

1 Triangulated categories

Definition 1 (triangulated category). A triangulated category consists of the following data.

1. An additive category \mathcal{T} .
2. An equivalence

$$\mathcal{T} \rightarrow \mathcal{T}; \quad X \mapsto X[1],$$

called the translation functor.

3. A collection of distinguished triangles

$$\left\{ X \xrightarrow{f} Y \xrightarrow{g} Z \xrightarrow{h} X[-1] \right\}.$$

These must satisfy the following four axioms.

- (TR1) a) Every morphism f can be extended to a distinguished triangle as above.
 b) The collection of distinguished triangles is closed under isomorphism.
 c) Given $X \in \mathcal{T}$, the diagram

$$X \xrightarrow{\text{id}} X \longrightarrow 0 \longrightarrow X[1]$$

is also distinguished.

- (TR2) A diagram

$$X \xrightarrow{f} Y \xrightarrow{g} Z \xrightarrow{h} X[1]$$

if and only if the ‘rotated’ diagram

$$Y \xrightarrow{g} Z \xrightarrow{h} X[1] \xrightarrow{-f[1]} Y[1]$$

is distinguished.

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(TR3) Given a solid commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} X & \longrightarrow & Y & \longrightarrow & Z & \longrightarrow & X[1] \\ f \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow f[1] \\ X & \longrightarrow & Y & \longrightarrow & Z & \longrightarrow & X[1] \end{array}$$

with distinguished rows, there exists a dashed morphism making everything commute.

(TR4) Suppose we are given the following distinguished triangles.

$$X \xrightarrow{f} Y \xrightarrow{u} Y/X \xrightarrow{d} X[1]$$

$$Y \xrightarrow{g} Z \xrightarrow{v} Z/Y \xrightarrow{d'} Y[1]$$

$$X \xrightarrow{g \circ f} Z \xrightarrow{w} Z/X \xrightarrow{d''} X[1]$$

Then there is a distinguished triangle

$$Y/X \xrightarrow{\phi} Z/X \xrightarrow{\psi} Z/Y \xrightarrow{\theta} Y/X[1]$$

making the following diagram commute.

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} & & g \circ f & & & & \\ & \searrow & & \nearrow & & & \\ X & \xrightarrow{f} & Y & \xrightarrow{g} & Z & & \\ & \searrow u & & \nearrow v & & & \\ & Y/X & \xrightarrow{\phi} & Z/X & \xrightarrow{d''} & X[1] & \\ & & \searrow \psi & & \nearrow f[1] & & \\ & & Z/Y & \xrightarrow{d'} & Y[1] & \xrightarrow{u[1]} & Y/X[1] \\ & & & \searrow \theta & & \nearrow & \end{array}$$