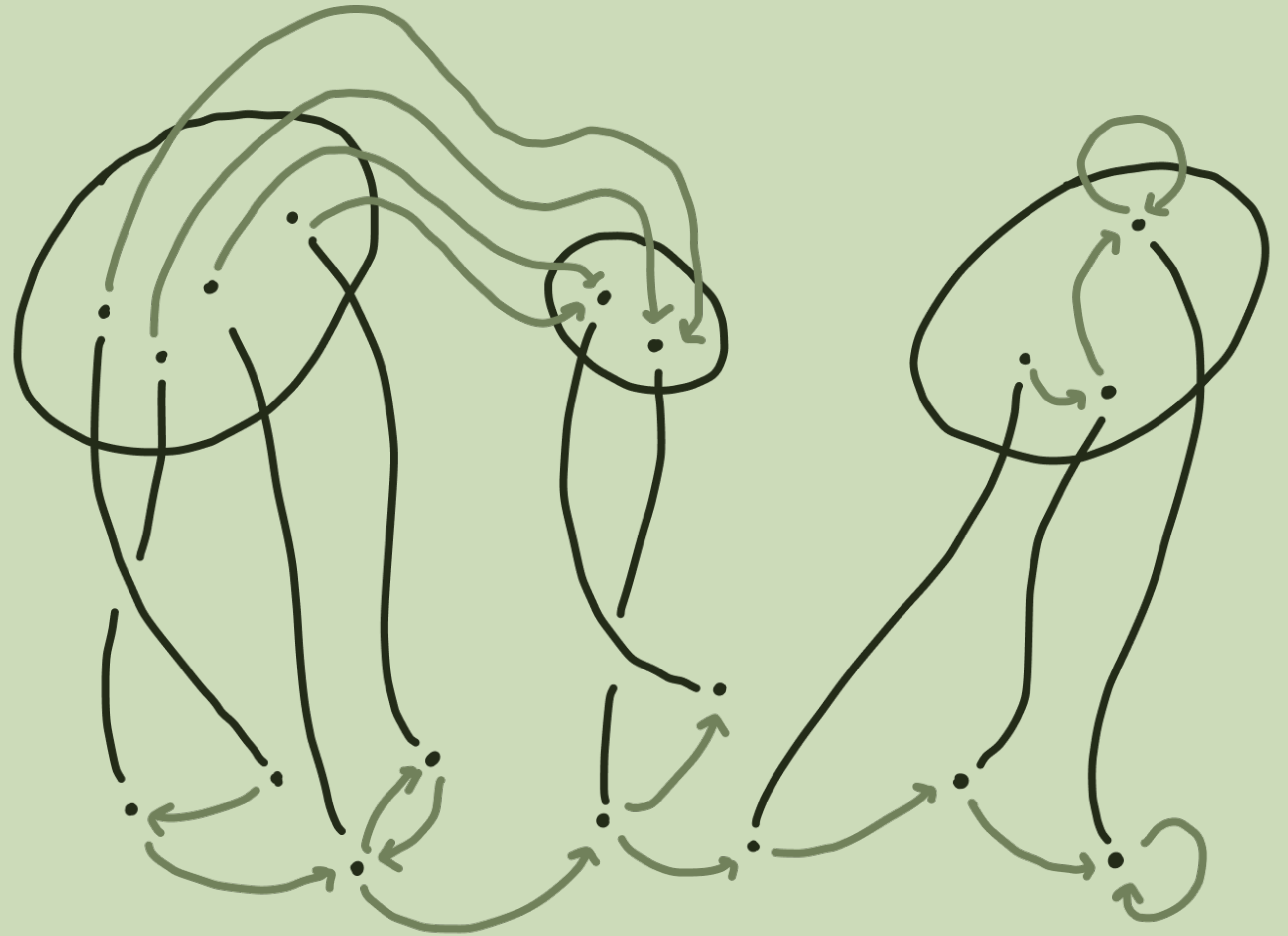
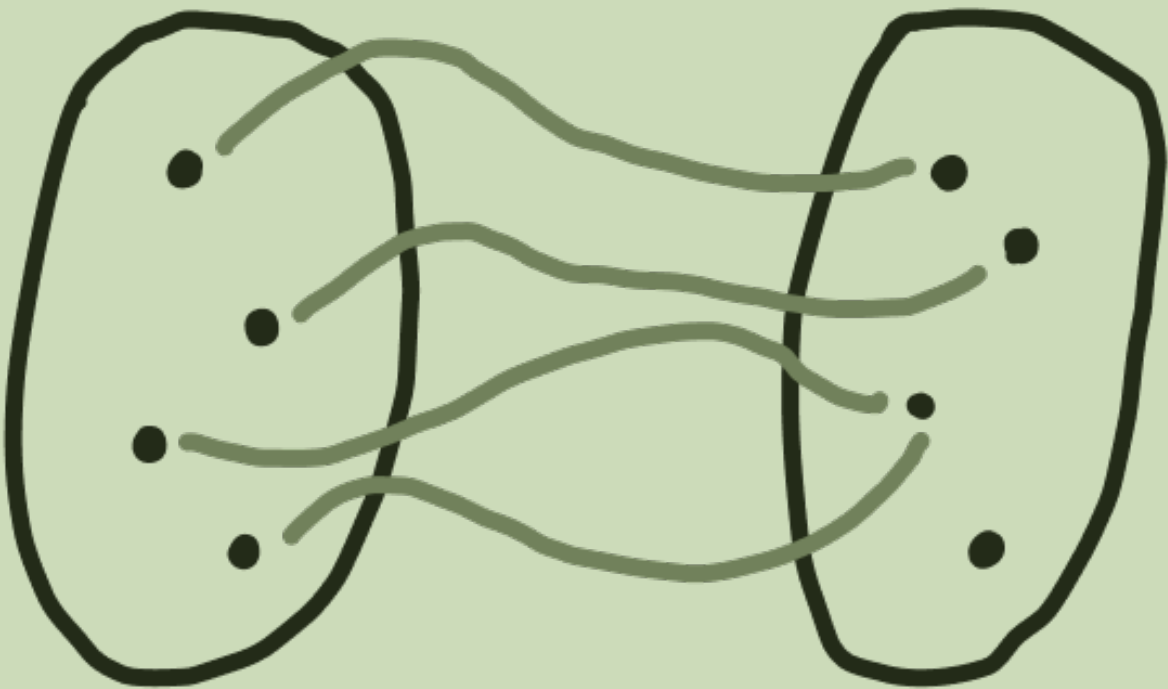


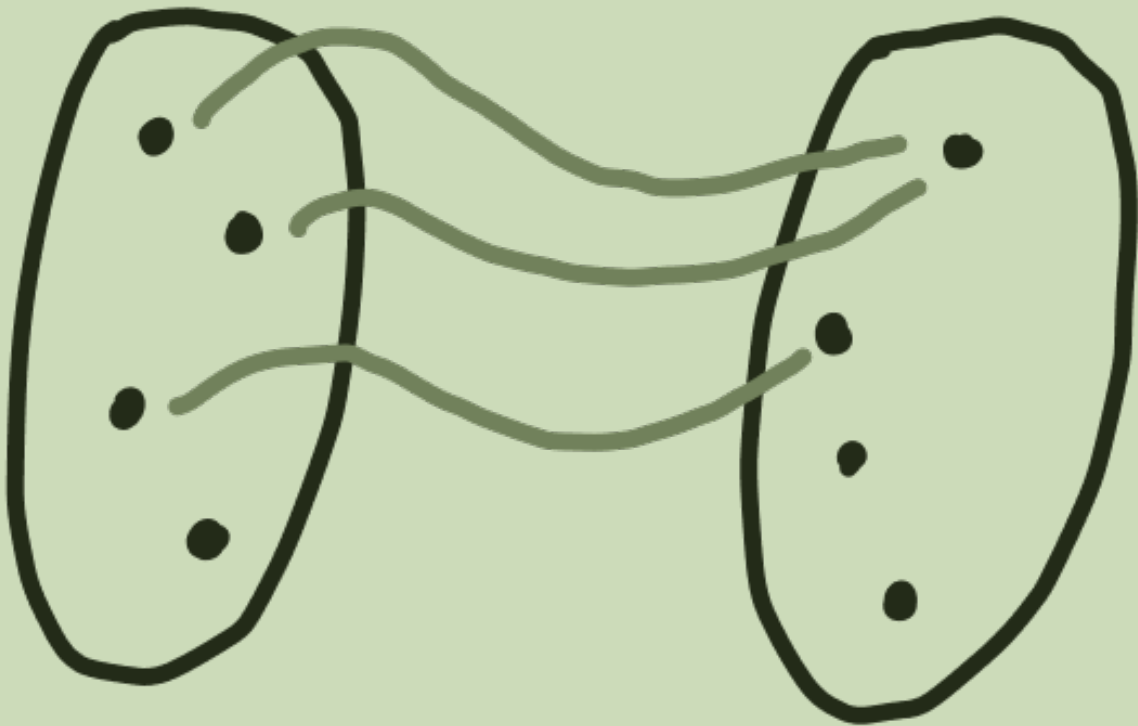
a generalised family construction for virtual double categories



