Homological algebra notes

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Contents

1 Introduction

Homework:

- Must submit more than 50% correct solutions in order to take the final exam (oral).
- Posted on Monday after the lecture
- Submitted on following Monday in lecture
- Discuss following Tuesday, 16:45, room 430

2 Chain complexes

Homological algebra is about chain complexes.

Definition 1 (chain complex)**.** Let R be a ring.[1] A chain complex of R-modules, denoted $(C_\bullet, d)$, consists of the following data:

- For each $n \in \mathbb{Z}$, an R-module C_n, and
- R-linear maps $d_n \colon C_n \longrightarrow C_{n-1}$, called the *differentials*,

such that the differentials satisfy the relation

$$d_{n-1} \circ d_n = 0.$$

Example 2 (Syzygies)**.** Let $R = \mathbb{C}[x_1, \ldots, x_k]$. Following Hilbert, we consider a finitely generated[2] R-module M. The ring R is Noetherian, so by Hilbert's basis theorem, M is Noetherian, hence has finitely many generators $a_1, \ldots, a_k$.

Denote by R^k the free R-module with k generators, and consider

$$\phi \colon R^k \twoheadrightarrow M; \qquad e_i \mapsto a_i.$$

This map is surjective, but it may have a kernel, called the *module of first Syzygies*, denoted $\mathrm{Syz}^1(M)$. This kernel consists of those x such that

$$x = \sum_{i=1}^{k} \lambda_i e_i \overset{\phi}{\mapsto} \sum_{i=1}^{k} \lambda_i a_i = 0.$$

This kernel is again a module, the module of relations.

By Hilbert's basis theorem (since polynomial rings over a field are Noetherian), $\mathrm{Syz}^1(M)$ is again a finitely generated R-module. Hence, pick finite set of generators b_i, $1 \leq i \leq \ell$, and look at

$$R^\ell \twoheadrightarrow \mathrm{Syz}^1(M); \qquad e_i \mapsto b_i.$$

In general, there is non-trivial kernel, denoted $\mathrm{Syz}^2(M)$. This consists of relation between relations.

We can keep going. This gives us a sequence $\mathrm{Syz}^\bullet(M)$ corresponding to relations between relations between…between relations.

$$\begin{tikzcd}
 & & \mathrm{Syz}^2(M) \arrow[dr, hook] & & & & \\
\cdots \arrow[r, dotted, dash] & R^m \arrow[ur, two heads] \arrow[rr, "d"] & & R^l \arrow[rr, "d"] \arrow[dr, two heads] & & R^k \arrow[r] & M \\
\mathrm{Syz}^3 \arrow[ur, hook] & & & & \mathrm{Syz}^1(M) \arrow[ur, hook] & &
\end{tikzcd}$$

[1] Associative, with unit. Not necessarily commutative.

[2] i.e. expressible as an R-linear combination of finitely many generators.

From this we build a chain complex $(C_\bullet, d)$, where C_n corresponds to the nth copy of R^k, known as the *free resolution* of M.

Hilbert's Syzygy theorem tells us that every finitely generated $\mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$-module admits a free resolution of length at most n.

Example 3 (simplicial complexes)**.** Let $N \geq 0$. A collection $K \subset \mathcal{P}(\{0, \dots, n\})$ of subsets is called a *simplicial complex* if it is closed under the taking of subsets in the sense that if for all $\sigma \in K$,

$$\tau \subset \sigma \implies \tau \in K.$$

For every $n \geq 0$, we define the *n-simplices* of K to be the set

$$K_n = \{\sigma \in K \mid |\sigma| = n + 1\}.$$

Every $\sigma \in K_n$ can be expressed uniquely as $\sigma = \{x_0, \dots, x_n\}$, with $x_0 < \cdots < x_n$. Define the *ith face* of σ to be

$$\partial_i \sigma = \{x_0, \dots, x_{i-1}, x_{i+1}, \dots, x_n\}.$$

Let R be a ring. Define

$$C_n(K, R) = \bigoplus_{\sigma \in K_n} R_{e_\sigma},$$

where the subscripts are simply labels. Further, define

$$d\colon C_n(K, R) \to C_{n-1}(K, R); \qquad e_\sigma \mapsto \sum_{i=0}^{n} (-1)^i e_{\partial_i \sigma}.$$

This is a complex because…

Example 4. Let k be a field, and A an associative k-algebra. We define a complex of vector spaces

$$\cdots \xrightarrow{d} A^{\otimes n} \xrightarrow{d} \cdots \xrightarrow{d} A^{\otimes 3} \xrightarrow{d} A \otimes A \xrightarrow{d} A \ ,$$

where d is defined by the formula

$$d(a_0 \otimes \cdots \otimes a_n) = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} (-1)^i a_0 \otimes \cdots \otimes a_i a_{i+1} \otimes \cdots \otimes a_n + (-1)^n a_n a_0 \otimes \cdots \otimes a_{n-1}.$$

This complex is known as the *cyclic bar complex.*

Definition 5 (cycle, boundary, homology)**.** Let $(C_\bullet, d)$ be a chain complex. We make the following definitions.

- The space $\ker d_m$ is known as the space of n-cycles, and denoted $Z_n(C_\bullet)$.
- The space $\operatorname{im} d_{m+1}$ is known as the space of n-boundaries, and denoted $B_n(C_\bullet)$.
- The space
$$\frac{Z_n}{B_n} = H_n(C_\bullet)$$
is known as the nth homology of C.

Definition 6 (exact)**.** We say that a chain complex $(C_\bullet, d)$ is exact at $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ if $H_n(C_\bullet = 0)$.

Definition 7 (exact sequence)**.** We say that a sequence

$$C_k \xrightarrow{d} C_{k-1} \xrightarrow{d} \cdots \xrightarrow{d} C_\ell$$

with $d^2 = 0$ is exact if it is exact at $k-1, k-2, \ldots, \ell+1$.

Definition 8 (short exact sequence)**.** A short exact sequence is an exact sequence of the form

$$0 \longrightarrow A \xrightarrow{f} B \xrightarrow{g} C \longrightarrow 0 \ .$$

Equivalently, such a sequence is exact if

- f is a monomorphism
- g is a epimorphism
- $H_B = 0$.

Example 9.

- The sequence

  $$0 \longrightarrow \mathbb{Z} \xrightarrow{\times 2} \mathbb{Z} \xrightarrow{\pi} \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \longrightarrow 0$$

  is exact.
- The sequence

  $$0 \longrightarrow \mathbb{Z}/4\mathbb{Z} \xrightarrow{\times 2} \mathbb{Z}/4\mathbb{Z} \xrightarrow{\pi} \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \longrightarrow 0$$

  is not exact since the map $x \mapsto 2x$ is not injective.
- The sequence

  $$\mathbb{Z}/4\mathbb{Z} \xrightarrow{\times 2} \mathbb{Z}/4\mathbb{Z} \xrightarrow{\pi} \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \longrightarrow 0$$

  is exact.

3 Abelian categories