

We assume the reader is familiar with additive categories and (closed, symmetric) monoidal categories.

Definition 0.1. A *triangulated category* is a tuple $(\mathcal{C}, \Sigma, \Omega, \mathcal{D})$ such that

- (1) \mathcal{C} is an additive category.
- (2) $\Sigma, \Omega : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ are additive functors which form an adjoint equivalence of \mathcal{C} with itself. (Σ is called the *shift functor*.)
- (3) \mathcal{D} is a collection of *distinguished triangles*, where a *triangle* is a diagram of the form

$$X \rightarrow Y \rightarrow Z \rightarrow \Sigma X.$$

These are also sometimes called *cofiber sequences* or *fiber sequences*.

These data must satisfy the following axioms:

TR0 Given a commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} X & \longrightarrow & Y & \longrightarrow & Z & \longrightarrow & \Sigma X \\ \cong \downarrow & & \cong \downarrow & & \cong \downarrow & & \cong \downarrow \\ X' & \longrightarrow & Y' & \longrightarrow & Z' & \longrightarrow & \Sigma X' \end{array}$$

where the vertical arrows are isomorphisms, if the top row is distinguished then so is the bottom.

TR1 For any object X in \mathcal{C} , the diagram

$$X \xrightarrow{\text{id}_X} X \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow \Sigma X$$

is a distinguished triangle.

TR2 For all $f : X \rightarrow Y$ there exists an object C_f (also sometimes denoted Y/X) called the *cofiber of f* and a distinguished triangle

$$X \xrightarrow{f} Y \rightarrow C_f \rightarrow \Sigma X.$$

TR3 Given a solid diagram with both rows commutative

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} X & \longrightarrow & Y & \longrightarrow & Z & \longrightarrow & \Sigma X \\ f \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \vdots & & \downarrow \Sigma f \\ X' & \longrightarrow & Y' & \longrightarrow & Z' & \longrightarrow & \Sigma X' \end{array}$$

such that the leftmost square commutes and both rows are distinguished, there exists a dashed arrow $Z \rightarrow Z'$ which makes the remaining two squares commute.

TR4 A triangle

$$X \xrightarrow{f} Y \xrightarrow{g} Z \xrightarrow{\Sigma} X$$

is distinguished if and only if

$$Y \xrightarrow{g} Z \xrightarrow{h} \Sigma X \xrightarrow{-\Sigma f} \Sigma Y$$

is distinguished.

TR5 (Octahedral axiom) Given three distinguished triangles

$$X \xrightarrow{f} Y \xrightarrow{h} Y/X \rightarrow \Sigma X$$

$$Y \xrightarrow{g} Z \xrightarrow{k} Z/Y \rightarrow \Sigma Y$$

$$X \xrightarrow{g \circ f} Z \xrightarrow{l} Z/X \rightarrow \Sigma X$$

there exists a distinguished triangle

$$Y/X \xrightarrow{u} Z/X \xrightarrow{v} Z/Y \xrightarrow{w} \Sigma(Y/X)$$

such that the following diagram commutes

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 X & \xrightarrow{g \circ f} & Z & \xrightarrow{k} & Z/Y & \xrightarrow{w} & \Sigma(Y/X) \\
 & \searrow f & \nearrow g & \searrow l & \nearrow v & \searrow & \nearrow \Sigma h \\
 & Y & & Z/X & & \Sigma Y & \\
 & \searrow h & \nearrow u & \searrow & \nearrow & \searrow \Sigma f & \\
 & Y/X & \xrightarrow{\quad} & \Sigma X & & &
 \end{array}$$

It turns out that the above definition is actually redundant; TR3 and TR4 follow from the remaining axioms (see Lemmas 2.2 and 2.4 in [1]).

