

# INTRODUCTIO TO HOMOLOGICAL ALGEBRA MATH 250B

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Mostly everything we say in this note can be stated in the context of an *abelian category*. The notion of an abelian category is one where we can do standard constructions dealing with abelian groups, such as:

- (1) One has a zero object.
- (2) Taking finite products, finite direct sums (coproducts).
- (3) Hom-sets can be endowed with the structure of an abelian group, and composition is distributive with respect to addition of morphisms.
- (4) Any morphism has a kernel and cokernel and image.
- (5) One has a notion of a subgroup, and all inclusions have cokernels (i.e. we can form quotients).

The prototype of an abelian category is the category of  $R$ -modules for some ring  $R$ . We will tend to avoid this formalism, especially because of the following theorem, called the Freyd Embedding Theorem:

**Theorem:** *Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be a small abelian category. Then there exists a ring  $R$  with 1 ( $R$  is not necessarily commutative) and a full, faithful and exact functor  $F : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow R\text{-mod}$ , where  $R\text{-mod}$  denotes the category of left  $R$ -modules. In particular,  $\mathcal{C}$  is equivalent to a full subcategory of  $R\text{-mod}$ , and this equivalence preserves exact sequences.*

Thus, we may as well work in the category of  $R$ -modules for some ring  $R$ . This has many benefits, aside from the obvious one that the category of  $R$ -modules is rather explicit, while an arbitrary abelian category (at least by definition) is rather abstract. The true benefit of working in  $R$ -modules as opposed to an arbitrary abelian category is that in  $R\text{-mod}$  we can “chase diagrams” since objects of  $R\text{-mod}$  are, in particular, sets. Thus, throughout this note, we will work in the category of  $R$ -modules for some unital ring  $R$ .

## 1. COMPLEXES AND (CO)HOMOLOGY

A **homological complex** of  $R$ -modules is a sequence  $(M_\bullet, d)$  of  $R$ -modules, indexed by  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ , together with morphisms

$$d : M_{n+1} \rightarrow M_n,$$

such that the composition

$$M_{n+1} \xrightarrow{d} M_n \xrightarrow{d} M_{n-1}$$

is trivial. We can view a complex as a graded  $R$ -module  $M_\bullet = \bigoplus_n M_n$ , and  $d$  as a morphism  $M_\bullet \rightarrow M_\bullet$  which is homogeneous of degree 1, meaning that  $d(M_{n+1}) \subset M_n$ , and such that  $d^2 = 0$ .

If  $M_* = (M_*, d)$  is a complex, then the  $n$ -th homology group of  $M_*$  is defined to be:

$$H_n(M_*) = \ker(M_n \rightarrow M_{n-1}) / \text{im}(M_{n+1} \rightarrow M_n).$$

A **cohomological complex** of  $R$ -modules is a sequence  $(M^\bullet, d)$  of  $R$ -modules, indexed by  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ , together with morphisms

$$d : M^n \rightarrow M^{n+1}$$

such that  $d^2 = 0$ . The  $n$ -th cohomology group of such a complex is defined to be

$$H^n(M^*) = \ker(M^n \rightarrow M^{n+1}) / \text{im}(M^{n-1} \rightarrow M^n).$$

The map  $d$  is usually called a **differential**. We will usually consider homology resp. cohomology as a complex with zero differential, and write it as  $H_*(M_*)$  resp.  $H^*(M^*)$ .

The idea of homology is to detect how far a complex, say a cohomological complex:

$$\dots \rightarrow M^{n-1} \rightarrow M^n \rightarrow M^{n+1} \rightarrow \dots$$

is from being exact. Indeed, one has  $H^n(M^*) = 0$  for all  $n$  if and only if this complex is an exact sequence.

There is no essential difference between homological and cohomological complexes (in fact, a homological complex in  $R\text{-mod}$  is the same as a cohomological complex in  $(R\text{-mod})^{\text{op}}$ ). So we may as well just work with one kind of complex. And because we will eventually be interested in group cohomology, we will mostly work with cohomological complexes.

