

Transport, Trivialization, Transition

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Abstract

Parallel transport across surfaces is conceived 2-functorially. The 2-categories of local trivialization and transition of general 2-transport are defined. The chain of injections between them is established.

Parallel transport in a fiber bundle can be thought of as a functor from a category of paths in base space to a category of fibers. Accordingly, we here want to think of n -functors on n -paths as encoding parallel transport in higher order structures, like $(n - 1)$ -gerbes. One of our aims is to show that this is justified.

In our context, an ' n -transport' is nothing but an n -functor. We shall address n -functors as **n -transport** whenever we want to think of them as realizing an n -categorical analogue of parallel transport in a fiber bundle.

This implies that, usually, the domain of an n -transport is a 'geometric' n -category. We shall address an n -category as a **geometric n -category** whenever we want to think of its p -morphisms as p -dimensional spaces of some sort.

Hence, for our purposes, n -transport is an n -functor

$$\text{tra} : \mathcal{P} \rightarrow T$$

from a geometric domain \mathcal{P} to some target n -category T .

The point of addressing some n -functors as n -transport is that this suggests that we are interested in performing certain operations on them, notably, that we are interested in

- **local trivialization**
- **transition**

of our n -functors.

This is described in the following subsections. It turns out that various well-known and seemingly independent concepts are all special cases of locally trivialized n -transport.

In order to indicate the context in which we think of certain n -categories and n -functors below, we will use the following symbols.

\mathcal{P}	a geometric n -category
T	a codomain of an n -transport
$\text{tra} : \mathcal{P} \rightarrow T$	an n -transport n -functor
$T' \xrightarrow{i} T$	an injection of n -transport codomains
$\mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{U}} \xrightarrow{p} \mathcal{P}$	a surjection of n -transport domains

Whenever it matters, we here take $n = 2$.

1 Trivialization

Given any n -transport functor, it is often desirable to study its global and its local properties separately. If the functor is locally trivializable in some suitable sense, we may express its global behaviour by gluing of local data.

Definition 1 *Given a transport $\text{tra} : \mathcal{P} \rightarrow T$ as well as a morphism*

$$T' \xrightarrow{i} T$$

*of codomains, we say that tra is **trivial** with respect to i , or **i -trivial** iff there exists $\text{tra}^i : \mathcal{P} \rightarrow T'$ such that*

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \mathcal{P} & \xrightarrow{\text{Id}} & \mathcal{P} \\
 \text{tra}^i \downarrow & \parallel & \downarrow \text{tra} \\
 T' & \xrightarrow{i} & T
 \end{array}$$

*We say that tra is **i -trivializable** iff there is a **trivialization** t*

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \mathcal{P} & \xrightarrow{\text{Id}} & \mathcal{P} \\
 \text{tra}^i \downarrow & \overset{t}{\not\sim} & \downarrow \text{tra} \\
 T' & \xrightarrow{i} & T
 \end{array}$$

Finally, given a morphism

$$\mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{U}} \xrightarrow{p} \mathcal{P} ,$$

we say that tra is **p -locally i -trivializable** iff there is t such that

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \mathcal{P}_U & \xrightarrow{p} & \mathcal{P} \\
 \text{tra}^i \downarrow & \swarrow t \sim & \downarrow \text{tra} \\
 T' & \xrightarrow{i} & T
 \end{array}$$

Here $\xrightarrow{\sim}$ denotes an adjoint equivalence.

For many applications one is interested in a weaker notion of trivialization, where $\xrightarrow{\sim}$ is just a special ambidextrous adjunction. (The relevant definitions are assembled in section ??.) We shall speak of **generalized trivializations** if t is just required to be a special ambidextrous adjunction.

Proper Local Trivialization. An i -trivialization is a pullback cone of

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 & & \mathcal{P} \\
 & & \downarrow \text{tra} \\
 T' & \xrightarrow{i} & T
 \end{array}$$

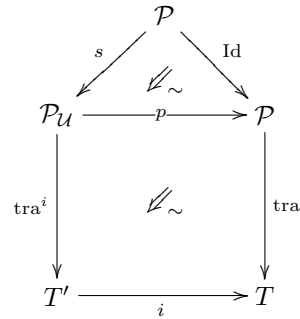
It need not, however, in general be the pullback itself (the universal pullback cone), which might not even exist. Rather, we are interested in those p -local trivializations, where we can weakly invert p , in the sense that they admit a **section**

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 & \mathcal{P} & \\
 s \swarrow & & \searrow \text{Id} \\
 \mathcal{P}_U & \xrightarrow{p} & \mathcal{P}
 \end{array}$$

of $\mathcal{P}_U \xrightarrow{p} \mathcal{P}$.

Definition 2 We call the transport $\text{tra} : \mathcal{P} \rightarrow T$ **properly p -locally i -trivializable**

if a 2-morphism



exists.

Hence a properly p -locally i -trivializable n -transport factors (weakly) through an i -trivial transport. A major aspect of the study of n -transport is the determination of proper local trivializations. Proper local trivializations provide what is often called the **local data** of parallel transport.

Pullback. We have seen that local trivialization of transport is related to a pullback cone. On the other hand, what one would want to call *pullback of transport*

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{P}' & \xrightarrow{p} & \mathcal{P} \\ & & \downarrow \text{tra} \\ & & T \end{array}$$

is just composition of morphisms. There is not any sensible universal property that would complete this diagram to a square.

Note that this composition by itself already induces ordinary pullback of the bundles induced by the transport functor, since $E'_x = (\text{tra} \circ p)(x) = \text{tra}(p(x)) = E_{p(x)}$.

