

Algebraic and combinatorial aspects of category theory

Lecture #1.

18/11/25

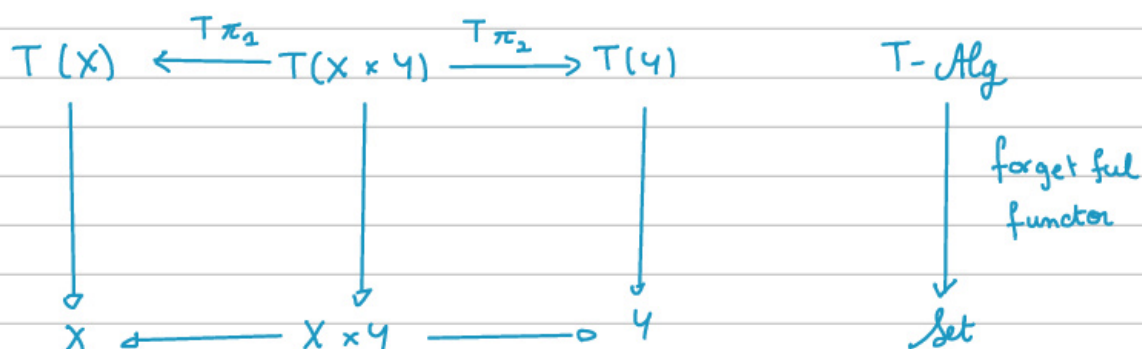
Algebraic structure $T(X) \rightarrow X$ ^{monad}

intuition: $T(X)$ contains the derived operations

Example for a binary operation on X , we can consider

$\{\text{binary trees with leaves in } X\} \rightarrow X$.

Being created



Category: objects, morphisms, composition (unitary and associative).

Notations $A \in \mathcal{C}$ iff A is an object in $\mathcal{C}$

$\mathcal{C}(A, B)$ is the set of morphisms $A \rightarrow B$.

Examples	objects	morphisms
a set X	$x \in X$	id_x
a poset $(X, \leq)$	$x \in X$	$x \leq y$ (also works for preordered sets)
<u>Set</u>	set X	maps
<u>Mon</u>	monoid X	homomorphisms
	$\vdots$	

Given a graph G , then G^* is the category where objects are nodes in G and morphisms $A \rightarrow B$ the set of paths from A to B . Composition is path concatenation.

Example: BM. one object $*$ and $\mathcal{C}(*, *) = M$ with $h \circ g = h \cdot g$.

Example: objects are trees and morphisms are $T_1 \xrightarrow{T} T_2$ when you obtain T_2 by replacing T_1 's leaves with copies of T .

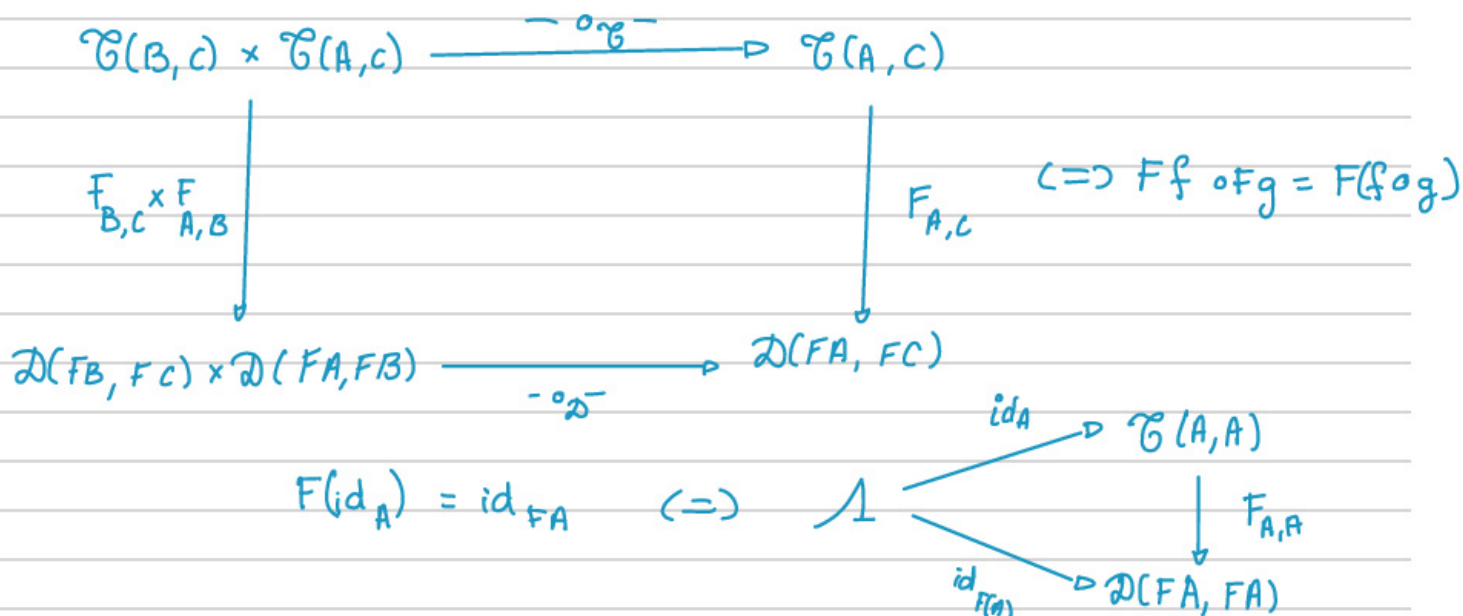
A note on size "small" $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{objects form a set} \\ \text{morphisms form a set (from } A \text{ to } B \text{ fixed)} \end{array} \right.$

"locally small" $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{objects form a set class} \\ \text{morphisms form a set (from } A \text{ to } B \text{ fixed)} \end{array} \right.$

Functor $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ that commutes with composition and identity

Notation $F_{A,B}: \mathcal{C}(A,B) \rightarrow \mathcal{D}(F(A), F(B))$

The axioms of functors can be seen as the fact that the two following diagrams commute.



Examples

- A monotone map is a functor between two posets seen as categories
- Forgetful functor $\text{Mon} \rightarrow \text{Set}$, $\text{Ring} \rightarrow \text{Mon}$
 $(M, \cdot, 1_M) \mapsto M$

Example A functor $F: \text{BM} \rightarrow \text{BN}$ is exactly a monoid homomorphism $f: M \rightarrow N$.

Example The "bang" functor $\mathcal{C} \xrightarrow{!} \mathbf{1}$
 $\uparrow$ category with one object and only the id morphism.

Functors compose !!

Cat is the category of small categories. It forms a locally small category

CAT is the category of locally small categories. It forms a very large category.

$\text{Set}, \text{Grp}, \text{Yph}, \text{Cat} \in \text{CAT}$.

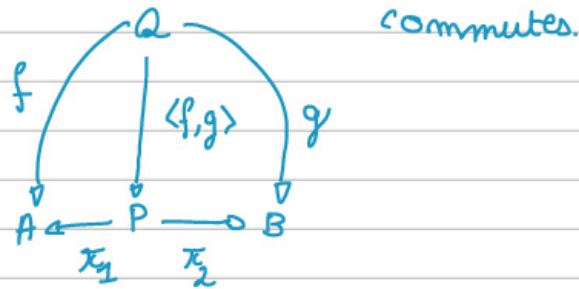
A terminal object $T \in \mathcal{C}$ is defined such that for every object $A \in \mathcal{C}$, there is a unique morphism $A \rightarrow T$

An initial object $I \in \mathcal{C}$ is defined such that for every object $A \in \mathcal{C}$, there is a unique morphism $I \rightarrow A$.

In Mon , Grp and Field , $\mathbf{1}$ is both terminal and initial.

In Set , $\emptyset$ is initial ($\emptyset \xrightarrow{\exists!} A$) and $\mathbf{1}$ is terminal ($A \xrightarrow{\exists!} \mathbf{1}$).

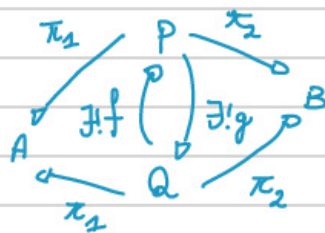
A product of A and $B \in \mathcal{C}$ is an object P with $\pi_1: P \rightarrow A$ and $\pi_2: P \rightarrow B$ such that for every $A \leftarrow Q \rightarrow B$, there exists a unique $\langle f, g \rangle: Q \rightarrow P$ such that



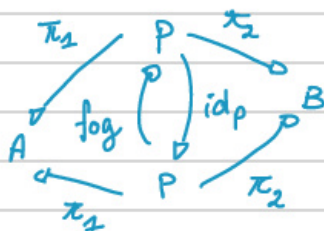
In Set , take $\langle f, g \rangle: Q \rightarrow A \times B$
 $q \mapsto (f(q), g(q)).$

Exercise $B \times A \cong A \times B$ and the unique morphism is
 $\langle \pi_2, \pi_1 \rangle: (a, b) \mapsto (b, a).$

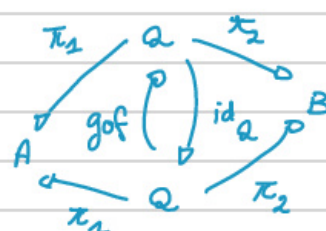
Exercise: If P and Q are both products of A and B then there exists a unique isomorphism from P to Q .



