

The Grothendieck construction and models for dependent types

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We show here that presheaves and the Grothendieck construction gives a natural model for dependent types, in the form of a contextual category. This is a variant of Hofmann's presheaf models. The difference is briefly that in Hofmann's models the category of contexts is the presheaf category $\text{PSh}(\mathbb{C})$, whereas in the model here presented, the context objects are iterated Grothendieck constructions $\int(\cdots \int(\int(\mathbb{C}, P_1), P_2), \dots, P_n)$ and the context morphisms are functors with some restriction.¹

1 Iterated Grothendieck constructions

Let \mathbb{C} be a small category. Let P be a presheaf on \mathbb{C} . The *category of elements of P* , denoted

$$\Sigma(\mathbb{C}, P),$$

consists of objects (a, x) where a is an object in \mathbb{C} and x is an element of $P(a)$. A morphism $\alpha : (a, x) \rightarrow (b, y)$ is a \mathbb{C} -morphism $\alpha : a \rightarrow b$, such that $P(\alpha)(y) = x$. $\Sigma(\mathbb{C}, P)$ is the well-known *Grothendieck construction* [3] and is usually denoted

$$\int_{\mathbb{C}} P \quad \text{or perhaps} \quad \int(\mathbb{C}, P).$$

This category is again small. There is a projection functor $\pi_P = \pi : \Sigma(\mathbb{C}, P) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ defined by $\pi(a, x) = a$ and $\pi(\alpha) = \alpha$, for $\alpha : (a, x) \rightarrow (b, y)$.

It is well-known that the Grothendieck construction gives the following equivalence

$$\text{PSh}(\mathbb{C})/P \simeq \text{PSh}(\Sigma(\mathbb{C}, P)).$$

¹Henrik Forssell observed after seeing the first version of these notes (dated February 28, 2013) that these restrictions amount to imposing a fibration condition, so that new iterated presheaf category is actually equivalent to the standard presheaf category. See Section 3.

Thus objects Q over P can be regarded as presheaves over $\Sigma(\mathbb{C}, P)$. This suggests a relation to semantics of dependent types [2]. One can iterate the Grothendieck construction as follows. Write

$$\Sigma(\mathbb{C}) = \mathbb{C}$$

$$\Sigma(\mathbb{C}, P_1, P_2, \dots, P_n) = \Sigma(\Sigma(\mathbb{C}, P_1, P_2, \dots, P_{n-1}), P_n).$$

Here $P_{k+1} \in \text{PSh}(\Sigma(\mathbb{C}, P_1, \dots, P_k))$ for each $k = 0, \dots, n-1$. Note that

$$\pi_{P_{k+1}} : \Sigma(\Sigma(\mathbb{C}, P_1, P_2, \dots, P_k), P_{k+1}) \longrightarrow \Sigma(\mathbb{C}, P_1, P_2, \dots, P_k).$$

Using these projections, define the iterated first projection functor

$$\pi_{P_1, P_2, \dots, P_n}^* =_{\text{def}} \pi_{P_1} \circ \pi_{P_2} \circ \dots \circ \pi_{P_n} : \Sigma(\mathbb{C}, P_1, P_2, \dots, P_n) \longrightarrow \mathbb{C}.$$

We explicate these constructions to see the connection to contexts of type theory. The objects of the category $\Sigma(\mathbb{C}, P_1, P_2, \dots, P_n)$ have the form $(\dots((a, x_1), x_2), \dots, x_n)$ but we shall write them as (a, x_1, \dots, x_n) . Thus $a \in \mathbb{C}$, $x_1 \in P_1(a)$, $x_2 \in P_2(a, x_1)$, $x_3 \in P_3(a, x_1, x_2)$, \dots , $x_n \in P_n(a, x_1, \dots, x_{n-1})$.

Proposition 1.1. *A morphism*

$$\alpha : (a, x_1, \dots, x_n) \longrightarrow (b, y_1, \dots, y_n)$$

in $\Sigma(\mathbb{C}, P_1, P_2, \dots, P_n)$ is given by a morphism $\alpha : a \longrightarrow b$ in \mathbb{C} such that

$$P_1(\alpha)(y_1) = x_1, P_2(\alpha)(y_2) = x_2, \dots, P_n(\alpha)(y_n) = x_n.$$

Proof. Induction on n . For $n = 0$, this is trivial, since the condition is void. Suppose it holds for n . A morphism $\alpha : (a, x_1, \dots, x_{n+1}) \longrightarrow (b, y_1, \dots, y_{n+1})$ is by definition a morphism $\alpha : (a, x_1, \dots, x_n) \longrightarrow (b, y_1, \dots, y_n)$ such that $P_{n+1}(\alpha)(y_{n+1}) = x_{n+1}$. By the induction hypothesis α is a morphism $a \longrightarrow b$ such that

$$P_1(\alpha)(y_1) = x_1, P_2(\alpha)(y_2) = x_2, \dots, P_n(\alpha)(y_n) = x_n.$$

Hence also

$$P_1(\alpha)(y_1) = x_1, P_2(\alpha)(y_2) = x_2, \dots, P_n(\alpha)(y_n) = x_n, P_{n+1}(\alpha)(y_{n+1}) = x_{n+1}$$

as required. □

2 A category with attributes

Let \mathbb{C} be a small category. We first define the category of contexts. Define a category $\text{MPSH}(\mathbb{C}) = M$ to have as objects finite sequences $\bar{P} = [P_1, \dots, P_n]$, $n \geq 0$, such that $P_{k+1} \in \text{PSh}(\Sigma(\mathbb{C}, P_1, \dots, P_k))$ for each $k = 0, \dots, n-1$. (In commutative diagrams we omit the rectangular brackets for typographical reasons.) We write $\Sigma(\mathbb{C}, \bar{P})$, or $\Sigma(\bar{P})$ when \mathbb{C} is clear from the situation, for $\Sigma(\mathbb{C}, P_1, \dots, P_n)$. Define the set of morphisms $\text{Hom}_M(\bar{P}, \bar{Q})$ as a subset of the functors from $\Sigma(\bar{P})$ to $\Sigma(\bar{Q})$, as follows:

$$\text{Hom}_M(\bar{P}, \bar{Q}) = \{f \in \Sigma(\bar{Q})^{\Sigma(\bar{P})} : \pi_{\bar{Q}}^* \circ f = \pi_{\bar{P}}^*\}. \quad (1)$$

Notice that since $\pi_{\bar{Q}}^*(\beta) = \beta$ and $\pi_{\bar{P}}^*(\alpha) = \alpha$ for all arrows β in $\Sigma(\bar{Q})$, and α in $\Sigma(\bar{P})$, it holds for $f \in \text{Hom}_M(\bar{P}, \bar{Q})$,

$$f(\alpha) = \alpha.$$

To see that M is category we need only to check that it has all identity morphisms and is closed under composition. If $f \in \text{Hom}_M(\bar{P}, \bar{Q})$ and $g \in \text{Hom}_M(\bar{Q}, \bar{R})$, then

$$\pi_{\bar{R}}^* \circ g \circ f = \pi_{\bar{Q}}^* \circ f = \pi_{\bar{P}}^*.$$

Thus closure under composition is clear. Further,

$$\pi_{\bar{P}}^* \circ \text{id}_{\Sigma(\bar{P})} = \pi_{\bar{P}}^*$$

so $\text{id}_{\Sigma(\bar{P})} \in \text{Hom}_M(\bar{P}, \bar{P})$. Note that $\text{Hom}_M(\bar{P}, \square)$ consists only of the functor $\pi_{\bar{P}}^*$ since if $f \in \text{Hom}_M(\bar{P}, \square)$, then $\pi_{\square}^* \circ f = \pi_{\bar{P}}^*$. But π_{\square}^* is the identity functor on \mathbb{C} , so $f = \pi_{\bar{P}}^*$. It seems reasonable to call $\text{MPSH}(\mathbb{C})$ the *multivariable presheaves over \mathbb{C}* . We conclude from this

Theorem 2.1. *$\text{MPSH}(\mathbb{C})$ is a category with terminal object \square , whenever \mathbb{C} is a small category. \square*

The objects form a tree structure via the immediate extension relation: $\bar{P} \triangleleft \bar{Q}$ if and only if $\bar{Q} = [\bar{P}, S]$ for some $S \in \text{PSh}(\bar{P})$.

The following is immediate in view of the definition (1):

Lemma 2.2. *Let $M = \text{MPSH}(\mathbb{C})$. The hom-set $\text{Hom}_M(\bar{P}, [Q_1, \dots, Q_{m+1}])$ consists of those functors $f : \Sigma(\bar{P}) \rightarrow \Sigma(Q_1, \dots, Q_{m+1})$ such that $\pi_{Q_{m+1}}^* \circ f \in \text{Hom}_M(\bar{P}, [Q_1, \dots, Q_m])$. \square*

The restriction in the hom-sets of $\text{MPSH}(\mathbb{C})$ yields the following characterization.

