

(21) RELATIVE COHOMOLOGY

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Suppose $B \subseteq A \subseteq X$ are spaces

Call (X, A, B) a **triple** of spaces

There is a short exact sequence of chain complexes

$$0 \rightarrow C_*(A, B) \xrightarrow{i} C_*(X, B) \xrightarrow{q} C_*(X, A) \rightarrow 0$$

Which splits (exercise)

Thus, dualising, we again obtain a short exact sequence of cochain complexes and thus a long exact sequence in cohomology

$$\begin{array}{ccc} H^*(A, B) & \xleftarrow{i^*} & H^*(X, B) \\ & \searrow \delta & \nearrow q^* \\ & H^*(X, A) & \end{array}$$

[+1]

It is more common to take $B = \emptyset$ and, writing

$$H^*(X, \emptyset) = H^*(X)$$

We have the LES (overleaf):

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 H^*(A) & \xleftarrow{L^*} & H^*(X) \\
 \searrow \delta & & \nearrow q^* \\
 [+ 1] & & H^*(X, A)
 \end{array}$$

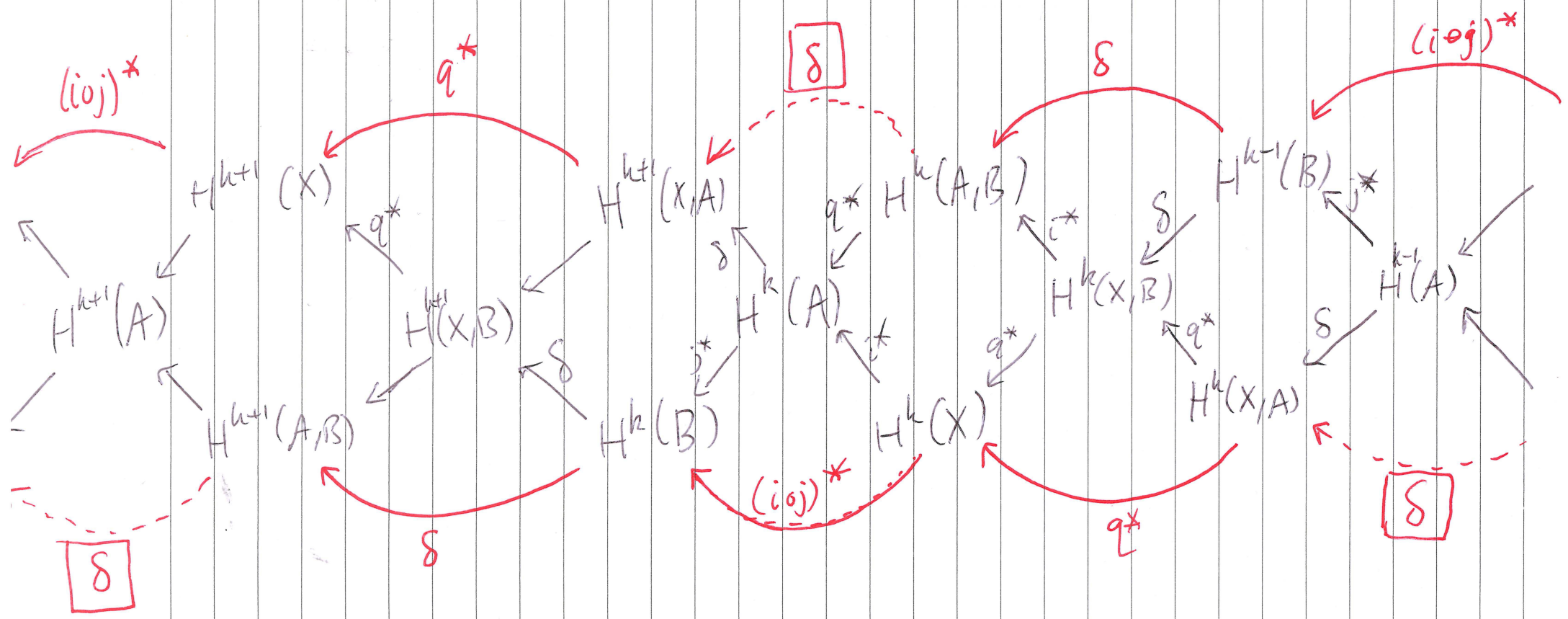
Exact Triangle

This exact triangle is an abuse of notation and represents a LES. The $[+1]$ indicates where the degree shift happens.

Since (X, A, B) is a triple, we have three pairs, namely (X, A) , (X, B) , (A, B)

Each gives a LES in cohomology.

