

Presheaves and the Yoneda Lemma

The Clowder Project Authors

July 22, 2025

02H3 This chapter contains some material about presheaves and the Yoneda lemma. This chapter is under revision. TODO:

1. Subsection properties of categories of copresheaves
2. Adjointness of tensor product of functors
3. Limit of category of elements (instead of colimit)
4. Category of elements where objects are natural transformations $\mathcal{F} \Rightarrow h_X$ instead of the other way around. Is this related to Isbell duality?
5. Motivate the proof of the Yoneda lemma as in Martin's comment here: https://mathoverflow.net/questions/130883/are-there-proofs-that-you-feel-you-did-not-understand-for-a-long-time#comment360113_131050
6. Add discussion of universal properties
7. Add $h_{g \circ f} = h_g \circ h_f$ to properties of representable natural transformations

Contents

12.1 Presheaves.....	2
12.1.1 Foundations	2
12.1.2 Representable Presheaves	4
12.1.3 Representable Natural Transformations	5
12.1.4 The Yoneda Embedding.....	6

12.1.5	The Yoneda Lemma.....	9
12.1.6	Properties of Categories of Presheaves	15
12.2	Copresheaves.....	16
12.2.1	Foundations	16
12.2.2	Corepresentable Copresheaves	17
12.2.3	Corepresentable Natural Transformations	19
12.2.4	The Contravariant Yoneda Embedding	20
12.2.5	The Contravariant Yoneda Lemma	21
12.3	Restricted Yoneda Embeddings and Yoneda Extensions.....	21
12.3.1	Foundations	21
12.3.2	The Yoneda Extension Functor.....	25
12.4	Functor Tensor Products	28
12.4.1	The Tensor Product of Presheaves With Copresheaves.....	28
12.4.2	The Tensor of a Presheaf With a Functor.....	32
12.4.3	The Tensor of a Copresheaf With a Functor.....	33
A	Other Chapters.....	35

02H4 12.1 Presheaves

02H5 12.1.1 Foundations

Let C be a category.

02H6 DEFINITION 12.1.1.1.1 ► PRESHEAVES ON A CATEGORY

A **presheaf on C** is a functor $\mathcal{F} : C^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \text{Sets}$.

02H7 EXAMPLE 12.1.1.1.2 ► PRESHEAVES ON ONE-OBJECT CATEGORIES

Presheaves on the delooping BA of a monoid A are precisely the left A -sets; see Monoid Actions, ??.

02H8

DEFINITION 12.1.1.1.3 ► MORPHISMS OF PRESHEAVES

A **morphism of presheaves** on C from \mathcal{F} to \mathcal{G} is a natural transformation $\alpha: \mathcal{F} \Rightarrow \mathcal{G}$.

02H9

DEFINITION 12.1.1.1.4 ► THE CATEGORY OF PRESHEAVES ON A CATEGORY

The **category of presheaves on C** is the category $\mathbf{PSh}(C)$ ¹ defined by

$$\mathbf{PSh}(C) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathbf{Fun}(C^{\text{op}}, \mathbf{Sets}).$$

¹Further Notation: Also written \widehat{C} in some parts of the literature.

02HA

REMARK 12.1.1.1.5 ► UNWINDING DEFINITION 12.1.1.1.4

In detail, the **category of presheaves on C** is the category $\mathbf{PSh}(C)$ where

- *Objects.* The objects of $\mathbf{PSh}(C)$ are presheaves on C as in **Definition 12.1.1.1.1**.
- *Morphisms.* The morphisms of $\mathbf{PSh}(C)$ are morphisms of presheaves as in **Definition 12.1.1.1.3**, i.e. we have

$$\mathbf{Hom}_{\mathbf{PSh}(C)}(\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{G}) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathbf{Nat}(\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{G})$$

for each $\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{G} \in \mathbf{Obj}(\mathbf{PSh}(C))$.

- *Identities.* For each $\mathcal{F} \in \mathbf{Obj}(\mathbf{PSh}(C))$, the unit map

$$\mathbb{1}_{\mathcal{F}}^{\mathbf{PSh}(C)}: \text{pt} \rightarrow \mathbf{Nat}(\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{F})$$

of $\mathbf{PSh}(C)$ at \mathcal{F} is defined by

$$\text{id}_{\mathcal{F}}^{\mathbf{PSh}(C)} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{id}_{\mathcal{F}},$$

where $\text{id}_{\mathcal{F}}: \mathcal{F} \Rightarrow \mathcal{F}$ is the identity natural transformation of **Categories, Example 11.9.3.1.1**.

- *Composition.* For each $\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{G}, \mathcal{H} \in \mathbf{Obj}(\mathbf{PSh}(C))$, the composition map

$$\circ_{\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{G}, \mathcal{H}}^{\mathbf{PSh}(C)}: \mathbf{Nat}(\mathcal{G}, \mathcal{H}) \times \mathbf{Nat}(\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{G}) \rightarrow \mathbf{Nat}(\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{H})$$

of $\mathbf{PSh}(C)$ at $(\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{G}, \mathcal{H})$ is defined by

$$\beta \circ_{\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{G}, \mathcal{H}}^{\mathbf{PSh}(C)} \alpha \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \beta \circ \alpha,$$

where $\beta \circ \alpha: \mathcal{F} \Rightarrow \mathcal{H}$ is the vertical composition of α and β of **Categories, Definition 11.9.4.1.1**.

02HB 12.1.2 Representable Presheaves

Let C be a category.

02HC DEFINITION 12.1.2.1.1 ► REPRESENTABLE PRESHEAVES

Let $A \in \mathbf{Obj}(C)$.

02HD 1. The **representable presheaf associated to** A is the presheaf

$$h_A: C^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Sets}$$

where

· *Action on Objects.* For each $X \in \mathbf{Obj}(C)$, we have

$$h_A(X) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathbf{Hom}_C(X, A).$$

· *Action on Morphisms.* For each $X, Y \in \mathbf{Obj}(C)$, the action on morphisms

$$h_{A|X,Y}: \mathbf{Hom}_C(X, Y) \rightarrow \mathbf{Hom}_{\mathbf{Sets}}(h_A(Y), h_A(X))$$

of h_A at (X, Y) is given by sending a morphism

$$f: X \rightarrow Y$$

of C to the map of sets

$$h_A(f): \underbrace{h_A(Y)}_{\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathbf{Hom}_C(Y, A)} \rightarrow \underbrace{h_A(X)}_{\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathbf{Hom}_C(X, A)}$$

defined by

$$h_A(f) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} f^*,$$

where f^* is the precomposition by f morphism of **Categories, Item 1 of Definition 11.1.4.1.1**.

02HE

2. A **representing object** for a presheaf $\mathcal{F} : C^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \text{Sets}$ on C is an object A of C such that we have $\mathcal{F} \cong h_A$.

02HF

3. A presheaf $\mathcal{F} : C^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \text{Sets}$ on C is **representable** if \mathcal{F} admits a representing object.

02HG

EXAMPLE 12.1.2.1.2 ► REPRESENTABLE PRESHEAVES ON ONE-OBJECT CATEGORIES

The representable presheaf on the delooping BA of a monoid A associated to the unique object \bullet of BA is the left regular representation of A of Monoid Actions, ??.

