

A Tutorial on Sheaf Semantics

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Tutorial aimed at :

- Logicians
- Category theorists
- People interested in application areas
 - Nominal sets
 - Sheaves for contextuality
 - Sheaf models of probability
 - Sheaf models of type theory
- The LICS tourist

Part 1

Sheaf Semantics over Partial Orders

(The logic of localic toposes)

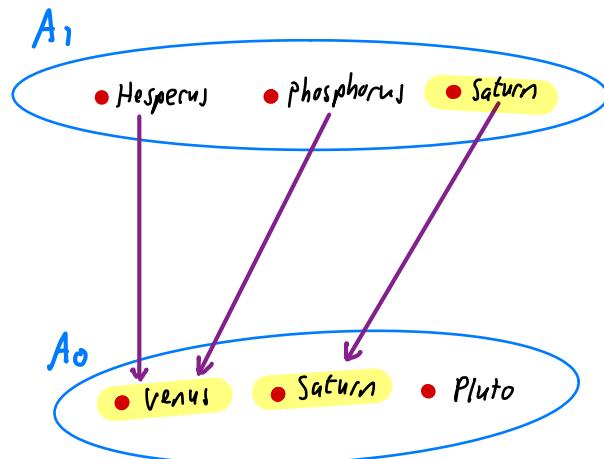
- Kripke semantics
- Topological sheaf semantics
- Coverage-based sheaf semantics over partial orders
- Dense sheaf semantics over partial orders

(Inverted) Kripke semantics

A Kripke Model is given by

- A partial order (W, \leq) of Worlds
- To every $w \in W$ a set A_w
- Transition functions $(t_{wv} : A_w \rightarrow A_v)_{v \leq w}$
Satisfying $u \leq v \leq w \Rightarrow t_{wu} = t_{vu} \circ t_{wv}$
- For every predicate P of arity k
Subsets $P_w \subseteq (A_w)^k$ satisfying
 $v \leq w \Rightarrow t_{wv}(P_w) \subseteq P_v$.

$$W = \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ \downarrow \\ 0 \end{array}$$

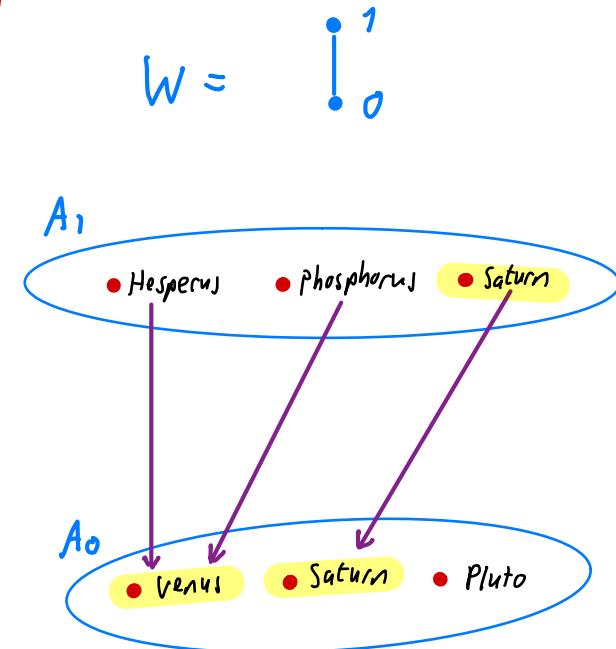


The planet predicate

Category-theoretic formulation

A Kripke Model is given by

- A partial order (W, \leq) of Worlds
- A functor $A: W^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \underline{\text{Set}}$
(i.e., a presheaf $A \in \text{Psh}(W)$)
- For every predicate P of arity k a subpresheaf $R \subseteq A^k$



Notation $\text{Venus} = t_{10}(\text{Hesperus})$ (previous slide)
 $= A(0<1)(\text{Hesperus})$ (this slide)
 $= \text{Hesperus} \cdot 0$ (henceforth)

