

1 Category Theory

Q: What is Category Theory?

- A:1. Understanding math objects via relations with each other, i.e. taking an external view, so you do not inspect the internal structure of the objects.
2. A whole independent field of study.

Q: What is a category?

A: objects + morphisms

Example:

- **Set** - *objects*: sets; *morphisms*: functions
- **Group** - *objects*: groups; *morphisms*: group homomorphisms
- **Top** - *objects*: topological spaces; *morphisms*: continuous functions
- **Program Spec** - *objects*: program specifications; *morphisms*: programs that turn any program meeting one spec into a program meeting another spec
- **Prop** - *objects*: propositions; *morphisms*: derivation/implication
- **Type** - *objects*: types; *morphisms*: derivation/function
- **Type Theory** - *objects*: type theories; *morphisms*: translations

Counterexample: what is the category of **probabilistics**?

What if two kinds of notions of morphisms are all useful? **Double category**!

Example:

- **Set** - *objects*: sets; *morphisms*: **functions**
- **Set** - *objects*: sets; *morphisms*: **relations**

1.1 Definition

A **category** \mathcal{C} is

- a collection of objects $\text{ob } \mathcal{C}$
- for every $X, Y \in \text{ob } \mathcal{C}$, a collection of morphisms $\text{hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(X, Y)$
- **Id**: for each $X \in \text{ob } \mathcal{C}$, an id morphism $\text{id}_X \in \text{hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(X, X)$
- **Comp**: for each $f : X \rightarrow Y, g : Y \rightarrow Z$, a morphism $g \circ f : X \rightarrow Z$ in $\text{hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(X, Z)$, such that
 - $f \circ \text{id}_X = f = \text{id}_Y \circ f$

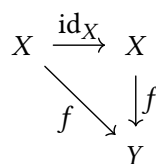
DEFINITION 1.1A. Normally we don't differentiate left and right identity. There was one particular notion that did, but then they were shown to be equivalent.

NOTE Normally we don't differentiate left and right identity. There was one particular notion that did, but then they were shown to be equivalent.

- for any $f : X \rightarrow Y, g : Y \rightarrow Z, h : Z \rightarrow A, h \circ (g \circ f) = (h \circ g) \circ f$.

1.1.1 Commutative Diagrams

E.g. $f \circ \text{id}_X = f$



Notice how the two paths from X to Y yield the same morphism.

NOTE There are also *string diagrams*, which is very similar to *proof nets*.

Let's get back to a concrete example.

1.1.2 Prop Category

- **ob Prop** - the collection of propositions

$$\text{hom}_{\text{Prop}}(P, Q) = \begin{cases} \{\top\} & \text{if } P \rightarrow Q \\ \emptyset & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- **Id**: $\text{id}_P = \top$ for all $P \in \text{ob Prop}$, because $P \rightarrow P$ is always true.
- **Comp**: by modus ponens, $Q \rightarrow P$ and $P \rightarrow R$ implies $Q \rightarrow R$. Properties: trivial.

TODO this is cat but i don't see how it is useful. all morphisms are trivial.. maybe it serves as a gentle introduction to the concept of category that does not serve any real-world purpose?

1.2 Terminal Object

A **terminal object** $(*) T$ in a category C is an object such that for every object $Z \in C$, there is a unique morphism $Z \rightarrow T$.

E.g.

- a singleton set $(\{\top\})$ in *Set*
- unit type (1) in *Ty*
- A in a category that contains exactly one object A .

1.3 Isomorphic

Two objects X, Y in a category C are **isomorphic** if there exists morphisms $f : X \rightarrow Y$ and $g : Y \rightarrow X$ such that $g \circ f = \text{id}_X$ and $f \circ g = \text{id}_Y$.

REMARK 1.3A. If $x \cong y$, we say

1. f is an *isomorphism* that $f : X \cong Y, f : X \xrightarrow{\sim} Y$
2. g as f^{-1} , and $f^{-1} : Y \cong X, f^{-1} : Y \rightarrow X$

E.g.

