

The homotopy theory of ideals structured by operads

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Motivation: Ideals of ring spectra

The fundamental object of study in **stable homotopy theory** is the category of spectra, in which important computations of stable homotopy groups and cohomology groups takes place.

A **spectrum** X is a sequence of spaces $(X_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ plus morphisms $\Sigma X_n := S^1 \wedge X_n \longrightarrow X_{n+1}$, where \wedge is the **smash product of spaces** $A \wedge B := (A \times B)/(A \vee B)$.

Examples: $S = (S^n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$. Stable homotopy groups $\pi_*^S(X) = [S, X]$. For a given space Y , $(\Sigma^n Y)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is a spectrum.

For a ring R , $(HR)_n = K(R, n)$, Eilenberg-MacLane spaces

Any generalized cohomology theory gives rise to a spectrum E , by the Brown representability theorem $h^n(X) \cong [X, E_n]$.

Note: can smash spectra levelwise and unit is S , but not symmetric monoidal because S is not a commutative monoid (the twist map on $S^1 \wedge S^1$ is not the identity).

Ring spectra

Symmetric spectra have symmetric group actions on each X_n .
The category of symmetric spectra is **closed symmetric monoidal**

$$(X \wedge Y)_n = \bigvee_{p+q=n} \Sigma(n)_+ \wedge_{\Sigma(p) \times \Sigma(q)} (X_p \wedge Y_q)$$

$$\mathrm{Hom}(X, Y)_n = \prod_{m \geq n} \mathrm{Map}_{\Sigma(m-n)}(X_{m-n}, Y_m)$$

A **ring spectrum** is a monoid. Analogy: an R -algebra is a monoid in R -modules; a DGA is a monoid in $Ch(R)$.

An **ideal** in algebra is a subgroup $(I, +) \subset (R, +)$ such that for all $r \in R, i \in I$, the product $i \cdot r \in I$.

Problem: ring spectra don't have elements!

Ideal of ring spectra

Instead of $I \subset R$, we should have something like a monomorphism $f : I \rightarrow R$. That is, $f \in \text{Arr}(\mathcal{M})$, with some kind of algebraic structure.

If $(\mathcal{M}, \otimes, 1)$ is a closed symmetric monoidal category, then $\text{Arr}(\mathcal{M})$ has two monoidal structures:

- 1 **Tensor monoidal structure**: $f \otimes g : X_0 \otimes Y_0 \rightarrow X_1 \otimes Y_1$, unit Id_1 .
- 2 **Pushout product monoidal structure** (unit $\emptyset \rightarrow 1$):

$$(X_0 \otimes Y_1) \coprod_{X_0 \otimes Y_0} (X_1 \otimes Y_0) \xrightarrow{f \square g} X_1 \otimes Y_1$$

Definition: A Smith ideal is a monoid in $\vec{\mathcal{M}}^\square := (\text{Arr}(\mathcal{M}), \square)$

Monoidal Model Categories (implies $\text{Ho}(M)$ monoidal)

$(M, \otimes, 1)$ is a closed symmetric monoidal model category.

The **pushout product** of $f : X_0 \rightarrow X_1$ and $g : Y_0 \rightarrow Y_1$, is the corner map:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X_0 \otimes Y_0 & \longrightarrow & X_1 \otimes Y_0 \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ X_0 \otimes Y_1 & \longrightarrow & P \\ & & \searrow \\ & & X_1 \otimes Y_1 \end{array}$$

\Downarrow

$f \square g$

Pushout Product Axiom: If f and g are cofibrations, so is $f \square g$. If either is also a weak equivalence, so is $f \square g$.

Examples: *Set*, *Top*, *sSet*, *sMod_R*, spectra (symmetric, orthogonal, *S*-modules), equivariant/motivic, *Ch(R)*, *StMod(k[G])*, *Cat*, ...

Unpacking definition of Smith ideal

A **Smith ideal** is a monoid in \vec{M}^\square . This means it's a monoid R , an R -bimodule I , and a map of R -bimodules $j : I \rightarrow R$ such that $\mu(1 \otimes j) = \mu(j \otimes 1) : I \otimes I \rightarrow I$. Reason: $\eta : (\emptyset \rightarrow 1) \rightarrow j$ and unpack $j \square j \rightarrow j$:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} (I \otimes R) \amalg_{I \otimes I} (R \otimes I) & \longrightarrow & R \otimes R \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ I & \longrightarrow & R \end{array}$$

A monoid in $\vec{M}^\otimes := (\text{Arr}(M), \otimes, Id_1)$ is a **monoid homomorphism**.

