

Basic Notions — Spectral Sequences

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“You could have invented spectral sequences”¹



¹Title of the expository article [Cho06]

Notation gets ugly very soon



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$$H(C) = \bigoplus_{i \in \mathbb{Z}} H^i(C)[-i] := \left(\cdots H^{-1}(C) \xrightarrow{0} H^0(C) \xrightarrow{0} H^1(C) \cdots \right).$$

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$$F^\bullet A: \quad 0 = F^n A \subseteq \cdots \subseteq F^0 A = A.$$

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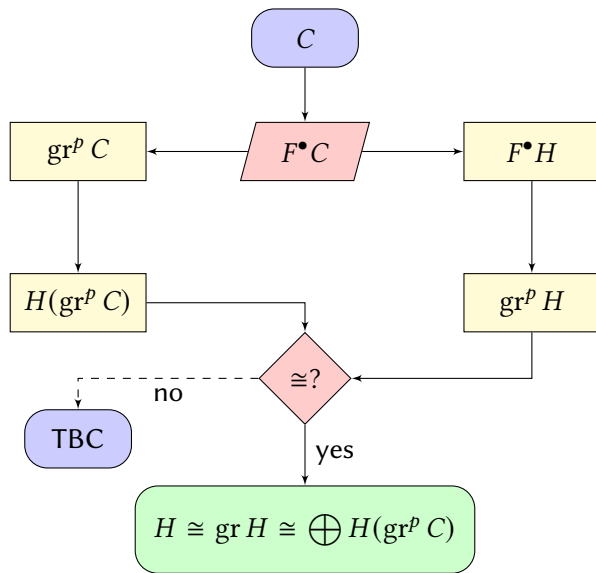
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- ▶ (Decreasing) filtrations are always finite for simplicity:

$$F^\bullet A: \quad 0 = F^n A \subseteq \cdots \subseteq F^0 A = A.$$

- ▶ The graded object associated to a filtration $F^\bullet A$ is denoted

$$\mathrm{gr} A = \bigoplus_{p \in \mathbb{N}} \mathrm{gr}^p A := \bigoplus_{p \in \mathbb{N}} (F^p A / F^{p+1} A).$$

GOAL: compute cohomology with the help of a filtration



Filtration induced in cohomology

A filtration on the complex $F^\bullet C$ induces a filtration in cohomology

$$F^p H := \operatorname{im}(H(F^p C) \rightarrow H(C)) \subseteq H(C) = H,$$

where $H(F^p C) \rightarrow H(C)$ is induced by the inclusion map $F^p C \hookrightarrow C$.

BABY EXAMPLE: 2 step filtration on a length 1 complex

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 C & & & & & & \\
 \parallel & & & & & & \\
 F^0 C & \cdots \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow C^0 \xrightarrow{d^0} C^1 \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow \cdots \\
 \cup \mid & & \cup \mid & & \cup \mid & & \\
 F^1 C & \cdots \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow F^1 C^0 \xrightarrow{d^0|_{F^1 C^0}} F^1 C^1 \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow \cdots \\
 \cup \mid & & \cup \mid & & \cup \mid & & \\
 F^2 C & \cdots \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow 0 \longrightarrow 0 \longrightarrow 0 \rightarrow \cdots \\
 \parallel & & & & & & \\
 0 & & & & & &
 \end{array}$$

BABY EXAMPLE: filtration induced in cohomology

We first look at the map induced by $F^1 C \hookrightarrow C$ in cohomology:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} H(F^1 C) & = & \ker(d^0|_{F^1 C}) [0] \oplus \left(\frac{F^1 C^1}{\operatorname{im}(d^0|_{F^1 C})} \right) [-1] \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ H(C) & = & \ker(d^0) [0] \oplus \left(\frac{C^1}{\operatorname{im}(d^0)} \right) [-1] \end{array}$$

