

Category Theory

Lecture 15

Presheaf categories

Let \mathbf{C} be a small category. The functor category $\mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{C}^{\text{op}}}$ is called the category of presheaves on \mathbf{C} .

- ▶ objects are contravariant functors from \mathbf{C} to \mathbf{Set}
- ▶ morphisms are natural transformations

Much used in the semantics of various dependently-typed languages and logics.

Given category \mathcal{C}
with terminal object 1

global elements of some $X \in \text{obj } \mathcal{C}$
are by definition the morphisms
 $1 \rightarrow X$ in \mathcal{C}

e.g. in $\text{Set} \dots$

but in $\text{Mon} \dots$

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with terminal object 1

global elements of some $X \in \text{obj } \mathcal{C}$
are by definition the morphisms
 $1 \rightarrow X$ in \mathcal{C}

We say \mathcal{C} is **well-pointed** if for all $X \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{f} \\ \xrightarrow{g} \end{array} Y$
in \mathcal{C} we have:

$$(\forall 1 \xrightarrow{x} X, f \circ x = g \circ x) \Rightarrow f = g$$

(Set is, Mon is n't)

≡ Idea ≡

replace global elements $1 \xrightarrow{x} X$

by $Y \xrightarrow{x} X$ (any $Y \in \text{Obj}(\mathbb{C})$)

" $x \in_Y X$ "

" x is a generalised element of X at stage Y "

Have to take into account change of stage:

$$x \in_Y X \ \& \ z \xrightarrow{f} Y \rightsquigarrow x \circ f \in_z X$$

Presheaf categories

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- ▶ morphisms are natural transformations

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Yoneda functor

$$\mathcal{Y} : \mathbf{C} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{C}^{\text{op}}}$$

(where \mathbf{C} is a small category)

is the Curried version of the hom functor

$$\mathbf{C} \times \mathbf{C}^{\text{op}} \cong \mathbf{C}^{\text{op}} \times \mathbf{C} \xrightarrow{\text{Hom}_{\mathbf{C}}} \mathbf{Set}$$

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- ▶ For each \mathbf{C} -object X , the object $\mathcal{Y}X \in \mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{C}^{\text{op}}}$ is the functor $\mathbf{C}(_, X) : \mathbf{C}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}$ given by

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} Z & \mapsto & \mathbf{C}(Z, X) & & g \circ f \\ \downarrow f & \mapsto & \uparrow & & \uparrow \\ Y & \mapsto & \mathbf{C}(Y, X) & & g \end{array}$$

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$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 Z & \mapsto & \mathbf{C}(Z, X) & & g \circ f \\
 \downarrow f & \mapsto & \uparrow & & \uparrow f^* \\
 Y & \mapsto & \mathbf{C}(Y, X) & & \downarrow g
 \end{array}$$

this function is often written as f^*

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- ▶ For each \mathbf{C} -morphism $Y \xrightarrow{f} X$, the morphism $\mathcal{Y}Y \xrightarrow{\mathcal{Y}f} \mathcal{Y}X$ in $\mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{C}^{\text{op}}}$ is the natural transformation whose component at any given $Z \in \mathbf{C}^{\text{op}}$ is the function

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{Y}Y(Z) & \xrightarrow{(\mathcal{Y}f)_Z} & \mathcal{Y}X(Z) \\ \parallel & & \parallel \\ \mathbf{C}(Z, Y) & & \mathbf{C}(Z, X) \\ g \longmapsto & & f \circ g \end{array}$$

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$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{Y} Y(Z) & \xrightarrow{(\mathcal{Y} f)_Z} & \mathcal{Y} X(Z) \\ \parallel & & \parallel \\ \mathbf{C}(Z, Y) & & \mathbf{C}(Z, X) \end{array}$$

$$g \mapsto f \circ g$$

this function is often written as f_*

The Yoneda Lemma

For each small category \mathbf{C} , each object $X \in \mathbf{C}$ and each presheaf $F \in \mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{C}^{\text{op}}}$, there is a bijection of sets

$$\eta_{X,F} : \mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{C}^{\text{op}}}(\mathcal{Y} X, F) \cong F(X)$$

which is natural in both X and F .

