

On the algebraic K -theory of higher categories

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In memoriam Daniel Quillen, 1940–2011, with profound admiration

ABSTRACT

We prove that Waldhausen K -theory, when extended to a very general class of quasicategories, can be described as a Goodwillie differential. In particular, K -theory spaces admit canonical (connective) deloopings, and the K -theory functor enjoys a simple universal property. Using this, we give new, higher categorical proofs of the approximation, additivity, and fibration theorems of Waldhausen in this article. As applications of this technology, we study the algebraic K -theory of associative rings in a wide range of homotopical contexts and of spectral Deligne–Mumford stacks.

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Introduction

We characterize algebraic K -theory as a *universal homology theory*, which takes suitable higher categories as input and produces either spaces or spectra as output. What makes K -theory a *homology theory* is that it satisfies an excision axiom. This excision axiom is tantamount to what Waldhausen called *additivity*, so that an excisive functor is precisely one that splits short exact sequences. What makes this homology theory *universal* is this: if we write ι for the functor that carries a higher category to its moduli space of objects, then algebraic K -theory is initial among homology theories F that receive a natural transformation $\iota \rightarrow F$. In the lingo of Tom Goodwillie’s calculus of functors [27, 29, 30], K is the *linearization* of ι . Algebraic K -theory is thus the analog of stable homotopy theory in this new class of categorified homology theories. From this we obtain an explicit universal property that completely characterizes

algebraic K -theory and permits us to give new, conceptual proofs of the fundamental theorems of Waldhausen K -theory.

To get a feeling for this universal property, let us first contemplate K_0 . For any ordinary category C with a zero object and a reasonable notion of ‘short exact sequence’ (for example, an exact category in the sense of Quillen, or a category with cofibrations in the sense of Waldhausen, or a triangulated category in the sense of Verdier), the abelian group $K_0(C)$ is the universal target for Euler characteristics. That is, for any abelian group A , the set $\text{Hom}(K_0(C), A)$ is in natural bijection with the set of maps $\phi: \text{Obj}C \rightarrow A$ such that $\phi(X) = \phi(X') + \phi(X'')$ whenever there is a short exact sequence

$$X' \twoheadrightarrow X \twoheadrightarrow X''.$$

We can reinterpret this as a universal property on the entire functor K_0 , which we will regard as valued in the category of sets. Just to fix ideas, let us assume that we are working with the algebraic K -theory of categories with cofibrations in the sense of Waldhausen. If $E(C)$ is the category of short exact sequences in a category with cofibrations C , then $E(C)$ is also a category with cofibrations. Moreover, for any C ,

(1) the functors

$$[X' \twoheadrightarrow X \twoheadrightarrow X''] \mapsto X' \quad \text{and} \quad [X' \twoheadrightarrow X \twoheadrightarrow X''] \mapsto X''$$

together induce a bijection $K_0(E(C)) \xrightarrow{\sim} K_0(C) \times K_0(C)$.

The functor $[X' \twoheadrightarrow X \twoheadrightarrow X''] \mapsto X$ now gives a commutative monoid structure $K_0(C) \times K_0(C) \cong K_0(E(C)) \rightarrow K_0(C)$. With this structure, K_0 is an abelian group. We can express this sentiment diagrammatically by saying that

(2) the functors

$$[X' \twoheadrightarrow X \twoheadrightarrow X''] \mapsto X' \quad \text{and} \quad [X' \twoheadrightarrow X \twoheadrightarrow X''] \mapsto X$$

also induce a bijection $K_0(E(C)) \xrightarrow{\sim} K_0(C) \times K_0(C)$.

Now our universal characterization of K_0 simply says that we have a natural transformation $\text{Obj} \rightarrow K_0$ that is initial with properties (1) and (2).

For the K -theory spaces (whose homotopy groups will be the higher K -theory groups), we can aim for a homotopical variant of this universal property. We replace the word ‘bijection’ in (1) and (2) with the words ‘weak equivalence’; a functor satisfying these properties is called an *additive functor*. Instead of a map from the set of objects of the category with cofibrations C , we have a map from the *moduli space* of objects—this is the classifying space $N\iota C$ of the groupoid $\iota C \subset C$ consisting of all isomorphisms in C . An easy case of our main theorem states that algebraic K -theory is initial in the homotopy category of (suitably finitary) additive functors F equipped with a natural transformation $N\iota \rightarrow F$.

Now let us enlarge the scope of this story enough to bring in examples such as Waldhausen’s algebraic K -theory of spaces by introducing homotopy theory in the source of our K -theory functor. We use ∞ -categories that contain a zero object and suitable cofiber sequences, and we call these *Waldhausen ∞ -categories*. Our homotopical variants of (1) and (2) still make sense, so we still may speak of *additive functors* from Waldhausen ∞ -categories to spaces. Moreover, any ∞ -category has a moduli space of objects, which is given by the maximal ∞ -groupoid contained therein; this defines a functor ι from Waldhausen ∞ -categories to spaces. Our main theorem (in §10) is thus the natural extension of the characterization of K_0 as the universal target for Euler characteristics:

UNIVERSAL ADDITIVITY THEOREM (in §10). *Algebraic K -theory is homotopy-initial among (suitably finitary) additive functors F equipped with a natural transformation $\iota \rightarrow F$.*

It is well known that algebraic K -theory is hair-raisingly difficult to compute, and that various theories that are easier to compute, such as forms of THH and TC, are prime targets for ‘trace maps’ [47]. The Universal Additivity Theorem actually classifies all such trace maps: for any additive functor H , the space of natural transformations $K \rightarrow H$ is equivalent to the space of natural transformations $\iota \rightarrow H$. But since ι is actually represented by the ordinary category Γ^{op} of pointed finite sets, it follows from the Yoneda lemma that the space of natural transformations $K \rightarrow H$ is equivalent to the space $H(\Gamma^{\text{op}})$. In particular, by Barratt–Priddy–Quillen, we compute the space of ‘global operations’ on algebraic K -theory:

$$\text{End}(K) \simeq QS^0.$$

The proof of the Universal Additivity Theorem uses a new way of conceptualizing functors such as algebraic K -theory. Namely, we regard algebraic K -theory as a homology theory on Waldhausen ∞ -categories, and we regard additivity as an excision axiom. But this is not just some slack-jawed analogy: we will actually pass to a homotopy theory on which functors that are 1-excisive in the sense of Goodwillie (that is, functors that carry homotopy pushouts to homotopy pullbacks) correspond to additive functors as described above. (And making sense of this homotopy theory forces us to pass to the ∞ -categorical context.)

The idea here is to regard the homotopy theory \mathbf{Wald}_∞ of Waldhausen ∞ -categories as formally analogous to the ordinary category $V(k)$ of vector spaces over a field k . The left derived functor of a right exact functor out of $V(k)$ is defined on the *derived category* $D_{\geq 0}(k)$ of chain complexes whose homology vanishes in negative degrees. Objects of $D_{\geq 0}(k)$ can be regarded as formal geometric realizations of simplicial vector spaces. Correspondingly, we define a *derived ∞ -category* $D(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty)$ of \mathbf{Wald}_∞ , whose objects can be regarded as formal geometric realizations of simplicial Waldhausen ∞ -categories. This entitles us to speak of the *left derived functor* of a functor defined on \mathbf{Wald}_∞ . Then we suitably localize $D(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty)$ in order to form a universal homotopy theory $D_{\text{fiss}}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty)$ in which exact sequences split; we call this the *fissile derived ∞ -category*. Our structure theorem (Theorem 7.4) uncovers the following relationship between excision on $D_{\text{fiss}}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty)$ and additivity:

STRUCTURE THEOREM (Theorem 7.4). *A (suitably finitary) functor from Waldhausen ∞ -categories to spaces is additive in the sense above if and only if its left derived functor factors through an excisive functor on the fissile derived ∞ -category $D_{\text{fiss}}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty)$.*

The structure theorem is not some dreary abstract formalism: the technology of Goodwillie’s calculus of functors tells us that the way to compute the universal excisive approximation to a functor F is to form the colimit of $\Omega^n F \Sigma^n$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$. This means that as soon as we have worked out how to compute the suspension Σ in $D_{\text{fiss}}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty)$, we will have an explicit description of the *additivization* of any functor ϕ from \mathbf{Wald}_∞ to spaces, which is the universal approximation to ϕ with an additive functor. And when we apply this additivization to the functor ι , we will obtain a formula for the very thing we are claiming is algebraic K -theory: the initial object in the homotopy category of additive functors F equipped with a natural transformation $\iota \rightarrow F$.

So, what *is* Σ ? Here is the answer: it is given by the formal geometric realization of Waldhausen’s S_\bullet construction (suitably adapted for ∞ -categories). So, the universal homology theory with a map from ι is given by the formula

$$\mathcal{C} \mapsto \text{colim}_n \Omega^n |\iota S_*^n(\mathcal{C})|.$$

This is exactly Waldhausen’s formula for algebraic K -theory, so our Main Theorem is an easy consequence of our Structure Theorem and our computation of Σ .

Bringing algebraic K -theory under the umbrella of Goodwillie’s calculus of functors has a range of exciting consequences, which we are only able to touch upon in this first paper. In

particular, three key foundational results of Waldhausen’s algebraic K -theory—the Additivity Theorem [73, Theorem 1.4.2] (our version: Corollary 7.14), the Approximation Theorem [73, Theorem 1.6.7] (our version: Proposition 8.4), the Fibration Theorem [73, Theorem 1.6.4] (our version: Proposition 9.24), and the Cofinality Theorem [65, Theorem 2.1] (our version: Theorem 10.19)—are straightforward consequences of general facts about the calculus of functors combined with some observations about the homotopy theory of \mathbf{Wald}_∞ .

To get a glimpse of various bits of our framework at work, we offer two examples that exploit certain features of the algebraic K -theory functor of which we are fond. First (§ 11), we apply our foundational work to the study of the connective K -theory of E_1 -algebras in suitable ground ∞ -categories. We define a notion of a *perfect* left module over an E_1 -algebra (Definition 11.2). In the special case of an E_1 ring spectrum Λ , for any set S of homogenous elements of $\pi_*\Lambda$ that satisfies a left Ore condition, we obtain a fiber sequence of connective spectra

$$\mathbf{K}(\mathrm{Nil}_{(\Lambda,S)}^\omega) \longrightarrow \mathbf{K}(\Lambda) \longrightarrow \mathbf{K}(\Lambda[S^{-1}]),$$

in which the first term is the K -theory of the ∞ -category of S -nilpotent perfect Λ -modules (Proposition 11.16). (Note that we only work with connective K -theory, so this is only a fiber sequence in the homotopy theory of connective spectra; in particular, the last map need not be surjective on π_0 .) Such a result—at least in special cases—is surely well known among experts; see for example [15, Proposition 1.4 and Proposition 1.5].

Finally (in § 12), we introduce K -theory in derived algebraic geometry. In particular, we define the K -theory of quasicompact nonconnective spectral Deligne–Mumford stacks (Definition 12.10). We prove a result analogous to what Thomason called the ‘proto-localization’ theorem [67, Theorem 5.1]; this is a fiber sequence of connective spectra

$$\mathbf{K}(\mathcal{X} \setminus \mathcal{U}) \longrightarrow \mathbf{K}(\mathcal{X}) \longrightarrow \mathbf{K}(\mathcal{U})$$

corresponding to a quasicompact open immersion $j: \mathcal{U} \rightarrow \mathcal{X}$ of quasicompact, quasiseparated spectral algebraic spaces. Here $\mathbf{K}(\mathcal{X} \setminus \mathcal{U})$ is the K -theory of the ∞ -category perfect modules \mathcal{M} on \mathcal{X} such that $j^*\mathcal{M} \simeq 0$ (Proposition 12.13). Our proof is new in the details even in the setting originally contemplated by Thomason (though of course the general thrust is the same).

Relation to other work

Our universal characterization of algebraic K -theory has probably been known (perhaps in a more restrictive setting and certainly in a different language) to a variety of experts for many years. In fact, the universal property stated here has endured a lengthy gestation: the first version of this characterization emerged during a question-and-answer session between the author and John Rognes after a talk given by the author at the University of Oslo in 2006.

The idea that algebraic K -theory could be characterized via a universal property goes all the way back to the beginnings of the subject, when Grothendieck defined what we today call K_0 of an abelian or triangulated category just as we described above [12, 31]. The idea that algebraic K -theory might be expressible as a linearization was directly inspired by the ICM talk of Tom Goodwillie [28] and the remarkable flurry of research into the relationship between algebraic K -theory and the calculus of functors—though, of course, the setting for our Goodwillie derivative is more primitive than the one studied by Goodwillie *et al.*

But long before that, of course, came the foundational work of Waldhausen [73]. Since it is known today that relative categories comprise a model for the homotopy theory of ∞ -categories [4], the work of Waldhausen can be said to represent the first study of the algebraic K -theory of higher categories. Furthermore, the idea that the defining property of this algebraic K -theory is additivity is strongly suggested by Waldhausen, and this point is driven home in the work of Randy McCarthy [48] and Ross Staffeldt [65], both of whom recognized long ago that the additivity theorem is the ur-theorem of algebraic K -theory.

In a parallel development, Amnon Neeman has advanced the *algebraic K-theory of triangulated categories* [49–57] as a way of extracting K -theoretic data directly from the triangulated homotopy category of a stable homotopy theory. The idea is that the algebraic K -theory of a ring or scheme should by approximation depend (in some sense) only on a derived category of perfect modules; however, this form of K -theory has known limitations: an example of Marco Schlichting [61] shows that Waldhausen K -theory can distinguish stable ∞ -categories with equivalent triangulated homotopy categories. These limitations are overcome by passing to the *derived ∞ -category*.

More recently, Bertrand Toën and Gabriele Vezzosi showed [70] that the Waldhausen K -theory of many of the best-known examples of Waldhausen categories is in fact an invariant of the simplicial localization; thus Toën and Vezzosi are more explicit in identifying higher categories as a natural domain for K -theory. In fact, in the final section of [70], the authors suggest a strategy for constructing the K -theory of a Segal category by means of an ‘ S_\bullet construction up to coherent homotopy’. The desired properties of their construction are reflected precisely in our construction \mathcal{S} . These insights were explored more deeply in the work of Blumberg and Mandell [16]; they give an explicit description of Waldhausen’s S_\bullet construction in terms of the mapping spaces of the simplicial localization, and they extend Waldhausen’s approximation theorem to show that, in many cases, equivalences of homotopy categories alone are enough to deduce equivalences of K -theory spectra.

Even more recent work of Andrew Blumberg, David Gepner, and Gonçalo Tabuada [14] has built upon the brilliant work of the last of these authors in the context of DG categories [66] to produce another universal characterization of the algebraic K -theory of stable ∞ -categories. One of their main results may be summarized by saying that the algebraic K -theory of stable ∞ -categories is a universal additive invariant. They do not deal with general Waldhausen ∞ -categories, but they also study nonconnective deloopings of K -theory, with which we do not contend here.

Finally, we recall that Waldhausen’s formalism for algebraic K -theory has, of course, been applied in the context of associative S -algebras by Elmendorf, Kriz, Mandell, and May [24], and in the context of schemes and algebraic stacks by Thomason and Trobaugh [67], Toën [68], Joshua [33–35], and others. The applications of the last two sections of this paper are extensions of their work.

A word on higher categories

When we speak of ∞ -categories in this paper, we mean ∞ -categories whose k -morphisms for $k \geq 2$ are weakly invertible. We will use the *quasicategory* model of this sort of ∞ -categories. Quasicategories were invented in the 1970s by Boardman and Vogt [18], who called them *weak Kan complexes*, and they were studied extensively by Joyal [36, 37] and Lurie [42]. We emphasize that quasicategories are but one of an array of equivalent models of ∞ -categories (including simplicial categories [8, 21–23], Segal categories [7, 32, 64], and complete Segal spaces [10, 60]), and there is no doubt that the results here could be satisfactorily proved in any one of these models. Indeed, there is a canonical equivalence between any two of these homotopy theories [9, 11, 38] (or any other homotopy theory that satisfies the axioms of [69] or of [6]), through which one can surely translate the main theorems here into theorems in the language of any other model. To underscore this fact, we will frequently use the generic term *∞ -category* in lieu of the more specialized term *quasicategory*.

That said, we wish to emphasize that we employ many of the technical details of the particular theory of quasicategories as presented in [42] in a critical way in this paper. In particular, beginning in §3, the theory of fibrations, developed by Joyal and presented in Chapter 2 of [42], is instrumental to our work here, as it provides a convenient way to finesse the homotopy-coherence issues that would otherwise plague this paper and its author. Indeed,

it is the convenience and relative simplicity of this theory that compelled us to work with this model.

PART I. PAIRS AND WALDHAUSEN ∞ -CATEGORIES

In this part, we introduce the basic input for additive functors, including the form of K -theory that we study. We begin with the notion of a *pair* of ∞ -categories, which is nothing more than an ∞ -category with a subcategory of *ingressive morphisms* that contains the equivalences. Among the pairs of ∞ -categories, we will then isolate the *Waldhausen ∞ -categories* as the input for algebraic K -theory; these are pairs that contain a zero object in which the ingressive morphisms are stable under pushout. This is the ∞ -categorical analogue of Waldhausen's notion of categories with cofibrations.

We will also need to speak of families of Waldhausen ∞ -categories, which are called *Waldhausen (co)cartesian fibrations*, and which classify functors valued in the ∞ -category \mathbf{Wald}_∞ of Waldhausen ∞ -categories. We study limits and colimits in \mathbf{Wald}_∞ , and we construct the ∞ -category of *virtual Waldhausen ∞ -categories*, whose homotopy theory serves as the basis for all the work we do in this paper.

1. Pairs of ∞ -categories

The basic input for Waldhausen's algebraic K -theory [73] is a category equipped with a subcategory of weak equivalences and a subcategory of cofibrations. These data are then required to satisfy sundry axioms, which give what today is often called a *Waldhausen category*.

A category with a subcategory of weak equivalences (or, in the parlance of [4], a *relative category*) is one way of exhibiting a homotopy theory. A *quasicategory* is another. It is known [4, Corollary 6.11] that these two models of a homotopy theory contain essentially the same information. Consequently, if one wishes to employ the flexible techniques of quasicategory theory, one may attempt to replace the category with weak equivalences in Waldhausen's definition with a single quasicategory.

But what then is to be done with the cofibrations? In Waldhausen's framework, the specification of a subcategory of cofibrations actually serves two distinct functions.

- (1) First, Waldhausen's Gluing Axiom [73, §1.2, Weq. 2] ensures that pushouts along these cofibrations are compatible with weak equivalences. For example, pushouts in the category of simplicial sets along inclusions are compatible with weak equivalences in this sense; consequently, in the Waldhausen category of finite spaces, the cofibrations are monomorphisms.
- (2) Second, the cofibrations permit one to restrict attention to the particular class of cofiber sequences one wishes to split in K -theory. For example, an exact category is regarded as a Waldhausen category by declaring the cofibrations to be the admissible monomorphisms; consequently, the admissible exact sequences are the only exact sequences that algebraic K -theory splits.

In a quasicategory, the first function becomes vacuous, as the only sensible notion of *pushout* in a quasicategory must preserve equivalences. Thus only the second function for a class of cofibrations in a quasicategory will be relevant. This means, in particular, that we need not make any distinction between a cofibration in a quasicategory and a morphism that is *equivalent* to a cofibration. In other words, a suitable class of cofibrations in a quasicategory C will be uniquely specified by a subcategory of the homotopy category hC . We will thus define a *pair* of ∞ -categories as an ∞ -category along with a subcategory of the homotopy category. (We call these

ingressive morphisms, in order to distinguish them from the more rigid notion of cofibration.) Among these pairs, we will isolate the Waldhausen ∞ -categories in the next section.

In this section, we introduce the homotopy theory of pairs as a stepping stone on the way to defining the critically important homotopy theory of Waldhausen ∞ -categories. As many constructions in the theory of Waldhausen ∞ -categories begin with a construction at the level of pairs of ∞ -categories, it is convenient to establish robust language and notation for these objects. To this end, we begin with a brief discussion of some set-theoretic considerations and a reminder on constructions of ∞ -categories from simplicial categories and relative categories. We apply these to the construction of an ∞ -category of ∞ -categories and, following a short reminder on the notion of a *subcategory* of an ∞ -category, an ∞ -category \mathbf{Pair}_∞ of pairs of ∞ -categories. Finally, we relate this ∞ -category of pairs to an ∞ -category of functors between ∞ -categories; this permits us to exhibit \mathbf{Pair}_∞ as a *relative nerve*.

Set theoretic considerations

In order to circumvent the set-theoretic difficulties arising from the consideration of these ∞ -categories of ∞ -categories and the like, we must employ some artifice. Hence to the usual Zermelo–Frankel axioms ZFC of set theory (including the Axiom of Choice) we add the following *Universe Axiom* of Grothendieck and Verdier [63, Exp I, §0]. The resulting set theory, called ZFCU, will be employed in this paper.

AXIOM 1.1 (Universe). Any set is an element of a universe.

1.2. This axiom is independent of the others of ZFC, since any universe \mathbf{U} is itself a model of Zermelo–Frankel set theory. Equivalently, we assume that, for any cardinal τ , there exists a strongly inaccessible cardinal κ with $\tau < \kappa$; for any strongly inaccessible cardinal κ , the set \mathbf{V}_κ of sets whose rank is strictly smaller than κ is a universe [75].

NOTATION 1.3. In addition, we fix, once and for all, three uncountable, strongly inaccessible cardinals $\kappa_0 < \kappa_1 < \kappa_2$ and the corresponding universes $\mathbf{V}_{\kappa_0} \in \mathbf{V}_{\kappa_1} \in \mathbf{V}_{\kappa_2}$. Now a set, simplicial set, category, etc., will be said to be *small* if it is contained in the universe \mathbf{V}_{κ_0} ; it will be said to be *large* if it is contained in the universe \mathbf{V}_{κ_1} ; and it will be said to be *huge* if it is contained in the universe \mathbf{V}_{κ_2} . We will say that a set, simplicial set, category, etc., is *essentially small* if it is equivalent (in the appropriate sense) to a small one.

Simplicial nerves and relative nerves

There are essentially two ways in which ∞ -categories will arise in the sequel. The first of these is as *simplicial categories*. We follow the model of [42, Definition 3.0.0.1] for the notation of simplicial nerves.

NOTATION 1.4. A *simplicial category*, that is, a category enriched in the category of simplicial sets, will frequently be denoted with a superscript $(-)^{\Delta}$.

Suppose \mathbf{C}^{Δ} a simplicial category. Then we write $(\mathbf{C}^{\Delta})_0$ for the ordinary category given by taking the 0-simplices of the Mor spaces. That is, $(\mathbf{C}^{\Delta})_0$ is the category whose objects are the objects of \mathbf{C} , and whose morphisms are given by

$$(\mathbf{C}^{\Delta})_0(x, y) := \mathbf{C}^{\Delta}(x, y)_0.$$

If the Mor spaces of \mathbf{C}^{Δ} are all fibrant, then we will often write

$$\mathbf{C} \text{ for the simplicial nerve } N(\mathbf{C}^{\Delta})$$

[42, Definition 1.1.5.5], which is an ∞ -category [42, Proposition 1.1.5.10].

It will also be convenient to have a model of various ∞ -categories as *relative categories* [4]. To make this precise, we recall the following.

DEFINITION 1.5. A *relative category* is an ordinary category C along with a subcategory wC that contains the identity maps of C . The maps of wC will be called *weak equivalences*. A *relative functor* $(C, wC) \rightarrow (D, wD)$ is a functor $C \rightarrow D$ that carries wC to wD .

Suppose (C, wC) a relative category. A *relative nerve* of (C, wC) consists of an ∞ -category A equipped and a functor $p: NC \rightarrow A$ that satisfies the following universal property. For any ∞ -category B , the induced functor

$$\text{Fun}(A, B) \rightarrow \text{Fun}(NC, B)$$

is fully faithful, and its essential image is the full subcategory spanned by those functors $NC \rightarrow B$ that carry the edges of wC to equivalences in B . We will say that the functor p *exhibits A as a relative nerve of (C, wC)* .

Since relative nerves are defined via a universal property, they are unique up to a contractible choice. Conversely, note that the property of being a relative nerve is invariant under equivalences of ∞ -categories. That is, if (C, wC) is a relative category, then for any commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & NC & \\ p' \swarrow & & \searrow p \\ A' & \xrightarrow{\sim} & A \end{array}$$

in which $A' \xrightarrow{\sim} A$ is an equivalence of ∞ -categories, the functor p' exhibits A' as a relative nerve of (C, wC) if and only if p exhibits A as a relative nerve of (C, wC) .

RECOLLECTION 1.6. There are several functorial constructions of a relative nerve of a relative category (C, wC) , all of which are (necessarily) equivalent.

- (1) One may form the hammock localization $L^H(C, wC)$ [21]; then a relative nerve can be constructed as the simplicial nerve of the natural functor $C \rightarrow R(L^H(C, wC))$, where R denotes any fibrant replacement for the Bergner model structure [8].
- (2) One may mark the edges of NC that correspond to weak equivalences in C to obtain a marked simplicial set [42, § 3.1]; then one may use the cartesian model structure on marked simplicial sets (over Δ^0) to find a marked anodyne morphism

$$(NC, NwC) \rightarrow (N(C, wC), \iota N(C, wC)),$$

wherein $N(C, wC)$ is an ∞ -category. This map then exhibits the ∞ -category $N(C, wC)$ as a relative nerve of (C, wC) .

- (3) A relative nerve can be constructed as a fibrant model of the homotopy pushout in the Joyal model structure [42, § 2.2.5] on simplicial sets of the map

$$\coprod_{\phi \in wC} \Delta^1 \rightarrow \coprod_{\phi \in wC} \Delta^0$$

along the map $\coprod_{\phi \in wC} \Delta^1 \rightarrow NC$.

The ∞ -category of ∞ -categories

The homotopy theory of ∞ -categories is encoded first as a simplicial category, and then, by application of the simplicial nerve [42, Definition 1.1.5.5], as an ∞ -category. This is a

pattern that we will follow to describe the homotopy theory of pairs of ∞ -categories below in Notation 1.14.

To begin, recall that an ordinary category C contains a largest subgroupoid, which consists of all objects of C and all isomorphisms between them. The higher categorical analogue of this follows.

NOTATION 1.7. For any ∞ -category A , there exists a simplicial subset $\iota A \subset A$, which is the largest Kan simplicial subset of A [42, 1.2.5.3]. We shall call this space the *interior ∞ -groupoid* of A . The assignment $A \mapsto \iota A$ defines a right adjoint ι to the inclusion functor u from Kan simplicial sets to ∞ -categories.

We may think of ιA as the *moduli space of objects* of A , to which we alluded in the introduction.

NOTATION 1.8. The large simplicial category \mathbf{Kan}^Δ is the category of small Kan simplicial sets, with the usual notion of mapping space. The large simplicial category $\mathbf{Cat}_\infty^\Delta$ is defined in the following manner [42, Definition 3.0.0.1]. The objects of $\mathbf{Cat}_\infty^\Delta$ are small ∞ -categories, and for any two ∞ -categories A and B , the morphism space

$$\mathbf{Cat}_\infty^\Delta(A, B) := \iota \text{Fun}(A, B)$$

is the interior ∞ -groupoid of the ∞ -category $\text{Fun}(A, B)$.

Similarly, we may define the huge simplicial category $\mathbf{Kan}(\kappa_1)^\Delta$ of large simplicial sets and the huge simplicial category $\mathbf{Cat}_\infty(\kappa_1)^\Delta$ of large ∞ -categories.

RECOLLECTION 1.9. Denote by

$$w(\mathbf{Kan}^\Delta)_0 \subset (\mathbf{Kan}^\Delta)_0$$

the subcategory of the ordinary category of Kan simplicial sets (Notation 1.4) consisting of weak equivalences of simplicial sets. Then, since $(\mathbf{Kan}^\Delta, w(\mathbf{Kan}^\Delta)_0)$ is part of a simplicial model structure, it follows that \mathbf{Kan} is a relative nerve of $((\mathbf{Kan}^\Delta)_0, w(\mathbf{Kan}^\Delta)_0)$. Similarly, if one denotes by

$$w(\mathbf{Cat}_\infty^\Delta)_0 \subset (\mathbf{Cat}_\infty^\Delta)_0$$

the subcategory of categorical equivalences of ∞ -categories, then \mathbf{Cat}_∞ is a relative nerve (Definition 1.5) of $(\mathbf{Cat}_\infty^\Delta)_0, w(\mathbf{Cat}_\infty^\Delta)_0)$. This follows from [42, Propositions 3.1.3.5, 3.1.3.7, Corollary 3.1.4.4].

Since the functors u and ι (Notation 1.7) each preserve weak equivalences, they give rise to an adjunction of ∞ -categories [42, Definition 5.2.2.1, Corollary 5.2.4.5]

$$u: \mathbf{Kan} \rightleftarrows \mathbf{Cat}_\infty: \iota.$$

Subcategories of ∞ -categories

The notion of a *subcategory* of an ∞ -category is designed to be completely homotopy-invariant. Consequently, given an ∞ -category A and a simplicial subset $A' \subset A$, we can only call A' a subcategory of A if the following condition holds: any two equivalent morphisms of A both lie in A' just in case either of them does. That is, $A' \subset A$ is completely specified by a subcategory $(hA)' \subset hA$ of the homotopy category hA of A .

RECOLLECTION 1.10. Recall [42, §1.2.11] that a *subcategory* of an ∞ -category A is a simplicial subset $A' \subset A$ such that for some subcategory $(hA)'$ of the homotopy category hA ,

the square

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A' & \hookrightarrow & A \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ N(hA)' & \hookrightarrow & N(hA) \end{array}$$

is a pullback diagram of simplicial sets. In particular, note that a subcategory of an ∞ -category is uniquely specified by specifying a subcategory of its homotopy category. Note also that any inclusion $A' \hookrightarrow A$ of a subcategory is an inner fibration [42, Definition 2.0.0.3, Proposition 2.3.1.5].

We will say that $A' \subset A$ is a *full subcategory* if $(hA)' \subset hA$ is a full subcategory. In this case, A' is uniquely determined by the set A'_0 of vertices of A' , and we say that A' is *spanned* by the set A'_0 .

We will say that A' is *stable under equivalences* if the subcategory $(hA)' \subset hA$ above can be chosen to be stable under isomorphisms. Note that any inclusion $A' \hookrightarrow A$ of a subcategory that is stable under equivalences is a categorical fibration, that is, a fibration for the Joyal model structure [42, Corollary 2.4.6.5].

Pairs of ∞ -categories

Now we are prepared to introduce the notion of a *pair* of ∞ -categories.

DEFINITION 1.11. (1) By a *pair* $(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{C}_\dagger)$ of ∞ -categories (or simply a *pair*), we shall mean an ∞ -category \mathcal{C} along with a subcategory (1.10) $\mathcal{C}_\dagger \subset \mathcal{C}$ containing the maximal Kan complex $\iota\mathcal{C} \subset \mathcal{C}$. We shall call \mathcal{C} the *underlying ∞ -category* of the pair $(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{C}_\dagger)$. A morphism of \mathcal{C}_\dagger will be said to be an *ingressive* morphism.

(2) A *functor of pairs* $\psi: (\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{C}_\dagger) \rightarrow (\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{D}_\dagger)$ is functor $\mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ that carries ingressive morphisms to ingressive morphisms; that is, it is a (strictly!) commutative diagram

(3)

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{C}_\dagger & \xrightarrow{\psi_\dagger} & \mathcal{D}_\dagger \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \mathcal{C} & \xrightarrow{\psi} & \mathcal{D} \end{array}$$

of ∞ -categories.

(4) A functor of pairs $\mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ is said to be *strict* if a morphism of \mathcal{C} is ingressive just in case its image in \mathcal{D} is so; that is, if the diagram (3) is a pullback diagram in \mathbf{Cat}_∞ .

(5) A *subpair* of a pair $(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{C}_\dagger)$ is a subcategory (1.10) $\mathcal{D} \subset \mathcal{C}$ equipped with a pair structure $(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{D}_\dagger)$ such that the inclusion $\mathcal{D} \hookrightarrow \mathcal{C}$ is a strict functor of pairs. If the subcategory $\mathcal{D} \subset \mathcal{C}$ is full, then we will say that $(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{D}_\dagger)$ is a *full subpair* of $(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{C}_\dagger)$.

Since a subcategory of an ∞ -category is uniquely specified by a subcategory of its homotopy category, and since a morphism of an ∞ -category is an equivalence if and only if the corresponding morphism of the homotopy category is an isomorphism [42, Proposition 1.2.4.1], we deduce that a pair $(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{C}_\dagger)$ of ∞ -categories may simply be described as an ∞ -category \mathcal{C} and a subcategory $(h\mathcal{C})_\dagger \subset h\mathcal{C}$ of the homotopy category that contains all the isomorphisms. In particular, note that \mathcal{C}_\dagger contains all the objects of \mathcal{C} .

Note that pairs are a bit rigid: if $(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{C}_\dagger)$ and $(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{C}_{\dagger\dagger})$ are two pairs, then any equivalence of ∞ -categories $\mathcal{C}_\dagger \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathcal{C}_{\dagger\dagger}$ that is (strictly) compatible with the inclusions into \mathcal{C} must be the identity. It follows that for any equivalence of ∞ -categories $C \xrightarrow{\sim} D$, the set of pairs with underlying ∞ -category C is in bijection with the set of pairs with underlying ∞ -category D .

Consequently, we will often identify a pair $(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{C}_\dagger)$ of ∞ -categories by defining the underlying ∞ -category \mathcal{C} and then declaring which morphisms of \mathcal{C} are ingressive. As long as the condition given holds for all equivalences and is stable under homotopies between morphisms and under composition, this will specify a well-defined pair of ∞ -categories.

NOTATION 1.12. Suppose $(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{C}_\dagger)$ is a pair. Then an ingressive morphism will frequently be denoted by an arrow with a tail: \dashrightarrow . We will often abuse notation by simply writing \mathcal{C} for the pair $(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{C}_\dagger)$.

EXAMPLE 1.13. Any ∞ -category C can be given the structure of a pair in two ways: the *minimal pair* $C^\flat := (C, \iota C)$ and the *maximal pair* $C^\sharp := (C, C)$.

The ∞ -category of pairs

We describe an ∞ -category \mathbf{Pair}_∞ of pairs of ∞ -categories in much the same manner as we described the ∞ -category \mathbf{Cat}_∞ of ∞ -categories (Notation 1.8).

NOTATION 1.14. Suppose $\mathcal{C} = (\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{C}_\dagger)$ and $\mathcal{D} = (\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{D}_\dagger)$ are two pairs of ∞ -categories. Let us denote by $\mathbf{Fun}_{\mathbf{Pair}_\infty}(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D})$ the full subcategory of the ∞ -category $\mathbf{Fun}(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D})$ spanned by the functors $\mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ that carry ingressives to ingressives.

The large simplicial category $\mathbf{Pair}_\infty^\Delta$ is defined in the following manner. The objects of $\mathbf{Pair}_\infty^\Delta$ are small pairs of ∞ -categories, and for any two pairs of ∞ -categories \mathcal{C} and \mathcal{D} , the morphism space $\mathbf{Pair}_\infty^\Delta(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D})$ is interior ∞ -groupoid (Notation 1.7)

$$\mathbf{Pair}_\infty^\Delta(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D}) := \iota \mathbf{Fun}_{\mathbf{Pair}_\infty}(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D}).$$

Note that $\mathbf{Pair}_\infty^\Delta(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D})$ is the union of connected components of $\mathbf{Cat}_\infty^\Delta(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D})$ that correspond to functors of pairs.

Now the ∞ -category \mathbf{Pair}_∞ is the simplicial nerve of this simplicial category (Notation 1.4).

Pair structures

It will be convenient to describe pairs of ∞ -categories as certain functors between ∞ -categories. This will permit us to exhibit \mathbf{Pair}_∞ as a full subcategory of the arrow ∞ -category $\mathbf{Fun}(\Delta^1, \mathbf{Cat}_\infty)$. This description will, in fact, imply (Proposition 4.2) that the ∞ -category \mathbf{Pair}_∞ is presentable.

NOTATION 1.15. For any simplicial set X , write $\mathcal{O}(X)$ for the simplicial mapping space from Δ^1 to X , whose n -simplices are given by

$$\mathcal{O}(X)_n = \text{Mor}(\Delta^1 \times \Delta^n, X).$$

If C is an ∞ -category, then $\mathcal{O}(C) = \mathbf{Fun}(\Delta^1, C)$ is an ∞ -category as well [42, Proposition 1.2.7.3]; this is the *arrow ∞ -category* of C . (In fact, \mathcal{O} is a right Quillen functor for the Joyal model structure, since this model structure is cartesian.)

DEFINITION 1.16. Suppose C and D ∞ -categories. We say that a functor $D \rightarrow C$ exhibits a *pair structure on C* if it factors as an equivalence $D \xrightarrow{\sim} E$ followed by an inclusion $E \hookrightarrow C$ of a subcategory (1.10) such that (C, E) is a pair.

LEMMA 1.17. Suppose C and D ∞ -categories. Then a functor $\psi: D \rightarrow C$ exhibits a *pair structure on C* if and only if the following conditions are satisfied.

- (1) The functor ψ induces an equivalence $\iota D \rightarrow \iota C$.

(2) The functor ψ is a (homotopy) monomorphism in the ∞ -category \mathbf{Cat}_∞ ; that is, the diagonal morphism

$$D \longrightarrow D \times_C^h D$$

in $h\mathbf{Cat}_\infty$ is an isomorphism.

Proof. Clearly any equivalence of ∞ -categories satisfies these criteria. If ψ is an inclusion of a subcategory such that (C, D) is a pair, then ψ , restricted to ιD , is the identity map, and it is an inner fibration such that the diagonal map $D \longrightarrow D \times_C D$ is an isomorphism. This shows that if ψ exhibits a pair structure on C , then ψ satisfies the conditions listed.

Conversely, suppose that ψ satisfies the conditions listed. Then it is hard not to show that for any objects $x, y \in D$, the functor ψ induces a homotopy monomorphism

$$\mathrm{Map}_D(x, y) \longrightarrow \mathrm{Map}_C(\psi(x), \psi(y)),$$

whence the natural map

$$\mathrm{Map}_D(x, y) \longrightarrow \mathrm{Map}_{NhD}(x, y) \times_{\mathrm{Map}_{NhC}(\psi(x), \psi(y))}^h \mathrm{Map}_C(\psi(x), \psi(y))$$

is a weak equivalence. This, combined with the fact that the map $\iota D \longrightarrow \iota C$ is an equivalence, now implies that the natural map $D \longrightarrow NhD \times_{NhC}^h C$ of \mathbf{Cat}_∞ is an equivalence.

Since isomorphisms in hC are precisely equivalences in C , the induced functor of homotopy categories $hD \longrightarrow hC$ identifies hD with a subcategory of hC that contains all the isomorphisms. Denote this subcategory by $hE \subset hC$. Now let E be the corresponding subcategory of C ; we thus have a diagram of ∞ -categories

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} D & \longrightarrow & E & \hookrightarrow & C \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ NhD & \xrightarrow{\sim} & NhE & \hookrightarrow & NhC \end{array}$$

in which the square on the right and the big rectangle are homotopy pullbacks (for the Joyal model structure). Thus the square on the left is a homotopy pullback as well, and so the functor $D \longrightarrow E$ is an equivalence, giving our desired factorization. \square

CONSTRUCTION 1.18. We now consider the following simplicial functor

$$U' : \mathbf{Pair}_\infty^\Delta \longrightarrow \mathrm{Fun}([1], \mathbf{Cat}_\infty^\Delta).$$

On objects, U' carries a pair $(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{C}_\dagger)$ to the inclusion of ∞ -categories $\mathcal{C}_\dagger \hookrightarrow \mathcal{C}$. On mapping spaces, U' is given by the obvious forgetful maps

$$\iota\mathrm{Fun}_{\mathbf{Pair}_\infty}((\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{C}_\dagger), (\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{D}_\dagger)) \longrightarrow \iota\mathrm{Fun}(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D}) \times_{\iota\mathrm{Fun}(\mathcal{C}_\dagger, \mathcal{D})} \iota\mathrm{Fun}(\mathcal{C}_\dagger, \mathcal{D}_\dagger).$$

Now note that since $\iota\mathrm{Fun}(\mathcal{C}_\dagger, \mathcal{D}_\dagger) \hookrightarrow \iota\mathrm{Fun}(\mathcal{C}_\dagger, \mathcal{D})$ is the inclusion of a union of connected components, it follows that the projection

$$\iota\mathrm{Fun}(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D}) \times_{\iota\mathrm{Fun}(\mathcal{C}_\dagger, \mathcal{D})} \iota\mathrm{Fun}(\mathcal{C}_\dagger, \mathcal{D}_\dagger) \longrightarrow \iota\mathrm{Fun}(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D})$$

is an inclusion of a union of connected components as well; in particular, it is the inclusion of those connected components corresponding to those functors $\mathcal{C} \longrightarrow \mathcal{D}$ that carry morphisms of \mathcal{C}_\dagger to morphisms of \mathcal{D}_\dagger . That is, the inclusion

$$\iota\mathrm{Fun}_{\mathbf{Pair}_\infty}((\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{C}_\dagger), (\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{D}_\dagger)) \hookrightarrow \iota\mathrm{Fun}(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D})$$

factors through an equivalence

$$\iota\mathrm{Fun}_{\mathbf{Pair}_\infty}((\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{C}_\dagger), (\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{D}_\dagger)) \xrightarrow{\sim} \iota\mathrm{Fun}(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D}) \times_{\iota\mathrm{Fun}(\mathcal{C}_\dagger, \mathcal{D})} \iota\mathrm{Fun}(\mathcal{C}_\dagger, \mathcal{D}_\dagger).$$

In other words, the functor U' is fully faithful.

We therefore conclude:

PROPOSITION 1.19. *The functor*

$$\mathbf{Pair}_\infty \longrightarrow \mathbf{NFun}([1], \mathbf{Cat}_\infty^\Delta) \simeq \mathcal{O}(\mathbf{Cat}_\infty)$$

induced by U' exhibits an equivalence between \mathbf{Pair}_∞ and the full subcategory of $\mathcal{O}(\mathbf{Cat}_\infty)$ spanned by those functors $D \rightarrow C$ that exhibit a pair structure on C .

The ∞ -categories of pairs as a relative nerve

It will be convenient for us to have a description of \mathbf{Pair}_∞ as a relative nerve (Definition 1.5). First, we record the following trivial result.

PROPOSITION 1.20. *The following are equivalent for a functor of pairs $\psi: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$.*

- (1) *The functor of pairs ψ is an equivalence in the ∞ -category \mathbf{Pair}_∞ .*
- (2) *The underlying functor of ∞ -categories is a categorical equivalence, and ψ is strict.*
- (3) *The underlying functor of ∞ -categories is a categorical equivalence that induces an equivalence $h\mathcal{C}_\dagger \simeq h\mathcal{D}_\dagger$.*

Proof. The equivalence of the first two conditions follows from the equivalence between \mathbf{Pair}_∞ and a full subcategory of $\mathcal{O}(\mathbf{Cat}_\infty)$. The second condition clearly implies the third. To prove that the third condition implies the second, consider the commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 & & \mathcal{D}_\dagger & \hookrightarrow & \mathcal{D} \\
 & \nearrow & \downarrow & & \searrow \\
 \mathcal{C}_\dagger & \hookrightarrow & \mathcal{C} & & \\
 \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 & \nearrow & Nh\mathcal{D}_\dagger & \hookrightarrow & Nh\mathcal{D} \\
 Nh\mathcal{C}_\dagger & \hookrightarrow & & \nearrow & \\
 & & Nh\mathcal{C} & &
 \end{array}$$

The front and back faces are pullback squares and therefore homotopy pullback squares. Since both $Nh\mathcal{C} \xrightarrow{\sim} Nh\mathcal{D}$ and $Nh\mathcal{C}_\dagger \xrightarrow{\sim} Nh\mathcal{D}_\dagger$ are equivalences, the bottom face is a homotopy pullback as well. Hence the top square is a homotopy pullback. But since $(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{C}_\dagger)$ is a pair, it must be an actual pullback; that is, ψ is strict. \square

This proposition implies that the ∞ -category of functors of pairs is compatible with equivalences of pairs.

COROLLARY 1.21. *Suppose \mathcal{A} is a pair, and suppose $\mathcal{C} \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathcal{D}$ is an equivalence of pairs of ∞ -categories. Then the induced functor $\mathbf{Fun}_{\mathbf{Pair}_\infty}(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{C}) \rightarrow \mathbf{Fun}_{\mathbf{Pair}_\infty}(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{D})$ is an equivalence of ∞ -categories.*

Proof. The proposition implies that any homotopy inverse $\mathcal{D} \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathcal{C}$ of the equivalence $\mathcal{C} \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathcal{D}$ of underlying ∞ -categories must carry ingressesives to ingressesives. This induces a homotopy inverse $\mathbf{Fun}_{\mathbf{Pair}_\infty}(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{D}) \rightarrow \mathbf{Fun}_{\mathbf{Pair}_\infty}(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{C})$, completing the proof. \square

Furthermore, Proposition 1.20 may be combined with Propositions 1.19 and 1.9 to yield the following.

COROLLARY 1.22. Denote by $w(\mathbf{Pair}_\infty^\Delta)_0 \subset (\mathbf{Pair}_\infty^\Delta)_0$ the subcategory of the ordinary category of pairs of ∞ -categories (Notation 1.4) consisting of those functors of pairs $\mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ whose underlying functor of ∞ -categories is a categorical equivalence that induces an equivalence $h\mathcal{C}_\dagger \simeq h\mathcal{D}_\dagger$. Then the ∞ -category \mathbf{Pair}_∞ is a relative nerve (Definition 1.5) of the relative category $((\mathbf{Pair}_\infty^\Delta)_0, w(\mathbf{Pair}_\infty^\Delta)_0)$.

The dual picture

Let us conclude this section by briefly outlining the dual picture of ∞ -categories with *fibrations*.

DEFINITION 1.23. Suppose $(\mathcal{C}^{\text{op}}, (\mathcal{C}^{\text{op}})_\dagger)$ a pair. Then write \mathcal{C}^\dagger for the subcategory

$$((\mathcal{C}^{\text{op}})_\dagger)^{\text{op}} \subset \mathcal{C}.$$

We call the morphisms of \mathcal{C}^\dagger *egressive morphisms* or *fibrations*. The pair $(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{C}^\dagger)$ will be called the *opposite pair* to $(\mathcal{C}^{\text{op}}, (\mathcal{C}^{\text{op}})_\dagger)$. One may abuse the terminology slightly by referring to $(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{C}^\dagger)$ as a *pair structure* on \mathcal{C}^{op} .

NOTATION 1.24. Suppose that $(\mathcal{C}^{\text{op}}, (\mathcal{C}^{\text{op}})_\dagger)$ is a pair. Then a fibration of \mathcal{C} will frequently be denoted by a double-headed arrow: \twoheadrightarrow . We will often abuse notation by simply writing \mathcal{C} for the opposite pair $(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{C}^\dagger)$.

We summarize this discussion with the following.

PROPOSITION 1.25. The formation $(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{C}_\dagger) \mapsto (\mathcal{C}^{\text{op}}, (\mathcal{C}^{\text{op}})^\dagger)$ of the opposite pair defines an involution $(-)^{\text{op}}$ of the ∞ -category \mathbf{Pair}_∞ .

2. Waldhausen ∞ -categories

In developing his abstract framework for K -theory, Waldhausen introduced first [73, §1.1] the notion of a *category with cofibrations*, and then [73, §1.2] layered the added structure of a subcategory of weak equivalences satisfying some additional compatibilities to obtain what today is often called a *Waldhausen category*. This added structure introduces homotopy theory, and Waldhausen required that the structure of a category with cofibrations interacts well with this homotopy theory.

The theory of *Waldhausen ∞ -categories*, which we introduce in this section, reverses these two priorities. The layer of homotopy theory is already embedded in the implementation of quasicategories. Then, because it is effectively impossible to formulate ∞ -categorical notions that do *not* interact well with the homotopy theory, we arrive at a suitable definition of Waldhausen ∞ -categories by writing the quasicategorical analogues of the axioms for Waldhausen’s categories with cofibrations. Consequently, a Waldhausen ∞ -category will be a pair of ∞ -categories that enjoys the following properties.

- (A) The underlying ∞ -category admits a *zero object* 0 such that the morphisms $0 \rightarrow X$ are all *ingressive*.
- (B) *Pushouts* of *ingressives* exist and are *ingressive*.

Limits and colimits in ∞ -categories

To work with these conditions effectively, it is convenient to fix some notations and terminology for the study of *limits* and *colimits* in ∞ -categories, as defined in [42, §1.2.13].

RECOLLECTION 2.1. Recall [42, Definition 1.2.12.1] that an object X of an ∞ -category C is said to be *initial* if for any object Y of C , the mapping space $\text{Map}(X, Y)$ is weakly contractible. Dually, X is said to be *terminal* if for any object Y of C , the mapping space $\text{Map}(Y, X)$ is weakly contractible.

DEFINITION 2.2. A *zero object* of an ∞ -category is an object that is both initial and terminal.

NOTATION 2.3. For any simplicial set K , one has [42, Notation 1.2.8.4] the *right cone* $K^\triangleright := K \star \Delta^0$ and the *left cone* $K^\triangleleft := \Delta^0 \star K$; we write $+\infty$ for the cone point of K^\triangleright , and we write $-\infty$ for the cone point of K^\triangleleft .

RECOLLECTION 2.4. Just as in ordinary category theory, a colimit and limit in an ∞ -category can be described as an initial and terminal object of a suitable associated ∞ -category. For any simplicial set K , a *limit diagram* in an ∞ -category C is a diagram

$$\bar{p}: K^\triangleleft \rightarrow C$$

that is a terminal object in the overcategory $C_{/p}$ [42, § 1.2.9], where $p = \bar{p}|K$. Dually, a *colimit diagram* in an ∞ -category C is a diagram

$$\bar{p}: K^\triangleright \rightarrow C$$

that is a terminal object in the undercategory $C_{p/}$, where $p = \bar{p}|K$.

For any ∞ -category A and any ∞ -category C , we denote by

$$\text{Colim}(A^\triangleright, C) \subset \text{Fun}(A^\triangleright, C)$$

the full subcategory spanned by colimit diagrams $A^\triangleright \rightarrow C$.

