

Ross Street

The data for cohomology are a category \mathcal{C} , a simplicial object S in \mathcal{C} , and, an object A of \mathcal{C} . This gives rise to a cosimplicial set $\mathcal{C}(S, A)$:

$$\mathcal{C}(S_0, A) \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\mathcal{C}(d_0, 1)} \\ \xrightarrow{\mathcal{C}(d_1, 1)} \end{array} \mathcal{C}(S_1, A) \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\quad} \\ \xrightarrow{\quad} \end{array} \mathcal{C}(S_2, A) \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\mathcal{C}(d_2, 1)} \\ \xrightarrow{\mathcal{C}(d_3, 1)} \end{array} \dots$$

Any algebraic structure possessed by A is carried over pointwise to each of the sets $\mathcal{C}(S_n, A)$, and the $\mathcal{C}(d_i, 1)$ become homomorphisms; in particular, if A is an r -category then each $\mathcal{C}(S_n, A)$ is.

The 0-dimensional cohomology set is

$$H^0(S; A) = \{ f \in \mathcal{C}(S_0, A) \mid f d_0 = f d_1 \}$$

Suppose now that A is a category in \mathcal{C} .

The 1-dimensional cohomology category $H^1(S; A)$ is defined as follows:

objects $f = (f_0, f_1)$ consist of an object f_0 of $\mathcal{C}(S_0, A)$ and an arrow $f_1 : f_0 d_1 \rightarrow f_0 d_0$ of $\mathcal{C}(S_1, A)$ such that $f_1 d_1 = (f_1 d_0) * (f_1 d_2)$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} f_0 d_1 d_2 = f_0 d_1 & \xrightarrow{f_1 d_1} & f_0 d_0 d_1 = f_0 d_0 d_0 \\ & \searrow f_1 d_2 & \nearrow f_1 d_0 \\ & f_0 d_0 d_2 = f_0 d_1 d_0 & \end{array} ;$$

an arrow $r: f \rightarrow f'$ is an arrow $r: f_0 \rightarrow f'_0$ in $\mathcal{C}(S_0, A)$ such that

$$\begin{array}{ccc} f_0 d_1 & \xrightarrow{f_1} & f_0 d_0 \\ r d_1 \downarrow & & \downarrow r d_0 \\ f'_0 d_1 & \xrightarrow{f'_1} & f'_0 d_0 \end{array}$$

Suppose now that A is a 2-category in \mathcal{C} .
The 2-dimensional cohomology 2-category $\mathbb{H}^2(S; A)$ is defined as follows:

objects $f = (f_0, f_1, f_2)$ consist of an object f_0 of $\mathcal{C}(S_0, A)$, an arrow $f_1: f_0 d_1 \rightarrow f_0 d_0$ of $\mathcal{C}(S_1, A)$, and a 2-cell

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & \xrightarrow{f_1 d_1} & \\ f_1 d_2 \searrow & \Downarrow f_2 & \nearrow f_1 d_0 \\ & & \end{array}$$

