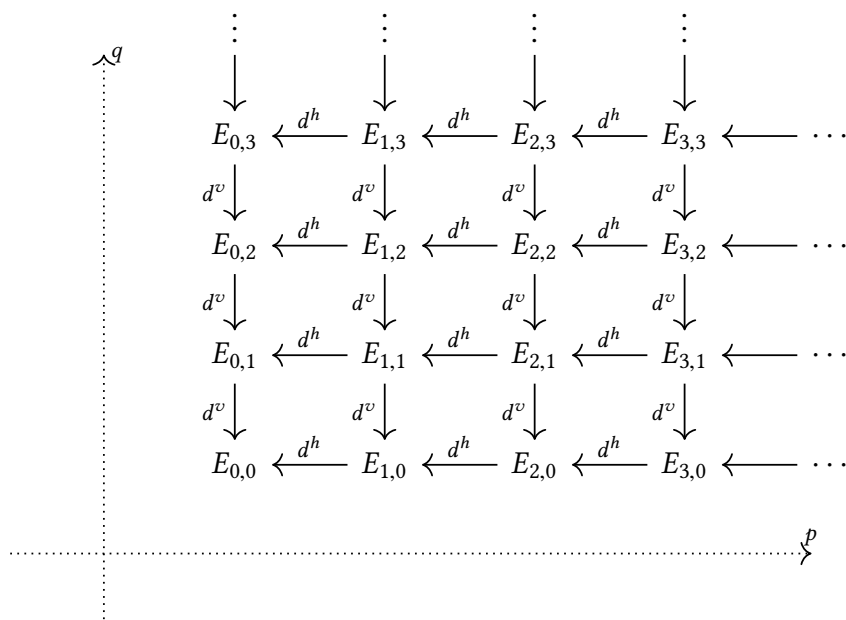


1 Spectral sequences

1.1 Motivation

Let $E_{\bullet,\bullet}$ be a first-quadrant double complex. As we saw in Section ??, computing the homology of the total complex of such a double complex is in general difficult with no further information, for example exactness of rows or columns. Spectral sequences provide a means of calculating, among other things, the building blocks of the homology of the total complex such a double complex.

They do this via a series of successive approximations. One starts with a first-quadrant double complex $E_{\bullet,\bullet}$.



One first forgets the data of the horizontal differentials (or equivalently, sets them to zero). To avoid confusion, one adds a subscript, denoting this new double complex by

1 Spectral sequences

$$E_{\bullet,\bullet}^0$$

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 & & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \\
 & & \downarrow & \downarrow & \downarrow & \downarrow & \\
 & & E_{0,3}^0 & E_{1,3}^0 & E_{2,3}^0 & E_{3,3}^0 & \\
 & & d^v \downarrow & d^v \downarrow & d^v \downarrow & d^v \downarrow & \\
 & & E_{0,2}^0 & E_{1,2}^0 & E_{2,2}^0 & E_{3,2}^0 & \\
 & & d^v \downarrow & d^v \downarrow & d^v \downarrow & d^v \downarrow & \\
 & & E_{0,1}^0 & E_{1,1}^0 & E_{2,1}^0 & E_{3,1}^0 & \\
 & & d^v \downarrow & d^v \downarrow & d^v \downarrow & d^v \downarrow & \\
 & & E_{0,0}^0 & E_{1,0}^0 & E_{2,0}^0 & E_{3,0}^0 & \\
 \end{array}
 \quad (1.1)$$

One then takes homology of the corresponding vertical complexes, replacing $E_{p,q}^0$ by the homology $H_q(E_{p,\bullet}^0)$. To ease notation, one writes

$$H_q(E_{p,\bullet}^0) = E_{p,q}^1.$$

The functoriality of H_q means that the maps $H_q(d^h)$ act as differentials for the rows.

