

Spaces and Differential Forms

March 11, 2008

Abstract

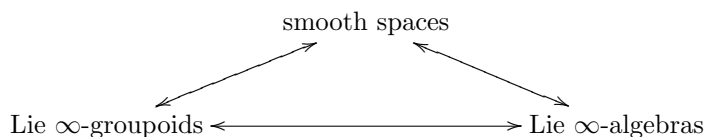
We propose a setup of concepts that is supposed to neatly capture the notions of smooth spaces, Lie ∞ -groupoids and Lie ∞ -algebras and the relations between these.

Contents

1	Introduction	2
2	Space and quantity	2
3	Smooth spaces and smooth differential forms	5
3.1	Examples	6
3.1.1	Chen-smooth spaces	6
3.1.2	L_∞ -algebras and their classifying spaces	6
3.2	Various relations	7
3.2.1	Passing between spaces and DGCA's	7
3.2.2	The tensor product of C^∞ DGCA's	8
3.3	Fundamental ∞ -groupoids of spaces	9
4	Integration	9
4.1	Integration of L_∞ -algebras	9
4.2	Integration and basic forms on mapping spaces	10

1 Introduction

We are after a general framework and tool set for smooth analysis neatly adapted to encompassing

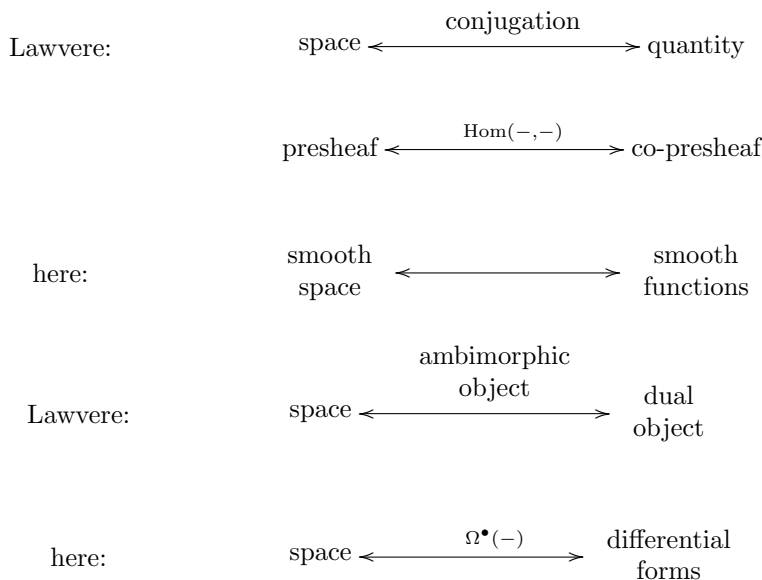


and suited for the description of quantum field theories of Σ -model type: representations of cobordism categories induced from homs into smooth ∞ -bundles with connection.

The following approach has its roots in, and is hoped to eventually be a useful synthesis of,

- the emerging Lie ∞ -theory of [4, 5, 11];
- the notion of Chen-smooth [6] and diffeological spaces [3] and in particular of *Frölicher* spaces [13];
- the notion of C^∞ -algebras [8];
- long discussion with John Baez, Andrew Stacey and Todd Trimble [9, 13, 14].

As Todd Trimble points out, various of the following constructions are special cases of general concepts that Lawvere has taught are important [7].



As emphasized by Andrew Stacey, of particular importance are those spaces, which are *stable* under conjugating back and forth. Here we will identify such stable spaces as *smooth spaces*, generalizing the notion of *Frölicher spaces*.

2 Space and quantity

In [7] Lawvere describes the very general setup of which we want to consider a special realization here.

For V any monoidal category and S any V -enriched category (a category whose Hom-things are objects of V) the category

$$V^{S^{\text{op}}}$$

of V -functors $S^{\text{op}} \rightarrow V$ plays the role of *spaces that can be probed by A* while the category

$$V^S$$

of V -functors $S \rightarrow V$ plays the role of *quantities on these spaces*.

