

Category Theory

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Chapter I

Category

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§1 Basic Theory

Definition 1.1. A *category* \mathcal{C} consists of the following data:

- a collection $\text{Ob}(\mathcal{C})$ of objects;
- For each $A, B \in \text{Ob}(\mathcal{C})$, a collection of **maps** or **arrows** or **morphisms** from A to B , denoted by $\mathcal{C}(A, B)$ or $\text{Hom}(A, B)$. We call A the **domain** and B the **codomain** of f .

Each object c has a designated **identity** morphism $1_c \in \mathcal{C}(c, c)$.

- for each $A, B, C \in \text{Ob}(\mathcal{C})$, a map

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{C}(B, C) \times \mathcal{C}(A, B) &\rightarrow \mathcal{C}(A, C) \\ (g, f) &\mapsto g \circ f\end{aligned}$$

called **composition**

These data are required to satisfy the following axioms:

- *Associativity law:* for each $f \in \mathcal{C}(A, B)$, $g \in \mathcal{C}(B, C)$ and $h \in \mathcal{C}(C, D)$, we have $(h \circ g) \circ f = h \circ (g \circ f)$;
- *Identity law:* For any $f : X \rightarrow Y$, the composites $1_Y f$ and $f 1_X$ are both equal to f .

Definition 1.2. A category is **discrete** if every morphism is an identity.

A category is **small** if it has only a set's worth of arrows. (thus has only a set's worth of objects)

A category \mathcal{C} is **locally small** if between any pair of objects there is only a set's worth of morphisms.

Definition 1.3. A **groupoid** is a category in which every morphism is an isomorphism.

A **group** is a locally small groupoid who has only one object.

Definition 1.4. A map $f : A \rightarrow B$ in a category \mathcal{C} is an **isomorphism** if there exists a map $g : B \rightarrow A$ in \mathcal{C} such that $gf = 1_A$ and $fg = 1_B$. We call g the **inverse** of f and write $g = f^{-1}$.

If there exists an isomorphism from A to B , we say that A and B are **isomorphic** and write $A \cong B$.

An **endomorphism**, i.e., a morphism whose domain equals its codomain, that is an isomorphism is called an **automorphism**.

Definition 1.5. A **subcategory** \mathcal{D} of a category \mathcal{C} is defined by

- restricting to a subcollection of objects and
- restricting to a subcollection of morphisms subject to the requirements that the subcategory \mathcal{D} contains the domain and codomain of any morphism in \mathcal{D}
- the composite of any composable pair of morphisms in \mathcal{D} .
- the identity morphism of any object in \mathcal{D} , and

Proposition 1.6. Any category \mathcal{A} contains a maximal groupoid, the subcategory containing all of the objects and only those morphisms that are isomorphisms.

Definition 1.7. Given categories \mathcal{C} and \mathcal{D} , there is a **product category** $\mathcal{C} \times \mathcal{D}$, in which

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Ob}(\mathcal{C} \times \mathcal{D}) &= \text{Ob}(\mathcal{C}) \times \text{Ob}(\mathcal{D}), \\ (\mathcal{C} \times \mathcal{D})((A, B), (A', B')) &= \mathcal{C}(A, A') \times \mathcal{D}(B, B').\end{aligned}$$

Put another way, an object of the product category $\mathcal{C} \times \mathcal{D}$ is a pair (A, B) where $A \in \mathcal{C}$ and $B \in \mathcal{D}$. A map $(A, B) \rightarrow (A', B')$ in $\mathcal{C} \times \mathcal{D}$ is a pair (f, g) where $f : A \rightarrow A'$ in \mathcal{C} and $g : B \rightarrow B'$ in \mathcal{D} .

Definition 1.8. For any category \mathcal{C} and any object $A \in \mathcal{C}$,

1. There is a category A/\mathcal{C} whose objects are morphisms $f : A \rightarrow X$ and in which a morphism from $f : A \rightarrow X$ to $g : A \rightarrow Y$ is a map $h : X \rightarrow Y$ between the codomains so that the triangle

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & A & \\ f \swarrow & & \searrow g \\ X & \xrightarrow{h} & Y \end{array}$$

commutes. The category A/\mathcal{C} called **slice categories** of \mathcal{C} under A ,

2. There is a category \mathcal{C}/A whose objects are morphisms $f : x \rightarrow A$ with codomain A and in which a morphism from $f : x \rightarrow A$ to $g : y \rightarrow A$ is a map $h : x \rightarrow y$ between the domains so that the triangle

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X & \xrightarrow{h} & Y \\ & \searrow f & \swarrow g \\ & A & \end{array}$$

commutes. The category \mathcal{C}/A is called **slice categories** of \mathcal{C} over A .

§2 Duality

Definition 2.1. Let \mathcal{C} be a category. The **opposite category** \mathcal{C}^{op} of \mathcal{C} has

- the same objects as in \mathcal{C}
- A morphism $f^{\text{op}} : B \rightarrow A$ in \mathcal{C}^{op} for each morphism f in $\mathcal{C}(A, B)$, i.e.

$$f^{\text{op}} : A \rightarrow B \text{ in } \mathcal{C}^{\text{op}} \quad \iff \quad f : B \rightarrow A \text{ in } \mathcal{C}$$

The remaining structure of the category \mathcal{C}^{op} is given as follows:

- A pair of morphisms $f^{\text{op}}, g^{\text{op}}$ in \mathcal{C}^{op} is composable precisely when the pair g, f is composable in \mathcal{C} . We then define $g^{\text{op}} \cdot f^{\text{op}}$ to be $(f \cdot g)^{\text{op}}$
- For each object A , the arrow 1_A^{op} serves as its identity in \mathcal{C}^{op} .

