

# Virtual double categories as coloured box operads



Universiteit  
Antwerpen

Lander Hermans, 2024

fwo

# Virtual double categories as coloured box operads

(in collaboration with Wendy Lowen and Hoang Dinh Van)



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The Road map

monoids

The Road Map

monoids

$\subseteq$

categories

The Road Map

The Road Map

monoids

$\supseteq$

categories

$\supseteq$

operads

# The Road Map

monoids

$\supset$

categories

$\supset$

$\supset$

operads

$\supset$

multicategories =  
coloured operads

# The Road Map

monoids

$\supseteq$

categories

$\cong$

operads

$\supseteq$

multicategories =  
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$\cong$

monoidal  
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# The Road Map

monoids

$\supseteq$

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operads

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multicategories =  
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$\supseteq$

monoidal  
categories

$\supseteq$

double  
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A little bit of History

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- Augmented virtual double categories - Koudenburg (2022)
- Box operads - Dinh Van, Hermans and Lowen (2023)

Point of view

object of study

object encodes

categories

Point of view

object of study

object encodes

categories

Grp, Ab, Set, ...

Point of view

categories

object of study

Grp, Ab, Set,  $\Delta$ , ...

object encodes

ring  $k$ -algebra  
 $\Delta$ ,  $R$ ,  $A$ , ...

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$\text{Span}(V)$

$\text{Lax}_u, \text{colax}_u, \text{Pres}_u, \dots$

# Motivation

encode prestacks

via coloured box operads

to study

their deformation and homotopy theory

operads

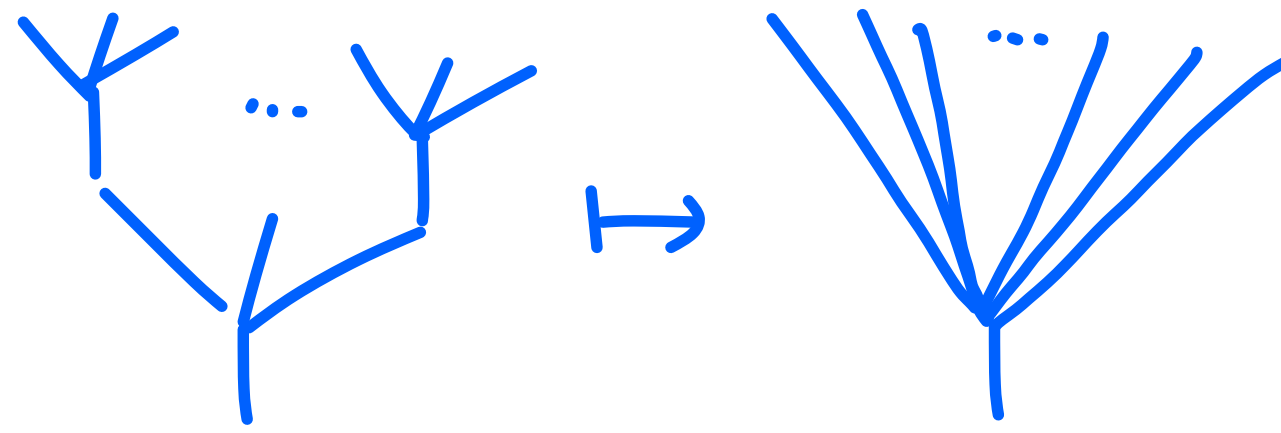
multicategories =  
coloured operads

monoidal  
categories

box operads

virtual double categories “=”  
coloured box operads

double  
categories



operads

box operads

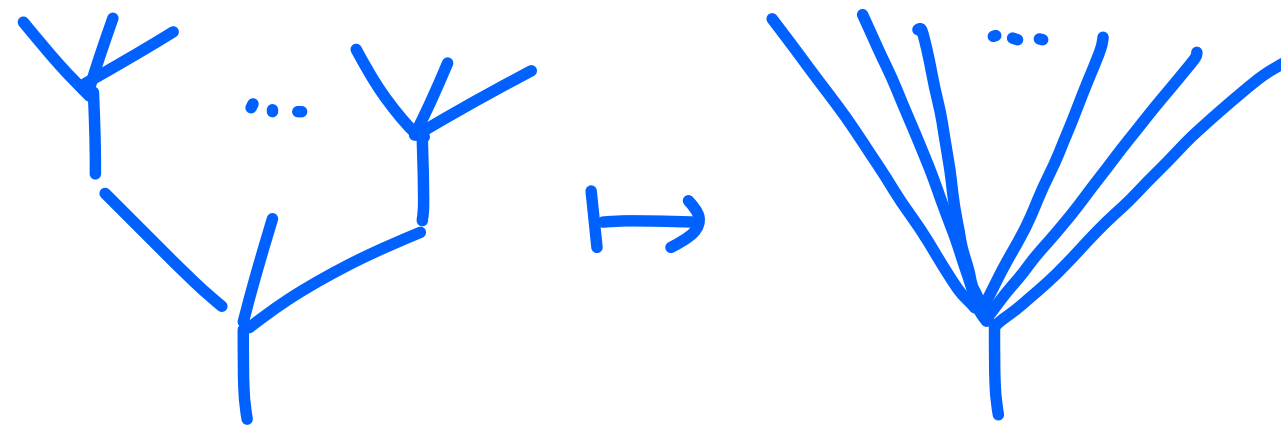
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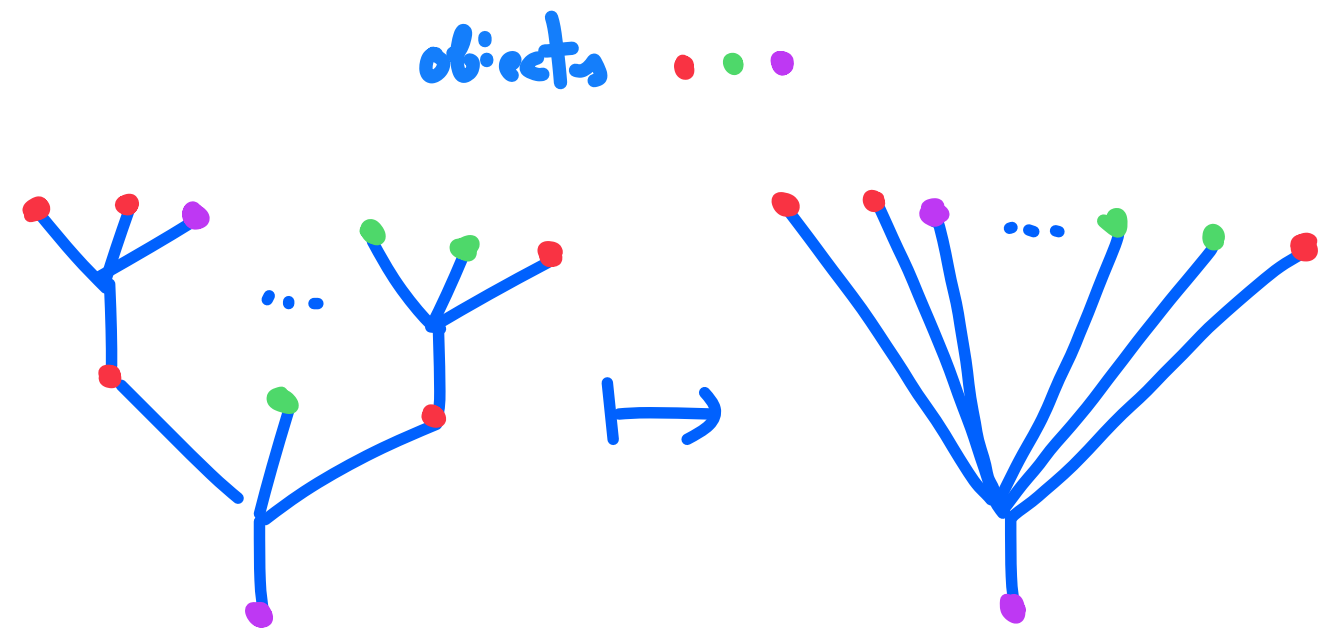
double  
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operads

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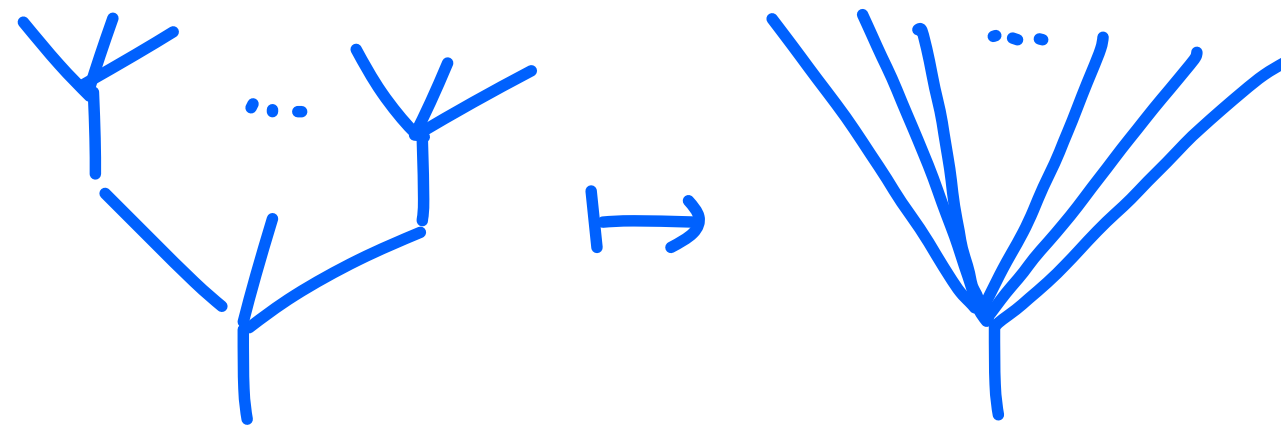


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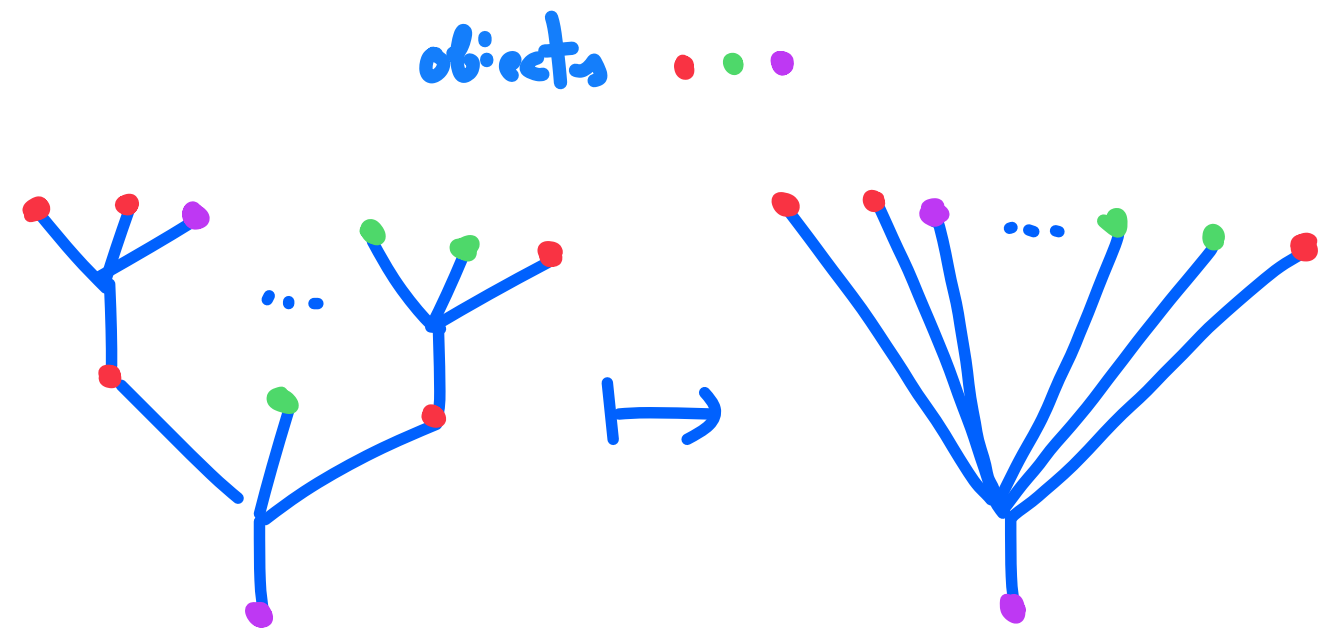
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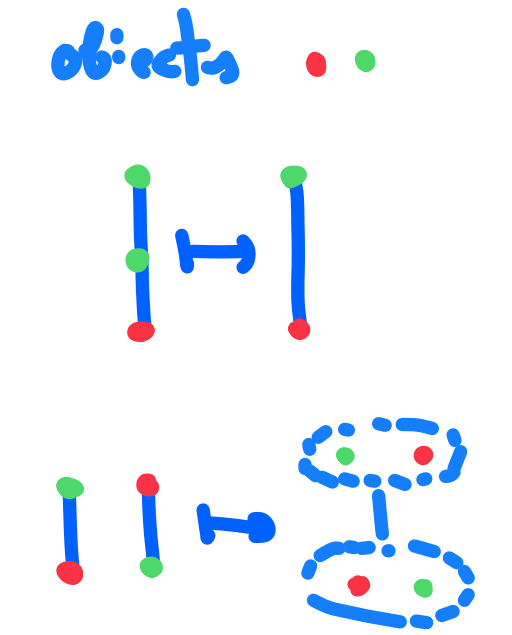
operads

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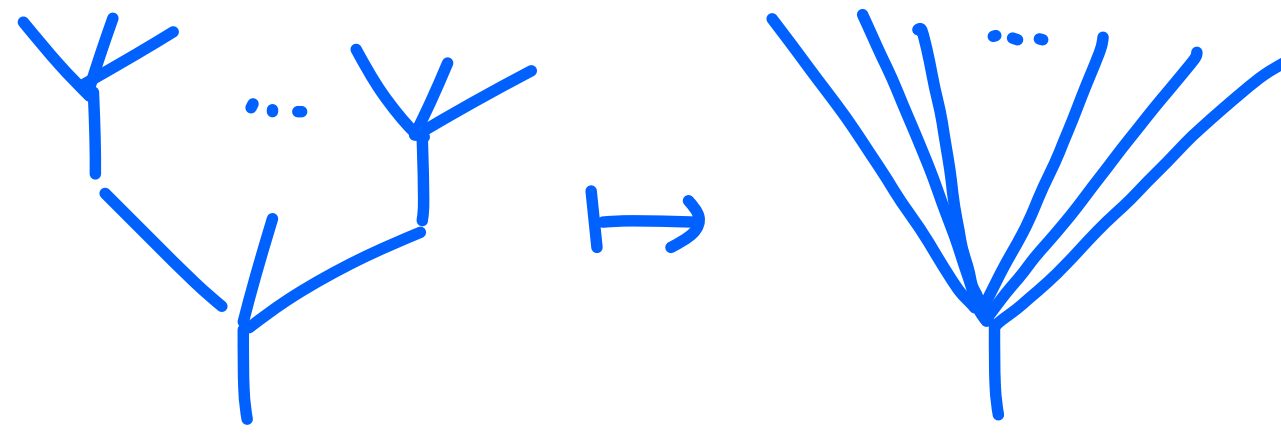
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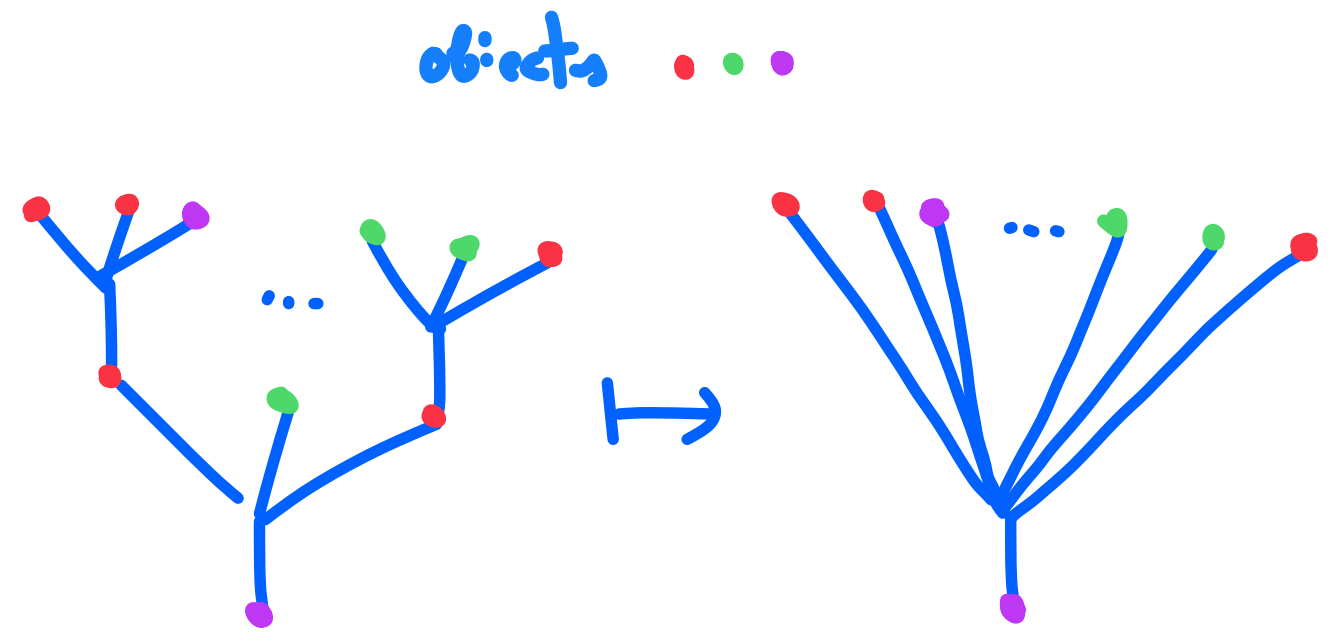


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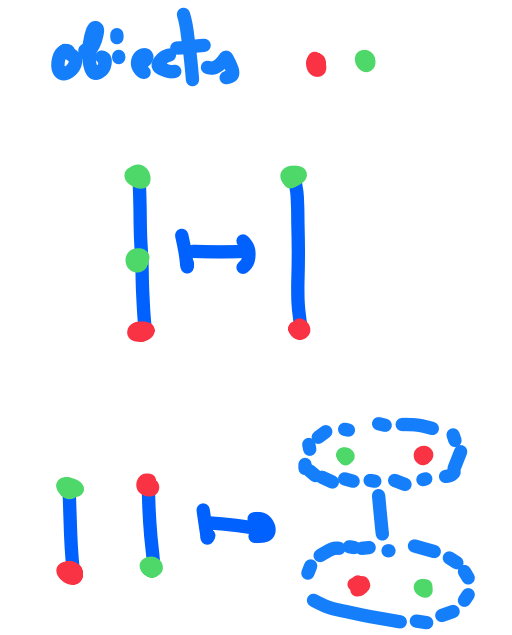
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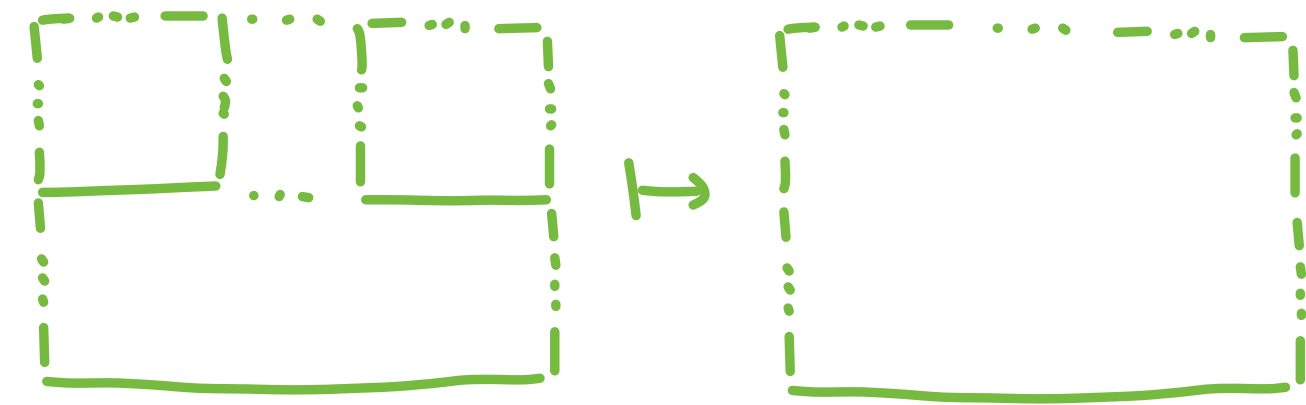


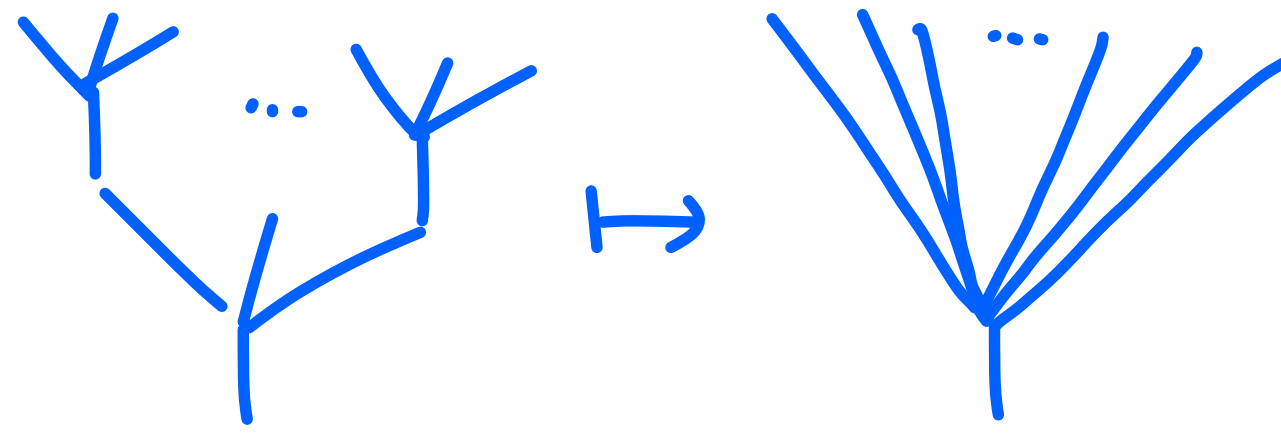
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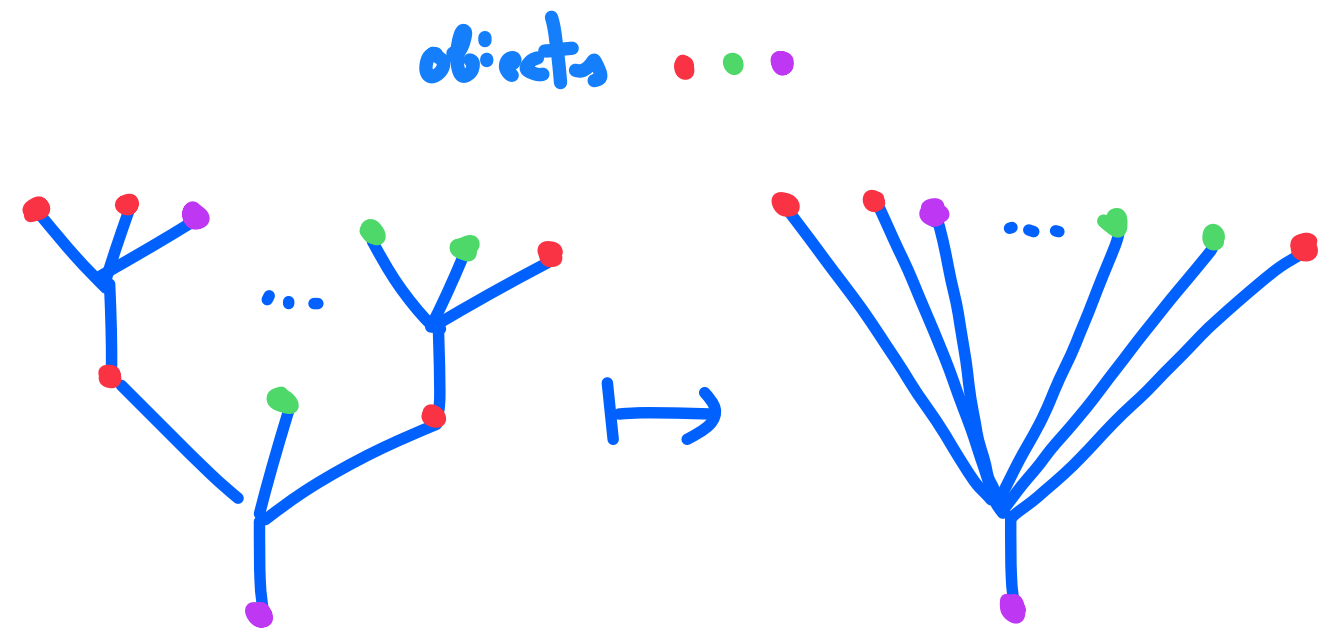
virtual double categories “=”  
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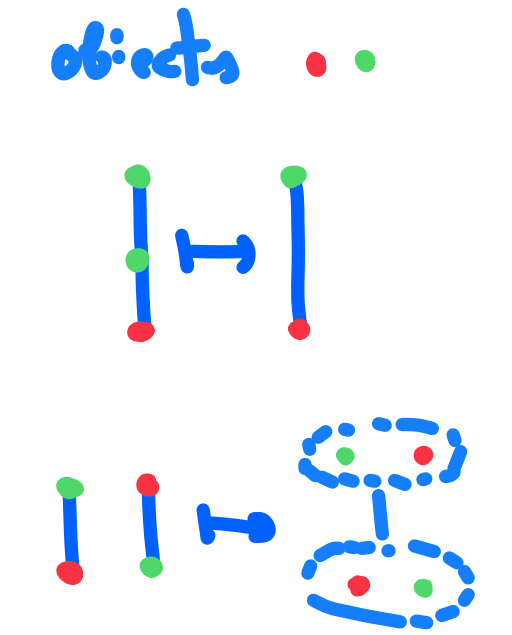




operads



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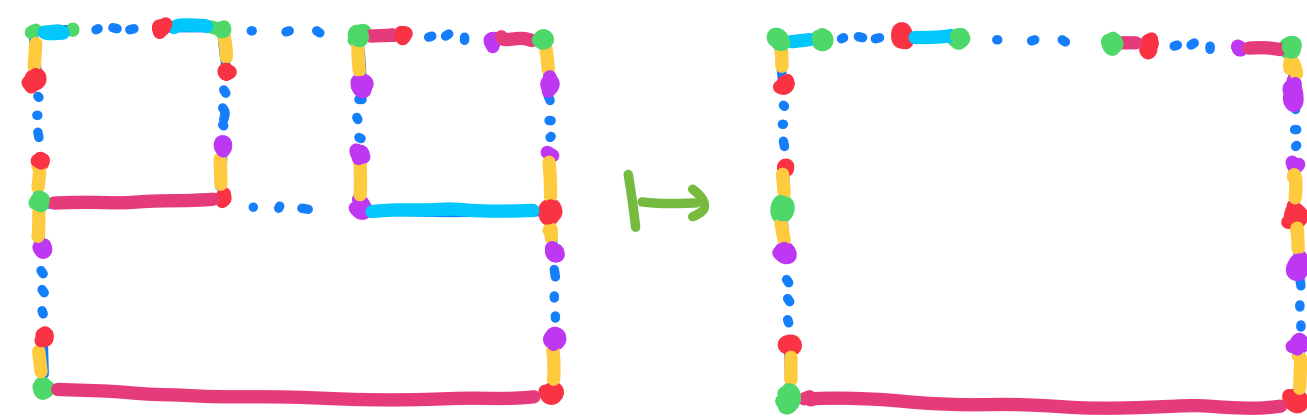
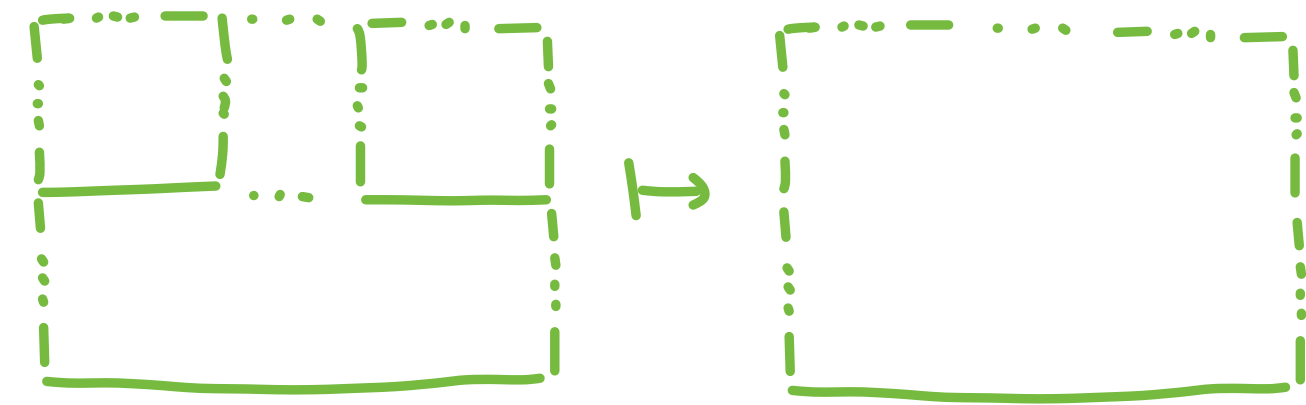


monoidal  
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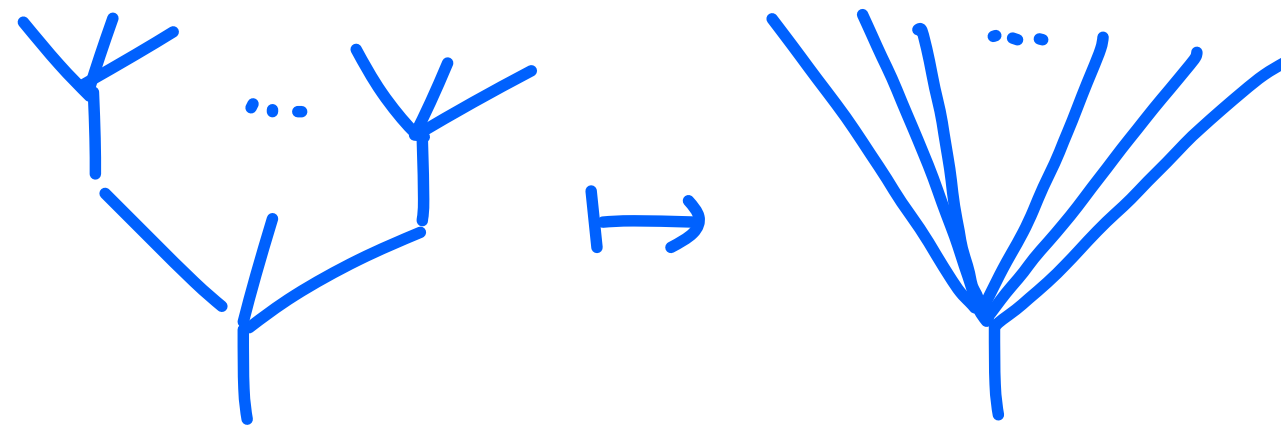
box operads

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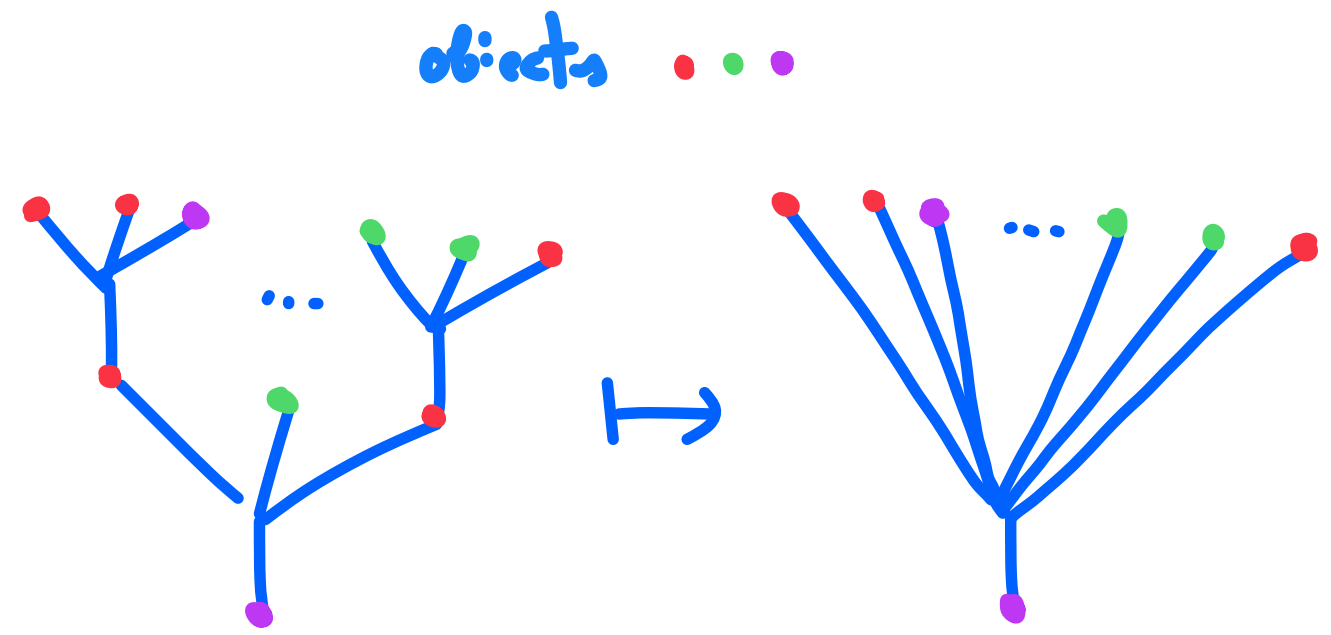
double  
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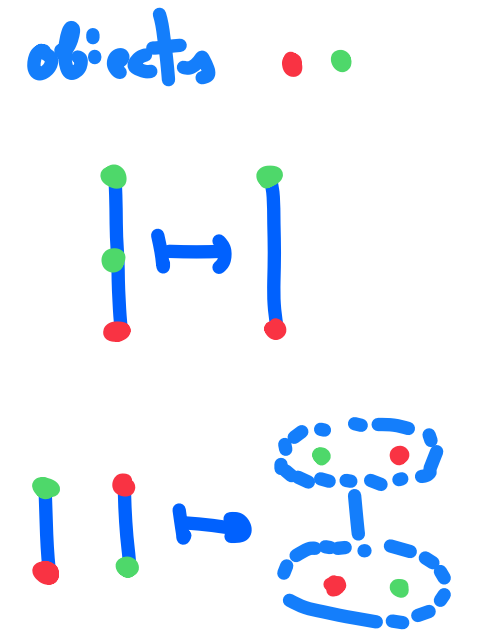
objects . . .  
horizontal morphism —  
vertical morphism |



operads



multicategories =  
coloured operads

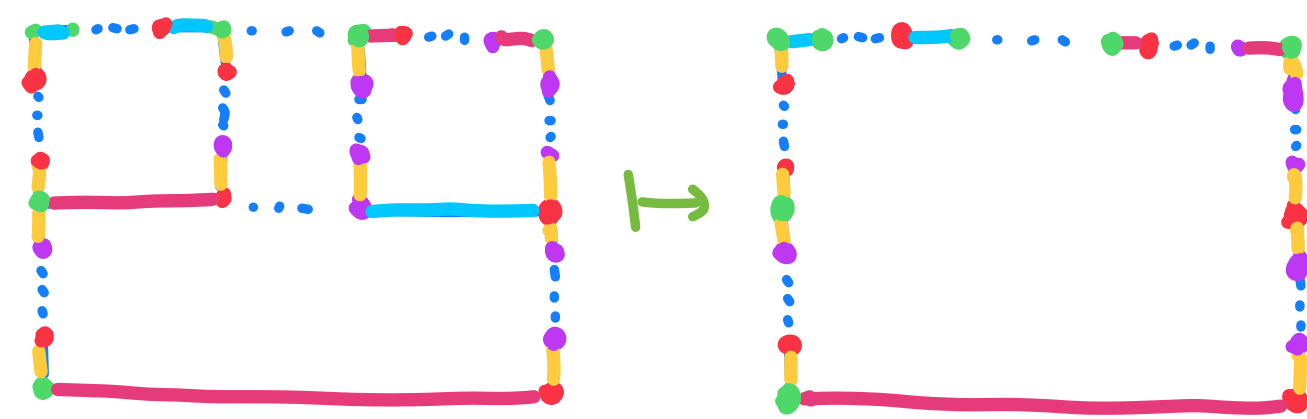
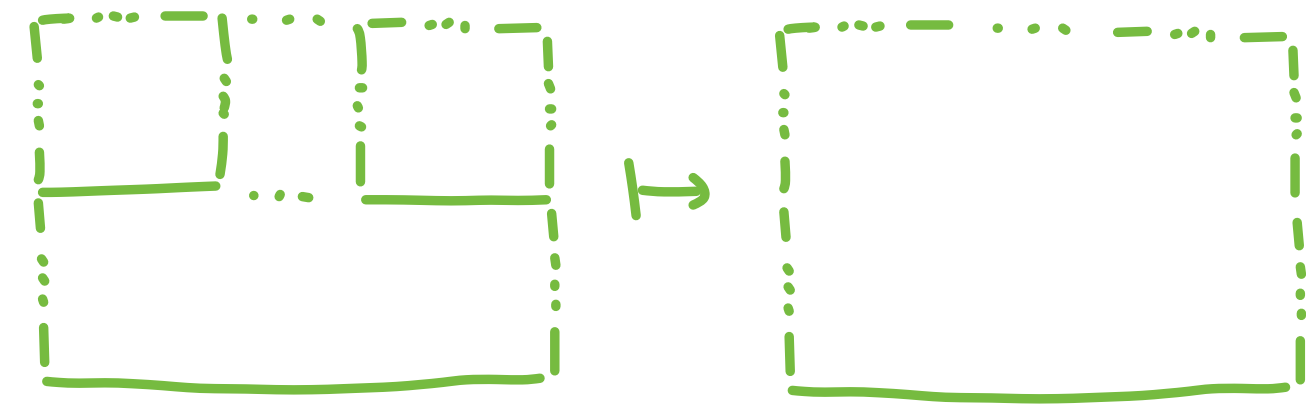


monoidal  
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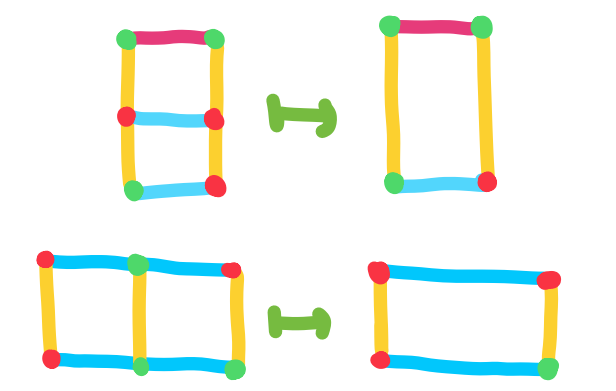
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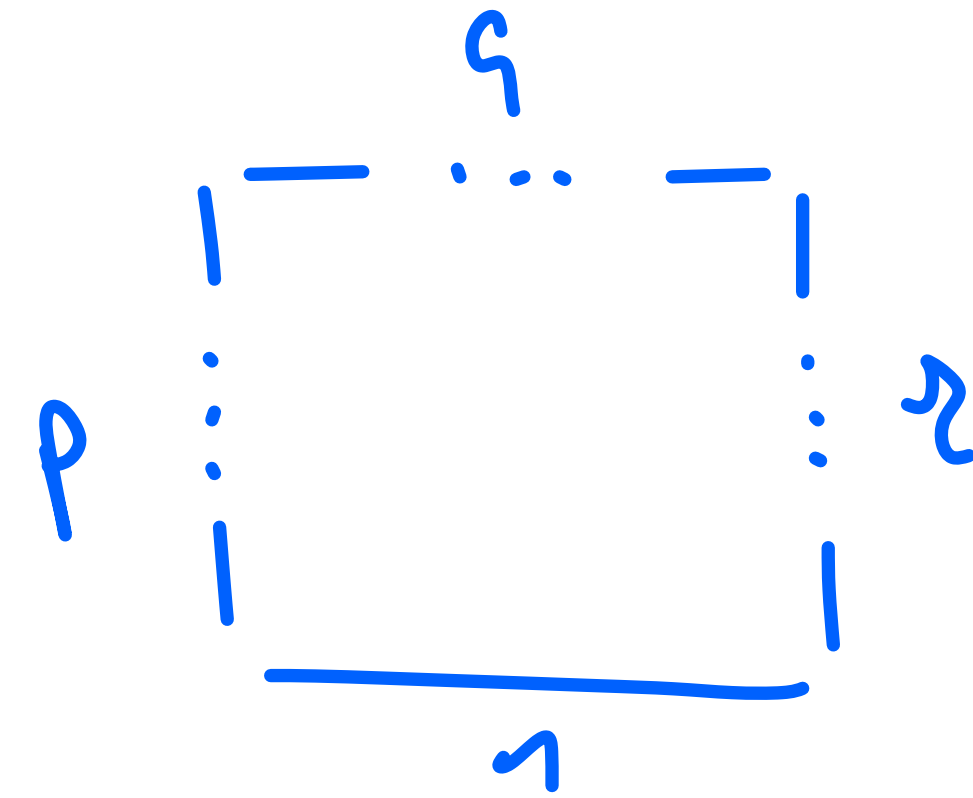
Box operad  $\mathcal{B}$  enriched over  $(\mathcal{V}, \otimes, \mathbb{I})$