Theorem (Hovey): The cokernel functor from \vec{M}^\square to \vec{M}^\otimes is strong symmetric monoidal ($j \mapsto (R \rightarrow R/I)$), and right adjoint is the kernel. **Goal: prove it's a Quillen equivalence.**

A word on cokernel and kernel

Say M is **pointed** if $\emptyset \cong *$ (initial \cong terminal).

Given $f : X \rightarrow Y$, the **cokernel** $g : Y \rightarrow Z$ is the pushout on the left, and the **kernel** $h : K \rightarrow X$ is the pullback on the right

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X & \xrightarrow{f} & Y \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow g \\ * & \longrightarrow & Z \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{ccc} K & \longrightarrow & * \\ \downarrow h & & \downarrow \\ X & \xrightarrow{f} & Y \end{array}$$

Exercise: $\text{coker}(f \square g) \cong \text{coker } f \otimes \text{coker } g$. Cokernel is strong symmetric monoidal so \ker is lax symmetric monoidal.

Hence, there is a map $\ker f \square \ker g \rightarrow \ker(f \otimes g)$ that's adjoint to $\text{coker}(\ker f \square \ker g) \rightarrow f \otimes g$.

Monoidal model structure for Arrow Category

The *projective model structure* on \vec{M}^\square has weak equivalences and fibrations defined levelwise. Use *injective model* on \vec{M}^\otimes .

Theorem (Hovey, W.-Yau; Math Scandinavica 2018)

If M is a monoidal model category, then so are \vec{M}^\square and \vec{M}^\otimes .

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 V_0 & \xrightarrow{\alpha_0} & W_0 \\
 f_V \downarrow & & \downarrow f_W \\
 V_1 & \xrightarrow{\alpha_1} & W_1
 \end{array}
 \qquad
 \begin{array}{ccc}
 X_0 & \xrightarrow{\beta_0} & Y_0 \\
 f_X \downarrow & & \downarrow f_Y \\
 X_1 & \xrightarrow{\beta_1} & Y_1
 \end{array}$$

The pushout product in \vec{M}^\square is the map

$$(f_W \square f_X) \amalg_{f_V \square f_X} (f_V \square f_Y) \xrightarrow{\alpha \square_2 \beta} f_W \square f_Y$$

Hovey's helper results (exercises)

- 1 Let $L_0 : M \rightarrow \vec{M}^\otimes$ be left adjoint to $Ev_0(j) = \text{domain}(j)$, so $L_0(X) = 1_X$. Let $L_1 : M \rightarrow \vec{M}^\square$ be left adj to Ev_1 (codomain) so $L_1(X) = (\emptyset \rightarrow X)$. These are strict monoidal functors.
- 2 \vec{M}^\square and \vec{M}^\otimes satisfy the monoid axiom if M does, so monoids inherit a model structure.
- 3 Ev_1 is left Quillen from Smith ideals to monoids in M .
- 4 If M is pointed then coker: $\vec{M}^\square \rightarrow \vec{M}^\otimes$ lifts to a Quillen functor from Smith ideals to monoid homomorphisms.
- 5 If M is a stable model category (and unit is cofibrant) then this is a Quillen equivalence. Need cofibrant monoid to forget to cofibrant object for the proof that Q.E. lifts to monoids.

How to prove Hovey's Quillen equivalence

If $\alpha : f \rightarrow g$ is a (trivial) cofibration in \vec{M}^\square then induced map of colimits $\text{coker } f \rightarrow \text{coker } g$ is a (trivial) cofibration.

If M is stable, f cofibrant in \vec{M}^\square , p fibrant in \vec{M}^\otimes , let $\alpha : \text{coker } f \rightarrow p$ and $\beta : f \rightarrow \ker p$:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 B & \xrightarrow{g} & \text{coker } f \\
 \alpha_0 \downarrow & & \downarrow \alpha_1 \\
 X & \xrightarrow{p} & Y
 \end{array}
 \qquad
 \begin{array}{ccc}
 A & \xrightarrow{f} & B \\
 \beta_0 \downarrow & & \downarrow \alpha_0 \\
 \ker p & \xrightarrow{q} & X
 \end{array}$$

Then α is a weak equivalence iff β is, using

$A \rightarrow B \rightarrow \text{coker } f \rightarrow \Sigma A$ and $\Omega Y \rightarrow \ker p \rightarrow X \rightarrow Y$ and every fiber sequence is isomorphic to a cofiber sequence. So: $\ker p \rightarrow X \rightarrow Y \rightarrow \Sigma \ker p$ and use two out of three.