We now recall several important propositions for triangulated categories:

Proposition 0.2. *Given a map $f : X \rightarrow Y$ in a triangulated category $(\mathcal{C}, \Sigma, \Omega, \mathcal{D})$, the cofiber sequence of f is unique up to isomorphism, in the sense that given any two distinguished triangles*

$$X \xrightarrow{f} Y \rightarrow Z \rightarrow \Sigma X \quad \text{and} \quad X \xrightarrow{f} Y \rightarrow Z' \rightarrow \Sigma X,$$

there exists an isomorphism $Z \rightarrow Z'$ which makes the following diagram commute:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 X & \xrightarrow{f} & Y & \longrightarrow & Z & \longrightarrow & \Sigma X \\
 \parallel & & \parallel & & \downarrow k & & \parallel \\
 X & \xrightarrow{f} & Y & \longrightarrow & Z' & \longrightarrow & \Sigma X
 \end{array}$$

Proposition 0.3. *Given an arrow $f : X \rightarrow Y$ in a triangulated category $(\mathcal{C}, \Sigma, \Omega, \mathcal{D})$, there exists an object F_f called the fiber of f , and a distinguished triangle*

$$F_f \rightarrow X \xrightarrow{f} Y \rightarrow \Sigma F_f (\cong C_f).$$

Proposition 0.4. *Let $(\mathcal{C}, \Sigma, \Omega, \mathcal{D})$ be a triangulated category. Given a distinguished triangle*

$$X \xrightarrow{f} Y \xrightarrow{g} Z \xrightarrow{h} \Sigma X$$

and any object A in \mathcal{C} , there is a long exact sequence of abelian groups

$$\cdots \rightarrow [\Sigma^{n+1}A, Z] \xrightarrow{\partial} [\Sigma^n X, X] \xrightarrow{f_*} [\Sigma^n A, Y] \xrightarrow{g_*} [\Sigma^n A, Z] \xrightarrow{\partial} [\Sigma^{n-1}A, X] \rightarrow \cdots$$

extending infinitely in either direction, where for $n < 0$ we define $\Sigma^{-n} := \Omega^n$, and ∂ is the map

$$[\Sigma^{n+1}A, Z] \xrightarrow{h_*} [\Sigma^{n+1}A, \Sigma X] \cong [\Sigma^{-1}\Sigma^{n+1}A, X] \cong [\Sigma^n A, X].$$

Also important for our work is the concept of a *tensor triangulated category*, that is, a triangulated symmetric monoidal category in which the triangulated structures are compatible, in the following sense:

Definition 0.5. A *tensor triangulated category* is a triangulated symmetric monoidal category $(\mathcal{C}, \otimes, S, \Sigma, \Omega, \mathcal{D})$ such that:

TT1 For all objects X and Y in \mathcal{C} , there are natural isomorphisms

$$e_{X,Y} : \Sigma X \otimes Y \xrightarrow{\cong} \Sigma(X \otimes Y).$$

TT2 For each object X in \mathcal{C} , the functor $X \otimes (-) \cong (-) \otimes X$ is an additive functor.

TT3 For each object X in \mathcal{C} , the functor $X \otimes (-) \cong (-) \otimes X$ preserves distinguished triangles, in that given a distinguished triangle/(co)fiber sequence

$$A \xrightarrow{f} B \xrightarrow{g} C \xrightarrow{h} \Sigma A,$$

then also

$$X \otimes A \xrightarrow{X \otimes f} X \otimes B \xrightarrow{X \otimes g} X \otimes C \xrightarrow{X \otimes h} \Sigma(X \otimes A)$$

and

$$A \otimes X \xrightarrow{f \otimes X} B \otimes X \xrightarrow{g \otimes X} C \otimes X \xrightarrow{h \otimes X} \Sigma(A \otimes X)$$

are distinguished triangles, where here we are being abusive and writing $X \otimes h$ and $h \otimes X$ to denote the compositions

$$X \otimes C \xrightarrow{X \otimes h} X \otimes \Sigma A \xrightarrow{\tau} \Sigma A \otimes X \xrightarrow{e_{A,X}} \Sigma(A \otimes X) \xrightarrow{\Sigma \tau} \Sigma(X \otimes A)$$

and

$$C \otimes X \xrightarrow{h \otimes X} \Sigma A \otimes X \xrightarrow{e_{A,X}} \Sigma(A \otimes X),$$

respectively.

