

# Constructions With Sets

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This chapter contains some material relating to constructions with sets. Notably, it contains:

1. Explicit descriptions of the major types of co/limits in Sets, including in particular pushouts and coequalisers (see [Definitions 2.3.1](#) and [2.4.1](#) and [Remarks 2.3.3](#) and [2.4.3](#));
2. A discussion of powersets as decategorifications of categories of presheaves ([Remarks 4.1.2](#) and [4.3.2](#));
3. A lengthy discussion of the adjoint triple

$$f_* \dashv f^{-1} \dashv f_! : \mathcal{P}(A) \xrightarrow{\cong} \mathcal{P}(B)$$

of functors (morphisms of posets) between  $\mathcal{P}(A)$  and  $\mathcal{P}(B)$  induced by a map of sets  $f : A \rightarrow B$ , along with a discussion of the properties of  $f_*$ ,  $f^{-1}$ , and  $f_!$ .

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## 1 Limits of Sets

### 1.1 Products of Families of Sets

Let  $\{A_i\}_{i \in I}$  be a family of sets.

#### DEFINITION 1.1.1 ► THE PRODUCT OF A FAMILY OF SETS

The **product**<sup>1</sup> of  $\{A_i\}_{i \in I}$  is the pair  $(\prod_{i \in I} A_i, \{pr_i\}_{i \in I})$  consisting of

- *The Limit.* The set  $\prod_{i \in I} A_i$  defined by<sup>2</sup>

$$\prod_{i \in I} A_i \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \left\{ f \in \text{Sets} \left( I, \bigcup_{i \in I} A_i \right) \mid \begin{array}{l} \text{for each } i \in I, \text{ we} \\ \text{have } f(i) \in A_i \end{array} \right\}.$$

· *The Cone.* The collection

$$\left\{ \text{pr}_i : \prod_{i \in I} A_i \rightarrow A_i \right\}_{i \in I}$$

of maps given by

$$\text{pr}_i(f) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} f(i)$$

for each  $f \in \prod_{i \in I} A_i$  and each  $i \in I$ .

<sup>1</sup>*Further Terminology:* Also called the **Cartesian product** of  $\{A_i\}_{i \in I}$ .

<sup>2</sup>Less formally,  $\prod_{i \in I} A_i$  is the set whose elements are  $I$ -indexed collections  $(a_i)_{i \in I}$  with  $a_i \in A_i$  for each  $i \in I$ .


#### PROOF 1.1.2 ► PROOF OF DEFINITION 1.1.1

We claim that  $\prod_{i \in I} A_i$  is the categorical product of  $\{A_i\}_{i \in I}$  in Sets. Indeed, suppose we have, for each  $i \in I$ , a diagram of the form

$$\begin{array}{ccc} P & & \\ & \searrow p_i & \\ \prod_{i \in I} A_i & \xrightarrow{\text{pr}_i} & A_i \end{array}$$

in Sets. Then there exists a unique map  $\phi : P \rightarrow \prod_{i \in I} A_i$ , uniquely determined by the condition  $\text{pr}_i \circ \phi = p_i$  for each  $i \in I$ , being necessarily given by

$$\phi(x) = (p_i(x))_{i \in I}$$

for each  $x \in P$ . 

#### PROPOSITION 1.1.3 ► PROPERTIES OF PRODUCTS OF FAMILIES OF SETS

Let  $\{A_i\}_{i \in I}$  be a family of sets.

1. *Functoriality.* The assignment  $\{A_i\}_{i \in I} \mapsto \prod_{i \in I} A_i$  defines a functor

$$\prod_{i \in I} : \text{Fun}(I_{\text{disc}}, \text{Sets}) \rightarrow \text{Sets}$$

where

· *Action on Objects.* For each  $(A_i)_{i \in I} \in \text{Obj}(\text{Fun}(I_{\text{disc}}, \text{Sets}))$ , we have

$$\left[ \prod_{i \in I} \right] ((A_i)_{i \in I}) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \prod_{i \in I} A_i$$

· *Action on Morphisms.* For each  $(A_i)_{i \in I}, (B_i)_{i \in I} \in \text{Obj}(\text{Fun}(I_{\text{disc}}, \text{Sets}))$ , the action on Hom-sets

$$\left( \prod_{i \in I} \right)_{(A_i)_{i \in I}, (B_i)_{i \in I}} : \text{Nat}((A_i)_{i \in I}, (B_i)_{i \in I}) \rightarrow \text{Sets} \left( \prod_{i \in I} A_i, \prod_{i \in I} B_i \right)$$

of  $\prod_{i \in I} \text{at}((A_i)_{i \in I}, (B_i)_{i \in I})$  is defined by sending a map

$$\{f_i : A_i \rightarrow B_i\}_{i \in I}$$

in  $\text{Nat}((A_i)_{i \in I}, (B_i)_{i \in I})$  to the map of sets

$$\prod_{i \in I} f_i : \prod_{i \in I} A_i \rightarrow \prod_{i \in I} B_i$$

defined by

$$\left[ \prod_{i \in I} f_i \right] ((a_i)_{i \in I}) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (f_i(a_i))_{i \in I}$$

for each  $(a_i)_{i \in I} \in \prod_{i \in I} A_i$ .

#### PROOF 1.1.4 ► PROOF OF PROPOSITION 1.1.3

Item 1: Functoriality

Clear.



## 1.2 Binary Products of Sets

Let  $A$  and  $B$  be sets.

## DEFINITION 1.2.1 ► PRODUCTS OF SETS

The **product**<sup>1</sup> of  $A$  and  $B$  is the pair  $(A \times B, \{pr_1, pr_2\})$  consisting of

- *The Limit.* The set  $A \times B$  defined by<sup>2</sup>

$$\begin{aligned} A \times B &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \prod_{z \in \{A, B\}} z \\ &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{f \in \text{Sets}(\{0, 1\}, A \cup B) \mid \text{we have } f(0) \in A \text{ and } f(1) \in B\} \\ &\cong \{\{\{a\}, \{a, b\}\} \in \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{P}(A \cup B)) \mid \text{we have } a \in A \text{ and } b \in B\}. \end{aligned}$$

- *The Cone.* The maps

$$\begin{aligned} pr_1 &: A \times B \rightarrow A, \\ pr_2 &: A \times B \rightarrow B \end{aligned}$$

defined by

$$\begin{aligned} pr_1(a, b) &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} a, \\ pr_2(a, b) &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} b \end{aligned}$$

for each  $(a, b) \in A \times B$ .

<sup>1</sup>*Further Terminology:* Also called the **Cartesian product** of  $A$  and  $B$  or the **binary Cartesian product** of  $A$  and  $B$ , for emphasis.

This can also be thought of as the  $(\mathbb{E}_{-1}, \mathbb{E}_{-1})$ -**tensor product** of  $A$  and  $B$ .

<sup>2</sup>In other words,  $A \times B$  is the set whose elements are ordered pairs  $(a, b)$  with  $a \in A$  and  $b \in B$  as in [Definition 3.4.1](#)

## PROOF 1.2.2 ► PROOF OF DEFINITION 1.2.1

We claim that  $A \times B$  is the categorical product of  $A$  and  $B$  in Sets. Indeed, suppose we have a diagram of the form

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} & & P & & \\ & \swarrow p_1 & & \searrow p_2 & \\ A & \xleftarrow{pr_1} & A \times B & \xrightarrow{pr_2} & B \end{array}$$


in **Sets**. Then there exists a unique map  $\phi: P \rightarrow A \times B$ , uniquely determined by the conditions

$$\text{pr}_1 \circ \phi = p_1,$$

$$\text{pr}_2 \circ \phi = p_2,$$

being necessarily given by

$$\phi(x) = (p_1(x), p_2(x))$$

for each  $x \in P$ . 

### PROPOSITION 1.2.3 ► PROPERTIES OF PRODUCTS OF SETS

Let  $A, B, C$ , and  $X$  be sets.

1. *Functoriality.* The assignments  $A, B, (A, B) \mapsto A \times B$  define functors

$$A \times -_2: \mathbf{Sets} \rightarrow \mathbf{Sets},$$

$$-_1 \times B: \mathbf{Sets} \rightarrow \mathbf{Sets},$$

$$-_1 \times -_2: \mathbf{Sets} \times \mathbf{Sets} \rightarrow \mathbf{Sets},$$

where  $-_1 \times -_2$  is the functor where

- *Action on Objects.* For each  $(A, B) \in \text{Obj}(\mathbf{Sets} \times \mathbf{Sets})$ , we have

$$[-_1 \times -_2](A, B) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} A \times B;$$

- *Action on Morphisms.* For each  $(A, B), (X, Y) \in \text{Obj}(\mathbf{Sets})$ , the action on Hom-sets

$$\times_{(A,B),(X,Y)}: \mathbf{Sets}(A, X) \times \mathbf{Sets}(B, Y) \rightarrow \mathbf{Sets}(A \times B, X \times Y)$$

of  $\times$  at  $((A, B), (X, Y))$  is defined by sending  $(f, g)$  to the function

$$f \times g: A \times B \rightarrow X \times Y$$

defined by

$$[f \times g](a, b) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (f(a), g(b))$$

for each  $(a, b) \in A \times B$ ;

and where  $A \times -$  and  $- \times B$  are the partial functors of  $-_1 \times -_2$  at  $A, B \in \text{Obj}(\text{Sets})$ .

2. *Adjointness.* We have adjunctions

$$(A \times - \dashv \text{Sets}(A, -)): \text{Sets} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{A \times -} \\ \perp \\ \xleftarrow{\text{Sets}(A, -)} \end{array} \text{Sets},$$

$$(- \times B \dashv \text{Sets}(B, -)): \text{Sets} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{- \times B} \\ \perp \\ \xleftarrow{\text{Sets}(B, -)} \end{array} \text{Sets},$$

witnessed by bijections

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Sets}(A \times B, C) &\cong \text{Sets}(A, \text{Sets}(B, C)), \\ \text{Sets}(A \times B, C) &\cong \text{Sets}(B, \text{Sets}(A, C)), \end{aligned}$$

natural in  $A, B, C \in \text{Obj}(\text{Sets})$ .

3. *Associativity.* We have an isomorphism of sets

$$(A \times B) \times C \cong A \times (B \times C),$$

natural in  $A, B, C \in \text{Obj}(\text{Sets})$ .

4. *Unitality.* We have isomorphisms of sets

$$\begin{aligned} \text{pt} \times A &\cong A, \\ A \times \text{pt} &\cong A, \end{aligned}$$

natural in  $A \in \text{Obj}(\text{Sets})$ .

5. *Commutativity.* We have an isomorphism of sets

$$A \times B \cong B \times A,$$

natural in  $A, B \in \text{Obj}(\text{Sets})$ .

6. *Annihilation With the Empty Set.* We have isomorphisms of sets

$$\begin{aligned} A \times \emptyset &\cong \emptyset, \\ \emptyset \times A &\cong \emptyset, \end{aligned}$$

natural in  $A \in \text{Obj}(\text{Sets})$ .

7. *Distributivity Over Unions.* We have isomorphisms of sets

$$\begin{aligned} A \times (B \cup C) &= (A \times B) \cup (A \times C), \\ (A \cup B) \times C &= (A \times C) \cup (B \times C). \end{aligned}$$

8. *Distributivity Over Intersections.* We have isomorphisms of sets

$$\begin{aligned} A \times (B \cap C) &= (A \times B) \cap (A \times C), \\ (A \cap B) \times C &= (A \times C) \cap (B \times C). \end{aligned}$$

9. *Middle-Four Exchange with Respect to Intersections.* We have an isomorphism of sets

$$(A \times B) \cap (C \times D) \cong (A \cap C) \times (B \cap D).$$

10. *Distributivity Over Differences.* We have isomorphisms of sets

$$\begin{aligned} A \times (B \setminus C) &= (A \times B) \setminus (A \times C), \\ (A \setminus B) \times C &= (A \times C) \setminus (B \times C), \end{aligned}$$

natural in  $A, B, C \in \text{Obj}(\text{Sets})$ .

11. *Distributivity Over Symmetric Differences.* We have isomorphisms of sets

$$\begin{aligned} A \times (B \triangle C) &= (A \times B) \triangle (A \times C), \\ (A \triangle B) \times C &= (A \times C) \triangle (B \times C), \end{aligned}$$

natural in  $A, B, C \in \text{Obj}(\text{Sets})$ .

12. *Symmetric Monoidality.* The triple  $(\text{Sets}, \times, \text{pt})$  is a symmetric monoidal category.

13. *Symmetric Bimonoidality.* The quintuple  $(\text{Sets}, \coprod, \emptyset, \times, \text{pt})$  is a symmetric bimonoidal category.



## PROOF 1.2.4 ► PROOF OF PROPOSITION 1.2.3

## Item 1: Functoriality

This follows by applying associativity and unitality componentwise.

## Item 2: Adjointness

We prove only that there's an adjunction  $X \times - \dashv \text{Hom}_{\text{Sets}}(-, Z)$ , witnessed by a bijection

$$\text{Hom}_{\text{Sets}}(X \times Y, Z) \cong \text{Hom}_{\text{Sets}}(X, \text{Hom}_{\text{Sets}}(Y, Z)),$$

natural in  $Y, Z \in \text{Obj}(\text{Sets})$ , as the proof of the existence of the adjunction  $- \times Y \dashv \text{Hom}_{\text{Sets}}(-, Z)$  follows almost exactly in the same way.<sup>1</sup>

· *Map I.* We define a map

$$\Phi_{Y,Z}: \text{Hom}_{\text{Sets}}(X \times Y, Z) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_{\text{Sets}}(X, \text{Hom}_{\text{Sets}}(Y, Z)),$$

by sending a morphism  $\xi: X \times Y \rightarrow Z$  to the morphism

$$\xi^\dagger: X \rightarrow \text{Hom}_{\text{Sets}}(Y, Z)$$

defined by

$$\xi^\dagger(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \xi_x$$

for each  $x \in X$ , where  $\xi_x: Y \rightarrow Z$  is the map defined by

$$\xi_x(y) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \xi(x, y)$$

for each  $y \in Y$ .

· *Map II.* We define a map

$$\Psi_{Y,Z}: \text{Hom}_{\text{Sets}}(X, \text{Hom}_{\text{Sets}}(Y, Z)) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_{\text{Sets}}(X \times Y, Z)$$

given by sending a map  $\xi: X \rightarrow \text{Hom}_{\text{Sets}}(Y, Z)$  to the map

$$\xi^\dagger: X \times Y \rightarrow Z$$

defined by

$$\xi^\dagger(x, y) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} [\xi(x)](y)$$

for each  $(x, y) \in X \times Y$ .

- *Naturality I.* We need to show that, given a function  $g: Y \rightarrow Y'$ , the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \text{Hom}_{\text{Sets}}(X \times Y', Z) & \xrightarrow{\Phi_{Y', Z}} & \text{Hom}_{\text{Sets}}(X, \text{Hom}_{\text{Sets}}(Y', Z)), \\
 \text{id}_X \times g^* \downarrow & & \downarrow (g^*)_* \\
 \text{Hom}_{\text{Sets}}(X \times Y, Z) & \xrightarrow{\Phi_{Y, Z}} & \text{Hom}_{\text{Sets}}(X, \text{Hom}_{\text{Sets}}(Y, Z)),
 \end{array}$$

commutes. Indeed, given a morphism  $\xi: X' \times Y \rightarrow Z$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 [\Phi_{Y, Z} \circ (g^* \times \text{id}_Y)](\xi) &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (\xi(-_1, g(-_2)))^\dagger \\
 &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \xi_{-1}(g(-_2)) \\
 &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (g_*)^*(\xi_{-1}(-_2)) \\
 &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (g_*)^*(\xi^\dagger) \\
 &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} [(g_*)^* \circ \Phi_{Y', Z}](\xi).
 \end{aligned}$$

- *Naturality II.* We need to show that, given a function  $h: Z \rightarrow Z'$ , the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \text{Hom}_{\text{Sets}}(X \times Y, Z) & \xrightarrow{\Phi_{Y, Z}} & \text{Hom}_{\text{Sets}}(X, \text{Hom}_{\text{Sets}}(Y, Z)), \\
 h_* \downarrow & & \downarrow (h_*)_* \\
 \text{Hom}_{\text{Sets}}(X \times Y, Z') & \xrightarrow{\Phi_{Y, Z'}} & \text{Hom}_{\text{Sets}}(X, \text{Hom}_{\text{Sets}}(Y, Z')),
 \end{array}$$

commutes. Indeed, given a morphism  $\xi: X \times Y \rightarrow Z$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 [\Phi_{Y, Z} \circ h_*](\xi) &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (h(\xi(-_1, -_2)))^\dagger \\
 &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} [x \mapsto [y \mapsto h(\xi(x, y))]] \\
 &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} [x \mapsto h_*([y \mapsto \xi(x, y)])] \\
 &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} [x \mapsto h_*(\xi^\dagger(x))] \\
 &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} h_*(\xi^\dagger) \\
 &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} [(h_*)_* \circ \Phi_{Y, Z}](\xi).
 \end{aligned}$$

· *Invertibility I.* We claim that

$$\Psi_{X,Y} \circ \Phi_{X,Y} = \text{id}_{\text{Hom}_{\text{Sets}}(X \times Y, Z)}.$$

Indeed, given a morphism  $\xi: X \times Y \rightarrow Z$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} [\Psi_{X,Y} \circ \Phi_{X,Y}](\xi) &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \Psi_{X,Y}(\Phi_{X,Y}(\xi)) \\ &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \Psi_{X,Y}([x \mapsto [y \mapsto \xi(x, y)]]) \\ &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} [(x, y) \mapsto \text{ev}_x([x \mapsto \text{ev}_y([y \mapsto \xi(x, y)])])] \\ &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} [(x, y) \mapsto \text{ev}_x([x \mapsto \xi(x, y)])] \\ &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} [(x, y) \mapsto \xi(x, y)] \\ &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \xi. \end{aligned}$$

· *Invertibility II.* We claim that

$$\Phi_{X,Y} \circ \Psi_{X,Y} = \text{id}_{\text{Hom}_{\text{Sets}}(X, \text{Hom}_{\text{Sets}}(Y, Z))}.$$

Indeed, given a morphism  $\xi: X \rightarrow \text{Hom}_{\text{Sets}}(Y, Z)$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} [\Phi_{X,Y} \circ \Psi_{X,Y}](\xi) &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \Phi_{X,Y}(\Psi_{X,Y}(\xi)) \\ &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \Phi_{X,Y}(\Psi_{X,Y}([x \mapsto \xi(x)])) \\ &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \Phi_{X,Y}([(x, y) \mapsto \text{ev}_x([x \mapsto \text{ev}_y(\xi(x))])]) \\ &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \Phi_{X,Y}([(x, y) \mapsto \xi(x, y)]) \\ &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} [x \mapsto [y \mapsto \xi(x, y)]] \\ &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \xi. \end{aligned}$$

Item 3: Associativity

See [Pro24a].

Item 4: Unitality

Clear.

Item 5: Commutativity

See [Pro24b].

Item 6: Annihilation With the Empty Set

See [Pro24f].

Item 7: Distributivity Over Unions

See [Pro24e].

Item 8: Distributivity Over Intersections

See [Pro24g, Corollary 1].

Item 9: Middle-Four Exchange With Respect to Intersections

See [Pro24g, Corollary 1].

Item 10: Distributivity Over Differences

See [Pro24c].

Item 11: Distributivity Over Symmetric Differences

See [Pro24d].

Item 12: Symmetric Monoidality

See [MO 382264].

Item 13: Symmetric Bimonoidality

Omitted. 

<sup>1</sup>Here we sometimes denote a map  $f: X \rightarrow Y$  by  $[x \mapsto f(x)]$ , similar to the lambda notation  $\lambda x.f(x)$ .

### 1.3 Pullbacks

Let  $A, B$ , and  $C$  be sets and let  $f: A \rightarrow C$  and  $g: B \rightarrow C$  be functions.

#### DEFINITION 1.3.1 ► PULLBACKS OF SETS

The **pullback of  $A$  and  $B$  over  $C$  along  $f$  and  $g$** <sup>1</sup> is the pair<sup>2</sup>  $(A \times_C B, \{pr_1, pr_2\})$  consisting of

- *The Limit.* The set  $A \times_C B$  defined by

$$A \times_C B \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{(a, b) \in A \times B \mid f(a) = g(b)\}.$$

- *The Cone.* The maps

$$pr_1: A \times_C B \rightarrow A,$$

$$pr_2: A \times_C B \rightarrow B$$

defined by

$$\begin{aligned}\mathrm{pr}_1(a, b) &\stackrel{\mathrm{def}}{=} a, \\ \mathrm{pr}_2(a, b) &\stackrel{\mathrm{def}}{=} b\end{aligned}$$

for each  $(a, b) \in A \times_C B$ .