The planet predicate

Kripke forcing relation

$w \Vdash \phi$

$$w \Vdash P(a_1, \dots, a_n) \Leftrightarrow (a_1, \dots, a_n) \in P_w$$

$$w \Vdash a_1 = a_2 \Leftrightarrow a_1 = a_2$$

$$w \Vdash \phi \wedge \psi \Leftrightarrow w \Vdash \phi \text{ and } w \Vdash \psi$$

$$w \Vdash \phi \vee \psi \Leftrightarrow w \Vdash \phi \text{ or } w \Vdash \psi$$

$$w \Vdash \perp \Leftrightarrow \text{false}$$

$$w \Vdash \exists x \phi \Leftrightarrow \text{there exists } a \in A_w \text{ s.t. } w \Vdash \phi[x := a]$$

$$w \Vdash \phi \rightarrow \psi \Leftrightarrow \text{for all } v \leq w \quad v \Vdash \phi \cdot r \text{ implies } v \Vdash \psi \cdot r$$

$$w \Vdash \forall x \phi \Leftrightarrow \text{for all } v \leq w \text{ and } a \in A_v \quad v \Vdash (\phi \cdot v)[x := a]$$

$\models Hesperus = Phosphorus$

$\models Hesperus \cdot 0 = Phosphorus \cdot 0$

$\models \neg(Hesperus = Phosphorus)$

$\models H = P \vee \neg(H = P)$

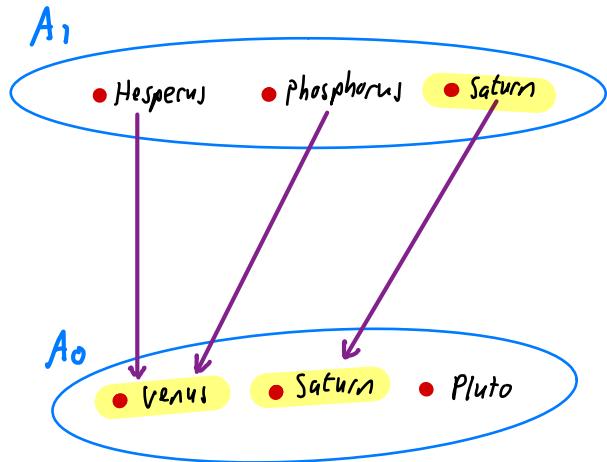
$\models \neg\neg(H = P)$

$\neg\phi := \phi \rightarrow \perp$

$\models \neg\neg\phi \Leftrightarrow \forall v \leq w. \ \vee \models \phi \cdot v$

$\models \neg\neg\phi \Leftrightarrow \forall v \leq w \exists u \leq v \ \models \neg\phi \cdot u$

$$W = \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ \vdash \\ 0 \end{array}$$



The planet predicate

Meta theorems for Kripke semantics

Monotonicity If $w \Vdash \phi$ and $v \leq w$ then $v \Vdash \phi \cdot v$

Soundness If ϕ is provable in intuitionistic predicate logic
then for all Kripke models (W, \dots) and $w \in W$, $w \Vdash \phi$.

Completeness If, for all Kripke models (W, \dots) and $w \in W$, $w \Vdash \phi$
then ϕ is provable in intuitionistic predicate logic
(Classical meta-theory!)

Topological sheaf semantics

$\mathbb{W} = \mathcal{O}(T)$ (open subsets of a topological space T)

$v \leq w \Leftrightarrow v \subseteq w$

Say that $C \subseteq \mathcal{O}(u)$ is a cover of w (notation $C \triangleright w$) if $\bigcup C = w$.

Example cover for $\mathbb{W} = \mathcal{O}(\mathbb{R})$

$$\left\{ \left(0, \frac{2}{3}\right), \left(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{3}{4}\right), \left(\frac{2}{3}, \frac{4}{5}\right), \left(\frac{3}{4}, \frac{5}{6}\right), \dots \right\} = \left\{ \left(\frac{n}{n+1}, \frac{n+2}{n+3}\right) \mid n \in \mathbb{N} \right\}$$

is a cover of $(0, 1)$

Given a presheaf $A : \mathcal{W}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \underline{\text{Set}}$ (where $\mathcal{W} = \mathcal{O}(T)$).

- A matching family for a cover $C \triangleright w$ is a family $(a_v \in A_v)_{v \in C}$ such that $\forall u, v \in C \quad a_u \cdot (u \cap v) = a_v \cdot (u \cap v)$
- An amalgamation for a (necessarily matching) family $(a_v \in A_v)_{v \in C}$ is an element $a_w \in A_w$ s.t. $\forall v \in C \quad a_v = a_w \cdot v$.
- The presheaf A is a sheaf if every matching family has a unique amalgamation.

