

Towards a General Theory of Elimination (and Optimization?)

TC Fraser, Tobias Fritz

Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics

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1 Preliminaries

1.1 Hom-Functors

For a locally small category \mathcal{C} , the hom-functor of \mathcal{C} is a functor $\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}} : \mathcal{C}^{\text{op}} \times \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}$ constructed in the following manner. Given objects $a, b, c, \dots \in \mathcal{C}_0$ of \mathcal{C} , the hom-functor $\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}$ maps a pair of objects $(a, b) \in (\mathcal{C}^{\text{op}} \times \mathcal{C})_0 = \mathcal{C}_0 \times \mathcal{C}_0 = \mathcal{C}_0^2$ into the set¹ of morphisms \mathcal{C}_1 of \mathcal{C} with source a and target b . Therefore, $\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(a, b)$ is the set of morphisms in \mathcal{C} of type $a \rightarrow b$. Given morphisms $g^{\text{op}} \in \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}^{\text{op}}}(a, c)$ and $h \in \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(b, d)$, the hom-functor $\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}$ constructs a function

$$\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(g^{\text{op}}, h) : \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(a, b) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(c, d)$$

which takes a morphism $f : a \rightarrow b \in \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(a, b)$ and produces the morphism $h \circ f \circ g : c \rightarrow d \in \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(c, d)$. Graphically,

$$\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(g^{\text{op}}, h) \left(a \xrightarrow{f} b \right) = c \xrightarrow{g} a \xrightarrow{f} b \xrightarrow{h} d$$

1.2 Adjoint Functors

Given two categories \mathcal{C} and \mathcal{D} , a pair of functors $L : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}, R : \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ are called an *adjoint pair*, denoted $L \dashv R$ or

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & L & \\ \mathcal{C} & \xrightarrow{\quad} & \mathcal{D} \\ & \perp & \\ & R & \end{array}$$

if there exists a natural isomorphism α between the following pair of hom-functors of type $\mathcal{C}^{\text{op}} \times \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}$:

$$\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(L^{\text{op}}(-), -) \xrightarrow{\alpha} \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(-, R(-))$$

¹The collection of morphisms of type $a \rightarrow b$ forms a set because \mathcal{C} is locally small.

This relationship can be depicted graphically as 2-cell (and its inverse) in **Cat**,

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
\mathcal{C}^{\text{op}} \times \mathcal{D} & \xrightarrow{I_{\mathcal{C}^{\text{op}}} \times R} & \mathcal{C}^{\text{op}} \times \mathcal{C} \\
\downarrow L^{\text{op}} \times I_{\mathcal{D}} & \alpha \nearrow & \downarrow \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}} \\
\mathcal{D}^{\text{op}} \times \mathcal{D} & \xrightarrow{\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}} & \mathbf{Set}
\end{array}$$

$\alpha^{-1} \nwarrow$

Concretely, the naturality of α means that for every morphism $(f^{\text{op}} : b \rightarrow a, g : c \rightarrow d) \in (\mathcal{C}^{\text{op}} \times \mathcal{D})_1$ the components $\alpha_{(b,c)}$ and $\alpha_{(a,d)}$ of α make the following square commute:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(L^{\text{op}}(b), c) & \xrightarrow{\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(L^{\text{op}}(f^{\text{op}}), g)} & \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(L^{\text{op}}(a), d) \\
\downarrow \alpha_{(b,c)} & & \downarrow \alpha_{(a,d)} \\
\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(b, R(c)) & \xrightarrow{\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(f^{\text{op}}, R(g))} & \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(a, R(d))
\end{array}$$

1.3 Beck-Chevalley Conditions

The Beck-Chevalley Conditions are conditions that may or may not be satisfied by a quadruplet of functors F, H, G, K which form a natural isomorphism $\alpha : KF \Rightarrow HG$ square:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
\mathcal{A} & \xrightarrow{F} & \mathcal{B} \\
G \downarrow & \alpha \nearrow & \downarrow K \\
\mathcal{C} & \xrightarrow{H} & \mathcal{D}
\end{array}$$

To define the *left* Beck-Chevalley condition, one needs functors $F_L : \mathcal{B} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$ and $H_L : \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ which are respectively left adjoint functors to F and H ,

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
\mathcal{A} & \xleftarrow{F_L} & \mathcal{B} \\
\uparrow F & \perp & \downarrow F \\
\mathcal{C} & \xleftarrow{H_L} & \mathcal{D} \\
\uparrow H & \perp & \downarrow H
\end{array}$$

