

Each object  $C$  of  $\mathbf{C}$  gives rise to a presheaf  $\mathbf{y}(C)$  on  $\mathbf{C}$ , defined on an object  $D$  of  $\mathbf{C}$  by

$$\mathbf{y}(C)(D) = \text{Hom}_{\mathbf{C}}(D, C) \quad (3)$$

and on a morphism  $D' \xrightarrow{\alpha} D$ , for  $u: D \rightarrow C$ , by

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{y}(C)(\alpha): \text{Hom}_{\mathbf{C}}(D, C) &\rightarrow \text{Hom}_{\mathbf{C}}(D', C) \\ \mathbf{y}(C)(\alpha)(u) &= u \circ \alpha; \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

or briefly,  $\mathbf{y}(C) = \text{Hom}_{\mathbf{C}}(-, C)$  is the contravariant Hom-functor. Presheaves which, up to isomorphism, are of this form are called *representable presheaves* or *representable functors*. If  $f: C_1 \rightarrow C_2$  is a morphism in  $\mathbf{C}$ , there is a natural transformation  $\mathbf{y}(C_1) \rightarrow \mathbf{y}(C_2)$  obtained by composition with  $f$ . This makes  $\mathbf{y}$  into a functor

$$\mathbf{y}: \mathbf{C} \rightarrow \mathbf{Sets}^{\mathbf{C}^{\text{op}}}, \quad C \mapsto \text{Hom}_{\mathbf{C}}(-, C) \quad (5)$$

from  $\mathbf{C}$  to the *contravariant* functors on  $\mathbf{C}$  (hence the exponent  $\mathbf{C}^{\text{op}}$ ). It is called the *Yoneda embedding*. The Yoneda embedding is a full and faithful functor. This fact is a special case of the so-called *Yoneda lemma*, which asserts for an arbitrary presheaf  $P$  on  $\mathbf{C}$  that there is a bijective correspondence between natural transformations  $\mathbf{y}(C) \rightarrow P$  and elements of the set  $P(C)$ :

$$\theta: \text{Hom}_{\widehat{\mathbf{C}}}(\mathbf{y}(C), P) \xrightarrow{\sim} P(C), \quad (6)$$

defined for  $\alpha: \mathbf{y}(C) \rightarrow P$  by  $\theta(\alpha) = \alpha_C(1_C)$  (see [CWM, p. 61]).