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the value of
 $F : \mathbf{C}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}$
at X

the set of natural transformations from
the functor $\mathcal{Y}X : \mathbf{C}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}$
to the functor $F : \mathbf{C}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}$

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which is natural in both X and F .

Definition of the function $\eta_{X,F} : \mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{C}^{\text{op}}}(\mathcal{Y}X, F) \rightarrow F(X)$:

for each $\theta : \mathcal{Y}X \rightarrow F$ in $\mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{C}^{\text{op}}}$ we have the function

$\mathbf{C}(X, X) = \mathcal{Y}X(X) \xrightarrow{\theta_X} F(X)$ and define

$$\eta_{X,F}(\theta) \triangleq \theta_X(\text{id}_X)$$

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which is natural in both X and F .

Definition of the function $\eta_{X,F}^{-1} : F(X) \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{C}^{\text{op}}}(\mathcal{Y} X, F)$:

for each $x \in F(X)$, $Y \in \mathbf{C}$ and $f \in \mathcal{Y} X(Y) = \mathbf{C}(Y, X)$,

we get a $F(X) \xrightarrow{F(f)} F(Y)$ in \mathbf{Set} and hence $F(f)(x) \in F(Y)$;

The Yoneda Lemma

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for each $x \in F(X)$, $Y \in \mathbf{C}$ and $f \in \mathcal{Y}X(Y) = \mathbf{C}(Y, X)$,

we get a $F(X) \xrightarrow{F(f)} F(Y)$ in \mathbf{Set} and hence $F(f)(x) \in F(Y)$;

Define $\left(\eta_{X,F}^{-1}(x)\right)_Y : \mathcal{Y}X(Y) \rightarrow F(Y)$ by

$$\left(\eta_{X,F}^{-1}(x)\right)_Y(f) \triangleq F(f)(x)$$

check this gives a natural transformation $\eta_{X,F}^{-1}(x) : \mathcal{Y}X \rightarrow F$

Proof of $\eta_{X,F} \circ \eta_{X,F}^{-1} = \text{id}_{F(X)}$

For any $x \in F(X)$ we have

$$\begin{aligned}\eta_{X,F} \left(\eta_{X,F}^{-1}(x) \right) &\triangleq \left(\eta_{X,F}^{-1}(x) \right)_X (\text{id}_X) \\ &\triangleq F(\text{id}_X)(x) \\ &= \text{id}_{F(X)}(x) \\ &= x\end{aligned}$$

by definition of $\eta_{X,F}$

by definition of $\eta_{X,F}^{-1}$

since F is a functor

Proof of $\eta_{X,F}^{-1} \circ \eta_{X,F} = \text{id}_{\text{Set}^{\text{C}^{\text{op}}}(Y, F(X))}$

For any $Y \xrightarrow{\theta} F$ in $\text{Set}^{\text{C}^{\text{op}}}$ and $X \xrightarrow{f} Y$ in \mathbf{C} , we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 \left(\eta_{X,F}^{-1} (\eta_{X,F}(\theta)) \right)_Y f &\triangleq \left(\eta_{X,F}^{-1} (\theta_X(\text{id}_X)) \right)_Y f \\
 &\triangleq F(f)(\theta_X(\text{id}_X)) \\
 &= \theta_Y(f^*(\text{id}_X)) \\
 &\triangleq \theta_Y(\text{id}_X \circ f) \\
 &= \theta_Y(f)
 \end{aligned}$$

by definition of $\eta_{X,F}$

by definition of $\eta_{X,F}^{-1}$

by naturality of θ

by definition of f^*

naturality of θ

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 Y \xrightarrow{\theta_Y} F(Y) & & \\
 \uparrow f^* & & \uparrow F(f) \\
 Y \xrightarrow{\theta_Y} F(Y) & & \\
 \uparrow f^* & & \uparrow F(f) \\
 X \xrightarrow{\theta_X} F(X) & &
 \end{array}$$

Proof of $\eta_{X,F}^{-1} \circ \eta_{X,F} = \text{id}_{\text{Set}^{\text{C}^{\text{op}}}(Y, X, F)}$