Box operad  $\mathcal{B}$  enriched over  $(\mathcal{V}, \otimes, \mathbb{I})$  consists of

$\mathcal{V}$ -objects  $(\mathcal{B}(p, q, r))_{p, q, r \geq 0}$

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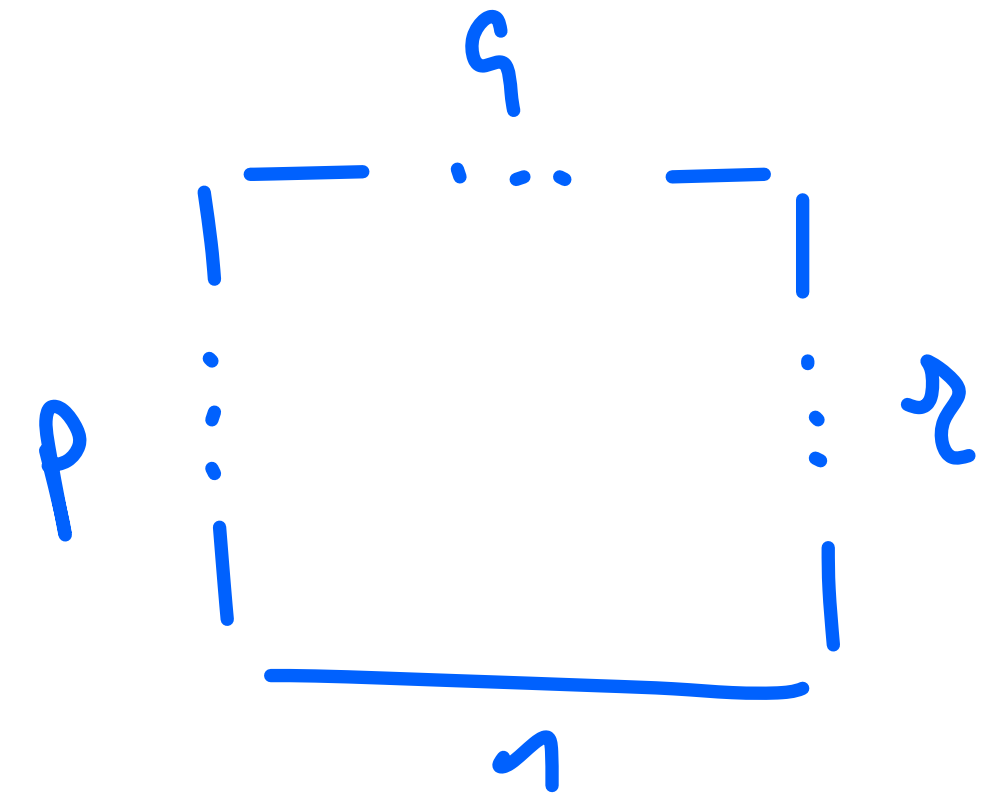
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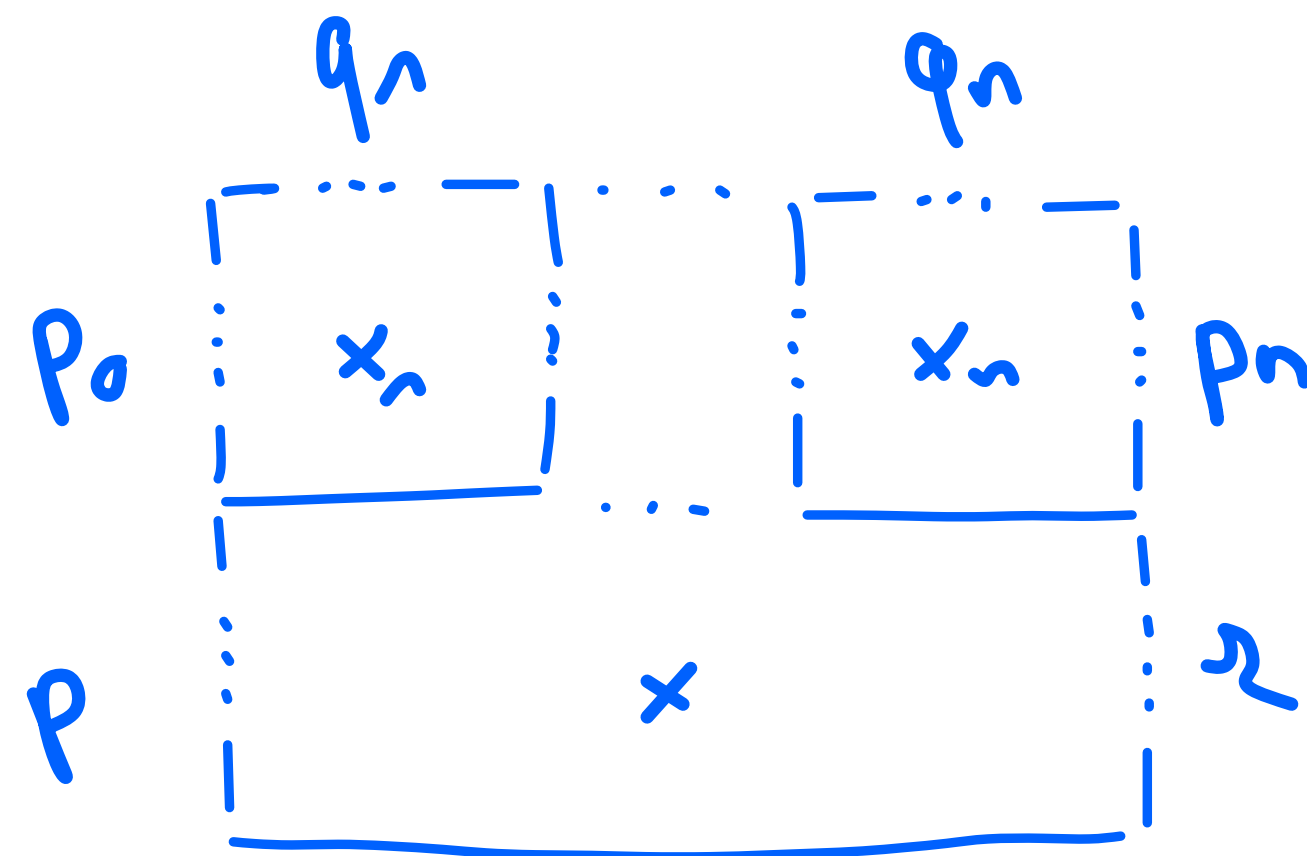


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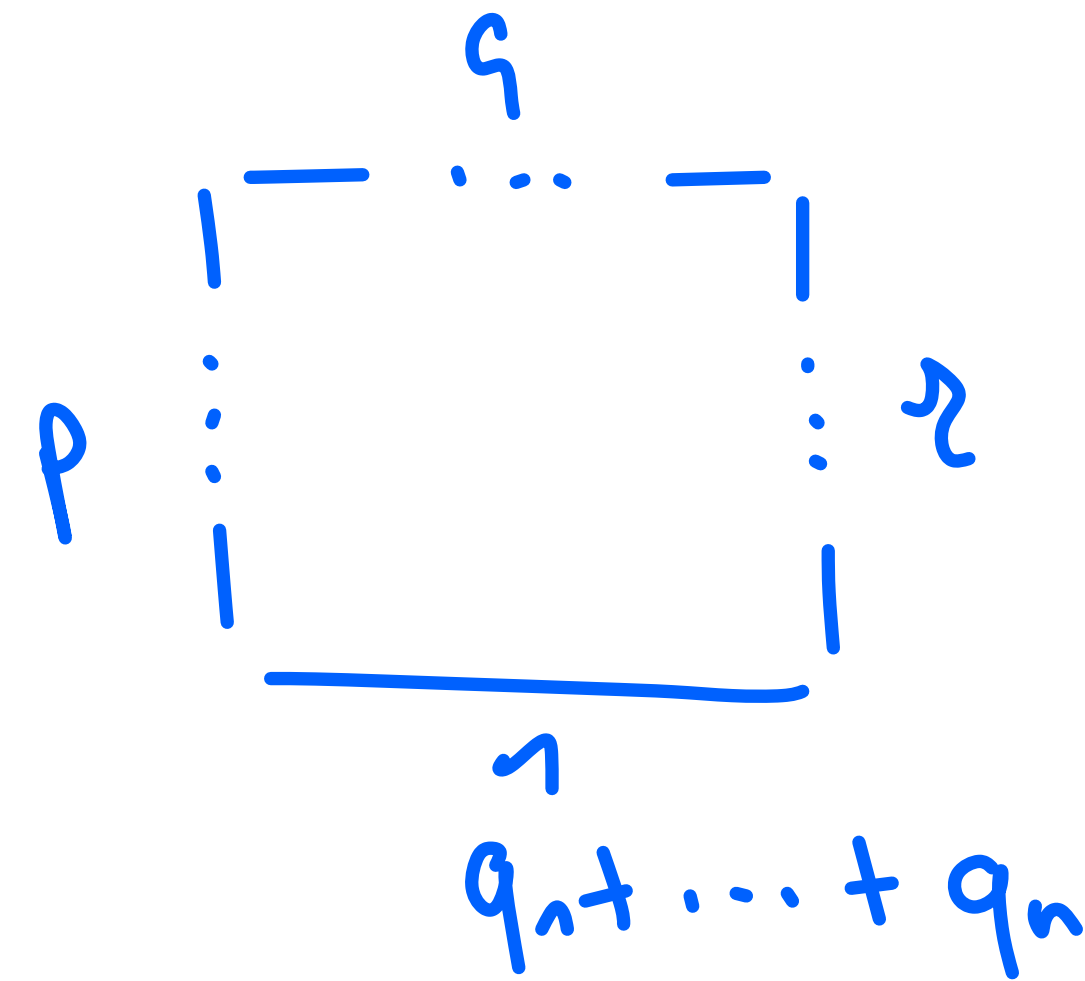


compositions

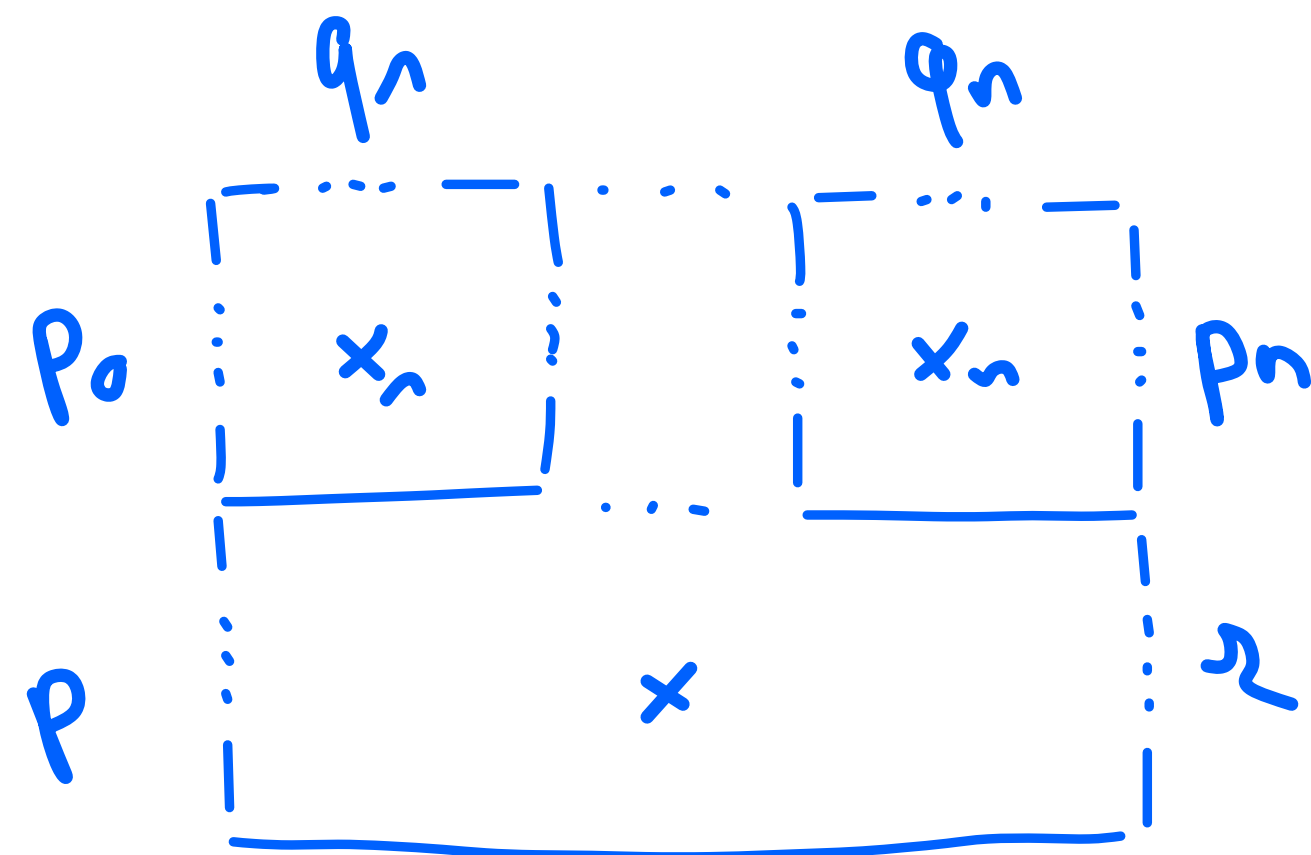


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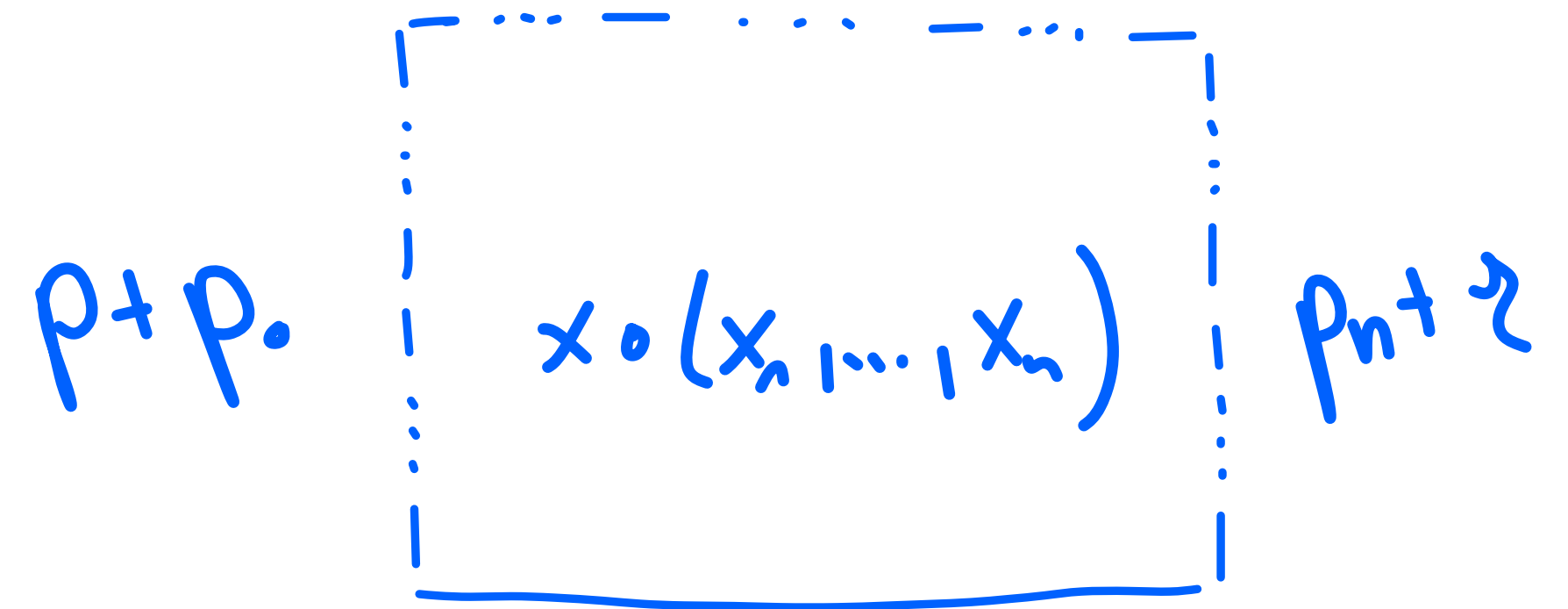
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compositions



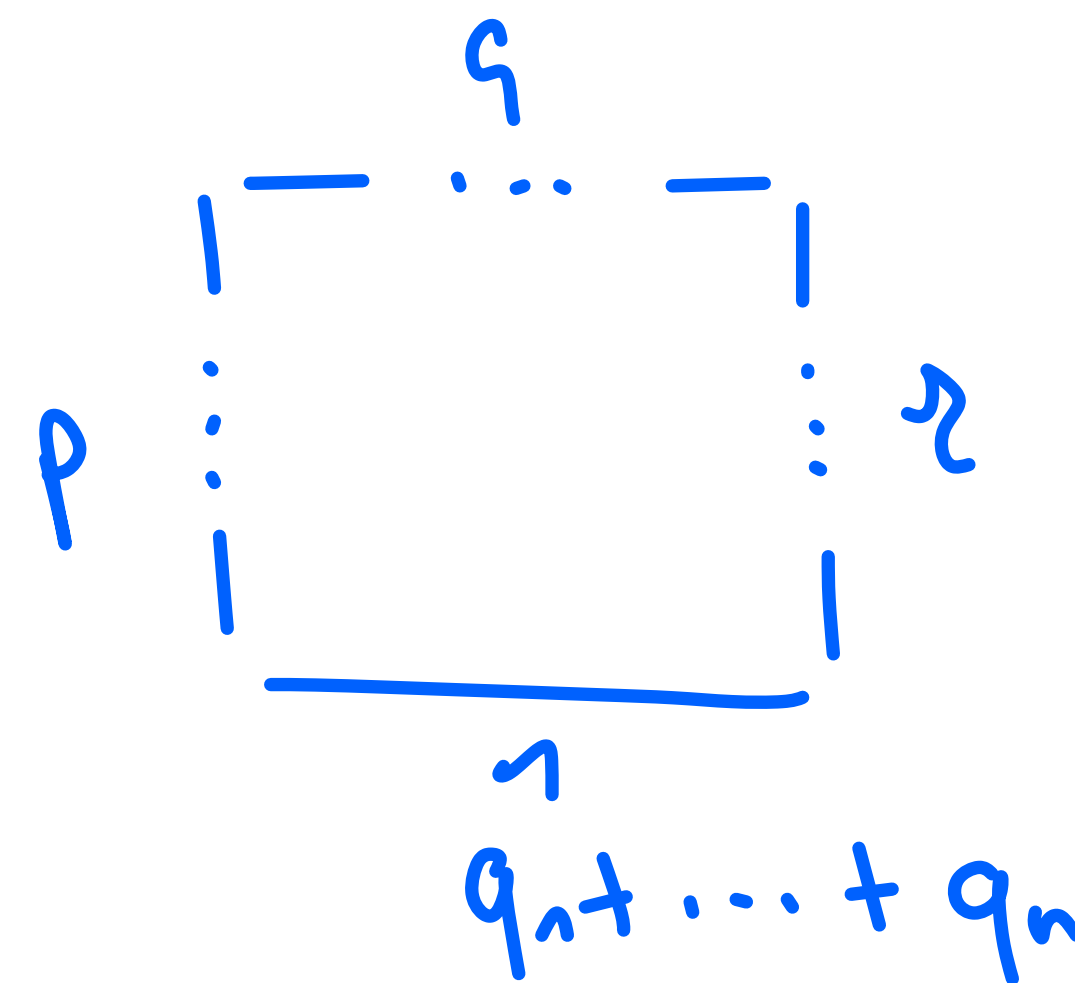
$\mapsto$



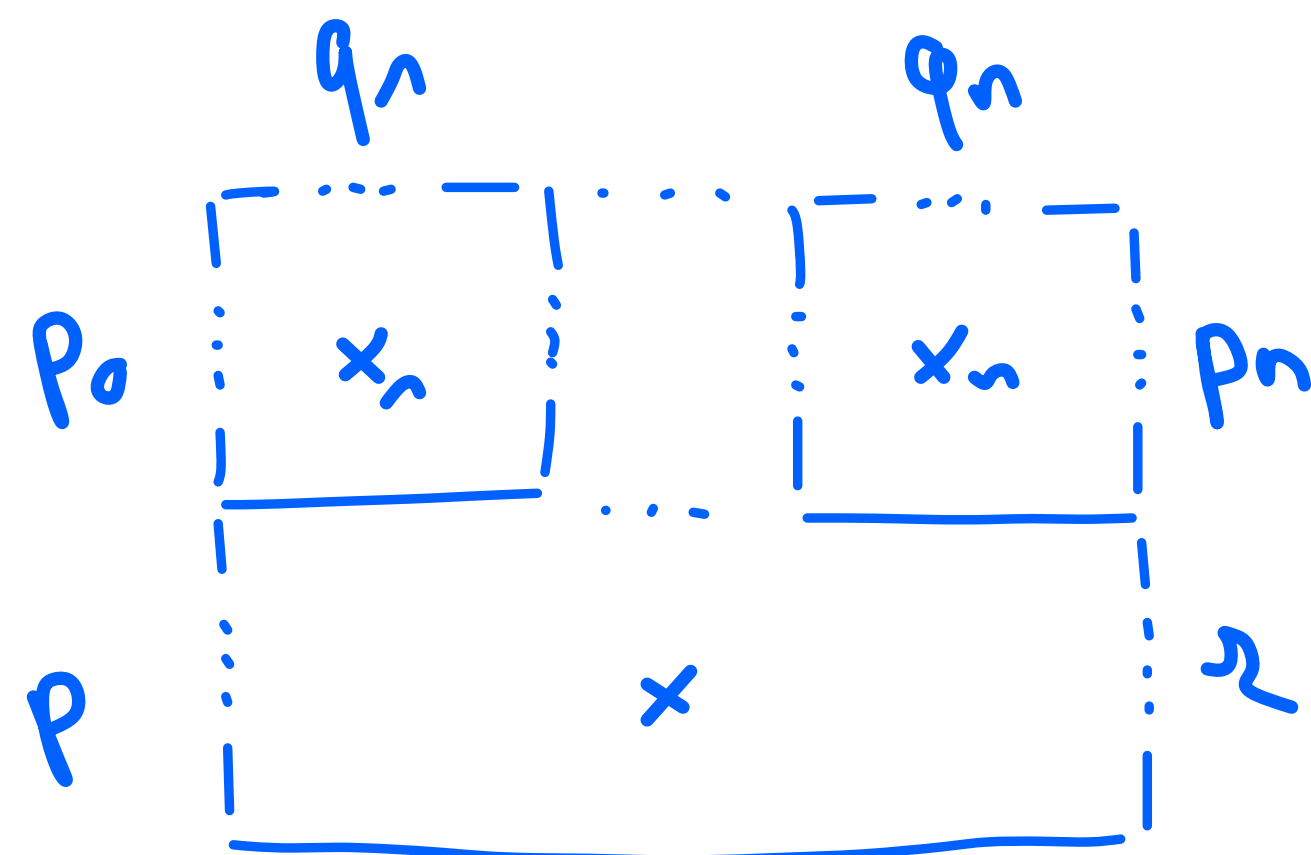
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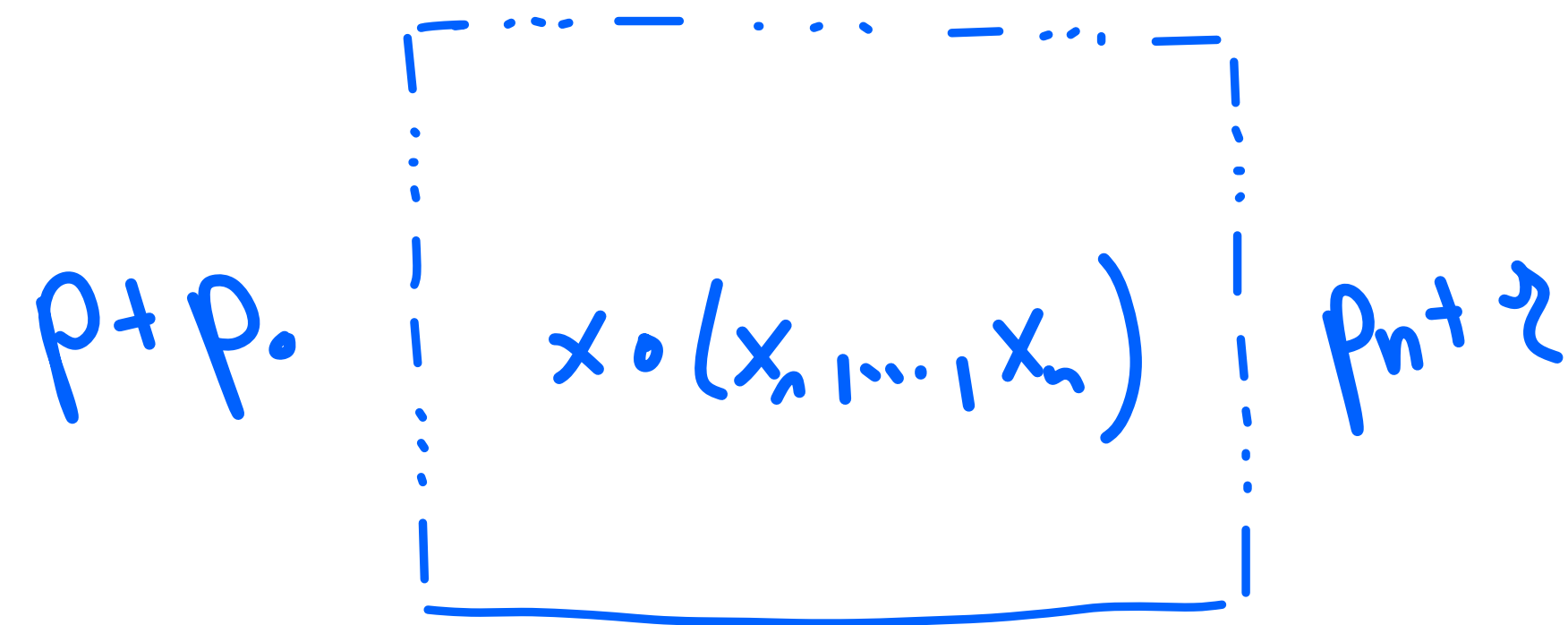
$$(\mathcal{B}(p, q, r))_{p, q, r \geq 0}$$



compositions



$\mapsto$

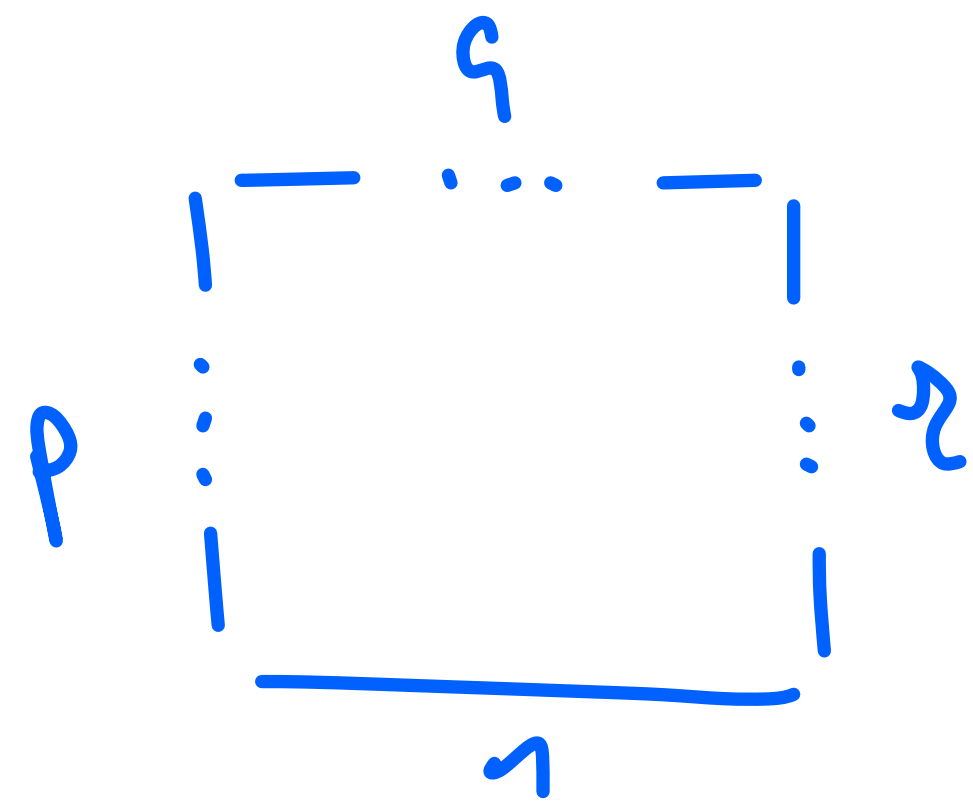


unit

$$0 \parallel \eta \parallel 0$$

Box operad  $\mathcal{B}$  enriched over  $(\mathcal{V}, \otimes, \mathbb{I})$  consists of

$\mathcal{V}$ -objects  $(\mathcal{B}(p, q, r))_{p, q, r \geq 0}$



compositions  $\mathcal{B}(p, n, r) \otimes \bigotimes_{i=1}^n \mathcal{B}(p_{i-1}, q_i, p_i) \xrightarrow{\mu} \mathcal{B}(p+p_0, \sum q_i, r+p_n)$

unit

$$\mathbb{I} \xrightarrow{\eta} \mathcal{B}(0, n, 0)$$

Box operad  $\mathcal{B}$  enriched over  $(\mathcal{V}, \otimes, I)$

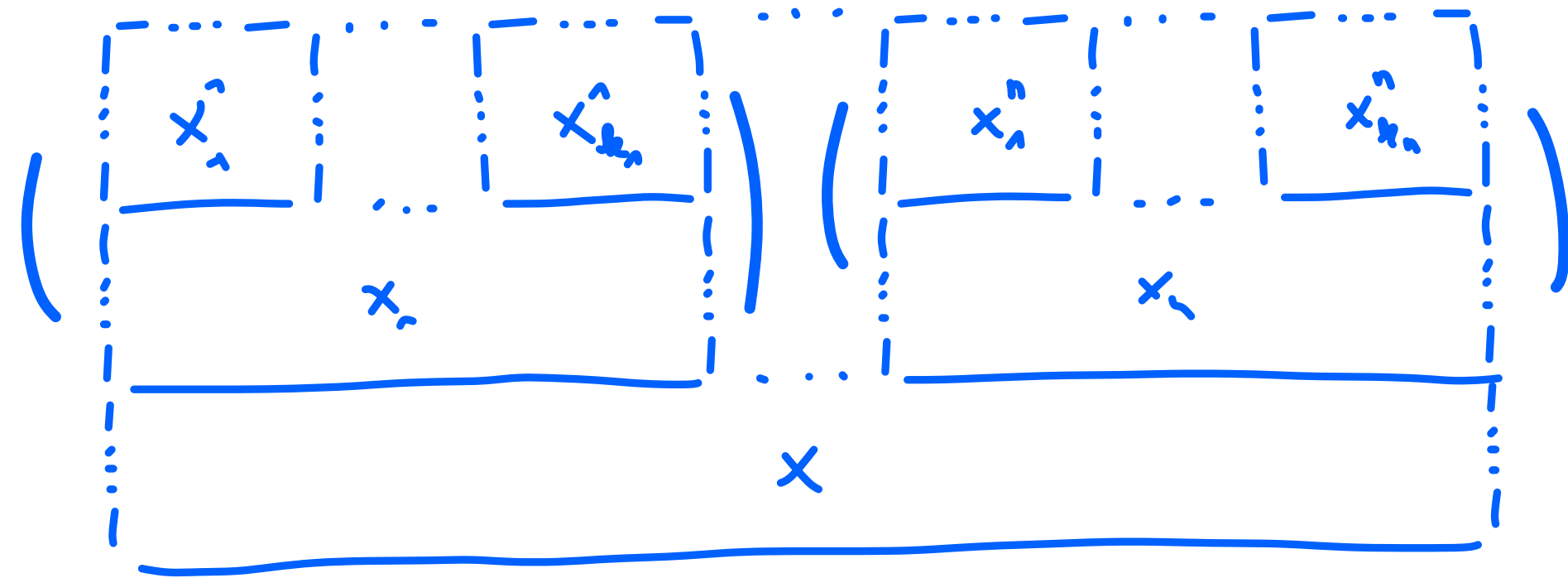
associativity

-

unit

Box operad  $\mathcal{B}$  enriched over  $(\mathcal{V}, \otimes, \mathbb{I})$

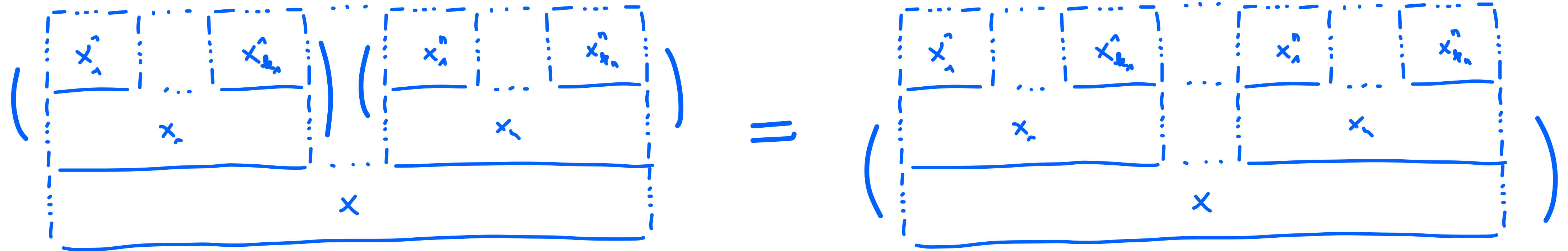
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unit

Box operator  $\mathcal{B}$  enriched over  $(\mathcal{V}, \otimes, I)$

associativity



unit

Box operad  $\mathcal{B}$  enriched over  $(\mathcal{V}, \otimes, \mathbb{I})$

associativity

$$\left( \begin{array}{c} \boxed{x_1} \quad \dots \quad \boxed{x_n} \\ \hline x_r \\ \hline x \end{array} \right) = \left( \begin{array}{c} \boxed{x_1} \quad \dots \quad \boxed{x_n} \\ \hline x_r \\ \hline x \end{array} \right)$$

unit

$$\begin{array}{c} \boxed{\eta} \quad \dots \quad \boxed{\eta} \\ \hline x \end{array} = \boxed{x} = \begin{array}{c} \boxed{x} \\ \hline \eta \end{array}$$