In certain situations, however, we may want to demand that pulled back transport factors as

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{P}' & \xrightarrow{p} & \mathcal{P} \\ \text{tra}' \downarrow & \sim \swarrow & \downarrow \text{tra} \\ T' & \xrightarrow{i} & T \end{array} ,$$

for specified T' . For instance if $T = \text{Trans}(E)$ is the transport n -groupoid of an n -bundle $E \rightarrow M$ and $\text{tra} : \mathcal{P}_n(M) \rightarrow \text{Trans}(E)$ is a smooth transport on smooth n -paths in M , and if $M' \xrightarrow{f} M$ is a smooth map, then we may want to factor

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{P}_n(M') & \xrightarrow{f} & \mathcal{P}_n(M) \\ f^* \text{tra} \downarrow & \sim \swarrow & \downarrow \text{tra} \\ \text{Trans}(f^*E) & \longrightarrow & \text{Trans}(E) \end{array}$$

2 Transition

Trivialization allows to relate transport with codomain T to transport with some codomain T' . Under suitable conditions we may forget about T altogether and perform transitions entirely within T' .

Definition 3 *Given a p -local i -trivialization*

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{U}} & \xrightarrow{p} & \mathcal{P} \\
 \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} \downarrow & \sim \swarrow_t & \downarrow \text{tra} \\
 T' & \xrightarrow{i} & T
 \end{array}$$

we call

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{U}}^{[2]} \xrightleftharpoons[p_2]{p_1} \mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{U}} & \begin{array}{c} \nearrow \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} \\ \searrow \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} T' \\ \Downarrow g \\ T \end{array} \xrightarrow{i} T & \equiv & \mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{U}}^{[2]} \xrightleftharpoons[p_2]{p_1} \mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{U}} & \begin{array}{c} \nearrow \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} \\ \searrow \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} T' \\ \Downarrow \bar{t} \\ \mathcal{P} \\ \Downarrow t \\ T \end{array} \xrightarrow{i} T
 \end{array}$$

the induced p -local i -transition.

Notice that this isomorphism is a 3-morphism in the 3-category $\mathbf{2Cat}$ of 2-categories, hence a 2-morphisms in the Hom-2-category $\text{Hom}_{\mathbf{2Cat}}(\mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{U}}^{[2]}, T)$. For convenience, all diagrams in the following live in this Hom-2-category.

Let us write

$$A \xrightarrow{p^* \text{tra}} C \equiv A \xrightarrow{p} B \xrightarrow{\text{tra}} C .$$

Then the above equation becomes an identity 2-morphism in $\text{Hom}_{\mathbf{2Cat}}(\mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{U}}^{[2]}, T)$

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 & p_1^* p^* \text{tra} \\
 & = p_2^* p^* \text{tra} \\
 p_1^* \bar{t} \nearrow & \sim \Downarrow \phi & \searrow p_2^* t \\
 p_1^* \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} & \xrightarrow{g} & p_2^* \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}}
 \end{array}$$

2.1 Transition Tetrahedra

The point of $(T' \xrightarrow{i} T)$ -transition is that it allows us to forget about T and work entirely in terms of T' . In order to do so, we combine three ϕ -triangles to a single transition triangle.

Definition 4 *Given a transition, we can construct transition triangles*

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \begin{array}{c} p_2^* \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} \\ \nearrow p_{12}^* g \quad \searrow p_{23}^* g \\ p_1^* \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} \xrightarrow{p_{13}^* g} p_3^* \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} \\ \Downarrow f \end{array} & \equiv & \begin{array}{c} p_2^* \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} \\ \nearrow p_{12}^* g \quad \searrow p_{23}^* g \\ p_1^* \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} \xrightarrow{p_{13}^* g} p_3^* \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} \\ \Downarrow p_{13}^* \phi \\ p_1^* t \nearrow p^* \text{tra} \nwarrow p_3^* t \\ p_{12}^* \phi \searrow \quad \nearrow p_{23}^* \phi \\ p_2^* t \Downarrow p_2^* t \end{array}
 \end{array}$$

and

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \begin{array}{c} p_2^* \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} \\ \nearrow p_{12}^* g \quad \searrow p_{23}^* g \\ p_1^* \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} \xrightarrow{p_{13}^* g} p_3^* \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} \\ \Uparrow \bar{f} \end{array} & \equiv & \begin{array}{c} p_2^* \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} \\ \nearrow p_{12}^* g \quad \searrow p_{23}^* g \\ p_1^* \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} \xrightarrow{p_{13}^* g} p_3^* \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} \\ \Uparrow p_{13}^* \phi \\ p_1^* t \nearrow p^* \text{tra} \nwarrow p_3^* t \\ p_{12}^* \phi \searrow \quad \nearrow p_{23}^* \phi \\ p_2^* t \Uparrow p_2^* t \end{array}
 \end{array}$$

On $\mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{U}}^{[4]}$ four of these triangles form a tetrahedron. This tetrahedron 2-commutes. Equivalently, cutting the tetrahedron along four sides yields an equation between the 2-morphisms on each of the two pieces.

Proposition 1 *The transition triangles satisfy the tetrahedron law*

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \begin{array}{c} p_2^* \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} \xrightarrow{p_{23}^* g} p_3^* \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} \\ \nearrow p_{12}^* g \quad \searrow p_{23}^* g \\ p_1^* \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} \xrightarrow{p_{14}^* g} p_4^* \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} \\ \Downarrow p_{123}^* f \\ p_{13}^* g \Downarrow p_{134}^* f \\ p_{34}^* g \end{array} & = & \begin{array}{c} p_2^* \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} \xrightarrow{p_{23}^* g} p_3^* \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} \\ \nearrow p_{12}^* g \quad \searrow p_{23}^* g \\ p_1^* \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} \xrightarrow{p_{14}^* g} p_4^* \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} \\ \Downarrow p_{124}^* f \\ p_{24}^* g \Downarrow p_{234}^* f \\ p_{34}^* g \end{array}
 \end{array}$$

Proof. See figure 1 on p. 17. \square

For the present purpose we assume t to be an adjoint equivalence. In general, it may be just a special ambidextrous adjunction. (See section ?? for the definitions.) In this case f and \bar{f} need not be mutually inverse. They will however still both satisfy a tetrahedron law of their own, as well as a compatibility condition involving both of them (a Frobenius property).

2.2 2-Category of Transitions

Transport 2-functors live in a 2-category $\text{Hom}(\mathcal{P}, T)$. When we replace a 2-transport by its local trivialization and transition, we likewise want these local data to live in a 2-category.

