

# Data Structures for Semistrict Higher Categories

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Compositionality Workshop  
Simons Institute, University of California, Berkeley, USA  
5 December 2016

# Higher-dimensional algebra

Ordinary algebra lets us compose along a line:

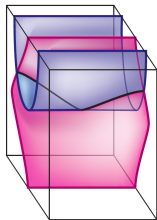
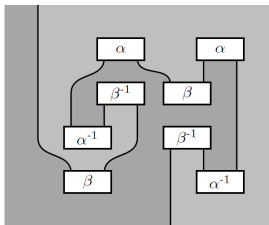
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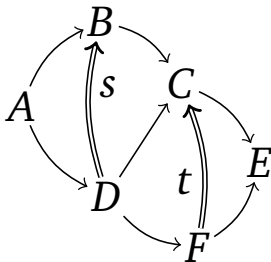
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*Higher-dimensional* algebra lets us compose in the plane, or in higher dimensions:



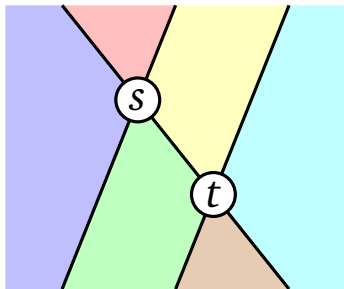
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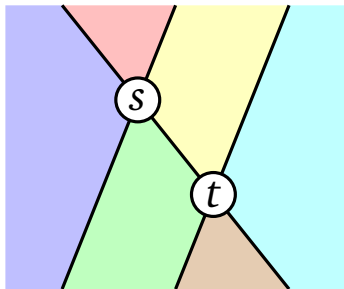
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The graphical calculus representation is the *dual* diagram.

We expect  $n$ -categories to have an  $n$ -dimensional graphical calculus.

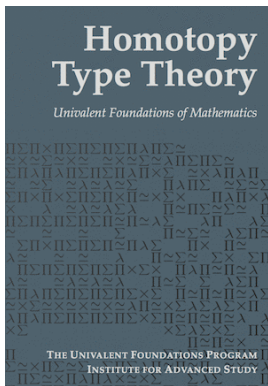
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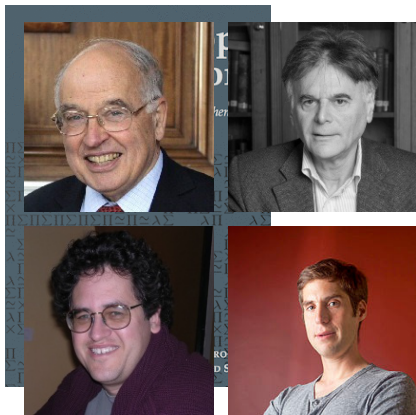
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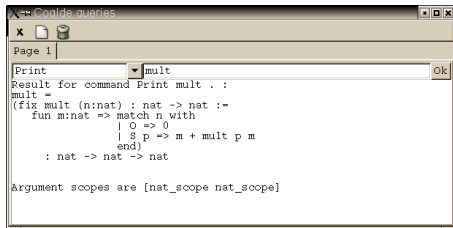
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Proof assistants like Coq and Agda can't always help, because they use 1-dimensional algebra.

We need an alternative that brings out higher category theory's geometrical essence.



```
CoqIDE queries
x [ ] [ ] [ ]
Page 1
Print mult
Result for command Print mult . :
mult =
(fun mult (n:nat) : nat -> nat :=
  fun m:nat => match n with
  | 0 => 0
  | S p => m + mult p m
  end)
: nat -> nat -> nat

Argument scopes are [nat_scope nat_scope]
```

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- ▶ Supports proofs up to the level of semistrict 4-categories.

