

Tensor Products of Pointed Sets

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008P This chapter contains some material on tensor products of pointed sets.

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008Q 1 Bilinear Morphisms of Pointed Sets

008R 1.1 Left Bilinear Morphisms of Pointed Sets

Let (X, x_0) , (Y, y_0) , and (Z, z_0) be pointed sets.

008S **Definition 1.1.1.1.** A **left bilinear morphism of pointed sets** from $(X \times Y, (x_0, y_0))$ **to** (Z, z_0) is a map of sets

$$f: (X \times Y, (x_0, y_0)) \rightarrow (Z, z_0)$$

satisfying the following condition:^{1,2}

(\star) *Left Unital Bilinearity.* The diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 & & \text{pt} \times \text{pt} & & \\
 & \text{id}_{\text{pt}} \times \epsilon_Y \nearrow & & \text{pt} & \\
 \text{pt} \times Y & & & & \\
 & \searrow [\text{x}_0] \times \text{id}_Y & & \searrow [\text{z}_0] & \\
 & X \times Y & \xrightarrow{f} & Z &
 \end{array}$$

commutes, i.e. for each $y \in Y$, we have

$$f(x_0, y) = z_0.$$

008T **Definition 1.1.1.2.** The **set of left bilinear morphisms of pointed sets** from $(X \times Y, (x_0, y_0))$ **to** (Z, z_0) is the set $\text{Hom}_{\text{Sets}_*}^{\otimes, \text{L}}(X \times Y, Z)$ defined by

$$\text{Hom}_{\text{Sets}_*}^{\otimes, \text{L}}(X \times Y, Z) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{f \in \text{Sets}_*(A \times B, C) \mid f \text{ is left bilinear}\}.$$

¹*Slogan:* f is left bilinear if it preserves basepoints in its first argument.

²Succinctly, f is bilinear if we have

$$f(x_0, y) = z_0$$

for each $y \in Y$.

008U 1.2 Right Bilinear Morphisms of Pointed Sets

Let (X, x_0) , (Y, y_0) , and (Z, z_0) be pointed sets.

008V Definition 1.2.1.1. A **right bilinear morphism of pointed sets** from $(X \times Y, (x_0, y_0))$ **to** (Z, z_0) is a map of sets

$$f: (X \times Y, (x_0, y_0)) \rightarrow (Z, z_0)$$

satisfying the following condition:^{3,4}

(\star) *Right Unital Bilinearity.* The diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 & & \text{pt} \times \text{pt} & & \\
 & \nearrow \epsilon_X \times \text{id}_{\text{pt}} & & \searrow \sim & \\
 X \times \text{pt} & & & & \text{pt} \\
 \downarrow \text{id}_X \times [y_0] & & & & \downarrow [z_0] \\
 X \times Y & \xrightarrow{f} & Z & &
 \end{array}$$

commutes, i.e. for each $x \in X$, we have

$$f(x, y_0) = z_0.$$

008W Definition 1.2.1.2. The **set of right bilinear morphisms of pointed sets from** $(X \times Y, (x_0, y_0))$ **to** (Z, z_0) is the set $\text{Hom}_{\text{Sets}_*}^{\otimes, \text{R}}(X \times Y, Z)$ defined by

$$\text{Hom}_{\text{Sets}_*}^{\otimes, \text{R}}(X \times Y, Z) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{f \in \text{Sets}_*(A \times B, C) \mid f \text{ is right bilinear}\}.$$

008X 1.3 Bilinear Morphisms of Pointed Sets

Let (X, x_0) , (Y, y_0) , and (Z, z_0) be pointed sets.

008Y Definition 1.3.1.1. A **bilinear morphism of pointed sets from** $(X \times Y, (x_0, y_0))$ **to** (Z, z_0) is a map of sets

$$f: (X \times Y, (x_0, y_0)) \rightarrow (Z, z_0)$$

that is both left bilinear and right bilinear.

³*Slogan:* f is right bilinear if it preserves basepoints in its second argument.

⁴Succinctly, f is bilinear if we have

$$f(x, y_0) = z_0$$

008Z Remark 1.3.1.2. In detail, a **bilinear morphism of pointed sets** from $(X \times Y, (x_0, y_0))$ **to** (Z, z_0) is a map of sets

$$f: (X \times Y, (x_0, y_0)) \rightarrow (Z, z_0)$$

satisfying the following conditions:^{5,6}

1. *Left Unital Bilinearity.* The diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 & & \text{pt} \times \text{pt} & & \\
 & \nearrow \text{id}_{\text{pt}} \times \epsilon_Y & & \searrow \sim & \\
 \text{pt} \times Y & & & & \text{pt} \\
 \searrow [x_0] \times \text{id}_Y & & & & \nearrow [z_0] \\
 X \times Y & \xrightarrow{f} & Z & &
 \end{array}$$

commutes, i.e. for each $y \in Y$, we have

$$f(x_0, y) = z_0.$$

2. *Right Unital Bilinearity.* The diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 & & \text{pt} \times \text{pt} & & \\
 & \nearrow \epsilon_X \times \text{id}_{\text{pt}} & & \searrow \sim & \\
 X \times \text{pt} & & & & \text{pt} \\
 \searrow \text{id}_X \times [y_0] & & & & \nearrow [z_0] \\
 X \times Y & \xrightarrow{f} & Z & &
 \end{array}$$

commutes, i.e. for each $x \in X$, we have

$$f(x, y_0) = z_0.$$

for each $x \in X$.

⁵*Slogan:* f is bilinear if it preserves basepoints in each argument.