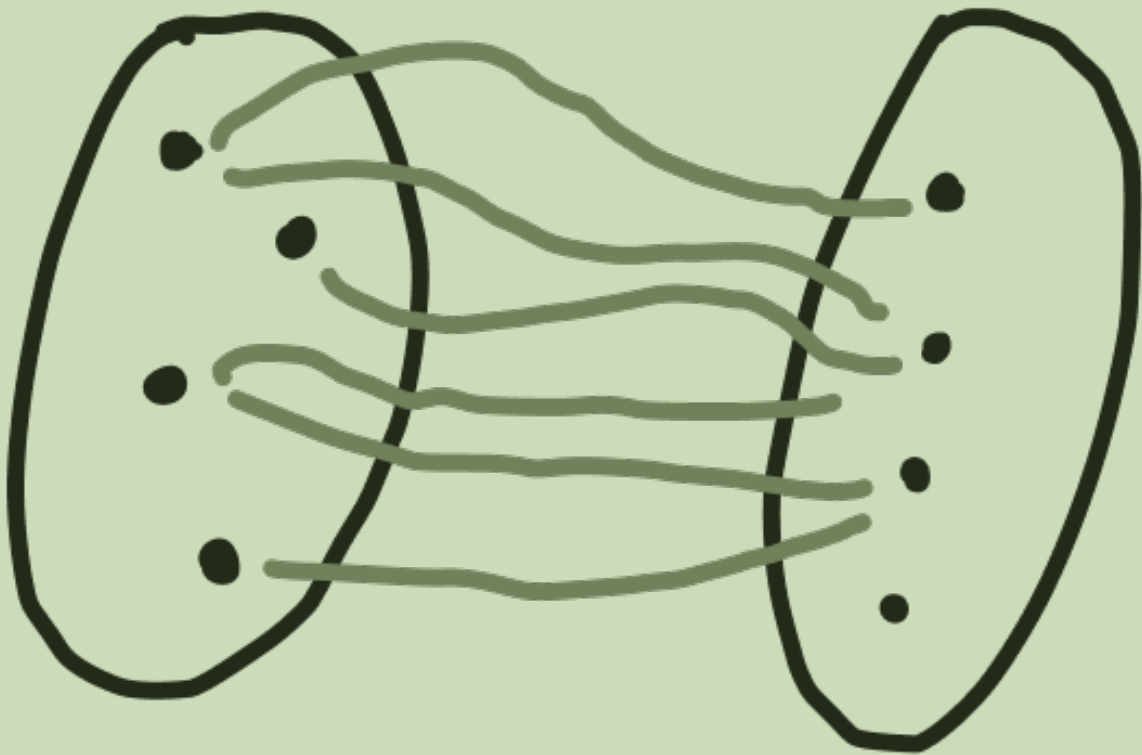
function



partial
function



multivalued
function



multivalued partial
function



$\mathcal{P}ar$

double category of
sets, functions and
partial functions

$\mathcal{M}ult$

double category of
sets, functions and
multivalued functions

outline

01

the family
construction on
categories

02

virtual double
categories (VDCs)

03

the family
construction on
VDCs

04

generalising the
family construction
with span indexing
pairs

05

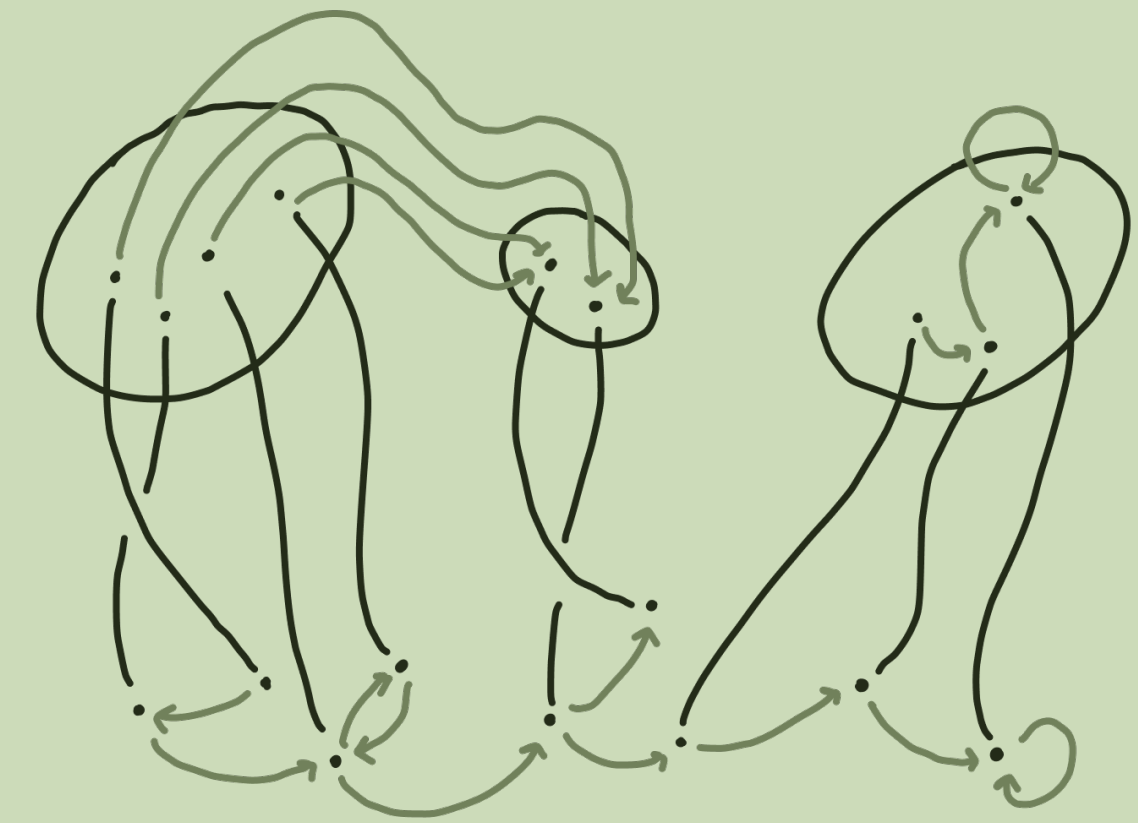
a new view on
products in VDCs

06

generation
theorems

the category of families

for a category $\mathcal{C}$, $\text{Fam}(\mathcal{C})$ is defined:



► objects $(I, \underline{x})$ where I is a set and

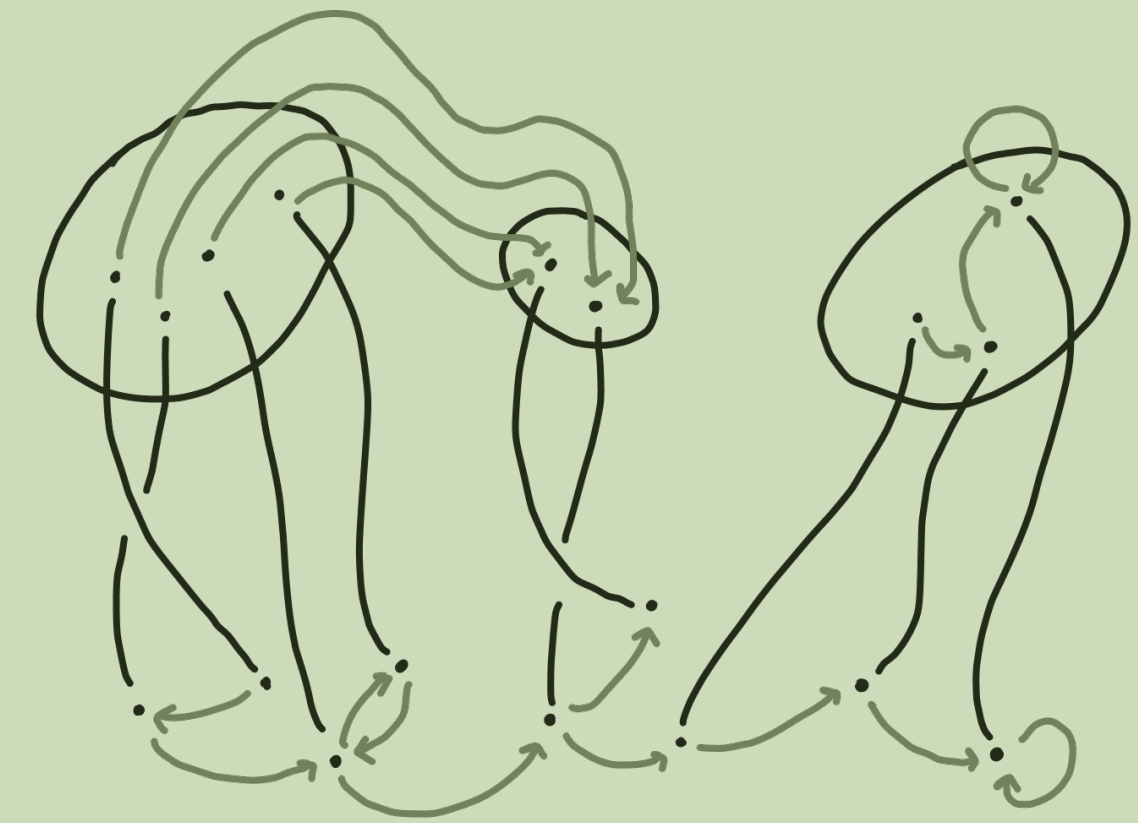
$\underline{x}$ is an I -indexed family of objects in $\mathcal{C}$;

► arrows $(f_0, f): (I, \underline{x}) \rightarrow (J, \underline{y})$ $f_0: I \rightarrow J$

a function and $f_i: x_i \rightarrow y_{f_0(i)}$ arrows in $\mathcal{C}$.

the category of families

for a category $\mathcal{C}$, $\text{Fam}^*(\mathcal{C})$ is defined:

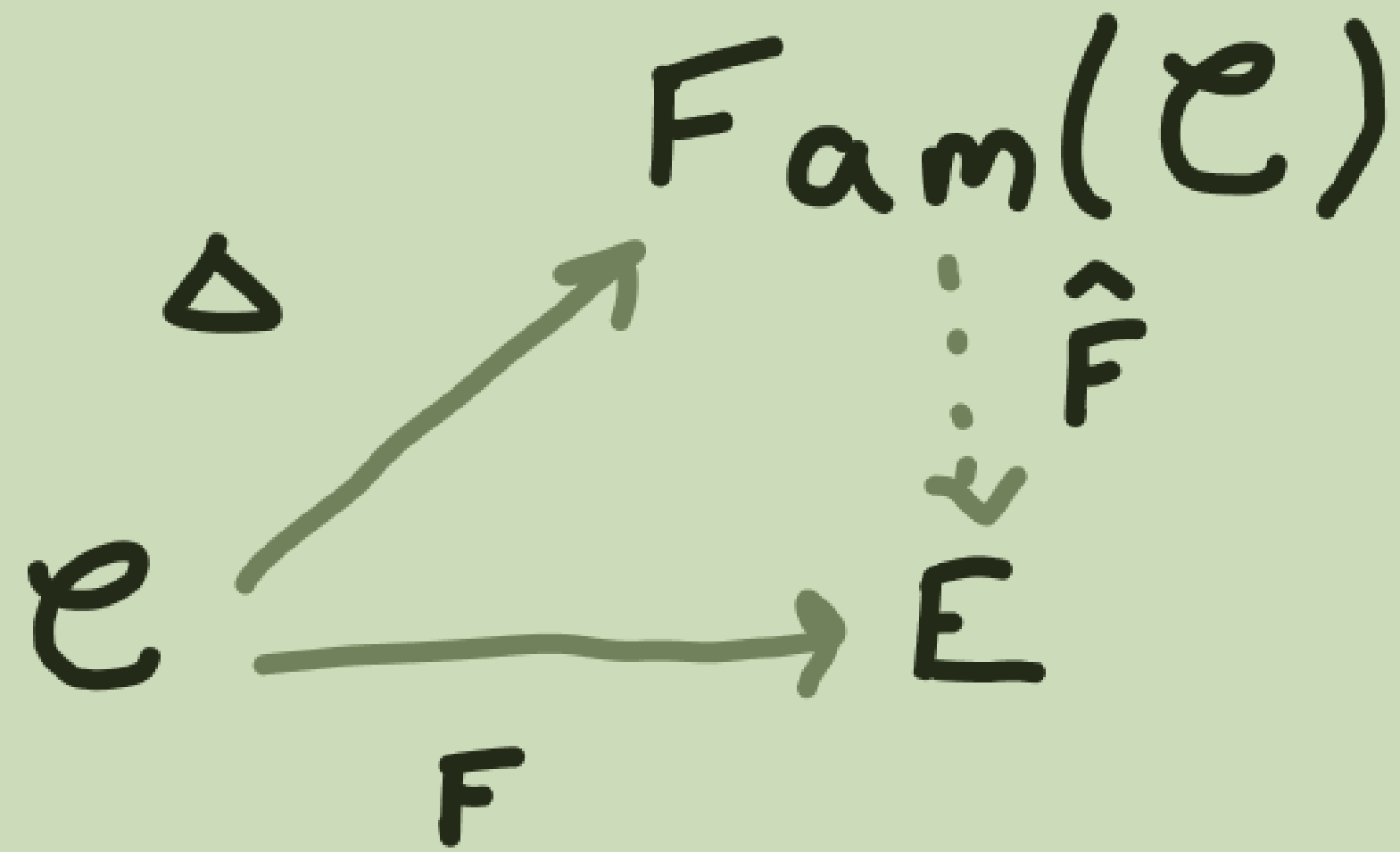


► objects $(I, \underline{x})$ where I is a set and

$\underline{x}$ is an I -indexed family of objects in $\mathcal{C}$;

► arrows $(f_0, f): (I, \underline{x}) \rightarrow (J, \underline{y})$ $I \leftarrow J: f_0$

a function and $f_j: x_{f_0(j)} \rightarrow y_j$ arrows in $\mathcal{C}$.



E has coproducts,
 exists a unique (up to iso)
 $\hat{F}: \text{Fam}(\mathcal{C}) \rightarrow E$
 preserving coproducts

the family construction is the
 free coproduct completion.

the coproduct of families is inherited from Set.

$$\Sigma: \mathbf{Fam}^2(\mathcal{C}) \longrightarrow \mathbf{Fam}(\mathcal{C})$$

$$(I, (A, \underline{a})) \longmapsto \left(\bigsqcup_{i \in I} A_i, \underline{a} \right)$$

$$(f_0, f_a)_i \downarrow \quad \quad \quad ([f_0]_i, f_{a_i})$$

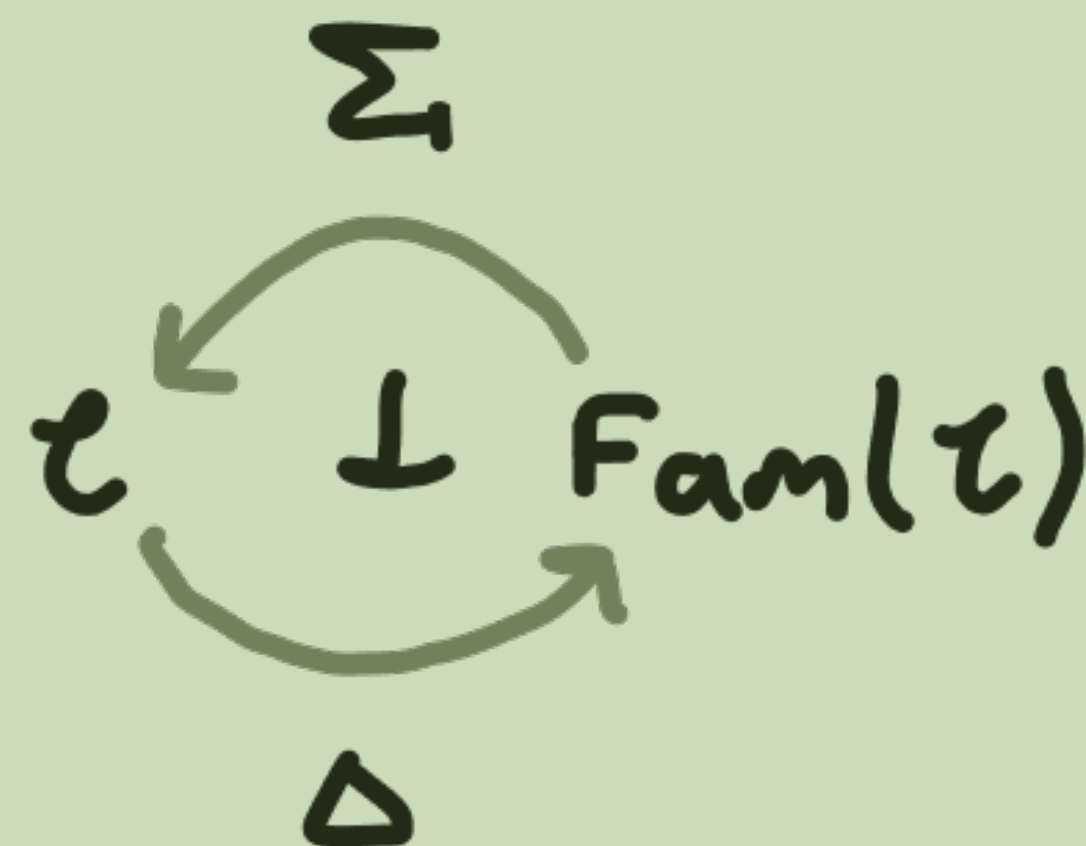
$$(J, (B, \underline{b})) \longmapsto \left(\bigsqcup_{j \in J} B_j, \underline{b} \right)$$

$$\mathbf{Fam}(1) \cong \mathbf{Set}$$

$$1: \mathcal{J}^{\mathrm{id}}$$

families $\rightarrow$ coproducts

$\mathcal{C}$ has coproducts if and only if $\Delta: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \text{Fam}(\mathcal{C})$
has a left adjoint, $\Sigma \dashv \Delta$