For any $Y \xrightarrow{\theta} F$ in $\text{Set}^{\text{C}^{\text{op}}}$ and $X \xrightarrow{f} X$ in \mathbf{C} , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \left(\eta_{X,F}^{-1} (\eta_{X,F}(\theta)) \right)_Y f &\triangleq \left(\eta_{X,F}^{-1} (\theta_X(\text{id}_X)) \right)_Y f && \text{by definition of } \eta_{X,F} \\ &\triangleq F(f)(\theta_X(\text{id}_X)) && \text{by definition of } \eta_{X,F}^{-1} \\ &= \theta_Y(f^*(\text{id}_X)) && \text{by naturality of } \theta \\ &\triangleq \theta_Y(\text{id}_X \circ f) && \text{by definition of } f^* \\ &= \theta_Y(f) \end{aligned}$$

by definition of $\eta_{X,F}$

by definition of $\eta_{X,F}^{-1}$

by naturality of θ

by definition of f^*

$$\text{so } \forall \theta, Y, \left(\eta_{X,F}^{-1} (\eta_{X,F}(\theta)) \right)_Y = \theta_Y$$

$$\text{so } \forall \theta, \eta_{X,F}^{-1} (\eta_{X,F}(\theta)) = \theta$$

$$\text{so } \eta_{X,F}^{-1} \circ \eta_{X,F} = \text{id}.$$

The Yoneda Lemma

For each small category \mathbf{C} , each object $X \in \mathbf{C}$ and each presheaf $F \in \mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{C}^{\text{op}}}$, there is a bijection of sets

$$\eta_{X,F} : \mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{C}^{\text{op}}}(\mathcal{Y}X, F) \cong F(X)$$

which is natural in both X and F .

Proof that $\eta_{X,F}$ is natural in F :

Given $F \xrightarrow{\varphi} G$ in $\mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{C}^{\text{op}}}$, have to show that

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{C}^{\text{op}}}(\mathcal{Y}X, F) & \xrightarrow{\eta_{X,F}} & F(X) \\ \downarrow \varphi_* & & \downarrow \varphi_X \\ \mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{C}^{\text{op}}}(\mathcal{Y}X, G) & \xrightarrow{\eta_{X,G}} & G(X) \end{array}$$

commutes in \mathbf{Set} . For all $\mathcal{Y}X \xrightarrow{\theta} F$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi_X(\eta_{X,F}(\theta)) &\triangleq \varphi_X(\theta_X(\text{id}_X)) \\ &\triangleq (\varphi \circ \theta)_X(\text{id}_X) \\ &\triangleq \eta_{X,G}(\varphi \circ \theta) \\ &\triangleq \eta_{X,G}(\varphi_*(\theta)) \end{aligned}$$

Proof that $\eta_{X,F}$ is natural in X :

Given $Y \xrightarrow{f} X$ in \mathbf{C} , have to show that

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{C}^{\text{op}}}(\mathcal{Y}X, F) & \xrightarrow{\eta_{X,F}} & F(X) \\
 (\mathcal{Y}f)^* \downarrow & & \downarrow F(f) \\
 \mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{C}^{\text{op}}}(\mathcal{Y}Y, F) & \xrightarrow{\eta_{Y,F}} & F(Y)
 \end{array}$$

commutes in \mathbf{Set} . For all $\mathcal{Y}X \xrightarrow{\theta} F$ we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 F(f)((\eta_{X,F}(\theta))) &\triangleq F(f)(\theta_X(\text{id}_X)) \\
 &= \theta_Y(f^*(\text{id}_X)) && \text{by naturality of } \theta \\
 &= \theta_Y(f) \\
 &= \theta_Y(f_*(\text{id}_Y)) \\
 &\triangleq (\theta \circ \mathcal{Y}f)_Y(\text{id}_Y) \\
 &\triangleq \eta_{Y,F}(\theta \circ \mathcal{Y}f) \\
 &\triangleq \eta_{Y,F}((\mathcal{Y}f)^*(\theta))
 \end{aligned}$$

Corollary of the Yoneda Lemma:

the functor $\mathcal{Y} : \mathbf{C} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{C}^{\text{op}}}$ is **full** and **faithful**.

