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We provide an axiomatic framework that characterizes the stable ∞ -categories that are module categories over a motivic spectrum. This is done by invoking Lurie's ∞ -categorical version of the Barr–Beck theorem. As an application, this gives an alternative approach to Røndigs and Østvær's theorem relating Voevodsky's motives with modules over motivic cohomology and to Garkusha's extension of Røndigs and Østvær's result to general correspondence categories, including the category of Milnor–Witt correspondences in the sense of Calmès and Fasel. We also extend these comparison results to regular Noetherian schemes over a field (after inverting the residue characteristic), following the methods of Cisinski and Déglise.

1. Introduction

Røndigs and Østvær [2006; 2008] employed the technology of motivic functors developed in [Dundas et al. 2003] to prove an important structural result regarding motivic cohomology, namely that there is an equivalence of model categories between motives and modules over motivic cohomology (at least over fields of characteristic 0). In particular, this implies that Voevodsky's triangulated categories of motives [2000] is equivalent to the homotopy category of modules over the motivic Eilenberg–Mac Lane spectrum. This result has been extended to bases which are regular schemes over a field in the work of Cisinski and Déglise [2015] on integral mixed motives in the equicharacteristic case. More recently, Røndigs and Østvær's result was extended to general categories of correspondences over a field by Garkusha [2019]. These theorems provide pleasant reinterpretations of Voevodsky's category of motives as modules over a highly structured ring spectrum. The analog in topology is the result that chain complexes over a ring R are equivalent (in an appropriate model categorical sense) to modules over the Eilenberg–Mac Lane spectrum HR . This result was first obtained by Schwede and Shipley [2003] as part of the characterization of stable model categories.¹

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¹We remark that an ∞ -categorical treatment of the Schwede–Shipley results can be found in [Lurie 2017, Theorem 7.1.2.1].

In the present paper, we aim to provide a general axiomatic approach to the above results. More precisely, by making use of Lurie’s ∞ -categorical version of the Barr–Beck theorem we derive a characterization of those stable ∞ -categories that are equivalent to a module category over a motivic spectrum. These categories are instances of *motivic module categories* as defined in Definition 3.1. Examples include $\mathrm{DM}(k)$ in the sense of Voevodsky [Mazza et al. 2006] and $\widetilde{\mathrm{DM}}(k)$ in the sense of Déglise and Fasel [2017]. Our characterization then reads as follows:

Theorem 1.1 (see Theorem 5.2). *Let k be a field of exponential characteristic e , and suppose that $\mathcal{M}(k)$ is a motivic module category on k . Then there is an equivalence of presentably symmetric monoidal stable ∞ -categories*

$$\mathcal{M}(k)\left[\frac{1}{e}\right] \simeq \mathrm{Mod}_{R_{\mathcal{M}}\left[\frac{1}{e}\right]}(\mathrm{SH}(k)),$$

where $R_{\mathcal{M}}$ is a motivic \mathcal{E}_{∞} -ring spectrum in $\mathrm{SH}(k)$ corresponding to the monoidal unit in $\mathcal{M}(k)$. In particular, the associated triangulated categories are equivalent.

In fact, we formulate a parametrized version of motivic module categories and, under further hypotheses, we show that Theorem 1.1 extends to regular schemes over fields (see Theorem 5.5). The proof of the latter follows the approach of Cisinski and Déglise [2015], while the proof of Theorem 1.1 breaks down into three steps:

- (1) Invoke the Barr–Beck–Lurie theorem to prove that a motivic module category $\mathcal{M}(k)$ on k is equivalent to the category of modules over some monad on $\mathrm{SH}(k)$.
- (2) Produce a functor from modules over the monad to modules over a corresponding motivic spectrum (Lemma 3.6).
- (3) Determine when this functor is an equivalence.

After proving Theorem 1.1 we proceed to give a way to engineer several examples of motivic module categories via the notion of *correspondence categories*, on which one can apply the usual constructions of motivic homotopy theory.

1A. Overview. Here is an outline of this paper:

- In Section 2 we collect some background material on the Barr–Beck–Lurie theorem, on compact rigid generation in motivic homotopy theory, and on premotivic categories.
- In Section 3 we provide an axiomatic framework characterizing the stable ∞ -categories that are module categories over motivic spectra.
- In Section 4 we move on to discuss examples of categories satisfying the axioms of Section 3. The most prominent example is those arising from some sort of correspondences.

- Finally, in Section 5 we prove that the axioms of Section 3 are satisfied for the correspondence categories constructed in Section 4 in various situations.

1B. Conventions and notation. We will rely on the language of ∞ -categories following Lurie’s books [2009; 2017]. By a *base scheme* we mean a Noetherian scheme S of finite dimension. We denote by Sch the category of Noetherian schemes, and by Sm_S the category of smooth schemes of finite type over S . The symbol \mathbb{T} will denote the Thom space of the trivial vector bundle of rank 1 over the base S . Thus, we have the standard motivic equivalences $\mathbb{T} \simeq \mathbb{A}^1/\mathbb{A}^1 \setminus 0 \simeq \mathbb{P}^1$. We set $\mathbf{S}^{p,q} := (S^1)^{\otimes(p-q)} \otimes \mathbf{G}_m^{\otimes q}$ and $\Sigma^{p,q} M := \mathbf{S}^{p,q} \otimes M$, suitably interpreted in the category of motivic spaces or spectra. We reserve the symbol $\mathbf{1}$ for the motivic sphere spectrum in $\text{SH}(k)$ and write $\Sigma^{p,q} \mathbf{1}$ for the (p, q) -suspension of $\mathbf{1}$. If τ is a topology on Sm_S , we write $\text{H}_\tau(S)$ and $\text{SH}_\tau(S)$ for the unstable and the \mathbb{T} -stable motivic homotopy ∞ -categories, respectively. If $\tau = \text{Nis}$ we may drop the decoration.

2. Preliminaries

2A. The Barr–Beck–Lurie theorem. Let us start out by recalling the Barr–Beck–Lurie theorem characterizing modules over a monad, in the setting of ∞ -categories. We use the terminology of [Gaitsgory and Rozenblyum 2017, §3.7].

Let $F : C \rightleftarrows D : G$ be an adjunction. Then the endofunctor $GF : C \rightarrow C$ is a monad, and the functor $G : D \rightarrow C$ factors as

$$D \xrightarrow{G^{\text{enh}}} \text{LMod}_{GF}(C) \xrightarrow{u} C,$$

where u is the forgetful functor. Moreover, the functor $G^{\text{enh}} : D \rightarrow \text{LMod}_{GF}(C)$ admits a left adjoint

$$F^{\text{enh}} : \text{LMod}_{GF}(C) \rightarrow D.$$

2A1. The net result is that the adjunction $F : C \rightleftarrows D : G$ factors as

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 C & \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{F} \\ \xrightarrow{G} \end{array} & D \\
 & \begin{array}{c} \searrow u \\ \swarrow G^{\text{enh}} \end{array} & \\
 & \text{LMod}_{GF}(C) & \\
 \begin{array}{c} \nearrow \text{Free}_{GF} \\ \nearrow F^{\text{enh}} \end{array} & &
 \end{array}$$

Here the functor $\text{Free}_{GF} : C \rightarrow \text{LMod}_{GF}(C)$ is simply the left adjoint to the functor u appearing in the factorization of G above, and thus deserves to be called the “free GF -module” functor.

2A2. The Barr–Beck–Lurie theorem provides necessary and sufficient conditions for the functor $G^{\text{enh}}: \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \text{LMod}_{GF}(\mathcal{C})$ to be an equivalence. Before stating the theorem, recall first that a simplicial object $X_\bullet: \Delta^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ is *split* if it extends to a split augmented object; in other words it extends to a functor $U: \Delta_{-\infty}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$. Here $\Delta_{-\infty}$ is the category whose objects are integers ≥ -1 , and where $\text{Hom}_{\Delta_{-\infty}}(n, m)$ consists of nondecreasing maps $n \cup \{-\infty\} \rightarrow m \cup \{-\infty\}$. Every split augmented simplicial diagram is a colimit diagram so that the map $\text{colim } X_\bullet \rightarrow X_{-1}$ is an equivalence. If $G: \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ is a functor, we say that a simplicial object X_\bullet in \mathcal{D} is *G-split* if $G \circ X_\bullet$ is split.

Theorem 2.1 (Barr–Beck–Lurie [Lurie 2017, Theorem 4.7.3.5]). *Let $G: \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ be a functor of ∞ -categories admitting a left adjoint $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$. Then the following are equivalent:*

- (1) *The functor G^{enh} and F^{enh} are mutually inverse equivalences.*
- (2) *The functor G^{enh} is conservative, and for any simplicial object $X_\bullet: \Delta^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ which is G -split, X_\bullet admits a colimit in \mathcal{D} . Furthermore, any extension $\overline{X}_\bullet: (\Delta^{\text{op}})^\triangleright \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ is a colimit diagram if and only if $G \circ \overline{X}_\bullet$ is.*

Any adjunction (F, G) satisfying these equivalent conditions is called *monadic*.

2B. Compact and rigid objects in motivic homotopy theory. We now recall some facts about compact-rigid generation in motivic stable ∞ -categories.

2B1. For now we work over an arbitrary base S . Denote by

- (1) $\text{SH}^\omega(S)$ the full subcategory of $\text{SH}(S)$ spanned by the compact objects, and
- (2) $\text{SH}^{\text{rig}}(S)$ the full subcategory of $\text{SH}(S)$ spanned by the strongly dualizable objects.

