

Explanation why a full reflective subcategory  $\mathcal{D} \xrightarrow{I} \mathcal{C}$  is closed under all limits which exist in  $\mathcal{C}$ .

Write  $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$  for the left adjoint to the inclusion  $I$ . As  $I$  is an inclusion, we can leave it out of the notation (we will include it sometimes to make a point, but usually leave it out). Notice that  $F$  being a reflection means  $FB \cong B$  for any object  $B$  of  $\mathcal{D}$  (ie  $\epsilon_B: FIB \rightarrow B$  is an iso).

Let  $D: \mathcal{I} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$  be a diagram in  $\mathcal{D}$ , with limit  $(L \xrightarrow{\lambda_j} I D(j))$  in  $\mathcal{C}$ .

Remember that  $(A \in \mathcal{C}, B \in \mathcal{D})$

$$FA \xrightarrow{f} B \iff A \xrightarrow{\eta_A} FA \xrightarrow{If} B$$

$$\text{and } A \xrightarrow{g} B \iff FA \xrightarrow{Fg} FB \xrightarrow{\epsilon_B} B$$

under the adjunction.

So each leg  $L \xrightarrow{\lambda_j} D(j)$  corresponds to  $FL \xrightarrow{\mu_j} D(j)$  under the adjunction, with  $\mu_j \cong F\lambda_j$  and

$$L \xrightarrow{\eta_L} FL \xrightarrow{\mu_j} D(j) = L \xrightarrow{\lambda_j} D(j)$$

(as they both correspond to  $FL \xrightarrow{\mu_j} D(j)$ ).

Now as  $\mu_j \cong F\lambda_j$  and for any morphism  $D(j) \xrightarrow{D(\alpha)} D(j')$  in the diagram we have  $FD(\alpha) \cong D(\alpha)$  (as it lies in  $\mathcal{D}$ ), we see that  $FL \xrightarrow{\mu_j} D(j)$  forms a cone over  $D$  in  $\mathcal{D}$ .

Moreover,  $\eta_L: L \rightarrow FL$  is a morphism of cones over  $ID$  in  $\mathcal{C}$ . But  $L$  is the limit in  $\mathcal{C}$ , so we get a unique morphism of cones  $c: FL \rightarrow L$ . The limit property of  $L$  immediately gives us  $c \circ \eta_L = \mathbb{1}_L$ . Now we look at  $\eta_L \circ c$ .

$$FL \xrightarrow{\eta^{\circ c}} FL \iff L \xrightarrow{\eta_L} FL \xrightarrow{c} L \xrightarrow{\eta_L} FL \\ = L \xrightarrow{\eta_L} FL$$

But  $\eta_L$  corresponds to the identity of  $FL$ , so

$$\eta_L \circ c = 1_{FL}.$$

Therefore  $FL \cong L$ , i.e.  $L$  already lies in  $\mathcal{D}$ .

So  $\mathcal{D}$  is closed under all limits which exist in  $\mathcal{C}$ .