

An application of profunctors in the study of colimits

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We study an application of the theory of profunctors to colimits. In particular we isolate a class of profunctors, which we call total, which give the most general (in a sense we make precise) morphism of diagrams which induces a morphism between the colimits. We investigate the consequences of this definition. Profunctors are the relations between categories. There is also a corresponding notion of “single valued” profunctor, which together with total is equivalent to representability.