

A recipe for  
enriched categories

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# What is an enriched category?

- A collection of objects  $|C|$ .
- For each pair of objects  $x, y$ , an object  $\mathcal{C}(x, y)$  in some category  $\mathcal{V}$ .
- Identities and composites, satisfying associativity and unitality laws.

$$I \xrightarrow{I_x} \mathcal{C}(x, x) \quad \mathcal{C}(y, z), \mathcal{C}(x, y) \xrightarrow{\circ_{x, y, z}} \mathcal{C}(x, z)$$

For each monoidal category  $\mathcal{V}$ , we have the notion of:

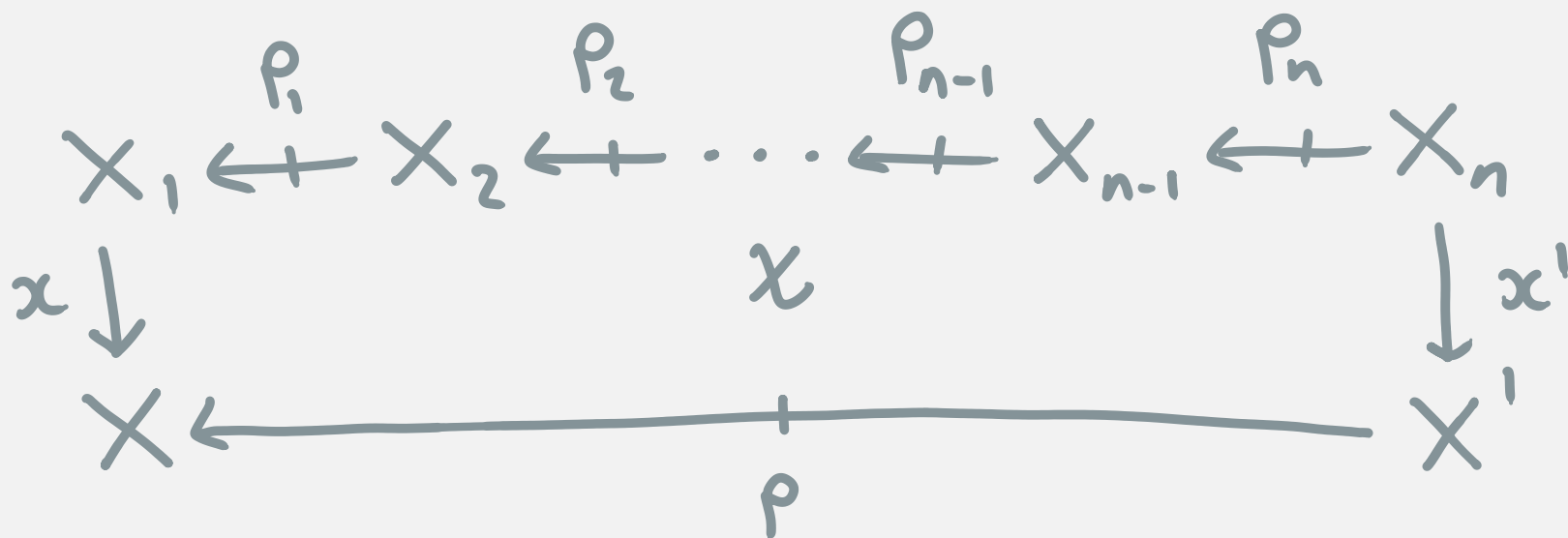
- $\mathcal{V}$ -enriched category
- $\mathcal{V}$ -enriched functor
- $\mathcal{V}$ -enriched distributor
- $\mathcal{V}$ -enriched natural transformation

Together, these assemble into a structure known as a virtual double category.

# Virtual double categories

A virtual double category is a structure comprising

- Objects.
- Tight-cells  $X \rightarrow Y$ .
- Loose-cells  $X' \dashrightarrow X$ .
- 2-cells





