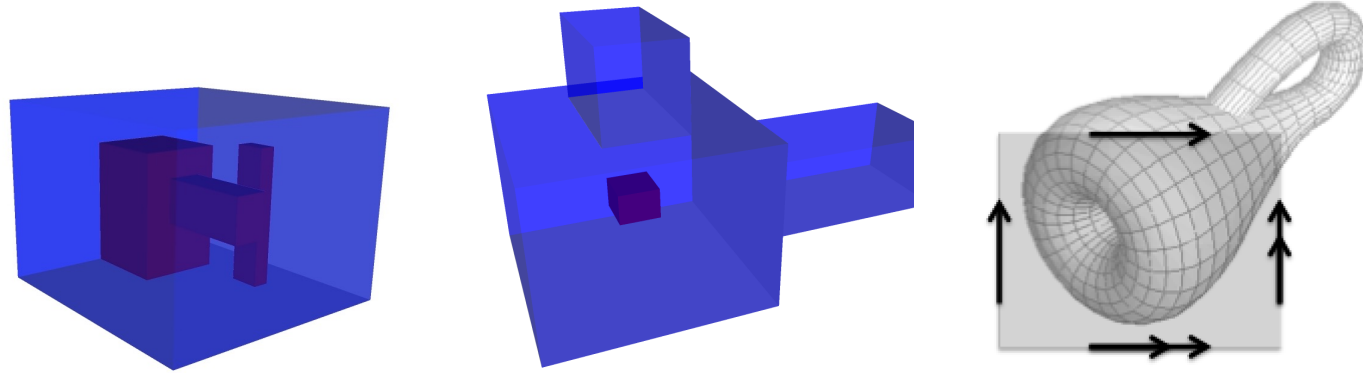


# cubical directed homotopy

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CMU HoTT Seminar 03/01/24



# I. homotopy theories of categories



# category theory

$$F : \mathcal{X} \rightleftarrows \mathcal{Y} : G \quad GF \cong 1_{\mathcal{X}} \quad FG \cong 1_{\mathcal{Y}}$$

**THM** There exists a model structure on  $\text{Cat}$  in which ...

1. .... weak equivalences are the categorical equivalences
2. .... cofibrations are those functors that are injective on objects

# classical homotopy

$$F : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{Y} \quad BF : B\mathcal{X} \simeq B\mathcal{Y}$$

**THM** There exists a model structure on  $\text{Cat}$  whose weak equivalences are those functors that induce classical weak equivalences between nerves

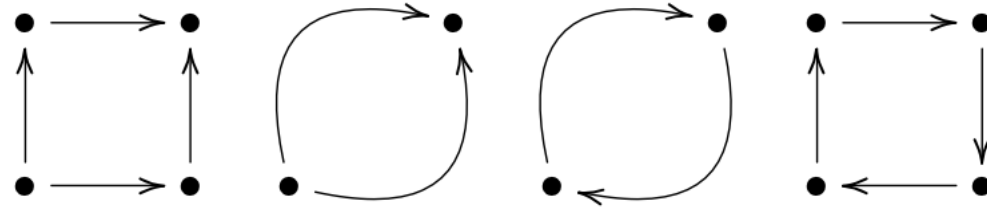
# directed homotopy

$$F : \mathcal{X} \rightleftarrows \mathcal{Y} : G \quad FG \rightarrow \cdots \leftarrow 1_{\mathcal{X}} \quad GF \rightarrow \cdots \leftarrow 1_{\mathcal{Y}}$$

**DEF** A directed equivalence between small categories is a functor which is an isomorphism up to zig-zags of natural transformations.