⁶Succinctly, f is bilinear if we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 f(x_0, y) &= z_0, \\
 f(x, y_0) &= z_0
 \end{aligned}$$

0090 Definition 1.3.1.3. The **set of bilinear morphisms of pointed sets from** $(X \times Y, (x_0, y_0))$ **to** (Z, z_0) is the set $\text{Hom}_{\text{Sets}_*}^{\otimes}(X \times Y, Z)$ defined by

$$\text{Hom}_{\text{Sets}_*}^{\otimes}(X \times Y, Z) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{f \in \text{Sets}_*(A \times B, C) \mid f \text{ is bilinear}\}.$$

0091 2 Tensors and Cotensors of Pointed Sets by Sets

0092 2.1 Tensors of Pointed Sets by Sets

Let (X, x_0) be a pointed set and let A be a set.

0093 Definition 2.1.1.1. The **tensor of** (X, x_0) **by** A is the pointed set $A \odot (X, x_0)$ satisfying the following universal property:

(UP) We have a bijection

$$\text{Sets}_*(A \odot X, K) \cong \text{Sets}(A, \text{Sets}_*(X, K)),$$

natural in $(K, k_0) \in \text{Obj}(\text{Sets}_*)$.

0094 Remark 2.1.1.2. The tensor of (X, x_0) by A satisfies the following universal property:

$$\text{Sets}_*(A \odot X, K) \cong \text{Sets}_{\mathbb{E}_0}^{\otimes}(A \times X, K),$$

where $\text{Sets}_{\mathbb{E}_0}^{\otimes}(A \times X, K)$ is the set defined by

$$\text{Sets}_{\mathbb{E}_0}^{\otimes}(A \times X, K) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \left\{ f \in \text{Sets}(A \times X, K) \mid \begin{array}{l} \text{for each } a \in A, \text{ we} \\ \text{have } f(a, x_0) = k_0 \end{array} \right\}.$$

0095 Construction 2.1.1.3. Concretely, the **tensor of** (X, x_0) **by** A is the pointed set $A \odot (X, x_0)$ consisting of

- *The Underlying Set.* The set $A \odot X$ given by

$$A \odot X \cong \bigvee_{a \in A} (X, x_0);$$

- *The Basepoint.* The point $[x_0]$ of $\bigvee_{a \in A} (X, x_0)$.

0096 2.2 Cotensors of Pointed Sets by Sets

Let (X, x_0) be a pointed set and let A be a set.

for each $x \in X$ and each $y \in Y$.

0097 Definition 2.2.1.1. The **cotensor of** (X, x_0) **by** A is the pointed set $A \pitchfork (X, x_0)$ satisfying the following universal property:

(UP) We have a bijection

$$\mathbf{Sets}_*(K, A \pitchfork X) \cong \mathbf{Sets}(A, \mathbf{Sets}_*(K, X)),$$

natural in $(K, k_0) \in \mathbf{Obj}(\mathbf{Sets}_*)$.

0098 Remark 2.2.1.2. The cotensor of (X, x_0) by A satisfies the following universal property:

$$\mathbf{Sets}_*(K, A \pitchfork X) \cong \mathbf{Sets}_{\mathbb{E}_0}^{\otimes}(A \times K, X),$$

where $\mathbf{Sets}_{\mathbb{E}_0}^{\otimes}(A \times K, X)$ is the set defined by

$$\mathbf{Sets}_{\mathbb{E}_0}^{\otimes}(A \times K, X) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \left\{ f \in \mathbf{Sets}(A \times K, X) \mid \begin{array}{l} \text{for each } a \in A, \text{ we} \\ \text{have } f(a, k_0) = x_0 \end{array} \right\}.$$

0099 Construction 2.2.1.3. Concretely, the **cotensor of** (X, x_0) **by** A is the pointed set $A \pitchfork (X, x_0)$ consisting of

- *The Underlying Set.* The set $A \pitchfork X$ given by

$$A \pitchfork X \cong \bigwedge_{a \in A} (X, x_0);$$

- *The Basepoint.* The point $[(x_0, x_0, x_0, \dots)]$ of $\bigwedge_{a \in A} (X, x_0)$.

009A 3 The Left Tensor Product of Pointed Sets

009B 3.1 Foundations

Let (X, x_0) and (Y, y_0) be pointed sets.

009C Definition 3.1.1.1. The **left tensor product of pointed sets** is the functor

$$\triangleleft_{\mathbf{Sets}_*} : \mathbf{Sets}_* \times \mathbf{Sets}_* \rightarrow \mathbf{Sets}_*$$

defined as the composition

$$\mathbf{Sets}_* \times \mathbf{Sets}_* \xrightarrow{\text{id} \times \overline{\omega}} \mathbf{Sets}_* \times \mathbf{Sets} \xrightarrow{\beta_{\mathbf{Sets}_*, \mathbf{Sets}}^{\text{Cats}_2}} \mathbf{Sets} \times \mathbf{Sets}_* \xrightarrow{\odot} \mathbf{Sets}_*.$$

009D Remark 3.1.1.2. The left tensor product of pointed sets satisfies the following universal property:⁷

$$\mathbf{Sets}_*(X \triangleleft_{\mathbf{Sets}_*} Y, Z) \cong \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathbf{Sets}_*}^{\otimes, \mathbf{L}}(X \times Y, Z).$$

009E Remark 3.1.1.3. In detail, the **left tensor product of** (X, x_0) **and** (Y, y_0) is the pointed set $(X \triangleleft_{\mathbf{Sets}_*} Y, [x_0])$ consisting of⁸

- *The Underlying Set.* The set $X \triangleleft_{\mathbf{Sets}_*} Y$ defined by

$$\begin{aligned} X \triangleleft_{\mathbf{Sets}_*} Y &\stackrel{\mathrm{def}}{=} |Y| \odot X \\ &\cong \bigvee_{y \in Y} (X, x_0); \end{aligned}$$

- *The Underlying Basepoint.* The point $[x_0]$ of $\bigvee_{y \in Y} (X, x_0)$.

