

# The Art of Poincaré $\infty$ -Categories

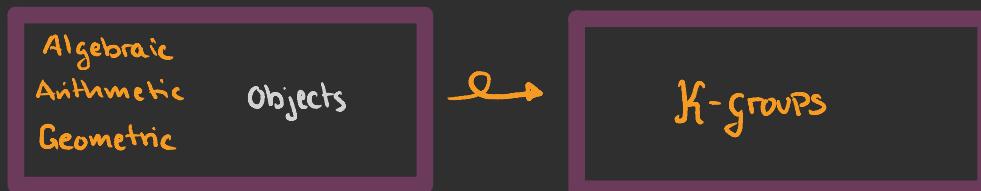
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# §0: Motivation

Algebraic K-theory is hard !

# §0: Motivation for algebraic K-theory

K-theory is connected to many areas: Geometry, topology, algebra, number theory



contains detailed information regarding the original object

Cool stuff using K-theory

- > Whitehead torsion & group  $\sim$  s-cobordism theorem
- > Motivic cohomology & specifically Chow groups
- > Grothendieck - Riemann - Roch theorem
- > Atiyah - Singer index theorem 2nd proof ~'62
- > Early example of an extraordinary cohomology theory 1959 Atiyah-Hirzebruch

# History time! $K_0$ - '57 Grothendieck

Introduced while Grothendieck formulated the Grothendieck-Riemann-Roch theorem

$R$  a unital ring

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{finitely generated} \\ \text{projective } R\text{-modules} \end{array} \right\} / \cong \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{is a commutative monoid} \\ \langle P \rangle + \langle Q \rangle = \langle P \oplus Q \rangle \\ \text{Unit } \langle 0 \rangle \end{array}$$

Group complete  $\xrightarrow{\sim} K_0(R) = (\dots)^{\text{grp}} = \left\{ \langle P \rangle - \langle Q \rangle \right\}$  abelian group  
 $\uparrow$  formal differences

Idea: Forces exact sequences to split

- Universal way of assigning an invariant in a way that is compatible with exact sequences.

# History time! $K_1 \sim 140s$

Whitehead  
Bass-Schunel

$$K_1(R) = GL(R) / [GL(R), GL(R)]$$

$$\begin{aligned} GL_n(R) &= \text{Group of invertible } n \times n \text{-matrices with entries in } R \\ &\hookrightarrow \text{Commutator subgroup} \\ GL_n(R) \subset GL_{n+1}(R) \subset \dots \subset GL(R) &:= \bigcup_{n=0}^{\infty} GL_n(R) \end{aligned}$$

Similar group was earlier introduced by Whitehead:

- > Poincaré: attempted to define the Betti numbers of a manifold via triangulations
- > Triangulations stable under subdivision  $\rightsquigarrow$  simple homotopy equivalence  
 and torsion  $\rightsquigarrow$  simple homotopy equivalence is a finer invariant than homotopy equivalence
- > Torsion (homotopy equivalence)  $\in$  Whitehead group

Quotient of  $K_1(\mathbb{Z}\pi)$

Integral group ring  
of  $\pi_1(\text{target})$

# History time! Higher K-groups - Quillen

$\mathbb{Q}$ -construction '72 Need categorical input!

Still has it's roots in Grothendieck's  $K_0$ , but produces a category instead of an abelian group

$$\text{Exact category, } \mathcal{C} \xrightarrow{\quad} \mathbb{Q}\mathcal{C} = \begin{cases} \text{ob } \mathbb{Q}\mathcal{C} = \text{ob } \mathcal{C} \\ \text{morphisms} = \text{short exact sequences} \end{cases} \text{ category}$$

← Fixes indexing

$K(\mathcal{C}) := \Omega B\mathbb{Q}\mathcal{C}$  space

Exact category,  $\mathcal{C}$  satisfies properties similar to, but weaker than, properties satisfied by  $\text{Mod}_R$ ,  $\text{Vect}(R)$

Recover  $K_0$  and  $K_1$ !

