

## Lecture 14

1) Adjoint functors

| BONUS: adjunction unit & counit

Reference: [R], Section 4.1, Hilton-Stammbach, Section 2.7.

### 1.1) Definition (of adj't functors).

Let  $\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D}$  be cat's,  $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ ,  $G: \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  be functors.

Def'n:  $F$  is left adjoint to  $G$  if

$\forall X \in \text{Ob}(\mathcal{C}), Y \in \text{Ob}(\mathcal{D}) \exists$  bijection  $\gamma_{X,Y}: \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F(X), Y) \xrightarrow{\sim} \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(X, G(Y))$  s.t.

(1)  $\forall X, X' \in \text{Ob}(\mathcal{C}), Y \in \text{Ob}(\mathcal{D}), X' \xrightarrow{\varphi} X$  the following is comm've:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F(X), Y) & \xrightarrow{\gamma_{X,Y}} & \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(X, G(Y)) \\ \downarrow ? \circ F(\varphi) & & \downarrow ? \circ g \\ \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F(X'), Y) & \xrightarrow{\gamma_{X',Y}} & \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(X', G(Y)) \end{array}$$

(2)  $\forall Y, Y' \in \text{Ob}(\mathcal{D}), Y \xrightarrow{\psi} Y', X \in \text{Ob}(\mathcal{C})$ , the following is comm've

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F(X), Y) & \xrightarrow{\gamma_{X,Y}} & \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(X, G(Y)) \\ \downarrow \psi \circ ? & & \downarrow G(\psi) \circ ? \\ \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F(X), Y') & \xrightarrow{\gamma_{X,Y'}} & \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(X, G(Y')) \end{array}$$

Remarks: 1) Fix  $X$  & consider composition of functors

$$\mathcal{D} \xrightarrow{G} \mathcal{C} \xrightarrow{F_X = \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(X, \cdot)} \text{Sets}$$

If  $F$  is left adj't to  $G$ , then  $F(X)$  represents this comp'n  
i.e.  $\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F(X), \cdot)$  is isom'c to this comp'n via  $\gamma_X$ , which is  
a functor isomorphism by diagram (2).

2\*) Can view  $\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(\cdot, ?)$  as a functor  $\mathcal{C}^{\text{opp}} \times \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \text{Sets}$

Similarly for  $\mathcal{D} \rightsquigarrow$  compositions  $\mathcal{C}^{\text{opp}} \times \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \text{Sets}$

$$\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F(\cdot), ?), \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(\cdot, G(?))$$

Diagrams (1) & (2) combine to show that [ $F$  is left adj't to  $G$ ]  $\Leftrightarrow$  the two functors above are isomorphic (via  $\gamma, ?$ )

3) Often we get interesting adjoint functors  $F/G$  starting from (sometimes boring) functors - which is why we care about adjoint functors in this course.

4)  $G$  is called right adjoint to  $F$ .

## 1.2) Examples.

Ex 1: Let  $G$  be  $\text{For}: A\text{-Mod} \rightarrow \text{Sets}$  ( $A$  is comm've unital ring),  $F: \text{Free}: \text{Sets} \rightarrow A\text{-Mod}$

$$I \mapsto A^{\oplus I}$$

Claim:  $F$  is left adj't to  $G$  ( $\text{Maps} := \text{Hom}_{\text{Sets}}$ )

2]

- construct  $\gamma_{I,M} : \underset{A}{\operatorname{Hom}}_A(A^{\oplus I}, M) \xrightarrow{\sim} M^{\chi I} = \underset{\psi}{\operatorname{Maps}}(I, M)$

- check comm'v diagram (1): if maps  $\varphi: I' \rightarrow I$ :

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \tau \in \text{Hom}_A(A^{\oplus I}, M) & \xrightarrow[\sim]{\ell_{I,M}} & \text{Maps}(I, M) \\ \downarrow ? \circ \text{Free}(\varphi) & & \downarrow ? \circ \varphi \\ \text{Hom}_A(A^{\oplus I'}, M) & \xrightarrow[\sim]{\ell_{I',M}} & \text{Maps}(I', M) \end{array}$$

where  $\text{Free}(y)$  is unique  $[\text{Free}(y)](e_i) := e_{y(i)}$

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \downarrow \quad \longrightarrow : \tau \mapsto \left[ \text{unique } \tau' : A^{\oplus I'} \rightarrow M \text{ s.t. } \tau'(e'_j) := \tau(e_{\varphi(j)}) \right] \\
 \downarrow \\
 \left[ j \mapsto \tau(e_{\varphi(j)}) \right] \leftarrow \\
 \longrightarrow \downarrow : \tau \mapsto \left[ i \mapsto \tau(e_i) \right]
 \end{array}$$

