

# Extensors

Last revision: 3rd February 2023.

## Abstract

The work here is based on a laconic and tiny article by René Guitart about *extensors*<sup>1</sup>: [http://www.numdam.org/item/DIA\\_1980\\_\\_3\\_\\_A3\\_0.pdf](http://www.numdam.org/item/DIA_1980__3__A3_0.pdf). The pages below can be considered a long exercise.

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## References

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- [Gol06] R. Goldblatt. *Topoi: The Categorical Analysis of Logic*. Dover Books on Mathematics. Dover Publications, 2006. ISBN: 9780486450261.
- [Mik22] C. J. Mikkelsen. *Lattice Theoretic and Logical Aspects of Elementary Topoi*. Reprints in Theory and Applications of Categories, 2022. URL: <http://www.tac.mta.ca/tac/reprints/articles/29/tr29.pdf>.

## 1 Preamble

[This section is important for me. It may be deleted in the final version. Let me recall some words here, and then (try to) set a strategy to attack the paper.]

**Definition 1.1.** A *monad* for a category  $\mathcal{C}$  consists of:

- one functor  $T : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$
- one natural transformation  $\eta : 1_{\mathcal{C}} \rightarrow T$
- one natural transformation  $\mu : T^2 \rightarrow T$ , where  $T^2 := T \circ T$

<sup>1</sup> ‘Unofficial’ translation. In French it is *extenseurs*.

such that the diagrams

$$\begin{array}{ccc} T^3x & \xrightarrow{T\mu_x} & T^2x \\ \mu_{Tx} \downarrow & & \downarrow \mu_x \\ T^2x & \xrightarrow{\mu_x} & Tx \end{array} \quad \text{and} \quad \begin{array}{ccc} Tx & \xrightarrow{\eta_{Tx}} & T^2x \\ T\mu_x \downarrow & \searrow 1_{Tx} & \downarrow \mu_x \\ T^2x & \xrightarrow{\mu_x} & Tx \end{array}$$

commute for every object  $x$  of  $\mathcal{C}$ ; let us write such monad as the triple  $(T, \eta, \mu)$ .

In the sketched proof, the author talks about some ‘monade des parties du topos’. **Set** is a topos and

**Sandbox 1.2** (The ‘power set’ monad). Consider the functor  $2^\bullet : \mathbf{Set} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}$  where, for  $X$  a set,  $2^\bullet(X) := 2^X$  and, for  $f : X \rightarrow Y$ , define  $2^f := 2^\bullet(f)$  to be the function  $2^A \rightarrow 2^B$  that takes subsets  $E$  of  $A$  to  $fE$ .

Now, we need functions  $\xi_X : X \rightarrow 2^X$ , one for each set  $X$ , forming a natural transformation  $\xi : 1_{\mathbf{Set}} \rightarrow 2^\bullet$ ; we consider that one introduced as  $\xi_X(x) := \{x\}$ . To conclude the structure of monad, consider for  $X$  set, the function

$$\delta_X : 2^{2^X} \rightarrow 2^X, \quad \delta_X(F) := \bigcup_{E \in F} E.$$

The family of such functions determine a natural transformation  $\delta : 2^\bullet \circ 2^\bullet \rightarrow 2^\bullet$ .

**Definition 1.3.** If you are given a monad  $(T, \eta, \mu)$  for a category  $\mathcal{C}$ , you can introduce an *algebra* for this monad, consisting of:

- one object  $x$  in  $\mathcal{C}$
- one morphism  $f : Tx \rightarrow x$

all this making commute the following diagrams

$$\begin{array}{ccc} T^2x & \xrightarrow{Tf} & Tx \\ \mu_x \downarrow & & \downarrow f \\ Tx & \xrightarrow{f} & x \end{array} \quad \text{and} \quad \begin{array}{ccc} x & & \\ \eta_x \swarrow & & \searrow \\ 1_x \downarrow & & \downarrow f \\ x & & \end{array}$$

[I’ve just written a couple of definitions, but for the next days here is what to do for me: find more examples motivating monads and algebras for monads; you must learn something about *Kleisli* and *Eilenberg-Moore categories*... Not only for the sake of these pages.]