# Peculiar Degeneracies

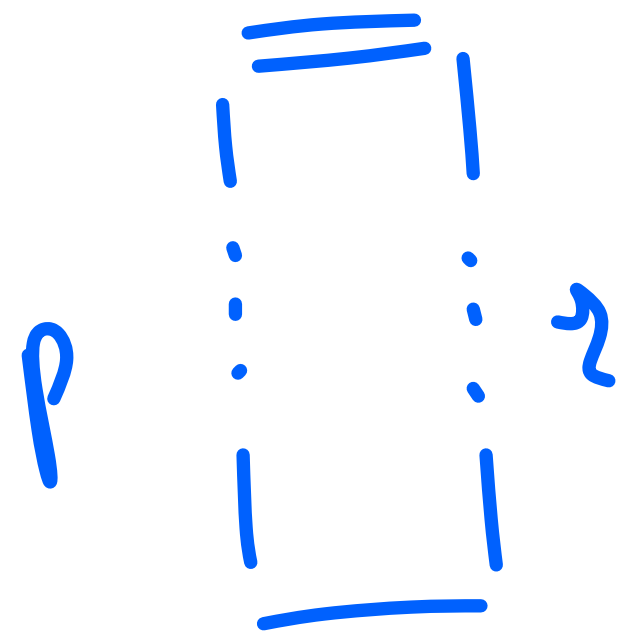
For  $n = 0$

# Peculiar Degeneracies

For  $n = 0$   $B(p, 0, z)$

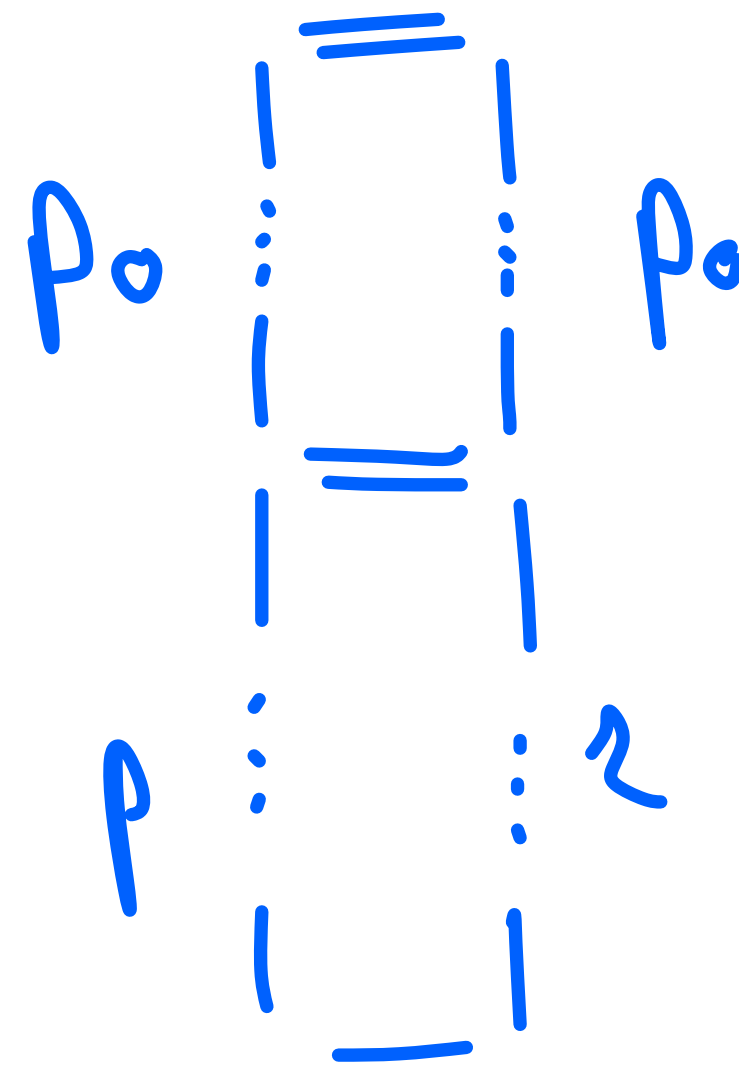
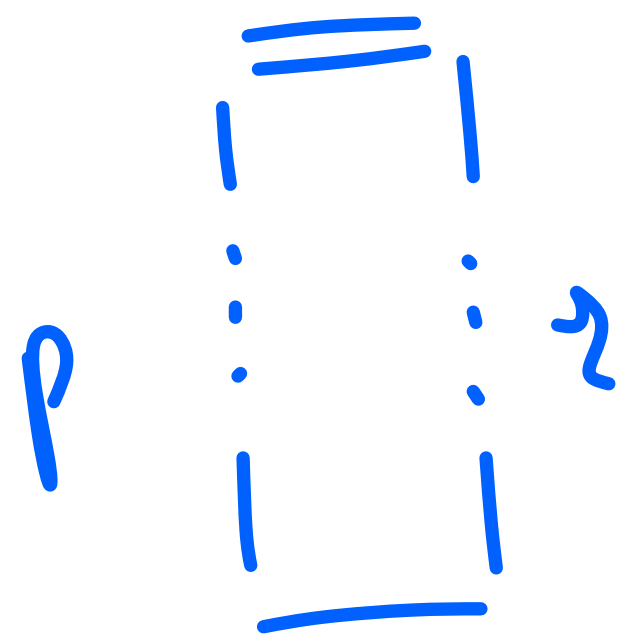
# Peculiar Degeneracies

For  $n = 0$   $B(p, 0, 2)$



# Peculiar Degeneracies

For  $n = 0$   $B(p, 0, z) \xrightarrow{\mu} B(p+p_0, 0, z+p_0)$



Operads = *thin* box operads

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BoxOperads  $\longleftrightarrow$  Operads

Operads = *thin* box operads

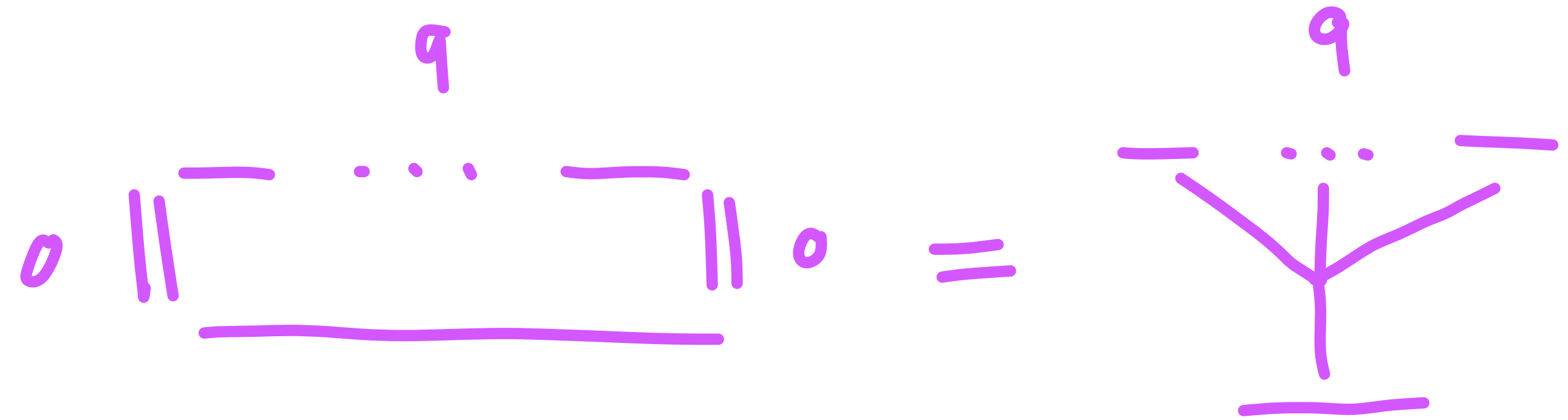
BoxOperads  $\longleftrightarrow$  Operads

*thin box*

Operads = *thin* box operads

BoxOperads  $\longleftrightarrow$  Operads

thin box

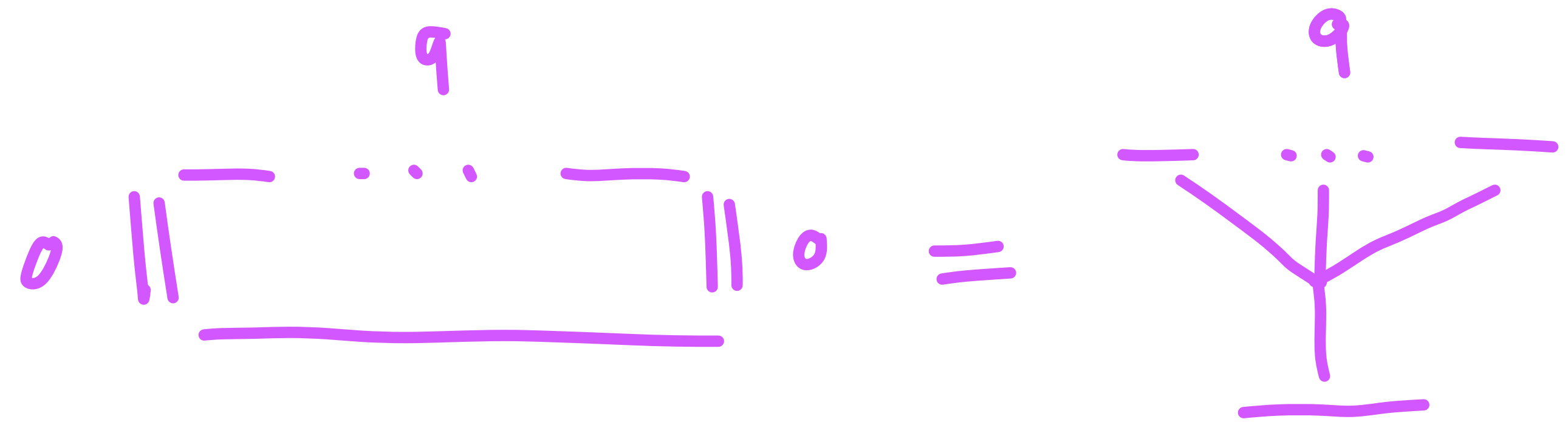




Operads = *thin* box operads

BoxOperads  $\longleftrightarrow$  Operads

thin box

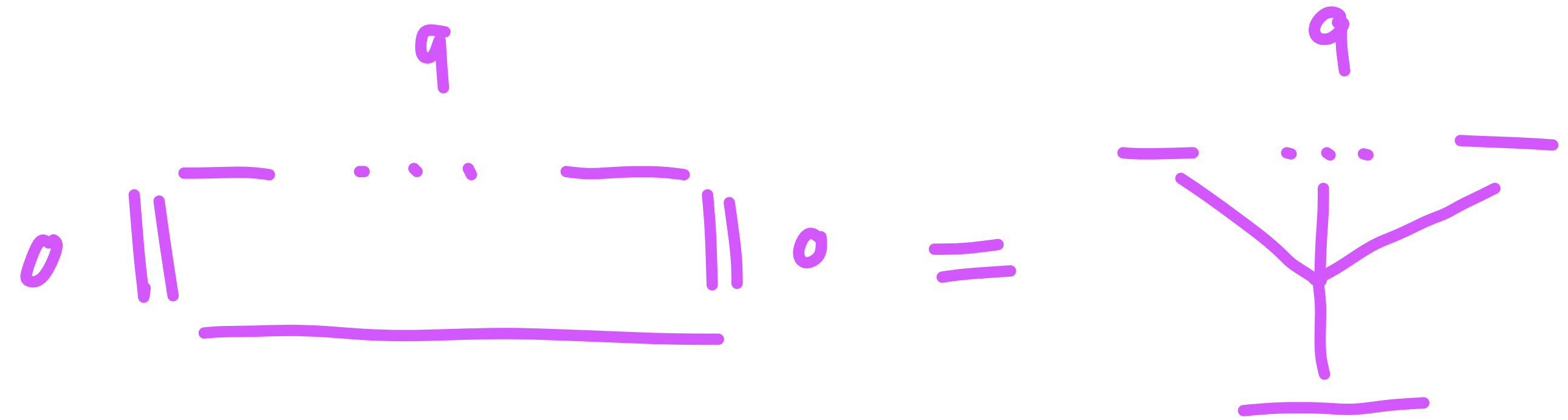


partial  
composition

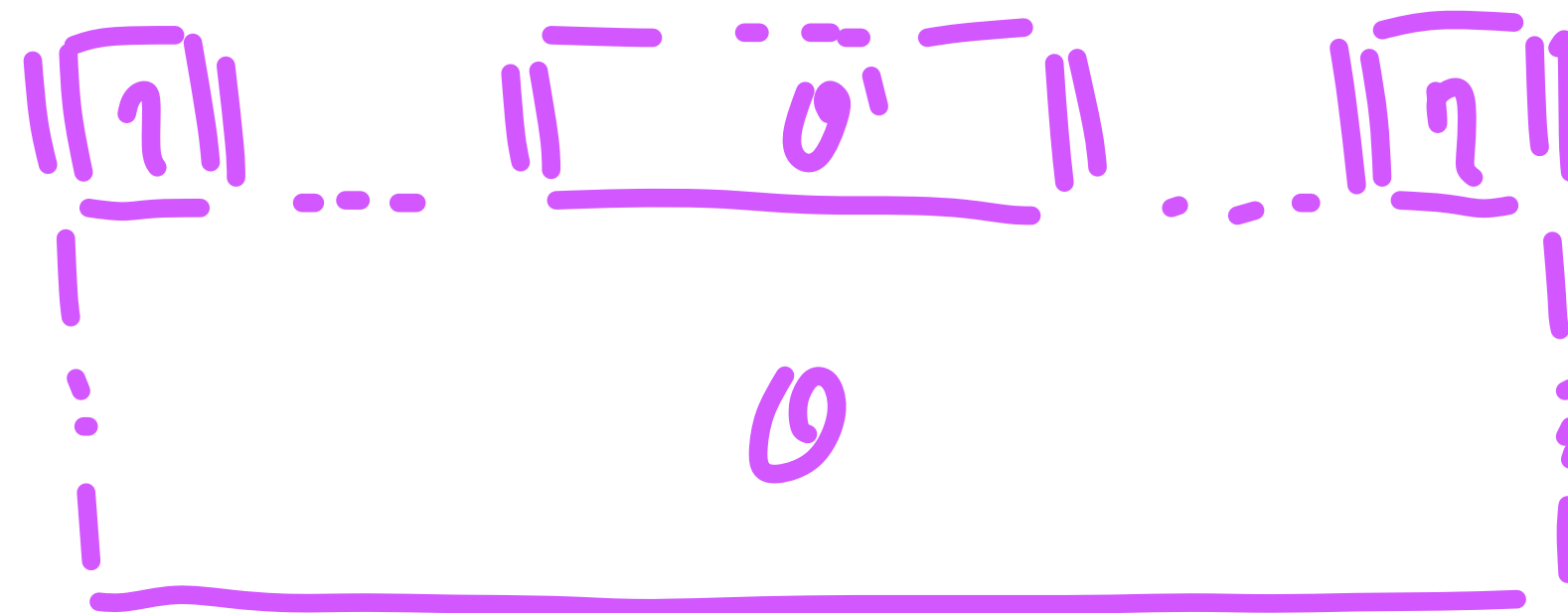
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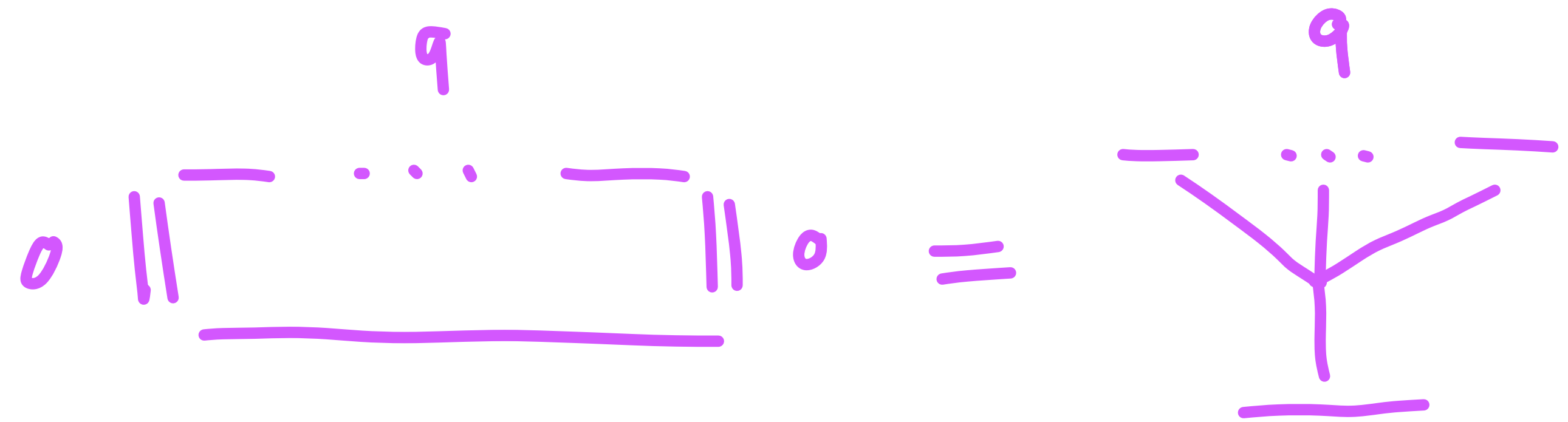
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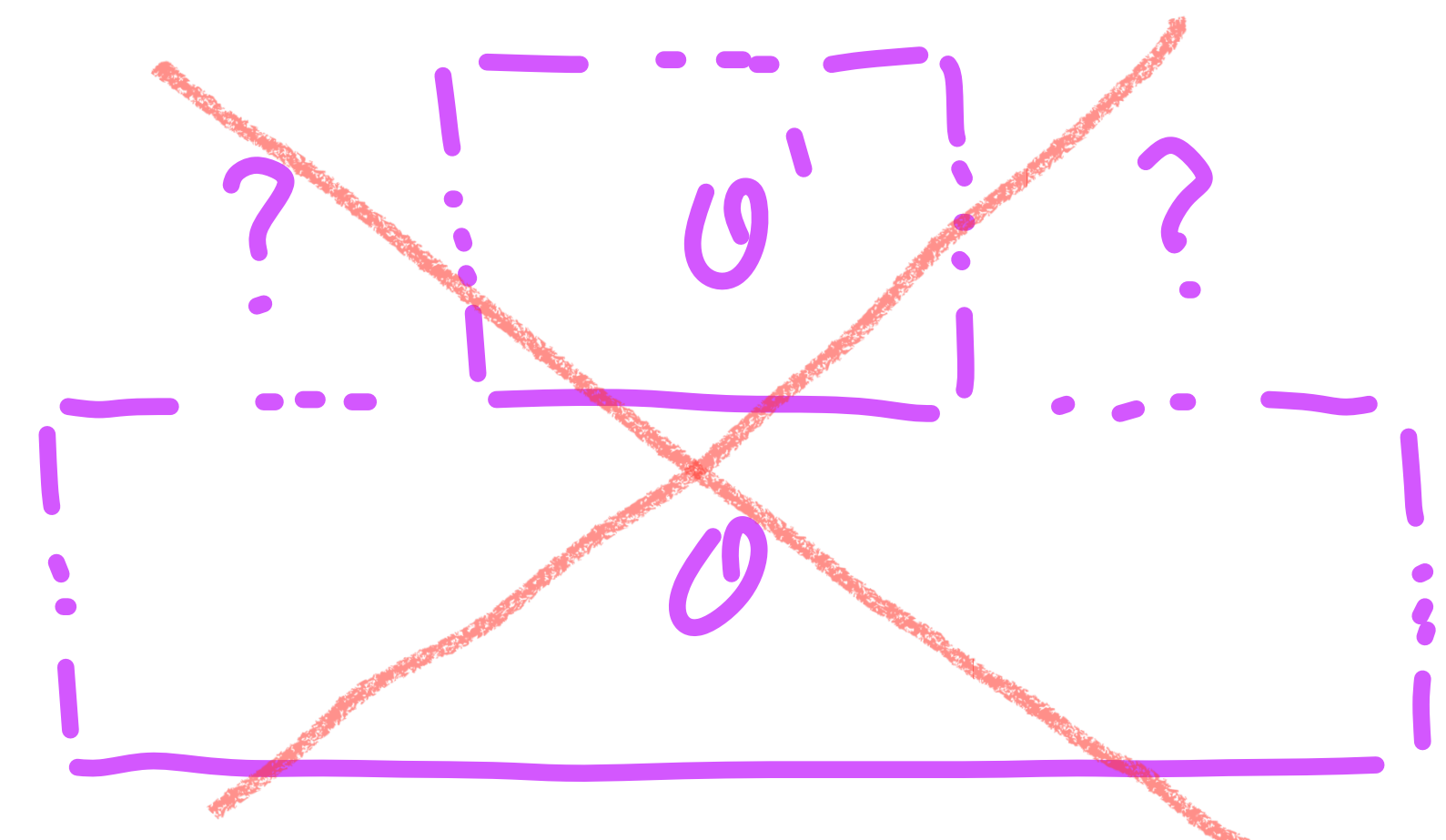
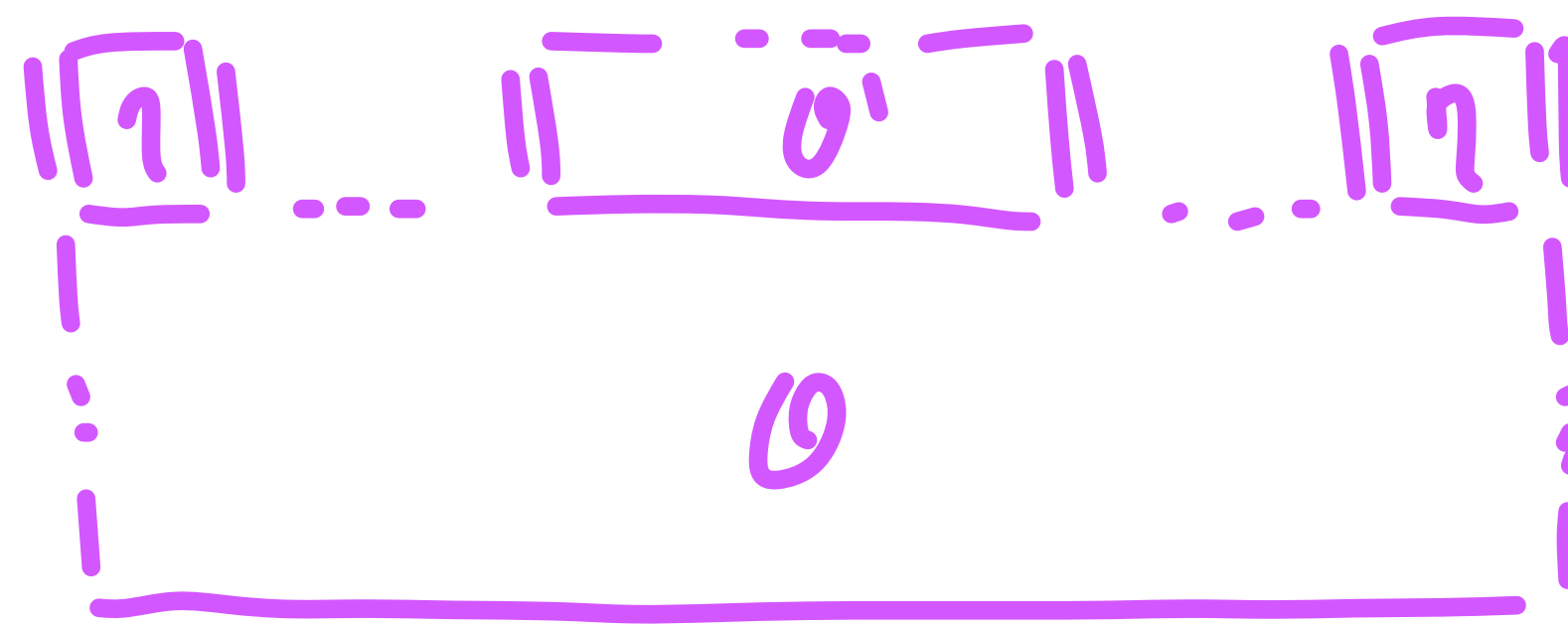
# Operads = *thin* box operads

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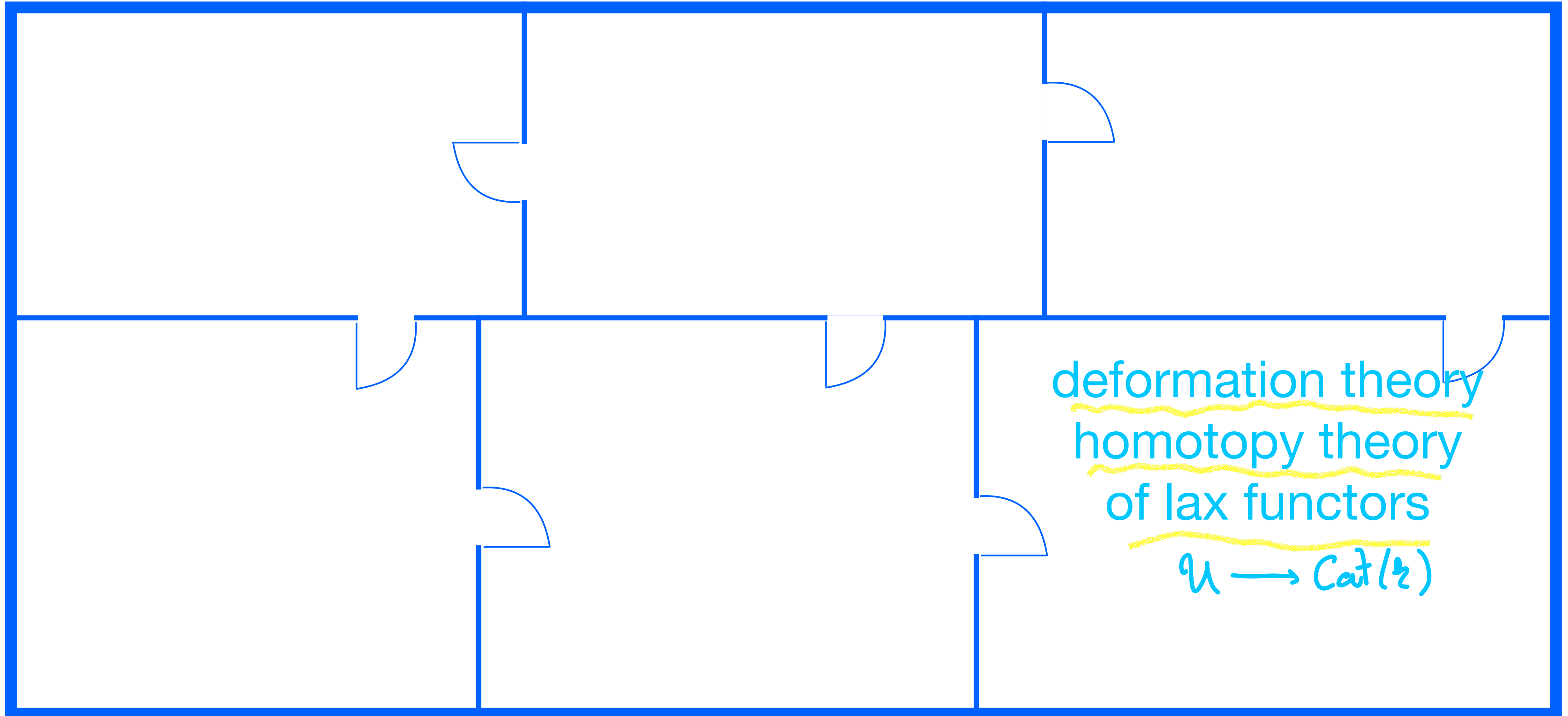


partial composition



Part II

# The Floorplan



# The Floorplan

box operads  
= monoids  
in a skew  
monoidal category

deformation theory  
homotopy theory  
of lax functors

$$\mathcal{U} \longrightarrow \text{Cat}(\mathcal{K})$$

Box Composite

$$\square : \mathbb{V}^{\mathbb{N}^3} \times \mathbb{V}^{\mathbb{N}^3} \rightarrow \mathbb{V}^{\mathbb{N}^3}$$

# Box Composite

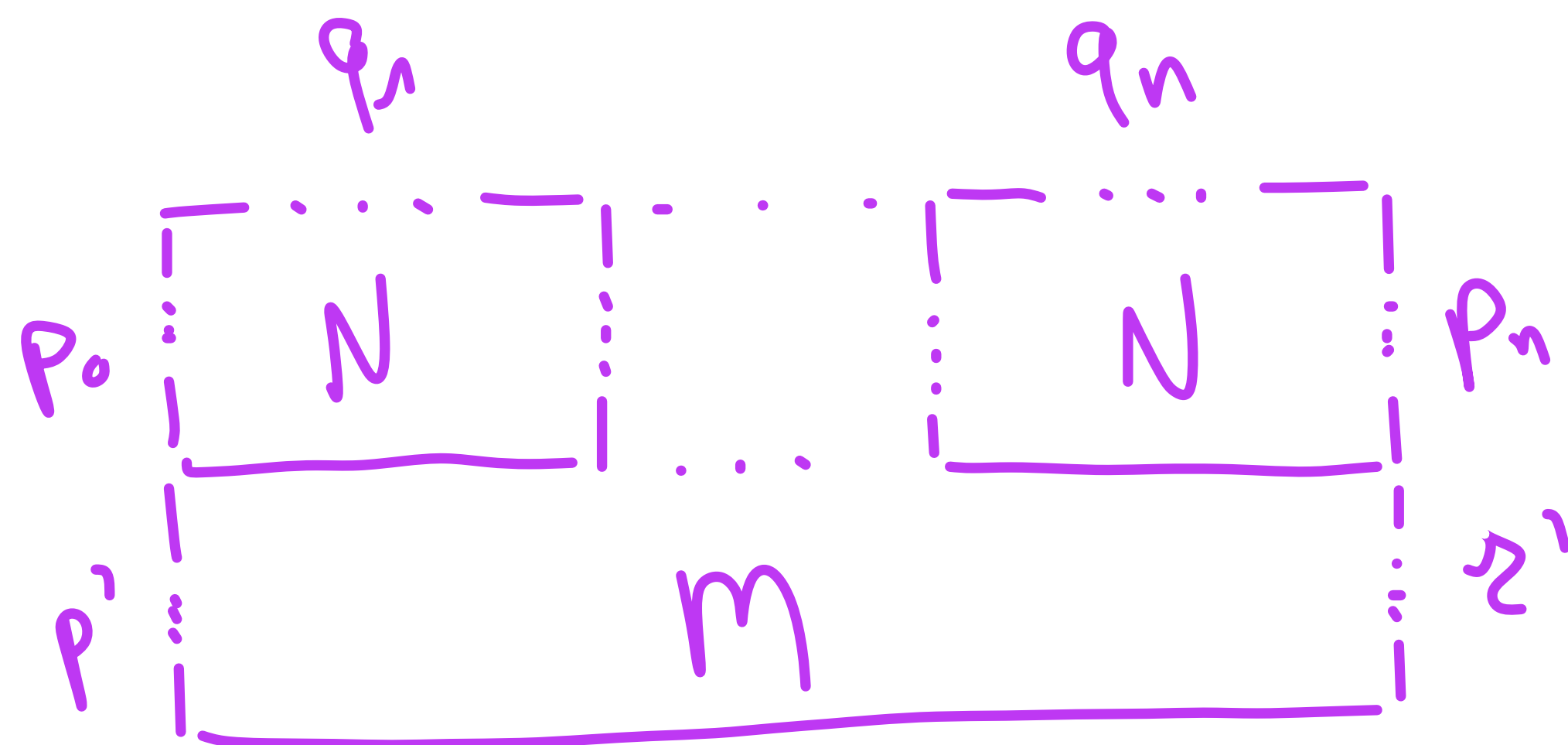
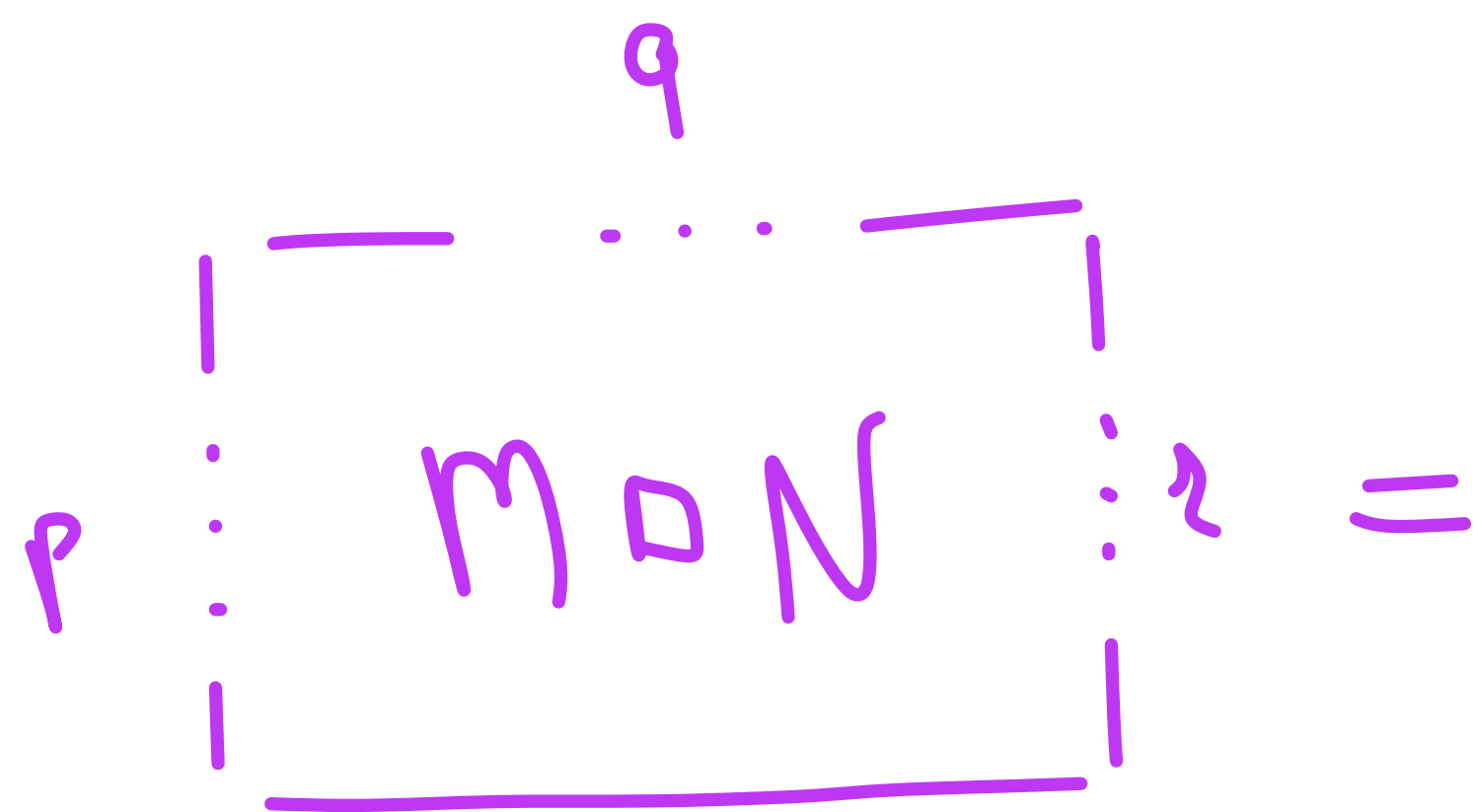
$$\square : V^{\mathbb{N}^3} \times V^{\mathbb{N}^3} \rightarrow V^{\mathbb{N}^3}$$

$$\begin{array}{|c|} \hline q \\ \hline \dots \\ \hline p \vdots M \square N \vdots r \\ \hline \end{array} =$$



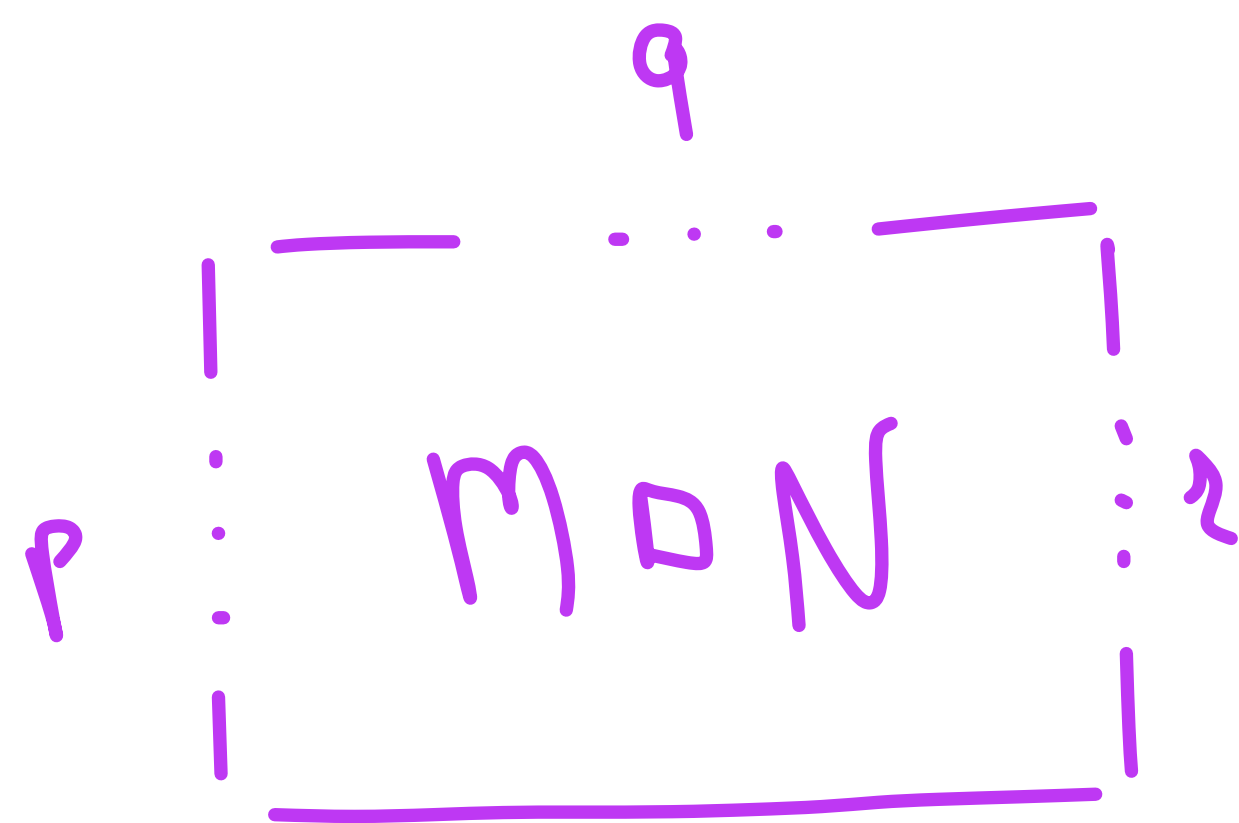
# Box Composite

$$\square : \mathcal{V}^{\mathbb{N}^3} \times \mathcal{V}^{\mathbb{N}^3} \rightarrow \mathcal{V}^{\mathbb{N}^3}$$



