# The comprehension construction and fibrations of toposes TACL 2019, Nice

Sina Hazratpour (j.w.w. Steve Vickers)

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### Introduction

- > Part A: motivating categorical fibrations from logic
- Part B: fibrations of toposes

Part A: categorical fibrations from logic

$$\forall w_1,\ldots,w_n \,\forall A \,\exists B \,\forall x \, (x \in B \Leftrightarrow [x \in A \land \varphi(x,w_1,\ldots,w_n,A)])$$

where  $\varphi$  is a formula in the language of set theory with free variables  $x, w_1, ..., w_n, A$ .

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- Comprehension essentially says that given a set A and a predicate P with a free variable x whose values range over A, we can find a subset B of A whose members are precisely the members of A that satisfy P.
- ▶ By the axiom of extensionality the set *B* is unique and is denoted by  $\{a \in A : P(a) = \text{True}\}.$

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- ► Categorifying "comprehension" naturally leads to the notion of subobject classifier (of an elementary topos, say *E*).
- True is represented as a monomorphism True: 1 → Ω, and {a ∈ A : P(a) = True} is given by the object B of the pullback of True: 1 → Ω and P: A → Ω.



 ▶ (Lawvere, 1970) For a <u>hyperdoctrine</u> P, a comprehension schema is a pair of adjoint functors



- It is often the case that a comprehension scheme for a hyperdoctrine arises in situations when we have
  - 1. A factorization system ( $\mathcal{E},\mathcal{M})$  on the category  $\mathbb{T}.$
  - 2. An object  $\Omega$  in  $\mathbb T$  which classifies (equivalence classes of)  $\mathcal M\text{-objects},$  i.e. we have natural isomorphisms

 $\mathbb{T}(X,\Omega)\cong \mathfrak{M}(X)$ 

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T: elementary topos
 P := T(-, Ω<sub>T</sub>), and (ε, M): the usual epi-mono factorization.
 Therefore, P(X) ≅ T(X, Ω) ≅ M(X). The unit (η) of adjunction above is given by the image factorization:

$$\begin{array}{c} Y \\ e \\ \downarrow \\ Y_f \xrightarrow{f} \\ m \\ \end{array} X$$

with 
$$\eta(f) = e$$
.

### n-Categorical levels

 Consider the following chain of categories (equipped with their notion of structural identity of objects) and adjoint functors



### n-Categorical levels

The above chain of categories can be extended to the following chain of 2-categories and (strict) 2-functors.



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- (Street and Walters, 1978) and (Weber, 2007) observed that for a 2-categorical comprehension the generic subobject True: 1 → Ω should be replaced with the discrete opfibration U: Set• → Set whose *fibres* are *discrete*, aka sets, aka 0-level "types".

▶ For a (small) category  $\mathcal{C}$  and a functor  $\mathbb{X}$ :  $\mathcal{C} \to Set$ , we have



The composite process is the well-known Grothendieck construction.

An equivalence of categories:



U: Set<sub>●</sub> → Set classifies discrete opfibrations, and for a discrete fibration
 p: E → B we have a functor

$$\operatorname{cmp}_{\boldsymbol{p}, \mathfrak{C}} \colon \mathfrak{Cat}(\mathfrak{C}, \mathfrak{B}) \xrightarrow{\simeq} \mathsf{do}\mathfrak{Fib} / \mathfrak{C}$$

which is an equivalence of categories and natural in  $\mathcal{C}$ .

Note: A natural transformation  $\alpha \colon \mathbb{X} \Rightarrow \mathbb{Y} \colon \mathbb{C} \rightrightarrows \mathcal{B}$  is taken to a functor  $\ell(\alpha) \colon \mathbb{X}^* p \to \mathbb{Y}^* p$  in dofib/ $\mathbb{C}$ .

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The equivalence

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 $\mathfrak{Cat}(\mathfrak{C}, \mathfrak{Set}) \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathsf{doFib} / \mathfrak{C}$ 

is the counterpart of the natural isomorphism

 $\mathbb{T}(X,\Omega)\cong \mathfrak{P}(X)$ 

### Factorization systems of discrete categorical comprehension

(Street and Walters, 1978) give two factorization systems corresponding to the discrete categorical comprehension construction:

- 1. (initial functors, discrete opfibrations)
- 2. (final functors, discrete fibrations)

They should be seen as generalizations of (epi, mono) factorization system.

