

Hegel in Mathematics

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1 Introduction

One might be surprised to find Hegel's thought in the middle of a deep intersection between current research of logic, mathematics and physics, yet it would not have surprised Hegel, who saw in his method something with universal applicability. That he even *had* a method and was not just using obtuse language without or with trivial meaning was often called into question, particularly by the analytical school, starting with Russell in his *History of Western Philosophy*[18]:

The great mathematicians of the seventeenth century were optimistic and anxious for quick results; consequently they left the foundations of analytical geometry and the infinitesimal calculus insecure. Leibnitz believed in actual infinitesimals, but although this belief suited his metaphysics it has no sound basis in mathematics. Weierstrass, soon after the middle of the nineteenth century, showed how to establish the calculus without infinitesimals, and thus at last made it logically secure. Next came Georg Cantor, who developed the theory of continuity and infinite number. “Continuity” had been, until he defined it, a vague word, convenient for philosophers like Hegel, who wished to introduce metaphysical muddles into mathematics. Cantor gave a precise significance to the word, and showed that continuity, as he defined it, was the concept needed by mathematicians and physicists.

It is ironic that the concepts Russell used in his attack, infinitesimals and “continuity”, have been particularly useful, once re-evaluated through the recent formalization of Hegel’s thought in the context of modal homotopy type theory. This work was started by William Lawvere in the 1985s[12]:

In early 1985, while I was studying the foundations of homotopy theory, it occurred to me that the explicit use of a certain simple categorical structure might serve as a link between mathematics and philosophy.

Lawvere went on to provide a formally strict logical calculus that tries to capture Hegelian dialectics and started the formalization of Hegel’s objective logic [13]. However, the mathematical power of Lawvere’s formalization, though already considerable, was restricted by the mathematics it was founded on¹. More recently, a new foundation of mathematics was developed under the initiative of Vladimir Voevodsky in homotopy type theory, which provides an alternative to set theory and a setting for logic based on a radical interpretation of equality, which amplifies its power and has been found to show remarkable similarity to Hegel’s thought. However, the importance of these developments exceeds mathematics and reaches into philosophy. Lawvere stated in 1992[10]:

It is my belief that in the next decade and in the next century the technical advances forged by category theorists will be of value to dialectical philosophy, lending precise form with disputable mathematical models to ancient philosophical distinctions such as general vs. particular, objective vs. subjective, being vs. becoming, space vs. quantity, equality vs. difference, quantitative vs. qualitative etc. In turn the explicit attention by mathematicians to such philosophical questions is necessary to achieve the goal of making mathematics

¹There is also some indication that Lawvere might not actually appreciate the current extension of his work due to his dislike of ∞ -categories.

(and hence other sciences) more widely learnable and useable. Of course this will require that philosophers learn mathematics and that mathematicians learn philosophy.

This article aims to provide an exposition of the current state of the formalization of Hegel's thought, as continued in particular by Urs Schreiber, as it appeared first in [23] and [20]. A preliminary dictionary has been set up in [25]², but it assumes an understanding of several new mathematical disciplines. Usually it is impossible to explain current mathematical research to a layperson, but the particularly intuitive character of the disciplines in question might allow doing so in this special case. This is attempted here.

1.1 How to read this text

A work like this is inevitably torn between contradictory priorities. Should it be easily understandable or exact? Exactness demands mathematics, and since the intended audience is one of non-mathematicians, exactness has to be sacrificed for digestibility at certain points. However, mathematical notation, once it is understood, actually greatly aids clarity, hence it has been adapted. So some necessary mathematical notation is introduced throughout the text, sometimes with a, more or less exact, definition, sometimes dialectical, so that their meaning might not be immediately understood but becomes clarified throughout the text. In such a case, readers are advised to use the meaning of a word they intuit, and allow it to be modified throughout the text.

Furthermore, should the focus be on the current theory, or on Hegel's relationship to it? The foremost purpose of this work is its applicability, thus exposition on the theory is generally preferred. However, quotes which are relevant for the identification of Hegel's terms with mathematical constructions are generally given, both in the original German and English, though this had the side effect of increasing the length of the work. We will be using the translation of A. V. Miller and importing its paragraph numbering.

It should be noted that this text is an exposition of the current (and ongoing, though somewhat stalled) formalization of Hegel's work as extended by Urs Schreiber and others, *not* of Lawvere's original formalization, so when terminology between Lawvere and Schreiber is in conflict, current terminology is preferred over Lawvere's.

Since it cannot describe the mathematics it is rooted in, this work is inevitably incomplete. As such, curious readers are invited to look up the details for themselves. Almost all the material presented here is contained in [25]³,

²see also [22], [24] for an exposition with particular focus on the role of homotopy type theory, [21], particularly for more detail on the mathematical structures and the physics, and section 5 in [2]

³See also

which also includes some philosophical reflections in the introduction which will not be recapitulated since they can be read with ease. If any take up the invitation, this work should form a good companion piece to aid the endeavour by providing intuitive guidance.

2 Category-theoretic preliminaries

Over the past century, mathematics went through a rapid increase in expressiveness, as it subsumed not just *quantities* like numbers, but also *qualitative* meaning, as the focus shifted first from concrete entities, like numbers, to the structures they inhabit, like groups, to the relationships between those structures and the realms they inhabit, which are categories. However, abstraction did not stop there, but went on to define a whole slew of higher categories. These higher categories are where the constructions behind our definitions reside. We will however only need the barest fundamentals of category theory, for a more comprehensive introduction we refer to [14], see also [9] for a philosophical treatment. An $((\infty, 1)\text{-})$ category⁴ consists of a *type* of *objects* X and a type of *morphisms* $X \xrightarrow{f} Y$, such that each morphism has a *source* and a *target*, a morphism f with a target X can be composed with a morphism g with source X to a morphism $f;g$, and every object X has a morphism id_X called its *identity*, such that, whenever a morphism is composed with id_X , the result is equal to the morphism itself: $id_X;f = f$ and $g;id_X = g$. Such objects can be identified with Hegel’s *Dinge*, expressed as in §1065a (of *Science of Logic* [4]):

Diese mehreren verschiedenen Dinge stehen in wesentlicher Wechselwirkung durch ihre Eigenschaften; die Eigenschaft ist diese Wechselbeziehung selbst, und das Ding ist nichts außer derselben

These many different things stand in essential reciprocal action via their properties; the property is this reciprocal relation itself and apart from it the thing is nothing;

so the “nature” of an object in category theory is completely determined by its relations to other objects⁵. In this sense, category theory can be seen as a formalization of mathematical *structuralism* (see also [1]).

⁴The following definition yields categories when applied to normal types, as they are usually understood and explained in the next section. However, when we apply the same definition to homotopy type theory, as explained in 5, we get $(\infty, 1)$ -categories, thus we don’t have to define them separately.

⁵However, a mathematical object can live in different categories at once, if it allows, or necessitates, several different kinds of structures. For instance, the “real numbers” are a field, and as such live in the category of fields, but they are also a total order, so they live in the category total orders. If an object lives in several categories at once, the internal properties of the object often give rise to relations between the categories it is living in.

We will mostly be focused on one particular (kind of) category, the *universe of types*⁶. There are several possible candidates for such a category, and we will not make a choice yet. Rather, we will outline the *theory* that has to be satisfied by such a choice, and choose a *model* later.

3 Calculus of Hegelian dialectics

Using category theory, we can explain Schreiber’s formulation of Lawvere’s formulation of Hegelian dialectics. For this, what Hegel calls a “Moment” is formalized as a (co)modality on a category ⁷ C : an operator \Box that maps an object X of C to an object $\Box X$ called the *aspect* of X under \Box , maps a morphism $Y \xrightarrow{f} X$ to a morphism $\Box Y \xrightarrow{\Box(f)} \Box X$, and is idempotent: $\Box\Box = \Box$, together with, for each object X , a morphism between X and the image of X under the operator: $\Box X \rightarrow X$ or $X \rightarrow \bigcirc(X)$. The direction of the morphism depends on whether the moment is a modality or a comodality. We will call moments of the form $\Box(X) \rightarrow X$ *previous* moments and denote them by \Box , while we call moments of the form $X \rightarrow \bigcirc(X)$ *successive* moments⁸⁹.

