

# Notes on Category Theory: Adjointness

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## 1 Isolating the concept

**Example 1.1** (Defining linear functions, part I). Consider two vector spaces  $V$  and  $W$  (over the same field) and the problem:

how can we define a linear function  $f : V \rightarrow W$ ?

There is a well known theorem that says that prescribing the images of the elements of the base  $S$  determines uniquely a linear function  $V \rightarrow W$ . More precisely, the theorem sounds like this:

Let  $V$  and  $W$  two vector spaces, both over a field  $k$ , and let  $S$  be a base of  $V$ . Let us write  $i$  for the inclusion  $S \hookrightarrow V$ . Then for every function  $\phi : S \rightarrow W$  there exists one and only one linear function  $f : V \rightarrow W$  such that

$$\begin{array}{ccc} S & \xrightarrow{i} & V \\ & \searrow \phi & \downarrow f \\ & & W \end{array} \quad (1.1)$$

commutes.

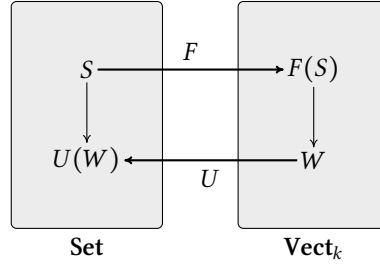
The statement is equivalent to saying that the function

$$\mathbf{Vect}_k(V, W) \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}(S, W), f \mapsto fi \quad (1.2)$$

is a bijection.

Let us reason about the theorem. First of all, it is about a *function*  $\phi : S \rightarrow W$ , pointing to a vector space  $W$ : the morphisms of  $\mathbf{Set}$  do not care whether the sets have an additional structure. Let us say that  $\phi$  is a *function* from  $S$  to  $W$  ‘downgraded’ from the status of vector space to the one of set. On the other hand, from a set we construct an actual vector space, this is what being a base means. Indeed, behind the scenes two functors

# 1. Isolating the concept



**Figure 1.**  $F$  upgrades sets to vector spaces;  $U$  does the opposite, that is downgrades.

$$\mathbf{Set} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{F} \\ \xleftarrow{U} \end{array} \mathbf{Vect}_k$$

are moving:

- $F$  the functor that *constructs* a vector space  $F(S)$  from set  $S$  it and extends a function of bases  $\alpha : S \rightarrow T$  to a genuine linear functions  $F(\alpha) : F(S) \rightarrow F(T)$ , as we have already explained.
- $U$  is the functor that *forgets*: that is takes a vector space and returns the set of vectors (thus no addition, no external product and no vector space axioms); it takes a linear function and returns the same function, but observe the homomorphism property cannot make sense any longer in  $\mathbf{Set}$ .

Let us rewrite the quoted theorem to make it more aware of these functors. First, let us rewrite  $i : S \rightarrow V$  as  $i_S : S \rightarrow U(F(S))$  and  $\phi : S \rightarrow W$  as  $\phi : S \rightarrow U(W)$ : we have just wrapped  $V$  and  $W$  with  $U$ . So far, the situation can be depicted as

$$\begin{array}{ccc} S & \xrightarrow{i_S} & U(F(S)) \\ & \searrow \phi & \\ & & U(W) \end{array}$$

We are not losing the commutative diagram (1.1)! The composition of a ‘function’  $S \rightarrow V$  with a ‘linear function’  $V \rightarrow W$  which gives as result a ‘function’  $S \rightarrow W$ : in this composition we not care about linearity anymore, thus let us wrap the  $f : V \rightarrow W$  with  $U$ , so that it can fit in a commutative diagram:

Let  $V$  and  $W$  two vector spaces over a field  $k$ , and let  $S$  be a base of  $V$ . In this context,  $V = F(S)$ . Moreover, write  $i_S$  for the inclusion function  $S \hookrightarrow U(F(S))$ . Then for every function  $\phi : S \rightarrow U(W)$  there exists one and only one linear function  $f : V \rightarrow W$  for which

$$\begin{array}{ccc} S & \xrightarrow{i_S} & U(F(S)) \\ & \searrow \phi & \downarrow U(f) \\ & & U(W) \end{array} \quad (1.3)$$

is a commutative diagram of  $\mathbf{Set}$ .

