

On the Goodwillie Derivatives of the Identity in Structured Ring Spectra

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Main idea

Guiding principle

The Goodwillie derivatives of the identity functor in a suitably nice model category \mathcal{C} (denoted $\partial_* \text{Id}_{\mathcal{C}}$) should come equipped with a canonical operad structure.

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- General approach using ∞ -categories [Ching, Lurie]

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First, we'll recall some necessary background on functor calculus and operads.

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The diagram shows a vertical sequence of natural transformations. On the left, the functor F is connected to $P_1 F$ by a horizontal arrow pointing right. From $P_1 F$, a vertical arrow points down to $P_2 F$. From $P_2 F$, a vertical arrow points down to $P_3 F$. From $P_3 F$, a vertical arrow points down to a set of three vertical dots. A curved arrow also points from F to $P_2 F$.

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Thm. [Goodwillie]

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The collection $\partial_* F$ forms a *symmetric sequence* of spectra.

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Thm. [Goodwillie]

There is a unique (up to htpy.) spectrum $\partial_n F$ with Σ_n action such that $D_n F(X) \simeq \Omega^\infty(\partial_n F \wedge_{\Sigma_n} (\Sigma^\infty X)^{\wedge n})$. We call $\partial_n F$ the n -th derivative of F .

Remark: $D_n F(X)$ bears striking resemblance to $(f^{(n)}(0)x^n)/n!$. We can compute $\partial_n F$ from $D_n F$ via *cross-effects*.

Ex. Derivatives of Id_{S_*}

Note, $D_1 \text{Id}_{S_*}(X) \simeq P_1 \text{Id}_{S_*}(X) \simeq \Omega^\infty \Sigma^\infty X$ and therefore $\partial_1 \text{Id}_{S_*} \simeq S$. For $n \geq 2$, $\partial_n \text{Id}_{S_*}$ is related to the *partition poset complex* $\text{Par}(n)$ [Johnson, Arone-Mahowald]. In particular, $\partial_2 \text{Id}_{S_*} \simeq \Omega S$ with trivial Σ_2 action.

The collection $\partial_* F$ forms a *symmetric sequence* of spectra. We are interested in understanding what extra structure this sequence posses.

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We set $\text{Alg}_{\mathcal{O}}$ to be the category of algebras over a given operad \mathcal{O} together with structure preserving maps. Note, an algebra over X is equivalently an algebra over the associated monad on Spt

$$X \mapsto \mathcal{O} \circ (X) = \coprod_{n \geq 0} \mathcal{O}[n] \wedge_{\Sigma_n} X^{\wedge n}.$$

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Functor calculus in $\text{Alg}_{\mathcal{O}}$ (cont.) – Taylor tower of Id

Harper-Hess and Pereira show that the Taylor tower of the identity in $\text{Alg}_{\mathcal{O}}$ takes the following form

$$\begin{array}{c} \vdots \\ \downarrow \\ \tau_3 \mathcal{O} \circ_{\mathcal{O}} (-) \\ \downarrow \\ \tau_2 \mathcal{O} \circ_{\mathcal{O}} (-) \\ \downarrow \\ \text{Id} \longrightarrow \tau_1 \mathcal{O} \circ_{\mathcal{O}} (-) \end{array}$$

In particular, there are equivalences

- $D_n \text{Id}(X) \simeq U(\mathcal{O}[n] \wedge_{\Sigma_n} \text{TQ}(X)^{\wedge n})$
- $\partial_n \text{Id} \simeq \mathcal{O}[n]$ (as Σ_n -objects in Spt)

Thus, $\partial_* \text{Id} \simeq \mathcal{O}$ as *symmetric sequences*.

It has been a long standing conjecture that $\partial_* \text{Id} \simeq \mathcal{O}$ as *operads*, the missing piece being the lack of an intrinsic operad structure on $\partial_* \text{Id}$ with which to compare to \mathcal{O} .

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Thm. [C]

The derivatives of the identity in $\text{Alg}_{\mathcal{O}}$ possess an intrinsic “homotopy coherent” operad structure with respect to which $\partial_* \text{Id} \simeq \mathcal{O}$ as operads.

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- The coaugmentation $\mathcal{O} \rightarrow C(\mathcal{O})$ which yields an equivalence of (homotopy coherent) operads $\mathcal{O} \simeq \partial_* \text{Id}$. □

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- Similar box product pairings can be used to provide a new description for the operad structure on $\partial_* \text{Id}_{\mathcal{S}_*}$. Hope to extend this technique to other suitable model categories C to attack the “guiding principle” and better understand the relation between C to $\text{Alg}_{\partial_* \text{Id}_C}$

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