

On the Category Theoretic Implications on Induced Representation of Finite Groups

Part 1: Categories

Atonu Roy Chowdhury

BRAC University

atonuroychowdhury@gmail.com

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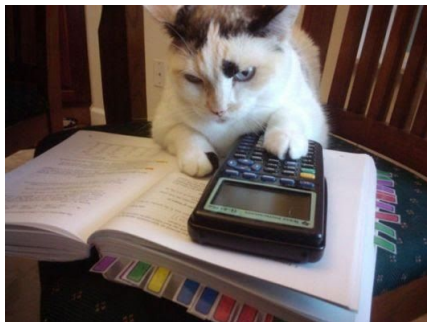
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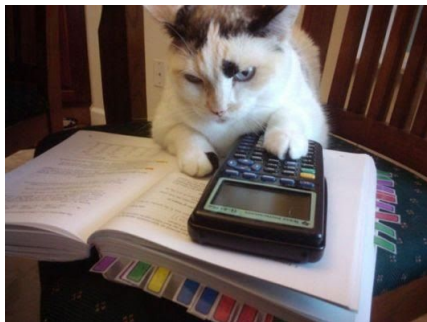
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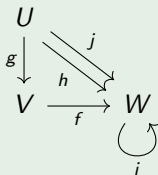
Sadly, no! :(

What do we do in math?

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In Linear Algebra

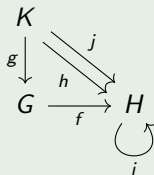
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In Group Theory

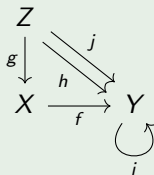
we study groups and group homomorphisms between them



What do we do in math?

In Topology

we study topological spaces and continuous functions between them



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Essentially, we study structures (i.e. groups, topological spaces, vector spaces) and maps between them.

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 - Composition of group homomorphisms is a group homomorphism:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} G_1 & \xrightarrow{f_1} & G_2 & \xrightarrow{f_2} & G_3 \\ & \searrow & & \nearrow & \\ & & f_2 \circ f_1 & & \end{array}$$

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- Composition of linear maps is a linear map:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} U & \xrightarrow{f_1} & V & \xrightarrow{f_2} & W \\ & \searrow & & \nearrow & \\ & & f_2 \circ f_1 & & \end{array}$$

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Category theory is the bird's eye view of mathematics.

— Tom Leinster

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- identity arrow is the identity of composition: for any $f : A \rightarrow B$, $1_B \circ f = f = f \circ 1_A$.

Caution!

Objects need not be sets, and arrows need not be functions!

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$\mathcal{C}(G)_0 = \{G\}$, $\mathcal{C}(G) = G$. In other words, there is only one object, G itself. The arrows are the elements of G .

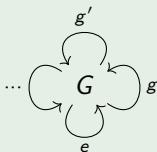
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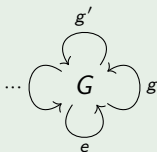
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The identity arrow $\mathbb{1}_G$ is the identity element e of G . The composition of arrows is given by the group operation: $g_1 \circ g_2 = g_1 g_2$.

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The only structure on the categories we have are composition of arrows and the identity arrow.

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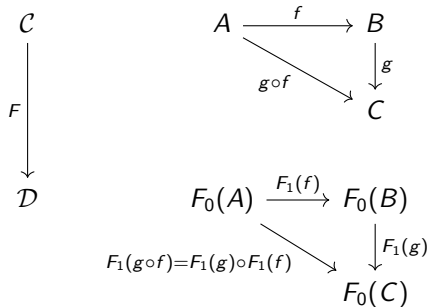
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We shall often abuse the notation by writing $F(f) : F(A) \rightarrow F(B)$.

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What about composition?

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Given $A \in \mathcal{C}_0$, we can just define $(G \circ F)_0(A) = G_0(F_0(A))$. For an arrow $f : A \rightarrow B$ in \mathcal{C} , we can define $(G \circ F)_1(f) = G_1(F_1(f))$.

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Then we have the category of all categories, **Cat**.

