

(1). Suppose  $\mathcal{C}$  is a category,  $\mathcal{C}^\circ$  is its dual category. Thus any contravariant functor  $\varphi : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$  is a (covariant) functor  $\varphi : \mathcal{C}^\circ \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ .

(2). Suppose  $\mathcal{C}$  and  $\mathcal{D}$  are categories. We can construct a category of functors from  $\mathcal{C}$  to  $\mathcal{D}$  by the following steps. Firstly, the objects in  $\text{Funct}(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D})$  are functors from  $\mathcal{C}$  to  $\mathcal{D}$ . Then, a morphism  $f$  of functors from  $F$  to  $G$  (notation  $f : F \rightarrow G$ ) is a family of morphisms in  $\mathcal{D}$  that

$$f(X) : F(X) \rightarrow G(X),$$

one for each  $X \in \mathcal{C}$ , satisfying the following condition: for all morphism  $\varphi$  in  $\mathcal{C}$  the following diagram

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

is commutative.

If  $F$  is isomorphic to  $G$  (notation  $F \cong G$ ), we should have morphisms  $f$  and  $g$  such that  $f(X) \circ g(X) = \text{id}_{G(X)}$  and  $g(X) \circ f(X) = \text{id}_{F(X)}$  for all  $X \in \mathcal{C}$ .

(3). Suppose  $\hat{\mathcal{C}} = \text{Funct}(\mathcal{C}^\circ, \text{Set})$ ,  $\forall X \in \mathcal{C}$ , we can associate a  $\hat{X} \in \hat{\mathcal{C}}$  by  $\hat{X}(Y) = \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(Y, X)$  and  $\hat{Z}(\varphi)f = f \circ \varphi$  for  $\varphi \in \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(Y, X)$  and  $f \in \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(X, Z)$ . Then  $\hat{Z}(\varphi) : \hat{Z}(X) \rightarrow \hat{Z}(Y)$ .

**Proposition 1.** Suppose  $X$  is a set in the category  $\text{Set}$ , it can be identified with the set  $\hat{X}(e) = \text{Hom}_{\text{Set}}(e, X)$ , where  $e$  is a one-point set.

*Proof.* Obviously. □

Indeed, in an arbitrary category  $\mathcal{C}$  an analogue of one-point set does not necessarily exist. However, by considering  $\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(Y, X)$  for all  $Y \in \mathcal{C}$  simultaneously, we can recover complete information about an object  $X \in \mathcal{C}$ . This is the idea of representation theory.

**Definition 1.** A functor  $F \in \hat{\mathcal{C}}$  is said to be representable if  $F \cong \hat{X}$  for some  $X \in \mathcal{C}$ . One says also that the object  $X$  represents the functor  $F$ .

**Theorem 1.**  $\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(X, Y) \cong \text{Hom}_{\hat{\mathcal{C}}}(\hat{X}, \hat{Y})$ .

*Proof.* Let  $\varphi : X \rightarrow Y$  be a morphism in  $\mathcal{C}$ . We associate with  $\varphi$  the morphism of functors  $\hat{\varphi} : \hat{X} \rightarrow \hat{Y}$  by

$$\hat{\varphi}(Z) : \theta \mapsto \varphi \circ \theta \in \hat{Y}(Z),$$

where  $\theta \in \hat{X}(Z)$  and  $X, Y, Z \in \mathcal{C}$ . It is clear that  $\hat{\varphi} \circ \hat{\phi} = \widehat{\varphi \circ \phi}$ .

Conversely, suppose  $f \in \text{Hom}_{\hat{\mathcal{C}}}(\hat{X}, \hat{Y})$ , define map  $i : \text{Hom}_{\hat{\mathcal{C}}}(\hat{X}, \hat{Y}) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(X, Y)$  by

$$i : f \mapsto f(X)(\text{id}_X),$$

where  $\text{id}_X \in \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(X, X) = \hat{X}(X)$  and  $f(\text{id}_X) \in \hat{Y}(X)$ . Then

$$i(\hat{\varphi}) = \hat{\varphi}(X)(\text{id}_X) = \varphi \circ \text{id}_X = \varphi.$$

On the other hand, we should show  $\widehat{i(f)} = f$  when  $f \in \text{Hom}_{\hat{\mathcal{C}}}(\hat{X}, \hat{Y})$ , and it's equivalent to show  $\widehat{i(f)}(Z) = f(Z)$  for all  $Z \in \mathcal{C}$ .