Lemma 2.2. The following are equivalent:

1. $f : x \rightarrow y$ is an isomorphism in \mathcal{C} .
2. For all objects $c \in \mathcal{C}$, post-composition with f defines a bijection

$$f_* : \mathcal{C}(c, x) \rightarrow \mathcal{C}(c, y).$$

3. For all objects $c \in \mathcal{C}$, pre-composition with f defines a bijection

$$f^* : \mathcal{C}(y, c) \rightarrow \mathcal{C}(x, c).$$

Definition 2.3. Let \mathcal{C} be a category and morphism $f : x \rightarrow y$ in \mathcal{C} .

1. f is a **monomorphism** if for any parallel morphisms $h, k : w \rightrightarrows x$, $fh = fk$ implies that $h = k$.
2. f is an **epimorphism** if for any parallel morphisms $h, k : y \rightrightarrows z$, $hf = kf$ implies that $h = k$.

Remark. Note that the inclusion $i : \mathbb{Z} \hookrightarrow \mathbb{Q}$ is both a monomorphism and an epimorphism in **Ring**, but not an isomorphism.

Proposition 2.4. Let \mathcal{C} be a category.

1. If $f : x \rightarrow y$ and $g : y \rightarrow z$ are monomorphisms, then so is $gf : x \rightarrow z$.
2. If $f : x \rightarrow y$ and $g : y \rightarrow z$ are morphisms so that gf is monic, then f is monic.

Dually:

1. If $f : x \twoheadrightarrow y$ and $g : y \twoheadrightarrow z$ are epimorphisms, then so is $gf : x \twoheadrightarrow z$.
2. If $f : x \rightarrow y$ and $g : y \rightarrow z$ are morphisms so that gf is epic, then g is epic.

Definition 2.5. Let \mathcal{C} be a category and $x \xrightarrow{f} y \xrightarrow{g} x$ are morphisms so that $gf = 1_x$.

1. The map f is a **right inverse** to g and is said to be a **split monomorphism**.
2. The map g defines a **left inverse** to f and is said to be a **split epimorphism**

The maps s and r express the object x as a **retract** of the object y .

Proposition 2.6. Let \mathcal{C} be a category and $f : x \rightarrow y$ be a morphism in \mathcal{C} .

$$\begin{array}{lll} \text{monomorphism} & \iff & f_* \text{ injective} \\ \text{split epimorphism} & \iff & f_* \text{ surjective} \\ \text{epimorphism} & \iff & f^* \text{ injective} \\ \text{split monomorphism} & \iff & f^* \text{ surjective} \end{array}$$

f_* injective means that for all objects $c \in \mathcal{C}$, post-composition $f_* : \mathcal{C}(c, x) \rightarrow \mathcal{C}(c, y)$ is injective. Others are similar.

§3 Functors

Definition 3.1. Let \mathcal{C} and \mathcal{D} be categories. A **functor** $F : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ consists of:

- a map

$$\text{Ob}(\mathcal{C}) \rightarrow \text{Ob}(\mathcal{D}),$$

written as $c \mapsto Fc$;

- for each $c, c' \in \mathcal{C}$, a map

$$\mathcal{C}(c, c') \rightarrow \mathcal{D}(Fc, Fc'),$$

written as $f \mapsto Ff$,

satisfying the following **functoriality axioms**:

- For any composable pair f, g in \mathcal{C} , $F(g \circ f) = Fg \circ Ff$
- For any object $c \in \mathcal{C}$, $F(1_c) = 1_{Fc}$.

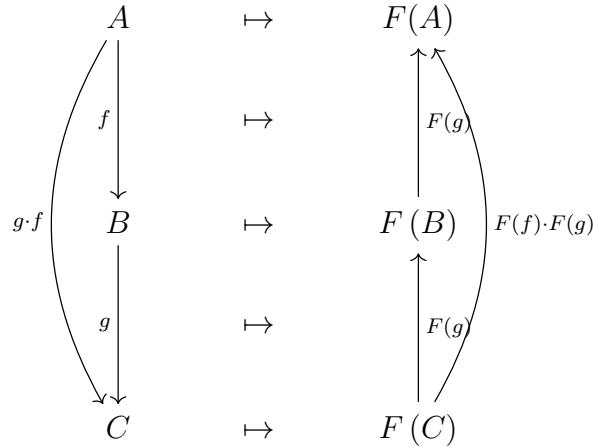
Definition 3.2. Let \mathcal{C} and \mathcal{D} be categories. A **contravariant functor** from \mathcal{C} to \mathcal{D} is a functor $\mathcal{C}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$. Explicitly, this consists of the following data:

- An object $F(A) \in \mathcal{D}$, for each object $A \in \mathcal{C}$.
- A morphism $Ff : FA' \rightarrow FA \in \mathcal{D}$, for each morphism $f : A \rightarrow A' \in \mathcal{C}$.

The assignments are required to satisfy the following two functoriality axioms:

- For any composable pair f, g in \mathcal{C} , $Ff \cdot Fg = F(g \cdot f)$.
- For each object A in \mathcal{C} , $F(1_A) = 1_{F(A)}$.

$$\mathcal{C}^{\text{op}} \xrightarrow{F} \mathcal{D}$$



Lemma 3.3. Functors preserve isomorphisms.

Definition 3.4. Let G be a group, regarded as a one-object category BG . A functor $X : BG \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ specifies an object $X \in \mathcal{C}$ together with an isomorphism $g_* := Fg : X \rightarrow X$ for each $g \in G$. This assignment must satisfy two conditions:

- (i) $h_*g_* = (hg)_*$ for all $g, h \in G$.
- (ii) $e_* = 1_X$, where $e \in G$ is the identity element.

In summary, the functor $BG \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ defines an **left action** of the group G on the object $X \in \mathcal{C}$. When $\mathcal{C} = \text{Set}$, the object X endowed with such an action is called a **G -set**. When $\mathcal{C} = \text{Vect}_k$, the object X is called a **G -representation**. When $\mathcal{C} = \mathbf{Top}$, the object X is called a **G -space**.

