Introduction

Scribe notes from a talk by Brad Drew and Marc Levine

$17~\mathrm{Mar}~2014$

1 Brad Drew

We'll discuss the basic motivation and idea of infinity-categories.

Infinity-categories are preceded by **triangulated categories**, which are clearly useful but have technical difficulties, centering around a failure of functoriality. For example:

- For \mathcal{T} a triangulated category, Fun $(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{T})$ is no longer a triangulated category; so this makes taking nice homotopy (co)limits difficult;
- While we care a lot about ring spectra, there's no well-behaved theory of ring objects or commutative algebra in a triangulated category;

We can talk instead about **model categories**, where we have notions of cofibrations, fibrations, and weak equivalences; then we can take (co)fibrant replacements to compute derived functors, and we can essentially do everything we do in a triangulated setting, in a more functorial way. But here we still have a few issues:

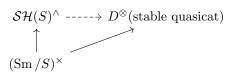
- There's a lot of data that doesn't seem crucial to the homotopy theory;
- For \mathcal{M} a model category, Fun(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{M}) carries several different model structures; it's possible to work with homotopy limits and colimits but you would use different model structures to work with each. Then it's difficult to relate the colimits with the limits.
- It's still technically complicated to work with ring objects or commutative algebra. (Re a question: for instance, algebras over an operad in a model category will only form a semi-model category.)

So we can pass to an in-between solution, namely **quasi-categories**; these are simplicial sets generalizing the nerve $N(\mathcal{C})$ of a category. Here we have a sort of composition that is associative only up to homotopy. This solves many of the above problems:

• Fun(C, D) is a quasi-category; this isn't so surprising as maps between simplicial sets form a simplicial set;

- There are nice universal properties;
- There's a clean theory of commutative algebra.

Non-example. We will construct the stable motivic homotopy category $\mathcal{SH}(S) =$ $\Delta^{\mathrm{op}}\mathsf{PSh}(\mathrm{Sm}_{/S})[(\mathbb{P}^1_S,\infty)^{-1}]/(\text{ relations generated by }\mathbb{A}^1 \text{ and the Nisnevich topology }).$ Then we should have a universal property:



Example. Let $\mathcal{D}^{\otimes} = \mathcal{D}(S(\mathbb{Q}), \mathbb{Q})^{\otimes}$, the derived category of analytic sheaves of \mathbbm{Q} vector spaces. Then a functor

$$\mathcal{SH}(S)^{\wedge} \xrightarrow{\rho_B} \mathcal{D}(S(\mathbb{Q}), \mathbb{Q})^{\otimes}$$

arises from a morphism of sites

$$(\operatorname{Sm}/S)_{\operatorname{Nis}} \to \operatorname{AnSm}/S(\mathbb{C}).$$

(The latter is the site of analytic smooth schemes over the complex points of S.)

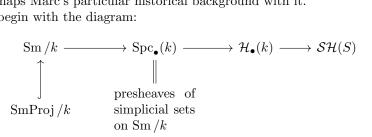
Example. Let $\mathcal{D}^{\otimes} = \mathcal{D}(\mathcal{D}_S)$, the derived category of \mathcal{D} -modules (coefficients for de Rham cohomology). We sholud end up with a functor from the stable homotopy category to derived \mathcal{D} -modules, but we don't seem to know how to build this with the language of model categories and Quillen functors. Quasicategories are an adequate language, giving a functor

$$\mathcal{SH}(S)^{\wedge} \to \mathcal{D}(\mathcal{D}(S)).$$

2 Marc Levine

This part will be on some of the historical background for \mathbb{A}^1 homotopy theory, and perhaps Marc's particular historical background with it.

We begin with the diagram:



with $S = \operatorname{Spec}(k)$ the spectrum of a perfect field.

