

Categories

The Clowder Project Authors

July 22, 2025

00W8 This chapter contains some elementary material about categories, functors, and natural transformations. Notably, we discuss and explore:

02BL 1. Categories ([Section 11.1](#)).

02BM 2. Examples of categories ([Section 11.2](#)).

02BN 3. The quadruple adjunction $\pi_0 \dashv (-)_{\text{disc}} \dashv \text{Obj} \dashv (-)_{\text{indisc}}$ between the category of categories and the category of sets ([Section 11.3](#)).

02BP 4. Groupoids, categories in which all morphisms admit inverses ([Section 11.4](#)).

02BQ 5. Functors ([Section 11.5](#)).

02BR 6. The conditions one may impose on functors in decreasing order of importance:

02BS (a) [Section 11.6](#) introduces the foundationally important conditions one may impose on functors, such as faithfulness, conservativity, essential surjectivity, etc.

02BT (b) [Section 11.7](#) introduces more conditions one may impose on functors that are still important but less omni-present than those of [Section 11.6](#), such as being dominant, being a monomorphism, being pseudomononic, etc.

02BU (c) [Section 11.8](#) introduces some rather rare or uncommon conditions one may impose on functors that are nevertheless still useful to explicit record in this chapter.

- 02BV 7. Natural transformations ([Section 11.9](#)).
- 02BW 8. The various categorical and 2-categorical structures formed by categories, functors, and natural transformations ([Section 11.10](#)).

This chapter is under active revision. TODO:

- Fix categories having an underlying set of objects by having them have an underlying setoid of objects (not necessarily by definition, as that'll likely be bothersome; at least [Section 11.3](#) should be fixed and several remarks should be added at several points). Related: [Warning 11.3.1.1.3](#)

Contents

11.1	Categories.....	4
11.1.1	Foundations	4
11.1.2	Subcategories.....	7
11.1.3	Skeletons of Categories.....	8
11.1.4	Precomposition and Postcomposition	9
11.2	Examples of Categories.....	12
11.2.1	The Empty Category	12
11.2.2	The Punctual Category.....	12
11.2.3	Monoids as One-Object Categories	13
11.2.4	Ordinal Categories.....	14
11.2.5	The Walking Arrow.....	15
11.2.6	More Examples of Categories.....	16
11.2.7	Posetal Categories.....	16
11.3	The Quadruple Adjunction With Sets.....	18
11.3.1	Statement	18
11.3.2	Connected Components and Connected Categories.....	20
11.3.3	Discrete Categories.....	23
11.3.4	Indiscrete Categories.....	25
11.4	Groupoids.....	28
11.4.1	Isomorphisms	28

11.4.2	Groupoids	28
11.4.3	The Groupoid Completion of a Category	29
11.4.4	The Core of a Category	33
11.5	Functors	37
11.5.1	Foundations	37
11.5.2	Contravariant Functors	43
11.5.3	Forgetful Functors	45
11.5.4	The Natural Transformation Associated to a Functor	47
11.6	Conditions on Functors	49
11.6.1	Faithful Functors	49
11.6.2	Full Functors	53
11.6.3	Fully Faithful Functors	61
11.6.4	Conservative Functors	67
11.6.5	Essentially Injective Functors	69
11.6.6	Essentially Surjective Functors	69
11.6.7	Equivalences of Categories	70
11.6.8	Isomorphisms of Categories	74
11.7	More Conditions on Functors	76
11.7.1	Dominant Functors	76
11.7.2	Monomorphisms of Categories	78
11.7.3	Epimorphisms of Categories	79
11.7.4	Pseudomonic Functors	81
11.7.5	Pseudoepic Functors	84
11.8	Even More Conditions on Functors	87
11.8.1	Injective on Objects Functors	87
11.8.2	Surjective on Objects Functors	88
11.8.3	Bijective on Objects Functors	88
11.8.4	Functors Representably Faithful on Cores	88
11.8.5	Functors Representably Full on Cores	89
11.8.6	Functors Representably Fully Faithful on Cores	90
11.8.7	Functors Corepresentably Faithful on Cores	92
11.8.8	Functors Corepresentably Full on Cores	93
11.8.9	Functors Corepresentably Fully Faithful on Cores	94

11.9	Natural Transformations	95
11.9.1	Transformations.....	95
11.9.2	Natural Transformations.....	96
11.9.3	Examples of Natural Transformations	98
11.9.4	Vertical Composition of Natural Transformations	100
11.9.5	Horizontal Composition of Natural Transformations ...	104
11.9.6	Properties of Natural Transformations	110
11.9.7	Natural Isomorphisms.....	112
11.10	Categories of Categories.....	114
11.10.1	Functor Categories.....	114
11.10.2	The Category of Categories and Functors.....	118
11.10.3	The 2-Category of Categories, Functors, and Natural Transformations	120
11.10.4	The Category of Groupoids.....	122
11.10.5	The 2-Category of Groupoids.....	122
A	Other Chapters	123

00W9 II.I Categories

00WA II.I.I Foundations

00WB DEFINITION 11.1.1.1 ► CATEGORIES

A **category** $(C, \circ^C, \mathbb{1}^C)$ consists of:

- *Objects.* A class $\text{Obj}(C)$ of **objects**.
- *Morphisms.* For each $A, B \in \text{Obj}(C)$, a class $\text{Hom}_C(A, B)$, called the **class of morphisms of C from A to B** .
- *Identities.* For each $A \in \text{Obj}(C)$, a map of sets

$$\mathbb{1}_A^C: \text{pt} \rightarrow \text{Hom}_C(A, A),$$

called the **unit map of C at A** , determining a morphism

$$\text{id}_A: A \rightarrow A$$

of C , called the **identity morphism of A** .

- *Composition.* For each $A, B, C \in \text{Obj}(C)$, a map of sets

$$\circ_{A,B,C}^C: \text{Hom}_C(B, C) \times \text{Hom}_C(A, B) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_C(A, C),$$

called the **composition map of C at (A, B, C)** .

such that the following conditions are satisfied:

1. *Associativity.* The diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 & \text{Hom}_C(C, D) \times (\text{Hom}_C(B, C) \times \text{Hom}_C(A, B)) & \\
 \alpha_{\text{Hom}_C(C,D), \text{Hom}_C(B,C), \text{Hom}_C(A,B)}^{\text{Sets}} \swarrow & & \searrow \text{id}_{\text{Hom}_C(C,D)} \times \circ_{A,B,C}^C \\
 (\text{Hom}_C(C, D) \times \text{Hom}_C(B, C)) \times \text{Hom}_C(A, B) & & \text{Hom}_C(C, D) \times \text{Hom}_C(A, C) \\
 \downarrow \circ_{B,C,D}^C \times \text{id}_{\text{Hom}_C(A,B)} & & \downarrow \circ_{A,C,D}^C \\
 \text{Hom}_C(B, D) \times \text{Hom}_C(A, B) & \xrightarrow[\circ_{A,B,D}^C]{} & \text{Hom}_C(A, D)
 \end{array}$$

commutes, i.e. for each composable triple (f, g, h) of morphisms of C , we have

$$(f \circ g) \circ h = f \circ (g \circ h).$$

2. *Left Unitality.* The diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \text{pt} \times \text{Hom}_C(A, B) & & \\
 \downarrow \text{id}_B^C \times \text{id}_{\text{Hom}_C(A,B)} & \searrow \lambda_{\text{Hom}_C(A,B)}^{\text{Sets}} & \\
 \text{Hom}_C(B, B) \times \text{Hom}_C(A, B) & \xrightarrow[\circ_{A,B,B}^C]{} & \text{Hom}_C(A, B)
 \end{array}$$

commutes, i.e. for each morphism $f: A \rightarrow B$ of C , we have

$$\text{id}_B \circ f = f.$$

3. *Right Unitality*. The diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \text{Hom}_C(A, B) \times \text{pt} & & \\
 \downarrow \text{id}_{\text{Hom}_C(A, B)} \times \mathbf{1}_A^C & \searrow \rho_{\text{Hom}_C(A, B)}^{\text{Sets}} & \\
 \text{Hom}_C(A, B) \times \text{Hom}_C(A, A) & \xrightarrow{\circ_{A, A, B}^C} & \text{Hom}_C(A, B)
 \end{array}$$

commutes, i.e. for each morphism $f: A \rightarrow B$ of C , we have

$$f \circ \text{id}_A = f.$$

00WC

NOTATION 11.1.1.1.2 ► FURTHER NOTATION FOR MORPHISMS IN CATEGORIES

Let C be a category.

00WD

1. We also write $C(A, B)$ for $\text{Hom}_C(A, B)$.

00WE

2. We write $\text{Mor}(C)$ for the class of all morphisms of C .

00WF

DEFINITION 11.1.1.1.3 ► SIZE CONDITIONS ON CATEGORIES

Let κ be a regular cardinal. A category C is

00WG

1. **Locally small** if, for each $A, B \in \text{Obj}(C)$, the class $\text{Hom}_C(A, B)$ is a set.

00WH

2. **Locally essentially small** if, for each $A, B \in \text{Obj}(C)$, the class

$$\text{Hom}_C(A, B) / \{\text{isomorphisms}\}$$

is a set.

00WJ

3. **Small** if C is locally small and $\text{Obj}(C)$ is a set.

00WK

4. κ -**Small** if C is locally small, $\text{Obj}(C)$ is a set, and we have $\#\text{Obj}(C) < \kappa$.

00XC II.1.2 Subcategories

Let C be a category.

00XD DEFINITION 11.1.2.1.1 ► SUBCATEGORIES

A **subcategory** of C is a category \mathcal{A} satisfying the following conditions:

1. *Objects.* We have $\text{Obj}(\mathcal{A}) \subset \text{Obj}(C)$.
2. *Morphisms.* For each $A, B \in \text{Obj}(\mathcal{A})$, we have

$$\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{A}}(A, B) \subset \text{Hom}_C(A, B).$$

3. *Identities.* For each $A \in \text{Obj}(\mathcal{A})$, we have

$$1_A^{\mathcal{A}} = 1_A^C.$$

4. *Composition.* For each $A, B, C \in \text{Obj}(\mathcal{A})$, we have

$$\circ_{A,B,C}^{\mathcal{A}} = \circ_{A,B,C}^C.$$

00XE DEFINITION 11.1.2.1.2 ► FULL SUBCATEGORIES

A subcategory \mathcal{A} of C is **full** if the canonical inclusion functor $\mathcal{A} \rightarrow C$ is full, i.e. if, for each $A, B \in \text{Obj}(\mathcal{A})$, the inclusion

$$\iota_{A,B}: \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{A}}(A, B) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_C(A, B)$$

is surjective (and thus bijective).

00XF DEFINITION 11.1.2.1.3 ► STRICTLY FULL SUBCATEGORIES

A subcategory \mathcal{A} of a category C is **strictly full** if it satisfies the following conditions:

1. *Fullness.* The subcategory \mathcal{A} is full.
2. *Closedness Under Isomorphisms.* The class $\text{Obj}(\mathcal{A})$ is closed under isomorphisms.¹

¹That is, given $A \in \text{Obj}(\mathcal{A})$ and $C \in \text{Obj}(\mathcal{C})$, if $C \cong A$, then $C \in \text{Obj}(\mathcal{A})$.

00XG

DEFINITION 11.1.2.1.4 ► WIDE SUBCATEGORIES

A subcategory \mathcal{A} of \mathcal{C} is **wide**¹ if $\text{Obj}(\mathcal{A}) = \text{Obj}(\mathcal{C})$.

¹*Further Terminology:* Also called **lluf**.

00XH 11.1.3 Skeletons of Categories

00XJ

DEFINITION 11.1.3.1.1 ► SKELETONS OF CATEGORIES

A¹ **skeleton** of a category \mathcal{C} is a full subcategory $\text{Sk}(\mathcal{C})$ with one object from each isomorphism class of objects of \mathcal{C} .

¹Due to **Item 3** of **Proposition 11.1.3.1.3**, which states that any two skeletons of a category are equivalent, we often refer to any such full subcategory $\text{Sk}(\mathcal{C})$ of \mathcal{C} as *the* skeleton of \mathcal{C} .

00XK

DEFINITION 11.1.3.1.2 ► SKELETAL CATEGORIES

A category \mathcal{C} is **skeletal** if $\mathcal{C} \cong \text{Sk}(\mathcal{C})$.¹

¹That is, \mathcal{C} is **skeletal** if isomorphic objects of \mathcal{C} are equal.

00XL

PROPOSITION 11.1.3.1.3 ► PROPERTIES OF SKELETONS OF CATEGORIES

Let \mathcal{C} be a category.

00XM

1. *Existence.* Assuming the axiom of choice, $\text{Sk}(\mathcal{C})$ always exists.

00XN

2. *Pseudofunctoriality.* The assignment $\mathcal{C} \mapsto \text{Sk}(\mathcal{C})$ defines a pseudo-functor

$$\text{Sk}: \text{Cats}_2 \rightarrow \text{Cats}_2.$$

00XP

3. *Uniqueness Up to Equivalence.* Any two skeletons of \mathcal{C} are equivalent.

00XQ

4. *Inclusions of Skeletons Are Equivalences.* The inclusion

$$\iota_{\mathcal{C}}: \text{Sk}(\mathcal{C}) \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$$

of a skeleton of \mathcal{C} into \mathcal{C} is an equivalence of categories.

PROOF 11.1.3.1.4 ► PROOF OF PROPOSITION 11.1.3.1.3

Item 1: Existence

See [nLab23, Section “Existence of Skeletons of Categories”].

Item 2: Pseudofunctoriality

See [nLab23, Section “Skeletons as an Endo-Pseudofunctor on \mathfrak{Cat} ”].

Item 3: Uniqueness Up to Equivalence

Clear.

Item 4: Inclusions of Skeletons Are Equivalences

Clear.



00XR II.I.4 Precomposition and Postcomposition

Let C be a category and let $A, B, C \in \text{Obj}(C)$.

00XS DEFINITION 11.1.4.1.1 ► PRECOMPOSITION AND POSTCOMPOSITION FUNCTIONS

Let $f: A \rightarrow B$ and $g: B \rightarrow C$ be morphisms of C .

00XT 1. The **precomposition function associated to f** is the function

$$f^*: \text{Hom}_C(B, C) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_C(A, C)$$

defined by

$$f^*(\phi) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \phi \circ f$$

for each $\phi \in \text{Hom}_C(B, C)$.

00XU 2. The **postcomposition function associated to g** is the function

$$g_*: \text{Hom}_C(A, B) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_C(A, C)$$

defined by

$$g_*(\phi) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} g \circ \phi$$

for each $\phi \in \text{Hom}_C(A, B)$.

00XV

PROPOSITION 11.1.4.1.2 ► PROPERTIES OF PRE/POSTCOMPOSITION

Let $A, B, C, D \in \text{Obj}(C)$ and let $f: A \rightarrow B$ and $g: B \rightarrow C$ be morphisms of C .

00XW

1. *Interaction Between Precomposition and Postcomposition.* We have

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 & \text{Hom}_C(B, C) & \xrightarrow{g_*} \text{Hom}_C(B, D) \\
 g_* \circ f^* = f^* \circ g_*, & \downarrow f^* & \downarrow f^* \\
 & \text{Hom}_C(A, C) & \xrightarrow{g_*} \text{Hom}_C(A, D).
 \end{array}$$

00XX

2. *Interaction With Composition I.* We have

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \text{Hom}_C(X, A) & \xrightarrow{f_*} & \text{Hom}_C(X, B) \\
 & \searrow (g \circ f)_* & \downarrow g_* \\
 & & \text{Hom}_C(X, C), \\
 \\
 \text{Hom}_C(C, X) & \xrightarrow{g^*} & \text{Hom}_C(B, X) \\
 & \searrow (g \circ f)^* & \downarrow f^* \\
 & & \text{Hom}_C(A, X).
 \end{array}$$

$(g \circ f)^* = f^* \circ g^*,$
 $(g \circ f)_* = g_* \circ f_*,$

00XY

3. *Interaction With Composition II.* We have

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \text{pt} \xrightarrow{[f]} \text{Hom}_C(A, B) & & \text{pt} \xrightarrow{[g]} \text{Hom}_C(B, C) \\
 \searrow [g \circ f] \quad \downarrow g_* & [g \circ f] = g_* \circ [f], & \searrow [g \circ f] \quad \downarrow f^* \\
 \text{Hom}_C(A, C) & [g \circ f] = f^* \circ [g], & \text{Hom}_C(A, C).
 \end{array}$$

00XZ

 4. *Interaction With Composition III.* We have

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 \text{Hom}_C(B, C) \times \text{Hom}_C(A, B) & \xrightarrow{\circ_{A,B,C}^C} & \text{Hom}_C(A, C) \\
 \downarrow \text{id} \times f^* & & \downarrow f^* \\
 \text{Hom}_C(B, C) \times \text{Hom}_C(X, B) & \xrightarrow{\circ_{X,B,C}^C} & \text{Hom}_C(X, C), \\
 \\
 \text{Hom}_C(B, C) \times \text{Hom}_C(A, B) & \xrightarrow{\circ_{A,B,C}^C} & \text{Hom}_C(A, C) \\
 \downarrow g_* \times \text{id} & & \downarrow g_* \\
 \text{Hom}_C(B, D) \times \text{Hom}_C(A, B) & \xrightarrow{\circ_{A,B,D}^C} & \text{Hom}_C(A, D).
 \end{array}$$

$f^* \circ \circ_{A,B,C}^C = \circ_{X,B,C}^C \circ (f^* \times \text{id}),$
 $g_* \circ \circ_{A,B,C}^C = \circ_{A,B,D}^C \circ (\text{id} \times g_*),$

00Y0

 5. *Interaction With Identities.* We have

$$\begin{aligned}
 (\text{id}_A)^* &= \text{id}_{\text{Hom}_C(A,B)}, \\
 (\text{id}_B)_* &= \text{id}_{\text{Hom}_C(A,B)}.
 \end{aligned}$$

PROOF 11.1.4.1.3 ► PROOF OF PROPOSITION 11.1.4.1.2

Item 1: Interaction Between Precomposition and Postcomposition

Clear.

Item 2: Interaction With Composition I

Clear.

Item 3: Interaction With Composition II

Clear.

Item 4: Interaction With Composition III

Clear.

Item 5: Interaction With Identities

Clear.



00WL II.2 Examples of Categories

01TT II.2.1 The Empty Category

00WP

EXAMPLE 11.2.1.1.1 ► THE EMPTY CATEGORY

The **empty category** is the category \emptyset_{cat} where

- *Objects.* We have

$$\text{Obj}(\emptyset_{\text{cat}}) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \emptyset.$$

- *Morphisms.* We have

$$\text{Mor}(\emptyset_{\text{cat}}) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \emptyset.$$

- *Identities and Composition.* Having no objects, \emptyset_{cat} has no unit nor composition maps.

01TU II.2.2 The Punctual Category

00WM

EXAMPLE 11.2.2.1.1 ► THE PUNCTUAL CATEGORY

The **punctual category**^I is the category pt where

- *Objects.* We have

$$\text{Obj}(\text{pt}) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{\star\}.$$

- *Morphisms.* The unique Hom-set of pt is defined by

$$\text{Hom}_{\text{pt}}(\star, \star) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{\text{id}_{\star}\}.$$

- *Identities.* The unit map

$$1_{\star}^{\text{pt}} : \text{pt} \rightarrow \text{Hom}_{\text{pt}}(\star, \star)$$

of \mathbf{pt} at \star is defined by

$$\mathrm{id}_{\star}^{\mathbf{pt}} \stackrel{\mathrm{def}}{=} \mathrm{id}_{\star}.$$

- *Composition.* The composition map

$$\circ_{\star, \star, \star}^{\mathbf{pt}}: \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathbf{pt}}(\star, \star) \times \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathbf{pt}}(\star, \star) \rightarrow \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathbf{pt}}(\star, \star)$$

of \mathbf{pt} at (\star, \star, \star) is given by the bijection $\mathbf{pt} \times \mathbf{pt} \cong \mathbf{pt}$.

¹*Further Terminology:* Also called the **singleton category**.

01TV 11.2.3 Monoids as One-Object Categories

00WN EXAMPLE 11.2.3.1.1 ► MONOIDS AS ONE-OBJECT CATEGORIES

We have an isomorphism of categories¹

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathbf{Mon} & \longrightarrow & \mathbf{Cats} \\ \downarrow \lrcorner & & \downarrow \mathrm{Obj} \\ \mathbf{pt} & \xrightarrow{[\mathbf{pt}]} & \mathbf{Sets} \end{array} \quad \mathbf{Mon} \cong \mathbf{pt} \times_{\mathbf{Sets}} \mathbf{Cats},$$

via the delooping functor $B: \mathbf{Mon} \rightarrow \mathbf{Cats}$ of ?? of ??, exhibiting monoids as exactly those categories having a single object.

¹This can be enhanced to an isomorphism of 2-categories

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathbf{Mon}_{2\mathrm{disc}} & \longrightarrow & \mathbf{Cats}_{2,*} \\ \downarrow \lrcorner & & \downarrow \mathrm{Obj} \\ \mathbf{pt}_{\mathrm{bi}} & \xrightarrow{[\mathbf{pt}]} & \mathbf{Sets}_{2\mathrm{disc}} \end{array} \quad \mathbf{Mon}_{2\mathrm{disc}} \cong \mathbf{pt}_{\mathrm{bi}} \times_{\mathbf{Sets}_{2\mathrm{disc}}} \mathbf{Cats}_{2,*},$$

between the discrete 2-category $\mathbf{Mon}_{2\mathrm{disc}}$ on \mathbf{Mon} and the 2-category of pointed categories with one object.

PROOF 11.2.3.1.2 ► PROOF OF EXAMPLE 11.2.3.1.1

Omitted.



01TW 11.2.4 Ordinal Categories

00WQ EXAMPLE 11.2.4.1.1 ► ORDINAL CATEGORIES

The n th ordinal category is the category \mathbf{n} where¹

- *Objects.* We have

$$\text{Obj}(\mathbf{n}) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{[0], \dots, [n]\}.$$

- *Morphisms.* For each $[i], [j] \in \text{Obj}(\mathbf{n})$, we have

$$\text{Hom}_{\mathbf{n}}([i], [j]) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \begin{cases} \{\text{id}_{[i]}\} & \text{if } [i] = [j], \\ \{[i] \rightarrow [j]\} & \text{if } [j] < [i], \\ \emptyset & \text{if } [j] > [i]. \end{cases}$$

- *Identities.* For each $[i] \in \text{Obj}(\mathbf{n})$, the unit map

$$1_{[i]}^{\mathbf{n}} : \text{pt} \rightarrow \text{Hom}_{\mathbf{n}}([i], [i])$$

of \mathbf{n} at $[i]$ is defined by

$$\text{id}_{[i]}^{\mathbf{n}} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{id}_{[i]}.$$

- *Composition.* For each $[i], [j], [k] \in \text{Obj}(\mathbf{n})$, the composition map

$$\circ_{[i],[j],[k]}^{\mathbf{n}} : \text{Hom}_{\mathbf{n}}([j], [k]) \times \text{Hom}_{\mathbf{n}}([i], [j]) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_{\mathbf{n}}([i], [k])$$

of \mathbf{n} at $([i], [j], [k])$ is defined by

$$\begin{aligned} \text{id}_{[i]} \circ \text{id}_{[j]} &= \text{id}_{[i]}, \\ ([j] \rightarrow [k]) \circ ([i] \rightarrow [j]) &= ([i] \rightarrow [k]). \end{aligned}$$

¹In other words, \mathbf{n} is the category associated to the poset

$$[0] \rightarrow [1] \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow [n-1] \rightarrow [n].$$

The category \mathbf{n} for $n \geq 2$ may also be defined in terms of $\mathbf{0}$ and joins (Constructions With Categories, ??): we have isomorphisms of categories

$$\begin{aligned} 1 &\cong \mathbf{0} \star \mathbf{0}, \\ 2 &\cong 1 \star \mathbf{0} \\ &\cong (\mathbf{0} \star \mathbf{0}) \star \mathbf{0}, \\ 3 &\cong 2 \star \mathbf{0} \\ &\cong (1 \star \mathbf{0}) \star \mathbf{0} \\ &\cong ((\mathbf{0} \star \mathbf{0}) \star \mathbf{0}) \star \mathbf{0}, \\ 4 &\cong 3 \star \mathbf{0} \\ &\cong (2 \star \mathbf{0}) \star \mathbf{0} \\ &\cong ((1 \star \mathbf{0}) \star \mathbf{0}) \star \mathbf{0} \\ &\cong (((\mathbf{0} \star \mathbf{0}) \star \mathbf{0}) \star \mathbf{0}) \star \mathbf{0}, \end{aligned}$$

and so on.

01TX 11.2.5 The Walking Arrow

01TY DEFINITION 11.2.5.1.1 ► THE WALKING ARROW

The **walking arrow** is the category $\mathbf{1}$ defined as the first ordinal category.

