

# Frames and locales: topology without points

Jorge Picado

cmuc

Centre for Mathematics  
University of Coimbra



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- **AIM:** to give an overview of the basics of point-free topology.

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- **Part I.** Frames: the algebraic facet of spaces
- **Part II.** Locales: the geometric facet of frames
- **Part III.** Categorical aspects of **Frm** and **Loc**
- **Part IV.** Doing topology in **Loc**

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- The techniques may hide some geometrical intuition, but often offers powerful algebraic tools and opens new perspectives.

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*«The topological structure of a locale cannot live in its points: the points, if any, live on the open sets rather than the other way about.»*

P. T. JOHNSTONE

[The art of pointless thinking, *Category Theory at Work* (1991)]

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R. BALL & J. WALTERS-WAYLAND

[C- and C\*-quotients in pointfree topology, *Dissert. Math.* (2002)]

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MORE: different categorical properties with advantage to the point-free side.

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- **RAMIFICATIONS:** category theory, topos theory, logic and computer science.



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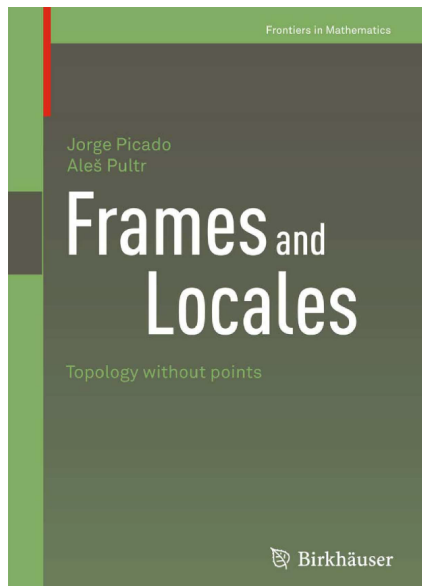
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4. **J. Isbell (1972)**. Introduced the category of locales, as a substitute for (and in many ways an improvement on) the category of topological spaces. **Revolutionary step of turning the arrows around**.

## MAIN BASIC REFERENCES

- P. T. Johnstone, *Stone Spaces*, Cambridge Univ. Press 1982.
- A. Joyal and M. Tierney, *An extension of the Galois theory of Grothendieck*, Memoirs AMS 1984.
- S. Vickers, *Topology via Logic*, Cambridge Univ. Press 1989.
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- B. Banaschewski, *The real numbers in pointfree topology*, Textos de Matemática, vol. 12, Univ. Coimbra 1997.
- R. N. Ball and J. Walters-Wayland, *C- and C\*-quotients in pointfree topology*, Dissert. Math, vol. 412, 2002.
- A. Pultr, *Frames*, chapter in “Handbook of Algebra” (vol. 3), Elsevier 2003.
- JP, A. Pultr and A. Tozzi, *Locales*, Chapter II in “Categorical Foundations”, CUP 2004.



# PART I.

## Frames: the algebraic facet of spaces



$(X, \Omega(X))$



Top

$$(X, \Omega(X)) \rightsquigarrow (\Omega(X), \subseteq)$$

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• complete lattice:

$$\bigvee U_i = \bigcup U_i, \quad 0 = \emptyset$$

$$U \wedge V = U \cap V, \quad 1 = X$$

$$\bigwedge U_i = \text{int}(\bigcap U_i)$$

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$$\downarrow f$$

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- $f^{-1}[-]$  preserves  $\bigvee$  and  $\wedge$

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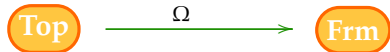
- complete lattice  $L$

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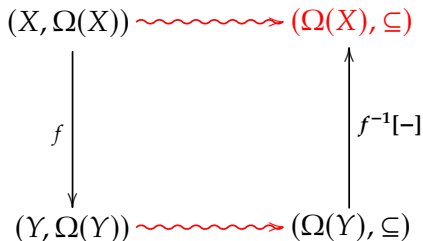
frame:

$$a \wedge \bigvee_I b_i = \bigvee_I (a \wedge b_i)$$

- **frame homomorphisms:**  $h: M \rightarrow L$  preserves  $\bigvee$  and  $\wedge$



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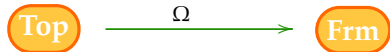


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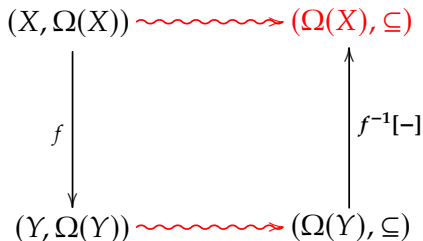
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The algebraic nature of the category **Frm** is obvious.

More about that later on...

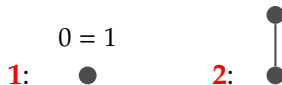
- Finite distributive lattices, complete Boolean algebras, complete chains.

## MORE EXAMPLES of frames

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- **intervals** of a frame  $L$ :  $a, b \in L, a \leq b$   
 $[a, b] = \{x \in L \mid a \leq x \leq b\}$ ,  $\downarrow b = [0, b]$ ,  $\uparrow a = [a, 1]$ .

- For any  $\wedge$ -semilattice  $(A, \wedge, 1)$ ,  $\mathfrak{D}(A) = \{\text{down-sets of } A\}$  is a frame:

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$\mathbf{Hom}_{\mathbf{Frm}}(\mathfrak{D}(A), L)$	$\cong$	$\mathbf{Hom}_{\mathbf{SLat}}(A, G(L))$
$h$	$\mapsto$	$(\tilde{h}: a \mapsto h(\downarrow a))$
$(\bar{g}: S \mapsto \bigvee g[S])$	$\longleftarrow$	$g$

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$$\mathbf{DLat} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\mathfrak{I}} \\ \perp \\ \xleftarrow{E} \end{array} \mathbf{Frm} \quad (\text{inclusion as a non-full subcategory})$$

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- $$\begin{array}{ll} \bigvee: \mathfrak{F}(L) \rightarrow L & \bigvee: \mathfrak{D}(L) \rightarrow L \\ J \mapsto \bigvee J & S \mapsto \bigvee S \end{array}$$

$(A, \leq)$  as a **thin** category



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(there is **at most** one arrow between any pair of objects)

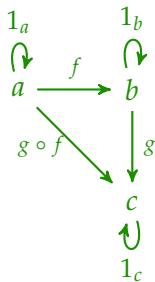
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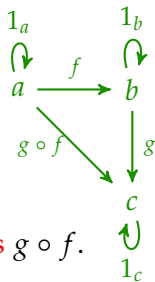
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- (2) transitivity: provides the **composition of morphisms**  $g \circ f$ .