We will concentrate on the familiar simple case where $V = \text{Set}$, so that V -enriched categories are just ordinary categories. In this case $\text{Set}^{S^{\text{op}}}$ is just the category of ordinary presheaves on S , while Set^S is the category of ordinary co-presheaves on S .

Definition 1 (Isbell conjugation) *Isbell conjugation is the contravariant adjunction*

$$V^{S^{\text{op}}} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{F} \\ \xleftarrow{G} \end{array} V^S$$

given by

$$F : X \mapsto \text{Hom}_{V^{S^{\text{op}}}}(X, -)$$

and

$$G : S \mapsto \text{Hom}_{V^S}(S, -).$$

Here we are, for convenience, implicitly using the Yoneda embedding in order to regard objects $s \in S$ as objects $\text{Hom}_S(-, s) \in \text{Set}^{S^{\text{op}}}$ or objects $\text{Hom}_S(s, -) \in \text{Set}^S$.

We can think of F as *sending a space to the collection of functions on it*.

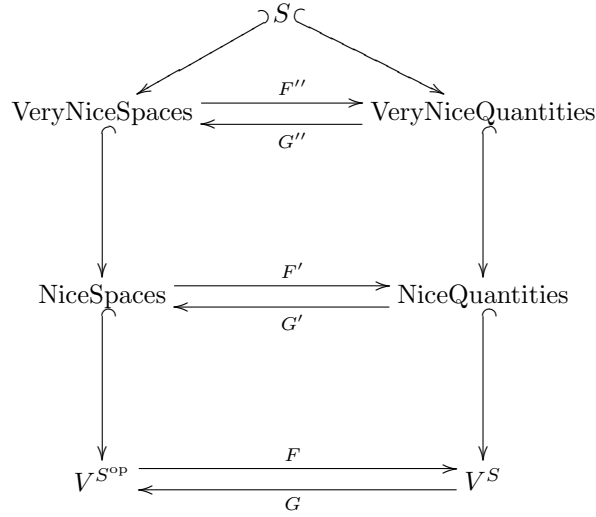
The notion of a *space probeable by S* expressed by $V^{S^{\text{op}}}$ is very general. Usually one is therefore interested in finding subcategories

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} S^{\mathcal{C}} & \longrightarrow & \text{NiceSpaces}^{\mathcal{C}} & \longrightarrow & V^{S^{\text{op}}} \\ S^{\mathcal{C}} & \longrightarrow & \text{NiceQuantities}^{\mathcal{C}} & \longrightarrow & V^S \end{array}$$

which still respect the above conjugation in that we have

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & S^{\mathcal{C}} & \\ & \swarrow & \searrow \\ \text{NiceSpaces} & \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{F'} \\ \xleftarrow{G'} \end{array} & \text{NiceQuantities} \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ V^{S^{\text{op}}} & \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{F} \\ \xleftarrow{G} \end{array} & V^S \end{array}$$

Often one wants to consider chains of such inclusions



In our application we take S to be the category whose objects are the simplest objects we may want to probe a general *smooth space* with: open subsets of Euclidean spaces.

A presheaf on S is a very general notion of a smooth space.

Our “nice spaces” will be proper *sheaves* on S . Our “very nice spaces” will be sheaves on S which are stable under Isbell conjugation: a morphism of those is the same as a morphism of their function algebras.

One can think of Isbell conjugation as a special case of a general “duality” operation induced by “ambimorphic objects” *Amb* (originally called “schizophrenic objects” [12]) which can be regarded as carrying two different “commuting” structures. For Isbell conjugation this ambimorphic object is the tautological one,

$$C^\infty(-) = \text{Hom}(-, -),$$

regarded as a co-presheaf valued presheaf.

It so happens that Lie theory is closely related to *differential* algebras (at the bottom of this phenomenon is another grand duality: Koszul duality for operads) and therefore we will wish to refine the algebra $C^\infty(X)$ of plain functions on a space X by the differential \mathbb{N} -graded-commutative algebra (DGCA) of differential forms $\Omega^\bullet(X)$.