We study SmProj/k by means of "cohomological invariants", such as:

- $k = \mathbb{C}, X \mapsto H^*_{\operatorname{sing}}(X(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{Z}),$
- k of char. 0, $X \mapsto H^*_{\mathrm{dR}}(X/k) = \mathbb{H}^*(X_{\mathrm{Zar}}, \Omega^{\bullet}_{X/k}),$
- for $\ell, X \mapsto H^*_{\text{et}}(\bar{X}/\bar{k}, \mathbb{Q}_\ell)$.

These all fall into the family of **Weil cohomology theories** on SmProj/k. We also have the "cycle classes"

$$Z^{n}(X) = \mathbb{Z}\{W \subseteq X \mid W \text{ irred. of codim } n\}$$
$$\downarrow^{\operatorname{cl}^{n}_{X}}$$
$$H^{2n}(X) \longleftarrow \text{Weil cohomology}$$

We can construct motives as a quotient of the category of correspondences:

$$Mot_{k,H} \leftarrow Cor_{k,H}[X]$$

where $\operatorname{Hom}_{\operatorname{Cor}_{k,H}}([X], [Y]) = Z^{\dim X}(X \times Y) / \sim_{H}$. In particular, if $\alpha \in \operatorname{End}_{\operatorname{Cor}}([X])$, then $\alpha^{2} = \alpha$; α is idempotent.

Conjecture. We can lift the Künneth components

$$\alpha_H^i \in H^{2\dim X}(X \times X)$$

to idempotents $\alpha^i \in \operatorname{Hom}_{\mathsf{Cor}}(X, X)$, and $H^i(X) = ([X], \alpha^i)$.

Assuming this conjecture, we will get a map $Mot_{k,CH} \rightarrow Mot_{k,hom}$, where the former are the motives formed by the rational equivalence relation.

We should define the **Chow group**:

$$CH^n(X) = Z^n(X)/R^n(X),$$

where

$$R^{n}(X) = \{ \operatorname{div}(f) \mid f \in k(W), W \subseteq X \text{ of codimension } n-1 \}.$$

We have Weil cohomology for SmProj /k, but the extension of this to Sm /k is called **Bloch–Ogers cohomology**. For X/\mathbb{R} , this looks like $H^*_{\text{et}}(X, \mathbb{Q}_{\ell}(*))$, and for X/\mathbb{C} , this is $H^*_{\text{sing}}(X, \mathbb{Z}$ with mixed Hodge structure.

We have the **mixed motives** MM_k , due to Beilinson (at least). Two constructions have been given:

1. Bloch's higher Chow groups

$$X \mapsto Z^{q}(X, *),$$
$$CH^{q}(X, n) = H_{n}(Z^{q}(X, *)) = H^{2q-n}(X, \mathbb{Z}/Q),$$

2. Voevodsky's triangulated category of motives, DM(k), where M(X) is the motive associated to X, with motivic cohomology given by

$$H^p(X, \mathbb{Z}(Q)) = \operatorname{Hom}_{DM(k)}(M(X), \mathbb{Z}(q)[p]).$$

The connection with K-theory is as follows: as a definition due to Beilinson, or a theorem due to others,

$$H^p(X, \mathbb{Q}(q)) = K^{(q)}_{2q-p}(X).$$

And now we come to the homotopy theory. In ordinary stable homotopy theory, we see $\mathcal{D}(Ab)$ as the category of $H\mathbb{Z}$ -modules in the stable homotopy category. Here we have DM(k) as the homotopy category of $H_{\text{mot}}\mathbb{Z}$ -modules in the stable motivic homotopy category. When k is of characteristic zero, we have $\text{Mot}_{k,\text{CH}} \hookrightarrow DM(k)$, so that this relates to our stable homotopy category. We also have an adjunction between an Eilenberg–Maclane functor $\text{Ho}(H_{\text{mot}}\mathbb{Z}) \to$ $S\mathcal{H}(k)$ and the functor $- \wedge H_{\text{mot}}\mathbb{Z} : S\mathcal{H}(k) \to \text{Ho}(H_{\text{mot}}\mathbb{Z}).$