# Signature and diagram structures

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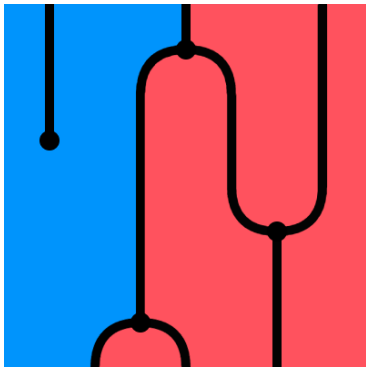
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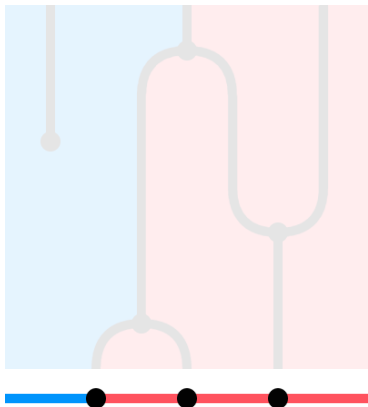
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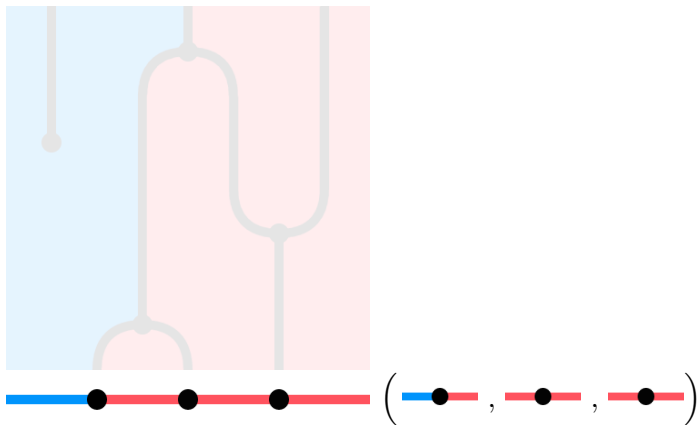
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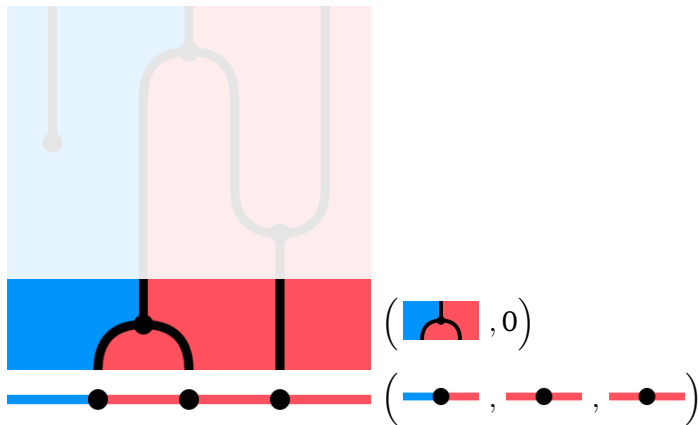
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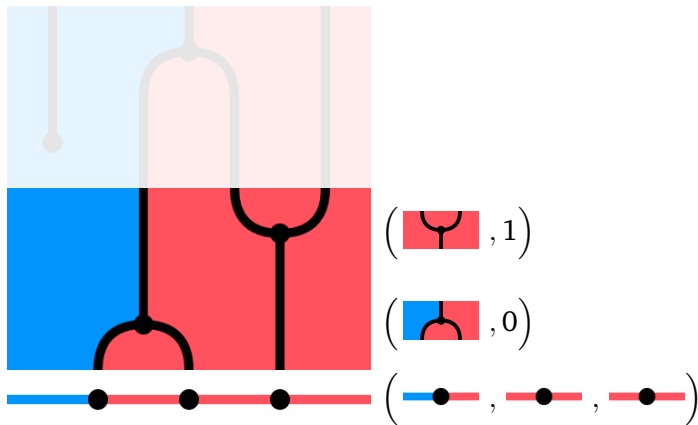
$((\text{blue dot}, \text{red dot}, \text{red dot}), ((\text{blue arc}, 0)))$






