

# Category Theory

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A glossary reference for Category Theory and relevant terms which I have came across.

## Glossary

**Automorphism** is an *endomorphism* that is *invertible*.

**Categorical Dual** ( $^{op}$ ) Given any category  $\mathcal{C}$ ,  $\mathcal{C}^{op}$  is the **dual category** of  $\mathcal{C}$  where all the arrows are reversed.  $\mathcal{C}^{op}$  is defined as follows:

- The objects and arrows of  $\mathcal{C}^{op}$  are the objects and arrows of  $\mathcal{C}$ .
- If  $f : A \rightarrow B$  in  $\mathcal{C}$ , then  $f : B \rightarrow A$  in  $\mathcal{C}^{op}$ .
- If  $h = g \circ f$  in  $\mathcal{C}$ , then  $h = f \circ g$  in  $\mathcal{C}^{op}$ .

Since identity arrows have the same source and target objects, identity arrows in  $\mathcal{C}$  are the same as in  $\mathcal{C}^{op}$  and thus  $\mathcal{C}^{op}$  is also a category.

**Category** A **category**  $\mathcal{C}$  contains a collection of *objects* (denoted as  $\mathcal{C}_0$ ) and a collection of *morphisms* (denoted as  $\mathcal{C}_1$ ) where every morphism has *source*, *target* :  $\mathcal{C}_1 \rightarrow \mathcal{C}_0$  functions mapping each arrow to its *source* and *target* objects respectively into the collection of objects.

For any two arrows  $f, g$  where the  $target(f) = source(g)$ , the *composition* of  $f$  and  $g$  are written as  $g \circ f : source(f) \rightarrow target(g) \in \mathcal{C}_1$ . Composition is associative,  $(h \circ g) \circ f = h \circ (g \circ f)$  when either side is defined.

$\forall A \in \mathcal{C}_0$ , there exists the *identity* arrow,  $id_A : A \rightarrow A$  and for any  $f : A \rightarrow B$ ,  $f \circ id_A = id_B \circ f = f$ .

A category is *small* if its objects and arrows constitute sets; otherwise it is *large*.

**Category Equivalence** A functor  $F : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$  is an **equivalence of categories** if there is a functor  $G : \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  such that:

- A family  $u_C : C \rightarrow G(F(C))$  of isomorphisms of  $\mathcal{C}$  indexed by the objects of  $\mathcal{C}$  with the property that for every arrow  $f : C \rightarrow C'$  in  $\mathcal{C}$ ,  $G(F(f)) = u_{C'} \circ f \circ u_C^{-1}$ .
- A family  $v_D : D \rightarrow F(G(D))$  of isomorphisms of  $\mathcal{D}$  indexed by the objects of  $\mathcal{D}$  with the property that for every arrow  $g : D \rightarrow D'$  in  $\mathcal{D}$ ,  $F(G(g)) = v_{D'} \circ g \circ v_D^{-1}$ .

*Note:* In this case, the functor  $G$  is called a *pseudo-inverse* of  $F$  and  $u, v$  are *natural isomorphisms*.

*Note:*  $F$  and  $G$  are both full and faithful.

**Congruence Relation** ( $\sim$ ) is an equivalence relation  $\sim$  on the arrows of a category  $\mathcal{C}$  if:

- Whenever  $f \sim g$ , then  $f$  and  $g$  have the same domain and the same codomain.
- In the diagram below:

$$A \xrightarrow{h} B \xrightleftharpoons[g]{f} C \xrightarrow{k} D$$

If  $f \sim g$ , then  $f \circ h \sim g \circ h$  and  $k \circ f \sim k \circ g$  for arrows  $h, k$  where  $target(h) = source(f)$  and  $source(k) = target(f)$ .

*Note:* The congruence class containing the arrow  $f$  is denoted by  $[f]$ .

**Constant/Global Element** is an arrow from a terminal object. Thus, the **constant**  $A$  is an arrow  $1 \rightarrow A$  for some object  $A$ . In **Set**, such an arrow is precisely a function from a singleton set to the set  $A$ , where each element  $x \in A$  can be uniquely determined by a constant arrow  $x : 1 \rightarrow A$ .

**Contravariant Functor** is a functor  $F : \mathcal{C}^{op} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$  for categories  $\mathcal{C}$  and  $\mathcal{D}$ . In contrast to *covariant* functors, for an arrow  $f$  in  $\mathcal{C}$

$$F(f : B \rightarrow A) = F(A) \rightarrow F(B)$$

is an arrow in  $\mathcal{D}$ . This follows from the fact that  $f$  is an arrow from  $A$  to  $B$  in  $\mathcal{C}^{op}$ .

**Discrete** A category in which all arrows are identity arrows is called **discrete**.

**Endomorphism** is an arrow  $f : A \rightarrow A$  in a category where the source and target objects are the same.

**Epimorphism** ( $\rightarrow$ ) is the dual to monomorphisms. An arrow  $f : S \rightarrow T$  is an **epimorphism** if for any arrows  $g, h : T \rightarrow X$ ,  $g \circ f = h \circ f$  implies  $g = h$ . Epimorphisms can be denoted by  $f : S \twoheadrightarrow T$ .