Making New categories From Old Ones

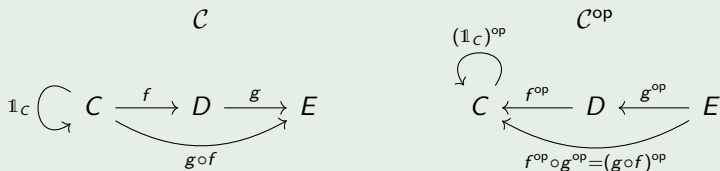
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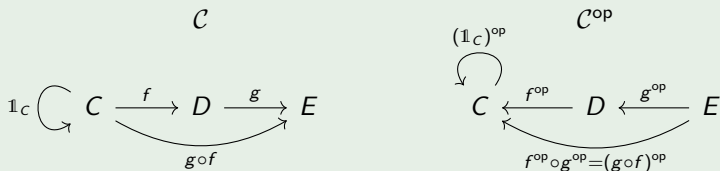
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Often we use this interpretation that an arrow $f : X \rightarrow Y$ in \mathcal{C}^{op} is really an arrow $f : Y \rightarrow X$ in \mathcal{C} . This is an abuse of notation since we are dropping the superscript op from the arrows in \mathcal{C}^{op} .

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- and the arrows are

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where $f : C \rightarrow C'$ and $g : D \rightarrow D'$ are arrows in \mathcal{C} and \mathcal{D} , respectively.

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$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathbb{1}_{\mathcal{C}} \circlearrowleft C & \xrightarrow{f} C' \xrightarrow{f'} C'' & \mathbb{1}_{\mathcal{D}} \circlearrowleft D \xrightarrow{g} D' \xrightarrow{g'} D'' \\ & \searrow f' \circ f \nearrow & \searrow g' \circ g \nearrow \\ \mathbb{1}_{(C,D)} = (\mathbb{1}_C, \mathbb{1}_D) \circlearrowleft (C, D) & \xrightarrow{(f,g)} (C', D') \xrightarrow{(f',g')} (C'', D'') & \\ & \searrow (f',g') \circ (f,g) = (f' \circ f, g' \circ g) \nearrow & \end{array}$$

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We can also form a category with the arrows of a category \mathcal{C} . It is known as the **arrow category** of \mathcal{C} , and is denoted as $\text{Arr}(\mathcal{C})$. The objects are arrows of \mathcal{C} . What are the arrows of $\text{Arr}(\mathcal{C})$?

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Suppose $f : A \rightarrow B, g : C \rightarrow D \in \text{Arr}(\mathcal{C})_0$. An arrow $x : f \rightarrow g$ in the arrow category is a pair of arrows $x_1 : A \rightarrow C$ and $x_2 : B \rightarrow D$ such that the following diagram commutes:

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Identity and composition are defined in the obvious way.

Hom-sets

The categories we see in our everyday life are **locally small** categories, i.e. $\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(A, B)$ are sets. We shall not worry about it anymore and assume that all categories are locally small.

Hom-sets

For a locally small category \mathcal{C} , and $X \in \mathcal{C}_0$, we have a functor

$$\mathrm{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(X, -) : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathbf{Sets},$$

called the Hom functor.

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Given an arrow $f : A \rightarrow B$ in \mathcal{C} , the Hom functor is supposed to take it to a set function $f^* : \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(X, A) \rightarrow \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(X, B)$. How does f^* work?

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$$\begin{array}{ccc} X & & \\ g \downarrow & \searrow f^*(g)=f \circ g & \\ A & \xrightarrow{f} & B \end{array}$$

Similarly can we define a functor

$$\mathrm{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(-, X) : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathbf{Sets}?$$

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Given an arrow $f : A \rightarrow B$, seemingly there's an issue with defining $f_* : \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(A, X) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(B, X)$.

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So $\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(-, X) : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathbf{Sets}$ reverses the direction of arrows?

Hom-sets

The solution is tweaking the domain category to be the opposite category of \mathcal{C} .

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The functor $\mathrm{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(-, X)$ takes the arrow $f^{\mathrm{op}} : B \rightarrow A$ to a set function $f_* : \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(B, X) \rightarrow \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(A, X)$.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A & \xrightarrow{f} & B \\ f_*(g) = g \circ f \downarrow & \swarrow g & \\ X & & \end{array}$$

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Generalizing further, we define the functor

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$$\begin{array}{ccc} A & & X \\ f \downarrow & \nearrow x & \downarrow g \\ B & & Y \end{array}$$

Given $x \in \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(B, X)$, we define $\mathrm{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(f^{\mathrm{op}}, g) = g \circ x \circ f$.