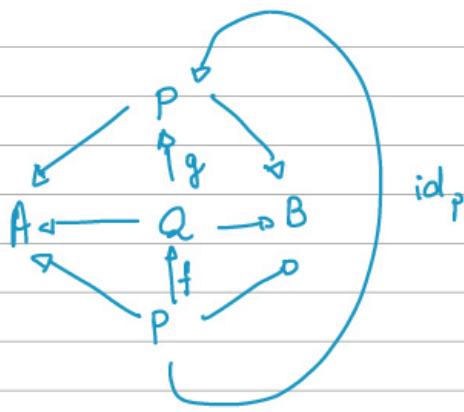
Then



and



imply $f \circ g = \text{id}_P$ and $g \circ f = \text{id}_Q$.



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In a poset seen as a category, the ^(binary) product is the ^(binary) meet.

Monads

$\mathcal{A}(X)$ = terms with free variables in X , up to some equations

Free monoid monad: define the free monoid of $X \in \text{Set}$ by induction:

$$\frac{}{X \vdash x} \quad (x \in X) \quad \frac{}{X \vdash 1} \quad \frac{X \vdash M \quad X \vdash N}{X \vdash M \cdot N}$$

with the equations

$$\frac{}{(M \cdot N) \cdot P \sim M \cdot (N \cdot P)} \quad \frac{}{M \sim M \cdot 1} \quad \frac{}{M \sim 1 \cdot M} \quad \frac{M \sim M' \quad N \sim N'}{M \cdot N \sim M' \cdot N'}$$

Then $T(X) = \{X \vdash M\} / (\sim \cup \sim^+)^*$ ^{$\sim$ reflexive & transitive}
 _{$\hookrightarrow$ symmetric}

Equivalently, $T(X) = X^* = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{N}} X^n$.

Applying $f: X \rightarrow Y$ induces a map

$$Tf: X^* = TX \longrightarrow Y^* = TY$$

$$(x_1, \dots, x_n) \longmapsto (f(x_1), \dots, f(x_n)).$$

Also, $Tf \circ Tg = T(f \circ g)$ and $Tid_X = id_{TX} = id_{X^*}$

Basic idea of a monad: a set X with a map $a: TX \rightarrow X$.

There is an inclusion $X \rightarrow T(X)$:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X & \xrightarrow{\eta_X} & TX \\ & \searrow & \swarrow a \\ & X & \end{array}$$

& naturality of η and μ

and compositionality

$$\begin{array}{ccc} TTX & \xrightarrow{\mu} & TX \\ \downarrow Ta & & \downarrow a \\ ((x_1^1, \dots, x_{n_1}^1), \dots, (x_1^k, \dots, x_{n_k}^k)) & \longmapsto & (x_1^1, \dots, x_{n_k}^k) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ (a(x_1^1, \dots), \dots, a(x_1^k, \dots)) & \longmapsto & a(x_1^1, \dots, x_1^k, \dots, x_{n_k}^k) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ (a(x_1^1, \dots), \dots, a(x_1^k, \dots)) & \longmapsto & a(a(x_1^1, \dots), \dots, a(x_1^k, \dots)) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ TX & \xrightarrow{a} & X \end{array}$$

A T -algebra is a map $a: T(X) \rightarrow X$ such that

$$\begin{array}{ccc} TTX & \xrightarrow{\mu} & TX \\ \downarrow Ta & & \downarrow a \\ TX & \xrightarrow{a} & X \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X & \xrightarrow{\eta_X} & TX \\ & \searrow & \swarrow a \\ & X & \end{array}$$

There is thus a category $T\text{-Alg}$: objects are T -algebras

$$f: X \rightarrow Y \text{ induces } \begin{array}{ccc} TX & \xrightarrow{Tf} & TY \\ a_X \downarrow & & \downarrow a_Y \\ X & \xrightarrow{f} & Y \end{array}$$

When T is the free monoid functor, then $\text{Mon} \cong T\text{-Alg}$.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Mon} & \xrightleftharpoons[L]{L} & T\text{-Alg} \\ & \searrow U \quad \swarrow V & \\ & \text{Set} & \end{array}$$

For R , take $1 := a()$
take $x \cdot y := a(x, y)$

We have $a(x, a()) = a(a(x), a()) \stackrel{(\mu)}{=} a(x) = x$

For L , define $a(x_1, \dots, x_n) := ((x_1 \cdot x_2) \cdot x_3 \dots) \cdot x_n$.

Then we have to extend this map of objects to a functor

$$L: \text{Mon} \rightarrow T\text{-Alg}$$

$$(M, \cdot, 1) \mapsto (M, (x_1, \dots, x_n) \mapsto (x_1 \cdot x_2) \cdot \dots \cdot x_n)$$

$$f: (M, \cdot, 1) \rightarrow (N, \cdot, 1) \mapsto Lf: (M, \dots) \rightarrow (N, \dots)$$

$$x \mapsto f(x)$$

and $R: 1\text{-Alg} \longrightarrow \text{Mon}$

$$(M, a) \longmapsto (M, a(-, -), a(1))$$

$$f: (M, a) \rightarrow (N, a') \longmapsto Rf: (M, a(-, -), a(1)) \rightarrow (N, a'(-, -), a'(1))$$

$$x \longmapsto f(x)$$

Indeed,

$$Rf(\underbrace{a(x, y)}_{x \cdot y}) = f(a(x, y)) = a'(f(x), f(y)) = Rfx \cdot Rfy.$$

and $Rf(1) = f(a(1)) = a'(1).$

Also,

$$\begin{array}{ccc} TLM & \xrightarrow{TLf} & TLN \\ \downarrow (\cdot)^m & & \downarrow (\cdot)^n \\ LM & \xrightarrow{Lf} & LN \end{array}$$

by induction on n (as case $n=1$ is verified with $f(1)=1$ and case $n > 1$ is verified with $f(x \cdot y) = f(x) \cdot f(y)$)

A morphism $f: X \rightarrow Y$ in ...

Mon

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X \times X & \xrightarrow{f \times f} & Y \times Y \\ \downarrow - * - & f(x \cdot y) = f(x) \cdot f(y) & \downarrow - \cdot - \\ X & \xrightarrow{f} & Y \\ \downarrow 1_x & & \downarrow 1_y \\ 1 & & 1 \end{array}$$

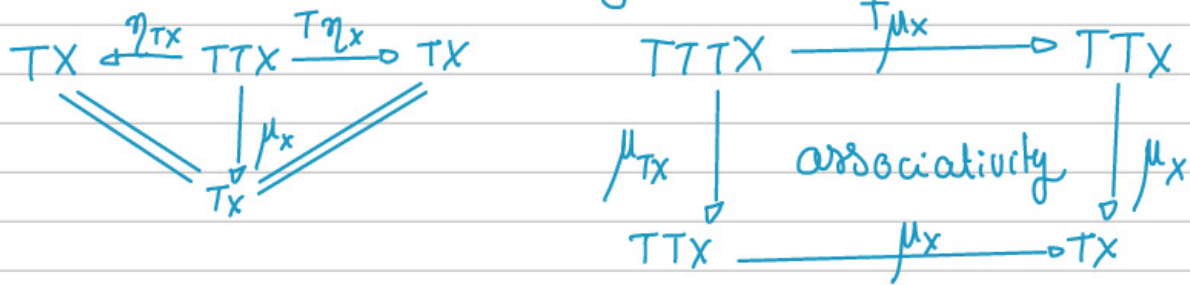
1-Alg

$$\begin{array}{ccc} TX & \xrightarrow{Tf} & TY \\ \downarrow a & & \downarrow a' \\ X & \xrightarrow{f} & Y \end{array}$$

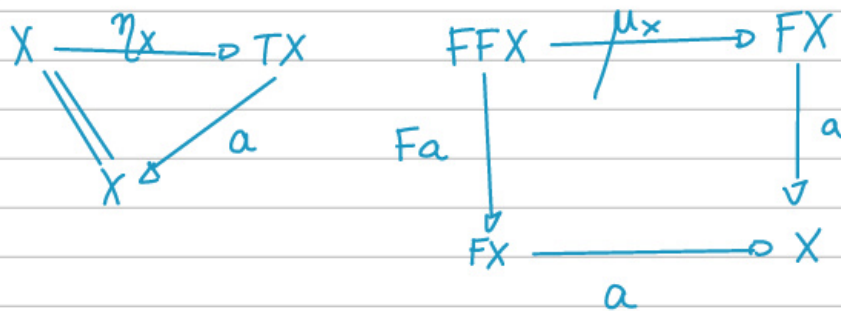
A monad in a category $\mathcal{C}$ is a functor $T: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ with

- unit $\eta_x: x \rightarrow TX$ and
- multiplication $\mu_x: TTX \rightarrow TX$

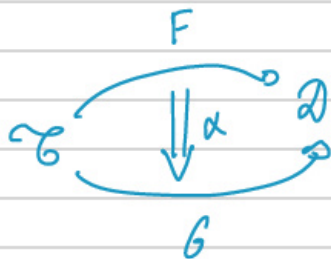
such that $\eta: \text{id} \Rightarrow T$ and $\mu: TT \Rightarrow T$ are natural transformations, such that both diagrams commute.