The ∞ -category $\text{SH}(S)$ is generated under sifted colimits by $\Sigma_{\mathbb{T}}^q \Sigma_{\mathbb{T}}^\infty X_+$, where X is an affine smooth scheme over S and $q \in \mathbb{Z}$ [Khan 2016, Proposition 4.2.4]. Furthermore, each generator is a compact object in $\text{SH}(S)$ since Nisnevich sheafification preserves filtered colimits (see, for example, [Hoyois 2017b, Proposition 6.4] where we set the group of equivariance to be trivial). Hence, the ∞ -category $\text{SH}^\omega(S)$ is generated under finite colimits and retracts by $\Sigma_{\mathbb{T}}^q \Sigma_{\mathbb{T}}^\infty X_+$, where $q \in \mathbb{Z}$ and X is affine. In particular the unit in $\text{SH}(S)$ is compact and we have an inclusion

$$\text{SH}^{\text{rig}}(S) \subseteq \text{SH}^\omega(S). \quad (2.2)$$

Over fields this inclusion is an equality — at least after an appropriate localization:

Lemma 2.3. *Let k be a field and suppose that ℓ is a prime which is coprime to the exponential characteristic e of k . Let $L_{(\ell)}: \text{SH}(k) \rightarrow \text{SH}(k)$ be the localization*

endofunctor at ℓ . Then (2.2) induces equalities

$$\begin{aligned} \mathrm{SH}^{\mathrm{rig}}(k)_{(\ell)} &= \mathrm{SH}^\omega(k)_{(\ell)}, \\ \mathrm{SH}^{\mathrm{rig}}(k)\left[\frac{1}{e}\right] &= \mathrm{SH}^\omega(k)\left[\frac{1}{e}\right]. \end{aligned}$$

Proof. Since $\mathrm{SH}^\omega(k)$ is generated as a stable subcategory which is closed under retracts by $\Sigma_{\mathbb{T}}^\infty X_+$, where X is a smooth affine scheme, $\mathrm{SH}^\omega(k)_{(\ell)}$ is generated by the image of the same objects under $L_{(\ell)}$. Now, $\Sigma_{\mathbb{T}}^\infty X_+$ is dualizable whenever X is smooth and proper by [Riou 2005]; hence, it suffices to prove that $L_{(\ell)}(\Sigma_{\mathbb{T}}^\infty X_+)$ is a retract of some $L(\Sigma_{\mathbb{T}}^\infty Y_+)$, where Y is a smooth projective S -scheme. If k is perfect, then this is [Levine et al. 2019, Corollary B.2]. We note that this result is extended to the case of arbitrary fields in [Elmanto and Khan 2020, Theorem 3.2.1]. The result for e -inverted motivic spectra follows. \square

Example 2.4. If S is a positive-dimensional base scheme, we should not expect (2.2) to be an equality in general even after localization [Cisinski and Déglise 2012, Corollary 3.2.7].

2B2. We adopt the following terminology.

Definition 2.5. Let k be a field and suppose that $L: \mathrm{SH}(k) \rightarrow \mathrm{SH}(k)$ is a localization endofunctor. We say that $L(\mathrm{SH}(k))$, or simply L , has *compact-rigid generation* if (2.2) is an equality after applying L .

Hence, Lemma 2.3 tells us that $\mathrm{SH}(k)_{(\ell)}$ and $\mathrm{SH}(k)\left[\frac{1}{e}\right]$ have compact-rigid generation.

2C. Premotivic categories and adjunctions. Lastly we recall Cisinski and Déglise’s notion of a *premotivic category* [2019]. Suppose that \mathcal{S} is a full subcategory of the category Sch of Noetherian schemes, and let \mathcal{P} denote a class of admissible morphisms [Cisinski and Déglise 2019, §1]. In fact, the only example we care about is when \mathcal{P} is the class of smooth morphisms. As in [Cisinski and Déglise 2019, §1] (see also [Cisinski and Déglise 2016, Appendix A] for a more succinct discussion), a functor

$$\mathcal{M}: \mathcal{S}^{\mathrm{op}} \rightarrow \mathrm{Cat}_\infty$$

is called a \mathcal{P} -premotivic category over \mathcal{S} if for each morphism $f: T \rightarrow S$ in \mathcal{S} , the induced functor $f^*: \mathcal{M}(S) \rightarrow \mathcal{M}(T)$ admits a right adjoint f_* , and if f is admissible, it admits a left adjoint $f_\#$. The left adjoints are furthermore required to satisfy the \mathcal{P} -base change formula; i.e., the exchange morphism $\mathrm{Ex}_\#^*: q_\# g^* \rightarrow f^* p_\#$ is an equivalence whenever

$$\begin{array}{ccc} Y & \xrightarrow{q} & X \\ g \downarrow & & \downarrow f \\ S & \xrightarrow{p} & T \end{array}$$

is a Cartesian diagram in \mathcal{S} such that p is a \mathcal{P} -morphism. See [Cisinski and Déglise 2019, §1.1.9] for details.

We refer the reader to the thesis of Khan [2016] for a detailed discussion of premotivic categories in the ∞ -categorical setting. If the context is clear, we simply refer to \mathcal{M} as a premotivic category. We may also speak of premotivic categories taking values in other (large) ∞ -categories such as $\text{Cat}_{\infty}^{\otimes}$, $\text{Cat}_{\infty, \text{stab}}$, or Pr^L .

2C1. We also have the appropriate notion of an adjunction between premotivic categories [Cisinski and Déglise 2019, Definition 1.4.6; 2016, Definition A.1.7]. Indeed, if \mathcal{M} and \mathcal{M}' are premotivic categories, then a *premotivic adjunction* is a transformation $\gamma^* : \mathcal{M} \rightarrow \mathcal{M}'$ such that

- (1) for each $S \in \mathcal{S}$, the functor $\gamma_S^* : \mathcal{M}(S) \rightarrow \mathcal{M}'(S)$ admits a right adjoint γ_{S*} and
- (2) for each morphism $f : T \rightarrow S \in \mathcal{S}$, the canonical transformation $f_{\#}\gamma_S^* \rightarrow \gamma_T^* f_{\#}$ is an equivalence.

Furthermore, we say that a premotivic adjunction γ^* is a *localization of premotivic categories* (or, simply, a *localization*) if for each $S \in \mathcal{S}$ the functor γ_{S*} is fully faithful, i.e., a localization in the sense of [Lurie 2009, Definition 5.2.7.2]. We say that a localization of premotivic categories is *smashing* if γ_{S*} preserves colimits. Suppose further that \mathcal{M} takes values in $\text{Cat}_{\infty}^{\otimes}$. In particular, the functors f^* are strongly symmetric monoidal. Then a localization L is *symmetric monoidal* if given any $S \in \mathcal{S}$ and any $E \in \mathcal{M}(S)$ that is L -local, then for any $F \in \mathcal{M}(S)$, $E \otimes F$ is L -local as well. This last condition implies that the symmetric monoidal structure on $\mathcal{M}(S)$ descends to one on the subcategory of L -local objects and that the localization functor is strongly symmetric monoidal [Lurie 2017, Proposition 2.2.1.9].

2C2. We recall two conditions on \mathcal{M} which will be relevant to us later. In order to formulate them, we will now assume that \mathcal{M} takes values in stable ∞ -categories. Let $S \in \mathcal{S}$ be a scheme. Suppose that $i : Z \rightarrow S$ is a closed subscheme, and let $j : U \rightarrow S$ be its open complement.

Definition 2.6. Let $\mathcal{M} : \mathcal{S}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \text{Cat}_{\infty, \text{stab}}$ be a premotivic category, and let $Z \xrightarrow{i} S \xleftarrow{j} U$ be as above. We say that \mathcal{M} satisfies (Loc_i) if

$$\mathcal{M}(Z) \xrightarrow{i_*} \mathcal{M}(S) \xrightarrow{j^*} \mathcal{M}(U)$$

is a cofiber sequence of stable ∞ -categories. We say that \mathcal{M} satisfies (Loc) if (Loc_i) is satisfied for any closed immersion i .

Now let $c = (c_{\alpha})_{\alpha \in I}$ be a collection of Cartesian sections of \mathcal{M} (the only case we consider is $\{\Sigma^{p,q} \mathbf{1}\}_{p,q \in \mathbf{Z}}$). We denote by $\mathcal{M}_c(S) \subseteq \mathcal{M}(S)$ the smallest thick subcategory of $\mathcal{M}(S)$ which contains $f_{\#} f^* c_{\alpha, X}$ for any smooth morphism $f : T \rightarrow S$. Following [Cisinski and Déglise 2015, Definition 2.3], we call objects in $\mathcal{M}_c(S)$

c-constructible. We say that \mathcal{M} is *c-generated* if for all $X \in \mathcal{S}$ the stable ∞ -category $\mathcal{M}(S)$ is generated by $\mathcal{M}_c(S)$ under all small colimits.

Definition 2.7. Let $\mathcal{M} : \mathcal{S}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \text{Cat}_{\infty, \text{stab}}$ be a premotivic category. Suppose that $\mathcal{A} \subseteq \mathcal{S}^{\Delta^1}$ is a collection of morphisms in \mathcal{S} . We say that \mathcal{M} is *continuous with respect to \mathcal{A}* if the following holds. Suppose that $X : I \rightarrow \mathcal{S}$ is a cofiltered diagram in \mathcal{S} whose transition maps belongs to \mathcal{A} and whose limit $X := \lim_{\alpha \in I} X_\alpha$ exists in \mathcal{S} . Then the canonical map

$$\mathcal{M}_c(X) \rightarrow \lim_{\alpha \in I} \mathcal{M}_c(X_\alpha)$$

is an equivalence.

3. Motivic module categories

In this section we formulate the notion of *motivic module categories* and relate it to categories of modules over a motivic \mathcal{E}_∞ -ring spectrum.

3A1. Let \mathcal{S} be a full subcategory of Sch . By [Ayoub 2007; Cisinski and Déglise 2019] we then have a premotivic category $\text{SH}|_{\mathcal{S}} : \mathcal{S} \rightarrow \text{Pr}_{\text{stab}}^{L, \otimes}$ whose value at $S \in \mathcal{S}$ is the motivic stable homotopy category $\text{SH}(S)$ over S .

Definition 3.1. Let \mathcal{S} be as above, and suppose that $L : \text{SH}|_{\mathcal{S}} \rightarrow L(\text{SH})|_{\mathcal{S}}$ is a localization which is symmetric monoidal in the sense of Section 2C1. We then define the following:

- (1) Let $S \in \mathcal{S}$. An *L-local motivic module category on S* is a presentably symmetric monoidal stable ∞ -category $\mathcal{M}(S)$ equipped with an adjunction

$$\gamma_S^* : L(\text{SH}(S)) \rightleftarrows \mathcal{M}(S) : \gamma_{S*}$$

such that the left adjoint γ_S^* is symmetric monoidal, and the right adjoint γ_{S*} is conservative and preserves sifted colimits.

- (2) An *L-local motivic module category over \mathcal{S}* (or, simply, a *motivic module category* if the context is clear) is a premotivic category

$$\mathcal{M} : \mathcal{S}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \text{Pr}_{\text{stab}}^{L, \otimes}$$

valued in presentably symmetric monoidal stable ∞ -categories, along with a premotivic adjunction

$$\gamma^* : L(\text{SH})|_{\mathcal{S}} \rightarrow \mathcal{M}, \quad S \mapsto (\gamma_S^* : L(\text{SH}(S)) \rightarrow \mathcal{M}(S)),$$

which evaluates to an *L-local motivic module category $\mathcal{M}(S)$* on S for each $S \in \mathcal{S}$.