009F Proposition 3.1.1.4. Let (X, x_0) and (Y, y_0) be pointed sets.

009G 1. *Functoriality.* The assignments $X, Y, (X, Y) \mapsto X \triangleleft_{\mathbf{Sets}_*} Y$ define functors

$$\begin{aligned} X \triangleleft_{\mathbf{Sets}_*} - &: \mathbf{Sets}_* \rightarrow \mathbf{Sets}_*, \\ - \triangleleft_{\mathbf{Sets}_*} Y &: \mathbf{Sets}_* \rightarrow \mathbf{Sets}_*, \\ -_1 \triangleleft_{\mathbf{Sets}_*} -_2 &: \mathbf{Sets}_* \times \mathbf{Sets}_* \rightarrow \mathbf{Sets}_*. \end{aligned}$$

Proof. **Item 1, Functoriality:** Omitted. □

⁷Namely, a pointed map $f: X \triangleleft_{\mathbf{Sets}_*} Y \rightarrow Z$ is the same as a map $f^\dagger: X \times Y \rightarrow Z$ such that

$$f^\dagger(x_0, y) = z_0$$

for each $y \in Y$.

⁸*Further Notation:* We write $x \triangleleft_{\mathbf{Sets}_*} y$ for the image of (x, y) under the map

$$X \times Y \rightarrow \underbrace{X \triangleleft_{\mathbf{Sets}_*} Y}_{\cong \bigvee_{y \in Y} (X, x_0)}.$$

sending (x, y) to the element $x \in X$ in the y th copy of X in $\bigvee_{y \in Y} (X, x_0)$. Note that we have

$$x_0 \triangleleft_{\mathbf{Sets}_*} y = x_0 \triangleleft_{\mathbf{Sets}_*} y',$$

for each $y, y' \in Y$.

009H 3.2 The Skew Associator

009J **Definition 3.2.1.1.** The skew associator of the left tensor product of pointed sets is the natural isomorphism

$$\alpha^{\text{Sets}_*, \triangleleft}: \triangleleft_{\text{Sets}_*} \circ (\triangleleft_{\text{Sets}_*} \times \text{id}_{\text{Sets}_*}) \xrightarrow{\cong} \triangleleft_{\text{Sets}_*} \circ (\text{id}_{\text{Sets}_*} \times \triangleleft_{\text{Sets}_*}),$$

whose component

$$\alpha_{X,Y,Z}^{\text{Sets}_*, \triangleleft}: (X \triangleleft_{\text{Sets}_*} Y) \triangleleft_{\text{Sets}_*} Z \xrightarrow{\cong} X \triangleleft_{\text{Sets}_*} (Y \triangleleft_{\text{Sets}_*} Z)$$

at (X, Y, Z) is given by the composition⁹

$$\begin{aligned} (X \triangleleft_{\text{Sets}_*} Y) \triangleleft_{\text{Sets}_*} Z &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} |Z| \odot (X \triangleleft_{\text{Sets}_*} Y) \\ &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} |Z| \odot (|Y| \odot X) \\ &\cong \bigvee_{z \in Z} (|Y| \odot X, [x_0]) \\ &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \bigvee_{z \in Z} \left(\bigvee_{y \in Y} (X, x_0) \right) \\ &\cong \bigvee_{(z,y) \in \bigvee_{z \in Z} (Y, y_0)} (X, x_0) \\ &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \bigvee_{(z,y) \in |Z| \odot Y} (X, x_0) \\ &\cong ||Z| \odot Y| \odot X \\ &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} |Y \triangleleft_{\text{Sets}_*} Z| \odot X \\ &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} X \triangleleft_{\text{Sets}_*} (Y \triangleleft_{\text{Sets}_*} Z), \end{aligned}$$

where the isomorphism

$$\bigvee_{z \in Z} \left(\bigvee_{y \in Y} (X, x_0) \right) \cong \bigvee_{(y,z) \in \bigvee_{z \in Z} (Y, y_0)} (X, x_0)$$

is given by $[(z, (y, x))] \mapsto [((z, y), x)]$.

⁹In other words, $\alpha_{X,Y,Z}^{\text{Sets}_*, \triangleleft}$ acts on elements as

$$\alpha_{X,Y,Z}^{\text{Sets}_*, \triangleleft}((x \triangleleft_{\text{Sets}_*} y) \triangleleft_{\text{Sets}_*} z) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} x \triangleleft_{\text{Sets}_*} (y \triangleleft_{\text{Sets}_*} z)$$

for each $(x \triangleleft_{\text{Sets}_*} y) \triangleleft_{\text{Sets}_*} z \in (X \triangleleft_{\text{Sets}_*} Y) \triangleleft_{\text{Sets}_*} Z$.

009K 3.3 The Skew Left Unitor

Definition 3.3.1.1. The **skew left unitor**^{009L} of the left tensor product of pointed sets is the natural transformation

$$\lambda^{\text{Sets}_*, \triangleleft}: \triangleleft_{\text{Sets}_*} \circ (\llcorner^{\text{Sets}_*} \times \text{id}_{\text{Sets}_*}) \Longrightarrow \text{id}_{\text{Sets}_*},$$

whose component

$$\lambda_X^{\text{Sets}_*, \triangleleft}: S^0 \triangleleft_{\text{Sets}_*} X \rightarrow X$$

at X is given by the composition¹⁰

$$\begin{aligned} S^0 \triangleleft_{\text{Sets}_*} X &\cong |X| \odot S^0 \\ &\cong \bigvee_{x \in X} S^0 \\ &\rightarrow X \end{aligned}$$

where $\bigvee_{x \in X} S^0 \rightarrow X$ is the map given by

$$\begin{aligned} (x, 0) &\mapsto x, \\ (x, 1) &\mapsto x. \end{aligned}$$

9M 3.4 The Skew Right Unitor

Definition 3.4.1.1. The **skew right unitor** of the left tensor product of pointed sets is the natural transformation

$$\rho^{\text{Sets}_*, \triangleleft}: \text{id}_{\text{Sets}_*} \Longrightarrow \triangleleft_{\text{Sets}_*} \circ (\text{id}_{\text{Sets}_*} \times \llcorner^{\text{Sets}_*}),$$

whose component

$$\rho_X^{\text{Sets}_*, \triangleleft}: X \rightarrow X \triangleleft_{\text{Sets}_*} S^0$$

