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Non-Standard Analysis

The main idea:

\mathbf{Set} is the “standard universe”,

$\mathbf{Set}^{\mathbb{N}}$ is the “universe of $(\mathbb{N}$ -)sequences”,

$\mathbf{Set}^{\mathbb{N}}/\mathcal{N}$ is the “universe of \mathbb{N} -sequences modulo $\sim_{\mathcal{N}}$ ”,

$\mathbf{Set}^{\mathbb{N}}/\mathcal{U}$ is the “universe of \mathbb{N} -sequences modulo $\sim_{\mathcal{U}}$ ”,

where $\sim_{\mathcal{N}}$ is the equivalence relation induced by the filter \mathcal{N} ,

and $\sim_{\mathcal{U}}$ is the equivalence relation induced by the ultrafilter \mathcal{U} ,

where $\sim_{\mathcal{U}}$ has bigger classes than $\sim_{\mathcal{N}}$.

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 \mathbf{Set} & \longrightarrow & \mathbf{Set}^{\mathbb{N}} & \longrightarrow & \mathbf{Set}^{\mathbb{N}}/\mathcal{N} \\
 & & & \searrow & \vdots \\
 & & & & \mathbf{Set}^{\mathbb{N}}/\mathcal{U}
 \end{array}$$

$\mathbf{Set} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}^{\mathbb{N}}$ takes 4 to $(4, 4, 4, 4, \dots)$,

$\mathbf{Set}^{\mathbb{N}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}^{\mathbb{N}}/\mathcal{N}$ takes $(1, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{4}, \dots)$ to $(1, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{4}, \dots)/\mathcal{N}$, and

equivalence classes of sequences tending to zero will behave as infinitesimals.

$\mathbf{Set}^{\mathbb{N}}/\mathcal{U}$ is a “non-standard universe”.

$\mathbf{Set}^{\mathbb{N}}$ and $\mathbf{Set}^{\mathbb{N}}/\mathcal{U}$ are quite similar —

they both obey the same first-order formulas (!!!)

(with bounded quantifiers and all constants standard)

and we have “transfer theorems” that let us “transfer truths”

from \mathbf{Set} to $\mathbf{Set}^{\mathbb{N}}/\mathcal{U}$ and back.

And $\mathbf{Set}^{\mathbb{N}}/\mathcal{U}$ has infinitesimals!!!

Non-Standard Analysis (2)

The general case:

\mathbf{Set} is the “standard universe”,

$\mathbf{Set}^{\mathbb{I}}$ is the “universe of (\mathbb{I} -)sequences”,

$\mathbf{Set}^{\mathbb{I}}/\mathcal{F}$ is the “universe of \mathbb{I} -sequences modulo $\sim_{\mathcal{F}}$ ”,

$\mathbf{Set}^{\mathbb{I}}/\mathcal{U}$ is the “universe of \mathbb{I} -sequences modulo $\sim_{\mathcal{U}}$ ”,

where $\sim_{\mathcal{F}}$ is the equivalence relation induced by the filter \mathcal{F} ,

and $\sim_{\mathcal{U}}$ is the equivalence relation induced by the ultrafilter \mathcal{U} ,

where $\sim_{\mathcal{U}}$ has bigger classes than $\sim_{\mathcal{F}}$.

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 \mathbf{Set} & \longrightarrow & \mathbf{Set}^{\mathbb{I}} & \longrightarrow & \mathbf{Set}^{\mathbb{I}}/\mathcal{F} \\
 & & & \searrow & \vdots \\
 & & & & \mathbf{Set}^{\mathbb{I}}/\mathcal{U}
 \end{array}$$

\mathcal{F} is a filter on the index set \mathbb{I} ,

\mathcal{U} is an ultrafilter on \mathbb{I} , refining \mathcal{F} (i.e., $\mathcal{F} \subset \mathcal{U}$).

Filters

Definition: $\mathcal{F} \subseteq \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{I})$ is a filter on \mathbb{I} iff:

- (i) $\mathbb{I} \in \mathcal{F}$,
- (ii) \mathcal{F} is closed by binary intersections,
- (iii) \mathcal{F} is “closed by supersets”.