# Virtual double categories

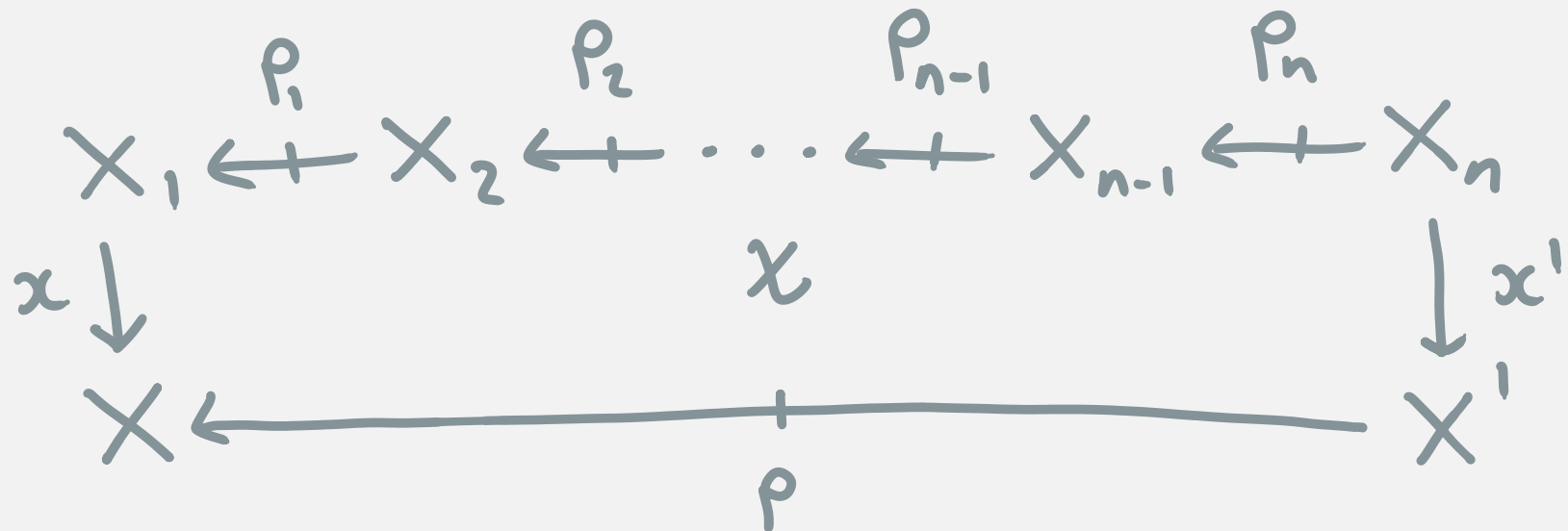
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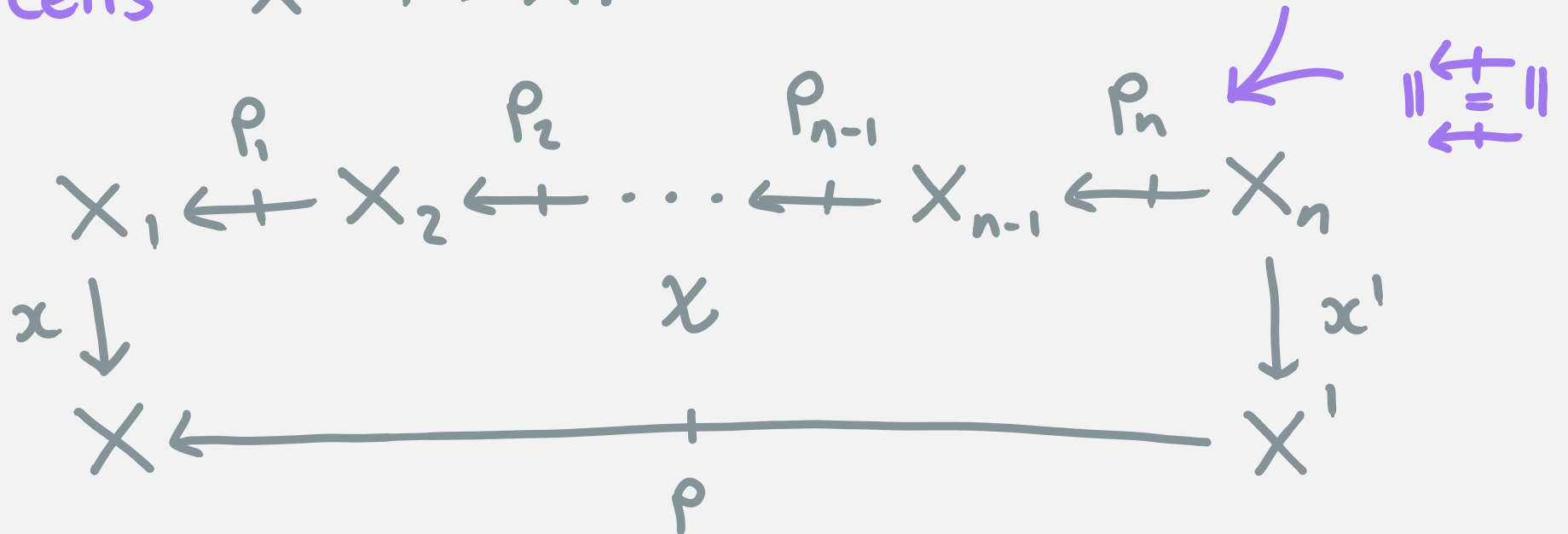
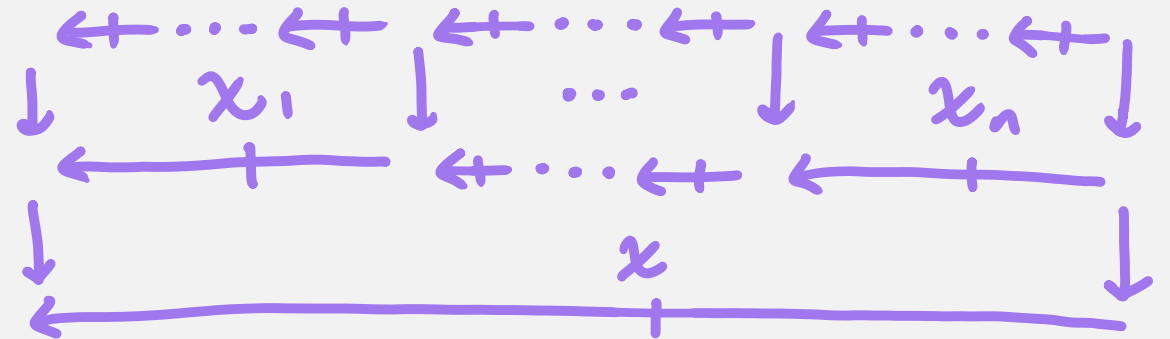
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## Normal VDCs

