

Cohesion in Rome

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Toposes

[...] vi el Aleph, desde todos los puntos,
vi en el Aleph la tierra, y en la tierra otra
vez el Aleph y en el Aleph la tierra, vi mi
cara y mis vísceras, vi tu cara, y sentí
vértigo y lloré...

JLB

Topos theory is a cornerstone of category theory linking together algebra, geometry and logic.

In each topos it is possible to re-enact Mathematics; today we focus on

- Logic (better said, a fragment of **dependent type theory**)
- Differential geometry (better said, iterated **tangent bundles**)
- (Secretly, algebraic topology)
- ...

Sheaves on spaces

Let (X, τ) be a topological space; a *sheaf on X* is a functor $F : \tau^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \underline{\text{Set}}$ such that for every $U \in \tau$ and every covering $\{U_i\}$ of U one has

- if $s, t \in FU$ are such that $s|_i = t|_i$ in FU_i for every $i \in I$, then $s = t$ in FU .
- if $s_i \in FU_i$ is a family of elements such that $s_i|_{ij} = s_j|_{ij}$, then there exists a $s \in FU$ such that $s|_i = s_i$.¹

¹We denote $s|_i$ the image of $s \in FU$ under the nameless map $FU \rightarrow FU_i$ induced by the inclusion $U_i \subseteq U$.

Examples of sheaves

Every construction in Mathematics that exhibits a **local** character is a sheaf:

- sending $U \mapsto CU$, continuous functions with domain U
(similarly, differentiable, C^∞ , C^ω , holomorphic...)
- sending $U \mapsto \Omega^P U$, differential forms supported on U
(similarly: distributions, test functions...)
- ... sending $U \mapsto \{f : U \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \mid f \text{ has property } P \text{ locally}\}$ for some P .

Every construction that does involve global properties, is not a sheaf:

- sending $U \mapsto \{\text{bounded functions } f : U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}\}$
- sending $U \mapsto \{L^1 \text{ functions } f : U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}\}$
- ...

Grothendieck topologies

A **sieve** on an object X of a category \mathcal{C} is a subobject S of the hom functor $yX = \mathcal{C}(-, X)$;

A **Grothendieck topology** on a category amounts to the choice of a family of **covering sieves** for every object $X \in \mathcal{C}$; this family of sieves is chosen in such a way that

[list of axioms abstracting the fact that

- if $\{U_i\}$ covers U , then for every $V \subseteq U$ $V \cap U_i$ covers V ;
- if $\{U_i\}$ covers U and $\{V_{ij}\}$ covers U_i , then V_{ij} covers U ;
- $\{U\}$ covers U .

]

Grothendieck topologies

A Grothendieck site is a category with a Grothendieck topology, i.e. a function j that assigns to every object a family of covering sieves.

We denote a site as the pair (\mathcal{C}, j) .

Sheaves on a site

A **sheaf** on a small site \mathcal{C} is a functor $F : \mathcal{C}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \underline{\text{Set}}$ such that for every covering sieve $R \rightarrow yU$ and every diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} R & \xrightarrow{f} & F \\ m \downarrow & \nearrow \text{dotted} & \\ yU & & \end{array}$$

there is a unique dotted extension $yU \Rightarrow F$ (by the Yoneda lemma, this consists of a unique element $s \in FU$: exercise, derive the sheaf axioms from this).

The full subcategory of sheaves on a site (\mathcal{C}, j) is denoted $\text{Sh}(\mathcal{C}, j)$.

Giraud Theorem

By general facts on locally presentable categories, the subcategory of sheaves on a site is reflective via a functor

$$r : \text{Cat}(\mathcal{C}^{\text{op}}, \underline{\text{Set}}) \rightarrow \text{Sh}(\mathcal{C}, j)$$

called *sheafification* of a presheaf $F : \mathcal{C}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \underline{\text{Set}}$.

Grothendieck was the first to note that in every topos of sheaves the **internal language** is sufficiently expressive to concoct **higher-order logic** and he strived to advertise his intuitions to an audience of logicians.

But it wasn't until Lawvere devised the notion of **elementary topos** that the community agreed on the potential of this theory.