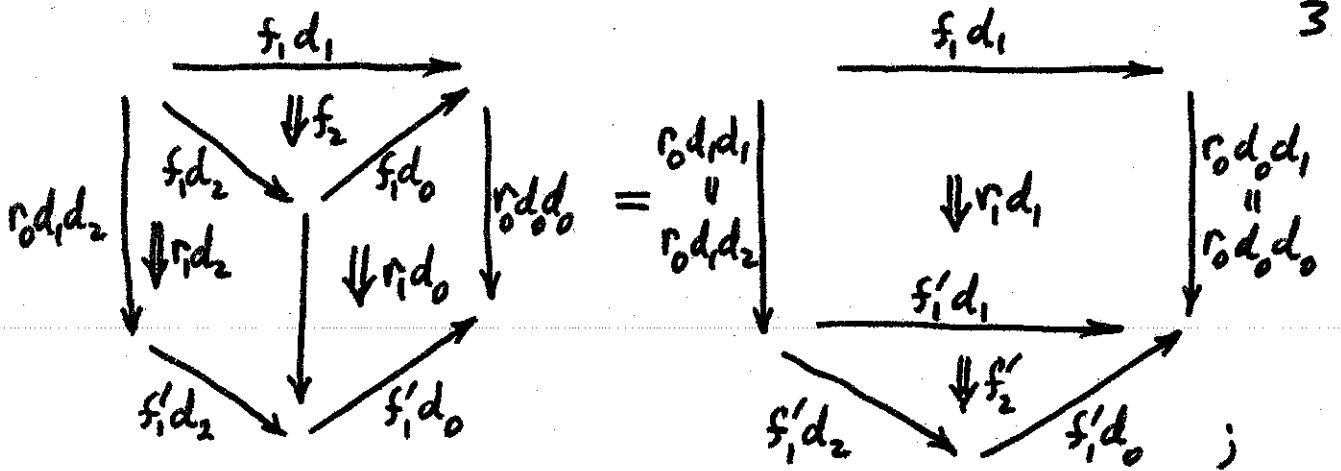
of $\mathcal{C}(S_2, A)$ such that

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \begin{array}{ccc} \xrightarrow{\quad} & & \xrightarrow{\quad} \\ \downarrow \Downarrow f_2 d_3 & \Downarrow f_2 d_1 & \uparrow \\ \xrightarrow{\quad} & & \xrightarrow{\quad} \end{array} & = & \begin{array}{ccc} \xrightarrow{\quad} & & \xrightarrow{\quad} \\ \downarrow \Downarrow f_2 d_2 & \Downarrow f_2 d_0 & \uparrow \\ \xrightarrow{\quad} & & \xrightarrow{\quad} \end{array} ; \end{array}$$

an arrow $r = (r_0, r_1): f \rightarrow f'$ consists of an arrow $r_0: f_0 \rightarrow f'_0$ and a 2-cell

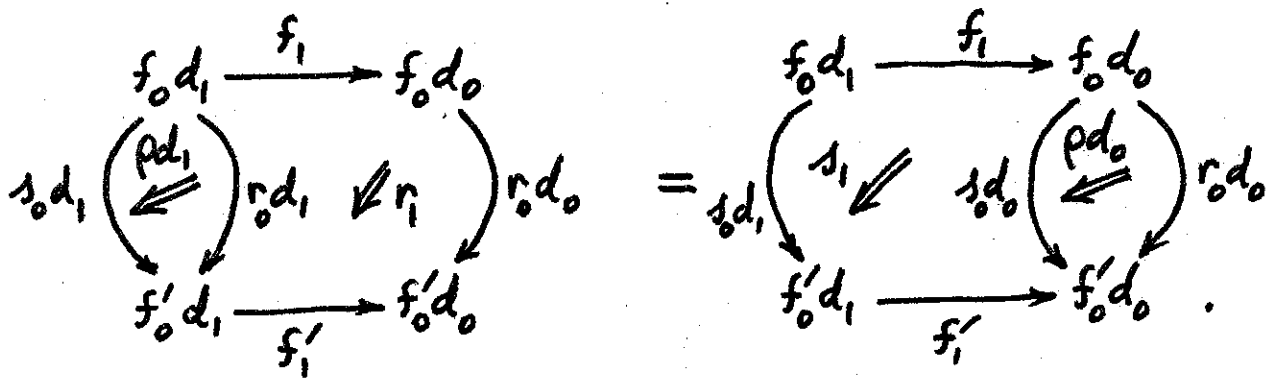
$$\begin{array}{ccc} f_0 d_1 & \xrightarrow{f_1} & f_0 d_0 \\ r_0 d_1 \downarrow & \Downarrow r_1 & \downarrow r_0 d_0 \\ f'_0 d_1 & \xrightarrow{f'_1} & f'_0 d_0 \end{array}$$