<sup>1</sup>Further Terminology: Also called the **fibre product of  $A$  and  $B$  over  $C$  along  $f$  and  $g$** .

<sup>2</sup>Further Notation: Also written  $A \times_{f, C, g} B$ .

#### PROOF 1.3.2 ► PROOF OF DEFINITION 1.3.1

We claim that  $A \times_C B$  is the categorical pullback of  $A$  and  $B$  over  $C$  with respect to  $(f, g)$  in Sets. First we need to check that the relevant pullback diagram commutes, i.e. that we have

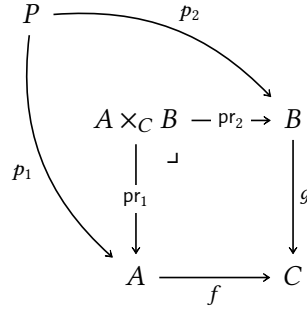
$$f \circ \mathrm{pr}_1 = g \circ \mathrm{pr}_2,$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A \times_C B & \xrightarrow{\mathrm{pr}_2} & B \\ \mathrm{pr}_1 \downarrow & & \downarrow g \\ A & \xrightarrow{f} & C. \end{array}$$

Indeed, given  $(a, b) \in A \times_C B$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned}[f \circ \mathrm{pr}_1](a, b) &= f(\mathrm{pr}_1(a, b)) \\ &= f(a) \\ &= g(b) \\ &= g(\mathrm{pr}_2(a, b)) \\ &= [g \circ \mathrm{pr}_2](a, b),\end{aligned}$$

where  $f(a) = g(b)$  since  $(a, b) \in A \times_C B$ . Next, we prove that  $A \times_C B$  satisfies the universal property of the pullback. Suppose we have a diagram of the form



in Sets. Then there exists a unique map  $\phi: P \rightarrow A \times_C B$ , uniquely determined by the conditions

$$\text{pr}_1 \circ \phi = p_1,$$

$$\text{pr}_2 \circ \phi = p_2,$$

being necessarily given by

$$\phi(x) = (p_1(x), p_2(x))$$

for each  $x \in P$ , where we note that  $(p_1(x), p_2(x)) \in A \times B$  indeed lies in  $A \times_C B$  by the condition

$$f \circ p_1 = g \circ p_2,$$

which gives

$$f(p_1(x)) = g(p_2(x))$$

for each  $x \in P$ , so that  $(p_1(x), p_2(x)) \in A \times_C B$ . □

#### EXAMPLE 1.3.3 ► EXAMPLES OF PULLBACKS OF SETS

Here are some examples of pullbacks of sets.

1. *Unions via Intersections.* Let  $A, B \subset X$ . We have a bijection of sets

$$A \cap B \cong A \times_{A \cup B} B,$$


$$\begin{array}{ccc} A \cap B & \longrightarrow & B \\ \downarrow \lrcorner & & \downarrow \iota_B \\ A & \xrightarrow{\iota_A} & A \cup B. \end{array}$$

#### PROOF 1.3.4 ► PROOF OF EXAMPLE 1.3.3

##### Item 1: Unions via Intersections

Indeed, we have

$$\begin{aligned} A \times_{A \cup B} B &\cong \{(x, y) \in A \times B \mid x = y\} \\ &\cong A \cap B. \end{aligned}$$

This finishes the proof. 

#### PROPOSITION 1.3.5 ► PROPERTIES OF PULLBACKS OF SETS

Let  $A, B, C$ , and  $X$  be sets.

1. *Functoriality.* The assignment  $(A, B, C, f, g) \mapsto A \times_{f, C, g} B$  defines a functor

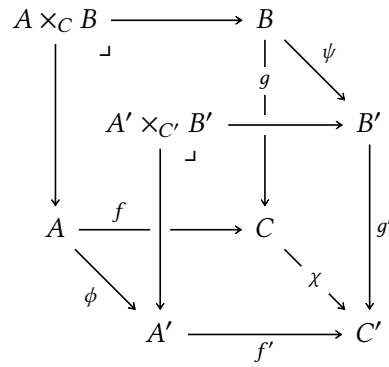
$$-_1 \times_{-3} -_1: \text{Fun}(\mathcal{P}, \text{Sets}) \rightarrow \text{Sets},$$

where  $\mathcal{P}$  is the category that looks like this:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & \bullet & \\ & \downarrow & \\ \bullet & \longrightarrow & \bullet \end{array}$$

In particular, the action on morphisms of  ${}_1 \times_{-3} {}_1$  is given by sending a

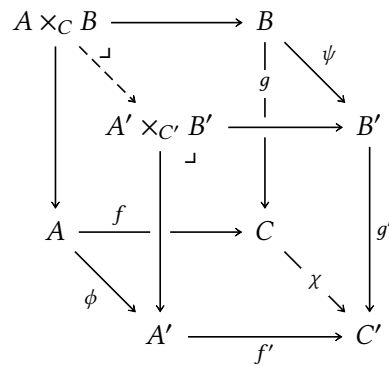
morphism



in  $\text{Fun}(\mathcal{P}, \text{Sets})$  to the map  $\xi: A \times_C B \xrightarrow{\exists!} A' \times_{C'} B'$  given by

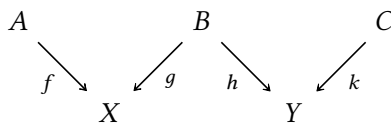
$$\xi(a, b) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (\phi(a), \psi(b))$$

for each  $(a, b) \in A \times_C B$ , which is the unique map making the diagram



commute.

2. *Associativity.* Given a diagram

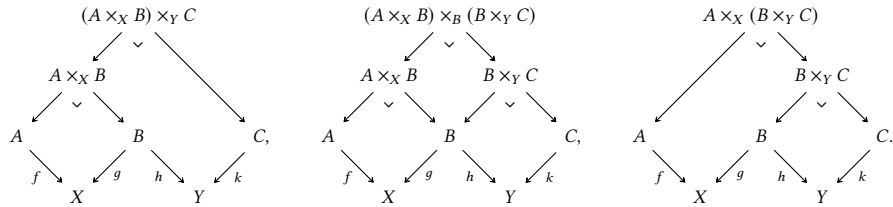




in Sets, we have isomorphisms

$$(A \times_X B) \times_Y C \cong (A \times_X B) \times_B (B \times_Y C) \cong A \times_X (B \times_Y C),$$

where these pullbacks are built as in the diagrams



3. *Unitality.* We have isomorphisms of sets

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A & \xlongequal{\quad} & A \\ \downarrow f & \lrcorner & \downarrow f \\ X & \xlongequal{\quad} & X \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{l} X \times_X A \cong A, \\ A \times_X X \cong A, \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{ccc} A & \xrightarrow{f} & X \\ \parallel & \lrcorner & \parallel \\ X & \xrightarrow{f} & X. \end{array}$$

4. *Commutativity.* We have an isomorphism of sets

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A \times_X B & \longrightarrow & B \\ \downarrow & \lrcorner & \downarrow g \\ A & \xrightarrow{f} & X, \end{array} \quad A \times_X B \cong B \times_X A \quad \begin{array}{ccc} B \times_X A & \longrightarrow & A \\ \downarrow & \lrcorner & \downarrow f \\ B & \xrightarrow{g} & X. \end{array}$$

5. *Annihilation With the Empty Set.* We have isomorphisms of sets

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \emptyset & \longrightarrow & \emptyset \\ \downarrow & \lrcorner & \downarrow \\ A & \xrightarrow{f} & X, \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{l} A \times_X \emptyset \cong \emptyset, \\ \emptyset \times_X A \cong \emptyset, \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{ccc} \emptyset & \longrightarrow & A \\ \downarrow & \lrcorner & \downarrow f \\ \emptyset & \longrightarrow & X. \end{array}$$

6. *Interaction With Products.* We have

$$A \times_{\text{pt}} B \cong A \times B,$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A \times B & \longrightarrow & B \\ \downarrow & \lrcorner & \downarrow !_B \\ A & \xrightarrow{!_A} & \text{pt.} \end{array}$$

7. *Symmetric Monoidality.* The triple  $(\text{Sets}, \times_X, X)$  is a symmetric monoidal category.

#### PROOF 1.3.6 ► PROOF OF PROPOSITION 1.3.5

##### Item 1: Functoriality

This is a special case of functoriality of co/limits, Limits and Colimits, ?? of ??, with the explicit expression for  $\xi$  following from the commutativity of the cube pullback diagram.

##### Item 2: Associativity

Indeed, we have

$$\begin{aligned} (A \times_X B) \times_Y C &\cong \{((a, b), c) \in (A \times_X B) \times C \mid h(b) = k(c)\} \\ &\cong \{((a, b), c) \in (A \times B) \times C \mid f(a) = g(b) \text{ and } h(b) = k(c)\} \\ &\cong \{(a, (b, c)) \in A \times (B \times_Y C) \mid f(a) = g(b) \text{ and } h(b) = k(c)\} \\ &\cong \{(a, (b, c)) \in A \times (B \times_Y C) \mid f(a) = g(b)\} \\ &\cong A \times_X (B \times_Y C) \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
 (A \times_X B) \times_B (B \times_Y C) &\cong \{((a, b), (b', c)) \in (A \times_X B) \times (B \times_Y C) \mid b = b'\} \\
 &\cong \left\{ ((a, b), (b', c)) \in (A \times B) \times (B \times C) \mid \begin{array}{l} f(a) = g(b), b = b', \\ \text{and } h(b') = k(c) \end{array} \right\} \\
 &\cong \left\{ (a, (b, (b', c))) \in A \times (B \times (B \times C)) \mid \begin{array}{l} f(a) = g(b), b = b', \\ \text{and } h(b') = k(c) \end{array} \right\} \\
 &\cong \left\{ (a, ((b, b'), c)) \in A \times ((B \times B) \times C) \mid \begin{array}{l} f(a) = g(b), b = b', \\ \text{and } h(b') = k(c) \end{array} \right\} \\
 &\cong \left\{ (a, ((b, b'), c)) \in A \times ((B \times_B B) \times C) \mid \begin{array}{l} f(a) = g(b) \text{ and} \\ h(b') = k(c) \end{array} \right\} \\
 &\cong \{(a, (b, c)) \in A \times (B \times C) \mid f(a) = g(b) \text{ and } h(b) = k(c)\} \\
 &\cong A \times_X (B \times_Y C),
 \end{aligned}$$

where we have used **Item 3** for the isomorphism  $B \times_B B \cong B$ .

#### Item 3: Unitality

Indeed, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 X \times_X A &\cong \{(x, a) \in X \times A \mid f(a) = x\}, \\
 A \times_X X &\cong \{(a, x) \in X \times A \mid f(a) = x\},
 \end{aligned}$$

which are isomorphic to  $A$  via the maps  $(x, a) \mapsto a$  and  $(a, x) \mapsto a$ .

#### Item 4: Commutativity

Clear.

#### Item 5: Annihilation With the Empty Set

Clear.

#### Item 6: Interaction With Products

Clear.

#### Item 7: Symmetric Monoidality

Omitted. 

## 1.4 Equalisers

Let  $A$  and  $B$  be sets and let  $f, g: A \rightrightarrows B$  be functions.

## DEFINITION 1.4.1 ► EQUALISERS OF SETS

The **equaliser of  $f$  and  $g$**  is the pair  $(\text{Eq}(f, g), \text{eq}(f, g))$  consisting of

- *The Limit.* The set  $\text{Eq}(f, g)$  defined by

$$\text{Eq}(f, g) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{a \in A \mid f(a) = g(a)\}.$$

- *The Cone.* The inclusion map

$$\text{eq}(f, g): \text{Eq}(f, g) \hookrightarrow A.$$

## PROOF 1.4.2 ► PROOF OF DEFINITION 1.4.1

We claim that  $\text{Eq}(f, g)$  is the categorical equaliser of  $f$  and  $g$  in **Sets**. First we need to check that the relevant equaliser diagram commutes, i.e. that we have

$$f \circ \text{eq}(f, g) = g \circ \text{eq}(f, g),$$

which indeed holds by the definition of the set  $\text{Eq}(f, g)$ . Next, we prove that  $\text{Eq}(f, g)$  satisfies the universal property of the equaliser. Suppose we have a diagram of the form

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Eq}(f, g) & \xrightarrow{\text{eq}(f, g)} & A \\ & \nearrow e & \downarrow f, g \\ E & & B \end{array}$$

in **Sets**. Then there exists a unique map  $\phi: E \rightarrow \text{Eq}(f, g)$ , uniquely determined by the condition

$$\text{eq}(f, g) \circ \phi = e$$

being necessarily given by

$$\phi(x) = e(x)$$

for each  $x \in E$ , where we note that  $e(x) \in A$  indeed lies in  $\text{Eq}(f, g)$  by the condition

$$f \circ e = g \circ e,$$

which gives

$$f(e(x)) = g(e(x))$$

for each  $x \in E$ , so that  $e(x) \in \text{Eq}(f, g)$ . □

### PROPOSITION 1.4.3 ► PROPERTIES OF EQUALISERS OF SETS

Let  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  be sets.

1. *Associativity.* We have an isomorphism of sets<sup>1</sup>

$$\underbrace{\text{Eq}(f \circ \text{eq}(g, h), g \circ \text{eq}(g, h))}_{=\text{Eq}(f \circ \text{eq}(g, h), h \circ \text{eq}(g, h))} \cong \text{Eq}(f, g, h) \cong \underbrace{\text{Eq}(f \circ \text{eq}(f, g), h \circ \text{eq}(f, g))}_{=\text{Eq}(g \circ \text{eq}(f, g), h \circ \text{eq}(f, g))},$$

where  $\text{Eq}(f, g, h)$  is the limit of the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & f & \\ A & \xrightarrow{-g-} & B \\ & h & \end{array}$$

in Sets, being explicitly given by

$$\text{Eq}(f, g, h) \cong \{a \in A \mid f(a) = g(a) = h(a)\}.$$

2. *Unitality.* We have an isomorphism of sets

$$\text{Eq}(f, f) \cong A.$$

3. *Commutativity.* We have an isomorphism of sets

$$\text{Eq}(f, g) \cong \text{Eq}(g, f).$$

4. *Interaction With Composition.* Let

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} & f & & h & \\ A & \rightrightarrows & B & \rightrightarrows & C \\ & g & & k & \end{array}$$

be functions. We have an inclusion of sets

$$\text{Eq}(h \circ f \circ \text{eq}(f, g), k \circ g \circ \text{eq}(f, g)) \subset \text{Eq}(h \circ f, k \circ g),$$

where  $\text{Eq}(h \circ f \circ \text{eq}(f, g), k \circ g \circ \text{eq}(f, g))$  is the equaliser of the composition

$$\text{Eq}(f, g) \xrightarrow{\text{eq}(f, g)} A \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{f} \\ \xrightarrow{g} \end{array} B \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{h} \\ \xrightarrow{k} \end{array} C.$$

<sup>1</sup>That is, the following three ways of forming “the” equaliser of  $(f, g, h)$  agree:

- (a) Take the equaliser of  $(f, g, h)$ , i.e. the limit of the diagram

$$A \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{f} \\ \xrightarrow{g} \\ \xrightarrow{h} \end{array} B$$

in Sets.

- (b) First take the equaliser of  $f$  and  $g$ , forming a diagram

$$\text{Eq}(f, g) \xrightarrow{\text{eq}(f, g)} A \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{f} \\ \xrightarrow{g} \end{array} B$$

and then take the equaliser of the composition

$$\text{Eq}(f, g) \xrightarrow{\text{eq}(f, g)} A \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{f} \\ \xrightarrow{h} \end{array} B,$$

obtaining a subset

$$\text{Eq}(f \circ \text{eq}(f, g), h \circ \text{eq}(f, g)) = \text{Eq}(g \circ \text{eq}(f, g), h \circ \text{eq}(f, g))$$

of  $\text{Eq}(f, g)$ .

- (c) First take the equaliser of  $g$  and  $h$ , forming a diagram

$$\text{Eq}(g, h) \xrightarrow{\text{eq}(g, h)} A \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{g} \\ \xrightarrow{h} \end{array} B$$

and then take the equaliser of the composition

$$\text{Eq}(g, h) \xrightarrow{\text{eq}(g, h)} A \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{f} \\ \xrightarrow{g} \end{array} B,$$

obtaining a subset

$$\text{Eq}(f \circ \text{eq}(g, h), g \circ \text{eq}(g, h)) = \text{Eq}(f \circ \text{eq}(g, h), h \circ \text{eq}(g, h))$$

of  $\text{Eq}(g, h)$ .

#### PROOF 1.4.4 ► PROOF OF PROPOSITION 1.4.3

##### Item 1: Associativity

We first prove that  $\text{Eq}(f, g, h)$  is indeed given by

$$\text{Eq}(f, g, h) \cong \{a \in A \mid f(a) = g(a) = h(a)\}.$$

Indeed, suppose we have a diagram of the form

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Eq}(f, g, h) & \xrightarrow{\text{eq}(f, g, h)} & A \\ & \nearrow e & \downarrow \\ E & & \begin{array}{ccc} A & \xrightarrow{f} & B \\ & \xrightarrow{g} & \\ & \xrightarrow{h} & \end{array} \end{array}$$

in Sets. Then there exists a unique map  $\phi: E \rightarrow \text{Eq}(f, g, h)$ , uniquely determined by the condition

$$\text{eq}(f, g) \circ \phi = e$$

being necessarily given by

$$\phi(x) = e(x)$$

for each  $x \in E$ , where we note that  $e(x) \in A$  indeed lies in  $\text{Eq}(f, g, h)$  by the condition

$$f \circ e = g \circ e = h \circ e,$$

which gives

$$f(e(x)) = g(e(x)) = h(e(x))$$

for each  $x \in E$ , so that  $e(x) \in \text{Eq}(f, g, h)$ .

We now check the equalities

$$\text{Eq}(f \circ \text{eq}(g, h), g \circ \text{eq}(g, h)) \cong \text{Eq}(f, g, h) \cong \text{Eq}(f \circ \text{eq}(f, g), h \circ \text{eq}(f, g)).$$

Indeed, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Eq}(f \circ \text{eq}(g, h), g \circ \text{eq}(g, h)) &\cong \{x \in \text{Eq}(g, h) \mid [f \circ \text{eq}(g, h)](a) = [g \circ \text{eq}(g, h)](a)\} \\ &\cong \{x \in \text{Eq}(g, h) \mid f(a) = g(a)\} \\ &\cong \{x \in A \mid f(a) = g(a) \text{ and } g(a) = h(a)\} \\ &\cong \{x \in A \mid f(a) = g(a) = h(a)\} \\ &\cong \text{Eq}(f, g, h). \end{aligned}$$

Similarly, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Eq}(f \circ \text{eq}(f, g), h \circ \text{eq}(f, g)) &\cong \{x \in \text{Eq}(f, g) \mid [f \circ \text{eq}(f, g)](a) = [h \circ \text{eq}(f, g)](a)\} \\ &\cong \{x \in \text{Eq}(f, g) \mid f(a) = h(a)\} \\ &\cong \{x \in A \mid f(a) = h(a) \text{ and } f(a) = g(a)\} \\ &\cong \{x \in A \mid f(a) = g(a) = h(a)\} \\ &\cong \text{Eq}(f, g, h). \end{aligned}$$

### Item 2: Unitality

Clear.

### Item 3: Commutativity

Clear.


### Item 4: Interaction With Composition

Indeed, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Eq}(h \circ f \circ \text{eq}(f, g), k \circ g \circ \text{eq}(f, g)) &\cong \{a \in \text{Eq}(f, g) \mid h(f(a)) = k(g(a))\} \\ &\cong \{a \in A \mid f(a) = g(a) \text{ and } h(f(a)) = k(g(a))\}. \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\text{Eq}(h \circ f, k \circ g) \cong \{a \in A \mid h(f(a)) = k(g(a))\},$$

and thus there's an inclusion from  $\text{Eq}(h \circ f \circ \text{eq}(f, g), k \circ g \circ \text{eq}(f, g))$  to  $\text{Eq}(h \circ f, k \circ g)$ . 

## 2 Colimits of Sets

### 2.1 Coproducts of Families of Sets

Let  $\{A_i\}_{i \in I}$  be a family of sets.