02HH

PROPOSITION 12.1.2.1.3 ► UNIQUENESS OF REPRESENTING OBJECTS UP TO ISOMORPHISM


Let $\mathcal{F} : C^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \text{Sets}$ be a presheaf. If there exist $A, B \in \text{Obj}(C)$ such that we have natural isomorphisms

$$h_A \cong \mathcal{F},$$

$$h_B \cong \mathcal{F},$$

then $A \cong B$.

PROOF 12.1.2.1.4 ► PROOF OF PROPOSITION 12.1.2.1.3

By composing the isomorphisms $h_A \cong \mathcal{F} \cong h_B$, we get a natural isomorphism $h_A \cong h_B$. By [Item 2 of Proposition 12.1.4.1.3](#), we have $A \cong B$. 

02HJ 12.1.3 Representable Natural Transformations

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

02HK

DEFINITION 12.1.3.1.1 ► REPRESENTABLE NATURAL TRANSFORMATIONS

The **representable natural transformation associated to f** is the natural transformation

$$h_f : h_A \Rightarrow h_B$$

consisting of the collection

$$\left\{ h_{f|X}: \underbrace{h_A(X)}_{\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{Hom}_C(X,A)} \rightarrow \underbrace{h_B(X)}_{\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{Hom}_C(X,B)} \right\}_{X \in \text{Obj}(C)}$$

with

$$h_{f|X} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} f_*,$$

where f_* is the postcomposition by f morphism of **Categories, Item 2 of Definition 11.1.4.1.1**.

02HL 12.1.4 The Yoneda Embedding

02HM DEFINITION 12.1.4.1.1 ► THE YONEDA EMBEDDING

The **Yoneda embedding of C** ¹ is the functor²

$$\mathfrak{Y}_C: C \hookrightarrow \text{PSh}(C)$$

where

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

$$\mathfrak{Y}_C(A) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} h_A.$$

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

$$\mathfrak{Y}_{C|A,B}: \text{Hom}_C(A, B) \rightarrow \text{Nat}(h_A, h_B)$$

of \mathfrak{Y}_C at (A, B) is given by

$$\mathfrak{Y}_{C|A,B}(f) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} h_f$$

for each $f \in \text{Hom}_C(A, B)$, where h_f is the representable natural transformation associated to f of **Definition 12.1.3.1.1**.

¹*Further Terminology:* Also called the **covariant Yoneda embedding** to distinguish it from the contravariant Yoneda embedding of **Theorem 12.2.5.1.1**.

²*Further Notation:* Also written $h_{(-)}$, or simply \mathfrak{Y} .

02HN

REMARK 12.1.4.1.2 ► ON THE USAGE OF \mathfrak{y} TO DENOTE THE YONEDA EMBEDDING

The notation \mathfrak{y} for the Yoneda embedding was first introduced in [S17]. The symbol \mathfrak{y} is the **hiragana for yo**, and comes from “Yoneda” in Nobuo Yoneda (米田信夫).

It is pronounced *yo* but without letting the “o” in *yo* sound like an o-u diphthong:

- See [here](#).
- IPA transcription: [jɔ̟].

02HP

PROPOSITION 12.1.4.1.3 ► PROPERTIES OF THE YONEDA EMBEDDING

Let C be a category.

02HQ

1. *Fully Faithfulness*. The Yoneda embedding

$$\mathfrak{y}_C: C \hookrightarrow \mathbf{PSh}(C)$$

is fully faithful.

02HR

2. *Preservation and Reflection of Isomorphisms*. The Yoneda embedding

$$\mathfrak{y}_C: C \hookrightarrow \mathbf{PSh}(C)$$

preserves and reflects isomorphisms, i.e. given $A, B \in \mathbf{Obj}(C)$, the following conditions are equivalent:

02HS

- (a) We have $A \cong B$.

02HT

- (b) We have $h_A \cong h_B$.

02HU

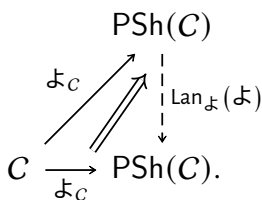
3. *Density*. The Yoneda embedding

$$\mathfrak{y}_C: C \hookrightarrow \mathbf{PSh}(C)$$

is dense.

02HV

4. *Interaction With Density Comonads*. We have

$$\mathrm{Lan}_{\mathfrak{y}}(\mathfrak{y}) \cong \mathrm{id}_{\mathbf{PSh}(C)},$$


02HW

5. *Interaction With Codensity Monads.* We have

$$\text{Ran}_{\mathcal{Y}}(\mathcal{Y}) \cong \text{Spec} \circ \mathcal{O},$$

where Spec and \mathcal{O} are the functors of ??.

PROOF 12.1.4.1.4 ► PROOF OF PROPOSITION 12.1.4.1.3

Item 1: Fully Faithfulness

Let $A, B \in \text{Obj}(C)$. Applying the Yoneda lemma ([Theorem 12.1.5.1.1](#)) to the functor h_B (i.e. in the case $\mathcal{F} = h_B$), we have

$$\text{Hom}_C(A, B) \cong \text{Nat}(h_A, h_B),$$

and the natural isomorphism

$$\xi_{A,B}: h_B(A) \Rightarrow \text{Nat}(h_A, h_B)$$

witnessing this bijection is given by

$$\xi_{A,B}(g)_X \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} h_g^X \\ \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} g_*$$

for each $X \in \text{Obj}(C)$ and each $g \in h_B^X$, i.e. we have $\xi_{A,B} = \mathcal{Y}_{C|A,B}$. Thus \mathcal{Y}_C is fully faithful.

Item 2: Preservation and Reflection of Isomorphisms

This follows from [Categories](#), [Item 1](#) of [Proposition 11.5.1.1.8](#) and [Item 3](#) of [Proposition 11.6.3.1.2](#).

Item 3: Density

Omitted.

Item 4: Interaction With Density Comonads

Omitted.

Item 5: Interaction With Codensity Monads

Omitted.



02HX 12.1.5 The Yoneda Lemma

Let $\mathcal{F} : C^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \text{Sets}$ be a presheaf on C .

02HY THEOREM 12.1.5.1.1 ► THE YONEDA LEMMA

We have a bijection

$$\text{Nat}(h_A, \mathcal{F}) \cong \mathcal{F}(A),$$

natural in $A \in \text{Obj}(C)$, determining a natural isomorphism of functors

$$\text{Nat}(h_{(-)}, \mathcal{F}) \cong \mathcal{F}.$$

PROOF 12.1.5.1.2 ► PROOF OF THEOREM 12.1.5.1.1

The Transformation $\text{ev} : \text{Nat}(h_{(-)}, \mathcal{F}) \Rightarrow \mathcal{F}$

Let

$$\text{ev} : \text{Nat}(h_{(-)}, \mathcal{F}) \Rightarrow \mathcal{F}$$

be the transformation consisting of the collection

$$\{\text{ev}_A : \text{Nat}(h_A, \mathcal{F}) \rightarrow \mathcal{F}(A)\}_{A \in \text{Obj}(C)}$$

with

$$\text{ev}_A(\alpha) = \alpha_A(\text{id}_A)$$

for each $\alpha \in \text{Nat}(h_A, \mathcal{F})$, where α_A is the component

$$\alpha_A : \text{Hom}_C(A, A) \rightarrow \mathcal{F}(A)$$

of α at A .