A VDC is normal if it admits loose-identities, i.e. for each object  $X$ , there is a loose-cell

$$X \xrightarrow{x(1,1)} X$$

such that  $(n+1)$ -ary 2-cells from

$$\cdot \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow X \xrightarrow{x(1,1)} X \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow \cdot$$

are in natural bijection with  $n$ -ary 2-cells from

$$\cdot \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow X \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow \cdot$$

## $\mathcal{V}$ -distributors & $\mathcal{V}$ -natural transformations

- A  $\mathcal{V}$ -distributor  $\mathbb{X} \xrightarrow{\rho} \mathbb{Y}$  comprises an object  $\rho(y, x) \in \mathcal{V}$  ( $x \in |\mathbb{X}|$ ,  $y \in |\mathbb{Y}|$ ), together with pre- and postcomposition operations.

$$y(y', y), \rho(y, x) \rightarrow \rho(y', x) \quad \rho(y, x), \mathbb{X}(x, x') \rightarrow \rho(y, x')$$

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- A  $\mathcal{V}$ -natural transformation comprises a family

$$\rho_1(x_1, x_2), \dots, \rho_n(x_{n-1}, x_n) \rightarrow q(fx_1, gx_n)$$

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \mathbb{X}_1 & \xleftarrow{\rho_1} & \dots & \xleftarrow{\rho_n} & \mathbb{X}_n \\ f \downarrow & & \varphi & & \downarrow g \\ \mathbb{Y} & \xleftarrow{q} & & & \mathbb{Y}' \end{array}$$

The construction of a VDC of enriched categories from a monoidal category is functorial, and defines a 2-functor:

$$(-)\text{-Cat} : \text{MonCat} \rightarrow \text{VDbICat}$$

from the 2-category of monoidal categories, lax monoidal functors, and monoidal natural transformations to the 2-category of virtual double categories, functors, and transformations.

However, this definition comes to us **prepackaged**.

How could we arrive at this definition ourselves?

For instance, is there any sense in which this construction is **canonical**?

In other words, what evidence do we have that we have a good definition of **enriched category**?