Isomorphisms

We define

- isomorphism between groups,
- isomorphism between vector spaces,
- homeomorphism between topological spaces,
- diffeomorphisms between smooth manifolds,
- and so on . . .

Category theory captures this pattern of “sameness” as well.

Definition 3

An arrow $f : A \rightarrow B$ in a category \mathcal{C} is called an **isomorphism** if there exists another arrow $g : B \rightarrow A$ such that $f \circ g = \mathbb{1}_B$ and $g \circ f = \mathbb{1}_A$.
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This definition aligns with our definition of isomorphisms in other categories.

Isomorphism and Functors

Suppose A and B are isomorphic objects in a category \mathcal{C} . Let $F : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ be a functor. Then are $F(A)$ and $F(B)$ isomorphic objects in the category \mathcal{D} ?

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Therefore, functors preserve isomorphisms.

Isomorphism and Hom-sets

Suppose A and B are isomorphic objects in a category. Then for any other object X , since functors preserve isomorphisms, $\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(X, A)$ and $\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(X, B)$ are isomorphic objects in **Sets**.

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Isomorphism and Hom-sets

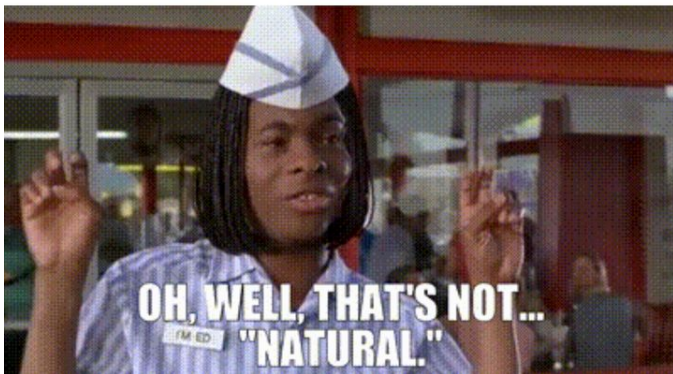
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Does the converse hold? If $\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(A, X)$ and $\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(B, X)$ are also isomorphic objects in **Sets**, then can we say that A and B are isomorphic objects in \mathcal{C} ?

Isomorphisms

When someone says, "a finite dimensional vector space V is isomorphic to its dual V^* "



Natural Transformation

Given two categories \mathcal{C} and \mathcal{D} , we can form the functor category $\text{Fun}(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D})$ whose objects are all the functors from \mathcal{C} to \mathcal{D} . What should be the arrows in this category?

This is similar to the construction of arrow category.

Natural Transformation

Definition 4

Let $F, G : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ be two functors. Then a **natural transformation** $\eta : F \Rightarrow G$ is a family of arrows

$$\{\eta_X : F(X) \rightarrow G(X)\}_{X \in \mathcal{C}_0}$$

in \mathcal{D} such that for every arrow $f : X \rightarrow Y$ in \mathcal{C} , the following diagram commutes:

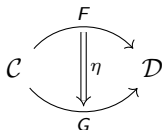
$$\begin{array}{ccc} F(X) & \xrightarrow{F(f)} & F(Y) \\ \eta_X \downarrow & & \downarrow \eta_Y \\ G(X) & \xrightarrow{G(f)} & G(Y) \end{array}$$

In other words, $\eta_Y \circ F(f) = G(f) \circ \eta_X$.

Given such a natural transformation $\eta : F \Rightarrow G$, the arrow η_X is called the component of η at X .

Natural Transformation

If $F, G : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ are functors, and $\eta : F \Rightarrow G$ is a natural transformation, it is denoted as follows



Natural Transformation

Why do we care about natural transformations?

Natural Transformation

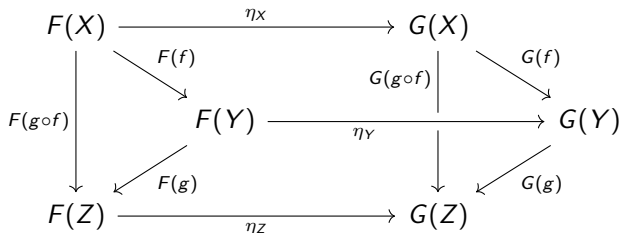
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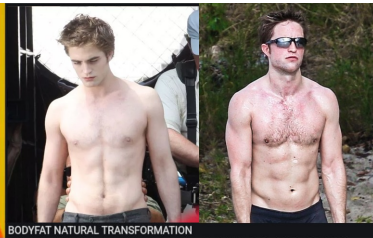
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Natural Transformation



BODYFAT NATURAL TRANSFORMATION



If F and G are functors between the categories C and D , then a **natural transformation** η from F to G is a family of morphisms that satisfies two requirements.

