

A NEW FRAMEWORK FOR LIMITS IN DOUBLE CATEGORIES

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Joint work with Nathanael Arkor (arkor.co)

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Masaryk University, Brno, Czechia

15 July 2025

MOTIVATION & OVERVIEW

○ 1

double
categories

$\geq$

2-categories

+

bicategories

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- Theory of (co)limits is fundamental, but relatively undeveloped for double categories compared to 2-categories/bicategories.

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GOAL: Develop a sufficiently rich notion of limit in double categories to express all examples of "limit-like" constructions — even those not possible with bicategories.

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- Key advantage: double categories have 2 kinds of objects:

$$\text{ID} = \begin{array}{ccccc} & \xleftarrow{\text{dom}} & & \xleftarrow{\pi_1} & \\ D_0 & \xrightarrow{\text{id}} & D_1 & \xleftarrow{\circ} & D_1 \times_{D_0} D_1 \\ & \xleftarrow{\text{cod}} & & \xleftarrow{\pi_2} & \\ & \uparrow & \uparrow & & \\ & \text{objects} & \text{loose morphisms} & & \end{array}$$

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- Suggests 2 kinds of limits in double categories!

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PART 1: Limits indexed by double categories II

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & \text{lim } F & \\ \gamma_A \swarrow & & \searrow \gamma_B \\ FA & \xrightarrow{Ff} & FB \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{ccc} & \text{lim } F & \\ \gamma_C \downarrow & \xrightarrow{\text{id}} & \downarrow \gamma_D \\ FC & \xrightarrow{Fp} & FD \end{array}$$

- Introduced by Grandis-Paré in 1999.
- Constructed from limits in D_0 and **tabulators**.

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PART 1: Limits indexed by double categories $\mathbb{I}$

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PART 2: Limits indexed by loose distributors $\mathbb{I} \xrightarrow{P} \mathbb{J}$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{lim } F & \xrightarrow{\text{lim } \Phi} & \text{lim } G \\ \gamma_A \downarrow & \Theta_q & \downarrow \gamma_x \\ FA & \xrightarrow{\Phi_q} & GX \end{array}$$

- Capture parallel limits and **many new examples**!
- **Main theorem:** characterising ID which admit all limits.

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left unitor

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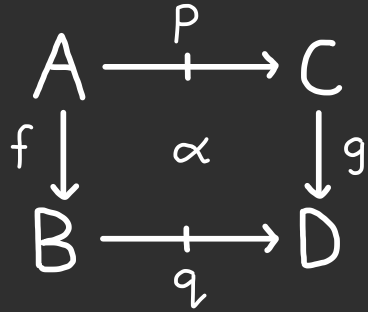
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$$\begin{array}{ccc} A & \xrightarrow{p} & C \\ f \downarrow & & \downarrow g \\ B & \xrightarrow{q} & D \end{array}$$

$\rightsquigarrow$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A \times C & \xrightarrow{p} & \{\perp \rightarrow T\} \\ f \times g \downarrow & \Downarrow & \\ B \times D & \xrightarrow{q} & \end{array}$$

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- **Span** - sets, functions, spans, span morphisms

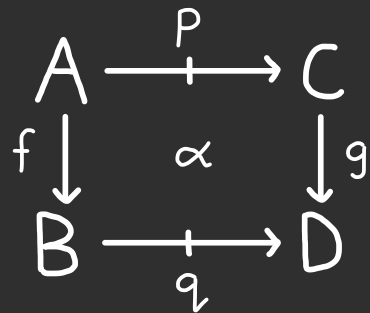
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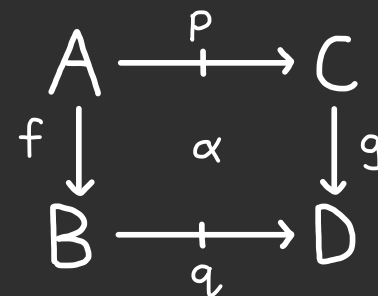
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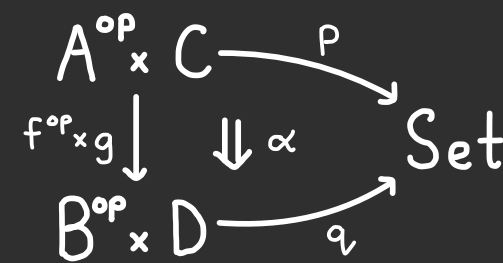
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- **IDist** - categories, functors, distributors/profunctors



$\rightsquigarrow$



LIMITS INDEXED BY DOUBLE CATEGORIES

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A **unitary lax functor** $F: \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{D}$ is an assignment

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A & \xrightarrow{p} & C \\ f \downarrow & \alpha & \downarrow g \\ B & \xrightarrow{q} & D \end{array} \rightsquigarrow \begin{array}{ccc} FA & \xrightarrow{Fp} & FC \\ Ff \downarrow & F\alpha & \downarrow Fg \\ FB & \xrightarrow{Fq} & FD \end{array}$$

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unitary lax functor functor

A **limit** of $F: \mathbb{I} \rightarrow \mathbb{D}$ is an object $\lim F$ and a **terminal cone** γ which provides for each $f: A \rightarrow B$ and $p: C \rightarrow D$

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natural w.r.t. cells in $\mathbb{I}$ such that $\gamma_{id_A} = id_{\gamma_A}$

LIMITS INDEXED BY DOUBLE CATEGORIES

03

A **unitary lax functor** $F: \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{D}$ is an assignment

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A & \xrightarrow{p} & C \\ f \downarrow & \alpha & \downarrow g \\ B & \xrightarrow{q} & D \end{array} \rightsquigarrow \begin{array}{ccc} FA & \xrightarrow{Fp} & FC \\ Ff \downarrow & F\alpha & \downarrow Fg \\ FB & \xrightarrow{Fq} & FD \end{array}$$

preserving tight identities & composites and loose identities, together with **laxator** cells:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} FA & \xrightarrow{Fp} & FB & \xrightarrow{Fq} & FC \\ \parallel & & & & \parallel \\ FA & \xrightarrow{F(p \circ q)} & FC \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} \epsilon(p, q) \end{array}$$

$$\Pi_i(\mathbb{C}) \longrightarrow \mathbb{D} \rightsquigarrow \mathbb{C} \longrightarrow \mathbb{D}_0$$

unitary lax functor functor

A **limit** of $F: \mathbb{I} \rightarrow \mathbb{D}$ is an object $\lim F$ and a **terminal cone** γ which provides for each $f: A \rightarrow B$ and $p: C \rightarrow D$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & \lim F & \\ \gamma_A \swarrow & & \searrow \gamma_B \\ FA & \xrightarrow{Ff} & FB \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{ccc} \lim F & \xrightarrow{id} & \lim F \\ \gamma_C \downarrow & \gamma_p & \downarrow \gamma_D \\ FC & \xrightarrow{Fp} & FD \end{array}$$

natural w.r.t. cells in $\mathbb{I}$ such that $\gamma_{id_A} = id_{\gamma_A}$ and

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \lim F & \xrightarrow{id} & \lim F & \xrightarrow{id} & \lim F \\ \gamma_A \downarrow & \gamma_p & \downarrow \gamma_B & \gamma_q & \downarrow \gamma_C \\ FA & \xrightarrow{Fp} & FB & \xrightarrow{Fq} & FC \\ \parallel & & & & \parallel \\ FA & \xrightarrow{F(p \circ q)} & FC \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} \epsilon(p, q) \end{array} = \begin{array}{ccc} \lim F & \xrightarrow{id \circ id} & \lim F \\ \parallel & \cong & \parallel \\ \lim F & \xrightarrow{id} & \lim F \\ \gamma_A \downarrow & \gamma_{p \circ q} & \downarrow \gamma_C \\ FA & \xrightarrow{F(p \circ q)} & FC \end{array}$$

TABULATORS & TIGHT LIMITS

- A **tabulator** is a limit whose shape is

$$\mathcal{I} = \{0 \dashrightarrow 1\}$$

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- The tabulator of a loose morphism $p: A \rightrightarrows B$ is a cone

$$\begin{array}{ccc} T_p & \xrightarrow{\text{id}} & T_p \\ \pi_A \downarrow & \pi_p & \downarrow \pi_B \\ A & \xrightarrow[p]{} & B \end{array}$$

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- A double category $\mathbb{D}$ admits all tabulators if and only if the functor $\text{id}: D_0 \longrightarrow D_1$ has a **right adjoint**.

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- A double category $\mathbb{D}$ admits all tabulators if and only if the functor $\text{id}: D_0 \rightarrow D_1$ has a **right adjoint**.
- In $\mathbb{S}\text{pan}$, $T(A \leftarrow P \rightarrow B) = P$
- In $\mathbb{I}\text{Rel}$, $T(R: A \times B \rightarrow \{\perp \rightarrow \top\}) = \{(a, b) \in A \times B \mid R(a, b) = \top\}$
- In $\mathbb{I}\text{Dist}$, the category of elements of $P: A^{\circ P} \times B \rightarrow \text{Set}$.

TABULATORS & TIGHT LIMITS

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- A double category $\mathbb{D}$ admits all tabulators if and only if the functor $\text{id}: D_0 \rightarrow D_1$ has a **right adjoint**.