[Now understand this: ‘un treillis complet est une  $2^\bullet$ -algèbre’.]

Let us try now to bring this to any topoi, if possible.

## 2 One monad for topoi

### 2.1 (Covariant) Power object functor

One of the possible definitions of (elementary) topos is:

a category with finite limits and power objects.

For future reference and notation, here is the definition of power object:

**Definition 2.1.** For if  $\mathcal{C}$  is a category with finite products and  $a \in |\mathcal{C}|$ , a *power object* in  $\mathcal{C}$  consists of

- one object ‘of the parts of  $a$ ’, we write  $\Omega^a$
- one monomorphism  $\epsilon_a : \epsilon_a \rightarrow \Omega^a \times a$ , the ‘membership relation’

with the property: for every  $b \in |\mathcal{C}|$  and monomorphism  $\rho : r \rightarrow b \times a$  there exists one and only one morphism  $f : b \rightarrow \Omega^a$  for which there is a pullback square

$$\begin{array}{ccc} r & \xrightarrow{\rho} & b \times a \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow f \times 1_a \\ \epsilon_a & \xrightarrow{\epsilon_a} & \Omega^a \times a \end{array}$$

in  $\mathcal{C}$ .

[A finer notation may be  $\wp(a)$ . Do I really need to refer so explicitly to subobject classifiers here?] Now if we want to replicate the above phenomenon inside any topos  $\mathcal{E}$ , we need a suitable functor  $\Omega^\bullet : \mathcal{E} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}$ . For  $a \in |\mathcal{E}|$ ,

$$\Omega^\bullet(a) := \Omega^a.$$

It remains to understand what  $\Omega^f := \Omega^\bullet(f)$ , for  $f : a \rightarrow b$  in  $\mathcal{E}$ , should be to make a functor. Consider the power objects of  $a$  and  $b$ , that is  $\Omega^a$  and  $\Omega^b$  together with their respective membership relations  $\epsilon_a : \epsilon_a \rightarrow \Omega^a \times a$  and  $\epsilon_b : \epsilon_b \rightarrow \Omega^b \times b$ .

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \epsilon_a & \xrightarrow{\epsilon_a} & \Omega^a \times a \xrightarrow{1_{\Omega^a} \times f} \Omega^a \times b \\ & & \downarrow \text{dotted} \\ \epsilon_b & \xrightarrow{\epsilon_b} & \Omega^b \times b \end{array}$$

Here, the dotted morphism is of the form  $\Omega^f \times 1_b$ , where  $\Omega^f : \Omega^a \rightarrow \Omega^b$  is that morphism for which there is a pullback square

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \epsilon_a & \xrightarrow{\epsilon_a} & \Omega^a \times a \xrightarrow{1_{\Omega^a} \times f} \Omega^a \times b \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \Omega^f \times 1_b \\ \epsilon_b & \xrightarrow{\epsilon_b} & \Omega^b \times b \end{array}$$

Let us verify functoriality now. Take

$$a \xrightarrow{f} b \xrightarrow{g} c$$

so that we have also

$$\Omega^a \xrightarrow{\Omega^f} \Omega^b \xrightarrow{\Omega^g} \Omega^c.$$

Let us study  $\Omega^{gf} : a \rightarrow c$ . By definition,  $\Omega^{gf}$  is the morphism for which there is a pullback square

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \epsilon_a & \xrightarrow{\epsilon_a} & \Omega^a \times a \xrightarrow{1_{\Omega^a} \times (gf)} \Omega^a \times c \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \Omega^{gf} \\ \epsilon_c & \xrightarrow{\epsilon_c} & \Omega^c \times c \end{array} \quad (2.1)$$

We have then two pullback squares glued like this:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 \epsilon_a & \xrightarrow{\epsilon_a} & \Omega^a \times a & \xrightarrow{1_{\Omega^a} \times f} & \Omega^a \times b \\
 \downarrow & & & \downarrow \Omega^f \times 1_b & \\
 \epsilon_b & \xrightarrow{\epsilon_b} & \Omega^b \times b & \xrightarrow{1_{\Omega^b} \times g} & \Omega^b \times c \\
 \downarrow & & & & \downarrow \Omega^g \times 1_c \\
 \epsilon_c & \xrightarrow{\epsilon_c} & \Omega^c \times c & & 
 \end{array}$$