**PROP** Cat is a  $\Lambda$ -**cofibration** category.

# comparison of homotopy theories



groupoid/Thomason type



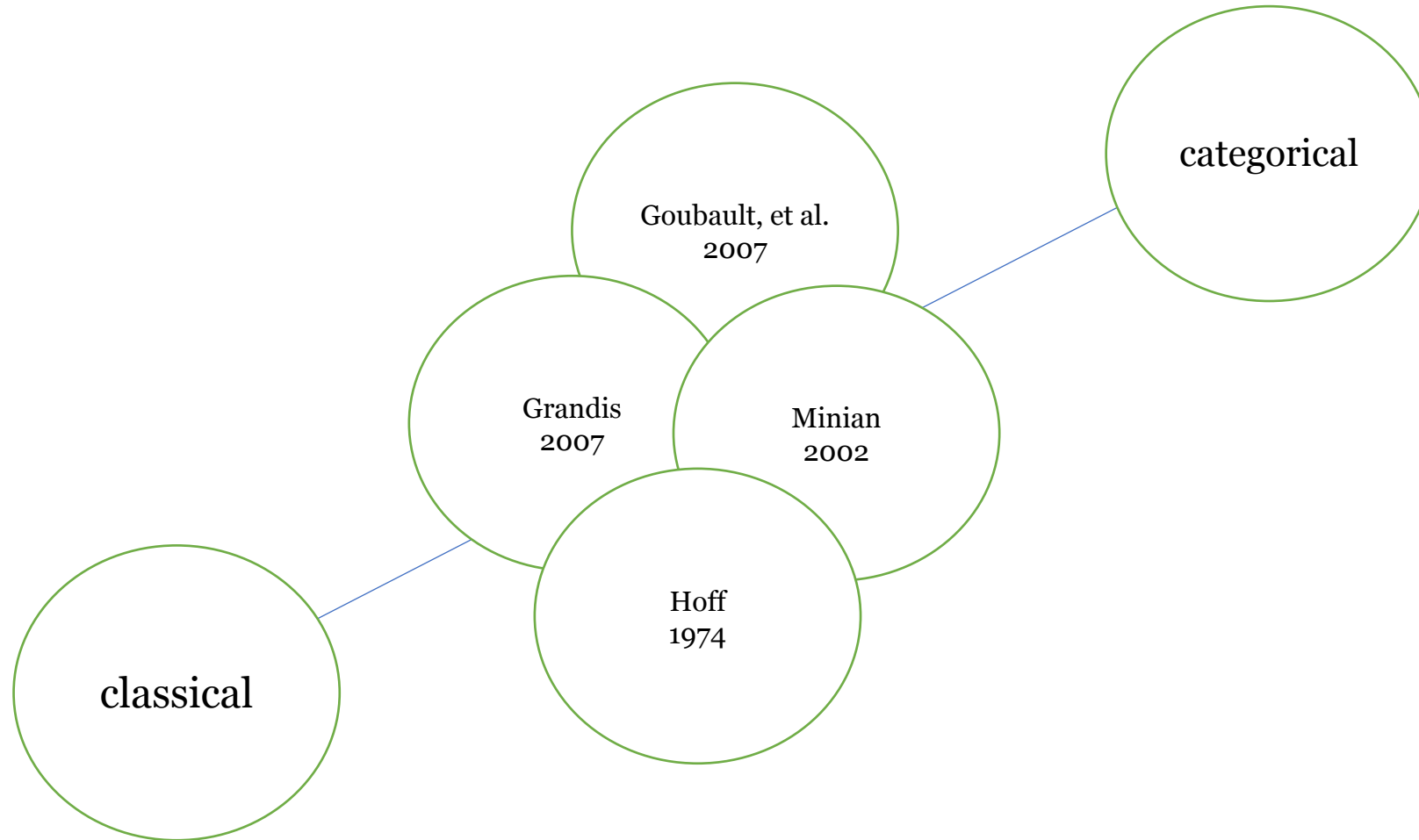
directed types

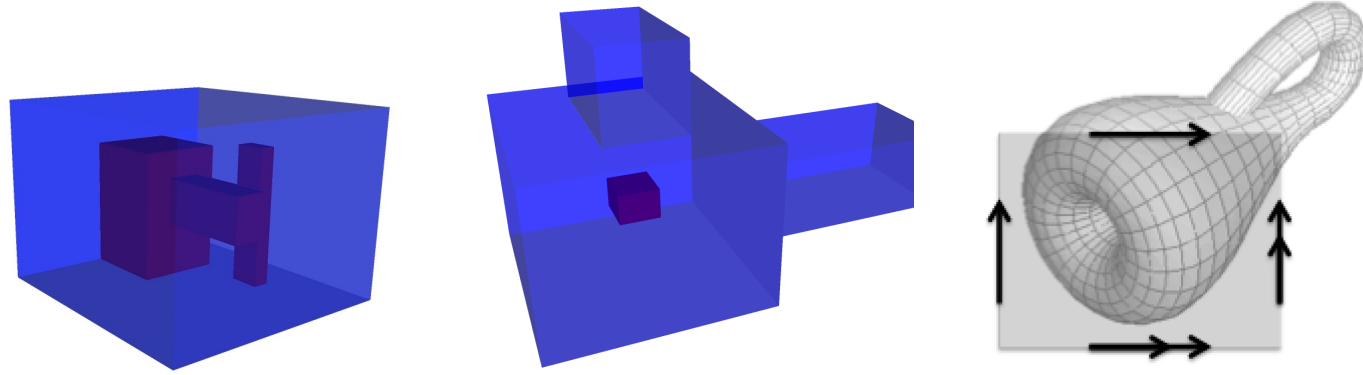


categorical types



# an island of technical difficulties





## II. directed topology



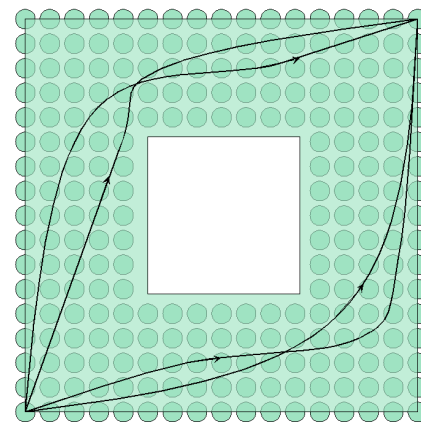
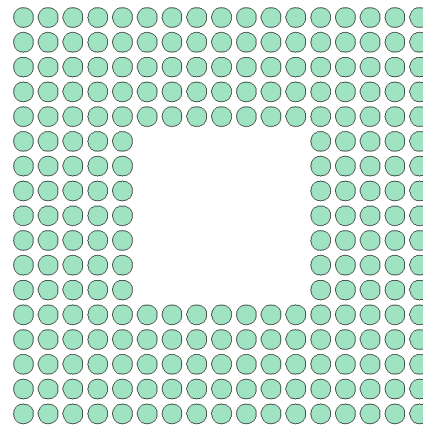
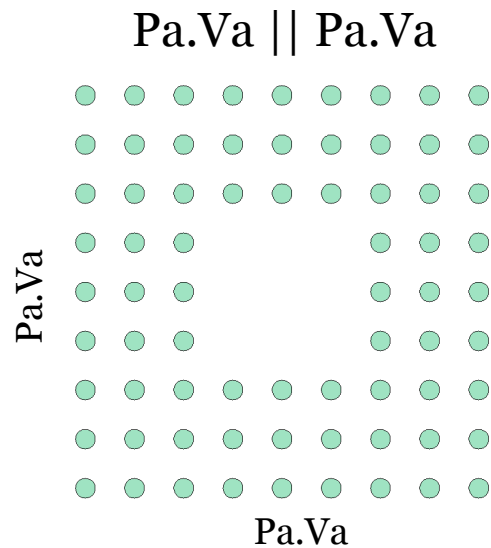
# subdivision invariant state spaces

