

# The entrance path category

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CSU Category Theory Seminar  
2019-03-07

**Abstract:** The infinity category of entrance paths of a stratified space contains information about the space itself, as well as the structures we can build on the space. I will talk about several uses of this category, by working with a simplified version and by considering what the full generality has to offer.

## 0.1 Motivation

Recall the Čech functor  $\mathcal{F}: \mathbf{Bsc}(\mathbf{Ran}_{\leq n}(M) \times \mathbf{R}_{\geq 0}) \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat}/_{\underline{\mathbf{S}}\mathbf{C}}$ .

**Question:** Can the Čech functor be simplified?

**Observation:** Vast majority of morphisms in the diagram  $\mathcal{F}(U)$  are identity. Instead make diagram with only one non-trivial map for every such homotopy class.

## 0.2 Simplicial sets and $\infty$ -categories

A simplicial set is a set of sets  $S = \{S_0, S_1, \dots\}$  with compatible maps among the  $S_i$ :

face maps  $s_i: S_{n-1} \rightarrow S_n$

degeneracy maps  $d_i: S_{n+1} \rightarrow S_n$

The compatible maps come from the category  $\Delta$ .

$\text{Obj}(\Delta) = \{[n] = (0, 1, \dots, n) : n \in \mathbf{Z}_{\geq 0}\}$

$\text{Hom}_{\Delta}([n], [m]) = \{\text{order-preserving set maps } [n] \rightarrow [m]\}$

**Definition:** A simplicial set is a functor  $\Delta^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \text{Set}$ .

**Example:** The nerve of a category.  $\text{Sing}(X)$  for a topological space  $X$ . The standard  $k$ -simplex  $\Delta^k$ .

Let  $\Lambda_k^n$  be  $\Delta^n$  without the  $k$ th face. It is a union of  $n$  copies of  $\Delta^{n-1}$ , as all but the  $k$ th face of  $\Delta^n$ .

**Definition:** A morphism  $S \rightarrow T$  of simplicial sets is a fibration if whenever the solid maps exist, the dashed map exists.

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
\Lambda_k^n & \longrightarrow & S \\
k \downarrow & \nearrow & \downarrow f \\
\Delta^n & \longrightarrow & T
\end{array}$$

**Definition:** A simplicial set  $S$  is a Kan complex if  $S \rightarrow *$  is a fibration.

It is a weak Kan complex, or  $\infty$ -category, if  $S \rightarrow *$  is a fibration for  $0 < k < n$ .

**Slogan:** All inner  $k$ -horns of  $S$  can be filled.

## 0.3 Stratified spaces

Let  $f: X \rightarrow (A, \leq)$  be a stratification.

**Definition.** An entrance path of  $X$  is a continuous map  $\sigma: \Delta_{\text{top}}^n \rightarrow X$  such that there exists a chain  $a_0 \leq \dots \leq a_n$  in  $A$  with

$$f(\sigma(0, \dots, t_i, \dots, t_n)) = a_{n-i}, \quad t_i \neq 0,$$

for all  $i = 0, \dots, n$ .

$\text{Sing}_A(X)$  is the category of entrance paths of  $X$ . If  $f$  is conical,  $\text{Sing}_A(X)$  is an  $\infty$ -category.

**Recall:** Stratification by the Čech map  $[\check{C}]: \text{Ran}(M) \times \mathbf{R}_{\geq 0} \rightarrow [\text{SC}]$

Conical stratification, refining  $[\check{C}]$ , by  $[\check{C}C]: \text{Ran}_{\leq n}(M) \times \mathbf{R}_{\geq 0} \rightarrow [\text{SCC}]$

## 0.4 A Čech map of simplicial sets

Recall the cosheaf  $U \mapsto (\text{Ho}(\text{Sing}_{[\text{SCC}]}(U)) \rightarrow \text{Cat}_{/\underline{\text{SC}}})$  for every  $U \in \text{Bsc}(\text{Ran}_{\leq n}(M) \times \mathbf{R}_{\geq 0})$ .

**Goal:** Try to construct a fibration  $\text{Sing}_{[\text{SCC}]}(\text{Ran}_{\leq n}(M) \times \mathbf{R}_{\geq 0}) \rightarrow N(\underline{\text{SC}})$

Image of  $n$ -simplex is clear.

**Motivation:** Fiberizing by vector bundles:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 \text{category of vector bundles} & & \text{category of manifolds} & & \text{category of small categories} \\
 \text{Bun} & \longrightarrow & \text{Mfld} & \longrightarrow & \text{Cat} \\
 (E \rightarrow M) & \longmapsto & M & \longmapsto & \text{Vect}_M
 \end{array}$$

Given a morphism  $f: M \rightarrow N$  of manifolds and a vector bundle  $E \rightarrow N$ , we can construct the pullback bundle  $f^*E \rightarrow M$  over  $M$ . This is filling the horn  $\Lambda_0^1$ . How does this extend?

**Straightening:** Given  $A \rightarrow B$ , does it classify the fibers of some  $B \rightarrow C$ ?

**Unstraightening:** Given a fibration  $B \rightarrow C$ , can the fibers be arranged into  $A$  to get  $A \rightarrow B$ ?

Answers to both are yes (in the appropriate categories).

Goal:  $\text{sSet} \rightarrow \text{Sing}_A(X) \rightarrow \mathcal{S}$ .

Question: What is in place of  $E \rightarrow M$ ? Can we fill  $\Lambda_0^1$ ? Vector bundle example has  $f^*E \subseteq \times E$ .

Implication: Do we need products / limits? Maybe over  $C$  is a sub-simplicial complex? Maybe sub-cell?

Start with inner horns.

Given the simplicial map  $\text{Sing}_{[\text{SCC}]}(\text{Ran}_{\leq n}(M) \times \mathbf{R}_{\geq 0}) \rightarrow N(\underline{\text{SC}})$ , can  $\Lambda_1^2$  be filled?