If L is the identity functor, then we simply say that \mathcal{M} is a *motivic module category*. When the localization L is clear, we may denote a motivic module category by a pair $(\mathrm{SH}|_{\mathcal{S}}, \mathcal{M})$. Moreover, if the scheme S is implicitly understood, we may drop the S from the notation $(\gamma_S^*, \gamma_{S*})$.

In Section 4 we will give a way to construct motivic module categories using very general inputs.

Lemma 3.2. *Let $S \in \mathcal{S}$, and let $\mathbf{1}_S \in \mathrm{SH}(S)$ denote the motivic sphere spectrum over S . If \mathcal{M} is an L -local motivic module category, then the spectrum $L\gamma_*\gamma^*(\mathbf{1}_S) \in \mathrm{SH}(S)$ is an \mathcal{E}_∞ -ring spectrum.*

Proof. As γ_* is lax symmetric monoidal, it follows that γ_* preserves \mathcal{E}_∞ -algebras. Since γ^* is symmetric monoidal, $\gamma^*(\mathbf{1}_S)$ is the unit object in \mathcal{M} and is thus an \mathcal{E}_∞ -algebra. As L is symmetric monoidal, we conclude that $\gamma_*\gamma^*(\mathbf{1}_S)$ is an \mathcal{E}_∞ -ring spectrum. \square

3A2. The Barr–Beck–Lurie theorem ensures that a motivic module category on S is always equivalent to modules over a monad, as the following lemma records. We will subsequently investigate when we can further enhance this equivalence to modules over the \mathcal{E}_∞ -ring spectrum $L\gamma_*\gamma^*(\mathbf{1}_S)$.

Lemma 3.3. *If $\mathcal{M}(S)$ is a motivic module category on S , then the induced adjunction*

$$\gamma^{*,\mathrm{enh}} : \mathrm{LMod}_{\gamma_*\gamma^*}(L(\mathrm{SH}(S))) \rightleftarrows \mathcal{M}(S) : \gamma_*^{\mathrm{enh}}$$

is an equivalence of ∞ -categories.

Proof. By assumption, the conditions of Theorem 2.1 are satisfied. \square

3B. Motivic module categories versus categories of modules. The following definition will be essential in relating a motivic module category to a category of modules over a motivic \mathcal{E}_∞ -ring spectrum.

Definition 3.4. Let \mathcal{M} be an L -local motivic module category over \mathcal{S} and let $S \in \mathcal{S}$. We say that the pair $(\mathrm{SH}|_{\mathcal{S}}, \mathcal{M})$ admits the projection formula at S if there is an equivalence

$$\gamma_*\gamma^*(\mathbf{1}_S) \otimes (\cdot) \xrightarrow{\cong} \gamma_*\gamma^*$$

of endofunctors on $L(\mathrm{SH}(S))$. If $(\mathrm{SH}|_{\mathcal{S}}, \mathcal{M})$ admits the projection formula at any $S \in \mathcal{S}$, we say that $(\mathrm{SH}|_{\mathcal{S}}, \mathcal{M})$ admits the projection formula.

Theorem 3.5. *Let \mathcal{M} be an L -local motivic module category over \mathcal{S} . Suppose that $S \in \mathcal{S}$ is a scheme such that $(\mathrm{SH}|_{\mathcal{S}}, \mathcal{M})$ admits the projection formula at S . Then there is an equivalence of presentably symmetric monoidal stable ∞ -categories*

$$\mathcal{M}(S) \simeq \mathrm{Mod}_{L\gamma_*\gamma^*(\mathbf{1}_S)}(\mathrm{SH}(S)).$$

Consequently, if $(\mathbf{SH}|_{\mathcal{S}}, \mathcal{M})$ admits the projection formula, then we have an equivalence of premotivic categories

$$\mathcal{M} \simeq \text{Mod}_{L\gamma_*\gamma^*(\mathbf{1})}(\mathbf{SH}(\cdot)).$$

3B1. In light of Lemma 3.3, we can prove Theorem 3.5 by means of relating modules over the monad $\gamma_*\gamma^*$ with modules over the motivic spectrum $\gamma_*\gamma^*(\mathbf{1}_S)$. Thus, given $S \in \mathcal{S}$ our task is to formulate a relationship between the two ∞ -categories

$$\text{LMod}_{\gamma_*\gamma^*}(\mathbf{SH}(S)) \quad \text{and} \quad \text{LMod}_{\gamma_*\gamma^*(\mathbf{1}_S) \otimes (\cdot)}(\mathbf{SH}(S)).$$

To do so, it suffices to produce a map of monads

$$c : \gamma_*\gamma^*(\mathbf{1}_S) \otimes (\cdot) \rightarrow \gamma_*\gamma^*,$$

which will induce a functor

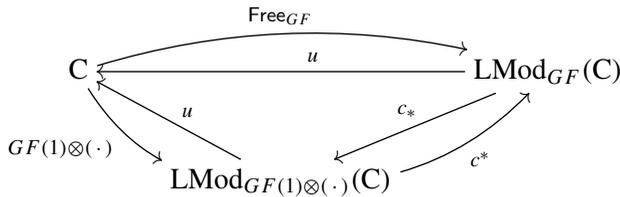
$$c^* : \text{LMod}_{\gamma_*\gamma^*(\mathbf{1}_S) \otimes (\cdot)}(\mathbf{SH}(S)) \rightarrow \text{LMod}_{\gamma_*\gamma^*}(\mathbf{SH}(S)).$$

For this, we appeal to a general lemma.

Lemma 3.6. *Let \mathbf{C}, \mathbf{D} be symmetric monoidal ∞ -categories and suppose that we have an adjunction $F : \mathbf{C} \rightleftarrows \mathbf{D} : G$ such that F is symmetric monoidal (so that G is lax symmetric monoidal). Then there is a map of monads*

$$c : GF(1) \otimes (\cdot) \rightarrow GF, \tag{3.7}$$

which gives rise to a commutative diagram of adjunctions



Proof. Since F is monoidal and G is lax monoidal, the functor GF is lax monoidal. Hence, $GF(1)$ is an algebra object of \mathbf{C} , and thus $GF(1) \otimes (\cdot)$ is indeed a monad. We construct the map of monads $c : GF(1) \otimes (\cdot) \rightarrow GF(\cdot)$ by letting c be the composite of the maps of monads

$$\begin{aligned} GF(1) \otimes (\cdot) &\simeq (GF(1) \otimes (\cdot)) \circ \text{id} \\ &\xrightarrow{\text{id} \circ \epsilon} (GF(1) \otimes (\cdot)) \circ GF(\cdot) \\ &\xrightarrow{\mu} G(F(1) \otimes F(\cdot)) \\ &\simeq GF. \end{aligned}$$

Here ϵ is the unit of the adjunction (F, G) . The transformation ϵ is a map of monads via the triangle identities, and the map $\text{id} \circ \epsilon$ is a map of monads since we are \circ -tensoring two maps of monads. The map μ is given by the lax monoidal structure of G ; more precisely, we note that the endofunctor $G(A \otimes F(\cdot))$ is a monad for any algebra object A , and so $G(F(1) \otimes F(\cdot))$ is in particular a monad. We have a canonical equivalence of monads

$$(GF(1) \otimes (\cdot)) \circ GF(\cdot) \simeq GF(1) \otimes GF(\cdot).$$

The lax structure of G then provides a morphism of endofunctors

$$GF(1) \otimes GF(\cdot) \rightarrow G(F(1) \otimes F(\cdot)) \simeq GF(\cdot),$$

and the lax structure also verifies that this is a map of monads. This gives rise to a functor $c_* : \text{LMod}_{GF}(\mathbf{C}) \rightarrow \text{LMod}_{GF(1) \otimes (\cdot)}(\mathbf{C})$, which has a left adjoint by the adjoint functor theorem.

To obtain the desired factorizations, we note that we have the commutative diagram of forgetful functors

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathbf{C} & \xleftarrow{u} & \text{LMod}_{GF}(\mathbf{C}) \\ & \searrow u & \swarrow c_* \\ & & \text{LMod}_{GF(1) \otimes (\cdot)}(\mathbf{C}) \end{array}$$

Thus, the left adjoints also commute. □

3B2. We can now apply Lemma 3.6 to prove Theorem 3.5.

Proof of Theorem 3.5. We claim that the adjunction of Lemma 3.6,

$$c^* : \text{LMod}_{\gamma_*\gamma^*(\mathbf{1}_S)}(\text{SH}(S)) \rightleftarrows \text{LMod}_{\gamma_*\gamma^*}(\text{SH}(S)) : c_*,$$

is an equivalence. By the construction in the proof of Lemma 3.6, the above adjunction arises from a map of monads given by $c : \gamma_*\gamma^*(\mathbf{1}_S) \otimes (\cdot) \rightarrow \gamma_*\gamma^*$. Since $(\text{SH}|_{\mathcal{S}}, \mathcal{M})$ satisfies the projection formula, we conclude that the adjunction (c^*, c_*) is an equivalence.

Now, note that Theorem 2.1 and Lemma 3.6 are phrased for \mathcal{E}_1 -algebras and left modules. However, as $\gamma_*\gamma^*(\mathbf{1})$ is an \mathcal{E}_∞ -ring spectrum by Lemma 3.2, the ∞ -categories of left and right $\gamma_*\gamma^*(\mathbf{1})$ -modules are equivalent. We thus conclude that there is a natural equivalence

$$\text{Mod}_{\gamma_*\gamma^*(\mathbf{1}_S)}(\text{SH}(S)) \simeq \mathcal{M}(S)$$

of ∞ -categories, which carries $\gamma_*\gamma^*(\mathbf{1}_S)$ to the unit object $\gamma^*(\mathbf{1}_S)$ of $\mathcal{M}(S)$. Finally, if \mathcal{M} satisfies the projection formula at any $S \in \mathcal{S}$, then the naturality of

the above equivalence furnishes the equivalence of premotivic categories $\mathcal{M} \simeq \text{Mod}_{\gamma_*\gamma^*(\mathbf{1})}(\text{SH}(\cdot))$. □

Remark 3.8. In fact, the above reduction can be achieved using a more refined version of Lurie’s Barr–Beck theorem [Lurie 2017, Proposition 4.8.5.8].

