

Homotopical Semantics of Type Theory

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Background

Connections have come to light between the **type theory** used in some proof systems (Coq, Agda, Lean, ...) and **homotopy theory**.

- I. I will first sketch the **basic connection** between Martin-Löf's identity types and weak factorization systems.
- II. Other type-theoretic ideas then lead to a Quillen model category, forming a **homotopical model of type theory**.
- III. Finally, I will show how to extract a **strict model of type theory** from such a homotopical model.

Thierry's lectures will describe the **same constructions** in the language of type theory rather than category theory.

Martin-Löf Type Theory



Identity Types

Martin-Löf (1973) introduced the *identity type*, for terms $a, b : X$,

$$\text{Id}_X(a, b)$$

Its rules preserved the constructive character of the system of type theory. But they also introduced some **intensionality**:

- ▶ terms $a, b : X$ identified by $p : \text{Id}_X(a, b)$ may remain distinct,
- ▶ there may also be different $p, q : \text{Id}_X(a, b)$,
- ▶ is there always a term $\alpha : \text{Id}_{\text{Id}_X(a,b)}(p, q)$?

This system is used in computer proof systems like **Coq** because of its good computational properties, but its meaning was somewhat mysterious ...

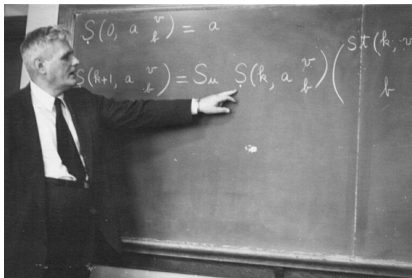
The Topological Interpretation: Simple Types

Church showed that a numerical function is *definable* in the simply-typed λ -calculus just if it is *computable*.

Scott interpreted computability as **continuity**:

types \rightsquigarrow spaces

terms \rightsquigarrow continuous functions



The Homotopy Interpretation: Identity Types

We can **extend the topological interpretation** to identity types:

types X	\rightsquigarrow	spaces
terms $t : X \rightarrow Y$	\rightsquigarrow	continuous functions
identities $p : \text{Id}_X(a, b)$	\rightsquigarrow	paths $p : a \sim b$

In topology, a **path** $p : a \sim b$ from point a to point b in a space X is a continuous function

$$p : [0, 1] \rightarrow X$$

with $p(0) = a$ and $p(1) = b$.

The Homotopy Interpretation: Identity Types

The identity types endow each type X with **higher structure**.

$$\begin{aligned} a, b &: X \\ p, q &: \text{Id}_X(a, b) \\ \alpha, \beta &: \text{Id}_{\text{Id}_X(a, b)}(p, q) \\ &\dots \end{aligned}$$

The higher identity terms are interpreted as **homotopies**:

$$\begin{aligned} X &\rightsquigarrow \text{space} \\ a, b : X &\rightsquigarrow \text{points of } X \\ p : \text{Id}_X(a, b) &\rightsquigarrow \text{paths } p : a \sim b \\ \alpha : \text{Id}_{\text{Id}_X(a, b)}(p, q) &\rightsquigarrow \text{homotopies } \alpha : p \approx q \\ &\dots \end{aligned}$$

The Homotopy Interpretation: Type Dependency

The interpretation of identity terms as *paths* requires dependent types to be interpreted as *fibrations*.

A family of types $x : X \vdash F(x)$ will be a **bundle of spaces**, i.e. a continuous map:

$$x : X \vdash F(x) \rightsquigarrow \begin{array}{c} F \\ \downarrow \\ X \end{array}$$

The Homotopy Interpretation: Type Dependency

The rules for identity types permit the inference:

$$\frac{p : \text{Id}_X(a, b) \quad c : F(a)}{p * c : F(b)}$$

Logically, this just says the predicate $F(x)$ respects identity:

$$\text{Id}_X(a, b) \ \& \ F(a) \ \Rightarrow \ F(b)$$

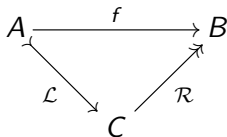
Topologically, it is the *path lifting property* of **fibrations**:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} F & & c \cdots \cdots \rightarrow p * c \\ \downarrow & & \\ X & & a \overset{p}{\rightsquigarrow} b \end{array}$$

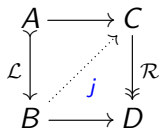
Definition: Weak Factorization System

A **weak factorization system** on a category consists of two classes of maps $(\mathcal{L}, \mathcal{R})$ such that:

- every map factors as an \mathcal{L} followed by an \mathcal{R} ,



- every commutative square with an \mathcal{L} and an \mathcal{R} thus,



has a **diagonal filler** j making it commute.