- In Span , $T(A \leftarrow P \rightarrow B) = P$

- In IRel , $T(R: A \times B \rightarrow \{\perp \rightarrow \top\}) = \{(a, b) \in A \times B \mid R(a, b) = \top\}$

- In IDist , the category of elements of $P: A^{\circ P} \times B \rightarrow \text{Set}$.

- A **tight limit** is a limit whose shape is

$$\prod_i (\mathcal{C})$$

$\mathcal{C}$ category

TABULATORS & TIGHT LIMITS

04

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- A **tight limit** is a limit whose shape is

$$\prod_i (\mathcal{C}) \quad \mathcal{C} \text{ category}$$

- Tight limits in a double category $\mathbb{D}$ are precisely limits in the underlying category D_0 of **objects** and **tight morphisms**.

$$\prod_i (\mathcal{C}) \xrightarrow{F} \mathbb{D} \quad \rightsquigarrow \quad \mathcal{C} \xrightarrow{F_0} D_0$$

TABULATORS & TIGHT LIMITS

04

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- A double category ID admits all tabulators if and only if the functor $\text{id}: D_0 \rightarrow D_1$ has a **right adjoint**.

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$$\prod_i (\mathcal{C}) \xrightarrow{F} ID \quad \rightsquigarrow \quad \mathcal{C} \xrightarrow{F_0} D_0$$

- Examples: products, equalisers, pullbacks, terminal objects.

TABULATORS & TIGHT LIMITS

4

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$$\Pi_i(\mathcal{C}) \xrightarrow{F} \mathbb{D} \quad \rightsquigarrow \quad \mathcal{C} \xrightarrow{F_0} D_0$$

- Examples: products, equalisers, pullbacks, terminal objects.

Theorem (Grandis-Paré, 99)

A double category $\mathbb{D}$ admits limits indexed by any double category $\mathbb{I}$ if and only if

$\mathbb{D}$ admits **tight limits** and **tabulators**.

LOOSE DISTRIBUTORS & ALTERATIONS

05

A **loose distributor** $P: \mathbb{C} \multimap \mathbb{D}$ is

1) a distributor between pseudo category objects in CAT

$$C_0 \xleftarrow{s} P \xrightarrow{t} D_0 \quad C_1 \times_{C_0} P \xrightarrow{p} P \quad P \times_{D_0} D_1 \xrightarrow{q} P$$

2)

3)

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3) for each $A \in \mathbb{C}$ and $X \in \mathbb{D}$, a collection $P(A, X)$ of

loose heteromorphisms $A \multimap X$,

LOOSE DISTRIBUTORS & ALTERATIONS

05

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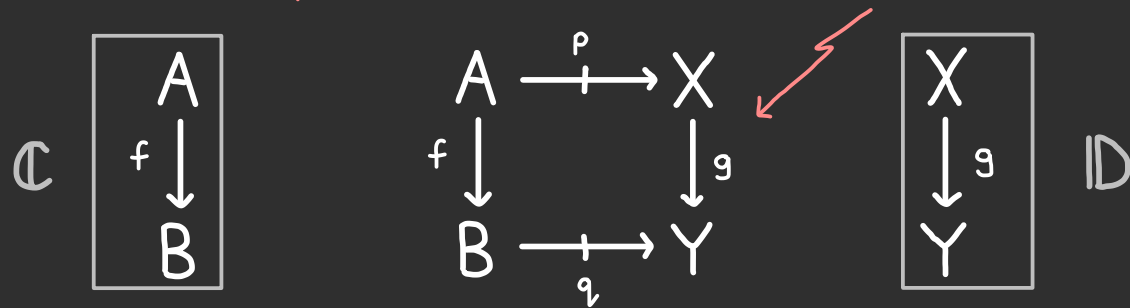
1) a distributor between pseudo category objects in CAT

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for each frame of tight morphisms and loose heteromorphisms

LOOSE DISTRIBUTORS & ALTERATIONS

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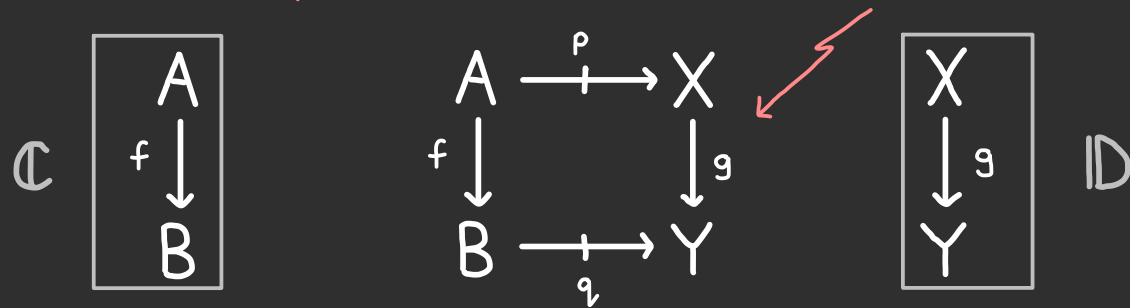
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for each frame of tight morphisms and loose heteromorphisms together with compatible **left action by $\mathbb{C}$** and **right action by $\mathbb{D}$** .

LOOSE DISTRIBUTORS & ALTERATIONS

05

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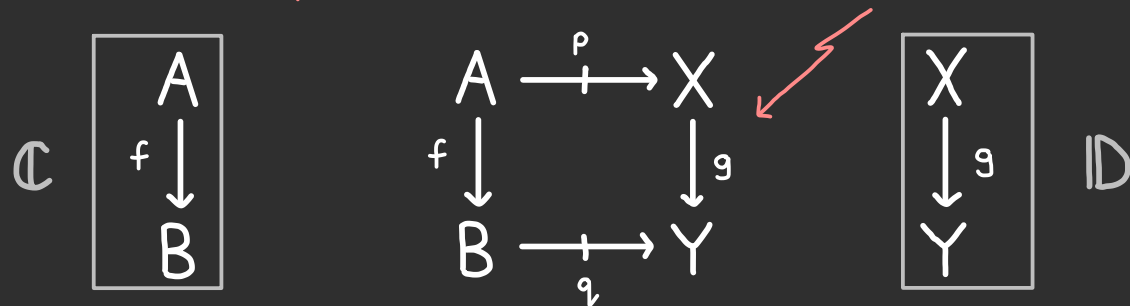
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collage of $P: \mathbb{C} \multimap \mathbb{D}$

$$\mathbb{C} \longrightarrow |P| \longleftarrow \mathbb{D}$$

LOOSE DISTRIBUTORS & ALTERATIONS

05

A **loose distributor** $P: \mathbb{C} \dashrightarrow \mathbb{D}$ is

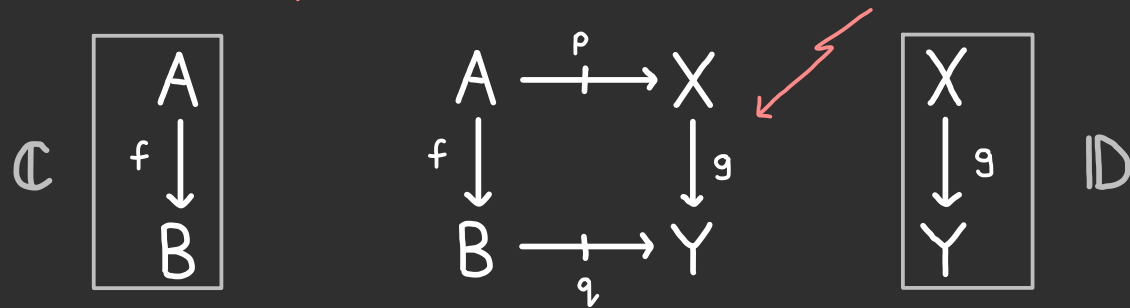
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2) a functor $IP \rightarrow \mathbb{2}$ into free double category $\{0 \leftrightarrow 1\}$

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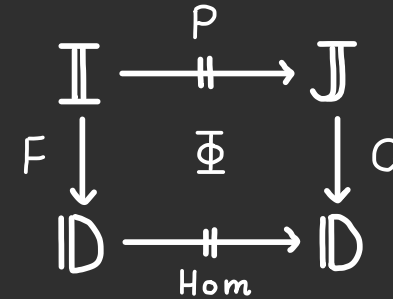


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collage of $P: \mathbb{C} \dashrightarrow \mathbb{D}$

$$\mathbb{C} \longrightarrow IP \longleftarrow \mathbb{D}$$

An (unitary lax) **alteration** with frame



F, G unitary lax functors

LOOSE DISTRIBUTORS & ALTERATIONS

05

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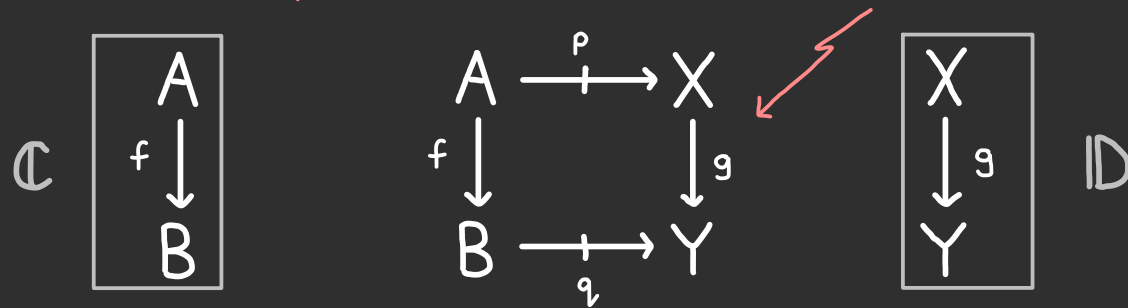
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2) a functor $\mathbb{P} \rightarrow \mathbb{2}$ into free double category $\{0 \leftrightarrow 1\}$

