

Fibrations and Grothendieck topologies

Howard Lyn Hiller

Given a site T , that is, a category equipped with a fixed Grothendieck topology, we provide a definition of fibration for morphisms of the presheaves on T . We verify that the notion is well-behaved with respect to composition, base change, and exponentiation, and is trivial on the topos of sheaves. We compare our definition to that of Kan fibration in the semi-simplicial setting. Also we show how we can obtain a notion of fibration on our ground site T and investigate the resulting notion in certain ring-theoretic situations.

1. Introduction

Let T be a site; that is, a category equipped with a fixed Grothendieck topology. We have the adjoint pair

$$S \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\quad} \\ \xleftarrow{sh} \end{array} [T^0, Sets]$$

where sh is the associated sheaf functor and S is the full topos of sheaves with respect to the topology. We define a notion of fibration for morphisms of presheaves that is well behaved with respect to composition, base change and exponentiation, and trivializes on the topos S . We investigate how our notion compares with that of Kan fibrations, when $T = Ord$, the category of finite ordered sets equipped with an appropriate topology. We then observe we can pull our notion of fibration back to the ground site T and we investigate it in certain ring-theoretic situations.

Received 11 November 1975.

2. Basic notions

Let $p : E \rightarrow B$ be a map (that is, natural transformation) of presheaves. We define

DEFINITION. The map p is a (weak) fibration if the following diagram in *Sets* is (weak) cartesian:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 E(U) & \longrightarrow & B(U) \\
 \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 \ker \left(\prod_i E(U_i) \rightarrow \prod_{i,j} E(U_i \times U_j) \right) & \longrightarrow & \prod_i B(U_i)
 \end{array}$$

for every covering $\{U_i \rightarrow U\}$ in T .

As usual we also define

DEFINITION. X is a (weak) fibrant object in $[T^0, Sets]$ if $X \rightarrow e$ is a (weak) fibration. (e is the final object of $[T^0, Sets]$; $e(U) = \{*\}$ for all U in $ob(T)$.)

We have three immediate trivialities.

- FACTS. 1 Every isomorphism is a fibration.
 2 A morphism of sheaves is a fibration.
 3 X is (weak) fibrant iff X is a (weak) sheaf.

Weak sheaf is the "dual" notion to separated presheaf; that is, it means the canonical map of sets

$$X(U) \rightarrow \ker \left(\prod_i X(U_i) \rightarrow \prod_{i,j} X(U_i \times_U U_j) \right) = H^0(\{U_i \rightarrow U\}, X)$$

is epic for all coverings $\{U_i \rightarrow U\}$ in T . (We freely use the above cohomological abbreviation in the following.)

We now check the desired stability properties.

PROPOSITION 1. If $p : E \rightarrow B$ is a (weak) fibration, and $f : B' \rightarrow B$ is arbitrary then $p' : E \times_B B' \rightarrow B'$ is a (weak) fibration where

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 E \times_B B' & \xrightarrow{f'} & E \\
 p' \downarrow & & \downarrow p \\
 B' & \xrightarrow{f} & B
 \end{array}$$

is a cartesian square in $[T^0, Sets]$.

Proof. Let $\{U_i \xrightarrow{u_i} U\}$ be a covering; we check

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 (E \times_B B')(U) & \longrightarrow & B'(U) \\
 \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 H^0(\{U_i \rightarrow U\}, E \times_B B') & \rightarrow & \prod_i B'(U_i)
 \end{array}$$

is (weak) cartesian in *Sets* .