## Categories as monads

A small category can be defined as a monad in the bicategory of spans,

$$\mathcal{C}_0 \xleftarrow{s} \mathcal{C}_1 \xrightarrow{t} \mathcal{C}_0$$

or as a monad in the bicategory of matrices.

$$\mathcal{C}_0 \times \mathcal{C}_0 \longrightarrow \text{Set}$$



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$$\mathcal{C}_0 \times \mathcal{C}_0 \longrightarrow \text{Set}$$

Similarly, small  $\mathcal{V}$ -categories can be defined as monads in the bicategory of  $\mathcal{V}$ -matrices.

$$\mathcal{C}_0 \times \mathcal{C}_0 \longrightarrow \mathcal{V}$$

Therefore, to understand the extent to which the **enriched category** construction is canonical, it suffices to understand:

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Therefore, to understand the extent to which the **enriched category** construction is canonical, it suffices to understand:

1. The extent to which the **enriched matrix** construction is canonical.
2. The extent to which the **monad** construction is canonical.
3. How these two constructions interact.

## A one-dimensional intuition

The following analogue will be helpful to keep in mind.

- A category is **cocomplete** iff it admits **coproducts** and **reflexive coequalisers**.

## A one-dimensional intuition

The following analogue will be helpful to keep in mind.

- A category is **cocomplete** iff it admits **coproducts** and **reflexive coequalisers**.
- The **free cocompletion** of a category is given by first freely adding **coproducts** and then **coequalisers** of **pseudo-equivalence relations**.

We shall study the canonicity of the  $(-)\text{-Cat}$  construction.

While it is possible to talk about **universality** for operations that do not have the same codomain as their domain, it is easier for operations that do.

We shall enhance our definition of enriched category accordingly.

# Categories enriched in a virtual double category

Let  $\mathbb{V}$  be a VDC. A  $\mathbb{V}$ -category comprises:

- A collection of objects  $|\mathcal{C}|$ .
- For each object  $x$ , an extent  $\underline{x} \in \mathbb{V}$ .
- For each pair of objects  $x, y$ , a loose-cell

$$y \xrightarrow{e(x,y)} \underline{x} \text{ in } \mathbb{V}.$$



- For each object  $x$ , a 2-cell in  $\mathbb{V}$ .

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \underline{x} & \xlongequal{\quad} & \underline{x} \\ \parallel & \text{Lx} & \parallel \\ \underline{x} & \xrightarrow{\quad} & \underline{x} \\ & \mathcal{C}(x,x) & \end{array}$$

- For each triple  $x, y, z$ , a 2-cell in  $\mathbb{V}$ .

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \underline{z} & \xrightarrow{\mathcal{C}(y,z)} & y & \xrightarrow{\mathcal{C}(x,y)} & \underline{x} \\ \parallel & & & & \parallel \\ \underline{z} & \xrightarrow{\quad} & & \xrightarrow{\quad} & \underline{x} \\ & \mathcal{C}(x,z) & & & \end{array}$$

$\circ_{x,y,z}$

Satisfying associativity and unitality axioms.

The construction of a VDC of enriched categories from a VDC is functorial, and defines a 2-functor:

$$(-)\text{-Cat} : \text{VDbICat} \rightarrow \text{VDbICat}$$

from the 2-category of virtual double categories, functors, and transformations to itself.

The universality of the  $(-)\text{-Cat}$  construction has been studied previously, in a special case, by Garner & Shulman.

We will take inspiration from their characterisation.

Garner & Shulman showed that, for  $\mathbb{V}$  a locally cocomplete pseudo double category with companions,

$\mathbb{V}\text{-Cat}$  is equivalently:

- The free cocompletion of  $\mathbb{V}$  under collages.
- The free cocompletion of  $\mathbb{V}$  under coproducts & collapses.
- The free cocompletion of  $\mathbb{V}$  under lax colimits of lax functors.

I will explain how we can drop essentially all of their assumptions.

In particular, this permits us to exhibit a universal property of  $\mathcal{V}\text{-Cat}$  when  $\mathcal{V}$  is an arbitrary monoidal category, with no cocompleteness or closure assumptions.

# Roadmap

1. The  $(-)\text{-Set}$  construction.
2. The  $\text{IMnd}$  construction.
3. The  $(-)\text{-Cat}$  construction.
4. Local colimits.