The restyling touches also the bijections in (1.2):

$$\xi_{S,W} : \mathbf{Vect}_k(F(S), W) \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}(S, U(W)), \quad \xi_{S,W}(f) := U(f)i_S \quad (1.4)$$

We need to pause the example a bit now and resume it later.

1. Isolating the concept

**Construction 1.2.** Let  $\mathcal{C}$  and  $\mathcal{D}$  be two locally small categories and two functors

$$\mathcal{C} \xrightleftharpoons[R]{L} \mathcal{D}$$

We have then the functor

$$\mathcal{C}(\_, R(\_)) : \mathcal{C}^{\text{op}} \times \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}$$

that maps objects  $(x, y)$  to  $\mathcal{C}(x, R(y))$  and pairs of morphisms

$$\begin{pmatrix} (x, y) \\ (f, g) \downarrow \\ (x', y') \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} x & y \\ f \uparrow & \downarrow g \\ x' & y' \end{pmatrix}$$

to functions

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{C}(x, R(y)) &\rightarrow \mathcal{C}(x', R(y')) \\ h &\rightarrow R(g)hf \end{aligned}$$

We have also the functor

$$\mathcal{D}(L(\_), \_) : \mathcal{C}^{\text{op}} \times \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}$$

that maps  $(x, y)$  to  $\mathcal{D}(L(x), y)$  and pairs of morphisms

$$\begin{pmatrix} (x, y) \\ (f, g) \downarrow \\ (x', y') \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} x & y \\ f \uparrow & \downarrow g \\ x' & y' \end{pmatrix}$$

to functions

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{D}(L(x), y) &\rightarrow \mathcal{D}(L(x'), y') \\ h &\rightarrow ghL(f). \end{aligned}$$

**Example 1.3** (Defining linear functions, part II). We return to the last example. The functions  $\xi_{S, W}$  form a natural isomorphism

$$\xi : \mathbf{Vect}_k(F(\_), \_) \Rightarrow \mathbf{Set}(\_, U(\_))$$

We know the components are bijections, hence it remains to check it is a natural transformation. Thus consider the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathbf{Vect}_k(F(S), W) & \xrightarrow{\xi_{S, W}} & \mathbf{Set}(S, U(W)) \\ \mathbf{Vect}_k(F(\alpha), f) \downarrow & & \downarrow \mathbf{Set}(\alpha, U(f)) \\ \mathbf{Vect}_k(F(S'), W') & \xrightarrow{\xi_{S', W'}} & \mathbf{Set}(S', U(W')) \end{array}$$

and we show it is commutative. A linear function  $h : F(S) \rightarrow W$  goes to the function  $U(h)i_S : S \rightarrow U(W)$ , which is sent to the function  $U(f)(U(h)i_S)\alpha : S' \rightarrow U(W')$ . By functoriality,  $U(f)(U(h)i_S)\alpha = U(fh)i_{S'}\alpha$ . On the other way,  $h$  goes to the linear function  $fhF(\alpha) : F(S') \rightarrow W$  which goes to  $U(fhF(\alpha))i_{S'} : S' \rightarrow U(W')$ . Here,  $U(fhF(\alpha))i_{S'} = U(fh)U(F(\alpha))i_{S'}$ . Thus, to verify that the functions  $S' \rightarrow U(W')$  here are equal, one could just verify that

$$\begin{array}{ccc} S & \xrightarrow{i_S} & U(F(S)) \\ \alpha \uparrow & & \uparrow U(F(\alpha)) \\ S' & \xrightarrow{i_{S'}} & U(F(S')) \end{array}$$

commutes, which is immediate.