*Properties:* Let  $f : A \rightarrow B$  and  $g : B \rightarrow C$  be arrows:

- If  $f$  and  $g$  are epimorphisms, so is  $g \circ f$ .
- If  $g \circ f$  is an epimorphism, so is  $g$ .

*Note:* In **Set**, a function is surjective if and only if it is an epimorphism.

*Note:* In the category determined by a Monoid, an epic element is right cancellable.

### Examples of Categories:

**Set** is the category whose objects are sets and arrows are functions between sets. Composition is function composition and the identity arrow is the identity function  $id_S$  for a set  $S$ .

**Fin** is the category whose objects are finite sets and arrows are all the functions between finite sets.

**Pfn** is the category whose objects are sets but all arrows are all partial functions. If  $f : S \rightarrow T, g : T \rightarrow V$  are partial functions with  $f$  defined on  $S_0 \subseteq S$  and  $g$  defined on  $T_0 \subseteq T$ , then the composite  $g \circ f : S \rightarrow V$  is the partial function from  $S$  to  $V$  defined on the subset  $\{x \in S_0 | f(x) \in T_0\}$  of  $S$  by the requirement  $(g \circ f)(x) = g(f(x))$ .

**Rel** is the category whose objects are sets and arrows are relations between sets. The composite  $\beta \circ \alpha$  of relations  $\alpha$  from sets  $S$  to  $T$  and  $\beta$  from  $T$  to  $U$  is a relation from  $S$  to  $U$  defined as follows:

If  $x \in S$  and  $z \in U$ ,  $(x, z) \in \beta \circ \alpha$  if and only if there is an element  $y \in T$  for which  $(x, y) \in \alpha$  and  $(y, z) \in \beta$ .

The identity arrow for a set  $S$  is the *diagonal relation*  $\Delta_S = \{(x, x) | x \in S\}$

**Poset** is the category whose objects are elements of a poset  $P$  and arrows are the partially ordered relation between those elements. The reflexive and transitive properties provides the identity and composition of arrows.

*Note:* Every hom-set in this category has at most ONE element.  
Equivalently, any category where every hom-set has at most one element is a poset.

**Monoid** is the category whose only object is the Monoid  $M$  itself and arrows are the elements of the monoid (this category is denoted as  $C(M)$ ). The identity arrow is the identity element and composition being the monoid binary operation.

*Note:* Any category with one object is a monoid.

**Group** is the category whose only object is the Group itself and arrows are elements of the group, same as the category determined by a Monoid.

*Note:* All arrows in this category are isomorphisms.

**Grf** is the category whose objects are graphs and arrows are graph homomorphisms. Identity arrow being the identity homomorphism and composition being composition of homomorphisms.

**Posets and Monotone Functions** is the category whose objects are posets and arrows are monotone functions between posets.

**Sem** is the category whose objects are semigroups and arrows are semigroup homomorphisms.

*Note:* This can be extended to monoids, denoted as **Mon**.

**$\omega$ -CPOs and Scott-continuous Functions** is the category whose objects are  $\omega$ -CPOs and arrows are Scott-continuous functions.

*Note:* A category is also formed with *strict*  $\omega$ -CPOs and *strict* Scott-continuous functions.

**Path Category** is the free category  $F(\mathcal{G})$  generated by a graph  $\mathcal{G}$  whose objects are the nodes of  $\mathcal{G}$  and arrows are paths in  $\mathcal{G}$ . For each node/object  $A$ , the identity arrow is the empty path from  $A$  to  $A$ . Composition is defined by  $(f_1, \dots, f_k) \circ (f_{k+1}, \dots, f_n) = (f_1, \dots, f_n)$

**Cat** is the category whose objects are small categories and arrows are functors between small categories.

**$M$ -Act** is the category whose objects are monoid actions and arrows are equivariant maps. Since equivariant maps are functions, the identity arrow is the identity equivariant map and composition is function composition.

**FBool** is the category whose objects are finite Boolean algebras and arrows are homomorphisms between them.

**Pts** is the category whose objects are pointed sets and arrows are functions that preserves the pointed object.

**Func**( $\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D}$ ) is the category whose objects are functors from categories  $\mathcal{C}$  to  $\mathcal{D}$  and arrows are natural transformations.

### Examples of Functors:

**Monoid Homomorphism**  $f : M \rightarrow N$  where  $M$  and  $N$  are monoids is a functor from the category  $C(M)$  to the category  $C(N)$ .

**Monotone Map** between two posets is a functor between the category determined by the posets.

**Projection** The first and second projections from the product category to its first or second parts,  $P_1 : \mathcal{C} \times \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  and  $P_2 : \mathcal{C} \times \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$  for categories  $\mathcal{C}$  and  $\mathcal{D}$  are functors.

