# 1 Adjoint situations

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**Proposition 1.1** Given two functors  $A \xrightarrow{F} B$ ,  $B \xrightarrow{G} A$ , the following are equivalent:

(a)  $\exists \eta \colon \mathrm{id}_B \to GF$  and  $\epsilon \colon FG \to \mathrm{id}_A$  such that  $\forall a \in Ob(A), b \in Ob(B)$  the following two diagrams commute:

$$A \xrightarrow{F(\eta_b)} B \qquad A \xrightarrow{F(\eta_b)} B$$

$$\downarrow^{\epsilon_{F(b)}} \text{ and } \downarrow^{\epsilon_{F(b)}} C$$

**(b)**  $\forall a \in Ob(A), b \in Ob(B)$  there is a bijection

$$\phi_{a,b} \colon \text{hom}(F(b), a) \to \text{hom}(b, G(a))$$

which is natural in a and b, i.e. for  $p: a \rightarrow a'$ :

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \hom(F(b),a) & \longrightarrow & \hom(b,G(a)) \\ & & & \downarrow \\ \hom(F(b),a') & \longrightarrow & \hom(b,G(a')) \end{array}$$

and for  $q \colon b \to b'$ :

$$hom(F(b'), a) \longrightarrow hom(b', G(a))$$

$$\downarrow \qquad \qquad \downarrow$$

$$hom(F(b), a) \longrightarrow hom(b, G(a))$$

**Proof**:  $(a) \implies (b)$ : define

$$\phi_{a,b} \colon \operatorname{hom}(F(b), a) \to \operatorname{hom}(b, G(a))$$

by  $q \mapsto G(q) \circ \eta_b$  for  $q \colon F(b) \to a$ 

# 2 Monads and Comonads

#### 2.1 Definition of Monads and Comonads

**Definition 2.1** (Monad) A *Monad*  $(T, \mu, \eta)$  in a Category X consists of

- an endofunctor  $T: X \to X$
- a natural transformation  $\eta$ :  $id_X \Rightarrow T$
- a natural transformation  $\mu \colon T^2 \Rightarrow T$

such that the following diagrams commute:

**Example 1** (preorder). Recall: A *preorder*  $(\mathcal{P}, \leq)$  is a category with  $\mathcal{P}$  as objects and a morphism between X and Y iff  $X \leq Y$ . A functor  $T \colon \mathcal{P} \to \mathcal{P}$  is thus a monotonic function  $\mathcal{P} \to \mathcal{P}$   $(x \leq y \implies Tx \leq Ty)$ . The existence of the natural transformations  $\eta$  is equivalent to

$$x < Tx \ \forall x \in \mathcal{P}$$

and the existence of  $\mu$  is equivalent to

$$T(Tx) \le Tx \ \forall x \in \mathcal{P}$$

because there is at most one morphism  $x \to y$ , so the neccessary diagrams commute trivially. Now suppose  $\mathcal P$  is a *partial order*, i.e.  $x \le y \le x \implies x = y \ \forall x, y \in \mathcal P$ .

$$x \le Tx \implies Tx \le T(Tx)$$
  
 $T(Tx) \le Tx \implies Tx = T(Tx)$ 

so a Monad T in a partial order  $\mathcal{P}$  is a *closure operation* in  $\mathcal{P}$ , i.e. a monotonic function  $T \colon \mathcal{P} \to \mathcal{P}$  with  $x \leq Tx$  and  $T(Tx) = Tx \ \forall x \in \mathcal{P}$ .

Now every topological space X induces a partial order  $\mathcal{P}=(\mathcal{P}(X),\subseteq)$ . Here an example for a closure operation is taking the topological closure  $A\mapsto \overline{A}$ , since it holds for all  $A\subseteq X$  that  $A\subseteq \overline{A}$  and  $\overline{\overline{A}}=\overline{A}$ .