Lemma 2.3. *For $P, Q \in \text{PSh}(\mathbb{C})$ there is a bijection*

$$\text{Hom}_{\text{MPSH}(\mathbb{C})}([P], [Q]) \cong \text{Hom}_{\text{PSh}(\mathbb{C})}(P, Q).$$

Proof. For $f \in \text{Hom}_{\text{MPSH}(\mathbb{C})}([P], [Q])$ we have by the restriction $\pi_{[Q]}^* \circ f = \pi_{[P]}^*$ that $f(a, x) = (a, \hat{f}_a(x))$ and $f(\alpha) = \alpha$. Thus if $x \in P(a)$, then $(a, x) \in \Sigma(\mathbb{C}, P)$, so $\hat{f}_a(x) \in Q(a)$. This gives a family of maps $\hat{f}_a : P(a) \rightarrow Q(a)$, $a \in \mathbb{C}$. We check that they form a natural transformation $\tau : P \rightarrow Q$. Suppose $y \in P(b)$ and $\alpha : a \rightarrow b$. Then $(a, P(\alpha)(y)) \in \Sigma(\mathbb{C}, P)$ and $\alpha : (a, P(\alpha)(y)) \rightarrow (b, y)$, so $f(\alpha) : f(a, P(\alpha)(y)) \rightarrow f(b, y)$. This means

$$\alpha : (a, \hat{f}_a(P(\alpha)(y))) \rightarrow (b, \hat{f}_b(y)).$$

Hence $Q(\alpha)(\hat{f}_b(y)) = \hat{f}_a(P(\alpha)(y))$, which verifies the naturality condition. Write \hat{f} for the natural transformation constructed from f .

Conversely, suppose that $\tau : P \rightarrow Q$ is a natural transformation. Define a functor $f : \Sigma(\mathbb{C}, P) \rightarrow \Sigma(\mathbb{C}, Q)$ by

$$f(a, x) = (a, \tau_a(x)) \quad f(\alpha) = \alpha.$$

Note that if $x \in P(a)$, then $\tau_a(x) \in Q(a)$, so it is well-defined on objects. If $\alpha : (a, x) \rightarrow (b, y)$ then $P(\alpha)(y) = x$. Now we need to check that $f(\alpha) = \alpha : (a, \tau_a(x)) \rightarrow (b, \tau_b(y))$, i.e. that $Q(\alpha)(\tau_b(y)) = \tau_a(x)$. Inserting $x = P(\alpha)(y)$, this is

$$Q(\alpha)(\tau_b(y)) = \tau_a(P(\alpha)(y))$$

which is exactly the naturality of τ . So f is well-defined on arrows as well. The functoriality of f is clear. Write $[\tau] = f$ for the morphism so constructed from τ .

Now for $g \in \text{Hom}_{\text{MPSH}(\mathbb{C})}([P], [Q])$,

$$[\hat{g}](a, x) = (a, \hat{g}_a(x)) = g(a, x)$$

and $[\hat{g}](\alpha) = \alpha = g(\alpha)$. Thus $[\hat{g}] = g$. Further for $\sigma \in \text{Hom}_{\text{PSh}(\mathbb{C})}(P, Q)$, we wish to prove $[\widehat{\sigma}] = \sigma$. For $(a, x) \in \Sigma(P)$, we have by definition

$$[\sigma](a, x) = (a, \sigma_a(x)),$$

and further by definition

$$[\widehat{\sigma}]_a(x) = \sigma_a(x).$$

Thus

$$[\widehat{\sigma}] = \sigma$$

and this shows that the operations are mutual inverses. □

The following may be considered as a secondary Yoneda embedding.

Theorem 2.4. $[\cdot] : \text{PSh}(\mathbb{C}) \rightarrow \text{MPSH}(\mathbb{C})$ is a full and faithful functor.

Proof. In view of Lemma 2.3 we need only to check that the operation $[\cdot]$ is functorial. Consider identity natural transformation $\iota : P \rightarrow P$ given by $\iota_a = \text{id}_{P(a)}$. We have

$$[\iota](a, x) = (a, \iota_a(x)) = (a, x) \quad [\iota](\alpha) = \alpha,$$

so clearly (ι) is the identity $[P] \rightarrow [P]$. Suppose that $\sigma : P \rightarrow Q$ and $\tau : Q \rightarrow R$ are natural transformations. We have for objects (a, x) in $\Sigma(P)$:

$$[\tau \cdot \sigma](a, x) = (a, (\tau \cdot \sigma)_a(x)) = (a, \tau_a(\sigma_a(x)))$$

and on the other hand we get the same result evaluating

$$([\tau] \circ [\sigma])(a, x) = [\tau]([\sigma](a, x)) = [\tau](a, \sigma_a(x)) = (a, \tau_a(\sigma_a(x))).$$

For a morphism $\alpha : (a, x) \rightarrow (b, y)$ in $\Sigma(P)$, we have by definition

$$[\tau \cdot \sigma](\alpha) = \alpha = [\tau](\alpha) = [\tau]([\sigma](\alpha)) = ([\tau] \circ [\sigma])(\alpha).$$

This means that $[\cdot]$ is functorial. □

Composing the Yoneda embedding with the secondary embedding we get:

Corollary 2.5. $[\cdot] \circ \mathbf{y} : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \text{MPSH}(\mathbb{C})$ is a full and faithful functor. □

Theorem 2.6. Let $\bar{P} = [P_1, \dots, P_n]$ and $\bar{Q} = [Q_1, \dots, Q_m]$ be objects of $\text{MPSH}(\mathbb{C})$. An $\text{MPSH}(\mathbb{C})$ -morphism $f : \bar{P} \rightarrow \bar{Q}$ is given by m components f_1, \dots, f_m , which are such that for objects (a, \bar{x}) of $\Sigma(\bar{P})$:

$$f(a, \bar{x}) = (a, f_1(a, \bar{x}), \dots, f_m(a, \bar{x})) \tag{2}$$

and

$$f_1(a, \bar{x}) \in Q_1(a), f_2(a, \bar{x}) \in Q_2(a, f_1(a, \bar{x})), \dots, f_m(a, \bar{x}) \in Q_m(a, f_1(a, \bar{x}), \dots, f_{m-1}(a, \bar{x})) \tag{3}$$

Moreover for each morphism $\alpha : (a, \bar{x}) \rightarrow (b, \bar{y})$ in $\Sigma(\bar{P})$, the following naturality equations hold

$$\begin{aligned} Q_1(\alpha)(f_1(b, \bar{y})) &= f_1(a, P_1(\alpha)(y_1), \dots, P_n(\alpha)(y_n)) \\ &\vdots \\ Q_m(\alpha)(f_m(b, \bar{y})) &= f_m(a, P_1(\alpha)(y_1), \dots, P_n(\alpha)(y_n)) \end{aligned}$$

Proof. Induction on m . For $m = 0$, we have $f = \pi_{\bar{P}}^*$ since \square is the terminal object. Now $\pi_{\bar{P}}^*(a, \bar{x}) = a$ and $\pi_{\bar{P}}^*(\alpha) = \alpha$. Since for $m = 0$ there are no side conditions or

naturality equations, we are done. Suppose that the characterization holds for m . Let $f : \bar{P} \rightarrow [Q_1, \dots, Q_{m+1}]$ be a $\text{MPSH}(\mathbb{C})$ -morphism. Write

$$f(a, \bar{x}) = (a, f_1(a, \bar{x}), \dots, f_{m+1}(a, \bar{x})).$$

By the definition of the domain, (3) is satisfied for $m + 1$. According to Lemma 2.2 we have that $\pi_{Q_{m+1}} \circ f : \bar{P} \rightarrow [Q_1, \dots, Q_m]$ so applying the inductive hypothesis to this we get the naturality equations for Q_1, \dots, Q_m . It remains to prove the naturally equation for Q_{m+1} . We have by definition

$$\begin{aligned} f(a, \bar{x}) &= ((\pi_{Q_{m+1}} \circ f)(a, \bar{x}), f_{m+1}(a, \bar{x})) \\ f(b, \bar{y}) &= ((\pi_{Q_{m+1}} \circ f)(b, \bar{y}), f_{m+1}(b, \bar{y})) \end{aligned}$$

and for a morphism $\alpha : (a, \bar{x}) \rightarrow (b, \bar{y})$, we have in $\Sigma(\Sigma(\mathbb{C}, Q_1, \dots, Q_m), Q_{m+1})$ the morphism

$$f(\alpha) = \alpha : ((\pi_{Q_{m+1}} \circ f)(a, \bar{x}), f_{m+1}(a, \bar{x})) \rightarrow ((\pi_{Q_{m+1}} \circ f)(b, \bar{y}), f_{m+1}(b, \bar{y})).$$

This implies $Q_{m+1}(\alpha)(f_{m+1}(b, \bar{y})) = f_{m+1}(a, \bar{x})$. Since

$$\bar{x} = P_1(\alpha)(y_1), \dots, P_n(\alpha)(y_n),$$

we are done.