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 & & E_{0,3}^1 & \xleftarrow{H_3(d^h)} & E_{1,3}^1 & \xleftarrow{H_3(d^h)} & E_{2,3}^1 & \xleftarrow{H_3(d^h)} & E_{3,3}^1 & \xleftarrow{\quad} & \dots \\
 & & E_{0,2}^1 & \xleftarrow{H_2(d^h)} & E_{1,2}^1 & \xleftarrow{H_2(d^h)} & E_{2,2}^1 & \xleftarrow{H_2(d^h)} & E_{3,2}^1 & \xleftarrow{\quad} & \dots \\
 & & E_{0,1}^1 & \xleftarrow{H_1(d^h)} & E_{1,1}^1 & \xleftarrow{H_1(d^h)} & E_{2,1}^1 & \xleftarrow{H_1(d^h)} & E_{3,1}^1 & \xleftarrow{\quad} & \dots \\
 & & E_{0,0}^1 & \xleftarrow{H_0(d^h)} & E_{1,0}^1 & \xleftarrow{H_0(d^h)} & E_{2,0}^1 & \xleftarrow{H_0(d^h)} & E_{3,0}^1 & \xleftarrow{\quad} & \dots
 \end{array}
 \quad (1.2)$$

We now write $E_{p,q}^2$ for the horizontal homology $H_p(E_{\bullet,q}^1)$.

The claim is that the terms $E_{p,q}^r$ are pieces of a successive approximation of the homology of the total complex $\text{Tot}(E)$. We will prove this claim much later. However, in the particularly simple case that $E_{\bullet,\bullet}$ consists of only two nonzero adjacent columns, we have already succeeded in computing the total homology, at least up to an extension problem.

Example 1. Let E be a double complex where all but two adjacent columns are zero; that is, let E be a diagram consisting of two chain complexes $E_{0,\bullet}$ and $E_{1,\bullet}$ and a morphism $f: E_{1,\bullet} \rightarrow E_{0,\bullet}$, padded by zeroes on either side.

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \vdots & & \vdots \\
 \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 E_{0,3} & \xleftarrow{f_3} & E_{1,3} \\
 d_3^0 \downarrow & & \downarrow -d_3^1 \\
 E_{0,2} & \xleftarrow{f_2} & E_{1,2} \\
 d_2^0 \downarrow & & \downarrow -d_2^1 \\
 E_{0,1} & \xleftarrow{f_1} & E_{1,1} \\
 d_1^0 \downarrow & & \downarrow -d_1^1 \\
 E_{0,0} & \xleftarrow{f_0} & E_{1,0} \\
 d_0^0 \downarrow & & \downarrow -d_0^1 \\
 E_{-0,1} & \xleftarrow{f_{-1}} & E_{-1,1} \\
 \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 \vdots & & \vdots
 \end{array}$$

Note that we have multiplied the differentials of $E_{1,\bullet}$ by -1 so that we have a double complex. This does not enter into the discussion.

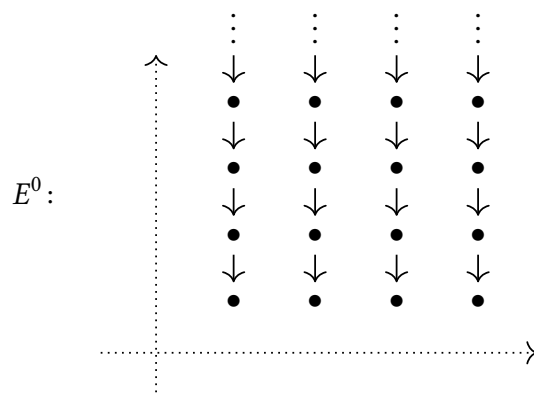
Fix some $n \in \mathbb{Z}$, and let $q = n - p$.

Let $T = \text{Tot}(E)$; that is, let $T = \text{Cone}(f)$.

