

# Apartness for continuous dcpos

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# Introduction

## Overarching goal

Develop domain theory **constructively** (and predicatively) in Univalent Foundations.

**Domain theory** is a branch of order theory with applications in:

- semantics of programming languages;
- topology and algebra;
- higher-type computability.

See for instance [Str06; Sco72] for applications of domain theory to the semantics of programming languages and [AJ94; Sco72; Gie+80; Gie+03] for applications of domain theory in topology and algebra. See [LN15] for higher-type computability.

You can develop large parts of domain theory constructively and predicatively, e.g.

- Scott's model of PCF [Plo77; Sco93; Jon19];
- Scott's model  $D_\infty$  of the untyped  $\lambda$ -calculus [Sco72; JE21];
- continuous and algebraic dcpos, (abstract) bases and (rounded) ideal completion [AJ94; Gie+80; Gie+03; JE21].

In this talk we will:

- ignore the predicativity aspect of our work;
- not always give full definitions, but just sketch the main ideas.

# Apartness: an introduction

- Constructively, we can distinguish between **non-empty** and **inhabited**; the latter being stronger.
- Similarly, constructively, we can distinguish between being **unequal** and being **apart**; the latter being stronger.
- Classically, these differences vanish.

# Apartness: the basics

## Definition (apartness, $\#$ )

An **apartness** on a type  $X$  is a binary relation  $\#$  such that for every  $x, y : X$ :

- $x \# y \rightarrow x \neq y$ ;
- $x \# y \rightarrow y \# x$  (*symmetry*).

# Apartness: some examples

## Example (Apartness on the reals $\mathbb{R}$ )

Consider the Dedekind reals  $\mathbb{R}$ . We define two reals  $x$  and  $y$  to be apart if  $\exists_{q:\mathbb{Q}}((x < q < y) \vee (y < q < x))$ .

## Example (Apartness on a metric space)

Let  $X$  be a space with a metric  $d$ . Then for  $x, y : X$ , we say that  $x$  and  $y$  are apart if their distance is strictly positive, i.e.

$$x \# y \iff d(x, y) > 0.$$

# Continuous dcpos: an introduction

Continuous dcpos are a “nice” class of posets with applications in:

- theoretical computer science;
- (pointfree) topology.

Many natural examples of dcpos are continuous.

# Approximations of real numbers

- Consider pairs of rationals  $(p, q)$  with  $p, q : \mathbb{Q}$  and  $p < q$ .
- We think of  $(p, q)$  as an **approximation** of a real number strictly between  $p$  and  $q$ .
- We order these pairs by

$$(p, q) \prec (r, s) \iff p < r < s < q.$$

We say that  $(r, s)$  **refines**  $(p, q)$ .

- We write  $(\mathbb{Q} \times_{<} \mathbb{Q}, \prec)$  for this whole structure.

## Question

How to model **computations** of real numbers?



# Computations of real numbers

A **computation** of a real number will be modelled as a set  $c$  of approximations  $(p, q)$  such that:

- $c$  is a **downset** (w.r.t.  $\prec$ ):

if  $(p, q) \prec (r, s) \in c$ , then  $(p, q) \in c$ ;

The intuition is: if we know that a real is between 2 and 3, then we also know that it is between 0 and 4.

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The intuition is: if we know that a real is between 2 and 3, then we also know that it is between 0 and 4.
- $c$  is **inhabited**;
- $c$  is **semidirected**:  
if  $(p_1, q_1), (p_2, q_2) \in c$ , then there must be some  $(p, q) \in c$  that refines both  $(p_1, q_1)$  and  $(p_2, q_2)$ .  
The intuition is: we want to make *progress* and *exclude inconsistent* approximations

# Ideals: computations of real numbers

## Definition ((Rounded) $\prec$ -ideals)

We call sets satisfying these properties **rounded  $\prec$ -ideals**, or just **ideals** for short. We order them by **subset inclusion** and get a poset:

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- We have an embedding:

$$\iota : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \text{Idl}(\mathbb{Q} \times_{<} \mathbb{Q}, \prec)$$

$$d \mapsto \{(p, q) \in \mathbb{Q} \times_{<} \mathbb{Q} \mid p < d < q\}$$

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- We have a map:

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We think of  $\downarrow(0, 1)$  as a **partial** real number: a computation that does not converge to a real number.

# Ideals: the information order

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- All elements of the form  $\iota(r)$  are **maximal** (w.r.t.  $\subseteq$ ).  
This is because a Dedekind real  $d$  is **located**: if  $p < q$ , then  $p < d$  or  $d < q$ .

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This is because a Dedekind real  $d$  is **located**: if  $p < q$ , then  $p < d$  or  $d < q$ .
- Classically, if an ideal  $x$  is maximal, then  $x = \iota(d)$  for some Dedekind real number  $d$ .
- But constructively, this implication implies weak excluded middle.

# Maximality, locatedness and weak excluded middle

## Theorem

*If every maximal ideal is of the form  $\iota(d)$  for some Dedekind real number  $d$ , then weak excluded middle holds.*

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- Let  $\phi$  be a proposition. We wish to show that  $\neg\neg\phi$  is decidable.
- Consider the ideal

$$x \equiv \downarrow(0, 1) \cup \{(p, q) \mid p, q : \mathbb{Q}, p < 0 < q, \neg\neg\phi\} \\ \cup \{(p, q) \mid p, q : \mathbb{Q}, p < 1 < q, \neg\phi\}.$$

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- Then  $x$  is maximal.