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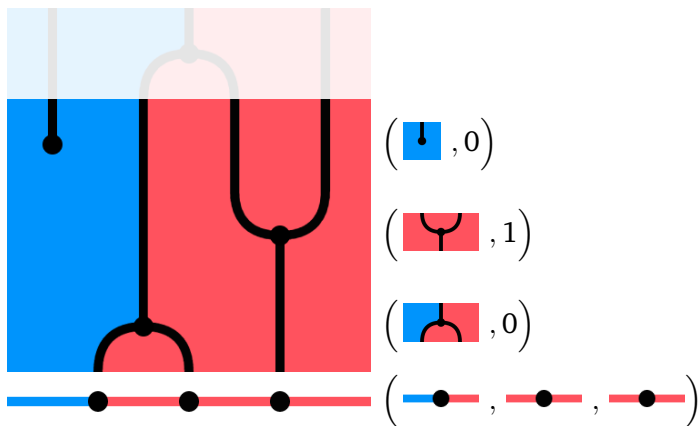
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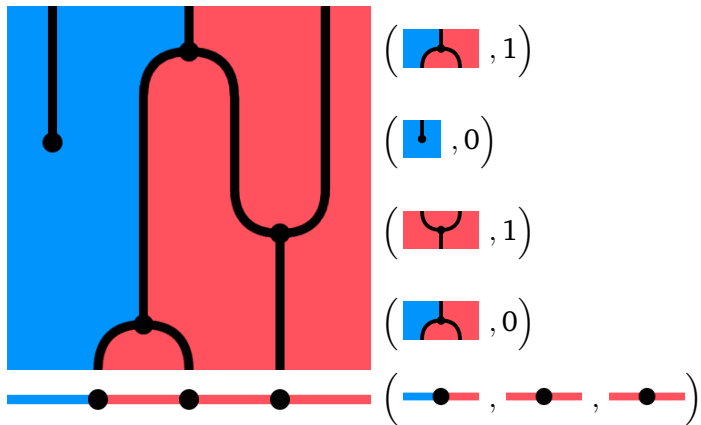
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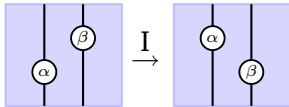


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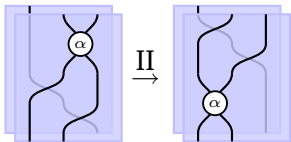
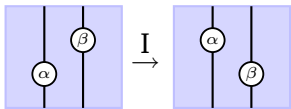
# Homotopies

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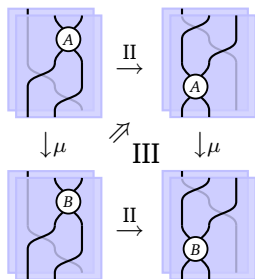
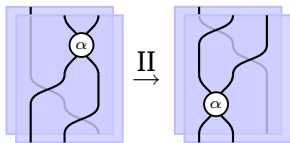
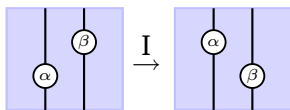
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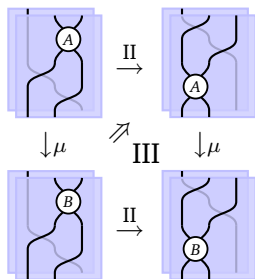
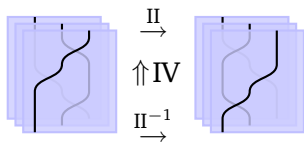
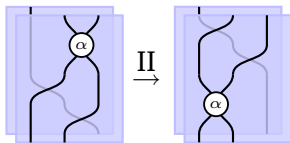
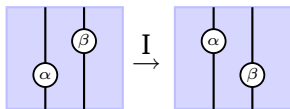
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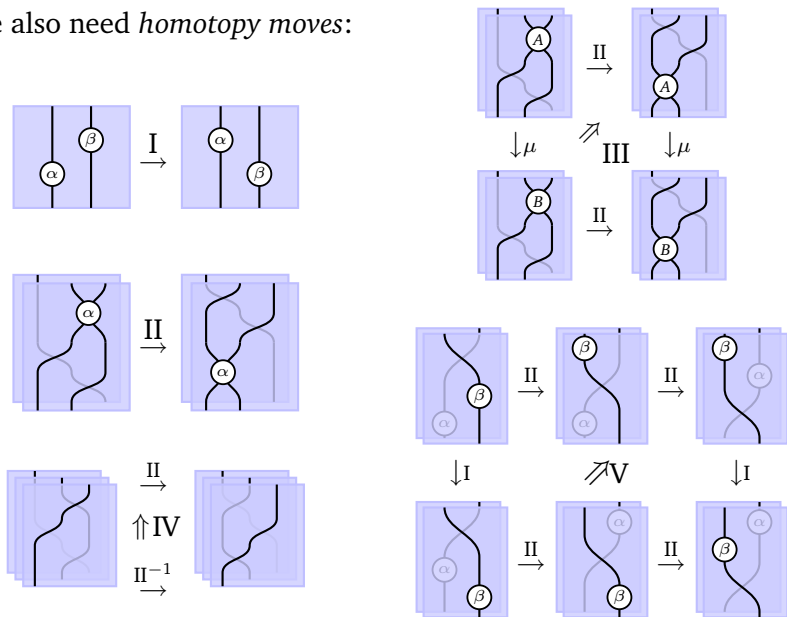
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**Thank you!**