01TZ REMARK 11.2.5.1.2 ► UNWINDING DEFINITION 11.2.5.1.1

In detail, the walking arrow is the category $\mathbf{1}$ where:

- *Objects.* We have $\text{Obj}(\mathbf{1}) = \{0, 1\}$.
- *Morphisms.* We have

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Hom}_{\mathbf{1}}(0, 0) &= \{\text{id}_0\}, \\ \text{Hom}_{\mathbf{1}}(1, 1) &= \{\text{id}_1\}, \\ \text{Hom}_{\mathbf{1}}(0, 1) &= \{f_{01}\}, \\ \text{Hom}_{\mathbf{1}}(1, 0) &= \emptyset. \end{aligned}$$

- *Identities and Composition.* The identities and composition of $\mathbf{1}$ are completely determined by the unitality and associativity axioms for $\mathbf{1}$.

01U0 11.2.6 More Examples of Categories

00WR EXAMPLE 11.2.6.1.1 ► MORE EXAMPLES OF CATEGORIES

Here we list some of the other categories appearing throughout this work.

- 00WS 1. The category \mathbf{Sets}_* of pointed sets of **Pointed Sets**, **Definition 6.1.3.1.1**.
- 00WT 2. The category \mathbf{Rel} of sets and relations of **Relations**, **Definition 8.3.2.1.1**.
- 00WU 3. The category $\mathbf{Span}(A, B)$ of spans from a set A to a set B of **??**, **??**.
- 00WV 4. The category $\mathbf{ISets}(K)$ of K -indexed sets of **Indexed Sets**, **??**.
- 00WW 5. The category \mathbf{ISets} of indexed sets of **Indexed Sets**, **??**.
- 00WX 6. The category $\mathbf{FibSets}(K)$ of K -fibred sets of **Fibred Sets**, **??**.
- 00WY 7. The category $\mathbf{FibSets}$ of fibred sets of **Fibred Sets**, **??**.
- 00WZ 8. Categories of functors $\mathbf{Fun}(C, \mathcal{D})$ as in **Definition 11.10.1.1.1**.
- 00X0 9. The category of categories \mathbf{Cats} of **Definition 11.10.2.1.1**.
- 00X1 10. The category of groupoids \mathbf{Grpd} of **Definition 11.10.4.1.1**.

00X2 11.2.7 Posetal Categories

00X3 DEFINITION 11.2.7.1.1 ► POSETAL CATEGORIES

Let (X, \preceq_X) be a poset.

- 00X4 1. The **posetal category associated to** (X, \preceq_X) is the category X_{pos} where

- *Objects.* We have

$$\text{Obj}(X_{\text{pos}}) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} X.$$

- *Morphisms.* For each $a, b \in \text{Obj}(X_{\text{pos}})$, we have

$$\text{Hom}_{X_{\text{pos}}}(a, b) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \begin{cases} \text{pt} & \text{if } a \preceq_X b, \\ \emptyset & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

- *Identities.* For each $a \in \text{Obj}(X_{\text{pos}})$, the unit map

$$1_a^{X_{\text{pos}}} : \text{pt} \rightarrow \text{Hom}_{X_{\text{pos}}}(a, a)$$

of X_{pos} at a is given by the identity map.

- *Composition.* For each $a, b, c \in \text{Obj}(X_{\text{pos}})$, the composition map

$$\circ_{a,b,c}^{X_{\text{pos}}} : \text{Hom}_{X_{\text{pos}}}(b, c) \times \text{Hom}_{X_{\text{pos}}}(a, b) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_{X_{\text{pos}}}(a, c)$$

of X_{pos} at (a, b, c) is defined as either the inclusion $\emptyset \rightarrow \text{pt}$ or the identity map of pt , depending on whether we have $a \preceq_X b$, $b \preceq_X c$, and $a \preceq_X c$.

- 00X5 2. A category C is **posetal**¹ if C is equivalent to X_{pos} for some poset (X, \preceq_X) .

¹*Further Terminology:* Also called a **thin** category or a **(0, 1)-category**.

00X6 **PROPOSITION 11.2.7.1.2 ► PROPERTIES OF POSETAL CATEGORIES**

Let (X, \preceq_X) be a poset and let C be a category.

- 00X7 1. *Functoriality.* The assignment $(X, \preceq_X) \mapsto X_{\text{pos}}$ defines a functor

$$(-)_{\text{pos}} : \text{Pos} \rightarrow \text{Cats}.$$

- 00X8 2. *Fully Faithfulness.* The functor $(-)_{\text{pos}}$ of **Item 1** is fully faithful.

00X9

3. *Characterisations.* The following conditions are equivalent:

00XA

(a) The category C is posetal.

00XB

(b) For each $A, B \in \text{Obj}(C)$ and each $f, g \in \text{Hom}_C(A, B)$, we have $f = g$.

02BX

4. *Automatic Commutativity of Diagrams.* Every diagram in a posetal category commutes.

PROOF 11.2.7.1.3 ► PROOF OF PROPOSITION 11.2.7.1.2

Item 1: Functoriality

Omitted.


Item 2: Fully Faithfulness

Omitted.

Item 3: Characterisations

Clear.

Item 4: Automatic Commutativity of Diagrams

This follows from the fact that if C is posetal, then there's at most one morphism between any two objects. 

00Y1 11.3 The Quadruple Adjunction With Sets

00Y2 11.3.1 Statement

Let C be a category.

00Y3

PROPOSITION 11.3.1.1.1 ► THE QUADRUPLE ADJUNCTION BETWEEN Sets AND Cats

We have a quadruple adjunction

$$(\pi_0 \dashv (-)_{\text{disc}} \dashv \text{Obj} \dashv (-)_{\text{indisc}}): \text{Sets} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\pi_0} \\ \perp \\ \xrightarrow{(-)_{\text{disc}}} \\ \perp \\ \xrightarrow{\text{Obj}} \\ \perp \\ \xrightarrow{(-)_{\text{indisc}}} \end{array} \text{Cats},$$

witnessed by bijections of sets

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Hom}_{\text{Sets}}(\pi_0(C), X) &\cong \text{Hom}_{\text{Cats}}(C, X_{\text{disc}}), \\ \text{Hom}_{\text{Cats}}(X_{\text{disc}}, C) &\cong \text{Hom}_{\text{Sets}}(X, \text{Obj}(C)), \\ \text{Hom}_{\text{Sets}}(\text{Obj}(C), X) &\cong \text{Hom}_{\text{Cats}}(C, X_{\text{indisc}}), \end{aligned}$$

natural in $C \in \text{Obj}(\text{Cats})$ and $X \in \text{Obj}(\text{Sets})$, where

- The functor

$$\pi_0: \text{Cats} \rightarrow \text{Sets},$$

the **connected components functor**, is the functor sending a category to its set of connected components of [Definition II.3.2.2.I](#).

- The functor

$$(-)_{\text{disc}}: \text{Sets} \rightarrow \text{Cats},$$

the **discrete category functor**, is the functor sending a set to its associated discrete category of [Item I](#).

- The functor

$$\text{Obj}: \text{Cats} \rightarrow \text{Sets},$$

the **object functor**, is the functor sending a category to its set of objects.

- The functor

$$(-)_{\text{indisc}}: \text{Sets} \rightarrow \text{Cats},$$

the **indiscrete category functor**, is the functor sending a set to its associated indiscrete category of [Item I](#).

02LR



PROOF 11.3.1.1.2 ► PROOF OF PROPOSITION 11.3.1.1.1

Omitted.

WARNING 11.3.1.1.3 ► PROPOSITION 11.3.1.1.1 CANNOT BE ENHANCED TO A 2-CATEGORICAL ADJUNCTION

(This is a stub, to be revised and expanded upon later.)

The discrete category functor of **Proposition 11.3.1.1.1** lifts to a 2-functor, but it fails to preserve 2-categorical colimits, and hence lacks a right 2-adjoint. For instance, the 2-pushout of $\text{pt} \leftarrow S^0 \rightarrow \text{pt}$ in $\text{Sets}_{\text{disc}}$ is pt , but in Cats_2 it is given by $\mathbf{B}\mathbb{Z}$.

00Y4 **11.3.2 Connected Components and Connected Categories**

00Y5 **11.3.2.1 Connected Components of Categories**

Let C be a category.

00Y6 **DEFINITION 11.3.2.1.1 ► CONNECTED COMPONENTS OF CATEGORIES**

A **connected component** of C is a full subcategory \mathcal{I} of C satisfying the following conditions:¹

1. *Non-Emptiness.* We have $\text{Obj}(\mathcal{I}) \neq \emptyset$.
2. *Connectedness.* There exists a zigzag of arrows between any two objects of \mathcal{I} .

¹In other words, a **connected component** of C is an element of the set $\text{Obj}(C)/\sim$ with \sim the equivalence relation generated by the relation \sim' obtained by declaring $A \sim' B$ iff there exists a morphism of C from A to B .

00Y7 **11.3.2.2 Sets of Connected Components of Categories**

Let C be a category.

00Y8 **DEFINITION 11.3.2.2.1 ► SETS OF CONNECTED COMPONENTS OF CATEGORIES**

The **set of connected components** of C is the set $\pi_0(C)$ whose elements are the connected components of C .

PROPOSITION 11.3.2.2.2 ► PROPERTIES OF SETS OF CONNECTED COMPONENTS

00YB

being equipped with isomorphisms

$$\begin{aligned}\pi_{0|C,D}^{\coprod} &: \pi_0(C) \coprod \pi_0(D) \xrightarrow{\sim} \pi_0(C \coprod D), \\ \pi_{0|1}^{\coprod} &: \emptyset \xrightarrow{\sim} \pi_0(\emptyset_{\text{cat}}),\end{aligned}$$

natural in $C, D \in \text{Obj}(\text{Cats})$.

00YF

6. *Symmetric Strong Monoidality With Respect to Products.* The connected components functor of **Item 1** has a symmetric strong monoidal structure

$$(\pi_0, \pi_0^\times, \pi_{0|1}^\times): (\text{Cats}, \times, \text{pt}) \rightarrow (\text{Sets}, \times, \text{pt}),$$

being equipped with isomorphisms

$$\begin{aligned}\pi_{0|C,D}^\times &: \pi_0(C) \times \pi_0(D) \xrightarrow{\sim} \pi_0(C \times D), \\ \pi_{0|1}^\times &: \text{pt} \xrightarrow{\sim} \pi_0(\text{pt}),\end{aligned}$$

natural in $C, D \in \text{Obj}(\text{Cats})$.

PROOF 11.3.2.2.3 ► PROOF OF PROPOSITION 11.3.2.2.2

Item 1: Functoriality

Clear.

Item 2: Adjointness

This is proved in **Proposition 11.3.1.1.1**.

Item 3: Interaction With Groupoids

Clear.

Item 4: Preservation of Colimits

This follows from **Item 2** and ?? of ??.

Item 5: Symmetric Strong Monoidality With Respect to Coproducts

Clear.

Item 6: Symmetric Strong Monoidality With Respect to Products

Clear.



11.3.2.3 Connected Categories

DEFINITION 11.3.2.3.1 ► CONNECTED CATEGORIES

A category C is **connected** if $\pi_0(C) \cong \text{pt}$.^{1,2}

¹*Further Terminology:* A category is **disconnected** if it is not connected.

²*Example:* A groupoid is connected iff any two of its objects are isomorphic.

11.3.3 Discrete Categories

DEFINITION 11.3.3.1.1 ► DISCRETE CATEGORIES

Let X be a set.

I. The **discrete category on X** is the category X_{disc} where

- *Objects.* We have

$$\text{Obj}(X_{\text{disc}}) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} X.$$

- *Morphisms.* For each $A, B \in \text{Obj}(X_{\text{disc}})$, we have

$$\text{Hom}_{X_{\text{disc}}}(A, B) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \begin{cases} \text{id}_A & \text{if } A = B, \\ \emptyset & \text{if } A \neq B. \end{cases}$$

- *Identities.* For each $A \in \text{Obj}(X_{\text{disc}})$, the unit map

$$\mathbb{1}_A^{X_{\text{disc}}} : \text{pt} \rightarrow \text{Hom}_{X_{\text{disc}}}(A, A)$$

of X_{disc} at A is defined by

$$\text{id}_A^{X_{\text{disc}}} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{id}_A.$$

- *Composition.* For each $A, B, C \in \text{Obj}(X_{\text{disc}})$, the composition map

$$\circ_{A,B,C}^{X_{\text{disc}}} : \text{Hom}_{X_{\text{disc}}}(B, C) \times \text{Hom}_{X_{\text{disc}}}(A, B) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_{X_{\text{disc}}}(A, C)$$

of X_{disc} at (A, B, C) is defined by

$$\text{id}_A \circ \text{id}_A \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{id}_A.$$

00YM

2. A category C is **discrete** if it is equivalent to X_{disc} for some set X .

00YN

PROPOSITION 11.3.3.1.2 ► PROPERTIES OF DISCRETE CATEGORIES ON SETS

Let X be a set.

00YP

1. *Functoriality.* The assignment $X \mapsto X_{\text{disc}}$ defines a functor

$$(-)_{\text{disc}} : \text{Sets} \rightarrow \text{Cats}.$$

00YQ

2. *Adjointness.* We have a quadruple adjunction

$$(\pi_0 \dashv (-)_{\text{disc}} \dashv \text{Obj} \dashv (-)_{\text{indisc}}): \text{Sets} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\pi_0} \\ \begin{array}{c} \perp \\ (-)_{\text{disc}} \\ \perp \end{array} \\ \xleftarrow{\text{Obj}} \\ \begin{array}{c} \xleftarrow{(-)_{\text{indisc}}} \\ \perp \end{array} \\ \xrightarrow{(-)_{\text{indisc}}} \end{array} \text{Cats}.$$

00YR

3. *Symmetric Strong Monoidality With Respect to Coproducts.* The functor of **Item 1** has a symmetric strong monoidal structure

$$\left((-)_{\text{disc}}, (-)_{\text{disc}}^{\coprod}, (-)_{\text{disc|1}}^{\coprod} \right) : (\text{Sets}, \coprod, \emptyset) \rightarrow (\text{Cats}, \coprod, \emptyset_{\text{cat}}),$$

being equipped with isomorphisms

$$(-)_{\text{disc|X,Y}}^{\coprod} : X_{\text{disc}} \coprod Y_{\text{disc}} \xrightarrow{\sim} (X \coprod Y)_{\text{disc}},$$

$$(-)_{\text{disc|1}}^{\coprod} : \emptyset_{\text{cat}} \xrightarrow{\sim} \emptyset_{\text{disc}},$$

natural in $X, Y \in \text{Obj}(\text{Sets})$.

00YS

4. *Symmetric Strong Monoidality With Respect to Products.* The functor of **Item 1** has a symmetric strong monoidal structure

$$\left((-)_{\text{disc}}, (-)_{\text{disc}}^{\times}, (-)_{\text{disc}|1}^{\times} \right) : (\mathbf{Sets}, \times, \text{pt}) \rightarrow (\mathbf{Cats}, \times, \text{pt}),$$

being equipped with isomorphisms

$$\begin{aligned} (-)_{\text{disc}|X,Y}^{\times} : X_{\text{disc}} \times Y_{\text{disc}} &\xrightarrow{\sim} (X \times Y)_{\text{disc}}, \\ (-)_{\text{disc}|1}^{\times} : \text{pt} &\xrightarrow{\sim} \text{pt}_{\text{disc}}, \end{aligned}$$

natural in $X, Y \in \text{Obj}(\mathbf{Sets})$.

PROOF 11.3.3.1.3 ► PROOF OF PROPOSITION 11.3.3.1.2

Item 1: Functoriality

Clear.

Item 2: Adjointness

This is proved in **Proposition 11.3.1.1.1**.

Item 3: Symmetric Strong Monoidality With Respect to Coproducts

Clear.

Item 4: Symmetric Strong Monoidality With Respect to Products

Clear. 

00YT **11.3.4 Indiscrete Categories**

00YU

DEFINITION 11.3.4.1.1 ► INDISCRETE CATEGORIES

Let X be a set.

00YV

- I. The **indiscrete category on X** ¹ is the category X_{indisc} where

- *Objects.* We have

$$\text{Obj}(X_{\text{indisc}}) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} X.$$

- *Morphisms.* For each $A, B \in \text{Obj}(X_{\text{indisc}})$, we have

$$\text{Hom}_{X_{\text{disc}}}(A, B) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{[A] \rightarrow [B]\} \\ \cong \text{pt.}$$

- *Identities.* For each $A \in \text{Obj}(X_{\text{indisc}})$, the unit map

$$\mathbb{1}_A^{X_{\text{indisc}}} : \text{pt} \rightarrow \text{Hom}_{X_{\text{indisc}}}(A, A)$$

of X_{indisc} at A is defined by

$$\text{id}_A^{X_{\text{indisc}}} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{[A] \rightarrow [A]\}.$$

- *Composition.* For each $A, B, C \in \text{Obj}(X_{\text{indisc}})$, the composition map

$$\circ_{A,B,C}^{X_{\text{indisc}}} : \text{Hom}_{X_{\text{indisc}}}(B, C) \times \text{Hom}_{X_{\text{indisc}}}(A, B) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_{X_{\text{indisc}}}(A, C)$$

of X_{disc} at (A, B, C) is defined by

$$([B] \rightarrow [C]) \circ ([A] \rightarrow [B]) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} ([A] \rightarrow [C]).$$

00YW

2. A category C is **indiscrete** if it is equivalent to X_{indisc} for some set X .

¹*Further Terminology:* Sometimes called the **chaotic category on X** .

00YX

PROPOSITION 11.3.4.1.2 ► PROPERTIES OF INDISCRETE CATEGORIES ON SETS

Let X be a set.

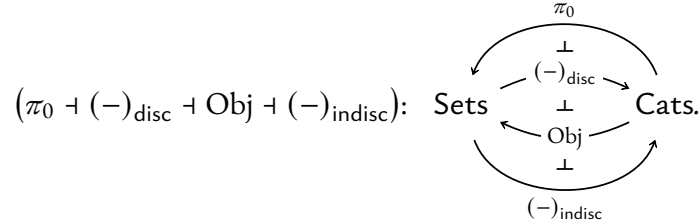
00YY

1. *Functoriality.* The assignment $X \mapsto X_{\text{indisc}}$ defines a functor

$$(-)_{\text{indisc}} : \text{Sets} \rightarrow \text{Cats.}$$

00YZ

2. *Adjointness.* We have a quadruple adjunction



00Z0

3. *Symmetric Strong Monoidality With Respect to Products.* The functor of **Item 1** has a symmetric strong monoidal structure

$$\left((-)_{\text{indisc}}, (-)_{\text{indisc}}^{\times}, (-)_{\text{indisc}|1}^{\times} \right): (\text{Sets}, \times, \text{pt}) \rightarrow (\text{Cats}, \times, \text{pt}),$$

being equipped with isomorphisms

$$\begin{aligned} (-)_{\text{indisc}|X,Y}^{\times}: X_{\text{indisc}} \times Y_{\text{indisc}} &\xrightarrow{\sim} (X \times Y)_{\text{indisc}}, \\ (-)_{\text{indisc}|1}^{\times}: \text{pt} &\xrightarrow{\sim} \text{pt}_{\text{indisc}}, \end{aligned}$$

natural in $X, Y \in \text{Obj}(\text{Sets})$.

PROOF 11.3.4.1.3 ► PROOF OF PROPOSITION 11.3.4.1.2

Item 1: Functoriality

Clear.

Item 2: Adjointness

This is proved in **Proposition 11.3.1.1.1**.

Item 3: Symmetric Strong Monoidality With Respect to Products

Clear.



00Z1 II.4 Groupoids

01U1 II.4.1 Isomorphisms

Let C be a category.

00Z3 DEFINITION 11.4.1.1.1 ► ISOMORPHISMS

A morphism $f: A \rightarrow B$ of C is an **isomorphism** if there exists a morphism $f^{-1}: B \rightarrow A$ of C such that

$$\begin{aligned} f \circ f^{-1} &= \text{id}_B, \\ f^{-1} \circ f &= \text{id}_A. \end{aligned}$$

00Z4

NOTATION 11.4.1.1.2 ► THE SET OF ISOMORPHISMS BETWEEN TWO OBJECTS IN A CATEGORY

We write $\text{Iso}_C(A, B)$ for the set of all isomorphisms in C from A to B .

01U2 II.4.2 Groupoids

00Z5 DEFINITION 11.4.2.1.1 ► GROUPOIDS

A **groupoid** is a category in which every morphism is an isomorphism.

01U3 EXAMPLE 11.4.2.1.2 ► GROUPS AS ONE-OBJECT GROUPOIDS

The isomorphism of categories of [Example II.2.3.1.1](#) restricts to an isomorphism

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Grp} & \longrightarrow & \text{Grpd} \\ \downarrow & \lrcorner & \downarrow \text{Obj} \\ \text{pt} & \xrightarrow{[\text{pt}]} & \text{Sets} \end{array}$$

$\text{Grp} \cong \text{pt} \times_{\text{Sets}} \text{Grpd},$

where Grpd is the full subcategory of Cats spanned by the groupoids.

In other words, we have an identification

$$\{\text{Groups}\} \cong \{\text{One-object groupoids}\}.$$

11.4.3 The Groupoid Completion of a Category

Let C be a category.

DEFINITION 11.4.3.1.1 ► THE GROUPOID COMPLETION OF A CATEGORY

The **groupoid completion of C** ¹ is the pair $(K_0(C), \iota_C)$ consisting of

- A groupoid $K_0(C)$;
- A functor $\iota_C: C \rightarrow K_0(C)$;

satisfying the following universal property:²

(UP) Given another such pair (\mathcal{G}, i) , there exists a unique functor $K_0(C) \xrightarrow{\exists!} \mathcal{G}$ making the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & K_0(C) & \\ \iota_C \nearrow & & \downarrow \exists! \\ C & \xrightarrow{i} & \mathcal{G} \end{array}$$

commute.


¹*Further Terminology:* Also called the **Grothendieck groupoid of C** or the **Grothendieck groupoid completion of C** .
²See Item 5 of Proposition 11.4.3.1.4 for an explicit construction.

00Z8

CONSTRUCTION 11.4.3.1.2 ► CONSTRUCTION OF THE GROUPOID COMPLETION OF A CATEGORY

Concretely, the groupoid completion of \mathcal{C} is the Gabriel–Zisman localisation $\text{Mor}(\mathcal{C})^{-1}\mathcal{C}$ of \mathcal{C} at the set $\text{Mor}(\mathcal{C})$ of all morphisms of \mathcal{C} ; see Constructions With Categories, ??.
(To be expanded upon later on.)

PROOF 11.4.3.1.3 ► PROOF OF CONSTRUCTION 11.4.3.1.2

Omitted. 

00Z9

PROPOSITION 11.4.3.1.4 ► PROPERTIES OF GROUPOID COMPLETION

Let \mathcal{C} be a category.

00ZA

1. *Functoriality.* The assignment $\mathcal{C} \mapsto K_0(\mathcal{C})$ defines a functor

$$K_0: \text{Cats} \rightarrow \text{Grpd}.$$

00ZB

2. *2-Functoriality.* The assignment $\mathcal{C} \mapsto K_0(\mathcal{C})$ defines a 2-functor

$$K_0: \text{Cats}_2 \rightarrow \text{Grpd}_2.$$

00ZC

3. *Adjointness.* We have an adjunction

$$(K_0 \dashv \iota): \text{Cats} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{K_0} \\ \perp \\ \xleftarrow{\iota} \end{array} \text{Grpd},$$

witnessed by a bijection of sets

$$\text{Hom}_{\text{Grpd}}(K_0(\mathcal{C}), \mathcal{G}) \cong \text{Hom}_{\text{Cats}}(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{G}),$$

natural in $\mathcal{C} \in \text{Obj}(\text{Cats})$ and $\mathcal{G} \in \text{Obj}(\text{Grpd})$, forming, together with the functor Core of **Item 1** of **Proposition 11.4.4.1.5**, a triple adjunction

$$(K_0 \dashv \iota \dashv \text{Core}): \text{Cats} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{K_0} \\ \perp \\ \xleftarrow{\iota} \\ \perp \\ \xrightarrow{\text{Core}} \end{array} \text{Grpd},$$

witnessed by bijections of sets

$$\begin{aligned}\mathrm{Hom}_{\mathrm{Grpd}}(K_0(C), \mathcal{G}) &\cong \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathrm{Cats}}(C, \mathcal{G}), \\ \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathrm{Cats}}(\mathcal{G}, \mathcal{D}) &\cong \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathrm{Grpd}}(\mathcal{G}, \mathrm{Core}(\mathcal{D})),\end{aligned}$$

natural in $C, \mathcal{D} \in \mathrm{Obj}(\mathrm{Cats})$ and $\mathcal{G} \in \mathrm{Obj}(\mathrm{Grpd})$.

