

# Yoneda Lemma. 2.2

Q: Given a functor  $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \text{Set}$ ,  
 What data is needed to define  $(C, -) \cong F$ ?  
 or  $(C, -) \Rightarrow F$ ?

Ex 2.2.1  $F: W \rightarrow \text{Set}$  W: <sup>ordinal</sup> Category ~~of ordinals~~

$\Rightarrow (F_n)_{n \in W}, f_{n, n+1}: F_n \rightarrow F_{n+1}$

Then  $W(k, -): W \rightarrow \text{Set}$

$$\Rightarrow W(k, m) = \begin{cases} \emptyset & m < k \\ \{*\} & m \geq k \end{cases} \quad \left( \begin{array}{l} m=k \\ \Rightarrow W(k, k) \\ = \{1_k\} \end{array} \right)$$

If  $\alpha: W(k, -) \Rightarrow F$ , then

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} \emptyset & \longrightarrow & \emptyset & \longrightarrow & \dots & \longrightarrow & \emptyset \longrightarrow * \longrightarrow * \longrightarrow \dots \\ \alpha_0 \downarrow & & \downarrow \alpha_1 & & & & \downarrow \alpha_{k-1} \quad \downarrow \alpha_k \quad \downarrow \alpha_{k+1} \\ F_0 & \xrightarrow{f_{0,1}} & F_1 & \longrightarrow & \dots & \longrightarrow & F_{k-1} \xrightarrow{f_{k-1,k}} F_k \xrightarrow{f_{k,k+1}} F_{k+1} \longrightarrow \dots \end{array}$$

Commutates. Notes that  $m < k$ ,  $\alpha_m$  is empty as a set of tuple. (So commutes vacuously.)

If  $m \geq k$ ,  $\alpha_m$  is identified as an element.

$$\Rightarrow \alpha_{n+1} = f_{n, n+1}(\alpha_n) \Rightarrow \alpha \text{ is determined by choice of } \alpha_k \in F_k$$

Ex 2.2.2 Let  $G$  be gp.

$BG$ : Category of one element with  $\text{Mor } BG = G$ .

$$\Rightarrow G: BG \rightarrow \text{Set}.$$

$$G: BG^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \text{Set}$$

are unique as a representable covariant function since  $BG(\cdot, \cdot) \cong G$ .

$BG$  has only one element, i.e., [as a set]

$$X: BG \rightarrow \text{Set}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \bullet & \longrightarrow & X \\ g \downarrow & & \\ \bullet & \longrightarrow & X \end{array}$$

$g_*: \text{iso of } X$   
(left) Group action.

$$\left[ \begin{array}{ccc} BG(\cdot, \cdot) & \xrightarrow{1_\bullet} & G \\ \emptyset \downarrow & \curvearrowright & \downarrow \emptyset \\ BG(\cdot, \cdot) & \xrightarrow{1_\bullet} & G \end{array} \right]$$

Satisfying

i.e.,  $G \leq \text{Aut}(X)$ .

$$\text{If } \alpha: BG(\cdot, \cdot) \Rightarrow X$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \alpha_h \uparrow & & \\ \begin{array}{ccc} G & \xrightarrow{\alpha_h} & X \\ g \downarrow \curvearrowright \downarrow & & \downarrow g_* \\ G & \xrightarrow{\alpha_h} & X \end{array} & \Rightarrow & \alpha_h(g \cdot h) = g \cdot \alpha(h) \\ \alpha_{(gh)} \uparrow & & \end{array}$$

$$\alpha_h(g \cdot h) = g \cdot \alpha(h)$$

Especially if  $h=e$ ,

$$\alpha(g) = g \cdot \phi(e)$$

So, choice of  $\phi(e) \in X$

forces us to define  $\phi(g)$ .

And  $\phi(e)$  can be any element, since left action of  $G$  on  $X$  is free. (i.e. every stabilizer gp is trivial.)

Prop 2.2.3:  $G$ -equivariant maps  $G \rightarrow X$   
 $f(gx) = gf(x)$   
 Corresponds bijectively to elements of  $X$   
 Identified as image of identity  $e \in G$ .

In these two examples, natural transformations whose domain is a representable functor are determined by the choice of single element which lives in the set def by evaluating codomain functor at the representing object. Moreover choice is permitted.

I.e. Let  $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \text{Set}$ ,  $C(c, -)$  be a representable functor. Then,  $\alpha: C(c, -) \Rightarrow F$  is determined by choice of elements in  $F_c$ .

I.e.  $\text{Hom}(C(c, -), F) \cong F_c$  as a set.