such that



a 2-cell $f \xrightarrow{r} f'$ is a 2-cell $f_0 \xrightarrow{r_0} f'_0$

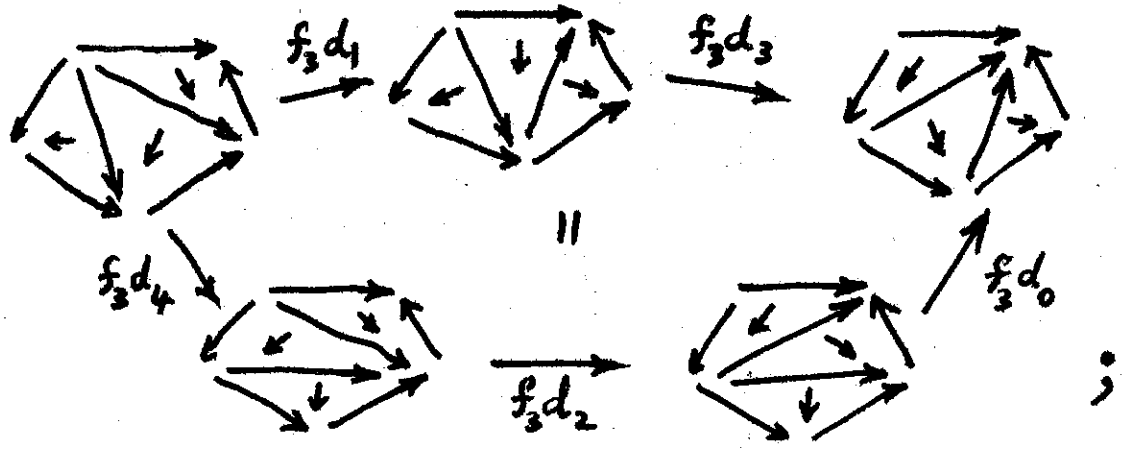
in $\mathcal{C}(S_0, A)$ such that



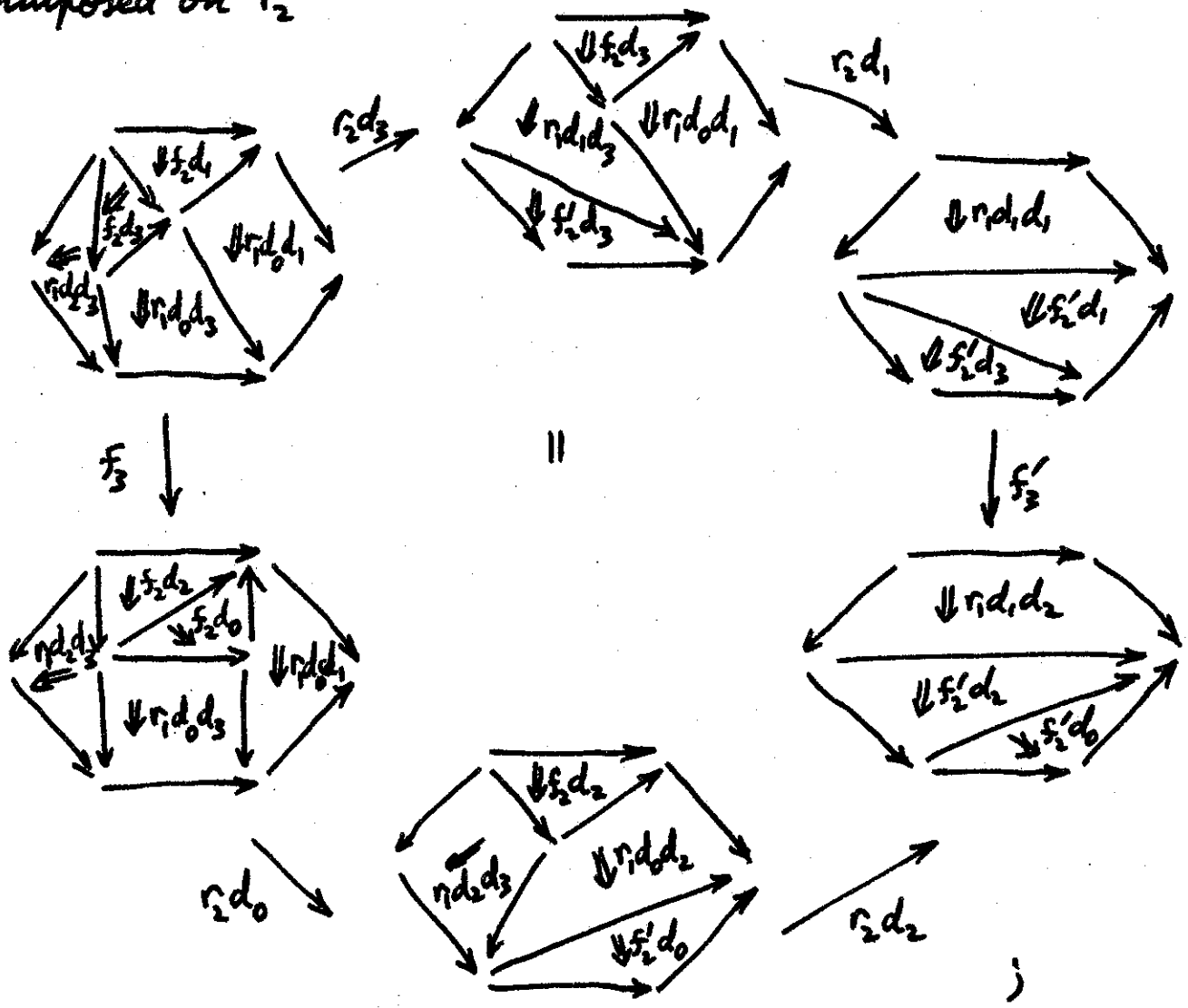
Suppose now that A is a 3-category in \mathcal{C} .