A **morphism** of cohomological complexes  $f : M^* \rightarrow N^*$  is just a collection of  $R$ -mod morphisms  $f^n : M^n \rightarrow N^n$  such that  $d \circ f^n = f^{n+1} \circ d$ . It is easy to see that a morphism of complexes  $f : M^* \rightarrow N^*$  induces a morphism on cohomology groups  $f^* : H^*(M^*) \rightarrow H^*(N^*)$ . This lets us define the *category* of (cohomological) complexes in the obvious way, denoted  $C^*(R\text{-mod})$  or just  $C^*(R)$ . We make a few observations:

- (1) First, one has an embedding  $R\text{-mod}$  into  $C^*(R)$ , defined by  $M \mapsto M$ , where  $M$  is considered as a complex concentrated in degree 0, with zero differential.
- (2) For each  $n$ ,  $H^n$  is a functor  $C^*(R) \rightarrow R\text{-mod}$ .
- (3)  $H^*$  is a functor  $C^*(R) \rightarrow R\text{-mod}$  as well, but we can also consider  $H^*$  as a functor  $C^*(R) \rightarrow C^*(R)$ , since  $H^*$  is considered as a cohomological complex with trivial differential.
- (4) More generally, the category of graded  $R$ -modules embeds as a full subcategory in the category of complexes (the full subcategory of complexes with trivial differential).

The following notation is more-or-less standard:

- (1) The submodule of cocycles  $Z^n(M^*) = \ker(M^n \rightarrow M^{n+1})$ .
- (2) The submodule of coboundaries  $B^n(M^*) = \text{im}(M^{n-1} \rightarrow M^n)$ .
- (3) One defines cycles  $Z_n$  and boundaries  $B_n$  for homological complexes in a similar way.

## 2. EXAMPLES OF COMPLEXES

2.1. Let  $S$  be a set. For  $i = 0, 1, 2, \dots$  let  $E_i$  be the free  $\mathbb{Z}$ -module generated by  $(i+1)$ -tuples  $(x_0, \dots, x_i)$  with  $x_j \in S$ . Thus, such  $(i+1)$ -tuples form a basis of  $E_i$  over  $\mathbb{Z}$ :

$$E_i = \bigoplus_{(x_0, \dots, x_i) \in S^{i+1}} \mathbb{Z} \cdot (x_0, \dots, x_i).$$

We have differential:

$$d_{i+1} : E_{i+1} \rightarrow E_i$$

defined by

$$d_{i+1}(x_0, \dots, x_i) = \sum_{j=0}^{i+1} (-1)^j (x_0, \dots, \hat{x}_j, \dots, x_i)$$

extended linearly. This forms a homomological complex.

Now suppose that  $M$  is an arbitrary abelian group. And consider:

$$C^i = \text{Hom}(E_i, M)$$

with the differential given by the fact that  $\text{Hom}(\bullet, M)$  is a functor. Then  $C^i$  is a cohomological complex.

This example will reappear when we talk about projective/free resolutions of modules.

2.2. Let  $A$  be a commutative ring, and let  $x_1, \dots, x_n \in A$  be given. Let's consider:  $K_i(x) := \wedge^i(Ae_1 \oplus \dots \oplus Ae_n)$ . Define

$$d : K_p(X) \rightarrow K_{p-1}(X)$$

by the formula:

$$d(e_{i_1} \wedge \dots \wedge e_{i_p}) = \sum_{j=1}^p (-1)^{j-1} \cdot x_{i_j} \cdot e_{i_1} \wedge \dots \wedge \hat{e}_{i_j} \wedge \dots \wedge e_{i_p}.$$

This is a homological complex, called the *Koszul complex* associated to  $(X)$ . In most situations, it essentially depends only on the ideal generated by  $(X)$ , but I won't give the details here.

For instance, let's think about the case where we have only one element  $x \in A$ . Then this complex becomes:

$$0 \rightarrow A \xrightarrow{x} A \rightarrow 0.$$

2.3. Let  $M$  be a smooth (real) manifold, and let  $\Omega^i$  denote the module of smooth differential  $i$ -forms on  $M$ . I.e.  $\Omega^i$  is generated by differential forms on  $M$ , which locally look like

$$f \cdot dx_I$$

for some  $I$  of size  $i$ , and some smooth function  $f$ . So for example  $\Omega^0$  is the smooth functions on  $M$ ,  $\Omega^1$  the smooth 1-forms, etc.

