

Accepted Manuscript

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PII: S0022-4049(17)30138-X
DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jpaa.2017.06.017>
Reference: JPAA 5702

To appear in: *Journal of Pure and Applied Algebra*

Received date: 10 July 2016

Revised date: 9 May 2017

Please cite this article in press as: J. Funk, P. Hofstra, Locally anisotropic toposes, *J. Pure Appl. Algebra* (2017), <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jpaa.2017.06.017>

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Locally anisotropic toposes

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Abstract

This paper continues the investigation of isotropy theory for toposes. We develop the theory of isotropy quotients of toposes, culminating in a structure theorem for a class of toposes we call *locally anisotropic*. The theory has a natural interpretation for inverse semigroups, which clarifies some aspects of how inverse semigroups and toposes are related.

Keywords: Topos theory, Inverse semigroups

2010 MSC: 18B25, 18B40, 20M18

1. Introduction

Isotropy theory for toposes [5] has its origins in the theory of inverse semigroups and étale groupoids, emerging from an explanation of how the idempotent centralizer (§ 5.3) of an inverse semigroup is a Morita invariant [6]. Indeed, every Grothendieck topos has internal to it a canonical group object Z called its *isotropy group* [5]. This group classifies isotropy in the sense that for any object X of a topos \mathcal{E} , morphisms $X \rightarrow Z$ of \mathcal{E} are in natural bijection with natural automorphisms of the so-called étale geometric morphism

$$\mathcal{E}/X \longrightarrow \mathcal{E} \tag{1}$$

associated with X . Such an isotropy automorphism is given by a natural automorphism of its inverse image functor

$$X^* : \mathcal{E} \longrightarrow \mathcal{E}/X, \quad X^*(E) = E \times X \rightarrow X,$$

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