Due to idempotency, any type that lies in the image of a moment is *purely of that moment* (and vice versa): $Y = \Box X \Leftrightarrow \Box Y = Y$. Thus, the types that are invariant under a moment form their own sub-category: $C_\Box \hookrightarrow C$. The image $\Box X$ of a type X under that moment should be thought of as “the best possible approximation of X in C_\Box ” or the \Box -aspect of X , and the transformation $\Box X \rightarrow X$ (resp. $X \rightarrow \bigcirc(X)$), depending on the exact nature of the moment, either a deduction of X from $\Box X$ ($\bigcirc X$ from X), an embedding of $\Box X$ into X (X into $\bigcirc X$), or a construction that makes $\Box X$ into X (X into $\bigcirc X$). From a category-theoretic perspective, this can be understood as saying that a moment \Box can be decomposed into a *projection* of C onto another category C_\Box :

$$C \twoheadrightarrow C_\Box$$

and an *embedding* of C_\Box into C

$$C_\Box \hookrightarrow C.$$

Now, the concept of a *unity of opposites* is translated into a pair of moments $\triangle_1 \dashv \triangle_2$ that fulfill the *adjointness condition*: for any two objects X, Y and

⁶Of course, this is a *mathematical* universe that houses *mathematical* structures, we will only get to our physical universe at the very end.

⁷In later sections we will mainly look at universes of types, but the potential applicability of Lawvere’s calculus is much more general.

⁸The *preceding* and *successive* terminology, as well as definitions building on it, are original work.

⁹Please note that these dialectics are *not* of a temporal, but of *causal* manner. These two overlap in our universe, but in general, causality does not require time, which is why logic can be used when reasoning about mathematical objects. This is in line with Hegel’s use of the word “moment”, which he always used in the neutral gender i.e. “das Moment”, meaning an aspect of something, while he also used “der Moment” with usual temporal meaning (see also p. 43- 44 in[8]). However, the analogy to time inherent in the word is welcome for consequent nomenclature and gives the term a kind of double meaning.

each morphism $\triangle_1 Y \rightarrow X$ exists a morphism $Y \rightarrow \triangle_2 X$, and these are subject to a further naturality condition. Adjunctions are deep structures that can be expressed in a variety of ways, this being the most concrete, and the reader cannot be expected to immediately grasp the meaning of the adjointness condition. However, some of its consequences can be used for better understanding. For instance, it follows that if one of the \triangle_i is a preceding moment \square , then the other is a successive moment \bigcirc and vice versa, so that a unity of opposites is either a *unity of a preceding to an opposite successive moment* (or *ps-unity* for short) of the form $\square \dashv \bigcirc$ or a *unity of a successive to an opposite preceding moment* (or *sp-unity*) $\bigcirc \dashv \square$. So a unity of opposites is made up of moments that are actually of opposite kinds (preceding to successive), and two opposite kinds of unities of opposites exist. Furthermore, one part of a unity of opposites uniquely determines the other in that, if $\square \dashv \bigcirc_1$ and $\square \dashv \bigcirc_2$, then \bigcirc_1 and \bigcirc_2 are equal, and the other way around (however, a moment can have both a left and a right opposite, so the opposition is actually directed). Each type X sits in between its preceding and successive aspects (let us call this the *aspect sequence of the unity*):

$$\square X \rightarrow X \rightarrow \bigcirc X.$$

Finally, the two sub-universes C_\square , C_\bigcirc determined by the modalities are both equal *without the context of the surrounding universe C* , so their opposition actually lies in their relationship to the larger category, and to be opposites they have to be the same. More precisely, we can, recalling the decomposition of moments into a projection and an embedding we saw before, say that the opposites of a unity share each one of their morphisms and describe the situation in the following way: a *ps-unity* $\square \dashv \bigcirc$ consists of *two* embeddings of the same sub-universe $C_\square = C_\bigcirc$ into the universe C and *one* projection from C onto \mathcal{V} :

$$C_\square \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\quad} \\ \xleftarrow{\quad} \\ \xrightarrow{\quad} \end{array} C$$

while an *sp-unity* consists of *one* embedding of \mathcal{V} into C and *two* projections of C onto \mathcal{V} :

$$C_\square \begin{array}{c} \xleftarrow{\quad} \\ \xrightarrow{\quad} \\ \xleftarrow{\quad} \end{array} C$$

From this follows in particular that in an *sp-unity* $\square \bigcirc X = \square \square Y = \square Y = \bigcirc X$ and vice versa, so $\square \bigcirc = \bigcirc$ and $\bigcirc \square = \square$. Thus, a type is purely of one moment if and only if it is purely of the other.

Adjunctions are category-theoretic concepts and thus can be applied in any suitable 2-category, so that an adjunction between a unity of opposites might itself be adjoint to a another unity of opposites[15]. This “opposite to a unity” of opposites $\triangle_1 \dashv \triangle_2$ is another unity of opposites, and their relation will be denoted

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \Delta_3 & \dashv & \Delta_4 \\ \perp & & \perp \\ \Delta_1 & \dashv & \Delta_2 \end{array} .$$

From abstract nonsense, it follows that in such a configuration, the left moment of the first unity has to be equal to the right moment of the second unity: $\Delta_1 = \Delta_4$. So each unity of opposites of unities takes the form of a string of modalities $\Diamond \dashv \Box \dashv \bigcirc$ or $\star \dashv \bigcirc \dashv \Box$. We could ask for even higher opposites, but examples are rare and largely in categories with exotic or no logics¹⁰.

The other significant relation between unities of opposites is that of *Aufhebung*. Following (Schreiber's formalization of) Hegel, we say a unity of opposites $\Delta_3 \dashv \Delta_4$ is a *higher sphere*¹¹ of a unity of opposites $\Delta_2 \dashv \Delta_1$, denoted

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \Delta_3 & \dashv & \Delta_4 \\ \vee & & \vee \\ \Delta_1 & \dashv & \Delta_2 \end{array}$$

if Δ_1 is contained in Δ_3 : $\Delta_3 \Delta_1 = \Delta_1$ and Δ_2 is contained in Δ_4 : $\Delta_4 \Delta_2 = \Delta_2$. A higher sphere $\Box_2 \rightarrow \bigcirc_2$ of a unity $\Box_1 \rightarrow \bigcirc_1$ is a *right Aufhebung* of $\Box_1 \rightarrow \bigcirc_1$ if furthermore \Box_1 is contained in \bigcirc_2 : $\bigcirc_2 \Box_1 = \Box_1$ and a *left Aufhebung* if \bigcirc_1 is contained in \Box_2 : $\Box_2 \bigcirc_1 = \bigcirc_1$. Both kinds can be referred to as *Aufhebungen*. We can similarly define *Aufhebungen* for *sp*-unities $\bigcirc \dashv \Box$, however, since in an *sp*-unity both moments project into the same sub-universe, each higher sphere of $\bigcirc \dashv \Box$ is already both a left and a right *Aufhebung*. We will denote a right *Aufhebung* as

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \Box_2 & \dashv & \bigcirc_2 \\ \vee & & \vee \\ \Box_1 & & \dashv \bigcirc_1 \end{array}$$

and a left *Aufhebung* as

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \Box_2 & \dashv & \bigcirc_2 \\ \vee & & \vee \\ \Box_1 & \dashv & \bigcirc_1 \end{array}$$

So an *Aufhebung* of $\Box_1 \dashv \bigcirc_1$ is a unity of opposites $\Box_2 \dashv \bigcirc_2$ such that \Box_1 is a special aspect of \Box_2 and \bigcirc_1 is a special aspect of \bigcirc_2 , but where *also* both \bigcirc_1 and \bigcirc_2 are special aspects of one of the aspects of $\Box_2 \dashv \bigcirc_2$, let's say \bigcirc_2 , so that they are unified in \bigcirc_2 and both on the same side of a greater

¹⁰For instance, the forgetful functor of the category of modules of a projective algebra is part of a five-fold adjunction. It could be interesting to see how it interacts with their internal type theory.

