

MPhil ACS/CST Part III 2015

Module L108

CATEGORY THEORY & LOGIC

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What is category theory?

What we are probably seeking is a "purer" view of **functions**: a theory of functions in themselves, not a theory of functions derived from sets. What, then, is a pure theory of functions? Answer: **category theory**

Dana Scott, Relating theories of the λ -calculus, p 406

What is category theory?

SET THEORY gives an **element-oriented** account of mathematical structure

whereas CATEGORY THEORY takes a **function-oriented** view : understand structures not via their elements, but by how they transform, i.e. via "**morphisms**".

(Both are part of LOGIC, broadly construed.)

GENERAL THEORY OF NATURAL EQUIVALENCES

BY

SAMUEL EILENBERG AND SAUNDERS MACLANE

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Introduction. The subject matter of this paper is best explained by an example, such as that of the relation between a vector space L and its “dual”

Presented to the Society, September 8, 1942; received by the editors May 15, 1945.

Category Theory emerges

1945 Eilenberg⁺ & MacLane⁺, "General Theory of Natural Equivalences", Trans AMS 58, 231-294.

Algebraic topology, abstract algebra

50s Grothendieck⁺ algebraic geometry

60s Lawvere logic & foundations

70s Joyal & Tierney topos theory

80s Dana Scott Lambek⁺
Semantics linguistics

Category Theory & Computer Science

"Category Theory has... become part of the standard "tool-box" in many areas of theoretical informatics, from programming languages to automata, from process calculi to Type Theory."

Dagstuhl Perspectives Workshop on Categorical Methods at the Crossroads, April 2014

This course

CT
basic
concepts

adjunction
natural transformation
functor
category

applied to

equational logic
typed λ -calculus
first order logic

Definition

A **Category** \mathcal{C} is specified by

- a collection $\text{Obj } \mathcal{C}$ of **\mathcal{C} -objects** X, Y, Z, \dots
- for each $X, Y \in \text{Obj } \mathcal{C}$, a collection $\mathcal{C}(X, Y)$ of **\mathcal{C} -morphisms** from X to Y
- an operation assigning to each $X \in \text{Obj } \mathcal{C}$, an **identity morphism** $\text{id}_X \in \mathcal{C}(X, X)$
- an operation assigning to each $f \in \mathcal{C}(X, Y)$ & $g \in \mathcal{C}(Y, Z)$ a **composition** $g \circ f \in \mathcal{C}(X, Z)$

satisfying ...

Definition, cont.

satisfying ...

Associativity: for all $f \in \mathcal{C}(X, Y)$, $g \in \mathcal{C}(Y, Z)$
& $h \in \mathcal{C}(Z, W)$

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

Unity: for all $f \in \mathcal{C}(X, Y)$

$$\text{id}_Y \circ f = f = f \circ \text{id}_X$$

Associated notation & terminology

$f: X \rightarrow Y$ or $X \xrightarrow{f} Y$ means $f \in \mathcal{C}(X, Y)$

↳ in which case we say

X is the **domain** of f

Y is the **codomain** of f

and write

$$X = \text{dom } f$$

$$Y = \text{cod } f$$

(which category \mathcal{C} we are referring to is left implicit)