Example Sheaf

$$\underline{R}_w := \{f : w \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \mid f \text{ continuous}\}$$

$$f \cdot v := f|_v \quad (f \in \underline{R}_w, v \subseteq w)$$

New forcing clauses

$w \Vdash \phi \vee \psi \Leftrightarrow$ there exists a cover $C \triangleright w$ such that,
for every $v \in C$, $v \Vdash \phi \cdot v$ or $v \Vdash \psi \cdot v$

$w \Vdash \perp \Leftrightarrow w = \emptyset \quad (\Leftrightarrow \emptyset \triangleright w)$

$w \Vdash \exists x \phi \Leftrightarrow$ there exists a cover $C \triangleright w$ such that,
for every $v \in C$,
there exists $a \in A_v$ s.t. $v \Vdash (\phi \cdot v)[x := a]$

N.B.

- The clauses for predicates, $=, \wedge, \rightarrow, \forall$ are as before,
- Variables range over a **sheaf** \underline{A}

A sentence ϕ is valid in sheaves over T ($\text{Sh}(T) \models \phi$) if
 $\forall w \in \mathcal{O}(T)$ $w \Vdash \phi$.

Example $\text{Sh}(\mathbb{R}) \not\models \forall x \ x \leq 0 \vee x \geq 0$
(variables interpreted in the sheaf \mathbb{R}).

Proof

Suppose for contradiction that $\mathbb{R} \Vdash \forall x \ x \leq 0 \vee x \geq 0$

Then $\mathbb{R} \Vdash id \leq 0 \vee id \geq 0$ ($id : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ the identity function)

There is a cover $C \triangleright \mathbb{R}$ such that, for every $U \in C$, $U \Vdash id \leq 0$ or $U \Vdash id \geq 0$
i.e., $U \subseteq (-\infty, 0]$ or $U \subseteq [0, \infty)$

Since $\bigcup C = \mathbb{R}$, there exists $U_0 \in C$ s.t. $0 \in U_0$.

Since U_0 is open $(-\varepsilon, \varepsilon) \subseteq U_0$ for some $\varepsilon > 0$, contradicting $U \subseteq (-\infty, 0]$ or $U \subseteq [0, \infty)$. \square

Example $\text{Sh}(\mathcal{T}) \models \forall x \ \forall \varepsilon > 0 \quad x > 0 \vee x < \varepsilon$

Proof Consider any $w \in \mathcal{O}(\mathcal{T})$,

$f : w \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ continuous,

$\varepsilon : w \rightarrow (0, \infty)$ continuous. We show $w \Vdash f > 0 \vee f < \varepsilon$.

Define $V_1 := f^{-1}(0, \infty)$. $V_1 \subseteq w$ is open because f continuous.

Define $V_2 := \{z \in w \mid f(z) < \varepsilon(z)\}$.

$V_2 \subseteq w$ is open because $\varepsilon \subseteq \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}$ is open, f, ε are continuous
and $V_2 = (f, \varepsilon)^{-1}(<)$.

By definition $V_1 \Vdash f > 0$ and $V_2 \Vdash f < \varepsilon$.

Moreover $V_1 \cup V_2 = w$ because for all $z \in w$ $f(z) > 0$ or $f(z) \leq 0 < \varepsilon$.

So $w \Vdash f > 0 \vee f < \varepsilon$.

□

Coverage (base)

a.k.a. base for a
Grothendieck topology

A coverage (base) on a poset \mathbb{W} is a relation of the form $C \triangleright w$,
where $w \in \mathbb{W}$ and $C \subseteq \downarrow w$, satisfying: $(\downarrow w := \{v \in \mathbb{W} \mid v \leq w\})$

Reflexivity $\{w\} \triangleright w$

Transitivity If $C \triangleright w$ and, for all $v \in C$, $C_v \triangleright v$

then $\bigcup_{v \in C} C_v \triangleright w$.

Stability If $C \triangleright w$ and $w' \leq w$ then there exists $D \triangleright w'$ such that,
for all $v \in D$ there exists $u \in C$ such that $v \leq u$.