¹⁰In other words, $\lambda_X^{\text{Sets}_*, \triangleleft}$ acts on elements as

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda_X^{\text{Sets}_*, \triangleleft}(x \triangleleft_{\text{Sets}_*} 0) &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} x, \\ \lambda_X^{\text{Sets}_*, \triangleleft}(x \triangleleft_{\text{Sets}_*} 1) &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} x, \end{aligned}$$

for each $x \in X$.

at X is given by the composition¹¹

$$\begin{aligned} X &\rightarrow X \vee X \\ &\cong |S^0| \odot X \\ &\cong S^0 \triangleleft_{\mathbf{Sets}_*} X, \end{aligned}$$

where $X \rightarrow X \vee X$ is the map sending X to the first factor of X in $X \vee X$.

009P 3.5 The Left-Skew Monoidal Category Structure on Pointed Sets

009Q **Proposition 3.5.1.1.** The category \mathbf{Sets}_* admits a left-skew monoidal category structure consisting of¹²

- *The Skew Monoidal Product.* The left tensor product functor

$$\triangleleft_{\mathbf{Sets}_*} : \mathbf{Sets}_* \times \mathbf{Sets}_* \rightarrow \mathbf{Sets}_*,$$

of [Proposition 3.1.1.4](#);

- *The Skew Monoidal Unit.* The functor

$$\mathbb{K}^{\mathbf{Sets}_*} : \mathbf{pt} \rightarrow \mathbf{Sets}_*$$

defined by

$$\mathbb{K}_{\mathbf{Sets}_*} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} S^0;$$

- *The Skew Associators.* The natural isomorphism

$$\alpha^{\mathbf{Sets}_*, \triangleleft} : \triangleleft_{\mathbf{Sets}_*} \circ (\triangleleft_{\mathbf{Sets}_*} \times \text{id}_{\mathbf{Sets}_*}) \xrightarrow{\cong} \triangleleft_{\mathbf{Sets}_*} \circ (\text{id}_{\mathbf{Sets}_*} \times \triangleleft_{\mathbf{Sets}_*}),$$

of [Definition 3.2.1.1](#);

- *The Skew Left Unitors.* The natural transformation

$$\lambda^{\mathbf{Sets}_*, \triangleleft} : \triangleleft_{\mathbf{Sets}_*} \circ (\mathbb{K}^{\mathbf{Sets}_*} \times \text{id}_{\mathbf{Sets}_*}) \Longrightarrow \text{id}_{\mathbf{Sets}_*},$$

of [Definition 3.3.1.1](#);

¹¹In other words, $\rho_X^{\mathbf{Sets}_*, \triangleleft}$ acts on elements as

$$\rho_X^{\mathbf{Sets}_*, \triangleleft}(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} x \triangleleft_{\mathbf{Sets}_*} 0$$

for each $x \in X$.

¹²Note in particular that, differently from general left-skew monoidal categories, the

- *The Skew Right Unitors.* The natural transformation

$$\rho^{\text{Sets}_*, \triangleleft} : \text{id}_{\text{Sets}_*} \Longrightarrow \triangleleft_{\text{Sets}_*} \circ (\text{id}_{\text{Sets}_*} \times \not\ll_{\text{Sets}_*}^{\text{Sets}_*}),$$

of [Definition 3.4.1.1](#).

Proof. Omitted. □

009R 4 The Right Tensor Product of Pointed Sets

009S 4.1 Foundations

Let (X, x_0) and (Y, y_0) be pointed sets.

009T Definition 4.1.1.1. The **right tensor product of pointed sets** is the functor

$$\triangleright_{\text{Sets}_*} : \text{Sets}_* \times \text{Sets}_* \rightarrow \text{Sets}_*$$

defined as the composition

$$\text{Sets}_* \times \text{Sets}_* \xrightarrow{\text{忘} \times \text{id}} \text{Sets} \times \text{Sets}_* \xrightarrow{\odot} \text{Sets}_*.$$

009U Remark 4.1.1.2. The right tensor product of pointed sets satisfies the following universal property:¹³

$$\text{Sets}_*(X \triangleright_{\text{Sets}_*} Y, Z) \cong \text{Hom}_{\text{Sets}_*}^{\otimes, \text{R}}(X \times Y, Z).$$

009V Remark 4.1.1.3. In detail, the **right tensor product of (X, x_0) and (Y, y_0)** is the pointed set $(X \triangleright_{\text{Sets}_*} Y, [y_0])$ consisting of ¹⁴

skew associator of $(\text{Sets}_*, \triangleleft_{\text{Sets}_*}, S^0)$ is a natural isomorphism.

¹³Namely, a pointed map $f : X \triangleleft_{\text{Sets}_*} Y \rightarrow Z$ is the same as a map $f^\dagger : X \times Y \rightarrow Z$ such that

$$f^\dagger(x, y_0) = z_0$$

for each $y \in Y$.

¹⁴*Further Notation:* We write $x \triangleright_{\text{Sets}_*} y$ for the image of (x, y) under the map

$$X \times Y \rightarrow \underbrace{X \triangleright_{\text{Sets}_*} Y}_{\cong \bigvee_{x \in X} (Y, y_0)}.$$

sending (x, y) to the element $y \in Y$ in the x th copy of Y in $\bigvee_{x \in X} (Y, y_0)$. Note that we have

$$x \triangleright_{\text{Sets}_*} y_0 = x' \triangleright_{\text{Sets}_*} y_0,$$

for each $x, x' \in X$.