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order-preserving maps

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**(binary) PRODUCTS:**

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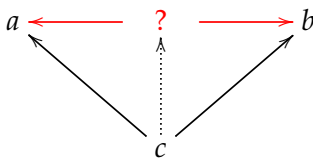
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$$\begin{array}{ccccc} & & a & \longleftarrow & a \wedge b & \longrightarrow & b \\ & & \swarrow & & \uparrow & & \searrow \\ & & & & c & & \end{array}$$

meets

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joins

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From this point of view:

CATEGORY THEORY is an extension of LATTICE THEORY



$$(A, \leq) \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{f} \\ \xleftarrow{g} \end{array} (B, \leq)$$

$$f(a) \leq b \text{ iff } a \leq g(b)$$

$$\mathbf{Hom}_B(f(a), b) \cong \mathbf{Hom}_A(a, g(b))$$

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(“quasi-inverses”)

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$$\Leftrightarrow \boxed{fg \leq \text{id} \text{ and } \text{id} \leq gf}$$

(“quasi-inverses”)

## Properties

1  $fgf = f$  and  $gfg = g$ .

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$$\mathbf{Hom}_B(f(a), b) \cong \mathbf{Hom}_A(a, g(b))$$

$$f + g \quad \boxed{f(a) \leq b \text{ iff } a \leq g(b)}$$

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$$g[B] = \{a \in A \mid gf(a) = a\}$$

$$f[A] = \{b \in B \mid fg(b) = b\}$$

## ADJOINT FUNCTOR THEOREM

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**Heyting algebra:** lattice  $L$  with an extra  $\rightarrow$  satisfying

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$\therefore$  frames = cHa.

BUT different categories (morphisms).

H<sub>1</sub>

$$a \rightarrow (\bigwedge b_i) = \bigwedge (a \rightarrow b_i).$$

Properties

$$\text{H}_1 \quad a \rightarrow (\bigwedge b_i) = \bigwedge (a \rightarrow b_i).$$

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$$\text{H}_6 \quad a \wedge b = a \wedge c \text{ iff } a \rightarrow b = a \rightarrow c.$$

$$\text{H}_7 \quad (a \wedge b) \rightarrow c = a \rightarrow (b \rightarrow c) = b \rightarrow (a \rightarrow c).$$

$$\text{H}_8 \quad a = (a \vee b) \wedge (b \rightarrow a).$$

$$\text{H}_9 \quad a \leq (a \rightarrow b) \rightarrow b.$$

$$\text{H}_{10} \quad ((a \rightarrow b) \rightarrow b) \rightarrow b = a \rightarrow b.$$

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$$\text{P}_3 \quad (\bigvee a_i)^* = \bigwedge a_i^*. \quad \text{[De Morgan law]} \quad (\text{Caution: not for } \bigwedge)$$

Properties

Properties

# PART II.

Locales: the geometric facet of frames

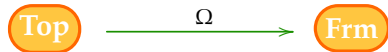
# MAKING THE PICTURE COVARIANT: the category of locales

$$\text{Top} \xrightarrow{\Omega} \text{Frm}$$

Contravariant

$$\begin{array}{ccc} (X, \Omega(X)) & \rightsquigarrow & (\Omega(X), \subseteq) \\ \downarrow f & & \uparrow f^{-1}[-] \\ (Y, \Omega(Y)) & \rightsquigarrow & (\Omega(Y), \subseteq) \end{array}$$

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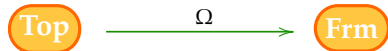


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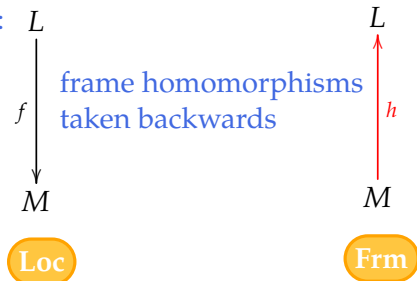
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preserves  $\vee$  (incl. 0)  
 $\wedge$  (incl. 1)

We can put this in a more CONCRETE way:

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Each  $h: M \rightarrow L$  in **Frm** has a **UNIQUELY** defined right adjoint

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### LOCALIC MAP:

a map  $f: L \rightarrow M$  that has a left adjoint  $f^*$  in **Frm**, i.e., preserving finite meets:

- (1)  $f^*(1) = 1$ .
- (2)  $f^*(a \wedge b) = f^*(a) \wedge f^*(b)$ .

## PROPOSITION

Let  $f: L \rightarrow M$  have a left adjoint  $f^*$ . Then:

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Let  $f: L \rightarrow M$  have a left adjoint  $f^*$ . Then:

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## Loc

- OBJECTS: locales = frames (=cHa)

- MORPHISMS:

$$\begin{array}{c} L \\ \downarrow f \\ M \end{array}$$

- $f(\bigwedge S) = \bigwedge f[S]$
- $f(a) = 1 \Rightarrow a = 1$
- $f(f^*(a) \rightarrow b) = a \rightarrow f(b)$

**Top**  $\xrightarrow{\Omega}$  **Frm** is immediately modifiable to a functor



## MAKING THE PICTURE COVARIANT: the category of locales

**Top**  $\xrightarrow{\Omega}$  **Frm** is immediately modifiable to a functor

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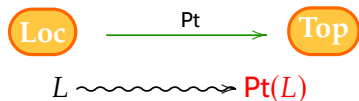
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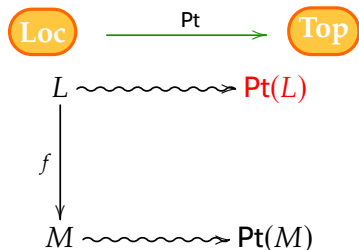
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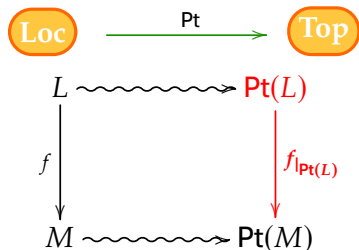
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Localic maps send points to points