Elementary toposes

An *elementary topos* is a category \mathcal{E} that

- it has finite limits (products, equalizers, pullbacks);
- is cartesian closed (every $A \times \underline{}$ has a right adjoint);
- has a *subobject classifier*, i.e. an object $\Omega \in \mathcal{E}$ such that the functor $\text{Sub} : \mathcal{E}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \underline{\text{Set}}$ sending A into the set of isomorphism classes of monomorphisms \downarrow_A^U is representable by the object Ω .

Elementary toposes

The natural bijection $\mathcal{E}(A, \Omega) \cong \text{Sub}(A)$ is obtained pulling back a “characteristic arrow” $\chi_U : A \rightarrow \Omega$ along a **universal arrow** $t : 1 \rightarrow \Omega$ to obtain the monic U , as in the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} U & \longrightarrow & 1 \\ m \downarrow & \lrcorner & \downarrow t \\ A & \xrightarrow{\chi_m} & \Omega \end{array}$$

The bijection is induced by the maps

- $\chi_- : \begin{bmatrix} U \\ \downarrow \\ A \end{bmatrix} \mapsto \chi_m$ and
- $- \times_{\Omega} t : \chi_U \mapsto \chi_U \times_{\Omega} t.$

En los libros herméticos está escrito que lo que hay abajo es igual a lo que hay arriba, y lo que hay arriba, igual a lo que hay abajo; en el Zohar, que el mundo inferior es reflejo del superior.[†]

JLB

- Every Grothendieck topos is elementary;
- An elementary topos is Grothendieck if and only if it is a locally finitely presentable category.

Giraud theorem characterises Grothendieck toposes as such elementary toposes.

[†]Microcosm principle: a topos, i.e. a place where subobjects are well-behaved, is but a well-behaved subobject in the 2-category of presheaf categories.

Axiomatic Cohesion

What is cohesion

Cohesion is the mutual attraction of molecules sticking together to form *droplets*, caused by mild electrical attraction between them.

Figure 1: Droplets of mercury “exhibiting cohesion”

What is cohesion

Classes of geometric spaces exhibit similar coagulation properties, similar to internal forces leading them to adhere and form **coherent conglomerates**.

This behaviour is typical of **smooth spaces**.

Example

Smooth manifolds can be probed via smooth open balls and every smooth space is a “coherent conglomerate” of *cohesive pieces*.

Question

Which axioms formalize this intuition? What is *axiomatic cohesion*?

Axioms to answer this question have been devised by Lawvere [Law1] (worth reading, but quite mystical!).

Desiderata

We would like to operate in a *category* (a **topos**) of “cohesive spaces”, such that

- there is a functor $\Pi: \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \underline{\text{Set}}$ that sends every cohesive space $X \in \mathcal{H}$ into its set of **connected components**.
- Every set $S \in \underline{\text{Set}}$ can be regarded as a cohesive space in two complementary ways:
 - *discretely*, with a functor $\underline{\text{Set}} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$ that regards every singleton of S as a cohesive droplet;
 - *codiscretely*, with a functor $\underline{\text{Set}} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$ that regards the whole S as an unseparable cohesive droplet.
- Discretely and codiscretely cohesive spaces embed in \mathcal{H} , with fully faithful functors.

Axiomatic cohesion

An adjunction

$$\Pi \dashv \text{disc} \dashv \Gamma \dashv \text{codisc} : \mathcal{H} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\Pi} \\ \xleftarrow{\text{disc}} \quad \xrightarrow{\perp} \\ \xleftarrow{\Gamma} \quad \xrightarrow{\perp} \\ \xleftarrow{\text{codisc}} \end{array} \underline{\text{Set}}$$

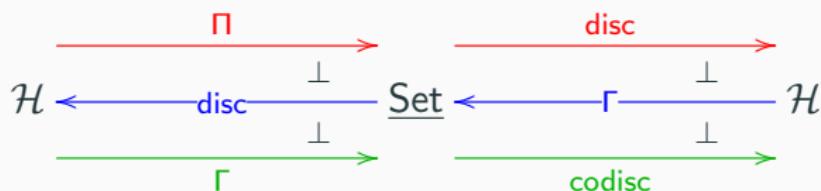
exhibits the cohesion of \mathcal{H} over Set if

- disc and codisc are fully faithful;
- the leftmost adjoint Π preserves finite products.

(Γ “forgets cohesion”: it sends a space to its underlying set of points)

Formal fact. Every quadruple of adjoints induces a triple of adjoints.