First observe that pullbacks in $[T^0, Sets]$ are computed pointwise; so $(E \times_B B')(V) = E(V) \times_{B(V)} B'(V)$, for V in $ob(T)$ and induced maps are the obvious projections. Let s be in $B'(U)$ and (v_i, w_i) be in $H^0(\{U_i \rightarrow U\}, E \times_B B')$ where $w_i = p'(U_i)(v_i, w_i) = B'(u_i)(s)$. Consider $f(U)(s)$ in $B(U)$ and $\{v_i\}$ in $\prod_i E(U_i)$. We first observe that

$$\begin{aligned}
 B(u_i)f(U)(s) &= f(U_i)B'(u_i)(s) = f(U_i)p'(U_i)(v_i, w_i) = \\
 &= p(U_i)f'(U_i)(v_i, w_i) = p(U_i)(v_i) ,
 \end{aligned}$$

since f' is a projection onto the first factor at each "point". Since p is a (weak) fibration, there exists a (unique) t in $E(U)$ such that

- (1) $p(U)(t) = f(U)(s)$, and
- (2) $E(u_i)(t) = v_i$.

Consider (t, s) in $(E \times_B B')(U)$, by dint of (1) above. Certainly $p'(U)(t, s) = s$ and

$$(E \times_B B')(u_i)(t, s) = (E(u_i)(t), B'(u_i)(s)) = (v_i, w_i)$$

by (2) above. This completes the proof.

PROPOSITION 2. Let $q : X \rightarrow E$, $p : E \rightarrow B$ be (weak) fibrations; then $pq : X \rightarrow B$ is a (weak) fibration.

Proof. Let $\{U_i \xrightarrow{u_i} U\}$ be a covering in T and consider

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X(U) & \xrightarrow{pq(U)} & B(U) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ H^0(\{U_i \rightarrow U\}, X) & \longrightarrow & \prod_i B(U_i) \end{array}$$

Let s be in $B(U)$ and $\{w_i\}$ be in $H^0(\{U_i \rightarrow U\}, X)$ such that $B(u_i)(s) = (pq)(U_i)(w_i)$.

Certainly $q(U_i)(w_i)$ is in $H^0(\{U_i \rightarrow U\}, X)$ and is compatible with s in the obvious sense. So since $p : E \rightarrow B$ is a (weak) fibration, there exists a (unique) t in $E(U)$ such that

- (1) $p(U)(t) = s$, and
- (2) $E(u_i)(t) = q(U_i)(w_i)$.

Since $q : X \rightarrow E$ is a (weak) fibration and the second equality gives us "compatibility", there exists a (unique) z in $X(U)$ such that $X(u_i)(z) = w_i$ and $q(U)(z) = t$. So then

$$(pq)(U)(z) = p(U)q(U)(z) = p(U)(t) = s.$$

This completes the proof.

(Note that Fact 1 and Propositions 1 and 2 verify the (isolated) properties of a fibration in the sense of Quillen's model categories [4].)

We recall now the notion of exponentiation in our functor category $[T^0, Sets]$. Categorically one defines $(-)^Y$ as the right adjoint to the functor $(-) \times Y$. Along with the Yoneda Lemma, this forces the definition in the category of presheaves

$$X^Y(U) \cong \text{nat} \left(\text{hom}_T(-, U), X^Y \right) \cong \text{nat}(\text{hom}_T(-, U) \times Y, X).$$

We then have

PROPOSITION 3. *If $p : E \rightarrow B$ is a fibration and K is a presheaf, then $p^K : E^K \rightarrow B^K$ is a fibration.*

Proof. See Appendix.

COROLLARY. *If E is a sheaf and K a presheaf then E^K is a sheaf.*

(This is well-known; see [6], p. 258.)

3. Semi-simplicial application

We now consider a particular situation. Let $T = Ord$, the category whose objects are finite ordered sets and the morphisms are weakly monotone maps. It is customary to consider the obvious countable skeletal subcategory whose objects are denoted $n = \{0 < 1 < 2 < \dots < n\}$. As usual, the simplicial sets are the set-valued presheaves on this category. We describe a Grothendieck topology on Ord and investigate the resulting notions of fibration and fibrant object. First we define a modified notion of topology.

DEFINITION. A *weak Grothendieck topology* is a category with a notion of covering which satisfies all but the composition axiom for Grothendieck topologies.