The presheaf

$$\Omega^\bullet(-) : S^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \text{Set}$$

which sends each test domain to the set

$$U \mapsto \Omega^\bullet(X)$$

of differential forms on it is naturally equipped with the structure of a DGCA itself, induced from the the DGCA structure on each test domain. The DGCA-valued presheaf Ω^\bullet is an ambimorphic object and the two functors

$$\Omega^\bullet : \text{Set}^{S^{\text{op}}} \rightarrow \text{DGCA}s$$

$$X \mapsto \text{Hom}_{\text{Set}^{\text{op}}}(X, \Omega^\bullet(-))$$

and

$$S : \text{DGCA}s \rightarrow \text{Set}^{S^{\text{op}}}$$

$$A \mapsto \text{Hom}_{\text{DGCA}s}(A, \Omega^\bullet(-))$$

it induces do form an adjunction

$$\text{Set}^{S^{\text{op}}} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\Omega^\bullet} \\ \xleftarrow{S} \end{array} \text{DGCA}s .$$

3 Smooth spaces and smooth differential forms

The following long definition lists the collection of concepts which we want to use. It essentially amounts to fixing a category S of suitable “test domains” and identifying various categories of maps into and out of S as usefully representing spaces and functions on them.

Our choice of S is mostly motivated from its convenience for the particular applications we are headed to. Various other choices should be possible with only minor effect on the resulting theory.

Definition 2 ((smooth) spaces and (smooth) function algebras) *We write*

- S for the **category of open subsets of Euclidean spaces**, whose objects are open subsets of $\bigsqcup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \mathbb{R}^n$ and whose morphisms are smooth maps between these;
 - $S' \subset S$ for the full **subcategory of Euclidean spaces** on the objects \mathbb{R}^n , $n \in \mathbb{N}$, which we shall always regard as a symmetric monoidal category (S', \otimes) using the standard cartesian product $\mathbb{R}^n \otimes \mathbb{R}^m = \mathbb{R}^{n+m}$;
- C^∞ Algebras for the **smooth commutative algebras** being the category of monoidal functors $S' \rightarrow \text{Set}$;
 - $\text{ev}_{\mathbb{R}} : C^\infty\text{Algebras} \rightarrow \text{CommAlgebras}$ for the functor $\text{ev}_{\mathbb{R}} : A \mapsto A(\mathbb{R})$ which sends each C^∞ -algebra A to its **underlying commutative algebra** $A(\mathbb{R})$ which comes naturally equipped with the structure of an ordinary commutative algebra, the product being $A(\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}) \xrightarrow{\cdot} \mathbb{R}$;
 - $C^\infty(U) := \text{Hom}_S(U, -) : S' \rightarrow \text{Set}$ for the smooth algebra of **smooth functions** on $U \in S$;
- Spaces for the **category of spaces** “probeable by S ”, defined to be the category of sheaves on S ;
 - $X \times Y : U \mapsto X(U) \times Y(U)$ for the cartesian **product of spaces** $X, Y \in \text{Spaces}$;
 - $\text{hom}(X, Y) : U \mapsto \text{Hom}_{\text{Spaces}}(X \times U, Y)$ for **space of maps of spaces** $X, Y \in \text{Spaces}$ (the internal hom of Spaces);
 - $C^\infty(X) := \text{Hom}_{\text{Spaces}}(X, -) : S' \rightarrow \text{Set}$ for the **smooth algebra of smooth functions** on $X \in \text{Spaces}$;
 - $C^\infty\text{Spaces}$ for the category of **smooth spaces**, being the full subcategory of Spaces on saturated or Frölicher spaces, which are those spaces X satisfying

$$X \simeq \text{Hom}_{C^\infty\text{Algebras}}(C^\infty(X), C^\infty(-)).$$

- $\Omega^\bullet : S \rightarrow \text{DGCA}$ s for the DGCA-valued sheaf of **differential forms**;
 - $\Omega^\bullet(X) := \text{Hom}_{\text{Spaces}}(X, \Omega^\bullet)$ for the **DGCA of differential forms** on $X \in \text{Spaces}$; or $\Omega^\bullet(X) := \text{hom}_{\text{Spaces}}(X, \Omega^\bullet)$ if we want to regard $\Omega^\bullet(X)$ itself as a space;
 - $S(A) := \text{Hom}_{C^\infty\text{Algebras}}(A, \Omega^\bullet(-))$ for the space obtained by regarding $A \in C^\infty\text{Algebras}$ as a DGCA of differential forms.