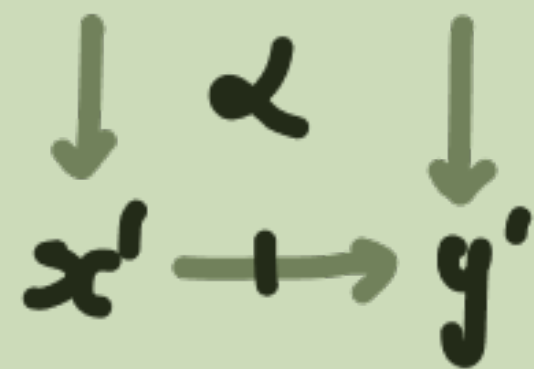


objects: x

arrows: $x \rightarrow y$

proarrows: $x \dashrightarrow y$

cells: $x \dashrightarrow y$



composition
and
units of arrows

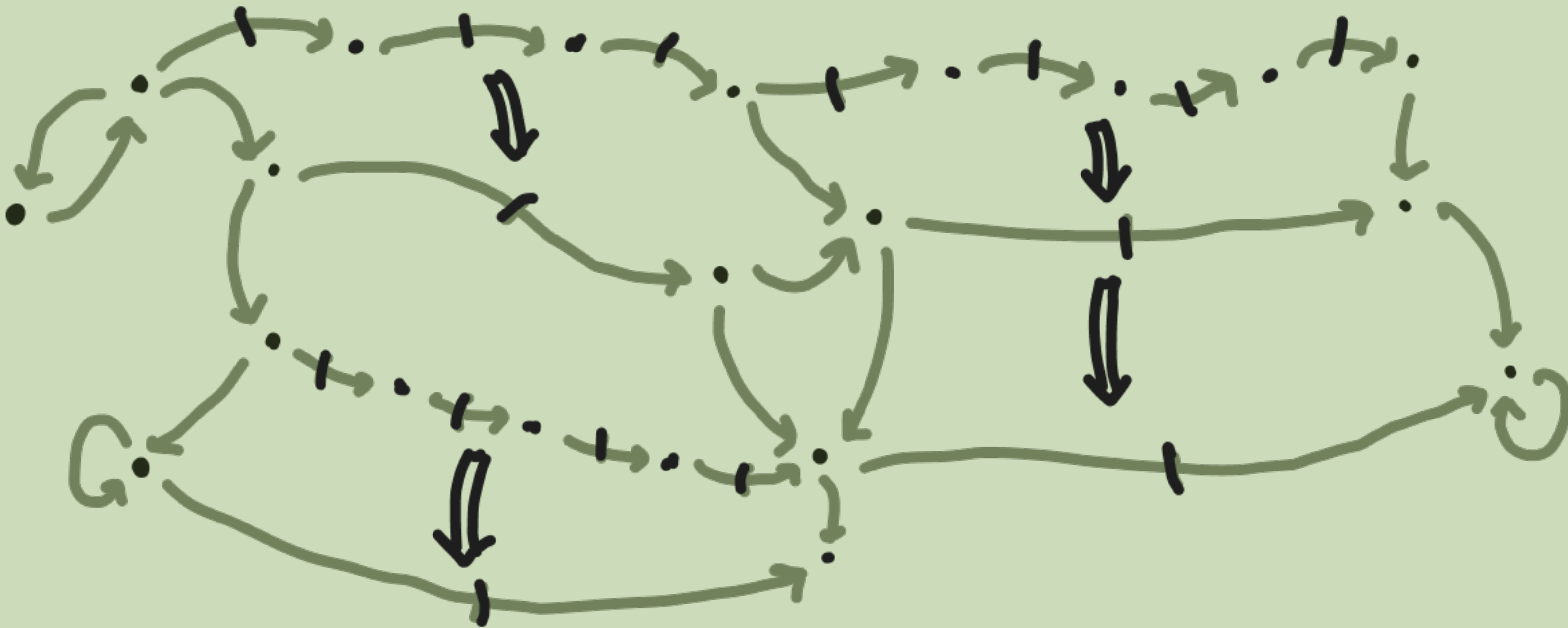
$$(a \rightarrow b \rightarrow c) \rightarrow d = a \rightarrow (b \rightarrow c \rightarrow d)$$

weak
composition
and
units of proarrows

$$(a \dashrightarrow b \dashrightarrow c) \dashrightarrow d \cong a \dashrightarrow (b \dashrightarrow c \dashrightarrow d)$$

(pseudo) double categories

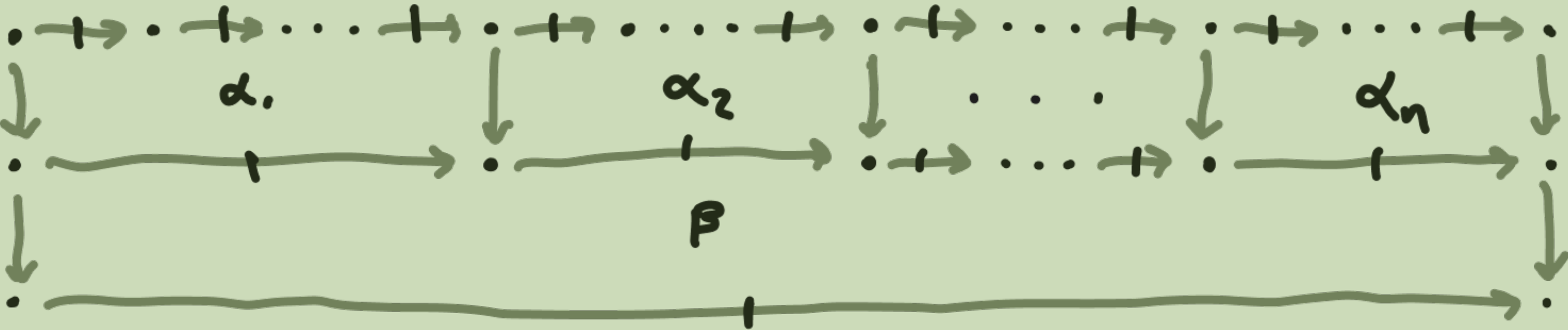
virtual double categories (VDCs)



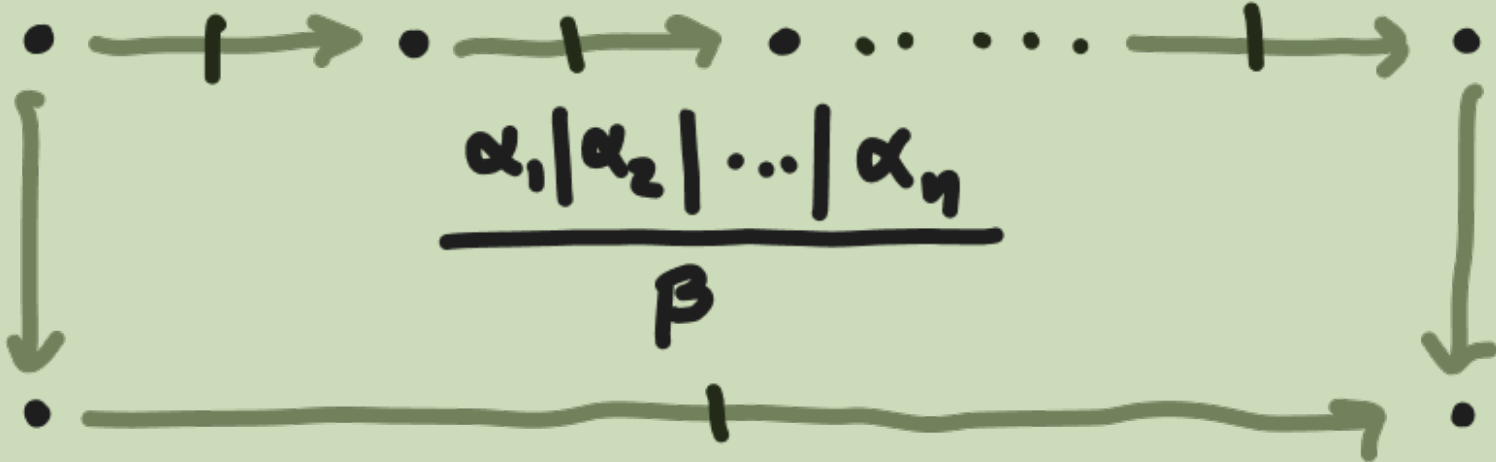
objects, arrows,
proarrows and
multicells

[CS10] [Lei04]

cell composition in a virtual double category



=



virtual double categories
generalise double categories.
they are also a good place to
study formal category theory.

double categories as VDCs

every (pseudo) double category, $\mathbb{D}$ can be viewed as a virtual double category, in fact,

$$\mathbf{DbL}_{\text{lax}} \hookrightarrow \mathbf{vDbL}$$

is an embedding fully faithful on 1-cells and 2-cells.

example: categories of monoids

for a monoidal category, $(\mathcal{C}, \otimes, 1)$,
we can define the category of monoids
internal to $\mathcal{C}$ as $\text{Mon}(\mathcal{C})$.

$\text{Mon}(\mathcal{C})$ is a monoidal category
only if $\mathcal{C}$ is braided.

[JS86]

monoids internal to a VDC.

a monoid internal to $\mathbb{D}$, (X_0, x, μ, η) consists of:

- an object, X_0
- a proarrow, $x: X_0 \dashrightarrow X_0$
- a multiplication cell,
- a unit cell,

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 X_0 & \dashrightarrow & X_0 & \dashrightarrow & X_0 \\
 \parallel & & & & \parallel \\
 X & \xrightarrow{\quad} & & & X_0
 \end{array}
 \quad \Downarrow \mu$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 & X_0 & \\
 \parallel & & \parallel \\
 X_0 & \dashrightarrow & X_0
 \end{array}
 \quad \Downarrow \eta$$

• associativity
+ unitality
axioms!