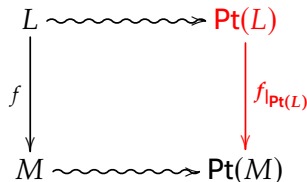
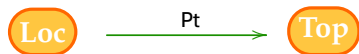
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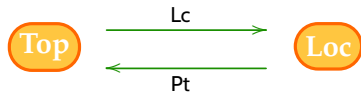
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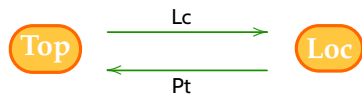


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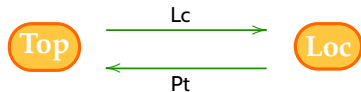
$$\text{Pt}(f)^{-1}(\Sigma_b) = \{p \in \text{Pt}(L) \mid b \not\leq f(p)\} = \{p \mid f^*(b) \not\leq p\} = \Sigma_{f^*(b)}.$$

# SPACES AND LOCALES



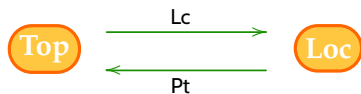


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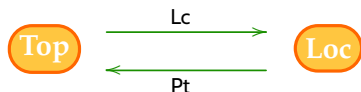
A space  $X$  is **SOBER** if every meet-irreducible open is of the form

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for a unique  $x \in X$ .

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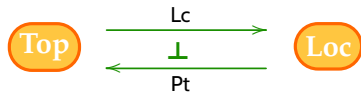
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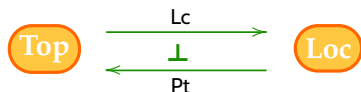
$Pt(L)$  is always sober.

UNIT:

$$\begin{aligned}\eta_X: X &\rightarrow \mathbf{Pt} \mathbf{Lc}(X) \\ x &\mapsto X \setminus \overline{\{x\}}\end{aligned}$$





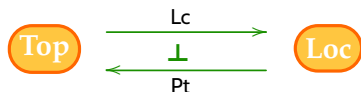


**UNIT:**

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**PROPOSITION.**  $\eta_X$  is a homeomorphism iff  $X$  is sober.



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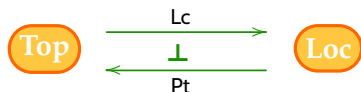
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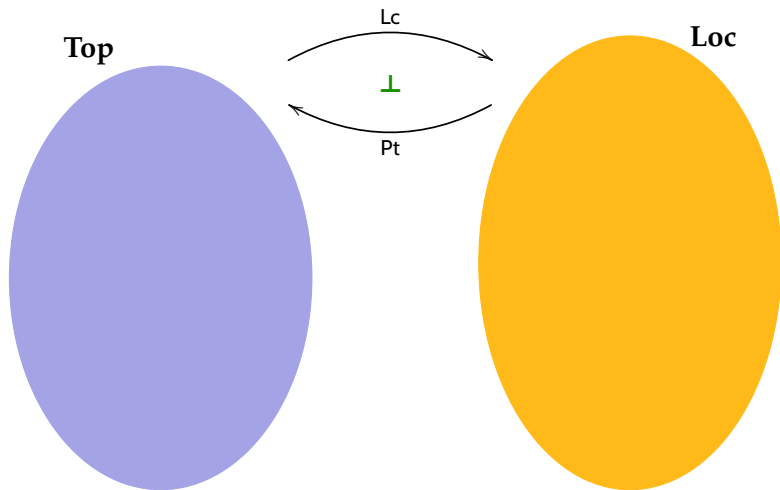
**COUNIT:**

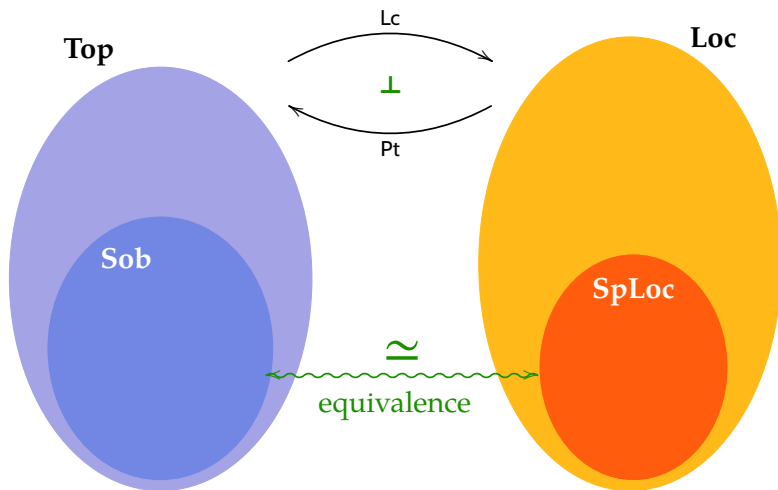
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**PROPOSITION.**  $\varepsilon_L$  is an isomorphism iff  $L$  is spatial.

