

The  $\infty$ -category  $Top$  of topological spaces is the following simplicial set. An  $n$ -simplex is:

- (1) A tuple  $(X_0, \dots, X_n)$  of  $n+1$  topological spaces.
- (2) An tuple of morphisms

$$(h_{i,j} : X_i \times \square_{top}^{j-i-1} \rightarrow X_j)_{0 \leq i < j \leq n}$$

where  $\square_{top}^m = \{(t_1, \dots, t_m) \in \mathbb{R}^m : 0 \leq t_i \leq 1\}$ .

- (3) The morphisms  $h_{i,j}$  are required to satisfy the compatibility condition: For every  $0 \leq i < j < k \leq n$ , we should have

$$\begin{aligned} & h_{i,k}(x, (s_1, \dots, s_{j-i-1}, 1, t_1, \dots, t_{k-j-1})) \\ &= h_{j,k}(h_{i,j}(x, (s_1, \dots, s_{j-i-1})), (t_1, \dots, t_{k-j-1})) \end{aligned}$$

for all  $x \in X_i$ ,  $(s_1, \dots, s_{j-i-1}) \in \square_{top}^{j-i-1}$ ,  $(t_1, \dots, t_{k-j-1}) \in \square_{top}^{k-j-1}$ .

Notice that a tuple  $((X_0, \dots, X_n), (h_{i,j})_{0 \leq i < j \leq n})$  defines a morphism

$$f_{ij}(-) \stackrel{def}{=} h_{ij}(-, (0, 0, \dots, 0)) : X_i \rightarrow X_j$$

for each  $0 \leq i < j \leq n$ . Moreover, for every  $i < i_1 < i_2 < \dots < i_k < j$  the compatibility conditions imply that

$$h_{ij}(-, e_{i_1} + \dots + e_{i_k}) = f_{i_k, j} \circ f_{i_{k-1}, i_k} \circ \dots \circ f_{i_1, i_1} : X_i \rightarrow X_j$$

where  $e_{i'} = (0, \dots, 0, 1, 0, \dots, 0)$  is the  $i'$ 'th standard basis vector of  $\mathbb{R}^{j-i}$ . So we can interpret  $h_{ij}$  as a homotopy between all the possible compositions of the  $f$ 's with  $f_{ij}$  at the "lowest" corner of  $\square_{top}^{j-i-1}$  and  $f_{j-1, j} \circ f_{j-2, j-1} \circ f_{i+1, i+2} \circ f_{i, i+1}$  at the "highest" corner. The compatibility conditions then can be interpreted as asking that these homotopies are compatible with all compositions.

The face morphisms are

$$d_k : (X_0, \dots, X_n, h_{i,j}) \mapsto (X_0, \dots, X_{k-1}, X_{k+1}, \dots, X_n, h'_{i,j})$$

where

$$h'_{i,j}(x, t) = \begin{cases} h_{i,j}(x, t) & i < j < k \\ h_{i,j+1}(x, (t_1, \dots, t_{k-i-1}, 0, t_{k-i}, \dots, t_{j-i-1})) & i < k \leq j \\ h_{i+1, j+1}(x, t) & k \leq i < j. \end{cases}$$

The degeneracy morphisms are

$$d_k : (X_0, \dots, X_n, h_{i,j}) \mapsto (X_0, \dots, X_k, X_k, \dots, X_n, h'_{i,j})$$

where

$$h'_{i,j}(x, t) = \begin{cases} h_{i,j}(x, t) & i < j \leq k \\ h_{i, j-1}(x, (t_1, \dots, t_{k-i-1}, t_{k-i+1}, \dots, t_{j-i-1})) & i \leq k < j \\ h_{i-1, j-1}(x, t) & k < i < j. \end{cases}$$

Here, we interpret  $h_{i,i}$  as  $\text{id}_{X_i}$ .

Note that every sequence of continuous homomorphisms  $X_0 \xrightarrow{f_1} \dots \xrightarrow{f_n} X_n$  defines an  $n$ -simplex: choose  $h_{i,j}$  to be the composition  $X_i \times \square_{top}^{j-i-1} \rightarrow X_i \xrightarrow{f_{i+1}} X_{i+1} \xrightarrow{f_{i+2}} \dots \xrightarrow{f_j} X_j$  (i.e., the trivial homotopy).