3.1 Examples

3.1.1 Chen-smooth spaces

Definition 3 A space X is a Chen space [13] or a quasi-representable space if there exists a set X_s such that

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X(U) \hookrightarrow & \longrightarrow & \text{Hom}_{\text{Set}}(U, X_s) \\ \uparrow X(\phi) & & \uparrow \text{Hom}_{\text{Set}}(\phi, X_s) \\ X(V) \hookrightarrow & \longrightarrow & \text{Hom}_{\text{Set}}(V, X_s) \end{array}$$

for all morphisms $(U \xrightarrow{\phi} V)$ in S , where the inclusions

$$X(U) \hookrightarrow \text{Hom}_{\text{Set}}(U, X_s)$$

are required to contain all constant maps.

So Chen spaces consist of a set of points equipped with the information which maps of sets from test domains into this set are regarded as smooth maps.

Chen spaces together with those morphisms of spaces $X \rightarrow Y$ between them which come from maps of the underlying sets $X_s \rightarrow Y_s$ form a closed subcategory

$$\text{ChenSpaces} \subset \text{Spaces}$$

of the category of all spaces. More details are in [6, 13].

3.1.2 L_∞ -algebras and their classifying spaces

Definition 4 A finite dimensional L_∞ -algebra \mathfrak{g} is a codifferential structure on a cofree coalgebra over a finite-dimensional \mathbb{N}_+ -graded vector space V . By dualizing this corresponds bijectively to DGCA's whose underlying graded commutative algebra is freely generated over a finite dimensional \mathbb{N}_+ -graded vector space V^* . These are called the corresponding Chevalley-Eilenberg algebras $\text{CE}(\mathfrak{g})$.

The mapping cone of the identity of $\text{CE}(\mathfrak{g})$ is the Weil algebra $\text{W}(\mathfrak{g})$. By the above it corresponds to an L_∞ -algebra itself:

$$\text{W}(\mathfrak{g}) =: \text{CE}(\text{inn}(\mathfrak{g})).$$

Observation 1 Since $\text{CE}(\mathfrak{g})$ is trivial in degree 0, these Chevalley-Eilenberg algebras are naturally C^∞ DGCA's: the degree 0 part is the algebra of smooth functions on the point.

Definition 5 (L_∞ -algebra valued forms) For \mathfrak{g} an L_∞ -algebra, \mathfrak{g} -valued forms on a space Y are morphisms

$$(A, F_A) : \text{W}(\mathfrak{g}) \rightarrow \Omega^\bullet(X).$$

Flat \mathfrak{g} -valued forms are morphisms

$$A : \text{CE}(\mathfrak{g}) \rightarrow \Omega^\bullet(X).$$

We write

$$\Omega^\bullet(Y, \mathfrak{g}) := \text{Hom}(\text{W}(\mathfrak{g}), \Omega^\bullet(Y))$$

and

$$\Omega_{\text{flat}}^\bullet(Y, \mathfrak{g}) := \text{Hom}(\text{CE}(\mathfrak{g}), \Omega^\bullet(Y)).$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
\mathrm{CE}(\mathfrak{g}) & \longleftarrow & \mathrm{W}(\mathfrak{g}) \\
\downarrow (A,0) & & \downarrow (A,F_A) \\
\Omega^\bullet(Y) & \xlongequal{\quad} & \Omega^\bullet(Y)
\end{array}$$

Observation 2 (classifying spaces for \mathfrak{g} -valued differential forms) *By proposition 1 we have that $S(\mathrm{CE}(\mathfrak{g}))$ is the classifying space for \mathfrak{g} -valued differential forms:*

$$\Omega^\bullet(Y, \mathfrak{g}) \simeq \mathrm{Hom}(Y, S(\mathrm{CE}(\mathfrak{g}))).$$

3.2 Various relations

3.2.1 Passing between spaces and DGCA's

Proposition 1 *The functors*

$$C^\infty : \mathrm{Spaces} \longleftarrow \longrightarrow C^\infty \mathrm{Algebras} : S$$

and

$$\Omega^\bullet : \mathrm{Spaces} \longleftarrow \longrightarrow \mathrm{DGCA's} : S$$

each form an adjunction.

