

We saw that a 1-object category G with all morphisms invertible is a group.

We saw that a functor $F: G \rightarrow \text{Set}$ is a G -set: a set with functions

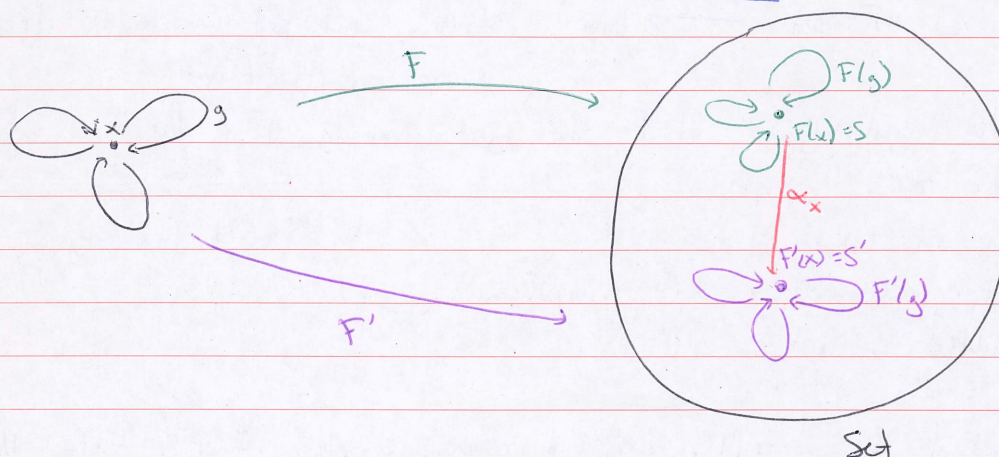
$$F(g): S \rightarrow S \quad \text{for each } g \in G \text{ s.t.}$$

$$F(gg') = F(g) \circ F(g')$$

$$F(1) = 1_S$$

Given 2 functors $F, F': G \rightarrow \text{Set}$, what's a natural transformation $\alpha: F \Rightarrow F'$?

It's called a map of G -sets or G -equivariant map, but let's draw one:



It's a function $\alpha_x: F(x) \rightarrow F'(x)$, where $x \in G$ is the one object, $F(x) = S$ is our first G -set, and $F'(x) = S'$ is our second, s.t. all squares like this commute:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} F(x) & \xrightarrow{F(g)} & F(x) \\ \alpha_x \downarrow & & \downarrow \alpha_x \\ F'(x) & \xrightarrow{F'(g)} & F'(x) \end{array}$$

$$\text{so } F'(g) \circ \alpha_x = \alpha_x \circ F(g)$$

Another example of natural transformations

[Ex] Two sets are isomorphic if there are functions $F: X \rightarrow Y$, $G: Y \rightarrow X$ s.t.

$$G \circ F = 1_X \text{ \& } F \circ G = 1_Y.$$

Given F , when can you find such a G ? Iff f is 1-1 & onto.

For categories we say:

[Def] An equivalence of categories C & D consists of functors $F: C \rightarrow D$, $G: D \rightarrow C$ and natural isomorphisms $\alpha: G \circ F \xrightarrow{\sim} 1_C$, $\beta: F \circ G \xrightarrow{\sim} 1_D$. We say that F & G are weak inverses. We say C & D are equivalent if there exists an equivalence between them.

Thm Given a functor $F: C \rightarrow D$, it's part of an equivalence (F, G, α, β) iff F is faithful, full, & essentially surjective. If such a G exists, it may not be unique, but if G' was another one, it's naturally isomorphic to G .

Another example: adjoint functors

Recall an example: $U: \text{Grp} \rightarrow \text{Set}$ sending each group G to its underlying set $U(G)$
 $F: \text{Set} \rightarrow \text{Grp}$ sending each set S to the free group on it $F(S)$.

We say U is the "right adjoint" of F , or synonymously, F is the "left adjoint" of U . The basic idea: morphisms

$FS \rightarrow G$ in Grp $S \in \text{Set}, G \in \text{Grp}$
 are in 1-1 correspondence with morphisms
 $S \rightarrow UG$ in Set

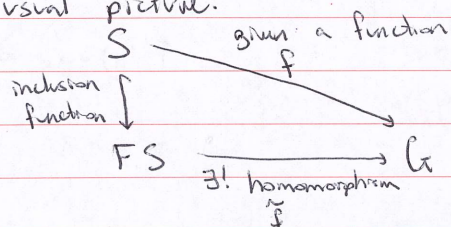
Why?