#### DEFINITION 2.1.1 ► DISJOINT UNIONS OF FAMILIES

The **disjoint union of the family**  $\{A_i\}_{i \in I}$  is the pair  $(\coprod_{i \in I} A_i, \{\text{inj}_i\}_{i \in I})$  consisting of

- *The Colimit.* The set  $\coprod_{i \in I} A_i$  defined by

$$\coprod_{i \in I} A_i \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \left\{ (i, x) \in I \times \left( \bigcup_{i \in I} A_i \right) \mid x \in A_i \right\}.$$

- *The Cocone.* The collection

$$\left\{ \text{inj}_i: A_i \rightarrow \coprod_{i \in I} A_i \right\}$$



of maps given by

$$\text{inj}_i(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (i, x)$$

for each  $x \in A_i$  and each  $i \in I$ .


#### PROOF 2.1.2 ► PROOF OF DEFINITION 2.1.1

We claim that  $\coprod_{i \in I} A_i$  is the categorical coproduct of  $\{A_i\}_{i \in I}$  in Sets. Indeed, suppose we have, for each  $i \in I$ , a diagram of the form

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & & C \\ & \nearrow i_i & \\ A_i & \xrightarrow{\text{inj}_i} & \coprod_{i \in I} A_i \end{array}$$

in Sets. Then there exists a unique map  $\phi: \coprod_{i \in I} A_i \rightarrow C$ , uniquely determined by the condition  $\phi \circ \text{inj}_i = i_i$  for each  $i \in I$ , being necessarily given by

$$\phi(i, x) = i_i(x)$$

for each  $(i, x) \in \coprod_{i \in I} A_i$ . 

#### PROPOSITION 2.1.3 ► PROPERTIES OF COPRODUCTS OF FAMILIES OF SETS

Let  $\{A_i\}_{i \in I}$  be a family of sets.

1. *Functoriality.* The assignment  $\{A_i\}_{i \in I} \mapsto \coprod_{i \in I} A_i$  defines a functor

$$\coprod_{i \in I}: \text{Fun}(I_{\text{disc}}, \text{Sets}) \rightarrow \text{Sets}$$

where

- *Action on Objects.* For each  $(A_i)_{i \in I} \in \text{Obj}(\text{Fun}(I_{\text{disc}}, \text{Sets}))$ , we have

$$\left[ \coprod_{i \in I} \right] ((A_i)_{i \in I}) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \coprod_{i \in I} A_i$$

· *Action on Morphisms.* For each  $(A_i)_{i \in I}, (B_i)_{i \in I} \in \text{Obj}(\text{Fun}(I_{\text{disc}}, \text{Sets}))$ , the action on Hom-sets

$$\left( \coprod_{i \in I} \right)_{(A_i)_{i \in I}, (B_i)_{i \in I}} : \text{Nat}((A_i)_{i \in I}, (B_i)_{i \in I}) \rightarrow \text{Sets} \left( \coprod_{i \in I} A_i, \coprod_{i \in I} B_i \right)$$

of  $\coprod_{i \in I}$  at  $((A_i)_{i \in I}, (B_i)_{i \in I})$  is defined by sending a map

$$\{f_i : A_i \rightarrow B_i\}_{i \in I}$$

in  $\text{Nat}((A_i)_{i \in I}, (B_i)_{i \in I})$  to the map of sets

$$\coprod_{i \in I} f_i : \coprod_{i \in I} A_i \rightarrow \coprod_{i \in I} B_i$$

defined by

$$\left[ \coprod_{i \in I} f_i \right] (i, a) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} f_i(a)$$

for each  $(i, a) \in \coprod_{i \in I} A_i$ .

#### PROOF 2.1.4 ► PROOF OF PROPOSITION 2.1.3

Item 1: Functoriality

Clear.



## 2.2 Binary Coproducts

Let  $A$  and  $B$  be sets.

#### DEFINITION 2.2.1 ► COPRODUCTS OF SETS

The **coproduct**<sup>1</sup> of  $A$  and  $B$  is the pair  $(A \amalg B, \{\text{inj}_1, \text{inj}_2\})$  consisting of

· *The Colimit.* The set  $A \amalg B$  defined by

$$\begin{aligned} A \amalg B &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \coprod_{z \in \{A, B\}} z \\ &\cong \{(0, a) \mid a \in A\} \cup \{(1, b) \mid b \in B\}. \end{aligned}$$

• *The Cocone.* The maps

$$\text{inj}_1: A \rightarrow A \coprod B,$$

$$\text{inj}_2: B \rightarrow A \coprod B,$$

given by

$$\text{inj}_1(a) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (0, a),$$

$$\text{inj}_2(b) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (1, b),$$

for each  $a \in A$  and each  $b \in B$ .

<sup>1</sup>*Further Terminology:* Also called the **disjoint union of  $A$  and  $B$** , or the **binary disjoint union of  $A$  and  $B$** , for emphasis.

#### PROOF 2.2.2 ► PROOF OF DEFINITION 2.2.1

We claim that  $A \coprod B$  is the categorical coproduct of  $A$  and  $B$  in Sets. Indeed, suppose we have a diagram of the form

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & C & \\ i_A \nearrow & & \nwarrow i_B \\ A & \xrightarrow{\text{inj}_A} & A \coprod B \xleftarrow{\text{inj}_B} B \end{array}$$

in Sets. Then there exists a unique map  $\phi: A \coprod B \rightarrow C$ , uniquely determined by the conditions

$$\phi \circ \text{inj}_A = i_A,$$

$$\phi \circ \text{inj}_B = i_B,$$

being necessarily given by

$$\phi(x) = \begin{cases} i_A(x) & \text{if } x \in A, \\ i_B(x) & \text{if } x \in B \end{cases}$$

for each  $x \in C$ .



**PROPOSITION 2.2.3 ► PROPERTIES OF COPRODUCTS OF SETS**

Let  $A, B, C$ , and  $X$  be sets.

1. *Functoriality.* The assignment  $A, B, (A, B) \mapsto A \amalg B$  defines functors

$$\begin{aligned} A \amalg -_2 &: \text{Sets} \rightarrow \text{Sets}, \\ -_1 \amalg B &: \text{Sets} \rightarrow \text{Sets}, \\ -_1 \amalg -_2 &: \text{Sets} \times \text{Sets} \rightarrow \text{Sets}, \end{aligned}$$

where  $-_1 \amalg -_2$  is the functor where

- *Action on Objects.* For each  $(A, B) \in \text{Obj}(\text{Sets} \times \text{Sets})$ , we have

$$[-_1 \amalg -_2](A, B) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} A \amalg B;$$

- *Action on Morphisms.* For each  $(A, B), (X, Y) \in \text{Obj}(\text{Sets})$ , the action on Hom-sets

$$\amalg_{(A,B),(X,Y)} : \text{Sets}(A, X) \times \text{Sets}(B, Y) \rightarrow \text{Sets}(A \amalg B, X \amalg Y)$$

of  $\amalg$  at  $((A, B), (X, Y))$  is defined by sending  $(f, g)$  to the function

$$f \amalg g : A \amalg B \rightarrow X \amalg Y$$

defined by

$$[f \amalg g](x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \begin{cases} f(x) & \text{if } x \in A, \\ g(x) & \text{if } x \in B \end{cases}$$

for each  $x \in A \amalg B$ ;

and where  $A \amalg -$  and  $- \amalg B$  are the partial functors of  $-_1 \amalg -_2$  at  $A, B \in \text{Obj}(\text{Sets})$ .

2. *Associativity.* We have an isomorphism of sets

$$(A \amalg B) \amalg C \cong A \amalg (B \amalg C),$$

natural in  $A, B, C \in \text{Obj}(\text{Sets})$ .

3. *Unitality*. We have isomorphisms of sets

$$A \coprod \emptyset \cong A,$$

$$\emptyset \coprod A \cong A,$$

natural in  $A \in \text{Obj}(\text{Sets})$ .

4. *Commutativity*. We have an isomorphism of sets

$$A \coprod B \cong B \coprod A,$$

natural in  $A, B \in \text{Obj}(\text{Sets})$ .

5. *Symmetric Monoidality*. The triple  $(\text{Sets}, \coprod, \emptyset)$  is a symmetric monoidal category.

#### PROOF 2.2.4 ► PROOF OF PROPOSITION 2.2.3

Item 1: Functoriality

Clear.

Item 2: Associativity

Clear.

Item 3: Unitality

Clear.

Item 4: Commutativity

Clear.

Item 5: Symmetric Monoidality

Omitted. 

## 2.3 Pushouts

Let  $A, B$ , and  $C$  be sets and let  $f: C \rightarrow A$  and  $g: C \rightarrow B$  be functions.

**DEFINITION 2.3.1 ► PUSHOUTS OF SETS**

The **pushout of  $A$  and  $B$  over  $C$  along  $f$  and  $g$ <sup>1</sup>** is the pair  $(A \amalg_C B, \{\text{inj}_1, \text{inj}_2\})$  consisting of

- *The Colimit.* The set  $A \amalg_C B$  defined by

$$A \amalg_C B \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} A \amalg B / \sim_C,$$

where  $\sim_C$  is the equivalence relation on  $A \amalg B$  generated by  $(0, f(c)) \sim_C (1, g(c))$ .

- *The Cocone.* The maps

$$\begin{aligned} \text{inj}_1 : A &\rightarrow A \amalg_C B, \\ \text{inj}_2 : B &\rightarrow A \amalg_C B \end{aligned}$$

given by

$$\begin{aligned} \text{inj}_1(a) &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} [(0, a)] \\ \text{inj}_2(b) &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} [(1, b)] \end{aligned}$$

for each  $a \in A$  and each  $b \in B$ .

<sup>1</sup>*Further Terminology:* Also called the **fibre coproduct of  $A$  and  $B$  over  $C$  along  $f$  and  $g$** .

**PROOF 2.3.2 ► PROOF OF DEFINITION 2.3.1**

We claim that  $A \amalg_C B$  is the categorical pushout of  $A$  and  $B$  over  $C$  with respect to  $(f, g)$  in Sets. First we need to check that the relevant pushout diagram commutes, i.e. that we have

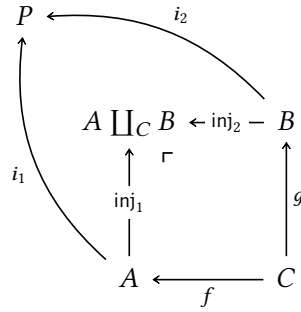
$$\text{inj}_1 \circ f = \text{inj}_2 \circ g,$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A \amalg_C B & \xleftarrow{\text{inj}_2} & B \\ \text{inj}_1 \uparrow & & \uparrow g \\ A & \xleftarrow{f} & C. \end{array}$$

Indeed, given  $c \in C$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 [\text{inj}_1 \circ f](c) &= \text{inj}_1(f(c)) \\
 &= [(0, f(c))] \\
 &= [(1, g(c))] \\
 &= \text{inj}_2(g(c)) \\
 &= [\text{inj}_2 \circ g](c),
 \end{aligned}$$

where  $[(0, f(c))] = [(1, g(c))]$  by the definition of the relation  $\sim$  on  $B$ . Next, we prove that  $A \amalg_C B$  satisfies the universal property of the pushout. Suppose we have a diagram of the form



in Sets. Then there exists a unique map  $\phi: A \amalg_C B \rightarrow P$ , uniquely determined by the conditions

$$\begin{aligned}
 \phi \circ \text{inj}_1 &= i_1, \\
 \phi \circ \text{inj}_2 &= i_2,
 \end{aligned}$$

being necessarily given by

$$\phi(x) = \begin{cases} i_1(a) & \text{if } x = [(0, a)], \\ i_2(b) & \text{if } x = [(1, b)] \end{cases}$$

for each  $x \in A \amalg_C B$ , where the well-definedness of  $\phi$  is guaranteed by the equality  $i_1 \circ f = i_2 \circ g$  and the definition of the relation  $\sim$  on  $A \amalg B$  as follows.

1. *Case 1:* Suppose we have  $x = [(0, a)] = [(0, a')]$  for some  $a, a' \in A$ . Then, by [Remark 2.3.3](#), we have a sequence

$$(0, a) \sim' x_1 \sim' \dots \sim' x_n \sim' (0, a').$$

2. *Case 2:* Suppose we have  $x = [(1, b)] = [(1, b')]$  for some  $b, b' \in B$ . Then, by [Remark 2.3.3](#), we have a sequence

$$(1, b) \sim' x_1 \sim' \cdots \sim' x_n \sim' (1, b').$$

3. *Case 3:* Suppose we have  $x = [(0, a)] = [(1, b)]$  for some  $a \in A$  and  $b \in B$ . Then, by [Remark 2.3.3](#), we have a sequence

$$(0, a) \sim' x_1 \sim' \cdots \sim' x_n \sim' (1, b).$$

In all these cases, we declare  $x \sim' y$  iff there exists some  $c \in C$  such that  $x = (0, f(c))$  and  $y = (1, g(c))$  or  $x = (1, g(c))$  and  $y = (0, f(c))$ . Then, the equality  $i_1 \circ f = i_2 \circ g$  gives


$$\begin{aligned} \phi([x]) &= \phi([(0, f(c))]) \\ &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} i_1(f(c)) \\ &= i_2(g(c)) \\ &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \phi([(1, g(c))]) \\ &= \phi([y]), \end{aligned}$$

with the case where  $x = (1, g(c))$  and  $y = (0, f(c))$  similarly giving  $\phi([x]) = \phi([y])$ . Thus, if  $x \sim' y$ , then  $\phi([x]) = \phi([y])$ . Applying this equality pairwise to the sequences

$$\begin{aligned} (0, a) &\sim' x_1 \sim' \cdots \sim' x_n \sim' (0, a'), \\ (1, b) &\sim' x_1 \sim' \cdots \sim' x_n \sim' (1, b'), \\ (0, a) &\sim' x_1 \sim' \cdots \sim' x_n \sim' (1, b) \end{aligned}$$

gives

$$\begin{aligned} \phi([(0, a)]) &= \phi([(0, a')]), \\ \phi([(1, b)]) &= \phi([(1, b')]), \\ \phi([(0, a)]) &= \phi([(1, b)]), \end{aligned}$$

showing  $\phi$  to be well-defined. 



**REMARK 2.3.3 ► UNWINDING DEFINITION 2.3.1**

In detail, by [Relations, Construction 4.4.5](#), the relation  $\sim$  of [Definition 2.3.1](#) is given by declaring  $a \sim b$  iff one of the following conditions is satisfied:

- We have  $a, b \in A$  and  $a = b$ ;
- We have  $a, b \in B$  and  $a = b$ ;
- There exist  $x_1, \dots, x_n \in A \amalg B$  such that  $a \sim' x_1 \sim' \dots \sim' x_n \sim' b$ , where we declare  $x \sim' y$  if one of the following conditions is satisfied:
  1. There exists  $c \in C$  such that  $x = (0, f(c))$  and  $y = (1, g(c))$ .
  2. There exists  $c \in C$  such that  $x = (1, g(c))$  and  $y = (0, f(c))$ .

That is: we require the following condition to be satisfied:

- (★) There exist  $x_1, \dots, x_n \in A \amalg B$  satisfying the following conditions:
1. There exists  $c_0 \in C$  satisfying one of the following conditions:
    - (a) We have  $a = f(c_0)$  and  $x_1 = g(c_0)$ .
    - (b) We have  $a = g(c_0)$  and  $x_1 = f(c_0)$ .
  2. For each  $1 \leq i \leq n - 1$ , there exists  $c_i \in C$  satisfying one of the following conditions:
    - (a) We have  $x_i = f(c_i)$  and  $x_{i+1} = g(c_i)$ .
    - (b) We have  $x_i = g(c_i)$  and  $x_{i+1} = f(c_i)$ .
  3. There exists  $c_n \in C$  satisfying one of the following conditions:
    - (a) We have  $x_n = f(c_n)$  and  $b = g(c_n)$ .
    - (b) We have  $x_n = g(c_n)$  and  $b = f(c_n)$ .

**EXAMPLE 2.3.4 ► EXAMPLES OF PUSHOUTS OF SETS**

Here are some examples of pushouts of sets.

1. *Wedge Sums of Pointed Sets.* The wedge sum of two pointed sets of [Pointed Sets, Definition 4.3.1](#) is an example of a pushout of sets.

2. *Intersections via Unions.* Let  $A, B \subset X$ . We have a bijection of sets

$$A \cup B \cong A \coprod_{A \cap B} B,$$


$$\begin{array}{ccc} A \cup B & \longleftarrow & B \\ \uparrow \lrcorner & & \uparrow \\ A & \longleftarrow & A \cap B. \end{array}$$

#### PROOF 2.3.5 ► PROOF OF EXAMPLE 2.3.4

##### Item 1: Wedge Sums of Pointed Sets

Follows by definition.

##### Item 2: Intersections via Unions

Indeed,  $A \coprod_{A \cap B} B$  is the quotient of  $A \coprod B$  by the equivalence relation obtained by declaring  $(0, a) \sim (1, b)$  iff  $a = b \in A \cap B$ , which is in bijection with  $A \cup B$  via the map with  $[(0, a)] \mapsto a$  and  $[(1, b)] \mapsto b$ . 

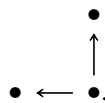
#### PROPOSITION 2.3.6 ► PROPERTIES OF PUSHOUTS OF SETS

Let  $A, B, C$ , and  $X$  be sets.

1. *Functoriality.* The assignment  $(A, B, C, f, g) \mapsto A \coprod_{f, C, g} B$  defines a functor

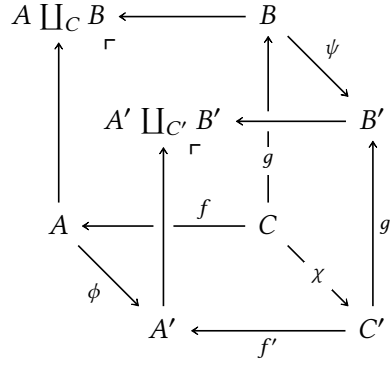
$$-_1 \coprod_{-3} -_1 : \text{Fun}(\mathcal{P}, \text{Sets}) \rightarrow \text{Sets},$$

where  $\mathcal{P}$  is the category that looks like this:



In particular, the action on morphisms of  $-_1 \coprod_{-3} -_1$  is given by sending a

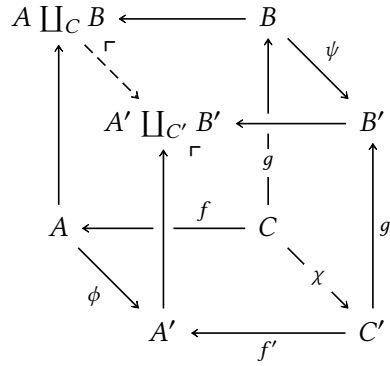
morphism



in  $\text{Fun}(\mathcal{P}, \text{Sets})$  to the map  $\xi: A \amalg_C B \xrightarrow{\exists!} A' \amalg_{C'} B'$  given by

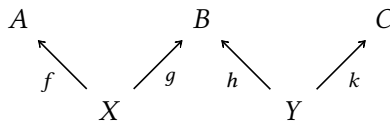
$$\xi(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \begin{cases} \phi(a) & \text{if } x = [(0, a)], \\ \psi(b) & \text{if } x = [(1, b)] \end{cases}$$

for each  $x \in A \amalg_C B$ , which is the unique map making the diagram



commute.

