# A cubical model for weak $\omega$-categories (joint work with Tim Campion and Chris Kapulkin) 

Yuki Maehara<br>Macquarie University

HoTTEST October 2020

## Globular $\omega$-categories



## Globular $\omega$-categories



## Globular $\omega$-categories

|  | Shape | Compositions |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| 0-cells | $\cdot$ | none |
| 1-cells | $\cdot \longrightarrow \cdot$ | $\bullet \longrightarrow$ |

## Globular $\omega$-categories

|  | Shape | Compositions |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 0-cells | - | none |
| 1-cells | $\longrightarrow$ • | $\bullet \longrightarrow$ • |
| 2-cells | - | hor. vert. |
| $n$-cells | $n$-dimensional globe | $n$ ways |

## Cubical $\omega$-categories (with connections)



## Cubical $\omega$-categories (with connections)



## Cubical $\omega$-categories (with connections)



## Cubical $\omega$-categories (with connections)

|  | Shape | Compositions |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 0 -cells | - | none |
| 1-cells | $\longrightarrow$ • | $\bullet \longrightarrow$ |
| 2-cells |  | hor. vert. |
| $n$-cells | $n$-dimensional cube | $n$ ways |

## Equivalence

## Theorem (Al-Agl, Brown, Steiner) <br> $\{$ globular $\omega$-categories $\} \simeq\{$ cubical $\omega$-categories $\}$

## Equivalence

Theorem (Al-Agl, Brown, Steiner)
$\{$ globular $\omega$-categories $\} \simeq\{$ cubical $\omega$-categories $\}$
globular $\rightsquigarrow$ cubical:

## Equivalence

> Theorem (Al-Agl, Brown, Steiner)
> $\{$ globular $\omega$-categories $\} \simeq\{$ cubical $\omega$-categories $\}$
> globular $\rightsquigarrow$ cubical:
> probe with cube-shaped globular $\omega$-categories

## Equivalence

> Theorem (Al-Agl, Brown, Steiner)
> $\{$ globular $\omega$-categories $\} \simeq\{$ cubical $\omega$-categories $\}$
> globular $\rightsquigarrow$ cubical:
> probe with cube-shaped globular $\omega$-categories
> cubical $\rightsquigarrow$ globular:

## Equivalence

## Theorem (Al-Agl, Brown, Steiner) <br> $\{$ globular $\omega$-categories $\} \simeq\{$ cubical $\omega$-categories $\}$

globular $\rightsquigarrow$ cubical:
probe with cube-shaped globular $\omega$-categories
cubical $\rightsquigarrow$ globular:
probe with globe-shaped cubical $\omega$-categories

## Equivalence

## Theorem (Al-Agl, Brown, Steiner) <br> $\{$ globular $\omega$-categories $\} \simeq\{$ cubical $\omega$-categories $\}$

globular $\rightsquigarrow$ cubical:
probe with cube-shaped globular $\omega$-categories (pictures coming)
cubical $\rightsquigarrow$ globular:
probe with globe-shaped cubical $\omega$-categories (pictures coming)

## Cube-shaped globular $\omega$-categories

## Cube-shaped globular $\omega$-categories

$\mathbb{I}^{0}=$ •

## Cube-shaped globular $\omega$-categories

$$
\mathbb{I}^{0}=\quad \bullet \quad \mathbb{I}^{1}=\quad \bullet \longrightarrow
$$

## Cube-shaped globular $\omega$-categories

$$
\mathbb{I}^{0}=\mathbb{I}^{1}=\quad \pi^{2}=\downarrow \cdot \downarrow
$$

## Cube-shaped globular $\omega$-categories




## Globe-shaped cubical $\omega$-categories

## Globe-shaped cubical $\omega$-categories



## Globe-shaped cubical $\omega$-categories



## Gray tensor products on $\omega$-Cat

Lax Gray tensor product:

## Gray tensor products on $\omega$-Cat

Lax Gray tensor product:


## Gray tensor products on $\omega$-Cat

Lax Gray tensor product:


## Theorem (Crans)

$$
\mathbb{I}^{m} \otimes \mathbb{I}^{n} \cong \mathbb{I}^{m+n}
$$

## Gray tensor products on $\omega$-Cat

Lax Gray tensor product:


## Theorem (Crans)

The lax Gray tensor product is part of a unique biclosed monoidal structure on $\omega$-Cat such that $\mathbb{I}^{m} \otimes \mathbb{I}^{n} \cong \mathbb{I}^{m+n}$.

