

School of Computer Science
University of Birmingham

Adelic Geometry via Topos Theory

(joint work with Steve Vickers)

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What this talk is about



I'm going to discuss two basic themes that cross-cut many different areas of mathematics:

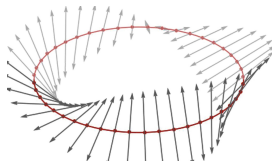
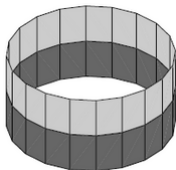
1. What kind of info can topological data encode?
2. When can we solve a problem by breaking it into smaller pieces?

I'll then discuss how the research project 'Adelic Geometry via Topos Theory' serves as an interesting test problem for illuminating how these two themes interact with each other.

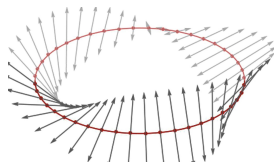
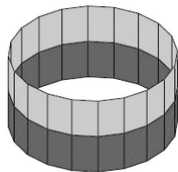
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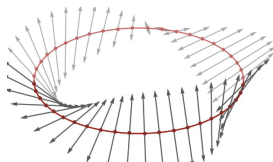
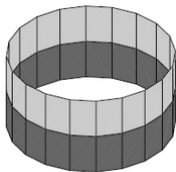


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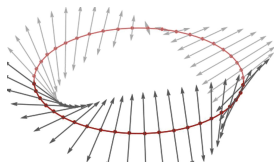
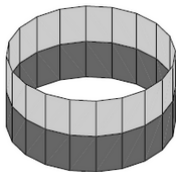


- ▶ Question: Are these the only line bundles over S^1 (up to isomorphism)?

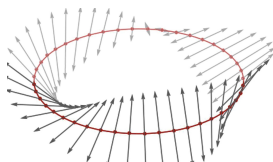
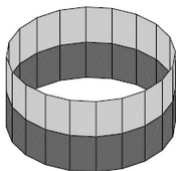
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- ▶ Answer: Yes.
- ▶ Why? Exploit the tight relationship between $[S^{k-1}, GL_n(\mathbb{R})]$ and $\text{Vect}_n(S^k)$.



Classification Theorem

Suppose that X is a paracompact space. Let $\text{Vect}_n(X)$ be the set of isomorphism classes of n -dimensional vector bundles over X .

Then the map

$$[X, G_n] \longrightarrow \text{Vect}_n(X)$$

given by $f \longmapsto f^*(\gamma_n)$ is a bijection, where γ_n is the universal bundle.



A similar attitude occurs in topos theory in regards to geometric logic:

In this paper I shall survey some of the special features of geometric logic, and a body of established results that combine to support a manifesto “*continuity is geometricity*”. In other words, to “do mathematics continuously” is to work within the geometricity constraints.

— Vickers, 'Continuity and Geometric Logic'



Theories and Models

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Geometric Theory

A *geometric theory* is a theory whose (formulae featured in its) axioms are built out of certain logical connectives — i.e. $=$, **finite** conjunctions \wedge , **arbitrary** (possibly infinite) disjunctions \vee , and \exists .

Example: Theory of Dedekind Reals



As an example, consider the geometric theory of Dedekind reals, which we denote \mathbb{R} .



As an example, consider the geometric theory of Dedekind reals, which we denote \mathbb{R} . A model x of \mathbb{R} is a Dedekind real number, which will be represented by two sets of rationals (L, R) , whereby:

$$L = \{q \in \mathbb{Q} \mid q < x\}$$

$$R = \{r \in \mathbb{Q} \mid x < r\}$$

Otherwise known as the left and right Dedekind sections of the real number.



Definition

- ▶ A *geometric morphism* $f : \mathcal{F} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}$ of toposes is a pair of adjoint functors $f_* : \mathcal{F} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}$ and $f^* : \mathcal{E} \rightarrow \mathcal{F}$, respectively called the *direct image* and the *inverse image* of f , such that the left adjoint f_* preserves **finite** limits and **arbitrary** colimits.