The Transformation $\xi : \mathcal{F} \Rightarrow \text{Nat}(h_{(-)}, \mathcal{F})$

Let

$$\xi : \mathcal{F} \Rightarrow \text{Nat}(h_{(-)}, \mathcal{F})$$

be the transformation consisting of the collection

$$\{\xi_A : \mathcal{F}(A) \rightarrow \text{Nat}(h_A, \mathcal{F})\}_{A \in \text{Obj}(C)},$$

where ξ_A is the map sending an element $\phi \in \mathcal{F}(A)$ to the transformation

$$\xi_A(\phi): h_A \Rightarrow \mathcal{F}$$

(which we will show is natural in a bit) consisting of the collection

$$\{\xi_A(\phi)_X: h_A(X) \rightarrow \mathcal{F}(X)\}_{X \in \text{Obj}(\mathcal{C})},$$

with

$$\xi_A(\phi)_X(f) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} [\mathcal{F}(f)](\phi)$$

for each $f \in h_A(X)$, where

$$\mathcal{F}(f): \mathcal{F}(A) \rightarrow \mathcal{F}(X)$$

is the image of f by \mathcal{F} .

Naturality of $\xi_A(\phi): h_A \Rightarrow \mathcal{F}$

The transformation

$$\xi_A(\phi): h_A \Rightarrow \mathcal{F}$$

is indeed natural, as the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} h_A^Y & \xrightarrow{f^*} & h_A^X \\ \xi_A(\phi)_Y \downarrow & & \downarrow \xi_A(\phi)_X \\ \mathcal{F}(Y) & \xrightarrow{\mathcal{F}(f)} & \mathcal{F}(X) \end{array}$$

commutes for each morphism $f: X \rightarrow Y$ of \mathcal{C} , acting on elements as

$$\begin{array}{ccc} h & & h \longmapsto h \circ f \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ [\mathcal{F}(h)](\phi) \longmapsto [\mathcal{F}(f)]([\mathcal{F}(h)](\phi)) & & [\mathcal{F}(h \circ f)(\phi)], \end{array}$$

where we have

$$[\mathcal{F}(f)]([\mathcal{F}(h)](\phi)) = [\mathcal{F}(h \circ f)(\phi)]$$

by the functoriality of \mathcal{F} .

Naturality of ev : $\text{Nat}(h_{(-)}, \mathcal{F}) \Rightarrow \mathcal{F}$

Let $f: X \rightarrow Y$ be a morphism of \mathcal{C} . We claim the naturality diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Nat}(h_Y, \mathcal{F}) & \xrightarrow{(h_f)^*} & \text{Nat}(h_X, \mathcal{F}) \\ \text{ev}_Y \downarrow & & \downarrow \text{ev}_X \\ \mathcal{F}(Y) & \xrightarrow{\mathcal{F}(f)} & \mathcal{F}(X) \end{array}$$

for ev at f , acting on elements as

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \alpha & & \alpha \longmapsto \alpha \circ h_f \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \alpha_Y(\text{id}_Y) & \longmapsto & [\mathcal{F}(f)](\alpha_Y(\text{id}_Y)) \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{ccc} \alpha & \longmapsto & \alpha \circ h_f \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ [\alpha \circ h_f]_X(\text{id}_X), & & \end{array}$$

commutes. Indeed:

- We have

$$\begin{aligned} [\alpha \circ h_f]_X(\text{id}_X) &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} [\alpha_X \circ h_{f|X}](\text{id}_X) \\ &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} [\alpha_X \circ f_*](\text{id}_X) \\ &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \alpha_X(f_*(\text{id}_X)) \\ &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \alpha_X(f). \end{aligned}$$

- Applying the naturality diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} h_Y^Y & \xrightarrow{f^*} & h_Y^X \\ \alpha_Y \downarrow & & \downarrow \alpha_X \\ \mathcal{F}(Y) & \xrightarrow{\mathcal{F}(f)} & \mathcal{F}(X) \end{array}$$

of $\alpha: h_Y \Rightarrow \mathcal{F}$ at $f: X \rightarrow Y$ to the element id_Y of h_Y^Y , we have

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{id}_Y & & \text{id}_Y \longmapsto f \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \alpha_Y(\text{id}_Y) & \longmapsto & [\mathcal{F}(f)](\alpha_Y(\text{id}_Y)) \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{ccc} \text{id}_Y & \longmapsto & f \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \alpha_X(f) & & \end{array}$$

showing that we have

$$[\mathcal{F}(f)](\alpha_Y(\text{id}_Y)) = \alpha_X(f).$$

Thus the naturality diagram for ev at f commutes, and ev is natural.

Naturality of $\xi: \mathcal{F} \Rightarrow \text{Nat}(h_{(-)}, \mathcal{F})$

Let $f: X \rightarrow Y$ be a morphism of \mathcal{C} . We claim the naturality diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{F}(Y) & \xrightarrow{\mathcal{F}(f)} & \mathcal{F}(X) \\ \xi_Y \downarrow & & \downarrow \xi_X \\ \text{Nat}(h_Y, \mathcal{F}) & \xrightarrow{(h_f)^*} & \text{Nat}(h_X, \mathcal{F}) \end{array}$$

for ξ at f , acting on elements as

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \phi & & \phi \longmapsto [\mathcal{F}(f)](\phi) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \xi_Y(\phi) & \longmapsto & \xi_Y(\phi) \circ h_f \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{ccc} \phi & \longmapsto & [\mathcal{F}(f)](\phi) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \xi_X([\mathcal{F}(f)](\phi)) & & \end{array}$$

commutes. Indeed, for each $X \in \text{Obj}(\mathcal{C})$ and each $g \in h_X^A$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} [\xi_Y(\phi) \circ h_f]_X(g) &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} [\xi_Y(\phi)_X \circ h_{f|X}](g) \\ &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} [\xi_Y(\phi)_X \circ f_*](g) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \xi_Y(\phi)_X(f_*(g)) \\
&\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \xi_Y(\phi)_X(f \circ g) \\
&\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} [\mathcal{F}(f \circ g)](\phi)
\end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
[\xi_X([\mathcal{F}(f)](\phi))](g) &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathcal{F}(g)([\mathcal{F}(f)](\phi)) \\
&= [\mathcal{F}(f \circ g)](\phi),
\end{aligned}$$

where we have used the functoriality of \mathcal{F} . Thus $\xi_Y(\phi) \circ h_f$ and $\xi_X([\mathcal{F}(f)](\phi))$ are equal, and the naturality diagram for ξ at f above commutes, showing ξ to be natural.