Sheaf for a coverage

Given a presheaf $A : \mathcal{W}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \underline{\text{Set}}$ and coverage \triangleright on \mathcal{W} .

- A matching family for a cover $C \triangleright \mathcal{W}$ is a family $(\alpha_v \in A_v)_{v \in C}$ such that $\forall v, v' \in C \quad \forall u \in v \cap v' \quad \alpha_v \cdot u = \alpha_{v'} \cdot u$
- An amalgamation for a (necessarily matching) family $(\alpha_v \in A_v)_{v \in C}$ is an element $\alpha_w \in A_w$ s.t. $\forall v \in C \quad \alpha_v = \alpha_w \cdot v$.
- The presheaf A is a sheaf if every matching family has a unique amalgamation.

Forcing w.r.t. a coverage

$w \Vdash \phi \vee \psi \Leftrightarrow$

there exists a cover $C \triangleright w$ such that,

for every $v \in C$, $v \Vdash \phi \cdot v$ or $v \Vdash \psi \cdot v$

$w \Vdash \perp \Leftrightarrow \emptyset \triangleright w$

$w \Vdash \exists x \phi \Leftrightarrow$ there exists a cover $C \triangleright w$ such that,

for every $v \in C$,

there exists $a \in A_v$ s.t. $v \Vdash (\phi \cdot v)[x := a]$

Meta theorems for sheaf semantics

Monotonicity If $w \Vdash \phi$ and $v \leq w$ then $v \Vdash \phi \cdot v$

Sheaf property If $c \triangleright w$ satisfies, for all $v \in c$, $v \Vdash \phi \cdot v$
then $w \Vdash \phi$.

Soundness If ϕ is provable in intuitionistic predicate logic
then for all Kripke models (W, \dots) and $w \in W$, $w \Vdash \phi$.

Completeness If, for all Kripke models (W, \dots) and $w \in W$, $w \Vdash \phi$
then ϕ is provable in intuitionistic predicate logic
(Constructive meta-theory !?)

Example Coverage

(1) The topological cover relation for $\mathbb{W} = \mathcal{O}(T)$.

Recovering topological sheaf semantics

(2) The identity coverage $\{w\} \triangleright w$ on any poset \mathbb{W}

Recovering Kripke semantics

(3) The dense coverage on any poset \mathbb{W}

$C \triangleright w \Leftrightarrow \text{for any } u \leq w \exists v \in C \text{ s.t. } \downarrow u \cap \downarrow v \neq \emptyset$

Dense \Rightarrow Classical

Proposition

$$Sh_{den}(\mathbb{W}) \models \forall \phi \rightarrow \phi$$

Proof

Suppose $\mathbb{W} \Vdash \forall \phi$

For the dense coverage, $\forall C, V \subset D \Rightarrow C \neq \emptyset$

Thus $\forall \phi$ gets its Kripke interpretation

Hence $\forall v \in \mathbb{W} \exists u \leq v \ V \Vdash \phi$

That is $\{u \leq w \mid u \Vdash \phi\} \supset w$ in the dense coverage

So, by the sheaf property of forcing, $w \Vdash \phi$.

□

Let \triangleleft be a coverage on a poset \mathbb{W} .

A \triangleleft -ideal (\mathcal{J} -ideal) is a subset $I \subseteq \mathbb{W}$ such that

- $I = \downarrow I$ (down-closure)
- For any $C \triangleright w$, $C \subseteq I \Rightarrow w \in I$ (\triangleleft -closure)

The set $\triangleleft\text{-Idl}$ of \triangleleft -ideals partially ordered by \subseteq is a complete Heyting algebra

Every CHA arises in this way (for some \mathbb{W} and \triangleleft).

Sheaf semantics on posets \sim Heyting-valued semantics

When \triangleleft is the dense coverage, $\triangleleft\text{-}\text{Idl}$ is a complete Boolean algebra.

Sheaf semantics on posets
dense coverages \sim Boolean-valued semantics

Sheaf semantics for the dense coverage corresponds to Cohen-style forcing.