**Definition 2.2** (Comonad) A Comonad  $(L, \varepsilon, \omega)$  in a Category  $\mathcal{A}$  consists of

- an endofunctor  $L \colon \mathcal{A} \to \mathcal{A}$
- a natural transformation  $\varepsilon \colon L \Rightarrow \mathrm{id}_{\mathcal{A}}$
- a natural transformation  $\omega \colon L \Rightarrow L^2$

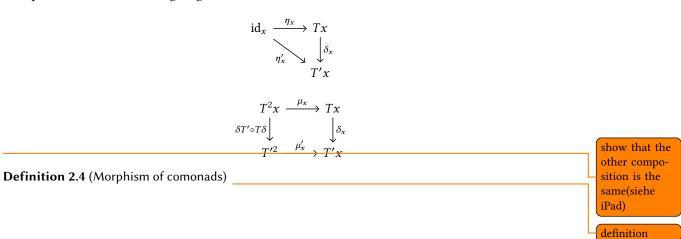
such that the following diagrams commute:

(a) 
$$L \xrightarrow{L\omega} L^{2} \qquad \qquad L \xleftarrow{\varepsilon L} L^{2} \xrightarrow{L\varepsilon} L$$

$$L \xleftarrow{\varepsilon L} L^{2} \xrightarrow{L\varepsilon} L$$

$$L \xrightarrow{id_{L}} \uparrow \omega \xrightarrow{id_{L}} L$$

**Definition 2.3** (Morphism of monads) Let X be a category, let  $(T, \eta, \mu)$  and  $(T', \eta', \mu')$  be monads in X. We say that a natural transformation  $\delta \colon T \implies T'$  is a *morphism of monads* if it preserves the unit and the multiplication, i.e. the following diagrams commute:



# 3 Witt vectors

#### Construction of the witt vectors

**Definition 3.1** (truncation set) Let  $\mathbb{N}$  be the set of positive integers and let  $S \subseteq \mathbb{N}$  be a subset with the property that  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}$ : if d is a divisor of n, then  $d \in S$ . We then say that S is a *truncation set*.

As a set, we define the *big Witt ring*  $W_S(A)$  to be  $A^S$ , we will give it a unique ring structure, such that the *ghost map* is a ring homomorphism.

**Definition 3.2** (ghost map) We define  $w \colon \mathbb{W}_S(A) \to A^S$  by  $(a_n)_{n \in S} \mapsto (w_n)_{n \in S}$  where

$$w_n = \sum_{d|n} da_d^{n/d}$$

**Lemma 3.3** (Dwork) Suppose that for every prime number p there exists a ring homomorphism  $\phi_p \colon A \to A$  with the property that  $\phi_p(a) \equiv a^p$  modulo pA. Then for every sequence  $x = (x_n)_{n \in S}$ , the following are equivalent:

- (i) The sequence x is in the image of the ghost map  $w \colon \mathbb{W}_S(A) \to A^S$ .
- (ii) For every prime number p and every  $n \in S$  with  $v_p(n) \ge 1$ ,

$$x_n \equiv \phi_p(x_{n/p})$$
 modulo  $p^{v_p(n)}A$ .

**PROOF**: ( $\Rightarrow$ ) Suppose x is in the image of the ghost map, that means there is a sequence  $a = (a_n)_{n \in S}$  such that  $x_n = w_n(a)$  for all  $n \in S$ . We calculate:

$$\phi(x_{n/p}) = \phi(w_{n/p}(a)) = \phi(\sum_{d|n/p} da_d^{n/pd}) = \sum_{d|n/p} d \cdot \phi(a_d^{n/pd})$$

since  $\phi$  is a ring homomorphism and  $d \in \mathbb{N}$ .

Claim 1.  $\sum_{d|n/p} d \cdot \phi(a_d^{n/pd}) \equiv \sum_{d|n/p} d \cdot a_d^{n/d} \mod p^{v_p(n)} A$ .

PROOF (Proof of claim 1):

Claim 2.  $\sum_{d|n/p} d \cdot a_d^{n/d} \equiv \sum_{d|n} d \cdot a_d^{n/d} \mod p^{v_p(n)} A$ 

**PROOF** (Proof of claim 2):

so we get

$$\phi(x_{n/p}) \equiv \sum_{d|n} d \cdot a_d^{n/d} = w_n(a) = x_n \quad \text{mod } p^{v_p(n)} A.$$