¹¹This translation of the German word “Sphäre” is problematic because the meaning of “Sphäre” as a ball is less pronounced relative to the meaning “höhere Sphäre” as in “higher sphere of existence”, compared to the English word “sphere”. The topos-theoretic concept that Lawvere's dialectics is based on is called “higher level”, which might be a better translation, since “sphere” too much invokes the image of something round.

opposition. From this follows that the opposition $\square_2 \dashv \bigcirc_2$ is trivial on, in this case, \square_1 : $\square_2 \square_1 = \square_1 = \bigcirc_2 \square_1$.

Generally, *Aufhebungen* are not unique, the same unity can have several of them. The *minimal (left/right) Aufhebung* of a unity $\square \dashv \bigcirc$, the smallest sphere that fulfills the *Aufhebungs-condition* would be unique, but does not always exist¹².

4 *Subjektive Logik* as Type Theory

Following the work of Martin-Löf [16], Schreiber identifies the part of Hegelian logic which he calls “subjektive Logik” and which has been understood as classical logic, in his formalization with the deductive part of type theory, and extends to type theory in general. A “Begriff” is here understood as a type. For this identification, it should be noted that the mathematical term “type” is abstracted from “type of mathematical structure”, and one way to understand a type is as the container of a type of mathematical structure. Furthermore, each logical proposition p is associated to a type T that can be understood as the “type of reasons p is true”, so that a *constituent* t of T can be understood as a “reason” p is true. Type theory can be used as an alternative to set theory, and is also an extension of first order logic (often assumed without the law of the excluded middle $\neg\neg p \Rightarrow p$, a point we will return to): if T contains the reasons a proposition p is true and S contains the reasons q is true, then a morphism $m : T \rightarrow S$, which associates to each constituent t of T a constituent $m(t)$ of S , can be understood as a *deduction* of q from p , and be identified with Hegel’s *Urteil* (judgement). Similarly, the other logical equivalents of conjunction and disjunction have type-theoretic equivalents. The passage from “reasons” for a proposition p to simply asking whether p is true consists then of a simple operation that can be accomplished within type theory.

5 *Wesen* as Homotopy Type Theory

We will now discuss homotopy type theory even though this extension of type theory is identified with the Hegelian notion of *Wesen*, which has been translated, not very faithfully, as “essence”, because it will ease our analysis of the moments we will derive. The revolutionary advancement of homotopy type theory over traditional logic is to treat equality not as a property but as a structure. Concretely, this means the following: for any two constituents s, t of a type T ¹³,

¹²As usual, we are following [25] in our terminology. Lawvere *defines* an *Aufhebung* as being minimal[10]. However, in light of the following derivation of unities this seems too restrictive a notion.

¹³But *not* for constituents of different types, in other words, constituents of different types are not just not equal, the question of whether they are equal cannot even be asked, at least without the context of a morphism between the two types.

there exists a type $s =_T t$ of *equalities* of s and t . Of course, for any two constituents of $s =_T t$ a similar type of equalities exists, and so on. One way equality has traditionally been understood is as the strongest possible equivalence relation. In homotopy type theory, this is translated to saying that, given an equality $e : s =_T t$ between two constituents s and t , each property that holds for a constituent s has to also hold for constituent t *once it has been transported along e* . In particular, if there are two equalities $e, f : s =_T t$, then f *yields an equality $e^{-1}; f : t =_T t$ of t to itself once it has been transported along e* . We can now define a *morphism* $m : S \rightarrow T$ between homotopy types S, T recursively as a mapping that associates to each constituent $s : S$ of S a constituent $m(s)$ of T and, for each pair of constituents s, s' , a morphism from the homotopy type $s =_S s'$ to $m(s) =_T m(s')$, satisfying a condition that expresses that it does not matter whether an equality is transported along another equality before or after applying a morphism. Furthermore, there is always at least one equality id_t for each constituent t to a type T and a morphism always maps id_t to $id_{m(t)}$. This is identified with Hegel's first law of thought that

Alles ist sich selbst gleich; $A = A$.

Everything is identical with itself, $A = A$.

The homotopy-theoretic interpretation of equality can be visualized by imagining a type T as a space, constituents $s, t : T$ as points within this space and equalities $e, f : s =_T t$ as paths between the points s and t . The self-equality $e^{-1}; f : t =_T t$ of t can then be understood as going first from t to s along e , then going from s to t along f , so that the end result $e^{-1}; f$ is a circle from t to t . A higher equality $\alpha : s =_T t$ could be visualized as a surface between the paths e and f , and so on. In particular, T contains only one constituent if and only if its visualization is *connected*. A morphism between homotopy types then maps points to points, paths to paths, surfaces to surfaces, and so on. Two homotopy types are equivalent if and only if they both have the same form once their fabric has been contracted as much as possible without glueing in new fabric anywhere, or, equivalently, if they have the same n -dimensional holes. The condition that a property should hold for any equal constituents once it has been transported along an equality can be translated to stating that each property can be transported along any path in the space. Understanding spaces through their points and paths between them is called homotopy theory¹⁴, and our mental image can be formalized into the statement that homotopy types can be modeled by topological spaces up to homotopy. It should be stressed that *this is a model*. If s and t are constituents which are equal, they obviously cannot be different points in a space. However, this model is important as it, conversely, allows us to model geometric shapes through equalities. We will return to this.

¹⁴See [17] for an introduction.

Homotopy theory has been of great use in modern mathematics. Each space can be assigned an underlying homotopy type, which captures a lot of information about that space. In a short while we will come across homotopy types that have *additional* geometric structure and study how Hegelian thought can be used to describe the relationship between a space and its underlying homotopy type.

It should be in this way that each equality that has appeared in this exposition up to now should be understood, not as *saying* that its two expressions are equal, but as explicitly providing an equality that generally will not be the same as any other given equality between them. Another way to understand these equalities is as *equivalences*, in that they provide a means by which two structures can be exhibited as fulfilling the same function. This is a philosophical problem that has plagued modern mathematics since the formalization of its structures: often two structures are equivalent (or “isomorphic”¹⁵) in the sense that they fulfill the same function, but not equal. Furthermore, making them equal would lose valuable information. Intuitively, the problem is that, classically, there can be at most one equality between two structures. In homotopy type theory, equivalence and equality can be treated equivalently (and are thus equal). A way to express this is to posit the existence of a “type of types”. However, doing this naively we would run into problems similar to Russell’s paradox. To deal with this issue, usually a hierarchy of *Grothendieck universes* \mathcal{U}_i is assumed, each containing the previous one, so that the universe \mathcal{U}_{i+1} contains a type of \mathcal{U}_i -small objects. This type *Type* contains (\mathcal{U}_i) -small types as objects. Once we identify the universe of types with Hegel’s *Wesen*, following the reasoning outlined in the next chapter, this state of affairs can be understood as a formalization of Hegel’s dictum that (§115)

Das Wesen scheint in sich, oder ist reine Reflexion...

At first, essence shines or shows within itself, or is pure reflection...

Thus, for any two (small) types S, T , a type $S =_{Type} T$ of equalities between S and T exists. This state of things fits fairly well with Hegel’s dictum on *Verschiedenheit*:

Alle Dinge sind verschieden, oder: Es giebt nicht zwei Dinge, die einander gleich sind.

All things are different; or: there are no two things like each other.

can be translated to $(S \simeq T) \simeq (S =_{Type} T)$, where the left item is the type of equivalences between S and T in the outer universe, while the right item is

¹⁵Actually, isomorphism is only the first in a hierarchy of increasingly weaker notions of equivalence that all collapse to equality if homotopy type theory is assumed. This is useful for the purposes of higher category theory, where these weaker equivalences are what actually matters, since isomorphism would be too strong a notion, similarly to how equality is too strong for lower-categorical structures.

the type of equalities between S and T in its type of (small) types. This again can be understood in Hegel’s terms as in §1149:

Das innere ist als die Form der reflektierten Unmittelbarkeit oder des Wesens, gegen das Aussere als die Form des Seins bestimmt, aber beide sind nur eine Identität.

