

TRIANGULATED CATEGORIES

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Introduction

- ▶ Why study triangulated categories?
- ▶ Stable Frobenius Categories vs. Stable Homotopy Categories

Candidate Triangles

Assume that:

- ▶ \mathcal{T} an additive category
- ▶ $\Sigma_{\mathcal{T}} : \mathcal{T} \rightarrow \mathcal{T}$ an additive autoequivalence

Definition (Candidate triangle)

Candidate triangle: $A \xrightarrow{a} B \xrightarrow{b} C \xrightarrow{c} \Sigma_{\mathcal{T}} A$

Morphism:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} A & \xrightarrow{a} & B & \xrightarrow{b} & C & \xrightarrow{c} & \Sigma_{\mathcal{T}} A \\ \downarrow \phi_A & & \downarrow \phi_B & & \downarrow \phi_C & & \downarrow \Sigma_{\mathcal{T}} \phi_A \\ A' & \xrightarrow{a'} & B' & \xrightarrow{b'} & C' & \xrightarrow{c'} & \Sigma_{\mathcal{T}} A' \end{array}$$

Triangulation axioms; I

A triangulated category is a triple $(\mathcal{T}, \Sigma_{\mathcal{T}}, \Delta_{\mathcal{T}})$ where $\Delta_{\mathcal{T}}$ is a triangulation.

Definition (Triangulation)

- ▶ $\Delta_{\mathcal{T}}$ class of candidate triangles
- ▶ Element of $\Delta_{\mathcal{T}}$ is called triangle
- ▶ $\Delta_{\mathcal{T}}$ is a triangulation if it satisfies the following axioms:

TR1 Bookkeeping axiom

1. A candidate triangle isomorphic to a triangle is a triangle
2. For every morphism $a : A \rightarrow B$ there is a triangle

$$A \xrightarrow{a} B \xrightarrow{b} C \xrightarrow{c} \Sigma_{\mathcal{T}} A$$

3. For every object $A : \mathcal{T}$ there is a triangle

$$A \xrightarrow{id_A} A \xrightarrow{0} 0 \xrightarrow{0} \Sigma_{\mathcal{T}} A$$

Triangulation axioms; II

TR2 Rotation axiom

Given a triangle

$$A \xrightarrow{a} B \xrightarrow{b} C \xrightarrow{c} \Sigma_{\mathcal{T}} A$$

there are triangles

$$B \xrightarrow{b} C \xrightarrow{c} \Sigma_{\mathcal{T}} A \xrightarrow{-\Sigma_{\mathcal{T}} a} \Sigma_{\mathcal{T}} B$$

$$\Sigma_{\mathcal{T}}^{-1} C \xrightarrow{-\Sigma_{\mathcal{T}}^{-1} c} A \xrightarrow{a} B \xrightarrow{b} C$$

TR3 Morphism axiom

Two triangles and a square of morphisms between the triangles may be completed to a triangle morphism.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A \xrightarrow{a} B & & A \xrightarrow{a} B \xrightarrow{b} C \xrightarrow{c} \Sigma_{\mathcal{T}} A \\ \downarrow \phi_A \quad \downarrow \phi_B & \implies & \downarrow \phi_A \quad \downarrow \phi_B \quad \downarrow \phi_C \quad \downarrow \Sigma_{\mathcal{T}} \phi_A \\ A' \xrightarrow{a'} B' & & A' \xrightarrow{a'} B' \xrightarrow{b'} C \xrightarrow{c'} \Sigma_{\mathcal{T}} A' \end{array}$$

Triangulation axioms; III

TR4 Octahedron axiom

Given three triangles

$$(1) \quad A \xrightarrow{a} B \xrightarrow{x} C' \xrightarrow{x'} \Sigma_{\mathcal{T}} A$$

$$(2) \quad B \xrightarrow{b} C \xrightarrow{y} A' \xrightarrow{y'} \Sigma_{\mathcal{T}} B$$

$$(3) \quad A \xrightarrow{b \circ a} C \xrightarrow{z} B' \xrightarrow{z'} \Sigma_{\mathcal{T}} A$$

such that there is a commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A & \xrightarrow{a} & B \\ & \searrow b \circ a & \downarrow b \\ & & C \end{array}$$

Triangulation axioms; III

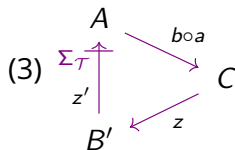
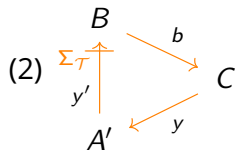
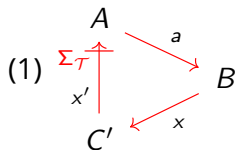
TR4 Octahedron axiom

then there exists morphisms f and g making the third row a triangle.

