Topos Theory, Spring 2021 Hand-In Exercises

Jaap van Oosten

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1 Exercises

Exercise 1 (Deadline: March 7) Let C be a small category. Suppose \mathcal{R} is an operation that assigns, to each object C of C, a family $\mathcal{R}(C)$ of sieves on C.

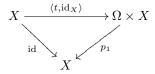
Given a presheaf X on C and a subobject A of X with classifying map $\chi_A: X \to \Omega$, we define a subobject \overline{A} of X by putting

$$\overline{A}(C) = \{ x \in X(C) \mid \chi_A(x) \in \mathcal{R}(C) \}$$

Prove that the operation $A \mapsto \overline{A}$ is a universal closure operation on $\widehat{\mathcal{C}}$ if and only if \mathcal{R} is a Grothendieck topology on \mathcal{C} .

Exercise 2 (Deadline: March 21) Let \mathcal{E} be a topos, X an object of \mathcal{E} and $(A \xrightarrow{a} X)$ an object of the slice category \mathcal{E}/X .

- a) Show that there is a bijection between subobjects of $(A \xrightarrow{a} X)$ in \mathcal{E}/X , and subobjects of A in \mathcal{E} .
- b) Show that the forgetful functor $\mathcal{E}/X \to \mathcal{E}$, which sends $(A \xrightarrow{a} X)$ to A, preserves and reflects monomorphisms.
- c) Show that the diagram



(where p_1 is the projection on the second coordinate, and t is the composition $X \stackrel{!}{\to} 1 \stackrel{t}{\to} \Omega$) is a subobject classifier in \mathcal{E}/X .

Exercise 3 (Deadline: April 4) Give the details of the proof of Proposition 1.44, which says that there is a 1-1 correspondence between universal closure operations and Lawvere-Tierney topologies in a topos.

Exercise 4 (Deadline: April 18) Suppose \mathcal{E} is a topos, and $\overline{(\cdot)}$ is a universal closure operation on \mathcal{E} .

For a morphism $f: X \to Y$ in \mathcal{E} we let $\forall_f : \operatorname{Sub}(X) \to \operatorname{Sub}(Y)$ be the restriction of the functor $\prod_f : \mathcal{E}/X \to \mathcal{E}/Y$ to the subcategories Mon/X and Mon/Y of monos into X, Y respectively. We have $f^* : \operatorname{Sub}(Y) \to \operatorname{Sub}(X)$ by pullback, and f^* is left adjoint to \forall_f .

- a) Prove: if $A \in \text{Sub}(X)$ is closed in X, then $\forall_f(A)$ is closed in Y.
- b) Prove that for every pair A, B of subobjects of X there exists a subobject $A \Rightarrow B$ of X which satisfies, for each $C \in \text{Sub}(X)$:

 $C \leq (A \Rightarrow B)$ if and only if $C \cap A \leq B$

Hint: if A is given by the mono $a : A \to X$, consider the subobject $\forall_a(a^*(B))$.

c) Show that for the subobject $A \Rightarrow B$ of X of part b), we always have: if B is closed, then $A \Rightarrow B$ is closed.

Exercise 5 (Deadline: May 9) We consider the presheaf topos $\widehat{\mathcal{C}}$ for a small category \mathcal{C} ; let C be a fixed object of \mathcal{C} . Let $ev_C : \widehat{\mathcal{C}} \to Set$ denote the functor which sends a presheaf X to X(C).

- a) Show that ev_C preserves all small limits and colimits.
- b) Let $A : \mathcal{C} \to \text{Set}$ be the representable functor on C, i.e. the functor which sends an object D to the set $\mathcal{C}(C, D)$. Prove that A is flat.
- c) Give a concrete description of the functor $G : \text{Set} \to \widehat{\mathcal{C}}$ which is right adjoint to ev_C .
- d) Show that the geometric morphism $\text{Set} \to \widehat{\mathcal{C}}$ determined by the adjunction $\text{ev}_C \dashv G$ is essential.