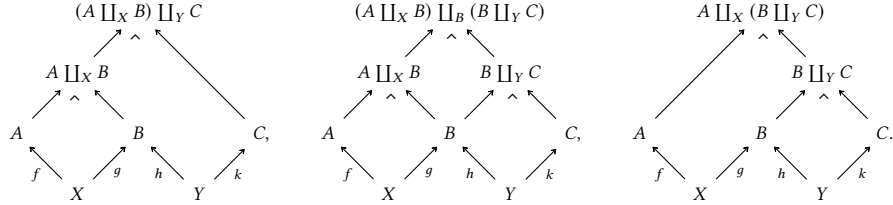
2. *Associativity*. Given a diagram



in Sets, we have isomorphisms

$$(A \amalg_X B) \amalg_Y C \cong (A \amalg_X B) \amalg_B (B \amalg_Y C) \cong A \amalg_X (B \amalg_Y C),$$

where these pullbacks are built as in the diagrams



3. *Unitality.* We have isomorphisms of sets

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A & \xlongequal{\quad} & A \\ \uparrow f & \lrcorner & \uparrow f \\ X & \xlongequal{\quad} & X \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{l} X \amalg_X A \cong A, \\ A \amalg_X X \cong A, \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{ccc} A & \xleftarrow{f} & X \\ \parallel & \lrcorner & \parallel \\ X & \xleftarrow{f} & X. \end{array}$$

4. *Commutativity.* We have an isomorphism of sets

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A \amalg_X B & \xleftarrow{\quad} & B \\ \uparrow \lrcorner & & \uparrow g \\ A & \xleftarrow{f} & X \end{array} \quad A \amalg_X B \cong B \amalg_X A \quad \begin{array}{ccc} B \amalg_X A & \xleftarrow{\quad} & A \\ \uparrow \lrcorner & & \uparrow f \\ B & \xleftarrow{g} & X. \end{array}$$

5. *Interaction With Coproducts.* We have

$$A \amalg_{\emptyset} B \cong A \amalg B, \quad \begin{array}{ccc} A \amalg B & \xleftarrow{\quad} & B \\ \uparrow \lrcorner & & \uparrow \iota_B \\ A & \xleftarrow{\iota_A} & \emptyset. \end{array}$$

6. *Symmetric Monoidality.* The triple  $(\text{Sets}, \amalg_X, \emptyset)$  is a symmetric monoidal category.

## PROOF 2.3.7 ► PROOF OF PROPOSITION 2.3.6

## Item 1: Functoriality

This is a special case of functoriality of co/limits, Limits and Colimits, ?? of ??, with the explicit expression for  $\xi$  following from the commutativity of the cube pushout diagram.

## Item 2: Associativity

Omitted.

## Item 3: Unitality

Omitted.

## Item 4: Commutativity

Clear.

## Item 5: Interaction With Coproducts

Clear.

## Item 6: Symmetric Monoidality

Omitted. 

## 2.4 Coequalisers

Let  $A$  and  $B$  be sets and let  $f, g: A \rightrightarrows B$  be functions.

## DEFINITION 2.4.1 ► COEQUALISERS OF SETS

The **coequaliser of  $f$  and  $g$**  is the pair  $(\text{CoEq}(f, g), \text{coeq}(f, g))$  consisting of

- *The Colimit.* The set  $\text{CoEq}(f, g)$  defined by

$$\text{CoEq}(f, g) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} B/\sim,$$

where  $\sim$  is the equivalence relation on  $B$  generated by  $f(a) \sim g(a)$ .

- *The Cocone.* The map

$$\text{coeq}(f, g): B \rightarrow \text{CoEq}(f, g)$$

given by the quotient map  $\pi: B \rightarrow B/\sim$  with respect to the equivalence relation generated by  $f(a) \sim g(a)$ .

## PROOF 2.4.2 ► PROOF OF DEFINITION 2.4.1

We claim that  $\text{CoEq}(f, g)$  is the categorical coequaliser of  $f$  and  $g$  in **Sets**. First we need to check that the relevant coequaliser diagram commutes, i.e. that we have

$$\text{coeq}(f, g) \circ f = \text{coeq}(f, g) \circ g.$$

Indeed, we have


$$\begin{aligned} [\text{coeq}(f, g) \circ f](a) &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} [\text{coeq}(f, g)](f(a)) \\ &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} [f(a)] \\ &= [g(a)] \\ &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} [\text{coeq}(f, g)](g(a)) \\ &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} [\text{coeq}(f, g) \circ g](a) \end{aligned}$$

for each  $a \in A$ . Next, we prove that  $\text{CoEq}(f, g)$  satisfies the universal property of the coequaliser. Suppose we have a diagram of the form

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A & \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{f} \\ \xrightarrow{g} \end{array} & B \\ & & \searrow c \\ & & C \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\text{coeq}(f, g)} \\ \\ \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} \text{CoEq}(f, g) \\ \\ \end{array}$$

in **Sets**. Then, since  $c(f(a)) = c(g(a))$  for each  $a \in A$ , it follows from **Relations, Items 4 and 5 of Proposition 4.5.4** that there exists a unique map  $\text{CoEq}(f, g) \xrightarrow{\exists!} C$  making the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A & \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{f} \\ \xrightarrow{g} \end{array} & B \\ & & \searrow c \\ & & C \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\text{coeq}(f, g)} \\ \\ \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} \text{CoEq}(f, g) \\ \downarrow \exists! \\ C \end{array}$$

commutes. 

**REMARK 2.4.3 ► UNWINDING DEFINITION 2.4.1**

In detail, by [Relations](#), [Construction 4.4.5](#), the relation  $\sim$  of [Definition 2.4.1](#) is given by declaring  $a \sim b$  iff one of the following conditions is satisfied:

- We have  $a = b$ ;
- There exist  $x_1, \dots, x_n \in B$  such that  $a \sim' x_1 \sim' \dots \sim' x_n \sim' b$ , where we declare  $x \sim' y$  if one of the following conditions is satisfied:
  1. There exists  $z \in A$  such that  $x = f(z)$  and  $y = g(z)$ .
  2. There exists  $z \in A$  such that  $x = g(z)$  and  $y = f(z)$ .

That is: we require the following condition to be satisfied:

- (★) There exist  $x_1, \dots, x_n \in B$  satisfying the following conditions:
1. There exists  $z_0 \in A$  satisfying one of the following conditions:
    - (a) We have  $a = f(z_0)$  and  $x_1 = g(z_0)$ .
    - (b) We have  $a = g(z_0)$  and  $x_1 = f(z_0)$ .
  2. For each  $1 \leq i \leq n - 1$ , there exists  $z_i \in A$  satisfying one of the following conditions:
    - (a) We have  $x_i = f(z_i)$  and  $x_{i+1} = g(z_i)$ .
    - (b) We have  $x_i = g(z_i)$  and  $x_{i+1} = f(z_i)$ .
  3. There exists  $z_n \in A$  satisfying one of the following conditions:
    - (a) We have  $x_n = f(z_n)$  and  $b = g(z_n)$ .
    - (b) We have  $x_n = g(z_n)$  and  $b = f(z_n)$ .

**EXAMPLE 2.4.4 ► EXAMPLES OF COEQUALISERS OF SETS**

Here are some examples of coequalisers of sets.

1. *Quotients by Equivalence Relations.* Let  $R$  be an equivalence relation on a set  $X$ . We have a bijection of sets

$$X/\sim_R \cong \text{CoEq}\left(R \hookrightarrow X \times X \begin{matrix} \xrightarrow{\text{pr}_1} \\ \xrightarrow{\text{pr}_2} \end{matrix} X\right).$$

## PROOF 2.4.5 ► PROOF OF EXAMPLE 2.4.4

## Item 1: Quotients by Equivalence Relations

See [Pro24v].



## PROPOSITION 2.4.6 ► PROPERTIES OF COEQUALISERS OF SETS

Let  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  be sets.

1. *Associativity.* We have an isomorphism of sets<sup>1</sup>

$$\underbrace{\text{CoEq}(\text{coeq}(f, g) \circ f, \text{coeq}(f, g) \circ h)}_{=\text{CoEq}(\text{coeq}(f, g) \circ g, \text{coeq}(f, g) \circ h)} \cong \text{CoEq}(f, g, h) \cong \underbrace{\text{CoEq}(\text{coeq}(g, h) \circ f, \text{coeq}(g, h) \circ g)}_{=\text{CoEq}(\text{coeq}(g, h) \circ f, \text{coeq}(g, h) \circ h)},$$

where  $\text{CoEq}(f, g, h)$  is the colimit of the diagram

$$A \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{f} \\ \xrightarrow{g} \\ \xrightarrow{h} \end{array} B$$

in Sets.

2. *Unitality.* We have an isomorphism of sets

$$\text{CoEq}(f, f) \cong B.$$

3. *Commutativity.* We have an isomorphism of sets

$$\text{CoEq}(f, g) \cong \text{CoEq}(g, f).$$

4. *Interaction With Composition.* Let

$$A \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{f} \\ \xrightarrow{g} \end{array} B \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{h} \\ \xrightarrow{k} \end{array} C$$

be functions. We have a surjection

$$\text{CoEq}(h \circ f, k \circ g) \twoheadrightarrow \text{CoEq}(\text{coeq}(h, k) \circ h \circ f, \text{coeq}(h, k) \circ k \circ g)$$

exhibiting  $\text{CoEq}(\text{coeq}(h, k) \circ h \circ f, \text{coeq}(h, k) \circ k \circ g)$  as a quotient of  $\text{CoEq}(h \circ f, k \circ g)$  by the relation generated by declaring  $h(y) \sim k(y)$  for each  $y \in B$ .



<sup>1</sup>That is, the following three ways of forming “the” coequaliser of  $(f, g, h)$  agree:

- (a) Take the coequaliser of  $(f, g, h)$ , i.e. the colimit of the diagram

$$A \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{f} \\ \xrightarrow{-g} \\ \xrightarrow{h} \end{array} B$$

in Sets.

- (b) First take the coequaliser of  $f$  and  $g$ , forming a diagram

$$A \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{f} \\ \xrightarrow{g} \end{array} B \xrightarrow{\text{coeq}(f,g)} \text{CoEq}(f, g)$$

and then take the coequaliser of the composition

$$A \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{f} \\ \xrightarrow{h} \end{array} B \xrightarrow{\text{coeq}(f,g)} \text{CoEq}(f, g),$$

obtaining a quotient

$$\text{CoEq}(\text{coeq}(f, g) \circ f, \text{coeq}(f, g) \circ h) = \text{CoEq}(\text{coeq}(f, g) \circ g, \text{coeq}(f, g) \circ h)$$

of  $\text{CoEq}(f, g)$

- (c) First take the coequaliser of  $g$  and  $h$ , forming a diagram

$$A \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{g} \\ \xrightarrow{h} \end{array} B \xrightarrow{\text{coeq}(g,h)} \text{CoEq}(g, h)$$

and then take the coequaliser of the composition

$$A \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{f} \\ \xrightarrow{g} \end{array} B \xrightarrow{\text{coeq}(g,h)} \text{CoEq}(g, h),$$

obtaining a quotient

$$\text{CoEq}(\text{coeq}(g, h) \circ f, \text{coeq}(g, h) \circ g) = \text{CoEq}(\text{coeq}(g, h) \circ h, \text{coeq}(g, h) \circ g)$$

of  $\text{CoEq}(g, h)$ .

#### PROOF 2.4.7 ► PROOF OF PROPOSITION 2.4.6

Item 1: Associativity

Omitted.

Item 2: Unitality

Clear.

Item 3: Commutativity

Clear.

Item 4: Interaction With Composition

Omitted.



### 3 Operations With Sets

#### 3.1 The Empty Set

##### DEFINITION 3.1.1 ► THE EMPTY SET

The **empty set** is the set  $\emptyset$  defined by

$$\emptyset \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{x \in X \mid x \neq x\},$$

where  $A$  is the set in the set existence axiom, ?? of ??.

#### 3.2 Singleton Sets

Let  $X$  be a set.

##### DEFINITION 3.2.1 ► SINGLETON SETS

The **singleton set containing**  $X$  is the set  $\{X\}$  defined by

$$\{X\} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{X, X\},$$

where  $\{X, X\}$  is the pairing of  $X$  with itself (Definition 3.3.1).

#### 3.3 Pairings of Sets

Let  $X$  and  $Y$  be sets.

**DEFINITION 3.3.1 ► PAIRINGS OF SETS**

The **pairing of  $X$  and  $Y$**  is the set  $\{X, Y\}$  defined by

$$\{X, Y\} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{x \in A \mid x = X \text{ or } x = Y\},$$

where  $A$  is the set in the axiom of pairing, ?? of ??.

**3.4 Ordered Pairs**

Let  $A$  and  $B$  be sets.

**DEFINITION 3.4.1 ► ORDERED PAIRS**

The **ordered pair associated to  $A$  and  $B$**  is the set  $(A, B)$  defined by

$$(A, B) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{\{A\}, \{A, B\}\}.$$

**PROPOSITION 3.4.2 ► PROPERTIES OF ORDERED PAIRS**

Let  $A$  and  $B$  be sets.

1. *Uniqueness.* Let  $A, B, C$ , and  $D$  be sets. The following conditions are equivalent:
  - (a) We have  $(A, B) = (C, D)$ .
  - (b) We have  $A = C$  and  $B = D$ .

**PROOF 3.4.3 ► PROOF OF PROPOSITION 3.4.2**

Item 1: Uniqueness

See [Cie97, Theorem 1.2.3].

**3.5 Unions of Families**

Let  $\{A_i\}_{i \in I}$  be a family of sets.

**DEFINITION 3.5.1 ► UNIONS OF FAMILIES**

The **union of the family**  $\{A_i\}_{i \in I}$  is the set  $\bigcup_{i \in I} A_i$  defined by

$$\bigcup_{i \in I} A_i \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{x \in F \mid \text{there exists some } i \in I \text{ such that } x \in A_i\},$$

where  $F$  is the set in the axiom of union, ?? of ??.

**3.6 Binary Unions**

Let  $A$  and  $B$  be sets.

**DEFINITION 3.6.1 ► BINARY UNIONS**

The **union<sup>1</sup> of  $A$  and  $B$**  is the set  $A \cup B$  defined by

$$A \cup B \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \bigcup_{z \in \{A, B\}} z.$$

<sup>1</sup>*Further Terminology:* Also called the **binary union of  $A$  and  $B$** , for emphasis.

**PROPOSITION 3.6.2 ► PROPERTIES OF BINARY UNIONS**

Let  $X$  be a set.

1. *Functoriality.* The assignments  $U, V, (U, V) \mapsto U \cup V$  define functors

$$U \cup -: (\mathcal{P}(X), \subset) \rightarrow (\mathcal{P}(X), \subset),$$

$$- \cup V: (\mathcal{P}(X), \subset) \rightarrow (\mathcal{P}(X), \subset),$$

$$-_1 \cup -_2: (\mathcal{P}(X) \times \mathcal{P}(X), \subset \times \subset) \rightarrow (\mathcal{P}(X), \subset),$$

where  $-_1 \cup -_2$  is the functor where

- *Action on Objects.* For each  $(U, V) \in \mathcal{P}(X) \times \mathcal{P}(X)$ , we have

$$[-_1 \cup -_2](U, V) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} U \cup V;$$

- *Action on Morphisms.* For each pair of morphisms

$$\iota_U: U \hookrightarrow U',$$

$$\iota_V: V \hookrightarrow V'$$

of  $\mathcal{P}(X) \times \mathcal{P}(X)$ , the image

$$\iota_U \cup \iota_V : U \cup V \hookrightarrow U' \cup V'$$

of  $(\iota_U, \iota_V)$  by  $\cup$  is the inclusion

$$U \cup V \subset U' \cup V'$$

i.e. where we have

(★) If  $U \subset U'$  and  $V \subset V'$ , then  $U \cup V \subset U' \cup V'$ ;

and where  $U \cup -$  and  $- \cup V$  are the partial functors of  $-_1 \cup -_2$  at  $U, V \in \mathcal{P}(X)$ .

2. *Via Intersections and Symmetric Differences.* We have an equality of sets

$$U \cup V = (U \Delta V) \Delta (U \cap V)$$

for each  $X \in \text{Obj}(\text{Sets})$  and each  $U, V \in \mathcal{P}(X)$ .

3. *Associativity.* We have an equality of sets

$$(U \cup V) \cup W = U \cup (V \cup W)$$

for each  $X \in \text{Obj}(\text{Sets})$  and each  $U, V, W \in \mathcal{P}(X)$ .

4. *Unitality.* We have equalities of sets

$$U \cup \emptyset = U,$$

$$\emptyset \cup U = U$$

for each  $X \in \text{Obj}(\text{Sets})$  and each  $U \in \mathcal{P}(X)$ .

5. *Commutativity.* We have an equality of sets

$$U \cup V = V \cup U$$

for each  $X \in \text{Obj}(\text{Sets})$  and each  $U, V \in \mathcal{P}(X)$ .

6. *Idempotency.* We have an equality of sets

$$U \cup U = U$$

for each  $X \in \text{Obj}(\text{Sets})$  and each  $U \in \mathcal{P}(X)$ .

7. *Distributivity Over Intersections.* We have equalities of sets

$$\begin{aligned} U \cup (V \cap W) &= (U \cup V) \cap (U \cup W), \\ (U \cap V) \cup W &= (U \cup W) \cap (V \cup W) \end{aligned}$$

for each  $X \in \text{Obj}(\text{Sets})$  and each  $U, V, W \in \mathcal{P}(X)$ .

8. *Interaction With Characteristic Functions I.* We have

$$\chi_{U \cup V} = \max(\chi_U, \chi_V)$$

for each  $X \in \text{Obj}(\text{Sets})$  and each  $U, V \in \mathcal{P}(X)$ .

9. *Interaction With Characteristic Functions II.* We have

$$\chi_{U \cup V} = \chi_U + \chi_V - \chi_{U \cap V}$$

for each  $X \in \text{Obj}(\text{Sets})$  and each  $U, V \in \mathcal{P}(X)$ .

10. *Interaction With Powersets and Semirings.* The quintuple  $(\mathcal{P}(X), \cup, \cap, \emptyset, X)$  is an idempotent commutative semiring.

#### PROOF 3.6.3 ► PROOF OF PROPOSITION 3.6.2

Item 1: Functoriality

See [Pro24aj].

Item 2: Via Intersections and Symmetric Differences

See [Pro24au].

Item 3: Associativity

See [Pro24aw].

Item 4: Unitality

This follows from [Pro24az] and Item 5.

Item 5: Commutativity

See [Pro24ax].

Item 6: Idempotency

See [Pro24ai].

Item 7: Distributivity Over Intersections

See [Pro24av].

Item 8: Interaction With Characteristic Functions I

See [Pro24k].

Item 9: Interaction With Characteristic Functions II

See [Pro24k].

Item 10: Interaction With Powersets and Semirings

This follows from Items 3 to 6 and Items 3 to 5, 7 and 8 of Proposition 3.8.2. 

### 3.7 Intersections of Families

Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be a family of sets.

#### DEFINITION 3.7.1 ► INTERSECTIONS OF FAMILIES

The **intersection of a family  $\mathcal{F}$  of sets** is the set  $\bigcap_{X \in \mathcal{F}} X$  defined by

$$\bigcap_{X \in \mathcal{F}} X \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \left\{ z \in \bigcup_{X \in \mathcal{F}} X \mid \text{for each } X \in \mathcal{F}, \text{ we have } z \in X \right\}.$$

### 3.8 Binary Intersections

Let  $X$  and  $Y$  be sets.

#### DEFINITION 3.8.1 ► BINARY INTERSECTIONS

The **intersection<sup>1</sup> of  $X$  and  $Y$**  is the set  $X \cap Y$  defined by

$$X \cap Y \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \bigcap_{z \in \{X, Y\}} z.$$

<sup>1</sup>*Further Terminology:* Also called the **binary intersection of  $X$  and  $Y$** , for emphasis.

**PROPOSITION 3.8.2 ► PROPERTIES OF BINARY INTERSECTIONS**

Let  $X$  be a set.

1. *Functoriality.* The assignments  $U, V, (U, V) \mapsto U \cap V$  define functors

$$U \cap -: (\mathcal{P}(X), \subset) \rightarrow (\mathcal{P}(X), \subset),$$

$$- \cap V: (\mathcal{P}(X), \subset) \rightarrow (\mathcal{P}(X), \subset),$$

$$-_1 \cap -_2: (\mathcal{P}(X) \times \mathcal{P}(X), \subset \times \subset) \rightarrow (\mathcal{P}(X), \subset),$$

where  $-_1 \cap -_2$  is the functor where

- *Action on Objects.* For each  $(U, V) \in \mathcal{P}(X) \times \mathcal{P}(X)$ , we have

$$[-_1 \cap -_2](U, V) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} U \cap V;$$

- *Action on Morphisms.* For each pair of morphisms

$$\iota_U: U \hookrightarrow U',$$

$$\iota_V: V \hookrightarrow V'$$

of  $\mathcal{P}(X) \times \mathcal{P}(X)$ , the image

$$\iota_U \cap \iota_V: U \cap V \hookrightarrow U' \cap V'$$

of  $(\iota_U, \iota_V)$  by  $\cap$  is the inclusion

$$U \cap V \subset U' \cap V'$$

i.e. where we have

$$(\star) \text{ If } U \subset U' \text{ and } V \subset V', \text{ then } U \cap V \subset U' \cap V';$$

and where  $U \cap -$  and  $- \cap V$  are the partial functors of  $-_1 \cap -_2$  at  $U, V \in \mathcal{P}(X)$ .

