

Masters course: Homological algebra

Homological algebra is the algebra that was invented in order to define and study the homology and cohomology of topological spaces, but it has applications all over mathematics.

My aim is to cover the properties of projective, injective and flat modules, complexes of modules and Ext and Tor groups, homological dimensions, homology and cohomology of groups, and more abstractly, abelian and triangulated categories.

Students are expected to already have some familiarity with rings and modules.

Some suggested books:

- C. A. Weibel, An introduction to homological algebra, CUP 1994.
- J. J. Rotman, An introduction to homological algebra, Springer 2009.
- M. S. Osborne, Basic homological algebra, Springer 2000.
- S. I. Gelfand and Yu. I. Manin, Methods of homological algebra, 2nd ed., Springer 2010.
- H. Krause, Homological theory of representations, CUP 2022.
- The Stacks Project, <https://stacks.math.columbia.edu/>
- T. Leinster, Basic category theory, CUP 2014, now published as arXiv:1612.09375

Contents

| | | |
|----------|--|----------|
| 1 | Abelian categories | 1 |
| 1.1 | Categories and functors | 1 |
| 1.2 | Natural transformations and functor categories | 5 |
| 1.3 | Limits and colimits | 9 |
| 1.4 | Additive categories | 15 |
| 1.5 | Abelian categories | 17 |
| 1.6 | Exact sequences | 19 |

| | | |
|----------|---|-----------|
| 1.7 | Exact functors | 22 |
| 1.8 | Filtered colimits | 24 |
| 2 | Projective, injective and flat modules | 30 |
| 2.1 | Projective modules | 30 |
| 2.2 | Tensor products | 34 |
| 2.3 | Morita equivalence | 37 |
| 2.4 | Injective modules | 39 |
| 2.5 | Flat modules | 43 |
| 2.6 | Injective envelopes and projective covers | 47 |
| 3 | Complexes | 51 |
| 3.1 | Chain and cochain complexes | 51 |
| 3.2 | Examples from algebraic and differential topology | 53 |
| 3.3 | The category of complexes | 55 |
| 3.4 | Mapping cones | 58 |
| 3.5 | The homotopy category | 59 |
| 4 | Resolutions, derived functors, Ext and Tor | 63 |
| 4.1 | Projective and injective resolutions | 63 |
| 4.2 | Derived functors | 66 |
| 4.3 | Ext | 68 |
| 4.4 | Ext ¹ classifies short exact sequences | 71 |
| 4.5 | Projective, injective and global dimensions | 74 |
| 4.6 | Examples given by quivers with relations | 78 |
| 4.7 | Tor | 84 |

More coming...

1 Abelian categories

The basic setting for homological algebra, for example used in the book by Henri Cartan and Samuel Eilenberg, ‘Homological algebra’, 1956, is complexes of additive groups, or more generally complexes of modules for a ring R .

Algebraic geometers also want to work with complexes of sheaves on an algebraic variety, and in his paper ‘Sur quelques points d’algèbre homologique’, Tohoku Math. J. 9 (1957), 119–221, Alexander Grothendieck showed that you can unify the two settings by working with abelian categories.

Although we won’t work with sheaves, it is good to start with abelian categories: modern homological algebra uses triangulated categories and other concepts, and abelian categories are a necessary preparation.

We begin with the language of categories, although students may have seen this already.

1.1 Categories and functors

Definition. A *category* \mathcal{C} consists of

- (i) a collection $\text{ob}(\mathcal{C})$ of *objects*
- (ii) For any $X, Y \in \text{ob}(\mathcal{C})$, a set $\text{Hom}(X, Y)$ (also denoted $\mathcal{C}(X, Y)$ or $\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(X, Y)$) of *morphisms* (or *homomorphisms*) $\theta : X \rightarrow Y$, and
- (iii) For any $X, Y, Z \in \text{ob}(\mathcal{C})$, a composition map $\text{Hom}(Y, Z) \times \text{Hom}(X, Y) \rightarrow \text{Hom}(X, Z)$, $(\theta, \phi) \mapsto \theta\phi$.

satisfying

- (a) Associativity: $(\theta\phi)\psi = \theta(\phi\psi)$ for $X \xrightarrow{\psi} Y \xrightarrow{\phi} Z \xrightarrow{\theta} W$, and
- (b) For each object X there is an identity morphism $\text{Id}_X \in \text{Hom}(X, X)$, with $\text{Id}_Y\theta = \theta = \theta\text{Id}_X$ for all $\theta : X \rightarrow Y$.

An *inverse* of a morphism $\theta : X \rightarrow Y$ is a morphism $\phi : Y \rightarrow X$ with $\theta\phi = \text{Id}_Y$ and $\phi\theta = \text{Id}_X$. If θ has an inverse, it is unique, and denoted θ^{-1} . An *isomorphism* is a morphism with an inverse.

Examples. (1) The categories of Sets, Groups, Rings, etc. The category $R\text{-Mod}$ of (left) R -modules for a ring R . These are *concrete categories*: the objects are sets, possibly with extra structure, and the morphisms are maps of sets preserving the extra structure. (Note that I use the words ‘morphism’ and ‘homomorphism’

interchangeably, but perhaps homomorphism should only be used for concrete categories.)

(2) If \mathcal{C} is a category, the *opposite category* \mathcal{C}^{op} is given by $\text{ob}(\mathcal{C}^{op}) = \text{ob}(\mathcal{C})$ and $\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}^{op}}(X, Y) = \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(Y, X)$, with composition derived from that in \mathcal{C} .

(3) If \mathcal{C} and \mathcal{D} are categories, the product $\mathcal{C} \times \mathcal{D}$ is the category with $\text{ob}(\mathcal{C} \times \mathcal{D}) = \text{ob}(\mathcal{C}) \times \text{ob}(\mathcal{D})$ and $\text{Hom}((X, U), (Y, V)) = \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(X, Y) \times \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(U, V)$. Note that any morphism (θ, ϕ) can be written as a composition $(\theta, \text{Id}_V)(\text{Id}_X, \phi)$ or $(\text{Id}_Y, \phi)(\theta, \text{Id}_U)$.

(4) Given a group G or a ring R , there is a category with one object $*$, $\text{Hom}(*, *) = G$ or R and composition given by multiplication.

(5) A partially ordered set (S, \leq) gives a category with objects $s \in S$ and

$$\text{Hom}(s, t) = \begin{cases} i_{st} & (s \leq t) \\ \emptyset & (s \not\leq t). \end{cases}$$

The composition must be given by $i_{tu}i_{st} = i_{su}$ for $s \leq t \leq u$, so $\text{Id}_s = i_{ss}$.

(6) A *quiver* $Q = (Q_0, Q_1, s, t)$ consists of a set Q_0 of vertices, a set Q_1 of arrows and mappings $s, t : Q_1 \rightarrow Q_0$ giving the source and target of each arrow, so $s(a) \xrightarrow{a} t(a)$. It is like a category without a composition. The *path category* of a quiver has objects the vertices, and the morphisms $i \rightarrow j$ are the *paths* $a_n \dots a_2 a_1$ given by sequences of arrows

$$i = i_0 \xrightarrow{a_1} i_1 \xrightarrow{a_2} \dots \xrightarrow{a_n} i_n = j.$$

There is also a trivial path Id_i for each vertex i . Composition is given by concatenation. For example the category given by the poset (\mathbb{N}, \leq) is isomorphic to the path category of the quiver $0 \rightarrow 1 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow \dots$

Definition. Because of Russell's paradox, there is no set of all sets. One solution is to allow normal sets and 'big sets' called classes. There is a class of all sets.

- *Normal category:* $\text{ob}(\mathcal{C})$ is a class, $\text{Hom}(X, Y)$ are sets. For example the concrete categories above.
- *BIG category:* $\text{ob}(\mathcal{C})$ is a class, $\text{Hom}(X, Y)$ are classes. We only rarely need this.
- *Small category:* $\text{ob}(\mathcal{C})$ is a set, $\text{Hom}(X, Y)$ are sets. For example the category given by a partially ordered set.
- *Skeletally small category:* A normal category, such that there is a set S of objects such that every object is isomorphic to one in S .

Definition. A *subcategory* of a category \mathcal{C} is a category \mathcal{D} such that

- $\text{ob}(\mathcal{D})$ is a subclass of $\text{ob}(\mathcal{C})$.
- $\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(X, Y) \subseteq \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(X, Y)$ for all $X, Y \in \text{ob}(\mathcal{D})$.
- $\text{Id}_X^{\mathcal{C}} \in \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(X, X)$ for all $X \in \text{ob}(\mathcal{D})$.
- Composition in \mathcal{D} is the same as composition in \mathcal{C} .

It is a *full subcategory* if $\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(X, Y) = \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(X, Y)$ for all $X, Y \in \text{ob}(\mathcal{D})$. Thus a full subcategory of \mathcal{C} is determined by a subclass $\text{ob}(\mathcal{D})$ of $\text{ob}(\mathcal{C})$.

Examples. (a) The category Ab of abelian groups is a full subcategory of the category of all groups.

(b) The category $R\text{-mod}$ of finitely generated R -modules is a full subcategory of $R\text{-Mod}$. It is skeletally small, with $S = \{R^n/U : n \in \mathbb{N}, U \subseteq R^n\}$.

(c) The category whose objects are sets and with $\text{Hom}(X, Y) =$ the injective functions $X \rightarrow Y$ is a subcategory of the category of sets.

Definition. A *monomorphism* in a category is a morphism $\theta : X \rightarrow Y$ such that for all pairs of morphisms $\alpha, \beta : Z \rightarrow X$, if $\theta\alpha = \theta\beta$ then $\alpha = \beta$.

An *epimorphism* is a morphism $\theta : X \rightarrow Y$ such that for all pairs of morphisms $\alpha, \beta : Y \rightarrow Z$, if $\alpha\theta = \beta\theta$ then $\alpha = \beta$.

Examples. (1) In the categories of sets or of R -modules, monomorphism = injective map, epimorphism = surjective map. For example we show $\text{epi} = \text{surjection}$ for modules. Say $\theta : X \rightarrow Y$ is surjective and $\alpha\theta = \beta\theta$. Since θ is surjective, for all $y \in Y$ there is $x \in X$ with $\theta(x) = y$. Then $\alpha(y) = \alpha(\theta(x)) = \beta(\theta(x)) = \beta(y)$. Thus $\alpha = \beta$. Say $\theta : X \rightarrow Y$ is an epimorphism. The natural map $Y \rightarrow Y/\text{Im } \theta$ and the zero map have the same composition with θ , so they are equal. Thus $\text{Im } \theta = Y$.

(2) In the category of rings, the inclusion map $\theta : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Q}$ is not surjective, but it is an epimorphism.

Definition. Let \mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D} be categories, a (*covariant*) *functor* $F : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ is given by

- For each object $X \in \text{ob}(\mathcal{C})$, an object $F(X) \in \text{ob}(\mathcal{D})$, and
- For each morphism $\theta : X \rightarrow Y$ in \mathcal{C} , a morphism $F(\theta) : F(X) \rightarrow F(Y)$ in \mathcal{D}

such that $F(\text{Id}_X) = \text{Id}_{F(X)}$ for all $X \in \text{ob}(\mathcal{C})$ and $F(\theta\phi) = F(\theta)F(\phi)$ for composable morphisms $X \xrightarrow{\phi} Y \xrightarrow{\theta} Z$.

A *contravariant functor* $F : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ is the same thing as a covariant functor $\mathcal{C}^{op} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$. Thus it is an assignment of

- For each object $X \in \text{ob}(\mathcal{C})$, an object $F(X) \in \text{ob}(\mathcal{D})$, and
 - For each morphism $\theta : X \rightarrow Y$ in \mathcal{C} a morphism $F(\theta) : F(Y) \rightarrow F(X)$ in \mathcal{D} ,
- such that $F(\text{Id}_X) = \text{Id}_{F(X)}$ and $F(\theta\phi) = F(\phi)F(\theta)$ for composable morphisms $X \xrightarrow{\phi} Y \xrightarrow{\theta} Z$.

A functor $F : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ is:

- *faithful* if the map $F : \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(X, Y) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F(X), F(Y))$ is injective for all $X, Y \in \text{ob}(\mathcal{C})$,
- *full* if the map $F : \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(X, Y) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F(X), F(Y))$ is surjective for all $X, Y \in \text{ob}(\mathcal{C})$,
- *fully faithful* if it is full and faithful.
- *dense* or *essentially surjective* if every object in \mathcal{D} is isomorphic to $F(X)$ for some object X in \mathcal{C} .
- An *equivalence* if it is fully faithful and dense.
- An *isomorphism* if it has an inverse, or equivalently if it is fully faithful and a bijection on objects. Thus every isomorphism is an equivalence.

Examples. (1) The inclusion functor of a subcategory, for example Ab to Group , is always faithful. It is full if and only if the subcategory is full.

(2) A composition of functors is a functor. (Thus there is a category of small categories.)

(3) There are many examples of *forgetful functors* for concrete categories, which forget some structure. For example $\text{Group} \rightarrow \text{Set}$, or $R\text{-Mod} \rightarrow \text{Ab}$. They are faithful.

(4) Given a ring homomorphism $\theta : R \rightarrow S$, restriction defines a faithful functor $S\text{-Mod} \rightarrow R\text{-Mod}$. [It is full if and only if θ is an epimorphism in the category of rings, but that is another story.]

(5) If K is a field, then duality $V \rightsquigarrow V^* = \text{Hom}_K(V, K)$ gives a contravariant functor $* : K\text{-Mod} \rightarrow K\text{-Mod}$, sending a morphism $\theta : V \rightarrow W$ to $\theta^* : W^* \rightarrow V^*$ given by $\theta^*(\xi)(v) = \xi(\theta(v))$.

Thus it gives a covariant functor $(K\text{-Mod})^{op} \rightarrow K\text{-Mod}$.

Considering only finite-dimensional vector spaces, this gives a functor $(K\text{-mod})^{op} \rightarrow K\text{-mod}$. This is an equivalence since every n -dimensional vector space is isomorphic to V^* with V an n -dimensional vector space, and the map $* : \text{Hom}(V, W) \rightarrow \text{Hom}(W^*, V^*)$ is injective, so an isomorphism by dimensions.

(6) Let \mathcal{C} be a category and let $\text{Hom}(X, Y)$ denote the Hom sets for \mathcal{C} . Fix an object $X \in \text{ob}(\mathcal{C})$. There is a functor $\text{Hom}(X, -) : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \text{Set}$ sending an object Y to $\text{Hom}(X, Y)$, and sending a morphism $\theta \in \text{Hom}(Y, Z)$ to the mapping $\text{Hom}(X, \theta) : \text{Hom}(X, Y) \rightarrow \text{Hom}(X, Z)$ defined by $\text{Hom}(X, \theta)(\phi) = \theta\phi$.

Dually, fixing Y , we get a contravariant functor $\text{Hom}(-, Y) : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \text{Set}$.

Varying both X and Y , we get a functor $\text{Hom}(-, -) : \mathcal{C}^{op} \times \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \text{Set}$.

1.2 Natural transformations and functor categories

Definition. Let F, G be functors $\mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$. A *natural transformation* $\alpha : F \rightarrow G$ is given by morphisms $\alpha_X : F(X) \rightarrow G(X)$ for all $X \in \text{ob}(\mathcal{C})$ such that $G(\theta)\alpha_X = \alpha_Y F(\theta)$ for every morphism $\theta : X \rightarrow Y$ in \mathcal{C} .

It is a *natural isomorphism* if all α_X are isomorphisms in \mathcal{D} .

Example. If K is a field and X is a K -vector space, there is a map $\alpha_X : X \rightarrow X^{**}$ given by $\alpha_X(x)(\phi) = \phi(x)$ for $\phi \in X^*$. Together, these give a natural transformation $\alpha : \text{Id} \rightarrow (-)^{**}$ of functors from $K\text{-Mod}$ to $K\text{-Mod}$. Namely, if $\theta : X \rightarrow Y$ is a linear map, then $\theta^* : Y^* \rightarrow X^*$ is given by $\theta^*(\psi) = \psi\theta$ for $\psi \in Y^*$, and $\theta^{**} : X^{**} \rightarrow Y^{**}$ is given by $\theta^{**}(\xi) = \xi\theta^*$ for $\xi \in X^{**}$. Then

$$\theta^{**}(\alpha_X(x))(\psi) = \alpha_X(x)(\theta^*(\psi)) = \alpha_X(x)(\psi\theta) = (\psi\theta)(x) = \psi(\theta(x)) = \alpha_Y(\theta(x))(\psi),$$

so $\theta^{**}\alpha_X = \alpha_Y\theta$. If we used $K\text{-mod}$, then α would be a natural isomorphism.

Definition. The *functor category* $\text{Fun}(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D})$ has objects the functors $F : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$. The morphisms are the natural transformations. The composition $\beta\alpha$ of natural transformations $F \xrightarrow{\alpha} G \xrightarrow{\beta} H$ is given by $(\beta\alpha)_X = \beta_X\alpha_X$. The identity natural transformation $\text{Id}_F : F \rightarrow F$ is given by $(\text{Id}_F)_X = \text{Id}_{F(X)}$.

Remarks. (1) In general this is a BIG category. To get a normal category, we can take \mathcal{C} small, or more generally skeletally small. We need to check that the collection of natural transformations $F \rightarrow G$ is a set. Every object in \mathcal{C} is isomorphic to an object in a set S . A natural transformation $\alpha : F \rightarrow G$ is determined by the morphisms α_X for $X \in S$, for if $\theta : Y \rightarrow X$ is an isomorphism, then $\alpha_Y = G(\theta^{-1})\alpha_X F(\theta)$.

(2) The natural isomorphisms $F \rightarrow G$ are the isomorphisms in the functor category, e.g. if α is a natural isomorphism, it has inverse α^{-1} defined by $(\alpha^{-1})_X = (\alpha_X)^{-1}$.

Lemma (Yoneda's Lemma). *For a functor $F : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \text{Set}$ and $X \in \text{ob}(\mathcal{C})$, there is a 1-1 correspondence between natural transformations $\alpha : \text{Hom}(X, -) \rightarrow F$ and elements $f \in F(X)$.*

Proof. A natural transformation α gives a mapping $\alpha_X : \text{Hom}(X, X) \rightarrow F(X)$, and hence an element $f = \alpha_X(\text{Id}_X) \in F(X)$. Conversely, given $f \in F(X)$ and $Y \in \text{ob}(\mathcal{C})$ we get a morphism $\alpha_Y : \text{Hom}(X, Y) \rightarrow F(Y)$, $\theta \mapsto F(\theta)(f)$. This defines a natural transformation α . These constructions are inverses. \square

Remark. In particular, if $F = \text{Hom}(Y, -)$, this shows that we get a bijection

$$\text{Hom}(Y, X) \rightsquigarrow \{\text{natural transformations } \text{Hom}(X, -) \rightarrow \text{Hom}(Y, -)\}$$

Thus we get a fully faithful functor $\mathcal{C}^{op} \rightarrow \text{Fun}(\mathcal{C}, \text{Set})$.

Also $\text{Hom}(X, -)$ and $\text{Hom}(Y, -)$ are naturally isomorphic if and only if X and Y are isomorphic.

Definition. A functor $\mathcal{C} \rightarrow \text{Set}$ is *representable* if it is naturally isomorphic to a functor of the form $\text{Hom}(X, -)$ for some object X . Thus it is equivalent that there is an object X and $f \in F(X)$ such that for all objects Y , the map $\text{Hom}(X, Y) \rightarrow F(Y)$, $\theta \mapsto F(\theta)(f)$ is a bijection.

Dually, a contravariant functor from \mathcal{C} to Set is representable if it is naturally isomorphic to a functor of the form $\text{Hom}(-, Y)$.

Definition. Given functors $F : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ and $G : \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$, we say that (F, G) is an *adjoint pair*, or that F is *left adjoint* to G or G is *right adjoint* to F if there is a natural isomorphism $\alpha : \text{Hom}(F(-), -) \rightarrow \text{Hom}(-, G(-))$ of functors $\mathcal{C}^{op} \times \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \text{Sets}$.

Thus one needs bijections

$$\alpha_{X,Y} : \text{Hom}(F(X), Y) \rightarrow \text{Hom}(X, G(Y))$$

for all $X \in \text{ob}(\mathcal{C})$ and $Y \in \text{ob}(\mathcal{D})$, such that

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Hom}(F(X'), Y) & \xrightarrow{\alpha_{X',Y}} & \text{Hom}(X', G(Y)) \\ \cdot F(\theta) \downarrow & & \cdot \theta \downarrow \\ \text{Hom}(F(X), Y) & \xrightarrow{\alpha_{X,Y}} & \text{Hom}(X, G(Y)) \end{array}$$

commutes for all $\theta : X \rightarrow X'$, and

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Hom}(F(X), Y) & \xrightarrow{\alpha_{X,Y}} & \text{Hom}(X, G(Y)) \\ \phi \downarrow & & G(\phi) \downarrow \\ \text{Hom}(F(X), Y') & \xrightarrow{\alpha_{X,Y'}} & \text{Hom}(X, G(Y')) \end{array}$$

commutes for all $\phi : Y \rightarrow Y'$. (Here we have used that every morphism in a product of categories is a composition of morphisms in which one of the components is the identity.)

Examples. (1) Let R be a ring. We have a forgetful functor $Forget_R : R\text{-Mod} \rightarrow Sets$. Given a set X , let $Free_R(X)$ be the free left R -module with basis X . Thus

$$Free_R(X) = \left\{ \sum_{x \in X} r_x x : r_x \in R \text{ for } x \in X, \text{ all but finitely many zero} \right\}.$$

Any mapping $\phi : X \rightarrow Y$ gives a module homomorphism $Free_R(X) \rightarrow Free_R(Y)$. This gives a functor $Free_R : Sets \rightarrow R\text{-Mod}$. For M a left R -module, we have a bijection

$$\alpha_{X,M} : \text{Hom}_R(Free_R(X), M) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_{Sets}(X, Forget_R(M))$$

This is natural in both X and M , so it turns $(Free_R, Forget_R)$ into an adjoint pair of functors.

(2) By defining things with morphisms in the natural way, we get adjoint functors $(Path, Forget)$ where $Forget$ is the functor from small categories to quivers which forgets the composition and $Path$ sends a quiver to its path category.

Proposition. *A functor $F : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ has a right adjoint G if and only if the contravariant functors $\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F(-), Y)$ are representable for all $Y \in \text{ob}(\mathcal{D})$. Moreover, if a right adjoint exists, it is unique up to natural isomorphism.*

Dually, $G : \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ has a left adjoint if and only if $\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(X, G(-))$ is representable for all $X \in \text{ob}(\mathcal{C})$, and if a left adjoint exists, it is unique up to natural isomorphism.

Proof. If there is a right adjoint, then $\text{Hom}(F(-), Y) \cong \text{Hom}(-, G(Y))$, so it is representable. Conversely, we show how to define G . For each $Y \in \text{ob}(\mathcal{D})$, we choose an object $G(Y) \in \text{ob}(\mathcal{C})$ and a natural isomorphism $\text{Hom}(F(-), Y) \rightarrow \text{Hom}(-, G(Y))$. For each $X \in \text{ob}(\mathcal{C})$ this gives bijections $\alpha_{XY} : \text{Hom}(F(X), Y) \rightarrow \text{Hom}(X, G(Y))$. Now if $\phi : Y \rightarrow Y'$ is a morphism in \mathcal{D} , we get maps

$$\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(X, G(Y)) \xrightarrow{\alpha_{XY}^{-1}} \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F(X), Y) \xrightarrow{\phi} \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F(X), Y') \xrightarrow{\alpha_{XY'}} \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(X, G(Y')).$$

In particular, taking $X = G(Y)$, this composition sends $\text{Id}_{G(Y)}$ to an element of $\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(G(Y), G(Y'))$. We define $G(\phi)$ to be this element.

If G and G' are right adjoints, then we must have a natural isomorphism

$$\beta : \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(-, G(-)) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(-, G'(-)).$$

For any $Y \in \text{ob}(\mathcal{D})$, this gives a bijection

$$\beta_{G(Y), Y} : \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(G(Y), G(Y)) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(G(Y), G'(Y)).$$

Let γ_Y be the image of $\text{Id}_{G(Y)}$. It is straightforward to check that this defines a natural isomorphism $\gamma : G \rightarrow G'$. \square

Remark. If (F, G) is an adjoint pair as in the definition, then there are natural transformations $\eta : \text{Id}_{\mathcal{C}} \rightarrow GF$ and $\epsilon : FG \rightarrow \text{Id}_{\mathcal{D}}$ called the *unit* and *counit*, defined by $\eta_X = \alpha_{X, F(X)}(\text{Id}_{F(X)})$ and $\alpha_{G(Y), Y}(\epsilon_Y) = \text{Id}_{G(Y)}$. Moreover α can be recovered from them. For example, if $\phi \in \text{Hom}(F(X), Y)$, then the commutative square

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Hom}(F(X), F(X)) & \xrightarrow{\alpha_{X, F(X)}} & \text{Hom}(X, GF(X)) \\ \phi \cdot \downarrow & & G(\phi) \cdot \downarrow \\ \text{Hom}(F(X), Y) & \xrightarrow{\alpha_{X, Y}} & \text{Hom}(X, G(Y)) \end{array}$$

gives $\alpha_{XY}(\phi) = G(\phi)\eta_X$.

Theorem. A functor $F : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ is an equivalence if and only if there is a functor $G : \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ with natural isomorphisms $\alpha : FG \cong \text{Id}_{\mathcal{D}}$ and $\beta : GF \cong \text{Id}_{\mathcal{C}}$. In this case (F, G) and (G, F) are both adjoint pairs.

Proof. If G exists, then the existence of α implies that F is dense. If $\theta : X \rightarrow X'$ is a morphism in \mathcal{C} , there is a commutative square

$$\begin{array}{ccc} GF(X) & \xrightarrow{\beta_X} & X \\ GF(\theta) \downarrow & & \theta \downarrow \\ GF(X') & \xrightarrow{\beta_{X'}} & X' \end{array}$$

so $\theta = \beta_{X'}GF(\theta)\beta_X^{-1}$. It follows that F is faithful. By symmetry G is also faithful. Now if $\phi : F(X) \rightarrow F(X')$ is a morphism, let $\theta = \beta_{X'}G(\phi)\beta_X^{-1}$. Then also $\theta = \beta_{X'}GF(\theta)\beta_X^{-1}$. It follows that $G(\phi) = GF(\theta)$, so $\phi = F(\theta)$ since G is faithful. Thus F is full.

Conversely, suppose that F is an equivalence, so fully faithful and dense. If $Y \in \text{ob}(\mathcal{D})$, then $Y \cong F(X')$ for some X' , so

$$\text{Hom}(F(-), Y) \cong \text{Hom}(F(-), F(X')) \cong \text{Hom}(-, X').$$

It follows that F has a right adjoint G . Then

$$\text{Hom}(-, GF(-)) \cong \text{Hom}(F(-), F(-)) \cong \text{Hom}(-, -),$$

which gives a natural isomorphism $GF \cong \text{Id}_{\mathcal{C}}$. Now if $Y, Y' \in \text{ob}(\mathcal{D})$ we can choose X, X' and isomorphisms $\psi_Y : Y \rightarrow F(X)$ and $\psi_{Y'} : Y' \rightarrow F(X')$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Hom}(Y, Y') &\cong \text{Hom}(F(X), F(X')) \cong \text{Hom}(X, X') \\ &\cong \text{Hom}(GF(X), GF(X')) \cong \text{Hom}(G(Y), G(Y')) \end{aligned}$$

and the composition is the map given by G , for if $\phi \in \text{Hom}(Y, Y')$ corresponds to $\theta \in \text{Hom}(X, X')$, then $\phi = \psi_{Y'}^{-1}F(\theta)\psi_Y$, and ϕ is sent to

$$G(\psi_{Y'})^{-1}GF(\theta)G(\psi_Y) = G(\phi).$$

Thus G is fully faithful. Then

$$\text{Hom}(FG(-), -) \cong \text{Hom}(G(-), G(-)) \cong \text{Hom}(-, -),$$

so $FG \cong \text{Id}_{\mathcal{D}}$, and

$$\text{Hom}(G(-), -) \cong \text{Hom}(FG(-), F(-)) \cong \text{Hom}(-, F(-))$$

so (G, F) is an adjoint pair. □

1.3 Limits and colimits

Definition. Let \mathcal{C} be a category. Let \mathcal{I} be a small category. An \mathcal{I} -*diagram* in \mathcal{C} is a functor $M : \mathcal{I} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$. For $i \in \text{ob}(\mathcal{I})$, we write M_i instead of $M(i)$ and for a morphism $a : i \rightarrow j$ in \mathcal{I} , we write M_a for the morphism $M_i \rightarrow M_j$.