The inner is determined as the form of reflected immediacy or of essence against the outer as the form of being, but the two are only one identity.

An introduction to homotopy type theory is [26], which should be readable without mathematical prerequisites.

6 Objective Logic

Here we enter Hegel’s objective logic, where we derive moments from the theory of types. For this, we have to assume certain types exist, at least in theory. First we assume the existence of a (unique) type with one constituent $*$. This type is identified with Hegel’s *being*. As Hegel says “it has no diversity within itself nor any with a reference outwards”: everything within it is equal. Furthermore, we see that indeed the one-constituent type $*$ has no diversity with a reference outwards in that every morphism $m : * \rightarrow T$ from $*$ to any other type is of the same form: a constituent $m(*)$ of T , which can (and, in a sense, should, as we will see) be thought of as a point in a completely homogenous, completely symmetric space of points. We can also see that from each type T , exactly one morphism $T \rightarrow *$ exists, mapping each constituent of T to $*$. This can be thought of as everything in T becoming equal¹⁶.

Next we introduce the *empty type* \emptyset . This is a type that contains no constituents and is identified with Hegel’s *Nichts* (nothing)¹⁷. Inspecting the possibilities for morphisms on \emptyset , we notice that a unique morphism exists from the empty type to any other type, with empty source and therefore empty image. This can be taken as a generalization of the logical proposition that “ex falso

¹⁶Please note here that this becoming equal can be understood as projecting all of T onto a single element, or as inserting equalities between any pair of constituents of T , inserting equalities between those equalities and so on, until everything is equal. According to homotopy type theory, these two processes are the same.

¹⁷It should be noted here that there is a canonical filtration of any ∞ -topos \mathcal{U} (such as the universe of homotopy types) by truncation modalities $\tau_{\leq n}$, where $\tau_{\leq -1}(\mathcal{U})$ is the total order of truth values. In classical logic only two truth values exist, *true*, which we identify with $*$, and *false*, which we identify with \emptyset , so the image of $\tau_{\leq -1}$ has the concrete form of $\emptyset \rightarrow *$. Furthermore, the image $\tau_{-2}(\mathcal{U})$ is the one object subcategory on $*$. In this sense, Hegel’s introduction of being before nothing is correct. Reasoning within homotopy type theory, the fact that being is in this sense more fundamental than nothing can be understood as saying that if nothing (identified with the empty type \emptyset) exists, this nothing is equal to itself by id_\emptyset , thus the existence of nothing implies the existence of being. Notice the similarity to Hegel’s description of nothing as “simply equality with itself”.

quot libet”.

Though we have introduced $*$ and \emptyset as axioms, we could also *deduce* their existence from that of finite products and coproducts in the universe \mathcal{U} in question, which is equivalent to its internal logic allowing the formation of arbitrary finite conjunctions resp. disjunctions. $*$ is then the product over nothing, the conjunction of no propositions, which corresponds to Hegel’s description of being as¹⁸

Sein, reines Sein,
ohne alle weitere Bestimmung.

Being, pure being,
without any further determination.

Dually, \emptyset is the coproduct over nothing. Here an interpretation is more subtle, since binary disjunction in a universe of types is not actually the binary coproduct, but the (-1) -truncation of the binary coproduct. For this reason it is better in this context to think of the coproduct over nothing not in terms of propositions but view it as expressing a disjoint union, which means then that \emptyset is the disjoint union of no sets/types.

We can now form our first unity of opposites. The left moment will be denoted \emptyset and is defined by $\emptyset T := \emptyset$. Similarly the right moment will be denoted $*$ and is defined by $*T := *$. The adjunction condition is trivially fulfilled: $Hom(\emptyset, T) = * = Hom(T, *)$. This unity $\emptyset \dashv *$ corresponds to *becoming* as in Hegel’s description

Das reine Seyn und das reine Nichts ist also dasselbe. Was die Wahrheit ist, ist weder das Seyn, noch das Nichts, sondern daß das Seyn in Nichts, und das Nichts in Seyn,—nicht übergeht,—sondern übergegangen ist. Aber eben so sehr ist die Wahrheit nicht ihre Ununterschiedenheit, sondern daß sie nicht dasselbe, daß sie absolut unterschieden, aber ebenso ungetrennt und untrennbar sind, und unmittelbar jedes in seinem Gegentheil verschwindet. Ihre Wahrheit ist also diese Bewegung des unmittelbaren Verschwindens des einen in dem andern; das Werden; eine Bewegung, worin beide unterschieden sind, aber durch einen Unterschied, der sich eben so unmittelbar aufgelöst hat.

Pure Being and pure nothing are, therefore, the same. What is the truth is neither being nor nothing, but that being — does not pass over but has passed over — into nothing, and nothing into being. But it is equally true that they are not undistinguished from each other, that, on the contrary, they are not the same, that they are absolutely distinct, and yet that they are unseparated and inseparable

¹⁸This correspondence is original work.

and that each immediately vanishes in its opposite. Their truth is therefore, this movement of the immediate vanishing of the one into the other: becoming, a movement in which both are distinguished, but by a difference which has equally immediately resolved itself.

and the aspect sequence of the unity of becoming $\emptyset = \emptyset T \rightarrow T \rightarrow *T = *$ formalizes Hegel's statement that

...es gar nichts giebt, das nicht ein Mittelzustand zwischen Seyn und Nichts ist.

...there is nothing which is not an intermediate state between being and nothing.

The existence of $*$ allows us to define another structure we will need later on: From a preceding moment \square , we can form a successive moment $\bar{\square}$ given by, for each type T , the cofiber $\bar{\square}$ of the morphism $\square T \rightarrow T$, which trivializes the the image of $\square T$ in T by collapsing it to a point. This is, perhaps somewhat more controversially, identified with the Hegelian *negative* based on the paragraphs 911:

Diese in sich reflektirte Gleichheit mit sich, die in ihr selbst die Beziehung auf die Ungleichheit enthält, ist das Positive; so die Ungleichheit die in ihr selbst die Beziehung auf ihr Nichtseyn, die Gleichheit enthält, ist das Negative.—Oder beide sind das Gesetzseyn; insofern nun die unterschiedene Bestimmtheit als unterschiedene bestimmte Beziehung des Gesetzseyns auf sich genommen wird, so ist der Gegensatz eines Theils das Gesetzseyn in seine Gleichheit mit sich reflektirt; andern Theils dasselbe in seine Ungleichheit mit sich reflektirt; das Positive und Negative.—Das Positive ist das Gesetzseyn als in die Gleichheit mit sich reflektirt; aber das reflektirte ist das Gesetzseyn, das ist, die Negation als Negation, so hat diese Reflexion in sich die Beziehung auf das Andere zu ihrer Bestimmung. Das Negative ist das Gesetzseyn als in die Ungleichheit reflektirt; aber das Gesetzseyn ist die Ungleichheit selbst, so ist diese Reflexion somit die Identität der Ungleichheit mit sich selbst und absolute Beziehung auf sich.—Beide also, das in die Gleichheit mit sich reflektirte Gesetzseyn hat die Ungleichheit, und das in die Ungleichheit mit sich reflektirte Gesetzseyn hat auch die Gleichheit an ihm.

This self-likeness reflected into itself that contains within itself the reference to unlikeness, is the positive; and the unlikeness that contains within itself the reference to its non-being, to likeness, is the negative. Or, both are a positedness; now in so far as the differentiated determinateness is taken as a differentiated determinate self-reference of positedness, the opposition is, on the one hand, positedness reflected into its likeness to itself and on the other hand, positedness reflected into its unlikeness to itself — the positive and the

negative. The positive is positedness as reflected into self-likeness; but what is reflected is positedness, that is, the negation as negation, and so this reflection-into-self has reference-to-other for its determination. The negative is positedness as reflected into unlikeness; but the positedness is unlikeness itself, and this reflection is therefore the identity of unlikeness with itself and absolute self-reference. Each is the whole; the positedness reflected into likeness-to-self contains unlikeness, and the positedness reflected into unlikeness-to-self also contains likeness.

and 938:

Das Negative ist also die ganze, als Entgegensetzung auf sich beruhende Entgegensetzung, der absolute sich nicht auf Anderes beziehende Unterschied; er schließt als Entgegensetzung die Identität von sich aus; aber somit sich selbst, denn als Beziehung auf sich bestimmt er sich als die Identität selbst, die er ausschließt.