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- We can generalized the comprehension construction from 0-type valued predicates (i.e. functors to Set) to 1-type valued predicates (i.e. functors to Cat). To formulate the comprehension construction for 1-type valued predicates we need the notion of Grothendeick opfibration: here the fibres are (in general non-discrete) categories which covariantly depend on the objects of the base.

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- More generally, we can perform the comprehension construction for the 1-type valued predicates along *Johnstone fibrations* internal to *any* 2-category.

#### Definition (P. Johnstone, 93)

Suppose  $\mathfrak{K}$  is a 2-category. A 1-morphism  $p: E \to B$  is an (internal) opfibration in  $\mathfrak{K}$  if

- 1. it is bicarrable, and
- 2. for any 2-morphism  $\alpha \colon f \Rightarrow g \colon A \rightrightarrows B$  in  $\mathfrak{K}$ , there exist a 1-morphism  $\ell(\alpha) \colon f^*E \to g^*E$ , a 2-morphism  $\widetilde{\alpha} \colon p^*f \Rightarrow p^*g \circ \ell(\alpha)$ , and an invertible 2-morphism  $\tau(\alpha) \colon f^*p \Rightarrow g^*p \circ \ell(\alpha)$  satisfying *five coherence axioms*.



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► The five coherence conditions are about the coherence of the lifting structure with respect to the unit and composition of 2-morphisms targeted at B, the whiskering of 2-morphisms targeted at B with compatible 1-morphisms, and finally the cartesianness of the lift  $\tilde{\alpha}$ .

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where  ${\mathcal D}$  is a distinguished class of "display morphisms" in  ${\mathfrak K}$  such that

- 1. Every identity 1-morphism is in  $\ensuremath{\mathcal{D}}.$
- 2. If  $x: \overline{x} \to \underline{x}$  is in  $\mathcal{D}$ , and  $f: \underline{y} \to \underline{x}$  in  $\mathfrak{K}$ , then there is some bipullback y of x along  $\underline{f}$  such that  $y \in D$ .

> From the structure of Johnstone fibration we get a pseudo-functor

$$\operatorname{cmp}_{p,A} \colon \mathfrak{K}(A,B) \to \operatorname{op}\mathfrak{Fib}(\mathfrak{K}) /\!\!/ A$$

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- ► Note that the pseudo functor cmp<sub>p,A</sub> is not an equivalence. (e.g. a discretely equifibred category over 2.)
- ▶ p is called a *univalent opfibration* if the equivalence of fibres induces an iso 2-morphism in *𝔅*.



Fibrations of toposes

- Crucially, Johnstone's definition does not require strictness of the 2-category nor the existence of the structure of strict pullbacks and comma objects.
- This definition is most suitable for 2-categories with weak limits such as the 2-category of toposes where the limits are weak and diagrams are in general not expected to commute strictly.

### Classifying toposes as representing objects

 $\blacktriangleright$  Let  $\mathbb T$  be a geometric theory, and  $\mathbb S$  an elementary topos with nno. Consider the pseudo-functor

 $\mathbb{T}\operatorname{\mathsf{-Mod-}}: (\mathfrak{BTop}/S)^{\operatorname{op}} \to \mathfrak{Cat}$ 

- ▶ To an S-topos  $\mathscr{E}$  it assigns the category  $\mathbb{T}$ -Mod- $\mathscr{E}$  of models  $\mathbb{T}$  in  $\mathscr{E}$ .
- ▶ To a geometric morphism  $(f^*, f_*)$ :  $\mathscr{F} \to \mathscr{E}$  of S-toposes it assigns the functor  $f^*$ :  $\mathbb{T}$ -Mod- $\mathscr{E} \to \mathbb{T}$ -Mod- $\mathscr{F}$ .
- ▶ Note that  $\mathbb{T}$ -Mod- $(f \circ g) \cong (\mathbb{T}$ -Mod- $f) \circ (\mathbb{T}$ -Mod-g)
- ► The classifying topos S[T] of a geometric theory/context T can be seen as a representing object for this pseudo-functor, i.e.

 $\mathbb{BTop}/\mathbb{S}(\mathscr{E},\mathbb{S}[\mathbb{T}])\simeq\mathbb{T}\operatorname{\mathsf{-Mod-}}\mathscr{E}$ 

naturally in  $\mathcal{E}$ .