Invertibility I: $\text{ev} \circ \xi = \text{id}_{\mathcal{F}}$

We claim that $\text{ev} \circ \xi = \text{id}_{\mathcal{F}}$, i.e. that we have

$$(\text{ev} \circ \xi)_A = \text{id}_{\mathcal{F}(A)}$$

for each $A \in \text{Obj}(C)$. Indeed, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
[\text{ev} \circ \xi]_A(\phi) &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} [\text{ev}_A \circ \xi_A](\phi) \\
&\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{ev}_A(\xi_A(\phi)) \\
&\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \xi_A(\phi)_A(\text{id}_A) \\
&\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} [\mathcal{F}(\text{id}_A)](\phi) \\
&= [\text{id}_{\mathcal{F}(A)}](\phi)
\end{aligned}$$

for each $\phi \in \mathcal{F}(A)$.

Invertibility II: $\xi \circ \text{ev} = \text{id}_{\text{Nat}(h_{(-)}, \mathcal{F})}$

We claim that $\xi \circ \text{ev} = \text{id}_{\text{Nat}(h_{(-)}, \mathcal{F})}$, i.e. that we have

$$(\xi \circ \text{ev})_A = \text{id}_{\text{Nat}(h_A, \mathcal{F})}$$

for each $A \in \text{Obj}(C)$. Indeed:

· We have

$$[\xi \circ \text{ev}]_A(\alpha) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} [\xi_A \circ \text{ev}_A](\alpha)$$

$$\begin{aligned} &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \xi_A(\text{ev}_A(\alpha)) \\ &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \xi_A(\alpha_A(\text{id}_A)) \end{aligned}$$

for each $\alpha \in \text{Nat}(h_A, \mathcal{F})$.

- For each $X \in \text{Obj}(\mathcal{C})$, we have

$$\xi_A(\alpha_A(\text{id}_A))_X = \alpha_X,$$

since we have


$$\begin{aligned} \xi_A(\alpha_A(\text{id}_A))_X(f) &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} [\mathcal{F}(f)](\alpha_A(\text{id}_A)) \\ &\stackrel{(\dagger)}{=} \alpha_X(f) \end{aligned}$$

for each $f \in h_A(X)$, where the equality marked with (\dagger) follows from the commutativity of the naturality diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} h_A^A & \xrightarrow{f_*} & h_X^A \\ \alpha_A \downarrow & & \downarrow \alpha_X \\ \mathcal{F}(A) & \xrightarrow{\mathcal{F}(f)} & \mathcal{F}(X) \end{array}$$

of α at $f: A \rightarrow X$, which acts on id_A as

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{id}_A & \xrightarrow{\quad} & f \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \alpha_A(\text{id}_A) & \xrightarrow{\quad} & [\mathcal{F}(f)](\alpha_A(\text{id}_A)) = \alpha_X(f). \end{array}$$

This finishes the proof. 

02HZ 12.1.6 Properties of Categories of Presheaves

02J0 PROPOSITION 12.1.6.1.1 ► PROPERTIES OF CATEGORIES OF PRESHEAVES

Let C be a category.

- 02J1 1. *Functoriality.* The assignment $C \mapsto \mathbf{PSh}(C)$ defines a functor

$$\mathbf{PSh}: \mathbf{Cats} \rightarrow \mathbf{Cats}$$

up to some set-theoretic considerations.¹

- 02J2 2. *Interaction With Slice Categories.* Let $X \in \mathbf{Obj}(C)$. We have an equivalence of categories

$$\mathbf{PSh}(C/X) \stackrel{\text{eq.}}{\cong} \mathbf{PSh}(C)_{/h_X}.$$

- 02J3 3. *Interaction With Categories of Elements.* Let $\mathcal{F} \in \mathbf{Obj}(\mathbf{PSh}(C))$. We have an equivalence of categories

$$\mathbf{PSh}\left(\int_C \mathcal{F}\right) \stackrel{\text{eq.}}{\cong} \mathbf{PSh}(C)_{/\mathcal{F}}.$$

¹For instance:

- The \mathbf{Cats} in the source of \mathbf{PSh} could be small categories, and then the \mathbf{Cats} in the right would be locally small categories.
- The \mathbf{Cats} in the source of \mathbf{PSh} could be locally small categories, and then the \mathbf{Cats} on the right would be large categories.

In general, one can systematise and formalise this using Grothendieck universes.

PROOF 12.1.6.1.2 ► PROOF OF PROPOSITION 12.1.6.1.1

Item 1: Functoriality

Omitted.

Item 2: Interaction With Slice Categories

Omitted.

Item 3: Interaction With Categories of Elements

Omitted.



02J4 12.2 Copresheaves

02J5 12.2.1 Foundations

Let C be a category.

02J6 DEFINITION 12.2.1.1.1 ► COPRESHEAVES ON A CATEGORY

A **copresheaf on C** is a functor $F: C \rightarrow \mathbf{Sets}$.

02J7 EXAMPLE 12.2.1.1.2 ► COPRESHEAVES ON ONE-OBJECT CATEGORIES

Copresheaves on the delooping BA of a monoid A are precisely the right A -sets; see Monoid Actions, ??.

02J8 DEFINITION 12.2.1.1.3 ► MORPHISMS OF COPRESHEAVES

A **morphism of copresheaves** on C from F to G is a natural transformation $\alpha: F \Rightarrow G$.

02J9 DEFINITION 12.2.1.1.4 ► THE CATEGORY OF COPRESHEAVES ON A CATEGORY

The **category of copresheaves on C** is the category $\mathbf{CoPSh}(C)$ defined by

$$\mathbf{CoPSh}(C) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathbf{Fun}(C, \mathbf{Sets}).$$

02JA REMARK 12.2.1.1.5 ► UNWINDING DEFINITION 12.2.1.1.4

In detail, the **category of copresheaves on C** is the category $\mathbf{CoPSh}(C)$ where

- *Objects.* The objects of $\mathbf{CoPSh}(C)$ are copresheaves on C as in **Definition 12.2.1.1.1**.
- *Morphisms.* The morphisms of $\mathbf{CoPSh}(C)$ are morphisms of copresheaves as in **Definition 12.2.1.1.3**, i.e. we have

$$\mathbf{Hom}_{\mathbf{CoPSh}(C)}(F, G) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathbf{Nat}(F, G)$$

for each $F, G \in \mathbf{Obj}(\mathbf{CoPSh}(C))$.

- *Identities.* For each $F \in \text{Obj}(\text{CoPSh}(C))$, the unit map

$$\mathbb{1}_F^{\text{CoPSh}(C)} : \text{pt} \rightarrow \text{Nat}(F, F)$$

of $\text{CoPSh}(C)$ at F is defined by

$$\text{id}_F^{\text{CoPSh}(C)} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{id}_F,$$

where $\text{id}_F : F \Rightarrow F$ is the identity natural transformation of **Categories**, **Example 11.9.3.1.1**.

- *Composition.* For each $F, G, H \in \text{Obj}(\text{CoPSh}(C))$, the composition map

$$\circ_{F,G,H}^{\text{CoPSh}(C)} : \text{Nat}(G, H) \times \text{Nat}(F, G) \rightarrow \text{Nat}(F, H)$$

of $\text{CoPSh}(C)$ at (F, G, H) is defined by

$$\beta \circ_{F,G,H}^{\text{CoPSh}(C)} \alpha \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \beta \circ \alpha,$$

where $\beta \circ \alpha : F \Rightarrow H$ is the vertical composition of α and β of **Categories**, **Definition 11.9.4.1.1**.