DEFINITION 2.5. A *pushout square* in an ∞ -category C is a colimit diagram

$$X: (\Lambda_0^2)^\triangleright \cong \Delta^1 \times \Delta^1 \rightarrow C.$$

Such a diagram may be drawn

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X_{00} & \longrightarrow & X_{01} \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ X_{10} & \longrightarrow & X_{11}; \end{array}$$

the edge $X_{10} \rightarrow X_{11}$ is called the *pushout* of the edge $X_{00} \rightarrow X_{01}$.

RECOLLECTION 2.6. A key result of Joyal [42, Proposition 1.2.12.9] states that for any functor $\psi: A \rightarrow C$, the fiber of the canonical restriction functor

$$\rho: \text{Colim}(A^\triangleright, C) \rightarrow \text{Fun}(A, C)$$

over ψ is either empty or a contractible Kan space. One says that C *admits all A -shaped colimits* if the fibers of the functor ρ are all nonempty. In this case, ρ is an equivalence of ∞ -categories.

More generally, if \mathcal{A} is a family of ∞ -categories, then one says that C *admits all \mathcal{A} -shaped colimits* if the fibers of the functor $\text{Colim}(A^\triangleright, C) \rightarrow \text{Fun}(A, C)$ are all nonempty for every $A \in \mathcal{A}$.

Finally, if \mathcal{A} is a family of ∞ -categories, then a functor $f: C' \rightarrow C$ will be said to *preserve all \mathcal{A} -shaped colimits* if for any $A \in \mathcal{A}$, the composite

$$\text{Colim}(A^\triangleright, C') \rightarrow \text{Fun}(A^\triangleright, C') \rightarrow \text{Fun}(A^\triangleright, C)$$

factors through $\text{Colim}(A^\triangleright, C) \subset \text{Fun}(A^\triangleright, C)$. We write $\text{Fun}_{\mathcal{A}}(C', C) \subset \text{Fun}(C', C)$ for the full subcategory spanned by those functors that preserve all \mathcal{A} -shaped colimits.

Waldhausen ∞ -categories

We now introduce the notion of *Waldhausen ∞ -categories*, which are the primary objects of study in this work.

DEFINITION 2.7. A *Waldhausen ∞ -category* $(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{C}_\dagger)$ is a pair of essentially small ∞ -categories such that the following axioms hold.

- (1) The ∞ -category \mathcal{C} contains a zero object.
- (2) For any zero object 0 , any morphism $0 \rightarrow X$ is ingressive.
- (3) Pushouts of ingressive morphisms exist. That is, for any diagram $G: \Lambda_0^2 \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ represented as

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X & \twoheadrightarrow & Y \\ \downarrow & & \\ X' & & \end{array}$$

in which the morphism $X \twoheadrightarrow Y$ is ingressive, there exists a pushout square $\overline{G}: (\Lambda_0^2)^\triangleright \cong \Delta^1 \times \Delta^1 \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ extending G :

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X & \twoheadrightarrow & Y \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ X' & \longrightarrow & Y'. \end{array}$$

- (4) Pushouts of ingressives are ingressive. That is, for any pushout square $(\Lambda_0^2)^\triangleright \cong \Delta^1 \times \Delta^1 \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ represented as

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X & \twoheadrightarrow & Y \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ X' & \longrightarrow & Y', \end{array}$$

if the morphism $X \twoheadrightarrow Y$ is ingressive, then so is the morphism $X' \rightarrow Y'$.

Call a functor of pairs $\psi: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ between two Waldhausen ∞ -categories *exact* if it satisfies the following conditions.

- (5) The underlying functor of ψ carries zero objects of \mathcal{C} to zero objects of \mathcal{D} .
- (6) For any pushout square $F: (\Lambda_0^2)^\triangleright \cong \Delta^1 \times \Delta^1 \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ represented as

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X & \twoheadrightarrow & Y \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ X' & \twoheadrightarrow & Y' \end{array}$$

in which $X \twoheadrightarrow Y$ and hence $X' \twoheadrightarrow Y'$ are ingressive, the induced square $\psi \circ F: (\Lambda_0^2)^\triangleright \cong \Delta^1 \times \Delta^1 \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ represented as

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \psi(X) & \twoheadrightarrow & \psi(Y) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \psi(X') & \twoheadrightarrow & \psi(Y') \end{array}$$

is a pushout as well.

A *Waldhausen subcategory* of a Waldhausen ∞ -category \mathcal{C} is a subpair $\mathcal{D} \subset \mathcal{C}$ such that \mathcal{D} is a Waldhausen ∞ -category, and the inclusion $\mathcal{D} \hookrightarrow \mathcal{C}$ is exact.

Let us repackage some of these conditions.

2.8. Denote by $\Lambda_0 \mathcal{Q}^2$ the pair $(\Lambda_0^2, \Delta^{\{0,1\}} \sqcup \Delta^{\{2\}})$, which may be represented as

$$\begin{array}{ccc} 0 & \twoheadrightarrow & 1 \\ \downarrow & & \\ 2 & & \end{array}$$

Denote by \mathcal{Q}^2 the pair

$$((\Lambda_0^2)^\triangleright, \Delta^{\{0,1\}} \sqcup \Delta^{\{2,\infty\}}) \cong (\Delta^1)^\flat \times (\Delta^1)^\sharp \cong (\Delta^1 \times \Delta^1, (\Delta^{\{0\}} \sqcup \Delta^{\{1\}}) \times \Delta^1)$$

(Example 1.13), which may be represented as

$$\begin{array}{ccc} 0 & \twoheadrightarrow & 1 \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ 2 & \twoheadrightarrow & \infty. \end{array}$$

There is an obvious strict inclusion of pairs $\Lambda_0 \mathcal{Q}^2 \hookrightarrow \mathcal{Q}^2$.

Conditions (Definition 2.7.3) and (Definition 2.7.4) can be rephrased as the single condition that the functor

$$\mathbf{Fun}_{\mathbf{Pair}_\infty}(\mathcal{Q}^2, \mathcal{C}) \longrightarrow \mathbf{Fun}_{\mathbf{Pair}_\infty}(\Lambda_0 \mathcal{Q}^2, \mathcal{C})$$

induces an equivalence of ∞ -categories

$$\mathbf{Colim}_{\mathbf{Pair}_\infty}(\mathcal{Q}^2, \mathcal{C}) \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathbf{Fun}_{\mathbf{Pair}_\infty}(\Lambda_0 \mathcal{Q}^2, \mathcal{C})$$

where $\mathbf{Colim}_{\mathbf{Pair}_\infty}(\mathcal{Q}^2, \mathcal{C})$ denotes the full subcategory of $\mathbf{Fun}_{\mathbf{Pair}_\infty}(\mathcal{Q}^2, \mathcal{C})$ spanned by those functors of pairs $\mathcal{Q}^2 \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ whose underlying functor $(\Lambda_0^2)^\triangleright \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ is a pushout square.

Condition (Definition 2.7.6) on a functor of pairs $\psi: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ between Waldhausen ∞ -categories is equivalent to the condition that the composite functor

$$\mathbf{Colim}_{\mathbf{Pair}_\infty}(\mathcal{Q}^2, \mathcal{C}) \subset \mathbf{Fun}_{\mathbf{Pair}_\infty}(\mathcal{Q}^2, \mathcal{C}) \longrightarrow \mathbf{Fun}_{\mathbf{Pair}_\infty}(\mathcal{Q}^2, \mathcal{D})$$

factors through the full subcategory

$$\mathbf{Colim}_{\mathbf{Pair}_\infty}(\mathcal{Q}^2, \mathcal{D}) \subset \mathbf{Fun}_{\mathbf{Pair}_\infty}(\mathcal{Q}^2, \mathcal{D}).$$

Some examples

To get a sense of how these axioms apply, let us give some examples of Waldhausen ∞ -categories.

EXAMPLE 2.9. When equipped with the *minimal* pair structure (Example 1.13), an ∞ -category C is a Waldhausen ∞ -category C^b if and only if C is a contractible Kan complex.

Equipped with the *maximal* pair structure (Example 1.13), any ∞ -category C that admits a zero object and all finite colimits can be regarded as a Waldhausen ∞ -category C^\sharp .

EXAMPLE 2.10. As a special case of the above, suppose that \mathcal{E} is an ∞ -topos [42, Definition 6.1.0.2]. For example, one may consider the example $\mathcal{E} = \text{Fun}(S, \mathbf{Kan})$ for some simplicial set S . Then the ∞ -category \mathcal{E}_*^ω of compact, pointed objects of \mathcal{E} , when equipped with its maximal pair structure, is a Waldhausen ∞ -category. Its algebraic K -theory will be called the *A-theory of \mathcal{E}* . For any Kan simplicial set X , the *A-theory* of the ∞ -topos $\text{Fun}(X, \mathbf{Kan})$ agrees with Waldhausen’s *A-theory* of X (where one defines the latter via the category $\mathcal{R}_{\text{df}}(X)$ of finitely dominated retractive spaces over X [73, p. 389]). See Example 10.3 for more.

EXAMPLE 2.11. Any stable ∞ -category \mathcal{A} [46, Definition 1.1.1.9], when equipped with its maximal pair structure, is a Waldhausen ∞ -category. If \mathcal{A} admits a t-structure [46, Definition 1.2.1.4], then one may define a pair structure on any of the ∞ -categories $\mathcal{A}_{\leq n}$ by declaring that a morphism $X \rightarrow Y$ be ingressive just in case the induced morphism $\pi_n X \rightarrow \pi_n Y$ is a monomorphism of the heart \mathcal{A}^\heartsuit . We study the relationship between the algebraic K -theory of these ∞ -categories to the algebraic K -theory of \mathcal{A} itself in a follow-up to this paper [3].

EXAMPLE 2.12. If $(C, \text{cof}C)$ is an ordinary *category with cofibrations* in the sense of Waldhausen [73, § 1.1], then the pair $(NC, N(\text{cof}C))$ is easily seen to be a Waldhausen ∞ -category. If $(C, \text{cof}C, wC)$ is a category with cofibrations and weak equivalences in the sense of Waldhausen [73, § 1.2], then one may endow a relative nerve (Definition 1.5) $N(C, wC)$ of the relative category (C, wC) with a pair structure by defining the subcategory $N(C, wC)_\dagger \subset N(C, wC)$ as the smallest subcategory containing the equivalences and the images of the edges in NC corresponding to cofibrations. In Proposition 9.15, we will show that if (C, wC) is a *partial model category* in which the weak equivalences and trivial cofibrations are part of a three-arrow calculus of fractions, then any relative nerve of (C, wC) is in fact a Waldhausen ∞ -category with this pair structure.

The ∞ -category of Waldhausen ∞ -categories

We now define the ∞ -category of Waldhausen ∞ -categories as a subcategory of the ∞ -category of pairs.

NOTATION 2.13. (1) Suppose that \mathcal{C} and \mathcal{D} are two Waldhausen ∞ -categories. We denote by $\text{Fun}_{\mathbf{Wald}_\infty}(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D})$ the full subcategory of $\text{Fun}_{\mathbf{Pair}_\infty}(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D})$ spanned by the exact functors $\mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ of Waldhausen ∞ -categories.

(2) Define $\mathbf{Wald}_\infty^\Delta$ as the following simplicial subcategory of $\mathbf{Pair}_\infty^\Delta$. The objects of $\mathbf{Wald}_\infty^\Delta$ are small Waldhausen ∞ -categories, and for any Waldhausen ∞ -categories \mathcal{C} and \mathcal{D} , the morphism space $\mathbf{Wald}_\infty^\Delta(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D})$ is defined by the formula

$$\mathbf{Wald}_\infty^\Delta(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D}) := \iota \text{Fun}_{\mathbf{Wald}_\infty}(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D}),$$

or, equivalently, $\mathbf{Wald}_\infty^\Delta(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D})$ is the union of the connected components of $\mathbf{Pair}_\infty^\Delta(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D})$ corresponding to the exact morphisms.

(3) We now define the ∞ -category \mathbf{Wald}_∞ as the simplicial nerve of $\mathbf{Wald}_\infty^\Delta$ (Notation 1.4), or, equivalently, as the subcategory of \mathbf{Pair}_∞ whose objects are Waldhausen ∞ -categories and whose morphisms are exact functors.

LEMMA 2.14. *The subcategory $\mathbf{Wald}_\infty \subset \mathbf{Pair}_\infty$ is stable under equivalences.*

Proof. Suppose that \mathcal{C} is a Waldhausen ∞ -category, and that $\psi: \mathcal{C} \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathcal{D}$ is an equivalence of pairs. The functor of pairs ψ induces an equivalence of underlying ∞ -categories, when \mathcal{D} admits a zero object as well. We also have, in the notation of Nt. 2.8, a commutative square

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathrm{Colim}_{\mathbf{Pair}_\infty}(\mathcal{Q}^2, \mathcal{C}) & \longrightarrow & \mathrm{Fun}_{\mathbf{Pair}_\infty}(\Lambda_0 \mathcal{Q}^2, \mathcal{C}) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \mathrm{Colim}_{\mathbf{Pair}_\infty}(\mathcal{Q}^2, \mathcal{D}) & \longrightarrow & \mathrm{Fun}_{\mathbf{Pair}_\infty}(\Lambda_0 \mathcal{Q}^2, \mathcal{D}) \end{array}$$

in which the top functor is an equivalence since \mathcal{C} is a Waldhausen ∞ -category, and the vertical functors are equivalences since $\mathcal{C} \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathcal{D}$ is an equivalence of pairs. Hence the bottom functor is an equivalence of ∞ -categories, whence \mathcal{D} is a Waldhausen ∞ -category. \square

Equivalences between maximal Waldhausen ∞ -categories

Equivalences between Waldhausen ∞ -categories with a *maximal* pair structure (Example 2.9) are often easy to detect, thanks to the following result.

PROPOSITION 2.15. *Suppose that \mathcal{C} and \mathcal{D} are two ∞ -categories each containing zero objects and all finite colimits. Regard them as Waldhausen ∞ -categories equipped with the maximal pair structure (Example 2.9). Assume that the suspension functor $\Sigma: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ is essentially surjective. Then an exact functor $\psi: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ is an equivalence if and only if it induces an equivalence of homotopy categories $h\mathcal{C} \xrightarrow{\sim} h\mathcal{D}$.*

Proof. We need only to show that ψ is fully faithful. Since ψ preserves all finite colimits [42, Corollary 4.4.2.5], it follows that ψ preserves the tensor product with any finite Kan complex [42, Corollary 4.4.4.9]. Thus for any finite simplicial set K and any objects X and Y of \mathcal{C} , the map

$$[K, \mathrm{Map}_{\mathcal{C}}(X, Y)] \longrightarrow [K, \mathrm{Map}_{\mathcal{D}}(\psi(X), \psi(Y))]$$

can be identified with the map

$$\pi_0 \mathrm{Map}(X \otimes K, Y) \longrightarrow \pi_0 \mathrm{Map}(\psi(X \otimes K), \psi(Y)) \cong \pi_0 \mathrm{Map}(\psi(X) \otimes K, \psi(Y)).$$

This map is a bijection for any finite simplicial set K . In particular, the map $\mathrm{Map}(X, Y) \rightarrow \mathrm{Map}(\psi(X), \psi(Y))$ is a weak homotopy equivalence on the connected components at 0, whence $\mathrm{Map}(\Sigma X, Y) \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathrm{Map}(\psi(\Sigma X), \psi(Y))$ is an equivalence. Now since every object in \mathcal{C} is a suspension, the functor ψ is fully faithful. \square

The dual picture

Entirely dual to the theory of Waldhausen ∞ -categories is the theory of *co-Waldhausen ∞ -categories*. We record the definition here; clearly any result or construction in the theory of Waldhausen ∞ -categories can be immediately dualized.

DEFINITION 2.16. (1) A *co-Waldhausen ∞ -category* $(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{C}^\dagger)$ is an opposite pair $(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{C}^\dagger)$ such that the opposite $(\mathcal{C}^{\mathrm{op}}, (\mathcal{C}^{\mathrm{op}})^\dagger)$ is a Waldhausen ∞ -category.

(2) A functor of pairs $\psi: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ between two co-Waldhausen ∞ -categories is said to be *exact* if its opposite $\psi^{\mathrm{op}}: \mathcal{C}^{\mathrm{op}} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}^{\mathrm{op}}$ is exact.

NOTATION 2.17. (1) Suppose that \mathcal{C} and \mathcal{D} are two co-Waldhausen ∞ -categories. Denote by $\text{Fun}_{\mathbf{coWald}}(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D})$ the full subcategory of $\text{Fun}_{\mathbf{Pair}_\infty}(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D})$ spanned by the exact morphisms of co-Waldhausen ∞ -categories.

(2) Define $\mathbf{coWald}_\infty^\Delta$ as the following large simplicial subcategory of $\mathbf{Pair}_\infty^\Delta$. The objects of $\mathbf{coWald}_\infty^\Delta$ are small co-Waldhausen ∞ -categories, and for any co-Waldhausen ∞ -categories \mathcal{C} and \mathcal{D} , the morphism space is defined by the formula

$$\mathbf{coWald}_\infty^\Delta(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D}) := \iota \text{Fun}_{\mathbf{coWald}}(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D}),$$

or equivalently, $\mathbf{coWald}_\infty^\Delta(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D})$ is the union of the connected components of $\mathbf{Pair}_\infty^\Delta(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D})$ corresponding to the exact morphisms.

(3) We then define an ∞ -category \mathbf{coWald} as the simplicial nerve (Definition 1.5) of the simplicial category $\mathbf{coWald}_\infty^\Delta$.

We summarize these constructions with the following.

PROPOSITION 2.18. *The opposite involution on \mathbf{Pair}_∞ (Proposition 1.25) restricts to an equivalence between \mathbf{Wald}_∞ and \mathbf{coWald} .*

3. Waldhausen fibrations

A key component of Waldhausen’s algebraic K -theory of spaces is his S_\bullet construction [73, § 1.3]. In effect, this is a diagram of categories

$$S: \Delta^{op} \longrightarrow \mathbf{Cat}$$

such that for any object $\mathbf{m} \in \Delta$, the category S_m is the category of filtered spaces

$$* = X_0 \subset X_1 \subset \cdots \subset X_m$$

of length m , and, for any simplicial operator $[\phi: \mathbf{n} \longrightarrow \mathbf{m}] \in \Delta$, the induced functor $\phi_!: S_m \longrightarrow S_n$ carries a filtered space $* = X_0 \subset X_1 \subset \cdots \subset X_m$ to a filtered space

$$* = X_{\phi(0)}/X_{\phi(0)} \subset X_{\phi(1)}/X_{\phi(0)} \subset \cdots \subset X_{\phi(n)}/X_{\phi(0)}.$$

We will want to construct an ∞ -categorical variant of S_\bullet , but there is a little wrinkle here: as written, this is not a functor on the nose. Rather, it is a *pseudofunctor*, because quotients are defined only up to (canonical) isomorphism. To rectify this, Waldhausen constructs [73, § 1.3] an honest functor by replacing each category S_m with a fattening thereof, in which an object is a filtered space

$$* = X_0 \subset X_1 \subset \cdots \subset X_m$$

along with compatible choices of all the quotient spaces X_s/X_t .

If one wishes to pass to a more homotopical variant of the S_\bullet construction, matters become even more complicated. After all, any sequence of simplicial sets

$$* \simeq X_0 \longrightarrow X_1 \longrightarrow \cdots \longrightarrow X_m$$

can, up to homotopy, be regarded as a filtered space. To extend the S_\bullet construction to accept these objects, a simplicial operator should then induce functor that carries such a sequence to a corresponding sequence of *homotopy* quotients, in which each map is replaced by a cofibration, and the suitable quotients are formed. This now presents not only a functoriality problem but also a homotopy coherence problem, which is precisely solved for Waldhausen categories satisfying a technical hypothesis (functorial factorizations of weak w -cofibrations) by means of Blumberg–Mandell’s S'_\bullet -construction [15, Definition 2.7].

Unfortunately, these homotopy coherence problems grow less tractable as K -theoretic constructions become more involved. For example, if one seeks multiplicative structures on algebraic K -theory spectra, it becomes a challenge to perform all the necessary rectifications to turn a suitable pairing of Waldhausen categories into an E_k multiplication on the K -theory. The work of Elmendorf and Mandell [25] manages the case $k = \infty$ by using different (and quite rigid) inputs for the K -theory functor. More generally, Blumberg and Mandell [17, Theorem 2.6] generalize this by providing, for any (colored) operad O in categories, an O -algebra structure on the K -theory of any O -algebra in Waldhausen categories.

However, the theory of ∞ -categories provides a powerful alternative to such explicit solutions to homotopy coherence problems. Namely, the theory of *cartesian* and *co-cartesian* fibrations allows one, in effect, to leave the homotopy coherence problems *unsolved* yet, at the same time, to work effectively with the resulting objects. For this reason, these concepts play a central role in our work here. (For fully general solutions to the problem of finding O structures on K -theory spectra using machinery of the kind developed here, see either Blumberg–Gepner–Tabuada [13] or [2].)

Cocartesian fibrations

The idea goes back at least to Grothendieck (and probably further). If $X: C \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat}$ is an (honest) diagram of ordinary categories, then one can define the *Grothendieck construction* of X . This is a category $G(X)$ whose objects are pairs (c, x) consisting of an object $c \in C$ and an object $x \in X(c)$, in which a morphism $(f, \phi): (d, y) \rightarrow (c, x)$ is a morphism $f: d \rightarrow c$ of C and a morphism

$$\phi: X(f)(y) \rightarrow x$$

of $X(c)$. There is an obvious forgetful functor $p: G(X) \rightarrow C$.

One may now attempt to reverse-engineer the Grothendieck construction by trying to extract the salient features of the forgetful functor p that ensures that it ‘came from’ a diagram of categories. What we may notice is that for any morphism $f: d \rightarrow c$ of C and any object $y \in X(d)$ there is a special morphism

$$F = (f, \phi): (d, y) \rightarrow (c, X(f)(y))$$

of $G(X)$ in which

$$\phi: X(f)(y) \rightarrow X(f)(y)$$

is simply the identity morphism. This morphism is *initial* among all the morphisms F' of $G(X)$ such that $p(F') = f$; that is, for any morphism F' of $G(X)$ such that $p(F') = f$, there exists a morphism H of $G(X)$ such that $p(H) = \text{id}_c$ such that $F' = H \circ F$.

We call morphisms of $G(X)$ that are initial in this sense *p-cocartesian*. Since a *p-cocartesian* edge lying over a morphism $d \rightarrow c$ is defined by a universal property, it is uniquely specified up to a unique isomorphism lying over id_c . The key condition that we are looking for is then that *for any morphism of C and any lift of its source, there is a p-cocartesian morphism with that source lying over it*. A functor p satisfying this condition is called a *Grothendieck opfibration*.

Now for any Grothendieck opfibration $q: D \rightarrow C$, let us attempt to extract a functor $Y: C \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat}$ whose Grothendieck construction $G(Y)$ is equivalent (as a category over C) to D . We proceed in the following manner. To any object $c \in C$ assign the fiber D_c of q over c . To any morphism $f: d \rightarrow c$ assign a functor $Y(f): D_d \rightarrow D_c$ that carries any object $y \in D_d$ to the target $Y(f)(y) \in D_c$ of ‘the’ *q-cocartesian* edge lying over f . However, the problem is already apparent in the scare quotes around the word ‘the’. These functors will not be strictly compatible with composition; rather, one will obtain natural isomorphisms

$$Y(g \circ f) \simeq Y(g) \circ Y(f)$$

that will satisfy a secondary layer of coherences that make Y into a *pseudofunctor*.

It is in fact possible to rectify any pseudofunctor to an equivalent honest functor, and this gives an honest functor whose Grothendieck construction is equivalent to our original D .

In light of all this, three options present themselves for contending with weak diagrams of ordinary categories:

- (1) Rectify all pseudofunctors, and keep track of the rectifications as constructions become more involved.
- (2) Work systematically with pseudofunctors, verifying all the coherence laws as needed.
- (3) Work directly with Grothendieck opfibrations.

Which of these one selects is largely a matter of taste. When we pass to diagrams of higher categories, however, the first two options veer sharply into the realm of impracticality. A pseudofunctor $S \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat}_\infty$ has not only a secondary level of coherences, but also an infinite progression of coherences between witnesses of lower-order coherences. Though rectifications of these pseudofunctors do exist (see Recollection 3.4), they are usually not terribly explicit, and it would be an onerous task to keep them all straight.

Fortunately, the last option generalizes quite comfortably to the context of quasicategories, yielding the theory of *cocartesian fibrations*.

RECOLLECTION 3.1. Suppose $p: X \rightarrow S$ is an inner fibration of simplicial sets. Recall [42, Remark 2.4.1.4] that an edge $f: \Delta^1 \rightarrow X$ is *p-cocartesian* just in case, for each integer $n \geq 2$, any extension

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \Delta^{\{0,1\}} & \xrightarrow{f} & X, \\ \downarrow & \nearrow F & \\ \Lambda_0^n & & \end{array}$$

and any solid arrow commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \Lambda_0^n & \xrightarrow{F} & X \\ \downarrow & \nearrow \overline{F} & \downarrow p \\ \Delta^n & \longrightarrow & S, \end{array}$$

the dotted arrow \overline{F} exists, rendering the diagram commutative.

We say that p is a *cocartesian fibration* [42, Definition 2.4.2.1] if, for any edge $\eta: s \rightarrow t$ of S and for every vertex $x \in X_0$ such that $p(x) = s$, there exists a p -cocartesian edge $f: x \rightarrow y$ such that $\eta = p(f)$.

Cartesian edges and *cartesian fibrations* are defined dually, so that an edge of X is p -cartesian just in case the corresponding edge of X^{op} is cocartesian for the inner fibration $p^{\text{op}}: X^{\text{op}} \rightarrow S^{\text{op}}$, and p is a cartesian fibration just in case p^{op} is a cocartesian fibration.

EXAMPLE 3.2. A functor $p: D \rightarrow C$ between ordinary categories is a Grothendieck opfibration if and only if the induced functor $N(p): ND \rightarrow NC$ on nerves is a cocartesian fibration [42, Rk 2.4.2.2].

EXAMPLE 3.3. Recall that for any ∞ -category C , we write $\mathcal{O}(C) := \text{Fun}(\Delta^1, C)$. By [42, Corollary 2.4.7.12], evaluation at 0 defines a cartesian fibration $s: \mathcal{O}(C) \rightarrow C$, and evaluation at 1 defines a cocartesian fibration $t: \mathcal{O}(C) \rightarrow C$.

One can ask whether the functor $s: \mathcal{O}(C) \rightarrow C$ is also a *cocartesian* fibration. One may observe [42, Lemma 6.1.1.1] that an edge $\Delta^1 \rightarrow \mathcal{O}(C)$ is *s-cocartesian* just in case the corresponding diagram $(\Lambda_0^2)^\triangleright \cong \Delta^1 \times \Delta^1 \rightarrow C$ is a pushout square.

RECOLLECTION 3.4. Suppose that S is a simplicial set. Then the collection of cocartesian fibrations to S with small fibers is naturally organized into an ∞ -category $\mathbf{Cat}_{\infty/S}^{\text{cocart}}$. To construct it, let $\mathbf{Cat}_{\infty}^{\text{cocart}}$ be the following subcategory of $\mathcal{O}(\mathbf{Cat}_{\infty})$: an object $X \rightarrow U$ of $\mathcal{O}(\mathbf{Cat}_{\infty})$ lies in $\mathbf{Cat}_{\infty}^{\text{cocart}}$ if and only if it is a cocartesian fibration, and a morphism $p \rightarrow q$ in $\mathcal{O}(\mathbf{Cat}_{\infty})$ between cocartesian fibrations represented as a square

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X & \xrightarrow{f} & Y \\ p \downarrow & & \downarrow q \\ U & \longrightarrow & V \end{array}$$

lies in $\mathbf{Cat}_{\infty}^{\text{cocart}}$ if and only if f carries *p-cocartesian* edges to *q-cocartesian* edges. We now define $\mathbf{Cat}_{\infty/S}^{\text{cocart}}$ as the fiber over S of the target functor

$$t: \mathbf{Cat}_{\infty}^{\text{cocart}} \subset \mathcal{O}(\mathbf{Cat}_{\infty}) \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat}_{\infty}.$$

Equivalently [42, Proposition 3.1.3.7], one may describe $\mathbf{Cat}_{\infty/S}^{\text{cocart}}$ as the simplicial nerve (Notation 1.4) of the (fibrant) simplicial category of marked simplicial sets [42, Definition 3.1.0.1] over S that are fibrant for the *cocartesian model structure*; that is, of the form $X^\natural \rightarrow S$ for $X \rightarrow S$ a cocartesian fibration [42, Definition 3.1.1.8].

The straightening/unstraightening Quillen equivalence of [42, Theorem 3.2.0.1] now yields an equivalence of ∞ -categories

$$\mathbf{Cat}_{\infty/S}^{\text{cocart}} \simeq \text{Fun}(S, \mathbf{Cat}_{\infty}).$$

So, the dictionary between Grothendieck opfibrations and diagrams of categories generalizes gracefully to a dictionary between cocartesian fibrations $p: X \rightarrow S$ with small fibers and functors $\mathbf{X}: S \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat}_{\infty}$. As for ordinary categories, for any vertex $s \in S_0$, the value $\mathbf{X}(s)$ is equivalent to the fiber X_s , and for any edge $\eta: s \rightarrow t$, the functor $h\mathbf{X}(s) \rightarrow h\mathbf{X}(t)$ assigns to any object $x \in X_s$ an object $y \in X_t$ with the property that there is a cocartesian edge $x \rightarrow y$ that covers η . We say that \mathbf{X} *classifies* p [42, Definition 3.3.2.2], and we will abuse the terminology slightly by speaking of *the functor* $\eta: X_s \rightarrow X_t$ *induced by* an edge $\eta: s \rightarrow t$ of S , even though η is defined only up to canonical equivalence.

Dually, the collection of cartesian fibrations to S with small fibers is naturally organized into an ∞ -category $\mathbf{Cat}_{\infty/S}^{\text{cart}}$, and the straightening/unstraightening Quillen equivalence yields an equivalence of ∞ -categories

$$\mathbf{Cat}_{\infty/S}^{\text{cart}} \simeq \text{Fun}(S^{\text{op}}, \mathbf{Cat}_{\infty}).$$

EXAMPLE 3.5. For any ∞ -category C , the functor $C^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat}_{\infty}$ that classifies the cartesian fibration $s: \mathcal{O}(C) \rightarrow C$ is the functor that carries any object X of C to the undercategory $C_{X/}$ and any morphism $f: Y \rightarrow X$ to the forgetful functor $f^*: C_{X/} \rightarrow C_{Y/}$.

If C admits all pushouts, then the cocartesian fibration $s: \mathcal{O}(C) \rightarrow C$ is classified by a functor $C \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat}_{\infty}$ that carries any object X of C to the undercategory $C_{X/}$ and any morphism $f: Y \rightarrow X$ to the functor $f_!: C_{Y/} \rightarrow C_{X/}$ that is given by pushout along f .

RECOLLECTION 3.6. A cocartesian fibration with the special property that each fiber is a Kan complex, or equivalently, with the special property that the functor that classifies it factors through the full subcategory $\mathbf{Kan} \subset \mathbf{Cat}_{\infty}$, is called a *left fibration*. These are

more efficiently described as maps that satisfy the right lifting property with respect to horn inclusions $\Lambda_k^n \hookrightarrow \Delta^n$ such that $n \geq 1$ and $0 \leq k \leq n - 1$ [42, Proposition 2.4.2.4].

For any cocartesian fibration $p: X \rightarrow S$, one may consider the smallest simplicial subset $\iota_S X \subset X$ that contains the p -cocartesian edges. The restriction $\iota_S(p): \iota_S X \rightarrow S$ of p to $\iota_S X$ is a left fibration. The functor $S \rightarrow \mathbf{Kan}$ that classifies $\iota_S p$ is then the functor given by the composition

$$S \xrightarrow{F} \mathbf{Cat}_\infty \xrightarrow{\iota} \mathbf{Kan},$$

where F is the functor that classifies p .

Let us recall a particularly powerful construction with cartesian and cocartesian fibrations, which will form the cornerstone for our study of filtered objects of Waldhausen ∞ -categories.

RECOLLECTION 3.7. Suppose that S is a simplicial set, and that $\mathbf{X}: S^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat}_\infty$ and $\mathbf{Y}: S \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat}_\infty$ are two diagrams of ∞ -categories. Then one may define a functor

$$\text{Fun}(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Y}): S \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat}_\infty$$

that carries a vertex s of S to the ∞ -category $\text{Fun}(\mathbf{X}(s), \mathbf{Y}(s))$ and an edge $\eta: s \rightarrow t$ of S to the functor

$$\text{Fun}(\mathbf{X}(s), \mathbf{Y}(s)) \rightarrow \text{Fun}(\mathbf{X}(t), \mathbf{Y}(t))$$

given by the assignment $F \mapsto \mathbf{Y}(\eta) \circ F \circ \mathbf{X}(\eta)$.

If one wishes to work instead with the cartesian and cocartesian fibrations classified by \mathbf{X} and \mathbf{Y} , the following construction provides an elegant way of writing explicitly the cocartesian fibration classified by the functor $\text{Fun}(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Y})$. If $p: X \rightarrow S$ is the cartesian fibration classified by \mathbf{X} and if $q: Y \rightarrow S$ is the cocartesian fibration classified by \mathbf{Y} , one may define a map $r: T \rightarrow S$ defined by the following universal property: for any map $\sigma: K \rightarrow S$, one has a bijection

$$\text{Mor}_S(K, T) \cong \text{Mor}_S(X \times_S K, Y),$$

functorial in σ . It is then shown in [42, Corollary 3.2.2.13] that p is a cocartesian fibration, and an edge $g: \Delta^1 \rightarrow T$ is r -cocartesian just in case the induced map $X \times_S \Delta^1 \rightarrow Y$ carries p -cartesian edges to q -cocartesian edges. The fiber of the map $T \rightarrow S$ over a vertex s is the ∞ -category $\text{Fun}(X_s, Y_s)$, and for any edge $\eta: s \rightarrow t$ of S , the functor $\eta!: T_s \rightarrow T_t$ induced by η is equivalent to the functor $F \mapsto \mathbf{Y}(\eta) \circ F \circ \mathbf{X}(\eta)$ described above.

Pair cartesian and cocartesian fibrations

Just as cartesian and cocartesian fibrations are well adapted to the study of weak diagrams of ∞ -categories, we will introduce the theory of *Waldhausen cartesian* and *cocartesian fibrations*, which makes available a robust notion of weak diagrams of Waldhausen ∞ -categories. To introduce this notion, we first discuss *pair cartesian* and *cocartesian fibrations* in some detail. These will provide a notion of weak diagrams of pairs of ∞ -categories.

DEFINITION 3.8. Suppose that S is an ∞ -category. Then a *pair cartesian fibration* $\mathcal{X} \rightarrow S$ is a pair \mathcal{X} and a morphism of pairs $p: \mathcal{X} \rightarrow S^b$ (where the target is the minimal pair (S, ι_S) —see Example 1.13) such that the following conditions are satisfied.

- (1) The underlying functor of p is a cartesian fibration.
- (2) For any edge $\eta: s \rightarrow t$ of S , the induced functor $\eta^*: \mathcal{X}_t \rightarrow \mathcal{X}_s$ carries ingressive morphisms to ingressive morphisms.

Dually, a pair cocartesian fibration $\mathcal{X} \rightarrow S$ is a pair \mathcal{X} and a morphism of pairs $p: \mathcal{X} \rightarrow S^b$ such that $p^{\text{op}}: \mathcal{X}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow S^{\text{op}}$ is a pair cartesian fibration.

PROPOSITION 3.9. *If S is an ∞ -category and $p: \mathcal{X} \rightarrow S$ is a pair cartesian fibration [respectively, a pair cocartesian fibration] with small fibers, then the functor $S^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat}_\infty$ [respectively, the functor $S \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat}_\infty$] that classifies p lifts to a functor $S^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Pair}_\infty$ [respectively, $S \rightarrow \mathbf{Pair}_\infty$].*

Proof. We employ the adjunction (\mathfrak{C}, N) of [42, §1.1.5]. Since \mathbf{Pair}_∞ and \mathbf{Cat}_∞ are both defined as simplicial nerves, the data of a lift $S^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Pair}_\infty$ of $S^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat}_\infty$ are tantamount to the data of a lift $\bar{\mathbf{X}}: \mathfrak{C}[S]^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Pair}_\infty^\Delta$ of the corresponding simplicial functor $\mathbf{X}: \mathfrak{C}[S]^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat}_\infty^\Delta$. Now for any object s of $\mathfrak{C}[S]$, the categories $\mathbf{X}(s)$ inherit a pair structure via the canonical equivalence $\mathbf{X}(s) \simeq \mathcal{X}_s$. For any two objects s and t of $\mathfrak{C}[S]$, condition (Definition 3.8.2) ensures that the map

$$\mathfrak{C}[S](t, s) \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat}_\infty^\Delta(\mathbf{X}(s), \mathbf{X}(t))$$

factors through the simplicial subset (Notation 1.14)

$$\mathbf{Pair}_\infty^\Delta(\mathbf{X}(s), \mathbf{X}(t)) \subset \mathbf{Cat}_\infty^\Delta(\mathbf{X}(s), \mathbf{X}(t)).$$

This now defines the desired simplicial functor $\bar{\mathbf{X}}$. □

DEFINITION 3.10. In the situation of Proposition 3.9, we will say that the lifted functor $S^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Pair}_\infty$ [respectively, the lifted functor $S \rightarrow \mathbf{Pair}_\infty$] classifies the cartesian [respectively, cocartesian] fibration p .

PROPOSITION 3.11. *The classes of pair cartesian fibrations and pair cocartesian fibrations are each stable under base change. That is, for any pair cartesian [respectively, cocartesian] fibration $\mathcal{X} \rightarrow S$ and for any functor $f: S' \rightarrow S$, if the pullback $\mathcal{X}' := \mathcal{X} \times_S S'$ is endowed with the pair structure in which a morphism is ingressive just in case it is carried to an equivalence in S' and to an ingressive morphism of \mathcal{X} , then $\mathcal{X}' \rightarrow S'$ is a pair cartesian [respectively, cocartesian] fibration.*

Proof. We treat the case of pair cartesian fibrations. Cartesian fibrations are stable under pullbacks [42, Proposition 2.4.2.3(2)], so it remains to note that for any morphism $\eta: s \rightarrow t$ of S' , the induced functor

$$\eta^* \simeq f(\eta)^*: \mathcal{X}'_t \cong \mathcal{X}_{f(t)} \rightarrow \mathcal{X}_{f(s)} \cong \mathcal{X}'_s$$

carries ingressive morphisms to ingressive morphisms. □

The ∞ -categories of pair (co)cartesian fibrations

The collection of all pair cocartesian fibrations is organized into an ∞ -category $\mathbf{Pair}_\infty^{\text{cocart}}$, which is analogous to the ∞ -category $\mathbf{Cat}_\infty^{\text{cocart}}$ of Recollection 3.4. Furthermore, pair cartesian fibrations with a fixed base ∞ -category S organize themselves into an ∞ -category $\mathbf{Pair}_{\infty/S}^{\text{cart}}$.

NOTATION 3.12. Denote by

$$\mathbf{Pair}_\infty^{\text{cart}} \quad [\text{respectively, by } \mathbf{Pair}_\infty^{\text{cocart}}]$$

the following subcategory of $\mathcal{O}(\mathbf{Pair}_\infty)$. The objects of $\mathbf{Pair}_\infty^{\text{cart}}$ [respectively, $\mathbf{Pair}_\infty^{\text{cocart}}$] are pair cartesian fibrations (respectively, pair cocartesian fibrations) $\mathcal{X} \rightarrow S$. For any pair

cartesian (respectively, cocartesian) fibrations $p: \mathcal{X} \rightarrow S$ and $q: \mathcal{Y} \rightarrow T$, a commutative square

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{X} & \xrightarrow{\psi} & \mathcal{Y} \\ p \downarrow & & \downarrow q \\ S^b & \longrightarrow & T^b \end{array}$$

of pairs of ∞ -categories is a morphism $p \rightarrow q$ of $\mathbf{Pair}_{\infty}^{\text{cart}}$ [respectively, of $\mathbf{Pair}_{\infty}^{\text{cocart}}$] if and only if ψ carries p -cartesian (respectively, p -cocartesian) edges to q -cartesian (respectively, q -cocartesian) edges.

By an abuse of notation, we will denote by (\mathcal{X}/S) an object $\mathcal{X} \rightarrow S$ of $\mathbf{Pair}_{\infty}^{\text{cart}}$ [respectively, of $\mathbf{Pair}_{\infty}^{\text{cocart}}$].

The following is immediate from Proposition 3.11 and [42, Lemma 6.1.1.1].

LEMMA 3.13. *The target functors*

$$\mathbf{Pair}_{\infty}^{\text{cart}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat}_{\infty} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{Pair}_{\infty}^{\text{cocart}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat}_{\infty}$$

induced by the inclusion $\{1\} \subset \Delta^1$ are both cartesian fibrations.

NOTATION 3.14. The fibers of the cartesian fibrations

$$\mathbf{Pair}_{\infty}^{\text{cart}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat}_{\infty} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{Pair}_{\infty}^{\text{cocart}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat}_{\infty}$$

over an object $\{S\} \subset \mathbf{Cat}_{\infty}$ will be denoted $\mathbf{Pair}_{\infty/S}^{\text{cart}}$ and $\mathbf{Pair}_{\infty/S}^{\text{cocart}}$, respectively.

By an abuse of notation, denote by

$$(\mathbf{Pair}_{\infty/S}^{\text{cart}})_0 \quad [\text{respectively, by } (\mathbf{Pair}_{\infty/S}^{\text{cocart}})_0]$$

the subcategory of the ordinary category $((\mathbf{Pair}_{\infty}^{\Delta})_0 \downarrow S^b)$ whose objects are pair cartesian fibrations [respectively, pair cocartesian fibrations] $\mathcal{X} \rightarrow S$ and whose morphisms are functors of pairs $\mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}$ over S that carry cartesian morphisms to cartesian morphisms [respectively, that carry cocartesian morphisms to cocartesian morphisms]. Denote by

$$w(\mathbf{Pair}_{\infty/S}^{\text{cart}})_0 \subset (\mathbf{Pair}_{\infty/S}^{\text{cart}})_0 \quad [\text{respectively, by } w(\mathbf{Pair}_{\infty/S}^{\text{cocart}})_0 \subset (\mathbf{Pair}_{\infty/S}^{\text{cocart}})_0]$$

the subcategory consisting of those morphisms $\mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}$ over S that are *fiberwise equivalences of pairs*, that is, such that for any vertex $s \in S_0$, the induced functor $\mathcal{X}_s \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}_s$ is a weak equivalence of pairs. Equivalently, $w(\mathbf{Pair}_{\infty/S}^{\text{cart}})_0$ is the collection of those equivalences of pairs $\mathcal{X} \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathcal{Y}$ over S that are fiberwise equivalences of ∞ -categories, that is, such that for any vertex $s \in S_0$, the induced functor $\mathcal{X}_s \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}_s$ is an equivalence of underlying ∞ -categories.

LEMMA 3.15. *For any ∞ -category S , the ∞ -category $\mathbf{Pair}_{\infty/S}^{\text{cart}}$ [respectively, the ∞ -category $\mathbf{Pair}_{\infty/S}^{\text{cocart}}$] is a relative nerve (Definition 1.5) of*

$$((\mathbf{Pair}_{\infty/S}^{\text{cart}})_0, w(\mathbf{Pair}_{\infty/S}^{\text{cart}})_0) \quad [\text{respectively, of } ((\mathbf{Pair}_{\infty/S}^{\text{cocart}})_0, w(\mathbf{Pair}_{\infty/S}^{\text{cocart}})_0)].$$

Proof. To show that $\mathbf{Pair}_{\infty/S}^{\text{cart}}$ is a relative nerve of $((\mathbf{Pair}_{\infty/S}^{\text{cart}})_0, w(\mathbf{Pair}_{\infty/S}^{\text{cart}})_0)$, we first note that the analogous result for ∞ -categories of cartesian fibrations $X \rightarrow S$ holds. More precisely, recall (Recollection 3.4) that $\mathbf{Cat}_{\infty/S}^{\text{cart}}$ may be identified with the nerve of the cartesian simplicial model category of marked simplicial sets over S , when it is a relative nerve of the category $(\mathbf{Cat}_{\infty/S}^{\text{cart}})_0$ of cartesian fibrations over S , equipped with the subcategory $w(\mathbf{Cat}_{\infty/S}^{\text{cart}})_0$ consisting of fiberwise equivalences.

To extend this result to a characterization of $\mathbf{Pair}_{\infty/S}^{\text{cart}}$ as a relative nerve, let us contemplate the square

$$\begin{array}{ccc} N((\mathbf{Pair}_{\infty/S}^{\text{cart}})_0, W) & \longrightarrow & N((\mathbf{Cat}_{\infty/S}^{\text{cart}})_0 \times_{(\mathbf{Cat}_{\infty})_0} (\mathbf{Pair}_{\infty})_0, W) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \mathbf{Pair}_{\infty/S}^{\text{cart}} & \longrightarrow & \mathbf{Cat}_{\infty/S}^{\text{cart}} \times_{\mathbf{Cat}_{\infty}} \mathbf{Pair}_{\infty}, \end{array}$$

where we have written W for the obvious classes of weak equivalences. The horizontal maps are the forgetful functors, and the vertical maps are the ones determined by the universal property of the relative nerve. The vertical functor on the right is an equivalence, and the vertical functor on the left is essentially surjective. It therefore remains only to note that the horizontal functors are fully faithful. \square

We may now employ this lemma to lift the equivalence of ∞ -categories

$$\mathbf{Cat}_{\infty/S}^{\text{cart}} \simeq \text{Fun}(S^{\text{op}}, \mathbf{Cat}_{\infty})$$

of [42, § 3.2] to an equivalence of ∞ -categories

$$\mathbf{Pair}_{\infty/S}^{\text{cart}} \simeq \text{Fun}(S^{\text{op}}, \mathbf{Pair}_{\infty}).$$

PROPOSITION 3.16. *For any ∞ -category S , the ∞ -category $\text{Fun}(S^{\text{op}}, \mathbf{Pair}_{\infty})$ [respectively, the ∞ -category $\text{Fun}(S, \mathbf{Pair}_{\infty})$] is a relative nerve (Definition 1.5) of*

$$((\mathbf{Pair}_{\infty/S}^{\text{cart}})_0, w(\mathbf{Pair}_{\infty/S}^{\text{cart}})_0) \quad [\text{respectively, of } ((\mathbf{Pair}_{\infty/S}^{\text{cocart}})_0, w(\mathbf{Pair}_{\infty/S}^{\text{cocart}})_0)].$$

Proof. The unstraightening functor of [42, § 3.2] is a weak equivalence-preserving functor

$$\text{Un}^+ : (\mathbf{Cat}_{\infty}^{\Delta})^{\mathfrak{C}[S]^{\text{op}}} \longrightarrow (\mathbf{Cat}_{\infty/S}^{\text{cart}})_0$$

that induces an equivalence of relative nerves. (Here, $(\mathbf{Cat}_{\infty}^{\Delta})^{\mathfrak{C}[S]^{\text{op}}}$ denotes the relative category of simplicial functors $\mathfrak{C}[S]^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat}_{\infty}^{\Delta}$.) For any simplicial functor

$$\mathbf{X} : \mathfrak{C}[S]^{\text{op}} \longrightarrow \mathbf{Pair}_{\infty}^{\Delta},$$

endow the unstraightening $\text{Un}^+(\mathbf{X})$ with a pair structure by letting $\text{Un}^+(\mathbf{X})_{\dagger} \subset \text{Un}^+(\mathbf{X})$ be the smallest subcategory containing all the equivalences as well as any cofibration of any fiber $\text{Un}^+(\mathbf{X})_s \cong \mathbf{X}(s)$. With this definition, we obtain a weak equivalence-preserving functor

$$\text{Un}^+ : (\mathbf{Pair}_{\infty}^{\Delta})^{\mathfrak{C}[S]^{\text{op}}} \longrightarrow (\mathbf{Pair}_{\infty/S}^{\text{cart}})_0.$$

This functor induces a functor on relative nerves, which is essentially surjective by Proposition 3.9. Moreover, for any simplicial functors

$$\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Y} : \mathfrak{C}[S]^{\text{op}} \longrightarrow \mathbf{Pair}_{\infty}^{\Delta},$$

the simplicial set

$$\text{Map}_{N((\mathbf{Pair}_{\infty}^{\Delta})^{\mathfrak{C}[S]^{\text{op}}})}(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Y})$$

may be identified with the simplicial subset of

$$\text{Map}_{N((\mathbf{Cat}_{\infty}^{\Delta})^{\mathfrak{C}[S]^{\text{op}}})}(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Y})$$

given by the union of the connected components corresponding to natural transformations $\mathbf{X} \rightarrow \mathbf{Y}$ such that for any $s \in S_0$, the functor $\mathbf{X}(s) \rightarrow \mathbf{Y}(s)$ is a functor of pairs. Similarly, the simplicial set

$$\text{Map}_{\mathbf{Pair}_{\infty/S}^{\text{cart}}}(\text{Un}^+(\mathbf{X}), \text{Un}^+(\mathbf{Y}))$$

may be identified with the subspace of

$$\text{Map}_{\mathbf{Cat}_{\infty/S}^{\text{cart}}}(\text{Un}^+(\mathbf{X}), \text{Un}^+(\mathbf{Y}))$$

given by the union of the connected components corresponding to functors

$$\text{Un}^+(\mathbf{X}) \longrightarrow \text{Un}^+(\mathbf{Y})$$

over S that send cartesian edges to cartesian edges with the additional property that for any $s \in S_0$, the functor

$$\text{Un}^+(\mathbf{X})_s \cong \mathbf{X}(s) \longrightarrow \mathbf{Y}(s) \cong \text{Un}^+(\mathbf{Y})_s$$

is a functor of pairs. We thus conclude that Un^+ is fully faithful. □

Armed with this, we may characterize colimits of pair cartesian fibrations fiberwise.

