

1. PREPARATION

1.1. Representability.

Definition 1.1 (Initial and terminal objects). An object c in a category C is initial if and only if the functor $C(c, -) : C \rightarrow \text{Set}$ is naturally isomorphic to the constant functor $*$: $C \rightarrow \text{Set}$ that sends every object to the singleton set. That is, for any $d, e \in C$ and any $f : d \rightarrow e$, we have

$$\begin{array}{ccc} C(c, d) & \xrightarrow{\approx} & \{*\} \\ \downarrow f_* & & \downarrow \\ C(c, e) & \xrightarrow{\approx} & \{*\} \end{array}$$

Since these are isomorphisms in set, we can conclude that $C(c, d)$ and $C(c, e)$ are singletons, and as there is only one map between the singleton sets $\{*\} \rightarrow \{*\}$, we conclude that $\text{Hom}(C(c, d), C(c, e))$ is also a singleton set.

Theorem 1.2 (Yoneda lemma). For any functor $F : C \rightarrow \text{Set}$, whose domain C is locally small and any object $c \in C$, there is a bijection

$$\text{Hom}(C(c, -), F) \cong Fc$$

that associates a natural transformation $\alpha : C(c, -) \Rightarrow F$ to the elements $\alpha_c(\mathbb{1}_c) \in Fc$. Moreover, this correspondence is natural in both c and F .

2. LIMITS AND COLIMITS

Definition 2.1. A diagram of shape J in a category C is a functor $F : J \rightarrow C$.

Definition 2.2. For any object $c \in C$ and any category J , the constant functor $c : J \rightarrow C$ sends every object of J to c and every morphism in J to the identity morphism $\mathbb{1}_c$.

Definition 2.3 (Embedding). Recall that an embedding is a faithful functor that is injective on objects.

A fully faithful functor that is injective on objects defines a full embedding. The domain then defines a full subcategory of the codomain.

Remark. The constant functors define an embedding $\Delta : C \rightarrow \text{Fun}(J, C)$ sending c to the constant functor at c and a morphism $f : c \rightarrow c'$ to the constant natural transformation, in which each component is defined to be the morphism f .

Definition 2.4 (Cones). A cone over a diagram $F : J \rightarrow C$ with summit or apex $c \in C$ is a natural transformation $\lambda : c \Rightarrow F$, so $\lambda \in \text{Fun}(J, C)$, whose domain is the constant functor at c . The components $(\lambda_j : c \rightarrow Fj)_{j \in J}$ of the natural transformation are called the legs of the cone.

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

Definition 2.5 (Cocones). Dually, a cone under F with nadir c is a natural transformation $\lambda : F \Rightarrow c$ whose legs are the components $(\lambda_j : Fj \rightarrow c)_{j \in J}$. So naturality asserts that for each morphism $f : j \rightarrow k$ of J , the triangle

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

commutes in C . Cones under a diagram are also called cocones.

Definition 2.6 (Limits and colimits I). For any diagram $F: J \rightarrow C$, there is a functor

$$\text{Cone}(-, F): C^{op} \rightarrow \text{Set}$$

that sends $c \in C$ to the set of cones over F with summit c .

A limit of F is a representation for $\text{Cone}(-, F)$.