

# Weakly Globular Double Categories

Dorette Pronk (joint work with Simona Paoli)

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Progress in Higher Categories  
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Tamsamani weak  
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# Outline

## Weakly Globular Double Categories

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### Weak 2-Categories

- Bicategories

- Tamsamani weak 2-categories

- Weakly globular double categories

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### The Correspondence between Bicat and WGDbl

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### The Weakly Globular Double Category of Fractions

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# Bicategories

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- ▶ We are considering models for a **2-category** of **weak 2-categories**.
- ▶ Our first model is the 2-category  $\mathbf{Bicat}_{\mathbf{icon}}$  of
  - ▶ Objects: **Bicategories**
  - ▶ Arrows: **Normal Homomorphisms**
  - ▶ 2-Cells: **Icons** (identity component pseudo natural transformations)

# Bicategories

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# The 2-Nerve

## Definition (Lack-Paoli, 2008)

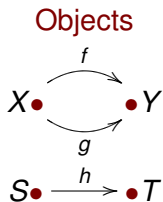
The 2-nerve of a bicategory,  $N(\mathcal{B}) : \Delta^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat}$ :

- 0-simplices  $N(\mathcal{B})_0$ : the discrete category  $\mathcal{B}_0$

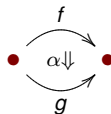
$\bullet X \quad \bullet Y$

$\text{id} \curvearrowright \bullet X \quad \text{id} \curvearrowright \bullet Y$

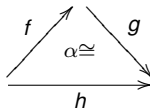
- 1-simplices  $N(\mathcal{B})_1$ :



Arrows



- 2-simplices  $N(\mathcal{B})_2$  has objects



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# The 2-Nerve [Lack-Paoli, 2008]

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- ▶ This 2-nerve  $N$  is the object part of a fully faithful 2-functor

$$N: \mathbf{Bicat}_{\text{icon}} \rightarrow [\Delta^{\text{op}}, \mathbf{Cat}]$$

which has a left biadjoint.

- ▶  $N(\mathcal{B})$  is a Tamsamani weak 2-category.

## Theorem (Lack-Paoli, 2008)

*There is a 2-adjoint biequivalence*

$$\mathbf{Bicat}_{\text{icon}} \simeq \mathbf{Ta}_2.$$

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# Tamsamani Weak 2-Categories

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This leads to our second model: **Ta<sub>2</sub>**

- Objects:

$$X_* : \Delta^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat}$$

such that

- $X_0$  is **discrete**
- the **Segal maps**

$$\eta_k : X_k \rightarrow X_1 \times_{X_0} \cdots \times_{X_0} X_1$$

are **equivalences** of categories

- Arrows: **pseudo natural transformations**
- 2-Cells: **modifications**

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## Remarks

- ▶  $X_*: \Delta^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat}$  is the horizontal nerve of an internal category in  $\mathbf{Cat}$ , i.e., a **double category**, if and only if the Segal maps are isomorphisms.
- ▶ [Paoli-P] For each Tamsamani 2-category

$$X_*: \Delta^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat},$$

there is a functor

$$(RX)_*: \Delta^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat}$$

such that

- ▶  $(RX)_n \simeq X_n$  for all  $n \geq 0$
- ▶  $(RX)_k \cong (RX)_1 \times_{(RX)_0} \cdots \times_{(RX)_0} (RX)_1$
- ▶ Note: We have traded a discrete  $X_0$  and  $\text{Segal} \simeq$  for a posetal groupoid  $(RX)_0$  and  $\text{Segal} \cong$ .

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# Weakly Globular Double Categories

## Definition

A (strict) double category is **weakly globular** if it has the following properties:

- There is an equivalence of categories

$$\gamma: \mathbb{X}_0 \rightarrow \mathbb{X}_0^d,$$

where  $\mathbb{X}_0$  is the category of vertical arrows and  $\mathbb{X}_0^d$  is the discrete category of its path components.