COROLLARY 3.17. *Suppose that S is a small ∞ -category and K is a small simplicial set. A functor $\mathcal{X} : K^{\triangleright} \rightarrow \mathbf{Pair}_{\infty/S}^{\text{cart}}$ [respectively, a functor $\mathcal{X} : K^{\triangleright} \rightarrow \mathbf{Pair}_{\infty/S}^{\text{cocart}}$] is a colimit diagram if and only if, for every vertex $s \in S_0$, the induced functor*

$$\mathcal{X}_s : K^{\triangleright} \rightarrow \mathbf{Pair}_{\infty}$$

is a colimit diagram.

Of course the same characterization of limits holds, but it will not be needed. We will take up the question of the existence of colimits in the ∞ -category \mathbf{Pair}_{∞} in Corollary 4.5.

A pair version of Recollection 3.7

The theory of pair cartesian and cocartesian fibrations is a relatively mild generalization of the theory of cartesian and cocartesian fibrations, and many of the results extend to this setting. In particular, we now set about proving a pair version of Recollection 3.7 (that is, of [42, Corollary 3.2.2.13]).

In effect, the objective is to give a fibration-theoretic version of the following observation. For any ∞ -category S , any diagram $\mathbf{X} : S^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Pair}_{\infty}$, and any diagram $\mathbf{Y} : S \rightarrow \mathbf{Pair}_{\infty}$, there is a functor

$$\text{Fun}_{\mathbf{Pair}_{\infty}}(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Y}) : S \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat}_{\infty}$$

that carries any object s of S to the ∞ -category $\text{Fun}_{\mathbf{Pair}_{\infty}}(\mathbf{X}(s), \mathbf{Y}(s))$.

NOTATION 3.18. Consider the ordinary category $s\mathbf{Set}(2)$ of pairs (V, U) consisting of a small simplicial set U and a simplicial subset $U \subset V$.

PROPOSITION 3.19. *Suppose that $p : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow S$ is a pair cartesian fibration, and that $q : \mathcal{Y} \rightarrow S$ is a pair cocartesian fibration. Let $r : T_p \mathcal{Y} \rightarrow S$ be the map defined by the following universal property. We require, for any simplicial set K and any map $\sigma : K \rightarrow S$, a bijection*

$$\text{Mor}_S(K, T_p \mathcal{Y}) \cong \text{Mor}_{s\mathbf{Set}(2)/(S, \iota_S)}((K \times_S \mathcal{X}, K \times_S \mathcal{X}_{\dagger}), (\mathcal{Y}, \mathcal{Y}_{\dagger}))$$

(Notation 3.18), functorial in σ . Then r is a cocartesian fibration.

Proof. We may use [42, Corollary 3.2.2.13] to define a cocartesian fibration $r' : T'_p \mathcal{Y} \rightarrow S$ with the universal property

$$\text{Mor}_S(K, T'_p \mathcal{Y}) \cong \text{Mor}_S(K \times_S \mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y}).$$

Thus $T'_p\mathcal{Y}$ is an ∞ -category whose objects are pairs (s, ϕ) consisting of an object $s \in S_0$ and a functor $\phi: \mathcal{X}_s \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}_s$, and $T_p\mathcal{Y} \subset T'_p\mathcal{Y}$ is the full subcategory spanned by those pairs (s, ϕ) such that ϕ is a functor of pairs. An edge $(s, \phi) \rightarrow (t, \psi)$ in $T'_p\mathcal{Y}$ over an edge $\eta: s \rightarrow t$ of S is r' -cocartesian if and only if the corresponding natural transformation $\eta_{\mathcal{Y},!} \circ \phi \circ \eta_{\mathcal{X}}^* \rightarrow \psi$ is an equivalence. Since composites of functors of pairs are again functors of pairs, it follows that if (s, ϕ) is an object of $T_p\mathcal{Y}$, then so is (t, ψ) , whence it follows that r is a cocartesian fibration. \square

Suppose that \mathbf{X} classifies p and that \mathbf{Y} classifies q . Since $\text{Fun}_{\mathbf{Pair}_\infty}(\mathbf{X}(s), \mathbf{Y}(s))$ is a full subcategory of $\text{Fun}(\mathbf{X}(s), \mathbf{Y}(s))$, it follows from Recollection 3.7 that $T_p\mathcal{Y}$ is in fact classified by $\text{Fun}_{\mathbf{Pair}_\infty}(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Y})$.

Suppose S is an ∞ -category, and suppose $p: \mathcal{X} \rightarrow S$ a pair cartesian fibration. The construction T_p is visibly a functor

$$(\mathbf{Pair}_{\infty/S}^{\text{cocart}})_0 \rightarrow (\mathbf{Cat}_{\infty/S}^{\text{cocart}})_0.$$

To show that T_p defines a functor of ∞ -categories $\mathbf{Pair}_{\infty/S}^{\text{cocart}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat}_{\infty/S}^{\text{cocart}}$, it suffices by Lemma 3.15 just to observe that the functor T_p carries weak equivalences of $\mathbf{Pair}_{\infty/S}^{\text{cocart},0}$ to cocartesian equivalences. Hence we have the following.

PROPOSITION 3.20. *Suppose that $p: \mathcal{X} \rightarrow S$ is a cartesian fibration; then the assignment $\mathcal{Y} \mapsto T_p\mathcal{Y}$ defines a functor*

$$\mathbf{Pair}_{\infty/S}^{\text{cocart}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat}_{\infty/S}^{\text{cocart}}.$$

Waldhausen cartesian and cocartesian fibrations

Now we have laid the groundwork for our theory of *Waldhausen cartesian* and *cocartesian* fibrations.

DEFINITION 3.21. Suppose that S is an ∞ -category. A *Waldhausen cartesian fibration* $p: \mathcal{X} \rightarrow S$ is a pair cartesian fibration satisfying the following conditions.

- (1) For any object s of S , the pair

$$\mathcal{X}_s := (\mathcal{X} \times_S \{s\}, \mathcal{X}_\dagger \times_S \{s\})$$

is a Waldhausen ∞ -category.

- (2) For any morphism $\eta: s \rightarrow t$, the corresponding functor of pairs

$$\eta^*: \mathcal{X}_t \rightarrow \mathcal{X}_s$$

is an exact functor of Waldhausen ∞ -categories.

Dually, a *Waldhausen cocartesian fibration* $p: \mathcal{X} \rightarrow S$ is a pair cocartesian fibration satisfying the following conditions.

- (3) For any object s of S , the pair

$$\mathcal{X}_s := (\mathcal{X} \times_S \{s\}, \mathcal{X}_\dagger \times_S \{s\})$$

is a Waldhausen ∞ -category.

- (4) For any morphism $\eta: s \rightarrow t$, the corresponding functor of pairs

$$\eta!: \mathcal{X}_s \rightarrow \mathcal{X}_t$$

is an exact functor of Waldhausen ∞ -categories.

As with pair cartesian fibrations, Waldhausen cartesian fibrations classify functors to \mathbf{Wald}_∞ . The following is an immediate consequence of the definition.

PROPOSITION 3.22. *Suppose S is an ∞ -category. Then a pair cartesian [respectively, cocartesian] fibration $p: \mathcal{X} \rightarrow S$ is a Waldhausen cartesian fibration [respectively, a Waldhausen cocartesian fibration] if and only if the functor $S^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Pair}_\infty$ [respectively, the functor $S \rightarrow \mathbf{Pair}_\infty$] that classifies p factors through $\mathbf{Wald}_\infty \subset \mathbf{Pair}_\infty$.*

PROPOSITION 3.23. *The classes of Waldhausen cartesian fibrations and Waldhausen cocartesian fibrations are each stable under base change. That is, for any Waldhausen cartesian [respectively, cocartesian] fibration $\mathcal{X} \rightarrow S$ and for any functor $f: S' \rightarrow S$, if the pullback $\mathcal{X}' := \mathcal{X} \times_S S'$ is endowed with the pair structure in which a morphism is ingressive just in case it is carried to an equivalence in S' and to an ingressive morphism of \mathcal{X} , then $\mathcal{X}' \rightarrow S'$ is a Waldhausen cartesian [respectively, cocartesian] fibration.*

Proof. We treat the case of Waldhausen cartesian fibrations. By Proposition 3.11, $\mathcal{X}' \rightarrow S'$ is a pair cartesian fibration, so it remains to note that for any morphism $\eta: s \rightarrow t$ of S' , the induced functor of pairs

$$\eta^* \simeq f(\eta)^*: \mathcal{X}'_t \cong \mathcal{X}_{f(t)} \rightarrow \mathcal{X}_{f(s)} \cong \mathcal{X}'_s$$

is an exact functor. □

NOTATION 3.24. Denote by

$$\mathbf{Wald}_\infty^{\text{cart}} \quad [\text{respectively, by } \mathbf{Wald}_\infty^{\text{cocart}}]$$

the following subcategory of

$$\mathbf{Pair}_\infty^{\text{cart}} \quad [\text{respectively, of } \mathbf{Pair}_\infty^{\text{cocart}}].$$

The objects of $\mathbf{Wald}_\infty^{\text{cart}}$ [respectively, of $\mathbf{Wald}_\infty^{\text{cocart}}$] are Waldhausen cartesian fibrations [respectively, Waldhausen cocartesian fibrations] $\mathcal{X} \rightarrow S$. A morphism

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{X} & \xrightarrow{\psi} & \mathcal{Y} \\ p \downarrow & & \downarrow q \\ S^b & \xrightarrow{\phi} & T^b \end{array}$$

of $\mathbf{Pair}_\infty^{\text{cart}}$ (respectively, $\mathbf{Pair}_\infty^{\text{cocart}}$) is a morphism $p \rightarrow q$ of the subcategory $\mathbf{Wald}_\infty^{\text{cart}}$ [respectively, of $\mathbf{Wald}_\infty^{\text{cocart}}$] if and only if ψ induces exact functors $\mathcal{X}_s \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}_{\phi(s)}$ for every vertex $s \in S_0$.

The following is again a consequence of Proposition 3.23 and [42, Lemma 6.1.1.1].

LEMMA 3.25. *The target functors*

$$\mathbf{Wald}_\infty^{\text{cart}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat}_\infty \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{Wald}_\infty^{\text{cocart}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat}_\infty$$

induced by the inclusion $\{1\} \subset \Delta^1$ are both cartesian fibrations.

NOTATION 3.26. The fibers of the cartesian fibrations

$$\mathbf{Wald}_\infty^{\text{cart}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat}_\infty \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{Wald}_\infty^{\text{cocart}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat}_\infty$$

over an object $\{S\} \subset \mathbf{Cat}_\infty$ will be denoted $\mathbf{Wald}_{\infty/S}^{\text{cart}}$ and $\mathbf{Wald}_{\infty/S}^{\text{cocart}}$, respectively.

PROPOSITION 3.27. *The equivalence of ∞ -categories $\mathbf{Pair}_{\infty/S}^{\text{cart}} \simeq \text{Fun}(S^{\text{op}}, \mathbf{Pair}_{\infty})$ [respectively, the equivalence of ∞ -categories $\mathbf{Pair}_{\infty/S}^{\text{cocart}} \simeq \text{Fun}(S, \mathbf{Pair}_{\infty})$] of Proposition 3.16 restricts to an equivalence of ∞ -categories*

$$\mathbf{Wald}_{\infty/S}^{\text{cart}} \simeq \text{Fun}(S^{\text{op}}, \mathbf{Wald}_{\infty}) \quad [\text{respectively, } \mathbf{Wald}_{\infty/S}^{\text{cocart}} \simeq \text{Fun}(S, \mathbf{Wald}_{\infty})].$$

Proof. We treat the cartesian case. Note that $\mathbf{Wald}_{\infty/S}^{\text{cart}}$ is the subcategory of the ∞ -category $\mathbf{Pair}_{\infty/S}^{\text{cart}}$ consisting of those objects and morphisms whose image under the equivalence $\mathbf{Pair}_{\infty/S}^{\text{cart}} \simeq \text{Fun}(S^{\text{op}}, \mathbf{Pair}_{\infty})$, lies in the subcategory $\text{Fun}(S^{\text{op}}, \mathbf{Wald}_{\infty}) \subset \text{Fun}(S^{\text{op}}, \mathbf{Pair}_{\infty})$. So one may identify $\mathbf{Wald}_{\infty/S}^{\text{cart}}$ as the pullback

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathbf{Wald}_{\infty/S}^{\text{cart}} & \longrightarrow & \text{Fun}(S^{\text{op}}, \mathbf{Wald}_{\infty}) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \mathbf{Pair}_{\infty/S}^{\text{cart}} & \xrightarrow{\simeq} & \text{Fun}(S^{\text{op}}, \mathbf{Pair}_{\infty}). \end{array}$$

The result now follows from the fact that because the right-hand vertical map is a categorical fibration (1.10), this square is a homotopy pullback for the Joyal model structure. \square

As with pair fibrations (Corollary 3.17), we employ this result to observe that colimits of Waldhausen cartesian fibrations may be characterized fiberwise.

COROLLARY 3.28. *Suppose S is a small ∞ -category, and K is a small simplicial set. A functor $\mathcal{X} : K^{\triangleright} \rightarrow \mathbf{Wald}_{\infty/S}^{\text{cart}}$ [respectively, a functor $\mathcal{X} : K^{\triangleright} \rightarrow \mathbf{Wald}_{\infty/S}^{\text{cocart}}$] is a colimit diagram if and only if, for every vertex $s \in S_0$, the induced functor*

$$\mathcal{X}_s : K^{\triangleright} \rightarrow \mathbf{Wald}_{\infty}$$

is a colimit diagram.

4. The derived ∞ -category of Waldhausen ∞ -categories

So far, we have built up a language for talking about the ∞ -categories of interest to K -theorists. Now we want to study the ∞ -category \mathbf{Wald}_{∞} of all these objects in some detail. More importantly, in later sections we'll need an enlargement of \mathbf{Wald}_{∞} on which we can define suitable *derived functors*.

We take our inspiration from the following construction. Let $V(k)$ denote the ordinary category of vector spaces over a field k , and let $D_{\geq 0}(k)$ be the *connective derived ∞ -category* of $V(k)$. That is, $D_{\geq 0}(k)$ is a relative nerve of the relative category of (homologically graded) chain complexes whose homology vanishes in negative degrees, where a weak equivalence is declared to be a quasi-isomorphism.

The connective derived ∞ -category is the vehicle with which one may define *left derived functors* of right exact functors: one very general way of formulating this is to characterize $D_{\geq 0}(k)$ as the ∞ -category obtained from $V(k)$ by adding formal *geometric realizations*; that is, homotopy colimits of simplicial diagrams. More precisely, for any ∞ -category C that admits all geometric realizations, the functor

$$\text{Fun}(D_{\geq 0}(k), C) \longrightarrow \text{Fun}(NV(k), C)$$

induced by the inclusion $NV(k) \hookrightarrow D_{\geq 0}(k)$ restricts to an equivalence from the full subcategory of $\text{Fun}(D_{\geq 0}(k), C)$ spanned by those functors $D_{\geq 0}(k) \rightarrow C$ that preserve geometric realizations to $\text{Fun}(NV(k), C)$. (This characterization follows from the Dold–Kan correspondence; see [46, Proposition 1.3.3.8] for a proof.) The objects of $D_{\geq 0}(k)$ can be represented as presheaves (of

spaces) on the nerve of the category of *finite-dimensional* vector spaces that carry direct sums to products.

In this section, we wish to mimic this construction, treating the ∞ -category \mathbf{Wald}_∞ of Waldhausen ∞ -categories as formally analogous to the category $V(k)$. We thus define $D(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty)$ as the ∞ -category presheaves (of spaces) on the nerve of the category of suitably finite Waldhausen ∞ -categories that carry direct sums to products. We call these presheaves *virtual Waldhausen ∞ -categories*. As with $D_{\geq 0}(k)$, virtual Waldhausen ∞ -categories can be viewed as formal geometric realizations of simplicial Waldhausen ∞ -categories, and the ∞ -category $D(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty)$ enjoys the following universal property: for any ∞ -category C that admits all geometric realizations, the functor

$$\mathrm{Fun}(D(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty), C) \longrightarrow \mathrm{Fun}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty, C)$$

induced by the Yoneda embedding $\mathbf{Wald}_\infty \hookrightarrow D(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty)$ restricts to an equivalence from the full subcategory of $\mathrm{Fun}(D(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty), C)$ spanned by those functors $D(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty) \rightarrow C$ that preserve geometric realizations to $\mathrm{Fun}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty, C)$.

To get this idea off the ground, it is clear that we must analyze limits and colimits in \mathbf{Wald}_∞ . Along the way, we'll find that, indeed, \mathbf{Wald}_∞ is rather a lot like $V(k)$.

Limits and colimits of pairs of ∞ -categories

We first analyze limits and colimits in the ∞ -category \mathbf{Pair}_∞ .

RECOLLECTION 4.1. Suppose C a locally small ∞ -category [42, Definition 5.4.1.3]. For a regular cardinal $\kappa < \kappa_0$, recall [42, Definition 5.5.7.1] that C is said to be κ -*compactly generated* (or simply *compactly generated* if $\kappa = \omega$) if it is κ -accessible and admits all small colimits. From this it will follow that C admits all small limits as well. It follows from Simpson's theorem [42, Theorem 5.5.1.1] that C is κ -compactly generated if and only if it is a κ -accessible localization of the ∞ -category of presheaves $\mathcal{P}(C_0) = \mathrm{Fun}(C_0^{\mathrm{op}}, \mathbf{Kan})$ of small spaces on some small ∞ -category C_0 .

PROPOSITION 4.2. *The ∞ -category \mathbf{Pair}_∞ is an ω -accessible localization of the arrow ∞ -category $\mathcal{O}(\mathbf{Cat}_\infty)$.*

Proof. We use Proposition 1.19 to identify \mathbf{Pair}_∞ with a full subcategory of $\mathcal{O}(\mathbf{Cat}_\infty)$. Now the condition that an object $C' \rightarrow C$ of $\mathcal{O}(\mathbf{Cat}_\infty)$ be a monomorphism is equivalent to the demand that the functors

$$\iota C' \rightarrow \iota C' \times_{\iota C}^h \iota C' \quad \text{and} \quad \iota \mathcal{O}(C') \rightarrow \iota \mathcal{O}(C') \times_{\iota \mathcal{O}(C)}^h \iota \mathcal{O}(C')$$

be isomorphisms of $h\mathbf{Cat}_\infty$. This, in turn, is the requirement that the object $C' \rightarrow C$ be S -local, where S is the set

$$S := \left\{ \begin{array}{ccc} \Delta^p \sqcup \Delta^p & \xrightarrow{\nabla} & \Delta^p \\ \nabla \downarrow & & \parallel \\ \Delta^p & \xlongequal{\quad} & \Delta^p \end{array} \mid \mathbf{p} \in \Delta \right\}$$

of morphisms of $\mathcal{O}(\mathbf{Cat}_\infty)$. The condition that an object $C' \rightarrow C$ of $\mathcal{O}(\mathbf{Cat}_\infty)$ induce an equivalence $\iota C' \rightarrow \iota C$ is equivalent to the requirement that it be local with respect to the singleton

$$\{\phi: [\emptyset \rightarrow \Delta^0] \hookrightarrow [\Delta^0 \rightarrow \Delta^0]\}.$$

Hence \mathbf{Pair}_∞ is equivalent to the full subcategory of the $S \cup \{\phi\}$ -local objects of $\mathcal{O}(\mathbf{Cat}_\infty)$. Now it is easy to see that the $S \cup \{\phi\}$ -local objects of $\mathcal{O}(\mathbf{Cat}_\infty)$ are closed under filtered colimits; hence by [42, Proposition 5.5.3.6 and Corollary 5.5.7.3], the ∞ -category \mathbf{Pair}_∞ is an ω -accessible localization. \square

COROLLARY 4.3. *The ∞ -category \mathbf{Pair}_∞ is compactly generated.*

COROLLARY 4.4. *The ∞ -category \mathbf{Pair}_∞ admits all small limits, and the inclusion*

$$\mathbf{Pair}_\infty \hookrightarrow \mathcal{O}(\mathbf{Cat}_\infty)$$

preserves them.

COROLLARY 4.5. *The ∞ -category \mathbf{Pair}_∞ admits all small colimits, and the inclusion*

$$\mathbf{Pair}_\infty \hookrightarrow \mathcal{O}(\mathbf{Cat}_\infty)$$

preserves small filtered colimits.

COROLLARY 4.6. *Any pair \mathcal{C} is the colimit of its compact subpairs.*

EXAMPLE 4.7. Suppose that \mathcal{C} is a pair such that \mathcal{C} and \mathcal{C}_\dagger are each compact in \mathbf{Cat}_∞ . Then \mathcal{C} is compact in \mathbf{Pair}_∞ . Indeed, suppose $\mathcal{D}: \Lambda^\triangleright \rightarrow \mathbf{Pair}_\infty$ is a colimit of a filtered diagram of pairs. The compactness of \mathcal{C} and \mathcal{C}_\dagger yields an equivalence

$$\mathbf{Pair}_\infty^\Delta(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D}_{+\infty}) \simeq \operatorname{colim}_\alpha \mathbf{Cat}_\infty^\Delta(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D}_\alpha) \times_{\operatorname{colim}_\beta \mathbf{Cat}_\infty^\Delta(\mathcal{C}_\dagger, \mathcal{D}_\beta)} \operatorname{colim}_\gamma \mathbf{Cat}_\infty^\Delta(\mathcal{C}_\dagger, \mathcal{D}_{\gamma, \dagger}).$$

Now since filtered colimits in spaces commute with finite limits, one has

$$\mathbf{Pair}_\infty^\Delta(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D}_{+\infty}) \simeq \operatorname{colim}_\alpha \mathbf{Cat}_\infty^\Delta(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D}_\alpha) \times_{\mathbf{Cat}_\infty^\Delta(\mathcal{C}_\dagger, \mathcal{D}_\alpha)} \mathbf{Cat}_\infty^\Delta(\mathcal{C}_\dagger, \mathcal{D}_{\alpha, \dagger}),$$

which implies that \mathcal{C} is compact in \mathbf{Pair}_∞ .

In particular, any pair \mathcal{C} in which both \mathcal{C} and \mathcal{C}_\dagger are finite simplicial sets is compact.

Limits and filtered colimits of Waldhausen ∞ -categories

Now we construct limits and colimits in \mathbf{Wald}_∞ .

PROPOSITION 4.8. *The ∞ -category \mathbf{Wald}_∞ admits all small limits, and the inclusion functor $\mathbf{Wald}_\infty \rightarrow \mathbf{Pair}_\infty$ preserves them.*

Proof. We employ [42, Proposition 4.4.2.6] to reduce the problem to proving the existence of products and pullbacks in \mathbf{Wald}_∞ . To complete the proof, we make the following observations.

- (1) Suppose that I is a set, $(\mathcal{C}_i)_{i \in I}$ an I -tuple of pairs of ∞ -categories, and \mathcal{C} the product of these pairs. If, for each $i \in I$, the pair \mathcal{C}_i is a Waldhausen ∞ -category, then so is \mathcal{C} . Moreover, if \mathcal{D} is a Waldhausen ∞ -category, then a functor of pairs $\mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ is exact if and only if the composite

$$\mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}_i$$

is exact for any $i \in I$. This follows directly from the fact that limits and colimits of a product are computed objectwise [42, Corollary 5.1.2.3].

(2) Suppose

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{E}' & \xrightarrow{q'} & \mathcal{F}' \\ p' \downarrow & & \downarrow p \\ \mathcal{E} & \xrightarrow{q} & \mathcal{F} \end{array}$$

is a pullback diagram of pairs of ∞ -categories. Suppose, moreover, that \mathcal{E} , \mathcal{F} , and \mathcal{F}' are all Waldhausen ∞ -categories, and p and q are exact functors. Then by [42, Lemma 5.4.5.2] and its dual, \mathcal{E}' admits both an initial object and a terminal object, each of which is preserved by p' and q' , and they are equivalent since they are so in \mathcal{E} , \mathcal{F} , and \mathcal{F}' . It now follows from [42, Lemma 5.4.5.5] that \mathcal{E}' is a Waldhausen ∞ -category, and for any Waldhausen ∞ -category \mathcal{D} , a functor of pairs $\psi: \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}$ is exact if and only if the composites $p' \circ \psi$ and $q' \circ \psi$ are exact. \square

We obtain a similar characterization of filtered colimits in \mathbf{Wald}_∞ .

PROPOSITION 4.9. *The ∞ -category \mathbf{Wald}_∞ admits all small filtered colimits, and the inclusion functor $\mathbf{Wald}_\infty \rightarrow \mathbf{Pair}_\infty$ preserves them.*

Proof. Suppose that A is a filtered ∞ -category, $A \rightarrow \mathbf{Wald}_\infty$ is a functor given by the assignment $a \mapsto \mathcal{C}_a$, and \mathcal{C} is the colimit of the composite functor

$$A \rightarrow \mathbf{Wald}_\infty \rightarrow \mathbf{Pair}_\infty.$$

Pushouts of ingressive morphisms in \mathcal{C} exist and are ingressive morphisms. Furthermore, the image of any zero object in any \mathcal{C}_a is initial in both \mathcal{C} and in \mathcal{C}_\dagger . Both of these facts follow by precisely the same argument as [42, Proposition 5.5.7.11]. The dual argument ensures that this image is also terminal in \mathcal{C} , whence it is a zero object. \square

Direct sums of Waldhausen ∞ -categories

The ∞ -category \mathbf{Wald}_∞ also admits finite *direct sums*, that is, that finite products in \mathbf{Wald}_∞ are also finite coproducts.

DEFINITION 4.10. Suppose that C is an ∞ -category. Then C is said to *admit finite direct sums* if the following conditions hold.

- (1) The ∞ -category C is pointed.
- (2) The ∞ -category C has all finite products and coproducts.
- (3) For any finite set I and any I -tuple $(X_i)_{i \in I}$ of objects of C , the map

$$\coprod X_I \rightarrow \prod X_I$$

in hC , given by the maps $\phi_{ij}: X_i \rightarrow X_j$, where ϕ_{ij} is zero unless $i = j$, in which case it is the identity, is an isomorphism.

If C admits finite direct sums, then for any finite set I and any I -tuple $(X_i)_{i \in I}$ of objects of C , we denote by $\bigoplus X_I$ the product (or, equivalently, the coproduct) of the X_i .

We will say that C is *additive* if it admits direct sums, and the resulting commutative monoids $\text{Mor}_{h\mathcal{C}}(X, Y)$ are all abelian groups.

PROPOSITION 4.11. *The ∞ -category \mathbf{Wald}_∞ admits finite direct sums.*

Proof. The Waldhausen ∞ -category Δ^0 is a zero object. To complete the proof, it suffices to show that for any finite set I and any I -tuple of Waldhausen ∞ -categories $(\mathcal{C}_i)_{i \in I}$ with product \mathcal{C} , the functors $\phi_i: \mathcal{C}_i \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$, given by the functors $\phi_{ij}: \mathcal{C}_i \rightarrow \mathcal{C}_j$, where ϕ_{ij} is zero unless $j = i$, in which case it is the identity, are exact and exhibit \mathcal{C} as the coproduct of $(\mathcal{C}_i)_{i \in I}$. To prove this, we employ [42, Theorem 4.2.4.1] to reduce the problem to showing that for any Waldhausen ∞ -category \mathcal{D} , the map

$$\mathbf{Wald}_\infty^\Delta(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D}) \rightarrow \prod_{i \in I} \mathbf{Wald}_\infty^\Delta(\mathcal{C}_i, \mathcal{D})$$

induced by the functor ϕ_i is a weak homotopy equivalence. We prove the stronger claim that the functor

$$w: \mathbf{Fun}_{\mathbf{Wald}_\infty}(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D}) \rightarrow \prod_{i \in I} \mathbf{Fun}_{\mathbf{Wald}_\infty}(\mathcal{C}_i, \mathcal{D})$$

is an equivalence of ∞ -categories.

For this, consider the following composite

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & \mathbf{Fun}(\mathcal{C}, \mathbf{Fun}(NI, \mathcal{D})) & \xrightarrow{r} \mathbf{Fun}(\mathcal{C}, \mathbf{Colim}((NI)^\triangleright, \mathcal{D})) \\ & \nearrow u & \searrow e \\ \prod_{i \in I} \mathbf{Fun}(\mathcal{C}_i, \mathcal{D}) & & \mathbf{Fun}(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D}) \end{array}$$

where u is the functor corresponding to the functor

$$\mathcal{C} \times \prod_{i \in I} \mathbf{Fun}(\mathcal{C}_i, \mathcal{D}) \cong \prod_{i \in I} (\mathcal{C}_i \times \mathbf{Fun}(\mathcal{C}_i, \mathcal{D})) \rightarrow \prod_{i \in I} \mathcal{D},$$

where r is a section of the trivial fibration

$$\mathbf{Fun}(\mathcal{C}, \mathbf{Colim}((NI)^\triangleright, \mathcal{D})) \rightarrow \mathbf{Fun}(\mathcal{C}, \mathbf{Fun}(NI, \mathcal{D})),$$

and e is the functor induced by the functor $\mathbf{Colim}((NI)^\triangleright, \mathcal{D}) \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ given by evaluation at the cone point ∞ . This composite restricts to a functor

$$v: \prod_{i \in I} \mathbf{Fun}_{\mathbf{Wald}_\infty}(\mathcal{C}_i, \mathcal{D}) \rightarrow \mathbf{Fun}_{\mathbf{Wald}_\infty}(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D});$$

indeed, one checks directly that if $(\psi_i: \mathcal{C}_i \rightarrow \mathcal{D})_{i \in I}$ is an I -tuple of exact functors, then a functor $\psi: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ that sends a simplex $\sigma = (\sigma_i)_{i \in I}$ to a coproduct $\prod_{i \in I} \psi_i(\sigma_i)$ in \mathcal{D} is exact, and the situation is similar for natural transformations of exact functors.

We claim that the functor v is a homotopy inverse to w . A homotopy $w \circ v \simeq \text{id}$ can be constructed directly from the canonical equivalences

$$Y \simeq Y \sqcup \prod_{i \in I - \{j\}} 0_i$$

for any zero objects 0_i in \mathcal{D} . In the other direction, the existence of a homotopy $v \circ w \simeq \text{id}$ follows from the observation that the natural transformations $\phi_i \circ \text{pr}_i \rightarrow \text{id}$ exhibit the identity functor on \mathcal{C} as the coproduct $\prod_{i \in I} \phi_i \circ \text{pr}_i$. \square

Since any small coproduct can be written as a filtered colimit of finite coproducts, we deduce the following.

COROLLARY 4.12. *The ∞ -category \mathbf{Wald}_∞ admits all small coproducts.*

Coproducts in \mathbf{Wald}_∞ enjoy a description reminiscent of the description of coproducts in the category of vector spaces over a field: for any set I and an I -tuple $(\mathcal{C}_i)_{i \in I}$ of Waldhausen

∞ -categories, $\coprod_{i \in I} \mathcal{C}_i$ is equivalent to the full subcategory of $\prod_{i \in I} \mathcal{C}_i$ spanned by those objects $(X_i)_{i \in I}$ such that all but a finite number of the objects X_i are zero objects.

Accessibility of \mathbf{Wald}_∞

Finally, we set about showing that \mathbf{Wald}_∞ is an accessible ∞ -category. In fact, we prove the following stronger result.

PROPOSITION 4.13. *The ∞ -category \mathbf{Wald}_∞ is compactly generated.*

Proof. The ∞ -category \mathbf{Kan} is compactly generated, as is the ∞ -category \mathbf{Kan}_* of pointed Kan complexes. We have already seen that \mathbf{Pair}_∞ is compactly generated. Additionally, we may contemplate the full subcategory $\mathbf{Mono} \subset \text{Fun}(\Delta^1, \mathbf{Kan})$ spanned by those functors $C \rightarrow D$ that are monomorphisms. We claim that \mathbf{Mono} is also compactly generated. Indeed, \mathbf{Mono} is nothing more than the full subcategory of $\{\phi\}$ -local objects, where ϕ denotes the map

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \partial\Delta^1 & \longrightarrow & \Delta^0 \\ \downarrow & & \parallel \\ \Delta^0 & \xlongequal{\quad} & \Delta^0, \end{array}$$

and $\mathbf{Mono} \subset \text{Fun}(\Delta^1, \mathbf{Kan})$ is clearly stable under filtered colimits, whence it is an ω -accessible localization by [42, Corollary 5.5.7.3].

Now we define some functors among these ∞ -categories. Denote by ι the interior functor $\mathbf{Pair}_\infty \rightarrow \mathbf{Kan}$ 1.7. Write $F: \mathbf{Pair}_\infty \rightarrow \mathbf{Kan}$ for the functor $\mathcal{C} \mapsto \text{Map}_{\mathbf{Pair}_\infty}(\mathcal{Q}^2, \mathcal{C})$ corepresented by \mathcal{Q}^2 . We also have the target functor $\mathbf{Mono} \rightarrow \mathbf{Kan}$ and the forgetful functor $\mathbf{Kan}_* \rightarrow \mathbf{Kan}$. It is easy to see that all of these functors preserve limits and filtered colimits. Therefore we may form the fiber product

$$\mathbf{C} := \mathbf{Mono} \times_{\mathbf{Kan}, F} \mathbf{Pair}_\infty \times_{U, \mathbf{Kan}} \mathbf{Kan}_*,$$

which by [42, Proposition 5.5.7.6] is thus compactly generated.

The objects of \mathbf{C} can thus be thought of as 4-tuples $(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{C}_\dagger, I, M)$, where $(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{C}_\dagger)$ is a pair, I is an object of \mathcal{C} , and $M \subset \text{Map}_{\mathbf{Pair}_\infty}(\mathcal{Q}^2, \mathcal{C})$ is a collection of functors of pairs $\mathcal{Q}^2 \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$. A morphism $(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{C}_\dagger, I, M) \rightarrow (\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{D}_\dagger, J, N)$ is a functor of pairs $(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{C}_\dagger) \rightarrow (\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{D}_\dagger)$ that carries I to J and carries any square in M to a square in N . In particular, \mathbf{Wald}_∞ can be identified with the full subcategory of \mathbf{C} spanned by those objects $(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{C}_\dagger, I, M)$ such that $(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{C}_\dagger)$ is a Waldhausen ∞ -category, I is a zero object of \mathcal{C} , and M is the collection of pushout squares $\mathcal{Q}^2 \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$.

Now we have already shown that the inclusion $\mathbf{Wald}_\infty \hookrightarrow \mathbf{C}$ preserves limits and filtered colimits. We now intend to construct a left adjoint to this inclusion, whence \mathbf{Wald}_∞ is compactly generated by [42, Corollary 5.5.7.3].

In light of [42, Proposition 5.2.7.8], it suffices, for any object $(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{C}_\dagger, I, M)$ of \mathbf{C} , to give a localization $F: (\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{C}_\dagger, I, M) \rightarrow (\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{D}_\dagger, J, N)$ relative to $\mathbf{Wald}_\infty \subset \mathbf{C}$. To do this, we present a kind of pair version of [42, § 5.3.6].

First, we form the ∞ -category of presheaves of pointed spaces

$$\mathcal{P}_*(\mathcal{C}) := \text{Fun}(\mathcal{C}^{\text{op}}, \mathbf{Kan}_*),$$

and we write j for the composite of the Yoneda embedding $\mathcal{C} \hookrightarrow \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{C})$ with the pointing functor $\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{C}) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}_*(\mathcal{C})$.

Now for any square $p: \mathcal{Q}^2 \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ in M , select a colimit x_p of $j \circ p|_{\Lambda_0 \mathcal{Q}^2}$, and consider the natural map $f_p: x_p \rightarrow j(p(1, 1))$ (which is unique up to a contractible choice). Now let ϕ be

the canonical map $j(I) \rightarrow 0$ from $j(I)$ to the zero object of $\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{C})$. Write S for the set

$$\{f_p \mid p \in M\} \cup \{\phi\},$$

and form the ∞ -category $L_S \mathcal{P}_*(\mathcal{C})$ of S -local objects as $\mathcal{P}_*(\mathcal{C})$. Write L for the left adjoint to the inclusion $L_S \mathcal{P}_*(\mathcal{C}) \hookrightarrow \mathcal{P}_*(\mathcal{C})$.

We define $L_S \mathcal{P}_*(\mathcal{C})_{\dagger}$ as the smallest subcategory of $L_S \mathcal{P}_*(\mathcal{C})_{\dagger}$ that contains all the equivalences, the image of any map of M under $L \circ j$, and any map $0 \rightarrow x$, and that is stable under pushouts.

Finally, we select the smallest full subcategory $\mathcal{D} \subset L_S \mathcal{P}_*(\mathcal{C})_{\dagger}$ that contains the essential image of $L \circ j$ that is closed under pushouts along any morphism of $L_S \mathcal{P}_*(\mathcal{C})_{\dagger}$, and we set

$$\mathcal{D}_{\dagger} := \mathcal{D} \cap L_S \mathcal{P}_*(\mathcal{C})_{\dagger}.$$

We set $F := L \circ j$, and we set $J := F(I)$, and we let N be the collection of all pushout squares in \mathcal{D} along a map of \mathcal{D}_{\dagger} .

The claim is now threefold:

- (1) The pair $(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{D}_{\dagger})$ is a Waldhausen ∞ -category, J is a zero object, and N consists of pushout squares $\mathcal{Q}^2 \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$.
- (2) The functor F carries \mathcal{C}_{\dagger} to \mathcal{D}_{\dagger} , I to J , and M to N .
- (3) For any Waldhausen ∞ -category \mathcal{E} , the functor F induces an equivalence

$$\text{Map}_{\mathbf{Wald}_{\infty}}(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{E}) \rightarrow \text{Map}_{\mathbf{C}}(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{E}).$$

The first two claims are now obvious from the construction. The last claim is as in the proof of [42, Proposition 5.3.6.2(2)]. □

This result shows that in fact the ∞ -category \mathbf{Wald}_{∞} admits *all* small colimits, not only the filtered ones. However, these other colimits are not preserved by the sorts of invariants in which we are interested, and so we will regard them as pathological. Nevertheless, we will have use for the following.

COROLLARY 4.14. *The ∞ -category \mathbf{Wald}_{∞} is ω -accessible.*

COROLLARY 4.15. *The ∞ -category \mathbf{Wald}_{∞} may be identified with the Ind-objects of the full subcategory $\mathbf{Wald}_{\infty}^{\omega} \subset \mathbf{Wald}_{\infty}$ spanned by the compact Waldhausen ∞ -categories:*

$$\mathbf{Wald}_{\infty} \simeq \text{Ind}(\mathbf{Wald}_{\infty}^{\omega}).$$

We obtain a further corollary by combining Propositions 4.9–4.13 together with the adjoint functor theorem [42, Corollary 5.5.2.9].

COROLLARY 4.16. *The forgetful functor $\mathbf{Wald}_{\infty} \rightarrow \mathbf{Pair}_{\infty}$ admits a left adjoint $W: \mathbf{Pair}_{\infty} \rightarrow \mathbf{Wald}_{\infty}$.*

4.17. Since the opposite functor $\mathbf{Wald}_{\infty} \rightarrow \mathbf{coWald}$ is an equivalence of ∞ -categories, it follows that this whole crop of structural results also hold for \mathbf{coWald} . That is, \mathbf{coWald} admits all small limits and all small filtered colimits, and the inclusion functor $\mathbf{coWald} \rightarrow \mathbf{Pair}_{\infty}$ preserves each of them. Similarly, \mathbf{coWald} admits finite direct sums and all small coproducts, and it is compactly generated.

Virtual Waldhausen ∞ -categories

Now we are prepared to introduce a convenient enlargement of the ∞ -category \mathbf{Wald}_{∞} . In effect, we aim to ‘correct’ the colimits of \mathbf{Wald}_{∞} that we regard as pathological. As with the

formation of $D_{\geq 0}(k)$ from $NV(k)$ (see the introduction of this section), or indeed with the formation of the ∞ -category of spaces from the nerve of the category of sets, we will add to \mathbf{Wald}_∞ formal geometric realizations and nothing more. The result is the *derived ∞ -category of Waldhausen ∞ -categories*, whose homotopy theory forms the basis of our work here.

The definition is exactly as for $D_{\geq 0}(k)$:

DEFINITION 4.18. A *virtual Waldhausen ∞ -category* is a presheaf

$$\mathcal{X} : (\mathbf{Wald}_\infty^\omega)^{\text{op}} \longrightarrow \mathbf{Kan}$$

that preserves products.

NOTATION 4.19. Denote by

$$D(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty) \subset \text{Fun}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty^{\omega, \text{op}}, \mathbf{Kan})$$

the full subcategory spanned by the virtual Waldhausen ∞ -categories. In other words, $D(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty)$ is the *nonabelian derived ∞ -category* of $\mathbf{Wald}_\infty^\omega$ [42, §5.5.8]. We simply call $D(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty)$ the *derived ∞ -category of Waldhausen ∞ -categories*.

NOTATION 4.20. For any ∞ -category C , we shall write $\mathcal{P}(C)$ for the ∞ -category $\text{Fun}(C^{\text{op}}, \mathbf{Kan})$ of presheaves of small spaces on C . If C is locally small, then there exists a Yoneda embedding [42, Proposition 5.1.3.1]

$$j : C \hookrightarrow \mathcal{P}(C).$$

RECOLLECTION 4.21. Suppose $\mathcal{A} \subset \mathcal{B}$ are two classes of small simplicial sets, and suppose C is an ∞ -category that admits all \mathcal{A} -shaped colimits (2.6). Recall [42, §5.3.6] that there exist an ∞ -category $\mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{A}}^{\mathcal{B}}(C)$ and a fully faithful functor $j : C \hookrightarrow \mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{A}}^{\mathcal{B}}(C)$ such that for any ∞ -category D with all \mathcal{B} -shaped colimits, j induces an equivalence of ∞ -categories (2.6)

$$\text{Fun}_{\mathcal{B}}(\mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{A}}^{\mathcal{B}}(C), D) \xrightarrow{\sim} \text{Fun}_{\mathcal{A}}(C, D).$$

Recall also [42, Notation 6.1.2.12] that, for any ∞ -category C , the colimit of a simplicial diagram $X : N\Delta^{\text{op}} \rightarrow C$ will be called the *geometric realization* of X .

4.22. In the notation of Recollection 4.21, the ∞ -category $D(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty)$ can be identified with any of the following ∞ -categories:

- (1) the ∞ -category $\mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{O}}^{\{N\Delta^{\text{op}}\}} \mathbf{Wald}_\infty$,
- (2) the ∞ -category $\mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{R}}^{\mathcal{S}} \mathbf{Wald}_\infty$, where \mathcal{R} is the collection of small, filtered simplicial sets and \mathcal{S} is the collection of small, sifted simplicial sets,
- (3) the ∞ -category $\mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{O}}^{\mathcal{S}} \mathbf{Wald}_\infty^\omega$, and
- (4) the ∞ -category $\mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{D}}^{\mathcal{K}} \mathbf{Wald}_\infty^\omega$, where \mathcal{D} is the collection of finite discrete simplicial sets, and \mathcal{K} is the collection of small simplicial sets.

The equivalence of these characterizations follows directly from Corollary 4.15, the description of the nonabelian derived ∞ -category of [42, Proposition 5.5.8.16], the fact that sifted colimits can be decomposed as geometric realizations of filtered colimits [42, Proposition 5.5.8.15], and the transitivity assertion of [42, Proposition 5.3.6.11].

We may summarize these characterizations by saying that the Yoneda embedding is a fully faithful functor

$$j : \mathbf{Wald}_\infty \hookrightarrow D(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty)$$

that induces, for any ∞ -category E that admits geometric realizations, any ∞ -category E' that admits all sifted colimits, and any ∞ -category that admits all small colimits, equivalences (2.6)

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Fun}_{\{N\Delta^{\text{op}}\}}(\mathbf{D}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty), E) &\xrightarrow{\simeq} \text{Fun}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty, E); \\ \text{Fun}_{\mathcal{J}}(\mathbf{D}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty), E') &\xrightarrow{\simeq} \text{Fun}_{\mathcal{J}}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty, E'); \\ \text{Fun}_{\mathcal{J}}(\mathbf{D}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty), E') &\xrightarrow{\simeq} \text{Fun}_{\mathcal{J}}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty^\omega, E'); \\ \text{Fun}_{\mathcal{X}}(\mathbf{D}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty), E'') &\xrightarrow{\simeq} \text{Fun}_{\mathcal{O}}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty^\omega, E''). \end{aligned}$$

DEFINITION 4.23. Suppose that E is an ∞ -category that admits all sifted colimits. Then a functor

$$\Phi: \mathbf{D}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty) \rightarrow E$$

that preserves all sifted colimits will be said to be the *left derived functor* of the corresponding ω -continuous functor $\phi = \Phi \circ j: \mathbf{Wald}_\infty \rightarrow E$ (which preserves filtered colimits) or of the further restriction $\mathbf{Wald}_\infty^\omega \rightarrow E$ of ϕ to $\mathbf{Wald}_\infty^\omega$.

PROPOSITION 4.24. *The ∞ -category $\mathbf{D}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty)$ is compactly generated. Moreover, it admits all direct sums, and the inclusion j preserves them.*

Proof. The first statement is [42, Proposition 5.5.8.10(6)]. To see that $\mathbf{D}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty)$ admits direct sums, we use the fact that we may exhibit any object of $\mathbf{D}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty)$ as a sifted colimit of compact Waldhausen ∞ -categories in $\mathcal{P}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty^\omega)$ [42, Lemma 5.5.8.14]; now since sifted colimits commute with both finite products [42, Lemma 5.5.8.11] and coproducts, and since j preserves products and finite coproducts [42, Lemma 5.5.8.10(2)], the proof is complete. \square

Realizations of Waldhausen cocartesian fibrations

We now give an explicit construction of colimits in $\mathbf{D}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty)$ of sifted diagrams of Waldhausen ∞ -categories when they are exhibited as Waldhausen cocartesian fibrations.

The idea behind our construction comes from the following observation.

RECOLLECTION 4.25. For any left fibration $p: X \rightarrow S$ (3.6), the total space X is a model for the colimit of the functor $S \rightarrow \mathbf{Kan}$ that classifies p [42, Corollary 3.3.4.6].

If S is an ∞ -category and $\mathbf{X}: S \rightarrow \mathbf{Wald}_\infty$ is a diagram of Waldhausen ∞ -categories, then the colimit of the composite

$$S \xrightarrow{\mathbf{X}} \mathbf{Wald}_\infty \xrightarrow{j} \mathcal{P}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty)$$

is computed objectwise [42, Corollary 5.1.2.3]. If S is sifted, then since $\mathbf{D}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty) \subset \mathcal{P}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty)$ is stable under sifted colimits, the colimit of the composite

$$S \xrightarrow{\mathbf{X}} \mathbf{Wald}_\infty \xrightarrow{j} \mathbf{D}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty)$$

is also computed objectwise. That is, for any compact Waldhausen ∞ -category \mathcal{C} , one has

$$(\text{colim}_{s \in S} \mathbf{X}(s))(\mathcal{C}) \simeq \text{colim}_{s \in S} \iota \text{Fun}_{\mathbf{Wald}_\infty}(\mathcal{C}, \mathbf{X}(s)).$$

Suppose that \mathbf{X} classifies a Waldhausen cartesian fibration $\mathcal{X} \rightarrow S$; then we aim to produce a left fibration (3.6)

$$\mathbf{H}(\mathcal{C}, (\mathcal{X}/S)) := \iota_S \mathcal{H}(\mathcal{C}, (\mathcal{X}/S)) \rightarrow S$$

that classifies the colimit of the composite

$$S \xrightarrow{\mathbf{X}} \mathbf{Wald}_\infty \xrightarrow{j} \mathcal{P}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty) \xrightarrow{\text{ev}_\mathcal{C}} \mathbf{Kan}.$$

We can avoid choosing a straightening of the Waldhausen cocartesian fibration by means of the following.

CONSTRUCTION 4.26. Suppose that S is a sifted ∞ -category and that $\mathcal{X} \rightarrow S$ is a Waldhausen cocartesian fibration. Then for any compact Waldhausen ∞ -category \mathcal{C} , define a simplicial set $\mathcal{H}'(\mathcal{C}, (\mathcal{X}/S))$ over S via the universal property

$$\text{Mor}_S(K, \mathcal{H}'(\mathcal{C}, (\mathcal{X}/S))) \cong \text{Mor}_S(\mathcal{C} \times K, \mathcal{X}),$$

functorial in simplicial sets K over S . The resulting map

$$\mathcal{H}'(\mathcal{C}, (\mathcal{X}/S)) \rightarrow S$$

is a cocartesian fibration by Recollection 3.7 and [42, Corollary 3.2.2.13]. Denote by $\mathcal{H}(\mathcal{C}, (\mathcal{X}/S))$ the full subcategory of $\mathcal{H}'(\mathcal{C}, (\mathcal{X}/S))$ spanned by those functors $\mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{X}_s$ that are exact functors of Waldhausen ∞ -categories; here too the canonical functor

$$p: \mathcal{H}(\mathcal{C}, (\mathcal{X}/S)) \rightarrow S$$

is a cocartesian fibration. Now denote by $\text{H}(\mathcal{C}, (\mathcal{X}/S))$ the subcategory

$$\iota_S \mathcal{H}(\mathcal{C}, (\mathcal{X}/S)) \subset \mathcal{H}(\mathcal{C}, (\mathcal{X}/S))$$

consisting of the p -cocartesian morphisms (3.6). The functor

$$\iota_S(p): \text{H}(\mathcal{C}, (\mathcal{X}/S)) \rightarrow S$$

is now a left fibration.

Of course, we may simply realize the assignment $(\mathcal{C}, (\mathcal{X}/S)) \mapsto \text{H}(\mathcal{C}, (\mathcal{X}/S))$ as a functor

$$\text{H}: \mathbf{Wald}_\infty^{\omega, \text{op}} \times \mathbf{Wald}_{\infty/S}^{\text{cocart}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Kan}$$

by choosing both an equivalence $\mathbf{Wald}_{\infty/S}^{\text{cocart}} \xrightarrow{\sim} \text{Fun}(S, \mathbf{Wald}_\infty)$ and a colimit functor $\text{Fun}(S, \mathbf{Kan}) \rightarrow \mathbf{Kan}$. We have given this explicit construction of the values of this functor in terms of Waldhausen cocartesian fibrations for later use.

In the meantime, since virtual Waldhausen ∞ -categories are closed under sifted colimits in $\mathcal{P}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty^\omega)$, we have the following.