Given a function $f: S \rightarrow UG$ we get a homomorphism $\tilde{f}: FS \rightarrow G$, the unique one s.t. $\tilde{f}(s) = f(s)$ for $s \in S \subseteq FS$.

Conversely,

given a homomorphism $h: FS \rightarrow G$, we get $h|_S: S \rightarrow UG$ by restricting h to $S \subseteq FS$.

The usual picture:



mixes up morphisms in Set & Grp in the same diagram.

We prefer to say there's a bijection
 $\text{hom}(FS, G) \cong \text{hom}(S, UG)$
 $\uparrow$ in Grp $\uparrow$ in Set

Note F is on the left of $\text{hom}(F-, -)$,
 U is on the right of $\text{hom}(-, U-)$

To define adjoint functors, we need to say that this kind of bijection is "natural".

What functors give $\text{hom}(FS, G)$ & $\text{hom}(S, UG)$?

They must be 2 functors from $\text{Set} \times \text{Grp}$ to Set :

on objects, these do:

$$(S, G) \mapsto \text{hom}(FS, G) \in \text{Set}$$

$$(S, G) \mapsto \text{hom}(S, UG) \in \text{Set}$$

What's the "hom" doing here?

Prop For any category there's a functor $\text{hom}: C^{\text{op}} \times C \rightarrow \text{Set}$
called the hom functor. $(c, c') \mapsto \text{hom}(c, c')$

Here C^{op} is the opposite of C : the category with one morphism $f^{\text{op}}: y \rightarrow x$ for each $f: x \rightarrow y$ in C , and $f^{\text{op}} \circ g^{\text{op}} = (g \circ f)^{\text{op}}$ with same identity morphisms.

Sketch of Pf:

Need to define $\text{hom}: C^{\text{op}} \times C \rightarrow \text{Set}$ on morphisms.

Given a morphism in $C^{\text{op}} \times C$:

$$\psi: (x, y) \rightarrow (x', y')$$

i.e. a pair of morphisms

$$f^{\text{op}}: x \rightarrow x' \text{ in } C^{\text{op}}$$

$$\text{i.e. } f: x' \rightarrow x \text{ in } C$$

$$g: y \rightarrow y' \text{ in } C$$

We need to define a morphism

$$\text{hom}(\psi): \text{hom}(x, y) \rightarrow \text{hom}(x', y')$$

in Set , i.e. a function.

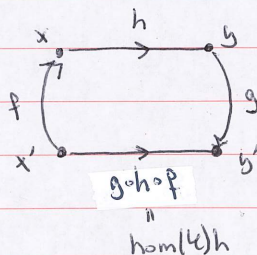
Given $h \in \text{hom}(x, y)$, what $\text{hom}(\psi)h \in \text{hom}(x', y')$?

It's $g \circ h \circ f$

Thus the hom-functor

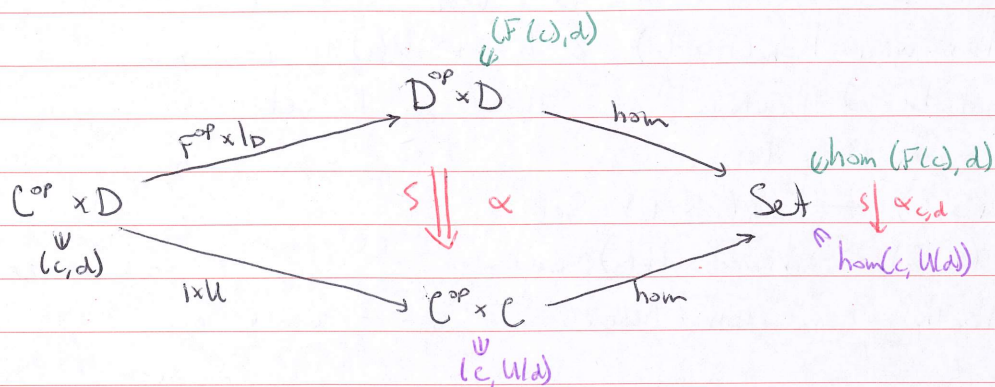
$$\text{hom}: C^{\text{op}} \times C \rightarrow \text{Set}$$

will not only describe the hom sets, but also composition in C .