- *bijection* in *Set*
- *bi-implication* in *Prop*

LEMMA 1.3A. If $f : X \cong Y$, then for any Z , we have

- $f_* : \text{hom}(Z, X) \cong_{\text{Set}} \text{hom}(Z, Y)$.
- $f^* : \text{hom}(Z, X) \cong_{\text{Set}} \text{hom}(Z, Y)$.

Proof.

- \Rightarrow

For any $g \in \text{hom}(Z, X)$, we have $g : Z \rightarrow X$. Also we know $X \xrightarrow{f} Y$. So, $f \circ g : Z \xrightarrow{g} X \xrightarrow{f} Y$.

- \Leftarrow

For any $h \in \text{hom}(Z, Y)$, we have $h : Z \rightarrow Y$. Also we know $Y \xrightarrow{f^{-1}} X$. So, $f^{-1} \circ h : Z \xrightarrow{h} Y \xrightarrow{f^{-1}} X$. \square

Lemma. Terminal objects are *unique up to isomorphism*.

Proof. Let T, T' be two terminal objects in a category C .

Since T is terminal, there exists a unique morphism $f : T' \xrightarrow{!'} T$. Similarly, there exists a unique morphism $g : T \xrightarrow{!} T'$.

Now $! \circ !' : T \xrightarrow{!'} T' \xrightarrow{!} T = \text{id}_T$. Similarly, $!' \circ ! = \text{id}_{T'}$.

NOTE We know $T \xrightarrow{!} T' \xrightarrow{!} T$ is id_T because T is terminal, which means for every object Z there is a *unique* morphism $Z \xrightarrow{!} T$. In particular, for $Z = T$, there is a *unique* morphism $T \xrightarrow{!} T$. And we know $\text{id}_T : T \rightarrow T$ is one of the morphisms, so that's it.

Generally, there could be multiple morphisms to oneself, but in this case it's the terminal part that makes it unique.

1.4 Duality

Given a category C , we can define its **dual category** C^{op} by reversing the direction of all morphisms.

$$\text{ob } C^{\text{op}} := \text{ob } C, \text{hom}_{C^{\text{op}}}(X, Y) := \text{hom}_C(Y, X)$$

Lemma. C^{op} is a category.

Lemma. If $X \cong Y$ in C , then $X \cong Y$ in C^{op} .

1.5 Initial Object

An **initial object** I in a category C is the terminal object in C^{op} .

or,

An **initial object** I in a category C is an object such that for every object $Z \in C$, there is a unique morphism $I \xrightarrow{!} Z$.

Lemma. Initial objects are *unique up to isomorphism*.

Proof. Follows dually from the uniqueness of terminal objects.

E.g.

- empty set (\emptyset) in *Set*
- empty type ($()$) in *Ty*
- false (\perp) in *Prop*

1.6 Product

A **product** of two objects A, B in a category C contains

1. an *object* $A \times B \in \text{ob}(C)$
2. *morphisms* $A \times B \xrightarrow{\pi_A} A, A \times B \xrightarrow{\pi_B} B$,

s.t. for any $Z \in \text{ob}(C)$ and morphisms in the diagram, we have a **unique** morphism $U_Z : Z \xrightarrow{!} A \times B$ such that the diagram commutes.

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} & & Z & & \\ \eta_A \swarrow & & \downarrow U_Z & \searrow \eta_B & \\ A & \xleftarrow{\pi_A} & A \times B & \xrightarrow{\pi_B} & B \end{array}$$

NOTE This **uniqueness** depends on the specific choice of π_A and π_B . One must realize that *product* is not just an object, but also the morphisms π_A, π_B .

NOTE Only *some* categories have products.

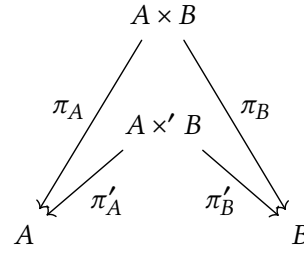
NOTE If U_Z does not need to be unique, it's called a *weak product*.