Using these left adjoint functors, it becomes possible to construct a natural transformation $\beta : KH_L \Rightarrow GF_L$ from α ². Graphically, β can be identified as the outer cell of the following

²The natural transformations α and β are known as *mates* or *conjugates*.

diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 & \begin{array}{ccc}
 & \xleftarrow{F_L} & \\
 \mathcal{A} & \xleftarrow{\perp} & \mathcal{B} \\
 \downarrow G & \xleftarrow{F} & \downarrow K \\
 & \alpha & \\
 & \searrow H & \\
 \mathcal{C} & \xleftarrow{\top} & \mathcal{D} \\
 & \xleftarrow{H_L} &
 \end{array} & \text{i.e.} & \begin{array}{ccc}
 & \xleftarrow{F_L} & \\
 \mathcal{A} & \xleftarrow{\beta} & \mathcal{B} \\
 \downarrow G & \xleftarrow{H_L} & \downarrow K \\
 \mathcal{C} & \xleftarrow{H_L} & \mathcal{D}
 \end{array}
 \end{array}$$

Although the natural transformation α is assumed to be a natural isomorphism, the natural transformation β need not be; if β happens to be a natural isomorphism, then we say that the original square satisfies the *left* Beck-Chevalley condition³. The *right* Beck-Chevalley condition is defined analogously with functors F_R, H_R which are respectively right adjoints $F \dashv F_R$ and $H \dashv H_L$.

1.4 Cartesian Morphism

A morphism $\phi : e' \rightarrow e$ in \mathcal{E} is *cartesian* with respect to a functor $P : \mathcal{E} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$ if for every $\psi : e'' \rightarrow e$ in \mathcal{E} and for every $s : P(e'') \rightarrow P(e)$ such that $P(\phi) \circ s = P(\psi)$ (i.e. such that the second diagram commutes), there exists a unique morphism $\sigma : e'' \rightarrow e'$ in \mathcal{E} such that $\phi \circ \sigma = \psi$ (i.e. such that the first diagram commutes):⁴

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 e'' & \xrightarrow{\exists! \sigma} & e' \\
 \downarrow \psi & & \downarrow \phi \\
 e & & e
 \end{array}
 \xrightarrow{P}
 \begin{array}{ccc}
 P(e'') & \xrightarrow{\forall g} & P(e') \\
 \downarrow P(\psi) & & \downarrow P(\phi) \\
 P(e) & & P(e)
 \end{array}$$

1.5 Grothendieck Fibrations

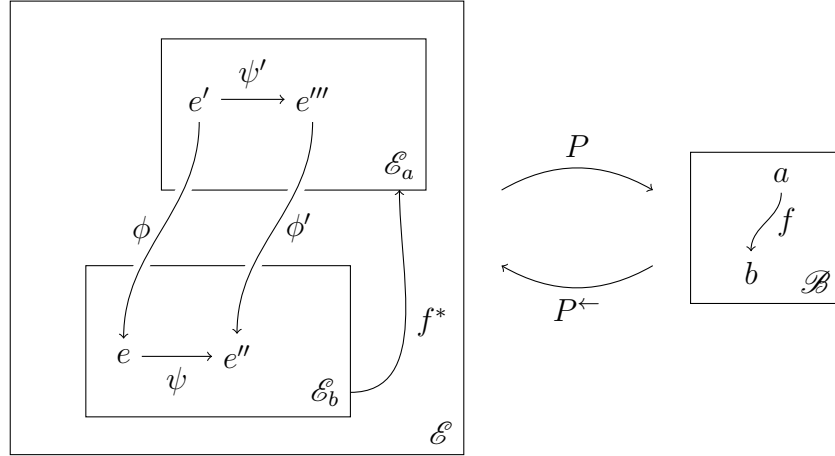
A functor $P : \mathcal{E} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$ is a *Grothendieck fibration* if it satisfies the following “lifting” property that for every morphism $f : b \rightarrow P(e)$ of \mathcal{B} (i.e. if the codomain of f is contained in the image of P), there exists a *cartesian* morphism $\phi : e' \rightarrow e$ of \mathcal{E} in the fibered category $\mathcal{E}_{P(e)}$ (i.e. $P(\phi) = f$).

³Are the left adjoints F_L, H_L unique? If not, it might be better to say the original square satisfies the left Beck-Chevalley condition with respect to F_L, H_L .

⁴The definition and treatment of Cartesian morphisms found in the *Reformulations* section of <https://ncatlab.org/nlab/show/Cartesian+morphism#CartInOrdCatReformulation> is probably better suited here.

