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Descent data and absolute Kan extensions. (English) Zbl 07361310
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The fundamental construction underlying descent theory, the lax descent category, comes with a functor forgetting the *descent data*. The main result of this paper is that, given any pseudofunctor $\mathcal{F} : \mathbb{C}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \text{Cat}$, the forgetful functor

$$\text{lax-Des}(\mathcal{F} \circ \text{op}(a)) \rightarrow \mathcal{F}a(1)$$

between the \mathcal{F} -internal actions of a precategory $a : \Delta_3^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ and the category of internal actions of the underlying discrete precategory of a creates absolute limits and colimits (Theorem 2.4).

A synopsis of the paper, consisting of four sections, goes as follows:

- §1 gives the basic definition of the *lax descent category*, presenting the corresponding definition for a general 2-category after [F. Lucatelli Nunes, “Semantic factorization and descent”, Preprint, [arXiv:1902.01225](https://arxiv.org/abs/1902.01225)].
- §2 establishes the main theorems on the *morphisms forgetting descent data*. Based on Theorem 2.4, the monadicity theorem (Theorem 2.8) is established. Theorem 2.11, claiming that a right adjoint functor is monadic iff it is a functor forgetting descent data composed with an equivalence, is established.
- §3 is concerned with the setting of *Grothendieck descent theory* [G. Janelidze and W. Tholen, Appl. Categ. Struct. 2, No. 3, 245–281 (1994; [Zbl 0805.18005](https://zbmath.org/journal/0805.18005)); F. Lucatelli Nunes, Theory Appl. Categ. 33, 390–444 (2018; [Zbl 1405.18002](https://zbmath.org/journal/1405.18002))], aiming to establish Lemma 3.6 in order to recover the usual *descent factorization* [G. Janelidze and W. Tholen, Appl. Categ. Struct. 5, No. 3, 229–248 (1997; [Zbl 0880.18007](https://zbmath.org/journal/0880.18007)), §3] directly via the universal property of lax descent category.
- §4 is concerned with the relation monadicity and effective descent morphisms [J. Benabou and J. Roubaud, C. R. Acad. Sci., Paris, Sér. A 270, 96–98 (1970; [Zbl 0287.18007](https://zbmath.org/journal/0287.18007)); G. Janelidze and W. Tholen, Appl. Categ. Struct. 2, No. 3, 245–281 (1994; [Zbl 0805.18005](https://zbmath.org/journal/0805.18005)); F. Lucatelli Nunes, Theory Appl. Categ. 33, 390–444 (2018; [Zbl 1405.18002](https://zbmath.org/journal/1405.18002))], establishing that, in bifibered categories, effective descent morphisms always induce monadic functors, even without satisfying the Beck-Chevalley condition.

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MSC:

- 18N10 2-categories, bicategories, double categories
- 18C15 Monads (= standard construction, triple or triad), algebras for monads, homology and derived functors for monads
- 18C20 Eilenberg-Moore and Kleisli constructions for monads
- 18F20 Presheaves and sheaves, stacks, descent conditions (category-theoretic aspects)
- 18A22 Special properties of functors (faithful, full, etc.)
- 18A30 Limits and colimits (products, sums, directed limits, pushouts, fiber products, equalizers, kernels, ends and coends, etc.)
- 18A40 Adjoint functors (universal constructions, reflective subcategories, Kan extensions, etc.)

Keywords:

descent theory; effective descent morphisms; internal actions; indexed categories; creation of absolute Kan extensions; Bénabou-Roubaud theorem; monadicity theorem

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