In general, a functor $F : \mathbf{C} \rightarrow \mathbf{D}$ is

- ▶ **faithful** if for all $X, Y \in \mathbf{C}$ the function

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathbf{C}(X, Y) & \rightarrow & \mathbf{D}(F(X), F(Y)) \\ f & \mapsto & F(f) \end{array}$$

is injective:

$$\forall f, f' \in \mathbf{C}(X, Y), F(f) = F(f') \Rightarrow f = f'$$

- ▶ **full** if the above functions are all surjective:

$$\forall g \in \mathbf{D}(F(X), F(Y)), \exists f \in \mathbf{C}(X, Y), F(f) = g$$

Corollary of the Yoneda Lemma:

the functor $\mathcal{Y} : \mathbf{C} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{C}^{\text{op}}}$ is **full** and **faithful**.

Proof. From the proof of the Yoneda Lemma, for each $F \in \mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{C}^{\text{op}}}$ we have a bijection

$$F(X) \xrightarrow{(\eta_{X,F})^{-1}} \mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{C}^{\text{op}}}(\mathcal{Y}X, F)$$

By definition of $(\eta_{X,F})^{-1}$, when $F = \mathcal{Y}Y$ the above function is equal to

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{Y}Y(X) = \mathbf{C}(X, Y) &\rightarrow \mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{C}^{\text{op}}}(\mathcal{Y}X, \mathcal{Y}Y) \\ f &\mapsto f_* = \mathcal{Y}f \end{aligned}$$

So, being a bijection, $f \mapsto \mathcal{Y}f$ is both injective and surjective; so \mathcal{Y} is both faithful and full. □

Recall (for a small category \mathbf{C}):

Yoneda functor $\mathcal{Y} : \mathbf{C} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{C}^{\text{op}}}$

Yoneda Lemma: there is a bijection

$\mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{C}^{\text{op}}}(\mathcal{Y}X, F) \cong F(X)$ which is natural both in $F \in \mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{C}^{\text{op}}}$ and $X \in \mathbf{C}$.

An application of the Yoneda Lemma:

Theorem. For each small category \mathbf{C} , the category $\mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{C}^{\text{op}}}$ of presheaves is cartesian closed.

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Proof sketch.

Terminal object in $\mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{C}^{\text{op}}}$ is the functor $\mathbf{1} : \mathbf{C}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}$ given by

$$\begin{cases} \mathbf{1}(X) \triangleq \{0\} \\ \mathbf{1}(f) \triangleq \text{id}_{\{0\}} \end{cases} \quad \text{terminal object in } \mathbf{Set}$$

Theorem. For each small category \mathbf{C} , the category $\mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{C}^{\text{op}}}$ of presheaves is cartesian closed.

Proof sketch.

Product of $F, G \in \mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{C}^{\text{op}}}$ is the functor $F \times G : \mathbf{C}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}$ given by

$$\begin{cases} (F \times G)(X) \triangleq F(X) \times G(X) & \text{cartesian product of sets} \\ (F \times G)(f) \triangleq F(f) \times G(f) \end{cases}$$

with projection morphisms $F \xleftarrow{\pi_1} F \times G \xrightarrow{\pi_2} G$ given by the natural transformations whose components at $X \in \mathbf{C}$ are the projection functions $F(X) \xleftarrow{\pi_1} F(X) \times G(X) \xrightarrow{\pi_2} G(X)$.

Theorem. For each small category \mathbf{C} , the category $\mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{C}^{\text{op}}}$ of presheaves is cartesian closed.

Proof sketch.

We can work out what the value of the exponential $G^F \in \mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{C}^{\text{op}}}$ at $X \in \mathbf{C}$ has to be using the Yoneda Lemma:

$$G^F(X) \cong \mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{C}^{\text{op}}}(\mathcal{Y}X, G^F) \cong \mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{C}^{\text{op}}}(\mathcal{Y}X \times F, G)$$

The diagram illustrates the derivation of the exponential value $G^F(X)$. It features the equation $G^F(X) \cong \mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{C}^{\text{op}}}(\mathcal{Y}X, G^F) \cong \mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{C}^{\text{op}}}(\mathcal{Y}X \times F, G)$ at the top. Below the first term, $G^F(X)$, is a red box containing the text "Yoneda Lemma". A red arrow points from this box to the first isomorphism symbol in the equation. Below the second term, $\mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{C}^{\text{op}}}(\mathcal{Y}X \times F, G)$, is a red box containing the text "universal property of the exponential". A red arrow points from this box to the second isomorphism symbol in the equation.