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 \Sigma_{\mathcal{T}}^{-1} B' & \xrightarrow{\Sigma_{\mathcal{T}}^{-1} z'} & A & \xlongequal{\quad id_A \quad} & A & & \\
 \downarrow \Sigma_{\mathcal{T}}^{-1} g & & \downarrow a & & \downarrow b \circ a & & \\
 \Sigma_{\mathcal{T}}^{-1} A' & \xrightarrow{\Sigma_{\mathcal{T}}^{-1} y'} & B & \xrightarrow{\quad b \quad} & C & \xrightarrow{\quad y \quad} & A' \xrightarrow{\quad y' \quad} \Sigma_{\mathcal{T}} B \\
 & & \downarrow x & & \downarrow z & & \parallel id_{A'} \downarrow \Sigma_{\mathcal{T}} x \\
 & & C' & \xrightarrow{\quad \text{---} f \text{---} \quad} & B' & \xrightarrow{\quad \text{---} g \text{---} \quad} & A' \xrightarrow{\Sigma_{\mathcal{T}} x \circ y'} \Sigma_{\mathcal{T}} C' \\
 & & \downarrow x' & & \downarrow z' & & \\
 & & \Sigma_{\mathcal{T}} A & \xlongequal{\quad id_{\Sigma_{\mathcal{T}} A} \quad} & \Sigma_{\mathcal{T}} A & &
 \end{array}$$

Triangulation axioms; III

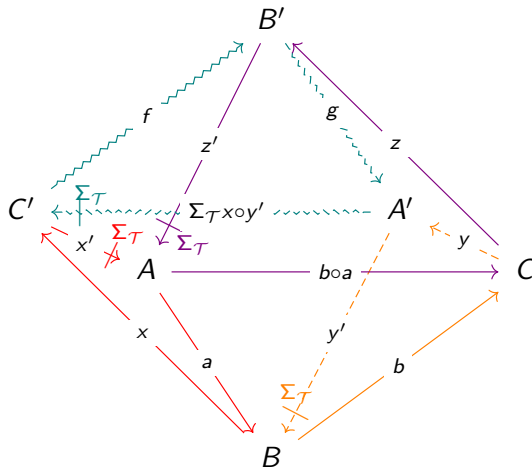
TR4 Octahedron axiom



Triangulation axioms; III

TR4 Octahedron axiom

There exist morphisms $f : C' \rightarrow B'$ and $g : B' \rightarrow A'$, and the squiggly teal back face is a triangle.



Functors

Definition (Triangulated functor)

A functor $F : \mathcal{T} \rightarrow \mathcal{S}$ between triangulated categories is called triangulated if:

- ▶ $\phi : F \circ \Sigma_{\mathcal{T}} \Longrightarrow \Sigma_{\mathcal{S}} \circ F$ is a natural isomorphism
- ▶ $F(\Delta_{\mathcal{T}}) \subseteq \Delta_{\mathcal{S}}$

Functors

Definition (Triangulated functor)

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- ▶ $\phi : F \circ \Sigma_{\mathcal{T}} \Longrightarrow \Sigma_{\mathcal{S}} \circ F$ is a natural isomorphism
- ▶ $F(\Delta_{\mathcal{T}}) \subseteq \Delta_{\mathcal{S}}$

Definition (Homological functor)

A covariant functor $H : \mathcal{T} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$ from a triangulated category and an abelian category is called homological if it sends triangles to long exact sequences.

The diagram illustrates the mapping of a triangle in a triangulated category to a long exact sequence in an abelian category. On the left, a triangle is shown with objects A , B , and C . Arrows are labeled a (from A to B), b (from C to B), and c (from C to A). A shift functor $\Sigma_{\mathcal{T}}$ is indicated by an upward arrow from C to A . This triangle is mapped (indicated by \Rightarrow) to a long exact sequence on the right. The sequence is: $\dots \rightarrow H(\Sigma_{\mathcal{T}}^i A) \xrightarrow{H(\Sigma_{\mathcal{T}}^i a)} H(\Sigma_{\mathcal{T}}^i B) \xrightarrow{H(\Sigma_{\mathcal{T}}^i b)} H(\Sigma_{\mathcal{T}}^i C) \rightarrow H(\Sigma_{\mathcal{T}}^{i+1} C) \xrightarrow{H(\Sigma_{\mathcal{T}}^{i+1} b)} H(\Sigma_{\mathcal{T}}^{i+1} B) \xrightarrow{H(\Sigma_{\mathcal{T}}^{i+1} a)} H(\Sigma_{\mathcal{T}}^{i+1} A) \rightarrow \dots$. The mapping is shown by curved lines connecting the terms of the sequence to the corresponding objects in the triangle.