Remark 3.9. We were also informed by Niko Naumann that the above result is a consequence of [Mathew et al. 2017, Proposition 5.29].

In the following Sections 4 and 5 we will provide examples for which the hypotheses of Theorem 3.5 are satisfied.

4. Correspondence categories

The prime examples of motivic module categories are built from various notions of correspondences. In this section we will give an axiomatization of ∞ -categories that behave like the category of framed correspondences as in [Elmanto et al. 2019a]; Suslin and Voevodsky’s category of finite correspondences [Voevodsky et al. 2000; Mazza et al. 2006, Chapters 1 and 2]; Calmès and Fasel’s finite Milnor–Witt correspondences [Calmès and Fasel 2017; Déglise and Fasel 2017]; Grothendieck–Witt correspondences [Druzhinin 2017]; and, more recently, the categories of correspondences studied in [Druzhinin and Kolderup 2019; Elmanto et al. 2020]. These examples will be discussed in Section 4C. To begin with, consider the discrete category Sch_{S+} , whose objects are S -schemes of the form $X_+ := X \amalg S$ and morphisms which preserve the base point. We consider the subcategory $\text{Sm}_{S+} \subseteq \text{Sch}_{S+}$ spanned by smooth S -schemes of finite type. We will heavily use the *nonabelian derived ∞ -category* $\text{P}_\Sigma(\mathbf{C})$ associated to an ∞ -category \mathbf{C} with finite products; more detailed treatments of this construction can be found in [Bachmann and Hoyois 2018, Chapter 1; Lurie 2009, §5.5.8].

Definition 4.1. A *correspondence category* (over a base scheme S) is a preadditive² ∞ -category \mathbf{C} equipped with a *graph functor*

$$\gamma_{\mathbf{C}} : \text{Sm}_{S+} \rightarrow \mathbf{C} \tag{4.2}$$

satisfying the following conditions:

- (1) The functor $\gamma_{\mathbf{C}}$ is essentially surjective and preserves finite coproducts,³ so that we get an induced functor

$$\gamma_* : \text{P}_\Sigma(\mathbf{C}) \rightarrow \text{P}(\text{Sm}_S), \quad \mathcal{F} \mapsto \mathcal{F} \circ \gamma_{\mathbf{C}}.$$

²Recall that a preadditive ∞ -category is one that is pointed, has finite products and coproducts, and is such that the map $X \amalg Y \rightarrow X \times Y$ is an equivalence for all $X, Y \in \mathbf{C}$.

³By requiring the functor $\gamma_{\mathbf{C}}$ to preserve finite coproducts we include also the empty coproduct, ensuring that $\gamma_{\mathbf{C}}$ preserves the base point of Sm_{S+} .

(2) The composite functor

$$\mathbf{Sm}_{S_+} \rightarrow \mathbf{C} \rightarrow \mathbf{P}_\Sigma(\mathbf{C}) \xrightarrow{\gamma_*} \mathbf{P}_\Sigma(\mathbf{Sm}_{S_+}) \quad (4.3)$$

has a right lax \mathbf{Sm}_{S_+} -linear structure. We abusively denote the composite (4.3) by $\gamma_{\mathbf{C}}(\cdot)$; the context will always make it clear what is meant.

The ∞ -category $\mathbf{CorrCat}$ of correspondence categories is defined as a full subcategory of the (large) ∞ -category $\mathbf{PreAdd}_{\infty, \mathbf{Sm}_{S_+}}$ of small preadditive ∞ -categories and functors which preserve finite coproducts equipped with a finite coproduct-preserving functor from \mathbf{Sm}_{S_+} .⁴

4A1. We begin with a couple of clarifying remarks and an example.

Remark 4.4. Informally, the \mathbf{Sm}_{S_+} -linear structure on $\gamma_{\mathbf{C}}(\cdot)$ encodes, for any $X, Y \in \mathbf{Sm}_S$, maps

$$X_+ \otimes \gamma_{\mathbf{C}}(Y_+) \rightarrow \gamma_{\mathbf{C}}(X_+ \otimes Y_+)$$

in $\mathbf{P}_\Sigma(\mathbf{Sm}_{S_+}) \simeq \mathbf{P}_\Sigma(\mathbf{Sm}_S)_*$ which are subject to various compatibilities. For example, if $f: X_+ \rightarrow Z_+$ is a map in \mathbf{Sm}_{S_+} , then we have a 2-cell witnessing the commutativity of

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X_+ \otimes \gamma_{\mathbf{C}}(Y_+) & \longrightarrow & \gamma_{\mathbf{C}}(X_+ \otimes Y_+) \\ f \otimes \text{id} \downarrow & & \downarrow \gamma_{\mathbf{C}}(f \otimes \text{id}) \\ Z_+ \otimes \gamma_{\mathbf{C}}(Y_+) & \longrightarrow & \gamma_{\mathbf{C}}(Z_+ \otimes Y_+) \end{array}$$

Similarly, if $g: Y_+ \rightarrow Z_+$ is a map in \mathbf{Sm}_{S_+} , then we have a 2-cell witnessing the commutativity of

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X_+ \otimes \gamma_{\mathbf{C}}(Y_+) & \longrightarrow & \gamma_{\mathbf{C}}(X_+ \otimes Y_+) \\ \text{id} \otimes g \downarrow & & \downarrow \gamma_{\mathbf{C}}(\text{id} \otimes g) \\ X_+ \otimes \gamma_{\mathbf{C}}(Z_+) & \longrightarrow & \gamma_{\mathbf{C}}(X_+ \otimes Z_+) \end{array}$$

These cells are required to satisfy an infinite list of coherences.

Remark 4.5. The \mathbf{Sm}_{S_+} -linearity assumption will be satisfied if \mathbf{C} has a symmetric monoidal structure and the functor $\gamma_{\mathbf{C}}$ is symmetric monoidal. In more detail, we denote by $\mathbf{CorrCat}^{\otimes}$ the ∞ -category of preadditive ∞ -categories with a symmetric monoidal structure such that the graph functor $\gamma_{\mathbf{C}}: \mathbf{Sm}_{S_+} \rightarrow \mathbf{C}$ is symmetric monoidal, is essentially surjective, and preserves finite coproducts. There is a forgetful functor $\mathbf{CorrCat}^{\otimes} \rightarrow \mathbf{CorrCat}$; the second part of Definition 4.1 is obtained from the strong symmetric monoidality of $\gamma_{\mathbf{C}}$. This is the case in the examples

⁴More succinctly, $\mathbf{CorrCat}$ is the pullback of ∞ -categories $\mathbf{PreAdd} \times_{\mathbf{Cat}_{\infty}^{\sqcup}} \{\mathbf{Sm}_{S_+}\}$, where $\mathbf{Cat}_{\infty}^{\sqcup}$ denotes ∞ -categories with finite coproducts and finite coproduct-preserving functors.

considered in this paper, but we include it as an axiom to clarify proofs of certain properties.

Example 4.6. Let Corr_S denote the discrete category whose objects are smooth S -schemes and morphisms are spans $X \leftarrow Y \rightarrow Z$. This is a preadditive category by [Bachmann and Hoyois 2018, Lemma C.3]. The graph functor witnesses Corr_S as a correspondence category.

4A2. We now provide some elementary properties of a correspondence category.

Proposition 4.7. *Let C be a preadditive ∞ -category equipped with an essential surjection*

$$\gamma_C : \text{Sm}_S \rightarrow C$$

which preserves coproducts, and let γ_{C} denote the induced functor*

$$\gamma_{C*} : P_\Sigma(C) \rightarrow P_\Sigma(\text{Sm}_S), \quad \mathcal{F} \mapsto \mathcal{F} \circ \gamma_C.$$

Then the following properties hold:

- (1) *The ∞ -category $P_\Sigma(C)$ is presentable and preadditive.*
- (2) *The functor γ_{C*} preserves sifted colimits.*
- (3) *The functor γ_{C*} is conservative.*

Proof. Presentability of $P_\Sigma(C)$ is [Lurie 2009, Proposition 5.5.8.10(1)], while P_Σ applied to a preadditive ∞ -category is again preadditive by [Gepner et al. 2015, Corollary 2.4]. The functor γ_{C*} preserves sifted colimits since sifted colimits are computed pointwise (a direct consequence of parts (4) and (5) of [Lurie 2009, Proposition 5.5.8.10]) while γ_{C*} is conservative since γ_C is essentially surjective. \square

4A3. The composite of γ_C with Yoneda functor $\text{Sm}_{S+} \xrightarrow{\gamma_C} C \xrightarrow{y} P_\Sigma(C)$ has a canonical sifted colimit-preserving extension $\gamma_C^* : P_\Sigma(\text{Sm}_{S+}) \rightarrow P_\Sigma(C)$. It is easy to check that γ_{C*} is the right adjoint to γ_C^* and thus γ_C^* preserves all small colimits. As a result, we have an adjunction

$$\gamma_C^* : P_\Sigma(\text{Sm}_{S+}) \rightleftarrows P_\Sigma(C) : \gamma_{C*}. \tag{4.8}$$

It is also easy to promote the Sm_{S+} -linear structure given by the second axiom of a correspondence category to a $P_\Sigma(\text{Sm}_{S+})$ -linear structure so that the functor

$$\gamma_{C*} \circ \gamma_C^* : P_\Sigma(\text{Sm}_{S+}) \rightarrow P_\Sigma(\text{Sm}_{S+})$$

extends to a right lax $P_\Sigma(\text{Sm}_{S+})$ -linear functor.

4A4. Now we would like to do motivic homotopy theory on \mathbf{C} . Recall that if $X, Y \in \mathbf{P}_\Sigma(\mathrm{Sm}_{S^+})$, then X is A^1 -homotopy equivalent to Y if there are maps $f: X \rightarrow Y$ and $g: Y \rightarrow X$ and A^1 -homotopies $H: A^1_+ \otimes X \rightarrow X$ and $H': A^1_+ \otimes Y \rightarrow Y$ from gf and fg to the respective identity morphisms. We note that any A^1 -homotopy equivalence is an L_{A^1} -equivalence [Morel and Voevodsky 1999, §2, Lemma 3.6].