Conversely, suppose that f_1, \dots, f_{m+1} are satisfying (3) and the naturally equations for $m + 1$. Thus these conditions are also satisfied for f_1, \dots, f_m . Define

$$g(a, \bar{x}) = (a, f_1(a, \bar{x}), \dots, f_m(a, \bar{x})).$$

By the inductive hypothesis $g : \bar{P} \rightarrow [Q_1, \dots, Q_m]$ is a morphism. Let

$$f(a, \bar{x}) = (g(a, \bar{x}), f_{m+1}(a, \bar{x})) \quad f(\alpha) = \alpha.$$

Note that $\pi_{Q_{m+1}} \circ f = g$, so we need only to check that f is a functor

$$\Sigma(\mathbb{C}, P_1, \dots, P_n) \rightarrow \Sigma(\Sigma(\mathbb{C}, Q_1, \dots, Q_m), Q_{m+1})$$

We have $f(a, \bar{x}) = (g(a, \bar{x}), f_{m+1}(a, \bar{x}))$ and $g(a, \bar{x}) \in \Sigma(\mathbb{C}, Q_1, \dots, Q_m)$ so objects are sent to objects. Now since $f(\alpha) = \alpha$ the functoriality is automatic, and we need only to check that a morphism $\alpha : (a, \bar{x}) \rightarrow (b, \bar{y})$ also forms a morphism

$$\alpha : (g(a, \bar{x}), f_{m+1}(a, \bar{x})) \rightarrow (g(b, \bar{y}), f_{m+1}(b, \bar{y})).$$

Assume $\alpha : (a, \bar{x}) \rightarrow (b, \bar{y})$. We have $\alpha : a \rightarrow b$ and

$$\bar{x} = (P_1(\alpha)(y_1), \dots, P_n(\alpha)(y_n)). \tag{4}$$

By the induction hypothesis $\alpha : g(a, \bar{x}) \longrightarrow g(b, \bar{y})$ is a morphism. Thus it is enough to show $Q_{m+1}(f_{m+1}(b, \bar{y})) = f_{m+1}(a, \bar{x})$. But by the assumption and using (4) we get

$$\begin{aligned} Q_{m+1}(\alpha)(f_{m+1}(b, \bar{y})) &= f_{m+1}(a, P_1(\alpha)(y_1), \dots, P_n(\alpha)(y_n)) \\ &= f_{m+1}(a, \bar{x}). \end{aligned}$$

This concludes the proof. \square

Remark 2.7. Note that for $m = n = 1$ the naturality equations become just the usual condition that f_1 is a natural transformation. It may be reasonable to call the conditions in the general case *multinaturality*.

Example 2.8. For $R \in \text{PSh}(\Sigma(\mathbb{C}, \bar{P}))$, the projection functor π_R is morphism $[\bar{P}, R] \longrightarrow \bar{P}$ in $\text{MPSh}(\mathbb{C})$.

Example 2.9. (Sections.) Let $Q \in \text{PSh}(\Sigma(\mathbb{C}, \bar{P}))$, where $\bar{P} = [P_1, \dots, P_n]$. Consider a $\text{MPSh}(\mathbb{C})$ -morphism $s : \bar{P} \longrightarrow [\bar{P}, Q]$ which is a *section* of π_Q , that is, it satisfies $\pi_Q \circ s = \text{id}_{\bar{P}}$. By Theorem 2.6 it follows that s is specified by s' such that

$$s(a, \bar{x}) = (a, \bar{x}, s'(a, \bar{x})),$$

where $s'(a, \bar{x}) \in Q(a, \bar{x})$ and $(a, \bar{x}) \in \Sigma(\mathbb{C}, \bar{P})$, and for $\alpha : (a, \bar{x}) \longrightarrow (b, \bar{y})$,

$$Q(\alpha)(s'(b, \bar{y})) = s'(a, P_1(\alpha)(y_1), \dots, P_n(\alpha)(y_n)).$$

For $n = 0$, this is

$$Q(\alpha)(s'(b)) = s'(a).$$

For any object \bar{P} of $\text{MPSh}(\mathbb{C})$ define the presheaf $\Sigma^*(\bar{P})$ on \mathbb{C} by letting

$$\Sigma^*(\bar{P})(a) = \{(x_1, \dots, x_n) : x_1 \in P_1(a), \dots, x_n \in P_n(a, x_1, \dots, x_n)\},$$

and for $\alpha : b \longrightarrow a$, assigning

$$\Sigma^*(\bar{P})(\alpha)((x_1, \dots, x_n)) = (P_1(\alpha)(x_1), \dots, P_n(\alpha)(x_n)).$$

The following will give the *types* in a context \bar{P} . Define for each $\bar{P} \in \text{MPSh}(\mathbb{C})$,

$$\text{T}(\bar{P}) = \text{PSh}(\Sigma(\mathbb{C}, \bar{P})).$$

For a morphism $f : \bar{Q} \longrightarrow \bar{P}$, and $S \in \text{T}(\bar{P})$, let

$$\text{T}(f)(S) = S \circ f \in \text{T}(\bar{Q}).$$

Thus T is a contravariant functor. We write $S\{f\}$ for $S \circ f$.

For $Q \in \text{T}$ define its set of *elements* as the sections of π_Q

$$\text{E}(\bar{P}, Q) = \{s : \bar{P} \longrightarrow [\bar{P}, Q] : \pi_Q \circ s = \text{id}_{\bar{P}}\}$$

These data give rise to a category with attributes.

Theorem 2.10. Let $M = \text{MPSH}(\mathbb{C})$ for a small category \mathbb{C} . For $S \in \text{T}(\overline{P})$ and $f : \overline{Q} \rightarrow \overline{P}$, the functor $q_{S,f} = q : [\overline{Q}, S \circ f] \rightarrow [\overline{P}, S]$ defined by

$$q(a, \overline{x}, u) = (f(a, \overline{x}), u) \quad \text{and} \quad q(\alpha) = f(\alpha) \quad (\alpha : (a, \overline{x}, u) \rightarrow (b, \overline{y}, v))$$

makes the following into a pullback square in M :

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \overline{Q}, S \circ f & \xrightarrow{q_{S,f}} & \overline{P}, S \\ \pi_{S \circ f} \downarrow & & \downarrow \pi_S \\ \overline{Q} & \xrightarrow{f} & \overline{P} \end{array} \quad (5)$$

Further, if $f = \text{id}_{\Sigma(\overline{P})} : \overline{P} \rightarrow \overline{P}$, then

$$q_{S, \text{id}_{\Sigma(\overline{P})}} = \text{id}_{\Sigma(\overline{P}, S)}. \quad (6)$$

Suppose $g : \overline{A} \rightarrow \overline{Q}$, where

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \overline{A}, S \circ f \circ g & \xrightarrow{q_{S \circ f, g}} & \overline{Q}, S \circ f \\ \pi_{S \circ f \circ g} \downarrow & & \downarrow \pi_{S \circ f} \\ \overline{A} & \xrightarrow{g} & \overline{Q} \end{array} \quad (7)$$

is a pullback. Then

$$q_{S \circ f, g} \circ q_{S, f} = q_{S, f \circ g} \quad (8)$$

where the associated pullback to $q_{S, f \circ g}$ is

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \overline{A}, S \circ f \circ g & \xrightarrow{q_{S, f \circ g}} & \overline{P}, S \\ \pi_{S \circ f \circ g} \downarrow & & \downarrow \pi_S \\ \overline{A} & \xrightarrow{f \circ g} & \overline{P} \end{array} \quad (9)$$

Proof. For $\alpha : (a, \overline{x}, u) \rightarrow (b, \overline{y}, v)$ in $[\overline{Q}, S \circ f]$ we have $\alpha : (a, \overline{x}) \rightarrow (b, \overline{y})$, and since f is a morphism, this gives

$$f(\alpha) = \alpha : f(a, \overline{x}) \rightarrow f(b, \overline{y}).$$

Moreover $(S \circ f)(\alpha)(v) = u$. Hence

$$q(\alpha) = \alpha : (f(a, \overline{x}), v) \rightarrow (f(b, \overline{y}), u).$$

Since $q(\alpha) = \alpha$, q is clearly a functor. It remains to verify the final condition for q being a morphism, this amounts to checking

$$\pi_{[\overline{P}, S]}^* \circ q = \pi_{[\overline{Q}, S \circ f]}^*,$$

i.e. $\pi_{\overline{P}}^* \circ \pi_S \circ q = \pi_{\overline{Q}}^* \circ \pi_{S \circ f}$. We have

$$(\pi_{\overline{P}}^* \circ \pi_S \circ q)(a, \overline{x}) = \pi_{\overline{P}}^*(\pi_S(q(a, \overline{x}))) = \pi_{\overline{P}}^*(f(a, \overline{x})) = \pi_{\overline{Q}}^*(a, \overline{x}),$$

where the last step uses that f is a morphism. Moreover

$$(\pi_{\overline{P}}^* \circ \pi_S \circ q)(\alpha) = \pi_{\overline{P}}^*(\pi_S(\alpha)) = \alpha = \pi_{\overline{Q}}^*(\alpha).$$

It is clear that (5) commutes. Suppose that $h : \overline{R} \rightarrow \overline{Q}$ and $k : \overline{R} \rightarrow [\overline{P}, S]$ are morphisms such that $f \circ h = \pi_S \circ k$. Define $t : \overline{R} \rightarrow [\overline{Q}, S \circ f]$ by on objects (a, \overline{x}) letting

$$t(a, \overline{x}) = (h(a, \overline{x}), k_2(a, \overline{x})),$$

where $k(a, \overline{x}) = (k_1(a, \overline{x}), k_2(a, \overline{x}))$. We have $k_2(a, \overline{x}) \in S(k_1(a, \overline{x}))$. Now $f(h(a, \overline{x})) = \pi_S(k(a, \overline{x})) = k_1(a, \overline{x})$, so $k_2(a, \overline{x}) \in (S \circ f)(h(a, \overline{x}))$. Thus $t(a, \overline{x})$ is well-defined on objects. For an arrow $\alpha : (a, \overline{x}) \rightarrow (b, \overline{y})$, we define (as usual)

$$t(\alpha) = \alpha.$$

Need to check that $\alpha : t(a, \overline{x}) \rightarrow t(b, \overline{y})$, i.e. that

$$h(\alpha) = \alpha : h(a, \overline{x}) \rightarrow h(b, \overline{y}) \text{ and } ((S \circ f)(h(\alpha)))(k_2(b, \overline{y})) = k_2(a, \overline{x}). \quad (10)$$

