

Category Theory 2022-23

Lecture 14

13<sup>th</sup> January 2023

A category  $\mathcal{E}$  is an elementary topos if:

- it has finite limits
- is cartesian closed
- and has a subobject classifier:

an object  $\Omega$  and map  $1 \xrightarrow{\tau} \Omega$

Such that, for any mono  $X \xrightarrow{m} Y$ ,

there exists a unique map  $Y \xrightarrow{x_m} \Omega$

such that

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X & \xrightarrow{!} & 1 \\ m \downarrow & \lrcorner & \downarrow \tau \\ Y & \xrightarrow{x_m} & \Omega \end{array}$$

is a pullback square

(Equivalently, a partial map classifier for  $1$  !)

It follows (with effort!) that every elementary topos  $\mathcal{E}$

- has finite colimits
- is locally cartesian closed:

every slice category  $\mathcal{E}/X$  is cartesian closed

- all monos and epis are regular
- every  $X \xrightarrow{f} Y$  factors as  $f = X \xrightarrow{e} Z \xrightarrow{m} Y$  where  $e$  is epi and  $m$  mono
- in every pullback square with  $e$  epi

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & \xrightarrow{f'} & \\ e' \downarrow \lrcorner & & \downarrow e \\ & \xrightarrow{f} & \end{array}$$

- $e'$  is also epi
- $f'$  mono  $\Rightarrow f$  mono

A category  $\mathcal{E}$  is a Grothendieck topos if :

- it is an elementary topos
- it has coproducts ( $\equiv$  is cocomplete)
- it is locally small
- and it has a set of generators :

there exists a set  $\mathcal{G} \subseteq |\mathcal{E}|$

such that for any parallel pair  $X \begin{smallmatrix} \xrightarrow{f} \\ \xrightarrow{g} \end{smallmatrix} Y$  in  $\mathcal{E}$

we have

$$f = g \iff \forall A \in \mathcal{G} \text{ and } A \xrightarrow{x} X \quad f \circ x = g \circ x$$

Set is a Grothendieck topos

The subobject classifier is  $1 \xrightarrow{* \mapsto \text{true}} \{\text{true}, \text{false}\}$

Given  $X \xrightarrow{m} Y$ , the unique  $Y \xrightarrow{x_m} \{\text{true}, \text{false}\}$

s.t. 
$$\begin{array}{ccc} X & \xrightarrow{!} & 1 \\ m \downarrow \lrcorner & & \downarrow * \mapsto \text{true} \\ Y & \xrightarrow{x_m} & \{\text{true}, \text{false}\} \end{array}$$
 is  $x_m(y) = \begin{cases} \text{true} & \text{if } y \in m(X) \\ \text{false} & \text{if } y \notin m(X) \end{cases}$

$\{1\}$  is a (singleton) set of generators

(1 is a generating object.)

$\text{Psh}(\mathcal{C})$  is a Grothendieck topos, for any small category  $\mathcal{C}$ .

A sieve on  $X \in |\mathcal{C}|$  is a set  $S$  of maps in  $\mathcal{C}$  with codomain  $X$  s.t.

$$Y \xrightarrow{f} X \in S \text{ and } Z \xrightarrow{g} Y \text{ in } \mathcal{C} \Rightarrow Z \xrightarrow{g \circ f} X \in S$$

$\Omega(X) :=$  the set of all sieves on  $X$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X & & \Omega(X) \\ f \uparrow & \mapsto & \downarrow S \mapsto \{Z \xrightarrow{g} Y \mid Z \xrightarrow{f \circ g} X \in S\} \\ Y & & \Omega(Y) \end{array}$$

Given a mono  $P \xrightarrow{m} Q$  in  $\text{Psh}(\mathcal{C})$

$Q \xrightarrow{x_m} \Omega$  defined by:

$$(\chi_m)_X := Y \mapsto \{Z \xrightarrow{f} X \mid \exists x \in P(Z). m_Z(x) = \underbrace{Y \cdot f}_{\text{notation for } Q(f)(Y)}\} : Q(X) \rightarrow \Omega(X)$$

is unique such that

$$\begin{array}{ccc} P & \xrightarrow{!} & 1 \\ m \downarrow \lrcorner & & \downarrow \tau \\ Q & \xrightarrow{x_m} & \Omega \end{array}$$

the maximum sieve

$$\tau_X := * \mapsto \{Z \xrightarrow{f} X \mid \text{true}\}$$

A set of generators is

$$G := \{ \underline{y}(x) \mid x \in |C| \}$$

the set of all representables

Proof that  $G$  is a generating set.