Lemma 4.9. *The functor $\gamma_C: \mathbf{P}_\Sigma(\mathrm{Sm}_{S^+}) \rightarrow \mathbf{P}_\Sigma(\mathrm{Sm}_{S^+})$ preserves A^1 -homotopy equivalences.*

Proof. Suppose that we have a homotopy $H: A^1_+ \otimes X_+ \rightarrow Y$ between maps $f, g: X \rightarrow Y$. We obtain, using the right lax-structure, a homotopy

$$A^1_+ \otimes \gamma_C(X) \rightarrow \gamma_C(A^1 \times X) \rightarrow \gamma_C(Y)$$

between $\gamma_C(f)$ and $\gamma_C(g)$. □

Lemma 4.10. *The functor $\gamma_C: \mathbf{P}_\Sigma(\mathrm{Sm}_{S^+}) \rightarrow \mathbf{P}_\Sigma(\mathrm{Sm}_{S^+})$ preserves L_{A^1} -equivalences.*

Proof. By definition the class of L_{A^1} -equivalences is the strong saturation, in the sense of [Lurie 2009, Proposition 5.5.4.5], of the maps in $\mathbf{P}_\Sigma(\mathrm{Sm}_{S^+})$ by the (Yoneda image of) A^1 -projections $\pi_X: (A^1 \times X)_+ \simeq A^1_+ \otimes X_+ \rightarrow X_+$ for $X \in \mathrm{Sm}_S$. According to [Bachmann and Hoyois 2018, Lemma 2.10] the class of L_{A^1} -equivalences is then generated under 2-out-of-3 and sifted colimits by maps of the form $\pi_X \amalg \mathrm{id}_{Y_+}$ where $Y \in \mathrm{Sm}_S$.

Since π_X is an A^1 -homotopy equivalence, it follows from Lemma 4.9 that $\gamma_C(\pi_X)$ is an A^1 -homotopy equivalence. Since γ_C preserves coproducts by assumption, the same is true for the morphism

$$\gamma_C(\pi_X \amalg \mathrm{id}_{Y_+}) \simeq \gamma_C(\pi_X) \amalg \gamma_C(\mathrm{id}_{Y_+}).$$

The functor γ_C clearly preserves the 2-out-of-3-property. Lastly, the functor γ_C preserves sifted colimits by definition and sifted colimits are computed valuewise in $\mathbf{P}_\Sigma(\mathrm{Sm}_{S^+})^{\Delta^1}$. Hence, we conclude that γ_C preserves L_{A^1} -equivalences. □

4A5. Now we take into account a topology that we might want to put on Sm_{S^+} , namely, the topology of *coproduct decomposition*. This is a topology on Sm_{S^+} defined by a cd-structure, denoted by \amalg , generated by squares

$$\begin{array}{ccc} S & \longrightarrow & U_+ \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ V_+ & \longrightarrow & X_+ \end{array}$$

where U and V are clopen subschemes of X such that $U \amalg V = X$. Sheaves with respect to the topology generated by this cd-structure is precisely the nonabelian

derived category on \mathcal{C} . In other words we have

$$\mathrm{Shv}_{\mathbb{L}}(\mathrm{Sm}_{S+}) \simeq \mathrm{P}_{\Sigma}(\mathrm{Sm}_{S+})$$

by [Bachmann and Hoyois 2018, Lemma 2.4]. Hence, all topologies τ considered in this paper satisfy $\mathrm{Shv}_{\tau}(\mathrm{Sm}_{S+}) \subseteq \mathrm{P}_{\Sigma}(\mathrm{Sm}_{S+})$.

Definition 4.11. Let τ be a topology on Sm_S , and let \mathcal{C} be a correspondence category with graph functor $\gamma_{\mathcal{C}} : \mathrm{Sm}_{S+} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$. Then \mathcal{C} is compatible with τ if, for every τ -sieve $U \hookrightarrow X$ in Sm_S , the natural map

$$\gamma_{\mathcal{C}}(U_+) \rightarrow \gamma_{\mathcal{C}}(X_+)$$

is an L_{τ} -equivalence in $\mathrm{P}_{\Sigma}(\mathrm{Sm}_{S+})$.

Lemma 4.12. Suppose that \mathcal{C} is a correspondence category which is compatible with τ . Then the functor

$$\gamma_{\mathcal{C}} : \mathrm{P}_{\Sigma}(\mathrm{Sm}_{S+}) \rightarrow \mathrm{P}_{\Sigma}(\mathrm{Sm}_{S+})$$

preserves L_{τ} -equivalences.

Proof. By definition, the class of L_{τ} -equivalences is the strong saturation, in the sense of [Lurie 2009, Proposition 5.5.4.5], of the maps in $\mathrm{P}_{\Sigma}(\mathrm{Sm}_{S+})$ by the (Yoneda image of the) maps $i_+ : U_+ \hookrightarrow X_+$ where $X \in \mathrm{Sm}_S$ and i is a τ -sieve. According to [Bachmann and Hoyois 2018, Lemma 2.10], the class of L_{τ} -equivalences is then generated under 2-out-of-3 and sifted colimits by maps of the form $\pi_X \amalg \mathrm{id}_{Y_+}$ for $Y \in \mathrm{Sm}_S$. By the same reasoning as in Lemma 4.10 we need only check that $\gamma_{\mathcal{C}}(U_+) \rightarrow \gamma_{\mathcal{C}}(X_+)$ is an L_{τ} -equivalence, which is true by hypothesis. \square

From now on, whenever we consider a correspondence category \mathcal{C} , we make the following assumption on the topologies we discuss:

- The topology τ is at least as fine as the Nisnevich topology and is compatible in the sense of Definition 4.11.

4A6. If \mathcal{C} is a correspondence category, then we can construct its unstable motivic homotopy ∞ -category in the usual way, as we now do. We consider two full subcategories of $\mathrm{P}_{\Sigma}(\mathcal{C})$ spanned by objects \mathcal{F} satisfying the following two axioms on homotopy invariance and τ -descent:

(Htpy): The presheaf $\mathcal{F} \circ \gamma_{\mathcal{C}} : \mathrm{Sm}_S^{\mathrm{op}} \rightarrow \mathrm{Spc}$ is A^1 -invariant. We denote the ∞ -category spanned by such \mathcal{F} 's by $\mathrm{P}_{A^1}(\mathcal{C})$.

(τ -Desc): The presheaf $\mathcal{F} \circ \gamma_{\mathcal{C}} : \mathrm{Sm}_S^{\mathrm{op}} \rightarrow \mathrm{Spc}$ is a τ -sheaf. We denote the ∞ -category spanned by such \mathcal{F} 's by $\mathrm{Shv}_{\tau}(\mathcal{C})$.

Since $P_\Sigma(C)$ is preadditive by Proposition 4.7, we have a canonical equivalence $\text{CMon}(P_\Sigma(C)) \simeq P_\Sigma(C)$. The ∞ -category of *unstable C-motives*, denoted by $H_\tau(C)$, is then defined as $P_{A^1}(C) \cap \text{Shv}_\tau(C) \subseteq P_\Sigma(C)$. As usual we have localization functors $L_\tau^C : P_\Sigma(C) \rightarrow \text{Shv}_\tau(C)$, $L_{A^1}^C : P_\Sigma(C) \rightarrow P_{A^1}(C)$, and $L_{\text{mot},\tau}^C : P_\Sigma(C) \rightarrow H_\tau(C)$. From the construction of these localizations and the assumption on τ , the adjunction (4.8) descends to an adjunction

$$\gamma_C^* : H_\tau(\text{Sm}_{S^+}) \simeq H_\tau(S)_* \rightleftarrows H_\tau(C) : \gamma_{C*}. \tag{4.13}$$

Lemma 4.14. *The ∞ -category $H_\tau(C)$ is preadditive. Hence, we have a canonical equivalence $\text{CMon}(H_\tau(C)^\times) \simeq H_\tau(C)$.*

Proof. The ∞ -category $H_\tau(C)$ is closed under finite products by checking that the conditions (Htpy) and (τ -Desc) are preserved under taking products which are computed pointwise. The statement follows since $P_\Sigma(C)$ is preadditive by Proposition 4.7. □

Definition 4.15. The ∞ -category of *effective C-motives* $H_\tau(C)^{\text{sp}}$ is defined to be the full subcategory of $H_\tau(C)$ spanned by the grouplike objects, in the sense of [Gepner et al. 2015, Definition 1.2].

4A7. The next proposition captures the main property of categories of correspondences from the point of view of motivic homotopy theory.

Proposition 4.16. *Suppose that C is a correspondence category which is compatible with τ . Then the functor*

$$\gamma_{C*} : H_\tau(C) \rightarrow H_\tau(S)_*$$

preserves sifted colimits and is conservative. Furthermore, $H_\tau(C)$ is canonically an $H(S)_$ -module.*

Proof. For the first claim it suffices, after Proposition 4.7, to check that

$$\gamma_{C*} : P_\Sigma(C) \rightarrow P_\Sigma(\text{Sm}_{S^+}) \simeq P_\Sigma(\text{Sm}_S)_*$$

sends $L_{\text{mot},\tau}^C$ -equivalences to $L_{\text{mot},\tau}$ -equivalences. This holds by Proposition 4.16 and Lemma 4.10. The assertion that $H_\tau(C)$ is an $H(S)_*$ -module follows from the right lax structure of γ_{C*} . □

Remark 4.17. If τ is a topology finer than the Nisnevich topology, then the fully faithful functor $H_\tau(S)_* \rightarrow H(S)_*$ need not preserve colimits. Hence, the composite $H_\tau(C) \rightarrow H_\tau(S)$ need not preserve colimits.

4A8. From the above point of view, we see that γ_{C*} is very close to preserving all colimits — we need only show that it preserves finite coproducts. The universal way to enforce this is to take commutative monoid objects on both sides with respect to Cartesian monoidal structures. We can do this for $H_\tau(S)_*$ since it has finite products, and $\mathbf{CMon}(H_\tau(C)^\times) \simeq H_\tau(C)$ since it is preadditive [Gepner et al. 2015, Proposition 2.3]. We remark that the symmetric monoidal structure on $P_\Sigma(\mathbf{Sm}_{S^+})$ given by Day convolution is not Cartesian.⁵

To see this, consider the left adjoint to γ_{C*} , that is,

$$\gamma_C^* : H_\tau(S)_* \rightarrow H_\tau(C),$$

which preserves all small colimits. According to the universal property of \mathbf{CMon} [Gepner et al. 2015, Corollary 4.9] we obtain an essentially unique functor $\gamma_C^* : \mathbf{CMon}(H_\tau(S)_*^\times) \rightarrow H_\tau(C)$ since $H_\tau(C)$ is preadditive by Proposition 4.7(1). This functor admits a right adjoint $\gamma_{C*} : H_\tau(C) \rightarrow \mathbf{CMon}(H_\tau(S)_*^\times)$ which fits into a commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & \mathbf{CMon}(H_\tau(S)_*^\times) & \\ \gamma_C^* \nearrow & \downarrow & \\ H_\tau(C) & \xrightarrow{\gamma_{C*}} & H_\tau(S)_* \end{array} \tag{4.18}$$

That is, the functor γ_{C*} factors through the forgetful functor $\mathbf{CMon}(H_\tau(S)_*^\times) \rightarrow H_\tau(S)_*$.

