

# Adjunctions and the Yoneda Lemma

December 24, 2023

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## Contents

### 1 Adjunctions<sup>nsVZ</sup>

#### 1.1 Foundations<sup>80W0</sup>

Let  $\mathcal{C}$  and  $\mathcal{D}$  be two categories.

**Definition 1.1.1.1.** An **adjunction**<sup>1</sup> is a quadruple  $(F, G, \eta, \epsilon)$  consisting of

1. A functor  $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ ;
2. A functor  $G: \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ ;
3. A natural transformation  $\eta: \text{id}_{\mathcal{C}} \Rightarrow G \circ F$ ;
4. A natural transformation  $\epsilon: F \circ G \Rightarrow \text{id}_{\mathcal{D}}$ ;

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<sup>1</sup>*Further Terminology:* We also call  $(G, F)$  an **adjoint pair**,  $F$  a **left adjoint**,  $G$  a **right adjoint**,  $\eta$  the **unit** of the adjunction, and  $\epsilon$  the **counit** of the adjunction.

such that we have equalities

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{D} & \xrightarrow{\text{id}_{\mathcal{D}}} & \mathcal{D} \\ F \nearrow & & \nwarrow G \\ C & \xrightarrow{\text{id}_C} & C \\ \uparrow \eta & & \uparrow \epsilon \\ \parallel & & \parallel \end{array} & = & \begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{D} & \xrightarrow{\text{id}_{\mathcal{D}}} & \mathcal{D} \\ F \nearrow & & \nwarrow F \\ C & \xrightarrow{\text{id}_C} & C \\ \nwarrow \text{id}_F & & \nearrow \text{id}_F \\ \parallel & & \parallel \end{array} \\
 \begin{array}{ccc} C & \xrightarrow{\text{id}_C} & C \\ G \nearrow & & \nwarrow F \\ \mathcal{D} & \xrightarrow{\text{id}_{\mathcal{D}}} & \mathcal{D} \\ \uparrow \epsilon & & \uparrow \eta \\ \parallel & & \parallel \end{array} & = & \begin{array}{ccc} C & \xrightarrow{\text{id}_C} & C \\ G \nearrow & & \nwarrow G \\ \mathcal{D} & \xrightarrow{\text{id}_{\mathcal{D}}} & \mathcal{D} \\ \nwarrow \text{id}_G & & \nearrow \text{id}_G \\ \parallel & & \parallel \end{array}
 \end{array}$$

of pasting diagrams in  $\mathbf{Cats}_2$ .<sup>2</sup>

**Example 1.1.1.2.** Here are some examples of adjunctions.

1. We have a triple adjunction

$$([-] \dashv \iota \dashv [-]): \quad \begin{array}{ccc} & [-] & \\ \uparrow \perp & \curvearrowright & \\ \mathbb{R} & \xleftarrow{\iota} & \mathbb{Z} \\ \downarrow \perp & \curvearrowleft & \\ & [-] & \end{array}$$

<sup>2</sup>Equivalently, the diagrams

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 F & \xrightarrow{\text{id}_F \circ \eta} & F \circ G \circ F \\
 \searrow \text{id}_F & & \downarrow \epsilon \circ \text{id}_F \\
 & & F
 \end{array}
 \quad
 \begin{array}{ccc}
 G & \xrightarrow{\eta \circ \text{id}_G} & G \circ F \circ G \\
 \searrow \text{id}_G & & \downarrow \text{id}_G \circ \epsilon \\
 & & G
 \end{array}
 \quad (1.1.1.1)$$

called the **left** and **right triangle identities**, commute, or, again equivalently, for each  $A \in \text{Obj}(\mathcal{C})$  and each  $B \in \text{Obj}(\mathcal{D})$ , the diagrams

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 F_A & \xrightarrow{F \eta_A} & F_{G F_A} \\
 \searrow \text{id}_{F_A} & & \downarrow \epsilon_{F_A} \\
 & & F_A
 \end{array}
 \quad
 \begin{array}{ccc}
 G_B & \xrightarrow{\eta_{G_B}} & G_{F G_B} \\
 \searrow \text{id}_{G_B} & & \downarrow \epsilon_{G_B} \\
 & & G_B
 \end{array}$$

commute.

where  $\mathbb{Z}$  and  $\mathbb{R}$  are viewed as poset categories and  $\iota: \mathbb{Z} \hookrightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is the canonical inclusion.

**Proposition 1.1.1.3.** Let  $F, L: \mathcal{C} \rightrightarrows \mathcal{D}$  and  $R: \mathcal{D} \rightrightarrows \mathcal{C}$  be functors.

1. *Characterisations.* The following conditions are equivalent:

- (a) The pair  $(L, R)$  is an adjoint pair.
- (b) We have a natural isomorphism of (pro)functors<sup>3</sup>

$$h^L \cong h_R.$$

- (c) For each  $A \in \text{Obj}(\mathcal{C})$  and each  $B \in \text{Obj}(\mathcal{D})$ , we have an isomorphism

$$\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(L_A, B) \cong \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(A, R_B)$$

and the square below-left commutes iff the square below-right

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<sup>3</sup>That is, the following conditions are satisfied:

- 1. *Bijection.* For each  $A \in \text{Obj}(\mathcal{C})$  and each  $B \in \text{Obj}(\mathcal{D})$ , we have a bijection

$$\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(L_A, B) \cong \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(A, R_B).$$

- 2. *Naturality in  $\mathcal{D}$ .* For each morphism  $g: B \rightarrow B'$  of  $\mathcal{D}$ , the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(L_A, B) & \xrightarrow{\sim} & \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(A, R_B) \\ \downarrow h_g^{id_{L_A}} & & \downarrow h_{R_g}^{id_A} \\ \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(L_A, B') & \xrightarrow{\sim} & \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(A, R_{B'}) \end{array}$$

commutes.

- 3. *Naturality in  $\mathcal{C}$ .* For each morphism  $f: A \rightarrow A'$  of  $\mathcal{C}$ , the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(L_A, B) & \xrightarrow{\sim} & \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(A, R_B) \\ \downarrow h_{id_B}^{L_f} & & \downarrow h_{id_{R_B}}^f \\ \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(L_{A'}, B) & \xrightarrow{\sim} & \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(A', R_B) \end{array}$$

commutes.

commutes:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 L_A & \xrightarrow{f^\sharp} & B \\
 L_\phi \downarrow & & \downarrow \psi \\
 L_{A'} & \xrightarrow{g^\sharp} & B'
 \end{array}
 \iff
 \begin{array}{ccc}
 A & \xrightarrow{f^\flat} & R_B \\
 \phi \downarrow & & \downarrow R_\psi \\
 A' & \xrightarrow{g^\flat} & R_{B'}
 \end{array}$$

(d) For each small category  $\mathcal{K}$ , we have an adjunction

$$(L_* \dashv R_*): \quad \text{Fun}(\mathcal{K}, \mathcal{C}) \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{L_*} \\ \perp \\ \xleftarrow{R_*} \end{array} \text{Fun}(\mathcal{K}, \mathcal{D})$$

as witnessed by a natural isomorphism

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \mathcal{K} & \xrightarrow{F} & \mathcal{C} \\
 & \searrow & \downarrow \\
 & & \mathcal{D}
 \end{array}
 \xrightarrow{\text{bij.}}
 \begin{array}{ccc}
 \mathcal{K} & \xrightarrow{F} & \mathcal{C} \\
 & \searrow & \downarrow \\
 & & \mathcal{D}
 \end{array}$$

natural in  $\mathcal{K} \xrightarrow{F} \mathcal{C}$  and  $\mathcal{K} \xrightarrow{G} \mathcal{D}$ .

(e) For each locally small category  $\mathcal{E}$ , we have an adjunction

$$(R^* \dashv L^*): \quad \text{Fun}(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{E}) \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{R^*} \\ \perp \\ \xleftarrow{L^*} \end{array} \text{Fun}(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{E})$$

as witnessed by a natural isomorphism

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \mathcal{D} & \xrightarrow{R} & \mathcal{C} \\
 & \searrow & \downarrow \\
 & & \mathcal{E}
 \end{array}
 \xrightarrow{\text{bij.}}
 \begin{array}{ccc}
 \mathcal{C} & \xrightarrow{F} & \mathcal{E} \\
 & \searrow & \downarrow \\
 & & \mathcal{D}
 \end{array}$$

natural in  $\mathcal{C} \xrightarrow{F} \mathcal{E}$  and  $\mathcal{D} \xrightarrow{G} \mathcal{E}$ .