The first statement of (10) follows since h is a functor. As k is a morphism we have $S(k_1(\alpha))(k_2(b, \overline{y})) = k_2(a, \overline{x})$, but

$$\begin{aligned} ((S \circ f)(h(\alpha)))(k_2(b, \overline{y})) &= S(f(h(\alpha)))(k_2(b, \overline{y})) \\ &= S(\pi_S(k(\alpha)))(k_2(b, \overline{y})) \\ &= S(k_1(\alpha))(k_2(b, \overline{y})) \\ &= k_2(a, \overline{x}). \end{aligned}$$

That t is functorial is trivial since $t(\alpha) = \alpha$. Next we check that t is a morphism $\overline{R} \rightarrow [\overline{Q}, S \circ f]$, and for this it remains to verify that $\pi_{[\overline{Q}, S \circ f]}^* \circ t = \pi_{\overline{R}}^*$. This amounts to checking $\pi_{\overline{Q}}^* \circ \pi_{S \circ f} \circ t = \pi_{\overline{R}}^*$. Now

$$(\pi_{\overline{Q}}^* \circ \pi_{S \circ f} \circ t)(a, \overline{x}) = \pi_{\overline{Q}}^*(h(a, \overline{x})) = \pi_{\overline{R}}^*(a, \overline{x})$$

where using in the last step, the fact that h is a morphism. Moreover, for \mathbb{C} -morphisms α

$$\begin{aligned} (\pi_{\overline{Q}}^* \circ \pi_{S \circ f} \circ t)(\alpha) &= \pi_{\overline{Q}}^*(\pi_{S \circ f}(\alpha)) \\ &= \pi_{\overline{Q}}^*(\pi_{S \circ f}(h(\alpha))) \\ &= \pi_{\overline{Q}}^*(h(\alpha)) \\ &= \pi_{\overline{R}}^*(\alpha) \end{aligned}$$

The last step used that h is a morphism. Further

$$q_{S,f}(t(a, \bar{x})) = (f(h(a, \bar{x})), k_2(a, \bar{x})) = (k_1(a, \bar{x}), k_2(a, \bar{x})) = k(a, \bar{x}) \quad \pi_{S \circ f}(t(a, \bar{x})) = h(a, \bar{x}).$$

and

$$q_{S,f}(t(\alpha)) = f(t(\alpha)) = f(h(\alpha)) = k_1(\alpha) = k(\alpha) \quad \pi_{S \circ f}(t(\alpha)) = \pi_{S \circ f}(h(\alpha)) = h(\alpha).$$

Thus t is a mediating morphism for the diagram. We check that it is unique: suppose that $t' : \overline{R} \rightarrow [\overline{Q}, S \circ f]$ is such that

$$q_{S,f}(t'(a, \bar{x})) = k(a, \bar{x}) \quad \pi_{S \circ f}(t'(a, \bar{x})) = h(a, \bar{x})$$

and

$$q_{S,f}(t'(\alpha)) = k(\alpha) \quad \pi_{S \circ f}(t'(\alpha)) = h(\alpha). \quad (11)$$

Writing $t'(a, \bar{x}) = (t'_1(a, \bar{x}), t'_2(a, \bar{x}))$ we see that $q_{S,f}(t'(a, \bar{x})) = (f(t'_1(a, \bar{x})), t'_2(a, \bar{x})) = k(a, \bar{x}) = (k_1(a, \bar{x}), k_2(a, \bar{x}))$, and $\pi_{S \circ f}(t'(a, \bar{x})) = t'_1(a, \bar{x}) = h(a, \bar{x})$. Hence $t'(a, \bar{x}) = t(a, \bar{x})$. From (11) we get $g(t'(\alpha)) = k(\alpha)$ and $t'(\alpha) = h(\alpha)$. Thus also $t'(\alpha) = t(\alpha)$. \square

Suppose that a pullback square as in (5) is given. For an element $t \in E(\overline{P}, S)$ we have $\pi_S \circ t \circ f = f \circ \text{id}_{\overline{Q}}$. Let $t\{f\} : \overline{Q} \rightarrow [\overline{Q}, S \circ f]$ be the unique map such that

$$\pi_{S \circ f} \circ t\{f\} = \text{id}_{\overline{Q}} \text{ and } q_{S,f} \circ t\{f\} = t \circ f.$$

Then $t\{f\} \in E(\overline{Q}, S\{f\})$, which is the element obtained from t by carrying out the substitution f . What does this look like in its components? Suppose $\overline{Q} = [Q_1, \dots, Q_n]$ and $\overline{P} = [P_1, \dots, P_m]$. Write

$$f(a, \bar{x}) = (a, f_1(a, \bar{x}), \dots, f_m(a, \bar{x})).$$

Moreover write

$$t(a, \bar{y}) = (a, \bar{y}, t'(a, \bar{y})).$$

By Theorem 2.10 above

$$t\{f\}(a, \bar{x}) = (a, \bar{x}, t'(a, f_1(a, \bar{x}), \dots, f_m(a, \bar{x}))).$$

Question: What are the categorical closure conditions of $\text{MPSH}(\mathbb{C})$ in analogy to the closure conditions of $\text{PSh}(\mathbb{C})$ (which is a topos)?

3 Equivalence with standard presheaves

It was noted by Henrik Forssell that the functor $\square : \text{PSh}(\mathbb{C}) \rightarrow \text{MPSh}(\mathbb{C})$ is actually an equivalence of categories. Its inverse can be constructed explicitly.

For a morphism $f : \overline{P} \rightarrow \overline{Q}$ in $\text{MPSh}(\mathbb{C})$ define a natural transformation

$$\Sigma^*(f) : \Sigma^*(\overline{P}) \rightarrow \Sigma^*(\overline{Q})$$

by letting

$$\Sigma^*(f)_a((x_1, \dots, x_n)) = (f_1(a, x_1, \dots, x_n), \dots, f_m(a, x_1, \dots, x_n)).$$

Here f_1, \dots, f_m are as in Theorem 2.6.

Lemma 3.1. $\Sigma^* : \text{MPSh}(\mathbb{C}) \rightarrow \text{PSh}(\mathbb{C})$ is a functor.

Proof. It is clear that Σ^* sends objects to objects. We check that it is also well-defined on arrows by verifying that $\Sigma^*(f)$ is a natural transformation for $f : \overline{P} \rightarrow \overline{Q}$. Let $\alpha : b \rightarrow a$ and $\bar{x} \in \Sigma^*(\overline{P})(a)$. Then by definition and since $\alpha : (b, \overline{P}(\alpha)(\bar{x})) \rightarrow (a, \bar{x})$ we get by Theorem 2.6

$$\begin{aligned} \Sigma^*(\overline{Q})(\alpha)(\Sigma^*(f)_a(\bar{x})) &= (Q_1(\alpha)(f_1(a, \bar{x})), \dots, Q_m(\alpha)(f_m(a, \bar{x}))) \\ &= (f_1(b, \overline{P}(\alpha)\bar{x}), \dots, f_m(b, \overline{P}(\alpha)\bar{x})) \\ &= \Sigma^*(f)_b(\overline{P}(\alpha)(\bar{x})) \\ &= \Sigma^*(f)_b(\Sigma^*(\overline{P})(\alpha)(\bar{x})) \end{aligned}$$

as required.

If f is the identity, then $f_k(a, \bar{x}) = x_k$ and hence $\Sigma^*(f)_a(\bar{x}) = \bar{x}$.

Suppose that $f : \overline{P} \rightarrow \overline{Q}$ and $g : \overline{Q} \rightarrow \overline{R}$ are morphisms and write

$$f(a, \bar{x}) = (a, f_1(a, \bar{x}), \dots, f_m(a, \bar{x}))$$

and

$$g(a, \bar{y}) = (a, g_1(a, \bar{y}), \dots, f_k(a, \bar{y}))$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} \Sigma^*(g)_a(\Sigma^*(f)_a(\bar{x})) &= \Sigma^*(g)_a(f_1(a, \bar{x}), \dots, f_m(a, \bar{x})) \\ &= (g_1(a, f_1(a, \bar{x}), \dots, f_m(a, \bar{x})), \dots, g_k(a, f_1(a, \bar{x}), \dots, f_m(a, \bar{x}))) \end{aligned}$$

But we have

$$\begin{aligned} (g \circ f)(a, \bar{x}) &= g(f(a, \bar{x})) \\ &= g(a, f_1(a, \bar{x}), \dots, f_m(a, \bar{x})) \\ &= (a, g_1(a, f_1(a, \bar{x}), \dots, f_m(a, \bar{x})), \dots, f_k(a, f_1(a, \bar{x}), \dots, f_m(a, \bar{x}))) \end{aligned}$$

Hence

$$\Sigma^*(g)_a(\Sigma^*(f)_a(\bar{x})) = \Sigma^*(g \circ f)_a(\bar{x})$$

as was to be proved. \square

Theorem 3.2. *The functors $\square : \text{PSh}(\mathbb{C}) \rightarrow \text{MPSH}(\mathbb{C})$ and $\Sigma^* : \text{MPSH}(\mathbb{C}) \rightarrow \text{PSh}(\mathbb{C})$ form an equivalence of categories witnessed by the natural isomorphisms*

$$\varepsilon : \Sigma^*([-]) \rightarrow \text{Id}_{\text{PSh}(\mathbb{C})} \text{ and } \eta : [\Sigma^*(-)] \rightarrow \text{Id}_{\text{MPSH}(\mathbb{C})}$$

where

$$(\varepsilon_P)_a((x)) = x$$

and

$$\eta_{\bar{P}} : \Sigma(\mathbb{C}, \Sigma^*(P_1, \dots, P_n)) \rightarrow \Sigma(\mathbb{C}, P_1, \dots, P_n)$$

is given by $\eta_{\bar{P}}(a, (x_1, \dots, x_n)) = (a, x_1, \dots, x_n)$.