# K-theory is hard

$$> K_n(\mathbb{Z}) \cong \begin{cases} \mathbb{Z}, & n=0 \\ \mathbb{Z}/2, & n=1,2 \\ \mathbb{Z}/48, & n=3 \\ 0, & n=4 \\ \mathbb{Z} \oplus \left( \begin{smallmatrix} 3\text{-torsion} \\ \text{finite group} \end{smallmatrix} \right), & n=5 \\ ?, & n>5 \end{cases}$$

$$> R \text{ a } \underline{\text{number ring}} \rightsquigarrow K_0(R) \cong \mathbb{Z} \oplus C(R)$$

for example

$$\mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{2}]$$

↑  
Ideal class group  
~ Difficult object studied  
in number theory

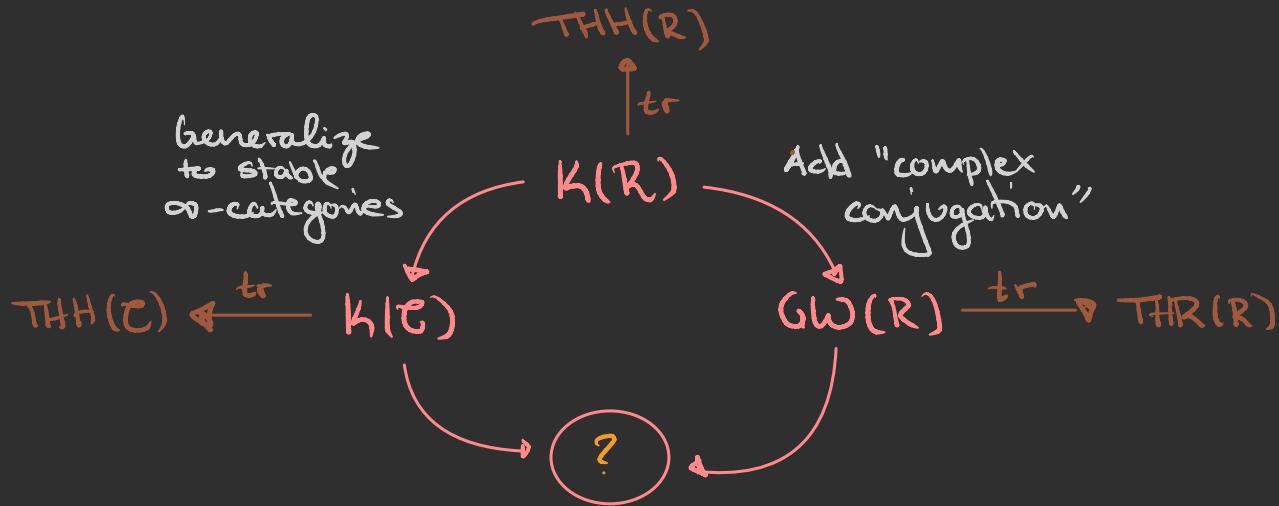
## Tool : Topological Hochschild Homology THH

- > Another invariant - still hard, but a bit nicer
- > on commutative ring objects: 'Tensor it with the circle'

This can tell us something about K-theory through the trace map

$$\text{tr} : K(R) \longrightarrow \text{THH}(R)$$

Dundas - McCarthy '96 : Not an equivalence, but the difference is  
'locally constant'



Poincaré  $\infty$ -categories  $(\mathcal{C}, \Sigma)$

$$GW(\mathcal{C}, \Sigma) \xrightarrow{\text{tr}} \text{THR}(\mathcal{C}, \Sigma)$$

# § Extending to $\mathrm{GL}(R)$

"Enhanced spaces"  
 $\{x_n\}_{n \geq 0} + \sigma : \sum x_i \xrightarrow{\sim} x_{i+1}$