A sheaf with respect to a weak Grothendieck topology has the obvious meaning. Certainly it also makes sense to speak of the (weak) Grothendieck topology generated by a partial collection of "coverings". Hence consider the set C ;

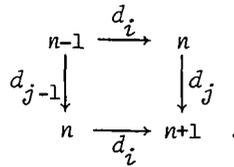
$$C = \{n \xrightarrow{1} n\} \cup \left\{ n \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{d_{i_0}} \\ \vdots \\ \xrightarrow{d_{i_q}} \end{array} n+1; 0 \leq i_0 \leq i_1 \leq \dots \leq i_r \leq q+1, r \leq q \right\}.$$

We thus obtain a (weak) Grothendieck topology generated by C . We call Ord with this topology the (weak) combinatorial site.

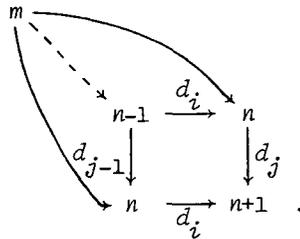
PROPOSITION 4. *X is a Kan fibration iff X is a weak fibration on the weak combinatorial site.*

First we have an easy lemma.

LEMMA. *The following square is cartesian in Ord if $i < j$;*



Proof. The diagram commutes by the usual "simplicial" identities in *Ord*. Suppose we want to fill in the dotted arrow in the following commutative diagram;



Let ℓ be in $m = \{0 < 1 < 2 < \dots < m\}$. First we claim $e(\ell) \neq j - 1$. Otherwise $d_j(e'(\ell)) = d_i(e(\ell)) = d_i(j-1) = j$. But j is never in the image of d_j . Similarly $e'(\ell) \neq i$. Hence there exist $x, y < n$ such that $d_{j-1}(x) = e(\ell)$ and $d_i(y) = e'(\ell)$. We must show $x = y$. We have two cases.

Case 1. Suppose $e'(\ell) < i$. Then $e'(\ell) < j$; so

$$d_i(e(\ell)) = d_j(e'(\ell)) = e'(\ell) < i .$$

Hence $e(\ell) = e'(\ell) < i < j$; thus $e(\ell) < j - 1$ and (in the notation above) $y = e'(\ell)$, $x = e(\ell)$; so $x = y$.

Case 2. Suppose $e'(\ell) > i$. This splits up into two subcases.

(a) Suppose $j \leq e'(\ell)$. Then

$$d_i(e(\ell)) = d_j(e'(\ell)) = e'(\ell) + i > i .$$

Hence $e(\ell) = (e'(\ell)+1) - 1 = e'(\ell)$. So $y = e'(\ell) - 1$, and $x = y$.

(b) Suppose $e'(\ell) < j$. Then

$$d_i(e(\ell)) = d_j(e'(\ell)) = e'(\ell) > i .$$

Hence $e(l) = e'(l) - 1$. Since $e'(l) > i$, $y = e'(l) - 1$.
 Also $e(l) = e'(l) - 1 < j - 1$. So $x = e(l)$ and $x = y$.

This completes Case 2 and the proof.

Proof of Proposition 4. (ONLY IF) Let s_j be in $\prod_{\substack{0 \leq j \leq n \\ j \neq k}} E(n)$ and t in $B(n+1)$ such that $\partial_i(s_j) = \partial_j(s_{i-1})$, $i < j$, $i, j \neq k$, and

$$\partial_i(t) = p(n)(s_i). \text{ We consider the covering } \left\{ n \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{d_0} \\ \xrightarrow{\hat{d}_k} \\ \xrightarrow{\vdots} \\ \xrightarrow{d_{n+1}} \end{array} n+1 \right\} \text{ and the}$$

hypothesis gives us

$$\begin{array}{ccc} E(n+1) & \xrightarrow{\quad} & B(n+1) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \ker \left(\prod_i E(n) \rightarrow \prod_{i,j} E(n \times_{n+1} n) \right) & \rightarrow & \prod_i B(n) \end{array}$$

is weak cartesian.