We define 2-categories of local trivialization data and local transition data, $\mathbf{Triv}_{p,i}(\mathcal{P}, T)$ and $\mathbf{Trans}_{p,i}(\mathcal{P}, T)$, and construct injective morphisms

$$\text{Hom}(\mathcal{P}, T) \longrightarrow \mathbf{Triv}_{p,i}(\mathcal{P}, T) \longrightarrow \mathbf{Trans}_{p,i}(\mathcal{P}, T) .$$

The categories $\mathbf{Trans}_{p,i}(\mathcal{P}, T)$, will be shown, for special choices of p and i , to coincide with well-known 2-categories of higher order structures, like for instance that of bundle gerbes with connection and curving.

The injective morphisms above allow us to inject any diagram involving globally defined transport functors into their transition data 2-category. This is useful for instance for expressing equivariant structures on globally defined transport in terms of local data.

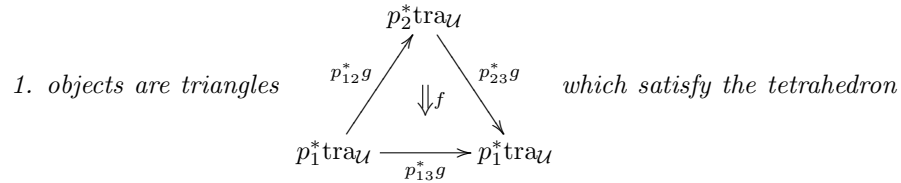
The reader familiar with “walking structures” in category theory will notice that our construction of trivialization and transition data in section 2 can be encoded in a 2-functor from a “walking trivialization” into $\text{Hom}(\mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{U}}, T)$. From that point of view, the 2-category $\mathbf{Triv}_{p,i}(\mathcal{P}, T)$ defined now is nothing but the 2-functor 2-category of such 2-functors on the walking trivialization, hence a canonical entity. We will however spell out the definition explicitly.

We start by describing the category of transition data, since its structure is simpler.

Definition 5 The 2-category

$$\mathbf{Trans}_{p,i}$$

of $(\mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{U}} \xrightarrow{p} \mathcal{P})$ -local $(T' \xrightarrow{i} T)$ -transitions is the 2-category defined as follows.



law

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 p_2^* \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} & \xrightarrow{p_{23}^* g} & p_3^* \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} \\
 p_{12}^* g \uparrow & \Downarrow p_{123}^* f & \nearrow p_{13}^* g \\
 p_1^* \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} & \xrightarrow{p_{14}^* g} & p_4^* \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} \\
 & & \Downarrow p_{134}^* f \\
 & & p_3^* \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} \\
 & & \downarrow p_{34}^* g
 \end{array}
 =
 \begin{array}{ccc}
 p_2^* \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} & \xrightarrow{p_{23}^* g} & p_3^* \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} \\
 p_{12}^* g \uparrow & \Downarrow p_{234}^* f & \nearrow p_{24}^* g \\
 p_1^* \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} & \xrightarrow{p_{14}^* g} & p_4^* \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} \\
 & & \Downarrow p_{124}^* f \\
 & & p_2^* \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} \\
 & & \downarrow p_{23}^* g
 \end{array}
 .$$

2. 1-morphisms $f \xrightarrow{\epsilon} f'$ are choices of 2-cells

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 p_1^* \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} & \xrightarrow{g} & p_3^* \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} \\
 p_1^* h \downarrow & \Downarrow \epsilon_g & \downarrow p_3^* h \\
 p_1^* \text{tra}'_{\mathcal{U}} & \xrightarrow{g'} & p_3^* \text{tra}'_{\mathcal{U}}
 \end{array}$$

satisfying

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 p_1^* \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} & \xrightarrow{p_{13}^* g} & p_3^* \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} \\
 p_1^* h \downarrow & \Downarrow p_{13}^* \epsilon_g & \downarrow p_3^* h \\
 p_1^* \text{tra}'_{\mathcal{U}} & \xrightarrow{p_{13}^* g'} & p_3^* \text{tra}'_{\mathcal{U}} \\
 & \Downarrow \bar{f}' & \\
 & p_2^* \text{tra}' & \\
 & \nearrow p_{23}^* g' & \\
 & p_2^* \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} & \\
 & \nearrow p_{12}^* g' & \\
 & p_1^* \text{tra}'_{\mathcal{U}} & \\
 & \nearrow p_{12}^* g & \\
 & p_2^* \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} & \\
 & \nearrow p_{23}^* g & \\
 & p_3^* \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} & \\
 & \downarrow p_3^* h & \\
 & p_3^* \text{tra}'_{\mathcal{U}} &
 \end{array}
 =
 \begin{array}{ccc}
 p_1^* \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} & \xrightarrow{p_{13}^* g} & p_3^* \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} \\
 p_1^* h \downarrow & \Downarrow \bar{f} & \downarrow p_3^* h \\
 p_1^* \text{tra}'_{\mathcal{U}} & \xrightarrow{p_{12}^* g} & p_2^* \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} \\
 & \Downarrow p_{12}^* \epsilon_g & \downarrow p_2^* h \\
 & p_2^* \text{tra}'_{\mathcal{U}} & \\
 & \nearrow p_{23}^* g & \\
 & p_3^* \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} & \\
 & \downarrow p_3^* h & \\
 & p_3^* \text{tra}'_{\mathcal{U}} &
 \end{array}
 .$$

3. 2-morphisms

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 & \xrightarrow{\epsilon_1} & \\
 f & \Downarrow E & f' \\
 & \xrightarrow{\epsilon_2} &
 \end{array}$$

are given by 2-cells

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 & h_1 & \\
 \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} & \begin{array}{c} \curvearrowright \\ \Downarrow E_g \\ \curvearrowleft \end{array} & \text{tra}'_{\mathcal{U}} \\
 & h_2 &
 \end{array}$$

satisfying

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 p_1^* \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} & \xrightarrow{g} & \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} \\
 \downarrow p_1^* h_2 & \swarrow \epsilon_{g_1} & \downarrow p_2^* h_1 \\
 p_1^* \text{tra}'_{\mathcal{U}} & \xrightarrow{g'} & p_2^* \text{tra}'_{\mathcal{U}}
 \end{array}
 =
 \begin{array}{ccc}
 p_1^* \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} & \xrightarrow{g} & p_2^* \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} \\
 \downarrow p_1^* h_2 & \swarrow \epsilon_{g_2} & \downarrow p_2^* h_1 \\
 p^* \text{tra}' & \xrightarrow{g'} & \text{tra}'_{\mathcal{U}}
 \end{array}
 \cdot$$

The 2-category of trivialization data is similar, but takes into account the local trivializations that the transitions are constructed from.