We define a differential  $\Omega^i \rightarrow \Omega^{i+1}$ , called the *exterior derivative*, which is defined, locally, as follows. Locally an element  $\omega \in \Omega^r$  looks like

$$\omega := \sum_{|I|=r} f_I \cdot dx_I$$

the differential on this local representation is defined by

$$d\omega = \sum_{|I|=r} \sum_{j=1}^r \frac{\partial f_I}{\partial x_j} \cdot dx_j \wedge dx_I.$$

Then  $(\Omega^*, d)$  forms a cohomological complex. The cohomology of this complex is called the **de-Rham** cohomology of  $M$  (with coefficients in  $\mathbb{R}$ ).

### 3. EXACT SEQUENCES

A **short exact sequence** of complexes is a sequence of morphisms of complexes:

$$0 \rightarrow M_1^* \rightarrow M_2^* \rightarrow M_3^* \rightarrow 0$$

such that for all  $n$ , the restricted sequence

$$0 \rightarrow M_1^n \rightarrow M_2^n \rightarrow M_3^n \rightarrow 0$$

is exact.

One of the most important uses for homology, is that a short exact sequence of complexes yields a *long exact sequence* of homology groups. To be precise, we define a map

$$\delta : H^n(M_3^*) \rightarrow H^{n+1}(M_1^*)$$

as follows.

Recall the snake Lemma:

**Lemma 3.1.** *Suppose we have a commutative diagram of  $R$ -modules with exact rows:*

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} & & A & \longrightarrow & B & \longrightarrow & C & \longrightarrow & 0 \\ & & \downarrow a & & \downarrow b & & \downarrow c & & \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & A' & \longrightarrow & B' & \longrightarrow & C' & & \end{array}$$

*Then one has a long exact sequence:*

$$\ker(a) \rightarrow \ker(b) \rightarrow \ker(c) \xrightarrow{d} \operatorname{coker}(a) \rightarrow \operatorname{coker}(b) \rightarrow \operatorname{coker}(c).$$

Now the map  $\delta : H^n(M_3^*) \rightarrow H^{n+1}(M_1^*)$  is the map  $d$  in the snake lemma associated to the diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & M_1^n & \longrightarrow & M_2^n & \longrightarrow & M_3^n & \longrightarrow & 0 \\ & & \downarrow d & & \downarrow d & & \downarrow d & & \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & M_1^{n+1} & \longrightarrow & M_2^{n+1} & \longrightarrow & M_3^{n+1} & \longrightarrow & 0 \end{array}$$

So that we obtain a map

$$d : \ker(M_3^n \rightarrow M_3^{n+1}) \rightarrow \operatorname{coker}(M_1^n \rightarrow M_1^{n+1}).$$

On the one hand, we can check that an element of  $\operatorname{im}(M_3^{n-1} \rightarrow M_3^n)$  is killed under this map, so that this map descends to a map

$$d : H^n(M_3^*) \rightarrow \operatorname{coker}(M_1^n \rightarrow M_1^{n+1}).$$

And on the other hand, note that  $H^{n+1}(M_1^*) \subset \operatorname{coker}(M_1^n \rightarrow M_1^{n+1})$ , and that the image of  $d$  is contained in this submodule. In total, we obtain

$$\delta : H^n(M_3^*) \rightarrow H^{n+1}(M_1^*).$$

This is defined as follows: Let  $a \in Z^n(M_3^*)$  be a representative of an element of  $H^n(M_3^*)$ . Then  $\delta(a) = d(\tilde{a})$  where  $\tilde{a} \in M_2^n$  is a lift of  $a$  under the surjective map  $M_2^n \rightarrow M_3^n$ .

Patching everything together, one has the following proposition:

**Proposition 3.2.** *Given a short exact sequence of complexes  $0 \rightarrow M_1 \xrightarrow{f} M_2 \xrightarrow{g} M_3 \rightarrow 0$ , one has a long exact sequence of cohomology modules:*

$$\dots \rightarrow H^n(M_1) \xrightarrow{f} H^n(M_2) \xrightarrow{g} H^n(M_3) \xrightarrow{d} H^{n+1}(M_1) \rightarrow \dots$$

*Proof.* This essentially just follows from the snake lemma, exercise. □

#### 4. EXACT FUNCTORS AND ADDITIVE FUNCTORS

We say that a functor  $F$  from the category of  $R$ -modules to abelian groups is an **additive functor** if the induced map on Hom-sets is a homomorphism of abelian groups. For example,  $\text{Hom}(\bullet, A)$  and  $\text{hom}(A, \bullet)$  are both additive functors. Similarly,  $\bullet \otimes_A M$  and  $M \otimes_A \bullet$  are additive functors.