**Inclusion Map** of a subcategory is a functor.

*Note:* By the definition of *subcategory*, objects and arrows of the subcategory need not be objects and arrows in the bigger category.

*Example:* **Set** is a subcategory of **Rel** and the functor is defined by taking sets to the sets as objects in **Rel** and set functions  $f : S \rightarrow T$  to  $\{(s, t) | t = f(s)\}$ .

**Monoid Actions** For an action  $\alpha$  of a monoid  $M$  acting on a set  $S$ , let  $C(M)$  be the category determined by  $M$  and the action  $\alpha$  determines a functor  $F_\alpha : C(M) \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}$  defined as:

- $F_\alpha(*) = S$  where  $*$  denotes the single object in  $C(M)$ .
- $F_\alpha(m) = s \mapsto \alpha(m, s)$  for  $m \in M, s \in S$ .

**Quotient Functor**  $Q : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C} / \sim$

is the functor that takes a category to its quotient category by where  $Q(A) = A$  for any object  $A$  and  $Q(f) = [f]$  for arrows  $f$  in the category  $\mathcal{C}$ .

**Factor** Let  $f : A \rightarrow B$  and  $g : C \rightarrow B$  be arrows. If there is an arrow  $h : A \rightarrow C$  such that  $f = g \circ h$ , then  $f$  **factors** through  $g$ .

**Factorization System** A **factorization system** in a category  $\mathcal{C}$  consists of two subclasses  $\mathcal{E}$  and  $\mathcal{M}$  of the arrows of  $\mathcal{C}$  such that:

- If  $\mathcal{I}$  is the class of isomorphisms, then  $\mathcal{M} \circ \mathcal{I} \subseteq \mathcal{M}$  and  $\mathcal{I} \circ \mathcal{E} \subseteq \mathcal{E}$ .
- Every arrow  $f \in \mathcal{C}$  factors as  $f = m \circ e$  where  $m \in \mathcal{M}$  and  $e \in \mathcal{E}$ .
- In any commutative square

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A & \xrightarrow{e} & B \\ f \downarrow & & \downarrow g \\ C & \xrightarrow{m} & D \end{array}$$

with  $e \in \mathcal{E}$  and  $m \in \mathcal{M}$ , there is a unique  $h : B \rightarrow C$  such that  $h \circ e = f$  and  $m \circ h = g$ .

**Faithful** A functor  $F : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$  is **faithful** if the set mapping:

$$\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(A, B) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F(A), F(B))$$

for each pair of objects  $A$  and  $B$  in  $\mathcal{C}$  induced by  $F$  is *injective*.

*Note:* If  $f : A \rightarrow B$  and  $g : C \rightarrow D$ , as long as either  $A \neq C$  or  $C \neq D$ ,  $F(f) = F(g)$  may hold and  $F$  can still be faithful.

*Note:* A faithful functor need not be injective on objects or arrows.

**Forgetful/Underlying Functor** is the functor which “forgets” some of the structure in a category of structures and structure-preserving functions.

*Examples:*

–  $U : \mathbf{Mon} \rightarrow \mathbf{Sem}$

–  $U : \mathbf{Sem} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}$

–  $U : \mathbf{Grf} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set} \times \mathbf{Set}$

that takes a graph  $\mathcal{G}$  to the set of nodes and set of arrows,  $U(\mathcal{G}) = (\mathcal{G}_0, \mathcal{G}_1)$ . It follows that there is also an arrowset functor  $A : \mathbf{Grf} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}$  and nodeset functor  $N : \mathbf{Grf} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}$ .

–  $U : \mathbf{Cat} \rightarrow \mathbf{Grf}$

by forgetting the identity arrows and composition, the remains of a category becomes a graph.

*Note:* If  $F$  is a functor, then  $F$  is a graph homomorphism. Note that the converse is not true.

Simiarly, there is the functor  $A : \mathbf{Cat} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}$  and  $O : \mathbf{Cat} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}$  which takes a category to its set of arrows and objects respectively.

–  $U : \mathcal{C}/A \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$

for an object  $A$  in the category  $\mathcal{C}$ .

*Note:* If  $\mathcal{C}$  is  $\mathbf{Set}$ , the underlying functor  $U : \mathbf{Set}/S \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}$  forgets the indexing of  $S$ -indexed sets.

**Free Functor** Informally, a **free functor** is left adjoint to a **forgetful functor**.

*Examples:*

–  $F : \mathbf{Set} \rightarrow \mathbf{Mon}$

is the free monoid functor that takes a set  $A$  to the free monoid  $F(A)$ , the Kleene closure  $A^*$  with concatenation as the monoid operation.  $F$  takes set functions to the Kleene closure induced homomorphism.

*Note:* The Kleene closure itself is a functor from  $\mathbf{Set}$  to  $\mathbf{Set}$ , which is the composition of  $U \circ F$ , the underlying functor  $U : \mathbf{Mon} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}$  and the free monoid functor.

