

# Introduction to $\infty$ -categories

Talk by Marco Robalo at DAGIT 2017

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## Abstract

These are a copy of my notes on a talk given by Marco Robalo at Derived Algebraic Geometry in Toulouse (DAGIT) 2017: the content is purely his; the mistakes are all mine.

## 1 Motivation

**1.1. Idea.** An  $\infty$ -category consists of

- objects;
- 1-morphisms between objects;
- $n$ -morphisms between  $(n - 1)$ -objects (for  $n \geq 2$ );
- composition laws for  $n$ -morphisms ( $n \geq 1$ ) defined up to higher morphisms;
- associativity of compositions up to homotopy.

**1.2. Proto-example.** (Fundamental  $\infty$ -groupoid) For a CW-complex  $X$  we have

- objects = points;
- 1-morphisms = homotopies;
- 2-morphisms = homotopies of homotopies;
- ... and so on.

**1.3. Problem.** No direct definition that is operational and simultaneously close to our intuition/desire (infinitely many axioms!).

**1.4. Solution.** Find a model category whose objects serve as models for  $\infty$ -categories.

**1.5. Modelling.** Many classical examples:

- homotopy types can be modelled by topological spaces, simplicial sets, categories, etc.;
- homotopy theory of homotopy-commutative  $\mathbb{Q}$ -algebras can be modelled by dg-algebras;
- derived stacks can be modelled by simplicial presheaves.

1.6. **Question.** Why so many models?

1.7. **Answer.** Dwyer-Kan localisation: every model category has an associated  $\infty$ -category that captures all the important information.

1.8. **Question.** If we have models then why care about  $\infty$ -categories?

1.9. **Answer.** Many reasons:

- not all  $\infty$ -categories have a model presentation;
- no ‘good enough’ definition of functors that relate different models (need an  $\infty$ -functor between the associated  $\infty$ -categories);
- models for diagrams are not always given by diagrams of models;
- proofs and statements become ‘simpler’.

## 2 Preliminary definitions

2.1. **Category of simplices.** Write  $\Delta$  to be the **category of simplices**:

- $\text{ob}(\Delta) = \{[n]\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  where  $[n] = \{0 < 1 < \dots < n\}$  is the ordered set of natural numbers up to  $n$ ;
- $\text{Hom}_{\Delta}([m], [n])$  is the set of order-preserving maps from  $[m]$  to  $[n]$ .

2.2. **Simplicial notation.** We use the following notation:

- $\text{sSet} = \text{Set}^{\Delta^{\text{op}}} = \text{Fun}(\Delta^{\text{op}}, \text{Set})$ ;
- $\Delta[n] = \text{Hom}_{\Delta}(-, [n]) \in \text{sSet}$ ;
- $S_n = \text{Hom}_{\text{sSet}}(\Delta[n], S)$  for  $S \in \text{sSet}$ ;
- $\Lambda_n^i = \Delta[n] \setminus \{\text{interior and the face opposite the } j\text{-th vertex}\}$  is the  **$i$ -th horn** (for  $n \geq 2$ ).

$$\Delta[2] = \begin{array}{ccc} & 1 & \\ \nearrow & \Downarrow & \searrow \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & 2 \end{array} \quad \Lambda_2^1 = \begin{array}{ccc} & 1 & \\ \nearrow & & \searrow \\ 0 & & 2 \end{array}$$

2.3. **Nerve.** The **nerve**  $N(\mathcal{C})$  of a category  $\mathcal{C}$  is the simplicial set with

- $n$ -simplices given by  $(x_0 \xrightarrow{f_1} x_1 \xrightarrow{f_2} \dots \xrightarrow{f_n} x_n)$  in  $\mathcal{C}$ ;
- boundary maps given by composition (or forgetting the first/last object and morphism for the two edge cases);
- degeneracy maps given by inserting the identity.