The main important property of additive functors is that they are compatible with complexes. I.e. if  $(M^*)$  is a (co)-chain complex, and  $F$  is an additive covariant functor, then  $(F(M^*))$  is a co-chain complex. If  $F$  is a contravariant additive functor, then  $F(M^*)$  is a chain complex, etc.

Note that an additive functor need not preserve exact sequences. I.e. if  $M^*$  is exact, then  $F(M^*)$  need not be exact. This leads us to the next definition.

Let  $F$  be an additive functor from the category of  $R$ -modules to the category of abelian groups. We say that  $F$  is *exact* provided that any exact sequence of  $R$ -modules:

$$0 \rightarrow M_1 \rightarrow M_2 \rightarrow M_3 \rightarrow 0$$

induces an exact sequence of abelian groups:

$$0 \rightarrow F(M_1) \rightarrow F(M_2) \rightarrow F(M_3) \rightarrow 0.$$

If  $F$  is contravariant, a similar definition holds. Namely,  $F$  is exact if the induced complex

$$0 \rightarrow F(M_3) \rightarrow F(M_2) \rightarrow F(M_1) \rightarrow 0$$

is exact.

We say that a (covariant)  $F$  is left-exact if the induced sequence

$$0 \rightarrow F(M_1) \rightarrow F(M_2) \rightarrow F(M_3)$$

is exact. We say that a contravariant  $F$  is left exact if

$$0 \rightarrow F(M_3) \rightarrow F(M_2) \rightarrow F(M_1)$$

is exact. And one can similarly define right-exact functors and contravariant functors (left to the reader).

Unfortunately (or fortunately, depending on your point of view), the most natural functors are usually not exact. For instance, if  $M$  is an  $R$ -module, then  $\text{Hom}(\bullet, M)$  and  $\text{Hom}(M, \bullet)$  are only left-exact. Similarly, the functor  $\bullet \otimes_R M$  is right exact.

This leads us to the following definitions:

- (1) We say that  $M$  is injective provided that  $\text{Hom}(\bullet, M)$  is exact.
- (2) We say that  $M$  is projective provided that  $\text{Hom}(M, \bullet)$  is exact.
- (3) We say that  $M$  is flat, provided that  $\bullet \otimes_R M$  is exact. (we will come back to this one later).

As we can see, working with projective/injective modules is highly desirable. So we would like to “approximate” an arbitrary  $R$ -module by injective/projective modules.

First we prove some basic properties concerning projective modules.

**Lemma 4.1.** *Free modules are projective.*

**Theorem 4.2.** *The following are equivalent:*

- (1)  $P$  is projective.
- (2)  $\text{Hom}(\bullet, P)$  is exact.
- (3) Every surjective map  $B \twoheadrightarrow P$  has a splitting.
- (4)  $P$  is a direct summand in every module of which it is a quotient.
- (5)  $P$  is a direct summand of a free module.

*Proof.* (1)  $\Leftrightarrow$  (2) there is nothing to prove. Assume (2)  $\Rightarrow$  (3) follows by considering the short exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow K \rightarrow B \rightarrow P \rightarrow 0.$$

This also implies (4), and (5) follows by letting  $B$  be a free presentation of  $P$ .

The non-trivial part is (5) implies (1). In fact, we prove the following stronger lemma:

**Lemma 4.3.** *Suppose that  $P \cong \bigoplus P_i$ . Then  $P$  is projective iff  $P_i$  are all projective.*

*Proof.* If  $P_i$  are projective then this is the easy case. Conversely, for simplicity, assume that  $P \cong A \oplus B$ .