00ZD

4. *2-Adjointness*. We have a 2-adjunction

$$(K_0 \dashv \iota): \quad \mathrm{Cats} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{K_0} \\ \xleftarrow[\iota]{\perp_2} \end{array} \mathrm{Grpd},$$

witnessed by an isomorphism of categories

$$\mathrm{Fun}(K_0(C), \mathcal{G}) \cong \mathrm{Fun}(C, \mathcal{G}),$$

natural in $C \in \mathrm{Obj}(\mathrm{Cats})$ and $\mathcal{G} \in \mathrm{Obj}(\mathrm{Grpd})$, forming, together with the 2-functor Core of **Item 2** of **Proposition 11.4.4.1.5**, a triple 2-adjunction

$$(K_0 \dashv \iota \dashv \mathrm{Core}): \quad \mathrm{Cats} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{K_0} \\ \xleftarrow[\iota]{\perp_2} \\ \xrightarrow[\mathrm{Core}]{\perp_2} \end{array} \mathrm{Grpd},$$

witnessed by isomorphisms of categories

$$\begin{aligned}\mathrm{Fun}(K_0(C), \mathcal{G}) &\cong \mathrm{Fun}(C, \mathcal{G}), \\ \mathrm{Fun}(\mathcal{G}, \mathcal{D}) &\cong \mathrm{Fun}(\mathcal{G}, \mathrm{Core}(\mathcal{D})),\end{aligned}$$

natural in $C, \mathcal{D} \in \mathrm{Obj}(\mathrm{Cats})$ and $\mathcal{G} \in \mathrm{Obj}(\mathrm{Grpd})$.

00ZE

5. *Interaction With Classifying Spaces*. We have an isomorphism of groupoids

$$K_0(C) \cong \Pi_{\leq 1}(|N_{\bullet}(C)|),$$

natural in $C \in \text{Obj}(\text{Cats})$; i.e. the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Cats} & \xrightarrow{K_0} & \text{Grp} \\ \downarrow N_\bullet & \uparrow \downarrow \lambda & \uparrow \Pi_{\leq 1} \\ \text{sSets} & \xrightarrow{|\cdot|} & \Pi \end{array}$$

commutes up to natural isomorphism.

00ZF

6. *Symmetric Strong Monoidality With Respect to Coproducts.* The groupoid completion functor of **Item 1** has a symmetric strong monoidal structure

$$\left(K_0, K_0^{\coprod}, K_{0|1}^{\coprod} \right) : (\text{Cats}, \coprod, \emptyset_{\text{cat}}) \rightarrow (\text{Grpd}, \coprod, \emptyset_{\text{cat}})$$

being equipped with isomorphisms

$$\begin{aligned} K_{0|C, \mathcal{D}}^{\coprod} : K_0(C) \coprod K_0(\mathcal{D}) &\xrightarrow{\sim} K_0(C \coprod \mathcal{D}), \\ K_{0|1}^{\coprod} : \emptyset_{\text{cat}} &\xrightarrow{\sim} K_0(\emptyset_{\text{cat}}), \end{aligned}$$

natural in $C, \mathcal{D} \in \text{Obj}(\text{Cats})$.

00ZG

7. *Symmetric Strong Monoidality With Respect to Products.* The groupoid completion functor of **Item 1** has a symmetric strong monoidal structure

$$\left(K_0, K_0^\times, K_{0|1}^\times \right) : (\text{Cats}, \times, \text{pt}) \rightarrow (\text{Grpd}, \times, \text{pt})$$

being equipped with isomorphisms

$$\begin{aligned} K_{0|C, \mathcal{D}}^\times : K_0(C) \times K_0(\mathcal{D}) &\xrightarrow{\sim} K_0(C \times \mathcal{D}), \\ K_{0|1}^\times : \text{pt} &\xrightarrow{\sim} K_0(\text{pt}), \end{aligned}$$

natural in $C, \mathcal{D} \in \text{Obj}(\text{Cats})$.

PROOF 11.4.3.1.5 ► PROOF OF PROPOSITION 11.4.3.1.4

Item 1: Functoriality

Omitted.

Item 2: 2-Functoriality

Omitted.

Item 3: Adjointness

Omitted.

Item 4: 2-Adjointness

Omitted.

Item 5: Interaction With Classifying Spaces

See Corollary 18.33 of <https://web.ma.utexas.edu/users/dafr/M392C-2012/Notes/lecture18.pdf>.

Item 6: Symmetric Strong Monoidality With Respect to Coproducts

Omitted.

Item 7: Symmetric Strong Monoidality With Respect to Products

Omitted.



00ZH 11.4.4 The Core of a Category

Let C be a category.

00ZJ DEFINITION 11.4.4.1.1 ► THE CORE OF A CATEGORY

The **core** of C is the pair $(\text{Core}(C), \iota_C)$ consisting of

- A groupoid $\text{Core}(C)$;
- A functor $\iota_C: \text{Core}(C) \rightarrow C$;

satisfying the following universal property:

(UP) Given another such pair (\mathcal{G}, i) , there exists a unique functor $\mathcal{G} \xrightarrow{\exists!}$

$\text{Core}(C)$ making the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & & \text{Core}(C) \\ & \nearrow \exists! & \downarrow \iota_C \\ \mathcal{G} & \xrightarrow{i} & C \end{array}$$

commute.

00ZK

NOTATION 11.4.4.1.2 ► ALTERNATIVE NOTATION FOR THE CORE OF A CATEGORY

We also write C^\simeq for $\text{Core}(C)$.

00ZL

CONSTRUCTION 11.4.4.1.3 ► CONSTRUCTION OF THE CORE OF A CATEGORY

The core of C is the wide subcategory of C spanned by the isomorphisms of C , i.e. the category $\text{Core}(C)$ where¹


1. *Objects.* We have

$$\text{Obj}(\text{Core}(C)) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{Obj}(C).$$

2. *Morphisms.* The morphisms of $\text{Core}(C)$ are the isomorphisms of C .

¹*Slogan:* The groupoid $\text{Core}(C)$ is the maximal subgroupoid of C .

PROOF 11.4.4.1.4 ► PROOF OF CONSTRUCTION 11.4.4.1.3

This follows from the fact that functors preserve isomorphisms (Item 1 of Proposition 11.5.1.1.8). 

00ZM

PROPOSITION 11.4.4.1.5 ► PROPERTIES OF THE CORE OF A CATEGORY

Let C be a category.

00ZN

1. *Functoriality.* The assignment $C \mapsto \text{Core}(C)$ defines a functor

$$\text{Core}: \text{Cats} \rightarrow \text{Grpd}.$$

00ZP

2. *2-Functoriality*. The assignment $C \mapsto \text{Core}(C)$ defines a 2-functor

$$\text{Core}: \text{Cats}_2 \rightarrow \text{Grpd}_2.$$

00ZQ

3. *Adjointness*. We have an adjunction

$$(\iota \dashv \text{Core}): \text{Grpd} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\iota} \\ \perp \\ \xleftarrow{\text{Core}} \end{array} \text{Cats},$$

witnessed by a bijection of sets

$$\text{Hom}_{\text{Cats}}(\mathcal{G}, \mathcal{D}) \cong \text{Hom}_{\text{Grpd}}(\mathcal{G}, \text{Core}(\mathcal{D})),$$

natural in $\mathcal{G} \in \text{Obj}(\text{Grpd})$ and $\mathcal{D} \in \text{Obj}(\text{Cats})$, forming, together with the functor K_0 of **Item 1** of **Proposition II.4.3.1.4**, a triple adjunction

$$(K_0 \dashv \iota \dashv \text{Core}): \text{Cats} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{K_0} \\ \perp \\ \xleftarrow{\iota} \\ \perp \\ \xrightarrow{\text{Core}} \end{array} \text{Grpd},$$

witnessed by bijections of sets

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Hom}_{\text{Grpd}}(K_0(C), \mathcal{G}) &\cong \text{Hom}_{\text{Cats}}(C, \mathcal{G}), \\ \text{Hom}_{\text{Cats}}(\mathcal{G}, \mathcal{D}) &\cong \text{Hom}_{\text{Grpd}}(\mathcal{G}, \text{Core}(\mathcal{D})), \end{aligned}$$

natural in $C, \mathcal{D} \in \text{Obj}(\text{Cats})$ and $\mathcal{G} \in \text{Obj}(\text{Grpd})$.

00ZR

4. *2-Adjointness*. We have an adjunction

$$(\iota \dashv \text{Core}): \text{Grpd} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\iota} \\ \perp_2 \\ \xleftarrow{\text{Core}} \end{array} \text{Cats},$$

witnessed by an isomorphism of categories

$$\text{Fun}(\mathcal{G}, \mathcal{D}) \cong \text{Fun}(\mathcal{G}, \text{Core}(\mathcal{D})),$$

natural in $\mathcal{G} \in \text{Obj}(\text{Grpd})$ and $\mathcal{D} \in \text{Obj}(\text{Cats})$, forming, together with the 2-functor K_0 of **Item 2** of **Proposition II.4.3.I.4**, a triple 2-adjunction

$$(K_0 \dashv \iota \dashv \text{Core}): \quad \begin{array}{ccc} & K_0 & \\ \curvearrowright & & \curvearrowleft \\ \text{Cats} & \xleftarrow{\iota} & \text{Grpd} \\ \curvearrowleft & & \curvearrowright \\ & \text{Core} & \end{array}$$

witnessed by isomorphisms of categories

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Fun}(K_0(C), \mathcal{G}) &\cong \text{Fun}(C, \mathcal{G}), \\ \text{Fun}(\mathcal{G}, \mathcal{D}) &\cong \text{Fun}(\mathcal{G}, \text{Core}(\mathcal{D})), \end{aligned}$$

natural in $C, \mathcal{D} \in \text{Obj}(\text{Cats})$ and $\mathcal{G} \in \text{Obj}(\text{Grpd})$.

00ZS

5. *Symmetric Strong Monoidality With Respect to Products.* The core functor of **Item 1** has a symmetric strong monoidal structure

$$(\text{Core}, \text{Core}^\times, \text{Core}_1^\times): (\text{Cats}, \times, \text{pt}) \rightarrow (\text{Grpd}, \times, \text{pt})$$

being equipped with isomorphisms

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Core}_{C, \mathcal{D}}^\times: \text{Core}(C) \times \text{Core}(\mathcal{D}) &\xrightarrow{\sim} \text{Core}(C \times \mathcal{D}), \\ \text{Core}_1^\times: \text{pt} &\xrightarrow{\sim} \text{Core}(\text{pt}), \end{aligned}$$

natural in $C, \mathcal{D} \in \text{Obj}(\text{Cats})$.

00ZT

6. *Symmetric Strong Monoidality With Respect to Coproducts.* The core functor of **Item 1** has a symmetric strong monoidal structure

$$(\text{Core}, \text{Core}^\amalg, \text{Core}_1^\amalg): (\text{Cats}, \amalg, \emptyset_{\text{cat}}) \rightarrow (\text{Grpd}, \amalg, \emptyset_{\text{cat}})$$

being equipped with isomorphisms

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Core}_{C, \mathcal{D}}^\amalg: \text{Core}(C) \amalg \text{Core}(\mathcal{D}) &\xrightarrow{\sim} \text{Core}(C \amalg \mathcal{D}), \\ \text{Core}_1^\amalg: \emptyset_{\text{cat}} &\xrightarrow{\sim} \text{Core}(\emptyset_{\text{cat}}), \end{aligned}$$

natural in $C, \mathcal{D} \in \text{Obj}(\text{Cats})$.

PROOF 11.4.4.1.6 ► PROOF OF PROPOSITION 11.4.4.1.5

Item 1: Functoriality

Omitted.

Item 2: 2-Functoriality

Omitted.

Item 3: Adjointness

Omitted.


Item 4: 2-Adjointness

Omitted.

Item 5: Symmetric Strong Monoidality With Respect to Products

Omitted.

Item 6: Symmetric Strong Monoidality With Respect to Coproducts

Omitted. 

00ZU II.5 Functors

00ZV II.5.1 Foundations

Let \mathcal{C} and \mathcal{D} be categories.

00ZW DEFINITION 11.5.1.1.1 ► FUNCTORS

A **functor** $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ **from** \mathcal{C} **to** \mathcal{D} ¹ consists of:

1. *Action on Objects.* A map of sets

$$F: \text{Obj}(\mathcal{C}) \rightarrow \text{Obj}(\mathcal{D}),$$

called the **action on objects of** F .

2. *Action on Morphisms.* For each $A, B \in \text{Obj}(\mathcal{C})$, a map

$$F_{A,B}: \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(A, B) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F(A), F(B)),$$

called the **action on morphisms of** F **at** (A, B) ².

satisfying the following conditions:

1. *Preservation of Identities.* For each $A \in \text{Obj}(C)$, the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{pt} & & \\ \downarrow \mathbb{1}_A^C & \searrow \mathbb{1}_{F(A)}^{\mathcal{D}} & \\ \text{Hom}_C(A, A) & \xrightarrow{F_{A,A}} & \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F(A), F(A)) \end{array}$$

commutes, i.e. we have

$$F(\text{id}_A) = \text{id}_{F(A)}.$$

2. *Preservation of Composition.* For each $A, B, C \in \text{Obj}(C)$, the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Hom}_C(B, C) \times \text{Hom}_C(A, B) & \xrightarrow{\circ_{A,B,C}^C} & \text{Hom}_C(A, C) \\ \downarrow F_{B,C} \times F_{A,B} & & \downarrow F_{A,C} \\ \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F(B), F(C)) \times \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F(A), F(B)) & \xrightarrow{\circ_{F(A),F(B),F(C)}^{\mathcal{D}}} & \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F(A), F(C)) \end{array}$$

commutes, i.e. for each composable pair (g, f) of morphisms of C , we have

$$F(g \circ f) = F(g) \circ F(f).$$

¹*Further Terminology:* Also called a **covariant functor**.

²*Further Terminology:* Also called **action on Hom-sets of F at (A, B)** .

00ZX

NOTATION 11.5.1.1.2 ► SUBSCRIPT AND SUPERScript NOTATION FOR FUNCTORS

Let C and \mathcal{D} be categories, and write C^{op} for the opposite category of C of Constructions With Categories, ??.

00ZY

1. Given a functor

$$F: C \rightarrow \mathcal{D},$$

we also write F_A for $F(A)$.

00ZZ

2. Given a functor

$$F: \mathcal{C}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \mathcal{D},$$

we also write F^A for $F(A)$.

0100

3. Given a functor

$$F: \mathcal{C} \times \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D},$$

we also write $F_{A,B}$ for $F(A, B)$.

0101

4. Given a functor

$$F: \mathcal{C}^{\text{op}} \times \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D},$$

we also write F_B^A for $F(A, B)$.

We employ a similar notation for morphisms, writing e.g. F_f for $F(f)$ given a functor $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$.

0102

NOTATION 11.5.1.1.3 ► ADDITIONAL NOTATION FOR FUNCTORS

Following the notation $\llbracket x \mapsto f(x) \rrbracket$ for a function $f: X \rightarrow Y$ introduced in **Sets**, **Notation 3.1.1.1.2**, we will sometimes denote a functor $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ by

$$F \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \llbracket A \mapsto F(A) \rrbracket,$$

specially when the action on morphisms of F is clear from its action on objects.

0103

EXAMPLE 11.5.1.1.4 ► IDENTITY FUNCTORS

The **identity functor** of a category \mathcal{C} is the functor $\text{id}_{\mathcal{C}}: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ where

1. *Action on Objects.* For each $A \in \text{Obj}(\mathcal{C})$, we have

$$\text{id}_{\mathcal{C}}(A) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} A.$$

2. *Action on Morphisms.* For each $A, B \in \text{Obj}(\mathcal{C})$, the action on mor-

phisms

$$(\mathrm{id}_C)_{A,B}: \mathrm{Hom}_C(A, B) \rightarrow \underbrace{\mathrm{Hom}_C(\mathrm{id}_C(A), \mathrm{id}_C(B))}_{\stackrel{\mathrm{def}}{=} \mathrm{Hom}_C(A, B)}$$

of id_C at (A, B) is defined by

$$(\mathrm{id}_C)_{A,B} \stackrel{\mathrm{def}}{=} \mathrm{id}_{\mathrm{Hom}_C(A, B)}.$$

PROOF 11.5.1.1.5 ► PROOF OF EXAMPLE 11.5.1.1.4


Preservation of Identities

We have $\mathrm{id}_C(\mathrm{id}_A) \stackrel{\mathrm{def}}{=} \mathrm{id}_A$ for each $A \in \mathrm{Obj}(C)$ by definition.

Preservation of Compositions

For each composable pair $A \xrightarrow{f} B \xrightarrow{g} C$ of morphisms of C , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathrm{id}_C(g \circ f) &\stackrel{\mathrm{def}}{=} g \circ f \\ &\stackrel{\mathrm{def}}{=} \mathrm{id}_C(g) \circ \mathrm{id}_C(f). \end{aligned}$$

This finishes the proof. 

0104

DEFINITION 11.5.1.1.6 ► COMPOSITION OF FUNCTORS

The **composition** of two functors $F: C \rightarrow D$ and $G: D \rightarrow E$ is the functor $G \circ F$ where

- *Action on Objects.* For each $A \in \mathrm{Obj}(C)$, we have

$$[G \circ F](A) \stackrel{\mathrm{def}}{=} G(F(A)).$$

- *Action on Morphisms.* For each $A, B \in \mathrm{Obj}(C)$, the action on morphisms

$$(G \circ F)_{A,B}: \mathrm{Hom}_C(A, B) \rightarrow \mathrm{Hom}_E(G_{F_A}, G_{F_B})$$

of $G \circ F$ at (A, B) is defined by

$$[G \circ F](f) \stackrel{\mathrm{def}}{=} G(F(f)).$$

|

|

Preservation of Identities

For each $A \in \text{Obj}(C)$, we have

$$G_{F_{\text{id}_A}} = G_{\text{id}_{F_A}} \quad (\text{functoriality of } F)$$


$$= \text{id}_{G_{F_A}}. \quad (\text{functoriality of } G)$$

Preservation of Composition

For each composable pair (g, f) of morphisms of C , we have

$$G_{F_{g \circ f}} = G_{F_g \circ F_f} \quad (\text{functoriality of } F)$$

$$= G_{F_g} \circ G_{F_f}. \quad (\text{functoriality of } G)$$

This finishes the proof. 

0105

PROPOSITION 11.5.1.1.8 ► ELEMENTARY PROPERTIES OF FUNCTORS

Let $F: C \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ be a functor.

0106

1. *Preservation of Isomorphisms.* If f is an isomorphism in C , then $F(f)$ is an isomorphism in \mathcal{D} .¹

¹When the converse holds, we call F *conservative*, see [Definition 11.6.4.1.1](#).

PROOF 11.5.1.1.9 ► PROOF OF PROPOSITION 11.5.1.1.8

Item 1: Preservation of Isomorphisms

Indeed, we have


$$\begin{aligned} F(f)^{-1} \circ F(f) &= F(f^{-1} \circ f) \\ &= F(\text{id}_A) \\ &= \text{id}_{F(A)} \end{aligned}$$

and

$$F(f) \circ F(f)^{-1} = F(f \circ f^{-1})$$

$$= F(\text{id}_B)$$

$$= \text{id}_{F(B)},$$

showing $F(f)$ to be an isomorphism. 

0107 II.5.2 Contravariant Functors

Let \mathcal{C} and \mathcal{D} be categories, and let \mathcal{C}^{op} denote the opposite category of \mathcal{C} of Constructions With Categories, ??.

0108 DEFINITION 11.5.2.1.1 ► CONTRAVARIANT FUNCTORS

A **contravariant functor** from \mathcal{C} to \mathcal{D} is a functor from \mathcal{C}^{op} to \mathcal{D} .

0109 REMARK 11.5.2.1.2 ► UNWINDING DEFINITION 11.5.2.1.1

In detail, a **contravariant functor** from \mathcal{C} to \mathcal{D} consists of:

1. *Action on Objects.* A map of sets

$$F: \text{Obj}(\mathcal{C}) \rightarrow \text{Obj}(\mathcal{D}),$$

called the **action on objects of F** .

2. *Action on Morphisms.* For each $A, B \in \text{Obj}(\mathcal{C})$, a map

$$F_{A,B}: \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(A, B) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F(B), F(A)),$$

called the **action on morphisms of F at (A, B)** .

satisfying the following conditions:

1. *Preservation of Identities.* For each $A \in \text{Obj}(\mathcal{C})$, the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{pt} & & \\ \downarrow \scriptstyle 1_A^{\mathcal{C}} & \searrow \scriptstyle 1_{F(A)}^{\mathcal{D}} & \\ \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(A, A) & \xrightarrow{\scriptstyle F_{A,A}} & \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F(A), F(A)) \end{array}$$

commutes, i.e. we have

$$F(\text{id}_A) = \text{id}_{F(A)}.$$

2. *Preservation of Composition.* For each $A, B, C \in \text{Obj}(C)$, the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 & \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F(C), F(B)) \times \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F(B), F(A)) & \\
 F_{B,C} \times F_{A,B} \nearrow & & \searrow \sigma_{\text{Sets}}^{\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F(C), F(B)), \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F(B), F(A))} \\
 \text{Hom}_C(B, C) \times \text{Hom}_C(A, B) & & \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F(B), F(A)) \times \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F(C), F(B)) \\
 \circ_{A,B,C}^C \searrow & & \searrow \circ_{F(C), F(B), F(A)}^{\mathcal{D}} \\
 \text{Hom}_C(A, C) & \xrightarrow{F_{A,C}} & \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F(C), F(A))
 \end{array}$$

commutes, i.e. for each composable pair (g, f) of morphisms of C , we have

$$F(g \circ f) = F(f) \circ F(g).$$

010A

REMARK 11.5.2.1.3 ► ON THE TERM CONTRAVARIANT FUNCTOR

Throughout this work we will not use the term “contravariant” functor, speaking instead simply of functors $F: C^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$. We will usually, however, write

$$F_{A,B}: \text{Hom}_C(A, B) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F(B), F(A))$$

for the action on morphisms

$$F_{A,B}: \text{Hom}_{C^{\text{op}}}(A, B) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F(A), F(B))$$

of F , as well as write $F(g \circ f) = F(f) \circ F(g)$.

010B II.5.3 Forgetful Functors

010C DEFINITION 11.5.3.1.1 ► FORGETFUL FUNCTORS

There isn't a precise definition of a **forgetful functor**.

010D REMARK 11.5.3.1.2 ► UNWINDING DEFINITION 11.5.3.1.1

Despite there not being a formal or precise definition of a forgetful functor, the term is often very useful in practice, similarly to the word “canonical”. The idea is that a “forgetful functor” is a functor that forgets structure or properties, and is best explained through examples, such as the ones below (see [Examples II.5.3.1.3](#) and [II.5.3.1.4](#)).

010E EXAMPLE 11.5.3.1.3 ► FORGETFUL FUNCTORS THAT FORGET STRUCTURE

Examples of forgetful functors that forget structure include:

- 010F 1. *Forgetting Group Structures.* The functor $\text{Grp} \rightarrow \text{Sets}$ sending a group (G, μ_G, η_G) to its underlying set G , forgetting the multiplication and unit maps μ_G and η_G of G .
- 010G 2. *Forgetting Topologies.* The functor $\Pi \rightarrow \text{Sets}$ sending a topological space (X, \mathcal{T}_X) to its underlying set X , forgetting the topology \mathcal{T}_X .
- 010H 3. *Forgetting Fibrations.* The functor $\text{FibSets}(K) \rightarrow \text{Sets}$ sending a K -fibred set $\phi_X: X \rightarrow K$ to the set X , forgetting the map ϕ_X and the base set K .

010J EXAMPLE 11.5.3.1.4 ► FORGETFUL FUNCTORS THAT FORGET PROPERTIES

Examples of forgetful functors that forget properties include:

- 010K 1. *Forgetting Commutativity.* The inclusion functor $\iota: \text{CMon} \rightarrow \text{Mon}$ which forgets the property of being commutative.
- 010L 2. *Forgetting Inverses.* The inclusion functor $\iota: \text{Grp} \rightarrow \text{Mon}$ which forgets the property of having inverses.

010M

NOTATION 11.5.3.1.5 ► NOTATION FOR FORGETFUL FUNCTORS THAT FORGET STRUCTURE

Throughout this work, we will denote forgetful functors that forget structure by 忘, e.g. as in

$$\text{忘} : \text{Grp} \rightarrow \text{Sets}.$$

The symbol 忘, pronounced *wasureru* (see [Item 1](#) of [Remark 11.5.3.1.6](#) below), means *to forget*, and is a kanji found in the following words in Japanese and Chinese:

010N

1. 忘れる, transcribed as *wasureru*, meaning *to forget*.

010P

2. 忘却関手, transcribed as *boukyaku kanshu*, meaning *forgetful functor*.

010Q

3. 忘记 or 忘記, transcribed as *wàngjì*, meaning *to forget*.

010R

4. 遗忘函子 or 遺忘函子, transcribed as *yíwàng hánzǐ*, meaning *forgetful functor*.

010S

REMARK 11.5.3.1.6 ► PRONUNCIATION OF THE WORDS IN NOTATION 11.5.3.1.5

Here we collect the pronunciation of the words in [Notation 11.5.3.1.5](#) for accuracy and completeness.

010T

1. Pronunciation of 忘れる:

- See [here](#).
- IPA broad transcription: [wäsureru].
- IPA narrow transcription: [u̯äsi̯rɐru̯].

