Leinster - Basic Category Theory - Selected problem solutions for Chapter 5

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5.1.34

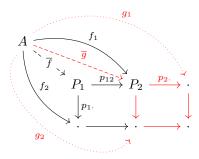
The equaliser square is not necessarily a pullback. There is no reason why any function into the X would commute with a unique function into E, composed with i.

The converse is true though, a pullback implies an equaliser, when the square is set up as in the question.

5.1.35

Suppose the right hand square is a pullback. We need to prove the left hand square is a pullback if and only if the full rectangle, which composes both squares, is a pullback.

Only if Assume the left hand square and right hand squares are pullbacks. Show full rectangle is a pullback, that is show $g_1 = p_2 \cdot p_{12}\overline{f}$, and $f_2 = p_1 \cdot \overline{f}$

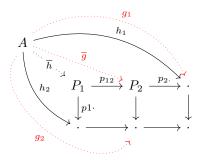


Left square pullback (black): For any f_1 and f_2 , there is a unique map \overline{f} such that the left square above commutes.

Right square pullback (red): For any g_1 and g_2 , there is a unique \overline{g} such that the red diagram commutes.

Due to the left hand square being a pullback, for each f_1 , and f_2 , there is a unique map \overline{f} such that $f_2 = p_1.\overline{f}$ and $f_1 = p_{12}\overline{f}$. Set $f_1 = \overline{g}$. From the right hand side being a pullback, $g_1 = p_2.\overline{g} = p_2.p_{12}\overline{f}$ as required.

If Assume the outer rectangle and right hand square are both pullbacks. Show the left hand side square is a pullback, that is $f_1 = p_{12}\overline{h}$, and $h_2 = p_1.\overline{h}$, for any f_1, h_2 .



Full rectangle pullback (black): For any h_1 and h_2 , there is a unique \overline{h} such that the black diagram commutes.

Since the right hand square is a pullback, for any g_1 , there is a unique \overline{g} such that $g_1 = p_2.\overline{g}$. Since the rectangle is a pullback, for any h_1 , there exists a unique \overline{h} such that $p_2.p_{12}\overline{h} = h_1$, and $p_1.\overline{h} = h_2$. Set $g_1 = h_1$, then $p_2.p_{12}\overline{h} = p_2.\overline{g}$, so $p_{12}\overline{h} = \overline{g}$. \overline{g} can be regarded as an arbitrary f_1 , as there is a one to one correspondence with \overline{g} and the arbitrary choice of g_1 , or equivalently, h_1 .

5.1.36

- (a) If $(L \xrightarrow{p_I} D(I))_{i \in I}$ is a limit cone, there exists a unique h such that $p_I \circ h = f_I$. However we are given that $p_I \circ h = p_I \circ h' = f_I$, so h must equal h'.
- (b) When I is the two object discrete category, say $X \times Y$, $A = \mathbf{Set}$, and A = 1, the statement in (a) says if x = x', y = y', then (x, y) = (x', y').

5.1.37

For any $A \in \mathcal{A}$, and all maps $I \xrightarrow{u} J$, a cone on D is

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
A & \xrightarrow{f_I} & D(I) \\
& & \downarrow_{D_U} \\
& & & D(J)
\end{array} \tag{1}$$

A limit of D is a cone $(L \xrightarrow{p_I} D(I))_{I \in \mathbf{I}}$, such that for any cone on D with vertex A (1), there exists a unique map $\overline{f} \colon A \to L$ such that $p_J \circ \overline{f} = f_J$, for all $J \in \mathbf{I}$.

We have the set $\{(x_I)_{I \in \mathbf{I}} | x_I \in D(I) \text{ for all } I \in \mathbf{I} \text{ and } (Du)(x_I) = x_J, \text{ for all } I \xrightarrow{u} J \text{ in } \mathbf{I}\}$. The product limit formed is easier seen graphically. There is a family of maps for each $I \in \mathbf{I}$, each with

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
1 & \xrightarrow{f_I} x_I \in D(I) \\
& \downarrow^{f_J} & \downarrow^{Du} \\
& x_J \in D(J)
\end{array}$$

Then fix $p_J = Du$, $\overline{f} = f_I$, and we have from the definition of a cone and (1) above $p_J \circ \overline{f} = f_J$, for all $J \in \mathbf{I}$. \overline{f} is also unique. To see this assume there are two maps \overline{f} and \overline{f}' , that make the above triangle commute. Then $Du \circ \overline{f} = Du \circ \overline{f}'$, for all maps $I \to J$. Set I = J to retrieve $\overline{f} = \overline{f}'$. This family of maps we have described is precisely the definition of a product given in 5.1.7. So the set of x_I can be written $\prod_{I \in \mathbf{I}} D(I)$.