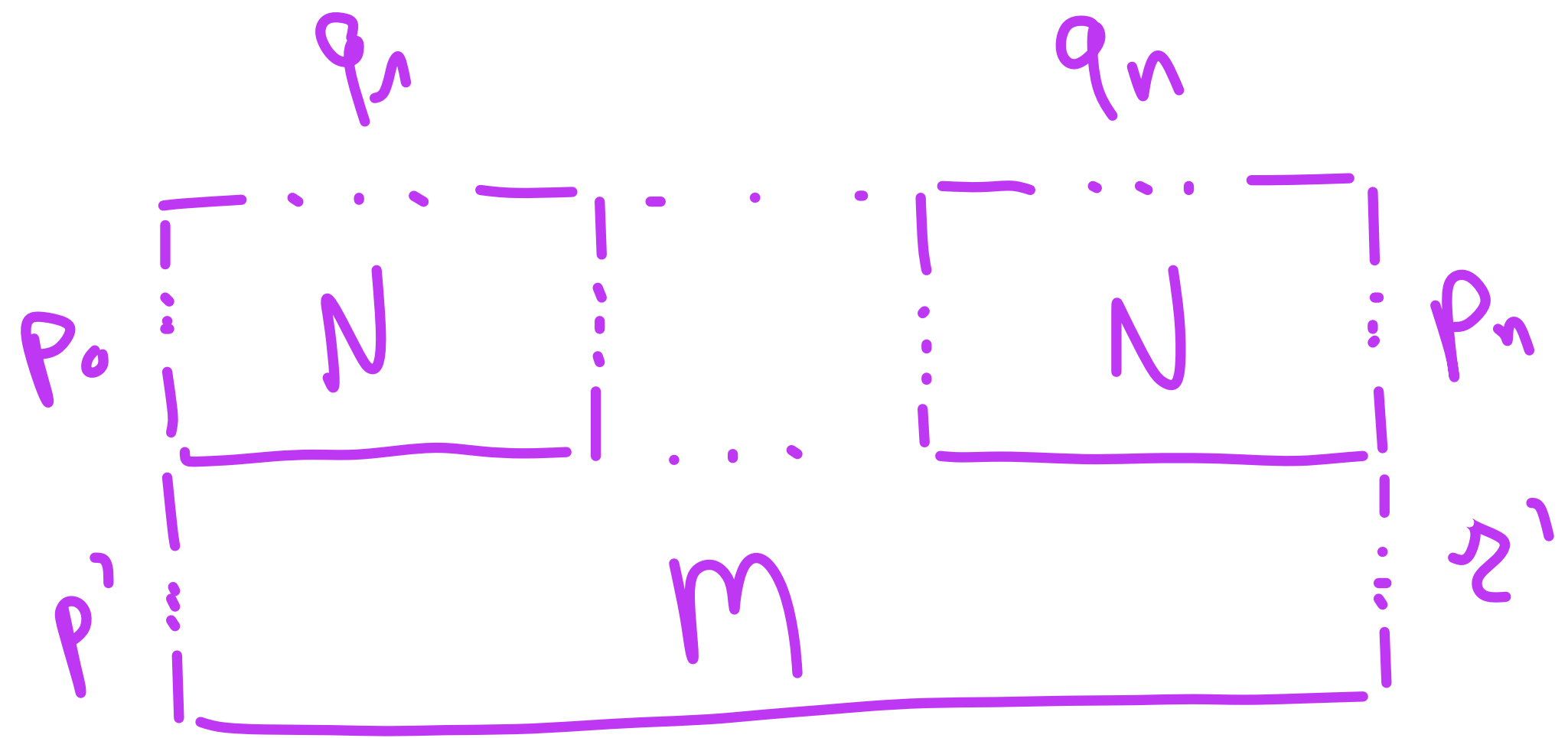
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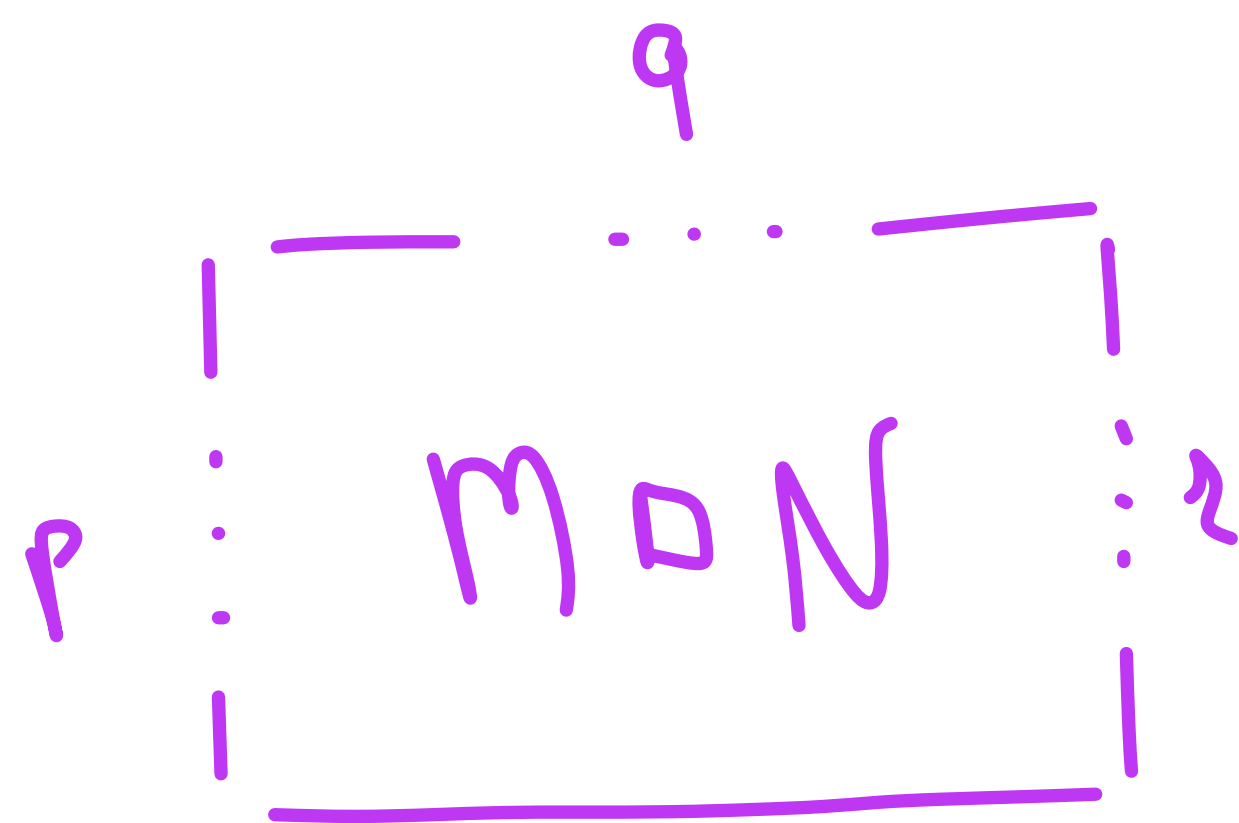
=

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \text{L-shaped diagram} \\
 & p_0 + p'_1 = p \\
 & p_n + z'_1 = z \\
 & \sum q_i = q
 \end{aligned}$$

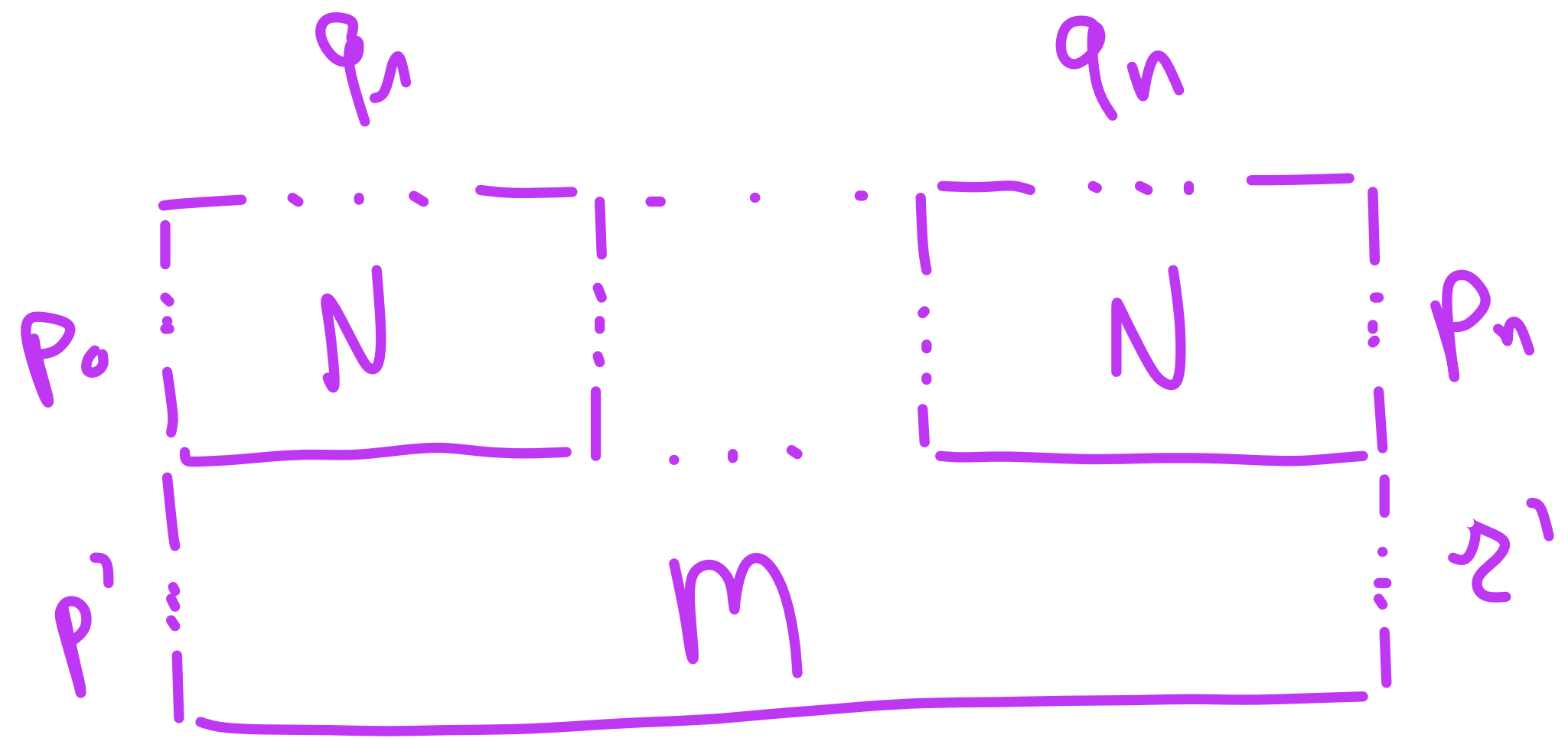


# Box Composite

$$\square : \mathcal{V}^{\mathbb{N}^3} \times \mathcal{V}^{\mathbb{N}^3} \rightarrow \mathcal{V}^{\mathbb{N}^3}$$



$$= \begin{cases} p_0 + p'_0 = p \\ p_n + z'_n = z \\ \sum q_i = q \end{cases}$$

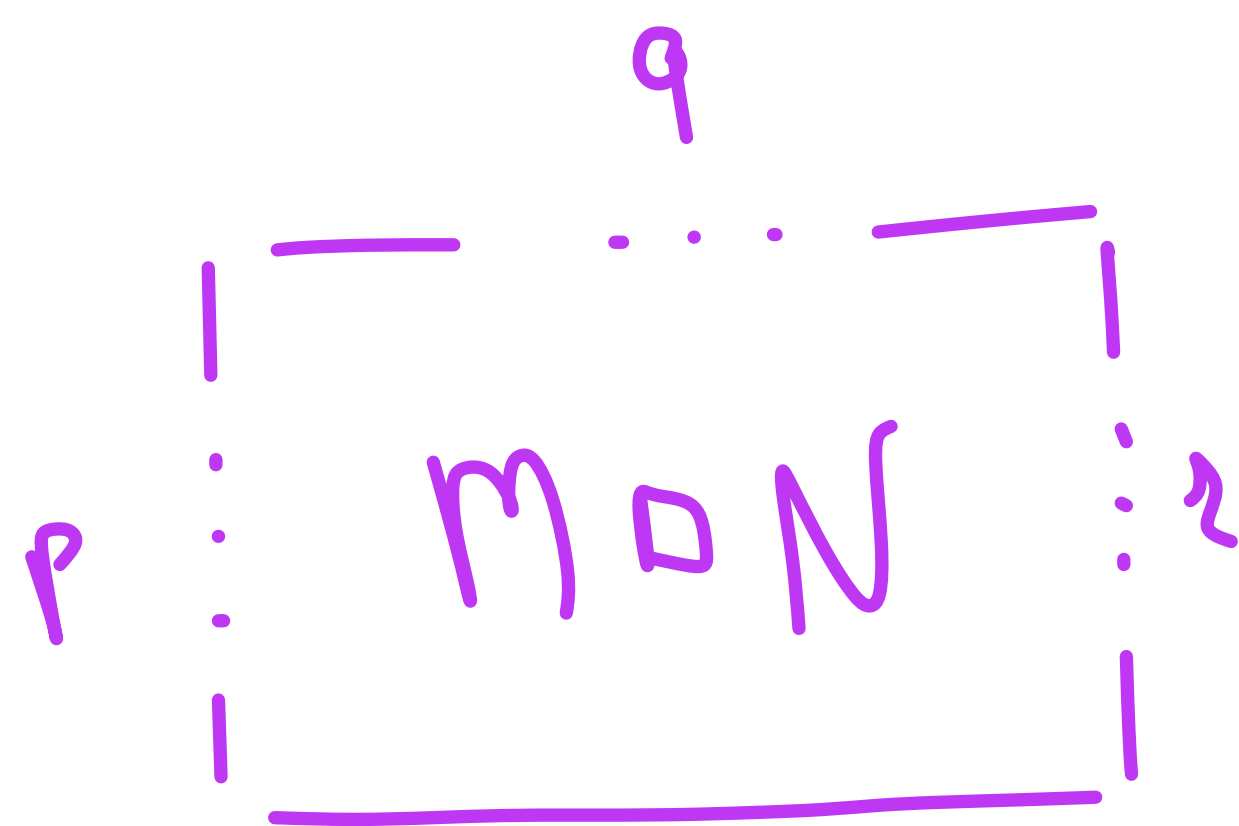


Proposition

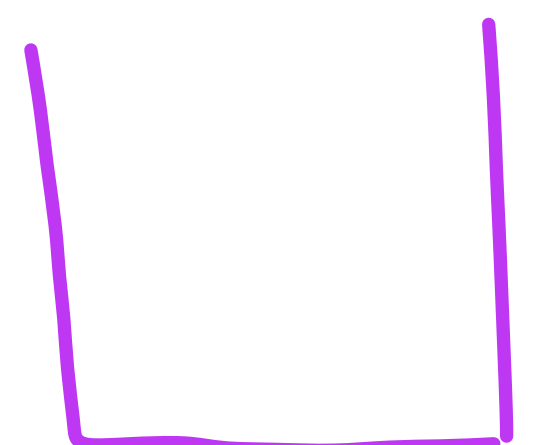
$(\mathcal{V}^{\mathbb{N}^3}, \square, \mathbb{I})$  is a skew monoidal category

# Box Composite

$$\square : \mathcal{V}^{\mathbb{N}^3} \times \mathcal{V}^{\mathbb{N}^3} \rightarrow \mathcal{V}^{\mathbb{N}^3}$$



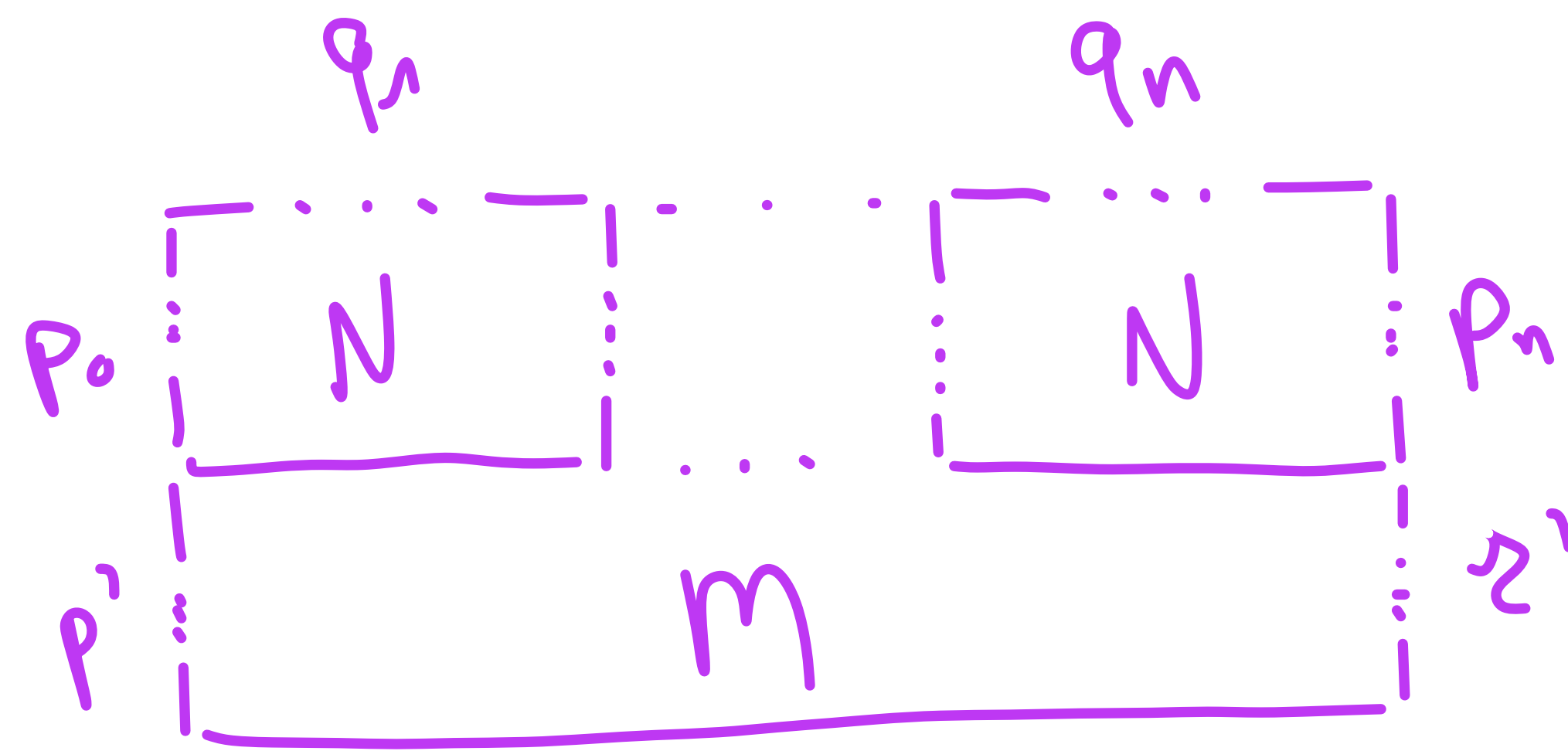
=



$$p_0 + p'_1 = p$$

$$p_n + z'_1 = z$$

$$\sum q_i = q$$



Proposition

$$(\mathcal{V}^{\mathbb{N}^3}, \square, \mathbb{I})$$

is a skew monoidal category

concentrated in  $(0, 1, 0)$ .



Proposition

$$\left( \mathcal{V}^{\text{In}^3}, \square, \mathbb{I} \right)$$

(left normal)

is a skew monoidal category

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(left normal)

$$(MON) \square K$$



$$M \square (N \square K)$$

Proposition

$$\left( \mathcal{V}^{\text{IN}^3}, \square, \mathbb{I} \right)$$

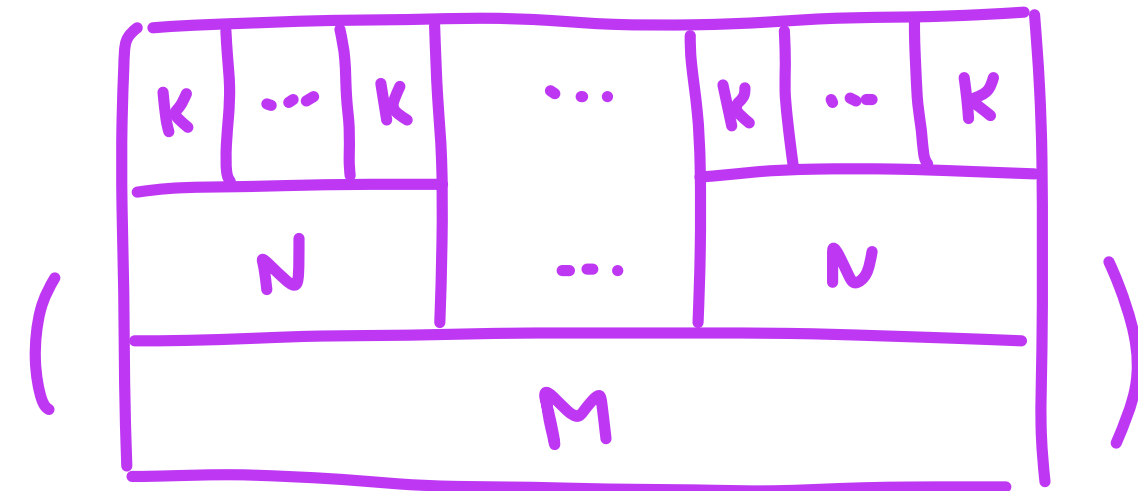
(left normal)

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$$M \square (N \square K)$$





Proposition

$$\left( \mathcal{V}^{\text{In}^3}, \square, \mathbb{I} \right)$$

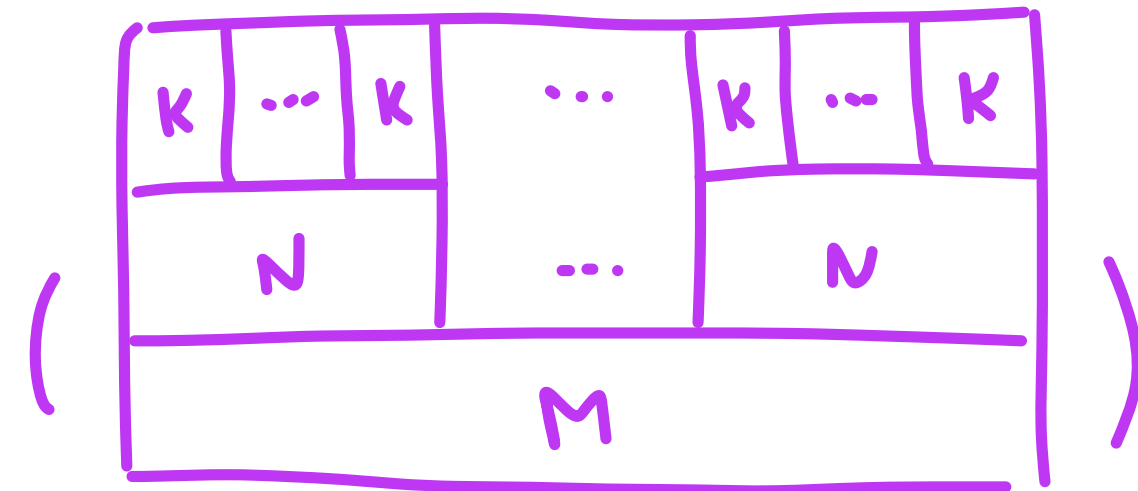
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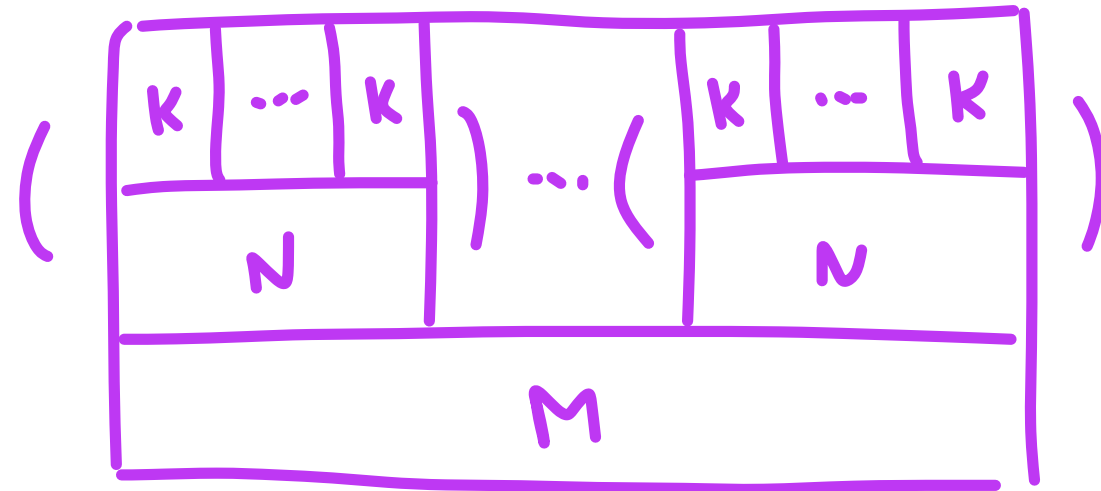
$$(M \square N) \square K$$



$$M \square (N \square K)$$



$\downarrow$

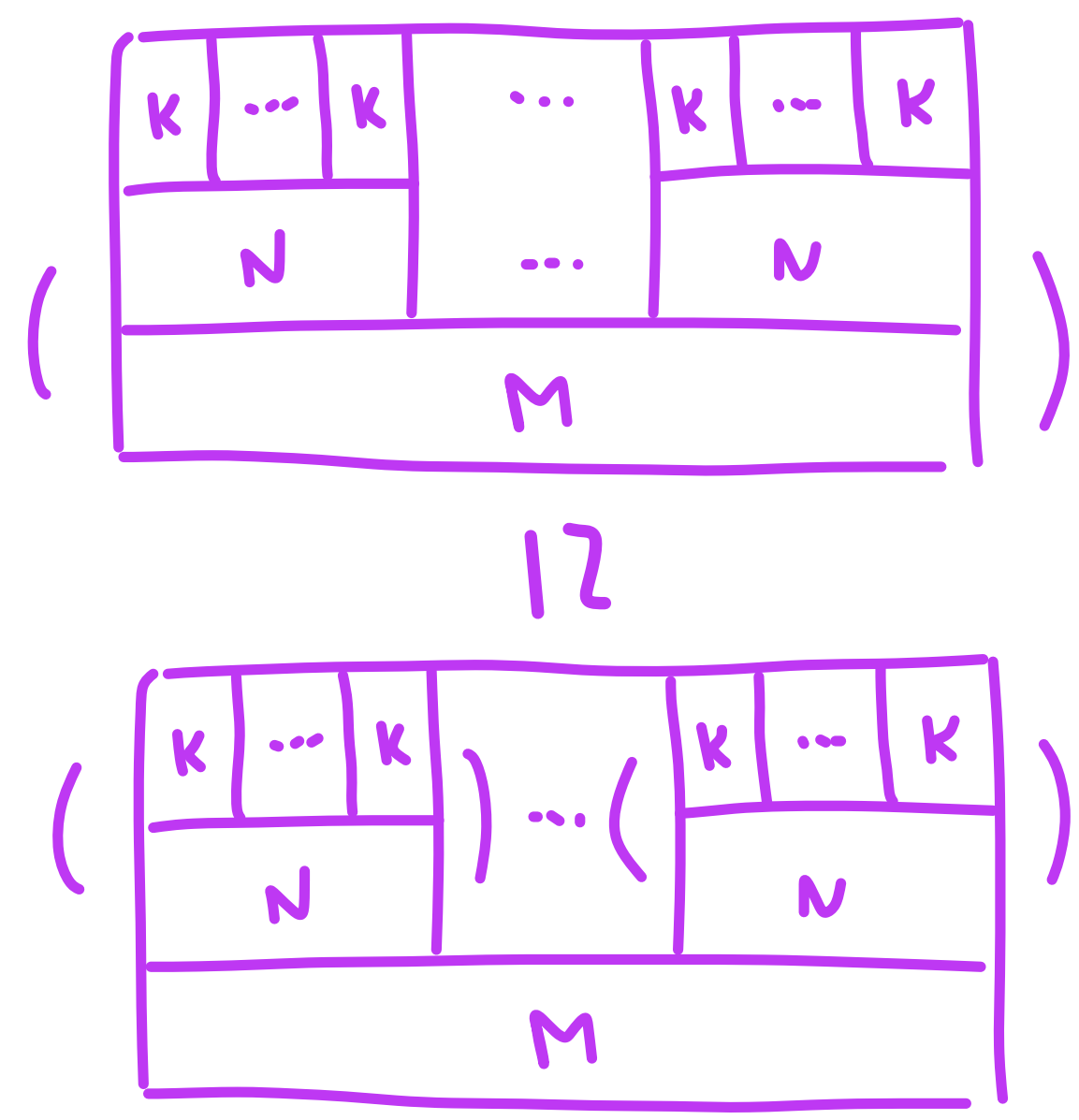
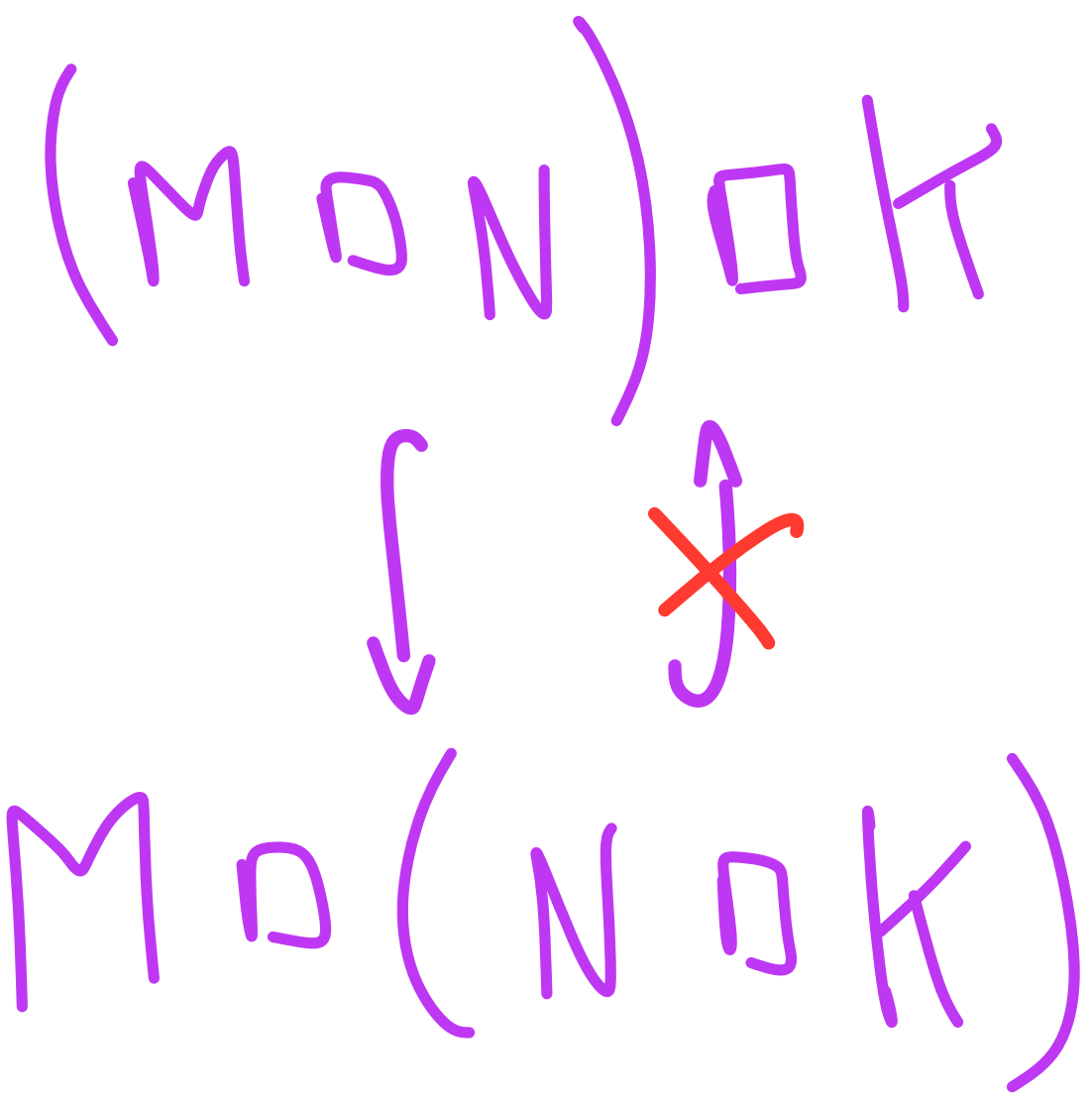


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$$\left( \mathcal{V}^{\text{In}^3}, \square, \mathbb{I} \right)$$

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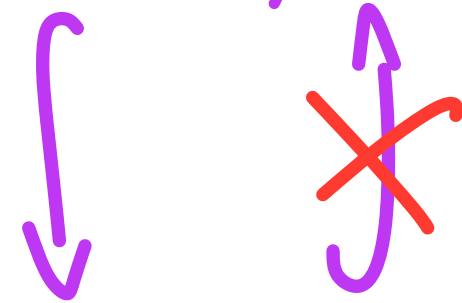
Proposition

$$\left( \mathcal{V}^{\text{IN}^3}, \square, \mathbb{I} \right)$$

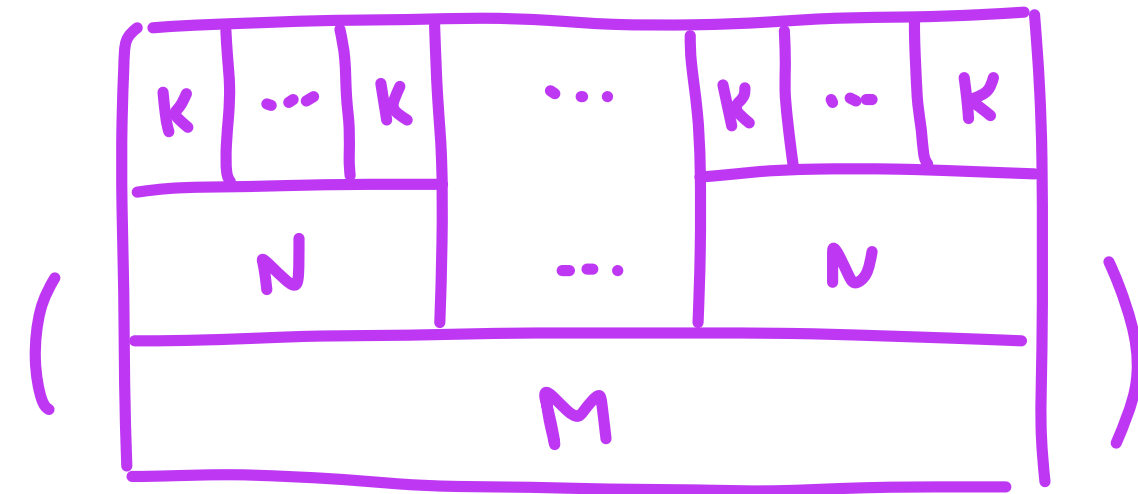
(left normal)

is a skew monoidal category

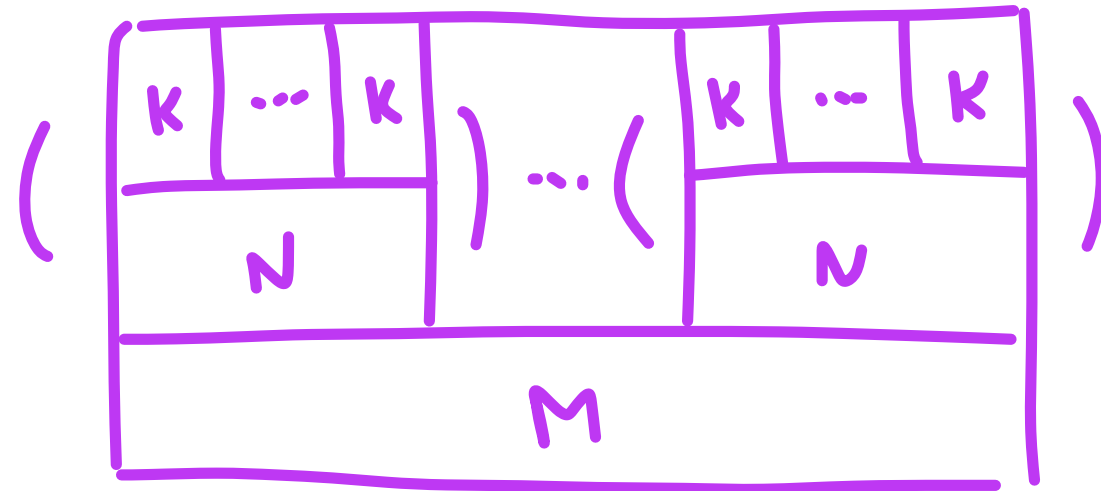
$$(M \square N) \square K$$



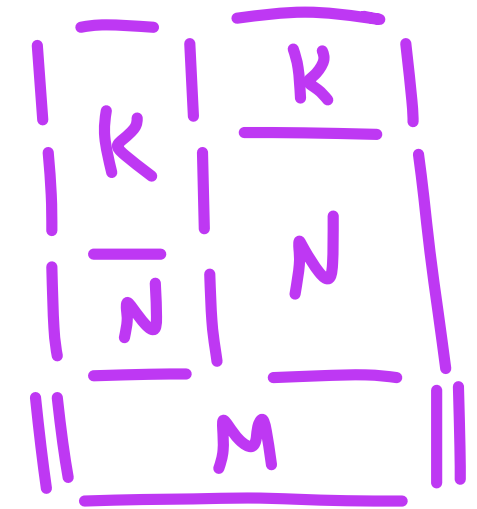
$$M \square (N \square K)$$



$\neq$



$\times$



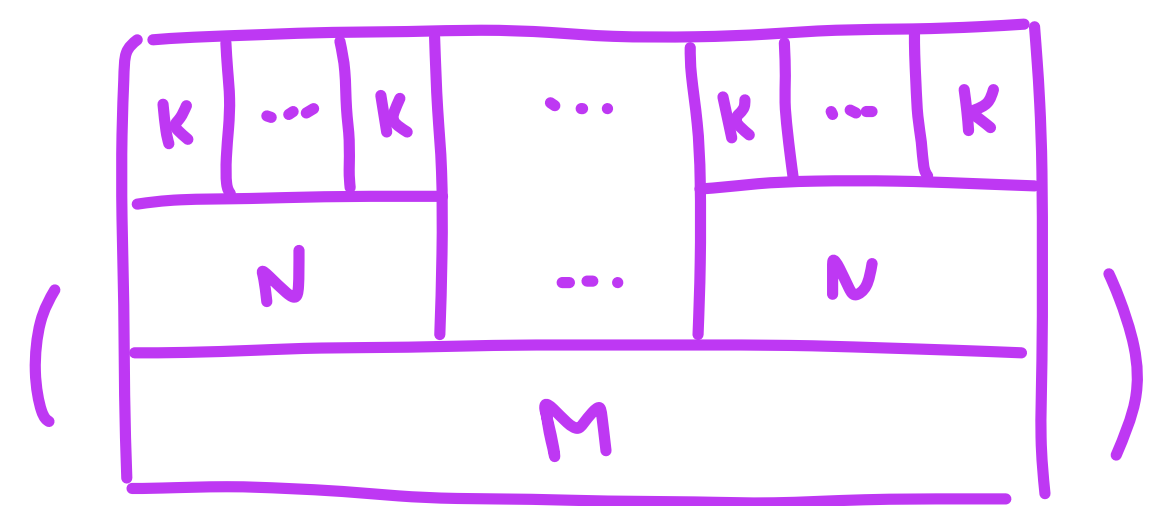
Proposition

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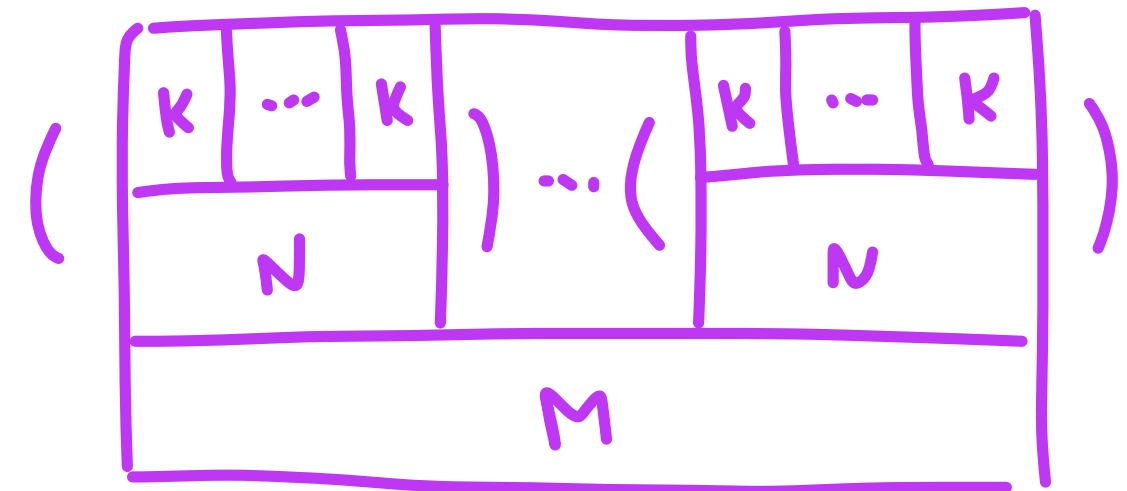
(left normal)

is a skew monoidal category

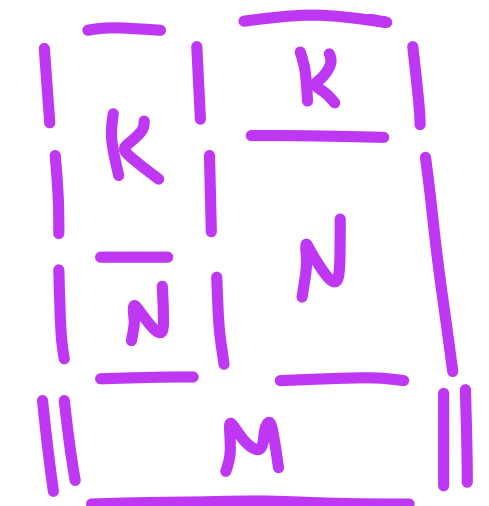
$$\begin{array}{c} (M \square N) \square K \\ \downarrow \quad \uparrow \times \\ M \square (N \square K) \end{array}$$