010U

2. Pronunciation of 忘却関手: Pronunciation:

- See [here](#).
- IPA broad transcription: [bɔ:käku kãũɕu].
- IPA narrow transcription: [bɔ:käku̯ kãũɕu̯].

010V

3. Pronunciation of 忘记:

010W

- See [here](#).
- Broad IPA transcription: [waŋtɕi].
- Sinological IPA transcription: [waŋ⁵¹⁻⁵³tɕi⁵¹].

4. Pronunciation of 遗忘函子:

- See [here](#).
- Broad IPA transcription: [iwaŋ xänfʂzi].
- Sinological IPA transcription: [i³⁵waŋ⁵¹ xän³⁵fʂz²¹⁴⁻²¹⁽⁴⁾].

010X 11.5.4 The Natural Transformation Associated to a Functor

010Y

DEFINITION 11.5.4.1.1 ► THE NATURAL TRANSFORMATION ASSOCIATED TO A FUNCTOR

Every functor $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ defines a natural transformation[†]

$$F^\dagger: \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}} \Rightarrow \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}} \circ (F^{\text{op}} \times F),$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{C}^{\text{op}} \times \mathcal{C} & \xrightarrow{F^{\text{op}} \times F} & \mathcal{D}^{\text{op}} \times \mathcal{D} \\ \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}} \searrow & \xRightarrow{F^\dagger} & \swarrow \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}} \\ & \text{Sets,} & \end{array}$$

called the **natural transformation associated to F** , consisting of the collection

$$\left\{ F_{A,B}^\dagger: \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(A, B) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F_A, F_B) \right\}_{(A,B) \in \text{Obj}(\mathcal{C}^{\text{op}} \times \mathcal{C})}$$

with

$$F_{A,B}^\dagger \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} F_{A,B}.$$

[†]This is the 1-categorical version of [Constructions With Sets](#), ?? of ??.

PROOF 11.5.4.1.2 ► PROOF OF DEFINITION 11.5.4.1.1

The naturality condition for F^\dagger is the requirement that for each morphism


$$(\phi, \psi): (X, Y) \rightarrow (A, B)$$

of $C^{\text{op}} \times C$, the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Hom}_C(X, Y) & \xrightarrow{\phi^* \circ \psi_* = \psi_* \circ \phi^*} & \text{Hom}_C(A, B) \\ F_{X,Y} \downarrow & & \downarrow F_{A,B} \\ \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F_X, F_Y) & \xrightarrow{F(\phi)^* \circ F(\psi)_* = F(\psi)_* \circ F(\phi)^*} & \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F_A, F_B), \end{array}$$

acting on elements as

$$\begin{array}{ccc} f & \xrightarrow{\quad} & \psi \circ f \circ \phi \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ F(f) & \xrightarrow{\quad} & F(\psi) \circ F(f) \circ F(\psi) = F(\psi \circ f \circ \phi) \end{array}$$

commutes, which follows from the functoriality of F . 

PROPOSITION 11.5.4.1.3 ► PROPERTIES OF NATURAL TRANSFORMATIONS ASSOCIATED TO FUNCTORS

Let $F: C \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ and $G: \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}$ be functors.

I. *Interaction With Natural Isomorphisms.* The following conditions are equivalent:

- (a) The natural transformation $F^\dagger: \text{Hom}_C \Rightarrow \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}} \circ (F^{\text{op}} \times F)$ associated to F is a natural isomorphism.
- (b) The functor F is fully faithful.

0113

2. *Interaction With Composition.* We have an equality of pasting diagrams

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 C^{\text{op}} \times C & \xrightarrow{F^{\text{op}} \times F} \mathcal{D}^{\text{op}} \times \mathcal{D} & \xrightarrow{G^{\text{op}} \times G} \mathcal{E}^{\text{op}} \times \mathcal{E} \\
 \searrow \text{Hom}_C & \nearrow F^\dagger & \nearrow G^\dagger \\
 & \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}} & \nearrow \\
 & \searrow & \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{E}} \\
 & \text{Sets} &
 \end{array}
 =
 \begin{array}{ccc}
 C^{\text{op}} \times C & \xrightarrow{(GoF)^{\text{op}} \times (GoF)} \mathcal{E}^{\text{op}} \times \mathcal{E}, \\
 \searrow \text{Hom}_C & \nearrow (GoF)^\dagger & \nearrow \\
 & \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{E}} & \\
 & \text{Sets} &
 \end{array}$$

in Cats_2 , i.e. we have

$$(G \circ F)^\dagger = (G^\dagger \star \text{id}_{F^{\text{op}} \times F}) \circ F^\dagger.$$

0114

3. *Interaction With Identities.* We have

$$\text{id}_C^\dagger = \text{id}_{\text{Hom}_C(-1, -2)},$$

i.e. the natural transformation associated to id_C is the identity natural transformation of the functor $\text{Hom}_C(-1, -2)$.

PROOF 11.5.4.1.4 ► PROOF OF PROPOSITION 11.5.4.1.3

Item 1: Interaction With Natural Isomorphisms

Clear.

Item 2: Interaction With Composition

Clear.

Item 3: Interaction With Identities

Clear. 

0115 II.6 Conditions on Functors

0116 II.6.I Faithful Functors

Let C and \mathcal{D} be categories.

0117 DEFINITION 11.6.1.1.1 ► FAITHFUL FUNCTORS

A functor $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ is **faithful** if, for each $A, B \in \text{Obj}(\mathcal{C})$, the action on morphisms

$$F_{A,B}: \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(A, B) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F_A, F_B)$$

of F at (A, B) is injective.

0118 PROPOSITION 11.6.1.1.2 ► PROPERTIES OF FAITHFUL FUNCTORS

Let $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ and $G: \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}$ be functors.

01U4 1. *Interaction With Composition.* If F and G are faithful, then so is $G \circ F$.

0119 2. *Interaction With Postcomposition.* The following conditions are equivalent:

011A (a) The functor $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ is faithful.

011B (b) For each $\mathcal{X} \in \text{Obj}(\text{Cats})$, the postcomposition functor

$$F_*: \text{Fun}(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{C}) \rightarrow \text{Fun}(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{D})$$

is faithful.

011C (c) The functor $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ is a representably faithful morphism in Cats_2 in the sense of **Types of Morphisms in Bicategories**, Definition 14.1.1.1.1.

011D 3. *Interaction With Precomposition I.* Let $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ be a functor.

011E (a) If F is faithful, then the precomposition functor

$$F^*: \text{Fun}(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{X}) \rightarrow \text{Fun}(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{X})$$

can fail to be faithful.

011F (b) Conversely, if the precomposition functor

$$F^*: \text{Fun}(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{X}) \rightarrow \text{Fun}(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{X})$$

is faithful, then F **can fail** to be faithful.

- 011G 4. *Interaction With Precomposition II.* If F is essentially surjective, then the precomposition functor

$$F^* : \text{Fun}(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{X}) \rightarrow \text{Fun}(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{X})$$

is faithful.

- 011H 5. *Interaction With Precomposition III.* The following conditions are equivalent:

- 011J (a) For each $\mathcal{X} \in \text{Obj}(\text{Cats})$, the precomposition functor

$$F^* : \text{Fun}(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{X}) \rightarrow \text{Fun}(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{X})$$

is faithful.

- 011K (b) For each $\mathcal{X} \in \text{Obj}(\text{Cats})$, the precomposition functor

$$F^* : \text{Fun}(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{X}) \rightarrow \text{Fun}(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{X})$$

is conservative.

- 011L (c) For each $\mathcal{X} \in \text{Obj}(\text{Cats})$, the precomposition functor

$$F^* : \text{Fun}(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{X}) \rightarrow \text{Fun}(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{X})$$

is monadic.

- 011M (d) The functor $F : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ is a corepresentably faithful morphism in Cats_2 in the sense of [Types of Morphisms in Bicategories, Definition 14.2.1.1.1.](#)

- 011N (e) The components

$$\eta_G : G \Longrightarrow \text{Ran}_F(G \circ F)$$

of the unit

$$\eta : \text{id}_{\text{Fun}(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{X})} \Longrightarrow \text{Ran}_F \circ F^*$$

of the adjunction $F^* \dashv \text{Ran}_F$ are all monomorphisms.

011P

(f) The components

$$\varepsilon_G: \text{Lan}_F(G \circ F) \Longrightarrow G$$

of the counit

$$\varepsilon: \text{Lan}_F \circ F^* \Longrightarrow \text{id}_{\text{Fun}(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{X})}$$

 of the adjunction $\text{Lan}_F \dashv F^*$ are all epimorphisms.

011Q

 (g) The functor F is dominant (**Definition 11.7.1.1.1**), i.e. every object of \mathcal{D} is a retract of some object in $\text{Im}(F)$:

 (★) For each $B \in \text{Obj}(\mathcal{D})$, there exist:

- An object A of \mathcal{C} ;
- A morphism $s: B \rightarrow F(A)$ of \mathcal{D} ;
- A morphism $r: F(A) \rightarrow B$ of \mathcal{D} ;

 such that $r \circ s = \text{id}_B$.

PROOF 11.6.1.1.3 ► PROOF OF PROPOSITION 11.6.1.1.2
Item 1: Interaction With Composition

Since the map

$$(G \circ F)_{A,B}: \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(A, B) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(G_{F_A}, G_{F_B}),$$

defined as the composition

$$\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(A, B) \xrightarrow{F_{A,B}} \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F_A, F_B) \xrightarrow{G_{F(A), F(B)}} \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(G_{F_A}, G_{F_B}),$$

 is a composition of injective functions, it follows from ?? that it is also injective. Therefore $G \circ F$ is faithful.

Item 2: Interaction With Postcomposition

Omitted.

Item 3: Interaction With Precomposition I

See [MSE 733163] for Item 3a. Item 3b follows from Item 4 and the fact that there are essentially surjective functors that are not faithful.


Item 4: Interaction With Precomposition II

Omitted, but see https://unimath.github.io/doc/UniMath/d4de26f//UniMath.CategoryTheory.precomp_fully_faithful.html for a formalised proof.

Item 5: Interaction With Precomposition III

We claim Items 5a to 5g are equivalent:

- *Items 5a and 5d Are Equivalent:* This is true by the definition of corepresentably faithful morphism; see [Types of Morphisms in Bicat-egories](#), Definition 14.2.1.1.1.
- *Items 5a to 5c and 5g Are Equivalent:* See [Adá+01, Proposition 4.1] or alternatively [Fre09, Lemmas 3.1 and 3.2] for the equivalence between Items 5a and 5g.
- *Items 5a, 5e and 5f Are Equivalent:* See ??, ?? of ??.

This finishes the proof. 

011R 11.6.2 Full Functors

Let \mathcal{C} and \mathcal{D} be categories.

011S DEFINITION 11.6.2.1.1 ► FULL FUNCTORS

A functor $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ is **full** if, for each $A, B \in \text{Obj}(\mathcal{C})$, the action on morphisms

$$F_{A,B}: \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(A, B) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F_A, F_B)$$

of F at (A, B) is surjective.

011T

PROPOSITION 11.6.2.1.2 ► PROPERTIES OF FULL FUNCTORS

Let $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ and $G: \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}$ be functors.

01U5

1. *Interaction With Composition.* If F and G are full, then so is $G \circ F$.

01U6

2. *Interaction With Postcomposition I.* If F is full, then the postcomposition functor

$$F_*: \text{Fun}(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{C}) \rightarrow \text{Fun}(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{D})$$

can fail to be full.

01U7

3. *Interaction With Postcomposition II.* If, for each $\mathcal{X} \in \text{Obj}(\text{Cats})$, the postcomposition functor

$$F_*: \text{Fun}(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{C}) \rightarrow \text{Fun}(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{D})$$

is full, then F is also full.

011Y

4. *Interaction With Precomposition I.* If F is full, then the precomposition functor

$$F^*: \text{Fun}(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{X}) \rightarrow \text{Fun}(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{X})$$

can fail to be full.

011Z

5. *Interaction With Precomposition II.* If, for each $\mathcal{X} \in \text{Obj}(\text{Cats})$, the precomposition functor

$$F^*: \text{Fun}(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{X}) \rightarrow \text{Fun}(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{X})$$

is full, then F **can fail** to be full.

0120

6. *Interaction With Precomposition III.* If F is essentially surjective and full, then the precomposition functor

$$F^*: \text{Fun}(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{X}) \rightarrow \text{Fun}(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{X})$$

is full (and also faithful by [Item 4](#) of [Proposition 11.6.1.1.2](#)).

0121 7. *Interaction With Precomposition IV.* The following conditions are equivalent:

0122 (a) For each $\mathcal{X} \in \text{Obj}(\text{Cats})$, the precomposition functor

$$F^*: \text{Fun}(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{X}) \rightarrow \text{Fun}(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{X})$$

is full.

0123 (b) The functor $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ is a corepresentably full morphism in Cats_2 in the sense of **Types of Morphisms in Bicategories**, **Definition 14.2.1.1.1.**

0124 (c) The components

$$\eta_G: G \Longrightarrow \text{Ran}_F(G \circ F)$$

of the unit

$$\eta: \text{id}_{\text{Fun}(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{X})} \Longrightarrow \text{Ran}_F \circ F^*$$

of the adjunction $F^* \dashv \text{Ran}_F$ are all retractions/split epimorphisms.

0125 (d) The components

$$\varepsilon_G: \text{Lan}_F(G \circ F) \Longrightarrow G$$

of the counit

$$\varepsilon: \text{Lan}_F \circ F^* \Longrightarrow \text{id}_{\text{Fun}(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{X})}$$

of the adjunction $\text{Lan}_F \dashv F^*$ are all sections/split monomorphisms.

0126 (e) For each $B \in \text{Obj}(\mathcal{D})$, there exist:

- An object A_B of \mathcal{C} ;
- A morphism $s_B: B \rightarrow F(A_B)$ of \mathcal{D} ;
- A morphism $r_B: F(A_B) \rightarrow B$ of \mathcal{D} ;

satisfying the following condition:

(★) For each $A \in \text{Obj}(C)$ and each pair of morphisms

$$r: F(A) \rightarrow B,$$

$$s: B \rightarrow F(A)$$

of \mathcal{D} , we have

$$[(A_B, s_B, r_B)] = [(A, s, r \circ s_B \circ r_B)]$$

$$\text{in } \int^{A \in C} b_{F_A}^{B'} \times b_B^{F_A}.$$

PROOF 11.6.2.1.3 ► PROOF OF PROPOSITION 11.6.2.1.2

Item 1: Interaction With Composition

Since the map

$$(G \circ F)_{A,B}: \text{Hom}_C(A, B) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(G_{F_A}, G_{F_B}),$$

defined as the composition

$$\text{Hom}_C(A, B) \xrightarrow{F_{A,B}} \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F_A, F_B) \xrightarrow{G_{F(A), F(B)}} \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(G_{F_A}, G_{F_B}),$$

is a composition of surjective functions, it follows from ?? that it is also surjective. Therefore $G \circ F$ is full.

Item 2: Interaction With Postcomposition I

We follow the proof (completely formalised in cubical Agda!) given by Naïm Camille Favier in **[favier:postcompose-not-full]**. Let C be the category where:

- *Objects.* We have $\text{Obj}(C) = \{A, B\}$.
- *Morphisms.* We have

$$\text{Hom}_C(A, A) = \{e_A, \text{id}_A\},$$

$$\mathrm{Hom}_C(B, B) = \{e_B, \mathrm{id}_B\},$$

$$\mathrm{Hom}_C(A, B) = \{f, g\},$$

$$\mathrm{Hom}_C(B, A) = \emptyset.$$

- *Composition.* The nontrivial compositions in C are the following:

$$\begin{aligned} e_A \circ e_A &= \mathrm{id}_A, & f \circ e_A &= g, & e_B \circ f &= f, \\ e_B \circ e_B &= \mathrm{id}_B, & g \circ e_A &= f, & e_B \circ g &= g. \end{aligned}$$

We may picture C as follows:

$$e_A \circlearrowleft A \xrightleftharpoons[g]{f} B \circlearrowright e_B.$$

Next, let \mathcal{D} be the walking arrow category **1** of [Definition II.2.5.1.1](#) and let $F: C \rightarrow \mathbf{1}$ be the functor given on objects by

$$F(A) = 0,$$

$$F(B) = 1$$

and on non-identity morphisms by

$$F(f) = f_{01}, \quad F(e_A) = \mathrm{id}_0,$$

$$F(g) = f_{01}, \quad F(e_B) = \mathrm{id}_1.$$

Finally, let $\mathcal{X} = \mathbf{B}\mathbb{Z}/2$ be the walking involution and let $\iota_A, \iota_B: \mathbf{B}\mathbb{Z}/2 \rightrightarrows C$ be the inclusion functors from $\mathbf{B}\mathbb{Z}/2$ to C with

$$\iota_A(\bullet) = A,$$

$$\iota_B(\bullet) = B.$$

Since every morphism in $\mathbf{1}$ has a preimage in C by F , the functor F is full. Now, for F_* to be full, the map

$$\begin{aligned} F_{*|\iota_A, \iota_B}: \mathrm{Nat}(\iota_A, \iota_B) &\longrightarrow \mathrm{Nat}(F \circ \iota_A, F \circ \iota_B) \\ \alpha &\longmapsto \mathrm{id}_F \star \alpha \end{aligned}$$

would need to be surjective. However, as we will show next, we have

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Nat}(\iota_A, \iota_B) &= \emptyset, \\ \text{Nat}(F \circ \iota_A, F \circ \iota_B) &\cong \text{pt},\end{aligned}$$

so this is impossible:

- *Proof of $\text{Nat}(\iota_A, \iota_B) = \emptyset$:* A natural transformation $\alpha: \iota_A \Rightarrow \iota_B$ consists of a morphism

$$\alpha: \underbrace{\iota_A(\bullet)}_{=A} \rightarrow \underbrace{\iota_B(\bullet)}_{=B}$$

in \mathcal{C} making the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \iota_A(\bullet) & \xrightarrow{\iota_A(e)} & \iota_A(\bullet) \\ \alpha \downarrow & & \downarrow \alpha \\ \iota_B(\bullet) & \xrightarrow{\iota_B(e)} & \iota_B(\bullet) \end{array}$$

commute for each $e \in \text{Hom}_{\mathbb{B}\mathbb{Z}/2}(\bullet, \bullet) \cong \mathbb{Z}/2$. We have two cases:

02BY

1. If $\alpha = f$, the naturality diagram for the unique nonidentity element of $\mathbb{Z}/2$ is given by

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A & \xrightarrow{e_A} & A \\ f \downarrow & & \downarrow f \\ B & \xrightarrow{e_B} & B. \end{array}$$

However, $e_B \circ f = f$ and $f \circ e_A = g$, so this diagram does not commute.

02BZ

2. If $\alpha = g$, the naturality diagram for the unique nonidentity element of $\mathbb{Z}/2$ is given by

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A & \xrightarrow{e_A} & A \\ \downarrow g & & \downarrow g \\ B & \xrightarrow{e_B} & B. \end{array}$$

However, $e_B \circ g = g$ and $g \circ e_A = f$, so this diagram does not commute.

As a result, there are no natural transformations from ι_A to ι_B .

- *Proof of* $\text{Nat}(F \circ \iota_A, F \circ \iota_B) \cong \text{pt}$: A natural transformation

$$\beta: F \circ \iota_A \Rightarrow F \circ \iota_B$$

consists of a morphism

$$\beta: \underbrace{[F \circ \iota_A](\bullet)}_{=0} \rightarrow \underbrace{[F \circ \iota_B](\bullet)}_{=1}$$

in $\mathbf{1}$ making the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} [F \circ \iota_A](\bullet) & \xrightarrow{[F \circ \iota_A](e)} & [F \circ \iota_A](\bullet) \\ \downarrow \beta & & \downarrow \beta \\ [F \circ \iota_B](\bullet) & \xrightarrow{[F \circ \iota_B](e)} & [F \circ \iota_B](\bullet) \end{array}$$

commute for each $e \in \text{Hom}_{\mathbf{B}\mathbb{Z}/2}(\bullet, \bullet) \cong \mathbb{Z}/2$. Since the only morphism from 0 to 1 in $\mathbf{1}$ is f_{01} , we must have $\beta = f_{01}$ if such a transformation were to exist, and in fact it indeed does, as in this case the

naturality diagram above becomes

$$\begin{array}{ccc} 0 & \xrightarrow{\text{id}_0} & 0 \\ f_{01} \downarrow & & \downarrow f_{01} \\ 1 & \xrightarrow{\text{id}_1} & 1 \end{array}$$

for each $e \in \mathbb{Z}/2$, and this diagram indeed commutes, making β into a natural transformation.

This finishes the proof.

Item 3: Interaction With Postcomposition II

Taking $\mathcal{X} = \text{pt}$, it follows by assumption that the functor

$$F_* : \text{Fun}(\text{pt}, C) \rightarrow \text{Fun}(\text{pt}, \mathcal{D})$$

is full. However, by **Item 5** of **Proposition II.10.1.1.2**, we have isomorphisms of categories

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Fun}(\text{pt}, C) &\cong C, \\ \text{Fun}(\text{pt}, \mathcal{D}) &\cong \mathcal{D} \end{aligned}$$

and the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Fun}(\text{pt}, C) & \xrightarrow{F_*} & \text{Fun}(\text{pt}, \mathcal{D}) \\ \wr \downarrow & & \downarrow \wr \\ C & \xrightarrow{F} & \mathcal{D} \end{array}$$

commutes. It then follows from **Item 1** that F is full.

Item 4: Interaction With Precomposition I

Omitted.

Item 5: Interaction With Precomposition II

See [BS10, p. 47].


Item 6: Interaction With Precomposition III

Omitted, but see https://unimath.github.io/doc/UniMath/d4de26f//UniMath.CategoryTheory.precomp_fully_faithful.html for a formalised proof.

Item 7: Interaction With Precomposition IV

We claim **Items 7a to 7e** are equivalent:

- *Items 7a and 7b Are Equivalent:* This is true by the definition of corepresentably full morphism; see **Types of Morphisms in Bicat**egories, **Definition 14.2.2.1.1**.
- *Items 7a, 7c and 7d Are Equivalent:* See ??, ?? of ??.
- *Items 7a and 7e Are Equivalent:* See [Adá+01, Item (b) of Remark 4.3].

This finishes the proof. 

QUESTION 11.6.2.1.4 ► BETTER CHARACTERISATIONS OF FUNCTORS WITH FULL PRECOMPOSITION

0127

Item 7 of **Proposition 11.6.2.1.2** gives a characterisation of the functors F for which F^* is full, but the characterisations given there are really messy. Are there better ones?

This question also appears as [MO 468121b].

0128 11.6.3 Fully Faithful Functors

Let \mathcal{C} and \mathcal{D} be categories.

0129 DEFINITION 11.6.3.1.1 ► FULLY FAITHFUL FUNCTORS

A functor $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ is **fully faithful** if F is full and faithful, i.e. if, for each $A, B \in \text{Obj}(\mathcal{C})$, the action on morphisms

$$F_{A,B}: \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(A, B) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F_A, F_B)$$

of F at (A, B) is bijective.

012A PROPOSITION 11.6.3.1.2 ► PROPERTIES OF FULLY FAITHFUL FUNCTORS

Let $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ and $G: \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}$ be functors.

012B 1. *Characterisations.* The following conditions are equivalent:

012C (a) The functor F is fully faithful.

012D (b) We have a pullback square

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Arr}(\mathcal{C}) & \xrightarrow{\text{Arr}(F)} & \text{Arr}(\mathcal{D}) \\ \text{src} \times \text{tgt} \downarrow & \lrcorner & \downarrow \text{src} \times \text{tgt} \\ \mathcal{C} \times \mathcal{C} & \xrightarrow{F \times F} & \mathcal{D} \times \mathcal{D} \end{array}$$

$\text{Arr}(\mathcal{C}) \cong (\mathcal{C} \times \mathcal{C}) \times_{\mathcal{D} \times \mathcal{D}} \text{Arr}(\mathcal{D}),$

in Cats.

01U8 2. *Interaction With Composition.* If F and G are fully faithful, then so is $G \circ F$.

012E 3. *Conservativity.* If F is fully faithful, then F is conservative.

012F 4. *Essential Injectivity.* If F is fully faithful, then F is essentially injective.

012G 5. *Interaction With Co/Limits.* If F is fully faithful, then F reflects co/limits.

012H 6. *Interaction With Postcomposition.* The following conditions are equivalent:

012J (a) The functor $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ is fully faithful.

012K

(b) For each $\mathcal{X} \in \text{Obj}(\text{Cats})$, the postcomposition functor

$$F_* : \text{Fun}(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{C}) \rightarrow \text{Fun}(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{D})$$

is fully faithful.

012L

(c) The functor $F : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ is a representably fully faithful morphism in Cats_2 in the sense of [Types of Morphisms in Bicat-egories, Definition 14.1.3.1.1.](#)

012M

7. *Interaction With Precomposition I.* If F is fully faithful, then the precomposition functor

$$F^* : \text{Fun}(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{X}) \rightarrow \text{Fun}(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{X})$$

can fail to be fully faithful.