#### Given

 $p\colon \mathscr{E}\to \mathbb{S}$ : a bounded geometric morphism,  $U\colon \mathbb{T}_1\to \mathbb{T}_0$ : an extension of geometric theories, and M is a (strict) model of theory  $\mathbb{T}_0$  in the base topos  $\mathbb{S}$ , then define

 $\mathbb{T}_1/M(\mathscr{E})$ : = (strict) models of  $\mathbb{T}_1$  in  $\mathscr{E}$  which reduce to  $p^*M$  via U

### Fibrations of toposes from fibrational extension of theories

#### Theorem (S.H, S. Vickers, 2018)

If  $U: \mathbb{T}_1 \to \mathbb{T}_0$  is a (op)fibrational extension of theories, and M is any model of  $\mathbb{T}_0$  in an elementary topos S, then  $p: S[\mathbb{T}_1/M] \to S$  is an (op)fibration of toposes.

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Moreover, for any geometric (not necessarily bounded) morphism  $\underline{f}: \mathcal{A} \to S$ , the classifying topos  $\mathcal{A}[\mathbb{T}_1/\underline{f}^*M]$  is got by bipullback of p along  $\underline{f}$ :



Sina Hazratpour and Steven Vickers. "Fibrations of AU-contexts beget fibrations of toposes". In: *arXiv:1808.08291* (2018). Submitted to Theory and Application of Categories (TAC).

We actually proved the theorem above for the more general case of "AU-contexts" which are the logical theories of Arithmetic Universes.

Arithmetic Universe(AU)= list-arithmetic pretopos: a category with finite limits, stable disjoint coproducts, stable effective quotients by monic equivalence relations and parameterized list-objects.

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The above definition of AU parallels Giraud's characterization of relative Grothendieck toposes, except that AUs have only finitary fragment of geometric logic, and instead of infinitary disjunctions being supplied extrinsically by a base topos (e.g. the structure of small-indexed coproducts), we have sort constructors for **parametrized list object** that allow some, infinities intrinsically: e.g. point-free continuum.

	Arithmetic Universes	Grothendieck toposes
Classifying category	$AU\langle\mathbb{T} angle$	$\mathscr{S}[\mathbb{T}]$
$\mathbb{T}_1 \to \mathbb{T}_2$	$AU\langle \mathbb{T}_2  angle  o AU\langle \mathbb{T}_1  angle$	$\mathscr{S}[\mathbb{T}_1] \to \mathscr{S}[\mathbb{T}_2]$
Base	Base independent	Base $\mathscr{S}$
Infinities	Intrinsic; provided by List	Extrinsic; got from ${\mathscr S}$
	e.g. $N = List(1)$	e.g. infinite coproducts
Results	A single result in AUs	A family of results by
		varying ${\mathscr S}$

In our approach geometric theories are replaced by AU-contexts – presented by finite-limit-colimit sketches with a parametrized list object – and geometric morphisms are replaced by AU-functors, corresponding to the inverse image functors.

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AU-contexts provide a base-independent model for generalized point-free spaces in the sense that they form a 2-category  $\mathfrak{Con}$  which *gets embedded into*  $\mathfrak{BTop}/\mathfrak{S}$ , for all base toposes  $\mathfrak{S}$ , via their classifying AUs.

Our AU technique has the many advantages to topos techniques of Johnstone: Our proofs are

- conceptually stronger,
- predicative,
- base-independent, and
- ▶ finitary and decidable, and therefore susceptible to formalization.

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### Basic examples

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- ► Fibrewise Stone bundles (spectra of Boolean Algebras) are fibrations constructed from the extension BA. of the theory BA of Boolean Algebras.
- Internal Algebraic dcpos as opfibrations
- Spectral spaces as fibrations
- SFP domains as bifibrations
- Internal groups equipped with an action as fibrations
- Internal categories equipped with a torsor as opfibrations
- Internal modules as bifibrations
- Bag domains as opfibrations
- ▶ ...

### Some further questions in this direction

- What is the class of topos (op)fibrations induced from fibrational extension of theories?
- Conjecture: fibrations of toposes and local geometric morphisms should form a weak bicategorical factorization system for toposes.
- ► To what extent AUs can replace Grothendieck toposes as models of spaces?
- ► (Riehl and Verity, 2017) provide a comprehension construction for objects of ∞-cosmoi which generalizes Lurie's straigthening and unstraigthening construction of quasi-categories (Yoneda Lemma for quasi-categories). What is the higher topos formulation of their comprehension construction and how does it relate to fibration of higher toposes?

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## Thanks for your attention!