- *The Underlying Set.* The set $X \triangleright_{\mathbf{Sets}_*} Y$ defined by

$$\begin{aligned} X \triangleright_{\mathbf{Sets}_*} Y &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} |X| \odot Y \\ &\cong \bigvee_{x \in X} (Y, y_0); \end{aligned}$$

- *The Underlying Basepoint.* The point $[y_0]$ of $\bigvee_{x \in X} (Y, y_0)$.

009W Proposition 4.1.1.4. Let (X, x_0) and (Y, y_0) be pointed sets.

- 009X** 1. *Functoriality.* The assignments $X, Y, (X, Y) \mapsto X \triangleright_{\mathbf{Sets}_*} Y$ define functors

$$\begin{aligned} X \triangleright_{\mathbf{Sets}_*} - &: \mathbf{Sets}_* \rightarrow \mathbf{Sets}_*, \\ - \triangleright_{\mathbf{Sets}_*} Y &: \mathbf{Sets}_* \rightarrow \mathbf{Sets}_*, \\ -_1 \triangleright_{\mathbf{Sets}_*} -_2 &: \mathbf{Sets}_* \times \mathbf{Sets}_* \rightarrow \mathbf{Sets}_*. \end{aligned}$$

Proof. **Item 1, Functoriality:** Omitted. □

009Y 4.2 The Skew Associator

009Z Definition 4.2.1.1. The **skew associator of the right tensor product of pointed sets** is the natural isomorphism

$$\alpha^{\mathbf{Sets}_*, \triangleright} : \triangleright_{\mathbf{Sets}_*} \circ (\text{id}_{\mathbf{Sets}_*} \times \triangleright_{\mathbf{Sets}_*}) \xrightarrow{\cong} \triangleright_{\mathbf{Sets}_*} \circ (\triangleright_{\mathbf{Sets}_*} \times \text{id}_{\mathbf{Sets}_*}),$$

whose component

$$\alpha_{X,Y,Z}^{\mathbf{Sets}_*, \triangleright} : X \triangleright_{\mathbf{Sets}_*} (Y \triangleright_{\mathbf{Sets}_*} Z) \xrightarrow{\cong} (X \triangleright_{\mathbf{Sets}_*} Y) \triangleright_{\mathbf{Sets}_*} Z$$

at (X, Y, Z) is given by the composition¹⁵

$$\begin{aligned}
 X \triangleright_{\mathbf{Sets}_*} (Y \triangleright_{\mathbf{Sets}_*} Z) &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} |X| \odot (Y \triangleright_{\mathbf{Sets}_*} Z) \\
 &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} |X| \odot (|Y| \odot Z) \\
 &\cong |X| \odot \left(\bigvee_{y \in Y} (Z, z_0) \right) \\
 &\cong \bigvee_{x \in X} \left(\bigvee_{y \in Y} (Z, z_0) \right) \\
 &\cong \bigvee_{(x,y) \in \bigvee_{x \in X} (Y, y_0)} (Z, z_0) \\
 &\cong \left| \bigvee_{x \in X} (Y, y_0) \right| \odot Z \\
 &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} |X \odot Y| \odot Z \\
 &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} |X \triangleright_{\mathbf{Sets}_*} Y| \odot Z \\
 &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (X \triangleright_{\mathbf{Sets}_*} Y) \triangleright_{\mathbf{Sets}_*} Z
 \end{aligned}$$

where the isomorphism

$$\bigvee_{x \in X} \left(\bigvee_{y \in Y} (Z, z_0) \right) \cong \bigvee_{(x,y) \in \bigvee_{x \in X} (Y, y_0)} (Z, z_0)$$

is given by $[(x, (y, z))] \mapsto [(x, y), z]$.

00A0 4.3 The Skew Left Unitor

00A1 **Definition 4.3.1.1.** The **skew left unitor of the right tensor product of pointed sets** is the natural transformation

$$\lambda^{\mathbf{Sets}_*, \triangleright} : \text{id}_{\mathbf{Sets}_*} \Longrightarrow \triangleright_{\mathbf{Sets}_*} \circ (\mathbb{K}^{\mathbf{Sets}_*} \times \text{id}_{\mathbf{Sets}_*}),$$

whose component

$$\lambda_X^{\mathbf{Sets}_*, \triangleright} : X \rightarrow S^0 \triangleright_{\mathbf{Sets}_*} X$$

¹⁵In other words, $\alpha_{X,Y,Z}^{\mathbf{Sets}_*, \triangleright}$ acts on elements as

$$\alpha_{X,Y,Z}^{\mathbf{Sets}_*, \triangleright} (x \triangleright_{\mathbf{Sets}_*} (y \triangleright_{\mathbf{Sets}_*} z)) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (x \triangleright_{\mathbf{Sets}_*} y) \triangleright_{\mathbf{Sets}_*} z$$

for each $x \triangleright_{\mathbf{Sets}_*} (y \triangleright_{\mathbf{Sets}_*} z) \in X \triangleright_{\mathbf{Sets}_*} (Y \triangleright_{\mathbf{Sets}_*} Z)$.

at X is given by the composition¹⁶

$$\begin{aligned} X &\rightarrow X \vee X \\ &\cong |S^0| \odot X \\ &\cong S^0 \triangleright_{\text{Sets}_*} X, \end{aligned}$$

where $X \rightarrow X \vee X$ is the map sending X to the first factor of X in $X \vee X$.