( $\Leftarrow$ ) Let  $(x_n)_{n\in S}$  be a sequence such that  $x_n\equiv\phi_p(x_{n/p})\mod p^{v_p(n)}A\ \forall p$  prime,  $n\in S, v_p(n)\geqslant 1$ . Define  $(a_n)_{n\in S}$  with  $w_n(a)=x_n$  as follows:

$$a_1 \coloneqq x_1$$

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and if  $a_d$  has been chosen for all  $d \mid n$  such that  $w_d(a) = x_d$  we see that

$$x_n \equiv \phi_p(x_{n/p}) \mod p^{v_p(n)} A$$

$$= \phi_p(\sum_{d|n/p} d \cdot a_d^{n/pd})$$

$$= \sum_{d|n/p} d \cdot \phi(a_d^{n/pd})$$

finish proof

We will often need the following

**Lemma 3.4** if *A* is a torsion-free ring, the ghost map is injective.

Now we can finish the construction of the Witt vectors:

**Theorem 3.5** There exists a unique ring structure such that the ghost map

$$w: \mathbb{W}_S(A) \to A^s$$

is a natural transformation of functors from rings to rings.

Proof:

**Corollary 3.6**  $w_n : W_S(A) \to A$  is a natural transformation for all  $n \in S$ .

**Proposition 3.7** W<sub>S</sub> is a functor CRing  $\rightarrow$  CRing.

## The Verschiebung, Frobenius and Teichmüller maps

**Definition 3.8** (Restriction map) If  $T \subseteq S$  are two truncation sets, the *restriction from S to T* 

$$R_T^S \colon \mathbb{W}_S(A) \to \mathbb{W}_T(A)$$

is a natural ring homomorphism.

If  $S \subseteq \mathbb{N}$  is a truncation set, then

$$S/n := \{d \in \mathbb{N} \mid nd \in S\}$$

is again a truncation set.

**Definition 3.9** (Verschiebung) Define

$$V_n \colon \mathbb{W}_{S/n} \to \mathbb{W}_S(A); \ V_n((a_d)_{d \in S/n})_m := \begin{cases} a_d, & \text{if } m = n \cdot d \\ 0, & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

which is called the *n-th Verschiebung map*. Furthermore define

$$\widetilde{V_n} : A^{S/n} \to A^S; \ \widetilde{V_n}((x_d)_{d \in S/n})_m := \begin{cases} n \cdot x_d, & \text{if } m = n \cdot d \\ 0, & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

**Lemma 3.10** The Verschiebung map  $V_n$  is additive.

Proof:

 $\begin{array}{ccc} \mathbb{W}_{S/n}(A) & \stackrel{w}{\longrightarrow} A^{S/n} \\ & & \downarrow_{V_n} & & \downarrow_{\widetilde{V_n}} \ commutes. \\ \mathbb{W}_S(A) & \stackrel{w}{\longrightarrow} A^S \end{array}$ 

PROOF (Proof of claim):

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#### The comonad structure of witt vectors

We will need the following lemma:

**Lemma 3.11** Let  $m \in \mathbb{Z}$ . If m is a non-zero divisor in A, then it is a non-zero divisor in  $\mathbb{W}_{S}(A)$  as well.

PROOF (Proof of claim):

$$0 \longrightarrow A \xrightarrow{V_n} \mathbb{W}_S(A) \xrightarrow{R_T^S} W_T(A) \longrightarrow 0$$

which we can extend to the following commutative diagram:

$$0 \longrightarrow A \longrightarrow \mathbb{W}_{S}(A) \longrightarrow \mathbb{W}_{T}(A) \longrightarrow 0$$

$$\downarrow \cdot m \qquad \qquad \downarrow \cdot m \qquad \qquad \downarrow \cdot m$$

$$0 \longrightarrow A \longrightarrow \mathbb{W}_{S}(A) \longrightarrow \mathbb{W}_{T}(A) \longrightarrow 0$$

finish

**Definition 3.12**  $W(A) := W_N(A)$ 

For the construction of a natural transformation  $W(A) \to W(W(A))$  we want to use Lemma 3.3 again. Hence we first show:

**Lemma 3.13** Let p be a prime number, let A be any ring. Then the ring homomorphism  $F_p \colon \mathbb{W}(A) \to \mathbb{W}(A)$  satisfies  $F_p(a) \equiv a^p \mod pA$ .

