

## Exercises on complexes

(1) Let  $S$  be a set,  $S \neq \emptyset$ . For  $i \geq 0$  let  $E_i$  be the free  $\mathbb{Z}$ -module with basis all  $(i+1)$ -tuples  $(x_0, \dots, x_i)$  of elements of  $S$ .

Define  $\epsilon = d_0: E_0 \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$  the  $\mathbb{Z}$ -module homomorphism sending a basis element  $x_0$  to  $\otimes 1$  ("augmentation")

and for  $i \geq 0$ ,  $d_{i+1}: E_{i+1} \rightarrow E_i$  by

$$(x_0, \dots, x_{i+1}) \mapsto \sum_{j=0}^{i+1} (-1)^j (x_0, \dots, \overset{\wedge}{x_{j+1}}, \dots, x_{i+1})$$

$\uparrow$  omitted

(a) Show  $d \circ d = 0$ .

(b) Fix  $z \in S$  and define  $h: E^i \rightarrow E^{i+1}$  by  $(x_0, \dots, x_i) \mapsto (z, x_0, \dots, x_i)$

Prove that  $d \circ h + h \circ d = i d_E$ , where  $E_j \xrightarrow{d_j} E_{j+1} \rightarrow E_j \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow E_0 \xrightarrow{\epsilon} \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow 0$

(c) Prove that  $E_*$  is an exact chain complex, i.e. its homology vanishes.

(2) Let  $G$  be a group and  $S = G$ .  $G$  acts on  $E_i$  by  $g \cdot (g_0, \dots, g_i) := (g g_0, \dots, g g_i)$ .

Let  $R = \mathbb{Z}G$  be the group algebra over the integers.

Let  $\mathbb{Z}$  be the trivial  $R$ -module:  $g \cdot n := n \forall g \in G, n \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

Show that  $E_*$  provides a free resolution of  $\mathbb{Z}$  over  $R$ , i.e. all  $E_i$  are free  $R$ -modules.

(When  $M$  is a  $\mathbb{Z}G$ -module, applying  $\text{Hom}_{\mathbb{Z}G}(-, M)$  to  $E_*$  yields

a cochain complex, where one drops the term  $\text{Hom}_{\mathbb{Z}G}(\mathbb{Z}, M)$ :

$$0 \rightarrow \text{Hom}_{\mathbb{Z}G}(E_0, M) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_{\mathbb{Z}G}(E_1, M) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_{\mathbb{Z}G}(E_2, M) \rightarrow \dots$$

Its cohomology  $H^*(\text{Hom}_{\mathbb{Z}G}(E_*, M)) = H^*(G, M)$  is called group

cohomology. This is ~~the~~ <sup>a</sup> subject of its own, using group theory, algebraic

topology and elsewhere. Extensions of groups can be studied by group

cohomology, but this is more complicated than  $\text{Ext}^1$  for modules — groups are not modules over anything.

Note:  $\mathbb{Z}$  could be replaced by a field  $K$ .