Functors

Definition (Triangulated functor)

A functor $F : \mathcal{T} \rightarrow \mathcal{S}$ between triangulated categories is called triangulated if:

- ▶ $\phi : F \circ \Sigma_{\mathcal{T}} \Rightarrow \Sigma_{\mathcal{S}} \circ F$ is a natural isomorphism
- ▶ $F(\Delta_{\mathcal{T}}) \subseteq \Delta_{\mathcal{S}}$

Definition (Cohomological functor)

A contravariant functor $H : \mathcal{T} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$ from a triangulated category and an abelian category is called cohomological if it sends triangles to long exact sequences.

[illegible]

Hom-functor

Lemma (Hom is (co)homological)

For any $M : \mathcal{T}$

- ▶ $\mathcal{T}(M, -) : \mathcal{T} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$ is a homological functor.
- ▶ $\mathcal{T}(-, M) : \mathcal{T} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$ is a cohomological functor

Hom-functor

Lemma (Hom is (co)homological)

For any $M : \mathcal{T}$

- ▶ $\mathcal{T}(M, -) : \mathcal{T} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$ is a homological functor.
- ▶ $\mathcal{T}(-, M) : \mathcal{T} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$ is a cohomological functor

Lemma (2-out-of-3 property)

If 2-out-of-3 of the triangle morphism are isomorphism, the final one is as well.

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} A & \xrightarrow{a} & B & \xrightarrow{b} & C & \xrightarrow{c} & \Sigma_{\mathcal{T}} A \\ \wr \downarrow \phi_A & & \wr \downarrow \phi_B & & \wr \downarrow \phi_C & & \wr \downarrow \Sigma_{\mathcal{T}} \phi_A \\ A' & \xrightarrow{a'} & B' & \xrightarrow{b'} & C' & \xrightarrow{c'} & \Sigma_{\mathcal{T}} A' \end{array}$$

Localization; I

Definition (Localization)

Let S be a collection of morphisms in the category \mathcal{C} . The Localization of \mathcal{C} on S is the category $\mathcal{C}[S^{-1}]$ together with a functor $q : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}[S^{-1}]$ such that:

- ▶ $\forall s : S$ such that $q(s)$ is an isomorphism
- ▶ Any functor $F : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ such that for any $s : S$ such that $F(s)$ is an isomorphism, then F factors through q . That is to say that there is a natural isomorphism $\eta : F \rightarrow F' \circ q$ so that $\mathcal{C}[S^{-1}]$ is the universal category where morphisms in S are isomorphisms.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{C} & \xrightarrow{\quad F \quad} & \mathcal{D} \\ & \searrow q \quad \Downarrow \eta \quad \nearrow F' & \\ & \mathcal{C}[S^{-1}] & \end{array}$$

Calculus of Fractions

Definition (Right multiplicative system)

A set S of morphisms in a category \mathcal{C} is called right multiplicative if it satisfies the following conditions:

- ▶ S is closed under composition, and has every identity morphism.
- ▶ (Right Ore condition)

$$(1) \quad \begin{array}{ccc} W & \overset{f}{\dashrightarrow} & X \\ \downarrow s & & \downarrow t \\ Z & \xrightarrow{g} & Y \end{array}$$

- ▶ (Left cancellation) Suppose $f, g : X \rightarrow Y$ are parallel morphisms in \mathcal{C} , then 1. \implies 2.:
 1. $sf = sg$ for som $s : S$ starting at Y
 2. $ft = gt$ for som $t : S$ ending at X

Calculus of Fractions

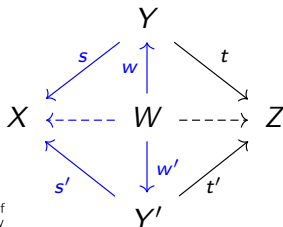
Definition (Right fractions)

S is a right multiplicative system

$$X \xleftarrow{s} Y \xrightarrow{t} Z$$

Right fractions are denoted as ts^{-1} .