Our setup (W.-Yau)

Note: monoid morphisms are algebras over a 2-colored operad.
Smith ideals are too. Generalize from *Ass* to operad O ?

- 1 Goal: homotopy theory of ideals structured by an operad O , e.g., commutative ideals ($Ev_1(j)$ is a commutative monoid), A_∞ -ideals, E_∞ -ideals, E_n , Lie, L_∞ , etc.
- 2 Given O , define $\vec{O}^\otimes = L_0 O$ (resp. $\vec{O}^\square = L_1 O$), C -colored operad in \vec{M}^\otimes (resp. \vec{M}^\square).
- 3 A Smith O -ideal is an algebra over \vec{O}^\square ; a morphism of O -algebras is an algebra over \vec{O}^\otimes .
- 4 There is a $(C \amalg C)$ -colored operad O^s in M such that $\text{Alg}(\vec{O}^\square; \vec{M}^\square) \cong \text{Alg}(O^s; M)$.
- 5 coker induces an adjunction $\text{Alg}(\vec{O}^\square; \vec{M}^\square) \rightleftarrows \text{Alg}(\vec{O}^\otimes; \vec{M}^\otimes)$

Unpacking Smith O-ideal

Proposition (W.-Yau)

A Smith O-ideal in M is precisely:

- an O-algebra (A, λ_1) in M ,
- an A-bimodule (X, λ_0) in M , and
- an A-bimodule map $f : (X, \lambda_0) \rightarrow (A, \lambda_1)$

such that, for $1 \leq i < j \leq n$, the following commutes

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 O_{\underline{c}}^{(d)} \otimes A_{c_1} \cdots A_{c_{i-1}} X_{c_i} A_{c_{i+1}} \cdots X_{c_j} \cdots A_{c_n} & \xrightarrow{(\text{Id}, f_{c_j}, \text{Id})} & O_{\underline{c}}^{(d)} \otimes A_{c_1} \cdots A_{c_{i-1}} X_{c_i} A_{c_{i+1}} \cdots A_{c_n} \\
 \downarrow (\text{Id}, f_{c_j}, \text{Id}) & & \downarrow \lambda_0 \\
 O_{\underline{c}}^{(d)} \otimes A_{c_1} \cdots A_{c_{j-1}} X_{c_j} A_{c_{j+1}} \cdots A_{c_n} & \xrightarrow{\lambda_0} & X_d
 \end{array}$$

What is this O^s ?

Given a C -colored operad O , denote by C^0 (resp. C^1) the first (resp. second) copies of $C \cup C$. Given $c \in C$, write $c^\epsilon \in C^\epsilon$ for the same c in each copy, for $\epsilon \in \{0, 1\}$. Define:

$$O^s(c_1^{\epsilon_1}, \dots, c_n^{\epsilon_n}) = O(\underline{c})$$
$$O^s(c_1^{\epsilon_1}, \dots, c_n^{\epsilon_n}) = \begin{cases} O(\underline{c}) & \text{if at least one } \epsilon_i = 0 \text{ and} \\ \emptyset & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

So, an O^s -algebra is a pair (A, X) of C -colored objects, plus structure maps making A into an O -algebra, X into an A -bimodule, and $f : X \rightarrow A$ into an A -bimodule map.

This is similar to the two-colored operad for monoid maps.

Main theorem

Theorem (W.-Yau)

If M is nice, and cofibrant Smith O -ideals are also entrywise cofibrant in \vec{M}^\square then there is a Quillen equivalence

$$\{\text{Smith } O\text{-Ideals}\} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\text{coker}} \\ \xleftarrow{\text{ker}} \end{array} \{O\text{-Algebra Maps}\}$$

For Σ -cofibrant O , just need M stable, monoidal, cof gen.

For $O = \text{Com}$, M needs strong commutative monoid axiom.