012N

8. *Interaction With Precomposition II.* If the precomposition functor

$$F^* : \text{Fun}(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{X}) \rightarrow \text{Fun}(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{X})$$

is fully faithful, then F **can fail** to be fully faithful (and in fact it can also fail to be either full or faithful).

012P

9. *Interaction With Precomposition III.* If F is essentially surjective and full, then the precomposition functor

$$F^* : \text{Fun}(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{X}) \rightarrow \text{Fun}(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{X})$$

is fully faithful.

012Q

10. *Interaction With Precomposition IV.* The following conditions are equivalent:

012R

(a) For each $\mathcal{X} \in \text{Obj}(\text{Cats})$, the precomposition functor

$$F^* : \text{Fun}(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{X}) \rightarrow \text{Fun}(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{X})$$

is fully faithful.

012S

(b) The precomposition functor

$$F^* : \text{Fun}(\mathcal{D}, \text{Sets}) \rightarrow \text{Fun}(C, \text{Sets})$$

is fully faithful.

012T

(c) The functor

$$\text{Lan}_F : \text{Fun}(C, \text{Sets}) \rightarrow \text{Fun}(\mathcal{D}, \text{Sets})$$

is fully faithful.

012U

(d) The functor F is a corepresentably fully faithful morphism in Cats_2 in the sense of [Types of Morphisms in Bicategories](#), [Definition 14.2.3.1.1](#).

012V

(e) The functor F is absolutely dense.

012W

(f) The components

$$\eta_G : G \Longrightarrow \text{Ran}_F(G \circ F)$$

of the unit

$$\eta : \text{id}_{\text{Fun}(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{X})} \Longrightarrow \text{Ran}_F \circ F^*$$

of the adjunction $F^* \dashv \text{Ran}_F$ are all isomorphisms.

012X

(g) The components

$$\varepsilon_G : \text{Lan}_F(G \circ F) \Longrightarrow G$$

of the counit

$$\varepsilon : \text{Lan}_F \circ F^* \Longrightarrow \text{id}_{\text{Fun}(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{X})}$$

of the adjunction $\text{Lan}_F \dashv F^*$ are all isomorphisms.

012Y

(h) The natural transformation

$$\alpha : \text{Lan}_{b_F}(b^F) \Longrightarrow b$$

with components

$$\alpha_{B',B}: \int^{A \in \mathcal{C}} b_{F_A}^{B'} \times b_B^{F_A} \rightarrow b_B^{B'}$$

given by

$$\alpha_{B',B}([\phi, \psi]) = \psi \circ \phi$$

is a natural isomorphism.

0122

(i) For each $B \in \text{Obj}(\mathcal{D})$, there exist:

- An object A_B of \mathcal{C} ;
- A morphism $s_B: B \rightarrow F(A_B)$ of \mathcal{D} ;
- A morphism $r_B: F(A_B) \rightarrow B$ of \mathcal{D} ;

satisfying the following conditions:

0130

i. The triple $(F(A_B), r_B, s_B)$ is a retract of B , i.e. we have $r_B \circ s_B = \text{id}_B$.

0131

ii. For each morphism $f: B' \rightarrow B$ of \mathcal{D} , we have

$$[(A_B, s_B, f \circ r_{B'})] = [(A_B, s_B \circ f, r_B)]$$

$$\text{in } \int^{A \in \mathcal{C}} b_{F_A}^{B'} \times b_B^{F_A}.$$

PROOF 11.6.3.1.3 ► PROOF OF PROPOSITION 11.6.3.1.2

Item 1: Characterisations

Omitted.

Item 2: Interaction With Composition

Since the map

$$(G \circ F)_{A,B}: \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(A, B) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(G_{F_A}, G_{F_B}),$$

defined as the composition

$$\mathrm{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(A, B) \xrightarrow{F_{A,B}} \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F_A, F_B) \xrightarrow{G_{F(A), F(B)}} \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(G_{F_A}, G_{F_B}),$$

is a composition of bijective functions, it follows from ?? that it is also bijective. Therefore $G \circ F$ is fully faithful.

Item 3: Conservativity

This is a repetition of **Item 2** of **Proposition 11.6.4.1.2**, and is proved there.

Item 4: Essential Injectivity

Omitted.

Item 5: Interaction With Co/Limits

Omitted.

Item 6: Interaction With Postcomposition

This follows from **Item 2** of **Proposition 11.6.1.1.2** and ?? of **Proposition 11.6.2.1.2**.

Item 7: Interaction With Precomposition I

See [MSE 733161] for an example of a fully faithful functor whose precomposition with which fails to be full.

Item 8: Interaction With Precomposition II

See [MSE 749304, Item 3].

Item 9: Interaction With Precomposition III


Omitted, but see https://unimath.github.io/doc/UniMath/d4de26f//UniMath.CategoryTheory.precomp_fully_faithful.html for a formalised proof.

Item 10: Interaction With Precomposition IV

We claim **Items 10a** to **10i** are equivalent:

- *Items 10a and 10d Are Equivalent:* This is true by the definition of corepresentably fully faithful morphism; see **Types of Morphisms in Bicategories**, **Definition 14.2.3.1.1**.

- *Items 10a, 10f and 10g Are Equivalent:* See ??, ?? of ??.
- *Items 10a to 10c Are Equivalent:* This follows from [Low15, Proposition A.1.5].
- *Items 10a, 10e, 10h and 10i Are Equivalent:* See [Fre09, Theorem 4.1] and [Adá+01, Theorem 1.1].

This finishes the proof. 

0132 11.6.4 Conservative Functors

Let \mathcal{C} and \mathcal{D} be categories.

0133 DEFINITION 11.6.4.1.1 ► CONSERVATIVE FUNCTORS

A functor $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ is **conservative** if it satisfies the following condition:¹

- (★) For each $f \in \text{Mor}(\mathcal{C})$, if $F(f)$ is an isomorphism in \mathcal{D} , then f is an isomorphism in \mathcal{C} .

¹*Slogan:* A functor F is **conservative** if it reflects isomorphisms.

0134 PROPOSITION 11.6.4.1.2 ► PROPERTIES OF CONSERVATIVE FUNCTORS

Let $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ be a functor.

- 0135 1. *Characterisations.* The following conditions are equivalent:
- 0136 (a) The functor F is conservative.
- 0137 (b) For each $f \in \text{Mor}(\mathcal{C})$, the morphism $F(f)$ is an isomorphism in \mathcal{D} iff f is an isomorphism in \mathcal{C} .
- 0138 2. *Interaction With Fully Faithfulness.* Every fully faithful functor is conservative.
- 0139 3. *Interaction With Precomposition.* The following conditions are equivalent:

013A

(a) For each $\mathcal{X} \in \text{Obj}(\text{Cats})$, the precomposition functor

$$F^*: \text{Fun}(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{X}) \rightarrow \text{Fun}(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{X})$$

is conservative.


013B

(b) The equivalent conditions of **Item 5** of **Proposition 11.6.1.1.2** are satisfied.**PROOF 11.6.4.1.3 ► PROOF OF PROPOSITION 11.6.4.1.2****Item 1: Characterisations**This follows from **Item 1** of **Proposition 11.5.1.1.8**.**Item 2: Interaction With Fully Faithfulness**Let $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ be a fully faithful functor, let $f: A \rightarrow B$ be a morphism of \mathcal{C} , and suppose that F_f is an isomorphism. We have

$$\begin{aligned} F(\text{id}_B) &= \text{id}_{F(B)} \\ &= F(f) \circ F(f)^{-1} \\ &= F(f \circ f^{-1}). \end{aligned}$$

Similarly, $F(\text{id}_A) = F(f^{-1} \circ f)$. But since F is fully faithful, we must have

$$\begin{aligned} f \circ f^{-1} &= \text{id}_B, \\ f^{-1} \circ f &= \text{id}_A, \end{aligned}$$

showing f to be an isomorphism. Thus F is conservative. 

013C

QUESTION 11.6.4.1.4 ► CHARACTERISATIONS OF FUNCTORS WITH CONSERVATIVE PRE-/POSTCOMPOSITIONIs there a characterisation of functors $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ satisfying the following condition:(★) For each $\mathcal{X} \in \text{Obj}(\text{Cats})$, the postcomposition functor

$$F_*: \text{Fun}(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{C}) \rightarrow \text{Fun}(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{D})$$

is conservative?

This question also appears as [MO 468121a].

013D 11.6.5 Essentially Injective Functors

Let \mathcal{C} and \mathcal{D} be categories.

013E DEFINITION 11.6.5.1.1 ► ESSENTIALLY INJECTIVE FUNCTORS

A functor $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ is **essentially injective** if it satisfies the following condition:

(★) For each $A, B \in \text{Obj}(\mathcal{C})$, if $F(A) \cong F(B)$, then $A \cong B$.

013F QUESTION 11.6.5.1.2 ► CHARACTERISATIONS OF FUNCTORS WITH ESSENTIALLY INJECTIVE PRE/POSTCOMPOSITION

Is there a characterisation of functors $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ such that:

013G 1. For each $\mathcal{X} \in \text{Obj}(\text{Cats})$, the precomposition functor

$$F^*: \text{Fun}(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{X}) \rightarrow \text{Fun}(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{X})$$

is essentially injective, i.e. if $\phi \circ F \cong \psi \circ F$, then $\phi \cong \psi$ for all functors ϕ and ψ ?

013H 2. For each $\mathcal{X} \in \text{Obj}(\text{Cats})$, the postcomposition functor

$$F_*: \text{Fun}(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{C}) \rightarrow \text{Fun}(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{D})$$

is essentially injective, i.e. if $F \circ \phi \cong F \circ \psi$, then $\phi \cong \psi$?

This question also appears as [MO 468121a].

013J 11.6.6 Essentially Surjective Functors

Let \mathcal{C} and \mathcal{D} be categories.

013K

DEFINITION 11.6.6.1.1 ► ESSENTIALLY SURJECTIVE FUNCTORS

A functor $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ is **essentially surjective**¹ if it satisfies the following condition:

- (★) For each $D \in \text{Obj}(\mathcal{D})$, there exists some object A of \mathcal{C} such that $F(A) \cong D$.

¹*Further Terminology:* Also called an **eso** functor, meaning *essentially surjective on objects*.

013L

QUESTION 11.6.6.1.2 ► CHARACTERISATIONS OF FUNCTORS WITH ESSENTIALLY SURJECTIVE PRE/POSTCOMPOSITION

Is there a characterisation of functors $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ such that:

013M

- I. For each $\mathcal{X} \in \text{Obj}(\text{Cats})$, the precomposition functor

$$F^*: \text{Fun}(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{X}) \rightarrow \text{Fun}(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{X})$$

is essentially surjective?

013N

2. For each $\mathcal{X} \in \text{Obj}(\text{Cats})$, the postcomposition functor

$$F_*: \text{Fun}(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{C}) \rightarrow \text{Fun}(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{D})$$

is essentially surjective?

This question also appears as [MO 468121a].

013P 11.6.7 Equivalences of Categories

013Q

DEFINITION 11.6.7.1.1 ► EQUIVALENCES OF CATEGORIES

Let \mathcal{C} and \mathcal{D} be categories.

013R

- I. An **equivalence of categories** between \mathcal{C} and \mathcal{D} consists of a pair of functors

$$F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D},$$

$$G: \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$$

together with natural isomorphisms

$$\eta: \text{id}_{\mathcal{C}} \xrightarrow{\sim} G \circ F,$$

$$\varepsilon: F \circ G \xrightarrow{\sim} \text{id}_{\mathcal{D}}.$$

- 013S 2. An **adjoint equivalence of categories** between \mathcal{C} and \mathcal{D} is an equivalence $(F, G, \eta, \varepsilon)$ between \mathcal{C} and \mathcal{D} which is also an adjunction.

013T **PROPOSITION 11.6.7.1.2 ► PROPERTIES OF EQUIVALENCES OF CATEGORIES**

Let $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ be a functor.

- 013U 1. *Characterisations.* If \mathcal{C} and \mathcal{D} are small¹, then the following conditions are equivalent:²

013V (a) The functor F is an equivalence of categories.

013W (b) The functor F is fully faithful and essentially surjective.

013X (c) The induced functor

$$\uparrow F\text{Sk}(\mathcal{C}): \text{Sk}(\mathcal{C}) \rightarrow \text{Sk}(\mathcal{D})$$

is an *isomorphism* of categories.

013Y (d) For each $X \in \text{Obj}(\text{Cats})$, the precomposition functor

$$F^*: \text{Fun}(\mathcal{D}, X) \rightarrow \text{Fun}(\mathcal{C}, X)$$

is an equivalence of categories.

013Z (e) For each $X \in \text{Obj}(\text{Cats})$, the postcomposition functor

$$F_*: \text{Fun}(X, \mathcal{C}) \rightarrow \text{Fun}(X, \mathcal{D})$$

is an equivalence of categories.

0140 2. *Two-Out-of-Three*. Let

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{C} & \xrightarrow{G \circ F} & \mathcal{E} \\ & \searrow F \quad \nearrow G & \\ & \mathcal{D} & \end{array}$$

be a diagram in *Cats*. If two out of the three functors among F , G , and $G \circ F$ are equivalences of categories, then so is the third.

0141 3. *Stability Under Composition*. Let

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

be a diagram in *Cats*. If (F, G) and (F', G') are equivalences of categories, then so is their composite $(F' \circ F, G' \circ G)$.

0142 4. *Equivalences vs. Adjoint Equivalences*. Every equivalence of categories can be promoted to an adjoint equivalence.³

0143 5. *Interaction With Groupoids*. If \mathcal{C} and \mathcal{D} are groupoids, then the following conditions are equivalent:

0144 (a) The functor F is an equivalence of groupoids.

0145 (b) The following conditions are satisfied:

0146 i. The functor F induces a bijection

$$\pi_0(F) : \pi_0(\mathcal{C}) \rightarrow \pi_0(\mathcal{D})$$

of sets.

0147 ii. For each $A \in \text{Obj}(\mathcal{C})$, the induced map

$$F_{x,x} : \text{Aut}_{\mathcal{C}}(A) \rightarrow \text{Aut}_{\mathcal{D}}(F_A)$$

is an isomorphism of groups.

¹Otherwise there will be size issues. One can also work with large categories and universes, or require F to be *constructively* essentially surjective; see [MSE 1465107].

²In ZFC, the equivalence between *Item 1a* and *Item 1b* is equivalent to the axiom of choice; see [MO 119454].

In Univalent Foundations, this is true without requiring neither the axiom of choice nor the law of excluded middle.

³More precisely, we can promote an equivalence of categories $(F, G, \eta, \varepsilon)$ to adjoint equivalences $(F, G, \eta', \varepsilon)$ and $(F, G, \eta, \varepsilon')$.

PROOF 11.6.7.1.3 ► PROOF OF PROPOSITION 11.6.7.1.2

Item 1: Characterisations

We claim that **Items 1a** to **1e** are indeed equivalent:

1. **Item 1a** \implies **Item 1b**: Clear.
2. **Item 1b** \implies **Item 1a**: Since F is essentially surjective and \mathcal{C} and \mathcal{D} are small, we can choose, using the axiom of choice, for each $B \in \text{Obj}(\mathcal{D})$, an object j_B of \mathcal{C} and an isomorphism $i_B: B \rightarrow F_{j_B}$ of \mathcal{D} .
Since F is fully faithful, we can extend the assignment $B \mapsto j_B$ to a *unique* functor $j: \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ such that the isomorphisms $i_B: B \rightarrow F_{j_B}$ assemble into a natural isomorphism $\eta: \text{id}_{\mathcal{D}} \xrightarrow{\sim} F \circ j$, with a similar natural isomorphism $\varepsilon: \text{id}_{\mathcal{C}} \xrightarrow{\sim} j \circ F$. Hence F is an equivalence.
3. **Item 1a** \implies **Item 1c**: This follows from **Item 4** of **Proposition 11.1.3.1.3**.
4. **Item 1c** \implies **Item 1a**: Omitted.
5. **Items 1a, 1d and 1e Are Equivalent**: This follows from ??.

This finishes the proof of **Item 1**.

Item 2: Two-Out-of-Three

Omitted.

Item 3: Stability Under Composition

Clear.

Item 4: Equivalences vs. Adjoint Equivalences

See [Rie16, Proposition 4.4.5].

Item 5: Interaction With Groupoids

See [nLa25, Proposition 4.4].



0148 11.6.8 Isomorphisms of Categories

0149 DEFINITION 11.6.8.1.1 ► ISOMORPHISMS OF CATEGORIES

An **isomorphism of categories** is a pair of functors

$$F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D},$$

$$G: \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$$

such that we have

$$G \circ F = \text{id}_{\mathcal{C}},$$

$$F \circ G = \text{id}_{\mathcal{D}}.$$

014A EXAMPLE 11.6.8.1.2 ► EQUIVALENT BUT NON-ISOMORPHIC CATEGORIES

Categories can be equivalent but non-isomorphic. For example, the category consisting of two isomorphic objects is equivalent to **pt**, but not isomorphic to it.

014B PROPOSITION 11.6.8.1.3 ► PROPERTIES OF ISOMORPHISMS OF CATEGORIES

Let $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ be a functor.

014C 1. *Characterisations.* If \mathcal{C} and \mathcal{D} are small, then the following conditions are equivalent:

014D (a) The functor F is an isomorphism of categories.

014E (b) The functor F is fully faithful and bijective on objects.

014F (c) For each $X \in \text{Obj}(\mathcal{C})$, the precomposition functor

$$F^*: \text{Fun}(\mathcal{D}, X) \rightarrow \text{Fun}(\mathcal{C}, X)$$

is an isomorphism of categories.

014G (d) For each $X \in \text{Obj}(\mathcal{C})$, the postcomposition functor

$$F_*: \text{Fun}(X, \mathcal{C}) \rightarrow \text{Fun}(X, \mathcal{D})$$

is an isomorphism of categories.


|

|

Item 1: Characterisations

We claim that **Items 1a to 1d** are indeed equivalent:

1. *Items 1a and 1b Are Equivalent:* Omitted, but similar to **Item 1** of **Proposition 11.6.7.1.2**.
2. *Items 1a, 1c and 1d Are Equivalent:* This follows from ??.

This finishes the proof. 

014H 11.7 More Conditions on Functors

014J 11.7.1 Dominant Functors

Let \mathcal{C} and \mathcal{D} be categories.

014K DEFINITION 11.7.1.1.1 ► DOMINANT FUNCTORS

A functor $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ is **dominant** if every object of \mathcal{D} is a retract of some object in $\text{Im}(F)$, i.e.:

- (★) For each $B \in \text{Obj}(\mathcal{D})$, there exist:
- An object A of \mathcal{C} ;
 - A morphism $r: F(A) \rightarrow B$ of \mathcal{D} ;
 - A morphism $s: B \rightarrow F(A)$ of \mathcal{D} ;

such that we have

$$r \circ s = \text{id}_B,$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} B & \xrightarrow{s} & F(A) \\ & \searrow \text{id}_B & \downarrow r \\ & & B. \end{array}$$

014L

PROPOSITION 11.7.1.1.2 ► PROPERTIES OF DOMINANT FUNCTORS

Let $F, G: \mathcal{C} \rightrightarrows \mathcal{D}$ be functors and let $I: \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ be a functor.

014M

1. *Interaction With Right Whiskering.* If I is full and dominant, then the map

$$- \star \text{id}_I: \text{Nat}(F, G) \rightarrow \text{Nat}(F \circ I, G \circ I)$$

is a bijection.

014N

2. *Interaction With Adjunctions.* Let $(F, G): \mathcal{C} \rightleftarrows \mathcal{D}$ be an adjunction.

014P

- (a) If F is dominant, then G is faithful.

014Q

- (b) The following conditions are equivalent:

014R

- i. The functor G is full.

014S

- ii. The restriction

$$\upharpoonright G\text{Im}_F: \text{Im}(F) \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$$

of G to $\text{Im}(F)$ is full.

PROOF 11.7.1.1.3 ► PROOF OF PROPOSITION 11.7.1.1.2

Item 1: Interaction With Right Whiskering

See [DFH75, Proposition 1.4].

Item 2: Interaction With Adjunctions

See [DFH75, Proposition 1.7]. 

014T

QUESTION 11.7.1.1.4 ► CHARACTERISATIONS OF FUNCTORS WITH DOMINANT PRE/POST-COMPOSITION

Is there a characterisation of functors $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ such that:

014U

1. For each $\mathcal{X} \in \text{Obj}(\text{Cats})$, the precomposition functor

$$F^*: \text{Fun}(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{X}) \rightarrow \text{Fun}(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{X})$$

is dominant?

014V

2. For each $\mathcal{X} \in \text{Obj}(\text{Cats})$, the postcomposition functor

$$F_*: \text{Fun}(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{C}) \rightarrow \text{Fun}(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{D})$$

is dominant?

This question also appears as [MO 468121a].

014W 11.7.2 Monomorphisms of Categories

Let \mathcal{C} and \mathcal{D} be categories.

014X

DEFINITION 11.7.2.1.1 ► MONOMORPHISMS OF CATEGORIES

A functor $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ is a **monomorphism of categories** if it is a monomorphism in Cats (see ??, ??).

014Y

PROPOSITION 11.7.2.1.2 ► PROPERTIES OF MONOMORPHISMS OF CATEGORIES

Let $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ be a functor.

014Z

1. *Characterisations.* The following conditions are equivalent:

0150

(a) The functor F is a monomorphism of categories.

0151


(b) The functor F is injective on objects and morphisms, i.e. F is injective on objects and the map

$$F: \text{Mor}(\mathcal{C}) \rightarrow \text{Mor}(\mathcal{D})$$

is injective.

PROOF 11.7.2.1.3 ► PROOF OF PROPOSITION 11.7.2.1.2

Item 1: Characterisations

Omitted. 

QUESTION 11.7.2.1.4 ► CHARACTERISATIONS OF FUNCTORS WITH MONIC PRE/POSTCOMPOSITION

Is there a characterisation of functors $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ such that:

1. For each $\mathcal{X} \in \text{Obj}(\text{Cats})$, the precomposition functor

$$F^*: \text{Fun}(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{X}) \rightarrow \text{Fun}(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{X})$$

is a monomorphism of categories?

2. For each $\mathcal{X} \in \text{Obj}(\text{Cats})$, the postcomposition functor

$$F_*: \text{Fun}(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{C}) \rightarrow \text{Fun}(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{D})$$

is a monomorphism of categories?

This question also appears as [MO 468121a].

11.7.3 Epimorphisms of Categories

Let \mathcal{C} and \mathcal{D} be categories.

DEFINITION 11.7.3.1.1 ► EPIMORPHISMS OF CATEGORIES

A functor $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ is a **epimorphism of categories** if it is an epimorphism in Cats (see ??, ??).

PROPOSITION 11.7.3.1.2 ► PROPERTIES OF EPIMORPHISMS OF CATEGORIES

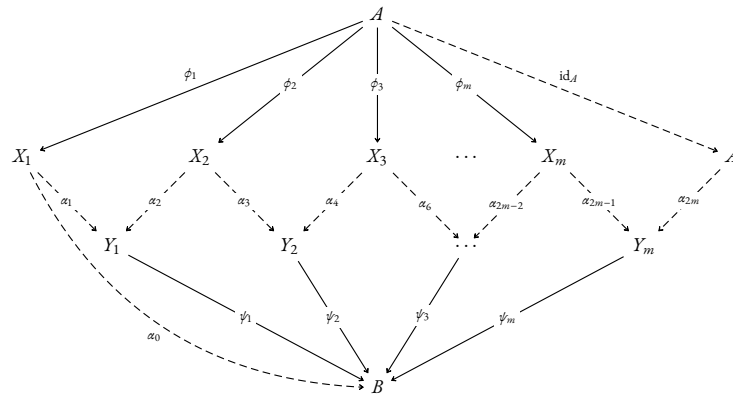
Let $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ be a functor.

1. *Characterisations.* The following conditions are equivalent:¹

0159

(a) The functor F is an epimorphism of categories.

015A

(b) For each morphism $f: A \rightarrow B$ of \mathcal{D} , we have a diagramin \mathcal{D} satisfying the following conditions:

015B

i. We have $f = \alpha_0 \circ \phi_1$.

015C

ii. We have $f = \psi_m \circ \alpha_{2m}$.

015D

iii. For each $0 \leq i \leq 2m$, we have $\alpha_i \in \text{Mor}(\text{Im}(F))$.

015E

2. *Surjectivity on Objects.* If F is an epimorphism of categories, then F is surjective on objects.¹*Further Terminology:* This statement is known as **Isbell's zigzag theorem**.**PROOF 11.7.3.1.3 ► PROOF OF PROPOSITION 11.7.3.1.2**

Item 1: Characterisations

See [Isb68].

Item 2: Surjectivity on Objects

Omitted.



QUESTION 11.7.3.1.4 ► CHARACTERISATIONS OF FUNCTORS WITH EPIC PRE/POSTCOMPOSITION

015F

Is there a characterisation of functors $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ such that:

015G

1. For each $\mathcal{X} \in \text{Obj}(\text{Cats})$, the precomposition functor

$$F^*: \text{Fun}(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{X}) \rightarrow \text{Fun}(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{X})$$

is an epimorphism of categories?

