

HOMOLOGICAL ALGEBRA

References: Weibel, Introduction to homological algebra (more to algebraic geometry rather than algebraic topology)
 Selfridge & Mansfield, beautiful account but many typos Rotman, rings & modules, Tor, Ext, etc.

Def: a category \mathcal{C} consists of

- a collection of objects $\text{Ob}(\mathcal{C})$
- for every $x, y \in \text{Ob}(\mathcal{C})$ a set $\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(x, y)$ of morphisms from x to y .
- $\forall x, y, z \in \text{Ob}(\mathcal{C})$ a map

$$\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(x, y) \times \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(y, z) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(x, z)$$

called composition.

Moreover composition must satisfy some axioms:

- $\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(x, y)$ and $\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(x', y')$ are disjoint unless $x=x'$ and $y=y'$
- every object x has an identity morphism $\text{id}_x \in \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(x, x)$ having the property

$$\text{id}_y \circ f = f \circ \text{id}_x = f \quad \forall f \in \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(x, y)$$
- composition of morphisms is associative

EXAMPLES

- Grp objects = groups, morphisms = group hom.
- Top objects = topological spaces, morphisms = continuous maps
- Set, Ab Grp, ...
- any group forms a category with one object + the group elements as morphisms

Remark: $\text{Ob}(\mathcal{C})$ is not required to be a set of objects - indeed there is no set of all sets. A category whose objects form a set is called small. We are assuming that morphisms between objects are a set (locally small category).

covariant

Def: a functor $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ between two categories \mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D} is the datum of

- a mapping

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Ob}(\mathcal{C}) & \longrightarrow & \text{Ob}(\mathcal{D}) \\ x & \longmapsto & F(x) \end{array}$$
 - for every $x, y \in \text{Ob}(\mathcal{C})$ a map

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(x, y) & \longrightarrow & \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F(x), F(y)) \\ \varphi & \longmapsto & F(\varphi) \end{array}$$
- respecting composition of morphisms and sending $F(\text{id}_x) = \text{id}_{F(x)}$

EXAMPLES

• Forgetful functors

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Grp} & \longrightarrow & \text{Set} \\ G & \longmapsto & \text{set of elements of } G \\ \varphi & \longmapsto & \varphi \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Top} & \longrightarrow & \text{Set} \\ X & \longmapsto & \text{set of elements of } X \\ \varphi & \longmapsto & \varphi \end{array}$$

$$\text{AbGrp} \longrightarrow \text{Grp}$$

• Homology (singular, cellular, simplicial, ...)

$$\text{Top} \rightarrow \text{AbGrp} \quad (\text{with } \mathbb{Z} \text{ coefficients})$$

• "Free" functors

$$\text{Set} \rightarrow \text{Vect}_{\mathbb{C}}$$

$S \mapsto$ vector space on S as a basis

Def: if \mathcal{C} is a category then \mathcal{C}^{op} is a category with

$$\text{Ob}(\mathcal{C}^{op}) = \text{Ob}(\mathcal{C})$$

$$\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}^{op}}(X, Y) = \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(Y, X)$$

A contravariant functor $\mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ is a covariant functor $\mathcal{C}^{op} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$

EXAMPLES

• $\mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}^{op}$ (identity on objects) is a contravariant functor

• duals of vector spaces

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Vect}_{\mathbb{C}} & \rightarrow & \text{Vect}_{\mathbb{C}} \\ V & \mapsto & V^* \end{array}$$

• cohomology functors

Remark: if you try to form Cat the category of categories with functors as morphisms then it won't be locally small.

Def: let \mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D} be categories and F, G covariant or contravariant functors $\mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$. A natural transformation $F \xrightarrow{\eta} G$ consists of a collection of morphisms:

$$\forall x \in \text{Ob}(\mathcal{C}) \quad \eta_x \in \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(F(x), G(x))$$

such that for every morphism $\alpha: x \rightarrow y$ in \mathcal{C} the diagram is commutative.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} F(x) & \xrightarrow{F(\alpha)} & F(y) \\ \eta_x \downarrow & & \downarrow \eta_y \\ G(x) & \xrightarrow{G(\alpha)} & G(y) \end{array}$$

The idea is that F and G should do related things to related objects.