Let  $A \rightarrow C$  be a morphism and  $B \rightarrow C$  be surjective. Consider the map  $A \oplus B \rightarrow C$  where the map on  $B$  is the zero map. By assumption, this has a lifting to  $B$ , so we get a lifting of  $A \rightarrow C$ . □

□

## 5. INJECTIVE/PROJECTIVE RESOLUTIONS

**Lemma 5.1.** *A free  $R$ -module is projective.*

*Proof.* Easy, from the definition, or the universal property of free modules. □

As a consequence, we obtain the following

**Lemma 5.2.** *Let  $M$  be any  $R$ -module. Then there exists a surjective morphism  $P \rightarrow M \rightarrow 0$  of  $R$ -modules, from a projective  $R$ -module  $P$  onto  $M$ .*

*Proof.* We can consider the “standard” free resolution:

$$R^{(M)} \rightarrow M \rightarrow 0$$

sending, for  $m \in M$ , the element  $[m] \in R^{(M)}$  to  $m \in M$ . This is clearly  $R$ -linear and surjective. □

If  $M$  is an  $R$ -module, we say that a **projective-resolution** of  $M$  is an exact sequence

$$\cdots \rightarrow P_2 \rightarrow P_1 \rightarrow P_0 \rightarrow M \rightarrow 0.$$

Using the lemma above it is fairly easy to produce a projective (in fact a free) resolution of any  $R$ -module  $M$ , as follows:

- (1) First, consider the free  $R$ -module generated by  $M$ , together with the canonical surjective map:

$$R^{(M)} \rightarrow M \rightarrow 0.$$

- (2) Next, consider the kernel of the map above, say  $K$ , so that we have a short exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow K_1 \rightarrow R^{(M)} \rightarrow M \rightarrow 0.$$

- (3) Next, consider the surjective map

$$R^{(K_1)} \rightarrow K_1$$

defined in a similar way to the way we defined  $R^{(M)} \rightarrow M$ . Now we can splice the two sequence together to form

$$R^{(K_1)} \rightarrow R^{(M)} \rightarrow M \rightarrow 0$$

in the obvious way.

- (4) Now consider the kernel  $K_2$  of  $R^{(K_1)} \rightarrow R^{(M)}$ , etc...

To summarize, we produced a *free* resolution of  $M$ :

$$\dots \rightarrow R^{(K_2)} \rightarrow R^{(K_1)} \rightarrow R^{(M)} \rightarrow M \rightarrow 0.$$

Note that if  $M$  is already free, e.g. if  $M = R$ , then we can form a very simple free resolution:

$$0 \rightarrow M \rightarrow M \rightarrow 0.$$

So, if we think about projective/free resolutions as a *replacement* of  $M$ , then if  $M$  is already free/projective, it doesn't need to be replaced.

5.1. Consider, for example, the ring  $A = k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ . Then the Koszul complex  $K_*(x_1, \dots, x_n)$  is a *free resolution* of  $k$ , as an  $A$ -module via the surjective map

$$k[x_1, \dots, x_n] \twoheadrightarrow k$$

defined by  $x_i \mapsto 0$ .

## 6. INJECTIVE RESOLUTIONS

What about injective resolutions? Let  $M$  be an  $R$ -module. An **injective resolution** of  $M$  is an exact sequence of the form

$$0 \rightarrow M \rightarrow I_1 \rightarrow I_2 \rightarrow \dots$$

where each  $I_i$  is injective. To form injective resolutions, we need to be able to realize any  $R$ -module as a submodule of an injective module (this is dual to the picture that any module has a projective presentation as a surjective map  $P \rightarrow M \rightarrow 0$  from some projective module  $P$ ).

WE first work with the category of abelian groups, i.e.  $\mathbb{Z}$ -modules, and show that this property holds true in that category. Let  $M$  be an abelian group. We denote by  $M^\vee$  the *dual group*:

$$M^\vee := \text{Hom}(M, \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z}).$$

And note that we have a canonical homomorphism:

$$M \rightarrow M^{\vee\vee}.$$

It is easy to see that this map is injective. Now take a free presentation of  $M$ :

$$F \rightarrow M \rightarrow 0$$

by a free abelian group  $F = \mathbb{Z}^{(I)}$  for some  $I$ . Then the dual of  $F \rightarrow M \rightarrow 0$  is

$$0 \rightarrow M^\vee \rightarrow F^\vee$$

(recalling that  $\text{Hom}(\bullet, \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z})$  is left-exact) and thus we obtain an injective map

$$0 \rightarrow M \rightarrow F^\vee.$$

We claim that  $F^\vee$  is injective.