Basic HoTT: Identity Types

Theorem (A-Warren, 2006)

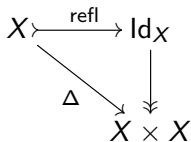
Martin-Löf's rules for identity types interpret into any wfs.

Proof.

- Types $\Gamma \vdash X$ are interpreted as \mathcal{R} -maps.
- Terms $\Gamma \vdash t : X$ are interpreted as sections.
- Factoring $\Delta : X \longrightarrow X \times X$ interprets Formation and Intro,

$x, y : X \vdash \text{Id}_X(x, y)$ type

$x : X \vdash \text{refl}(x) : \text{Id}_X(x, x)$



Basic HoTT: Identity Types

- Elimination assumes a commutative square of the form,

$$x : X \vdash c(x) : C(x, x, \text{refl}(x))$$

A commutative square diagram with nodes X (top-left), C (top-right), Id_X (bottom-left), and Id_X (bottom-right). The top edge is a solid arrow from X to C labeled c . The left edge is a solid arrow from X to Id_X labeled refl . The bottom edge is a solid arrow from Id_X to Id_X labeled with an equals sign $=$. The right edge is a solid arrow from C to Id_X with a double arrowhead at the bottom. A dotted diagonal arrow from Id_X to C is labeled j .

The diagonal filler j is the Elim-term,

$$x, y : X, z : \text{Id}_X(x, y) \vdash j(x, y, z; c) : C(x, y, z).$$

- The upper triangle is the Computation rule,

$$c = j \circ \text{refl}.$$

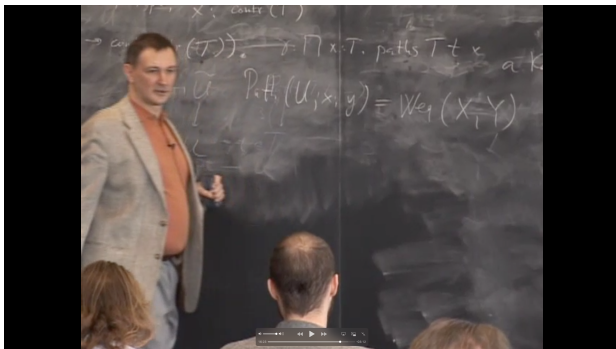


Univalent HoTT

Voevodsky added the *Univalence Axiom* to HoTT (in 2010)

$$\text{Id}(X, Y) \simeq (X \simeq Y)$$

and constructed a model in simplicial sets using the **Quillen model structure**.



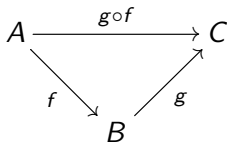
Definition: Quillen Model Structure

A **Quillen model structure** on a category \mathcal{E} consists of *three* classes of maps

$$(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{W}, \mathcal{F})$$

such that:

- (a) $(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{W} \cap \mathcal{F})$ and $(\mathcal{C} \cap \mathcal{W}, \mathcal{F})$ are weak factorization systems,
- (b) \mathcal{W} has the 2-of-3 property:



if any 2 of the above arrows are in it, then all 3 are.

Homotopical Models of Type Theory

Definition

A **model of HoTT** in a topos \mathcal{E} is:

- i) a **Quillen model structure** $(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{W}, \mathcal{F})$:
 - (a) $(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{W} \cap \mathcal{F})$ and $(\mathcal{C} \cap \mathcal{W}, \mathcal{F})$ are weak factorization systems,
 - (b) \mathcal{W} has the 2-of-3 property,
- ii) satisfying the **Frobenius** condition,
- iii) with a **univalent universe** of fibrations $\dot{U} \twoheadrightarrow U$,
- iv) such that U is a **fibrant object**.