Check (2): for  $\varphi \in \text{Hom}_A(M, M')$ , the following is comm'v:

$$\tau \in \text{Hom}_A(A^{\oplus I}, M) \xrightarrow{\sim} \text{Maps}(I, M)$$

$\downarrow \psi \circ ?$        $\downarrow \psi \circ ? \text{ where now } \psi \text{ is}$   
viewed as map of sets

$$\text{Hom}_A(A^{\otimes I}, M') \xrightarrow{\sim} \text{Maps}(I, M')$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \xrightarrow{\quad} & : \tau \mapsto [i \mapsto \tau(e_i)] \mapsto [i \mapsto \psi(\tau(e_i))] \\
 \downarrow & & \nearrow \\
 \downarrow & : \tau \mapsto \psi \circ \tau \mapsto
 \end{array}$$

Adjointness is established

Ex 2:  $G$  is the inclusion functor  $\mathcal{N}\text{-Mod} \hookrightarrow \text{Groups}$ ,

$F := \text{Ab}: \text{Groups} \rightarrow \mathcal{N}\text{-Mod}, G \mapsto G/(G, G)$ .

Claim:  $F$  is left adjoint to  $G$ .

$\pi_G^\omega$ : natural epimorphism  $G \rightarrow G/(G, G)$ .

• Construct bijection  $\gamma_{G,M}: \underset{\tau}{\text{Hom}}_{\mathcal{N}}(G/(G, G), M) \rightarrow \underset{\tau}{\text{Hom}}_{\text{Groups}}(G, M)$

Exercise:  $\gamma_{G,M}$  is a bijection.

• Check comm'v diagram (1):  $\forall \varphi: G' \rightarrow G$

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{N}}(G/(G, G), M) & \xrightarrow{? \circ \pi_G^\omega} & \text{Hom}_{\text{Groups}}(G, M) \\
 \downarrow ? \circ \text{Ab}(\varphi) & & \downarrow ? \circ \varphi \\
 \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{N}}(G'/(G, G'), M) & \xrightarrow{? \circ \pi_{G'}^\omega} & \text{Hom}_{\text{Groups}}(G', M)
 \end{array}$$

where  $\text{Ab}(\varphi)(g'(G, G')) = \varphi(g')(G, G) \quad (g' \in G')$

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \xrightarrow{\quad} & = ? \circ (\pi_G \circ \varphi) \\
 \downarrow & \text{||} & \leftarrow \text{follows from constr'n of } \text{Ab}(\varphi) \\
 \downarrow \xrightarrow{\quad} & = ? \circ (\text{Ab}(\varphi) \circ \pi_{G'}) \\
 \end{array}$$

Check comm'v diagram (2):  $\varphi: M \rightarrow M'$

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(G/(G,G), M) & \xrightarrow{? \circ \pi_G} & \text{Hom}_{\text{Groups}}(G, M) \\
 \downarrow \psi \circ ? & & \downarrow \psi \circ ? \\
 \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(G/(G,G), M') & \xrightarrow{? \circ \pi_G} & \text{Hom}_{\text{Groups}}(G, M')
 \end{array}$$

Both  $\xrightarrow{\quad} \downarrow \& \downarrow \rightarrow$  give  $\psi \circ ? \circ \pi_G$ , manifestly the same!

Adjointness is checked.

### 1.3) Uniqueness.

Proposition: Let  $G: \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  be a functor. Claim: if its left adjoint exists, then it's unique up to a functor isom'm.

Proof: Suppose  $F^1, F^2: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$  are both left adj't

to  $G: \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{C} \rightsquigarrow \gamma_{X,Y}^i: \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F^i(X), Y) \xrightarrow{\sim} \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(X, G(Y))$

that make (1) & (2) comm've  $\rightsquigarrow$

$$\gamma_{X,Y} := (\gamma_{X,Y}^2)^{-1} \circ \gamma_{X,Y}^1: \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F^1(X), Y) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F^2(X), Y)$$

which makes analogs of (1) & (2) comm've:

(1)  $\nexists X' \xrightarrow{\varphi} X$ :

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F^1(X), Y) & \xrightarrow{\gamma_{X,Y}} & \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F^2(X), Y) \\ \downarrow ? \circ F^1(\varphi) & & \downarrow ? \circ F^2(\varphi) \\ \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F^1(X'), Y) & \xrightarrow{\gamma_{X',Y}} & \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F^2(X'), Y) \end{array}$$