[CS10]

example: virtual double category of monoids

for a virtual double category $\mathbb{D}$,
we can define a virtual double
category of monoids $\text{Mon}(\mathbb{D})$.

family construction in virtual double categories, proarrows

$$\mathbb{Fam}^*(\mathbb{D}) := \mathbb{Fam}^*(\mathbb{D})_0 = \mathbb{Fam}^*(\mathbb{D}_0)$$

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \mathbb{I} & \xleftarrow{\iota} & A & \xrightarrow{\tau} & \mathbb{J} \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \mathbb{D}_0 & \xleftarrow{s} & \mathbb{D}_1 & \xrightarrow{t} & \mathbb{D}_0 \end{array}$$

► proarrows $(A, \underline{m}) : (\mathbb{I}, \underline{x}) \multimap (\mathbb{J}, \underline{y})$

are families of proarrows $m_a : x_{\iota(a)} \multimap y_{\tau(a)}$

indexed by a span $\mathbb{I} \xleftarrow{\iota} A \xrightarrow{\tau} \mathbb{J}$;

[Pat26a]

families of cells

$$\mathbb{Fam}^*(\mathbb{D}) :=$$

cells are

$$\begin{array}{c}
 (I_0, x_0) \xrightarrow{(A_1, m_1)} (I_1, x_1) \xrightarrow{(A_2, m_2)} \cdots \xrightarrow{(A_n, m_n)} (I_n, x_n) \\
 \downarrow (f, f_0) \quad \quad \quad \alpha \quad \quad \quad \downarrow (g, g_0) \\
 (J_0, y_0) \xrightarrow{(B, n)} (J_1, y_1)
 \end{array}$$

families of cells

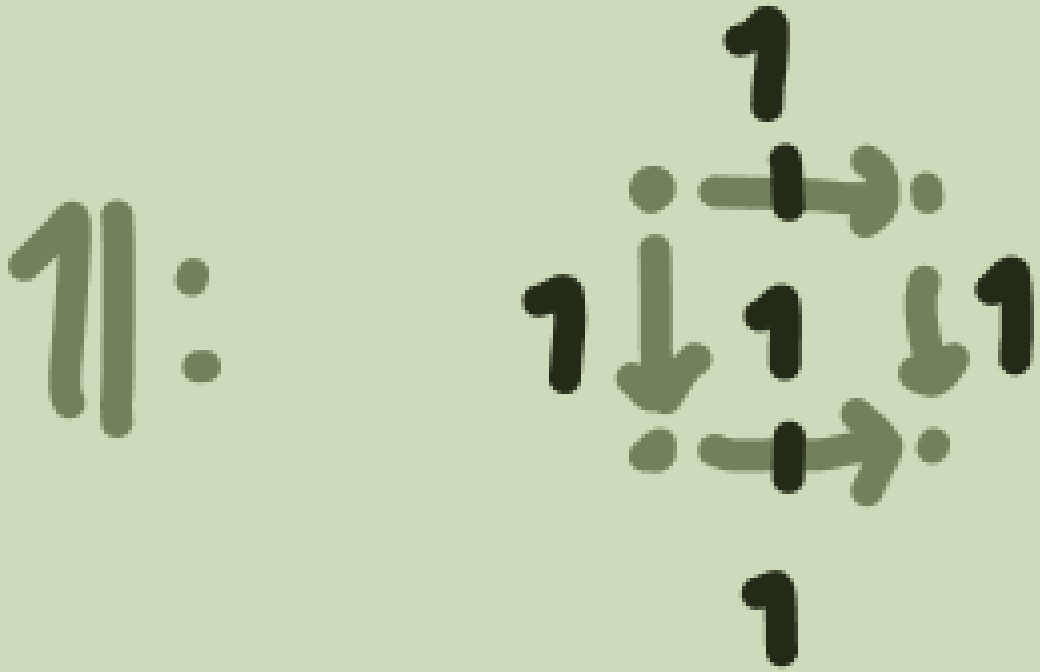
$$\begin{array}{c}
 (x_0)_{f_0(j_0)} \xrightarrow{(n_1)_{a_1}} (x_1)_{i_1} \xrightarrow{(n_2)_{a_2}} \cdots \xrightarrow{(n_n)_{a_n}} (x_n)_{g_0(j_1)} \\
 \downarrow f_{j_0} \quad \quad \quad \alpha_b \quad \quad \quad \downarrow g_{j_1} \\
 (y_0)_{j_0} \xrightarrow{n_b} (y_1)_{j_1}
 \end{array}$$

indexed by a morphism of spans.

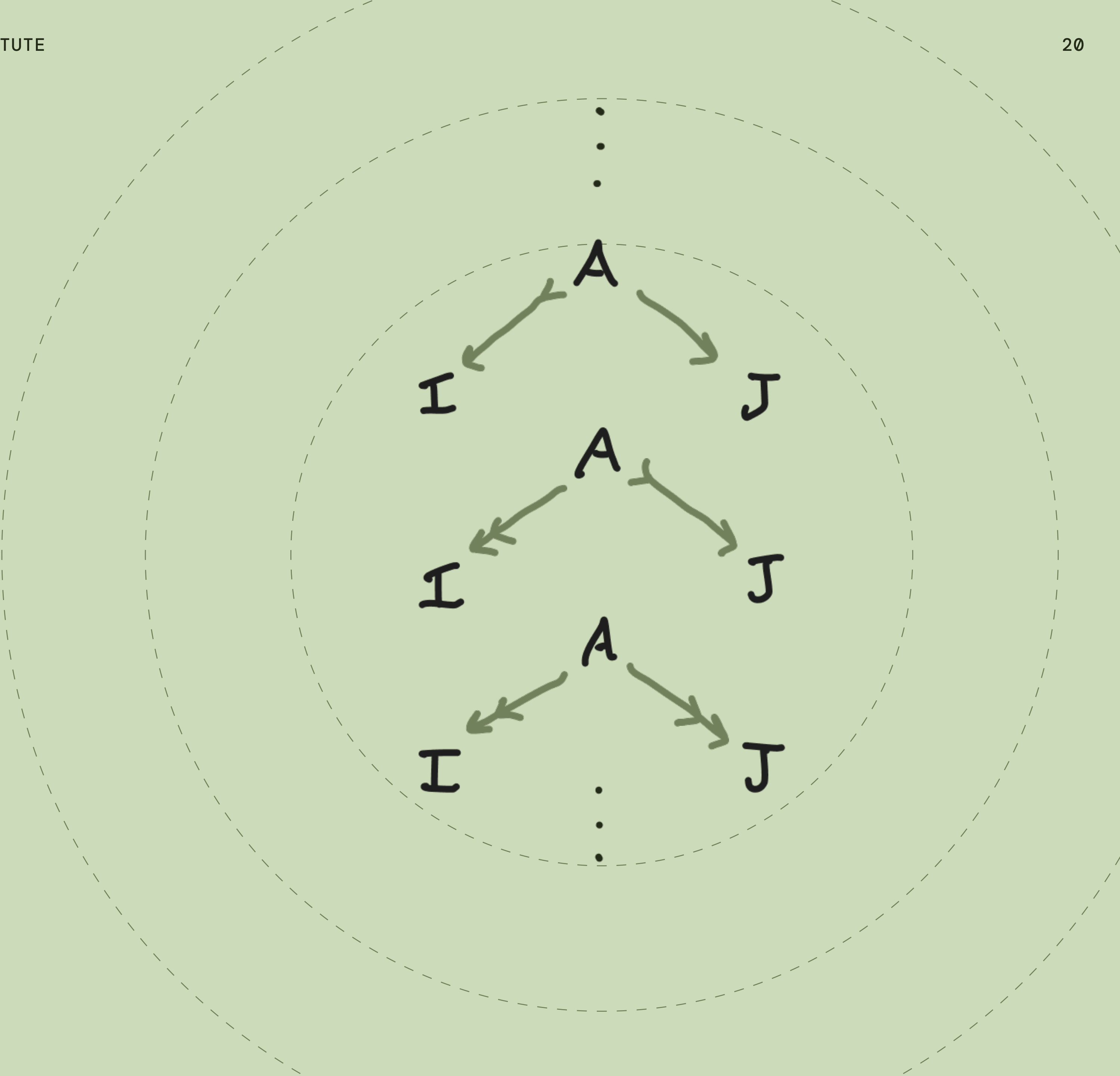
$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 I_0 & \xleftarrow{A_1^{x_{I_1}} A_2^{x_{I_2}} \cdots A_n^{x_{I_n}}} & & & I_n \\
 f_0 \uparrow & & \alpha_0 \uparrow & & \uparrow g_0 \\
 J_0 & \xleftarrow{\quad} & B & \xrightarrow{\quad} & J_1
 \end{array}$$

$$b: j_0 \rightarrow j_1 \quad \alpha_0(b) = (a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n)$$

$$Fam(1) \cong Span$$



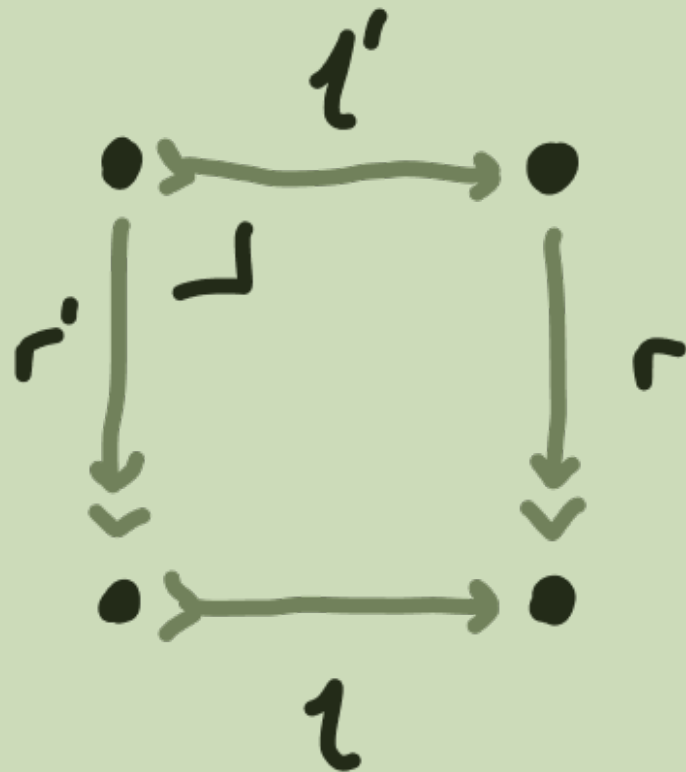
we can choose to index
by certain classes of
functions to give
different kinds of
product