E.g.

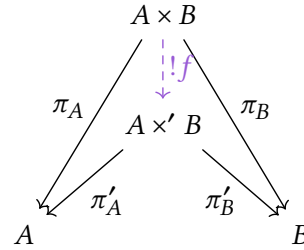
- cartesian product in *Set*
- \wedge in *Prop*

Theorem The product $A \times B$ ($A \times B, \pi_1, \pi_2$) of $A, B \in \text{ob}(C)$ is unique up to *unique isomorphism*.
Proof.

1. Recall the very definition of product (an object, and two project morphisms). First we introduce $A \times B$ and $A \times' B$:



2. Compare the previous diagram with the universal property of product. “Instantiate” the universal property of $A \times' B$ and we have a unique morphism $A \times B \xrightarrow{!f} A \times' B$:



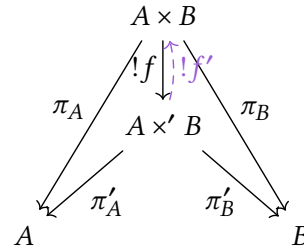
WARN

One might attempt to do the following thing to close the proof:

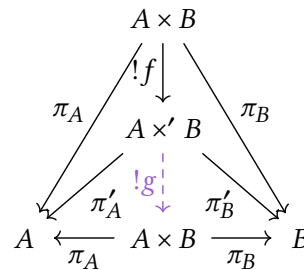
This is not correct, because for $A \times B$ and $A \times' B$ to be isomorphic one also needs to show

$$!f' \circ !f = \text{id}_{A \times B}$$

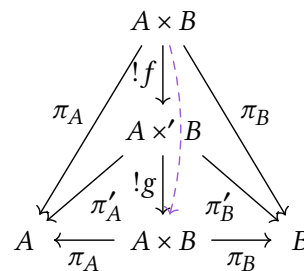
which is not depicted in the diagram.



3. For sake of reasoning, let's duplicate $A \times B$ below $A \times' B$ and exercise the universal property of $A \times B$ with “apex” $A \times' B$ to show $A \times' B \xrightarrow{!g} A \times B$:



4. We can also “instantiate” the universal property of the lower $A \times B$ with apex being the upper $A \times B$, to show there exists a unique morphism $A \times B \xrightarrow{!g} A \times B$:

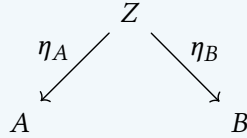


5. Note that $A \times B \xrightarrow{!g \circ !f} A \times B$, and also $A \times B \xrightarrow{\text{id}_{A \times B}} A \times B$. By the previous reasoning, there exists only one morphism, so $!g \circ !f = \text{id}_{A \times B}$. Similarly, $!f \circ !g = \text{id}_{A \times' B}$. By uniqueness of $!f$ and $!g$, this isomorphism is *unique*.

WARN This *uniqueness* depends on a specific choice of π_A and π_B . In other words, if we only consider the product objects $A \times B$ and $A \times' B$, their isomorphism might not be unique because we have the freedom to choose different projection morphisms π_A, π_B and π'_A, π'_B , and they form their own unique isomorphism.

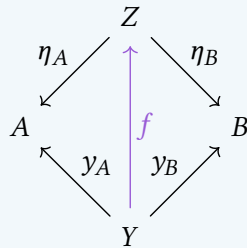
DEFINITION 1.6A. Define new category $C_{A,B}$.

1. **Objects:** diagrams of the form



It can also be called a *span* from A to B .

2. **Morphisms:** f shown in the following diagram



Theorem. Product of A, B in C is the *terminal object* in $C_{A,B}$.

