

Towards a geometric theory of cohomology functors: the case of degree 0

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Looking for a theory of cohomology functors:

Conjecture (O. Caramello). –

For any “good” geometric category \mathcal{G} ,
there should exist a (first-order geometric) theory \mathbb{T}
of cohomology functors on objects (or pairs of objects) of \mathcal{C}

$$\begin{aligned}(X, i) &\longmapsto H^i(X), \\ (Z \hookrightarrow X, i) &\longmapsto H^i(X, Z)\end{aligned}$$

with coefficients in a (not predetermined) field $K \supseteq \mathbb{Q}$,
such that:

- (1) All classical cohomology functors
(such as singular cohomology,
or ℓ -adic cohomology of algebraic varieties)
should appear as models of this theory \mathbb{T} .
- (2) The “classifying topos” $\mathcal{E}_{\mathbb{T}}$ of \mathbb{T}
should be “atomic” and “2-valued”,
implying \mathbb{T} is a “complete” theory
and all its models share the same properties
(in particular the same dimensions
over coefficient fields).

A few words about the theory of “classifying toposes”:

Theorem (Hakim, Grothendieck, Lawvere, Joyal, Makkai, Reyes, ...). –

Let \mathbb{T} be a first-order theory

which is “geometric”, meaning that

the formalization of its axioms only uses the logical symbols

$=, \wedge$ (finite conjunction), \top (true), \vee (arbitrary disjunction), \perp (false),

\exists (existential quantifier).

Then the 2-functor on the 2-category of toposes

$$\begin{aligned} \text{topos } \mathcal{E} &\longmapsto \mathbb{T}\text{-mod}(\mathcal{E}) = \{\text{category of } \mathcal{E}\text{-valued models of } \mathbb{T}\}, \\ (\mathcal{E}' \xrightarrow{(f^*, f_*)} \mathcal{E}) &\longmapsto (f^* : \mathbb{T}\text{-mod}(\mathcal{E}) \rightarrow \mathbb{T}\text{-mod}(\mathcal{E}')) \end{aligned}$$

is representable by a topos $\mathcal{E}_{\mathbb{T}}$

(which is uniquely determined up to equivalence),

meaning that, for any topos \mathcal{E} ,

$$\mathbb{T}\text{-mod}(\mathcal{E}) \xrightarrow{\cong} \text{Geom}(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{E}_{\mathbb{T}}) = \{\text{category of topos morphism } \mathcal{E} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}_{\mathbb{T}}\}$$

and, in particular,

$$\mathbb{T}\text{-mod}(\text{Set}) \xrightarrow{\cong} \text{pt}(\mathcal{E}_{\mathbb{T}}) = \{\text{category of “points” of } \mathcal{E}_{\mathbb{T}}\}.$$

Atomic toposes:

Definition. –

- (i) An object E of a topos \mathcal{E} is called an “atom” if the only subobjects of E are E and \emptyset .
- (ii) A topos \mathcal{E} is called “atomic” if any object of \mathcal{E} decomposes as a disjoint sum of “atoms”.
- (iii) A topos \mathcal{E} is called “2-valued” if its terminal object 1 is an atom.

Example. – For any (topological) group G , its classifying topos
 $BG = \{\text{category of (continuous) actions of } G\}$
is atomic and 2-valued. Its atoms are transitive actions.

Proposition. –

A first-order geometric theory \mathbb{T} is “complete”
(in the sense that any “geometric” formula φ
written in the language of \mathbb{T} without “free” variables
is either provably true or provably false)
if and only if its classifying topos $\mathcal{E}_{\mathbb{T}}$ is “2-valued”.

Representation of atomic toposes:

Proposition. –

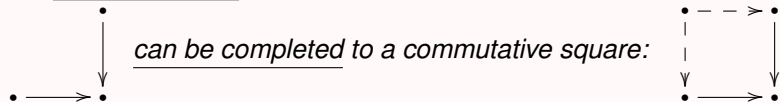
(i) If \mathcal{E} is an “atomic” topos,
 its full subcategory \mathcal{E}^{at} of “atoms” is essentially small
 and \mathcal{E} identifies with the topos of sheaves on the site
 where J_{at} is the “atomic topology” for which
 covering families $(X_i \rightarrow X)_{i \in I}$ are exactly non-empty families. ($\mathcal{E}^{\text{at}}, J_{\text{at}}$)

(ii) More generally, a functor $\mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}^{\text{at}}$
 whose image is dense, induces an equivalence

$$\mathcal{E} \xrightarrow{\sim} \widehat{\mathcal{C}}_J = \{\text{category of sheaves on } (\mathcal{C}, J)\}$$

if and only if J is the “atomic topology” on \mathcal{C} for which
 covering families are non-empty families of morphisms.