$$\langle \text{expr} \rangle ::= P.\langle \text{var} \rangle$$

$$= V.\langle \text{var} \rangle$$

$$| \langle \text{expr} \rangle.\langle \text{expr} \rangle$$

$$| \langle \text{expr} \rangle \parallel \langle \text{expr} \rangle$$



# unpredictable behavior

40



START

LET X=4

LET X=X+4

PRINT X



START

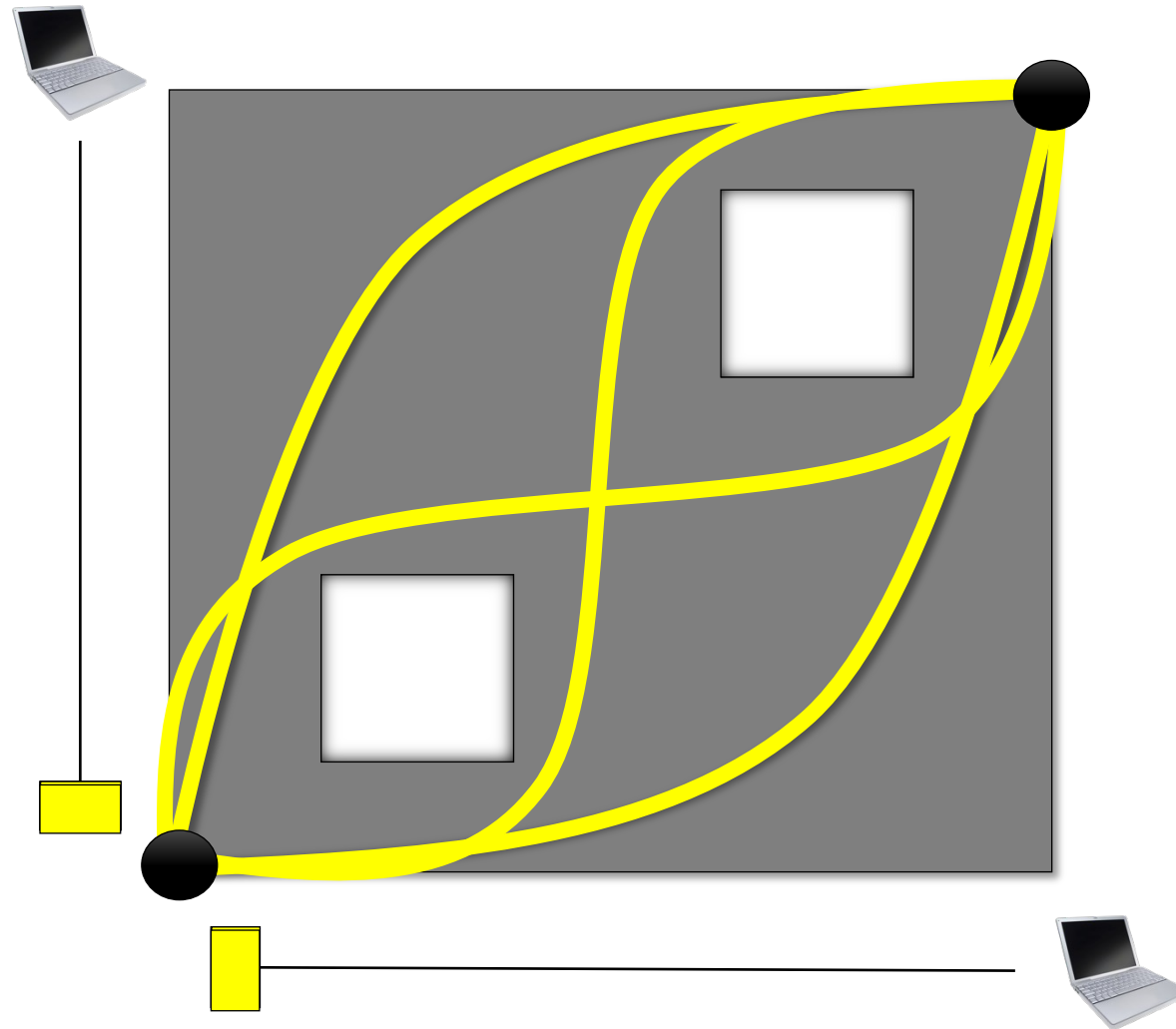
LET X=1

LET X=5X

PRINT X

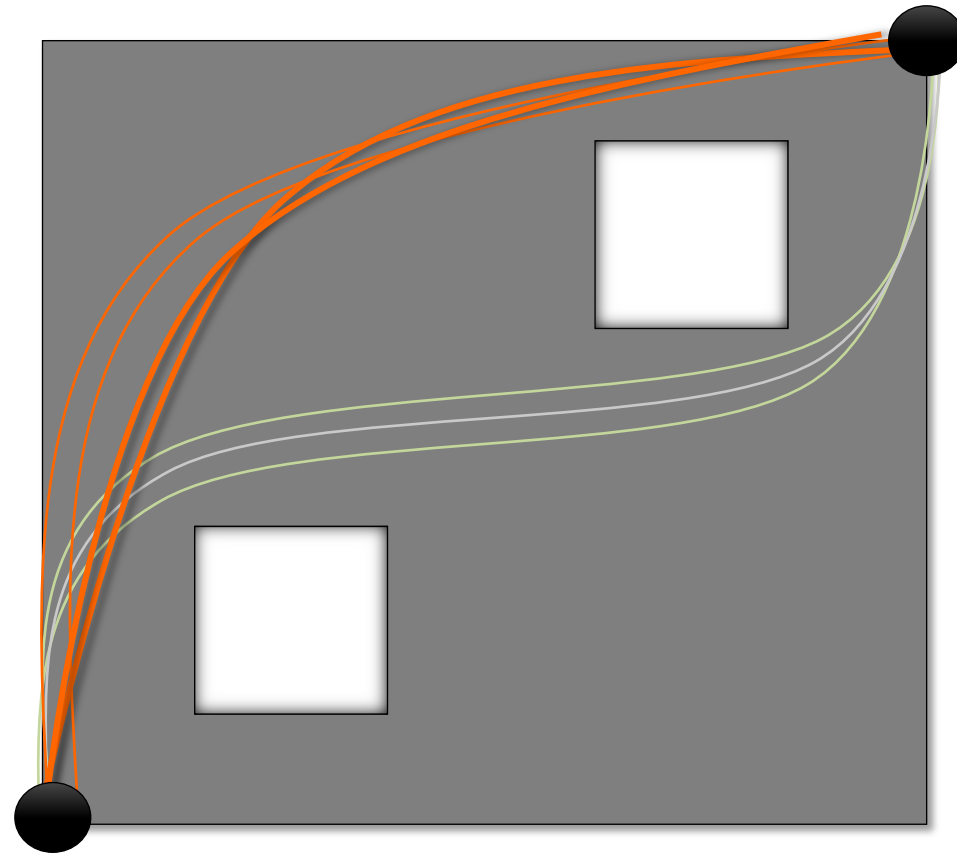
# directed paths as executions

stream maps from  $[0,1]$



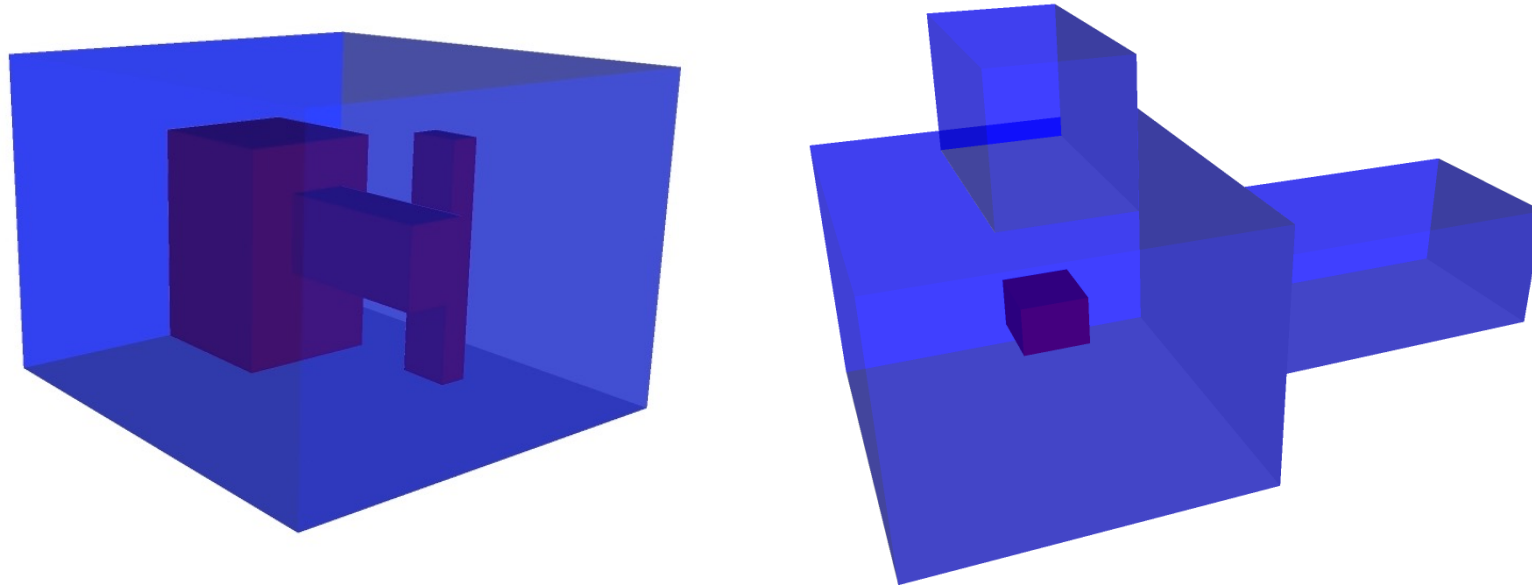
# behavior up to homotopy

homotopies through paths in time



Paths homotopic through paths in time relative endpoints represent qualitatively equivalent behavior.