Our two archetypical filters:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{N} &\subset \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{N}) \\ \mathcal{N} &:= \{ I \subset \mathbb{N} \mid \mathbb{N} \setminus I \text{ is finite} \} \\ \mathcal{R}_0 &\subset \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R}) \\ \mathcal{R}_0 &:= \{ I \subset \mathbb{R} \mid I \text{ contains an open neighborhood of } 0 \} \end{aligned}$$

\mathcal{N} is the “filter of cofinites” (on \mathbb{N}),
 \mathcal{R}_0 is the “filter of neighborhoods of 0” (in \mathbb{R}).

Define the following relation on \mathbb{I} -sequences:

$$a \sim_{\mathcal{F}} b \iff \{ i \mid a_i = b_i \} \in \mathcal{F}$$

Prop: $\sim_{\mathcal{F}}$ is an equivalence relation $\Rightarrow \mathcal{F}$ is a filter.

$$\begin{aligned} a \sim_{\mathcal{F}} a &\Rightarrow \mathcal{F} \ni \{ i \mid a_i = a_i \} = \mathbb{I}, \\ a \sim_{\mathcal{F}} b \sim_{\mathcal{F}} c &\Rightarrow \mathcal{F} \ni \{ i \mid a_i = c_i \} \supseteq \{ i \mid a_i = b_i \} \cap \{ i \mid b_i = c_i \}, \end{aligned}$$

Look at this example (with $\mathbb{I} := \mathbb{R}$):

f is 0 in $(-2, 1)$, 1 elsewhere,

g is 0 everywhere,

h is 0 in $(-1, 2)$, -1 elsewhere,

h' is 0 in $(-1, 2)$, 1 in $(4, 5)$, -1 elsewhere;

f coincides with h exactly on $(-2, 1) \cap (-1, 2)$,

f coincides with h' on a bigger set — the above plus $(4, 5)$.

Prop: $\sim_{\mathcal{F}}$ is an equivalence relation $\Leftarrow \mathcal{F}$ is a filter.

Proper filters, big/small/medium sets, and ultrafilters

Def: a filter \mathcal{F} is *proper* when $\emptyset \notin \mathcal{F}$.

\mathcal{F} improper $\Leftrightarrow \emptyset \in \mathcal{F} \Leftrightarrow \mathcal{F} = \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{I}) \Leftrightarrow$

\Leftrightarrow all sequences are \mathcal{F} -equivalent.

\mathcal{N} is proper.

Def: $I \subset \mathbb{I}$ is \mathcal{F} -*big* when $I \in \mathcal{F}$.

$\mathbb{N} + 4 = \{4, 5, 6, 7, \dots\}$ is cofinite, and so \mathcal{N} -big.

Def: $I \subset \mathbb{I}$ is \mathcal{F} -*small* when $I \in \mathcal{F}$.

$\{0, 1, 2, 3\}$ is finite, and so \mathcal{N} -small.

Def: $I \subset \mathbb{I}$ is \mathcal{F} -*medium* when I is neither \mathcal{F} -big, nor \mathcal{F} -small.

$2\mathbb{N} = \{0, 2, 4, 6, \dots\}$ is \mathcal{N} -medium.

A proper filter \mathcal{F} divides $\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{I})$ in \mathcal{F} -big, \mathcal{F} -medium and \mathcal{F} -small sets.

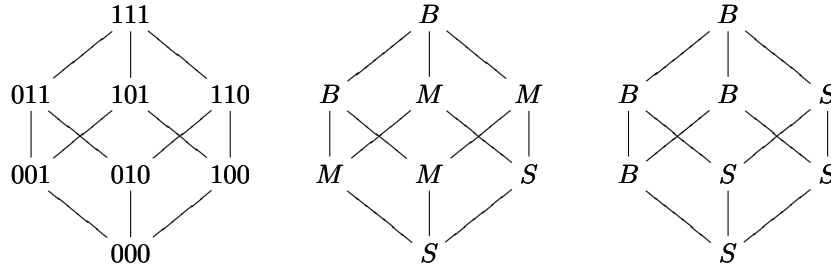
Def: an *ultrafilter* is a filter \mathcal{F} with no \mathcal{F} -medium sets.

We will use \mathcal{U} to denote ultrafilters.

\mathcal{N} is not an ultrafilter.

Two proper filters over $\mathbb{I} := \{\alpha, \beta, \gamma\}$:

The one at the right is an ultrafilter.