For example if \mathcal{I} is the category

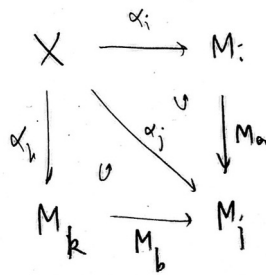
$$\begin{array}{ccc} & i & \\ & \downarrow a & \\ k & \xrightarrow{b} & j \end{array}$$

with three objects i, j, k and two non-identity morphisms a, b , then an \mathcal{I} -diagram is given by objects and morphisms

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & M_i & \\ & \downarrow M_a & \\ M_k & \xrightarrow{M_b} & M_j. \end{array}$$

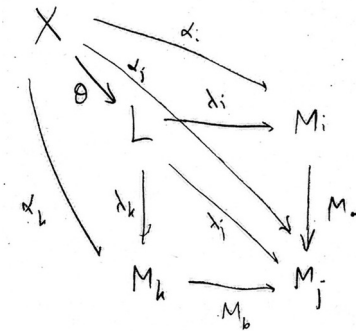
in \mathcal{C} By a *cone over* M we mean a collection (X, α_i) consisting of an object $X \in \mathcal{C}$ and morphisms $\alpha_i : X \rightarrow M_i$ for all $i \in \text{ob}(\mathcal{I})$ satisfying $M_a\alpha_i = \alpha_j$ for all morphisms $a : i \rightarrow j$ in \mathcal{I} .

In the example:



A *limit* for M is a cone (L, λ_i) over M , which is universal in the sense that if (X, α_i) is any cone over M , then there is a unique morphism $\theta : X \rightarrow L$ such that $\alpha_i = \lambda_i \theta$ for all $i \in \text{ob}(\mathcal{I})$.

In the example:



Remarks. (i) If M has a limit, then it is unique up to a unique isomorphism, so we can talk about *the limit*, and denote it

$$L = \lim_{i \in \mathcal{I}} M_i \in \text{ob}(\mathcal{C}).$$

(ii) Suppose $\phi : M \rightarrow N$ is a natural transformation between \mathcal{I} -diagrams, and suppose that $\lim_{i \in \mathcal{I}} M_i$ and $\lim_{i \in \mathcal{I}} N_i$ both exist. Then for each i we get a morphism

$$\lim_{i \in \mathcal{I}} M_i \xrightarrow{\lambda_i^M} M_i \xrightarrow{\phi_i} N_i.$$

These turn $\lim_{i \in \mathcal{I}} M_i$ into a cone over N . Thus we get a unique morphism

$$\lim_{i \in \mathcal{I}} \phi_i : \lim_{i \in \mathcal{I}} M_i \rightarrow \lim_{i \in \mathcal{I}} N_i$$

such that for any i the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \lim_{i \in \mathcal{I}} M_i & \xrightarrow{\lambda_i^M} & M_i \\ \lim_{i \in \mathcal{I}} \phi_i \downarrow & & \phi_i \downarrow \\ \lim_{i \in \mathcal{I}} N_i & \xrightarrow{\lambda_i^N} & N_i \end{array}$$

commutes. Thus if every \mathcal{I} -diagram has a limit, we get a functor

$$\lim_{i \in \mathcal{I}} : \text{Fun}(\mathcal{I}, \mathcal{C}) \rightarrow \mathcal{C}.$$

(iii) Given $X \in \text{ob}(\mathcal{C})$, we define a *constant functor* $c(X) : \mathcal{I} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ sending each object of \mathcal{I} to X and each morphism in \mathcal{I} to Id_X . Given a morphism $\theta : X \rightarrow Y$ we get a natural transformation $c(X) \rightarrow c(Y)$ whose components are all θ . This defines a functor $c : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \text{Fun}(\mathcal{I}, \mathcal{C})$. A cone over M is the same thing as a natural transformation $\alpha : c(X) \rightarrow M$. To ask that there is a limit is to ask that the contravariant functor

$$\text{Hom}_{\text{Fun}(\mathcal{I}, \mathcal{C})}(c(-), M) : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \text{Set}$$

is representable, so naturally isomorphic to $\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(-, L)$ for some L . If all \mathcal{I} -diagrams have a limit, then we get adjoint functors $(c(-), \lim_{i \in \mathcal{I}})$.

Examples. (a) A *pullback* of a diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & & U \\ & & \downarrow f \\ V & \xrightarrow{g} & W \end{array}$$

of objects and morphisms in \mathcal{C} consists of an object X and morphisms p, q giving a commutative square

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X & \xrightarrow{p} & U \\ q \downarrow & & \downarrow f \\ V & \xrightarrow{g} & W \end{array}$$

and which is universal for such commutative squares, that is for any $X', p' : X' \rightarrow U, q' : X' \rightarrow V$ with $fp' = gq'$ there is a unique $\theta : X' \rightarrow X$ with $p' = p\theta$ and $q' = q\theta$.

This is a limit for the category \mathcal{I} already given.

(b) An *equalizer* of a pair of morphisms $f, g : U \rightarrow W$ consists of an object E and a morphism $p : E \rightarrow U$ with $fp = gp$ and with the universal property, that for all $q : X \rightarrow U$ with $fq = gq$ there is a unique $\theta : X \rightarrow E$ with $q = p\theta$. Here \mathcal{I} is the category

$$\circ \rightrightarrows \circ$$

with two objects and two non-identity morphisms.

(c) Let I be a set. A *product* of a family of objects $M_i \in \text{ob}(\mathcal{C})$ ($i \in I$) is an object $P = \prod_{i \in I} M_i \in \text{ob}(\mathcal{C})$ equipped with morphisms $p_i : P \rightarrow M_i$ such that for any

object X and morphisms $q_i : X \rightarrow M_i$ there is a unique morphism $\theta : X \rightarrow P$ with $q_i = p_i\theta$ for all $i \in I$, that is, the map

$$\text{Hom}(X, P) \rightarrow \prod_i \text{Hom}(X, M_i), \quad \theta \mapsto (p_i\theta)$$

is a bijection, where on the right hand side we are taking the cartesian product of sets. Here we take the category \mathcal{I} with object set I and only identity morphisms.

(d) A *terminal object* in a category \mathcal{C} is an object T such that for every object X there is a unique morphism $X \rightarrow T$. This is the same thing as a product of objects indexed by the empty set, or a limit over an empty category.

Theorem. *A category \mathcal{C} is (finitely) complete, meaning that for all (finite) small categories \mathcal{I} and \mathcal{I} -diagrams M the limit exists in \mathcal{C} , if and only if \mathcal{C} has products indexed by any (finite) set and equalizers.*

Proof. We will need the explicit construction of limits. Suppose M is an \mathcal{I} -diagram in \mathcal{C} . Consider the products and associated morphisms

$$\prod_{i \in \text{ob}(\mathcal{I})} M_i \xrightarrow{p_i} M_i, \quad \prod_a M_{t(a)} \xrightarrow{p_a} M_{t(a)}$$

where the second product is indexed by the morphisms a in \mathcal{I} and $s(a), t(a)$ are the source and target of a . By the universal property of the second product, there are unique morphisms

$$\prod_{i \in \text{ob}(\mathcal{I})} M_i \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\phi} \\ \xrightarrow{\psi} \end{array} \prod_a M_{t(a)}$$

with $p_{t(a)} = p_a\phi$ and $M_a p_{s(a)} = p_a\psi$. Let E equipped with a morphism

$$p : E \xrightarrow{p} \prod_{i \in \text{ob}(\mathcal{I})} M_i$$

be an equalizer for this diagram. It is straightforward to show that E equipped with the morphisms $\lambda_i = p_i p : E \rightarrow M_i$ for $i \in \text{ob}(\mathcal{I})$ is a limit for M . (If you want the details, here they are. To show that this data forms a cone over M , we need that if a is a morphism in \mathcal{I} , then $\lambda_{t(a)} = M_a \lambda_{s(a)}$. Now $\lambda_{t(a)} = p_{t(a)} p = p_a \phi p$ and $M_a \lambda_{s(a)} = M_a p_{s(a)} p = p_a \psi p$ and these are equal since $\phi p = \psi p$. Now suppose that X equipped with morphisms $\alpha_i : X \rightarrow M_i$ for $i \in \text{ob}(\mathcal{I})$ is a cone over M . Then $\alpha_{t(a)} = M_a \alpha_{s(a)}$ for all morphisms a in \mathcal{I} . By the property of the product there is a unique morphism

$$\gamma : X \rightarrow \prod_{i \in \text{ob}(\mathcal{I})} M_i$$

with $p_i\gamma = \alpha_i$ for all $i \in \text{ob}(\mathcal{I})$. Now if a is a morphism in \mathcal{I} , then $p_a\phi\gamma = p_{t(a)}\gamma = \alpha_{t(a)} = M_a\alpha_{s(a)} = M_ap_{s(a)}\gamma = p_a\psi\gamma$. Thus by the uniqueness property in the definition of the product $\prod_a M_{t(a)}$, we must have $\phi\gamma = \psi\gamma$. Thus by the equalizer property there is a unique morphism $\theta : X \rightarrow E$ with $\gamma = p\theta$. Now by the uniqueness property in the definition of the product $\prod_{i \in \text{ob}(\mathcal{I})} M_i$ the condition $\gamma = p\theta$ is equivalent to the condition $p_i\gamma = p_ip\theta$ for all $i \in \text{ob}(\mathcal{I})$, which can be rewritten as $\alpha_i = \lambda_i\theta$, as appearing in the definition of a limit.) \square

Examples. The categories *Set* and *R-Mod* are complete. The product is the usual one. The terminal object is a one-point set or the zero module. The equalizer of $f, g : U \rightarrow W$ is the inclusion

$$\{u \in U : f(u) = g(u)\} \rightarrow U.$$

For *R*-modules this is the same as $\text{Ker}(f - g)$. The pullback is $\{(u, v) \in U \times V : f(u) = g(v)\}$, etc.

Lemma. *In an equalizer, p is mono. A pullback of a mono is a mono, that is, in a pullback diagram, if f is mono, so is the parallel morphism g .*

Proof. For the equalizer, suppose $\alpha, \beta : X \rightarrow E$ and $p\alpha = p\beta = p'$. Since $f p' = g p'$, there is a unique $\theta : X \rightarrow E$ with $p' = p\theta$. But both $\theta = \alpha$ and $\theta = \beta$ satisfy this, so $\alpha = \beta$.

For the pullback. Suppose $\alpha, \beta : X' \rightarrow X$ with $q\alpha = q\beta$. Then $g q\alpha = g q\beta$, so $f p\alpha = f p\beta$. Since f is mono, $p\alpha = p\beta$. Thus by the uniqueness part of the universal property for a pullback, $\alpha = \beta$. \square

Now we do the dual notion.

Definition. A *colimit* of a diagram $M : \mathcal{I} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ is the same thing as a limit of M considered as a functor $\mathcal{I}^{op} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}^{op}$. Thus it is an object

$$C = \text{colim}_{i \in \mathcal{I}} M_i \in \text{ob}(\mathcal{C})$$

equipped with morphisms $\alpha_i : M_i \rightarrow C$ for each $i \in \text{ob}(\mathcal{I})$ such that $\alpha_j M_a = \alpha_i$ for any $a : i \rightarrow j$ and such that if $X \in \text{ob}(\mathcal{C})$ and $\beta_i : M_i \rightarrow X$ satisfy $\beta_j M_a = \beta_i$ for any $a : i \rightarrow j$, then there is a unique $\theta : C \rightarrow X$ such that $\beta_i = \theta\alpha_i$ for all i .

Examples. (a) A *pushout* of a pair of morphisms $f : W \rightarrow U$ and $g : W \rightarrow V$, consists of an object X and morphisms $p : U \rightarrow X$ and $q : V \rightarrow X$ giving a commutative square $pf = qg$, and which is universal for such commutative squares, that is for any $X', p' : U \rightarrow X', q' : V \rightarrow X'$ with $p'f = q'g$ there is a unique $\theta : X \rightarrow X'$ with $p' = \theta p$ and $q' = \theta q$.

(b) A *coequalizer* of a pair of morphisms $f, g : U \rightarrow W$ consists of an object X and a morphism $p : W \rightarrow X$ with $pf = pg$ and the universal property.

(c) A *coproduct* of a family of objects M_i ($i \in I$) is an object $C = \coprod_{i \in I} M_i$ equipped with morphisms $i_i : M_i \rightarrow C$ such that for any object X and morphisms $j_i : M_i \rightarrow X$ there is a unique morphism $\theta : C \rightarrow X$ with $j_i = \theta i_i$. That is, the map

$$\text{Hom}(C, X) \rightarrow \prod_i \text{Hom}(M_i, X), \quad \theta \mapsto (\theta i_i)$$

is a bijection.

(b) An *initial* object is an object X with a unique morphism to any other object. It is a coproduct over the empty set or colimit over the empty category.

Definition. A category \mathcal{C} is (*finitely*) *cocomplete* if all (finite) colimits exist. It is equivalent that \mathcal{C} has all (finite) coproducts and coequalizers.

Examples. (i) The categories *Sets* and *R-Mod* are cocomplete.

For *Sets* the coproduct is the disjoint union

$$\dot{\bigcup} M_i.$$

The initial object is the empty set. The coequalizer of morphisms $f, g : U \rightarrow W$ is $W \rightarrow W/\sim$ where \sim is the smallest equivalence relation with $f(u) \sim g(u)$ for all $u \in U$. The pushout of morphisms $f : W \rightarrow U$ and $g : W \rightarrow V$ is $U \dot{\cup} V/\sim$ where \sim is the equivalence relation generated by $f(w) \sim g(w)$ for $w \in W$.

For *R-Mod* coproducts are direct sums

$$\bigoplus_{i \in I} M_i = \{(m_i) \in \prod_{i \in I} M_i : \text{all but finitely many } m_i = 0\}.$$

The initial object is the zero module 0. The coequalizer of morphisms $f, g : U \rightarrow W$ in *R-Mod* is the map $W \rightarrow W/\text{Im}(f - g)$. The pushout of morphisms $f : W \rightarrow U$ and $g : W \rightarrow V$ is $(U \oplus V)/\text{Im}\theta$, where $\theta : W \rightarrow U \oplus V$ is $\theta(w) = (f(w), -g(w))$.

Lemma. A pushout of an epi is an epi, that is, in a pushout diagram, if f is epi, so is the parallel morphism q .

Proposition. If (F, G) is a pair of adjoint functors, $F : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$, $G : \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$, then F preserves colimits and G preserves limits, if they exist.

Proof. If M is an \mathcal{I} -diagram in \mathcal{D} with a limit in \mathcal{D} , then GM is a functor $\mathcal{I} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ and

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Hom}(c(-), GM) &\cong \text{Hom}(F(c(-)), M) \cong \text{Hom}(c(F(-)), M) \\ &\cong \text{Hom}(F(-), \lim_{i \in \mathcal{I}} M_i) \cong \text{Hom}(-, G(\lim_{i \in \mathcal{I}} M_i)), \end{aligned}$$

so $G(\lim_{i \in \mathcal{I}} M_i)$ is a limit for GM , that is, $G(\lim_{i \in \mathcal{I}} M_i) \cong \lim_{i \in \mathcal{I}} G(M_i)$. \square

1.4 Additive categories

Definition. Let K be a commutative ring. A K -category is a category \mathcal{C} with the extra structure that the sets $\text{Hom}(X, Y)$ are K -modules for all $X, Y \in \text{ob}(\mathcal{C})$ and the composition maps

$$\text{Hom}(Y, Z) \times \text{Hom}(X, Y) \rightarrow \text{Hom}(X, Z), \quad (\theta, \phi) \mapsto \theta\phi$$

are K -bilinear. In particular, for any objects $X, Y \in \text{ob}(\mathcal{C})$, there is a zero morphism $0 \in \text{Hom}(X, Y)$.

Recall that a \mathbb{Z} -module is the same thing as an additive group. A \mathbb{Z} -category is also called a *preadditive* category, so any K -category is preadditive.

Examples. The category Ab of abelian groups is preadditive. So is $R\text{-Mod}$ for a ring R . If R is a K -algebra, then $R\text{-Mod}$ is a K -category.

Definition. If \mathcal{C} and \mathcal{D} are K -categories, a functor $F : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ is said to be K -linear if the mapping

$$F : \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(X, Y) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F(X), F(Y))$$

is a homomorphism of K -modules for all $X, Y \in \text{ob}(\mathcal{C})$. A \mathbb{Z} -linear functor is also called an *additive* functor.

If \mathcal{C} and \mathcal{D} are K -categories, we denote by $\text{Fun}_K(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D})$ the category whose objects are the K -linear functors $\mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ and whose morphisms are natural transformations. It is naturally a K -category: if $\alpha, \alpha' : F \rightarrow G$ are natural transformations and $\lambda, \lambda' \in K$, we define $(\lambda\alpha + \lambda'\alpha')_X = \lambda\alpha_X + \lambda'\alpha'_X \in \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F(X), G(X))$.

Example. Let R be a ring, and consider it as a category with one object. It is preadditive, and

$$\text{Fun}_{\mathbb{Z}}(R, \text{Ab}) \cong R\text{-Mod}.$$

Remark. If \mathcal{C} is a preadditive category and $X \in \text{ob}(\mathcal{C})$, then the representable functor $\text{Hom}(X, -)$ gives an additive functor $\mathcal{C} \rightarrow \text{Ab}$, so an object in $\text{Fun}_{\mathbb{Z}}(\mathcal{C}, \text{Ab})$. An appropriate version of Yoneda's Lemma gives that if $F : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \text{Ab}$ is an additive functor, then there is a 1-1 correspondence between natural transformations $\text{Hom}(X, -) \rightarrow F$ and elements $f \in F(X)$.

Definition. The *kernel* of a morphism $f : U \rightarrow W$ in a preadditive category is the equalizer of f and 0 . Thus it is an object X and a morphism $p : X \rightarrow U$ with $fp = 0$, such that for any morphism $p' : X' \rightarrow U$ with $fp' = 0$ there is a unique morphism $\theta : X' \rightarrow X$ with $p' = p\theta$. Conversely the equalizer of $f, g = \text{kernel of } f - g$.

The cokernel of a morphism $f : U \rightarrow W$ in a preadditive category is the coequalizer of f and 0 . Thus it is an object X and a morphism $p : W \rightarrow X$ with $pf = 0$, such that for any morphism $p' : W \rightarrow X'$ with $p'f = 0$ there is a unique morphism $\theta : X \rightarrow X'$ with $p' = \theta p$.

For example the cokernel of a morphism $f : U \rightarrow W$ in $R\text{-Mod}$ is $W \rightarrow W/\text{Im } f$.

Theorem. For objects X, X_1, \dots, X_n ($n \geq 0$) in a preadditive category the following are equivalent

- (i) X is the product of X_1, \dots, X_n for some morphisms $p_i : X \rightarrow X_i$
- (ii) X is the coproduct of X_1, \dots, X_n for some morphisms $i_i : X_i \rightarrow X$,
- (iii) X is a biproduct of X_1, \dots, X_n , meaning that there are morphisms $p_i : X \rightarrow X_i$ and $i_i : X_i \rightarrow X$ with $p_i i_i = \text{Id}_{X_i}$, $p_i i_j = 0$ for $i \neq j$ and $\sum_{i=1}^n i_i p_i = \text{Id}_X$.

In this case we write $X = \bigoplus_{i=1}^n X_i$ and call it a direct sum.

Proof. (i) \Rightarrow (iii) For any object X' we have a bijection

$$\text{Hom}(X', X) \rightarrow \prod_{i=1}^n \text{Hom}(X', X_i), \quad \phi \mapsto (p_i \phi).$$

In particular, taking $X' = X_j$, there is a morphism $i_j : X_j \rightarrow X$ such that

$$p_i i_j = \begin{cases} \text{Id}_{X_i} & (i = j) \\ 0 & (i \neq j). \end{cases}$$

Now if $\phi = \sum_{i=1}^n i_i p_i$ then $p_j \phi = \sum_{i=1}^n p_j i_i p_i = p_j$, so $\phi = \text{Id}_X$ by the uniqueness part of the definition of a product.

(iii) \Rightarrow (i) For any X' one has inverse bijections

$$\text{Hom}(X', X) \begin{array}{c} \xleftarrow{(\alpha_i) \mapsto \sum i_i \alpha_i} \\ \xrightarrow{\phi \mapsto (p_i \phi)} \end{array} \prod_{i=1}^n \text{Hom}(X', X_i)$$

so the p_i turn X into a product.

(ii) \Leftrightarrow (iii) Dual. □

Remark. The case $n = 0$ gives the following. In a preadditive category, an object X is terminal if and only if it is initial if and only if $\text{Id}_X = 0$. This is called a *zero* object, and denoted 0 .

Definition. A category is *additive* if it is preadditive, it has a zero object and every pair of objects has a direct sum (equivalently it has all finite direct sums).

Examples. (1) Ab , $R\text{-Mod}$, $R\text{-mod}$.

(2) If \mathcal{C} is a preadditive category and \mathcal{D} is additive, then $\text{Fun}_{\mathbb{Z}}(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D})$ is additive. The direct sum of functors F_1, \dots, F_n is the functor F with

$$F(X) = F_1(X) \oplus \dots \oplus F_n(X)$$

for $X \in \text{ob}(\mathcal{C})$.

Corollary. *If F is an additive functor between additive categories, then F preserves finite direct sums, so $F(0) = 0$ and $F(X \oplus Y) \cong F(X) \oplus F(Y)$.*

Proof. If X is a biproduct of X_1, \dots, X_n , then clearly $F(X)$ is a biproduct of $F(X_1), \dots, F(X_n)$. \square

1.5 Abelian categories

Definition. A category is *abelian* if

- (i) it is additive,
- (ii) every morphism has a kernel and a cokernel,
- (iii) every epi is a cokernel and every mono is a kernel.

Remarks. (1) The opposite of an abelian category is abelian. This saves work in proofs.

(2) An abelian category has all finite limits and colimits.

(3) Every mono is the kernel of its cokernel and every epi is the cokernel of its kernel. For example, suppose $f : X \rightarrow Y$ is mono, say a kernel of $g : Y \rightarrow W$, and suppose f has cokernel $c : Y \rightarrow Z$. Then $g = kc$ for some $k : Z \rightarrow W$. Now if $s : U \rightarrow Y$ is a morphism with $cs = 0$, then $gs = kcs = 0$, so s factors through f . It follows that f is a kernel of c .

Lemma. *In an abelian category a pullback of an epi is an epi and a pushout of a mono is a mono.*

Proof. Say

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X & \xrightarrow{a} & Y \\ b \downarrow & & c \downarrow \\ Z & \xrightarrow{d} & W \end{array}$$

is a pullback with d epi. We want to show that a is epi. We have morphisms

$$X \xrightarrow{\begin{pmatrix} a \\ -b \end{pmatrix}} Y \oplus Z \xrightarrow{(c \ d)} W$$

where $(c \ d)$ comes from considering $Y \oplus Z$ as the coproduct of Y and Z and $\begin{pmatrix} a \\ -b \end{pmatrix}$ comes from considering $Y \oplus Z$ as the product of Y and Z . Since the square is a pullback, $\begin{pmatrix} a \\ -b \end{pmatrix}$ is the kernel of $(c \ d)$. Since d is an epi, so is $(c \ d)$. Thus by the remark above, $(c \ d)$ is the cokernel of $(a \ -b)$. Thus the square is a pushout. Suppose $f : Y \rightarrow U$ is a morphism with $fa = 0$. Since $fa = 0 = 0b$, by the pushout property there is a unique morphism $h : W \rightarrow U$ with $hc = f$ and $hd = 0$. Since d is epi, $h = 0$. Thus $f = 0$. \square

Lemma. *Every morphism $f : X \rightarrow Y$ in an abelian category factors as a product $f = gh$ where h is an epi and g is a mono, and this decomposition is unique up to isomorphism, in fact h is a cokernel of the kernel of f and g is a kernel of the cokernel of f .*

Proof. Let $k : U \rightarrow X$ be a kernel of f and let $h : X \rightarrow Z$ be a cokernel of k . Let $h : X \rightarrow Z$ be a cokernel of k . Then f factors as gh for some $g : Z \rightarrow Y$. We show that g is mono, so suppose that $s : W \rightarrow Z$ is a morphism with $gs = 0$. Take the pullback

$$\begin{array}{ccc} P & \xrightarrow{p} & X \\ q \downarrow & & h \downarrow \\ W & \xrightarrow{s} & Z \end{array}$$

By the previous result, q is an epi. Now $gsq = 0$, so $ghp = 0$, so $fp = 0$, so $p = kr$ for some $r : P \rightarrow U$. Then $sq = hp = hkr = 0$, so $s = 0$.

For uniqueness suppose that f factors as $X \xrightarrow{h} Z \xrightarrow{g} Y$ with h an epi and g a mono. Since g is mono, a kernel of f is also a kernel of h , so h is a cokernel of this. Similarly for g . \square

Lemma. *A morphism in an abelian category is an isomorphism if and only if it is mono and epi.*

Proof. If $f : X \rightarrow Y$ is mono, then its kernel is $0 \rightarrow X$, and the cokernel of this is $X \rightarrow X$. \square

Examples. (1) Ab is abelian and $R\text{-Mod}$ is abelian. If R is a left noetherian ring, the category $R\text{-mod}$ of finitely generated left modules is abelian. (The noetherian hypothesis ensures that the kernel of a morphism between f.g. modules is f.g.)

(2) If \mathcal{C} is a preadditive category then $\text{Fun}_{\mathbb{Z}}(\mathcal{C}, \text{Ab})$ is abelian. Kernels and cokernels are computed objectwise: if $\alpha : F \rightarrow G$ is a natural transformation, then

$$(\text{Ker } \alpha)(X) = \text{Ker}(F(X) \rightarrow G(X)), \quad (\text{Coker } \alpha)(X) = \text{Coker}(F(X) \rightarrow G(X)).$$

Remark. A *subobject* of an object X in an abelian category is an equivalence class of monos to X , where $\alpha : U \rightarrow X$ is equivalent to $\alpha' : U' \rightarrow X \Leftrightarrow \alpha = \alpha'\theta$ for some isomorphism $\phi : U \rightarrow U'$. [There is possibly a set-theoretic problem here, which we ignore.]

Given a subobject $U \rightarrow X$ we denote its cokernel by $X \rightarrow X/U$.

Given a morphism $\theta : X \rightarrow Y$, the kernel of θ gives a subobject $\text{Ker } \theta$ of X . The image $\text{Im } \theta$ is the subobject of Y given by the morphism g in a factorization $\theta = gh$ with h epi and g mono.

We get analogues of the isomorphism theorems - details omitted.

1.6 Exact sequences

We work in an abelian category.

Definition. A sequence of objects and morphisms

$$\cdots \rightarrow L \xrightarrow{f} M \xrightarrow{g} N \rightarrow \cdots$$

is said to be *exact* at M if $\text{Im } f = \text{Ker } g$. The sequence is *exact* if it is exact at every place where morphisms come in and out. A *short exact sequence* is an exact sequence of the form

$$0 \rightarrow L \xrightarrow{f} M \xrightarrow{g} N \rightarrow 0.$$

Remarks. (1) Write f and g as compositions ba and dc with

$$L \xrightarrow{a} \text{Im } f \xrightarrow{b} M \xrightarrow{c} \text{Im } g \xrightarrow{d} N$$

Then we have: exact at M

$\Leftrightarrow b$ is a kernel for g (this is the definition)

$\Leftrightarrow b$ is a kernel for c (d is mono, so g and c have the same kernel)

$\Leftrightarrow c$ is a cokernel for b (since any epi is a cokernel for its kernel and any mono is a kernel for its cokernel)

$\Leftrightarrow c$ is a cokernel for f (since a is epi)

(2) $0 \rightarrow M \xrightarrow{g} N$ is exact at M if and only if g is a mono and $L \xrightarrow{f} M \rightarrow 0$ is exact at M if and only if f is an epi.

(3) A sequence $0 \rightarrow L \xrightarrow{f} M \xrightarrow{g} N$ is exact if and only if f is a kernel for g . A sequence $L \xrightarrow{f} M \xrightarrow{g} N \rightarrow 0$ is exact if and only if g is a cokernel for f .

(4) $0 \rightarrow L \xrightarrow{f} M \xrightarrow{g} N \rightarrow 0$ is a short exact sequence if and only if f is a kernel for g and g is a cokernel for f .

(5) Any subobject $U \rightarrow M$ gives a short exact sequence $0 \rightarrow U \rightarrow M \rightarrow M/U \rightarrow 0$.