2. *Adjointness.* We have adjunctions

$$(U \cap - \dashv \mathbf{Hom}_{\mathcal{P}(X)}(U, -)): \mathcal{P}(X) \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{U \cap -} \\ \perp \\ \xleftarrow{\mathbf{Hom}_{\mathcal{P}(X)}(U, -)} \end{array} \mathcal{P}(X),$$

$$(- \cap V \dashv \mathbf{Hom}_{\mathcal{P}(X)}(V, -)): \mathcal{P}(X) \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{- \cap V} \\ \perp \\ \xleftarrow{\mathbf{Hom}_{\mathcal{P}(X)}(V, -)} \end{array} \mathcal{P}(X),$$



where

$$\mathbf{Hom}_{\mathcal{P}(X)}(-_1, -_2): \mathcal{P}(X)^{\text{op}} \times \mathcal{P}(X) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(X)$$

is the bifunctor defined by<sup>1</sup>

$$\mathbf{Hom}_{\mathcal{P}(X)}(U, V) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (X \setminus U) \cup V$$

witnessed by bijections

$$\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{P}(X)}(U \cap V, W) \cong \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{P}(X)}(U, \mathbf{Hom}_{\mathcal{P}(X)}(V, W)),$$

$$\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{P}(X)}(U \cap V, W) \cong \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{P}(X)}(V, \mathbf{Hom}_{\mathcal{P}(X)}(U, W)),$$

natural in  $U, V, W \in \mathcal{P}(X)$ , i.e. where:

(a) The following conditions are equivalent:

- i. We have  $U \cap V \subset W$ .
- ii. We have  $U \subset \mathbf{Hom}_{\mathcal{P}(X)}(V, W)$ .
- iii. We have  $U \subset (X \setminus V) \cup W$ .

(b) The following conditions are equivalent:

- i. We have  $V \cap U \subset W$ .
- ii. We have  $V \subset \mathbf{Hom}_{\mathcal{P}(X)}(U, W)$ .
- iii. We have  $V \subset (X \setminus U) \cup W$ .

3. *Associativity.* We have an equality of sets

$$(U \cap V) \cap W = U \cap (V \cap W)$$

for each  $X \in \text{Obj}(\text{Sets})$  and each  $U, V, W \in \mathcal{P}(X)$ .

4. *Unitality.* Let  $X$  be a set and let  $U \in \mathcal{P}(X)$ . We have equalities of sets

$$X \cap U = U,$$

$$U \cap X = U$$

for each  $X \in \text{Obj}(\text{Sets})$  and each  $U \in \mathcal{P}(X)$ .

5. *Commutativity*. We have an equality of sets

$$U \cap V = V \cap U$$

for each  $X \in \text{Obj}(\text{Sets})$  and each  $U, V \in \mathcal{P}(X)$ .

6. *Idempotency*. We have an equality of sets

$$U \cap U = U$$

for each  $X \in \text{Obj}(\text{Sets})$  and each  $U \in \mathcal{P}(X)$ .

7. *Distributivity Over Unions*. We have equalities of sets

$$U \cap (V \cup W) = (U \cap V) \cup (U \cap W),$$

$$(U \cup V) \cap W = (U \cap W) \cup (V \cap W)$$

for each  $X \in \text{Obj}(\text{Sets})$  and each  $U, V, W \in \mathcal{P}(X)$ .

8. *Annihilation With the Empty Set*. We have an equality of sets

$$\emptyset \cap X = \emptyset,$$

$$X \cap \emptyset = \emptyset$$

for each  $X \in \text{Obj}(\text{Sets})$  and each  $U \in \mathcal{P}(X)$ .

9. *Interaction With Characteristic Functions I*. We have

$$\chi_{U \cap V} = \chi_U \chi_V$$

for each  $X \in \text{Obj}(\text{Sets})$  and each  $U, V \in \mathcal{P}(X)$ .

10. *Interaction With Characteristic Functions II*. We have

$$\chi_{U \cap V} = \min(\chi_U, \chi_V)$$

for each  $X \in \text{Obj}(\text{Sets})$  and each  $U, V \in \mathcal{P}(X)$ .

11. *Interaction With Powersets and Monoids With Zero*. The quadruple  $((\mathcal{P}(X), \emptyset), \cap, X)$  is a commutative monoid with zero.

12. *Interaction With Powersets and Semirings*. The quintuple  $(\mathcal{P}(X), \cup, \cap, \emptyset, X)$  is an idempotent commutative semiring.

<sup>1</sup>*Intuition:* Since intersections are the products in  $\mathcal{P}(X)$ , the left adjoint  $\mathbf{Hom}_{\mathcal{P}(X)}(U, V)$  works as a function type  $U \rightarrow V$ .

Now, under the Curry–Howard correspondence, the function type  $U \rightarrow V$  corresponds to implication  $U \implies V$ , which is logically equivalent to the statement  $\neg U \vee V$ , which in turn corresponds to the set  $U^c \vee V \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (X \setminus U) \cup V$ .

## PROOF 3.8.3 ► PROOF OF PROPOSITION 3.8.2

Item 1: Functoriality

See [Pro24ah].

Item 2: Adjointness

See [MSE 267469].

Item 3: Associativity

See [Pro24q].

Item 4: Unitality

This follows from [Pro24u] and Item 5.

Item 5: Commutativity

See [Pro24r].

Item 6: Idempotency

See [Pro24ag].

Item 7: Distributivity Over Unions

See [Pro24af].

Item 8: Annihilation With the Empty Set

This follows from [Pro24s] and Item 5.

Item 9: Interaction With Characteristic Functions I

See [Pro24h].

Item 10: Interaction With Characteristic Functions II

See [Pro24h].

Item 11: Interaction With Powersets and Monoids With Zero

This follows from Items 3 to 5 and 8.

Item 12: Interaction With Powersets and Semirings

This follows from Items 3 to 6 and Items 3 to 5, 7 and 8 of Proposition 3.8.2.



## 3.9 Differences

Let  $X$  and  $Y$  be sets.

**DEFINITION 3.9.1 ► DIFFERENCES**

The **difference of  $X$  and  $Y$**  is the set  $X \setminus Y$  defined by

$$X \setminus Y \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{a \in X \mid a \notin Y\}.$$

**PROPOSITION 3.9.2 ► PROPERTIES OF DIFFERENCES**

Let  $X$  be a set.

1. *Functoriality.* The assignments  $U, V, (U, V) \mapsto U \cap V$  define functors

$$\begin{aligned} U \setminus - &: (\mathcal{P}(X), \supset) \rightarrow (\mathcal{P}(X), \subset), \\ - \setminus V &: (\mathcal{P}(X), \subset) \rightarrow (\mathcal{P}(X), \supset), \\ -_1 \setminus -_2 &: (\mathcal{P}(X) \times \mathcal{P}(X), \subset \times \supset) \rightarrow (\mathcal{P}(X), \subset), \end{aligned}$$

where  $-_1 \setminus -_2$  is the functor where

- *Action on Objects.* For each  $(U, V) \in \mathcal{P}(X) \times \mathcal{P}(X)$ , we have

$$[-_1 \setminus -_2](U, V) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} U \setminus V;$$

- *Action on Morphisms.* For each pair of morphisms

$$\begin{aligned} \iota_A &: A \hookrightarrow B, \\ \iota_U &: U \hookrightarrow V \end{aligned}$$

of  $\mathcal{P}(X) \times \mathcal{P}(X)$ , the image

$$\iota_U \setminus \iota_V: A \setminus V \hookrightarrow B \setminus U$$

of  $(\iota_U, \iota_V)$  by  $\setminus$  is the inclusion

$$A \setminus V \subset B \setminus U$$

i.e. where we have

$$(\star) \text{ If } A \subset B \text{ and } U \subset V, \text{ then } A \setminus V \subset B \setminus U;$$

and where  $U \setminus -$  and  $- \setminus V$  are the partial functors of  $-_1 \setminus -_2$  at  $U, V \in \mathcal{P}(X)$ .

2. *De Morgan's Laws.* We have equalities of sets

$$X \setminus (U \cup V) = (X \setminus U) \cap (X \setminus V),$$

$$X \setminus (U \cap V) = (X \setminus U) \cup (X \setminus V)$$

for each  $X \in \text{Obj}(\text{Sets})$  and each  $U, V \in \mathcal{P}(X)$ .

3. *Interaction With Unions I.* We have equalities of sets

$$U \setminus (V \cup W) = (U \setminus V) \cap (U \setminus W)$$

for each  $X \in \text{Obj}(\text{Sets})$  and each  $U, V, W \in \mathcal{P}(X)$ .

4. *Interaction With Unions II.* We have equalities of sets

$$(U \setminus V) \cup W = (U \cup W) \setminus (V \setminus W)$$

for each  $X \in \text{Obj}(\text{Sets})$  and each  $U, V, W \in \mathcal{P}(X)$ .

5. *Interaction With Unions III.* We have equalities of sets

$$\begin{aligned} U \setminus (V \cup W) &= (U \cup W) \setminus (V \cup W) \\ &= (U \setminus V) \setminus W \\ &= (U \setminus W) \setminus V \end{aligned}$$

for each  $X \in \text{Obj}(\text{Sets})$  and each  $U, V, W \in \mathcal{P}(X)$ .

6. *Interaction With Unions IV.* We have equalities of sets

$$(U \cup V) \setminus W = (U \setminus W) \cup (V \setminus W)$$

for each  $X \in \text{Obj}(\text{Sets})$  and each  $U, V, W \in \mathcal{P}(X)$ .

7. *Interaction With Intersections.* We have equalities of sets

$$\begin{aligned} (U \setminus V) \cap W &= (U \cap W) \setminus V \\ &= U \cap (W \setminus V) \end{aligned}$$

for each  $X \in \text{Obj}(\text{Sets})$  and each  $U, V, W \in \mathcal{P}(X)$ .

8. *Interaction With Complements.* We have an equality of sets

$$U \setminus V = U \cap V^c$$

for each  $X \in \text{Obj}(\text{Sets})$  and each  $U, V \in \mathcal{P}(X)$ .

9. *Interaction With Symmetric Differences.* We have an equality of sets

$$U \setminus V = U \Delta (U \cap V)$$

for each  $X \in \text{Obj}(\text{Sets})$  and each  $U, V \in \mathcal{P}(X)$ .

10. *Triple Differences.* We have

$$U \setminus (V \setminus W) = (U \cap W) \cup (U \setminus V)$$

for each  $X \in \text{Obj}(\text{Sets})$  and each  $U, V, W \in \mathcal{P}(X)$ .

11. *Left Annihilation.* We have

$$\emptyset \setminus U = \emptyset$$

for each  $X \in \text{Obj}(\text{Sets})$  and each  $U \in \mathcal{P}(X)$ .

12. *Right Unitality.* We have

$$U \setminus \emptyset = U$$

for each  $X \in \text{Obj}(\text{Sets})$  and each  $U \in \mathcal{P}(X)$ .

13. *Invertibility.* We have

$$U \setminus U = \emptyset$$

for each  $X \in \text{Obj}(\text{Sets})$  and each  $U \in \mathcal{P}(X)$ .

14. *Interaction With Containment.* The following conditions are equivalent:

(a) We have  $V \setminus U \subset W$ .

(b) We have  $V \setminus W \subset U$ .

15. *Interaction With Characteristic Functions.* We have

$$\chi_{U \setminus V} = \chi_U - \chi_{U \cap V}$$

for each  $X \in \text{Obj}(\text{Sets})$  and each  $U, V \in \mathcal{P}(X)$ .

**PROOF 3.9.3 ► PROOF OF PROPOSITION 3.9.2**

Item 1: Functoriality

See [Pro24z] and [Pro24ad].

Item 2: De Morgan's Laws

See [Pro24m].

Item 3: Interaction With Unions I

See [Pro24n].

Item 4: Interaction With Unions II

Omitted.

Item 5: Interaction With Unions III

See [Pro24ae].

Item 6: Interaction With Unions IV

See [Pro24y].

Item 7: Interaction With Intersections

See [Pro24t].

Item 8: Interaction With Complements

See [Pro24w].

Item 9: Interaction With Symmetric Differences

See [Pro24x].

Item 10: Triple Differences

See [Pro24ac].

Item 11: Left Annihilation

Clear.

Item 12: Right Unitality

See [Pro24aa].

Item 13: Invertibility

See [Pro24ab].

Item 14: Interaction With Containment

Omitted.

## Item 15: Interaction With Characteristic Functions

See [Pro24i].

**3.10 Complements**Let  $X$  be a set and let  $U \in \mathcal{P}(X)$ .**DEFINITION 3.10.1 ► COMPLEMENTS**The **complement of  $U$**  is the set  $U^c$  defined by

$$\begin{aligned} U^c &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} X \setminus U \\ &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{a \in X \mid a \notin U\}. \end{aligned}$$

**PROPOSITION 3.10.2 ► PROPERTIES OF COMPLEMENTS**Let  $X$  be a set.

1. *Functoriality.* The assignment  $U \mapsto U^c$  defines a functor

$$(-)^c: \mathcal{P}(X)^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(X),$$

where

- *Action on Objects.* For each  $U \in \mathcal{P}(X)$ , we have

$$[(-)^c](U) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} U^c;$$

- *Action on Morphisms.* For each morphism  $\iota_U: U \hookrightarrow V$  of  $\mathcal{P}(X)$ , the image

$$\iota_U^c: V^c \hookrightarrow U^c$$

of  $\iota_U$  by  $(-)^c$  is the inclusion

$$V^c \subset U^c$$

i.e. where we have

- (★) If  $U \subset V$ , then  $V^c \subset U^c$ .



2. *De Morgan's Laws.* We have equalities of sets

$$(U \cup V)^c = U^c \cap V^c,$$

$$(U \cap V)^c = U^c \cup V^c$$

for each  $X \in \text{Obj}(\text{Sets})$  and each  $U, V \in \mathcal{P}(X)$ .

3. *Involutority.* We have

$$(U^c)^c = U$$

for each  $X \in \text{Obj}(\text{Sets})$  and each  $U \in \mathcal{P}(X)$ .

4. *Interaction With Characteristic Functions.* We have

$$\chi_{U^c} = 1 - \chi_U$$

for each  $X \in \text{Obj}(\text{Sets})$  and each  $U \in \mathcal{P}(X)$ .

#### PROOF 3.10.3 ► PROOF OF PROPOSITION 3.10.2

Item 1: Functoriality

This follows from **Item 1** of **Proposition 3.9.2**.

Item 2: De Morgan's Laws

See **[Pro24m]**.

Item 3: Involutority

See **[Pro24l]**.

Item 4: Interaction With Characteristic Functions

Clear.



### 3.11 Symmetric Differences

Let  $A$  and  $B$  be sets.

**DEFINITION 3.11.1 ► SYMMETRIC DIFFERENCES**

The **symmetric difference of  $A$  and  $B$**  is the set  $A \triangle B$  defined by

$$A \triangle B \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (A \setminus B) \cup (B \setminus A).$$

**PROPOSITION 3.11.2 ► PROPERTIES OF SYMMETRIC DIFFERENCES**

Let  $X$  be a set.

1. *Lack of Functoriality.* The assignment  $(U, V) \mapsto U \triangle V$  **need not** define functors

$$\begin{aligned} U \triangle -_2 &: (\mathcal{P}(X), \subset) \rightarrow (\mathcal{P}(X), \subset), \\ -_1 \triangle V &: (\mathcal{P}(X), \subset) \rightarrow (\mathcal{P}(X), \subset), \\ -_1 \triangle -_2 &: (\mathcal{P}(X) \times \mathcal{P}(X), \subset \times \subset) \rightarrow (\mathcal{P}(X), \subset). \end{aligned}$$

2. *Via Unions and Intersections.* We have<sup>1</sup>

$$U \triangle V = (U \cup V) \setminus (U \cap V)$$

for each  $X \in \text{Obj}(\text{Sets})$  and each  $U, V \in \mathcal{P}(X)$ .

3. *Associativity.* We have<sup>2</sup>

$$(U \triangle V) \triangle W = U \triangle (V \triangle W)$$

for each  $X \in \text{Obj}(\text{Sets})$  and each  $U, V, W \in \mathcal{P}(X)$ .

4. *Commutativity.* We have

$$U \triangle V = V \triangle U$$

for each  $X \in \text{Obj}(\text{Sets})$  and each  $U, V \in \mathcal{P}(X)$ .

5. *Unitality.* We have

$$\begin{aligned} U \triangle \emptyset &= U, \\ \emptyset \triangle U &= U \end{aligned}$$

for each  $X \in \text{Obj}(\text{Sets})$  and each  $U \in \mathcal{P}(X)$ .

6. *Invertibility.* We have

$$U \Delta U = \emptyset$$

for each  $X \in \text{Obj}(\text{Sets})$  and each  $U \in \mathcal{P}(X)$ .

7. *Interaction With Unions.* We have

$$(U \Delta V) \cup (V \Delta T) = (U \cup V \cup W) \setminus (U \cap V \cap W)$$

for each  $X \in \text{Obj}(\text{Sets})$  and each  $U, V, W \in \mathcal{P}(X)$ .

8. *Interaction With Complements I.* We have

$$U \Delta U^c = X$$

for each  $X \in \text{Obj}(\text{Sets})$  and each  $U \in \mathcal{P}(X)$ .

9. *Interaction With Complements II.* We have

$$U \Delta X = U^c,$$

$$X \Delta U = U^c$$

for each  $X \in \text{Obj}(\text{Sets})$  and each  $U \in \mathcal{P}(X)$ .

10. *Interaction With Complements III.* We have

$$U^c \Delta V^c = U \Delta V$$

for each  $X \in \text{Obj}(\text{Sets})$  and each  $U, V \in \mathcal{P}(X)$ .

11. *"Transitivity".* We have

$$(U \Delta V) \Delta (V \Delta W) = U \Delta W$$

for each  $X \in \text{Obj}(\text{Sets})$  and each  $U, V, W \in \mathcal{P}(X)$ .

12. *The Triangle Inequality for Symmetric Differences.* We have

$$U \Delta W \subset U \Delta V \cup V \Delta W$$

for each  $X \in \text{Obj}(\text{Sets})$  and each  $U, V, W \in \mathcal{P}(X)$ .

13. *Distributivity Over Intersections.* We have

$$\begin{aligned} U \cap (V \Delta W) &= (U \cap V) \Delta (U \cap W), \\ (U \Delta V) \cap W &= (U \cap W) \Delta (V \cap W) \end{aligned}$$

for each  $X \in \text{Obj}(\text{Sets})$  and each  $U, V, W \in \mathcal{P}(X)$ .

14. *Interaction With Characteristic Functions.* We have

$$\chi_{U \Delta V} = \chi_U + \chi_V - 2\chi_{U \cap V}$$

and thus, in particular, we have

$$\chi_{U \Delta V} \equiv \chi_U + \chi_V \pmod{2}$$

for each  $X \in \text{Obj}(\text{Sets})$  and each  $U, V \in \mathcal{P}(X)$ .

15. *Bijectivity.* Given  $A, B \subset \mathcal{P}(X)$ , the maps

$$\begin{aligned} A \Delta -: \mathcal{P}(X) &\rightarrow \mathcal{P}(X), \\ - \Delta B: \mathcal{P}(X) &\rightarrow \mathcal{P}(X) \end{aligned}$$

are bijections with inverses given by

$$\begin{aligned} (A \Delta -)^{-1} &= - \cup (A \cap -), \\ (- \Delta B)^{-1} &= - \cup (B \cap -). \end{aligned}$$

Moreover, the map

$$C \mapsto C \Delta (A \Delta B)$$

is a bijection of  $\mathcal{P}(X)$  onto itself sending  $A$  to  $B$  and  $B$  to  $A$ .

16. *Interaction With Powersets and Groups.* Let  $X$  be a set.

- (a) The quadruple  $(\mathcal{P}(X), \Delta, \emptyset, \text{id}_{\mathcal{P}(X)})$  is an abelian group.<sup>3</sup>
- (b) Every element of  $\mathcal{P}(X)$  has order 2 with respect to  $\Delta$ , and thus  $\mathcal{P}(X)$  is a *Boolean group* (i.e. an abelian 2-group).

