

## On Relational Spaces

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### 0. Introduction

Herrlich [3] has introduced the concept of topological categories and it is known that a topological category behaves almost like Set.

In this paper, we show that the category *Rel* of relational spaces and relation preserving maps is a topological category, and characterize bireflective and subcategories of the *Rel*.

Moreover, we will give some internal characterizations of objects of those subcategories. Furthermore it is shown that the category *RefRel* of reflexive relational spaces and relation preserving maps is a cartesian closed topological category. For the categorical terminology, we refer to [4, 5] and for the relational space, we refer to [1].

### I. Relational spaces

In this section, we show that *Rel* is a topological category and *RefRel* is a cartesian closed topological category.

**Definition 1.1.** A *relational space* is a pair  $(X, R)$ , where  $X$  is a set and  $R$  is a relation on  $X$ .

**Definition 1.2.** Let  $(X, R)$  and  $(Y, S)$  be relational spaces and  $f: X \rightarrow Y$  a map. Then  $f$  is said to be a *relational preserving map* if for any  $(x, y) \in R, f^2(x, y) \in S$ , where  $f^2$  denotes the map  $\times f: X \times X \rightarrow Y \times Y$ .

**Remark 1.3.** (1)  $f: (X, R) \rightarrow (Y, S)$  is a relation preserving map if and only if  $R \subseteq f^{-1^2}(S)$ .  
(2) Since one element set has the relation  $\phi$ , every constant map  $f$  need not be a relation preserving map.

The following is immediate from definition 1.2.

**Theorem 1.4.** (1) For any relational space  $(X, R)$ , the identity map  $1_X: (X, R) \rightarrow (X, R)$  is relation preserving map.

(2) If  $f: (X, R) \rightarrow (Y, S)$  and  $g: (Y, S) \rightarrow (Z, T)$  are relation preserving maps, then  $g \circ f: (X, R) \rightarrow (Z, T)$  is also a relation preserving map.

It is clear by theorem 1.4 that the class of all relational spaces and relation preserving maps between them forms a concrete category, which will be denoted by *Rel*.

**Remark 1.5.** Since every singleton set has two different relations, *Rel* is not properly fibred, but it is well-powered and co-(well-powered).

**Theorem 1.6.** *The category  $Rel$  is a topological and cotopological category. In particular,*

(1) *For a set  $X$ , a family  $((X_i, R_i))_{i \in I}$  of relational spaces indexed by a class  $I$ , and a source  $(f_i : X \rightarrow X_i)_{i \in I}$ , we define a relation  $R$  on  $X$  as follows:  $(x, y) \in R$  if and only if for each  $i \in I$ ,  $f_i^2(x, y) \in R_i$ . Then  $R$  is the initial relation on  $X$  with respect to  $(f_i)_{i \in I}$ . In fact  $R = \bigcap_{i \in I} f_i^{-1^2}(R_i)$ .*

(2) *For a set  $X$ , a family  $((X_i, R_i))_{i \in I}$  of relational spaces indexed by a class  $I$  and a sink  $(f_i : X_i \rightarrow X)_{i \in I}$ , we define a relation  $R$  on  $X$  as follows:  $(x, y) \in R$  if and only if for some  $i \in I$ , there is  $(h, k) \in R_i$  with  $(x, y) = (f_i(h), f_i(k))$ . Then  $R$  is the final relation on  $X$  with respect to  $(f_i)_{i \in I}$ . In fact  $R = \bigcup_{i \in I} f_i^2(R_i)$ .*

**Proof.** Let us show that  $Rel$  is a topological category. To do so, it is enough to show that the statement (1) holds.  $R$  is clearly a relation on  $X$ . By the definition of  $R$ , it is clear that for each  $i \in I$ ,  $f_i : (X, R) \rightarrow (X_i, R_i)$  is a relation preserving map. Suppose for a relational space  $(Y, S)$  and a map  $g : Y \rightarrow X$ ,  $f_i g : (Y, S) \rightarrow (X_i, R_i)$  is a relation preserving map for all  $i \in I$ . Then for any  $(x, y) \in S$ ,  $f_i^2 g^2(x, y) = f_i^2(g(x), g(y)) \in R$  for all  $i \in I$ . By the definition of  $R$ ,  $g^2(x, y) \in R$  and hence  $g : (Y, S) \rightarrow (X, R)$  is a relation preserving map. It is known [5] that every topological category is cotopological. However, for the further development, we prove the second statement. It is obvious that  $R$  is a relation on  $X$  and for each  $i \in I$ ,  $f_i : (X_i, R_i) \rightarrow (X, R)$  is a relation preserving map. Suppose for a relational space  $(Y, S)$  and a map  $g : X \rightarrow Y$ ,  $g f_i : (X_i, R_i) \rightarrow (Y, S)$  is a relational preserving map for all  $i \in I$ . Then for any  $(x, y) \in R$  there is an  $i \in I$  and  $(h, k) \in R_i$  with  $f_i^2(h, k) = (x, y)$ , since  $g^2 f_i^2(h, k) = g^2(x, y)$  and  $g f_i$  is a relation preserving map for all  $i \in I$ ,  $g(x, y) \in S$ . Thus  $g : (X, R) \rightarrow (Y, S)$  is a relation preserving map.

