

## Lecture 22: Remarks on the proof of GMTW

Recall that the GMTW Theorem 20.42 asserts the existence of a weak homotopy equivalence

$$(22.1) \quad B(\text{Bord}_{\langle n-1, n \rangle}^{\mathcal{X}(n)}) \simeq (\Sigma MT\mathcal{X}(n))_0.$$

The left hand side is the classifying space of the topological bordism category whose morphisms are compact  $n$ -manifolds with  $\mathcal{X}(n)$ -structure. The right hand side is the 0-space of the suspension of the Madsen-Tillmann spectrum. Both of these pointed spaces were defined in Lecture 20, where we showed that the classical Pontrjagin-Thom theorem is the weak homotopy equivalence (22.1) composed with  $\pi_0$ . Indeed, the ideas of classical Pontrjagin-Thom theory are integral to the proof.

Rather than attempt a direct map between the spaces (22.1), the proof proceeds by constructing sheaves which represent these spaces. More precisely, there is a sheaf of sets  $D = D_n^{\mathcal{X}(n)}$  on  $\text{Man}$  whose representing space is  $(\Sigma MT\mathcal{X}(n))_0$ . The Pontrjagin-Thom theory, as well as Phillips' Submersion Theorem [Ph] is used to prove this representing statement. The value  $D(M)$  of the sheaf on a test manifold  $M$  is a set of submersions over  $M$ . Intuitively, it is a set of fiber bundles of compact  $(n-1)$ -manifolds, but because the Phillips theorem only applies to noncompact manifolds there is a necessary modification. We explain the heuristic idea in the first section below, and then give the technically correct rendition, though not a complete proof. The space on the left hand side of (22.1) is the classifying space of a topological category, and it is fairly easy to construct a sheaf of categories  $C = C_n^{\mathcal{X}(n)}$  on  $\text{Man}$  which represents this topological category (in the sense of Definition 21.44). Its value on a test manifold  $M$  is a category whose objects are fiber bundles over  $M$  with fibers closed  $(n-1)$ -manifolds. The remainder of the proof goes through auxiliary sheaves (of categories) which mediate between  $C$  and  $D$ . We content ourselves with an overview and refer to the reader to the original papers [GMTW, MW] for a full account.

### The main construction: heuristic version

As mentioned in the introduction, this section is a useful false start.

(22.2) *A sheaf of  $(n-1)$ -manifolds.* Fix a positive integer  $n$  and an  $\mathcal{X}(n)$ -structure  $\mathcal{X}(n) \rightarrow Gr_n(\mathbb{R}^\infty)$ . We elaborate on Example 21.14. Let  $E: \text{Man}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \text{Set}$  be the sheaf whose value on a test manifold  $M$  is a pair of maps

$$(22.3) \quad \begin{array}{ccc} Y \subset & \xrightarrow{\quad} & M \times \mathbb{A}^\infty \\ & \searrow \pi & \swarrow \pi_1 \\ & M & \end{array}$$

in which  $\pi$  is a fiber bundle with fibers closed  $(n-1)$ -manifolds and the top arrow is an embedding. For simplicity we do not include a tangential structure. Assume for simplicity that  $M$  is compact.

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Then for some  $m > 0$  the embedding factors through an embedding into  $\mathbb{A}^m$ :

$$(22.4) \quad \begin{array}{ccc} Y \subset & \longrightarrow & M \times \mathbb{A}^m \\ & \searrow \pi & \swarrow \pi_1 \\ & & M \end{array}$$

**(22.5) Relative Gauss map.** The *relative tangent bundle*  $T(Y/M) \rightarrow Y$  is the kernel of the differential of  $\pi$ , the set of tangent vectors which point along the fibers of  $\pi$ . The embedding gives a Gauss map (see [\(20.23\)](#))

$$(22.6) \quad \begin{array}{ccc} T(Y/M) & \longrightarrow & S(n-1) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ Y & \longrightarrow & Gr_{n-1}(\mathbb{R}^m) \end{array}$$

We emphasize: A fiber bundle, or proper submersion, has a tangent bundle along the fibers, which is identified with the pullback of the universal subbundle  $S(n-1) \rightarrow Gr_{n-1}(\mathbb{R}^m)$ .