(iii) If \mathcal{C} is an essentially small category,
 the “atomic topology” J on \mathcal{C} is well-defined if and only if any pair of morphisms



In that case the topos $\widehat{\mathcal{C}}_J$ is atomic.

Furthermore, $\widehat{\mathcal{C}}_J$ is 2-valued if and only if \mathcal{C} is connected.

Application of the duality of topos theory and logic:

Definition. –

A first-order geometric theory \mathbb{T} is called “presheaf-type” if its classifying topos $\mathcal{E}_{\mathbb{T}}$ is equivalent to a topos of presheaves

$$\mathcal{E}_{\mathbb{T}} \xrightarrow{\sim} \widehat{\mathcal{C}} \quad \text{on some small category } \mathcal{C}.$$

Theorem (Caramello). –

Consider a “presheaf-type” theory \mathbb{T} and a representation

Then:
$$\mathcal{E}_{\mathbb{T}} \xrightarrow{\sim} \widehat{\mathcal{C}}.$$

- (i) Any theory \mathbb{T}' which is a “quotient” of \mathbb{T} (in the sense that it has the same language and more axioms) defines a unique topology J on \mathcal{C} such that

$$\mathcal{E}_{\mathbb{T}'} \xrightarrow{\sim} \widehat{\mathcal{C}}_J.$$

- (ii) Conversely, for any topology J on \mathcal{C} , there is a “quotient” theory \mathbb{T}' of \mathbb{T} such that

$$\mathcal{E}_{\mathbb{T}'} \xrightarrow{\sim} \widehat{\mathcal{C}}_J.$$

It is unique up to provable equivalence of families of axioms.

From syntax to semantics:

Proposition. – Let \mathbb{T} be a “presheaf-type” theory with

$$\mathcal{E}_{\mathbb{T}} \xrightarrow{\sim} \widehat{\mathcal{C}}.$$

Then:

(i) The category of set-valued models of \mathbb{T} is equivalent to

$$\text{Ind}(\mathcal{C}^{\text{op}}).$$

(ii) The full subcategory \mathcal{M} of set-valued models which are “finitely presentable” is equivalent to the Karoubi completion

$$\mathcal{M} \xrightarrow{\sim} \text{Kar}(\mathcal{C}^{\text{op}})$$

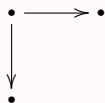
and there is also an equivalence

$$\mathcal{E}_{\mathbb{T}} \xrightarrow{\sim} \widehat{\mathcal{M}}^{\text{op}}.$$

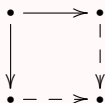
Proposition. –

In this situation, we have:

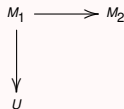
- (i) The atomic topology J is well-defined on \mathcal{C} or \mathcal{M}^{op} if and only if any pair of morphisms of \mathcal{M}



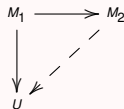
completes to a commutative square:



- (ii) In that case, a model U of \mathbb{T} is a model of the quotient theory \mathbb{T}' defined by J if and only if it is “homogeneous” in the sense that any diagram



completes to a commutative triangle:



Categories of models:

- Start with an essentially small category \mathcal{M} which is Karoubi-complete. It can be presented as the category of finitely presentable set-valued models of some “presheaf-type” theory \mathbb{T} , with

$$\mathcal{E}_{\mathbb{T}} \xrightarrow{\sim} \widehat{\mathcal{M}}^{\text{op}}.$$

Lemma. –

Suppose the atomic topology J is well-defined on a small category \mathcal{C} . Then the canonical functor

$$\ell : \mathcal{C} \xrightarrow{y} \widehat{\mathcal{C}} \xrightarrow{j^*} \widehat{\mathcal{C}}_J$$

is fully faithful if and only if

any morphism of \mathcal{C}^{op} is a “strict” monomorphism,

i.e. a monomorphism $X \hookrightarrow Y$ whose image is defined by

equations
$$u_i = v_i, \left(Y \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{u_i} \\ \rightrightarrows \\ \xleftarrow{v_i} \end{array} Y_i \right)_{i \in I} .$$