1. The natural transformation must associate, to every object X in C , a morphism $\eta_X : F(X) \rightarrow G(X)$ between objects of D . The morphism η_X is called the **component** of η at X .
2. Components must be such that for every morphism $f : X \rightarrow Y$ in C we have:

$$\eta_Y \circ F(f) = G(f) \circ \eta_X$$

The last equation can conveniently be expressed by the **commutative diagram**

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 X & & F(X) & \xrightarrow{\eta_X} & G(X) \\
 f \downarrow & & F(f) \downarrow & & \downarrow G(f) \\
 Y & & F(Y) & \xrightarrow{\eta_Y} & G(Y)
 \end{array}$$

Natural Isomorphism

Definition 5

Let $F, G : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ be functors. A natural transformation $\eta : F \Rightarrow G$ is called a **natural isomorphism** if all its components

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Since natural transformations are arrows in the functor category $\text{Fun}(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D})$, natural isomorphisms are just isomorphisms in $\text{Fun}(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D})$.

Natural Isomorphism

What do we mean when we say V and V^{**} are “naturally isomorphic” (when V is a finite dimensional vector space)? Where is the natural isomorphism here?

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Let $\mathbf{Vect}_{\mathbb{K}}^{\text{fin}}$ be the category of all finite dimensional vector spaces over the field \mathbb{K} . Consider the functors $\mathbb{1}_{\mathbf{Vect}_{\mathbb{K}}^{\text{fin}}}, (-)^{**} : \mathbf{Vect}_{\mathbb{K}}^{\text{fin}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Vect}_{\mathbb{K}}^{\text{fin}}$.

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The second functor sends a vector space V to its double dual V^{**} , and a linear map $f : V \rightarrow W$ to $(f^T)^T : V^{**} \rightarrow W^{**}$.

Natural Isomorphism

Then we can define an isomorphism $\eta_V : V \rightarrow V^{**}$ such that

$$\eta_V(\mathbf{v})(\varphi) = \varphi(\mathbf{v}),$$

for $\mathbf{v} \in V$ and $\varphi \in V^*$.

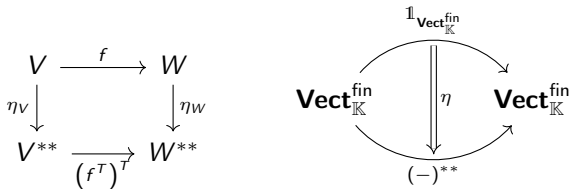
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Then $\{\eta_V : V \rightarrow V^{**}\}_{V \in (\mathbf{Vect}_{\mathbb{K}}^{\text{fin}})_0}$ is a natural isomorphism, because the following diagram commutes:



Adjoint

Isomorphism	Equivalence	Adjoint
$F : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D},$ $G : \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{C},$ s.t. $F \circ G = \mathbb{1}_{\mathcal{D}}$ and $G \circ F = \mathbb{1}_{\mathcal{C}}$	$F : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D},$ $G : \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{C},$ s.t. natural isomorphisms $F \circ G \Rightarrow \mathbb{1}_{\mathcal{D}}$ and $G \circ F \Rightarrow \mathbb{1}_{\mathcal{C}}$	$F : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D},$ $G : \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{C},$ s.t. natural transformations $F \circ G \Rightarrow \mathbb{1}_{\mathcal{D}}$ and $G \circ F \Leftarrow \mathbb{1}_{\mathcal{C}}$

Adjoint

Definition 6

Two functors $F : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ and $G : \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ are called **adjoints** to each other if

$$\mathrm{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F(C), D) \cong \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(C, G(D)) \text{ naturally.}$$

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In other words, there exists a natural isomorphism η :

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If this happens, we call F a **left adjoint** of G ; and we call G a **right adjoint** of F . We write this as $F \dashv G$.