4. *Uniqueness.* If  $G$  admits left/right adjoints  $F_1$  and  $F_2$ , then  $F_1 \cong F_2$ .<sup>4</sup>
5. *Stability Under Composition.* If  $F_1 \dashv G_1$  and  $F_2 \dashv G_2$ , then  $(F_2 \circ F_1) \dashv (G_2 \circ G_1)$ :

$$C \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{F_1} \\ \perp \\ \xleftarrow{G_1} \end{array} \mathcal{D} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{F_2} \\ \perp \\ \xleftarrow{G_2} \end{array} \mathcal{E} \rightsquigarrow C \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{F_2 \circ F_1} \\ \perp \\ \xleftarrow{G_2 \circ G_1} \end{array} \mathcal{E}$$

6. *Interaction With Co/Limits.* The following statements are true:
- (a) **Left Adjoints Preserve Colimits (LAPC).** If  $F$  is a left adjoint, then  $F$  preserves all colimits that exist in  $C$ .
  - (b) **Right Adjoints Preserve Limits (RAPL).** If  $G$  is a right adjoint, then  $G$  preserves all limits that exist in  $C$ .
7. *Interaction With Faithfulness.* Let  $(F, G, \eta, \epsilon)$  be an adjunction. The following conditions are equivalent:
- (a) The functor  $F$  is faithful.
  - (b) For each  $A \in \text{Obj}(C)$ , the morphism

$$\eta_A: A \rightarrow G_{F_A}$$

is a monomorphism.

Dually, the following conditions are equivalent:

- (a) The functor  $G$  is faithful.
- (b) For each  $A \in \text{Obj}(C)$ , the morphism

$$\epsilon_A: F_{G_A} \rightarrow A$$

is an epimorphism.

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<sup>4</sup>Moreover, writing  $\theta: F_1 \xrightarrow{\cong} F_2$  for this isomorphism, the diagrams

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{id}_C & \xrightarrow{\eta} & G \circ F \\ & \searrow \eta' & \downarrow \text{id}_G \circ \theta \\ & & G \circ F' \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{ccc} F \circ G & \xrightarrow{\epsilon} & \text{id}_D \\ \theta \circ \text{id}_G \downarrow & \nearrow \epsilon' & \\ F' \circ G & & \end{array}$$

commute; see [riehl:context].

8. *Interaction With Fullness.* Let  $(F, G, \eta, \epsilon)$  be an adjunction. The following conditions are equivalent:

- (a) The functor  $F$  is full.
- (b) For each  $A \in \text{Obj}(\mathcal{C})$ , the morphism

$$\eta_A: A \rightarrow G_{F_A}$$

is a split epimorphism.

Dually, the following conditions are equivalent:

- (a) The functor  $G$  is full.
- (b) For each  $A \in \text{Obj}(\mathcal{C})$ , the morphism

$$\epsilon_A: F_{G_A} \rightarrow A$$

is a split monomorphism.

9. *Interaction With Fully Faithfulness I.* Let  $(F, G, \eta, \epsilon)$  be an adjunction. The following conditions are equivalent:

- (a) The functor  $F$  is fully faithful.
- (b) For each  $A \in \text{Obj}(\mathcal{C})$ , the morphism

$$\eta_A: A \rightarrow G_{F_A}$$

is an isomorphism.

- (c) The following conditions are satisfied:
  - i. The natural transformation

$$\text{id}_F \circ \eta \circ \text{id}_G: F \circ G \Longrightarrow F \circ G \circ F \circ G$$

is a natural isomorphism.

- ii. The functor  $F$  is conservative.
- iii. The functor  $G$  is essentially surjective.

Dually, the following conditions are equivalent:

- (a) The functor  $G$  is fully faithful.
- (b) For each  $A \in \text{Obj}(\mathcal{C})$ , the morphism

$$\epsilon_A: F_{G_A} \rightarrow A$$

is an isomorphism.

(c) The following conditions are satisfied:

i. The natural transformation

$$\mathrm{id}_G \circ \eta \circ \mathrm{id}_F: G \circ F \Longrightarrow G \circ F \circ G \circ F$$

is a natural isomorphism.

ii. The functor  $G$  is conservative.

iii. The functor  $F$  is essentially surjective.

10. *Interaction With Fully Faithfulness II.* Let  $(F, G, \eta, \epsilon)$  be an adjunction.

(a) If  $G \circ F$  is fully faithful, then so is  $F$ .

(b) If  $F \circ G$  is fully faithful, then so is  $G$ .

*Proof.* ??, *Adjunctions Via Hom-Functors:* See [riehl:context].

??, *Uniqueness of Adjoints:* This follows from the Yoneda lemma (??) and its dual (??).

??, *Stability Under Composition:* See [riehl:context].

??, *Interaction With Limits and Colimits,* ??:<sup>5</sup> We prove ?? only, as ?? follows by duality (Limits and Colimits, ?? of ??). Indeed, let  $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$  be a functor admitting a right adjoint  $G: \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ . For each  $Y \in \mathrm{Obj}(\mathcal{D})$ , we have isomorphisms

$$\begin{aligned} \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F_{\mathrm{colim}(D)}, Y) &\cong \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(\mathrm{colim}(D), G_Y) \\ &\cong \lim(\mathrm{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(D, G_Y)) && \text{(Limits and Colimits, ?? of ??)} \\ &\cong \lim(\mathrm{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F_D, Y)) \\ &\cong \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(\mathrm{colim}(F_D), Y), && \text{(Limits and Colimits, ?? of ??)} \end{aligned}$$

natural in  $Y \in \mathrm{Obj}(\mathcal{D})$ . The result then follows from Categories, ??.

??, *Interaction With Limits and Colimits,* ??: This is dual to ??.

??, *Interaction With Faithfulness:* See [riehl:context].

??, *Interaction With Fullness:* See [riehl:context].

??, *Interaction With Fully Faithfulness I:* See [riehl:context] and [loregian2020coend].

??, *Interaction With Fully Faithfulness II:* See [stacks-project], [loregian2020coend], or [low:homotopical-algebra].  $\square$

## 1.2 Existence Criteria for Adjoint Functors

Let  $\mathcal{C}$  and  $\mathcal{D}$  be categories.

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<sup>5</sup>Reference: See [riehl:context].

**Theorem 1.2.1.1.** Let  $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$  and  $G: \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  be functors.

1. *Via Comma Categories.* The following conditions are equivalent:

- (a) The functor  $F$  has a right adjoint. 00WJ
- (b) For each  $s \in \text{Obj}(\mathcal{D})$ , the comma category  $F \downarrow s \cong \int_{\mathcal{C}} [h_s^{F-}]$  has a terminal object. 00WK

Dually, the following conditions are equivalent:

- (a) The functor  $G$  has a left adjoint  $F$ . 00WL
- (b) For each  $s \in \text{Obj}(\mathcal{C})$ , the comma category  $s \downarrow G \cong \int^{\mathcal{C}} [h_{G-}^s]$  has an initial object. 00WM

Moreover, when these conditions are satisfied, we have isomorphisms

$$F_A \cong \lim_{A \rightarrow G_x} (x),$$

$$G_B \cong \text{colim}_{F_x \rightarrow G_B} (x),$$

natural in  $A \in \text{Obj}(\mathcal{C})$  and  $B \in \text{Obj}(\mathcal{D})$ .

2. *The General Adjoint Functor Theorem* <sup>6</sup>. Suppose that 00WN

- (a) The category  $\mathcal{D}$  has all limits and  $F$  commutes with them.
- (b) The category  $\mathcal{C}$  is complete and locally small.
- (c) *The Solution Set Condition.* For each  $X \in \text{Obj}(\mathcal{D})$ , there exist
  - i. A small set  $I$ ;
  - ii. A set  $\{A_i\}_{i \in I}$  of objects of  $\mathcal{C}$ ;
  - iii. A set  $\{f_i: X \rightarrow G_{A_i}\}$  of morphisms of  $\mathcal{D}$ ;

such that, for each  $i \in I$  and each morphism  $f: X \rightarrow G_A$ , there exists a morphism  $\phi_i: A_i \rightarrow A$  of  $\mathcal{C}$  together with a factorisation

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} X & \xrightarrow{f_i} & G_{A_i} & \xrightarrow{G_{\phi_i}} & G_A. \\ & & \downarrow & & \uparrow \\ & & & f & \end{array}$$

Then  $F$  has a left adjoint.

