

# Hofmann-Streicher Universes via Coalgebra

Colin Zwanziger

Institute of Philosophy  
Czech Academy of Sciences

November 3, 2022  
HoTTEST

# Lifting Grothendieck Universes to Presheaves

Adapted from Hofmann and Streicher (1997)

Let  $\mathcal{U} \in \mathit{Cat}$  be a Grothendieck universe.

Given any  $\mathcal{U}$ -small category  $C$ , the category  $\mathit{Set}^{C^{op}}$  can be enhanced into a model of dependent type theory.

At any  $P \in \mathit{Set}^{C^{op}}$ , we set

$$\mathit{Ty}(P) := \mathcal{U}^{(\mathcal{J}^P)^{op}} \quad .$$

Comprehension is given by the composite of

$$\mathit{Ty}(P) \equiv \mathcal{U}^{(\mathcal{J}^P)^{op}} \hookrightarrow \mathit{Set}^{(\mathcal{J}^P)^{op}} \simeq \mathit{Set}^{C^{op}} / P \quad .$$

# Lifting Grothendieck Universes to Presheaves (cont'd)

Adapted from Hofmann and Streicher (1997)

We would like a **type classifier** for  $\mathit{Set}^{C^{op}}$ , *i.e.* a category  $\mathcal{U}$  in  $\mathit{Set}^{C^{op}}$  such that

$$\mathit{Cat}(\mathit{Set}^{C^{op}})(P, \mathcal{U}) \cong \mathit{Ty}(P) \quad ,$$

naturally in  $P \in \mathit{Set}^{C^{op}}$ .

# Lifting Grothendieck Universes to Presheaves (cont'd)

Adapted from Hofmann and Streicher (1997)

We can arrive at a definition for  $\mathcal{U}$  by transcendental deduction.

If  $\mathcal{U} \in \text{Cat}(\text{Set}^{C^{op}})(\cong \text{Cat}^{C^{op}})$  exists, we must have, for each  $I \in C$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathcal{U}(I) &\cong \text{Cat}^{C^{op}}(y I, \mathcal{U}) \\
 &\cong \text{Cat}(\text{Set}^{C^{op}})(y I, \mathcal{U}) \\
 &\cong \text{Ty}(y I) \\
 &\equiv \mathcal{U}^{(\downarrow y I)^{op}} \\
 &\cong \mathcal{U}^{(C/I)^{op}} .
 \end{aligned}$$

So, we set

$$\mathcal{U}(I) := \mathcal{U}^{(C/I)^{op}} ,$$

for each  $I \in C$ .

# Lifting Grothendieck Universes to Sheaves?

Hofmann and Streicher also raise the problem of sheaf models. We can formulate the problem as follows.

Given any  $\mathcal{U}$ -small site  $(C, J)$ , the category  $\text{Sh}(C, J)$  can be enhanced into a model of dependent type theory.

At any  $S \in \text{Sh}(C, J)$ , we set

$$\text{Ty}(S) := \text{Sh}_{<\mathcal{U}}(\int S, J_S) \quad .$$

Comprehension is given by the composite of

$$\text{Ty}(S) \equiv \text{Sh}_{<\mathcal{U}}(\int S, J_S) \mapsto \text{Sh}(\int S, J_S) \simeq \text{Sh}(C, J)/S \quad .$$

# Lifting Grothendieck Universes to Sheaves? (cont'd)

We would like a type classifier for  $\text{Sh}(C, J)$ , *i.e.* a category  $\mathcal{U}$  in  $\text{Sh}(C, J)$  such that

$$\text{Cat}(\text{Sh}(C, J))(S, \mathcal{U}) \cong \text{Ty}(S) \quad ,$$

naturally in  $S \in \text{Sh}(C, J)$ .