Vector bundle structure	Structure on $K$ -groups	$K$ -group	$K$ -theory spectrum
Complex vector bundle $E \rightarrow X$	Abelian groups $[E]$ with direct sum	$K^o(X) =$ Grothendieck group of complex v.b.	Complex $K$ -theory $KU$
Complex Conjugation $E^* \rightarrow X$	$C_2$ -action on abelian groups $[E] \mapsto [E^*]$	$t : K^o(X) \rightarrow K^o(X)$ $[E] \longmapsto [E^*]$ $t \in C_2, t^2 = 1$	$C_2 \wr KU$ $\hookrightarrow KR \in \mathbf{SP}^{C_2}$ $\hookleftarrow \text{Fun}(BC_2, \mathbf{SP})$
$E \xrightarrow[D]{\sim} E^*$  $\downarrow$ $X \xrightarrow[T]{\sim} X$ $T \cong C_2\text{-action}$	$C_2$ -Mackey functors	Atiyah's real $K$ -theory $[E, D] \xleftrightarrow[\text{res}]{} [E]$ $KR^o(X) \xleftrightarrow[\text{tran}]{} K^o(X) \xrightarrow[t]{} K^o(X)$ $[E \oplus E^*] \xleftrightarrow[\text{hyp}]{} [E]$ $\uparrow$ hyperbolic duality	Genuine $C_2$ -Spectrum $KR$

# Equivariant notions

$A \curvearrowleft C_2$ : Abelian group with  $C_2$ -action

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \text{Orbits} & \xrightarrow{\text{Norm map}} & A^{C_2} := \{a \mid ta = a\} & \xrightarrow{\text{Fixed points}} & 0^{\text{th}} \text{ Tate cohomology} \\ A_{C_2} := A/\langle ta - a \rangle & \xrightarrow{\text{Nm}} & & & \text{Coker (Nm)} \end{array}$$

$a \longmapsto a + ta$

$X \curvearrowleft C_2$ : Spectrum with  $C_2$ -action

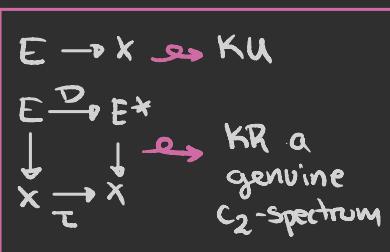
$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \text{Homotopy} & & \text{Homotopy fixed points} & & \text{Tate construction} \\ \text{Orbits} & \xrightarrow{\text{Nm}} & X^{hC_2} & \longrightarrow & X^{tC_2} \\ X_{hC_2} & \xrightarrow{\text{coincides}} & \lim_{\leftarrow} B C_2 X & & \end{array}$$

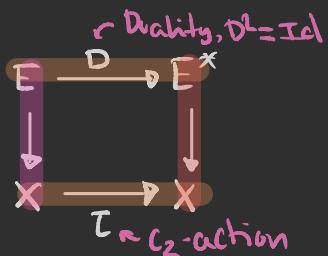
Example:  $A \curvearrowleft C_2 \xrightarrow{\text{ }} HA \curvearrowleft C_2$

- >  $\pi_n(HA_{hC_2}) = H_n(C_2, A)$  Group homology  $n=0$  >  $H_0(C_2, A) \cong A_{C_2}$
- >  $\pi_n(HA^{hC_2}) = \widehat{H}^{-n}(C_2, A)$  Group cohomology  $\xrightarrow{\text{ }} \rightarrow$   $H^0(C_2, A) \cong A^{C_2}$
- >  $\pi_n(HA^{tC_2}) = \widehat{H}^{-n}(C_2, A)$  Tate cohomology >  $\widehat{H}^0(C_2, A) \cong \text{Coker (Nm)}$

For KR:

- > Underlying spectrum : KU
- >  $KR^{tC_2} \cong *$
- >  $KR^{hC_2} \cong KR_{hC_2} \cong KO \leftarrow \text{Real K-theory} \sim \text{Uses real vector bundles}$





