# Class (2, 1)-categories

Calum Hughes

HoTT MURI 2025 work in progress



# **Outline**

- Motivation
- 2 Axioms
- 3 Properties
- Extra axioms
- 5 Future work

# Elementary topos theory

	1-cats	(2,1)-cats
Object	elementary topos	
internal logic	0 dimensional MLTT	
Key example	Set	

Definition (Lawvere-Tierney)

An elementary topos is a cartesian closed category with finite limits and a subobject classifier.

# Elementary topos theory

	1-cats	(2, 1)-cats
Object	elementary topos	Weber (2, 1)-topos
internal logic	0 dimensional MLTT	?
Key example	Set	?

# Definition (Weber)

An elementary (2, 1)-topos is a cartesian closed (2, 1)-category with finite limits and a discrete optibration classifier and a duality involution.

# Example of an Weber (2, 1)-topos

**Gpd** the (2, 1)-category of small groupoids:

- finite limits and duality involution √
- cartesian closed √
- discrete opfib classifier  $\checkmark X$  (i.e.  $\top \rightarrow \{\bot, \top\}$ )

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 $\mathbf{GPD}_{\boldsymbol{\mu}}$  the (2, 1)-category of  $\boldsymbol{\mu}\text{-small}$  groupoids for some  $\boldsymbol{\mu}>\lambda$ 

- finite limits and duality involution √
- cartesian closed √
- discrete opfib classifier √ (i.e Set<sub>λ\*</sub> → Set<sub>λ</sub>)

Von Neumann-Bernays-Gödel class theory:

#### Class has:

- objects:  $\{x \text{ a set} : \phi(x) \text{ is true for } \phi \text{ a formula in FOL}\}$
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We define GPD := Gpd(Class).

# Class categories

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Object	class categories	
internal logic	small obs: 0D MLTT	
Key example	Class	

Class categories: (Joyal-Moerdijk), but see also (Awodey-Butz-Simpson-Streicher, van den Berg-Moerdijk, Simpson,...)

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	1-cats	(2,1)-cats
Object	class categories	class (2,1)-categories
internal logic	small obs: 0D MLTT	small obs: 1D MLTT
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# Cateads

# Definition (Bourne-Penon, Bourke)

For a (2,1)-category  $\mathcal{K}$ , a *catead* is

$$C_1 imes_{C_0} C_1 \xrightarrow[p_2]{\frac{p_1}{m}} C_1 \xleftarrow[i]{\frac{d_1}{i}} C_0$$

such that  $(d_1, d_0)$  forms a 2-sided discrete fibration. We call its 2-colimit a *codescent object*.

Codescent morphisms are a (2,1)-dimensional analogue of a regular epimorphism in a 1-category.

# **Exactness**

Given  $f: X \to Y$ 

$$f\downarrow f\downarrow f\xrightarrow{\stackrel{p_1}{\longrightarrow}} f\downarrow f\xrightarrow{\stackrel{d_1}{\longleftarrow}} X\xrightarrow{q} C$$

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# Definition (Bourke-Garner)

A (2,1)-category  $\mathcal{K}$  is called  $\mathcal{F}_{BO}$ -regular if it has finite (2,1)-limits and codescent objects of higher kernels exist and are closed under (2,1)-pullback.

It is called  $\mathcal{F}_{BO}$ -exact if codescent objects and morphisms are effective.

Let  $\mathcal{K}$  be an  $\mathcal{F}_{BO}$ -regular and extensive (2,1)-category,  $\circ: \mathcal{K}^{co} \to \mathcal{K}$  a duality involution and  $\mathcal{S}$  a class of discrete opfibrations. We call  $(\mathcal{K}, \circ, \mathcal{S})$  a *pre-class* (2,1)-category.

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We call a general object  $\mathbb{X} \in \mathcal{K}$  *small* if there exists a small discrete object and a codescent morphism  $q: X \twoheadrightarrow \mathbb{X}$ , such that  $(s,t): q \downarrow q \rightarrow X^{\circ} \times X$  is in  $\mathcal{S}$ .

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
q \downarrow q & \xrightarrow{s} & X \\
\downarrow t & \cong & \downarrow q \\
X & \xrightarrow{q} & X
\end{array}$$

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$$\begin{array}{ccc}
q \downarrow q & \xrightarrow{s} & X \\
\downarrow t \downarrow & \cong & \downarrow q \\
X & \xrightarrow{g} & X
\end{array}$$

Define the full sub-(2,1)-category of small objects by  $\mathcal{K}_{\text{small}}$ .