Definition 6 *The 2-category*

$$\mathbf{Triv}_{p,i}$$

of $(\mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{U}} \xrightarrow{p} \mathcal{P})$ -local $(T' \xrightarrow{i} T)$ -trivializations is the 2-category defined as follows.

1. objects are local p -local i -trivializations $\mathcal{G} = (\text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}}, t, \phi)$ of 2-transport 2-functors $\mathcal{P} \longrightarrow T$
2. a morphism $\mathcal{G} \xrightarrow{\epsilon} \mathcal{G}'$ is a morphism

$$\text{tra} \xrightarrow{f} \text{tra}'$$

together with a map

$$\epsilon : \{t, \bar{t}, g\} \longrightarrow \text{Mor}_2(\text{Hom}_{2\text{Cat}}(\mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{U}}, T))$$

given by

$$t \mapsto \begin{array}{ccc}
 p^* \text{tra} & \xrightarrow{t} & \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} \\
 \downarrow p^* f & \swarrow \epsilon_t & \downarrow h \\
 p^* \text{tra}' & \xrightarrow{t'} & \text{tra}'_{\mathcal{U}}
 \end{array}
 \quad
 \bar{t} \mapsto \begin{array}{ccc}
 \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} & \xrightarrow{\bar{t}} & p^* \text{tra} \\
 \downarrow h & \swarrow \epsilon_{\bar{t}} & \downarrow p^* f \\
 \text{tra}'_{\mathcal{U}} & \xrightarrow{\bar{t}'} & p^* \text{tra}'
 \end{array}$$

$$g \mapsto \begin{array}{ccc} p_1^* \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} & \xrightarrow{g} & p_2^* \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} \\ \downarrow p_1^* h & \swarrow \epsilon_g & \downarrow p_2^* h \\ p_1^* \text{tra}'_{\mathcal{U}} & \xrightarrow{g'} & p_2^* \text{tra}'_{\mathcal{U}} \end{array}$$

such that all relevant tin can equations hold, displayed in figure 2. Composition is by vertical composition of the above 2-morphisms.

3. a 2-morphism between 1-morphisms between p -local i -trivializations

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & \epsilon_1 & \\ \mathcal{G} & \begin{array}{c} \curvearrowright \\ \Downarrow E \\ \curvearrowleft \end{array} & \mathcal{G}' \\ & \epsilon_2 & \end{array}$$

is a “modification of the above pseudonatural transformations” in the sense that it is a map

$$E : \{h, f\} \longrightarrow \text{Mor}_2(\text{Hom}_{\mathbf{2Cat}}(\mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{U}}, T))$$

given by

$$h \mapsto \begin{array}{ccc} & h_1 & \\ \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} & \begin{array}{c} \curvearrowright \\ \Downarrow E_h \\ \curvearrowleft \end{array} & \text{tra}'_{\mathcal{U}} \\ & h_2 & \end{array}$$

and

$$f \mapsto \begin{array}{ccc} & f_1 & \\ \text{tra} & \begin{array}{c} \curvearrowright \\ \Downarrow E_f \\ \curvearrowleft \end{array} & \text{tra}' \\ & f_2 & \end{array}$$

such that the modification tin can equations displayed in figure 3 hold. Horizontal and vertical composition of 2-morphisms is horizontal and vertical 2-morphisms of the above 2-morphisms in $\text{Mor}_2(\text{Hom}_{\mathbf{2Cat}}(\mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{U}}, T))$.

Proposition 2 By combining the three tin can equations in figure 2, and using

def. 4, one obtains in addition this tin can equation

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 p_1^* \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} & \xrightarrow{p_{13}^* g} & p_3^* \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} \\
 \downarrow p_1^* h & \searrow p_{13}^* \epsilon_g & \downarrow p_3^* h \\
 p_1^* \text{tra}'_{\mathcal{U}} & \xrightarrow{p_{13}^* g'} & p_3^* \text{tra}'_{\mathcal{U}} \\
 \swarrow p_{12}^* g' & \Downarrow \bar{f}' & \searrow p_{23}^* g' \\
 & p_2^* \text{tra}' &
 \end{array}
 =
 \begin{array}{ccc}
 p_1^* \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} & \xrightarrow{p_{13}^* g} & p_3^* \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} \\
 \downarrow p_1^* h & \searrow p_{12}^* g & \Downarrow \bar{f} \\
 p_1^* \text{tra}'_{\mathcal{U}} & & p_2^* \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} \\
 \swarrow p_{12}^* g' & \searrow p_{12}^* \epsilon_g & \downarrow p_2^* h \\
 & p_2^* \text{tra}'_{\mathcal{U}} & \\
 & \swarrow p_{23}^* g & \searrow p_{23}^* \epsilon_g \\
 & & p_3^* \text{tra}'_{\mathcal{U}} \\
 & & \downarrow p_3^* h
 \end{array} \cdot (6)$$

Proof. Redraw f' on the left and side according to def. 4, then use the equations in figure 2 successively to pass the ϵ through to the other side of the transition triangle f' . \square

The main proposition involving these two definitions is

Proposition 3 *There are injections*

$$\text{Hom}(\mathcal{P}, T) \longrightarrow \mathbf{Triv}_{p,i}(\mathcal{P}, T) \longrightarrow \mathbf{Trans}_{p,i}(\mathcal{P}, T) .$$

The second arrow is obtained simply by forgetting all trivialization data. The existence of the first arrow is now demonstrated by explicit construction.