Alternative Definition. Consider $A, B \in \text{ob}(C)$, the product of A, B in an object $A \times B \in \text{ob}(C)$ with the property that

$$\text{hom}_C(Z, A \times B) \cong \text{hom}_C(Z, A) \times \text{hom}_C(Z, B)$$

Theorem. This formation of product is equivalent to the previous two.

TODO This reminds me of *natural transformations*. Instead of producing objects (as in the first definition), we are producing morphisms now.

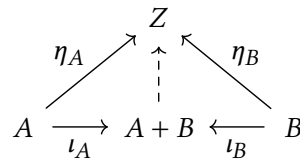
Def The terminal object of C is an object T s.t.

$$\text{hom}(Z, T) \cong \{\top\}$$

TODO i heard the word terminal?? pull out T?? what is a limit here???

1.7 Coproduct

A **coproduct** ($A + B$) of two objects A, B in a category C is the *product* of A, B in C^{op} .



Intuitively, one can make sense of this syntax by thinking of $A + B$ as the disjoint union of A and B .

1.8 Syntactic Category of STLC

For a *simply typed λ -calculus* T , define its **syntactic category** C_T as follows:

- **Objects:** types

- **Morphisms:** $x : S \vdash t : T$

One can see it satisfies:

- **Id:**

$$\frac{}{x : S \vdash x : S} x$$

- **Comp:**

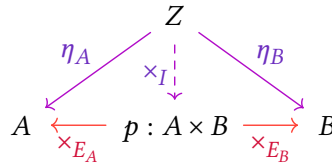
$$\frac{x : S \vdash t : T \quad y : T \vdash u : U}{x : S \vdash u[t/y] : U} \text{SUBST}$$

$$a + 1 = \text{TEST}$$

Now let's add product to our \mathbb{T} .

$$\frac{A \text{ type} \quad B \text{ type}}{A \times B \text{ type}} \times_F \quad \frac{z : Z \vdash a : A \quad z : Z \vdash b : B}{z : Z \vdash (a, b) : A \times B} \times_I \quad \frac{z : Z \vdash p : A \times B}{z : Z \vdash \pi_A p : A} \times_{E_A}$$

$$\frac{z : Z \vdash p : A \times B}{z : Z \vdash \pi_B p : B} \times_{E_B}$$



Thus, there's an interpretation from \mathbb{T} to the category $C_{\mathbb{T}}$. After that, one can construct morphisms from $C_{\mathbb{T}}$ to other categories to give various different semantics to \mathbb{T} .

1.9 Functors

A **functor** $F : C \rightarrow D$ consists of

1. A function $\text{ob } F : \text{ob } C \rightarrow \text{ob } D$
2. A function $F_{X,Y} : \text{hom}_C(X, Y) \rightarrow \text{hom}_D(FX, FY)$ for all $X, Y \in \text{ob } C$

such that

1. **(Id)** $F_{X,X} \text{id}_X = \text{id}_{FX}$ for all $X \in \text{ob } C$
2. **(Comp)** $F_{X,Z}(g \circ f) = F_{Y,Z}(g) \circ F_{X,Y}(f)$ for $X \xrightarrow{f} Y \xrightarrow{g} Z \in C$

NOTE $\text{ob } F$ and $F_{X,Y}$ are just notations. It doesn't mean F is a category.

Theorem. Functors preserve isomorphisms.

1. From

$$X \xleftrightarrow[f]{f} Y$$

this holds:

$$FX \xleftrightarrow[Ff]{Ff} FY$$

2. $Ff \circ Ff^{-1} = F(f \circ f^{-1}) = F \text{id}_Y = \text{id}_{FY}$

and vice versa.

E.g.