Remark

We'll see that condition (i b) follows from the others.

Part II

Cubical sets

As the category \mathcal{E} we take the **cubical sets**

$$\text{cSet} = \text{Set}^{\square^{\text{op}}}.$$

The **cube category** \square can be e.g. the dual of the finitely generated free distributive lattices,

$$\square^{\text{op}} := \text{DLat}_{\text{fgf}}.$$

\square is closed under finite products and contains a bipointed object,

$$[0] \rightrightarrows [1].$$

The interval \mathbb{I}

The interval $1 = y[0] \Rightarrow y[1] = \mathbb{I}$ in \mathbf{cSet} provides, for every X :

- ▶ a **cylinder**

$$X + X \rightarrow \mathbb{I} \times X.$$

- ▶ a **path object**

$$X^{\mathbb{I}} \rightarrow X \times X.$$

The interval \mathbb{I}

The interval $1 + 1 \mapsto \mathbb{I}$ in \mathbf{cSet} provides, for every object X :

- ▶ a **cylinder**

$$X + X \cong (1 + 1) \times X \mapsto \mathbb{I} \times X.$$

- ▶ a **path object**

$$X^{\mathbb{I}} \rightarrow X^{(1+1)} \cong X \times X.$$

Moreover \mathbb{I} is **tiny**, $(-)\times\mathbb{I} \dashv (-)^{\mathbb{I}} \dashv (-)_{\mathbb{I}}$.

The Quillen Model Structure

The classes $(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{W}, \mathcal{F})$ can be described succinctly as:

- the **cofibrations** \mathcal{C} are an axiomatized class of monos,
- the **fibrations** \mathcal{F} are those $f : Y \rightarrow X$ for which the *gap maps*

$$(\delta \Rightarrow f) : Y^{\mathbb{I}} \longrightarrow X^{\mathbb{I}} \times_X Y$$

lift on the right against all cofibrations,

- the **weak equivalences** \mathcal{W} are then determined.
(They can be shown to be those $f : X \rightarrow Y$ for which $K^f : K^Y \rightarrow K^X$ is bijective under π_0 whenever K is fibrant.)

The Quillen Model Structure

The verification of the axioms proceeds in three steps

1. a classifier $\Phi \hookrightarrow \Omega$ for **cofibrations** is used to determine a weak factorization system $(\mathcal{C}, \text{TFib})$,
2. the interval $1 \rightrightarrows \mathbb{I}$ is then used to determine the **fibrations** and a second weak factorization system $(\text{TCof}, \mathcal{F})$,
3. the **weak equivalences** are defined by setting

$$\mathcal{W} = \text{TFib} \circ \text{TCof},$$

and the 2-of-3 condition is shown by first constructing a **univalent universe** $\dot{U} \rightarrow U$.

1. The cofibration wfs $(\mathcal{C}, \text{TFib})$

The **cofibrations** \mathcal{C} are the monos $C \rightarrowtail D$ classified by $t : 1 \rightarrowtail \Phi$.

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \mathcal{C} & \longrightarrow & 1 & \longrightarrow & 1 \\ \downarrow & \lrcorner & \downarrow & \lrcorner & \downarrow \\ D & \longrightarrow & \Phi & \hookrightarrow & \Omega \end{array}$$

t

The **trivial fibrations** TFib are the maps $T \twoheadrightarrow X$ that lift against the cofibrations.

$$\mathcal{C}^{\text{m}} =: \text{TFib}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{C} & \longrightarrow & T \\ \downarrow & \nearrow & \downarrow \\ D & \longrightarrow & X \end{array}$$

1. The cofibration wfs $(\mathcal{C}, \text{TFib})$

Proposition

$(\mathcal{C}, \text{TFib})$ is an algebraic weak factorization system.

Proof.

