## Topos Theory V: Sheaves

Robbert Liu

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### Contents

• Grothendieck Sites

2/13

### Contents

- Grothendieck Sites
- Examples of Sites

2/13

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- Grothendieck Sites
- Examples of Sites
- Sheaves on a Site

2/13

## Generalized Topologies

• Grothendieck observes the following duality between Galois theory and covering space theory:

Galois Theory	Covering Space Theory
Field $K$ of characteristic 0	(Locally) arcwise connected space $X$
Normal extension $m: K \rightarrow N$	Covering space $\rho: Y \twoheadrightarrow X$
Galois group of $N/K$	Covering group of $\rho$
Field automorphisms $\sigma$ of $N/K$	Deck transformations $\sigma: Y \to Y$
Factorizations $K \mapsto N_{\sigma} \mapsto N$	Factorizations $Y  woheadrightarrow Y_{\sigma}  woheadrightarrow X$
$Y \otimes_K N \cong \bigotimes_i N, N$ splitting	$Y \times_X U \to U \cong \prod_i U$ for some $U \ni x$
$K \to N$	$U \rightarrowtail X$

3 / 13

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• Grothendieck. We need a more general notion of topology where the primitive notions are not open sets  $U \rightarrow X$ , but more general maps.

3 / 13

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4/13

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4/13

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4/13

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  - **3** Transitivity Axiom. If  $S \in J(C)$  and R is any sieve on C such that  $h^*(R) \in J(D)$  for all  $h: D \to C \in S$ , then  $R \in J(C)$ .

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- A tuple (C, J), C small, is called a **(Grothendieck) site**.

4/13

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5/13

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  - **3** Transitivity. If S covers  $f: D \to C$  and R is a sieve on C which covers all morphisms in S, then R covers f.

5/13

### Preliminary Consequences

• Consequence of Transitivity. If S covers C, and if we have a cover  $R_f$  of each  $f: D_f \to C$  in S, then the set of composites fg with  $f \in S$  and  $g \in R_f$  covers C.

6/13

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6/13

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- If R and S cover  $g:D\to C$ , then  $R\cap S$  covers g.
- Proof. If  $f: D \to C \in R$ , then  $f^*(R \cap S) = f^*(S)$ , since any morphism in  $f^*(S)$ , when composed with  $f \in R$ , is also an element of R. Hence,  $f^*(R \cap S)$  covers D.

6/13

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7/13

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7/13

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7/13

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- From K, we get a unique topology J, such that  $S \in J(C)$  iff S contains some  $R \in K(C)$ .

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8 / 13

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8/13

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- Open Cover Topology. Given a small subcategory  $T \leq \text{Top}$ , which is closed under finite limits and restriction to open subspaces, the **open cover topology** is generated by the basis K defined by  $\{\iota_i: Y_i \hookrightarrow X \mid i \in I\} \in K(X)$ , iff each  $Y_i$  is an open subspace of X with the inclusion  $\iota_i$ , and  $\bigcup_i Y_i = X$ .

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- A finer category on T is generated by the basis K assigning to X the set of all families  $\{f_i: Y_i \to X \mid i \in I\}$  such that  $f: \coprod_i Y_i \to X$  is an open surjection.

## More Examples

• Sup Topology. A complete Heyting algebra is a HA admitting sups and infs over any family. The **sup topology** on a cHa is generated by the basis K, defined by  $\{a_i : i \in I\} \in K(c)$  if  $\bigwedge_{i \in I} a_i = c$ ; this generalizes the open set topology to any complete Heyting algebra. Stability follows from

$$\bigwedge_{i \in I} (b \wedge a_i) = b \wedge \bigwedge_{i \in I} a_i$$

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- Atomic Topology. The atomic category is defined by  $S \in J(C)$  iff S is a nonempty sieve.

October 19, 2022

9/13

#### The Zariski Site

• Given an ideal  $I \subseteq \mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ , we define  $V(I) = \{x \in \mathbb{C}^n : I \text{ vanishes on } x\}$ . V(I) is called a **complex affine variety**.

10 / 13

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Robbert Liu Topos Theory V October 19, 2022 10/13

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Robbert Liu Topos Theory V October 19, 2022 10/13

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- $\bullet$  Moreover,  $\mathcal{O}$  is a sheaf of rings, with each stalk being a local ring, i.e. contains a unique maximal ideal.

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- Moreover,  $\mathcal{O}$  is a sheaf of rings, with each stalk being a local ring, i.e. contains a unique maximal ideal.
- The general construction can be done for a commutative ring k.



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- Let  $(k Alg)_{fp}$  denote the category of all these algebras. The objects are no longer point-sets but algebras, so we cannot define functions at points.

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- We can instead define a Grothendieck topology on  $(k Alg)_{fp}$ . Covers of a k-algebra A will be determined by elements  $a_1, \ldots, a_n$  such that  $(a_1, \ldots, a_n) = A$ . Each cover will be the dual of a family of the form  $\{A \to A[a_i^{-1}]\}_i$ .

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- The last step is to define a suitable structure sheaf on  $(k Alg)_{fp}$  which acts like "the ring of functions on each neighbourhood".

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11 / 13

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12 / 13

Robbert Liu Topos Theory V October 19, 2022

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$$\operatorname{Hom}(S, P) \cong \operatorname{Hom}(\sharp(C), P)$$

• This is true if we have a family of equalizers:

$$P(C) \xrightarrow{x \mapsto \{x_f\}_f} \prod_{f \in S} P(\operatorname{dom} f) \xrightarrow{x_f \mapsto x_f \cdot g} \prod_{\substack{f \in S \\ \operatorname{dom} f = \operatorname{cod} g}} P(\operatorname{dom} g)$$

• Again, it suffices to describe a sheaf on a basis K. If  $R = \{f_i : C_i \to C \mid i \in I\}$  is a K-cover of C, a matching family is one such that  $x_i \cdot \pi^1_{ij} = x_j \cdot \pi^2_{ij}$  always holds. An amalgamation for  $\{x_i\}$  is a compatible element x.

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13 / 13

Robbert Liu Topos Theory V October 19, 2022

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13 / 13

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- Definition. A **Grothendieck topos** is a category which is equivalent to the category Sh(C, J) of sheaves on some site (C, J).

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