1. *Id functor* $\text{Id}_C : C \rightarrow C$

2. *Functor comp* $G \circ F$:

Given $F : C \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ and $G : \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}$, define $G \circ F : C \rightarrow \mathcal{E}$ by

- $\text{ob}(G \circ F) : \text{ob } C \rightarrow \text{ob } \mathcal{E} = \lambda X. \text{ob } G(\text{ob } F(X))$ TODO $(G \circ F)x = G(Fx)$
- $(G \circ F)_{X,Y} : \text{hom}_C(X, Y) \rightarrow \text{hom}_{\mathcal{E}}(GFx, GFY) = G_{Fx, FY} \circ F_{X,Y}$

1.10 Category of Categories

• **Objects:** categories

• **Morphisms:** functors

E.g. Consider $\mathbb{1} = \{A\}$, and $X \in \text{ob } C$, there's functor $[X] : \mathbb{1} \rightarrow C$ such that

1. $\text{ob}_{[X]} = \text{ob } \mathbb{1} \rightarrow \text{ob } C$
2. $[X]_{Y,Z} : \text{hom}_{\mathbb{1}}(Y, Z) \rightarrow \text{hom}_C(X, X) = \lambda _ . \text{id}_X$

Intuitively, this is picking one object X out of C .

E.g. Given C , there is a functor $! : C \rightarrow \mathbb{1}$ such that

1. $\text{ob } ! : \text{ob } C \rightarrow \text{ob } \mathbb{1} := \lambda _ . A$
2. $!_{X,Y} : \text{hom}_C(X, Y) \rightarrow \text{hom}_{\mathbb{1}}(A, A) := \lambda _ . \text{id}_A$

NOTE $\mathbb{1}$ is terminal in *Cat* because for any category C , there is a unique functor $C \xrightarrow{!} \mathbb{1}$. It is unique because the only object in $\mathbb{1}$ is A , and the only morphism is id_A .

E.g. $\text{Set} \hookrightarrow \text{Cat}$

NOTE Similarly, \emptyset is initial in *Cat* because for any category C , there is a unique empty functor $\emptyset \xrightarrow{!} C$.

E.g. $C \times \mathcal{D}$

- **Objects:** $\text{ob } C \times \text{ob } \mathcal{D}$
- **Morphisms:** $\text{hom}_{C \times \mathcal{D}}((C, D), (C', D')) := \text{hom}_C(C, C') \times \text{hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(D, D')$

E.g. $\mathcal{D} + \mathcal{D}$

- **Objects:** $\text{ob } C + \text{ob } \mathcal{D}$
- **Morphisms:**

$$\text{hom}_{C+D}(C, C') := \text{hom}_C(C, C')$$

$$\text{hom}_{C+D}(D, D') := \text{hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(D, D')$$

$$\text{hom}_{C+D}(C, D) := \emptyset$$

$$\text{hom}_{C+D}(D, C) := \emptyset$$

E.g. Consider C with $+$, \top .

We can define a functor *Maybe* : $C \rightarrow C$ that behaves like a haskell *Maybe*:

1. *Maybe* $X := X + \top$
2. $\text{hom}_{\text{Maybe } C}(X, Y)$ is depicted in the following diagram, while f is the input morphism and $f + \text{id}_{\top}$ is the result.

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 & & Y + \top & & \\
 & \nearrow \iota_1 \circ f & \uparrow f + \text{id}_{\top} & \nwarrow \iota_2 \circ \text{id} & \\
 X & \xrightarrow{\iota_1} & X + \top & \xleftarrow{\iota_2} & \top
 \end{array}$$

2 CH-Lambek Correspondence

Define a category $C_{\mathbb{T}}$ (syntactic category) for a *simply typed λ -calculus* \mathbb{T} with

1. structural rules
2. rules for unit type
3. rules for product type
4. constant symbols C for types
5. constant symbols c for terms

REMARK 2A. Recall that *objects* are types and *morphisms* are terms in C_T .

There is a functor $F : C_T \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ where \mathcal{D} is a category with *products* and *terminal object* such that

1. $F(T)$ for all $T \in C$
2. $F(t)$ for all $t \in c$
3. $F(\text{unit}) := 1$
4. $F(S \times T) = F(S) \times F(T)$

Theorem. F is a *functor*.