015H

2. For each $\mathcal{X} \in \text{Obj}(\text{Cats})$, the postcomposition functor

$$F_*: \text{Fun}(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{C}) \rightarrow \text{Fun}(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{D})$$

is an epimorphism of categories?

This question also appears as [MO 468121a].

015J 11.7.4 Pseudomonadic Functors

Let \mathcal{C} and \mathcal{D} be categories.

015K

DEFINITION 11.7.4.1.1 ► PSEUDOMONIC FUNCTORS

A functor $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ is **pseudomonadic** if it satisfies the following conditions:

015L

1. For all diagrams of the form

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{X} & \xrightarrow{\phi} & \mathcal{C} \xrightarrow{F} \mathcal{D} \\ \alpha \downarrow \parallel \downarrow \beta & & \\ \mathcal{X} & \xrightarrow{\psi} & \mathcal{C} \end{array}$$

if we have

$$\text{id}_F \star \alpha = \text{id}_F \star \beta,$$

then $\alpha = \beta$.

015M

 2. For each $\mathcal{X} \in \text{Obj}(\text{Cats})$ and each natural isomorphism

$$\beta: F \circ \phi \xrightarrow{\sim} F \circ \psi, \quad \mathcal{X} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{F \circ \phi} \\ \beta \Downarrow \\ \xrightarrow{F \circ \psi} \end{array} \mathcal{D},$$

there exists a natural isomorphism

$$\alpha: \phi \xrightarrow{\sim} \psi, \quad \mathcal{X} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\phi} \\ \alpha \Downarrow \\ \xrightarrow{\psi} \end{array} \mathcal{C}$$

such that we have an equality

$$\mathcal{X} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\phi} \\ \alpha \Downarrow \\ \xrightarrow{\psi} \end{array} \mathcal{C} \xrightarrow{F} \mathcal{D} = \mathcal{X} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{F \circ \phi} \\ \beta \Downarrow \\ \xrightarrow{F \circ \psi} \end{array} \mathcal{D}$$

of pasting diagrams, i.e. such that we have

$$\beta = \text{id}_F \star \alpha.$$

015N

PROPOSITION 11.7.4.1.2 ► PROPERTIES OF PSEUDOMONOID FUNCTORS

 Let $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ be a functor.

015P

 I. *Characterisations.* The following conditions are equivalent:

015Q

 (a) The functor F is pseudomonoid.

015R

 (b) The functor F satisfies the following conditions:

015S

 i. The functor F is faithful, i.e. for each $A, B \in \text{Obj}(\mathcal{C})$, the action on morphisms

$$F_{A,B}: \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(A, B) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F_A, F_B)$$

 of F at (A, B) is injective.

015T

 ii. For each $A, B \in \text{Obj}(C)$, the restriction

$$F_{A,B}^{\text{iso}}: \text{Iso}_C(A, B) \rightarrow \text{Iso}_{\mathcal{D}}(F_A, F_B)$$

 of the action on morphisms of F at (A, B) to isomorphisms is surjective.

015U

(c) We have an isocomma square of the form

$$C \stackrel{\text{eq.}}{\cong} C \times_{\mathcal{D}} C, \quad \begin{array}{ccc} C & \xrightarrow{\text{id}_C} & C \\ \text{id}_C \downarrow & \nearrow \text{dashed} & \downarrow F \\ C & \xrightarrow{F} & \mathcal{D} \end{array}$$

 in Cats_2 up to equivalence.

015V

(d) We have an isocomma square of the form

$$C \stackrel{\text{eq.}}{\cong} C \times_{\text{Arr}(\mathcal{D})} \mathcal{D}, \quad \begin{array}{ccc} C & \hookrightarrow & \text{Arr}(C) \\ F \downarrow & \nearrow \text{dashed} & \downarrow \text{Arr}(F) \\ \mathcal{D} & \hookrightarrow & \text{Arr}(\mathcal{D}) \end{array}$$

 in Cats_2 up to equivalence.

015W

 (e) For each $\mathcal{X} \in \text{Obj}(\text{Cats})$, the postcomposition¹ functor

$$F_*: \text{Fun}(\mathcal{X}, C) \rightarrow \text{Fun}(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{D})$$

is pseudomonic.

015X

 2. *Conservativity.* If F is pseudomonic, then F is conservative.

015Y

 3. *Essential Injectivity.* If F is pseudomonic, then F is essentially injective.

¹Asking the precomposition functors

$$F^*: \text{Fun}(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{X}) \rightarrow \text{Fun}(C, \mathcal{X})$$

 to be pseudomonic leads to pseudoeptic functors; see [Item 1b](#) of [Item 1](#) of [Proposition 11.7.5.1.2](#).

PROOF 11.7.4.1.3 ► PROOF OF PROPOSITION 11.7.4.1.2

Item 1: Characterisations

Omitted.

Item 2: Conservativity

Omitted.

Item 3: Essential Injectivity

Omitted.



015Z 11.7.5 Pseudoepic Functors

Let \mathcal{C} and \mathcal{D} be categories.

0160 DEFINITION 11.7.5.1.1 ► PSEUDOEPIC FUNCTORS

A functor $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ is **pseudoepic** if it satisfies the following conditions:

0161 1. For all diagrams of the form

$$\mathcal{C} \xrightarrow{F} \mathcal{D} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\phi} \\ \alpha \Downarrow \Downarrow \beta \\ \xrightarrow{\psi} \end{array} \mathcal{X},$$

if we have

$$\alpha \star \text{id}_F = \beta \star \text{id}_F,$$

then $\alpha = \beta$.

0162 2. For each $X \in \text{Obj}(\mathcal{C})$ and each 2-isomorphism

$$\beta: \phi \circ F \xRightarrow{\sim} \psi \circ F, \quad \mathcal{C} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\phi \circ F} \\ \beta \Downarrow \Downarrow \\ \xrightarrow{\psi \circ F} \end{array} \mathcal{X}$$

of \mathcal{C} , there exists a 2-isomorphism

$$\alpha: \phi \xRightarrow{\sim} \psi, \quad \mathcal{D} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\phi} \\ \alpha \Downarrow \Downarrow \\ \xrightarrow{\psi} \end{array} \mathcal{X}$$

of C such that we have an equality

$$C \xrightarrow{F} \mathcal{D} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\phi} \\ \alpha \Downarrow \\ \xrightarrow{\psi} \end{array} \mathcal{X} = C \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\phi \circ F} \\ \beta \Downarrow \\ \xrightarrow{\psi \circ F} \end{array} \mathcal{X}$$

of pasting diagrams in C , i.e. such that we have

$$\beta = \alpha \star \text{id}_F.$$

0163

PROPOSITION 11.7.5.1.2 ► PROPERTIES OF PSEUDOEPIC FUNCTORS

Let $F: C \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ be a functor.

0164

1. *Characterisations.* The following conditions are equivalent:

0165

(a) The functor F is pseudoepic.

0166

(b) For each $\mathcal{X} \in \text{Obj}(\text{Cats})$, the functor

$$F^*: \text{Fun}(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{X}) \rightarrow \text{Fun}(C, \mathcal{X})$$

given by precomposition by F is pseudomonic.

0167

(c) We have an isococcomma square of the form

$$\mathcal{D} \stackrel{\text{eq.}}{\cong} \mathcal{D} \overset{\leftrightarrow}{\coprod}_C \mathcal{D}, \quad \begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{D} & \xleftarrow{\text{id}_{\mathcal{D}}} & \mathcal{D} \\ \text{id}_{\mathcal{D}} \uparrow & \nearrow \text{dashed} & \uparrow F \\ \mathcal{D} & \xleftarrow{F} & C \end{array}$$

in Cats_2 up to equivalence.

0168

2. *Dominance.* If F is pseudoepic, then F is dominant (Definition 11.7.1.1.1).

PROOF 11.7.5.1.3 ► PROOF OF PROPOSITION 11.7.5.1.2


Item 1: Characterisations

Omitted.

Item 2: Dominance

If F is pseudoepic, then

$$F^* : \text{Fun}(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{X}) \rightarrow \text{Fun}(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{X})$$

is pseudomonic for all $\mathcal{X} \in \text{Obj}(\text{Cats})$, and thus in particular faithful. By [Item 5g](#) of [Item 5](#) of [Proposition 11.6.1.1.2](#), this is equivalent to requiring F to be dominant. 

0169

QUESTION 11.7.5.1.4 ► CHARACTERISATIONS OF PSEUDOEPIC FUNCTORS

Is there a nice characterisation of the pseudoepic functors, similarly to the characterisation of pseudomonic functors given in [Item 1b](#) of [Item 1](#) of [Proposition 11.7.4.1.2](#)?

This question also appears as [\[MO 321971\]](#).

016A

QUESTION 11.7.5.1.5 ► MUST A PSEUDOMONIC AND PSEUDOEPIC FUNCTOR BE AN EQUIVALENCE OF CATEGORIES

A pseudomonic and pseudoepic functor is dominant, faithful, essentially injective, and full on isomorphisms. Is it necessarily an equivalence of categories? If not, how bad can this fail, i.e. how far can a pseudomonic and pseudoepic functor be from an equivalence of categories?

This question also appears as [\[MO 468334\]](#).

016B

QUESTION 11.7.5.1.6 ► CHARACTERISATIONS OF FUNCTORS WITH PSEUDOEPIC PRE-/POSTCOMPOSITION

Is there a characterisation of functors $F : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ such that:

016C

1. For each $\mathcal{X} \in \text{Obj}(\text{Cats})$, the precomposition functor

$$F^* : \text{Fun}(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{X}) \rightarrow \text{Fun}(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{X})$$

is pseudoepic?

016D

2. For each $\mathcal{X} \in \text{Obj}(\text{Cats})$, the postcomposition functor

$$F_*: \text{Fun}(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{C}) \rightarrow \text{Fun}(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{D})$$

is pseudoepic?

This question also appears as [MO 468121a].

016E 11.8 Even More Conditions on Functors

016F 11.8.1 Injective on Objects Functors

Let \mathcal{C} and \mathcal{D} be categories.

016G

DEFINITION 11.8.1.1.1 ► INJECTIVE ON OBJECTS FUNCTORS

A functor $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ is **injective on objects** if the action on objects

$$F: \text{Obj}(\mathcal{C}) \rightarrow \text{Obj}(\mathcal{D})$$

of F is injective.

016H

PROPOSITION 11.8.1.1.2 ► PROPERTIES OF INJECTIVE ON OBJECTS FUNCTORS

Let $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ be a functor.

016J

1. *Characterisations.* The following conditions are equivalent:

016K


(a) The functor F is injective on objects.

016L

(b) The functor F is an isofibration in Cats_2 .

PROOF 11.8.1.1.3 ► PROOF OF PROPOSITION 11.8.1.1.2

Item 1: Characterisations

Omitted. 

016M 11.8.2 Surjective on Objects Functors

Let \mathcal{C} and \mathcal{D} be categories.

016N DEFINITION 11.8.2.1.1 ► SURJECTIVE ON OBJECTS FUNCTORS

A functor $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ is **surjective on objects** if the action on objects

$$F: \text{Obj}(\mathcal{C}) \rightarrow \text{Obj}(\mathcal{D})$$

of F is surjective.

016P 11.8.3 Bijective on Objects Functors

Let \mathcal{C} and \mathcal{D} be categories.

016Q DEFINITION 11.8.3.1.1 ► BIJECTIVE ON OBJECTS FUNCTORS

A functor $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ is **bijective on objects**¹ if the action on objects

$$F: \text{Obj}(\mathcal{C}) \rightarrow \text{Obj}(\mathcal{D})$$

of F is a bijection.¹*Further Terminology:* Also called a **bo** functor.

016R 11.8.4 Functors Representably Faithful on Cores

Let \mathcal{C} and \mathcal{D} be categories.

016S DEFINITION 11.8.4.1.1 ► FUNCTORS REPRESENTABLY FAITHFUL ON CORES

A functor $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ is **representably faithful on cores** if, for each $X \in \text{Obj}(\text{Cats})$, the postcomposition by F functor

$$F_*: \text{Core}(\text{Fun}(X, \mathcal{C})) \rightarrow \text{Core}(\text{Fun}(X, \mathcal{D}))$$

is faithful.

016T

REMARK 11.8.4.1.2 ► UNWINDING DEFINITION 11.8.4.1.1

In detail, a functor $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ is **representably faithful on cores** if, given a diagram of the form

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & \xrightarrow{\phi} & \\ \alpha \downarrow & \Downarrow & \downarrow \beta \\ X & \xrightarrow{\psi} & C \xrightarrow{F} \mathcal{D} \end{array}$$

if α and β are natural isomorphisms and we have

$$\text{id}_F \star \alpha = \text{id}_F \star \beta,$$

then $\alpha = \beta$.

016U

QUESTION 11.8.4.1.3 ► CHARACTERISATION OF FUNCTORS REPRESENTABLY FAITHFUL ON CORES

Is there a characterisation of functors representably faithful on cores?

016V 11.8.5 Functors Representably Full on Cores

Let \mathcal{C} and \mathcal{D} be categories.

016W

DEFINITION 11.8.5.1.1 ► FUNCTORS REPRESENTABLY FULL ON CORES

A functor $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ is **representably full on cores** if, for each $X \in \text{Obj}(\text{Cats})$, the postcomposition by F functor

$$F_*: \text{Core}(\text{Fun}(X, \mathcal{C})) \rightarrow \text{Core}(\text{Fun}(X, \mathcal{D}))$$

is full.

016X

REMARK 11.8.5.1.2 ► UNWINDING DEFINITION 11.8.5.1.1

In detail, a functor $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ is **representably full on cores** if, for each $\mathcal{X} \in \text{Obj}(\text{Cats})$ and each natural isomorphism

$$\beta: F \circ \phi \xrightarrow{\sim} F \circ \psi, \quad \mathcal{X} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{F \circ \phi} \\ \beta \Downarrow \\ \xrightarrow{F \circ \psi} \end{array} \mathcal{D},$$

there exists a natural isomorphism

$$\alpha: \phi \xrightarrow{\sim} \psi, \quad \mathcal{X} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\phi} \\ \alpha \Downarrow \\ \xrightarrow{\psi} \end{array} \mathcal{C}$$

such that we have an equality

$$\mathcal{X} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\phi} \\ \alpha \Downarrow \\ \xrightarrow{\psi} \end{array} \mathcal{C} \xrightarrow{F} \mathcal{D} = \mathcal{X} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{F \circ \phi} \\ \beta \Downarrow \\ \xrightarrow{F \circ \psi} \end{array} \mathcal{D}$$

of pasting diagrams in Cats_2 , i.e. such that we have

$$\beta = \text{id}_F \star \alpha.$$

016Y

QUESTION 11.8.5.1.3 ► CHARACTERISATION OF FUNCTORS REPRESENTABLY FULL ON CORES

Is there a characterisation of functors representably full on cores?
This question also appears as [MO 468121a].

016Z 11.8.6 Functors Representably Fully Faithful on Cores

Let \mathcal{C} and \mathcal{D} be categories.

0170

DEFINITION 11.8.6.1.1 ► FUNCTORS REPRESENTABLY FULLY FAITHFUL ON CORES

A functor $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ is **representably fully faithful on cores** if, for each $X \in \text{Obj}(\text{Cats})$, the postcomposition by F functor

$$F_*: \text{Core}(\text{Fun}(X, \mathcal{C})) \rightarrow \text{Core}(\text{Fun}(X, \mathcal{D}))$$

is fully faithful.

0171

REMARK 11.8.6.1.2 ► UNWINDING DEFINITION 11.8.6.1.1

In detail, a functor $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ is **representably fully faithful on cores** if it satisfies the conditions in [Remarks 11.8.4.1.2](#) and [11.8.5.1.2](#), i.e.:

0172

1. For all diagrams of the form

$$\mathcal{X} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\phi} \\ \alpha \Downarrow \Downarrow \beta \\ \xrightarrow{\psi} \end{array} \mathcal{C} \xrightarrow{F} \mathcal{D},$$

with α and β natural isomorphisms, if we have $\text{id}_F \star \alpha = \text{id}_F \star \beta$, then $\alpha = \beta$.

0173

2. For each $X \in \text{Obj}(\text{Cats})$ and each natural isomorphism

$$\beta: F \circ \phi \xrightarrow{\sim} F \circ \psi, \quad \mathcal{X} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{F \circ \phi} \\ \beta \Downarrow \Downarrow \\ \xrightarrow{F \circ \psi} \end{array} \mathcal{D}$$

of \mathcal{C} , there exists a natural isomorphism

$$\alpha: \phi \xrightarrow{\sim} \psi, \quad \mathcal{X} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\phi} \\ \alpha \Downarrow \Downarrow \\ \xrightarrow{\psi} \end{array} \mathcal{C}$$

of \mathcal{C} such that we have an equality

$$\mathcal{X} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\phi} \\ \alpha \Downarrow \Downarrow \\ \xrightarrow{\psi} \end{array} \mathcal{C} \xrightarrow{F} \mathcal{D} = \mathcal{X} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{F \circ \phi} \\ \beta \Downarrow \Downarrow \\ \xrightarrow{F \circ \psi} \end{array} \mathcal{D}$$

of pasting diagrams in \mathbf{Cats}_2 , i.e. such that we have

$$\beta = \text{id}_F \star \alpha.$$

0174

QUESTION 11.8.6.1.3 ► CHARACTERISATION OF FUNCTORS REPRESENTABLY FULLY FAITHFUL ON CORES

Is there a characterisation of functors representably fully faithful on cores?

0175 11.8.7 Functors Corepresentably Faithful on Cores

Let \mathcal{C} and \mathcal{D} be categories.

0176

DEFINITION 11.8.7.1.1 ► FUNCTORS COREPRESENTABLY FAITHFUL ON CORES

A functor $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ is **corepresentably faithful on cores** if, for each $X \in \text{Obj}(\mathbf{Cats})$, the postcomposition by F functor

$$F_*: \text{Core}(\text{Fun}(X, \mathcal{C})) \rightarrow \text{Core}(\text{Fun}(X, \mathcal{D}))$$

is faithful.

0177

REMARK 11.8.7.1.2 ► UNWINDING DEFINITION 11.8.7.1.1

In detail, a functor $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ is **corepresentably faithful on cores** if, given a diagram of the form

$$\mathcal{C} \xrightarrow{F} \mathcal{D} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\phi} \\ \alpha \Downarrow \Downarrow \beta \\ \xrightarrow{\psi} \end{array} X,$$

if α and β are natural isomorphisms and we have

$$\alpha \star \text{id}_F = \beta \star \text{id}_F,$$

then $\alpha = \beta$.

0178

QUESTION 11.8.7.1.3 ► CHARACTERISATION OF FUNCTORS COREPRESENTABLY FAITHFUL ON CORES

Is there a characterisation of functors corepresentably faithful on cores?

0179 11.8.8 Functors Corepresentably Full on Cores

Let \mathcal{C} and \mathcal{D} be categories.

017A

DEFINITION 11.8.8.1.1 ► FUNCTORS COREPRESENTABLY FULL ON CORES

A functor $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ is **corepresentably full on cores** if, for each $X \in \text{Obj}(\text{Cats})$, the postcomposition by F functor

$$F_*: \text{Core}(\text{Fun}(X, \mathcal{C})) \rightarrow \text{Core}(\text{Fun}(X, \mathcal{D}))$$

is full.

017B

REMARK 11.8.8.1.2 ► UNWINDING DEFINITION 11.8.8.1.1

In detail, a functor $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ is **corepresentably full on cores** if, for each $X \in \text{Obj}(\text{Cats})$ and each natural isomorphism

$$\beta: \phi \circ F \xrightarrow{\sim} \psi \circ F, \quad \mathcal{C} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\phi \circ F} \\ \beta \Downarrow \\ \xrightarrow{\psi \circ F} \end{array} X,$$

there exists a natural isomorphism

$$\alpha: \phi \xrightarrow{\sim} \psi, \quad \mathcal{D} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\phi} \\ \alpha \Downarrow \\ \xrightarrow{\psi} \end{array} X$$

such that we have an equality

$$X \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\phi} \\ \alpha \Downarrow \\ \xrightarrow{\psi} \end{array} \mathcal{C} \xrightarrow{F} \mathcal{D} = X \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{F \circ \phi} \\ \beta \Downarrow \\ \xrightarrow{F \circ \psi} \end{array} \mathcal{D}$$

of pasting diagrams in \mathbf{Cats}_2 , i.e. such that we have

$$\beta = \alpha \star \text{id}_F.$$

017C

QUESTION 11.8.8.1.3 ► CHARACTERISATION OF FUNCTORS COREPRESENTABLY FULL ON CORES

Is there a characterisation of functors corepresentably full on cores?
This question also appears as [MO 468121a].

017D 11.8.9 Functors Corepresentably Fully Faithful on Cores

Let \mathcal{C} and \mathcal{D} be categories.

017E

DEFINITION 11.8.9.1.1 ► FUNCTORS COREPRESENTABLY FULLY FAITHFUL ON CORES

A functor $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ is **corepresentably fully faithful on cores** if, for each $X \in \text{Obj}(\mathbf{Cats})$, the postcomposition by F functor

$$F_*: \text{Core}(\text{Fun}(X, \mathcal{C})) \rightarrow \text{Core}(\text{Fun}(X, \mathcal{D}))$$

is fully faithful.

017F

REMARK 11.8.9.1.2 ► UNWINDING DEFINITION 11.8.9.1.1

In detail, a functor $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ is **corepresentably fully faithful on cores** if it satisfies the conditions in **Remarks 11.8.7.1.2** and **11.8.8.1.2**, i.e.:

017G

- I. For all diagrams of the form

$$\mathcal{C} \xrightarrow{F} \mathcal{D} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\phi} \\ \alpha \Downarrow \Downarrow \beta \\ \xrightarrow{\psi} \end{array} X,$$

if α and β are natural isomorphisms and we have

$$\alpha \star \text{id}_F = \beta \star \text{id}_F,$$

then $\alpha = \beta$.

017H

2. For each $\mathcal{X} \in \text{Obj}(\text{Cats})$ and each natural isomorphism

$$\beta: \phi \circ F \xrightarrow{\sim} \psi \circ F, \quad C \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\phi \circ F} \\ \beta \Downarrow \\ \xrightarrow{\psi \circ F} \end{array} \mathcal{X},$$

there exists a natural isomorphism

$$\alpha: \phi \xrightarrow{\sim} \psi, \quad \mathcal{D} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\phi} \\ \alpha \Downarrow \\ \xrightarrow{\psi} \end{array} \mathcal{X}$$

such that we have an equality

$$\mathcal{X} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\phi} \\ \alpha \Downarrow \\ \xrightarrow{\psi} \end{array} C \xrightarrow{F} \mathcal{D} = \mathcal{X} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{F \circ \phi} \\ \beta \Downarrow \\ \xrightarrow{F \circ \psi} \end{array} \mathcal{D}$$

of pasting diagrams in Cats_2 , i.e. such that we have

$$\beta = \alpha \star \text{id}_F.$$

QUESTION 11.8.9.1.3 ► CHARACTERISATION OF FUNCTORS COREPRESENTABLY FULLY FAITHFUL ON CORES

017J

Is there a characterisation of functors corepresentably fully faithful on cores?

017K II.9 Natural Transformations

017L II.9.I Transformations

Let \mathcal{C} and \mathcal{D} be categories and let $F, G: \mathcal{C} \rightrightarrows \mathcal{D}$ be functors.

017M

DEFINITION 11.9.1.1.1 ► TRANSFORMATIONS

A **transformation**¹ $\alpha: F \Rightarrow G$ **from** F **to** G is a collection

$$\{\alpha_A: F(A) \rightarrow G(A)\}_{A \in \text{Obj}(C)}$$

of morphisms of \mathcal{D} .

¹*Further Terminology:* Also called an **unnatural transformation** for emphasis.

017N

NOTATION 11.9.1.1.2 ► THE SET OF TRANSFORMATIONS BETWEEN TWO FUNCTORS

We write $\text{Trans}(F, G)$ for the set of transformations from F to G .

01U9

REMARK 11.9.1.1.3 ► THE SET OF TRANSFORMATIONS AS A PRODUCT

We have an isomorphism

$$\text{Trans}(F, G) \cong \prod_{A \in C} \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F_A, G_A).$$

PROOF 11.9.1.1.4 ► PROOF OF REMARK 11.9.1.1.3

Clear. 

017P **11.9.2 Natural Transformations**

Let C and \mathcal{D} be categories and $F, G: C \Rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ be functors.

017Q

DEFINITION 11.9.2.1.1 ► NATURAL TRANSFORMATIONS

A **natural transformation** $\alpha: F \Rightarrow G$ **from** F **to** G is a transformation

$$\{\alpha_A: F(A) \rightarrow G(A)\}_{A \in \text{Obj}(C)}$$

from F to G such that, for each morphism $f: A \rightarrow B$ of C , the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} F(A) & \xrightarrow{F(f)} & F(B) \\ \alpha_A \downarrow & & \downarrow \alpha_B \\ G(A) & \xrightarrow{G(f)} & G(B) \end{array}$$

commutes.

