

In class, we defined an abelian category to be a category A in which the following conditions hold:

1. Finite products and finite coproducts exist, and the map

$$\prod_{i \in I} X_i \rightarrow \prod_{i \in I} X_i$$

is an isomorphism.

2. Finite limits and finite colimits exist.
3. Coimages and images coincide.

Show that this definition implies Grothendieck's using the following steps:

1. Show that the empty product is a final object and the empty coproduct is an initial object. Conclude that A has a zero object, denoted 0 .
2. Show that kernels can be constructed as finite limits and cokernels can be constructed as finite colimits (both involving the zero object).
3. If $f, g : X \rightarrow Y$ are maps in A , define $f + g$ as the composition:

$$X \xrightarrow{\Delta} X \oplus X \xrightarrow{\begin{pmatrix} f & 0 \\ 0 & g \end{pmatrix}} Y \oplus Y \xrightarrow{\nabla} Y$$

Construct the middle arrow using universal properties. (Δ is the diagonal, ∇ the sum.)

4. Show that the addition law $f + g$ defined above makes $\text{Hom}(X, Y)$ into a commutative monoid with unit the zero homomorphism $X \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow Y$.
5. Let $X' = \ker(\nabla : X \oplus X \rightarrow X)$. Let $p, q : X \oplus X \rightarrow X$ be the first projection. Prove that $X' \rightarrow X \oplus X \xrightarrow{p} X$ is an isomorphism. Define $-\text{id}_X = q \circ p^{-1}$. Hint: construct a commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 & & & & 0 & & \\
 & & & & \downarrow & & \\
 & & & & X & & \\
 & & & & \downarrow & \searrow \beta & \\
 & & & & X & & \\
 & & & & \downarrow j & & \\
 0 & \longrightarrow & X' & \longrightarrow & X \oplus X & \xrightarrow{\nabla} & X \longrightarrow 0 \\
 & & \searrow \alpha & & \downarrow p & & \\
 & & & & X & & \\
 & & & & \downarrow & & \\
 & & & & 0 & &
 \end{array}$$

where $j : X \rightarrow X \oplus X$ is 0 on the first factor and id_X on the second. First show $\beta = \text{id}_X$, then

6. Show that $\text{Hom}(X, Y)$ is an abelian group (define $-f = f \circ (-\text{id}_X)$).