3) for each $A \in \mathbb{C}$ and $X \in \mathbb{D}$, a collection $P(A, X)$ of

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for each frame of tight morphisms and loose heteromorphisms together with compatible **left action by $\mathbb{C}$** and **right action by $\mathbb{D}$** .

collage of $P: \mathbb{C} \dashrightarrow \mathbb{D}$

$$\mathbb{C} \longrightarrow \mathbb{P} \longleftarrow \mathbb{D}$$

An (unitary lax) **alteration** with frame

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathbb{I} & \xrightarrow{P} & \mathbb{J} \\ F \downarrow & \Phi & \downarrow G \\ \mathbb{ID} & \xrightarrow{\text{Hom}} & \mathbb{ID} \end{array} \quad F, G \text{ unitary lax functors}$$

is an assignment on heteromorphisms and heterocells

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A & \xrightarrow{P} & X \\ f \downarrow & \alpha & \downarrow g \\ B & \xrightarrow{q} & Y \end{array} \longmapsto \begin{array}{ccc} FA & \xrightarrow{\Phi P} & GX \\ Ff \downarrow & \Phi \alpha & \downarrow Gg \\ FB & \xrightarrow{\Phi q} & GY \end{array} \text{ in } \mathbb{ID}$$

LOOSE DISTRIBUTORS & ALTERATIONS

05

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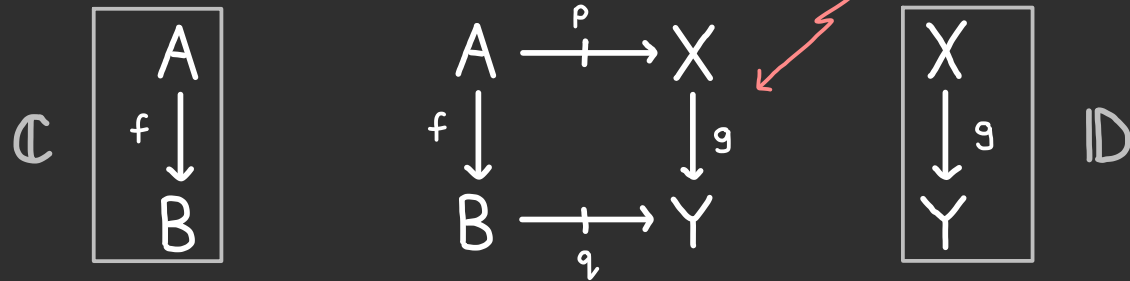
1) a distributor between pseudo category objects in CAT

$$C_0 \xleftarrow{s} P \xrightarrow{t} D_0 \quad C_1 \times_{C_0} P \xrightarrow{D} P \quad P \times_{D_0} D_1 \xrightarrow{A} P$$

2) a functor $\mathbb{P} \rightarrow \mathbb{2}$ into free double category $\{0 \leftrightarrow 1\}$

3) for each $A \in \mathbb{C}$ and $X \in \mathbb{D}$, a collection $P(A, X)$ of

loose heteromorphisms $A \multimap X$, and set of **heterocells**



for each frame of tight morphisms and loose heteromorphisms together with compatible **left action by $\mathbb{C}$** and **right action by $\mathbb{D}$** .

collage of $P: \mathbb{C} \multimap \mathbb{D}$

$$\mathbb{C} \longrightarrow \mathbb{P} \longleftarrow \mathbb{D}$$

An (unitary lax) **alteration** with frame

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathbb{I} & \xrightarrow{P} & \mathbb{J} \\ F \downarrow & \Phi & \downarrow G \\ \mathbb{D} & \xrightarrow{\text{Hom}} & \mathbb{D} \end{array} \quad F, G \text{ unitary lax functors}$$

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$$\begin{array}{ccc} A & \xrightarrow{p} & X \\ f \downarrow & \alpha & \downarrow g \\ B & \xrightarrow{q} & Y \end{array} \longmapsto \begin{array}{ccc} FA & \xrightarrow{\Phi p} & GX \\ Ff \downarrow & \Phi \alpha & \downarrow Gg \\ FB & \xrightarrow{\Phi q} & GY \end{array} \text{ in } \mathbb{D}$$

preserving identity and composite heterocells together with cells

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} FA' & \xrightarrow{Fq} & FA & \xrightarrow{\Phi p} & GX \\ \parallel & & \varepsilon^D(q, p) & & \parallel \\ FA' & \xrightarrow{\Phi(q \triangleright p)} & & & GX \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{ccccc} FA & \xrightarrow{\Phi p} & GX & \xrightarrow{Gr} & GX' \\ \parallel & & \varepsilon^A(p, r) & & \parallel \\ FA & \xrightarrow{\Phi(p \triangleleft r)} & & & GX' \end{array}$$

LIMITS INDEXED BY LOOSE DISTRIBUTORS

06

Suppose $(\lim F, \delta)$ and $(\lim G, \gamma)$ are limits of $F: \mathbb{I} \rightarrow \mathbb{D}$ and $G: \mathbb{J} \rightarrow \mathbb{D}$, respectively.

LIMITS INDEXED BY LOOSE DISTRIBUTORS

06

Suppose $(\lim F, \chi)$ and $(\lim G, \psi)$ are limits of $F: \mathbb{I} \rightarrow \mathbb{ID}$ and $G: \mathbb{J} \rightarrow \mathbb{ID}$, respectively. The **limit** of an alteration

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathbb{I} & \xrightarrow{\rho} & \mathbb{J} \\ F \downarrow & \Phi & \downarrow G \\ \mathbb{ID} & \xrightarrow{\text{Hom}} & \mathbb{ID} \end{array}$$

LIMITS INDEXED BY LOOSE DISTRIBUTORS

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is a loose morphism $\lim \Phi: \lim F \rightarrow \lim G$ in $\mathbb{D}$ and a **terminal cone** θ

LIMITS INDEXED BY LOOSE DISTRIBUTORS

06

Suppose $(\lim F, \gamma)$ and $(\lim G, \gamma)$ are limits of $F: \mathbb{I} \rightarrow \mathbb{D}$ and $G: \mathbb{J} \rightarrow \mathbb{D}$, respectively. The **limit** of an alteration

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is a loose morphism $\lim \Phi: \lim F \rightarrow \lim G$ in $\mathbb{D}$ and a **terminal cone** θ which provides for each $p: A \rightarrow X$ in $P(A, X)$

$$FA \xrightarrow{\Phi_p} GX$$

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$$\begin{array}{ccc} \lim F & \xrightarrow{\lim \Phi} & \lim G \\ \gamma_A \downarrow & \Theta_p & \downarrow \psi_x \\ FA & \xrightarrow{\Phi_p} & GX \end{array} \quad \text{in } \mathbb{D}$$

natural w.r.t. heterocells of $\rho: \mathbb{I} \rightarrow \mathbb{J}$ and satisfying

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natural w.r.t. heterocells of $p: \mathbb{I} \rightarrow \mathbb{J}$ and satisfying

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \lim F & \xrightarrow{\text{id}} & \lim F & \xrightarrow{\lim \Phi} & \lim G \\ \gamma_A \downarrow & \gamma_q & \gamma_A \downarrow & \Theta_p & \downarrow \psi_x \\ FA' & \xrightarrow{F_q} & FA & \xrightarrow{\Phi_p} & GX \end{array}$$

$$= \begin{array}{ccc} \lim F & \xrightarrow{\lim \Phi} & \lim G \\ \gamma_A \downarrow & \Theta_{q \circ p} & \downarrow \psi_x \\ FA' & \xrightarrow{\Phi(q \circ p)} & GX \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \lim F & \xrightarrow{\lim \Phi} & \lim G & \xrightarrow{\text{id}} & \lim G \\ \gamma_A \downarrow & \Theta_p & \downarrow \psi_x & \psi_r & \downarrow \psi_{x'} \\ FA & \xrightarrow{\Phi_p} & GX & \xrightarrow{G_r} & GX' \end{array}$$

$$= \begin{array}{ccc} \lim F & \xrightarrow{\lim \Phi} & \lim G \\ \gamma_A \downarrow & \Theta_{p \circ r} & \downarrow \psi_{x'} \\ FA & \xrightarrow{\Phi(p \circ r)} & GX' \end{array}$$

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Suppose $(\lim F, \gamma)$ and $(\lim G, \psi)$ are limits of $F: \mathbb{I} \rightarrow \mathbb{D}$ and $G: \mathbb{J} \rightarrow \mathbb{D}$, respectively. The **limit** of an alteration