## 1. Isolating the concept

Example 1.1 and 1.3 of the introduction should have triggered your attention. If not, look at them closely now: after the initial restyling of one result of Linear Algebra, it is just a matter of categories and functors.

**Construction 1.4.** Let  $\mathcal{C}$  and  $\mathcal{J}$  two categories,  $a$  one of its objects and take a functor  $F : \mathcal{J} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ . We have the category  $a \downarrow F$  made as follows:

- the objects are the morphisms  $a \rightarrow F(x)$  of  $\mathcal{C}$ , with  $x$  being an object of  $\mathcal{J}$ ;
- the morphisms from  $f : a \rightarrow F(x)$  to  $g : a \rightarrow F(y)$  are the morphisms  $h : x \rightarrow y$  of  $\mathcal{J}$  such that

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & & F(x) \\ & \nearrow f & \downarrow F(h) \\ a & & \\ & \searrow g & \downarrow \\ & & F(y) \end{array}$$

commutes;

- the composition is that of  $\mathcal{J}$ .

**Proposition 1.5.** Suppose given two locally small categories  $\mathcal{C}$  and  $\mathcal{D}$ , two functors

$$\mathcal{C} \xrightleftharpoons[R]{L} \mathcal{D}$$

and a natural transformation  $\eta : 1_{\mathcal{C}} \Rightarrow RL$  such that  $\eta_x : x \rightarrow RL(x)$  is initial in  $x \downarrow R$  for every  $x \in |\mathcal{C}|$ . Then, for  $x \in |\mathcal{C}|$  and  $y \in |\mathcal{D}|$ , the functions

$$\alpha_{x,y} : \mathcal{D}(L(x), y) \rightarrow \mathcal{C}(x, R(y)), \quad \alpha_{x,y}(f) := R(f)\eta_x$$

form an adjunction  $\alpha : L \dashv R$ .

**Exercise 1.6.** Look at Example 1.1 and 1.3: isolate what in the proposition is the natural transformation  $\eta$ . Can you prove the theorem by yourself?

*Proof of Proposition 1.5.* The fact that  $\eta_x$  is initial object implies that these functions are all bijective. Now, we just need to verify the transformation is natural. Take  $x, x' \in |\mathcal{C}|$ ,  $y, y' \in |\mathcal{D}|$ ,  $f \in \mathcal{C}(x', x)$  and  $g \in \mathcal{D}(y, y')$  and examine the square

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{D}(L(x), y) & \xrightarrow{\alpha_{x,y}} & \mathcal{C}(x, R(y)) \\ \mathcal{D}(L(f), g) \downarrow & & \downarrow \mathcal{C}(f, R(g)) \\ \mathcal{D}(L(x'), y') & \xrightarrow{\alpha_{x',y'}} & \mathcal{C}(x', R(y')) \end{array}$$

For  $h \in \mathcal{D}(L(x), y)$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{C}(f, R(g))(\alpha_{x,y}(h)) &= R(g)R(h)\eta_x f = R(gh)\eta_x f \\ \alpha_{x',y'}(\mathcal{D}(L(f), g)(h)) &= R(guL(f))\eta_{x'} = R(gu)RL(f)\eta_{x'} \end{aligned}$$

By the naturality of  $\eta$ , we have  $\eta_x f = RL(f)\eta_{x'}$ , and the proof ends here.  $\square$

Here is another example in the spirit of the initial example about vector spaces and of the proposition just proved here.

**Example 1.7** (Isomorphism Theorem for Set Theory). We have defined  $\mathbf{Eqv}$  earlier, recall it here. Let us introduce the functor

$$E : \mathbf{Set} \rightarrow \mathbf{Eqv}$$

that maps a set  $X$  to a setoid  $(X, =_X)$ , where  $=_X$  is the equality relation over  $X$ , and a function  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  to itself regarded as morphisms of setoids. Besides, Corollary 2.3 gives a functor

$$P : \mathbf{Eqv} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}.$$

Consequently, Proposition 2.1 can be easily rephrased more concisely as:

the canonical projection  $(X, \sim) \rightarrow E(P(X, \sim))$  is initial in  $(X, \sim) \downarrow E$ .