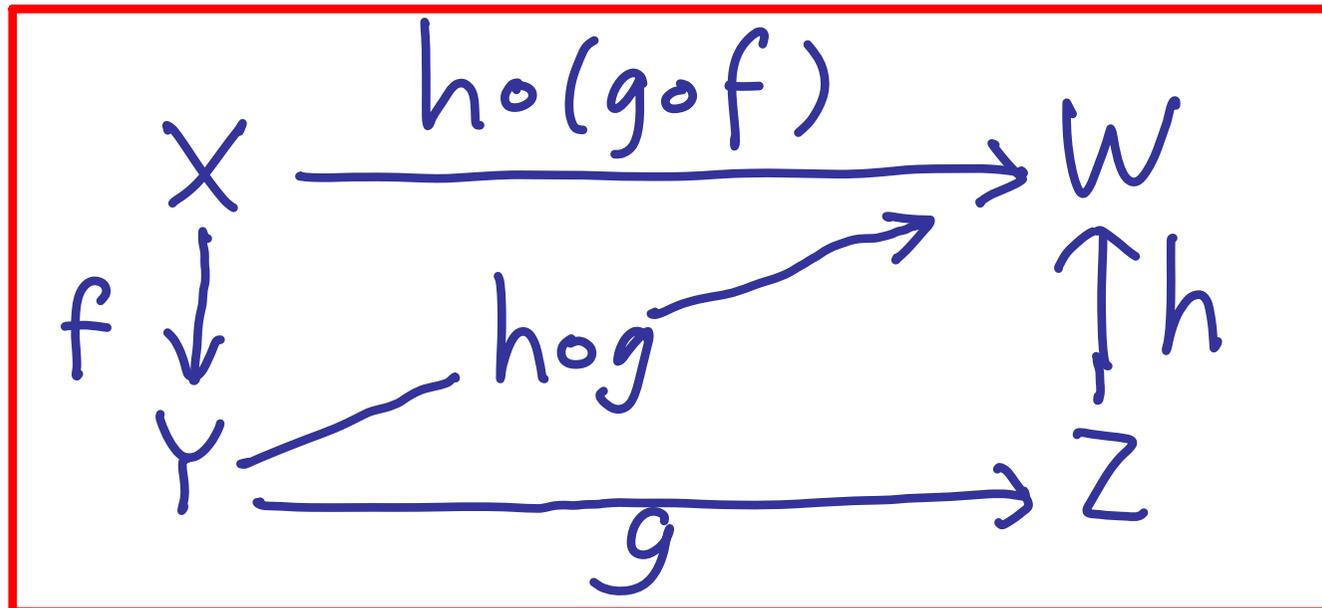
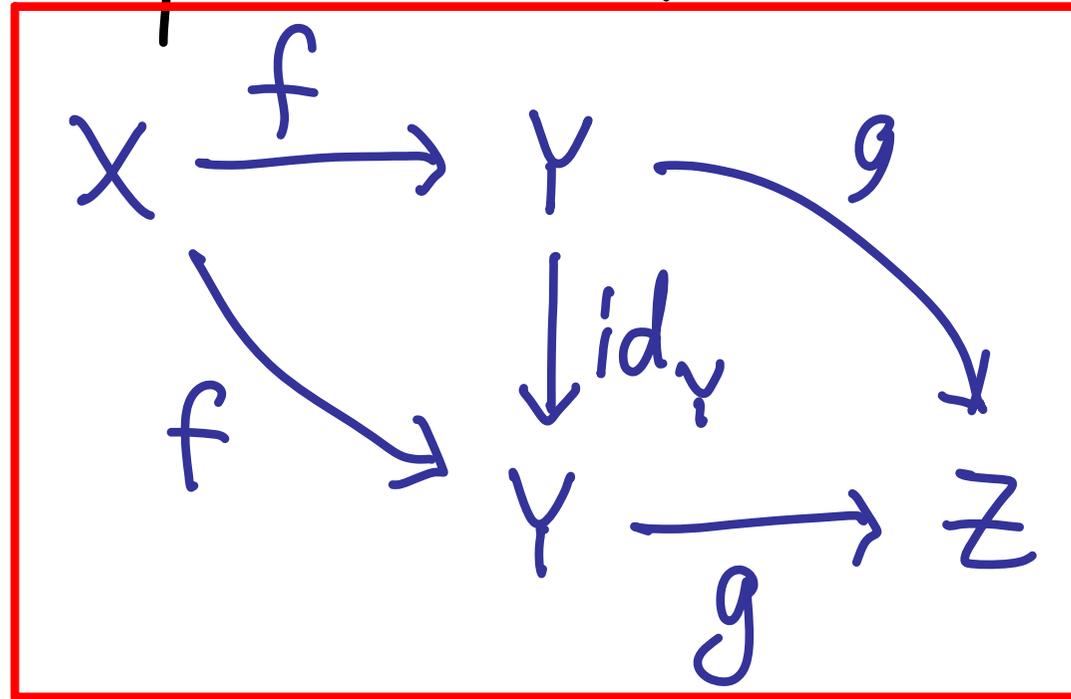
Commutative diagrams

in a category \mathcal{C} are

diagram { directed graphs whose vertices are \mathcal{C} -objects and whose edges are \mathcal{C} -morphisms

Com-
mutative { such that any two finite paths between two vertices determine equal morphisms under composition

Examples of commutative diagrams



Alternative notation

I'll often write

\mathbb{C} for $\text{Obj } \mathbb{C}$

id for id_x

Some people write

1_x for id_x

gf for $g \circ f$

$f; g$, or fg for $g \circ f$

Alternative definition of category

(The definition I gave is "dependent-type friendly".)

See [Awodey, Defⁿ 1.1] for an alternative (equivalent) formulation.

(One gives the whole collection of morphisms $\text{Mor } \mathcal{C}$ (equivalent to $\sum_{X, Y \in \text{Obj } \mathcal{C}} \mathcal{C}(X, Y)$ in our definition) plus operations $\text{dom}, \text{cod} : \text{Mor } \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \text{Obj } \mathcal{C}$. Composition is a partial opⁿ $\text{Mor } \mathcal{C} \times \text{Mor } \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \text{Mor } \mathcal{C}$ defined at (f, g) iff $\text{cod } f = \text{dom } g$.)

Example: category of sets, Set

- Obj Set = some fixed universe of sets
- $\text{Set}(X, Y) =$
 $\{f \subseteq X \times Y \mid f \text{ is single-valued \& total}\}$

Cartesian product consists of all ordered pairs (x, y) with $x \in X$ & $y \in Y$
 $(x, y) = (x', y') \iff x = x' \wedge y = y'$

Example: category of sets, Set

- Obj Set = some fixed universe of sets
- $\text{Set}(X, Y) = \{f \subseteq X \times Y \mid f \text{ is single-valued \& total}\}$

single-valued:

$$(\forall x \in X)(\forall y, y' \in Y) (x, y) \in f \wedge (x, y') \in f \Rightarrow y = y'$$

total:

$$(\forall x \in X)(\exists y \in Y) (x, y) \in f$$

Example: category of sets, Set

- Obj Set = some fixed universe of sets
- $\text{Set}(X, Y) = \{f \subseteq X \times Y \mid f \text{ is single-valued \& total}\}$
- $\text{id}_X \triangleq \{(x, x) \mid x \in X\}$
- Composition of $f \in \text{Set}(X, Y)$ & $g \in \text{Set}(Y, Z)$ is $g \circ f \triangleq \{(x, z) \mid (\exists y \in Y) (x, y) \in f \wedge (y, z) \in g\}$

[Check associativity & unity properties hold.]

Example: category of sets, Set

Notation:

given $f \in \text{Set}(X, Y)$ & $x \in X$

it's usual to write fx (or $f(x)$)

for the unique $y \in Y$ with $(x, y) \in f$.

Thus $\text{id}_x x = x$

$$(g \circ f) x = g(fx)$$