# Lifting Grothendieck Universes to Sheaves? (cont'd)

We can arrive at a (putative) definition for  $\mathcal{U}$  by transcendental deduction. If  $\mathcal{U} \in \text{Cat}(\text{Sh}(C, J)) \xrightarrow{\hookrightarrow} \text{Cat}(\text{Set}^{C^{op}}) \cong \text{Cat}^{C^{op}}$  exists, we must have, for each  $I \in C$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathcal{U}(I) &\cong \text{Cat}^{C^{op}}(yI, \mathcal{U}) \\
 &\cong \text{Cat}(\text{Set}^{C^{op}})(yI, \mathcal{U}) \\
 &= \text{Cat}(\text{Set}^{C^{op}})(yI, i\mathcal{U}) \\
 &\cong \text{Cat}(\text{Sh}(C, J))(ayI, \mathcal{U}) \\
 &\cong \text{Ty}(ayI) \\
 &\equiv \text{Sh}_{<\mathcal{U}}(\int ayI, J_{ayI}) \quad .
 \end{aligned}$$

So, we try setting  $\mathcal{U}(I) := \text{Sh}_{<\mathcal{U}}(\int ayI, J_{ayI})$ , for each  $I \in C$ .

## Problem

However, our putative type classifier  $\mathcal{U}$  is not a sheaf in general! It may only be a stack, in which amalgamations are unique up to isomorphism.

In the case of  $\text{Sh}(X)$  on a  $\mathcal{U}$ -small topological space  $X$ , this was already essentially noticed by the time of SGA1 (Grothendieck 1960).

Note that, in this case, we have, for each  $U \in \mathcal{O}(X)$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathcal{U}(U) &\equiv \text{Sh}_{<\mathcal{U}}\left(\int_{a \in \mathcal{Y}} U, J_{a \in \mathcal{Y}} U\right) \\
 &\cong \text{Sh}_{<\mathcal{U}}\left(\int_{y \in \mathcal{Y}} U, J_y U\right) \\
 &\cong \text{Sh}_{<\mathcal{U}}(\mathcal{O}(X)/U, J/U) \\
 &\dots \\
 &= \text{Sh}_{<\mathcal{U}}(U) \quad .
 \end{aligned}$$



# Lifting Grothendieck Universes to Coalgebras

## Motivation

The forgetful morphism of models

$$\mathit{Set}^{C^{op}} \rightarrow \mathit{Set}^{|C|}$$

is strictly comonadic and Cartesian.

We will use this to recover the Hofmann-Streicher universe by ‘lifting’ the type classifier of  $\mathit{Set}^{|C|}$  (i.e. the family constant at  $\mathcal{U}$ ) across the forgetful morphism to one in  $\mathit{Set}^{C^{op}}$ .

This emulates the known ‘lifting’ of the subobject classifier of  $\mathit{Set}^{|C|}$  (i.e. the family constant at 2) across the forgetful morphism to one in  $\mathit{Set}^{C^{op}}$ .

# Lifting Grothendieck Universes to Coalgebras (cont'd)

Let

$$\square : \mathcal{E} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}$$

be a comonad of models of dependent type theory.

Then, for any coalgebra  $(\Gamma, \gamma) \in \mathcal{E}^{\square}$ , we have an induced comonad

$$\mathbb{B}_{(\Gamma, \gamma)} : \text{Ty}_{\mathcal{E}}(\Gamma) \rightarrow \text{Ty}_{\mathcal{E}}(\Gamma) \quad ,$$

given on a type  $A \in \text{Ty}_{\mathcal{E}}(\Gamma)$  by

$$\mathbb{B}_{(\Gamma, \gamma)} A = (\square A)[\gamma] \quad .$$

# Lifting Grothendieck Universes to Coalgebras (cont'd)

The category of coalgebras  $\mathcal{E}^\square$  can be enhanced into a model of dependent type theory.

At any  $(\Gamma, \gamma) \in \mathcal{E}^\square$ , we set

$$\mathsf{Ty}_{\mathcal{E}^\square}(\Gamma, \gamma) := (\mathsf{Ty}_{\mathcal{E}}(\Gamma))^{\mathbb{B}_{(\Gamma, \gamma)}} .$$

We denote by  $U \dashv F : \mathcal{E} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}^\square$  the forgetful-cofree adjunction of models.

# Lifting Grothendieck Universes to Coalgebras (cont'd)

## Theorem

Assume that both (the underlying category of)  $\mathcal{E}$  and (the underlying functor of)  $\square : \mathcal{E} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}$  are Cartesian.

Then, if  $\mathcal{E}$  admits a type classifier, so does  $\mathcal{E}^\square$ .

# Lifting Grothendieck Universes to Coalgebras (cont'd)

Proof.