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is a loose morphism $\lim \Phi: \lim F \rightarrow \lim G$ in $\mathbb{D}$ and a **terminal cone** Θ which provides for each $p: A \rightarrow X$ in $P(A, X)$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \lim F & \xrightarrow{\lim \Phi} & \lim G \\ \gamma_A \downarrow & \Theta_p & \downarrow \psi_x \\ FA & \xrightarrow{\Phi_p} & GX \end{array} \quad \text{in } \mathbb{D}$$

natural w.r.t. heterocells of $p: \mathbb{I} \rightarrow \mathbb{J}$ and satisfying

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \lim F & \xrightarrow{\text{id}} & \lim F & \xrightarrow{\lim \Phi} & \lim G \\ \gamma_A \downarrow & \gamma_q & \gamma_A \downarrow & \Theta_p & \downarrow \psi_x \\ FA' & \xrightarrow{F_q} & FA & \xrightarrow{\Phi_p} & GX \\ \parallel & & & & \parallel \\ FA' & \xrightarrow{\Phi(q \triangleright p)} & & & GX \end{array}$$

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LIMITS INDEXED BY LOOSE DISTRIBUTORS

06

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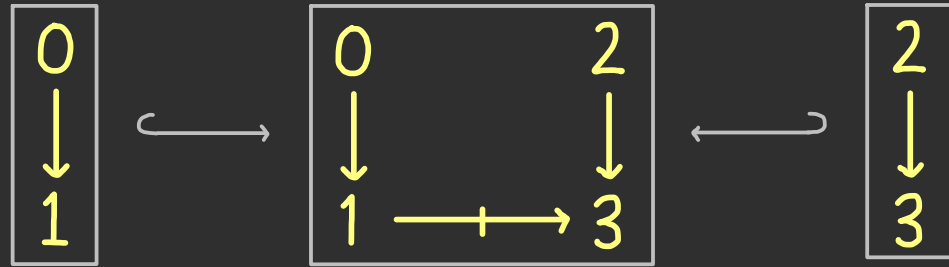
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⚠ Limits of alterations can be pathological unless $\mathbb{D}$ is **replete**: $\langle \text{dom}, \text{cod} \rangle: D_1 \rightarrow D_0 \times D_0$ is an isofibration.

COMPANIONS, CONJOINTS, & RESTRICTIONS ARE LIMITS

07

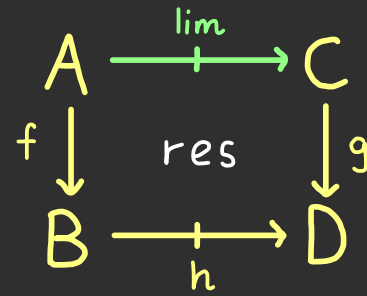
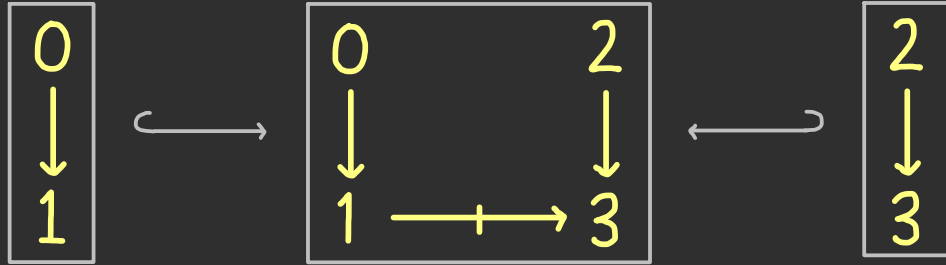
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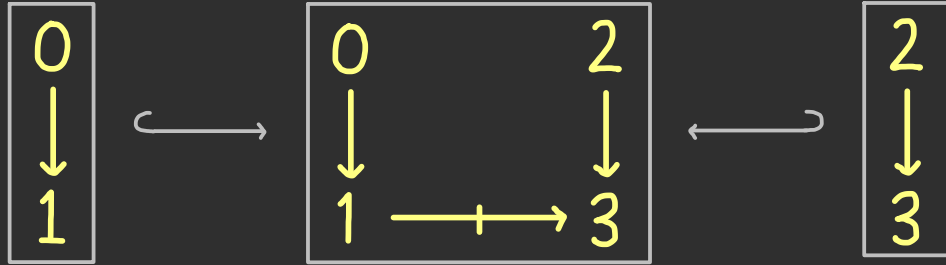


We choose the limit of a tight morphism to be its domain.

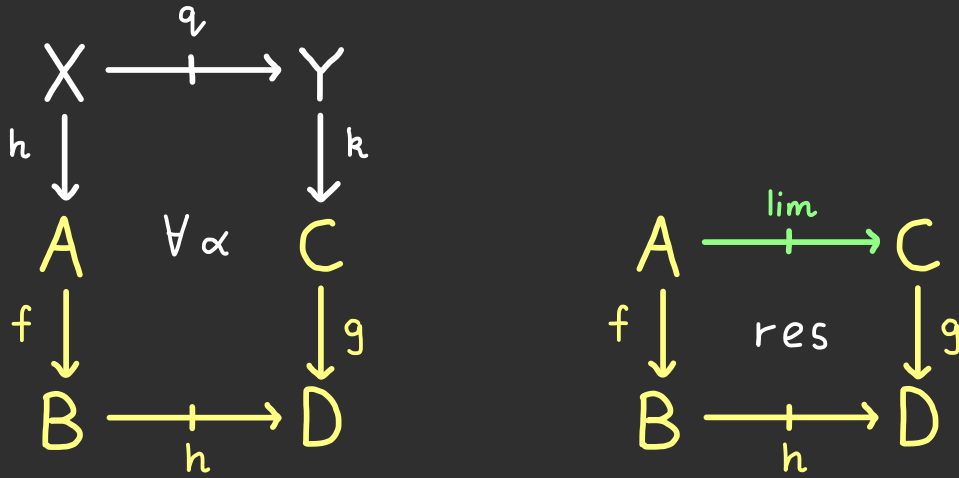
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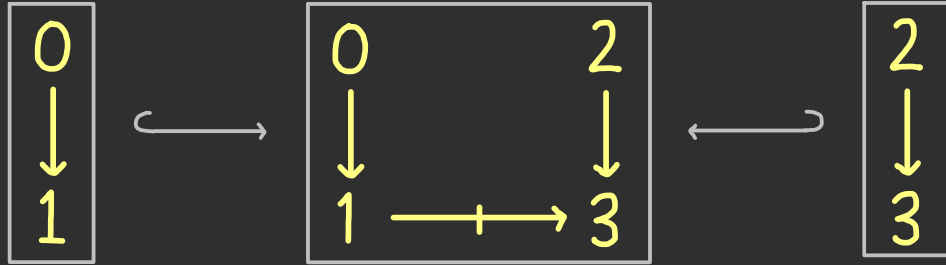


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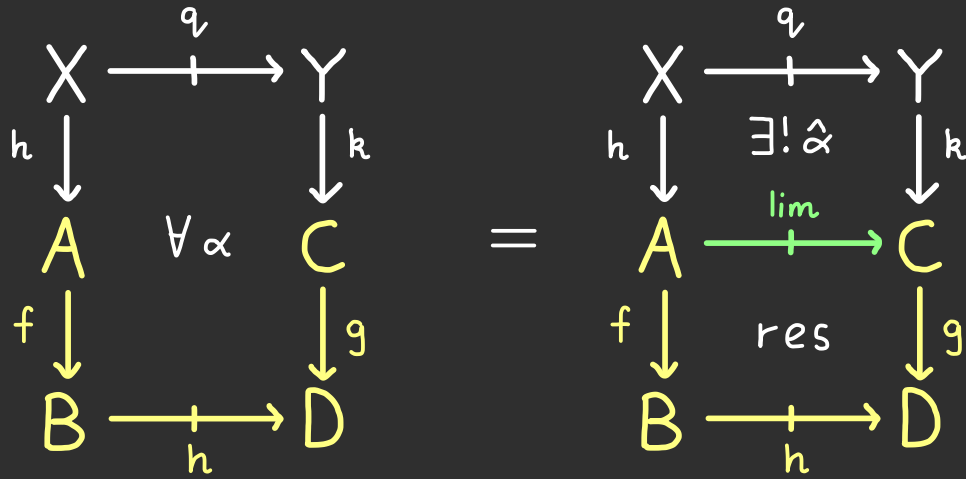
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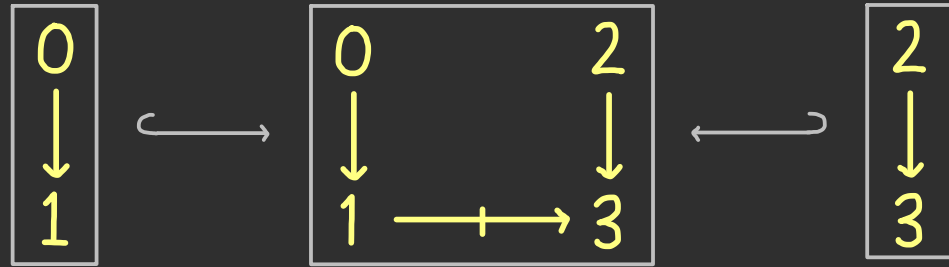