–  $F : \mathbf{Grf} \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat}$

takes graphs to the path category of the graph as objects in  $\mathbf{Cat}$  and graph homomorphisms to arrows (functors between path categories). For a graph homomorphism  $\phi : \mathcal{G} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$ ,  $F(\phi)(f_n, f_{n-1}, \dots, f_1) = (\phi(f_n), \phi(f_{n-1}), \dots, \phi(f_1))$ , which is clearly a path in  $\mathcal{H}$  (and thus an arrow in the path category of  $\mathcal{H}$ ).

**Full** A functor  $F : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$  is **full** if the set mapping:

$$\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(A, B) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F(A), F(B))$$

for each pair of objects  $A$  and  $B$  in  $\mathcal{C}$  induced by  $F$  is *surjective*.

*Note:* A full functor need not be surjective on objects or arrows.

**Full Subcategory** is a subcategory  $\mathcal{D}$  of  $\mathcal{C}$  such that  $\forall A, B \in \mathcal{D}_0, \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(A, B) = \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(A, B)$ .

*Example:* **Fin** is a full subcategory of **Set**.

**Functor** is a “structure preserving” map between categories, similar to homomorphisms between groups, graphs and etc... A **functor**  $F : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$  from the category  $\mathcal{C}$  to the category  $\mathcal{D}$  defined as follows:

- $\forall A \in \mathcal{C}, F(A) \in \mathcal{D}$ .
- If  $f : A \rightarrow B$  in  $\mathcal{C}$ , then  $F(f) : F(A) \rightarrow F(B)$  is an arrow in  $\mathcal{D}$  such that:
  - $F(id_A) = id_{F(A)}$  for every object  $A \in \mathcal{C}$ .
  - $F(g \circ f) = F(g) \circ F(f)$  for all arrows  $f : X \rightarrow Y, g : Y \rightarrow Z$  in  $\mathcal{C}$ .

*Note:* All functors preserve isomorphisms.

**Godement Calculus** Let  $\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B}, \mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D}, \mathcal{E}$  be categories,  $E, F_1, F_2, F_3, G_1, G_2, G_3, H$  be functors and  $\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta$  be natural morphisms as shown in the following diagram:

$$\mathcal{A} \xrightarrow{E} \mathcal{B} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{F_1} \mathcal{C} \\ \Downarrow \alpha \\ \xrightarrow{F_2} \mathcal{C} \\ \Downarrow \beta \\ \xrightarrow{F_3} \mathcal{C} \end{array} \mathcal{C} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{G_1} \mathcal{D} \\ \Downarrow \gamma \\ \xrightarrow{G_2} \mathcal{D} \\ \Downarrow \delta \\ \xrightarrow{G_3} \mathcal{D} \end{array} \mathcal{D} \xrightarrow{H} \mathcal{E}$$

There are 5 laws/equational rules between composition of functors and natural transformations:

1.  $(\delta \circ \gamma) * (\beta \circ \alpha) = (\delta * \beta) \circ (\gamma \circ \alpha)$
2.  $(H \circ G_1)\alpha = H(G_1\alpha)$
3.  $\gamma(F_1 \circ E) = (\gamma F_1)E$
4.  $G_1(\beta \circ \alpha)E = (G_1\beta E) \circ (G_1\alpha E)$
5.  $\gamma * \alpha = (\gamma F_2) \circ (G_1\alpha) = (G_2\alpha) \circ (\gamma F_1)$

*Note:* The first rule is also known as the *Interchange Law*.

**Groupoid** is a category in which every arrow is an *isomorphism*.

**Hom Function** Let  $S$  be an object and  $f : T \rightarrow V$  an arrow in a category, a *covariant hom function*  $\text{Hom}(S, f) : \text{Hom}(S, T) \rightarrow \text{Hom}(S, V)$ , if defined by:

$$\text{Hom}(S, f)(g) = f \circ g$$

for some  $g \in \text{Hom}(S, T)$ .

Similarly, a *contravariant hom function*  $\text{Hom}(f, S) : \text{Hom}(V, S) \rightarrow \text{Hom}(T, S)$ , if defined by:

$$\text{Hom}(f, S)(g) = g \circ f$$

for some  $g \in \text{Hom}(V, S)$ .

**Hom Functor** is a functor that takes a category to a hom-set. For any category  $\mathcal{C}$  with an object  $C$ , there are three different hom functors:

**Covariant Hom Functor**  $\text{Hom}(C, -) : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}$

- \*  $\text{Hom}(C, -)(A) = \text{Hom}(C, A)$  for each object  $A \in \mathcal{C}$ .
- \*  $\text{Hom}(C, -)(f) = \text{Hom}(C, f) : \text{Hom}(C, A) \rightarrow \text{Hom}(C, B)$  for an arrow  $f : A \rightarrow B$  in  $\mathcal{C}$ .