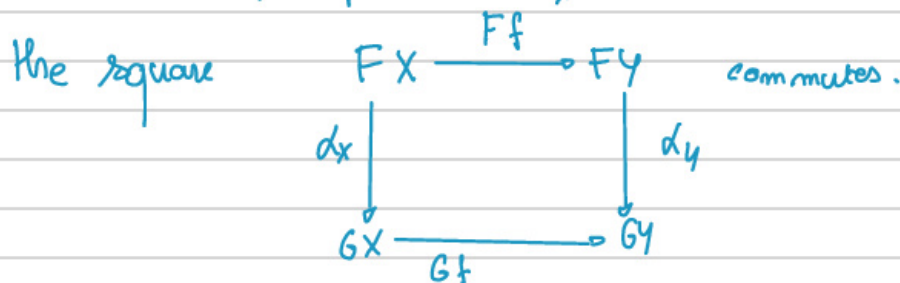
A T -algebra is an object $A \in \mathcal{C}$ and $a: TX \rightarrow X$ such that



A natural transformation $\alpha: F \Rightarrow G$ where $F, G: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$



is a set of morphisms $\alpha_x: FX \rightarrow GX$ such that, for every $f: x \rightarrow y$,



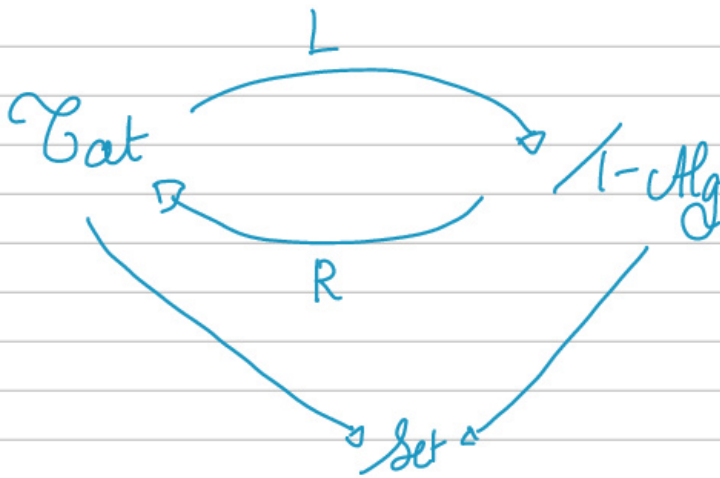
Exercise Find $\mathbf{1}$ on $\mathbf{Graph}$ such that $\mathbf{Cat} \cong \mathbf{1-Alg}$.

$\mathbf{1}: \mathbf{Graph} \rightarrow \mathbf{Graph}$

$$G \mapsto G^*$$

$$f: G \rightarrow H \mapsto f^*: G^* \rightarrow H^*$$

Then, a $\mathbf{1}$ -algebra is a map $G^* \rightarrow G$ in $\mathbf{Graph}$.



$R: \mathbf{1-Alg} \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat}$

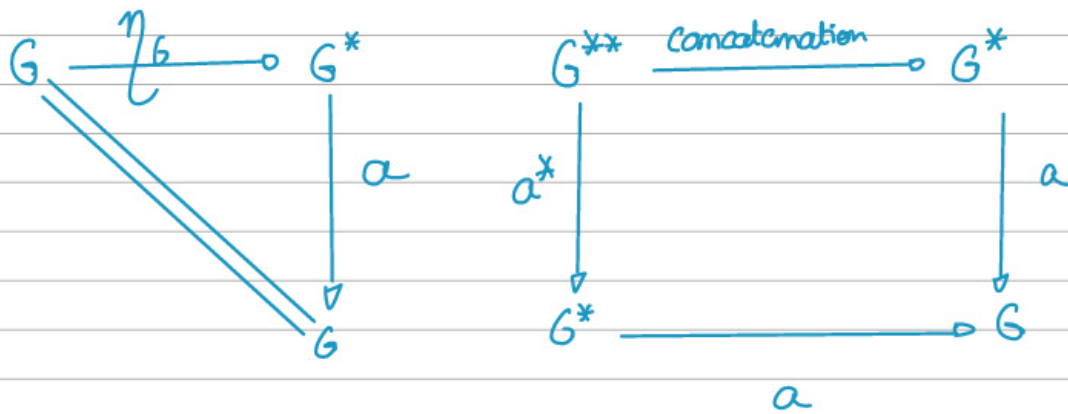
$$(G, a: G^* \rightarrow G) \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} \text{obj: vertices of } G \\ \text{morphisms: paths in } G \\ \text{composition: } p \circ q = a(p \cdot q) \\ \text{identity: } id = a() \end{pmatrix}$$

$$(f: (G, a) \rightarrow (H, b)) \mapsto Rf: g \mapsto f(g) \\ g \cdot^* h \mapsto f(g) \cdot^* f(h)$$

and $L: \mathbf{Cat} \rightarrow \mathbf{1-Alg}$

$$\mathcal{C} \mapsto (|\mathcal{C}|, a: (x_1, \dots, x_n) \mapsto x_1 \circ \dots \circ x_n)$$

$$F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D} \mapsto LF: x \mapsto F(x)$$



Lecture #2

25/11/2025.

Last - time: products, monads, algebras, finally equivalence between $T\text{-Alg}$ and some other categories

"For any monad T , the forgetful functor $T\text{-Alg} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ creates products"
 $(x, a) \mapsto x$

We say $U: \mathcal{E} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$ creates binary products if

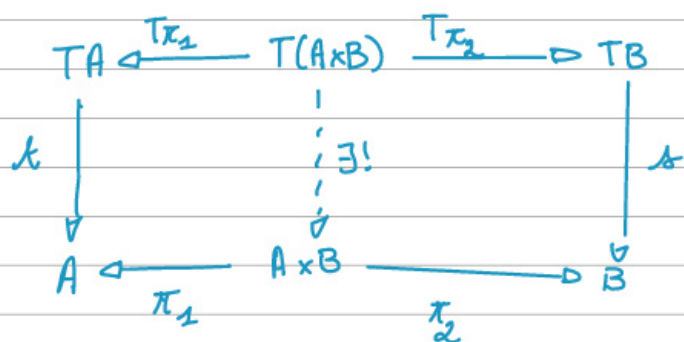
any product $Ux \leftarrow P \rightarrow Uy$ in $\mathcal{B}$ has a unique antecedent $x \leftarrow P \rightarrow y$ in $\mathcal{E}$ which is also a product in $\mathcal{E}$.

This is different from product preservation ($U \text{ product} = \text{product}$), or product reflexion (if $U(x \leftarrow P \rightarrow y)$ is a product then so is $x \leftarrow P \rightarrow y$).