The lemma identifies $n \times_{n+1} n$ and the maps; hence our assumption implies $(s_0, \dots, \hat{s}_k, \dots, s_{n+1})$ is in \ker . We thus obtain the desired $(n+1)$ -simplex in E from the diagram.

(IF) The converse follows from a standard fact about Kan fibrations (see [3], p. 26) and the fact that C is closed under fibre products; hence is itself the weak Grothendieck topology. To prove the latter claim we first recall the unique factorization of morphisms in Ord as strings of d_i 's and s_j 's (see [3], p. 4). Since juxtapositions of cartesian squares are cartesian, it suffices to check closure under fibre products induced by the d_i 's and s_j 's individually. This is tedious and left to the reader.

COROLLARY. X is a Kan complex iff X is a weak sheaf on the weak combinatorial site.

4. Fibrations on T : examples

It is also possible to obtain a notion of fibration on our ground site T . We have the fully faithful Yoneda embedding

$$T \xrightarrow{h} [T^0, \text{Sets}]$$

along which we can in some sense "pull back". Suppose

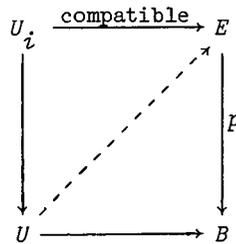
$p_* : \text{hom}_T(-, E) \rightarrow \text{hom}_T(-, B)$ is a morphism of representable presheaves

induced by $p : E \rightarrow B$. By definition, p_* is a fibration if the following square is cartesian:

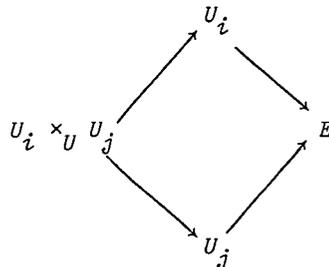
$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{hom}_T(U, E) & \longrightarrow & \text{hom}_T(U, B) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ H^0(\{U_i \rightarrow U\}, \text{hom}_T(-, E)) & \longrightarrow & \prod_i \text{hom}(U_i', B) \end{array}$$

for every covering $\{U_i \rightarrow U\}$ in T .

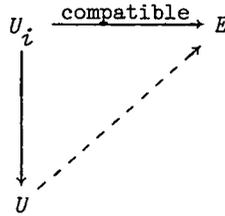
In other words we have the following lifting property;



where "compatible" means the diagram



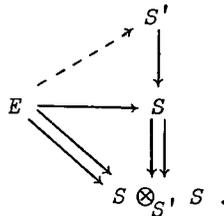
commutes for all i and j . Similarly E in $\text{ob}(T)$ is fibrant if the following diagram can always be completed:



Numerous sites appear in algebro-geometric contexts. To consider a particularly simple example let T be the category of affine schemes over $\text{spec}(R)$; that is, the opposite of the category of commutative R -algebras and declare a covering to be a single faithfully flat morphism $\text{spec}(B) \rightarrow \text{spec}(A)$. (These "affine" sites appear in Dobbs [1] under the name R -based topologies.) What are the fibrant R -algebras? We have the following observation.

PROPOSITION 5. E is a fibrant R -algebra iff for any faithfully flat morphisms $S' \rightarrow S$, and homomorphism $f : E \rightarrow S$, for every e in E , $f(e) \otimes 1 = 1 \otimes f(e)$ in $S \otimes_{S'} S$.

Proof. By faithfully flat descent the lifting below exists iff the bottom oblique arrows are equal;



Also the following is true.

PROPOSITION 6. If E is fibrant then $B \rightarrow E$ is always a fibration.

Proof. Suppose we have the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 S & \leftarrow & E \\
 \uparrow & & \uparrow \\
 S' & \leftarrow & B
 \end{array}$$

Since E is fibrant there exists a map $E \rightarrow S'$ making the resulting upper triangle commute. But since $S' \rightarrow S$ is a monomorphism the lower triangle also commutes.

For simplicity let us suppose $R = \mathbb{Z}$, so we are considering the

category of commutative rings. We have three properties of fibrations.