§4 Natural transformations and Naturality

Definition 4.1. Let \mathcal{C} and \mathcal{D} be categories and let $\mathcal{C} \xrightarrow[G]{F} \mathcal{D}$ be functors. A **natural transformation** $\alpha : F \Rightarrow G$ consists of:

- (i) An arrow $\alpha_c : Fc \rightarrow Gc$ in \mathcal{D} for each object $c \in \mathcal{C}$, the collection of which define the **components** of α ;
- (ii) for every map $f : c \rightarrow c'$ in \mathcal{C} , the following square of morphisms in \mathcal{D}

$$\begin{array}{ccc} c & Fc & \xrightarrow{\alpha_c} Gc \\ \downarrow f & Ff \downarrow & \downarrow Gf \\ c' & Fc' & \xrightarrow{\alpha_{c'}} Gc' \end{array}$$

commutes.

denoted by

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{C} & \begin{matrix} \nearrow F \\ \Downarrow \alpha \\ \searrow G \end{matrix} & \mathcal{D} \end{array}$$

A **natural isomorphism** is a natural transformation $\alpha : F \Rightarrow G$ in which every component α_c is an isomorphism. In this case, the natural isomorphism may be depicted as $\alpha : F \cong G$.

Remark. The inverses of the component morphisms define the components of a natural isomorphism $\alpha^{-1} : G \Rightarrow F$. And $F \cong G$ in functor category $[\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D}]$.

§5 Equivalence of categories

Definition 5.1. An **equivalence of categories** consists of

- functors $F : \mathcal{C} \leftrightarrows \mathcal{D} : G$
- together with natural isomorphisms $\eta : 1_{\mathcal{C}} \cong GF$, $\epsilon : FG \cong 1_{\mathcal{D}}$.

The F is called an **equivalence** with **quasi-inverse** G and categories \mathcal{C} and \mathcal{D} are called **equivalent**, written $\mathcal{C} \simeq \mathcal{D}$.

Remark. The notion of equivalence of categories defines an equivalence relation.

Definition 5.2. A functor $F : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ is

1. **full** if for each $x, y \in \mathcal{C}$, the map $\mathcal{C}(x, y) \rightarrow \mathcal{D}(Fx, Fy)$ is surjective;
2. **faithful** if for each $x, y \in \mathcal{C}$, the map $\mathcal{C}(x, y) \rightarrow \mathcal{D}(Fx, Fy)$ is injective;

3. **essentially surjective on objects** if for every object $d \in \mathcal{D}$ there is some $c \in \mathcal{C}$ such that d is isomorphic to Fc .

Theorem 5.3 (characterizing equivalences of categories). *A functor $F : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ defining an equivalence of categories iff F is full, faithful, and essentially surjective on objects.*

Proof. (\Rightarrow) Suppose $F : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ is part of an equivalence of categories with quasi-inverse $G : \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ and natural isomorphisms $\eta : 1_{\mathcal{C}} \cong GF$, $\epsilon : FG \cong 1_{\mathcal{D}}$.

To see that F is essentially surjective on objects, let $d \in \mathcal{D}$ be any object. Then $d \cong F(Gd)$ via the component $\epsilon_d : F(Gd) \rightarrow d$ of the natural isomorphism ϵ .

To see that F is full and faithful, let $x, y \in \mathcal{C}$ be any pair of objects. We must show that the map

$$F_{x,y} : \mathcal{C}(x, y) \rightarrow \mathcal{D}(Fx, Fy)$$

is a bijection. For any morphism $g : Fx \rightarrow Fy$ in \mathcal{D} , define

$$f := \eta_y^{-1} \cdot G(g) \cdot \eta_x : x \rightarrow y.$$

Then

$$F(f) = F(\eta_y^{-1}) \cdot F(G(g)) \cdot F(\eta_x) = \epsilon_{Fy}^{-1} \cdot \epsilon_{Fy} \cdot g \cdot \epsilon_{Fx}^{-1} \cdot \epsilon_{Fx} = g,$$

showing that $F_{x,y}$ is surjective. To see that $F_{x,y}$ is injective, suppose that $f_1, f_2 : x \rightarrow y$ are morphisms in \mathcal{C} so that $F(f_1) = F(f_2)$. Then

$$f_1 = \eta_y^{-1} \cdot G(F(f_1)) \cdot \eta_x = \eta_y^{-1} \cdot G(F(f_2)) \cdot \eta_x = f_2,$$

□

Definition 5.4. A category \mathcal{C} is **skeletal** if it contains just one object in each isomorphism class. The **skeleton** of a category \mathcal{C} is the unique (up to isomorphism) skeletal category that is equivalent to \mathcal{C} , denoted by $\text{sk } \mathcal{C}$.

Proposition 5.5. The following constructions and definitions are equivalence invariant:

1. If a category is **locally small**, any category equivalent to it is again locally small.
2. If a category is a groupoid, any category equivalent to it is again a groupoid.
3. If $\mathcal{C} \simeq \mathcal{D}$, then $\mathcal{C}^{\text{op}} \simeq \mathcal{D}^{\text{op}}$.
4. The product of a pair of categories is equivalent to the product of any pair of equivalent categories.
5. An arrow in \mathcal{C} is an isomorphism if and only if its image under an equivalence $\mathcal{C} \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathcal{D}$ is an isomorphism.

A guiding principle in category theory is that categorically-defined concepts should be equivalence invariant. Some category theorists go so far as to call a definition "evil" if it is not invariant under equivalence of categories. The only evil definitions that have been introduced thus far are smallness and discreteness, as the following definition makes precise.

Definition 5.6. Let \mathcal{C} be a category.

1. A category is **essentially small** if it is equivalent to a small category or, equivalently, if its skeleton is a small category.
2. A category is **essentially discrete** if it is equivalent to a discrete category.

§6 Diagram

Definition 6.1. A **diagram** in a category \mathcal{C} is a functor $F : \mathcal{J} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ whose domain, the indexing category, is a small category.