(6) Any morphism $f : M \rightarrow N$ gives an exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \text{Ker } f \rightarrow M \xrightarrow{f} N \rightarrow \text{Coker } f \rightarrow 0$$

with $\text{Coker } f = N/\text{Im } f$ and short exact sequences

$$0 \rightarrow \text{Ker } f \rightarrow M \rightarrow \text{Im } f \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{and} \quad 0 \rightarrow \text{Im } f \rightarrow N \rightarrow \text{Coker } f \rightarrow 0.$$

(7) If L and N are objects, their direct sum has morphisms

$$L \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{i_L} \\ \xleftarrow{p_L} \end{array} L \oplus N \begin{array}{c} \xleftarrow{i_N} \\ \xrightarrow{p_N} \end{array} N$$

and the sequence

$$0 \rightarrow L \xrightarrow{i_L} L \oplus N \xrightarrow{p_N} N \rightarrow 0,$$

is exact. For example, if $\theta : L \oplus N \rightarrow X$ is a morphism with $\theta i_L = 0$, then

$$\theta = \theta \text{Id}_{L \oplus N} = \theta(i_L p_L + i_N p_N) = \theta i_N p_N$$

so θ factors through p_N .

Lemma. *For a short exact sequence*

$$0 \rightarrow L \xrightarrow{f} M \xrightarrow{g} N \rightarrow 0,$$

in an abelian category, the following conditions are equivalent, in which case the sequence is said to be split.

(i) *f is a split monomorphism, meaning that it has a retraction, a morphism $r : M \rightarrow L$ with $rf = \text{Id}_L$.*

(ii) *g is a split epimorphism, meaning that it has a section, a morphism $s : N \rightarrow M$ with $gs = \text{Id}_N$.*

(iii) *There are morphisms*

$$L \begin{array}{c} \xleftarrow{r} \\ \xrightarrow{f} \end{array} M \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{g} \\ \xleftarrow{s} \end{array} N$$

turning M into a biproduct of L and N .

(iv) There is an isomorphism $\theta : M \rightarrow L \oplus N$ giving a commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & L & \xrightarrow{f} & M & \xrightarrow{g} & N & \longrightarrow & 0 \\ & & \parallel & & \theta \downarrow & & \parallel & & \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & L & \xrightarrow{i_L} & L \oplus N & \xrightarrow{p_N} & N & \longrightarrow & 0. \end{array}$$

Proof. (i) \Rightarrow (iii). We have $(\text{Id}_M - fr)f = f - frf = f - f = 0$. Thus since g is a cokernel for f we have $\text{Id}_M - fr = sg$ for some $s : N \rightarrow M$. Now $gsg = g(\text{Id}_M - fr) = g - gfr = g - g = 0$, so $gs = 0$ since g is epi. Also $rs = 0$ since g is epi.

(ii) \Rightarrow (iii) is dual.

(iii) \Rightarrow (iv) is clear, since M is identified with $L \oplus N$.

(iv) \Rightarrow (i) and (ii) taking $r = p_L\theta$ and $s = \theta^{-1}i_N$. □

Lemma (Snake Lemma). *Given a commutative diagram with exact rows*

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccc} (0 \longrightarrow) & L & \xrightarrow{f} & M & \xrightarrow{g} & N & \longrightarrow & 0 \\ & \alpha \downarrow & & \beta \downarrow & & \gamma \downarrow & & \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & L' & \xrightarrow{f'} & M' & \xrightarrow{g'} & N' & (\longrightarrow 0) \end{array}$$

there is a morphism $c : \text{Ker } \gamma \rightarrow \text{Coker } \alpha$ giving an exact sequence

$$(0 \rightarrow) \text{Ker } \alpha \rightarrow \text{Ker } \beta \rightarrow \text{Ker } \gamma \xrightarrow{c} \text{Coker } \alpha \rightarrow \text{Coker } \beta \rightarrow \text{Coker } \gamma (\rightarrow 0).$$

Lemma (Five Lemma). *Given a commutative diagram with exact rows*

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccc} A & \longrightarrow & B & \longrightarrow & C & \longrightarrow & D & \longrightarrow & E \\ \alpha \downarrow & & \beta \downarrow & & \gamma \downarrow & & \delta \downarrow & & \epsilon \downarrow \\ A' & \longrightarrow & B' & \longrightarrow & C' & \longrightarrow & D' & \longrightarrow & E' \end{array}$$

If $\alpha, \beta, \delta, \epsilon$ are isomorphisms, so is γ .

Proof. For the category $R\text{-Mod}$, these are most easily proved by diagram chasing. For proofs in general, see §1 of B. Iversen, *Cohomology of sheaves*, Springer 1986. Alternatively, in the exercises starting on page 118 of Gelfand and Manin, *Methods of Homological Algebra*, Springer 2002, the results are proved by a generalized type of diagram chasing. □

Lemma. *Given a short exact sequence*

$$0 \rightarrow L \xrightarrow{f} M \xrightarrow{g} N \rightarrow 0$$

The pullback of g along a morphism $\theta : N' \rightarrow N$ fits in a commutative diagram with exact rows

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & L & \xrightarrow{f'} & M' & \xrightarrow{g'} & N' & \longrightarrow & 0 \\ & & \parallel & & \theta' \downarrow & & \theta \downarrow & & \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & L & \xrightarrow{f} & M & \xrightarrow{g} & N & \longrightarrow & 0 \end{array}$$

and the pushout of f along a morphism $\phi : L \rightarrow L''$ fits in a commutative diagram with exact rows

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & L & \xrightarrow{f} & M & \xrightarrow{g} & N & \longrightarrow & 0 \\ & & \phi \downarrow & & \phi' \downarrow & & \parallel & & \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & L'' & \xrightarrow{f''} & M'' & \xrightarrow{g''} & N & \longrightarrow & 0. \end{array}$$

Proof. Given θ there is a pullback given by g' and θ' and we have already seen that g' is epi. By the pullback property there is f' such that $\theta'f' = f$ and $g'f' = 0$. Now f' is clearly mono. It is a kernel for g' , for if $h : X \rightarrow M'$ and $g'h = 0$ then $g\theta'h = \theta g'h = 0$, so $\theta'h = fk$ for some $k : X \rightarrow L$. Thus $\theta'f'k = \theta'h$. Now $f'k = h$ by the uniqueness property of the pullback. \square

1.7 Exact functors

Definition. If F is an additive functor between abelian categories, we say that F is *exact* (respectively *left exact*, respectively *right exact*) if given any short exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow X \rightarrow Y \rightarrow Z \rightarrow 0$$

the sequence

$$0 \rightarrow F(X) \rightarrow F(Y) \rightarrow F(Z) \rightarrow 0$$

is exact (respectively $0 \rightarrow F(X) \rightarrow F(Y) \rightarrow F(Z)$ is exact, respectively $F(X) \rightarrow F(Y) \rightarrow F(Z) \rightarrow 0$ is exact).

Similarly, if F is a contravariant functor, we want the sequence

$$0 \rightarrow F(Z) \rightarrow F(Y) \rightarrow F(X) \rightarrow 0$$

to be exact (respectively $0 \rightarrow F(Z) \rightarrow F(Y) \rightarrow F(X)$ exact, respectively $F(Z) \rightarrow F(Y) \rightarrow F(X) \rightarrow 0$ exact).

Remarks. (i) Any additive functor between abelian categories sends split exact sequences to split exact sequences (since it preserves direct sums).

(ii) An exact functor sends any exact sequence (not just a short exact sequence) to an exact sequence.

(iii) The following are equivalent:

(a) F is left exact

(b) F sends any exact sequence $0 \rightarrow X \rightarrow Y \rightarrow Z$ to an exact sequence $0 \rightarrow F(X) \rightarrow F(Y) \rightarrow F(Z)$

(c) F preserves kernels

(d) F preserves finite limits.

For (a) \Rightarrow (b), the exact sequence gives two short exact sequences. For (c) \Rightarrow (d) note that one can pass between kernels and equalizers, and construct finite limits using an equalizer and finite products.

Dually, the following are equivalent:

(a) F is right exact

(b) F sends an exact sequence $X \rightarrow Y \rightarrow Z \rightarrow 0$ to an exact sequence $F(X) \rightarrow F(Y) \rightarrow F(Z) \rightarrow 0$

(c) F preserves cokernels

(d) F preserves finite colimits.

Lemma. For an object M in an abelian category \mathcal{C} , the functor $\text{Hom}(M, -)$ is a left exact functor $\mathcal{C} \rightarrow \text{Ab}$ and the functor $\text{Hom}(-, M)$ is a left exact contravariant functor from \mathcal{C} to Ab . That is, if $0 \rightarrow X \rightarrow Y \rightarrow Z \rightarrow 0$ is exact, then so are

$$0 \rightarrow \text{Hom}(M, X) \rightarrow \text{Hom}(M, Y) \rightarrow \text{Hom}(M, Z)$$

and

$$0 \rightarrow \text{Hom}(Z, M) \rightarrow \text{Hom}(Y, M) \rightarrow \text{Hom}(X, M).$$

Proof. The first sequence is exact at $\text{Hom}(M, Y)$ since $X \rightarrow Y$ is a kernel for $Y \rightarrow Z$, and it is exact at $\text{Hom}(M, X)$ since $X \rightarrow Y$ is a mono. \square

Remark. Note that if the sequence $0 \rightarrow X \xrightarrow{f} Y \xrightarrow{g} Z \rightarrow 0$ is not split, then $\text{Hom}(Z, -)$ and $\text{Hom}(-, X)$ are not exact functors, for example if $\text{Hom}(Z, Y) \rightarrow \text{Hom}(Z, Z)$ is surjective, then Id_Z lifts to an element $s \in \text{Hom}(Z, Y)$ which is a section for g .

Lemma. If (L, R) are a pair of adjoint additive functors between abelian categories, $L : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$, $R : \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$, then L is right exact and R is left exact.

Proof. We already did this for limits and colimits. Let's see it again. Suppose $X \xrightarrow{f} Y \xrightarrow{g} Z \rightarrow 0$ is an exact sequence in \mathcal{C} . For any object U in \mathcal{D} , the sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(Z, R(U)) \rightarrow \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(Y, R(U)) \rightarrow \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(X, R(U))$$

is exact. Hence so is

$$0 \rightarrow \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(L(Z), U) \rightarrow \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(L(Y), U) \rightarrow \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(L(X), U).$$

Thus $L(g)$ is a cokernel of $L(f)$, so $L(X) \rightarrow L(Y) \rightarrow L(Z) \rightarrow 0$ is exact. Thus L is right exact. \square

1.8 Filtered colimits

Remark. A poset (I, \leq) is *directed* if it is non-empty and for all $x, y \in I$ there exists $z \in I$ with $x \leq z$ and $y \leq z$. For example the poset \mathbb{N} is directed.

An *inverse limit* is a limit over the opposite of a directed poset. For example the ring of p -adic integers is

$$\hat{\mathbb{Z}}_p = \varprojlim_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \mathbb{Z}/\mathbb{Z}p^n \quad \text{where} \quad \cdots \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/\mathbb{Z}p^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/\mathbb{Z}p^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/\mathbb{Z}p \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/\mathbb{Z}1.$$

On the other hand, a *direct limit* is a colimit over a directed poset. For example

$$\mathrm{colim}_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \mathbb{Z}/\mathbb{Z}p^n \quad \text{where} \quad \mathbb{Z}/\mathbb{Z}1 \xrightarrow{p} \mathbb{Z}/\mathbb{Z}p \xrightarrow{p} \mathbb{Z}/\mathbb{Z}p^2 \xrightarrow{p} \mathbb{Z}/\mathbb{Z}p^3 \rightarrow \cdots$$

is the union of the groups, the Prüfer group

$$\mathbb{Z}_{p^\infty} \cong \mathbb{Z}[1/p]/\mathbb{Z} \cong \{z \in \mathbb{C} : z^{p^n} = 1 \text{ for some } n \geq 0\}.$$

More generally we shall consider colimits over small filtered categories. (In fact any filtered colimit can be turned into a direct limit, see Proposition 8.1.6 in Exposé I of SGA 4.)

Definition. A category \mathcal{I} is *filtered* if

- it is non-empty
- for any objects i, j there is an object k and morphisms $i \rightarrow k$ and $j \rightarrow k$, and
- for any morphisms $a, b : i \rightarrow j$ there is a morphism $c : j \rightarrow k$ with $ca = cb$.

Lemma. Let \mathcal{I} be a small filtered category and M an \mathcal{I} -diagram in $R\text{-Mod}$. On the disjoint union

$$\dot{\bigcup}_{i \in \text{ob}(\mathcal{I})} M_i$$

consider the equivalence relation \sim generated by the condition that $M_a(m) \sim m$ whenever $a : i \rightarrow j$ is a morphism in \mathcal{I} and $m \in M_i$. Then:

- (i) $m \in M_i \sim m' \in M_j \Leftrightarrow$ there exist $i \xrightarrow{a} k \xleftarrow{b} j$ in \mathcal{I} with $M_a(m) = M_b(m')$. In particular, if $m \in M_i$, then $[m] = 0$ if and only if there is a morphism $a : i \rightarrow k$ in \mathcal{I} such that $M_a(m) = 0$.
- (ii) The set of equivalence classes $C := (\dot{\bigcup}_{i \in \text{ob}(\mathcal{I})} M_i) / \sim$ is naturally an R -module in such a way that the mappings $\alpha_i : M_i \rightarrow C$, $m \mapsto [m]$ are module homomorphisms.
- (iii) The mappings α_i turn C into a colimit for M , that is, $C = \text{colim}_{i \in \mathcal{I}} M_i$.

The same thing works for filtered colimits in the category of sets.

Proof. (i) Consider the relation \approx defined by this condition. It is clearly reflexive and symmetric. It suffices to show that it is transitive. Suppose $m \approx m'$ and $m' \approx m''$ with $m \in M_i$, $m' \in M_j$, $m'' \in M_k$. By filteredness there are

$$i \xrightarrow{a} p \xleftarrow{b} j \xrightarrow{c} q \xleftarrow{d} k$$

with $M_a(m) = M_b(m')$ and $M_c(m') = M_d(m'')$. By filteredness there are morphisms $p \xrightarrow{a'} r \xleftarrow{d'} q$. And then $a'b$ and $d'c$ are morphisms $j \rightarrow r$, so there is a morphism $f : r \rightarrow s$ with $fa'b = fd'c$. Then $M_{fa'a}(m) = M_{fa'b}(m') = M_{fd'c}(m') = M_{fd'd}(m'')$, so $m \approx m''$.

(ii) We turn C into an R -module as follows:

- If $m \in M_i$ and $r \in R$, then $r[m] := [rm]$.
- If $m \in M_i$ and $m' \in M_j$ then

$$[m] + [n] := [M_a(m) + M_b(m')]$$

for morphisms $i \xrightarrow{a} k \xleftarrow{b} j$ in \mathcal{I} .

Using filteredness one can show that this is well-defined. For example if $c : i \rightarrow i'$ we have $[m] = [M_c(m)]$, and we want

$$[M_a(m) + M_b(m')] = [M_{a'}(M_c(m)) + M_{b'}(m')]$$

where $i' \xrightarrow{a'} k' \xleftarrow{b'} j$. By filteredness there is a $k \xrightarrow{d} s \xleftarrow{d'} k'$ and then $f : s \rightarrow t$ such that $fda = fd'a'c$ and $fdb = fd'b'$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} [M_{a'}(M_c(m)) + M_{b'}(m')] &= [M_{fd'}(M_{a'c}(m) + M_{b'}(m'))] = [M_{fd'a'c}(m) + M_{fd'b'}(m')] \\ &= [M_{fda}(m) + M_{fdb}(m')] = [M_{fd}(M_a(m) + M_b(m'))] = [M_a(m) + M_b(m')]. \end{aligned}$$

Clearly this turns \mathcal{C} into an R -module and the α_i are homomorphisms.

(iii) Clearly, if $a : i \rightarrow j$ then $\alpha_j M_a = \alpha_i$. Given a module X and homomorphisms $\beta_i : M \rightarrow X$ satisfying $\beta_j M_a = \beta_i$ for all $a : i \rightarrow j$, the β_i give a mapping

$$\bigcup_{i \in \text{ob}(\mathcal{I})} M_i \rightarrow X$$

and it is constant on equivalence classes, so it defines a homomorphism $\theta : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow X$ satisfying $\theta \alpha_i = \beta_i$ for all i . Clearly θ is uniquely determined. Thus we have the universal property. \square

Theorem. *The category $R\text{-Mod}$ has exact filtered colimits. That is, suppose \mathcal{I} is a small filtered category. Let L, M, N be \mathcal{I} -diagrams in $R\text{-Mod}$ and let $\alpha : L \rightarrow M$ and $\beta : M \rightarrow N$ be natural transformations. If for all i , the sequences of R -modules*

$$L_i \xrightarrow{\alpha_i} M_i \xrightarrow{\beta_i} N_i$$

are exact, then so is the induced sequence

$$\text{colim}_{i \in \mathcal{I}} L \rightarrow \text{colim}_{i \in \mathcal{I}} M \rightarrow \text{colim}_{i \in \mathcal{I}} N$$

Proof. Note that for any index set \mathcal{I} , $\lim_{i \in \mathcal{I}} : \text{Fun}(\mathcal{I}, \mathcal{C}) \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ is right adjoint to the constant functor $c : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \text{Fun}(\mathcal{I}, \mathcal{C})$, so is left exact. In the same way, $\text{colim}_{i \in \mathcal{I}} : \text{Fun}(\mathcal{I}, \mathcal{C}) \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ is left adjoint to the constant functor, so is right exact. We get exactness using the lemma. Take an element $x \in \text{colim}_{i \in \mathcal{I}} M$ sent to zero in $\text{colim}_{i \in \mathcal{I}} N$. Now x is represented by an element $m \in M_i$ for some i . Then $\beta_i(m)$ represents the zero element, so there is some $a : i \rightarrow j$ such that $N_a(\beta_i(m)) = 0$. Thus $\beta_j(M_a(m)) = 0$. Thus $M_a(m) = \alpha_j(\ell)$ for some $\ell \in L_j$. But then x is the image of the element in $\text{colim}_{i \in \mathcal{I}} L$ represented by ℓ . \square

Definition. A *Grothendieck category* is an abelian category with the following additional properties:

- It is cocomplete. (Since it is abelian, it is equivalent that it has arbitrary coproducts, which is (AB3) in Grothendieck's terminology.)
- It has a *generator* that is, an object G such that for any object X there is an epimorphism from a coproduct of copies of G to X .

- It has exact filtered colimits (or equivalently, in Grothendieck's terminology, (AB5)).

Examples. Module categories are Grothendieck categories. As are functor categories with values in a Grothendieck category, such as Ab . Also categories of graded modules. Also the category of quasicoherent sheaves on a noetherian scheme.

Remark. Given exact sequences $0 \rightarrow X_i \rightarrow Y_i \rightarrow Z_i \rightarrow 0$ ($i \in I$) in a cocomplete abelian category, we get a natural sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \coprod_i X_i \rightarrow \coprod_i Y_i \rightarrow \coprod_i Z_i \rightarrow 0$$

which is in general only right exact. It is exact on the left in the following cases:

(a) For finite index sets I , since then the coproducts are also finite products, so the sequence is naturally left exact.

(b) For module categories - easy to prove using that the coproduct is the direct sum of modules.

(c) In case filtered colimits are exact, since

$$\coprod_{i \in I} X_i \cong \operatorname{colim}_{\text{finite } F \subseteq I} \coprod_{i \in F} X_i$$

where the colimit is over the directed poset of finite subsets F of I .

Definition. An R -module M is *finitely presented* (f.p.) if it is a quotient of a finitely generated free module by a finitely generated submodule. Equivalently if there is an exact sequence $R^m \rightarrow R^n \rightarrow M \rightarrow 0$.

Any quotient of a f.p. module by a f.g. submodule is f.p. If R is left noetherian, any f.g. left R -module is f.p.

Theorem. *Every R -module is a filtered colimit of f.p. modules. More generally, if M is a module and \mathcal{C} is a full subcategory of the category of f.p. R -modules such that every map from a f.p. module to M factors through a module in \mathcal{C} , then M is a filtered colimit of modules in \mathcal{C} .*

Proof. We may assume that \mathcal{C} is small. Let \mathcal{I} be the category with:

- Objects are pairs (X, f) with $X \in \text{ob}(\mathcal{C})$ and $f \in \text{Hom}(X, M)$.
- Morphisms $(X, f) \rightarrow (X', f')$ are morphisms $\theta : X \rightarrow X'$ with $f'\theta = f$.

This category is usually denoted \mathcal{C}/M . It is filtered:

- It is nonempty since the zero map $0 \rightarrow M$ must factor.
- Given objects (X, f) and (X', f') , the morphism

$$(f \ f') : X \oplus X' \rightarrow M$$

factors through an object in \mathcal{C} , say as

$$X \oplus X' \xrightarrow{(g \ g')} X'' \xrightarrow{f''} M.$$

Then we have morphisms $g : (X, f) \rightarrow (X'', f'')$ and $g' : (X', f') \rightarrow (X'', f'')$.

- Given morphisms $\alpha, \beta : (X, f) \rightarrow (X', f')$, we have $f'(\alpha - \beta) = 0$, so taking the cokernel

$$X \xrightarrow{\alpha - \beta} X' \xrightarrow{\gamma} \text{Coker}(\alpha - \beta) \rightarrow 0,$$

we get $f' = h\gamma$ for some $h : \text{Coker}(\alpha - \beta) \rightarrow M$. But then h factors through an object X'' in \mathcal{C}

$$\text{Coker}(\alpha - \beta) \xrightarrow{\phi} X'' \xrightarrow{f''} M.$$

Then $\phi\gamma : (X', f) \rightarrow (X'', f'')$ and $\phi\gamma\alpha = \phi\gamma\beta$.

Let $F : \mathcal{I} \rightarrow R\text{-Mod}$ be the \mathcal{I} -diagram sending an object (X, f) to X and a morphism θ to θ . Let

$$L = \text{colim}_{(X,f) \in \mathcal{I}} F(X, f) = \text{colim}_{(X,f) \in \mathcal{I}} X.$$

It is equipped with morphisms $\alpha_{(X,f)} : X \rightarrow L$ for each (X, f) . For each object (X, f) in \mathcal{I} , we have the morphism $f : X \rightarrow M$. Thus by the universal property, there is a unique morphism $\beta : L \rightarrow M$ such that $\beta\alpha_{(X,f)} = f$ for each (X, f) . We want to show β is an isomorphism.

For an element x in a module X we write \hat{x} for the map $R \rightarrow X$, $r \mapsto rx$. For any $m \in M$, the map $\hat{m} : R \rightarrow M$ factors through an object X in \mathcal{C} , say as

$$R \xrightarrow{\hat{x}} X \xrightarrow{f} M.$$

Then (X, f) is an object in \mathcal{I} and

$$m = f(x) = \beta(\alpha_{(X,f)}(x)) \in \text{Im}(\beta)$$

so β is surjective. Suppose $\ell \in L$ and $\beta(\ell) = 0$. Then ℓ is represented by an element $x \in X$ for an object $(X, f) \in \text{ob}(\mathcal{I})$. Since it is sent to 0 in M , we have $f(x) = 0$. Taking the cokernel

$$R \xrightarrow{\hat{x}} X \xrightarrow{\phi} \text{Coker}(\hat{x}) \rightarrow 0$$

we have $f = h\phi$ for some $h : \text{Coker}(\hat{x}) \rightarrow M$. Then h factors as

$$\text{Coker}(\hat{x}) \xrightarrow{g} X' \xrightarrow{f'} M$$

with X' in \mathcal{C} . Then $g\phi : (X, f) \rightarrow (X', f')$ and $g\phi(x) = 0$, so x represents the zero element in the colimit, that is, $\ell = 0$. \square

Proposition. *A module X is finitely presented if and only if $\text{Hom}(X, -)$ commutes with filtered colimits, that is, for any filtered category \mathcal{I} and \mathcal{I} -diagram M , the canonical map*

$$\text{colim}_{i \in \mathcal{I}} \text{Hom}(X, M_i) \rightarrow \text{Hom}(X, \text{colim}_{i \in \mathcal{I}} M_i)$$

is bijective.

Proof. Given a presentation $R^m \rightarrow R^n \rightarrow X \rightarrow 0$, since filtered colimits preserve exact sequences we get a commutative diagram with exact rows

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & \text{colim}_{i \in \mathcal{I}} \text{Hom}(X, M_i) & \longrightarrow & \text{colim}_{i \in \mathcal{I}} \text{Hom}(R^n, M_i) & \longrightarrow & \text{colim}_{i \in \mathcal{I}} \text{Hom}(R^m, M_i) \\ & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & \text{Hom}(X, \text{colim}_{i \in \mathcal{I}} M_i) & \longrightarrow & \text{Hom}(R^n, \text{colim}_{i \in \mathcal{I}} M_i) & \longrightarrow & \text{Hom}(R^m, \text{colim}_{i \in \mathcal{I}} M_i) \end{array}$$

Now the right hand vertical maps are isomorphisms (for example this follows easily from our construction of filtered colimits for modules), hence so is the left hand vertical map by the Five Lemma.

Conversely, suppose that $\text{Hom}(X, -)$ commutes with filtered colimits. Write $X = \text{colim}_{i \in \mathcal{I}} M_i$, a filtered colimit of f.p. modules. Then

$$\text{Id}_X \in \text{Hom}(X, X) = \text{Hom}(X, \text{colim}_{i \in \mathcal{I}} M_i) = \text{colim}_{i \in \mathcal{I}} \text{Hom}(X, M_i).$$

This is a colimit of \mathbb{Z} -modules, so Id_X is represented by some element of $\text{Hom}(X, M_i)$. This means that Id_X can be factored as a composition $X \rightarrow M_i \rightarrow \text{colim}_{i \in \mathcal{I}} M_i = X$. This means that X is a direct summand of M_i . Now M_i is f.p. and hence so is X . \square

2 Projective, injective and flat modules

2.1 Projective modules

Proposition/Definition. *An object P in an abelian category is projective if it satisfies the following equivalent conditions.*

(i) $\text{Hom}(P, -)$ is an exact functor.

(ii) Any short exact sequence $0 \rightarrow X \rightarrow Y \rightarrow P \rightarrow 0$ is split.

(iii) Given any epimorphism $\theta : Y \rightarrow Z$, any morphism $P \rightarrow Z$ factors through θ .

Proof. (i) \Rightarrow (ii) $\text{Hom}(P, Y) \rightarrow \text{Hom}(P, P)$ is onto. A lift of Id_P is a section.

(ii) \Rightarrow (iii) Take the pullback along the map $P \rightarrow Z$. The resulting exact sequence has P as third term, so is split. This gives a map from P to the pullback. Composing with the map to Y gives the map $P \rightarrow Y$.

(iii) \Rightarrow (i) Clear. □

Proposition. *A coproduct $\coprod_i M_i$ is projective \Leftrightarrow all M_i are projective.*

Proof. $\coprod_i M_i$ is projective

\Leftrightarrow the functor $\text{Hom}(\coprod_i M_i, -) = \prod_i \text{Hom}(M_i, -)$ is exact

$\Leftrightarrow 0 \rightarrow \text{Hom}(\coprod_i M_i, X) \rightarrow \text{Hom}(\coprod_i M_i, Y) \rightarrow \text{Hom}(\coprod_i M_i, Z) \rightarrow 0$ exact for all exact sequences $0 \rightarrow X \rightarrow Y \rightarrow Z \rightarrow 0$

$\Leftrightarrow 0 \rightarrow \prod_i \text{Hom}(M_i, X) \rightarrow \prod_i \text{Hom}(M_i, Y) \rightarrow \prod_i \text{Hom}(M_i, Z) \rightarrow 0$ exact

$\Leftrightarrow 0 \rightarrow \text{Hom}(M_i, X) \rightarrow \text{Hom}(M_i, Y) \rightarrow \text{Hom}(M_i, Z) \rightarrow 0$ are exact. (To see this, use that products of abelian groups are just the cartesian products.)

\Leftrightarrow all M_i are projective. □

Theorem. *Let R be a ring. An R -module is projective if and only if it is a direct summand of a free module. A finitely generated module is projective if and only if it is a direct summand of a finitely generated free module R^n , for some n . Any f.g. projective module is f.p.*

Proof. $\text{Hom}_R(R, X) \cong X$, so R is a projective module, hence so is any direct sum of copies of R . If $F \rightarrow P$ is onto with F free and P projective, then P is isomorphic to a summand of F . □

We write $R\text{-proj}$ for the category of finitely generated projective left R -modules.