The negative is, therefore, the whole opposition based, as opposition, on itself, absolute difference that is not related to an other; as opposition, it excludes identity from itself — but in doing so excludes itself; for as self-relation it is determined as the very identity that it excludes.

Dually, we can also define a notion $\overline{\square}$ of the negative of a successive moment: the fiber of the morphism $T \rightarrow \square T$. However, this fiber depends on a chosen basepoint, so it only makes sense on types which have only one constituent (but possibly this constituent has (higher) equalities), or, thought of homotopically, have only one connected component. In this case, $\overline{\square}T$ contains that part of the structure of T that is trivialized by $T \rightarrow \square T$. Note that $\overline{\square}$ and \square (or the dual notions) do *not* form a unity of oppositions. However, for each object T , a sequence $\overline{\square}T \rightarrow T \rightarrow \square T$ exists and this sequence *decomposes* each T , in the sense that T could be reconstructed from its aspects under a moment and its negative, as well as their relation. This is not generally true for unities of oppositions.

6.1 Quantity and Quality

Given the unity of becoming $\emptyset \dashv *$, we can now derive a sequence of new unities starting with its minimal *Aufhebung*. We begin this sequence of derivations by observing that the smallest moment that contains both \emptyset and $*$ is the *double negation* modality[7]¹⁹. The sub-universe $\mathcal{U}_{\#}$ that is invariant under $\#$ is the largest sub-universe in which the law of the excluded middle holds. Thus, if our new unity is supposed to be non-trivial, the internal logic of our universe

¹⁹This terminology stems from the mathematical community and is not to be confused with the Hegelian negative.

\mathcal{U} cannot be classical. *If the law of the excluded middle is assumed to hold universally, then the entire sequence of structures we are about to derive collapses into triviality.* It is not easy to understand what the double negation operator does on types while keeping with our intuition of types as containing reasons for propositions to be true²⁰, so this seems like a suitable moment to shift our mental image of the types X in our universe \mathcal{U} from containing reasons a proposition p is true (which is still a valid image, but becoming unsuitable for our purposes), to generalized spaces. Please note that the spatial structure on such a space X is *different* from the model of its homotopy type. So what we will now call a *discrete* homotopy type can be visualized as some completely disconnected pieces of homotopic structure in the homotopic model. However, a *general* homotopy type can have an *additional* geometric structure that can be somewhat visualized by treating every piece of homotopic structure as a point in a space. We will also call these types *spaces* to remind us of our switch in mental image, and understand the structure of these generalized spaces by the action of the modalities we're deriving on them. First, the \sharp -moment trivializes the spatial structure by collapsing all points of a space X to the same place (but not equalizing them). Since, then, each point in $\sharp T$ is right next to any other, any morphism into $\sharp T$ is automatically continuous. This state of affairs fits remarkably well Hegel's description of continuity:

Die Kontinuität ist also einfache, sich selbst gleiche Beziehung auf sich, die durch keine Grenze und Ausschließung unterbrochen ist, aber nicht unmittelbare Einheit, sondern Einheit der fürsichseienden Eins. Es ist darin das Außereinander der Vielheit noch enthalten, aber zugleich als ein nicht Unterschiedenes, Ununterbrochenes. Die Vielheit ist in der Kontinuität so gesetzt, wie sie an sich ist; die Vielen sind eins was andere, jedes dem anderen gleich, und die Vielheit daher einfache, unterschiedslose Gleichheit. Die Kontinuität ist dieses Moment der Sichselbstgleichheit des Außereinanderseins, das Sichfortsetzen der unterschiedenen Eins in ihre von ihnen Unterschiedenen.

Continuity is, therefore, simple, self-same self-relation, which is not interrupted by any limit or exclusion; it is not, however, an immediate unity, but a unity of ones which possess being-for-self. The asunderness of the plurality is still contained in this unity, but at the same time as not differentiating or interrupting it. In continuity, the plurality is posited as it is in itself; the many are all alike, each is the same as the other and the plurality is, consequently, a simple, undifferentiated sameness. Continuity is this moment of self-sameness

²⁰Intuitively, if the global constituents t of a type T (identified with morphisms $* \rightarrow T$) are reasons for a proposition p to be true, then the type might contain “smaller” constituents (morphisms from a sub-object of $*$) that say that p is not completely untrue (but also not completely true), so correspond to reasons $\neg\neg T$ are true. The double negation operator then promotes then collapses the distinction between

of the asunderness, the self-continuation of the different ones into those from which they are distinguished.

Furthermore, Hegel writes in §397a:

Unmittelbar hat daher die GröÙe in der Kontinuität das Moment der Diskretion, - die Repulsion, wie sie nun Moment in der Quantität ist.

In continuity, therefore, magnitude immediately possesses the moment of discreteness — repulsion, as now a moment in quantity.

Fittingly, the opposite to \sharp , if it exists (which we demand it does), consists of a moment \flat that trivializes the spatial X -structure by, intuitively, putting each point of X into its own piece of space, completely disconnected from any other piece, forming a *discrete* space. For each X , the aspect sequence of the unity $\flat T \rightarrow T \rightarrow \sharp T$ can then be visualized as first bringing the points of $\flat T$ together until they form X , then bringing them even closer until they all occupy the same place. This unity $\flat \dashv \sharp$ can be understood as the *unity of discreteness and continuity*, as described by Hegel (397b):

Die Stetigkeit ist Sichselbstgleichheit, aber des Vielen, das jedoch nicht zum Ausschließenden wird; die Repulsion dehnt erst die Sichselbstgleichheit zur Kontinuität aus. Die Diskretion ist daher ihrerseits zusammenfließende Diskretion, deren Eins nicht das Leere, das Negative, zu ihrer Beziehung haben, sondern ihre eigene Stetigkeit, und diese Gleichheit mit sich selbst im Vielen nicht unterbrechen.

Continuity is self-sameness, but of the Many which, however, do not become exclusive; it is repulsion which expands the selfsameness to continuity. Hence discreteness, on its side, is a coalescent discreteness, where the ones are not connected by the void, by the negative, but by their own continuity and do not interrupt this self-sameness in the many.

Hegel writes of this unity §398:

Die Quantität ist die Einheit dieser Momente, der Kontinuität und Diskretion.

Quantity is the unity of these moments of continuity and discreteness.

Since the spatial structure of $\sharp T$ is trivial, morphisms into it are completely determined by the values of their points. Lawvere identifies these objects²¹ with the *intensive quantities* of both Hegel and Grassmann[3]. Furthermore,

²¹As well as their subobjects.

the negative $\sharp T$ of $\sharp T$ consists purely of the structure that makes X spatial, thus the local aspects of X . So Lawvere identifies these with *extensive quantities*. A morphism on a space X into an intensive quantity $\sharp T$ can be described as something that associates to each point of X a quantity, while a function into $\sharp T$ associates a quantity to volumina of X . One way to understand how intensive and extensive quantities work is in relation to the decomposition of a system into subsystems[6]: given a system S_0 that can be decomposed into two²² sub-systems S_1 and S_2 , the value of an extensive quantity Q on S_0 is equal to the sum of the values of the quantity on S_1 and S_2 . An example is the mass of a body or the length of a text. Meanwhile, an intensive quantity q has a value v_0 on the system S_0 if and only if it has the same value on both sub-systems S_1 and S_2 . An example is the temperature of a body. However, if an intensive quantity q of a system is constant on one value v_0 , the map $S_0 \rightarrow \sharp T$ lifts through the aspect sequence $\flat T \rightarrow T \rightarrow \sharp T$. In light of our understanding of the next unity in the process, we can see this as saying that *constant intensive quantities are qualities*²³. This corresponds well to our intuition. For instance, color, understood as the wavelength of light, is an intensive quantity. However, we intuitively refer to an object as having a specific color if and only if all of its parts have the same color. Finally, $\flat T$ expresses the *cardinality* of X in its discrete form, so the description of this unity as quantity seems justified.