For $\mathcal{A} \subset \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{I})$,

Def: $\uparrow \mathcal{A} := \{A' \mid A \subseteq A' \subseteq \mathbb{I}, \text{ for some } A \in \mathcal{A}\}$

$\uparrow \mathcal{F} = \mathcal{F}$.

Def: $\downarrow \mathcal{A} := \{A' \mid A' \subseteq A, \text{ for some } A \in \mathcal{A}\}$

The set of \mathcal{F} -small sets is equal to its ' \downarrow '.

Def: $\bigcap_{\text{fin}} \mathcal{A} := \{A_1 \cap \dots \cap A_n \mid n \in \mathbb{N}, A_1, \dots, A_n \in \mathcal{A}\}$

where we define that $A_1 \cap \dots \cap A_n = \mathbb{I}$ when $n = 0$.

Fact: for any $\mathcal{A} \subset \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{I})$,

$\bigcap_{\text{fin}} \uparrow \mathcal{A} = \uparrow \bigcap_{\text{fin}} \mathcal{A}$ is a filter.

$\mathcal{N} = \uparrow \bigcap_{\text{fin}} \{\mathbb{N}, \mathbb{N} + 1, \mathbb{N} + 2, \mathbb{N} + 3, \dots\}$

$\mathcal{R}_0 = \uparrow \bigcap_{\text{fin}} \{(-1, 1), (-\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}), (-\frac{1}{3}, -\frac{1}{3}), \dots\}$

Cores and principal ultrafilters

The *core* of a filter \mathcal{F} is $\bigcap \mathcal{F}$.

\mathcal{N} has empty core.

\mathcal{R}_0 has core = $\{0\}$, but this can be “fixed” — by removing $\{0\}$ from each \mathcal{R}_0 -big set we get a filter over $\mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}$ — the filter of “punctured neighborhoods” of $0 \in \mathbb{R}$, that has empty core.

(By the way: \mathcal{N} is a filter of punctured neighborhoods of $\infty \in \mathbb{N}^*$ in $\mathbb{N}^* \setminus \{\infty\}$.)

Any ultrafilter refining \mathcal{N} has empty core.

An ultrafilter with a non-empty core has a single point in its core.

An ultrafilter with a non-empty core is called “principal”.

Principal ultrafilters are silly: if $\mathcal{U} = \uparrow \{a\}$

then the equivalence relation $\sim_{\mathcal{U}}$ pays attention only to the index a , and $\mathbf{Set} \cong \mathbf{Set}^{\mathbb{I}}/\mathcal{U}$.

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \mathbf{Set} & \longrightarrow & \mathbf{Set}^{\mathbb{N}} & \twoheadrightarrow & \mathbf{Set}^{\mathbb{N}}/\mathcal{N} \\ & & \searrow & & \vdots \\ & & & & \mathbf{Set}^{\mathbb{N}}/\mathcal{U} \end{array}$$

When \mathcal{U} is non-principal every infinite set in \mathbf{Set} gets new (“non-standard”) elements after the passage to $\mathbf{Set}^{\mathbb{I}}/\mathcal{U}$.

Interpreting some sentences

Take $\omega := (1, 2, 3, 4, \dots)$ in $\mathbf{Set}^{\mathbb{N}}/\mathcal{N}$.

ω is bigger than any standard natural:

$$\omega > 2 \equiv (\perp, \perp, \top, \top, \dots) \sim_{\mathcal{N}} (\top, \top, \top, \top, \dots) \equiv \top$$

Take $\varepsilon := (1, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{4}, \dots)$ in $\mathbf{Set}^{\mathbb{N}}/\mathcal{N}$.

ε is smaller than any standard positive real:

$$\varepsilon < \frac{1}{2} \equiv (\perp, \perp, \top, \top, \dots) \sim_{\mathcal{N}} \top.$$

$f(a)$ is $(f_1(a_1), f_2(a_2), f_3(a_3), \dots)$.

$$\forall a, b \in \mathbb{R}. ab = ba$$

$$\forall x \in (0, 1). x^2 \in (0, x)$$

$$\forall a, b \in \mathbb{R}. ab = 0 \supset (a = 0 \vee b = 0)$$

Ultrafilters are evil

Take a denumerable family of sets of indices, $\mathcal{A} = \{A_1, A_2, A_3, \dots\}$,
for example $\mathcal{A} := \{\mathbb{N}, 2\mathbb{N}, 3\mathbb{N}, 4\mathbb{N}, \dots\}$.

