

Definition (Identity morphisms)

An identity morphism, or just *identity*, for an object X is a morphism $\text{Id}_X : X \rightarrow X$ that is an identity for composition with all other compatible morphisms in the category:

$$\frac{f : X \rightarrow Y}{\text{Id}_X \circ f = f = f \circ \text{Id}_Y} .$$

From the properties of monoids applied to $\text{Hom}(X; X)$, if an identity exists, it is unique.