For general O , need good behavior of $X \otimes_{\Sigma_n} (-)^{\square^n}$ and

$f_{\square_{\Sigma_n}}(-) : M^{\Sigma_n} \rightarrow M$

Examples: symmetric spectra, $Ch(k)$, $\text{StMod}(k[G])$, motivic, equivariant orthogonal spectra, enriched functors, S -modules, etc.

Comparison with ∞ -operads

Theorem (W.-Yau)

If \mathcal{M} is cof. gen., $\mathcal{M}^b \subset \mathcal{M}$, and O is Σ_C -cofibrant (symmetric) C -colored operad.

- Denote by $\text{Alg}(O; \mathcal{M})^c[W_O^{-1}]$ the ∞ -category obtained from the *semi-model category* $\text{Alg}(O; \mathcal{M})$, by first passing to the subcategory of cofibrant objects, and then inverting the weak equivalences between O -algebras.
- Denote by $\text{Alg}(O; \mathcal{M}[W^{-1}])$ the ∞ -category obtained by first passing from \mathcal{M} to the (symmetric) monoidal category $\mathcal{M}[W^{-1}]$ and then passing to O -algebras, where O is viewed as a colored operad in $\mathcal{M}[W^{-1}] \simeq \mathcal{M}^b[W^{-1}]$.

Then $\text{Alg}(O; \mathcal{M})^c[W_O^{-1}] \simeq \text{Alg}(O; \mathcal{M}[W^{-1}])$ as ∞ -categories.

More details

Definition (Haugseug)

A *subcategory of flat objects* is a full symmetric monoidal subcategory M^b s.t.:

- 1 All cofibrant objects are flat (i.e., in M^b).
- 2 If X is flat and f is w.e. in M^b , then $X \otimes f$ is w.e.

Proposition (W.-Yau)

Suppose M is a cofibrantly generated monoidal model category and O is a Σ -cofibrant C -colored operad valued in M . Then the forgetful functor $U : \text{Alg}(O; M) \rightarrow M^C$ preserves and reflects homotopy sifted colimits.

Cor: story works for $\vec{M}^\square, \vec{M}^\otimes$. So $\text{Alg}(\vec{O}^\otimes; \vec{M}^\otimes) \simeq \text{Alg}(\vec{O}^\square; \vec{M}^\square)$

Open Problems

Almost every question you can ask, e.g., **tensor prod of ideals?**
What is the relationship between ideals of $\pi_*(R)$ and ideals of ring spectra? If $R = S$, the sphere spectrum, and $2 \in \pi_0 S$ is the cofiber of the 'times 2' map, then (2) is an ideal of $\pi_* S$ but the mod 2 Moore spectrum is not a ring spectrum, even up to homotopy. **So what is the ring spectrum quotient of S by 2 ?**

Let $f : I \rightarrow R$ be any map. **What is the Smith ideal generated by f ?** The free functor T yields an ideal of $T(R)$ not R .

Every ring spectrum is weakly equivalent to a quotient of the sphere spectrum by some Smith ideal. Define a monoid homomorphism $p : R \rightarrow S$ to be a **strong quotient** if $S \otimes_R QN \rightarrow N$ is a w.e. for all fibrant N (and cof. rep. Q). **Can we classify strong quotients of ring spectra?**

What is the connection to the 'homotopy normal maps' of Prasma?

Connection to algebraic K -theory

Suppose that R is a ring spectrum with Smith ideals I and J . Define the Smith ideal $I \wedge_R J$. Let T be the homotopy pushout of $R/I \leftarrow R \rightarrow R/J$ in the category of E_1 -algebras. There is a **fiber sequence of algebraic K -theory spectra**: $K(R/(I \wedge_R J)) \rightarrow K(R/I) \otimes K(R/J) \rightarrow K(T)$. This was Smith's original motivation, recently proven by Land-Tamme, 2023. Their \tilde{R} is $R/(I \wedge_R J)$ where $I = \text{fib}(R \rightarrow R')$ and $J = \text{fib}(R \rightarrow S)$ are ideals. They compute $K(R \rightarrow R/(I \wedge_R J))$ and prove $T \cong R/I \odot_R^M R/J$, the \odot -ring from their **Annals paper**, for $M = (R/I) \wedge_R (R/J)$. Their work applies to any localizing invariant, not just K -theory. They recover results of Waldhausen on K -theory of pushouts of group rings, and of Burghelea (1985) for periodic cyclic homology, plus much more. Operad structure matters: in E_∞ context, $A' \odot_A^M B \simeq B \odot_A^M A'$.