Proof. Clearly $(\varepsilon_P)_a : \Sigma^*([P])(a) \rightarrow P(a)$ is a bijection. For $\alpha : b \rightarrow a$,

$$P(\alpha)((\varepsilon_P)_a((x))) = P(\alpha)(x) = (\varepsilon_P)_b((P(\alpha)(x))) = (\varepsilon_P)_b(\Sigma^*([P])(\alpha)((x))).$$

Thus $\varepsilon_P : \Sigma^*([P]) \rightarrow P$ is a natural isomorphism, so an iso in $\text{PSh}(\mathbb{C})$. We check that ε is natural in P . Let $\tau : P \rightarrow Q$ be a natural transformation. We need to verify

$$\tau \cdot \varepsilon_P = \varepsilon_Q \cdot \Sigma^*([\tau]),$$

i.e. $\tau_a((\varepsilon_P)_a((x))) = (\varepsilon_Q)_a((\Sigma^*([\tau]))_a((x)))$. Now

$$\tau_a((\varepsilon_P)_a((x))) = \tau_a(x).$$

On the other hand

$$(\varepsilon_Q)_a((\Sigma^*([\tau]))_a((x))) = (\varepsilon_Q)_a((\tau_a(x))) = \tau_a(x).$$

Hence ε is a natural transformation.

We verify that η is a natural isomorphism. First check that $\eta_{\bar{P}}$ is a morphism $[\Sigma^*(P_1, \dots, P_n)] \rightarrow [P_1, \dots, P_n]$ in $\text{MPSH}(\mathbb{C})$ by verifying the multinaturality of Theorem 2.6: Let $\alpha : (b, (\bar{y})) \rightarrow (a, (\bar{x}))$. We should have

$$\begin{aligned} P_1(\alpha)(f_1(b, (\bar{x}))) &= f_1(a, \Sigma^*(P_1, \dots, P_n)(\alpha)((\bar{x}))) \\ &\vdots \\ P_n(\alpha)(f_n(b, (\bar{x}))) &= f_n(a, \Sigma^*(P_1, \dots, P_n)(\alpha)((\bar{x}))) \end{aligned}$$

where $f_k(a, (\bar{x})) = x_k$. But $\Sigma^*(P_1, \dots, P_n)(\alpha)((\bar{x})) = (P_1(\alpha)(x_1), \dots, P_n(\alpha)(x_n))$ so this is clear. We claim that $g(a, x_1, \dots, x_n) = (a, (x_1, \dots, x_n))$ defines an inverse morphism

to $\eta_{\bar{P}}$. It is clearly an inverse, so it remains to verify it is a morphism. Let $\alpha : (b, \bar{y}) \rightarrow (a, \bar{x})$. We need to verify

$$\Sigma^*(P_1, \dots, P_n)(\alpha)(f(a, \bar{x})) = f(b, P_1(\alpha)(x_1), \dots, P_n(\alpha)(x_n)) \quad (12)$$

where $f(\bar{x}) = (\bar{x})$. But (12) is

$$\Sigma^*(P_1, \dots, P_n)(\alpha)((\bar{x})) = (P_1(\alpha)(x_1), \dots, P_n(\alpha)(x_n)) \quad (13)$$

which follows by definition. Thus each $\eta_{\bar{P}}$ is an isomorphism. We check that $\eta_{\bar{P}}$ is natural in \bar{P} . Suppose that $f : \bar{P} \rightarrow \bar{Q}$ is a morphism. We need to verify that

$$f \circ \eta_{\bar{P}} = \eta_{\bar{Q}} \circ [\Sigma^*(f)].$$

Write

$$f(a, \bar{x}) = (a, f_1(a, \bar{x}), \dots, f_m(a, \bar{x}))$$

We have

$$f(\eta_{\bar{P}}(a, (\bar{x}))) = f(a, \bar{x}) = (a, f_1(a, \bar{x}), \dots, f_m(a, \bar{x}))$$

and on the other hand

$$\eta_{\bar{Q}}([\Sigma^*(f)](a, (\bar{x}))) = \eta_{\bar{Q}}(a, \Sigma^*(f)_a((\bar{x}))) = \eta_{\bar{Q}}(a, (f_1(a, \bar{x}), \dots, f_m(a, \bar{x}))) = (a, f_1(a, \bar{x}), \dots, f_m(a, \bar{x})).$$

Thus we are done. \square

4 Π -construction

Let \mathbb{C} be any small category and let $\bar{R} = [R_1, \dots, R_n] \in \text{MPSH}(\mathbb{C})$. Let $P \in \text{PSh}(\Sigma(\bar{R}))$ and $Q \in \text{PSh}(\Sigma(\bar{R}, P))$. We define a presheaf $\Pi(P, Q)$ over $\Sigma(\bar{R})$ as follows. For $(a, \bar{x}) \in \Sigma(\bar{R})$, let

$$\begin{aligned} \Pi(P, Q)(a, \bar{x}) = & \left\{ h \in (\Pi b \in \mathbb{C})(\Pi f : b \rightarrow a)(\Pi v \in P(b, \bar{R}(f)(\bar{x}))Q(b, \bar{R}(f)(\bar{x}), v) \mid \right. \\ & \forall b \in \mathbb{C}, \forall f : b \rightarrow a, \forall v \in P(b, \bar{R}(f)(\bar{x})), \\ & \left. \forall c \in \mathbb{C}, \forall \beta : c \rightarrow b, \right. \\ & \left. Q(\beta)(h(b, f, v)) = h(c, f \circ \beta, P(\beta)(v)) \right\} \end{aligned}$$

We have written $\bar{R}(f)(\bar{x})$ for $R_1(f)(x_1), \dots, R_n(f)(x_n)$. For $\alpha : (a', \bar{x}') \rightarrow (a, \bar{x})$ and $h \in \Pi(P, Q)(a, \bar{x})$ define $\Pi(P, Q)(\alpha)(h) = h'$ by

$$h'(b, f, v) = h(b, \alpha \circ f, v), \quad (14)$$

for $b \in \mathbb{C}$, $f : b \rightarrow a'$, $v \in P(b, \overline{R}(f)(\overline{x}'))$. It is straightforward to verify that $\Pi(P, Q)$ is a presheaf over \mathbb{C} .

Let $s \in E(\overline{R}, P, Q)$. Thus there is s' such that for all $(b, \overline{u}, v) \in \Sigma(\overline{R}, P)$,

$$s(b, \overline{u}, v) = (b, \overline{u}, v, s'(b, \overline{u}, v))$$

where $s'(b, \overline{u}, v) \in Q(b, \overline{u}, v)$ and further for all $\alpha : (a, \overline{x}, y) \rightarrow (b, \overline{u}, v)$

$$Q(\alpha)(s'(b, \overline{u}, v)) = s'(a, \overline{R}(\alpha)(\overline{u}), P(\alpha)(v)). \quad (15)$$

Define

$$\hat{s}(a, \overline{x}) = \lambda b \in \mathbb{C}. \lambda f : b \rightarrow a. \lambda v \in P(b, \overline{R}(f)(\overline{x})). s'(b, \overline{R}(f)(\overline{x}), v).$$

We check that $\hat{s}(a, \overline{x}) \in \Pi(P, Q)(a, \overline{x})$: For $b \in \mathbb{C}$, $f : b \rightarrow a$, $v \in P(b, \overline{R}(f)(\overline{x}))$ we need to verify that for any $\beta : c \rightarrow b$,

$$Q(\beta)(\hat{s}(a, \overline{x})(b, f, v)) = \hat{s}(a, \overline{x})(c, f \circ \beta, P(\beta)(v)).$$

Indeed, using (18), the following calculation proves this.

$$\begin{aligned} Q(\beta)(\hat{s}(a, \overline{x})(b, f, v)) &= Q(\beta)(s'(b, \overline{R}(f)(\overline{x}), v)) \\ &= s'(c, \overline{R}(\beta)(\overline{R}(f)(\overline{x})), P(\beta)(v)) \\ &= s'(c, \overline{R}(f \circ \beta)(\overline{x}), P(\beta)(v)) \\ &= \hat{s}(a, \overline{x})(c, f \circ \beta, P(\beta)(v)). \end{aligned}$$

Next, define

$$\lambda_{P, Q}(s)(a, \overline{x}) = (a, \overline{x}, \hat{s}(a, \overline{x})).$$

We wish to verify that $\lambda_{P, Q}(s) \in E(\overline{R}, \Pi(P, Q))$. For this it suffices to check that for $\alpha : (a', \overline{x}') \rightarrow (a, \overline{x})$,

$$\Pi(P, Q)(\alpha)(\hat{s}(a, \overline{x})) = \hat{s}(a', \overline{R}(\alpha)(\overline{x})). \quad (16)$$

Evaluate the left hand side at $b \in \mathbb{C}$, $f : b \rightarrow a'$, $v \in P(b, \overline{R}(f)(\overline{x}'))$,

$$\begin{aligned} \Pi(P, Q)(\alpha)(\hat{s}(a, \overline{x}))(b, f, v) &= \hat{s}(a, \overline{x})(b, \alpha \circ f, v) \\ &= s'(b, \overline{R}(\alpha \circ f)(\overline{x}), v) \\ &= s'(b, \overline{R}(f)(\overline{R}(\alpha)(\overline{x})), v) \\ &= \hat{s}(a, \overline{R}(\alpha)(\overline{x}))(b, f, v) \end{aligned}$$

This verifies (16).