02JB 12.2.2 Corepresentable Copresheaves

Let C be a category.

02JC DEFINITION 12.2.2.1.1 ► COREPRESENTABLE COPRESHEAVES

Let $A \in \text{Obj}(C)$.

1. The **corepresentable copresheaf associated to A** is the copresheaf

$$h^A : C \rightarrow \text{Sets}$$

where

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

$$h^A(X) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{Hom}_C(A, X).$$

- *Action on Morphisms.* For each $X, Y \in \text{Obj}(C)$, the action on morphisms

$$h_{X,Y}^A: \text{Hom}_C(X, Y) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_{\text{Sets}}(h^A(X), h^A(Y))$$

of h^A at (X, Y) is given by sending a morphism

$$f: X \rightarrow Y$$

of C to the map of sets

$$h^A(f): \underbrace{h^A(X)}_{\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{Hom}_C(A, X)} \rightarrow \underbrace{h^A(Y)}_{\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{Hom}_C(A, Y)}$$

defined by

$$h^A(f) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} f_*,$$

where f_* is the postcomposition by f morphism of **Categories**, **Item 2** of **Definition 11.1.4.1.1**.

02JE

2. A **corepresenting object** for a copresheaf $F: C \rightarrow \text{Sets}$ on C is an object A of C such that we have $F \cong h^A$.

02JF

3. A copresheaf $F: C^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \text{Sets}$ on C is **corepresentable** if F admits a corepresenting object.

02JG

EXAMPLE 12.2.2.1.2 ► COREPRESENTABLE COPRESHEAVES ON ONE-OBJECT CATEGORIES

The corepresentable copresheaf on the delooping BA of a monoid A associated to the unique object \bullet of BA is the right regular representation of A of Monoid Actions, ??.

02JH

PROPOSITION 12.2.2.1.3 ► UNIQUENESS OF COREPRESENTING OBJECTS UP TO ISOMORPHISM


Let $F: C \rightarrow \text{Sets}$ be a copresheaf. If there exist $A, B \in \text{Obj}(C)$ such that we have natural isomorphisms

$$h^A \cong F,$$

$$h^B \cong F,$$

then $A \cong B$.

PROOF 12.2.2.1.4 ► PROOF OF PROPOSITION 12.2.2.1.3

By composing the isomorphisms $h^A \cong F \cong h^B$, we get a natural isomorphism $h^A \cong h^B$. By [Item 2 of Proposition 12.2.4.1.2](#), we have $A \cong B$. 

02JJ 12.2.3 Corepresentable Natural Transformations

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

02JK DEFINITION 12.2.3.1.1 ► COREPRESENTABLE NATURAL TRANSFORMATIONS

The **corepresentable natural transformation associated to f** is the natural transformation

$$h^f: h^B \Rightarrow h^A$$

consisting of the collection

$$\left\{ h_X^f: \underbrace{h^B(X)}_{\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{Hom}_C(B, X)} \rightarrow \underbrace{h^A(X)}_{\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{Hom}_C(A, X)} \right\}_{X \in \text{Obj}(C)}$$

with

$$h_X^f \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} f^*,$$

where f_* is the precomposition by f morphism of [Categories, Item 1 of Definition 11.1.4.1.1](#).

02JL 12.2.4 The Contravariant Yoneda Embedding

02JM DEFINITION 12.2.4.1.1 ► THE CONTRAVARIANT YONEDA EMBEDDING

The **contravariant Yoneda embedding of C** is the functor¹

$$\mathfrak{Y}_C: C^{\text{op}} \hookrightarrow \text{CoPSh}(C)$$

where

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

$$\mathfrak{Y}_C(A) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} h^A.$$

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

$$\mathfrak{Y}_{C|A,B}: \text{Hom}_C(A, B) \rightarrow \text{Nat}(h^B, h^A)$$

of \mathfrak{Y}_C at (A, B) is given by

$$\mathfrak{Y}_{C|A,B}(f) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} h^f$$

for each $f \in \text{Hom}_C(A, B)$, where h^f is the corepresentable natural transformation associated to f of [Definition 12.2.3.1.1](#).

¹Further Notation: Also written $h^{(-)}$, or simply \mathfrak{Y} .

02JN PROPOSITION 12.2.4.1.2 ► PROPERTIES OF THE CONTRAVARIANT YONEDA EMBEDDING

Let C be a category.

- 02JP 1. *Fully Faithfulness.* The contravariant Yoneda embedding

$$\mathfrak{Y}_C: C^{\text{op}} \hookrightarrow \text{CoPSh}(C)$$

is fully faithful.

- 02JQ 2. *Preservation and Reflection of Isomorphisms.* The contravariant Yoneda embedding

$$\mathfrak{Y}_C: C^{\text{op}} \hookrightarrow \text{CoPSh}(C)$$

preserves and reflects isomorphisms, i.e. given $A, B \in \text{Obj}(C)$, the following conditions are equivalent:

02JR

(a) We have $A \cong B$.

02JS

(b) We have $h^A \cong h^B$.**PROOF 12.2.4.1.3 ► PROOF OF PROPOSITION 12.2.4.1.2****Item 1: Fully Faithfulness**

The proof is dual to that of **Item 1** of **Proposition 12.1.4.1.3**, and is therefore omitted.

Item 2: Preservation and Reflection of Isomorphisms

This follows from **Categories**, **Item 1** of **Proposition 11.5.1.1.8** and **Item 3** of **Proposition 11.6.3.1.2**. 

02JT 12.2.5 The Contravariant Yoneda Lemma

Let $F: C \rightarrow \mathbf{Sets}$ be a copresheaf on C .

02JU

THEOREM 12.2.5.1.1 ► THE CONTRAVARIANT YONEDA LEMMA

We have a bijection

$$\mathrm{Nat}(h^A, F) \cong F(A),$$

natural in $A \in \mathrm{Obj}(C)$, determining a natural isomorphism of functors

$$\mathrm{Nat}(h^{(-)}, F) \cong F.$$

PROOF 12.2.5.1.2 ► PROOF OF THEOREM 12.2.5.1.1

The proof is dual to that of **Theorem 12.1.5.1.1**, and is therefore omitted. 

02JV 12.3 Restricted Yoneda Embeddings and Yoneda Extensions**02JW 12.3.1 Foundations**

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

02JX

The **restricted Yoneda embedding associated to F** is the functor

$$\mathfrak{Y}_F: \mathcal{D} \hookrightarrow \text{PSh}(C)$$

defined as the composition

$$\mathcal{D} \xrightarrow{\mathfrak{Y}_{\mathcal{D}}} \text{PSh}(\mathcal{D}) \xrightarrow{F^{\text{op},*}} \text{PSh}(C).$$

02JY

REMARK 12.3.1.1.2 ► UNWINDING DEFINITION 12.3.1.1.1

In detail, the **restricted Yoneda embedding associated to F** is the functor

$$\mathfrak{Y}_F: \mathcal{D} \hookrightarrow \text{PSh}(C)$$

where

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

$$\begin{aligned} \mathfrak{Y}_F(A) &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} h_A \circ F^{\text{op}} \\ &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} h_A^{F(-)}. \end{aligned}$$

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

$$\mathfrak{Y}_{F|A,B}: \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(A, B) \rightarrow \text{Nat}\left(h_A^{F(-)}, h_B^{F(-)}\right)$$

of \mathfrak{Y}_F at (A, B) is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \mathfrak{Y}_{F|A,B}(f) &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} h_f^{F(-)} \\ &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} h_f \star \text{id}_{F^{\text{op}}} \end{aligned}$$

for each $f \in \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(A, B)$, where h_f is the representable natural transformation associated to f of **Definition 12.1.3.1.1**.

