

Set theory is fine (no contradiction) if we bound the size of set by some inaccessible cardinal.

κ cardinal a set E is κ -small if $|E| < \kappa$

the category of κ -small sets is denoted $\text{Set}_{<\kappa}$

ex: $\kappa = \omega =$ countable cardinal $\text{Set}_{<\kappa} = \text{Fin Set}$

a category \mathcal{C} is κ -small if
 $|\text{Arr}(\mathcal{C})| < \kappa$

since $\text{ob}(\mathcal{C}) \subset \text{Arr}(\mathcal{C})$

$$|\text{ob}(\mathcal{C})| \leq |\text{Arr}(\mathcal{C})| < \kappa$$

example $\kappa = \omega$

a category is finite (ω -small)

if it has a finite set of
arrows. (this implies

that there's a finite set of objects)

the category of κ -small
categories is denoted

$$\text{Cat}_{< \kappa}$$

Other small objects

• a monoid is K -small if its underlying set is K -small

• a group

• a poset

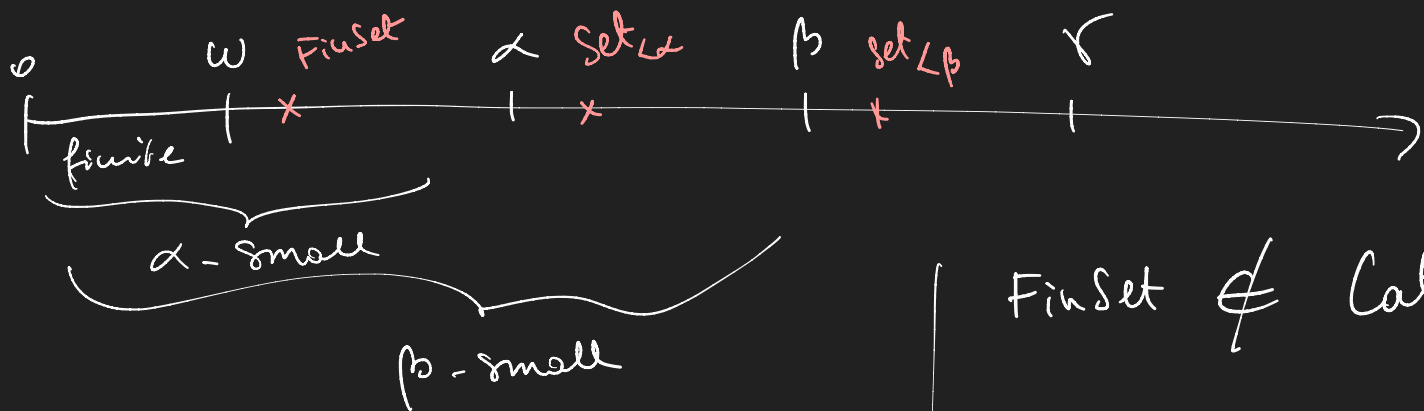
Mon_{LK}

cat of K -small monoids.

Grp_{LK}

Poset_{LK}

Remark the notion of being small is more complex for a topological space



FinSet is not finite.
 but it's α -small
 for α any inaccessible
 cardinal $\omega < \alpha$

$$\text{FinSet} \notin \text{Cat}_{<\omega}$$

$$\text{FinSet} \in \text{Cat}_{<\alpha}$$

$$\text{Set}_{<\alpha} \notin \text{Cat}_{<\alpha}$$

but if $\beta > \alpha$ another in. card.

$$\text{Set}_{<\alpha} \in \text{Cat}_{<\beta}$$

Vocabulary for size

	ω	α	β	γ
in set theory	finite set	set	classes	(aggregates)
in category theory	finite	small " α -small	large " β -small	very large " γ -small

practice of ST is here
 α ↙

practice of CT is here
 ↙ β γ

now: fix in card $\omega < \alpha < \beta < \gamma$

Recall κ is regular

if $\text{Set}_{<\kappa}$ has \coprod
indexed by κ -small sets

• κ is inaccessible if

$\text{Set}_{<\kappa}$ has \prod
indexed by κ -small sets

Theorem

• if κ is regular $\text{Set}_{<\kappa}$
has all colimits indexed
by a κ -small category