**Contravariant Hom Functor**  $\text{Hom}(-, C) : \mathcal{C}^{op} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}$

- \*  $\text{Hom}(-, C)(A) = \text{Hom}(A, C)$  for each object  $A \in \mathcal{C}$ .
- \*  $\text{Hom}(-, C)(f) = \text{Hom}(f, C) : \text{Hom}(B, C) \rightarrow \text{Hom}(A, C)$  for an arrow  $f : A \rightarrow B$  in  $\mathcal{C}$ .

**Two-Variable Hom Functor**  $\text{Hom}(-, -) : \mathcal{C}^{op} \times \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}$

- \*  $\text{Hom}(-, -)((A, B)) = \text{Hom}(A, B)$  for each object  $(A, B) \in \mathcal{C}^{op} \times \mathcal{C}$ .
- \*  $\text{Hom}(-, -)((f, g)) = \text{Hom}(f, g) : \text{Hom}(B, C) \rightarrow \text{Hom}(A, D)$  for an arrow  $(f : A \rightarrow B, g : C \rightarrow D)$  in  $\mathcal{C}^{op} \times \mathcal{C}$ .

**Hom-Set** A **hom-set**  $\text{Hom}(S, T)$  is the set of all morphisms from  $S$  to  $T$  for any objects  $S$  and  $T$  in a category.

**Horizontal Composition** Let  $\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B}$  and  $\mathcal{C}$  be categories, and  $F, F' : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}, G, G' : \mathcal{B} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  be functors. **Horizontal composition** between natural transformation transformations  $\alpha : F \rightarrow F'$  and  $\beta : G \rightarrow G'$  is  $\beta * \alpha : G \circ F \rightarrow G' \circ F'$ .

*Note:* The horizontal composite of natural transformations is also a natural transformation.

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \begin{array}{c} \text{F} \\ \curvearrowright \\ \mathcal{A} \downarrow \alpha \mathcal{B} \\ \curvearrowleft \\ \text{F}' \end{array} & * & \begin{array}{c} \text{G} \\ \curvearrowright \\ \mathcal{B} \downarrow \beta \mathcal{C} \\ \curvearrowleft \\ \text{G}' \end{array} \\
 & \mapsto & \begin{array}{c} \text{G} \circ \text{F} \\ \curvearrowright \\ \mathcal{A} \downarrow \beta * \alpha \mathcal{C} \\ \curvearrowleft \\ \text{G}' \circ \text{F}' \end{array}
 \end{array}$$

**Idempotent** An arrow  $f : A \rightarrow A$  in a category is **idempotent** if  $f \circ f = f$ .

**Indiscrete** A category in which there is exactly one arrow between any two objects is called **indiscrete**.

**Initial Object** (0) is the dual of *terminal object* in which the **initial object** has a unique arrow to each object (including itself). The initial object is usually denoted 0.

*Note:* Any two initial objects in a category are isomorphic.

*Example:* The empty set  $\emptyset$  in **Set** is the initial object.

**Inverse** For arrows  $f : A \rightarrow B$  and  $g : B \rightarrow A$ ,  $g$  is an **inverse** of  $f$  if  $g \circ f = id_A$  and  $f \circ g = id_B$ .

*Note:* If only  $f \circ g = id_B$  is satisfied, then  $f$  is a **left inverse** of  $g$ .

Similarly, if only  $g \circ f = id_A$  is satisfied, then  $f$  is a **right inverse** of  $g$ .

**Invertible** is an element of a monoid in which it is an *isomorphism* in the category of the monoid (ie: the element has an inverse).

**Isomorphism** ( $\cong$ ) is an arrow with an *inverse*. Two objects  $A$  and  $B$  are *isomorphic* if an isomorphism exists between them, thus  $A \cong B$ .

*Note:* It follows that all identity arrows are isomorphisms.



*Note:* A function in **Set**, homomorphism in **Grf** and **Mon** is an isomorphism if and only if it is *bijective*.

**Locally Small Category** is a category  $\mathcal{C}$  with the property that  $\text{Hom}(A, B)$  is a set for all objects  $A, B \in \mathcal{C}$ .

**Monomorphism** ( $\rightarrowtail$ ) is an arrow  $f : A \rightarrow B$  such that for any object  $T$  and arrows  $x, y : T \rightarrow A$ , if  $x \neq y$ , then  $f \circ x \neq f \circ y$ . Monomorphisms can be denoted by  $f : A \rightarrowtail B$ .

*Note:* In this context,  $x, y : T \rightarrow A$  may be regarded as *variable elements* and can be written as if  $x \neq y$ , then  $f(x) \neq f(y)$ .

*Properties:* Let  $f : A \rightarrow B$  and  $g : B \rightarrow C$  be arrows:

- If  $f$  and  $g$  are monomorphisms, so is  $g \circ f$ .
- If  $g \circ f$  is a monomorphism, so is  $f$ .