PROPOSITION 4.27. *If S is a small sifted ∞ -category and $\mathcal{X} \rightarrow S$ is a Waldhausen cocartesian fibration in which \mathcal{X} is small, then the corresponding functor $\text{H}(-, (\mathcal{X}/S)): \mathbf{Wald}_\infty^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Kan}$ is a virtual Waldhausen ∞ -category.*

COROLLARY 4.28. *If S is a small sifted ∞ -category, then the functor*

$$\text{H}: \mathbf{Wald}_{\infty/S}^{\text{cocart}} \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty^\omega)$$

factors through the ∞ -category of virtual Waldhausen ∞ -categories:

$$|\cdot|_S: \mathbf{Wald}_{\infty/S}^{\text{cocart}} \rightarrow \text{D}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty^\omega).$$

A presheaf on $\mathbf{Wald}_\infty^\omega$ lies in the nonabelian derived ∞ -category just in case it can be written as the geometric realization of a diagram of Ind-objects of $\mathbf{Wald}_\infty^\omega$ [42, Lemma 5.5.8.14]. In other words, we have the following.

COROLLARY 4.29. *Suppose that \mathcal{X} is a virtual Waldhausen ∞ -category. Then there exists a Waldhausen cocartesian fibration $\mathcal{Y} \rightarrow N\Delta^{\text{op}}$ and an equivalence $\mathcal{X} \simeq |\mathcal{Y}|_{N\Delta^{\text{op}}}$.*

DEFINITION 4.30. For any small sifted simplicial set and any Waldhausen cocartesian fibration \mathcal{X}/S , the virtual Waldhausen ∞ -category $|\mathcal{X}|_S$ will be called the *realization* of \mathcal{X}/S .

PART II. FILTERED OBJECTS AND ADDITIVE THEORIES

In this part, we study reduced and finitary functors from \mathbf{Wald}_∞ to the ∞ -category of pointed objects of an ∞ -topos, which we simply call *theories*. We begin by studying the virtual Waldhausen ∞ -categories of filtered and totally filtered objects of a Waldhausen ∞ -category. Using these, we study the class of *fissile* virtual Waldhausen ∞ -categories; these form a localization of $D(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty)$, and we show that suspension in this ∞ -category is given by the formation of the virtual Waldhausen ∞ -category of totally filtered objects, which is in turn an ∞ -categorical analogue of Waldhausen’s S_\bullet construction. We then show that suitable excisive functors on the ∞ -category of fissile virtual Waldhausen ∞ -categories correspond to additive theories that satisfy the consequences of an ∞ -categorical analogue of Waldhausen’s additivity theorem, and we construct an *additivization* as a Goodwillie derivative, employing our newly minted suspension functor.

5. *Filtered objects of Waldhausen ∞ -categories*

The phenomenon behind additivity is the interaction between a filtered object and its various quotients. For example, for a category \mathcal{C} with cofibrations in the sense of Waldhausen, the universal property of $K_0(\mathcal{C})$ ensures that it regards an object with a filtration of finite length

$$X_0 \twoheadrightarrow X_1 \twoheadrightarrow \cdots \twoheadrightarrow X_n$$

as the sum of the first term X_0 and the filtered object obtained by quotienting by X_0 :

$$0 \twoheadrightarrow X_1/X_0 \twoheadrightarrow \cdots \twoheadrightarrow X_n/X_0,$$

or, by induction, as the sum of $X_0, X_1/X_0, \dots, X_n/X_{n-1}$. To formulate this condition properly for the entire K -theory space, it is necessary to study ∞ -categories of filtered objects in a Waldhausen ∞ -category and the various quotient functors all as suitable inputs for algebraic K -theory. This is the subject of this section.

In particular, for any integer $m \geq 0$ and any Waldhausen ∞ -category \mathcal{C} , we construct a Waldhausen ∞ -category $\mathcal{F}_m(\mathcal{C})$ of filtered objects of length m , and we define not only the exact functors between these Waldhausen ∞ -categories corresponding to changing the length of the filtration (given by morphisms of Δ), but also sundry quotient functors. Since quotient functors are only defined up to coherent equivalences, we employ the language of Waldhausen (co)cartesian fibrations (§3).

After we pass to suitable colimits in $D(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty)$, we end up with two functors $D(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty) \rightarrow D(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty)$. The first of these, which we denote \mathcal{F} , is a model for the *cone* in $D(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty)$ (Proposition 5.25). The second, which we will denote \mathcal{S} , will be a *suspension*, not quite in $D(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty)$, but in a suitable localization of $D(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty)$ (Corollary 6.12). The study of these functors is thus central to our interpretation of additive functors as excisive functors (Theorem 7.4).

The cocartesian fibration of filtered objects

Filtered objects are defined in the familiar manner.

DEFINITION 5.1. A *filtered object of length m* of a pair of ∞ -categories \mathcal{C} is a sequence of ingressive morphisms

$$X_0 \twoheadrightarrow X_1 \twoheadrightarrow \cdots \twoheadrightarrow X_m;$$

that is, it is a functor of pairs $X: (\Delta^m)^\sharp \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ (Example 1.13).

For any morphism $\eta: \mathbf{m} \rightarrow \mathbf{n}$ of Δ and any filtered object X of length n , one may precompose X with the induced functor of pairs $(\Delta^m)^\sharp \rightarrow (\Delta^n)^\sharp$ to obtain a filtered object ψ^*X of length m :

$$X_{\eta(0)} \twoheadrightarrow X_{\eta(1)} \twoheadrightarrow \cdots \twoheadrightarrow X_{\eta(m)}.$$

One thus obtains a functor $N\Delta^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat}_\infty$ that assigns to any object $\mathbf{m} \in \Delta$ the ∞ -category $\mathbf{Fun}_{\mathbf{Pair}_\infty}((\Delta^m)^\sharp, \mathcal{C})$. This is all simple enough.

But we will soon be forced to make things more complicated: if \mathcal{C} is a Waldhausen ∞ -category, we will below have to contemplate not only filtered objects but also *totally filtered objects* in \mathcal{C} ; these are filtered objects X such that the object X_0 is a zero object. The ∞ -category of totally filtered objects of length m is also functorial in \mathbf{m} : for any morphism $\eta: \mathbf{m} \rightarrow \mathbf{n}$ of Δ and any totally filtered object X of length n , one may still precompose X with the induced functor of pairs $(\Delta^m)^\sharp \rightarrow (\Delta^n)^\sharp$ to obtain the filtered object η^*X of length m , and then one may get a *totally filtered object* by forming a quotient by the object $X_{\eta(0)}$:

$$0 \twoheadrightarrow X_{\eta(1)}/X_{\eta(0)} \twoheadrightarrow \cdots \twoheadrightarrow X_{\eta(m)}/X_{\eta(0)}.$$

As we noted just before Recollection 3.1, this does not specify a functor $N\Delta^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat}_\infty$ on the nose, because the formation of quotients is only unique up to canonical equivalences.

This can be repaired in a variety of ways; for example, one may follow in Waldhausen’s footsteps [73, §1.3] and rectify this construction by choosing all the compatible homotopy quotients at once. (For example, Lurie makes use of Waldhausen’s idea in [46, §1.2.2].) But this is overkill: the theory of ∞ -categories is precisely designed to finesse these homotopy coherence problems, and there is a genuine technical advantage in doing so. (For example, the total space of a left fibration is a ready-to-wear model for the homotopy colimit of the functor that classifies it; see Recollection 4.25 or [42, Corollary 3.3.4.6].) More specifically, the theory of cocartesian fibrations allows us to work effectively with this construction without solving homotopy coherence problems like this.

To that end, let us first use Proposition 3.19 to access the cocartesian fibration

$$\mathcal{F}(\mathcal{C}) \rightarrow N\Delta^{\text{op}}$$

classified by the functor

$$\mathbf{m} \mapsto \mathbf{Fun}_{\mathbf{Pair}_\infty}((\Delta^m)^\sharp, \mathcal{C}).$$

At no extra cost, for any Waldhausen cocartesian fibration $\mathcal{X} \rightarrow S$ classified by a functor $\mathbf{X}: S \rightarrow \mathbf{Wald}_\infty$, we can actually write down the cocartesian fibration

$$\mathcal{F}(\mathcal{X}/S) \rightarrow N\Delta^{\text{op}} \times S$$

classified by the functor

$$(\mathbf{m}, s) \mapsto \mathbf{Fun}_{\mathbf{Pair}_\infty}((\Delta^m)^\sharp, \mathbf{X}(s)).$$

Once this has been done, we will be in a better position to define a Waldhausen cocartesian fibration of totally filtered objects.

The first step to using Proposition 3.19 is to identify the pair cartesian fibration (Definition 3.8) that is classified by the functor $\mathbf{m} \mapsto (\Delta^m)^\sharp$.

NOTATION 5.2. Denote by \mathbf{M} the ordinary category whose objects are pairs (\mathbf{m}, i) consisting of an object $\mathbf{m} \in \Delta$ and an element $i \in \mathbf{m}$ and whose morphisms $(\mathbf{n}, j) \rightarrow (\mathbf{m}, i)$ are maps $\phi: \mathbf{m} \rightarrow \mathbf{n}$ of Δ such that $j \leq \phi(i)$. This category comes equipped with a natural projection $\mathbf{M} \rightarrow \Delta^{\text{op}}$.

It is easy to see that the projection $\mathbf{M} \rightarrow \Delta^{\text{op}}$ is a Grothendieck fibration, and so the projection $\pi: N\mathbf{M} \rightarrow N\Delta^{\text{op}}$ is a cartesian fibration. In fact, the category \mathbf{M} is nothing more than the Grothendieck construction applied to the natural inclusion $(\Delta^{\text{op}})^{\text{op}} \cong \Delta \hookrightarrow \mathbf{Cat}$. So, the functor $\Delta \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat}_{\infty}$ that classifies π is given by the assignment $\mathbf{m} \mapsto \Delta^m$.

The nerve $N\mathbf{M}$ can be endowed with a pair structure by setting

$$(N\mathbf{M})_{\dagger} := N\mathbf{M} \times_{N\Delta^{\text{op}}} \iota N\Delta^{\text{op}}.$$

Put differently, an edge of \mathbf{M} is ingressive just in case it covers an equivalence of Δ^{op} . Consequently, π is automatically a pair cartesian fibration (Definition 3.8); the functor $N\Delta \rightarrow \mathbf{Pair}_{\infty}$ classified by π is given by the assignment $\mathbf{m} \mapsto (\Delta^m)^{\sharp}$.

Now it is no problem to use the technology from Proposition 3.19 to define the cocartesian fibration $\mathcal{F}(\mathcal{X}/S) \rightarrow N\Delta^{\text{op}} \times S$ that we seek.

CONSTRUCTION 5.3. For any pair cocartesian fibration $\mathcal{X} \rightarrow S$, define a map $\mathcal{F}(\mathcal{X}/S) \rightarrow N\Delta^{\text{op}} \times S$, using the notation of Proposition 3.19 and Example 1.13, as

$$\mathcal{F}(\mathcal{X}/S) := T_{\pi \times \text{id}_S}((N\Delta^{\text{op}})^{\flat} \times \mathcal{X}).$$

Equivalently, we require, for any simplicial set K and any map $\sigma: K \rightarrow N\Delta^{\text{op}} \times S$, a bijection between the set $\text{Mor}_{N\Delta^{\text{op}} \times S}(K, \mathcal{F}(\mathcal{X}/S))$ and the set

$$\text{Mor}_{\mathbf{sSet}(2)/(S, \iota S)}((K \times_{N\Delta^{\text{op}}} N\mathbf{M}, K \times_{N\Delta^{\text{op}}} (N\mathbf{M})_{\dagger}), (\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{X}_{\dagger}))$$

(Notation 3.18), functorial in σ .

With this definition, Proposition 3.19 now implies the following.

PROPOSITION 5.4. Suppose that $p: \mathcal{X} \rightarrow S$ is a pair cocartesian fibration. Then the functor

$$\mathcal{F}(\mathcal{X}/S) \rightarrow N\Delta^{\text{op}} \times S$$

is a cocartesian fibration.

Furthermore, the functor $N\Delta^{\text{op}} \times S \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat}_{\infty}$ that classifies the cocartesian fibration $\mathcal{F}(\mathcal{X}/S) \rightarrow N\Delta^{\text{op}} \times S$ is indeed the functor

$$(\mathbf{m}, s) \mapsto \text{Fun}_{\mathbf{Pair}_{\infty}}((\Delta^m)^{\sharp}, \mathbf{X}(s)),$$

where $\mathbf{X}: S \rightarrow \mathbf{Pair}_{\infty}$ is the functor that classifies p .

NOTATION 5.5. When $S = \Delta^0$, write $\mathcal{F}(\mathcal{C})$ for $\mathcal{F}(\mathcal{C}/S)$, and for any integer $m \geq 0$, write $\mathcal{F}_m(\mathcal{C})$ for the fiber $\text{Fun}_{\mathbf{Pair}_{\infty}}((\Delta^m)^{\sharp}, \mathcal{C})$ of the cocartesian fibration $\mathcal{F}(\mathcal{C}) \rightarrow N\Delta^{\text{op}}$ over \mathbf{m} .

Hence for any Waldhausen cocartesian fibration $\mathcal{X} \rightarrow S$, the fiber of the cocartesian fibration $\mathcal{F}(\mathcal{X}/S) \rightarrow N\Delta^{\text{op}} \times S$ over a vertex (\mathbf{m}, s) is the Waldhausen ∞ -category $\mathcal{F}_m(\mathcal{X}_s)$.

A Waldhausen structure on filtered objects of a Waldhausen ∞ -category

We may endow the ∞ -categories $\mathcal{F}(\mathcal{X}/S)$ of filtered objects with a pair structure in a variety of ways, but we wish to focus on one pair structure that will retain good formal properties when we pass to quotients.

More specifically, suppose \mathcal{C} is a Waldhausen ∞ -category. A morphism $f: X \rightarrow Y$ of $\mathcal{F}_m(\mathcal{C})$ can be represented as a diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} X_0 & \longrightarrow & X_1 & \longrightarrow & \cdots & \longrightarrow & X_m \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow & & & & \downarrow \\ Y_0 & \longrightarrow & Y_1 & \longrightarrow & \cdots & \longrightarrow & Y_m. \end{array}$$

What should it mean to say that f is ingressive? It is natural to demand, first and foremost, that each morphism $f_i: X_i \rightarrow Y_i$ is ingressive, but this will not be enough to ensure that the morphisms $X_j/X_i \rightarrow Y_j/Y_i$ are all ingressive. Guaranteeing this turns out to be equivalent to the claim that in each of the squares

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X_i & \longrightarrow & X_j \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ Y_i & \longrightarrow & Y_j, \end{array}$$

the morphism from the pushout $X_j \cup^{X_i} Y_i$ to Y_j is a cofibration as well. This was noted by Waldhausen [73, Lemma 1.1.2].

Our approach is thus to define a pair structure in such a concrete manner on $\mathcal{F}_1(\mathcal{C})$, and then to declare that a morphism f of $\mathcal{F}_m(\mathcal{C})$ is ingressive just in case $\eta^*(f)$ is so for any $\eta: \Delta^1 \rightarrow \Delta^m$.

DEFINITION 5.6. Suppose that \mathcal{C} is a Waldhausen ∞ -category. We now endow the ∞ -category $\mathcal{F}_1(\mathcal{C})$ with a pair structure by letting $\mathcal{F}_1(\mathcal{C})_{\dagger} \subset \mathcal{F}_1(\mathcal{C})$ be the smallest subcategory containing the following classes of edges of \mathcal{C} :

- (1) any edge $X \rightarrow Y$ represented as a square

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X_0 & \longrightarrow & X_1 \\ \sim \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ Y_0 & \longrightarrow & Y_1 \end{array}$$

- in which $X_0 \xrightarrow{\sim} Y_0$ is an equivalence and $X_1 \rightarrow Y_1$ is ingressive, and
- (2) any edge $X \rightarrow Y$ represented as a pushout square

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X_0 & \longrightarrow & X_1 \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ Y_0 & \longrightarrow & Y_1 \end{array}$$

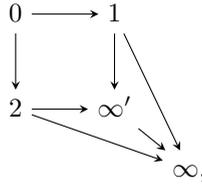
in which $X_0 \rightarrow Y_0$ and thus also $X_1 \rightarrow Y_1$ are ingressive.

Let us compare this definition to our more concrete one outlined above it. To this end, we need a bit of notation.

NOTATION 5.7. Let us denote by \mathcal{R} the pair of ∞ -categories whose underlying ∞ -category is

$$(\Delta^1 \times (\Lambda_0^2)^{\triangleright}) / (\Delta^1 \times \Lambda_0^2),$$

which may be drawn



in which only the edges $0 \twoheadrightarrow 1$, $2 \twoheadrightarrow \infty$, and $2 \twoheadrightarrow \infty'$ are ingressive. In the notation of 2.8, there is an obvious strict inclusion of pairs $\Lambda_0 \mathcal{Q}^2 \hookrightarrow \mathcal{R}$, and there are two strict inclusions of pairs

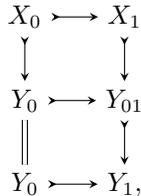
$$\mathcal{Q}^2 \cong \mathcal{Q}^2 \times \Delta^{\{0\}} \hookrightarrow \mathcal{R} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{Q}^2 \cong \mathcal{Q}^2 \times \Delta^{\{1\}} \hookrightarrow \mathcal{R}.$$

LEMMA 5.8. *Suppose that \mathcal{C} is a Waldhausen ∞ -category. Then a morphism $f: X \rightarrow Y$ of $\mathcal{F}_1(\mathcal{C})$ is ingressive just in case the morphism $X_0 \rightarrow Y_0$ is ingressive and the corresponding square*

$$F: \mathcal{Q}^2 \cong (\Delta^1)^{\flat} \times (\Delta^1)^{\sharp} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$$

has the property that for any diagram $\overline{F}: \mathcal{R} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ such that $\overline{F}|_{\mathcal{Q}^2 \times \Delta^{\{0\}}}$ is a pushout square, and $F = \overline{F}|_{\mathcal{Q}^2 \times \Delta^{\{1\}}}$, the edge $\overline{F}(\infty') \rightarrow \overline{F}(\infty)$ is ingressive.

Proof. An easy argument shows that morphisms with this property form a subcategory of $\mathcal{F}_1(\mathcal{C})$, and it is clear that morphisms of either type (Definition 5.6.1) or of type (Definition 5.6.2) enjoy this property. Consequently, every ingressive morphism enjoys this property. On the other hand, a morphism $X \rightarrow Y$ that enjoys this property can clearly be factored as $X \rightarrow Y' \rightarrow Y$, where $X \rightarrow Y'$ is of type (Definition 5.6.2), and $Y' \rightarrow Y$ is of type (Definition 5.6.1), viz.:



where the top square is a pushout square and $Y_{01} \twoheadrightarrow Y_1$ is ingressive. □

DEFINITION 5.9. Now suppose $\mathcal{X} \rightarrow S$ a Waldhausen cocartesian fibration. We endow the ∞ -category $\mathcal{F}(\mathcal{X}/S)$ with the following pair structure. Let $\mathcal{F}(\mathcal{X}/S)_{\dagger} \subset \mathcal{F}(\mathcal{X}/S)$ be the smallest pair structure containing any edge $f: \Delta^1 \rightarrow \mathcal{F}(\mathcal{X}/S)$ covering a degenerate edge $\text{id}_{(\mathbf{m},s)}$ of $N\Delta^{\text{op}} \times S$ such that for any edge $\eta: \Delta^1 \rightarrow \Delta^m$, the edge

$$\Delta^1 \xrightarrow{f} \mathcal{F}_m(\mathcal{X}_s) \xrightarrow{\eta^*} \mathcal{F}_1(\mathcal{X}_s)$$

is ingressive in the sense of Definition 5.6.

LEMMA 5.10. *Suppose that \mathcal{C} is a Waldhausen ∞ -category. Then a morphism $f: X \rightarrow Y$ of $\mathcal{F}_m(\mathcal{C})$ is ingressive just in case, for any integer $1 \leq i \leq m$, the restricted morphism $X|_{(\Delta^{\{i-1,i\}})^{\sharp}} \rightarrow Y|_{(\Delta^{\{i-1,i\}})^{\sharp}}$ is ingressive in $\mathcal{F}_{\{i-1,i\}}(\mathcal{C}_s)$.*

Proof. Suppose that f satisfies this condition. It is immediate that every morphism $X_i \rightarrow Y_i$ is ingressive, so we can regard f as an m -simplex $\sigma: \Delta^m \rightarrow \mathcal{F}_1(\mathcal{C})$. By Lemma 5.8, this condition is equivalent to the condition that each edge $\sigma|_{\Delta^{i-1,i}}$ is ingressive, and since ingressive edges are closed under composition, it follows that every edge $\sigma|_{\Delta^{\{i,j\}}}$ is ingressive. \square

PROPOSITION 5.11. *Suppose that $p: \mathcal{X} \rightarrow S$ is a Waldhausen cocartesian fibration. Then with the pair structure of Definition 5.6, the functor*

$$\mathcal{F}(\mathcal{X}/S) \rightarrow N\Delta^{\text{op}} \times S$$

is a Waldhausen cocartesian fibration.

Proof. It is easy to see that $\mathcal{F}(\mathcal{X}/S) \rightarrow N\Delta^{\text{op}} \times S$ is a pair cocartesian fibration.

We claim that for any vertex $(\mathbf{m}, s) \in N\Delta^{\text{op}} \times S$, the pair $\mathcal{F}_m(\mathcal{X}_s)$ is a Waldhausen ∞ -category. Note that since \mathcal{X}_s admits a zero object, so does $\mathcal{F}_m(\mathcal{X}_s)$. For the remaining two axioms, one reduces immediately to the case where $m = 1$. Then Definition 2.7(2) follows from Definition 5.6(1) among ingressive morphisms. To prove Definition 2.7(3), one may note that cofibrations of $\mathcal{F}_1(\mathcal{X}_s)$ are, in particular, ingressive morphisms of $\mathcal{O}(\mathcal{C})$, for which the existence of pushouts is clear. Finally, to prove Definition 2.7(4), it suffices to see that a pushout of any edge of either of the classes Definition 5.6(1) or Definition 5.6(2) is of the same class. For the class Definition 5.6(1), this follows from the fact that pushouts in $\mathcal{F}_1(\mathcal{X}_s)$ are computed pointwise. A pushout of a morphism of the class (Definition 5.6(2)) is a cube

$$X: (\Delta^1)^{\flat} \times (\Delta^1)^{\sharp} \times (\Delta^1)^{\sharp} \rightarrow \mathcal{X}_s$$

in which the faces

$$X|_{\Delta^{\{0\}} \times (\Delta^1)^{\sharp} \times (\Delta^1)^{\sharp}}, \quad X|_{(\Delta^1)^{\flat} \times \Delta^{\{0\}} \times (\Delta^1)^{\sharp}}, \quad \text{and} \quad X|_{(\Delta^1)^{\flat} \times \Delta^{\{1\}} \times (\Delta^1)^{\sharp}}$$

are all pushouts. If X is represented by the commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} & & X_{100} & \longrightarrow & X_{101} \\ & \nearrow & \downarrow & & \nearrow \\ X_{000} & \longrightarrow & X_{001} & & \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ & & X_{110} & \longrightarrow & X_{111} \\ \downarrow & \nearrow & \downarrow & \nearrow & \\ X_{010} & \longrightarrow & X_{011} & & \end{array}$$

then the front face, the top face, and the bottom face are all pushouts. By Quetzalcoatl (for example, by [42, Lemma 4.4.2.1]), the back face $X|_{\Delta^{\{1\}} \times (\Delta^1)^{\flat} \times (\Delta^1)^{\sharp}}$ must be a pushout as well; this is precisely the claim that the pushout is of the class (Definition 5.6.2).

For any $\mathbf{m} \in \Delta$ and any edge $f: s \rightarrow t$ of S , since the functor $f_{\mathcal{X},!}: \mathcal{X}_s \rightarrow \mathcal{X}_t$ is exact, it follows directly that the functor

$$f_{\mathcal{F},!}: \mathcal{F}_m(\mathcal{X}_s) \rightarrow \mathcal{F}_m(\mathcal{X}_t)$$

is exact as well. Now for any fixed vertex $s \in S_0$ and any simplicial operator $\phi: \mathbf{n} \rightarrow \mathbf{m}$ of Δ , the functor

$$\phi_{\mathcal{F},!}: \mathcal{F}_m(\mathcal{X}_s) \rightarrow \mathcal{F}_n(\mathcal{X}_s)$$

visibly carries ingressive morphisms to ingressive morphisms, and it preserves zero objects as well as any pushouts that exist, since limits and colimits are formed pointwise. \square

PROPOSITION 5.16. *Suppose that \mathcal{C} is a Waldhausen ∞ -category. For any integer $m \geq 0$, the 0 th face map defines an equivalence of ∞ -categories*

$$\mathcal{S}_{1+m}(\mathcal{C}) \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathcal{F}_m(\mathcal{C}),$$

and the map $\mathcal{S}_0(\mathcal{C}) \rightarrow \Delta^0$ is an equivalence.

Proof. It follows from Joyal’s theorem [42, Proposition 1.2.12.9] that the natural functor $\mathcal{S}_{1+m}(\mathcal{C}) \rightarrow \mathcal{F}_m(\mathcal{C})$ is a left fibration whose fibers are contractible Kan complexes—hence a trivial fibration. □

As \mathbf{m} varies, the functoriality of $\mathcal{S}_m(\mathcal{X})$ is, as we have observed, traditionally a matter of some consternation, as the functors involve various (homotopy) quotients, which are not uniquely defined on the nose. We all share the intuition that the uniqueness of these quotients is good enough for all practical purposes and that the coherence issues that appear to arise are mere technical issues. The theory of cocartesian fibrations allows us to make this intuition honest.

In Theorem 5.21, we will show that, for any Waldhausen cocartesian fibration $\mathcal{X} \rightarrow S$, the functor $\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{X}/S) \rightarrow N\Delta^{\text{op}} \times S$ is a Waldhausen cocartesian fibration. Let us reflect on what this means when $S = \Delta^0$; in this case, \mathcal{X} is just a Waldhausen ∞ -category. An edge $X \rightarrow Y$ of $\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{X})$ that covers an edge given by a morphism $\eta: \mathbf{m} \rightarrow \mathbf{n}$ of Δ is by definition a commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} X_{\eta(0)} & \twoheadrightarrow & X_{\eta(1)} & \twoheadrightarrow & \cdots & \twoheadrightarrow & X_{\eta(m)} \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow & & & & \downarrow \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & Y_1 & \longrightarrow & \cdots & \longrightarrow & Y_m. \end{array}$$

To say that $X \rightarrow Y$ is a cocartesian edge over η is to say that Y is initial among totally filtered objects under η^*X . This is equivalent to the demand that each of the squares above must be pushout squares, that is, that $Y_k \simeq X_{\eta(k)}/X_{\eta(0)}$. So, if $\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{C}) \rightarrow N\Delta^{\text{op}}$ is a Waldhausen cocartesian fibration, then the functor $\mathbf{S}_*: N\Delta^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Wald}_\infty$ that classifies it works exactly as Waldhausen’s S_\bullet construction: it carries an object $\mathbf{m} \in N\Delta^{\text{op}}$ to the Waldhausen ∞ -category $\mathbf{S}_m(\mathcal{C})$ of totally filtered objects of length, and it carries a morphism $\eta: \mathbf{m} \rightarrow \mathbf{n}$ of Δ to the exact functor $\mathbf{S}_n(\mathcal{C}) \rightarrow \mathbf{S}_m(\mathcal{C})$ given by

$$[X_0 \twoheadrightarrow X_1 \twoheadrightarrow \cdots \twoheadrightarrow X_n] \mapsto [0 \twoheadrightarrow X_{\eta(1)}/X_{\eta(0)} \twoheadrightarrow \cdots \twoheadrightarrow X_{\eta(m)}/X_{\eta(0)}].$$

In other words, the *data* of the ∞ -categorical S_\bullet construction are already before us; we just need to confirm that it works as desired.

To prove Theorem 5.21, it turns out to be convenient to study the ‘mapping cylinder’ $\mathcal{M}(\mathcal{X}/S)$ of the inclusion functor $\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{X}/S) \hookrightarrow \mathcal{F}(\mathcal{X}/S)$. We will discover that this inclusion admits a left adjoint, and then we will use this left adjoint to complete the proof of Theorem 5.21.

NOTATION 5.17. For any Waldhausen cocartesian fibration $\mathcal{X} \rightarrow S$, let us write $\mathcal{M}(\mathcal{X}/S)$ for the full subcategory of $\Delta^1 \times \mathcal{F}(\mathcal{X}/S)$ spanned by those pairs (i, X) such that X is totally filtered if $i = 1$. This ∞ -category comes equipped with an inner fibration

$$\mathcal{M}(\mathcal{X}/S) \rightarrow \Delta^1 \times N\Delta^{\text{op}} \times S.$$

Define a pair structure on $\mathcal{M}(\mathcal{X}/S)$ so that it is a subpair of $(\Delta^1)^\flat \times \mathcal{F}(\mathcal{X}/S)$; that is, let $\mathcal{M}(\mathcal{X}/S)_\dagger \subset \mathcal{M}(\mathcal{X}/S)$ be the subcategory whose edges are maps $(i, X) \rightarrow (j, Y)$ such that $i = j$ and $X \rightarrow Y$ is an ingressive morphism of $\mathcal{F}(\mathcal{X}/S)$.

Our first lemma is obvious by construction.

LEMMA 5.18. *For any Waldhausen cocartesian fibration $\mathcal{X} \rightarrow S$, the natural projection $\mathcal{M}(\mathcal{X}/S) \rightarrow \Delta^1$ is a pair cartesian fibration.*

Our next lemma, however, is subtler.

LEMMA 5.19. *For any Waldhausen cocartesian fibration $\mathcal{X} \rightarrow S$, the natural projection $\mathcal{M}(\mathcal{X}/S) \rightarrow \Delta^1$ is a pair cocartesian fibration.*

Proof. By [42, 2.4.1.3(3)], it suffices to show that, for any vertex $(\mathbf{m}, s) \in (N\Delta^{\text{op}} \times S)_0$, the inner fibration

$$q: \mathcal{M}_m(\mathcal{X}_s) \rightarrow \Delta^1$$

is a pair cocartesian fibration. Note that an edge $X \rightarrow Y$ of $\mathcal{M}_m(\mathcal{X}_s)$ covering the nondegenerate edge σ of Δ^1 is q -cocartesian if and only if it is an initial object of the fiber $\mathcal{M}_m(\mathcal{X}_s)_{X/} \times_{\Delta^1_{\sigma/}} \{\sigma\}$. If $m = 0$, then the map

$$\mathcal{M}_0(\mathcal{X}_s)_{X/} \rightarrow \Delta^1_{\sigma/}$$

is a trivial fibration [42, Proposition 1.2.12.9], so the fiber over σ is a contractible Kan complex. Let us now induct on m ; assume that $m > 0$ and that the functor $p: \mathcal{M}_{m-1}(\mathcal{X}_s) \rightarrow \Delta^1$ is a cocartesian fibration. It is easy to see that the inclusion $\{0, 1, \dots, m-1\} \hookrightarrow \mathbf{m}$ induces an inner fibration $\phi: \mathcal{M}_m(\mathcal{X}_s) \rightarrow \mathcal{M}_{m-1}(\mathcal{X}_s)$ such that $q = p \circ \phi$. Again by [42, 2.4.1.3(3)], it suffices to show that for any object X of $\mathcal{M}_m(\mathcal{X}_s)$ and any p -cocartesian edge $\eta: \phi(X) \rightarrow Y'$ covering σ , there exists a ϕ -cocartesian edge $X \rightarrow Y$ of $\mathcal{M}_m(\mathcal{X}_s)$ covering η . But this follows directly from Definition 2.7.3.

We now show that q is a pair cocartesian fibration. Suppose that

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X' & \longrightarrow & X \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ Y' & \longrightarrow & Y \end{array}$$

is a square of $\mathcal{M}_m(\mathcal{X}_s)$ in which $X' \rightarrow X$ and $Y' \rightarrow Y$ are q -cocartesian morphisms and $X \rightarrow Y$ is ingressive. We aim to show that, for any edge $\eta: \Delta^{\{p,q\}} \rightarrow \Delta^m$, the morphism $X'|_{\Delta^{\{p,q\}}} \rightarrow Y'|_{\Delta^{\{p,q\}}}$ is ingressive. For this, we may factor $X \rightarrow Y$ as

$$X \twoheadrightarrow Z \twoheadrightarrow Y,$$

where $Z|_{\Delta^{\{0,\dots,p\}}} = Y|_{\Delta^{\{0,\dots,p\}}}$, and for any $r > p$, the edge $X|_{\Delta^{\{p,r\}}} \rightarrow Z|_{\Delta^{\{p,r\}}}$ is cocartesian. Now choose a cocartesian morphism $Z' \rightarrow Z$ as well. The proof is now completed by the following observations.

- (1) Since the morphism $X|_{\Delta^{\{p,q\}}} \rightarrow Z|_{\Delta^{\{p,q\}}}$ is of the type Definition 5.6(2), it follows by Quetzalcoatl that the morphism $X'|_{\Delta^{\{p,q\}}} \rightarrow Z'|_{\Delta^{\{p,q\}}}$ is of type Definition 5.6(2) as well.
- (2) The morphism $Z|_{\Delta^{\{p,q\}}} \rightarrow Y|_{\Delta^{\{p,q\}}}$ is of type Definition 5.6(1) and the morphism $Z'_p \rightarrow X'_p$ is an equivalence; so again by Quetzalcoatl, the morphism $Z'|_{\Delta^{\{p,q\}}} \rightarrow Y'|_{\Delta^{\{p,q\}}}$ is of type Definition 5.6(1). \square

NOTATION 5.20. Together, these lemmas state that for any Waldhausen cocartesian fibration $\mathcal{X} \rightarrow S$, the functor $\mathcal{M}(\mathcal{X}/S) \rightarrow \Delta^1$ exhibits an adjunction of ∞ -categories

[42, Definition 5.2.2.1]

$$F: \mathcal{F}(\mathcal{X}/S) \rightleftarrows \mathcal{S}(\mathcal{X}/S): J$$

over $N\Delta^{\text{op}} \times S$ in which both F and J are functors of pairs. In particular, for any integer $m \geq 0$ and any vertex $s \in S_0$, the fiber $\mathcal{M}_m(\mathcal{X}_s) \rightarrow \Delta^1$ over (\mathbf{m}, s) also exhibits an adjunction

$$F_m: \mathcal{F}_m(\mathcal{X}_s) \rightleftarrows \mathcal{S}(\mathcal{X}_s): J_m.$$

Let us unravel this a bit. Assume $S = \Delta^0$. The functor J is the functor of pairs specified by the edge $\Delta^1 \rightarrow \mathbf{Pair}_\infty$ that classifies the cartesian fibration $\mathcal{M}(\mathcal{X}) \rightarrow \Delta^1$. By construction, this is a forgetful functor: it carries a totally filtered object of \mathcal{X} to its underlying filtered object. The functor F is the functor of pairs specified by the edge $\Delta^1 \rightarrow \mathbf{Pair}_\infty$ that classifies the cocartesian fibration $\mathcal{M}(\mathcal{X}) \rightarrow \Delta^1$, and it is much more interesting: it carries a filtered object X represented as

$$X_0 \twoheadrightarrow X_1 \twoheadrightarrow \cdots \twoheadrightarrow X_m$$

to the totally filtered object FX that is initial among all totally filtered objects under X ; in other words, FX is the quotient of X by X_0 :

$$0 \simeq X_0/X_0 \twoheadrightarrow X_1/X_0 \twoheadrightarrow \cdots \twoheadrightarrow X_m/X_0.$$

This functor F is a cornerstone for the following result:

THEOREM 5.21. *Suppose that $\mathcal{X} \rightarrow S$ is a Waldhausen cocartesian fibration. Then the functor*

$$\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{X}/S) \rightarrow N\Delta^{\text{op}} \times S$$

is a Waldhausen cocartesian fibration.

Proof. We first show that the functor $\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{X}/S) \rightarrow N\Delta^{\text{op}} \times S$ is a cocartesian fibration by proving the stronger assertion that the inner fibration

$$p: \mathcal{M}(\mathcal{X}/S) \rightarrow \Delta^1 \times N\Delta^{\text{op}} \times S$$

is a cocartesian fibration. By Proposition 5.11, the map

$$\Delta^{\{0\}} \times_{\Delta^1} \mathcal{M}(\mathcal{X}/S) \rightarrow \Delta^{\{0\}} \times N\Delta^{\text{op}} \times S \tag{5.1}$$

is a cocartesian fibration. By Lemma 5.19, for any vertex $(\mathbf{m}, s) \in (N\Delta^{\text{op}} \times S)_0$, the map

$$\mathcal{M}(\mathcal{X}/S) \times_{N\Delta^{\text{op}} \times S} \{(\mathbf{m}, s)\} \rightarrow \Delta^1 \times \{(\mathbf{m}, s)\} \tag{5.2}$$

is a cocartesian fibration. Finally, for any $\mathbf{m} \in \Delta$ and any edge $f: s \rightarrow t$ of S , the functor $f_1: \mathcal{X}_s \rightarrow \mathcal{X}_t$ carries zero objects to zero objects; consequently, any cocartesian edge of $\mathcal{F}(\mathcal{X}/S)$ that covers $(\text{id}_{\mathbf{m}}, f)$ lies in $\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{X}/S)$ if and only if its source does. Thus the map

$$(\Delta^{\{1\}} \times \{\mathbf{m}\}) \times_{\Delta^1 \times N\Delta^{\text{op}}} \mathcal{M}(\mathcal{X}/S) \rightarrow \Delta^{\{1\}} \times \{\mathbf{m}\} \times S$$

is a cocartesian fibration.

Now to complete the proof that p is a cocartesian fibration, thanks to [42, 2.4.1.3(3)] it remains to show that for any vertex $s \in S_0$, any simplicial operator $\phi: \mathbf{n} \rightarrow \mathbf{m}$, and any totally m -filtered object X of \mathcal{X}_s , there exists a p -cartesian morphism $(1, X) \rightarrow (1, Y)$ of $\mathcal{F}(\mathcal{X}/S)$ covering $(\text{id}_1, \phi, \text{id}_s)$. Write σ for the nondegenerate edge of Δ^1 . The p -cartesian edge $e: (0, X) \rightarrow (1, X)$ covering $(\sigma, \text{id}_{\mathbf{m}}, \text{id}_s)$ is also p -cocartesian. Since (5.1) is a cocartesian fibration, there exists a p -cocartesian edge $\eta': (0, X) \rightarrow (0, Y')$ covering $(\text{id}_0, \phi, \text{id}_s)$. Since (5.2) is a cocartesian fibration, there exists a p -cocartesian edge $e': (0, Y') \rightarrow (1, Y)$ covering

$(\sigma, \text{id}_{\mathbf{n}}, \text{id}_s)$. Since e is p -cocartesian, we have a diagram

$$\Delta^1 \times \Delta^1 \longrightarrow \mathcal{M}(\mathcal{X}/S) \times_S \{s\}$$

of the form

$$\begin{array}{ccc} (0, X) & \xrightarrow{\eta'} & (0, Y') \\ e \downarrow & & \downarrow e' \\ (1, X) & \xrightarrow{\eta} & (1, Y). \end{array}$$

It follows from [42, 2.4.1.7] that η is p -cocartesian.

From Propositions 5.16 and 5.11 it follows that the fibers of $\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{X}/S) \rightarrow N\Delta^{\text{op}} \times S$ are all Waldhausen ∞ -categories. For any $\mathbf{m} \in \Delta$ and any edge $f: s \rightarrow t$ of S , the functor $f_{\mathcal{X},!}: \mathcal{X}_s \rightarrow \mathcal{X}_t$ is exact, whence it follows by Proposition 5.16 that the functor

$$f_{\mathcal{S},!}: \mathcal{S}_m(\mathcal{X}_s) \simeq \text{Fun}_{\mathbf{Pair}\infty}((\Delta^{m-1})^\sharp, \mathcal{X}_s) \longrightarrow \text{Fun}_{\mathbf{Pair}\infty}((\Delta^{m-1})^\sharp, \mathcal{X}_t) \simeq \mathcal{S}_m(\mathcal{X}_t)$$

is exact, just as in the proof of Proposition 5.11. Now for any fixed vertex $s \in S_0$ and any simplicial operator $\phi: \mathbf{n} \rightarrow \mathbf{m}$ of Δ , the functor $\phi_{\mathcal{S},!}: \mathcal{S}_m(\mathcal{X}_s) \rightarrow \mathcal{S}_n(\mathcal{X}_s)$ is by construction the composite

$$\mathcal{S}_m(\mathcal{X}_s) \xrightarrow{J_{m,s}} \mathcal{F}_m(\mathcal{X}_s) \xrightarrow{\phi_{\mathcal{F},!}} \mathcal{F}_n(\mathcal{X}_s) \xrightarrow{F_{n,s}} \mathcal{S}_n(\mathcal{X}_s),$$

and as $\phi_{\mathcal{F},!}$ is an exact functor (Proposition 5.11), we are reduced to checking that the functors of pairs $J_{m,s}$ and $F_{n,s}$ are each exact functors.

For this, it is clear that $J_{m,s}$ and $F_{n,s}$ each carry zero objects to zero objects, and as $F_{n,s}$ is a left adjoint, it preserves any pushout squares that exist in $\mathcal{F}_n(\mathcal{X}_s)$. Moreover, a pushout square in $\mathcal{S}_m(\mathcal{X}_s)$ is nothing more than a pushout square in $\mathcal{F}_m(\mathcal{X}_s)$ of totally m -filtered objects; hence, $J_{m,s}$ preserves pushouts along ingressive morphisms. \square

For any Waldhausen cocartesian fibration $\mathcal{X} \rightarrow S$, write

$$\mathbf{S}_*(\mathcal{X}/S): N\Delta^{\text{op}} \times S \longrightarrow \mathbf{Wald}_\infty$$

for the diagram of Waldhausen ∞ -categories that classifies the Waldhausen cocartesian fibration $\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{X}/S) \rightarrow N\Delta^{\text{op}} \times S$, and, similarly, write

$$\mathbf{F}_*(\mathcal{X}/S): N\Delta^{\text{op}} \times S \longrightarrow \mathbf{Wald}_\infty$$

for the diagram of Waldhausen ∞ -categories that classifies the Waldhausen cocartesian fibration $\mathcal{F}(\mathcal{X}/S) \rightarrow N\Delta^{\text{op}} \times S$. An instant consequence of the construction of the functoriality of \mathcal{S} in the proof above is the following.

COROLLARY 5.22. *The functors $F_m: \mathcal{F}_m(\mathcal{X}/S) \rightarrow \mathcal{S}_m(\mathcal{X}/S)$ assemble to a morphism $F: \mathcal{F}(\mathcal{X}/S) \rightarrow \mathcal{S}(\mathcal{X}/S)$ of $\mathbf{Wald}_{\infty/N\Delta^{\text{op}} \times S}^{\text{cocart}}$, or, equivalently, a natural transformation*

$$F: \mathbf{F}_*(\mathcal{X}/S) \longrightarrow \mathbf{S}_*(\mathcal{X}/S).$$

Note, however, that it is *not* the case that the functors J_m assemble to a natural transformation of this kind.

Virtual Waldhausen ∞ -categories of filtered objects

Thanks to Proposition 3.20, the assignments

$$(\mathcal{X}/S) \mapsto (\mathcal{F}(\mathcal{X}/S)/(N\Delta^{\text{op}} \times S)) \quad \text{and} \quad (\mathcal{X}/S) \mapsto (\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{X}/S)/(N\Delta^{\text{op}} \times S))$$

define endofunctors of $\mathbf{Wald}_\infty^{\text{cocart}}$ over the endofunctor $S \mapsto N\Delta^{\text{op}} \times S$ of \mathbf{Cat}_∞ . We now aim to descend these functors to endofunctors of the ∞ -category of virtual Waldhausen ∞ -categories.

LEMMA 5.23. *The functors $\mathbf{Wald}_\infty \rightarrow \mathbf{Wald}_{\infty/N\Delta^{\text{op}}}^{\text{cocart}}$ given by*

$$\mathcal{C} \mapsto (\mathcal{F}(\mathcal{C})/N\Delta^{\text{op}}) \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{C} \mapsto (\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{C})/N\Delta^{\text{op}})$$

each preserve filtered colimits.

Proof. By Corollary 3.28, it is enough to check the claim fiberwise. The assignment $\mathcal{C} \mapsto \mathcal{S}_0(\mathcal{C})$ is an essentially constant functor whose values are all terminal objects; hence, since filtered simplicial sets are weakly contractible, this functor preserves filtered colimits. We are now reduced to the claim that for any natural number m , the assignment $\mathcal{C} \mapsto \mathcal{F}_m(\mathcal{C})$ defines a functor $\mathbf{Wald}_\infty \rightarrow \mathbf{Wald}_\infty$ that preserves filtered colimits.

Suppose now that Λ is a filtered simplicial set; by [42, Proposition 5.3.1.16], we may assume that Λ is the nerve of a filtered poset. Suppose that $\mathcal{C}: \Lambda^\triangleright \rightarrow \mathbf{Wald}_\infty$ is a colimit diagram of Waldhausen ∞ -categories. Let $\widetilde{\mathcal{F}}_m(\mathcal{C}): \Lambda^\triangleright \rightarrow \mathbf{Pair}_\infty$ be a colimit diagram such that $\widetilde{\mathcal{F}}_m(\mathcal{C})|_\Lambda = \mathcal{F}_m(\mathcal{C})|_\Lambda$. By Proposition 4.9, we are reduced to showing that the natural functor of pairs

$$\nu: \widetilde{\mathcal{F}}_m(\mathcal{C})_\infty \rightarrow \mathcal{F}_m(\mathcal{C}_\infty)$$

is an equivalence. Indeed, ν induces an equivalence of the underlying ∞ -categories, since $(\Delta^m)^\sharp \times (\Delta^n)^\flat$ is a compact object of \mathbf{Pair}_∞ (Example 4.7); hence it remains to show that ν is a strict functor of pairs. For this it suffices to show that for any ingressive morphism $\psi: X \rightarrow Y$ of $\mathcal{F}_m(\mathcal{C}_\infty)$, there exists a vertex $\alpha \in \Lambda$ and an edge $\bar{\psi}: \bar{X} \rightarrow \bar{Y}$ of $\mathcal{F}_m(\mathcal{C}_\alpha)$ lifting ψ . It is enough to assume that $m = 1$ and to show that ψ is either of type Definition 5.6.1 or of type Definition 5.6.2. That is, we may assume that ψ is represented by a square

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X & \longrightarrow & Y \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ X' & \longrightarrow & Y' \end{array} \tag{5.3}$$

of ingressive morphisms such that either $X \rightarrow X'$ is an equivalence or else the square (5.3) is a pushout. Since $(\Delta^1)^\sharp \times (\Delta^1)^\flat$ is compact in \mathbf{Pair}_∞ (Example 4.7), a square of ingressive morphisms of the form (5.3) must lift to a square of ingressive morphisms

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \bar{X} & \longrightarrow & \bar{Y} \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \bar{X}' & \longrightarrow & \bar{Y}' \end{array} \tag{5.4}$$

of \mathcal{C}_α for some vertex $\alpha \in \Lambda$. Now the argument is completed by the following brace of observations.

- (2) If $X \rightarrow X'$ is an equivalence, then, increasing α if necessary, we may assume that its lift $\bar{X} \rightarrow \bar{X}'$ in \mathcal{C}_α is an equivalence as well, since, for example, the pushout

$$\Delta^3 \sqcup (\Delta^{\{0,2\}} \sqcup \Delta^{\{1,3\}}) \quad (\Delta^0 \sqcup \Delta^0)$$

is compact in the Joyal model structure; hence, it represents an ingressive morphism of type Definition 5.6.1 of $\mathcal{F}_1(\mathcal{C}_\alpha)$.

- (2) If (5.3) is a pushout, then one may form the pushout of $\overline{X}' \leftarrow \overline{X} \rightarrow \overline{Y}$ in \mathcal{C}_α . Since $\mathcal{C}_\alpha \rightarrow \mathcal{C}_\infty$ preserves such pushouts, we may assume that (5.4) is a pushout square in \mathcal{C}_α ; hence, it represents an ingressive morphism of type Definition 5.6.2 of $\mathcal{F}_1(\mathcal{C}_\alpha)$. \square

CONSTRUCTION 5.24. One may compose the functors

$$\mathcal{F} : \mathbf{Wald}_\infty \rightarrow \mathbf{Wald}_{\infty, /N\Delta^{\text{op}}} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{S} : \mathbf{Wald}_\infty \rightarrow \mathbf{Wald}_{\infty, /N\Delta^{\text{op}}}$$

with the realization functor $|\cdot|_{N\Delta^{\text{op}}}$ of Definition 4.30; the results are models for the functors $\mathbf{Wald}_\infty \rightarrow \mathbf{D}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty)$ that assign to any Waldhausen ∞ -category \mathcal{C} the formal geometric realizations of the simplicial Waldhausen ∞ -categories $\mathbf{F}_*(\mathcal{C})$ and $\mathbf{S}_*(\mathcal{C})$ that classify $\mathcal{F}(\mathcal{C})$ and $\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{C})$. In particular, these composites

$$|\mathbf{F}_*|_{N\Delta^{\text{op}}}, |\mathbf{S}_*|_{N\Delta^{\text{op}}} : \mathbf{Wald}_\infty \rightarrow \mathbf{D}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty)$$

each preserve filtered colimits, whence one may form their left derived functors (Definition 4.23), which we will abusively also denote \mathcal{F} and \mathcal{S} . These are the essentially unique endofunctors of $\mathbf{D}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty)$ that preserve sifted colimits such that the squares

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathbf{Wald}_\infty & \xrightarrow{\mathcal{F}} & \mathbf{Wald}_{\infty, /N\Delta^{\text{op}}}^{\text{cocart}} \\ \downarrow j & & \downarrow |\cdot|_{N\Delta^{\text{op}}} \\ \mathbf{D}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty) & \xrightarrow{\mathcal{F}} & \mathbf{D}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty) \end{array} \quad \text{and} \quad \begin{array}{ccc} \mathbf{Wald}_\infty & \xrightarrow{\mathcal{S}} & \mathbf{Wald}_{\infty, /N\Delta^{\text{op}}}^{\text{cocart}} \\ \downarrow j & & \downarrow |\cdot|_{N\Delta^{\text{op}}} \\ \mathbf{D}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty) & \xrightarrow{\mathcal{S}} & \mathbf{D}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty) \end{array}$$

commute via a specified homotopy.