1.6 The Equivalence of Pseudofunctors and Fibrations

Given a functor $P : \mathcal{E} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$ which is also a Grothendieck fibration equipped with a cleavage (i.e. a choice of cartesian morphism $\phi \in \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{E}}(e', e)$ for each $f \in \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{B}}(a, P(e))$ such that $P(\phi) = f$), it is possible to construct a pseudofunctor (read weak 2-functor between weak 2-categories) $\pi : \mathcal{B}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat}$. In particular, for each object $b \in \mathcal{B}_0$ is mapped to the *sub-category* $\pi(b) = \mathcal{E}_b$ of \mathcal{E} whose objects are those which map to b under P and whose morphism are those which map to id_b under P ; \mathcal{E}_b is the fibre category over b with respect to P . For each morphism $f \in \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{B}}(a, b)$ in \mathcal{B} , the pseudofunctor π maps $f^{\text{op}} : b \rightarrow a$ onto a functor $\pi(f^{\text{op}}) = f^* : \mathcal{E}_b \rightarrow \mathcal{E}_a$ which is defined accordingly:



Given an object $e \in (\mathcal{E}_b)_0$, the functor f^* finds the unique cartesian morphism $\phi \in \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{E}}(e', e)$ as specified by the cleavage and assigns $f^*(e) = e'$. Next, given a morphism $\psi \in \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{E}_b}(e, e'')$, the functor f^* first finds the unique cartesian morphisms $\phi \in \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{E}}(e', e)$ and $\phi' \in \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{E}}(e''', e'')$. Then, because $g = \text{id}_a$ completes the following diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 P(e') & \xrightarrow{g} & P(e''') \\
 \downarrow P(\phi) & & \downarrow P(\phi') \\
 P(e) & \xrightarrow{\psi \circ \phi} & P(e'')
 \end{array}
 =
 \begin{array}{ccc}
 a & \xrightarrow{\text{id}_a} & a \\
 \downarrow \text{id}_b \circ f & & \downarrow f \\
 b & & b
 \end{array}$$

and because ϕ' is cartesian, there must exist a unique $\psi' \in \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{E}_a}(e', e''')$ such that $\psi \circ \phi = \phi' \circ \psi'$. For each $\psi \in \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{E}_b}(e, e'')$, the functor f^* selects this unique morphism $f^*(\psi) = \psi'$. In summary, the pseudofunctor $\pi : \mathcal{B}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat}$ induced by $P : \mathcal{E} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$ is defined on objects $b \in \mathcal{B}_0$ as $\pi(b) = \mathcal{E}_b$ and on morphisms $f \in \mathcal{B}_1$ as $\pi(f) = f^*$ and forms a functor [TODO: figure out the ‘pseudo’ part of the pseudofunctorality].

1.7 Slice and Coslice Categories

Given a category \mathcal{C} and an object $c \in \mathcal{C}_0$ of \mathcal{C} the *slice category* (or *over category*) \mathcal{C}/c is the “stuff in \mathcal{C} that is on top of c ”. Specifically, the objects of \mathcal{C}/c are all the morphisms $f \in \mathcal{C}_1$ from \mathcal{C} whose codomain is $\text{cod}(f) = c$ (alternatively you could write

$(\mathcal{C}/c)_0 = \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(-, c)$). A morphism of \mathcal{C}/c between objects $f : a \rightarrow c, g : b \rightarrow c \in (\mathcal{C}/c)_0$ is a commuting triangle completed by a third morphism $h : a \rightarrow b \in \mathcal{C}_1$:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} a & \xrightarrow{h} & b \\ g \searrow & & \nearrow f \\ & c & \end{array}$$

Composition of morphisms in \mathcal{C}/c is induced by the composition of morphisms in \mathcal{C} :

$$\left(\begin{array}{ccc} y & \xrightarrow{n} & z \\ f \searrow & & \nearrow h \\ & c & \end{array} \right) \circ_{\mathcal{C}/c} \left(\begin{array}{ccc} x & \xrightarrow{m} & y \\ g \searrow & & \nearrow f \\ & c & \end{array} \right) = \begin{array}{ccccc} x & \xrightarrow{m} & y & \xrightarrow{n} & z \\ g \searrow & & \downarrow & & \nearrow h \\ & & c & & \end{array}$$