The normal bundle  $\nu \rightarrow Y$  to the embedding in [\(22.4\)](#) is also the normal bundle to the embedding of each fiber of  $\pi$  in  $\mathbb{A}^m$ , since  $\pi$  is a submersion, and the embedding induces a classifying map

$$(22.7) \quad \begin{array}{ccc} \nu & \longrightarrow & Q(m-n+1) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ Y & \longrightarrow & Gr_{n-1}(\mathbb{R}^m) \end{array}$$

**(22.8) Pontrjagin-Thom collapse.** As in [Lecture 2](#) and [Lecture 10](#), choose a tubular neighborhood of  $Y \subset M \times \mathbb{A}^m$ . Then the Pontrjagin-Thom collapse induced by the embedding, followed by the map on Thom spaces induced from [\(22.7\)](#), is

$$(22.9) \quad M_+ \wedge S^m \longrightarrow Y^\nu \longrightarrow Gr_{n-1}(\mathbb{R}^m)^{Q(m-n+1)}.$$

Here  $M_+$  is the union of  $M$  and a disjoint basepoint, and the domain is the one-point compactification of  $M \times \mathbb{A}^m$ . According to [Definition 20.31](#) the last space in [\(22.9\)](#) is the  $m^{\text{th}}$  space of the Madsen-Tillmann spectrum  $MTO(n-1)$ . So [\(22.9\)](#) is a pointed map of the  $m^{\text{h}}$  suspension of  $M_+$  into the  $m^{\text{th}}$  space of the prespectrum which completes to the spectrum  $MTO(n-1)$ . Therefore, it represents a map of  $M$  into  $MTO(n-1)_0$ .

In summary, from a fiber bundle [\(22.4\)](#) of  $(n-1)$ -manifolds with embedding we have produced a map of the base into the 0-space of the spectrum  $MTO(n-1)$ .

(22.10) *An attempted inverse.* Conversely, a map  $M \rightarrow MTO(n-1)_0$  is represented, for sufficiently large  $m$ , by a pointed map

$$(22.11) \quad g: M_+ \wedge S^m \longrightarrow Gr_{n-1}(\mathbb{R}^m)^{Q(m-n+1)}.$$

After a homotopy we can arrange that  $g$  be transverse to the zero section of the bundle  $Q(m-n+1) \rightarrow Gr_{n-1}(\mathbb{R}^m)$ . Then the inverse image of the zero section is a submanifold  $Y \subset M \times \mathbb{A}^m$  with  $\dim Y - \dim M = n-1$ . If we assume that  $M$  is compact, which we do, then  $Y$  is also compact. There is also a classifying map (22.7) of the normal bundle, the restriction of (22.11) to a map  $Y \rightarrow Gr_{n-1}$ . Let  $V \rightarrow Y$  be the pullback of  $S(n-1) \rightarrow Gr_{n-1}(\mathbb{R}^m)$ .

If—and this is not generally true—the composition  $Y \hookrightarrow M \times \mathbb{A}^m \rightarrow M$  is a submersion, then since  $Y$  is compact it is a fiber bundle. We would deduce that maps into the Madsen-Tillmann spectrum give fiber bundles. But that is not true. Nor is it true, even if the composition is a submersion, that  $V \rightarrow Y$  can be identified with the relative tangent bundle.

### The main construction: real version

The main tool to obtain a submersion is the Phillips Submersion Theorem. It is part of a circle of ideas in differential topology called *immersion theory* [Sp], and one of the main tools used in the proofs is Gromov’s *h-principle* [ElMi]. We simply quote the result here.

**Theorem 22.12** (Phillips [Ph]). *Let  $X$  be a smooth manifold with no closed components and  $M$  a smooth manifold with  $\dim M \leq \dim X$ . Then the differential*

$$(22.13) \quad \text{Submersion}(X, M) \xrightarrow{d} \text{Epi}(TX, TM)$$

*is a weak homotopy equivalence.*

Here  $\text{Epi}(TX, TM)$  is the space of smooth maps  $L: TX \rightarrow TM$  which sends fibers to fibers and restricts on each fiber to a surjective linear map (epimorphism). The domain of (22.13) is the space of submersions  $X \rightarrow M$ , and the differential maps a submersion to an epimorphism on tangent bundles. Note that a manifold with no closed components is often called an *open manifold*.

Theorem 22.12 is precisely the tool needed to deform the map  $Y \rightarrow M$  in (22.10) to a submersion. But to do so we must replace  $Y$  by a noncompact manifold. The simplest choice is  $X = \mathbb{R} \times Y$ . We indicate the modifications to the previous heuristic section which incorporate this change.