The \flat -moment is also identified with the *moment of repulsion* as in Hegel 342 and 343:

...so stößt das Eins sich selbst von sich ab. Die negative Beziehung des Eins auf sich ist Repulsion.

Diese Repulsion, so als das Setzen der vielen Eins aber durch Eins selbst ist das eigne Außersichkommen des Eins, aber zu solchen außer ihm, die selbst nur Eins sind. Es ist dieß die Repulsion dem Begriffe nach, die an sich seyende. Die zweite Repulsion ist davon unterschieden, und ist die der Vorstellung der äußern Reflexion zunächst vorschwebende, als nicht das Erzeugen der Eins, sondern nur als gegenseitiges Abhalten vorausgesetzter, schon vorhandener Eins. Es ist dann zu sehen, wie jene an sich seyende Repulsion zur zweiten, der äußerlichen, sich bestimmt.

...the one repels itself from itself. The negative relation of the one to itself is repulsion.

This repulsion as thus the positing of many ones but through the one itself, is the one's own coming-forth-from-itself but to such outside it as are themselves only ones. This is repulsion according to its Notion, repulsion in itself. The second repulsion is different from it,

²²Of course, a decomposition of any cardinality can be assumed.

²³This identification is original work.

it is what is immediately suggested to external reflection: repulsion not as the generation of ones, but only as the mutual repelling of ones presupposed as already present.

and has its own left opposite $\int \dashv \flat$, so that \int is, as by Hegel 395

Die Attraktion ist auf diese Weise als das Moment der Kontinuität in der Quantität.

Attraction is in this way the moment of continuity in quantity.

identified with the *moment of attraction*. In models we will demand that the modality \int is the localization of the path object of the topos, so that the *shape* $\int X$ of a space is in fact its homotopical shape, or, by the considerations of 5, the invariant of X under contraction. This interaction between the two different spatial structures of X , that of its local structure (which is induced by its local elements) and its structure of homotopic equality, is of crucial importance in topology. Thus, the moment of attraction can be understood as the internal contraction within the fabric of X taking over and X contracting as much as possible while still not losing its shape. The unity of opposites $\int \dashv \flat$, and, more concretely, the *points to pieces transform* $\flat X \rightarrow X \rightarrow \int X$ is understood as describing “the difference of the one and the many” as in Hegel §361:

Der Unterschied von Einem und Vielen hat sich zum Unterschiede ihrer Beziehung auf einander bestimmt, welche in zwei Beziehungen, die Repulsion und die Attraktion, zerlegt ist, deren jede zunächst selbstständig außer der anderen steht, so daß sie jedoch wesentlich zusammenhängen. Die noch unbestimmte Einheit derselben hat sich näher zu ergeben.

The difference of the one and the many is now determined as the difference of their relation to one another, with each other, a relation which splits into two, repulsion and attraction, each of which is at first independent of the other and stands apart from it, the two nevertheless being essentially connected with each other. Their as yet indeterminate unity is to be more precisely ascertained.

and is identified with *quality*, as it captures the quality that makes a space X different from a homotopy type. Overall, the system of modalities $\int \dashv \flat \dashv \sharp$ has been termed *cohesion* and the objects it acts on as *cohesive substance* by Lawvere[11], and identified with *measure gauge* as in Hegel 699:

Im Maaße sind, abstrakt ausgedrückt, Qualität und Quantität vereinigt.

Abstractly expressed, in measure quality and quantity are united.

and indeed \int is a generalization of the Euler characteristic and the tools within this unity are already enough to define a very general notion of an integral[5].

6.2 The Aufhebung of Finiteness

Next we introduce an Aufhebung of the last derived unity $\int \dashv \flat$ given by an *sp*-unity $\Im \dashv \&$:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \Im & \dashv & \& \\ \vee & & \vee \\ \int & \dashv & \flat \end{array}$$

Since $\Im \dashv \&$ is a higher sphere than $\int \dashv \flat$, the morphism $X \rightarrow \int X$ factors through \Im : $X \rightarrow \Im X \rightarrow \int X$. Thus, $\Im X$ can be understood as a contraction of X , where X is not contracted down to its basic shape, but only “small” paths in X are contracted. More precisely, what is contracted are *infinitesimal paths*, and, correspondingly, the negative $\Im X$ of \Im on a connected space is the *purely infinitesimal* part of X . We conclude this stage of the process by positing an opposite to $\Im \dashv \&$, given by a preceding moment \Re . These modalities $\Re \dashv \Im \dashv \&$ can together be taken to describe the infinitesimal structure of X . Hegel described the infinitesimal thus in

Das Angeführte ist auch dieselbe Dialektik, die der Verstand gegen den Begriff braucht, den die höhere Analysis von den unendlich-kleinen Größen giebt. Von diesem Begriffe wird weiter unten ausführlicher gehandelt.—Diese Größen sind als solche, bestimmt worden, die in ihrem Verschwinden sind, nicht vor ihrem Verschwinden, denn als dann sind sie endliche Größen;—nicht nach ihrem Verschwinden, denn alsdann sind sie nichts. Gegen diesen reinen Begriff ist eingewendet und immer wiederholt worden, daß solche Größen entweder Etwas seyn, oder Nichts; daß es keinen Mittelzustand (Zustand ist hier ein unpassender, barbarischer Ausdruck) zwischen Seyn und Nichtseyn gebe.—Es ist hierbei gleichfalls die absolute Trennung des Seyns und Nichts angenommen. Dagegen ist aber gezeigt worden, daß Seyn und Nichts in der That dasselbe sind, oder um in jener Sprache zu sprechen, daß es gar nichts giebt, das nicht ein Mittelzustand zwischen Seyn und Nichts ist. Die Mathematik hat ihre glänzendsten Erfolge der Annahme jener Bestimmung, welcher der Verstand widerspricht, zu danken.

The foregoing dialectic is the same, too, as that which understanding employs the notion of infinitesimal magnitudes, given by higher analysis. A more detailed treatment of this notion will be given later. These magnitudes have been defined as such that they are in their vanishing, not before their vanishing, for then they are finite magnitudes, or after their vanishing, for then they are nothing. Against this pre notion it is objected and reiterated that such magnitudes are either something or nothing; that there is no intermediate state between being and non-being (‘state’ is here an unsuitable, barbarous expression). Here too, the absolute separation of being and nothing is assumed. But against this it has been shown that being and

nothing are, in fact, the same, or to use the same language as that just quoted, that there is nothing which is not an intermediate state between being and nothing. It is to the adoption of the said determination, which understanding opposes, that mathematics owes its most brilliant successes.

which is fairly on point: the *reduced* part $\Re X$ of a space X is the part of the space which *really* exists in that it contains points of X but no infinitesimals, and is embedded into X : $\Re X \rightarrow X$. Accordingly, the types purely of the negative $\overline{\Re}$ of \Re are precisely infinitesimally thickened points. Furthermore, the infinitesimals are vanishing through $X \rightarrow \Im X$. The unity $\Im \dashv \&$ is identified with *ideality* as the *Aufhebung* of quality, as in Hegel 305, where *infinite* is taken to mean *infinitesimal* i.e. infinitely small:

In Beziehung auf Realität und Idealität wird aber der Gegensatz des Endlichen und Unendlichen so gefaßt, daß das Endliche für das Reale gilt, das Unendliche aber für das Ideelle gilt; wie auch weiterhin der Begriff als ein Ideelles und zwar als ein nur Ideelles, das Daseyn überhaupt dagegen als das Reale betrachtet wird...

Die Idealität kann die Qualität der Unendlichkeit genannt werden; aber sie ist wesentlich der Proceß des Werdens und damit ein Übergang, wie des Werdens in Daseyn, der nun anzugeben ist. Als Aufheben der Endlichkeit, d. i. der Endlichkeit als solcher und ebenso sehr der ihr nur gegenüberstehenden, nur negativen Unendlichkeit ist diese Rückkehr in sich, Beziehung auf sich selbst, Seyn. Da in diesem Seyn Negation ist, ist es Daseyn, aber da sie ferner wesentlich Negation der Negation, die sich auf sich beziehende Negation ist, ist sie das Daseyn, welches Fürsichseyn genannt wird.