Proposition 4.19. *Suppose that C is a correspondence category which is compatible with τ . Then the functor*

$$\gamma_{C*} : H_\tau(C) \rightarrow \mathbf{CMon}(H_\tau(S)_*^\times)$$

preserves all small colimits and is conservative.

Proof. By the diagram (4.18), the functor γ_{C*} preserves sifted colimits because the horizontal arrow preserves sifted colimits by Proposition 4.16 and the vertical arrow preserves sifted colimits as a special case of [Gepner et al. 2015, Proposition B.4]. Since it is a right adjoint it preserves finite products, but since its domain and codomain are preadditive it preserves finite coproducts as well and we are done by [Bachmann and Hoyois 2018, Lemma 2.8]. The conservativity statement follows from Proposition 4.16 and the fact that the forgetful functor from commutative monoid objects is conservative. \square

⁵On the other hand, the symmetric monoidal structure on $P_\Sigma(\mathbf{Sm}_S)$ given by Day convolution is Cartesian, and the natural sifted-colimit-preserving functor $P_\Sigma(\mathbf{Sm}_S) \rightarrow P_\Sigma(\mathbf{Sm}_{S^+})$ is symmetric monoidal.

4A9. \mathbb{T} -stability. We now introduce the notion of \mathbb{T} -stability along with the weaker notion of \mathbb{T} -prestackability. This is inspired by the treatment of [Lurie 2018, Appendix C] on prestackable ∞ -categories.

Definition 4.20. Let C be an $H(S)_*$ -module in Cat_∞ . Then C is \mathbb{T} -prestackable if the endofunctor

$$\mathbb{T} \otimes (\cdot) : C \rightarrow C \tag{4.21}$$

is fully faithful. The ∞ -category C is \mathbb{T} -stable if the endofunctor (4.21) is invertible.

4A10. From now on we assume that the correspondence category C is such that $H_\tau(C)$ is \mathbb{T} -prestackable.

Remark 4.22. The notion of a \mathbb{T} -stable ∞ -category is a familiar one in motivic homotopy theory; indeed, the motivic stable homotopy category $\text{SH}(S)$ is \mathbb{T} -stable. In fact, \mathbb{T} -prestackability is a familiar concept as well: it is inspired by Voevodsky’s *cancellation theorem* [2010], which asserts that $\text{DM}^{\text{eff}}(k; \mathbf{Z})$ is \mathbb{T} -prestackable for any perfect field k . The analogous statement holds for Milnor–Witt motivic cohomology as proved in [Fasel and Østvær 2017]. For the ∞ -category of framed motivic spaces, cancellation holds by [Elmanto et al. 2019a, Theorem 3.5.8], which in turn relies on the cancellation theorem of Ananyevskiy, Garkusha, and Panin [Ananyevskiy et al. 2016]. Moreover, for any base scheme S , the subcategory $\text{SH}(S)^{\text{eff}} \subseteq \text{SH}(S)$ of effective motivic spectra is \mathbb{T} -prestackable.

4A11. The thesis of Robalo [2015] provides a way to invert \mathbb{T} for any $H(S)_*$ -module and obtain a symmetric monoidal stable ∞ -category — in fact one that is a module over $\text{SH}(S)$. We define the stable ∞ -category of C -motives simply by

$$\text{SH}_\tau(C) := H_\tau(C)[\mathbb{T}^{\otimes -1}],$$

with notation as in [Robalo 2015, Definition 2.6]. We then have the basic adjunction

$$\Sigma_{\mathbb{T}, C}^\infty : H_\tau(C) \rightleftarrows \text{SH}_\tau(C) : \Omega_{\mathbb{T}, C}^\infty.$$

The following summarizes the basic properties of $\text{SH}_\tau(C)$:

Proposition 4.23. *If C is a correspondence category, then the following hold:*

- (1) *The ∞ -category $\text{SH}_\tau(C)$ is a presentably symmetric monoidal stable ∞ -category, and*
- (2) *is generated under sifted colimits by objects of the form $\{\mathbb{T}^{\otimes n} \otimes \Sigma_{\mathbb{T}, C}^\infty X\}_{n \in \mathbf{Z}, X \in C}$.*
- (3) *The ∞ -category $\text{SH}_\tau(C)$ is computed as the colimit in $\text{Mod}_{H(\text{Sm}_S)_*}(\text{Pr}^L)$ of*

$$H_\tau(C) \xrightarrow{\mathbb{T} \otimes (\cdot)} H_\tau(C) \xrightarrow{\mathbb{T} \otimes (\cdot)} H_\tau(C) \xrightarrow{\mathbb{T} \otimes (\cdot)} \dots \tag{4.24}$$

(4) *The functor*

$$\gamma_{C*} : \mathrm{SH}_\tau(\mathbf{C}) \rightarrow \mathrm{SH}_\tau(\mathrm{Sm}_S)$$

is conservative and preserves colimits.

Proof. Stability follows from the standard equivalence $\mathbb{T} \simeq S^1 \otimes \mathbf{G}_m$ in $\mathrm{SH}(S)$, which remains true for modules over $\mathrm{SH}(S)$. The second assertion follows from the third via [Lurie 2009, Lemma 6.3.3.7] and the fact that $H_\tau(\mathbf{C})$ is generated under sifted colimits by representables which are smooth affine by the argument of [Khan 2016, Proposition 2.2.9] (which works for any topology τ finer than Nis), while the third comes from [Robalo 2015, Corollary 2.22]. The last assertion follows from Proposition 4.19. \square

4A12. The last part of Proposition 4.23 is the main point of our axiomatization: the adjunction $\mathrm{SH}_\tau(S) \rightleftarrows \mathrm{SH}_\tau(\mathbf{C})$ is monadic. In particular, if $\tau = \mathrm{Nis}$, then $\mathrm{SH}(S) \rightleftarrows \mathrm{SH}(\mathbf{C})$ is monadic.

4B. From categories of correspondences to motivic module categories. Suppose that we have a functor

$$\mathbf{C} : \mathcal{S}^{\mathrm{op}} \rightarrow \mathrm{CorrCat}^\otimes$$

which carries a morphism of schemes $f : T \rightarrow S$ to $f^* : C_S \rightarrow C_T$. By naturality of the preceding constructions⁶ we obtain a functor

$$\mathrm{SH}_\tau \circ \mathbf{C} : \mathcal{S}^{\mathrm{op}} \rightarrow \mathrm{Pr}_{\mathrm{stab}}^{L, \otimes}$$

equipped with a transformation $\mathrm{SH}|_{\mathcal{S}} \rightarrow \mathrm{SH}_\tau \circ \mathbf{C}$. We impose an additional assumption on \mathbf{C} , inspired by [Cisinski and Déglise 2019, Lemma 9.3.7]:

- For each $p : T \rightarrow S$, a smooth morphism in \mathcal{S} , the functor p^* admits a left adjoint $p_\#$ such that the transformation $p_\# \gamma_{C_T} \rightarrow \gamma_{C_S} p_\#$ is an equivalence.

In this case, we say that \mathbf{C} is *adequate*.

4B1. We employ the following additional notation: if $L : \mathrm{SH}(S) \rightarrow \mathrm{SH}(S)$ is a localization, denote by $L(\mathrm{SH}_\tau(C_S))$ the subcategory of $\mathrm{SH}_\tau(C_S)$ spanned by objects X such that $\gamma_{C*} X$ is L -local. Since γ_{C*} preserves limits, the inclusion $L(\mathrm{SH}_\tau(C_S)) \hookrightarrow \mathrm{SH}_\tau(C_S)$ is closed under limits and there is a localization functor (by the adjoint functor theorem)

$$L_{C_S} : \mathrm{SH}_\tau(C_S) \rightarrow L(\mathrm{SH}_\tau(C_S))$$

⁶The most nontrivial of which is the universal property of \mathbb{T} -stabilization for which we can appeal to [Bachmann and Hoyois 2018, Lemma 4.1].

rendering the following diagram commutative (since their right adjoints commute):

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \mathrm{SH}(S) & \xrightarrow{\gamma_{C_S}^*} & \mathrm{SH}_\tau(C_S) \\
 L \downarrow & & \downarrow L_{C_S} \\
 L(\mathrm{SH}(S)) & \xrightarrow{\gamma_{C_S}^*} & L(\mathrm{SH}_\tau(C_S))
 \end{array}$$

Proposition 4.25. *If $C: \mathcal{S}^{\mathrm{op}} \rightarrow \mathrm{CorrCat}^\otimes$ is adequate, then the following hold:*

- (1) *We have premotivic adjunctions $\mathrm{SH}|_{\mathcal{S}} \rightleftarrows \mathrm{SH}_\tau \circ C$.*
- (2) *If L is smashing and a symmetric monoidal localization of $\mathrm{SH}|_{\mathcal{S}}$, then we have a premotivic adjunction $L(\mathrm{SH})|_{\mathcal{S}} \rightleftarrows L(\mathrm{SH} \circ C)$.*
- (3) *If τ is a topology such that for each $S \in \mathcal{S}$, the functor $L(\mathrm{SH}_\tau(S)) \rightarrow L(\mathrm{SH}(S))$ preserves sifted colimits, then the premotivic adjunction $L(\mathrm{SH})|_{\mathcal{S}} \rightleftarrows L(\mathrm{SH}_\tau \circ C)$ is a motivic module category (in particular, this holds when $\tau = \mathrm{Nis}$).*

Proof. The proof of (1) follows as in the case of Grothendieck abelian categories [Cisinski and Déglise 2019, Corollary 10.3.11] and Voevodsky’s $C = \mathrm{Corr}$ (in the sense of [Cisinski and Déglise 2019, §9]); we give only the main points. Since C is adequate, we get that the equivalence $p_\# \gamma_{C_T} \rightarrow \gamma_{C_S} p_\#$ persists on the level of \mathbb{T} -stabilizations. What we need to verify, just as in [Cisinski and Déglise 2019, Proposition 10.3.9], is that the transformation $L_\tau \gamma_{C_*} \simeq \gamma_{C_*} L_\tau$ is an equivalence on the unstable level, i.e., the “forgetful” functor $H_\tau \circ C \rightarrow H|_{\mathcal{S}}$ preserves τ -local objects. This is given by Lemma 4.12 under the standing assumption that C is compatible with τ . The next two statements are then immediate from the definition of motivic module categories and the last statement of Proposition 4.23. \square

4C. Examples. We now discuss examples of the above constructions and results.