(22.14) *The sheaf  $D$ .* We introduce a sheaf  $D = D_n^{\mathcal{X}(n)}: \text{Man}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \text{Set}$  which represents  $(\Sigma MT\mathcal{X}(n))_0$ .

**Definition 22.15.** Fix  $M \in \text{Man}$ . An element of  $D(M)$  is a pair  $(X, \theta)$  consisting of a submanifold  $X \subset M \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{A}^\infty$  and an  $\mathcal{X}(n)$ -structure  $\theta$ . The submanifold must satisfy

- (i)  $\pi_1: X \rightarrow M$  is a submersion with fibers of dimension  $n$ , and
- (ii)  $\pi_1 \times \pi_2: X \rightarrow M \times \mathbb{R}$  is proper.

The relative tangent bundle  $T(X/M) \rightarrow X$  has rank  $n$  and, because of the embedding, comes equipped with a Gauss map

$$(22.16) \quad \begin{array}{ccc} T(X/M) & \longrightarrow & S(n) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ X & \longrightarrow & Gr_n(\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^\infty) \end{array}$$

The tangential structure is a fibration  $\mathcal{X}(n) \rightarrow Gr_n(\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^\infty)$ , fixed once and for all. The relative  $\mathcal{X}(n)$ -structure  $\theta$  is a lift

$$(22.17) \quad \begin{array}{ccc} T(X/M) & \xrightarrow{\theta} & S(n) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ X & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{X}(n) \end{array}$$

of the Gauss map, as in (20.25).

We remark that the embedding  $X \hookrightarrow M \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{A}^\infty$  is required to satisfy the technical condition in the footnote of Example 21.14. For this exposition we restrict to  $M$  compact.

The first condition in Definition 22.15 implies that  $\pi_1$  is a family of  $n$ -manifolds, but it is not a fiber bundle as the fibers may be noncompact, so as we move over the base  $M$  the topology of the fibers can change. The second condition implies that each fiber comes with a real-valued function  $\pi_2$  with compact fibers. The inverse image of a regular value  $a \in \mathbb{R}$  is a closed  $(n - 1)$ -manifold, but the topology depends on the regular value. The inverse images of two regular values  $a_0 < a_1$  comes with a bordism: the inverse image of  $[a_0, a_1]$ . See Figure 40.

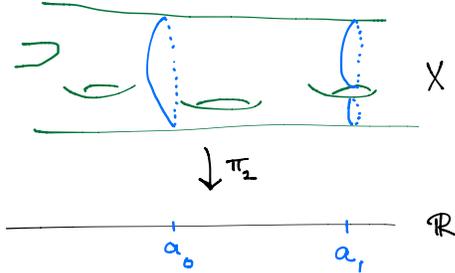


FIGURE 40. A fiber of  $X \rightarrow M$

(22.18) *Statement of theorems.* Recall the notion of concordance (21.32).

**Theorem 22.19.** *For any  $M \in \text{Man}$  there is a bijection*

$$(22.20) \quad D[M] \cong [M, (\Sigma MT\mathcal{X}(n))_0]$$

between concordance classes of elements of  $D(M)$  and homotopy classes of maps into the 0-space of the suspended Madsen-Tillmann spectrum.

We sketch the construction of the bijection (22.20) in the remainder of this section.

Recall from Theorem 21.38 that the representing space  $|D|$  also satisfies

$$(22.21) \quad D[M] \cong [M, |D|],$$

and so the following is not surprising.

**Corollary 22.22.** *There is a weak homotopy equivalence*

$$(22.23) \quad |D| \simeq (\Sigma MT\mathcal{X}(n))_0.$$

The proof uses an auxiliary sheaves which keep track of the contractible choices (of a tubular neighborhood, of a regular value) which are used below. We refer to [Po, §4.3] for a sketch of how that argument goes.