For any poset W ,

$$\text{Sh}_{\text{den}}(W) \models \text{AC}$$

Part 2

Sheaf Semantics over Categories

(The logic of Grothendieck toposes)

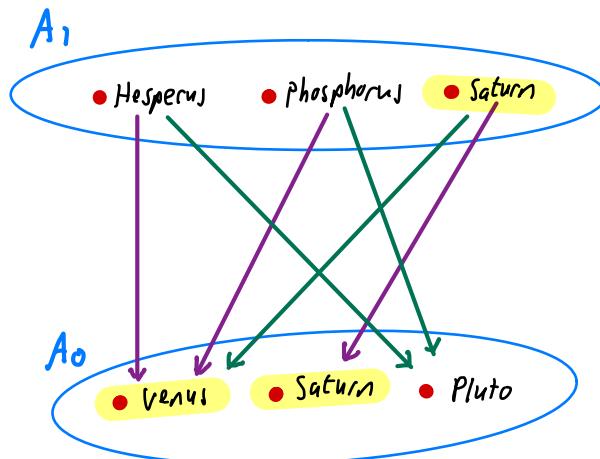
- Presheaf semantics
- Dense coverages
- (Coverage based) sheaf semantics
- Atomic coverages

Presheaf semantics

A Presheaf Model is given by

- A (small) category \mathbb{C} of Worlds
- To every $x \in \mathbb{C}$ a set A_x
- Transition functions $(t_f : A_x \rightarrow A_y)_{y \xrightarrow{f} x}$
Satisfying $z \xrightarrow{g} y \xrightarrow{f} x \Rightarrow t_{f \circ g} = t_g \circ t_f$
- For every predicate P of arity K
Subsets $P_w \subseteq (A_w)^K$ satisfying
 $y \xrightarrow{f} x \Rightarrow t_f(P_x) \subseteq P_y$

$$\mathbb{C} = \langle f_0, f_1 \rangle$$



The planet predicate

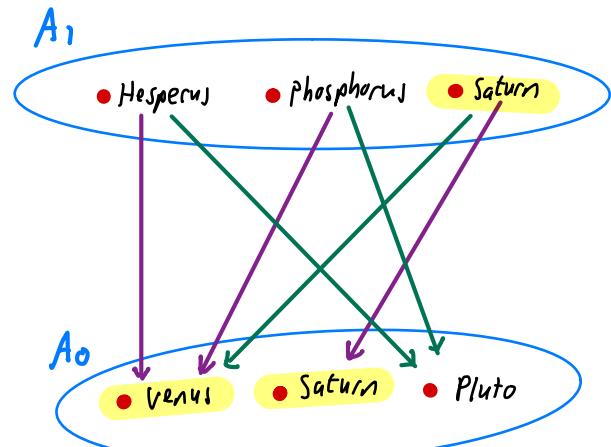
Category-theoretic formulation

A Presheaf Model is given by

- A Small category \mathbb{C} of Worlds
- A functor $A: \mathbb{C}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \underline{\text{Set}}$
(i.e., a presheaf $A \in \text{Psh}(\mathbb{C})$)
- For every predicate P of arity k a subpresheaf $R \subseteq A^k$

Notation $\text{Venus} = t_{f_0}(\text{Hesperus})$ (previous slide)
 $= A(f_0)(\text{Hesperus})$ (this slide)
 $= \text{Hesperus} \cdot f_0$ (henceforth)

$$\mathbb{C} = \begin{matrix} & 1 \\ f_0 & \swarrow \curvearrowright \searrow \\ & 0 \end{matrix} F_1$$



The planet predicate

Presheaf forcing relation

$X \Vdash \phi$

$$X \Vdash P(a_1, \dots, a_n) \Leftrightarrow (a_1, \dots, a_n) \in P_x$$

$$X \Vdash a_1 = a_2 \Leftrightarrow a_1 = a_2$$

$$X \Vdash \phi \wedge \psi \Leftrightarrow X \Vdash \phi \text{ and } X \Vdash \psi$$

$$X \Vdash \phi \vee \psi \Leftrightarrow X \Vdash \phi \text{ or } X \Vdash \psi$$

$$X \Vdash \perp \Leftrightarrow \text{false}$$

$$X \Vdash \exists x \phi \Leftrightarrow \text{there exists } a \in A_x \text{ s.t. } X \Vdash \phi[x := a]$$

$$X \Vdash \phi \rightarrow \psi \Leftrightarrow \text{for all } Y \xrightarrow{f} X \quad Y \Vdash \phi \cdot f \text{ implies } Y \Vdash \psi \cdot f$$

$$X \Vdash \forall x \phi \Leftrightarrow \text{for all } Y \xrightarrow{f} X \text{ and } a \in A_Y \quad Y \Vdash (\phi \cdot f)[x := a]$$