Thm 2.2.4 (Yoneda Lemma)

For any functor  $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \text{Set}$ ,  $\mathcal{C}$ : locally small  
 $c \in \text{Obj } \mathcal{C}$ . Then,  $\exists$  bijection

$$\text{Hom}(C(c, -), F) \cong F_c$$

that associates natural transf:  $\alpha: C(c, -) \Rightarrow F$  to the element  $\alpha_c(1_c) \in F_c$ . This bijection is natural in both  $c$  and  $F$ .

This bijection is natural in both  $C$  and  $F$ .

Remark: Since  $C$  is not small,  $\text{Hom}(C(C, -), F)$  might be large. However, Yoneda Lemma shows that  $\text{Hom}(C, (C, -), F)$  is a set.

pf 1: Bijection) construct

$$\Phi: \text{Hom}(C_{\mathcal{C}}, -, F) \rightarrow F_{\mathcal{C}}$$

$$\alpha: (C(C, -) \Rightarrow F) \mapsto \alpha_{\mathcal{C}}(1_{\mathcal{C}})$$

WTS  $\Phi$  is bijection. It suffices to show that

$\Psi: F_{\mathcal{C}} \rightarrow \text{Hom}(C(C, -), F)$  is inverse.

To do this, for each  $x \in F_{\mathcal{C}}$ , we need to define  $\Phi(x)$  as a natural transf.

$\Rightarrow$  Need to define  $\Phi(x)_d: C(C, d) \rightarrow Fd$   
for any  $d \in \text{obj } \mathcal{C}$  s.t.  $C(C, c) \xrightarrow{\Phi(x)_c} Fc$   
for any  $f: c \rightarrow d$ .

$$\begin{array}{ccc} f_* \downarrow & \curvearrowright & \downarrow Ff \\ C(C, d) & \xrightarrow{\Phi(x)_d} & Fd \end{array}$$

Then,  $\Phi$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} 1_{\mathcal{C}} \mapsto \Phi(x)_{\mathcal{C}}(1_{\mathcal{C}}) & & \\ \downarrow & \searrow & \\ f \mapsto \Phi(x)_d(f) & & Ff(\Phi(x)_{\mathcal{C}}(1_{\mathcal{C}})) \end{array}$$

Thus, WTS  $\Phi(x)_d(f) = Ff(\Phi(x)_c(1_c))$

Since  $\Psi$  is intended as a inverse of  $\Phi$ .

$\Phi(\Phi(x)) := x$  naturally.

Thus,  $\Phi(\Phi(x)) \underset{\substack{\uparrow \\ \text{from def of } \Phi}}{=} \Phi(x)_c(1_c) = x$ .

Therefore, naturality forces to define.

$$\Phi : F_c \rightarrow \text{Hom}(C(c, -), F)$$

$$\Phi(x)_d(f) := Ff(x)$$

It determines  $\Phi(x)_d$  as a map.  $C(c, d) \rightarrow Fd$ .

To see  $\Psi(x)$  is natural transformation.

let  $g: d \rightarrow e$ . WTS.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} C(c, d) & \xrightarrow{\Phi(x)_d} & Fd \\ g_* \downarrow & \lrcorner & \downarrow Fg \\ C(c, e) & \xrightarrow{\Psi(x)_e} & Fe \end{array}$$

commutes. Let  $f \in C(c, d)$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} f & \mapsto & \Phi(x)_d(f) \\ \downarrow g_* & & \downarrow \\ gf & \mapsto & Fg(\Phi(x)_d(f)) \\ & & \searrow \\ & & \Phi(x)_e(gf) \\ & & = F(gf)(x) \\ & & = Fg(Ff(x)) \end{array}$$

By functoriality of  $F$ ,  $F(gf).x = (Fg)(Ff)(x)$ .

So  $\Psi: F_c \rightarrow \text{Hom}(C(c, -), F)$  is well-def function.

By construction,  $\Phi \Psi(x) = \Psi(x)_c(1_c) = x$ .

$$\text{NTS } \Phi \Phi(\alpha) = \alpha \quad \text{for any } \alpha: C(c, -) \Rightarrow F$$

$$\Downarrow$$

$$\Psi(\alpha_c(1_c))$$

$\Rightarrow$  It suffice, to show that for any  $f: c \rightarrow d$ ,

$$\Phi(\alpha_c(1_c))_d(f) = Ff(\alpha_c(1_c))$$

By naturality of  $\alpha$ .

$$\begin{array}{ccc} C(c, c) & \xrightarrow{\alpha_c} & F_c \\ f_* \downarrow & \curvearrowright & \downarrow Ff \\ C(c, d) & \xrightarrow{\alpha_d} & F_d \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{Thus, } Ff(\alpha_c(1_c)) \\ = \alpha_d(f) \end{array}$$

$$\Rightarrow \Phi(\alpha_c(1_c))_d(f) = \alpha_d(f)$$

$$\Rightarrow \Phi(\alpha_c(1_c))_d = \alpha_d$$

$$\Rightarrow \Phi(\Phi(\alpha))_d = \alpha_d$$

$$\Rightarrow \Phi \Phi(\alpha) = \alpha$$

So,  $\Phi$  and  $\Psi$  are inverse to each other.