$\mathbb{I}$



$\times$



Proposition

box operads are monoids in

$$\left( \mathcal{V}^{\mathbb{N}^3}, \square, \mathbb{I} \right)$$

$$\mathcal{B} \square \mathcal{B} \xrightarrow{\mathbb{M}} \mathcal{B} \quad \mathbb{I} \xrightarrow{\mathbb{N}} \mathcal{B}$$

# The Floorplan

box operads  
= monoids  
in a skew  
monoidal category

deformation theory  
homotopy theory  
of lax functors

$$\mathcal{U} \longrightarrow \text{Cat}(\mathcal{K})$$

# The Floorplan

box operads  
= algebras  
over a symm.  
coloured operad

box operads  
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Stackings



Stackings

a stacking  $S$  takes a sequence of boxes

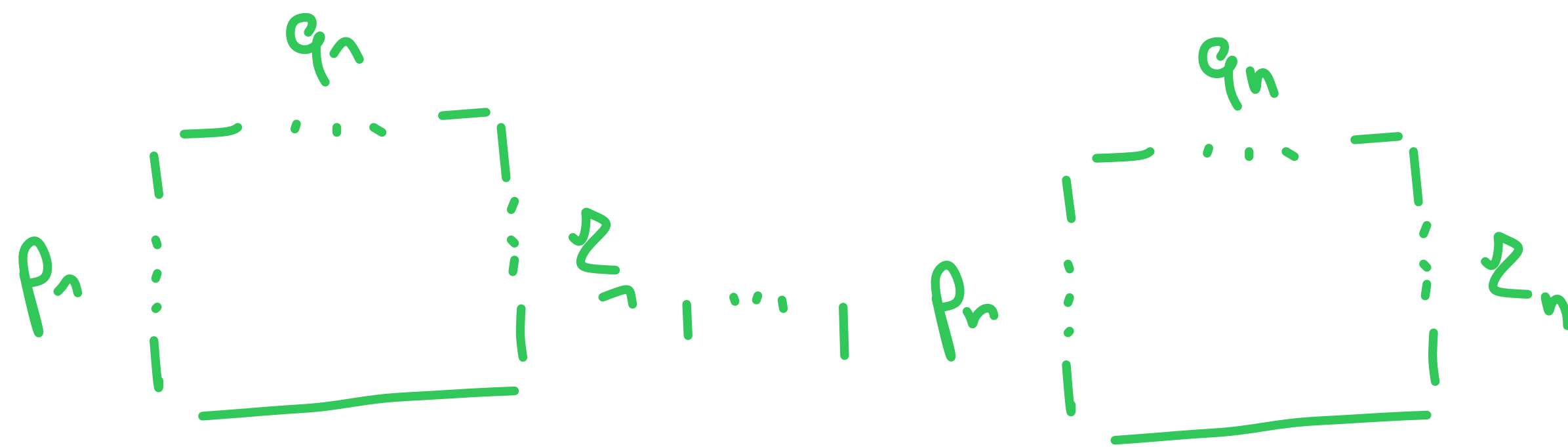
# Stackings

a stacking  $S$  takes a sequence of boxes



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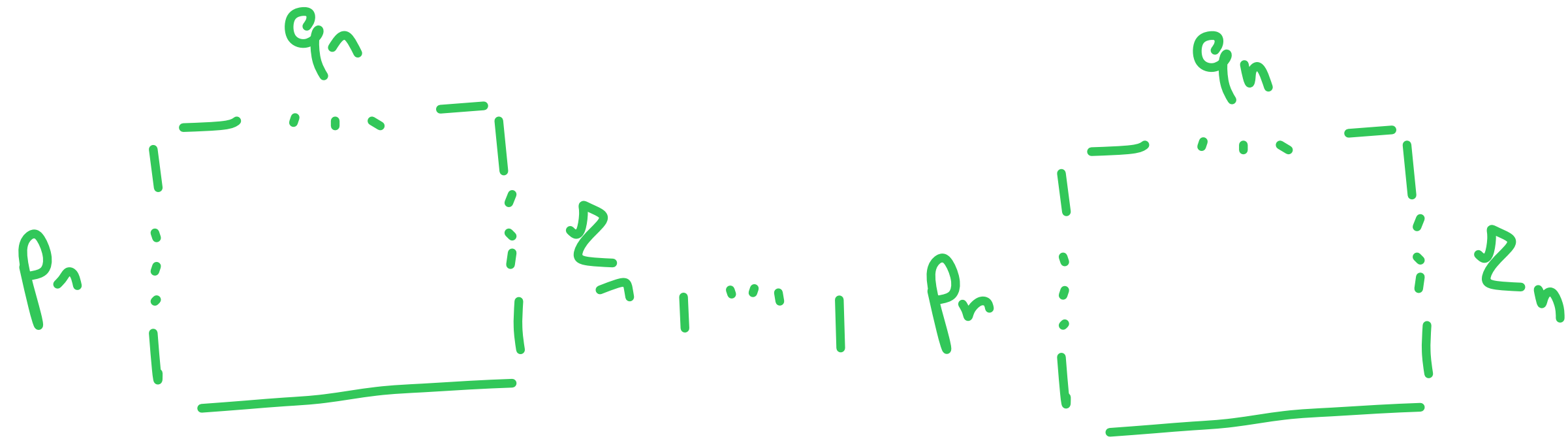
a stacking  $S$  takes a sequence of boxes



and stacks them to form a new box

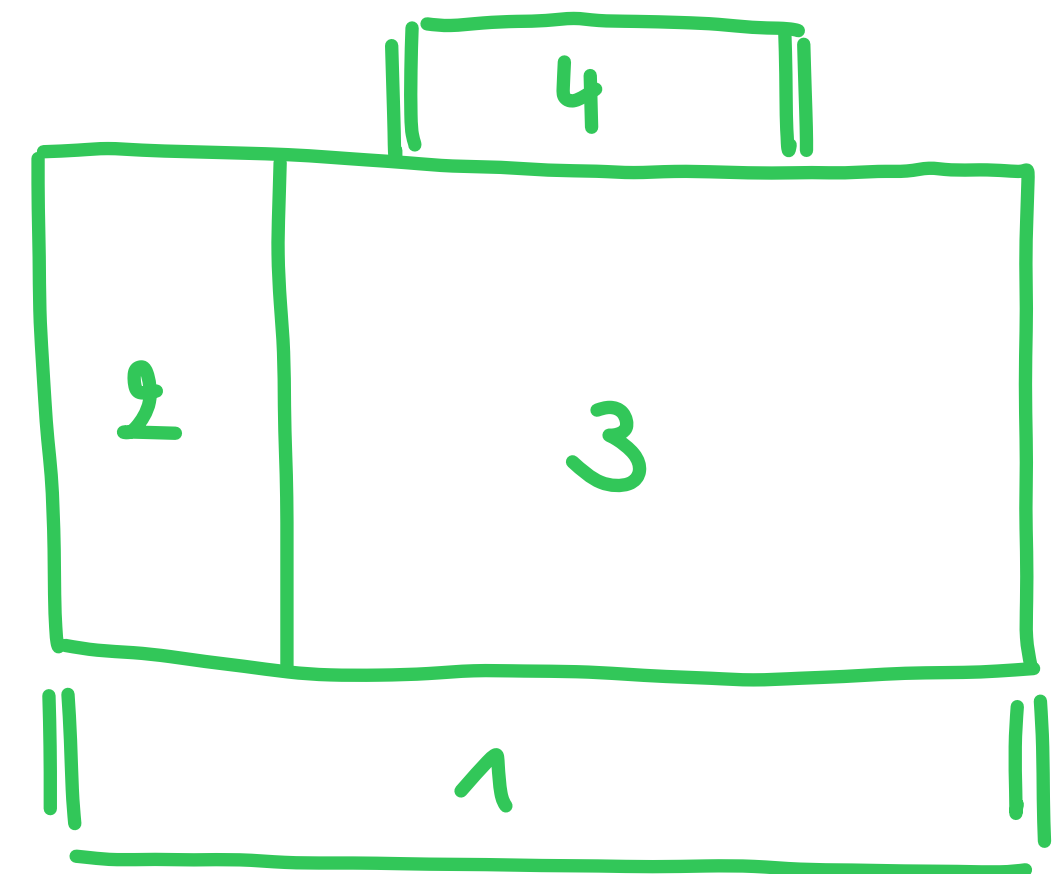
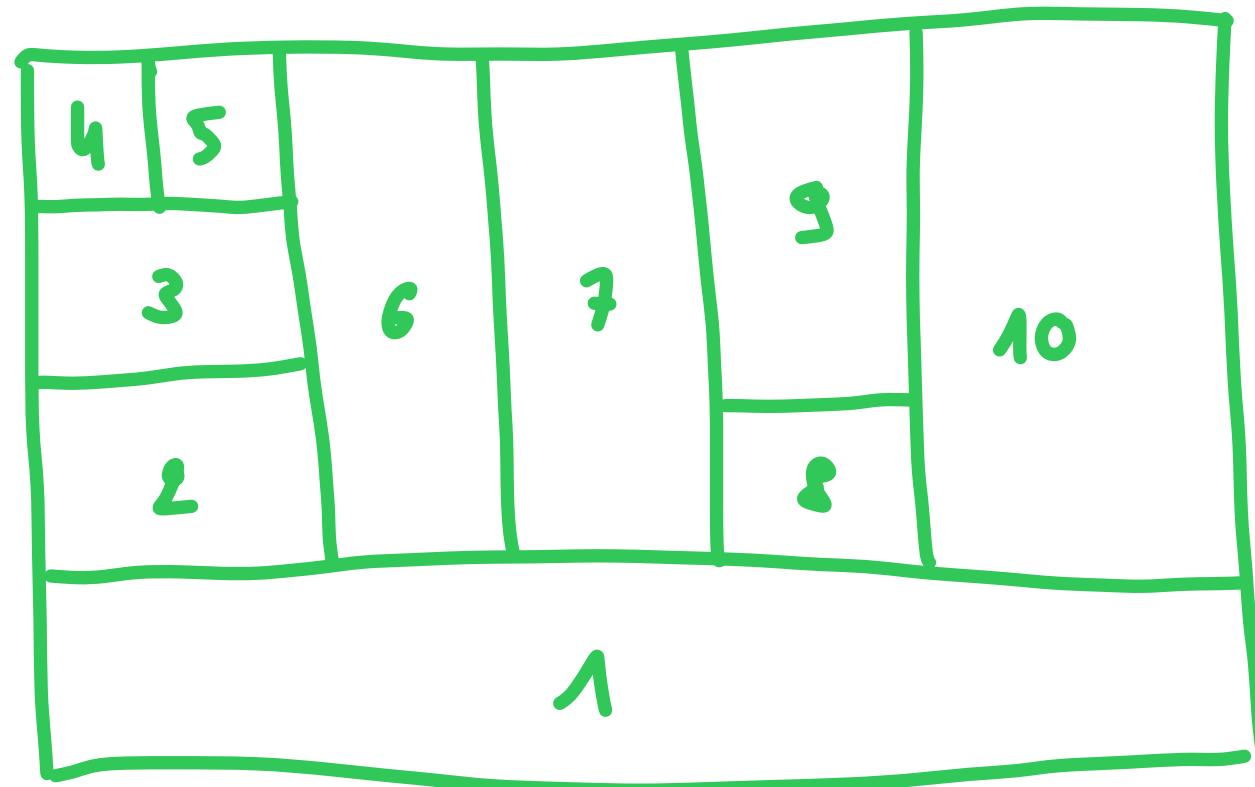
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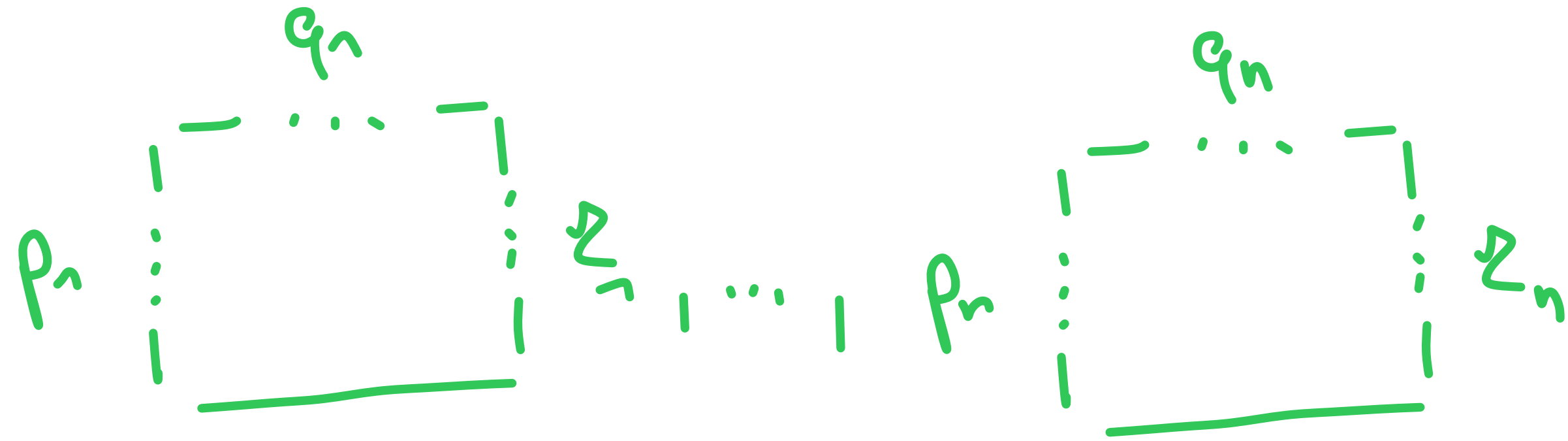
and stacks them to form a new box

e.g.



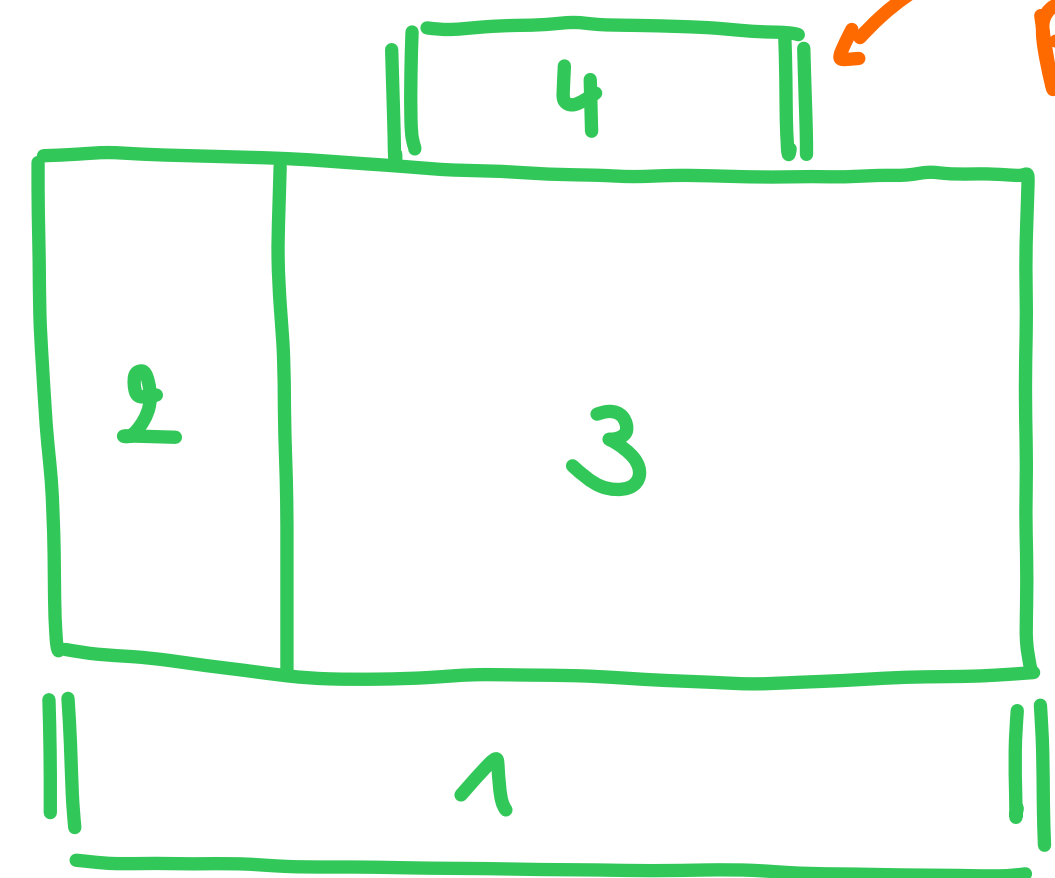
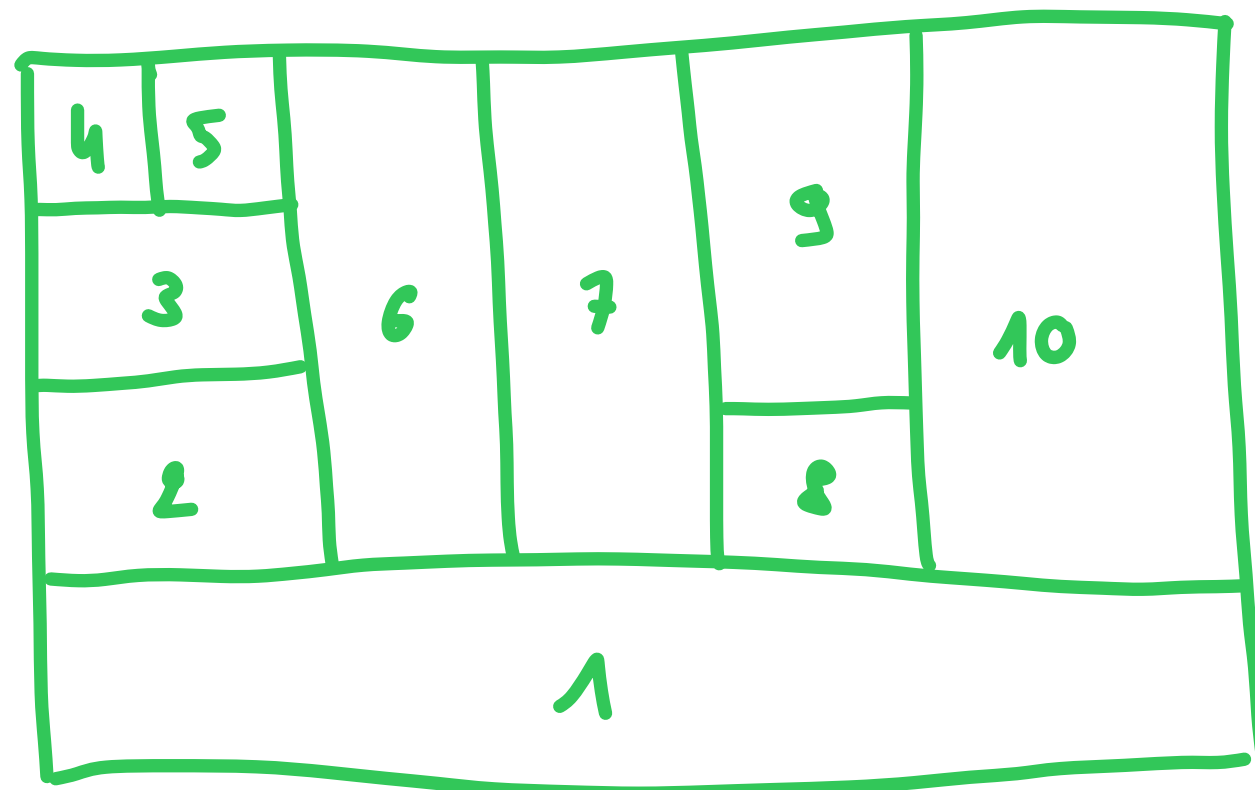
# Stackings

a stacking  $S$  takes a sequence of boxes



and stacks them to form a new box

e.g.



Coloured symmetric operad  $\square_p$

Coloured symmetric operad  $\square_p$

objects  $\mathbb{N}^3$

Coloured symmetric operad  $\square_p$

objects  $\mathbb{N}^3$

$$\square_p \left( (p_1, q_1, z_1), \dots, (p_n, q_n, z_n) ; (p, q, z) \right) =$$



Coloured symmetric operad  $\square_p$

objects  $\mathbb{N}^3$

$$\square_p((p_1, q_1, z_1), \dots, (p_n, q_n, z_n); (p, q, z)) = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{S stacking of boxes} \\ p_1 \begin{array}{c} q_1 \\ \square \\ z_1 \end{array}, \dots, p_n \begin{array}{c} q_n \\ \square \\ z_n \end{array} \\ \text{into a box } p \begin{array}{c} q \\ \square \\ z \end{array} \end{array} \right\}$$

Coloured symmetric operad  $\square_p$

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$$\square_p((p_1, q_1, z_1), \dots, (p_n, q_n, z_n); (p, q, z)) = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{S stacking of boxes} \\ p_1 \square^{q_1}_{z_1}, \dots, p_n \square^{q_n}_{z_n} \\ \text{into a box } p \square^q_z \end{array} \right\}$$

composition = substitution of a box by a stacking

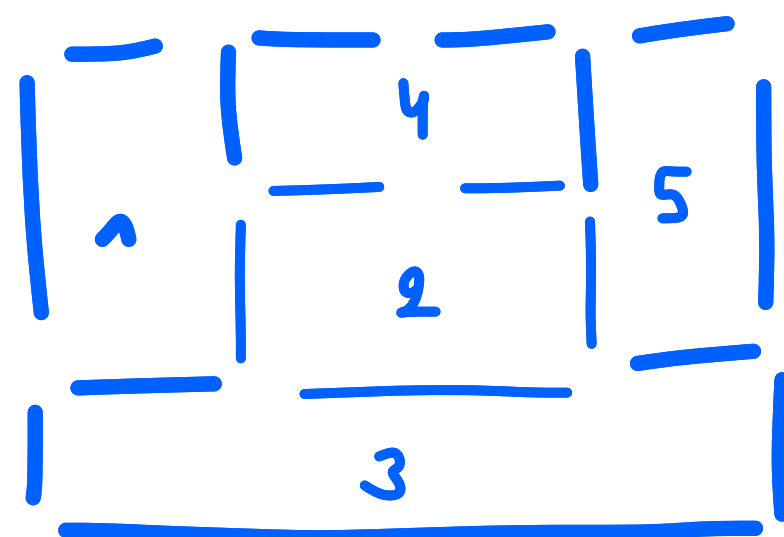
Coloured symmetric operad  $\square_p$

objects  $\mathbb{N}^3$

$$\square_p((p_1, q_1, z_1), \dots, (p_n, q_n, z_n); (p, q, z)) = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{S stacking of boxes} \\ p_1 \overset{q_1}{\square} z_1, \dots, p_n \overset{q_n}{\square} z_n \\ \text{into a box } p \overset{q}{\square} z \end{array} \right\}$$

composition = substitution of a box by a stacking

e.g.

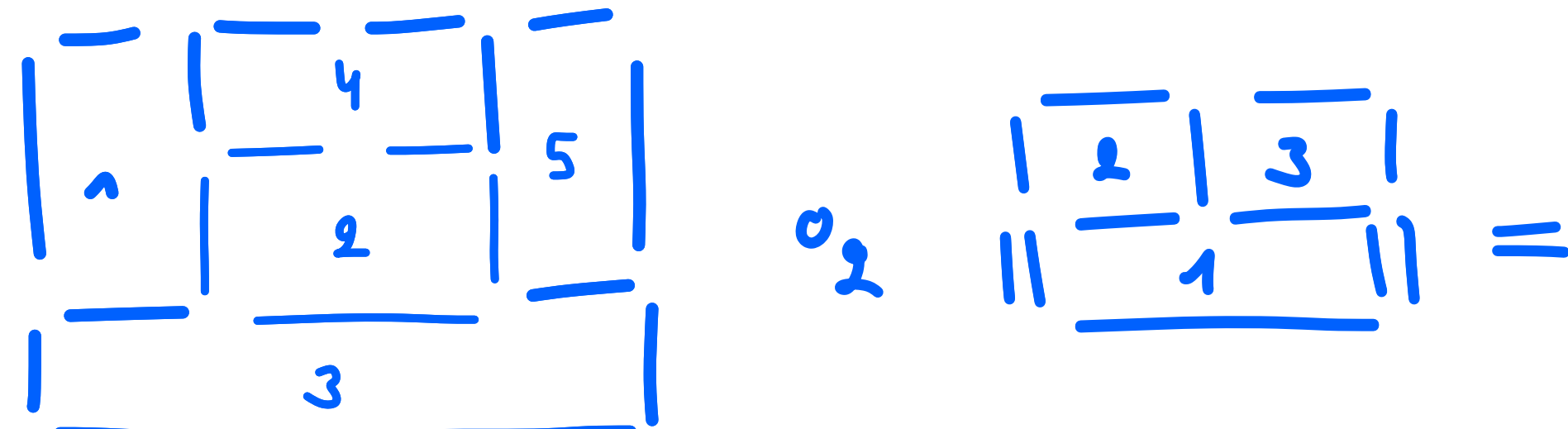


Coloured symmetric operad  $\square_p$

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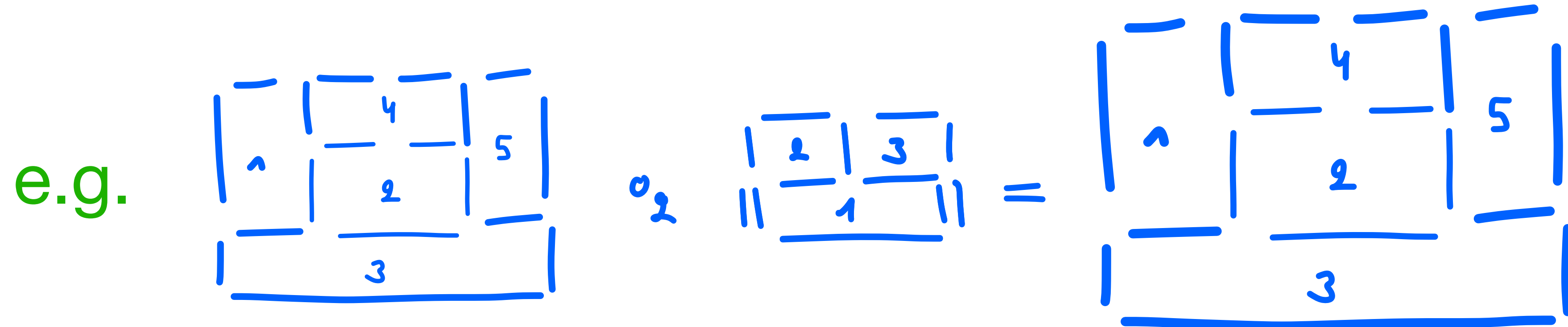
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Coloured symmetric operad  $\square_p$

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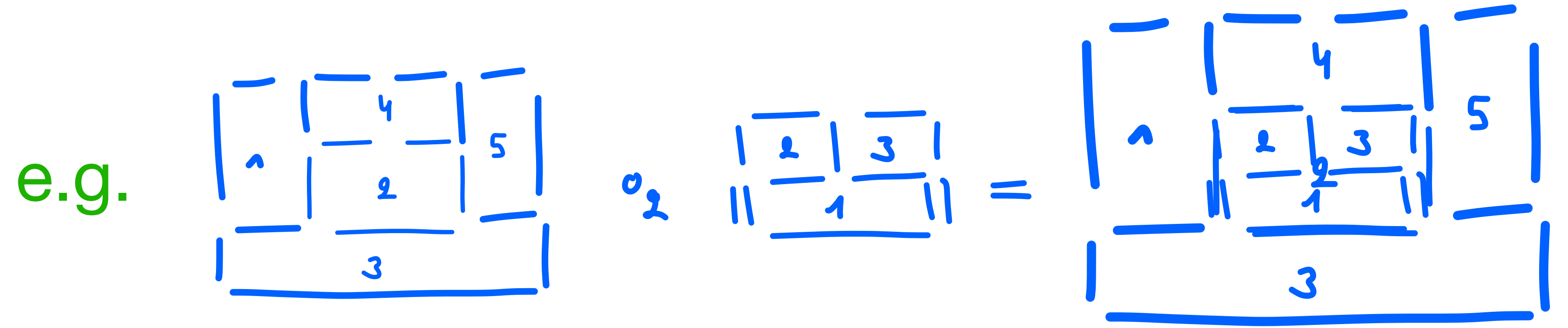


# Coloured symmetric operad $\square_p$

objects  $\mathbb{N}^3$

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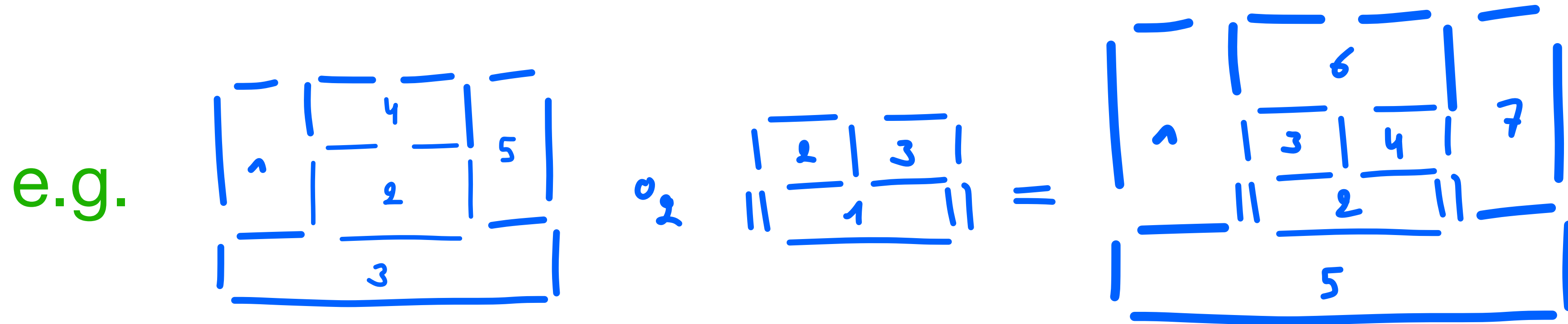


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composition = substitution of a box by a stacking

e.g.

