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canonical

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A mathematical object is said to be *canonical* if it arises in a natural way without introducing any additional objects.

Examples

1. Suppose $A \times B$ is the Cartesian product of sets A, B . Then $A \times B$ has two $A \times B \rightarrow A$ and $A \times B \rightarrow B$ defined in a natural way. Of course, if we assume more structure of A, B there are also other projections.
2. <http://planetmath.org/CanonicalProjection> canonical projection (in group theory)

Notes

For a discussion of the theological use of canonical, see [?].

References

- [1] Wikipedia, article on <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canonical>.