2.4. **Note.** There is a set-bijection

$$\{\text{functors } \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}\} \simeq \{\text{simplicial maps } N(\mathcal{C}) \rightarrow N(\mathcal{D})\}.$$

**2.5. Lemma.** There is an equivalence of categories  $X \simeq N(\mathcal{C})$  if and only if all *inner* horns lift *uniquely*.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \Lambda_n^i & \longrightarrow & X \\ \downarrow & \nearrow \exists! & \\ \Delta[n] & & \end{array} \quad \text{for all } i \in \{1, \dots, n-1\}$$

**2.6. Composition.** For example, “ $\Lambda_2^1$  gives composition”.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & x_1 & \\ f_1 \nearrow & & \searrow f_2 \\ x_0 & \xrightarrow{\exists! f_2 \circ f_1} & x_2 \end{array}$$

**2.7. Associativity.** As another example, “ $\Lambda_3^1$  gives associativity”:

$$x_0 \xrightarrow{f_1} x_1 \xrightarrow{f_2} x_2 \xrightarrow{f_3} x_3 \text{ in } \mathcal{C}$$

corresponds to

$$\Lambda_2^1 \xrightarrow{(f_2, f_1)} N(\mathcal{C}) \quad \text{and} \quad \Lambda_2^1 \xrightarrow{(f_3, f_2)} N(\mathcal{C})$$

which generate compositions

$$\Delta[2] \xrightarrow{(f_2, f_1)} N(\mathcal{C}) \quad \text{and} \quad \Delta[2] \xrightarrow{(f_3, f_2)} N(\mathcal{C}).$$

So  $(f_3 \circ f_2) \circ f_1 = f_3 \circ (f_2 \circ f_1)$  if and only if we can ‘fill the back face of the tetrahedron with vertices  $x_0, x_1, x_2$ , and  $x_3'$ , i.e. if and only if we can extend  $\Lambda_3^1 \rightarrow N(\mathcal{C})$  to  $\Delta[3] \rightarrow N(\mathcal{C})$ .

**2.8. Exercise.** What does the lifting of  $\Lambda_3^2$  tell us?

**2.9. Summary.** The lifting property for inner horns ( $0 < i < n$ ) gives composition and associativity laws; for outer horns ( $i = 0, n$ ) it gives inverses.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & x_0 & \\ \text{id}_{x_0} \nearrow & & \searrow \exists! \\ x_0 & \xrightarrow{f_1} & x_1 \end{array}$$

**2.10. Kan complex.** If  $X \in \text{sSet}$  is such that  $X \simeq \text{Sing}(T)$ , where  $\text{Sing}(T)$  consists of singular simplices in a topological space  $T$  (i.e. continuous maps  $|\Delta^n| \rightarrow T$ ) then we call it a **Kan complex**. Note that  $X$  is a Kan complex if and only if *all* horns lift, but *not necessarily* uniquely.

### 3 Quasi-categories

**3.1. Quasi-category.** A **quasi-category** is a simplicial set  $\mathcal{C}$  such that all *inner* horns lift, but *not necessarily* uniquely. This notion lies in between that of a Kan complex and that of the nerve of a category: we get compositions that aren’t unique, but their non-uniqueness is controlled by higher homotopy data. For example, consider

$$x_0 \xrightarrow{f_1} x_1 \xrightarrow{f_2} x_2 \xrightarrow{\text{id}_{x_2}} x_2$$

which gives us two maps  $u_1, u_2: \Delta[2] \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ . Similarly, for ‘associativity’ we can use the lifting of  $\Lambda_3^1$  as before, after filling one face with the identity.

**3.2.  $\infty$ -category.** We can use quasi-categories as a model for  $\infty$ -categories: define the objects of a quasi-category  $\mathcal{C}$  to be the 0-simplices, and the  $n$ -morphisms to be the  $n$ -simplices.

**3.3.  $\infty$ -functor.** Since functors are ‘maps that preserve commutative diagrams’, it makes sense to define an  $\infty$ -functor to be a map of simplicial sets between quasi-categories, since these send  $n$ -simplices to  $n$ -simplices and preserve boundaries.

**3.4. Homotopy category.** Given an  $\infty$ -category  $\mathcal{C}$  we define its **homotopy category**  $h\mathcal{C}$  to be the (1-)category with

- $\text{ob}(h\mathcal{C}) = \text{ob}(\mathcal{C})$ ;
- $\text{Hom}_{h\mathcal{C}}(x, y) = \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(x, y) / \sim$ , where  $f \sim g$  if there exists a 2-morphism  $u: \Delta[2] \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  with boundary  $(\text{id}_y - g + f)$ .

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & y & \\ f \nearrow & \Downarrow u & \searrow \text{id}_y \\ x & \xrightarrow{g} & y \end{array}$$

Note that compositions are unique (and thus well defined) thanks to the lifting property, i.e.  $u_1, u_2$  are identified in the homotopy category.

