

## Lecture 14.

1) Adjoint functors | BONUS: adjunction unit & counit

Reference: [R], Section 4.1, Hilton-Stammbach, Section 2.7.

### 1.1) Definition (of adj't functors).

Let  $\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D}$  be cats,  $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}, G: \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  be functors.

Def'n:  $F$  is left adjoint to  $G$  if

$\forall X \in \text{Ob}(\mathcal{C}), Y \in \text{Ob}(\mathcal{D}) \exists$  bijection  $\eta_{X,Y}: \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F(X), Y) \xrightarrow{\sim} \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(X, G(Y))$  s.t.

(1)  $\forall X, X' \in \text{Ob}(\mathcal{C}), Y \in \text{Ob}(\mathcal{D}), X' \xrightarrow{\varphi} X$  the following is comm'vc:  
 $\begin{matrix} X' & \xrightarrow{\varphi} & X \\ & \searrow & \nearrow \\ & F(X') & \xrightarrow{F(\varphi)} & F(X) \end{matrix}$

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F(X), Y) & \xrightarrow{\eta_{X,Y}} & \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(X, G(Y)) \\
 \downarrow \eta \circ F(\varphi) & & \downarrow \eta \circ G(\varphi) \\
 \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F(X'), Y) & \xrightarrow{\eta_{X',Y}} & \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(X', G(Y))
 \end{array}$$

(2)  $\forall Y, Y' \in \text{Ob}(\mathcal{D}), Y \xrightarrow{\psi} Y', X \in \text{Ob}(\mathcal{C})$ , the following is comm'vc

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F(X), Y) & \xrightarrow{\eta_{X,Y}} & \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(X, G(Y)) \\
 \downarrow \eta \circ \psi & & \downarrow G(\psi) \circ \eta \\
 \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F(X), Y') & \xrightarrow{\eta_{X,Y'}} & \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(X, G(Y'))
 \end{array}$$

Remarks: 1) Fix  $X$  & consider composition of functors

$$\mathcal{D} \xrightarrow{G} \mathcal{C} \xrightarrow{F_X = \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(X, \cdot)} \text{Sets}$$

If  $F$  is left adj't to  $G$ , then  $F(X)$  represents this comp'n  
i.e.  $\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F(X), \cdot)$  is isom'c to this comp'n via  $\eta_{X, \cdot}$ , which is  
a functor isomorphism by diagram (2).

2\*) Can view  $\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(\cdot, ?)$  as a functor  $\mathcal{C}^{\text{opp}} \times \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \text{Sets}$   
Similarly for  $\mathcal{D} \rightsquigarrow$  compositions  $\mathcal{C}^{\text{opp}} \times \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \text{Sets}$   
 $\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F(\cdot), ?), \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(\cdot, G(?))$

Diagrams (1) & (2) combine to show that  $[F \text{ is left adj't to } G] \iff$  the two functors above are isomorphic (via  $\eta_{\cdot, ?}$ )

3) Often we get interesting adjoint functors  $F/G$  starting from (sometimes boring) functors - which is why we care about adjoint functors in this course.

4)  $G$  is called right adjoint to  $F$ .

## 1.2) Examples.

Ex 1: Let  $G$  be  $\text{For}: A\text{-Mod} \rightarrow \text{Sets}$  ( $A$  is comm'ive unital ring),  $F := \text{Free}: \text{Sets} \rightarrow A\text{-Mod}$   
 $I \mapsto A^{\oplus I}$

Claim:  $F$  is left adj't to  $G$  (Maps :=  $\text{Hom}_{\text{sets}}$ )

2]

• construct  $\vartheta_{I,M}: \text{Hom}_A(A^{\oplus I}, M) \xrightarrow{\sim} M^{\times I} = \text{Maps}(I, M)$   
 $\tau \mapsto [i \mapsto \tau(e_i)]$

• check comm'ive diagram (1):  $\forall$  maps  $\varphi: I' \rightarrow I$ :

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \tau \in \text{Hom}_A(A^{\oplus I}, M) & \xrightarrow[\sim]{\vartheta_{I,M}} & \text{Maps}(I, M) \\ \downarrow \text{?} \circ \text{Free}(\varphi) & & \downarrow \text{?} \circ \varphi \\ \text{Hom}_A(A^{\oplus I'}, M) & \xrightarrow[\sim]{\vartheta_{I',M}} & \text{Maps}(I', M) \end{array}$$

where  $\text{Free}(\varphi)$  is unique  $[\text{Free}(\varphi)](e_i) := e_{\varphi(i)}$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \downarrow & \longrightarrow & : \tau \mapsto [\text{unique } \tau': A^{\oplus I'} \rightarrow M \text{ s.t. } \tau'(e'_j) := \tau(e_{\varphi(j)})] \\ & & \downarrow \\ & & [j \mapsto \tau(e_{\varphi(j)})] \\ & \longleftarrow & \\ \longrightarrow & \downarrow & : \tau \mapsto [i \mapsto \tau(e_i)] \end{array}$$