Definition \mathcal{M}_T is the category with

1. **Objects:** categories with terminal objects, products, interpretation $[C], [c]$ for each $T \in C, t \in c$.
2. **Morphisms:** functors that preserve terminal objects, products and interpretation. E.g. for any $F : C \rightarrow \mathcal{D}, F(1_C) \cong 1_{\mathcal{D}}$

Fact. C_T is the initial object of \mathcal{M}_T . \mathcal{D} is an arbitrary object of \mathcal{M}_T .

Theorem. (Lambek) The category of extensions of *STLC* with *function types* is **equivalent** to the category of categories with terminal objects, products, and *exponent objects*.

NOTE

- product - product
- unit - terminal object
- function type - exponent object

Intuitively, isomorphism of categories C and \mathcal{D} looks like:

$$C \xrightleftharpoons[G]{F} \mathcal{D}$$

where $G \circ F \cong \text{Id}_C$ and $F \circ G \cong \text{Id}_{\mathcal{D}}$.

TODO Given a \mathbb{T}

1. Look at objects in \mathcal{M}_T
2. Look at objects ?? with morphisms $\text{text}_T \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$

3 Moral

1. Type theory is category theory.
2. Category of CCC contains categories of *real* objects (sets, topological spaces, types, etc.)
3. (A *category of a certain model*) can be used to show certain statements are not provable.
4. Type theory is an *informal language* for these categories.

4 Bonus: Inductive types \mathbb{N}

\mathbb{N} in PL is defined as:

$$\begin{aligned} O &: \text{unit} \rightarrow \mathbb{N} \\ S &: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N} \end{aligned}$$

Categorically, we want to define $\text{unit} + \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$.

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 \text{unit} & \longrightarrow & \text{unit} + \mathbb{N} & \longleftarrow & \mathbb{N} \\
 & \searrow & \downarrow O + S & \swarrow & \\
 & O & \mathbb{N} & S &
 \end{array}$$

Induction: we want to say that \mathbb{N} has O, S but that functions $\mathbb{N} \rightarrow A$ corresponds to

$$\begin{aligned}
 Z : \text{unit} &\rightarrow A \\
 O : A &\rightarrow A
 \end{aligned}$$

i.e. $\text{unit} + A \rightarrow A$

Naturally, functor *Maybe* ($C \rightarrow C$) might be helpful: $A \mapsto \text{unit} + A$

NOTE C could be syntactic category for a type theory

Define a category $\text{alg}_{\text{Maybe}}$ of Maybe-algebras:

- **Objects:** (A, a) where $A \in \text{ob } C, a : \text{Maybe } A \rightarrow A$
- **Morphisms:** $(A, a) \xrightarrow{f} (B, b)$ are morphisms $A \xrightarrow{f} B$ in C s.t.

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \text{unit} + A & \xrightarrow{a} & A \\
 \text{id}_{\text{unit}} + f \downarrow & & f \downarrow \\
 \text{unit} + B & \xrightarrow{b} & B
 \end{array}$$

i.e. f is a morphism that preserves the structure of Maybe-algebra. $f \circ a = b \circ \text{Maybe } f$

NOTE f is unique regarding a given pair of (A, a) and (B, b) . **TODO** why?

Observation. \mathbb{N} is the initial object of $\text{alg}_{\text{Maybe}}$.

NOTE Not every functor has a initial object in its category of algebras. It's a privilege of *polynomial endo-functors*.

Recall that we can prove *Set* is a model of *MLTT*.

Similarly,

Claim. \mathbb{N} is the *genuine* natural number.

Recall we can add *co*- prefixes to concepts in category theory lol,

Define Co-alg_F on (A, a) where $A \in \text{ob } C, a : A \rightarrow FA$

And we take its *terminal object*. That's how we get *coinductive types*.

5 References

Lambek + Scott. Intro to higher order categorical logic. (Background required: logic) Altenkirch: Category theory for the lazy functional programmers Ahrens, Wullaert: Category theory for programmers