Consequence. – It will be natural to start with a category of models

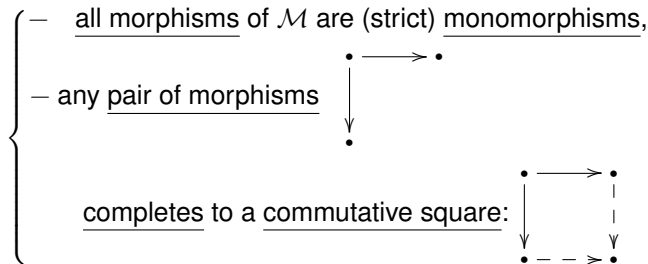
$$\mathcal{M}$$

whose morphisms are (strict) monomorphisms.

Such a category is necessarily Karoubi-complete.

Models and homogeneous models:

- Start with an essentially small category \mathcal{M} such that



- Write \mathcal{M} as the category of finitely presentable set-valued models of some “presheaf-type” theory \mathbb{T} , with

$$\mathcal{E}_{\mathbb{T}} \xrightarrow{\sim} \widehat{\mathcal{M}}^{\text{op}}.$$

- Consider the atomic topology J on $\mathcal{C} = \mathcal{M}^{\text{op}}$ and the associated quotient theory \mathbb{T}' of \mathbb{T} (with $\mathcal{E}_{\mathbb{T}'} \xrightarrow{\sim} \widehat{\mathcal{C}}_J$) which is the theory of homogeneous models of \mathbb{T} .

Lemma. –

Suppose the topos $\mathcal{E}_{\mathbb{T}}, \cong \widehat{\mathcal{C}}_J$ is 2-valued

(i.e. the categories \mathcal{C} and $\mathcal{M} = \mathcal{C}^{\text{op}}$ are connected).

Then any homogeneous model U is also “universal”

in the sense that any object M of \mathcal{M} admits a morphism

$$M \longrightarrow U.$$

Remark. –

Any such U is, in the category of set-valued models of \mathbb{T} ,

a filtering colimit of finitely presentable models $M \in \mathcal{M}$.

Homogeneous fields:

- Start with the category \mathcal{M} of finitely presented fields $K \supseteq \mathbb{Q}$. Its morphisms are strict monomorphisms.
- Present \mathcal{M} as the category of finitely presentable set-valued models of some “presheaf-type” theory \mathbb{T} .

Lemma. – For that purpose, it is enough to consider the usual axiomatization of the theory of fields of characteristic 0 and add a symbol (together with defining axioms) allowing to name the property of elements x of fields $K \supseteq \mathbb{Q}$:

“ x is not algebraic over \mathbb{Q} ”.

Proposition. –

- (i) The atomic topology J is well-defined on $\mathcal{C} = \mathcal{M}^{\text{op}}$, and there is a quotient theory \mathbb{T}' of \mathbb{T} of “homogeneous fields”, with $\mathcal{E}_{\mathbb{T}'} \cong \widehat{\mathcal{C}}_J$.
- (ii) The topos $\mathcal{E}_{\mathbb{T}'}$ is 2-valued, so that \mathbb{T}' is complete.
- (iii) A field $K \supseteq \mathbb{Q}$ is homogeneous if and only if
 - it is algebraically closed,
 - it has infinite transcendence degree over \mathbb{Q} .

Our first ambition: compute the cohomology of a point!

- This is the case when the “geometric” category \mathcal{G} consists in one object $\{\bullet\}$ and the identity morphism.
- In that case, cohomology functors should consist in only one vector space V over a coefficient field K .
We wonder whether we can get the formula
$$\dim_K V = 1.$$

Definition. – Let \mathcal{M} be the category whose objects consist in

$\begin{cases} K & = \text{field finitely presented over } \mathbb{Q}, \\ V & = \text{finite dimensional vector space over } K, \end{cases}$
and whose morphisms

$$(K, V) \longrightarrow (K', V')$$

consist in pairs

$\begin{cases} (K \rightarrow K') & = \text{morphism of fields}, \\ (V \rightarrow V') & = \text{K-linear map} \end{cases}$

such that

not only $V \rightarrow V'$ is injective

but, for any $k \geq 1$, the induced morphism

$$\text{Sym}_K^k V \longrightarrow \text{Sym}_{K'}^k V' \text{ is } \underline{\text{injective}}.$$

Why the condition on the symmetric powers?