- $\gamma$  induces an equivalence of categories, for  $n \geq 2$ ,

$$\mathbb{X}_1 \times_{\mathbb{X}_0} \cdots \times_{\mathbb{X}_0} \mathbb{X}_1 \simeq \mathbb{X}_1 \times_{\mathbb{X}_0^d} \cdots \times_{\mathbb{X}_0^d} \mathbb{X}_1$$

## Remark

The second condition is satisfied when at least one of  $d_0, d_1: \mathbb{X}_1 \rightrightarrows \mathbb{X}_0$  is an isofibration.

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This leads to our third model: **WGDbI**<sub>ps</sub>

- Objects: **Weakly globular double categories**
- Arrows: **Pseudo functors** (which correspond to pseudo natural transformations between the horizontal nerves)
- 2-Cells: **(Pseudo) Vertical transformations**

## Theorem (Paoli-P)

*There is a biequivalence*

$$\mathbf{Bicat}_{\text{Icon}} \simeq \mathbf{WGDbI}_{\text{ps}}.$$

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# Additional Structure

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There is a second 2-category structure for weakly globular double categories.

**WGDbI<sub>st</sub>** has

- ▶ Arrows: **strict functors**
- ▶ 2-Cells: **horizontal transformations**

## Remark

A 2-equivalence in **WGDbI<sub>ps</sub>** does not imply a 2-equivalence in **WGDbI<sub>st</sub>** or vice versa. So when considering universal properties we would like to have one for each direction.

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# The Biequivalence

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There are 2-functors

$$\mathbf{Bicat}_{\text{Icon}} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\text{DbI}} \\ \xleftarrow{\text{Bic}} \end{array} \mathbf{WGDbI}_{\text{ps}}$$

which form a biequivalence of 2-categories, but not an adjunction.

# The Functor **Bic**

For a double category  $\mathbb{X}$ , the **fundamental bicategory**  $\mathbf{Bic}(\mathbb{X})$  is defined by:

- **objects**  $\mathbf{Bic}(\mathbb{X})_0 = \pi_0 \mathbb{X}_0$
- $A$  in  $\mathbb{X}$  gives rise to  $\bar{A}$  in  $\mathbf{Bic}(\mathbb{X})$
- **arrows**

$$\mathrm{Hom}_{\mathbf{Bic}\mathbb{X}}(\bar{A}, \bar{B}) = \coprod_{\substack{\bar{A}' = \bar{A} \\ \bar{B}' = \bar{B}}} \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathbb{X}, h}(A', B').$$

- a **2-cell**  $\bar{A} \begin{matrix} \xrightarrow{f} \\ \alpha \Downarrow \\ \xrightarrow{g} \end{matrix} \bar{B}$  is given by a double cell

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A_1 & \xrightarrow{f} & B_1 \\ \downarrow v \bullet & \alpha & \bullet \downarrow w \\ A_2 & \xrightarrow{g} & B_2 \end{array} .$$

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# Horizontal Composition of Arrows

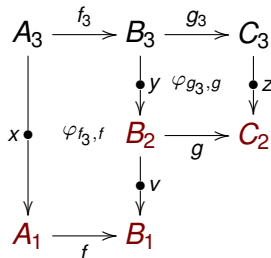
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- Recall that there is an equivalence of categories

$$\mathbb{X}_1 \times_{\mathbb{X}_0^d} \mathbb{X}_1 \simeq \mathbb{X}_1 \times_{\mathbb{X}_0} \mathbb{X}_1$$

- Horizontal composition of arrows in  $\mathbf{Bic}(\mathbb{X})$  is defined by:



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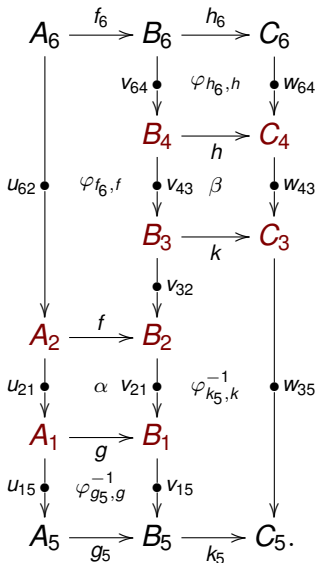
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# Horizontal Composition of 2-Cells

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# The Double Category of Marked Paths

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- ▶ Let  $\mathcal{B}$  be a bicategory.
- ▶ To define the double category  $\mathbf{Dbl}(\mathcal{B})$ , choose a composite  $A_0 \xrightarrow{\varphi_{f_1, \dots, f_n}} A_n$  for each finite path  $A_0 \xrightarrow{f_1} A_1 \xrightarrow{f_2} \dots \xrightarrow{f_n} A_n$  in  $\mathcal{B}$ .

- ▶ **Objects** of  $\mathbf{Dbl}(\mathcal{B})$  are **marked paths**

$$A_0 \xrightarrow{f_1} A_2 \xrightarrow{f_2} \dots \xrightarrow{f_{i_0}} [A_{i_0}] \xrightarrow{f_{i_0+1}} \dots \xrightarrow{f_n} A_n$$

- ▶ **Horizontal Arrows** of  $\mathbf{Dbl}(\mathcal{B})$  are **doubly marked paths**

$$A_0 \xrightarrow{f_1} A_2 \xrightarrow{f_2} \dots \xrightarrow{f_{i_0}} [A_{i_0}] \xrightarrow{f_{i_0+1}} \dots \xrightarrow{f_{i_1}} [A_{i_1}] \xrightarrow{f_{i_1+1}} \dots \xrightarrow{f_n} A_n$$

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## ► Vertical Arrows

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 A_0 & \xrightarrow{f_1} & A_2 & \xrightarrow{f_2} & \dots & \xrightarrow{f_{i_0}} & [A_{i_0}] \xrightarrow{f_{i_0+1}} \dots \xrightarrow{f_n} A_n \\
 & & & & & & \parallel \\
 B_0 & \xrightarrow{g_1} & B_2 & \xrightarrow{g_2} & \dots & \xrightarrow{g_{j_0}} & [B_{j_0}] \xrightarrow{g_{j_0+1}} \dots \xrightarrow{g_m} A_n
 \end{array}$$

## ► Double Cells

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 A_0 & \xrightarrow{f_1} & \dots & \xrightarrow{f_{i_0}} & [A_{i_0}] & \xrightarrow{f_{i_0+1}} & \dots \xrightarrow{f_{i_1}} [A_{i_1}] \xrightarrow{f_{i_1+1}} \dots \xrightarrow{f_n} A_n \\
 & & & & \parallel & \searrow \varphi_{f_{i_0+1}, \dots, f_{i_1}} & \parallel \\
 & & & & & \alpha & \\
 & & & & \parallel & \nearrow \varphi_{g_{j_0+1}, \dots, g_{j_1}} & \parallel \\
 B_0 & \xrightarrow{g_1} & \dots & \xrightarrow{g_{j_0}} & [B_{j_0}] & \xrightarrow{g_{j_0+1}} & \dots \xrightarrow{g_{j_1}} [B_{j_1}] \xrightarrow{g_{j_1+1}} \dots \xrightarrow{g_m} B_m
 \end{array}$$

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# Companions

A horizontal morphisms  $f: A \rightarrow B$  and a vertical morphism  $v: A \multimap B$  are **companions** if there exist **binding cells**