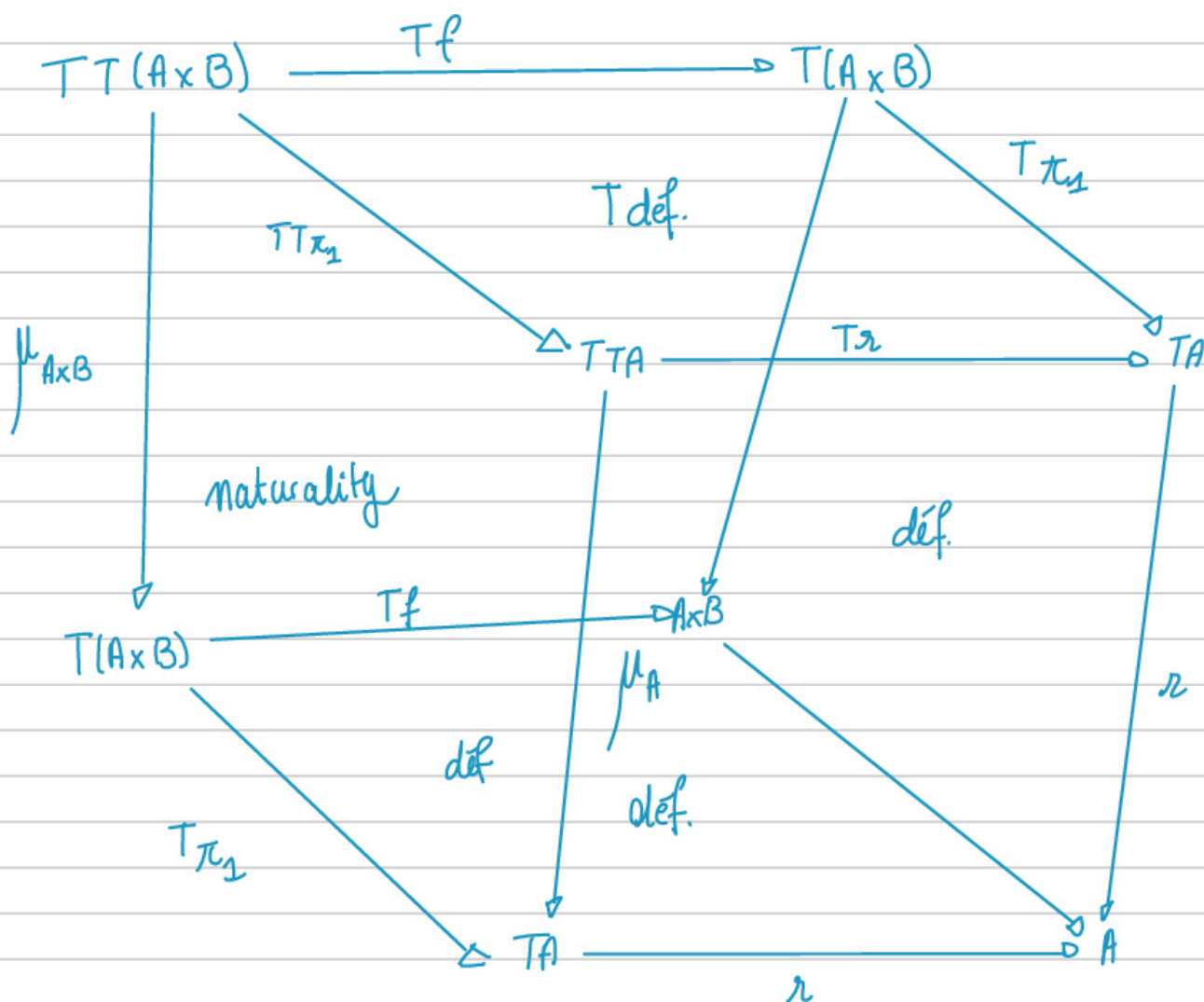
Proposition: For any monad $T: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$, the forgetful functor $T\text{-Alg}$ creates binary products.

Let $TA \xrightarrow{\alpha} A$ and $TB \xrightarrow{\beta} B$ in $T\text{-Alg}$.

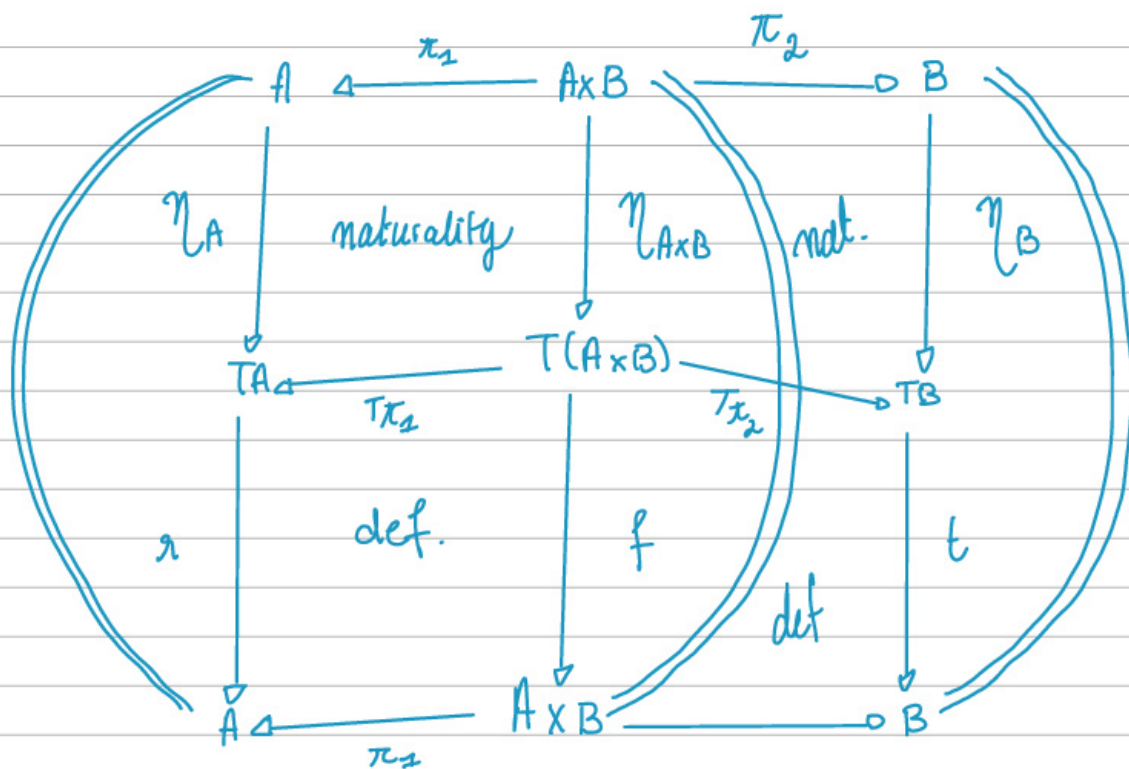
We want a T -algebra $T(A \times B) \rightarrow A \times B$.



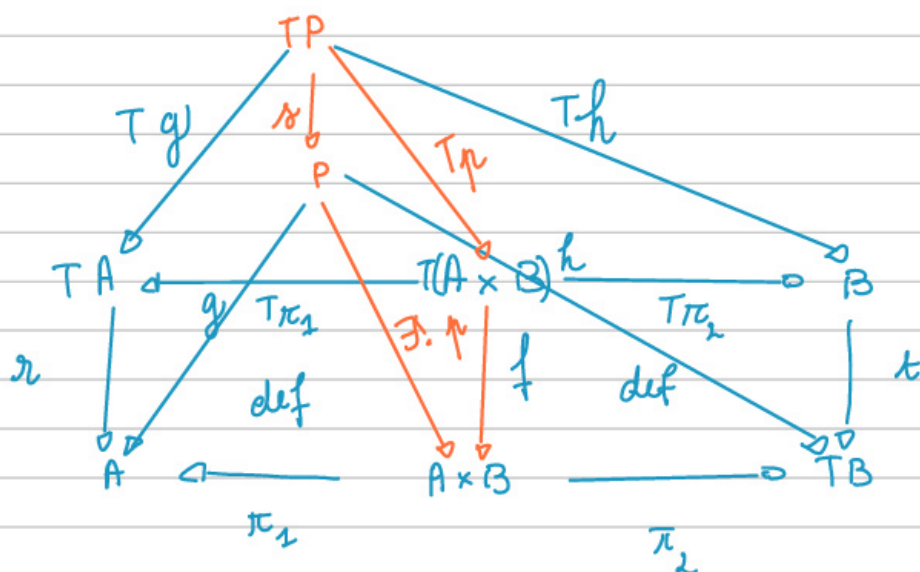
We need to check the monad laws apply correctly to $T(A \times B)$.



so we have compositionality.



It remains to show that $T(A \times B)$ is a product in $T\text{-Alg}$.



(This diagram is in $\mathcal{O}^{\mathcal{G}}$ but talks about $T\text{-Alg}$).