Lemma. *The functor $\text{Hom}_R(-, R)$ defines an antiequivalence between $R\text{-proj}$ and $R^{\text{op}}\text{-proj}$.*

Proof. Observe that if M is a left R -module, then $\text{Hom}_R(M, R)$ is naturally a right module, and if M is free of rank n , then

$$\text{Hom}_R(M, R) \cong \text{Hom}_R(R^n, R) \cong \text{Hom}_R(R, R)^n \cong (R_R)^n$$

is a free right R -module of rank n . If P is f.g. projective, then there is Q with $P \oplus Q \cong R^n$. Then

$$\text{Hom}_R(P, R) \oplus \text{Hom}_R(Q, R) \cong (R_R)^n$$

so $\text{Hom}_R(P, R)$ is f.g. projective. The inverse equivalence is given by the same construction, but for right R -modules. There is a natural transformation

$$X \rightarrow \text{Hom}_R(\text{Hom}_R(X, R), R), \quad x \mapsto (\theta \mapsto \theta(x)).$$

It is an isomorphism for $X = R$, so for finite direct sums of copies of R , so for f.g. projective modules. \square

Examples. (i) Every R -module is projective \Leftrightarrow Every short exact sequence is split \Leftrightarrow every submodule of a module has a complement \Leftrightarrow Every module is semisimple $\Leftrightarrow R$ is a semisimple (artinian) ring \Leftrightarrow (the Artin-Wedderburn Theorem) R is a finite direct sum of matrix rings over division rings.

(ii) Sometimes all f.g. projective modules are free. For example:

(a) If R is a principal ideal domain. Namely, a standard theorem says that any f.g. module is a finite direct sum of cyclic modules. Now if $0 \neq a \in R$, then

$$\text{Hom}_R(R/Ra, R) = \{r \in R : ar = 0\} = 0$$

so R/Ra cannot be projective (unless it is 0). Thus every f.g. projective module is a direct sum of copies of R .

(b) If R is a commutative local ring. This is an exercise using Nakayama's lemma.

(c) If R is a polynomial ring $K[X_1, \dots, X_n]$ with K a field. For $n > 1$ this is the (hard) Quillen-Suslin Theorem (1976).

(iii) Idempotents (elements with $e^2 = e$) give projective modules. Recall that for an R -module M , there is a 1-1 correspondence

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Decompositions } M = X \oplus Y & \begin{array}{c} X \oplus Y \xrightarrow{\text{proj onto } X} X \\ \xleftarrow{\quad} \\ e \mapsto M = \text{Im } e \oplus \text{Im}(1-e) \end{array} & \text{Idempotents } e \in \text{End}_R(M). \end{array}$$

Taking $M = R$ and $\text{End}(M) = R^{op}$, idempotents $e \in R$ give decompositions $R = Re \oplus R(1 - e)$. For example, in $R = M_n(K)$ the idempotents E^{ii} give the decomposition

$$R = RE^{11} \oplus \dots \oplus RE^{nn} = C_1 \oplus \dots \oplus C_n$$

where C_i is the matrices living in the i th column. Since $E^{ij}E^{ji} = E^{ii}$ and $E^{ji}E^{ij} = E^{jj}$, right multiplication by E^{ij} gives an isomorphism $C_i \rightarrow C_j$. On the other hand, let R be the ring of 2×2 upper triangular matrices with entries in K . Then

$$R = RE^{11} \oplus RE^{22} = \begin{pmatrix} K & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \oplus \begin{pmatrix} 0 & K \\ 0 & K \end{pmatrix}.$$

Now the two summands are not isomorphic.

(iv) An example of a ring R with a module $P \not\cong R$ such that $P^2 \cong R^2$, so P is projective. Let

$$R = \{\text{continuous } f : [0, \pi] \rightarrow \mathbb{R} : f(0) = f(\pi)\}.$$

If $f \in R$ is idempotent, then $f(x)^2 = f(x)$ for all x , so $f(x) \in \{0, 1\}$. So by continuity $f = 0$ or 1 . Let

$$P = \{\text{continuous } f : [0, \pi] \rightarrow \mathbb{R} : f(0) = -f(\pi)\}.$$

It is naturally an R -module. Now $R \not\cong P$ since if there is an isomorphism sending $1 \in R$ to $g \in P$, then it sends any f to fg . By the Intermediate Value Theorem $g(x) = 0$ for some $0 < x < \pi$. But then every element of P vanishes at x , which is nonsense. On the other hand, there are inverse isomorphisms between R^2 and P^2 given by

$$(f \ g) \mapsto (f \ g) \begin{pmatrix} \sin x & \cos x \\ \cos x & -\sin x \end{pmatrix}$$

(See page 28 of T.-Y. Lam, *Lectures on Modules and Rings*, Springer 1999.)

(v) Connection with vector bundles. The example above is the following theorem with X the circle and the vector bundle given by the Möbius band.

Swan's Theorem (1962). The global section functor gives an equivalence between the category of topological vector bundles on a compact Hausdorff topological space X and the category of f.g. projective modules for its ring of continuous functions $C(X)$.

Earlier was:

Serre's Theorem (1955). The global section functor gives an equivalence between the category of algebraic vector bundles on an affine variety X and the category of f.g. projective modules for its coordinate ring $K[X]$.

Thus by the Quillen-Suslin Theorem, every algebraic vector bundle on affine n -space \mathbb{A}^n is trivial.

Definition. (The beginnings of K-theory) The *Grothendieck group* $K_0(R)$ of a ring R is the \mathbb{Z} -module generated by the isomorphism classes $[P]$ of f.g. projective R -modules P , subject to the relations $[P \oplus Q] = [P] + [Q]$ for all P, Q .

This definition would not be interesting without the restriction that the modules P are finitely generated, since for every projective module P , there is a free module F (not finitely generated), with $P \oplus F \cong P$. Namely, there is some free module

F_0 with $P \oplus Q \cong F_0$. Let F be the direct sum of a countable number of copies of F_0 . Then

$$\begin{aligned} F &\cong F_0 \oplus F_0 \oplus \dots \cong (P \oplus Q) \oplus (P \oplus Q) \oplus \dots \\ &\cong P \oplus (Q \oplus P) \oplus (Q \oplus P) \oplus \dots \cong P \oplus F_0 \oplus F_0 \oplus \dots \cong P \oplus F. \end{aligned}$$

This is ‘Eilenberg’s swindle’.

Definition. Suppose R is an integral domain (commutative) with field of fractions K . A *fractional ideal* is a nonzero R -submodule I of K such that $I \subseteq d^{-1}R$ for some nonzero $d \in R$. For example any nonzero ideal in R is a fractional ideal. If I and J are fractional ideals, then

$$IJ := \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^n x_i y_i : n \geq 0, x_i \in I, y_i \in J \right\}$$

is another fractional ideal and so is

$$I^{-1} := \{y \in K : Iy \subseteq R\}.$$

Clearly $II^{-1} \subseteq R$ always.

Lemma. *If R is an integral domain and I is a fractional ideal, the following are equivalent:*

- (a) $II^{-1} = R$.
- (b) I is invertible, meaning that there is a fractional ideal J with $IJ = R$.
- (c) I is f.g. projective
- (d) I is projective

Proof. (a) \Rightarrow (b) is trivial.

(b) \Rightarrow (c). Write $1 = \sum_{k=1}^n i_k j_k$ with $i_k \in I$ and $j_k \in J$. Consider $f : I \rightarrow R^n$ and $g : R^n \rightarrow I$ given by $f(a) = (aj_k)$ and $g((r_k)) = \sum_k r_k i_k$. The former makes sense since $aj_k \in R$ for all $a \in I$. Then $gf = \text{Id}_I$, so I is a direct summand of R^n .

(c) \Rightarrow (d) is trivial.

(d) \Rightarrow (a). For some indexing set Λ there are maps $I \xrightarrow{f} R^{(\Lambda)} \xrightarrow{g} I$ with $gf = \text{Id}_I$. Now f is given by maps $f_\lambda : I \rightarrow R$ such that for any $a \in I$, only finitely many $f_\lambda(a)$ are nonzero, and g is of the form $(r_\lambda) \mapsto \sum_\lambda r_\lambda i_\lambda$ for some elements $i_\lambda \in I$. By assumption there is nonzero $d \in R$ with $dI \subseteq R$. Choose $0 \neq a \in I$. Then $a^{-1}f_\lambda(a) \in I^{-1}$, for if $b \in I$, then $da, db \in R$, so

$$ba^{-1}f_\lambda(a) = (ad)^{-1}dbf_\lambda(a) = (ad)^{-1}f_\lambda(dba) = (ad)^{-1}adf_\lambda(b) = f_\lambda(b) \in R.$$

Then

$$II^{-1} \ni \sum_{\lambda \in \Lambda} i_\lambda a^{-1}f_\lambda(a) = a^{-1}g(f(a)) = a^{-1}a = 1.$$

so $II^{-1} = R$. □

Example. In $R = \mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{-5}]$, consider the ideal

$$I = (2, 1 + \sqrt{-5}) = \{a + b\sqrt{-5} : a, b \in \mathbb{Z}, a \equiv b \pmod{2}\}.$$

We have

$$\begin{aligned} I^{-1} &= \{x = a + b\sqrt{-5} : a, b \in \mathbb{Q}, 2x, (1 + \sqrt{-5})x \in R\} \\ &= \{x = a + b\sqrt{-5} : 2a, 2b, a - 5b, a + b \in \mathbb{Z}\} \\ &= \frac{1}{2}I = R \cdot 1 + R \frac{1 + \sqrt{-5}}{2} \end{aligned}$$

and

$$1 = (1 + \sqrt{-5}) \cdot \left(1 - \frac{1 + \sqrt{-5}}{2}\right) - 2 \cdot 1 \in II^{-1}.$$

So $II^{-1} = R$. Thus I is a projective module. But it is not free:

- It is not a principal ideal, so not isomorphic to R .
- It is not a free module on more than one generator, since for a nonzero commutative ring, there can be no embedding of the module $R \oplus R$ into R (exercise: consider the product of the images of $(1, 0)$ and $(0, 1)$).

Remark. For an integral domain R , one can show that the following are equivalent, in which case R is a *Dedekind domain*.

- All ideals in R are projective
- All fractional ideals are invertible.
- R is noetherian of Krull dimension ≤ 1 (that is, all non-zero prime ideals are maximal) and integrally closed in its field of fractions.

For example the ring of integers of a number field. In this case one can show that $K_0(R) \cong \mathbb{Z} \oplus Cl(R)$, where $Cl(R)$ is the *ideal class group*, the group of fractional ideals modulo the subgroup of principal fractional ideals.

2.2 Tensor products

If X is a right R -module and Y is a left R -module, the tensor product $X \otimes_R Y$ is a \mathbb{Z} -module $X \otimes_R Y$ equipped with a mapping

$$X \times Y \rightarrow X \otimes_R Y, \quad (x, y) \mapsto x \otimes y$$

such that the mapping is a homomorphism of additive groups in each argument, and R -balanced, meaning that

$$xr \otimes y = x \otimes ry$$

for all $x \in X$, $y \in Y$ and $r \in R$, and such that it is universal for this property, that is, if

$$f : X \times Y \rightarrow M$$

is additive in each argument and R -balanced, then there is a unique \mathbb{Z} -module homomorphism $\alpha : X \otimes_R Y \rightarrow M$ such that $f(x, y) = \alpha(x \otimes y)$.

Theorem. (i) *The tensor product exists and it is unique up to isomorphism.*

(ii) *Any element can be written (non-uniquely) as a finite sum*

$$x_1 \otimes y_1 + \cdots + x_n \otimes y_n.$$

(iii) *$X \otimes_R R \cong X$ and $R \otimes_R Y \cong Y$ via the maps $x \otimes r \mapsto xr$ and $r \otimes y \mapsto ry$.*

(iv) *If $\theta : X \rightarrow X'$ and $\phi : Y \rightarrow Y'$ are module homomorphisms, then there is a unique \mathbb{Z} -module homomorphism*

$$\theta \otimes \phi : X \otimes_R Y \rightarrow X' \otimes_R Y'$$

with $(\theta \otimes \phi)(x \otimes y) = \theta(x) \otimes \phi(y)$.

(v) *We can identify $X \otimes_R Y$ with $Y \otimes_{R^{op}} X$.*

For a proof see my Algebra II notes.

Definition. If S and R are rings, an S - R -bimodule X is given by a left S -module and a right R -module with the same underlying additive group, and such that the actions commute: $(sx)r = s(xr)$.

Theorem. *Let X be an S - R -bimodule. If Y is a left R -module, then $X \otimes_R Y$ becomes an S -module with $s(x \otimes y) = (sx) \otimes y$. This gives a tensor product functor*

$$X \otimes_R - : R\text{-Mod} \rightarrow S\text{-Mod}.$$

If Z is an S -module, then $\text{Hom}_S(X, Z)$ becomes an R -module via $(r\theta)(x) = \theta(xr)$. This gives a functor

$$\text{Hom}_S(X, -) : S\text{-Mod} \rightarrow R\text{-Mod}.$$

Moreover there is an isomorphism of additive groups

$$\text{Hom}_S(X \otimes_R Y, Z) \cong \text{Hom}_R(Y, \text{Hom}_S(X, Z))$$

which is natural in Y and Z . Thus $(X \otimes_R -, \text{Hom}_S(X, -))$ is an adjoint pair of functors.

Proof. The first parts are straightforward. Given $\theta \in \text{Hom}_S(X \otimes_R Y, Z)$ we get $\phi \in \text{Hom}_R(Y, \text{Hom}_S(X, Z))$ by $\phi(y)(x) = \theta(x \otimes y)$, and given ϕ we get θ by the same formula. \square

After the results about adjoint functors, we get.

Corollary. *If X is an S - R -bimodule, then the tensor product functor $X \otimes_R - : R\text{-Mod} \rightarrow S\text{-Mod}$ preserves colimits, so it is right exact and commutes with direct sums (coproducts):*

$$X \otimes_R \left(\bigoplus_{i \in I} Y_i \right) \cong \bigoplus_{i \in I} (X \otimes_R Y_i).$$

(Similarly for the functor $- \otimes_R Y : \text{Mod-}R \rightarrow \text{Mod-}T$ for an R - T -bimodule Y .)

Theorem (Eilenberg, Watts). *Any functor $F : R\text{-Mod} \rightarrow S\text{-Mod}$ which preserves colimits, that is, is right exact and commutes with direct sums, is naturally isomorphic to a tensor product functor $X \otimes_R -$ for some S - R -bimodule X .*

Proof. $F(R)$ is an S -module, and it becomes an S - R -bimodule via the map

$$R^{op} \xrightarrow{\cong} \text{End}_R(R) \xrightarrow{F} \text{End}_S(F(R)).$$

Now for any R -module Y there is a R -module map

$$Y \xrightarrow{\cong} \text{Hom}_R(R, Y) \xrightarrow{F} \text{Hom}_S(F(R), F(Y)).$$

By Hom-Tensor adjointness this corresponds to an S -module map $F(R) \otimes_R Y \rightarrow F(Y)$. This is natural in Y , so it is Φ_Y for some natural transformation $\Phi : F(R) \otimes_R - \rightarrow F$. Clearly Φ_R is an isomorphism. Then for any free module $R^{(I)}$ we have $F(R^{(I)}) = F(R)^{(I)} \cong F(R) \otimes R^{(I)}$, so $\Phi_{R^{(I)}}$ is an isomorphism. Then for any module Y there is a presentation $R^{(I)} \rightarrow R^{(J)} \rightarrow Y \rightarrow 0$ and the first two vertical maps in the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} F(R) \otimes R^{(I)} & \longrightarrow & F(R) \otimes R^{(J)} & \longrightarrow & F(R) \otimes Y & \longrightarrow & 0 \\ \Phi_{R^{(I)}} \downarrow & & \Phi_{R^{(J)}} \downarrow & & \Phi_Y \downarrow & & \\ F(R)^{(I)} & \longrightarrow & F(R)^{(J)} & \longrightarrow & F(Y) & \longrightarrow & 0 \end{array}$$

are isomorphisms. Also the rows are exact. Hence the third vertical map is an isomorphism. Thus Φ is a natural isomorphism. \square

Lemma. *If X is an S - R -bimodule, then there is a homomorphism of additive groups*

$$\phi_{U,Y} : \text{Hom}_S(U, X) \otimes_R Y \rightarrow \text{Hom}_S(U, X \otimes_R Y), \quad \theta \otimes y \mapsto (u \mapsto \theta(u) \otimes y)$$

for U an S -module and Y an R -module, which is a natural transformation in U and Y . It is an isomorphism if U is f.g. projective. Conversely, taking $X = R = S$, if Id_U is in the image of the map

$$\phi_{U,U} : \text{Hom}_S(U, S) \otimes_S U \rightarrow \text{Hom}_S(U, S \otimes_S U) \cong \text{End}_S(U),$$

then U is finitely generated projective.

Proof. The first part is clear. The map $\phi_{S,Y}$ is an isomorphism since it is identified with the identity map since $\text{Hom}_S(S, X) \otimes_R Y$ and $\text{Hom}(S, X \otimes_R Y)$ can both be identified with $X \otimes_R Y$. Now given a direct sum $U = U_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus U_n$ we get

$$\text{Hom}_S(U, X) \otimes_R Y \cong \bigoplus_{i=1}^n (\text{Hom}_S(U_i, X) \otimes_R Y)$$

and

$$\text{Hom}_S(U, X \otimes_R Y) \cong \bigoplus_{i=1}^n \text{Hom}_S(U_i, X \otimes_R Y)$$

so $\phi_{U,Y}$ corresponds to the mapping whose components are $\phi_{U_i,Y}$, so $\phi_{U,Y}$ is a bijection if and only if all $\phi_{U_i,Y}$ are bijections. Thus $\text{Hom}(S^n, Y)$ is an isomorphism, and hence so is $\phi_{U,Y}$ for any direct summand U of a f.g. free module S^n .

Say Id_U comes from $\sum_i \theta_i \otimes u_i$, then the composition of the maps

$$U \xrightarrow{(\theta_i)} S^n \xrightarrow{(u_i)} U$$

is the identity, so U is a direct summand of S^n , so f.g. projective. \square

2.3 Morita equivalence

Recall that an R -module P is a generator if for any module M there is an epi from a direct sum of copies of P to M , $P^{(I)} \rightarrow M$.

Theorem (Morita equivalence). *Let R and S be rings. The following are equivalent.*

- (i) *The categories $R\text{-Mod}$ and $S\text{-Mod}$ are equivalent*
- (ii) *$R \cong \text{End}_S(X)^{op}$ for some f.g. projective generator X in $S\text{-Mod}$.*
- (iii) *There is an S - R -bimodule X giving an equivalence $X \otimes_R - : R\text{-Mod} \rightarrow S\text{-Mod}$.*

Proof. (i) \Rightarrow (ii) Let $F : R\text{-Mod} \rightarrow S\text{-Mod}$ be an equivalence and let $X = F(R)$. Since F is fully faithful we have $R \cong \text{End}_S(X)^{op}$. Since F is an equivalence, X is projective. Clearly $\text{Hom}_R(R, -)$ commutes with filtered colimits, so $\text{Hom}_S(X, -)$ commutes with filtered colimits, so X is finitely presented, so it is a f.g. projective. Also, for any R -module M there is an epimorphism from a free module $R^{(I)} \rightarrow M$. Since F is an equivalence, applying F we get an epimorphism $X^{(I)} \rightarrow F(M)$. Since any S module is isomorphic to one of the form $F(M)$, this shows that X is a generator.

(ii) \Rightarrow (iii) For any S -module T we have a mapping

$$X \otimes_R \text{Hom}_S(X, T) \rightarrow T, \quad x \otimes \theta \mapsto \theta(x)$$

This is natural in T , and it is an isomorphism for $T = X$. Thus it is an isomorphism for $T = X^n$. Thus it is an isomorphism for T any summand of X^n . Now X is a generator as an S -module, and ${}_S S$ is finitely generated, so there is an epimorphism $X^n \rightarrow S$ for some n . Then since ${}_S S$ is projective, S is isomorphic to a summand of X^n . Thus we get an isomorphism

$$X \otimes_R \text{Hom}_S(X, S) \rightarrow S, \quad x \otimes \theta \mapsto \theta(x)$$

This is an isomorphism of S - S -bimodules. Also, by the lemma above applied to the S - S -bimodule S , we have an isomorphism

$$\text{Hom}_S(X, S) \otimes_S X \mapsto \text{Hom}_S(X, S \otimes_S X) \cong R$$

and this is an isomorphism of R - R -bimodules. Thus the functors $X \otimes_R - : R\text{-Mod} \rightarrow S\text{-Mod}$ and $\text{Hom}_S(X, S) \otimes_S - : S\text{-Mod} \rightarrow R\text{-Mod}$ are inverses (up to natural isomorphisms) so they are equivalences.

(iii) \Rightarrow (i) is trivial □

Examples. (a) Any ring S is Morita equivalent to $M_n(S)$ for $n \geq 1$. Namely the module S^n is a finitely generated projective generator for $S\text{-Mod}$, with $\text{End}_S(S^n)^{op} \cong M_n(S)$.

(b) If $e \in S$ is idempotent, and $SeS = S$, then S is Morita equivalent to eSe (which is a ring under multiplication with identity element e). Namely, the condition ensures that the multiplication map $Se \otimes_{eSe} eS \rightarrow S$ is onto. Taking a map from a free eSe -module onto eS , say $eSe^{(I)} \rightarrow eS$, we get a map $Se^{(I)} \rightarrow S$, so Se is a generator. Then $\text{End}_S(Se)^{op} \cong eSe$.

(c) If S is a finite-dimensional algebra over a field (or more generally a left artinian ring), we can write ${}_S S = P_1 \oplus P_2 \oplus \cdots \oplus P_n$ with the P_i indecomposable modules. We say that S is *basic* if the P_i are pairwise non-isomorphic. (By the Krull-Remak-Schmidt Theorem this doesn't depend on the choice of decomposition.)

Now any finite-dimensional algebra S is Morita equivalent to a basic one. Namely, take X to be one a direct sum of representatives of the isomorphism classes of the P_i , and let $R = \text{End}_S(X)^{op}$. Then X is a f.g. projective generator for S , so by (ii) \Rightarrow (iii) in the theorem we get an equivalence $X \otimes_R - : R\text{-Mod} \rightarrow S\text{-Mod}$. This sends ${}_R R$ to X . Now X is a direct sum of pairwise nonisomorphic indecomposable summands, hence so is ${}_R R$.

For example if S is the subalgebra of $M_3(K)$ given by matrices of the form

$$\begin{pmatrix} * & * & * \\ * & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & * \end{pmatrix}$$

then the decomposition of ${}_S S = P_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus P_n$ has the form

$${}_S S = \begin{pmatrix} * & 0 & 0 \\ * & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \oplus \begin{pmatrix} 0 & * & 0 \\ 0 & * & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \oplus \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & * \\ 0 & 0 & * \\ 0 & 0 & * \end{pmatrix}.$$

Now $P_1 \cong P_2$, so we take $X = P_1 \oplus P_3 = Se$ where

$$e = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Then $R = \text{End}_S(P_1 \oplus P_3)^{op} \cong eSe$. This is isomorphic to the subalgebra of $M_2(K)$ given by matrices of shape

$$\begin{pmatrix} * & * \\ 0 & * \end{pmatrix}.$$

2.4 Injective modules

Proposition/Definition. *An object E in an abelian category is injective if it satisfies the following equivalent conditions.*

- (i) $\text{Hom}(-, E)$ is an exact (contravariant) functor.
- (ii) Any short exact sequence $0 \rightarrow E \rightarrow Y \rightarrow Z \rightarrow 0$ is split.
- (iii) For any monomorphism $\theta : X \hookrightarrow Y$, any morphism $X \rightarrow E$ factors through θ .

Proposition. *A product $\prod_{i \in I} M_i$ is injective \Leftrightarrow all M_i are injective. Thus a finite direct sum is injective if and only if each term is injective.*

Proof. This is the opposite category version of the result for projectives. Then a finite direct sum is the same as a finite product. \square

Definition. An inclusion of R -modules $M \subseteq N$ is an *essential extension* of M if every non-zero submodule S of N has $S \cap M \neq 0$.

Theorem. *For an R -module M , following conditions are equivalent.*

- (a) M is injective.
- (b) (Baer's criterion) Every homomorphism $f : I \rightarrow M$ from a left ideal I of R can be extended to a homomorphism $R \rightarrow M$.
- (c) M has no non-trivial essential extensions

Proof. (a) \Rightarrow (b) is trivial.

(b) \Rightarrow (c) Let $M \subseteq N$ be a non-trivial essential extension and fix $x \in N \setminus M$. We consider the pullback

$$\begin{array}{ccc} I & \longrightarrow & R \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ M & \longrightarrow & N \end{array}$$

where $R \rightarrow N$ is the map $r \mapsto rx$. Then $I \rightarrow R$ is injective, so I is identified with a left ideal in R . Explicitly

$$I = \{r \in R : rx \in M\}$$

and then $f : I \rightarrow M$ is given by $f(r) = rx \in M$ for $r \in I$. By (b), the map f extends to a map $g : R \rightarrow M$. This must be of the form $g(r) = rm$ where $m = g(1) \in M$.

Suppose $r \in R$ satisfies $r(x - m) \in M$. Then $rx \in M$, and it follows that $r \in I$. Then $rx = rm$, so $r(x - m) = 0$. Thus $M \cap R(x - m) = 0$ and $R(x - m) \neq 0$, contradicting that $M \subseteq N$ is an essential extension.

(c) \Rightarrow (a). Given an inclusion $M \subseteq N$, we need to show that M is a direct summand of N . By Zorn's Lemma, the set of submodules in N with zero intersection with M has a maximal element C . If $M + C = N$, then C is a complement. Otherwise, $M \cong (M + C)/C \subseteq N/C$ is a non-trivial extension. By (c) it cannot be an essential extension, so there is a non-zero submodule U/C with zero intersection with $(M + C)/C$. Then $U \cap (M + C) = C$, so $U \cap M \subseteq C \cap M = 0$. This contradicts the maximality of C . \square

Definition. If R is an integral domain and M is an R -module, then

- M is *divisible* if for all $m \in M$ and $0 \neq a \in R$, there is $m' \in M$ with $m = am'$. For example the field of fractions of R is divisible.
- M is *torsion-free* if $am \neq 0$ for all nonzero $a \in R$ and $m \in M$. For example R and its field of fractions are torsion-free.

Lemma. *If R is an integral domain, then any injective module is divisible. If R is a principal ideal domain, then any divisible module is injective.*

Proof. Divisibility says that any map $Ra \rightarrow M$ lifts to a map $R \rightarrow M$. If R is a pid these are all ideals in R . \square

Note that if R is an integral domain, but not a pid, then divisible modules are not necessarily injective. But still torsion-free divisible modules are injective. Thus the field of fractions is injective. We leave this as an exercise.

Definition. For the rest of this section we assume that R is a K -algebra, where K is a field or a principal ideal domain. In particular, we can consider any ring R as a K -algebra with $K = \mathbb{Z}$.

We define $(-)^* = \text{Hom}_K(-, E_K)$, where

$$E_K = \begin{cases} K & (\text{if } K \text{ is a field}) \\ F/K & (\text{if } K \text{ is a pid with fraction field } F \neq K) \end{cases}$$

For example $E_{\mathbb{Z}} = \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z}$.

Lemma. (i) E_K is an injective K -module, and $(-)^*$ defines an exact functor from R -modules on one side to R -modules on the other side.

(ii) If M is an R -module, the map $M \rightarrow M^{**}$, $m \mapsto (\theta \mapsto \theta(m))$ is an injective map of R -modules. (It is an isomorphism if K is a field and M is a finite-dimensional K -vector space).

Proof. (i) Any R -module M also gets an action of K via $\lambda m = (\lambda 1_R)m$, and these two actions commute, so $M^* = \text{Hom}_K(M, E_K)$ becomes an R -module on the other side.

Now any quotient of a divisible module is clearly divisible, so E_K is a divisible K -module, so an injective K -module, so $(-)^*$ is an exact functor.

(ii) Given $0 \neq m \in M$, let Km be the cyclic K -submodule of M generated by m . It suffices to find a K -module map $f : Km \rightarrow E_K$ with $f(m) \neq 0$, for then since E_K is injective, f lifts to a map $\theta : M \rightarrow E_K$.

If K is a field there is an isomorphism $Km \rightarrow E_K$.

If K is a principal ideal domain and not a field, choose a maximal ideal Ka containing $\text{ann}(m) = \{x \in K : xm = 0\}$. Since K is not a field, $a \neq 0$. Then there is a map $Km \rightarrow E_K$ sending xm to $K + a^{-1}x \in F/K$. This is well-defined since if $xm = x'm$, then $x - x' \in \text{ann}(m)$, so $x - x' = ba$ for some $b \in K$, and then $a^{-1}x - a^{-1}x' = b \in K$. It is clearly a K -module homomorphism. Now it sends m to $K + a^{-1}$. If this is zero, then $a^{-1} \in K$, so a is invertible in K , so $Ka = K$, contradicting that Ka is a maximal ideal.

