted by pointedness. In our relative context, we may hope for a transformation

$$\text{Nm}_q : q_! \rightarrow q_*$$

serving the same convenience: if we can just construct  $\text{Nm}_q$ , then its invertibility would be equivalent to the ambidexterity of our adjoint triple, i.e. the "correct" way to ask for  $q_! \cong q_*$ . The pause is that  $\text{Nm}_q$  may not exist: it consists of maps  $\text{colim}_S(-) \rightarrow \text{lim}_S(-)$  which consist of matrices of maps, so  $\text{Nm}_q$  is only defined once you have zero morphisms for the off-diagonals, i.e. once you are (-1)-semiadditive.

- (3) **Wrong-way (co)units:** ...

To summarize: the existence of  $S$ -(co)products amounted to the existence of adjoints  $q_!$  and  $q_*$ . Then we needed pointedness to construct the norm map  $\text{Nm}_q : q_! \rightarrow q_*$  as the identity matrix. In this case, we say that  **$S$  is weakly  $\mathcal{C}$ -ambidextrous**. Then if  $\text{Nm}_q$  is invertible, then  $\mathcal{C}$  admits  $S$ -biproducts. In this case, we say that  **$S$  is  $\mathcal{C}$ -ambidextrous**.

**Proposition I.4.3.** *The following are equivalent.*

- (1) *The set  $S$  is  $\mathcal{C}$ -ambidextrous.*
- (2) *The category  $\mathcal{C}$  admits all  $S$ -indexed biproducts.*
- (3) *The category  $\mathcal{C}$  is pointed, and the norm  $\text{Nm}_q : q_! \rightarrow q_*$  associated to  $q : S \rightarrow *$  is invertible.*

We have delivered on our slogan: this is precisely the part of 0-semiadditivity concerning the fixed set  $S$ .

**Remark I.4.4.** You may replace  $q : S \rightarrow *$  with an arbitrary map of finite sets  $q : S \rightarrow T$ . The resulting theory is as follows. The existence of adjoints is equivalent to the existence of (co)products indexed by the fibers of  $q$ ; the construction of  $\text{Nm}_q$  still requires pointedness; and the invertibility of  $\text{Nm}_q$  is equivalent to the existence of biproducts indexed by the fibers of  $q$ .

**Remark I.4.5.** Ambidexterity, norms, and the "relative" language will become exponentially more useful in the higher setting.

This is not implied by a functor isomorphism  $q_* \cong q_!$ , right?

Improve this claim

I'm suspect of some of what I've written here

## II (2/19, Matthew Niemiro) Higher semiadditivity and norms

Abstract: In this session, we will make the first definition of semiadditivity using *ambidexterity and norms*. The basic idea is that semiadditivity amounts to the existence of certain bilimits, hence it is a property concerning certain families  $F : X \rightarrow C$  where  $F$  and  $X$  are variable. This, in turn, may be understood inductively by analyzing the existence and invertibility of norm maps. But there's still a lot going on. The role of ambidexterity is to isolate that part of semiadditivity concerning  $X$  in a functorial and controllable manner, and this will help us run the machine. In particular, we will use ambidexterity to construct relative integration, a “higher” form of addition that will clarify the existence problem for norms. We will demonstrate this by constructing 1-finite norms for finite  $G$ -actions in the presence of ordinary semiadditivity.

### II.1 Preamble to tea and cookies.

First, let's summarize parts of the previous talk which will be important today.

- (1) A *biproduct* is an object serving as a product and coproduct of a family such that the canonical (co)product morphisms are compatible. If one exists, then it is unique up to unique isomorphism. This is generally distinct from an abstractly coincidental (co)product.<sup>4</sup> There are various equivalent definitions of biproducts, and various conditions implying their existence. If  $C$  is pointed, then biproducts admit a convenient characterization: for a set-indexed family  $F : S \rightarrow C$ , you can use zero morphisms to define the *identity matrix* morphism

$$\mathrm{Nm}_F : \mathrm{colim} F \rightarrow \mathrm{lim} F,$$

and if  $\mathrm{Nm}_F$  is invertible, then the (co)product is automatically a biproduct.

- (2) The simplest definition of *ordinary semiadditivity* for a category  $C$  just asks that  $C$  admits finite biproducts. This is equivalent to demanding pointedness together with the invertibility of  $\mathrm{Nm}_F$  for every finite-set indexed family  $F : S \rightarrow C$ . This reformulation models the inductive definition of higher semiadditivity.
- (3) Semiadditivity concerns all finite sets  $S$  and all functors  $F : S \rightarrow C$ . *Ambidexterity* isolates the part of this property concerning only the fixed set  $S$ : just say that  $S$  is *C-ambidextrous* if  $C$  admits all  $S$ -bilimits. This may again be characterized with norms: we say that  $S$  is *weakly C-ambidextrous* if every  $F : S \rightarrow C$  admits its norm map

$$\mathrm{Nm}_F : \mathrm{colim}_S F \rightarrow \mathrm{lim}_S F,$$

and if  $S$  is weakly  $C$ -ambidextrous, then it is  $C$ -ambidextrous if and only if every  $\mathrm{Nm}_F$  is invertible. Altogether,  $C$  is 0-semiadditive if and only if every finite set  $S$  is  $C$ -ambidextrous.

- (4) There is a more general and very useful way to handle ambidexterity and norms. For this, consider

$$q : S \rightarrow *.$$

The existence of  $S$ -indexed (co)limits is equivalent to the existence of adjoints  $q_! \dashv q^* \dashv q_*$  to the pullback functor  $q^*$ . If  $C$  is pointed, then the norm maps for  $S$ -families assemble into a transformation  $\mathrm{Nm}_q : q_! \rightarrow q_*$ . Moreover,  $C$  admits  $S$ -biproducts if and only if  $\mathrm{Nm}_q$  is invertible. We say that  $q$  is *weakly C-ambidextrous* if  $\mathrm{Nm}_q$  exists, and *C-ambidextrous* if  $\mathrm{Nm}_q$  is an isomorphism.<sup>5</sup> More generally, we may consider

$$q : S \rightarrow T.$$

<sup>4</sup>Natalie asked for an example last time. I gave the example of the full subcategory of  $\mathbf{Set}$  spanned by sets isomorphic to  $\mathbb{Z}$ . Here,  $A \times B$  and  $A \sqcup B$  are both countably infinite, hence there are  $\Sigma_\infty$  isomorphisms between them as sets. However, there is no good definition of a biproduct which their (co)product can be given, and affirmingly, this category does not possess many of the good properties expected of one admitting (finite) biproducts.