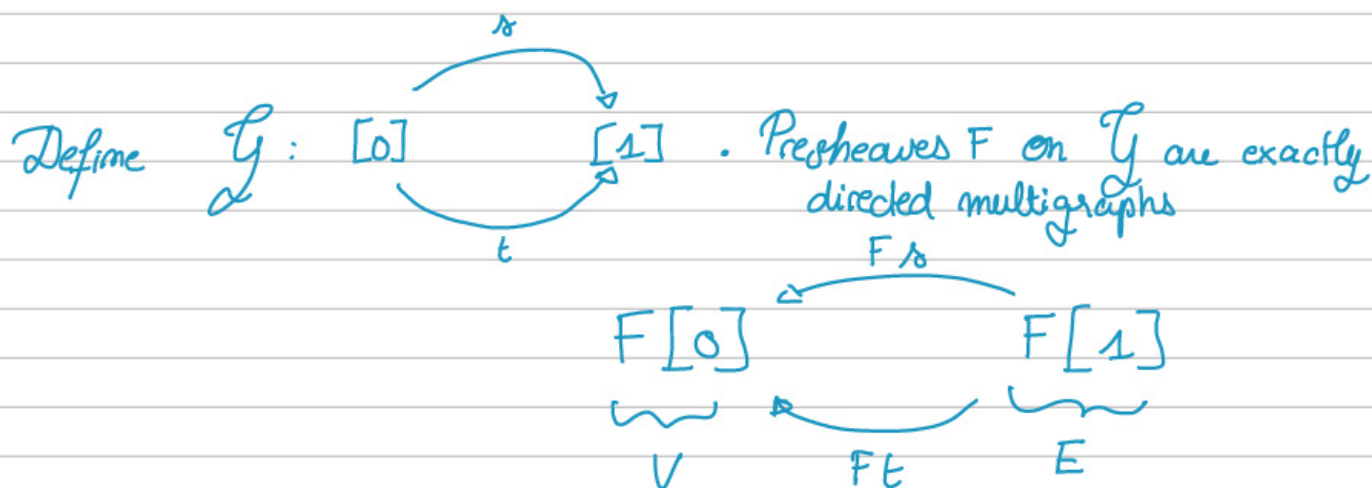
This is where we start with combinatorial constructions.

Pre Sheaves

A presheaf is a functor $\mathcal{G}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \text{Set}$.

The opposite category $\mathcal{C}^{\text{op}}$ has the same objects and morphisms from A to B as $\mathcal{C}(B, A)$ and we use reverse composition in $\mathcal{C}$

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \mathcal{C}^{\text{op}}(B, C) \times \mathcal{C}^{\text{op}}(A, B) & \xrightarrow{- \circ -} & \mathcal{C}^{\text{op}}(A, C) \\
 \parallel & \nearrow & \parallel \\
 \mathcal{C}^{\text{op}}(A, B) \times \mathcal{C}^{\text{op}}(B, C) & & \mathcal{C}(C, A) \\
 \parallel & \nearrow & \\
 \mathcal{C}(B, A) \times \mathcal{C}(C, B) & \xrightarrow{- \circ -} &
 \end{array}$$



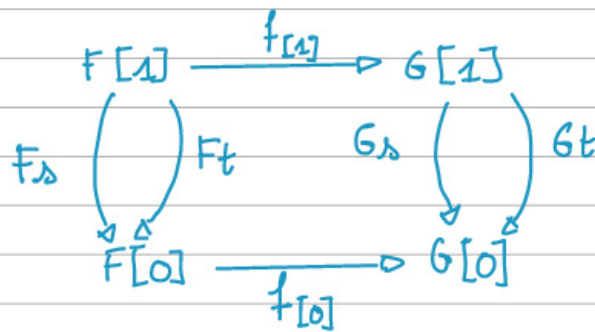
Define $\text{Psh}(\mathcal{C}) = \hat{\mathcal{C}} = [\mathcal{C}^{\text{op}}, \text{Set}]$. So $\mathcal{G}_{\text{ph}} := \hat{\mathcal{G}}$.

(Remark $\mathcal{G}$ is small but $\hat{\mathcal{G}}$ is only locally small.)

Graph morphisms should make

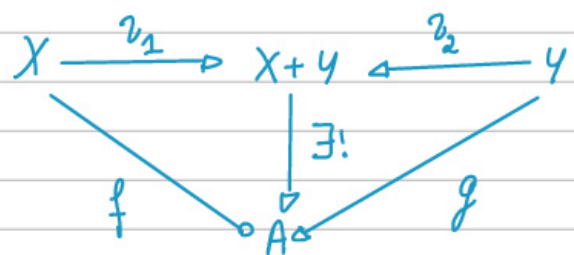
$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 F[1] & \xrightarrow{f[1]} & G[1] \\
 \downarrow F s & & \downarrow G s \text{ and } F t \\
 F[0] & \xrightarrow{f[0]} & G[0] \\
 & \downarrow G t &
 \end{array}$$

commute, which we will write as



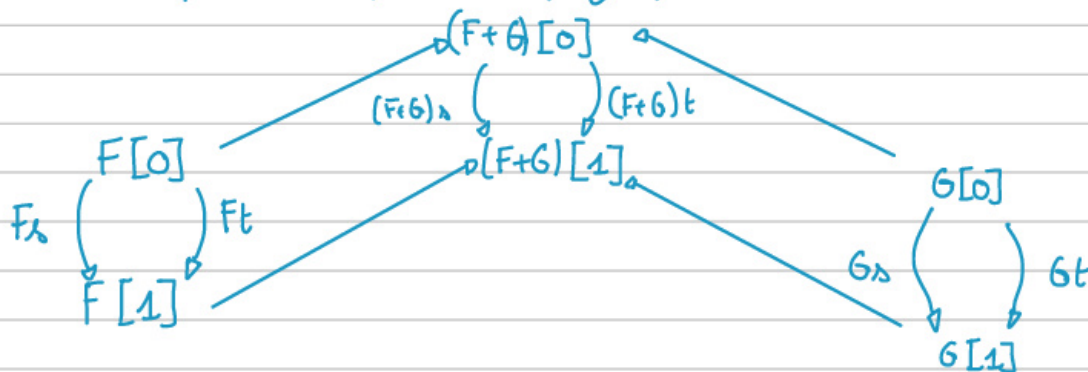
should serially commute.

A coproduct is of the form



In Set, it can be constructed as $\{0\} \times X \sqcup \{1\} \times Y$.

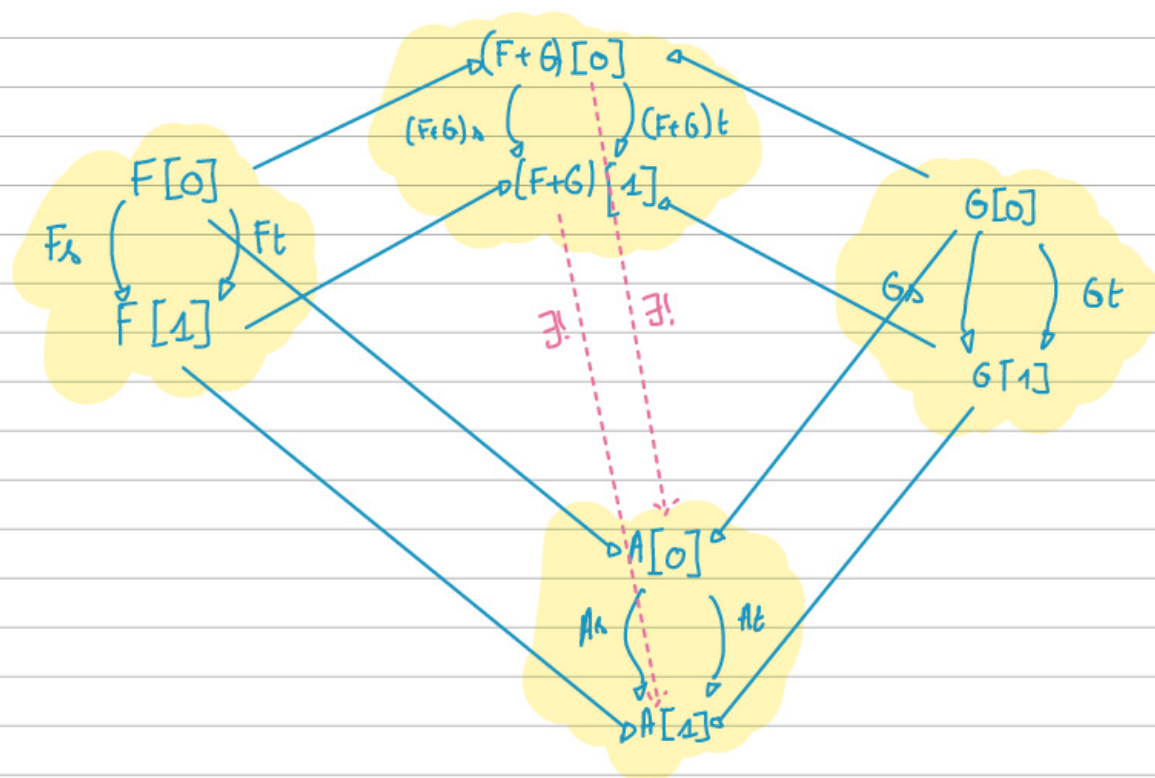
How to compute a coproduct of graphs?



should sequentially commute. So we should have

$$\begin{aligned} \text{that } (F+G)[0] &= F[0] \sqcup G[0] \\ (F+G)[1] &= F[1] \sqcup G[1] \\ (F+G)_s &= F_s + G_s \\ (F+G)_t &= F_t + G_t \end{aligned}$$

Also



Let us talk about colimits. Colimits are the universal cocones.