02JZ

EXAMPLE 12.3.1.1.3 ► EXAMPLES OF RESTRICTED YONEDA EMBEDDINGS

Here are some examples of restricted Yoneda embeddings.

02K0

1. *The Nerve Functor.* Let

$$\iota: \Delta \hookrightarrow \mathbf{Cats}$$

be the functor given by $[n] \rightarrow \mathfrak{n}$. Then the restricted Yoneda embedding

$$\mathfrak{Y}_\iota: \mathbf{Cats} \rightarrow \underbrace{\mathbf{PSh}(\Delta)}_{\text{def}=\mathbf{sSets}}$$

of ι is given by the nerve functor N_\bullet of ??, ??.

02K1

2. *The Singular Simplicial Set Associated to a Topological Space.* Let

$$\iota: \Delta \hookrightarrow \Pi$$

be the functor given by $[n] \rightarrow |\Delta^n|$. Then the restricted Yoneda embedding

$$\mathfrak{Y}_\iota: \Pi \rightarrow \underbrace{\mathbf{PSh}(\Delta)}_{\text{def}=\mathbf{sSets}}$$

of ι is given by the singular simplicial set functor Sing_\bullet of ??, ??.

02K2

3. *The Coherent Nerve Functor.* Let

$$\iota: \Delta \hookrightarrow \mathbf{sCats}$$

be the functor given by $[n] \rightarrow \text{Path}(\Delta^n)$, where $\text{Path}(\Delta^n)$ is the simplicial category of ??, ??. Then the restricted Yoneda embedding

$$\mathfrak{Y}_\iota: \mathbf{sCats} \rightarrow \underbrace{\mathbf{PSh}(\Delta)}_{\text{def}=\mathbf{sSets}}$$

of ι is given by the coherent nerve functor N_\bullet^{hc} of ??, ??.

02K3

4. *Kan's Ex Functor.* Let

$$\text{sd}: \Delta \hookrightarrow \mathbf{sSets}$$

be the functor given by $[n] \rightarrow \text{Sd}(\Delta^n)$, where $\text{Sd}(\Delta^n)$ is the barycentric subdivision of Δ^n of ??. Then the restricted Yoneda embedding

$$\mathfrak{Y}_{\text{sd}}: \mathbf{sSets} \rightarrow \underbrace{\mathbf{PSh}(\Delta)}_{\text{def}=\mathbf{sSets}}$$

of sd is given by Kan's Ex functor of ??.

02K4

PROPOSITION 12.3.1.1.4 ► PROPERTIES OF THE RESTRICTED YONEDA EMBEDDING

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

02K5

1. *Interaction With Fully Faithfulness.* The following conditions are equivalent:

02K6

(a) The restricted Yoneda embedding \mathfrak{Y}_F is fully faithful.

02K7

(b) The functor F is dense (Limits and Colimits, ??).

02K8

2. *As a Left Kan Extension.* We have a natural isomorphism of functors

$$\mathfrak{Y}_F \cong \text{Lan}_F(\mathfrak{Y}),$$

PROOF 12.3.1.1.5 ► PROOF OF PROPOSITION 12.3.1.1.4

Item 1: Interaction With Fully Faithfulness

Omitted.

Item 2: As a Left Kan Extension

Omitted.

**02K9 12.3.2 The Yoneda Extension Functor**

Let $F: C \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ be a functor with C small and \mathcal{D} cocomplete.

02KA

DEFINITION 12.3.2.1.1 ► THE YONEDA EXTENSION FUNCTOR

The **Yoneda extension functor associated to F** is the left Kan extension

$$\text{Lan}_{\mathfrak{Y}}(F): \text{PSh}(C) \rightarrow \mathcal{D},$$

02KB

EXAMPLE 12.3.2.1.2 ► EXAMPLES OF YONEDA EXTENSIONS

Here are some examples of Yoneda extensions.

02KC

1. *The Homotopy Category Functor.* Let

$$\iota: \Delta \hookrightarrow \mathbf{Cats}$$

be the functor given by $[n] \rightarrow \mathfrak{n}$. Then the Yoneda extension

$$\mathrm{Lan}_{\mathbf{J}}(\iota): \underbrace{\mathrm{PSh}(\Delta)}_{\substack{\text{def} \\ \cong \mathbf{sSets}}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Cats}$$

of ι is given by the homotopy category functor Ho of $\mathbf{??}$, $\mathbf{??}$.

02KD

2. *The Geometric Realisation Functor.* Let

$$\iota: \Delta \hookrightarrow \Pi$$

be the functor given by $[n] \rightarrow |\Delta^n|$. Then the Yoneda extension

$$\mathrm{Lan}_{\mathbf{J}}(\iota): \underbrace{\mathrm{PSh}(\Delta)}_{\substack{\text{def} \\ \cong \mathbf{sSets}}} \rightarrow \Pi$$

of ι is given by the geometric realisation functor $|-|$ of $\mathbf{??}$, $\mathbf{??}$.

02KE

3. *The Path Simplicial Category Functor.* Let

$$\iota: \Delta \hookrightarrow \mathbf{sCats}$$

be the functor given by $[n] \rightarrow \mathrm{Path}(\Delta^n)$, where $\mathrm{Path}(\Delta^n)$ is the simplicial category of $\mathbf{??}$, $\mathbf{??}$. Then the Yoneda extension

$$\mathrm{Lan}_{\mathbf{J}}(\iota): \underbrace{\mathrm{PSh}(\Delta)}_{\substack{\text{def} \\ \cong \mathbf{sSets}}} \rightarrow \mathbf{sCats}$$

of ι is given by the path simplicial category functor Path of $\mathbf{??}$, $\mathbf{??}$.

02KF

4. *The Barycentric Subdivision Functor.* Let

$$\mathrm{sd}: \Delta \hookrightarrow \mathbf{sSets}$$

be the functor given by $[n] \rightarrow \mathrm{Sd}(\Delta^n)$, where $\mathrm{Sd}(\Delta^n)$ is the barycentric subdivision of Δ^n of $\mathbf{??}$. Then the Yoneda extension

$$\mathrm{Lan}_{\mathbf{J}}(\mathrm{sd}): \underbrace{\mathrm{PSh}(\Delta)}_{\substack{\text{def} \\ \cong \mathbf{sSets}}} \rightarrow \mathbf{sSets}$$

of sd is given by the barycentric subdivision functor Sd of $\mathbf{??}$.

02KG

PROPOSITION 12.3.2.1.3 ► PROPERTIES OF YONEDA EXTENSIONS

Let $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ be a functor with \mathcal{C} small and \mathcal{D} cocomplete.