(22.24) *Sketch of (22.20)  $\rightarrow$ .* Given an element  $X \subset M \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{A}^\infty$  of  $D(M)$ , choose  $a \in \mathbb{R}$  a regular value of  $\pi_2$ ,  $m$  a positive integer such that  $X \subset M \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{A}^m$ . Let  $Y \subset M \times \mathbb{A}^m$  be the intersection of  $X$  and  $M \times \{a\} \times \mathbb{A}^m$ . The normal bundle to  $Y \subset M \times \mathbb{A}^m$  is the restriction of the normal bundle to  $X \subset M \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{A}^m$ . Therefore, as in (22.7) but now using the lift (22.17) from the  $\mathcal{X}(n)$ -structure, we obtain a classifying map

$$(22.25) \quad \begin{array}{ccc} \nu & \longrightarrow & Q(m-n+1) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ Y & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{X}(n, m+1) \end{array}$$

where the southeast space is the pullback

$$(22.26) \quad \begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{X}(n, m+1) & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{X}(n) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ Gr_n(\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^m) & \longrightarrow & Gr_n(\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^\infty) \end{array}$$

Choose a tubular neighborhood of  $Y \subset M \times \mathbb{A}^m$ . The Pontrjagin-Thom collapse, as in (22.9), is a map

$$(22.27) \quad M_+ \wedge S^m \longrightarrow \mathcal{X}(n, m+1)^{Q(m-n+1)}.$$

The last space is the  $(m+1)$ -space of the Madsen-Tillmann spectrum  $MT\mathcal{X}(n)$ , so that (22.27) represents a (non-pointed) map of  $M$  into the 0-space of the shifted spectrum  $\Sigma MT\mathcal{X}(n)$ .

(22.28) *Sketch of (22.20) ←.* We proceed as in (22.10), but now mapping into the last space in (22.27), to obtain as there

- (i) a submanifold  $Y \subset M \times \mathbb{A}^m$  with  $\dim Y - \dim M = n - 1$ ,
- (ii) a classifying map of the normal bundle

$$(22.29) \quad \begin{array}{ccc} \nu & \longrightarrow & Q(m - n + 1) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ Y & \xrightarrow{g} & \mathcal{X}(n, m + 1) \end{array}$$

and

- (iii) a rank  $n$  vector bundle  $W \rightarrow Y$ , defined as  $g^*(S(n) \rightarrow \mathcal{X}(n, m + 1))$ .

These bundles over  $Y$  come equipped with isomorphisms

$$(22.30) \quad \begin{array}{ccc} \nu \oplus W & \xrightarrow{\cong} & \underline{\mathbb{R}^{m+1}} \\ \nu \oplus TY & \xrightarrow{\cong} & TM \oplus \underline{\mathbb{R}^m} \end{array}$$

The first is induced from the tautological exact sequence (6.8) after choosing once and for all a splitting over  $\mathcal{X}(n, m + 1)$ . The second comes from splitting the usual exact sequence for a submanifold. Combining these isomorphisms we obtain an isomorphism

$$(22.31) \quad \underline{\mathbb{R}^{m+1}} \oplus TY \xrightarrow{\cong} W \oplus \nu \oplus TY \xrightarrow{\cong} W \oplus TM \oplus \underline{\mathbb{R}^m}.$$

The next step is to “strip off” the trivial bundle of rank  $m$  in the isomorphism (22.31). This is possible for  $m$  sufficiently large. The proof is an application of the following general principle, which can be proved by obstruction theory. Recall that for  $k \in \mathbb{Z}^{\geq 0}$  a space is  $k$ -connected if it is connected and all homotopy groups  $\pi_q$ ,  $q \leq k$  vanish. A map is  $k$ -connected if its mapping cylinder is  $k$ -connected.

**Proposition 22.32.**

- (i) Let  $E \rightarrow Y$  be a (continuous) fiber bundle with  $k$ -connected fiber and base  $Y$  a CW complex of dimension  $\ell$ . Then the space  $\Gamma(Y; E)$  of sections is  $(k - \ell)$ -connected.
- (ii) Let  $(E_1 \rightarrow E_2) \rightarrow Y$  be a map of fiber bundles. Assume the map on each fiber is  $k$ -connected and  $\dim Y = \ell$ . Then the induced map of sections  $\Gamma(Y; E_1) \rightarrow \Gamma(Y; E_2)$  is  $(k - \ell)$ -connected.