Meta theorems for presheaf semantics

Monotonicity If $X \Vdash \phi$ and $Y \xrightarrow{f} X$ then $Y \Vdash \phi \cdot f$

Soundness If ϕ is provable in intuitionistic predicate logic
then for all presheaf models (C, \dots) and $x \in C$, $X \Vdash \phi$.

Completeness If, for all presheaf models (C, \dots) and $x \in C$, $X \Vdash \phi$
then ϕ is provable in intuitionistic predicate logic
(Classical meta-theory!)

Coverage (base)

a.k.a. base for a
Grothendieck topology

A coverage (base) on a category \mathbb{C} is a relation of the form $C \triangleright X$,

where $X \in \mathbb{C}$ and $C \subseteq \bigcup_{Y \in \mathbb{C}} \mathbb{C}(Y, X)$

Reflexivity $\{X \xrightarrow{\text{id}_X} X\} \triangleright X$

Transitivity If $C \triangleright X$ and , for all $Y \xrightarrow{f} X \in C$, $C_f \triangleright Y$

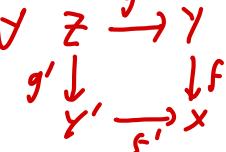
then $\{Z \xrightarrow{g \circ f} X \mid Y \xrightarrow{f} X \in C, Z \xrightarrow{g} Y \in C_f\} \triangleright X$

Stability If $C \triangleright X$ and $X' \xrightarrow{f} X$ then there exist $D \triangleright X'$ such that,
for all $Y \xrightarrow{g} X' \in D$ there exist $Y \xrightarrow{g} X \in C$ and $Y \xrightarrow{f'} X'$
such that

$$\begin{array}{ccc} Y & \xrightarrow{f'} & Y \\ g' \downarrow & & \downarrow g \\ X' & \xrightarrow{f} & X \end{array}$$

Sheaf for a coverage

Given a presheaf $A: \mathcal{C}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \underline{\text{Set}}$ and coverage \triangleright on \mathcal{C} .

- A matching family for a cover $C \triangleright X$ is a family $(a_f \in A_y)_{y \xrightarrow{f} X \in C}$ such that $\forall Y \xrightarrow{f} X, Y' \xrightarrow{f'} X \in C, \forall Z \xrightarrow{g} Y \text{ in } \mathcal{C}, a_f \cdot g = a_{f'} \cdot g'$.

- An amalgamation for a (necessarily matching) family $(a_f \in A_y)_{y \xrightarrow{f} X \in C}$ is an element $a \in A_X$ s.t. $\forall Y \xrightarrow{f} X \in C, a_f = a \cdot f$.
- The presheaf A is a sheaf if every matching family has a unique amalgamation.

Forcing w.r.t. a coverage

$$X \Vdash \phi \vee \psi \Leftrightarrow$$

there exists a cover $C \triangleright X$ such that,

for every $\dot{y} \xrightarrow{f} x \in C$, $Y \Vdash \phi \cdot f$ or $Y \Vdash \psi \cdot f$

$$X \Vdash \perp \Leftrightarrow \emptyset \triangleright X$$

$X \Vdash \exists x \phi \Leftrightarrow$ there exists a cover $C \triangleright X$ such that,

for every $\dot{y} \xrightarrow{f} x \in C$

there exists $a \in A_y$ s.t. $Y \Vdash (\phi \cdot f)[x := a]$

Meta theorems for sheaf semantics

Monotonicity If $X \Vdash \phi$ and $y \xrightarrow{f} x$ then $Y \Vdash \phi \cdot f$

Sheaf property If $C \triangleright X$ satisfies, for all $y \xrightarrow{f} x \in C$, $Y \Vdash \phi \cdot f$
then $X \Vdash \phi$.