If K is a field, and M is K -vector space of dimension d , then so is M^* , and so also M^{**} , so the map $M \rightarrow M^{**}$ must be an isomorphism. \square

Theorem. Any R -module embeds in a product of copies of R^* , and such a product is an injective R -module. An R -module is injective if and only if it is isomorphic to a direct summand of such a product.

Proof. We have natural isomorphisms of functors $R\text{-Mod} \rightarrow \text{Ab}$,

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Hom}_R(-, R^*) &= \text{Hom}_R(-, \text{Hom}_K(R, E_K)) \cong \text{Hom}_K(R \otimes_R -, E_K) \\ &\cong \text{Hom}_K(-, E_K)^* = (-)^*,\end{aligned}$$

which is exact, so R^* is injective. Thus any product of copies of R^* is injective.

If M is any R -module, then M embeds in M^{**} . Now M^* is a right R -module, so can be written as a quotient of a free right R -module, say $R^{(X)}$. Then

$$M \hookrightarrow M^{**} \hookrightarrow (R^{(X)})^* = \text{Hom}_K(R^{(X)}, E_K) \cong \text{Hom}_K(R, E_K)^X = (R^*)^X.$$

The last part is clear. □

Corollary. *Any module over any ring embeds in an injective module.*

Remark. More generally one can show that any object in a Grothendieck category has a monomorphism to an injective object.

Theorem (Bass, Papp). *For a ring R the following are equivalent*

- (i) R is left noetherian
- (ii) Any filtered colimit of injective left R -modules is injective
- (iii) Any direct sum of injective left R -modules is injective.

Proof. (i) \Rightarrow (ii). Let $M = \text{colim}_{i \in \mathcal{I}} M_i$ be a filtered colimit of injective modules. Suppose I is a left ideal in R . It gives an exact sequence $0 \rightarrow I \rightarrow R \rightarrow R/I \rightarrow 0$. Since the M_i are injective, we get exact sequences

$$0 \rightarrow \text{Hom}(R/I, M_i) \rightarrow \text{Hom}(R, M_i) \rightarrow \text{Hom}(I, M_i) \rightarrow 0.$$

A colimit of exact sequences is exact, so

$$0 \rightarrow \text{colim}_{i \in \mathcal{I}} \text{Hom}(R/I, M_i) \rightarrow \text{colim}_{i \in \mathcal{I}} \text{Hom}(R, M_i) \rightarrow \text{colim}_{i \in \mathcal{I}} \text{Hom}(I, M_i) \rightarrow 0$$

is exact. Since the modules R/I , R and I are finitely presented, this is isomorphic to

$$0 \rightarrow \text{Hom}(R/I, M) \rightarrow \text{Hom}(R, M) \rightarrow \text{Hom}(I, M) \rightarrow 0.$$

Thus by Baer's criterion M is injective.

(ii) \Rightarrow (iii). We have

$$\bigoplus_{i \in I} M_i \cong \text{colim}_{J \subseteq I} \bigoplus_{j \in J} M_j \cong \text{colim}_{J \subseteq I} \prod_{j \in J} M_j$$

where J runs over the finite subsets of I , a filtered colimit of injective modules.

(iii) \Rightarrow (i). Consider an ascending chain of left ideals

$$I_1 \subseteq I_2 \subseteq \cdots \subseteq R.$$

Let I be their union. For each $n \geq 1$, choose an embedding $\phi_n : R/I_n \rightarrow E_n$ with E_n injective. We have a well-defined map

$$\theta : I \rightarrow E := \bigoplus_{n=1}^{\infty} E_n, \quad \theta(a)_n = \phi_n(I_n + a)$$

Since E is injective, θ extends to a map $R \rightarrow E$. Let that map send 1 to $e \in E$. Then $\theta(a) = ae$ for $a \in R$. But e only has finitely many non-zero components, so there is some n such that $e_n = 0$. Then $\theta(a)_n = 0$ for all $a \in I$, so $a \in I_n$. Thus $I = I_n$, so the chain of ideals stabilizes. Thus R is left noetherian. \square

2.5 Flat modules

In this section R is a K -algebra and K is a field or pid, for example R is a ring and $K = \mathbb{Z}$.

Definition. A right R -module X is *flat* if $X \otimes_R -$ is an exact functor, either considered as a functor $R\text{-Mod} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}\text{-Mod}$ or equivalently as a functor $R\text{-Mod} \rightarrow K\text{-Mod}$.

Remark. (i) A direct sum of modules is flat if and only if each summand is flat, since if X_i are right R -modules and $0 \rightarrow L \rightarrow M \rightarrow N \rightarrow 0$ is an exact sequence of left R -modules, then

$$0 \rightarrow \bigoplus_{i \in I} X_i \otimes_R L \rightarrow \bigoplus_{i \in I} X_i \otimes_R M \rightarrow \bigoplus_{i \in I} X_i \otimes_R N \rightarrow 0$$

is exact if and only if it is exact for each sequence

$$0 \rightarrow X_i \otimes_R L \rightarrow X_i \otimes_R M \rightarrow X_i \otimes_R N \rightarrow 0$$

is exact.

(ii) Any projective module is flat, for $R \otimes_R X \cong X$, so R is flat.

(iii) Any filtered colimit of flat modules is flat. If \mathcal{I} is a small filtered category, X is an \mathcal{I} -diagram of flat right R -modules and $0 \rightarrow L \rightarrow M \rightarrow N \rightarrow 0$ is an exact sequence of left R -modules, then since the X_i are flat, we get exact sequences

$$0 \rightarrow X_i \otimes_R L \rightarrow X_i \otimes_R M \rightarrow X_i \otimes_R N \rightarrow 0.$$

Since $R\text{-Mod}$ has exact filtered colimits, the sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \operatorname{colim}_{i \in \mathcal{I}} (X_i \otimes_R L) \rightarrow \operatorname{colim}_{i \in \mathcal{I}} (X_i \otimes_R M) \rightarrow \operatorname{colim}_{i \in \mathcal{I}} (X_i \otimes_R N) \rightarrow 0$$

is exact. Since tensor products commute with colimits, this is

$$0 \rightarrow (\operatorname{colim}_{i \in \mathcal{I}} X_i) \otimes_R L \rightarrow (\operatorname{colim}_{i \in \mathcal{I}} X_i) \otimes_R M \rightarrow (\operatorname{colim}_{i \in \mathcal{I}} X_i) \otimes_R N \rightarrow 0$$

so $\operatorname{colim}_{i \in \mathcal{I}} X_i$ is flat.

Proposition. *A right R -module X is flat if and only if X^* is injective.*

Proof. If Y is a left R -module, then $\operatorname{Hom}_R(Y, X^*) \cong (X \otimes_R Y)^*$. If X is flat, then this is exact as a functor of Y , so X^* is injective. Conversely, if X^* is injective then again this is exact as a functor of Y . Suppose X is not flat. Given an exact sequence of left R -modules

$$0 \rightarrow L \rightarrow M \rightarrow N \rightarrow 0$$

we get

$$0 \rightarrow H \rightarrow X \otimes_R L \rightarrow X \otimes_R M \rightarrow X \otimes_R N \rightarrow 0.$$

Then we get

$$(X \otimes_R M)^* \rightarrow (X \otimes_R L)^* \rightarrow H^* \rightarrow 0$$

Thus $H^* = 0$. But H embeds in H^{**} , so $H = 0$. \square

Proposition. *A module X_R is flat if and only if the multiplication map $X \otimes_R I \rightarrow X$ is injective for every left ideal I in R .*

Proof. If X is flat, tensoring it with the exact sequence $0 \rightarrow I \rightarrow R \rightarrow R/I \rightarrow 0$ shows that the map is injective.

If the map is injective, then the map $X^* \rightarrow (X \otimes_R I)^*$ is surjective. We can write this as $\operatorname{Hom}_R(R, X^*) \rightarrow \operatorname{Hom}_R(I, X^*)$. By Baer's criterion X^* is injective. Thus X is flat. \square

Example. If R is an integral domain, then any flat right R -module X is torsion-free, that is, if $x \in X$ and $a \in R$ and $xa = 0$, then $x = 0$ or $a = 0$. Namely, if $I = Ra$ with $0 \neq a \in R$, then the map $X \otimes_R I \rightarrow X$ is identified with the map $X \rightarrow X$ of multiplication by a .

If R is a pid, then a right module X is flat if and only if it is torsion-free, since any non-zero ideal in R is of this form.

Thus \mathbb{Q} is a flat \mathbb{Z} -module. This also follows from the next construction.

Example. Let R be a commutative ring. A subset $S \subseteq R$ is *multiplicative* if $1 \in S$ and $st \in S$ for all $s, t \in S$. The *localization* of an R -module M with respect to S is

$$S^{-1}M = S \times M / \sim$$

where \sim is the equivalence relation given by

$$(s, m) \sim (s', m') \Leftrightarrow t(sm' - s'm) = 0 \text{ for some } t \in S$$

It is equivalent that $um = u'm'$ for some $u, u' \in S$ with $us = u's'$. To see this, take $t = us$ or $u = ts'$ and $u' = ts$.

The equivalence class containing (s, m) is denoted $s^{-1}m$. Now $S^{-1}M$ has an addition given by the usual formula for adding fractions

$$s^{-1}m + t^{-1}n = (st)^{-1}(tm + sn).$$

Moreover $S^{-1}R$ becomes a ring and $S^{-1}M$ becomes an $S^{-1}R$ -module with the usual formula for multiplication

$$(s^{-1}a)(t^{-1}b) = (st)^{-1}(ab).$$

This was all on an exercise sheet for Algebra II. It was also shown on the exercise sheet that $S^{-1}M \cong S^{-1}R \otimes_R M$. We can deduce this here from Eilenberg-Watts. The construction gives a localization functor

$$R\text{-Mod} \rightarrow S^{-1}R\text{-Mod}, \quad M \mapsto S^{-1}M.$$

and it is easy to see that this is an exact functor. It is easy to see that an exact sequence $0 \rightarrow L \rightarrow M \rightarrow N \rightarrow 0$ of R -modules gives an exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow S^{-1}L \rightarrow S^{-1}M \rightarrow S^{-1}N \rightarrow 0$$

so this functor is exact. It also commutes with arbitrary direct sums. Thus by the Eilenberg-Watts theorem,

$$S^{-1}M \cong X \otimes_R M$$

for all M , for some bimodule X . Then $X \cong S^{-1}R$ considered as a left $S^{-1}R$ module in the usual way, and as a right R -module via $(s^{-1}r)r' = s^{-1}(rr')$. Thus

$$S^{-1}M \cong S^{-1}R \otimes_R M.$$

Since the localization functor is exact, $S^{-1}R$ is a flat R -module. Here is another way to see this. Consider S as the set of objects in a category, with

$$\text{Hom}(s, t) = \{u \in S : us = t\}$$

It is filtered since it has object 1, if $s, s' \in S$ then they both have morphisms to ss' , and if $u, u' : s \rightarrow t$, then $t = us = u's$. Thus considering s as a morphism $t \rightarrow st$, the compositions with u and u' are equal.

Consider the functor $S \rightarrow R\text{-Mod}$ sending all $s \in S$ to $M_s = M$ and $u \in \text{Hom}(s, t)$ to multiplication by u . Then our description of the colimit gives

$$\text{colim}_{s \in S} M_s = \dot{\bigcup}_{s \in S} M / \sim = (S \times M) / \sim$$

where $(s, m) \sim (s', m') \Leftrightarrow$ there are morphisms $u : s \rightarrow v$ and $u' : s' \rightarrow v$ with $um = u'm'$. Thus

$$S^{-1}M = \text{colim}_{s \in S} M_s$$

Thus if M is a flat R -module, so is $S^{-1}M$. In particular $S^{-1}R$ is flat.

Lemma. *Let X be an S - R -bimodule. If U is a f.p. left S -module and Y is a flat left R -module, then the natural map*

$$\text{Hom}_S(U, X) \otimes_R Y \rightarrow \text{Hom}_S(U, X \otimes_R Y)$$

is an isomorphism

Proof. It is clear for $U = S$. Then it follows for $U = S^n$. In general there is an exact sequence $S^m \rightarrow S^n \rightarrow U \rightarrow 0$, and in the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & \text{Hom}_S(U, X) \otimes_R Y & \longrightarrow & \text{Hom}_S(S^n, X) \otimes_R Y & \longrightarrow & \text{Hom}_S(S^m, X) \otimes_R Y \\ & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & \text{Hom}_S(U, X \otimes_R Y) & \longrightarrow & \text{Hom}_S(S^n, X \otimes_R Y) & \longrightarrow & \text{Hom}_S(S^m, X \otimes_R Y) \end{array}$$

the rows are exact and the right two vertical maps are isomorphisms, hence so is the first. \square

Recall that any f.g. projective module is finitely presented.

Theorem. (i) *A finitely presented flat module is projective.*

(ii) (Lazard, Govorov) *Any flat module is a filtered colimit of finitely generated projective (even free) modules.*

Proof. (i) If Y is a f.p. flat left R -module, then the natural map $\text{Hom}_R(Y, R) \otimes_R Y \rightarrow \text{End}_R(Y)$ is an isomorphism by the last lemma. Thus by the last lemma in the section on projective modules, Y is f.g. projective.

(ii) If M is a flat left R -module and X is f.p., then the map $\text{Hom}(X, R) \otimes_R M \rightarrow \text{Hom}(X, M)$ is an isomorphism. It follows that any map $f : X \rightarrow M$ can be factored as

$$X \xrightarrow{\theta} R^n \xrightarrow{g} M.$$

Now use the result in the section on filtered colimits. \square

2.6 Injective envelopes and projective covers

Definition. An *injective envelope* of a module M is a monomorphism $\theta : M \rightarrow E$ with E injective and such that E is an essential extension of $\theta(M)$.

Theorem. *Every module has an injective envelope.*

Proof. Any module M embeds as a submodule of an injective module F and Zorn's Lemma implies that the set of submodules of F which are essential extensions of M has a maximal element E .

Suppose that $E \subset N$ is a non-trivial essential extension (with N not necessarily contained in F). Since F is injective the inclusion $E \rightarrow F$ can be extended to a map $g : N \rightarrow F$.

Since $M \subset E$ and $E \subset N$ are essential extensions, so is $M \subset N$. Clearly $M \cap \text{Ker } g = 0$, so since M is essential in N it follows that $\text{Ker } g = 0$. Thus we can identify N with $g(N)$. But then M is essential in N , contradicting the maximality of E .

Thus E has no non-trivial essential extensions, so E is injective. Thus $\theta : M \rightarrow E$ is an injective envelope. \square

Lemma. *Given M , a morphism $\theta : M \rightarrow E$ is an injective envelope if and only if*

- (a) E is injective,
- (b) Every morphism $\theta' : M \rightarrow E'$ with E' injective factors as $\theta' = \phi\theta$ for some $\phi : E \rightarrow E'$, and
- (c) θ is left minimal, meaning that if $\phi \in \text{End}(E)$ and $\phi\theta = \theta$, then ϕ is an automorphism.

Moreover the injective envelope of M is unique up to isomorphism. It is denoted $M \rightarrow E(M)$.

Proof. We show first that if $\theta : M \rightarrow E$ and $\theta' : M \rightarrow E'$ satisfy (a)-(c) then there is an isomorphism $\alpha : E \rightarrow E'$ with $\theta' = \alpha\theta$. Namely, by (a) and (b) we get morphisms $\alpha : E \rightarrow E'$ and $\alpha' : E' \rightarrow E$ with $\theta' = \alpha\theta$ and $\theta = \alpha'\theta'$. Thus $\theta = \alpha'\alpha\theta$, and $\theta' = \alpha\alpha'\theta'$. Thus by (c), $\alpha'\alpha$ and $\alpha\alpha'$ are isomorphisms. Then α has left inverse $(\alpha'\alpha)^{-1}\alpha'$ and right inverse $\alpha'(\alpha\alpha')^{-1}$, so it must be an isomorphism.

Now suppose that θ is an injective envelope. Clearly (a) and (b) hold. Suppose that $\phi\theta = \theta$. Then $\text{Im } \theta \cap \text{Ker } \phi = 0$. Thus $\text{Ker } \phi = 0$, so ϕ is a monomorphism. Then $\text{Im } \phi \cong E$ is injective, so it is a direct summand of E , so $E = \text{Im } \phi \oplus C$ for some C . But $\text{Im } \theta \subseteq \text{Im } \phi$, so $\text{Im } \theta \cap C = 0$, so $C = 0$. Thus ϕ is an automorphism, so (c) holds.

Conversely if (a)-(c) hold, then θ is isomorphic to an injective envelope of M , so it is an injective envelope of M . \square

Remark. The *socle* $\text{soc } M$ of a module M is the sum of all simple submodules, or equivalently the unique largest semisimple submodule of M . See section 2.4 of my notes for Algebra II for information about semisimple modules. Now assume that R is left artinian (so also left noetherian). Then $\text{soc } M$ is an essential submodule of M . Writing $\text{soc } M$ as a direct sum of simple modules $\bigoplus_{\lambda} S_{\lambda}$, we get

$$E(M) \cong E(\text{soc } M) \cong \bigoplus E(S_{\lambda}).$$

In particular, any injective module is isomorphic to a direct sum of injective envelopes of simple modules.

The conditions in the lemma are purely categorical so they can be used to define \mathcal{C} -envelopes for any full subcategory \mathcal{C} of $R\text{-Mod}$. We dualize them to define covers.

Definition. Suppose \mathcal{C} is a full subcategory of $R\text{-Mod}$. If M is a module, then a homomorphism $\theta : C \rightarrow M$ is a \mathcal{C} -cover of M if

- (a) $C \in \mathcal{C}$,
- (b) any morphism $\theta' : C' \rightarrow M$ with C' in \mathcal{C} factors as $\theta' = \theta\phi$ for some $\phi : C' \rightarrow C$, and
- (c) θ is *right minimal*, meaning that if $\phi \in \text{End}(C)$ and $\theta\phi = \theta$, then ϕ is an automorphism.

Note that \mathcal{C} -covers need not exist, but if M has a \mathcal{C} -cover, it is unique up to a (non-unique) isomorphism.

It is a difficult theorem of Bican, El Bashir and Enochs 2001 that every module over any ring has a flat cover. On the other hand, projective covers do not always exist. As for injective envelopes, they can be characterized differently:

Lemma. A map $\theta : P \rightarrow M$ is a projective cover of M if and only if P is projective, θ is surjective and there is no proper submodule N of P with $N + \text{Ker } \theta = P$.

Recall that *Jacobson radical* of R is

$$J = \{r \in R : rS = 0 \text{ for all simple } R\text{-modules } S\}.$$

Equivalently it is the intersection of all maximal left ideals in R . It is a two sided ideal in R .

Theorem. (Bass) The following are equivalent, in which case R is called left perfect.

- (a) R/J is a semisimple artinian ring, and J is left T -nilpotent, meaning that for any sequence $a_1, a_2, a_3 \dots$ of elements of J , there is some n with $a_1 a_2 \dots a_n = 0$. (Note that this holds if R is left artinian.)
- (b) Every left R -module M has a projective cover $P(M) \rightarrow M$.

(c) Every flat left R -module is projective.

In this case every projective is isomorphic to a direct sum of projective covers of simples.

Proof. We shall just sketch (a) \Rightarrow (b) and (c). Thus assume that (a) holds.

(i) If M is an R -module and $JM = 0$, then $M = 0$. (This is Nakayama's lemma if M is f.g.). Namely, if $m \in M$, then it can be written as a finite

$$m = j_1 m_1 + j_2 m_2 + \dots$$

with $j_i \in J$ and $m_i \in M$. We can do the same for m_i giving

$$m_i = j_{i1} m_{i1} + j_{i2} m_{i2} + \dots$$

and so on. We draw a graph with a vertices for $m, m_i, m_{ii'}, \dots$ and edges labelled by the $j_i, j_{ii'}, \dots$. Now suppose that $m \neq 0$ and delete all vertices where the corresponding product of the j 's is zero. The graph must still be infinite, so by König's lemma it has an infinite path. But that is impossible by T-nilpotence.

(ii) Any simple module S has a projective cover. We can consider S as an R/J -module, so since R/J is semisimple, S is isomorphic to a direct summand of R/J . Thus there is an idempotent $f \in R/J$ with $S \cong (R/J)f$. Since J is a *nil* ideal, meaning that every element is nilpotent, any idempotent in R/J lifts to an idempotent in R . (For a very short proof of this, see K. Koh, On lifting idempotents, *Canad. Math. Bull.* 17 (1974), 607). Thus f lifts to an idempotent $e \in R$. Let $P(S) = Re$. Then $P(S)/JP(S) \cong S$. Now it follows from (i) (or Nakayama's Lemma) that $P(S) \rightarrow S$ is a projective cover of S .

(iii) For any R -module M , M/JM is the unique largest semisimple quotient of M . Namely, it is an R/J -module, so semisimple, and if M/N is semisimple, then $J(M/N) = 0$, so $JM \subseteq N$.

(b) Write M/JM as a direct sum of simple module, say $\bigoplus_{\lambda} S_{\lambda}$. Let P be the direct sum of the projective covers $P(S_{\lambda})$ and let $\theta : P \rightarrow M/JM$ be the canonical map. By projectivity it lifts to a map $\theta : P \rightarrow M$, which must be surjective since $JM + \text{Im } \theta = M$, so $J(M/\text{Im } \theta) = 0$. By construction the induced map $P/JP \rightarrow M/JM$ is an isomorphism. Thus $\text{Ker } \theta \subseteq JP$. Now if $N + \text{Ker } \theta = P$, then $J(P/N) = 0$, so $N = P$. Thus θ is a projective cover of M .

(c) Let F be a flat left R -module. Let $\theta : P \rightarrow F$ the projective cover of F just constructed, and let L be the kernel. Thus we have an exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow L \rightarrow P \rightarrow F \rightarrow 0. \quad (\dagger)$$

Dualizing, we get an exact sequence of right R -modules

$$0 \rightarrow F^* \rightarrow P^* \rightarrow L^* \rightarrow 0.$$

Since F is flat, F^* is injective, so this sequence splits, so considering R/J as a right R -module, the sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \text{Hom}_R(R/J, F^*) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_R(R/J, P^*) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_R(R/J, L^*) \rightarrow 0$$

is exact. By Hom-tensor adjointness, for any right R -module, we get

$$\text{Hom}_R(R/J, M^*) \cong ((R/J) \otimes_R M)^* \cong (M/JM)^*.$$

Thus we have an exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow (F/JF)^* \rightarrow (P/JP)^* \rightarrow (L/JL)^* \rightarrow 0.$$

But by the construction above, the map $P/JP \rightarrow F/JF$ is an isomorphism. Thus $(L/JL)^* = 0$, so $L/JL = 0$, so $L = 0$. Thus $F \cong P$ is projective. \square

3 Complexes

3.1 Chain and cochain complexes

Definition. Let R be a ring. A *chain complex* C (or C or C_*) of R -modules consists of modules and homomorphisms

$$\dots \rightarrow C_2 \xrightarrow{d_2} C_1 \xrightarrow{d_1} C_0 \xrightarrow{d_0} C_{-1} \xrightarrow{d_{-1}} C_{-2} \rightarrow \dots$$

satisfying $d_{n-1}d_n = 0$ for all n . The elements of C_n are called *chains* of degree n or *n-chains*. The morphisms d_n are the *differential*, also denoted d or d_n^C .

If C is a chain complex, then its *homology* is defined by

$$H_n(C) = \text{Ker}(d_n) / \text{Im}(d_{n+1}) = Z_n(C) / B_n(C).$$

The elements of $B_n(C)$ are *n-boundaries*. The elements of $Z_n(C)$ are *n-cycles*.

A chain complex C is *non-negative* if $C_n = 0$ for $n < 0$. It is *bounded* if there are only finitely many nonzero C_n . It is *acyclic* if $H_n(C) = 0$ for all n , that is, if it is an exact sequence.

Definition. A *cochain complex* C (or C^* or C^*) consists of R -modules and homomorphisms

$$\dots \rightarrow C^{-2} \xrightarrow{d^{-2}} C^{-1} \xrightarrow{d^{-1}} C^0 \xrightarrow{d^0} C^1 \xrightarrow{d^1} C^2 \rightarrow \dots$$

satisfying $d^{n+1}d^n = 0$ for all n . The elements of C^n are called *cochains* of degree n or *n-cochains*. The differential is also denoted d_C^n .

The *cohomology* of a cochain complex is defined by

$$H^n(C) = \text{Ker}(d^n) / \text{Im}(d^{n-1}) = Z^n(C) / B^n(C).$$

The elements of $B^n(C)$ are *n-coboundaries*. The elements of $Z^n(C)$ are *n-cocycles*.

A cochain complex C is *non-negative* if $C^n = 0$ for $n < 0$. It is *bounded* if there are only finitely many nonzero C^n . It is *acyclic* if $H^n(C) = 0$ for all n .

Remarks. (i) There is no difference between chain and cochain complexes, apart from numbering. Pass between them by setting $C^n = C_{-n}$, $d^n = d_{-n}$.

(ii) Many complexes are zero to the right, so naturally thought of as non-negative chain complexes, or zero to the left, so naturally thought of as non-negative cochain complexes.

Definition. If C is a chain complex of right R -modules and M is a left R -module, the *homology of C with coefficients in M* is

$$H_n(C; M) := H_n(C \otimes_R M)$$

where $C \otimes_R M$ is the chain complex with

$$(C \otimes_R M)_n = C_n \otimes_R M, \quad d_n^{C \otimes_R M} = d_n^C \otimes \text{Id}_M.$$

If C is a chain complex of left R -modules and M is a left R -module M , the *cohomology of C with coefficients in M* is

$$H^n(C; M) := H^n(\text{Hom}(C, M))$$

where $\text{Hom}(C, M)$ is the cochain complex of \mathbb{Z} -modules (or R -modules if R is commutative, or K -modules if R is a K -algebra) with

$$\text{Hom}(C, M)^n = \text{Hom}_R(C_n, M)$$

and differential

$$d_{\text{Hom}(C, M)}^n : \text{Hom}_R(C_n, M) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_R(C_{n+1}, M), \quad d_{\text{Hom}(C, M)}^n(\theta) = \theta d_{n+1}^C.$$

Note that other conventions are possible, for example

$$d_{\text{Hom}(C, M)}^n(\theta) = (-1)^{n+1} \theta d_{n+1}^C.$$

Example. If C is the acyclic chain complex

$$0 \rightarrow \mathbb{Z} \xrightarrow{2} \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/\mathbb{Z}2 \rightarrow 0$$

with $\mathbb{Z}/\mathbb{Z}2$ in degree 0, then $C \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} (\mathbb{Z}/\mathbb{Z}2)$ is the chain complex

$$0 \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/\mathbb{Z}2 \xrightarrow{0} \mathbb{Z}/\mathbb{Z}2 \xrightarrow{1} \mathbb{Z}/\mathbb{Z}2 \rightarrow 0$$

so $H_2(C, \mathbb{Z}/\mathbb{Z}2) \cong \mathbb{Z}/\mathbb{Z}2$, and $\text{Hom}(C, \mathbb{Z})$ is the cochain complex

$$0 \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow \mathbb{Z} \xrightarrow{2} \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow 0$$

with \mathbb{Z} in degrees 1 and 2, so $H^2(C; \mathbb{Z}) \cong \mathbb{Z}/\mathbb{Z}2$.

3.2 Examples from algebraic and differential topology

Example (Simplicial homology). If v_0, \dots, v_n are $n + 1$ points in \mathbb{R}^N , and the vectors $v_1 - v_0, \dots, v_n - v_0$ are linearly independent, then the n -simplex with vertices v_0, \dots, v_n is

$$[v_0, \dots, v_n] := \{\text{convex span of the } v_i\} = \left\{ \sum_{i=0}^n \lambda_i v_i : \lambda_i \geq 0, \sum_{i=0}^n \lambda_i = 1 \right\}.$$

It is a closed subset of \mathbb{R}^N and its vertices are uniquely determined as the extremal points. A 0-simplex is a point, a 1-simplex is a line segment, a 2-simplex is a triangle, a 3-simplex is a tetrahedron, etc.

A *face* of a simplex is a simplex given by a subset of its vertices. A *simplicial complex* in \mathbb{R}^N is a finite set K of simplices, satisfying

- (1) If $s \in K$ then so is every face of s .
- (2) If $s, t \in K$, then their intersection is either empty or it is a face of s and t .

An *oriented simplicial complex* is a simplicial complex together with a total ordering on its vertices. We can do this by labelling its vertices $1, 2, 3, \dots$.

