

Exercise 3. Find terminals in \mathbf{Set}^2 , \mathbf{Set}^\rightarrow and the poset \mathbf{n} .

Proof.

1. In \mathbf{Set}^2 , any object of the form $\langle \{a\}, \{b\} \rangle$ where $\{a\}$ and $\{b\}$ are singleton sets, is terminal: let $\langle A, B \rangle$ be an object in \mathbf{Set}^2 , there exists a unique function $f: A \rightarrow \{a\}$ and a unique function $g: B \rightarrow \{b\}$, since both $\{a\}$ and $\{b\}$ are terminal in \mathbf{Set} . Then $\langle f, g \rangle: \langle A, B \rangle \rightarrow \langle \{a\}, \{b\} \rangle$ is an arrow of \mathbf{Set}^2 . For all arrows $\langle f', g' \rangle$ of \mathbf{Set}^2 between the same objects, f' is a function $A \rightarrow \{a\}$ and g' is a function $B \rightarrow \{b\}$. By terminality of $\{a\}$ and $\{b\}$ in \mathbf{Set} , we must then have $f' = f$ and $g' = g$, so that $\langle \{a\}, \{b\} \rangle$ is terminal in \mathbf{Set}^2 .
2. In \mathbf{Set}^\rightarrow , any object of the form $\{a\} \rightarrow \{b\}$ where $\{a\}$ and $\{b\}$ are singleton sets, is terminal: let $\phi: A \rightarrow B$ be an object of \mathbf{Set}^\rightarrow , there exist unique functions $f: A \rightarrow \{a\}$ and $g: B \rightarrow \{b\}$. These functions make the following diagram commute:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A & \xrightarrow{f} & \{a\} \\ \downarrow \phi & & \downarrow \\ B & \xrightarrow{g} & \{b\} \end{array} \quad (1)$$

so that $\langle f, g \rangle$ is the unique arrow of \mathbf{Set}^\rightarrow between ϕ and $\{a\} \rightarrow \{b\}$.

3. In the poset \mathbf{n} for $n \geq 1$, for all objects m we have $m \leq n - 1$, so that there is an arrow $m \rightarrow n - 1$. As an arrow in a poset, it is unique. Therefore, $n - 1$ is terminal. The poset $\mathbf{0}$ has a unique object 0 and a unique arrow $\mathbf{1}_0: 0 \rightarrow 0$; 0 is therefore terminal.

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