Proposition box operads are algebras over  $\square_p$



# Higher Gerstenhaber brackets

Theorem

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Theorem    we have a morphism

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Theorem we have a morphism

$$L_{\infty} \longrightarrow \text{Tot}(\square_p)$$

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$$l_n \longrightarrow$$

# Higher Gerstenhaber brackets

Theorem we have a morphism

$$L_\infty \longrightarrow \text{Tot}(\square_p)$$

$$l_n \longrightarrow \Sigma \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \\ \text{---} \\ \text{---} \\ \text{---} \end{array} \right]$$

*ε thin boxes*

# Higher Gerstenhaber brackets

Theorem we have a morphism

$$L_\infty \longrightarrow \text{Tot}(\square_p)$$

$$l_n \longmapsto \sum \text{[diagram of 2 thin boxes]} + \sum \text{[diagram of 1 thin box and 1 nanthin box]}$$

2 thin boxes

1 thin box  
1 nanthin box

# Higher Gerstenhaber brackets

Theorem we have a morphism

$$L_\infty \longrightarrow \text{Tot}(\square_p)$$

$$l_n \longmapsto \sum \text{[diagram 1]} + \sum \text{[diagram 2]} + \sum \text{[diagram 3]}$$

2 thin boxes
1 thin box  
1 nonthin box
1 thin box  
n-1 nonthin box  
topological condition

# The Floorplan

box operads  
= algebras  
over a symm.  
coloured operad

box operads  
= monoids  
in a skew  
monoidal category

totalisation  
of a box operad  
carries a  
L-infinity structure

deformation theory  
homotopy theory  
of lax functors  
 $\mathcal{U} \rightarrow \text{Cat}(\mathbb{k})$



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a coloured box  
operad Lax $\mathcal{U}$   
encoding lax functors  
 $\mathcal{U} \longrightarrow \text{Cat}(\mathcal{V})$

totalisation  
of a box operad  
carries a  
L-infinity structure

Koszul duality  
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box operads

deformation theory  
homotopy theory  
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# The Floorplan

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operad Lax<sub>u</sub>  
encoding lax functors  
 $\mathcal{U} \longrightarrow \text{Cat}(\mathcal{V})$

totalisation  
of a box operad  
carries a  
L-infinity structure

Koszul duality  
for  
box operads

deformation theory  
homotopy theory  
of lax functors  
 $\mathcal{U} \longrightarrow \text{Cat}(\mathcal{Z})$   
via minimal model  
Lax<sub>∞</sub>

# The box operad Lax

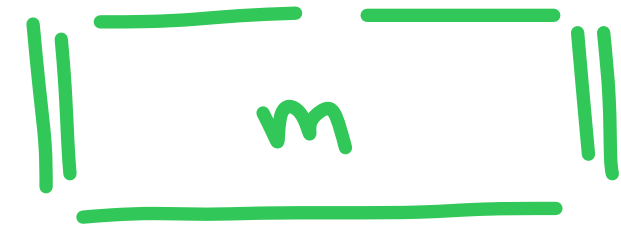
The box operad  $\mathbf{Lax}$

generators

relations

# The box operad $\mathbf{Lax}$

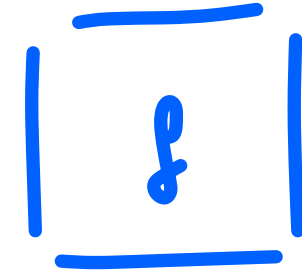
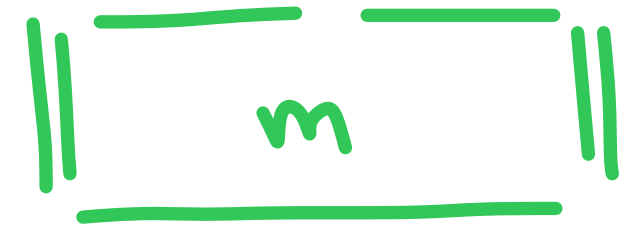
generators



relations

# The box operad $\mathcal{L}ax$

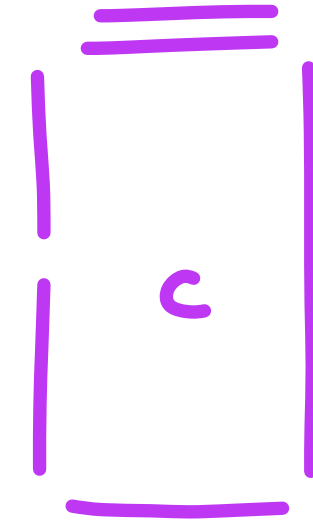
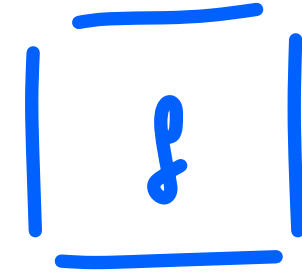
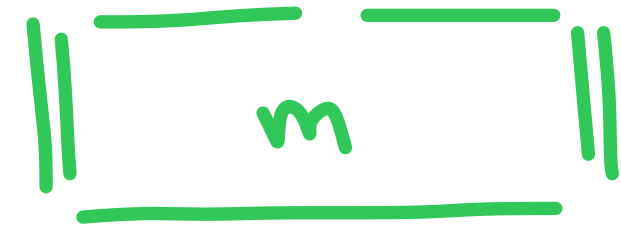
generators



relations

# The box operad $\mathcal{L}ax$

generators

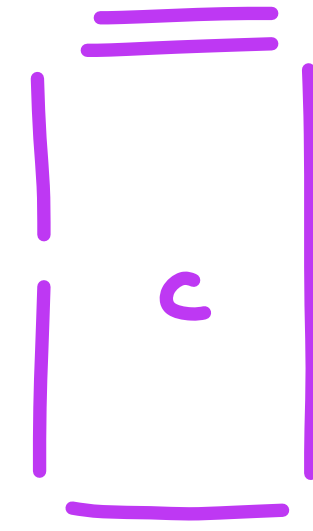
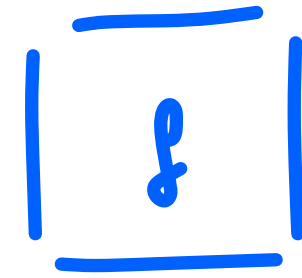
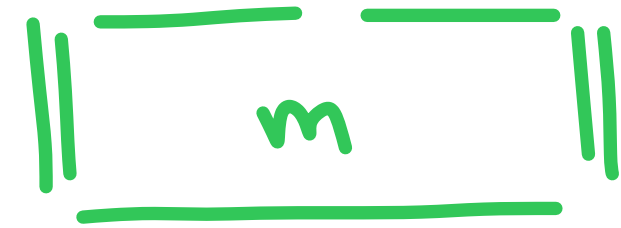


relations

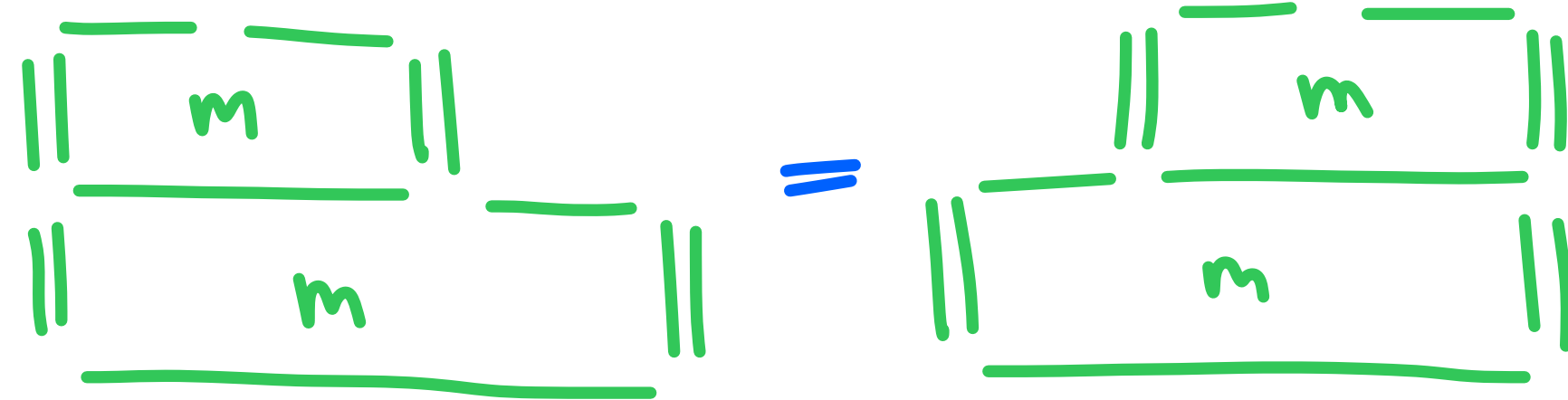


# The box operad Lax

generators

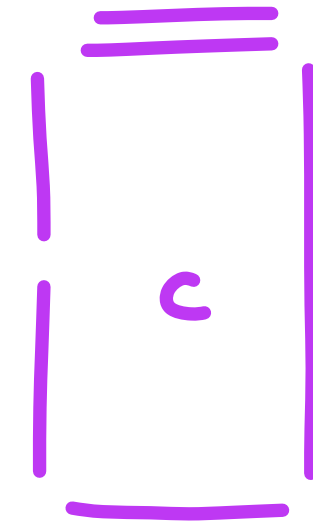
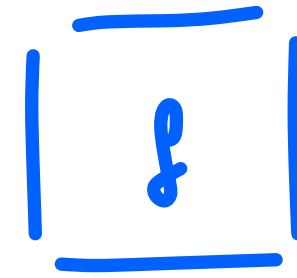
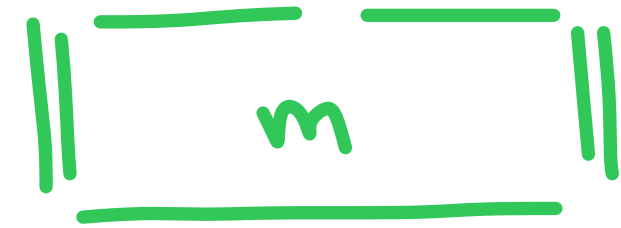


relations

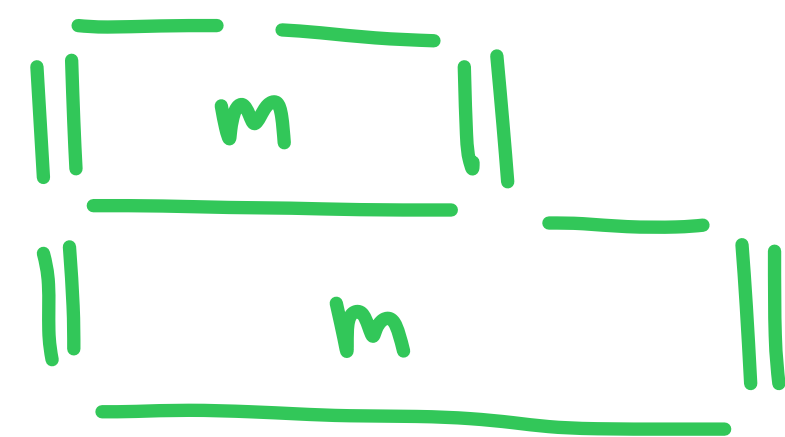


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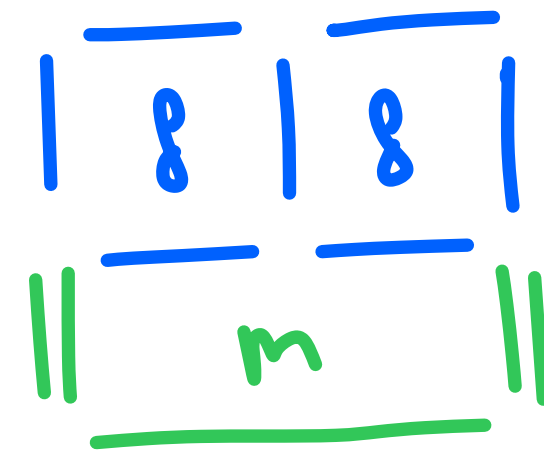
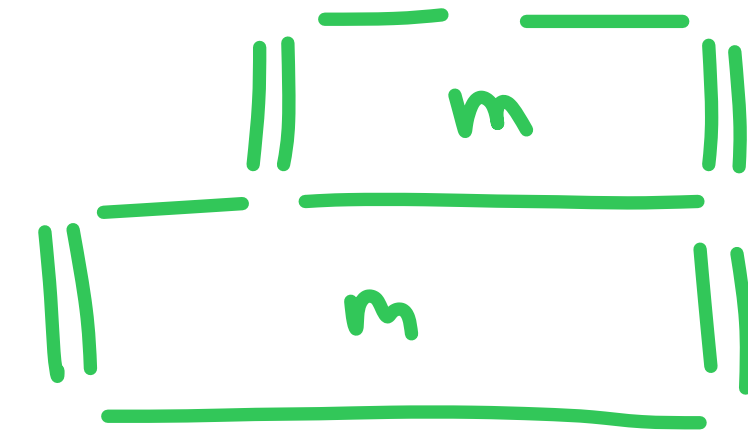
generators



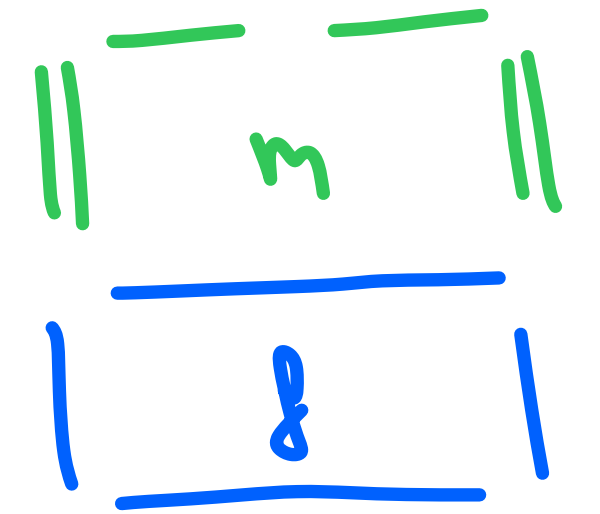
relations



=

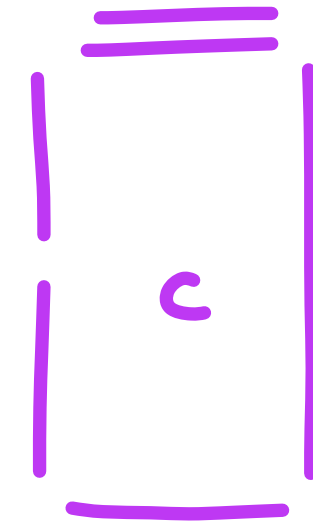
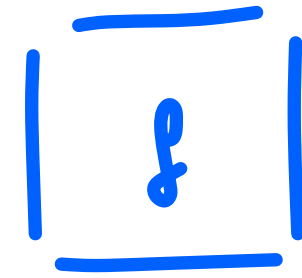


=

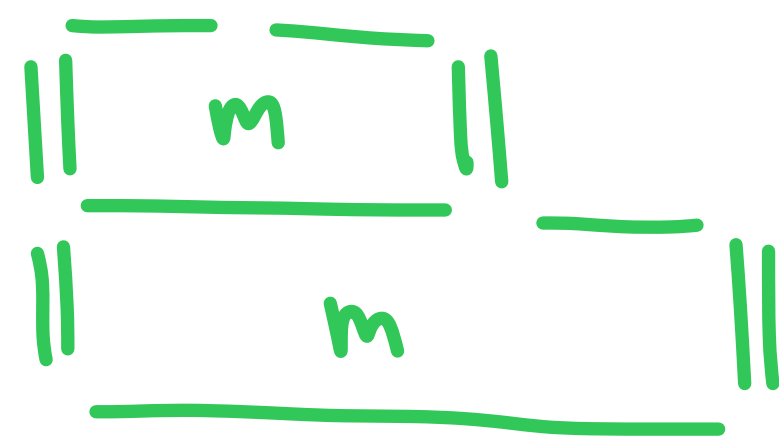


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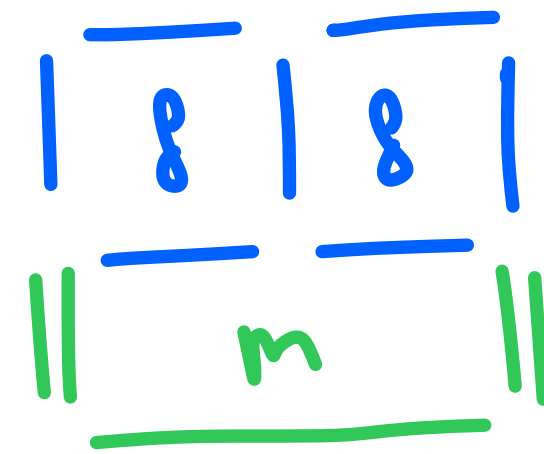
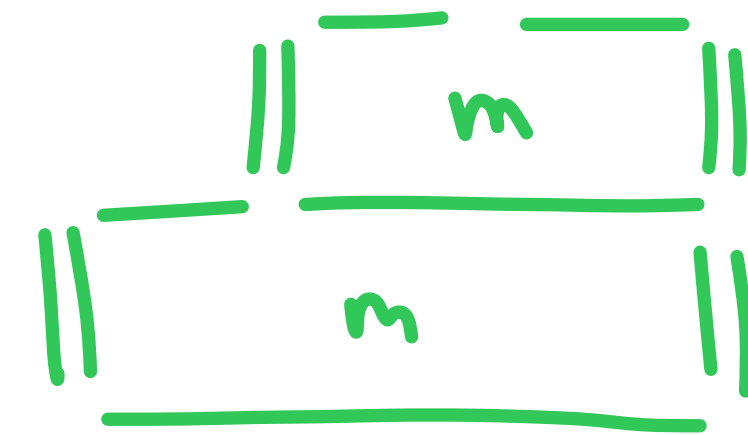
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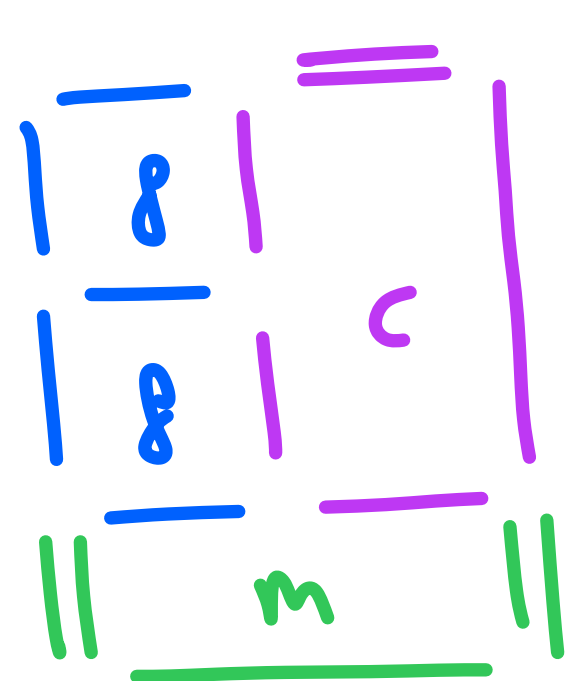
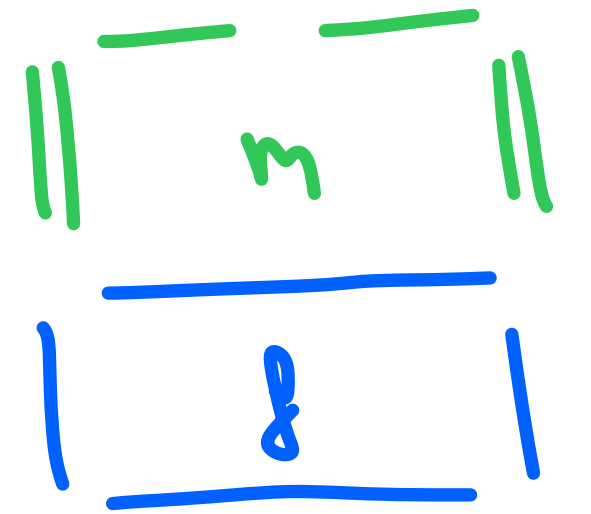
relations



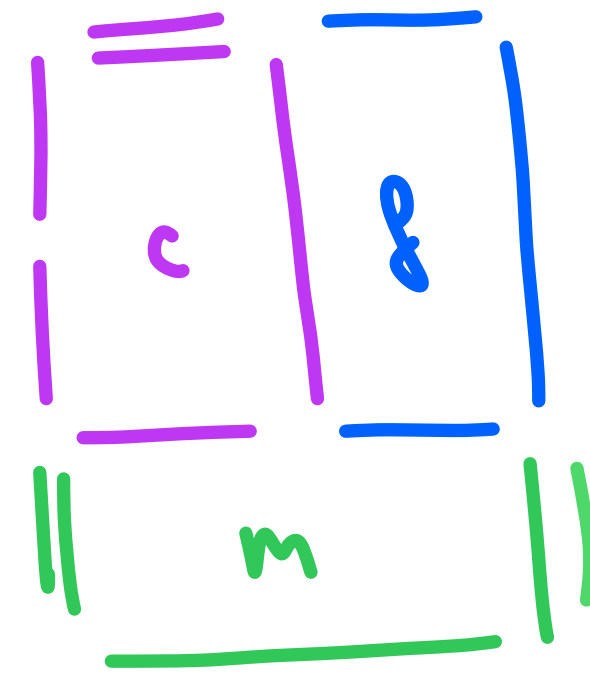
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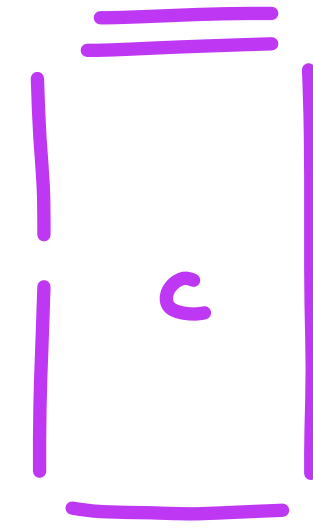
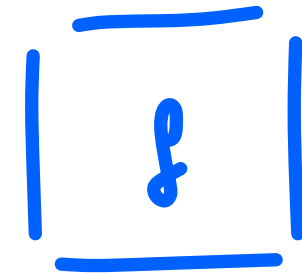


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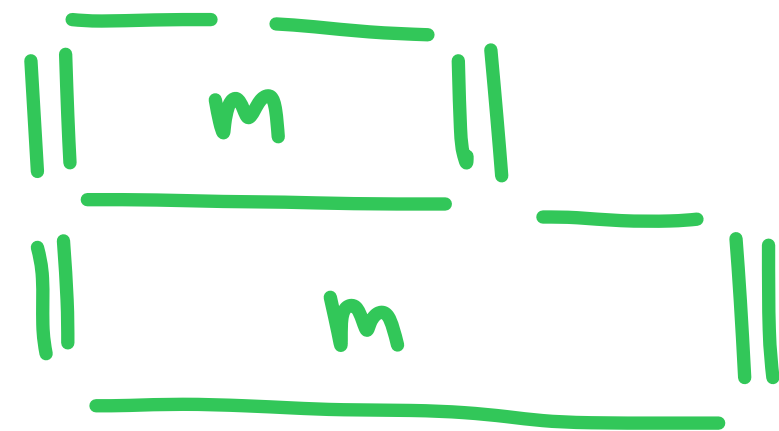


# The box operad Lax

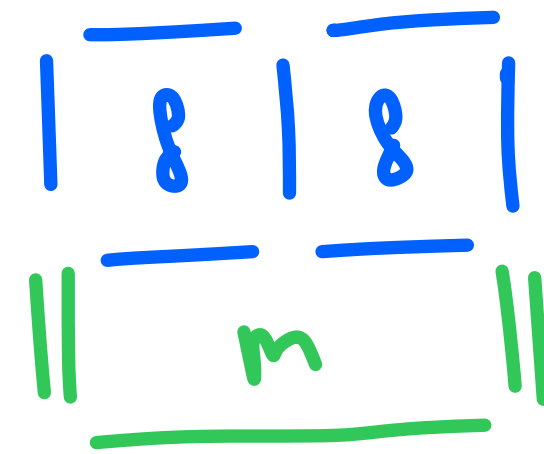
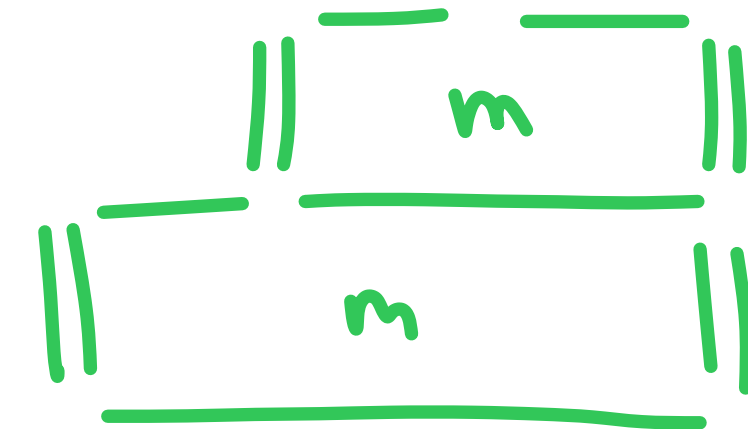
generators



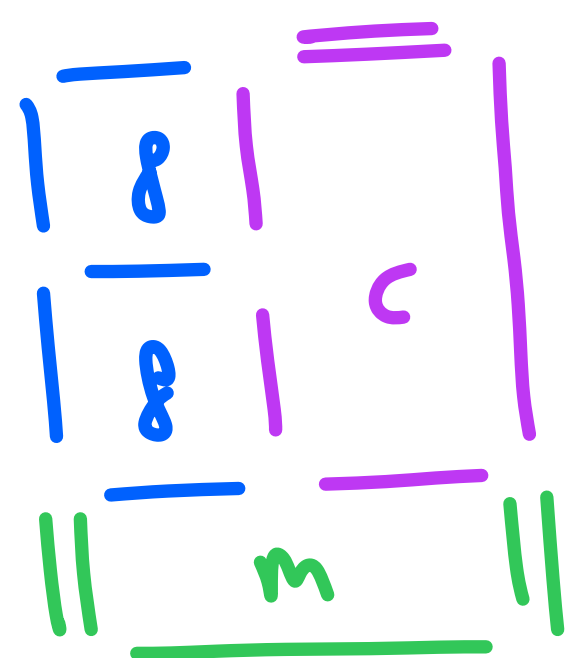
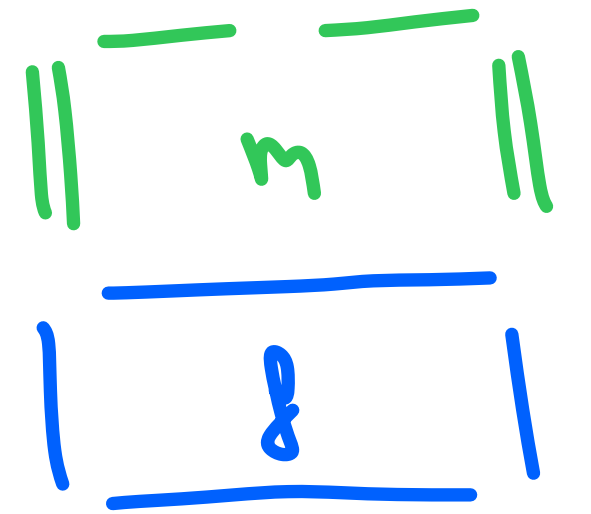
relations



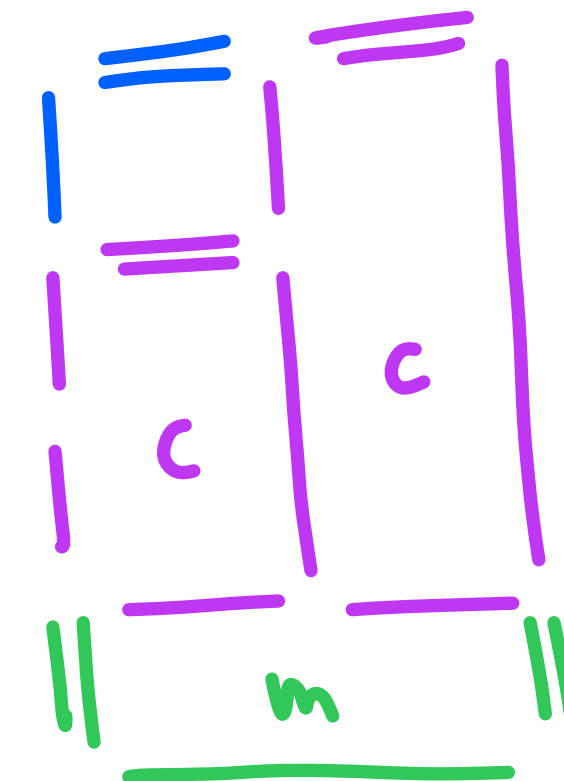
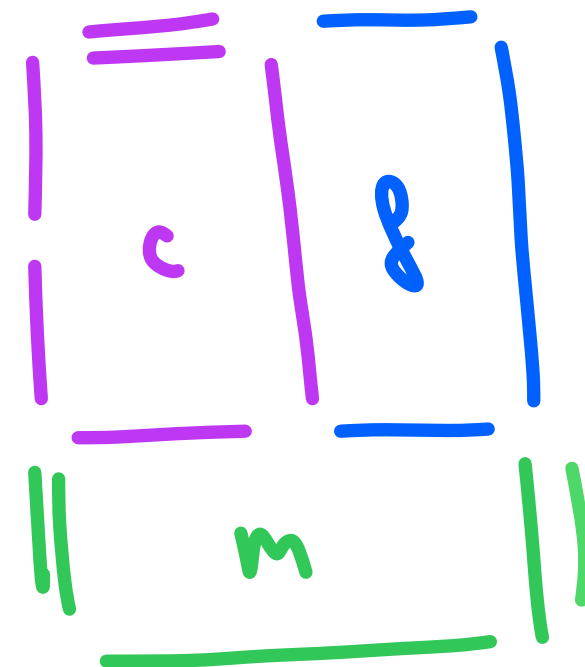
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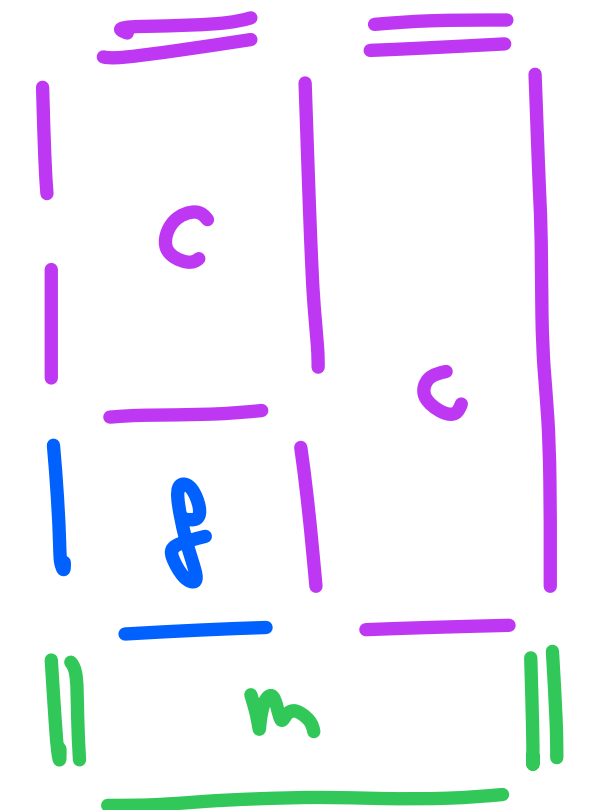
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Coherence

Theorem

# Coherence

Theorem  $Lax(p, q, r) =$

# Coherence

Theorem

$$\text{Lax}(p, q, r) = \begin{cases} \sqcup_{\text{Pat}(p, r)} I \\ 0 \end{cases}$$

$$p + q - r \geq 1$$

otherwise

# Coherence

Theorem  $Lax(p, q, r) = \begin{cases} \sqcup_{\text{Pat}(p, r)} I & p + q - r \geq 1 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$

$p + q - r \geq 1$   
otherwise

①  $\boxed{\begin{matrix} \dots \\ p \leftarrow r \\ \vdots \\ Lax(p, q, r) \\ \vdots \end{matrix}} = 0$

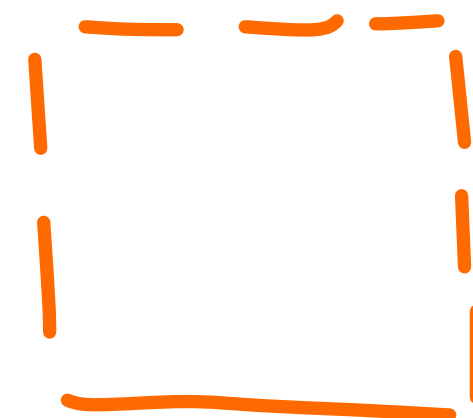


# Coherence

Theorem  $Lax(p, q, r) = \begin{cases} \sqcup_{\text{Pat}(p, r)} I & p + q - r \geq 1 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$

①  $\boxed{\begin{matrix} \dots \\ p \leftarrow r \\ \vdots \\ Lax(p, q, r) \\ \vdots \end{matrix}} = 0$

e.g. there is no element



# Coherence

Theorem  $Lax(p, q, r) = \begin{cases} \sqcup_{\text{Pat}(p, r)} I & p+q-r \geq 1 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$

②  $\boxed{\boxed{\boxed{Lax(0, q, 0)}}} = I \Rightarrow Lax(0, q, 0) = Assoc(q) = m_q I$

# Coherence

## Theorem

$$Lax(p, q, z) = \begin{cases} \sqcup_{\text{Part}(p, z)} I \\ 0 \end{cases}$$

$$p + q - z \geq 1$$

otherwise

$$\textcircled{3} \quad \boxed{\begin{array}{c} \dots \\ p+q \geq z, p \geq 1 \\ \vdots \\ Lax(p, q, 1) \end{array}} = I$$

# Coherence

## Theorem

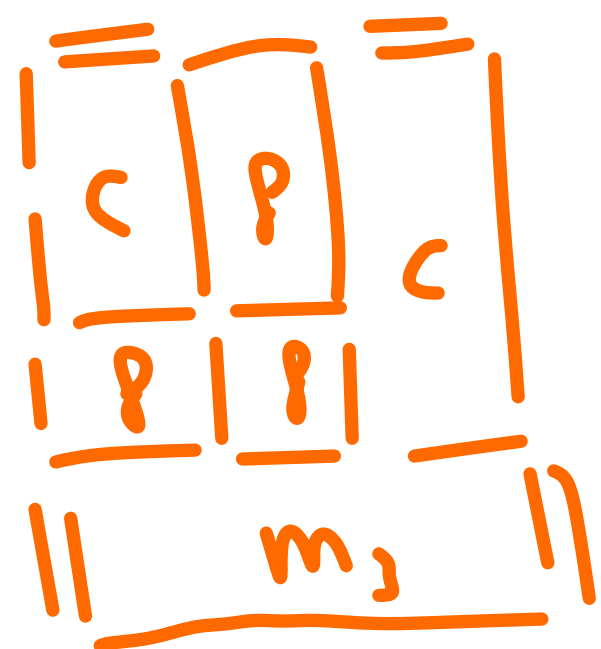
$$Lax(p, q, z) = \begin{cases} \sqcup_{\text{Part}(p, z)} I \\ 0 \end{cases}$$

$$p + q - z \geq 1$$

otherwise

$$\textcircled{3} \quad \boxed{\begin{array}{c} \dots \\ p+q \geq z, p \geq 1 \\ Lax(p, q, z) \end{array}} = I$$

e.g.



# Coherence

## Theorem

$$Lax(p, q, z) =$$

$$\begin{cases} \sqcup_{\text{Part}(p, z)} I \\ 0 \end{cases}$$

$$p + q - z \geq 1$$

otherwise

③

$$\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \dots \\ \hline p+q \geq z, p \geq 1 \\ \hline Lax(p, q, z) \\ \hline \end{array} = I$$

e.g.

$$\begin{array}{|c|c|c|} \hline c & p & \\ \hline p & p & \\ \hline \end{array} = \begin{array}{|c|c|c|} \hline c & & \\ \hline p & c & p \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$\| m_3 \|$

# Coherence

## Theorem

$$Lax(p, q, z) = \begin{cases} \sqcup_{\text{Part}(p, z)} I \\ 0 \end{cases}$$

$$p + q - z \geq 1$$

otherwise

$$\textcircled{3} \quad \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \dots \\ \hline p+q \geq z, p \geq 1 \\ \hline Lax(p, q, z) \\ \hline \end{array} = I$$

e.g.

$$\begin{array}{|c|c|c|} \hline c & p & \\ \hline p & p & \\ \hline \end{array} \parallel m_3 \parallel = \begin{array}{|c|c|c|} \hline c & & \\ \hline p & c & p \\ \hline \end{array} \parallel m_3 \parallel = \begin{array}{|c|c|c|} \hline & & \\ \hline c & c & p \\ \hline \end{array} \parallel m_3 \parallel$$

# Coherence

## Theorem

$$Lax(p, q, r) = \begin{cases} \sqcup_{\text{Part}(p, r)} I \\ 0 \end{cases}$$

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otherwise

$$\textcircled{3} \quad \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \dots \\ \hline p+q \geq r, p \geq 1 \\ \hline Lax(p, q, r) \\ \hline \end{array} = I$$

e.g.

$$\begin{array}{|c|c|c|} \hline c & p & \\ \hline p & p & \\ \hline \end{array} \parallel m_3 \parallel = \begin{array}{|c|c|c|} \hline c & & \\ \hline p & c & p \\ \hline \end{array} \parallel m_3 \parallel = \begin{array}{|c|c|c|} \hline & & \\ \hline c & c & p \\ \hline \end{array} \parallel m_3 \parallel = \begin{array}{|c|c|c|} \hline & p & \\ \hline c & p & c \\ \hline \end{array} \parallel m_3 \parallel$$

# Coherence

## Theorem

$$Lax(p, q, r) = \begin{cases} \sqcup_{\text{Part}(p, r)} I \\ 0 \end{cases}$$

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$$\textcircled{3} \quad \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \dots \\ \hline p+q \geq r, p \geq 1 \\ \hline Lax(p, q, r) \\ \hline \end{array} = I$$

e.g.

$$\begin{array}{|c|c|c|} \hline c & p & \\ \hline p & p & \\ \hline \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{|c|c|c|} \hline c & c & p \\ \hline p & & \\ \hline \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{|c|c|c|} \hline c & c & p \\ \hline c & c & \\ \hline \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{|c|c|c|} \hline & p & \\ \hline c & p & c \\ \hline \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{|c|c|c|} \hline p & & \\ \hline p & c & c \\ \hline \end{array}$$



# Coherence

Theorem  $Lax(p, q, z) = \begin{cases} \sqcup_{\text{Pat}(p, z)} I \\ 0 \end{cases}$

$$p + q - z \geq 1$$

otherwise

④  $\boxed{\text{lax}(3, 0, 2)} = \begin{array}{|c|} \hline c \\ \hline 8 \\ \hline \end{array} \sqcup \begin{array}{|c|} \hline c \\ \hline c \\ \hline \end{array}$