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Definition

1. A *global point* of a topos \mathcal{E} is defined as a geometric morphism $\text{Set} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}$.
2. A *generalised point* of a topos \mathcal{E} is a geometric morphism $\mathcal{F} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}$.



Definition

The classifying topos of a geometric theory \mathbb{T} is a Grothendieck topos $\text{Set}[\mathbb{T}]$ that classifies the models of \mathbb{T} in Grothendieck toposes, i.e. for any Grothendieck topos \mathcal{E} , we have an equivalence of categories:

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Every Grothendieck topos is a classifying topos of some geometric theory \mathbb{T} , and every geometric theory \mathbb{T} has a classifying topos.

Topos = Generalised Space



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Slogan

Models = points of a topos. In particular, we can reason in terms of the points of the topos (as a generalised space) as opposed to only reasoning in terms of its objects/sheaves (as a category).



Point-set Topology

- ▶ Point = Element of a set
- ▶ Space = A set of points, along with a set of opens satisfying some specific axioms.
- ▶ Continuous Maps = A function $f : X \rightarrow Y$ such that $f^{-1}(U)$ is open for all opens $U \subset Y$

Pointfree Topology

- ▶ Point = Model of a geometric theory
- ▶ Space = The 'World' in which the point lives with other points (i.e. a Grothendieck topos)
- ▶ Continuous Maps = A geometric morphism $f : \mathcal{E} \rightarrow \mathcal{F}$ such that $f^* : \mathcal{F} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}$ preserves finite limits and small colimits



Fact

There exists a *generic model* $U_{\mathbb{T}}$ living in every classifying topos,



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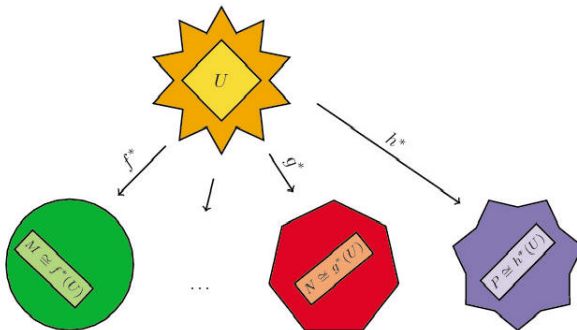
There exists a *generic model* $U_{\mathbb{T}}$ living in every classifying topos, which possesses the universal property that any model M in a Grothendieck topos \mathcal{E} can be obtained as $f^*(U_{\mathbb{T}}) \cong M$ via the inverse image functor of some (unique) $f : \mathcal{E} \rightarrow \text{Set}[\mathbb{T}]$.



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An **important** consequence of this is that any geometric sequent that holds for $U_{\mathbb{T}}$ will hold for all models M of \mathbb{T} .



Classifying topos



$$X^n + Y^n + Z^n = 0 \quad (n > 2)$$



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- ▶ Observation #2: Real and p -adic solutions are easier to deal with than just integer/rational solutions.
- ▶ New Question: Given a polynomial with \mathbb{Q} -coefficients, when does knowledge about its \mathbb{Q}_p and \mathbb{R} -solutions give us info about its \mathbb{Q} -solutions?

Hasse's Local-Global Principle



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Some property P is true for \mathbb{Q} iff P is true for all the completions of \mathbb{Q} .



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Definition of adèle ring for \mathbb{Q}

The adèle ring $\mathbb{A}_{\mathbb{Q}}$ is defined to be the restricted product of all the completions of \mathbb{Q} . Morally, the adèle ring can be viewed as a device that allows us to reason about all the completions of \mathbb{Q} simultaneously.

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Idea

Instead of asking whether a property simultaneously holds for *all completions* of \mathbb{Q} (which forces us to use complicated algebraic constructions like the adèle ring $\mathbb{A}_{\mathbb{Q}}$), what if we asked whether a property holds for the *generic completion* of \mathbb{Q} ?