*Note:* In **Set**, a function is injective if and only if it is a monomorphism.

*Note:* In the category determined by a Monoid, a monic element is left cancellable.

**Morphism/Arrow** is a directed connective between two objects (*source* and *target* objects) in a category, synonymous with *map* or a *directed edge* in a *directed graph*. A morphism  $f$  with source  $x$  and target  $y$  objects is denoted as:

$$f : x \rightarrow y$$

**Natural Isomorphism** is a natural transformation  $\alpha : F \rightarrow G$  in which there is a natural transformation  $\beta : G \rightarrow F$  is an inverse to  $\alpha$  in **Func**( $\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D}$ ).

*Note:* Natural isomorphisms are also known as *natural equivalences*.

*Theorem:* Suppose  $F : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}, G : \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  are functors and  $\alpha : F \rightarrow G$  is a natural transformation between them. Then  $\alpha$  is a *natural isomorphism* if and only if for each object  $C \in \mathcal{C}$ ,  $\alpha C : F(C) \rightarrow G(C)$  is an isomorphism in  $\mathcal{D}$ .

**Natural Transformation** Let  $F, G : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$  be 2 functors with the same domain and codomain. A **natural transformation**  $\alpha : F \rightarrow G$  is given by a family of arrows  $\alpha C$  for each object  $C \in \mathcal{C}$  such that:

- $\alpha C : F(C) \rightarrow G(C)$  for each object  $C \in \mathcal{C}$ , also say that  $\alpha$  is natural in  $C$ .
- For any arrow  $f : C \rightarrow D$  in  $\mathcal{C}$ , the following diagram commutes.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} F(C) & \xrightarrow{\alpha C} & G(C) \\ F(f) \downarrow & & \downarrow G(f) \\ F(D) & \xrightarrow{\alpha D} & G(D) \end{array}$$

*Composition with Functors:* Let  $H : \mathcal{B} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  be a functor and  $\alpha : F \rightarrow G$  where  $F, G : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$  be are functors. Then, postcomposing  $\alpha$  with the functor  $H$  is a natural transformation  $H\alpha : H \circ F \rightarrow H \circ G$  defined by  $(H\alpha)A = H(\alpha A)$  for any object  $A \in \mathcal{A}$ .

A similar result can be shown when precomposing a natural transformation with a functor.

**Powerset Functor** is a functor that takes a set  $S$  to its powerset  $\mathcal{P}(S)$ . There are three different powerset functors:

**Inverse Image**  $\mathcal{P} : \mathbf{Set}^{op} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}$

is a contravariant functor that takes sets  $S$  to its powerset  $\mathcal{P}(S)$  and functions  $f : A \rightarrow B$  to its inverse image  $f^* : \mathcal{P}(B) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(A)$ .

**Direct/Existential Image** is a covariant functor that takes sets  $S$  to its powerset  $\mathcal{P}(S)$  and functions  $f : A \rightarrow B$  to the function  $f_* : \mathcal{P}(A) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(B)$  where  $f_*(A_0) = \{f(x) | x \in A_0\}$ .

**Universal Image** is a covariant functor that takes sets  $S$  to its powerset  $\mathcal{P}(S)$  and functions  $f : A \rightarrow B$  to the function  $f_! : \mathcal{P}(A) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(B)$  where  $f_!(A_0) = \{y \in B | (f(x) = y) \Rightarrow (x \in A_0)\}$ .

**Preserve** An arrow  $f : A \rightarrow B$  **preserves** a property  $P$  if whenever  $A$  has  $P$ , then so does  $B$ .

*Note:* A functor  $F : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$  preserves  $P$  of arrows if whenever  $f \in \mathcal{C}_1$  has  $P$ , so does  $F(f) \in \mathcal{D}_1$ .

*Note:* A property is preserved by isomorphisms if for any object  $A$  with the property, any object isomorphic to  $A$  must also have the property.

**Product of Categories** If  $\mathcal{C}$  and  $\mathcal{D}$  are categories their **product**  $\mathcal{C} \times \mathcal{D}$  is the category whose objects are all ordered pairs  $(C, D)$  where  $C \in \mathcal{C}_0, D \in \mathcal{D}_0$  and arrows are  $(f, g) : (C, D) \rightarrow (C', D')$  where  $f : C \rightarrow C' \in \mathcal{C}_1, g : D \rightarrow D' \in \mathcal{D}_1$ . The identity arrow of  $(C, D)$  is  $(id_C, id_D)$  and composition of arrows is defined component wise.

**Quotient Category** ( $/ \sim$ ) For a congruence relation  $\sim$  on the arrows of a category  $\mathcal{C}$ , the **quotient category**  $\mathcal{C} / \sim$  is defined as follows:

- The objects of  $\mathcal{C} / \sim$  are the objects of  $\mathcal{C}$ .
- The arrows of  $\mathcal{C} / \sim$  are the congruence classes of arrows of  $\mathcal{C}$ .
- If  $f : A \rightarrow B$  in  $\mathcal{C}$ , then  $[f] : A \rightarrow B$  in  $\mathcal{C} / \sim$ .
- If  $f : A \rightarrow B$  and  $g : B \rightarrow C$  in  $\mathcal{C}$ , then  $[g] \circ [f] = [g \circ f] : A \rightarrow C$  in  $\mathcal{C}$ .

