

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}^{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]).