Proposition 3.14 There exists a unique natural transformation

$$\Delta \colon \mathbb{W}(A) \to \mathbb{W}(\mathbb{W}(A))$$

such that  $w_n(\Delta(a)) = F_n(A)$  for all  $a \in A, n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

**Theorem 3.15** The functor  $\mathbb{W}(\cdot)$ :  $\mathbb{C}Ring \to \mathbb{C}Ring$  together with the natural transformations  $\Delta \colon \mathbb{W} \to \mathbb{W}^2$ ,  $w_1 \colon \mathbb{W} \to \mathrm{id}_{\mathbb{C}Ring}$  form a comonad.

PROOF:

**PROOF** (Proof of claim): evaluating the ghost coordinates leads to:

which simplifies to

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
\mathbb{W}(A) & \xrightarrow{F_A} & \mathbb{W}(A)^{\mathbb{N}} \\
\downarrow^{\Delta_A} & & \downarrow^{\Delta_A^{\mathbb{N}}} \\
\mathbb{W}(\mathbb{W}(A)) & \xrightarrow{F_{\mathbb{W}(A)}} & \mathbb{W}(\mathbb{W}(A))^{\mathbb{N}}
\end{array}$$

now it suffices to show for an arbitrary n that the following diagram commutes:

$$\begin{array}{c} \mathbb{W}(A) & \stackrel{F_{n_A}}{\longrightarrow} \mathbb{W}(A) \\ \downarrow^{\Delta_A} & \downarrow^{\Delta_A} \\ \mathbb{W}(\mathbb{W}(A)) & \stackrel{F_{n_{\mathbb{W}(A)}}}{\longrightarrow} \mathbb{W}(\mathbb{W}(A)) \end{array}$$

evaluating the ghost coordinates again, keeping in mind that by Lemma 9,  $w \colon \mathbb{W}(\mathbb{W}(A)) \to \mathbb{W}(A)^{\mathbb{N}}$  is injective as well, we get

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
\mathbb{W}(A) & \xrightarrow{F_{n_A}} & \mathbb{W}(A) \\
\downarrow^{\Delta_A} & & \downarrow^{\Delta_A} \\
\mathbb{W}(\mathbb{W}(A)) & \xrightarrow{F_{n_{\mathbb{W}(A)}}} & \mathbb{W}(\mathbb{W}(A)) & F_A \\
\downarrow^{w} & & \downarrow^{w} \\
\mathbb{W}(A)^{\mathbb{N}} & \xrightarrow{\widetilde{F}_{n_{\mathbb{W}(A)}}} & \mathbb{W}(A)^{\mathbb{N}}
\end{array}$$

using the fact that

$$w$$
  $w_{nm}$  commutes, we can simplify the situation to  $\widetilde{F_{nW(A)}}$   $W(A)$   $\widetilde{F_{nW(A)}}$ 

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
\mathbb{W}(A) & \xrightarrow{F_n} & \mathbb{W}(A) \\
\downarrow^{\Delta_A} & \xrightarrow{F_{nm}} & \downarrow^{F_m} \\
\mathbb{W}(\mathbb{W}(A)) & \xrightarrow{w_{nm}} & \mathbb{W}(A)
\end{array}$$

which can again be simplified to

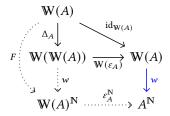
$$\mathbb{W}(A) \xrightarrow{F_n} \mathbb{W}(A)$$

$$\downarrow^{F_m}$$

$$\mathbb{W}(A)$$

now this commutes by ???, hence we are finished.

PROOF (Proof of claim): evaluate the ghost coordinates:



we can then simplify to

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
\mathbb{W}(A) & & & \\
\downarrow & & & & \\
\mathbb{W}(A)^{\mathbb{N}} & \xrightarrow[\varepsilon_A^{\mathbb{N}}]{} & A^{\mathbb{N}}
\end{array}$$

now it suffices to show for all n that

$$\begin{array}{c|c}
\mathbb{W}(A) \\
F_n \downarrow & & \\
\mathbb{W}(A) \xrightarrow{\varepsilon_A} A
\end{array}$$

commutes, which is true by ??? ( $\varepsilon = w_1$ ).