Check (2): for  $\psi \in \text{Hom}_A(M, M')$ , the following is comm'ive:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \tau \in \text{Hom}_A(A^{\oplus I}, M) & \xrightarrow{\sim} & \text{Maps}(I, M) \\ \downarrow \psi \circ ? & & \downarrow \psi \circ ? \text{ where now } \psi \text{ is} \\ & & \text{viewed as map of sets} \\ \text{Hom}_A(A^{\oplus I}, M') & \xrightarrow{\sim} & \text{Maps}(I, M') \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \longrightarrow & : & \tau \mapsto [i \mapsto \tau(e_i)] \mapsto [i \mapsto \varphi(\tau(e_i))] \\
 \downarrow & & \nearrow \\
 \downarrow \longrightarrow & : & \tau \mapsto \varphi \circ \tau
 \end{array}$$

Adjointness is established

Ex 2:  $G$  is the inclusion functor  $\mathcal{Z}\text{-Mod} \hookrightarrow \text{Groups}$ ,

$F := \text{Ab}: \text{Groups} \rightarrow \mathcal{Z}\text{-Mod}$ ,  $G \mapsto G/(G, G)$ .

Claim:  $F$  is left adjoint to  $G$ .

$\pi_G :=$  natural epimorphism  $G \rightarrow G/(G, G)$ .

• Construct bijection  $\eta_{G, M}: \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{Z}}(G/(G, G), M) \xrightarrow{\cong} \text{Hom}_{\text{Groups}}(G, M)$   
 $\tau \mapsto \tau \circ \pi_G$

Exercise:  $\eta_{G, M}$  is a bijection.

• Check commutative diagram (1):  $\forall \varphi: G' \rightarrow G$

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{Z}}(G/(G, G), M) & \xrightarrow{? \circ \pi_G} & \text{Hom}_{\text{Groups}}(G, M) \\
 \downarrow ? \circ \text{Ab}(\varphi) & & \downarrow ? \circ \varphi \\
 \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{Z}}(G'/(G', G'), M) & \xrightarrow{? \circ \pi_{G'}} & \text{Hom}_{\text{Groups}}(G', M)
 \end{array}$$

where  $\text{Ab}(\varphi)(g'(G', G')) = \varphi(g')(G, G)$  ( $g' \in G'$ )

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \longrightarrow & \downarrow & = \underbrace{? \circ (\pi_G \circ \varphi)} \\
 & & \parallel \\
 \downarrow & \longrightarrow & = \underbrace{? \circ (Ab(\varphi) \circ \pi_{G'})}
 \end{array}
 \quad \longleftarrow \text{follows from constr'n of } Ab(\varphi)$$

Check comm'ive diagram (2):  $\psi: M \rightarrow M'$

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \text{Hom}_{\mathbb{Z}}(G/(G,G), M) & \xrightarrow{? \circ \pi_G} & \text{Hom}_{\text{groups}}(G, M) \\
 \downarrow \psi \circ ? & & \downarrow \psi \circ ? \\
 \text{Hom}_{\mathbb{Z}}(G/(G,G), M') & \xrightarrow{? \circ \pi_{G'}} & \text{Hom}_{\text{groups}}(G, M')
 \end{array}$$

Both  $\longrightarrow \downarrow$  &  $\downarrow \longrightarrow$  give  $\psi \circ ? \circ \pi_G$ , manifestly the same!

Adjointness is checked.

### 1.3) Uniqueness.

Proposition: Let  $G: \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  be a functor. Claim: if its left adjoint exists, then it's unique up to a functor isom'm.

Proof: Suppose  $F^1, F^2: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$  are both left adj't to  $G: \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{C} \rightsquigarrow \eta_{x,y}^i: \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F^i(x), y) \xrightarrow{\sim} \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(x, G(y))$  that make (1) & (2) comm'ive  $\rightsquigarrow$

$$\eta_{x,y} := (\eta_{x,y}^2)^{-1} \circ \eta_{x,y}^1: \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F^1(x), y) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F^2(x), y)$$

which makes analogs of (1) & (2) comm'ive:

(1)  $\forall X' \xrightarrow{\varphi} X$ :

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F^1(X), Y) & \xrightarrow{\zeta_{X,Y}} & \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F^2(X), Y) \\ \downarrow \text{?} \circ F^1(\varphi) & & \downarrow \text{?} \circ F^2(\varphi) \\ \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F^1(X'), Y) & \xrightarrow{\zeta_{X',Y}} & \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F^2(X'), Y) \end{array}$$