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<sup>6</sup> *Further Terminology:* Also called **Freyd's adjoint functor theorem**.



3. *The Special Adjoint Functor Theorem.* Suppose that 00WP

- (a) The category  $\mathcal{D}$  has all limits and  $F$  commutes with them.
- (b) The category  $\mathcal{C}$  is complete, locally small, and well-powered.
- (c) The category  $\mathcal{C}$  has a small cogenerating set.

Then  $F$  has a left adjoint.

4. *Freyd's Representability Theorem I.* Let  $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathbf{Sets}$  be 00WQ functor. If<sup>7</sup>

- (a) The functor  $F$  commutes with limits;
- (b) The category  $\mathcal{C}$  is complete and locally small;
- (c) *The Solution Set Condition.* There exists a set  $\Phi \subset \mathbf{Obj}(\mathcal{C})$  such that, for each  $c \in \mathbf{Obj}(\mathcal{C})$ , there exist
  - $s \in \Phi$ ;
  - $y \in F_s$ ;
  - $f: s \rightarrow c$  in  $\mathbf{Hom}_{\mathbf{Sets}}(s, c)$ ;

such that  $F_{f(y)} = x$ ;

then  $F$  is representable.

5. *Freyd's Representability Theorem II* <sup>8</sup>. Let  $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathbf{Sets}$  00WR functor. If

- (a) The functor  $F$  commutes with limits;
- (b) There exist
  - A collection  $\{x_\alpha\}_{\alpha \in I}$  of object of  $\mathcal{C}$ ;
  - For each  $\alpha \in I$ , an element  $f_\alpha$  of  $F_{x_\alpha}$

such that for each  $y \in \mathbf{Obj}(\mathcal{C})$  and each  $g \in F_y$ , there exists some  $\alpha \in I$  and some morphism  $\phi: x_i \rightarrow y$  such that  $F_\phi(f_\alpha) = g$ ;

then  $F$  is representable.

6. *Co/Totally.* Suppose that 00WS

- (a) The category  $\mathcal{C}$  is locally small and cototal and  $\mathcal{D}$  is locally small.

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<sup>7</sup>A nice application of this theorem is given in [MSE276630], where it is used to abstractly show that  $\mathbf{Cats}$  is cocomplete, avoiding the explicit construction of coequalisers in  $\mathbf{Cats}$  given in ??.

<sup>8</sup>This is the statement of Freyd's representability theorem as found in [stacks-project].

*Proof. ??, Via Comma Categories:* We claim that ???? are indeed equivalent.<sup>9</sup>

- $?? \implies ??$ : Let  $F$  be a left adjoint of  $G$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} s \downarrow G &\cong \int^C [h_{G-}^s] \\ &\cong \int^C [h_-^{F_s}], \end{aligned}$$

where  $h_{G-}^s$  is corepresentable by  $F_s$ . By Fibred Categories, ?? of ??, it follows that the component  $\eta_s: s \rightarrow G_{F_s}$  of the unit of the adjunction  $F \dashv G$  at  $s$  is an initial object of  $s \downarrow G$ .

- $?? \implies ??$ : For each  $s \in \text{Obj}(\mathcal{D})$ , write  $\eta_s: s \rightarrow G_{F_s}$  for an initial object of  $s \downarrow G$ . This gives us a map of sets

$$\begin{aligned} F: \text{Obj}(\mathcal{C}) &\longrightarrow \text{Obj}(\mathcal{D}) \\ s &\longmapsto F_s. \end{aligned}$$

We now extend this map to a functor: given a morphism  $f: s \rightarrow s'$  of  $\mathcal{C}$ , we define  $F_f: F_s \rightarrow F_{s'}$  to be the unique morphism making the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} s & \xrightarrow{f} & s' \\ \eta_s \downarrow & & \downarrow \eta_{s'} \\ G_{F_s} & \xrightarrow{\quad G_{F_f} \quad} & G_{F_{s'}} \end{array}$$

commute (which exists by the initiality of  $\eta_s$ ). By the uniqueness of these morphisms, it follows that the assignment  $s \mapsto F_s$  is indeed functorial. Moreover, we also obtain a natural transformation  $\eta: \text{id}_{\mathcal{C}} \implies G \circ F$ . We now define a natural transformation

$$\phi: \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F_-, b) \implies \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(-, G_b)$$

consisting of the collection

$$\{\phi_{s,b}: \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F_s, b) \implies \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(s, G_b)\}_{s \in \text{Obj}(\mathcal{C})},$$

where  $\phi_{s,b}$  is the map sending a morphism  $g: F_s \rightarrow b$  to the composition

$$s \xrightarrow{\eta_s} G_{F_s} \xrightarrow{G_g} G_b.$$

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<sup>9</sup>Reference: [riehl:context].

By the existence and uniqueness of morphisms from  $\eta_s$  to any other object  $s \rightarrow G_b$  in  $s \downarrow G$ , it follows that the maps  $\phi_{s,b}$  are bijective, showing  $F$  to be a left adjoint of  $G$ .

??, *The General Adjoint Functor Theorem*: See [riehl:context].

??, *The Special Adjoint Functor Theorem*: See [riehl:context].

??, *Freyd's Representability Theorem I*: See [riehl:context].

??, *Freyd's Representability Theorem II*: See [stacks-project].

??, *Co/Totality*: Omitted. □

### 1.3 Adjoint Strings

To avoid clutter, in this section we will abbreviate long compositions of functors. For instance, we write  $f_1 \circ f_2 \circ f_3 \circ f_4$  as  $f_1 f_2 f_3 f_4$ . Let  $\mathcal{C}$  and  $\mathcal{D}$  be categories.

**Definition 1.3.1.1.** An **adjoint string** of length  $n$ <sup>10</sup> is an  $n$ -tuple  $(f_1, \dots, f_n)$  of functors between  $\mathcal{C}$  and  $\mathcal{D}$  such that

$$f_n \dashv f_{n+1}$$

for each  $n \in \{1, \dots, n-1\}$ .

**Proposition 1.3.1.2.** Let  $\mathcal{C}$  and  $\mathcal{D}$  be categories.

1. *Adjoint Triples as Adjunctions Between Adjunctions.* An adjoint triple is equivalently an adjunction  $(F \dashv G) \dashv (G \dashv H)$  between adjunctions. 00WW  
 FIXME [nLab:adjoint-triple].<sup>11</sup>
2. *Adjunctions Induced by an Adjoint Triple.* A triple adjunction  $(f_1, f_2, f_3)$  gives rise to two more adjunctions 00WX

$$(f_2 f_1 \dashv f_2 f_3): \mathcal{C} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{f_2 f_1} \\ \perp \\ \xleftarrow{f_2 f_3} \end{array} \mathcal{C}$$

<sup>10</sup> *Further Terminology*: Also called an **adjoint  $n$ -tuple**.

<sup>11</sup> [nLab:adjoint-triple] suggests writing

$$\begin{array}{ccc} f_1 & \dashv & f_2 \\ \perp & & \perp \\ f_2 & \dashv & f_3 \end{array}$$

to denote the adjunctions  $(f_1 \dashv f_2 \dashv f_3)$  and  $(f_1 f_2) \dashv (f_2 f_3)$  simultaneously; the first horizontally and the latter vertically.

and

$$(f_1 f_2 \dashv f_3 f_2): \mathcal{D} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{f_1 f_2} \\ \perp \\ \xleftarrow{f_3 f_2} \end{array} \mathcal{D}$$

where  $f_2 f_1$  and  $f_2 f_3$  are monads in  $\mathcal{C}$  and  $f_1 f_2$  and  $f_3 f_2$  are comonads in  $\mathcal{D}$ .

*Proof. ??, Adjoint Triples as Adjunctions Between Adjunctions:* Omitted.