This completes the proof.

The following is immediate from theorem in [5] and the above theorem.

**Corollary 1.7.**  *$Rel$  is complete and cocomplete.*

**Definition 1.8.** Let  $(X, R)$  be a relational space and  $A$  a subset of  $X$ . Then the initial relation  $R_A$  on  $A$  with respect to the inclusion map  $A \rightarrow X$  is called the *induced relation* on  $A$  of  $R$  and  $(A, R_A)$  is called the *subspace* of  $(X, R)$ .

**Definition 1.9.** For a family  $((X_i, R_i))_{i \in I}$  in  $Rel$  indexed by a set  $I$ , the initial relation  $R$  on  $\prod X_i$  with respect to  $(pr_i)_{i \in I}$  is called the *product relation* of  $(R_i)_{i \in I}$ , where  $pr_i$  denotes the  $i$ th projection, and  $(\prod X_i, R)$  is called the *product space of the family*.

**Remark 1.10.** Let  $((X_i, R_i))_{i \in I}$  be a family in  $Rel$  and  $R$  the product relation of  $(R_i)_{i \in I}$ . Then  $((x_i), ((y_i))) \in R$  if and only if for each  $i \in I$ ,  $(x_i, y_i) \in R_i$ . In fact  $R = \prod R_i$ .

In the following, the set of all relation preserving maps on a relational space  $\underline{X}$  to a relational space  $\underline{Y}$  will be denoted by  $\text{hom}(\underline{X}, \underline{Y})$ .

**Notation.**  $RefRel$  denotes the full subcategory of  $Rel$  determined by those objects with reflexive relations.

**Remark 1.11.** For any  $(X, Y) \in Rel$ , the identity map  $1_X : (X, R) \rightarrow (X, R \cup \Delta_X)$  gives rise to the  $RefRel$ -reflection of  $(X, R)$ . Hence  $RefRel$  is bireflective in  $Rel$  and hence topological (see[5])

**Theorem 1.12.** *RefRel is a cartesian closed category.*

**Proof.** Since *RefRel* is a topological category, it has product. Take  $\underline{X} = (X, R_X) \in Rel$ . For any  $\underline{Y} = (Y, R_Y) \in Rel$ , we define a relation  $R$  on  $\underline{Y}^{\underline{X}} = hom(\underline{X}, \underline{Y})$  as follows:  $(f, g) \in R$  if and only if for any  $(a, b) \in R_X$ ,  $(f(a), g(b)) \in R_Y$ . Then it is obvious that  $(\underline{Y}^{\underline{X}}, R) \in Rel$ . Now we define  $e_{X,Y} : \underline{X} \times \underline{Y}^{\underline{X}} \rightarrow \underline{Y}$  by  $e_{X,Y}(a, f) = f(a)$  ( $a \in X, f \in \underline{Y}^{\underline{X}}$ ). Let  $S$  be the relation on the product space  $\underline{X} \times \underline{Y}^{\underline{X}}$ . Suppose  $((a, f), (b, g)) \in S$ . Since  $(a, b) \in R_X$  and  $(f, g) \in R$ ,  $e_{X,Y}((a, f), (b, g)) = (f(a), g(b)) \in R_Y$ . Hence  $e_{X,Y}$  is a relation preserving map on  $\underline{X} \times \underline{Y}^{\underline{X}}$ . Now any  $g : \underline{X} \times \underline{Z} \rightarrow \underline{Y}$  in *Rel*, we define  $\bar{g} : \underline{Z} \rightarrow \underline{Y}^{\underline{X}}$  by  $\bar{g}(c)(a) = g(a, c)$  ( $a \in X, c \in Z$ ). Since  $Z \in RefRel$ ,  $\bar{g}$  is well-defined. Let  $R_Z$  be the relation on  $Z$  and  $R_X \times R_Z$  the product relation on  $X \times Z$ . Suppose  $(c, c') \in R_Z$  and  $(a, b) \in R_X$ . Then since  $g$  is a relation preserving map on  $X \times Z$ ,  $(\bar{g}(c)(a), \bar{g}(c')(b)) = (g(a, c), g(a, c')) \in R_Y$ . Hence by the definition of  $R$ ,  $(\bar{g}(c), \bar{g}(c')) \in R$ . Thus  $\bar{g}$  is a relation preserving map on  $Z$ . Then for any  $(a, c) \in X \times Z$ ,  $e_{X,Y}(1_X \times \bar{g})(a, c) = e_{X,Y}(a, \bar{g}(c)) = g(c)(a) = g(a, c)$ . Hence  $e_{X,Y}(1_X \times \bar{g})g$ . Obviously such a  $\bar{g}$  is unique. By theorem in [2], this completes the proof.