Then $\uparrow \bigcap_{\text{fin}} \mathcal{A}$ is not a non-principal ultrafilter.

Let's see why.

Take $\mathcal{A}' := \{A_1, A_1 \cap A_2, A_1 \cap A_2 \cap A_3, \dots\}$;

build \mathcal{A}'' from that by removing the repetitions.

In the non-trivial case, $\mathcal{A}'' = \{A_1'', A_2'', A_3'', \dots\}$ is infinite.

Look at

$(\mathbb{I} \setminus A_1'') \cup (A_2'' \setminus A_3'') \cup (A_4'' \setminus A_5'') \cup \dots$ and

$(A_1'' \setminus A_2'') \cup (A_3'' \setminus A_4'') \cup (A_5'' \setminus A_6'') \cup \dots$ —

they are both medium sets.

Attempts to build non-principal explicitly are bound to fail.

To build non-principal ultrafilters we need a weak form of AC.

Halpern 1964: the “boolean prime ideal theorem” is independent from AC.

Partial functions with big domains

If (X, \mathcal{X}) and (Y, \mathcal{Y}) are filtered spaces —
 i.e., \mathcal{X} is a filter over X
 and \mathcal{Y} is a filter over Y —
 then a partial function $f : X \rightarrow Y$ is said
 to have (\mathcal{X}) -big domain when its domain is \mathcal{X} -big.

Shorter name: a “big partial function” is a
 partial function with a big domain.

Even shorter: \rightarrow “big function”.

Filter-continuity

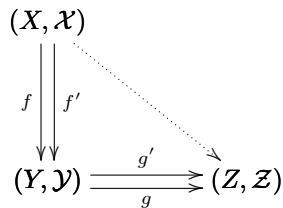
A partial function $f : X \rightarrow Y$ is *(filter-)continuous* when
 the inverse image of every \mathcal{Y} -big set is \mathcal{X} -big.

(Being “big” is weaker than that: just $f^{-1}(Y) \in \mathcal{X}$.)

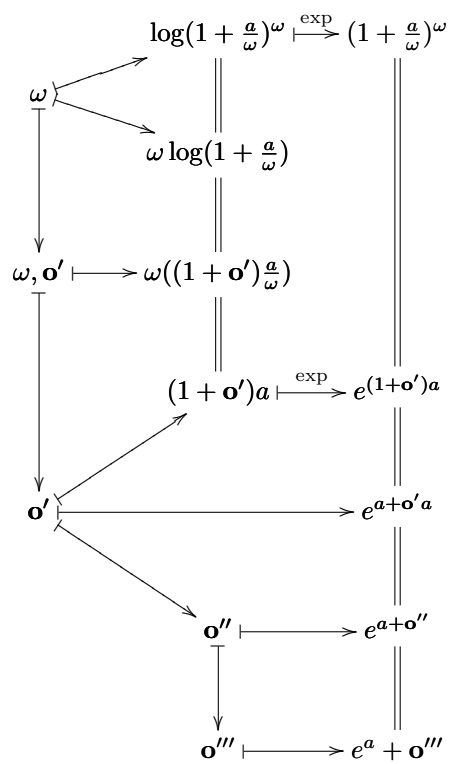
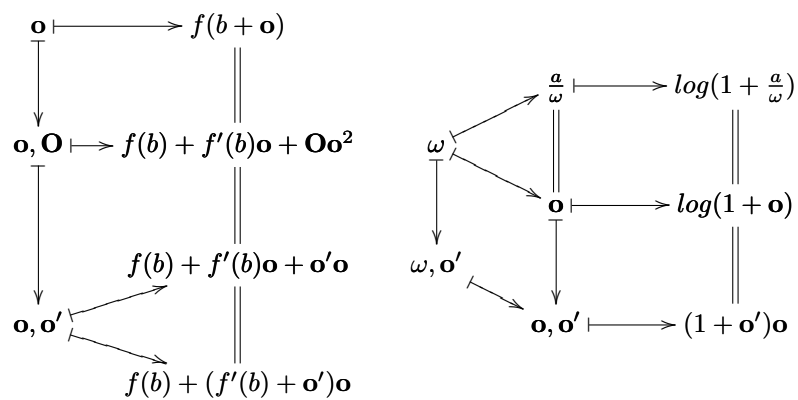
Two big functions f, g are *equivalent* when
 they coincide on a big set.