*Note:* For any functor  $F : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$  with the property that if  $f \sim g$  then  $F(f) = F(g)$ , then there is an unique functor  $F_0 : \mathcal{C} / \sim \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$  for which  $F_0 \circ Q = F$ . Here,  $Q$  is the quotient functor,  $Q : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C} / \sim$ .

**Reflect** A functor  $F : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$  **reflects** a property  $P$  of arrows if whenever  $F(f)$  has property  $P$  then so does  $f$  (where  $f$  is any arrow for which  $F$  takes to  $F(f)$ ).

*Theorem:* Consider a full and faithful functor  $F : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ . Let  $A$  and  $B$  be objects in  $\mathcal{C}$  and  $u : F(A) \rightarrow F(B)$  is an isomorphism in  $\mathcal{D}$ , then there is an unique isomorphism  $f : A \rightarrow B$  in  $\mathcal{C}$  for which  $F(f) = u$ .

*Corollary:* A full and faithful functor reflects isomorphisms.

*Corollary:* For a full and faithful functor  $F$ , if  $F(A) = F(B)$  for objects  $A$  and  $B$  in the domain of  $F$ , then  $A \cong B$ .

**Representable Functor** A *set-valued functor* is representable if it is naturally isomorphic to a *hom functor*.

*Note:* If a covariant functor  $F : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}$  is isomorphic to  $\text{Hom}(C, -)$  for some object  $C \in \mathcal{C}$ , we say that  $C$  represents  $F$ . The same can be said for contravariant functors and contravariant hom functors.

**Representative Subcategory** is a subcategory  $\mathcal{D}$  of  $\mathcal{C}$  in which every object of  $\mathcal{C}$  is isomorphic to some object in  $\mathcal{D}$ .

**Set-Valued Functor** is any functor from any category  $\mathcal{C}$  to  $\mathbf{Set}$ .

*Note:* For small categories  $\mathcal{C}$ , a set valued functor  $F : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}$  generalizes the concept of monoid actions as functors.

**Slice Category**  $(/)$  If  $\mathcal{C}$  is a category, for any object  $A \in \mathcal{C}_0$ , the **slice category**  $\mathcal{C}/A$  is defined as follows:

- An object of  $\mathcal{C}/A$  is an arrow  $f : C \rightarrow A$  in  $\mathcal{C}$  for some  $C \in \mathcal{C}_0$ .
- An arrow of  $\mathcal{C}/A$  from  $f : C \rightarrow A$  to  $f' : C' \rightarrow A$  is an arrow  $h : C \rightarrow C'$  such that  $f = f' \circ h$ .
- The composite of  $h : f \circ f'$  and  $h' : f' \circ f''$  is  $h' \circ h$ .

*Note:* Since the same  $h$  can satisfy both  $f = f' \circ h$  and  $g = g' \circ h$  where  $f \neq g$  or  $f' \neq g'$ ,  $h : f \rightarrow f'$  and  $h : g \rightarrow g'$  are regarded as different arrows in  $\mathcal{C}/A$ .

*Note:* The *indexed function* of an *indexed set* indexed by  $S$ , is precisely an arrow in the slice category  $\mathbf{Set}/S$ .

**Split Epimorphism** is an arrow that has a *right inverse* (this arrow can be shown to be an *epimorphism*, by composing its right inverse to its right).

**Split Monomorphism** is an arrow that has a *left inverse* (this arrow can be shown to be a *monomorphism*, by composing its left inverse to its left).

**Subcategory** A **subcategory**  $\mathcal{D}$  of a category  $\mathcal{C}$  is a category for which:

- All objects and arrows in  $\mathcal{D}$  are objects and arrows in  $\mathcal{C}$  (ie:  $\mathcal{D}_0 \subseteq \mathcal{C}_0$  and  $\mathcal{D}_1 \subseteq \mathcal{C}_1$ ).
- The source and target of an arrow in  $\mathcal{D}$  are the same as its source and target in  $\mathcal{C}$  (ie: source and target maps in  $\mathcal{D}$  are restrictions of those in  $\mathcal{C}$ ). Thus,  $\forall A, B \in \mathcal{C}_0, \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(A, B) \subseteq \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(A, B)$ .
- If  $A$  is an object in  $\mathcal{C}$ , its identity arrow  $id_A$  in  $\mathcal{C}$  is in  $\mathcal{D}$ .
- If  $f : A \rightarrow B$  and  $g : B \rightarrow C$  in  $\mathcal{D}$ , then the composite  $g \circ f \in \mathcal{C}_1$  is also the composite in  $\mathcal{D}$ .