So for all spaces X and C^∞ -algebras A we have

$$\mathrm{Hom}(X, S(A)) \simeq \mathrm{Hom}(A, C^\infty(X)),$$

and for all DGCA's A we have

$$\mathrm{Hom}(X, S(A)) \simeq \mathrm{Hom}(A, \Omega^\bullet(X)).$$

Definition 6 (conjugation monad) *The monad*

$$S \circ C^\infty : \mathrm{Spaces} \longrightarrow \mathrm{Spaces}$$

we call the conjugation monad.

The unit

$$u : \mathrm{Id}_{\mathrm{Spaces}} \rightarrow S \circ C^\infty$$

of this monad is, by definition, an isomorphism on (Frölicher) *smooth* spaces X :

$$u_X : X \mapsto \mathrm{Hom}_{C^\infty \mathrm{Algebras}}(C^\infty(X), C^\infty(-)).$$

Proposition 2 *There is a canonical map*

$$\mathrm{Hom}_{\mathrm{Spaces}}(X, Y) \longrightarrow \mathrm{Hom}_{C^\infty \mathrm{Algebras}}(C^\infty(X), C^\infty(Y)) .$$

If Y is a Frölicher smooth space then this map is an isomorphism.

Proof. The map is

$$\mathrm{Hom}(X, Y) \xrightarrow{\mathrm{Hom}(X, u_Y)} \mathrm{Hom}(X, S(C^\infty(Y))) \xrightarrow{\simeq} \mathrm{Hom}(C^\infty(Y), C^\infty(X)) .$$

□

3.2.2 The tensor product of C^∞ DGCAs

For $C^\infty(X)$ and $C^\infty(Y)$ smooth function algebras on manifolds X and Y , their ordinary tensor product as vector spaces

$$C^\infty(X) \otimes C^\infty(Y) \subset C^\infty(X \times Y)$$

in general does not exhaust the space of smooth functions on $X \times Y$. Often such problems are dealt with by *completing* a tensor product.

If however we regard $C^\infty(X)$ not just as an object in CommAlgebras but as an object in $C^\infty\text{Algebras}$, then this completed tensor product arises naturally simply as the canonical coproduct.

Definition 7 Denote by

$$\otimes_\infty : C^\infty\text{Algebras} \times C^\infty\text{Algebras} \rightarrow C^\infty\text{Algebras}$$

the coproduct in $C^\infty\text{Algebras}$

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} A & \xrightarrow{\quad} & A \otimes_\infty B & \xleftarrow{\quad} & B \\ & \searrow f & \downarrow f \otimes_\infty g & \swarrow g & \\ & & C & & \end{array}$$

Analogously for

$$\otimes_\infty : C^\infty\text{DGCAs} \times C^\infty\text{DGCAs} \rightarrow C^\infty\text{DGCAs}.$$

Proposition 3 For all spaces X and Y we have

$$C^\infty(X) \otimes_\infty C^\infty(Y) \simeq C^\infty(X \times Y)$$

Proof. First consider this for all $X = U, Y = V \in S$. Then for all $F \in C^\infty\text{Algebras}$ we have

$$\begin{array}{llll} \text{Hom}(C^\infty(U) \otimes_\infty C^\infty(V), F) & \simeq & \text{Hom}(C^\infty(U), F) \times \text{Hom}(C^\infty(V), F) & \text{universal property} \\ & & & \text{of the coproduct} \\ & \simeq & F(U) \times F(V) & \text{Yoneda} \\ & \simeq & F(U \times V) & \text{since } F \text{ is monoidal} \\ & \simeq & \text{Hom}(C^\infty(U \times V), F) & \text{Yoneda} \end{array}$$

Since this is true for all F , again by the Yoneda lemma it follows that $C^\infty(U) \otimes_\infty C^\infty(V) \simeq C^\infty(U \times V)$.