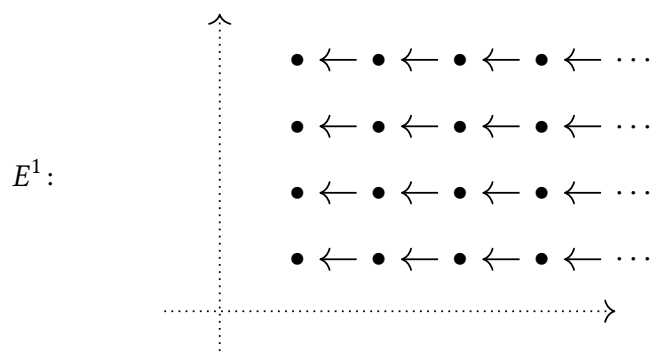
Recall that $\text{Cone}(f)$ fits into the following short exact sequence,

$$0 \longrightarrow E_{\bullet,1} \hookrightarrow E_{\bullet,0} \twoheadrightarrow \text{Cone}(f)_{\bullet} \longrightarrow 0$$

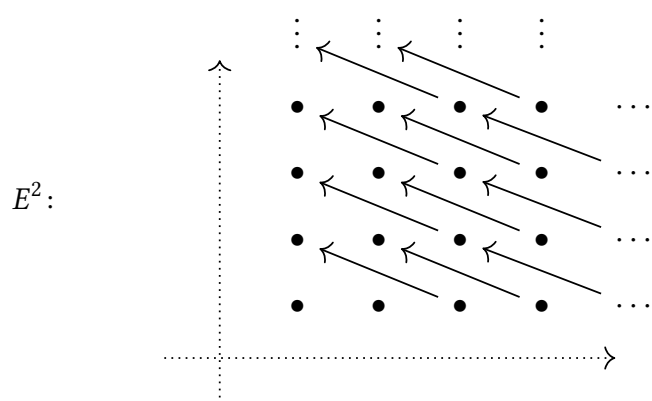
We have already seen an example of the first two pages of a spectral sequence (in [Diagram 1.1](#) and [Diagram 1.2](#)). Schematically, the differentials on the zeroth page point down.



The differentials on the first page point to the left.

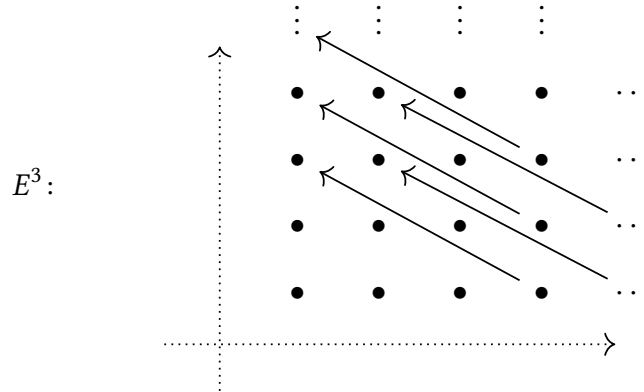


As r increases, the arrows rotate clockwise. The second page looks like this.



1 Spectral sequences

The third page looks like this.



1.2.2 Stabilization and convergence

We have so far placed no conditions on $E_{p,q}^r$. However, we will confine our study of certain classes of spectral sequences.

Definition 3 (bounded, first quadrant). Let E be a spectral sequence starting at E^a .

- We say that E is bounded if each $n \in \mathbb{Z}$, there are only finitely many terms of total degree n on the a th page, i.e. terms of the form $E_{p,q}^a$ for $n = p + q$.
- We say that E is first-quadrant if $E_{p,q}^a = 0$ for $p < 0$ and $q < 0$.

Clearly, every first-quadrant spectral sequence is bounded.

Note that if a spectral sequence is bounded, then

We get $E_{p,q}^{r+1}$ by taking the homology of a complex on the r th page. If E is a first-quadrant spectral sequence, then for $r > \max(p, q + 1)$, the differential entering $E_{p,q}^r$ comes from the fourth quadrant (hence from a zero object), and the differential leaving it lands in the second quadrant (also a zero object). Thus, $E_{p,q}^{r+1} = E_{p,q}^r$.

