

HOMOLOGICAL ALGEBRA (MATH 750)

PROBLEMS AND EXERCISES

CONVENTIONS

The problems below come in three types: Exercises, Problems, and Challenges.

Exercises are supposed to be relatively straightforward, but could be technical. Typically, they would involve verification of some properties that I consider important, but insufficiently interesting for the class. They are also supposed to make sure that you are capable of operating with the ideas of this class. If you are convinced that you understand what is involved in an exercise, there is probably no reason to work out all the details (but you'd better be sure!). On the other hand, if you don't see how to solve an exercise, it is a sign that you may be missing something important, and you should ask about this as soon as possible. Please do not hand the exercises in.

Problems are supposed to be more enlightening, and appropriate as homework problems. (Although I have not decided what fraction of them to assign.)

Challenges are questions that I am not sure one can answer with information available at this point. Privately, I think of Challenges as problems of 'Chuck Norris' difficulty. It still may be a good idea to try them out, if only to understand why they are hard (or perhaps to find out that I am missing something simple and they are not hard at all!) If you know more advanced homological algebra (that is, some of the things that were not covered in class yet), you may have tools to solve these challenges; otherwise, it may be a good idea to come back to them later in the course.

1. DERIVED FUNCTORS

1.1. Ext for abelian groups. By default, all 'objects' in this section are abelian groups, Hom refers to the group of homomorphisms between abelian groups, etc.

Exercise 1.1.1. In class, we verified that for any $M \in \text{Ab}$, the functor $\text{Hom}(M, -)$ is left exact. Verify that for any $N \in \text{Ab}$, the functor $\text{Hom}(-, N)$ is left-exact as well.

Exercise 1.1.2. In class, we verified that for any $M \in \text{Vect}$, the functor $\text{Hom}(M, -)$ is exact. In other words, if

$$0 \rightarrow N_1 \rightarrow N_2 \rightarrow N_3 \rightarrow 0$$

is a short exact sequence of vector spaces, then the induced sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \text{Hom}(M, N_1) \rightarrow \text{Hom}(M, N_2) \rightarrow \text{Hom}(M, N_3) \rightarrow 0$$

is exact as well. Verify the following equivalent formulations of this exactness:

- For any short exact sequence

$$N_1 \rightarrow N_2 \rightarrow N_3,$$

the sequence

$$\mathrm{Hom}(M, N_1) \rightarrow \mathrm{Hom}(M, N_2) \rightarrow \mathrm{Hom}(M, N_3)$$

is exact.

- For any complex C^\bullet , consider the complex $\mathrm{Hom}(M, C^\bullet)$. Then the cohomology spaces of these complexes are related by the functor $\mathrm{Hom}(M, -)$:

$$H^\bullet(\mathrm{Hom}(M, C^\bullet)) = \mathrm{Hom}(M, H^\bullet(C^\bullet)).$$

Exercise 1.1.3. (Requires Category Theory) Verify that the *forgetful functor* from the category of \mathbb{Q} -vector spaces Vect to the category of abelian groups Ab is fully faithful and describe its essential image.

Problem 1.1.4. Verify that $\mathrm{Hom}(-, \mathbb{Z})$ is not exact by applying it to the short exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \mathbb{Z} \xrightarrow{2} \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow 0.$$

Problem 1.1.5. Show that $\mathrm{Hom}(-, \mathbb{Q})$ is exact.

Exercise 1.1.6. In class, we defined the group operation on Ext (*Baer's sum*). Rewrite the definition explicitly, without using functoriality of Ext . Verify that it indeed gives an abelian group structure on Ext , whose zero and inversion are as described in class.

Challenge 1.1.7. Describe the following functors on the category of abelian groups: $\mathrm{Ext}(\mathbb{Q}, -)$, $\mathrm{Ext}(-, \mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})$ (where p is a prime), $\mathrm{Ext}(-, \mathbb{Z})$.

The next four problems refer to properties of the Ext functor that are parallel to the properties of Hom . If you have not seen the corresponding properties of the Hom functor, you should verify them as an exercise.

Problem 1.1.8. Let M_1, M_2, N be abelian groups. Construct a natural isomorphism

$$\mathrm{Ext}(M_1 \oplus M_2, N) = \mathrm{Ext}(M_1, N) \oplus \mathrm{Ext}(M_2, N).$$

(Hint: it helps to think about the natural maps $M_{1,2} \rightarrow M_1 \oplus M_2$ and $M_1 \oplus M_2 \rightarrow M_{1,2}$.)

Problem 1.1.9. Dually, let M, N_1, N_2 be abelian groups. Construct a natural isomorphism

$$\mathrm{Ext}(M, N_1 \oplus N_2) = \mathrm{Ext}(M, N_1) \oplus \mathrm{Ext}(M, N_2).$$

Problem 1.1.10. More generally, let $N \in \mathrm{Ab}$, and let M_α be a family of abelian groups, not necessarily finite. Construct a natural isomorphism

$$\mathrm{Ext}\left(\bigoplus M_\alpha, N\right) = \prod \mathrm{Ext}(M_\alpha, N).$$

Note the direct sum on the left and the product on the right; since the family is not assumed to be finite, these are different operations!

Remark: If you know the definition of direct/inverse limits (a.k.a. colimits/limits, injective/projective limits), you may be able to generalize this problem using (filtered) direct and inverse limits.

Problem 1.1.11. Dually, let $M \in \mathrm{Ab}$, and let N_α be a family of abelian groups, not necessarily finite. Construct a natural isomorphism

$$\mathrm{Ext}\left(M, \prod N_\alpha\right) = \prod \mathrm{Ext}(M, N_\alpha).$$

(Now its product on both sides.)

Problem 1.1.12. Suppose $M, N \in \text{Ab}^{fg}$ (recall that this means M and N are finitely generated abelian groups). Prove that $\text{Ext}(M, N)$ is finitely generated as well. (Hint: This is one place where using the classification may be appropriate.)