Algebraic Topology

Alec Zabel-Mena

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Chapter 1

Categories.

1.1 Categories and Subcategories.

Definition. A **category** $\mathcal{C}$ is a collection of a class of **objects**, denoted $\text{obj}\,\mathcal{C}$ a collection of sets of **morphisms** $\text{Hom}\,(A, B)$ for each $A, B \in \text{obj}\,\mathcal{C}$ and a binary operation $\circ : \text{Hom}\,(A, B) \times \text{Hom}\,(B, C) \to \text{Hom}\,(A, C)$, defined by $(f, g) \to g \circ f$, called **composition** such that:

(1) Each $\text{Hom}\,(A, B)$ is pairwise disjoint for all $A, B \in \text{obj}\,\mathcal{C}$.

(2) $\circ$ is associative when defined; that is if either $(g \circ f) \circ h$ or $g \circ (f \circ h)$ are defined, then $(g \circ f) \circ h = g \circ (f \circ h)$, for morphisms f, g, h.

(3) For each $A \in \text{obj}\,\mathcal{C}$, there exists an **identity** morphism $1_A \in \text{Hom}\,(A, A)$ such that for each $B, C \in \text{obj}\,\mathcal{C}$, $1_A \circ f = f$ and $g \circ 1_A = g$ for each morphism $f \in \text{Hom}\,(B, A)$ and $g \in \text{Hom}\,(A, C)$.

We denote morphisms by $f : A \to B$ instead of $f \in (A, B)$.

Definition. Let $\mathcal{C}$ be a category and $f : A \to B$ a morphism in $\mathcal{C}$. We call A and B the **domain** and **codomain** of f, respectively, and we call the set $G_f = \{(a, f(a)) : a \in A\} \subseteq B$ the **graph** of f.

Example 1.1. (1) The category of all sets Set has as onjects the class of all sets. The morphisms in Set are all functions $f : A \to B$ where A and B are sets. The composition of Set is the usual composition of functions.

(2) The category of all topological spaces Top has as objects all topological spaces, and as morphisms all continuous maps $f : Y \to Y$ from a space X to a space Y. The composition is the usual composition.

(3) The category of all groups, Grp has as objects all groups and as morphisms all homomorphisms $f : G \to H$, under the usual composition.

(4) The category of rings with unit Rng has as objects all rings with unit, along with all ring homomorphisms $f : R \to K$ to be the morphisms under the usual composition.

Definition. We call a category a **subcategory** of a category $\mathcal{C}$ if $\mathrm{obj}\,\mathcal{A} \subseteq \mathrm{obj}\,\mathcal{C}$,$\mathrm{Hom}_{\mathcal{A}}(A, B) \subseteq \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(A, B)$ for all $A, B \in \mathcal{C}$, and $\mathcal{A}$ inherits the composition of $\mathcal{C}$.

Example 1.2. (1) The category of all pairs of topological spaces (X, A) where A is a subspace of X, whose morphisms are pairs of continuous maps $f = (f_1, f_2)$ such that $f_1 i = j f_2$ where $i : A \to X$ and $j : B \to Y$ are inclusions, is a subcategory of Top. We denote this category Top^2.

$$\begin{tikzcd}
A \arrow[r, hook, "i"] \arrow[d, "f_2"'] & X \arrow[d, "f_1"] \\
B \arrow[r, hook, "j"'] & Y
\end{tikzcd}$$

(2) The category of all **pointed spaces**, Top* is defined with the objects being all pairs $(X, \{x_0\})$, where $x_0 \in X$ with the morphisms of Top^2. Top* is a subcategory of Top^2. We call x_0 the **base point**, and we call the morphisms of Top* **pointed maps**.

(2) The category of all Abelian groups, Ab is a subcategory of Grp. Likewise, the category of all commutative rings with unit is a subcategory of Rng.

1.2 Commutative Diagrams and Congruences.

Definition. A **diagram** in a category is a directed graph with its vertex set a subset of objects, and whose edge set are morphisms between those objects. We call a diagram **commutative** if for any pair of objects, every pair of morphisms between those objects are equal. That is if A, A' and B, B' are pairs of objects with pairs of morphisms $f : A \to B$, $f : A \to A'$ and $f' : A' \to B'$, $g' : B \to B'$ we have that $g \circ f' = f \circ g'$

$$\begin{tikzcd}
A \arrow[r, "g"] \arrow[d, "f"'] & A' \arrow[d, "f'"] \\
B \arrow[r, "g"'] & B'
\end{tikzcd}$$

Definition. A **congruence** on a category $\mathcal{C}$ is an equivalence relation $\sim$ on morphisms in $\mathcal{C}$ such that:

(1) If $f \in \mathrm{Hom}(A, B)$, and $f \sim f'$, then $f' \in \mathrm{Hom}(A, B)$.

(2) If $f \sim g$ and $f' \sim g'$, then $g \circ f \sim g' \circ f'$.