17. *Interaction With Powersets and Vector Spaces I.* The pair  $(\mathcal{P}(X), \alpha_{\mathcal{P}(X)})$  consisting of

- The group  $\mathcal{P}(X)$  of ??;
- The map  $\alpha_{\mathcal{P}(X)} : \mathbb{F}_2 \times \mathcal{P}(X) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(X)$  defined by

$$\begin{aligned} 0 \cdot U &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \emptyset, \\ 1 \cdot U &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} U; \end{aligned}$$

is an  $\mathbb{F}_2$ -vector space.

18. *Interaction With Powersets and Vector Spaces II.* If  $X$  is finite, then:

- The set of singletons sets on the elements of  $X$  forms a basis for the  $\mathbb{F}_2$ -vector space  $(\mathcal{P}(X), \alpha_{\mathcal{P}(X)})$  of **Item 17**.
- We have

$$\dim(\mathcal{P}(X)) = \# \mathcal{P}(X).$$

19. *Interaction With Powersets and Rings.* The quintuple  $(\mathcal{P}(X), \Delta, \cap, \emptyset, X)$  is a commutative ring.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Illustration:

$$\begin{array}{c} \boxed{\text{Venn diagram of } U \Delta V} \\ U \Delta V \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} \boxed{\text{Venn diagram of } U \cup V} \\ U \cup V \end{array} \setminus \begin{array}{c} \boxed{\text{Venn diagram of } U \cap V} \\ U \cap V \end{array}.$$

<sup>2</sup>Illustration:

$$\begin{array}{c} \boxed{\text{Venn diagram of } U \Delta V} \\ U \Delta V \end{array} \Delta \begin{array}{c} \boxed{\text{Venn diagram of } W} \\ W \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} \boxed{\text{Venn diagram of } U \Delta V \Delta W} \\ U \Delta V \Delta W \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} \boxed{\text{Venn diagram of } U} \\ U \end{array} \Delta \begin{array}{c} \boxed{\text{Venn diagram of } V \Delta W} \\ V \Delta W \end{array}.$$

<sup>3</sup>Here are some examples:

- When  $X = \emptyset$ , we have an isomorphism of groups between  $\mathcal{P}(\emptyset)$  and the trivial group:

$$(\mathcal{P}(\emptyset), \Delta, \emptyset, \text{id}_{\mathcal{P}(\emptyset)}) \cong \text{pt}.$$

- When  $X = \text{pt}$ , we have an isomorphism of groups between  $\mathcal{P}(\text{pt})$  and  $\mathbb{Z}_2$ :

$$(\mathcal{P}(\text{pt}), \Delta, \emptyset, \text{id}_{\mathcal{P}(\text{pt})}) \cong \mathbb{Z}_2.$$

- When  $X = \{0, 1\}$ , we have an isomorphism of groups between  $\mathcal{P}(\{0, 1\})$  and  $\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$ :

$$(\mathcal{P}(\{0, 1\}), \Delta, \emptyset, \text{id}_{\mathcal{P}(\{0, 1\})}) \cong \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2.$$



<sup>4</sup> **Warning:** The analogous statement replacing intersections by unions (i.e. that the quintuple  $(\mathcal{P}(X), \Delta, \cup, \emptyset, X)$  is a ring) is false, however. See [Pro24as] for a proof.

## PROOF 3.11.3 ► PROOF OF PROPOSITION 3.11.2

Item 1: Lack of Functoriality

Omitted.

Item 2: Via Unions and Intersections

See [Pro24o].

Item 3: Associativity

See [Pro24ak].

Item 4: Commutativity

See [Pro24al].

Item 5: Unitality

This follows from Item 4 and [Pro24ap].

Item 6: Invertibility

See [Pro24ar].

Item 7: Interaction With Unions

See [Pro24ay].

Item 8: Interaction With Complements I

See [Pro24ao].

Item 9: Interaction With Complements II

This follows from Item 4 and [Pro24at].

Item 10: Interaction With Complements III

See [Pro24am].

Item 11: “Transitivity”

We have

$$\begin{aligned}
 (U \triangle V) \triangle (V \triangle W) &= U \triangle (V \triangle (V \triangle W)) && \text{(by Item 3)} \\
 &= U \triangle ((V \triangle V) \triangle W) && \text{(by Item 3)} \\
 &= U \triangle (\emptyset \triangle W) && \text{(by Item 6)} \\
 &= U \triangle W && \text{(by Item 5)}
 \end{aligned}$$

Item 12: The Triangle Inequality for Symmetric Differences

This follows from **Items 2** and **11**.

Item 13: Distributivity Over Intersections

See [**Pro24p**].

Item 14: Interaction With Characteristic Functions

See [**Pro24j**].

Item 15: Bijectivity

Clear.

Item 16: Interaction With Powersets and Groups

**Item 16a** follows from<sup>1</sup> **Items 3** to **6**, while **Item 16b** follows from **Item 6**.

Item 17: Interaction With Powersets and Vector Spaces I

Clear.

Item 18: Interaction With Powersets and Vector Spaces II

Omitted.

Item 19: Interaction With Powersets and Rings

This follows from **Items 8** and **11** of **Proposition 3.8.2** and **Items 13** and **16**.<sup>2</sup> 

<sup>1</sup>Reference: [**Pro24an**].

<sup>2</sup>Reference: [**Pro24aq**].

## 4 Powersets

### 4.1 Characteristic Functions

Let  $X$  be a set.

#### DEFINITION 4.1.1 ► CHARACTERISTIC FUNCTIONS

Let  $U \subset X$  and let  $x \in X$ .

1. The **characteristic function of  $U$** <sup>1</sup> is the function<sup>2</sup>

$$\chi_U: X \rightarrow \{t, f\}$$

defined by

$$\chi_U(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \begin{cases} \text{true} & \text{if } x \in U, \\ \text{false} & \text{if } x \notin U \end{cases}$$

for each  $x \in X$ .

2. The **characteristic function of  $x$**  is the function<sup>3</sup>

$$\chi_x: X \rightarrow \{\text{t}, \text{f}\}$$

defined by

$$\chi_x \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \chi_{\{x\}},$$

i.e. by

$$\chi_x(y) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \begin{cases} \text{true} & \text{if } x = y, \\ \text{false} & \text{if } x \neq y \end{cases}$$

for each  $y \in X$ .

3. The **characteristic relation on  $X$** <sup>4</sup> is the relation<sup>5</sup>

$$\chi_X(-, -): X \times X \rightarrow \{\text{t}, \text{f}\}$$

on  $X$  defined by<sup>6</sup>

$$\chi_X(x, y) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \begin{cases} \text{true} & \text{if } x = y, \\ \text{false} & \text{if } x \neq y \end{cases}$$

for each  $x, y \in X$ .

4. The **characteristic embedding**<sup>7</sup> of  $X$  into  $\mathcal{P}(X)$  is the function

$$\chi(-): X \hookrightarrow \mathcal{P}(X)$$

defined by

$$\chi(-)(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \chi_x$$

for each  $x \in X$ .



<sup>1</sup>Further Terminology: Also called the **indicator function of  $U$** .

<sup>2</sup>Further Notation: Also written  $\chi_X(U, -)$  or  $\chi_X(-, U)$ .

<sup>3</sup>Further Notation: Also written  $\chi_x$ ,  $\chi_X(x, -)$ , or  $\chi_X(-, x)$ .

<sup>4</sup>Further Terminology: Also called the **identity relation on  $X$** .

<sup>5</sup>Further Notation: Also written  $\chi_X^{-1}$ , or  $\sim_{\text{id}}$  in the context of relations.

<sup>6</sup>As a subset of  $X \times X$ , the relation  $\chi_X$  corresponds to the diagonal  $\Delta_X \subset X \times X$  of  $X$ .

<sup>7</sup>The name “characteristic *embedding*” comes from the fact that there is an analogue of fully faithfulness for  $\chi(-)$ : given a set  $X$ , we have

$$\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{P}(X)}(\chi_x, \chi_y) = \chi_X(x, y),$$

for each  $x, y \in X$ .

#### REMARK 4.1.2 ► CHARACTERISTIC FUNCTIONS AS DECATEGORIFICATIONS OF PRESHEAVES

The definitions in **Definition 4.1.1** are decategorifications of co/presheaves, representable co/presheaves, Hom profunctors, and the Yoneda embedding:<sup>1</sup>

1. A function

$$f: X \rightarrow \{\mathbf{t}, \mathbf{f}\}$$

is a decategorification of a presheaf

$$\mathcal{F}: C^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \text{Sets},$$

with the characteristic functions  $\chi_U$  of the subsets of  $X$  being the primordial examples (and, in fact, all examples) of these.

2. The characteristic function

$$\chi_x: X \rightarrow \{\mathbf{t}, \mathbf{f}\}$$

of an *element*  $x$  of  $X$  is a decategorification of the representable presheaf

$$h_x: C^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \text{Sets}$$

of an *object*  $x$  of a category  $C$ .

3. The characteristic relation

$$\chi_X(-_1, -_2): X \times X \rightarrow \{\mathbf{t}, \mathbf{f}\}$$

of  $X$  is a decategorification of the Hom profunctor

$$\text{Hom}_C(-_1, -_2): C^{\text{op}} \times C \rightarrow \text{Sets}$$

of a category  $C$ .

## 4. The characteristic embedding

$$\chi_{(-)} : X \hookrightarrow \mathcal{P}(X)$$

of  $X$  into  $\mathcal{P}(X)$  is a decategorification of the Yoneda embedding

$$\mathcal{Y} : C^{\text{op}} \hookrightarrow \text{PSh}(C)$$

of a category  $C$  into  $\text{PSh}(C)$ .

## 5. There is also a direct parallel between unions and colimits:

- An element of  $\mathcal{P}(X)$  is a union of elements of  $X$ , viewed as one-point subsets  $\{x\} \in \mathcal{P}(A)$ ;
- An object of  $\text{PSh}(C)$  is a colimit of objects of  $C$ , viewed as representable presheaves  $h_X \in \text{Obj}(\text{PSh}(C))$ .

<sup>1</sup>These statements can be made precise by using the embeddings

$$\begin{aligned} (-)_{\text{disc}} : \text{Sets} &\hookrightarrow \text{Cats}, \\ (-)_{\text{disc}} : \{\mathbf{t}, \mathbf{f}\}_{\text{disc}} &\hookrightarrow \text{Sets} \end{aligned}$$

of sets into categories and of classical truth values into sets.

For instance, in this approach the characteristic function

$$\chi_x : X \rightarrow \{\mathbf{t}, \mathbf{f}\}$$

of an element  $x$  of  $X$ , defined by

$$\chi_x(y) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \begin{cases} \text{true} & \text{if } x = y, \\ \text{false} & \text{if } x \neq y \end{cases}$$

for each  $y \in X$ , is recovered as the representable presheaf

$$\text{Hom}_{X_{\text{disc}}}(-, x) : X_{\text{disc}} \rightarrow \text{Sets}$$

of the corresponding object  $x$  of  $X_{\text{disc}}$ , defined on objects by

$$\text{Hom}_{X_{\text{disc}}}(y, x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \begin{cases} \text{pt} & \text{if } x = y, \\ \emptyset & \text{if } x \neq y \end{cases}$$

for each  $y \in \text{Obj}(X_{\text{disc}})$ .

**PROPOSITION 4.1.3 ► PROPERTIES OF CHARACTERISTIC FUNCTIONS**

Let  $X$  be a set.

1. *The Inclusion of Characteristic Relations Associated to a Function.* Let  $f: A \rightarrow B$  be a function. We have an inclusion<sup>1</sup>

$$\chi_B \circ (f \times f) \subset \chi_A,$$

2. *Interaction With Unions I.* We have

$$\chi_{U \cup V} = \max(\chi_U, \chi_V)$$

for each  $X \in \text{Obj}(\text{Sets})$  and each  $U, V \in \mathcal{P}(X)$ .

3. *Interaction With Unions II.* We have

$$\chi_{U \cup V} = \chi_U + \chi_V - \chi_{U \cap V}$$

for each  $X \in \text{Obj}(\text{Sets})$  and each  $U, V \in \mathcal{P}(X)$ .

4. *Interaction With Intersections I.* We have

$$\chi_{U \cap V} = \chi_U \chi_V$$

for each  $X \in \text{Obj}(\text{Sets})$  and each  $U, V \in \mathcal{P}(X)$ .

5. *Interaction With Intersections II.* We have

$$\chi_{U \cap V} = \min(\chi_U, \chi_V)$$

for each  $X \in \text{Obj}(\text{Sets})$  and each  $U, V \in \mathcal{P}(X)$ .

6. *Interaction With Differences.* We have

$$\chi_{U \setminus V} = \chi_U - \chi_{U \cap V}$$

for each  $X \in \text{Obj}(\text{Sets})$  and each  $U, V \in \mathcal{P}(X)$ .

7. *Interaction With Complements.* We have

$$\chi_{U^c} = 1 - \chi_U$$

for each  $X \in \text{Obj}(\text{Sets})$  and each  $U \in \mathcal{P}(X)$ .

8. *Interaction With Symmetric Differences.* We have

$$\chi_{U \Delta V} = \chi_U + \chi_V - 2\chi_{U \cap V}$$

and thus, in particular, we have

$$\chi_{U \Delta V} \equiv \chi_U + \chi_V \pmod{2}$$

for each  $X \in \text{Obj}(\text{Sets})$  and each  $U, V \in \mathcal{P}(X)$ .

<sup>1</sup>This is the 0-categorical version of [Categories](#), ??.

#### PROOF 4.1.4 ► PROOF OF PROPOSITION 4.1.3

Item 1: The Inclusion of Characteristic Relations Associated to a Function

The inclusion  $\chi_B(f(a), f(b)) \subset \chi_A(a, b)$  is equivalent to the statement “if  $a = b$ , then  $f(a) = f(b)$ ”, which is true.

Item 2: Interaction With Unions I

This is a repetition of [Item 8](#) of [Proposition 3.6.2](#) and is proved there.

Item 3: Interaction With Unions II

This is a repetition of [Item 9](#) of [Proposition 3.6.2](#) and is proved there.

Item 4: Interaction With Intersections I

This is a repetition of [Item 9](#) of [Proposition 3.8.2](#) and is proved there.

Item 5: Interaction With Intersections II

This is a repetition of [Item 10](#) of [Proposition 3.8.2](#) and is proved there.

Item 6: Interaction With Differences

This is a repetition of [Item 15](#) of [Proposition 3.9.2](#) and is proved there.

Item 7: Interaction With Complements

This is a repetition of [Item 4](#) of [Proposition 3.10.2](#) and is proved there.

**Item 8: Interaction With Symmetric Differences**

This is a repetition of [Item 14](#) of [Proposition 3.11.2](#) and is proved there.

**4.2 The Yoneda Lemma for Sets**

Let  $X$  be a set and let  $U \subset X$  be a subset of  $X$ .

**PROPOSITION 4.2.1 ► THE YONEDA LEMMA FOR SETS**

We have

$$\chi_{\mathcal{P}(X)}(\chi_x, \chi_U) = \chi_U(x)$$

for each  $x \in X$ , giving an equality of functions

$$\chi_{\mathcal{P}(X)}(\chi_{(-)}, \chi_U) = \chi_U.$$

**PROOF 4.2.2 ► PROOF OF PROPOSITION 4.2.1**

Clear.

**COROLLARY 4.2.3 ► THE CHARACTERISTIC EMBEDDING IS FULLY FAITHFUL**

The characteristic embedding is fully faithful, i.e., we have

$$\chi_{\mathcal{P}(X)}(\chi_x, \chi_y) = \chi_X(x, y)$$

for each  $x, y \in X$ .

**PROOF 4.2.4 ► PROOF OF COROLLARY 4.2.3**

This follows from [Proposition 4.2.1](#).

**4.3 Powersets**

Let  $X$  be a set.

**DEFINITION 4.3.1 ► POWERSETS**

The **powerset** of  $X$  is the set  $\mathcal{P}(X)$  defined by

$$\mathcal{P}(X) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{U \in P \mid U \subset X\},$$

where  $P$  is the set in the axiom of powerset, ?? of ??.

**REMARK 4.3.2 ► POWERSETS AS DECATEGORIFICATIONS OF CO/PRESHEAF CATEGORIES**

The powerset of a set is a decategorification of the category of presheaves of a category: while<sup>1</sup>

- The powerset of a set  $X$  is equivalently (Item 6 of Proposition 4.3.3) the set

$$\text{Sets}(X, \{t, f\})$$

of functions from  $X$  to the set  $\{t, f\}$  of classical truth values;

- The category of presheaves on a category  $C$  is the category

$$\text{Fun}(C^{\text{op}}, \text{Sets})$$

of functors from  $C^{\text{op}}$  to the category Sets of sets.

<sup>1</sup>This parallel is based on the following comparison:

- A category is enriched over the category

$$\text{Sets} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{Cats}_0$$

of sets (i.e. “0-categories”), with presheaves taking values on it;

- A set is enriched over the set

$$\{t, f\} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{Cats}_{-1}$$

of classical truth values (i.e. “(−1)-categories”), with characteristic functions taking values on it.

**PROPOSITION 4.3.3 ► PROPERTIES OF POWERSETS**

Let  $X$  be a set.

1. *Functoriality.* The assignment  $X \mapsto \mathcal{P}(X)$  defines functors

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{P}_* &: \mathbf{Sets} \rightarrow \mathbf{Sets}, \\ \mathcal{P}^{-1} &: \mathbf{Sets}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Sets}, \\ \mathcal{P}_! &: \mathbf{Sets} \rightarrow \mathbf{Sets}\end{aligned}$$

where

· *Action on Objects.* For each  $A \in \mathbf{Obj}(\mathbf{Sets})$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{P}_*(A) &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathcal{P}(A), \\ \mathcal{P}^{-1}(A) &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathcal{P}(A), \\ \mathcal{P}_!(A) &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathcal{P}(A);\end{aligned}$$

· *Action on Morphisms.* For each morphism  $f: A \rightarrow B$  of  $\mathbf{Sets}$ , the images

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{P}_*(f) &: \mathcal{P}(A) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(B), \\ \mathcal{P}^{-1}(f) &: \mathcal{P}(B) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(A), \\ \mathcal{P}_!(f) &: \mathcal{P}(A) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(B)\end{aligned}$$

of  $f$  by  $\mathcal{P}_*$ ,  $\mathcal{P}^{-1}$ , and  $\mathcal{P}_!$  are defined by

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{P}_*(f) &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} f_*, \\ \mathcal{P}^{-1}(f) &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} f^{-1}, \\ \mathcal{P}_!(f) &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} f_!,\end{aligned}$$

as in [Definitions 4.4.1](#), [4.5.1](#) and [4.6.1](#).

2. *Adjointness I.* We have an adjunction

$$(\mathcal{P}^{-1} \dashv \mathcal{P}^{-1, \text{op}}): \mathbf{Sets}^{\text{op}} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\mathcal{P}^{-1}} \\ \perp \\ \xleftarrow{\mathcal{P}^{-1, \text{op}}} \end{array} \mathbf{Sets},$$

witnessed by a bijection

$$\underbrace{\mathbf{Sets}^{\text{op}}(\mathcal{P}(X), Y)}_{\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathbf{Sets}(Y, \mathcal{P}(X))} \cong \mathbf{Sets}(X, \mathcal{P}(Y)),$$

natural in  $X \in \mathbf{Obj}(\mathbf{Sets})$  and  $Y \in \mathbf{Obj}(\mathbf{Sets}^{\text{op}})$ .

3. *Adjointness II.* We have an adjunction

$$(Gr \dashv \mathcal{P}_*) : \text{Sets} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{Gr} \\ \perp \\ \xleftarrow{\mathcal{P}_*} \end{array} \text{Rel},$$

witnessed by a bijection of sets

$$\text{Rel}(Gr(A), B) \cong \text{Sets}(A, \mathcal{P}(B))$$

natural in  $A \in \text{Obj}(\text{Sets})$  and  $B \in \text{Obj}(\text{Rel})$ , where  $Gr$  is the graph functor of [Relations](#), [Item 1](#) of [Proposition 3.1.2](#).

4. *Symmetric Strong Monoidality With Respect to Coproducts.* The powerset functor  $\mathcal{P}_*$  of [Item 1](#) has a symmetric strong monoidal structure

$$(\mathcal{P}_*, \mathcal{P}_*^{\amalg}, \mathcal{P}_{*|\mathbb{K}}^{\amalg}) : (\text{Sets}, \amalg, \emptyset) \rightarrow (\text{Sets}, \times, \text{pt})$$

being equipped with isomorphisms

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{P}_{*|X,Y}^{\amalg} : \mathcal{P}(X) \times \mathcal{P}(Y) &\xrightarrow{\cong} \mathcal{P}(X \amalg Y), \\ \mathcal{P}_{*|\mathbb{K}}^{\amalg} : \text{pt} &\xrightarrow{=} \mathcal{P}(\emptyset), \end{aligned}$$

natural in  $X, Y \in \text{Obj}(\text{Sets})$ .