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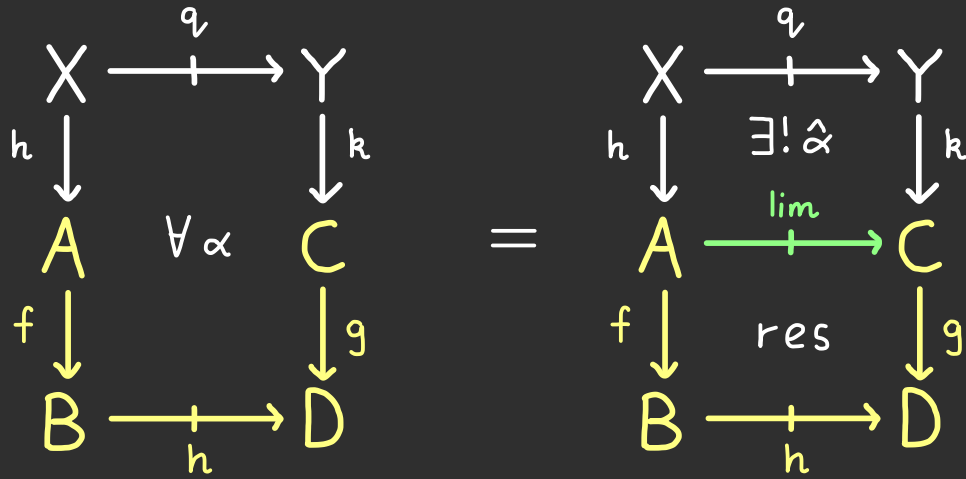
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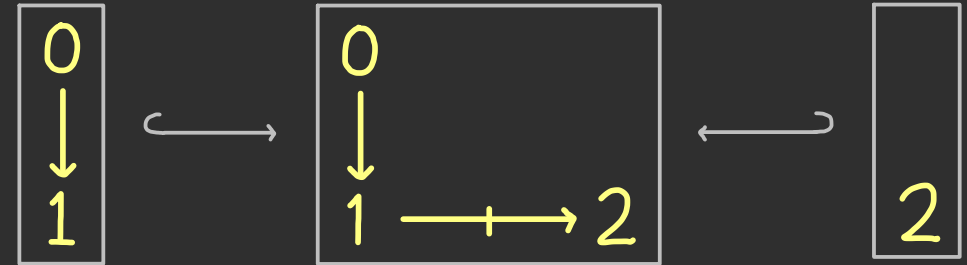


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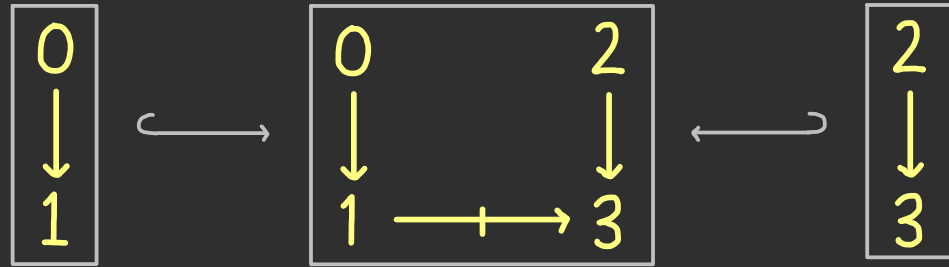
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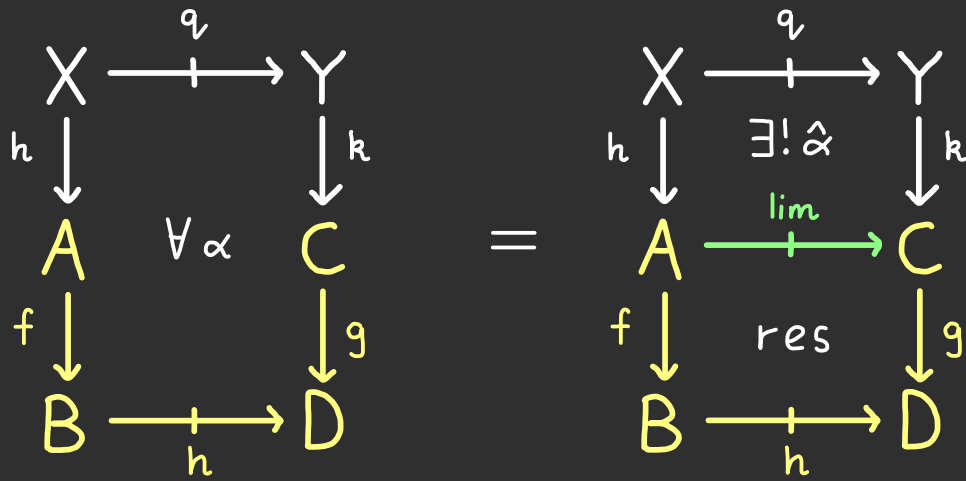
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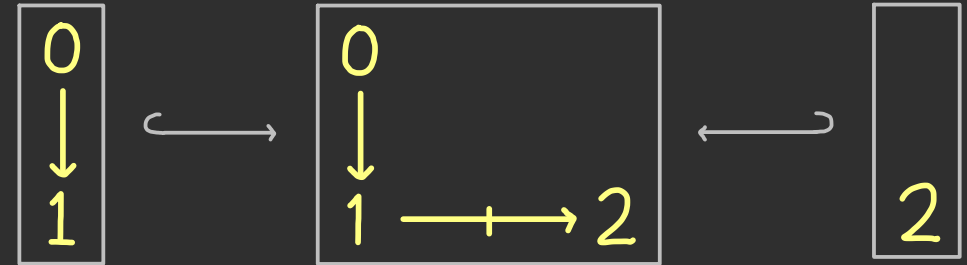


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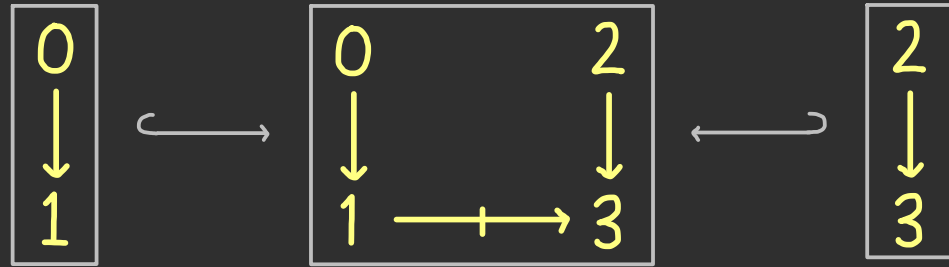


- A double category admits restrictions if and only if it admits companions and conjoints.

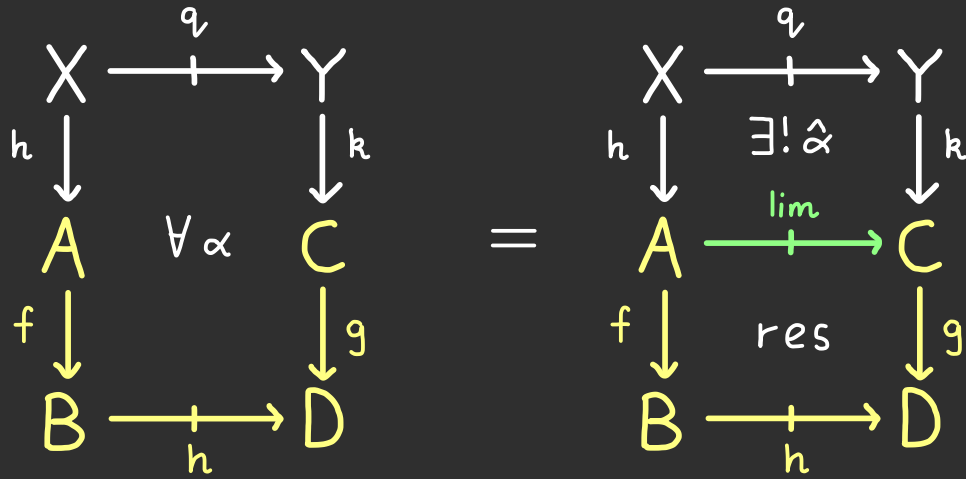
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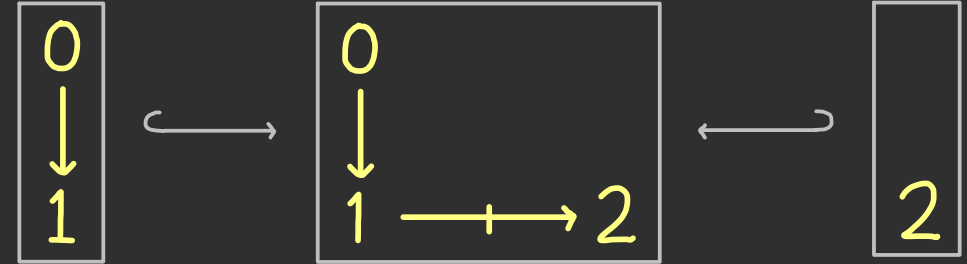