A **commutative diagram** is a diagram $F : \mathcal{J} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ such that for every pair of objects $X, Y \in \mathcal{J}$ and every pair of morphisms $f, g : X \rightarrow Y$ in \mathcal{J} , we have $Ff = Fg$ in \mathcal{C} . It also means that for any two objects in the image of F , all morphisms between them obtained by composing the images of morphisms in \mathcal{J} are equal.

Lemma 6.2. If $U : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ is faithful, then any diagram in \mathcal{C} whose image commutes in \mathcal{D} also commutes in \mathcal{C} .

Definition 6.3. A **concrete category** is a category \mathcal{C} equipped with a faithful functor $U : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \text{Set}$.

§7 The 2-category of categories

Lemma 7.1 (vertical composition). Suppose $\alpha : F \Rightarrow G$ and $\beta : G \Rightarrow H$ are natural transformations between parallel functors $F, G, H : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & F & \\ & \Downarrow \alpha & \searrow \\ \mathcal{C} & \xrightarrow{G} & \mathcal{D} \\ & \Downarrow \beta & \nearrow \\ & H & \end{array}$$

Then there is a natural transformation $\beta \cdot \alpha : F \Rightarrow H$ whose components

$$(\beta \cdot \alpha)_c := \beta_c \cdot \alpha_c$$

are defined to be the composites of the components of α and β .

Proof. For any morphism $f : c \rightarrow c'$ in \mathcal{C} , we have the following commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} c & & Fc & \xrightarrow{\alpha_c} & Gc & \xrightarrow{\beta_c} & Hc \\ f \downarrow & & Ff \downarrow & & Gf \downarrow & & Hf \downarrow \\ c' & & Fc' & \xrightarrow{\alpha_{c'}} & Gc' & \xrightarrow{\beta_{c'}} & Hc' \end{array}$$

The outer rectangle commutes, showing that $\beta \cdot \alpha$ is a natural transformation. \square

Definition 7.2. For any fixed pair of categories \mathcal{C} and \mathcal{D} , there is a **functor category** $[\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D}]$ (also denoted by $\mathcal{D}^{\mathcal{C}}$)

- whose objects are functors $F : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$
- and whose morphisms are natural transformations.

Given a functor $F : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$, its identity natural transformation $1_F : F \Rightarrow F$ is the natural transformation whose components $(1_F)_c := 1_{Fc}$ are identities.

Remark. The vertical composition of natural transformations defined in serves as the composition operation in the functor category $[\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D}]$.

Lemma 7.3 (horizontal composition). Given a pair of natural transformations

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{C} & \xrightarrow[F]{\Downarrow \alpha} & \mathcal{D} & \xrightarrow[H]{\Downarrow \beta} & \mathcal{E} \\ & \searrow G & & \searrow K & \end{array}$$

there is a natural transformation $\beta * \alpha : HF \Rightarrow KG$ whose component at $c \in \mathcal{C}$ is defined as the composite of the following commutative square

$$\begin{array}{ccc} HFc & \xrightarrow{\beta_{Fc}} & KFc \\ H\alpha_c \downarrow & \searrow (\beta * \alpha)_c & \downarrow K\alpha_c \\ HGc & \xrightarrow{\beta_{Gc}} & KGc \end{array}$$

Lemma 7.4 (middle four interchange). Given functors and natural transformations

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \mathcal{C} & \xrightarrow[F]{\Downarrow \alpha} & \mathcal{D} & \xrightarrow[J]{\Downarrow \gamma} & \mathcal{E} \\ \xrightarrow[G]{\Downarrow \beta} & & \xrightarrow[K]{\Downarrow \delta} & & \xrightarrow[L]{\Downarrow \epsilon} \\ H & & L & & \end{array}$$

the natural transformation $JF \Rightarrow LH$ defined by first composing vertically and then composing horizontally equals the natural transformation defined by first composing horizontally and then

composing vertically:

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{C} \xrightarrow{\quad F \quad} \text{D} \\ \Downarrow \beta \cdot \alpha \\ \text{C} \xrightarrow{\quad H \quad} \text{D} \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} \text{D} \xrightarrow{\quad J \quad} \text{E} \\ \Downarrow \delta \cdot \gamma \\ \text{D} \xrightarrow{\quad L \quad} \text{E} \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} \text{C} \xrightarrow{\quad KG \quad} \text{E} \\ \Downarrow \gamma * \alpha \\ \text{C} \xrightarrow{\quad LH \quad} \text{E} \\ \Downarrow \delta * \beta \end{array}$$

Definition 7.5. A 2-category is comprised of:

- objects $\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D}, \dots$
- 1-morphisms between pairs of objects $F : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$

- 2-morphisms between parallel pairs of 1-morphisms $\mathcal{C} \xrightarrow{\quad F \quad} \mathcal{D}$

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{C} \xrightarrow{\quad F \quad} \text{D} \\ \Downarrow \alpha \\ \text{C} \xrightarrow{\quad G \quad} \text{D} \end{array}$$

so that:

- The objects and 1-morphisms form a category, with identities.
- For each fixed pair of objects \mathcal{C} and \mathcal{D} , the 1-morphisms $F : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ and 2-morphisms between such form a category under an operation called **vertical composition**, with identities

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{C} \xrightarrow{\quad F \quad} \text{D} \\ \Downarrow 1_F \\ \text{C} \xrightarrow{\quad F \quad} \text{D} \end{array}$$

- There is also a category whose objects are the objects in which a morphism from \mathcal{C} to \mathcal{D} is

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{C} \xrightarrow{\quad F \quad} \text{D} \\ \Downarrow \alpha \\ \text{C} \xrightarrow{\quad G \quad} \text{D} \end{array} \text{ under an operation called } \textbf{horizontal composition}, \text{ with}$$

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{C} \xrightarrow{\quad 1_C \quad} \text{C} \\ \Downarrow 1_{1_C} \\ \text{C} \xrightarrow{\quad 1_C \quad} \text{C} \end{array} \text{ identities. The source and target 1-morphisms of a horizontal composition must have the form described in } \textcolor{blue}{\text{lemma 7.3}}.$$

- The law of middle four interchange described in [lemma 7.4](#) holds.