- There is an adjoint triple of idempotent co/monads on \mathcal{H} , induced by the cohesion:



monad	comonad	monad
\int	$(-)^{\flat}$	$(-)^{\sharp}$
$\text{disc} \circ \Pi$	$\text{disc} \circ \Gamma$	$\text{codisc} \circ \Gamma$
pron.: <i>shape</i>	pron.: <i>flat</i>	pron.: <i>sharp</i>

Modalities, pieces

The triple of adjoints

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & \lrcorner & \\ \mathcal{H} & \xrightleftharpoons{\quad} & \mathcal{H} \\ & \lrcorner & \\ & \sharp & \end{array}$$

is called the **shape, flat, sharp** string of “co/modalities”
(idempotent co/monads) for the cohesive topos \mathcal{H} .

The **shape** of $X \in \mathcal{H}$ is the discrete object on the “fundamental groupoid” of X .

Idea. The adjunction $\Pi \dashv \text{disc}$ has something to do with
(topological) Galois theory.

Modalities, pieces

1. The **flat** functor corresponds to the **object of flat connections** on $X \in \mathcal{H}$: if G is a group,

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{principal} \\ \text{bundles on } X \end{array} \right\} \cong \left\{ X \longrightarrow BG \right\} \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{flat con-} \\ \text{nections on } X \end{array} \right\} \cong \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \nearrow \text{dotted arrow} \\ X \xrightarrow{\quad} BG \end{array} \right\}$$

(keep in mind these equivalences: they will reappear later)

2. **sharp** of X , X^\sharp , corresponds to the codiscrete object on the sets of **points** ΓX of X .
3. Co/discrete objects are precisely the objects for which $X^\flat \cong X$, resp. $Y^\sharp \cong Y$.

Every object fits in a “complex”:

Definition

There is a canonical natural transformation

$$\sharp X \xrightarrow{\epsilon_{(\text{disc} \dashv \Gamma), X}} X \xrightarrow{\eta_{(\Pi \dashv \text{disc}), X}} \int X$$

called the “**points to pieces**” map; this map comes from a natural transformation

$$\alpha : \Gamma \Rightarrow \Pi$$

$$\alpha_X : \Gamma X \rightarrow \Pi X$$

It is a “comparison” between the action of Γ (send X into its “sections” or “set of points”) and Π (send X into its “pieces” or “components”).

- We say that **pieces have points** in the cohesive topos \mathcal{H} (or that “ \mathcal{H} satisfies *Nullstellensatz*”) if the points-to-pieces transformation $\alpha_X : \Gamma X \rightarrow \Pi X$ is surjective for all $X \in \mathcal{H}$.
- We say that **discrete is concrete** in \mathcal{H} if natural transformation whose components are

$$\text{disc}(S) \rightarrow \text{codisc}(\Gamma(\text{disc}(S))) \cong \text{codisc}(S)$$

is a monomorphism (discrete cohesion sits into codiscrete cohesion).

- We say that \mathcal{H} has **contractible subobjects** or has **sufficient cohesion** if $\Pi(\Omega) \cong *$. This implies that for all $X \in \mathcal{H}$ also $\Pi(\Omega^X) \cong *$.
- ... and many others (see [Law]).

Example of modal truth

Definition

$\psi: S \hookrightarrow A$ in a cohesive topos \mathcal{H} is a proposition of type A in the internal logic of \mathcal{H} . We say that ψ is *discretely true* if the pullback $\psi^*(S) \rightarrow A$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \psi^*(S) & \xrightarrow{\quad} & \flat S \\ \downarrow & \lrcorner & \downarrow \flat\psi \\ A & \xrightarrow[\eta]{} & \flat A \end{array}$$

is an isomorphism in \mathcal{H} , where $\eta: A \rightarrow \flat A$ is the \flat -unit of the flat monad.

Example of modal truth

- Discrete truth specifies a mode/modality in which a proposition can be true. Propositions true over all discrete objects (i.e., such that $\flat\psi$ is an iso) are discretely true.
- Let $\mathcal{H} = \text{Sh}(\text{Cart}, J)$ be the topos of sheaves over cartesian spaces ($\text{hom}(m, n) = \text{smooth maps } \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$) is cohesive.
- Let $\psi: Z^p(U) \hookrightarrow \Omega^p(U)$ be the proposition in \mathcal{H} given by “the p -form ω is closed on a neighbourhood $V_x \subseteq U$ of a point $x \in U$ ”. Then ψ is discretely true (“every form is closed over a discrete space”).

