

Definition 0.1. Given a group G consider the functor

$$F : \mathcal{B}G \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$$

with

- $F\bullet = X$ where X is a fixed object $X \in \mathcal{C}$
- for any $f \in G$ an endomorphism $f_\star : X \rightarrow X$ ($Ff = f_\star$)

such that

- $h_\star g_\star = (hg)_\star$ for all $h, g \in G$
- $e_\star = \mathbf{1}_X$ where $e \in G$ is the group identity

thus F defines a **left action**¹ of the group G on the object $X \in \mathcal{C}$. Also

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| when \mathcal{C} is | X is called |
| Set | G-set |
| $\mathit{Vect}_{\mathbb{K}}$ | G-representation |
| Top | G-space |

Corollary 0.1. When a group G acts functorially on an object $X \in \mathcal{C}$ its elements g act by **automorphism** $g_\star : X \rightarrow X$ (moreover $(g_\star)^{-1} = (g_\star^{-1})$).

Proof. Any element $g \in G$ regarded as a morphism of $\mathcal{B}G$ is an *isomorphism* thus functoriality guarantees that g_\star is an isomorphism as well. So for example for the action $\mathcal{B}G \rightarrow \mathit{Vect}_{\mathbb{K}}$ on a vector space the linear map $g_\star : V \rightarrow V$ must be an *automorphism* of the vector space V .

□

See [1] Ch.1.3.

[1] E. Riehl, *Category Theory in Context* (Dover, 2015).

¹a **right action** is a functor $\mathcal{B}G^{op} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ and the requirement for the endomorphism is $g^\star h^\star = (hg)^\star$