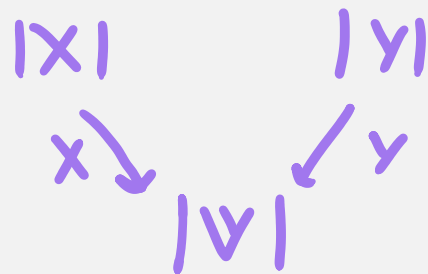
# Coproducts in a VDC

A VDC  $\mathbb{V}$  admits coproducts if:

1. Its underlying category admits coproducts.
2. For each family of loose-cells in  $\mathbb{X}$

$$\left\{ X(x) \xrightarrow{\rho(y,x)} Y(y) \right\}_{\substack{x \in |X|, \\ y \in |Y|}}$$

there is a loose-cell



$$\coprod X \xrightarrow{\coprod \rho} \coprod Y$$

and 2-cells

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X(x) & \xrightarrow{\rho(y,x)} & Y(y) \\ \Downarrow \eta_x & & \Downarrow \eta_y \\ \Downarrow X & \xrightarrow{\quad} & \Downarrow Y \\ & \Downarrow \rho & \end{array}$$

such that, for each family of 2-cells

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X_1(x_1) & \xrightarrow{\rho_1(x_2, x_1)} \dots \xrightarrow{\rho_n(x_n, x_{n-1})} & X_n(x_n) \\ f_{x_1} \downarrow & & \downarrow g_{x_n} \\ A & \xrightarrow{\quad} & B \\ & \Downarrow \omega_{\vec{x}} & \end{array}$$



there exists a unique 2-cell

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \coprod X_1 & \xrightarrow{\parallel \rho_1} \dots \xrightarrow{\parallel \rho_n} & \coprod X_n \\ [f_x]_x \downarrow & [\omega_{\vec{x}}]_{\vec{x}} & \downarrow [g_x]_x \\ A & \xrightarrow{\quad \quad \quad} & B \\ & \mathcal{Z} & \end{array}$$

factoring each  $\omega_{\vec{x}}$ .

# The enriched set construction

Let  $\mathbb{V}$  be a VDC. We define a VDC  $\mathbb{V}$ -Set:

- Objects are families of objects of  $\mathbb{V}$ .
- A tight-cell from  $X$  to  $Y$  comprises a function

$$|X| \xrightarrow{f} |Y|$$

and, for each  $x \in |X|$ , a tight-cell

$$f_x : X(x) \longrightarrow Y(f(x))$$

- A loose-cell from  $X$  to  $Y$  comprises

$$\left\{ \rho(y, x) : X(x) \dashrightarrow Y(y) \right\}_{x \in |X|, y \in |Y|}$$

- A 2-cell

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 X_1 & \xrightarrow{p_1} \dots \xrightarrow{p_n} & X_n \\
 f \downarrow & \varphi & \downarrow g \\
 Y & \xrightarrow{\quad} & Y' \\
 & \underset{q}{\quad} & 
 \end{array}$$

is a family of 2-cells in  $\mathbb{V}$

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 X_1(x_1) & \xrightarrow{p_1(x_2, x_1)} \dots \xrightarrow{p_n(x_n, x_{n-1})} & X_n(x_n) \\
 f_{x_1} \downarrow & \varphi_{\vec{x}} & \downarrow g_{x_n} \\
 Y(f(x_1)) & \xrightarrow{\quad} & Y'(g(x_n)) \\
 & \underset{q(g(x_n), f(x_1))}{\quad} & 
 \end{array}$$

## Lemma

$(-)\text{-Set}$  is a lax-idempotent pseudomonad on  $\text{VDb1Cat}$ .

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Theorem Let  $\mathbb{V}$  be a VDC.

$\mathbb{V}\text{-Set}$  is the free cocompletion of  $\mathbb{V}$  under coproducts.

# The loose-monads construction

Let  $\mathbb{X}$  be a VDC. We define a VDC  $\mathbb{Mnd}(\mathbb{X})$ :

- Objects are loose-monads.
- Tight-cells are monad morphisms.
- Loose-cells are monad bimodules.
- 2-cells are monad transformations.

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 X & = & X \\
 \parallel & \eta & \parallel \\
 X & \xrightarrow{T} & X
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 & T & & T & \\
 X & \xrightarrow{\quad} & X & \xrightarrow{\quad} & X \\
 \parallel & & \mu & & \parallel \\
 X & \xrightarrow{\quad} & & \xrightarrow{\quad} & X \\
 & & T & & 
 \end{array}$$

## Colimits of loose-monads

In a double category, we can take the colimit of a loose-cell  $\rho: X \dashrightarrow Y$ , which is given by an object  $\bar{\rho}$ , tight-cells  $\Downarrow_X: X \rightarrow \bar{\rho}$  and  $\Downarrow_Y: Y \rightarrow \bar{\rho}$ , and a 2-cell

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X & \xrightarrow{\rho} & Y \\ \Downarrow_X & \Downarrow_\rho & \Downarrow_Y \\ \bar{\rho} & \equiv & \bar{\rho} \end{array}$$

universal in a suitable sense. This is called the cotabulator of  $\rho$ .