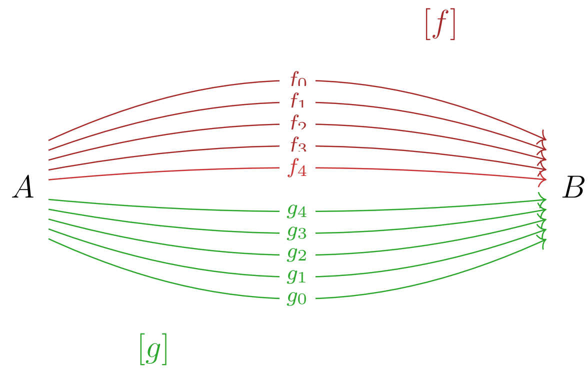

Figure 1.1: An equivalence relation between morphisms.

Theorem 1.2.1. *Let $\mathcal{C}$ be a category with congruence $\sim$. Define ${}^{\mathcal{C}}\!/\!_{\sim}$ as follows:*

(1) $\operatorname{obj} {}^{\mathcal{C}}\!/\!_{\sim} = \operatorname{obj} \mathcal{C}$.

(2) $\operatorname{Hom}_{{}^{\mathcal{C}}\!/\!_{\sim}}(A, B) = \{[f] : f \in \operatorname{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(A, B)\}$.

(3) $[g] \circ [f] = [g \circ f]$

Then ${}^{\mathcal{C}}\!/\!_{\sim}$ is a category.

Proof. We have by equivalence that $\operatorname{obj} {}^{\mathcal{C}}\!/\!_{\sim}$ is a class. Moreover, since $\sim$ partitions $\mathcal{C}$, it partions all of the $\operatorname{Hom}(A, B)$ for each A, B. So each $\operatorname{Hom}(A, B)$ is a set, moreover, they are pariwise disjoint by definition of $\sim$. Now, notice that by hypothesis, composition in ${}^{\mathcal{C}}\!/\!_{\sim}$ is well defined, so $[1_A] \circ [f] = [1_A \circ f] = [f]$ and $[g] \circ [1_A] = [g \circ 1_A] = [g]$. This makes ${}^{\mathcal{C}}\!/\!_{\sim}$ a category. ■

Remark. On can think of the cateegory ${}^{\mathcal{C}}\!/\!_{\sim}$ as taking all morphisms with they same domain and codomain, and collapsing them into a single morphism.

Definition. Let $\mathcal{C}$ be a catogory and $\sim$ a congruence of $\mathcal{C}$. We call the category ${}^{\mathcal{C}}\!/\!_{\sim}$ induced by $\sim$ the **quotient category**.

1.3 Functors.

Definition. Let $\mathcal{A}$ and $\mathcal{C}$ be categories. We deine a **covariant functor** to be a map $F : \mathcal{A} \to \mathcal{C}$ such that:

(1) $A \in \operatorname{obj} \mathcal{A}$ implies $F(A) \in \operatorname{obj} \mathcal{C}$.

(2) If $f : A \to B$ is a morphism in $\mathcal{A}$, then $F(f) : F(A) \to F(B)$ is a morphism in $\mathcal{C}$.

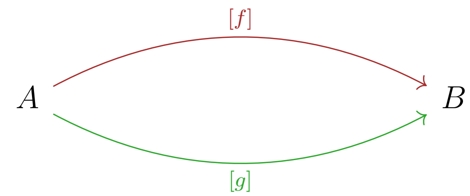

Figure 1.2: Morphisms in a category with the same domain and codomain get collapsed onto a single morphism in the correspinding quotient category.

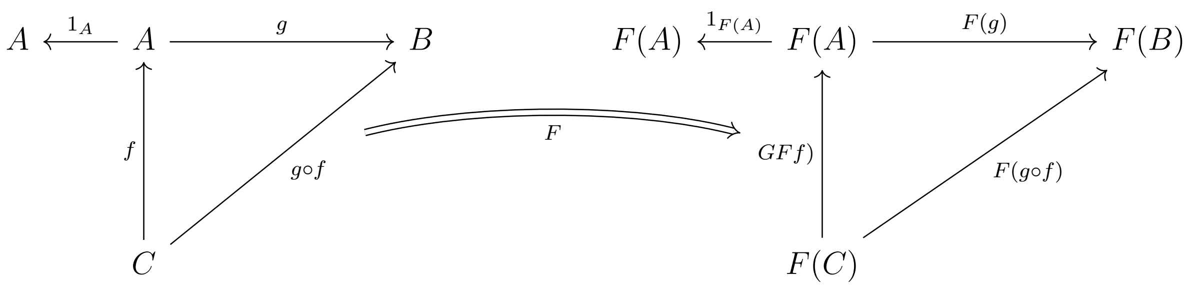

Figure 1.3: A covariant functor taking a diagram in on category to a diagram in the other.

(3) For all morphisms f and g in $\mathcal{A}$, for which $g \circ f$ is defined, we have that $F(g \circ f) = F(g) \circ F(f)$, and $F(1_A) = 1_{F(A)}$.