The classifier $t : 1 \rightarrow \Phi$ determines a fibered polynomial monad

$$P_t = \Phi!t_* : \text{cSet} \longrightarrow \text{cSet}$$

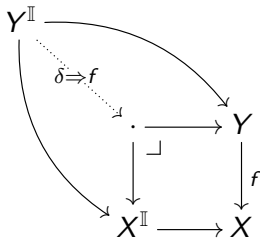
the algebras for which in cSet/X are the trivial fibrations. □

2. The fibration wfs $(\text{TCof}, \mathcal{F})$

The **fibrations** \mathcal{F} are defined in terms of the trivial fibrations by

$$(f : Y \rightarrow X) \in \mathcal{F} \quad \text{iff} \quad (\delta \Rightarrow f) \in \text{TFib}$$

for both **gap maps** $\delta \Rightarrow f$ for the endpoints $\delta : 1 \longrightarrow \mathbb{I}$.



The **trivial cofibrations** TCof are the maps that lift against \mathcal{F} .

$$\text{TCof} := \mathop{\text{h}}\limits{\mathcal{F}}$$

3. The weak equivalences \mathcal{W}

Proposition

Let $\mathcal{W} := \text{TFib} \circ \text{TCof}$. Then

$$\text{TCof} = \mathcal{W} \cap \mathcal{C}$$

$$\text{TFib} = \mathcal{W} \cap \mathcal{F}$$

so $(\mathcal{C}, \text{TFib})$ and $(\text{TCof}, \mathcal{F})$ form a Barton **premodel structure**.

Corollary

If \mathcal{W} satisfies 2-of-3, then $(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{W}, \mathcal{F})$ is a QMS.

3. The weak equivalences \mathcal{W}

We show 2-of-3 for \mathcal{W} using a **universal fibration** $\dot{U} \twoheadrightarrow U$.

- (i) there is a **universal small map** $\dot{V} \rightarrow V$,
- (ii) U is the **classifying type** for fibration structures on $\dot{V} \rightarrow V$,
- (iii) $\dot{U} \twoheadrightarrow U$ is **univalent**,
- (iv) U is **fibrant**,
- (v) fibrant U implies **2-of-3** for \mathcal{W} .

The idea of getting a QMS *from* univalence is due to Sattler.

3(i). The universal small map $\dot{V} \rightarrow V$

The **category of elements** functor $\int_{\mathbb{C}}$

$$\int_{\mathbb{C}} : \widehat{\mathbb{C}} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\quad} \\ \text{Cat} : \nu_{\mathbb{C}} \\ \xleftarrow{\quad} \end{array}$$

always has a right adjoint **nerve** functor $\nu_{\mathbb{C}}$.

Proposition

For any small map $Y \rightarrow X$ in $\widehat{\mathbb{C}}$ there is a canonical pullback

$$\begin{array}{ccc} Y & \longrightarrow & \nu_{\mathbb{C}} \text{set}^{\text{op}} \\ \downarrow \lrcorner & & \downarrow \\ X & \longrightarrow & \nu_{\mathbb{C}} \text{set}^{\text{op}} \end{array}$$

since $\text{set}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \text{set}^{\text{op}}$ classifies small discrete fibrations in Cat .

3(i). The universal small map $\dot{V} \rightarrow V$

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For any small map $Y \rightarrow X$ in $\widehat{\mathbb{C}}$ there is a canonical pullback

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since $\text{set}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \text{set}^{\text{op}}$ classifies small discrete fibrations in Cat .

3(ii). The universal fibration $\dot{U} \rightarrow U$

Proposition

There is a small fibration $\dot{U} \rightarrow U$ such that every small fibration $A \rightarrow X$ has a classifying map $a : X \rightarrow U$ fitting into a pullback

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A & \longrightarrow & \dot{U} \\ \downarrow & \lrcorner & \downarrow \\ X & \xrightarrow{a} & U \end{array}$$

3(ii). The universal fibration $\dot{U} \twoheadrightarrow U$

Definition

A *universal fibration* is a small fibration $\dot{U} \twoheadrightarrow U$ such that every small fibration $A \twoheadrightarrow X$ is a pullback of $\dot{U} \twoheadrightarrow U$ along a *classifying* map $X \rightarrow U$.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A & \longrightarrow & \dot{U} \\ \downarrow & \lrcorner & \downarrow \\ X & \longrightarrow & U \end{array}$$

We will construct a universal fibration using the classifying type for fibration structures.