5. *Symmetric Lax Monoidality With Respect to Products.* The powerset functor  $\mathcal{P}_*$  of [Item 1](#) has a symmetric lax monoidal structure

$$(\mathcal{P}_*, \mathcal{P}_*^{\otimes}, \mathcal{P}_{*|\mathbb{K}}^{\otimes}) : (\text{Sets}, \times, \text{pt}) \rightarrow (\text{Sets}, \times, \text{pt})$$

being equipped with isomorphisms

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{P}_{*|X,Y}^{\otimes} : \mathcal{P}(X) \times \mathcal{P}(Y) &\rightarrow \mathcal{P}(X \times Y), \\ \mathcal{P}_{*|\mathbb{K}}^{\otimes} : \text{pt} &\xrightarrow{=} \mathcal{P}(\emptyset), \end{aligned}$$

natural in  $X, Y \in \text{Obj}(\text{Sets})$ , where  $\mathcal{P}_{*|X,Y}^{\otimes}$  is given by

$$\mathcal{P}_{*|X,Y}^{\otimes}(U, V) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} U \times V$$

for each  $(U, V) \in \mathcal{P}(X) \times \mathcal{P}(Y)$ .



6. *Powersets as Sets of Functions.* The assignment  $U \mapsto \chi_U$  defines a bijection<sup>1</sup>

$$\chi(-) : \mathcal{P}(X) \xrightarrow{\cong} \text{Sets}(X, \{\mathbf{t}, \mathbf{f}\}),$$

natural in  $X \in \text{Obj}(\text{Sets})$ .

7. *Powersets as Sets of Relations.* We have bijections

$$\mathcal{P}(X) \cong \text{Rel}(\text{pt}, X),$$

$$\mathcal{P}(X) \cong \text{Rel}(X, \text{pt}),$$

natural in  $X \in \text{Obj}(\text{Sets})$ .

8. *As a Free Cocompletion: Universal Property.* The pair  $(\mathcal{P}(X), \chi(-))$  consisting of

- The powerset  $\mathcal{P}(X)$  of  $X$ ;
- The characteristic embedding  $\chi(-) : X \hookrightarrow \mathcal{P}(X)$  of  $X$  into  $\mathcal{P}(X)$ ;

satisfies the following universal property:

(★) Given another pair  $(Y, f)$  consisting of

- A cocomplete poset  $(Y, \leq)$ ;
- A function  $f : X \rightarrow Y$ ;

there exists a unique cocontinuous morphism of posets  $(\mathcal{P}(X), \subset) \xrightarrow{\exists!} (Y, \leq)$  making the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & \mathcal{P}(X) & \\ \chi x \nearrow & & \downarrow \exists! \\ X & \xrightarrow{f} & Y \end{array}$$

commute.

9. *As a Free Cocompletion: Adjointness.* We have an adjunction<sup>2</sup>

$$(\chi(-) \dashv \text{忘}) : \text{Sets} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\chi(-)} \\ \perp \\ \xleftarrow{\text{忘}} \end{array} \text{Pos}^{\text{cocomp.}},$$

witnessed by a bijection

$$\text{Pos}^{\text{cocomp.}}((\mathcal{P}(X), \subset), (Y, \leq)) \cong \text{Sets}(X, Y),$$

natural in  $X \in \text{Obj}(\text{Sets})$  and  $(Y, \leq) \in \text{Obj}(\text{Pos})$ , where

- We have a natural map

$$\chi_X^* : \text{Pos}^{\text{cocomp.}}((\mathcal{P}(X), \subset), (Y, \leq)) \rightarrow \text{Sets}(X, Y)$$

defined by

$$\chi_X^*(f) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} f \circ \chi_X,$$

i.e. by sending a cocontinuous morphism of posets  $f : \mathcal{P}(X) \rightarrow Y$  to the composition

$$X \xrightarrow{\chi_X} \mathcal{P}(X) \xrightarrow{f} Y;$$

- We have a natural map

$$\text{Lan}_{\chi_X} : \text{Sets}(X, Y) \rightarrow \text{Pos}^{\text{cocomp.}}((\mathcal{P}(X), \subset), (Y, \leq))$$

computed by

$$\begin{aligned} [\text{Lan}_{\chi_X}(f)](U) &\cong \int^{x \in X} \chi_{\mathcal{P}(X)}(\chi_x, U) \odot f(x) \\ &\cong \int^{x \in X} \chi_U(x) \odot f(x) && \text{(by Proposition 4.2.1)} \\ &\cong \bigvee_{x \in X} (\chi_U(x) \odot f(x)) \end{aligned}$$

for each  $U \in \mathcal{P}(X)$ , where:

- $\bigvee$  is the join in  $(Y, \leq)$ ;
- We have

$$\text{true} \odot f(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} f(x),$$

$$\text{false} \odot f(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \emptyset_Y,$$

where  $\emptyset_Y$  is the minimal element of  $(Y, \leq)$ .

<sup>1</sup>This bijection is a decategorified form of the equivalence

$$\mathbf{PSh}(C) \cong^{\text{eq}} \mathbf{DFib}(C)$$

of Fibred Categories, ?? of ??, with  $\chi(-)$  being a decategorified version of the category of elements construction of Fibred Categories, ??.

See also ?? of ??.

<sup>2</sup>In this sense,  $\mathcal{P}(A)$  is the free cocompletion of  $A$ . (Note that, despite its name, however, this is not an idempotent operation, as we have  $\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{P}(A)) \neq \mathcal{P}(A)$ .)

#### PROOF 4.3.4 ► PROOF OF PROPOSITION 4.3.3

##### Item 1: Functoriality

This follows from [Items 3 and 4 of Proposition 4.4.5](#), [Items 3 and 4 of Proposition 4.5.5](#), and [Items 3 and 4 of Proposition 4.6.7](#).

##### Item 2: Adjointness I

Omitted.

##### Item 3: Adjointness II

We have

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Rel}(\text{Gr}(A), B) &= \mathcal{P}(A \times B) \\ &= \text{Sets}(A \times B, \{t, f\}) && \text{(by Item 6)} \\ &= \text{Sets}(A, \text{Sets}(B, \{t, f\})) && \text{(by Item 2 of Proposition 1.2.3)} \\ &= \text{Sets}(A, \mathcal{P}(B)) && \text{(by Item 6)} \end{aligned}$$

with all bijections natural in  $A$  and  $B$ .

##### Item 4: Symmetric Strong Monoidality With Respect to Coproducts

Omitted.

##### Item 5: Symmetric Lax Monoidality With Respect to Products

Omitted.

##### Item 6: Powersets as Sets of Functions

Omitted.

##### Item 7: Powersets as Sets of Relations

Omitted.

##### Item 8: As a Free Cocompletion: Universal Property

This is a rephrasing of ??.

Item 9: As a Free Cocompletion: Adjointness

Omitted. 

## 4.4 Direct Images

Let  $A$  and  $B$  be sets and let  $f: A \rightarrow B$  be a function.

### DEFINITION 4.4.1 ► DIRECT IMAGES

The **direct image function associated to  $f$**  is the function<sup>1</sup>

$$f_*: \mathcal{P}(A) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(B)$$

defined by<sup>2,3</sup>

$$\begin{aligned} f_*(U) &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} f(U) \\ &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \left\{ b \in B \mid \begin{array}{l} \text{there exists some } a \in \\ U \text{ such that } b = f(a) \end{array} \right\} \\ &= \{ f(a) \in B \mid a \in U \} \end{aligned}$$

for each  $U \in \mathcal{P}(A)$ .

<sup>1</sup>*Further Notation:* Also written  $\exists_f: \mathcal{P}(A) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(B)$ . This notation comes from the fact that the following statements are equivalent, where  $b \in B$  and  $U \in \mathcal{P}(A)$ :

- We have  $b \in \exists_f(U)$ .
- There exists some  $a \in U$  such that  $f(a) = b$ .

<sup>2</sup>*Further Terminology:* The set  $f(U)$  is called the **direct image of  $U$  by  $f$** .

<sup>3</sup>We also have

$$f_*(U) = B \setminus f_!(A \setminus U);$$

see [Item 7](#) of [Proposition 4.4.3](#).

### REMARK 4.4.2 ► UNWINDING DEFINITION 4.4.1

Identifying subsets of  $A$  with functions from  $A$  to  $\{\text{true}, \text{false}\}$  via [Item 6](#) of [Proposition 4.3.3](#), we see that the direct image function associated to  $f$  is equivalently the function

$$f_*: \mathcal{P}(A) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(B)$$

defined by

$$\begin{aligned}
 f_*(\chi_U) &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{Lan}_f(\chi_U) \\
 &= \text{colim} \left( \left( f \overset{\rightarrow}{\times} \underline{(-1)} \right) \overset{\text{pr}}{\twoheadrightarrow} A \xrightarrow{\chi_U} \{t, f\} \right) \\
 &= \text{colim}_{\substack{a \in A \\ f(a) = -1}} (\chi_U(a)) \\
 &= \bigvee_{\substack{a \in A \\ f(a) = -1}} (\chi_U(a)).
 \end{aligned}$$

So, in other words, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 [f_*(\chi_U)](b) &= \bigvee_{\substack{a \in A \\ f(a) = b}} (\chi_U(a)) \\
 &= \begin{cases} \text{true} & \text{if there exists some } a \in A \text{ such} \\ & \text{that } f(a) = b \text{ and } a \in U, \\ \text{false} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \\
 &= \begin{cases} \text{true} & \text{if there exists some } a \in U \\ & \text{such that } f(a) = b, \\ \text{false} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}
 \end{aligned}$$

for each  $b \in B$ .

#### PROPOSITION 4.4.3 ► PROPERTIES OF DIRECT IMAGES I

Let  $f: A \rightarrow B$  be a function.

1. *Functoriality.* The assignment  $U \mapsto f_*(U)$  defines a functor

$$f_*: (\mathcal{P}(A), \subset) \rightarrow (\mathcal{P}(B), \subset)$$

where

- *Action on Objects.* For each  $U \in \mathcal{P}(A)$ , we have

$$[f_*](U) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} f_*(U);$$

• *Action on Morphisms.* For each  $U, V \in \mathcal{P}(A)$ :

(★) If  $U \subset V$ , then  $f_*(U) \subset f_*(V)$ .

2. *Triple Adjointness.* We have a triple adjunction

$$(f_* \dashv f^{-1} \dashv f_!): \quad \mathcal{P}(A) \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{f_*} \\ \perp \\ \xleftarrow{f^{-1}} \\ \perp \\ \xrightarrow{f_!} \end{array} \mathcal{P}(B),$$

witnessed by bijections of sets

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{P}(B)}(f_*(U), V) &\cong \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{P}(A)}(U, f^{-1}(V)), \\ \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{P}(A)}(f^{-1}(U), V) &\cong \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{P}(A)}(U, f_!(V)), \end{aligned}$$

natural in  $U \in \mathcal{P}(A)$  and  $V \in \mathcal{P}(B)$  and (respectively)  $V \in \mathcal{P}(A)$  and  $U \in \mathcal{P}(B)$ , i.e. where:

(a) The following conditions are equivalent:

- i. We have  $f_*(U) \subset V$ .
- ii. We have  $U \subset f^{-1}(V)$ .

(b) The following conditions are equivalent:

- i. We have  $f^{-1}(U) \subset V$ .
- ii. We have  $U \subset f_!(V)$ .

3. *Preservation of Colimits.* We have an equality of sets

$$f_*\left(\bigcup_{i \in I} U_i\right) = \bigcup_{i \in I} f_*(U_i),$$

natural in  $\{U_i\}_{i \in I} \in \mathcal{P}(A)^{\times I}$ . In particular, we have equalities

$$\begin{aligned} f_*(U) \cup f_*(V) &= f_*(U \cup V), \\ f_*(\emptyset) &= \emptyset, \end{aligned}$$

natural in  $U, V \in \mathcal{P}(A)$ .

4. *Oplax Preservation of Limits.* We have an inclusion of sets

$$f_*\left(\bigcap_{i \in I} U_i\right) \subset \bigcap_{i \in I} f_*(U_i),$$

natural in  $\{U_i\}_{i \in I} \in \mathcal{P}(A)^{\times I}$ . In particular, we have inclusions

$$\begin{aligned} f_*(U \cap V) &\subset f_*(U) \cap f_*(V), \\ f_*(A) &\subset B, \end{aligned}$$

natural in  $U, V \in \mathcal{P}(A)$ .

5. *Symmetric Strict Monoidality With Respect to Unions.* The direct image function of **Item 1** has a symmetric strict monoidal structure

$$(f_*, f_*^\otimes, f_{*|\mathbb{K}}^\otimes): (\mathcal{P}(A), \cup, \emptyset) \rightarrow (\mathcal{P}(B), \cup, \emptyset),$$

being equipped with equalities

$$\begin{aligned} f_{*|U,V}^\otimes: f_*(U) \cup f_*(V) &\xrightarrow{=} f_*(U \cup V), \\ f_{*|\mathbb{K}}^\otimes: \emptyset &\xrightarrow{=} \emptyset, \end{aligned}$$

natural in  $U, V \in \mathcal{P}(A)$ .

6. *Symmetric Oplax Monoidality With Respect to Intersections.* The direct image function of **Item 1** has a symmetric oplax monoidal structure

$$(f_*, f_*^\otimes, f_{*|\mathbb{K}}^\otimes): (\mathcal{P}(A), \cap, A) \rightarrow (\mathcal{P}(B), \cap, B),$$

being equipped with inclusions

$$\begin{aligned} f_{*|U,V}^\otimes: f_*(U \cap V) &\hookrightarrow f_*(U) \cap f_*(V), \\ f_{*|\mathbb{K}}^\otimes: f_*(A) &\hookrightarrow B, \end{aligned}$$

natural in  $U, V \in \mathcal{P}(A)$ .

7. *Relation to Direct Images With Compact Support.* We have

$$f_*(U) = B \setminus f_!(A \setminus U)$$

for each  $U \in \mathcal{P}(A)$ .

**PROOF 4.4.4 ► PROOF OF PROPOSITION 4.4.3****Item 1: Functoriality**

Clear.

**Item 2: Triple Adjointness**

This follows from **Kan Extensions**, ?? of ??.

**Item 3: Preservation of Colimits**

This follows from **Item 2** and **Categories**, ?? of ??.

**Item 4: Oplax Preservation of Limits**

Omitted.

**Item 5: Symmetric Strict Monoidality With Respect to Unions**

This follows from **Item 3**.

**Item 6: Symmetric Oplax Monoidality With Respect to Intersections**

This follows from ??.


**Item 7: Relation to Direct Images With Compact Support**

Applying ?? of ?? to  $A \setminus U$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} f_!(A \setminus U) &= B \setminus f_*(A \setminus (A \setminus U)) \\ &= B \setminus f_*(U). \end{aligned}$$

Taking complements, we then obtain

$$\begin{aligned} f_*(U) &= B \setminus (B \setminus f_*(U)), \\ &= B \setminus f_!(A \setminus U), \end{aligned}$$

which finishes the proof. 

**PROPOSITION 4.4.5 ► PROPERTIES OF DIRECT IMAGES II**

Let  $f: A \rightarrow B$  be a function.

1. *Functionality I.* The assignment  $f \mapsto f_*$  defines a function

$$(-)_{*|A,B}: \text{Sets}(A, B) \rightarrow \text{Sets}(\mathcal{P}(A), \mathcal{P}(B)).$$



2. *Functionality II.* The assignment  $f \mapsto f_*$  defines a function

$$(-)_{*|A,B}: \text{Sets}(A, B) \rightarrow \text{Pos}((\mathcal{P}(A), \subset), (\mathcal{P}(B), \subset)).$$

3. *Interaction With Identities.* For each  $A \in \text{Obj}(\text{Sets})$ , we have

$$(\text{id}_A)_* = \text{id}_{\mathcal{P}(A)};$$

4. *Interaction With Composition.* For each pair of composable functions  $f: A \rightarrow B$  and  $g: B \rightarrow C$ , we have

$$(g \circ f)_* = g_* \circ f_*,$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{P}(A) & \xrightarrow{f_*} & \mathcal{P}(B) \\ & \searrow (g \circ f)_* & \downarrow g_* \\ & & \mathcal{P}(C). \end{array}$$

#### PROOF 4.4.6 ► PROOF OF PROPOSITION 4.4.5

Item 1: Functionality I

Clear.

Item 2: Functionality II

Clear.

Item 3: Interaction With Identities

This follows from **Kan Extensions**, ?? of ??.

Item 4: Interaction With Composition

This follows from **Kan Extensions**, ?? of ??.



## 4.5 Inverse Images

Let  $A$  and  $B$  be sets and let  $f: A \rightarrow B$  be a function.

**DEFINITION 4.5.1 ► INVERSE IMAGES**

The **inverse image function associated to**  $f$  is the function<sup>1</sup>

$$f^{-1}: \mathcal{P}(B) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(A)$$

defined by<sup>2</sup>

$$f^{-1}(V) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{a \in A \mid \text{we have } f(a) \in V\}$$

for each  $V \in \mathcal{P}(B)$ .

<sup>1</sup>Further Notation: Also written  $f^*: \mathcal{P}(B) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(A)$ .

<sup>2</sup>Further Terminology: The set  $f^{-1}(V)$  is called the **inverse image of  $V$  by  $f$** .

**REMARK 4.5.2 ► UNWINDING DEFINITION 4.5.1**

Identifying subsets of  $B$  with functions from  $B$  to  $\{\text{true}, \text{false}\}$  via [Item 6 of Proposition 4.3.3](#), we see that the inverse image function associated to  $f$  is equivalently the function

$$f^*: \mathcal{P}(B) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(A)$$

defined by

$$f^*(\chi_V) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \chi_V \circ f$$

for each  $\chi_V \in \mathcal{P}(B)$ , where  $\chi_V \circ f$  is the composition

$$A \xrightarrow{f} B \xrightarrow{\chi_V} \{\text{true}, \text{false}\}$$

in Sets.

**PROPOSITION 4.5.3 ► PROPERTIES OF INVERSE IMAGES I**

Let  $f: A \rightarrow B$  be a function.

1. *Functoriality.* The assignment  $V \mapsto f^{-1}(V)$  defines a functor

$$f^{-1}: (\mathcal{P}(B), \subset) \rightarrow (\mathcal{P}(A), \subset)$$

where

- *Action on Objects.* For each  $V \in \mathcal{P}(B)$ , we have

$$[f^{-1}](V) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} f^{-1}(V);$$

• *Action on Morphisms.* For each  $U, V \in \mathcal{P}(B)$ :

(★) If  $U \subset V$ , then  $f^{-1}(U) \subset f^{-1}(V)$ .

2. *Triple Adjointness.* We have a triple adjunction

$$(f_* \dashv f^{-1} \dashv f_!): \quad \mathcal{P}(A) \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{f_*} \\ \perp \\ \xleftarrow{f^{-1}} \\ \perp \\ \xrightarrow{f_!} \end{array} \mathcal{P}(B),$$

witnessed by bijections of sets

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{P}(B)}(f_*(U), V) &\cong \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{P}(A)}(U, f^{-1}(V)), \\ \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{P}(A)}(f^{-1}(U), V) &\cong \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{P}(A)}(U, f_!(V)), \end{aligned}$$

natural in  $U \in \mathcal{P}(A)$  and  $V \in \mathcal{P}(B)$  and (respectively)  $V \in \mathcal{P}(A)$  and  $U \in \mathcal{P}(B)$ , i.e. where:

(a) The following conditions are equivalent:

- i. We have  $f_*(U) \subset V$ ;
- ii. We have  $U \subset f^{-1}(V)$ ;

(b) The following conditions are equivalent:

- i. We have  $f^{-1}(U) \subset V$ .
- ii. We have  $U \subset f_!(V)$ .

3. *Preservation of Colimits.* We have an equality of sets

$$f^{-1}\left(\bigcup_{i \in I} U_i\right) = \bigcup_{i \in I} f^{-1}(U_i),$$

natural in  $\{U_i\}_{i \in I} \in \mathcal{P}(B)^{\times I}$ . In particular, we have equalities

$$\begin{aligned} f^{-1}(U) \cup f^{-1}(V) &= f^{-1}(U \cup V), \\ f^{-1}(\emptyset) &= \emptyset, \end{aligned}$$

natural in  $U, V \in \mathcal{P}(B)$ .