(2)  $\forall Y \xrightarrow{\psi} Y'$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F^1(X), Y) & \xrightarrow{\zeta_{X,Y}} & \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F^2(X), Y) \\ \downarrow \psi \circ \text{?} & & \downarrow \psi \circ \text{?} \\ \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F^1(X), Y') & \xrightarrow{\zeta_{X,Y'}} & \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F^2(X), Y') \end{array}$$

Fix  $X$ , look at (2): it tells us that  $\zeta_{X,?}$  is a functor morphism (and hence isomorphism - b/c each  $\zeta_{X,Y}$  is bijection) between  $\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F^1(X), \cdot)$  &  $\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F^2(X), \cdot)$ . By Yoneda Lemma, have the unique isomorphism  $\tau_X \in \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(F^2(X), F^1(X))$  s.t.

$$\zeta_{X,?} = - \circ \tau_X.$$

Claim: (1) now tells us that  $\tau$  is a functor morphism (hence, an isomorphism). Indeed, in (1):

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \longrightarrow & \downarrow & : \quad ? \circ (\tau_X \circ F^2(\varphi)) \\
 & & \parallel \quad -b/c (1) \text{ is comm'ive} \\
 \downarrow & \longrightarrow & : \quad ? \circ (F^1(\varphi) \circ \tau_{X'})
 \end{array}$$

i.e.

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 F^2(X') & \xrightarrow{\tau_{X'}} & F^1(X') \\
 \downarrow F^2(\varphi) & & \downarrow F^1(\varphi) \\
 F^2(X) & \xrightarrow{\tau_X} & F^1(X)
 \end{array}
 \quad \text{is commutative}$$

So  $\tau$  is indeed a functor (iso)morphism □

1.4) Analogy between adjoint functors & adjoint linear maps.

Linear map story	Functor story
Fin. dim. vector space $V$	Category $\mathcal{C}$
Dual space $V^*$	Category $\mathcal{C}^{opp}$
Map $V^* \times V \rightarrow \mathbb{F}$ (pairing)	Functor $\mathcal{C}^{opp} \times \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \text{Sets}$ $\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(\cdot, ?)$
Cond'n for $A^*: W^* \rightarrow V^*$ being adjt to $A: V \rightarrow W$ :	Condition for functors being adjoint:

7

$$\langle A^* \beta, v \rangle = \langle \beta, Av \rangle$$

$$\forall \beta \in W^*, v \in V.$$

Isom'm of functors  $\mathcal{C}^{op} \times \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \text{Sets}$   
 $\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F(\cdot), ?) \xrightarrow{\sim} \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(\cdot, G(?))$

Note: this is just an analogy:

BONUS: adjunction unit & counit.

Let  $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$  be left adjoint to  $G: \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ . We claim that this gives rise to functor morphisms: the adjunction unit

$$\varepsilon: \text{Id}_{\mathcal{C}} \Rightarrow GF \quad \& \quad \text{counit } \eta: FG \Rightarrow \text{Id}_{\mathcal{D}}.$$

We construct  $\varepsilon$  and leave  $\eta$  as an exercise.

Consider  $X_1, X_2 \in \text{Ob}(\mathcal{C})$ . Then we have the bijection

$$\eta_{X_1, F(X_2)}: \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F(X_1), F(X_2)) \xrightarrow{\sim} \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(X_1, GF(X_2))$$

Note that  $F$  gives rise to a map  $\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(X_1, X_2) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F(X_1), F(X_2))$

Composing this map w. the bijection  $\eta_{X_1, F(X_2)}$  we get

$$\varepsilon_{X_1, X_2}: \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(X_1, X_2) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(X_1, GF(X_2)).$$

Now we can argue as in the proof of Proposition 1.3 to see that  $\exists! \varepsilon: \text{Id}_{\mathcal{C}} \Rightarrow GF$  s.t.  $\varepsilon_{X_1, X_2}(\psi) = \varepsilon_{X_2} \circ \psi$ .

A natural question to ask is: for two functors  $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ ,

$G: \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  & functor morphisms  $\varepsilon: \text{Id}_{\mathcal{C}} \Rightarrow GF$ ,  $\eta: FG \Rightarrow \text{Id}_{\mathcal{D}}$

when is  $F$  left adjoint to  $G$  (&  $\varepsilon, \eta$  unit & counit).

Very Premium Exercise: TFAE

a)  $F$  is left adjoint to  $G$  w. unit  $\varepsilon$  & counit  $\eta$



b) The composed morphisms  $F \Rightarrow FGF \Rightarrow F$ ,  $G \Rightarrow GFG \Rightarrow G$  induced by  $\varepsilon, \eta$  (cf. Problem 8 in HW 3) are the identity endomorphisms (of  $F$  &  $G$ ).