Exercise 6 (Deadline: May 30) Let C be a poset and X a presheaf on C with the property that for every inequality $k' \leq k$ in C, the map $X(k) \to X(k')$ is an inclusion of sets. We consider interpretations of a 1-sorted language where X is the interpretation of the unique sort. We study formulas of the form

 $(D) \qquad \forall x(A(x) \lor B) \to (\forall xA(x) \lor B)$

where A and B are arbitrary formulas, but the formula B does not contain the variable x free.

Prove that all formulas of the form (D) are always true in X, precisely when X is a constant presheaf.

2 Solutions

Exercise 1 Some notations, which occur also in the lecture notes: for a presheaf X on a category C, an arrow $f: C' \to C$ and an element $x \in X(C)$ we write xf or X(f)(x) for the action of X on f and x. If R is a sieve on C we write f^*R for the set $\{g \in C_1 | \operatorname{cod}(g) = C', fg \in R\}$. So if we regard R as element of $\Omega(C)$ then $f^*R = Rf = \Omega(f)(R)$. We write $\max(C)$ for the maximal sieve on C.

We start with some simple remarks:

1. For a sieve R on C, we have $R = \max(C)$ if and only if $id_C \in R$.

2. For a sieve R on C and $f: C' \to C$, we have $f^*R = \max(C')$ if and only if $f \in R$.

3. Let T be the subobject of Ω which is represented by the mono $1 \xrightarrow{t} \Omega$. Then T is classified by the identity on Ω : $\chi_T = \mathrm{id}_{\Omega}$.

First, let us assume that the operation $A \mapsto \overline{A}$ is a universal closure operation. For the subobject T of Ω defined in remark 3., we have $\overline{T}(C) = \{R \in \Omega(C) \mid (\chi_T)_C(R) \in \mathcal{R}(C)\} = \mathcal{R}(C)$ (by remark 2.). Since \overline{T} is a presheaf, we must have that if $R \in \mathcal{R}(C)$ and $f : C' \to C$ then $f^*R \in \mathcal{R}(C')$, which is the second requirement ("stability") for \mathcal{R} to be a Grothendieck topology.

Since $T \subseteq \overline{T}$ we must have $\max(C) \in \mathcal{R}(C)$, which is the second requirement.

Now let us consider a sieve S on C as subobject of the representable presheaf y_C . It is classified by the map $\chi_S : y_C \to \Omega$ which sends $f : C' \to C$ to f^*S . Now for the closure $\overline{S} \subseteq y_C$ we have

$$\overline{S}(C') = \{f: C' \to C \mid (\chi_S)_{C'}(f) \in \mathcal{R}(C')\} \\ = \{f: C' \to C \mid f^*S \in \mathcal{R}(C')\}$$

From this, using remarks 1. and 3., we deduce that $S \in \mathcal{R}(C)$ if and only if $\overline{S} = y_C$. Now we see that if R and S are sieves on C and $R \in \mathcal{R}(C)$, then also $S \in \mathcal{R}(C)$; for, we have $y_C = \overline{R} \subseteq \overline{S}$. It remains to prove local character for \mathcal{R} . So suppose R is a sieve on $C, S \in \mathcal{R}(C)$ and for all $g : C' \to C$ in S we have $g^*R \in \mathcal{R}(C')$. We need to see that $R \in \mathcal{R}(C)$.

The classifying map $\chi_{\mathcal{R}}$ for \mathcal{R} as subobject of Ω sends $R \in \Omega(C)$ to the sieve $\{g: C' \to C \mid g^*R \in \mathcal{R}(C')\}$. So,

$$\begin{aligned} \overline{\mathcal{R}}(C) &= \{ R \in \Omega(C) \, | \, (\chi_{\mathcal{R}})_C(R) \in \mathcal{R}(C) \} \\ &= \{ R \in \Omega(C) \, | \, \{ g : C' \to C \, | \, g^*R \in \mathcal{R}(C') \} \in \mathcal{R}(C) \} \end{aligned}$$