There is the dual of Proposition 1.5 as well.

**Proposition 1.8.** Suppose given two locally small categories  $\mathcal{C}$  and  $\mathcal{D}$ , two functors

$$\mathcal{C} \xrightleftharpoons[R]{L} \mathcal{D}$$

and a natural transformation  $\theta : LR \Rightarrow 1_{\mathcal{D}}$  such that  $\theta_y : LR(y) \rightarrow y$  is terminal in  $L \downarrow y$  for every  $y \in |\mathcal{D}|$ . Then, for  $x \in |\mathcal{C}|$  and  $y \in |\mathcal{D}|$ , the functions

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{C}(x, R(y)) &\rightarrow \mathcal{D}(L(x), y) \\ f &\rightarrow \theta_y L(f) \end{aligned}$$

form an adjunction  $L \dashv R$ .

**Exercise 1.9.** The proof is left to you.

**Example 1.10** (Evaluation of polynomials). [Yet to be TeXed...]

## 2 Definition, units and counits

**Definition 2.1** (Adjunctions). Consider two locally small categories and two functors as in

$$\mathcal{C} \xrightleftharpoons[R]{L} \mathcal{D}$$

An *adjunction* from  $L$  to  $R$  any natural isomorphism

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & \mathcal{D}(L( \quad ), \quad) & \\ \mathcal{C}^{\text{op}} \times \mathcal{D} & \begin{array}{c} \Downarrow \alpha \\ \Downarrow \end{array} & \mathbf{Set} \\ & \mathcal{C}( \quad, R( \quad) ) & \end{array} \quad (2.5)$$

We say  $L$  is the *left adjoint* and  $R$  is the *right adjoint*: the reason behind the naming comes from when we write the bijection

$$\mathcal{D}(L(x), y) \cong \mathcal{C}(x, R(y))$$

$L$  occurs in  $\mathcal{D}(L(x), y)$  applied to the argument on the left, while  $R$  appears in  $\mathcal{C}(x, R(y))$  applied on the right. Adjunctions are usually written as  $\alpha : L \dashv R$ . Sometimes  $L \dashv R$  is written to mean that there is an adjunction in between

without specifying which one. If on the the paper we are writing there is space, we can write something like

$$\mathcal{C} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{L} \\ \perp \\ \xleftarrow{R} \end{array} \mathcal{D} \quad (2.6)$$

which has in addition shows the categories involved.

We will soon return to the introductory example later; as for now, let us indulge a bit more on the definition of adjunction.

**Exercise 2.2** (Partial functions). For  $A$  and  $B$  sets, a *partial function* from  $A$  to  $B$  is relation  $f \subseteq A \times B$  with the property

for every  $x \in A$  and  $y_1, y_2 \in B$ , if  $(x, y_1) \in f$  and  $(x, y_2) \in f$  then  $y_1 = y_2$ .

We want to compose partial functions as well: provided  $f \in \mathbf{Par}(A, B)$  and  $g \in \mathbf{Par}(B, C)$ ,

$$gf := \{(x, y) \in A \times C \mid (x, z) \in f \text{ and } (z, y) \in g \text{ for some } z \in B\}.$$

It is immediate to verify  $\mathbf{Par}$  complies the rules that make it a category. Indeed, this is the *category of partial functions*, written as  $\mathbf{Par}$ : here, the objects are sets and the morphisms are partial functions.