1. Complex vector bundle
2. Add complex conjugation
3. Add duality on  $E$  and  $C_2$ -action on  $X$

$\rightarrow$  genuine  $C_2$ -spectrum  $KR$

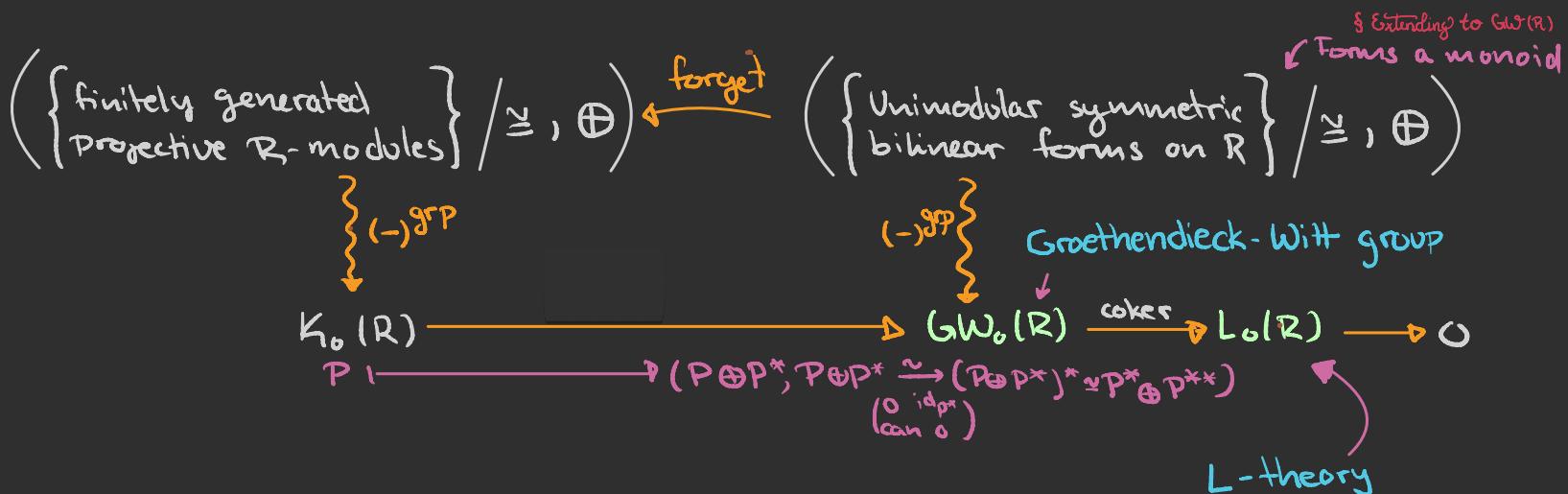
- > Underlying spectrum:  $KU$   
 $\sim$  Complex K-theory
- >  $KR_{hC_2} \cong KR^{hC_2} \cong KU$   
 $\sim$  Real K-theory

For a ring

- >  $R$  a ring  $\rightarrow K(R)$
- > Add anti-involution  $(-)^*: R \rightarrow R^{\text{op}}$
- > Symmetric bilinear form  $(P, q)$ 
  - $P$ : finitely generated projective  $R$ -module
  - $q: P \otimes P \rightarrow R$ :  $R \otimes R$ -linear such that  
 $q(x \otimes y) \cong q(y \otimes x)^*$
- > Assume  $(P, q)$  is unimodular :

$$q_{\#}: P \xrightarrow{\sim} DP := \text{Hom}_R(P, R)$$

$$x \mapsto (y \mapsto q(x \otimes y))$$



This sequence does not extend on the left

- Find a “derived functor” which does
- In homotopy theory : Fiber sequence of spaces/spectra which on homotopy groups recovers the original sequence

“forms/cobordism”

There exist  $L \subseteq P$   
 s.t.  $GL = 0$  and  
 $0 \rightarrow L \hookrightarrow P \rightarrow L^* \rightarrow 0$   
 is exact  
 $\hookrightarrow P \cong L \oplus L^*$

$$K_0(R)_{C_2} \xrightarrow{\text{map}} GW_0(R) \longrightarrow L_0(R) \longrightarrow 0$$