*??, Adjunctions Induced by an Adjoint Triple:* Omitted.  $\square$

**Proposition 1.3.1.3.** Let  $\mathcal{C}$  and  $\mathcal{D}$  be categories.

1. *Adjunctions Induced by a Quadruple Adjunction.* An adjoint quadruple  $(f_1 \dashv f_2 \dashv f_3 \dashv f_4)$  gives rise to two adjoint triples

$$(f_2 f_1 \dashv f_2 f_3 \dashv f_4 f_3): \mathcal{C} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{f_2 f_1} \\ \perp \\ \xleftarrow{f_4 f_3} \end{array} \mathcal{C}$$

and

$$(f_1 f_2 \dashv f_3 f_2 \dashv f_3 f_4): \mathcal{D} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{f_1 f_2} \\ \perp \\ \xleftarrow{f_3 f_4} \end{array} \mathcal{D}$$

and six adjunctions

$$(f_1 f_2 f_3 \dashv f_4 f_3 f_2): \mathcal{C} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{f_1 f_2 f_3} \\ \perp \\ \xleftarrow{f_4 f_3 f_2} \end{array} \mathcal{D} \quad (f_3 f_2 f_1 \dashv f_2 f_3 f_4):$$

$$\mathcal{C} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{f_3 f_2 f_1} \\ \perp \\ \xleftarrow{f_2 f_3 f_4} \end{array} \mathcal{D}$$

$$(f_2 f_3 f_2 f_1 \dashv f_2 f_3 f_4 f_3): \mathcal{C} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{f_2 f_3 f_2 f_1} \\ \perp \\ \xleftarrow{f_2 f_3 f_4 f_3} \end{array} \mathcal{C} \quad (f_3 f_2 f_1 f_2 \dashv f_3 f_2 f_3 f_4):$$

$$\mathcal{C} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{f_3 f_2 f_1 f_2} \\ \perp \\ \xleftarrow{f_3 f_2 f_3 f_4} \end{array} \mathcal{C}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
(f_2 f_1 f_2 f_3 \dashv f_4 f_3 f_2 f_3): & \mathcal{D} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{f_2 f_1 f_2 f_3} \\ \perp \\ \xleftarrow{f_4 f_3 f_2 f_3} \end{array} \mathcal{D} & (f_1 f_2 f_3 f_2 \dashv f_3 f_4 f_3 f_2): \\
& \mathcal{D} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{f_1 f_2 f_3 f_2} \\ \perp \\ \xleftarrow{f_3 f_4 f_3 f_2} \end{array} \mathcal{D} &
\end{array}$$

where  $f_2 f_1$ ,  $f_2 f_3$ ,  $f_4 f_3$ ,  $f_2 f_3 f_2 f_1$ ,  $f_2 f_3 f_4 f_3$ ,  $f_3 f_2 f_1 f_2$ , and  $f_3 f_2 f_3 f_4$  are monads in  $\mathcal{C}$  and  $f_1 f_2$ ,  $f_3 f_2$ ,  $f_3 f_4$ ,  $f_2 f_1 f_2 f_3$ ,  $f_4 f_3 f_2 f_3$ ,  $f_1 f_2 f_3 f_2$ , and  $f_3 f_4 f_3 f_2$  are comonads in  $\mathcal{D}$ .

*Proof.* ??, *Adjunctions Induced by a Quadruple Adjunction:* Omitted.  $\square$

**Proposition 1.3.1.4.** Let  $(f_1 \dashv \cdots \dashv f_n): \mathcal{C} \mathcal{K} \mathcal{O} \mathcal{D} \mathcal{O} \mathcal{D}$  be an adjoint string.

1. For each  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  with  $1 \leq k \leq n-2$ , we have 2 induced adjoint strings

00X1

$$\begin{aligned}
& f_1 f_2 \cdots f_{n-k} f_{n-k+1} \dashv f_{n-k+2} f_{n-k+1} \cdots f_3 f_2 \dashv \cdots \dashv f_{k-1} f_k \cdots f_{n-2} f_{n-1} \dashv f_n f_{n-1} \cdots f_{k+1} f_k \\
& f_{n-k+1} f_{n-k} \cdots f_2 f_1 \dashv f_2 f_3 \cdots f_{n-k+1} f_{n-k+2} \dashv \cdots \dashv f_{n-1} f_{n-2} \cdots f_k f_{k-1} \dashv f_k f_{k+1} \cdots f_{n-1} f_n
\end{aligned}$$

of length  $n-k$ .

2. Inductively applying ?? to the induced adjoint strings, we get (including the 2 adjoint strings of ??)  $2 \cdot 3^{n-k-1}$  adjoint strings of length  $k$ <sup>12</sup>, for a grand total of

00X2

$$\sum_{k=2}^{n-1} 2(k-1) \cdot 3^{n-k-1} = \frac{1}{6}(3^n + 3) - n$$

adjunctions.<sup>13</sup>

3. In particular:

00X3

- (a) An adjoint triple induces 2 adjoint pairs.
- (b) An adjoint quadruple induces
  - 2 adjoint triples,
  - 6 adjoint pairs,

<sup>12</sup>These need not be unique.

<sup>13</sup>E.g. we have 4 adjoint strings of length  $n-2$ , such as

$$f_2 f_3 f_2 f_1 \dashv f_2 f_3 f_4 f_3 \dashv \cdots \dashv f_k f_{k+1} f_k f_{k-1} \dashv f_k f_{k+1} f_{k+2} f_{k+1} \dashv \cdots \dashv f_{n-2} f_{n-1} f_{n-2} f_{n-1} \dashv f_{n-2} f_{n-1} f_n f_{n-1}.$$

for a grand total of 10 adjunctions.

(c) An adjoint quintuple induces

- 2 adjoint quadruples,
- 6 adjoint triples,
- 18 adjoint pairs,

for a grand total of 36 adjunctions.

(d) An adjoint sextuple induces

- 2 adjoint quintuples,
- 6 adjoint quadruples,
- 18 adjoint triples,
- 54 adjoint pairs,

for a grand total of 116 adjunctions.

(e) An adjoint septuple induces

- 2 adjoint sextuples,
- 6 adjoint quintuples,
- 18 adjoint quadruples,
- 54 adjoint triples,
- 162 adjoint pairs,

for a grand total of 358 adjunctions.

*Proof.* Omitted. □

## 1.4 Reflective Subcategories

Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be a category.

**Definition 1.4.1.1.** A subcategory  $\mathcal{C}_0$  of  $\mathcal{C}$  is **reflective** if the inclusion functor  $i: \mathcal{C}_0 \hookrightarrow \mathcal{C}$  of  $\mathcal{C}_0$  into  $\mathcal{C}$  admits a left adjoint  $L: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}_0$ .<sup>14</sup>

**Example 1.4.1.2.** Here are some examples of reflective subcategories

1.  $\mathbf{CHaus} \hookrightarrow \mathbf{Top}$  (*riehl:context*). The category  $\mathbf{CHaus}$  is a reflective subcategory of  $\mathbf{Top}$ , as witnessed by the adjunction

$$(\beta \dashv \iota): \mathbf{Top} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\beta} \\ \perp \\ \xleftarrow{\iota} \end{array} \mathbf{CHaus},$$

of Topological Spaces, ?? of ??.

---

<sup>14</sup>*Further Terminology:* The functor  $L$  is called the **reflector** or **localisation** of the

2.  $\mathbf{CMon} \hookrightarrow \mathbf{Mon}$ . The category  $\mathbf{CMon}$  is a reflective subcategory of  $\mathbf{Ab}$ , as witnessed by the adjunction

$$\left( (-)^{\text{ab}} \dashv \iota \right): \quad \mathbf{Mon} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{(-)^{\text{ab}}} \\ \perp \\ \xleftarrow{\iota} \end{array} \mathbf{CMon}$$

of **Monoids**, ?? of ??.

3.  $\mathbf{Ab} \hookrightarrow \mathbf{Grp}$  ([riehl:context]). The category  $\mathbf{Ab}$  is a reflective subcategory of  $\mathbf{Grp}$ , as witnessed by the adjunction

$$\left( (-)^{\text{ab}} \dashv \iota \right): \quad \mathbf{Grp} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{(-)^{\text{ab}}} \\ \perp \\ \xleftarrow{\iota} \end{array} \mathbf{Ab}$$

of **Groups**, ?? of ??.