The 3-dimensional cohomology 3-category $\mathcal{H}^3(S; A)$ is defined as follows:

an object $f = (f_0, f_1, f_2, f_3)$ has f_0, f_1, f_2 as in $\mathcal{H}^2(S; A)$ except that the equality imposed on f_2 is replaced by the 3-cell f_3 and the equality below is imposed on f_3



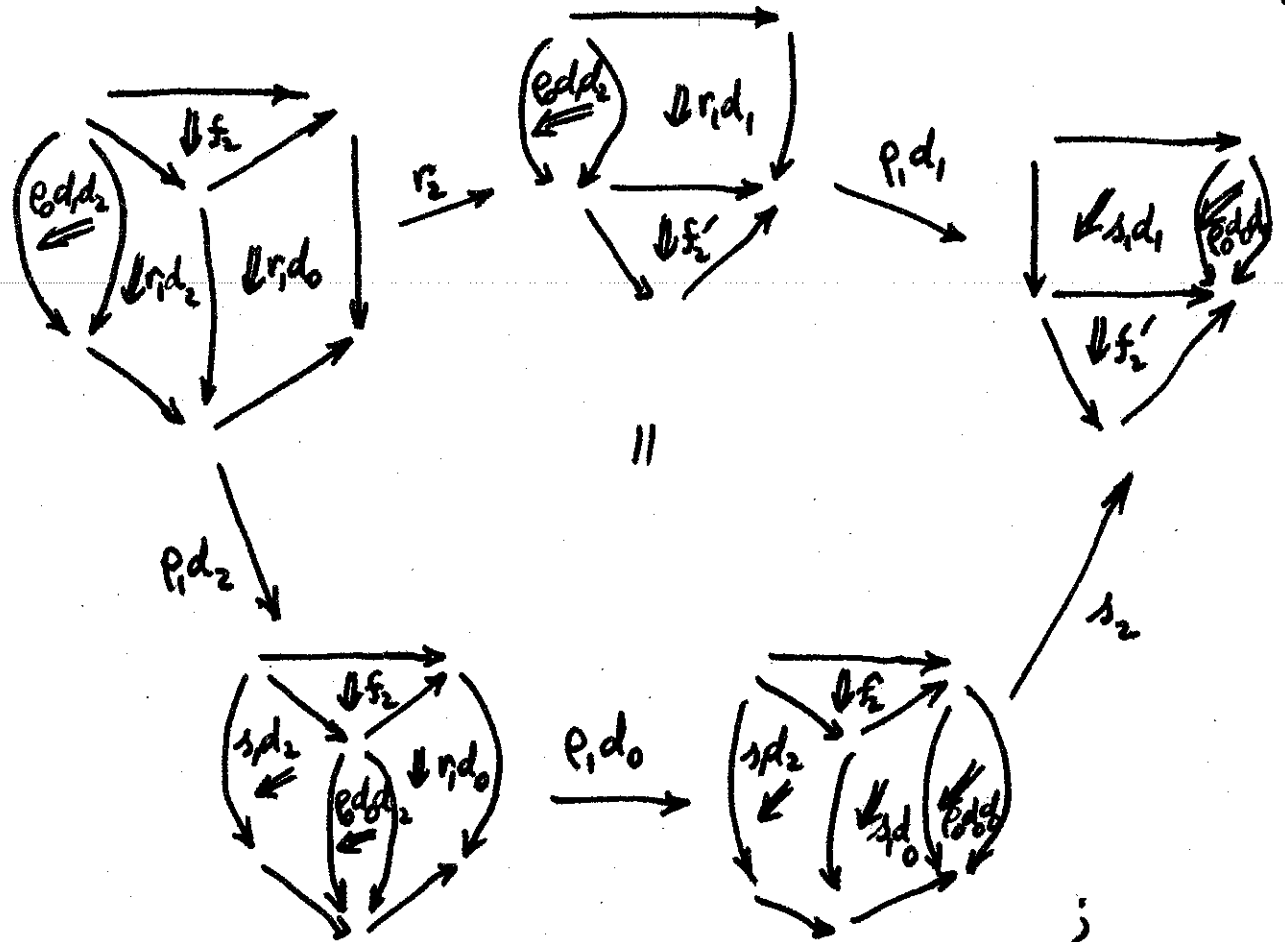
an arrow $r = (r_0, r_1, r_2) : f \rightarrow f'$ has r_0, r_1 as in $\mathcal{H}^2(S; A)$ except that the equality imposed on r_1 is replaced by the 3-cell r_2 and the equality below is imposed on r_2



a 2-cell $f \xrightarrow{r} f'$ consists of a 2-cell $f_0 \xrightarrow{r_0} f'_0$ together with a 3-cell