The first one gives the morphism  $\Omega^f$ , whereas the second one  $\Omega^g$ . Let us add two arrows to make a rectangle:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 \epsilon_a & \xrightarrow{\epsilon_a} & \Omega^a \times a & \xrightarrow{1_{\Omega^a} \times f} & \Omega^a \times b & \xrightarrow{1_{\Omega^a} \times g} & \Omega^a \times c \\
 \downarrow & & & \downarrow \Omega^f \times 1_b & & \downarrow \Omega^f \times 1_c & \\
 \epsilon_b & \xrightarrow{\epsilon_b} & \Omega^b \times b & \xrightarrow{1_{\Omega^b} \times g} & \Omega^b \times c & & \\
 \downarrow & & & & & \downarrow \Omega^g \times 1_c & \\
 \epsilon_c & \xrightarrow{\epsilon_c} & \Omega^c \times c & & & & 
 \end{array}$$

The plan is: if we can show

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \Omega^a \times b & \xrightarrow{1_{\Omega^a} \times g} & \Omega^a \times c \\
 \downarrow \Omega^f \times 1_b & & \downarrow \Omega^f \times 1_c \\
 \Omega^b \times b & \xrightarrow{1_{\Omega^b} \times g} & \Omega^b \times c
 \end{array}$$

is a pullback square, then applying the *Pullback Lemma* twice will allow us to conclude the rectangle (2.1) is a pullback square too.

Mere brute force is employed here. In

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \bullet & \xrightarrow{u} & \Omega^a \times c \\
 \downarrow v & & \downarrow \Omega^f \times 1_c \\
 \Omega^b \times b & \xrightarrow{1_{\Omega^b} \times g} & \Omega^b \times c
 \end{array}$$

assume  $(\Omega^f \times 1_c)u = (1_{\Omega^b} \times g)v$ . Now a lot of notation is needed, to write the products involved: we write them as

$$\begin{array}{l}
 \Omega^a \xleftarrow{\alpha_1} \Omega^a \times b \xrightarrow{\alpha_2} b \\
 \Omega^a \xleftarrow{\beta_1} \Omega^a \times c \xrightarrow{\beta_2} c \\
 \Omega^b \xleftarrow{\gamma_1} \Omega^b \times b \xrightarrow{\gamma_2} b \\
 \Omega^b \xleftarrow{\delta_1} \Omega^b \times c \xrightarrow{\delta_2} c
 \end{array}$$

Here are the equations defining the products of morphisms involved

$$\begin{aligned}
\beta_1 (1_{\Omega^a} \times g) &= \alpha_1 \\
\beta_2 (1_{\Omega^a} \times g) &= g\alpha_2 \\
\gamma_1 (\Omega^f \times 1_b) &= \Omega^f \alpha_1 \\
\gamma_2 (\Omega^f \times 1_b) &= \alpha_2 \\
\delta_1 (\Omega^f \times 1_c) &= \Omega^f \beta_1 \\
\delta_2 (\Omega^f \times 1_c) &= \beta_2 \\
\delta_1 (1_{\Omega^b} \times g) &= \gamma_1 \\
\delta_2 (1_{\Omega^b} \times g) &= g\gamma_2
\end{aligned}$$

**[We do not use all of them!]** By universal property of product, we have one  $\chi : \bullet \rightarrow \Omega^a \times b$  for which  $\beta_1 u = \alpha_1 \chi$  and  $\gamma_2 v = \alpha_2 \chi$ . We show now that  $\chi$  is what we are looking for using the universal property of the the products of the square.