So if any cone exists in **Set**, then a limit exists. Does a cone always exist in **Set**?

5.1.38

(a) We are given maps s and t,

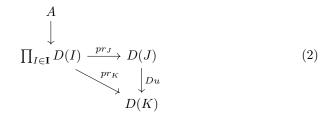
$$\prod_{I \in \mathbf{I}} D(I) \stackrel{s}{\underset{t}{\Longrightarrow}} \prod_{J \stackrel{u}{\longrightarrow} K \text{ in } \mathbf{I}} D(K)$$

The u-component of s is the composite

$$\prod_{I \in \mathbf{I}} D(I) \xrightarrow{pr_J} D(J) \xrightarrow{Du} D(K)$$

The *u*-component of t is pr_K .

The fork property of the equalizer, says that the below diagram commutes for all maps $u, J \xrightarrow{u} K$ in **I**, essentially that maps $(A \to D(J))_{J \in \mathbf{I}}$ are a cone on D.



The other important property of the equalizer is that for any fork, or as above, cone, there exists a unique map $\overline{f}: A \to L$ such that

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
A \\
\downarrow \overline{f} \\
L & \longrightarrow \prod_{I \in \mathbf{I}} D(I)
\end{array}$$
(3)

commutes.

Now $(L \xrightarrow{pr_J \circ i} D(J))_{J \in \mathbf{J}}$ is a cone, as it factors through $\prod_{I \in \mathbf{I}} D(I)$, as A does in (2). (3) also implies $pr_J \circ i \circ \overline{f} = f_J$ for all J, where $f_J : A \to D(J) = pr_J \circ f$.

(b) The definition of a finite limit is a limit of shape I for some finite category I. So to show a limit is finite, we must show the diagram the limit maps into is indexed by a finite category. Finite categories have only finitely many maps. So binary products, terminal objects, equalizers and pullbacks are all finite limits. From part (a) we know if \mathcal{A} has all products and equalizers then \mathcal{A} has all limits. If we however restrict the products to binary products, then by definition limits of \mathcal{A} will be finite.

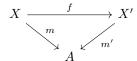
5.1.39

A pullback (5.7) from page 114, with Z as the terminal object, collapses to a binary product. The key point here is that the limit is unique up to isomorphism, so limits in a category with pullbacks and a terminal object are binary products, and hence finite.

5.1.40

We are given $X \xrightarrow{m} A$, and $X' \xrightarrow{m'} A$ are monics in **Set**. **Monic**(A) is the full subcategory of the slice category \mathcal{A}/A , whose objects have as their maps the monics. Recall in \mathcal{A}/A , objects are tuples (X, m) such that the following

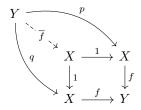
diagram commutes



Isomorphic implies equal images: Note that if m and m' are isomorphic, then f must be a bijection. The bijection can then be written $m = m' \circ f$, and $m' = m \circ f^{-1}$. Note also the mm and m', by virtue of them as monics, are injective. **Intuition:** We can essentially roundtrip on the triangle above, starting from an element in the image of m (or conversely m'), and map it to an element in the image of m' (respectively m). Explicitly we can write $\{m(x), x \in X\} = \{m' \circ f(x), x \in X\} = \{m'(x), x \in X'\}$.

Equal images implies isomorphic: If images of m and m' are equal, $|m'^{-1}(A)| = |m^{-1}(A)|$, which implies a bijection between X and X', and hence a bijection between maps m and m' as in the previous paragraph.

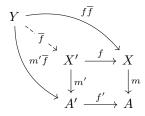
5.1.41



From the pullback diagram, for all commuting maps, that is for all $p, q, f \circ p = f \circ q \implies p = q$, if and only if the diagram above is a pullback.