# more state spaces



some state spaces of 3 concurrent processes

# streams

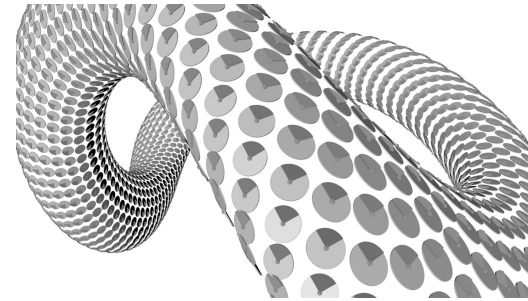
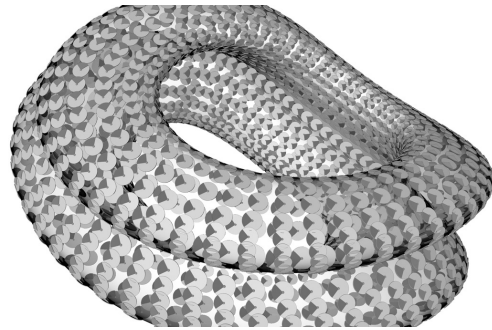
A *stream* is a space  $X$  equipped with a function

$$U \mapsto \leq_U$$

assigning to each open subset  $U$  a preorder  $\leq_U$  on  $U$  such that the assignment sends unions to transitive closures of unions.

# streams in nature

spacetime: open normal  $U$  gets assigned the causal order



# streams in nature

**THM** Every compact Hausdorff connected topological lattice  $X$  has the unique structure of a stream in which the preorder on  $X$  is the lattice order on  $X$ .

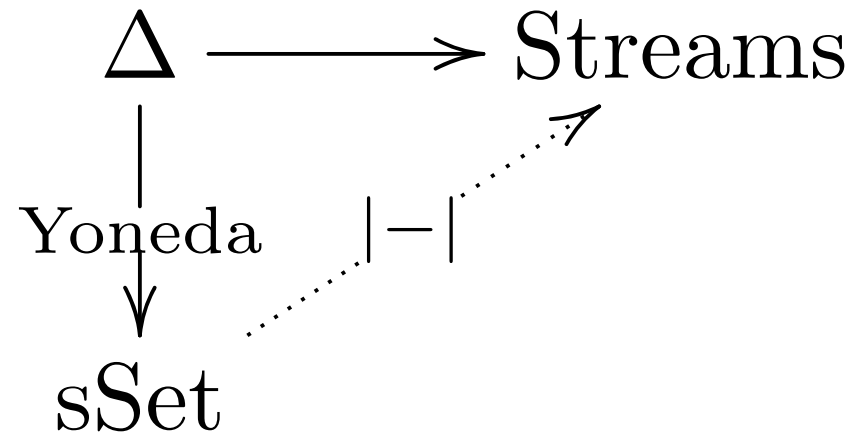
**EG** topological simplices with lattice operations

$$|\text{ner}(\min : [n]^2 \rightarrow [n])|, |\text{ner}(\max : [n]^2 \rightarrow [n])| : |\Delta[n]|^2 \rightarrow |\Delta[n]|$$

**EG** topological cubes with product orders

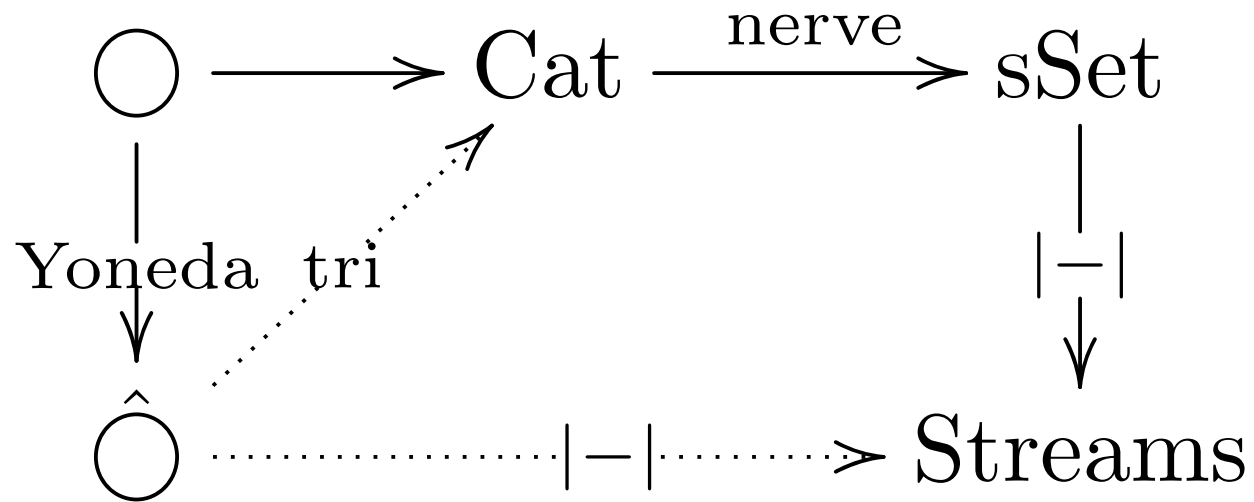


# stream realizations



stream realization functor: left Kan extension

# stream realizations

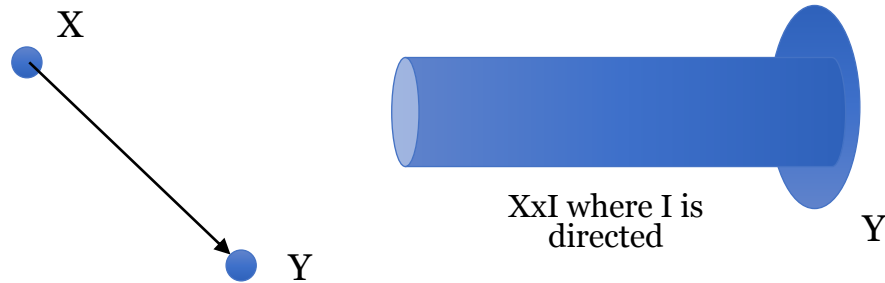


stream realization extends to presheaves over a small subcategory  $\text{O} \subset \text{Cat}$

# streams in nature

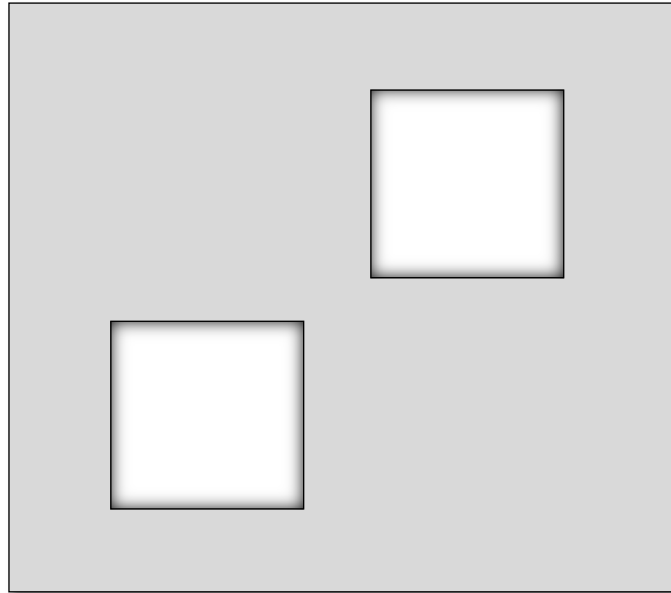
**EG** stream realizations of nerves of small categories