4. *Preservation of Limits.* We have an equality of sets

$$f^{-1}\left(\bigcap_{i \in I} U_i\right) = \bigcap_{i \in I} f^{-1}(U_i),$$

natural in  $\{U_i\}_{i \in I} \in \mathcal{P}(B)^{\times I}$ . In particular, we have equalities

$$\begin{aligned} f^{-1}(U) \cap f^{-1}(V) &= f^{-1}(U \cap V), \\ f^{-1}(B) &= A, \end{aligned}$$

natural in  $U, V \in \mathcal{P}(B)$ .

5. *Symmetric Strict Monoidality With Respect to Unions.* The inverse image function of **Item 1** has a symmetric strict monoidal structure

$$\left(f^{-1}, f^{-1, \otimes}, f_{\#}^{-1, \otimes}\right): (\mathcal{P}(B), \cup, \emptyset) \rightarrow (\mathcal{P}(A), \cup, \emptyset),$$

being equipped with equalities

$$\begin{aligned} f_{U, V}^{-1, \otimes}: f^{-1}(U) \cup f^{-1}(V) &\xrightarrow{=} f^{-1}(U \cup V), \\ f_{\#}^{-1, \otimes}: \emptyset &\xrightarrow{=} f^{-1}(\emptyset), \end{aligned}$$

natural in  $U, V \in \mathcal{P}(B)$ .

6. *Symmetric Strict Monoidality With Respect to Intersections.* The inverse image function of **Item 1** has a symmetric strict monoidal structure

$$\left(f^{-1}, f^{-1, \otimes}, f_{\#}^{-1, \otimes}\right): (\mathcal{P}(B), \cap, B) \rightarrow (\mathcal{P}(A), \cap, A),$$

being equipped with equalities

$$\begin{aligned} f_{U, V}^{-1, \otimes}: f^{-1}(U) \cap f^{-1}(V) &\xrightarrow{=} f^{-1}(U \cap V), \\ f_{\#}^{-1, \otimes}: A &\xrightarrow{=} f^{-1}(B), \end{aligned}$$

natural in  $U, V \in \mathcal{P}(B)$ .

## PROOF 4.5.4 ► PROOF OF PROPOSITION 4.5.3

Item 1: Functoriality

Clear.

Item 2: Triple Adjointness

This follows from [Kan Extensions](#), ?? of ??.

Item 3: Preservation of Colimits

This follows from [Item 2](#) and [Categories](#), ?? of ??.


Item 4: Preservation of Limits

This follows from [Item 2](#) and [Categories](#), ?? of ??.

Item 5: Symmetric Strict Monoidality With Respect to Unions

This follows from [Item 3](#).

Item 6: Symmetric Strict Monoidality With Respect to Intersections

This follows from [Item 4](#). 

## PROPOSITION 4.5.5 ► PROPERTIES OF INVERSE IMAGES II

Let  $f: A \rightarrow B$  be a function.

1. *Functionality I.* The assignment  $f \mapsto f^{-1}$  defines a function

$$(-)_{A,B}^{-1}: \text{Sets}(A, B) \rightarrow \text{Sets}(\mathcal{P}(B), \mathcal{P}(A)).$$

2. *Functionality II.* The assignment  $f \mapsto f^{-1}$  defines a function

$$(-)_{A,B}^{-1}: \text{Sets}(A, B) \rightarrow \text{Pos}((\mathcal{P}(B), \subset), (\mathcal{P}(A), \subset)).$$

3. *Interaction With Identities.* For each  $A \in \text{Obj}(\text{Sets})$ , we have

$$\text{id}_A^{-1} = \text{id}_{\mathcal{P}(A)};$$

4. *Interaction With Composition.* For each pair of composable functions  $f: A \rightarrow$

$B$  and  $g: B \rightarrow C$ , we have

$$(g \circ f)^{-1} = f^{-1} \circ g^{-1},$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{P}(C) & \xrightarrow{g^{-1}} & \mathcal{P}(B) \\ & \searrow (g \circ f)^{-1} & \downarrow f^{-1} \\ & & \mathcal{P}(A). \end{array}$$

#### PROOF 4.5.6 ► PROOF OF PROPOSITION 4.5.5

Item 1: Functionality I

Clear.

Item 2: Functionality II

Clear.

Item 3: Interaction With Identities

This follows from **Categories**, ?? of ??.

Item 4: Interaction With Composition

This follows from **Categories**, ?? of ??.



## 4.6 Direct Images With Compact Support

Let  $A$  and  $B$  be sets and let  $f: A \rightarrow B$  be a function.

#### DEFINITION 4.6.1 ► DIRECT IMAGES WITH COMPACT SUPPORT

The **direct image with compact support function associated to  $f$**  is the function<sup>1</sup>

$$f_! : \mathcal{P}(A) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(B)$$

defined by<sup>2,3</sup>

$$\begin{aligned} f_!(U) &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \left\{ b \in B \mid \text{for each } a \in A, \text{ if we have } \right. \\ &\quad \left. f(a) = b, \text{ then } a \in U \right\} \\ &= \{ b \in B \mid \text{we have } f^{-1}(b) \subset U \} \end{aligned}$$

for each  $U \in \mathcal{P}(A)$ .

<sup>1</sup>*Further Notation:* Also written  $\forall_f: \mathcal{P}(A) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(B)$ . This notation comes from the fact that the following statements are equivalent, where  $b \in B$  and  $U \in \mathcal{P}(A)$ :

- We have  $b \in \forall_f(U)$ .
- For each  $a \in A$ , if  $b = f(a)$ , then  $a \in U$ .

<sup>2</sup>*Further Terminology:* The set  $f_!(U)$  is called the **direct image with compact support of  $U$  by  $f$** .

<sup>3</sup>We also have

$$f_!(U) = B \setminus f_*(A \setminus U);$$

see [Item 7](#) of [Proposition 4.6.5](#).

#### REMARK 4.6.2 ► UNWINDING DEFINITION 4.6.1

Identifying subsets of  $A$  with functions from  $A$  to  $\{\text{true}, \text{false}\}$  via [Item 6](#) of [Proposition 4.3.3](#), we see that the direct image with compact support function associated to  $f$  is equivalently the function

$$f_!: \mathcal{P}(A) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(B)$$

defined by

$$\begin{aligned} f_!(\chi_U) &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{Ran}_f(\chi_U) \\ &= \lim \left( \left( \underline{(-1)} \times f \right) \xrightarrow{\text{pr}} A \xrightarrow{\chi_U} \{\text{true}, \text{false}\} \right) \\ &= \lim_{\substack{a \in A \\ f(a) = -1}} (\chi_U(a)) \\ &= \bigwedge_{\substack{a \in A \\ f(a) = -1}} (\chi_U(a)). \end{aligned}$$

So, in other words, we have

$$\begin{aligned} [f_!(\chi_U)](b) &= \bigwedge_{\substack{a \in A \\ f(a) = b}} (\chi_U(a)) \\ &= \begin{cases} \text{true} & \text{if, for each } a \in A \text{ such that} \\ & f(a) = b, \text{ we have } a \in U, \\ \text{false} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \\ &= \begin{cases} \text{true} & \text{if } f^{-1}(b) \subset U \\ \text{false} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

for each  $b \in B$ .

**DEFINITION 4.6.3 ► THE IMAGE AND COMPLEMENT PARTS OF  $f_!$** 

Let  $U$  be a subset of  $A$ .<sup>1,2</sup>

1. The **image part of the direct image with compact support  $f_!(U)$  of  $U$**  is the set  $f_{!,\text{im}}(U)$  defined by

$$\begin{aligned} f_{!,\text{im}}(U) &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} f_!(U) \cap \text{Im}(f) \\ &= \left\{ b \in B \mid \begin{array}{l} \text{we have } f^{-1}(b) \subset U \\ \text{and } f^{-1}(b) \neq \emptyset \end{array} \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

2. The **complement part of the direct image with compact support  $f_!(U)$  of  $U$**  is the set  $f_{!,\text{cp}}(U)$  defined by

$$\begin{aligned} f_{!,\text{cp}}(U) &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} f_!(U) \cap (B \setminus \text{Im}(f)) \\ &= B \setminus \text{Im}(f) \\ &= \left\{ b \in B \mid \begin{array}{l} \text{we have } f^{-1}(b) \subset U \\ \text{and } f^{-1}(b) = \emptyset \end{array} \right\} \\ &= \{ b \in B \mid f^{-1}(b) = \emptyset \}. \end{aligned}$$

<sup>1</sup>Note that we have

$$f_!(U) = f_{!,\text{im}}(U) \cup f_{!,\text{cp}}(U),$$

as

$$\begin{aligned} f_!(U) &= f_!(U) \cap B \\ &= f_!(U) \cap (\text{Im}(f) \cup (B \setminus \text{Im}(f))) \\ &= (f_!(U) \cap \text{Im}(f)) \cup (f_!(U) \cap (B \setminus \text{Im}(f))) \\ &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} f_{!,\text{im}}(U) \cup f_{!,\text{cp}}(U). \end{aligned}$$

<sup>2</sup>In terms of the meet computation of  $f_!(U)$  of [Remark 4.6.2](#), namely

$$f_!(\chi_U) = \bigwedge_{\substack{a \in A \\ f(a) = -1}} (\chi_U(a)),$$

we see that  $f_{!,\text{im}}$  corresponds to meets indexed over nonempty sets, while  $f_{!,\text{cp}}$  corresponds to meets indexed over the empty set.



**EXAMPLE 4.6.4 ► EXAMPLES OF DIRECT IMAGES WITH COMPACT SUPPORT**

Here are some examples of direct images with compact support.

1. *The Multiplication by Two Map on the Natural Numbers.* Consider the function  $f: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  given by

$$f(n) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} 2n$$

for each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Since  $f$  is injective, we have

$$\begin{aligned} f_{!,\text{im}}(U) &= f_*(U) \\ f_{!,\text{cp}}(U) &= \{\text{odd natural numbers}\} \end{aligned}$$

for any  $U \subset \mathbb{N}$ .

2. *Parabolas.* Consider the function  $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  given by

$$f(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} x^2$$

for each  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ . We have

$$f_{!,\text{cp}}(U) = \mathbb{R}_{<0}$$

for any  $U \subset \mathbb{R}$ . Moreover, since  $f^{-1}(x) = \{-\sqrt{x}, \sqrt{x}\}$ , we have e.g.:

$$\begin{aligned} f_{!,\text{im}}([0, 1]) &= \{0\}, \\ f_{!,\text{im}}([-1, 1]) &= [0, 1], \\ f_{!,\text{im}}([1, 2]) &= \emptyset, \\ f_{!,\text{im}}([-2, -1] \cup [1, 2]) &= [1, 4]. \end{aligned}$$

3. *Circles.* Consider the function  $f: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  given by

$$f(x, y) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} x^2 + y^2$$

for each  $(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2$ . We have

$$f_{!,\text{cp}}(U) = \mathbb{R}_{<0}$$

for any  $U \subset \mathbb{R}^2$ , and since

$$f^{-1}(r) = \begin{cases} \text{a circle of radius } r \text{ about the origin} & \text{if } r > 0, \\ \{(0, 0)\} & \text{if } r = 0, \\ \emptyset & \text{if } r < 0, \end{cases}$$

we have e.g.:

$$\begin{aligned} f_{!,\text{im}}([-1, 1] \times [-1, 1]) &= [0, 1], \\ f_{!,\text{im}}([-1, 1] \times [-1, 1] \setminus [-1, 1] \times \{0\}) &= \emptyset. \end{aligned}$$

#### PROPOSITION 4.6.5 ► PROPERTIES OF DIRECT IMAGES WITH COMPACT SUPPORT I

Let  $f: A \rightarrow B$  be a function.

1. *Functoriality.* The assignment  $U \mapsto f_!(U)$  defines a functor

$$f_!: (\mathcal{P}(A), \subset) \rightarrow (\mathcal{P}(B), \subset)$$

where

- *Action on Objects.* For each  $U \in \mathcal{P}(A)$ , we have

$$[f_!](U) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} f_!(U);$$

- *Action on Morphisms.* For each  $U, V \in \mathcal{P}(A)$ :  
(★) If  $U \subset V$ , then  $f_!(U) \subset f_!(V)$ .

2. *Triple Adjointness.* We have a triple adjunction

$$(f_* \dashv f^{-1} \dashv f_!): \quad \mathcal{P}(A) \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{f_*} \\ \perp \\ \xleftarrow{f^{-1}} \\ \perp \\ \xrightarrow{f_!} \end{array} \mathcal{P}(B),$$

witnessed by bijections of sets

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{P}(B)}(f_*(U), V) &\cong \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{P}(A)}(U, f^{-1}(V)), \\ \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{P}(A)}(f^{-1}(U), V) &\cong \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{P}(A)}(U, f_!(V)), \end{aligned}$$

natural in  $U \in \mathcal{P}(A)$  and  $V \in \mathcal{P}(B)$  and (respectively)  $V \in \mathcal{P}(A)$  and  $U \in \mathcal{P}(B)$ , i.e. where:

- (a) The following conditions are equivalent:

- i. We have  $f_*(U) \subset V$ ;
  - ii. We have  $U \subset f^{-1}(V)$ ;
- (b) The following conditions are equivalent:
- i. We have  $f^{-1}(U) \subset V$ .
  - ii. We have  $U \subset f_!(V)$ .

3. *Lax Preservation of Colimits.* We have an inclusion of sets

$$\bigcup_{i \in I} f_!(U_i) \subset f_!\left(\bigcup_{i \in I} U_i\right),$$

natural in  $\{U_i\}_{i \in I} \in \mathcal{P}(A)^{\times I}$ . In particular, we have inclusions

$$\begin{aligned} f_!(U) \cup f_!(V) &\hookrightarrow f_!(U \cup V), \\ \emptyset &\hookrightarrow f_!(\emptyset), \end{aligned}$$

natural in  $U, V \in \mathcal{P}(A)$ .

4. *Preservation of Limits.* We have an equality of sets

$$f_!\left(\bigcap_{i \in I} U_i\right) = \bigcap_{i \in I} f_!(U_i),$$

natural in  $\{U_i\}_{i \in I} \in \mathcal{P}(A)^{\times I}$ . In particular, we have equalities

$$\begin{aligned} f^{-1}(U \cap V) &= f_!(U) \cap f^{-1}(V), \\ f_!(A) &= B, \end{aligned}$$

natural in  $U, V \in \mathcal{P}(A)$ .

5. *Symmetric Lax Monoidality With Respect to Unions.* The direct image with compact support function of **Item 1** has a symmetric lax monoidal structure

$$(f_!, f_!^\otimes, f_{!|_{\mathbb{K}}}^\otimes): (\mathcal{P}(A), \cup, \emptyset) \rightarrow (\mathcal{P}(B), \cup, \emptyset),$$

being equipped with inclusions

$$\begin{aligned} f_{!|_{U,V}}^\otimes: f_!(U) \cup f_!(V) &\hookrightarrow f_!(U \cup V), \\ f_{!|_{\mathbb{K}}}^\otimes: \emptyset &\hookrightarrow f_!(\emptyset), \end{aligned}$$

natural in  $U, V \in \mathcal{P}(A)$ .

6. *Symmetric Strict Monoidality With Respect to Intersections.* The direct image function of **Item 1** has a symmetric strict monoidal structure

$$(f_!, f_!^\otimes, f_{!|\mathcal{K}}^\otimes): (\mathcal{P}(A), \cap, A) \rightarrow (\mathcal{P}(B), \cap, B),$$

being equipped with equalities

$$\begin{aligned} f_{!|U,V}^\otimes: f_!(U \cap V) &\xrightarrow{=} f_!(U) \cap f_!(V), \\ f_{!|\mathcal{K}}^\otimes: f_!(A) &\xrightarrow{=} B, \end{aligned}$$

natural in  $U, V \in \mathcal{P}(A)$ .

7. *Relation to Direct Images.* We have

$$f_!(U) = B \setminus f_*(A \setminus U)$$

for each  $U \in \mathcal{P}(A)$ .

8. *Interaction With Injections.* If  $f$  is injective, then we have

$$\begin{aligned} f_{!,\text{im}}(U) &= f_*(U), \\ f_{!,\text{cp}}(U) &= B \setminus \text{Im}(f), \\ f_!(U) &= f_{!,\text{im}}(U) \cup f_{!,\text{cp}}(U) \\ &= f_*(U) \cup (B \setminus \text{Im}(f)) \end{aligned}$$

for each  $U \in \mathcal{P}(A)$ .

9. *Interaction With Surjections.* If  $f$  is surjective, then we have

$$\begin{aligned} f_{!,\text{im}}(U) &\subset f_*(U), \\ f_{!,\text{cp}}(U) &= \emptyset, \\ f_!(U) &\subset f_*(U) \end{aligned}$$

for each  $U \in \mathcal{P}(A)$ .

## PROOF 4.6.6 ► PROOF OF PROPOSITION 4.6.5

## Item 1: Functoriality

Clear.

## Item 2: Triple Adjointness

This follows from [Kan Extensions](#), ?? of ??.

## Item 3: Lax Preservation of Colimits

Omitted.

## Item 4: Preservation of Limits

Omitted. This follows from [Item 2](#) and [Categories](#), ?? of ??.

## Item 5: Symmetric Lax Monoidality With Respect to Unions

This follows from ??.

## Item 6: Symmetric Strict Monoidality With Respect to Intersections

This follows from [Item 4](#).

## Item 7: Relation to Direct Images

We claim that  $f_!(U) = B \setminus f_*(A \setminus U)$ .

- *The First Implication.* We claim that

$$f_!(U) \subset B \setminus f_*(A \setminus U).$$

Let  $b \in f_!(U)$ . We need to show that  $b \notin f_*(A \setminus U)$ , i.e. that there is no  $a \in A \setminus U$  such that  $f(a) = b$ .

This is indeed the case, as otherwise we would have  $a \in f^{-1}(b)$  and  $a \notin U$ , contradicting  $f^{-1}(b) \subset U$  (which holds since  $b \in f_!(U)$ ).

Thus  $b \in B \setminus f_*(A \setminus U)$ .

- *The Second Implication.* We claim that

$$B \setminus f_*(A \setminus U) \subset f_!(U).$$

Let  $b \in B \setminus f_*(A \setminus U)$ . We need to show that  $b \in f_!(U)$ , i.e. that  $f^{-1}(b) \subset U$ .

Since  $b \notin f_*(A \setminus U)$ , there exists no  $a \in A \setminus U$  such that  $b = f(a)$ , and hence  $f^{-1}(b) \subset U$ .

Thus  $b \in f_!(U)$ .

This finishes the proof of **Item 7**.

Item 8: Interaction With Injections

Clear.

Item 9: Interaction With Surjections

Clear.



#### PROPOSITION 4.6.7 ► PROPERTIES OF DIRECT IMAGES WITH COMPACT SUPPORT II

Let  $f: A \rightarrow B$  be a function.

1. *Functionality I*. The assignment  $f \mapsto f_!$  defines a function

$$(-)_{!|A,B}: \text{Sets}(A, B) \rightarrow \text{Sets}(\mathcal{P}(A), \mathcal{P}(B)).$$

2. *Functionality II*. The assignment  $f \mapsto f_!$  defines a function

$$(-)_{!|A,B}: \text{Sets}(A, B) \rightarrow \text{Pos}((\mathcal{P}(A), \subset), (\mathcal{P}(B), \subset)).$$

3. *Interaction With Identities*. For each  $A \in \text{Obj}(\text{Sets})$ , we have

$$(\text{id}_A)_! = \text{id}_{\mathcal{P}(A)};$$

4. *Interaction With Composition*. For each pair of composable functions  $f: A \rightarrow B$  and  $g: B \rightarrow C$ , we have

$$(g \circ f)_! = g_! \circ f_!,$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{P}(A) & \xrightarrow{f_!} & \mathcal{P}(B) \\ & \searrow (g \circ f)_! & \downarrow g_! \\ & & \mathcal{P}(C). \end{array}$$

#### PROOF 4.6.8 ► PROOF OF PROPOSITION 4.6.7

Item 1: Functionality I

Clear.

Item 2: Functionality II

Clear.

Item 3: Interaction With Identities

This follows from [Kan Extensions](#), ?? of ??.

Item 4: Interaction With Composition

This follows from [Kan Extensions](#), ?? of ??.



## Appendices

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7. Indexed Sets
8. Fibred Sets
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