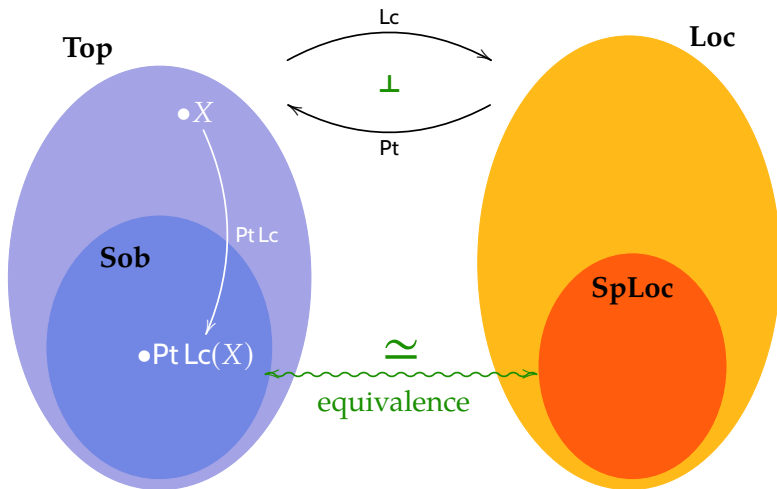
# SPACES AND LOCALES





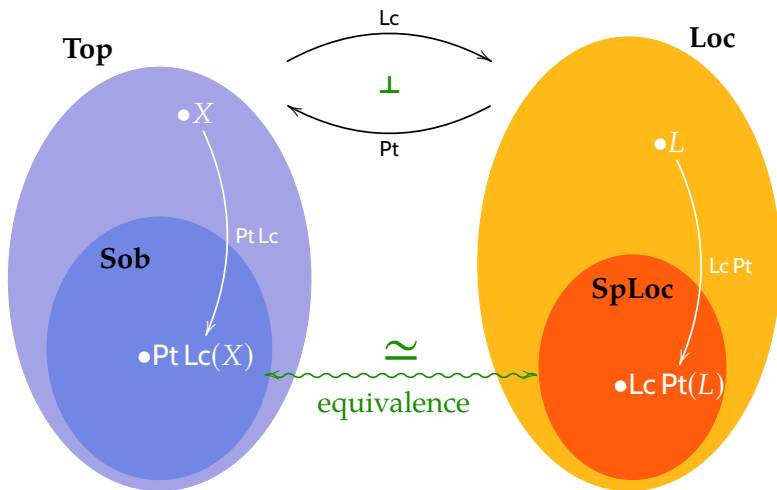
**Perception:** **Sob** more representative of all of **Top** than **SpLoc** of **Loc**.

# SPACES AND LOCALES



“sobrification” of a space

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“sobrification” of a space

“spatialization” of a locale

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(less well-known: this characterizes the sobriety of  $Y$ )

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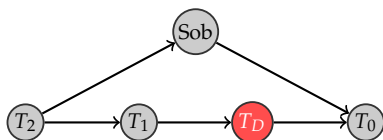
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MORE: axiom  $T_D$  characterizes other facts...

Singletons are locally closed i.e. each  $\{x\}$  is closed in some open  $U$ :

$$\forall x \in X \exists \text{ open } U \ni x: \{x\} = U \cap \overline{\{x\}}.$$



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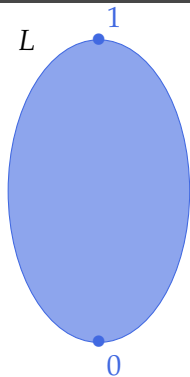
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## Generalized subspaces: SUBLOCALES

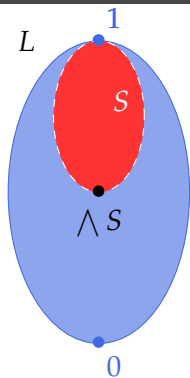
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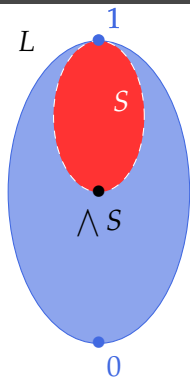


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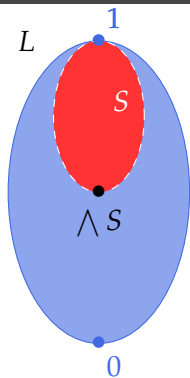
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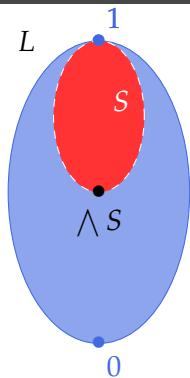
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**Motivation for the definition:**

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$S \subseteq L$  is a sublocale iff the embedding  $j_S: S \subseteq L$  is a localic map.

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$$\stackrel{(H_5)}{=} a \wedge (a \rightarrow b_i) = a \wedge b \in A \vee (\bigcap B_i). \quad \blacksquare$$

# PART III.

## Categorical aspects of Frm

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Objects are described by a (proper class of) operations and equations:

### OPERATIONS:

- 0-ary:  $0, 1: L^0 \rightarrow L$
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### EQUATIONS:

- $(L, \wedge, 1)$  is an idempotent commutative monoid
- with a zero 0 sat. the absorption law  $a \wedge 0 = 0 = 0 \wedge a \forall a$ .
- $\bigvee_0 a_i = 0, a_j \wedge \bigvee_\kappa a_i = a_j, a \wedge \bigvee_\kappa a_i = \bigvee_\kappa (a \wedge a_i)$ .



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## COROLLARY

$\mathbf{Frm}$  has all (small) limits (i.e., it is a COMPLETE category) and they are constructed exactly as in  $\mathbf{Set}$  (i.e., the forgetful functor  $\mathbf{Frm} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}$  preserves them).

2

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CONSTRUCTION (in two steps):

