

Adjoint Paths

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In this paper we formalize adjoint paths using path semantics.

An adjoint path is a relationship between two asymmetric normal paths of f :

$$f[g_0 \times \text{id} \rightarrow \text{id}] \leqslant f[\text{id} \times g_1 \rightarrow \text{id}]$$

$$f : T \rightarrow U$$

This relationship is represented by f , which is called the “adjoint path”.

Since id maps to same type $T \rightarrow T$, it follows that g_0 and g_1 also maps to same type:

$$\begin{aligned} g_0 &: T \rightarrow T \\ g_1 &: T \rightarrow T \end{aligned}$$

Since these two normal paths are the same, it means that they both use the same function:

$$\begin{aligned} \because \quad f[g_0 \times \text{id} \rightarrow \text{id}] &\leqslant h & f(x, y) &= h(g_0(x), y) \\ \because \quad f[\text{id} \times g_1 \rightarrow \text{id}] &\leqslant h & f(x, y) &= h(x, g_1(y)) \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore \quad h(g_0(x), y) = h(x, g_1(y))$$

The function g_0 is called the “left side” or “left adjoint”.

The function g_1 is called the “right side” or “right adjoint”.

When the left side g_0 is equal to the right side g_1 , it is called a “self-adjoint operator”.

Every function is a self-adjoint path using the id function as a self-adjoint operator:

$$f[\mathbf{id} \times \text{id} \rightarrow \text{id}] \leqslant f[\text{id} \times \mathbf{id} \rightarrow \text{id}] \leqslant f$$