With reference to reality and ideality, however, the opposition of finite and infinite is grasped in such a manner that the finite ranks as the real but the infinite as the ‘ideal’ [das Ideelle]; in the same way that further on the Notion, too, is regarded as an ‘ideal’, that is, as a mere ‘ideal’, in contrast to determinate being as such which is regarded as the real...

Ideality can be called the quality of infinity; but it is essentially the process of becoming, and hence a transition — like that of becoming in determinate being — which is now to be indicated. As a sublation of finitude, that is, of finitude as such, and equally of the infinity which is merely its opposite, merely negative, this return into self is self-relation, being. As this being contains negation it is determinate, but as this negation further is essentially negation of the negation, the self-related negation, it is that determinate being which is called being-for-self.

Consequently, & is identified with *Seyn-für-eines* as in Hegel 322:

Dieß Moment drückt aus, wie das Endliche in seiner Einheit mit dem Unendlichen oder als Ideelles ist. Das Fürsichseyn hat die Negation nicht an ihm als eine Bestimmtheit oder Grenze, und damit auch nicht als Beziehung auf ein von ihm anderes Daseyn. Indem nun dieß Moment als Seyn-für-Eines bezeichnet worden, ist noch nichts vorhanden, für welches es wäre,—das Eine nicht, dessen Moment es wäre. Es ist in der That dergleichen noch nicht im Fürsichseyn fixirt; das für welches Etwas (—und ist hier kein Etwas—) wäre, was die andere Seite überhaupt seyn sollte, ist gleicherweise Moment, selbst nur Seyn-für-Eines, noch nicht Eines.—Somit ist noch eine Ununterschiedenheit zweier Seiten, die im Seyn-für-eines vorschweben können, vorhanden; nur Ein Seyn-für-Anderes, und weil es nur Ein Seyn-für-Anderes ist, ist dieses auch nur Seyn-für-Eines; es ist nur die Eine Idealität dessen, für welches oder in welchem eine Bestimmung als Moment und dessen, was Moment in ihm seyn sollte. So machen Für-eines-seyn und das Fürsichseyn keine wahrhaften Bestimmtheiten gegeneinander aus. Insofern der Unterschied auf einen Augenblick angenommen und hier von einem Fürsichseyenden gesprochen wird, so ist es das Fürsichseyende, als Aufgehobenseyn des Andersseyns, selbst, welches sich auf sich als auf das aufgehobene Andere bezieht, also für-Eines ist; es bezieht sich in seinem Andern nur auf sich. Das Ideelle ist nothwendig für-Eines, aber es ist nicht für ein Anderes; das Eine, für welches es ist, ist nur es selbst.—Ich also, der Geist überhaupt, oder Gott, sind Ideelle, weil sie unendlich sind; aber sie sind ideell nicht, als für-sich-seyende, verschieden von dem, das für-Eines ist. Denn so wären sie nur unmittelbare, oder näher Daseyn und ein Seyn-für-Anderes, weil das, welches für sie wäre, nicht sie selbst, sondern ein Anderes wäre, wenn das Moment, für-eines zu seyn, nicht ihnen zukommen sollte. Gott ist daher für sich, insofern er selbst das ist, das für ihn ist.

Für-sich-seyn und Für-Eines-seyn sind also nicht verschiedene Bedeutungen der Idealität, sondern sind wesentliche, untrennbare Momente derselben.

This moment expresses the manner in which the finite is present in its unity with the infinite, or is an ideal being [Ideelles]. In being-for-self, negation is not present as a determinateness or limit, or consequently as a relation to a determinate being which is for it an other. Now though this moment has been designated as being-for-one, there is as yet nothing present for which it would be no one, of which it would be the moment. There is, in fact, nothing of the kind as yet fixed in being-for-self; that for which something (and here there is no something) would be, whatever the other side as such might be, is likewise a moment, is itself only a being-for-

one, not yet a one. Consequently, what we have before us is still an undistinguishedness of the two sides which may be suggested by being-for-one; there is only one being- other, and because there is only one, this too is only a being-for-one; there is only the one ideality of that, for which or in which there is supposed to be a determination as moment, and of that which is supposed to be a moment in it. Being-for-one and being-for-self are, therefore, not genuinely opposed determinatenesses. If the difference is assumed for a moment and we speak of a being-for-self, then it is this itself which, as the sublatedness of otherness, relates itself to itself as the sublated other, and is therefore 'for one'; it is related in its other only to its own self. Ideal being [Ideelles] is necessarily 'for one', but it is not for an other; the one for which it is, is only itself. The ego, therefore, spirit as such, or God, are 'ideal' because they are infinite; but as being for themselves they are not 'ideally' different from that which is 'for one'. For if they were, they would be only immediate existences, or, more precisely, determinate being and a being-for-other, because that which would be for them would be, not themselves but an other, if they were supposed to lack the moment of being 'for one'. God is, therefore, for himself in so far as he himself is that which is for him.

To be 'for self' and to be 'for one' are therefore not different meanings of ideality, but are essential, inseparable moments of it.

This identification is connected to Hegel's critique of atomism:

Die Atomistik hat den Begriff der Idealität nicht; sie faßt das Eins nicht als ein solches, das in ihm selbst die beiden Momente des Fürsichseyns und des Für-es-seyns enthält, also als ideelles, sondern nur als einfach, trocken Für-sich-seyendes.

The atomistic philosophy does not possess the Notion of ideality; it does not grasp the one as an ideal being, that is, as containing within itself the two moments of being-for-self and being-for-it, but only as a simple, dry, real being-for-self.

Here, the *one* is identified with the smallest unit of a space, while *atoms* are identified with its points. The complaint is then precisely that a space is not just made up of its points but these points are connected by *ideal* structure²⁴. This is precisely the approach of synthetic differential geometry.

Since the unity $\mathfrak{S} \dashv \&$ expresses *ideality*, its opposite $\mathfrak{R} \dashv \mathfrak{S}$ obviously expresses *reality*. It has already been outlined that this makes sense because both operators are transforming "ideal" spaces into "real" ones.

²⁴See also §254b and §256b in *Philosophy of Nature*.

A system of such modalities $\mathfrak{R} \dashv \mathfrak{S} \dashv \&$ is called *differential cohesion* and its objects *elastic substance*. In this ideal structure, notions such as distance and angle can be derived, so this is the first sphere in which Euclidean geometry exists. Furthermore, large swaths of theory, that would take several semesters to introduce in a classical manner, can elegantly be defined the using these modalities.

6.3 Light and Matter

Here the process extends with a *left* Aufhebung of the unity $\mathfrak{R} \dashv \mathfrak{S}$:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \rightsquigarrow & \dashv & Rh \\ \vee & & \vee \\ \mathfrak{R} & \dashv & \mathfrak{S} \end{array}$$

and an opposition to the unity $\rightsquigarrow \dashv Rh$ given by an operator \rightrightarrows . Since $\rightsquigarrow \dashv Rh$ is a higher sphere than $\mathfrak{R} \dashv \mathfrak{S}$, the reduction modality factors as $\mathfrak{R}X \rightarrow \tilde{X} \rightarrow X$. Thus, $\rightsquigarrow X$ removes some of the infinitesimal structure of X , but not all of it. It also follows from the definitions that the removed infinitesimal structure is non-commutative in some way, so that our spaces are normal spaces, but have an infinitesimal thickening that is non-commutative. In models we will demand that these non-commutative spaces are actually super-spaces, which model spaces with two different types of particles in them, *fermions* and *bosons*. The *bosonic modality* \rightsquigarrow strips away the fermionic part of a space, while its negative, the *fermionic modality* \rightrightarrows consists of the fermionic content. The primary differences between fermions and bosons are that bosons are massless, move at lightspeed and several of them can be at the same place even if they have the same properties, whereas fermions have mass, can never obtain lightspeed and no two of them can be at the same place if they otherwise have the same properties. This leads to fermions making up matter and bosons making up forces. Thus, in the dictionary, the bosonic modality is identified with *light*, as in §220 of *Philosophy of Nature* (PoN):

Als das abstrakte Selbst der Materie ist das Licht das absolute-leichte, und als Materie ist sie unendliches Außersichsein aber als reines Manifestieren, materielle Idealität untrennbares und einfaches Außersichsein.

