

Name: _____

Score (Out of 5 points):

Definition. Let \mathcal{C} be a category with morphisms $f : X \rightarrow Z$ and $g : Y \rightarrow Z$. The *pullback* of f and g , if it exists, is an object $X \times_Z Y$ of \mathcal{C} along with morphisms $p_X : X \times_Z Y \rightarrow X$ and $p_Y : X \times_Z Y \rightarrow Y$ that make the following diagram commute,

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X \times_Z Y & \xrightarrow{p_Y} & Y \\ p_X \downarrow & & \downarrow g \\ X & \xrightarrow{f} & Z \end{array}$$

and satisfy the following universal property. Whenever there is an object A and morphisms $q_X : A \rightarrow X$ and $q_Y : A \rightarrow Y$ satisfying $f \circ q_X = g \circ q_Y$, then there is a unique morphism $u : A \rightarrow X \times_Z Y$ as shown that makes the diagram commute.

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} A & & & & \\ & \searrow^{q_Y} & & \nearrow_{q_X} & \\ & X \times_Z Y & \xrightarrow{p_Y} & Y & \\ & p_X \downarrow & & \downarrow g & \\ & X & \xrightarrow{f} & Z & \end{array}$$

$\exists! u$

1. (a) (1 point) Let \mathcal{C} be a category, and let $f : X \rightarrow Z$ and $g : Y \rightarrow Z$ be two morphisms in \mathcal{C} . Give a precise statement of what it means to say that the universal property defines the pullback ‘uniquely up to unique isomorphism’. (You do not need to prove this statement).

- (b) (4 points) Let $\underline{\text{Top}}$ be the category of topological spaces and continuous maps, and let $f : X \rightarrow Z$ and $g : Y \rightarrow Z$ be two continuous maps. Show that the pullback $X \times_Z Y$ is the subspace of the product $X \times Y$ (with the product topology),

$$X \times_Z Y = \{(x, y) \mid f(x) = g(y)\} \subseteq X \times Y$$

and the maps $p_X : X \times_Z Y \rightarrow X$ and $p_Y : X \times_Z Y \rightarrow Y$ are the restrictions of the projection maps $X \times Y \rightarrow X$ and $X \times Y \rightarrow Y$, respectively.