∞ -Dold-Kan correspondence via representation theory

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Let k be an algebraically closed field and Q a directed graph. To study the properties of the path algebra kQ, in representation theory we consider its derived category D(kQ), namely the category of chain complexes localized at quasi-isomorphisms. This category is, in particular, triangulated, meaning it is equipped with an additional structure that allows the computation of certain homotopy limits and colimits via mapping cones. However, this construction is not functorial. To address this issue, we instead work with stable derivators [Gro13]—enhancements of triangulated categories that provide additional structure enabling the definition of homotopy Kan extensions, and consequently, of homotopy limits and colimits.

Beyond the setting of representations over a field, little is known about the derived categories when considering more general coefficients. However, recently it has been observed that a lot of properties of categories of representations are actually mere consequences of the stability —in the sense of homotopy— of the categories involved and so they hold in a much broader generality. Along this line, in the first part of the talk, we will present a purely derivator-theoretic reformulation of a classical equivalence proved by Happel and Ladkani [Lad13], showing that it occurs uniformly across stable derivators and is therefore independent of coefficients.

Moreover, in [KN02], Keller and Neeman proved that a strong connection between representation theory and homotopy theory exists. Such connection was then further developed in the framework of derivators by Groth, Ponto, Shulman and Štovíček in [GPS14] and [GŠ18]. Building on this perspective, in the second part of the talk, we will explain how the equivalence obtained in the first part can be viewed as a derivator-theoretic version of the ∞-Dold-Kan correspondence (see [Ari21] and [Lur11]) for bounded chain complexes, thereby providing a bridge between homotopy theory and representation theory. Indeed, the Dold-Kan correspondence is a central result in homotopy theory, underlying, for example, the definition of singular homology.

This talk is based on the arXiv preprint [Sav22].

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