Lemma. – Consider a pair of morphisms between objects of \mathcal{M}

$$\begin{array}{ccc} (K, V) & \rightarrow & (K', V') \\ \downarrow & & \\ (K'', V'') & & \end{array}$$

where $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \bullet \text{ } K \rightarrow K' \text{ and } K \rightarrow K'' \text{ are morphisms of fields over } \mathbb{Q}, \\ \bullet \text{ } V \rightarrow V' \text{ and } V \rightarrow V'' \text{ are } K\text{-linear maps,} \\ \bullet \text{ } V' \text{ and } V'' \text{ have dimension 1 over } K' \text{ and } K''. \end{array} \right.$

Let v_1, \dots, v_d be a basis of V over K . Let v' and v'' be the images of v_1 in V' and V'' .
Supposing they are non-zero, write the images of v_2, \dots, v_d

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \mu'_2 \cdot v', \dots, \mu'_d \cdot v' & \text{with } \mu'_i \in K', 2 \leq i \leq d, \\ \mu''_2 \cdot v'', \dots, \mu''_d \cdot v'' & \text{with } \mu''_i \in K'', 2 \leq i \leq d. \end{array} \right. \quad \text{Then:}$$

- (i) In order to be able to complete the diagram in a commutative square, we need $(\mu'_2, \dots, \mu'_d) \in K'^{d-1}$ and $(\mu''_2, \dots, \mu''_d) \in K''^{d-1}$ to verify exactly the same conditions of algebraic dependence over K .
- (ii) These conditions are not necessarily verified if we only suppose that $V \rightarrow V'$ and $V \rightarrow V''$ are injective.
- (iii) If all $\text{Sym}_K^k V \rightarrow \text{Sym}_{K'}^k V'$ or $\text{Sym}_K^k V \rightarrow \text{Sym}_{K''}^k V''$ are injective, the elements (μ'_2, \dots, μ'_d) or $(\mu''_2, \dots, \mu''_d)$ are algebraically independent over K .

Monomorphisms which reduce the dimension to 1:

Lemma. –

Consider an object (K, V) of \mathcal{M} . Then there is a morphism of \mathcal{M}

$$(K, V) \longrightarrow (K', V')$$

such that

$$\dim_{K'} V' = 1.$$

Proof:

Let v_1, \dots, v_d be a basis of V over K .

Define

$$K' = K(X_1, \dots, X_d)$$

where X_1, \dots, X_d are algebraically independent variables.

Let V' be a 1-dim vector space over K' , with basis vector v' .

Supplement the embedding

with the K -linear map

$$\begin{aligned} V &\longrightarrow V' \\ v_i &\longmapsto X_i \cdot v', \quad 1 \leq i \leq d. \end{aligned}$$

This defines a morphism of \mathcal{M}

$$(K, V) \longrightarrow (K', V').$$

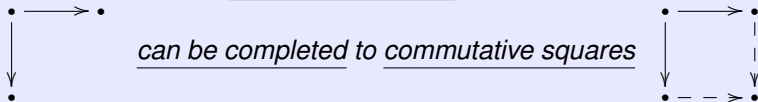
□

Dimension of the cohomology space of a point:

Theorem (O. Caramello, L.L., Gonalo Tabuada). –

(i) *The essentially small category \mathcal{M} can be presented as the category of finitely presentable set-valued models of an explicit theory \mathbb{T} of “presheaf-type”, with $\mathcal{E}_{\mathbb{T}} \cong \widehat{\mathcal{M}}^{\text{op}}$.*

(ii) *In the category \mathcal{M} , pairs of morphisms*



so that the atomic topology J is well-defined on $\mathcal{C} = \mathcal{M}^{\text{op}}$ and there exists a quotient theory \mathbb{T}' of homogeneous \mathbb{T} -models, with

$$\mathcal{E}_{\mathbb{T}'} \cong \widehat{\mathcal{C}}_J.$$

(iii) *The category \mathcal{M} has an initial object $(\mathbb{Q}, 0)$. A fortiori, it is connected, the topos $\widehat{\mathcal{C}}_J$ is 2-valued and the theory \mathbb{T}' is complete.*

(iv) *A set-valued model (K, V) of \mathbb{T} is homogeneous if and only if*

- $$\begin{cases} - & \text{the field } K \supseteq \mathbb{Q} \text{ is homogeneous,} \\ - & \dim_K V = 1. \end{cases}$$

Our second ambition: compute H^0 for Galois categories!