00A2 4.4 The Skew Right Unitor

00A3 **Definition 4.4.1.1.** The **skew right unitor of the right tensor product of pointed sets** is the natural transformation

$$\rho^{\text{Sets}_*, \triangleright} : \triangleright_{\text{Sets}_*} \circ (\text{id}_{\text{Sets}_*} \times \mathbb{K}^{\text{Sets}_*}) \Longrightarrow \text{id}_{\text{Sets}_*},$$

whose component¹⁷

$$\rho_X^{\text{Sets}_*, \triangleright} : X \triangleright_{\text{Sets}_*} S^0 \rightarrow X$$

at X is given by the composition

$$\begin{aligned} X \triangleright_{\text{Sets}_*} S^0 &\cong |X| \odot S^0 \\ &\cong \bigvee_{x \in X} S^0 \\ &\rightarrow X \end{aligned}$$

where $\bigvee_{x \in X} S^0 \rightarrow X$ is the map given by

$$\begin{aligned} (x, 0) &\mapsto x, \\ (x, 1) &\mapsto x. \end{aligned}$$

¹⁶In other words, $\lambda_X^{\text{Sets}_*, \triangleright}$ acts on elements as

$$\lambda_X^{\text{Sets}_*, \triangleright}(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} 0 \triangleright_{\text{Sets}_*} x$$

for each $x \in X$.

¹⁷In other words, $\rho_X^{\text{Sets}_*, \triangleright}$ acts on elements as

$$\begin{aligned} \rho_X^{\text{Sets}_*, \triangleright}(x \triangleright_{\text{Sets}_*} 0) &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} x, \\ \rho_X^{\text{Sets}_*, \triangleright}(x \triangleright_{\text{Sets}_*} 1) &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} x \end{aligned}$$

for each $x \in X$.

00A4 4.5 The Right-Skew Monoidal Category Structure on Pointed Sets

00A5 **Proposition 4.5.1.1.** The category \mathbf{Sets}_* admits a right-skew monoidal category structure consisting of¹⁸

- *The Skew Monoidal Product.* The right tensor product functor

$$\triangleright_{\mathbf{Sets}_*} : \mathbf{Sets}_* \times \mathbf{Sets}_* \rightarrow \mathbf{Sets}_*,$$

of [Item 1](#);

- *The Skew Monoidal Unit.* The functor

$$\mathbb{K}^{\mathbf{Sets}_*} : \mathbf{pt} \rightarrow \mathbf{Sets}_*$$

defined by

$$\mathbb{K}_{\mathbf{Sets}_*} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} S^0;$$

- *The Skew Associators.* The natural isomorphism

$$\alpha^{\mathbf{Sets}_*, \triangleright} : \triangleright_{\mathbf{Sets}_*} \circ (\triangleright_{\mathbf{Sets}_*} \times \text{id}_{\mathbf{Sets}_*}) \xrightarrow{\cong} \triangleright_{\mathbf{Sets}_*} \circ (\text{id}_{\mathbf{Sets}_*} \times \triangleright_{\mathbf{Sets}_*}),$$

of [Definition 4.2.1.1](#);

- *The Skew Left Unitors.* The natural transformation

$$\lambda^{\mathbf{Sets}_*, \triangleright} : \text{id}_{\mathbf{Sets}_*} \Longrightarrow \triangleright_{\mathbf{Sets}_*} \circ (\mathbb{K}^{\mathbf{Sets}_*} \times \text{id}_{\mathbf{Sets}_*}),$$

of [Definition 3.3.1.1](#);

- *The Skew Right Unitors.* The natural transformation

$$\rho^{\mathbf{Sets}_*, \triangleright} : \triangleright_{\mathbf{Sets}_*} \circ (\text{id}_{\mathbf{Sets}_*} \times \mathbb{K}^{\mathbf{Sets}_*}) \Longrightarrow \text{id}_{\mathbf{Sets}_*},$$

of [Definition 3.4.1.1](#).

Proof. Omitted. □

00A6 5 Smash Products of Pointed Sets

¹⁸Note in particular that, differently from general right-skew monoidal categories, the

00A7 5.1 Foundations

Let (X, x_0) and (Y, y_0) be pointed sets.

00A8 Definition 5.1.1.1. The **smash product** of (X, x_0) and (Y, y_0) ¹⁹ is the pointed set $X \wedge Y$ ²⁰ such that we have a bijection

$$\mathbf{Sets}_*(X \wedge Y, Z) \cong \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathbf{Sets}_*}^{\otimes}(X \times Y, Z),$$

natural in $(X, x_0), (Y, y_0), (Z, z_0) \in \mathrm{Obj}(\mathbf{Sets}_*)$.

00A9 Remark 5.1.1.2. In detail, the **smash product** of (X, x_0) and (Y, y_0) is the pair $((X \wedge Y, [(x_0, y_0)]), \iota)$ consisting of

- A pointed set $(X \wedge Y, [(x_0, y_0)])$;
- A bilinear morphism of pointed sets $\iota: (X \times Y, (x_0, y_0)) \rightarrow X \wedge Y$;

satisfying the following universal property:

(UP) Given another such pair $((Z, z_0), f)$ consisting of

- A pointed set (Z, z_0) ;
- A bilinear morphism of pointed sets $f: (X \times Y, (x_0, y_0)) \rightarrow Z$;

there exists a unique morphism of pointed sets $X \wedge Y \xrightarrow{\exists!} Z$ making the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & & X \wedge Y \\ & \nearrow \iota & \downarrow \exists! \\ X \times Y & \xrightarrow{f} & Z \end{array}$$

commute.

skew associator of $(\mathbf{Sets}_*, \triangleright_{\mathbf{Sets}_*}, S^0)$ is a natural isomorphism.

¹⁹ *Further Terminology:* Also called the **tensor product of \mathbb{F}_1 -modules of (X, x_0) and (Y, y_0)** or the **tensor product of (X, x_0) and (Y, y_0) over \mathbb{F}_1** .

²⁰ *Further Notation:* Also written $X \otimes_{\mathbb{F}_1} Y$.