“One weakness in the analogy between the collection of $\{K_s\}_{s \in S}$ for a compact Riemann surface S and the collection $\{\mathbb{Q}_p, \text{ for prime numbers } p, \text{ and } \mathbb{R}\}$ is that [...] no manner of squinting seems to be able to make \mathbb{R} the least bit mistake-able for any of the p -adic fields, nor are the p -adic fields \mathbb{Q}_p isomorphic for distinct p .

A major theme in the development of Number Theory has been to try to bring \mathbb{R} somewhat more into line with the p -adic fields; a major mystery is why \mathbb{R} resists this attempt so strenuously.”

— Mazur, 'Passage from Local to Global in Number Theory'



Starting point:

For simplicity, let us assume that our base field is \mathbb{Q} . Classically, an absolute value of \mathbb{Q} is a function $|\cdot| : \mathbb{Q} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ such that for all $x, y \in \mathbb{Q}$:

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We define a *place* as an equivalence class of absolute values whereby $|\cdot|_1 \sim |\cdot|_2$ if there exists some $\alpha \in (0, 1]$ such that $|\cdot|_1 = |\cdot|_2^\alpha$ or $|\cdot|_2 = |\cdot|_1^\alpha$.



- ▶ Intuitively: what does this topos look like?
- ▶ The points of this topos would correspond to equivalence classes of absolute values, such that:
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- ▶ π is the projection map sending $(|\cdot|, \alpha) \mapsto |\cdot|$
- ▶ ex is the exponentiation map sending $(|\cdot|, \alpha) \mapsto |\cdot|^\alpha$



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- ▶ In essence, we would like to ‘quotient’ the topos $[av]$ by an algebraic action – two questions:
 - ▶ Is the notion of (real) exponentiation geometric? Ng-Vickers (2022)
 - ▶ What does it mean to quotient by a monoid action vs. group action?



Ostrowski's Theorem for \mathbb{Q}

Every absolute value of \mathbb{Q} is equivalent to a (non-Archimedean) p -adic absolute value $|\cdot|_p$ (for some prime p), or the Archimedean absolute value $|\cdot|_\infty$.

Non-Archimedean Place (for fixed prime p)



$$\begin{array}{ccc} & \xrightarrow{\pi} & \\ [av_{NA}] \times (0, \infty) & \xleftarrow{s} & [av_{NA}] \dashrightarrow \mathcal{D} \\ & \xrightarrow{ex} & \end{array}$$

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$$\mathcal{D} \simeq \{*\}$$



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- ▶ So what is \mathcal{D}' ?



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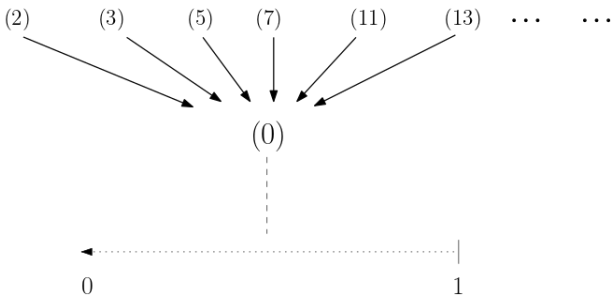
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Theorem

$\mathcal{D}' \simeq \overleftarrow{[0, 1]}$ (the space of 'upper reals' between 0 and 1)

- ▶ The Arakelov compactification of $\text{Spec}(\mathbb{Z})$ suggests that we add a single point at infinity to $\text{Spec}(\mathbb{Z})$ corresponding to the 'Archimedean prime' ... our picture suggests that there is some blurring going on at infinity, and that infinity is not just a classical point with no intrinsic structure.

A Strange Woods

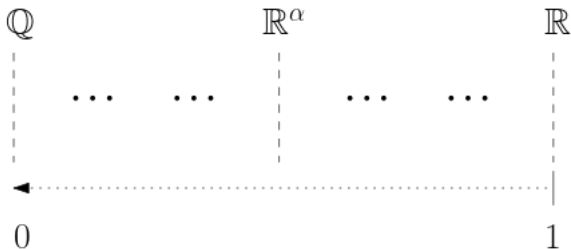




*“In order to re-establish the **analogy**, it is necessary to introduce, into the theory of algebraic numbers, something that corresponds to **the point at infinity** in the theory of functions [...] to define a “**prime ideal at infinity**” [...]*

If one follows it in all of its consequences, the theory alone permits us to reestablish the analogy at many points where it once seemed defective.”