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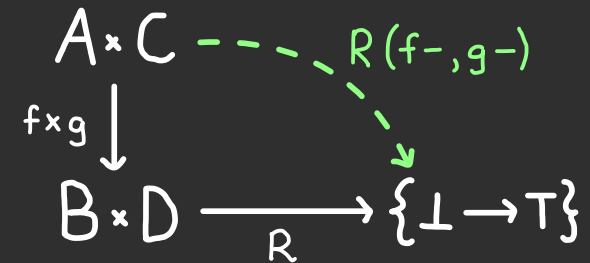


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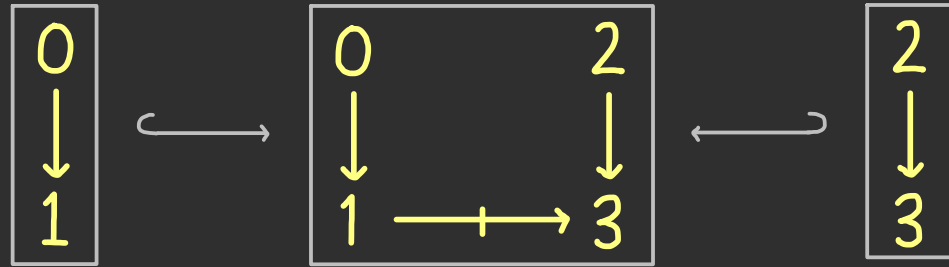
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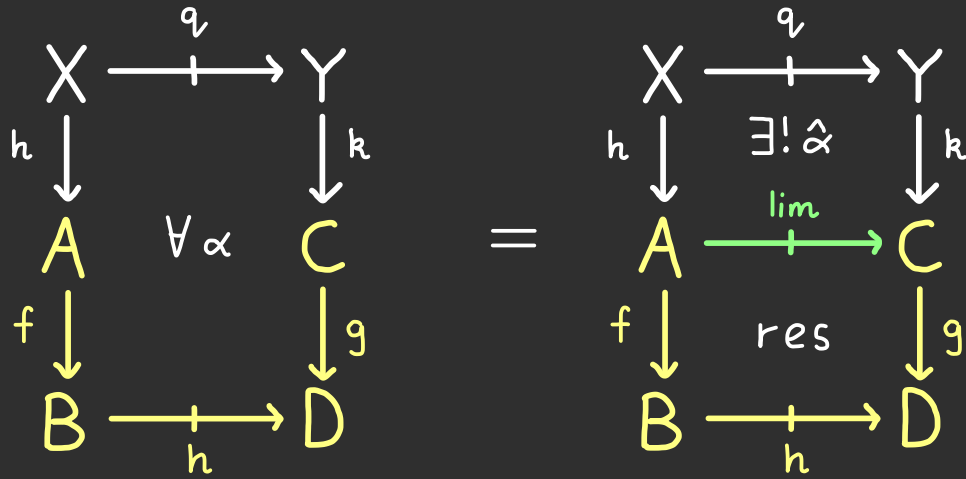
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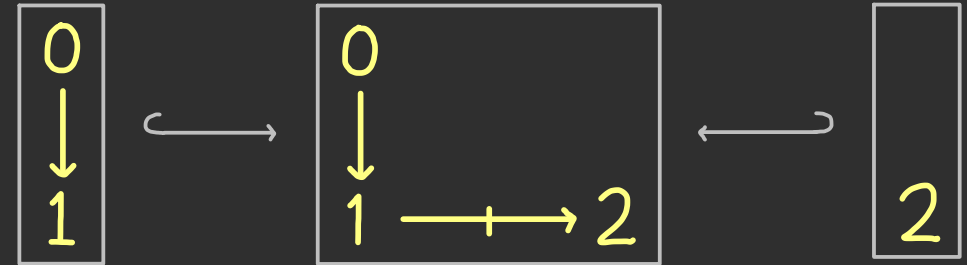


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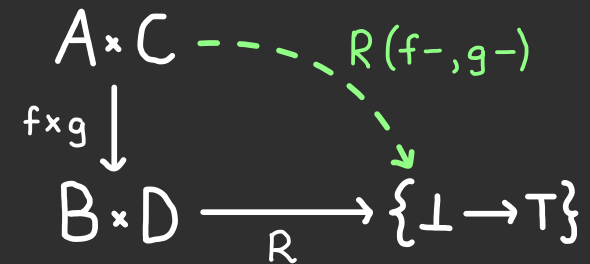


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- Restrictions, etc. are preserved by any unitary lax functor.

LOCAL LIMITS ARE LIMITS

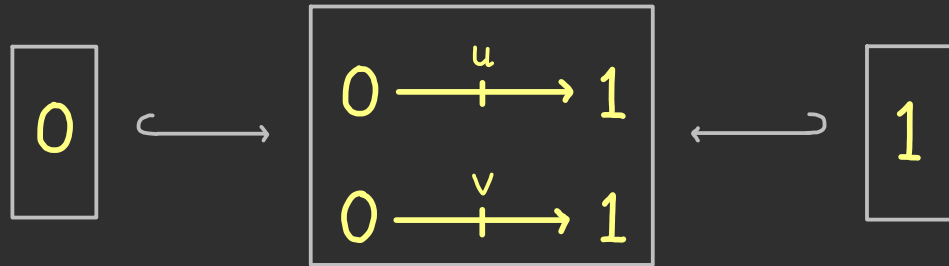
08

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LOCAL LIMITS ARE LIMITS

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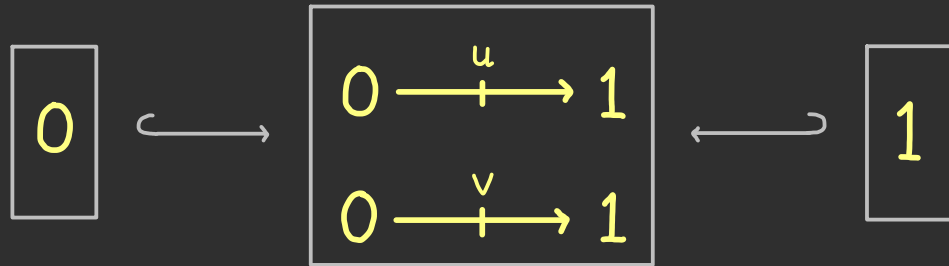


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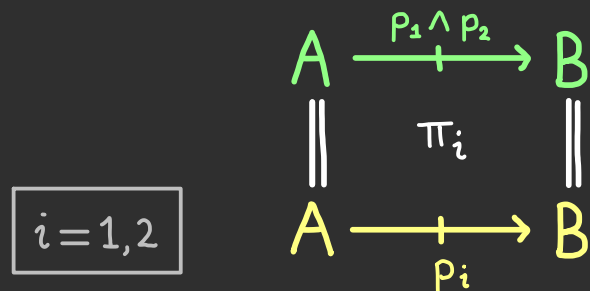
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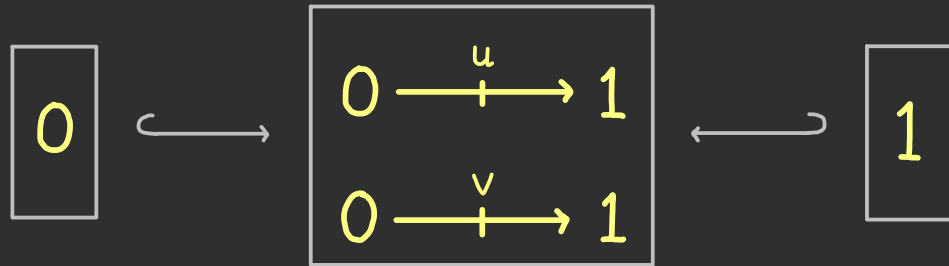
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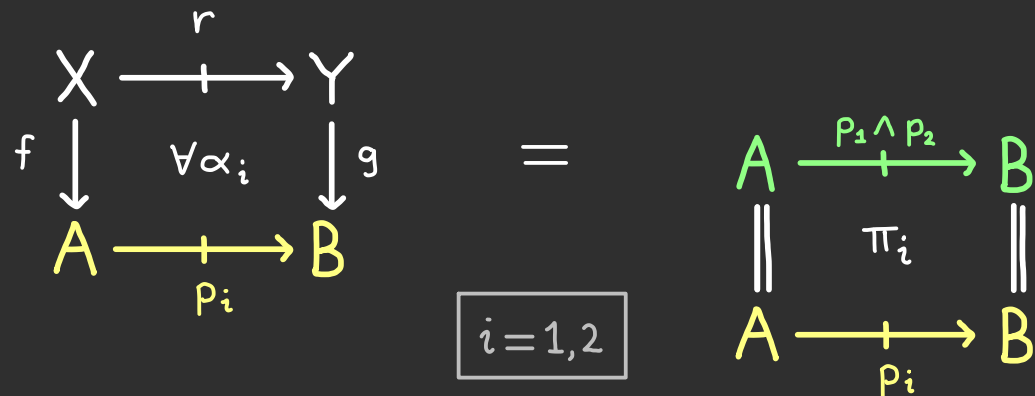
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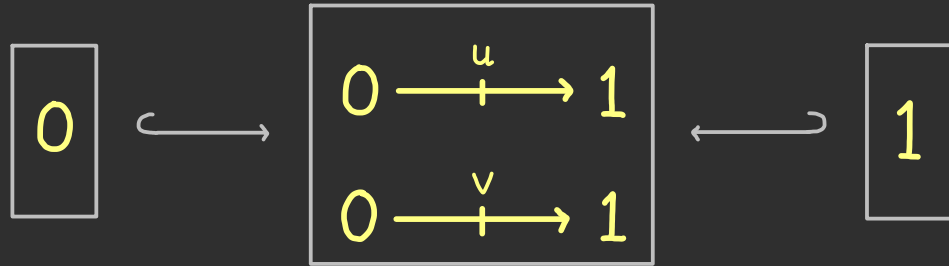