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The filtration on cohomology was given by its image, hence

$$F^1 H = \ker(d^0|_{F^1 C}) [0] \oplus \left(\frac{F^1 C^1 + \operatorname{im}(d^0)}{\operatorname{im}(d^0)} \right) [-1]$$

BABY EXAMPLE: graded cohomology pieces

Recall that $\mathrm{gr}^0 H := F^0 H / F^1 H = H / F^1 H$, hence (after \cong -theorem)

$$\mathrm{gr}^0 H = \left(\frac{\ker(d^0)}{\ker(d^0|_{F^1 C})} \right) [0] \oplus \left(\frac{C^1}{F^1 C^1 + \mathrm{im}(d^0)} \right) [-1]$$

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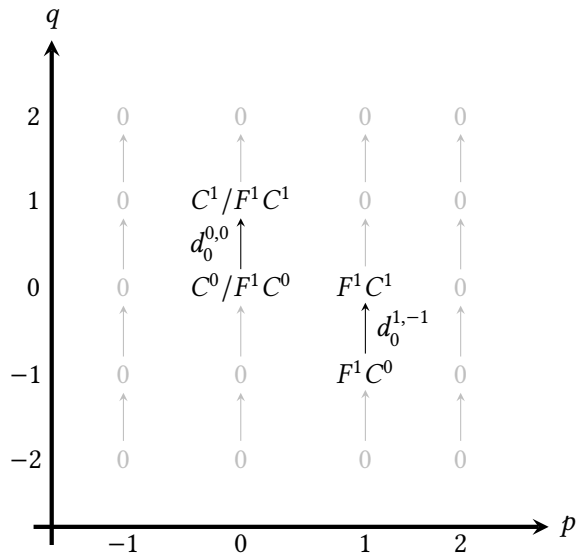
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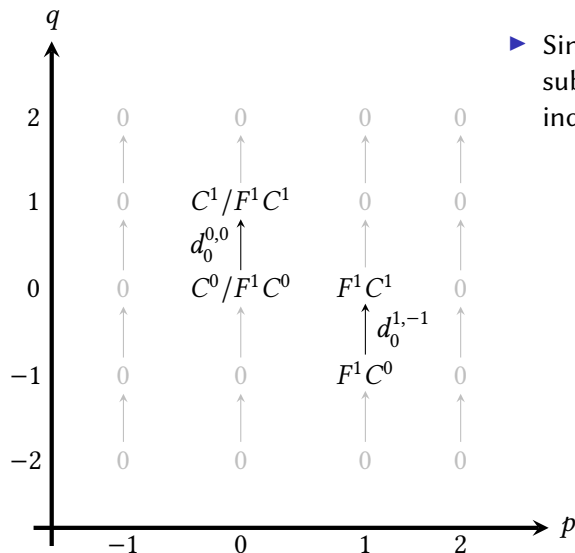
Similarly, $\mathrm{gr}^1 H = F^1 H / 0 = F^1 H$, thus

$$\mathrm{gr}^1 H = \ker(d^0|_{F^1 C}) [0] \oplus \left(\frac{F^1 C^1 + \mathrm{im}(d^0)}{\mathrm{im}(d^0)} \right) [-1]$$

BABY EXAMPLE: define $E_0^{p,q} := (\text{gr}^p C)^{p+q}$ and visualize in \mathbb{Z}^2

