

# The opetopic nerve of operads (and categories and combinads and ...)

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**Species and Operads in Combinatorics and Semantics**

11 Dec. 2020

## The category of opetopes

We have seen that the category of opetopes  $\mathbb{O}$  can be defined by generators and relations (just like the category of simplices  $\Delta$ ). It has some nice properties.

1.  $\mathbb{O}$  is a direct category,
- 1'  $\mathbb{O}$  is a Reedy category, all of whose non-identity morphism increase dimension,
2.  $\mathbb{O}$  is locally finite ( $\mathbb{O}/\omega$  is finite for each  $\omega$  in  $\mathbb{O}$ ).

Let  $\mathbb{O}_{m,n}$  be the full subcategory of  $\mathbb{O}$  of objects of dimensions  $m \leq i \leq n$ . Then

$$\mathbb{O}_{0,1} = \left\{ \diamond \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{s} \\ \xrightarrow{t} \end{array} \square \right\}$$

$$\mathbb{O}_{1,2} = \begin{array}{ccc} & \xrightarrow{s_n} & \underline{\mathbf{n}} \\ & \dots & \uparrow \\ & \xrightarrow{s_1} & \uparrow \\ \square & \xrightarrow{t} & \vdots \\ & \xrightarrow{t} & \underline{\mathbf{0}} \end{array}$$

So we have  $\mathcal{Gph} = \widehat{\mathbb{O}_{0,1}}$  (directed graphs) and  $\mathcal{Coll} = \widehat{\mathbb{O}_{1,2}}$  (coloured planar collections).

The category  $\widehat{\mathbb{O}}_{1,3}$  is the category of *coloured combinatorial patterns* of Loday [Lod12].

We have monadic adjunctions  $\widehat{\mathbb{O}}_{0,1} \xrightleftharpoons{\perp} \text{Cat}$  (small categories) and  $\widehat{\mathbb{O}}_{1,2} \xrightleftharpoons{\perp} \text{Opd}$  (planar coloured Set-operads).

We also have a monadic adjunction  $\widehat{\mathbb{O}}_{1,3} \xrightleftharpoons{\perp} \text{Comb}$  (planar coloured combinads [Lod12]).

# Opetopic nerve theorem

Theorem [HTLS19]

$\mathcal{C}at$ ,  $\mathcal{O}pd$ ,  $\mathcal{C}omb$  are *reflective* subcategories of  $\widehat{\mathcal{O}}$ .

## Parametric right adjoint monads on $\widehat{\mathbb{O}}_{m,n}$

Let  $\mathcal{C}$  have a terminal object  $1$ , and let  $T : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ . Then

$$T : \mathcal{C}/1 \xrightarrow{T_1} \mathcal{D}/T1 \longrightarrow \mathcal{D}.$$

$T$  is a *parametric right adjoint* (p.r.a.) if  $T_1$  has a left adjoint.

If  $\mathcal{C} = \mathcal{D} = \widehat{\mathcal{C}}$  then  $T$  is uniquely determined by  $T1 \in \widehat{\mathcal{C}}$  and the restriction  $E : C/T1 \longrightarrow \widehat{\mathcal{C}}$  of the left adjoint of  $T_1$  along the Yoneda embedding.

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 & & C/T1 & & \\
 & \swarrow E & \downarrow & & \\
 \widehat{\mathcal{C}} & \xleftarrow{\perp} & \widehat{\mathcal{C}}/T1 & \longrightarrow & \widehat{\mathcal{C}} \\
 & \searrow T_1 & & & 
 \end{array}$$



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 & \searrow T_1 & & & 
 \end{array}$$

$T$  is a **p.r.a. monad** if it is a monad on  $\widehat{\mathcal{C}}$  whose unit and multiplication are cartesian natural transformations. The image  $\text{im}(E) \hookrightarrow \widehat{\mathcal{C}}$  of  $E$  provides arities for  $T$ .

## Opetopic nerve functor

For every  $m, n$ , we define a p.r.a. monad  $\mathfrak{Z}$  on  $\widehat{\mathbb{O}}_{m,n}$  and a dense functor  $h : \mathbb{O}_{m,n+2} \rightarrow \mathfrak{Z}\text{-Alg}$ . Since  $\mathbb{O}_{m,n+2} \subset \mathbb{O}$ , we obtain a composite of fully faithful right adjoints

$$\mathfrak{Z}\text{-Alg} \hookrightarrow \widehat{\mathbb{O}}_{m,n+2} \hookrightarrow \widehat{\mathbb{O}},$$

called the **opetopic nerve functor** for  $\mathfrak{Z}\text{-Alg}$ .