Theorem: (Schlichting) If 2 is invertible, then there exists a fiber sequence

$$K(R)_{C_2} \longrightarrow GW(R) \longrightarrow L(R)$$

which extends to the desired long exact sequence of groups

$$\cdots \longrightarrow K_1(R)_{C_2} \longrightarrow GW_1(R) \longrightarrow L_1(R) \longrightarrow \cdots$$

$$\begin{aligned} & K_1(R)_{C_2} \longrightarrow GW_1(R) \longrightarrow L_1(R) \\ \curvearrowleft & K_0(R)_{C_2} \longrightarrow GW_0(R) \longrightarrow L_0(R) \end{aligned}$$

Quillen: Categorical input necessary

Waldhausen & Thomason: Need a higher categorical input

Perfect Derived category  Chain complexes of finitely generated Projective $R$ -modules [quasi-isomorphism]	$R \xrightarrow{\epsilon} K_*(R)$ Group $Q^P(R) \xrightarrow{\epsilon} K_*(R)$ space/spectrum
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## §2: Extend to $\Omega^P(R)$

Good Idea: Forms  $\sim$  "Extra Structure" on  $\Omega^P(R)$  which describes the  
"space of forms" for any  $x \in \Omega^P(R)$

→ This can be axiomatized!

#9: Calmes - Dotto - Harpaz - Hebestreit - Land - Moi - Nardin  
- Nikolaus - Steimle

Note: Throughout we will work over  $\Omega^P(R)$  but this could be done for any  
stable  $\infty$ -category  $\mathcal{C}$ .

"Extra structure" on  $\Omega^P(R)$  which describes the "space of forms" for any  $x \in \Omega^P(R)$

Def: A Poincaré ( $\infty$ -) category is a pair  $(R, \xi)$  where

$$\Omega: \Omega^P(R)^{op} \longrightarrow Sp$$

is perfectly quadratic, i.e.

> Reduced preserves the 0-object

> 2-excisive weaker notion of "pushout square  $\mapsto$  pullback square"

> Induces a perfect duality : The unit of the adjunction

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \Omega^P(R) & \perp & \Omega^P(R)^{op} \\ \downarrow D_\xi & & \downarrow D_\xi^{op} \\ \text{id}_C \xrightarrow{\sim} D_\xi^L & & \end{array}$$

Ex: Let  $R$  be an associative ring with involution  $(-)^*: R^{op} \rightarrow R$

Symmetric forms

$$\begin{aligned} \Omega^S: \Omega^P(R)^{op} &\longrightarrow Sp \\ x &\longmapsto \text{Map}_{R \otimes R}((x \otimes x, R))^{h\mathbb{Z}_2} \end{aligned}$$

space of forms a pair  $(x, q)$

>  $x \in \Omega^P(R)$

>  $q \in \Omega^\infty \Omega^S(x) \cong \text{Map}_{R \otimes R}(x \otimes x, R)^{h\mathbb{Z}_2}$

↪  $q: x \otimes x \rightarrow R$

$$q(x \otimes y) \cong q(y \otimes x)^*$$

Theorem (#9) For  $(R, \Sigma)$  a Poincaré  $\infty$ -category we have the following fibre sequence in  $\mathbf{Sp}$ :

$$K(R)_{nC_2} \longrightarrow GW(R, \Sigma) \longrightarrow L(R, \Sigma)$$

Note: The "2 invertible" assumption is gone!