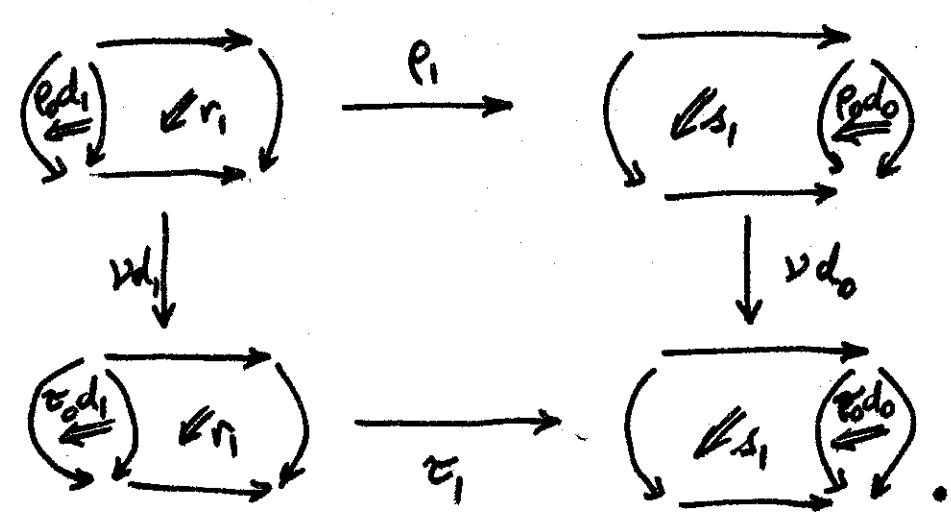


and the equality below is imposed on p_1



a 3-cell $f \circ \rho \left(\frac{\nu}{\tau} \right) \tau \circ f'$ is a 3-cell $f_0 \circ \rho_0 \left(\frac{\nu_0}{\tau_0} \right) \tau_0 \circ f'_0$

such that



Interpretation for $\mathcal{C} = \Sigma^G$ where G is a group.

The simplicial object S in \mathcal{C} is fixed as

$$G \begin{array}{c} \xleftarrow{d_0} \\ \xrightarrow{d_1} \end{array} G \times G \begin{array}{c} \xleftarrow{d_0} \\ \xrightarrow{d_1} \\ \xleftarrow{d_2} \\ \xrightarrow{d_3} \end{array} G \times G \times G \begin{array}{c} \xleftarrow{d_0} \\ \xrightarrow{d_1} \\ \xleftarrow{d_2} \\ \xrightarrow{d_3} \end{array} \dots$$

where G acts on itself by multiplication and

$$d_r(x_0, \dots, x_n) = (x_0, \dots, \hat{x}_r, \dots, x_n).$$

The object A is taken to be an abelian group in \mathcal{C} ; that is, a $\mathbb{Z}G$ -module. Let $K(A, n)$ denote the n -category in \mathcal{C} which has A as its object of n -cells and only one m -cell for all $m < n$; the compositions are addition in A .

The n -categories

$$\mathbb{H}^n(G; A) = \mathbb{H}^n(S; K(A, n))$$

will be examined for $n = 0, 1, 2, 3$.

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{H}^0(G; A) &= \{ f \in \mathcal{C}(G, A) \mid f(y) = f(x) \text{ for all } x, y \in G \} \\ &= \{ f \in \Sigma(G, A) \mid f \text{ constant and } f(xy) = xf(y) \} \\ &= \{ a \in A \mid a = xa \text{ for all } x \in G \} \\ &= A^G, \text{ the set of } G\text{-invariants in } A. \end{aligned}$$

Notice that this set has an abelian group structure as a subgroup of A .