Now suppose a morphism  $\varphi : Z \rightarrow X$ ,

$$i(f) \circ \varphi = \widehat{i(f)}(Z)(\varphi) = f(Z)(\varphi).$$

Using the commutativity of the diagram,

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \hat{X}(X) & \xrightarrow{f(X)} & \hat{Y}(X) \\ \hat{X}(\varphi) \downarrow & & \downarrow \hat{Y}(\varphi) \\ \hat{X}(Z) & \xrightarrow{f(Z)} & \hat{Y}(Z) \end{array}$$

then

$$f(Z) \circ \hat{X}(\varphi)(\text{id}_X) = \hat{Y}(\varphi) \circ f(X)(\text{id}_X) = \hat{Y}(\varphi)(i(f)) = i(f) \circ \varphi$$

and

$$f(Z) \circ \hat{X}(\varphi)(\text{id}_X) = f(Z)(\text{id}_X \circ \varphi) = f(Z)(\varphi).$$

Thus  $i$  is an isomorphism that  $i : \text{Hom}_{\hat{\mathcal{C}}}(\hat{X}, \hat{Y}) \cong \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(X, Y)$ .  $\square$

If  $X$  represents the functor  $F$ ,  $\text{Hom}_{\hat{\mathcal{C}}}(\hat{Y}, F) \cong \text{Hom}_{\hat{\mathcal{C}}}(\hat{Y}, \hat{X}) \cong \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(Y, X)$ . If  $Y$  also represents  $F$ , then there exists an isomorphism  $\varphi : \hat{Y} \cong F$ , then  $i(\varphi)$  is the according isomorphism between  $X$  and  $Y$ . Thus, the representing object of a representable functor is defined uniquely up to a isomorphism.

**Definition 2.** Suppose  $X, Y \in \mathcal{C}$ , the direct product  $X \times Y$  is (upto an isomorphism) the object  $Z$  representing the functor (if such functor is representable, or if such  $Z$  exists)

$$W \mapsto \hat{X}(W) \times \hat{Y}(W),$$

where  $\hat{X}(W) \times \hat{Y}(W)$  is the direct product of Set which has been constructed directly.

**Definition 3.** Suppose  $X, Y, S \in \text{Set}$ ,  $f : X \rightarrow S$  and  $g : Y \rightarrow S$ , the pullback of  $f$  and  $g$  or the fibre product of  $X$  and  $Y$  is

$$X \times_S Y = \{(x, y) \in X \times Y : f(x) = g(y)\}.$$

In a general category  $\mathcal{C}$ ,  $X \times_S Y$  is defined as the object  $Z$  representing the functor

$$W \mapsto \hat{X}(W) \times_{\hat{S}(W)} \hat{Y}(W).$$

When  $f = g$  are constant morphisms,  $X \times_S Y \cong X \times Y$ . When  $f$  and  $g$  are embedding,  $X \times_S Y \cong X \cap Y$ .

The universal property can be directly verified. Since  $Z$  represents the functor  $W \mapsto \hat{X}(W) \times \hat{Y}(W)$ , then  $\hat{Z}(W) = \hat{X}(W) \times \hat{Y}(W)$ . Let  $W = Z$ , the image of  $\text{id}_Z \in \hat{Z}(Z)$  is that  $\text{id}_Z = (\pi_X, \pi_Y)$ , where  $\pi_X \in \hat{X}(Z)$  and  $\pi_Y \in \hat{Y}(Z)$ . This can be written as  $X \xleftarrow{\pi_X} Z \xrightarrow{\pi_Y} Y$ .