Let  $(\mathcal{K}, {}^{\circ}, \mathcal{S})$  be a pre-class (2, 1)-category. Consider:

- Replacement.
- Stability.
- 3  $0 \rightarrow 1$  and  $1 + 1 \rightarrow 1$  belong to  $\mathcal{S}$ .
- Sums.
- Quotients.
- Exponentiality.
- Representability.
- Cancellability.
- Small NNO.
- Small projectivity.
- Small exactness

Any isomorphism is in  $\mathcal F$  and  $\mathcal F$  is closed under composition.

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In any (2,1)-pullback square

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
A & \longrightarrow & X \\
G \downarrow & \cong & \downarrow f \\
B & \longrightarrow & Y
\end{array}$$

If  $F \in \mathcal{S}$  then  $G \in \mathcal{S}$ .

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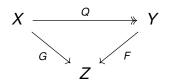
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If  $X \to Y$  and  $X' \to Y'$  belong to  $\mathcal{S}$  then so does  $X + X' \to Y + Y'$ .

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In any commutative diagram



where F and G are discrete opfibrations, if Q is codescent and G belongs to  $\mathcal{S}$  then so does F.

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Every map in  $\mathcal S$  is exponentiable

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There exists a classifier for maps in  $\mathcal{S}$ , which is iteself in  $\mathcal{S}$ .

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Let  $F: X \to Y$  and  $G: Y \to Z$  be discrete opfibrations. If  $GF \in \mathcal{F}$  then  $F \in \mathcal{F}$ .

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Every small discrete object in  $\mathcal{K}$  is projective, i.e.

 $\mathsf{Hom}_{\mathbf{Gpd}}(X,-):\mathcal{H}\to\mathbf{Gpd}$ 

preserves codescent morphisms.

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Effectivity of small codescent objects/morphisms.

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### Definition

If  $(\mathcal{K},^{\circ}, \mathcal{S})$  satisfies 1-11, we call it a *class* (2,1)-*category.* 

# **Examples**

${\mathscr K}$	$\mathscr{K}_{small}$	$\mathcal{S}$
GPD	Gpd	Set-sized fibers

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$[\mathscr{A}^{op},GPD]$	[ℐ <sup>op</sup> , <b>Gpd</b> ]	representably <b>Set</b> -sized
ℋ a stack	$\mathcal{K}_{small}$ a small stack	as above

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${\mathcal H}$ a stack	$\mathcal{K}_{small}$ a small stack	as above
? pGpd(Asm <sub>A</sub> )	$pGpd(Mod_{A})$	modest fibers

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? $Gpd(\mathscr{C})$	$\boxed{ \mathbf{Gpd}(\mathscr{C}_{small})}$	small fibers

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- There is a Grothendieck construction.

Let  $(\mathcal{K}, \circ, \mathcal{S})$  be a class (2, 1)-category.

#### **Theorem**

The (2,1)-category  $\mathcal{K}_{small} \simeq \mathbf{Gpd}(\mathcal{E})$  for  $\mathcal{E} := \mathbf{Disc}(\mathcal{K})$ . Moreover,  $\mathcal{E}$  is a locally cartesian closed, extensive category with a natural numbers object.

The hard part of this follows from John Bourke's PhD thesis.

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#### **Theorem**

 $\mathcal{K}_{small}$  is a model of MLTT. Therefore  $\mathcal{K}$  models MLTT with a univalent universe of small 0-types.

(See HoTTLEAN)

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Let  $(\mathcal{K},^{\circ},\mathcal{S})$  be a class  $(\mathbf{2},\mathbf{1})$ -category. Consider: Inspired by Lawvere...

- ullet  ${\mathcal K}$  has a small full subobject classifier.
- $\bullet$   $\mathcal{K}$  is 2-well pointed.
- ullet  ${\mathcal K}$  satisfies the categorified axiom of choice.

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Therefore,  $\mathcal{K}_{\text{small}}$  has the same logical power as ETCS, which has the same logical power as ZFC without replacement.

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- Optimising the axioms.
- Stability under (op)fibrational slicing.
- Comparison to Joseph Helfer's 2-toposes \( \simplies \) the classifier is an "internal 1-topos".

## Summary

	1-cats	(2, 1)-cats
Object	class categories	class (2, 1)-categories
internal logic	small obs: 0D MLTT	small obs: 1D MLTT
Key example	Class	GPD

Adding axioms to a class (2,1)-category, we can give an (2,1)-categorical description of a logic which is as powerful as ZFC.

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