PROPOSITION 7. *If $p_i : B_i \rightarrow E_i$, $i = 1, 2$, are fibrations then so is $p_1 \otimes p_2 : B_1 \otimes B_2 \rightarrow E_1 \otimes E_2$.*

COROLLARY. *Fibrant rings are closed under tensor product (equals coproduct).*

PROPOSITION 8. *Epimorphisms of rings are fibrations.*

COROLLARY. *Fibrant rings are closed under homomorphic images.*

PROPOSITION 9. *If A is a ring, S a multiplicatively closed subset of A , then the localization map $A \rightarrow S^{-1}A$ is a fibration.*

COROLLARY. *Fibrant rings are closed under taking rings of fractions.*

PROPOSITION 10. *Fibrant rings are rigid (that is, have no non-trivial automorphisms).*

We now can produce many examples and non-examples of fibrant rings. \mathbb{Z} is trivially fibrant, and all subrings of the rationals are fibrant by Corollary 3. The finite cyclic rings are fibrant by Corollary 2. The rings $R \times R$, for R arbitrary, and the complex numbers are non-examples by Proposition 4. If R is noetherian, $R[t]$ is never fibrant by considering the faithfully flat morphism $R \rightarrow R[[t]]$. We provide a representative proof.

Proof of Proposition 9. Suppose we have a commutative square

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A & \xrightarrow{f} & R \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow i \\ S^{-1}A & \xrightarrow{g} & R' \end{array}$$

with i faithfully flat. We must check $f(S)$ is contained in R'° , the invertible elements of R' . Let s be in S . Consider the R -module $R/f(s)R$. We claim that $R' \otimes_R (R/f(s)R) = 0$. We compute

$$\begin{aligned}
 s \otimes (r+f(s)R) &= g\left(\frac{s}{1}\right)g\left(\frac{1}{s}\right)s \otimes (r+f(s)R) \\
 &= if(s)g\left(\frac{1}{s}\right)s \otimes (r+f(s)R) \\
 &= g\left(\frac{1}{s}\right)s \otimes f(s)(r+f(s)R) = 0 .
 \end{aligned}$$

Hence by faithful flatness, $R = f(s)R$; so $1 = f(s)r$ for some r in R . The desired map $S^{-1}A \rightarrow R$ can now be constructed.

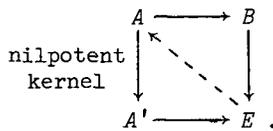
There exist two other examples where we can identify the fibrations.

EXAMPLE 1. Let T be an arbitrary category with topology defined by the universally effective epimorphisms; that is, $\{U_i \rightarrow U\}$ is a covering in T iff for all objects X of T ,

$$\text{hom}_T(U, X) \xrightarrow{\sim} H^0(\{U_i \rightarrow U\}, \text{hom}_T(-, X))$$

is an isomorphism. Then since the definition forces every representable functor to be a sheaf, by Fact 2 above, every morphism is a fibration.

EXAMPLE 2. Let R be a commutative ring. If S is an R -algebra and M an S -module, Quillen [5] defines a cohomology theory $D^*(S/R, M)$ based on a Grothendieck topology on the category of S -algebras where a covering is a single S -algebra epimorphism with nilpotent kernel. Since all our notions are dualized, $p : B \rightarrow E$ is a fibration iff for every commutative square the dotted arrow exists;



In the terminology of Grothendieck [2] we conclude the fibrations are precisely the formally unramified morphisms.

Appendix

We provide here a detailed proof of Proposition 4 ("Exponentiation").