If K is an oriented simplicial complex, its chain complex $C = C(K)$ is

$$C_n = \text{free } \mathbb{Z}\text{-module on the } n\text{-simplices in } K.$$

with differential

$$d_n([v_0, \dots, v_n]) = \sum_{i=0}^n (-1)^i [v_0, \dots, \hat{v}_i, \dots, v_n]$$

for $v_0 < \dots < v_n$, where the hat means to omit that term. This is a chain complex, for example

$$\begin{aligned} d_2 d_3 [v_0, v_1, v_2, v_3] &= d_2 [v_1, v_2, v_3] - d_2 [v_0, v_2, v_3] + d_2 [v_0, v_1, v_3] - d_2 [v_0, v_1, v_2] \\ &= ([v_2, v_3] - [v_1, v_3] + [v_1, v_2]) \\ &\quad - ([v_2, v_3] - [v_0, v_3] + [v_0, v_2]) \\ &\quad + ([v_1, v_3] - [v_0, v_3] + [v_0, v_1]) \\ &\quad - ([v_1, v_2] - [v_0, v_2] + [v_0, v_1]) \\ &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

The *simplicial homology* of K is $H_n(C(K))$.

The naming of cycles and boundaries can be explained as follows. Let K be an oriented simplicial complex, for simplicity in \mathbb{R}^2 . A path along the edges gives an element of C_1 . The path is a *cycle* if it returns to its starting point. The path is a boundary if you can fill its interior with 2-simplices.

For example suppose K is given by vertices 1,2,3,4, with edges 1–2–3–4–1–3, and a triangle 1–2–3–1. Then C_0 free on [1], [2], [3], [4], C_1 is free on [12], [13], [14], [23], [34], C_2 is free on [123]. We have $d([123]) = [23] - [13] + [12]$, $d([12]) = [2] - [1]$, $d([13]) = [3] - [1]$, $d([14]) = [4] - [1]$, $d([23]) = [3] - [2]$, $d([34]) = [4] - [3]$. We have $Z_0(C) = C_0$ and

$$\begin{aligned} B_0(C) &= \mathbb{Z}\text{-span}([2] - [1], [3] - [1], [4] - [1], [3] - [2], [4] - [3]) \\ &= \{\alpha[1] + \beta[2] + \gamma[3] + \delta[4] : \alpha + \beta + \gamma + \delta = 0\}. \end{aligned}$$

so $H_0(C) \cong \mathbb{Z}$. Now $Z_1(C)$ is the set of $\alpha[12] + \beta[13] + \gamma[14] + \delta[23] + \epsilon[34]$ such that

$$(-\alpha - \beta - \gamma)[1] + (\alpha - \delta)[2] + (\beta + \delta - \epsilon)[3] + (\gamma + \epsilon)[4] = 0$$

and $B_1(C) = \mathbb{Z}([23] - [13] + [12])$. Then

$$Z_1(C) = B_1(C) \oplus \mathbb{Z}([13] - [14] + [34])$$

so $H_1(C) \cong \mathbb{Z}$. Also $Z_2(C) = 0$, so $H_2(C) = 0$.

Example (de Rham cohomology). Let M be a smooth manifold. The *de Rham complex* is the cochain complex

$$\dots \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow \Omega^0(M) \xrightarrow{d} \Omega^1(M) \xrightarrow{d} \Omega^2(M) \rightarrow \dots$$

where $\Omega^0(M)$ is the set of smooth functions $M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ (that is all partial derivatives exist and are continuous), $\Omega^n(M)$ is the space of differential n -forms and d is the exterior derivative. The *de Rham cohomology* is $H_{dR}^n(M) = H^n(\Omega(M))$.

For example if M is an open subset of \mathbb{R}^2 then:

$$\begin{aligned} \Omega^1(M) &= \{\omega = p dx + q dy : p, q \text{ smooth functions on } M\}, \\ \Omega^2(M) &= \{h dx dy : h \text{ a smooth function on } M.\} \end{aligned}$$

For $f \in \Omega^0(M)$ we have

$$d(f) = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} dx + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} dy$$

For $\omega = p dx + q dy \in \Omega^1(M)$ we have

$$d\omega = \left(\frac{\partial q}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial p}{\partial y} \right) dx dy.$$

We have $d^2 = 0$ since $\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x \partial y} = \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y \partial x}$.

The spaces of cocycles and coboundaries are:

$Z^1 = \{\omega \in \Omega^1(M) : d\omega = 0\}$, the set of closed 1-forms.

$B^1 = \{df : f \in \Omega^0(M)\}$, the set of exact 1-forms.

Thus $H_{dR}^1(M) = \{\text{closed 1-forms}\} / \{\text{exact 1-forms}\}$.

The Poincaré Lemma implies that $H_{dR}^1(M) = 0$ if M is an open disc in \mathbb{R}^2 , or more generally simply connected. On the other hand $H_{dR}^1(\mathbb{R}^2 \setminus \{0\}) \neq 0$ since one can show that the 1-form

$$\omega = \frac{-y}{x^2 + y^2} dx + \frac{x}{x^2 + y^2} dy \in \Omega^1(\mathbb{R}^2 \setminus \{0\})$$

is closed but not exact.

Example (Singular homology and cohomology). Let X be a topological space. For each n , let $\Delta^n = [v_0, \dots, v_n]$ be an n -simplex. Let C_n be the free \mathbb{Z} -module with basis the set of continuous maps $\sigma : \Delta^n \rightarrow X$. The image of the map might look like a deformed simplex, but it might be singular, hence the name. We can make the C_n into a chain complex via

$$d_n(\sigma) = \sum_{i=0}^n (-1)^i \sigma|_{[v_0, \dots, \hat{v}_i, \dots, v_n]}$$

where we must consider the restriction $\sigma|_{[v_0, \dots, \hat{v}_i, \dots, v_n]}$ as a mapping $\Delta^{n-1} \rightarrow X$, so an element of C_{n-1} . We get *singular homology* and *cohomology*.

- (1) Suppose K is an ordered simplicial complex and $|K|$ is the union of its simplices. Then simplicial homology of K and singular homology of $|K|$ coincide.
- (2) Suppose M is a manifold, then singular cohomology of M with coefficients in \mathbb{R} and de Rham cohomology of M coincide (de Rham's theorem).

The proofs use results from topology and also about complexes. We shall develop the latter only.

3.3 The category of complexes

We shall work with cochain complexes. The definitions work for an abelian category \mathcal{A} , and some more generally for \mathcal{A} an additive or preadditive category. But we do most proofs only for R -Mod.

Definition. Let \mathcal{A} be a preadditive category (usually abelian, or at least additive). The *category of complexes* $C(\mathcal{A})$ has as objects the cochain complexes of objects and morphisms in \mathcal{A}

$$\dots \rightarrow C^{-2} \xrightarrow{d^{-2}} C^{-1} \xrightarrow{d^{-1}} C^0 \xrightarrow{d^0} C^1 \xrightarrow{d^1} C^2 \rightarrow \dots$$

satisfying $d^n d^{n-1} = 0$ for all n . We denote the differential also by d_C^n or just d . A morphism $f : C \rightarrow D$ is given by morphisms $f^n : C^n \rightarrow D^n$ for $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that each square in the diagram commutes

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} \dots & \longrightarrow & C^{n-1} & \xrightarrow{d_C^{n-1}} & C^n & \xrightarrow{d_C^n} & C^{n+1} & \longrightarrow & \dots \\ & & f^{n-1} \downarrow & & f^n \downarrow & & f^{n+1} \downarrow & & \\ \dots & \longrightarrow & D^{n-1} & \xrightarrow{d_D^{n-1}} & D^n & \xrightarrow{d_D^n} & D^{n+1} & \longrightarrow & \dots \end{array}$$

Composition of morphisms is done degreewise.

For $i \in \mathbb{Z}$ there is a *shift functor* $\Sigma^i : C(\mathcal{A}) \rightarrow C(\mathcal{A})$ defined on objects by

$$(\Sigma^i C)^n = C^{n+i}, \quad d_{\Sigma^i C}^n = (-1)^i d_C^{n+i}$$

and on morphisms $f : C \rightarrow D$ by

$$(\Sigma^i f)^n = f^{n+i}.$$

This is an automorphism of the category. It is the i th power of the functor $\Sigma = \Sigma^1$. Other notation is $C[i]$ or $T^i C$. Other names are *suspension* and *translation*.

If \mathcal{A} is an abelian category, then we get the cohomology

$$H^n(C) = \text{Ker}(d^n) / \text{Im}(d^{n-1}) = Z^n(C) / B^n(C) \in \text{ob}(\mathcal{A}).$$

Lemma. $C(\mathcal{A})$ is a preadditive category. If \mathcal{A} is additive or abelian, so is $C(\mathcal{A})$. In the last case, a sequence of complexes

$$0 \rightarrow C \rightarrow D \rightarrow E \rightarrow 0$$

is exact if and only if the sequence in each degree

$$0 \rightarrow C^n \rightarrow D^n \rightarrow E^n \rightarrow 0$$

is exact.

Proof. Sums of morphisms, direct sums, kernels and cokernels are computed ‘degreewise’:

$$(f + g)^n = f^n + g^n, \quad (C \oplus D)^n = C^n \oplus D^n, \quad (\text{Ker } f)^n = \text{Ker}(f^n)$$

etc. □

Lemma. *A morphism of complexes $f : C \rightarrow D$ for an abelian category \mathcal{A} induces morphisms on cohomology $H^n(f) : H^n(C) \rightarrow H^n(D)$, giving a functor $H^n : C(\mathcal{A}) \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$.*

Proof. We do it for $\mathcal{A} = R\text{-Mod}$. An arbitrary element of $H^n(C)$ is of the form $[x]$ with $x \in Z^n(C) = \text{Ker } d_C^n$. Then $f^n(x) \in \text{Ker } d_D^n = Z^n(D)$, so induces an element $[f^n(x)] \in H^n(D)$. This is well-defined, for if $x \in B^n(C) = \text{Im } d_C^{n-1}$, then $x = d_C^{n-1}(y)$ for some $y \in C^{n-1}$, but then $f^n(x) = f^n d_C^{n-1}(y) = d_D^{n-1} f^{n-1}(y) \in \text{Im } d_D^{n-1} = B^n(D)$. Thus we get a mapping $H^n(f) : H^n(C) \rightarrow H^n(D)$. It is easy to see that this defines a functor. □

Definition. A morphism of complexes $f : C \rightarrow D$ for an abelian category \mathcal{A} is a *quasi-isomorphism* if the morphism $H^n(C) \rightarrow H^n(D)$ is an isomorphism for all n .

Example. For $0 \neq a \in \mathbb{Z}$, there is a quasi-isomorphism of complexes of \mathbb{Z} -modules

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccc} \dots & \longrightarrow & 0 & \longrightarrow & \mathbb{Z} & \xrightarrow{a} & \mathbb{Z} & \longrightarrow & 0 & \longrightarrow & \dots \\ & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \pi \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \\ \dots & \longrightarrow & 0 & \longrightarrow & 0 & \longrightarrow & \mathbb{Z}/\mathbb{Z}a & \longrightarrow & 0 & \longrightarrow & \dots \end{array}$$

where π is the projection.

Theorem. *A short exact sequence of complexes $0 \rightarrow C \rightarrow D \rightarrow E \rightarrow 0$ for an abelian category \mathcal{A} induces a long exact sequence on cohomology*

$$\dots \rightarrow H^{n-1}(E) \rightarrow H^n(C) \rightarrow H^n(D) \rightarrow H^n(E) \rightarrow H^{n+1}(C) \rightarrow H^{n+1}(D) \rightarrow \dots$$

for suitable connecting morphisms $c^n : H^n(E) \rightarrow H^{n+1}(C)$.

Proof. For all n we have a diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & C^n & \longrightarrow & D^n & \longrightarrow & E^n & \longrightarrow & 0 \\ & & d_C^n \downarrow & & d_D^n \downarrow & & d_E^n \downarrow & & \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & C^{n+1} & \longrightarrow & D^{n+1} & \longrightarrow & E^{n+1} & \longrightarrow & 0 \end{array}$$

and the easy part of the Snake Lemma gives exact sequences on kernels of the vertical maps

$$0 \rightarrow Z^n(C) \rightarrow Z^n(D) \rightarrow Z^n(E)$$

and on cokernels

$$C^{n+1}/B^{n+1}(C) \rightarrow D^{n+1}/B^{n+1}(D) \rightarrow E^{n+1}/B^{n+1}(E) \rightarrow 0$$

This holds for all n , so shows that the rows in the following diagram are exact

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} C^n/B^n(C) & \longrightarrow & D^n/B^n(D) & \longrightarrow & E^n/B^n(E) & \longrightarrow & 0 \\ \bar{d}_C^n \downarrow & & \bar{d}_D^n \downarrow & & \bar{d}_E^n \downarrow & & \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & Z^{n+1}(C) & \longrightarrow & Z^{n+1}(D) & \longrightarrow & Z^{n+1}(E). \end{array}$$

Here the vertical maps are induced by d_C^n , d_D^n and d_E^n , so the diagram commutes. Thus by the snake lemma one gets an exact sequence

$$\text{Ker}(\bar{d}_C^n) \rightarrow \text{Ker}(\bar{d}_D^n) \rightarrow \text{Ker}(\bar{d}_E^n) \rightarrow \text{Coker}(\bar{d}_C^n) \rightarrow \text{Coker}(\bar{d}_D^n) \rightarrow \text{Coker}(\bar{d}_E^n)$$

That is,

$$H^n(C) \rightarrow H^n(D) \rightarrow H^n(E) \rightarrow H^{n+1}(C) \rightarrow H^{n+1}(D) \rightarrow H^{n+1}(E)$$

as required. \square

3.4 Mapping cones

Definition. The *mapping cone* of a morphism of complexes $f : B \rightarrow C$ in $C(\mathcal{A})$, with \mathcal{A} an additive category, is the complex $\text{cone}(f)$ with

$$\begin{aligned} \text{cone}(f)^n &= (\Sigma B)^n \oplus C^n = B^{n+1} \oplus C^n, \\ d^n &= \begin{pmatrix} d_{\Sigma B}^n & 0 \\ f^{n+1} & d_C^n \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -d_B^{n+1} & 0 \\ f^{n+1} & d_C^n \end{pmatrix} : B^{n+1} \oplus C^n \rightarrow B^{n+2} \oplus C^{n+1} \end{aligned}$$

That is, for complexes of R -modules,

$$d^n(b, c) = (-d_B^{n+1}(b), f^{n+1}(b) + d_C^n(c)).$$

Observe that $\text{cone}(0 \rightarrow C) \cong C$ and $\text{cone}(B \rightarrow 0) \cong \Sigma B$.

Proposition. *There is a sequence of complexes*

$$0 \rightarrow C \rightarrow \text{cone}(f) \rightarrow \Sigma B \rightarrow 0$$

which in degree n is the split exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow C^n \xrightarrow{i_C^n} B^{n+1} \oplus C^n \xrightarrow{p_{B^{n+1}}} B^{n+1} \rightarrow 0$$

Thus if \mathcal{A} is abelian, it is an exact sequence of complexes. In the corresponding long exact sequence on cohomology, the connecting morphism

$$H^n(B) = H^{n-1}(\Sigma B) \rightarrow H^n(C)$$

is equal to $H^n(f)$.

Proof. The first part is straightforward. We do the second part for $R\text{-Mod}$. The connecting map $H^{n+1}(B) \rightarrow H^{n+1}(C)$ is given by the Snake Lemma from the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
& & & & & & 0 \\
& & & & & & \downarrow \\
& & & & & & H^{n+1}(B) \\
& & & & & & \downarrow \\
& & & & & & B^{n+1}/B^{n+1}(B) \longrightarrow 0 \\
& & C^n/B^n(C) & \longrightarrow & \text{cone}(f)^n/B^n(\text{cone}(f)) & \longrightarrow & \\
& & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
0 & \longrightarrow & Z^{n+1}(C) & \longrightarrow & Z^{n+1}(\text{cone}(f)) & \longrightarrow & Z^{n+2}(B) \\
& & \downarrow & & & & \\
& & H^{n+1}(C) & & & & \\
& & \downarrow & & & & \\
& & 0 & & & &
\end{array}$$

Now an element $[b]$ of $H^{n+1}(B)$ lifts to an element $[(b, 0)]$ of $\text{cone}(f)^n/B^n(\text{cone}(f))$, and applying the differential of $\text{cone}(f)$ it gives $[(0, f^{n+1}(b))] \in Z^{n+1}(\text{cone}(f))$, which comes from $[f^{n+1}(b)]$ in $H^{n+1}(C)$. \square

Corollary. *If \mathcal{A} is abelian, then a morphism $f : B \rightarrow C$ of complexes is a quasi-isomorphism if and only if $\text{cone}(f)$ is acyclic.*

Proof. Follows from the long exact sequence on cohomology

$$\dots \rightarrow H^{n-1}(\text{cone}(f)) \rightarrow H^n(B) \rightarrow H^n(C) \rightarrow H^n(\text{cone}(f)) \rightarrow H^{n+1}(B) \rightarrow H^{n+1}(C) \rightarrow \dots$$

\square

3.5 The homotopy category

Definition. An *ideal* in a preadditive category \mathcal{A} is a class of morphisms I in \mathcal{A} such that

- $I(X, Y) := I \cap \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{A}}(X, Y)$ is an additive subgroup of $\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{A}}(X, Y)$ for all X, Y , and
- If $X \xrightarrow{f} Y \xrightarrow{g} Z$ are morphisms in \mathcal{A} , and f or g is in I , then so is gf .

If I is an ideal in \mathcal{A} , then there is a *quotient category* \mathcal{A}/I , with the same objects as \mathcal{A} and

$$\mathrm{Hom}_{\mathcal{A}/I}(X, Y) = \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathcal{A}}(X, Y)/I(X, Y).$$

If \mathcal{A} is an additive category, so is \mathcal{A}/I .

Definition. A morphism $f : C \rightarrow D$ of complexes is *null-homotopic* if there are morphisms $h^n : C^n \rightarrow D^{n-1}$ for all $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that

$$f^n = h^{n+1}d_C^n + d_D^{n-1}h^n$$

for all $n \in \mathbb{Z}$. Two morphisms $f, g : C \rightarrow D$ of complexes are *homotopic* if $f - g$ is null-homotopic.

Proposition/Definition. *The null-homotopic morphisms form an ideal in the category of $C(\mathcal{A})$, so we get the quotient category*

$$K(\mathcal{A}) := \mathcal{A}/\{\text{null-homotopic morphisms}\}$$

is called the homotopy category of \mathcal{A} . The morphisms are the homotopy classes of morphisms in $C(\mathcal{A})$. There is a canonical functor $C(\mathcal{A}) \rightarrow K(\mathcal{A})$. If \mathcal{A} is additive, so is $K(\mathcal{A})$.

Proof. We need to show that if $C \xrightarrow{f} D \xrightarrow{g} E$ are morphisms of complexes and f or g is null-homotopic, then so is gf . If f is null-homotopic with morphisms h^n , then

$$\begin{aligned} (gf)^n &= g^n f^n = g^n(h^{n+1}d_C^n + d_D^{n-1}h^n) \\ &= g^n h^{n+1}d_C^n + g^n d_D^{n-1}h^n \\ &= (g^n h^{n+1})d_C^n + d_E^{n-1}(g^{n-1}h^n). \end{aligned}$$

Similarly if g is null-homotopic. □

Lemma. *If \mathcal{A} is abelian, then homotopic morphisms $f, g : C \rightarrow D$ induce the same morphism on cohomology $H^n(f) = H^n(g) : H^n(C) \rightarrow H^n(D)$. Thus cohomology induces a functor on the homotopy category*

$$H^n : K(\mathcal{A}) \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$$

also denoted by H^n .

Proof. It suffices to show that null-homotopic morphisms induce the zero morphism on cohomology. We do it for R -modules. Thus suppose

$$f^n = h^{n+1}d_C^n + d_D^{n-1}h^n$$

An element of $H^n(C)$ is represented by an element $x \in Z^n(C) = \mathrm{Ker} d_C^n$. Then $f^n(x) = d_D^{n-1}h^n(x) \in \mathrm{Im}(d_D^{n-1}) = B^n(D)$, so $H^n(f)([x]) = [f^n(x)]$ is zero in $H^n(D)$. □

Definition. A morphism $f : C \rightarrow D$ is a *homotopy equivalence* if its image in $K(\mathcal{A})$ is an isomorphism. Equivalently, there is a morphism $g : D \rightarrow C$ such that fg is homotopic to Id_D and gf is homotopic to Id_C .

Lemma. *If \mathcal{A} is abelian, then a homotopy equivalence is a quasi-isomorphism.*

Proof. A homotopy equivalence gives an isomorphism in $K(\mathcal{A})$, so it is sent to an isomorphism by H^n . \square

Lemma. *An additive functor $F : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$ induces a functor*

$$F : C(\mathcal{A}) \rightarrow C(\mathcal{B}), \quad F(C)^n = F(C^n), \quad d_{F(C)}^n = F(d_C^n),$$

and this induces a functor $\overline{F} : K(\mathcal{A}) \rightarrow K(\mathcal{B})$. Similarly an additive functor $F : \mathcal{A}^{op} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$ induces a functor

$$F : C(\mathcal{A})^{op} \rightarrow C(\mathcal{B}), \quad F(C)^n = F(C^{-n}), \quad d_{F(C)}^n = F(d_C^{-n-1}),$$

and this induces a functor $\overline{F} : K(\mathcal{A})^{op} \rightarrow K(\mathcal{B})$.

Proof. If $f : C \rightarrow D$ is null-homotopic, then

$$f^n = h^{n+1}d_C^n + d_D^{n-1}h^n$$

so

$$F(f^n) = F(h^{n+1})d_{F(C)}^n + d_{F(D)}^{n-1}F(h^n),$$

so $F(f)$ is null-homotopic. \square

Corollary. *If $F : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$ is an additive functor and $f : C \rightarrow D$ is a homotopy equivalence in $C(\mathcal{A})$, then $F(f) : F(C) \rightarrow F(D)$ is a homotopy equivalence. In particular, if \mathcal{B} is abelian, then $F(f)$ is a quasi-isomorphism. Similarly for a contravariant functor.*

Proof. f becomes an isomorphism in $K(\mathcal{A})$, so $\overline{F}(f)$ is an isomorphism, but this is the image of $F(f)$ in $K(\mathcal{B})$. \square

Remark. If M is a left R -module and $f : C \rightarrow D$ is a homotopy equivalence of complexes of right R -modules, taking $F = - \otimes_R M$, one gets an isomorphism

$$H_n(C; M) \rightarrow H_n(D; M)$$

on homology with coefficients. Similarly if $C \rightarrow D$ is a homotopy equivalence of complexes of left R -modules, one get an isomorphism

$$H^n(D; M) \rightarrow H^n(C; M)$$

on cohomology with coefficients.

Definition. A complex C is *contractible* if it is homotopy equivalent to the zero complex, or equivalently if Id_C is null-homotopic.

Proposition. *If \mathcal{A} is abelian, a complex is contractible if and only if it is acyclic (i.e. exact) and all of the short exact sequences*

$$0 \rightarrow Z^n(C) \xrightarrow{\text{inclusion}} C^n \xrightarrow{d^n} B^{n+1}(C) \rightarrow 0$$

are split.

Proof. We do it for $R\text{-Mod}$. If C is contractible, then it is quasi-isomorphic to the zero complex, so it is acyclic. Now Id_C is null-homotopic, so there are $h^n : C^n \rightarrow C^{n-1}$ with

$$\text{Id}_{C^n} = h^{n+1}d^n + d^{n-1}h^n$$

Let $s^{n+1} : B^{n+1}(C) = Z^{n+1}(C) \rightarrow C^n$ be the restriction of h^{n+1} . If $x \in B^{n+1}(C)$, then

$$x = \text{Id}_{C^{n+1}}(x) = (h^{n+2}d^{n+1} + d^n h^{n+1})(x) = d^n h^{n+1}(x) = d^n s^{n+1}(x)$$

so s^{n+1} is a section for the short exact sequence $0 \rightarrow Z^n(C) \rightarrow C^n \rightarrow B^{n+1}(C) \rightarrow 0$.

Now suppose that C is acyclic and the short exact sequences are all split, with sections $s^{n+1} : B^{n+1}(C) \rightarrow C^n$. If $x \in C^n$, then $x - s^{n+1}d^n(x) \in Z^n(C) = B^n(C)$, so we can define a homomorphism $h^n : C^n \rightarrow C^{n-1}$ by

$$h^n(x) = s^n(x - s^{n+1}d^n(x)).$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} (h^{n+1}d^n + d^{n-1}h^n)(x) &= s^{n+1}(d^n(x) - s^{n+2}d^{n+1}(d^n(x))) + d^{n-1}s^n(x - s^{n+1}d^n(x)) \\ &= s^{n+1}d^n(x) + (x - s^{n+1}d^n(x)) = x. \end{aligned}$$

Thus C is contractible. □

4 Resolutions, derived functors, Ext and Tor

4.1 Projective and injective resolutions

Definition. We suppose that \mathcal{A} is an abelian category which has *enough projectives*, meaning that for every object M there is an epimorphism from a projective object to M , for example $R\text{-Mod}$.

A *projective resolution* of M is an exact sequence

$$\cdots \rightarrow P_2 \xrightarrow{d_2} P_1 \xrightarrow{d_1} P_0 \xrightarrow{\epsilon} M \rightarrow 0$$

with the P_i projective. It is equivalent to give a non-negative chain complex P of projectives and a quasi-isomorphism $P \rightarrow M$ (with M considered as a chain complex in degree 0),

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccccc} \cdots & \longrightarrow & P_2 & \xrightarrow{d_2} & P_1 & \xrightarrow{d_1} & P_0 & \longrightarrow & 0 & \longrightarrow & \cdots \\ & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \epsilon \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \\ \cdots & \longrightarrow & 0 & \longrightarrow & 0 & \longrightarrow & M & \longrightarrow & 0 & \longrightarrow & \cdots \end{array}$$

The *syzygies* of M with respect to this projective resolution are the objects

$$\Omega_n M = \text{Im}(d_n : P_n \rightarrow P_{n-1}) = \begin{cases} \text{Ker}(\epsilon : P_0 \rightarrow M) & (n = 1) \\ \text{Ker}(d_{n-1} : P_{n-1} \rightarrow P_{n-2}) & (n > 1) \end{cases}$$

and $\Omega_0 M = M$. Thus there are exact sequences

$$0 \rightarrow \Omega_{n+1} M \rightarrow P_n \rightarrow \Omega_n M \rightarrow 0.$$

Note that object module has many different projective resolutions. Choose any epimorphism $\epsilon : P_0 \rightarrow M$. This gives $\Omega_1 M$. Then choose any epimorphism $d_1 : P_1 \rightarrow \text{Ker } \Omega_1 M$, then any epimorphism $d_2 : P_2 \rightarrow \Omega_2 M$, etc.

Dually, suppose that \mathcal{A} has *enough injectives*, meaning that every object has a monomorphism to an injective object. An *injective resolution* of an object X is an exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow X \rightarrow I^0 \rightarrow I^1 \rightarrow I^2 \rightarrow \cdots$$

with the I^n injective. The *cosyzygies* are $\Omega^n X = \text{Im}(I^{n-1} \rightarrow I^n)$ (and $\Omega^0 X = X$), so

$$0 \rightarrow \Omega^n X \rightarrow I^n \rightarrow \Omega^{n+1} X \rightarrow 0.$$

Injective resolutions in \mathcal{A} are exactly the same as projective resolutions in \mathcal{A}^{op} .

Theorem (Comparison Theorem). *Given projective resolutions $\epsilon : P \rightarrow M$ and $\epsilon' : P' \rightarrow M'$, any morphism $f : M \rightarrow M'$ can be lifted to a morphism of projective resolutions*

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccc} \dots & \longrightarrow & P_2 & \xrightarrow{d_2} & P_1 & \xrightarrow{d_1} & P_0 & \xrightarrow{\epsilon} & M & \longrightarrow & 0 \\ & & g_2 \downarrow & & g_1 \downarrow & & g_0 \downarrow & & f \downarrow & & \\ \dots & \longrightarrow & P'_2 & \xrightarrow{d'_2} & P'_1 & \xrightarrow{d'_1} & P'_0 & \xrightarrow{\epsilon'} & M' & \longrightarrow & 0 \end{array}$$

or equivalently to a morphism of complexes $g : P \rightarrow P'$ with $\epsilon'g_0 = f\epsilon$. Moreover g is unique up to homotopy.

Proof. Consider the diagram with exact rows

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & \Omega_1 M & \longrightarrow & P_0 & \longrightarrow & M & \longrightarrow & 0 \\ & & \Omega_1 g \downarrow & & g_0 \downarrow & & f \downarrow & & \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & \Omega_1 M' & \longrightarrow & P'_0 & \longrightarrow & M' & \longrightarrow & 0. \end{array}$$

Since P_0 is projective and $P'_0 \rightarrow M'$ is an epimorphism, there is a morphism g_0 making the right hand square commute. Then there is an induced morphism $\Omega_1 g$ making the left hand square commute.