02KH

1. *Functoriality.* The assignment $F \mapsto \text{Lan}_{\mathcal{J}}(F)$ defines a functor

$$\text{Lan}_{\mathcal{J}}: \text{Fun}(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D}) \rightarrow \text{Fun}(\text{PSh}(\mathcal{C}), \mathcal{D}).$$

02KJ

2. *Adjointness.* We have an adjunction¹

$$(\text{Lan}_{\mathcal{J}}(F) \dashv \mathcal{J}_F): \text{PSh}(\mathcal{C}) \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\text{Lan}_{\mathcal{J}}(F)} \\ \perp \\ \xleftarrow{\mathcal{J}_F} \end{array} \mathcal{D},$$

witnessed by a bijection

$$\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}([\text{Lan}_{\mathcal{J}}(F)](\mathcal{F}), D) \cong \text{Nat}(\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{J}_F(D)),$$

natural in $\mathcal{F} \in \text{Obj}(\text{PSh}(\mathcal{C}))$ and $D \in \text{Obj}(\mathcal{D})$.

02KK

3. *Interaction With the Yoneda Embedding.* We have a natural isomorphism of functors

$$\text{Lan}_{\mathcal{J}}(F) \circ \mathcal{J}_C \cong F,$$

02KL

4. *As a Coend.* We have

$$\begin{aligned} [\text{Lan}_{\mathcal{J}}(F)](\mathcal{F}) &\cong \int^{A \in \mathcal{C}} \text{Nat}(h_A, \mathcal{F}) \odot F(A) \\ &\cong \int^{A \in \mathcal{C}} \mathcal{F}(A) \odot F(A) \end{aligned}$$

for each $\mathcal{F} \in \text{Obj}(\text{PSh}(\mathcal{C}))$.

02KM

5. *Interaction With Tensors of Presheaves With Functors.* We have a natural isomorphism

$$\text{Lan}_{\mathcal{J}}(F) \cong (-) \odot_C F,$$

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

02KN

6. *Interaction With Finite Limits.* Let $F: C \rightarrow \mathbf{Sets}$ be a functor. The following conditions are equivalent:

02KP

(a) The functor F preserves finite limits.

02KQ

(b) The functor $\mathrm{Lan}_{\mathbf{J}}(F)$ preserves finite limits.

02KR

(c) The category of elements $\int_C F$ of F is cofiltered.

¹Applying [Item 2](#) of [Proposition 12.3.1.1.4](#), we see that this adjunction has the form

$\mathrm{Lan}_{\mathbf{J}}(F) \dashv \mathrm{Lan}_{\mathbf{J}}(F)$.

PROOF 12.3.2.1.4 ► **PROOF OF PROPOSITION 12.3.2.1.3**

Item 1: Functoriality

This follows from Kan Extensions, ?? of ??.

Item 2: Adjointness

Omitted.

Item 3: Interaction With the Yoneda Embedding

This follows from Kan Extensions, ?? of ??.

Item 4: As a Coend

This follows from Kan Extensions, ?? of ?? and [Theorem 12.1.5.1.1](#).

Item 5: Interaction With Tensors of Presheaves With Functors

This follows from [Item 4](#).

Item 6: Interaction With Finite Limits

See [\[coend-calculus\]](#).



02LS 12.4 Functor Tensor Products

02LT 12.4.1 The Tensor Product of Presheaves With Copresheaves

Let C be a category, let $\mathcal{F}: C^{\mathrm{op}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Sets}$ be a presheaf on C , and let $G: C \rightarrow \mathbf{Sets}$ be a copresheaf on C .

02LU

DEFINITION 12.4.1.1.1 ► THE TENSOR PRODUCT OF PRESHEAVES WITH COPRESHEAVES

The **tensor product** of \mathcal{F} with G is the set $\mathcal{F} \boxtimes_C G^1$ defined by

$$\mathcal{F} \boxtimes_C G \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \int^{A \in C} \mathcal{F}(A) \times G(A).$$

¹*Further Notation:* Also written simply $\mathcal{F} \boxtimes G$.

02LV

REMARK 12.4.1.1.2 ► UNWINDING DEFINITION 12.4.1.1.1

In other words, the tensor product of \mathcal{F} with G is the set $\mathcal{F} \boxtimes_C G$ defined as the coend of the functor

$$C^{\text{op}} \times C \xrightarrow{\mathcal{F} \times G} \text{Sets} \times \text{Sets} \xrightarrow{\times} \text{Sets},$$

which is equivalently the composition

$$\times \circ (\mathcal{F} \times G) \cong \mathcal{F} \diamond F,$$

in Prof.

02LW

EXAMPLE 12.4.1.1.3 ► THE TENSOR PRODUCT OF PRESHEAVES WITH COPRESHEAVES ON ONE OBJECT CATEGORIES

02LX

PROPOSITION 12.4.1.1.4 ► PROPERTIES OF TENSOR PRODUCTS OF PRESHEAVES WITH COPRESHEAVES

Let C be a category.

02LY

1. *Functoriality.* The assignments $\mathcal{F}, G, (\mathcal{F}, G) \mapsto \mathcal{F} \boxtimes_C G$ define functors

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{F} \boxtimes_C - &: \text{PSh}(C) && \rightarrow \text{Sets}, \\ - \boxtimes_C G &: \text{CoPSh}(C) && \rightarrow \text{Sets}, \\ -_1 \boxtimes_C -_2 &: \text{PSh}(C) \times \text{CoPSh}(C) && \rightarrow \text{Sets}. \end{aligned}$$

02LZ

2. *As a Composition of Profunctors.* Let C be a category and let:

- $\mathcal{F}: \mathbf{pt} \rightarrow C$ be a presheaf on C , viewed as a profunctor.
- $F: C \rightarrow \mathbf{pt}$ be a copresheaf on C , viewed as a profunctor.

We have a natural isomorphism of profunctors

$$\mathcal{F} \boxtimes_C F \cong F \diamond \mathcal{F},$$

natural in $\mathcal{F} \in \text{Obj}(\text{PSh}(C))$ and $F \in \text{Obj}(\text{CoPSh}(C))$.

02M0

3. *Interaction With Representable Presheaves.* Let \mathcal{F} be a presheaf on C . We have a bijection of sets

$$\mathcal{F} \boxtimes_C h^X \cong \mathcal{F}(X),$$

natural in $X \in \text{Obj}(C)$, giving a natural isomorphism of functors

$$\mathcal{F} \boxtimes_C h^{(-)} \cong \mathcal{F},$$

02M1

4. *Interaction With Corepresentable Copresheaves.* Let G be a copresheaf on C . We have a bijection of sets

$$h_X \boxtimes_C G \cong G(X),$$

natural in $X \in \text{Obj}(C)$, giving a natural isomorphism of functors

$$h_{(-)} \boxtimes_C G \cong G,$$

02M2

5. *Interaction With Yoneda Extensions.* Let $G: C \rightarrow \mathbf{Sets}$ be a copresheaf on C . We have a natural isomorphism

$$\mathrm{Lan}_{\mathcal{Y}}(G) \cong (-) \boxtimes_C G,$$

natural in $G \in \mathrm{Obj}(\mathrm{CoPSh}(C))$.