From this the proposition follows by general facts about Day convolution. (** apparently, somehow...**) \square

Proposition 4 The C^∞ -algebra of smooth functions on \mathbb{R}^n is free on n generators.

This means that for any C^∞ -algebra A we have

$$\text{Hom}_{C^\infty\text{Algebras}}(C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n), A) \simeq A^n.$$

3.3 Fundamental ∞ -groupoids of spaces

For every space X we can form various flavours of path groupoids.

- The simplicial set of singular simplices in X

$$S^\bullet(X) = \{S^n(X) = \text{Hom}_{\text{Spaces}}(\Delta^n, X)\}$$

plays the role of the weak fundamental ∞ -groupoid $\Pi_\infty^{\text{wk}}(X)$ of X .

- For each integer n we can form a strict globular n -groupoid $\Pi_n^{\text{str}}(X)$, the strict fundamental n -groupoid of X .

But it is useful to observe that even without forming n -groupoids this way, a space itself, in our sense, behaves a lot like an ∞ -category already:

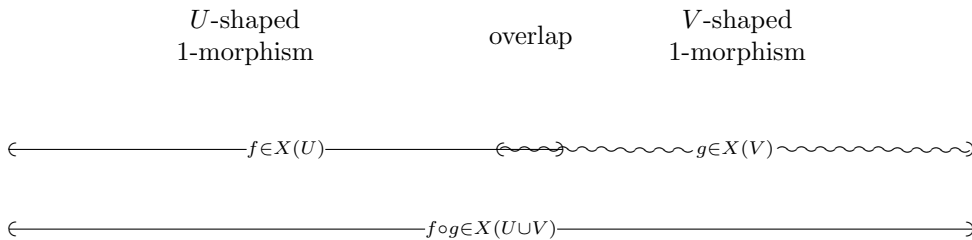


Figure 1: **Spaces and ∞ -groupoids.** A sheaf X on open subsets of \mathbb{R}^n behaves not entirely unlike a presheaf on Δ (a simplicial set) satisfying the Kan condition: for each object $U \subset \mathbb{R}^k$ there is a collection $X(U)$ of “ U -shaped k -morphisms” and the sheaf condition says that whenever these overlap with V -shaped k -morphisms, there is a (unique) composite $(U \cup V)$ -shaped k -morphism. We see that this is more than a faint analogy when discussing integration of L_∞ -algebras in 4.1.

for X a space and $U \subset \mathbb{R}^k$ an open subset, an element in $X(U)$ is like a “ U -shaped k -morphism”. Given another V -shaped k -morphism we can ask whether both overlap, i.e. whether there is “source-target matching” between both. This is the case if their restriction to $U \cap V$ coincides. If it does then, by the fact that a space is a sheaf, there is guaranteed to be a unique $(U \cup V)$ -shaped element in X . This we can regard as the *composite* k -morphism obtained by composing the U -shaped and the V -shaped k -morphism we started with. See figure 1.

Therefore one can take the standpoint that a space X is already nothing but its own fundamental ∞ -groupoid: the relation between spaces and ∞ -groupoids is blurred to a tautology from this point of view.

We shall come back to this later in 4.1.

4 Integration

4.1 Integration of L_∞ -algebras

Definition 8 Fix some notion of Lie ∞ -groupoids and the corresponding notion of the fundamental Lie ∞ -groupoid $\Pi_\infty(X)$ of any space X .