Hence, our assumptions on R and S imply that $S \subseteq (\chi_{\mathcal{R}})_C(R)$. Since $S \in \mathcal{R}(C)$, we have $(\chi_{\mathcal{R}})_C(R) \in \mathcal{R}(C)$, which means that $R \in \overline{\mathcal{R}}(C)$. Now $\overline{\mathcal{R}} = \overline{\overline{T}} = \overline{T} = \mathcal{R}$, so $R \in \overline{\mathcal{R}}(C)$, as desired. We conclude that \mathcal{R} is a Grothendieck topology.

Conversely, assume that \mathcal{R} is a Grothendieck topology, so it satisfies conditions i), ii) ("stability") and iii) ("local character") of Definition 0.16. We define the operation $A \mapsto \overline{A}$ as in the exercise, and prove that this is a universal closure operation. We check the conditions of Definition 0.18.

First we see that if R, S are sieves on C, with $R \subseteq S$ and $R \in \mathcal{R}(C)$, then $S \in \mathcal{R}(C)$. This follows from i) and iii) of 0.16, since for each $f : C' \to C$ in R, $f^*S = \max(C')$.

Since $\max(C) \in \mathcal{R}(C)$, we see at once that $A \subseteq \overline{A}$, which is requirement i) of 0.18.

If $A \subseteq B$ for subobjects A, B of X, then $(\chi_A)_C(x) \subseteq (\chi_B)_C(x)$ always, and hence $\overline{A}(C) \subseteq \overline{B}(C)$, which is iii) of 0.18.

Condition iv) of 0.18 follows from stability of \mathcal{R} .

Finally, in order to prove condition ii), we calculate:

$$\overline{A}(C) = \{x \in X(C) \mid (\chi_{\overline{A}})_C(x) \in \mathcal{R}(C)\} \\ = \{x \in X(C) \mid \{g : C' \to C \mid (\chi_A)_{C'}(xg) \in \mathcal{R}(C')\} \in \mathcal{R}(C)\}$$

Suppose $x \in \overline{\overline{A}}(C)$. Then $(\chi_{\overline{A}})_C(x) \in \mathcal{R}(C)$, and for any element g of this sieve we have: $g^*((\chi_A)_C(x)) = (\chi_A)_{C'}(xg)$, which is an element of $\mathcal{R}(C')$. By local character of \mathcal{R} we conclude $(\chi_A)_C(x) \in \mathcal{R}(C)$, which means $x \in \overline{A}(C)$. So $\overline{\overline{A}} = \overline{A}$ and we are done.

Exercise 2. It seems best to start with part b). Let $\sum_X : \mathcal{E}/X \to \mathcal{E}$ denote the forgetful functor. Let $f : (B \xrightarrow{b} X) \to (A \xrightarrow{a} X)$ be an arrow in \mathcal{E}/X . Suppose $\sum_X (f)$, which is $f : B \to A$, is mono in \mathcal{E} and suppose g, h are arrows $(C \xrightarrow{c} X) \to (B \xrightarrow{b} X)$ sauch that fg = fh. Then since f is mono in \mathcal{E} we have g = h in \mathcal{E} , but then also g = h in \mathcal{E}/X . So \sum_X reflects monos. Now if f is mono in \mathcal{E}/X and fg = fh in \mathcal{E} , for a parallel pair $g, h : C \to B$, then we have $bg = afg = afh = bh : C \to X$, so for c = bg = bh we have that g, h are arrows $(C \xrightarrow{c} X) \to (B \xrightarrow{b} X)$, so since f is mono in $\mathcal{E}/X, g = h$. So f is mono in \mathcal{E} and \sum_X preserves monos, as claimed.