Work to do relating K -theory and ideals

Now is a great time to compute examples of various R/I , $R/(I \wedge_R J)$, and $A' \odot_A^M B$.

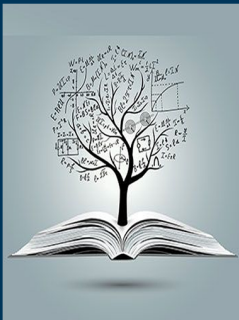
Land-Tamme is about ring spectra, but Smith ideals work in general stable model categories. Can you prove Smith's vision regarding $E(R/(I \wedge_R J))$ for motivic spectra, equivariant spectra, chain complexes, and the stable module category?

Section 6 of White-Yau lists conjectures and open problems related to Smith O -ideal theory in: positive flat model on symmetric spectra and equivariant orthogonal spectra, positive complete model structure, global equivariant, injective model structures, and S -modules.

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Q & A: Transferring Model Structures

Lemma (well-known)

If O is a C -colored operad in M and if for all generating trivial cofibrations $j : K \rightarrow L$ in M , transfinite compositions of pushouts in $\text{Alg}_O(M)$:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} F(K) & \longrightarrow & F(L) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ A & \longrightarrow & B \end{array} \quad \Downarrow$$

are weak equivalences then $\text{Alg}_O(M)$ has **transferred model structure**, with weak equivalences and fibrations defined in M .

If above works only for A cofibrant then get **transferred semi-model structure**. Note: $A \rightarrow B$ is transfinite composition of pushouts of $O_A(\underline{c}) \otimes_{\Sigma_n} j^{\square n}$. If O is Σ -cof, A cof, then O_A is Σ -cof.

Q & A: Proof that $\text{Arr}(\mathbf{M})$ has pushout product axiom

We'll focus on $\vec{\mathbf{M}}^\square$. To get $\mathbf{M}^{I \times n}$ and $\mathbf{M}^{\square^{op}}$, iterate.

To save space, write $W_1 X_0$ for $W_1 \otimes X_0$, etc. Let $f_V : V_0 \rightarrow V_1$, and f_W, f_X, f_Y similarly.

If $\alpha : f_V \rightarrow f_W$ and $\beta : f_X \rightarrow f_Y$, then $\alpha \square_2 \beta$ is the following commutative square in \mathbf{M} :

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \left(W_1 X_0 \amalg_{W_0 X_0} W_0 X_1 \right) \amalg_{\left(V_1 X_0 \amalg_{V_0 X_0} V_0 X_1 \right)} & \left(V_1 Y_0 \amalg_{V_0 Y_0} V_0 Y_1 \right) & \xrightarrow{\zeta} & W_1 Y_0 \amalg_{W_0 Y_0} W_0 Y_1 \\
 \downarrow \begin{array}{l} (f_W \square f_X) \amalg_{f_V \square f_X} (f_V \square f_Y) \end{array} & & & \downarrow f_W \square f_Y \\
 W_1 X_1 \amalg_{V_1 X_1} V_1 Y_1 & \xrightarrow{\alpha_1 \square \beta_1} & & W_1 Y_1
 \end{array}$$

Proof (cont)

Lemma (Hovey): In \vec{M}^\square , γ from $f : X_0 \rightarrow X_1$ to $g : Y_0 \rightarrow Y_1$ is a (trivial) cofibration iff γ_0 and $\gamma_1 \oplus g : X_1 \amalg_{X_0} Y_0 \rightarrow Y_1$ are.