Lemma 1 *Let tra and tra' be transport 2-functors with p -local i -trivializations \mathcal{G} and \mathcal{G}' , respectively. For every morphism*

$$\text{tra} \xrightarrow{f} \text{tra}'$$

there is (at least) one morphism

$$\mathcal{G} \xrightarrow{\epsilon(f)} \mathcal{G}'$$

in the 2-category of pre-trivializations.

Proof. We explicitly construct the morphism $\mathcal{G} \xrightarrow{\epsilon(f)} \mathcal{G}'$ in the obvious way

by setting

$$t \mapsto \begin{array}{ccc} p^* \text{tra} & \xrightarrow{t} & \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} \\ p^* f \downarrow & \swarrow \epsilon_t & \downarrow h \\ p^* \text{tra}' & \xrightarrow{t'} & \text{tra}'_{\mathcal{U}} \end{array} \equiv \begin{array}{ccc} p^* \text{tra} & \xrightarrow{t} & \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} \\ p^* f \downarrow & \swarrow \text{Id} & \downarrow \bar{t} \\ p^* \text{tra}' & \xrightarrow{t'} & \text{tra}'_{\mathcal{U}} \end{array} \begin{array}{ccc} & & \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} \\ & & \downarrow \bar{t} \\ & & p^* \text{tra} \\ & & \downarrow p^* f \\ & & p^* \text{tra}' \\ & & \downarrow t' \\ & & \text{tra}'_{\mathcal{U}} \end{array}$$

and

$$\bar{t} \mapsto \begin{array}{ccc} \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} & \xrightarrow{\bar{t}} & p^* \text{tra} \\ h \downarrow & \swarrow \epsilon_{\bar{t}} & \downarrow p^* f \\ \text{tra}'_{\mathcal{U}} & \xrightarrow{\bar{t}'} & p^* \text{tra}' \end{array} \equiv \begin{array}{ccc} \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} & \xrightarrow{\bar{t}} & p^* \text{tra} \\ \bar{t} \downarrow & \swarrow \text{Id} & \downarrow p^* f \\ p^* \text{tra} & & \\ p^* f \downarrow & & \\ p^* \text{tra}' & & \\ t \downarrow & \swarrow \text{Id} & \\ \text{tra}'_{\mathcal{U}} & \xrightarrow{\bar{t}'} & p^* \text{tra}' \end{array}$$

Then we define

$$g \mapsto \begin{array}{ccc} p_1^* \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} & \xrightarrow{g} & p_2^* \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} \\ p_1^* h \downarrow & \swarrow \epsilon_g & \downarrow p_2^* h \\ p_1^* \text{tra}'_{\mathcal{U}} & \xrightarrow{g'} & p_2^* \text{tra}'_{\mathcal{U}} \end{array}$$

to be the unique solution of the tin can equation (1).

We then need to check that the remaining tin can equations (2) and (3) are satisfied. This turns out to be a consequence of the triangle identities and the speciality condition satisfied by the special ambidextrous adjunction between t

and \bar{t} . The zig-zag identity of the adjunction implies that

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 & \text{Id} & \\
 & \downarrow & \\
 \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} & \xrightarrow{\bar{t}} p^* \text{tra} \xrightarrow{t} & \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} \\
 \bar{t} \downarrow & \swarrow \text{Id} & \downarrow \bar{t} \\
 p^* \text{tra} & & p^* \text{tra} \\
 p^* f \downarrow & \swarrow \text{Id} & \swarrow \text{Id} \\
 p^* \text{tra}' & & p^* \text{tra}' \\
 t' \downarrow & \swarrow \text{Id} & \downarrow t' \\
 \text{tra}'_{\mathcal{U}} & \xrightarrow{\bar{t}'} p^* \text{tra}' \xrightarrow{t'} & \text{tra}'_{\mathcal{U}} \\
 & \downarrow & \\
 & \text{Id} &
 \end{array}
 =
 \begin{array}{ccc}
 \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} & \xrightarrow{\text{Id}} & \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} \\
 h \downarrow & \swarrow \text{Id} & \downarrow h \\
 \text{tra}'_{\mathcal{U}} & \xrightarrow{\text{Id}} & \text{tra}'_{\mathcal{U}}
 \end{array} .$$

This is equivalent to (2). The speciality property implies that

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 & \text{Id} & \\
 & \downarrow & \\
 p^* \text{tra} & \xrightarrow{t} \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} \xrightarrow{\bar{t}} & p^* \text{tra} \\
 \swarrow \text{Id} & \downarrow \bar{t} & \swarrow \text{Id} \\
 & p^* \text{tra} & \\
 & \downarrow p^* f & \\
 & p^* \text{tra}' & \\
 & \downarrow t' & \\
 p^* \text{tra}' & \xrightarrow{t'} \text{tra}'_{\mathcal{U}} \xrightarrow{\bar{t}'} & p^* \text{tra}' \\
 & \downarrow & \\
 & \text{Id} &
 \end{array}
 =
 \begin{array}{ccc}
 p^* \text{tra} & \xrightarrow{\text{Id}} & p^* \text{tra} \\
 p^* f \downarrow & \swarrow \text{Id} & \downarrow p^* f \\
 p^* \text{tra}' & \xrightarrow{\text{Id}} & p^* \text{tra}'
 \end{array} .$$

This is equivalent to (3). \square

Corollary 1 *Let tra be a transport 2-functor with two p -local i -trivializations \mathcal{G} and \mathcal{G}' . There is (at least) one morphism*

$$\mathcal{G} \xrightarrow{\epsilon(\mathcal{G}, \mathcal{G}')} \mathcal{G}' .$$

Proof. Set $f = \text{Id}$ in the above proposition. □
 We shall eventually show that this morphism is an equivalence.