As the abstract self of matter, light is absolutely lightweight, and as matter, infinite, but as material ideality it is inseparable and simple being outside of itself.

which is a fairly good description of bosons considering only light was the only known boson at the time. Meanwhile, the fermionic modality is identified with *rigidity* as in PN§279 of PoN:

Das Dunkle, zunächst das Negative des Lichts, ist der Gegensatz gegen dessen abstrakte-identische Idealität, – der Gegensatz an ihm

selbst; er hat materielle Realität und zerfällt in sich in die Zweihet, α) der körperlichen Verschiedenheit, d.i. des materiellen Fürsichseins, der Starrheit, β) der Entgegensetzung.

Darkness, as immediately the negative of light, is the opposition to light's abstractly identical ideality; it is this opposition in its own self. It has material reality and falls apart into a duality, namely (1) corporeal difference, i.e. material being-for-self, rigidity; (2) opposition...

or, more generally, *matter*.

6.4 *Wesen* opposing itself

The calculus of unities might perhaps be extended further. In any case, the Aufhebung of *all* unities of opposites is given by the unity of oppositions of the identity with itself: $id \neg id$, with $id\ X = X$. This is identified with the *opposition of the Wesen to itself*, as in §812:

Das Wesen aber, wie es hier geworden ist, ist das, was es ist, nicht durch eine ihm fremde Negativität, sondern durch seine eigne, die unendliche Bewegung des Seyns. Es ist An-und-Fürsichseyn; absolutes Ansichseyn, indem es gleichgültig gegen alle Bestimmtheit des Seyns ist, das Andersseyn und die Beziehung auf anderes schlechthin aufgehoben worden ist.

But essence as it has here come to be, is what it is, through a negativity which is not alien to it but is its very own, the infinite movement of being. It is being that is in itself and for itself; it is absolute being-in-itself in that it is indifferent to every determinateness of being, and otherness and relation-to-other have been completely sublated.

This is the last stage of the process before it becomes externalized. We will treat this in the next section.

7 Nature

This system of modal type theory is now identified with Hegel's *Idee* (idea) as in §1631:

Die Idee ist der adäquate Begriff, das objektive Wahre oder das Wahre als solches. Wenn irgend etwas Wahrheit hat, hat es sie durch seine Idee, oder etwas hat nur Wahrheit, insofern es Idee ist.

The Idea is the adequate Notion, that which is objectively true, or the true as such. When anything whatever possesses truth, it possesses it through its Idea, or, something possesses truth only in so far as it is Idea.

This idea is then externalized into a model, meaning an ∞ -topos that satisfies its true propositions. Such a model is identified with *Nature* as in

Die Natur hat sich als die Idee in der Form des Andersseins ergeben. Da die Idee so als das Negative ihrer selbst oder sich äußerlich ist, so ist die Natur nicht äußerlich nur relativ gegen diese Idee (und gegen die subjektive Existenz derselben, den Geist), sondern die Äußerlichkeit macht die Bestimmung aus, in welcher sie als Natur ist.

Nature has presented itself as the Idea in the form of otherness. Since therefore the Idea is the negative of itself, or is external to itself Nature is not merely external in relation to this Idea (and to its subjective existence Spirit); the truth is rather that externality constitutes the specific character in which Nature, as Nature, exists.

The simplest non-trivial model is the ∞ -topos of *super formal smooth ∞ -groupoids* $\infty - SFS$, however, a refinement might be needed, for instance to incorporate singular cohesion into the theory. Regardless, we can assume for our purposes that the *rheonomic* modality Rh is represented by an object $\mathbb{R}^{0|1}$ in the sense that the action of Rh consists of trivializing any instance of $\mathbb{R}^{0|1}$ in any space into a simple point. This is true in $\infty - SFS$. It follows from the definitions that $\mathbb{R}^{0|1}$ is purely fermionic and has no bosonic content. Thus we call it the *fermionic superpoint*. From this fermionic superpoint, through a series of canonical extensions, emanates a piece of 11-dimensional spacetime $\mathbb{R}^{10,1|32}$, which has precisely the properties that are demanded by M -theory, the joint generalization of string theory and supergravity. Our physical universe would then be determined by some manifold in $\infty - SFS$ or some extension thereof, with some force field on it that is the unified fundamental force which splits into the four fundamental forces of our universe after M undergoes a process called KK -compactification, which yields the four-dimensional spacetime we all know and love.

At this point mathematics becomes difficult to avoid. However, it should be noted that in the upcoming [19], Schreiber and Sati speculate that such a field could be described by a cycle in the fourth differential equivariant cohomotopy on X , so a differential equivariant refinement of a morphism $X \rightarrow \mathbb{S}^4$. Given the importance of the n -dimensional spheres in homotopy theory (and in general), this result would be highly satisfying.

8 Some reflection

In the beginning, it was noted how unlikely it might seem that following a famously obtuse philosopher's line of thought would yield a strict logical calculus powerful enough to express large swaths of mathematics and reach towards a description of physics. Yet the formalism cannot be denied. Neither can the

fact that Lawvere was inspired by and saw his work as a formalization of Hegel's thought. Furthermore, insights that had partially been had independently (such as homotopy type theory) and partially as an extension of the work of Lawvere have been found to fit Hegelian descriptions remarkably well. How precise this correspondence is and how far it goes is still not determined. Let us reflect on these insights once again. The first, and the one most identified with Hegel, is a logical calculus that can be, and has been, like any other kind of logic, deformed and applied to any suitable situation. In the aspect that he made the first attempt, at least in western philosophy, to formalize a kind of logic of fundamental usefulness that had been used throughout history, Hegel can be compared to Aristotle. The second is the use of homotopy type theory, which allows equality to be identified with function by treating it as a structure on its own instead of a property, and forms a bridge between logic and geometry. The third is the derivation of a sequence of dialectical notions from the logical notions of homotopy type theory. Apart from the clarification of several mathematical concepts, this step yields some concepts that are of importance in everyday philosophy, such as the distinction of intensive and extensive quantities. The fourth insight is an interpretation of this logical calculus in a concrete topos, which gives them geometric, and even physical, meaning, that can be used to come very close to a theory of everything. This is achieved in a manner that is so elegant and natural that it can be explained to a general audience, even if only at a superficial manner. This has to be compared to descriptions of equivalent structures in conventional mathematics, which seem arbitrary and cumbersome. Indeed, the ever more impenetrable nature of conventional physics has given rise to a pessimism that the structure of the universe might not conform to our inherent notions of beauty and elegance. This new and highly intuitive path to a model of the universe challenges this resignation.

8.1 What is to be done

Cohesion and its refinements have already garnered some attention in the mathematical community (though not as much as it deserves), and its potential, which has only just become visible, is currently explored by Urs Schreiber and his associates. However, the formalization of Hegel's thought poses a philosophical challenge to both his followers and his detractors that has largely gone unnoticed. Both analytical and Marxist philosophers were quick to dismiss Hegel's metaphysical speculations. Now that these cryptic metaphysics have shown themselves capable to be interpreted through formally exact logic, these dismissals should be reconsidered.

The challenge extends however to the Hegelians themselves. As it stands, Hegelian dialectics can mean almost anything, depending on who is asked. While this formalization cannot capture all dialectic reasoning, as formal logic cannot ever capture all logical reasoning, it might provide at least a standard that can universally be understood in the same way, so that different dialectic interpreta-

tions can be compared through their differences to the common logical method. On a more immediate level, the current dictionary should be checked, compared and extended *also* by philosophers.

Finally, the simplicity of cohesion, combined with its power in expressing even otherwise obscure mathematical and physical concepts, might provide a path to bridge the divide between mathematics and physics on the one side and philosophy and the humanities on the other.

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