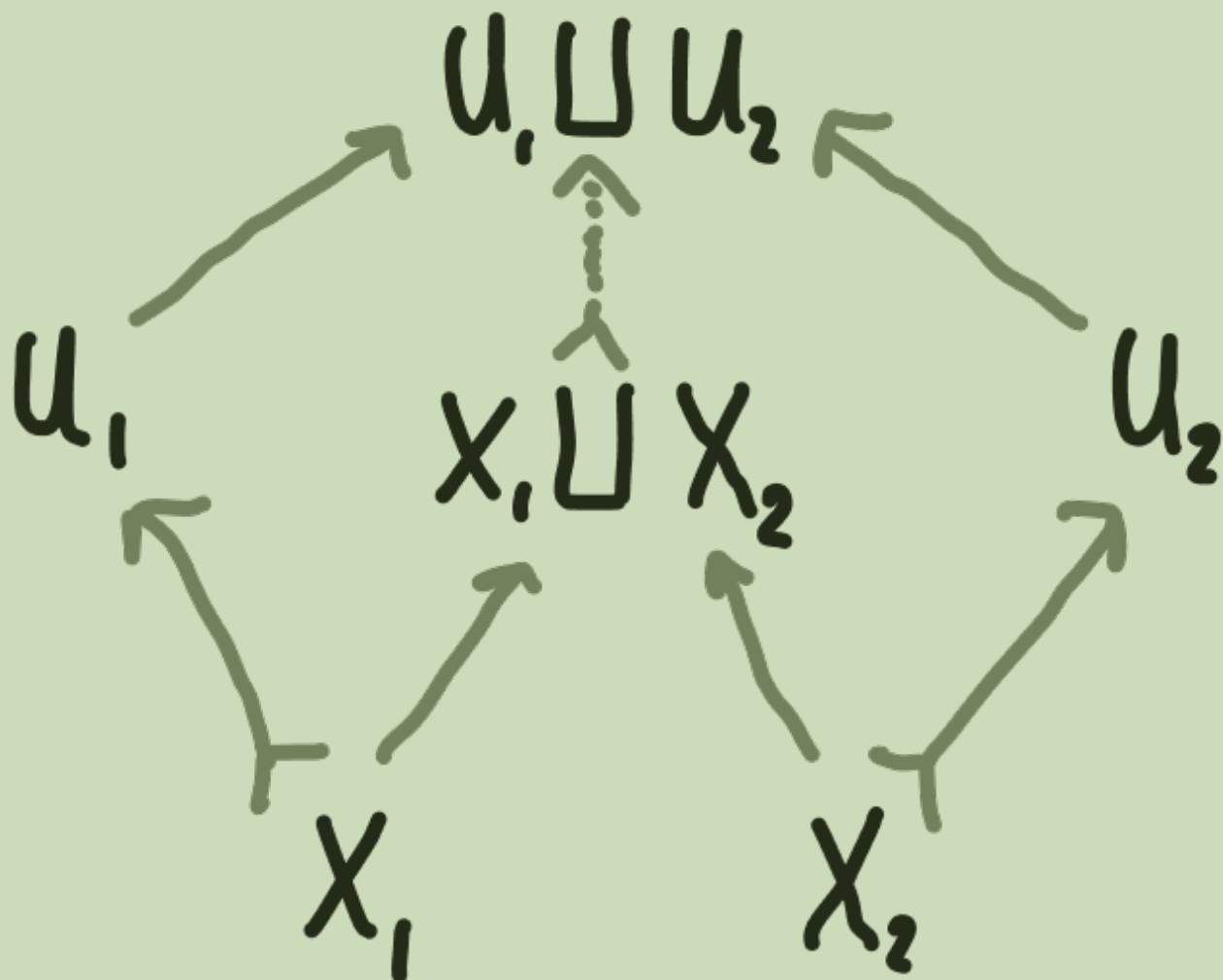
span indexing pair

$(L, R), \quad L, R \subseteq \text{Mor}(sk(\text{Set}))$

(i) pullback
stable:



(ii) coproduct
stable:

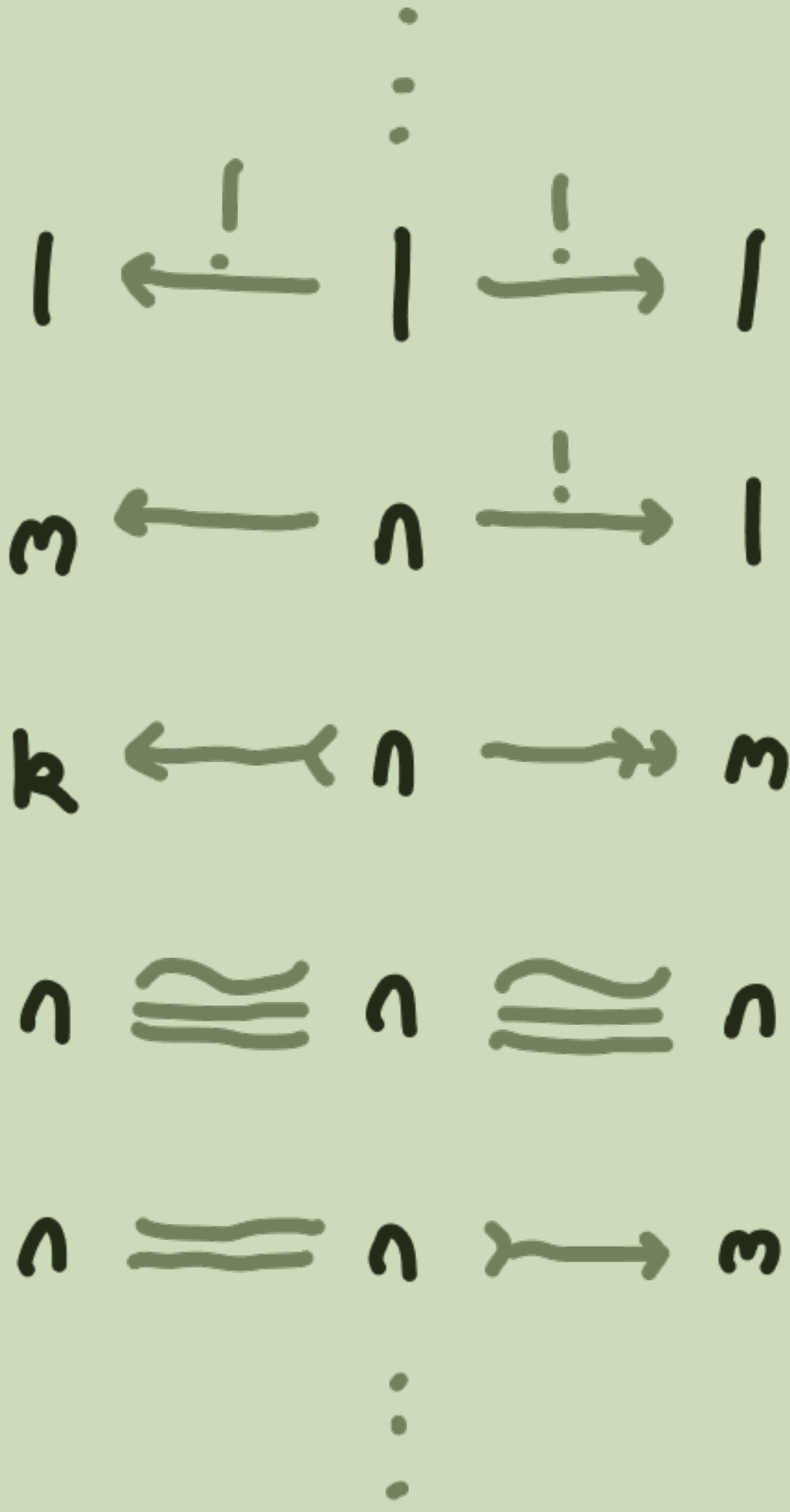
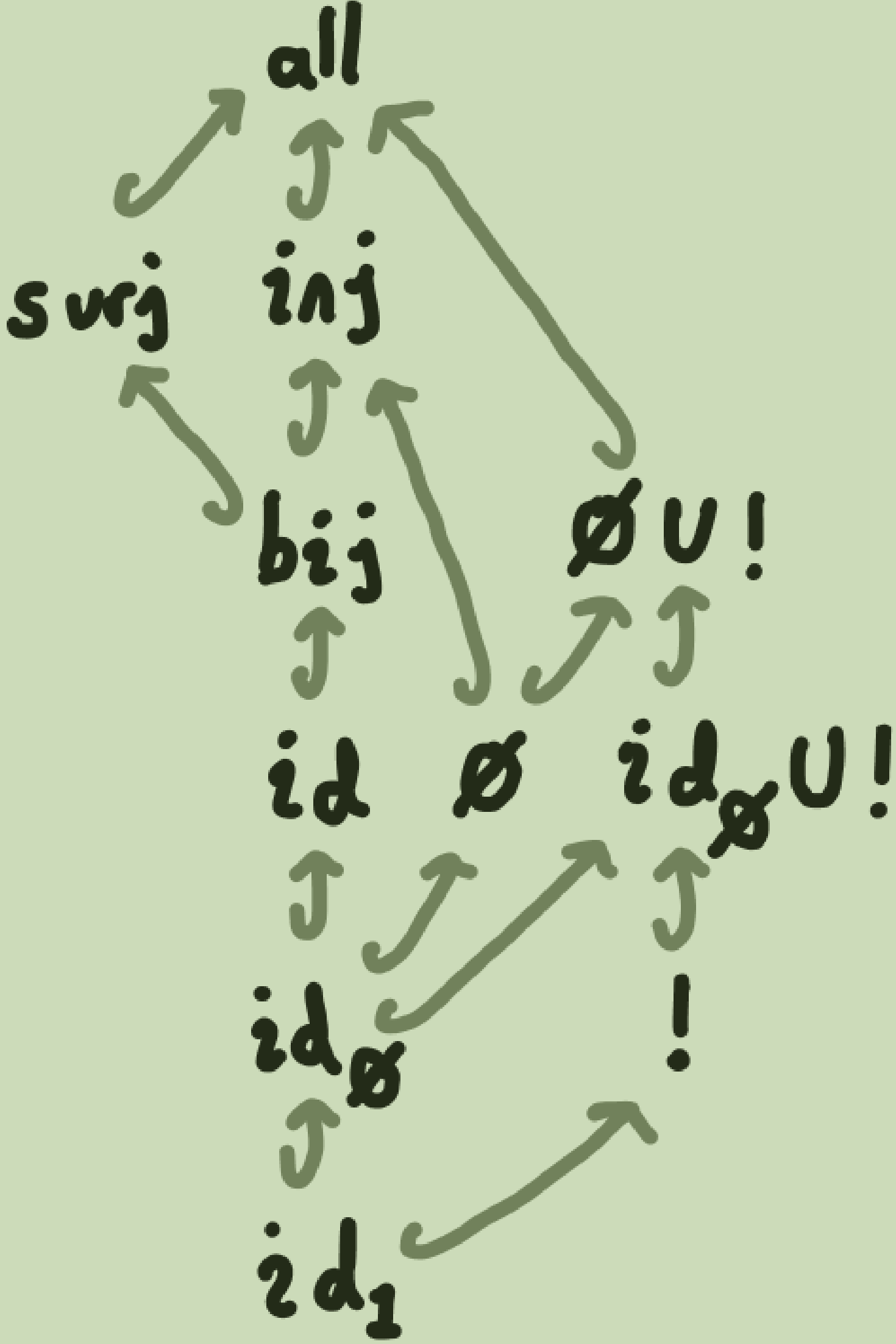