Hence,  $\text{Hom}(C(c, -), F) \cong F_c$ .

Proof of Naturality) ① Naturality in the functor.

WTS, given  $\beta: F \Rightarrow G$ , if  $x$  represents

$$\beta\alpha: (C, -) \Rightarrow F \Rightarrow G, \text{ i.e. } \Phi_G(\beta\alpha) = x,$$

then  $x = \beta_c(y)$  s.t.  $y \in F_c$  represents

$$\alpha: (C, -) \Rightarrow F.$$

$$\text{i.e. } x = \Phi_F(\beta_c(y)).$$

In other words,

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Hom}(C(C, -), F) & \xrightarrow[\cong]{\Phi_F} & F_c \\ \beta_* \downarrow & \curvearrowright & \downarrow \beta_c \\ \text{Hom}(C(C, -), G) & \xrightarrow[\cong]{\Phi_G} & G_c \end{array} \quad \text{commutes.}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{pf)} \quad \Phi_G(\beta\alpha) &= (\beta\alpha)_c(1_c) = \beta_c(\alpha_c(1_c)) \\ &= \beta_c(\Phi_F(\alpha)) \end{aligned}$$

② Naturality in the object.

Given  $f: c \rightarrow d$  in  $C$ , if  $x \in F_d$  represents

$$\alpha f^*: (C(d, -) \Rightarrow C(c, -) \Rightarrow F, \text{ i.e. } \Phi_d(\alpha f^*) = x,$$

then  $x = Ff(y)$  where  $y$  represents  $\alpha$ , i.e.

$$x = Ff(\Phi_c(\alpha)).$$

In other words,

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \text{Hom}(C(c, -), F) & \xrightarrow[\cong]{\Phi_c} & F_c \\
 (f^*)^* \downarrow & \curvearrowright & \downarrow Ff \\
 \text{Hom}(C(d, -), F) & \xrightarrow[\Phi_d]{\cong} & F_d \\
 & & \downarrow Ff(\alpha_c(1_c)) \\
 & & (f^*)^*(1_d)
 \end{array}$$

Pf) Notes that  $(f^*)^*_d$  is  $\alpha_d \circ f^*$ , Hence,

$$C(d, d) \xrightarrow{f^*} C(c, d) \xrightarrow{\alpha_d} F_d$$

Thus  $1_d \longmapsto f \longmapsto \alpha_d(f)$

And in the proof of bijection,

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 C(c, c) & \xrightarrow{\alpha_c} & F_c \\
 f_* \downarrow & \curvearrowright & \downarrow Ff \\
 C(c, d) & \xrightarrow{\alpha_d} & F_d
 \end{array}
 \Rightarrow \alpha_d(f) = Ff(\alpha_c(1_c))$$

$$\Rightarrow (f^*)^*_d(1_d) = \alpha_d(f) = Ff(\alpha_c(1_c)) \quad \square$$



Remark 2.2.17. If we don't consider size issue, Yoneda lemma can be viewed as natural isomorphism between functors.

Let  $(C, F) \in \text{Obj } (C \times \text{Set}^C$ .

def:  $\text{ev}: C \times \text{Set}^C \rightarrow \text{Set}$

$$(C, F) \mapsto F_C = \text{codomain of } F$$

Also, let  $C^{\text{op}} \xrightarrow{\gamma} \text{Set}^C$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} C & \xrightarrow{\quad} & (C, -) \\ f \downarrow & \xrightarrow{\quad} & \uparrow f^* \\ d & \xrightarrow{\quad} & (C_d, -) \end{array}$$

Then,  $\text{Hom}(\gamma(-), -) := C \times \text{Set}^C \xrightarrow{\gamma \times 1_{\text{Set}^C}} (\text{Set}^C)^{\text{op}} \times \text{Set}^C \rightarrow \text{Set}$   
 $(C, F) \mapsto (C(C, -), F) \mapsto$

$\text{Hom}(C(C, -), F)$   
 $\cong$   
 $\text{domain of } F$

If  $C$  is small, No problem

$C$  is locally small,  $\text{Set}^C$  need not be locally small.