Examples

EX: The Sierpiński topos

Let $\mathcal{C} = \{0 \rightarrow 1\}$ be the interval category with a unique non-identity arrow.

The category $\mathcal{H} = \text{Cat}(\mathcal{C}, \underline{\text{Set}})$ exhibits cohesion: an object in \mathcal{H} is an arrow in Set, and

- the functor Π sends an object $S \rightarrow I$ to its **codomain** I ;
- the functor Γ sends an object $S \rightarrow I$ to its **domain** S ;
- the functor **disc** sends a set K into the **identity** $1: K \rightarrow K$;
- the functor **codisc** sends a set K into its **terminal** morphism $K \rightarrow *$.

EX: The Sierpiński topos

Evidently these functors form an adjunction ($\Pi \dashv \text{disc} \dashv \Gamma \dashv \text{codisc}$) so that \mathcal{H} exhibits cohesion; this matches our intuition, in that

- The “points to pieces” transformation sends $f : S \rightarrow I$ into $S = \Gamma(f) \rightarrow \Pi(f) = I$;
- $\text{disc}(K)$ “keeps all the pieces of K maximally distinguished” and
- $\text{codisc}(K)$ “lumps all the pieces of K together”.

EX: Pointed categories

Let \mathcal{C} small and with a terminal object. Then there exists a triple

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & \xrightarrow{\lim\limits_{\longrightarrow}} & \\ [\mathcal{C}^{\text{op}}, \underline{\text{Set}}] & \xleftarrow{\text{const}} & \underline{\text{Set}} \\ & \xrightarrow{\lim\limits_{\longleftarrow}} & \end{array}$$

that extends to $\lim\limits_{\longleftarrow} \dashv \aleph$:

$$S \xrightarrow{\aleph} \left(c \mapsto \underline{\text{Set}}(\mathcal{C}(*, c), S) \right)$$

(Dually, if \mathcal{C} has an initial object...)

Proposition

If \mathcal{C} has both an initial and a terminal object (e.g. it is pointed)
then $[\mathcal{C}^{\text{op}}, \underline{\text{Set}}]$ exhibits cohesion with

$$(\lim\limits_{\longrightarrow} \dashv \text{const} \dashv \lim\limits_{\longleftarrow} \dashv \aleph) : [\mathcal{C}^{\text{op}}, \underline{\text{Set}}] \xrightleftharpoons{\text{const}} \underline{\text{Set}}$$

EX: Simplicial sets

Proposition

Let Δ be the simplex category having objects nonempty finite ordinals and morphisms monotone maps. The topos

$\mathcal{H} = [\Delta^{\text{op}}, \underline{\text{Set}}]$ exhibits cohesion, and in \mathcal{H} pieces have points.

- $\Gamma = (-)_0$ sends a simplicial set X into its set of 0-simplices X_0
- $\Pi = \pi_0$ sends a simplicial set X into its set of connected components $\text{coeq}(X_1 \rightrightarrows X_0)$.
- disc sends a set S into the constant simplicial set in S having constant set of simplices and identities as faces and degeneracies.
- codisc sends a set S into the simplicial set whose n -simplices are $(n + 1)$ -tuples of elements of S (and faces and degeneracies forget and add elements accordingly).

EX: Tangent cohesion

Consider the codomain fibration

$$\mathcal{C}^{\rightarrow} \xrightarrow{p} \mathcal{C}$$

of a finitely complete category \mathcal{C} , sending an arrow $f: X \rightarrow Y$ to its codomain. The fiber $p^{\leftarrow}(Y)$ is canonically isomorphic to the category \mathcal{C}/Y of arrows over Y .

There exists a fibration $T\mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ having typical fiber the fiberwise abelianization of \mathcal{C}/Y , i.e. the category $\text{Ab}(\mathcal{C}/Y)$ of abelian groups in \mathcal{C}/Y .

(hint: un/straighten the prestack $\mathcal{C} \rightarrow \text{Cat}: Y \mapsto \text{Ab}(\mathcal{C}/Y)$).

Proposition

If \mathcal{C} is a topos over \mathcal{S} , then so is $T\mathcal{C}$; moreover, the projection $q: T\mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ creates co/limits.

Tangent cohesion

Proposition

Functor $\delta: T\mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ = domain projection. Has left adjoint the functor $\Omega: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow T\mathcal{C}$ that is also a *section* for q .