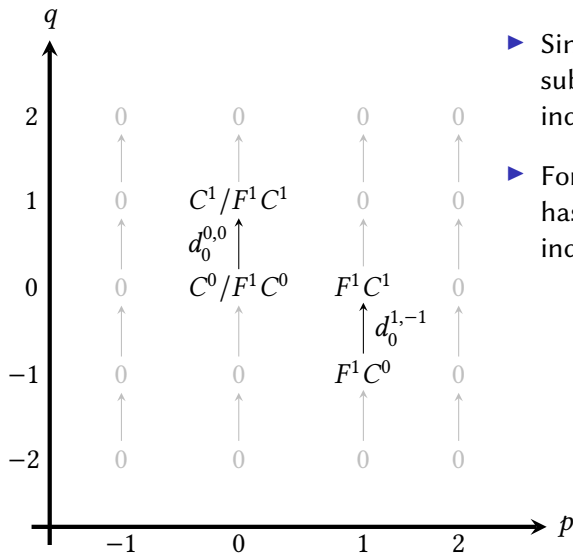


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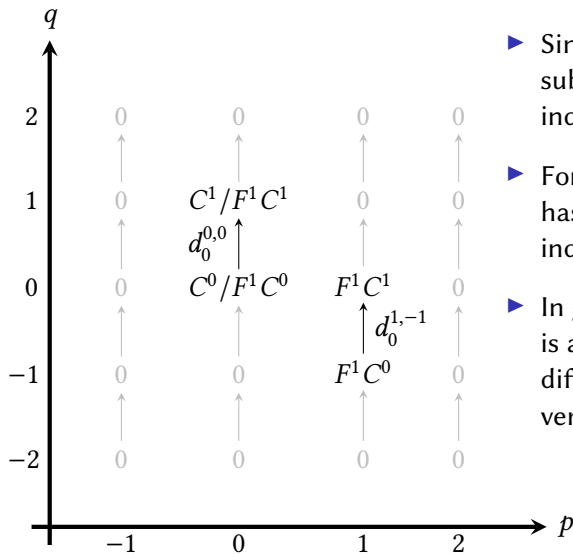
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- ▶ For the same reason, $d^0|_{F^1 C}$ has image in $F^1 C^1$, so it induces the differential $d_0^{1,-1}$.

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- ▶ In general, since $F^{p+1} C \subseteq F^p C$ is a subcomplex, the original differentials induce the vertical differentials.

BABY EXAMPLE: compute cohomology of the columns $\mathrm{gr}^p C$

From the $p = 0$ column in the “ E_0 -page” we compute

$$H(\mathrm{gr}^0 C) = \left(\frac{\ker(d^0) + (d^0)^{-1}(F^1 C^1)}{F^1 C^0} \right) [0] \oplus \left(\frac{C^1}{F^1 C^1 + \mathrm{im}(d^0)} \right) [-1]$$

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And from the $p = 1$ column in the “ E_0 -page” we compute

$$H(\text{gr}^1 C) = \ker(d^0|_{F^1 C}) [0] \oplus \left(\frac{F^1 C^1}{\text{im}(d^0|_{F^1 C})} \right) [-1]$$

BABY EXAMPLE: 1st approximation to the $\text{gr}^0 H$ part

We compare $\text{gr}^0 H$ (left column) to $H(\text{gr}^0 C)$ (right column):

$$\left(\frac{\ker(d^0)}{\ker(d^0|_{F^1 C})} \right) [0]$$

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- ▶ $H^1(\text{gr}^0 C)$ does compute $\text{gr}^0 H^1$ (bottom row),
- ▶ but $H^0(\text{gr}^0 C)$ is not isomorphic to $\text{gr}^0 H^0$ (top row).