Our application is to the map

$$(22.33) \quad \text{Iso}(\underline{\mathbb{R}} \oplus TY, W \oplus TM) \longrightarrow \text{Iso}(\underline{\mathbb{R}^{m+1}} \oplus TY, W \oplus TM \oplus \underline{\mathbb{R}^m})$$

of fiber bundles of isomorphisms of vector bundles over  $Y$ . On fibers this is the standard embedding of general linear groups  $GL_{n+d}(\mathbb{R}) \hookrightarrow GL_{n+d+m}$ , where  $d = \dim M$ . This map is  $(n + d - 1)$ -connected, so the induced map on sections is  $(n - 1)$ -connected. Since  $n - 1 > 0$ , this implies that the isomorphism (22.31) is isotopic to an isomorphism which is the stabilization of an isomorphism

$$(22.34) \quad \underline{\mathbb{R}} \oplus TY \xrightarrow{\cong} W \oplus TM.$$

Now compose the isomorphism (22.34) with projection onto  $TM$  to obtain an epimorphism

$$(22.35) \quad T(\mathbb{R} \times Y) \cong \underline{\mathbb{R}} \oplus TY \xrightarrow{\cong} TM.$$

The Phillips Submersion Theorem 22.12 implies that there is a submersion  $\pi_1: X = \mathbb{R} \times Y \rightarrow M$  whose differential is isotopic to (22.35). The isomorphism (22.34) induces an isomorphism

$$(22.36) \quad W \xrightarrow{\cong} T(X/M) = \ker d\pi_1.$$

Projection gives a function  $\pi_2: X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , and we can use the Whitney embedding theorem to construct  $\pi_3: X \hookrightarrow \mathbb{A}^{m'}$  for  $m'$  sufficiently large. The product  $\pi_1 \times \pi_2 \times \pi_3: X \hookrightarrow M \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{A}^{m'}$  is the desired element of  $D(M)$ . (A more delicate argument produces the  $\mathcal{X}(n)$ -structure.)

*Remark 22.37.* This completes the sketch construction of the two maps in (22.20). The proof that they are inverse is based on [MW, Lemma 2.5.2].

### A sheaf model of the topological bordism category

It is fairly straightforward to construct a sheaf of (discrete) categories whose representing space is the topological bordism category  ${}^t\text{Bord}_{\langle n-1, n \rangle}^{\mathcal{X}(n)}$ . This is a more elaborate version of Example 21.30, where there is a “representing category in the category of smooth infinite dimensional manifolds”.

**Definition 22.38.** The sheaf of categories  $C = C_n^{\mathcal{X}(n)}: \text{Man}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \text{Cat}$  is defined on a test manifold  $M \in \text{Man}$  as follows. The objects of  $C(M)$  are triples  $(a, Y, \theta)$  consisting of a smooth function  $a: M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , an embedding  $Y \hookrightarrow M \times \mathbb{A}^\infty$  such that  $\pi_1: Y \rightarrow M$  is a proper submersion, and an  $\mathcal{X}(n)$ -structure  $\theta$  on the relative tangent bundle. A morphism  $(a_0, Y_0, \theta_0) \rightarrow (a_1, Y_1, \theta_1)$  is a pair  $(X, \Theta)$  consisting of a neat submanifold  $X \hookrightarrow M \times [a_0, a_1] \times \mathbb{A}^\infty$  with  $\mathcal{X}(n)$ -structure  $\Theta$  such that  $\pi_1: X \rightarrow M$  is a proper submersion and, for some  $\delta: M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{>0}$

$$(22.39) \quad \begin{aligned} X \cap (M \times [a_0, a_0 + \delta] \times \mathbb{A}^\infty) &= Y_0 \times [a_0, a_0 + \delta] \\ X \cap (M \times (a_1 - \delta, a_1] \times \mathbb{A}^\infty) &= Y_1 \times (a_1 - \delta, a_1] \end{aligned}$$

as  $\mathcal{X}(n)$ -manifolds.

Here  $M \times [a_0, a_1] \subset M \times \mathbb{R}$  is the subset of pairs  $(m, t)$  such that  $a_0(m) \leq t \leq a_1(m)$ . Composition is by union, as usual when we have embeddings.

As indicated,  $C(M)$  is the space of smooth maps  $M \rightarrow {}^t\text{Bord}_{\langle n-1, n \rangle}^{\mathcal{X}(n)}$ , with the appropriate smooth structure on  ${}^t\text{Bord}_{\langle n-1, n \rangle}^{\mathcal{X}(n)}$ , and this gives a map of topological categories

$$(22.40) \quad \eta: |C| \longrightarrow {}^t\text{Bord}_{\langle n-1, n \rangle}^{\mathcal{X}(n)}.$$

We have not defined a weak equivalence of topological categories, which is what we'd like to say (22.40) is, but in any case the definition would amount to the following.