TT4 Given objects X , Y , and Z in \mathcal{C} , the following diagram must commute:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} (\Sigma X \otimes Y) \otimes Z & \xrightarrow{e_{X,Y} \otimes Z} & \Sigma(X \otimes Y) \otimes Z \xrightarrow{e_{X \otimes Y, Z}} \Sigma((X \otimes Y) \otimes Z) \\ \alpha \downarrow & & \downarrow \alpha \\ \Sigma X \otimes (Y \otimes Z) & \xrightarrow{e_{X,Y \otimes Z}} & \Sigma(X \otimes (Y \otimes Z)) \end{array}$$

TT5 The following diagram must commute

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \Sigma S \otimes \Sigma S & \xrightarrow{e_{S,\Sigma S}} & \Sigma(S \otimes \Sigma S) & \xrightarrow{\Sigma \lambda_{\Sigma S}} & \Sigma^2 S \\ \tau \downarrow & & & & \downarrow -\text{id} \\ \Sigma S \otimes \Sigma S & \xrightarrow{e_{S,\Sigma S}} & \Sigma(S \otimes \Sigma S) & \xrightarrow{\Sigma \lambda_{\Sigma S}} & \Sigma^2 S \end{array}$$

Usually, most tensor triangulated categories that arise in nature will satisfy additional coherence axioms (see axioms TC1–TC5 in [1]), but the above definition will suffice for our purposes. To avoid the awkwardness of saying “a tensor triangulated category which is also a closed symmetric monoidal category,” we introduce the following (nonstandard) terminology:

Definition 0.6. We say a tensor triangulated category $(\mathcal{C}, \otimes, S, \Sigma, \Omega)$ is *closed* if \mathcal{C} is a closed symmetric monoidal category, in the sense that for each object $X \in \mathcal{C}$, the functor $- \otimes X$ has a right adjoint $F(X, -)$.

Note that given a tensor triangulated category, we have the following characterization of the shift functor:

Proposition 0.7. *Given a tensor triangulated category $(\mathcal{C}, \otimes, S, \Sigma, \Omega)$, there is a canonical natural isomorphism $\Sigma S \otimes - \cong \Sigma$.*

Proof. Given an object X in \mathcal{C} , we have natural isomorphisms

$$\Sigma S \otimes X \xrightarrow{e_{S,X}} \Sigma(S \otimes X) \xrightarrow{\Sigma \lambda_X} \Sigma X,$$

where λ is the left unitor specified by the monoidal structure on \mathcal{C} . □

Because of the above proposition, when working with tensor triangulated categories we will often assume that $\Sigma = S^1 \otimes -$ for some object S^1 . Note that in the definition of the tensor triangulated category, we chose isomorphisms

$$e_{X,Y} : \Sigma X \otimes Y \xrightarrow{\cong} \Sigma(X \otimes Y),$$

but we just as well could have chosen isomorphisms

$$e'_{X,Y} : X \otimes \Sigma Y \xrightarrow{\cong} \Sigma(X \otimes Y).$$

Remark 0.8. Given a tensor triangulated category $(\mathcal{C}, \otimes, S, \Sigma, \Omega, e)$, there are natural isomorphisms

$$e'_{X,Y} : X \otimes \Sigma Y \xrightarrow{\cong} \Sigma(X \otimes Y)$$

obtained via the composition

$$X \otimes \Sigma Y \xrightarrow{\tau} \Sigma Y \otimes X \xrightarrow{e_{Y,X}} \Sigma(Y \otimes X) \xrightarrow{\Sigma\tau} \Sigma(X \otimes Y).$$