For a), we define a bijection between monos to $A \stackrel{a}{\to} X$ in \mathcal{E}/X and monos to A in \mathcal{E} . For a mono $f : (B \stackrel{b}{\to} X) \to (A \stackrel{a}{\to} X)$ let $\phi(f) = f : B \to A$. For a mono $g : B \to A$ in \mathcal{E} , let $\chi(g) = g : (B \stackrel{ag}{\to} X) \to (A \stackrel{a}{\to} X)$. It is immediate that $\phi\chi(g) = g$ and $\chi\phi(f) = f$. Moreover, $\phi(f)$ in mono since \sum_X preserves monos, and $\chi(g)$ is mono since \sum_X reflects monos.

Then, we should show that for monos $f : B \to A$ and $f' : B' \to A$ in \mathcal{E} we have: f factors through f' (in which case the subobject represented by f is \leq the subobject represented by f') if and only if $\chi(f)$ factors through $\chi(f')$ in \mathcal{E}/X . This is evident.

c) Given a mono $g: (B \xrightarrow{b} X) \to (A \xrightarrow{a} X)$ is mono in \mathcal{E}/X , by b) we know that g is mono in \mathcal{E} ; let $\chi_g: A \to \Omega$ its classifying map. We have a pullback diagram



in \mathcal{E} . It is left to you to show that the diagram

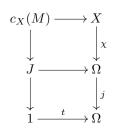
is also a pullback diagram in \mathcal{E} , and this is a diagram in \mathcal{E}/X . So the map $\langle a, \chi_g \rangle$ classifies the mono g in \mathcal{E}/X . Uniqueness is left to you.

Exercise 3. Let UCl be the set of universal closure operations on \mathcal{E} , and let LT be the set of Lawvere-Tierney topologies on \mathcal{E} . We define operations $\Phi: UCl \to LT$ and $\Psi: LT \to UCl$ as follows:

for a universal closure operation $c_{(\cdot)}$, $\Phi(c_{(\cdot)}) = j$, where j classifies $c_{\Omega}(1 \rightarrow \Omega)$.

for a Lawvere-Tierney topology j we define $\Psi(j) = c_{(\cdot)}$, where, if $M \in \text{Sub}(X)$ is classified by $\chi: X \to \Omega$, $c_X(M)$ is classified by $j\chi$.

I show first that the pair Φ, Ψ gives a 1-1 correspondence. So, let $c_{(.)}$ be a universal closure operation. For $M \in \text{Sub}(X)$ classified by $\chi : X \to \Omega$, we have that $M = \chi^*(1 \xrightarrow{t} \Omega)$ and therefore, by stability of $c_{(.)}, c_X(M) = \chi^*(c_{\Omega}(1 \xrightarrow{t} \Omega))$. If we denote the latter by $J \xrightarrow{a} \Omega$, then inspecting the diagram



we see that $c_X(M)$ is classified by $j\chi$. This shows that $\Psi\Phi(c_{(\cdot)} = c_{(\cdot)})$.

In the other direction, if j is a Lawvere-Tierney topology and $c_{(\cdot)} = \Psi(j)$ then $c_X(M)$ is classified by $j\chi$ (if χ classifies M), and therefore $c_{\Omega}(1 \xrightarrow{t} \Omega)$ is classified by j. Hence $\Phi \Psi(j) = j$.

Of course, we must show that Φ and Ψ are well-defined: $\Phi(c_{(\cdot)})$ is a Lawvere-Tierney topology if $c_{(\cdot)}$ is a universal closure operation, and $\Psi(j)$ is a universal closure operation if j is a Lawvere-Tierney topology.

So, assume that $c_{(.)}$ is a universal closure operation, and let j classify $c_{\Omega}(1 \rightarrow \Omega)$, which we write as $J \stackrel{a}{\rightarrow} \Omega$. We check i)–iii) of Definition 1.42.