Chapter II

Universal Properties

§1 Representable functors

Definition 1.1. Let \mathcal{C} be a locally small category. For each object $c \in \mathcal{C}$, there are two associated functors, called the **represented functors** or **hom-functors**:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \mathcal{C} & \xrightarrow{\mathcal{C}(c, -)} & \mathbf{Set} \\
 & & \\
 X & \mapsto & \mathcal{C}(c, X) \\
 f \downarrow & \mapsto & f_* \downarrow \\
 Y & \mapsto & \mathcal{C}(c, Y)
 \end{array}
 \quad \text{and} \quad
 \begin{array}{ccc}
 \mathcal{C}^{\text{op}} & \xrightarrow{\mathcal{C}(-, c)} & \mathbf{Set} \\
 & & \\
 A & \mapsto & \mathcal{C}(A, c) \\
 f \downarrow & \mapsto & f^* \uparrow \\
 B & \mapsto & \mathcal{C}(B, c)
 \end{array}$$

denoted by $h^c := \mathcal{C}(c, -)$ and $h_c := \mathcal{C}(-, c)$ respectively.

Remark. In this definition, $f_* = h^c(f)$ and $f^* = h_c(f)$.

Furthermore, if $f : A \rightarrow B$ in \mathcal{C} , then $f_* : h^A \Rightarrow h^B$ be the natural transformation defined by post-composition with f

Definition 1.2. Let \mathcal{C} be a locally small category and a covariant or contravariant functor F .

1. The functor F is said to be **representable** if F is natural isomorphic to $\mathcal{C}(c, -)$ or $\mathcal{C}(-, c)$ for some $c \in \mathcal{C}$, in which case one says that the functor F is **represented by** c .
2. A **representation** for a functor F is a choice of object $c \in \mathcal{C}$ together with a specified natural isomorphism $\mathcal{C}(c, -) \cong F$, if F is covariant, or $\mathcal{C}(-, c) \cong F$, if F is contravariant.

Proposition 1.3. Let \mathcal{C} be a locally small category and $F : \mathcal{C}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}$ a functor. The $\text{Nat}(h_{\square}, F)$ is a contravariant functor $\mathcal{C}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}$ defined as follows:

- An object $A \in \mathcal{C}$ is sent to the set $\text{Nat}(h_A, F)$.

- As a morphism $f : A \rightarrow B$ in \mathcal{C} , the function $\text{Nat}(h_{\square}, F)(f) : \text{Nat}(h_B, F) \rightarrow \text{Nat}(h_A, F)$ is defined as follows:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 X & \mathcal{C}(X, A) & \xrightarrow{f_*} \mathcal{C}(X, B) \xrightarrow{\eta_X} F(X) \\
 \varphi \downarrow & \varphi^* \uparrow & \varphi^* \uparrow \\
 Y & \mathcal{C}(Y, A) & \xrightarrow{f_*} \mathcal{C}(Y, B) \xrightarrow{\eta_Y} F(Y)
 \end{array}$$

for every natural transformation $\eta : h_B \Rightarrow F$, the $\text{Nat}(h_{\square}, F)(f)(\eta) := \eta \circ f_*$

Definition 1.4. For any categories \mathcal{C} and \mathcal{D} , there is a category $\mathcal{C} \times \mathcal{D}$, their product, whose

- objects are ordered pairs (c, d) , where c is an object of \mathcal{C} and d is an object of \mathcal{D} ,
- morphisms are ordered pairs $(f, g) : (c, d) \rightarrow (c', d')$, where $f : c \rightarrow c' \in \mathcal{C}$ and $g : d \rightarrow d' \in \mathcal{D}$, and
- in which composition and identities are defined componentwise.

Definition 1.5. If \mathcal{C} is locally small, then there is a **two-sided represented functor**

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

defined in the evident manner.

(i) An object pair $(x, y) \in \mathcal{C}^{\text{op}} \times \mathcal{C}$ is sent to the set $\mathcal{C}(x, y)$.

(ii) A pair of morphisms $f : w \rightarrow x$ and $h : y \rightarrow z$ is sent to the function

$$\mathcal{C}(x, y) \xrightarrow{(f^*, h_*)} \mathcal{C}(w, z)$$

$$g \qquad \mapsto \qquad hgf$$

§2 Yoneda lemma

Theorem 2.1 (Yoneda lemma (contravariant version)). Let \mathcal{C} be a locally small category and functor $F : \mathcal{C}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}$, there exists a natural isomorphism Φ

$$\Phi : \text{Nat}(h_{\square}, F) \cong F(\square) \text{ in } \mathbf{Set}^{\mathcal{C}^{\text{op}}}$$

Remark. Thus, for any $A \in \mathcal{C}$ there is a bijection

$$\text{Nat}(\mathcal{C}(-, A), F) \cong F(A)$$

with bijective Φ_A , such that each natural transformation $\eta : \mathcal{C}(-, A) \Rightarrow F$ corresponds to an element $x \in F(A)$ via the rule

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 X & \mathcal{C}(X, A) & \xrightarrow{\eta_X} F(X) \\
 \downarrow \phi & \uparrow \phi^* & \uparrow F\phi \\
 Y & \mathcal{C}(Y, A) & \xrightarrow{\eta_Y} F(Y)
 \end{array}
 \rightsquigarrow x \in F(A)$$

s.t. $\eta_X(\varphi) = F\phi(x)$ where $X \in \text{Obj}(\mathcal{C})$, $\varphi \in \mathcal{C}(X, A)$

Corollary 2.2 (Yoneda embedding). *The functors define full and faithful embeddings.*