<sup>5</sup>Notice that norms continue to serve as a convenient means for detecting biproducts: it would not be sufficient that  $q_!$  and  $q_*$  are abstractly isomorphic, but if specifically  $\mathrm{Nm}_q : q_! \rightarrow q_*$  exists and is invertible, then  $C$  admits  $S$ -biproducts.

Now, we say that  $q$  is *weakly C-ambidextrous* if  $\text{Nm}_q : q_! \rightarrow q_*$  exists (which requires that  $\mathbf{C}$  is pointed and that  $\mathbf{C}$  admits all (co)limits indexed by all the fibers of  $q$ ), and we say that  $q$  is *C-ambidextrous* if  $\text{Nm}_q$  is invertible (which amounts to  $\mathbf{C}$  being pointed and admitting all biproducts indexed by the fibers of  $q$ ).

Second, let's demo the formation of *integration* using addition.

**Slogan II.1.1.** *The main feature of a C-ambidextrous function  $f : S \rightarrow *$  is the ability to naturally integrate an S-family of morphisms  $F : S \rightarrow \text{Map}_{\mathbf{C}}(A, B)$  into a single morphism  $\int_S F \in \text{Map}_{\mathbf{C}}(A, B)$ . More generally, the main feature of a C-ambidextrous function  $f : S \rightarrow T$  is the ability to naturally integrate S-families of T-local systems.*

**Example II.1.2** (Ordinary integration). The ordinary category of abelian groups  $\mathbf{Ab}$  admits finite bilimits, hence it is zero semiadditive. Thus, it is enriched in commutative monoids: given a finite family  $f : S \rightarrow \text{Hom}_{\mathbf{Ab}}(A, B)$  we may form

$$\left(\int_S f\right)(a) := \sum_{s \in S} f_s(a).$$

We can describe this categorically. First, identify  $f$  with its mate  $\bar{f} : \coprod_S A \rightarrow B$ . We would like to define  $\int_S f$  by postcomposing this with a "diagonal into the coproduct"  $A \rightarrow \coprod_S A$ . We always have a morphism  $\Delta : A \rightarrow \prod_S A$ , and the invertibility of  $\text{Nm}_{\emptyset} : \emptyset \xrightarrow{\sim} *$  induces  $\text{Nm}_S : \prod_S A \rightarrow \prod_S A$ . Fortunately, the semiadditivity of  $\mathbf{Ab}$  means that  $\text{Nm}_S$  is invertible, and we may form

$$\int_S f \quad \text{as the morphism} \quad A \xrightarrow{\Delta} \prod_S A \xrightarrow{\text{Nm}_S^{-1}} \prod_S A \xrightarrow{\bar{f}} B.$$

Now, let's frame this as a replicable and functorial consequence of the ambidexterity of  $q : S \rightarrow *$ . For this, here is a little dictionary.

Absolute notation	Relative notation for $q : S \rightarrow *$
$\prod_S X$	$q_! q^* X$
$\prod_S X$	$q_* q^* X$
$\Delta_S : X \rightarrow \prod_S X$	$u_* : X \rightarrow q_* q^* X$
$f : S \rightarrow \text{Map}_{\mathbf{C}}(X, Y)$	$f : q^* X \rightarrow q^* Y$
$\bar{f} : \prod_S X \rightarrow Y$	$\bar{f} : q_! q^* X \xrightarrow{q_! f} q_! q^* Y \xrightarrow{c_{!, Y}} Y$

We define *ordinary integration* as the function

$$\int_q : \text{Map}_{\mathbf{Ab}^S}(q^* A, q^* B) \xrightarrow{q_!} \text{Map}_{\mathbf{Ab}}(q_! q^* A, q_! q^* B) \xrightarrow{c_{!, B} \circ -} \text{Map}_{\mathbf{Ab}}(q_! q^* A, B) \xrightarrow{- \circ \text{Nm}_q^{-1} \circ u_*} \text{Map}_{\mathbf{Ab}}(A, B)$$

$$f \longmapsto q_! f \longmapsto \bar{f} \longmapsto \bar{f} \circ \text{Nm}_q^{-1} \circ u_{*, A}$$

What's nice is that this is obviously functorial and easy to generalize.

## II.2 Higher semiadditivity, the norm problem, and ambidexterity.

A finite set is a space  $X$  such that  $\pi_0(X, x_0)$  is finite and all higher  $\pi_n(X, x_0)$  vanish for all  $x_0 \in X$ . You may be inclined to consider "higher finite sets" as follows.

**Definition II.2.1.** A space  $X$  is called  *$\pi$ -finite* if it has finite and finitely many nonzero homotopy groups. A  $\pi$ -finite space which is  $m$ -truncated is called  *$m$ -finite*. A space is called *(-1)-finite* if it is empty or contractible, and *(-2)-finite* if it is contractible. A map of spaces  $q : X \rightarrow Y$  is called  *$m$ -finite* if its homotopy fibers are  $m$ -finite.



*Remark II.2.2.* There are interesting reasons to think of  $\pi$ -finite spaces as "higher finite sets" which we unfortunately could not get a speaker for, c.f. [anel].

**Definition II.2.3.** Just as ordinary semiadditivity asked for finite set-indexed biproducts, we say that an  $\infty$ -category  $\mathcal{C}$  is *m-semiadditive* if every  $m$ -finite diagram  $F : X \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  admits a bilimit.