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A & \xlongequal{\quad} & A \\ \parallel & \psi & \downarrow v \\ A & \xrightarrow{f} & B \end{array} \quad \text{and} \quad \begin{array}{ccc} A & \xrightarrow{f} & B \\ v \downarrow & \chi & \parallel \\ B & \xlongequal{\quad} & B, \end{array}$$

such that

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A & \xlongequal{\quad} & A \xrightarrow{f} B \\ \parallel & \psi & \downarrow v \quad \chi \\ A & \xrightarrow{f} & B \xlongequal{\quad} B \end{array} = \begin{array}{ccc} A & \xrightarrow{f} & B \\ \parallel & \text{id}_f & \parallel \\ A & \xrightarrow{f} & B \end{array} \quad \text{and} \quad \begin{array}{ccc} A & \xlongequal{\quad} & A \\ \parallel & \psi & \downarrow v \\ A & \xrightarrow{f} & B \\ v \downarrow & \chi & \parallel \\ B & \xlongequal{\quad} & B \end{array} = \begin{array}{ccc} A & \xlongequal{\quad} & A \\ v \downarrow & 1_v & \downarrow v \\ B & \xlongequal{\quad} & B \end{array}.$$

What kind of arrow in a bicategory would correspond to a companion in a weakly globular double category?

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# Companions and Quasi Units

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## Definition

An arrow  $f: A \rightarrow A$  in a bicategory  $\mathcal{B}$  is a **quasi unit** if  $f \cong 1_A$ .

## Proposition

A horizontal arrow  $w: A \rightarrow B$  has a **companion** if and only if  $w: \bar{A} \rightarrow \bar{B}$  is a **quasi unit** in  $\mathbf{Bic}\mathbb{X}$ .

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## Proposition

*A horizontal arrow*

$$A_0 \xrightarrow{f_1} \cdots \xrightarrow{f_{i_0}} [A_{i_0}] \xrightarrow{f_{i_0+1}} \cdots \xrightarrow{f_{i_1}} [A_{i_1}] \xrightarrow{f_{i_1+1}} \cdots \xrightarrow{f_n} A_n$$

in  $\mathbf{Db}(\mathcal{B})$  has a *companion* if and only if  $A_{i_0} = A_{i_1}$  and the chosen composition  $\varphi_{f_{i_0+1} \cdots f_{i_1}}$  is a *quasi unit*.

## Proposition

Let  $F: \mathbb{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{Y}$  be a pseudo-functor of weakly globular double categories. If a horizontal arrow  $f$  in  $\mathbb{X}$  has a companion then so does  $F(f)$  in  $\mathbb{Y}$ .

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# Internal equivalences

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What type of horizontal arrow in a weakly globular double category corresponds to the internal equivalences in a bicategory?

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# Pre-companions

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A horizontal arrow  $A \xrightarrow{f} B$  is a **left pre-companion** if there are  $A' \xrightarrow{f'} B'$  and  $B' \xrightarrow{r_f} C$  with a vertically invertible double cell

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A & \xrightarrow{f} & B \\ \downarrow \bullet & \varphi & \downarrow \bullet \\ A' & \xrightarrow{f'} B' \xrightarrow{r_f} & C \end{array}$$

such that  $r_f \circ f'$  is a companion.

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# Pre-companions

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A horizontal arrow  $A \xrightarrow{f} B$  is a **right pre-companion** if there are  $A'' \xrightarrow{f''} B''$  and  $D \xrightarrow{l_f} A''$  with a vertically invertible double cell

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} & A & \xrightarrow{f} & B & \\ & \downarrow \bullet & & \downarrow \bullet & \\ D & \xrightarrow{l_f} & A'' & \xrightarrow{f''} & B'' \end{array} \quad \varphi'$$

such that  $f'' \circ l_f$  is a companion in  $\mathbb{X}$ .

A horizontal arrow  $A \xrightarrow{f} B$  is a **pre-companion** if it is both a left and a right pre-companion.