**3.5. Subcategory.** An  $\infty$ -subcategory  $\mathcal{C}'$  of an  $\infty$ -category  $\mathcal{C}$  is a sub-simplicial set obtained as a fibre product in sSet:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{C}' & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{C} \\ \downarrow & \lrcorner & \downarrow \\ N(\mathcal{D}) & \longrightarrow & N(h\mathcal{C}) \end{array} \quad \text{where } \mathcal{D} \text{ is a subcategory of } h\mathcal{C}.$$

**3.6. Equivalence.** A 1-morphism  $f$  in  $\mathcal{C}$  is called an **equivalence** if  $[f]$  in  $h\mathcal{C}$  is an isomorphism.

**3.7.  $\infty$ -groupoid.** An  $\infty$ -category where *all* 1-morphisms are equivalences is called an  $\infty$ -groupoid.

**3.8. Proposition.** An  $\infty$ -category is an  $\infty$ -groupoid if and only if it is a Kan complex.

**3.9. Example.** For  $T$  a topological space,  $\text{Sing}(T)$  is an  $\infty$ -groupoid

## 4 Simplicial nerve and rectification

**4.1. Mapping space.** Let  $x, y$  be objects in an  $\infty$ -category  $\mathcal{C}$ . We define the **mapping space**  $\text{Map}_{\mathcal{C}}(x, y)$  as the simplicial set obtained as the fibre product

$$\Delta[0] \times_{\mathcal{C}} \text{Fun}(\Delta[1], \mathcal{C}) \times_{\mathcal{C}} \Delta[0]$$

where the maps are given by  $x, y: \Delta[0] \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  and  $\text{ev}_0, \text{ev}_1: \text{Fun}(\Delta[1], \mathcal{C}) \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ , where  $\text{ev}_n$  is the evaluation on  $n$ .

**4.2. Note.** Another notation used is  $\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}^{\text{LR}}(x, y)$ , where we write the pullback as

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}^{\text{LR}}(x, y) & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{C}^{\Delta[1]} \\ \downarrow & \lrcorner & \downarrow \\ \{x\} \times \{y\} & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{C} \times \mathcal{C} \end{array}$$

**4.3. Proposition.**  $\text{Map}_{\mathcal{C}}(x, y)$  is a Kan complex.

**4.4. Note.**  $\pi_0 \text{Map}_{\mathcal{C}}(x, y) \simeq \text{Hom}_{\text{h}\mathcal{C}}(x, y)$ .

**4.5. Warning.** These is *no* strict manifestation of composition:

$$\text{Map}_{\mathcal{C}}(y, z) \times \text{Map}_{\mathcal{C}}(x, y) \not\rightarrow \text{Map}_{\mathcal{C}}(x, z).$$

**4.6. Rectification.** (Lurie) There exists  $\widetilde{\text{Map}}_{\mathcal{C}}(x, y) \in \text{sSet}$  and *canonical* zig-zags of weak equivalences of simplicial sets

$$\widetilde{\text{Map}}_{\mathcal{C}}(x, y) \xrightarrow{\sim} \{*\} \xleftarrow{\sim} \text{Map}_{\mathcal{C}}(x, y)$$

such that we *do* get strict manifestations of composition maps. We write  $\mathfrak{C}[\mathcal{C}]$  for the **rectified category**, which is simply  $\mathcal{C}$  but with  $\widetilde{\text{Map}}$  replacing  $\text{Map}$ . Note that the rectified category is a true simplicial category.

**4.7. Simplicial nerve.** There exists a *non-trivial* extension of the nerve construction to simplicial categories that takes into account the simplicial structure, i.e. the **simplicial nerve**  $N_{\Delta}(\mathcal{E})$  is a simplicial set when  $\mathcal{E}$  is a simplicial category.

**4.8. Application.** We can model a simplicial category  $\mathcal{E}$  by the simplicial set  $N_{\Delta}(\mathcal{E})$ .

**4.9. Theorem.** (Joyal-Lurie) There exists a model structure on  $\text{sSet}$  with

- cofibrant-fibrant objects = quasi-categories;
- weak equivalences = essentially surjective morphisms that induce a weak equivalence on mapping spaces.

**4.10. Theorem.** (Bergner) There exists a model structure on  $\text{Cat}^{\Delta^{\text{op}}}$  with

- cofibrant-fibrant objects = simplicial categories enriched over Kan complexes;
- weak equivalences = essentially surjective morphisms that induce a weak equivalence on mapping spaces.