Our understanding of set-indexed bilimits readily generalizes to space-indexed bilimits. In particular,

**Claim II.2.4.** Let  $F : X \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  denote an  $m$ -finite diagram. Under certain hypotheses (spoiler: if  $X$  is weakly ambidextrous), there exists a natural morphism  $\mathrm{Nm}_F : \mathrm{colim} F \rightarrow \mathrm{lim} F$  whose invertibility detects that  $F$  admits a bilimit. In particular,  $\mathcal{C}$  is  $m$ -semiadditive if and only if it is  $(m - 1)$ -semiadditive and the norm  $\mathrm{Nm}_F$  associated to every  $m$ -finite diagram is invertible (i.e. every  $m$ -finite space  $X$  is ambidextrous).

What I will call "the norm problem" is the issue that  $\mathrm{Nm}_F$  does not exist *a priori*, and when it does, its construction is inductive and a bit involved. As before, it will be convenient to take a functor calculus approach and work relative to a map  $q : X \rightarrow Y$  of  $m$ -finite spaces. In this situation, we envision the norm as a transformation  $\mathrm{Nm}_q : q_! \rightarrow q_*$  whose invertibility detects that *all* diagrams indexed by the fibers of  $q$  are bilimits. Toward making that precise, we should first ask:

**Question II.2.5.** When do  $q_!$  and  $q_*$  exist?

We should suspect that the existence of  $q_!$  and  $q_*$  depends on  $\mathcal{C}$  admitting certain (co)limits.

**Lemma II.2.6.** *Given a functor between  $\infty$ -categories  $q : X \rightarrow Y$ , if the pullback  $q^* : \mathcal{C}^Y \rightarrow \mathcal{C}^X$  admits a left adjoint  $q_!$ , then  $q_!$  is essentially unique and is computed by the fiberwise left Kan extension*

Cite something in HTT

$$q_!(F : X \rightarrow \mathcal{C}) = \left( y \mapsto \mathrm{co} \lim_{X \times_Y y} F \right).$$

Dually for the right adjoint  $q_*$  of  $q^*$ .

**Corollary II.2.7.** *If  $X$  and  $Y$  are anima, then the pullback  $X \times_Y y$  is the homotopy fiber of  $q$  over  $y \in Y$ . Thus, the pullback  $q^*$  admits a left (resp. right) adjoint if and only if  $\mathcal{C}$  admits all colimits (resp. limits) indexed by the homotopy fibers of  $q$ . In this case we say that  $\mathcal{C}$  admits  $q$ -(co)limits.*

**Example II.2.8** (Absolute case). Let  $q : X \rightarrow *$  denote the terminating map. An  $\infty$ -category  $\mathcal{C}$  admits  $q$ -limits if and only if it admits all  $X$ -indexed limits  $\mathrm{lim}(F : X \rightarrow \mathcal{C})$ . Dually for  $q$ -colimits.

Now, suppose that  $\mathcal{C}$  admits  $q$ -limits and  $q$ -colimits so that the adjoints exist.

**Question II.2.9.** What does it take for  $\mathrm{Nm}_q : q_! \rightarrow q_*$  to exist?

**Vague Definition II.2.10.** Generalizing the ordinary case, we want to make the following language. We fix an  $\infty$ -category  $\mathcal{C}$  and a map of spaces  $q : X \rightarrow Y$ .

- If  $\mathrm{Nm}_q$  exists, then we say  $q$  is *weakly  $\mathcal{C}$ -ambidextrous*. This map should detect  $q$ -bilimits, in the sense that if  $\mathrm{Nm}_q$  is invertible, then  $\mathcal{C}$  should admit all bilimits indexed by the fibers of  $q$ .
- If  $q$  is weakly ambidextrous and  $\mathrm{Nm}_q$  is invertible, then we say  $q$  is  *$\mathcal{C}$ -ambidextrous*.
- If  $Y = *$ , then we refer to the space  $X$  as (weakly) ambidextrous rather than the map  $q : X \rightarrow *$ .

Of course, we still have to figure out when/how we can construct  $\mathrm{Nm}_q$ . There are two equivalent ways forward, both of which will end up relying on  $(m - 1)$ -semiadditivity. (Or at least some amount of ambidexterity.)

- (1) We may construct  $\mathrm{Nm}_q$  as a matrix whose components do not resemble an identity matrix, but rather are *integrals over certain path spaces*.
- (2) We may construct the mate  $\overline{\mathrm{Nm}}_q$  utilizing some special properties of the category of spaces.

Approach (1) will provide exposure therapy for integration. Approach (2) will provide exposure therapy for Beck-Chevalley conditions. We will survey both.

Am I hallucinating, or is this actually *not* a vague definition because of some "essentially unique if it exists" fact about norms as bilimit detectors? Did I read this somewhere?

### II.3 Norms, integration, and the definition of ambidexterity.

Let us momentarily consider the consequences of having an invertible norm map, i.e. the property of ambidexterity. We will demonstrate how this permits integration, and then we will identify how integration can be used to construct higher norm maps, starting the inductive machine.

**Slogan II.3.1.** *The main feature of a C-ambidextrous morphism  $q : X \rightarrow *$  is that it enables the natural integration of an  $X$ -family of morphisms  $F : X \rightarrow \text{Map}_{\mathbb{C}}(A, B)$  into a single morphism  $\int_X F \in \text{Map}_{\mathbb{C}}(A, B)$ . In particular, an  $m$ -semiadditive category is equipped with a natural way to integrate  $m$ -finite families*

$$\int_X : \text{Map}(X, \text{Map}_{\mathbb{C}}(A, B)) \rightarrow \text{Map}_{\mathbb{C}}(A, B).$$

**Remark II.3.2.** More generally, the main feature of a C-ambidextrous map  $q : X \rightarrow Y$  is the ability to naturally integrate an  $X$ -family of morphisms of  $Y$ -local systems.