CLAIM.  $\begin{array}{c} \mathbb{W}(A) \\ \downarrow^{\Delta_A} \text{ commutes.} \\ \mathbb{W}(\mathbb{W}(A)) \xleftarrow{\varepsilon_{\mathbb{W}(A)}} \mathbb{W}(A) \end{array}$ 

**PROOF** (Proof of claim): Let  $a \in W(A)$ .  $\varepsilon(\Delta_A(a)) = w_1(\Delta_A(a)) = F_1(a) = a$ , since  $F_1 = \mathrm{id}_{W(A)}$ .

This concludes the proof.

## The Teichmüller map induces a morphism of comonads

We now consider another example of a comonad; the *free monoid comonad*.

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**Definition 3.16** (monoid ring) Let R be a ring and let G be a monoid. The *monoid ring* of G over R, denoted R[G] or RG is the set of formal finite sums  $\sum_{g \in G} r_g \cdot g$  with addition and multiplication defined by:

$$\begin{split} \sum_{g \in G} r_g \cdot g + \sum_{g \in G} s_g \cdot g &\coloneqq \sum_{g \in G} (r_g + s_g) \cdot g \\ \sum_{g \in G} r_g \cdot g \cdot \sum_{g \in G} s_g \cdot g &\coloneqq \sum_{g \in G} (\sum_{k \cdot l = q} r_k \cdot s_l) \cdot g \end{split}$$

Example 2.  $R = \mathbb{R}, G = \{x^n \mid n \in \mathbb{N}\} \implies RG = \mathbb{R}[X]$ 

**Proposition 3.17** R[G] together with the ring homomorphism  $\alpha \colon R \to R[G]$ ;  $r \mapsto r \cdot 1$  and the monoid homomorphism  $\beta \colon G \to R[G]$ ;  $g \mapsto 1 \cdot g$  enjoys the following universal property:

$$\alpha(r) \cdot \beta(q) = \beta(q) \cdot \alpha(r) \quad \forall r \in R, q \in G$$

and if  $(S, \alpha', \beta')$  is another such triple with  $\alpha'(r) \cdot \beta'(g) = \beta'(g) \cdot \alpha'(r) \quad \forall r \in R, g \in G$ , there is a unique monoid homomorphism  $\gamma \colon R[G] \to S$  such that the following diagram commutes:

$$R \xrightarrow{\alpha'} R[G] \xleftarrow{\beta'} G$$

Here,  $\gamma$  is defined by  $\sum_{q \in G} r_q \cdot g \mapsto \sum_{q \in G} \alpha'(r_q) \cdot \beta'(g)$ .

**Example 3**. Let *S* be a ring, *G* be a monoid. Since there is a unique ring homomorphism  $\mathbb{Z} \to S$ , each monoid homomorphism  $G \to S$  induces a unique ring homomorphism  $\mathbb{Z}G \to S$  such that the following commutes:



Now if H is another monoid and  $f \colon G \to H$  a monoid morphism,  $G \xrightarrow{f} H \to \mathbb{Z}H$  is a monoid homomorphism, hence it extends uniquely to  $f \colon \mathbb{Z}G \to \mathbb{Z}H$ ,  $\sum_{g \in G} r_g \cdot g \mapsto \sum_{g \in G} r_g \cdot f(g)$ . In this way, the free monoid ring construction over  $\mathbb{Z}$  is functorial.

Let  $G: \mathbf{CRing} \to \mathbf{CMon}, (R, +, \cdot) \mapsto (R, \cdot)$  be the forgetful functor and let  $F: \mathbf{CMon} \to \mathbf{CRing}$  be the *free monoid ring functor*,  $G \mapsto \mathbb{Z}G$ .

**Proposition 3.18** There is an adjoint situation  $CMon \underbrace{\bot}_{G}$  CRing

Now consider the *teichmüller map*  $\tau: A \to W(A)$ .  $\tau$  is multiplicative and preserves the unit, hence it extends uniquely to a ring homomorphism

$$\tau \colon \mathbb{Z}A \to \mathbb{W}(A)$$

**Theorem 3.19**  $\tau: \mathbb{Z}A \to \mathbb{W}(A)$  is a morphism of comonads.