$$\mathbf{SLat} \longleftarrow \mathbf{Frm}$$

forgets  $\vee$

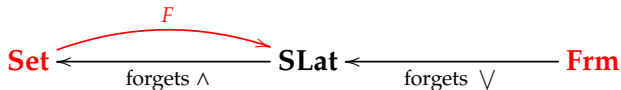
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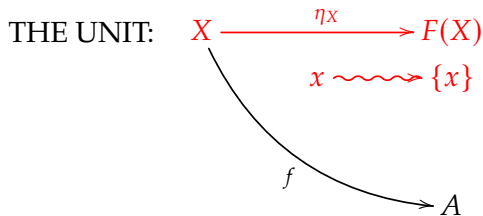
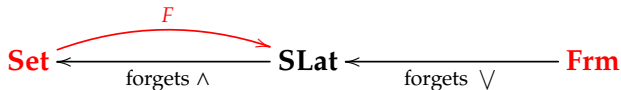
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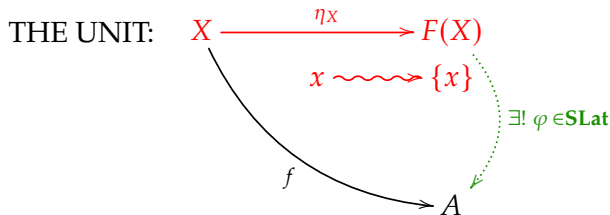
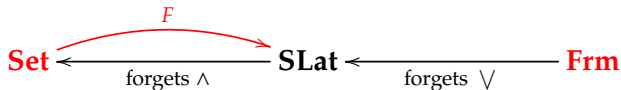
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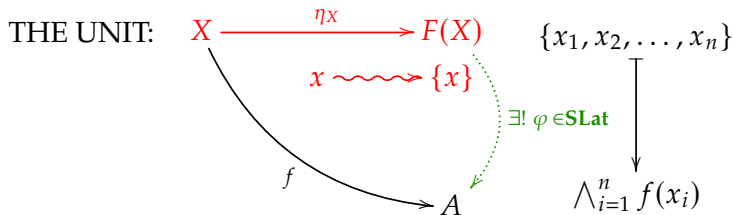
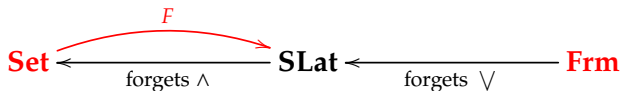
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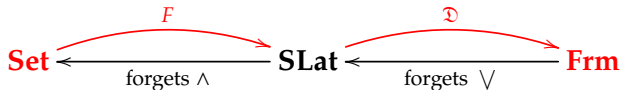
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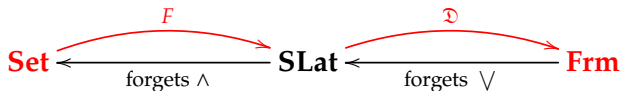
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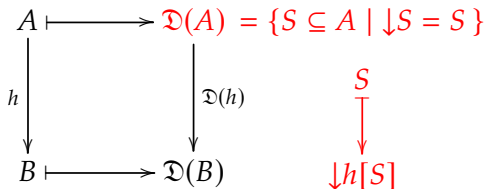
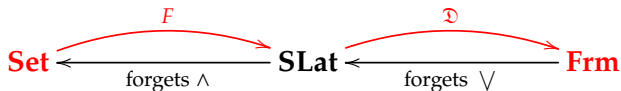
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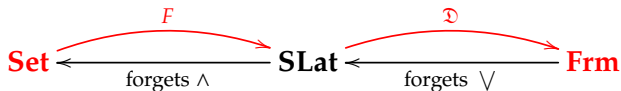
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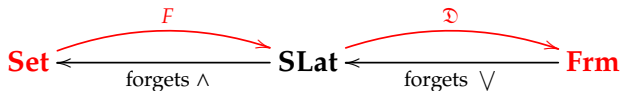
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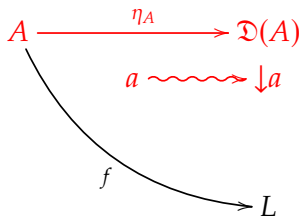


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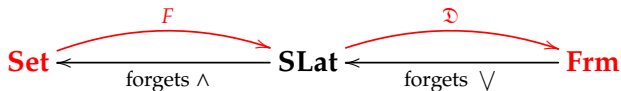


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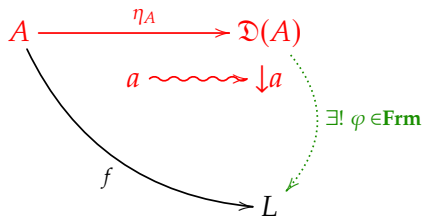


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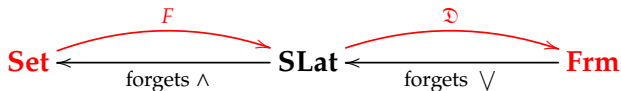


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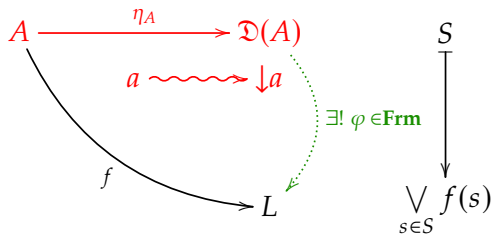


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- (1) It has all (small) colimits (i.e., it is a COCOMPLETE category).
- (2) Monomorphisms = injective.
- (3) Epimorphisms need not be surjective; Regular epis = surjective.
- (4)  $(RegEpi, Mono)$  is a factorization system.
- (5) Quotients are described by congruences.

Then, by general results of category theory

[E. Manes, *Algebraic Theories*, Springer, 1976]

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- (4)  $(RegEpi, Mono)$  is a factorization system.
- (5) Quotients are described by congruences.
- (6) And there exist presentations by generators and relations:  
just take the quotient of the free frame on the given set of generators modulo the congruence generated by the pairs  $(u, v)$  for the given relations  $u = v$ .

# EXAMPLE 1: PRESENTATIONS

## Frame of reals $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{R})$

**Generators:** ordered pairs  $(p, q)$ ,  $p, q \in \mathbb{Q}$ ,

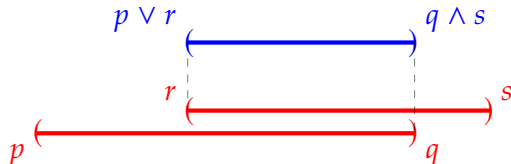
**Relations:**

$$(R1) \quad (p, q) \wedge (r, s) = (p \vee r, q \wedge s),$$

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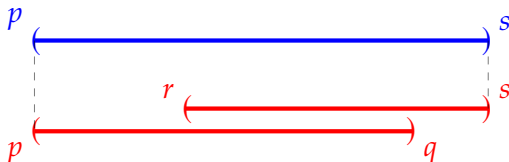
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$$(R_1) (p, q) \wedge (r, s) = (p \vee r, q \wedge s),$$

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### Frame of reals $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{R})$

- Nice features:
- (1) Rings  $\mathbf{C}(L)$  of continuous real functions,
  - (2) Semicontinuous real functions, ...

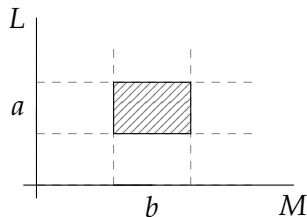


## EXAMPLE 2: PRESENTATIONS



The *product*  $L \times M$  of  $L$  and  $M$

**Generators:** pairs  $a \otimes b$ ,  $a \in L, b \in M$



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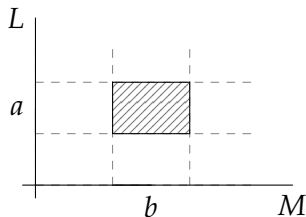


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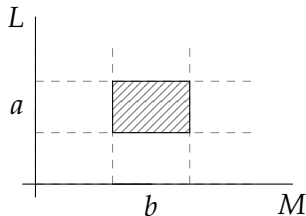
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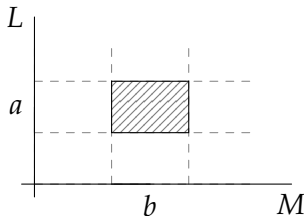
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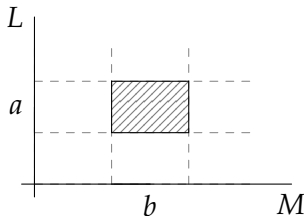
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$$(R_4) \quad \bigvee (a_i \otimes b) = (\bigvee a_i) \otimes b, \quad \bigvee (a \otimes b_i) = a \otimes (\bigvee b_i).$$



like tensor products...