**Definition II.3.3.** If  $q : X \rightarrow Y$  is C-ambidextrous so that  $\text{Nm}_q : q_! \xrightarrow{\sim} q_*$  exists and is invertible, then we define *integration* relative to  $q$  as the map

$$\begin{aligned} \int_q : \quad \text{Map}_{\mathbb{C}^X}(q^*A, q^*B) &\xrightarrow{q_!} \text{Map}_{\mathbb{C}^Y}(q_!q^*A, q_!q^*B) \xrightarrow{c_{!,B} \circ -} \text{Map}_{\mathbb{C}^Y}(q_!q^*A, B) \xrightarrow{- \circ \text{Nm}_q^{-1} \circ u_*} \text{Map}_{\mathbb{C}^Y}(A, B) \\ f &\longmapsto q_!f \longmapsto \bar{f} \longmapsto \bar{f} \circ \text{Nm}_q^{-1} \circ u_{*,A} \end{aligned}$$

Now let us return to our original question and identify where integration provides an answer.

**Question II.3.4.** *For an  $m$ -finite space  $q : X \rightarrow *$  and an  $\infty$ -category  $\mathbb{C}$ , when does  $\text{Nm}_q : q_! \rightarrow q_*$  exist?*

Informally, a morphism  $\text{Nm}_q : q_! \rightarrow q_*$  consists of a morphism  $\text{Nm}_F : \text{colim } F \rightarrow \lim F$  for each  $m$ -finite diagram  $F : X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ . Such a map, in turn, we understand as an " $X \times X$  matrix." More precisely,  $\text{Nm}_F$  is the data of a compatible family of morphisms

$$\text{Nm}_F^{x_0, x_1} \in \text{Map}_{\mathbb{C}}(F(x_0), F(x_1)) \quad \text{for every } x_0, x_1 \in X.$$

*A priori*, there is no canonical such map. But the diagram *does* give us a family of such maps, namely

$$F_{x_0, x_1} : \text{Map}_X(x_0, x_1) \rightarrow \text{Map}_{\mathbb{C}}(F(x_0), F(x_1)).$$

**The big move is to observe that the path space  $\text{Map}_X(x_0, x_1)$  is  $(m-1)$ -finite.** Thus, if we can integrate these  $(m-1)$ -finite families, then we can define  $\text{Nm}_q$  by taking  $\text{Nm}_F^{x_0, x_1} := \int_{\text{Map}(x_0, x_1)} F_{x_0, x_1}$ . This we understand to be possible if  $\text{Map}_X(x_0, x_1)$ -families can be integrated, i.e. if  $\text{Map}_X(x_0, x_1)$  has an invertible associated norm, i.e. if we can call it "C-ambidextrous."

**Remark II.3.5.** For a general map  $q : X \rightarrow Y$ , we may similarly regard a morphism  $\text{Nm}_q : q_! \rightarrow q_*$  as a *family* of matrices varying over the base. Its component at  $F : X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  is a morphism  $\text{Nm}_F : q_!F \rightarrow q_*F$  of  $Y$ -local systems, which at  $y$  specify to a morphism  $\text{colim}_{X_y} F \rightarrow \lim_{X_y} F$ , which itself specifies an  $X_y \times X_y$  matrix of morphisms  $\text{Nm}_{F,y}^{x_0, x_1} : F_y(x_0) \rightarrow F_y(x_1)$ . We again lack a canonical choice of such a morphism, but we have a *relative path space's* worth of choices. Informally, we should get such a morphism  $\text{Nm}_{F,y}^{x_0, x_1}$  for every path in  $X_y$  from  $x_0$  to  $x_1$ , i.e. we get a *family indexed by the relative path space*.

**Remark II.3.6.** Each time we implicitly claim that a morphism "amounts to" the components it specifies, we depend upon an amount of naturality between the entries with respect to morphisms between their indices. This naturality exists for different reasons. Let me spitball probably incorrect justifications:

- The assembly of  $\text{Nm}_{F,y}$  from  $\text{Nm}_{F,y}^{x_0, x_1}$  uses the universal property of (co)limits and Fubini/base-change properties of integration (which are reflections of certain Beck-Chevalley compatibilities).

- The assembly of  $Nm_F$  out of  $Nm_{F,y}$ 's uses the functoriality of composition for integration (again, Beck-Chevalley compatibilities) and naturality of Kan extensions.
- The assembly of  $Nm_q$  out of  $Nm_F$ 's uses that all the previous stuff is already functorial.

**Definition II.3.7.** Let  $\mathcal{C}$  denote an  $\infty$ -category and let  $q : X \rightarrow Y$  denote a map of spaces.

- For  $m \geq -2$ , say that  $q$  is *weakly  $\mathcal{C}$ -ambidextrous* if  $q$  is  $m$ -truncated,  $\mathcal{C}$  admits  $q$ -(co)limits, and
  - (1)  $m = -2$ , in which case  $q$  is an equivalence and  $Nm_q$  is the essentially unique inverse of  $q^*$ , or
  - (2)  $m \geq -1$  and every  $(m - 1)$ -finite relative path space  $\text{Map}_{\mathcal{C}^Y}(y_0, y_1)$  is  $\mathcal{C}$ -ambidextrous. In this case, the norm map  $Nm_q : q_! \rightarrow q_*$  is the one assembled as above.
- For  $m \geq -2$ , say that  $q$  is  *$\mathcal{C}$ -ambidextrous* if it is weakly  $\mathcal{C}$ -ambidextrous and the associated  $Nm_q$  is an equivalence.