**EG** more general homotopy colimits of dynamical systems

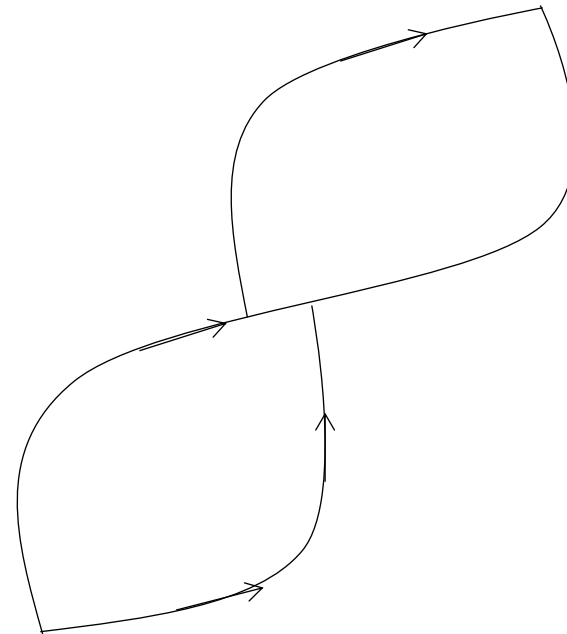


# directed homotopy equivalence

dihomotopy equivalence = stream map with inverse up to **directed homotopy**

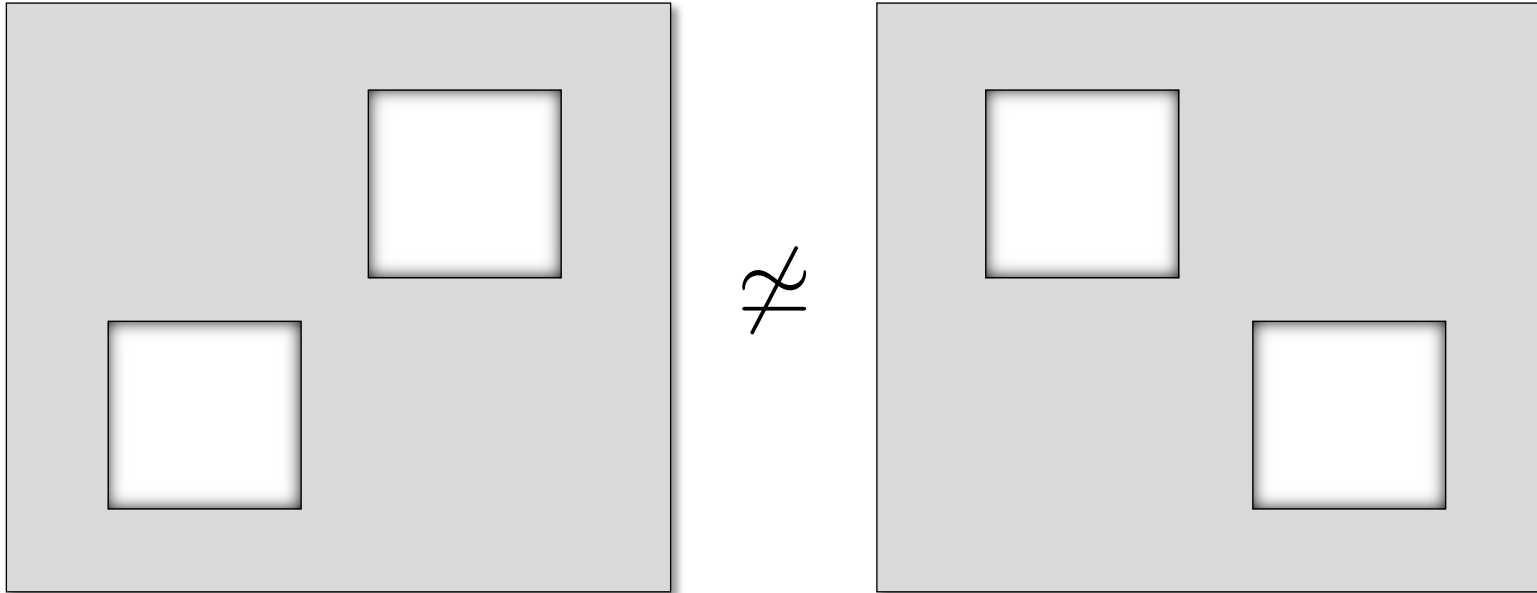


$\simeq$



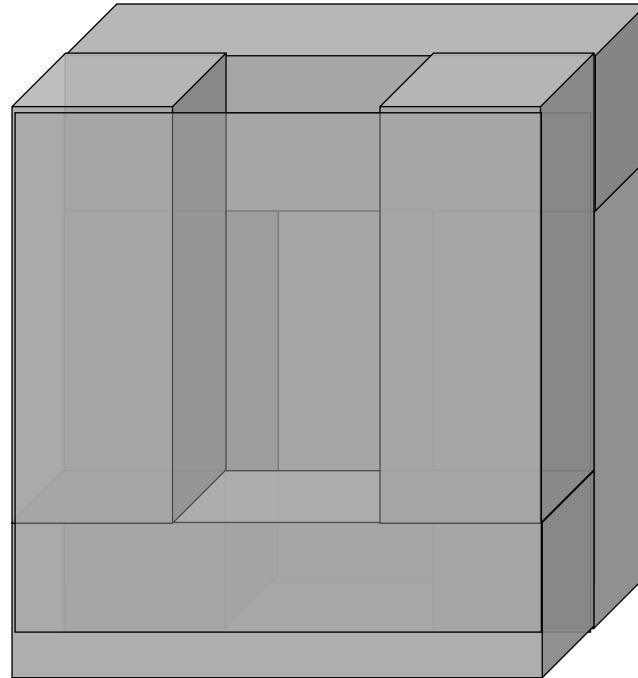
state spaces of systems with similar qualitative features

# directed homotopy types



homeomorphic but not dihomotopy equivalent

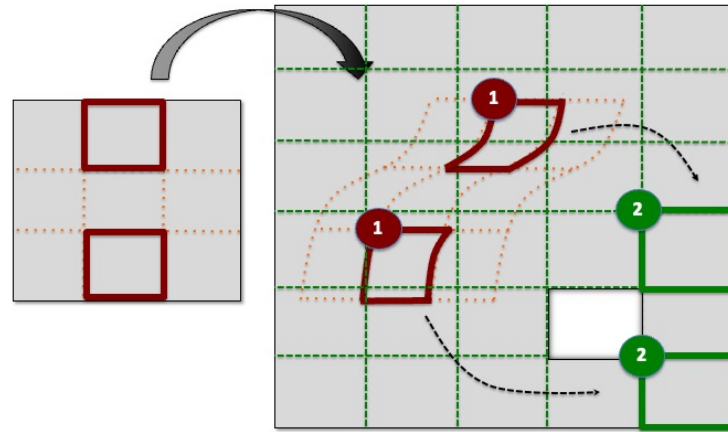
# directed homotopy types



$\neq$  ●

contractible but not dicontractible

# indecomposability of directed homotopy types



inclusion of cubes in an iterated subdivision of cubes almost never has the homotopy extension property