Frm

The *coproduct*  $L \oplus M$  of  $L$  and  $M$ :

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 L & \xrightarrow{u_L} & L \oplus M & \xleftarrow{u_M} & M \\
 a & \rightsquigarrow & a \oplus 1 & & \\
 & & 1 \oplus b & \longleftarrow & b
 \end{array}$$

like tensor products...



- Nice features:
- (1) Tychonoff's Theorem is Choice-free,  
fully constructive (in the sense of topos theory).
  - (2) Paracompactness and Lindelöfness are  
productive properties, ...

... behave better than products of spaces!



# PART IV.

Doing topology in  $\text{Loc}$

## SPECIAL SUBLOCALES

$$a \in L, \quad c(a) = \uparrow a$$

CLOSED

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- $\forall x \in L, x \stackrel{\text{H8}}{=} (x \vee a) \wedge (a \rightarrow x) \in c(a) \vee o(a)$ .



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$$(1) \quad a \leq b \text{ iff } \mathfrak{c}(a) \supseteq \mathfrak{c}(b) \text{ iff } \mathfrak{o}(a) \subseteq \mathfrak{o}(b).$$

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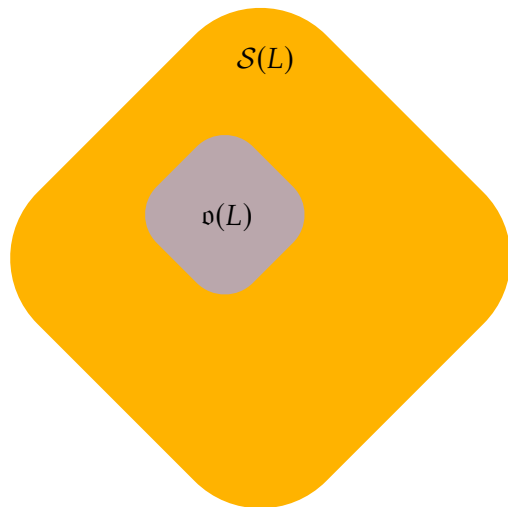
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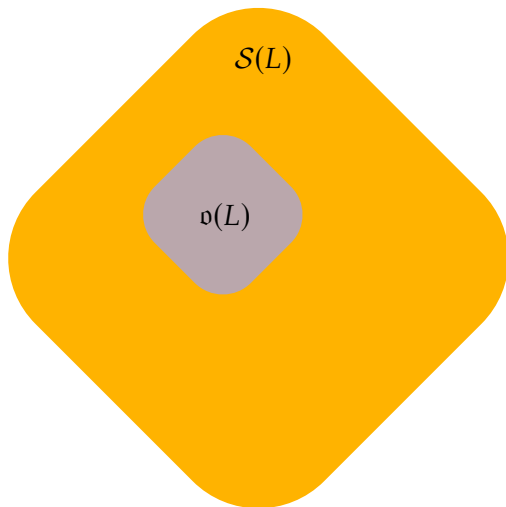


$\mathcal{S}(L)$

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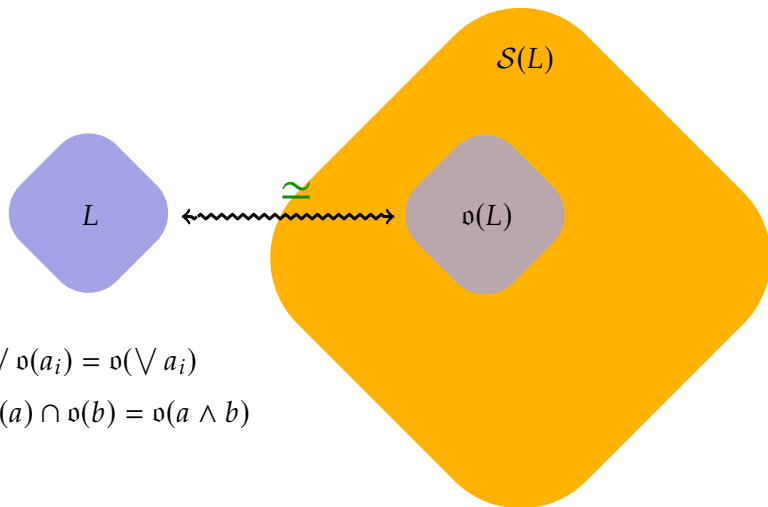
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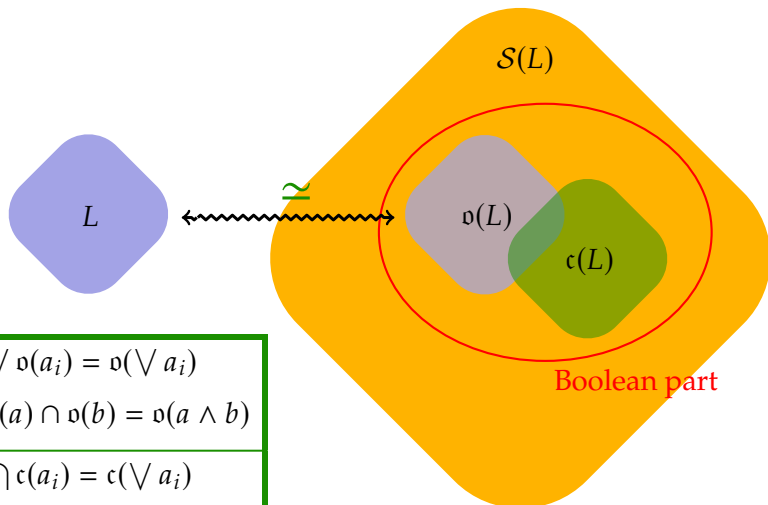


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$$\text{CLOSURE: } \bar{S} = \bigwedge \{c(a) \mid S \subseteq c(a)\}$$

## Starting doing topology: CLOSURE and INTERIOR operators

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By complementation,  $\text{int } c(b) = o(b^*)$ .