**4.11. Theorem.** (Lurie) The adjunction  $(\mathfrak{C} \dashv N_{\Delta})$  forms a Quillen equivalence.

**4.12. Example.** Let  $\mathcal{M}$  be a simplicial model category and write  $\mathcal{M}^{\text{cf}}$  to mean the subcategory of cofibrant-fibrant objects. Then  $\mathcal{M}^{\text{cf}}$  is enriched over Kan complexes and so  $N_{\Delta}(\mathcal{M}^{\text{cf}})$  is a quasi-category.

**4.13. Rectification of diagrams.** Let  $\mathcal{D}$  be a category and  $\mathcal{M}$  a combinatorial simplicial model category. Then there is an equivalence of quasi-categories

$$\mathrm{Fun}\left(N(\mathcal{D}), N_{\Delta}(\mathcal{M}^{\mathrm{cf}})\right) \simeq N_{\Delta}\left((\mathcal{M}^{\mathcal{D}})^{\mathrm{cf}}\right)$$

where we endow  $\mathcal{M}^{\mathcal{D}}$  with the projective model structure.

**4.14. Explicit examples.** The following three examples are prototypical.

I. The  $\infty$ -**category  $\mathcal{S}$  of spaces**. This is  $\mathcal{S} = N_{\Delta}(\mathrm{sSet}^{\mathrm{cf}})$  where

- $\mathrm{sSet}$  has the model structure used to study weak homotopy equivalences etc.;
- the cofibrant-fibrant objects are Kan complexes;
- $\mathrm{Map}_{\mathcal{S}}(x, y) \simeq \underline{\mathrm{Hom}}_{\Delta}(x, y)$ .

II. The  $\infty$ -**category  $\mathrm{Cat}_{\infty}$  of  $\infty$ -categories**. This is  $\mathrm{Cat}_{\infty} = N_{\Delta}(\mathrm{sSet})$  where  $\mathrm{sSet}$  has the model structure as in Joyal-Lurie, but modified in some way so as to make it a simplicial model category.

III. The  $\infty$ -**category  $\mathrm{PreSh}(N(\mathcal{D}))$  of presheaves of spaces**. Here  $\mathcal{D}$  is an arbitrary category and  $\mathrm{sSet}$  has the same model structure as in example I. Then

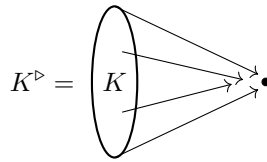
$$\mathrm{PreSh}(N(\mathcal{D})) = \mathrm{Fun}(N(\mathcal{D}^{\mathrm{op}}), \mathcal{S}) \simeq \mathrm{Fun}\left(N(\mathcal{D}^{\mathrm{op}}), N_{\Delta}(\mathrm{sSet}^{\mathrm{cf}})\right) \simeq N_{\Delta}\left((\mathrm{sSet}^{\mathcal{D}^{\mathrm{op}}})^{\mathrm{cf}}\right).$$

## 5 Homotopy colimits

**5.1. Initial object.** An **initial object** is some  $\emptyset \in \mathcal{C}$  such that, for all  $x \in \mathcal{C}$ , the Kan complex  $\mathrm{Map}_{\mathcal{C}}(\emptyset, x)$  is contractible.

**5.2. Slogan.** Universal objects are defined up to a contractible space of choices.

**5.3. Cones.** Given  $K \in \mathrm{sSet}$  and an infinity functor  $d: K \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  we construct a new simplicial set  $K^{\triangleright}$  by formally adding an exterior vertex to  $K$ . Then a **cone under  $d$**  is a map of simplicial sets  $\tilde{d}: K^{\triangleright} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  such that  $\tilde{d}|_K = d$ .



**5.4. Proposition.** Cones under  $d$  give a quasi-category  $\mathcal{C}_{d/}$ .

**5.5. Colimits.** A colimit is an initial object of  $\mathcal{C}_{d/}$ .

**5.6. Proposition.** Let  $F: \mathcal{J} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}$  be a simplicial functor between Kan-enriched categories, and  $c \in \mathcal{E}$  an object with a compatible family  $\{\eta_j: F(j) \rightarrow c\}$ . Then  $c$  is a **homotopy colimit of  $F$**  if and only if the induced map  $N_{\Delta}(\mathcal{J} \rightarrow N_{\Delta}(\mathcal{E}))$  is a colimit diagram.