Lemma 2 *The above map of 1-morphisms respects composition weakly.*

Proof. We construct an invertible 2-morphism between the composite image and the image of the composite as displayed in 4. The required associativity condition is easily checked. □

Lemma 3 *Let tra and tra' be transport 2-functors with p -local i -trivializations \mathcal{G} and \mathcal{G}' , respectively. For every 2-morphisms of transport 2-functors*

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & f_1 & \\ \text{tra} & \begin{array}{c} \curvearrowright \\ \Downarrow \mathcal{A} \\ \curvearrowleft \end{array} & \text{tra}' \\ & f_2 & \end{array}$$

there is (at least) one 2-morphism

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & \epsilon(f_1) & \\ \mathcal{G} & \begin{array}{c} \curvearrowright \\ \Downarrow E(\mathcal{A}) \\ \curvearrowleft \end{array} & \mathcal{G}' \\ & \epsilon(f_2) & \end{array}$$

of local pre-trivializations.

Proof. We construct such a 2-morphism in an obvious way and check its properties. Set

$$h \mapsto \begin{array}{ccc} & h_1 & \\ \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} & \begin{array}{c} \curvearrowright \\ \Downarrow E_h \\ \curvearrowleft \end{array} & \text{tra}'_{\mathcal{U}} \\ & h_2 & \end{array} \equiv \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} \xrightarrow{\bar{t}} p^* \text{tra} \begin{array}{c} \curvearrowright \\ \Downarrow p^* \mathcal{A} \\ \curvearrowleft \end{array} p^* \text{tra}' \xrightarrow{t'} \text{tra}'_{\mathcal{U}}$$

and

$$f \mapsto \begin{array}{ccc} & f_1 & \\ \text{tra} & \begin{array}{c} \curvearrowright \\ \Downarrow E_f \\ \curvearrowleft \end{array} & \text{tra}' \\ & f_2 & \end{array} \equiv \begin{array}{ccc} & f_1 & \\ \text{tra} & \begin{array}{c} \curvearrowright \\ \Downarrow \mathcal{A} \\ \curvearrowleft \end{array} & \text{tra}' \\ & f_2 & \end{array} .$$

This trivially satisfies the equation

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \begin{array}{ccc}
 p^* \text{tra} & \xrightarrow{t} & \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} \\
 \downarrow \text{Id} & \searrow & \downarrow \bar{t} \\
 p^* \text{tra} & & p^* \text{tra} \\
 \downarrow p^* f_1 & & \downarrow p^* f_1 \\
 p^* \text{tra}' & & p^* \text{tra}' \\
 \downarrow t' & & \downarrow t' \\
 p^* \text{tra}' & \xrightarrow{t'} & \text{tra}'_{\mathcal{U}}
 \end{array} & = & \begin{array}{ccc}
 p^* \text{tra} & \xrightarrow{t} & \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} \\
 \downarrow \text{Id} & \searrow & \downarrow \bar{t} \\
 p^* \text{tra} & & p^* \text{tra} \\
 \downarrow p^* f_1 & & \downarrow p^* f_1 \\
 p^* \text{tra}' & & p^* \text{tra}' \\
 \downarrow t' & & \downarrow t' \\
 p^* \text{tra}' & \xrightarrow{t'} & \text{tra}'_{\mathcal{U}}
 \end{array}
 \end{array}$$

equivalent to (4) and the equation

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \begin{array}{ccc}
 \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} & \xrightarrow{\bar{t}} & p^* \text{tra} \\
 \downarrow \bar{t} & & \downarrow p^* f_1 \\
 p^* \text{tra} & & p^* \text{tra} \\
 \downarrow p^* f_1 & & \downarrow p^* f_1 \\
 p^* \text{tra}' & & p^* \text{tra}' \\
 \downarrow t & & \downarrow t \\
 \text{tra}'_{\mathcal{U}} & \xrightarrow{\bar{t}'} & p^* \text{tra}'
 \end{array} & = & \begin{array}{ccc}
 \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} & \xrightarrow{\bar{t}} & p^* \text{tra} \\
 \downarrow \bar{t} & & \downarrow p^* f_1 \\
 p^* \text{tra} & & p^* \text{tra} \\
 \downarrow p^* f_1 & & \downarrow p^* f_1 \\
 p^* \text{tra}' & & p^* \text{tra}' \\
 \downarrow t & & \downarrow t \\
 \text{tra}'_{\mathcal{U}} & \xrightarrow{\bar{t}'} & p^* \text{tra}'
 \end{array}
 \end{array}$$

equivalent to (5). □

The assignment of 2-morphisms is easily seen to be 2-functorial. In summary, this establishes 2-functors as stated in prop. 3 on p. 12.