The coloured box operad  $\text{Lax}_{\mathcal{U}}$

FOR SMALL CATEGORY  $\mathcal{U}$

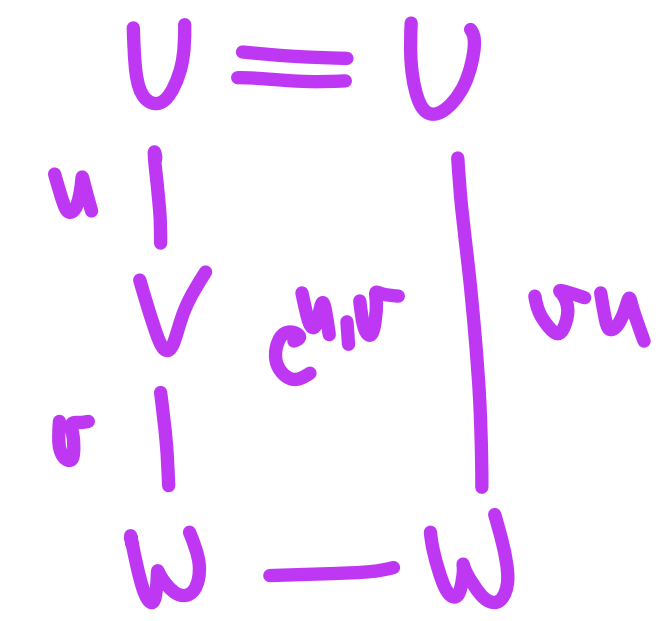
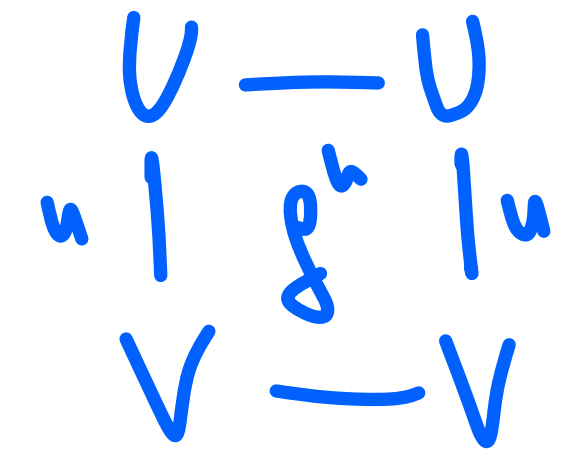
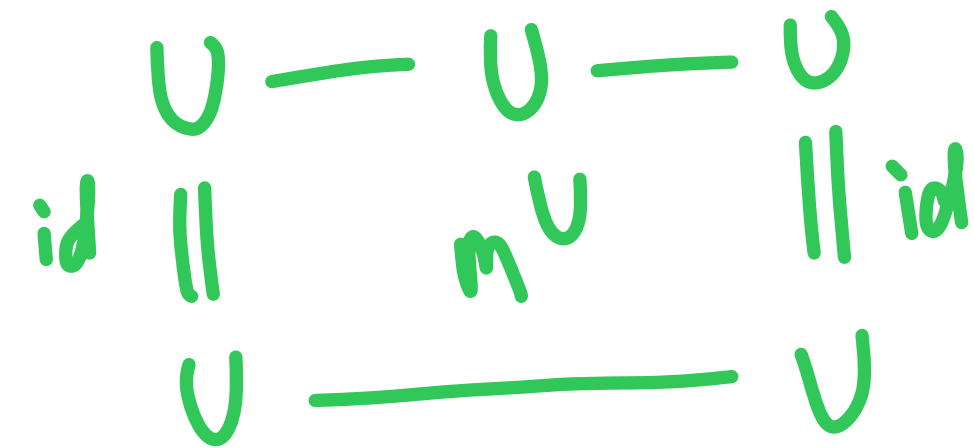
generators

relations

# The coloured box operad $\text{Lax}_{\mathcal{U}}$

FOR SMALL CATEGORY  $\mathcal{U}$

generators

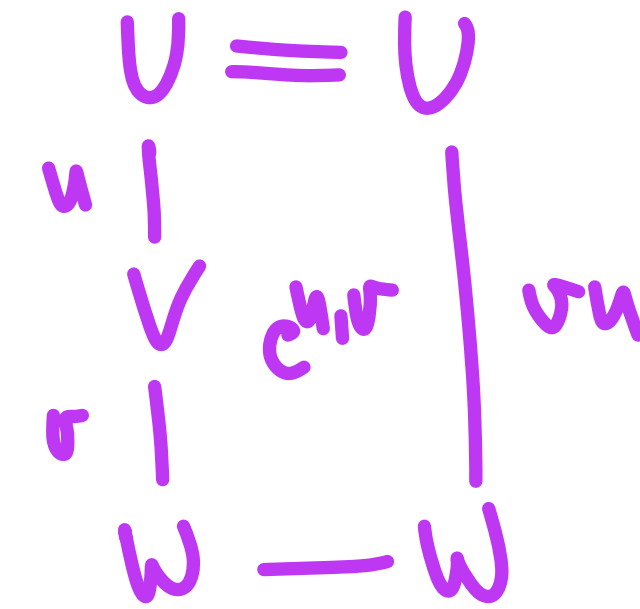
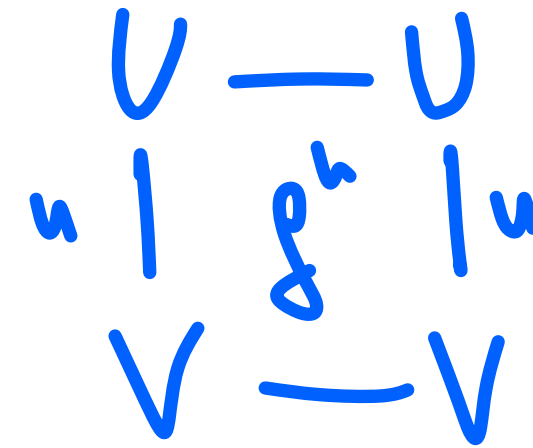
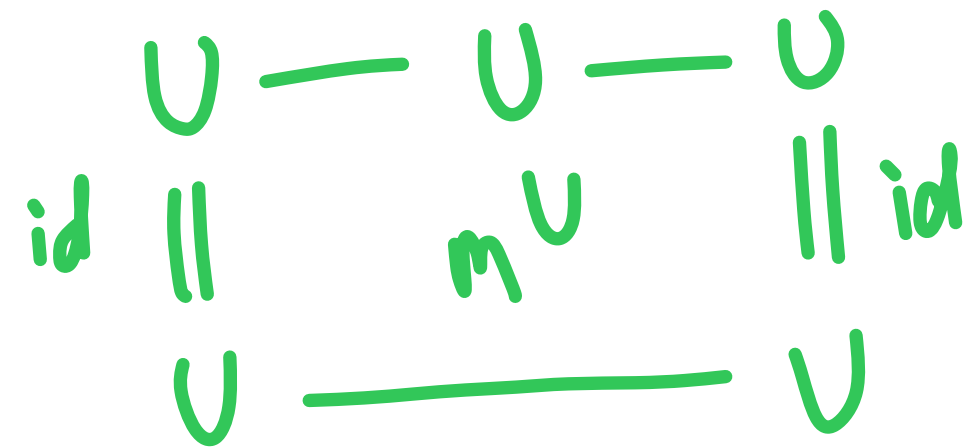


relations

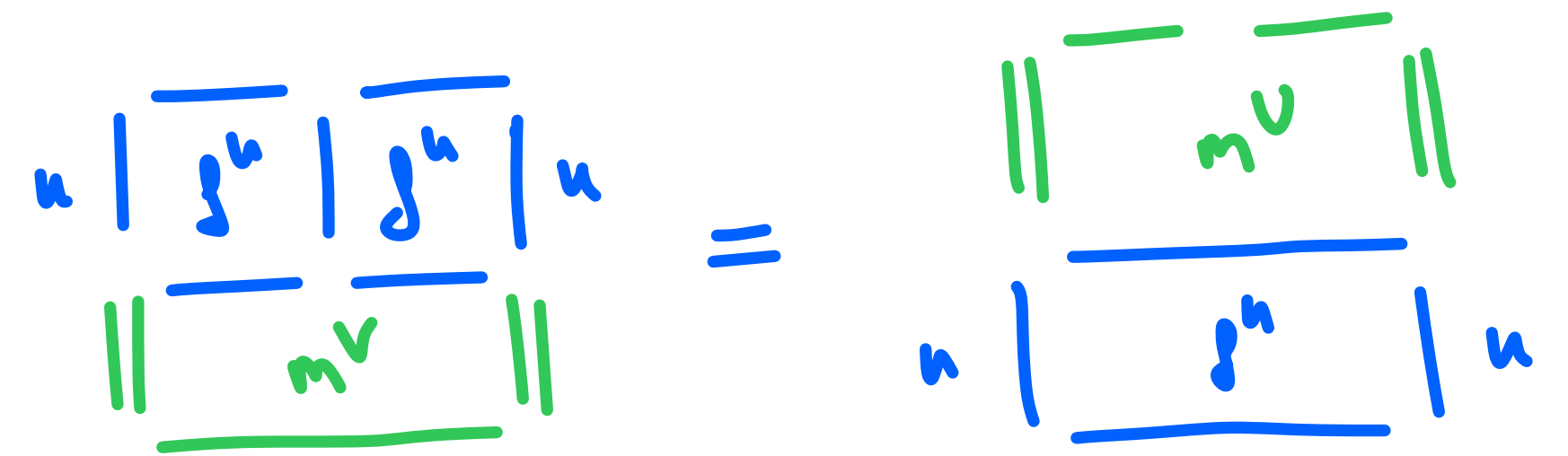
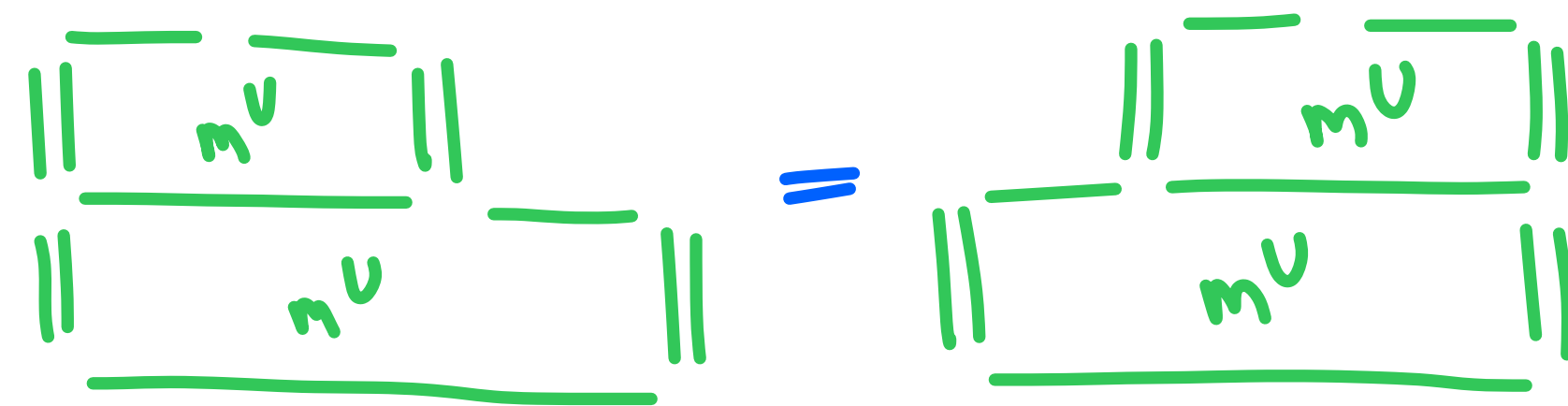
# The coloured box operad $\text{Lax}_{\mathcal{U}}$

FOR SMALL CATEGORY  $\mathcal{U}$

generators



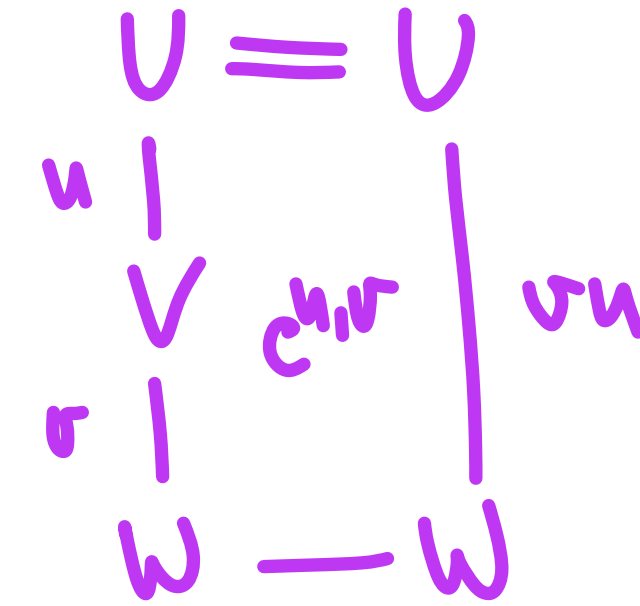
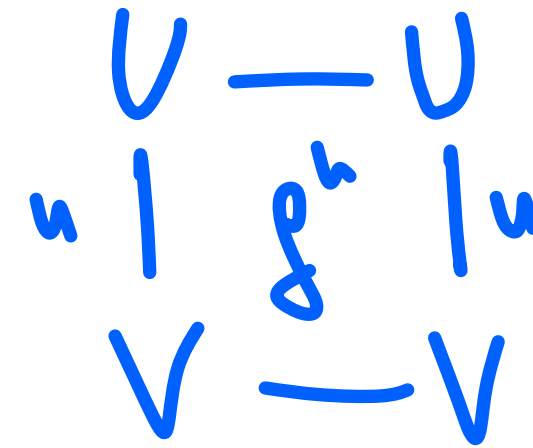
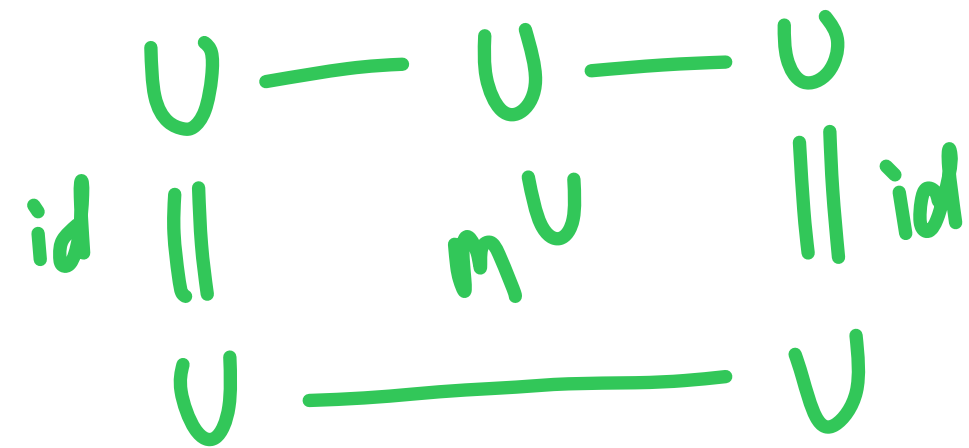
relations



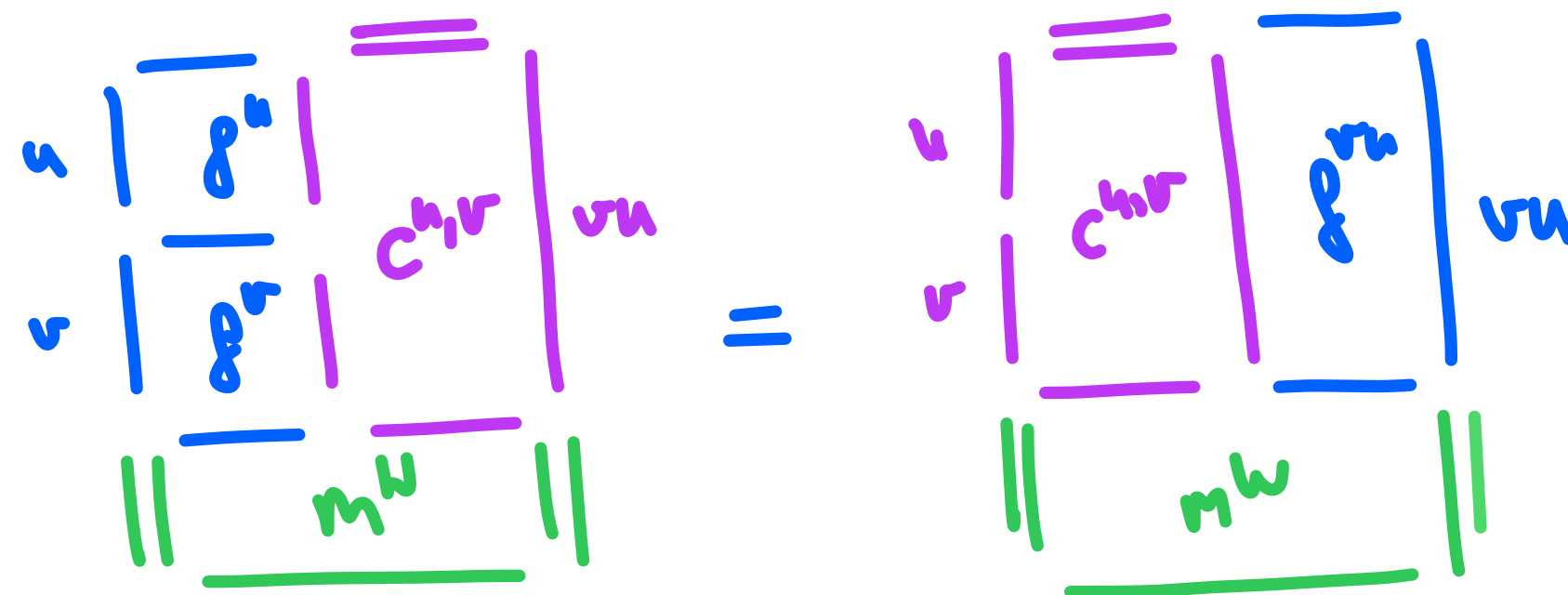
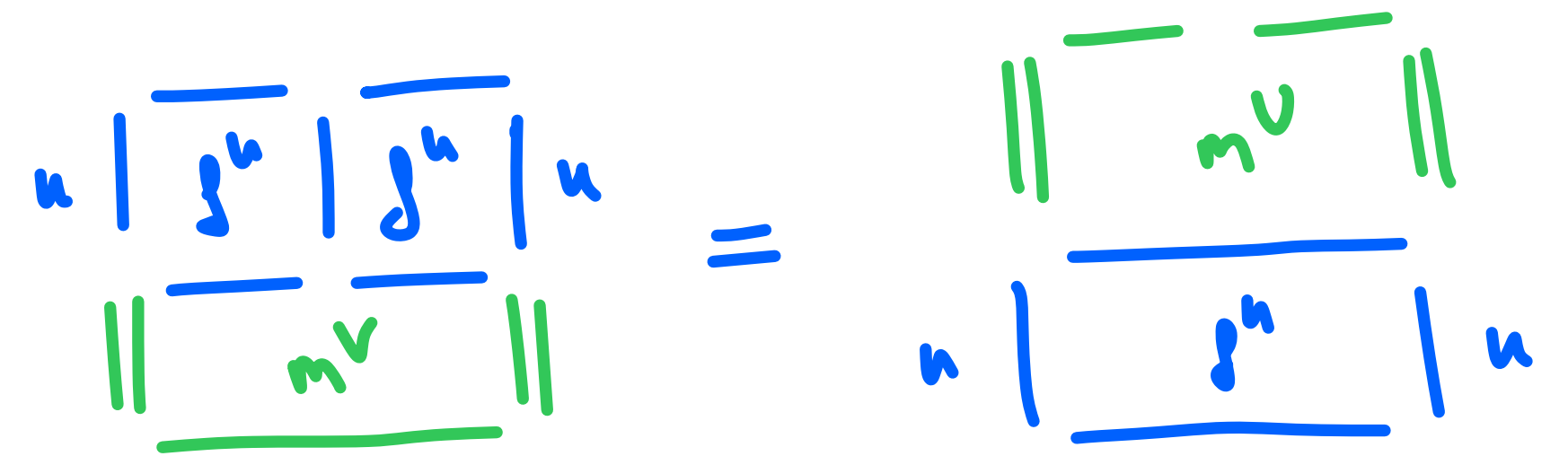
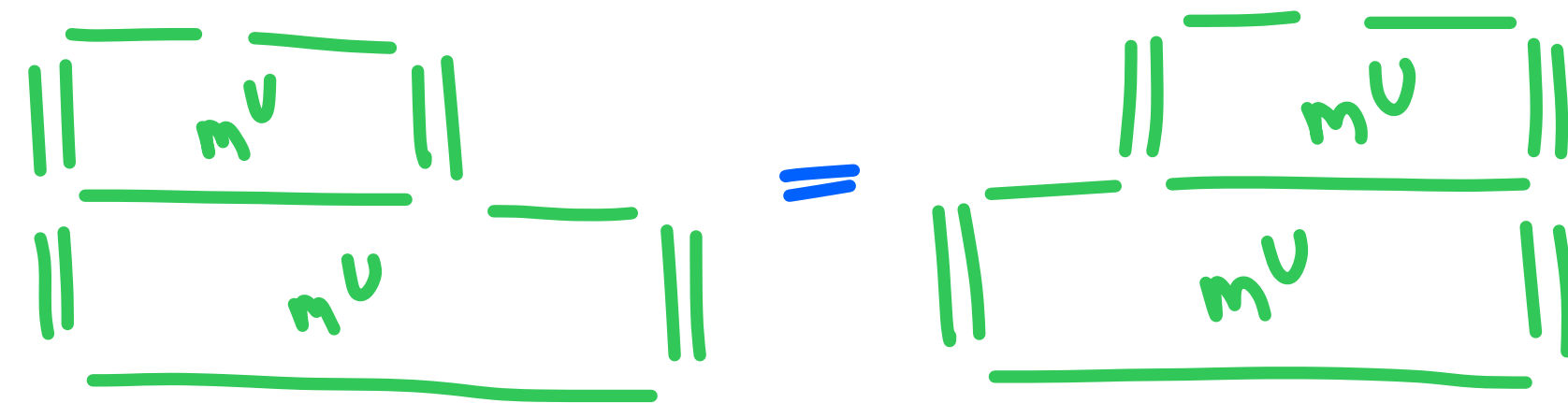
# The coloured box operad $\text{Lax}_{\mathcal{U}}$

FOR SMALL CATEGORY  $\mathcal{U}$

generators



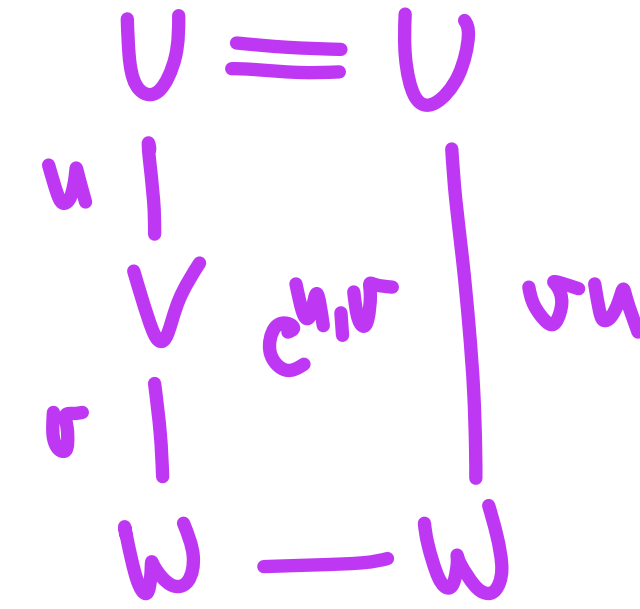
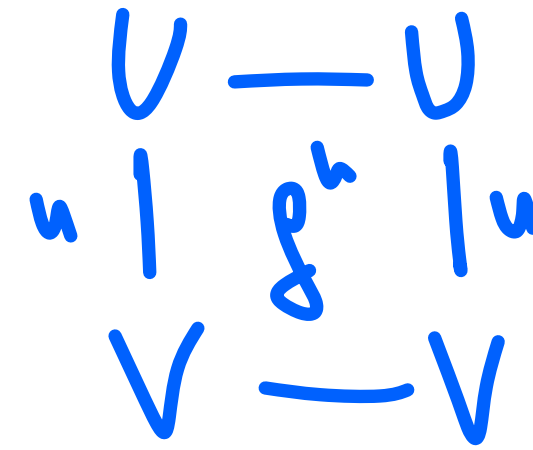
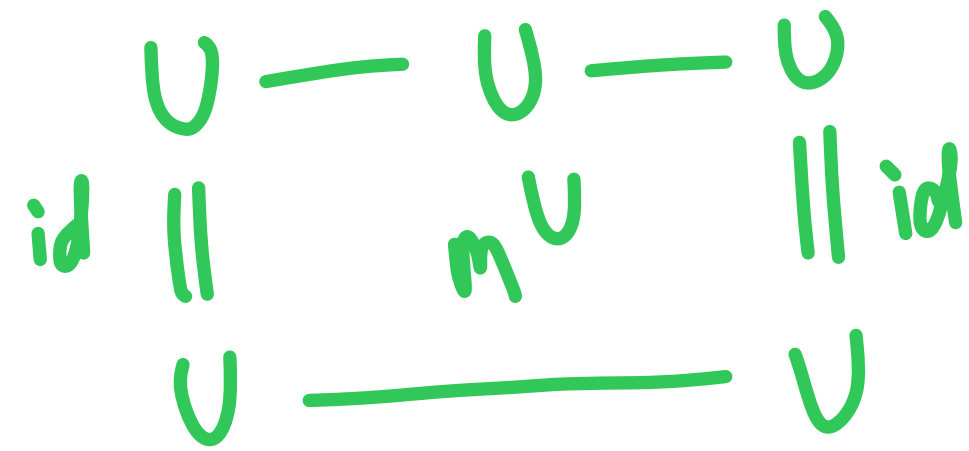
relations



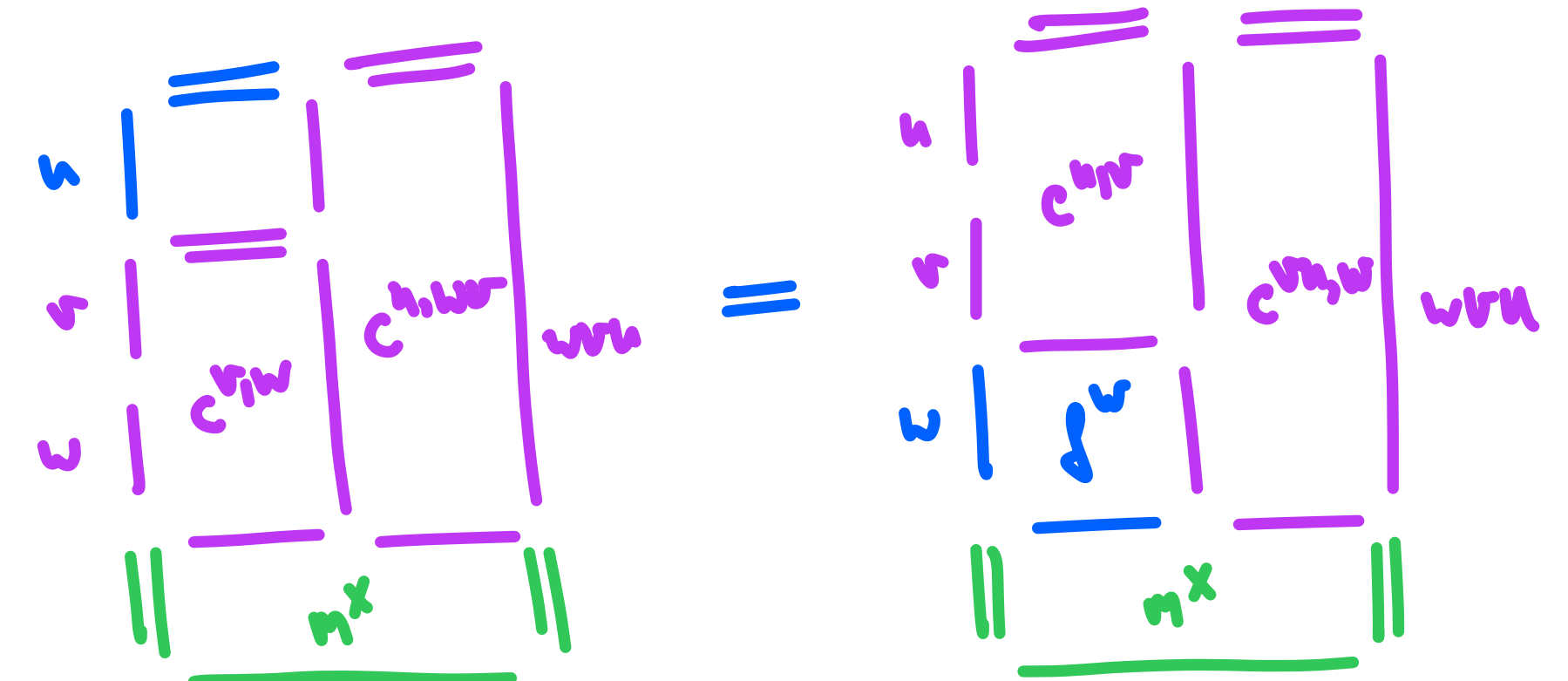
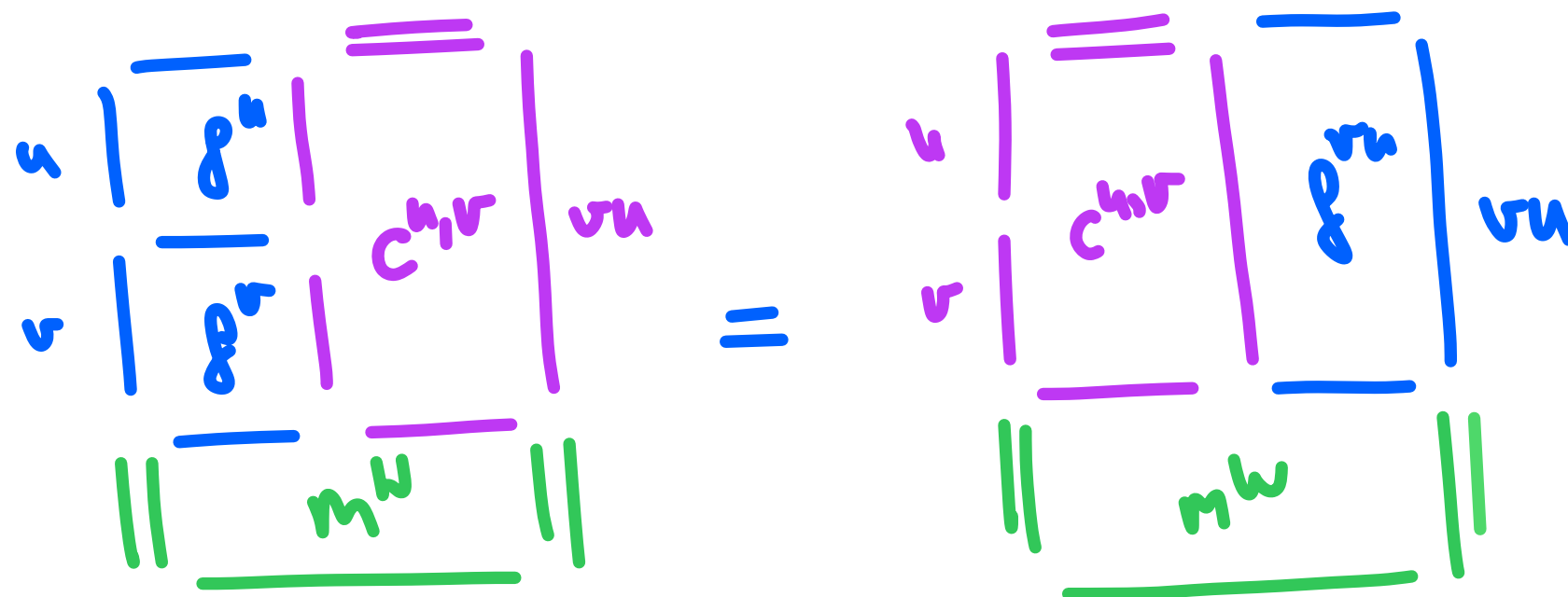
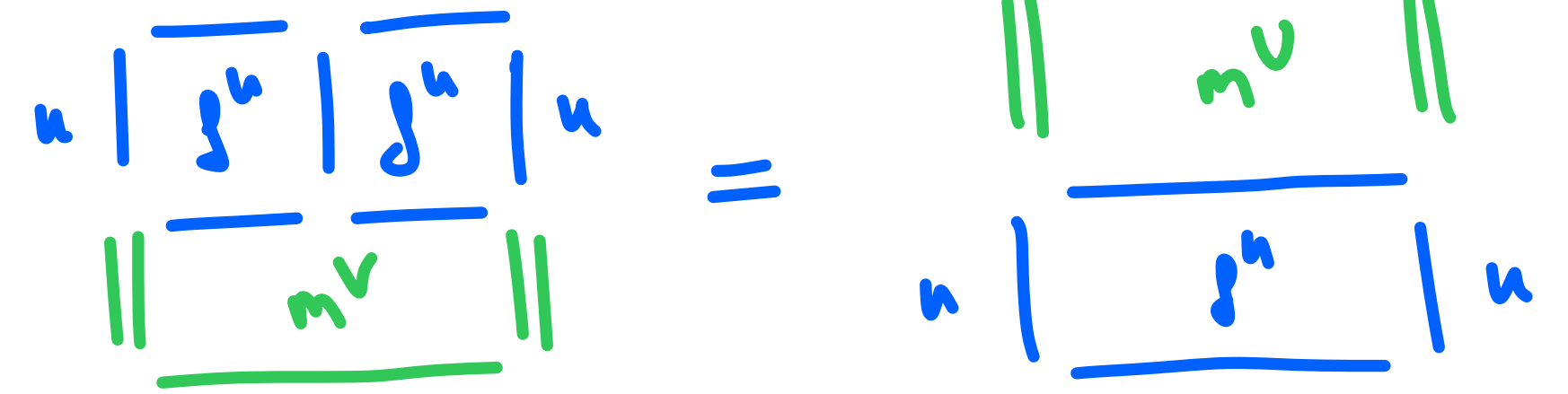
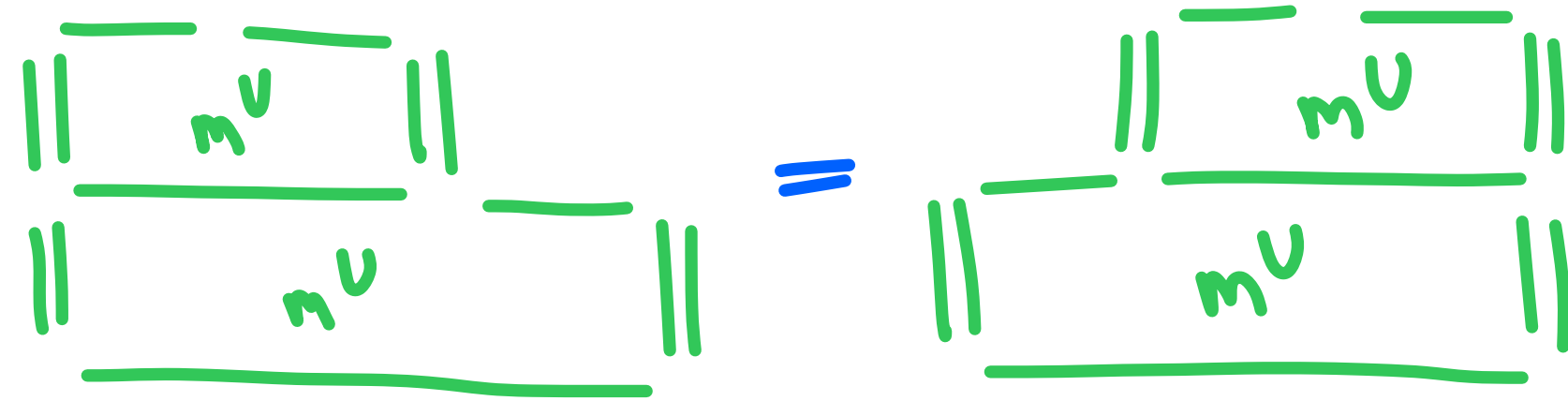
# The coloured box operad $\text{Lax}_{\mathcal{U}}$

FOR SMALL CATEGORY  $\mathcal{U}$

generators



relations



Algebras over a coloured box operad  $\mathcal{B}$

# Algebras over a coloured box operad $\mathcal{B}$

definition  $\text{Alg}(\mathcal{B}) := \text{Hom}(\mathcal{B}, \text{Span}(V))$



Algebras over a coloured box operad  $\mathcal{B}$

virtual double  
category of

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Algebras over a coloured box operad  $\mathcal{B}$

definition

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• = sets

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↓ = functions

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→ = spans enriched  
over  $V$

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virtual double  
category of

$\bullet$  = sets

$\downarrow$  = functions

$\rightarrow$  = spans enriched  
over  $V$

$\Downarrow$  = morphisms  
of  $V$ -spans

# Algebras over a coloured box operad $\mathcal{B}$

definition  $\text{Alg}(\mathcal{B}) := \text{Hom}(\mathcal{B}, \text{Span}(V))$

algebra over  $\mathcal{B}$  = morphism  $\mathcal{B} \xrightarrow{A} \text{Span}(V)$

virtual double  
category of

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↓ = functions

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⊥ = morphisms  
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# Algebras over a coloured box operad $\mathcal{B}$

definition  $\text{Alg}(\mathcal{B}) := \text{Hom}(\mathcal{B}, \text{Span}(V))$

algebra over  $\mathcal{B}$  = morphism  $\mathcal{B} \xrightarrow{A} \text{Span}(V)$

Proposition  $\text{Alg}(\text{Lax}_{\mathcal{U}}) = \text{Lax}(\mathcal{U}, \text{Cat}(V))$

virtual double  
category of

• = sets

↓ = functions

→ = spans enriched  
over  $V$

⊥ = morphisms  
of  $V$ -spans

# The Floorplan

box operads  
= algebras  
over a symm.  
coloured operad

box operads  
= monoids  
in a skew  
monoidal category

a coloured box  
operad Lax $\mathcal{U}$   
encoding lax functors

totalisation  
of a box operad  
carries a  
L-infinity structure

Koszul duality  
for  
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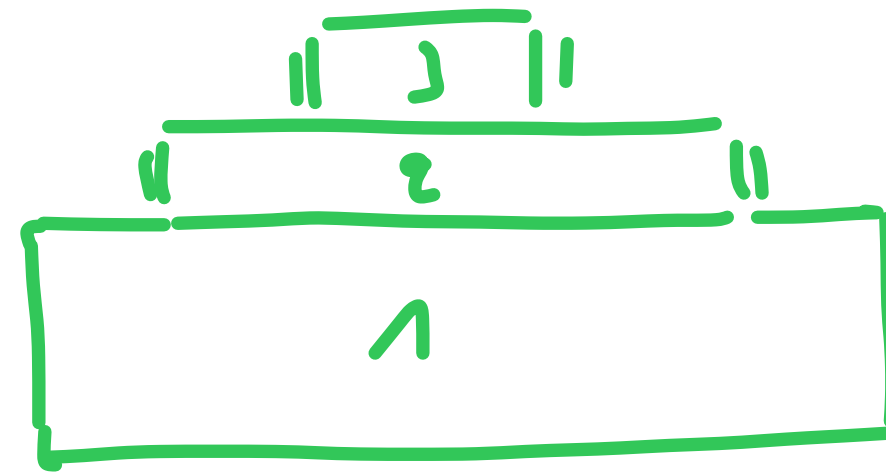
+ deformation theory  
homotopy theory  
of lax functors  
 $\mathcal{U} \rightarrow \text{Cat}(\mathcal{L})$   
via minimal model  
 $\text{Lax}_{\infty}$

More details in

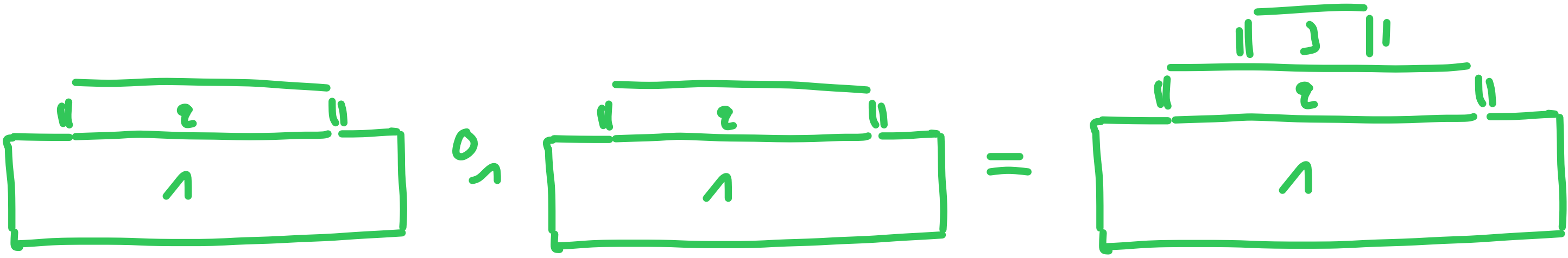
- *Box operads and higher Gerstenhaber braces* - Dinh Van, Hermans and Lowen, arXiv preprint (2023)
- *A minimal model for lax prestacks via Koszul duality for box operads* - Hermans, arXiv preprint (2023)