directed spaces do not decompose into directed homotopy colimits of simple cells

# no known Whitehead Theorem

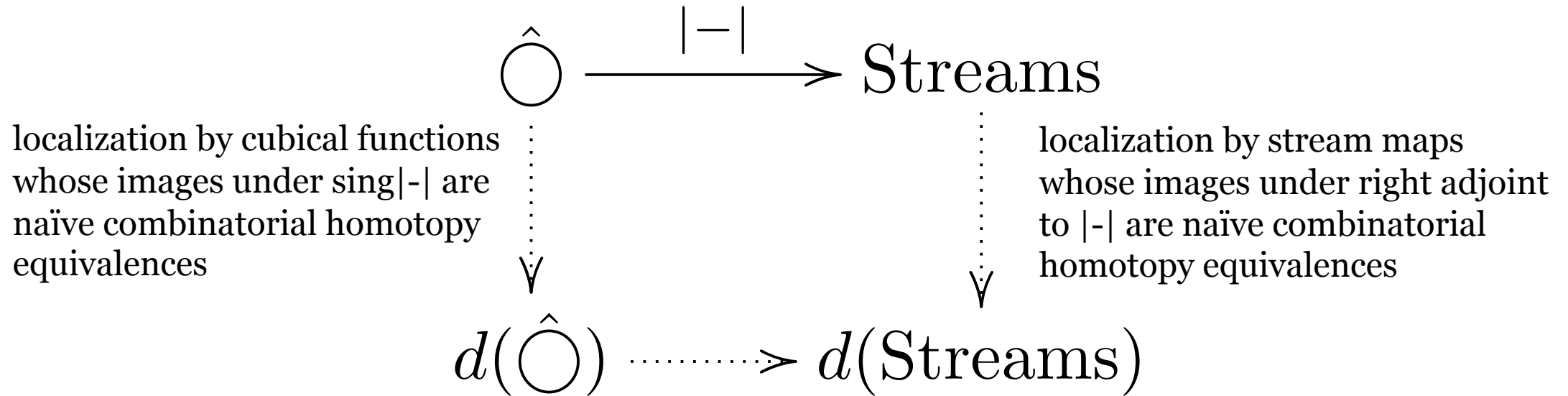
There is no known directed homotopy invariant  $\pi_*$  such that

$$\pi_*(f) : \pi_*(X) \rightarrow \pi_*(Y)$$

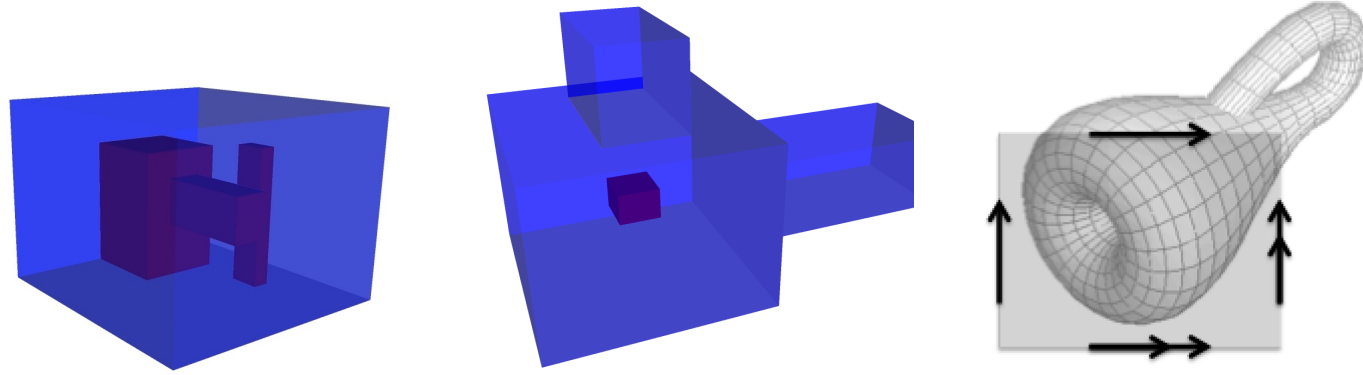
is an isomorphism if and only if  $f$  is a directed homotopy equivalence and  $\pi_*$  is compactly supported, for all stream maps  $f$  between streams in nature.



# fundamental questions



When do localizations exist? When is there a bottom equivalence?



### III. cubical sets

# working category of cubes $\square$

minimal symmetric monoidal variant: cofaces, codegeneracies, coordinate permutations

**THM** TFAE for a monotone function  $\varphi:[1]^m \rightarrow [1]^n$ :

1.  $\varphi$  is a morphism in  $\square$
2.  $\varphi$  is an interval-preserving lattice homomorphism  
(between finite Boolean lattices)

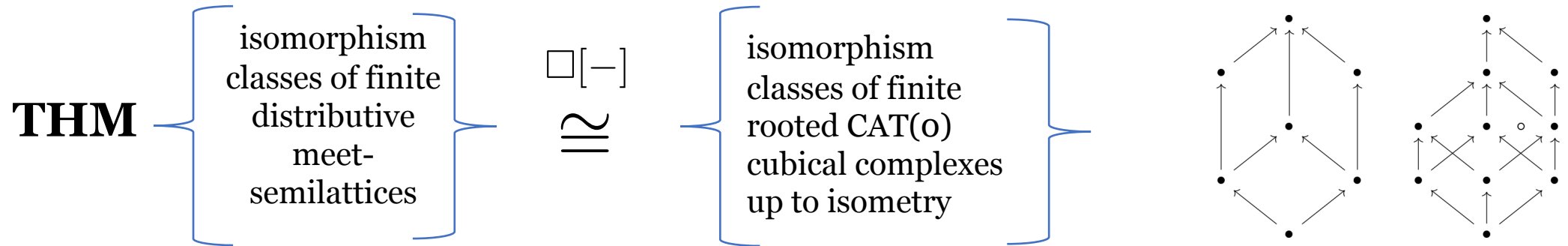
cubical sets = cubical sets with symmetries = presheaves over  $\square$