02M3

6. *Interaction With Contravariant Yoneda Extensions.* Let $\mathcal{F}: C^{\mathrm{op}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Sets}$ be a presheaf on C . We have a natural isomorphism

$$\mathrm{Lan}_{\mathcal{Y}}(\mathcal{F}) \cong \mathcal{F} \boxtimes_C (-),$$

natural in $\mathcal{F} \in \mathrm{Obj}(\mathrm{PSh}(C))$.

PROOF 12.4.1.1.5 ► PROOF OF PROPOSITION 12.4.1.1.4

Item 1: Functoriality

Omitted.

Item 2: As a Composition of Profunctors

Clear.

Item 3: Interaction With Representable Presheaves

This follows from ??.

Item 4: Interaction With Corepresentable Copresheaves

This follows from ??.

Item 5: Interaction With Yoneda Extensions

This is a special case of **Item 5** of **Proposition 12.3.2.1.3**.

Item 6: Interaction With Contravariant Yoneda Extensions

This is a special case of ?? of ??.



02M4 12.4.2 The Tensor of a Presheaf With a Functor

Let C be a category, let \mathcal{D} be a category with coproducts, let $\mathcal{F} : C^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \text{Sets}$ be a presheaf on C , and let $G : C \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ be a functor.

02M5 DEFINITION 12.4.2.1.1 ► THE TENSOR OF A PRESHEAF WITH A FUNCTOR

The **tensor** of \mathcal{F} with G is the object $\mathcal{F} \odot_C G^1$ of \mathcal{D} defined by

$$\mathcal{F} \odot_C G \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \int^{A \in C} \mathcal{F}(A) \odot G(A).$$

¹Further Notation: Also written simply $\mathcal{F} \odot G$.

02M6 REMARK 12.4.2.1.2 ► UNWINDING DEFINITION 12.4.2.1.1

In other words, the tensor of \mathcal{F} with G is the object $\mathcal{F} \odot_C G$ of \mathcal{D} defined as the coend of the functor

$$C^{\text{op}} \times C \xrightarrow{\mathcal{F} \times G} \text{Sets} \times \mathcal{D} \xrightarrow{\odot} \mathcal{D}.$$

02M7 PROPOSITION 12.4.2.1.3 ► PROPERTIES OF TENSORS OF PRESHEAVES WITH FUNCTORS

Let C be a category.

02M8 1. Functoriality. The assignments $\mathcal{F}, G, (\mathcal{F}, G) \mapsto \mathcal{F} \odot_C G$ define functors

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{F} \odot_C - &: \text{PSh}(C) && \rightarrow \mathcal{D}, \\ - \odot_C G &: \text{Fun}(C, \mathcal{D}) && \rightarrow \mathcal{D}, \\ -_1 \odot_C -_2 &: \text{PSh}(C) \times \text{Fun}(C, \mathcal{D}) && \rightarrow \mathcal{D}. \end{aligned}$$

02M9 2. Interaction With Corepresentable Copresheaves. We have an isomorphism

$$h_X \odot_C G \cong G(X),$$

natural in $X \in \text{Obj}(C)$, giving a natural isomorphism of functors

$$h_{(-)} \odot_C G \cong G.$$

02MA

3. *Interaction With Yoneda Extensions.* We have a natural isomorphism

$$\mathrm{Lan}_{\mathcal{Y}}(G) \cong (-) \odot_C G,$$

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

PROOF 12.4.2.1.4 ► PROOF OF PROPOSITION 12.4.2.1.3

Item 1: Functoriality

Omitted.

Item 2: Interaction With Corepresentable Copresheaves

This follows from ??.

Item 3: Interaction With Yoneda Extensions

This is a repetition of **Item 5** of **Proposition 12.3.2.1.3**, and is proved there. 

02MB 12.4.3 The Tensor of a Copresheaf With a Functor

Let C be a category, let \mathcal{D} be a category with coproducts, let $F: C \rightarrow \mathbf{Sets}$ be a copresheaf on C , and let $G: C^{\mathrm{op}} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ be a functor.

02MC

DEFINITION 12.4.3.1.1 ► THE TENSOR OF A COPRESHEAF WITH A FUNCTOR

The **tensor** of F with G is the set $F \odot_C G$ ¹ defined by

$$F \odot_C G \stackrel{\mathrm{def}}{=} \int^{A \in C} F(A) \odot G(A).$$

¹*Further Notation:* Also written simply $F \odot G$.

02MD

REMARK 12.4.3.1.2 ► UNWINDING DEFINITION 12.4.3.1.1

In other words, the tensor of F with G is the object $F \odot_C G$ of \mathcal{D} defined as the coend of the functor

$$C^{\mathrm{op}} \times C \xrightarrow{\sim} C \times C^{\mathrm{op}} \xrightarrow{F \times G} \mathbf{Sets} \times \mathcal{D} \xrightarrow{\odot} \mathcal{D}.$$

02ME

PROPOSITION 12.4.3.1.3 ► PROPERTIES OF TENSORS OF COPRESHEAVES WITH FUNCTORS

Let C be a category.

02MF

1. *Functoriality.* The assignments $F, G, (F, G) \mapsto F \odot_C G$ define functors

$$\begin{aligned} F \odot_C -: \quad & \text{CoPSh}(C) && \rightarrow \mathcal{D}, \\ - \odot_C G: \quad & \text{Fun}(C^{\text{op}}, \mathcal{D}) && \rightarrow \mathcal{D}, \\ -_1 \odot_C -_2: & \text{Fun}(C^{\text{op}}, \mathcal{D}) \times \text{CoPSh}(C) && \rightarrow \mathcal{D}. \end{aligned}$$

02MG

2. *Interaction With Corepresentable Copresheaves.* We have an isomorphism

$$h^X \odot_C G \cong G(X),$$

natural in $X \in \text{Obj}(C)$, giving a natural isomorphism of functors

$$h^{(-)} \odot_C G \cong G.$$

02MH

3. *Interaction With Contravariant Yoneda Extensions.* We have a natural isomorphism

$$\text{Lan}_{\mathfrak{F}}(G) \cong G \odot_C (-),$$

natural in $G \in \text{Obj}(\text{Fun}(C^{\text{op}}, \mathcal{D}))$.

PROOF 12.4.3.1.4 ► PROOF OF PROPOSITION 12.4.3.1.3

Item 1: Functoriality

Omitted.

Item 2: Interaction With Representable Presheaves

This follows from ??.

Item 2: Interaction With Corepresentable Copresheaves

This follows from ??.

?: Interaction With Yoneda Extensions

Omitted.

Item 3: Interaction With Contravariant Yoneda Extensions

Omitted.



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

- [JS17] Theo Johnson-Freyd and Claudia Scheimbauer. “(Op)lax Natural Transformations, Twisted Quantum Field Theories, and “Even Higher” Morita Categories”. In: *Adv. Math.* 307 (2017), pp. 147–223. ISSN: 0001-8708,1090-2082.

DOI: 10.1016/j.aim.2016.11.014. URL: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.aim.2016.11.014> (cit. on p. 7).