Then the Lie ∞ -groupoid integrating an L_∞ -algebra \mathfrak{g} is

$$\mathbf{B}\left(\int \mathfrak{g}\right) := \Pi_\infty S(\text{CE}(\mathfrak{g})).$$

Examples. Let \mathfrak{g} be an ordinary Lie algebra and $\Pi_1(X)$ the strict fundamental 1-groupoid of a space X (morphisms are homotopy classes of paths). Let G be the simply connected Lie group integrating \mathfrak{g} . Then

$$\Pi_1(S(\text{CE}(\mathfrak{g}))) = \mathbf{B}G,$$

where the right hand side denotes the strict one object 1-groupoid obtained from G .

Now let \mathfrak{g} be an ordinary Lie algebra with a bilinear invariant form on it and let μ be the associated canonical Lie algebra 3-cocycle. The corresponding String Lie 2-algebra is \mathfrak{g}_μ . Let $\Pi_2(X)$ be the strict fundamental 2-groupoid of a space X : morphisms are *thin* homotopy classes of paths and 2-morphisms are homotopy classes of paths [10].

Then, I am claiming, the 2-group G_μ defined by

$$\mathbf{B}G_2 := \Pi_2(S(\text{CE}(\mathfrak{g}_\mu)))$$

is essentially the strict version of the String Lie 2-group presented in [1], only that the horizontal composition of paths is not pointwise multiplication, but concatenation. This is, I am claiming, the strict 2-group secretly underlying the discussion in [?].

Forming instead $\Pi_\infty^{\text{wk}}(S(\text{CE}(\mathfrak{g})))$ leads to the integration discussed in [5].

4.2 Integration and basic forms on mapping spaces

Definition 9 (integral of a \mathfrak{g} -valued form) Let \mathfrak{g} be any L_∞ -algebra and fix a \mathfrak{g} -valued differential form

$$\Omega^\bullet(Y) \xleftarrow{(A, F_A)} \mathbf{W}(\mathfrak{g}) .$$

For any smooth space Σ , we say that the integral of A over Σ is the morphism

$$\int_\Sigma A : \Omega_{\text{basic}}^\bullet(\text{hom}(\Sigma, S(\mathbf{W}(\mathfrak{g})))) \longrightarrow \Omega^\bullet(\text{hom}(\Sigma, X))$$

in

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 & & \Omega^\bullet(\text{hom}(\Sigma, S(\text{CE}(\mathfrak{g})))) \\
 & & \uparrow \\
 \Omega^\bullet(\text{hom}(\Sigma, X)) & \xleftarrow{\Omega^\bullet(\text{hom}(\Sigma, S(A, F_A)))} & \Omega^\bullet(\text{hom}(\Sigma, S(\mathbf{W}(\mathfrak{g})))) \\
 & \nwarrow \int_\Sigma A & \uparrow \\
 & & \Omega_{\text{basic}}^\bullet(\text{hom}(\Sigma, S(\mathbf{W}(\mathfrak{g}))))
 \end{array}$$

Example. Elsewhere I sketched the proof of the obvious consistency condition: let $\mathfrak{g} = b^{n-1}\mathfrak{u}(1)$. Then A is an ordinary n -form on X . Let Σ be n -dimensional. Then $\int_\Sigma A$ coincides with the ordinary integral of A over Σ .

References

- [1] J. Baez, A. Crans, U. Schreiber, D. Stevenson, *From loop groups to 2-groups*
- [2] , J.-L. Brylinski and D. McLaughlin, *A geometric construction of the first Pontryagin class* , Quantum Topology, 209-220
- [3] P. Iglesias
- [4] E. Getzler
- [5] A. Henriques
- [6] A. Hoffnung (on Chen-smooth spaces, in preparation)
- [7] F. Lawvere, *Taking categories seriously*, Reprints in Theory and Applications of Categories, No. 8 (2005) pp. 1-24
- [8] I. Moerdijk and E. Reyes
- [9] *n-Category Café*
- [10] U. Schreiber and K. Waldorf, *Functors vs. differential forms*
- [11] P. Ševera
- [12] Harold Simmony, *Topology Appl.* 13 (1982), no. 2, 201-223
- [13] A. Stacey, *Comparative Smoothology* [[arXiv:0802.2225](https://arxiv.org/abs/0802.2225)]
- [14] T. Trimble