$$\begin{aligned}
\gamma_1 v &= \delta_1 (1_{\Omega^b} \times g) v = \delta_1 (\Omega^f \times 1_c) u = \Omega^f \beta_1 u = \Omega^f \alpha_1 \chi = \gamma_1 (\Omega^f \times 1_b) \chi \\
\gamma_2 v &= \alpha_1 \chi = \gamma_2 (\Omega^f \times 1_b) \chi
\end{aligned}$$

which implies  $v = (\Omega^f \times 1_b) \chi$ ; moreover,

$$\begin{aligned}
\beta_1 v &= \alpha_1 \chi = \beta_1 (1_{\Omega^a} \times g) \chi \\
\beta_2 u &= \delta_2 (\Omega^f \times 1_c) u = \delta_2 (1_{\Omega^b} \times g) v = g\gamma_2 v = g\alpha_2 \chi = \beta_2 (1_{\Omega^a} \times g) \chi
\end{aligned}$$

that is  $u = (1_{\Omega^a} \times g) \chi$ . Finally, we can conclude now that  $\Omega^{gf} = \Omega^g \Omega^f$ .

It only remains to prove  $\Omega^{1_a} 1_{\Omega^a}$  for  $a \in |\mathcal{E}|$ . By definition,  $\Omega^{1_a}$  is the morphism for which there is a pullback square

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
\epsilon_a & \xrightarrow{\epsilon_a} & \Omega^a \times a \\
\downarrow & & \downarrow \Omega^{1_a} \times 1_a \\
\epsilon_a & \xrightarrow{\epsilon_a} & \Omega^a \times a
\end{array}$$

Consequently, if we show there is a pullback square

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
\epsilon_a & \xrightarrow{\epsilon_a} & \Omega^a \times a \\
\downarrow & & \downarrow 1_{\Omega^a} \times 1_a \\
\epsilon_a & \xrightarrow{\epsilon_a} & \Omega^a \times a
\end{array}$$

then we have concluded the verification of the functoriality. For that scope, consider the commutative square

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
\epsilon_a & \xrightarrow{\epsilon_a} & \Omega^a \times a \\
1_{\epsilon_a} \downarrow & & \downarrow 1_{\Omega^a} \times 1_a \\
\epsilon_a & \xrightarrow{\epsilon_a} & \Omega^a \times a
\end{array}$$

Consider

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
\bullet & \xrightarrow{u} & \Omega^a \times a \\
\downarrow v & & \downarrow 1_{\epsilon_a} \\
\epsilon_a & \xrightarrow{\epsilon_a} & \Omega^a \times a \\
\downarrow 1_{\epsilon_a} & & \downarrow 1_{\Omega^a} \times 1_a \\
\epsilon_a & \xrightarrow{\epsilon_a} & \Omega^a \times a
\end{array}$$

with the outer square being commutative, that is  $u = \epsilon_a v$ . Hence, the morphism  $v : \bullet \rightarrow \epsilon_a$  works.

## 2.2 One monadic structure

Let us employ the definition of power object again: for  $a \in |\mathcal{E}|$ , the monomorphism

$$1_a \times 1_a : a \times a \rightarrow a \times a$$

has the morphism  $\eta_a : a \rightarrow \Omega^a$  for which there is a unique pullback square

$$\begin{array}{ccc} a \times a & \xrightarrow{1_a \times 1_a} & a \times a \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \eta_a \times 1_a \\ \epsilon_a & \xrightarrow{\epsilon_a} & \Omega^a \times a \end{array}$$

We have to verify the morphisms  $\eta_a$  for  $a \in |\mathcal{E}|$  form a natural transformation  $1_{\mathcal{E}} \rightarrow \Omega^\bullet$ , we shall write  $\eta$ . We demonstrate

$$\begin{array}{ccc} a & \xrightarrow{\eta_a} & \Omega^a \\ f \downarrow & & \downarrow \Omega^f \\ b & \xrightarrow{\eta_b} & \Omega^b \end{array}$$

commutes for every  $f : a \rightarrow b$  in  $\mathcal{E}$ . **[Definitive strategy yet to be found.]**