Also note that the natural transformation F from Corollary 5.22 descends further to a natural transformation $F : \mathcal{F} \rightarrow \mathcal{S}$ of endofunctors of $\mathbf{D}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty)$.

As it happens, the functor $\mathcal{F} : \mathbf{D}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty) \rightarrow \mathbf{D}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty)$ is not particularly exciting:

PROPOSITION 5.25. *For any virtual Waldhausen ∞ -category \mathcal{X} , the virtual Waldhausen ∞ -category $\mathcal{F}(\mathcal{X})$ is the zero object.*

Proof. For any Waldhausen ∞ -category \mathcal{C} , the virtual Waldhausen ∞ -category $|\mathcal{F}(\mathcal{C})|_{N\Delta^{\text{op}}}$ is by definition a functor $\mathbf{Wald}_\infty^\omega \rightarrow \mathbf{Kan}$ that assigns to any compact Waldhausen ∞ -category \mathcal{Y} the geometric realization of the simplicial space

$$\mathbf{m} \mapsto \mathbf{Wald}_\infty^\Delta(\mathcal{Y}, \mathcal{F}_m(\mathcal{C})).$$

By Proposition 5.16, this simplicial space is the path space of the simplicial space

$$\mathbf{m} \mapsto \mathbf{Wald}_\infty^\Delta(\mathcal{Y}, \mathcal{S}_m(\mathcal{C})). \quad \square$$

For any Waldhausen ∞ -category \mathcal{C} , we have a natural morphism $\mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{F}(\mathcal{C})$ in $\mathbf{D}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty)$, which is induced by the inclusion of the fiber over 0. The previous result now entitles us to regard the virtual Waldhausen ∞ -category $\mathcal{F}(\mathcal{C})$ as a cone on \mathcal{C} . With this perspective, in the next section, we will end up thinking of the induced morphism $F : \mathcal{F}(\mathcal{C}) \rightarrow \mathcal{S}(\mathcal{C})$ induced by the functor F as the quotient of $\mathcal{F}(\mathcal{C})$ by \mathcal{C} , thereby identifying $\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{C})$ as a suspension of \mathcal{C} in a suitable localization of $\mathbf{D}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty)$.

The fact that the extensions \mathcal{F} and \mathcal{S} to $\mathbf{D}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty)$ preserve sifted colimits now easily implies the following.

PROPOSITION 5.26. *If S is a small sifted ∞ -category, then the squares*

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \mathbf{Wald}_{\infty, /S}^{\text{cocart}} & \xrightarrow{\mathcal{F}} & \mathbf{Wald}_{\infty, /N\Delta^{\text{op}} \times S}^{\text{cocart}} \\
 \downarrow |\cdot|_S & & \downarrow |\cdot|_{N\Delta^{\text{op}} \times S} \\
 \mathbf{D}(\mathbf{Wald}_{\infty}) & \xrightarrow{\mathcal{F}} & \mathbf{D}(\mathbf{Wald}_{\infty})
 \end{array}
 \quad \text{and} \quad
 \begin{array}{ccc}
 \mathbf{Wald}_{\infty, /S}^{\text{cocart}} & \xrightarrow{\mathcal{S}} & \mathbf{Wald}_{\infty, /N\Delta^{\text{op}} \times S}^{\text{cocart}} \\
 \downarrow |\cdot|_S & & \downarrow |\cdot|_{N\Delta^{\text{op}} \times S} \\
 \mathbf{D}(\mathbf{Wald}_{\infty}) & \xrightarrow{\mathcal{S}} & \mathbf{D}(\mathbf{Wald}_{\infty})
 \end{array}$$

commute via a specified homotopy.

Of course, this is no surprise for $\mathcal{F}: \mathbf{D}(\mathbf{Wald}_{\infty}) \rightarrow \mathbf{D}(\mathbf{Wald}_{\infty})$, as we have already seen that \mathcal{F} is constant at zero.

6. *The fissile derived ∞ -category of Waldhausen ∞ -categories*

A functor $\phi: \mathbf{Wald}_{\infty} \rightarrow \mathbf{Kan}$ may be described and studied through its left derived functor (Definition 4.23)

$$\Phi: \mathbf{D}(\mathbf{Wald}_{\infty}) \rightarrow \mathbf{Kan}.$$

In this section, we construct a somewhat peculiar localization $\mathbf{D}_{\text{fiss}}(\mathbf{Wald}_{\infty})$ of the ∞ -category $\mathbf{D}(\mathbf{Wald}_{\infty})$ on which the functor $\mathcal{S}: \mathbf{D}(\mathbf{Wald}_{\infty}) \rightarrow \mathbf{D}(\mathbf{Wald}_{\infty})$ constructed in the previous section can be identified as the suspension (Corollary 6.12). In the next section we will use this to show that ϕ is *additive* in the sense of Waldhausen just in case Φ factors through an excisive functor on $\mathbf{D}_{\text{fiss}}(\mathbf{Wald}_{\infty})$ (Theorem 7.4).

Fissile virtual Waldhausen ∞ -categories

In Definition 4.18, we defined a virtual Waldhausen ∞ -category as a presheaf $\mathcal{X}: \mathbf{Wald}_{\infty}^{\omega, \text{op}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Kan}$ such that the natural maps

$$\mathcal{X}(\mathcal{C} \oplus \mathcal{D}) \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathcal{X}(\mathcal{C}) \times \mathcal{X}(\mathcal{D})$$

are equivalences. This condition implies, in particular, that the value of \mathcal{X} on the Waldhausen ∞ -category of *split* cofiber sequences in a Waldhausen ∞ -category \mathcal{C} agrees with the product $\mathcal{X}(\mathcal{C}) \times \mathcal{X}(\mathcal{C})$. We can ask for more: we can demand that \mathcal{X} be able to split even those cofiber sequences that are not already split. That is, we can ask that \mathcal{X} regard the Waldhausen ∞ -categories of split exact sequences and that of all exact sequences in \mathcal{C} as indistinguishable. This is obviously very closely related to Waldhausen’s additivity, and it is what we will mean by a *fissile* virtual Waldhausen ∞ -category, and the ∞ -category of these will be called the *fissile derived ∞ -category* of Waldhausen ∞ -categories. (The word ‘fissile’ in geology and nuclear physics means, in essence, ‘easily split’. The intuition is that when we pass to the fissile derived ∞ -category, filtered objects can be identified with the sum of their layers.)

But this is asking a lot of our presheaf \mathcal{X} . For example, while Waldhausen ∞ -categories always represent virtual Waldhausen ∞ -categories, they are almost never fissile. Nevertheless, any virtual Waldhausen ∞ -category has a best fissile approximation. In other words, the inclusion of fissile virtual Waldhausen ∞ -categories into virtual Waldhausen ∞ -categories actually admits a left adjoint, which exhibits the ∞ -category of fissile virtual Waldhausen ∞ -categories as a localization of the ∞ -category of all virtual Waldhausen ∞ -categories.

CONSTRUCTION 6.1. Suppose that \mathcal{C} is a Waldhausen ∞ -category. Then for any integer $m \geq 0$, we may define a fully faithful functor

$$E_m: \mathcal{C} \simeq \mathcal{F}_0(\mathcal{C}) \hookrightarrow \mathcal{F}_m(\mathcal{C})$$

that carries an object X of \mathcal{C} to the constant filtration of length m :

$$X = X = \cdots = X.$$

This is the functor induced by the simplicial operator $\mathbf{0} \rightarrow \mathbf{m}$. One has a similar functor

$$E'_m: \Delta^0 \simeq \mathcal{S}_0(\mathcal{C}) \hookrightarrow \mathcal{S}_m(\mathcal{C}),$$

which is, of course, just the inclusion of a contractible Kan complex of zero objects into $\mathcal{S}_m(\mathcal{C})$.

We will also need to have a complete picture of how these functors transform as \mathbf{m} and \mathcal{C} each vary, so we give the following abstract description of them. Since there is an equivalence of ∞ -categories

$$\mathbf{Wald}_{\infty/N\Delta^{\text{op}}}^{\text{cocart}} \simeq \text{Fun}(N\Delta^{\text{op}}, \mathbf{Wald}_{\infty})$$

(Proposition 3.27), and since $\mathbf{0}$ is an initial object of $N\Delta^{\text{op}}$, it is easy to see that there is an adjunction

$$C: \mathbf{Wald}_{\infty} \rightleftarrows \mathbf{Wald}_{\infty/N\Delta^{\text{op}}}^{\text{cocart}}: R,$$

where C is the functor $\mathcal{C} \mapsto \mathcal{C} \times N\Delta^{\text{op}}$, which represents the constant functor $\mathbf{Wald}_{\infty} \rightarrow \text{Fun}(N\Delta^{\text{op}}, \mathbf{Wald}_{\infty})$, and R is the functor $(\mathcal{X}/N\Delta^{\text{op}}) \mapsto \mathcal{X}_0$, which represents evaluation at zero $\text{Fun}(N\Delta^{\text{op}}, \mathbf{Wald}_{\infty}) \rightarrow \mathbf{Wald}_{\infty}$. The counit $CR \rightarrow \text{id}$ of this adjunction can now be composed with the natural transformation $F: \mathcal{F} \rightarrow \mathcal{S}$ (which we regard as a morphism of $\text{Fun}(\mathbf{Wald}_{\infty}, \mathbf{Wald}_{\infty/N\Delta^{\text{op}}}^{\text{cocart}})$) to give a commutative square

$$\begin{array}{ccc} CR \circ \mathcal{F} \times N\Delta^{\text{op}} & \xrightarrow{CR \circ F} & CR \circ \mathcal{S} \\ E \downarrow & & \downarrow E' \\ \mathcal{F} & \xrightarrow{F} & \mathcal{S} \end{array}$$

in the ∞ -category $\text{Fun}(\mathbf{Wald}_{\infty}, \mathbf{Wald}_{\infty/N\Delta^{\text{op}}}^{\text{cocart}})$.

Forming the fiber over an object $\mathbf{m} \in N\Delta^{\text{op}}$, we obtain a commutative square

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{F}_0 & \xrightarrow{F_0} & \mathcal{S}_0 \\ E_m \downarrow & & \downarrow E'_m \\ \mathcal{F}_m & \xrightarrow{F_m} & \mathcal{S}_m \end{array}$$

in the ∞ -category $\text{Fun}(\mathbf{Wald}_{\infty}, \mathbf{Wald}_{\infty})$. We see that E_m and E'_m are the functors we identified above.

On the other hand, applying the realization functor $|\cdot|_{N\Delta^{\text{op}}}$ (Definition 4.30), and noting that

$$|CR \circ \mathcal{F}|_{N\Delta^{\text{op}}} \simeq |\mathcal{F}_0 \times N\Delta^{\text{op}}|_{N\Delta^{\text{op}}} \simeq \text{id}$$

and

$$|CR \circ \mathcal{S}|_{N\Delta^{\text{op}}} \simeq |\mathcal{S}_0 \times N\Delta^{\text{op}}|_{N\Delta^{\text{op}}} \simeq \Delta^0,$$

we obtain a commutative square

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{id} & \longrightarrow & 0 \\ E \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \mathcal{F} & \xrightarrow{F} & \mathcal{S}, \end{array} \tag{6.1}$$

in the ∞ -category $\text{Fun}(D(\mathbf{Wald}_{\infty}), D(\mathbf{Wald}_{\infty}))$. When we pass to the fissile derived ∞ -category, we will actually force this square to be pushout. Since \mathcal{F} is the zero functor (Proposition 5.25), this will exhibit \mathcal{S} as a suspension.

Before we give our definition of *fissibility*, we need a spot of abusive notation.

NOTATION 6.2. Recall (Corollary 4.15) that we have an equivalence of ∞ -categories $\mathbf{Wald}_\infty \simeq \text{Ind}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty^\omega)$. Consequently, we may use the transitivity result of [42, Proposition 5.3.6.11] to conclude that, in the notation of Recollection 4.21, we also have an equivalence $\mathcal{P}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty^\omega) \simeq \mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{S}}^{\mathcal{K}}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty)$, where \mathcal{S} is the class of all small filtered simplicial sets, and \mathcal{K} is the class of all small simplicial sets.

In particular, every presheaf $\mathcal{X}: \mathbf{Wald}_\infty^{\omega, \text{op}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Kan}$ extends to an essentially unique presheaf $\mathbf{Wald}_\infty^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Kan}$ with the property that it carries filtered colimits in \mathbf{Wald}_∞ to the corresponding limits in \mathbf{Kan} . We will abuse notation by denoting this extended functor by \mathcal{X} as well. This entitles us to speak of the value of a presheaf $\mathcal{X}: \mathbf{Wald}_\infty^{\omega, \text{op}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Kan}$ even on Waldhausen ∞ -categories that may not be compact.

DEFINITION 6.3. A presheaf $\mathcal{X}: \mathbf{Wald}_\infty^{\omega, \text{op}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Kan}$ will be said to be *fissile* if for every Waldhausen ∞ -category \mathcal{C} and every integer $m \geq 0$, the exact functors E_m and J_m (Construction 6.1 and Notation 5.20) induce functors

$$\mathcal{X}(\mathcal{F}_m(\mathcal{C})) \rightarrow \mathcal{X}(\mathcal{C}) \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{X}(\mathcal{I}_m(\mathcal{C})) \rightarrow \mathcal{X}(\mathcal{S}_m(\mathcal{C}))$$

that together exhibit $\mathcal{X}(\mathcal{F}_m(\mathcal{C}))$ as the product of $\mathcal{X}(\mathcal{C})$ and $\mathcal{X}(\mathcal{S}_m(\mathcal{C}))$:

$$(E_m^*, J_m^*): \mathcal{X}(\mathcal{F}_m(\mathcal{C})) \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathcal{X}(\mathcal{C}) \times \mathcal{X}(\mathcal{S}_m(\mathcal{C})).$$

An induction using Proposition 5.16 demonstrates that the value of a fissile presheaf $\mathcal{X}: \mathbf{Wald}_\infty^{\omega, \text{op}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Kan}$ on the Waldhausen ∞ -category of filtered objects $\mathcal{F}_m(\mathcal{C})$ of length m is split into $1 + m$ copies of $\mathcal{X}(\mathcal{C})$. That is, the $1 + m$ different functors $\mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{F}_m(\mathcal{C})$ of the form

$$X \mapsto [0 = \cdots = 0 \twoheadrightarrow X = \cdots = X]$$

induce an equivalence

$$\mathcal{X}(\mathcal{F}_m(\mathcal{C})) \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathcal{X}(\mathcal{C})^{1+m}.$$

We began our discussion of fissile presheaves by thinking of them as special examples of virtual Waldhausen ∞ -categories. That wasn't wrong:

LEMMA 6.4. A presheaf $\mathcal{X} \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty^\omega)$ is fissile only if \mathcal{X} carries direct sums in $\mathbf{Wald}_\infty^\omega$ to products; that is, only if \mathcal{X} is a virtual Waldhausen ∞ -category.

Proof. Suppose that \mathcal{C} and \mathcal{D} are two compact Waldhausen ∞ -categories. Consider the retract diagrams

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \mathcal{C} & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{C} \oplus \mathcal{D} & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{C} \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow E_1 & & \downarrow \\ \mathcal{C} \oplus \mathcal{D} & \xrightarrow{E_1 \oplus J_1} & \mathcal{F}_1(\mathcal{C} \oplus \mathcal{D}) & \xrightarrow{I_{1,0} \oplus F_1} & \mathcal{C} \oplus \mathcal{D} \end{array}$$

and

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \mathcal{D} & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{C} \oplus \mathcal{D} & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{D} \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow J_1 & & \downarrow \\ \mathcal{C} \oplus \mathcal{D} & \xrightarrow{E_1 \oplus J_1} & \mathcal{F}_1(\mathcal{C} \oplus \mathcal{D}) & \xrightarrow{I_{1,0} \oplus F_1} & \mathcal{C} \oplus \mathcal{D}. \end{array}$$

Here $I_{1,0}$ is the functor induced by the morphism $0 \mapsto 0$. For any fissile virtual Waldhausen ∞ -category \mathcal{X} , we have an induced retract diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 \mathcal{X}(\mathcal{C} \oplus \mathcal{D}) & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{X}(\mathcal{F}_1(\mathcal{C} \oplus \mathcal{D})) & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{X}(\mathcal{C} \oplus \mathcal{D}) \\
 \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 \mathcal{X}(\mathcal{C}) \times \mathcal{X}(\mathcal{D}) & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{X}(\mathcal{C} \oplus \mathcal{D}) \times \mathcal{X}(\mathcal{C} \oplus \mathcal{D}) & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{X}(\mathcal{C}) \times \mathcal{X}(\mathcal{D}).
 \end{array} \tag{6.2}$$

Since the center vertical map is an equivalence, and since equivalences are closed under retracts, so are the outer vertical maps. □

NOTATION 6.5. Denote by

$$D_{\text{fiss}}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty) \subset D(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty)$$

the full subcategory spanned by the fissile functors. We'll call this the *fissile derived ∞ -category* of Waldhausen ∞ -categories.

Since sifted colimits in $D(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty)$ commute with products [42, Lemma 5.5.8.11], we deduce the following.

LEMMA 6.6. *The subcategory $D_{\text{fiss}}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty) \subset D(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty)$ is stable under sifted colimits.*

Fissile approximations to virtual Waldhausen ∞ -categories

Note that representable presheaves are typically *not* fissile. Consequently, the obvious fully faithful inclusion $\mathbf{Wald}_\infty^\omega \hookrightarrow D(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty)$ does not factor through $D_{\text{fiss}}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty) \subset D(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty)$. Instead, in order to make a representable presheaf fissile, we will have to form a fissile approximation to it. Fortunately, there is a universal way to do that.

PROPOSITION 6.7. *The inclusion functor admits a left adjoint*

$$L^{\text{fiss}} : D(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty) \longrightarrow D_{\text{fiss}}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty),$$

which exhibits $D_{\text{fiss}}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty)$ as an accessible localization of $D(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty)$.

Proof. For any compact Waldhausen ∞ -category \mathcal{C} and every integer $m \geq 0$, consider the exact functor

$$E_m \oplus J_m : \mathcal{C} \oplus \mathcal{S}_m(\mathcal{C}) \longrightarrow \mathcal{F}_m(\mathcal{C});$$

let S be the set of morphisms of $D(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty)$ of this form; let \overline{S} be the strongly saturated class it generates. Since $\mathbf{Wald}_\infty^\omega$ is essentially small, the class \overline{S} is of small generation. Hence we may form the accessible localization $S^{-1}D(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty)$. Since virtual Waldhausen ∞ -categories are functors $\mathcal{X} : \mathbf{Wald}_\infty^{\omega, \text{op}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Kan}$ that preserve products, one sees that $S^{-1}D(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty)$ coincides with the full subcategory $D_{\text{fiss}}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty) \subset D(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty)$. □

The fully faithful inclusion $D_{\text{fiss}}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty) \hookrightarrow D(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty)$ preserves finite products, and its left adjoint L^{fiss} preserves finite coproducts, whence we deduce the following.

COROLLARY 6.8. *The ∞ -category $D_{\text{fiss}}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty)$ is compactly generated and admits finite direct sums, which are preserved by the inclusion*

$$D_{\text{fiss}}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty) \hookrightarrow D(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty).$$

Combining this with Lemma 6.6 and [46, Lemma 1.3.2.9], we deduce the following somewhat surprising fact.

COROLLARY 6.9. *The subcategory $D_{\text{fiss}}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty) \subset D(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty)$ is stable under all small colimits.*

Suspension of fissile virtual Waldhausen ∞ -categories

We now show that the suspension in the fissile derived ∞ -category is essentially given by the functor \mathcal{S} . This is the key to showing that Waldhausen’s additivity is essentially equivalent to excision on the fissile derived ∞ -category (Theorem 7.4). As a first step, we have the following observation.

PROPOSITION 6.10. *The diagram*

$$\begin{array}{ccc} D(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty) & \xrightarrow{\mathcal{S}} & D(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty) \\ L^{\text{fiss}} \downarrow & & \downarrow L^{\text{fiss}} \\ D_{\text{fiss}}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty) & \xrightarrow{\Sigma} & D_{\text{fiss}}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty) \end{array}$$

commutes (up to homotopy), where Σ is the suspension endofunctor on the fissile derived ∞ -category $D_{\text{fiss}}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty)$.

Proof. Apply L^{fiss} to the square (6.1) to obtain a square

$$\begin{array}{ccc} L^{\text{fiss}} & \longrightarrow & 0 \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ L^{\text{fiss}} \circ \mathcal{F} & \xrightarrow{F} & L^{\text{fiss}} \circ \mathcal{S} \end{array} \tag{6.3}$$

of natural transformations between functors $D(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty) \rightarrow D_{\text{fiss}}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty)$. Since \mathcal{F} is essentially constant with value the zero object, this gives rise to a natural transformation $\Sigma \circ L^{\text{fiss}} \rightarrow L^{\text{fiss}} \circ \mathcal{S}$. To see that this natural transformation is an equivalence, it suffices to consider its value on a compact Waldhausen ∞ -category \mathcal{C} . Now for any $\mathbf{m} \in N\Delta^{op}$, we have a diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} L^{\text{fiss}} \mathcal{S}_0(\mathcal{C}) & \xrightarrow{J_0} & L^{\text{fiss}} \mathcal{F}_0(\mathcal{C}) & \xrightarrow{F_0} & L^{\text{fiss}} \mathcal{S}_0(\mathcal{C}) \\ E'_m \downarrow & & E_m \downarrow & & \downarrow E'_m \\ L^{\text{fiss}} \mathcal{S}_m(\mathcal{C}) & \xrightarrow{J_m} & L^{\text{fiss}} \mathcal{F}_m(\mathcal{C}) & \xrightarrow{F_m} & L^{\text{fiss}} \mathcal{S}_m(\mathcal{C}) \end{array}$$

of Waldhausen ∞ -categories in which the horizontal composites are equivalences. Since $\mathcal{S}_0(\mathcal{C})$ is a zero object, the left-hand square is a pushout by definition; hence the right-hand square is as well. The geometric realization of the right-hand square is precisely the value of the square (6.3) on \mathcal{C} . □

The observation that $\Sigma \circ L^{\text{fiss}} \simeq L^{\text{fiss}} \circ \mathcal{S}$, nice though it is, does not quite cut it: we want an even closer relationship between \mathcal{S} and the suspension in the fissile derived ∞ -category. More precisely, we would like to know that it is not necessary to apply L^{fiss} to $\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{C})$ in order to get $\Sigma L^{\text{fiss}} \mathcal{C}$. So, we conclude this section with a proof that the functor $\mathcal{S}: D(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty) \rightarrow D(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty)$ already takes values in the fissile derived ∞ -category $D_{\text{fiss}}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty)$.

PROPOSITION 6.11. *For any virtual Waldhausen ∞ -category \mathcal{X} , the virtual Waldhausen ∞ -category $\mathcal{S}\mathcal{X}$ is fissile.*

Proof. We may write \mathcal{X} as a geometric realization of a simplicial diagram \mathcal{Y}_* of Waldhausen ∞ -categories. So, our claim is that for any compact Waldhausen ∞ -category \mathcal{C} and any integer $m \geq 0$, the map

$$(\operatorname{colim} \mathcal{S}(\mathcal{Y}_*))(\mathcal{F}_m(\mathcal{C})) \longrightarrow (\operatorname{colim} \mathcal{S}(\mathcal{Y}_*))(\mathcal{C}) \times (\operatorname{colim} \mathcal{S}(\mathcal{Y}_*))(\mathcal{S}_m(\mathcal{C}))$$

induced by (E_m, J_m) is an equivalence. Since geometric realization commutes with products, we reduce to the case in which \mathcal{Y}_* is constant at a Waldhausen ∞ -category \mathcal{Y} . Now our claim is that for any compact Waldhausen ∞ -category \mathcal{C} and any integer $m \geq 0$, the map

$$\begin{array}{c} \mathbf{H}(\mathcal{F}_m(\mathcal{C}), (\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{Y})/N\Delta^{\text{op}})) \\ \downarrow \\ \mathbf{H}(\mathcal{C}, (\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{Y})/N\Delta^{\text{op}})) \times \mathbf{H}(\mathcal{S}_m(\mathcal{C}), (\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{Y})/N\Delta^{\text{op}})) \end{array}$$

(Construction 4.26) induced by (E_m, J_m) is a weak homotopy equivalence. To simplify notation, we write $\mathbf{H}(-, \mathcal{S}(\mathcal{Y}))$ for $\mathbf{H}(-, (\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{Y})/N\Delta^{\text{op}}))$ in what follows.

Let us use Joyal's ∞ -categorical variant of Quillen's Theorem A [42, Theorem 4.1.3.1]. Fix an object

$$((\mathbf{p}, \alpha), (\mathbf{q}, \beta)) \in \mathbf{H}(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{S}(\mathcal{Y})) \times \mathbf{H}(\mathcal{S}_m(\mathcal{C}), \mathcal{S}(\mathcal{Y})).$$

So, \mathbf{p} and \mathbf{q} are objects of $N\Delta^{\text{op}}$, α is an exact functor $\mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{S}_{\mathbf{p}}(\mathcal{Y})$, and β is an exact functor $\mathcal{S}_m(\mathcal{C}) \rightarrow \mathcal{S}_{\mathbf{p}}(\mathcal{Y})$. Write $J((\mathbf{p}, \alpha), (\mathbf{q}, \beta))$ for the pullback

$$\begin{array}{ccc} J((\mathbf{p}, \alpha), (\mathbf{q}, \beta)) & \longrightarrow & \mathbf{H}(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{S}(\mathcal{Y})) \times \mathbf{H}(\mathcal{S}_m(\mathcal{C}), \mathcal{S}(\mathcal{Y})) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \mathbf{H}(\mathcal{F}_m(\mathcal{C}), \mathcal{S}(\mathcal{Y})) & \longrightarrow & (\mathbf{H}(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{S}(\mathcal{Y})) \times \mathbf{H}(\mathcal{S}_m(\mathcal{C}), \mathcal{S}(\mathcal{Y})))_{((\mathbf{p}, \alpha), (\mathbf{q}, \beta))} / \cdot \end{array}$$

We may identify $J((\mathbf{p}, \alpha), (\mathbf{q}, \beta))$ with a quasicategory whose objects are tuples $(\mathbf{r}, \gamma, \mu, \nu, \sigma, \tau)$ consisting of:

- (i) \mathbf{r} is an object of Δ ,
- (ii) $\gamma: \mathcal{S}_m(\mathcal{C}) \rightarrow \mathcal{S}_{\mathbf{r}}\mathcal{Y}$ is an exact functor,
- (iii) $\mu: \mathbf{r} \rightarrow \mathbf{p}$ and $\nu: \mathbf{r} \rightarrow \mathbf{q}$ are morphisms of Δ , and
- (iv) $\sigma: \mu^*\alpha \xrightarrow{\sim} \gamma|_{\mathcal{C}}$ and $\tau: \nu^*\beta \xrightarrow{\sim} \gamma|_{\mathcal{S}_m(\mathcal{C})}$ are equivalences of exact functors.

Denote by κ the constant functor $J((\mathbf{p}, \alpha), (\mathbf{q}, \beta)) \rightarrow J((\mathbf{p}, \alpha), (\mathbf{q}, \beta))$ at the object

$$(0, 0, \{0\} \hookrightarrow \mathbf{p}, \{0\} \hookrightarrow \mathbf{q}, 0, 0).$$

To prove that $J((\mathbf{p}, \alpha), (\mathbf{q}, \beta))$ is contractible, we construct an endofunctor λ and natural transformations

$$\text{id} \longleftarrow \lambda \longrightarrow \kappa.$$

We define the functor λ by

$$\lambda(\mathbf{r}, \gamma, \mu, \nu, \sigma, \tau) := (\mathbf{r}^{\triangleleft}, s_0 \circ \gamma, \mu', \nu', \sigma', \tau'),$$

where $\mu'|_{\mathbf{r}} = \mu$ and $\mu'(-\infty) = 0$, $\nu'|_{\mathbf{r}} = \nu$ and $\nu'(-\infty) = 0$, and σ' and τ' are the obvious extensions of σ and τ . The inclusion $\mathbf{r} \hookrightarrow \mathbf{r}^{\triangleleft}$ induces a natural transformation $\lambda \rightarrow \text{id}$, and the inclusion $\{-\infty\} \hookrightarrow \mathbf{r}^{\triangleleft}$ induces a natural transformation $\lambda \rightarrow \kappa$. \square

We thus have the following enhancement of Proposition 6.10.

COROLLARY 6.12. *The diagram*

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \mathbf{D}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty) & & \\
 \downarrow L^{\text{fiss}} & \searrow \mathcal{S} & \\
 & & \mathbf{D}_{\text{fiss}}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty) \\
 & \nearrow \Sigma & \\
 \mathbf{D}_{\text{fiss}}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty) & &
 \end{array}$$

commutes (up to homotopy), where Σ is the suspension endofunctor on the fissile derived ∞ -category $\mathbf{D}_{\text{fiss}}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty)$.

7. Additive theories

In this section we introduce the ∞ -categorical analogue of Waldhausen’s notion of additivity, and we prove our structure theorem (Theorem 7.4), which identifies the homotopy theory of additive functors $\mathbf{Wald}_\infty \rightarrow \mathbf{Kan}$ with the homotopy theory of certain excisive functors $\mathbf{D}_{\text{fiss}}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty) \rightarrow \mathbf{Kan}$ on the fissile derived ∞ -category of the previous section. Using this, we can find the best additive approximation to any functor $\phi: \mathbf{Wald}_\infty \rightarrow \mathbf{Kan}$ as a Goodwillie differential. Since suspension in this ∞ -category is given by the functor \mathcal{S} , this best excisive approximation $D\phi$ can be exhibited by a formula

$$\mathcal{C} \mapsto \text{colim}_n \Omega^n |\phi(S_*^n(\mathcal{C}))|.$$

If ϕ preserves finite products, the colimit turns out to be unnecessary, and $D\phi$ can be given by an even simpler formula:

$$\mathcal{C} \mapsto \Omega |\phi(S_*(\mathcal{C}))|.$$

In the next section, we will use this perspective on additivity to prove some fundamental things, such as the Eilenberg Swindle and Waldhausen’s Fibration Theorem, for general additive functors. In § 10, we will apply our additive approximation to the ‘moduli space of objects’ functor ι to give a universal description of algebraic K -theory of Waldhausen ∞ -categories, and the formula above shows that our algebraic K -theory extends Waldhausen’s.

Theories and additive theories

The kinds of functors we’re going to be thinking about are called *theories*. What we’ll show is that among theories, one can isolate the class of *additive theories*, which split all exact sequences.

DEFINITION 7.1. Suppose that C and D are ∞ -categories and C is pointed. Recall ([27, p. 1] or [46, Definition 1.4.2.1(ii)]) that a functor $C \rightarrow D$ is *reduced* if it carries the zero object of C to the terminal object of D . We write $\text{Fun}^*(C, D) \subset \text{Fun}(C, D)$ for the full subcategory spanned by the reduced functors, and if \mathcal{A} is a collection of simplicial sets, then we write $\text{Fun}_{*\mathcal{A}}^*(C, D) \subset \text{Fun}^*(C, D)$ for the full subcategory spanned by the reduced functors that preserve \mathcal{A} -shaped colimits (2.6).

Similarly, recall that a functor $C \rightarrow D$ is *excisive* if it carries pushout squares in C to pullback squares in D .

Suppose that \mathcal{E} is an ∞ -topos. By an \mathcal{E} -valued *theory*, we shall here mean a reduced functor $\mathbf{Wald}_\infty \rightarrow \mathcal{E}$ that preserves filtered colimits. We write $\text{Thy}(\mathcal{E})$ for the full subcategory of $\text{Fun}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty, \mathcal{E})$ spanned by \mathcal{E} -valued theories.

Those who grimace at the prospect of contemplating general ∞ -topoi can enjoy a complete picture of what is going on by thinking only of examples of the form $\mathcal{E} = \text{Fun}(S, \mathbf{Kan})$. The extra generality comes at no added expense, but we would not get around to using it here.

Note that a theory $\phi: \mathbf{Wald}_\infty \rightarrow \mathcal{E}$ may be uniquely identified in different ways. On one hand, ϕ is (Corollary 4.15) the left Kan extension of its restriction

$$\phi|_{\mathbf{Wald}_\infty^\omega} : \mathbf{Wald}_\infty^\omega \rightarrow \mathcal{E};$$

on the other hand, we can extend ϕ to its left derived functor (Definition 4.23)

$$\Phi : D(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty) \rightarrow \mathcal{E},$$

which is the unique extension of ϕ that preserves all sifted colimits.

Many examples of theories that arise in practice have the property that the natural morphism $\phi(\mathcal{C} \oplus \mathcal{D}) \rightarrow \phi(\mathcal{C}) \times \phi(\mathcal{D})$ is an equivalence. We will look at these theories more closely below (Definition 7.12). In any case, when this happens, the sum functor $\mathcal{C} \oplus \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ defines a monoid structure on $\pi_0\phi(\mathcal{C})$. For invariants like K -theory, we will want to demand that this monoid actually be a group. We thus make the following definition, which is sensible for any theory.

DEFINITION 7.2. A theory $\phi \in \text{Thy}(\mathcal{E})$ will be said to be *group-like* if, for any Waldhausen ∞ -category \mathcal{C} , the *shear functor* $\mathcal{C} \oplus \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C} \oplus \mathcal{C}$ defined by the assignment $(X, Y) \mapsto (X, X \vee Y)$ induces an equivalence $\pi_0\phi(\mathcal{C} \oplus \mathcal{C}) \xrightarrow{\sim} \pi_0\phi(\mathcal{C} \oplus \mathcal{C})$.

To formulate our structure theorem, we need to stare at a few functors between various Waldhausen ∞ -categories of filtered objects.

CONSTRUCTION 7.3. Suppose that $m \geq 0$ is an integer, and that $0 \leq k \leq m$. We consider the morphism $i_k : \mathbf{0} \cong \{k\} \hookrightarrow \mathbf{m}$ of Δ . For any Waldhausen ∞ -category \mathcal{C} , write $I_{m,k}$ for the induced functor $\mathcal{F}_m(\mathcal{C}) \rightarrow \mathcal{F}_0(\mathcal{C})$ and write $I'_{m,k}$ for the induced functor $\mathcal{S}_m(\mathcal{C}) \rightarrow \mathcal{S}_0(\mathcal{C})$. Of course, $\mathcal{F}_0(\mathcal{C}) \simeq \mathcal{C}$ and $\mathcal{S}_0(\mathcal{C}) \simeq 0$. So, the functor $I_{m,k}$ extracts from a filtered object

$$X_0 \twoheadrightarrow X_1 \twoheadrightarrow \cdots \twoheadrightarrow X_m$$

its k th filtered piece X_k , and the functor $I'_{m,k}$ is, by necessity, the trivial functor.

We may now contemplate a square of retract diagrams

$$(\Delta^2/\Delta^{\{0,2\}}) \times (\Delta^2/\Delta^{\{0,2\}}) \rightarrow \mathbf{Wald}_\infty$$

given by

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \mathcal{S}_0(\mathcal{C}) & \xrightarrow{J_0} & \mathcal{F}_0(\mathcal{C}) & \xrightarrow{F_0} & \mathcal{S}_0(\mathcal{C}) \\ E'_m \downarrow & & E_m \downarrow & & \downarrow E'_m \\ \mathcal{S}_m(\mathcal{C}) & \xrightarrow{J_m} & \mathcal{F}_m(\mathcal{C}) & \xrightarrow{F_m} & \mathcal{S}_m(\mathcal{C}) \\ I'_{m,k} \downarrow & & \downarrow I_{m,k} & & \downarrow I_{m,k} \\ \mathcal{S}_0(\mathcal{C}) & \xrightarrow{J_0} & \mathcal{F}_0(\mathcal{C}) & \xrightarrow{F_0} & \mathcal{S}_0(\mathcal{C}). \end{array} \tag{7.1}$$

Only the upper right square of (7.1) is (by Construction 6.1) functorial in \mathbf{m} .

We may now apply the localization functor L^{fiss} to (7.1). In the resulting diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 L^{\text{fiss}} \mathcal{S}_0(\mathcal{C}) & \xrightarrow{J_0} & L^{\text{fiss}} \mathcal{F}_0(\mathcal{C}) & \xrightarrow{F_0} & L^{\text{fiss}} \mathcal{S}_0(\mathcal{C}) \\
 E'_m \downarrow & & E_m \downarrow & & \downarrow E'_m \\
 L^{\text{fiss}} \mathcal{S}_m(\mathcal{C}) & \xrightarrow{J_m} & L^{\text{fiss}} \mathcal{F}_m(\mathcal{C}) & \xrightarrow{F_m} & L^{\text{fiss}} \mathcal{S}_m(\mathcal{C}) \\
 I'_{m,k} \downarrow & & \downarrow I_{m,k} & & \downarrow I_{m,k} \\
 L^{\text{fiss}} \mathcal{S}_0(\mathcal{C}) & \xrightarrow{J_0} & L^{\text{fiss}} \mathcal{F}_0(\mathcal{C}) & \xrightarrow{F_0} & L^{\text{fiss}} \mathcal{S}_0(\mathcal{C}),
 \end{array} \tag{7.2}$$

the square in the upper left corner is a pushout, whence every square is a pushout.

Now we are ready to state the structure theorem.

THEOREM 7.4 (Structure Theorem for Additive Theories). *Suppose that \mathcal{E} is an ∞ -topos. Suppose that ϕ is an \mathcal{E} -valued theory. Then the following are equivalent.*

- (1) For any Waldhausen ∞ -category \mathcal{C} , any integer $m \geq 1$, and any integer $0 \leq k \leq m$, the functors

$$\phi(F_m): \phi(\mathcal{F}_m(\mathcal{C})) \rightarrow \phi(\mathcal{S}_m(\mathcal{C})) \quad \text{and} \quad \phi(I_{m,k}): \phi(\mathcal{F}_m(\mathcal{C})) \rightarrow \phi(\mathcal{F}_0(\mathcal{C}))$$

exhibit $\phi(\mathcal{F}_m(\mathcal{C}))$ as a product of $\phi(\mathcal{S}_m(\mathcal{C}))$ and $\phi(\mathcal{F}_0(\mathcal{C}))$.

- (2) For any Waldhausen ∞ -category \mathcal{C} and for any functor

$$\mathbf{S}_*(\mathcal{C}): N\Delta^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Wald}_\infty$$

that classifies the Waldhausen cocartesian fibration $\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{C}) \rightarrow N\Delta^{\text{op}}$, the induced functor $\phi \circ \mathbf{S}_*(\mathcal{C}): N\Delta^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}_*$ is a group object [42, Definition 7.2.2.1].

- (3) The theory ϕ is group-like, and for any Waldhausen ∞ -category \mathcal{C} and any integer $m \geq 1$, the functors

$$\phi(F_m): \phi(\mathcal{F}_m(\mathcal{C})) \rightarrow \phi(\mathcal{S}_m(\mathcal{C})) \quad \text{and} \quad \phi(I_{m,0}): \phi(\mathcal{F}_m(\mathcal{C})) \rightarrow \phi(\mathcal{F}_0(\mathcal{C}))$$

exhibit $\phi(\mathcal{F}_m(\mathcal{C}))$ as a product of $\phi(\mathcal{S}_m(\mathcal{C}))$ and $\phi(\mathcal{F}_0(\mathcal{C}))$.

- (4) The theory ϕ is group-like, and for any Waldhausen ∞ -category \mathcal{C} , the functors

$$\phi(F_1): \phi(\mathcal{F}_1(\mathcal{C})) \rightarrow \phi(\mathcal{S}_1(\mathcal{C})) \quad \text{and} \quad \phi(I_{1,0}): \phi(\mathcal{F}_1(\mathcal{C})) \rightarrow \phi(\mathcal{F}_0(\mathcal{C}))$$

exhibit $\phi(\mathcal{F}_1(\mathcal{C}))$ as a product of $\phi(\mathcal{S}_1(\mathcal{C}))$ and $\phi(\mathcal{F}_0(\mathcal{C}))$.

- (5) The theory ϕ is group-like, it carries direct sums to products, and, for any Waldhausen ∞ -category \mathcal{C} , the images of $\phi(I_{1,1})$ and $\phi(I_{1,0} \oplus F_1)$ in the set $\text{Mor}_{h\mathcal{E}_*}(\mathcal{F}_1(\mathcal{C}), \mathcal{C})$ are equal.

- (6) The theory ϕ is group-like, and for any Waldhausen ∞ -category \mathcal{C} and any functor $\mathbf{S}_*(\mathcal{C}): N\Delta^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Wald}_\infty$ that classifies the Waldhausen cocartesian fibration $\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{C}) \rightarrow N\Delta^{\text{op}}$, the induced functor $\phi \circ \mathbf{S}_*(\mathcal{C}): N\Delta^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}_*$ is a category object (see Proposition 5.13 or [43, Definition 1.1.1]).

- (7) The left derived functor $\Phi: D(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty) \rightarrow \mathcal{E}$ of ϕ factors through an excisive functor

$$\Phi_{\text{add}}: D_{\text{fiss}}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty) \rightarrow \mathcal{E}.$$

Proof. The equivalence of conditions (7.4.1) and (7.4.2) follows from Proposition 5.16 and the proof of [42, Proposition 6.1.2.6]. (Also see [42, Remark 6.1.2.8].) Conditions (7.4.3) and (7.4.6) are clearly special cases of (7.4.1) and (7.4.2), respectively, and condition (7.4.4) is a special case of (7.4.3). The equivalence of (7.4.3) and (7.4.6) also follows directly from Proposition 5.16.

Let us show that (7.4.4) implies (7.4.5). We begin by noting that we have an analogue of the commutative diagram (6.2):

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \phi(\mathcal{C} \oplus \mathcal{D}) & \longrightarrow & \phi(\mathcal{F}_1(\mathcal{C} \oplus \mathcal{D})) & \longrightarrow & \phi(\mathcal{C} \oplus \mathcal{D}) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \phi(\mathcal{C}) \times \phi(\mathcal{D}) & \longrightarrow & \phi(\mathcal{C} \oplus \mathcal{D}) \times \phi(\mathcal{C} \oplus \mathcal{D}) & \longrightarrow & \phi(\mathcal{C}) \times \phi(\mathcal{D}), \end{array}$$

and once again it is a retract diagram in \mathcal{E} . Since \mathcal{E} admits filtered colimits, equivalences therein are closed under retracts, so since the center vertical morphism is an equivalence, the outer vertical morphisms are as well. Hence ϕ carries direct sums to products. Now the exact functor $I_{1,0} \oplus F_1$ admits a (homotopy) section $\sigma: \mathcal{C} \oplus \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{F}_1(\mathcal{C})$ such that $I_{1,1} \circ \sigma \simeq \nabla$. Hence if ϕ satisfies (7.4.4), then $\phi(I_{1,0} \oplus F_1)$ is an equivalence with homotopy inverse $\phi(\sigma)$, whence $\phi(I_{1,1})$ and $\phi(I_{1,0} \oplus F_1)$ are equal in $\text{Mor}_{h\mathcal{E}}(\mathcal{F}_1(\mathcal{C}), \mathcal{C})$.

It is now easy to see that (7.4.6) implies (7.4.2).

We now show that (7.4.5) implies (7.4.3). For any natural number m , suppose the images of $\phi(I_{1,1})$ and $\phi(I_{1,0} \oplus F_1)$ in $\text{Mor}_{h\mathcal{E}}(\mathcal{F}_1(\mathcal{F}_m(\mathcal{C})), \mathcal{F}_m(\mathcal{C}))$ are equal; we must show that $\phi(I_{m,0} \oplus F_m)$ is an equivalence. Compose $I_{1,1}$ and $I_{1,0} \oplus F_1$ with the exact functor $\mathcal{F}_m(\mathcal{C}) \rightarrow \mathcal{F}_1(\mathcal{F}_m(\mathcal{C}))$ that sends a filtered object

$$X_0 \rightarrow X_1 \rightarrow X_2 \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow X_m$$

to the ingressive morphism of filtered objects given by the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} X_0 & \longleftarrow & X_0 & \longleftarrow & X_0 & \longleftarrow & \cdots & \longleftarrow & X_0 \\ \parallel & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & & & \downarrow \\ X_0 & \rightarrow & X_1 & \rightarrow & X_2 & \rightarrow & \cdots & \rightarrow & X_m; \end{array}$$

the exact functor $I_{m,0} \oplus F_m$ also admits a section $\sigma: \mathcal{C} \oplus \mathcal{S}_m(\mathcal{C}) \rightarrow \mathcal{F}_m(\mathcal{C})$ (up to homotopy) such that $I_{m,1} \circ \sigma \simeq \nabla$, and applying our condition on ϕ , we find that $\phi(\sigma \circ (I_{m,0} \oplus F_m)) \simeq \phi(\text{id})$.

We now set about showing that (7.4.3) implies (7.4.7). First, we show that Φ factors through a functor

$$\Phi_{\text{add}}: \text{D}_{\text{fiss}}(\mathbf{Wald}_{\infty}) \rightarrow \mathcal{E}.$$

As above, we find that Φ carries direct sums to products, and from this we deduce that Φ carries morphisms of the class S described in Proposition 6.7 to equivalences. We further claim that the family T of those morphisms of $\text{D}(\mathbf{Wald}_{\infty})$ that are carried to equivalences by Φ is a strongly saturated class. Since Φ sends direct sums to products, it carries any finite coproduct of elements of T to equivalences. Moreover, since Φ preserves sifted colimits, it preserves any morphism that can be exhibited as a small sifted colimit of elements of T . Hence the full subcategory of $\mathcal{O}(\text{D}(\mathbf{Wald}_{\infty}))$ spanned by the elements of T is closed under all small colimits. Finally, to prove that any pushout $\psi': \mathcal{X}' \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}'$ of an element $\psi: \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}$ of T (along any morphism $\mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{X}'$) lies again in T , we note that we may exhibit ψ' as the natural morphism of geometric realizations (We are grateful to Jacob Lurie for this observation.).

$$|B_*(\mathcal{X}', \mathcal{X}, \mathcal{X})| \rightarrow |B_*(\mathcal{X}', \mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y})|,$$

where the simplicial objects $B_*(\mathcal{X}', \mathcal{X}, \mathcal{X})$ and $B_*(\mathcal{X}', \mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y})$ are two-sided bar constructions defined by

$$B_n(\mathcal{X}', \mathcal{X}, \mathcal{X}) := \mathcal{X}' \oplus \mathcal{X}^{\oplus n} \oplus \mathcal{X} \quad \text{and} \quad B_n(\mathcal{X}', \mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y}) := \mathcal{X}' \oplus \mathcal{X}^{\oplus n} \oplus \mathcal{Y}.$$

Since T is closed under formation of products, each map

$$B_n(\mathcal{X}', \mathcal{X}, \mathcal{X}) \rightarrow B_n(\mathcal{X}', \mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y})$$

is an element of T , and since T is closed under geometric realizations, the morphism $\mathcal{X}' \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}'$ is an element of T . Hence T is strongly saturated and therefore contains \bar{S} ; thus Φ factors through a functor $\Phi_{\text{add}}: D_{\text{fiss}}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty) \rightarrow \mathcal{E}$.

We now show that Φ_{add} is excisive. For any nonnegative integer m , apply ϕ to the diagram (7.1) with $k = 0$. The lower right corner of the resulting diagram is a pullback. Hence the upper right corner of the diagram resulting from applying ϕ to the diagram (7.1) is also a pullback. Now we may form the geometric realization of this simplicial diagram of squares to obtain a square

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \Phi(\mathcal{F}_0(\mathcal{C})) & \longrightarrow & \Phi(\mathcal{S}_0(\mathcal{C})) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \Phi(\mathcal{F}(\mathcal{C})) & \longrightarrow & \Phi(\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{C})). \end{array}$$

It follows from the Segal delooping machine ([42, Lemma 7.2.2.11, 62]) that this square is a pullback as well, since for any functor $S_*(\mathcal{C}): N\Delta^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Wald}_\infty$ classified by the Waldhausen cocartesian fibration $\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{C}) \rightarrow N\Delta^{\text{op}}$, the simplicial object $\Phi \circ S_*(\mathcal{C})$ is a group object, and $\mathcal{F}(\mathcal{C})$ and $\mathcal{S}_0(\mathcal{C})$ are zero objects. Since \mathcal{S} is a suspension functor in $D_{\text{fiss}}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty)$, we find that the natural transformation $\Phi_{\text{add}} \rightarrow \Omega_{\mathcal{E}} \circ \Phi_{\text{add}} \circ \Sigma$ is an equivalence, whence F_{add} is excisive [46, Proposition 1.4.2.13].

To complete the proof, it remains to show that (7.4.7) implies (7.4.1). It follows from (7.4.7) that for any nonnegative integer m and any integer $0 \leq k \leq m$, applying Φ to (7.1) yields the same result as applying Φ_{add} to (7.2). Since the lower right square of the latter diagram is a pushout in $D_{\text{fiss}}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty)$, the excisive functor F_{add} carries it to a pullback square in \mathcal{E} , whence we obtain the first condition. \square

DEFINITION 7.5. Suppose that \mathcal{E} is an ∞ -topos. An \mathcal{E} -valued theory ϕ will be said to be *additive* just in case it satisfies any of the equivalent conditions of Theorem 7.4. We denote by $\text{Add}(\mathcal{E})$ the full subcategory of $\text{Thy}(\mathcal{E})$ spanned by the additive theories.

Theorem 7.4 yields an identification of additive theories and excisive functors on fissile virtual Waldhausen ∞ -categories.

THEOREM 7.6. *Suppose that \mathcal{E} is an ∞ -topos. The functor $L^{\text{fiss}} \circ j$ induces an equivalence of ∞ -categories*

$$\text{Exc}_{\mathcal{G}}(D_{\text{fiss}}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty), \mathcal{E}) \xrightarrow{\sim} \text{Add}(\mathcal{E}),$$

where $\text{Exc}_{\mathcal{G}}(D_{\text{fiss}}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty), \mathcal{E}) \subset \text{Fun}^*(D_{\text{fiss}}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty), \mathcal{E})$ is the full subcategory spanned by the reduced excisive functors that preserve small sifted colimits.