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \mathcal{C} & \longleftrightarrow & \mathbf{Set}^{\mathcal{C}^{\text{op}}} \\
 & & \mathcal{C}^{\text{op}} \longleftrightarrow \mathbf{Set}^{\mathcal{C}}
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 c & \mapsto & \mathcal{C}(-, c) & \mapsto & \mathcal{C}(c, -) \\
 \downarrow f & \mapsto & \downarrow f_* & \downarrow & \uparrow f^* \\
 d & \mapsto & \mathcal{C}(-, d) & \mapsto & \mathcal{C}(d, -)
 \end{array}$$

§3 Universal properties and universal elements

Definition 3.1. *In a locally small category \mathcal{C} , any pair of isomorphic objects $x \cong y$ are **representably isomorphic**, meaning that $\mathcal{C}(-, x) \cong \mathcal{C}(-, y)$ and $\mathcal{C}(x, -) \cong \mathcal{C}(y, -)$.*

Proposition 3.2. *Consider a pair of objects x and y in a locally small category \mathcal{C} .*

1. *If either the co- or contravariant functors represented by x and y are naturally isomorphic, then x and y are isomorphic.*
2. *In particular, if x and y represent the same functor, then x and y are isomorphic.*

Definition 3.3. *Let \mathcal{C} be a locally small category.*

1. *If functor $F : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}$ is representable by some object U , then the Yoneda lemma guarantees that $\text{Nat}(\mathcal{C}(U, -), F) \cong F(U)$ and a **universal element** $u \in F(U)$ corresponds to a natural isomorphism*

$$\mathcal{C}(U, -) \cong^{\eta^u} F$$

*Such a pair (U, u) is called a **universal element** of the functor F .*

2.

§4

Definition 4.1. *The category of elements $\int F$ of a covariant functor $F : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}$ has*

- *as objects, pairs (c, x) where $c \in \mathcal{C}$ and $x \in Fc$, and*
- *a morphism $(c, x) \rightarrow (c', x')$ is a morphism $f : c \rightarrow c'$ in \mathcal{C} so that $Ff(x) = x'$.*

The category of elements has an evident forgetful functor $\Pi : \int F \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$.

Chapter III

Limits

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§1 Limits

Definition 1.1. Recall that a *diagram* of shape \mathcal{J} in a category \mathcal{C} is a functor $F : \mathcal{J} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$.

Definition 1.2. Let \mathcal{C} be a category and \mathcal{J} be a category.

1. For any object $c \in \mathcal{C}$, the **constant functor** $\Delta_c : \mathcal{J} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ sends every object of \mathcal{J} to c and every morphism in \mathcal{J} to 1_c
2. The constant functors define an embedding **diagonal functor** $\Delta : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}^{\mathcal{J}}$ that sends an object c to the constant functor Δ_c and a morphism $f : c \rightarrow c'$ to the constant natural transformation, in which each component is defined to be the morphism f .

§1.1 Cone and limit

Definition 1.3. A **cone over a diagram** $F : \mathcal{J} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ with **summit** (or **apex**) $c \in \mathcal{C}$ is a natural transformation $\lambda : \Delta c \Rightarrow F$. The components $(\lambda_j : c \rightarrow Fj)_{j \in \mathcal{J}}$ are called the **legs** of the cone.

Remark. Explicitly: the data of a cone over $F : \mathcal{J} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ with summit c consists of

- a collection of morphisms $\lambda_j : c \rightarrow Fj$, indexed by the objects $j \in \mathcal{J}$.
- for each morphism $f : j \rightarrow k$ in \mathcal{J} , the following triangle commutes in \mathcal{C} :

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & c & \\ \lambda_j \swarrow & & \searrow \lambda_k \\ Fj & \xrightarrow{Ff} & Fk \end{array}$$

Definition 1.4. All cone over a diagram F form a category **Cone**(F)

- whose objects are cones over F
- whose morphisms are morphisms between the summits that commute with the legs of the cones, i.e., a morphism $(c, \lambda) \rightarrow (c', \lambda')$ is a morphism $f : c \rightarrow c'$ in \mathcal{C} such that the following diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & c & \\ & \downarrow f & \\ \lambda_j \swarrow & & \searrow \lambda'_j \\ Fj & & c' \end{array}$$

commutes for every object $j \in \mathcal{J}$.

Definition 1.5. The **cone functor** $\text{Cone}(-, F) : \mathcal{C}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}$

$$\mathcal{C}^{\text{op}} \xrightarrow{\text{Cone}(-, F)} \mathbf{Set}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} c & \mapsto & \text{Cone}(c, F) \\ \downarrow f & \mapsto & \uparrow f^* \\ c' & \mapsto & \text{Cone}(c', F) \end{array}$$

where $\text{Cone}(c, F)$ is the set of cones over F with summit c , and for any morphism $f : c \rightarrow c'$, the

morphism $\text{Cone}(f, F) = f^*$ defined by precomposition with f by the rule

$$f^* \left(\dots \begin{array}{ccc} & c' & \\ \swarrow \lambda_i & & \searrow \lambda_j \\ F_i & \xrightarrow{\quad} & F_j \end{array} \dots \right) = \dots \begin{array}{ccc} & c & \\ \swarrow \lambda_i f & & \searrow \lambda_j f \\ F_i & \xrightarrow{\quad} & F_j \end{array} \dots$$

Definition 1.6. For any diagram $F : \mathcal{J} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$, the **limit** of F is a representation for $\text{Cone}(-, F)$, denoted by $\mathcal{C}(-, \lim F)$.