$\Omega(A) =$ the complex of differential forms on an internal abelian group $A \in \text{Ab}(\mathcal{C}/X)$.

In classical differential geometry a leading theorem is that the co/tangent bundle to a smooth manifold is itself a smooth manifold. Here we can prove that

Fact

The tangent category to a cohesive topos is itself a cohesive topos.

Infinitesimal cohesion

Let \mathcal{H} be cohesive. An **infinitesimal thickening** of \mathcal{H} is a new cohesive topos $\tilde{\mathcal{H}}$ linked to the previous by a quadruple of adjoints

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & \mathcal{H} & \\ (i_! \dashv i^* \dashv i_! \dashv i^!) & \Downarrow & \Upsilon \\ \Downarrow & \mathcal{H} & \Downarrow \\ & \tilde{\mathcal{H}} & \end{array}$$

such that i_* , $i_!$ are fully faithful and $i_!$ commutes with finite products.

If such a structure exists, \mathcal{H} “exhibits **infinitesimal cohesion**”.

Neighbourhoods of some spaces are “infinitesimally extended around a single (global) point”. Cohesive structure can be refined to capture this phenomenon.

Infinitesimal cohesion

- The cohesion exhibited by $\tilde{\mathcal{H}}$ factors through that of \mathcal{H} , in that

$$(\Pi_{\tilde{\mathcal{H}}} \dashv \text{disc}_{\tilde{\mathcal{H}}} \dashv \Gamma_{\tilde{\mathcal{H}}}) : \tilde{\mathcal{H}} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{i^*} \\[-1ex] \xleftarrow{i_*} \\[-1ex] \xrightarrow{i^!} \end{array} \mathcal{H} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\Pi} \\[-1ex] \xleftarrow{\text{disc}} \\[-1ex] \xrightarrow{\Gamma} \end{array} \underline{\text{Set}}$$

- Infinitesimal cohesion describes formally infinitesimally extended neighbourhoods: if the functor i^* is interpreted as a contraction of a fat point onto its singleton, then $X \in \tilde{\mathcal{H}}$ is infinitesimal if $i^*(X) \cong *$. This motivates the fact that

$$\tilde{\mathcal{H}}(*, X) \cong \tilde{\mathcal{H}}(i_!(*), X) \cong \mathcal{H}(*, i^*(X)) \cong \mathcal{H}(*, *) \cong *$$

so that \mathcal{H} sees X as a “small neighbourhood concentrated around a single point $*_X$ ”.

Higher order cohesion: jet spaces

Most examples of infinitesimal cohensions come equipped with an infinite chain of thickening approximations.

Consider the **infinitesimal shape modality** $\Im := i_* i^*$
(it comes equipped with other two adjoints, $\Re \dashv \Im \dashv \&$)²

In several cases (like **smooth manifolds**) we have a **chain** of infinitesimal thickenings

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} \widetilde{\mathcal{H}}_0 & \xrightarrow{i^{*(0)}} & \widetilde{\mathcal{H}}_1 & \xrightarrow{i^{*(1)}} & \widetilde{\mathcal{H}}_2 & \xrightarrow{i^{*(2)}} & \dots \\ \xleftarrow{i_{*,(0)}} & & \xleftarrow{i_{*,(1)}} & & \xleftarrow{i_{*,(2)}} & & \\ & & & & & & \\ \widetilde{\mathcal{H}}_\infty & \xrightarrow{i^{*(\infty)}} & \mathcal{H} & & & & \end{array}$$

here we speak of a **sequence of orders of differential structures**.

²This is the same general fact inducing $\int \dashv \flat \dashv \sharp$ adjunction.

Higher order cohesion: jet spaces

Each of these approximations comes equipped with an *order k infinitesimal shape modality* $\mathfrak{S}^{(k)}X$ in a sequence

$$X \rightarrow \mathfrak{S}X = \mathfrak{S}^{(0)}X \rightarrow \mathfrak{S}^{(1)}X \rightarrow \mathfrak{S}^{(2)}X \rightarrow \dots$$

Example: Every cohesive topos exhibits infinitesimal cohesion via its **tangent** cohesive topos. This cohesion extends to any order of differential structure (“cohesive jet spaces”).