(2)  $\nexists Y \xrightarrow{\varphi} Y'$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F^1(X), Y) & \xrightarrow{\gamma_{X,Y}} & \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F^2(X), Y) \\ \downarrow \varphi \circ ? & & \downarrow \varphi \circ ? \\ \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F^1(X), Y') & \xrightarrow{\gamma_{X,Y'}} & \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F^2(X), Y') \end{array}$$

Fix  $X$ , look at (2): it tells us that  $\gamma_{X,?}$  is a functor morphism (and hence isomorphism - b/c each  $\gamma_{X,Y}$  is bijection) between  $\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F^1(X), \cdot)$  &  $\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F^2(X), \cdot)$ . By Yoneda Lemma, have the unique isomorphism  $\tau_X \in \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(F^2(X), F^1(X))$  s.t.

$$\gamma_{X,?} = - \circ \tau_X.$$

Claim: (1) now tells us that  $\tau$  is a functor morphism (hence, an isomorphism). Indeed, in (1):

$$\begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\hspace{2cm}} \\ \downarrow : ? \circ (\tau_x \circ F^2(\varphi)) \\ \parallel \quad -\text{b/c (1) is comm'v} \\ \downarrow \xrightarrow{\hspace{2cm}} : ? \circ (F^1(\varphi) \circ \tau_{x'}) \end{array}$$

i.e.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} F^2(X') & \xrightarrow{\tau_{X'}} & F^1(X') \\ \downarrow F^2(\varphi) & & \downarrow F^1(\varphi) \quad \text{is commutative} \\ F^2(X) & \xrightarrow{\tau_X} & F^1(X) \end{array}$$

So  $\tau$  is indeed a functor (iso)morphism  $\square$

1.4) Analogy between adjoint functors & adjoint linear maps.

Linear map story

Fin. dim. vector space  $V$

Dual space  $V^*$

Map  $V^* \times V \rightarrow \mathbb{F}$   
(pairing)

Cond'n for  $A^*: W^* \rightarrow V^*$  being  
adj't to  $A: V \rightarrow W$ :

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Functor story

Category  $\mathcal{C}$

Category  $\mathcal{C}^{opp}$

Functor  $\mathcal{C}^{opp} \times \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \text{Sets}$   
 $\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(\cdot, ?)$

Condition for functors being  
adjoint:

$$\langle A^* \beta, v \rangle = \langle \beta, Av \rangle$$

$\nexists \beta \in W^*, v \in V.$

Isom'm of functors  $\mathcal{C}^{op} \times \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \text{Sets}$   
 $\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F(\cdot), ?) \xrightarrow{\sim} \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(\cdot, G(?))$

Note: this is just an analogy:

BONUS: adjunction unit & counit.

Let  $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$  be left adjoint to  $G: \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ . We claim that this gives rise to functor morphisms: the adjunction unit

$$\varepsilon: \text{Id}_{\mathcal{C}} \xrightarrow{\sim} GF \quad \text{counit } \eta: FG \xrightarrow{\sim} \text{Id}_{\mathcal{D}}$$

We construct  $\varepsilon$  and leave  $\eta$  as an exercise.

Consider  $X_1, X_2 \in \text{Ob}(\mathcal{C})$ . Then we have the bijection

$$\gamma_{X_1, F(X_2)}: \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F(X_1), F(X_2)) \xrightarrow{\sim} \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(X_1, GF(X_2))$$

Note that  $F$  gives rise to a map  $\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(X_1, X_2) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F(X_1), F(X_2))$

Composing this map w. the bijection  $\gamma_{X_1, F(X_2)}$  we get

$$\varepsilon_{X_1, X_2}: \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(X_1, X_2) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(X_1, GF(X_2)).$$

Now we can argue as in the proof of Proposition 1.3 to see that

$$\exists! \varepsilon: \text{Id}_{\mathcal{C}} \Rightarrow GF \text{ s.t. } \varepsilon_{X_1, X_2}(\eta) = \varepsilon_{X_2} \circ \eta.$$

A natural question to ask is: for two functors  $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ ,

$$G: \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{C} \text{ & functor morphisms } \varepsilon: \text{Id}_{\mathcal{C}} \Rightarrow GF, \eta: FG \Rightarrow \text{Id}_{\mathcal{D}}$$

when is  $F$  left adjoint to  $G$  (&  $\varepsilon, \eta$  unit & counit).

Very Premium Exercise: TFAE

- $F$  is left adjoint to  $G$  w. unit  $\varepsilon$  & counit  $\eta$

6) The composed morphisms  $F \Rightarrow FGF \Rightarrow F$ ,  $G \Rightarrow GFG \Rightarrow G$   
induced by  $\varepsilon, \gamma$  (cf. Problem 8 in HW 3) are the identity  
endomorphisms (of  $F$  &  $G$ ).