Proof. It follows from Theorem 7.4 that composition with $L^{\text{fiss}} \circ j$ defines an essentially surjective functor

$$\text{Exc}_{\mathcal{G}}(D_{\text{fiss}}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty), \mathcal{E}) \longrightarrow \text{Add}(\mathcal{E}).$$

To see that this functor is fully faithful, it suffices to note that we have a commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Exc}_{\mathcal{G}}(D_{\text{fiss}}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty), \mathcal{E}) & \longrightarrow & \text{Add}(\mathcal{E}) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \text{Fun}(D_{\text{fiss}}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty), \mathcal{E}) & \hookrightarrow & \text{Fun}(D(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty), \mathcal{E}) \end{array}$$

in which the vertical functors are fully faithful by definition, and the bottom functor is fully faithful because the ∞ -category $D_{\text{fiss}}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty)$ is a localization of $D(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty)$ (Proposition 6.7). \square

By virtue of [46, Proposition 1.4.2.22], this result now yields a *canonical* delooping of any additive functor.

COROLLARY 7.7. *Suppose that \mathcal{E} is an ∞ -topos. Then composition with the canonical functor $\Omega^\infty: \mathbf{Sp}(\mathcal{E}) \rightarrow \mathcal{E}_*$ induces an equivalence of ∞ -categories*

$$\text{Fun}_{\mathcal{F}}^{\text{rex}}(D_{\text{fiss}}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty), \mathbf{Sp}(\mathcal{E})) \rightarrow \text{Add}(\mathcal{E}),$$

where $\text{Fun}_{\mathcal{F}}^{\text{rex}}(D_{\text{fiss}}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty), \mathbf{Sp}(\mathcal{E})) \subset \text{Fun}(D_{\text{fiss}}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty), \mathbf{Sp}(\mathcal{E}))$ denotes the full subcategory spanned by the right exact functors $\Phi: D_{\text{fiss}}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty) \rightarrow \mathbf{Sp}(\mathcal{E})$ such that $\Omega^\infty \circ \Phi: D_{\text{fiss}}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty) \rightarrow \mathcal{E}$ preserves sifted colimits.

Additivization

We now find that any theory admits an additive approximation given by a Goodwillie differential. The nature of colimits computed in $D_{\text{fiss}}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty)$ will then permit us to describe this additive approximation as an ∞ -categorical S_\bullet construction. As a result, we find that any such theory deloops to a *connective* spectrum.

We first need the following well-known lemma, which follows from [46, Lemma 5.3.6.17] or, alternately, from a suitable generalization of [46, Corollary 5.1.3.7].

LEMMA 7.8. *For any ∞ -topos \mathcal{E} , the loop functor $\Omega_{\mathcal{E}}: \mathcal{E}_* \rightarrow \mathcal{E}_*$ preserves sifted colimits of connected objects.*

THEOREM 7.9. *Suppose that \mathcal{E} is an ∞ -topos. The inclusion functor*

$$\text{Add}(\mathcal{E}) \hookrightarrow \text{Thy}(\mathcal{E})$$

admits a left adjoint D given by a Goodwillie differential [27, 29, 30]

$$D\phi \simeq \text{colim}_{n \rightarrow \infty} \Omega_{\mathcal{E}}^n \circ \Phi \circ \mathcal{S}^n \circ j,$$

where $\Phi: D(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty) \rightarrow \mathcal{E}$ is the left derived functor of ϕ .

Proof. Let us write \mathcal{F} for the class of small filtered colimits. By [30, Theorem 1.8] or [46, Corollary 7.1.1.10], the inclusion

$$\text{Exc}_{\mathcal{F}}(D_{\text{fiss}}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty), \mathcal{E}) \hookrightarrow \text{Fun}_{\mathcal{F}}^*(D_{\text{fiss}}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty), \mathcal{E})$$

(Definition 7.1) admits a left adjoint given by the assignment

$$\Phi \mapsto \text{colim}_{n \rightarrow \infty} \Omega_{\mathcal{E}}^n \circ \Phi \circ \Sigma_{D_{\text{fiss}}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty)}^n.$$

Now the inclusion $i: D_{\text{fiss}}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty) \hookrightarrow D(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty)$ induces a left adjoint

$$\text{Fun}_{\mathcal{F}}^*(D(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty), \mathcal{E}) \rightarrow \text{Fun}_{\mathcal{F}}^*(D_{\text{fiss}}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty), \mathcal{E})$$

to the forgetful functor induced by L^{fiss} . By composing these adjoints, we thus obtain a left adjoint \mathbf{D} to the forgetful functor

$$\text{Exc}_{\mathcal{F}}(D_{\text{fiss}}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty), \mathcal{E}) \hookrightarrow \text{Fun}_{\mathcal{F}}^*(D(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty), \mathcal{E}).$$

The left adjoint \mathbf{D} is given by the assignment

$$\Phi \mapsto \text{colim}_{n \rightarrow \infty} \Omega_{\mathcal{E}}^n \circ \Phi \circ i \circ \Sigma_{D_{\text{fiss}}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty)}^n.$$

By Corollary 6.12, if $n \geq 1$, then one may rewrite the functor $\Omega_{\mathcal{E}}^n \circ F \circ i \circ \Sigma_{\mathbf{D}_{\text{fiss}}^n(\mathbf{Wald}_{\infty})}^n$ as

$$\Omega_{\mathcal{E}}^n \circ \Phi \circ i \circ \Sigma_{\mathbf{D}_{\text{fiss}}^n(\mathbf{Wald}_{\infty})}^n \circ L^{\text{fiss}} \circ i \simeq \Omega_{\mathcal{E}}^n \circ \Phi \circ i \circ \mathcal{S}^n.$$

Now if $\Phi: \mathbf{D}(\mathbf{Wald}_{\infty}) \rightarrow \mathcal{E}$ is the left derived functor of a theory, then for any virtual Waldhausen ∞ -category \mathcal{Y} , since Φ is reduced, and since $\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{Y})$ is the colimit of a simplicial virtual Waldhausen ∞ -category $\mathbf{S}_*(\mathcal{Y})$ with $\mathbf{S}_0(\mathcal{Y}) \simeq 0$, the object $\Phi(\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{Y}))$ is connected as well. By Lemma 7.8, $\Omega_{\mathcal{E}}$ commutes with sifted colimits of connected objects of \mathcal{E} , whence it follows that the restriction of $\mathbf{D}: \text{Fun}_{\mathcal{F}}^*(\mathbf{D}(\mathbf{Wald}_{\infty}), \mathcal{E}) \rightarrow \text{Exc}_{\mathcal{F}}(\mathbf{D}_{\text{fiss}}(\mathbf{Wald}_{\infty}), \mathcal{E})$ to

$$\text{Thy}(\mathcal{E}) \simeq \text{Fun}_{\mathcal{G}}^*(\mathbf{D}(\mathbf{Wald}_{\infty}), \mathcal{E}) \subset \text{Fun}_{\mathcal{F}}^*(\mathbf{D}(\mathbf{Wald}_{\infty}), \mathcal{E})$$

in fact factors through the full subcategory

$$\text{Exc}_{\mathcal{G}}(\mathbf{D}_{\text{fiss}}(\mathbf{Wald}_{\infty}), \mathcal{E}) \subset \text{Exc}_{\mathcal{F}}(\mathbf{D}_{\text{fiss}}(\mathbf{Wald}_{\infty}), \mathcal{E}).$$

Thanks to Theorem 7.6, the functor \mathbf{D} consequently descends to a functor

$$D: \text{Thy}(\mathcal{E}) \rightarrow \text{Add}(\mathcal{E})$$

given by the assignment

$$\Phi \mapsto \text{colim}_{n \rightarrow \infty} \Omega_{\mathcal{E}}^n \circ \Phi \circ \Sigma_{\mathbf{D}_{\text{fiss}}^n(\mathbf{Wald}_{\infty})}^n \circ L^{\text{fiss}} \circ j.$$

Now another application of Corollary 6.12 completes the proof. □

DEFINITION 7.10. The left adjoint

$$D: \text{Thy}(\mathcal{E}) \rightarrow \text{Add}(\mathcal{E})$$

of the previous corollary will be called the *additivization*.

Suppose $\phi: \mathbf{Wald}_{\infty} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}$ is a theory; denote by Φ its left derived functor. For any virtual Waldhausen ∞ -category \mathcal{Y} and any natural number n , since the virtual Waldhausen ∞ -category $\mathcal{S}^n(\mathcal{Y})$ is the colimit of a reduced n -simplicial diagram $\mathbf{S}_*(\mathbf{S}_*(\cdots \mathbf{S}_*(\mathcal{Y}) \cdots))$, it follows that the object $\Phi(\mathcal{S}^n(\mathcal{Y}))$ is n -connected. This proves the following.

PROPOSITION 7.11. *The canonical delooping (Corollary 7.7) of the additivization $D\phi$ of a theory $\phi: \mathbf{Wald}_{\infty} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}_*$ is valued in connective spectra:*

$$\mathbf{Wald}_{\infty} \rightarrow \mathbf{Sp}(\mathcal{E})_{\geq 0}.$$

Pre-additive theories

We have already mentioned that many of the theories that arise in practice have the property that they carry direct sums of Waldhausen ∞ -categories to products. What is really useful about theories ϕ that enjoy this property is that the colimit

$$\text{colim}[\phi \rightarrow \Omega \circ \Phi \circ \mathcal{S} \circ j \rightarrow \Omega^2 \circ \Phi \circ \mathcal{S}^2 \circ j \rightarrow \cdots]$$

that appears in the formula for the additivization (Theorem 7.9) stabilizes after the first term; that is, only one loop is necessary to get an additive theory.

DEFINITION 7.12. Suppose that \mathcal{E} is an ∞ -topos. Then a theory $\phi \in \text{Thy}(\mathcal{E})$ is said to be *pre-additive* if it carries direct sums of Waldhausen ∞ -categories to products in \mathcal{E} .

PROPOSITION 7.13. *Suppose that \mathcal{E} is an ∞ -topos and that $\phi \in \text{Thy}(\mathcal{E})$ is a pre-additive theory with left derived functor Φ . Then the morphisms*

$$\Phi(\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{F}_m(\mathcal{C}))) \rightarrow \Phi(\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{C})) \quad \text{and} \quad \Phi(\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{F}_m(\mathcal{C}))) \rightarrow \Phi(\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{I}_m(\mathcal{C})))$$

induced by $I_{m,0}$ and F_m together exhibit $\Phi(\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{F}_m(\mathcal{C})))$ as a product of $\Phi(\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{C}))$ and $\Phi(\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{S}_m(\mathcal{C})))$.

Proof. Since ϕ is pre-additive, the morphism from $\Phi(\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{F}_m(\mathcal{C})))$ to the desired product may be identified with the morphism

$$\Phi(\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{F}_m(\mathcal{C}))) \longrightarrow \Phi(\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{C}) \oplus \mathcal{S}(\mathcal{S}_m(\mathcal{C}))),$$

which can, in turn, be identified with the natural morphism

$$\Phi(i \circ \Sigma_{\mathbf{D}_{\text{fiss}}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty)} \circ L^{\text{fiss}}(\mathcal{F}_m(\mathcal{C}))) \longrightarrow \Phi(i \circ \Sigma_{\mathbf{D}_{\text{fiss}}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty)} \circ L^{\text{fiss}}(\mathcal{C} \oplus \mathcal{S}_m(\mathcal{C})))$$

by Corollary 6.12. The upper right corner of (7.2) is a pushout, and since $E_m \oplus J_m$ is a section of $I_{m,0} \oplus F_m$, the natural morphism $L^{\text{fiss}}(\mathcal{F}_m(\mathcal{C})) \longrightarrow L^{\text{fiss}}(\mathcal{C} \oplus \mathcal{S}_m(\mathcal{C}))$ is an equivalence. \square

By Theorem 7.4, we obtain the following repackaging of Waldhausen’s additivity theorem.

COROLLARY 7.14. *Suppose that \mathcal{E} is an ∞ -topos and that $\phi \in \text{Thy}(\mathcal{E})$ is a pre-additive theory with left derived functor Φ . Then the additivization is given by*

$$D\phi \simeq \Omega \circ \Phi \circ \mathcal{S} \circ j.$$

Suppose that \mathcal{E} is an ∞ -topos and that $\phi \in \text{Thy}(\mathcal{E})$ is a pre-additive theory. Then the counit $\phi \longrightarrow D\phi$ is the initial object of the ∞ -category $\text{Add}(\mathcal{E}) \times_{\text{Thy}(\mathcal{E})} \text{Thy}(\mathcal{E})_{\phi/}$. By Theorem 7.4, this means that $D\phi$ is the initial object of the full subcategory of $\text{Thy}(\mathcal{E})_{\phi/}$ spanned by those natural transformations $\phi \longrightarrow \phi'$ such that for any Waldhausen ∞ -category \mathcal{C} and for any functor $\mathbf{S}_*(\mathcal{C}): N\Delta^{\text{op}} \longrightarrow \mathbf{Wald}_\infty$ that classifies the Waldhausen cocartesian fibration $\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{C}) \longrightarrow N\Delta^{\text{op}}$, the induced functor $\phi' \circ \mathbf{S}_*(\mathcal{C}): N\Delta^{\text{op}} \longrightarrow \mathcal{E}_*$ is a group object.

Motivated by this, we may now note that the inclusion of the full subcategory $\mathbf{Grp}(\mathcal{E})$ of $\text{Fun}(N\Delta^{\text{op}}, \mathcal{E})$ spanned by the group objects admits a left adjoint L . (It is a straightforward matter to note that $\mathbf{Grp}(\mathcal{E}) \subset \text{Fun}(N\Delta^{\text{op}}, \mathcal{E})$ is stable under arbitrary limits and filtered colimits; alternatively, one may find a small set S of morphisms of $\text{Fun}(N\Delta^{\text{op}}, \mathcal{E})$ such that a simplicial object X of \mathcal{E} is a group object if and only if X is S -local.) Hence one may consider the following composite functor L_*^ϕ :

$$\mathbf{Wald}_\infty \xrightarrow{\mathbf{S}_*} \text{Fun}(N\Delta^{\text{op}}, \mathbf{Wald}_\infty) \xrightarrow{\phi} \text{Fun}(N\Delta^{\text{op}}, \mathcal{E}) \xrightarrow{L} \mathbf{Grp}(\mathcal{E}).$$

If $\text{ev}_1: \mathbf{Grp}(\mathcal{E}) \longrightarrow \mathcal{E}$ is the functor given by evaluation at 1, then the functor $\text{ev}_1 \circ L$ may be identified with the functor $\Omega_{\mathcal{E}} \circ \text{colim}_{N\Delta^{\text{op}}}$. (This is Segal’s delooping machine.) It therefore follows from the previous corollary that the functor $L_1^\phi = \text{ev}_1 \circ L_*^\phi$ can be identified with the additivization of ϕ . This provides us with a *local* recognition principle for $D\phi$.

PROPOSITION 7.15. *Suppose that \mathcal{E} is an ∞ -topos, $\phi \in \text{Thy}(\mathcal{E})$ is a pre-additive theory, and \mathcal{C} is a Waldhausen ∞ -category. Write*

$$\mathbf{S}_*(\mathcal{C}): N\Delta^{\text{op}} \longrightarrow \mathbf{Wald}_\infty$$

for the functor that classifies the Waldhausen cocartesian fibration $\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{C}) \longrightarrow N\Delta^{\text{op}}$. Then the object $D\phi(\mathcal{C})$ is canonically equivalent to the underlying object of the group object that is initial in the ∞ -category

$$\mathbf{Grp}(\mathcal{E}) \times_{\text{Fun}(N\Delta^{\text{op}}, \mathcal{E})} \text{Fun}(N\Delta^{\text{op}}, \mathcal{E})_{\phi \circ \mathbf{S}_*(\mathcal{C})/}.$$

7.16. One may hope to study the rest of the Taylor tower of a theory. In particular, for any positive integer n and any theory $\phi \in \text{Thy}(\mathcal{E})$, one may define a symmetric ‘multi-additive’

theory $D^{(n)}\phi$ via a formula

$$D^{(n)}\phi(\mathcal{C}_1, \dots, \mathcal{C}_n) = \operatorname{colim}_{(j_1, \dots, j_n)} \Omega_{\mathcal{E}}^{j_1 + \dots + j_n} \operatorname{cr}_n \Phi(\mathcal{S}^{j_1} \mathcal{C}_1, \dots, \mathcal{S}^{j_n} \mathcal{C}_n),$$

where Φ is the left derived functor of ϕ , and $\operatorname{cr}_n \Phi$ is the n th cross-effect functor of the restriction of Φ to $\mathbf{D}_{\text{fiss}}(\mathbf{Wald}_{\infty})$. However, if ϕ is pre-additive, then for $n \geq 2$, the cross-effect functor $\operatorname{cr}_n \Phi$ vanishes, whence $D^{(n)}\phi$ vanishes as well. As a result, the Taylor tower for Φ is constant above the first level. More informally, the best polynomial approximation to Φ is linear. Consequently, if $\phi: \mathbf{Wald}_{\infty} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}_*$ is pre-additive, then Φ factors through an n -excisive functor $\mathbf{D}_{\text{fiss}}(\mathbf{Wald}_{\infty}) \rightarrow \mathcal{E}_*$ for some $n \geq 1$ if and only if ϕ is an additive theory, in which case n may be allowed to be 1. This seems to suggest a rather peculiar dichotomy: a pre-additive theory is either additive or staunchly non-analytic.

8. Easy consequences of additivity

Additive theories, which we introduced in the last section, are quite special. In this section, we will prove some simple results that will illustrate just how special they really are. We will show that additive theories vanish on any Waldhausen ∞ -category that is ‘too large’ (Proposition 8.1), and we will show that additive functors do not distinguish between Waldhausen ∞ -categories whose pair structure is maximal and suitable stable ∞ -categories extracted from them. As a side note, we will remark that, rather curiously, the fissile derived ∞ -category is only one loop away from being stable. Finally, and most importantly, we will prove our ∞ -categorical variant of Waldhausen’s fibration theorem. In the next section, we will introduce a richer structure into this story, to prove a more useful variant of this result.

The Eilenberg Swindle

We now show that Waldhausen ∞ -categories with ‘too many’ coproducts are invisible to additive theories.

PROPOSITION 8.1 (Eilenberg Swindle). *Suppose that \mathcal{E} is an ∞ -topos and that $\phi \in \operatorname{Add}(\mathcal{E})$. Then for any Waldhausen ∞ -category \mathcal{C} that admits countable coproducts, $\phi(\mathcal{C})$ is terminal in \mathcal{E} .*

Proof. Denote by I the set of natural numbers, regarded as a discrete ∞ -category, and denote by $\psi: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ the composite of the constant functor $\mathcal{C} \rightarrow \operatorname{Fun}(I, \mathcal{C})$ followed by its left adjoint $\operatorname{Fun}(I, \mathcal{C}) \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$. The inclusion $\{0\} \hookrightarrow I$ and the successor bijection $\sigma: I \xrightarrow{\sim} I - \{0\}$ together specify a natural ingressive $\operatorname{id} \rightarrow \psi$. This defines an exact functor $\mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{F}_1(\mathcal{C})$. Applying $I_{1,1}$ and $I_{1,0} \oplus F_1$ to this functor, we find that $\phi(\psi) = \phi(\operatorname{id}) + \phi(\psi)$, whence $\phi(\operatorname{id}) = 0$. \square

Stabilization and approximation

We prove that the value of an additive theory on a Waldhausen ∞ -category whose pair structure is maximal agrees with its value on a certain stable ∞ -category. Using this, we show that for these Waldhausen ∞ -categories, equivalences on the homotopy category suffice to give equivalences under any additive theory.

PROPOSITION 8.2 (Suspension Theorem). *Suppose that \mathcal{A} is a Waldhausen ∞ -category whose pair structure is maximal. Then for any additive theory $\phi \in \operatorname{Add}(\mathcal{E})$, the suspension functor $\Sigma: \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$ induces multiplication by -1 on the group object $\phi(\mathcal{A})$.*

Proof. This follows directly from the existence of the pushout square of endofunctors of \mathcal{A}

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{id} & \longrightarrow & 0 \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & \Sigma. \end{array} \quad \square$$

COROLLARY 8.3. *Suppose that \mathcal{A} is a Waldhausen ∞ -category whose pair structure is maximal. Write $\widetilde{\mathbf{Sp}}(\mathcal{A})$ for the colimit*

$$\mathcal{A} \xrightarrow{\Sigma} \mathcal{A} \xrightarrow{\Sigma} \dots \xrightarrow{\Sigma} \mathcal{A} \xrightarrow{\Sigma} \dots$$

in \mathbf{Wald}_∞ . Then for any additive theory $\phi \in \text{Add}(\mathcal{E})$, the canonical functor

$$\Sigma^\infty: \mathcal{A} \longrightarrow \widetilde{\mathbf{Sp}}(\mathcal{A})$$

induces an equivalence $\phi(\mathcal{A}) \longrightarrow \phi(\widetilde{\mathbf{Sp}}(\mathcal{A}))$.

We now obtain the following corollary, which we can regard as a version of Waldhausen’s approximation theorem. Very similar results appear in the works of Cisinski [19, Theorem 2.15] and Blumberg–Mandell [16, Theorem 1.3], and an interesting generalization has recently appeared in a preprint of Fiore [26].

COROLLARY 8.4 (Approximation). *Suppose that \mathcal{C} and \mathcal{D} are two ∞ -categories that each contain zero objects and all finite colimits, and regard them as Waldhausen ∞ -categories equipped with the maximal pair structure (Example 2.9). Then any exact functor $\psi: \mathcal{C} \longrightarrow \mathcal{D}$ that induces an equivalence of homotopy categories $h\mathcal{C} \xrightarrow{\sim} h\mathcal{D}$ also induces an equivalence $\phi(\psi): \phi(\mathcal{C}) \xrightarrow{\sim} \phi(\mathcal{D})$ for any additive theory $\phi \in \text{Add}(\mathcal{E})$.*

Proof. We note that since the homotopy category functor $\mathcal{C} \mapsto h\mathcal{C}$ preserves colimits, the induced functor $h\widetilde{\mathbf{Sp}}(\mathcal{C}) \longrightarrow h\widetilde{\mathbf{Sp}}(\mathcal{D})$ is an equivalence. Now we combine Propositions 8.3 and 2.15. □

The ∞ -category $\widetilde{\mathbf{Sp}}(\mathcal{A})$ is not always the stabilization of \mathcal{A} , but when \mathcal{A} is idempotent complete, it is.

PROPOSITION 8.5. *Suppose that \mathcal{A} is an idempotent complete ∞ -category that contains a zero object and all finite colimits. Regard \mathcal{A} as a Waldhausen ∞ -category with its maximal pair structure. Then $\widetilde{\mathbf{Sp}}(\mathcal{A})$ is equivalent to the stabilization $\mathbf{Sp}(\mathcal{A})$ of \mathcal{A} .*

Proof. The colimit of the sequence

$$\mathcal{A} \xrightarrow{\Sigma} \mathcal{A} \xrightarrow{\Sigma} \dots \xrightarrow{\Sigma} \mathcal{A} \xrightarrow{\Sigma} \dots$$

in \mathbf{Wald}_∞ agrees with the same colimit taken in $\mathbf{Cat}_\infty(\kappa_1)^{\text{Rex}}$ by [42, Proposition 5.5.7.11] and Proposition 4.9. Since Ind is a left adjoint [42, Proposition 5.5.7.10], the colimit of the sequence

$$\text{Ind}\mathcal{A} \xrightarrow{\Sigma} \text{Ind}\mathcal{A} \xrightarrow{\Sigma} \dots \xrightarrow{\Sigma} \text{Ind}\mathcal{A} \xrightarrow{\Sigma} \dots$$

in $\text{Pr}_\omega^{\text{L}}$ is $\text{Ind}(\widetilde{\mathbf{Sp}}(\mathcal{A}))$. By [42, Notation 5.5.7.7], there is an equivalence between $\text{Pr}_\omega^{\text{L}}$ and $(\text{Pr}_\omega^{\text{R}})^{\text{op}}$, whence $\text{Ind}(\widetilde{\mathbf{Sp}}(\mathcal{A}))$ can be identified with the limit of the sequence

$$\dots \xrightarrow{\Omega} \text{Ind}\mathcal{A} \xrightarrow{\Omega} \dots \xrightarrow{\Omega} \text{Ind}\mathcal{A} \xrightarrow{\Omega} \text{Ind}\mathcal{A}$$

in $\mathrm{Pr}_\omega^{\mathbf{R}}$. Since the inclusion $\mathrm{Pr}_\omega^{\mathbf{R}} \hookrightarrow \mathbf{Cat}_\infty(\kappa_1)$ preserves limits [42, Proposition 5.5.7.6], it follows that $\mathrm{Ind}(\widetilde{\mathbf{Sp}}(\mathcal{A})) \simeq \mathbf{Sp}(\mathrm{Ind}(\mathcal{A}))$. Now the functor $C \mapsto C^\omega$ is an equivalence of ∞ -categories between $\mathrm{Pr}_\omega^{\mathbf{R}}$ and the full subcategory of $\mathbf{Cat}_\infty(\kappa_1)^{\mathrm{Lex}}$ spanned by the essentially small, idempotent complete ∞ -categories, whence it follows that

$$\widetilde{\mathbf{Sp}}(\mathcal{A}) \simeq \mathrm{Ind}(\widetilde{\mathbf{Sp}}(\mathcal{A}))^\omega \simeq \mathbf{Sp}(\mathrm{Ind}(\mathcal{A}))^\omega \simeq \mathbf{Sp}(\mathrm{Ind}(\mathcal{A})^\omega) \simeq \mathbf{Sp}(\mathcal{A}). \quad \square$$

EXAMPLE 8.6. Suppose that \mathcal{E} is an ∞ -topos. (One may, again, think of $\mathrm{Fun}(X, \mathbf{Kan})$ for a simplicial set X .) For any additive theory ϕ , the results above show that one has an equivalence

$$\phi(\mathcal{E}_*^\omega) \simeq \phi(\mathbf{Sp}(\mathcal{E}^\omega)).$$

Digression: the near-stability of the fissile derived ∞ -category

By analyzing the additivization of the Yoneda embedding, we now find that a fissile virtual Waldhausen ∞ -category is one step away from being an infinite loop object. This implies that the ∞ -category $\mathrm{D}_{\mathrm{fiss}}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty)$ can be said to admit a much stronger form of the Blakers–Massey excision theorem than the ∞ -category of spaces. Armed with this, we give an easy necessary and sufficient criterion for a morphism of virtual Waldhausen ∞ -categories to induce an equivalence on every additive theory.

DEFINITION 8.7. We shall call a theory $\phi \in \mathrm{Thy}(\mathcal{E})$ *left exact* just in case its left derived functor Φ preserves finite limits.

Clearly every left exact theory is pre-additive. Moreover, the best excisive approximation $P_1(G \circ F)$ to the composite $G \circ F$ of a suitable functor $F: C \rightarrow D$ with a functor $G: D \rightarrow D'$ that preserves finite limits is simply the composite $G \circ P_1(F)$. Accordingly, we have the following.

LEMMA 8.8. *Suppose that $\phi \in \mathrm{Thy}(\mathcal{E})$ is a left exact theory. Then*

$$D\phi \simeq \Phi \circ \Omega_{\mathrm{D}_{\mathrm{fiss}}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty)} \circ \mathcal{S}.$$

EXAMPLE 8.9. The Yoneda embedding $y: \mathbf{Wald}_\infty \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty^\omega)$ is a left exact theory; its left derived functor $Y: \mathrm{D}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty) \hookrightarrow \mathcal{P}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty^\omega)$ is simply the canonical inclusion. Consequently, thanks to Corollary 7.14, the additivization of y is now given by the formula

$$Dy \simeq \Omega \circ \mathcal{S} \circ j.$$

Let us give some equivalent descriptions of the functor Dy . Since $\mathcal{F}(\mathcal{C})$ is contractible, one may write

$$Dy(\mathcal{C}) \simeq \mathcal{F}(\mathcal{C}) \times_{\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{C})} \mathcal{F}(\mathcal{C}).$$

Alternately, since suspension in $\mathrm{D}_{\mathrm{fiss}}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty)$ is given by \mathcal{S} , the functor

$$Dy(\mathcal{C}): \mathbf{Wald}_\infty^{\omega, \mathrm{op}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Kan}$$

can be described by the formula

$$Dy(\mathcal{C})(\mathcal{D}) \simeq \mathrm{Map}_{\mathrm{D}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty)}(\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{D}), \mathcal{S}(\mathcal{C})).$$

In other words, $\Omega\Sigma \simeq \Omega\mathcal{S}$ is the Goodwillie differential of the identity on $\mathrm{D}_{\mathrm{fiss}}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty)$.

Waldhausen’s Generic Fibration Theorem

Let us now examine the circumstances under which a sequence of virtual Waldhausen ∞ -categories gives rise to a fiber sequence under any additive functor. In this direction, we have Proposition 8.11, which is an analogue of Waldhausen’s [73, Proposition 1.5.5 and Corollary 1.5.7]. We will deduce from this a necessary and sufficient condition for an exact functor to induce an equivalence under every additive theory (Proposition 8.12).

NOTATION 8.10. Suppose that $\psi: \mathcal{B} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$ is an exact functor of Waldhausen ∞ -categories. Write

$$\mathcal{K}(\psi) := |\mathcal{F}(\mathcal{A}) \times_{\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{A})} \mathcal{S}(\mathcal{B})|_{N\Delta^{\text{op}}}$$

for the realization (Definition 4.30) of the Waldhausen cocartesian fibration

$$\mathcal{F}(\mathcal{A}) \times_{\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{A})} \mathcal{S}(\mathcal{B}) \rightarrow N\Delta^{\text{op}}.$$

In other words, the virtual Waldhausen ∞ -category $\mathcal{K}(\psi)$ is the geometric realization of the simplicial Waldhausen ∞ -category whose m -simplices consist of a totally filtered object

$$0 \rightarrow U_1 \rightarrow U_2 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow U_m$$

of \mathcal{B} , a filtered object

$$X_0 \rightarrow X_1 \rightarrow X_2 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow X_m$$

of \mathcal{A} , and a diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} X_0 & \rightarrow & X_1 & \rightarrow & X_2 & \rightarrow & \dots \rightarrow X_m \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ 0 & \rightarrow & \psi(U_1) & \rightarrow & \psi(U_2) & \rightarrow & \dots \rightarrow \psi(U_m) \end{array}$$

of \mathcal{A} in which every square is a pushout.

The object $\mathcal{K}(\psi)$ is not itself the corresponding fiber product of virtual Waldhausen ∞ -categories; however, for any additive functor $\phi: \mathbf{Wald}_\infty \rightarrow \mathcal{E}$ with left derived functor Φ , we shall now show that $\Phi(\mathcal{K}(\psi))$ is in fact the fiber of the induced morphism $\Phi(\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{B})) \rightarrow \Phi(\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{A}))$.

THEOREM 8.11 (Generic Fibration Theorem I). *Suppose that $\psi: \mathcal{B} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$ is an exact functor of Waldhausen ∞ -categories. Then for any additive theory $\phi: \mathbf{Wald}_\infty \rightarrow \mathcal{E}$ with left derived functor Φ , there is a diagram*

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \phi(\mathcal{B}) & \longrightarrow & \phi(\mathcal{A}) & \longrightarrow & * \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ * & \longrightarrow & \Phi(\mathcal{K}(\psi)) & \longrightarrow & \Phi(\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{B})) \\ & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ & & * & \longrightarrow & \Phi(\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{A})) \end{array}$$

of \mathcal{E} in which each square is a pullback.

Proof. For any vertex $\mathbf{m} \in N\Delta^{\text{op}}$, there exist functors

$$s := (E_m \oplus \mathcal{S}_m(\psi), \text{pr}_2): \mathcal{F}_0(\mathcal{A}) \oplus \mathcal{S}_m(\mathcal{B}) \rightarrow \mathcal{F}_m(\mathcal{A}) \times_{\mathcal{S}_m(\mathcal{A})} \mathcal{S}_m(\mathcal{B})$$

and

$$p := (I_{m,0} \circ \text{pr}_1) \oplus \text{pr}_2: \mathcal{F}_m(\mathcal{A}) \times_{\mathcal{S}_m(\mathcal{A})} \mathcal{S}_m(\mathcal{B}) \longrightarrow \mathcal{F}_0(\mathcal{A}) \oplus \mathcal{S}_m(\mathcal{B}).$$

Clearly $p \circ s \simeq \text{id}$; we claim that $\phi(s \circ p) \simeq \phi(\text{id})$ in \mathcal{E}_* . This follows from additivity applied to the functor

$$\mathcal{F}_m(\mathcal{A}) \times_{\mathcal{S}_m(\mathcal{A})} \mathcal{S}_m(\mathcal{B}) \longrightarrow \mathcal{F}_1(\mathcal{F}_m(\mathcal{A}) \times_{\mathcal{S}_m(\mathcal{A})} \mathcal{S}_m(\mathcal{B}))$$

given by the ingressive morphism of functors $(E_m \circ I_{m,0} \circ \text{pr}_1, 0) \rightsquigarrow \text{id}$. Thus the value $\phi(\mathcal{F}_m(\mathcal{A}) \times_{\mathcal{S}_m(\mathcal{A})} \mathcal{S}_m(\mathcal{B}))$ is exhibited as the product $\phi(\mathcal{F}_0(\mathcal{A})) \times \phi(\mathcal{S}_m(\mathcal{B}))$.

We may therefore consider the following commutative diagram of \mathcal{E}_* :

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \phi(\mathcal{F}_0(\mathcal{B})) & \xrightarrow{\mathcal{F}_0(\psi)} & \phi(\mathcal{F}_0(\mathcal{A})) & \xrightarrow{F_0} & \phi(\mathcal{S}_0(\mathcal{B})) \\ E_m \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow E'_m \\ \phi(\mathcal{F}_m(\mathcal{B})) & \xrightarrow{(0, F_m)} & \phi(\mathcal{F}_m(\mathcal{A}) \times_{\mathcal{S}_m(\mathcal{A})} \mathcal{S}_m(\mathcal{B})) & \xrightarrow{\text{pr}_1} & \phi(\mathcal{S}_m(\mathcal{B})) \\ & & \downarrow \text{pr}_2 & & \downarrow \mathcal{S}_m(\psi) \\ & & \phi(\mathcal{F}_m(\mathcal{A})) & \xrightarrow{F_m} & \phi(\mathcal{S}_m(\mathcal{A})) \\ I_{m,0} \downarrow & & \downarrow I'_{m,0} & & \downarrow I'_{m,0} \\ \phi(\mathcal{F}_0(\mathcal{A})) & \xrightarrow{F_0} & \phi(\mathcal{F}_0(\mathcal{A})) & \xrightarrow{F_0} & \phi(\mathcal{S}_0(\mathcal{A})). \end{array}$$

The lower right-hand square is a pullback square by additivity; hence, in light of the identification above, all the squares on the right-hand side are pullbacks as well. Again by additivity the wide rectangle of the top row is carried to a pullback square under ϕ , whence all the squares of this diagram are carried to pullback squares.

Since ϕ is additive, so is $\Phi \circ \mathcal{S}$. Hence we obtain a commutative diagram in \mathcal{E}_* :

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \Phi(\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{F}_0(\mathcal{B}))) & \longrightarrow & \Phi(\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{F}_0(\mathcal{A}))) & \longrightarrow & \Phi(\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{S}_0(\mathcal{B}))) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \Phi(\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{F}_m(\mathcal{B}))) & \longrightarrow & \Phi(\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{F}_m(\mathcal{A}) \times_{\mathcal{S}_m(\mathcal{A})} \mathcal{S}_m(\mathcal{B}))) & \longrightarrow & \Phi(\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{S}_m(\mathcal{B}))) \\ & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ & & \Phi(\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{F}_m(\mathcal{A}))) & \longrightarrow & \Phi(\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{S}_m(\mathcal{A}))), \end{array}$$

in which every square is a pullback. All the squares in this diagram are functorial in \mathbf{m} , and since the objects that appear are all connected, it follows from [46, Lemma 5.3.6.17] that the squares of the colimit diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \Phi(\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{F}_0(\mathcal{B}))) & \longrightarrow & \Phi(\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{F}_0(\mathcal{A}))) & \longrightarrow & \Phi(\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{S}_0(\mathcal{B}))) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \Phi(\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{F}(\mathcal{B}))) & \longrightarrow & \Phi(\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{H}(\psi))) & \longrightarrow & \Phi(\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{B}))) \\ & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ & & \Phi(\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{F}(\mathcal{A}))) & \longrightarrow & \Phi(\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{A}))), \end{array}$$

are all pullbacks. Applying the loop-space functor $\Omega_{\mathcal{E}}$ to this diagram now produces a diagram equivalent to the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 \phi(\mathcal{F}_0(\mathcal{B})) & \longrightarrow & \phi(\mathcal{F}_0(\mathcal{A})) & \longrightarrow & \phi(\mathcal{S}_0(\mathcal{B})) \\
 \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 \Phi(\mathcal{F}(\mathcal{B})) & \longrightarrow & \Phi(\mathcal{K}(\psi)) & \longrightarrow & \Phi(\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{B})) \\
 & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 & & \Phi(\mathcal{F}(\mathcal{A})) & \longrightarrow & \Phi(\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{A})),
 \end{array}$$

in which every square again is a pullback. □

PROPOSITION 8.12. *The following are equivalent for an exact functor $\psi: \mathcal{B} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$ of Waldhausen ∞ -categories.*

- (1) *For any ∞ -topos \mathcal{E} and any $\phi \in \text{Add}(\mathcal{E})$ with left derived functor*

$$\Phi: \mathbf{D}(\mathbf{Wald}_{\infty}) \longrightarrow \mathcal{E},$$

the induced morphism $\Phi(\psi): \Phi(\mathcal{B}) \rightarrow \Phi(\mathcal{A})$ is an equivalence of \mathcal{E} .

- (2) *For any ∞ -topos \mathcal{E} and any $\phi \in \text{Add}(\mathcal{E})$ with left derived functor*

$$\Phi: \mathbf{D}(\mathbf{Wald}_{\infty}) \longrightarrow \mathcal{E},$$

the object $\Phi(\mathcal{K}(\psi))$ is contractible.

- (3) *The virtual Waldhausen ∞ -category $\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{K}(\psi))$ is contractible.*

Proof. In light of Lemma 8.8 and Example 8.9, if (8.12.1) holds, then the induced morphism

$$\Omega\mathcal{S}(\psi): \Omega\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{B}) \longrightarrow \Omega\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{A})$$

is an equivalence of virtual Waldhausen ∞ -categories. Since $\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{B})$ and $\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{A})$ are connected objects of $\mathcal{P}(\mathbf{Wald}_{\infty}^w)$, this in turn implies (using, say, [46, Corollary 5.1.3.7]) that the induced morphism of virtual Waldhausen ∞ -categories

$$\mathcal{S}(\psi): \mathcal{S}(\mathcal{B}) \longrightarrow \mathcal{S}(\mathcal{A})$$

is an equivalence and therefore by Proposition 8.11 that (8.12.2) holds.

Now if (8.12.2) holds, then in particular, $\Omega\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{K}(\psi))$ is contractible. Since the virtual Waldhausen ∞ -category $\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{K}(\psi))$ is connected, it is contractible, yielding (8.12.3).

That the last condition implies the first now follows immediately from Proposition 8.11. □

9. Labeled Waldhausen ∞ -categories and Waldhausen’s fibration theorem

We have remarked (Example 2.12) that nerves of Waldhausen’s categories with cofibrations are natural examples of Waldhausen ∞ -categories. But Waldhausen’s categories with cofibrations and weak equivalences do not fit so easily into this story. One may attempt to form the relative nerve (Definition 1.5) of the underlying relative category and to endow the resulting ∞ -category with a suitable pair structure, but part of the point of Waldhausen’s set-up was precisely that one did not need to assume things such as the two-out-of-three axiom. For example, Waldhausen considers ([73, Part 3] or [74]) categories of spaces in which the weak equivalences are chosen to be the simple maps. In these situations the K -theory of the relative nerve will not correctly encode the Waldhausen K -theory.

The time has come to address this issue. Fortunately, the machinery we have developed provides a useful alternative. Namely, we introduce the notion of a *labeled Waldhausen ∞ -category* (Definition 9.1), which is a Waldhausen ∞ -category equipped with a subcategory of

labeled edges that satisfy the analogue of Waldhausen’s axioms for a category with cofibrations and weak equivalences. There is a relative form of this, too, as an example, we show how to label Waldhausen cocartesian fibrations of filtered objects.

It is possible to extract from these categories with cofibrations and weak equivalences useful *virtual Waldhausen ∞ -categories* (Notation 9.9). These virtual Waldhausen ∞ -categories are constructed as realizations of certain Waldhausen cocartesian fibrations over $N\Delta^{\text{op}}$; they are not Waldhausen ∞ -categories, but they are ‘close’ (Proposition 9.13). We also discuss the relationship between the virtual Waldhausen ∞ -categories attached to a labeled Waldhausen ∞ -category and the result from formally inverting (in the ∞ -categorical sense, of course) the labeled edges (Notation 9.18).

The main result of this section is a familiar case of the Generic Fibration Theorem I (Theorem 8.11). This result (Theorem 9.24) gives, for any labeled Waldhausen ∞ -category $(\mathcal{A}, w\mathcal{A})$ satisfying a certain compatibility between the ingressesives and the labeled edges (Definition 9.21) a fiber sequence

$$\phi(\mathcal{A}^w) \longrightarrow \phi(\mathcal{A}) \longrightarrow \Phi(\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{A}, w\mathcal{A}))$$

for any additive theory ϕ with left derived functor Φ . This result is the foundation of virtually all fiber sequences that arise in K -theory.

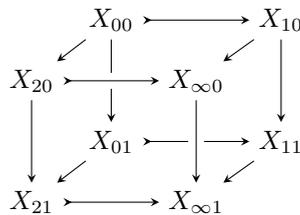
Labeled Waldhausen ∞ -categories

In analogy with Waldhausen’s theory of categories with cofibrations and weak equivalences, we study here Waldhausen ∞ -categories with certain compatible classes of *labeled morphisms*.

DEFINITION 9.1. Suppose that \mathcal{C} is a Waldhausen ∞ -category. Then a *gluing diagram* in \mathcal{C} is a functor of pairs

$$X: \mathcal{Q}^2 \times (\Delta^1)^b \longrightarrow \mathcal{C}$$

(Example 1.13 and 2.8), such that the squares $X|_{(\mathcal{Q}^2 \times \Delta^{\{0\}})}$ and $X|_{(\mathcal{Q}^2 \times \Delta^{\{1\}})}$ are pushouts. We may depict such gluing diagrams as cubes



in which the top and bottom faces are pushout squares.

DEFINITION 9.2. A *labeling* of a Waldhausen ∞ -category is a subcategory $w\mathcal{C}$ of \mathcal{C} that contains $\iota\mathcal{C}$ (that is, a pair structure on \mathcal{C}) such that for any gluing diagram X of \mathcal{C} in which the morphisms

$$X_{00} \longrightarrow X_{01}, \quad X_{10} \longrightarrow X_{11}, \quad \text{and} \quad X_{20} \longrightarrow X_{21}$$

lie in $w\mathcal{C}$, the morphism $X_{\infty 0} \longrightarrow X_{\infty 1}$ lies in $w\mathcal{C}$ as well. In this case, the edges of $w\mathcal{C}$ will be called *labeled edges*, and the pair $(\mathcal{C}, w\mathcal{C})$ is called a *labeled Waldhausen ∞ -category*.

A *labeled exact functor* between two labeled Waldhausen ∞ -categories \mathcal{C} and \mathcal{D} is an exact functor $\mathcal{C} \longrightarrow \mathcal{D}$ that carries labeled edges to labeled edges.

Note that a labeled Waldhausen ∞ -category has two pair structures: the ingressesives and the labeled edges.

EXAMPLE 9.3. We have remarked (Example 2.12) that the nerve of an ordinary *category with cofibrations* in the sense of Waldhausen is a Waldhausen ∞ -category. Similarly, if $(C, \text{cof}C, wC)$ is a *category with cofibrations and weak equivalences* in the sense of Waldhausen [73, § 1.2], then $(NC, N\text{cof}C, NwC)$ is a labeled Waldhausen ∞ -category.

Suppose $(\mathcal{C}, w\mathcal{C})$ is a labeled Waldhausen ∞ -category. For gluing diagrams X of \mathcal{C} in which the edges

$$\begin{aligned} X_{00} &\longrightarrow X_{20}, & X_{00} &\longrightarrow X_{01}, \\ X_{10} &\longrightarrow X_{\infty 0}, & X_{10} &\longrightarrow X_{11} \end{aligned}$$

are all degenerate, the condition above reduces to a guarantee that pushouts of labeled morphisms along ingressive morphisms are labeled. For gluing diagrams X of \mathcal{C} in which the edges

$$\begin{aligned} X_{00} &\longrightarrow X_{10}, & X_{00} &\longrightarrow X_{01}, \\ X_{20} &\longrightarrow X_{\infty 0}, & X_{20} &\longrightarrow X_{21} \end{aligned}$$

are all degenerate, the condition above reduces to a guarantee that the pushout of any labeled ingressive morphism along any morphism exists and is again a labeled ingressive morphism.

NOTATION 9.4. Denote by

$$\ell\mathbf{Wald}_\infty \subset \mathbf{Wald}_\infty \times_{\mathbf{Cat}_\infty} \mathbf{Pair}_\infty$$

the full subcategory spanned by the labeled Waldhausen ∞ -categories.

PROPOSITION 9.5. *The ∞ -category $\ell\mathbf{Wald}_\infty$ is presentable.*

Proof. The inclusion

$$\ell\mathbf{Wald}_\infty \hookrightarrow \mathbf{Wald}_\infty \times_{\mathbf{Cat}_\infty} \mathbf{Pair}_\infty$$

admits a left adjoint, which assigns to any object $(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{C}_\dagger, w\mathcal{C})$ the labeled Waldhausen ∞ -category $(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{C}_\dagger, \overline{w\mathcal{C}})$, where $\overline{w\mathcal{C}}$ is the smallest labeling containing $w\mathcal{C}$. It is easy to see that $\ell\mathbf{Wald}_\infty$ is stable under filtered colimits in $\mathbf{Wald}_\infty \times_{\mathbf{Cat}_\infty} \mathbf{Pair}_\infty$; hence $\ell\mathbf{Wald}_\infty$ is an accessible localization of $\mathbf{Wald}_\infty \times_{\mathbf{Cat}_\infty} \mathbf{Pair}_\infty$. Since the latter ∞ -category is locally presentable by [42, Proposition 5.5.7.6], the proof is complete. \square

The Waldhausen cocartesian fibration attached to a labeled Waldhausen ∞ -category

In § 5, we defined the virtual Waldhausen ∞ -category of filtered objects of a Waldhausen ∞ -category \mathcal{C} . We did this by first using Proposition 3.19 to write down a cocartesian fibration that is classified by the simplicial ∞ -category

$$\mathbf{F}_*(\mathcal{C}): N\Delta^{\text{op}} \longrightarrow \mathbf{Cat}$$

such that for any integer $m \geq 0$, the ∞ -category $\mathbf{F}_m(\mathcal{C})$ has as objects sequences of ingressive morphisms

$$X_0 \twoheadrightarrow X_1 \twoheadrightarrow \cdots \twoheadrightarrow X_m.$$

Then we defined the virtual Waldhausen ∞ -category we were after by forming the formal geometric realization of the diagram $\mathbf{F}_*(\mathcal{C})$.

Here, we introduce an analogous construction when \mathcal{C} admits a labeling, in which the role of the cofibrations is played instead by the labeled edges. That is, we will define a cocartesian fibration $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{C}, w\mathcal{C}) \rightarrow N\Delta^{\text{op}}$ that is classified by the simplicial ∞ -category

$$\mathbf{B}_*(\mathcal{C}, w\mathcal{C}): N\Delta^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat}_\infty$$

such that for any integer $m \geq 0$, the ∞ -category $\mathbf{B}_m(\mathcal{C}, w\mathcal{C})$ has as objects sequences of labeled edges

$$X_0 \rightarrow X_1 \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow X_m.$$

The pair structure will be simpler than in §5, but once again we will define the virtual Waldhausen ∞ -category we are after by forming the formal geometric realization of the diagram $\mathbf{B}_*(\mathcal{C}, w\mathcal{C})$.

CONSTRUCTION 9.6. Suppose that \mathcal{C} is a Waldhausen ∞ -category, and suppose $w\mathcal{C} \subset \mathcal{C}$ a labeling thereof. Define a map $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{C}, w\mathcal{C}) \rightarrow N\Delta^{\text{op}}$, using the notation of Proposition 3.19, Example 1.13, and Notation 5.2, as

$$\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{C}, w\mathcal{C}) := T_\pi((N\Delta^{\text{op}})^{\flat} \times (\mathcal{C}, w\mathcal{C})).$$

Equivalently, we require, for any simplicial set K and any map $\sigma: K \rightarrow N\Delta^{\text{op}}$, a bijection between the set $\text{Mor}_{N\Delta^{\text{op}}}(K, \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{C}, w\mathcal{C}))$ and the set

$$\text{Mor}_{\mathbf{sSet}(2)}((K \times_{N\Delta^{\text{op}}} NM, K \times_{N\Delta^{\text{op}}} (NM)_{\dagger}), (\mathcal{C}, w\mathcal{C}))$$

(Notation 3.18), functorial in σ .

In other words, $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{C}, w\mathcal{C})$ is the simplicial set $\mathcal{F}(\mathcal{C}, w\mathcal{C})$, where \mathcal{C} is regarded as a pair with its subcategory of *labeled edges*, rather than its subcategory of cofibrations.

It follows from Proposition 3.19 that $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{C}, w\mathcal{C}) \rightarrow N\Delta^{\text{op}}$ is a cocartesian fibration.