## II. Bireflective and epireflective subcategories of *Rel*

In this section, we characterize bireflective and epireflective subcategories of *Rel* and we will give some internal characterization of objects of those subcategories.

**Notation.** (1) *Equiv* denotes the full subcategory of *Rel* determined by all objects  $(X, R)$ , where  $R$  is an equivalence relation on  $X$ .

(2) *Qord* denotes the full subcategory of *Rel* determined by all objects  $(X, R)$ , where  $R$  is a quasi order relation on  $X$ .

(3) *Poset* denotes the full subcategory of *Rel* determined by all objects  $(X, R)$ , where  $R$  is a partial order relation on  $X$ .

The following theorem follows from theorem in [3].

**Theorem 2.1.** *Let  $B$  a full, isomorphism closed subcategory of a topological category  $A$ . Then*

(1)  *$B$  is bireflective in  $A$  if and only if  $B$  is closed under initial sources.*

(2)  *$B$  is epireflective in  $A$  if and only if  $B$  is closed under initial momo-sources.*

**Theorem 2.2.** *Equiv and Qord are bireflective in Rel.*

**Proof.** It is enough to show that both categories are closed under initial sources. Suppose  $(f_i : (X, R) \rightarrow (X_i, R_i))_{i \in I}$  is an initial source in *Rel* such that for all  $i \in I$ ,  $(X_i, R_i)$  belongs to *Equiv* (*Qord*, resp.). Since for each  $i \in I$ ,  $R_i$  is an equivalence (quasi order, resp.) relation on  $X_i$  and  $f_i^2(x, x) \in R_i$ ,  $x \in R$ , i.e.  $R$  is reflexive. Suppose  $(x, y) \in R$ . Then  $f_i^2(x, y) \in R_i$  for all  $i \in I$ . Since for each  $i \in I$ ,  $R_i$  is symmetric,  $f_i^2(y, x) \in R_i$  for all  $i \in I$ . By the definition of  $R$ ,  $(y, x) \in R$ . Hence  $R$  is symmetric. Suppose  $(x, y) \in R$  and  $(y, z) \in R$ . Then for each  $i \in I$ ,  $f_i^2(x, y) \in R_i$  and  $f_i^2(y, z) \in R_i$ . Since for each  $i \in I$ ,  $R_i$  is transitive,  $f_i^2(x, z) \in R_i$  for all  $i \in I$ , so that  $(x, z) \in R$ . Hence  $R$  is transitive. This completes the proof.

**Remark 2.3.** For any  $(X, R) \in Rel$ , the identity map  $1_X : (X, R) \rightarrow (X, R')$  gives rise to the *Equiv* (*Qord*, resp.)-reflection of  $(X, R)$ , where  $R'$  is the smallest equivalence (quasi order, resp.) relation on  $X$  with  $R \subseteq R'$

**Corollary 2.4.** *Equiv and Qord are properly fibred topological categories.*

**Proof.** It follows from the fact that each singleton set has unique reflexive relation.

**Theorem 2.5.** *Equiv and Qord are cartesian closed categories.*

**Proof.** Since *Equiv* and *Qord* are topological categories. They have products. Take  $\underline{X} = (X, R_X) \in \text{Equiv}(\text{Qord}, \text{resp.})$ . For any  $\underline{Y} = (Y, R_Y) \in \text{Equiv}(\text{Qord}, \text{resp.})$ , let  $R$  be the relation on  $\underline{Y}^{\underline{X}} = \text{hom}(\underline{X}, \underline{Y})$ . Then it is straightforward that  $(\underline{Y}^{\underline{X}}, R)$  belongs to *Equiv(Qord, resp.)*. Hence, by the same argument as that in theorem 1.12, *Equiv* and *Qord* are both cartesian closed.

**Remark. 2.6.** In the category *Equiv(Qord, resp.)*, let us define a relation  $R'$  on  $\text{hom}(X, Y)$  as follows:  $(f, g) \in R'$  if and only if for any  $x \in X$ ,  $(f(x), g(x)) \in R_Y$ , where  $R_Y$  is the relation on  $Y$ . Then  $R'$  is equal to the relation  $R$  in the proof of theorem 2.5.