These may be used to give the **braided diagram**



Theorem: (Braid Lemma) The exactness of the LES of the triple (X, A, B) can be deduced from the long exact sequences of the three pairs and the braid diagram.

This, therefore, is another way to prove that we have a LES of the triple.

QUESTION: What is the connecting homomorphism (on cochains?)

Recall: The connecting homomorphism

$$\partial_k: H_k^{\text{co}}(X, A) \rightarrow H_{k-1}^{\text{co}}(A)$$

has a topological picture.

Fix $[z] \in H_k(X, A)$. So

$$[z] \in Z_k(X, A) = \cancel{\ker \left\{ C \in C_k(X) \mid \partial C \in C_{k-1}(A) \right\}}$$

$$\subseteq C_k(X, A) = C_k(X) / C_k(A)$$

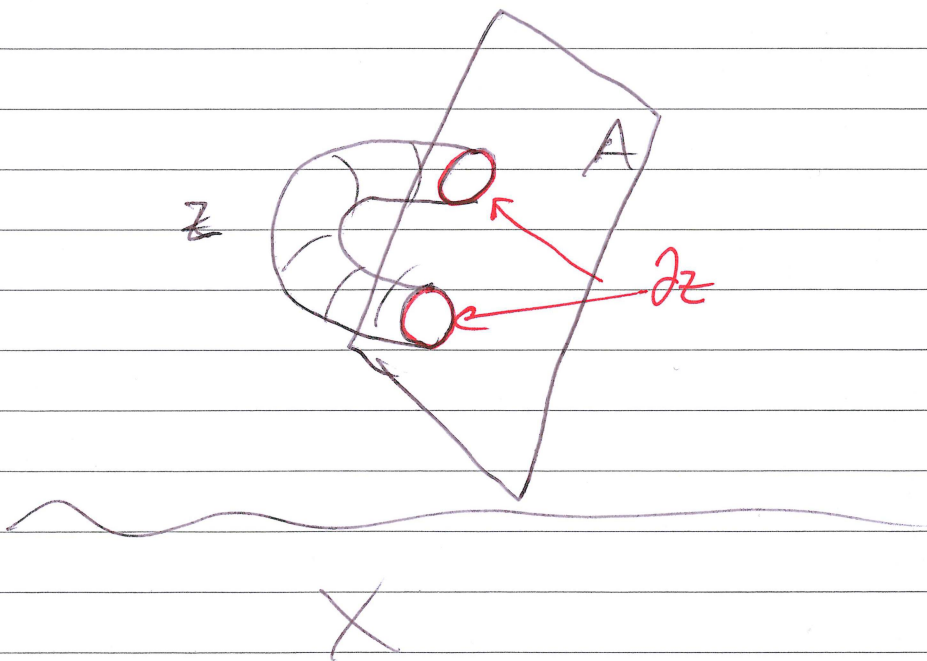
$$z \in C_k(X)$$

Then [Note $Z_k(X, A) = \ker(\partial_k^{(X, A)})$]

$$\partial_k^{(X, A)} : C_k(X, A) \rightarrow C_{k-1}(X, A)$$

Thus, $\partial z \in C_{k-1}(A)$

Picture:



Note ∂z is a cycle in $C_{k-1}(A)$ because

$$\partial^2 z = 0$$

$$\text{So, } \partial_k [z] = [\partial z]$$

Lies in $H_{k-1}(A)$

Moral: It would be nice if $\delta = (\partial)^*$

But it is sadly not true.

Instead, we have

Lemma:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} H^k(X, A) & \xleftarrow{\delta^k} & H^{k-1}(A) \\ h_k \downarrow & \circ & \downarrow h_{k-1} \\ \text{Hom}(H_k(X, A)) & \xleftarrow{(\partial_k)^*} & \text{Hom}(H_k(A)) \end{array}$$

The diagram commutes

$$\text{So, } h \circ \delta = \partial^* \circ h$$

⊞: Exercise \square

Hatcher says:

$$C^k(X, A) = \text{Hom}(C_k(X, A), \mathbb{Q})$$

is "complicated"

Set $i: A \rightarrow X$ inclusion

Induces $i_k: C_k(A) \rightarrow C_k(X)$

and $i^k: C^k(A) \leftarrow C^k(X)$

Lemma: $C^k(X, A)$ is naturally isomorphic (via q^*) to $\ker(i^*)$

$$= \{ \phi \in C^k(X) \mid \phi(c) = 0 \text{ for } c \in C_k(A) \}$$

Again, here $q_k: C_k(X) \rightarrow C_k(X, A)$

and q^k is the dual.