For  $(m, n) = (0, 1)$  (respectively,  $(1, 2), (1, 3)$ ) we have  $\mathfrak{Z}\text{-Alg} = \text{Cat}$  (respectively,  $\text{Opd}, \text{Comb}$ ).

## Why $n + 2$ ?

$n + 1$ -opetopes encode *composition* operations for trees of  $n$ -opetopes, thus  $n + 2$ -opetopes encode the associativity relations for the composition of trees of  $n$ -opetopes.

## Segal conditions

The essential image of operadic nerve functors are characterised by Segal conditions/Grothendieck-Segal colimits.

## Reflections on opetopes and species

## Species

Recall that a *Set-species* (*Ens-espèce*) is a functor  $X : \mathbb{B} \rightarrow \text{Set}$  ( $\mathbb{B}$  is the groupoid of finite sets  $\underline{n}$  and bijections).

Similarly, a *planar Set-species* is a functor  $X : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \text{Set}$  ( $\mathbb{N}$  is the discrete set of natural numbers  $n$ ).

Each such species gives an endofunctor on  $\text{Set}$  by left Kan extension along  $\mathbb{B} \rightarrow \text{Set}$  and  $\mathbb{N} \rightarrow \text{Set}$  (the faithful functors mapping  $\underline{n}$  and  $n$  to  $\{1, \dots, n\}$ ).

The endofunctors in the image of  $\text{Set}^{\mathbb{B}}$  are called *analytic* and those in the image of  $\text{Set}^{\mathbb{N}}$  are called *polynomial over  $\mathbb{N}$* .

Left Kan extension is monoidal, sending  $- \boxtimes -$  to  $- \circ -$ .

Operads are sent to analytic monads and planar operads are sent to polynomial monads over  $\mathbb{N}$ .

These monads are all finitary, namely their underlying endofunctors are left Kan extensions of the form

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{F}\text{in} & \xrightarrow{T} & \text{Set} \\ \downarrow i & \cong & \nearrow T \\ \text{Set} & & \end{array}$$

## Pra monads and species

P.r.a. monads on presheaf categories are examples of *monads with arities*. In particular, their endofunctors can be calculated as left

Kan extensions :

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \Theta_0 & \xrightarrow{T} & \widehat{C} \\ i \downarrow & \cong \nearrow & \\ \widehat{C} & & \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} \\ \\ T \end{array}$$

### Question

Does this give interesting examples that generalise species?



## Example

Recall that  $\widehat{\mathbb{O}}_{0,1}$  is the category of directed graphs. We have seen that the free-category monad is p.r.a.

Consider the category  $\Lambda_0$  whose objects are finite linear graphs  $\underline{n}$  and whose morphisms are given by

$$\begin{aligned}\Lambda_0(\underline{n}, \underline{n}) &= \{*\} \\ \Lambda_0(\underline{m}, \underline{n}) &= \mathcal{Gph}(\underline{m}, \underline{n}) \text{ if } m \leq n \\ &= \emptyset \text{ otherwise.}\end{aligned}$$

Consider the functor  $X_{\text{cat}} : \Lambda_0 \rightarrow \mathcal{G}\text{ph}$  that sends  $\underline{m}$  to the graph

$\begin{array}{c} \curvearrowright x_1 \longrightarrow \dots x_m \curvearrowleft \\ \searrow \quad \swarrow \end{array}$ 
 for  $m > 1$  and sends  $\underline{0}$  and  $\underline{1}$  to the graphs  $x_0 \curvearrowleft$  and  $\curvearrowright x_0 \longrightarrow x_1 \curvearrowleft$  respectively.

Then the left Kan extension of  $X_{\text{cat}}$  along the obvious functor  $\Lambda_0 \rightarrow \mathcal{G}\text{ph}$  is the free-category endofunctor.

### Remark

$\Lambda_0$  is almost the category  $\mathbb{O}_{0,2}$  (recall that  $\mathcal{G}\text{ph} = \widehat{\mathbb{O}_{0,1}}$ ).

### Question

Is  $\mathcal{G}\text{ph}^{\Lambda_0}$  an interesting category of “generalised” species?



Cédric Ho Thanh and Chaitanya Leena Subramaniam.

Opetopic algebras I: Algebraic structures on opetopic sets.

*arXiv preprint arXiv:1911.00907*, 2019.



Jean-Louis Loday.

Algebras, operads, combinads.

2012.

Slides of a talk given at HOGT Lille on 23th of March (2012).