Proposition 0.9. *The isomorphisms $e'_{X,Y} : X \otimes \Sigma Y \rightarrow \Sigma(X \otimes Y)$ defined in the above remark satisfy the following coherence condition for any objects X, Y , and Z :*

$$\begin{array}{ccc} (X \otimes Y) \otimes \Sigma Z & \xrightarrow{e'_{X \otimes Y, \Sigma Z}} & \Sigma((X \otimes Y) \otimes Z) \\ \alpha \downarrow & & \downarrow \Sigma\alpha \\ X \otimes (Y \otimes \Sigma Z) & \xrightarrow{X \otimes e'_{Y,Z}} X \otimes \Sigma(Y \otimes Z) & \xrightarrow{e'_{X, Y \otimes Z}} \Sigma(X \otimes (Y \otimes Z)) \end{array}$$

Proof. By the coherence theorem for monoidal categories, we may assume associativity holds up to strict equality, in which case we simply wish to show that the following diagram commutes:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X \otimes Y \otimes \Sigma Z & \xrightarrow{X \otimes e'_{Y,Z}} & X \otimes \Sigma(Y \otimes Z) \\ & \searrow e'_{X \otimes Y, Z} & \downarrow e'_{X, Y \otimes Z} \\ & & \Sigma(X \otimes Y \otimes Z) \end{array}$$

Now consider the following diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} X \otimes Y \otimes \Sigma Z & \xrightarrow{X \otimes \tau_{Y, \Sigma Z}} & X \otimes \Sigma Z \otimes Y & \xrightarrow{X \otimes e_{Z,Y}} & X \otimes \Sigma(Z \otimes Y) & \xrightarrow{X \otimes \Sigma\tau_{Z,Y}} & X \otimes \Sigma(Y \otimes Z) \\ \tau_{X \otimes Y, \Sigma Z} \downarrow & & \downarrow \tau_{X, \Sigma Z \otimes Y} & & & & \downarrow \tau_{X, \Sigma(Y \otimes Z)} \\ \Sigma Z \otimes X \otimes Y & \xrightarrow{\Sigma Z \otimes \tau_{X,Y}} & \Sigma Z \otimes Y \otimes X & \xrightarrow{e_{Z,Y} \otimes X} & \Sigma(Z \otimes Y) \otimes X & \xrightarrow{\Sigma\tau_{Z,Y} \otimes X} & \Sigma(Y \otimes Z) \otimes X \\ \downarrow e_{Z, X \otimes Y} & & \downarrow e_{Z, Y \otimes X} & \swarrow e_{Z \otimes Y, X} & \searrow e_{Z \otimes Y, X} & & \downarrow e_{Y \otimes Z, X} \\ \Sigma(Z \otimes X \otimes Y) & \xrightarrow{\Sigma(Z \otimes \tau_{X,Y})} & \Sigma(Z \otimes Y \otimes X) & \xrightarrow{\Sigma(\tau_{Z,Y} \otimes X)} & \Sigma(Y \otimes Z \otimes X) & & \downarrow \Sigma\tau_{Y \otimes Z, X} \\ \Sigma(Z \otimes X \otimes Y) & \xrightarrow{\Sigma(\tau_{Z, X \otimes Y})} & \Sigma(X \otimes Z \otimes Y) & & \Sigma(X \otimes Y \otimes Z) & & \\ & \searrow \Sigma\tau_{Z, X \otimes Y} & & & & & \end{array}$$

Unravelling definitions, the top composition is $e'_{X, Y \otimes Z} \circ X \otimes e'_{Y, Z}$ and the bottom composition is $e'_{X \otimes Y, Z}$, so it suffices to show this diagram commutes. The top left square commutes by coherence for symmetric monoidal categories. The trapezoid below that on the left commutes by naturality of e . The triangle below that commutes by coherence for symmetric monoidal categories. The top right rectangle commutes by functoriality of $- \otimes -$ and naturality of τ . The small triangle below that in the middle of the diagram commutes by axiom TT4 for a tensor triangulated category. Commutativity of the trapezoid on the middle right is naturality of e . Finally, the remaining region on the bottom commutes by coherence for symmetric monoidal categories. \square