Definition 4 (stabilize). A spectral sequence starting at E^a is said to stabilize at position (p, q) if there exists some $r \geq a$ such that $E_{p,q}^{r'} = E_{p,q}^r$ for all $r' \geq r$. In this case, we write $E_{p,q}^\infty$ for the stable value at position (p, q) .

By the argument above, each position in a first-quadrant spectral sequence eventually stabilizes. We will mostly be interested in first-quadrant spectral sequences. However, boundedness is (clearly!) sufficient to guarantee stabilization.

Suppose one has been given a bounded spectral sequence, which we now know eventually stabilizes at each position. We would like to get some useful information out of such a spectral sequence.

Definition 5 (filtration). Let C_\bullet be a chain complex. A filtration F of C_\bullet is a chain of inclusions of subcomplexes $F_p C_\bullet$ of C_\bullet .

$$\cdots \subset F_{p-1} C_\bullet \subset F_p C_\bullet \subset F_{p+1} C_\bullet \subset \cdots \subset C_\bullet$$

Definition 6 (bounded convergence). Let E be a bounded spectral sequence starting at E^a in an abelian category \mathcal{A} , and let $\{H_i\}_{i \in \mathbb{Z}}$ be a collection of objects in \mathcal{A} , each equipped with a finite filtration

$$0 = F_s H_n \subset \cdots \subset F_{p-1} H_n \subset F_p H_n \subset \cdots \subset F_t H_n = H_n.$$

We say that E converges to $\{H_i\}_{i \in \mathbb{Z}}$ if we are given isomorphisms

$$E_{p,q}^\infty \cong F_p H_{p+q} / F_{p-1} H_{p+q}.$$

We express this convergence by writing

$$E_{p,q}^a \Rightarrow H_{p+q}.$$

Example 7. Consider the spectral sequence E starting at E^0 from [Example 1](#). This is certainly bounded, and stabilizes at each position (p, q) after the second page; that is, we have

$$E_{p,q}^\infty = E_{p,q}^2.$$

The exact sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow E_{p-1,q+1}^2 \hookrightarrow H_{p+q}(T) \twoheadrightarrow E_{p,q}^2 \longrightarrow 0$$

gives us, in a wholly unsatisfying and trivial way, a filtration

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} F_{-1} H_n & & F_0 H_n & & F_1 H_n \\ \parallel & & \parallel & & \parallel \\ 0 & \hookrightarrow & E_{0,n}^2 & \hookrightarrow & H_n \end{array}$$

of H_n . The claim is that

$$E_{p,q}^0 \Rightarrow H_{p+q}.$$

In order to check this, we have to check that

$$E_{p,q}^2 \cong F_p H_{p+q} / F_{p-1} H_{p+q}$$

1 Spectral sequences

for all p, q . The only non-trivial cases are when $p = 0$ or 1 . When $p = 0$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} E_{0,n}^\infty &\stackrel{!}{\cong} F_0 H_n / F_{-1} H_n \\ &\cong E_{0,n}^2 / 0 \\ &\cong E_{0,n}^2, \end{aligned}$$

and when $p = 1$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} E_{1,n}^\infty &\stackrel{!}{\cong} F_1 H_{n+1} / F_0 H_{n+1} \\ &\cong H_{n+1} / E_{0,n+1}^2 \\ &\cong E_{1,n}^2 \end{aligned}$$

as required.

1.2.3 The spectral sequence of a filtered complex

Theorem 8. A filtration F of a chain complex C_\bullet naturally determines a spectral sequence starting with

$$E_{p,q}^0 = F_p C_{p+q} / F_{p-1} C_{p+q}, \quad E_{p,q}^1 = H_{p+1}(E_{p,\bullet}^0)$$

Proof. We construct explicitly the spectral sequence above. Let C_\bullet be a chain complex, and F a filtration. We will use the following notation.