3(ii). The universal fibration $\dot{U} \rightarrow U$

For any $A \rightarrow X$ there is a *classifying type for fibration structures*,

$$\text{Fib}(A) \longrightarrow X,$$

sections of which correspond to fibration structures α on $A \rightarrow X$.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & & A \\ & & \downarrow \\ & \overset{\alpha}{\curvearrowright} & \\ \text{Fib}(A) & \longrightarrow & X \end{array}$$

NB: $\text{Fib}(A) \rightarrow X$ is small when $A \rightarrow X$ is small.

3(ii). The universal fibration $\dot{U} \rightarrow U$

The map $\text{Fib}(A) \rightarrow X$ is stable under pullback,

$$f^* \text{Fib}(A) \cong \text{Fib}(f^*A).$$

Thus the bottom square below is also a pullback.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} f^*A & \longrightarrow & A \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ Y & \xrightarrow{f} & X \\ \uparrow & & \uparrow \\ \text{Fib}(f^*A) & \longrightarrow & \text{Fib}(A) \end{array}$$

The construction of $\text{Fib}(A)$ uses the **Frobenius** condition, as well as the **root functor** $(-)^{\mathbb{I}} \dashv (-)_{\mathbb{I}}$. This is where we use the fact that the interval \mathbb{I} is **tiny**.

3(ii). The universal fibration $\dot{U} \rightarrow U$

Now let U be the type of fibration structures on $\dot{V} \rightarrow V$,

$$U = \text{Fib}(\dot{V}) \rightarrow V.$$

Then define $\dot{U} \rightarrow U$ by pulling back the universal small map:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \dot{U} & \longrightarrow & \dot{V} \\ \downarrow & \lrcorner & \downarrow \\ U & \longrightarrow & V \end{array}$$

3(ii). The universal fibration $\dot{U} \rightarrow U$

Since $\text{Fib}(-)$ is stable under pullback, the lower square below is a pullback.

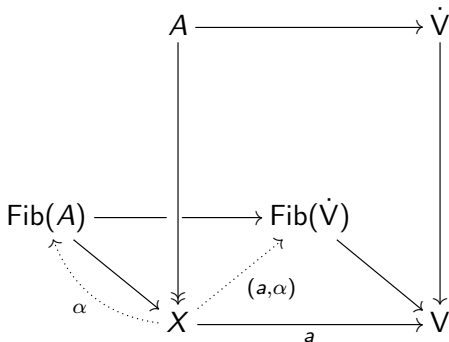
$$\begin{array}{ccc} \dot{U} & \longrightarrow & \dot{V} \\ \downarrow & \lrcorner & \downarrow \\ U & \longrightarrow & V \\ \uparrow & & \uparrow \\ \text{Fib}(\dot{U}) & \longrightarrow & \text{Fib}(\dot{V}) \end{array}$$

Since $U = \text{Fib}(\dot{V})$, there is a section of $\text{Fib}(\dot{U})$ (namely Δ_U).

So $\dot{U} \rightarrow U$ is a fibration.

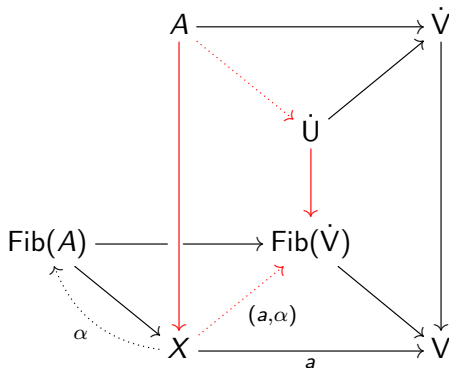
3(ii). The universal fibration $\dot{U} \rightarrow U$

A fibration structure α on a small map $A \rightarrow X$ then gives rise to a factorization (a, α) of its classifying map $a : X \rightarrow V$.



3(ii). The universal fibration $\dot{U} \rightarrow U$

A fibration structure α on a small map $A \rightarrow X$ gives rise to a factorization (a, α) of its classifying map $a : X \rightarrow V$,



which then classifies it as a fibration, since $\text{Fib}(\dot{V}) = U$.