Suppose given a partial function  $f : A \rightarrow B$ . For every  $x \in A$  the possibilities are two: there is one element of  $B$  bound to is, and we write it  $f(x)$ , or none. What if we considered *no value* as an output value? Provided two sets  $A$  and  $B$  and a partial function  $f : A \rightarrow B$ , we assign an actual function

$$\bar{f} : A \rightarrow B + 1, \quad \bar{f}(x) := \begin{cases} f(x) & \text{if } x \text{ has an element of } B \text{ bound} \\ * & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

where  $1 := \{*\}$  with  $*$  designating the absence of output. It is quite simple to show that

$$\mathbf{Par}(A, B) \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}(A, B + 1), \quad f \mapsto \bar{f}$$

is a bijection for every couple of sets  $A$  and  $B$ . Now it's up to you to categorify this: find two functors that make an adjunction

$$\mathbf{Set} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{I} \\ \perp \\ \xleftarrow{J} \end{array} \mathbf{Par}$$

**Proposition 2.3.** Provided you have locally small categories and functors

$$\mathcal{C} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{L} \\ \perp \\ \xleftarrow{R} \end{array} \mathcal{D}$$

and an adjunction

$$\alpha : \mathcal{D}(L(-), -) \rightarrow \mathcal{C}(-, R(-)).$$

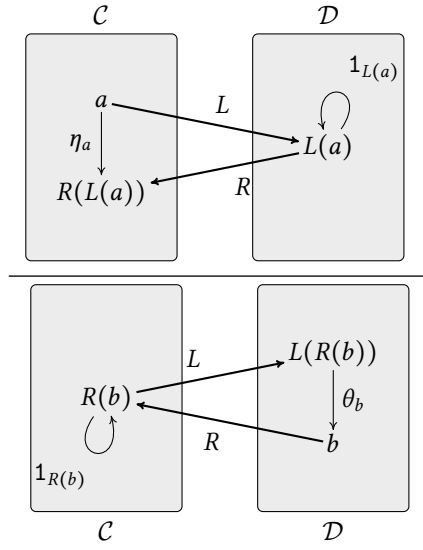
Then:

1. For  $x \in |\mathcal{C}|$  the morphisms

$$\eta_x : x \rightarrow RL(x), \quad \eta_x := \alpha_{x, L(x)}(1_{L(x)})$$

form a natural transformation  $\eta : 1_{\mathcal{C}} \Rightarrow RL$  such that  $\eta_x$  is initial in  $x \downarrow R$ .

## 2. Definition, units and counits



**Figure 2.** Units and co-units of an adjunction.

2. For  $y \in |\mathcal{C}|$  the morphisms

$$\theta_y : LR(y) \rightarrow y, \theta_y := \alpha_{R(y), y}^{-1}(1_{R(y)})$$

form a natural transformation  $\theta : LR \Rightarrow 1_{\mathcal{D}}$  such that  $\theta_y$  is terminal in  $L\downarrow y$ .

*Proof.* **[Rewrite proof.]** Let us write the adjunction of the statement above as

$$\overline{\phantom{x}} : \mathcal{D}(L(\phantom{x}), \phantom{x}) \Rightarrow \mathcal{C}(\phantom{x}, R(\phantom{x})).$$

We verify that

$$\begin{array}{ccc} x & \xrightarrow{\eta_x} & RL(x) \\ f \downarrow & & \downarrow RL(f) \\ y & \xrightarrow{\eta_y} & RL(y) \end{array}$$

commutes for every  $f$  in  $\mathcal{C}$ . In fact,

$$\begin{aligned} RL(f)\eta_x &= RL(f)\overline{1_{L(x)}1_x} = \overline{L(f)1_{L(x)}1_{L(x)}} = \overline{L(f)} \\ \eta_y f &= R(1_{L(y)})\overline{1_{L(y)}f} = \overline{1_{L(y)}1_{L(y)}L(f)} = \overline{L(f)}. \end{aligned}$$

It remains to show that the morphisms  $\eta_x : x \rightarrow RL(x)$  are initial in  $x\downarrow R$ . In  $\mathcal{C}$  we draw

$$\begin{array}{ccc} x & \xrightarrow{\eta_x} & RL(x) \\ & \searrow g & \\ & & R(y) \end{array}$$