• if κ is inaccessible $\text{Set}_{<\kappa}$
has all colimits and limits
indexed by κ -small categories

proof of the colimit statement

• $\text{Set}_{< \kappa}$ has \coprod \checkmark
 κ -small

• $\text{Set}_{< \kappa}$ has coequalizers \checkmark

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} A & \xrightarrow{\quad} & B & \dashrightarrow & C \\ \text{\small } \kappa\text{-small} & & \text{\small } \kappa\text{-small} & & \end{array}$$

the coequalizer
is it κ -small?
yes

C is a quotient of B

$$|C| \leq |B| < \kappa$$

to finish the proof we use
that any colimit can be
computed from coproducts
and equalizers.

I κ -small cat.

$$X: I \longrightarrow \text{Set}_{<\kappa}$$

$$\text{colim}_{\bar{i}} X(\bar{i}) = ?$$

\bar{i} + prove that
it is κ -small.

$$\text{ob}(I) = I_0 \quad |I_0| \leq |I_1| < \kappa$$

$$\text{Arr}(I) = I_1$$

$$\coprod_{\bar{i} \in I_0} X(\bar{i})$$

both exist
in $\text{Set}_{<\kappa}$

$$\coprod_{u \in I_1} X(s(u))$$

$$u \in I_1$$

where $s: I_1 \rightarrow I$
is the 'source' or
'domain' map

$$P \rightarrow \{1 \rightrightarrows 0\}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 P & \longrightarrow & \text{Set}_{\mathcal{K}} \\
 1 & \longmapsto & \coprod_{u \in I_1} X(s(u)) \\
 \parallel & & \alpha \downarrow \downarrow \beta \\
 0 & \longmapsto & \coprod_{i \in I_0} X(i)
 \end{array}$$

$$\alpha : \coprod_{u \in I_1} X(s(u)) \longrightarrow \coprod_{i \in I_0} X(i)$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \alpha_u : X(s(u)) \xrightarrow{\text{inc}_{s(u)}} \coprod_{i \in I_0} X(i)$$

for all $u \in I_1$ $s(u) \in I_0$

$$\beta: \coprod_{u \in I_1} X(s(u)) \longrightarrow \coprod_{i \in I_0} X(i)$$

(\Rightarrow) for any $u \in I_1$

$$\beta_u: X(s(u)) \xrightarrow{X(u)} X(t(u)) \xrightarrow[\text{inc } t(u)]{\text{inc}} \coprod_{i \in I_0} X(i)$$

claim the coequalizer of

$$\coprod_{u \in I_1} X(s(u)) \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\alpha} \\ \xrightarrow{\beta} \end{array} \coprod_{i \in I_0} X(i) \longrightarrow Z$$

is also the colimit of the diagram X .

strategy for the proof: construct bijection

$$\text{cocone}\left(\coprod_{\substack{\alpha \\ \beta}} \dots, Y\right) \cong \text{cocone}(X(i), Y)$$

for any object Y

$\text{cocone}(X(i), Y)$

maps $X(i) \xrightarrow{y_i} Y$

s.t for any $u: i \rightarrow j \in I$

$X(i) \xrightarrow{y_i} Y$

$X(u) \downarrow$
 $X(j) \xrightarrow{y_j} Y$

commutes.

$\text{cocone}(U \xrightarrow[\beta]{\alpha} U, Y) = ?$

recall $\text{cocone}(A \xrightarrow[\beta]{\alpha} B, Y)$

$A \xrightarrow[\beta]{\alpha} B \xrightarrow{f} Y$

s.t
 $f\alpha = f\beta = g$

$(\Rightarrow) f: B \rightarrow Y$ s.t.

