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978-0-521-76036-2 - Directed Algebraic Topology: Models of Non-Reversible Worlds

Marco Grandis

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Directed Algebraic Topology

This is the first authored book to be dedicated to the new field of directed algebraic topology that arose in the 1990s, in homotopy theory and in the theory of concurrent processes. Its general aim can be stated as 'modelling non-reversible phenomena' and its domain should be distinguished from that of classical algebraic topology by the principle that directed spaces have privileged directions and directed paths therein need not be reversible. Its homotopical tools (corresponding in the classical case to ordinary homotopies, fundamental group and fundamental groupoid) should be similarly 'non-reversible': directed homotopies, fundamental monoid and fundamental category. Homotopy constructions occur here in a directed version, which gives rise to new 'shapes', like directed cones and directed spheres. Applications deal with domains where privileged directions appear, including rewrite systems, traffic networks and biological systems. The most developed examples can be found in the area of concurrency.

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To
Maria Teresa
and
Marina

Contents

<i>Introduction</i>	<i>page</i>	1
1	Aims and applications	1
2	Some examples	2
3	Directed spaces and other directed structures	3
4	Formal foundations for directed algebraic topology	5
5	Interactions with category theory	6
6	Interactions with non-commutative geometry	7
7	From directed to weighted algebraic topology	7
8	Terminology and notation	8
9	Acknowledgements	9
Part I First-order directed homotopy and homology		11
1	Directed structures and first-order homotopy properties	13
1.1	From classical homotopy to the directed case	14
1.2	The basic structure of the directed cylinder and cocylinder	28
1.3	First-order homotopy theory by the cylinder functor, I	40
1.4	Topological spaces with distinguished paths	50
1.5	The basic homotopy structure of d-spaces	61
1.6	Cubical sets	65
1.7	First-order homotopy theory by the cylinder functor, II	79
1.8	First-order homotopy theory by the path functor	89
1.9	Other topological settings	97
2	Directed homology and non-commutative geometry	105
2.1	Directed homology of cubical sets	106
2.2	Properties of the directed homology of cubical sets	114

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-76036-2 - Directed Algebraic Topology: Models of Non-Reversible Worlds

Marco Grandis

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

viii

Contents

2.3	Pointed homotopy and homology of cubical sets	120
2.4	Group actions on cubical sets	127
2.5	Interactions with non-commutative geometry	130
2.6	Directed homology theories	140
3	Modelling the fundamental category	145
3.1	Higher properties of homotopies of d-spaces	146
3.2	The fundamental category of a d-space	153
3.3	Future and past equivalences of categories	165
3.4	Bilateral directed equivalences of categories	177
3.5	Injective and projective models of categories	185
3.6	Minimal models of a category	193
3.7	Future invariant properties	199
3.8	Spectra and pf-equivalence of categories	206
3.9	A gallery of spectra and models	214
	Part II Higher directed homotopy theory	227
4	Settings for higher order homotopy	229
4.1	Preserving homotopies and transposition	230
4.2	A strong setting for directed homotopy	239
4.3	Examples, I	250
4.4	Examples, II. Chain complexes	254
4.5	Double homotopies and the fundamental category	262
4.6	Higher properties of h-pushouts and cofibrations	269
4.7	Higher properties of cones and Puppe sequences	277
4.8	The cone monad	283
4.9	The reversible case	290
5	Categories of functors and algebras, relative settings	296
5.1	Directed homotopy of diagrams and sheaves	297
5.2	Directed homotopy in slice categories	301
5.3	Algebras for a monad and the path functor	309
5.4	Applications to d-spaces and small categories	319
5.5	The path functor of differential graded algebras	327
5.6	Higher structure and cylinder of dg-algebras	334
5.7	Cochain algebras as internal semigroups	342
5.8	Relative settings based on forgetful functors	345
6	Elements of weighted algebraic topology	351
6.1	Generalised metric spaces	352
6.2	Elementary and extended homotopies	362

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-76036-2 - Directed Algebraic Topology: Models of Non-Reversible Worlds

Marco Grandis

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

<i>Contents</i>		ix
6.3	The fundamental weighted category	366
6.4	Minimal models	373
6.5	Spaces with weighted paths	376
6.6	Linear and metrisable w-spaces	387
6.7	Weighted non-commutative tori	391
6.8	Tentative formal settings for the weighted case	394
<i>Appendix A Some points of category theory</i>		397
A1	Basic notions	397
A2	Limits and colimits	405
A3	Adjoint functors	407
A4	Monoidal categories, monads, additive categories	410
A5	Two-dimensional categories and mates	414
<i>References</i>		418
<i>Glossary of symbols</i>		424
<i>Index</i>		427