Suppose  $P \xrightleftharpoons[q]{p} Q$  is a parallel pair in  $\mathbf{Psh}(C)$

such that

$$\forall x \in |C|, \forall yx \xrightarrow{x} p \text{ in } \mathbf{Psh}(C), \quad p \circ x = q \circ x$$

By Yoneda, this says

$$\forall x \in |C| \quad \forall x \in P(x) \quad p_x(x) = q_x(x).$$

I.e.  $p = q$ .

$\mathcal{S}h(S)$  is a Grothendieck topos, for any top. space  $S$ .

A key preliminary result is

Theorem The inclusion functor

$$\mathcal{S}h(S) \hookrightarrow \mathcal{P}sh(\mathcal{O}(S))$$

has a left-exact left adjoint

preserves  
finite limits

$$\mathcal{P}sh(\mathcal{O}(S)) \xrightarrow{a} \mathcal{S}h(S)$$

the associated sheaf- (or sheafification) functor.



Grothendieck's  $(\cdot)^+$  functor  $\text{Psh}(\mathcal{O}(S)) \rightarrow \text{Psh}(\mathcal{O}(S))$

Given a presheaf  $P: \mathcal{O}(S)^{op} \rightarrow \underline{\text{Set}}$

Define  $P^+(U) = \text{equivalence classes of matching families covering } U$

Recall a matching family covering  $U$  is

$$(x_i \in P(U_i))_{i \in I} \text{ for some } (U_i)_{i \in I} \text{ with } \bigcup_{i \in I} U_i = U$$

such that, for all  $i, j \in I$ ,  $x_i|_{U_i \cap U_j} = x_j|_{U_i \cap U_j}$

Define

$$(x_i \in P(U_i))_{i \in I} \sim (x'_j \in P(U'_j))_{j \in J}$$

to hold if  $\forall i \in I, j \in J \quad x_i|_{U_i \cap U'_j} = x'_j|_{U_i \cap U'_j}$

Exercise: • work out the morphism action of  $P^+$   
and check that it respects the equivalence relation.

• work out the morphism action of the functor  $(\cdot)^+$

The functions

$$x \in P(u) \mapsto [(x \in P(u))]_{\sim}$$

indexed by  $u \in \mathcal{O}(X)$  define a natural transformation  $P \rightarrow P^+$

We say  $P$  is separated if every matching family has at most one amalgamation.

Recall a presheaf  $P$  is a sheaf if every matching family has a unique amalgamation.)

Lemma (Grothendieck)

1) The functor  $(\cdot)^+ : \text{Psh}(\mathcal{O}(U)) \rightarrow \text{Psh}(\mathcal{O}(U))$  preserves finite limits.

2) Given a sheaf  $\mathcal{Q}$  and presheaf map  $P \xrightarrow{f} \mathcal{Q}$ , there is a unique presheaf map  $P^+ \xrightarrow{\bar{f}} \mathcal{Q}$  s.t.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} P^+ & \xrightarrow{\bar{f}} & \mathcal{Q} \\ \uparrow \wr & \nearrow f & \\ P & & \end{array}$$