## Gray tensor products on $\omega$-Cat

Lax Gray tensor product:


## Theorem (Crans)

The lax Gray tensor product is part of a unique biclosed monoidal structure on $\omega$-Cat such that $\mathbb{I}^{m} \otimes \mathbb{I}^{n} \cong \mathbb{I}^{m+n}$.

Pseudo Gray tensor product:


## Cubical sets

## Definition

## Cubical sets (with connections) $=$ presheaves on $\square$

## Cubical sets

## Definition

Cubical sets (with connections) $=$ presheaves on $\square$
$\square$ is (non-full) subcategory of Cat whose...

## Cubical sets

## Definition

Cubical sets (with connections) $=$ presheaves on $\square$
$\square$ is (non-full) subcategory of Cat whose... obj: $\mathbf{2}^{n}=\{0 \rightarrow 1\}^{n}$ for $n \geq 0$.

## Cubical sets

## Definition

Cubical sets (with connections) $=$ presheaves on
$\square$ is (non-full) subcategory of Cat whose... obj: $2^{n}=\{0 \rightarrow 1\}^{n}$ for $n \geq 0$.
mor: generated by


## Cubical sets

## Definition

Cubical sets (with connections) $=$ presheaves on
$\square$ is (non-full) subcategory of Cat whose... obj: $2^{n}=\{0 \rightarrow 1\}^{n}$ for $n \geq 0$.
mor: generated by

under composition and products in Cat

## Cubical sets

## Definition

Cubical sets (with connections) $=$ presheaves on
$\square$ is (non-full) subcategory of Cat whose...
obj: $\mathbf{2}^{n}=\{0 \rightarrow 1\}^{n}$ for $n \geq 0$.
mor: generated by

under composition and products in Cat

## Definition

$$
\mathbf{2}^{m} \otimes \mathbf{2}^{n}=\mathbf{2}^{m+n}
$$

## Cubical sets

## Definition

Cubical sets (with connections) $=$ presheaves on
$\square$ is (non-full) subcategory of Cat whose...
obj: $\mathbf{2}^{n}=\{0 \rightarrow 1\}^{n}$ for $n \geq 0$.
mor: generated by

under composition and products in Cat

## Definition

Geometric product is Day convolution of $\mathbf{2}^{m} \otimes \mathbf{2}^{n}=\mathbf{2}^{m+n}$.

## Cubical $\omega$-categories via box filling

Certain cubes correspond to identities:

## Cubical $\omega$-categories via box filling

Certain cubes correspond to identities:


## Cubical $\omega$-categories via box filling

Certain cubes correspond to identities:


## Cubical $\omega$-categories via box filling

Certain cubes correspond to identities:


## Idea

- Mark such identity cubes.


## Cubical $\omega$-categories via box filling

Certain cubes correspond to identities:


## Idea

- Mark such identity cubes.
- Encode compositions using unique marked fillers.


## Cubical $\omega$-categories via box filling

Certain cubes correspond to identities:


## Idea

- Mark such identity cubes.
- Encode compositions using unique marked fillers.


## Marked cubical sets

## Definition

## marked cubical set $(X, e X)$

## Marked cubical sets

## Definition

A marked cubical set $(X, e X)$ is a cubical set $X \mathrm{t} / \mathrm{w}$ marked cubes $e X_{n} \subset X_{n}$

## Marked cubical sets

## Definition

A marked cubical set $(X, e X)$ is a cubical set $X \mathrm{t} / \mathrm{w}$ marked cubes $e X_{n} \subset X_{n}$ (containing degeneracies and connections) for $n \geq 1$.

## Marked cubical sets

## Definition

A marked cubical set $(X, e X)$ is a cubical set $X \mathrm{t} / \mathrm{w}$ marked cubes $e X_{n} \subset X_{n}$ (containing degeneracies and connections) for $n \geq 1$.

## Theorem (Steiner)

A marked cubical set underlies a cubical $\omega$-category iff:

## Marked cubical sets

## Definition

A marked cubical set $(X, e X)$ is a cubical set $X \mathrm{t} / \mathrm{w}$ marked cubes $e X_{n} \subset X_{n}$ (containing degeneracies and connections) for $n \geq 1$.

## Theorem (Steiner)

A marked cubical set underlies a cubical $\omega$-category iff:

- certain open boxes admit unique marked fillers; and


## Marked cubical sets

## Definition

A marked cubical set $(X, e X)$ is a cubical set $X \mathrm{t} / \mathrm{w}$ marked cubes $e X_{n} \subset X_{n}$ (containing degeneracies and connections) for $n \geq 1$.

## Theorem (Steiner)

A marked cubical set underlies a cubical $\omega$-category iff:

- certain open boxes admit unique marked fillers; and
- marked cubes "compose".