- ▶ Let \sim be the equivalence relation of right fractions such that $ts^{-1} \sim t's'^{-1}$ if and only if $\exists w, w' : \mathcal{C}$ making the diagram below commute and the middle row a right fraction.



Calculus of Fractions

Definition (Right fractions)

S is a right multiplicative system

$$X \xleftarrow[s]{} Y \xrightarrow{t} Z$$

Right fractions are denoted as ts^{-1} .

- ▶ Let $S^{-1}\mathcal{C}$ denote the category with objects from \mathcal{C} and arrows are right fractions modulo \sim .

Set theory issues

There is no reason for this category to have small homsets between objects.

Localization; II

Theorem (Gabriel-Zisman)

Let S be a locally small right multiplicative system of morphisms in a category \mathcal{C} . Then the category $\mathfrak{r}S^{-1}\mathcal{C}$ exists and it is the localization of \mathcal{C} on S . This means that there is an equivalence of categories $\mathcal{C}[S^{-1}] \simeq \mathfrak{r}S^{-1}\mathcal{C}$ together with a functor $q : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathfrak{r}S^{-1}\mathcal{C}$ sending a morphism $f : X \rightarrow Y$ to the right fraction $f \circ id_X^{-1}$.

Subcategories

Definition (Triangulated subcategory)

A triangulated subcategory \mathcal{S} of a triangulated category \mathcal{T} is a full additive subcategory such that the inclusion functor is triangulated.

Definition ($Mor_{\mathcal{S}}$)

Let \mathcal{C} be a triangulated category and $\mathcal{S} \subseteq \mathcal{C}$ be a triangulated subcategory. Define the collection $Mor_{\mathcal{S}}$ to be a collection of morphisms in \mathcal{C} such that for any $f : Mor_{\mathcal{S}}$ there is a triangle with $C : \mathcal{S}$.

$$A \xrightarrow{f} B \longrightarrow C \longrightarrow \Sigma_{\mathcal{C}} A$$

Verdier quotient

Lemma

Let $\mathcal{S} \subseteq \mathcal{C}$ be triangulated categories, then $\text{Mor}_{\mathcal{S}}$ is a multiplicative system.

Theorem (Verdier Quotient)

The Verdier quotient \mathcal{C}/\mathcal{S} , defined as $\text{Mor}_{\mathcal{S}}^{-1}\mathcal{C}$, together with the functor $q : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}/\mathcal{S}$ is the universal triangulated category where morphisms in $\text{Mor}_{\mathcal{S}}$ are isomorphisms.

Exact categories

Definition (Kernel-cokernel pair)

- ▶ \mathcal{A} is an additive category
- ▶ (p, q) is a kernel-cokernel pair if p is the kernel of q and q is the cokernel of p
- ▶ A morphism of kernel-cokernel pairs are diagrams

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} A & \xrightarrow{p} & B & \xrightarrow{q} \twoheadrightarrow & C \\ \downarrow f & & \downarrow g & & \downarrow h \\ A' & \xrightarrow{p'} & B' & \xrightarrow{q'} \twoheadrightarrow & C' \end{array}$$

Exact categories

An exact structure for an additive category \mathcal{A} is a class \mathcal{E} of kernel-cokernel pairs which are closed under isomorphisms. A pair $(p, q) : \mathcal{E}$ is called a conflation, here p is called an inflation and q is called a deflation. $(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{E})$ is called exact when the following axioms holds:

- ▶ (QE0) $\forall A : \mathcal{A}, id_A$ is both an inflation and a deflation.
- ▶ (QE1) Both inflations and deflations are closed under composition.
- ▶ (QE2) The push-out of an inflation is an inflation.
- ▶ (QE2^{op}) The pull-back of a deflation is a deflation.

An exact category is the additive category \mathcal{A} together with an exact structure \mathcal{E} .

Examples of exact categories

Example

Any abelian category is exact with every short exact sequence as the exact structure. This exact structure is \mathcal{E}_{\max} .

Example

Any additive category is exact with every split short exact sequence as the exact structure. This structure will always be \mathcal{E}_{\min} , and it is always contained inside another exact structure.

Projective and injective objects

Definition (Exact functors)

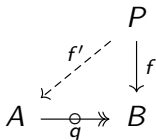
A functor $F : (\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{E}) \rightarrow (\mathcal{A}', \mathcal{E}')$ between exact categories is called exact if it is additive and $F(\mathcal{E}) \subseteq \mathcal{E}'$.