Remark. By the Yoneda lemma, $\text{Nat}(\mathcal{C}(-, \lim F), \text{Cone}(-, F)) \cong \text{Cone}(\lim F, F)$ and a natural isomorphism η^λ where $\lambda \in \text{Cone}(\lim F, F)$

$$\mathcal{C}(-, \lim F) \cong^{\eta^\lambda} \text{Cone}(-, F)$$

The $\lim F$ is called the **universal element** of functor $\text{Cone}(-, F)$ and **universal cone** $\lambda : \Delta \lim F \Rightarrow F$, called the **limit cone**, that is, the following equivalent conditions hold:

1. for any other cone $\mu : \Delta c \Rightarrow F$, there exists a unique morphism $f : c \rightarrow \lim F$ such that the following diagram commutes:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & c & \\ & \downarrow \exists! f & \\ \dots & \begin{array}{c} \mu_j \\ \downarrow \\ \lim F \\ \uparrow \lambda_j \\ F_j \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} \mu_k \\ \downarrow \\ \lim F \\ \uparrow \lambda_k \\ F_k \end{array} \dots \end{array}$$

2. $\lambda : \Delta \lim F \Rightarrow F$ is the terminal object in the category $\text{Cone}(F)$.

§1.2 Terminal objects

Definition 1.7. Let \mathcal{C} be a category and $c \in \mathcal{C}$. The object c is **terminal** if c is universal element of the empty diagram $\emptyset \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$.

Proposition 1.8. The following conditions on an object c in a category \mathcal{C} are equivalent:

1. c is terminal.
2. $\#\mathcal{C}(A, c) = 1$ for all objects $A \in \mathcal{C}$, that is, there is exactly one morphism from A to c .

§1.3 Products

Definition 1.9. Let \mathcal{C} be a category and $\{A_j\}_{j \in \mathcal{J}}$ be a family of objects in \mathcal{C} indexed by a discrete category \mathcal{J} (thus a diagram). The **product** of $\{A_j\}$ is a limit of the diagram. The limit is typically

denoted by $\prod_{j \in \mathcal{J}} A_j$ and the legs of the limit cone are maps

$$\left(\pi_k : \prod_{j \in \mathcal{J}} A_j \rightarrow A_k \right)_{k \in \mathcal{J}}$$

called **projections**.

§1.4 Pullbacks

Definition 1.10. Let \mathcal{C} be a category and given a diagram

$$A_1 \xrightarrow{f_1} B \xleftarrow{f_2} A_2$$

indexed by $\bullet \rightarrow \bullet \leftarrow \bullet$. A **pullback** is a limit of the diagram.

Remark. The universal property asserts that for any object X with morphisms $q_1 : X \rightarrow A_1$ and $q_2 : X \rightarrow A_2$ such that $f_1 q_1 = f_2 q_2$, there exists a unique morphism $u : X \rightarrow P$ such that the following diagram commutes:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} X & \xrightarrow{\quad q_2 \quad} & & & \\ \exists! u \swarrow & & P & \xrightarrow{p_2} & A_2 \\ q_1 \searrow & & p_1 \downarrow & & \downarrow f_2 \\ & & A_1 & \xrightarrow{f_1} & B \end{array}$$

The leg $P \rightarrow B$ is determined by either of the other two legs via $f_1 p_1 = f_2 p_2$.

§1.5 Equalizer

Definition 1.11. Let \mathcal{C} be a category and $f, g : A \rightarrow B$. An **equalizer** (or **difference kernel**) of f and g is the limit (pullback) of the diagram

$$A \rightrightarrows^f_g B$$

Remark. We usually identify the equalizer with the leg of the limit cone. That is, an equalizer of f and g is an object E together with a morphism

$$h : E \rightarrow A$$

such that:

- (i) $f \circ h = g \circ h$;

- (ii) For every object X with a morphism $\phi : X \rightarrow A$ satisfying $f \circ \phi = g \circ \phi$, there exists a unique morphism $k : X \rightarrow E$ such that $h \circ \bar{\phi} = \phi$.

We depict this situation by the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 & X & & & \\
 & \downarrow \exists! \bar{\phi} & \searrow \phi & \nearrow f \circ - = g \circ - & \\
 E & \xrightarrow{h} & A & \xrightarrow{f} & B \\
 & & \downarrow g & &
 \end{array}$$

and call it an **equalizer diagram**. The diagram is commutative except that, in general, $f \neq g$.

Definition 1.12. The **kernel** of $f : A \rightarrow B$ is an equalizer of f and $0_{A,B}$.

§1.6 Inverse limit

Definition 1.13. A **directed set** is a nonempty partially ordered set (\mathcal{I}, \leq) such that for every pair $i, j \in \mathcal{I}$, there exists $k \in \mathcal{I}$ such that $i \leq k$ and $j \leq k$.

Remark. Thus \mathcal{I} becomes a category in which there is a unique morphism $i \rightarrow j$ if and only if $i \leq j$.

Definition 1.14. Let \mathcal{C} be a category and (\mathcal{I}, \leq) be a directed set.

1. A **inverse system** in \mathcal{C} indexed by \mathcal{I} is a diagram $F : \mathcal{I}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$.
2. An **inverse limit** (or **projective limit**) is a limit of such a diagram.

§2 Colimit

Definition 2.1. A **cocone under a diagram** $F : \mathcal{J} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ with **base** (or **apex**) $c \in \mathcal{C}$ is a natural transformation $\lambda : F \Rightarrow \Delta c$. The components $(\lambda_j : Fj \rightarrow c)_{j \in \mathcal{J}}$ are called the **legs** of the cocone.

Remark. Explicitly: the data of a cocone under $F : \mathcal{J} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ with base c consists of

- a collection of morphisms $\lambda_j : Fj \rightarrow c$, indexed by the objects $j \in \mathcal{J}$.
- for each morphism $f : j \rightarrow k$ in \mathcal{J} , the following triangle commutes in \mathcal{C} :

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 Fj & \xrightarrow{Ff} & Fk \\
 \searrow \lambda_j & & \swarrow \lambda_k \\
 & c &
 \end{array}$$

Definition 2.2. All cocones under a diagram F form a category **Cocone**(F):

- whose objects are cocones under F ,

- whose morphisms are morphisms between the apices that commute with the legs of the cocones, i.e. a morphism $f_* : (c, \lambda) \rightarrow (c', \lambda')$ is a morphism $f : c \rightarrow c'$ in \mathcal{C} such that the following diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} Fj & & \\ & \searrow \lambda'_j & \\ & \swarrow \lambda_j & \\ c & \xrightarrow{f} & c' \end{array}$$

commutes for every object $j \in \mathcal{J}$.