### 5.7. Example.

$$\begin{aligned} \operatorname{coeq}_{\mathcal{S}} \left( \begin{array}{ccc} & \operatorname{id} & \\ * & \rightrightarrows & * \\ & \operatorname{id} & \end{array} \right) &\simeq \operatorname{colim}_{\mathcal{S}} \left( \begin{array}{ccc} * \amalg * & \rightarrow & * \\ \downarrow & & \\ * & & \end{array} \right) \simeq \operatorname{hocolim} \left( \begin{array}{ccc} * \amalg * & \rightarrow & * \\ \downarrow & & \\ * & & \end{array} \right) \\ &\simeq \operatorname{colim}_{\mathbf{sSet}} \left( \begin{array}{ccc} * \amalg * & \rightarrow & \Delta[1] \\ \downarrow & & \\ \Delta[1] & & \end{array} \right) \simeq S^1 \in \mathbf{sSet} \end{aligned}$$

## 6 Localisation

**6.1.  $\infty$ -localisation.** If  $\mathcal{D}$  is an arbitrary category then  $N(\mathcal{D})$  is an  $\infty$ -category with *unique* composition. Let  $W$  be some class of morphisms in  $\mathcal{D}$ . Then a  **$\infty$ -localisation of  $\mathcal{D}$  along  $W$**  is a quasi-category  $N(\mathcal{D})[W^{-1}]_{\infty}$  along with a map  $N(\mathcal{D}) \rightarrow N(\mathcal{D})[W^{-1}]_{\infty}$  in  $\mathbf{sSet}$  such that

$$\operatorname{Fun}(N(\mathcal{D})[W^{-1}]_{\infty}, \mathcal{C}) \rightarrow \operatorname{Fun}(N(\mathcal{D}), \mathcal{C})$$

is fully faithful with essential image being the subcategory of  $\infty$ -functors that send morphisms in  $W$  to equivalences in  $\mathcal{C}$ , for any quasi-category  $\mathcal{C}$ .

**6.2. Theorem.** (Quillen, Dwyer-Kan) For any simplicial model category  $\mathcal{M}$  with weak equivalences  $W$  there is a chain of equivalences of  $\infty$ -categories

$$N(\mathcal{M})[W^{-1}]_{\infty} \simeq N(\mathcal{M}^c)[W_c^{-1}]_{\infty} \simeq N_{\Delta}(\mathcal{M}^{\operatorname{cf}})$$

where the first equivalence comes from cofibrant replacement. We call any one of these quasi-categories an **underlying  $\infty$ -category of  $\mathcal{M}$** .

**6.3. Gabriel-Zisman localisation.** The homotopy category (as a model category construction) of  $\mathcal{M}$  can be recovered from the  $\infty$ -localisation:

$$\operatorname{h}(N(\mathcal{M})[W^{-1}]_{\infty}) \simeq \operatorname{Ho}(\mathcal{M}).$$

## 7 Presheaves and $\infty$ -functors

**7.1. Presheaves.** Given a quasi-category  $\mathcal{C}$  we have the **quasi-category of presheaves**

$$\operatorname{PreSh}(\mathcal{C}) = \operatorname{Fun}(\mathcal{C}^{\operatorname{op}}, \mathcal{S}).$$

**7.2. Note.** For a category  $\mathcal{D}$  recall that

$$\operatorname{PreSh}(N(\mathcal{D})) \simeq N_{\Delta}(\mathcal{M}^{\operatorname{cf}})$$

where  $\mathcal{M}$  is the model category of simplicial presheaves on  $\mathcal{D}$ .

**7.3. Yoneda lemma.** For a quasi-category  $\mathcal{C}$  there exists a fully faithful  $\infty$ -functor  $j: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \operatorname{PreSh}(\mathcal{C})$  with the following universal property: if a quasi-category  $\mathcal{D}$  has all colimits then the composition

$$\operatorname{Fun}^{\operatorname{L}}(\operatorname{PreSh}(\mathcal{C}), \mathcal{D}) \rightarrow \operatorname{Fun}(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D})$$

is an equivalence of  $\infty$ -categories, where  $\operatorname{Fun}^{\operatorname{L}}$  denotes left-adjoint functors (i.e. those admitting right adjoints).