Proof. We must check the following square is cartesian;

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 E^K(U) & \longrightarrow & B^K(U) \\
 \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 H^0\left(\{U_i \rightarrow U\}, E^K\right) & \longrightarrow & \prod_i B^K(U_i)
 \end{array}$$

for an arbitrary covering $\{U_i \xrightarrow{u_i} U\}$. Letting $(-, -)$ denote $\text{hom}_T(-, -)$, this square becomes

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \text{nat}(K(-) \times (-, U) \rightarrow E(-)) & \longrightarrow & \text{nat}(K(-) \times (-, U) \rightarrow B(-)) \\
 \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 H^0(\{U_i \rightarrow U\}, X \rightarrow \text{nat}(K(-) \times (-, X) \rightarrow E(-))) & \longrightarrow & \prod_i (\text{nat}(K(-) \times (-, U_i) \rightarrow B(-)))
 \end{array}$$

So consider some $h : K(-) \times (-, U) \rightarrow B(-)$ and a compatible collection $\{t_i : K(-) \times (-, U_i) \rightarrow E(-)\}$ of natural transformations such that

$$(*) \quad p \circ t_i = h \circ (1 \times (u_i)_*) .$$

We want a natural transformation $t : K(-) \times (-, U) \rightarrow E(-)$ such that

$$(1) \quad p \circ t = h$$

and

$$(2) \quad t \circ (1 \times (u_i)_*) = t_i .$$

Let X be an object of T and consider (s, f) in $K(X) \times (X, U)$. We have a cartesian square in T ,

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 X \times_U U_i & \xrightarrow{g_i} & U_i \\
 e_i \downarrow & & \downarrow u_i \\
 X & \xrightarrow{f} & U
 \end{array}$$

By the fibre-product axiom for Grothendieck topologies we have $\{X \times_U U_i \rightarrow X\}$ is a covering of X . Since $p : E \rightarrow B$ is a fibration we have the following cartesian square;

$$(3) \quad \begin{array}{ccc} E(X) & \longrightarrow & B(X) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ H^0(\{X \times_U U_i \rightarrow X\}, E) & \rightarrow & \prod_i B(X \times_U U_i) . \end{array}$$

Consider $h(X)(s, f)$ in $B(X)$ and $t_i(X \times_U U_i)(ke_i(s), g_i)$ in $E(X \times_U U_i)$. We claim

$$(4) \quad (Be_i)(h(X)(s, f)) = p(X \times_U U_i)(t_i(X \times_U U_i)(ke_i(s), g_i))$$

and

$$(5) \quad t_i(X \times_U U_i)(ke_i(s), g_i) \text{ is in } H^0(\{X \times_U U_i \rightarrow X\}, E) .$$

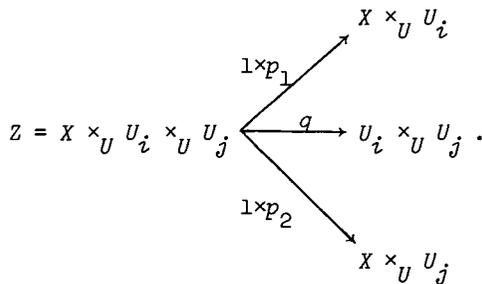
Proof of (4). By naturality of h and (*),

$$\begin{aligned} (Be_i)(h(X)(s, f)) &= h(X \times_U U_i)(ke_i \times e_i^*)(s, f) \\ &= h(X \times_U U_i)(1 \times (u_i)_*)(ke_i(s), g_i) \\ &= p(X \times_U U_i)t_i(X \times_U U_i)(ke_i(s), g_i) . \end{aligned}$$

Proof of (5). This requires verifying

$$E(1 \times p_1)(t_i(X \times_U U_i)(ke_i(s), g_i)) = E(1 \times p_2)(t_j(X \times_U U_j)(ke_j(s), g_j))$$

where we have maps



Using the compatibility of the t_i 's we know the following diagram commutes;

$$(6) \quad \begin{array}{ccc} & K(Z) \times (Z, U_i) & \\ \nearrow^{1 \times (p_1)_*} & & \searrow^{t_i(Z)} \\ K(Z) \times (Z, U_i \times_U U_j) & & E(Z) . \\ \searrow_{1 \times (p_2)_*} & & \nearrow_{t_j(Z)} \\ & K(Z) \times (Z, U_j) & \end{array}$$