# examples

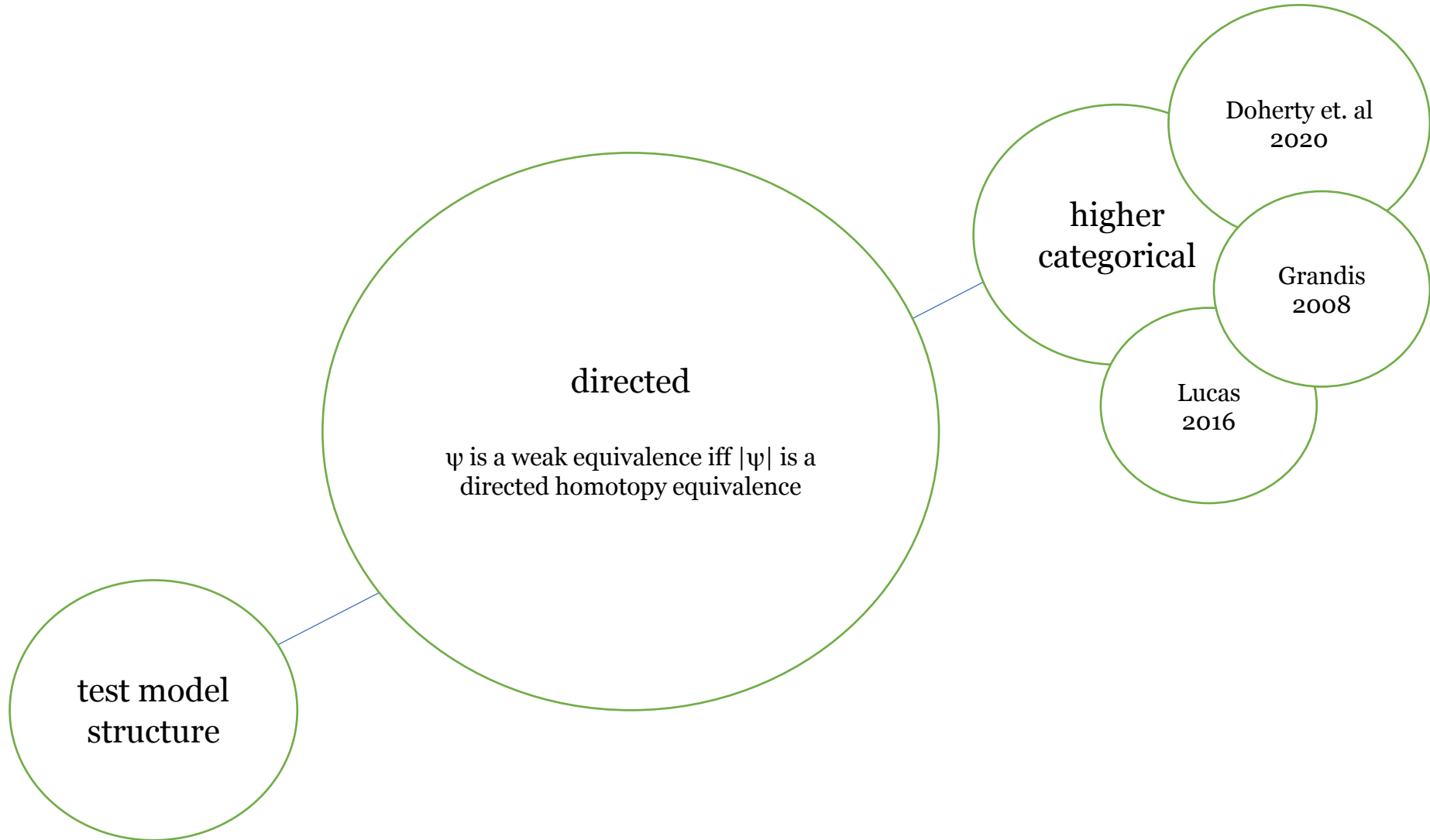
- 1 cubical nerves of small categories
- 2 singular cubical sets of streams
- 3 edge-oriented cubical complexes

# example: Boolean intervals

$\square[P] =$  cubical set of interval-preserving monotone functions  $[1]^n \rightarrow P$

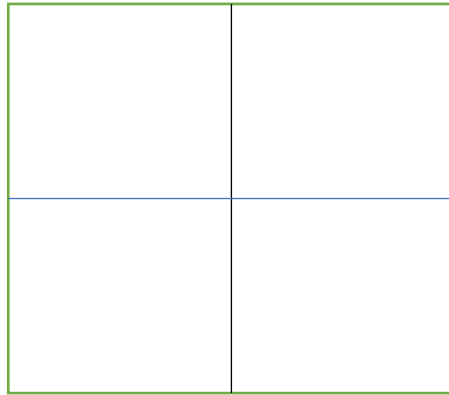


# cubical homotopy theories



# subdivisions

cocontinuous endofunctor  $\text{sd}$  on  $\text{cSet}$  with  $\text{sd}\square[1]^n = \square[2]^n = \square([1]^n)^{[1]}$



$\text{sd}\square[1]^2$

# convenient properties of subdivision

**LEM** Fix a cubical set  $C$ . There exist dotted cubical functions making

$$\begin{array}{ccc} S & \cdots \twoheadrightarrow & \square[1]^n \\ \updownarrow & & \vdots \\ \text{sd}^4 C & \longrightarrow & C \end{array}$$

commute and natural in subcubical sets  $S$  of  $\text{sd}^4 C$  that lie in the closed Star of a vertex.

**LEM** There exist **natural** stream isomorphisms  $|\text{sd} C| \cong |C|$



# cubical approximation

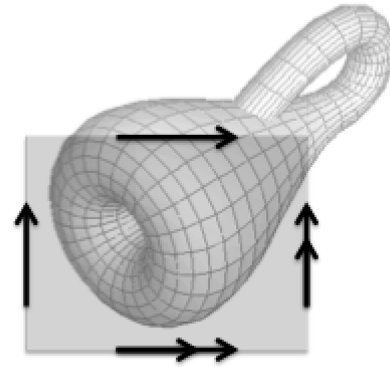
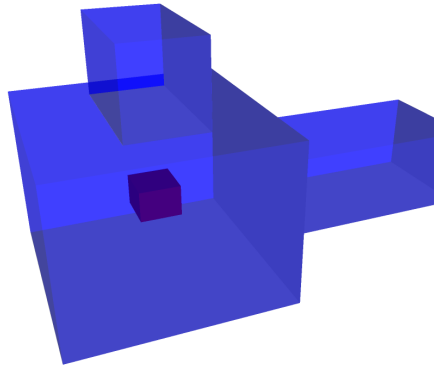
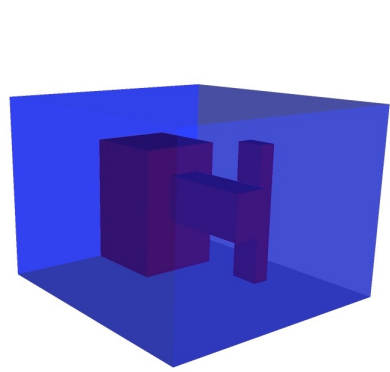
**THM** Fix cubical sets  $A, B$  **with  $A$  finite**. For each stream map

$$f: |A| \rightarrow |B|$$

$f$  is directed homotopic to a stream map  $|A \rightarrow B|$  after replacing  $A$  with  $\text{sd}^k A$  for  $k$  sufficiently large.

**PROOF**

- ① After sufficiently many subdivisions,  $f$  maps cubes into stars.
- ② Then  $f$  locally lifts to a directed cube.
- ③ Convex structure gives requisite homotopies.