Example 1.3. (1) We define the **forgetful functor** the map $F : \mathcal{C} \to \mathrm{Set}$ that takes all objects in $\mathcal{C}$ to their underlying sets, and morphisms in $\mathcal{C}$ to themselves considered as functions under the usual composition. For example the forgetful functor $F : \mathrm{Top} \to \mathrm{Set}$ takes topological spaces X to their underlying sets, and continuous maps to themselves, considered just as functions.

(2) The **identity functor** is the functor $I : \mathcal{C} \to \mathcal{C}$ that takes objects and morphisms in $\mathcal{C}$ to themselves.

(3) Let M be a topological space. Define $F_M : \mathrm{Top} \to \mathrm{Top}$ by $F_M : X \to X \times M$, and for each continuous map $f : X \to Y$, $F(f) : X \times M \to Y \times M$ is defined by $(x, m) \to (f(x), m)$. Then F_M is a functor.

(4) Let $A \in \operatorname{obj} \mathcal{C}$ and take the map $\mathrm{Hom}\,(A, *) : \mathcal{C} \to \mathrm{Set}$ that takes $A \to \mathrm{Hom}\,(A, B)$ and for each morphism $f : B \to B'$, $\mathrm{Hom}\,(A, f) : \mathrm{Hom}\,(A, B) \to \mathrm{Hom}\,(A, B')$ is given by $g \to f \circ g$. With call this functor the **covariant Hom functor**, and denote it f_*.

Definition. Let $\mathcal{A}$ and $\mathcal{C}$ be categories. We deine a **contravariant functor** to be a map $G : \mathcal{A} \to \mathcal{C}$ such that:

(1) $A \in \operatorname{obj} \mathcal{A}$ implies $G(A) \in \operatorname{obj} \mathcal{C}$.

(2) If $f : A \to B$ is a morphism in $\mathcal{A}$, then $G(f) : G(B) \to G(A)$ is a morphism in $\mathcal{C}$.

(3) For all morphisms f and g in $\mathcal{A}$, for which $g \circ f$ is defined, we have that $G(g \circ f) = G(f) \circ G(g)$, and $G(1_A) = 1_{G(A)}$.

$$\begin{tikzcd}
A & A \arrow[l, "1_A"'] \arrow[r, "g"] & B \arrow[rr, Rightarrow, bend left, "G"] & & G(A) \arrow[r, "1_{G(A)}"] & G(A) \arrow[d, "G(f)"'] & G(B) \arrow[l, "G(g)"'] \arrow[dl, "G(g\circ f)"] \\
& C \arrow[u, "f"] \arrow[ur, "g\circ f"'] & & & & G(C) &
\end{tikzcd}$$

Figure 1.4: A contravariant functor taking a diagram in on category to a diagram in the other.

Example 1.4. (1) Let F be a field, and Vec the category of all finite dimensional vector spaces over F, whose morphisms are linear transformations. Define the map $T : \text{Vec} \to \text{Vec}$ by taking $T : V \to V^{\perp}$, and $T : f \to f^T$. That is T takes vector spaces to their dual spaces, and linear transformation to their transpose. T is a contravariant functor called the **dual space functor.**

(2) Define $\text{Hom}\,(*, B) : \mathcal{C} \to \mathcal{C}$ by taking $\text{Hom}\,(*, B) : A \to \text{Hom}\,(A, B)$ and for each morphism $g : A \to A'$ in $\mathcal{C}$, $\text{Hom}\,(f, B) : \text{Hom}\,(A', B) \to \text{Hom}\,(A, B)$ is defined by taking $h \to h \circ g$. This is analogous to the covariant Hom functor, and we call it the **contravariant Hom functor.**

Definition. We call a morphism $f : A \to B$ an **equivalence** if there exists a morphism $g : B \to A$ such taht $f \circ g = 1_B$ and $g \circ f = 1_A$

Theorem 1.3.1. *Let $\mathcal{A}$ and $\mathcal{C}$ be categories, and $F : \mathcal{A} \to \mathcal{C}$ be a functor. If f is an equivalence in $\mathcal{A}$, then $F(f)$ is an equivalence in $\mathcal{C}$.*

Proof. Suppose that F is a covariant functor. Notice that if $f : A \to B$ is an equivalence, then there is a $g : B \to A$ with $f \circ g = 1_B$ and $g \circ f = 1_A$. Then $F(f \circ g) = F(f) \circ F(g) = F(1_B) = 1_{F(B)}$, and $F(g \circ f) = F(g) \circ F(f) = F(1_A) = 1_{F(A)}$.

Likewise, if F is contravariant, notice that $F(f) : B \to A$ and $F(g) : A \to B$. Then $F(f \circ g) = F(g) \circ F(f) = 1_{F(A)}$, and $F(g \circ f) = F(f) \circ F(g) = 1_{F(B)}$. In eithe case, we find that $F(f)$ is an equivalence in $\mathcal{C}$. ■

Chapter 2

Homotopy, Convexity, and Connectedness.

2.1 Homotopy

Bibliography

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