## Marked cubical sets

## Definition

A marked cubical set $(X, e X)$ is a cubical set $X \mathrm{t} / \mathrm{w}$ marked cubes $e X_{n} \subset X_{n}$ (containing degeneracies and connections) for $n \geq 1$.

## Theorem (Steiner)

A marked cubical set underlies a cubical $\omega$-category iff:

- certain open boxes admit unique marked fillers; and
- marked cubes "compose".
...want invertible rather than identity


## Marked cubical sets

## Definition

A marked cubical set $(X, e X)$ is a cubical set $X \mathrm{t} / \mathrm{w}$ marked cubes $e X_{n} \subset X_{n}$ (containing degeneracies and connections) for $n \geq 1$.

## Theorem (Steiner)

A marked cubical set underlies a cubical $\omega$-category iff:

- certain open boxes admit unique marked fillers; and
- marked cubes "compose".
...want invertible rather than identity $\rightsquigarrow$ drop uniqueness!


## Marked cubical sets

## Definition

A marked cubical set $(X, e X)$ is a cubical set $X \mathrm{t} / \mathrm{w}$ marked cubes $e X_{n} \subset X_{n}$ (containing degeneracies and connections) for $n \geq 1$.

## Theorem (Steiner)

A marked cubical set underlies a cubical $\omega$-category iff:

- certain open boxes admit unique marked fillers; and
- marked cubes "compose".
...want invertible rather than identity $\rightsquigarrow$ drop uniqueness!


## Definition

comical set (composition + cubical set)

## Marked cubical sets

## Definition

A marked cubical set $(X, e X)$ is a cubical set $X \mathrm{t} / \mathrm{w}$ marked cubes $e X_{n} \subset X_{n}$ (containing degeneracies and connections) for $n \geq 1$.

## Theorem (Steiner)

$\Delta$ markod cubical cot undarline a cubical imatoonorv iff.

- certain open boxes admit marked fillers; and
- marked cubes "compose".
...want invertible rather than identity $\rightsquigarrow$ drop uniqueness!


## Definition

A comical set (composition + cubical set) is a marked cubical set in which:

## Lax Gray tensor product

Geometric product should underlie lax Gray tensor product.


## Lax Gray tensor product

Geometric product should underlie lax Gray tensor product. ...but what about marking?


## Lax Gray tensor product

Geometric product should underlie lax Gray tensor product. ...but what about marking?


## Lax Gray tensor product

Geometric product should underlie lax Gray tensor product. ...but what about marking?


## Lax Gray tensor product

Geometric product should underlie lax Gray tensor product. ...but what about marking?


## Lax Gray tensor product

Geometric product should underlie lax Gray tensor product. ...but what about marking?


## Lax Gray tensor product

Geometric product should underlie lax Gray tensor product. ...but what about marking?

so we should have...


## Lax Gray tensor product

Geometric product should underlie lax Gray tensor product. ...but what about marking?

so we should have...


## Lax Gray tensor product

Geometric product should underlie lax Gray tensor product. ...but what about marking?

so we should have...


## Lax Gray tensor product

Geometric product should underlie lax Gray tensor product. ...but what about marking?

so we should have...


## Lax Gray tensor product

Geometric product should underlie lax Gray tensor product. ...but what about marking?

so we should have...


## Lax Gray tensor product

Geometric product should underlie lax Gray tensor product. ...but what about marking?

so we should have an inverse to $\xrightarrow{\square \longrightarrow}$


## Lax Gray tensor product

Geometric product should underlie lax Gray tensor product. ...but what about marking?

so we should have an inverse to $\xrightarrow{\rightarrow \longrightarrow}$


## Gray tensor products

## Definition

The lax Gray tensor product of marked cubical sets is

$$
(X, e X) \otimes(Y, e Y)=
$$

## Gray tensor products

## Definition

The lax Gray tensor product of marked cubical sets is

$$
(X, e X) \otimes(Y, e Y)=(X \otimes Y
$$

## Gray tensor products

## Definition

The lax Gray tensor product of marked cubical sets is

$$
\begin{aligned}
& (X, e X) \otimes(Y, e Y)=(X \otimes Y \\
& \quad x \otimes y
\end{aligned}
$$

## Gray tensor products

## Definition

The lax Gray tensor product of marked cubical sets is

$$
\begin{aligned}
& (X, e X) \otimes(Y, e Y)=(X \otimes Y \\
& \quad x \otimes y \text { is marked iff either } x \text { or } y \text { is marked }
\end{aligned}
$$

## Gray tensor products

## Definition

The lax Gray tensor product of marked cubical sets is

$$
(X, e X) \otimes(Y, e Y)=(X \otimes Y,(e X \otimes Y) \cup(X \otimes e Y))
$$

That is, $x \otimes y$ is marked iff either $x$ or $y$ is marked.