- i) By i) of definition 1.43, $(1 \stackrel{t}{\to} \Omega) \leq (J \stackrel{a}{\to} \Omega)$, so we have a map $*: 1 \to J$ such that $a^* = t$. Since 1 is terminal, $!* = \mathrm{id}_1$. Then jt = t!* = t, as desired.
- ii) Since j classifies $c_{\Omega}(1 \xrightarrow{t} \Omega)$, jj classifies $c_{\Omega}(c_{\Omega}(1 \xrightarrow{t} \Omega))$. By iii) of Definition 1.43, jj = j.

iii) Let M, N be subobjects of X, classified by ϕ, χ respectively. Then $j \circ \land \circ \langle \phi, \chi \rangle$ classifies $c_X(M \cap N)$; and $\land \circ (j \times j) \langle \phi, \psi \rangle$ classifies $c_X(M) \cap c_X(N)$. By Exercise 28, these two are equal. So $j \circ \land = \land \circ (j \times j)$, which is requirement iii) of Definition 1.42.

Finally, assume that j is a Lawvere-Tierney topology, and $c_{(\cdot)} = \Psi(j)$. So, $c_X(M)$ is classified by $j\chi$, if M is classified by χ . Again, we write $J \xrightarrow{a} \Omega$ for $c_{\Omega}(1 \xrightarrow{t} \Omega)$. We check i)-iv) of Definition 1.43.

i) We have a pullback



Since jt = t (requirement i) of Definition 1.42) we see that t factors through j, i.e. $(1 \xrightarrow{t} \Omega) \leq c_{\Omega}(1 \xrightarrow{t} \Omega)$ in $\operatorname{Sub}(\Omega)$. It follows that the inequality $M \leq c_X(M)$ always holds, since pullback functors $f^* : \operatorname{Sub}(\Omega) \to$ $\operatorname{Sub}(X)$ are order-preserving.

ii) Using iii) of Definition 1.42 we deduce that $c_X(M \cap N) = c_X(M) \cap c_X(N)$: let ϕ and χ classify M and N, respectively. Then $\wedge \circ \langle \phi, \psi \rangle$ classifies $M \cap N$ so $j \circ \wedge \circ \langle \phi, \chi \rangle$ classifies $c_X(M \cap N)$, whereas $\wedge \circ (j \times j) \circ \langle \phi, \psi \rangle$ classifies $c_X(M) \cap c_X(N)$. So equality must hold.

Now $M \leq N$ means $M = M \cap N$. This implies $c_X(M) = c_X(M \cap N) = c_X(M) \cap c_X(N)$. So $c_X(M) \leq c_X(N)$, as desired.

- iii) This follows straightforwardly from ii) of Definition 1.42.
- iv) This is also straightforward, since if $f: Y \to X$ is any arrow and $M \in$ Sub(X) is classified by ϕ , then $f^*(M)$ is classified by ϕf . Hence $c_Y(f^*M)$ is classified by $j\phi f$; but this arrow also classifies $f^*(c_X(M))$.

Exercise 4.a) Suppose A is closed as subobject of X. Then $c_X(A) \leq A$. By the adjunction $f^* \dashv \forall_f, f^* \forall_f(A) \leq A$, so by monotonicity of the closure operation, $c_X(f^* \forall_f(A)) \leq A$. Stability of the closure operation gives $f^*(c_Y(\forall_f(A))) \leq A$. Finally, applying the adjunction once again, we get $c_Y(\forall_f(A)) \leq \forall_f(A)$ and we conclude that $\forall_f(A)$ is closed, as desired.

b) Defining $A \Rightarrow B$ as $\forall_a(a^*B)$ as in the hint (where *a* is a monomorphism into *X* which represents *A*), we have, for an arbitrary subobject *C* of *A*:

$$\begin{array}{ll} C \leq (A \Rightarrow B) & \Leftrightarrow \\ a^*(C) \leq a^*(B) & \Leftrightarrow \\ C \cap A \leq B \cap A & \Leftrightarrow \\ C \cap A < B \end{array}$$

c) This follows at once from the construction of $A \Rightarrow B$ in the hint of part b), and part a) of the exercise: if B is closed, so is $a^*(B)$ by stability of the closure operation, and hence so is $\forall_a(a^*(B))$ by part a).