REMARK 11.9.2.1.2 ► FURTHER TERMINOLOGY AND NOTATION FOR NATURAL TRANSFORMATIONS

Let $\alpha: F \Rightarrow G$ be a natural transformation.

1. For each $A \in \text{Obj}(C)$, the morphism $\alpha_A: F_A \rightarrow G_A$ is called the **component of α at A** .
2. We denote natural transformations such as α in diagrams as

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & F & \\ C & \xrightarrow{\quad} & \mathcal{D} \\ & G & \end{array} \quad \alpha \downarrow$$

NOTATION 11.9.2.1.3 ► THE SET OF NATURAL TRANSFORMATIONS BETWEEN TWO FUNCTORS

We write $\text{Nat}(F, G)$ for the set of natural transformations from F to G .

DEFINITION 11.9.2.1.4 ► EQUALITY OF NATURAL TRANSFORMATIONS

Two natural transformations $\alpha, \beta: F \Rightarrow G$ are **equal** if we have

$$\alpha_A = \beta_A$$

for each $A \in \text{Obj}(C)$.

11.9.3 Examples of Natural Transformations

EXAMPLE 11.9.3.1.1 ► IDENTITY NATURAL TRANSFORMATIONS

The **identity natural transformation** $\text{id}_F: F \Rightarrow F$ of F is the natural transformation consisting of the collection

$$\{(\text{id}_F)_A: F(A) \rightarrow F(A)\}_{A \in \text{Obj}(C)}$$

defined by

$$(\text{id}_F)_A \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{id}_{F(A)}$$

for each $A \in \text{Obj}(C)$.


PROOF 11.9.3.1.2 ► PROOF OF EXAMPLE 11.9.3.1.1

The naturality condition for id_F is the requirement that, for each morphism $f: A \rightarrow B$ of C , the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} F(A) & \xrightarrow{F(f)} & F(B) \\ \text{id}_{F(A)} \downarrow & & \downarrow \text{id}_{F(B)} \\ F(A) & \xrightarrow{F(f)} & F(B) \end{array}$$

commutes. This follows from unitality of the composition of \mathcal{D} , as we have

$$\begin{aligned} F(f) \circ \text{id}_{F(A)} &= F(f) \\ &= \text{id}_{F(B)} \circ F(f), \end{aligned}$$

where we have applied unitality twice. 

01UE

EXAMPLE 11.9.3.1.3 ► NATURAL TRANSFORMATIONS BETWEEN MORPHISMS OF MONOIDS

Let A and B be monoids and let $f, g: A \rightrightarrows B$ be morphisms of monoids. Applying the delooping construction of ??, we obtain functors $Bf, Bg: BA \rightrightarrows BB$. We then have

$$\text{Nat}(Bf, Bg) \cong \left\{ b \in B \mid \begin{array}{l} \text{for each } a \in A, \text{ we} \\ \text{have } bf(a) = g(a)b \end{array} \right\}.$$

PROOF 11.9.3.1.4 ► PROOF OF EXAMPLE 11.9.3.1.3

Unwinding the definitions in this case, we see that a transformation α from Bf to Bg consists of a collection


$$\{\alpha_{\bullet}: \bullet \rightarrow \bullet\}_{\bullet \in \text{Obj}(BA)}$$

of morphisms of BB indexed by $\text{Obj}(BA)$. Since $\text{Obj}(BA) = \text{pt}$ and the morphisms of BB are precisely the elements of B , it follows that α corresponds precisely to the data of an element $b \in B$. Now, a transformation $[b]: Bf \Rightarrow Bg$ is natural precisely if, for each $a \in \text{Hom}_{BA}(\bullet, \bullet) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} A$, the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} Bf(\bullet) & \xrightarrow{Bf(a)} & Bf(\bullet) \\ [b]_{\bullet} \downarrow & & \downarrow [b]_{\bullet} \\ Bg(\bullet) & \xrightarrow{Bg(a)} & Bg(\bullet) \end{array}$$

commutes. Unwinding the definitions, we see that this diagram is given by

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \bullet & \xrightarrow{f(a)} & \bullet \\ b \downarrow & & \downarrow b \\ \bullet & \xrightarrow{g(a)} & \bullet \end{array},$$

and hence corresponds precisely to the condition $g(a)b = bf(a)$. 

11.9.4 Vertical Composition of Natural Transformations

DEFINITION 11.9.4.1.1 ► VERTICAL COMPOSITION OF NATURAL TRANSFORMATIONS

The **vertical composition** of two natural transformations $\alpha: F \Rightarrow G$ and $\beta: G \Rightarrow H$ as in the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & F & \\ \alpha \downarrow & \curvearrowright & \\ C & \xrightarrow{G} & \mathcal{D} \\ \beta \downarrow & \curvearrowright & \\ & H & \end{array}$$

is the natural transformation $\beta \circ \alpha: F \Rightarrow H$ consisting of the collection

$$\{(\beta \circ \alpha)_A: F(A) \rightarrow H(A)\}_{A \in \text{Obj}(C)}$$

with

$$(\beta \circ \alpha)_A \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \beta_A \circ \alpha_A$$

for each $A \in \text{Obj}(C)$.

PROOF 11.9.4.1.2 ► PROOF OF DEFINITION 11.9.4.1.1

The naturality condition for $\beta \circ \alpha$ is the requirement that the boundary of the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} F(A) & \xrightarrow{F(f)} & F(B) \\ \alpha_A \downarrow & (1) & \downarrow \alpha_B \\ G(A) & \xrightarrow{G(f)} & G(B) \\ \beta_A \downarrow & (2) & \downarrow \beta_B \\ H(A) & \xrightarrow{H(f)} & H(B) \end{array}$$

commutes. Since

- Subdiagram (1) commutes by the naturality of α .
- Subdiagram (2) commutes by the naturality of β .

so does the boundary diagram. Hence $\beta \circ \alpha$ is a natural transformation. \square

PROPOSITION 11.9.4.1.3 ► PROPERTIES OF VERTICAL COMPOSITION OF NATURAL TRANSFORMATIONS

Let \mathcal{C} , \mathcal{D} , and \mathcal{E} be categories.

1. *Functionality.* The assignment $(\beta, \alpha) \mapsto \beta \circ \alpha$ defines a function

$$\circ_{F,G,H}: \text{Nat}(G, H) \times \text{Nat}(F, G) \rightarrow \text{Nat}(F, H).$$

2. *Associativity.* Let $F, G, H, K: \mathcal{C} \rightrightarrows \mathcal{D}$ be functors. The diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 & \text{Nat}(H, K) \times (\text{Nat}(G, H) \times \text{Nat}(F, G)) & \\
 \alpha_{\text{Nat}(H,K), \text{Nat}(G,H), \text{Nat}(F,G)}^{\text{Sets}} \nearrow & & \searrow \text{id}_{\text{Nat}(H,K)} \times \circ_{F,G,H} \\
 (\text{Nat}(H, K) \times \text{Nat}(G, H)) \times \text{Nat}(F, G) & & \text{Nat}(H, K) \times \text{Nat}(F, H) \\
 \downarrow \circ_{G,H,K} \times \text{id}_{\text{Nat}(F,G)} & & \downarrow \circ_{F,H,K} \\
 \text{Nat}(G, K) \times \text{Nat}(F, G) & \xrightarrow{\circ_{F,G,K}} & \text{Nat}(F, K)
 \end{array}$$

commutes, i.e. given natural transformations

$$F \xRightarrow{\alpha} G \xRightarrow{\beta} H \xRightarrow{\gamma} K,$$

we have

$$(\gamma \circ \beta) \circ \alpha = \gamma \circ (\beta \circ \alpha).$$

3. *Unitality.* Let $F, G: \mathcal{C} \rightrightarrows \mathcal{D}$ be functors.

(a) *Left Unitality*. The diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \text{pt} \times \text{Nat}(F, G) & & \\
 \downarrow [\text{id}_G] \times \text{id}_{\text{Nat}(F, G)} & \searrow \lambda_{\text{Nat}(F, G)}^{\text{Sets}} & \\
 \text{Nat}(G, G) \times \text{Nat}(F, G) & \xrightarrow{\circ_{F, G, G}} & \text{Nat}(F, G)
 \end{array}$$

commutes, i.e. given a natural transformation $\alpha: F \Rightarrow G$, we have

$$\text{id}_G \circ \alpha = \alpha.$$

(b) *Right Unitality*. The diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \text{Nat}(F, G) \times \text{pt} & & \\
 \downarrow \text{id}_{\text{Nat}(F, G)} \times [\text{id}_F] & \searrow \rho_{\text{Nat}(F, G)}^{\text{Sets}} & \\
 \text{Nat}(F, G) \times \text{Nat}(F, F) & \xrightarrow{\circ_{F, F, G}^C} & \text{Nat}(F, G)
 \end{array}$$

commutes, i.e. given a natural transformation $\alpha: F \Rightarrow G$, we have

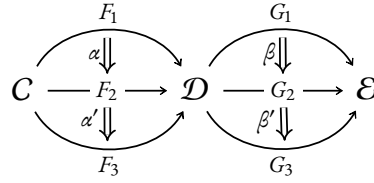
$$\alpha \circ \text{id}_F = \alpha.$$

0181

4. *Middle Four Exchange*. Let $F_1, F_2, F_3: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ and $G_1, G_2, G_3: \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}$ be functors. The diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 (\text{Nat}(G_2, G_3) \times \text{Nat}(G_1, G_2)) \times (\text{Nat}(F_2, F_3) \times \text{Nat}(F_1, F_2)) & \xleftarrow{\mu^A} & (\text{Nat}(G_2, G_3) \times \text{Nat}(F_2, F_3)) \times (\text{Nat}(G_1, G_2) \times \text{Nat}(F_1, F_2)) \\
 \downarrow \circ_{G_1, G_2, G_3} \times \circ_{F_1, F_2, F_3} & & \downarrow \star_{F_2, F_3, G_2, G_3} \times \star_{F_1, F_2, G_1, G_2} \\
 \text{Nat}(G_1, G_3) \times \text{Nat}(F_1, F_3) & & \text{Nat}(G_2 \circ F_2, G_3 \circ F_3) \times \text{Nat}(G_1 \circ F_1, G_2 \circ F_2) \\
 \searrow \star_{F_1, F_3, G_1, G_3} & & \swarrow \circ_{G_1 \circ F_1, G_2 \circ F_2, G_3 \circ F_3} \\
 & \text{Nat}(G_1 \circ F_1, G_3 \circ F_3) &
 \end{array}$$

commutes, i.e. given a diagram



in \mathbf{Cats}_2 , we have

$$(\beta' \star \alpha') \circ (\beta \star \alpha) = (\beta' \circ \beta) \star (\alpha' \circ \alpha).$$

PROOF 11.9.4.1.4 ► PROOF OF PROPOSITION 11.9.4.1.3

Item 1: Functionality

Clear.

Item 2: Associativity

Indeed, we have

$$\begin{aligned} ((\gamma \circ \beta) \circ \alpha)_A &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (\gamma \circ \beta)_A \circ \alpha_A \\ &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (\gamma_A \circ \beta_A) \circ \alpha_A \\ &= \gamma_A \circ (\beta_A \circ \alpha_A) \\ &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \gamma_A \circ (\beta \circ \alpha)_A \\ &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (\gamma \circ (\beta \circ \alpha))_A \end{aligned}$$

for each $A \in \text{Obj}(C)$, showing the desired equality.

Item 3: Unitality

We have

$$\begin{aligned} (\text{id}_G \circ \alpha)_A &= \text{id}_G \circ \alpha_A \\ &= \alpha_A, \\ (\alpha \circ \text{id}_F)_A &= \alpha_A \circ \text{id}_F \end{aligned}$$

$$= \alpha_A$$

for each $A \in \text{Obj}(C)$, showing the desired equality.

Item 4: Middle Four Exchange

This is proved in [Item 4](#) of [Proposition 11.9.5.1.4](#). 

0182 11.9.5 Horizontal Composition of Natural Transformations

0183 DEFINITION 11.9.5.1.1 ► HORIZONTAL COMPOSITION OF NATURAL TRANSFORMATIONS

The **horizontal composition**^{1,2} of two natural transformations $\alpha: F \Rightarrow G$ and $\beta: H \Rightarrow K$ as in the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} C & \xrightarrow{F} & \mathcal{D} & \xrightarrow{H} & \mathcal{E} \\ & \alpha \Downarrow & & \beta \Downarrow & \\ & G & & K & \end{array}$$

of α and β is the natural transformation

$$\beta \star \alpha: (H \circ F) \Rightarrow (K \circ G),$$

as in the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} C & \xrightarrow{H \circ F} & \mathcal{E} \\ & \beta \star \alpha \Downarrow & \\ & K \circ G & \end{array}$$

consisting of the collection

$$\{(\beta \star \alpha)_A: H(F(A)) \rightarrow K(G(A))\}_{A \in \text{Obj}(C)},$$

of morphisms of \mathcal{E} with

$$\begin{array}{ccc} (\beta \star \alpha)_A \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \beta_{G(A)} \circ H(\alpha_A) & H(F(A)) & \xrightarrow{H(\alpha_A)} H(G(A)) \\ = K(\alpha_A) \circ \beta_{F(A)}, & \downarrow \beta_{F(A)} & \downarrow \beta_{G(A)} \\ & K(F(A)) & \xrightarrow{K(\alpha_A)} K(G(A)). \end{array}$$

¹*Further Terminology:* Also called the **Godement product** of α and β .

²Horizontal composition forms a map

$$\star_{(F,H),(G,K)} : \text{Nat}(H, K) \times \text{Nat}(F, G) \rightarrow \text{Nat}(H \circ F, K \circ G).$$

PROOF 11.9.5.1.2 ► PROOF OF DEFINITION 11.9.5.1.1

First, we claim that we indeed have

$$\beta_{G(A)} \circ H(\alpha_A) = K(\alpha_A) \circ \beta_{F(A)}, \quad \begin{array}{ccc} H(F(A)) & \xrightarrow{H(\alpha_A)} & H(G(A)) \\ \beta_{F(A)} \downarrow & & \downarrow \beta_{G(A)} \\ K(F(A)) & \xrightarrow{K(\alpha_A)} & K(G(A)). \end{array}$$

This is, however, simply the naturality square for β applied to the morphism $\alpha_A : F(A) \rightarrow G(A)$. Next, we check the naturality condition for $\beta \star \alpha$, which is the requirement that the boundary of the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} H(F(A)) & \xrightarrow{H(F(f))} & H(F(B)) \\ \downarrow H(\alpha_A) & (1) & \downarrow H(\alpha_B) \\ H(G(A)) & \xrightarrow{H(G(f))} & H(G(B)) \\ \downarrow \beta_{G(A)} & (2) & \downarrow \beta_{G(B)} \\ K(G(A)) & \xrightarrow{K(G(f))} & K(G(B)) \end{array}$$

commutes. Since

- Subdiagram (1) commutes by the naturality of α .

- Subdiagram (2) commutes by the naturality of β .

so does the boundary diagram. Hence $\beta \circ \alpha$ is a natural transformation.¹

¹Reference: [Bor94, Proposition 1.3.4].

DEFINITION 11.9.5.1.3 ► WHISKERING OF FUNCTORS WITH NATURAL TRANSFORMATIONS

Let

$$\mathcal{X} \xrightarrow{F} \mathcal{C} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\phi} \\ \alpha \Downarrow \\ \xrightarrow{\psi} \end{array} \mathcal{D} \xrightarrow{G} \mathcal{Y}$$

be a diagram in \mathbf{Cats}_2 .

1. The **left whiskering of α with G** is the natural transformation¹

$$\mathrm{id}_G \star \alpha: G \circ \phi \Longrightarrow G \circ \psi.$$

2. The **right whiskering of α with F** is the natural transformation²

$$\alpha \star \mathrm{id}_F: \phi \circ F \Longrightarrow \psi \circ F.$$

¹Further Notation: Also written $G\alpha$ or $G \star \alpha$, although we won't use either of these notations in this work.

²Further Notation: Also written αF or $\alpha \star F$, although we won't use either of these notations in this work.

PROPOSITION 11.9.5.1.4 ► PROPERTIES OF HORIZONTAL COMPOSITION OF NATURAL TRANSFORMATIONS

Let \mathcal{C} , \mathcal{D} , and \mathcal{E} be categories.

1. *Functionality.* The assignment $(\beta, \alpha) \mapsto \beta \star \alpha$ defines a function

$$\star_{(F,G),(H,K)}: \mathrm{Nat}(H, K) \times \mathrm{Nat}(F, G) \rightarrow \mathrm{Nat}(H \circ F, K \circ G).$$

2. *Associativity.* Let

$$\mathcal{C} \xrightarrow[F_1]{G_1} \mathcal{D} \xrightarrow[F_2]{G_2} \mathcal{E} \xrightarrow[F_3]{G_3} \mathcal{F}$$

be a diagram in \mathbf{Cats}_2 . The diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \text{Nat}(F_3, G_3) \times \text{Nat}(F_2, G_2) \times \text{Nat}(F_1, G_1) & \xrightarrow{\star_{(F_2, G_2), (F_3, G_3)} \times \text{id}} & \text{Nat}(F_3 \circ F_2, G_3 \circ G_2) \times \text{Nat}(F_1, G_1) \\
 \downarrow \text{id} \times \star_{(F_1, G_1), (F_2, G_2)} & & \downarrow \star_{(F_3 \circ F_2), (G_3 \circ G_2, F_1, G_1)} \\
 \text{Nat}(F_3, G_3) \times \text{Nat}(F_2 \circ F_1, G_2 \circ G_1) & \xrightarrow{\star_{(F_2 \circ F_1), (G_2 \circ G_1, F_3, G_3)}} & \text{Nat}(F_3 \circ F_2 \circ F_1, G_3 \circ G_2 \circ G_1)
 \end{array}$$

commutes, i.e. given natural transformations

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 \mathcal{C} & \xrightarrow{F_1} & \mathcal{D} & \xrightarrow{F_2} & \mathcal{E} & \xrightarrow{F_3} & \mathcal{F} \\
 \alpha \Downarrow & & \beta \Downarrow & & \gamma \Downarrow & & \\
 \mathcal{C} & \xrightarrow{G_1} & \mathcal{D} & \xrightarrow{G_2} & \mathcal{E} & \xrightarrow{G_3} & \mathcal{F}
 \end{array}$$

we have

$$(\gamma \star \beta) \star \alpha = \gamma \star (\beta \star \alpha).$$

018A

3. *Interaction With Identities.* Let $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ and $G: \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}$ be functors. The diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \text{pt} \times \text{pt} & \xrightarrow{[\text{id}_G] \times [\text{id}_F]} & \text{Nat}(G, G) \times \text{Nat}(F, F) \\
 \uparrow \wr & & \downarrow \star_{(F, F), (G, G)} \\
 \text{pt} & \xrightarrow{[\text{id}_{G \circ F}]} & \text{Nat}(G \circ F, G \circ F)
 \end{array}$$

commutes, i.e. we have

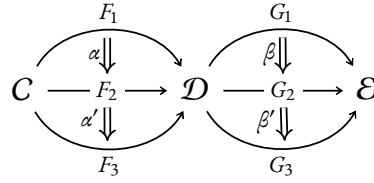
$$\text{id}_G \star \text{id}_F = \text{id}_{G \circ F}.$$

018B

4. *Middle Four Exchange.* Let $F_1, F_2, F_3: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ and $G_1, G_2, G_3: \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}$ be functors. The diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 (\text{Nat}(G_2, G_3) \times \text{Nat}(G_1, G_2)) \times (\text{Nat}(F_2, F_3) \times \text{Nat}(F_1, F_2)) & \xrightarrow{\mu_4} & (\text{Nat}(G_2, G_3) \times \text{Nat}(F_2, F_3)) \times (\text{Nat}(G_1, G_2) \times \text{Nat}(F_1, F_2)) \\
 \downarrow \circ_{G_1, G_2, G_3} \times \circ_{F_1, F_2, F_3} & & \downarrow \star_{F_2, F_3, G_2, G_3} \times \star_{F_1, F_2, G_1, G_2} \\
 \text{Nat}(G_1, G_3) \times \text{Nat}(F_1, F_3) & & \text{Nat}(G_2 \circ F_2, G_3 \circ F_3) \times \text{Nat}(G_1 \circ F_1, G_2 \circ F_2) \\
 \searrow \star_{F_1, F_3, G_1, G_3} & & \swarrow \circ_{G_1 \circ F_1, G_2 \circ F_2, G_3 \circ F_3} \\
 & \text{Nat}(G_1 \circ F_1, G_3 \circ F_3) &
 \end{array}$$

commutes, i.e. given a diagram



in \mathbf{Cats}_2 , we have

$$(\beta' \star \alpha') \circ (\beta \star \alpha) = (\beta' \circ \beta) \star (\alpha' \circ \alpha).$$

PROOF 11.9.5.1.5 ► PROOF OF PROPOSITION 11.9.5.1.4

Item 1: Functionality

Clear.

Item 2: Associativity

Omitted.

Item 3: Interaction With Identities

We have

$$\begin{aligned} (\mathrm{id}_G \star \mathrm{id}_F)_A &\stackrel{\mathrm{def}}{=} (\mathrm{id}_G)_{F_A} \circ G_{(\mathrm{id}_F)_A} \\ &\stackrel{\mathrm{def}}{=} \mathrm{id}_{G_{F_A}} \circ G_{\mathrm{id}_{F_A}} \\ &= \mathrm{id}_{G_{F_A}} \circ \mathrm{id}_{G_{F_A}} \\ &= \mathrm{id}_{G_{F_A}} \\ &\stackrel{\mathrm{def}}{=} (\mathrm{id}_{G \circ F})_A \end{aligned}$$

for each $A \in \mathrm{Obj}(C)$, showing the desired equality.

Item 4: Middle Four Exchange

Let $A \in \text{Obj}(C)$ and consider the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 & & G_1(F_3(A)) & & \\
 & \nearrow^{G_1(\alpha'_A)} & & \searrow_{\beta_{F_3(A)}} & \\
 G_1(F_1(A)) & \xrightarrow{G_1(\alpha_A)} & G_1(F_2(A)) & (1) & G_2(F_3(A)) \xrightarrow{\beta'_{F_3(A)}} G_3(F_3(A)). \\
 & \searrow_{\beta_{F_2(A)}} & & \nearrow_{G_2(\alpha'_A)} & \\
 & & G_2(F_2(A)) & &
 \end{array}$$

The top composition

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 & & G_1(F_3(A)) & & \\
 & \nearrow^{G_1(\alpha'_A)} & & \searrow_{\beta_{F_3(A)}} & \\
 G_1(F_1(A)) & \xrightarrow{G_1(\alpha_A)} & G_1(F_2(A)) & (1) & G_2(F_3(A)) \xrightarrow{\beta'_{F_3(A)}} G_3(F_3(A)). \\
 & \searrow_{\beta_{F_2(A)}} & & \nearrow_{G_2(\alpha'_A)} & \\
 & & G_2(F_2(A)) & &
 \end{array}$$

is given by $((\beta' \circ \beta) \star (\alpha' \circ \alpha))_A$, while the bottom composition

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 & & G_1(F_3(A)) & & \\
 & \nearrow^{G_1(\alpha'_A)} & & \searrow_{\beta_{F_3(A)}} & \\
 G_1(F_1(A)) & \xrightarrow{G_1(\alpha_A)} & G_1(F_2(A)) & (1) & G_2(F_3(A)) \xrightarrow{\beta'_{F_3(A)}} G_3(F_3(A)). \\
 & \searrow_{\beta_{F_2(A)}} & & \nearrow_{G_2(\alpha'_A)} & \\
 & & G_2(F_2(A)) & &
 \end{array}$$

is given by $((\beta' \star \alpha') \circ (\beta \star \alpha))_A$. Now, Subdiagram (1) corresponds to the naturality condition


$$G_2(\alpha'_A) \circ \beta_{F_2(A)} = \beta_{F_3(A)} \circ G_1(\alpha'_A), \quad \begin{array}{ccc} G_1(F_2(A)) & \xrightarrow{G_1(\alpha'_A)} & G_1(F_3(A)) \\ \beta_{F_2(A)} \downarrow & & \downarrow \beta_{F_3(A)} \\ G_2(F_2(A)) & \xrightarrow{G_2(\alpha'_A)} & G_2(F_3(A)) \end{array}$$

for $\beta: G_1 \Rightarrow G_2$ at $\alpha'_A: F_2(A) \rightarrow F_3(A)$, and thus commutes. Thus we have

$$((\beta' \circ \beta) \star (\alpha' \circ \alpha))_A = ((\beta' \star \alpha') \circ (\beta \star \alpha))_A$$

for each $A \in \text{Obj}(C)$ and therefore

$$(\beta' \star \alpha') \circ (\beta \star \alpha) = (\beta' \circ \beta) \star (\alpha' \circ \alpha).$$

This finishes the proof. 