4.  $\mathbf{Ab}^{\text{tf}} \hookrightarrow \mathbf{Ab}$  ([riehl:context]). The full subcategory  $\mathbf{Ab}^{\text{tf}}$  of  $\mathbf{Ab}$  spanned by the torsion-free abelian groups is reflective in  $\mathbf{Ab}$ . This is witnessed by the adjunction

$$\left( (-)^{\text{tf}} \dashv \iota \right): \quad \mathbf{Ab} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{(-)^{\text{tf}}} \\ \perp \\ \xleftarrow{\iota} \end{array} \mathbf{Ab}^{\text{tf}},$$

where  $(-)^{\text{tf}}: \mathbf{Ab} \rightarrow \mathbf{Ab}^{\text{tf}}$  is the functor defined on objects by sending an abelian group  $A$  to the quotient  $A/\text{Tors}(A)$ , where  $\text{Tors}(A)$  is the torsion subgroup of  $A$ .

5.  $\mathbf{Mod}_S \hookrightarrow \mathbf{Mod}_R$  ([riehl:context]). Let  $\phi: R \rightarrow S$  be a morphism of rings. Then  $\phi^*$  is full iff  $\phi$  is an epimorphism, in which case the adjunction

$$(S \otimes_R (-) \dashv \phi^*): \quad \mathbf{Mod}_S \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{S \otimes_R (-)} \\ \perp \\ \xleftarrow{\phi^*} \end{array} \mathbf{Mod}_R$$

witnesses  $\mathbf{Mod}_S$  as a reflective subcategory of  $\mathbf{Mod}_R$ .

6.  $\mathbf{Shv}(\mathcal{C}) \hookrightarrow \mathbf{PSh}(\mathcal{C})$  ([riehl:context]). The category  $\mathbf{Shv}(\mathcal{C})$  of sheaves on a site  $\mathcal{C}$  is a reflective subcategory of  $\mathbf{PSh}(\mathcal{C})$ , as witnessed by the adjunction

$$\left( (-)^{\#} \dashv \iota \right): \quad \mathbf{PSh}(\mathcal{C}) \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{(-)^{\#}} \\ \perp \\ \xleftarrow{\iota} \end{array} \mathbf{Shv}(\mathcal{C}),$$

of Sites, ??.

7.  $\mathbf{Cats} \hookrightarrow \mathbf{sSets}$  (*[riehl:context]*). The category  $\mathbf{Cats}$  is a reflective subcategory of  $\mathbf{sSets}$ , as witnessed by the adjunction

$$(\mathbf{Ho} \dashv \mathbf{N}_\bullet): \mathbf{sSets} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\mathbf{Ho}} \\ \perp \\ \xleftarrow{\mathbf{N}_\bullet} \end{array} \mathbf{Cats}$$

of Quasicategories, ?? of ??.

**Proposition 1.4.1.3.** Let  $\mathbf{C}_0$  be a reflective subcategory of  $\mathbf{C}$ .

1. *Characterisations.* Let

$$(L \dashv \iota): \mathbf{C} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{L} \\ \perp \\ \xleftarrow{\iota} \end{array} \mathbf{D}$$

be an adjunction. The following conditions are equivalent:

- (a) The functor  $\iota$  is fully faithful.
- (b) The counit  $\epsilon: L \circ \iota \Rightarrow \text{id}_{\mathbf{D}}$  is a natural isomorphism.
- (c) The following conditions are satisfied:
  - i. The monad  $(\iota \circ L, \text{id}_L \circ \epsilon \circ \text{id}_L, \eta)$  associated to the adjunction  $L \dashv \iota$  is idempotent.
  - ii. The functor  $\iota$  is conservative.
  - iii. The functor  $L$  is essentially surjective.
- (d) The functor  $L$  is the Gabriel–Zisman localisation of  $\mathbf{C}$  with respect to the class  $S$  given by

$$S \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{f \in \text{Mor}(\mathbf{C}) \mid L(f) \text{ is an isomorphism in } \mathbf{D}\}.$$

- (e) The functor  $L$  is dense.

2. *Interaction With Limits.* The inclusion  $\mathbf{C}_0 \hookrightarrow \mathbf{C}$  creates all limits which exist in  $\mathbf{C}$ .
3. *Interaction With Colimits.* The category  $\mathbf{C}_0$  admits all colimits that exist in  $\mathbf{C}$ : given a diagram  $D: \mathcal{I} \rightarrow \mathbf{C}_0$  in  $\mathbf{C}_0$ , if  $\text{colim}(i \circ D)$  exists in  $\mathbf{C}$ , then  $\text{colim}(D)$  exists in  $\mathbf{C}_0$  and we have

$$\text{colim}(D) \cong L(\text{colim}(i \circ D)).$$



*Proof.* ??, *Characterisations:* See [calculus-of-fractions-and-homotopy-theory] and [properties-of-dense-and-relative-adjoint-functors].

??, *Interaction With Limits:* See [riehl:context].

??, *Interaction With Colimits:* See [riehl:context].  $\square$

## 1.5 Coreflective Subcategories

Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be a category.

**Definition 1.5.1.1.** A subcategory  $\mathcal{C}_0$  of  $\mathcal{C}$  is **coreflective** if the inclusion functor  $i: \mathcal{C}_0 \hookrightarrow \mathcal{C}$  of  $\mathcal{C}_0$  into  $\mathcal{C}$  admits a right adjoint  $R: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}_0$ .<sup>15</sup>

## 2 Presheaves and the Yoneda Lemma

### 2.1 Presheaves

Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be a category.

**Definition 2.1.1.1.** A **presheaf** on  $\mathcal{C}$  is a functor  $\mathcal{F}: \mathcal{C}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Sets}$ .

**Definition 2.1.1.2.** The **category of presheaves on  $\mathcal{C}$**  is the category  $\mathbf{PSh}(\mathcal{C})$  defined by

$$\mathbf{PSh}(\mathcal{C}) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathbf{Fun}(\mathcal{C}^{\text{op}}, \mathbf{Sets}).$$

**Remark 2.1.1.3.** In detail, the **category of presheaves on  $\mathcal{C}$**  is the category  $\mathbf{PSh}(\mathcal{C})$  where

- *Objects.* The objects of  $\mathbf{PSh}(\mathcal{C})$  are presheaves on  $\mathcal{C}$ ;
- *Morphisms.* A morphism of  $\mathbf{PSh}(\mathcal{C})$  from  $\mathcal{F}$  to  $\mathcal{G}$  is a natural transformation  $\alpha: \mathcal{F} \Rightarrow \mathcal{G}$ ;
- *Identities.* For each  $\mathcal{F} \in \mathbf{Obj}(\mathbf{PSh}(\mathcal{C}))$ , the unit map

$$\eta_{\mathcal{F}}^{\mathbf{PSh}(\mathcal{C})}: \text{pt} \rightarrow \mathbf{Nat}(\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{F})$$

of  $\mathbf{PSh}(\mathcal{C})$  at  $\mathcal{F}$  is defined by

$$\text{id}_{\mathcal{F}}^{\mathbf{PSh}(\mathcal{C})} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{id}_{\mathcal{F}};$$

---

adjunction  $L \dashv i$ .

<sup>15</sup>*Further Terminology:* The functor  $L$  is called the **coreflector** or **colocalisation** of the adjunction  $i \dashv R$ .

- *Composition.* For each  $\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{G}, \mathcal{H} \in \text{Obj}(\text{PSh}(\mathcal{C}))$ , the composition map

$$\circ_{\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{G}, \mathcal{H}}^{\text{PSh}(\mathcal{C})} : \text{Nat}(\mathcal{G}, \mathcal{H}) \times \text{Nat}(\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{G}) \rightarrow \text{Nat}(\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{H})$$

of  $\text{PSh}(\mathcal{C})$  at  $(\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{G}, \mathcal{H})$  is defined by

$$\beta \circ_{\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{G}, \mathcal{H}}^{\text{PSh}(\mathcal{C})} \alpha \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \beta \circ \alpha.$$

## 2.2 Representable Presheaves

Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be a category, let  $U, V \in \text{Obj}(\mathcal{C})$ , and let  $f: U \rightarrow V$  be a morphism of  $\mathcal{C}$ .