00AA Construction 5.1.1.3. Concretely, the **smash product** of (X, x_0) and (Y, y_0) is the pointed set $(X \wedge Y, [(x_0, y_0)])$ consisting of²¹

- *The Underlying Set.* The set $X \wedge Y$ defined by

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X \wedge Y \cong \text{pt} \coprod_{X \vee Y} (X \times Y) & & X \wedge Y \leftarrow X \times Y \\ \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \frac{X \times Y}{X \vee Y} & & \begin{array}{c} \uparrow \ulcorner \\ \text{pt} \leftarrow \text{!} X \vee Y, \end{array} \\ \cong X \times Y / \sim, & & \end{array}$$

where \sim is the equivalence relation of $X \times Y$ obtained by declaring $(x, y) \sim (x', y')$ iff $(x, y), (x', y') \in X \vee Y$, i.e. by declaring

$$\begin{aligned} (x_0, y) &\sim (x_0, y'), \\ (x, y_0) &\sim (x', y_0) \end{aligned}$$

for all $x \in X$ and all $y \in Y$;

- *The Basepoint.* The element $[(x_0, y_0)]$ of $X \wedge Y$ given by the equivalence class of (x_0, y_0) under the equivalence relation \sim on $X \times Y$.

Proof. Clear. □

00AB Example 5.1.1.4. Here are some examples of smash products of pointed sets.

1. *Smashing With S^0 .* For any pointed set X , we have isomorphisms of pointed sets

$$\begin{aligned} S^0 \wedge X &\cong X, \\ X \wedge S^0 &\cong X. \end{aligned}$$

²¹*Further Notation:* We write $x \wedge y$ for the image of (x, y) under the quotient map

$$X \times Y \rightarrow \underbrace{\frac{X \times Y}{X \vee Y}}_{\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} X \wedge Y}$$

Note that we have

$$\begin{aligned} x \wedge y_0 &= x' \wedge y_0, \\ x_0 \wedge y &= x_0 \wedge y' \end{aligned}$$

for each $x, x' \in X$ and each $y, y' \in Y$.

00AC Proposition 5.1.1.5. Let (X, x_0) and (Y, y_0) be pointed sets.

00AD 1. *Functoriality.* The assignments $(X, x_0), (Y, y_0), ((X, x_0), (Y, y_0)) \mapsto X \wedge Y$ define functors

$$\begin{aligned} X \wedge - &: \mathbf{Sets}_* \rightarrow \mathbf{Sets}_*, \\ - \wedge Y &: \mathbf{Sets}_* \rightarrow \mathbf{Sets}_*, \\ -_1 \wedge -_2 &: \mathbf{Sets}_* \times \mathbf{Sets}_* \rightarrow \mathbf{Sets}_*. \end{aligned}$$

00AE 2. *Adjointness.* We have adjunctions

$$\begin{aligned} (X \wedge - \dashv \mathbf{Sets}_*(X, -)) &: \mathbf{Sets}_* \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{X \wedge -} \\ \perp \\ \xleftarrow{\mathbf{Sets}_*(X, -)} \end{array} \mathbf{Sets}_*, \\ (- \wedge Y \dashv \mathbf{Sets}_*(Y, -)) &: \mathbf{Sets}_* \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{- \wedge Y} \\ \perp \\ \xleftarrow{\mathbf{Sets}_*(Y, -)} \end{array} \mathbf{Sets}_*, \end{aligned}$$

witnessed by bijections

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{Sets}_*(X \wedge Y, Z) &\cong \mathbf{Sets}_*(X, \mathbf{Sets}_*(Y, Z)), \\ \mathbf{Sets}_*(X \wedge Y, Z) &\cong \mathbf{Sets}_*(X, \mathbf{Sets}_*(A, Z)), \end{aligned}$$

natural in $(X, x_0), (Y, y_0), (Z, z_0) \in \mathbf{Obj}(\mathbf{Sets}_*)$, which internalise to isomorphisms of pointed sets

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{Sets}_*(X \wedge Y, Z) &\cong \mathbf{Sets}_*(X, \mathbf{Sets}_*(Y, Z)), \\ \mathbf{Sets}_*(X \wedge Y, Z) &\cong \mathbf{Sets}_*(X, \mathbf{Sets}_*(A, Z)), \end{aligned}$$

again natural in $(X, x_0), (Y, y_0), (Z, z_0) \in \mathbf{Obj}(\mathbf{Sets}_*)$.

00AF 3. *Closed Symmetric Monoidality.* The quadruple $(\mathbf{Sets}_*, \wedge, S^0, \mathbf{Sets}_*)$ is a closed symmetric monoidal category.

00AG 4. *Morphisms From the Monoidal Unit.* We have a bijection of sets²²

$$\mathbf{Sets}_*(S^0, X) \cong X,$$

²²In other words, the forgetful functor

$$\mathbf{忘}: \mathbf{Sets}_* \rightarrow \mathbf{Sets}$$

defined on objects by sending a pointed set to its underlying set is corepresentable by S^0 .

natural in $(X, x_0) \in \text{Obj}(\mathbf{Sets}_*)$, internalising also to an isomorphism of pointed sets

$$\mathbf{Sets}_*(S^0, X) \cong (X, x_0),$$

again natural in $(X, x_0) \in \text{Obj}(\mathbf{Sets}_*)$.