- This is the situation where the “geometric” category \mathcal{G} is the category of finite sets endowed with a continuous action of some profinite group G .
- We wonder whether the general construction scheme
 $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{theory of presheaf type} \\ \rightarrow \text{induced quotient theory of homogeneous models} \end{array} \right.$
allows to recover usual H^0 functors

$$H^0 : \mathcal{G}^{\text{op}} \longrightarrow K\text{-vect}, \\ S \longmapsto \{\text{space of maps } S \rightarrow K\}$$

with coefficients in
homogeneous fields K
(such as, in particular, \mathbb{C} or $\overline{\mathbb{Q}_\ell}$).

- We will consider the case when
 $G =$ finite group.

The general case reduces to this case.

Observations on structures and properties of H^0 functors:

Lemma. – Consider a functor of the form

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 H^0 & : & \mathcal{G}^{\text{op}} & \longrightarrow & K\text{-vect}, \\
 & & S & \longmapsto & \{\text{space of maps } S \rightarrow K\}. \\
 & & \parallel & & \\
 & & \text{finite set} & & \\
 & & \text{endowed with} & & \\
 & & \text{an action of } G & &
 \end{array}$$

Then:

(i) This presheaf of \mathcal{G} is a sheaf for the étale topology of \mathcal{G} (for which a family $(S_i \rightarrow S)_{i \in I}$ is a covering if it is globally surjective).

(ii) There is a functorial family of K -linear maps

$$\text{or, equivalently, } H^0(S) \otimes_K H^0(S') \longrightarrow H^0(S \times S')$$

$$H^0 : \mathcal{G}^{\text{op}} \longrightarrow K\text{-vect}$$

is a presheaf of (commutative) K -algebras.

(iii) Each commutative K -algebra $H^0(S)$ has no nilpotents, and each structure morphism

$$\text{is an isomorphism. } H^0(S) \otimes_K H^0(S') \longrightarrow H^0(S \times S')$$

Consequences for defining a starting presheaf-type theory:

- We want to define a presheaf-type theory \mathbb{T} whose finitely presentable models can appear as subobjects of cohomology functors H^0 .

This means that they should inherit all structures and properties of H^0 functors which are inherited by arbitrary subobjects.

Definition. – Let \mathcal{M} be the category defined in the following way:

(i) Objects are pairs $(K, F : \mathcal{G}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow K\text{-alg})$ where

- K is a finitely presented field over \mathbb{Q} ,
- $F : \mathcal{G}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow K\text{-alg}$ is a presheaf of K -algebras

such that

- the presheaf F is separated for the étale topology of \mathcal{G} ,
- each K -algebra $F(S)$ is commutative, and has no nilpotents,
- the presheaf of K -algebras F is generated by finitely many elements,
- each induced morphism $F(S) \otimes_K F(S') \rightarrow F(S \times S')$ is injective.

(ii) Morphisms $(K, F) \rightarrow (K', F')$ consist in

- a morphism $K \rightarrow K'$ of fields,
- a morphism $F \rightarrow F'$ of presheaves of K -algebras such that each component $F(S) \rightarrow F'(S)$ is injective.

Reduction to sheaves:

Lemma. – Let $(K, F : \mathcal{G}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow K\text{-alg})$ be an object of \mathcal{M} .
Let \tilde{F} be the transform of F by the sheafification functor
relatively to the étale topology of \mathcal{G} . Then:

- (i) The sheaf \tilde{F} inherits from F all its structures.
- (ii) The pair $(K, \tilde{F} : \mathcal{G}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow K\text{-alg})$
has all properties defining objects of \mathcal{M} , except for finite generation.
It is a filtering colimit of objects of \mathcal{M} , i.e. an object of $\text{Ind}(\mathcal{M})$.
- (iii) The canonical morphism of presheaves $F \rightarrow \tilde{F}$
respects all structures and has injective components $F(S) \rightarrow \tilde{F}(S)$.
It is a morphism of $\text{Ind}(\mathcal{M})$.

