

TRIANGULATED CATEGORIES

Thomas Wilschow Thorbjørnsen

14.06.2021

Outline

Triangulated Categories

The axioms

Homological functors

Subcategories and Verdier Quotient

Frobenius Categories

Exact categories

Stable Frobenius categories

Constructions

Homotopy categories

Derived 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

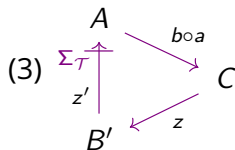
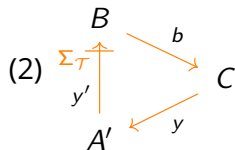
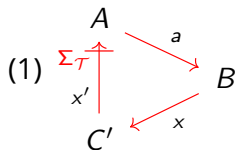
TR4 Octahedron axiom

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

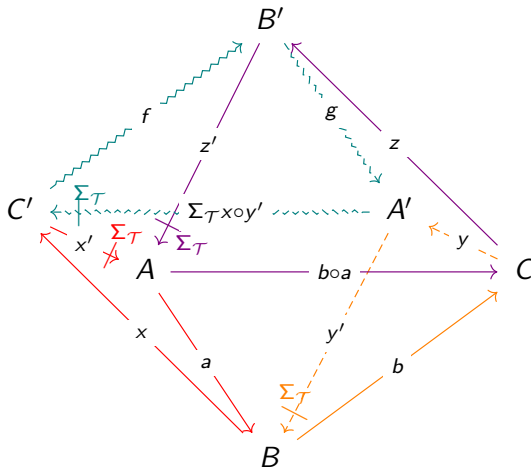
TR4 Octahedron axiom



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)

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
- ▶ $F(\Delta_{\mathcal{T}}) \subseteq \Delta_{\mathcal{S}}$

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 via a homological functor H .

On the left, a triangle in the triangulated category \mathcal{T} is shown with objects A , B , and C . The morphisms are $a : A \rightarrow B$, $b : C \rightarrow B$, and $c : C \rightarrow A$, where c is the cone morphism $\Sigma_{\mathcal{T}} A \rightarrow A$. This triangle is mapped to a long exact sequence in the abelian category \mathcal{A} via the functor H .

The resulting long exact sequence is:

$$\begin{aligned} \dots \longrightarrow H(\Sigma_{\mathcal{T}}^i A) &\xrightarrow{H(\Sigma_{\mathcal{T}}^i a)} H(\Sigma_{\mathcal{T}}^i B) \xrightarrow{H(\Sigma_{\mathcal{T}}^i b)} H(\Sigma_{\mathcal{T}}^i C) \\ &\xrightarrow{H(\Sigma_{\mathcal{T}}^i c)} H(\Sigma_{\mathcal{T}}^{i+1} A) \xrightarrow{H(\Sigma_{\mathcal{T}}^{i+1} a)} H(\Sigma_{\mathcal{T}}^{i+1} B) \xrightarrow{H(\Sigma_{\mathcal{T}}^{i+1} b)} H(\Sigma_{\mathcal{T}}^{i+1} C) \longrightarrow \dots \end{aligned}$$

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.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A & \xrightarrow{a} & B \\ \Sigma_{\mathcal{T}} \uparrow c & & \\ C & \xleftarrow{b} & \end{array} \Rightarrow \dots \leftarrow H(\Sigma_{\mathcal{T}}^{i-1}A) \xleftarrow{H(\Sigma_{\mathcal{T}}^{i-1}a)} H(\Sigma_{\mathcal{T}}^{i-1}B) \xleftarrow{H(\Sigma_{\mathcal{T}}^{i-1}b)} H(\Sigma_{\mathcal{T}}^{i-1}C) \leftarrow \dots$$

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.

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

η (vertical double arrow from F to q)

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

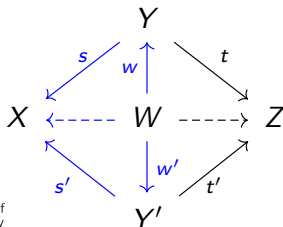
Definition (Right fractions)

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 theoretic 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 $S^{-1}\mathcal{C}$ exists and it is the localization of \mathcal{C} on S . This means that there is an equivalence of categories $\mathcal{C}[S^{-1}] \simeq S^{-1}\mathcal{C}$ together with a functor $q : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow S^{-1}\mathcal{C}$ 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

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

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)

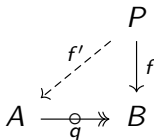
A functor $F : (\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{E}) \rightarrow (\mathcal{A}', \mathcal{E}')$ between exact categories is called exact if it is additive and $F(\mathcal{E}) \subseteq \mathcal{E}'$.

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)

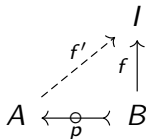
A functor $F : (\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{E}) \rightarrow (\mathcal{A}', \mathcal{E}')$ between exact categories is called exact if it is additive and $F(\mathcal{E}) \subseteq \mathcal{E}'$.

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

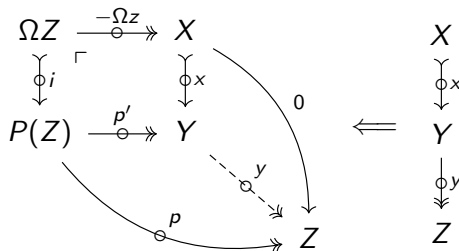
$$\begin{array}{c}
 X \xrightarrow{x} Y \implies \begin{array}{ccc}
 X & \xrightarrow{x} & Y \\
 \downarrow \oplus i & & \downarrow \oplus y \\
 I(X) & \xrightarrow{p'} & Z \\
 & \searrow \oplus p & \nearrow \oplus z \\
 & & \mathcal{U}X
 \end{array}
 \end{array}$$

Diagram illustrating the construction of a triangle from a morphism $x: X \rightarrow Y$. The diagram shows a commutative square with an additional morphism $p: I(X) \rightarrow \mathcal{U}X$ and a morphism $z: Z \rightarrow \mathcal{U}X$. The morphism p is labeled with a circle containing p , and the morphism z is labeled with a circle containing z . The morphism 0 is labeled with a circle containing 0 .

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 (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)

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

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.

$$A^\bullet \xrightarrow{r^\bullet} B^\bullet \longrightarrow \text{cone}(r^\bullet) \longrightarrow A^\bullet[1]$$

Derived categories are triangulated

Definition (Derived category)

$D(A) = K(A)[Q^{-1}]$, where Q is the set of quasi-isomorphisms.

Lemma

A morphism $f^\bullet : A^\bullet \rightarrow B^\bullet$ is a quasi isomorphism if and only if $\text{cone}(f^\bullet)$ is an exact sequence.

Derived categories are triangulated

Definition (Derived category)

$D(\mathcal{A}) = K(\mathcal{A})[Q^{-1}]$, where Q is the set of quasi-isomorphisms.

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. The set $Mor_{Ac(\mathcal{A})}$ consists of quasi-isomorphisms.

Lemma

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

Theorem

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