EXAMPLE

• In the category of groups Grp the functor

$$F: \text{Grp} \rightarrow \text{Grp} \\ G \mapsto G^{op}$$

G^{op} is the group G with reversed operation

$$G^{op} = (G, *) \quad g * h = hg$$

There is a natural transformation (identity functor) $\rightarrow F$ given by sending $G \in \text{Ob}(\text{Grp})$ to the morphism $G \rightarrow G^{op}, g \mapsto g^{-1}$. Commutativity of the diagram just says that (inverting)

We can also form (identity) natural transformations and find that they compose to form identity.

• For any topological space X and base point $x \in X$ we can form $\pi_1(X, x)$ and $H_1(X, \mathbb{Z})$. It is a fact that

$H_1(X, \mathbb{Z})$ is the abelianization of $\pi_1(X, x)$:

$$\pi_1(X, x) / \text{commutator subgroup} \xrightarrow{\cong} H_1(X, \mathbb{Z})$$

is a natural transformation of functors $\text{Top}^1 \rightarrow \text{AbGrp}$

$\text{Top}^1 =$ pointed spaces.

• Let $F: \text{Ab} \rightarrow \text{AbGrp}$ be the free abelian group functor and $G: \text{AbGrp} \rightarrow \text{Set}$ the forgetful one.

$$F \circ G: \text{AbGrp} \rightarrow \text{AbGrp} \quad G \circ F: \text{Set} \rightarrow \text{Set}$$

are not the identity functors, but still there is some structure.

There are natural transformations $F \circ G \rightarrow \text{id}_{\text{AbGrp}}$ and $\text{id}_{\text{Set}} \rightarrow G \circ F$
 $G \circ F \rightarrow \text{id}_{\text{Set}}$

Adjoint functors

In the example above we have a bit more structure. If S is any set and T any ^{abelian} group then

$$(\text{maps of set from } S \text{ to } T) = (\text{maps of abelian groups } F(S) \rightarrow T)$$

because any map of sets $S \rightarrow T$ can be uniquely extended to a group morphism $F(S) \rightarrow T$. These are natural:

$$\text{Hom}_{\text{Set}}(S, G(T)) \xrightarrow{\cong} \text{Hom}_{\text{AbGrp}}(F(S), T)$$

agree as functors

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Set}^{\text{op}} \times \text{AbGrp} & \longrightarrow & \text{Set} \\ (S, T) & \longmapsto & \text{Hom}_{\text{Set}}(S, G(T)) \\ & \longmapsto & \text{Hom}_{\text{AbGrp}}(F(S), T) \end{array}$$

this structure is called an adjunction

Let \mathcal{C} be abelian and $\mathcal{D} \subset \mathcal{C}$ a subcategory. Then the inclusion of \mathcal{D} into \mathcal{C} is

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{D}^{\text{op}} \times \mathcal{D} & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{C}^{\text{op}} \times \mathcal{C} \\ (A, B) & \longmapsto & (A, B) \\ & \longmapsto & \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(A, B) \end{array}$$

we naturally get an adjunction

We say that \mathcal{D} is \mathcal{C} -reflexive if $\mathcal{D} = \mathcal{C}$ and $\mathcal{C} = \mathcal{D}$ in the above.

Exercise: 1) Show that the forgetful functor $\text{Top} \rightarrow \text{Set}$ has a left adjoint and describe it explicitly.
 2) Does it have a right adjoint?

Def: an additive category is a category \mathcal{C} together with a binary operation $+$ on every Hom-set $\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(X, Y)$ making it into an abelian group, for every $X, Y \in \text{Ob}(\mathcal{C})$ such that the following axioms are satisfied

- $\exists 0 \in \text{Ob}(\mathcal{C})$ zero object such that $\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(0, X)$ - trivial abelian group $\forall X$
- composition of morphisms is bilinear
- any two objects $X, Y \in \text{Ob}(\mathcal{C})$ have a direct sum $X \oplus Y$ satisfying the universal property.