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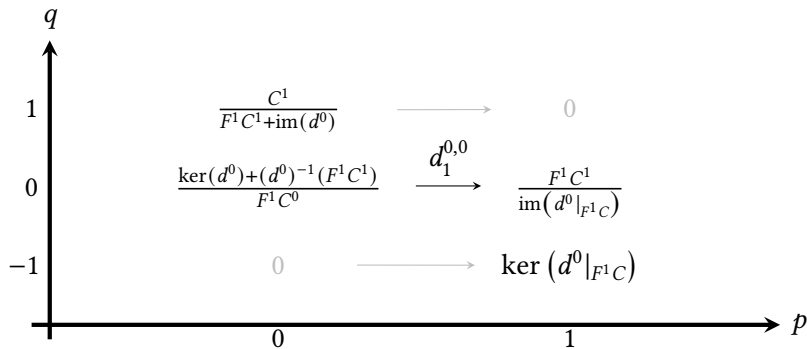
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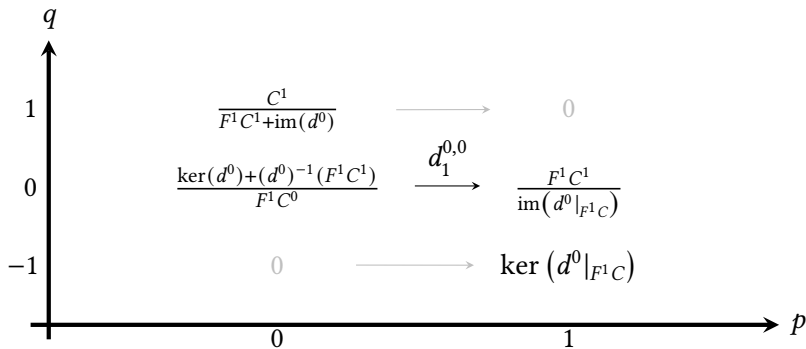
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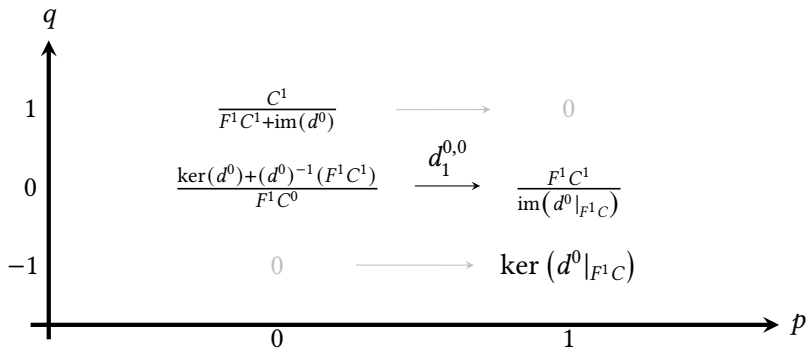


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- ▶ The original differential d^0 induces the differential $d_1^{0,0}$.
- ▶ More generally, if we had started from a longer complex, the original differentials would induce the horizontal differentials.

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 - ▶ $\text{gr}^1 H^0 = E_1^{1,-1}$, although $\text{gr}^1 H^1 \neq E_1^{1,0}$.
- ▶ Continuing with this way to arrange things, we define the “ E_2 -page” by taking cohomologies at each point of the “ E_1 -page”, that is

$$E_2^{p,q} := H^p(E_1^{\bullet,q}),$$

so that $\text{gr}^p H^n$ would again correspond to $E_2^{p,n-p}$.

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We compare then $\text{gr}^0 H$ (left column) to $E_2^{0,\bullet}$ (right column):

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$$\left(\frac{\ker(d^0) + F^1 C^0}{F^1 C^0} \right) [0]$$

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After applying an \cong -theorem we see that the two agree!

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We compare now $\text{gr}^1 H$ (left column) to $E_2^{1,\bullet-1}$ (right column):