[M.M. Clementino, PhD Thesis, 1992]

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**Hence:** intersections of dense sublocales are dense,

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**Hence:** intersections of dense sublocales are dense,

i.e., there exists the **smallest dense sublocale of a locale!** 😊

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$\mathfrak{B}_L = \{x^* \mid x \in L\} = \{x \mid x^{**} = x\}$  is the least dense sublocale.

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**Proof:** •  $\mathfrak{B}_L$  is a sublocale:  $\bigwedge x_i^* = (\bigvee x_i)^*$ .

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**Proof:** •  $\mathfrak{B}_L$  is a sublocale:  $\bigwedge x_i^* = (\bigvee x_i)^*$ .

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**CLOSURE:**  $\bar{S} = \bigwedge \{c(a) \mid S \subseteq c(a)\} = c(\bigvee \{a \mid a \leq \bigwedge S\}) = c(\bigwedge S)$ .

**INTERIOR:**  $\text{int } S = \bigvee \{o(a) \mid o(a) \subseteq S\}$ .

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•  $S$  dense  $\Rightarrow \mathfrak{B}_L \subseteq S$ :  $x^* = x \rightarrow \underbrace{0}_{\in S} \in S$ . ■

## ISBELL'S DENSITY THEOREM: consequences

$$j: Y \subseteq X \quad \dashrightarrow \quad h: \begin{array}{ccc} \Omega(X) & \rightarrow & \Omega(Y) \\ U & \mapsto & U \cap Y \end{array} \quad \text{in Frm}$$

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BUT, of course,  $S_{Y_1} \cap S_{Y_2}$  is a **pointless sublocale**:

$$\text{Pt}(S_{Y_1} \cap S_{Y_2}) \subseteq Y_1 \cap Y_2 = \emptyset.$$

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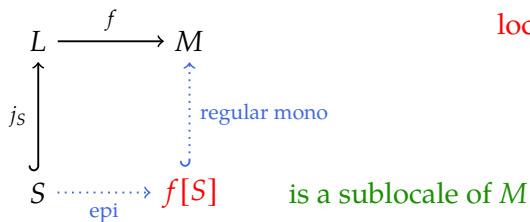
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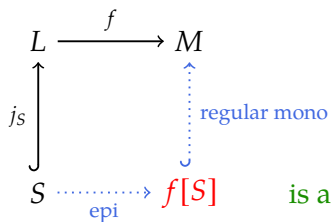
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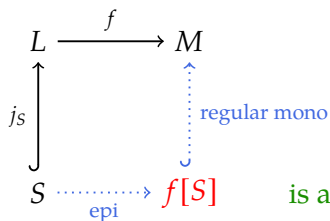
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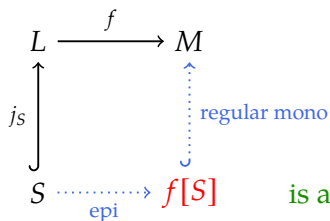
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$f[c(a)]$  is closed for every  $a \in L$





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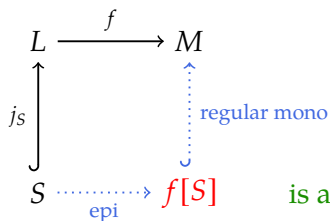
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**PREIMAGE MAP:**  $f^{-1}[-]: \mathcal{S}(M) \rightarrow \mathcal{S}(L)$

[M.M. Clementino, PhD Thesis, 1992]

1

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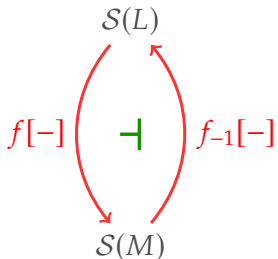
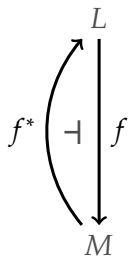
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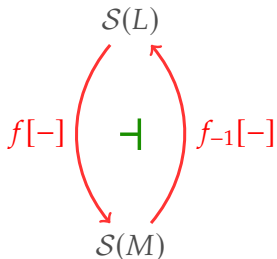
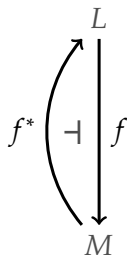
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AS IT SHOULD BE!



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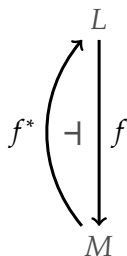


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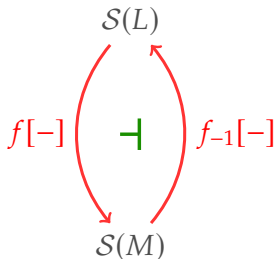


co-frame homomorphism

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co-localic map



co-frame homomorphism

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$$f(a \rightarrow f^*(b)) = f_!(a) \rightarrow b \quad \forall a \in L, b \in M.$$



# JOYAL-TIERNEY THEOREM

PROOF. (3)  $\Leftrightarrow$  (2):

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The  $b$  is necessarily unique so we have a map  $f!: L \rightarrow M$  ( $a \mapsto b$ ).

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## JOYAL-TIERNEY THEOREM

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Suffices:  $f[v(a)] = v(f!(a))$  for every  $a \in L$ .



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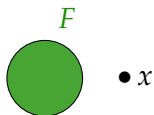
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$$\begin{aligned} f_!(a) \rightarrow f(a \rightarrow x) &\stackrel{(4)}{=} f(a \rightarrow f^* f(a \rightarrow x)) \\ &\leq f(a \rightarrow (a \rightarrow x)) \\ &= f(a \rightarrow x). \end{aligned}$$

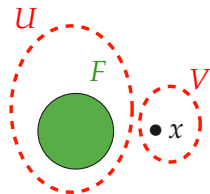
### THEOREM

TFAE for any mapping  $f : L \rightarrow M$  between locales:

- (1)  $f$  is localic.
- (2)  $f$  is a right adjoint and  $f_{-1}[\circ(b)] = \circ(f^*(b)) \forall b \in M$ .
- (3)  $\forall b \in M \exists a \in L : f^{-1}[\circ(b)] = \circ(a)$  and  $f_{-1}[\circ(b)] = \circ(a)$ .