Proof:

- (i) This comes from the fact that the sheafification functor transforms
linear presheaves into linear sheaves and respects tensor products.
- (ii) The sheaf \tilde{F} is a fortiori a separated presheaf. Any nilpotent element of some
 $\tilde{F}(S)$ is 0 because it is 0 locally on S . The maps $\tilde{F}(S) \otimes_K \tilde{F}(S') \rightarrow \tilde{F}(S \times S')$ are
injective because sheafification respects monomorphisms of presheaves.
- (iii) The components $F(S) \rightarrow \tilde{F}(S)$ are injective because F is separated. □

Reduction of sheaves to split algebras:

- Let S_U be the “universal” object of \mathcal{G} consisting in the set G endowed with the action of G by translation.

Lemma. – Let $(K, F : \mathcal{G}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow K\text{-alg})$ be an object of \mathcal{M} .

Let \tilde{F} be the sheafification of F . Then:

- (i) The sheaf \tilde{F} is entirely determined by the K -algebra $A_F = \tilde{F}(S_U)$.
- (ii) One has $A_F = \tilde{F}(S_U) = F(S_U)$.
- (iii) The dimension of A_F on K is at most $|G| = |S_U|$.
- (iv) One can choose a finite extension K' of K so that the algebra $A_F \otimes_K K'$ is split, i.e. isomorphic to a product $\prod_{p \in P_F} K'$ where P_F is a set endowed with an action of G .
- (v) The action of G on P_F is transitive.
- (vi) The pair $(K', F \otimes_K K')$ is an object of \mathcal{M} , the morphism $(K, F) \rightarrow (K', F \otimes_K K')$ is a morphism of \mathcal{M} and we have $F \widetilde{\otimes}_K K' = \tilde{F} \otimes_K K'$.

Verification of the reduction to split algebras:

Proof of the lemma:

- (i) The sheaf \tilde{F} is entirely determined by $\tilde{F}(S_u) = A_F$ because any object S of \mathcal{M} is covered by copies of S_u .
- (ii) One has $\tilde{F}(S_u) = F(S_u)$ because the object S_u of \mathcal{G} has no non trivial cover for the étale topology.
- (iii) The decomposition $S_u \times S_u = \coprod_{g \in G} S_u$ applied to the injectivity of the map $F(S_u) \otimes F(S_u) \longrightarrow F(S_u \times S_u)$ implies that the morphism of representations of $G \times G$
- $$A_F \otimes_K A_F \longrightarrow \text{Ind}_G^{G \times G}(A_F)$$
- is a monomorphism. This implies that $\dim_K A_F \leq |G|$.
- (iv) The commutative algebra A_F is finite-dimensional and has no nilpotents. So it can be split by a finite extension K' of K .
- (v) If $A_F \otimes_K K' = \prod_{p \in P_F} K'$, the action of G on P_F is transitive because the morphism $A_F \otimes_K A_F \longrightarrow \text{Ind}_G^{G \times G}(A_F)$ is injective.
- (vi) comes from the fact that the sheafification functor respects tensor products and monomorphisms. □

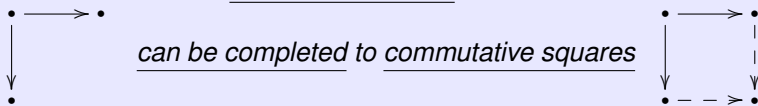
Computation of H^0 functors of a Galois category:

The previous lemma suffices to prove:

Theorem (O. Caramello, L.L., Gonalo Tabuada). –

(i) *The essentially small category \mathcal{M} can be presented as the category of finitely presentable set-valued models of an explicit theory \mathbb{T} of “presheaf-type”, with $\mathcal{E}_{\mathbb{T}} \cong \widehat{\mathcal{M}}^{\text{op}}$.*

(ii) *In the category \mathcal{M} , pairs of morphisms*



so that the atomic topology J is well-defined on $\mathcal{C} = \mathcal{M}^{\text{op}}$ and there exists a quotient theory \mathbb{T}' of homogeneous \mathbb{T} -models, with

$$\mathcal{E}_{\mathbb{T}'} \cong \widehat{\mathcal{C}}_J.$$

(iii) *The category \mathcal{M} has an initial object $(\mathbb{Q}, 0)$. A fortiori, it is connected, the topos $\widehat{\mathcal{C}}_J$ is 2-valued and the theory \mathbb{T}' is complete.*

(iv) *A set-valued model (K, F) of \mathbb{T} is homogeneous if and only if*

- *the field $K \supseteq \mathbb{Q}$ is homogeneous,*
- *F is the “regular” sheaf on \mathcal{G} $S \mapsto F(S) = \{\text{space of maps } S \rightarrow K\}$.*