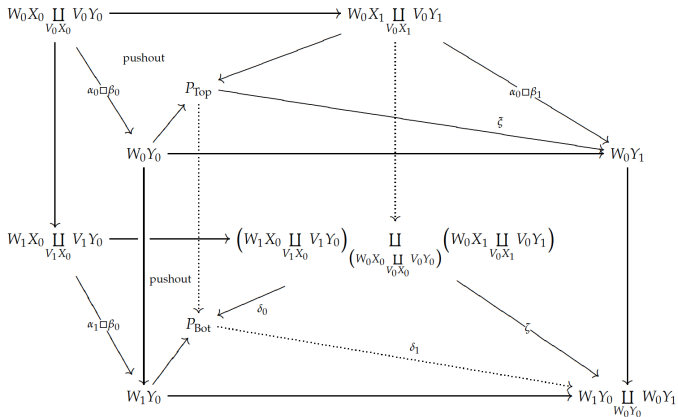
Assume α is a cofibration and β is a (trivial) cofibration in \vec{M}^\square

We must prove ζ is a (trivial) cofibration and the pushout corner map

$$\left(W_1 X_1 \amalg_{V_1 X_1} V_1 Y_1 \right) \amalg_Z \left(W_1 Y_0 \amalg_{W_0 Y_0} W_0 Y_1 \right) \xrightarrow{(\alpha_1 \square \beta_1) \otimes (f_W \square f_Y)} W_1 Y_1$$

is a (trivial) cofibration.

Proof (cont)



Proof (cont)

$\zeta = \delta_1 \circ \delta_0$, and δ_0 is a pushout of $\alpha_1 \square \beta_0$ so is a (trivial) cofibration.

δ_1 is a pushout of ζ , which we rewrite as the pushout product $\alpha_0 \square (\beta_1 \otimes f_Y)$, below, so both are (trivial) cofibrations.

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 V_0\left(X_1 \coprod_{X_0} Y_0\right) & \xrightarrow{(\text{Id}, \beta_1 \otimes f_Y)} & V_0 Y_1 \\
 (\alpha_0, \text{Id}) \downarrow & \text{pushout} & \downarrow \\
 W_0\left(X_1 \coprod_{X_0} Y_0\right) & \longrightarrow & \left[W_0\left(X_1 \coprod_{X_0} Y_0\right) \right] \coprod (V_0 Y_1) \\
 & & \left[V_0\left(X_1 \coprod_{X_0} Y_0\right) \right] \\
 & & \searrow \zeta \\
 & \xrightarrow{(\text{Id}, \beta_1 \otimes f_Y)} & W_0 Y_1
 \end{array}$$

A curved arrow labeled (α_0, Id) goes from $V_0 Y_1$ to $W_0 Y_1$.
 A curved arrow labeled $(\text{Id}, \beta_1 \otimes f_Y)$ goes from $W_0\left(X_1 \coprod_{X_0} Y_0\right)$ to $W_0 Y_1$.

Proof (cont)

To finish, rewrite

$$\left(W_1 X_1 \coprod_{V_1 X_1} V_1 Y_1 \right) \coprod_Z \left(W_1 Y_0 \coprod_{W_0 Y_0} W_0 Y_1 \right) \xrightarrow{(\alpha_1 \square \beta_1) \otimes (f_W \square f_Y)} W_1 Y_1$$

as:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \left(W_1 X_1 \coprod_{V_1 X_1} V_1 Y_1 \right) \coprod_Z \left(W_1 Y_0 \coprod_{W_0 Y_0} W_0 Y_1 \right) & \xrightarrow{(\alpha_1 \square \beta_1) \otimes (f_W \square f_Y)} & W_1 Y_1 \\ \cong \downarrow & & \downarrow = \\ W_1 \left(X_1 \coprod_{X_0} Y_0 \right) \coprod_{(V_1 \coprod_{V_0} W_0) (X_1 \coprod_{X_0} Y_0)} \left(V_1 \coprod_{V_0} W_0 \right) Y_1 & \xrightarrow{(\alpha_1 \otimes f_W) \square (\beta_1 \otimes f_Y)} & W_1 Y_1 \end{array}$$

Recap

Theorem (W.-Yau; arXiv:1703.05359; Math Scandinavica 2018)

If M is a monoidal model category, then so are \vec{M}^\square , $M^{I^{x^n}}$, and $M^{\square^{op}}$.

Lemma (Hovey): In \vec{M}^\square , γ from $f : X_0 \rightarrow X_1$ to $g : Y_0 \rightarrow Y_1$ is a (trivial) cofibration iff γ_0 and $\gamma_1 \oplus g : X_1 \amalg_{X_0} Y_0 \rightarrow Y_1$ are.

If α is cof and β is (triv) cof, then let $\gamma = \alpha \square_2 \beta$.

We proved $\gamma_0 = \zeta$ and $\gamma_1 \oplus g$ from previous slide, are (triv) cof's.