**Definition 2.2.1.1.** The **representable presheaf associated to  $U$**  is the presheaf  $h_U: \mathcal{C}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \text{Sets}$  on  $\mathcal{C}$  where

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

$$h_U(A) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(A, U);$$

- *Action on Morphisms.* For each morphism  $f: A \rightarrow B$  of  $\mathcal{C}$ , the image

$$h_U(f): \underbrace{h_U(B)}_{\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(B, U)} \rightarrow \underbrace{h_U(A)}_{\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(A, U)}$$

of  $f$  by  $h_U$  is defined by

$$h_U(f) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} f^*.$$

**Definition 2.2.1.2.** A presheaf  $\mathcal{F}: \mathcal{C}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \text{Sets}$  is **representable** if  $\mathcal{F} \cong h_U$  for some  $U \in \text{Obj}(\mathcal{C})$ .<sup>16</sup>

**Definition 2.2.1.3.** The **representable natural transformation associated to  $f$**  is the natural transformation  $h_f: h_U \Rightarrow h_V$  consisting of the collection

$$\left\{ h_{f|A}: \underbrace{h_U(A)}_{\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(A, U)} \rightarrow \underbrace{h_V(A)}_{\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(A, V)} \right\}_{A \in \text{Obj}(\mathcal{C})}$$

where

$$h_{f|A} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} f_*.$$

<sup>16</sup>In such a case, we call  $U$  a **representing object** for  $\mathcal{F}$ .

**Theorem 2.2.1.4.** Let  $\mathcal{F}: \mathcal{C}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Sets}$  ~~be a~~ presheaf on  $\mathcal{C}$ . We have a bijection

$$\text{Nat}(h_A, \mathcal{F}) \cong \mathcal{F}_A,$$

natural in  $A \in \text{Obj}(\mathcal{C})$ , determining a natural isomorphism of functors

$$\text{Nat}(h_{(-)}, \mathcal{F}) \cong \mathcal{F}.$$

*Proof.* The Natural Transformation  $ev_{(-)}: \text{Nat}(h_{(-)}, \mathcal{F}) \Rightarrow \mathcal{F}$ : Let  $ev_{(-)}: \text{Nat}(h_{(-)}, \mathcal{F}) \Rightarrow \mathcal{F}$  be the natural transformation consisting of the collection

$$\{\text{ev}_A: \text{Nat}(h_A, \mathcal{F}) \rightarrow \mathcal{F}(A)\}_{A \in \text{Obj}(\mathcal{C})}$$

with

$$\text{ev}_A(\alpha) = \alpha_A(\text{id}_A)$$

for each  $\alpha: h_A \Rightarrow \mathcal{F}$  in  $\text{Nat}(h_A, \mathcal{F})$ .

The Natural Transformation  $\xi_{(-)}: \mathcal{F} \Rightarrow \text{Nat}(h_{(-)}, \mathcal{F})$ : Let  $\xi_{(-)}: \mathcal{F} \Rightarrow \text{Nat}(h_{(-)}, \mathcal{F})$  be the natural transformation consisting of the collection

$$\{\xi_A: \mathcal{F}(A) \rightarrow \text{Nat}(h_A, \mathcal{F})\}_{A \in \text{Obj}(\mathcal{C})}$$

where  $\xi_A: \mathcal{F}(A) \rightarrow \text{Nat}(h_A, \mathcal{F})$  is the map sending an element  $f$  of  $\mathcal{F}(X)$  to the natural transformation

$$\xi_{A,f}: h_A \Rightarrow \mathcal{F}$$

consisting of the collection

$$\{(\xi_{A,f})_U: h_A(U) \rightarrow \mathcal{F}(U)\}_{A \in \text{Obj}(\mathcal{C})}$$

where  $(\xi_{A,f})_U: h_A(U) \rightarrow \mathcal{F}(U)$  is the morphism given by

$$\begin{aligned} (\xi_{A,f})_U: h_A(U) &\longrightarrow \mathcal{F}(U) \\ (h: U \rightarrow A) &\longmapsto \mathcal{F}(h)(f) \end{aligned}$$

for each  $f: U \rightarrow A$  in  $h_A(U)$ .

$ev_{(-)} \circ \xi_{(-)} = \text{id}_{\mathcal{F}}$ : Let  $f \in \mathcal{F}(X)$ . We have

$$\begin{aligned} (\xi_{A,f})_U(\text{id}_U) &= \mathcal{F}(\text{id}_U)(f), \\ &= \text{id}_{\mathcal{F}(U)}(f) \\ &= f. \end{aligned}$$

$\xi_{(-)} \circ ev_{(-)} = id_{Nat(h_{(-)}, \mathcal{F})}$ : Let  $\alpha: h_A \Rightarrow \mathcal{F} \in Nat(h_A, \mathcal{F})$  and consider the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Hom}_C(A, A) & \xrightarrow{h_f} & \text{Hom}_C(A, X) \\ \downarrow \xi_A & & \downarrow \xi_X \\ \mathcal{F}(A) & \xrightarrow{\mathcal{F}(f)} & \mathcal{F}(X) \end{array}$$

defined on elements by

$$\begin{array}{ccc} id_A & \xrightarrow{\quad} & f \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ u & \xrightarrow{\quad} & \mathcal{F}(f)(u) = \xi_X(f). \end{array}$$

Then it is clear that the natural transformation  $\xi$  is determined by  $\xi_A(id_A) = u$ , since we must have

$$\xi_X(f) = \mathcal{F}(f)(u)$$

for each  $X \in \text{Obj}(C)$  and each morphism  $f: A \rightarrow X$  of  $C$ .  $\square$

## 2.3 The Yoneda Embedding

**Definition 2.3.1.1.** The **covariant Yoneda embedding** of  $C$ <sup>17</sup> is the functor<sup>18</sup>

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

where

- *Action on Objects.* For each  $U \in \text{Obj}(C)$ , we have

$$\mathcal{Y}(U) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} h_U;$$

- *Action on Morphisms.* For each morphism  $f: U \rightarrow V$  of  $C$ , the image

$$\mathcal{Y}(f): \mathcal{Y}(U) \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}(V)$$

of  $f$  by  $\mathcal{Y}$  is defined by

$$\mathcal{Y}(f) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} h_f.$$

<sup>17</sup> *Further Terminology:* Also called simply the **Yoneda embedding**.

<sup>18</sup> *Further Notation:* Also written  $h_{(-)}$ , or simply  $\mathcal{Y}$ .

**Proposition 2.3.1.2.** Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be a category.

1. *Fully Faithfulness.* The Yoneda embedding  $\mathcal{Y}$  is fully faithful.<sup>19</sup>
2. *Preservation and Reflection of Isomorphisms.* Let  $A, B \in \text{Obj}(\mathcal{C})$ . The following conditions are equivalent:

- (a) We have  $A \cong B$ .
- (b) We have  $h_A \cong h_B$ .
- (c) We have  $h^A \cong h^B$ .

3. *Uniqueness of Representing Objects Up to Isomorphism.* Let  $\mathcal{F}: \mathcal{C}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Sets}$  be a presheaf. If there exist objects  $A$  and  $B$  of  $\mathcal{C}$  such that we have

$$\begin{aligned} h_A &\cong \mathcal{F}, \\ h_B &\cong \mathcal{F}, \end{aligned}$$

then  $A \cong B$ .

4. *As a Free Cocompletion: The Universal Property.* The pair  $(\mathbf{PSh}(\mathcal{C}), \mathcal{Y})$  consisting of

- The category  $\mathbf{PSh}(\mathcal{C})$  of presheaves on  $\mathcal{C}$ ;
- The Yoneda embedding  $\mathcal{Y}: \mathcal{C} \hookrightarrow \mathbf{PSh}(\mathcal{C})$  of  $\mathcal{C}$  into  $\mathbf{PSh}(\mathcal{C})$ ;

satisfies the following universal property:

- (UP) Given another pair  $(\mathcal{A}, F)$  consisting of
- A cocomplete category  $\mathcal{A}$ ;
  - A cocontinuous functor  $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$ ;

there exists a cocontinuous functor  $\mathbf{PSh}(\mathcal{C}) \xrightarrow{\exists!} \mathcal{A}$ , unique up to natural isomorphism, making the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & & \mathbf{PSh}(\mathcal{C}) \\ & \nearrow \mathcal{Y} & \downarrow \exists! \\ \mathcal{C} & \xrightarrow{F} & \mathcal{A} \end{array}$$

commute, again up to natural isomorphism.