Soundness If ϕ is provable in intuitionistic predicate logic
then for all sheaf models $(C, \triangleright, \dots)$ and $x \in C$, $X \Vdash \phi$.

Completeness If, for all sheaf models $(C, \triangleright, \dots)$ and $x \in C$, $X \Vdash \phi$
then ϕ is provable in intuitionistic predicate logic
(Constructive meta-theory !?)

Dense Coverage

For any small category \mathbb{C} , the dense coverage base

$C \triangleright X \Leftrightarrow$ for all $Z \xrightarrow{f} X$ there exists $Y \xrightarrow{g} X \in C$

such that the cospan $Z \xrightarrow{f} X \leftarrow Y$ completes to
a commuting square in \mathbb{C}

$$\begin{array}{ccc} W & \dashrightarrow & Y \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow g \\ Z & \xrightarrow{f} & X \end{array}$$

Sheaf semantics for the dense coverage is classical $X \amalg \top \phi \rightarrow \phi$

Atomic coverage

Suppose \mathbb{C} satisfies the following cocofluous condition (right Ore condition)

Every cospan $Z \xrightarrow{f} X \leftarrow g Y$ completes to a commuting square

$$\begin{array}{ccc} W & \dashrightarrow & Y \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow g \\ Z & \xrightarrow{f} & X \end{array}$$

Then

$$C \triangleright X \Leftrightarrow C \text{ is a singleton } \{Y \xrightarrow{g} X\}$$

is a coverage base. The atomic coverage base

atomic = dense

A subset $S \subseteq \bigcup_{y \in C} C(y, x)$ is a sieve if (cf. ideal in a ring,
down-closed set in a poset)

$$y \xrightarrow{f} x \in S \text{ and } z \xrightarrow{g} y \in C \Rightarrow z \xrightarrow{g \circ f} x \in S$$

Given a coverage base \triangleright define

$$S \triangleright^* x \Leftrightarrow S \text{ a sieve and } \exists C \subseteq S \subset \triangleright x$$

If C is coconfluent then

$$S \triangleright_{\text{den}}^* x \Leftrightarrow S \triangleright_{\text{at}}^* x \Leftrightarrow S \text{ a sieve and } S \neq \emptyset$$

Dependent choice (DC)

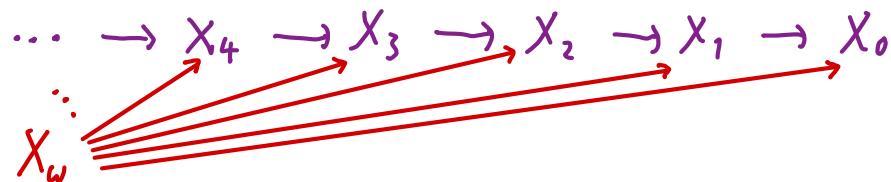
$$(\forall x:A \exists y:A R(x,y)) \rightarrow$$

$$\forall x:A \exists s:A^N s_0=x \wedge \forall n:N R(s_n, s_{n+1})$$

Proposition If \mathbb{C} is coconfluent and every ω^op -chain in \mathbb{C} has a cone*