**Theorem 2.7.** *Poset is epireflective in Rel.*

**Proof.** It is enough to show that *Poset* is closed under initial momo-sources. Suppose  $(f_i : X \rightarrow X_i, R_i)_{i \in I}$  is an initial momo-source in *Rel* such that for all  $i \in I$ ,  $(X_i, R_i)$  belongs to *Poset*. Let  $R$  be the initial relation on  $X$  with respect to  $(f_i)_{i \in I}$ . Then we have to show that  $R$  is a partial order relation on  $X$ . Then by the exactly same as that in the proof of theorem 2.2,  $R$  is reflexive and transitive. It remains to show that  $R$  is anti-symmetric. Suppose  $(x, y) \in R$  and  $(y, x) \in R$ . Then for each  $i \in I$ ,  $f_i^2(x, y) \in R_i$  and  $f_i^2(y, x) \in R_i$ . Since for each  $i \in I$ ,  $R_i$  is anti-symmetric,  $f_i(x) = f_i(y)$  for all  $i \in I$ . Since  $(f_i)_{i \in I}$  is a momo-source, one has  $x = y$ .

**Theorem. 2.8.** *Let  $(X, R)$  be a relation space. Then the following are equivalent:*

- (1)  $(X, R)$  belongs to *Equiv*.
- (2)  $\text{hom}((X, R), \underline{T})$  is an initial momo-source, where  $T = [\{0, 1, 2\}, \Delta \cup \{(1, 1), (1, 1)\}]$ .
- (3)  $(X, R)$  is isomorphic with a subspace of a power of  $T$ .

**Proof.** (1)  $\Rightarrow$  (2). Let  $R'$  be the initial relation on  $X$  with respect to  $\text{hom}(\underline{X}, \underline{T})$ . Then it is obvious that  $R \subseteq R'$ . Suppose  $(x, y) \in R$  and let  $f_x : \underline{X} \rightarrow \underline{T}$  be the map defined by

$$f_x(z) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } (x, z) \in R \\ 2 & \text{if } (x, z) \notin R. \end{cases}$$

Then it is obvious that  $f_x$  is a relation preserving map on  $X$ . Since  $(x, y) \in R$ ,  $f_x^2(x, y) \in R_T$ , where  $R_T = \{\Delta \cup \{(0, 1), (1, 0)\}\}$ . Hence  $(x, y) \in R'$  and hence  $R' \subseteq R$ ; therefore  $R = R'$ . Now it remains to show that  $\text{hom}(\underline{X}, \underline{Y})$  is a momo-source. Suppose  $x \neq y$  in  $X$  and  $f : \underline{X} \rightarrow \underline{T}$  be the map defined by  $f(x) = 1$  and  $f(X - \{x\}) = 0$ . Then it is obvious that  $f$  is a relation preserving map on  $X$  and  $f(x) \neq f(y)$ .

(2)  $\Rightarrow$  (3). Let  $h : \underline{X} \rightarrow \underline{T}^{\text{hom}(\underline{X}, \underline{T})}$  be the map defined by  $h(x) = (f(x))_{f \in \text{hom}(\underline{X}, \underline{T})}$ . Since  $\text{hom}(\underline{X}, \underline{T})$  is an initial momo-source,  $h$  is an embedding.

(3)  $\Rightarrow$  (1). Since *Equiv* is closed under initial momo-source, and  $\underline{T} \in \text{Equiv}$ , one has  $(X, R) \in \text{Equiv}$ .

Using the exactly same argument as that in theorem 2.6, we have the following.

**Theorem 2.9.** *Let  $(X, R)$  be a relation space. Then the following are equivalent:*

- (1)  $(X, R)$  belongs to *Qord*.
- (2)  $\text{hom}((X, R), \underline{V})$  is an initial momo-source, where  $V = \{\{0, 1, 2\}, \nabla \cup \{(0, 1), (1, 0), (2, 0), (2, 1)\}\}$ .

(3)  $(X, R)$  is isomorphic with a subspace of a power of  $\mathcal{V}$ .

**Theorem. 2.10.** *Let  $(X, R)$  be a relational space. Then the following are equivalent:*

- (1)  $(X, R)$  belongs to *Poset*.
- (2)  $\text{hom}((X, R), \underline{I})$  is an initial momo-source, where  $\underline{I} = \{(0, 1)\}, \Delta \cup \{(0, 1)\}$ .
- (3)  $(X, R)$  is isomorphic with a subspace of a power of  $\underline{I}$ .

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