**7.4. Note.** To construct  $j$  we need to exhibit a **cocartesian fibration**  $\mathcal{N} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}^{\text{op}} \times \mathcal{C}$  where  $\mathcal{N}$  is given by the  $\infty$ -category of **twisted arrows in  $\mathcal{C}$** , which has

- objects are morphisms in  $\mathcal{C}$  and;
- $\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{N}}(f: a \rightarrow b, g: x \rightarrow y) = \{(p: x \rightarrow a, q: b \rightarrow y) \mid g = qfp\}$ .

**7.5. Constructing  $\infty$ -functors.** Generally, an  $\infty$ -functor  $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$  corresponds to a cocartesian fibration  $p: K \rightarrow \Delta[1]$  with  $p^{-1}(0) \simeq \mathcal{D}$  and  $p^{-1}(1) \simeq \mathcal{C}$  satisfying certain properties (formalised by the idea of cocartesian fibrations and the  $\infty$ -Grothendieck construction) — see Lurie’s *Higher Topos Theory* Definition 5.2.1.1.

## 8 Presentability

*At this point in the talk I succumbed to the unbearably sticky summer heat and failed to take any notes for a good five minutes. There was a lot of important stuff said about **presentable  $\infty$ -categories and universes**, but all I managed to write down were the last few propositions. Sorry.*

**8.1. Lemma.** All presheaf categories are presentable;  $\mathcal{S}$  is presentable.

**8.2. Adjoint functor theorem.** If an  $\infty$ -functor  $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$  between *presentable*  $\infty$ -categories commutes with all small colimits then it admits a right adjoint.

**8.3. Proposition.** If  $\mathcal{C}$  and  $\mathcal{D}$  are presentable  $\infty$ -categories then  $\text{Fun}^{\text{L}}(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D})$  is a presentable  $\infty$ -category.

**8.4. Presentable localisations.** Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be a presentable  $\infty$ -category and  $W$  a *small* collection of 1-morphisms. Define  $\mathcal{C}^{W\text{-local}}$  to be the full subcategory of  $\mathcal{C}$  given by those objects  $x \in \text{ob}(\mathcal{C})$  such that

$$\text{Map}_{\mathcal{C}}(b, x) \rightarrow \text{Map}_{\mathcal{C}}(a, x)$$

is an equivalence for all  $(a \rightarrow b)$  in  $W$ . Then  $\mathcal{C}^{W\text{-local}}$  is presentable and its inclusion into  $\mathcal{C}$  admits a left adjoint which exhibits  $\mathcal{C}^{W\text{-local}}$  as an  $\infty$ -localisation of  $\mathcal{C}$  along  $W$  that is *internal* to the theory of  $\infty$ -categories:

$$\text{Fun}^{\text{L}}(\mathcal{C}^{W\text{-local}}, \mathcal{D}) \simeq \text{Fun}^{\text{L}, W}(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D})$$

where  $\text{Fun}^{\text{L}, W}(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D})$  consists of colimit-preserving functors that send morphisms in  $W$  to equivalences.

**8.5. Proposition.** An  $\infty$ -category  $\mathcal{C}$  is presentable if and only if it is equivalent to the presentable localisation of some  $\text{PreSh}(\mathcal{D})$ .

## 9 Symmetric monoidal $\infty$ -categories

**9.1. Note.** A ‘classical’ symmetric monoidal category is the data of a pseudofunctor

$$A^{\otimes}: \text{Fin}_* \rightarrow \text{Cat} \quad \text{such that} \quad A^{\otimes}(\{0, 1, \dots, n\}_0) = \underbrace{A \times \dots \times A}_{n \text{ times}}$$

where  $\text{Fin}_*$  is the category of finite pointed sets, and we write  $S_x$  to mean the set  $S$  pointed at the element  $x \in S$ .



**9.2. Symmetric monoidal  $\infty$ -categories.** We define a **symmetric monoidal  $\infty$ -category** as the data of an  $\infty$ -functor

$$\mathcal{C}^\otimes : N(\mathbf{Fin}_*) \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat}_\infty \quad \text{such that} \quad \mathcal{C}^\otimes(\{0, 1, \dots, n\}_0) = \prod_{i=1}^n \mathcal{C}^\otimes(\{0, 1\}_0).$$

## 10 Subtleties

- Saying that ‘a diagram commutes’ isn’t really  $\infty$ -categorical; we need to exhibit a *specific*  $n$ -simplex.
- Defining an  $\infty$ -functor by saying how it acts on objects and 1-morphisms is purely informal; we need to define it via  $\mathbf{sSet}$ .