Exercise 5.a) This follows at once from the fact that limits and colimits in \widehat{C} are calculated 'point-wise'.

b) We have $ev_C(y_D) = y_D(C) = C(C, D) = A(D)$, so the following diagram commutes:



Since, moreover, the functor ev_C preserves colimits by a), we have that ev_C is equal to the functor $(-) \otimes_C A$. And this functor preserves finite limits by a), so A is flat, as desired.

c) Suppose $G : \text{Set} \to \widehat{\mathcal{C}}$ is right adjoint to ev_C . Then by the Yoneda Lemma we calculate:

$$\begin{array}{rcl} G(X)(D) &\simeq & \widehat{\mathcal{C}}(y_D, G(X)) \\ &\simeq & \operatorname{Set}(\operatorname{ev}_C(y_D), X) \\ &\simeq & \operatorname{Set}(\mathcal{C}(C, D), X) \end{array}$$

Now it is easy to see that indeed the assignment $X \mapsto (D \mapsto X^{\mathcal{C}(C,D)})$ defines a functor Set $\to \widehat{\mathcal{C}}$, which is right adjoint to ev_C .

d) We need to show that the functor ev_C also has a left adjoint. I claim that the functor $F : Set \to C$ defined by

$$F(X) = \sum_{x \in X} y_C$$

(the functor which sends X to the coproduct of X many copies of y_C) does the job. Indeed, we calculate:

$$\widehat{\mathcal{C}}(\sum_{x \in X} y_C, P) \simeq \prod_{x \in X} \widehat{\mathcal{C}}(y_C, P) \\
\simeq \prod_{x \in X} P(C) \\
\simeq \operatorname{Set}(X, \operatorname{ev}_C(P))$$

Exercise 6 The sentence "all formulas of the form (D) are always true in X" means that for every subpresheaf A of X (interpreting the relation symbol A) and every subpresheaf B of 1 (interpreting the 0-ary relation symbol, or propositional constant B), we have that $k \Vdash (D)$.

First, suppose the presheaf X is constant, so every map $X(k) \to X(k')$ is an identity (in Set). Suppose $k \in \mathcal{C}$. We need to prove that $k \Vdash (D)$, so assume $k' \leq k$ is such that $k' \Vdash \forall x(A(x) \lor B)$. We need to prove that $k' \Vdash \forall xA(x) \lor B$. The assumption on k' tells us that for all $k'' \leq k'$ and all $a \in X(k) = X(k'')$, we have $k'' \Vdash A(a) \lor B$. In particular, $k' \Vdash A(a) \lor B$. If $k' \Vdash B$ then we are done. If $k' \not\models B$, then we must have $k' \models A(a)$ for all $a \in X(k)$, but then by stability (downwards persistence) of \Vdash and the assumption that X is constant, we have $k'' \models A(a)$ for all $a \in X(k'')$, for every $k'' \leq k'$. But this means that $k' \models \forall x A(x)$ and hence $k' \models \forall x A(x) \lor B$, as required.

For the converse, we argue by contraposition so assume X is not constant. Fix k_0, k_1 such that $k_1 < k_0$ and $X(k_0)$ is a proper subset of $X(k_1)$. Define the subpresheaf A of X by: $A(k) = X(k_0)$ if $k \leq k_0$ (and $A(k) = \emptyset$ elsewhere).

Define the subpresheaf B of 1 (so, B is a downwards closed subset of C) by: $k \in B$ if and only if $k \leq k_0$ and $X(k) \neq X(k_0)$.

Now for any $k \leq k_0$ we have: if it is not the case that for every $a \in X(k)$ we have $k \Vdash A(a)$, then X(k) cannot be equal to $X(k_0)$. But then $k \Vdash B$. We conclude that $k_0 \Vdash \forall x(A(x) \lor B)$. However, $k_0 \nvDash \forall xA(x)$ since $k_1 \nvDash \forall xA(x)$, and $k_0 \nvDash B$ is evident. We conclude that $k_0 \nvDash (D)$.