Big continuous functions compose.

Moreover: if $f \sim_{\mathcal{X}} f'$ and $g \sim_{\mathcal{Y}} g'$ are all big and continuous,
 then $g \circ f \sim_{\mathcal{X}} g' \circ f'$ is big and continuous.



Diagram



Filters are enough

Main theorem

Change of base

Filter-continuity is the same as continuity at the chosen point:

$$(\mathbb{R}, \mathcal{R}_0) \rightarrow (X, \mathcal{X}_{x_0})$$

Filter-continuity is the same as infinitesimality:

$$(\mathbb{I}, \mathcal{F}) \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}, \mathcal{R}_0)$$

(general case: topological spaces)

Definition: the *natural infinitesimal* on a (standard) filtered space (X, \mathcal{X}_{x_0}) , that we will denote by $x_1^{\natural} \rightsquigarrow x_0$, is the identity function $x_1^{\natural} = \text{id} : (X, \mathcal{X}_{x_0}) \rightarrow (X, \mathcal{X}_{x_0})$; seen as an infinitesimal, it lives in $\mathbf{Set}^X / \mathcal{X}_{x_0}$. As it corresponds to the identity map, any other infinitesimal $x_1 \sim x_0$ — in the diagram below we take an x_1 living in $\mathbf{Set}^{\mathbb{I}} / \mathcal{F}$ — factors through x_1^{\natural} it in a unique way; this suggests that there is a kind of “change of base” operation between filter-powers.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} (\mathbb{I}, \mathcal{F}) & \xrightarrow{x_1} & (X, \mathcal{X}_{x_0}) \\ & \searrow x_1 & \downarrow x_1^{\natural} = \text{id} \\ & & (X, \mathcal{X}_{x_0}) \end{array}$$

Now, for any $f : (X, \mathcal{X}_{x_0}) \rightarrow (Y, \mathcal{Y}_{y_0})$ taking x_0 to y_0 , this holds:

Key theorem:

(i) f is continuous at x_0

\Leftrightarrow (ii) for $(\mathbb{I}, \mathcal{F}) := (X, \mathcal{X}_{x_0})$, $x_1^{\natural} \rightsquigarrow x_0$, we have $f(x_1^{\natural}) \sim f(x_0)$

\Leftrightarrow (iii) for all $(\mathbb{I}, \mathcal{F})$ and $x_1 \sim x_0$, we have $f(x_1) \sim f(x_0)$.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \begin{array}{ccc} (X, \mathcal{X}_{x_0}) & & x \\ \downarrow x_1^{\natural} & \searrow y_1 & \swarrow y_1 \\ (X, \mathcal{X}_{x_0}) & \xrightarrow{f} & (Y, \mathcal{Y}_{y_0}) \\ & & \downarrow x \\ & & x \end{array} & & \begin{array}{ccc} x & & y \\ \downarrow x_1^{\natural} & \searrow y_1 & \swarrow y_1 \\ x & \xrightarrow{f} & y \end{array} \\ \\ \begin{array}{ccc} (\mathbb{I}, \mathcal{F}) & & i \\ \downarrow x_1 & \searrow y_1 & \swarrow y_1 \\ (X, \mathcal{X}_{x_0}) & \xrightarrow{f} & (Y, \mathcal{Y}_{y_0}) \\ & & \downarrow x \\ & & x \end{array} & & \begin{array}{ccc} i & & y \\ \downarrow x_1 & \searrow y_1 & \swarrow y_1 \\ x & \xrightarrow{f} & y \end{array} \end{array}$$

Proof: (i) \Rightarrow (ii) and (i) \Rightarrow (iii) are obvious from what we’ve seen before — that the composite of continuous maps between filtered spaces is continuous. For \neg (i) \Rightarrow \neg (ii), as f is not continuous at x_0 , we can choose a $Y' \in \mathcal{Y}_{y_0}$ such that $f^{-1}(Y') \notin \mathcal{X}_{x_0}$; but then $y_1^{-1}(Y') = x_1^{\natural-1}(f^{-1}(Y')) \notin \mathcal{X}_{x_0}$, and $f(x_1^{\natural}) \not\sim f(x_0)$.