Now the same argument gets g_1 and $\Omega_2 g$:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & \Omega_2 M & \longrightarrow & P_1 & \longrightarrow & \Omega_1 M & \longrightarrow & 0 \\ & & \Omega_2 g \downarrow & & g_1 \downarrow & & \Omega_1 g \downarrow & & \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & \Omega_2 M' & \longrightarrow & P'_1 & \longrightarrow & \Omega_1 M' & \longrightarrow & 0 \end{array}$$

etc.

To show that any two lifts are homotopic, it is equivalent to show that any lift g of the zero morphism $M \rightarrow M'$ is null-homotopic. Say

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccc} \dots & \longrightarrow & P_2 & \xrightarrow{d_2} & P_1 & \xrightarrow{d_1} & P_0 & \xrightarrow{\epsilon} & M & \longrightarrow & 0 \\ & & g_2 \downarrow & & g_1 \downarrow & & g_0 \downarrow & & 0 \downarrow & & \\ \dots & \longrightarrow & P'_2 & \xrightarrow{d'_2} & P'_1 & \xrightarrow{d'_1} & P'_0 & \xrightarrow{\epsilon'} & M' & \longrightarrow & 0 \end{array}$$

Since $\epsilon'g_0 = 0$ we have $\text{Im}(g_0) \subseteq \text{Ker}(\epsilon') = \Omega_1 M'$, then since $P'_1 \rightarrow \Omega_1 M'$ is an epimorphism, g_0 lifts to a morphism $h_0 : P_0 \rightarrow P'_1$ with $d'_1 h_0 = g_0$. By induction we find morphisms $h_n : P_n \rightarrow P'_{n+1}$ for $n > 0$ with $g_n = d'_{n+1} h_n + h_{n-1} d_n$. Namely, having found h_1, \dots, h_{n-1} , we have

$$d'_n(g_n - h_{n-1}d_n) = g_{n-1}d_n - d'_n h_{n-1}d_n = (g_{n-1} - d'_n h_{n-1})d_n.$$

This is zero both if $n = 1$ or $n > 1$. Thus $g_n - h_{n-1}d_n$ induces a map from P_n to $\Omega_{n+1}M'$, so it lifts to a morphism $h_n : P_n \rightarrow P'_{n+1}$. \square

Corollary. *If $\epsilon : P \rightarrow M$ and $\epsilon' : P' \rightarrow M$ are projective resolutions of M , then there is a homotopy equivalence $g : P \rightarrow P'$ with $\epsilon'g_0 = \epsilon$. Moreover g is unique up to homotopy.*

Proof. The identity Id_M lifts to a morphism $g : P \rightarrow P'$ and to a morphism $g' : P' \rightarrow P$. Now $g'g - \text{Id}_P$ is a lift of the zero morphism $M \rightarrow M$, so is null-homotopic, and so is $gg' - \text{Id}_{P'}$. \square

Lemma (Horseshoe Lemma). *Given a short exact sequence*

$$0 \rightarrow M' \xrightarrow{f} M \xrightarrow{g} M'' \rightarrow 0$$

and projective resolutions $P' \rightarrow M'$ and $P'' \rightarrow M''$, we can find a commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 & & 0 & & 0 & & 0 \\
 & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 \dots & \longrightarrow & P'_1 & \longrightarrow & P'_0 & \xrightarrow{\epsilon'} & M' \longrightarrow 0 \\
 & & \binom{1}{0} \downarrow & & \binom{1}{0} \downarrow & & f \downarrow \\
 \dots & \longrightarrow & P'_1 \oplus P''_1 & \longrightarrow & P'_0 \oplus P''_0 & \longrightarrow & M \longrightarrow 0 \\
 & & \binom{0}{1} \downarrow & & \binom{0}{1} \downarrow & & g \downarrow \\
 \dots & \longrightarrow & P''_1 & \longrightarrow & P''_0 & \xrightarrow{\epsilon''} & M'' \longrightarrow 0 \\
 & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 & & 0 & & 0 & & 0
 \end{array}$$

in which the middle row is a projective resolution of M .

Proof. Since g is an epimorphism and P''_0 is projective, we have $\epsilon'' = gh$ for some

$h : P_0'' \rightarrow M$. Then we get a commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
& 0 & & 0 & & & \\
& \downarrow & & \downarrow & & & \\
& P_0' & \xrightarrow{\epsilon'} & M' & \longrightarrow & 0 & \\
(1) & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & & \\
& P_0' \oplus P_0'' & \xrightarrow{(f\epsilon' \ h)} & M & \longrightarrow & 0 & \\
(0 \ 1) & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & & \\
& P_0'' & \xrightarrow{\epsilon''} & M'' & \longrightarrow & 0 & \\
& \downarrow & & \downarrow & & & \\
& 0 & & 0 & & &
\end{array}$$

By the snake lemma, the sequence of syzygies $0 \rightarrow \Omega_1 M' \rightarrow \Omega_1 M \rightarrow \Omega_1 M' \rightarrow 0$ is exact. Now iterate. \square

4.2 Derived functors

Definition. Suppose $F : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$ is a right exact functor between abelian categories and \mathcal{A} has enough projective. For any $M \in \text{ob}(\mathcal{A})$, we fix a projective resolution $P \rightarrow M$. For $n \geq 0$, the n th left derived functor of F is the functor $L_n F : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$ given by

$$L_n F(M) = H_n(F(P)),$$

the n th homology of the chain complex

$$\cdots \rightarrow F(P_2) \rightarrow F(P_1) \rightarrow F(P_0) \rightarrow 0$$

A morphism $f : M \rightarrow M'$ lifts to a morphism of projective resolutions $g : P \rightarrow P'$, unique up to homotopy. Then $F(g)$ is a morphism $F(P) \rightarrow F(P')$, unique up to homotopy, so it induces unique morphisms $H_n(F(P)) \rightarrow H_n(F(P'))$, that is $L_n F(M) \rightarrow L_n F(M')$. This makes $L_n F$ a functor.

Proposition. (i) $L_n F(M)$ is independent of the projective resolution of M .

(ii) $L_n F(M) = 0$ for $n < 0$ and $L_0 F(M) \cong F(M)$.

(iii) $L_n F(M) = 0$ for M projective and $n > 0$.

(iv) Any short exact sequence $0 \rightarrow M' \rightarrow M \rightarrow M'' \rightarrow 0$ induces a long exact sequence

$$\cdots \rightarrow L_2 F(M'') \rightarrow L_1 F(M') \rightarrow L_1 F(M) \rightarrow L_1 F(M'') \rightarrow F(M') \rightarrow F(M) \rightarrow F(M'') \rightarrow 0.$$

Proof. (i) Any two projective resolutions P, P' of M have a homotopy equivalence $P \rightarrow P'$. Thus $F(P) \rightarrow F(P')$ is a homotopy equivalence, so a quasi-isomorphism. Thus $H_n(F(P)) \cong H_n(F(P'))$.

(ii) Since P is a non-negative chain complex, so is $F(P)$, so $L_n F(M) = 0$ for $n < 0$. Since F is right exact, the exact sequence $P_1 \rightarrow P_0 \rightarrow M \rightarrow 0$ gives an exact sequence

$$F(P_1) \rightarrow F(P_0) \rightarrow F(M) \rightarrow 0,$$

so $H_0(F(P)) \cong F(M)$.

(iii) If M is projective it has a projective resolution with $P_0 = M$ and $P_i = 0$ for $i > 0$.

(iv) Given an exact sequence $0 \rightarrow M' \rightarrow M \rightarrow M'' \rightarrow 0$, by the Horseshoe Lemma we get an exact sequence of projective resolutions $0 \rightarrow P' \rightarrow P \rightarrow P'' \rightarrow 0$. Since the sequences $0 \rightarrow P'_n \rightarrow P_n \rightarrow P''_n \rightarrow 0$ are split, they stay exact under F , so we get an exact sequence of complexes

$$0 \rightarrow F(P') \rightarrow F(P) \rightarrow F(P'') \rightarrow 0$$

and hence the long exact sequence on homology. □

Remark. Variations. Replacing \mathcal{A} by \mathcal{A}^{op} and/or \mathcal{B} by \mathcal{B}^{op} , and noting that a functor $\mathcal{A}^{op} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}^{op}$ is the same thing as a functor $\mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$, we get the following variants.

| | Right exact | Left exact |
|---|-------------|------------|
| Covariant, $F : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$ | done | (b) |
| Contravariant, $F : \mathcal{A}^{op} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$ | (a) | (c) |

(a) If $F : \mathcal{A}^{op} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$ is a right exact functor and \mathcal{A} has enough injectives, then the n th left derived functor $L_n F : \mathcal{A}^{op} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$ is defined by $L_n F(M) = H_n(F(I))$ where $M \rightarrow I$ is a fixed injective resolution of X . A short exact sequence $0 \rightarrow M' \rightarrow M \rightarrow M'' \rightarrow 0$ induces a long exact sequence

$$\cdots \rightarrow L_2 F(M') \rightarrow L_1 F(M'') \rightarrow L_1 F(M) \rightarrow L_1 F(M') \rightarrow F(M'') \rightarrow F(M) \rightarrow F(M') \rightarrow 0.$$

(b) If $F : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$ is a left exact functor and \mathcal{A} has enough injectives, then the n th right derived functor $R^n F : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$ is defined by $R^n F(M) = H^n(F(I))$ where $M \rightarrow I$ is a fixed injective resolution of X . A short exact sequence $0 \rightarrow M' \rightarrow M \rightarrow M'' \rightarrow 0$ induces a long exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow F(M') \rightarrow F(M) \rightarrow F(M'') \rightarrow R^1 F(M') \rightarrow R^1 F(M) \rightarrow R^1 F(M'') \rightarrow R^2 F(M') \rightarrow \cdots$$

(c) If $F : \mathcal{A}^{op} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$ is a left exact functor and \mathcal{A} has enough projectives, then the n th right derived functor $R^n F : \mathcal{A}^{op} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$ is defined by $R^n F(M) = H^n(F(P))$ where $P \rightarrow M$ is a fixed projective resolution of M . A short exact sequence $0 \rightarrow M' \rightarrow M \rightarrow M'' \rightarrow 0$ induces a long exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow F(M'') \rightarrow F(M) \rightarrow F(M') \rightarrow R^1 F(M'') \rightarrow R^1 F(M) \rightarrow R^1 F(M') \rightarrow R^2 F(M'') \rightarrow \dots$$

Example. If X is topological space, there is a category $Sh(X)$ of sheaves of abelian groups on X . It is a Grothendieck category, so has enough injectives. The global section functor

$$\Gamma(X, -) : Sh(X) \rightarrow \text{Ab}$$

is left exact, so it has right derived functors $H^n(X, -) = R^n \Gamma(X, -)$. This is *sheaf cohomology*. For a nice enough topological space (locally contractible), one has

$$H^n(X, \mathbb{Z}_X) \cong H_{sing}^n(X; \mathbb{Z}),$$

where \mathbb{Z}_X is the constant sheaf on X and the right hand side is singular cohomology with coefficients in \mathbb{Z} .

4.3 Ext

Definition. For each R -module M , fix a projective resolution $P \rightarrow M$. Given an R -module X , we define $\text{Ext}_R^n(M, X)$ to be the cohomology of the cochain complex

$$\dots \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow \text{Hom}_R(P_0, X) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_R(P_1, X) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_R(P_2, X) \rightarrow \dots$$

That is,

$$\text{Ext}_R^n(M, X) = H^n(P; X) = H^n(\text{Hom}_R(P, X)) = (R^n \text{Hom}_R(-, X))(M)$$

using the right derived functors of the left exact functor

$$\text{Hom}_R(-, X) : R\text{-Mod}^{op} \rightarrow \text{Ab}.$$

The results about derived functors give:

- Proposition.** (i) $\text{Ext}_R^n(M, X)$ is independent of the projective resolution of M .
(ii) $\text{Ext}_R^0(M, X) \cong \text{Hom}_R(M, X)$.
(iii) $\text{Ext}_R^n(M, X) = 0$ for M projective and $n > 0$.
(iv) Any short exact sequence $0 \rightarrow M' \rightarrow M \rightarrow M'' \rightarrow 0$ induces a long exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \text{Hom}_R(M'', X) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_R(M, X) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_R(M', X) \rightarrow \text{Ext}_R^1(M'', X) \rightarrow \text{Ext}_R^1(M, X) \rightarrow \text{Ext}_R^1(M', X) \rightarrow \text{Ext}_R^2(M'', X) \rightarrow \dots$$

Further properties.

Proposition. (i) By definition $\text{Ext}_R^n(M, X)$ is a contravariant functor in M , but it is also a covariant functor in X . If R is a K -algebra (e.g. $K = \mathbb{Z}$ for a ring), we get a bifunctor

$$\text{Ext}_R^n(-, -) : R\text{-Mod}^{op} \times R\text{-Mod} \rightarrow K\text{-Mod}$$

which is K -linear in each argument.

(ii) $\text{Ext}_R^n(M, X) = 0$ for $n > 0$ and X injective.

(iii) A short exact sequence $0 \rightarrow X' \rightarrow X \rightarrow X'' \rightarrow 0$ induces a long exact sequence

$$\begin{aligned} 0 \rightarrow \text{Hom}_R(M, X') \rightarrow \text{Hom}_R(M, X) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_R(M, X'') \rightarrow \\ \text{Ext}_R^1(M, X') \rightarrow \text{Ext}_R^1(M, X) \rightarrow \text{Ext}_R^1(M, X'') \rightarrow \text{Ext}_R^2(M, X') \rightarrow \dots \end{aligned}$$

Proof. (i) Let $P \rightarrow M$ be a projective resolution of M . A morphism $X \rightarrow X'$ induces a morphism of complexes $\text{Hom}_R(P, X) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_R(P, X')$, and hence morphisms $\text{Ext}_R^n(M, X) \rightarrow \text{Ext}_R^n(M, X')$.

If R is a K -algebra, then any space $\text{Hom}_R(M, X)$ is a K -module, and an morphism $M \rightarrow M'$ or $X \rightarrow X'$ induces a morphism of K -modules. Now we need that if $X \rightarrow X'$ and if $M \rightarrow M'$, then the square

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Ext}^n(M', X) & \longrightarrow & \text{Ext}^n(M, X) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \text{Ext}^n(M', X') & \longrightarrow & \text{Ext}^n(M, X') \end{array}$$

commutes. This holds because if $P \rightarrow P'$ is a lift of $M \rightarrow M'$, then the square of complexes

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Hom}(P', X) & \longrightarrow & \text{Hom}(P, X) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \text{Hom}(P', X') & \longrightarrow & \text{Hom}(P, X') \end{array}$$

commutes.

(ii) Holds since $\text{Hom}_R(-, X)$ is exact.

(iii) If $P \rightarrow M$ is a projective resolution, then since each P_n is projective, one gets an exact sequence of complexes

$$0 \rightarrow \text{Hom}_R(P, X') \rightarrow \text{Hom}_R(P, X) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_R(P, X'') \rightarrow 0.$$

This induces a long exact sequence on cohomology. □

Theorem. If $0 \rightarrow X \rightarrow I^0 \rightarrow I^1 \rightarrow I^2 \rightarrow \dots$ is an injective resolution of X , then one can compute $\text{Ext}_R^n(M, X)$ as the n th cohomology of the complex $\text{Hom}_R(M, I)$:

$$0 \rightarrow \text{Hom}_R(M, I^0) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_R(M, I^1) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_R(M, I^2) \rightarrow \dots$$

Proof. Break the injective resolution into exact sequences

$$0 \rightarrow \Omega^i X \rightarrow I^i \rightarrow \Omega^{i+1} X \rightarrow 0$$

for $i \geq 0$ where $\Omega^0 X = X$. One gets long exact sequences

$$\begin{aligned} 0 \rightarrow \text{Hom}_R(M, \Omega^i X) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_R(M, I^i) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_R(M, \Omega^{i+1} X) \\ \rightarrow \text{Ext}_R^1(M, \Omega^i X) \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow \text{Ext}_R^1(M, \Omega^{i+1} X) \\ \rightarrow \text{Ext}_R^2(M, \Omega^i X) \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow \text{Ext}_R^2(M, \Omega^{i+1} X) \dots \end{aligned}$$

so

$$\text{Ext}_R^1(M, \Omega^i X) \cong \text{Coker}(\text{Hom}_R(M, I^i) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_R(M, \Omega^{i+1} X))$$

and

$$\text{Ext}_R^j(M, \Omega^{i+1} X) \cong \text{Ext}_R^{j+1}(M, \Omega^i X)$$

for $j \geq 1$. Thus (it is called *dimension shifting*)

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Ext}_R^n(M, X) &\cong \text{Ext}_R^{n-1}(M, \Omega^1 X) \cong \dots \cong \text{Ext}_R^1(M, \Omega^{n-1} X) \\ &\cong \text{Coker}(\text{Hom}_R(M, I^{n-1}) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_R(M, \Omega^n X)) \\ &= \frac{\text{Hom}_R(M, \Omega^n X)}{\text{Im}(\text{Hom}_R(M, I^{n-1}) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_R(M, \Omega^n X))} \end{aligned}$$

Now $0 \rightarrow \Omega^n X \rightarrow I^n \rightarrow I^{n+1}$ is exact, hence so is

$$0 \rightarrow \text{Hom}_R(M, \Omega^n X) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_R(M, I^n) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_R(M, I^{n+1}),$$

so we can identify

$$\text{Ext}_R^n(M, X) \cong \frac{\text{Ker}(\text{Hom}_R(M, I^n) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_R(M, I^{n+1}))}{\text{Im}(\text{Hom}_R(M, I^{n-1}) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_R(M, I^n))}$$

which is the cohomology in degree n of the complex $\text{Hom}_R(M, I)$. \square

Remark. We have defined $\text{Ext}_R^n(M, X)$ as the right derived functor $R^n \text{Hom}_R(-, X)$ applied to M . Instead one can consider the right derived functor $R^n \text{Hom}_R(M, -)$ applied to X . The theorem shows that you get the same result. With more care one can show that the resulting bifunctors are isomorphic.

Examples. (1) If R is a semisimple (artinian) ring then all short exact sequences of R -modules are split exact, so all modules are projective and injective. Thus

$$\text{Ext}_R^n(M, X) \cong \begin{cases} \text{Hom}_R(M, X) & (n = 0) \\ 0 & (n > 0). \end{cases}$$

(2) If R is a pid and $0 \neq a \in R$ then R/Ra has projective resolution $0 \rightarrow R \xrightarrow{a} R \rightarrow R/Ra \rightarrow 0$. Thus $\text{Ext}_R^n(R/Ra, X)$ is the cohomology of the complex

$$\cdots \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow \text{Hom}(R, X) \xrightarrow{a} \text{Hom}(R, X) \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow \cdots$$

that is,

$$\cdots \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow X \xrightarrow{a} X \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow \cdots$$

so $\text{Ext}_R^0(R/Ra, X) = \text{Hom}(R/Ra, X) \cong \{x \in X : ax = 0\}$, $\text{Ext}_R^1(R/Ra, X) \cong X/aX$ and $\text{Ext}_R^n(R/Ra, X) = 0$ for $n > 1$.

(3) Let $R = K[x]/(x^2)$ with K a field. Any finitely generated module is a direct sum of copies of K (with x acting as 0) and R . The module K has projective resolution

$$\rightarrow R \xrightarrow{x} R \xrightarrow{x} R \rightarrow K \rightarrow 0.$$

Now $\text{Hom}_R(R, K) \cong K$, and we get $\text{Ext}_R^n(K, K) \cong K$ for all $n \geq 0$.

4.4 Ext^1 classifies short exact sequences

Definition. Two short exact sequences ξ, ξ' with the same end terms are *equivalent* if there is a map θ (necessarily an isomorphism) giving a commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccc} \xi : 0 & \longrightarrow & L & \longrightarrow & M & \longrightarrow & N & \longrightarrow & 0 \\ & & \parallel & & \theta \downarrow & & \parallel & & \\ \xi' : 0 & \longrightarrow & L & \longrightarrow & M' & \longrightarrow & N & \longrightarrow & 0 \end{array}$$

It is easy to see that the split exact sequences form one equivalence class.

Definition. For any short exact sequence of modules

$$\xi : 0 \rightarrow L \rightarrow M \rightarrow N \rightarrow 0$$

we define an element $\hat{\xi} \in \text{Ext}^1(N, L)$ as follows. The long exact sequence for $\text{Hom}(N, -)$ applied to ξ gives a connecting map $\text{Hom}(N, N) \rightarrow \text{Ext}^1(N, L)$, and $\hat{\xi}$ is the image of Id_N under this map.

One can show that $\hat{\xi}$ is also the image of Id_L under the connecting map $\text{Hom}(L, L) \rightarrow \text{Ext}^1(N, L)$ in the long exact sequence obtained by applying $\text{Hom}(-, L)$ to ξ .

Theorem. *The assignment $\xi \mapsto \hat{\xi}$ gives a bijection between equivalence classes of short exact sequences $0 \rightarrow L \rightarrow M \rightarrow N \rightarrow 0$ and elements of $\text{Ext}_R^1(N, L)$. The split exact sequences correspond to the element $0 \in \text{Ext}_R^1(N, L)$.*

Proof. Fix a projective resolution of N , and hence an exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \Omega_1 N \xrightarrow{\theta} P_0 \xrightarrow{\epsilon} N \rightarrow 0.$$

An exact sequence ξ gives a commutative diagram with exact rows and columns

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
& & & & & & 0 \\
& & & & & & \downarrow \\
& & & & & & \text{Hom}(N, N) \\
& & & & & & \downarrow \\
0 & \longrightarrow & \text{Hom}(P_0, L) & \longrightarrow & \text{Hom}(P_0, M) & \longrightarrow & \text{Hom}(P_0, N) \longrightarrow 0 \\
& & \theta^* \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
0 & \longrightarrow & \text{Hom}(\Omega_1 N, L) & \longrightarrow & \text{Hom}(\Omega_1 N, M) & \longrightarrow & \text{Hom}(\Omega_1 N, N) \\
& & \downarrow & & & & \\
& & \text{Ext}^1(N, L) & & & & \\
& & \downarrow & & & & \\
& & 0 & & & &
\end{array}$$

and the connecting map $\text{Hom}(N, N) \rightarrow \text{Ext}^1(N, L)$ is given by diagram chasing, so by the choice of maps α, β giving a commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
0 & \longrightarrow & \Omega_1 N & \longrightarrow & P_0 & \longrightarrow & N \longrightarrow 0 \\
& & \alpha \downarrow & & \beta \downarrow & & \parallel \\
\xi : 0 & \longrightarrow & L & \xrightarrow{f} & M & \xrightarrow{g} & N \longrightarrow 0.
\end{array}$$

Then $\hat{\xi} = [\alpha]$ where $[\dots]$ denotes the map $\text{Hom}(\Omega_1 N, L) \rightarrow \text{Ext}^1(N, L)$.

Any element of $\text{Ext}^1(N, L)$ arises from some ξ . Namely, write it as $[\alpha]$ for some $\alpha \in \text{Hom}(\Omega_1 N, L)$. Then take ξ to be the pushout

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
0 & \longrightarrow & \Omega_1 N & \longrightarrow & P_0 & \longrightarrow & N \longrightarrow 0 \\
& & \alpha \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \parallel \\
\xi : 0 & \longrightarrow & L & \longrightarrow & M & \longrightarrow & N \longrightarrow 0.
\end{array}$$

Now if ξ, ξ' are equivalent exact sequences one gets a diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccc}
0 & \longrightarrow & \Omega_1 N & \longrightarrow & P_0 & \longrightarrow & N & \longrightarrow & 0 \\
& & \alpha \downarrow & & \beta \downarrow & & \parallel & & \\
\xi : 0 & \longrightarrow & L & \longrightarrow & M & \longrightarrow & N & \longrightarrow & 0 \\
& & \parallel & & \downarrow & & \parallel & & \\
\xi' : 0 & \longrightarrow & L & \longrightarrow & M' & \longrightarrow & N & \longrightarrow & 0.
\end{array}$$

so ξ and ξ' correspond to the same map α , so $\hat{\xi} = \hat{\xi}'$. If two short exact sequences ξ, ξ' give the same element of $\text{Ext}^1(N, L)$ there are diagrams with maps α, β and α', β' and with $\alpha - \alpha'$ in the image of the map $\theta^* : \text{Hom}(P_0, L) \rightarrow \text{Hom}(\Omega_1 N, L)$. Say $\alpha - \alpha' = \phi\theta$ with $\phi : P_0 \rightarrow L$. Then there is also a diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccc}
0 & \longrightarrow & \Omega_1 N & \xrightarrow{\theta} & P_0 & \longrightarrow & N & \longrightarrow & 0 \\
& & \alpha' \downarrow & & \beta - f\phi \downarrow & & \parallel & & \\
\xi : 0 & \longrightarrow & L & \xrightarrow{f} & M & \longrightarrow & N & \longrightarrow & 0.
\end{array}$$

This is a pushout, so by the uniqueness of pushouts, ξ and ξ' are equivalent. \square

Remark. Homomorphisms $L \rightarrow L'$ and $N'' \rightarrow N$ induce maps $\text{Ext}^1(N, L) \rightarrow \text{Ext}^1(N, L')$ and $\text{Ext}^1(N, L) \rightarrow \text{Ext}^1(N'', L)$. One can show that these maps correspond to pushouts and pullbacks of short exact sequences. For pushouts this follows directly from the definition. For pullbacks it needs more thought.

Theorem. *The following are equivalent for a module M .*

- (i) M is projective
- (ii) $\text{Ext}^n(M, X) = 0$ for all X and all $n > 0$.
- (iii) $\text{Ext}^1(M, X) = 0$ for all X .

The following are equivalent for a module X .

- (i) X is injective
- (ii) $\text{Ext}^n(M, X) = 0$ for all M and all $n > 0$.
- (iii) $\text{Ext}^1(M, X) = 0$ for all cyclic modules M .

Proof. (i) \Rightarrow (ii) \Rightarrow (iii) are clear.

(iii) \Rightarrow (i) using the characterization of a projective module as one for which all short exact sequences ending at the module split. If $\text{Ext}^1(R/I, X) = 0$ for all left ideals R , then by the long exact for $\text{Hom}(-, X)$ applied to $0 \rightarrow I \rightarrow R \rightarrow R/I \rightarrow 0$, we get a surjective map $\text{Hom}(R, X) \rightarrow \text{Hom}(I, X)$, so X is injective by Baer's criterion. \square

4.5 Projective, injective and global dimensions

Proposition/Definition. *Let M be a module and $n \geq 0$. The following are equivalent.*

(i) *There is a projective resolution $0 \rightarrow P_n \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow P_0 \rightarrow M \rightarrow 0$*

(ii) *$\text{Ext}^m(M, X) = 0$ for all $m > n$ and all X .*

(iii) *$\text{Ext}^{n+1}(M, X) = 0$ for all X .*

(iv) *For any projective resolution of M , we have $\Omega_n M$ projective.*

The projective dimension, $\text{proj. dim } M$, is the smallest n with this property (or ∞ if there is none).

Let X be a module and $n \geq 0$. The following are equivalent.

(i) *There is an injective resolution $0 \rightarrow X \rightarrow I^0 \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow I^n \rightarrow 0$*

(ii) *$\text{Ext}^m(M, X) = 0$ for all $m > n$ and all X .*

(iii) *$\text{Ext}^{n+1}(M, X) = 0$ for all **cyclic** M .*

(iv) *For any injective resolution of X , we have $\Omega^n X$ injective.*

The injective dimension, $\text{inj. dim } X$, is the smallest n with this property (or ∞ if there is none).