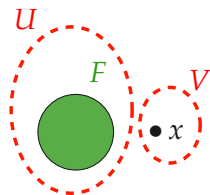
# Doing topology in Loc: REGULARITY



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$$\forall A \in \Omega(X), \forall x \in A, \exists V \in \Omega(X) : x \in V \subseteq \overline{V} \subseteq A.$$

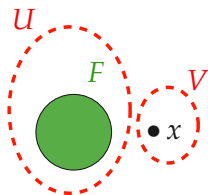


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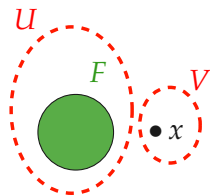
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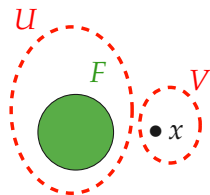
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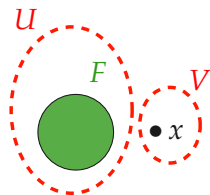
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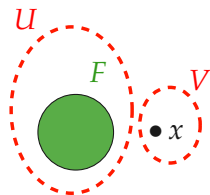
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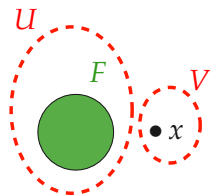
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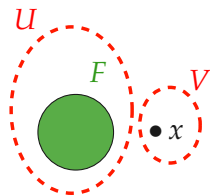
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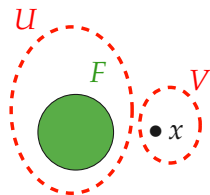
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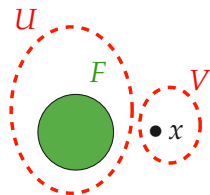
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(Conservative extension:  $X$  is regular iff the locale  $\Omega(X)$  is regular)



partial order  $<$

## Properties

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partial order  $<$

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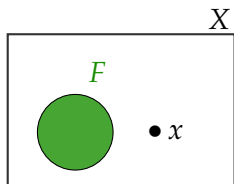
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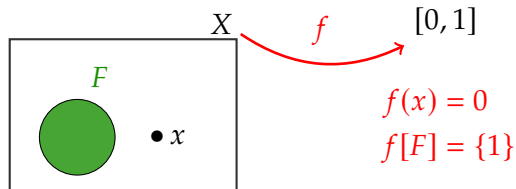
2  $a \leq b < c \leq d \Rightarrow a < d.$

3  $a_i < b_i (i = 1, 2) \Rightarrow \begin{cases} a_1 \vee a_2 < b_1 \vee b_2 \\ a_1 \wedge a_2 < b_1 \wedge b_2 \end{cases}$

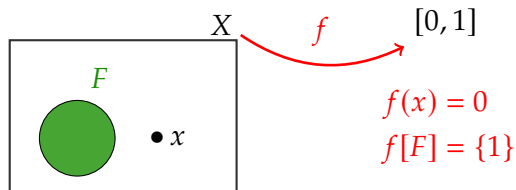
# Doing topology in Loc: COMPLETE REGULARITY



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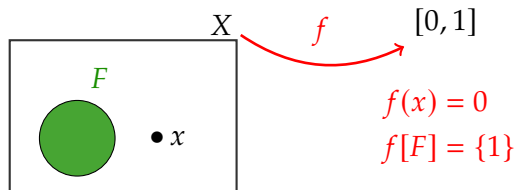


By Urysohn's Lemma,

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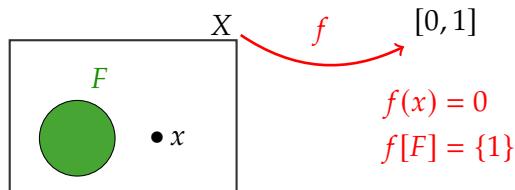
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$V \ll U \equiv \exists (W_q)_{q \in \mathbb{Q} \cap [0,1]}: W_0 = V, W_1 = U, p < q \Rightarrow W_p < W_q.$

[B. Banaschewski (1953)]

## Doing topology in Loc: COMPLETE REGULARITY



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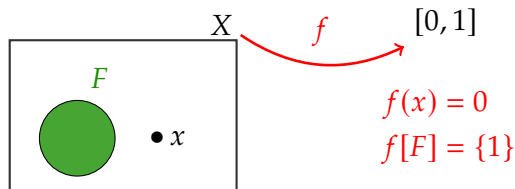
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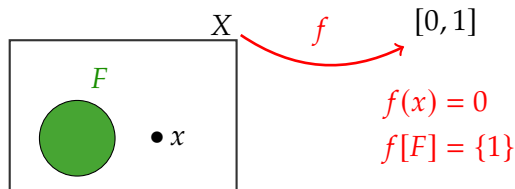
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[interpolative]

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[interpolative]

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(Conservative extension:  $X$  is compact iff the frame  $\Omega(X)$  is compact)



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On the other hand

$$x_i < b \quad (i = 1, \dots, n) \implies c < b.$$

## The (constructive) STONE-ČECH compactification of locales

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     $\supseteq$ : obvious



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- subframes of compact frames are (obviously) compact. ■

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$$a \ll b \text{ in } L \quad \Rightarrow \quad \downarrow a < \downarrow b \text{ in } \mathfrak{R}(L)$$

(easy to check...)

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For each completely regular locale  $L$ ,

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**Localic embedding:** Let  $v_L: J \in \mathfrak{R}(L) \mapsto \bigvee J \in L$ . Clearly:

- $v_L \beta_L(a) = a$  and  $\beta_L v_L(J) \supseteq J$ . In particular:  $v_L \dashv \beta_L$ ;  $\beta_L$  is injective.
- $v_L(L) = 1$ .
- $v_L(J_1) \wedge v_L(J_2) = \bigvee \{x \wedge y \mid x \in J_1, y \in J_2\} \leq \bigvee \{z \mid z \in J_1 \cap J_2\} = v_L(J_1 \cap J_2)$ .

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$\Leftarrow$ : If  $L$  is compact then  $\beta_L v_L(J) \subseteq J$  and  $v_L$  is the inverse of  $\beta_L$ :

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