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# Pre-companions and Equivalences

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## Proposition

*A horizontal arrow*

$$A_0 \xrightarrow{f_1} \dots \xrightarrow{f_{i_0}} [A_{i_0}] \xrightarrow{f_{i_0+1}} \dots \xrightarrow{f_{i_1}} [A_{i_1}] \xrightarrow{f_{i_1+1}} \dots \xrightarrow{f_n} A_n$$

*in  $\mathbf{Db}(\mathcal{B})$  is a **pre-companion** if and only if the chosen composition  $\varphi_{f_{i_0+1} \dots f_{i_1}}$  is an **equivalence** in  $\mathcal{B}$ .*

## Proposition

*A horizontal arrow  $f: A \rightarrow B$  in  $\mathbb{X}$  is a **pre-companion** if and only if the arrow  $f: \bar{A} \rightarrow \bar{B}$  in  $\mathbf{Bic}(\mathbb{X})$  is an **equivalence**.*

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# Categories of fractions

Let  $\mathbf{C}$  be a category with a class  $W$  of arrows admitting a calculus of fractions. Now we can form:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathbf{C} & \xrightarrow{I_{\mathbf{C}}} & \mathbf{C}[W^{-1}] \\ & \searrow J_{\mathbf{C}} & \uparrow \\ & & \mathbf{C}(W^{-1}) \end{array}$$

the category of fractions

the bicategory of fractions

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathbf{Dbl}(\mathbf{C}) & \xrightarrow{\mathbf{Dbl}(J_{\mathbf{C}})} & \mathbf{Dbl}(\mathbf{C}(W^{-1})) \\ \uparrow \simeq_2 & \nearrow & \\ HC & & \end{array}$$

weakly globular double  
category of fractions?

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# The Vertical Universal Property of $\mathbf{DbI}(\mathbf{C}(W^{-1}))$

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**Theorem**  
*Composition with*

$$\mathbf{DbI}(\mathbf{C}) \xrightarrow{\mathbf{DbI}(J_{\mathbf{C}})} \mathbf{DbI}(\mathbf{C}(W^{-1}))$$

*gives a biequivalence of 2-categories*

$$\mathbf{WGDbI}_{\text{ps}, W}(\mathbf{DbI}(\mathbf{C}), \mathbb{D}) \simeq \mathbf{WGDbI}_{\text{ps}, W}(\mathbf{DbI}(\mathbf{C}(W^{-1})), \mathbb{D})$$

*where the objects of  $\mathbf{WGDbI}_{\text{ps}, W}(\mathbf{DbI}(\mathbf{C}), \mathbb{D})$  are pseudo functors which send horizontal arrows corresponding to elements of  $W$  to pre-companions.*

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- ▶ Since  $HC \xrightarrow{\simeq_2} \mathbf{DbI}(\mathbf{C})$ , this translates to

$$\mathbf{WGDbI}_{\text{ps}, W}(HC, \mathbb{D}) \simeq \mathbf{WGDbI}_{\text{ps}}(\mathbf{DbI}(\mathbf{C}(W^{-1})), \mathbb{D})$$

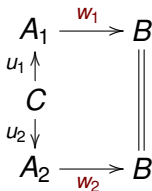
- ▶ However, neither  $\mathbf{DbI}(J_{\mathbf{C}})$  nor  $HC \longrightarrow \mathbf{DbI}(\mathbf{C}(W^{-1}))$  are strict functors, so there is no horizontal universal property for these arrows.
- ▶ We want to find  $\mathbf{C}\{W\} \simeq_2 \mathbf{DbI}(\mathbf{C}(W^{-1}))$  (vertically equivalent) such that  $HC \rightarrow \mathbf{C}\{W\}$  is a strict functor.

# $\mathbf{C}\{W\}$

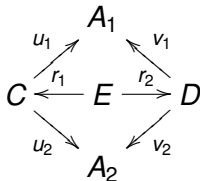
► Objects are arrows in  $W$ ,  $(w) = (A \xrightarrow{w} B)$ .