Adjoint Example

Tensor product of vector spaces

The **tensor product** of two \mathbb{K} -vector spaces U and V is another \mathbb{K} -vector space $U \otimes V$ equipped with a bilinear map $\theta : U \times V \rightarrow U \otimes V$ that is *universal*:

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$$\begin{array}{ccc} U \times V & \xrightarrow{\theta} & U \otimes V \\ \forall \text{ bilinear } \beta \downarrow & \swarrow \exists! \alpha & \\ W & & \end{array}$$

In other words, $\beta = \alpha \circ \theta$.

Adjoint Example

So we have a 1-1 correspondence

$$\{\text{linear maps } U \otimes V \rightarrow W\} \leftrightarrow \{\text{bilinear maps } U \times V \rightarrow W\}.$$

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In other words,

$$\mathrm{Hom}(U \otimes V, W) \cong \mathrm{Hom}(U, \mathrm{Hom}(V, W)).$$

Does that mean $- \otimes V$ and $\mathrm{Hom}(V, -) : \mathbf{Vect}_{\mathbb{K}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Vect}_{\mathbb{K}}$ are adjoint functors?

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Does that mean $- \otimes V$ and $\mathrm{Hom}(V, -) : \mathbf{Vect}_{\mathbb{K}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Vect}_{\mathbb{K}}$ are adjoint functors? Well, not yet. We need to show the naturality of this isomorphism.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathbf{Vect}_{\mathbb{K}}}(- \otimes V, -) & \\ \swarrow & \downarrow \eta & \searrow \\ \mathbf{Vect}_{\mathbb{K}}^{\mathrm{op}} \times \mathbf{Vect}_{\mathbb{K}} & & \mathbf{Sets} \\ \swarrow & \downarrow & \searrow \\ & \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathbf{Vect}_{\mathbb{K}}}(-, \mathrm{Hom}(V, -)) & \end{array}$$

Adjoint Example

Given an arrow $(\alpha_1^{\text{op}}, \alpha_2) : (U, W) \rightarrow (U', W)$ in $\mathbf{Vect}_{\mathbb{K}}^{\text{op}} \times \mathbf{Vect}_{\mathbb{K}}$, we need to show the commutativity of the following diagram in the category **Sets**:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Hom}_{\mathbf{Vect}_{\mathbb{K}}} (U \otimes V, W) & \xrightarrow{\eta_{(U, W)}} & \text{Hom}_{\mathbf{Vect}_{\mathbb{K}}} (U, \text{Hom}(V, W)) \\ \downarrow F(\alpha_1^{\text{op}}, \alpha_2) & & \downarrow G(\alpha_1^{\text{op}}, \alpha_2) \\ \text{Hom}_{\mathbf{Vect}_{\mathbb{K}}} (U' \otimes V, W') & \xrightarrow{\eta_{(U', W')}} & \text{Hom}_{\mathbf{Vect}_{\mathbb{K}}} (U', \text{Hom}(V, W')) \end{array}$$

where $F = \text{Hom}_{\mathbf{Vect}_{\mathbb{K}}} (- \otimes V, -)$ and $G = \text{Hom}_{\mathbf{Vect}_{\mathbb{K}}} (-, \text{Hom}(V, -))$.

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where $F = \text{Hom}_{\mathbf{Vect}_{\mathbb{K}}} (- \otimes V, -)$ and $G = \text{Hom}_{\mathbf{Vect}_{\mathbb{K}}} (-, \text{Hom}(V, -))$.

And this diagram indeed commutes! So $- \otimes V$ is the left adjoint of $\text{Hom}(V, -)$.

Adjoint

Are adjoints unique? Can a functor $F : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ have two right adjoints $G_1, G_2 : \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$?

Adjoint

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Therefore,

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Does this mean G_1 and G_2 are isomorphic functors?

Yoneda Lemma



Yoneda Lemma

Theorem 6 (Yoneda Lemma)

For any functor $F : \mathcal{C}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Sets}$ and any $X \in \mathcal{C}_0$, the natural transformations $\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(-, X) \Rightarrow F$ are in bijection with the elements of the set $F(X)$. In other words,

$$\text{Hom}_{\text{Fun}(\mathcal{C}^{\text{op}}, \mathbf{Sets})}(\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(-, X), F) \cong F(X),$$

and this isomorphism is natural in both F and X .