## Gray tensor products

## Definition

The lax Gray tensor product of marked cubical sets is

$$
(X, e X) \otimes(Y, e Y)=(X \otimes Y,(e X \otimes Y) \cup(X \otimes e Y))
$$

That is, $x \otimes y$ is marked iff either $x$ or $y$ is marked.

## Definition

In the pseudo Gray tensor product,

## Gray tensor products

## Definition

The lax Gray tensor product of marked cubical sets is

$$
(X, e X) \otimes(Y, e Y)=(X \otimes Y,(e X \otimes Y) \cup(X \otimes e Y))
$$

That is, $x \otimes y$ is marked iff either $x$ or $y$ is marked.

## Definition

In the pseudo Gray tensor product, the only unmarked cubes are:

- unmarked $\otimes 0$-cube; and
- 0-cube $\otimes$ unmarked.


## Model structure

## Theorem

There is a model structure such that:

- $\{$ cofibrations $\}=\{$ monos $\}$
- $\{$ fibrant objects $\}=\{$ comical sets $\}$.


## Model structure

## Theorem

There is a model structure such that:

- $\{$ cofibrations $\}=\{$ monos $\}$
- $\{$ fibrant objects $\}=\{$ comical sets $\}$.

Moreover it is monoidal wrt both Gray tensor products.

## Model structure

## Theorem

There is a model structure such that:

- $\{$ cofibrations $\}=\{$ monos $\}$
- $\{$ fibrant objects $\}=\{$ comical sets $\}$.

Moreover it is monoidal wrt both Gray tensor products.
The combinatorics is relatively easy!

## Complicial sets

## We have a simplicial precursor.

## Complicial sets

We have a simplicial precursor.

## Definition (Roberts, Verity)

complicial set (composition + simplical set)

## Complicial sets

We have a simplicial precursor.

## Definition (Roberts, Verity)

A complicial set (composition + simplical set) is a marked simplicial set in which:

## Complicial sets

We have a simplicial precursor.

## Definition (Roberts, Verity)

A complicial set (composition + simplical set) is a marked simplicial set in which:

- suitable horns admit marked fillers; and
- marked simplices "compose".


## Complicial sets

We have a simplicial precursor.

## Definition (Roberts, Verity)

A complicial set (composition + simplical set) is a marked simplicial set in which:

- suitable horns admit marked fillers; and
- marked simplices "compose".


## Theorem (Verity) <br> $\{$ strict complicial sets $\} \simeq \omega$ - Cat

## Triangulation

Triangulation sends...

## Triangulation

## Triangulation sends...

- $n$-cube $\mapsto \Delta[1]^{\otimes n}$


## Triangulation

Triangulation sends...

- $n$-cube $\mapsto \Delta[1]^{\otimes n}$



## Triangulation

Triangulation sends...

- $n$-cube $\mapsto \Delta[1]^{\otimes n}$


Note: $\Delta[1]^{\otimes n}$ has a unique unmarked $n$-simplex $\iota_{n}$.

## Triangulation

Triangulation sends...

- $n$-cube $\mapsto \Delta[1]^{\otimes n}$


Note: $\Delta[1]^{\otimes n}$ has a unique unmarked $n$-simplex $\iota_{n}$.

- marked $n$-cube $\mapsto$ ?


## Triangulation

Triangulation sends...

- $n$-cube $\mapsto \Delta[1]^{\otimes n}$


Note: $\Delta[1]^{\otimes n}$ has a unique unmarked $n$-simplex $\iota_{n}$.

- marked $n$-cube $\mapsto \Delta[1]^{\otimes n}$ with $\iota_{n}$ marked


## Triangulation

Triangulation sends...

- $n$-cube $\mapsto \Delta[1]^{\otimes n}$


Note: $\Delta[1]^{\otimes n}$ has a unique unmarked $n$-simplex $\iota_{n}$.

- marked $n$-cube $\mapsto \Delta[1]^{\otimes n}$ with $\iota_{n}$ marked


Triangulation
Triangulation sends...

- $n$-cube $\mapsto \Delta[1]^{\otimes n}$


Note: $\Delta[1]^{\otimes n}$ has a unique unmarked $n$-simplex $\iota_{n}$.

- marked $n$-cube $\mapsto \Delta[1]^{\otimes n}$ with $\iota_{n}$ marked



## Theorem

It is left Quillen and preserves both Gray tensor products up to homotopy.

That's it!

## Thank you!