Then: check it's really a functor - e.g. check it preserves composition.

Given functors $F: C \rightarrow D$, $U: D \rightarrow C$, how can we say the isomorphism $\text{hom}(Fc, d) \cong \text{hom}(c, Ud)$ is natural?



Here $F^{op}: C^{op} \rightarrow D^{op}$ is just F in disguise $F^{op}(f^{op}) = (F(f))^{op}$
and α is a natural isomorphism.

Given functors

$$\begin{array}{c} D \\ F \uparrow \downarrow U \\ C \end{array}$$

we say F is a left adjoint of U or U is a right adjoint of F if there's a natural isomorphism

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} C^{op} \times D & \xrightarrow{F^{op} \times 1} & D^{op} \times D & \xrightarrow{\text{hom}} & \text{Set} \\ & & \downarrow \alpha & & \\ & \searrow 1 \times U & C^{op} \times C & \xrightarrow{\text{hom}} & \end{array}$$

So we have bijections

$$\alpha_{c,d}: \text{hom}(Fc, d) \xrightarrow{\sim} \text{hom}(c, Ud) \quad \text{for all } c \in C, d \in D$$

which are natural, i.e. making certain squares commute.

At first let's downplay the naturality condition & look at examples, focussing on the bijections.

Ex

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{Grp} \\ F \uparrow \downarrow U \\ \text{Set} \end{array}$$

where Ug is the underlying set of $G \in \text{Grp}$, FS is the free group on $S \in \text{Set}$.

The bijection lets us turn any function $f: S \rightarrow Ug$

into a homomorphism $\tilde{f} = \alpha_{S,g}^{-1}(f): FS \rightarrow G$

& conversely: any homomorphism $h: FS \rightarrow G$

comes from a function $\tilde{h} = \alpha_{S,g}(h): S \rightarrow Ug$

Ex

Does the forgetful functor

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{Vect}_k \\ \downarrow U \\ \text{Set} \end{array}$$

have a left adjoint?

Is there some famous functor $F: \text{Set} \rightarrow \text{Vect}_k$?

Yes, for any set S there's a vector space FS whose basis is S :

$$FS = \left\{ \sum_{s \in S} c_s s_i : c_i \in k, \text{ only finitely many nonzero} \right\}$$

where the sums are formal expressions.

What does $F: \text{Set} \rightarrow \text{Vect}_k$ do to a morphism $f: S \rightarrow T$ in Set ?

It should give a linear map $Ff: FS \rightarrow FT$. What is it?

$$Ff\left(\sum_{s \in S} c_s s_i\right) = \sum_{s \in S} c_s f(s_i) \in FT$$

Check F is a functor:

$$F(g \circ f) = F(g) \circ F(f)$$

$$F(1_S) = 1_{F(S)}$$

(continued)

Why is F left adjoint to U ? Need bijections:

$$\text{hom}(FS, V) \cong \text{hom}(S, UV) \quad \forall S \in \text{Set} \quad \forall V \in \text{Vect}_K$$

(and then check they're natural)

Need: given a function $f: S \rightarrow UV$

we can define a linear map $\tilde{f}: FS \rightarrow V$

in some "natural" way. Try

$$\tilde{f}\left(\sum_{s_i \in S} c_i s_i\right) = \sum_{s_i \in S} c_i f(s_i)$$

Conversely, given a linear map $l: FS \rightarrow V$

need a function $l: S \rightarrow UV$

Try: $l(s) = l(s)$

Check these maps are inverses: $\widehat{\tilde{f}} = f$ and $\widehat{\tilde{l}} = l$.

So, we have a bijection $\text{hom}(FS, V) \cong \text{hom}(S, UV)$

Sometimes a functor has both a left & right adjoint.

Ex Top
 $\downarrow U$
 Set

To dream up a left adjoint, think of ways to turn a set S into a topological space.

One is the discrete topology: here you give S as many open sets as possible, so every subset is open.

Another is the indiscrete topology: here you give S as few open sets as possible, only $\emptyset$ & S are open.