9.7. For any Waldhausen ∞ -category \mathcal{C} and any labeling $w\mathcal{C} \subset \mathcal{C}$ thereof, we endow the ∞ -category $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{C}, w\mathcal{C})$ with a pair structure in the following manner. We let $\mathcal{B}_{\dagger}(\mathcal{C}, w\mathcal{C})$ be the smallest pair structure containing morphisms of the form $(\text{id}, \psi): (\mathbf{m}, Y) \rightarrow (\mathbf{m}, X)$, where for any integer $0 \leq k \leq m$, the induced morphism $Y_k \rightarrow X_k$ is ingressive.

LEMMA 9.8. *For any Waldhausen ∞ -category \mathcal{C} and any labeling $w\mathcal{C} \subset \mathcal{C}$ thereof, the cocartesian fibration $p: \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{C}, w\mathcal{C}) \rightarrow N\Delta^{\text{op}}$ is a Waldhausen cocartesian fibration.*

Proof. It is plain to see that p is a pair cocartesian fibration.

Now suppose $m \geq 0$ is an integer. Since limits and colimits of the ∞ -category $\text{Fun}(\Delta^m, \mathcal{C})$ are computed pointwise, a zero object in $\text{Fun}(\Delta^m, \mathcal{C})$ is an essentially constant functor whose value at any point of Δ^m is a zero object. Since any equivalence of \mathcal{C} is contained in $w\mathcal{C}$, this zero object is contained in $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{C}, w\mathcal{C})_m$ as well. Again since pushouts in $\text{Fun}(\Delta^m, \mathcal{C})$ are formed objectwise, a pushout square in $\text{Fun}(\Delta^m, \mathcal{C})$ is a functor

$$X: \Delta^1 \times \Delta^1 \times \Delta^{\{0,k\}} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$$

such that for any integer $0 \leq k \leq m$, the restriction $X|_{(\Delta^1 \times \Delta^1 \times \Delta^{\{0,k\}})}$ is a pushout square; now if X is in addition a functor of pairs $\mathcal{Q}^2 \times (\Delta^m)^{\flat} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$, then it follows from the gluing axiom that if $X|_{(\{0\} \times \Delta^{\{0,k\}})}$, $X|_{(\{1\} \times \Delta^{\{0,k\}})}$, and $X|_{(\{2\} \times \Delta^{\{0,k\}})}$ all factor through $w\mathcal{C} \subset \mathcal{C}$, then so does $X|_{(\{\infty\} \times \Delta^{\{0,k\}})}$. Hence the fibers $\mathcal{B}_m(\mathcal{C}, w\mathcal{C})$ of p are Waldhausen ∞ -categories, and, again using the fact that colimits and limits are computed objectwise, we conclude that p is a Waldhausen cocartesian fibration. \square

The virtual Waldhausen ∞ -category attached to a labeled Waldhausen ∞ -category

It follows from Proposition 3.20 that the assignment

$$(\mathcal{C}, w\mathcal{C}) \mapsto \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{C}, w\mathcal{C})$$

defines a functor

$$\mathcal{B}: \ell\mathbf{Wald}_\infty \longrightarrow \mathbf{Wald}_{\infty/N\Delta^{\text{op}}}^{\text{cocart}}.$$

By composing with the realization functor (Definition 4.30), we find a functorial construction of virtual Waldhausen ∞ -categories from labeled Waldhausen ∞ -categories:

NOTATION 9.9. By a small abuse of notation, we denote also as \mathcal{B} the composite functor

$$\ell\mathbf{Wald}_\infty \xrightarrow{\mathcal{B}} \mathbf{Wald}_{\infty/N\Delta^{\text{op}}}^{\text{cocart}} \xrightarrow{|\cdot|_{N\Delta^{\text{op}}}} D(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty).$$

EXAMPLE 9.10. One deduces from Example 9.3 that a category $(C, \text{cof}C, wC)$ with cofibrations and weak equivalences gives rise to a virtual Waldhausen ∞ -category $\mathcal{B}(NC, N\text{cof}C, NwC)$.

NOTATION 9.11. Note that the pair cartesian fibration $\pi: NM \rightarrow N\Delta^{\text{op}}$ of Notation 5.2 admits a section σ that assigns to any object $\mathbf{m} \in \Delta$ the pair $(\mathbf{m}, 0) \in M$. For any labeled Waldhausen ∞ -category $(\mathcal{C}, w\mathcal{C})$, this section induces a functor of pairs over $N\Delta^{\text{op}}$

$$\sigma_{(\mathcal{C}, w\mathcal{C})}^*: \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{C}, w\mathcal{C}) \longrightarrow (N\Delta^{\text{op}})^{\text{b}} \times \mathcal{C},$$

which carries any object (\mathbf{m}, X) of $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{C}, w\mathcal{C})$ to the pair (\mathbf{m}, X_0) and any morphism $(\phi, \psi): (\mathbf{n}, Y) \rightarrow (\mathbf{m}, X)$ to the composite

$$Y_0 \longrightarrow Y_{\phi(0)} \xrightarrow{\psi_0} X_0.$$

The section σ induces a map of simplicial sets

$$H(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{C}, w\mathcal{C})) \longrightarrow w\text{Fun}\mathbf{Wald}_\infty(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{C}),$$

natural in \mathcal{D} , where $w\text{Fun}\mathbf{Wald}_\infty(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{C}) \subset \text{Fun}\mathbf{Wald}_\infty(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{C})$ denotes the subcategory containing all exact functors $\mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ and those natural transformations that are pointwise labeled.

LEMMA 9.12. For any labeled Waldhausen ∞ -category $(\mathcal{C}, w\mathcal{C})$ and any compact Waldhausen ∞ -category \mathcal{D} , the map $H(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{C}, w\mathcal{C})) \rightarrow w\text{Fun}\mathbf{Wald}_\infty(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{C})$ induced by σ is a weak homotopy equivalence.

Proof A. Using (the dual of) Joyal's ∞ -categorical version of Quillen's Theorem A [42, Theorem 4.1.3.1], we are reduced to showing that for any exact functor $X: \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$, the simplicial set

$$H(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{C}, w\mathcal{C})) \times_{w\text{Fun}\mathbf{Wald}_\infty(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{C})} w\text{Fun}\mathbf{Wald}_\infty(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{C})_{X/}$$

is weakly contractible. This simplicial set is the geometric realization of the simplicial space

$$\mathbf{n} \mapsto H_{1+n}(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{C}, w\mathcal{C})) \times_{w\text{Fun}\mathbf{Wald}_\infty(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{C})} \{X\};$$

in particular, it may be identified with the path space of the fiber of the map

$$H(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{C}, w\mathcal{C})) \longrightarrow w\text{Fun}\mathbf{Wald}_\infty(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{C})$$

over the vertex X . □

Proof B. Consider the ordinary category $\Delta_{w\mathbf{Fun}\mathbf{Wald}_\infty(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{C})}$ of simplices of the simplicial set $w\mathbf{Fun}\mathbf{Wald}_\infty(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{C})$. Corresponding to the natural map

$$N(\Delta_{w\mathbf{Fun}\mathbf{Wald}_\infty(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{C})}^{\text{op}} \times_{\Delta^{\text{op}}} \mathbf{M}_\dagger) \longrightarrow \mathbf{Fun}\mathbf{Wald}_\infty(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{C})$$

is a map

$$N\Delta_{w\mathbf{Fun}\mathbf{Wald}_\infty(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{C})}^{\text{op}} \longrightarrow \mathbf{H}(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{C}, w\mathcal{C})).$$

This map identifies the nerve $N\Delta_{w\mathbf{Fun}\mathbf{Wald}_\infty(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{C})}^{\text{op}}$ with the simplicial subset of $\mathbf{H}(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{C}, w\mathcal{C}))$ whose simplices correspond to maps

$$\Delta^n \times_{\Delta^{\text{op}}} \mathbf{M}_\dagger \longrightarrow \mathbf{Fun}\mathbf{Wald}_\infty(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{C})$$

that carry cocartesian edges (over Δ^n) to degenerate edges. The composite

$$N\Delta_{w\mathbf{Fun}\mathbf{Wald}_\infty(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{C})}^{\text{op}} \longrightarrow \mathbf{H}(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{C}, w\mathcal{C})) \longrightarrow w\mathbf{Fun}\mathbf{Wald}_\infty(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{C})$$

is the ‘initial vertex map’, which is a well-known weak equivalence. A simple argument now shows that the map $N\Delta_{w\mathbf{Fun}\mathbf{Wald}_\infty(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{C})}^{\text{op}} \longrightarrow \mathbf{H}(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{C}, w\mathcal{C}))$ is also a weak equivalence. \square

In other words, the virtual Waldhausen ∞ -category $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{C}, w\mathcal{C})$ attached to a labeled Waldhausen ∞ -category $(\mathcal{C}, w\mathcal{C})$ is not itself representable, but it’s close:

PROPOSITION 9.13. *The virtual Waldhausen ∞ -category $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{C}, w\mathcal{C})$ attached to a labeled Waldhausen ∞ -category $(\mathcal{C}, w\mathcal{C})$ is equivalent to the functor*

$$\mathcal{D} \longmapsto w\mathbf{Fun}\mathbf{Wald}_\infty(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{C}).$$

Inverting labeled edges

Unfortunately, for a labeled Waldhausen ∞ -category $(\mathcal{C}, w\mathcal{C})$, the functor (Notation 9.11)

$$\sigma_{(\mathcal{C}, w\mathcal{C})}^* : \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{C}, w\mathcal{C}) \longrightarrow (N\Delta^{\text{op}})^\flat \times \mathcal{C}$$

will typically fail to be a morphism of $\mathbf{Wald}_\infty^{\text{cocart}}/N\Delta^{\text{op}}$, because the cocartesian edges of $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{C}, w\mathcal{C})$ will be carried to labeled edges, but not necessarily to equivalences. Hence one may not regard $\sigma_{(\mathcal{C}, w\mathcal{C})}^*$ as a natural transformation of functors $N\Delta^{\text{op}} \longrightarrow \mathbf{Wald}_\infty$. To rectify this, we may formally invert the edges in $w\mathcal{C}$ in the ∞ -categorical sense.

LEMMA 9.14. *The inclusion functor $\mathbf{Wald}_\infty \hookrightarrow \ell\mathbf{Wald}_\infty$ defined by the assignment $(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{C}_\dagger) \longmapsto (\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{C}_\dagger, \iota\mathcal{C})$ admits a left adjoint $\ell\mathbf{Wald}_\infty \longrightarrow \mathbf{Wald}_\infty$.*

Proof. The inclusion functor $\mathbf{Wald}_\infty \hookrightarrow \ell\mathbf{Wald}_\infty$ preserves all limits and all filtered colimits. Now the result follows from the adjoint functor theorem [42, Corollary 5.5.2.9] along with Proposition 9.5. \square

Let us denote by $w\mathcal{C}^{-1}\mathcal{C}$ the image of a labeled Waldhausen ∞ -category $(\mathcal{C}, w\mathcal{C})$ under the left adjoint above. The canonical exact functor $\mathcal{C} \longrightarrow w\mathcal{C}^{-1}\mathcal{C}$ is initial with the property that it carries labeled edges to equivalences. As an example, let us consider the case of an ordinary category with cofibrations and weak equivalences in the sense of Waldhausen [73, § 1.2].

PROPOSITION 9.15. *If $(C, \text{cof}C, wC)$ is a category with cofibrations and weak equivalences that is a partial model category [5] in the sense that: (1) the weak equivalences satisfy the two-out-of-six axiom [20, 9.1], and (2) the weak equivalences and trivial cofibrations are part of a three-arrow calculus of fractions [20, 11.1], then the Waldhausen ∞ -category $(NwC)^{-1}(NC)$ is*

equivalent to the relative nerve $N(C, wC)$, equipped with the smallest pair structure containing the images of $\text{cof}C$ (Example 2.12).

Proof. We first claim that $N(C, wC)$ is a Waldhausen ∞ -category.

First, by [20, 38.3(iii)], the image of the zero object $0 \in C$ is again a zero object of $N(C, wC)$. It is also an initial object of $N(C, wC)_\dagger$, since for any object X , the mapping space $\text{Map}_{N(C, wC)_\dagger}(0, X)$ is a union of connected components of $\text{Map}_{N(C, wC)}(0, X)$, whence it is either empty or contractible, but the image of the edge $0 \rightarrow X$ is ingressive by definition.

Now let us see that pushouts along ingressives exist and are ingressive. The ∞ -category $\text{Fun}_{\text{Pair}_\infty}(\Lambda_0 \mathcal{Q}^2, N(C, wC))$ is the relative nerve of the full subcategory C^\ulcorner of $\text{Fun}(\mathbf{1} \cup^{\{0\}} \mathbf{1}, C)$ spanned by those functors that carry the first arrow $0 \rightarrow 1$ to a cofibration, equipped with the objectwise weak equivalences. Similarly, $\text{Fun}_{\text{Pair}_\infty}(\mathcal{Q}^2, N(C, wC))$ is the relative nerve of the full subcategory C^\square of $\text{Fun}(\mathbf{1} \times \mathbf{1}, C)$ spanned by those functors that carry the arrows $(0, 0) \rightarrow (0, 1)$ and $(1, 0) \rightarrow (1, 1)$ each to cofibrations, equipped with the objectwise weak equivalences. The forgetful functor $U: C^\square \rightarrow C^\ulcorner$ and its left adjoint $F: C^\ulcorner \rightarrow C^\square$ are each relative functors, whence they descend to an adjunction

$$F: \text{Ho}(C^\ulcorner) \rightleftarrows \text{Ho}(C^\square): U$$

on the HosSet -enriched homotopy categories, using the description [20, 36.3]. Furthermore, the unit is clearly an equivalence $\text{id} \simeq UF$. Hence the forgetful functor

$$\text{Fun}_{\text{Pair}_\infty}(\mathcal{Q}^2, N(C, wC)) \rightarrow \text{Fun}_{\text{Pair}_\infty}(\Lambda_0 \mathcal{Q}^2, N(C, wC))$$

admits a left adjoint, and the unit for this adjunction is an equivalence. This is precisely the condition that pushouts along ingressives exist and are ingressive. Thus $N(C, wC)$ is a Waldhausen ∞ -category.

Moreover, if $X \twoheadrightarrow Y$ is a cofibration of C and if $X \rightarrow X'$ is an arrow of C , a square

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X & \twoheadrightarrow & Y \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ X' & \twoheadrightarrow & Y' \end{array}$$

in $N(C, wC)$ is a pushout just in case it is the essential image of the left adjoint above. This, in turn, holds just in case it is equivalent to the image of a pushout square in C .

Now suppose \mathcal{D} is a Waldhausen ∞ -category. Since the canonical functor

$$NC \rightarrow N(C, wC)$$

is exact, there is an induced functor

$$R: \text{Fun}_{\text{Wald}_\infty}(N(C, wC), \mathcal{D}) \rightarrow \text{Fun}'_{\text{Wald}_\infty}(NC, \mathcal{D}),$$

where $\text{Fun}'_{\text{Wald}_\infty}(NC, \mathcal{D}) \subset \text{Fun}_{\text{Wald}_\infty}(NC, \mathcal{D})$ is the full subcategory spanned by those exact functors that carry arrows in wC to equivalences in \mathcal{D} . The universal property of $N(C, wC)$, combined with the definition of its pair structure, guarantees an equivalence

$$\text{Fun}_{\text{Pair}_\infty}(N(C, wC), \mathcal{D}) \xrightarrow{\simeq} \text{Fun}'_{\text{Pair}_\infty}(NC, \mathcal{D}),$$

where $\text{Fun}'_{\text{Pair}_\infty}(NC, \mathcal{D}) \subset \text{Fun}_{\text{Pair}_\infty}(NC, \mathcal{D})$ is the full subcategory spanned by those functors of pairs that carry arrows in wC to equivalences in \mathcal{D} . Hence R is fully faithful. Since an object (respectively, a morphism, a square) in $N(C, wC)$ is a zero object (respectively, an ingressive morphism, a pushout square along an ingressive morphism) just in case it is equivalent to the image of one under the functor $NC \rightarrow N(C, wC)$, it follows that a functor of pairs $N(C, wC) \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ that induces an exact functor $C \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ is itself exact. Thus R is essentially surjective. \square

Let us give another example of a situation in which we can identify the Waldhausen ∞ -category $w\mathcal{C}^{-1}\mathcal{C}$, up to splitting certain idempotents. We thank an anonymous referee and Peter Scholze for identifying an error in the original formulation of this result.

DEFINITION 9.16. We say that a full Waldhausen subcategory $\mathcal{C}' \subset \mathcal{C}$ of a Waldhausen ∞ -category is *strongly cofinal* if, for any object $X \in \mathcal{C}$, there exists an object $Y \in \mathcal{C}'$ such that $X \vee Y \in \mathcal{C}'$.

We will show below in Theorem 10.19 that a strongly cofinal subcategory $\mathcal{C}' \subset \mathcal{C}$ of a Waldhausen ∞ -category has the same algebraic K -theory as \mathcal{C} in positive degrees.

PROPOSITION 9.17. *Suppose that C is a compactly generated ∞ -category containing a zero object, that $L: C \rightarrow D$ is an accessible localization of C , and that the inclusion $D \hookrightarrow C$ preserves filtered colimits. Assume also that the class of all L -equivalences of C is generated (as a strongly saturated class) by the L -equivalences between compact objects. Then if $wC^\omega \subset C^\omega$ is the subcategory consisting of L -equivalences between compact objects, then D^ω is the idempotent completion of $(wC^\omega)^{-1}C^\omega$.*

In particular, C and D are additive (Definition 4.10), then with their maximal pair structures, the inclusion $(wC^\omega)^{-1}C^\omega \hookrightarrow D^\omega$ is strongly cofinal.

Proof. Let us begin by giving, for any labeled Waldhausen ∞ -category A with a maximal pair structure, a construction of $wA^{-1}A$. We begin by inverting the edges of wA in A as an ∞ -category; the result is an ∞ -category A' and a functor $i: A \rightarrow A'$ that induces, for any ∞ -category B , a fully faithful functor

$$\mathrm{Fun}(A', B) \rightarrow \mathrm{Fun}(A, B)$$

whose essential image is spanned by those functors that carry the edges in wA to equivalences in B . Now we will use the ideas of [42, § 5.3.6]. Consider the class \mathcal{R} consisting of the following diagrams: the composite

$$\emptyset^\triangleright \xrightarrow{z} A \xrightarrow{i} A',$$

in which z is the inclusion of the zero object, and the composites

$$(\Lambda_0^2)^\triangleright \xrightarrow{p} A \xrightarrow{i} A'$$

in which p is a pushout square. Now let \mathcal{F} denote the collection of all finite simplicial sets. In the notation of [42, Proposition 5.3.6.2], we claim that $wA^{-1}A \simeq \mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{R}}^{\mathcal{F}}(A')$, where the latter ∞ -category is endowed with its maximal pair structure.

To prove this claim, let us first note that the inclusion of the full subcategory $\mathbf{Cat}_{\infty}^{\mathrm{Rex}, z} \subset \mathbf{Wald}_{\infty}$ spanned by those Waldhausen ∞ -categories equipped with the maximal pair structure admits a left adjoint. This much follows from the adjoint functor theorem, but in fact we can be more precise: it is the construction $\mathcal{C} \mapsto \mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{W}}^{\mathcal{F}}\mathcal{C}$, where \mathcal{W} consists of the initial object $\emptyset^\triangleright \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ and the pushouts $(\Lambda_0^2)^\triangleright \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ of cofibrations, and \mathcal{F} consists of all finite simplicial sets. Note that since the diagrams of \mathcal{W} are colimits in \mathcal{C} , it follows that the unit $j: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{W}}^{\mathcal{F}}\mathcal{C}$ is fully faithful.

Now for any Waldhausen ∞ -category \mathcal{C} , let us consider the square

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathrm{Fun}_{\mathbf{Wald}_{\infty}}(\mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{R}}^{\mathcal{F}}(A'), \mathcal{C}) & \longrightarrow & \mathrm{Fun}'_{\mathbf{Wald}_{\infty}}(A, \mathcal{C}) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \mathrm{Fun}_{\mathbf{Wald}_{\infty}}(\mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{R}}^{\mathcal{F}}(A'), \mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{W}}^{\mathcal{F}}(\mathcal{C})) & \longrightarrow & \mathrm{Fun}'_{\mathbf{Wald}_{\infty}}(A, \mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{W}}^{\mathcal{F}}(\mathcal{C})), \end{array}$$

where Fun' denotes the full subcategory spanned by those exact functors that carry the edges of wA to equivalences. Unwinding the universal properties, one sees immediately that the bottom horizontal functor is an equivalence; our claim is that the top horizontal functor is an equivalence. Hence we aim to show that the square above is homotopy cartesian; this amounts to the claim that in a commutative diagram of exact functors

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{C} \\ i \downarrow & & \downarrow j \\ \mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{R}}^{\mathcal{F}}(A') & \xrightarrow{F} & \mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{W}}^{\mathcal{F}}(\mathcal{C}), \end{array}$$

the functor F factors through j . This now follows from the minimality of the construction of $\mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{R}}^{\mathcal{F}}(A')$, as in the proof of [42, Proposition 5.3.6.2]. This completes the proof that $wA^{-1}A \simeq \mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{R}}^{\mathcal{F}}(A')$.

Let us now note that the inclusion of the full subcategory $\mathbf{Cat}_{\infty}^{\text{Rex},z,\vee} \subset \mathbf{Cat}_{\infty}^{\text{Rex},z}$ spanned by those Waldhausen ∞ -categories equipped with the maximal pair structure, which also admits a left adjoint. This is given by the idempotent completion $A \mapsto A^{\vee}$ of [42, § 5.1.4].

We turn to our localization. For any idempotent complete ∞ -category A that admits all finite colimits, the localization $C^{\omega} \rightarrow D^{\omega}$ induces an equivalence

$$\text{Fun}_{\mathbf{Rex}}(D^{\omega}, A) \xrightarrow{\simeq} \text{Fun}'_{\mathbf{Rex}}(C^{\omega}, A),$$

where $\text{Fun}'_{\mathbf{Rex}}(C^{\omega}, A) \subset \text{Fun}_{\mathbf{Rex}}(C^{\omega}, A)$ is the full subcategory spanned by those finite colimit-preserving functors that carry L -equivalences to equivalences. (Here we are using the mutually inverse equivalences $A \mapsto \text{Ind}(A)$ and $B \mapsto B^{\omega}$ of [42, Proposition 5.5.7.10].) This target ∞ -category is of course equivalent to the full subcategory of $\text{Fun}_{\mathbf{Wald}_{\infty}}(C^{\omega}, A)$, spanned by those exact functors, that carries L -equivalences to equivalences. We therefore deduce that the natural functor $(wC^{\omega})^{-1}C^{\omega} \rightarrow D^{\omega}$ induces an equivalence

$$\text{Fun}_{\mathbf{Wald}_{\infty}}(D^{\omega}, A) \xrightarrow{\simeq} \text{Fun}_{\mathbf{Wald}_{\infty}}((wC^{\omega})^{-1}C^{\omega}, A)^{\vee}.$$

Consequently, we deduce that

$$D^{\omega} \simeq \mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{W}}^{\mathcal{F}}((C^{\omega})')^{\vee} \simeq ((wC^{\omega})^{-1}C^{\omega})^{\vee},$$

as desired. □

NOTATION 9.18. Composing the canonical exact functor $\mathcal{C} \rightarrow w\mathcal{C}^{-1}\mathcal{C}$ with the functor

$$\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{C}, w\mathcal{C}) \rightarrow (N\Delta^{\text{op}})^{\flat} \times \mathcal{C},$$

we obtain a morphism of $\mathbf{Wald}_{\infty/N\Delta^{\text{op}}}^{\text{cocart}}$

$$\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{C}, w\mathcal{C}) \rightarrow (N\Delta^{\text{op}})^{\flat} \times w\mathcal{C}^{-1}\mathcal{C}$$

that carries cocartesian edges of $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{C}, w\mathcal{C})$ to equivalences. Applying the realization $|\cdot|_{N\Delta^{\text{op}}}$ (Definition 4.30), we obtain a morphism of $\mathbf{D}(\mathbf{Wald}_{\infty})$

$$\gamma_{(\mathcal{C}, w\mathcal{C})}: \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{C}, w\mathcal{C}) \rightarrow w\mathcal{C}^{-1}\mathcal{C}.$$

We emphasize that for a general labeled Waldhausen ∞ -category $(\mathcal{C}, w\mathcal{C})$, the comparison morphism $\gamma_{(\mathcal{C}, w\mathcal{C})}$ is not an equivalence of $\mathbf{D}(\mathbf{Wald}_{\infty})$; nevertheless, we will find (Proposition 10.17) that $\gamma_{(\mathcal{C}, w\mathcal{C})}$ often induces an equivalence on K -theory.

Waldhausen’s fibration theorem, redux

We now aim to prove an analogue of Waldhausen’s generic fibration theorem [73, Theorem 1.6.4]. For this we require a suitable analogue of Waldhausen’s cylinder functor in the

∞ -categorical context. This should reflect the idea that a labeled edge can, to some extent, be replaced by a labeled ingressive.

NOTATION 9.19. To this end, for any labeled Waldhausen ∞ -category $(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{A}_\dagger)$, write $w_\dagger \mathcal{A} := w\mathcal{A} \cap \mathcal{A}_\dagger$. The subcategory $w_\dagger \mathcal{A} \subset \mathcal{A}$ defines a new pair structure, *but not a new labeling*, of \mathcal{A} . Nevertheless, we may consider the full subcategory $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{A}, w_\dagger \mathcal{A}) \subset \mathcal{F}(\mathcal{A})$ spanned by those filtered objects

$$X_0 \twoheadrightarrow X_1 \twoheadrightarrow \cdots \twoheadrightarrow X_m$$

such that each ingressive $X_i \twoheadrightarrow X_{i+1}$ is labeled; we shall regard it as a subpair. One may verify that $\mathcal{B}_m(\mathcal{A}, w_\dagger \mathcal{A}) \subset \mathcal{F}_m(\mathcal{A})$ is a Waldhausen subcategory, and $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{A}, w_\dagger \mathcal{A}) \rightarrow N\Delta^{\text{op}}$ is a Waldhausen cocartesian fibration.

For any pair \mathcal{D} , write $w_\dagger \text{Fun}_{\mathbf{Pair}_\infty}(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{A}) \subset \text{Fun}_{\mathbf{Pair}_\infty}(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{A})$ for the following pair structure. A natural transformation

$$\eta: \mathcal{D} \times \Delta^1 \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$$

lies in $w_\dagger \text{Fun}_{\mathbf{Pair}_\infty}(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{A})$ if and only if it satisfies the following two conditions.

- (1) For any object X of \mathcal{D} , the edge $\Delta^1 \cong \Delta^1 \times \{X\} \subset \Delta^1 \times \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$ is both ingressive and labeled.
- (2) For any ingressive $f: X \twoheadrightarrow Y$ of \mathcal{D} , the corresponding edge

$$\Delta^1 \rightarrow \mathcal{F}_1(\mathcal{A})$$

is ingressive in the sense of Definition 5.6.

If \mathcal{D} is a Waldhausen ∞ -category, write

$$w_\dagger \text{Fun}_{\mathbf{Wald}_\infty}(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{A}) \subset w_\dagger \text{Fun}_{\mathbf{Pair}_\infty}(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{A})$$

for the full subcategory spanned by the exact functors.

9.20. Note that the proofs of Lemma 9.12 apply also to the pair $(\mathcal{A}, w_\dagger \mathcal{A})$ to guarantee that for any compact Waldhausen ∞ -category \mathcal{D} , the natural map

$$\mathbf{H}(\mathcal{D}, (\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{A}, w_\dagger \mathcal{A})/N\Delta^{\text{op}})) \rightarrow w_\dagger \text{Fun}_{\mathbf{Wald}_\infty}(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{A})$$

induced by σ is a weak homotopy equivalence.

DEFINITION 9.21. Suppose $(\mathcal{A}, w\mathcal{A})$ a labeled Waldhausen ∞ -category. We shall say that $(\mathcal{A}, w\mathcal{A})$ *has enough cofibrations* if for any small pair of ∞ -categories \mathcal{D} , the inclusion

$$w_\dagger \text{Fun}_{\mathbf{Pair}_\infty}(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{A}) \hookrightarrow w\text{Fun}_{\mathbf{Pair}_\infty}(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{A})$$

is a weak homotopy equivalence.

In particular, if every labeled edge of $(\mathcal{A}, w\mathcal{A})$ is ingressive, then $(\mathcal{A}, w\mathcal{A})$ has enough cofibrations. More generally, this may prove to be an extremely difficult condition to verify, but the following lemma simplifies matters somewhat.

LEMMA 9.22. *Suppose $(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{A}_\dagger, w\mathcal{A})$ is a labeled Waldhausen ∞ -category. Suppose that there exists a functor*

$$F: \text{Fun}(\Delta^1, \mathcal{A}) \rightarrow \text{Fun}(\Delta^1, \mathcal{A})$$

along with a natural transformation $\eta: \text{id} \rightarrow F$ such that:

- (1) *The functor F carries $\text{Fun}(\Delta^1, w\mathcal{A})$ to $\text{Fun}(\Delta^1, w_\dagger \mathcal{A})$.*

- (2) If f is a labeled ingressive, then η_f is an equivalence.
- (3) If f is labeled, then η_f is objectwise labeled.

Then $(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{A}_\dagger, w\mathcal{A})$ has enough cofibrations.

Proof. For any pair \mathcal{D} , the functor F induces a functor

$$\mathrm{Fun}(\Delta^1, w\mathrm{Fun}_{\mathbf{Pair}_\infty}(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{A})) \longrightarrow \mathrm{Fun}(\Delta^1, w_\dagger\mathrm{Fun}_{\mathbf{Pair}_\infty}(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{A})),$$

and η induces natural transformations that exhibit this functor as a homotopy inverse to the inclusion

$$\mathrm{Fun}(\Delta^1, w_\dagger\mathrm{Fun}_{\mathbf{Pair}_\infty}(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{A})) \hookrightarrow \mathrm{Fun}(\Delta^1, w\mathrm{Fun}_{\mathbf{Pair}_\infty}(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{A})).$$

The result now follows from the homotopy equivalence between a simplicial set and its (unbased) path space. \square

LEMMA 9.23. *If a labeled Waldhausen ∞ -category $(\mathcal{A}, w\mathcal{A})$ has enough cofibrations, then for any Waldhausen ∞ -category \mathcal{D} , the inclusion*

$$w_\dagger\mathrm{Fun}_{\mathbf{Wald}_\infty}(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{A}) \hookrightarrow w\mathrm{Fun}_{\mathbf{Wald}_\infty}(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{A})$$

is a weak homotopy equivalence.

Proof. For any Waldhausen ∞ -category \mathcal{B} , the square

$$\begin{array}{ccc} w_\dagger\mathrm{Fun}_{\mathbf{Wald}_\infty}(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{A}) & \longrightarrow & w\mathrm{Fun}_{\mathbf{Wald}_\infty}(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{A}) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ w_\dagger\mathrm{Fun}_{\mathbf{Pair}_\infty}(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{A}) & \longrightarrow & w\mathrm{Fun}_{\mathbf{Pair}_\infty}(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{A}) \end{array}$$

is a pullback, and the vertical maps are inclusions of connected components. \square

THEOREM 9.24 (Generic Fibration Theorem II). *Suppose that $(\mathcal{A}, w\mathcal{A})$ is a labeled Waldhausen ∞ -category that has enough cofibrations. Suppose that $\phi: \mathbf{Wald}_\infty \rightarrow \mathcal{E}$ is an additive theory with left derived functor Φ . Write $\mathcal{A}^w \subset \mathcal{A}$ for the full subcategory spanned by those objects X such that a map from a zero object to X is labeled, with the pair structure inherited from \mathcal{A} . Then \mathcal{A}^w is a Waldhausen ∞ -category, the inclusion $i: \mathcal{A}^w \hookrightarrow \mathcal{A}$ is exact, and it along with the morphism of virtual Waldhausen ∞ -categories $e: \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{A}, w\mathcal{A})$ give rise to a fiber sequence*

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \phi(\mathcal{A}^w) & \longrightarrow & \phi(\mathcal{A}) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ * & \longrightarrow & \Phi(\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{A}, w\mathcal{A})). \end{array}$$

Proof. It follows from Proposition 8.11 that it is enough to exhibit an equivalence between $\Phi(\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{A}, w\mathcal{A}))$ and $\Phi(\mathcal{H}(i))$ as objects of $\mathcal{E}_{\phi(\mathcal{A})/}$.

The forgetful functor $\mathcal{H}(i) \rightarrow \mathcal{F}\mathcal{A}$ is fully faithful, and its essential image $\widetilde{\mathcal{F}}^w\mathcal{A}$ consists of those filtered objects

$$X_0 \twoheadrightarrow X_1 \twoheadrightarrow \cdots \twoheadrightarrow X_m$$

such that the induced ingressive $X_i/X_0 \twoheadrightarrow X_{i+1}/X_0$ is labeled; this contains the subcategory $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{A}, w_\dagger\mathcal{A})$. We claim that for any $m \geq 0$, the induced morphism $\phi(\mathcal{B}_m(\mathcal{A}, w_\dagger\mathcal{A})) \rightarrow \phi(\widetilde{\mathcal{F}}_m^w(\mathcal{A}))$ is an equivalence. Indeed, one may select an exact functor

$p: \mathcal{K}_m(i) \rightarrow \mathcal{B}_m(\mathcal{A}, w_{\dagger}\mathcal{A})$ that carries an object

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} X_0 & \rightarrow & X_1 & \rightarrow & X_2 & \rightarrow & \dots & \rightarrow & X_m \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & & & \downarrow \\ 0 & \rightarrow & U_1 & \rightarrow & U_2 & \rightarrow & \dots & \rightarrow & U_m \end{array}$$

to the filtered object

$$X_0 \rightarrow X_0 \vee U_1 \rightarrow X_0 \vee U_2 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow X_0 \vee U_m.$$

When $m = 0$, this functor is compatible with the canonical equivalences from \mathcal{A} . Additivity now guarantees that p defines a (homotopy) inverse to the morphism $\phi(\mathcal{B}_m(\mathcal{A}, w_{\dagger}\mathcal{A})) \rightarrow \phi(\widetilde{\mathcal{F}}_m^w \mathcal{A})$.

One has an obvious forgetful functor $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{A}, w_{\dagger}\mathcal{A}) \rightarrow \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{A}, w\mathcal{A})$ over $N\Delta^{\text{op}}$. We claim that this induces an equivalence of virtual Waldhausen ∞ -categories $|\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{A}, w_{\dagger}\mathcal{A})|_{N\Delta^{\text{op}}} \rightarrow |\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{A}, w\mathcal{A})|_{N\Delta^{\text{op}}}$. So we wish to show that for any compact Waldhausen ∞ -category \mathcal{D} , the morphism

$$\text{H}(\mathcal{D}, (\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{A}, w_{\dagger}\mathcal{A})/N\Delta^{\text{op}})) \rightarrow \text{H}(\mathcal{D}, (\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{A}, w\mathcal{A})/N\Delta^{\text{op}}))$$

of simplicial sets is a weak homotopy equivalence.

By Lemma 9.12 and its extension to the pair $(\mathcal{A}, w_{\dagger}\mathcal{A})$, we have a square

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{H}(\mathcal{D}, (\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{A}, w_{\dagger}\mathcal{A})/N\Delta^{\text{op}})) & \longrightarrow & \text{H}(\mathcal{D}, (\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{A}, w\mathcal{A})/N\Delta^{\text{op}})) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ w_{\dagger}\text{Fun}_{\mathbf{Wald}_{\infty}}(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{C}) & \longrightarrow & w\text{Fun}_{\mathbf{Wald}_{\infty}}(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{C}) \end{array}$$

in which the vertical maps are weak homotopy equivalences. Since $(\mathcal{A}, w\mathcal{A})$ has enough cofibrations, the horizontal map along the bottom is a weak homotopy equivalence as well by Lemma 9.23. \square

PART III. ALGEBRAIC K -THEORY

We are finally prepared to describe the Waldhausen K -theory of ∞ -categories. We define (Definition 10.1) K -theory as the additivization of the theory ι that assigns to any Waldhausen ∞ -category the maximal ∞ -groupoid (Notation 1.7) contained therein. Since the theory ι is representable by the particularly simple Waldhausen ∞ -category $N\Gamma^{\text{op}}$ of pointed finite sets (Proposition 10.5), we obtain, for any additive theory ϕ , a description of the space of natural transformations $K \rightarrow \phi$ as the value of ϕ on $N\Gamma^{\text{op}}$.

Following this, we briefly describe two key examples that exploit certain features of the algebraic K -theory functor of which we are fond. The first of these (§ 11) lays the foundations for the algebraic K -theory of E_1 -algebras in a variety of monoidal ∞ -categories, and we prove a straightforward localization theorem. Second (§ 12), we extend algebraic K -theory to the context of spectral Deligne–Mumford stacks in the sense of Lurie, and we prove Thomason’s ‘proto-localization’ theorem in this context.

10. The universal property of Waldhausen K -theory

In this section, we *define* algebraic K -theory as the additivization of the functor that assigns to any Waldhausen ∞ -category its moduli space of objects. More precisely, the functor

$\iota: \mathbf{Wald}_\infty \rightarrow \mathbf{Kan}$ that assigns to any Waldhausen ∞ -category its interior ∞ -groupoid (Notation 1.7) is a theory.

DEFINITION 10.1. The algebraic K -theory functor

$$K: \mathbf{Wald}_\infty \rightarrow \mathbf{Kan}$$

is defined as the additivization $K := D\iota$ of the interior functor $\iota: \mathbf{Wald}_\infty \rightarrow \mathbf{Kan}$. We denote by $\mathbf{K}: \mathbf{Wald}_\infty \rightarrow \mathbf{Sp}_{\geq 0}$ its canonical connective delooping, as guaranteed by Corollary 7.7 and Proposition 7.11.

Unpacking this definition, we obtain a global universal property of the natural morphism $\iota \rightarrow K$.

PROPOSITION 10.2. For any additive theory ϕ , the morphism $\iota \rightarrow K$ induces a natural homotopy equivalence

$$\mathrm{Map}(K, \phi) \xrightarrow{\simeq} \mathrm{Map}(\iota, \phi).$$

We will prove in Corollaries 10.10 and 10.16 that our definition extends Waldhausen’s.

EXAMPLE 10.3. For any ∞ -topos \mathcal{E} , one may define the A -theory space

$$A(\mathcal{E}) := K(\mathcal{E}_*^\omega)$$

(Example 2.10). In light of Example 8.6, we have

$$A(\mathcal{E}) \simeq K(\mathbf{Sp}(\mathcal{E}^\omega)).$$

For any Kan simplicial set X , if

$$\mathcal{E} = \mathrm{Fun}(X, \mathbf{Kan}) \simeq \mathbf{Kan}/_X,$$

then it will follow from Corollary 10.18 that $A(\mathcal{E})$ agrees with Waldhausen’s $A(X)$, where one defines the latter via the category $\mathcal{B}_{\mathrm{df}}(X)$ of finitely dominated retractive spaces over X [73, p. 389]. Then, of course, one has $A(\mathcal{E}) \simeq K(\mathrm{Fun}(X, \mathbf{Sp}^\omega))$.

Representability of algebraic K -theory

Algebraic K -theory is controlled, as an additive theory, by the theory ι . It is therefore valuable to study this functor as a theory. As a first step, we find that it is corepresentable.

NOTATION 10.4. For any finite set I , write I_+ for the finite set $I \sqcup \{\infty\}$. Denote by Γ^{op} the ordinary category of pointed finite sets. Denote by $\Gamma_{\dagger}^{\mathrm{op}} \subset \Gamma^{\mathrm{op}}$ the subcategory comprising monomorphisms $J_+ \rightarrow I_+$.

PROPOSITION 10.5. For any Waldhausen ∞ -category \mathcal{C} , the inclusion

$$\{*\} \hookrightarrow N\Gamma^{\mathrm{op}}$$

induces an equivalence of ∞ -categories

$$\mathrm{Fun}_{\mathbf{Wald}_\infty}(N\Gamma^{\mathrm{op}}, \mathcal{C}) \xrightarrow{\simeq} \mathcal{C}.$$

In particular, the functor $\iota: \mathbf{Wald}_\infty \rightarrow \mathbf{Kan}$ is corepresented by the object $N\Gamma^{\mathrm{op}}$.

Proof. Write $N\Gamma_{\leq 1}^{\mathrm{op}}$ for the full subcategory of $N\Gamma^{\mathrm{op}}$ spanned by the objects \emptyset and $*$. Then it follows from Joyal’s theorem [42, Proposition 1.2.12.9] that the inclusion $\{*\} \hookrightarrow N\Gamma^{\mathrm{op}}$

induces an equivalence between \mathcal{C} and the full subcategory $\text{Fun}^*(N\Gamma_{\leq 1}^{\text{op}}, \mathcal{C})$ of $\text{Fun}(N\Gamma_{\leq 1}^{\text{op}}, \mathcal{C})$ spanned by functors $z: N\Gamma_{\leq 1}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ such that $z(\emptyset)$ is a zero object. Now the result follows from the observation that the ∞ -category $\text{Fun}_{\mathbf{Wald}_\infty}(N\Gamma^{\text{op}}, \mathcal{C})$ can be identified as the full subcategory of the ∞ -category $\text{Fun}(N\Gamma^{\text{op}}, \mathcal{C})$ spanned by those functors $Z: N\Gamma^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ such that (1) $Z(\emptyset)$ is a zero object, and (2) the identity exhibits Z as a left Kan extension of $Z|_{(N\Gamma_{\leq 1}^{\text{op}})}$ along the inclusion $N\Gamma_{\leq 1}^{\text{op}} \hookrightarrow N\Gamma^{\text{op}}$. \square

In the language of Corollary 4.16, we find that $W(\Delta^0) \simeq N\Gamma^{\text{op}}$. Note also that it follows that the left derived functor $I: \mathbf{D}(\mathbf{Wald}_\infty) \rightarrow \mathbf{Kan}$ of ι is given by evaluation at $W(\Delta^0) \simeq N\Gamma^{\text{op}}$. From this, the Yoneda lemma combines with Proposition 10.2 to imply the following.

COROLLARY 10.6. *For any additive theory $\phi: \mathbf{Wald}_\infty \rightarrow \mathbf{Kan}_*$, there is a homotopy equivalence*

$$\text{Map}(K, \phi) \simeq \phi(N\Gamma^{\text{op}}),$$

natural in ϕ .

In particular, the theorem of Barratt–Priddy–Quillen [58] implies the following.

COROLLARY 10.7. *The space of endomorphisms of the K -theory functor*

$$K: \mathbf{Wald}_\infty \rightarrow \mathbf{Kan}$$

is given by

$$\text{End}(K) \simeq QS^0.$$

The local universal property of algebraic K -theory

Though conceptually pleasant, the universal property of K -theory as an object of $\text{Add}(\mathbf{Kan})$ does not obviously provide an easy recognition principle for the K -theory of any particular Waldhausen ∞ -category. For that, we note that ι is pre-additive, and we appeal to Corollary 7.14 to obtain the following result.

PROPOSITION 10.8. *For any virtual Waldhausen ∞ -category \mathcal{X} , the K -theory space $K(\mathcal{X})$ is homotopy equivalent to the loop space $\Omega I(\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{X}))$, where I is the left derived functor of ι .*

We observe that for any sifted ∞ -category and any Waldhausen cocartesian fibration $\mathcal{Y} \rightarrow S$, the space $I(\mathcal{S}(|\mathcal{Y}|_S))$ may be computed as the underlying space of the subcategory $\iota_{N\Delta^{\text{op}} \times S} \mathcal{S}(\mathcal{Y}/S)$ of the ∞ -category $\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{Y})$ comprising the cocartesian edges with respect to the cocartesian fibration $\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{Y}/S) \rightarrow N\Delta^{\text{op}} \times S$ (Definition 3.6). This provides us with a (singly delooped) model of the algebraic K -theory space $K(|\mathcal{Y}|_S)$ as the underlying simplicial set of an ∞ -category.

COROLLARY 10.9. *For any sifted ∞ -category S and any Waldhausen cocartesian fibration $\mathcal{Y} \rightarrow S$, the K -theory space $K(|\mathcal{Y}|_S)$ is homotopy equivalent to the loop space $\Omega \iota_{(N\Delta^{\text{op}} \times S)} \mathcal{S}(\mathcal{Y}/S)$.*

The total space of a left fibration is weakly equivalent to the homotopy colimit of the functor that classifies it. So the K -theory space $K(\mathcal{C})$ of a Waldhausen ∞ -category is given by

$$K(\mathcal{C}) \simeq \Omega(\text{colim } \iota \mathbf{S}_*(\mathcal{C})),$$

where

$$\mathbf{S}_*(\mathcal{C}): N\Delta^{\text{op}} \longrightarrow \mathbf{Wald}_\infty$$

classifies the Waldhausen cocartesian fibration $\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{C}) \longrightarrow N\Delta^{\text{op}}$. Since this is precisely how Waldhausen’s K -theory is defined [73, § 1.3], we obtain a comparison between our ∞ -categorical K -theory and Waldhausen K -theory.

COROLLARY 10.10. *If $(C, \text{cof}C)$ is an ordinary category with cofibrations in the sense of Waldhausen [73, § 1.1], then the algebraic K -theory of the Waldhausen ∞ -category $(NC, N(\text{cof}C))$ is naturally equivalent to Waldhausen’s algebraic K -theory of $(C, \text{cof}C)$.*

The fact that the algebraic K -theory space $K(\mathcal{X})$ of a virtual Waldhausen ∞ -category \mathcal{X} can be exhibited as the loop space of the underlying simplicial set of an ∞ -category permits us to find the following sufficient condition that a morphism of Waldhausen cocartesian fibrations induce an equivalence on K -theory.

COROLLARY 10.11. *For any sifted ∞ -category S , a morphism $(\mathcal{Y}'/S) \longrightarrow (\mathcal{Y}/S)$ of Waldhausen cocartesian fibrations induces an equivalence*

$$K(|\mathcal{Y}'|_S) \xrightarrow{\simeq} K(|\mathcal{Y}|_S)$$

if the following two conditions are satisfied.

- (1) For any object $X \in \iota_S \mathcal{Y}$, the simplicial set

$$\iota_S \mathcal{Y}' \times_{\iota_S \mathcal{Y}} (\iota_S \mathcal{Y})_{/X}$$

is weakly contractible.

- (2) For any object $Y \in \iota_S \mathcal{F}_1(\mathcal{Y}/S)$, the simplicial set

$$\iota_S \mathcal{F}_1(\mathcal{Y}'/S) \times_{\iota_S \mathcal{F}_1(\mathcal{Y}/S)} \iota_S \mathcal{F}_1(\mathcal{Y}/S)_{/Y}$$

is weakly contractible.

Proof. We aim to show that the map $\iota_{N\Delta^{\text{op}} \times S} \mathcal{S}(\mathcal{Y}'/S) \longrightarrow \iota_{N\Delta^{\text{op}} \times S} \mathcal{S}(\mathcal{Y}/S)$ is a weak homotopy equivalence; it is enough to show that for any $\mathbf{n} \in \Delta$, the map $\iota_S \mathcal{F}_n(\mathcal{Y}'/S) \longrightarrow \iota_S \mathcal{F}_n(\mathcal{Y}/S)$ is a weak homotopy equivalence. Since $\mathcal{F}(\mathcal{Y}'/S)$ and $\mathcal{F}(\mathcal{Y}/S)$ are each category objects (Proposition 5.13), it is enough to prove this claim for $n \in \{0, 1\}$. The result now follows from Joyal’s ∞ -categorical version of Quillen’s Theorem A [42, Theorem 4.1.3.1]. \square

Using Proposition 7.15, we further deduce the following recognition principle for the K -theory of a Waldhausen ∞ -category.

PROPOSITION 10.12. *For any Waldhausen ∞ -category \mathcal{C} , and any functor*

$$\mathbf{S}_*(\mathcal{C}): N\Delta^{\text{op}} \longrightarrow \mathbf{Wald}_\infty$$

that classifies the Waldhausen cocartesian fibration $\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{C}) \longrightarrow N\Delta^{\text{op}}$, the K -theory space $K(\mathcal{C})$ is the underlying space of the initial object of the ∞ -category

$$\mathbf{Grp}(\mathbf{Kan}) \times_{\mathbf{Fun}(N\Delta^{\text{op}}, \mathbf{Kan})} \mathbf{Fun}(N\Delta^{\text{op}}, \mathbf{Kan})_{\iota_{\mathbf{S}_*(\mathcal{C})}/}.$$

The algebraic K -theory of labeled Waldhausen ∞ -category

We now study the K -theory of labeled Waldhausen ∞ -categories.

DEFINITION 10.13. Suppose that $(\mathcal{C}, w\mathcal{C})$ is a labeled Waldhausen ∞ -category (Definition 9.2). Then we define $K(\mathcal{C}, w\mathcal{C})$ as the K -theory space $K(\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{C}, w\mathcal{C}))$.

NOTATION 10.14. If \mathcal{C} is a Waldhausen ∞ -category, and if $w\mathcal{C} \subset \mathcal{C}$ is a labeling, then define $w_{N\Delta^{\text{op}}}\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{C}) \subset \mathcal{S}(\mathcal{C})$ as the smallest subcategory containing all cocartesian edges and all morphisms of the form $(\text{id}, \psi): (\mathbf{m}, Y) \rightarrow (\mathbf{m}, X)$, where for any integer $0 \leq k \leq m$, the induced morphism $Y_k \rightarrow X_k$ is labeled.

In light of Lemma 9.12, we now immediately deduce the following.

PROPOSITION 10.15. For any labeled Waldhausen ∞ -category $(\mathcal{C}, w\mathcal{C})$, the K -theory space $K(\mathcal{C}, w\mathcal{C})$ is weakly homotopy equivalent to the loop space

$$\Omega(w_{N\Delta^{\text{op}}}\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{C})).$$

In other words, for any labeled Waldhausen ∞ -category $(\mathcal{C}, w\mathcal{C})$, the simplicial set $K(\mathcal{C}, w\mathcal{C})$ is weakly homotopy equivalent to the loop space

$$\Omega\text{colim } w\mathbf{S}_*(\mathcal{C}).$$

Since this again is precisely how Waldhausen’s K -theory is defined [73, § 1.3], we obtain a further comparison between our ∞ -categorical K -theory for labeled Waldhausen ∞ -categories and Waldhausen K -theory, analogous to Corollary 10.10.