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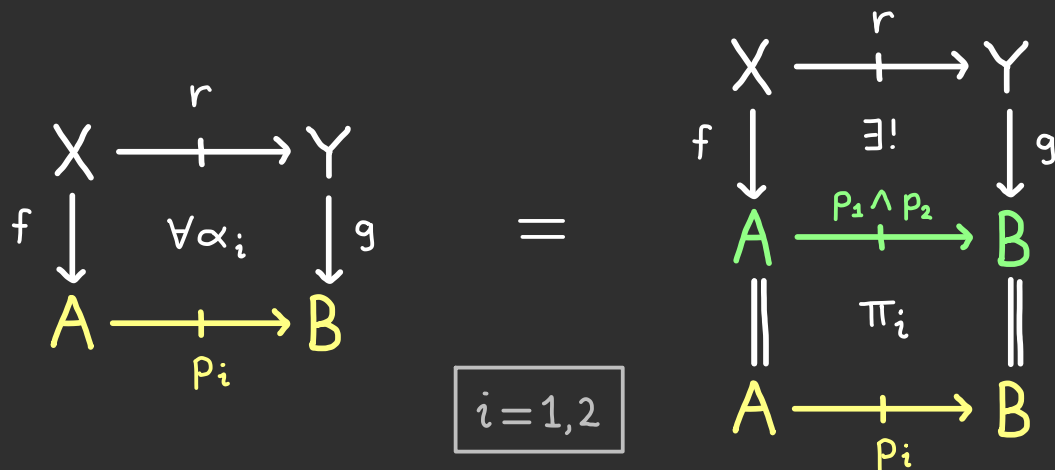
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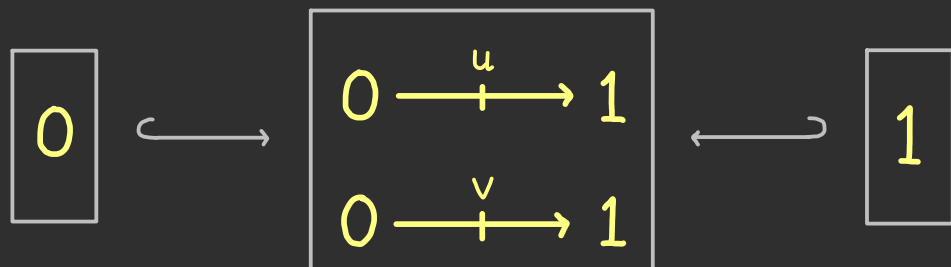


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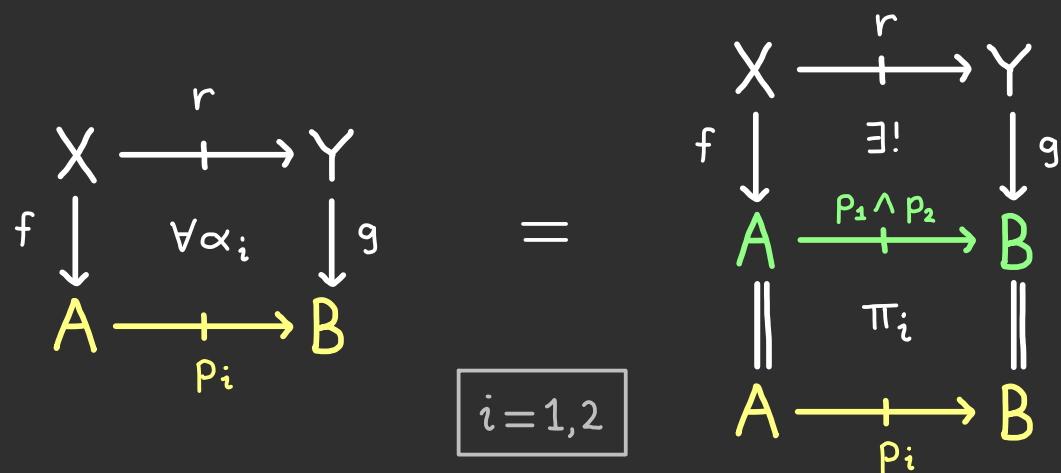
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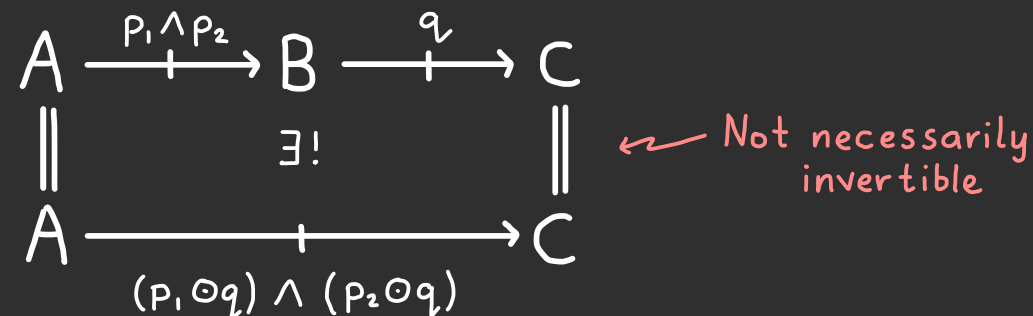
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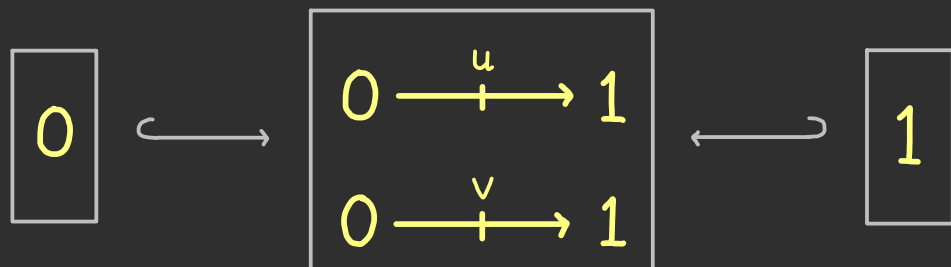
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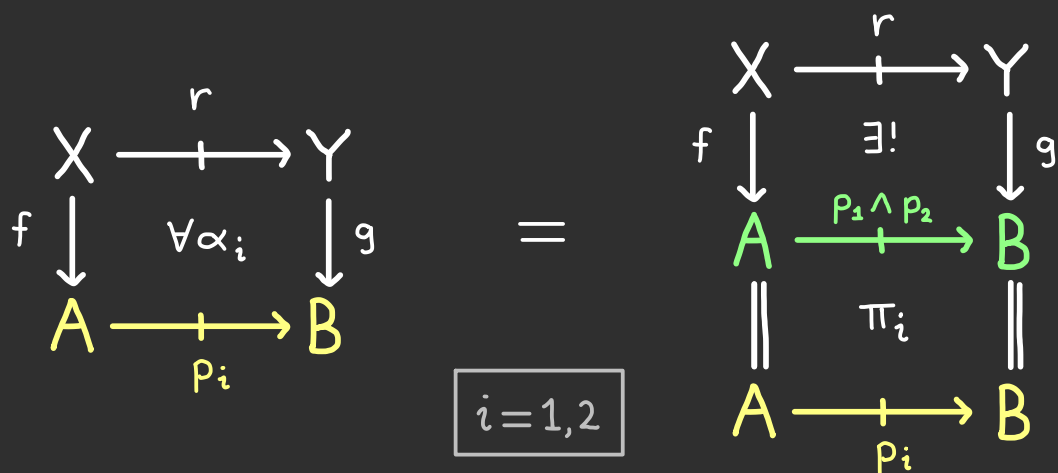
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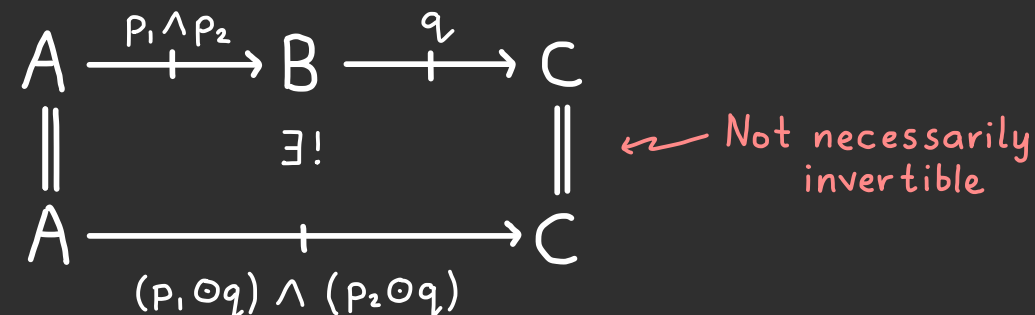
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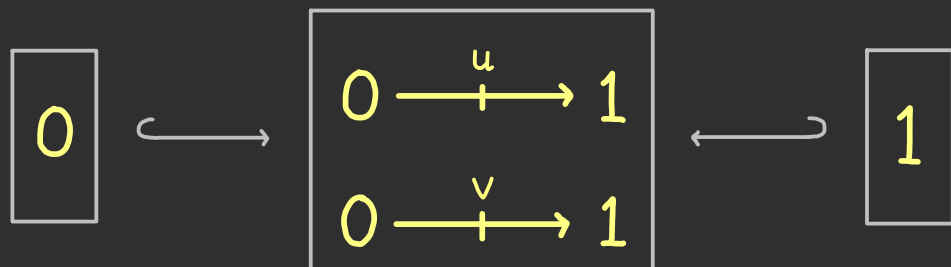
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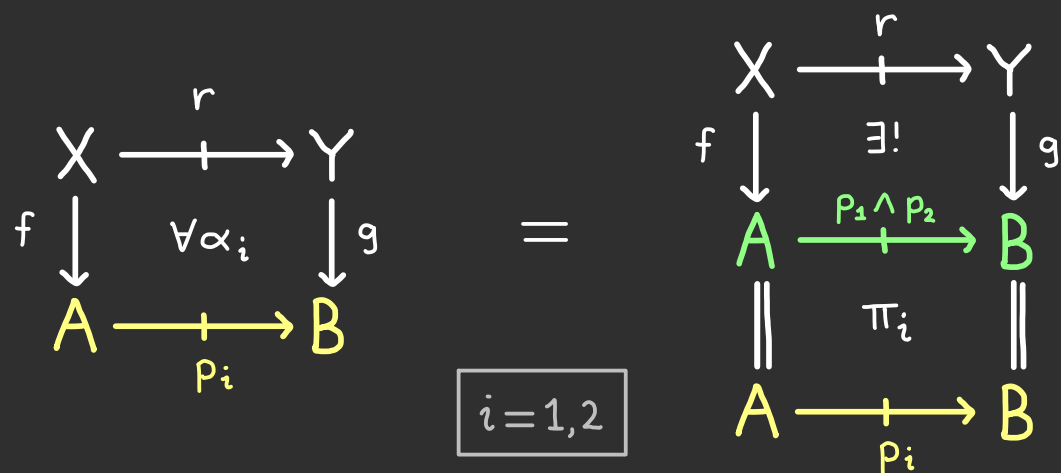
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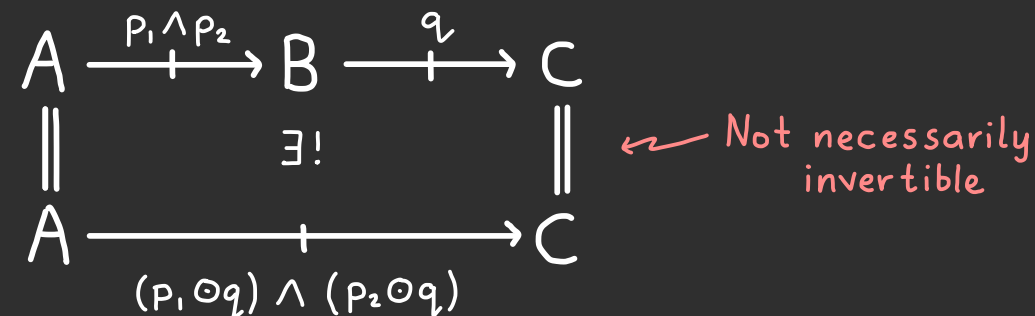
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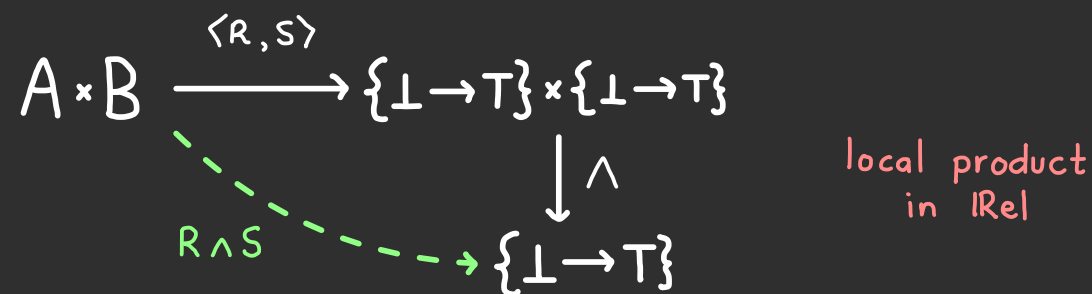