- 00AH** 5. *Symmetric Strong Monoidality With Respect to Free Pointed Sets.* The free pointed set functor of **Pointed Sets**, **Item 1** of **Proposition 4.2.1.2** has a symmetric strong monoidal structure

$$((-)^+, (-)^{+, \times}, (-)_{\mathbb{K}}^{+, \times}) : (\mathbf{Sets}, \times, \text{pt}) \rightarrow (\mathbf{Sets}_*, \wedge, S^0),$$

being equipped with isomorphisms of pointed sets

$$\begin{aligned} (-)_{X,Y}^{+, \times} : X^+ \wedge Y^+ &\xrightarrow{\cong} (X \times Y)^+, \\ (-)_{\mathbb{K}}^{+, \times} : S^0 &\xrightarrow{\cong} \text{pt}^+, \end{aligned}$$

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

- 00AJ** 6. *Distributivity Over Wedge Sums.* We have isomorphisms of pointed sets

$$\begin{aligned} X \wedge (Y \vee Z) &\cong (X \wedge Y) \vee (X \wedge Z), \\ (X \vee Y) \wedge Z &\cong (X \wedge Z) \vee (Y \wedge Z), \end{aligned}$$

natural in $(X, x_0), (Y, y_0), (Z, z_0) \in \text{Obj}(\mathbf{Sets}_*)$.

- 00AK** 7. *Universal Property I.* The symmetric monoidal structure on the category \mathbf{Sets}_* is uniquely determined by the following requirements:

(a) *Two-Sided Preservation of Colimits.* The smash product

$$\wedge : \mathbf{Sets}_* \times \mathbf{Sets}_* \rightarrow \mathbf{Sets}_*$$

of \mathbf{Sets}_* preserves colimits separately in each variable.

(b) *The Unit Object Is S^0 .* We have $\mathbb{K}_{\mathbf{Sets}_*} = S^0$.

- 00AL** 8. *Universal Property II.* The symmetric monoidal structure on the category \mathbf{Sets}_* is the unique symmetric monoidal structure on \mathbf{Sets}_* such that the free pointed set functor

$$(-)^+ : \mathbf{Sets} \rightarrow \mathbf{Sets}_*$$

admits a symmetric monoidal structure.

00AM 9. *Existence of Monoidal Diagonals.* The triple $(\mathbf{Sets}_*, \wedge, S^0)$ is a monoidal category with diagonals:

(a) *Monoidal Diagonals.* The natural transformation

$$\Delta: \text{id}_{\mathbf{Sets}_*} \Rightarrow \wedge \circ \Delta_{\mathbf{Sets}_*}^{\mathbf{Cats}_2},$$

whose component

$$\Delta_X: (X, x_0) \rightarrow (X \wedge X, [(x_0, x_0)])$$

at $(X, x_0) \in \text{Obj}(\mathbf{Sets}_*)$ is given by the composition

$$\begin{aligned} (X, x_0) &\xrightarrow{\Delta_X} (X \times X, (x_0, x_0)) \\ &\longrightarrow (\frac{X \times X}{X \vee X}, [(x_0, x_0)]) \\ &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (X \wedge X, [(x_0, x_0)]) \end{aligned}$$

in \mathbf{Sets}_* , is a monoidal natural transformation:

i. *Naturality.* For each morphism $f: X \rightarrow Y$ of pointed sets, the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X & \xrightarrow{f} & Y \\ \Delta_X \downarrow & & \downarrow \Delta_Y \\ X \wedge X & \xrightarrow{f \wedge f} & Y \wedge Y \end{array}$$

commutes.

ii. *Compatibility With Strong Monoidality Constraints.* For each $(X, x_0), (Y, y_0) \in \text{Obj}(\mathbf{Sets}_*)$, the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X \wedge Y & \xrightarrow{\Delta_X \wedge \Delta_Y} & (X \wedge X) \wedge (Y \wedge Y) \\ \parallel & & \vdots \\ X \wedge Y & \xrightarrow{\Delta_{X \wedge Y}} & (X \wedge Y) \wedge (X \wedge Y) \end{array}$$

commutes.

iii. *Compatibility With Strong Unitality Constraints.* The diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 S^0 & & \\
 \parallel & \searrow^{(\lambda_{S^0}^{\mathbf{Sets}_*})^{-1} = (\rho_{S^0}^{\mathbf{Sets}_*})^{-1}} & \\
 S^0 & \xrightarrow{\Delta_{S^0}} & S^0 \wedge S^0
 \end{array}$$

commutes.

(b) *The Diagonal of the Unit.* The component

$$\Delta_{S^0}^{\mathbf{Sets}_*} : S^0 \xrightarrow{\cong} S^0 \wedge S^0$$

of the diagonal natural transformation of \mathbf{Sets}_* at S^0 is an isomorphism.

00AN 10. *Comonoids in \mathbf{Sets}_* .* The symmetric monoidal functor

$$((-)^+, (-)^{+, \times}, (-)_{\neq}^{+, \times}) : (\mathbf{Sets}, \times, \text{pt}) \rightarrow (\mathbf{Sets}_*, \wedge, S^0),$$

of **Pointed Sets**, **Item 4** of **Proposition 4.2.1.2** lifts to an equivalence of categories

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathbf{CoMon}(\mathbf{Sets}_*, \wedge, S^0) &\stackrel{\text{eq.}}{\cong} \mathbf{CoMon}(\mathbf{Sets}, \times, \text{pt}) \\
 &\cong \mathbf{Sets}.
 \end{aligned}$$

Proof. Item 1, Functoriality: Omitted.

Item 2, Adjointness: Omitted.

Item 3, Closed Symmetric Monoidality: Omitted.

Item 4, Morphisms From the Monoidal Unit: Omitted.

Item 5, Symmetric Strong Monoidality With Respect to Free Pointed Sets: Omitted.

Item 6, Distributivity Over Wedge Sums: This follows from **Item 3**, Monoidal Categories, ?? of ??, and the fact that \vee is the coproduct in \mathbf{Sets}_* .

Item 7, Universal Property I: Omitted.

Item 8, Universal Property II: See [GGN15, Theorem 5.1].

Item 9, Existence of Monoidal Diagonals: Omitted.

Item 10, Comonoids in \mathbf{Sets}_ :* See [PS19, Lemma 2.4]. □

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