By naturality of t_i ,

$$\begin{aligned} E(1 \times p_1)(t_i(X \times_U U_i)(Ke_i(s), g_i)) &= t_i(Z)(K(1 \times p_1) \times (1 \times p_1)^*(Ke_i(s), g_i)) \\ &= t_i(Z)(K(e_i \circ (1 \times p_1))(s), g_i \circ (1 \times p_1)) \\ &= t_i(Z)(K(e_i \circ (1 \times p_1))(s), p_1 \circ q) . \end{aligned}$$

By considering $K(e_i \circ (1 \times p_1))(s), q$ in $K(Z) \times (Z, U_i \times_U U_j)$ appearing in diagram (6) we can continue our computation;

$$\begin{aligned} &= t_j(Z)(K(e_j \circ (1 \times p_2))(s), g_j \circ (1 \times p_2)) \\ &= t_j(Z)(K(1 \times p_2) \times (1 \times p_2)^*(Ke_j(s), g_j)) \\ &= E(1 \times p_2)(t_j(X \times_U U_j)(Ke_u(s), g_j)) , \end{aligned}$$

by the naturality of t_j . This completes the proof of (5).

Now by our cartesian square (3), there exists a unique z in $E(X)$ such that

$$(7) \quad p(X)(z) = h(X)(s, f)$$

and

$$(8) \quad (Ee_i)(z) = t_i(X \times_U U_i)(Ke_i(s), g_i) .$$

We then define $t(X)(s, f) = z$. First we claim that

$$(9) \quad t : K(-) \times (-, U) \rightarrow E(-)$$

is a natural transformation.

Proof of (9). Let $F : Y \rightarrow X$ be a morphism in T and consider the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 K(X) \times (X, U) & \xrightarrow{t(X)} & E(X) \\
 \downarrow KF \times F^* & & \downarrow EF \\
 K(Y) \times (Y, U) & \xrightarrow{t(Y)} & E(Y) .
 \end{array}$$

We must show that $(EF)(t(X)(s, f)) = t(Y)((KF)(s), fF)$.

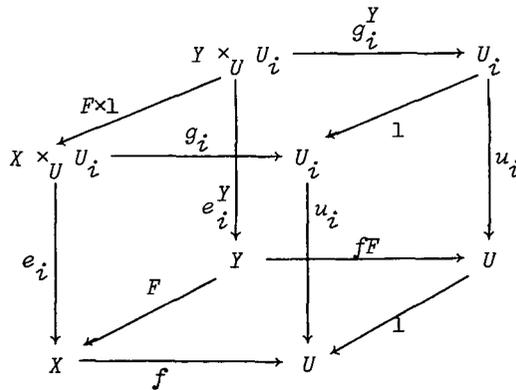
By our definition of t this requires showing

$$(10) \quad p(Y)((EF)(t(X)(s, f))) = h(Y)(KF(s), fF)$$

and

$$(11) \quad \left[Ee_i^Y \right] ((EF)(t(X)(s, f))) = t_i(Y \times U_i) \left[Ke_i^Y(KF(s)), g_i^Y \right]$$

where the maps mentioned appear in the following cube:



Proof of (10).

$$\begin{aligned}
 p(Y)(EF)(t(X)(s, f)) &= (BF)p(X)(t(X)(s, f)) && \text{by naturality of } p \\
 &= (BF)(h(X)(s, f)) && \text{by definition of } t \\
 &= h(Y)(Ke \times e^*)(s, f) && \text{by naturality on } h \\
 &= h(Y)(Ke(s), fF) .
 \end{aligned}$$

Proof of (11).

$$\begin{aligned}
 \left[Ee_i^Y \right] (EF)(t(X)(s, f)) &= E \left[Fe_i^Y \right] (t(X)(s, f)) \\
 &= E(e_i(F \times 1_{U_i})) (t(X)(s, f))
 \end{aligned}$$

by cube. Now using our definition of t and the naturality of t_i ,

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= E(F \times 1_{U_i}) (Ee_i) (t(X)(s, f)) = E(F \times 1_{U_i}) (t_i(X \times U_i) (Ke_i(s), g_i)) \\
 &= t_i(Y \times_U U_i) (K(F \times 1_{U_i}) \times (F \times 1_{U_i})^* (Ke_i(s), g_i)) \\
 &= t_i(Y \times_U U_i) \left[Ke_i^Y(KF(s)), g_i^Y \right].
 \end{aligned}$$

This completes the proof of (11) and, hence, (9). We now assert that t satisfies our original two requirements, (1) and (2).

