TD1 – Cartesian categories

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1 Categories and functors

1. Recall the definition of *category* and provide some examples (e.g. **Set**, **Top**, **Vect**, **Grp**).
2. Recall the definition of a *functor* and provide some examples.
3. Define the category **Cat** of categories and functors.

2 Cartesian categories

Suppose fixed a category $\mathcal{C}$. A *cartesian product* of two objects A and B is given by an object $A \times B$ together with two morphisms

$$\pi_1 : A \times B \to A \qquad \text{and} \qquad \pi_2 : A \times B \to B$$

such that for every object C and morphisms $f : C \to A$ and $g : C \to B$, there exists a unique morphism $h : C \to A \times B$ making the diagram

$$\begin{tikzcd}
 & C \arrow[d, dotted, "h"'] \arrow[ddl, bend right, "f"'] \arrow[ddr, bend left, "g"] & \\
 & A \times B \arrow[dl, "\pi_A"] \arrow[dr, "\pi_B"'] & \\
A & & B
\end{tikzcd}$$

commute. We also recall that a *terminal object* in a category is an object 1 such that for every object A there exists a unique morphism $f_A : A \to 1$. A category is *cartesian* when it has finite products, i.e. has a terminal object and every pair of objects admits a product.

1. Suppose that $(E, \leq)$ is a poset. We associate to it category whose objects are elements of E and such that there exists a unique morphism between object a and b iff $a \leq b$. What is a terminal object and a product in this category?
2. Show that the category **Set** of sets and functions is cartesian.
3. Show that two terminal objects in a category are necessarily isomorphic.
4. Similarly, show that the cartesian product of two objects is defined up to isomorphism.
5. How could you show previous question using question 3.?
6. Show that for every object A of a cartesian category, the objects $1 \times A$, A and $A \times 1$ are isomorphic.
7. Show that for every objects A and B, $A \times B$ and $B \times A$ are isomorphic.
8. Show that for every objects A, B and C, $(A \times B) \times C$ and $A \times (B \times C)$ are isomorphic.

3 Examples of cartesian categories

1. Show that the category **Rel** of sets and relations is cartesian.
2. We write **Vect** for the category of $\Bbbk$-vector spaces (where $\Bbbk$ is a fixed field) and linear functions. Show that this category is cartesian. Given a basis for A and B, describe a basis for $A \times B$.
3. Show that the category **Cat** is cartesian.

4 Cartesian product as a functor

1. Given a cartesian category $\mathcal{C}$, show that the cartesian product induces a functor $\mathcal{C} \times \mathcal{C} \to \mathcal{C}$.