5.1.42

The given square is a pullback, which means for a fixed f, m, f', m', any other commuting square factors through it as follows.



We know from the properties of a pullback that $\overline{f}: Y \to X'$ is unique for each distinct pair of maps, $Y \to X$, and $Y \to A'$, such that the diagram above commutes.

In the following we use the contrapositive form of monic, so for maps x, x', f is monic if $x \neq x' \implies f \circ x \neq f \circ x'$.

Now we know m is monic, so consider two distinct \overline{f}_1 and \overline{f}_2 in respect of two commuting diagrams as above. There must indeed be two distinct $mf\overline{f}_1 \neq mf\overline{f}_2$, such that each respective diagram commutes. Since the outer arrows commute, $mf\overline{f}_1 = f'm'\overline{f}_1$, and $mf\overline{f}_2 = f'm'\overline{f}_2$. So $f'm'\overline{f}_1 \neq f'm'\overline{f}_2 \implies m'\overline{f}_1 \neq m'\overline{f}_2$, and m' is monic.

5.2.21

The equaliser is a map f below such that si = ti, together with a universal property. The coequaliser is a map p satisfying ps = pt, and universal with this property.

$$E \xrightarrow{i} X \xrightarrow{s} Y \xrightarrow{p} C$$

If \underline{f} is isomorphic then there is a \overline{f} such that $f\overline{f}=1_E, \overline{f}f=1_X,$ so $sf\overline{f}=s=tf\overline{f}=t.$

In the opposite direction, we need to show if s = t, then the equaliser exists and is isomorphic. To do this we will use the universal property of the equaliser. Specifically, any f that is a fork factors through i as below

$$E \xrightarrow{i} X \xrightarrow{s} Y$$

$$\downarrow f$$

$$A$$

Since s=t we can choose any function f and it will be a fork, and hence an equaliser exists. Immediately we can see that if we choose $f=1_X$ then we have $i\circ \bar{i}=1_X$, where \bar{i} is the unique morphism depicted by \bar{f} in the diagram below. Now we need to show $\bar{i}\circ i=1_E$. Put $f=i\bar{i}i$ below, then there is a unique h such that

$$i\bar{i}i = ih.$$
 (4)

This implies $h = \bar{i}i$. Substituting $i\bar{i} = 1_X$ into (4) yields $h = 1_E$. So $\bar{i}i = 1_E$. Proof for the coequaliser works the same, but dualised.

5.2.22

(a) The coequaliser of

$$X \xrightarrow{f} X \tag{5}$$

in **Set** is described as follows. Let \sim be the equivalence relation between domain and codomain of $f, x \sim fx$, for all $x \in X$. The coequaliser (5) is then the quotient map $p: X \to X/\sim$.

(b) WIP

5.2.23

(a) We have the inclusion $f:(\mathbb{N},+,0)\to(\mathbb{Z},+,0)$. If $g\circ f=g'\circ f$, we need to show g=g'. $g\circ f$ is essentially a group homomorphism restricted to a domain of \mathbb{N} , whereas g is the respective homomorphism on the expanded domain of \mathbb{Z} . The idea here is to stitch together a group homomorphism on the expanded domain using the group homomorphism on \mathbb{N} .

Define, for $x \in \mathbb{N}$

$$h(x) = \begin{cases} g \circ f(x), & x >= 0, \\ g \circ f(-x), & x < 0 \end{cases}$$

and define h' analogously.

Since $g \circ f(-x) = -g \circ f(x) = -g' \circ f(x) = g' \circ f(-x)$, then h = h' on $\{ \forall z \in \mathbb{Z} \}$.

(b) We have $i: \mathbb{Z} \to \mathbb{Q}$, and hi = h'i. We need to show h = h', on the full domain of \mathbb{Q} . A rational number is defined as $p/q, p, q \in \mathbb{Z}, q \neq 0$. The answer is a similar concept to (a), stitch together a ring homomorphism from the hi on \mathbb{Z} .

Define $h(x) = h(p/q) = h(p)h(1/q) = \frac{hi(p)}{hi(q)}$, and it follows that h = h' as required.