- We will denote by η_p the quotient

$$\eta_p: F_p C \twoheadrightarrow F_p C / F_{p-1} C.$$

coming from the short exact sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow F_{p-1} C \hookrightarrow F_p C \twoheadrightarrow F_p C / F_{p-1} C \longrightarrow 0$$

- We will denote by A_p^r the subobject

$$A_p^r = \{c \in F_p C: dc \in F_{p-r} C\} \subset F_p C$$

of those elements whose differentials survive r many levels of the grading.

- We will denote by Z_p^r the image

$$Z_p^r = \eta_p(A_p^r).$$

- We will denote by B_p^r the image

$$B_p^r = \eta_p(d(a_{p+r-1}^{r-1})).$$

Examining the definitions, we see that we have the following inclusion.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} dA_{p+r-1}^{r-1} & \xlongequal{\quad} & \{dc \mid c \in F_{p+r-1}, dc \in F_p C\} \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ dA_{p+r}^r & \xlongequal{\quad} & \{dc \mid c \in F_{p+r}, dc \in F_p C\} \end{array}$$

Both of these are subobjects of $F_p C$; by applying η_p and taking a sharp look at the definition of the B s, we find an inclusion

$$B_p^r \subset B_p^{r+1}.$$

Working inductively, we are left with the following sequence of inclusions.

$$0 = B_p^0 \subset B_p^1 \subset \cdots \subset B_p^r \subset \cdots$$

Defining $B_p^\infty = \bigcup_r B_p^r$, we can crown our sequence of inclusions as follows.

$$0 = B_p^0 \subset B_p^1 \subset \cdots \subset B_p^\infty.$$

Again examining definitions, we find the following inclusion.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A_p^r & \xlongequal{\quad} & \{c \in F_p C \mid dc \in F_{p-r} C\} \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ A_p^{r+1} & \xlongequal{\quad} & \{c \in F_p C \mid dc \in F_{p-r-1} C\} \end{array}$$

As before, applying η_p and working inductively gives us a chain

$$\cdots \subset Z_p^r \subset \cdots \subset Z_p^1 \subset Z_p^0 = E_p^0$$

and defining $Z_p^\infty = \bigcap_r Z_p^r$ gives us

$$Z_p^\infty \subset \cdots \subset Z_p^1 \subset Z_p^0 = E_p^0,$$

But we should not rest on our laurels. Instead, note that for each r, r' , we have an

1 Spectral sequences

inclusion

$$\begin{array}{ccc} dA_{p+r-1}^{r-1} & \xlongequal{\quad} & \{dc \mid c \in F_{p+r-1}, dc \in F_p C\} \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ A_p^{r'} & \xlongequal{\quad} & \{c \in F_p C \mid dc \in F_{p-r'} C\} \end{array}$$

since $d^2 = 0$. Thus, we can graft our chains of inclusions as follows.

$$0 = B_p^0 \subset B_p^1 \subset \cdots \subset B_p^\infty \subset Z_p^\infty \subset \cdots \subset Z_p^1 \subset Z_p^0 = E_p^0.$$

We defined

$$Z_p^r = \eta_p(A_p^r).$$

Recall that η_p was defined to be the canonical projection corresponding to a short exact sequence. Taking subobjects (where the left-hand square is a pullback), we find the following monomorphism of short exact sequences.