Theorem. For each small category \mathbf{C} , the category $\mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{C}^{\text{op}}}$ of presheaves is cartesian closed.

Proof sketch.

We can work out what the value of the exponential $G^F \in \mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{C}^{\text{op}}}$ at $X \in \mathbf{C}$ has to be using the Yoneda Lemma:

$$G^F(X) \cong \mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{C}^{\text{op}}}(\mathcal{Y}X, G^F) \cong \mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{C}^{\text{op}}}(\mathcal{Y}X \times F, G)$$

We take the set $\mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{C}^{\text{op}}}(\mathcal{Y}X \times F, G)$ to be the definition of the value of G^F at X ...

Exponential objects in $\mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{C}^{\text{op}}}$:

$$G^F(X) \triangleq \mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{C}^{\text{op}}}(\mathcal{Y}X \times F, G)$$

Given $Y \xrightarrow{f} X$ in \mathbf{C} , we have $\mathcal{Y}Y \xrightarrow{\mathcal{Y}f} \mathcal{Y}X$ in $\mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{C}^{\text{op}}}$ and hence

$$\begin{aligned} G^F(Y) \triangleq \mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{C}^{\text{op}}}(\mathcal{Y}Y \times F, G) &\rightarrow \mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{C}^{\text{op}}}(\mathcal{Y}X \times F, G) \triangleq G^F(X) \\ \theta &\mapsto \theta \circ (\mathcal{Y}f \times \text{id}_F) \end{aligned}$$

We define

$$G^F(f) \triangleq (\mathcal{Y}f \times \text{id}_F)^*$$

Have to **check** that these definitions make G^F into a functor $\mathbf{C}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}$.

Application morphisms in $\mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{C}^{\text{op}}}$:

Given $F, G \in \mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{C}^{\text{op}}}$, the application morphism

$$\text{app} : G^F \times F \rightarrow G$$

is the natural transformation whose component at $X \in \mathbf{C}$ is the function

$$(G^F \times F)(X) \triangleq G^F(X) \times F(X) \triangleq \mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{C}^{\text{op}}}(\text{よ}X \times F, G) \times F(X) \xrightarrow{\text{app}_X} G(X)$$

defined by

$$\text{app}_X(\theta, x) \triangleq \theta_X(\text{id}_X, x)$$

Have to **check** that this is natural in X .

Currying operation in $\mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{C}^{\text{op}}}$:

$$\left(H \times F \xrightarrow{\theta} G \right) \mapsto \left(H \xrightarrow{\text{cur } \theta} G^F \right)$$

Given $H \times F \xrightarrow{\theta} G$ in $\mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{C}^{\text{op}}}$, the component of $\text{cur } \theta$ at $X \in \mathbf{C}$

$$H(X) \xrightarrow{(\text{cur } \theta)_X} G^F(X) \triangleq \mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{C}^{\text{op}}}(\multimap X \times F, G)$$

is the function mapping each $z \in H(X)$ to the natural transformation $\multimap X \times F \rightarrow G$ whose component at $Y \in \mathbf{C}$ is the function

$$(\multimap X \times F)(Y) \triangleq \mathbf{C}(Y, X) \times F(Y) \rightarrow G(Y)$$

defined by

$$\left((\text{cur } \theta)_X(z) \right)_Y(f, y) \triangleq \theta_Y(H(f)(z), y)$$

Currying operation in $\mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{C}^{\text{op}}}$:

$$\left(H \times F \xrightarrow{\theta} G \right) \mapsto \left(H \xrightarrow{\text{cur } \theta} G^F \right)$$

$$\left((\text{cur } \theta)_X(z) \right)_Y(f, y) \triangleq \theta_Y(H(f)(z), y)$$

Have to **check** that this is natural in Y ,

then that $(\text{cur } \theta)_X$ is natural in X ,

then that $\text{cur } \theta$ is the unique morphism $H \xrightarrow{\varphi} G^F$ in $\mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{C}^{\text{op}}}$ satisfying $\text{app} \circ (\varphi \times \text{id}_F) = \theta$.

Theorem. For each small category \mathbf{C} , the category $\mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{C}^{\text{op}}}$ of presheaves is cartesian closed.

So we can interpret simply typed lambda calculus in any presheaf category.

More than that, presheaf categories (usefully) model dependently-typed languages.