3(ii). The universal fibration $\dot{U} \rightarrow U$ in type theory

The type of fibration structures $\text{Fib}(A)$ is an example of type-theoretic thinking.

It can be constructed as the “type of proofs that A is a fibration” using the **propositions-as-types** idea.

A fibration on X is then a pair (A, α) consisting of a small family $A : X \rightarrow V$ together with a **proof** $\alpha : \text{Fib}(A)$ that A is a fibration.

The universal fibration $\dot{U} \rightarrow U$ is therefore

$$U = \sum_{A:V} \text{Fib}(A),$$

$$\dot{U} = \sum_{(A,\alpha):U} A.$$

3(iii). $\dot{U} \twoheadrightarrow U$ is univalent

The universal fibration $\dot{U} \twoheadrightarrow U$ is **univalent** if the type of (based) equivalences $\text{Eq} \rightarrow U$ is a trivial fibration.

(Once we have the QMS this will imply

$$\text{Id}(A, B) \simeq \text{Eq}(A, B)$$

by the interpretation of Id_U as the pathspace $U^{\mathbb{I}}$.)

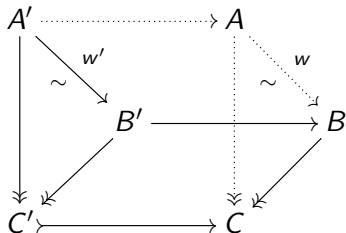
That $\text{Eq} \rightarrow U$ is in TFib means it has the RLP against \mathcal{C} :

$$\begin{array}{ccc} C' & \xrightarrow{A' \simeq B'} & \text{Eq} \\ \downarrow & \nearrow^{A \simeq B} & \downarrow \\ C & \xrightarrow{B} & U \end{array}$$

3(iii). $\dot{U} \rightarrow U$ is univalent

Definition (EEP)

The **equivalence extension property** says that weak equivalences extend along cofibrations $C' \rightarrow C$ as follows: given fibrations $A' \rightarrow C'$ and $B \rightarrow C$ and a weak equivalence $w' : A' \simeq B'$, where $B' = C' \times_C B$,



there is a fibration $A \rightarrow C$ and a weak equivalence $w : A \simeq B$, which pulls back to w' .

3(iii). $\dot{U} \twoheadrightarrow U$ is univalent

Voevodsky proved this for simplicial sets and Kan fibrations, to give the following.

Theorem (Voevodsky)

There is a universal small Kan fibration $\dot{U} \twoheadrightarrow U$ in simplicial sets that is univalent.

Coquand later gave a constructive proof for cubical sets, using type theoretic reasoning.

We have adapted Coquand's proof to a new homotopical one that holds in many QMCs (without using 2-of-3).

3(iv). \mathcal{U} is fibrant

From univalence, we can show that the base object \mathcal{U} is fibrant.

Theorem

The universe \mathcal{U} is fibrant.

Voevodsky proved this directly for Kan simplicial sets using *minimal fibrations*, which are specific to that setting.

Shulman gave a general proof from univalence, but it uses 2-of-3 for \mathcal{W} , and so cannot be used here.

Coquand gave a proof from univalence that avoids 2-of-3, using a type theoretic reduction of fibrancy to *Kan composition*.

We have a new general proof from univalence that avoids 2-of-3.

3(iv). U is fibrant

It suffices to show:

Proposition

The evaluation at an endpoint $U^{\mathbb{I}} \rightarrow U$ is a trivial fibration.

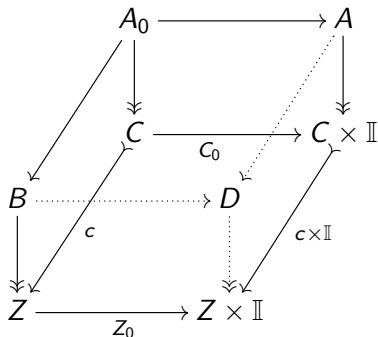
Proof.