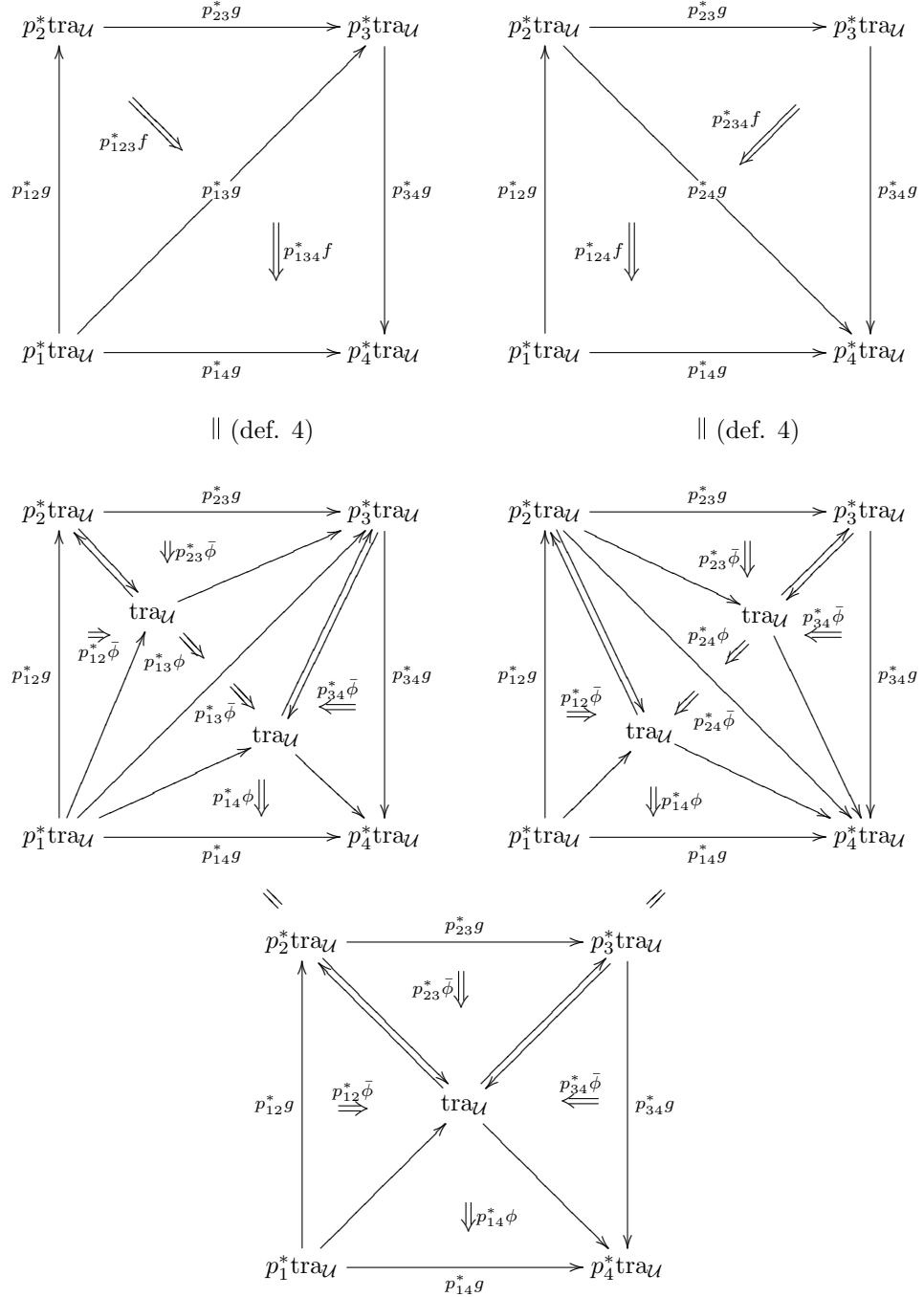


Figure 1: **Proof of the tetrahedron law** stated in prop. 1 on p. 7. Antiparallel arrows are shorthand for an equivalence.

(a) tin can based on the transition modification

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 & & g \\
 & & \Downarrow \phi \\
 p_1^* \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} & \xrightarrow{g} & p_2^* \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} \\
 \downarrow p_1^* h & \swarrow \epsilon_g & \downarrow p_2^* h \\
 p_1^* \text{tra}'_{\mathcal{U}} & \xrightarrow{g'} & p_2^* \text{tra}'_{\mathcal{U}} \\
 \downarrow p_1^* \bar{t}' & \Downarrow \phi' & \downarrow p_2^* t' \\
 & p_1^* p^* \text{tra} &
 \end{array}
 =
 \begin{array}{ccc}
 & & g \\
 & & \Downarrow \phi \\
 p_1^* \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} & \xrightarrow{p_1^* \bar{t}} & p_1^* p^* \text{tra} & \xrightarrow{p_2^* t} & p_2^* \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} \\
 \downarrow p_1^* h & \swarrow \epsilon_{\bar{t}} & \downarrow p_1^* p^* f & \swarrow \epsilon_t & \downarrow p_2^* h \\
 p_1^* \text{tra}'_{\mathcal{U}} & \xrightarrow{p_1^* \bar{t}'} & p_1^* p^* \text{tra}' & \xrightarrow{p_2^* t'} & p_2^* \text{tra}'_{\mathcal{U}}
 \end{array} \quad (1)$$

(b) tin can based on the unit on $t \circ \bar{t}$

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 & & \text{Id} \\
 & & \Downarrow \\
 \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} & \xrightarrow{\text{Id}} & \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} \\
 \downarrow h & \swarrow \text{Id} & \downarrow h \\
 \text{tra}'_{\mathcal{U}} & \xrightarrow{\text{Id}} & \text{tra}'_{\mathcal{U}} \\
 \downarrow \bar{t}' & \Downarrow & \downarrow t' \\
 & p^* \text{tra}' &
 \end{array}
 =
 \begin{array}{ccc}
 & & \text{Id} \\
 & & \Downarrow \\
 \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} & \xrightarrow{\bar{t}} & p^* \text{tra} & \xrightarrow{t} & \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} \\
 \downarrow h & \swarrow \epsilon_{\bar{t}} & \downarrow p^* f & \swarrow \epsilon_t & \downarrow h \\
 \text{tra}'_{\mathcal{U}} & \xrightarrow{\bar{t}'} & p^* \text{tra}' & \xrightarrow{t'} & \text{tra}'_{\mathcal{U}}
 \end{array} \quad (2)$$

(c) tin can based on the unit on $\bar{t} \circ t$

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 & & \text{Id} \\
 & & \Downarrow \\
 p^* \text{tra} & \xrightarrow{\text{Id}} & p^* \text{tra} \\
 \downarrow p^* f & \swarrow \text{Id} & \downarrow p^* f \\
 p^* \text{tra}' & \xrightarrow{\text{Id}} & p^* \text{tra}' \\
 \downarrow t' & \Downarrow & \downarrow t' \\
 & \text{tra}'_{\mathcal{U}} &
 \end{array}
 =
 \begin{array}{ccc}
 & & \text{Id} \\
 & & \Downarrow \\
 p^* \text{tra} & \xrightarrow{t} & \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} & \xrightarrow{\bar{t}} & p^* \text{tra} \\
 \downarrow p^* f & \swarrow \epsilon_t & \downarrow h & \swarrow \epsilon_{\bar{t}} & \downarrow p^* f \\
 p^* \text{tra}' & \xrightarrow{t'} & \text{tra}'_{\mathcal{U}} & \xrightarrow{\bar{t}'} & p^* \text{tra}'
 \end{array} \quad (3)$$

Figure 2: The **tin can** equations satisfied by 1-morphisms in $\text{Triv}_{p,i}$, defined in def. 6 on p. 10.