For $f \in E(\overline{R}, \Pi(P, Q))$ and $t \in E(\overline{R}, P)$ we write

$$f(a, \overline{x}) = (a, \overline{x}, f'(a, \overline{x})) \quad t(a, \overline{x}) = (a, \overline{x}, t'(a, \overline{x})).$$

Thus $f'(a, \bar{x}) \in \Pi(P, Q)(a, \bar{x})$ and $t'(a, \bar{x}) \in P(a, \bar{x})$. It holds that

$$f'(a, \bar{x})(a, 1_a, t'(a, \bar{x})) \in Q(a, \bar{x}, t'(a, \bar{x})) = (Q \circ t)(a, \bar{x}).$$

Define

$$\text{App}_{P,Q}(f, t)(a, \bar{x}) = (a, \bar{x}, f'(a, \bar{x})(a, 1_a, t'(a, \bar{x}))).$$

We wish to prove that

$$\text{App}_{P,Q}(f, t) \in E(\bar{R}, Q \circ t).$$

By the form of the definition it suffices to check the naturality condition: for $\alpha : (a, \bar{x}) \rightarrow (b, \bar{y})$,

$$(Q \circ t)(\alpha)(f'(b, \bar{y})(b, 1_b, t'(b, \bar{y}))) = f'(a, \bar{R}(\alpha)(\bar{y}))(a, 1_a, t'(a, \bar{R}(\alpha)(\bar{y}))).$$

We use the naturality conditions for f , t and naturality of elements in $\Pi(P, Q)(b, \bar{y})$ to verify this:

$$\begin{aligned} (Q \circ t)(\alpha)(f'(b, \bar{y})(b, 1_b, t'(b, \bar{y}))) &= Q(t(\alpha))(f'(b, \bar{y})(b, 1_b, t'(b, \bar{y}))) \\ &= f'(b, \bar{y})(a, 1_b \circ \alpha, P(\alpha)(t'(b, \bar{y}))) \\ &= f'(b, \bar{y})(a, 1_b \circ \alpha, t'(a, \bar{R}(\alpha)(\bar{y}))) \\ &= f'(b, \bar{y})(a, \alpha \circ 1_a, t'(a, \bar{R}(\alpha)(\bar{y}))) \\ &= (\Pi(P, Q)(\alpha)(f'(b, \bar{y})))(a, 1_a, t'(a, \bar{R}(\alpha)(\bar{y}))) \\ &= f'(a, \bar{R}(\alpha)(\bar{y}))(a, 1_a, t'(a, \bar{R}(\alpha)(\bar{y}))). \end{aligned}$$

The λ -computation rule is verified as follows

$$\begin{aligned} \text{App}_{P,Q}(\lambda_{P,Q}(s), t)(a, \bar{x}) &= (a, \bar{x}, \hat{s}(a, \bar{x})(a, 1_a, t'(a, \bar{x}))) \\ &= (a, \bar{x}, s'(a, \bar{x}, t'(a, \bar{x}))) \\ &= s\{t\}(a, \bar{x}). \end{aligned}$$

Thus $\text{App}_{P,Q}(\lambda_{P,Q}(s), t) = s\{t\}$.

It remains to check that all constructs commute with substitutions. Fix a morphism $f : \bar{S} \rightarrow \bar{R}$, where $\bar{S} = [S_1, \dots, S_k]$ and $\bar{R} = [R_1, \dots, R_n]$. Then write

$$f(d, \bar{w}) = (d, f_1(d, \bar{w}), \dots, f_n(d, \bar{w})).$$

The components satisfy the naturality conditions: for each morphism $\alpha : (e, \bar{z}) \rightarrow (d, \bar{w})$ in $\Sigma(\bar{S})$, the following equations hold

$$\begin{aligned} R_1(\alpha)(f_1(d, \bar{w})) &= f_1(e, \bar{S}(\alpha)(\bar{w})) \\ &\vdots \\ R_n(\alpha)(f_n(d, \bar{w})) &= f_n(e, \bar{S}(\alpha)(\bar{w})) \end{aligned}$$

Π -substitution: $P \in \text{PSh}(\Sigma(\bar{R}))$ and $Q \in \text{PSh}(\Sigma(\bar{R}, P))$. We need to check that $\Pi(P, Q)\{f\} = \Pi(P\{f\}, Q\{q_{P,f}\})$ as presheaves. Let $(d, \bar{w}) \in \Sigma(\bar{S})$. We have

$$\begin{aligned} \Pi(P, Q)\{f\}(d, \bar{w}) = & \left\{ h \in (\Pi b \in \mathbb{C})(\Pi g : b \rightarrow d)(\Pi v \in P(b, \bar{R}(g)(f_1(d, \bar{w}), \dots, f_n(d, \bar{w}))) \right. \\ & Q(b, \bar{R}(g)(f_1(d, \bar{w}), \dots, f_n(d, \bar{w})), v) \mid \\ & \forall b \in \mathbb{C}, \forall g : b \rightarrow d, \forall v \in P(b, \bar{R}(g)(f_1(d, \bar{w}), \dots, f_n(d, \bar{w}))), \\ & \forall c \in \mathbb{C}, \forall \beta : c \rightarrow b, \\ & \left. Q(\beta)(h(b, g, v)) = h(c, g \circ \beta, P(\beta)(v)) \right\} \end{aligned}$$

By the naturality condition

$$\bar{R}(g)(f_1(d, \bar{w}), \dots, f_n(d, \bar{w})) = (f_1(b, \bar{S}(g)(\bar{w})), \dots, f_n(b, \bar{S}(g)(\bar{w}))). \quad (17)$$

Thus

$$\begin{aligned} P(b, \bar{R}(g)(f_1(d, \bar{w}), \dots, f_n(d, \bar{w}))) &= P(b, (f_1(b, \bar{S}(g)(\bar{w})), \dots, f_n(b, \bar{S}(g)(\bar{w})))) \\ &= P(f(b, \bar{S}(g)(\bar{w}))) \\ &= (P\{f\})(b, \bar{S}(g)(\bar{w})) \end{aligned}$$

and moreover

$$\begin{aligned} Q(b, \bar{R}(g)(f_1(d, \bar{w}), \dots, f_n(d, \bar{w})), v) &= Q(b, f_1(b, \bar{S}(g)(\bar{w})), \dots, f_n(b, \bar{S}(g)(\bar{w})), v) \\ &= Q(f(b, \bar{S}(g)(\bar{w})), v) \\ &= (Q\{q_{P,f}\})(\bar{S}(g)(\bar{w}), v) \end{aligned}$$

We have thereby

$$\begin{aligned} \Pi(P, Q)\{f\}(d, \bar{w}) = & \left\{ h \in (\Pi b \in \mathbb{C})(\Pi g : b \rightarrow d)(\Pi v \in (P\{f\})(b, \bar{S}(g)(\bar{w}))) \right. \\ & (Q\{q_{P,f}\})(\bar{S}(g)(\bar{w}), v) \mid \\ & \forall b \in \mathbb{C}, \forall g : b \rightarrow d, \forall v \in (P\{f\})(b, \bar{S}(g)(\bar{w})), \\ & \forall c \in \mathbb{C}, \forall \beta : c \rightarrow b, \\ & \left. Q(\beta)(h(b, g, v)) = h(c, g \circ \beta, P(\beta)(v)) \right\} \end{aligned}$$

But $Q(\beta) = Q(q_{P,f}(\beta))$ and $P(\beta) = P(f(\beta))$, so

$$\Pi(P, Q)\{f\}(d, \bar{w}) = \Pi(P\{f\}, Q\{q_{P,f}\})(d, \bar{w}).$$

Suppose $\alpha : (e, \bar{z}) \rightarrow (d, \bar{w})$ in $\Sigma(\bar{S})$,

$$\Pi(P, Q)\{f\}(\alpha)(h)(b, f, v) = \Pi(P, Q)(f(\alpha))(h)(b, f, v) = \Pi(P, Q)(\alpha)(h)(b, f, v) = (b, \alpha \circ f, v)$$

and on the other hand

$$\Pi(P\{f\}, Q\{q_{P,f}\})(\alpha)(h)(b, f, v) = (b, \alpha \circ f, v).$$

Hence $\Pi(P, Q)\{f\} = \Pi(P\{f\}, Q\{q_{P,f}\})$.