We furthermore have a  $C_2$ -spectrum  $IKR(R, \Sigma)$  with

- > Underlying spectrum:  $K(R)$
- >  $IKR(R, \Sigma)^{C_2} \simeq GW(R, \Sigma)$  fixed points working well with limits
- >  $\Phi^{C_2} IKR(R, \Sigma) \simeq L(R, \Sigma)$  fixed points working well with colimits

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} & & \text{Tate Square} & & \\ & X & \xrightarrow{\quad} & X^{C_2} & \xrightarrow{\quad} \bar{\Phi}^{C_2} X := (\Sigma^\infty E_{C_2} \wedge X)^{C_2} \\ & \parallel & & \downarrow & \downarrow \\ X & \xrightarrow{\quad \text{Nm} \quad} & X^{nC_2} & \longrightarrow & X_{nC_2} \end{array}$$

# §3 $\text{THH}(R)$ of a ‘nice’ ring, $R$

cyclic bar construction

“Tensor with the circle”

$$\text{THH}(R) := R \otimes R \cong \left| N_{R \otimes R}^{\text{cy}}(R) \right|$$

$$\cong \left| [n] \mapsto \begin{array}{c} \oplus R \otimes R \\ \otimes R \end{array} \right| \xrightarrow{\quad S^1 \quad}$$

Dennis trace map

$$\text{tr} : K(R) \longrightarrow \text{THH}(R)$$

• Bokstedt-Hsiang-Madsen: This is a genuine  $S^1$ -spectrum

Idea: Refine THH to a (genuine)  $C_2$ -spectrum, using the reflection of the circle

Let  $R$  be a ring with anti-involution

$$\text{THR}(R) = R \otimes R \cong \left| [n] \mapsto \begin{array}{c} \oplus R \otimes R \\ \otimes R \end{array} \right| \xrightarrow{\quad C_2 \quad}$$

Hill-Hopkins-Ravenel norm

$NR = R \otimes R$

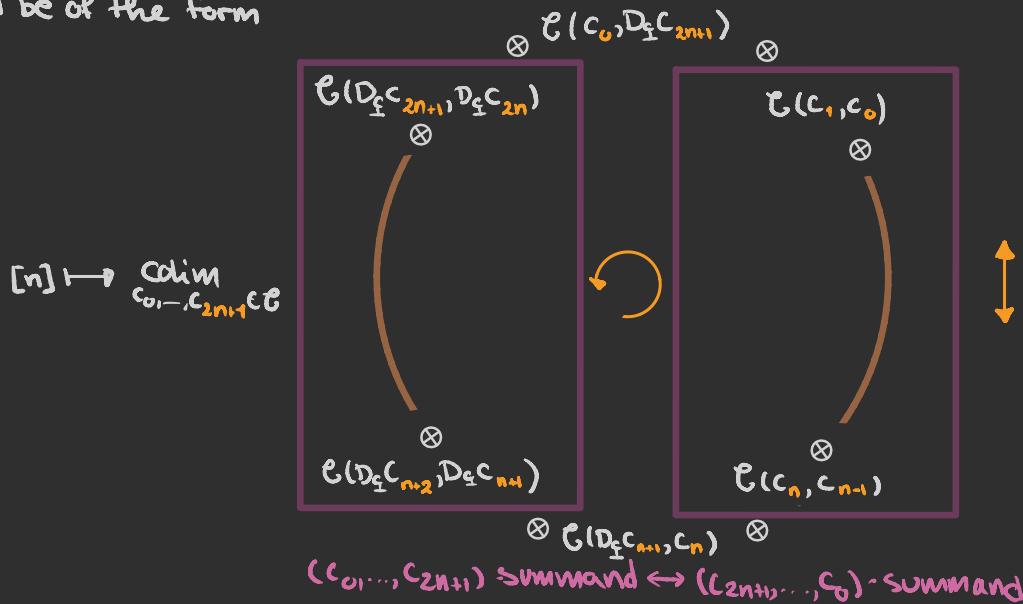
Trace map of  $C_2$ -spectra

$$\text{tr} : KR(R) \longrightarrow \text{THR}(R)$$

Theorem (Dotto-Moi-Patchkoria-Reeh)  $\Phi^{C_2} \text{THR}(R) \cong \overline{\Phi}^{C_2} R \otimes_R \overline{\Phi}^{C_2} R$