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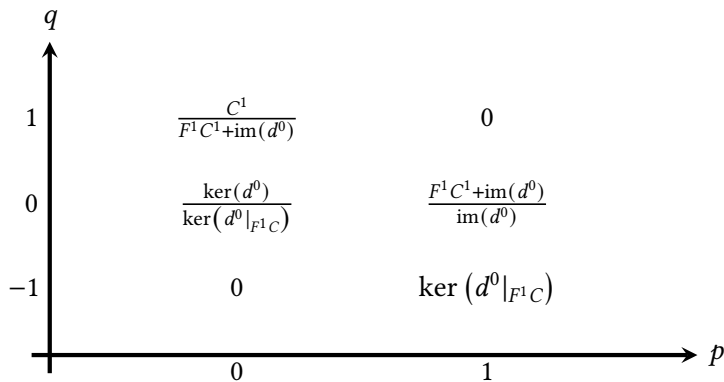
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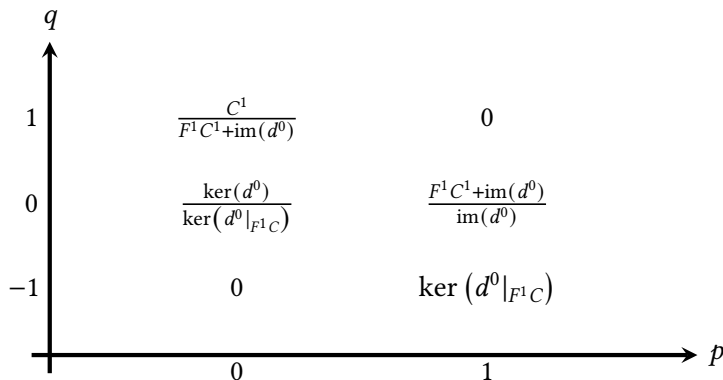
$$\begin{array}{ccc} \ker (d^0|_{F^1 C}) [0] & & \ker (d^0|_{F^1 C}) [0] \\ \oplus & & \oplus \\ \left(\frac{F^1 C^1 + \text{im}(d^0)}{\text{im}(d^0)} \right) [-1] & & \left(\frac{F^1 C^1}{\text{im}(d^0) \cap F^1 C^1} \right) [-1] \end{array}$$

After applying an \cong -theorem we see that the two sides agree again!

BABY EXAMPLE: reading off the result from the “ E_2 -page”

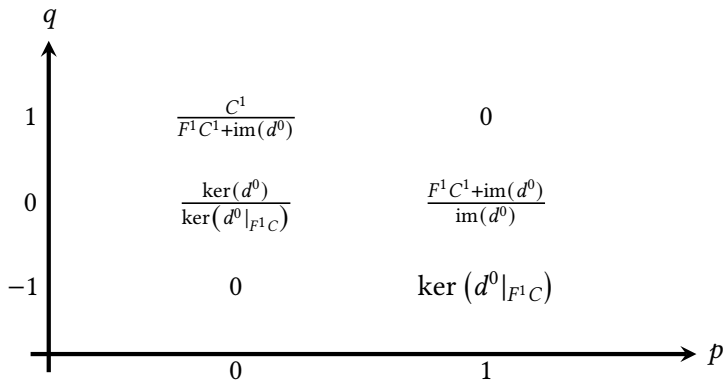


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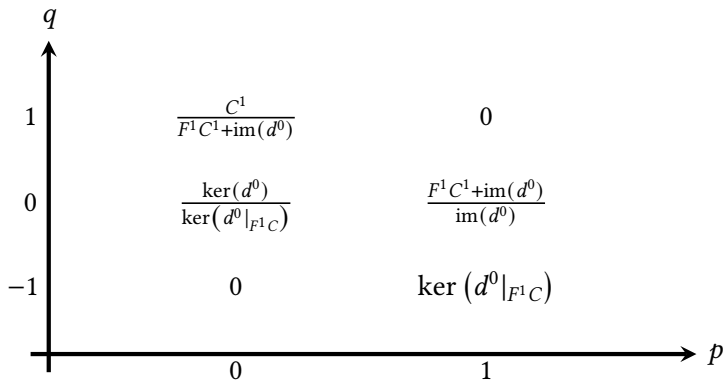
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- $$\begin{cases} H^0 \cong \text{gr}^0 H^0 \oplus \text{gr}^1 H^0 \cong E_2^{0,0} \oplus E_2^{1,-1} \\ H^1 \cong \text{gr}^1 H^0 \oplus \text{gr}^1 H^1 \cong E_2^{0,1} \oplus E_2^{1,0} \end{cases}$$

References



Timothy Y. Chow.

You could have invented spectral sequences.

Notices Amer. Math. Soc., 53(1):15–19, 2006.

1



The Stacks project authors.

The stacks project.

<https://stacks.math.columbia.edu>, 2020.

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