(iii) unit:



examples:
span
indexing
schemes

$L, R \in \{all,$
 $surj, inj,$
 $bij, id, !, \emptyset,$
 $id_\emptyset := \{id_\emptyset, id_1\}, id_1\}$



(L,R)-family construction in virtual double categories

$$\mathbb{Fam}^*(\mathbb{D})_{LR}$$

$$\triangleright \mathbb{Fam}^*(\mathbb{D})_{LR_0} = \mathbb{Fam}^*(\mathbb{D}_0)$$

$$\triangleright \text{proarrows } (A, \underline{m}) : (\mathcal{I}, \underline{x}) \longrightarrow (\mathcal{J}, \underline{y})$$

are families of proarrows $m_a : x_{l(a)} \longrightarrow y_{r(a)}$

indexed by a span $\mathcal{I} \xleftarrow{l} A \xrightarrow{r} \mathcal{J}, l \in L, r \in R;$

$\triangleright$ cells are families of cells

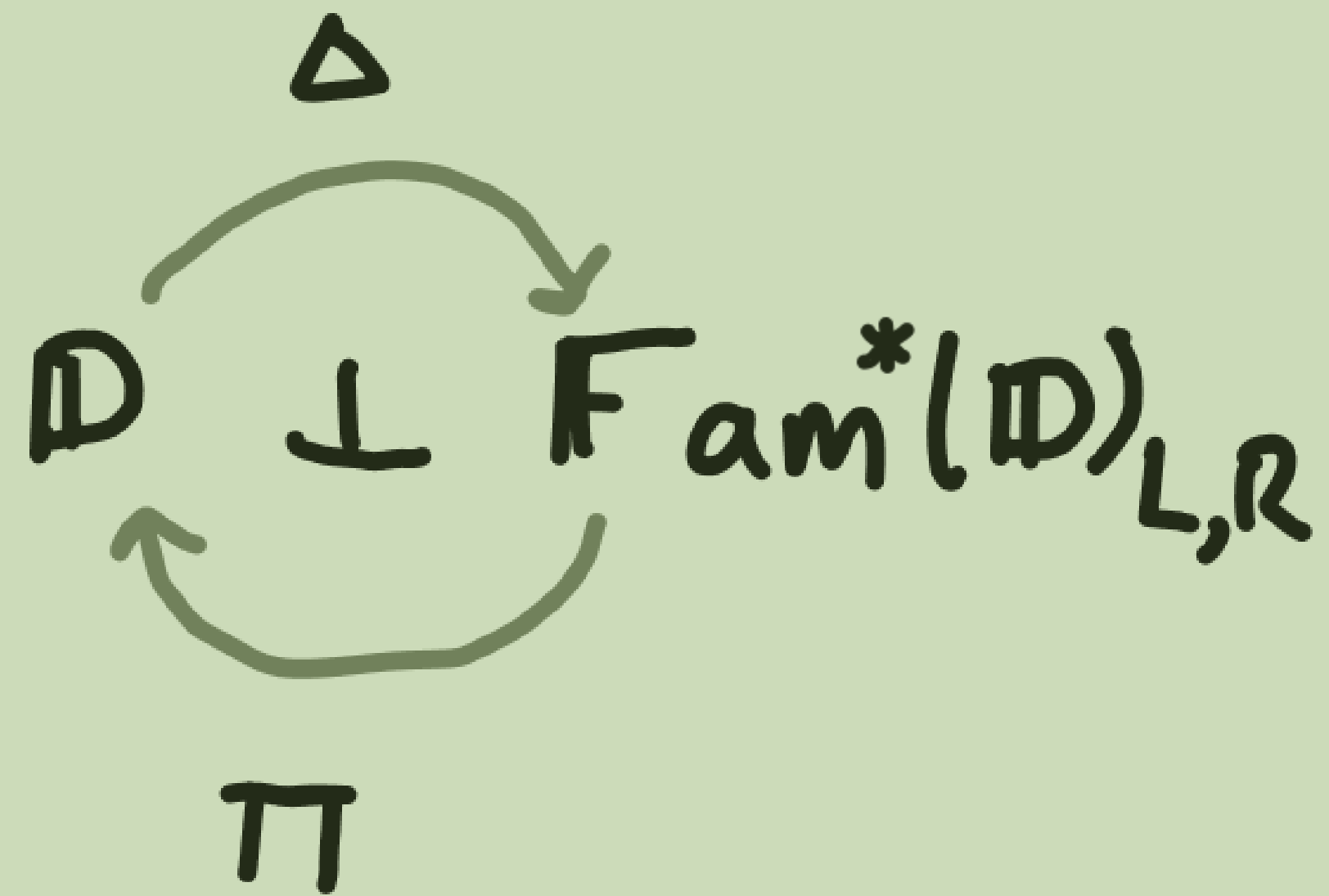
$$\begin{array}{ccccc} x_0 & \longrightarrow & x_1 & \longrightarrow & \cdots & \longrightarrow & x_n \\ \downarrow f & & & & \alpha_b & & \downarrow g \\ y_0 & \longrightarrow & & \longrightarrow & & \longrightarrow & y_1 \end{array}$$

indexed by a morphism of spans.

Thm

$\mathbf{Fam}^{(*)}(-)_{L,R} : \mathbf{vDbl} \longrightarrow \mathbf{vDbl}$ is
a (co)lax-idempotent pseudomonad.

colax-idempotent pseudomonads



π is the monad multiplication,
it is also right adjoint to
the unit of the monad Δ .

[KL97]

families in double categories

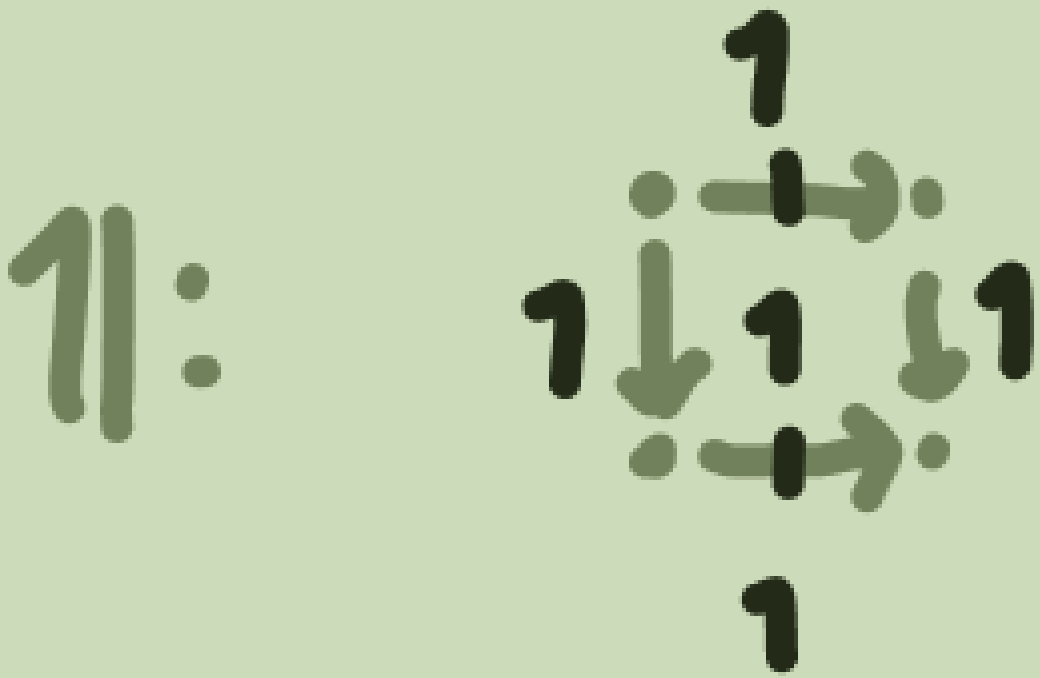
when $\mathbb{D}$ is a pseudo double category