We need to solve the following filling problem for any cofibration c .

$$\begin{array}{ccc} C & \xrightarrow{a} & U^{\mathbb{I}} \\ \downarrow c & \nearrow \text{dotted} & \downarrow U^{\delta} \\ Z & \xrightarrow{b} & U \end{array}$$

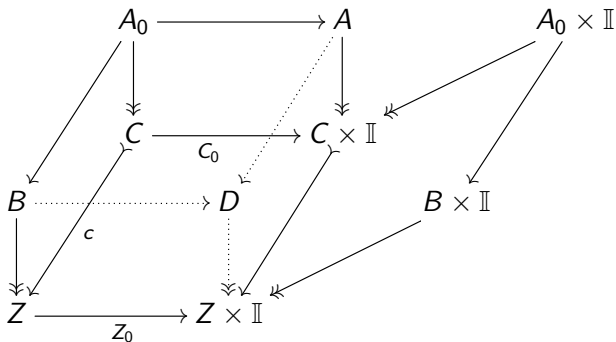
3(iv). U is fibrant

Transposing by \mathbb{I} and using the classifying property of U gives the following equivalent problem.



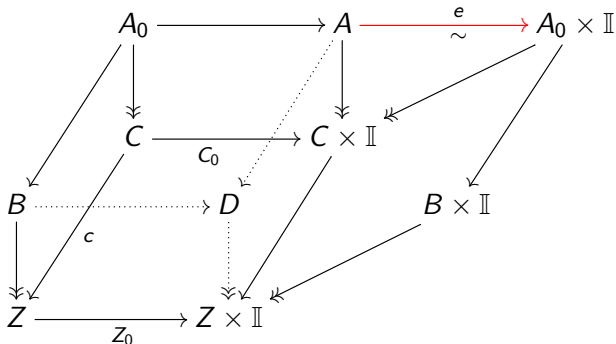
3(iv). U is fibrant

Now apply the functor $(-)\times \mathbb{I}$ to the left face to get:



3(iv). U is fibrant

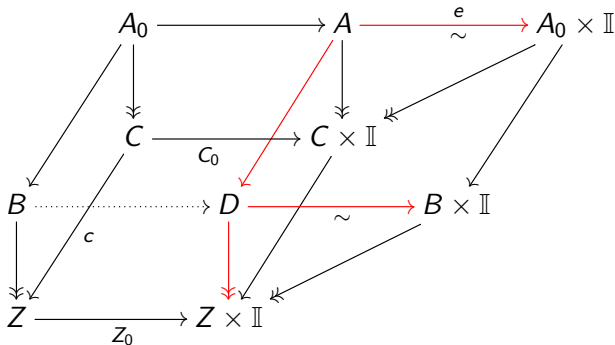
Now apply the functor $(-)\times\mathbb{I}$ to the left face to get:



There is a weak equivalence $e : A \xrightarrow{\sim} A_0 \times \mathbb{I}$, to which we can apply the EEP.

3(iv). U is fibrant

Now apply the functor $(-)\times \mathbb{I}$ to the left face to get:



There is a weak equivalence $e : A \simeq A_0 \times \mathbb{I}$, to which we can apply the EEP. This produces the required fibration $D \twoheadrightarrow Z \times \mathbb{I}$. \square

3(v). From U fibrant to 2-of-3 for \mathcal{W}

Finally, we can apply the following.

Proposition (Sattler)

The weak equivalences satisfy 2-of-3 if the fibrations extend along the trivial cofibrations.

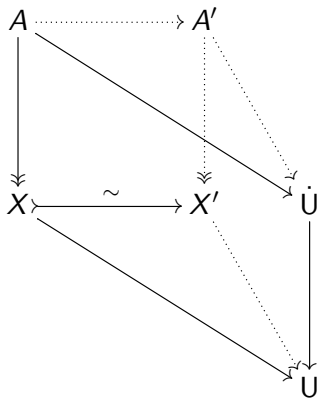
$$\begin{array}{ccc} A & \cdots\longrightarrow & A' \\ \downarrow \lrcorner & & \downarrow \\ X & \xrightarrow{\sim} & X' \end{array}$$

This is called the **fibration extension property**.

3(v). From \mathcal{U} fibrant to 2-of-3 for \mathcal{W}

Lemma

Given a universal fibration $\dot{\mathcal{U}} \rightarrow \mathcal{U}$, the FEP holds if \mathcal{U} is fibrant.



Danke!

Some References

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