Now suppose  $p_X : W \rightarrow X$  and  $p_Y : W \rightarrow Y$ , then there exist  $\eta = (p_X, p_Y) \in \hat{X}(W) \times \hat{Y}(W) = \hat{Z}(W)$ . The last thing we should to show is that  $p_X = \pi_X \circ \eta$  and  $p_Y = \pi_Y \circ \eta$ . Indeed, for all  $z \in Z$ ,

$$(\pi_X, \pi_Y)((p_X, p_Y)(z)) = \text{id}_Z((p_X, p_Y)(z)) = (p_X, p_Y)(z).$$

The uniqueness of  $X \times Y$  up to an isomorphism can be driven from the above theorem or universal property directly.

Because of some psychological reasons, we usually use a commutative diagram to visualize the universal property described above:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} X & \xleftarrow{\pi_X} & Z & \xrightarrow{\pi_Y} & Y \\ & & \uparrow \eta & & \\ & & W & & \end{array}$$

$\swarrow p_Y \quad \searrow p_X$

Similarly, the universal property of fibre product can be written as a commutative diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 W & & & & \\
 \searrow \varphi & & x & \searrow & \\
 & X \times_S Y & \xrightarrow{p} & X & \\
 \searrow y & \downarrow q & & \downarrow f & \\
 & Y & \xrightarrow{g} & S & 
 \end{array}$$

$$(A_\alpha, A_{\alpha\beta}, \rho_\alpha)$$

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 A & & & & \\
 \searrow f & & f_\beta & \searrow & \\
 & \mathcal{F}(U) & \xrightarrow{\rho_\beta} & \mathcal{F}(U_\beta) & \\
 \searrow f_\alpha & \downarrow \rho_\alpha & & \downarrow \rho_{\beta\alpha} & \\
 & \mathcal{F}(U_\alpha) & \xrightarrow{\rho_{\alpha\beta}} & \mathcal{F}(U_\alpha \cap U_\beta) & 
 \end{array}$$

Given any categorical construction, we can create the dual construction by inverting all arrows in the original construction. In such a way one can obtain the coproduct  $X \coprod_S Y$  by

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 W & & & & \\
 \swarrow \varphi & & x & \swarrow & \\
 & X \coprod_S Y & \xleftarrow{p} & X & \\
 \swarrow y & \uparrow q & & \uparrow f & \\
 & Y & \xleftarrow{g} & S & 
 \end{array}$$

We fix a category  $\mathcal{J}$ , and define the diagonal functor  $\Delta : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \text{Func}(\mathcal{J}, \mathcal{C})$  as follow:

- On objects:  $\Delta X$  is the set of constant functors with the value  $X$ . In other words,  $\Delta X(j) = X$  for all  $j \in \mathcal{J}$ ,  $\Delta X(\varphi) = \text{id}_X$  for all morphism  $\varphi$  in  $\mathcal{J}$ .
- On morphisms: Suppose  $\psi : X \rightarrow Y$  is a morphism in  $\mathcal{C}$ ,  $\Delta\psi : \Delta X \rightarrow \Delta Y$  is defined as follows:  $\Delta\psi(j) : X = \Delta X(j) \rightarrow Y = \Delta Y(j)$  for all  $j \in \mathcal{J}$ .

It is clear that  $\Delta(\varphi \circ \psi) = \Delta\varphi \circ \Delta\psi$ , so  $\Delta$  is indeed a functor.

**Definition 4.** Suppose  $F : \mathcal{J} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  is a functor, the (projective or inverse) limit of  $F$  in the category  $\mathcal{C}$  according to  $\mathcal{J}$  is an object  $X \in \mathcal{C}$  representing the functor

$$Y \mapsto \text{Hom}_{\text{Func}(\mathcal{J}, \mathcal{C})}(\Delta Y, F) : \mathcal{C}^\circ \rightarrow \text{Set}.$$

The limit of  $F$  is denoted by  $X = \varprojlim F$ .