**Theorem 22.41.**  $\eta$  induces a weak homotopy equivalence of classifying spaces

$$(22.42) \quad B|C| \longrightarrow B({}^t\text{Bord}_{\langle n-1, n \rangle}^{\mathcal{X}(n)}).$$

*Sketch of proof.* The space of  $q$ -simplices  $N_q|C|$  in the nerve of  $|C|$  is the geometric realization of the extended, smooth singular simplices on the space  $N_q {}^t\text{Bord}_{\langle n-1, n \rangle}^{\mathcal{X}(n)}$ , so by Theorem 21.28 the map

$$(22.43) \quad N_q|C| \longrightarrow N_q {}^t\text{Bord}_{\langle n-1, n \rangle}^{\mathcal{X}(n)}$$

induced by  $\eta$  is a weak homotopy equivalence. Thus  $B\eta$  is also a weak homotopy equivalence.  $\square$

### Comments on the rest

We hope to have given a “reader’s guide” to much of the proof in [GMTW]. At this point we have a sheaf of categories  $C$  which represents the space  $B({}^t\text{Bord}_{\langle n-1, n \rangle}^{\mathcal{X}(n)})$  and a sheaf of spaces  $D$  which represents the space  $(\Sigma MT\mathcal{X}(n))_0$ . To put them on equal footing we regard  $D$  as a sheaf of categories with only identity morphisms. The goal now is to construct a weak homotopy equivalence of these sheaves. This is not done directly, but by means of two intermediate sheaves of categories. There are two main discrepancies between  $C(\text{pt})$  and  $D(\text{pt})$ , and so between  $C(M)$  and  $D(M)$  which are parametrized families. First, objects in  $D$  are to be thought of as fibers at an unspecified regular value  $a \in \mathbb{R}$  of a proper map  $X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , whereas objects in  $C$  have a specified value of  $a$ . Second, morphisms in  $D$  are manifolds without boundary ( $X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ) whereas morphisms in  $C$  are manifolds with boundary. The intermediate sheaves  $D^\natural$ ,  $C^\natural$  mediate these discrepancies. We sketch the definitions below. The main work is in proving that straightforwardly defined maps

$$(22.44) \quad D \xleftarrow{\alpha} D^\natural \xrightarrow{\gamma} C^\natural \xleftarrow{\delta} C$$

are weak homotopy equivalences.

**(22.45)** *The sheaf  $D^\natural$  and the map  $\alpha$ .* For convenience we omit the  $\mathcal{X}(n)$ -structures from the notation: they are just carried along.

The objects are a subsheaf of  $\mathcal{F}_{\mathbb{R}} \times D$  where  $\mathcal{F}_{\mathbb{R}}$  is the representable sheaf of real-valued functions (see Example 21.9). An object in  $D^\natural(M)$  is a pair  $(a, X)$  where  $X \subset M \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{A}^\infty$  is an object of  $D(M)$  and  $a: M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  has the property that  $a(m)$  is a regular value of  $\pi_2|_{\pi_1^{-1}(M)}$ . It is a category of partially ordered sets: there is a unique morphisms  $(a_0, X_0) \rightarrow (a_1, X_1)$  if  $(a_0, X_0) \leq (a_1, X_1)$ , and the latter is true if and only if  $X_0 = X_1$ , the functions satisfy  $a_0 \leq a_1$  and  $a_0 = a_1$  on a union of components of  $M$ .

The map  $\alpha$  is the forgetful map which forgets  $a$ .

**(22.46)** *The sheaf  $C^\natural$  and the maps  $\delta, \gamma$ .* This is very similar to  $C$ , but the objects and morphisms are not “sharply cut off” at points  $a \in \mathbb{R}$ . So objects have a bicollaring and morphisms are open with collars at  $a_0, a_1$ . We refer to [GMTW, §2] for details.

The map  $\delta$  puts product bicollars and collars on the objects and morphisms of  $C$ .

To define  $\gamma(a, X)$  we use the fact that  $a$  consists of regular values to find a function  $\epsilon: M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{>0}$  so that  $(a - \epsilon, a + \epsilon)$  also consists of regular values. (The notation is as in Definition 22.38.) Then  $Y = (\pi_1 \times \pi_2)^{-1}(M \times (a - \epsilon, a + \epsilon))$  is an object of  $C^\natural$ . There is a similar construction on morphisms.

**(22.47)** *Proofs of equivalences.* The techniques to prove that the maps  $\alpha, \gamma, \delta$  are weak equivalences are presented in [GMTW] with technical details in [MW].

## References

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