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The last line means that we have a natural isomorphism

$$\begin{array}{ccc} (X, F) \mapsto \text{Hom}_{\text{Fun}(\mathcal{C}^{\text{op}}, \mathbf{Sets})}(\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(-, X), F) & & \\ \text{C}^{\text{op}} \times \text{Fun}(\mathcal{C}^{\text{op}}, \mathbf{Sets}) & \xrightarrow{\quad \eta \quad} & \mathbf{Sets} \\ (X, F) \mapsto F(X) & & \end{array}$$

Yoneda Lemma

What does it even mean?

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Definition 7

A functor $F : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ is *fully faithful* if the set-functions

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

are bijective for all $X, Y \in \mathcal{C}_0$.

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Theorem 7

Let $F : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ be a fully faithful functor. Then $X \cong Y$ in \mathcal{C} if and only if $F(X) \cong F(Y)$ in \mathcal{D} .

Corollary 8

The **Yoneda embedding**

$$\mathcal{Y} : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \text{Fun}(\mathcal{C}^{\text{op}}, \mathbf{Sets})$$

$$X \mapsto \text{Hom}(-, X)$$

$$(f : X \rightarrow Y) \mapsto (f_* : \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(-, X) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(-, Y))$$

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Yoneda Lemma

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is *fully faithful*.

Proof.

Take $F = \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(-, Y)$ in Yoneda Lemma. This gives us

$$\text{Hom}_{\text{Fun}(\mathcal{C}^{\text{op}}, \mathbf{Sets})}(\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(-, X), \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(-, Y)) \cong \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(X, Y).$$

Isomorphism in sets is bijection!!



Yoneda Lemma

Corollary 9

In a category \mathcal{C} , $X \cong Y$ if and only if $\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(-, X)$ and $\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(-, Y)$ are naturally isomorphic functors.

Yoneda Lemma

Corollary 9

In a category \mathcal{C} , $X \cong Y$ if and only if $\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(-, X)$ and $\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(-, Y)$ are naturally isomorphic functors.

Proof.

Because Yoneda embedding $X \mapsto \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(-, X)$ is fully faithful!!! ■

Yoneda Lemma

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We usually use this variant of Yoneda lemma to prove isomorphisms.

Yoneda Lemma Summarized

Interchanging \mathcal{C} and \mathcal{C}^{op} throughout, we get the following result:

Corollary 10

In a category \mathcal{C} , $X \cong Y$ if and only if $\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(X, -)$ and $\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(Y, -)$ are naturally isomorphic functors.

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Proof.

$$X \cong Y \text{ in } \mathcal{C} \iff X \cong Y \text{ in } \mathcal{C}^{\text{op}}$$



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Interchanging \mathcal{C} and \mathcal{C}^{op} throughout, we get the following result:

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In a category \mathcal{C} , $X \cong Y$ if and only if $\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(X, -)$ and $\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(Y, -)$ are naturally isomorphic functors.

Proof.

$$\begin{aligned} X \cong Y \text{ in } \mathcal{C} &\iff X \cong Y \text{ in } \mathcal{C}^{\text{op}} \\ &\iff \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}^{\text{op}}}(-, X) \cong \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}^{\text{op}}}(-, Y) \end{aligned}$$



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$$\begin{aligned} X \cong Y \text{ in } \mathcal{C} &\iff X \cong Y \text{ in } \mathcal{C}^{\text{op}} \\ &\iff \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}^{\text{op}}}(-, X) \cong \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}^{\text{op}}}(-, Y) \\ &\iff \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(X, -) \cong \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(Y, -). \end{aligned}$$



Yoneda Lemma Summarized



Yoneda Lemma



Tell me who your
Hom-ies are and I'll
tell you who you are

References

- ① *Category Theory*, by Steve Awodey
- ② *Category Theory in Context*, by Emily Riehl
- ③ *Basic Category Theory*, by Tom Leinster
- ④ *Categories for the Working Mathematician*, by Saunders Mac Lane
- ⑤ Math3ma blog: <https://www.math3ma.com/blog/the-yoneda-lemma>
- ⑥ Ncatlab: <https://ncatlab.org/nlab/show/Yoneda+lemma>

Thank you for joining!

The slides are available in my webpage

https://atonurc.github.io/assets/catrep_talk_1.pdf

