



Math for the people, by the people.

proof of Yoneda lemma

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We give a proof of Yoneda's Lemma. Thus, we have to show that $\mathcal{C} \rightarrow \hat{\mathcal{C}}$ is a faithful functor. Let X and Y be two objects belonging to \mathcal{C} , we want to show that

$$\begin{aligned} \psi : \text{Hom}(X, Y) &\rightarrow \text{Hom}(X(\cdot), Y(\cdot)) \\ f &\mapsto (f_K : X(K) \rightarrow Y(K))_K \text{ is bijective.} \end{aligned}$$

Let's start with injectivity. Let f and g be two morphisms from X to Y which are having the same mappings for the points $f_K = g_K$ for all K . Let's show that $f = g$. What happens for the X -points? For the X -points, we have $f = g$ and the range of f_X and of g_X of the X -point of X which is Id_X is exactly the X -points of Y which are f and g . Hence $f = g$.

Now for surjectivity: let $\psi : X(\cdot) \rightarrow Y(\cdot)$ a morphism of functors. We need to show that this morphism comes from an arrow f which should be the range of Id_X by the map ϕ_X . Thus, let $f = \psi_X(Id_X)$. Let's verify that $f_K = \psi_K$ for all K . Let $p : K \rightarrow X$ be a K -point of X . p is a morphism between the two types of points K and X and in this case we have the following commutative diagram:

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If you make $Id(X)$ turn in the diagram one verifies that $\psi_K(p) = f \circ p = f_K(p)$ which proves the surjectivity.