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & F_{p-1}C \cap A_r^p & \hookrightarrow & A_r^p & \longrightarrow & Z_r^p \longrightarrow 0 \\ & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & F_{p-1}C & \hookrightarrow & F_p C & \twoheadrightarrow & F_p C / F_{p-1}C \longrightarrow 0 \end{array}$$

Rewriting the definitions, we find that

$$F_{p-1}C \cap A_r^p = \{c \in F_{p-1}C \mid dc \in F_{p-r}C\} = A_{p-1}^{r-1},$$

so

$$Z_p^r \cong A_p^r / A_{p-1}^{r-1}.$$

We now define

$$E_p^r = \frac{Z_p^r}{B_p^r}.$$

We can write

$$\frac{Z_p^r}{B_p^r} \cong \frac{A_p^r + F_{p-1}C}{d(A_{p+r-1}^{r-1}) + F_{p-1}C} \cong \frac{A_p^r}{d(A_{p+r-1}^{r-1}) + A_{p-1}^{r-1}}.$$

I don't understand this step, and I don't have time to do the rest. □

Theorem 9.

- Let C_\bullet be a chain complex, and F a bounded filtration on C_\bullet .

1.2.4 The spectral sequence of a double complex

1.3 Hyper-derived functors

Consider abelian categories and right exact functors as follows.

$$\mathcal{C} \xrightarrow{F} \mathcal{D} \xrightarrow{G} \mathcal{E}$$

One might wonder about the relationship between LF , LG , and $L(G \circ F)$.

The problem is that we don't know how to make sense of the composition $LG \circ LF$, since LF lands in $\mathbf{Ch}^{\geq 0}(\mathcal{A})$ rather than \mathcal{A} ; derived functors go from an abelian category to a category of chain complexes.

1.3.1 Cartan-Eilenberg resolutions

Definition 10 (Cartan-Eilenberg resolution). Let \mathcal{A} be an abelian category with enough projectives, and let $A \in \mathbf{Ch}^+(\mathcal{A})$. A Cartan-Eilenberg resolution of A is an upper-half-plane double complex $(P_{\bullet, \bullet}, d^h, d^v)$, equipped with an augmentation map

$$\epsilon: P_{\bullet, 0} \rightarrow A_{\bullet}$$

such that the following criteria are satisfied.

1. $B(P_{p, \bullet}, d^h) \xrightarrow{\sim} B(A_p, d^A)$ is a projective resolution.
2. $H(P_{p, \bullet}, d^h) \xrightarrow{\sim} H(A_p, d^A)$ is a projective resolution.
3. $A_p \cong 0 \implies P_{p, \bullet} = 0$.

Here, $B(P_{p, \bullet}, d^h)$ are the horizontal boundaries of the chain complex $(P_{p, \bullet}, d^h)$, and

$$H(P_{p, \bullet}, d^h) \cong \frac{Z(P_{p, \bullet}, d^h)}{B(P_{p, \bullet}, d^h)}$$

is defined similarly.

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
\vdots & & \vdots & & \vdots & & \vdots \\
\downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
0 & \longleftarrow & P_{-r,1} & \longleftarrow & \cdots & \longleftarrow & P_{0,1} & \longleftarrow & P_{1,1} & \longleftarrow & \cdots \\
\downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \\
0 & \longleftarrow & P_{-r,0} & \longleftarrow & \cdots & \longleftarrow & P_{0,0} & \longleftarrow & P_{1,0} & \longleftarrow & \cdots \\
\vdots & & \vdots & & \vdots & & \vdots & & \vdots & & \\
\downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \\
0 & \longleftarrow & A_{-r} & \longleftarrow & \cdots & \longleftarrow & A_0 & \longleftarrow & A_1 & \longleftarrow & \cdots
\end{array}$$

Proposition 11. We also have that the following are projective resolutions.

1. $Z(P_{p,\bullet}, d^h) \xrightarrow{\cong} Z(A_p, d^A)$
2. $P_{p,\bullet} \xrightarrow{\cong} A_p$

Proof.

1. We have essentially by definition the following short exact sequence.

$$0 \longrightarrow B(P_{p,\bullet}, d^h) \hookrightarrow Z(P_{p,\bullet}, d^h) \twoheadrightarrow H(P_{p,\bullet}, d^h) \longrightarrow 0$$

The outer terms are projective because they are the terms of projective resolutions, so $Z(P_{p,\bullet}, d^h)$ is also projective.