We know that there is one and only one  $h : L(x) \rightarrow y$  such that  $g = \overline{h}$ . Then

$$g = \overline{h1_{L(x)}L(1_x)} = R(h)\overline{1_{L(x)}1_x} = R(h)\eta_x. \quad \square.$$

**Example 2.4** (Prescribing functions via currying). **[Yet to be T<sub>E</sub>Xed...]**

**[More examples of units and counits here...]**

### 3 Adjunctions and limits

Let  $\mathcal{I}$  and  $\mathcal{C}$  be two categories. For every  $v \in |\mathcal{C}|$  we have the *constant functor*

$$k_v : \mathcal{I} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$$

where  $k_v(i) := v$  for every  $i \in |\mathcal{I}|$  and  $k_v(f) := 1_v$  for every morphism  $f$  of  $\mathcal{I}$ . Recall that  $\lambda : k_v \Rightarrow F$  being a limit of a functor  $F : \mathcal{I} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  means:

for every  $\mu : k_v \Rightarrow F$  there exists one and only one  $f : a \rightarrow v$  of  $\mathcal{C}$  such that  $\mu_i = \lambda_i f$  commutes for every object  $i$  of  $\mathcal{I}$ .

That is, if you put it in other words, it sounds like:

there is a bijection

$$\mathcal{C}(a, v) \rightarrow [\mathcal{I}, \mathcal{C}](k_a, F)$$

taking  $f : a \rightarrow v$  to the natural transformation

$$\lambda_{\bullet} f : k_a \Rightarrow F, \lambda_{\bullet} f(i) := \lambda_i f.$$

There is a smell of adjunction situation here. Let us start with finding an appropriate pair of functors

$$\mathcal{C} \rightleftarrows [\mathcal{I}, \mathcal{C}] .$$

One functor is already suggested:

$$\Delta : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow [\mathcal{I}, \mathcal{C}]$$

takes  $x \in |\mathcal{C}|$  to the functor  $\mathcal{I} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  that maps every object to  $x$  and every morphism to  $1_x$ ; then for  $i \in |\mathcal{I}|$  define

$$\Delta \left( x \xrightarrow{f} y \right)$$

to be the natural transformation  $\Delta(x) \Rightarrow \Delta(y)$  amounting uniquely of  $f$ .

From now on, assume  $\mathcal{I}$  is small and every functor  $\mathcal{I} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  has a limit. Now, in spite of not being strictly unique [**strictly unique**... huh?], all the limits of a given functor are isomorphic, so are the vertices: let us indicate by  $\lim F$  the vertex of any of the limits of  $F$ . Now, take a natural transformation

$$\mathcal{I} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{F} \\ \Downarrow \xi \\ \xrightarrow{G} \end{array} \mathcal{C} ;$$

$\lim F$  is the vertex of some limit

$$\left\{ \lim F \xrightarrow{\lambda_i} F(i) \mid i \in |\mathcal{I}| \right\}$$

and  $\lim G$  is the vertex of a certain limit

$$\left\{ \lim G \xrightarrow{\mu_i} G(i) \mid i \in |\mathcal{I}| \right\} .$$

If we display all the stuff we have gathered so far, we have for  $i \in |\mathcal{I}|$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} F(i) & \xrightarrow{\xi_i} & G(i) \\ \lambda_i \uparrow & & \uparrow \mu_i \\ \lim F & & \lim G \end{array} \quad (3.7)$$



#### 4. Triangle Identities

The universal property of limits ensures that there is one and only one morphism  $\lim F \rightarrow \lim G$  making the above diagram a commuting square. Let us call this morphism  $\lim \xi$ . We have a functor

$$\lim : [\mathcal{I}, \mathcal{C}] \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$$

indeed. If you take  $F = G$  and  $\eta$  the identity of the functor  $F$  in (3.7), then

$$\lim 1_F = 1_{\lim F},$$

obtained by uniquely employing the universal property of limit. Now take three functors  $F, G, H : \mathcal{I} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  and two natural transformations  $F \xrightarrow{\alpha} G \xrightarrow{\beta} H$ .