We can write this data in an upper triangular matrix

$$\begin{pmatrix} X_0 & h_{01} & h_{02} & h_{03} & h_{04} & h_{05} \\ & X_1 & h_{12} & h_{13} & h_{14} & h_{15} \\ & & X_2 & h_{23} & h_{24} & h_{25} \\ & & & X_3 & h_{34} & h_{35} \\ & & & & X_4 & h_{45} \\ & & & & & X_5 \end{pmatrix}$$

Now we will be concerned with morphisms  $\Delta^1 * \partial \Delta^n \rightarrow Top$ . There is a canonical inclusion  $\Delta^1 * \partial \Delta^n \subseteq \Delta^{n+2}$ , as

$$\Delta^1 * \partial \Delta^n = \cup_{i=2}^{n+2} d_i \Delta^{n+2}.$$

Consequently, a morphism as above corresponds to similar data  $((X_i), (h_{ij}))$  and compatibilities as for a morphism  $\Delta^{n+2} \rightarrow Top$ , except,  $h_{0,n+2}, h_{1,n+2}, h_{2,n+2}$  have as sources

$$h_{2,n+2} : X_2 \times \partial \square^n \rightarrow X_{n+2}$$

$$h_{1,n+2} : X_1 \times \square_{1,1}^{n+1} \rightarrow X_{n+2}$$

$$h_{0,n+2} : X_0 \times (\square_{1,1}^{n+1} \cap \square_{1,2}^{n+1}) \rightarrow X_{n+2}$$

here we define

$$\begin{aligned} \square_{\epsilon,i}^n &= \{(t_1, \dots, t_n) : t_j = 0 \text{ or } 1 \text{ for some } j \neq i \text{ or } t_i = 1 - \epsilon\} \\ &= \cup_{(\epsilon', i') \neq (\epsilon, i)} d_{\epsilon', i'} \square^n \end{aligned}$$

Our interest in these morphisms is to calculate the colimit of a morphism  $A \rightarrow B$ .

Actually we are more interested in morphisms  $(0 \rightrightarrows 1) * \Delta^n \rightarrow Top$  so we can calculate coequalisers. Notice that  $(0 \rightrightarrows 1) = \Delta^1 \sqcup_{\partial \Delta^1} \Delta^1$ . Since join commutes with colimits we deduce that  $(0 \rightrightarrows 1) * \Delta^n = \Delta^{n+1} \sqcup_{\partial \Delta^1 * \Delta^n} \Delta^{n+1}$ .

We also have  $\partial \Delta^1 * \Delta^n \subseteq \Delta^{n+1}$ , as a partially ordered set, is the set of subsets  $I \subseteq [n+1]$  such that  $\{0, 1\} \not\subseteq I$ . On the other hand,  $\Lambda_i^{n+1}$  as a partially ordered set is the set of  $I \subseteq [n+1]$  such that  $I \neq [n+1]$  and  $I \neq \{0, \dots, \hat{i}, \dots, n+1\}$ .

On the other hand, if we use pushouts, then our diagram categories are all 0-categories. The indexing category for a pushout is  $\Lambda_0^2$ . The category  $\Lambda_0^2 * \Delta^n$  can be described as the partially ordered set  $\{00, 01, 10, 22, 33, 44, \dots, nn\}$ . A morphism  $\Lambda_0^2 * \Delta^n \rightarrow Top$  is the data of

- (1) Spaces  $X_0, X_1, X_{1'}, X_2, \dots, X_n$ ,
- (2) morphisms
  - $X_0 \times \Lambda_{top}^{j-1} \rightarrow X_j$  for  $2 \leq j$
  - $X_i \times \square_{top}^{j-i-1} \rightarrow X_j$  for  $(i, j) = (0, 1), (0, 1')$  and all  $i < j \in \{1, 1', 2, 3, \dots, n\}$ .
- (3) compatibilities as above.

Here,

$$\Lambda_{top}^n = \square_{top}^n \amalg_{d_{01} \square_{top}^n} \square_{top}^n = |\Lambda_0^2| \times \square_{top}^{n-1}$$

We can organise this data into an upper triangular matrix

$$\begin{pmatrix} X_0 & h_{01}, h_{01'} & h_{02} & h_{03} & h_{04} & h_{05} \\ & X_1, X_{1'} & h_{12}, h_{1'2} & h_{13}, h_{1'3} & h_{14}, h_{1'4} & h_{15}, h_{1'5} \\ & & X_2 & h_{23} & h_{24} & h_{25} \\ & & & X_3 & h_{34} & h_{35} \\ & & & & X_4 & h_{45} \\ & & & & & X_5 \end{pmatrix}$$