**Lemma 6.1.** *If  $T$  is a divisible abelian group, then  $T$  is injective in the category of abelian groups.*

*Proof.* Let  $M' \subset M$  be a subgroup and let  $f : M' \rightarrow T$  be a homomorphism. Let  $x \in M$  be given. We need to extend  $f$  to  $(M', x)$ , the module generated by  $M'$  and  $x$  in  $M$ . If  $x$  is free over  $M'$  (i.e.  $(M', x) = M' \oplus (x)$ ) then we can define  $f(x)$  to be any element of  $T$ .

Suppose, on the other hand,  $x$  is torsion over  $M'$ , i.e.  $m \cdot x \in M'$  for some  $m \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Let  $d$  the order of  $x + M'$  in  $M/M'$ . By hypothesis, there exists an element  $u \in T$  such that  $d \cdot u = f(d \cdot x)$ . We define

$$f(z + nx) = f(z) + nu$$

for  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $z \in M'$ . It is straightforward to check that this is well-defined (i.e. independent of the choice of  $x$  as a generator of  $(M', x)$  over  $M'$ ).

To conclude the proof of the Lemma, we apply Zorn's Lemma. I.e. we consider the collection of submodules  $N$  of  $M$  containing  $M'$ , together with lifts  $g$  of  $f$  to  $N$ . Call such an element  $(N, g)$ . We order these by saying  $(N, g) \leq (N', g')$  iff  $N \subset N'$  and  $g'|_N = g$ . It is easy to see that any chain in this collection has an upper bound in this collection. So let's take a maximal element  $(N, g)$  in this collection, and suppose that  $N \neq M$ . Then take  $x \in M \setminus N$ , and repeat the argument above with  $(N, x)$  to get a contradiction.  $\square$

Now note that  $F^\vee$  is divisible, in the notation above, since it is isomorphic to  $(\mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z})^{(I)}$  for some  $I$ . So we proved that any abelian group is a subgroup of a divisible (hence injective) abelian group.

Now we need to extend this to arbitrary  $R$ -modules for an arbitrary ring  $R$ . For a ring  $R$  and a group  $T$ , we define a module structure on  $\text{Hom}_{\mathbb{Z}}(A, T)$  by saying that

$$(af)(b) = f(ab).$$

For any  $A$ -module  $M$ , we have a (functorial) isomorphism of abelian groups:

$$\text{Hom}_{\mathbb{Z}}(M, T) \xrightarrow{\cong} \text{Hom}_A(M, \text{Hom}_{\mathbb{Z}}(A, T))$$

defined by

$$\phi \mapsto (m \mapsto (a \mapsto \phi(am))).$$

The inverse is given by

$$f \mapsto (m \mapsto f(m)(1)).$$

**Lemma 6.2.** *If  $T$  is a divisible abelian group, then  $\text{Hom}_{\mathbb{Z}}(A, T) =: I$  is an injective  $A$ -module.*

*Proof.* Suppose that  $0 \rightarrow M \rightarrow N$  is an injective morphism of  $A$ -modules, and consider the induced map

$$\mathrm{Hom}_A(N, I) \rightarrow \mathrm{Hom}_A(M, I).$$

By the remark above, we see that this is equivalent to a morphism,

$$\mathrm{Hom}_{\mathbb{Z}}(N, T) \rightarrow \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathbb{Z}}(M, T)$$

which is surjective by what we proved for abelian groups. □

Now to complete the fact that any  $A$ -module can be embedded in an injective  $A$ -module, we note that we can embed  $M$  into a divisible abelian group, say  $T$ , as we did for plain abelian groups. Say  $f : M \hookrightarrow T$  is such an embedding. Now consider the map

$$M \rightarrow \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathbb{Z}}(A, T)$$

defined by

$$m \mapsto (a \mapsto f(am))$$

this is injective, and  $\mathrm{Hom}_{\mathbb{Z}}(A, T)$  is injective by the lemma above. This completes the proof that any  $A$ -module can be embedded into an injective one, and thus that any  $A$ -module has an injective resolution in the category of  $A$ -modules.