**Subfunctor** A **subfunctor** of a functor  $F : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}$  is a functor  $G : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}$  with the property that for each object  $C \in \mathcal{C}$ ,  $G(C) \subseteq F(C)$  and for each arrow  $f : C \rightarrow C'$  and element  $x \in G(C)$ ,  $G(f)(x) = F(f)(x)$ .

*Note:* The inclusion function  $i_C : G(C) \rightarrow F(C)$  that takes the subfunctor  $G$  to the functor  $F$  is a natural transformation.

**Subobject** In a category  $\mathcal{C}$ , a **subobject** of an object  $C \in \mathcal{C}$  is an equivalence class of monomorphisms under the relation  $\sim$ . The subobject is a **proper subobject** if it does not contain  $id_C$ . The equivalence relation  $\sim$  is defined as follows:

For monomorphisms  $f_0 : C_0 \rightarrowtail C$  and  $f_1 : C_1 \rightarrowtail C$ ,  $f_0 \sim f_1$  if both  $f_0$  and  $f_1$  factors through each other.

**Terminal Object** (1) is an object  $T$  in  $\mathcal{C}$  if there is exactly ONE arrow  $A \rightarrow T$  for each object  $A \in \mathcal{C}$  (including itself). This object is usually denoted  $1$  and the unique arrow  $\langle \rangle : A \rightarrow 1$ .

*Note:* Any two terminal objects in a category are isomorphic.

*Example:* Any singleton set in **Set** is a terminal object.

**Vertical Composition** ( $\circ$ ) Composition of natural transformations  $\alpha : F \rightarrow G$  and  $\beta : G \rightarrow H$  is  $\beta \circ \alpha : F \rightarrow H$  and is known as **vertical composition**, where  $F, G$  and  $H$  are functors from the categories  $\mathcal{C}$  to  $\mathcal{D}$ . This follows from the fact that the outer rectangle of the following diagram is commutative:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} F(A) & \xrightarrow{\alpha A} & G(A) & \xrightarrow{\beta A} & H(A) \\ F(f) \downarrow & & \downarrow G(f) & & \downarrow H(f) \\ F(B) & \xrightarrow{\alpha B} & G(B) & \xrightarrow{\beta B} & H(B) \end{array}$$

for each arrow  $f : A \rightarrow B$ .

*Note:* The vertical composite of natural transformations is also a natural transformation.

$$\begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{C} & \xrightarrow{F} & \mathcal{D} \\ \downarrow \alpha & & \downarrow \beta \\ \mathcal{C} & \xrightarrow{G} & \mathcal{D} \end{array} \circ \begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{C} & \xrightarrow{G} & \mathcal{D} \\ \downarrow \beta & & \downarrow \gamma \\ \mathcal{C} & \xrightarrow{H} & \mathcal{D} \end{array} \mapsto \begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{C} & \xrightarrow{F} & \mathcal{D} \\ \downarrow \beta \circ \alpha & & \downarrow \gamma \\ \mathcal{C} & \xrightarrow{H} & \mathcal{D} \end{array} \end{array}$$

**Wide Subcategory** is a subcategory  $\mathcal{D}$  of  $\mathcal{C}$  such that  $\mathcal{D}_0 = \mathcal{C}_0$ .

*Example:* **Set** is a wide subcategory of **Pfn**.

**Yoneda Embedding** For any category  $\mathcal{C}$ , there is a contravariant *Yoneda Functor*  $Y : \mathcal{C}^{op} \rightarrow \mathbf{Func}(C, \mathbf{Set})$  defined as:

- for objects  $C \in \mathcal{C}$ ,  $Y(C) = \text{Hom}(C, -)$
- for an arrow  $f : D \rightarrow C$  and an object  $A \in \mathcal{C}$ ,  $Y(f) = \text{Hom}(f, -)$  and  $Y(f)(A) : \text{Hom}(C, A) \rightarrow \text{Hom}(D, A)$

Thus, the following diagram commutes

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Hom}(D, A) & \xrightarrow{\text{Hom}(D, k)} & \text{Hom}(D, B) \\ Y(f)A \uparrow & & \uparrow Y(f)B \\ \text{Hom}(C, A) & \xrightarrow{\text{Hom}(C, k)} & \text{Hom}(C, B) \end{array}$$

for an arrow  $k : A \rightarrow B$ .

*Note:*  $Y(f) : \text{Hom}(C, -) \rightarrow \text{Hom}(D, -)$  is the induced natural transformation between hom functors corresponding to  $f$ . Generalizing  $\text{Hom}(D, -)$  to an arbitrary set valued functor, by the *Yoneda Lemma*,  $Y$  is both full and faithful.

*Note:* By the contravariant *Yoneda Lemma*, there also exists the covariant functor  $J : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathbf{Func}(\mathcal{C}^{op}, \mathbf{Set})$ .