The left adjoint of $U: \text{Top} \rightarrow \text{Set}$, say $L: \text{Set} \rightarrow \text{Top}$ must have

$$\text{hom}(LS, X) \cong \text{hom}(S, UX) \quad S \in \text{Set}, \quad X \in \text{Top}$$

i.e. here continuous maps $\tilde{f}: LS \rightarrow X$ are "the same" as functions $f: S \rightarrow UX$

To make this true, LS should have as many open sets as possible, so LS is S with discrete topology.

The right adjoint of U , say $R: \text{Set} \rightarrow \text{Top}$, has

$$\text{hom}(UX, S) \cong \text{hom}(X, RS)$$

i.e. continuous maps $h: X \rightarrow RS$ are "the same" as functions $h: UX \rightarrow S$

To make this true, RS should have as few open sets as possible, i.e.

it should be S with indiscrete topology.

Suppose $\mathcal{C}$ is any category. There's always a functor $\Delta: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C} \times \mathcal{C}$ called the diagonal with

$$\Delta(c) = (c, c) \quad c \in \mathcal{C}$$

& if $f: c \rightarrow c'$

$\Delta f: \Delta c \rightarrow \Delta c'$ is given by $\Delta f = (f, f): (c, c) \rightarrow (c', c')$

Prop If $\mathcal{C}$ has binary products then the functor $\times: \mathcal{C} \times \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ is the right adjoint of $\Delta: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C} \times \mathcal{C}$.

(In fact, the converse is true: Δ has a right adjoint iff $\mathcal{C}$ has binary products, & then it's $\times$.)

Sketch of Pf:

For starter we need bijections

$$\text{hom}(\Delta c, (c', c'')) \cong \text{hom}(c, c' \times c'') \quad c \in \mathcal{C} \quad (c', c'') \in \mathcal{C} \times \mathcal{C}$$

The left side:

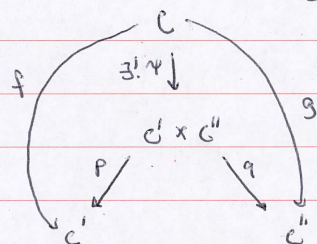
$$\begin{aligned} \text{hom}(\Delta c, (c', c'')) &= \text{hom}((c, c), (c', c'')) \\ &\cong \text{hom}(c, c') \times \text{hom}(c, c'') \end{aligned}$$

since a morphism from (c, c) to (c', c'') is a pair $f: c \rightarrow c', g: c \rightarrow c''$

So we need:

$$\text{hom}(c, c') \times \text{hom}(c, c'') \cong \text{hom}(c, c' \times c'')$$

Indeed, the universal property of the product says:



So (f, g) gives γ & conversely γ gives $f = p \circ \gamma$ & $g = q \circ \gamma$, so we have a bijection:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{hom}(c, c') \times \text{hom}(c, c'') &\xrightarrow{\sim} \text{hom}(c, c' \times c'') \\ (f, g) &\longmapsto \gamma \end{aligned}$$

Prop If $\mathcal{C}$ has binary coproducts, $\Delta: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C} \times \mathcal{C}$ has a left adjoint, $+: \mathcal{C} \times \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ assigning to each pair (c', c'') their coproduct $c' + c''$.

(Conversely, if Δ has a left adjoint, $\mathcal{C}$ has binary coproducts & left adjoint is $+$.)

(Sketch of Pf on next page)

Sketch of Pf:

For starters we need a bijection

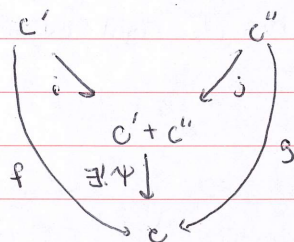
$$\text{hom}(c' + c'', c) \cong \text{hom}(c', c''), \Delta c).$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Note: } \text{hom}(c', c''), \Delta c) &\cong \text{hom}(c', c''), (c, c) \\ &\cong \text{hom}(c', c) \times \text{hom}(c'', c) \end{aligned}$$

So need:

$$\text{hom}(c' + c'', c) \cong \text{hom}(c', c) \times \text{hom}(c'', c)$$

and indeed the definition of coproducts gives



so our bijection
sends $\psi \mapsto (f, g)$



A product (an example of a limit) is an example of a right adjoint -
it's easy to describe morphisms going into it.

A coproduct (an example of a colimit) is an example of a left adjoint -
it's easy to describe morphisms going out of it.