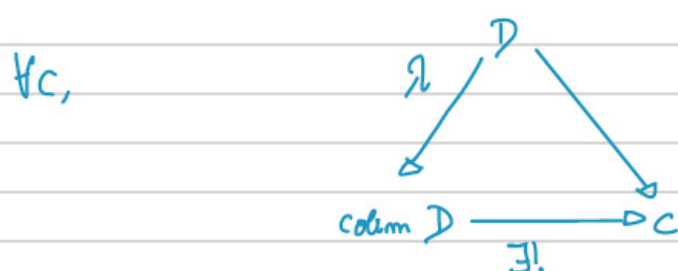
A diagram in $\mathcal{C}$ is a functor $F: I \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ for some small I .

A cocone " $\lambda: D \rightarrow c$ " is a natural transformation from D to the constant functor $c \in \mathcal{C}$.

A cocone morphism is of the form $\begin{array}{ccc} & D & \\ \lambda \swarrow & & \searrow \lambda' \\ c & \xrightarrow{k} & c' \end{array}$ where $k \in \mathcal{C}(c, c')$.

We thus define a category $\text{Cocone}(D)$ of cocones over D .

A colimit of D is the initial object of $\text{Cocone}(D)$:



Example: for coproduct, use the diagram

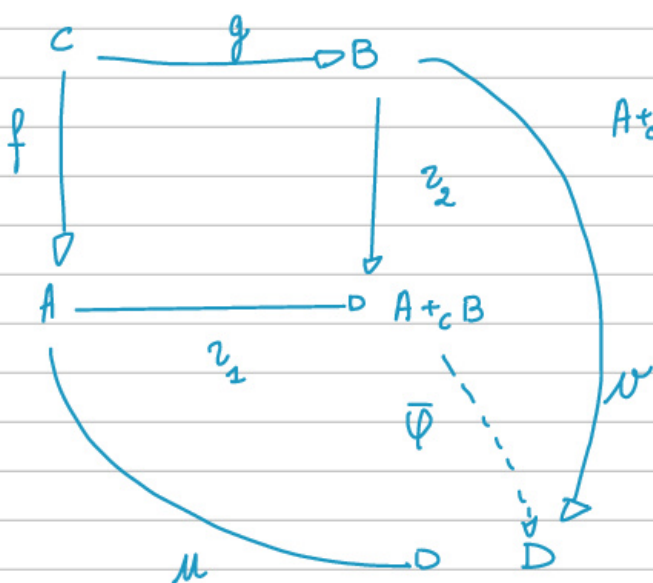
$$\mathbb{Z} = 1 + 1$$



for initial object, use the empty diagram.

Indeed, the universal property of $\text{colim}(\text{empty diagram})$ tells us that

$$\forall c, \quad \text{colim}(\emptyset) \xrightarrow{\exists!} c$$



$$A +_c B := A + B \quad / \quad f(c) = g(c).$$

$$\begin{cases} i_1: A \rightarrow A +_c B \\ i_2: B \rightarrow A +_c B \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \psi: A + B &\rightarrow D \\ a &\mapsto \mu(a) \\ b &\mapsto \mu(b) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{and } \bar{\psi}: A +_c B &\rightarrow D \\ \text{exists as } \bar{\psi}(f(c)) &= \bar{\psi}(g(c)) \\ \mu(f(c)) &= \mu(g(c)) \end{aligned}$$

$$\mathbb{Z} \xrightarrow{i_0} \mathbb{Z} + \mathbb{Z}$$

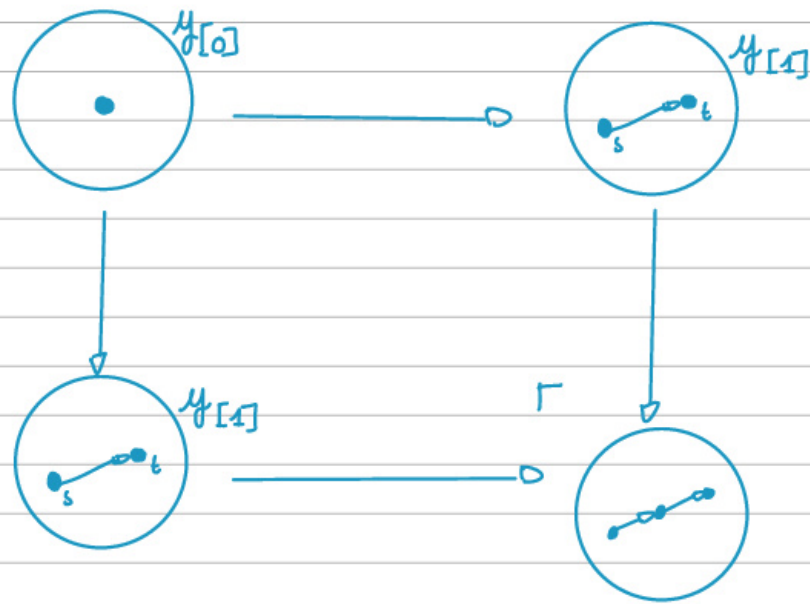
$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathbb{Z} & \xrightarrow{i_0} & \mathbb{Z} + \mathbb{Z} \\ \downarrow ! & & \downarrow \\ 1 & \xrightarrow{\quad} & 1 + (\mathbb{Z} + \mathbb{Z}) \end{array}$$

$$i_0(0) = ! (0) = ! (1) = i_0(1)$$

||

$$1 + \mathbb{Z} = \mathbb{N}$$

The pushout of y_0'', y_1'' in $\mathcal{G}$ along $y_t: \bullet \rightarrow \bullet$
 $y_s: \bullet \rightarrow \bullet$ is $\bullet \rightarrow \bullet \rightarrow \bullet$



Lecture #3

02/12/2025

Exercise In $\mathbf{Set}$, the equalizer of $A \xrightleftharpoons[g]{f} B$ is

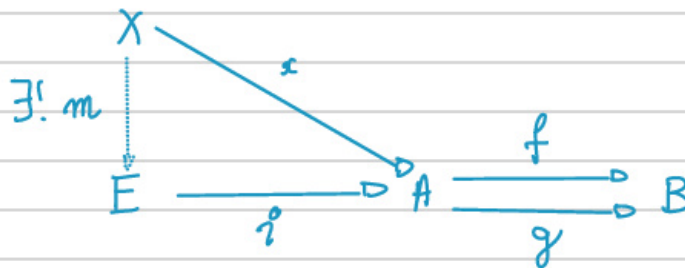
$$E := \{a \in A \mid f(a) = g(a)\}$$

with $i: E \rightarrow A$ the inclusion arrow. For any $x: X \rightarrow A$ such that $x \circ f = x \circ g$, then $x(X) \subseteq E$ and so there is a unique inclusion arrow

$$m: X \xrightarrow{\quad} E$$

$$u: \quad \xrightarrow{\quad} x(u)$$

such that



composed.

Exercise • $[\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D}]$ is a category $(F \circ G)(x) = F(G(x))$
 $F \circ G(f) = F(G(f))$
 $\text{Id}(x) = x \quad \text{Id}(f) = f$

- $\text{ob}([\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D}]) \subseteq \text{ob}(\mathcal{D})^{\text{ob}(\mathcal{C})} \times \text{Mor}(\mathcal{D})^{\text{Mor}(\mathcal{C})}$ and so $\text{ob}([\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D}])$ is a set as $\mathcal{C}$ and $\mathcal{D}$ are small.

For some $F, G \in [\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D}]$, $\text{Hom}(F, G) \subseteq \prod_{x \in \mathcal{C}} \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F(x), G(x))$ is a set.
 $\mathcal{D}$ locally small

- For some $F, G \in [\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D}]$, $\text{Hom}(F, G) \subseteq \prod_{x \in \mathcal{C}} \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F(x), G(x))$ is a set.
 $\mathcal{D}$ in $\mathcal{D}$ locally small

- The functor $F: [\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D}] \longrightarrow [\text{ob}(\mathcal{C}), \mathcal{D}]$ is defined as

$$(U: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}) \longmapsto \bar{U}: X \mapsto Ux$$

$$(\eta: U \Rightarrow V) \longmapsto \bar{\eta}: \bar{U} \Rightarrow \bar{V}$$

$$\bar{U}: \text{id}_X \longmapsto \text{id}_{Ux}$$

$$\bar{U}x = Ux \longmapsto Vx = \bar{V}x$$

Take a product

$$FA \xleftarrow{\pi_1} X \xrightarrow{\pi_2} FB$$

in $[\text{ob}(\mathcal{C}), \mathcal{D}]$, then

$$A = GFA \xleftarrow{G\pi_1} GX \xrightarrow{G\pi_2} GFB = B$$

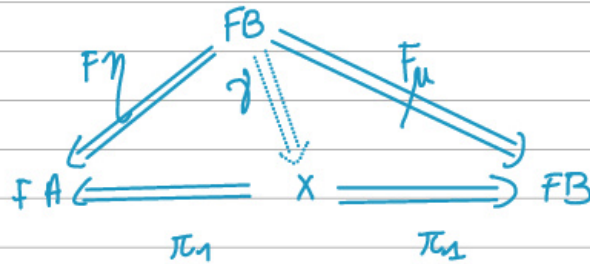
with $G: [\text{ob}(\mathcal{C}), \mathcal{D}] \longrightarrow [\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D}]$ the inclusion map.