$f\alpha = f\beta$

Cocore $(\sqcup \dots \xrightarrow[\beta]{\alpha} \sqcup \dots, \gamma)$

$$\sqcup_{i \in I_0} X(i) \xrightarrow{\gamma} Y$$

st. $\gamma \circ \alpha = \gamma \circ \beta$

γ is equivalent to a family

$$y_i : X(i) \rightarrow Y \quad \text{for } i \in I_0$$

exercise : the condition
 $\gamma \circ \alpha = \gamma \circ \beta$

implies the expected condition on
 y_i

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X(i) & \xrightarrow{y_i} & Y \\ X(j) & \downarrow & \nearrow \\ & X(j) & \xrightarrow{y_j} & Y \end{array} \quad \text{commutes.}$$

end of the proof:

the bijection

$$\text{cocones}(\mathbb{U} \rightrightarrows \mathbb{U}, \mathcal{Y})$$

$$\cong$$
$$\text{cocone}(X(i), \mathcal{Y})$$

can be used to construct
an isomorphism between
the categories of cocones
on the 2 diagrams.

Hence the colimit, i.e.
the initial object of the
cat. of cocones,
are the same object.

□

Proof for the limits,
need to use the equalizer of

$$\prod_{i \in I_0} X(i) \rightrightarrows \prod_{i \in I_1} X(t(i))$$

Corollary $\boxed{\kappa\text{-inaccessible}}$

for any κ -small cat \mathcal{C}
the category of \mathcal{C} -diagrams
in $\text{Set}_{<\kappa} : \text{Fun}(\mathcal{C}, \text{Set}_{<\kappa})$

has all κ -small colimits
and limits.

proof: Homework!

other examples of
categories with
small colimits & limits

- $\text{Mon}_{<\kappa}$ • $\text{Grp}_{<\kappa}$
- $\text{Poset}_{<\kappa}$ - $\text{AbelianGrp}_{<\kappa}$
- $\text{Cat}_{<\kappa}$...

(proof one more involves
than for $\text{Set}_{<\kappa}$)

I small cat

C a category with
all colimits of shape I .

let $C^I = \text{Fun}(I, C)$
= cat of I -diagram in C
+ natural transformations

there exist a functor

$\Delta: C \rightarrow C^I$
 $x \mapsto \Delta(x) =$
constant diagram
with value x

lemma (exercise) for $X: I \rightarrow C$,
there is a bijection

$$\text{cocone}(X(i), Y) \cong \text{Hom}_{C^I}(X, \Delta(Y))$$

sketch of the proof $f: X \rightarrow \Delta Y$
nat. tr.

$$X(i) \xrightarrow{f(i)} \Delta(Y)(i) = Y$$

$$X(i) \downarrow \quad \Delta(Y)(i) \downarrow \text{id}_Y$$

$$X(j) \xrightarrow{f(j)} \Delta(Y)(j) = Y$$

$f(j)$ define a cone
 $X(i) \xrightarrow{f(i)} Y$

proposition. The colimit of
I-diagrams in \mathcal{C}

define a functor

$$\mathcal{C}^I \longrightarrow \mathcal{C}$$

$$X(i) \longmapsto \underset{i}{\operatorname{colim}} X(i)$$

(apex of the
colimit
cone)

proof: homework.

Discussion about the "true"
size of categories $\text{Set}_{<\kappa}$

(these issues will be properly
explained latter in the course)

(not necessary for home work!)

there's a problem in the definition of $\text{Set}_{<\kappa}$
because we need a "collection" of objects
"sets"

need of a "set of set"
"universe of set" ...

in ZF + universe axiom: $\text{Ob}(\text{Set}_{<\kappa}) = \text{sets in } \mathcal{U}$

in CT what we care about is sets up to bijection

Variation: define $\text{ob}(\text{Set}_{<\kappa})$ as sets that are in bijection with a set in \mathcal{U}

strictly speaking the 2 def of Set_K do not produce isomorphic categories. But they should be the same categories! they are equivalent categories.

because they have the same classes of objects up to isomorphism (sets up to bijection)

introducing equivalent categories we can define a category \mathcal{C} to be essentially small if it is equivalent to a small category.

α $\alpha < \beta$

$\text{Set}_{<\alpha}$ is only essentially β -small.

FinSet is small.

0 is an ordinal
of singletons. \Rightarrow FinSet has a non small
collection of objects