► A vertical arrow

$(u_1, C, u_2): (A_1 \xrightarrow{w_1} B) \rightarrow (A_2 \xrightarrow{w_2} B)$  is an equivalence class of commutative diagrams



$(u_1, C, u_2) \sim (v_1, D, v_2)$  if



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A horizontal arrow

$$(A \xrightarrow{w} B) \xrightarrow{f} (A' \xrightarrow{w'} B')$$

is given by an arrow  $A \xrightarrow{f} A'$  in  $\mathbf{C}$ . We draw this as

$$(B \xleftarrow{w} A) \xrightarrow{f} (A' \xrightarrow{w'} B')$$

.

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# $\mathbf{C}\{W\}$

A double cell

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 (w_1) & \xrightarrow{f_1} & (w'_1) \\
 \downarrow [u_1, C, u_2] \bullet & (\varphi) & \bullet [u'_1, C', u'_2] \\
 (w_2) & \xrightarrow{f_2} & (w'_2)
 \end{array}$$

is an equivalence class of

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 B & \xleftarrow{w_1} & A_1 & \xrightarrow{f_1} & A'_1 & \xrightarrow{w'_1} & B' \\
 \parallel & & \uparrow u_1 & & \uparrow u'_1 & & \parallel \\
 & & C & \xrightarrow{\varphi_{u_1, u_2, u'_1, u'_2}} & C' & & \\
 & & \downarrow u_2 & & \downarrow u'_2 & & \\
 B & \xleftarrow{w_2} & A_2 & \xrightarrow{f_2} & A'_2 & \xrightarrow{w'_2} & B'
 \end{array}$$

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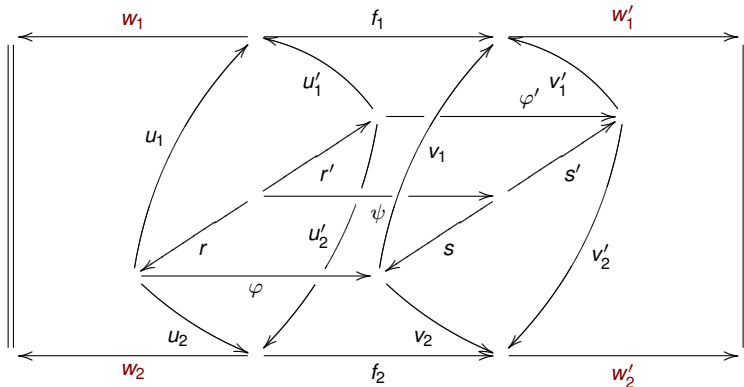
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# Equivalence relation on double cells

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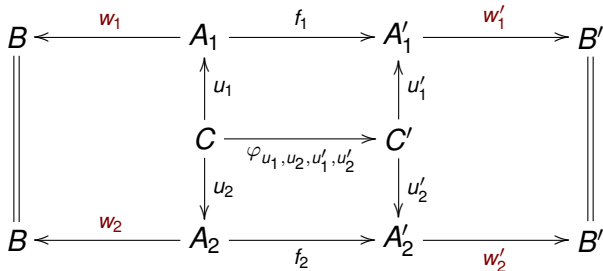
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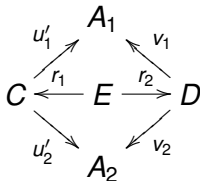
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# Properties of this equivalence relation

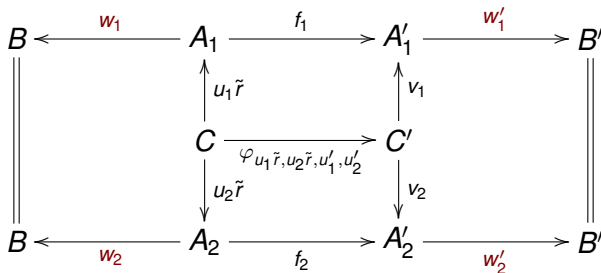
A double cell may not have a representative for each combination of representatives of its vertical domain and codomain arrows. However, given a double cell



and



then there is an arrow  $\tilde{r}$  with a representative of the double cell of the form



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## Remarks

- ▶ There is a vertical arrow  $(A \xrightarrow{w} B) \twoheadrightarrow (A' \xrightarrow{w'} B')$  if and only if  $B = B'$  and in that case there is precisely one vertical arrow.
- ▶ There is at most one double cell for any square ‘frame’ of horizontal and vertical arrows.
- ▶ All double cells in  $\mathbf{C}\{W\}$  are vertically invertible.
- ▶ The codomain functor  $d_1 : \mathbf{C}\{W\}_1 \rightarrow \mathbf{C}\{W\}_0$  is an isofibration.

