

Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be a category with the property that for every pair of objects  $A$  and  $B$ , the class of morphisms from  $A$  to  $B$  is a set. Let  $\hat{\mathcal{C}}$  be the category of *presheaves* on  $\mathcal{C}$ , that is, the category whose objects are the functors from  $\mathcal{C}$  to the category  $\mathcal{E}ns$  of sets and whose morphisms are natural transformations. For objects  $T$  and  $X$  of  $\mathcal{C}$ , let  $h_X(T) := Mor_{\mathcal{C}}(T, X)$ . If  $f: T' \rightarrow T$  is a morphism in  $\mathcal{C}$  and  $g \in h_X(T)$ , then  $g \circ f \in h_X(T')$ , so we have a map of sets  $h_X(f): h_X(T') \rightarrow h_X(T)$ . Check that these constructions define a contravariant functor  $h_X$  from  $\mathcal{C}$  to  $\mathcal{E}ns$ , that is, a presheaf on  $\mathcal{C}$ . Check that a morphism  $X \rightarrow X'$  defines a natural transformation  $h_X \rightarrow h_{X'}$ , so that  $h$  defines a functor  $\mathcal{C} \rightarrow \hat{\mathcal{C}}$ . Our aim is to prove that this functor is fully faithful.

**Theorem:** Suppose  $X$  is an object of  $\mathcal{C}$  and  $F$  is an object of  $\hat{\mathcal{C}}$ .

1. If  $\xi \in F(X)$ , define a natural transformation  $\eta(\xi): h_X \rightarrow F$  as follows. For every object  $T$  of  $\mathcal{C}$ , let

$$\eta(\xi)_T: h_X(T) \rightarrow F(T) : f \mapsto F(f)(\xi)$$

(Check that this really does define a natural transformation!)

2. If  $\eta: h_X \rightarrow F$  is a natural transformation, define  $\xi(\eta) \in F(X)$  by

$$\xi(\eta) := \eta_X(\text{id}_X)$$

Check that

1. For any  $\xi$  as in (1),  $\xi(\eta(\xi)) = \xi$ .
2. For any  $\eta$  as in (2),  $\eta(\xi(\eta)) = \eta$ .
3. The correspondences defined above are natural in a suitable sense.
4. When  $F = h_{X'}$  for some object  $X'$  of  $\mathcal{C}$ , the correspondence in (2) above

$$h_{X'}(X) = Mor_{\mathcal{C}}(X, X') \rightarrow Mor_{\hat{\mathcal{C}}}(h_X, h_{X'})$$

is the same as the correspondence defined by the functor  $h$ .

Conclusion: the functor  $h: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \hat{\mathcal{C}}$  is fully faithful.