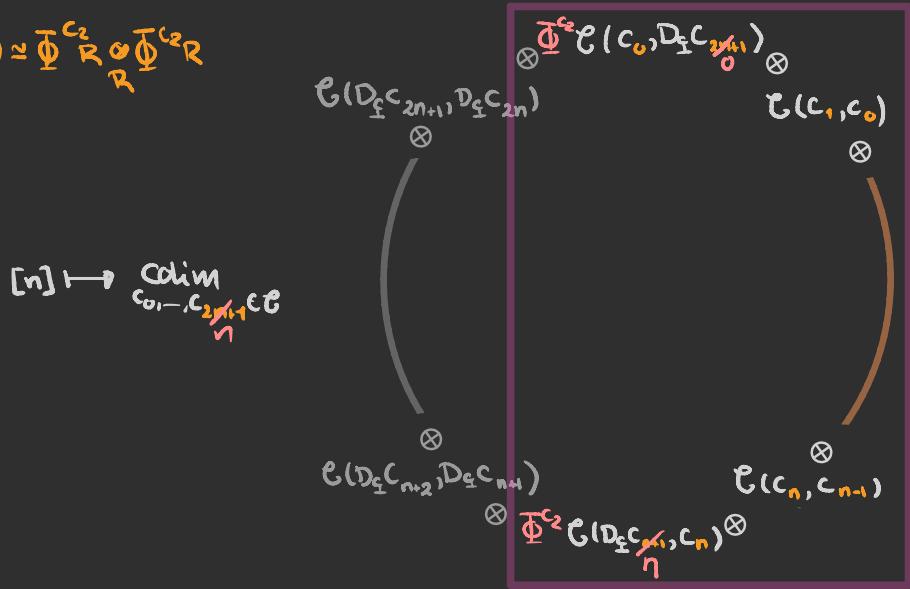
# Of a Poincaré $\infty$ -Category $(\mathcal{C}, \Omega)$

$\text{THR}(\mathcal{C}, \Omega)$  should be of the form



# Of a Poincaré $\infty$ -Category $(\mathcal{C}, \Omega)$

Recall:  $\Phi^{\mathbb{C}^2} \text{THR}(R) \cong \overline{\Phi}_R^{\mathbb{C}^2} \otimes \overline{\Phi}_R^{\mathbb{C}^2}$



$$\Phi^{\mathbb{C}^2} \text{THR}(\mathcal{C}, \Omega) \sim |[n] \mapsto \underset{\substack{c_0, \dots, c_n \in \mathcal{C}}}{\operatorname{colim}} \Phi^{\mathbb{C}^2} \mathcal{C}(c_0, D_{\underline{c}} c_0) \otimes \mathcal{C}(c_1, c_0) \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathcal{C}(c_n, c_{n-1}) \otimes \Phi^{\mathbb{C}^2} \mathcal{C}(D_{\underline{c}} c_n, c_n)|$$

Theorem: | R. | There exists a functor which is objectwise on the above form.

$$\Phi^{C_2} \text{THR} : \text{Cat}_\alpha^P \longrightarrow \text{Sp}$$

$$\Phi^{C_2} \text{THR}(G, \underline{\mathbb{F}}) \cong \{ [n] \mapsto \underset{c_0, \dots, c_n \in G}{\text{colim}} \Phi^{C_2} \mathcal{C}(c_0, D_G c_0) \otimes \mathcal{C}(c_1, c_0) \otimes \dots \otimes \mathcal{C}(c_n, c_{n-1}) \otimes \Phi^{C_2} \mathcal{C}(D_G c_n, c_n) \}$$

Monita invariance | R. |

$$> \Phi^{C_2} \text{THR}(R, \underline{\mathbb{F}}^{gs}) \cong \underset{R}{\Phi^{C_2} R} \otimes \Phi^{C_2} R$$

$$> \Phi^{C_2} \text{THR}(R, \underline{\mathbb{F}}^s) \cong \underset{R}{R^{tc_2}} \otimes \Phi^{C_2} R$$

↑  
Equivalent to the geometric fixed points  
of the Borel completion

Thank  
You for  
listening