The assignment of an overcategory \mathcal{C}/c to each object c can be extended to a *slice functor* $\mathcal{C}/(-) : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat}$ in the following sense. For objects $c \in \mathcal{C}_0$, the slice functor takes c to the slice category \mathcal{C}/c ; for morphisms $f : a \rightarrow b \in \mathcal{C}_1$, the slice functor takes f to the functor $\mathcal{C}/f : \mathcal{C}/a \rightarrow \mathcal{C}/b$ defined graphically; for every morphism of \mathcal{C}/a (commuting triangle in \mathcal{C} over a), construct the morphism of \mathcal{C}/b (commuting triangle in \mathcal{C} over b) as follows:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} l & \xrightarrow{m} & r \\ x \searrow & & \nearrow x' \\ & a & \\ f \searrow & & \nearrow f \\ & b & \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} f \circ_{\mathcal{C}} x \\ \searrow \\ b \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} f \circ_{\mathcal{C}} x' \\ \swarrow \\ b \end{array}$$

where the inner triangle is a morphism of \mathcal{C}/a and the outer triangle is a morphism of \mathcal{C}/b given by the functor \mathcal{C}/f .

Given a category \mathcal{C} and an object $c \in \mathcal{C}_0$ of \mathcal{C} the *coslice category* (or *under category*) c/\mathcal{C} is the “stuff in \mathcal{C} that is underneath c ”. Specifically, the objects of c/\mathcal{C} are all the morphisms $f \in \mathcal{C}_1$ from \mathcal{C} whose domain is $\text{dom}(f) = c$ (alternatively you could write $(c/\mathcal{C})_0 = \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(c, -)$). A morphism of c/\mathcal{C} between objects $f : c \rightarrow a, g : c \rightarrow b \in (c/\mathcal{C})_0$ is a commuting triangle completed by a third morphism $h : a \rightarrow b \in \mathcal{C}_1$:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & c & \\ g \swarrow & & \searrow f \\ a & \xrightarrow{h} & b \end{array}$$

Everything about coslice categories is defined as expected analogously to that of a slice categories. [TODO: determine how the details of the Grothendieck construction transform the slice (pseudo-)functor $\mathcal{C}/(-) : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat}$ into the codomain fibration.]

1.8 The Pullback and Pushforward Functors

Given a category \mathcal{C} and a morphism $f : a \rightarrow b \in \mathcal{C}_1$, the image of f under the slice functor $\mathcal{C}/(-)$ produces a functor $\mathcal{C}/f : \mathcal{C}/a \rightarrow \mathcal{C}/b$ between slice categories of \mathcal{C} in the “same direction” as f **TODO: confirm that \mathcal{C}/f is the pushforward functor $f_!$ of $f \in \mathcal{C}_1$.**

If the given category \mathcal{C} admits pullbacks, it becomes possible to define, for a morphism $f : a \rightarrow b$ a pullback functor $f^* : \mathcal{C}/b \rightarrow \mathcal{C}/a$. Given a morphism in \mathcal{C}/b (commuting triangle in \mathcal{C} with base at b),

$$\begin{array}{ccc} c & \xrightarrow{k} & d \\ g \searrow & & \swarrow h \\ & b & \end{array}$$

the pullback functor $f^* : \mathcal{C}/b \rightarrow \mathcal{C}/a$ associated with f takes the objects $g : c \rightarrow b, h : d \rightarrow b$ of \mathcal{C}/b (morphisms in \mathcal{C}) completes the pullback squares associated with f

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & c' & \\ f^*g := g_f \swarrow & & \searrow f_g \\ a & & c \\ f \searrow & & \swarrow g \\ & b & \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{ccc} & d' & \\ f_h \swarrow & & \searrow f^*h := h_f \\ d & & a \\ h \searrow & & \swarrow f \\ & b & \end{array}$$

where a subscript notation g_f means “the pullback of g along f ”. Defining the action of $f^* : \mathcal{C}/b \rightarrow \mathcal{C}/a$ on objects to be $f^*g = g_f$ and $f^*h = h_f$, the action on morphisms in \mathcal{C}/b is defined by composing the pullback squares with the commuting triangle morphism:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} & c & \xrightarrow{k} & d & \\ & g \searrow & & \swarrow h & \\ & & b & & \\ & \uparrow f & & & \\ & a & & & \\ f_g \swarrow & & & & \searrow f_h \\ & c' & \xrightarrow{\exists! f^*k} & d' & \end{array}$$

The commuting triangle in \mathcal{C}/a appearing at the bottom is completed by a unique morphism **[TODO: why does this morphism need to be unique and exist?]** denoted to be f^*k ($\neq k_f$ obviously). The functoriality of f^* has a simple proof found here https://proofwiki.org/wiki/Pullback_Functor_is_Functor.

1.9 Functors of Monoidal Categories

[TODO]

1.10 Frobenius Reciprocity

[TODO]