

\mathbb{Z} as an initial object

initial objects

In a category \mathcal{C} , an object c is called initial if

$$\text{Mor}_{\mathcal{C}}(c, x) = \{*\}$$

for any object $x \in \text{ob}(\mathcal{C})$.

Let A be a ring. There is a unique ring homomorphism

$$i: \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow A.$$

Indeed, such a homomorphism must satisfy $i(1) = 1$. It extends uniquely to \mathbb{Z} as a ring homomorphism. In other words, \mathbb{Z} is the initial object in the category of rings.

Question

Does the category of rings have a terminal object?