Take $P \in [\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D}]$ with $\eta: P \Rightarrow A$ $\mu: P \Rightarrow B$ commutes

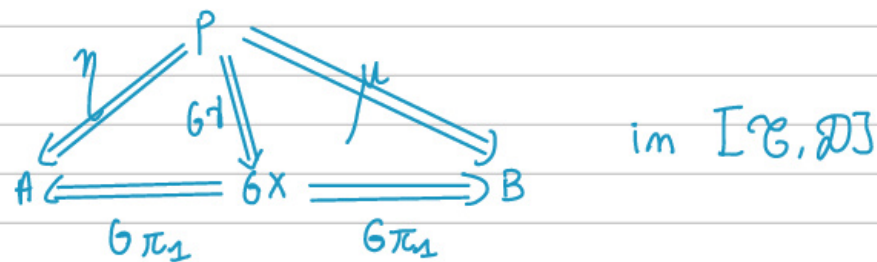
$$\begin{array}{ccc} & P & \\ \eta \swarrow & & \searrow \mu \\ A & \xleftarrow{G\pi_1} GX & \xrightarrow{G\pi_2} B \end{array}$$

in $[\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D}]$

Then we have that



commutes in $[ob(\mathcal{C}), \mathcal{D}]$ and so



commutes. Unicity is by $Nat(P, GX) \hookrightarrow Nat(FP, X)$.

Given a graph G , we define $el(G)$ the category

- objects pairs (c, x) with $c \in \mathcal{C}$ and $x \in X(c)$
- morphisms $f : (c, x) \longrightarrow (c', y)$ st $f : c \longrightarrow c'$ and $x(f)(y) = x$.

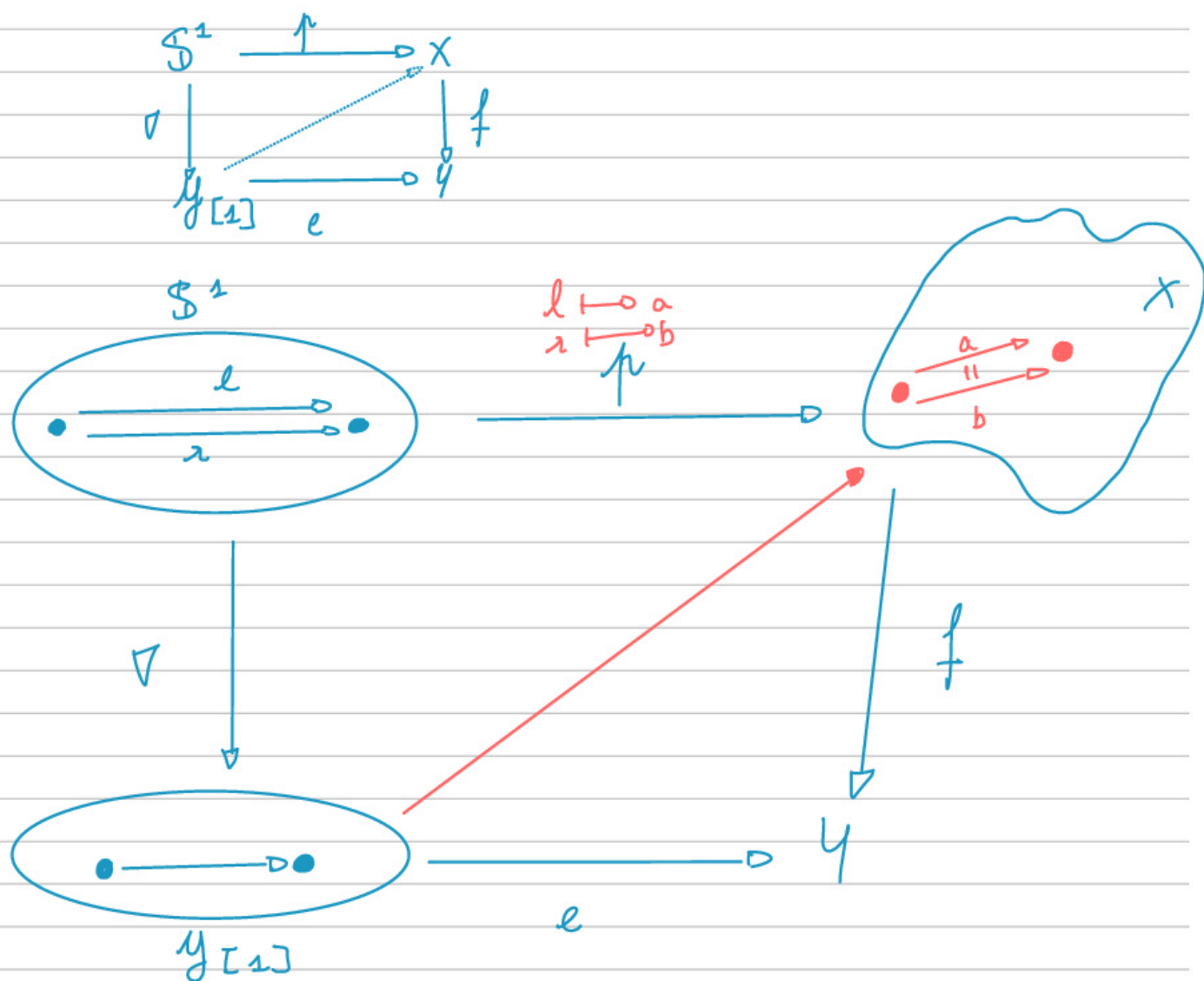
$$el(X) \xrightarrow{\pi_X} \mathcal{C} \xrightarrow{\eta} \hat{\mathcal{C}} = \text{Graph.}$$

Proposition (co-Yoneda) Every presheaf $x \in \hat{\mathcal{C}}$ is the colimit of

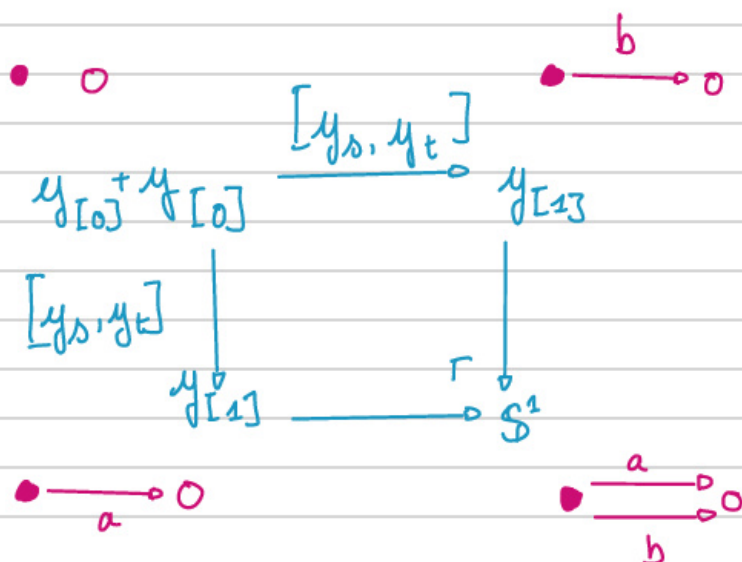
$$el(X) \xrightarrow{\pi_X} \mathcal{C} \longrightarrow \hat{\mathcal{C}}$$

for a small $\mathcal{C}$.

A functor $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ is faithful if, for every $F_{AB}: \mathcal{C}(A, B) \rightarrow \mathcal{D}(A, B)$ is injective.