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# $\mathbf{C}(W^{-1})$ and $\mathbf{C}\{W\}$

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(joint work with  
Simona Paoli)

## Theorem

*There is a 2-equivalence of bicategories*

$$\mathbf{Bic}(\mathbf{C}\{W\}) \simeq \mathbf{C}(W^{-1})$$

*and there is a vertical 2-equivalence of weakly globular double categories*

$$\mathbf{C}\{W\} \simeq_{2,v} \mathbf{DbI}(\mathbf{C}(W^{-1})).$$

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# $\mathbf{C}(W^{-1})$ and $\mathbf{C}\{W\}$

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## Remark

There is a strict functor  $\mathcal{J}_{\mathbf{C}}: H\mathbf{C} \rightarrow \mathbf{C}\{W\}$ , mapping  $A$  to  $(1_A)$  and  $A \xrightarrow{f} B$  to  $(1_A) \xrightarrow{f} (1_B)$ .

## Corollary

*(The Vertical Universal Property) Composition with  $\mathcal{J}_{\mathbf{C}}$  induces an equivalence of categories,*

$$\mathbf{WGDbI}_{\text{ps}, W}(H\mathbf{C}, \mathbb{D}) \simeq \mathbf{WGDbI}_{\text{ps}}(\mathbf{C}\{W\}, \mathbb{D})$$

What is the horizontal universal property of  $\mathbf{C}\{W\}$ ?

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# Companions in $\mathbf{C}\{W\}$

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$$\psi_{u,w} = \begin{array}{ccccc} (B \xleftarrow{wu} A_1) & \xlongequal{\quad} & (A_1 \xrightarrow{wu} B) & & \\ \parallel & & \parallel & & \parallel \\ & A_1 & \xlongequal{\quad} & A_1 & \\ \parallel & & \parallel & & \parallel \\ & & u \downarrow & & \\ (B \xleftarrow{wu} A_1) & \xrightarrow{u} & (A_2 \xrightarrow{w} B) & & \end{array}$$

$$\chi_{u,w} = \begin{array}{ccccc} (B \xleftarrow{wu} A_1) & \xrightarrow{u} & (A_2 \xrightarrow{w} B) & & \\ \parallel & & \parallel & & \parallel \\ & A_1 & \xrightarrow{u} & A_2 & \\ \parallel & & \parallel & & \parallel \\ & u \downarrow & & & \\ (B \xleftarrow{w} A_2) & \xlongequal{\quad} & (A_2 \xrightarrow{w} B) & & \end{array}$$

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# Companions in $\mathbf{C}\{W\}$

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- ▶ The vertical companion arrows and their inverses generate the vertical arrow category.
- ▶ The binding cells of the companion pairs together with their vertical inverses generate all the double cells in  $\mathbf{C}\{W\}$ .

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# The Horizontal Universal Property

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## Theorem

*Composition with  $\mathcal{J}_{\mathbf{C}}: \mathbf{HC} \rightarrow \mathbf{C}\{W\}$  induces an equivalence of categories*

$$\mathbf{WGDbI}_h(\mathbf{C}\{W\}, \mathbb{D}) \simeq \mathbf{WGDbI}_{h,W}(\mathbf{HC}, \mathbb{D}),$$

*where  $\mathbf{WGDbI}_{h,W}(\mathbf{HC}, \mathbb{D})$  is the category of  $W$ -friendly functors and  $W$ -friendly horizontal transformations.*

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