<sup>19</sup>In other words, the Yoneda embedding is indeed an embedding.

5. *As a Free Cocompletion: 2-Adjointness.* We have a 2-adjunction<sup>20</sup>

$$(\mathbf{PSh} \dashv \iota): \mathbf{Cats} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\mathbf{PSh}} \\ \perp_2 \\ \xleftarrow{\iota} \end{array} \mathbf{Cats}^{\text{cocomp.}},$$

witnessed by an adjoint equivalence of categories<sup>20</sup>

$$(\text{Lan}_{\mathfrak{J}} \dashv \mathfrak{J}^*): \mathbf{CoContFun}(\mathbf{PSh}(C), \mathcal{D}) \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\text{Lan}_{\mathfrak{J}}} \\ \perp \\ \xleftarrow{\mathfrak{J}^*} \end{array} \mathbf{Fun}(C, \mathcal{D}),$$

natural in  $C \in \mathbf{Obj}(\mathbf{Cats})$  and  $\mathcal{D} \in \mathbf{Obj}(\mathbf{Cats}^{\text{cocomp.}})$ , where

- We have a functor

$$\mathfrak{J}_C^*: \mathbf{CoContFun}(\mathbf{PSh}(C), \mathcal{D}) \rightarrow \mathbf{Fun}(C, \mathcal{D})$$

defined by

$$\mathfrak{J}_C^*(F) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} F \circ \mathfrak{J}_C,$$

i.e. by sending a functor  $F: \mathbf{PSh}(C) \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$  to the composition

$$C \xrightarrow{\mathfrak{J}_C} \mathbf{PSh}(C) \xrightarrow{F} \mathcal{D};$$

- We have a natural map

$$\text{Lan}_{\mathfrak{J}_C}: \mathbf{Fun}(C, \mathcal{D}) \rightarrow \mathbf{CoContFun}(\mathbf{PSh}(C), \mathcal{D})$$

computed on objects by

$$\begin{aligned} [\text{Lan}_{\mathfrak{J}_C}(F)](\mathcal{F}) &\cong \int^{A \in \mathcal{D}} \text{Nat}(h_A, \mathcal{F}) \odot F_A \\ &\cong \int^{A \in \mathcal{D}} \mathcal{F}^A \odot F_A \end{aligned}$$

for each  $\mathcal{F} \in \mathbf{Obj}(\mathbf{PSh}(C))$ .

*Proof. ??, Fully Faithfulness:* Let  $A, B \in \mathbf{Obj}(C)$ . Applying ?? to the functor  $h_B$  (i.e. in the case  $\mathcal{F} = h_B$ ), we have

$$\text{Hom}_C(A, B) \cong \text{Nat}(h_A, h_B).$$

<sup>20</sup>In this sense,  $\mathbf{PSh}(C)$  is the free cocompletion of  $C$  (although the term “cocompletion”

Thus  $\mathcal{J}$  is fully faithful.

??, *Preservation and Reflection of Isomorphisms*: This follows from ?? and ??.

??, *Uniqueness of Representing Objects Up to Isomorphism*: By composing the isomorphisms  $h_A \cong \mathcal{F} \cong h_B$ , we get a natural isomorphism  $\alpha: h_A \xrightarrow{\cong} h_B$ . By ??, we have  $A \cong B$ .

??, *As a Free Cocompletion: The Universal Property*: This is a rephrasing of ??.

?: *As a Free Cocompletion: 2-Adjointness*: See [nLab:free-cocompletion].  $\square$

## 2.4 Universal Objects

**Definition 2.4.1.1.** The **universal object** associated to a representable functor  $h_U: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$  is the element  $u \in h_U(U)$  satisfying the following universal property:<sup>21</sup>

(UP) For each  $B \in \text{Obj}(\mathcal{C})$ , the map

$$\begin{aligned} h_U(B) &\longrightarrow h_U(U) \\ (f: B \rightarrow A) &\longmapsto h_U(f)(u) \end{aligned}$$

is a bijection.

**Remark 2.4.1.2.** In other words, a **universal object**  $u$  associated to a representable functor  $h_U: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$  represented by  $U$  is universal in the sense that every element of  $h_U(A)$  is equal to the image of  $u$  via  $h_U(f)$  for a unique morphism  $f: A \rightarrow U$  of  $\mathcal{C}$ .

**Example 2.4.1.3.** Let  $G$  be a group and consider the functor  $\text{Bun}_G^{\text{num}}(-): \text{Ho}(\text{Top})^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \text{Sets}$  sending  $[X] \in \text{Ho}(\text{Top})^{\text{op}}$  to the set of numerable principal  $G$ -bundles on  $X$ . Then the universal numerable principal  $G$ -bundle  $\gamma: \text{EG} \rightarrow \text{BG}$  is a universal object for  $\text{Bun}_G^{\text{num}}(-)$ .

Furthermore, the map sending  $\gamma$  to a principal  $G$ -bundle  $P \rightarrow X$  on  $X$  is the pullback

$$f^*: \text{Bun}_G^{\text{num}}(\text{BG}) \rightarrow \text{Bun}_G^{\text{num}}(X)$$

of  $P$  along the homotopy class  $[f]: X \rightarrow \text{BG}$  classifying  $P$  of maps  $X \rightarrow \text{BG}$ . See Algebraic Topology, ?? for more details.

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is slightly misleading, as  $\text{PSh}(\text{PSh}(\mathcal{C})) \not\stackrel{\text{eq.}}{\cong} \text{PSh}(\mathcal{C})$ .

<sup>21</sup>This is the element of  $h_U(U)$  corresponding to the identity natural transformation

### 3 Copresheaves and the Contravariant Yoneda Lemma

#### 3.1 Copresheaves

Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be a category.

**Definition 3.1.1.1.** A **copresheaf** on  $\mathcal{C}$  is a functor  $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathbf{Sets}$ .

**Definition 3.1.1.2.** The **category of copresheaves on  $\mathcal{C}$**  is the category  $\mathbf{CoPSh}(\mathcal{C})$  defined by

$$\mathbf{CoPSh}(\mathcal{C}) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathbf{Fun}(\mathcal{C}, \mathbf{Sets}).$$

**Remark 3.1.1.3.** In detail, the **category of copresheaves on  $\mathcal{C}$**  is the category  $\mathbf{CoPSh}(\mathcal{C})$  where

- *Objects.* The objects of  $\mathbf{CoPSh}(\mathcal{C})$  are presheaves on  $\mathcal{C}$ ;
- *Morphisms.* A morphism of  $\mathbf{CoPSh}(\mathcal{C})$  from  $F$  to  $G$  is a natural transformation  $\alpha: F \Rightarrow G$ ;
- *Identities.* For each  $F \in \mathbf{Obj}(\mathbf{CoPSh}(\mathcal{C}))$ , the unit map

$$\eta_F^{\mathbf{CoPSh}(\mathcal{C})}: \text{pt} \rightarrow \mathbf{Nat}(F, F)$$

of  $\mathbf{CoPSh}(\mathcal{C})$  at  $F$  is defined by

$$\text{id}_F^{\mathbf{CoPSh}(\mathcal{C})} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{id}_F;$$

- *Composition.* For each  $F, G, H \in \mathbf{Obj}(\mathbf{CoPSh}(\mathcal{C}))$ , the composition map

$$\circ_{F,G,H}^{\mathbf{CoPSh}(\mathcal{C})}: \mathbf{Nat}(G, H) \times \mathbf{Nat}(F, G) \rightarrow \mathbf{Nat}(F, H)$$

of  $\mathbf{CoPSh}(\mathcal{C})$  at  $(F, G, H)$  is defined by

$$\beta \circ_{F,G,H}^{\mathbf{CoPSh}(\mathcal{C})} \alpha \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \beta \circ \alpha.$$

#### 3.2 Corepresentable Copresheaves

Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be a category, let  $U, V \in \mathbf{Obj}(\mathcal{C})$ , and let  $f: U \rightarrow V$  be a morphism of  $\mathcal{C}$ .

