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## snake lemma

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Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be an abelian category. The *snake lemma* consists of the following two claims:

1. Suppose

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & A_1 & \longrightarrow & B_1 & \longrightarrow & C_1 & \longrightarrow & 0 \\ & & \alpha \downarrow & & \beta \downarrow & & \gamma \downarrow & & \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & A_2 & \longrightarrow & B_2 & \longrightarrow & C_2 & \longrightarrow & 0 \end{array}$$

is a commutative diagram in  $\mathcal{A}$  with exact rows. Then there is an exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \ker \alpha \rightarrow \ker \beta \rightarrow \ker \gamma \xrightarrow{s} \operatorname{coker} \alpha \rightarrow \operatorname{coker} \beta \rightarrow \operatorname{coker} \gamma \rightarrow 0,$$

usually called the *kernel-cokernel sequence*. The morphism  $s$  is called the *connecting morphism*.

2. Applying the previous claim inductively, for any short exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \mathbf{A} \rightarrow \mathbf{B} \rightarrow \mathbf{C} \rightarrow 0$$

of chain complexes in  $\mathcal{A}$ , there is a corresponding <http://planetmath.org/LongExactSequence> exact sequence in homology

$$\cdots \rightarrow H_n(\mathbf{A}) \rightarrow H_n(\mathbf{B}) \rightarrow H_n(\mathbf{C}) \rightarrow H_{n-1}(\mathbf{A}) \rightarrow \cdots$$