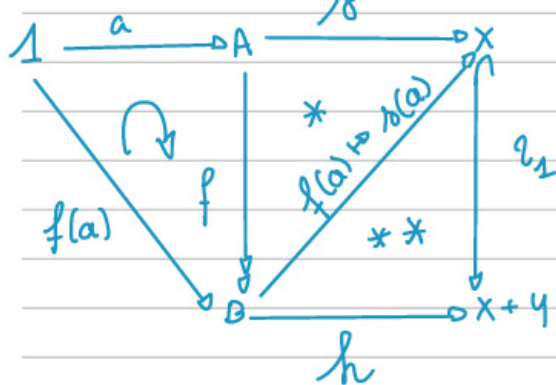
Exercise



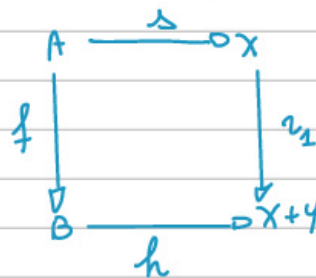
A graph is simple if $\frac{e}{e'} \Rightarrow$ implied $e=e'$

Equivalently if $X \rightarrow T$ is faithful.

Surjective / Injective functions in Set form a factorization system

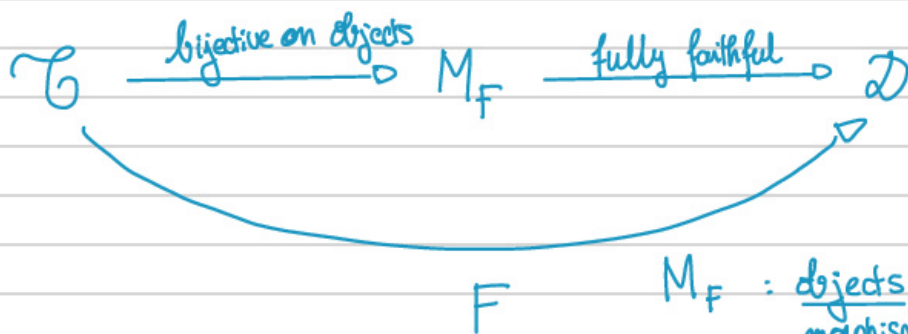
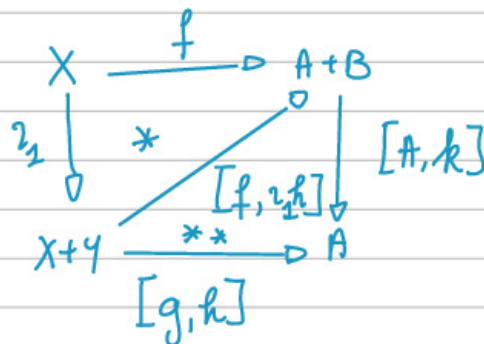


We have that

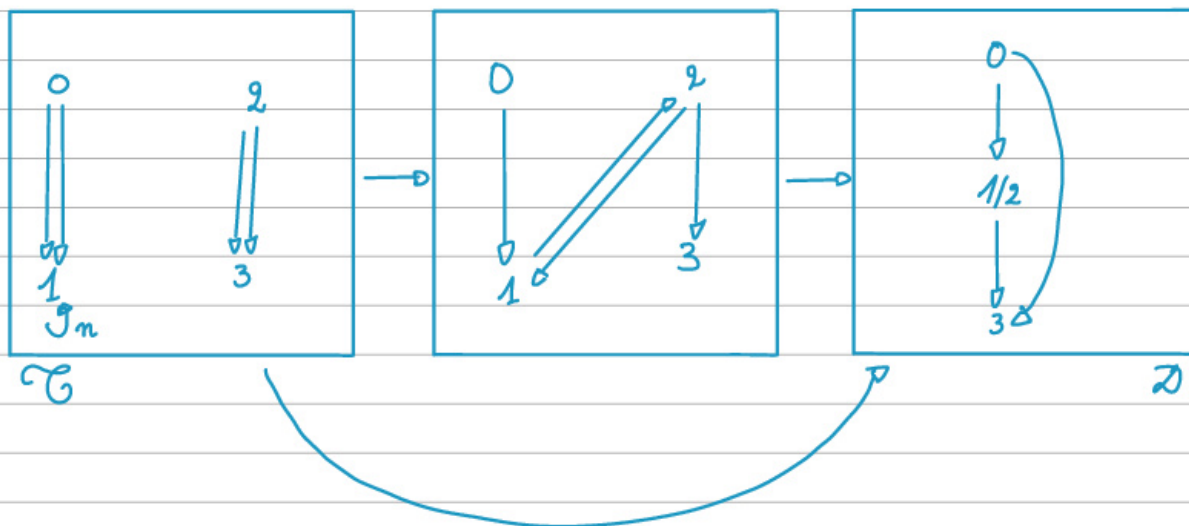


commutes, and so we immediately have the required commutations (*) and (**).

Injective / surjective too



$M_F : \begin{array}{l} \text{objects: } \text{ob}(C) \\ \text{morphisms: } C(A,B) / \{f,g \mid Ff = Fg\} \end{array}$
or alternatively,
 $\text{Hom}_{M_F}(A,B) := \text{Hom}_D(FA, FB)$

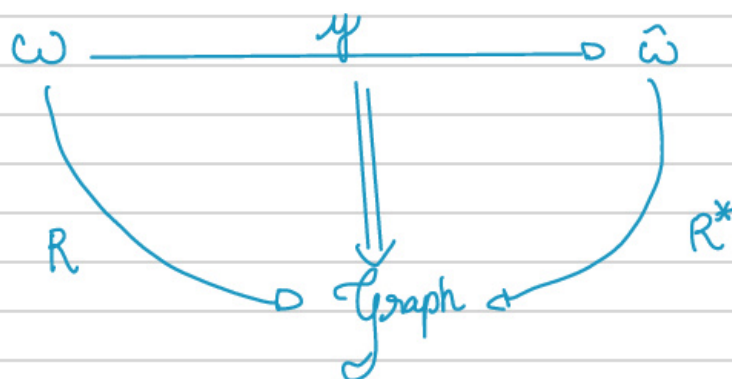


Theorem. $(\uparrow(\mathcal{J}^\uparrow), \uparrow\mathcal{J})$ is a factorization system where $\mathcal{J}$ is a set of morphisms in $\mathcal{C}$ (for some "suitable" $\mathcal{C}$).

Exercise Design a $\mathcal{J}$ such that the full subcategory of graphs X with $!x \in \mathcal{J}^\uparrow$ is equivalent to the category of undirected graph.

$$\mathcal{J} := \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \sigma : S^1 \longrightarrow Y_{[1]} \\ u : Y_{[1]} \longrightarrow S^1_{\hookrightarrow} \end{array} \right\}$$

Where $S^1_{\hookrightarrow} : \bullet \rightrightarrows \bullet$



$$R(n) := 0 \rightarrow 1 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow n-1$$

$$R(n \leq p) := \text{prefix } R(n) \rightarrow R(p)$$

$$R^*(X)(n) = \text{Graph}(R(n), X) = \text{paths of length } n$$

$$R^*(X)(n \leq p) : \text{inclusion to length } p$$

Gamma category

Given $\mathcal{C} \xrightarrow{F} \mathcal{E} \xleftarrow{G} \mathcal{D}$

define F/G with

• objects: $(C \in \mathcal{C}, D \in \mathcal{D}, f \in \mathcal{E}(FC, GD))$

• morphisms: $(C, D, f) \xrightarrow{(u, v)} (C', D', f')$ such that

$$\begin{array}{ccc} FC & \xrightarrow{u} & FC' \\ \downarrow f & & \downarrow g \\ GD & \xrightarrow[\nu]{\nu' \circ u} & GD' \end{array}$$

This forms a category:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} FC & \xlongequal{\quad} & FC \\ \downarrow f & & \downarrow f \\ GD & \xlongequal{\quad} & GD \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} FC & \xrightarrow{u} & FC' & \xrightarrow{\nu'} & FC'' \\ \downarrow f & & \downarrow g & & \downarrow h \\ GD & \xrightarrow{\nu} & GD' & \xrightarrow{\nu'} & GD'' \\ & \searrow \nu & & \searrow \nu' & \\ & & & & \nu' \circ \nu \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \text{Graph} & \xrightarrow{\quad} & \text{Set} & \xleftarrow{\quad} & \mathbb{1} \\ & & & \searrow A & \\ & G & \xrightarrow{\quad} & E(G) = G[1] & \end{array}$$

Then the comma category E/A is equivalent to the category of labelled graphs.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X[1] & \xrightarrow{f[1]} & Y[1] \\ & \searrow & \swarrow \\ & A & \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A^* & \xrightarrow{\quad} & \widehat{A^*} \\ & \searrow R & \swarrow R^* \\ & \text{Graph}/A & \end{array}$$

$$\begin{aligned} R^*(x, l)(a_1 \dots a_n) \\ = \text{Graph}/A(([n+1], [a_1 \dots a_n]), (x, l)). \end{aligned}$$