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$\text{id}_{h_U}: h_U \Rightarrow h_U$  under the isomorphism  $h_U(U) \cong \mathbf{Hom}_{\mathbf{PSh}(\mathcal{C})}(h_U, h_U)$ .



**Definition 3.2.1.1.** The **corepresentable** **copresheaf** associated to  $U$  is the copresheaf  $h^U : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathbf{Sets}$  on  $\mathcal{C}$  where

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

$$h^U(A) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(U, A);$$

- *Action on Morphisms.* For each morphism  $f : A \rightarrow B$  of  $\mathcal{C}$ , the image

$$h^U(f) : \underbrace{h^U(A)}_{\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(U, A)} \rightarrow \underbrace{h^U(B)}_{\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(U, B)}$$

of  $f$  by  $h^U$  is defined by

$$h^U(f) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} f_*.$$

**Definition 3.2.1.2.** A copresheaf  $F : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathbf{Sets}$  is **corepresentable** if  $F \cong h^U$  for some  $U \in \text{Obj}(\mathcal{C})$ .<sup>22</sup>

**Definition 3.2.1.3.** The **corepresentable** **natural transformation** associated to  $f$  is the natural transformation  $h^f : h^V \Rightarrow h^U$  consisting of the collection

$$\left\{ h_A^f : \underbrace{h^V(A)}_{\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(V, A)} \rightarrow \underbrace{h^U(A)}_{\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(U, A)} \right\}_{A \in \text{Obj}(\mathcal{C})}$$

where

$$h_A^f \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} f^*.$$

**Theorem 3.2.1.4.** Let  $F : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathbf{Sets}$  be a copresheaf on  $\mathcal{C}$ . We have a bijection

$$\text{Nat}(h^A, F) \cong F^A,$$

natural in  $A \in \text{Obj}(\mathcal{C})$ , determining a natural isomorphism of functors

$$\text{Nat}(h^{(-)}, F) \cong F.$$

*Proof.* This is dual to ??.

□

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<sup>22</sup>In such a case, we call  $U$  a **corepresenting object** for  $F$ .

### 3.3 The Contravariant Yoneda Embedding

**Definition 3.3.1.1.** The contravariant Yoneda embedding of  $\mathcal{C}$  is the functor<sup>23</sup>

$$\mathfrak{Y}_{\mathcal{C}}: \mathcal{C}^{\text{op}} \hookrightarrow \text{Fun}(\mathcal{C}, \text{Sets})$$

where

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

$$\mathfrak{Y}(U) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} h^U;$$

- *Action on Morphisms.* For each morphism  $f: U \rightarrow V$  of  $\mathcal{C}$ , the image

$$\mathfrak{Y}(f): \mathfrak{Y}(V) \rightarrow \mathfrak{Y}(U)$$

of  $f$  by  $\mathfrak{Y}$  is defined by

$$\mathfrak{Y}(f) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} h^f.$$

**Proposition 3.3.1.2.** Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be a category.

1. *Fully Faithfulness.* The contravariant Yoneda embedding is fully faithful.<sup>24</sup>
2. *Preservation and Reflection of Isomorphisms.* Let  $A, B \in \text{Obj}(\mathcal{C})$ . The following conditions are equivalent:

- (a) We have  $A \cong B$ .
- (b) We have  $h_A \cong h_B$ .
- (c) We have  $h^A \cong h^B$ .

3. *Uniqueness of Representing Objects Up to Isomorphism.* Let  $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \text{Sets}$  be a copresheaf. If there exist objects  $A$  and  $B$  of  $\mathcal{C}$  such that we have

$$\begin{aligned} h^A &\cong F, \\ h^B &\cong F, \end{aligned}$$

then  $A \cong B$ .

<sup>23</sup>*Further Notation:* Also written  $h^{(-)}$ , or simply  $\mathfrak{Y}$ .

<sup>24</sup>In other words, the contravariant Yoneda embedding is indeed an embedding.

4. *As a Free Completion: The Universal Property.* The pair  $(\mathbf{CoPSh}(\mathcal{C})^{\text{op}}, \mathfrak{Y})$  consisting of

- The opposite  $\mathbf{CoPSh}(\mathcal{C})^{\text{op}}$  of the category of copresheaves on  $\mathcal{C}$ ;
- The contravariant Yoneda embedding  $\mathfrak{Y}: \mathcal{C} \hookrightarrow \mathbf{CoPSh}(\mathcal{C})^{\text{op}}$  of  $\mathcal{C}$  into  $\mathbf{CoPSh}(\mathcal{C})^{\text{op}}$ ;

satisfies the following universal property:

(UP) Given another pair  $(\mathcal{A}, F)$  consisting of

- A complete category  $\mathcal{A}$ ;
- A continuous functor  $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$ ;

there exists a continuous functor  $\mathbf{CoPSh}(\mathcal{C})^{\text{op}} \xrightarrow{\exists!} \mathcal{A}$ , unique up to natural isomorphism, making the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & \mathbf{CoPSh}(\mathcal{C})^{\text{op}} & \\ \mathfrak{Y} \nearrow & \downarrow \exists! & \\ \mathcal{C} & \xrightarrow{F} & \mathcal{A} \end{array}$$

commute, again up to natural isomorphism.

5. *As a Free Completion: 2-Adjointness.* We have a 2-adjunction

$$(\mathbf{CoPSh}^{\text{op}} \dashv \iota): \mathbf{Cats} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\mathbf{CoPSh}^{\text{op}}} \\ \perp_2 \\ \xleftarrow{\iota} \end{array} \mathbf{Cats}^{\text{comp}},$$

witnessed by an adjoint equivalence of categories

$$\left( \mathbf{Ran}_{\mathfrak{Y}}^{\text{op}} \dashv \mathfrak{Y}^* \right): \mathbf{ContFun}(\mathbf{CoPSh}(\mathcal{C})^{\text{op}}, \mathcal{D}) \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\mathbf{Ran}_{\mathfrak{Y}}^{\text{op}}} \\ \perp \\ \xleftarrow{\mathfrak{Y}^*} \end{array} \mathbf{Fun}(\mathcal{C}^{\text{op}}, \mathcal{D}),$$

natural in  $\mathcal{C} \in \mathbf{Obj}(\mathbf{Cats})$  and  $\mathcal{D} \in \mathbf{Obj}(\mathbf{Cats}^{\text{comp}})$ .

*Proof.* This is dual to ??.

□

## Appendices

## A Other Chapters

### Sets

1. [Sets](#)
2. [Constructions With Sets](#)
3. [Pointed Sets](#)
4. [Tensor Products of Pointed Sets](#)
5. [Relations](#)
6. [Spans](#)
7. [Posets](#)

### Indexed and Fibred Sets

7. [Indexed Sets](#)
8. [Fibred Sets](#)
9. [Un/Straightening for Indexed and Fibred Sets](#)

### Category Theory

11. [Categories](#)
12. [Types of Morphisms in Categories](#)
13. [Adjunctions and the Yoneda Lemma](#)
14. [Constructions With Categories](#)
15. [Kan Extensions](#)

### Bicategories

17. [Bicategories](#)
18. [Internal Adjunctions](#)

### Internal Category Theory

19. [Internal Categories](#)

### Cyclic Stuff

20. [The Cycle Category](#)

### Cubical Stuff

21. [The Cube Category](#)

### Globular Stuff

22. [The Globe Category](#)

### Cellular Stuff

23. [The Cell Category](#)

### Monoids

24. [Monoids](#)
25. [Constructions With Monoids](#)

### Monoids With Zero

26. [Monoids With Zero](#)
27. [Constructions With Monoids With Zero](#)

### Groups

28. [Groups](#)
29. [Constructions With Groups](#)

### Hyper Algebra

30. [Hypermonoids](#)
31. [Hypergroups](#)
32. [Hypersemirings and Hyperrings](#)
33. [Quantales](#)

### Near-Rings

34. Near-Semirings

35. Near-Rings

### Real Analysis

36. Real Analysis in One Variable

37. Real Analysis in Several Variables

### Measure Theory

38. Measurable Spaces

39. Measures and Integration

### Probability Theory

39. Probability Theory

### Stochastic Analysis

40. Stochastic Processes, Martingales, and Brownian Motion

41. Itô Calculus

42. Stochastic Differential Equations

### Differential Geometry

43. Topological and Smooth Manifolds

### Schemes

44. Schemes