COROLLARY 10.16. If $(C, \text{cof}C, wC)$ is an ordinary category with cofibrations and weak equivalences in the sense of Waldhausen [73, § 1.2], then the algebraic K -theory of the labeled Waldhausen ∞ -category $(NC, N(\text{cof}C), wC)$ is naturally equivalent to Waldhausen’s algebraic K -theory of $(C, \text{cof}C, wC)$.

Using Corollary 10.11, we obtain the following.

COROLLARY 10.17. Suppose that $(\mathcal{C}, w\mathcal{C})$ is a labeled Waldhausen ∞ -category. Then the comparison morphism $\gamma_{(\mathcal{C}, w\mathcal{C})}$ (Notation 9.18) induces an equivalence

$$K(\mathcal{C}, w\mathcal{C}) \rightarrow K(w\mathcal{C}^{-1}\mathcal{C})$$

of K -theory spaces if the following conditions are satisfied.

- (1) For any object X of $w\mathcal{C}^{-1}\mathcal{C}$, the simplicial set

$$w\mathcal{C} \times_{\iota(w\mathcal{C}^{-1}\mathcal{C})} \iota(w\mathcal{C}^{-1}\mathcal{C})/X$$

is weakly contractible.

- (2) For any object Y of $\mathcal{F}_1(w\mathcal{C}^{-1}\mathcal{C})$, the simplicial set

$$w\mathcal{F}_1(\mathcal{C}) \times_{\iota\mathcal{F}_1(w\mathcal{C}^{-1}\mathcal{C})} \iota\mathcal{F}_1(w\mathcal{C}^{-1}\mathcal{C})/Y$$

is weakly contractible.

Proposition 9.15, combined with Corollary 10.17, yields a further corollary.

COROLLARY 10.18. Suppose that C is a full subcategory of a model category M that is stable under weak equivalences, then the Waldhausen K -theory of $(C, C \cap \text{cof}M, C \cap wM)$ is canonically equivalent to the K -theory of a relative nerve $N(C, C \cap wM)$, equipped with the smallest pair structure containing the image of $\text{cof}C$ (Example 2.12).

Proof. The only nontrivial point is to check the conditions of Lemma 9.22 for the labeled Waldhausen ∞ -category $(NC, N(C \cap \text{cof}M), N(C \cap wM))$. Fix a functorial factorization of any map of C into a trivial cofibration followed by a fibration. The functor $F: \text{Fun}(\Delta^1, NC) \rightarrow \text{Fun}(\Delta^1, NC)$ that carries any map to the trivial cofibration in its factorization now does the job. \square

Cofinality and more fibration theorems

We may also use Corollary 10.17 in combination with Proposition 9.17 to specialize the second Generic Fibration Theorem (Theorem 9.24). We first prove a cofinality result, which states that strongly cofinal inclusions (Definition 9.16) of Waldhausen ∞ -categories do not affect the K -theory in high degrees. We are thankful to Peter Scholze for noticing an error that necessitated the inclusion of this result. We follow closely the model of Staffeldt [65, Theorem 2.1], which works in our setting with only superficial changes.

THEOREM 10.19 (Cofinality). *The map on K -theory induced by the inclusion $i: \mathcal{C}' \hookrightarrow \mathcal{C}$ of a strongly cofinal subcategory fits into a fiber sequence*

$$K(\mathcal{C}') \rightarrow K(\mathcal{C}) \rightarrow A,$$

where A is the abelian group $K_0(\mathcal{C})/K_0(\mathcal{C}')$, regarded as a discrete simplicial set.

Proof. It is convenient to describe the classifying space BA in the following manner. Denote by BA the nerve of the following ordinary category. An object $(m, (x_i))$ consists of an integer $m \geq 0$ and a tuple $(x_i)_{i \in \{1, \dots, m\}}$, and a morphism

$$(m, (x_i)) \rightarrow (n, (y_j))$$

is a morphism $\phi: \mathbf{n} \rightarrow \mathbf{m}$ of Δ such that for any $j \in \{1, \dots, n\}$,

$$y_j = \prod_{\phi(j-1) \leq i-1 \leq \phi(j)-1} x_i.$$

The projection $BA \rightarrow N\Delta^{\text{op}}$ clearly induces a left fibration, and the simplicial space $N\Delta^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Kan}$ that classifies it visibly satisfies the Segal condition and thus exhibits $(BA)_1 \cong A$ as the loop space ΩBA .

We appeal to the Generic Fibration Theorem 8.11. Consider the left fibration

$$p: \iota_{N(\Delta^{\text{op}} \times \Delta^{\text{op}})} \mathcal{S}\mathcal{K}(i) \rightarrow N(\Delta^{\text{op}} \times \Delta^{\text{op}})$$

and more particularly its composite $q := \text{pr}_2 \circ p$ with the projection

$$\text{pr}_2: N(\Delta^{\text{op}} \times \Delta^{\text{op}}) \rightarrow N\Delta^{\text{op}}$$

(whose fiber over $\mathbf{n} \in \Delta$ is $\iota_{N(\Delta^{\text{op}} \times \Delta^{\text{op}})} \mathcal{S}_n \mathcal{K}(i)$). The Generic Fibration Theorem will imply the cofinality theorem once we have furnished an equivalence $\iota_{N(\Delta^{\text{op}} \times \Delta^{\text{op}})} \mathcal{S}\mathcal{K}(i) \simeq BA$ over $N\Delta^{\text{op}}$.

Observe that an object X of the ∞ -category $\iota_{N(\Delta^{\text{op}} \times \Delta^{\text{op}})} \mathcal{S}\mathcal{K}(i)$ consists of a diagram in \mathcal{C} of the form

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 0 & \xlongequal{\quad} & 0 & \xlongequal{\quad} & \cdots & \xlongequal{\quad} & 0 \\
 \downarrow & & \downarrow & & & & \downarrow \\
 X_{01} & \longrightarrow & X_{11} & \longrightarrow & \cdots & \longrightarrow & X_{m1} \\
 \downarrow & & \downarrow & & & & \downarrow \\
 \vdots & & \vdots & & & & \vdots \\
 \downarrow & & \downarrow & & & & \downarrow \\
 X_{0n} & \longrightarrow & X_{1n} & \longrightarrow & \cdots & \longrightarrow & X_{mn},
 \end{array}$$

such that each $X_{k\ell}/X_{(k-1)\ell} \in \mathcal{C}'$ and the maps

$$X_{(k-1)\ell} \cup^{X^{(k-1)(\ell-1)}} X_{k(\ell-1)} \longrightarrow X_{k\ell}$$

are all ingressive. Consequently, we may define a map

$$\Phi: \iota_{N(\Delta^{\text{op}} \times \Delta^{\text{op}})} \mathcal{S}\mathcal{K}(i) \longrightarrow BA$$

that carries an n -simplex

$$X(0) \longrightarrow \cdots \longrightarrow X(n)$$

of $\iota_{N(\Delta^{\text{op}} \times \Delta^{\text{op}})} \mathcal{S}\mathcal{K}(i)$ to the obvious n -simplex whose i th vertex is

$$(q(X(i)), ([X(i)_{0\ell}/X(i)_{0(\ell-1)}])_{\ell \in \{1, \dots, q(X(i))\}})$$

of BA , where $[Z]$ denotes the image of any object $Z \in \mathcal{C}$ in $K_0(\mathcal{C})/K_0(\mathcal{C}')$. This is easily seen to be a map of simplicial sets over $N\Delta^{\text{op}}$.

Our aim is now to show that Φ is a fiberwise equivalence. Note that the target satisfies the Segal condition by construction, and the source satisfies it thanks to the additivity theorem. Consequently, we are reduced to checking that the induced map

$$\Phi_1: \iota_{N\Delta^{\text{op}}} \mathcal{K}(i) \longrightarrow (BA)_1 \cong A$$

is a weak equivalence. This is the unique map determined by the condition that it carry an object

$$X_0 \twoheadrightarrow \cdots \twoheadrightarrow X_n$$

of $\iota_{\mathcal{K}(i)}$ to the class $[X_0] = [X_1] = \cdots = [X_n] \in A$.

One may check that Φ_1 induces a bijection $\pi_0 \iota_{N\Delta^{\text{op}}} \mathcal{K}(i) \xrightarrow{\sim} A$ exactly as in [65, p. 517].

Now fix an object $Z \in \mathcal{C}$, and write $\iota_{N\Delta^{\text{op}}} \mathcal{K}(i)_Z \subset \iota_{N\Delta^{\text{op}}} \mathcal{K}(i)$ for the connected component corresponding to the class $[Z]$. This is the full subcategory spanned by those objects

$$X_0 \twoheadrightarrow \cdots \twoheadrightarrow X_n$$

such that $[X_0] = [Z]$ in A . We may construct a functor

$$T: \iota_{N\Delta^{\text{op}}} \mathcal{F}(\mathcal{C}') \longrightarrow \iota_{N\Delta^{\text{op}}} \mathcal{K}(i)_Z$$

that carries an object

$$Y_0 \twoheadrightarrow \cdots \twoheadrightarrow Y_n$$

to an object

$$Y_0 \vee Z \twoheadrightarrow \cdots \twoheadrightarrow Y_n \vee Z.$$

In the other direction, choose an object $W \in \mathcal{C}$ such that $Z \vee W \in \mathcal{C}'$. Let $S: \iota_{N\Delta^{\text{op}}}\mathcal{K}(i)_Z \rightarrow \iota_{N\Delta^{\text{op}}}\mathcal{F}(\mathcal{C}')$ be the obvious functor that carries an object

$$X_0 \twoheadrightarrow \cdots \twoheadrightarrow X_n$$

to an object

$$X_0 \vee W \twoheadrightarrow \cdots \twoheadrightarrow X_n \vee W.$$

Now for any finite simplicial set K and any map $g: K \rightarrow \iota_{N\Delta^{\text{op}}}\mathcal{F}(\mathcal{C}')$, we construct a map

$$G: K \times \Delta^1 \rightarrow \iota_{N\Delta^{\text{op}}}\mathcal{F}(\mathcal{C}')$$

such that

$$G|(K \times \Delta^{\{0\}}) \cong g \quad \text{and} \quad G|(K \times \Delta^{\{1\}}) \cong S \circ T \circ g$$

in the following manner. We let the map $K \times \Delta^1 \rightarrow N\Delta^{\text{op}}$ induced by G be the projection onto K followed by the map $K \rightarrow N\Delta^{\text{op}}$ induced by g . The natural transformation from the identity on \mathcal{C}' to the functor $X \mapsto X \vee Z \vee W$ now gives a map $(K \times \Delta^1) \times_{N\Delta^{\text{op}}} NM \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$, which by definition corresponds to the desired map G .

In almost exactly the same manner, for any map $f: K \rightarrow \iota_{N\Delta^{\text{op}}}\mathcal{K}(i)_Z$, one may construct a map

$$F: K \times \Delta^1 \rightarrow \iota_{N\Delta^{\text{op}}}\mathcal{K}(i)_Z$$

such that

$$F|(K \times \Delta^{\{0\}}) \cong f \quad \text{and} \quad F|(K \times \Delta^{\{1\}}) \cong T \circ S \circ f.$$

We therefore conclude that, for any simplicial set K , the functors T and S induce a bijection

$$[K, \iota_{N\Delta^{\text{op}}}\mathcal{F}(\mathcal{C}')] \cong [K, \iota_{N\Delta^{\text{op}}}\mathcal{K}(i)_Z],$$

whence S and T are homotopy inverses. Now since $\iota_{N\Delta^{\text{op}}}\mathcal{F}(\mathcal{C}')$ is contractible, it follows that $\iota_{N\Delta^{\text{op}}}\mathcal{K}(i)_Z$ is as well. Thus $\iota_{N\Delta^{\text{op}}}\mathcal{K}(i)$ is equivalent to the discrete simplicial set A , as desired. \square

In the situation of Proposition 9.17, we find that the natural map

$$K((wC^\omega)^{-1}C^\omega) \rightarrow K(D^\omega)$$

is a homotopy monomorphism; that is, it induces an inclusion on π_0 and an isomorphism on π_k for $k \geq 1$. We therefore obtain the following.

PROPOSITION 10.20 (Special Fibration Theorem). *Suppose that C is a compactly generated ∞ -category that is additive (Definition 4.10). Suppose that $L: C \rightarrow D$ is an accessible localization, and that the inclusion $D \hookrightarrow C$ preserves filtered colimits. Assume also that the class of all L -equivalences of C is generated (as a strongly saturated class) by the L -equivalences between compact objects. Then L induces a pullback square of spaces*

$$\begin{array}{ccc} K(E^\omega) & \longrightarrow & K(C^\omega) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ * & \longrightarrow & K(D^\omega), \end{array}$$

where C^ω and D^ω are equipped with the maximal pair structure, and $E^\omega \subset C^\omega$ is the full subcategory spanned by those objects X such that $LX \simeq 0$.

A further specialization of this result is now possible. Suppose that C is a compactly generated stable ∞ -category. Then $C = \text{Ind}(A)$ for some small ∞ -category A , and so, since

$\text{Ind}(A) \subset \mathcal{P}(A)$ is closed under filtered colimits and finite limits, it follows that filtered colimits of C are left exact [42, Definition 7.3.4.2]. Suppose also that C is equipped with a t-structure such that $C_{\leq 0} \subset C$ is stable under filtered colimits. Then the localization $\tau_{\geq 1}: C \rightarrow C$, being the fiber of the natural transformation $\text{id} \rightarrow \tau_{\leq 0}$, preserves filtered colimits as well. Now by [46, Proposition 1.2.1.16], the class S of morphisms f such that $\tau_{\leq 0}(f)$ is an equivalence is generated as a quasi-saturated class by the class $\{0 \rightarrow X \mid X \in C_{\geq 1}\}$. But now writing X as a filtered colimit of compact objects and applying $\tau_{\geq 1}$, we find that S is generated under filtered colimits in $\text{Fun}(\Delta^1, C)$ by the set $\{0 \rightarrow X \mid X \in C^\omega \cap C_{\geq 1}\}$. Hence the $\tau_{\leq 0}$ -equivalences are generated by $\tau_{\leq 0}$ -equivalences between compact objects, and we have the following.

COROLLARY 10.21. *Suppose that C is a compactly generated stable ∞ -category. Suppose also that C is equipped with a t-structure such that $C_{\leq 0} \subset C$ is stable under filtered colimits. Then the functor $\tau_{\leq 0}$ induces a pullback square*

$$\begin{array}{ccc} K(C^\omega \cap C_{\geq 1}) & \longrightarrow & K(C^\omega) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ * & \longrightarrow & K(C^\omega \cap C_{\leq 0}), \end{array}$$

where the ∞ -categories that appear are equipped with their maximal pair structure.

In particular, we can exploit the equivalence of [42, Proposition 5.5.7.8] to deduce the following.

COROLLARY 10.22. *Suppose that A is a small stable ∞ -category that is equipped with a t-structure. Then the functor $\tau_{\leq 0}$ induces a pullback square*

$$\begin{array}{ccc} K(A_{\geq 1}) & \longrightarrow & K(A) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ * & \longrightarrow & K(A_{\leq 0}), \end{array}$$

where the ∞ -categories that appear are equipped with their maximal pair structure.

Proof. If A is idempotent-complete, then we can appeal to Corollary 10.21 and [42, Proposition 5.5.7.8] directly. If not, then we may embed A in its idempotent completion A' , and we extend the t-structure using the condition that any summand of an object $X \in A_{\leq 0}$ (respectively, $X \in A_{\geq 1}$) must lie in $A'_{\leq 0}$ (respectively, $A'_{\geq 1}$). Now we appeal to the Cofinality Theorem 10.19 to complete the proof. \square

11. Example: Algebraic K -theory of E_1 -algebras

To any associative ring in any suitable monoidal ∞ -category, we can attach its ∞ -category of modules. We may then impose suitable finiteness hypotheses on these modules and extract a K -theory spectrum. Here we identify some important examples of these K -theory spectra.

NOTATION 11.1. Suppose that \mathcal{A} is a presentable, symmetric monoidal ∞ -category [46, Definition 2.0.0.7] with the property that the tensor product $\otimes: \mathcal{A} \times \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$ preserves (small) colimits separately in each variable; assume also that \mathcal{A} is additive (Definition 4.10). We denote by $\mathbf{Alg}(\mathcal{A})$ the ∞ -category of E_1 -algebras in \mathcal{A} , and we denote by $\mathbf{Mod}^\ell(\mathcal{A})$ the ∞ -category $\text{LMod}(\mathcal{A})$ defined in [46, Definition 4.2.1.13]. We have the canonical presentable

fibration

$$\theta: \mathbf{Mod}^\ell(\mathcal{A}) \longrightarrow \mathbf{Alg}(\mathcal{A})$$

[46, Corollary 4.2.3.7], whose fiber over any E_1 -algebra Λ is the presentable ∞ -category $\mathbf{Mod}_\Lambda^\ell$ of left Λ -modules. Informally, we describe the objects of $\mathbf{Mod}^\ell(\mathcal{A})$ as pairs (Λ, E) consisting of an E_1 -algebra Λ in \mathcal{A} and a left Λ -module E .

Our aim now is to impose hypotheses on the objects of (Λ, E) and pair structures on the resulting full subcategories to ensure that the restriction of θ is a Waldhausen cocartesian fibration.

DEFINITION 11.2. For any E_1 -algebra Λ in \mathcal{A} , a left Λ -module E will be said to be *perfect* if it satisfies the following two conditions.

- (1) As an object of the ∞ -category $\mathbf{Mod}_\Lambda^\ell$ of left Λ -modules, E is compact.
- (2) The functor $\mathbf{Mod}_\Lambda^\ell \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$ corepresented by E is exact.

Denote by $\mathbf{Perf}^\ell(\mathcal{A}) \subset \mathbf{Mod}^\ell(\mathcal{A})$ the full subcategory spanned by those pairs (Λ, E) in which E is perfect.

These two conditions can be more efficiently expressed by saying that E is perfect just in case the functor $\mathbf{Mod}_\Lambda^\ell \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$ corepresented by E preserves all small colimits. Note that this is *not* the same as *complete compactness*, that is, requiring that the functor $\mathbf{Mod}_\Lambda^\ell \rightarrow \mathbf{Kan}$ corepresented by E preserves all small colimits.

EXAMPLE 11.3. When \mathcal{A} is the nerve of the ordinary category of abelian groups, $\mathbf{Alg}(\mathcal{A})$ is the category of associative rings, and $\mathbf{Mod}^\ell(\mathcal{A})$ is the nerve of the ordinary category of pairs (Λ, E) consisting of an associative ring Λ and a left Λ -module E . An Λ -module E is perfect just in case it is (1) finitely presented and (2) projective. Thus $\mathbf{Perf}_\Lambda^\ell$ is the nerve of the ordinary category of finitely generated projective Λ -modules.

EXAMPLE 11.4. When \mathcal{A} is the ∞ -category of connective spectra, $\mathbf{Alg}(\mathcal{A})$ can be identified with the ∞ -category of connective E_1 -rings, and $\mathbf{Mod}^\ell(\mathcal{A})$ can be identified with the ∞ -category of pairs (Λ, E) consisting of a connective E_1 -ring Λ and a connective left Λ -module E . Since the functor $\Omega^\infty: \mathbf{Sp}_{\geq 0} \rightarrow \mathbf{Kan}$ is conservative [46, Corollary 5.1.3.9] and preserves sifted colimits [46, Proposition 1.4.3.9], it follows using [46, Lemma 1.3.3.10] that the second condition of Definition 11.2 amounts to the requirement that E be a projective object. Now [46, Proposition 8.2.2.6 and Corollary 8.2.2.9] guarantees that the following are equivalent for a left Λ -module E .

- (1) The left Λ -module E is perfect.
- (2) The left Λ -module E is projective, and $\pi_0 E$ is finitely generated as a $\pi_0 \Lambda$ -module.
- (3) The $\pi_0 \Lambda$ -module $\pi_0 E$ is finitely generated, and for every $\pi_0 A$ -module M and every integer $m \geq 1$, the abelian group $\text{Ext}^m(E, M)$ vanishes.
- (4) There exists a finitely generated free Λ -module F such that E is a retract of F .

EXAMPLE 11.5. The situation for modules over simplicial associative rings is nearly identical. When \mathcal{A} is the ∞ -category of simplicial abelian groups, $\mathbf{Alg}(\mathcal{A})$ can be identified with the ∞ -category of simplicial associative rings, and $\mathbf{Mod}^\ell(\mathcal{A})$ can be identified with the ∞ -category of pairs (Λ, E) consisting of a simplicial associative ring Λ and a left Λ -module E . Since the forgetful functor $\mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathbf{Kan}$ is conservative and preserves sifted colimits, it follows

that the second condition of Definition 11.2 amounts to the requirement that E be a projective object. One may show that the following are equivalent for a left Λ -module E .

- (1) The left Λ -module E is perfect.
- (2) The left Λ -module E is projective, and $\pi_0 E$ is finitely generated as a $\pi_0 \Lambda$ -module.
- (3) The $\pi_0 \Lambda$ -module $\pi_0 E$ is finitely generated, and for every $\pi_0 \Lambda$ -module M and every integer $m \geq 1$, the abelian group $\text{Ext}^m(E, M)$ vanishes.
- (4) There exists a finitely generated free Λ -module F such that E is a retract of F .

EXAMPLE 11.6. When \mathcal{A} is the ∞ -category of all spectra, $\mathbf{Alg}(\mathcal{A})$ is the ∞ -category of E_1 -rings, and $\mathbf{Mod}^\ell(\mathcal{A})$ is the ∞ -category of pairs (Λ, E) consisting of an E_1 -ring Λ and a left Λ -module E . Suppose that Λ is an E_1 -ring. The second condition of Definition 11.2 is vacuous since \mathcal{A} is stable. Hence by [46, Proposition 8.2.5.4], the following are equivalent for a left Λ -module E .

- (1) The left Λ -module E is perfect.
- (2) The left Λ -module E is contained in the smallest stable subcategory of the ∞ -category $\mathbf{Mod}_\Lambda^\ell$ of left Λ -modules that contains Λ itself and is closed under retracts.
- (3) The left Λ -module E is compact as an object of $\mathbf{Mod}_\Lambda^\ell$.
- (4) There exists a right Λ -module E^\vee such that the functor $\mathbf{Mod}_\Lambda^\ell \rightarrow \mathbf{Kan}$ informally written as $\Omega^\infty(E^\vee \otimes_\Lambda -)$ is corepresented by E .

Now we wish to endow $\mathbf{Perf}^\ell(\mathcal{A})$ with a suitable pair structure. In general, this may not be possible, but we can isolate those situations in which it is possible.

DEFINITION 11.7. Denote by S the class of morphisms $(\Lambda', E') \rightarrow (\Lambda, E)$ of the ∞ -category $\mathbf{Perf}^\ell(\mathcal{A})$ with the following two properties.

- (1) The morphism $\Lambda' \rightarrow \Lambda$ of $\mathbf{Alg}(\mathcal{A})$ is an equivalence.
- (2) Any pushout diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} (\Lambda', E') & \longrightarrow & (\Lambda, E) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ (\Lambda', 0) & \longrightarrow & (\Lambda, E'') \end{array}$$

in $\mathbf{Mod}^\ell(\mathcal{A})$ in which $0 \in \mathbf{Mod}_\Lambda^\ell$ is a zero object is also a pullback diagram, and the Λ -module E'' is perfect.

We shall say that \mathcal{A} is *admissible* if the class S is stable under pushout in $\mathbf{Perf}^\ell(\mathcal{A})$ and composition. (Note that pushouts in $\mathbf{Perf}^\ell(\mathcal{A})$ are.)

EXAMPLE 11.8. When \mathcal{A} is the nerve of the category of abelian groups, S is the class of morphisms $(\Lambda', E') \rightarrow (\Lambda, E)$ such that $\Lambda' \rightarrow \Lambda$ is an isomorphism, and the induced map of Λ' -modules $E' \rightarrow E$ is an admissible monomorphism. It is a familiar fact that these are closed under pushout and composition, so that the nerve of the category of abelian groups is admissible.

EXAMPLE 11.9. When \mathcal{A} is the ∞ -category of connective spectra or the ∞ -category of simplicial abelian groups, S is the class of morphisms $(\Lambda', E') \rightarrow (\Lambda, E)$ such that $\Lambda' \rightarrow \Lambda$ is an equivalence, and the induced homomorphism

$$\text{Ext}^0(E, M) \rightarrow \text{Ext}^0(E', M)$$

is a surjection for every $\pi_0\Lambda'$ -module M . This is visibly closed under composition. To see that these are closed under pushouts, let us proceed in two steps. First, for any morphism $\Lambda \rightarrow \Lambda'$ of $\mathbf{Alg}(\mathcal{A})$, the functor informally described as $E \mapsto E \otimes_{\Lambda} \Lambda'$ clearly carries morphisms of $\mathbf{Perf}_{\Lambda}^{\ell}$ that lie in S to morphisms of $\mathbf{Perf}_{\Lambda'}^{\ell}$ that lie in S . Now, for a fixed E_1 -algebra Λ in \mathcal{A} , suppose

$$\begin{array}{ccc} E' & \longrightarrow & E \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ F' & \longrightarrow & F \end{array}$$

a pushout square in $\mathbf{Perf}_{\Lambda}^{\ell}$ in which $E' \rightarrow E$ lies in the class S , and suppose M a $\pi_0\Lambda$ -module. For any morphism $F' \rightarrow M$, one may precompose to obtain a morphism $E' \rightarrow M$. Our criterion on the morphism $E' \rightarrow E$ now guarantees that there is a commutative square

$$\begin{array}{ccc} E' & \longrightarrow & E \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ F' & \longrightarrow & M \end{array}$$

up to homotopy. Now the universal property of the pushout yields a morphism $F \rightarrow M$ that extends the morphism $F' \rightarrow M$, up to homotopy. Thus both connective spectra and simplicial abelian groups are admissible ∞ -categories.

EXAMPLE 11.10. When \mathcal{A} is the ∞ -category of all spectra, every morphism is contained in the class S . Hence the ∞ -category of all spectra is an admissible ∞ -category.

NOTATION 11.11. If \mathcal{A} is admissible, denote by $\mathbf{Perf}_{\dagger}^{\ell}(\mathcal{A})$ the subcategory of $\mathbf{Perf}^{\ell}(\mathcal{A})$ whose morphisms are those that lie in the class S . With this pair structure, the ∞ -category $\mathbf{Perf}^{\ell}(\mathcal{A})$ is a Waldhausen ∞ -category.

LEMMA 11.12. *If \mathcal{A} is admissible, then the functor $\mathbf{Perf}^{\ell}(\mathcal{A}) \rightarrow \mathbf{Alg}(\mathcal{A})$ is a Waldhausen cocartesian fibration.*

Proof. It is clear that the fibers of this cocartesian fibration are Waldhausen ∞ -categories. We claim that for any morphism $\Lambda' \rightarrow \Lambda$ of E_1 -algebras, the corresponding functor

$$\mathbf{Mod}_{\Lambda'}^{\ell} \rightarrow \mathbf{Mod}_{\Lambda}^{\ell}$$

given informally by the assignment $E' \mapsto \Lambda \otimes_{\Lambda'} E'$ carries perfect modules to perfect modules. Indeed, it is enough to show that the right adjoint functor

$$\mathbf{Mod}_{\Lambda}^{\ell} \rightarrow \mathbf{Mod}_{\Lambda'}^{\ell}$$

preserves small colimits. This is immediate, since colimits are computed in the underlying ∞ -category \mathcal{A} [46, Proposition 3.2.3.1].

The induced functor $\mathbf{Perf}_{\Lambda'}^{\ell} \rightarrow \mathbf{Perf}_{\Lambda}^{\ell}$ carries an ingressive morphism $F' \rightarrow E'$ to the morphism of left Λ -modules $F' \otimes_{\Lambda'} \Lambda \rightarrow E' \otimes_{\Lambda'} \Lambda$, which fits into a pushout square

$$\begin{array}{ccc} (\Lambda', F') & \longrightarrow & (\Lambda', E') \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ (\Lambda, F' \otimes_{\Lambda'} \Lambda) & \longrightarrow & (\Lambda, E' \otimes_{\Lambda'} \Lambda) \end{array}$$

in $\mathbf{Perf}^{\ell}(\mathcal{A})$; hence $F' \otimes_{\Lambda'} \Lambda \rightarrow E' \otimes_{\Lambda'} \Lambda$ is ingressive. □

DEFINITION 11.13. The algebraic K -theory of E_1 -rings, which we will abusively denote

$$\mathbf{K}: \mathbf{Alg}(\mathcal{A}) \longrightarrow \mathbf{Sp}_{\geq 0},$$

is the composite functor $\mathbf{K} \circ P$, where $P: \mathbf{Alg}(\mathcal{A}) \longrightarrow \mathbf{Wald}_\infty$ is the functor classified by the Waldhausen cocartesian fibration $\mathbf{Perf}^\ell(\mathcal{A}) \longrightarrow \mathbf{Alg}(\mathcal{A})$.

CONSTRUCTION 11.14. The preceding definition ensures that K is well-defined up to a contractible ambiguity. To obtain an explicit model of K , we proceed in the following manner. Apply \mathcal{S} to $\mathbf{Perf}^\ell(\mathcal{A}) \longrightarrow \mathbf{Alg}(\mathcal{A})$ in order to obtain a Waldhausen cocartesian fibration $\mathcal{S}(\mathbf{Perf}^\ell(\mathcal{A})) \longrightarrow N\Delta^{\text{op}} \times \mathbf{Alg}(\mathcal{A})$. Now consider the subcategory

$$\iota_{(N\Delta^{\text{op}} \times \mathbf{Alg}(\mathcal{A}))} \mathcal{S}(\mathbf{Perf}^\ell(\mathcal{A})) \subset \mathcal{S}(\mathbf{Perf}^\ell(\mathcal{A}))$$

consisting of cocartesian edges. The composite

$$\iota_{(N\Delta^{\text{op}} \times \mathbf{Alg}(\mathcal{A}))} \mathcal{S} \mathbf{Perf}^\ell(\mathcal{A}) \longrightarrow N\Delta^{\text{op}} \times \mathbf{Alg}(\mathcal{A}) \longrightarrow \mathbf{Alg}(\mathcal{A})$$

is now a left fibration with a contractible space of sections given by

$$\mathbf{Alg}(\mathcal{A}) \cong \{0\} \times \mathbf{Alg}(\mathcal{A}) \xleftarrow{\sim} \iota_{\mathcal{S}_0} \mathcal{S} \mathbf{Perf}^\ell(\mathcal{A}) \hookrightarrow \iota_{(N\Delta^{\text{op}} \times \mathbf{Alg}(\mathcal{A}))} \mathcal{S} \mathbf{Perf}^\ell(\mathcal{A}).$$

It is clear by construction that this left fibration classifies a functor

$$L: \mathbf{Alg}(\mathcal{A}) \longrightarrow \mathbf{Kan}$$

such that $K \simeq \Omega \circ L$.

Let us now concentrate on the case in which \mathcal{A} is the ∞ -category of spectra.

EXAMPLE 11.15. Combining Examples 8.6 and 10.3, and the identification of $\text{Fun}(X, \mathbf{Sp})$ with $\mathbf{Mod}^\ell(\Sigma_+^\infty X)$, we obtain the well-known equivalence

$$A(X) \simeq K(\Sigma_+^\infty X).$$

PROPOSITION 11.16. Suppose that Λ is an E_1 ring spectrum, and that $S \subset \pi_* \Lambda$ is a collection of homogeneous elements satisfying the left Ore condition [46, Definition 8.2.4.1]. Then the morphism $\Lambda \longrightarrow \Lambda[S^{-1}]$ of $\mathbf{Alg}(\mathbf{Sp})$ induces a fiber sequence of connective spectra

$$\mathbf{K}(\mathbf{Nil}_{(\Lambda, S)}^{\ell, \omega}) \longrightarrow \mathbf{K}(\Lambda) \longrightarrow \mathbf{K}(\Lambda[S^{-1}]),$$

where $\mathbf{Nil}_{(\Lambda, S)}^{\ell, \omega} \subset \mathbf{Perf}_\Lambda^\ell$ is the full subcategory spanned by those perfect left Λ -modules that are S -nilpotent.

Proof. Consider the t-structure

$$(\mathbf{Nil}_{(\Lambda, S)}^\ell, \mathbf{Loc}_{(\Lambda, S)}^\ell),$$

where $\mathbf{Nil}_{(\Lambda, S)}^\ell \subset \mathbf{Mod}_\Lambda^\ell$ is the full subcategory spanned by the S -nilpotent left Λ -modules, and $\mathbf{Loc}_{(\Lambda, S)}^\ell \subset \mathbf{Mod}_\Lambda^\ell$ is the full subcategory spanned by the S -local left Λ -modules. We claim that this t-structure restricts to one on $\mathbf{Perf}_\Lambda^\ell$. To this end, we note that $\mathbf{Mod}_\Lambda^\ell$ is compactly generated, and $\mathbf{Loc}_{(\Lambda, S)}^\ell \subset \mathbf{Mod}_\Lambda^\ell$ is in fact stable under all colimits [46, Remark 8.2.4.16]. Now we apply Corollary 10.21, and our description of the cofiber term now follows from the discussion preceding [46, Remark 8.2.4.26]. \square

Such a result is surely well known among experts; see, for example, [15, Propositions 1.4 and 1.5].

EXAMPLE 11.17. For a prime p (suppressed from the notation) and an integer $n \geq 0$, the truncated Brown–Peterson spectra $\mathrm{BP}\langle n \rangle$, with coefficient ring

$$\pi_*\mathrm{BP}\langle n \rangle \cong \mathbf{Z}_{(p)}[v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n]$$

admit compatible E_1 structures [39, p. 506]. We may consider the multiplicative system $S \subset \pi_*\mathrm{BP}\langle n \rangle$ of homogeneous elements generated by v_n . Then $\mathrm{BP}\langle n \rangle[v_n^{-1}]$ is an E_1 -algebra equivalent to the Johnson–Wilson spectrum $E(n)$. The exact sequence above yields a fiber sequence of connective spectra

$$\mathbf{K}(\mathrm{Nil}_{(\mathrm{BP}\langle n \rangle, S)}^{\ell, \omega}) \longrightarrow \mathbf{K}(\mathrm{BP}\langle n \rangle) \longrightarrow \mathbf{K}(E(n)).$$

The content of a well-known conjecture of Ausoni–Rognes [1, (0.2)] identifies the fiber term (possibly after p -adic completion) as $\mathbf{K}(\mathrm{BP}\langle n-1 \rangle)$. In light of results such as [46, Lemma 8.4.2.13], such a result will follow from a suitable form of a *Dévissage Theorem* [59, Theorem 4]; we hope to return to such a result in later work (cf. [67, 1.11.1]).

Of course, when $n = 1$, such a *Dévissage Theorem* has already been provided thanks to beautiful work of Andrew Blumberg and Mike Mandell [15]. They prove that the K -theory of the ∞ -category of perfect, β -nilpotent modules over the p -local Adams summand can be identified with the K -theory of $\mathbf{Z}_{(p)}$. Consequently, they provide a fiber sequence

$$K(\mathbf{Z}_{(p)}) \longrightarrow K(\ell) \longrightarrow K(L).$$

12. Example: Algebraic K -theory of derived stacks

Here we introduce the algebraic K -theory of spectral Deligne–Mumford stacks in the sense of Lurie, and we prove an easy localization theorem (analogous to what Thomason called the ‘Proto-localization Theorem’) in this context.

We appeal here to the theory of nonconnective spectral Deligne–Mumford stacks and their module theory as exposed in [44, 45]. Much of what we will say can probably be done in other contexts of derived algebraic geometry as well, such as [71, 72]; we have opted to use Lurie’s approach only because that is the one with which we are least unfamiliar. We begin by summarizing some general facts about quasicohherent modules over nonconnective spectral Deligne–Mumford stacks. Since Lurie at times concentrates on connective Deligne–Mumford stacks, we will at some points comment on how to extend the relevant definitions and results to the nonconnective case.

NOTATION 12.1. Recall from [45, § 2.3, Proposition 2.5.1] that the functor

$$\mathrm{Sch}(\mathcal{G}_{\mathrm{ét}}^{n\mathrm{M}})^{\mathrm{op}} \longrightarrow \mathrm{Stk}^{\mathrm{nc}}$$

is a cocartesian fibration, and its fiber over a nonconnective spectral Deligne–Mumford stack $(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{O})$ is the stable, presentable ∞ -category $\mathbf{QCoh}(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{O})$ of *quasicohherent* \mathcal{O} -modules.

For any nonconnective Deligne–Mumford stack $(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{O})$, the following are equivalent for an \mathcal{O} -module \mathcal{M} .

- (1) The \mathcal{O} -module \mathcal{M} is quasicohherent.
- (2) For any morphism $U \rightarrow V$ of \mathcal{E} such that $(\mathcal{X}_{|U}, \mathcal{O}_{|U})$ and $(\mathcal{X}_{|V}, \mathcal{O}_{|V})$ are affine, the natural morphism $\mathcal{M}(V) \otimes_{\mathcal{O}(V)} \mathcal{O}(U) \rightarrow \mathcal{M}(U)$ is an equivalence.
- (3) The following conditions obtain.
 - (a) For every integer n , the homotopy sheaf $\pi_n \mathcal{M}$ is a quasicohherent module on the underlying ordinary Deligne–Mumford stack of $(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{O})$
 - (b) The object $\Omega^\infty \mathcal{M}$ is hypercomplete in the ∞ -topos \mathcal{E} .

Using ideas from [45, § 2.7], we shall now make sense of the notion of quasicohherent module over any functor $\mathbf{CAlg} \rightarrow \mathbf{Kan}(\kappa_1)$. As suggested in [45, Remark 2.7.9], write

$$\mathbf{QCoh}: \mathrm{Fun}(\mathbf{CAlg}, \mathbf{Kan}(\kappa_1))^{\mathrm{op}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat}_{\infty}(\kappa_1)$$

for the right Kan extension of the functor $\mathbf{CAlg} \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat}_{\infty}(\kappa_1)$ that classifies the cocartesian fibration $\mathbf{Mod} \rightarrow \mathbf{CAlg}$. Then for any functor $X: \mathbf{CAlg} \rightarrow \mathbf{Kan}(\kappa_1)$, we obtain the ∞ -category of *quasicohherent modules* $\mathbf{QCoh}(X)$ on the functor X . Many of the results of [45, § 2.7] hold in this context with precisely the same proofs, including the following brace of results.

PROPOSITION 12.2 (cf. [45, Remark 2.7.17]). *For any functor $X: \mathbf{CAlg} \rightarrow \mathbf{Kan}(\kappa_1)$, the ∞ -category $\mathbf{QCoh}(X)$ is stable.*

PROPOSITION 12.3 (cf. [45, Remark 2.7.18]). *Suppose that $(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{O})$ is a nonconnective Deligne–Mumford stack representing a functor $X: \mathbf{CAlg} \rightarrow \mathbf{Kan}(\kappa_1)$. Then there is a canonical equivalence of ∞ -categories*

$$\mathbf{QCoh}(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{O}) \simeq \mathbf{QCoh}(X).$$

DEFINITION 12.4. Suppose that $X: \mathbf{CAlg} \rightarrow \mathbf{Kan}(\kappa_1)$ is a functor. We say that a quasicohherent module \mathcal{M} on X is *perfect* if for any E_{∞} ring A and any point $x \in X(A)$, the A -module $\mathcal{M}(x)$ is perfect (Definition 11.2). Write $\mathbf{Perf}(X) \subset \mathbf{QCoh}(X)$ for the full subcategory spanned by the perfect modules.

In particular, we can now use Proposition 12.3 to specialize the notion of perfect module to the setting of nonconnective Deligne–Mumford stacks.

NOTATION 12.5. Denote by $\mathbf{Perf} \subset \mathbf{Sch}(\mathcal{G}_{\mathrm{et}}^{\mathrm{M}})^{\mathrm{op}}$ the full subcategory of those objects $(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{O}, \mathcal{M})$ such that \mathcal{M} is perfect.

12.6. For any functor $X: \mathbf{CAlg} \rightarrow \mathbf{Kan}(\kappa_1)$, the ∞ -category $\mathbf{QCoh}(X)$ admits a symmetric monoidal structure [45, Notation 2.7.27]. Moreover, this is functorial, yielding a functor

$$\mathbf{QCoh}^{\otimes}: \mathrm{Fun}(\mathbf{CAlg}, \mathbf{Kan}(\kappa_1))^{\mathrm{op}} \rightarrow \mathbf{CAlg}(\mathbf{Cat}_{\infty}(\kappa_1)).$$

PROPOSITION 12.7 (cf. [45, Proposition 2.7.28]). *For any functor $X: \mathbf{CAlg} \rightarrow \mathbf{Kan}(\kappa_1)$ a quasicohherent module \mathcal{M} on X is perfect if and only if it is a dualizable object of $\mathbf{QCoh}(X)$.*

Since the pullback functors are symmetric monoidal, they preserve dualizable objects. This proves the following.

COROLLARY 12.8. *The functor $\mathbf{Perf} \rightarrow \mathbf{Stk}^{\mathrm{nc}}$ is a cocartesian fibration.*

We endow \mathbf{Perf} with a pair structure by $\mathbf{Perf}_{\dagger} := \mathbf{Perf} \times_{\mathbf{Stk}^{\mathrm{nc}}} \iota \mathbf{Stk}^{\mathrm{nc}}$, so that the fibers are equipped with the maximal pair structure.

PROPOSITION 12.9. *The functor $\mathbf{Perf} \rightarrow \mathbf{Stk}^{\mathrm{nc}}$ is a Waldhausen cocartesian fibration.*

In fact, the fiber over a nonconnective Deligne–Mumford stack $(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{O})$ is a stable ∞ -category $\mathbf{Perf}(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{O})$.

DEFINITION 12.10. We now define the algebraic K -theory of nonconnective Deligne–Mumford stacks as a functor that we abusively denote

$$\mathbf{K}: \mathbf{Stk}^{\text{nc}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Sp}_{\geq 0}$$

given by the composite $\mathbf{K} \circ P$, where P is the functor $\mathbf{Stk}^{\text{nc,op}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Wald}_{\infty}$ classified by the Waldhausen cocartesian fibration $\mathbf{Perf} \rightarrow \mathbf{Stk}^{\text{nc}}$.

LEMMA 12.11. For any open immersion of quasicompact nonconnective spectral Deligne–Mumford stacks $j: \mathcal{U} \rightarrow \mathcal{X}$, the induced functor

$$j_{\star}: \mathbf{QCoh}(\mathcal{U}) \rightarrow \mathbf{QCoh}(\mathcal{X})$$

is fully faithful.

Proof. When \mathcal{X} is of the form $\text{Spec}^{\text{ét}} A$, this is proved in [45, Corollary 2.4.6]. For any map $x: \text{Spec}^{\text{ét}} A \rightarrow \mathcal{X}$, we have the open immersion

$$\mathcal{U} \times_{\mathcal{X}} \text{Spec}^{\text{ét}} A \rightarrow \text{Spec}^{\text{ét}} A,$$

which induces a fully faithful functor

$$\mathbf{QCoh}(\mathcal{U} \times_{\mathcal{X}} \text{Spec}^{\text{ét}} A) \rightarrow \mathbf{QCoh}(\text{Spec}^{\text{ét}} A).$$

Now letting A vary and applying [45, Proposition 2.4.5(3)], we obtain a functor

$$\mathbf{CAlg}_{\mathcal{X}/} \rightarrow \mathcal{O}(\mathbf{Cat}_{\infty}(\kappa_1))$$

whose values are all fully faithful functors. Thanks to Proposition 12.3, the limit of this functor is then equivalent to a functor

$$\alpha: \lim_{A \in \mathbf{CAlg}_{\mathcal{X}/}} \mathbf{QCoh}(\mathcal{U} \times_{\mathcal{X}} \text{Spec}^{\text{ét}} A) \rightarrow \mathbf{QCoh}(\mathcal{X}),$$

which is thus fully faithful. We aim to identify this functor with j_{\star} .

Since each of the ∞ -categories $\mathbf{QCoh}(\mathcal{U} \times_{\mathcal{X}} \text{Spec}^{\text{ét}} A)$ can itself be described as the limit of the ∞ -categories \mathbf{Mod}_B for $B \in \mathbf{CAlg}_{\mathcal{U} \times_{\mathcal{X}} \text{Spec}^{\text{ét}} A/}$, it follows that the source of α can be expressed as the limit of the ∞ -categories \mathbf{Mod}_B over the ∞ -category C of squares of nonconnective Deligne–Mumford stacks of the form

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Spec}^{\text{ét}} B & \longrightarrow & \text{Spec}^{\text{ét}} A \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \mathcal{U} & \xrightarrow{j} & \mathcal{X}. \end{array}$$

Now there is a forgetful functor $g: C \rightarrow \mathbf{CAlg}_{\mathcal{U}/}$ that carries an object as above to the morphism $\text{Spec}^{\text{ét}} B \rightarrow \mathcal{U}$. This is the functor that induces the canonical functor

$$\lim_{A \in \mathbf{CAlg}_{\mathcal{X}/}} \mathbf{QCoh}(\mathcal{U} \times_{\mathcal{X}} \text{Spec}^{\text{ét}} A) \rightarrow \mathbf{QCoh}(\mathcal{U});$$

hence it suffices to show that g is right cofinal. This now follows from the fact that the functor g admits a right adjoint $\mathbf{CAlg}_{\mathcal{U}/} \rightarrow C$, which carries a morphism $x: \text{Spec}^{\text{ét}} C \rightarrow \mathcal{U}$ to the object

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Spec}^{\text{ét}} C & \xlongequal{\quad} & \text{Spec}^{\text{ét}} C \\ x \downarrow & & \downarrow j \circ x \\ \mathcal{U} & \xrightarrow{j} & \mathcal{X}. \end{array}$$

The proof is complete. □

NOTATION 12.12. For any open immersion $j: \mathcal{U} \rightarrow \mathcal{X}$ of quasicompact nonconnective spectral Deligne–Mumford stacks, let us write $\mathbf{Perf}(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{X} \setminus \mathcal{U})$ for the full subcategory of $\mathbf{Perf}(\mathcal{X})$ spanned by those perfect modules \mathcal{M} on \mathcal{X} such that $j^*\mathcal{M} \simeq 0$. Write

$$\mathbf{K}(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{X} \setminus \mathcal{U}) := \mathbf{K}(\mathbf{Perf}(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{X} \setminus \mathcal{U})).$$

PROPOSITION 12.13 (‘Proto-localization’, cf. [67, Theorem 5.1]). *For any quasicompact open immersion $j: \mathcal{U} \rightarrow \mathcal{X}$ of quasicompact, quasiseparated spectral algebraic spaces [45, Definition 1.3.1, 41, Definition 1.3.1], the functor $j^*: \mathbf{Perf}(\mathcal{X}) \rightarrow \mathbf{Perf}(\mathcal{U})$ induces a fiber sequence of connective spectra*

$$\mathbf{K}(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{X} \setminus \mathcal{U}) \longrightarrow \mathbf{K}(\mathcal{X}) \longrightarrow \mathbf{K}(\mathcal{U}).$$

Proof. We wish to employ the Special Fibration Theorem 10.20. We note that by [41, Corollary 1.5.12], the ∞ -category $\mathbf{QCoh}(\mathcal{X})$ is compactly generated, and one has $\mathbf{Perf}(\mathcal{X}) = \mathbf{QCoh}(\mathcal{X})^\omega$; the analogous claim holds for \mathcal{U} . It thus remains to show that j^* -equivalences of $\mathbf{QCoh}(\mathcal{X})$, that is, the class of morphisms of $\mathbf{QCoh}(\mathcal{X})$ whose restriction to \mathcal{U} is an equivalence, is generated (as a strongly saturated class) by j^* -equivalences between compact objects. Since $\mathbf{QCoh}(\mathcal{X})$ is stable, we find that it suffices to show that the full subcategory $\mathbf{QCoh}(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{X} - \mathcal{U})$ of $\mathbf{QCoh}(\mathcal{X})$ spanned by the j^* -acyclics, that is, those quasicohherent modules M such that $j^*M \simeq 0$, is generated by compact objects of $\mathbf{QCoh}(\mathcal{X})$. This will follow from [41, Theorem 1.5.10] once we know that the quasicohherent stack $\Phi_{\mathcal{X}}(\mathbf{QCoh}(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{X} - \mathcal{U}))$ of [40, Constr. 8.5] is locally compactly generated.

So, suppose that R is a connective E_∞ ring spectrum, and that $\eta \in \mathcal{X}(R)$. We wish to show that the ∞ -category

$$\Phi_{\mathcal{X}}(\mathbf{QCoh}(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{X} - \mathcal{U}))(\eta) \simeq \mathbf{Mod}_R \otimes_{\mathbf{QCoh}(\mathcal{X})} \mathbf{QCoh}(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{X} \setminus \mathcal{U})$$

is compactly generated. It is easy to see that this ∞ -category can be identified with the full subcategory of \mathbf{Mod}_R spanned by those modules M that are carried to zero by the functor

$$\mathbf{Mod}_R \simeq \mathbf{Mod}_R \otimes_{\mathbf{QCoh}(\mathcal{X})} \mathbf{QCoh}(\mathcal{X}) \longrightarrow \mathbf{Mod}_R \otimes_{\mathbf{QCoh}(\mathcal{X})} \mathbf{QCoh}(\mathcal{U}).$$

By a theorem of Ben Zvi, Francis, and Nadler [40, Corollary 8.22], this functor may be identified with the restriction functor along the open embedding

$$j': \mathcal{U}' := \mathrm{Spec}^{\acute{e}t} R \times_{\mathcal{X}} \mathcal{U} \hookrightarrow \mathrm{Spec}^{\acute{e}t} R.$$

The open immersion j' is determined by a quasicompact open $U \subset \mathrm{Spec}^Z A$, which consists of those prime ideals of $\pi_0 A$ that do not contain a finitely generated ideal I . The proof is now completed by [45, Propositions 4.1.15 and 5.1.3]. \square

When j is the open complement of a closed immersion $i: \mathcal{Z} \rightarrow \mathcal{X}$, one may ask whether $\mathbf{K}(\mathcal{X} \setminus \mathcal{U})$ can be identified with $\mathbf{K}(\mathcal{Z})$. In general, the answer is no, but in special situations, such an identification is possible. Classically, this is the result of a *Dévissage Theorem* [59, Theorem 4]; we hope to return to a higher categorical analogue of such a result in later work (cf. [67, 1.11.1])

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