Definition 2.3. *The cocone functor*

$$\text{Cocone}(F, -) : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}$$

is defined by

$$\mathcal{C} \xrightarrow{\text{Cocone}(F, -)} \mathbf{Set}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} c & \mapsto & \text{Cocone}(F, c) \\ \downarrow f & \mapsto & \downarrow f_* \\ c' & \mapsto & \text{Cocone}(F, c') \end{array}$$

where $\text{Cocone}(F, c)$ is the set of cocones under F with base c , and for any morphism $f : c \rightarrow c'$, the map $\text{Cocone}(F, f) = f_*$ is defined by postcomposition with f according to

$$f_* \left(\dots \begin{array}{ccc} Fi & \longrightarrow & Fj \\ \searrow \lambda_i & & \swarrow \lambda_j \\ c & & \end{array} \dots \right) = \dots \begin{array}{ccc} Fi & \longrightarrow & Fj \\ \searrow f\lambda_i & & \swarrow f\lambda_j \\ c' & & \end{array} \dots$$

§2.1 Colimit

Definition 2.4. For any diagram $F : \mathcal{J} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$, a **colimit** of F is a representation for the functor $\text{Cocone}(F, -)$.

Remark. By the Yoneda lemma, $\text{Nat}(\mathcal{C}(\text{colim } F, -), \text{Cocone}(F, -)) \cong \text{Cocone}(F, \text{colim } F)$. and a natural isomorphism η^λ where $\lambda \in \text{Cocone}(F, \text{colim } F)$

$$\mathcal{C}(\text{colim } F, -) \cong^{\eta^\lambda} \text{Cocone}(F, -)$$

Thus $(\text{colim } F, \lambda : F \Rightarrow \Delta(\text{colim } F))$ is the universal element of the functor $\text{Cocone}(F, -)$, that is, the **colimit cocone**. Equivalently, the following conditions hold:

1. For any other cocone $\mu : F \Rightarrow \Delta c$, there exists a unique morphism $f : \text{colim } F \rightarrow c$ such that the following diagram commutes for every object $j \in \mathcal{J}$:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} Fj & & \\ & \searrow \lambda_j & \\ & & \text{colim } F \\ & \downarrow \mu_j & \downarrow \exists! f \\ & & c \end{array}$$

2. $\lambda : F \Rightarrow \Delta(\text{colim } F)$ is the initial object in the category $\mathbf{Cocone}(F)$.

§2.2 Initial objects

§2.3 Coproduct

§2.4 Pushout

Definition 2.5. Let \mathcal{C} be a category and given a diagram

$$B_1 \xleftarrow{f_1} A \xrightarrow{f_2} B_2$$

indexed by $\bullet \leftarrow \bullet \rightarrow \bullet$. A **pushout** is a colimit of the diagram.

Remark.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A & \xrightarrow{f_2} & B_2 \\ f_1 \downarrow & & \downarrow \iota_2 \\ B_1 & \xrightarrow{\iota_1} & P \\ & \searrow & \swarrow \\ & & Y \end{array}$$

§2.5 Coequalizer

Definition 2.6. Let \mathcal{C} be a category and $f, g : A \rightarrow B$. A **coequalizer** of f and g is the colimit (pushout) of the diagram

$$A \xrightarrow{f} B \xleftarrow{g} A$$

Remark. We usually identify the coequalizer with the leg of the colimit cocone. That is, a coequalizer of f and g is an object C together with a morphism

$$p : B \rightarrow C$$

such that:

- (i) $p \circ f = p \circ g$;
- (ii) For every object Y with a morphism $\phi : B \rightarrow Y$ satisfying $\phi \circ f = \phi \circ g$, there exists a unique morphism $k : C \rightarrow Y$ such that $k \circ p = \phi$.

We depict this situation by the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} & & f & & \\ & A & \xrightarrow{\quad g \quad} & B & \xrightarrow{\quad p \quad} C \\ & & \searrow \phi & \downarrow \exists! \bar{\phi} & \\ & & Y & & \end{array}$$

and call it a **coequalizer diagram**. The diagram is commutative except that, in general, $f \neq g$.

Definition 2.7. The **cokernel** of $f : A \rightarrow B$ is a coequalizer of f and $0_{A,B}$.

Remark. That is, an object $\text{Coker}(f)$ together with a morphism $\pi : B \rightarrow \text{Coker}(f)$ such that:

- (i) $\pi \circ f = 0$
- (ii) for every $g : B \rightarrow Y$ with $g \circ f = 0$, there exists a unique $\bar{g} : \text{Coker}(f) \rightarrow Y$ with $\bar{g} \circ \pi = g$.

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} & f & & \pi & \\ A & \xrightarrow{\quad} & B & \xrightarrow{\quad} & \text{Coker}(f) \\ & \searrow 0 & \searrow g & \downarrow \exists! \bar{g} & \\ & & Y & & \end{array}$$

§2.6 Direct limit

Definition 2.8. Let \mathcal{C} be a category and (\mathcal{I}, \leq) be a directed set.

1. A **direct system** in \mathcal{C} indexed by \mathcal{I} is a diagram $F : \mathcal{I} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$.
2. A **direct limit** (or **inductive limit**) is a colimit of such a diagram.

Chapter IV

Adjoint

Definition 0.1. Let $\mathcal{C} \xrightleftharpoons[G]{F} \mathcal{D}$ be categories and functors. We say that F is **left adjoint** to G , and G is **right adjoint** to F , and write $F \dashv G$, if

$$\mathcal{D}(Fc, d) \cong \mathcal{C}(c, Gd)$$

naturally in both $c \in \mathcal{C}$ and $d \in \mathcal{D}$.