## IV. cubcats

# definition

cubcat = cubical set  $C$  admitting structure maps

$$\operatorname{colim}_{\square[1]^n \rightarrow C} \operatorname{sing} |\square[1]^n| \xrightarrow{\nu_C} C \quad \operatorname{ex} C \xrightarrow{\mu_C} C$$

where  $\operatorname{ex}$  is right adjoint to  $\operatorname{sd}$

satisfying a compatibility condition

$$\begin{array}{ccc} C & \xrightarrow{1_C} & C \\ \downarrow & & \uparrow \mu_C \\ \operatorname{ex} \operatorname{colim}_{\square[1]^n \rightarrow C} \operatorname{sing} |\square[1]^n| & \xrightarrow{\operatorname{ex} \nu_C} & \operatorname{ex} C \end{array}$$

# examples

**THM** cubical nerves are cubcats

**THM** singular cubical sets of streams are cubcats

**THM** test fibrant cubical sets are cubically homotopy equivalent to cubcats

# dictionary

test fibrant cubical sets

eg: nerves of small groupoids

every cubical set is test  
fibrant up to classical weak  
equivalence

$$h(\mathbf{cSet})(A, B) = h(\mathbf{Top})(|A|, |B|) = \pi_0 B^A$$

for test fibrant B

cubcats

eg: nerves of small categories

every cubical set is a cubcat  
up to directed weak  
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$$d(\mathbf{cSet})(A, B) = d(\mathbf{Streams})(|A|, |B|) = \pi_0 B^A$$

for cubcats B

# dictionary

test fibrant cubical sets

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cubcats

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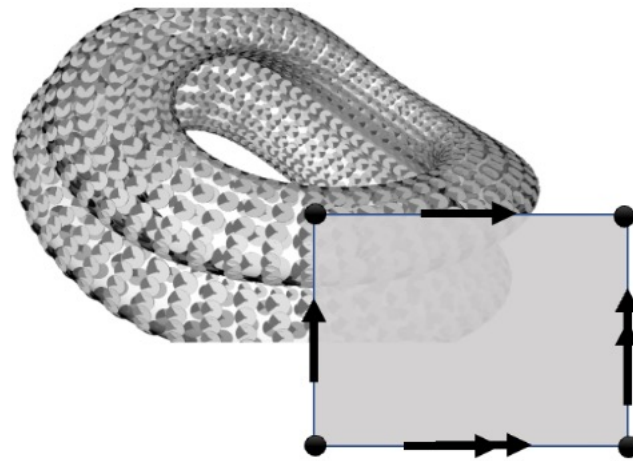
$$d(\text{cSet})(A, B) = d(\text{Streams})(|A|, |B|) = \pi_0 B^A$$

for cubcats B

**requires an analogue  
of Reedy cofibrant  
replacement**

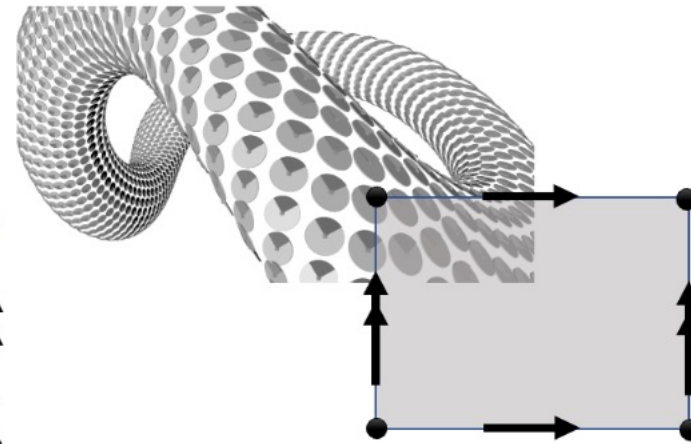
# 1-cohomology $H^1(-;M)=[-, |BM|]$

spacetime Klein bottle



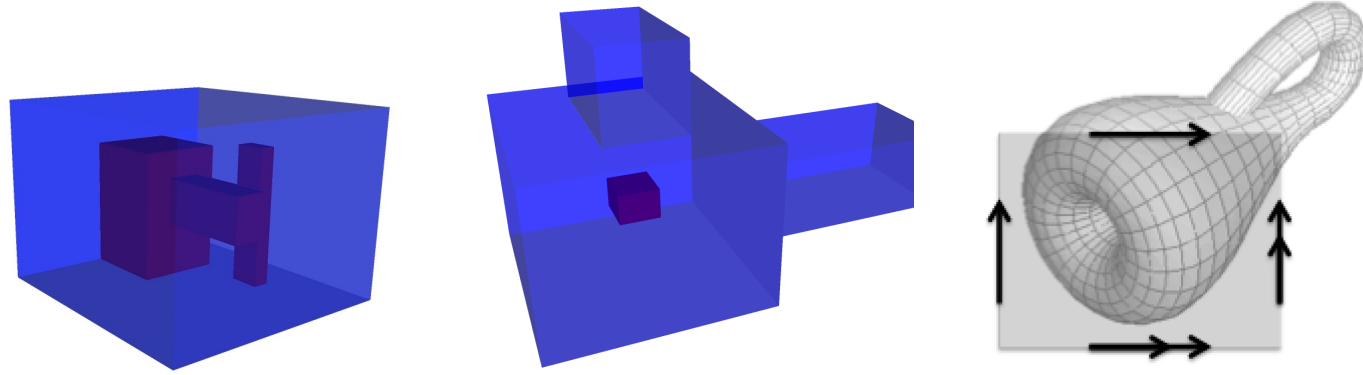
$$M \times_{2M} M$$

spacetime torus



$$M \oplus M$$

for cancellative commutative monoid coefficients  $M$

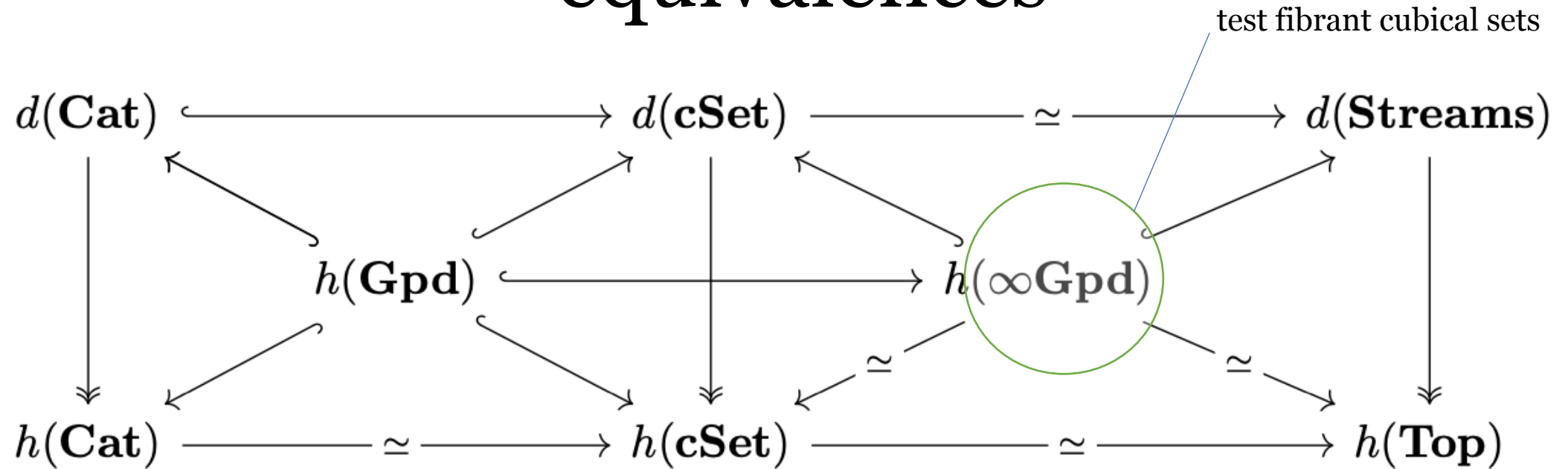


V. big picture





# equivalences



Directed homotopy theory both refines and extends classical homotopy theory.