We have isomorphisms

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Cat}(\mathcal{E}^\square)(\Delta, F(\mathcal{U}_\mathcal{E})) &\cong \text{Cat}(\mathcal{E})(U\Delta, \mathcal{U}_\mathcal{E}) \\ &\cong \text{Ty}_\mathcal{E}(U\Delta) \quad , \end{aligned}$$

natural in  $\Delta \in \mathcal{E}^\square$ . The comonad

$$\mathbb{B}_\Delta : \text{Ty}_\mathcal{E}(U\Delta) \rightarrow \text{Ty}_\mathcal{E}(U\Delta)$$

thus transports to one

$$\text{Cat}(\mathcal{E}^\square)(\Delta, F(\mathcal{U}_\mathcal{E})) \rightarrow \text{Cat}(\mathcal{E}^\square)(\Delta, F(\mathcal{U}_\mathcal{E})) \quad ,$$

again natural in  $\Delta \in \mathcal{E}^\square$ .

# Lifting Grothendieck Universes to Coalgebras (cont'd)

Proof (cont'd).

This internalizes to a comonad

$$\beta : F(\mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{E}}) \rightarrow F(\mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{E}}) \quad .$$

We set

$$\mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{E}^{\square}} := F(\mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{E}})^{\beta} \quad .$$

Then, for any  $\Delta \in \mathcal{E}^{\square}$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Cat}(\mathcal{E}^{\square})(\Delta, \mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{E}^{\square}}) &\equiv \text{Cat}(\mathcal{E}^{\square})(\Delta, F(\mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{E}})^{\beta}) \\ &\cong \text{Cat}(\mathcal{E}^{\square})(\Delta, F(\mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{E}}))^{\text{Cat}(\mathcal{E}^{\square})(\Delta, \beta)} \\ &\cong (\text{Ty}_{\mathcal{E}}(U\Delta))^{\mathbb{B}_{\Delta}} \\ &\equiv \text{Ty}_{\mathcal{E}^{\square}}(\Delta) \quad . \end{aligned}$$

# Presheaves (Revisited)

The inclusion functor

$$i : |C| \hookrightarrow C$$

induces an adjunction of models

$$i^* \dashv i_* : \text{Set}^{|C|} \rightarrow \text{Set}^{C^{op}}$$

such that  $i^*$  is strictly comonadic and Cartesian. We thus (essentially) recover the Hofmann-Streicher universe via our theorem.

Explicitly, for each  $I \in C$ , we have a strictly comonadic adjunction

$$(i_* \mathcal{U}_{\text{Set}^{|C|}})(I) \cong \mathcal{U}^{|C/I|} \Leftrightarrow \mathcal{U}^{(C/I)^{op}} = \mathcal{U}_{\text{Set}^{C^{op}}}(I) \quad .$$

## Sheaves on a Topological Space

Let  $X$  be a  $\mathcal{U}$ -small topological space. The continuous inclusion function

$$i : |X| \hookrightarrow X$$

induces an adjunction of models

$$i^* \dashv i_* : \text{Sh}(|X|) \rightarrow \text{Sh}(X)$$

such that  $i^*$  is comonadic and Cartesian. Since  $\text{Set}^{|X|} \simeq \text{Sh}(|X|)$ , we recover  $\text{Sh}(X)$  up to equivalence as the model of coalgebras for a Cartesian comonad on  $\text{Set}^{|X|}$ .

This model of coalgebras has a type classifier, 'lifted' from that of  $\text{Set}^{|X|}$  by our theorem.



# Sheaves Models with Enough Points

## Definition

We will say that  $\text{Sh}(C, J)$  has **enough points** if there exists a  $\mathcal{U}$ -small 'set of points'  $A$  and a Cartesian, comonadic morphism of models  $\text{Sh}(C, J) \rightarrow \text{Set}^A$ .

Obviously, when  $\text{Sh}(C, J)$  has enough points, we recover it up to equivalence as the model of coalgebras for a Cartesian comonad on some  $\text{Set}^A$ .

This model of coalgebras has a type classifier, 'lifted' from that of  $\text{Set}^A$  by our theorem.

Thanks for your attention!

# References

- Grothendieck, A. (1960). Éléments de géométrie algébrique. I. Le langage des schémas. Inst. Hautes Études Sci. Publ. Math. 4 228. §3.3.
- Hofmann, M., Streicher, T. (1997). Lifting Grothendieck universes. Unpublished note.
- Zwanziger, C. (2022). The natural display topos of coalgebras. Doctoral thesis. Carnegie Mellon University.