**Corollary II.3.8.** *A map of spaces  $q : X \rightarrow Y$  is  $\mathcal{C}$ -ambidextrous if and only if its homotopy fibers are  $\mathcal{C}$ -ambidextrous [CSY21, Remark 2.1.2]. In particular, the definition of semiadditivity gains no generality by considering the ambidexterity of arbitrary maps  $q : X \rightarrow Y$  rather than just spaces. Though, we maintain our point that this generality is useful for handling the naturality properties of norms and integration.*

**Proposition II.3.9.** *An  $\infty$ -category  $\mathcal{C}$  is  $m$ -semiadditive  $\iff$  every  $m$ -finite space is  $\mathcal{C}$ -ambidextrous.*

**Example II.3.10.** Suppose that  $\mathcal{C}$  is zero semiadditive. Then for every discrete space  $S$ , the map  $q : S \rightarrow *$  is ambidextrous, hence every diagram  $F : S \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  admits an *invertible* norm and hence a bilimit. Moreover, for every finite group  $G$  the map  $q : BG \rightarrow *$  is weakly ambidextrous, hence every object with  $G$ -action  $F : BG \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  admits a norm  $Nm_F : F(*)_{hG} \rightarrow F(*)^{hG}$  which may or may not be invertible.

## II.4 Norms, diagonals, and Beck-Chevalley.

You may object to the amount of wishful thinking in our construction of norms (and thus, our definition of ambidexterity) using matrices. There is a more concise approach that better evidences naturality.

Given a map  $q : X \rightarrow Y$ , we previously imagined  $Nm_q : q_! \rightarrow q_*$  as an assemblage of integrals over the relative path spaces of  $X \rightarrow Y$ . This was useful to motivate the inductive definition of ambidexterity and its relationship to integration, but depended upon a deluded amount of hope. This was evident in our attempt to justify naturality—we could not avoid mentioning *Beck-Chevalley conditions* but did not explain them.



Let's temporarily zoom out to a simplifying level of generality.

**Question II.4.1.** Suppose as given a functor<sup>6</sup>  $C : S^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat}_\infty$  and a commutative square in  $S$

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

such that the functors  $q^*$  and  $(q')^*$  admit right adjoints  $q_*$  and  $q'_*$ . What data does this situation present?

The commutativity of the square induces an invertible 2-morphism  $\alpha : g^*q^* \xrightarrow{\sim} q'^*f^*$ . Our right adjoints  $q_*$  and  $q'_*$  are equivalent to their (co)unit data  $(u_*^q, c_*^q)$  and  $(u_*^{q'}, c_*^{q'})$ , with which we can cook up another 2-morphism:

$$f^*q_*X \xrightarrow{u_{f^*q_*X}^{q'}} q'_*q'^*f^*qX \xrightarrow{q'_*(\alpha^{-1})_{q_*X}} q'_*g^*q_*X \xrightarrow{q'_*g^*c_X^q} q'_*g^*X.$$

This *wants* to express commutativity of the new square obtained by applying  $C$  and considering right adjoints. You should not think of this as expressing meaningful *compositional coherence* for  $C$ , rather it expresses a base-change property. Therefore, while you would expect compositional coherence, you definitely should not expect Beck-Chevalley conditions to hold in general!

**Example II.4.2.** The pseudofunctor  $\mathbf{Set}^{/-} : \mathbf{Set}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat}$  fails to satisfy the Beck-Chevalley conditions for most non-pullback squares in  $\mathbf{Set}$ . For an explicit example, see VIII.2.14 in my 2025 notebook. (I think this is an if and only if statement.)

**Definition II.4.3.** Given a commutative square  $\square$  in  $S$  and a functor  $C : S^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat}_\infty$  as above, the *(right) Beck-Chevalley transform* associated to  $\square$  is the 2-cell just defined componentwise:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A' & \xrightarrow{g} & A \\ \downarrow q' & & \downarrow q \\ B' & \xrightarrow{f} & B \end{array} \rightsquigarrow BC_* : f^*q_* \rightarrow q'_*g^*.$$

**Definition II.4.4.** Given  $C$ , suppose that the image  $q^*$  of every morphism  $q : X \rightarrow Y$  in  $S$  admits a left adjoint (thus we might say  $C$  is *fiberwise complete*), thus a  $BC_*$  transformation. We say that  $C$  *satisfies the right Beck-Chevalley condition* if every  $BC_*$  transformation associated to a pullback square is invertible.

**Definition II.4.5.** Analogously, there are *left Beck-Chevalley transformations*  $BC_! : f^*q_! \rightarrow q'_!g^*$ .

**Question II.4.6.** What did that have to do with norms?

**Proposition II.4.7** (Height 3.1.2, HL 4.3.3). Suppose as given the following pullback diagram of spaces.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A' & \xrightarrow{f} & A \\ \downarrow q' & \lrcorner & \downarrow q \\ B' & \xrightarrow{g} & B \end{array}$$

As soon as  $C$  admits  $q$ -limits (resp.  $q$ -colimits), the local systems functor  $\text{Map}(-, C) : S^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat}_\infty$  satisfies the right (resp. left) Beck-Chevalley condition for this square.

<sup>6</sup>If you wanted to demo this situation in ordinary category land, you would consider a *pseudofunctor*  $C$ .

For a map  $q : X \rightarrow Y$  of  $m$ -finite spaces, consider the following diagram.

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 X & & & & \\
 \swarrow \Delta_q & & & \searrow & \\
 & X \times_Y X & \xrightarrow{p_2} & X & \\
 & \downarrow p_1 & \lrcorner & \downarrow q & \\
 & X & \xrightarrow{q} & Y & 
 \end{array}$$

Observe that the homotopy fiber of the relative diagonal  $\Delta_q : X \rightarrow X \times_Y X$  over  $(x_0, x_1) \in X \times_Y X$  is equivalent to the space of paths identifying  $x_0$  and  $x_1$  within  $X_{q(x_0)} = X_{q(x_1)}$ . These were precisely the spaces we needed to be  $\mathbf{C}$ -ambidextrous in order to construct  $\mathrm{Nm}_q$  and hence define what it means for  $q$  to be *weakly  $\mathbf{C}$ -ambidextrous*.