Definition (Projective object)

$P : \mathcal{A}$ is called projective if $\mathcal{A}(P, -) : (\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{E}) \rightarrow \mathbf{Ab}$ is an exact functor.

Lemma

$P : \mathcal{A}$ is projective if and only if for every deflation $q : A \rightarrow B$ and morphism $f : P \rightarrow B$, there is a morphism $f' : P \rightarrow A$ rendering the diagram below commutative.



Projective and injective objects

Definition (Exact functors)

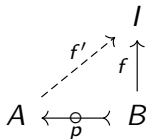
A functor $F : (\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{E}) \rightarrow (\mathcal{A}', \mathcal{E}')$ between exact categories is called exact if it is additive and $F(\mathcal{E}) \subseteq \mathcal{E}'$.

Definition (Injective object)

$I : \mathcal{A}$ is called injective if $\mathcal{A}(-, I) : (\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{E})^{op} \rightarrow \mathbf{Ab}$ is an exact functor.

Lemma

$I : \mathcal{A}$ is injective if and only if for every inflation $p : B \rightarrow A$ and morphism $f : B \rightarrow I$, there is a morphism $f' : A \rightarrow I$ rendering the diagram below commutative.



Coszygies and stabilization

Definition (Zysygy)

A syzygy of an object X , if it exists, is denoted ΩX . It is defined to be the kernel object of any deflation $p : P \rightarrow X$, where P is projective.

Syzygy is not a functor

Coszyzygies and stabilization

Definition (Coszyzygy)

A cosyzygy of an object X , if it exists, is denoted $\mathcal{U}X$. It is defined to be the cokernel object of any inflation $i : X \rightarrow I$, where I is injective.

Coszyzygy is not a functor

Coszygies and stabilization

Definition (Coszygy)

A cosyzygy of an object X , if it exists, is denoted $\mathcal{U}X$. It is defined to be the cokernel object of any inflation $i : X \rightarrow I$, where I is injective.

Coszygy is not a functor

Definition (Frobenius category)

\mathcal{A} is a Frobenius category if

- ▶ it has enough injectives and projectives
- ▶ injectives and projectives coincide

The quotient category $\underline{\mathcal{A}} = \mathcal{A} / \sim$ is the stable Frobenius category. $f \sim g \iff f - g$ factors over an injective/projective.

Triangulation

- ▶ $\underline{\mathcal{A}}$ is an additive category
- ▶ $\mathcal{U}: \underline{\mathcal{A}} \rightarrow \underline{\mathcal{A}}$ is an additive autoequivalence
- ▶ What is $\Delta_{\underline{\mathcal{A}}}$?

Triangulation

- ▶ $\underline{\mathcal{A}}$ is an additive category
- ▶ $\mathcal{U}: \underline{\mathcal{A}} \rightarrow \underline{\mathcal{A}}$ is an additive autoequivalence

Triangles from morphisms

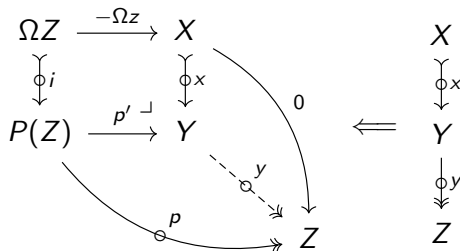
$$\begin{array}{c}
 X \xrightarrow{x} Y \implies \begin{array}{ccc}
 X & \xrightarrow{x} & Y \\
 \downarrow \oplus i & & \downarrow \oplus y \\
 I(X) & \xrightarrow{p'} & Z \\
 & \searrow \oplus p & \nearrow \oplus z \\
 & & \mathcal{U}X
 \end{array}
 \end{array}$$

The diagram illustrates the construction of a triangle from a morphism $x: X \rightarrow Y$. It shows a commutative square involving X , Y , $I(X)$, and Z , with a curved arrow 0 from Y to $\mathcal{U}X$. The morphisms i and y are represented by a circle with a vertical line through it. The morphisms p and z are represented by a circle with a dot inside. The morphism p' is perpendicular to p and z .