LES on homology implies

$$Z(P_{p,\bullet}, d^h) \xrightarrow{\cong} Z(A_p, d^A)$$

is a projective resolution.

2.

☐

Proposition 12. Every chain complex A_\bullet has a Cartan-Eilenberg resolution $P_{\bullet,\bullet} \xrightarrow{\sim} A_\bullet$.

Proof. We construct a Cartan-Eilenberg resolution $P_{\bullet, \bullet}$ explicitly. Pick projective resolutions

$$P_{p,\bullet}^B \rightarrow B(A_p, d^h), \quad B_{p,\bullet}^H \xrightarrow{\cong} H(A_p, d^h).$$

By the horseshoe lemma, we can find a projective resolution $P_{p,\bullet}^Z \xrightarrow{\sim} Z(A_p, d^h)$ fitting

into the following exact sequence.

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 0 & \longrightarrow & P_{p,\bullet}^B & \hookrightarrow & P_{p,\bullet}^Z & \longrightarrow & P_{p,\bullet}^H \longrightarrow 0 \\
 & & \downarrow \simeq & & \downarrow \simeq & & \downarrow \simeq \\
 0 & \longrightarrow & B(A_p, d^h) & \hookrightarrow & Z(A_p, d^h) & \longrightarrow & H(A_p, d^h) \longrightarrow 0
 \end{array} \tag{1.3}$$

Playing the same game again, we find a projective resolution of A_p .

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 0 & \longrightarrow & P_{p,\bullet}^Z & \hookrightarrow & P_{p,\bullet}^A & \longrightarrow & P_{p-1,\bullet}^B \longrightarrow 0 \\
 & & \downarrow \simeq & & \downarrow \simeq & & \downarrow \simeq \\
 0 & \longrightarrow & Z(A_p, d^h) & \hookrightarrow & A(A_p, d^h) & \longrightarrow & B(A_{p-1}, d^h) \longrightarrow 0
 \end{array} \tag{1.4}$$

We then define our Cartan-Eilenberg resolution to be the double complex whose p th column is $(P_{p,\bullet}^A, (-1)^p d^{p^A})$, and whose horizontal differentials are given by the composition

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 P_{p,\bullet}^A & \longrightarrow & P_{p-1,\bullet}^B & \longrightarrow & P_{p-1,\bullet}^Z & \longrightarrow & P_{p-1,\bullet}^A \\
 \downarrow \simeq & & \downarrow \simeq & & \downarrow \simeq & & \downarrow \simeq \\
 A_p & \xrightarrow{d^A} & B_{p-1} & \hookrightarrow & Z_{p-1} & \hookrightarrow & A_{p-1}
 \end{array} \tag{1.5}$$

In this case, all the criteria are satisfied by definition. \square

Proposition 13. Let A_\bullet and A'_\bullet be bounded-below chain complexes, and let $P_{\bullet,\bullet} \xrightarrow{\simeq} A_\bullet$ and $P'_{\bullet,\bullet} \xrightarrow{\simeq} A'_\bullet$ be Cartan-Eilenberg resolutions. Then any morphism of chain complexes $f: A_\bullet \rightarrow A'_\bullet$ can be lifted to a morphism $P_{\bullet,\bullet}^A \rightarrow P_{\bullet,\bullet}^B$ of double complex.

Proof. From the extended horseshoe lemma (Theorem ??), we can f to a morphism of the chain complexes in [Diagram 1.3](#) and [Diagram 1.4](#). We also get a lift of [Diagram 1.5](#), since this is made by pasting the commuting squares from the other short exact sequence. \square

Proposition 14. Let $P_{\bullet,\bullet}^A$ be a Cartan-Eilenberg resolution of A_\bullet . Then the canonical map

$$\text{Tot}(P_{\bullet,\bullet}^A) \rightarrow A$$

is a quasi-isomorphism

Proof. Spectral sequence with vertical filtration. \square