

# Category Theory for Homological Algebra

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## 1. ADDITIVE CATEGORY

There are three main concepts that we are going to grasp in this note:

- (1) zero morphisms and zero object;
- (2) biproduct;
- (3) additive functors and enriched functors.

1.1. **Zeros.** Let us get started from the definitions of zero morphisms and zero objects.

**Definition 1.1.** A *zero object* is an object which is initial and terminal.

**Definition 1.2.** A category is said to have *zero morphisms* if every hom-set contains a specified morphism denoted by  $0$  that satisfies  $0f = 0$  and  $f0 = 0$  for all morphisms  $f$ .

In other words, we can say that the existence of zero morphisms is equivalent to  $\mathbf{Set}_*$ -enrichment.

Here are definitions of categories in which we are interested.

**Definition 1.3.** A *pointed category* is a category with a zero object. A *semiadditive category* is a  $\mathbf{CMon}$ -enriched category with a zero object. A *additive category* is a  $\mathbf{Ab}$ -enriched category with a zero object. A *preadditive category* is another name of  $\mathbf{Ab}$ -enriched category.

Note that we have of course several possible ways to give some equivalent definitions. For example, the following proposition is well-admitted as the definition of semiadditive category.

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \text{Additive category} & \longrightarrow & \text{Semiadditive category} & \longrightarrow & \text{Pointed category} \\ \text{zero object} \begin{array}{c} \nearrow \downarrow \\ \searrow \end{array} & & \text{zero object} \begin{array}{c} \nearrow \downarrow \\ \searrow \end{array} & & \text{zero object} \begin{array}{c} \nearrow \downarrow \\ \searrow \end{array} \\ \mathbf{Ab}\text{-enriched category} & \longrightarrow & \mathbf{CMon}\text{-enriched category} & \longrightarrow & \mathbf{Set}_*\text{-enriched category} \end{array}$$

**1.2. Biproducts.** Simply saying, biproducts is something that is both product and coproduct. To define biproduct, we need zero morphisms, so the  $\mathbf{Set}_*$ -enrichment will be assumed in all statements in this subsection.

**Definition 1.4.** A *canonical morphism from coproduct to product* is a morphism blabla

**Definition 1.5** (Biproduct). If the canonical morphism from coproduct to product is an isomorphism, then we call it by the *biproduct*.

There is a counterexample that coproduct and product are isomorphic but it is not the biproduct.

The following two theorems must be highlighted. The first theorem captures the familiar isomorphisms between direct sum and direct product of finitely many modules.

**Theorem 1.1.** *In a  $\mathbf{CMon}$ -enriched category, finitary product is also the coproduct so that it forms the biproduct, and vice versa.*

**Theorem 1.2.** *A category is semiadditive if and only if it has all finite biproducts.*