*Remark II.4.8.* We previously remarked that (weak) ambidexterity can be checked fiberwise. Hence, we could immediately make a (re)definition: the map  $q : X \rightarrow Y$  is weakly ambidextrous if and only if  $\Delta_q$  is ambidextrous, for the latter amounts to the ambidexterity of the very spaces necessary to construct  $\mathrm{Nm}_q$ . However, this fiberwise criterion secretly relies on the Beck-Chevalley properties we are currently trying to explain.

**Definition II.4.9.** Let  $q : X \rightarrow Y$  denote a map of spaces and suppose that  $\mathbf{C}$  admits  $q$ -limits and  $q$ -colimits. Define the morphism

$$T : \mathrm{Map}(\mathrm{id}_{\mathbf{C}^Y}, (\Delta_q)_! (\Delta_q)^*) \rightarrow \mathrm{Map}(q_!, q_*)$$

which associates to  $f : \mathrm{id}_{\mathbf{C}^Y} \rightarrow (\Delta_q)_! (\Delta_q)^*$  the composite

$$q^* q_! \xrightarrow{BC_!^{-1}} (\pi_2)_! (\pi_1)^* \xrightarrow{(\pi_2)_! f \pi_1^*} (\pi_2)_! (\Delta_q)_! (\Delta_q)^* (\pi_1)^* \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathrm{id}_{\mathbf{C}^X}.$$

**Definition II.4.10** (Compare Defn. 3.1.5 of [CSY22]). Consider a map of spaces  $q : X \rightarrow Y$ , an  $\infty$ -category  $\mathbf{C}$ , and an integer  $m \geq -2$ .

- Say that  $q$  is *weakly  $\mathbf{C}$ -ambidextrous* if  $\mathbf{C}$  admits  $q$ -(co)limits and...
  - $m = -2$ , in which case  $q^*$  is an equivalence, the essentially unique inverse is a left and right adjoint, and we define  $\mathrm{Nm}_q$  as the identity on that inverse; or
  - $m \geq -1$  and the relative diagonal  $\Delta_q$  is  $\mathbf{C}$ -ambidextrous, in which case  $\mathrm{Nm}_{\Delta_q} : (\Delta_q)_! \xrightarrow{\sim} (\Delta_q)_*$  is invertible and we define  $\mathrm{Nm}_q : q_! \rightarrow q_*$  as the construction  $T$  applied to the mate of  $\mathrm{Nm}_{\Delta_q}^{-1}$ .
- Say that  $q$  is  *$\mathbf{C}$ -ambidextrous* if it is weakly  $\mathbf{C}$ -ambidextrous and the associated  $\mathrm{Nm}_q$  is invertible.

**Proposition II.4.11.** Suppose that  $q : X \rightarrow Y$  is a map of  $m$ -finite spaces and that  $q$  is weakly  $\mathbf{C}$ -ambidextrous. Then  $\mathrm{Nm}_q$  detects  $q$ -bilimits.

*Remark II.4.12.* To define weak ambidexterity, it was important for the norm  $\mathrm{Nm}_{\Delta_q}$  to be invertible, so that mating would produce a morphism  $\mathrm{id} \rightarrow q_! q^*$  rather than to  $q^* q_!$ .

**Proposition II.4.13.** This definition is equivalent to our previous one.

### III Operator's manual

Some interest was expressed in a basic semiadditivity facts sheet.

#### III.1 Ordinary notions

**Definition III.1.1.** Let  $\mathcal{C}$  denote a pointed category and consider a set-indexed diagram  $F : S \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ . We say that  $F$  *admits a biproduct* in the following equivalent situations. (Observe the role of zero.)

- (1) The object  $Z$  is both a limit and colimit of  $F$  such that  $\pi_j \circ i_k = \delta_{jk}$ .
- (2) The object  $Z$  is both a limit and colimit of  $F$  and the "identity matrix" morphism  $\text{Nm}_F : \text{colim } F \rightarrow \lim F$  is invertible.
- (3) The object  $Z$  is a colimit of  $F$  and the canonical maps  $(\coprod_S F(s) \rightarrow F(s))_S$  exhibit  $\text{colim } F$  as a limit of  $F$ .

**Proposition III.1.2.** *When they exist, biproducts are unique up to unique isomorphism.*

**Example III.1.3.** The empty limit is an initial object. Dually, the empty colimit is a terminal object. The empty biproduct is a zero object.

**Definition III.1.4.** We say that  $\mathcal{C}$  is *(-1)-semiadditive* if it is pointed. We say that  $\mathcal{C}$  is *0-semiadditive* if it admits all finite bilimits.

**Proposition III.1.5.** *Let  $\mathcal{C}$  denote a category and let  $q : S \rightarrow *$  denote the terminal map.*

- *The right adjoint  $q^* \dashv q_*$  to pullback exists  $\iff \mathcal{C}$  admits  $S$ -indexed limits.*
- *The left adjoint  $q_! \dashv q^*$  to pullback exists  $\iff \mathcal{C}$  admits  $S$ -indexed colimits.*
- *If  $\mathcal{C}$  is pointed and admits  $S$ -limits and  $S$ -colimits, then the "identity matrix" morphisms  $\text{Nm}_F$  for diagrams  $F : S \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  are natural in  $F$  and assemble to a transformation  $\text{Nm}_q : q_! \rightarrow q_*$ . In this situation,  $\text{Nm}_q$  is invertible  $\iff \mathcal{C}$  admits  $S$ -indexed biproducts.*

**Definition III.1.6.** Let  $\mathcal{C}$  denote a category. We say that a set  $S$  is *weakly  $\mathcal{C}$ -ambidextrous* if  $\mathcal{C}$  is pointed and admits  $S$ -indexed (co)limits, so that  $\text{Nm}_q : q_! \rightarrow q_*$  exists for the projection  $q : S \rightarrow *$ . If furthermore  $\text{Nm}_q$  is invertible so that  $\mathcal{C}$  admits  $S$ -biproducts, then we say that  $S$  is  *$\mathcal{C}$ -ambidextrous*.