To these functors are associated the respective limits

$$\begin{aligned} & \left\{ \lim F \xrightarrow{\lambda_i} F(i) \mid i \in |\mathcal{I}| \right\} \\ & \left\{ \lim G \xrightarrow{\mu_i} G(i) \mid i \in |\mathcal{I}| \right\} \\ & \left\{ \lim H \xrightarrow{\eta_i} H(i) \mid i \in |\mathcal{I}| \right\} \end{aligned}$$

so that we have commuting squares glued together:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} F(i) & \xrightarrow{\alpha_i} & G(i) & \xrightarrow{\beta_i} & H(i) \\ \lambda_i \uparrow & & \mu_i \uparrow & & \eta_i \uparrow \\ \lim F & \xrightarrow{\lim \alpha} & \lim G & \xrightarrow{\lim \beta} & \lim H \end{array}$$

We have for every  $i \in |\mathcal{I}|$

$$\eta_i \lim \beta \lim \alpha = \beta_i \mu_i \lim \alpha = \beta_i \alpha_i \lambda_i;$$

then, by how it is defined the limit of a natural transformation, it must be

$$\lim(\beta\alpha) = \lim \beta \lim \alpha.$$

The following proposition pushes all this discourse to a conclusion.

**Proposition 3.1.** There is an adjunction

$$\mathcal{C} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\Delta} \\ \perp \\ \xleftarrow{\lim} \end{array} [\mathcal{I}, \mathcal{D}]$$

*Proof.* [Yet to be T<sub>E</sub>X-ed...]

□

#### 4 Triangle Identities

[Yet to be T<sub>E</sub>X-ed...]

#### 5 Other exercises

**Remark 5.1** (About the next exercise). Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be a category with binary products and consider one object  $c$  of  $\mathcal{C}$ . For  $a$  object in  $\mathcal{C}$  choose a product of  $a$  and  $c$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & a \times c & \\ p_a \swarrow & & \searrow q_a \\ a & & c \end{array}$$

in  $\mathcal{C}$ . In that context, there is a sensible way to define the functor

$$(\times c) : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}.$$

(If you have not done the exercise of the chapter of limits that about this construction, do it now.)

**Exercise 5.2** (Exponential objects). In a category  $\mathcal{C}$  that has binary products, the *exponential object* of two objects  $a$  and  $b$  of  $\mathcal{C}$  is any

- object of  $\mathcal{C}$ , that we choose label as  $b^a$
- a morphism  $\text{ev} : b^a \times a \rightarrow b$ , that we call *evaluation map*

such that  $\text{ev}$  is a terminal object of  $(\times a) \downarrow b$ . A category  $\mathcal{C}$  is said to ‘have exponentials’ whenever for every  $a, b \in |\mathcal{C}|$  there is in  $\mathcal{C}$  the corresponding exponential object.

1. Find an adjunction

$$\mathcal{C} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{(\times c)} \\ \perp \\ \xleftarrow{\square^c} \end{array} \mathcal{C}$$

This boils down to introducing an appropriate functor  $\square^c$  using uniquely the definition of exponential object.

2. Assume  $\mathcal{C}$  has also an initial object  $0$  and terminal object  $1$ . Prove the following statements.
  - (i)  $a \times 0 \cong 0 \times a \cong a$  for every object  $a$  of  $\mathcal{C}$ .
  - (ii) For every  $a \in |\mathcal{C}|$ , if there is some morphism  $a \rightarrow 0$ , then  $a \cong 0$ .
  - (iii) Any morphism  $0 \rightarrow a$  is monic for  $a \in |\mathcal{C}|$ .
  - (iv) If  $0 \cong 1$ , then all the objects of  $\mathcal{C}$  are isomorphic.
  - (v)  $a^1 \cong a$ ,  $a^0 \cong 0$  and  $1^a \cong 1$  for every  $a \in |\mathcal{C}|$ .