When the loose-cell in question has additional structure, e.g. of a loose-monad, it is natural to ask that the colimit respects this structure.

This leads to the notion of a **collapse** of a loose-monad, which is another kind of double categorical colimit.



## Collapses in a VDC

Let  $X \xrightarrow{T} X$  be a loose-monad. A collapse of  $T$  is an object  $\llbracket T \rrbracket$  together with a tight-cell and 2-cell

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X & \xrightarrow{T} & X \\ \Downarrow X & \Downarrow T & \Downarrow X \\ \llbracket T \rrbracket & \equiv & \llbracket T \rrbracket \end{array}$$

which is universal amongst loose-monad morphisms.

Let  $S \xrightarrow{m} T$  be a loose-monad bimodule.

A collapse of  $m$  is a loose-cell

$$\langle\langle S \rangle\rangle \xrightarrow{\langle\langle m \rangle\rangle} \langle\langle T \rangle\rangle$$

together with a 2-cell

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X & \xrightarrow{m} & Y \\ \Downarrow x & \Downarrow m & \Downarrow y \\ \langle\langle S \rangle\rangle & \xrightarrow{\langle\langle m \rangle\rangle} & \langle\langle T \rangle\rangle \end{array}$$

which is universal amongst loose-monad transformations.

IMnd is a normal morphism coclassifier

There is a 2-adjunction [CS10]:

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{VDb|Cat}_n \\ \downarrow \dashv \uparrow \text{IMnd} \\ \text{VDb|Cat} \end{array}$$

Furthermore, this 2-adjunction is lax-idempotent. Consequently, IMnd is a lax-idempotent 2-monad on VDb|Cat<sub>n</sub>.

Theorem Let  $\mathbb{X}$  be a normal VDC.

$\text{Mnd}(\mathbb{X})$  is the free cocompletion of  $\mathbb{X}$   
under collapses.

# The enriched category construction

We define a lax-idempotent pseudomonad by composition:

$$\begin{array}{c} (-)\text{-Set} \\ \curvearrowright \\ \text{VDb|Cat} \\ \begin{array}{c} \uparrow \rightarrow \downarrow \text{Mnd} \\ \text{VDb|Cat}_n \end{array} \end{array}$$

$(-)\text{-Cat} :=$

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---

For a VDC  $\mathbb{V}$ , a  $\mathbb{V}$ -category can be viewed as  
a diagram in  $\mathbb{V}$ , i.e. a functor into  $\mathbb{V}$ . A collage  
is a colimit of such a diagram.

## Placing coproducts & collapses on an equal footing

Given that  $(-)\text{-Set}$  freely adds coproducts and  $\text{IMnd}$  freely adds collapses, we might expect that  $(-)\text{-Cat}$  freely adds coproducts and collapses.

However, there is a subtlety.  $\text{IMnd}$  is a free construction on **normal** VDCs, whereas  $(-)\text{-Set}$  only produces a VDC. In particular, the inclusion  $\mathbb{V} \longrightarrow \mathbb{V}\text{-Set}$  is not always normal.