**Proposition III.1.7.** *A category  $\mathcal{C}$  is zero semiadditive  $\iff \mathcal{C}$  is pointed and every finite set  $S$  is  $\mathcal{C}$ -ambidextrous.*

**Slogan III.1.8.** *The main feature of a  $\mathcal{C}$ -ambidextrous morphism  $q : S \rightarrow *$  is the ability to functorially integrate  $S$ -families of morphisms in  $\mathcal{C}$ .*

**Definition III.1.9.** Suppose that  $S$  is  $\mathcal{C}$ -ambidextrous so that  $\text{Nm}_F$  is invertible for any  $F : S \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ . Given an  $S$ -family of morphisms  $f : S \rightarrow \text{Map}_{\mathcal{C}}(A, B)$ , we define its *integral* as the morphism

$$\int_S f : A \xrightarrow{\Delta_S} \prod_S A \xrightarrow{\text{Nm}_A^{-1}} \prod_S A \xrightarrow{\bar{f}} B.$$

**Remark III.1.10.** All the above works for an arbitrary morphism of sets  $q : S \rightarrow T$ . The left adjoint  $q_!$  (resp. the right adjoint  $q_*$ ) exists if and only if  $\mathcal{C}$  admits all colimits (resp. limits) indexed by the fibers of  $q$ . In this case, we say that  $\mathcal{C}$  *admits  $q$ -colimits* (resp.  $q$ -limits). For pointed  $\mathcal{C}$  admitting  $q$ -limits and  $q$ -colimits, fiberwise identity matrix morphisms assemble to a morphism  $\text{Nm}_q : q_! \rightarrow q_*$  which detects  $q$ -bilimits. Moreover, this construction is natural in  $q$  when you correctly define composition for norms [CSY21, Defn. 2.1.9 and Rmk. 2.1.10]. Integration occurs as a way to assemble  $S$ -families of  $T$ -local systems.



## III.2 Higher notions

**Definition III.2.1.** A space  $X$  is called  $\pi$ -finite if it has finite and finitely many nonzero homotopy groups. A  $\pi$ -finite space which is  $m$ -truncated is called  $m$ -finite. A space is called  $(-1)$ -finite if it is empty or contractible, and  $(-2)$ -finite if it is contractible. A map of spaces  $q : X \rightarrow Y$  is called  $m$ -finite if its homotopy fibers are  $m$ -finite.

**Definition III.2.2.** An  $\infty$ -category is called  $m$ -semiadditive if it admits  $m$ -finite bilimits.

**Example III.2.3.** Consider a map of spaces  $q : X \rightarrow Y$ . It is  $(-2)$ -finite  $\iff$  it is an equivalence. It is  $(-1)$ -finite  $\iff$  it is an inclusion of connected components.

**Example III.2.4.** A 1-finite space is necessarily of the form  $\sqcup K(G_i, 1)$  where each  $G_i$  is a finite group.

It is practically essential to handle the theory of bilimits by working relative to maps of spaces  $q : X \rightarrow Y$  and studying their associated norms  $\mathrm{Nm}_q : q_! \rightarrow q_*$ . Fortunately, this story is spiritually identical to the ordinary theory of biproducts and norms. However, the induction (which appeared nascently in the relation between pointedness and zero semiadditivity) is a bit more involved. You should mentally separate three questions:

- What does it take for the adjoints  $q_!$  and  $q_*$  to exist?
- What does it take for the norm  $\mathrm{Nm}_q : q_! \rightarrow q_*$  to exist?
- What are the consequences of having an invertible norm  $\mathrm{Nm}_q : q_! \xrightarrow{\sim} q_*$ ? (Answer: you get integration, with which you can exhibit more norm maps.)

**Proposition III.2.5.** Let  $q : X \rightarrow Y$  denote a map of spaces and fix an  $\infty$ -category  $\mathcal{C}$ . By formal Kan extension nonsense, a left adjoint  $q_! \dashv q^*$  (resp. a right adjoint  $q^* \dashv q_*$ ) necessarily computes "fiberwise (co)limits"

$$q_!(F : X \rightarrow \mathcal{C}) = \left( y \mapsto \mathrm{co} \lim_{X \times_Y y} F \right),$$

$$q_*(F : X \rightarrow \mathcal{C}) = \left( y \mapsto \lim_{X \times_Y y} F \right).$$

Thus, the existence of  $q_*$  (resp.  $q_!$ ) is equivalent to  $\mathcal{C}$  admitting  $q$ -limits (resp.  $q$ -colimits).

Recall the *norm problem*: it is tricky to construct  $\mathrm{Nm}_q : q_! \rightarrow q_*$ . Let's unwind this for the projection  $q : X \rightarrow *$ . Such a morphism  $\mathrm{Nm}_q$  should specify a morphism  $\mathrm{Nm}_q(F) : q_!(F) \rightarrow q_*(F)$  for every diagram  $F : X \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ . Unwinding (co)limit mapping properties, each morphism  $\mathrm{Nm}_q(F)$  should in turn specify a morphism  $\mathrm{Nm}_q^{a,b}(F) : F(a) \rightarrow F(b)$  for every path  $a \rightarrow b$  in  $X$ . There is *a priori* no natural choice of a morphism  $\mathrm{Nm}_q^{a,b}(F)$ , but the diagram  $F$  induces a *family* of such choices

$$F^{a,b} : \mathrm{Map}_X(a, b) \rightarrow \mathrm{Map}_{\mathcal{C}}(F(a), F(b)).$$

The big move is to realize that if  $X$  is  $m$ -finite, then its path spaces  $\mathrm{Map}_X(a, b)$  are  $(m-1)$ -finite. This suggests a way to handle the norm problem by inducting on truncation order: if we could *integrate* this family to a single morphism (which should be possible if  $\mathrm{Map}_X(a, b)$  is ambidextrous), then we could define  $\mathrm{Nm}_q^{a,b}(F) := \int_{\mathrm{Map}_X(a, b)} F^{a,b}$ . Moreover, if integration is sufficiently functorial, then we can reassemble all this data into a morphism  $\mathrm{Nm}_q$  (which should imply that  $q$  is weakly ambidextrous).