Proof of (1). This follows immediately from (7).

Proof of (2). This statement translates into

$$t_i(X)(s, f) = t(X)(s, u_i \circ f),$$

where s is in $K(X)$ and f is in (X, U_i) . By definition of t this requires showing that

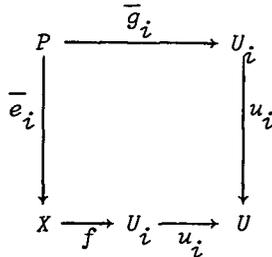
$$(12) \quad p(X)(t_i(X)(s, f)) = h(X)(s, u_i \circ f)$$

and

$$(13) \quad (\overline{Ee}_i)(t_i(X)(s, f)) = t_i(P)(\overline{Ke}_i(s), \overline{g}_i).$$

Proof of (12). This follows immediately from (*).

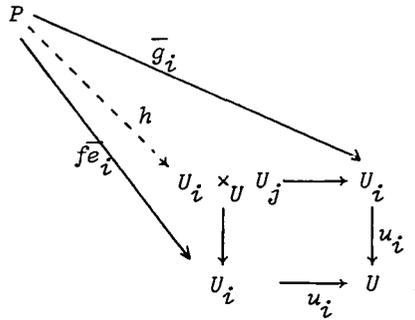
Proof of (13). The maps mentioned in (13) come from the following cartesian square,



By the naturality of t_i ,

$$(14) \quad (\overline{Ee}_i)(t_i(X)(s, f)) = t_i(P)(\overline{Ke}_i \times \overline{e}_i^*)(s, f) = t_i(P)(\overline{Ke}_i(s), f \circ \overline{e}_i).$$

Consider the following dotted arrow h ,



In diagram (6), let $i = j$, $Z = P$ and consider $(\overline{ke}_i(s), h)$ in $K(P) \times (P, U_i \times_U U_j)$. This gives the equality

$$t_i(P)(\overline{ke}_i(s), f \circ \overline{e}_i) = t_i(P)(\overline{ke}_i(s), \overline{g}_i) .$$

Together with computation (14), this completes the proof of (13) and thus, Proposition 4.

References

[1] David E. Dobbs, *Cech cohomological dimensions of commutative rings* (Lecture Notes in Mathematics, 147. Springer-Verlag, Berlin, Heidelberg, New York, 1970).

[2] A. Grothendieck, *Éléments de géométrie algébrique. III. Étude cohomologique des faisceaux cohérents. I* (Publications Mathématiques, 11. Institut Hautes Études Scientifiques, Paris, 1961 [1962]).

[3] J. Peter May, *Simplicial objects in algebraic topology* (Van Nostrand Mathematical Studies, 11. Van Nostrand, Princeton, New Jersey; Toronto, Ontario; London; 1967).

[4] Daniel G. Quillen, *Homotopical algebra* (Lecture Notes in Mathematics, 43. Springer-Verlag, Berlin, Heidelberg, New York, 1967).

[5] Daniel Quillen, "On the (co-) homology of commutative rings", *Applications of categorical algebra*, 65-87 (Proc. Sympos. Pure Math., 17. Amer. Math. Soc., Providence, Rhode Island, 1970).

- [6] M. Tierney, "Axiomatic sheaf theory", *Categories and commutative algebra*, 249-326 (CIME, III Ciclo Varenna 1971. Edizioni Cremonese, Roma, 1973).

Department of Mathematics,
Massachusetts Institute of Technology,
Cambridge,
Massachusetts,
USA.