## Local colimits

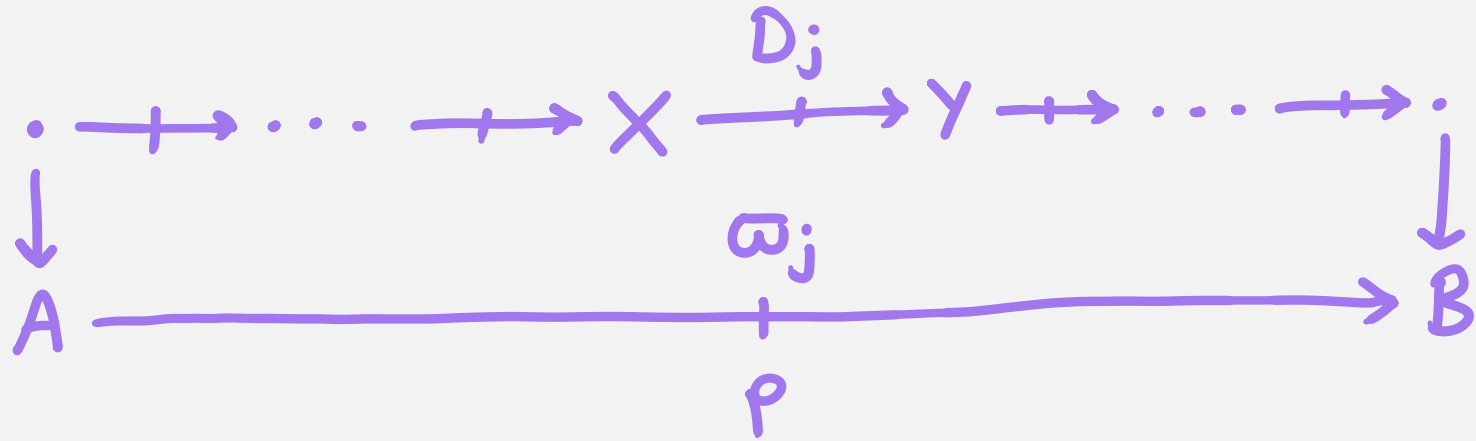
Let  $\mathbb{X}$  be a VDC. A local colimit of a functor  $J \xrightarrow{D} \mathbb{X}[X, Y]$  comprises a loose-cell

$$X \xrightarrow{\text{colim } D} Y$$

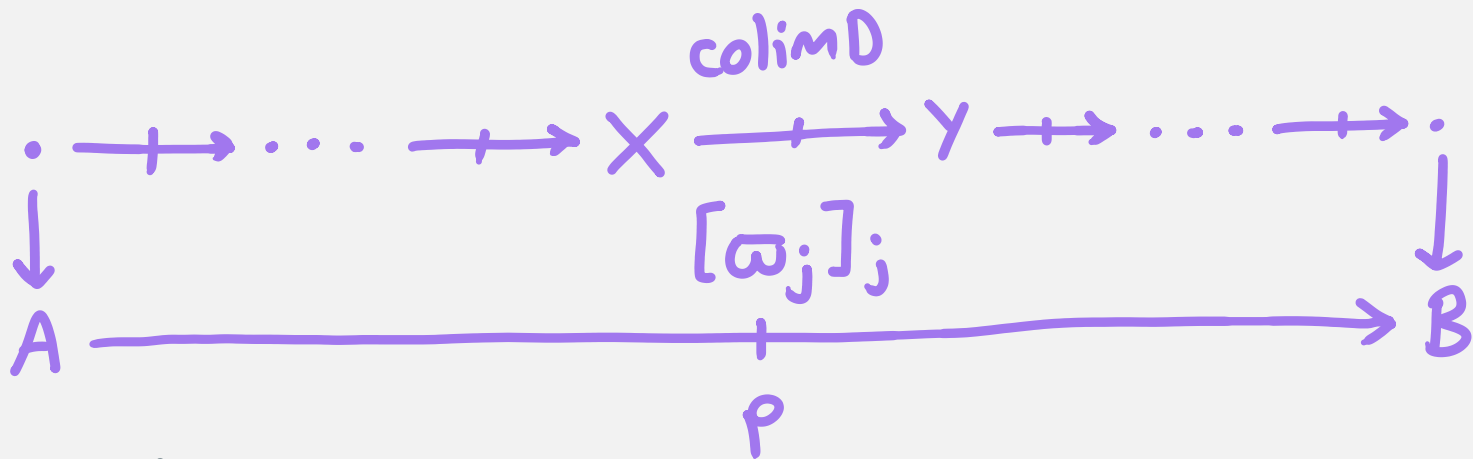
together with 2-cells

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X & \xrightarrow{D_j} & Y \\ \parallel & \Downarrow \eta_j & \parallel \\ X & \xrightarrow{\text{colim } D} & Y \end{array}$$

such that, for every family of 2-cells



there exists a unique 2-cell



factoring each  $\omega_j$ .

## Lemma

Let  $\mathcal{V}$  be a normal VDC. If  $\mathcal{V}$  admits local initial objects, then  $\mathcal{V}\text{-Set}$  is normal.

Furthermore,  $\mathcal{V}\text{-Set}$  admits those local colimits that  $\mathcal{V}$  does.

## Lemma

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Furthermore,  $\mathbb{V}\text{-Set}$  admits those local colimits that  $\mathbb{V}$  does.