λ -substitution: Let $s \in E([\bar{R}, P], Q)$. Thus there is s' such that for all $(b, \bar{u}, v) \in \Sigma(\bar{R}, P)$,

$$s(b, \bar{u}, v) = (b, \bar{u}, v, s'(b, \bar{u}, v))$$

where $s'(b, \bar{u}, v) \in Q(b, \bar{u}, v)$ and further for all $\alpha : (a, \bar{x}, y) \longrightarrow (b, \bar{u}, v)$

$$Q(\alpha)(s'(b, \bar{u}, v)) = s'(a, \bar{R}(\alpha)(\bar{u}), P(\alpha)(v)). \quad (18)$$

We have

$$\hat{s}(a, \bar{x}) = \lambda b \in \mathbb{C}. \lambda f : b \rightarrow a. \lambda v \in P(b, \bar{R}(f)(\bar{x})). s'(b, \bar{R}(f)(\bar{x}), v).$$

and

$$\lambda_{P,Q}(s)(a, \bar{x}) = (a, \bar{x}, \hat{s}(a, \bar{x})).$$

Further,

$$\lambda_{P,Q}(s)\{f\}(d, \bar{w}) = (d, \bar{w}, \hat{s}(d, f_1(a, \bar{w}), \dots, f_m(d, \bar{w})))$$

Now $s\{q_{P,f}\} \in E([\bar{S}, P\{f\}], Q\{q_{P,f}\})$, and so

$$\lambda_{P\{f\}, Q\{q_{P,f}\}}(s\{q_{P,f}\}) \in E(\bar{S}, \Pi(P\{f\}, Q\{q_{P,f}\})).$$

and

$$\lambda_{P\{f\}, Q\{q_{P,f}\}}(s\{q_{P,f}\})(d, \bar{w}) = (d, \bar{w}, \widehat{s\{q_{P,f}\}}(d, \bar{w}))$$

We have

$$q_{P,f}(d, \bar{w}, v) = (f(d, \bar{w}), v) = (d, f_1(d, \bar{w}), \dots, f_m(d, \bar{w}), v).$$

By construction of substitution on terms

$$s\{q_{P,f}\}(d, \bar{w}, v) = (d, \bar{w}, v, s'(d, f_1(d, \bar{w}), \dots, f_m(d, \bar{w}), v))$$

Thus

$$\widehat{s\{q_{P,f}\}}(d, \bar{w}) = \lambda b \in \mathbb{C}. \lambda g : b \rightarrow d. \lambda v \in P\{f\}(b, \bar{S}(g)(\bar{w})). s'(b, f_1(b, \bar{S}(g)(\bar{w})), \dots, f_m(b, \bar{S}(g)(\bar{w})), v).$$

We compare

$$\widehat{s\{q_{P,f}\}}(d, \bar{w})(b, g, v) = s'(b, f_1(b, \bar{S}(g)(\bar{w})), \dots, f_m(b, \bar{S}(g)(\bar{w})), v)$$

and

$$\hat{s}(d, f_1(a, \bar{w}), \dots, f_m(d, \bar{w}))(b, g, v) = s'(b, \bar{R}(g)(f_1(a, \bar{w}), \dots, f_m(d, \bar{w})), v)$$

By the condition (17) we see that the two expressions are equal.

App-substitution: For $g \in E(\bar{R}, \Pi(P, Q))$ and $t \in E(\bar{R}, P)$ we write

$$g(a, \bar{x}) = (a, \bar{x}, g'(a, \bar{x})) \quad t(a, \bar{x}) = (a, \bar{x}, t'(a, \bar{x})).$$

Thus $g'(a, \bar{x}) \in \Pi(P, Q)(a, \bar{x})$ and $t'(a, \bar{x}) \in P(a, \bar{x})$. It holds that

$$g'(a, \bar{x})(a, 1_a, t'(a, \bar{x})) \in Q(a, \bar{x}, t'(a, \bar{x})) = (Q \circ t)(a, \bar{x}).$$

We have by definition

$$\text{App}_{P,Q}(g, t)(a, \bar{x}) = (a, \bar{x}, g'(a, \bar{x})(a, 1_a, t'(a, \bar{x}))).$$

We shall prove

$$\text{App}_{P,Q}(g, t)\{f\} = \text{App}_{P\{f\}, Q\{q_{P,f}\}}(g\{f\}, t\{f\})$$

On the one hand

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{App}_{P,Q}(g, t)\{f\}(d, \bar{w}) \\ &= (d, \bar{w}, g'(d, f_1(a, \bar{w}), \dots, f_m(d, \bar{w}))(d, 1_d, t'(d, f_1(a, \bar{w}), \dots, f_m(d, \bar{w}))))). \end{aligned}$$

We have further

$$g\{f\}(d, \bar{w}) = (d, \bar{w}, g'(d, f_1(a, \bar{w}), \dots, f_m(d, \bar{w})))$$

and

$$t\{f\}(d, \bar{w}) = (d, \bar{w}, t'(d, f_1(a, \bar{w}), \dots, f_m(d, \bar{w})))$$

Now on the other hand

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{App}_{P\{f\}, Q\{q_{P,f}\}}(g\{f\}, t\{f\})(d, \bar{w}) \\ &= (d, \bar{w}, g'(d, f_1(a, \bar{w}), \dots, f_m(d, \bar{w}))(d, 1_d, t'(d, f_1(a, \bar{w}), \dots, f_m(d, \bar{w})))) \end{aligned}$$

which is indeed the same.

5 Σ -construction

Let \mathbb{C} be any small category and let $\bar{R} = [R_1, \dots, R_n] \in \text{MPSH}(\mathbb{C})$. Let $P \in \text{PSh}(\Sigma(\bar{R}))$ and $Q \in \text{PSh}(\Sigma(\bar{R}, P))$. We define a presheaf $\dot{\Sigma}(P, Q)$ over $\Sigma(\bar{R})$ as follows. For $(a, \bar{x}) \in \Sigma(\bar{R})$, let

$$\dot{\Sigma}(P, Q)(a, \bar{x}) = \{(u, v) : u \in P(a, \bar{x}), v \in Q(a, \bar{x}, u)\}.$$

For $\alpha : (a', \bar{x}') \rightarrow (a, \bar{x})$ and $h \in \dot{\Sigma}(P, Q)(a, \bar{x})$ define

$$\dot{\Sigma}(P, Q)(\alpha)(u, v) = (P(\alpha)(u), Q(\alpha)(v)).$$

It is straightforward to verify that $\dot{\Sigma}(P, Q)$ is a presheaf over \mathbb{C} .

6 Explication of the constructions over some categories

Suppose that \mathbb{C} is the category $0 \rightarrow 2 \leftarrow 1$, where all other arrows are identities. Let $\bar{R} = [R_1, \dots, R_n] \in \text{MPSH}(\mathbb{C})$. Let $P \in \text{PSh}(\Sigma(\bar{R}))$ and $Q \in \text{PSh}(\Sigma(\bar{R}, P))$. Now the definition of $\Pi(P, Q)$ simplifies for $a = 0, 1$, since there are only identity arrows into a , the naturality condition becomes void, so we have:

$$\begin{aligned} \Pi(P, Q)(a, \bar{x}) &= (\Pi b \in \mathbb{C})(\Pi f : b \rightarrow a)(\Pi v \in P(b, \bar{R}(f)(\bar{x}))Q(b, \bar{R}(f)(\bar{x}), v)) \\ &\cong (\Pi v \in P(b, \bar{x}))Q(b, \bar{x}, v) \end{aligned}$$

For $a = 2$, the naturality condition has a few nontrivial cases:

$$\begin{aligned} \Pi(P, Q)(2, \bar{x}) &= \left\{ h \in (\Pi b \in \mathbb{C})(\Pi f : b \rightarrow 2)(\Pi v \in P(b, \bar{R}(f)(\bar{x}))Q(b, \bar{R}(f)(\bar{x}), v) \mid \right. \\ &\quad \forall b \in \mathbb{C}, \forall f : b \rightarrow 2, \forall v \in P(b, \bar{R}(f)(\bar{x})), \\ &\quad \forall c \in \mathbb{C}, \forall \beta : c \rightarrow b, \\ &\quad \left. Q(\beta)(h(b, f, v)) = h(c, f \circ \beta, P(\beta)(v)) \right\} \end{aligned}$$

Writing out the cases explicitly we get

$$\begin{aligned} \Pi(P, Q)(2, \bar{x}) &= \left\{ h \in (\Pi b \in \mathbb{C})(\Pi f : b \rightarrow 2)(\Pi v \in P(b, \bar{R}(f)(\bar{x}))Q(b, \bar{R}(f)(\bar{x}), v) \mid \right. \\ &\quad \forall f : 0 \rightarrow 2, \forall v \in P(0, \bar{R}(f)(\bar{x})), \\ &\quad \forall c \in \mathbb{C}, \forall \beta : c \rightarrow 0, \\ &\quad \quad Q(\beta)(h(0, f, v)) = h(c, f \circ \beta, P(\beta)(v)), \\ &\quad \forall f : 1 \rightarrow 2, \forall v \in P(1, \bar{R}(f)(\bar{x})), \\ &\quad \forall c \in \mathbb{C}, \forall \beta : c \rightarrow 1, \\ &\quad \quad Q(\beta)(h(1, f, v)) = h(c, f \circ \beta, P(\beta)(v)) \\ &\quad \forall f : 2 \rightarrow 2, \forall v \in P(2, \bar{R}(f)(\bar{x})), \\ &\quad \forall c \in \mathbb{C}, \forall \beta : c \rightarrow 2, \\ &\quad \left. Q(\beta)(h(2, f, v)) = h(c, f \circ \beta, P(\beta)(v)) \right\} \end{aligned}$$