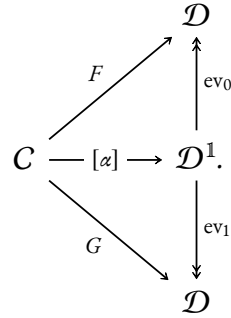
11.9.6 Properties of Natural Transformations

PROPOSITION 11.9.6.1.1 ► NATURAL TRANSFORMATIONS AS CATEGORICAL HOMOTOPIES

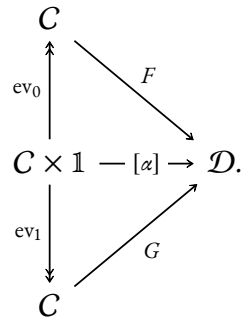
Let $F, G: C \Rightarrow D$ be functors. The following data are equivalent:¹

1. A natural transformation $\alpha: F \Rightarrow G$.

018F

 2. A functor $[\alpha]: C \rightarrow \mathcal{D}^1$ filling the diagram


018G

 3. A functor $[\alpha]: C \times 1 \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ filling the diagram

¹Taken from [M0 64365].

PROOF 11.9.6.1.2 ► PROOF OF PROPOSITION 11.9.6.1.1

From Item 1 to Item 2 and Back

 We may identify \mathcal{D}^1 with $\text{Arr}(\mathcal{D})$. Given a natural transformation

$\alpha: F \Rightarrow G$, we have a functor


$$[\alpha]: C \longrightarrow \mathcal{D}^1$$

$$A \longmapsto \alpha_A$$

$$(f: A \rightarrow B) \longmapsto \left(\begin{array}{ccc} F_A & \xrightarrow{F_f} & F_B \\ \alpha_A \downarrow & & \downarrow \alpha_B \\ G_A & \xrightarrow{G_f} & G_B \end{array} \right)$$

making the diagram in **Item 2** commute. Conversely, every such functor gives rise to a natural transformation from F to G , and these constructions are inverse to each other.

From Item 2 to Item 3 and Back

This follows from **Item 3** of **Proposition 11.10.1.1.2**. 

018H 11.9.7 Natural Isomorphisms

Let C and \mathcal{D} be categories and let $F, G: C \Rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ be functors.

018J DEFINITION 11.9.7.1.1 ► NATURAL ISOMORPHISMS

A natural transformation $\alpha: F \Rightarrow G$ is a **natural isomorphism** if there exists a natural transformation $\alpha^{-1}: G \Rightarrow F$ such that

$$\alpha^{-1} \circ \alpha = \text{id}_F,$$

$$\alpha \circ \alpha^{-1} = \text{id}_G.$$

018K PROPOSITION 11.9.7.1.2 ► PROPERTIES OF NATURAL ISOMORPHISMS

Let $\alpha: F \Rightarrow G$ be a natural transformation.

018L I. *Characterisations*. The following conditions are equivalent:

018M (a) The natural transformation α is a natural isomorphism.

018N

(b) For each $A \in \text{Obj}(C)$, the morphism $\alpha_A: F_A \rightarrow G_A$ is an isomorphism.

018P

2. *Componentwise Inverses of Natural Transformations Assemble Into Natural Transformations.* Let $\alpha^{-1}: G \Rightarrow F$ be a transformation such that, for each $A \in \text{Obj}(C)$, we have

$$\begin{aligned}\alpha_A^{-1} \circ \alpha_A &= \text{id}_{F(A)}, \\ \alpha_A \circ \alpha_A^{-1} &= \text{id}_{G(A)}.\end{aligned}$$

Then α^{-1} is a natural transformation.

PROOF 11.9.7.1.3 ► PROOF OF PROPOSITION 11.9.7.1.2

Item 1: Characterisations

The implication **Item 1a** \Rightarrow **Item 1b** is clear, whereas the implication **Item 1b** \Rightarrow **Item 1a** follows from **Item 2**.

Item 2: Componentwise Inverses of Natural Transformations Assemble Into Natural Transformations

The naturality condition for α^{-1} corresponds to the commutativity of the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} G(A) & \xrightarrow{G(f)} & G(B) \\ \alpha_A^{-1} \downarrow & & \downarrow \alpha_B^{-1} \\ F(A) & \xrightarrow{F(f)} & F(B) \end{array}$$

for each $A, B \in \text{Obj}(C)$ and each $f \in \text{Hom}_C(A, B)$. Considering the diagram


$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 G(A) & \xrightarrow{G(f)} & G(B) \\
 \alpha_A^{-1} \downarrow & (1) & \downarrow \alpha_B^{-1} \\
 F(A) & \xrightarrow{F(f)} & F(B) \\
 \alpha_A \downarrow & (2) & \downarrow \alpha_B \\
 G(A) & \xrightarrow{G(f)} & G(B),
 \end{array}$$

where the boundary diagram as well as Subdiagram (2) commute, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 G(f) &= G(f) \circ \text{id}_{G(A)} \\
 &= G(f) \circ \alpha_A \circ \alpha_A^{-1} \\
 &= \alpha_B \circ F(f) \circ \alpha_A^{-1}.
 \end{aligned}$$

Postcomposing both sides with α_B^{-1} , we get

$$\begin{aligned}
 \alpha_B^{-1} \circ G(f) &= \alpha_B^{-1} \circ \alpha_B \circ F(f) \circ \alpha_A^{-1} \\
 &= \text{id}_{F(B)} \circ F(f) \circ \alpha_A^{-1} \\
 &= F(f) \circ \alpha_A^{-1},
 \end{aligned}$$

which is the naturality condition we wanted to show. Thus α^{-1} is a natural transformation. 

018Q II.10 Categories of Categories

018R II.10.1 Functor Categories

Let C be a category and \mathcal{D} be a small category.

018S

DEFINITION 11.10.1.1.1 ► FUNCTOR CATEGORIES

The **category of functors from C to \mathcal{D}** ¹ is the category $\text{Fun}(C, \mathcal{D})$ ² where

- *Objects.* The objects of $\text{Fun}(C, \mathcal{D})$ are functors from C to \mathcal{D} .
- *Morphisms.* For each $F, G \in \text{Obj}(\text{Fun}(C, \mathcal{D}))$, we have

$$\text{Hom}_{\text{Fun}(C, \mathcal{D})}(F, G) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{Nat}(F, G).$$

- *Identities.* For each $F \in \text{Obj}(\text{Fun}(C, \mathcal{D}))$, the unit map

$$1_F^{\text{Fun}(C, \mathcal{D})} : \text{pt} \rightarrow \text{Nat}(F, F)$$

of $\text{Fun}(C, \mathcal{D})$ at F is given by

$$\text{id}_F^{\text{Fun}(C, \mathcal{D})} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{id}_F,$$

where $\text{id}_F : F \Rightarrow F$ is the identity natural transformation of F of [Example 11.9.3.1.1](#).

- *Composition.* For each $F, G, H \in \text{Obj}(\text{Fun}(C, \mathcal{D}))$, the composition map

$$\circ_{F, G, H}^{\text{Fun}(C, \mathcal{D})} : \text{Nat}(G, H) \times \text{Nat}(F, G) \rightarrow \text{Nat}(F, H)$$

of $\text{Fun}(C, \mathcal{D})$ at (F, G, H) is given by

$$\beta \circ_{F, G, H}^{\text{Fun}(C, \mathcal{D})} \alpha \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \beta \circ \alpha,$$

where $\beta \circ \alpha$ is the vertical composition of α and β of [Item 1 of Proposition 11.9.4.1.3](#).

¹*Further Terminology:* Also called the **functor category** $\text{Fun}(C, \mathcal{D})$.

²*Further Notation:* Also written \mathcal{D}^C and $[C, \mathcal{D}]$.

018T

PROPOSITION 11.10.1.1.2 ► PROPERTIES OF FUNCTOR CATEGORIES

Let \mathcal{C} and \mathcal{D} be categories and let $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ be a functor.

018U

1. *Functoriality.* The assignments $\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D}, (\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D}) \mapsto \text{Fun}(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D})$ define functors

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Fun}(\mathcal{C}, -): \quad \text{Cats} &\rightarrow \text{Cats}, \\ \text{Fun}(-, \mathcal{D}): \quad \text{Cats}^{\text{op}} &\rightarrow \text{Cats}, \\ \text{Fun}(-, -): \text{Cats}^{\text{op}} \times \text{Cats} &\rightarrow \text{Cats}. \end{aligned}$$

018V

2. *2-Functoriality.* The assignments $\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D}, (\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D}) \mapsto \text{Fun}(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D})$ define 2-functors

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Fun}(\mathcal{C}, -): \quad \text{Cats}_2 &\rightarrow \text{Cats}_2, \\ \text{Fun}(-, \mathcal{D}): \quad \text{Cats}_2^{\text{op}} &\rightarrow \text{Cats}_2, \\ \text{Fun}(-, -): \text{Cats}_2^{\text{op}} \times \text{Cats}_2 &\rightarrow \text{Cats}_2. \end{aligned}$$

018W

3. *Adjointness.* We have adjunctions

$$\begin{aligned} (\mathcal{C} \times - \dashv \text{Fun}(\mathcal{C}, -)): \quad \text{Cats} &\begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\mathcal{C} \times -} \\ \perp \\ \xleftarrow{\text{Fun}(\mathcal{C}, -)} \end{array} \text{Cats}, \\ (- \times \mathcal{D} \dashv \text{Fun}(\mathcal{D}, -)): \quad \text{Cats} &\begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{- \times \mathcal{D}} \\ \perp \\ \xleftarrow{\text{Fun}(\mathcal{D}, -)} \end{array} \text{Cats}, \end{aligned}$$

witnessed by bijections of sets

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Hom}_{\text{Cats}}(\mathcal{C} \times \mathcal{D}, \mathcal{E}) &\cong \text{Hom}_{\text{Cats}}(\mathcal{D}, \text{Fun}(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{E})), \\ \text{Hom}_{\text{Cats}}(\mathcal{C} \times \mathcal{D}, \mathcal{E}) &\cong \text{Hom}_{\text{Cats}}(\mathcal{C}, \text{Fun}(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{E})), \end{aligned}$$

natural in $\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D}, \mathcal{E} \in \text{Obj}(\text{Cats})$.

018X

4. *2-Adjointness.* We have 2-adjunctions

$$\begin{aligned} (\mathcal{C} \times - \dashv \text{Fun}(\mathcal{C}, -)): \quad \text{Cats}_2 &\begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\mathcal{C} \times -} \\ \perp_2 \\ \xleftarrow{\text{Fun}(\mathcal{C}, -)} \end{array} \text{Cats}_2, \\ (- \times \mathcal{D} \dashv \text{Fun}(\mathcal{D}, -)): \quad \text{Cats}_2 &\begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{- \times \mathcal{D}} \\ \perp_2 \\ \xleftarrow{\text{Fun}(\mathcal{D}, -)} \end{array} \text{Cats}_2, \end{aligned}$$

witnessed by isomorphisms of categories

$$\begin{aligned}\mathrm{Fun}(C \times \mathcal{D}, \mathcal{E}) &\cong \mathrm{Fun}(\mathcal{D}, \mathrm{Fun}(C, \mathcal{E})), \\ \mathrm{Fun}(C \times \mathcal{D}, \mathcal{E}) &\cong \mathrm{Fun}(C, \mathrm{Fun}(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{E})),\end{aligned}$$

natural in $C, \mathcal{D}, \mathcal{E} \in \mathrm{Obj}(\mathrm{Cats}_2)$.

- 018Y 5. *Interaction With Punctual Categories.* We have a canonical isomorphism of categories

$$\mathrm{Fun}(\mathrm{pt}, C) \cong C,$$

natural in $C \in \mathrm{Obj}(\mathrm{Cats})$.

- 018Z 6. *Objectwise Computation of Co/Limits.* Let

$$D: \mathcal{I} \rightarrow \mathrm{Fun}(C, \mathcal{D})$$

be a diagram in $\mathrm{Fun}(C, \mathcal{D})$. We have isomorphisms

$$\begin{aligned}\lim(D)_A &\cong \lim_{i \in \mathcal{I}}(D_i(A)), \\ \mathrm{colim}(D)_A &\cong \mathrm{colim}_{i \in \mathcal{I}}(D_i(A)),\end{aligned}$$

naturally in $A \in \mathrm{Obj}(C)$.

- 0190 7. *Interaction With Co/Completeness.* If \mathcal{E} is co/complete, then so is $\mathrm{Fun}(C, \mathcal{E})$.

- 0191 8. *Monomorphisms and Epimorphisms.* Let $\alpha: F \Rightarrow G$ be a morphism of $\mathrm{Fun}(C, \mathcal{D})$. The following conditions are equivalent:

- 0192 (a) The natural transformation

$$\alpha: F \Rightarrow G$$

is a monomorphism (resp. epimorphism) in $\mathrm{Fun}(C, \mathcal{D})$.

- 0193 (b) For each $A \in \mathrm{Obj}(C)$, the morphism

$$\alpha_A: F_A \rightarrow G_A$$

is a monomorphism (resp. epimorphism) in \mathcal{D} .

PROOF 11.10.1.1.3 ► PROOF OF PROPOSITION 11.10.1.1.2

Item 1: Functoriality

Omitted.

Item 2: 2-Functoriality

Omitted.

Item 3: Adjointness

Omitted.

Item 4: 2-Adjointness

Omitted.

Item 5: Interaction With Punctual Categories

Omitted.


Item 6: Objectwise Computation of Co/Limits

Omitted.

Item 7: Interaction With Co/Completeness

This follows from ??.

Item 8: Monomorphisms and Epimorphisms

Omitted. 

0194 11.10.2 The Category of Categories and Functors

0195 DEFINITION 11.10.2.1.1 ► THE CATEGORY OF CATEGORIES AND FUNCTORS

The **category of (small) categories and functors** is the category \mathbf{Cats} where

- *Objects.* The objects of \mathbf{Cats} are small categories.
- *Morphisms.* For each $C, \mathcal{D} \in \mathbf{Obj}(\mathbf{Cats})$, we have

$$\mathrm{Hom}_{\mathbf{Cats}}(C, \mathcal{D}) \stackrel{\mathrm{def}}{=} \mathbf{Obj}(\mathbf{Fun}(C, \mathcal{D})).$$
- *Identities.* For each $C \in \mathbf{Obj}(\mathbf{Cats})$, the unit map

$$\mathbb{1}_C^{\mathbf{Cats}}: \mathbf{pt} \rightarrow \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathbf{Cats}}(C, C)$$

of \mathbf{Cats} at C is defined by

$$\mathrm{id}_C^{\mathbf{Cats}} \stackrel{\mathrm{def}}{=} \mathrm{id}_C,$$

where $\mathrm{id}_C : C \rightarrow C$ is the identity functor of C of [Example 11.5.1.1.4](#).

- *Composition.* For each $C, \mathcal{D}, \mathcal{E} \in \mathrm{Obj}(\mathbf{Cats})$, the composition map

$$\circ_{C, \mathcal{D}, \mathcal{E}}^{\mathbf{Cats}} : \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathbf{Cats}}(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{E}) \times \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathbf{Cats}}(C, \mathcal{D}) \rightarrow \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathbf{Cats}}(C, \mathcal{E})$$

of \mathbf{Cats} at $(C, \mathcal{D}, \mathcal{E})$ is given by

$$G \circ_{C, \mathcal{D}, \mathcal{E}}^{\mathbf{Cats}} F \stackrel{\mathrm{def}}{=} G \circ F,$$

where $G \circ F : C \rightarrow \mathcal{E}$ is the composition of F and G of [Definition 11.5.1.1.6](#).

0196

PROPOSITION 11.10.2.1.2 ► PROPERTIES OF THE CATEGORY \mathbf{Cats}

Let C be a category.

0197

1. *Co/Completeness.* The category \mathbf{Cats} is complete and cocomplete.

0198

2. *Cartesian Monoidal Structure.* The quadruple $(\mathbf{Cats}, \times, \mathrm{pt}, \mathrm{Fun})$ is a Cartesian closed monoidal category.

PROOF 11.10.2.1.3 ► PROOF OF PROPOSITION 11.10.2.1.2

Item 1: Co/Completeness

Omitted.

Item 2: Cartesian Monoidal Structure

Omitted.



0199 11.10.3 The 2-Category of Categories, Functors, and Natural Transformations

019A

DEFINITION 11.10.3.1.1 ► THE 2-CATEGORY OF CATEGORIES

The **2-category of (small) categories, functors, and natural transformations** is the 2-category Cats_2 where

- *Objects.* The objects of Cats_2 are small categories.
- *Hom-Categories.* For each $C, D \in \text{Obj}(\text{Cats}_2)$, we have

$$\text{Hom}_{\text{Cats}_2}(C, D) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{Fun}(C, D).$$

- *Identities.* For each $C \in \text{Obj}(\text{Cats}_2)$, the unit functor

$$1_C^{\text{Cats}_2} : \text{pt} \rightarrow \text{Fun}(C, C)$$

of Cats_2 at C is the functor picking the identity functor $\text{id}_C : C \rightarrow C$ of C .

- *Composition.* For each $C, D, E \in \text{Obj}(\text{Cats}_2)$, the composition bifunctor

$$\circ_{C,D,E}^{\text{Cats}_2} : \text{Hom}_{\text{Cats}_2}(D, E) \times \text{Hom}_{\text{Cats}_2}(C, D) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_{\text{Cats}_2}(C, E)$$

of Cats_2 at (C, D, E) is the functor where

- *Action on Objects.* For each object $(G, F) \in \text{Obj}(\text{Hom}_{\text{Cats}_2}(D, E) \times \text{Hom}_{\text{Cats}_2}(C, D))$, we have

$$\circ_{C,D,E}^{\text{Cats}_2}(G, F) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} G \circ F.$$

- *Action on Morphisms.* For each morphism $(\beta, \alpha) : (K, H) \Rightarrow (G, F)$ of $\text{Hom}_{\text{Cats}_2}(D, E) \times \text{Hom}_{\text{Cats}_2}(C, D)$, we have

$$\circ_{C,D,E}^{\text{Cats}_2}(\beta, \alpha) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \beta \star \alpha,$$

where $\beta \star \alpha$ is the horizontal composition of α and β of **Definition 11.9.5.1.1**.


019B **PROPOSITION 11.10.3.1.2** ► PROPERTIES OF THE 2-CATEGORY \mathbf{Cats}_2

Let \mathcal{C} be a category.

- 019C I. *2-Categorical Co/Completeness.* The 2-category \mathbf{Cats}_2 is complete and cocomplete as a 2-category, having all 2-categorical and bicategorical co/limits.

PROOF 11.10.3.1.3 ► PROOF OF PROPOSITION 11.10.3.1.2

Item I: Co/Completeness

Omitted. 

019D **11.10.4 The Category of Groupoids**

019E **DEFINITION 11.10.4.1.1** ► THE CATEGORY OF SMALL GROUPOIDS

The **category of (small) groupoids** is the full subcategory \mathbf{Grpd} of \mathbf{Cats} spanned by the groupoids.

019F **11.10.5 The 2-Category of Groupoids**

019G **DEFINITION 11.10.5.1.1** ► THE 2-CATEGORY OF SMALL GROUPOIDS

The **2-category of (small) groupoids** is the full sub-2-category \mathbf{Grpd}_2 of \mathbf{Cats}_2 spanned by the groupoids.

Appendices

A Other Chapters

Preliminaries

1. [Introduction](#)
2. [A Guide to the Literature](#)

Sets

3. [Sets](#)
4. [Constructions With Sets](#)
5. [Monoidal Structures on the Category of Sets](#)
6. [Pointed Sets](#)
7. [Tensor Products of Pointed Sets](#)

Relations

8. [Relations](#)
9. [Constructions With Relations](#)

10. [Conditions on Relations](#)

Categories

11. [Categories](#)
12. [Presheaves and the Yoneda Lemma](#)

Monoidal Categories

13. [Constructions With Monoidal Categories](#)

Bicategories

14. [Types of Morphisms in Bicategories](#)

Extra Part

15. [Notes](#)

References

- [MO 119454] user30818. *Category and the axiom of choice*. MathOverflow. URL: <https://mathoverflow.net/q/119454> (cit. on p. 72).
- [MO 321971] Ivan Di Liberti. *Characterization of pseudo monomorphisms and pseudo epimorphisms in Cat*. MathOverflow. URL: <https://mathoverflow.net/q/321971> (cit. on p. 86).
- [MO 468121a] Emily. *Characterisations of functors F such that F^* or F_* is [property], e.g. faithful, conservative, etc.* MathOverflow. URL: <https://mathoverflow.net/q/468125> (cit. on pp. 69, 70, 78, 79, 81, 87, 90, 94).

- [MO 468121b] [Emily](#). *Looking for a nice characterisation of functors F whose precomposition functor F^* is full*. MathOverflow. URL: <https://mathoverflow.net/q/468121> (cit. on p. 61).
- [MO 468334] [Emily](#). *Is a pseudomonadic and pseudoepimorphic functor necessarily an equivalence of categories?* MathOverflow. URL: <https://mathoverflow.net/q/468334> (cit. on p. 86).
- [MO 64365] [Giorgio Mossa](#). *Natural transformations as categorical homotopies*. MathOverflow. URL: <https://mathoverflow.net/q/64365> (cit. on p. III).
- [MSE 1465107] [kilian](#). *Equivalence of categories and axiom of choice*. Mathematics Stack Exchange. URL: <https://math.stackexchange.com/q/1465107> (cit. on p. 72).
- [MSE 733161] [Stefan Hamcke](#). *Precomposition with a faithful functor*. Mathematics Stack Exchange. URL: <https://math.stackexchange.com/q/733161> (cit. on p. 66).
- [MSE 733163] [Zhen Lin](#). *Precomposition with a faithful functor*. Mathematics Stack Exchange. URL: <https://math.stackexchange.com/q/733163> (cit. on p. 53).
- [MSE 749304] [Zhen Lin](#). *If the functor on presheaf categories given by precomposition by F is \mathbb{f} , is F full? faithful?* Mathematics Stack Exchange. URL: <https://math.stackexchange.com/q/749304> (cit. on p. 66).
- [Adá+01] [Jiří Adámek](#), [Robert El Bashir](#), [Manuela Sobral](#), and [Jiří Velebil](#). “On Functors Which Are Lax Epimorphisms”. In: *Theory Appl. Categ.* 8 (2001), pp. 509–521. ISSN: 1201-561X (cit. on pp. 53, 61, 67).
- [Bor94] [Francis Borceux](#). *Handbook of Categorical Algebra I*. Vol. 50. Encyclopedia of Mathematics and its Applications. Basic Category Theory. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 1994, pp. xvi+345. ISBN: 0-521-44178-1 (cit. on p. 106).
- [BS10] [John C. Baez](#) and [Michael Shulman](#). “Lectures on n -Categories and Cohomology”. In: *Towards higher categories*. Vol. 152. IMA Vol. Math. Appl. Springer, New York, 2010, pp. 1–68. DOI: [10.1007/978-1-4419-1524-5_1](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-1-4419-1524-5_1). URL: https://doi.org/10.1007/978-1-4419-1524-5_1.

- [//doi.org/10.1007/978-1-4419-1524-5_1](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-1-4419-1524-5_1) (cit. on p. 61).
- [DFH75] Aristide Deleanu, Armin Frei, and Peter Hilton. “Idempotent Triples and Completion”. In: *Math. Z.* 143 (1975), pp. 91–104. ISSN: 0025-5874,1432-1823. DOI: [10.1007/BF01173053](https://doi.org/10.1007/BF01173053). URL: <https://doi.org/10.1007/BF01173053> (cit. on p. 77).
- [Fre09] Jonas Frey. *On the 2-Categorical Duals of (Full and) Faithful Functors*. <https://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/document?repid=rep1&type=pdf&doi=4c289321d622f8fcf947e7a7cfd1bdf75c95ca33>. Archived at <https://web.archive.org/web/20240331195546/https://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/document?repid=rep1&type=pdf&doi=4c289321d622f8fcf947e7a7cfd1bdf75c95ca33>. July 2009. URL: <https://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/document?repid=rep1&type=pdf&doi=4c289321d622f8fcf947e7a7cfd1bdf75c95ca33> (cit. on pp. 53, 67).
- [Isb68] John R. Isbell. “Epimorphisms and Dominions. III”. In: *Amer. J. Math.* 90 (1968), pp. 1025–1030. ISSN: 0002-9327,1080-6377. DOI: [10.2307/2373286](https://doi.org/10.2307/2373286). URL: <https://doi.org/10.2307/2373286> (cit. on p. 80).
- [Low15] Zhen Lin Low. *Notes on Homotopical Algebra*. Nov. 2015. URL: <https://zll22.user.srcf.net/writing/homotopical-algebra/2015-11-10-Main.pdf> (cit. on p. 67).
- [nLa25] nLab Authors. *Groupoid*. <https://ncatlab.org/nlab/show/groupoid>. Oct. 2025 (cit. on p. 73).
- [nLab23] nLab Authors. *Skeleton*. 2025. URL: <https://ncatlab.org/nlab/show/skeleton> (cit. on p. 9).
- [Rie16] Emily Riehl. *Category Theory in Context*. Aurora Dover Modern Math Originals. Dover Publications, Inc., Mineola, NY, 2016, pp. xvii+240. ISBN: 978-0-486-80903-8; 0-486-80903-X (cit. on p. 73).