Example 4.26. Let $\mathcal{S} = \mathrm{Sch}_S$ and suppose that E is an \mathcal{E}_∞ -ring spectrum in $\mathrm{SH}(S)$. Then $\mathrm{Mod}_E = (E \otimes (\cdot)) \circ \mathrm{SH}$ furnishes the first examples of motivic module categories. We can also consider further localizations of the premotivic category Mod_E , such as in [Elmanto et al. 2019b] where $\mathcal{S} = \mathrm{Sch}_{\mathbb{Z}[\frac{1}{\ell}]}$ the localization functor is given by the composite of ℓ -completion and étale localization, and E is MGL; see [loc. cit.] for more details where results in this paper are used to describe the ∞ -category of modules over étale cobordism.

Example 4.27. Consider a localization $L: \mathrm{SH}|_{\mathcal{S}} \rightarrow L(\mathrm{SH}|_{\mathcal{S}})$. If L is smashing, then $L(\mathrm{SH}|_{\mathcal{S}})$ is a motivic module category. Examples of these smashing localizations are given by *periodization of elements*; we refer the reader to [Hoyois 2017a, §3] for an extensive discussion in our context. For example, a theorem

of Bachmann [2018] proves that periodizing the element ρ yields real étale localization. Consider $x: \Sigma^{p,q} \mathbf{1} \rightarrow \mathbf{1}$. Then the results of [Hoyois 2017a, §3] (or apply [Bachmann 2018, Lemma 15]) tell us that $\mathbf{1}[x^{-1}]$ is an \mathcal{E}_∞ -ring and the projection formula holds; hence, the category of x -periodic motivic spectra are modules over $\mathbf{1}[x^{-1}]$.

Example 4.28. The basic example of a category of correspondences is Voevodsky’s category of finite correspondences Corr_S in the sense of [Mazza et al. 2006, Appendix 1A; Cisinski and Déglise 2019, §9], which is defined for any Noetherian scheme S [Cisinski and Déglise 2019, §9.1]. When S is essentially smooth over a perfect base field, the category of finite Milnor–Witt correspondences $\widetilde{\text{Corr}}_S$ of Calmès and Fasel [2017] is defined and is also a category of correspondences. Over a perfect field (where both categories are defined), these categories are generalized by Garkusha’s axioms in [2019]. When defined, these categories are adequate in the sense of Section 4B. All of these are examples of categories of correspondences, and thus gives rise motivic module categories.

Example 4.29. Let k be a perfect field. Given any $S \in \text{Sm}_k$ and any good cohomology theory A on Sm_S in the sense of [Druzhinin and Kolderup 2019, §2], then [Druzhinin and Kolderup 2019, §3] defines an adequate category of correspondences Corr_S^A on Sm_S .

Example 4.30. The ∞ -category of framed correspondences of [Elmanto et al. 2019a] is another example of a category of correspondences and is defined for any qcqs scheme S . The main theorem of [Hoyois 2018] asserts that the corresponding motivic module category is equivalent to $\text{SH}(S)$, relying on the “recognition principle” of [Elmanto et al. 2019a].

Example 4.31. If $E \in \text{SH}(S)$ is a homotopy associative ring spectrum, [Elmanto et al. 2020] defines an hSpc -enriched category hCorr_S^E of *finite E-correspondences*, which the authors expect to be the homotopy category of an ∞ -category Corr_S^E whenever E is an \mathcal{A}_∞ -ring. Setting $\mathbf{C} = \text{Corr}_S^E$, the ∞ -category $\text{SH}(\mathbf{C})$ in this paper corresponds to $\text{DM}^E(S)$ in [loc. cit]. We will return to this example in the next section.

5. Module categories over regular schemes

In this section we show that the hypotheses of Theorem 3.5 are satisfied for module categories over a field k , and more generally for module categories over regular k -schemes.

5A. The case of fields. We start by verifying that the projection formula holds at a field k . In this case, we can use the following computation to reduce to the case of compact-rigid generation.

Lemma 5.1. *Suppose we have an adjunction of symmetric monoidal ∞ -categories*

$$F : \mathcal{C} \rightleftarrows \mathcal{D} : G$$

such that F is strongly symmetric monoidal. Let $1 \in \mathcal{C}$ denote the unit object of \mathcal{C} . If $E \in \mathcal{C}$ is a strongly dualizable object, then the map $c : GF(1) \otimes E \rightarrow GF(E)$ is an equivalence.

Proof. This follows from a standard computation: let $E' \in \mathcal{C}$ be arbitrary; then we have a string of equivalences

$$\begin{aligned} \mathrm{Maps}_{\mathcal{C}}(E', GF(1) \otimes E) &\simeq \mathrm{Maps}_{\mathcal{C}}(E' \otimes E^{\vee}, GF(1)) \\ &\simeq \mathrm{Maps}_{\mathcal{D}}(F(E' \otimes E^{\vee}), F(1)) \\ &\simeq \mathrm{Maps}_{\mathcal{D}}(F(E') \otimes F(E)^{\vee}, F(1)) \\ &\simeq \mathrm{Maps}_{\mathcal{D}}(F(E'), F(E)) \\ &\simeq \mathrm{Maps}_{\mathcal{C}}(E', GF(E)), \end{aligned}$$

which shows the claim. □

5A1. Thus, if $\mathrm{SH}(S)$ is generated by strongly dualizable objects, it follows that the projection formula holds:

Theorem 5.2. *Let k be a field. Suppose that ℓ is a prime which is coprime to the exponential characteristic e of k and let \mathcal{M} be a motivic module category on k . Then we have the following equivalences of presentably symmetric monoidal stable ∞ -categories:*

$$\begin{aligned} L_{(\ell)}(\mathcal{M}(k)) &\simeq \mathrm{Mod}_{L_{(\ell)}\gamma_*\gamma^*(\mathbf{1}_S)}(\mathrm{SH}(k)), \\ \mathcal{M}(k)\left[\frac{1}{e}\right] &\simeq \mathrm{Mod}_{\gamma_*\gamma^*(\mathbf{1})\left[\frac{1}{e}\right]}(\mathrm{SH}(k)). \end{aligned}$$

Proof. In light of Theorem 3.5 we need to verify the appropriate projection formulas. By assumption, the functor γ_* preserves sifted colimits and thus the functors $\gamma_*\gamma^*(\mathbf{1}_S) \otimes (\cdot)$ and $\gamma_*\gamma^*(\cdot)$ do as well. Now Lemma 5.1 tells us that the projection formula holds for strongly dualizable objects in $\mathrm{SH}(k)_{(\ell)}$. Thus, we will be done if we can prove that the inclusion of (2.2), $\mathrm{SH}^{\mathrm{rig}}(k)_{(\ell)} \subseteq \mathrm{SH}^{\omega}(k)_{(\ell)}$, is an equality. This amounts to showing that $\mathrm{SH}(k)_{(\ell)}$ is in fact generated by sifted colimits by strongly dualizable objects. But this follows by Lemma 2.3, which also verifies the theorem for the e -inverted case. □

5A2. We now obtain the following extension of [Röndigs and Østvær 2008, Theorem 1; Hoyal et al. 2017, Theorem 5.8; Garkusha 2019, Theorem 5.3; Bachmann and Fasel 2017, Lemma 5.3].

Corollary 5.3. *Let k be a field of exponential characteristic e and let $\gamma_{\mathcal{C}} : \mathrm{Sm}_k \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ be a correspondence category over k . Then there is an equivalence of presentably*

symmetric monoidal stable ∞ -categories

$$\mathrm{SH}(\mathbb{C})\left[\frac{1}{e}\right] \simeq \mathrm{Mod}_{\gamma_{\mathbb{C}*}\gamma_{\mathbb{C}}^*(\mathbf{1})\left[\frac{1}{e}\right]}(\mathrm{SH}(k)).$$

5B. The case $\mathcal{S} = \mathrm{Reg}_k$. Following [Cisinski and Déglise 2015] we can extend the previous result to the category Reg_k of finite-dimensional Noetherian schemes that are regular over a field k , provided that we impose some additional assumptions on \mathcal{M} . For the rest of this section, we will therefore assume that \mathcal{M} is a motivic module category which in addition satisfies the following property:

- The premotivic category \mathcal{M} satisfies localization (Definition 2.6) and continuity (Definition 2.7).

Lemma 5.4. *Suppose that $f: T \rightarrow S$ is a morphism in Reg_k . In the following cases, the transformation*

$$f^*\gamma_* \rightarrow \gamma_*f^*$$

is an equivalence:

- (1) *The scheme T is an inverse limit $\varprojlim_{\alpha} T_{\alpha}$ of S -schemes T_{α} such that the transition maps $T_{\alpha} \rightarrow T_{\beta}$ are dominant, affine, and smooth.*
- (2) *The map f is a closed immersion and $S \cong \varprojlim_{\alpha} S_{\alpha}$, where each S_{α} is a smooth, separated k -scheme of finite type with flat affine transition maps.*

Proof. Under the continuity and localization assumption on \mathcal{M} , the proof in [Cisinski and Déglise 2015, Lemma 3.20] for the case of $\mathcal{M} = \mathrm{DM}(\cdot; R)$ applies verbatim. □

5B1. We now have the following extension of Theorem 5.2.

Theorem 5.5. *Let k be a field of exponential characteristic e , and let \mathcal{M} be a motivic module category on Reg_k . Then the functor $\gamma^*: \mathrm{SH} \rightarrow \mathcal{M}$ induces a canonical equivalence*

$$\mathrm{Mod}_{\gamma_*\gamma^*(\mathbf{1})\left[\frac{1}{e}\right]}(\mathrm{SH}(\cdot)) \xrightarrow{\cong} \mathcal{M}\left[\frac{1}{e}\right]$$

of premotivic categories on Reg_k .

