

Definition 1. An object 0 is an initial object if for every object A , there is a unique map $0 \rightarrow A$

Proposition 1. Initial and terminal objects are unique up to isomorphism.

Proof. Suppose that 0 and $0'$ are both terminal or initial objects in some category C ; this diagram states that 0 and $0'$ are uniquely isomorphic.

For terminal objects, apply the previous to C^{op} . \square

Definition 2. Disjoint Union The disjoint union of two sets A and B is the set

$$A \sqcup B = \{(0, a) : a \in A\} \cup \{(1, b) : b \in B\}.$$

Definition 3. Coproduct Let A and B be objects in a category. Then a sum (or coproduct) of A and B is an object $A+B$ together with maps $i_0 : A \rightarrow A+B$ and $i_1 : B \rightarrow A+B$ such that whenever we have an object C and maps $f_0 : A \rightarrow C$ and $f_1 : B \rightarrow C$, there is a unique map $f : A+B \rightarrow C$ such that $f_0 = fi_0$ and $f_1 = fi_1$

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} A & \xrightarrow{i_0} & A+B & \xleftarrow{i_1} & B \\ & \searrow f_0 & & \swarrow f_1 & \\ & & C & & \end{array}$$

Theorem 0.1. Let A and B be objects and let $A \rightarrow [i_0]P \leftarrow [i_1]B$ and $A \rightarrow [j_0]Q \leftarrow [j_1]B$ be two sums of A and B . Then there exists a unique isomorphism $f : P \rightarrow Q$ such that the following diagram commutes:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} & & P & & \\ & \nearrow i_0 & \downarrow f & \nwarrow i_1 & \\ A & & & & B \\ & \searrow j_0 & & \swarrow j_1 & \\ & & Q & & \end{array}$$