## 7. HOMOTOPY OF COMPLEXES

Suppose that  $M^*$  and  $N^*$  are two (cohomological/cochain) complexes. And suppose that we are given  $f, g : M^* \rightarrow N^*$  two morphisms. A **homotopy**  $h : f \rightarrow g$  is a collection of maps

$$h^n : M^n \rightarrow N^{n-1}$$

such that  $f^n - g^n = d \circ h^n + h^{n+1} \circ d$ .

**Fact 7.1.** *Consider the maps  $H(f)$  and  $H(g)$  induced by  $f, g$  on cohomology. If there exists a homotopy  $h : f \rightarrow g$ , then one has  $H(f) = H(g)$ .*

*Proof.* Diagram chase. □

**Exercise 7.2.** (1) Homotopy of morphisms is an equivalence relation.

(2) If  $F$  is an additive functor (i.e.  $F(0) = 0$ ), and  $f, g$  are homotopic, then  $F(f)$  and  $F(g)$  are homotopic.

(3) We can also define a homotopy of chain (homological) complexes as the dual of a homotopy of co-chain complexes.

(4) If  $F$  is an additive functor, and  $f$  is homotopic to  $g$ , then  $F(f)$  is homotopic to  $F(g)$ .

We say that two complexes are **homotopic** if they are isomorphic in the category where morphisms are homotopy-equivalence classes of chain maps. I.e. if  $C^*(R)$  denotes the category of cochain complexes of  $R$ -modules, then the **homotopy category** associated to  $C^*(R)$  is the category whose objects are cochain complexes, and morphisms are

$$\mathrm{Hom}^{\mathrm{homotopy}}(C^*, D^*) = \mathrm{Hom}^{\mathrm{cochain}}(C^*, D^*) / \mathrm{homotopy}.$$

In other words,  $C^*$  and  $D^*$  are homotopic complexes if there exist morphisms

$$f : C^* \rightarrow D^*, \quad g : D^* \rightarrow C^*$$

such that  $f \circ g \sim \mathbf{1}$  and  $g \circ f \sim \mathbf{1}$  (where  $\sim$  denotes homotopy equivalence). Note that if  $C^*$  and  $D^*$  are homotopic, say  $f$  is a homotopy equivalence between them, then  $f$  induces an isomorphism

$$H^*(f) : H^*(C^*) \rightarrow H^*(D^*).$$

## 8. UNIQUENESS OF RESOLUTIONS

Suppose now that  $M$  is an  $R$ -module. Recall that a projective resolution is an exact sequence

$$\cdots \rightarrow P_1 \rightarrow P_0 \rightarrow M \rightarrow 0.$$

We will now consider the *complex*

$$\cdots \rightarrow P_1 \rightarrow P_0 \rightarrow 0.$$

and call  $(P_*)$  a projective resolution of  $M$  by abuse of notation. I.e. a projective resolution  $(P_*)_{*\geq 0}$  is a chain complex with a given isomorphism

$$H_0(P_*) \xrightarrow{\cong} M$$

such that each term  $P_i$  is projective.

**Lemma 8.1.** *Suppose that  $(P_*)_{*\geq 0}$  is a chain complex of projective modules, and that  $(A_*)_{*\geq 0}$  is exact. Let  $\phi : H_0(P_*) \rightarrow H_0(A_*)$  be a morphism. Then there exists a chain morphism  $f : (P_*) \rightarrow (A_*)$  inducing  $\phi$ . Moreover, if  $g$  is another chain morphism inducing  $\phi$ , then  $f$  and  $g$  are homotopic. Dually, can do this with cochain complex of injective modules, and a morphism  $\phi : (A^*) \rightarrow (I^*)$ , etc.*

*Proof.* diagram. □

**Corollary 8.2.** *If  $(P_*)$  and  $(P'_*)$  are two projective resolutions of the same module  $M$ , then  $(P_*)$  and  $(P'_*)$  are homotopy equivalent. Dually, if  $(I^*)$  resp  $((I')^*)$  are two injective resolutions of the same module, then  $(I^*)$  and  $((I')^*)$  are homotopy equivalent.*