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Theorem: A double category admits homologous limits if and only if it admits **tight parallel limits** and **restrictions**.

HOMOLOGOUS & TIGHT PARALLEL LIMITS

09

- A **homologous limit** is a limit whose shape is

$$\prod_i(I) \rightrightarrows \prod_i(J) \quad I, J \text{ categories}$$

- An alteration of this shape into ID is precisely

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} I & \xleftarrow{s} & P & \xrightarrow{t} & J \\ \downarrow F & & \downarrow \Phi & & \downarrow G \\ D_0 & \xleftarrow{\text{dom}} & D_1 & \xrightarrow{\text{cod}} & D_0 \end{array} \quad \text{in CAT}$$

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- Restrictions and local limits are examples.

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- E.g. the parallel product of $p:A \rightrightarrows B$ and $q:C \rightrightarrows D$ is

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Theorem: A double category admits homologous limits if and only if it admits **tight parallel limits** and **restrictions**.

Corollary: ID has homologous limits if and only if D_0 and D_1 have limits preserved by $\text{dom}, \text{cod}: D_1 \rightrightarrows D_0$ and $\langle \text{dom}, \text{cod} \rangle: D_1 \rightarrow D_0 \times D_0$ is a fibration.

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Corollary: A double category admits local XX if it admits parallel XX and restrictions.
 XX = products, equalisers, etc.

PARALLEL TABULATORS & MAIN THEOREM

10

- A **parallel tabulator** is a limit whose shape is

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$$\begin{array}{ccc} A \xrightarrow{p} B \xrightarrow{r_2} D & & A \xrightarrow{r_1} C \xrightarrow{q} D \\ \parallel & \alpha & \parallel \\ A \xrightarrow{r_3} D & & A \xrightarrow{r_3} D \end{array}$$

PARALLEL TABULATORS & MAIN THEOREM

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whose parallel tabulator is a loose morphism $T_p \rightarrow T_q$ between tabulators and a cone given by cells

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Theorem (Grandis-Paré, 99)

A double category admits parallel limits if and only if it admits **parallel tabulators** and **tight parallel limits**.

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Theorem (Grandis-Paré, 99)

A double category admits parallel limits if and only if it admits **parallel tabulators** and **tight parallel limits**.

Theorem: A double category ID admits limits indexed by loose distributors if and only if

(1) ID admits **parallel limits** and **restrictions**

if and only if

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SUMMARY & FURTHER WORK

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 - * **Restrictions** $\mathbb{T}_i(2) \multimap \mathbb{T}_i(2)$, **companions** and **conjoiners**.
 - * **Local limits** $\mathbb{1} \xrightarrow{\mathbb{P}} \mathbb{1}$, including local products
 - * **Homologous limits** $\mathbb{T}_i(\mathcal{C}) \xrightarrow{\mathbb{P}} \mathbb{T}_i(\mathcal{C})$.

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SUMMARY & FURTHER WORK

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Many current and future research directions.

- Sufficient conditions for completeness of $\text{Span}(\mathcal{E})$, $\text{Rel}(\mathcal{E})$, $\text{Mat}(\mathbb{ID})$, $\text{Mod}(\mathbb{ID})$, etc.
- Interactions between limits indexed by double categories and limits indexed by loose distributors.
- Relationship with bicategorical (co)limits.
- Constructing (co)completions of double categories.
- Extending Lambert-Patterson's Cartesian double theories to a general framework of double-categorical sketches.
- Characterising the class of absolute (co)limits.
- Generalisation to virtual double categories.

BONUS SLIDE: LAX BICATEGORICAL COLIMITS

1 1

· Each $\mathbb{I} \xrightarrow{!} \mathbb{1}$ determines canonical loose distributors:

$$\mathbb{I} \xrightarrow[\mathbb{H}]{\mathbb{T}} \mathbb{1}$$

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BONUS SLIDE: LAX BICATEGORICAL COLIMITS

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- Example: consider the **colimit** of $\{1\ 2\} \xrightarrow{\top} \mathbb{1}$ whose diagram is a pair of loose morphisms $A_1 \xrightarrow{p_1} X \xleftarrow{p_2} A_2$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A_i & \xrightarrow{p_i} & X \\ \downarrow \eta_i & \theta_i & \parallel \\ A_1 + A_2 & \xrightarrow{\text{colim}(p)} & X \end{array}$$

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- In IRel, Span, and IDist these cells are **invertible**, and describe the coproduct and product in the underlying bicategory of ID — which coincide!

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Conjecture: Let ID have companions & conjoints. A (unitary colax) functor $\mathbb{J}$ admits a **lax colimit** if and only if alteration from $\mathbb{J} \xrightarrow{\top} \mathbb{1}$ admits a colimit.