$\mathbb{Fam}(\mathbb{D})_{LR}$ is a pseudo double category

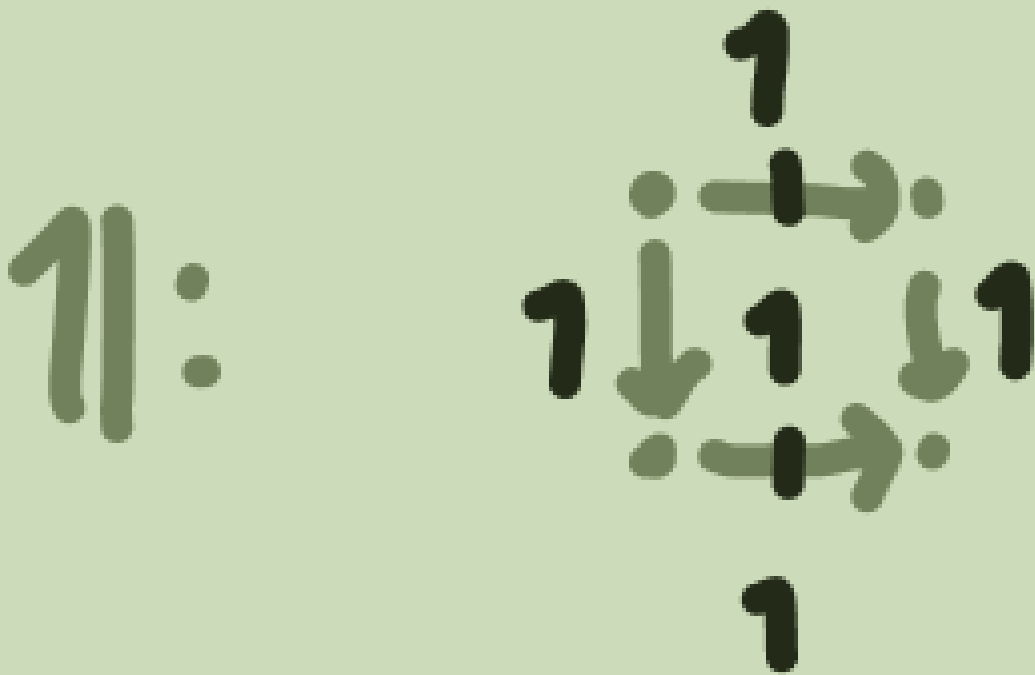
hence $\mathbb{Fam}(-)_{LR}$ restricts to a monad

on $\mathbf{Dbl}_{lax}$

$$Fam_{(inj,all)}(1) \cong Par$$



$$\mathcal{Fam}_{(\mathcal{S}urj, all)}^{(11)} \cong \mathcal{M}ult$$



definition: (L,R)-products

if $\Delta: \mathbb{D} \rightarrow \mathbf{Fam}^*(\mathbb{D})_{L,R}$ has a right adjoint, Π

we say $\mathbb{D}$ has (L,R)-products.

► $\prod_{i \in I} x_i := \Pi(I, \underline{x});$

► $\prod_{a \in A} m_a := \Pi(A, \underline{m}).$

example: parallel products; (id,id)-products

index by

$$\mathcal{I} \stackrel{=}{=} \mathcal{I} \stackrel{=}{=} \mathcal{I}$$

$$\begin{array}{c} x_1 \xrightarrow{p_1} y_1 \\ \vdots \\ x_i \xrightarrow{p_i} y_i \\ \vdots \end{array} \xrightarrow{\pi} \prod_{i \in \mathcal{I}} x_i \xrightarrow{\prod_{i \in \mathcal{I}} p_i} \prod_{i \in \mathcal{I}} y_i$$

in $\mathcal{S}pan$:

$$\begin{array}{c} f \quad s \quad g \\ x \quad \quad y \end{array} \times \begin{array}{c} f' \quad s' \quad g' \\ x' \quad \quad y' \end{array}$$

=

$$\begin{array}{c} \langle f\pi_s, f'\pi_{s'} \rangle \quad s \times s' \quad \langle g\pi_s, g'\pi_{s'} \rangle \\ \quad \searrow \quad \quad \quad \searrow \\ x \times x' \quad \quad \quad y \times y' \end{array}$$

example: prodiagonals

in a unital virtual
double category $\mathbb{D}$,

$$\pi \left(1 \xleftarrow{!} 2 \xrightarrow{id} 2, \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ \swarrow \quad \searrow \\ x \quad \quad x \\ \swarrow \quad \searrow \\ 1 \end{array} \right) = \delta_x: x \longrightarrow x^2$$

if π is normal i.e. $1_{\pi x} \cong \pi 1_x$ then
 δ_x is the companion of $\Delta_x: x \longrightarrow x^2$

in $\mathcal{S}pan$:

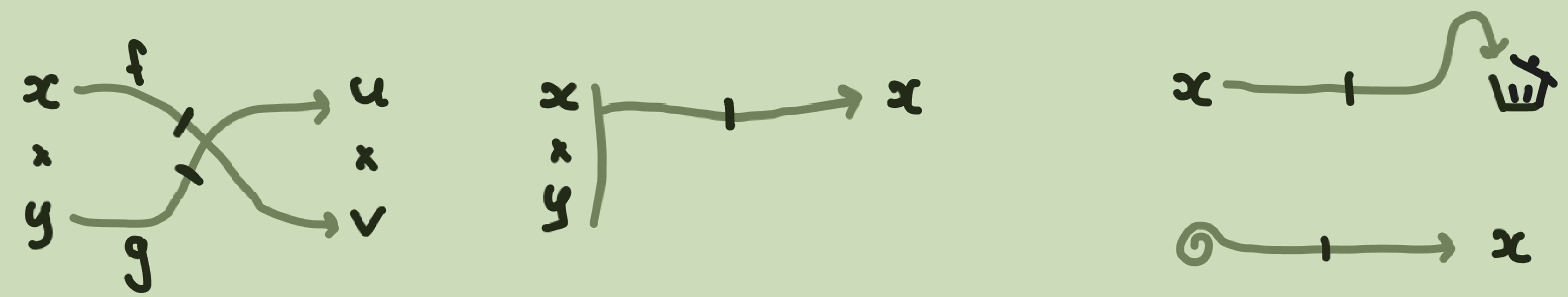
$$\delta_x = x \xrightarrow{id} x \xrightarrow{\Delta_x} x^2$$

in $\mathcal{P}rof$:

$$\delta_{\mathcal{C}}: (\mathcal{C} \times \mathcal{C})^{\text{op}} \times \mathcal{C} \longrightarrow \mathbf{Set}$$

$$((x, y), z) \longmapsto \text{hom}((x, y), (z, z))$$

example: other products



braiding

$$2 = 2 \xrightarrow{\sigma_2} 2$$

$$\sigma_{fg} : x \times y \rightarrow v \times u$$

projection

$$2 \xleftarrow{1} 1 = 1$$

$$\pi_1 : x \times y \rightarrow x$$

deletion/creation

$$1 \xleftarrow{!} 0 = 0 \quad \Bigg| \quad 0 = 0 \xrightarrow{!} 1$$

$$\epsilon : x \rightarrow 1 \quad \Bigg| \quad \epsilon^* : 1 \rightarrow x$$

binary & nullary products generate finite n-fold products



$X * X, 1$



$X * X * \dots * X$

induct on
 $X * (X * \dots * X)$

generation theorems

in a virtual double category;

binary & nullary
parallel
products

generate

finite n-fold
parallel
products

$$x_1 * x_2 \xrightarrow{p_1 * p_2} y_1 * y_2, \quad 1 \xrightarrow{1} 1$$



$$x_1 * \dots * x_n \xrightarrow{p_1 * \dots * p_n} y_1 * \dots * y_n$$

induct on

$$\prod \left(\begin{array}{c} x_1 \xrightarrow{1} y_1 \\ x_2 \xrightarrow{1} y_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_{n-1} \xrightarrow{1} y_{n-1} \end{array} \right) \times x_n \xrightarrow{1} y_n$$

in a double category;

binary & nullary
parallel
products
& braiding

generate

finite (id, bij)
products

$$x_1 * x_2 \xrightarrow{p_1 * p_2} y_1 * y_2, \quad 1 \xrightarrow{1} 1$$

$$x * y \xrightarrow{1_x * 1_y} x * y$$

~~~~~

$$x_1 * \dots * x_n \xrightarrow{\prod p_i} y_{f(1)} * \dots * y_{f(n)}$$

thank you :)

# references

on virtual double categories:

- [CS10] G. Crutwell & M. Shulman, A unified framework for generalized multicategories, 2010.
- [Lei04] T. Leinster, Higher operads, higher categories, 2004.

on products in double categories

- [Pat26a] E. Patterson, Products in double categories, revisited, 2026.
- [Pat26b]                     , Transposing cartesian and other structure in double categories, 2026.
- [GP04] M. Grandis & R. Paré, Adjoint for double categories, 2004.
- [GP99]                     , Limits in double categories, 1999.
- [Par09] R. Paré, First order theories as double Lawvere theories, (Slides), 2009.
- [CLa25] B. Clarke j.w. N. Arko, A new framework for limits in double categories, (Slides), 2025.

on general category theory:

- [JS86] A. Joyal & R. Street, Braided monoidal categories, 1986.
- [KL97] G. Kelly & S. Lack, On property-like structures, 1997.