then $\text{Sh}_{\text{at}}(\mathbb{C}) \vDash \text{DC}$

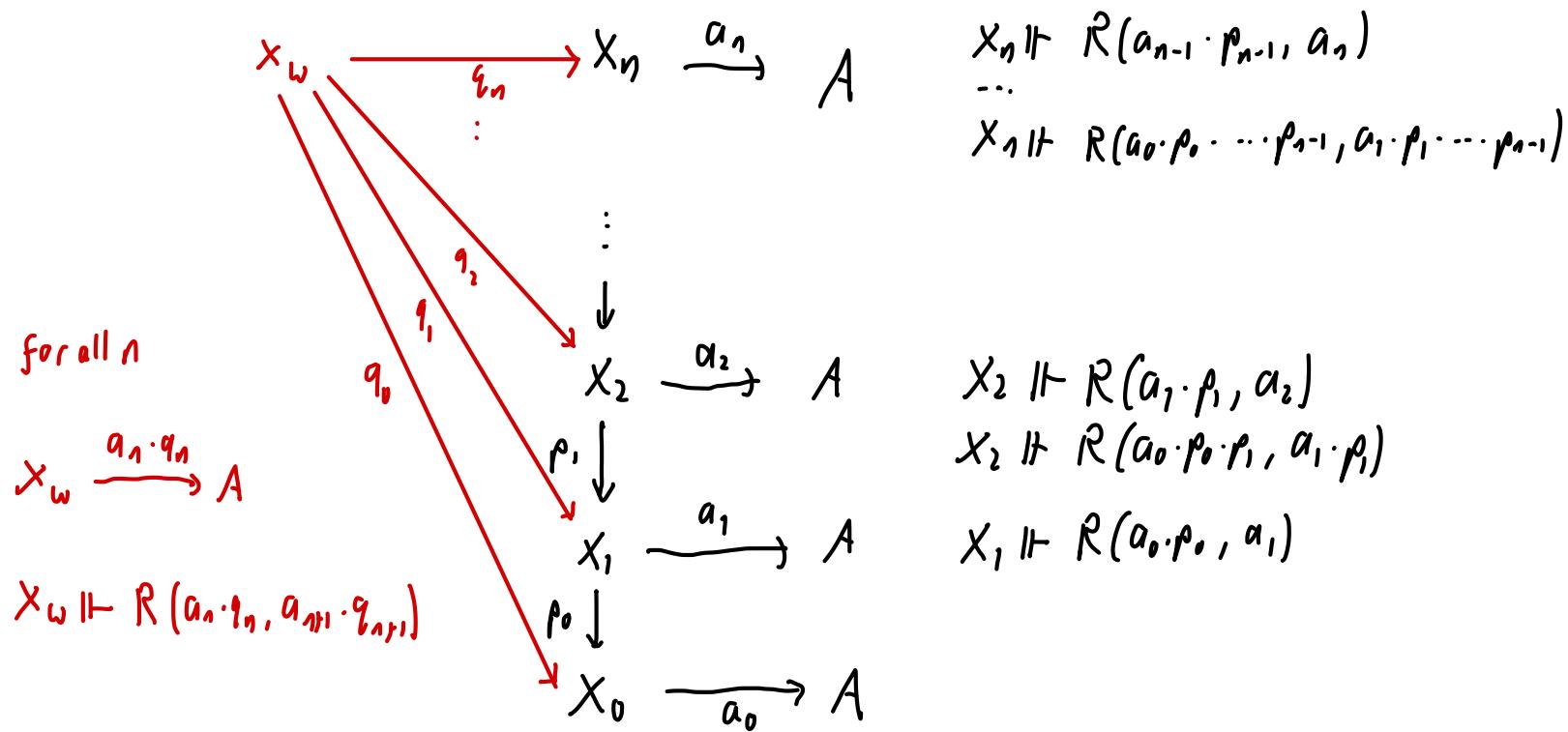
* For every \mathbb{C} diagram



there exists $(x_\omega \rightarrow x_n)_{n \in N}$ such that all triangles commute

Proof Suppose $X_0 \Vdash \forall x:A \exists y:A R(x,y)$ and $a_0 \in A(X)$

Then $s := (a_n \cdot q_n)_{n < \omega} \in A^\omega(X_\omega)$ satisfies $X_\omega \Vdash s_0 = q_0 \cdot a_0 \wedge \forall n:N R(a_n, a_{n+1})$



The proposition can be used to show that atomic toposes of relevance to probabilistic semantics validate DC.

- The topos of probability sheaves

Equivalence and conditional independence in atomic sheaf logic, S., LICS 2024

- The topos of enhanced measurable sheaves

A nominal approach to probabilistic separation logic,
Li, Ahmed, Aytac, Holtzen, Johnson-Freyd, LICS 2024 .

Other applications of sheaf semantics

- Freyd's topos refuting AC
- Sheaf Models of type theory
- The topological topos (Johnstone)
- The random topos (S.)
- Grothendieck toposes in mathematics
 - Zariski topos (SGA)
 - Condensed sets (Clawson, Scholze)
- etc.

Literature

The literature I know on sheaf semantics approaches it via first understanding toposes and their logic, requiring substantial category theory.

My favourite book that takes this approach is

- Mac Lane & Moerdijk *Sheaves in Geometry and Logic*

A more gently paced presentation (with less content) can be found in

- Goldblatt *Topoi*