For $\neg(\text{i}) \Rightarrow \neg(\text{iii})$, take $(\mathbb{I}, \mathcal{F}) := (X, \mathcal{X}_{x_0})$, $x_1 := x_1^{\natural}$, and reuse the proof of $\neg(\text{i}) \Rightarrow \neg(\text{ii})$.

In texts about Non-Standard Analysis the infinitesimal characterization of continuity is presented in another form:

- (i) f is continuous at x_0
 \Leftrightarrow (iv) for all $(\mathbb{I}, \mathcal{U})$ and $x_1 \sim x_0$, we have $f(x_1) \sim f(x_0)$.

Clearly, (iii) \Rightarrow (iv); but to show that (iv) implies the rest we need to be in a universe with enough ultrafilters.

Each of the cells in the diagram in sec. 5 is an instance of the key theorem — maybe slightly disguised. For example, to prove that $g(b + \mathbf{o}) = (g'(b) + \mathbf{o}')\mathbf{o}$ we may start with $\frac{g(b+\mathbf{o})}{\mathbf{o}} - g'(b) = \mathbf{o}'$, for an infinitesimal $\mathbf{o} \neq 0$, i.e., $\lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{g(b+\mathbf{o})}{\mathbf{o}}$.

What really matters, when we look at the diagrams, is that for any $(\mathbb{I}, \mathcal{F})$ and for any infinitesimal $x_1 : (\mathbb{I}, \mathcal{F}) \rightarrow (X, \mathcal{X}_{x_0})$ — maybe obeying some condition, like $\mathbf{o} \neq 0$ — there is a unique “adequate” infinitesimal $y_1 : (\mathbb{I}, \mathcal{F}) \rightarrow (Y, \mathcal{Y}_{y_0})$; we want to “represent” the operation $x_1 \mapsto y_1$ as a function $f : (X, \mathcal{X}_{x_0}) \rightarrow (Y, \mathcal{Y}_{y_0})$, and we can do that trivially by setting $(\mathbb{I}, \mathcal{F}) := (X, \mathcal{X}_{x_0})$, $x_1 := x_1^{\natural}$; then we can take $f := y_1$, and the f obtained in this way works in the general case.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} (\mathbb{I}, \mathcal{F}) & & (X, \mathcal{X}_{x_0}) \\ \begin{array}{c} \downarrow x_1 \\ \dashrightarrow y_1 \\ \downarrow \end{array} & & \begin{array}{c} \downarrow x_1^{\natural} \\ \dashrightarrow y_1 \\ \downarrow \end{array} \\ (X, \mathcal{X}_{x_0}) \xrightarrow{f} (Y, \mathcal{Y}_{y_0}) & & (X, \mathcal{X}_{x_0}) \xrightarrow{f:=y_1} (Y, \mathcal{Y}_{y_0}) \end{array}$$

Applying this idea to the composite of all cells in the example in sec. 5, we get this:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \begin{array}{c} i \\ \downarrow \\ \omega \\ \downarrow \\ h_5 \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} n \\ \downarrow \\ \omega \\ \downarrow \\ (1 + \frac{a}{\omega})\omega = e^a + \mathbf{o}''' \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} n \\ \downarrow \\ \omega \\ \downarrow \\ (1 + \frac{a}{\omega})^n = e^a + \mathbf{o}'''(n) \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} \dashrightarrow \mathbf{o}''' \\ \downarrow \\ h_9 \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} \dashrightarrow \mathbf{o}''' \\ \downarrow \\ \mathbf{o}''' \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} \dashrightarrow \mathbf{o}''' \\ \downarrow \\ \mathbf{o}''' \end{array} \end{array}$$

where $i \in (\mathbb{I}, \mathcal{F})$, $n, \omega \in (\mathbb{N}, \mathcal{N})$, and all the other “points” live in $(\mathbb{R}, \mathcal{R}_0)$. Note that the ‘ \dashrightarrow ’ arrows in this diagram do not stand for functions in the usual sense, but for functions between filtered spaces (not necessarily total). Incidentally, all of them are continuous.