

### Lecture 3

Start with Example on p.4 of previous notes.  
Finish previous notes, then:

Sketch of proof that  $K(R)$  is a triangulated category:

Axiom TR1 is clear from the construction: every map has a cone.

For axiom TR2, We may assume the exact triangle is of the form

$$A \xrightarrow{u} B \xrightarrow{v} \text{Cone}(u) \xrightarrow{w} A[1]$$

We claim  $B \xrightarrow{v} \text{Cone}(u) \xrightarrow{w} A[1] \xrightarrow{u[1]} B[1]$

which is to say that  $\text{Cone}(B \xrightarrow{v} \text{Cone}(u))$   
is chain homotopy equivalent to  $A[1]$ .

$$\text{Cone}(u) = (B \oplus A[1], d_{\text{Cone}(u)} = \begin{pmatrix} d_B & u \\ & -d_A \end{pmatrix})$$

$$\text{Cone}(v) = \left( (B \oplus A[1]) \oplus B[1], d = \begin{pmatrix} d_B & u & | & 1_B \\ 0 & -d_A & | & 0 \\ \hline 0 & 0 & | & -d_B \end{pmatrix} \right)$$

So  $\text{Cone}(v)$  contains a subcomplex  $(B \oplus B[1], \begin{pmatrix} d_B & 1_B \\ 0 & -d_B \end{pmatrix})$

which is clearly contractible: indeed  $p = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 1_B & 0 \end{pmatrix}$  is a map

$$\text{such that } d p + p d = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} d & 1 \\ 0 & -d \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} d & 1 \\ 0 & -d \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = 1_{B \oplus B[1]}$$

Using this we can construct a homotopy equivalence

$$\text{Cone}(v) \cong \text{Cone}(v) / B \oplus B[1] \cong A[1]$$

Homework: check the other rotation.

Axiom TR<sup>3</sup> expresses the naturality of the mapping cone construction.

TR4: Now the dreaded octahedral axiom: let  $A \xrightarrow{u} B \xrightarrow{v} C$  be maps  
 let  $C' = \text{cone}(u)$ ,  $A' = \text{cone}(v)$ ,  $B' = \text{cone}(vu)$   
 The axiom asserts existence of maps  $\begin{cases} f: C' \rightarrow B' \\ g: B' \rightarrow A' \end{cases}$  with certain properties.

$$\text{Now } C' = (B \oplus A[1], \begin{pmatrix} d_B & u \\ 0 & -d_A \end{pmatrix}) \quad B' = (C \oplus A[1], \begin{pmatrix} d_C & vu \\ 0 & -d_A \end{pmatrix})$$

$$A' = (C \oplus B[1], \begin{pmatrix} d_C & v \\ & -d_B \end{pmatrix})$$

$$\text{Define } f: C' \rightarrow B' \text{ by } f(b, a) = (v(b), a)$$


$$g: B' \rightarrow A' \text{ by } g(c, a) = (c, u(a))$$

Check: These are chain maps.

There is a natural map  $A' \rightarrow \text{Cone}(f)$

$$\text{since } \text{cone}(f) = C \oplus A[1] \oplus B[1] \oplus A[2]$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & \uparrow & \uparrow \\ & \text{form } A' & \end{array}$$

It remains to check all of the compatibilities in the octahedral diagram, in particular, that  $\text{cone}(f)$  is homotopy equivalent to  $A'$ . (omitted.) 

Given a cochain complex of  $R$ -modules  $\dots M^{i-1} \xrightarrow{d} M^i \xrightarrow{d} M^{i+1} \dots$   
 we can take the  $i$ -th cohomology  $R$ -module

$$H^i(M) = \frac{\ker(d: M^i \rightarrow M^{i+1})}{\text{Im}(d: M^{i-1} \rightarrow M^i)}$$

By homotopy invariance of cohomology,  $H^i: \mathcal{K}(R) \rightarrow \text{mod-}R$   
 is a functor on the homotopy category.

The collection of functors  $\{H^i\}_{i \in \mathbb{Z}}$  interact nicely with exact triangles:

Prop: IF 
$$\begin{array}{ccc} & C & \\ w \swarrow & \uparrow & \nwarrow v \\ A & \xrightarrow{u} & B \end{array}$$
 is an exact triangle in  $K(R)$ , then

there is a long exact sequence in  $\text{mod-}R$ :

$$\dots \rightarrow H^{i-1}(C) \xrightarrow{w^*} H^i(A) \xrightarrow{u^*} H^i(B) \xrightarrow{v^*} H^i(C) \xrightarrow{w^*} H^{i+1}(A) \rightarrow \dots$$

Rmk: Axiomatizing this proposition as a property of  $\{H^i\}$  yields the notion of a "cohomological functor" on a triangulated category.

For some purposes,  $K(R)$  is not quite the right category for the homotopy theory of chain complexes: There are two related issues:

Def: A cochain complex  $\{\dots M^{i-1} \xrightarrow{d} M^i \xrightarrow{d} M^{i+1} \dots\}$  is called acyclic if  $H^i(M) = 0$  for all  $i$ .

A map  $f: M' \rightarrow N'$  is called a quasi-isomorphism if the induced map on cohomology,  $H^i(f): H^i(M) \rightarrow H^i(N)$  is an isomorphism for all  $i$ .

For example, a chain homotopy equivalence is always a quasi isomorphism.

The two (related) problems are: In  $K(R)$ ,

① There are quasi-isomorphisms that are not homotopy equivalences.

② There are acyclic complexes that are not contractible.