Proof. After Theorem 3.5, our goal is to verify that $(\mathrm{SH}|_{\mathrm{Reg}_k}, \mathcal{M})$ satisfies the projection formula. Suppose that $S \in \mathrm{Reg}_k$, and let $E \in \mathrm{SH}(S)$. We claim that the map

$$\gamma_*\gamma^*(\mathbf{1}_S) \otimes E \rightarrow \gamma_*\gamma^*(E) \tag{5.6}$$

is an equivalence. To show this, we closely follow the logic of [Cisinski and Déglise 2015, Theorem 3.1].

First, assume that S is an essentially smooth scheme over a field. For each $x \in S$, we write S_x for the localization of S at x . Then the family of functors

$$\{\mathrm{SH}(S) \rightarrow \mathrm{SH}(S_x)\}$$

is conservative by [Cisinski and Déglise 2019, Proposition 4.3.9]. Hence, we are reduced to proving that the map (5.6) is an equivalence in the case S is furthermore *local*. In this case, let $i : x \hookrightarrow S_x$ be the closed point and write $j : U_x \rightarrow S_x$ for the open complement. By our assumption on S , U_x has dimension $< \dim S$. We consider the following commutative diagram, where the rows are cofiber sequences:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} j_!(j^*\gamma_*\gamma^*(\mathbf{1}_S) \otimes j^*E) & \longrightarrow & \gamma_*\gamma^*(\mathbf{1}_S) \otimes E & \longrightarrow & i_*(i^*\gamma_*\gamma^*(\mathbf{1}_S) \otimes i^*E) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ j_!j^*\gamma_*\gamma^*(E) & \longrightarrow & \gamma_*\gamma^*(E) & \longrightarrow & i_*i^*\gamma_*\gamma^*(E) \\ f_1 \downarrow & & \downarrow = & & \downarrow f_2 \\ j_!\gamma_*\gamma^*j^*E & \longrightarrow & \gamma_*\gamma^*E & \longrightarrow & i_*\gamma_*\gamma^*i^*E \end{array} \quad (5.7)$$

Now:

- The left vertical composite is an equivalence because (1) j_* commutes with γ_* by definition of a morphism of premotivic categories, and (2) by the induction hypothesis.
- The right vertical composite is an equivalence using (1) Lemma 5.4(2) and (2) the case of fields, Theorem 5.2.

It therefore remains to show that f_1 and f_2 are equivalences:

- The map f_1 is an equivalence because j_* commutes with γ_* .
- That f_2 is an equivalence follows from Lemma 5.4(2).

Now, following the “*General case*” of [Cisinski and Déglise 2015], we explain how the bootstrap to regular k -schemes work. By continuity (appealing to [Cisinski and Déglise 2019, Proposition 4.3.9] again), we may again assume that S is a *Henselian local* regular k -scheme. As explained in [loc. cit.], there is a sequence of regular Noetherian k -schemes

$$T \xrightarrow{f} S' \xrightarrow{q} S$$

such that the following hold:

- The scheme S' has infinite residue field and the functor $q^* : \mathrm{SH}(S)[\frac{1}{e}] \rightarrow \mathrm{SH}(S')[\frac{1}{e}]$ is conservative.
- The scheme T is the ∞ -*gonflement* of $\Gamma(S', \mathcal{O}_{S'})$ [Cisinski and Déglise 2015, Definition 3.21] and the functor $f^* : \mathrm{SH}(S')[\frac{1}{e}] \rightarrow \mathrm{SH}(T)[\frac{1}{e}]$ is conservative.

- Both f and q satisfy the hypotheses of Lemma 5.4.1, and thus f^* and q^* commute with γ_* .

Hence, to check that the map (5.6) is an equivalence it suffices to check that it is an equivalence after applying $(qf)^*$. Since T is, by construction, the spectrum of a filtered union of its smooth subalgebras, we invoke continuity of SH to conclude. \square

5B2. Lastly, we provide the following class of examples of motivic module categories for which localization and continuity holds. We will make the following assumption:

- For a base scheme S and an \mathcal{A}_∞ -ring spectrum $E \in \text{SH}(S)$, there exists an ∞ -category Corr_S^E such that its homotopy category is the hSpc-enriched category hCorr_S^E of [Elmanto et al. 2020].

With this assumption in play, any motivic \mathcal{A}_∞ -ring spectrum E gives rise to the motivic module category DM^E as explained in Example 4.31 and [Elmanto et al. 2020]. While this makes the next results conditional, we will explain unconditional instances of these results in Example 5.12.

Proposition 5.8. *Let $\mathcal{S} \subseteq \text{Sch}_S$. Then, for any \mathcal{A}_∞ -ring spectrum $E \in \text{SH}(S)$, the premotivic category $\text{DM}^E: \mathcal{S}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \text{Cat}_\infty$ satisfies continuity for dominant affine morphisms.*

Proof. We first claim the analog of [Cisinski and Déglise 2019, Proposition 9.3.9] for E -correspondences. Let $(X_i)_{i \in I}$ be a cofiltered diagram of separated S -schemes of finite type with affine dominant transition morphisms. Let $X = \varprojlim_i X_i$, which is assumed to exist in Sch_S and is assumed to be Noetherian. Then we claim that for any separated S -scheme Y of finite type, the map

$$\text{colim}_{i \in I^{\text{op}}} \text{Corr}_S^E(X_i, Y) \rightarrow \text{Corr}_S^E(X, Y) \tag{5.9}$$

is an equivalence.

To do so, we use the dual of [Elmanto et al. 2019a, Lemma 4.1.26]. Denote by c_{X_i} and c_X the filtered posets of reduced subschemes of $X_i \times_S Y$ and $X \times_S Y$ which are finite and universally open over X_i and X , respectively. Furthermore, we denote by $\text{Sub}(c_X)$ the poset of full subposets of c_X . We then have a functor $K: I \rightarrow \text{Sub}(c_X)$ given by $i \mapsto K_i := c_{X_i}$, where c_{X_i} is regarded as a full subposet in the obvious way. By continuity of SH, the functor $E^{\text{BM}}(\cdot/X): c_X \rightarrow \text{Spc}$ of Borel–Moore E -homology spaces [Elmanto et al. 2020, §2] restricts to a functor $E^{\text{BM}}(\cdot/X_i): c_{X_i} \rightarrow \text{Spc}$. Hence, the map (5.9) is, by [Elmanto et al. 2020, Definition 4.1.1], equal to the map

$$\text{colim}_{I^{\text{op}}} \text{colim}_{c_{X_i}} E^{\text{BM}}(Z_i/X_i) \rightarrow \text{colim}_{Z \in c_X} E^{\text{BM}}(Z/X),$$

which we claim is an equivalence. The hypotheses of [Elmanto et al. 2019a, Lemma 4.1.26] follow easily (under the hypotheses that the transition maps are affine and dominant) by [Cisinski and Déglise 2019, Propositions 8.3.6 and 8.3.9]. Hence, the desired claim follows. The rest of the proof follows as in the case of DM from [Cisinski and Déglise 2019, Theorem 11.1.24]. \square

Proposition 5.10. *Let k be a field and let $E \in \mathrm{SH}(k)$ be an \mathcal{A}_∞ -ring spectrum. Then the premotivic category $\mathrm{DM}^E : \mathcal{S}^{\mathrm{op}} \rightarrow \mathrm{Cat}_\infty$ satisfies (Loc_i) whenever i is a closed immersion of regular schemes.*

Proof. Since DM^E is constructed from Nisnevich local objects, it is Nisnevich separated. By [Cisinski and Déglise 2019, Proposition 6.3.14], it has the weak localization property; i.e., it has (Loc_i) for any closed immersion with smooth retractions. Arguing as in [Cisinski and Déglise 2019, Corollary 6.3.15], it has the localization property with respect to any closed immersion between smooth schemes. The rest of the argument then follows as in [Cisinski and Déglise 2015, Proposition 3.12], which uses the continuity results established in Proposition 5.8 as above. \square

5B3. From this we conclude:

Corollary 5.11. *Let k be a field of exponential characteristic e and let $E \in \mathrm{SH}(k)$ be an \mathcal{A}_∞ -ring spectrum. Then we have a canonical equivalence*

$$\mathrm{DM}^E\left[\frac{1}{e}\right] \simeq \mathrm{Mod}_{\gamma_*\gamma^*(\mathbf{1})\left[\frac{1}{e}\right]}(\mathrm{SH}(\cdot))$$

of premotivic categories on Reg_k .

Example 5.12. As explained in [Elmanto et al. 2020, §4.1.10], the hypothetical ∞ -category Corr_S^E is equivalent to hCorr_S^E whenever S is essentially smooth over a perfect field k and E is pulled back from the heart of the effective homotopy t -structure $\mathrm{SH}(k)^{\mathrm{eff}, \heartsuit}$ over k . Hence, Corollary 5.11 holds unconditionally whenever E is pulled back from the prime subfield of k and lies in the heart of the effective homotopy t -structure there.

Examples of such spectra include the motivic cohomology spectrum HZ and its Milnor–Witt counterpart $\mathrm{H}\tilde{\mathbf{Z}}$. Furthermore, in [Elmanto et al. 2020, Propositions 4.3.6 and 4.3.19] it is proved that $\mathrm{DM}^{\mathrm{HZ}}(S) \simeq \mathrm{DM}(S)$ and $\mathrm{DM}^{\mathrm{H}\tilde{\mathbf{Z}}}(S) \simeq \widetilde{\mathrm{DM}}(S)$ whenever S is essentially smooth over a Dedekind domain or essentially smooth over a perfect field, respectively [Elmanto et al. 2020, Propositions 4.3.8 and 4.3.19]. By the continuity result of Proposition 5.8 we can enhance the comparison results for DM to regular schemes over fields. While $\widetilde{\mathrm{DM}}(S)$ is not defined outside of smooth schemes over perfect fields, Corollary 5.11 promotes the comparison results between $\widetilde{\mathrm{DM}}$ and modules over $\mathrm{H}\tilde{\mathbf{Z}}$ of [Garkusha 2019; Bachmann and Fasel 2017] at least to smooth schemes over fields. We contend, however, that $\mathrm{DM}^{\mathrm{H}\tilde{\mathbf{Z}}}(S)$ is a decent definition for $\widetilde{\mathrm{DM}}(S)$ in general.

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