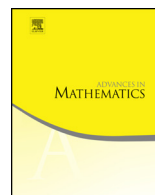




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Cartesian modules over representations of small categories



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ABSTRACT

We introduce the new concept of cartesian module over a pseudofunctor R from a small category to the category of small preadditive categories. Already the case when R is a (strict) functor taking values in the category of commutative rings is sufficient to cover the classical construction of quasi-coherent sheaves of modules over a scheme. On the other hand, our general setting allows for a good theory of contravariant additive locally flat functors, providing a geometrically meaningful extension of a classical Representation Theorem of Makkai and Paré. As an application, we relate and extend some previous constructions of the pure derived category of a scheme.

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Contents

1.	Introduction	558
2.	Rings with several objects and their modules	563
2.1.	Generalities	564
2.1.1.	Preadditive categories	564
2.1.2.	Modules	564
2.1.3.	Bimodules	566
2.2.	Tensor product and flat modules	567
2.2.1.	The tensor product functor	567
2.2.2.	Tensor product of bimodules	568
2.2.3.	Flat modules	569
2.3.	Change of base	570
2.4.	Makkai and Paré’s classical result	572
3.	Modules over representations of small categories	573
3.1.	Representations of small categories	573
3.2.	The category of modules	576
3.3.	Flat modules	584
3.4.	The category of cartesian modules	586
4.	The representation theorem	588
4.1.	The induced change of base	588
4.2.	The induced representation	593
4.3.	The Representation Theorem	595
5.	Pure injective envelopes and the pure derived category	597
5.1.	Covers, envelopes and cotorsion pairs	597
5.2.	Pure injective envelopes	599
5.3.	Induced cotorsion pairs in a Grothendieck category	599
5.4.	The pure derived category of cartesian modules	602
Appendix A.	Purity in functor categories	603
A.1.	From $(\mathcal{C}^{op}, \text{Ab})$ to $\text{Mod-}R_{\mathcal{C}}$	604
A.2.	From $\text{Mod-}R_{\mathcal{C}}$ to $\sigma(R_{\mathcal{C}})$	606

1. Introduction

Let X be a small site (that is, a small category whose Grothendieck topology is defined by a pretopology, see [31]). The usual way of defining a ringed site is by considering pairs (X, \mathcal{O}_X) , where \mathcal{O}_X is a sheaf of commutative rings. More generally a ringed category (X, \mathcal{O}_X) is a pair such that X is a small category and \mathcal{O}_X is a presheaf of commutative rings on X . Then, the category of presheaves of \mathcal{O}_X -modules on X can be defined. On the other hand, a (not necessarily commutative) ring may be regarded as a special case of a small preadditive category, that is, a small category R such that $R(a, b)$ is an Abelian group, for each $a, b \in \text{Ob}R$, and morphism composition distributes over addition. So the category of modules over a preadditive category naturally arises. There are many sources in the literature which deal with this generalization. Quoting from [25], “[...] there have been several papers concerned with replacing theorems about rings by theorems about additive³ categories. What does not seem to be generally realized is the

³ In [25], Mitchell uses the term “additive” for what is usually known as “preadditive”.

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