Then,  $\text{Hom}(\gamma(-), -): C \times \text{Set}^C \rightarrow \text{Set}$

$$(C, F) \mapsto \text{Hom}(C(C, -), F)$$

Then, by naturality proof, we see that

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & \text{Hom}(\gamma(-), -) & \\ & \curvearrowright & \\ (X \text{Set})^C & \Downarrow \Phi \cong & \text{Set} \\ & \curvearrowleft & \\ & \text{ev.} & \end{array}$$

Corollary 2.2.8 (Yoneda embedding)

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 C \xrightarrow{\gamma} \text{Set}^{C^{op}} & & C^{op} \xrightarrow{\gamma} \text{Set}^C \\
 \downarrow f & \xrightarrow{\quad} & \downarrow f \\
 C \xrightarrow{\quad} C(C, -) & & C \xrightarrow{\quad} C(C, -) \\
 \downarrow f & \xrightarrow{\quad} & \downarrow f \\
 C \xrightarrow{\quad} C(-, d) & & C \xrightarrow{\quad} C(d, -)
 \end{array}$$

define full and faithful embeddings

Remark: Co- and contravariant Yoneda embeddings are two different incarnations of a common bifunctor.

$$\begin{aligned}
 C(-, -) : C^{op} \times C &\rightarrow \text{Set} \\
 (c, d) &\mapsto C(c, d) \\
 (f, g) &\mapsto g \circ f \\
 (e, f) &\mapsto C(e, f)
 \end{aligned}$$

$f$ : pre  
 $g$ : post.

pf) WTS for any  $f: C \rightarrow D$ ,

$$C(C, d) \cong \text{Hom}(C(-, c), C(-, d))$$

$$\text{and } C(c, d) \cong \text{Hom}(C(d, -), C(c, -)).$$

① By exercise 1.4 iv. (distinct parallel morphisms define distinct natural transformations (pre, post composition))

It is injective.

Also, Yoneda lemma says that

$\alpha: (C(d, -) \Rightarrow (C(c, -))$  corresponds to

$$\underline{\alpha}(\alpha) = \alpha_d(1_d) \in (C(c, d).$$

If we denote  $\alpha_d(1_d) = f$ , then

$f^*: (C(d, -) \Rightarrow (C(c, -))$  sends  $1_d \mapsto f$ .

$\Rightarrow \boxed{\alpha = f^*}$  by Yoneda lemma.  $\square$

Cor 2.2.8. Implies that  
natural transformation between represented  
functors corresponds to morphisms between  
the representing objects.

There are three examples, but introduce two  
first

1). Every row operation on matrix with  
 $n$  rows def by left mult. of  $n \times n$  matrix.

2). Cayley's theorem.

3). In  $\text{Vect}_K$ ,  $V \otimes_K W \cong W \otimes_K V$ .

Cor 2.2.9 Matrix mult. ( $R$ : unital ring)

pf)  $\text{Mat}_R$  : Obj :=  $\mathbb{N}$ .

$$\text{Mat}(m, n) \cong \text{Mat}_{n \times m}(R).$$

Row operation define natural endomorphisms of  $\text{Hom}(-, n)$ , i.e. if  $\alpha$  is a row op,

$f: m \rightarrow k$  then

$k \times n$  matrix

$m \times n$

$$\text{Hom}(k, n) \xrightarrow{\alpha} \text{Hom}(k, n)$$

$$\downarrow f$$



$$\downarrow f$$

$$\text{Hom}(m, n) \xrightarrow{\alpha} \text{Hom}(m, n)$$

$\alpha \cdot f$

$\alpha$

By Cor 2.2.8,  $\alpha$  is rep by element in  $\text{Mat}(n, n)$   $n \times n$  mat.

Moreover, Th 2.2.4 Identify what it is

i.e.  $\alpha_n(1_n) = \text{row op on } n \times n \text{ identity matrix}$

Cor 2.2.6: Any gp is isomorphic to subgroup of permutation gp.

pf) Let  $BG$ , category of 1 elem with Ab-ops  $G$  for same gp  $G$ . Ex 2.2.2 gives  $BG \hookrightarrow \text{Set}^{BG^{op}}$

as right  $G$ -set  $G$ .

Corollary 2.2.8 says that

$G$ -equivariant endomorphisms of  
right  $G$ -set  $G$  are those maps  
defined by left multiplication, i.e.  
element of  $\frac{BG(-, \circ) \cong G}{1}$ .

Thus,  $G \cong \text{Aut}_{\substack{\text{right} \\ G\text{-set}}}(G) \leq \text{Sym}(G)$ .

Since  $\text{Set}^{BG^{op}} \longrightarrow \text{Set}$  is faithful  
functor.