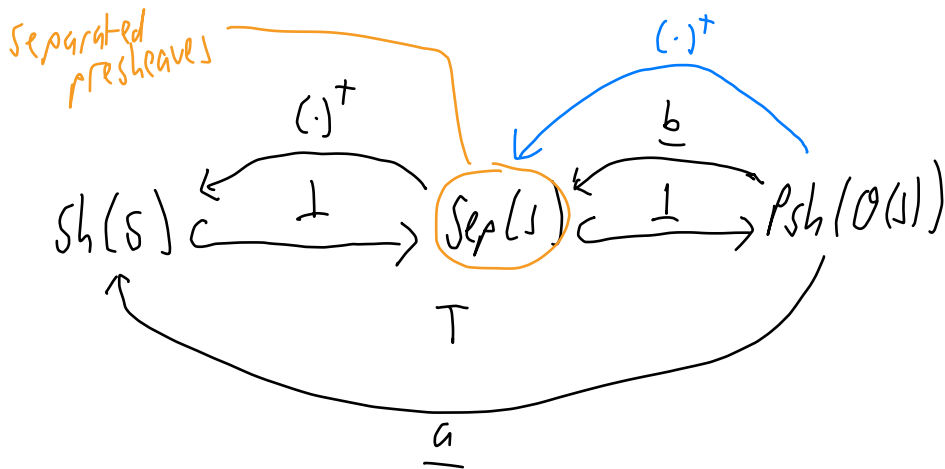
3) For every presheaf  $P$ ,  $P^+$  is separated.

4) If  $P$  is separated then  $P^+$  is a sheaf.

It follows immediately from the lemma that  $\underline{a} := (\ )^{++}$  defines a left-exact left adjoint to

$$\underline{I} : \mathcal{Sh}(S) \hookrightarrow \mathcal{Psh}(\mathcal{O}(S))$$

A subtle point.  $\underline{I}$  can be written as a composition of inclusion functors with left adjoints (in black)



We also have a functor  $(\ )^+ : \mathcal{Psh}(\mathcal{O}(S)) \rightarrow \mathcal{Sep}(S)$

Since adjoints compose  $\underline{a} \cong (\ )^+ \circ \underline{b}$

and by definition  $\underline{a} = (\ )^+ \circ (\ )^+$

However,  $\underline{b} \neq (\ )^+ : \mathcal{Psh}(\mathcal{O}(S)) \rightarrow \mathcal{Sep}(S)$

An advantage of  $(\ )^+$  is it preserves finite limits ( $\underline{b}$  doesn't!)

We are looking at a special type of adjunction

A full subcategory  $\mathcal{C}'$  of  $\mathcal{C}$  is said to be reflective if the inclusion functor  $\mathcal{C}' \hookrightarrow \mathcal{C}$  has a left adjoint  $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}'$ .

In such an adjunction, the counit  $\varepsilon: FI \Rightarrow 1_{\mathcal{C}'}$  is a natural isomorphism and, for any  $Y \in |\mathcal{C}'|$ , the component  $Y \xrightarrow{\varepsilon_Y} IFY$  of the unit  $\varepsilon: 1_{\mathcal{C}} \Rightarrow IF$  is an iso.

These observations are generalised by:

Proposition Given an adjunction  $F \dashv G: \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  with counit  $\varepsilon: FG \Rightarrow 1_{\mathcal{D}}$  and unit  $\eta: 1_{\mathcal{C}} \Rightarrow GF$ .

- 1)  $G$  is faithful iff every component of  $\varepsilon$  is an epi in  $\mathcal{D}$ .
- 2)  $G$  is full iff every component of  $\varepsilon$  is a split mono in  $\mathcal{D}$ .
- 3)  $G$  is full & faithful iff every  $\varepsilon$  component is an iso in  $\mathcal{D}$ .

If  $G$  is full and faithful then define  $\mathcal{C}'$  to be the full subcategory of  $\mathcal{C}$  on objects  $X$  such that  $\varepsilon_X$  is an iso. Then  $FI: \mathcal{C}' \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$  is an equivalence of categories and

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{C}' & \xrightarrow{I} & \mathcal{C} \\ FI \downarrow & \xrightarrow[\cong]{\varepsilon} & \nearrow G \\ \mathcal{D} & & \end{array}$$

The full subcategory  $\mathcal{C}'$  in the proposition enjoys the property that it is replete:

$$X \in |\mathcal{C}'|, Y \in |\mathcal{C}|, X \cong Y \Rightarrow Y \in \mathcal{C}'.$$

By the proposition, any adjunction with full and faithful right adjoint (in particular any full reflective subcategory) is equivalent to a replete full reflective subcategory.