This outlines a perfectly good approach to defining ambidexterity for arbitrary maps  $q : X \rightarrow Y$ , with which one could then characterize higher semiadditivity in the style of Prop. III.1.7. However, there is a more concise approach that wraps everything up into a property of the relative diagonal  $\Delta_q : X \rightarrow X \times_Y X$ .

**Definition III.2.6.** Consider a map of spaces  $q : X \rightarrow Y$  and an  $\infty$ -category  $\mathcal{C}$ . Let  $m \geq -2$  be an integer.

- Say that  $q$  is  *$m$ -weakly  $\mathcal{C}$ -ambidextrous* if  $q$  is  $m$ -finite,  $\mathcal{C}$  admits  $q$ -(co)limits, and...

- $m = -2$ , in which case  $q^*$  is an equivalence and its essentially unique inverse is a biadjoint to  $q^*$ . In this case, we define  $\text{Nm}_q : q_! \xrightarrow{\sim} q_*$  as identity on the essentially unique inverse.
- $m \geq -1$  and the  $q$ -diagonal  $\Delta_q : X \rightarrow X \times_Y X$  is  $(m-1)$ -C-ambidextrous. In this case, we define  $\text{Nm}_q : q_! \rightarrow q_*$  as the *transformation induced by*  $\text{Nm}_{\Delta_q}^{-1}$ .

- Say that  $q$  is *m-C-ambidextrous* if it is  $m$ -weakly C-ambidextrous and its associated norm is invertible.

**Proposition III.2.7.** *The norms associated to a map  $q : X \rightarrow Y$  are independent of  $m$ , so this parameter can be essentially ignored.*

*Remark III.2.8.* Recall that the transformation induced by  $\text{Nm}_{\Delta_q}^{-1}$  was defined by a mating procedure. Namely, we associated to a morphism  $f : (\Delta_q)_* \rightarrow (\Delta_q)_!$  the transformation

$$q^* q_! \xrightarrow{BC_!^{-1}} (\pi_2)_! (\pi_1)^* \xrightarrow{(\pi_2)_! \bar{f} \pi_1^*} (\pi_2)_! (\Delta_q)_! (\Delta_q)^* (\pi_1)^* \xrightarrow{\sim} \text{id}_{C^X}.$$

Then we defined  $T(f) : q_! \rightarrow q_*$  as the mate of the composite. In particular, we took  $\text{Nm}_q := T(\text{Nm}_{\Delta_q}^{-1})$ .

**Proposition III.2.9.** *Let  $q : X \rightarrow Y$  denote a map of spaces. TFAE.*

- (1) *The map  $q$  is C-ambidextrous.*
- (2) *The homotopy fibers of  $q$  are C-ambidextrous.*
- (3) *The relative path spaces of  $q$  are C-ambidextrous so that  $\text{Nm}_q : q_! \rightarrow q_*$  exists, and furthermore every component  $\text{Nm}_q(F)$  is invertible, so that C admits  $q$ -bilimits. In fact, it suffices to check those  $F$  of the form  $q^* G$  for  $G \in C^Y$ , i.e. those which are "fiberwise constant."*

*Proof.* todo □

**Corollary III.2.10.** *A category C is m-semiadditive  $\iff$  every m-finite space is C-ambidextrous  $\iff$  every m-finite map of spaces is C-ambidextrous.*

As before, there is the important notion of *integration*. The definition as before works quite fine, but let's phrase it categorically. This will have the added benefit of functoriality. Suppose that the terminal map  $q : X \rightarrow *$  is C-ambidextrous. Here is a "dictionary."

Absolute notation	Relative notation for $q : X \rightarrow *$
$\text{colim}_X A$	$q_! q^* A$
$\lim_X A$	$q_* q^* A$
$\Delta_S : A \rightarrow \lim_X A$	$u_{*,A} : A \rightarrow q_* q^* A$
$\nabla_S : \text{colim}_X A \rightarrow A$	$c_{!,A} : q_! q^* A \rightarrow A$
$f : X \rightarrow \text{Map}_C(A, B)$	$\bar{f} : q^* A \rightarrow q^* B$
$\bar{f} : \text{colim}_X A \rightarrow B$	$\bar{f} : q_! q^* A \xrightarrow{q_! f} q_! q^* B \xrightarrow{c_{!,Y}} B$

**Definition III.2.11.** Suppose that  $q : X \rightarrow Y$  is C-ambidextrous. Then we define *integration along  $q$*  as the following composite.

$$\int_q : \text{Map}_{C^X}(q^* A, q^* B) \xrightarrow{q_!} \text{Map}_{C^Y}(q_! q^* A, q_! q^* B) \xrightarrow{c_{!,B} \circ -} \text{Map}_{C^Y}(q_! q^* A, B) \xrightarrow{- \circ \text{Nm}_q^{-1} \circ u_*} \text{Map}_{C^Y}(A, B)$$

$$f \longmapsto q_! f \longmapsto \bar{f} \longmapsto \bar{f} \circ \text{Nm}_q^{-1} \circ u_{*,A}$$



**Example III.2.12.** Suppose that  $\mathbf{C}$  is  $m$ -semiadditive, thus every  $m$ -finite space  $X$  is ambidextrous. We may consider a family of morphisms  $f : X \rightarrow \mathrm{Map}_{\mathbf{C}}(A, B)$ . The data of such  $f$  is equivalent to a morphism  $q^*A \rightarrow q^*B$  where  $q : X \rightarrow *$  denotes the projection. Observe that the integral  $\int_q f$  unwinds into the composite

$$A \xrightarrow{\Delta_X} \lim_X A \xrightarrow{\mathrm{Nm}_q^{-1}(q^*A)} \mathrm{colim}_X A \xrightarrow{\mathrm{colim} f} \mathrm{colim}_X B \xrightarrow{\nabla_X} B.$$

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