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
\begin{array}{ccc}
p^* \text{tra} & \xrightarrow{t} & \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} \\
\downarrow & & \downarrow \\
p^* \text{tra}' & \xrightarrow{t'} & \text{tra}'_{\mathcal{U}}
\end{array} & \xrightarrow{\epsilon_{t_1}} & \begin{array}{ccc}
p^* \text{tra} & \xrightarrow{t} & \text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} \\
\downarrow & & \downarrow \\
p^* \text{tra}' & \xrightarrow{t} & \text{tra}'_{\mathcal{U}}
\end{array} \\
\begin{array}{c}
p^* f_2 \swarrow \\
\text{p}^* E_f \llcorner \\
p^* f_1 \downarrow \\
\text{h}_1 \downarrow
\end{array} & & \begin{array}{c}
h_2 \swarrow \\
\text{p}^* f_2 \downarrow \\
\text{h}_1 \downarrow \\
\text{p}^* f_1 \downarrow
\end{array}
\end{array} \quad (4)$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
\begin{array}{ccc}
\text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} & \xrightarrow{\bar{t}} & p^* \text{tra} \\
\downarrow & & \downarrow \\
\text{tra}'_{\mathcal{U}} & \xrightarrow{\bar{t}'} & p^* \text{tra}'
\end{array} & \xrightarrow{\epsilon_{\bar{t}_1}} & \begin{array}{ccc}
\text{tra}_{\mathcal{U}} & \xrightarrow{\bar{t}} & p^* \text{tra} \\
\downarrow & & \downarrow \\
\text{tra}'_{\mathcal{U}} & \xrightarrow{\bar{t}} & p^* \text{tra}'
\end{array} \\
\begin{array}{c}
h_2 \swarrow \\
\text{h}_1 \downarrow \\
\text{p}^* f_1 \downarrow
\end{array} & & \begin{array}{c}
h_2 \swarrow \\
\text{p}^* f_2 \downarrow \\
\text{h}_1 \downarrow \\
\text{p}^* f_1 \downarrow
\end{array}
\end{array} \quad (5)$$

Figure 3: The **tin** can equations satisfied by 2-morphisms in $\text{Triv}_{p,i}$, defined in def. 6.

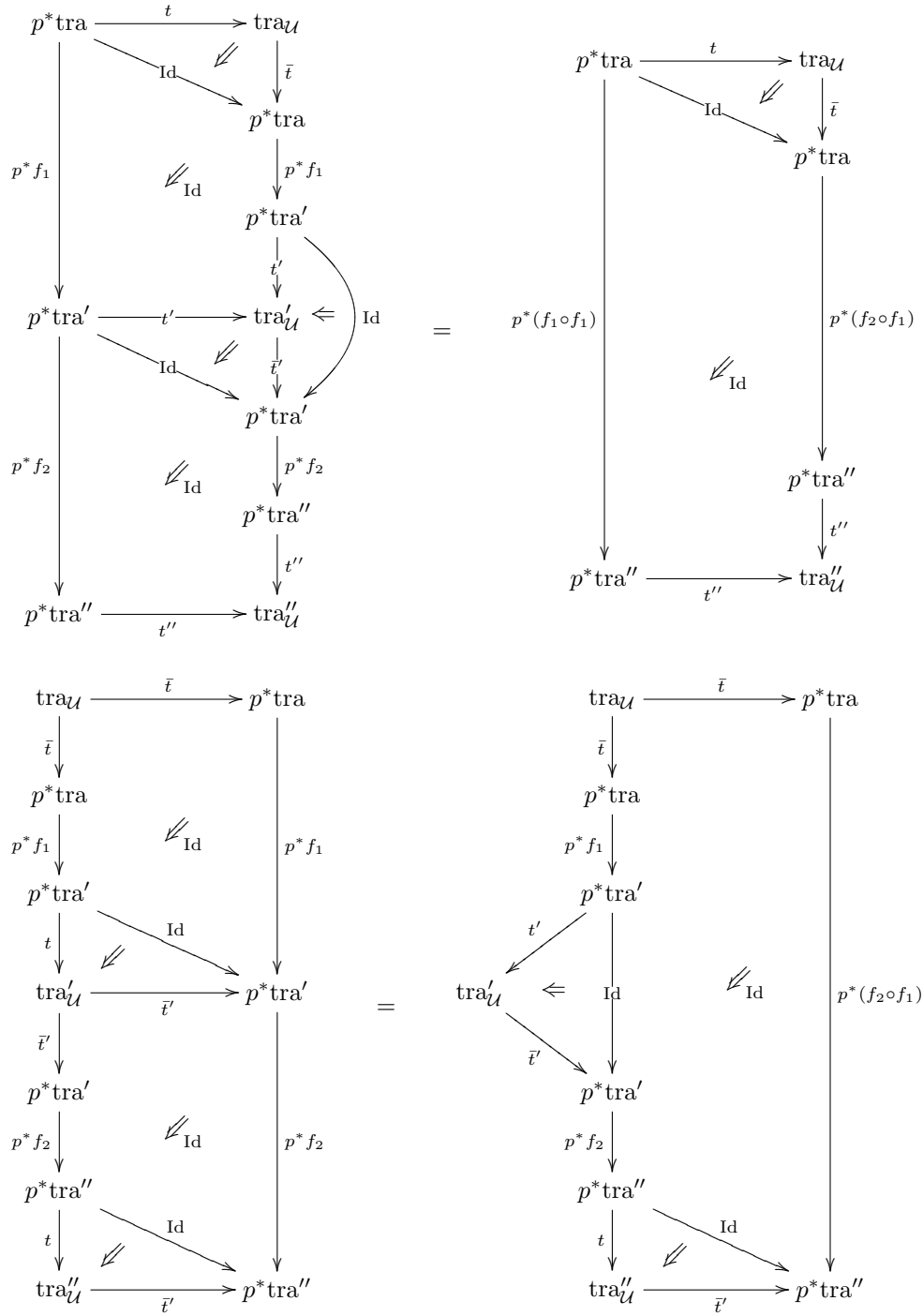


Figure 4: **Proof that the injection $\text{Hom}(\mathcal{P}, T) \rightarrow \text{Triv}_{p,i}(\mathcal{P}, T)$ respects composition weakly, as stated in prop. 2.**