Simplifying this the first two conditions become void.

$$\begin{aligned} \Pi(P, Q)(2, \bar{x}) &= \left\{ h \in (\Pi b \in \mathbb{C})(\Pi f : b \rightarrow 2)(\Pi v \in P(b, \bar{R}(f)(\bar{x}))Q(b, \bar{R}(f)(\bar{x}), v) \mid \right. \\ &\quad \forall f : 2 \rightarrow 2, \forall v \in P(2, \bar{R}(f)(\bar{x})), \\ &\quad \forall c \in \mathbb{C}, \forall \beta : c \rightarrow 2, \\ &\quad \left. Q(\beta)(h(2, f, v)) = h(c, f \circ \beta, P(\beta)(v)) \right\} \end{aligned}$$

Further, simplifying the remaining condition

$$\begin{aligned} \Pi(P, Q)(2, \bar{x}) = & \left\{ h \in (\Pi b \in \mathbb{C})(\Pi f : b \rightarrow 2)(\Pi v \in P(b, \overline{R}(f)(\bar{x}))Q(b, \overline{R}(f)(\bar{x}), v) \mid \right. \\ & \forall v \in P(2, \bar{x}), \forall c \in \mathbb{C}, \forall \beta : c \rightarrow 2, \\ & \left. Q(\beta)(h(2, 1_2, v)) = h(c, \beta, P(\beta)(v)) \right\} \end{aligned}$$

Finally, instantiating c to $0, 1, 2$ what remains after simplification ($c = 2$ gives an empty condition):

$$\begin{aligned} \Pi(P, Q)(2, \bar{x}) = & \left\{ h \in (\Pi b \in \mathbb{C})(\Pi f : b \rightarrow 2)(\Pi v \in P(b, \overline{R}(f)(\bar{x}))Q(b, \overline{R}(f)(\bar{x}), v) \mid \right. \\ & \forall v \in P(2, \bar{x}), \\ & Q(f_{02})(h(2, 1_2, v)) = h(0, f_{02}, P(f_{02})(v)), \\ & \left. Q(f_{12})(h(2, 1_2, v)) = h(1, f_{12}, P(f_{12})(v)) \right\} \end{aligned}$$

6.1 Simplicial sets

Let Δ be the category whose objects are the natural number $\mathbb{N} = \{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$. Denote by $[n]$ the set $\{0, \dots, n\}$ for $n \in \mathbb{N}$. A morphism $f : m \rightarrow n$ in Δ is a monotone function $f : [m] \rightarrow [n]$. The presheaves over Δ , is called the category of simplicial sets. The Yoneda embedding $y : \Delta \rightarrow \text{PSh}(\Delta)$ satisfies by the Yoneda lemma

$$\text{Hom}_{\text{PSh}(\mathbb{C})}(y(n), F) \cong F(n)$$

for any $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and any $F \in \text{PSh}(\mathbb{C})$. The canonical n -simplex is $\Delta^n = y(n)$.

For $i = 0, \dots, n + 1$, let $\delta_i^n : [n] \rightarrow [n + 1]$ be the unique monotone function such that $\delta_i^n[\{0, \dots, n\}] = \{0, \dots, i - 1, i + 1, \dots, n + 1\}$. $F(\delta_i^n) : F(n + 1) \rightarrow F(n)$ is the *ith face map*.

The presheaf $F \in \text{PSh}(\Delta)$ is a *Kan complex* if for any n and any $x_0, \dots, x_{k-1}, x_{k+1}, \dots, x_{n+1} \in F(n)$ such that $F(\delta_i)(x_j) = F(\delta_{j-1})(x_i)$ for all $i < j$, $i \neq k$, $j \neq k$, there exists $x \in F(n + 1)$ such that $F(\delta_i)(x) = x_i$ for all $i \neq k$.

Spelling out:

$n = 1, k = 0$: for any x_1, x_2 with $F(\delta_1)(x_2) = F(\delta_1)(x_1)$, there is $x \in F(2)$ such that $F(\delta_1)(x) = x_1$, $F(\delta_2)(x) = x_2$.

$n = 1, k = 1$: for any x_0, x_2 with $F(\delta_0)(x_2) = F(\delta_1)(x_0)$, there is $x \in F(2)$ such that $F(\delta_0)(x) = x_0$, $F(\delta_2)(x) = x_2$.

$n = 1, k = 2$: for any x_0, x_1 with $F(\delta_0)(x_1) = F(\delta_0)(x_0)$, there is $x \in F(2)$ such that $F(\delta_0)(x) = x_0$, $F(\delta_1)(x) = x_1$.

$n = 2, k = 0$: for any x_1, x_2, x_3 with $F(\delta_1)(x_2) = F(\delta_1)(x_1)$, $F(\delta_1)(x_3) = F(\delta_2)(x_1)$, $F(\delta_2)(x_3) = F(\delta_2)(x_2)$, there is $x \in F(3)$ such that $F(\delta_1)(x) = x_1$, $F(\delta_2)(x) = x_2$, $F(\delta_3)(x) = x_3$.

References

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Appendix

Definition 6.1. A *category with attributes* (cwa) consists of the data

- (a) A category \mathcal{C} with a terminal object 1 . This is called the *category of contexts and substitutions*.
- (b) A functor $T : \mathcal{C}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \text{Set}$. This functor is intended to assign to each context Γ a set $T(\Gamma)$ of types in the context and tells how substitutions act on these types. For $f : B \rightarrow \Gamma$ and $\sigma \in T(\Gamma)$ we write

$$\sigma\{f\} \text{ for } T(f)(\sigma).$$

- (c) For each $\sigma \in T(\Gamma)$, an object $\Gamma.\sigma$ in \mathcal{C} and a morphism

$$\mathfrak{p}(\sigma) = \mathfrak{p}_\Gamma(\sigma) : \Gamma.\sigma \rightarrow \Gamma \text{ in } \mathcal{C}.$$

This tells that each context can be extended by a type in the context, and that there is a projection from the extended context to the original one.

- (d) The final datum tells how substitutions interact with context extensions: For each $f : B \rightarrow \Gamma$ and $\sigma \in T(\Gamma)$, there is a morphism $\mathfrak{q}(f, \sigma) = \mathfrak{q}_\Gamma(f, \sigma) : B.(T(f)(\sigma)) \rightarrow \Gamma.\sigma$ in \mathcal{C} such that

$$\begin{array}{ccc} B.(T(f)(\sigma)) & \xrightarrow{\mathfrak{q}(f, \sigma)} & \Gamma.\sigma \\ \mathfrak{p}(\sigma\{f\}) \downarrow & & \downarrow \mathfrak{p}(\sigma) \\ B & \xrightarrow{f} & \Gamma \end{array}$$

is a pullback, and furthermore

- (d.1) $\mathfrak{q}(1_\Gamma, \sigma) = 1_{\Gamma.\sigma}$
- (d.2) $\mathfrak{q}(f \circ g, \sigma) = \mathfrak{q}(f, \sigma) \circ \mathfrak{q}(g, \sigma\{f\})$ for $A \xrightarrow{g} B \xrightarrow{f} \Gamma$.

From [2] we take the following definition, but adapt it in the obvious way to cwAs.

Definition 6.2. A cwa *supports Π -types* if for $\sigma \in T(\Gamma)$ and $\tau \in T(\Gamma.\sigma)$ there is a type

$$\Pi(\sigma, \tau) \in T(\Gamma),$$

and moreover for every $P \in E(\Gamma.\sigma, \tau)$ there is an element

$$\lambda_{\sigma, \tau}(P) \in E(\Gamma, \Pi(\sigma, \tau)),$$

and furthermore for any $M \in E(\Gamma, \Pi(\sigma, \tau))$ and any $N \in E(\Gamma, \sigma)$ there is an element

$$\mathbf{App}_{\sigma, \tau}(M, N) \in E(\Gamma, \tau\{N\}),$$

such that the following equations hold for any substitution $f : B \rightarrow \Gamma$:

$$(\lambda\text{-comp}) \quad \mathbf{App}_{\sigma, \tau}(\lambda_{\sigma, \tau}(P), N) = P\{N\},$$

$$(\Pi\text{-subst}) \quad \Pi(\sigma, \tau)\{f\} = \Pi(\sigma\{f\}, \tau\{\mathbf{q}(f, \sigma)\}),$$

$$(\lambda\text{-subst}) \quad \lambda_{\sigma, \tau}(P)\{f\} = \lambda_{\sigma\{f\}, \tau\{\mathbf{q}(f, \sigma)\}}(P\{\mathbf{q}(f, \sigma)\}),$$

$$(\mathbf{App}\text{-subst}) \quad \mathbf{App}_{\sigma, \tau}(M, N)\{f\} = \mathbf{App}_{\sigma\{f\}, \tau\{\mathbf{q}(f, \sigma)\}}(M\{f\}, N\{f\}).$$