Consequently,  $(-)\text{-Set}$  lifts to a pseudomonad on  $\text{VDbCat}_{n,0}$ .

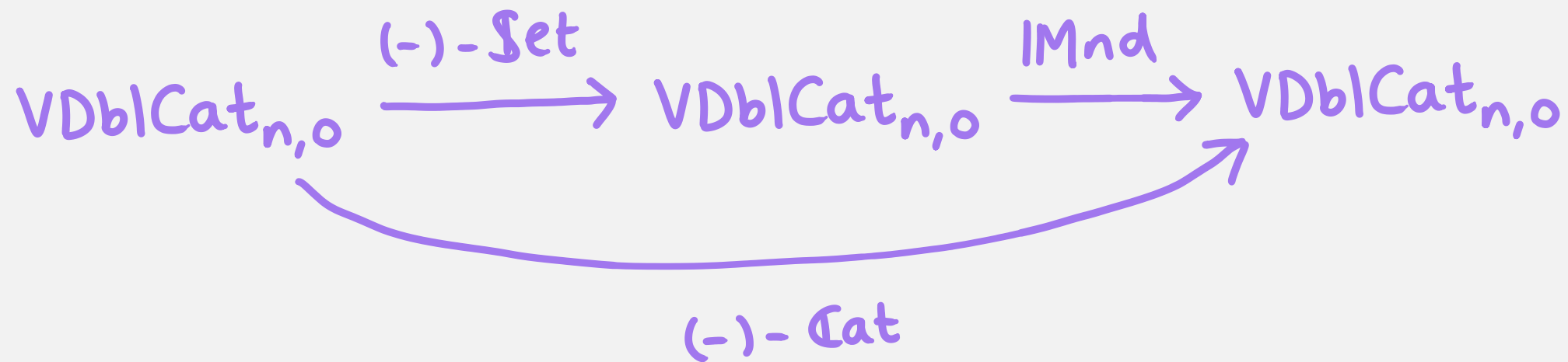
## Lemma

Let  $\mathbb{X}$  be a normal VDC.  $\text{IMnd}(\mathbb{X})$  admits those local colimits that  $\mathbb{X}$  does.

Consequently,  $\text{IMnd}$  lifts to a 2-monad on  $\text{VDbCat}_{n,0}$ .

# Theorem

$(-)\text{-Set}$  pseudodistributes over  $\text{IMnd}$ , and the composite is  $(-)\text{-Cat}$ .



Theorem Let  $\mathbb{V}$  be a normal VDC with local initial objects.

$\mathbb{V}\text{-Cat}$  is the free cocompletion of  $\mathbb{V}$  under coproducts & collapses.

## Representability

We wish to recover the characterisation of [GS16], for which one ingredient is missing.



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We wish to recover the characterisation of [GS16], for which one ingredient is missing.

A VDC is representable if it is normal and admits binary loose-composites, equivalently if it is a pseudo double category.

Lemma Let  $\mathbb{V}$  be a PDC with local coproducts.  
Then so is  $\mathbb{V}\text{-Set}$ .

Lemma Let  $\mathbb{X}$  be a PDC with local reflexive coequalisers. Then so is  $\text{IMnd}(\mathbb{X})$ .

Corollary The pseudodistributive law between  $(-)\text{-Set}$  and  $\text{IMnd}$  lifts to locally cocomplete pseudo double categories.

## A recipe for enriched categories

1. Take your favourite monoidal category  $\mathcal{V}$ , viewed as a VDC with one object.
2. If  $\mathcal{V}$  has an initial object preserved by  $\otimes$  on both sides, freely add coproducts & collapses.  
Otherwise, freely add collages.
3. Let the mixture rest for 15 minutes.
4. Enjoy your delicious  $\mathcal{V}$ -Cat!

## Postscript: $\mathcal{V}$ -normed categories

A  $\mathcal{V}$ -normed category is a category enriched in  $\mathbf{Fam}(\mathcal{V})$ , the category of families of  $\mathcal{V}$ .

In [P24], Patterson introduced a double categorical  $\mathbb{Fam}$  construction.

Theorem  $\mathbb{Fam} \simeq \mathbb{LC}(-) - \mathbf{Set}$ , where  $\mathbb{LC}$  is the local coproduct completion.

Corollary Loose-monads in  $\mathbb{Fam}(\mathcal{V})$  are precisely  $\mathcal{V}$ -normed categories.