One can go **way** further, but the terminology becomes pretty dire:

Remark 2.2.13. The perspective of def. 2.2.12 has been highlighted in [Law91], where it is proposed (p. 7) that adjunctions of this form usefully formalize “many instances of the *Unity and Identity of Opposites*” that control Hegelian metaphysics [He1841].

[DCCT170811], 1040 pages of Hegel-ish mathematics

uses axiomatic cohesion of ∞ -toposes to axiomatise string theory.

With Aufhebung.

Supergroupoids: rheonomy

We can speak of **supergroupoids** and show that certain categories of supersmooth manifolds exhibit cohesion (but not over Set...):

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{SuperSmoothS} \\ \uparrow d \quad \uparrow \Gamma \quad \uparrow c \\ \Pi \downarrow \quad \downarrow \quad \downarrow \\ \text{SuperS} \end{array}$$

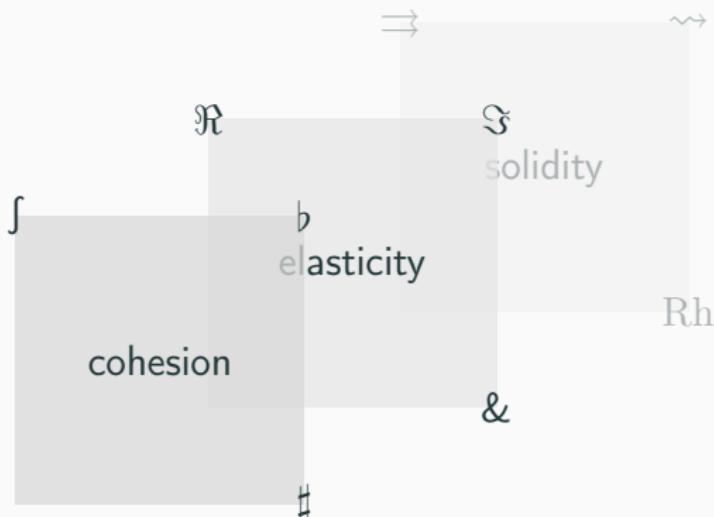
The quadruple of adjoints generates the triple

$$\Rightarrow \dashv \rightsquigarrow \dashv \text{Rh}$$

(in some sense “fermions” \dashv “bosons”)

Supergroup: rheonomy

There is a “quadruple-to-triple” pattern here:



de Rham cohomology in cohesion

- Let \mathcal{H} be a cohesive topos, and $0 \rightarrow A$ a pointed object (e.g. an internal abelian group); then, A fits into a pullback square

$$\begin{array}{ccc} b_{dR}A & \longrightarrow & bA \\ \downarrow & \lrcorner & \downarrow \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & A \end{array}$$

where $b_{dR}A$ is the **object of coefficients** for de Rham cohomology.

- Let $X \in \mathcal{H}$ any object; we define $\int_{dR} X$ to be the pushout

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X & \longrightarrow & 0 \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \int X & \longrightarrow & \int_{dR} X \end{array}$$

where $\int_{dR} X$ is the **de Rham object** associated to X .

de Rham cohomology in cohesion

There is an adjunction

$$\begin{array}{ccc} */\mathcal{H} & \xrightarrow{\flat_{dR}} & \mathcal{H} \\ & \xleftarrow{\sharp_{dR}} & \end{array}$$

The mapping space $*/\mathcal{H}(\sharp_{dR} X, A) \cong \mathcal{H}(X, \flat_{dR} A)$ is called the de Rham space of X with coefficients in A and denoted $\mathbf{H}_{dR}^0(X, A)$.

de Rham cohomology in cohesion

Consider the pullback defining $\flat_{dR} A$ and apply the limit-preserving functor $\mathcal{H}(X, -)$: the square

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{H}(X, \flat_{dR} A) & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{H}(X, \flat A) \\ \downarrow & \lrcorner & \downarrow \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{H}(X, A) \end{array}$$

remains a pullback and the object $\mathcal{H}(X, \flat A)$ identifies to **A-valued differential forms**, and the maps $X \rightarrow \flat_{dR} A$ are the **flat** ones: under the $\int \dashv \flat$ adjunction, a map $X \rightarrow \flat A$ mates to a smooth map

$$\int X \rightarrow A, \text{ corresponding to a square } \begin{array}{ccc} X & \xrightarrow{\quad} & 0 \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \int X & \rightarrow & A \end{array}$$

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