— André Weil’s Letter to his sister, 1940

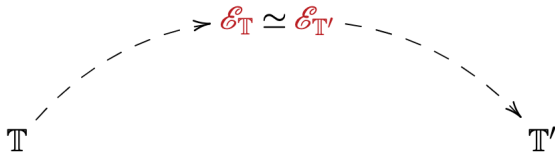


Reorienting our perspective

The issue of how to unite the Archimedean and the non-Archimedean settings is not (just) an algebraic question, but a topological one: how should the connected and the disconnected interact?

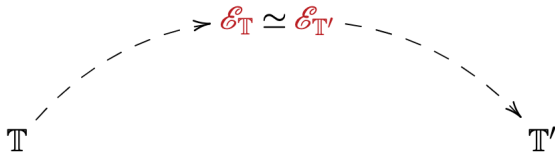


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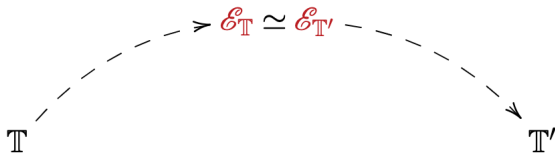


*“Toposes can effectively act as **unifying spaces** for **transferring information** between distinct mathematical theories and for generating new equivalences, dualities and symmetries across different fields of Mathematics.”*

— Olivia Caramello



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A Basic Challenge

When is this a helpful framework for transferring info? When is it not so helpful?



Question: where else might we see spaces whose points correspond to valuations?



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Berkovich Affine Line

Let K be a non-Archimedean field that is non-trivially valued.



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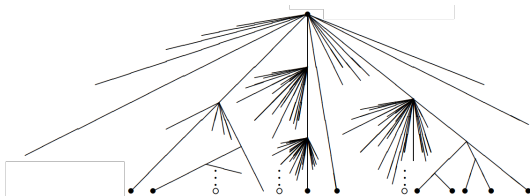
Let K be a non-Archimedean field that is non-trivially valued. The **Berkovich Affine line** $\mathbb{A}_{\text{Berk}}^1$ is the set of multiplicative seminorms on $K[T]$ (extending $|\cdot|$ on K), equipped with the Berkovich topology.



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Equivalent Characterisations of $\mathbb{A}_{\text{Berk}}^1$

Assuming that K is non-Arch. + non-trivially valued:



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Assuming that K is non-Arch. + non-trivially valued:

1. The set of bounded multiplicative seminorms on $K[T]$ equipped with the Berkovich topology;
2. A space whose points are defined by a sequence of nested closed discs $D_{r_1}(k_1) \supseteq D_{r_2}(k_2) \supseteq \dots$ contained in K ;
3. The space of types over K , concentrating on \mathbb{A}_K^1 , that are “almost orthogonal to Γ ”;
4. A profinite \mathbb{R} -tree.



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Theorem (N.)

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Theorem (N.)

Let $\mathcal{A} := K\{R^{-1}T\}$ be the ring of formal power series convergent in radius $R > 0$, where K is non-Arch but need not be non-trivially valued. Then, the space of R -good filters is (classically) equivalent to the Berkovich spectrum $\mathcal{M}(\mathcal{A})$.

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- ▶ Theme #1: Viewing toposes as a framework uniting logic and topology
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- ▶ Theme #2: Local-Global issues, and its connections to Theme #1 via generic reasoning

- ▶ Pulling away from the set theory reveals key insights into the deep nerve connecting topology and algebra.
- ▶ Some very interesting indications that there is some blurring at infinity in our picture of $\overline{\text{Spec}(\mathbb{Z})}$ — interesting to explore the precise implications of this + broader question of how the connected and disconnected ought to interact.



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