Naturally occurring examples of full reflective subcategories are often replete by definition

e.g.  $\text{Sh}(\mathcal{S}) \hookrightarrow \text{Psh}(\mathcal{O}(\mathcal{S}))$

$$\text{Sep}(\mathcal{S}) \hookrightarrow \text{Psh}(\mathcal{O}(\mathcal{S}))$$

$$\text{Sh}(\mathcal{S}) \hookrightarrow \text{Sep}(\mathcal{S}).$$

Suppose  $S$  is a reflective replete full subcategory of  $C$  with reflection  $F \dashv I: S \hookrightarrow C$ .

Proposition  $I$  creates limits.

It follows that any reflective full subcategory of a complete category is complete, with limits calculated as in the supercategory.

Proposition If a diagram  $D: G \rightarrow S$  has colimit  $\varinjlim D$  in  $C$  then it has colimit  $F(\varinjlim D) \circ (\natural ID)$  in  $S$ .

So any full reflective subcategory of a cocomplete category is cocomplete, with colimits calculated by reflecting colimits in the supercategory.

(Continuing with the assumptions of the previous page.)

Proposition If  $C$  is cartesian closed and  $F: C \rightarrow S$  preserves finite products then  $S$  is an exponential ideal of  $C$ :

$$y \in |S|, x \in |C| \Rightarrow [x, y] \in S$$

In particular  $S$  is cartesian closed and the inclusion  $S \xrightarrow{I} C$  preserves cartesian closed structure.

Returning to

$$\text{Sh}(S) \begin{array}{c} \xleftarrow{\quad \underline{a} \quad} \\ \xrightarrow[\quad I \quad]{\quad 1 \quad} \end{array} \text{Psh}(\mathcal{O}(S))$$

By Lecture 11,  $\text{Psh}(\mathcal{O}(S))$  is complete,  
cocomplete and cartesian closed.

By the above,  $\text{Sh}(S)$  is also complete,  
cocomplete and cartesian closed.



The subject classifier in  $Sh(S)$

$$\Omega_S(U) := \{u' \in \mathcal{O}(S) \mid u' \subseteq U\}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} U & & \Omega_S(U) \\ U \vee V & \mapsto & \downarrow (u' \mapsto u' \wedge V) \\ V & & \Omega_S(V) \end{array}$$

This is a sheaf. It is isomorphic to the sheaf  $C_{S_i}$  of continuous functions into Sierpinski space  $S_i = \{\perp, \top\}$   $\mathcal{O}(S_i) = \{\emptyset, \{\top\}, \{\perp, \top\}\}$

$$\underline{1 \xrightarrow{\top} \Omega}$$

$$\tau_u := * \mapsto u : \gamma_u \rightarrow \Omega_S(u)$$

## Exercise

Verify that the above indeed defines a subobject classifier in  $\mathcal{S}h(\mathcal{S})$ .

Key point

Consider any subpresheaf  $P$

$$P \subseteq \mathcal{Q}$$

of a sheaf  $\mathcal{Q}$ ,

the components of the mono are all subset inclusions

characterise when it holds that  $P$  is also a sheaf.

$\mathcal{S}h(\mathcal{S})$  is indeed an elementary topos

Proposition Every representable  $y(U)$  is a sheaf.

Since the set of representables is a generating set in  $\mathcal{Psh}(\mathcal{O}(S))$ , it is also a generating set in  $\mathcal{Sh}(S)$ .

$\mathcal{Sh}(S)$  is a Grothendieck topos!

Exercise • Every representable is isomorphic to a unique subsheaf of  $1$ .

• Every subsheaf of  $1$  is isomorphic to a unique representable.

Representables coincide with subterminal objects, and  $\mathcal{Sh}(S)$  has a generating set of subterminals.

# Other example families of toposes

- Sheaves on a locale. Grothendieck toposes generalising sheaves on a topological space.
- Sheaves on a site (small category + Grothendieck topology). These are exactly the Grothendieck toposes.
- Realisability toposes. Elementary (but not Grothendieck) toposes related to logic and Computability theory.

Higher-dimensional analogues of Grothendieck toposes are important in topology; e.g.,

- Infinity toposes of Jacob Lurie.