If we prove there exist two pullback squares

$$\begin{array}{ccc} a \times a & \xrightarrow{1_a \times f} & a \times b \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow (\eta_b f) \times 1_b \\ \epsilon_b & \xrightarrow{\epsilon_b} & \Omega^b \times b \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{ccc} a \times a & \xrightarrow{1_a \times f} & a \times b \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow (\Omega^f \eta_a) \times 1_b \\ \epsilon_b & \xrightarrow{\epsilon_b} & \Omega^b \times b \end{array}$$

then we have to conclude the naturality. The proof the first square is a pullback one is relatively simple. Consider

$$\begin{array}{ccc} a \times a & \xrightarrow{1_a \times f} & a \times b \\ f \times f \downarrow & & \downarrow f \times 1_b \\ b \times b & \xrightarrow{1_b \times 1_b} & b \times b \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \eta_b \times 1_b \\ \epsilon_b & \xrightarrow{\epsilon_b} & \Omega^b \times b \end{array}$$

Here, the lower square is of pullback by how  $\eta_b$  is defined. The upper one is a pullback square too. **[Proof here!]** Thus so is the perimetric rectangle because of the pullback lemma. For the second square consider

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} a \times a & \xrightarrow{1_a \times 1_a} & a \times a & \xrightarrow{1_a \times f} & a \times b \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \eta_a \times 1_a & & \downarrow \eta_a \times 1_b \\ \epsilon_a & \xrightarrow{\epsilon_a} & \Omega^a \times a & \xrightarrow{1_{\Omega^a} \times f} & \Omega^a \times b \\ \downarrow & & & & \downarrow \Omega^f \times 1_b \\ \epsilon_b & \xrightarrow{\epsilon_b} & \Omega^b \times b & & \end{array}$$

$Q_1$                        $Q_2$                        $Q_3$

Again, using twice of the pullback lemma yields the perimetric rectangle is a pullback square: in fact,  $Q_1$  and  $Q_3$  are pullback squares by definition of  $\eta_a$  and  $\Omega^f$ , whereas one can prove  $Q_2$  is a pullback square too. **[Proof here!]**

## 2.3 One algebra for the monad above

## 3 The actual article and a proof

[The symbolism here is weird...]

An *extensor* [in french, it is 'extenseur'] for a category  $\mathcal{C}$  amounts at having one object  $a$  of  $\mathcal{C}$  and for every *span*

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & x & \\ f \swarrow & & \searrow g \\ a & & y \end{array}$$

of  $\mathcal{C}$  one morphism  $y \rightarrow a$  of  $\mathcal{C}$  we denote  $\langle f, g \rangle$ ; all this complying with the following rules:

1. For any consecutive morphisms  $x \xrightarrow{g} y \xrightarrow{h} z$  we have

$$\langle \langle f, g \rangle, h \rangle = \langle f, hg \rangle.$$

[Here is a drawing of all this:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & x & \\ f \swarrow & & \searrow g \\ a & & y \\ & \langle f, g \rangle \dashrightarrow & \\ & \langle \langle f, g \rangle, h \rangle = \langle f, hg \rangle \dashrightarrow & \\ & & z \end{array}$$

]

2. If

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & p' & \\ h' \downarrow & \xrightarrow{\quad} & \downarrow h \\ & p & \end{array}$$

is a pullback square [in french, it is 'produit fibré', that is fibred product], then for every  $f$  as in

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & p' & \\ h' \downarrow & \xrightarrow{\quad} & \downarrow h \\ f \swarrow & \xrightarrow{\quad} & p \end{array}$$

we have

$$\langle f, p \rangle h = \langle fh', p' \rangle.$$

3. If in

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} & & h & & \\ & & \curvearrowright & & \\ \leftarrow & p & \leftarrow & h' & \rightarrow q \end{array}$$

we have  $ph'h = p$  and  $qhh' = q$ , then for if  $f$  is as in

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} & & h & & \\ & & \curvearrowright & & \\ \leftarrow & f & \leftarrow & p & \leftarrow & h' & \rightarrow q \end{array}$$

then

$$\langle aph', q \rangle = \langle ap, qh \rangle.$$

[This definition is a mess.] [Rewrite?]  
[T<sub>E</sub>X the unique result of the paper. What is a ‘sup-treillis’? A ‘treillis’ is a lattice. Maybe a lattice with products?]