# Proof

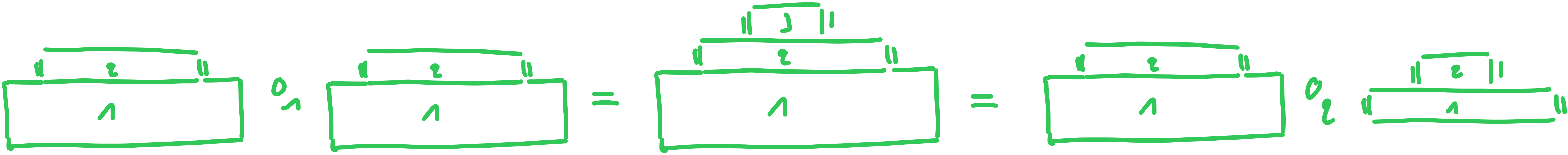
# Proof



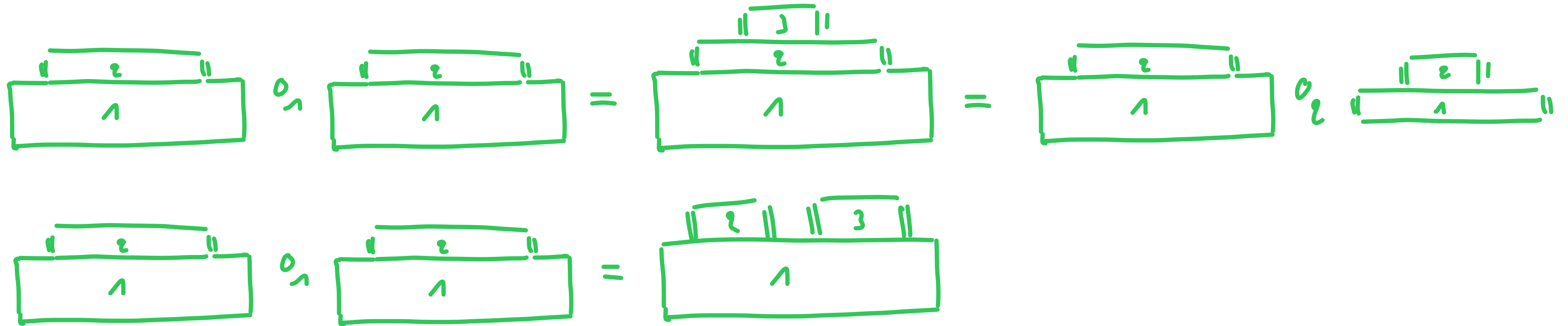
# Proof



# Proof



# Proof

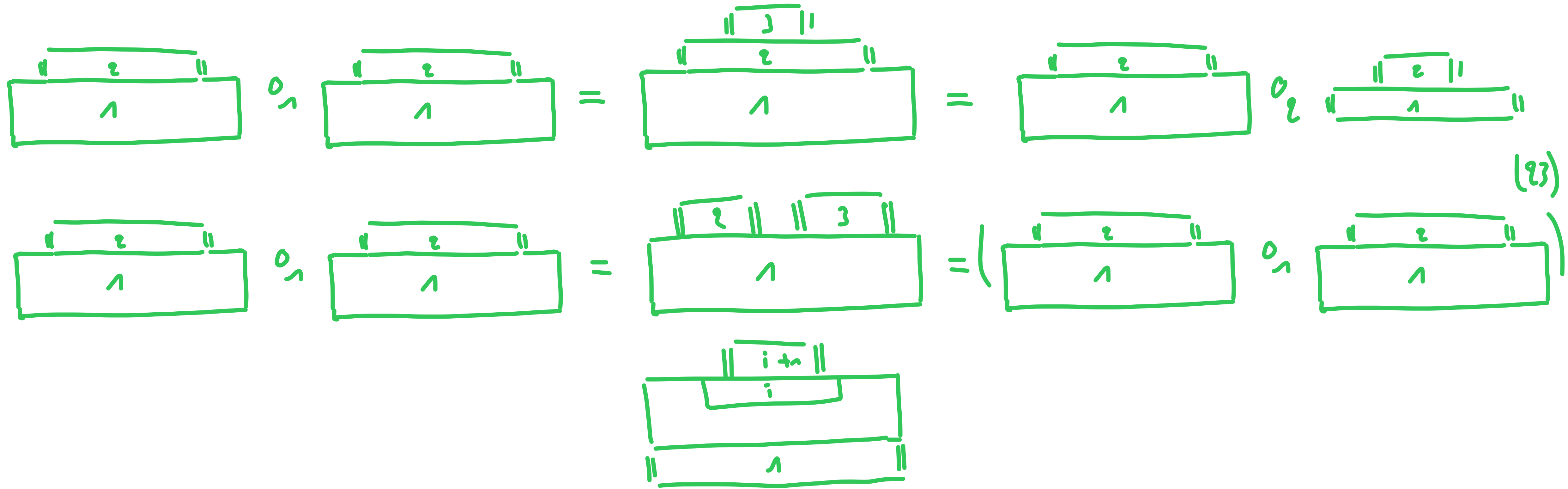


# Proof

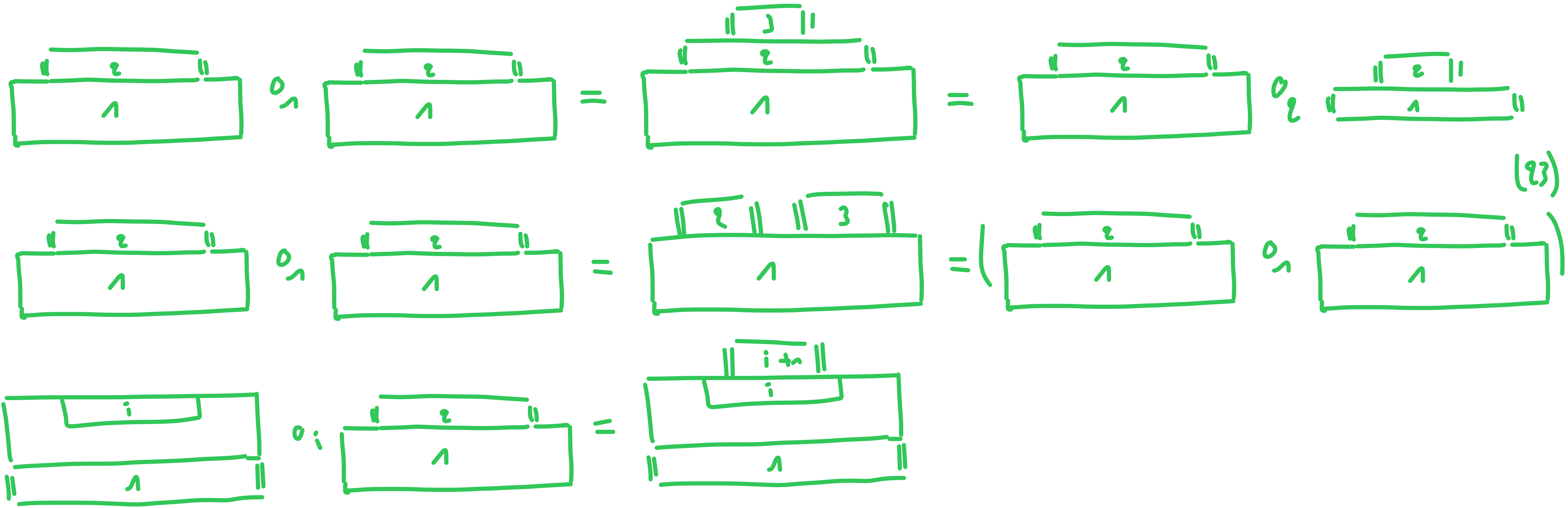
$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} \boxed{\begin{array}{c} \overline{1 \ 2} \\ 1 \end{array}} & \stackrel{O_1}{=} & \boxed{\begin{array}{c} \overline{1 \ 2} \\ 1 \end{array}} & = & \boxed{\begin{array}{c} \overline{\overline{1 \ 2}} \\ 1 \end{array}} & = & \boxed{\begin{array}{c} \overline{1 \ 2} \\ 1 \end{array}} & \stackrel{O_2}{=} & \boxed{\begin{array}{c} \overline{\overline{1 \ 2}} \\ 1 \end{array}} \\ \boxed{\begin{array}{c} \overline{1 \ 2} \\ 1 \end{array}} & \stackrel{O_1}{=} & \boxed{\begin{array}{c} \overline{1 \ 2} \\ 1 \end{array}} & = & \boxed{\begin{array}{c} \overline{1 \ 2} \ \overline{1 \ 3} \\ 1 \end{array}} & = & \left( \boxed{\begin{array}{c} \overline{1 \ 2} \\ 1 \end{array}} \stackrel{O_1}{=} \boxed{\begin{array}{c} \overline{1 \ 2} \\ 1 \end{array}} \right) & \stackrel{(23)}{=} & \end{array}$$



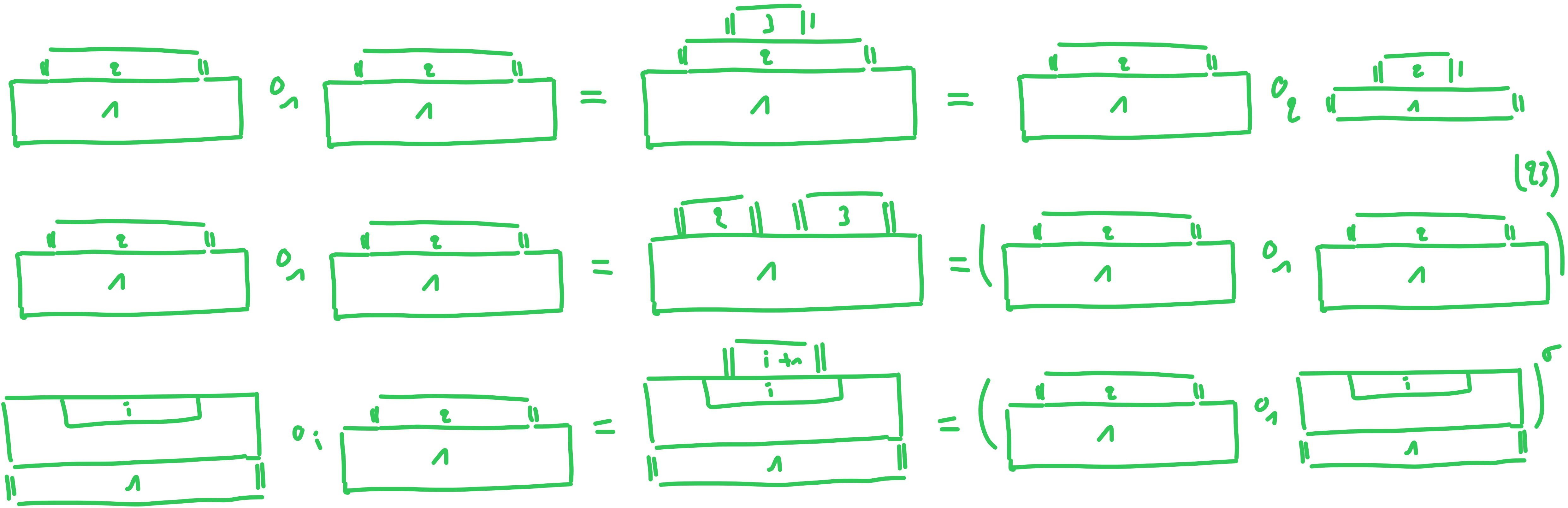
# Proof



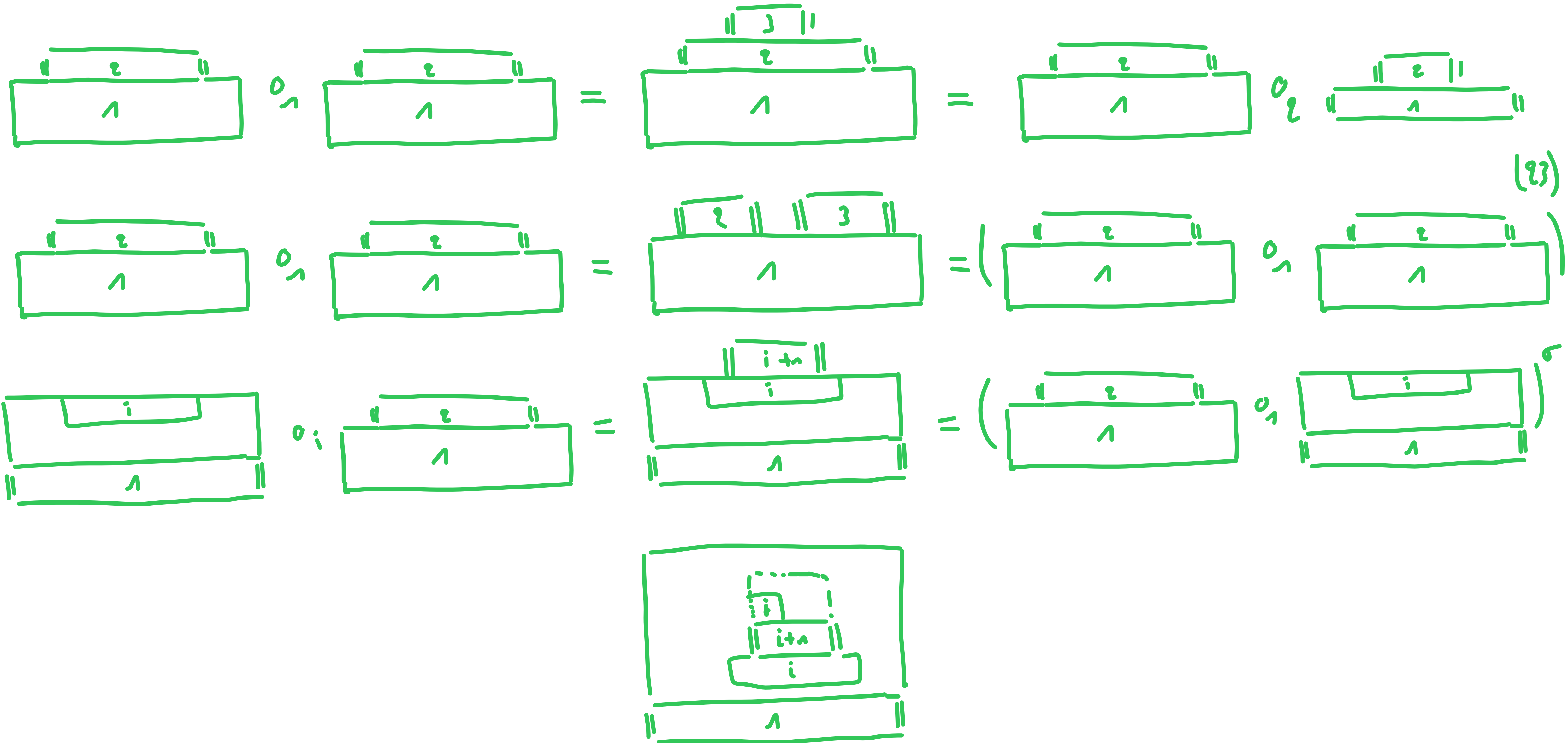
# Proof



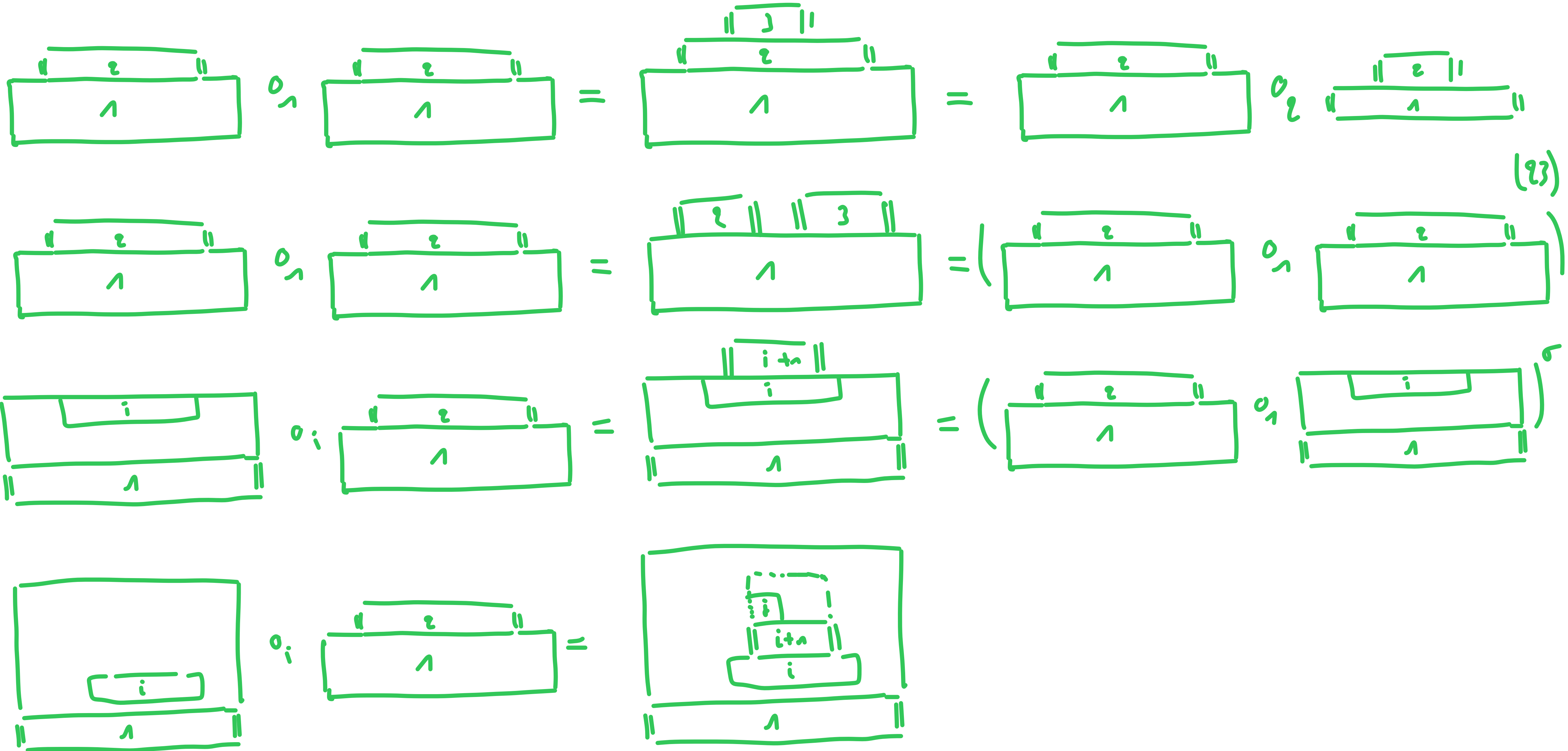
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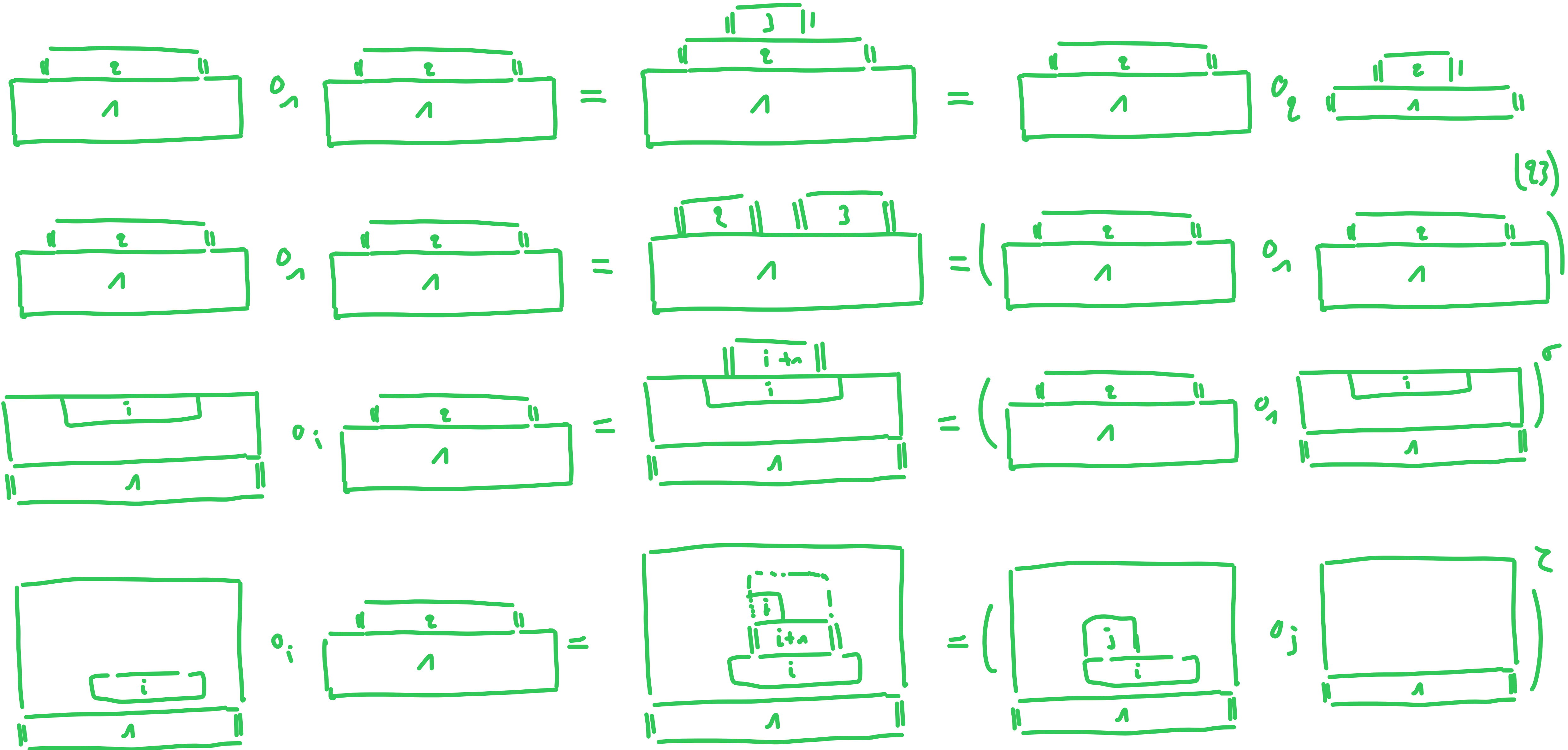
# Proof



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# Proof

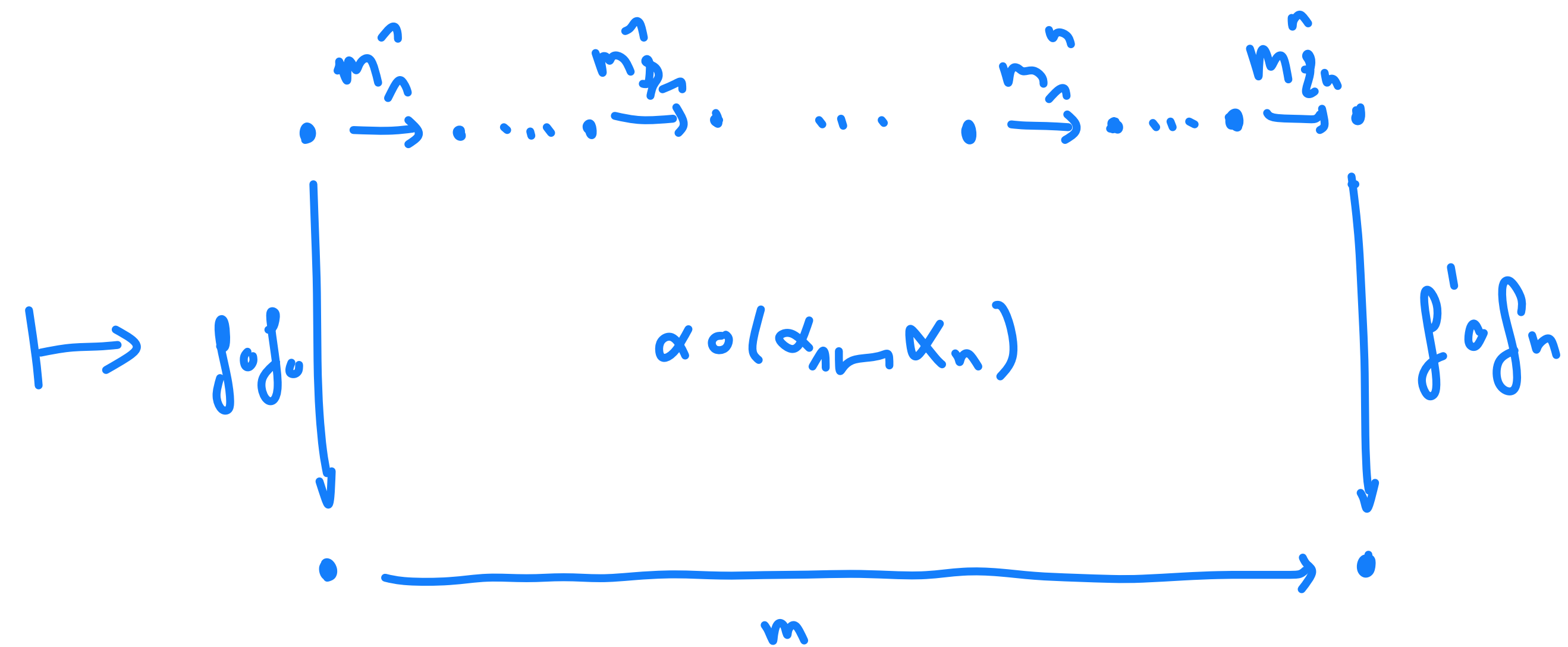
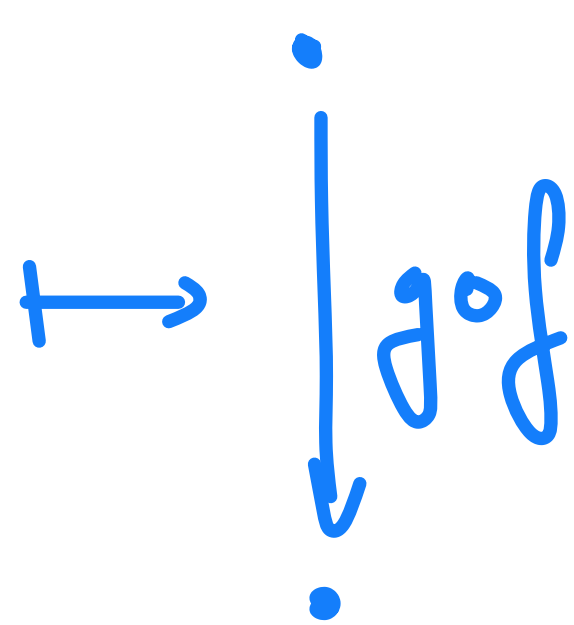
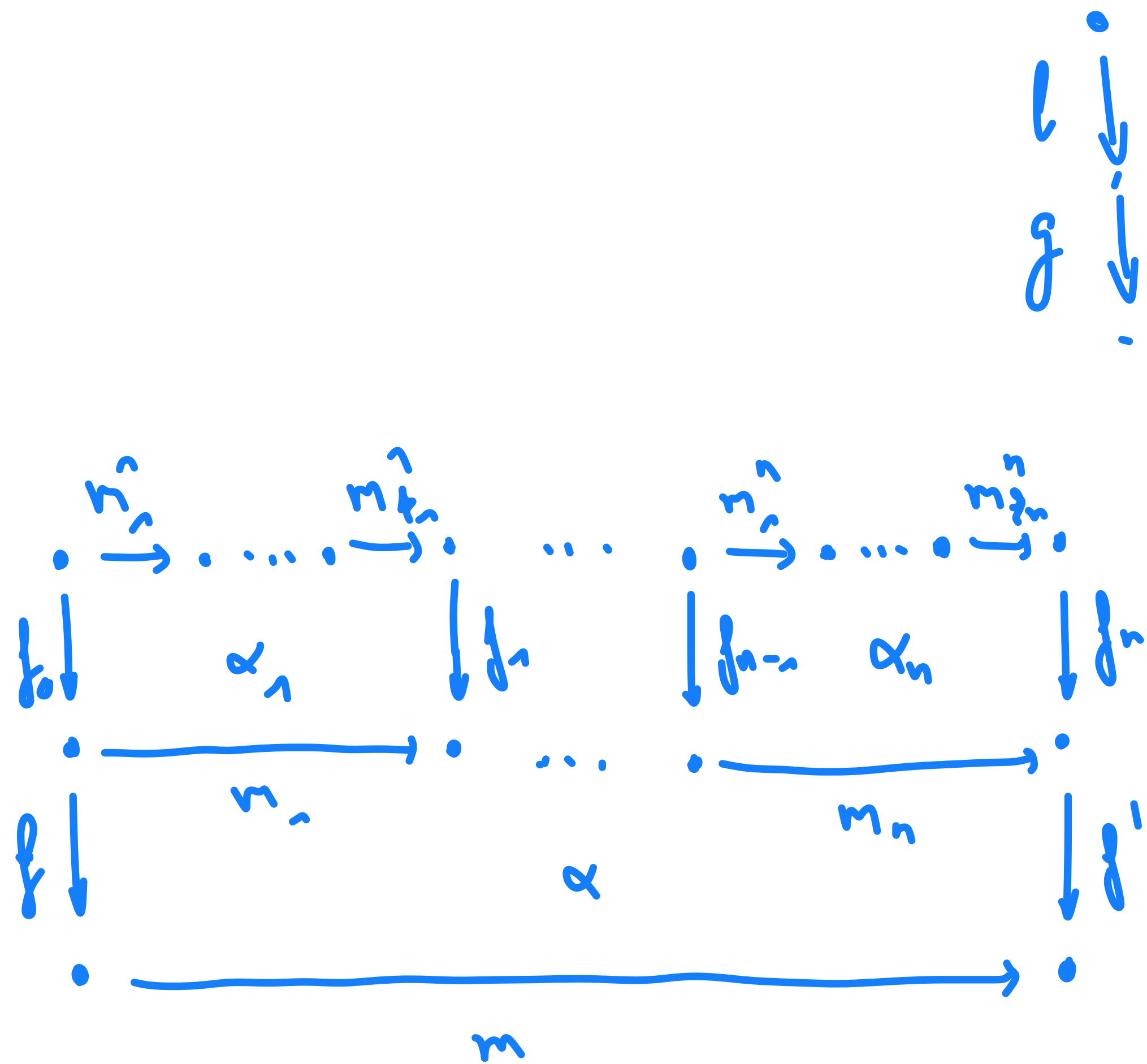


Virtual double category  $\mathcal{B}$  enriched over  $(\mathcal{V}, \otimes, \mathbb{I})$

consists of

- a set of objects  $\mathcal{B}_0$
- a set of vertical arrows  $\mathcal{B}_\downarrow \rightrightarrows \mathcal{B}_0$
- a set of horizontal arrows  $\mathcal{B}_\rightarrow \rightrightarrows \mathcal{B}_0$
- a collection of  $\mathcal{V}$ -objects of rectangular 2-arrows





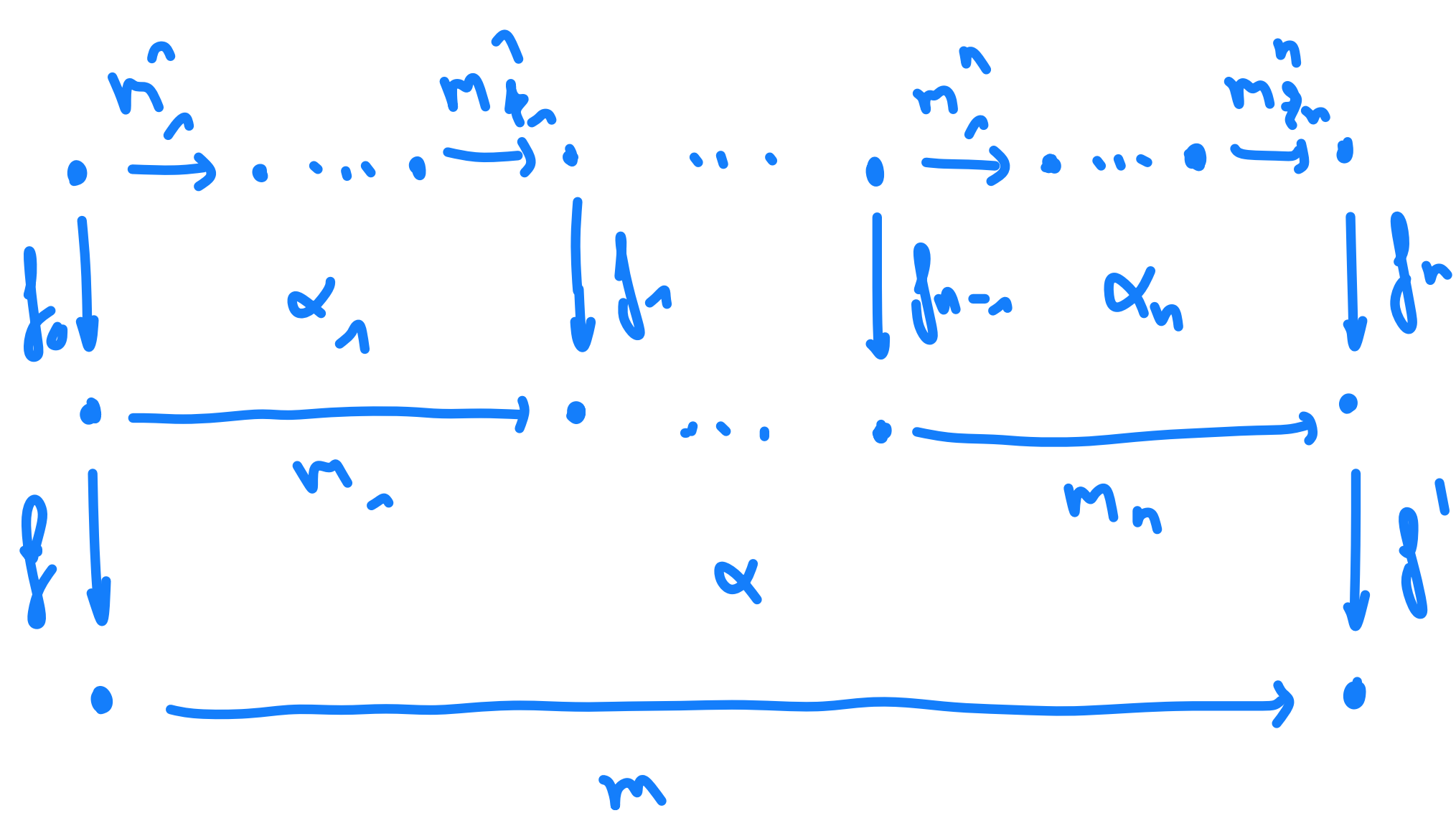
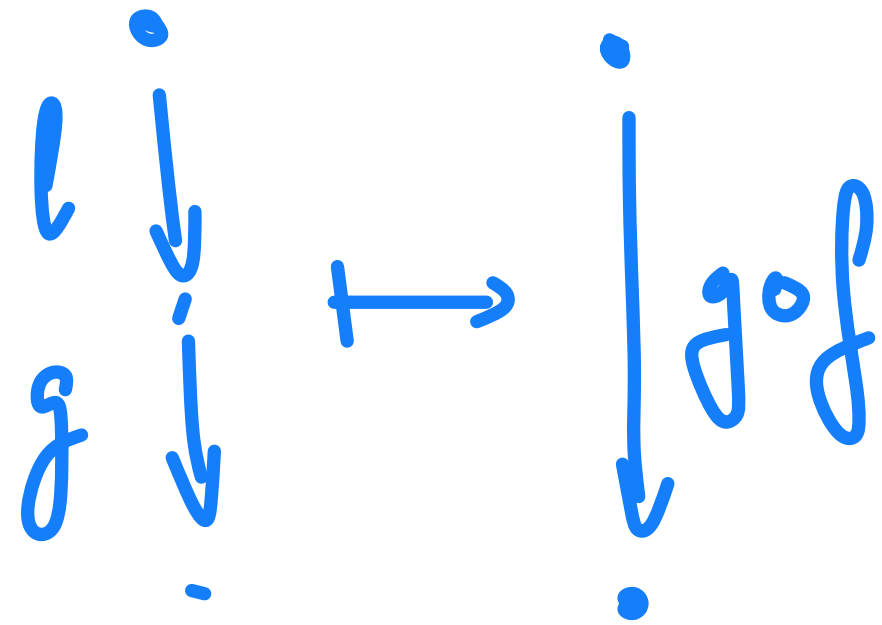
$$\begin{array}{c}
 a \\
 \parallel \text{id}_a \\
 a
 \end{array}$$

and

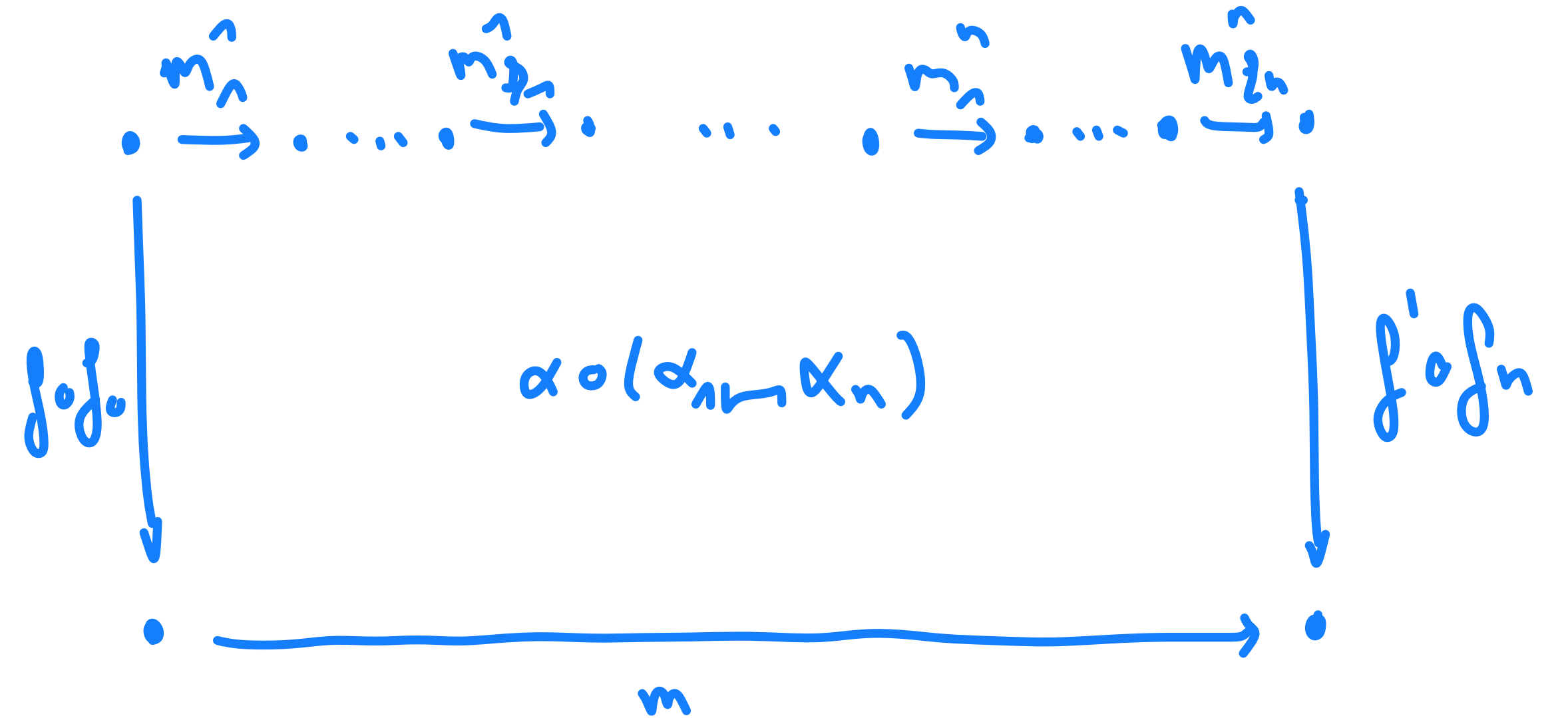
$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 a & \xrightarrow{m} & b \\
 \text{id}_a \parallel & & \parallel \text{id}_b \\
 a & \xrightarrow{m} & b
 \end{array}$$



compositions



→



units



and