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- Then  $x$  is maximal.
- But if  $x = \iota(d)$ , then using locatedness of  $d$ , we can decide  $\neg\neg\phi$ . □

## Continuous dcpos: the basics

- In the example,  $(\mathbb{Q} \times_{<} \mathbb{Q}, \prec)$  “generates”  $\text{Idl}(\mathbb{Q} \times_{<} \mathbb{Q}, \prec)$ .

This key observation is well-known in the theory of continuous dcpos, see [Gie+03, p. 55 (end of the Remark just after Definition I-1.6)] and [AJ94, Proposition 2.2.10].



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- A **continuous dcpo**  $D$  generalizes and abstracts this:
  - $D$  is a poset with order  $\sqsubseteq$ .  
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  - Define a binary relation  $\ll$  on  $D$ . If  $x \ll y$ , then we say that  $x$  is **way below**  $y$ .  
This generalizes  $\prec$  and  $\in$ .

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### Theorem (Key observation for us)

Let  $x, y : D$ . Then  $x \sqsubseteq y \iff \prod_{b:B} (b \ll x \rightarrow b \ll y)$ .

*Intuitively, the right hand side says that every approximation of  $x$  is also an approximation of  $y$ .*

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## Positively not below

We wish to define apartness for continuous dcpos.  
We define an intermediate notion, making use of:

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Our notion *positively not below* already makes a (disguised) appearance in [Gie+03, Equation  $A_1$  (p. 55, in the Remark just after Definition I-1.6)] and in [AJ94, p. 21, the line just after Proposition 2.2.10], but this is in a classical context.

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### Definition

We say that  $x$  is **positively not below**  $y$ , written  $x \not\ll y$  if  $\exists_{b:B} (b \ll x) \times (b \not\ll y)$ .

Intuitively, we have an approximation of  $x$  that is *not* an approximation of  $y$ .

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Note:

- $x \not\ll y \rightarrow x \not\sqsubseteq y$ ;
- classically,  $x \not\sqsubseteq y \rightarrow x \not\ll y$ .

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# Apartness for continuous dcpos

- Since  $D$  is a poset:  $x = y \iff x \sqsubseteq y \times y \sqsubseteq x$ .
- This leads us to define an **apartness** by:

$$x \# y \iff x \not\sqsubseteq y \vee y \not\sqsubseteq x.$$



## Apartness in our example

- Recall the embedding

$$\begin{aligned}\iota : \mathbb{R} &\rightarrow \text{Idl}(\mathbb{Q} \times_{<} \mathbb{Q}, <) \\ d &\mapsto \{(p, q) \in \mathbb{Q} \times_{<} \mathbb{Q} \mid p < d < q\}\end{aligned}$$

- Recall that for two reals  $d$  and  $e$  we had:

$$d \#_{\mathbb{R}} e \iff \exists_{q:\mathbb{Q}}((d < q < e) \vee (e < q < d)).$$

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Thus our notion of apartness generalizes  $\#_{\mathbb{R}}$ .*

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We have similar results with  $2^{\mathbb{N}}$  and  $\mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}}$  replacing  $\mathbb{R}$ .

# Connections with the Scott topology

- In classical topology, a topological space  $X$  is  $T_0$ -separated if for every two points  $x, y : X$  we have:

$$x \neq y \iff \exists U \text{ open} ((x \in U \times y \notin U) \vee (y \in U \times x \notin U))$$

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- Dcpo's have a natural topology: the **Scott topology**, which is  $T_0$ -separated, classically.
- Constructively, we have:

$$x \# y \iff \exists U_{\text{Scott open}}((x \in U \times y \notin U) \vee (y \in U \times x \notin U))$$

## Connections with the apartness topology

- There is a programme due to Bridges and Vîță that develops topology constructively, taking apartness as primitive.
- Following Bridges–Vîță, we can define the **apartness topology** on a continuous dcpo.

See the book [BV11] by Bridges and Vîță.

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### Theorem

*Let  $D$  be a continuous dcpo with basis  $B$ . If the restriction of  $\sqsubseteq$  to  $B$  is decidable, then the apartness topology on  $D$  and the Scott topology on  $D$  coincide.*

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### Example

Note that  $\sqsubseteq$  is *not* decidable on all of  $\mathbb{R} \hookrightarrow \text{Idl}(\mathbb{Q} \times_{<} \mathbb{Q}, \prec)$  (since equality of reals is not decidable), but it *is* decidable when restricted to elements of the form  $\downarrow(p, q)$  (since  $<$  is decidable on  $\mathbb{Q}$ ).

See the book [BV11] by Bridges and Vîță.

# Conclusion

Introduced **apartness** for **continuous dcpos**.

- It generalizes some known notions of apartness (such as apartness on the reals).
- It is connected to the **Scott topology** and we get a constructive version of  $T_0$ -separation.
- Under a modest decidability condition, the **apartness topology** coincides with the **Scott topology**.

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