Proof. (i) \Rightarrow (ii) \Rightarrow (iii) are trivial. For (iii) \Rightarrow (iv) let $P \rightarrow M$ be a projective resolution. For any X , dimension shifting gives

$$0 = \text{Ext}^{n+1}(M, X) \cong \text{Ext}^n(\Omega_1 M, X) \cong \cdots \cong \text{Ext}^1(\Omega_n M, X),$$

so $\Omega_n M$ is projective. Then

$$0 \rightarrow \Omega_n M \rightarrow P_{n-1} \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow P_0 \rightarrow M \rightarrow 0$$

is also a projective resolution of M , giving (i). □

Lemma. *If $0 \rightarrow L \rightarrow M \rightarrow N \rightarrow 0$ is exact, then*

$$\text{proj. dim } M \leq \max\{\text{proj. dim } L, \text{proj. dim } N\},$$

$$\text{inj. dim } M \leq \max\{\text{inj. dim } L, \text{inj. dim } N\}.$$

Proof. For any X the long exact sequence for $\text{Hom}(-, X)$ gives an exact sequence

$$\cdots \rightarrow \text{Ext}^{n+1}(N, X) \rightarrow \text{Ext}^{n+1}(M, X) \rightarrow \text{Ext}^{n+1}(L, X) \rightarrow \cdots$$

and the outer terms are zero for $n = \max$. □

Definition. The (left) global dimension of R (in $\mathbb{N} \cup \{\infty\}$) is

$$\begin{aligned} \text{gl. dim } R &= \sup\{\text{proj. dim } M : M \in R\text{-Mod}\} \\ &= \inf\{n \in \mathbb{N} : \text{Ext}^{n+1}(M, X) = 0 \forall M, X\} \\ &= \sup\{\text{inj. dim } X : X \in R\text{-Mod}\} \\ &= \inf\{n \in \mathbb{N} : \text{Ext}^{n+1}(M, X) = 0 \forall M, X \text{ with } M \text{ cyclic}\} \\ &= \sup\{\text{proj. dim } M : M \text{ cyclic}\}. \end{aligned}$$

Examples. (1) $\text{gl. dim } R = 0 \Leftrightarrow$ all modules are projective \Leftrightarrow all short exact sequences split \Leftrightarrow every submodule has a complement $\Leftrightarrow R$ is a semisimple (artinian) ring.

(2) If R is a f.d. algebra over a field, then

$$\text{gl. dim } R = \max\{\text{proj. dim } S : S \text{ is a simple module}\}.$$

Namely, call the maximum m . Using the lemma and induction on $\text{dim } M$ we get $\text{proj. dim } M \leq m$ for any f.d. M . Thus $\text{proj. dim } M \leq m$ for all cyclic M . Thus $\text{gl. dim } R \leq m$. But clearly $m \leq \text{gl. dim } R$.

(3) Let $R = K[x]/(x^2)$ with K a field. Then K becomes an R -module with x acting as 0, and we saw that $\text{Ext}_R^n(K, K) \cong K$ for all $n \geq 0$. Thus $\text{proj. dim } K = \infty$, so also $\text{gl. dim } R = \infty$.

Proposition/Definition. A ring R is said to be (left) hereditary if it satisfies the following equivalent conditions

- (i) $\text{gl. dim } R \leq 1$ (left global dimension).
- (ii) Every submodule of a projective (left) module is projective.
- (iii) Every left ideal in R is projective.

Proof. (i) \Rightarrow (ii) If N is a submodule of P then for any X , by the long exact sequence, $\text{Ext}^1(N, X) \cong \text{Ext}^2(P/N, X) = 0$.

(ii) \Rightarrow (iii) Trivial.

(iii) \Rightarrow (i) For any cyclic module R/I we have $\text{proj. dim } R/I \leq 1$. □

Example. A principal ideal domain is hereditary. As discussed in the section on projective modules, if R is an integral domain, then a non-zero ideal is projective if and only if it is invertible. Thus R is hereditary if and only if every nonzero ideal is invertible, and as mentioned before, this is if and only if R is a Dedekind domain.

Definition. Let $Q = (Q_0, Q_1, s, t)$ be a quiver with finite vertex set Q_0 . If R is a commutative ring, the path algebra RQ is the free R -module with basis the paths in Q , including a trivial path e_i for each vertex. For example the quiver

$$1 \xrightarrow{a} 2 \xrightarrow{b} 3$$

has paths e_1, e_2, e_3, a, b, ba . It becomes an R -algebra with multiplication given by concatenation of paths, or zero if they are not compatible. For example

$$b \cdot a = ba, \quad a \cdot a = 0,$$

$$\begin{aligned} b \cdot e_2 &= b, & b \cdot e_1 &= 0, \\ e_1 \cdot e_1 &= e_1, & e_1 \cdot e_2 &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

Thus the e_i are orthogonal idempotents and the 1 is $\sum_{i \in Q_0} e_i$.

Note that if $i \in Q_0$ then RQe_i is an RQ - R -bimodule, and it is a projective left RQ -module.

Proposition. *If M is a left RQ -module, there is an exact sequence of RQ -modules*

$$0 \rightarrow \bigoplus_{a \in Q_1} RQe_{t(a)} \otimes_R e_{s(a)}M \xrightarrow{f} \bigoplus_{i \in Q_0} RQe_i \otimes_R e_iM \xrightarrow{g} M \rightarrow 0$$

where $x \otimes m \in RQe_i \otimes e_iM$ is sent by g to xm and where $x \otimes m \in RQe_{t(a)} \otimes e_{s(a)}M$ is sent by f to $xa \otimes m - x \otimes am$, where the summands are in $RQe_{s(a)} \otimes e_{s(a)}M$ and $RQe_{t(a)} \otimes e_{t(a)}M$.

In particular, if R is a field, this is a projective resolution of M , so $\text{gl. dim } RQ \leq 1$.

Proof. Clearly $gf = 0$. We show that it is contractible as a complex of R -modules. Let the middle term be C_0 and the left hand term C_1 . Consider the R -module maps $s : M \rightarrow C_0$ and $r : C_0 \rightarrow C_1$ given by

$$s(m) = \sum_{i \in Q_0} e_i \otimes e_i m$$

and for $m \in e_iM$ and a path starting at i , by $r(e_i \otimes m) = 0$ and

$$r(a_1 a_2 \dots a_n \otimes m) = \sum_{j=1}^n (a_1 \dots a_{j-1} \otimes a_{j+1} \dots a_n m)_{a_j},$$

where the j th term is an element of $RQe_{t(a_j)} \otimes e_{s(a_j)}M$. It is straightforward to check that $gs = \text{Id}_M$, $fr + sg = \text{Id}_{C_0}$ and $rf = \text{Id}_{C_1}$. \square

Lemma (a version of Shapiro's Lemma). *If $R \rightarrow S$ is a ring homomorphism and S_R is flat, then for an R -module M and an S -module X we have*

$$\text{Ext}_S^n(S \otimes_R M, X) \cong \text{Ext}_R^n(M, {}_R X).$$

Proof. If P is a projective R -module, say a direct summand of $R^{(I)}$, then $S \otimes_R P$ is direct summand of $S \otimes_R R^{(I)} \cong S^{(I)}$, so $S \otimes_R P$ is a projective S -module.

Now if

$$\dots \rightarrow P_1 \rightarrow P_0 \rightarrow M \rightarrow 0$$

is an R -module projective resolution of M , then

$$\dots \rightarrow S \otimes_R P_1 \rightarrow S \otimes_R P_0 \rightarrow S \otimes_R M \rightarrow 0$$

is an S -module projective resolution of $S \otimes_R M$. Thus $\text{Ext}_S^n(S \otimes_R M, X)$ is the n th cohomology of the complex

$$\text{Hom}_S(S \otimes_R P, X) \cong \text{Hom}_R(P, \text{Hom}_S(S, X)) \cong \text{Hom}_R(P, {}_R X)$$

which is $\text{Ext}_R^n(M, {}_R X)$. □

Theorem (Hilbert's Syzygy Theorem). *For any (commutative) ring R we have $\text{gl. dim } R[x] = \text{gl. dim } R + 1$. In particular, if K is a field, $\text{gl. dim } K[x_1, \dots, x_n] = n$.*

Proof. (i) Let $S = R[x]$. For any S -module M there is an exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow S \otimes_R M \xrightarrow{f} S \otimes_R M \xrightarrow{g} M \rightarrow 0$$

where g is multiplication and $f(s \otimes m) = sx \otimes m - s \otimes xm$. This is the case of a path algebra given by a loop.

(ii) $\text{gl. dim } S \leq 1 + \text{gl. dim } R$. If M and X are S -modules, the long exact sequence for $\text{Hom}_S(-, X)$ applied to the exact sequence of (i) gives

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} \text{Ext}_S^n(S \otimes_R M, X) & \xrightarrow{h} & \text{Ext}_S^n(S \otimes_R M, X) & \longrightarrow & \text{Ext}_S^{n+1}(M, X) & \longrightarrow & \text{Ext}_S^{n+1}(S \otimes_R M, X) \\ \parallel & & \parallel & & & & \parallel \\ \text{Ext}_R^n(M, X) & & \text{Ext}_R^n(M, X) & & & & \text{Ext}_R^{n+1}(M, X) \end{array}$$

Thus $\text{Ext}_S^{n+1}(M, X) = 0$ for $n > \text{gl. dim } R$, so $\text{gl. dim } S \leq 1 + \text{gl. dim } R$.

(iii) $\text{gl. dim } S \geq 1 + \text{gl. dim } R$. **(To be omitted in the lecture).** Let M and X be R -modules, considered as S -modules with x acting as 0. Let

$$0 \rightarrow X \rightarrow I^0 \rightarrow I^1 \rightarrow \dots \quad (*)$$

be an R -module injective resolution of X . We get cosyzygies $0 \rightarrow \Omega^i X \rightarrow I^i \rightarrow \Omega^{i+1} X \rightarrow 0$. We consider these also as S -modules with x acting as 0. If U is an S -module, applying $\text{Hom}_S(U, -)$ gives long exact sequences

$$\begin{aligned} 0 \rightarrow \text{Hom}_S(U, \Omega^i X) &\rightarrow \text{Hom}_S(U, I^i) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_S(U, \Omega^{i+1} X) \\ &\rightarrow \text{Ext}_S^1(U, \Omega^i X) \rightarrow \text{Ext}_S^1(U, I^i) \rightarrow \text{Ext}_S^1(U, \Omega^{i+1} X) \\ &\rightarrow \text{Ext}_S^2(U, \Omega^i X) \rightarrow \text{Ext}_S^2(U, I^i) \rightarrow \dots \end{aligned}$$

Thus we get morphisms

$$\text{Hom}_S(U, \Omega^n X) \rightarrow \text{Ext}_S^1(U, \Omega^{n-1} X) \rightarrow \text{Ext}_S^2(U, \Omega^{n-2} X) \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow \text{Ext}_S^n(U, X).$$

This is like dimension shifting, but it isn't, since $(*)$ is not an injective resolution of X as an S -module. This is natural in U , so gives a natural transformation of contravariant functors

$$\mathrm{Hom}_S(-, \Omega^n X) \rightarrow \mathrm{Ext}_S^n(-, X).$$

Now if $U = S \otimes_R M$ then $\mathrm{Ext}_S^j(U, I^i) \cong \mathrm{Ext}_R^j(M, I^i)$ by Shapiro's Lemma, which is zero for $j > 0$, and then the morphism $\mathrm{Hom}_S(U, \Omega^n X) \rightarrow \mathrm{Ext}_S^n(U, X)$ is surjective since, by dimension shifting it is a composition

$$\mathrm{Hom}_S(U, \Omega^n X) \rightarrow \mathrm{Ext}_S^1(U, \Omega^{n-1} X) \cong \mathrm{Ext}_S^2(U, \Omega^{n-2} X) \cong \dots \cong \mathrm{Ext}_S^n(U, X).$$

Thus the map f gives a commutative square

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathrm{Hom}_S(S \otimes M, \Omega^n X) & \longrightarrow & \mathrm{Ext}_S^n(S \otimes M, X) \\ f' \downarrow & & h \downarrow \\ \mathrm{Hom}_S(S \otimes M, \Omega^n X) & \longrightarrow & \mathrm{Ext}_S^n(S \otimes M, X) \end{array}$$

with surjective horizontal maps, where f' is composition with f and where h is the morphism in (ii). Now

$$f'(\phi)(s \otimes m) = \phi f(s \otimes m) = \phi(sx \otimes m - s \otimes xm) = \phi(xs \otimes m) = x\phi(s \otimes m) = 0$$

since x acts as zero on M and $\Omega^n X$. Thus f' is zero. Since the horizontal maps in the square are surjective, h is zero. Thus the exact sequence in (ii) gives an embedding

$$\mathrm{Ext}_R^n(M, X) \cong \mathrm{Ext}_S^n(S \otimes_R M, X) \hookrightarrow \mathrm{Ext}_S^{n+1}(M, X)$$

so if $\mathrm{gl. dim} S = n$, then $\mathrm{gl. dim} R \leq n - 1$, that is, $\mathrm{gl. dim} S \geq 1 + \mathrm{gl. dim} R$. \square

4.6 Examples given by quivers with relations

Unfortunately I have to explain this very quickly. You can find more details in chapter 1 of my lecture notes on representations of algebras, see <https://www.math.uni-bielefeld.de/~wcrawley/25RA/>

Setup. We consider an algebra of the form $A = KQ/I$ where Q is a finite quiver, K a field and I is an ideal in KQ , which we may suppose to be generated by a set ρ of relations contained in $\bigcup_{i,j \in Q_0} e_i KQ e_j$. For example the algebra $A = KQ/(db - ca)$ where Q is the quiver

$$\begin{array}{ccc} 1 & \xrightarrow{a} & 2 \\ b \downarrow & & c \downarrow \\ 3 & \xrightarrow{d} & 4 \end{array}$$

and $\rho = \{db - ca\}$, $db - ca \in e_4 KQ e_1$.

Remark. There is an equivalence of categories under which A -modules correspond to representations of Q satisfying the relations in ρ , module homomorphism correspond to homomorphisms of representations, submodules correspond to subrepresentations, etc.

(1) A *representation* of Q over K is a tuple $V = (V_i, V_a)$ consisting of a K -vector space V_i for each vertex i and a K -linear map $V_a : V_i \rightarrow V_j$ for each arrow $a : i \rightarrow j$ in Q .

Taking compositions of the V_a , any path from i to j gives a linear map $V_i \rightarrow V_j$. The representation satisfies the relations in ρ if the corresponding linear combination of maps is zero. In the example above we want $V_d V_b - V_c V_a = 0$. Thus A -modules correspond to commutative squares. For example there is a representation

$$\begin{array}{ccc} K & \xrightarrow{1} & K \\ 1 \downarrow & & 1 \downarrow \\ K & \xrightarrow{1} & K. \end{array}$$

Given a module M , the corresponding representation is given by $V_i = e_i M$, and if $a : i \rightarrow j$ is an arrow, then $V_a : e_i M \rightarrow e_j M$ is given by left multiplication by a . Conversely given a representation V we define $M = \bigoplus_{i \in Q_0} V_i$, with KQ acting as follows. A trivial path acts as the projection onto V_i . An arrow $a : i \rightarrow j$ acts on V_i as V_a , and on the other summands as zero.

(2) A *homomorphism* of representations: $\theta : V \rightarrow W$ is given by K -linear maps $\theta_i : V_i \rightarrow W_i$ for each vertex, such that $\theta_j V_a = W_a \theta_i$ for each arrow $a : i \rightarrow j$.

(3) A *subrepresentation* W of a representation V is given by a subspace $W_i \subseteq V_i$ for each vertex i such that $V_a(W_i) \subseteq W_j$ for all arrows $a : i \rightarrow j$. For example the representation above has subrepresentation

$$\begin{array}{ccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & K \\ \downarrow & & 1 \downarrow \\ K & \xrightarrow{1} & K. \end{array}$$

(4) The corresponding *quotient representation* V/W is given by the vector spaces V_i/W_i and the induced maps $\overline{V}_a : V_i/W_i \rightarrow V_j/W_j$ for $a : i \rightarrow j$.

(5) The *direct sum* $V \oplus W$ of two representations is given by the vector spaces $V_i \oplus W_i$ and maps

$$\begin{pmatrix} V_a & 0 \\ 0 & W_a \end{pmatrix} : V_i \oplus W_i \rightarrow V_j \oplus W_j$$

for an arrow $a : i \rightarrow j$.

(6) A sequence of representations and homomorphisms

$$\cdots \rightarrow V \rightarrow V' \rightarrow V'' \rightarrow \cdots$$

is exact if and only if for each vertex i , the sequence of vector spaces

$$\cdots \rightarrow V_i \rightarrow V'_i \rightarrow V''_i \rightarrow \cdots$$

is exact. The kernel, image and cokernel of a morphism can be computed vertex-wise.

Definition. Let $(KQ)_+$ be the ideal in KQ spanned by the non-trivial paths. Clearly $(KQ)_+^n$ is the ideal spanned by paths of length $\geq n$, and $KQ/(KQ)_+ \cong K \times \cdots \times K$. An ideal $I \subseteq KQ$ is *admissible* if

- (1) $I \subseteq (KQ)_+^2$, and
- (2) $(KQ)_+^n \subseteq I$ for some n .

We now suppose that $A = KQ/I$ with I admissible. It follows that $A = KQ/I$ is finite-dimensional, and it has Jacobson radical $J = (KQ)_+/I$.

END OF LECTURE ON 2026-07-01. PROVISIONAL SCRIPT FOR THE NEXT LECTURE FOLLOWS (SUBJECT TO CHANGE).

Note that if the field K is algebraically closed, then by a theorem of Gabriel, any basic f.d. algebra arises this way. Recall also that any f.d. algebra is Morita equivalent to a basic one.

In this case:

$A/J \cong K \times \cdots \times K$, with the factors indexed by Q_0 . Thus the simple modules are $S[i] = (A/J)e_i$ for $i \in Q_0$. As a representation, $S[i]$ is given by the vector space K at vertex i , zero elsewhere, and has all arrows zero.

The module $P[i] = Ae_i$ is projective, and $P[i]/JP[i] \cong (A/J)e_i = S[i]$, so $P[i]$ is the projective cover of $S[i]$. It has basis the paths starting at i , modulo the relations. Considered as a representation, the vector space at vertex j has basis the paths from i to j , modulo the relations ρ .

If V is a representation then its socle and the representation JV are given by

$$(\text{soc } V)_i = \bigcap_{t(a)=i} \text{Ker } V_a, \quad (JV)_i = \sum_{h(a)=i} \text{Im } V_a.$$

Example. The quiver $1 \xrightarrow{a} 2 \xrightarrow{b} 3$ without relations. The simples are

$$S[1] = K \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow 0$$

$$S[2] = 0 \rightarrow K \rightarrow 0$$

$$S[3] = 0 \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow K$$

The projectives are

$$P[1] = K \xrightarrow{1} K \xrightarrow{1} K$$

$$P[2] = 0 \rightarrow K \xrightarrow{1} K$$

$$P[3] = 0 \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow K$$

The minimal projective resolutions of the simples are

$$0 \rightarrow P[2] \rightarrow P[1] \rightarrow S[1] \rightarrow 0$$

$$0 \rightarrow P[3] \rightarrow P[2] \rightarrow S[2] \rightarrow 0$$

$$0 \rightarrow P[3] \rightarrow S[3] \rightarrow 0$$

The global dimension is 1.

Remark. If $\cdots \rightarrow P_1 \rightarrow P_0 \rightarrow M \rightarrow 0$ is a minimal projective resolution of M , and $S[j]$ is a simple module, then the differentials in the complex

$$0 \rightarrow \text{Hom}(P_0, S[j]) \rightarrow \text{Hom}(P_1, S[j]) \rightarrow \text{Hom}(P_2, S[j]) \rightarrow \cdots$$

are zero, since if $\theta \in \text{Hom}(P_n, T)$, in the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} P_{n+1} & \xrightarrow{d_{n+1}} & P_n & \xrightarrow{f} & \Omega_n M & \longrightarrow & 0 \\ & & \theta \downarrow & & & & \\ & & S[j] & & & & \end{array}$$

the map f is a projective cover, so induces an isomorphism $P_n/JP_n \rightarrow \Omega_n M/J\Omega_n M$. Thus $\text{Ker } f \subseteq JP_n$. Now if $p \in P_{n+1}$, then

$$\theta d_{n+1}(p) \in \theta(\text{Im } d_{n+1}) = \theta(\text{Ker } f) \subseteq \theta(JP_n) \subseteq J\theta(P_n) \subseteq JS[j] = 0.$$

Also

$$\text{Hom}(P[i], S[j]) \cong \text{Hom}(S[i], S[j]) \cong \begin{cases} 0 & (i \neq j) \\ K & (i = j) \end{cases}$$

Thus, in the example

$$\text{Ext}^1(S[1], S[j]) \cong \text{Hom}(P[2], S[j]) \cong \begin{cases} K & (j = 2) \\ 0 & (j \neq 2). \end{cases}$$

Example. The quiver $1 \xrightarrow{a} 2 \xrightarrow{b} 3$ with relation ba . The projectives are

$$P[1] = K \xrightarrow{1} K \rightarrow 0$$

$$P[2] = 0 \rightarrow K \xrightarrow{1} K$$

$$P[3] = 0 \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow K$$

The minimal projective resolutions of the simples are

$$0 \rightarrow P[3] \rightarrow P[2] \rightarrow P[1] \rightarrow S[1] \rightarrow 0$$

$S[2]$ and $S[3]$ as before. The global dimension is 2.

Example. The quiver

$$\begin{array}{ccc} 1 & \xrightarrow{a} & 2 \\ b \downarrow & & c \downarrow \\ 3 & \xrightarrow{d} & 4 \end{array}$$

with the admissible relation $db - ca$. The projective $P[1]$ is

$$\begin{array}{ccc} K & \xrightarrow{1} & K \\ 1 \downarrow & & 1 \downarrow \\ K & \xrightarrow{1} & K. \end{array}$$

The kernel of the canonical map $P[1] \rightarrow S[1]$ is

$$M = \Omega_1 S[1] = JP[1] = \begin{array}{ccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & K \\ \downarrow & & 1 \downarrow \\ K & \xrightarrow{1} & K. \end{array}$$

Then

$$JM = \begin{array}{ccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & 0 \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & K \end{array}$$

so

$$M/JM = \begin{array}{ccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & K \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ K & \longrightarrow & 0 \end{array} \cong S[2] \oplus S[3].$$

Thus M has projective cover $P[2] \oplus P[3]$. The simple $S[1]$ has minimal projective resolution

$$0 \rightarrow P[4] \rightarrow P[2] \oplus P[3] \rightarrow P[1] \rightarrow S[1] \rightarrow 0$$

Example. The cyclically oriented square

$$\begin{array}{ccc} 1 & \xrightarrow{a} & 2 \\ d \uparrow & & \downarrow b \\ 4 & \xleftarrow{c} & 3 \end{array}$$

with admissible relations cba and dc , has

$$P[1] = \begin{array}{ccc} K & \xrightarrow{1} & K \\ \uparrow & & \downarrow 1 \\ 0 & \xleftarrow{} & K \end{array} \quad P[2] = \begin{array}{ccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & K \\ \uparrow & & \downarrow 1 \\ K & \xleftarrow{1} & K \end{array} \quad P[3] = \begin{array}{ccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & 0 \\ \uparrow & & \downarrow \\ K & \xleftarrow{1} & K \end{array} \quad P[4] = \begin{array}{ccc} K & \xrightarrow{1} & K \\ \uparrow 1 & & \downarrow 1 \\ K & \xleftarrow{0} & K \end{array}$$

The simple modules have minimal projective resolutions

$$\begin{aligned} 0 \rightarrow P[1] \rightarrow P[4] \rightarrow P[2] \rightarrow P[1] \rightarrow S[1] \rightarrow 0, \\ 0 \rightarrow P[3] \rightarrow P[2] \rightarrow S[2] \rightarrow 0, \\ 0 \rightarrow P[1] \rightarrow P[4] \rightarrow P[3] \rightarrow S[3] \rightarrow 0, \\ 0 \rightarrow P[1] \rightarrow P[4] \rightarrow S[4] \rightarrow 0. \end{aligned}$$

For example the projective cover of $S[1]$ is $P[1]$, giving an exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \Omega_1 S[1] \rightarrow P[1] \rightarrow S[1] \rightarrow 0$$

which is

$$0 \longrightarrow 0 \longrightarrow K \longrightarrow K \xrightarrow{1} K \longrightarrow K \longrightarrow 0 \longrightarrow 0 \\ \uparrow \quad \downarrow 1 \quad \uparrow \quad \downarrow 1 \quad \uparrow \quad \downarrow \\ 0 \longleftarrow K \quad 0 \longleftarrow K \quad 0 \longleftarrow 0$$

and the projective cover of $\Omega_1 S[1]$ is $P[2]$, giving an exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \Omega_2 S[1] \rightarrow P[2] \rightarrow \Omega_1 S[1] \rightarrow 0$$

which is

$$0 \longrightarrow 0 \longrightarrow 0 \longrightarrow 0 \longrightarrow K \longrightarrow 0 \longrightarrow K \longrightarrow 0 \\ \uparrow \quad \downarrow \quad \uparrow \quad \downarrow 1 \quad \uparrow \quad \downarrow 1 \\ K \longleftarrow 0 \quad K \xleftarrow{1} K \quad 0 \longleftarrow K$$

so $\Omega_2 S[1] \cong S[3]$, etc.

4.7 Tor

Definition. Given a left R -module X , we get a tensor product functor $- \otimes_R X$ from the category of right R -modules to \mathbb{Z} -modules (or K -modules, if R is a K -algebra, or R -modules, if R is commutative). Since the tensor product functor is right exact, it has left derived functors, and for a right R -module M we define

$$\mathrm{Tor}_n^R(M, X) := (L_n(- \otimes_R X))(M).$$

Thus by definition, if we fix a projective resolution of M ,

$$\cdots \rightarrow P_2 \rightarrow P_1 \rightarrow P_0 \rightarrow M \rightarrow 0 \quad (*)$$

then

$$\mathrm{Tor}_n^R(M, X) = H_n(P \otimes_R X) = n\text{th homology of the complex } \cdots \rightarrow P_1 \otimes_R X \rightarrow P_0 \otimes_R X \rightarrow 0$$

or $H_n(P; X)$ in the notation of section 3.1.

A *flat resolution* of M is an exact sequence (*) with the modules P_i flat. We shall see that $\mathrm{Tor}_n^R(M, X)$ can be computed with any flat resolution of M or flat resolution of X .

Remarks. (1) Since $\mathrm{Tor}_n^R(M, X)$ is a left derived functor, we know that it is functorial in M , so a morphism $M \rightarrow M'$ of right R -modules induces a morphism $\mathrm{Tor}_n^R(M, X) \rightarrow \mathrm{Tor}_n^R(M', X)$. Also $\mathrm{Tor}_0^R(M, X) \cong M \otimes_R X$, and a short exact sequence $0 \rightarrow M' \rightarrow M \rightarrow M'' \rightarrow 0$ of right R -modules gives a long exact sequence

$$\begin{aligned} \cdots \rightarrow \mathrm{Tor}_2^R(M'', X) \rightarrow \mathrm{Tor}_1^R(M', X) \rightarrow \mathrm{Tor}_1^R(M, X) \rightarrow \mathrm{Tor}_1^R(M'', X) \rightarrow \\ \rightarrow M' \otimes_R X \rightarrow M \otimes_R X \rightarrow M'' \otimes_R X \rightarrow 0. \end{aligned}$$

(2) If P is the chosen projective resolution of M , then a homomorphism $X \rightarrow X'$ of left R -modules induces a morphism $P \otimes_R X \rightarrow P \otimes_R X'$ of complexes of \mathbb{Z} -modules, and hence a morphism $\mathrm{Tor}_n^R(M, X) \rightarrow \mathrm{Tor}_n^R(M, X')$, so $\mathrm{Tor}_n^R(M, X)$ is functorial in X . Also, a short exact sequence $0 \rightarrow X' \rightarrow X \rightarrow X'' \rightarrow 0$ of left R -modules induces a short exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow P \otimes_R X' \rightarrow P \otimes_R X \rightarrow P \otimes_R X'' \rightarrow 0$$

of complexes of \mathbb{Z} -modules, and hence a long exact sequence on homology

$$\begin{aligned} \cdots \rightarrow \mathrm{Tor}_2^R(M, X'') \rightarrow \mathrm{Tor}_1^R(M, X') \rightarrow \mathrm{Tor}_1^R(M, X) \rightarrow \mathrm{Tor}_1^R(M, X'') \rightarrow \\ \rightarrow M \otimes_R X' \rightarrow M \otimes_R X \rightarrow M \otimes_R X'' \rightarrow 0. \end{aligned}$$

(3) If $Q \rightarrow X$ is a flat resolution of X , then analogous to the theorem in section 4.3 showing that Ext is a derived functor of its second argument, we get

$$\text{Tor}_n^R(M, X) \cong H_n(M \otimes_R Q).$$

In particular, taking Q to be a projective resolution of X , this shows that

$$\text{Tor}_n^R(M, X) = (L_n(M \otimes_R -))(X).$$

(4) Comparing (3) with the definition of Tor , it follows that Tor is symmetrical with respect to the two arguments. We can state this formally as a natural isomorphism

$$\text{Tor}_n^R(M, X) \cong \text{Tor}_n^{R^{op}}(X, M)$$

where X is a left R -module, or equivalently a right R^{op} -module and M is a right R -module, or equivalently a left R^{op} -module.

(5) It follows from (3) and (4) that

$$\text{Tor}_n^R(M, X) = H_n(P \otimes_R X)$$

where P is any flat resolution of M .