Triangulation

- ▶ $\underline{\mathcal{A}}$ is an additive category
- ▶ $\mathcal{U}: \underline{\mathcal{A}} \rightarrow \underline{\mathcal{A}}$ is an additive autoequivalence

Triangles from conflations



Homotopy categories are triangulated

Definition (Chain complexes)

Let \mathcal{A} be an additive category. Define $Ch(\mathcal{A})$ to be the category of diagrams in \mathcal{A} on the form

$$\dots \xrightarrow{d_{A^\bullet}^{-2}} A^{-1} \xrightarrow{d_{A^\bullet}^{-1}} A^0 \xrightarrow{d_{A^\bullet}^0} A^1 \xrightarrow{d_{A^\bullet}^1} \dots$$

such that $d_{A^\bullet}^i \circ d_{A^\bullet}^{i-1} = 0$ for every $i : \{-\infty, \dots, \infty\}$. A morphism $\phi^\bullet : A^\bullet \rightarrow B^\bullet$ between chain complexes is a collection of morphisms from \mathcal{A} , such that the diagram commutes.

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} \dots & \xrightarrow{d_{A^\bullet}^{-2}} & A^{-1} & \xrightarrow{d_{A^\bullet}^{-1}} & A^0 & \xrightarrow{d_{A^\bullet}^0} & A^1 \xrightarrow{d_{A^\bullet}^1} \dots \\ & & \downarrow \phi^{-1} & & \downarrow \phi^0 & & \downarrow \phi^1 \\ \dots & \xrightarrow{d_{B^\bullet}^{-2}} & B^{-1} & \xrightarrow{d_{B^\bullet}^{-1}} & B^0 & \xrightarrow{d_{B^\bullet}^0} & B^1 \xrightarrow{d_{B^\bullet}^1} \dots \end{array}$$

Homotopy categories are triangulated

Definition (Homotopies)

A chain map $f^\bullet : A^\bullet \rightarrow B^\bullet$ is called null-homotopic if there is a map $\varepsilon^\bullet : A^\bullet \rightarrow B^\bullet[-1]$ such that $f^\bullet = d_{B^\bullet}^{\bullet-1} \varepsilon^\bullet + \varepsilon^{\bullet+1} d_{A^\bullet}^\bullet$.

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 \dots & \xrightarrow{d_{A^\bullet}^{-2}} & A^{-1} & \xrightarrow{d_{A^\bullet}^{-1}} & A^0 & \xrightarrow{d_{A^\bullet}^0} & A^1 \xrightarrow{d_{A^\bullet}^1} \dots \\
 & & \downarrow f^{-1} & \swarrow \varepsilon^0 & \downarrow f^0 & \swarrow \varepsilon^1 & \downarrow f^1 \\
 \dots & \xrightarrow{d_{B^\bullet}^{-2}} & B^{-1} & \xrightarrow{d_{B^\bullet}^{-1}} & B^0 & \xrightarrow{d_{B^\bullet}^0} & B^1 \xrightarrow{d_{B^\bullet}^1} \dots
 \end{array}$$

ε^\bullet is called the homotopy. Two chain maps f^\bullet and g^\bullet are said to be homotopic $f^\bullet \sim g^\bullet$ if their difference $f^\bullet - g^\bullet$ is null-homotopic.

Homotopy categories are triangulated

Definition (Homotopy category)

$$K(\mathcal{A}) = Ch(\mathcal{A}) / \sim$$

Lemma (Exact structure on $Ch(\mathcal{A})$)

For every chain map $r^\bullet : A^\bullet \rightarrow B^\bullet$ there is a conflation as the diagram below. This makes $Ch(\mathcal{A})$ an exact category with structure \mathcal{E} .

$$B^\bullet \xrightarrow{\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}} cone(r^\bullet) \xrightarrow{\begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1^\bullet \end{pmatrix}} A^\bullet[1]$$

Homotopy categories are triangulated

Definition (Homotopy category)

$$K(\mathcal{A}) = \text{Ch}(\mathcal{A}) / \sim$$

Lemma (Triangulation on $K(\mathcal{A})$)

For every chain map $r^\bullet : A^\bullet \rightarrow B^\bullet$ there is a triangle as the diagram below.

$$A^\bullet \xrightarrow{r^\bullet} B^\bullet \xrightarrow{\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}} \text{cone}(r^\bullet) \xrightarrow{\begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1^\bullet \end{pmatrix}} A^\bullet[1]$$

Derived categories are triangulated

Definition

Let \mathcal{A} be an abelian category. Define the category $Ac(\mathcal{A}) \subset K(\mathcal{A})$ to be the full category whose objects are exact sequences.

Lemma

Let $f^\bullet : A^\bullet \rightarrow B^\bullet$ be a chain map between acyclic chain complexes, then $\text{cone}(f^\bullet)$ is acyclic as well.

Theorem

The derived category is the Verdier quotient $K(\mathcal{A})/Ac(\mathcal{A})$