The category $K(A, \mathbb{1})$ has one object and elements of A as arrows. So $\mathcal{H}^1(G; A)$ is the category whose objects are $f: G \times G \rightarrow A$ in \mathcal{C} such that

$$f(z, z) = f(y, z) + f(x, y),$$

and, whose arrows $r: f \rightarrow f'$ are $r: G \rightarrow A$ in \mathcal{C} such that

$$r(y) + f(x, y) = f'(x, y) + r(x).$$

Let G_c denote the chaotic category on G in \mathcal{C} ; that is, arrows of G_c are pairs $(x, y): x \rightarrow y$ of elements of G . Clearly,

$$\mathcal{H}^1(G; A) = \text{Cat}(\mathcal{C})(G_c, K(A, \mathbb{1})).$$

Notice that $\mathcal{H}^1(G; A)$ is a groupoid and has a canonical structure of abelian group in the category of categories (properties it inherits from $K(A, \mathbb{1})$ pointwise).

Recall that a function $k: G \rightarrow A$ satisfying

$$k(xy) = x k(y) + k(x)$$

is called a crossed homomorphism. If k is such then $f(y, z) = k(z) - k(y)$ defines an object f of $\mathcal{H}^1(G; A)$. Conversely, if $f \in \mathcal{H}^1(G; A)$ then $k(x) = f(e, x)$ defines a crossed homomorphism k .

Hence, $\mathcal{H}^1(G; A)$ is isomorphic to the category whose objects are crossed homomorphisms $k: G \rightarrow A$ and whose arrows $c: k \rightarrow k'$ are elements $c \in A$ for which $yc + k(y) = k'(y) + c$. The usual 1-dimensional cohomology group $H^1(G; A)$ with coefficients in A is thus the set of connected components (= isomorphism classes) of $\mathcal{H}^1(G; A)$ with the abelian group structure inherited from that on $\mathcal{H}^1(G; A)$. Two crossed homomorphisms k, k' are isomorphic iff their difference $k' - k$ is an inner crossed homomorphism k_c (i.e. $k_c(x) = xc - c$).

Proposition 1. $\mathcal{H}^1(G; A)$ is equivalent to the full subcategory of \mathcal{C}^A consisting of those $(T, A \times T \xrightarrow{u} T)$ such that $T \rightarrow 1$ is epic and $(\mu_u): A \times T \rightarrow T \times T$ is invertible.

Proof. A functor $f: G_c \rightarrow K(A, 1)$ in \mathcal{C} factors as $G_c \xrightarrow{j} E \xrightarrow{p} K(A, 1)$ where j is initial and p is a discrete opfibration. Since $K(A, 1)$ has only one object, E amounts to an object (T, u) on which A acts. In fact, T is obtained by inverting certain arrows in $f/K(A, 1)$.

Alternatively, corresponding to the crossed homomorphism $k: G \rightarrow A$ one has the A -object (T, u) with $T = A$ as sets, with G -action $G \times T \xrightarrow{m} T$ given by $m(x, a) = xa + k(x)$, and, with A -action just addition. \square

Recall that there is a short exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow A \xrightarrow{\iota} A \rtimes G \xrightarrow{\pi} G \rightarrow 1$$

in which the middle object is called the semidirect product of A and G . The underlying set of $A \rtimes G$ is $A \times G$ and the multiplication is $(a, x)(b, y) = (a + xb, xy)$.

Proposition 2. There is an equivalence of categories as in the following commutative diagram.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} (\mathcal{S}^G)^A & \xrightarrow{\cong} & \mathcal{S}^{A \rtimes G} \\ \text{forget} \searrow & & \swarrow \mathcal{S}^{\iota} \\ & \mathcal{S}^A & \end{array}$$

Proof. Objects T of $(\mathcal{S}^G)^A$ are G -sets which are also A -sets for which the A -action is a G -map. Define an action of $A \rtimes G$ on T by $(a, x)t = a(xt)$. \square

Corollary. $H^1(G; A)$ is equivalent to the full subcategory of $\mathcal{S}^{A \rtimes G}$ consisting of those $A \rtimes G$ -sets whose action restricts along $\iota: A \rightarrow A \rtimes G$ to the action of A on A by addition. \square

The 2-category $K(A, \iota)$ has one object, one arrow, and, 2-cells are elements of A . So the

2-category $\mathcal{H}^2(G; A)$ is as follows. Objects are arrows $f: G \times G \times G \rightarrow A$ in \mathcal{C} satisfying

$$f(w, x, y) + f(w, y, z) = f(x, y, z) + f(w, x, z).$$

An arrow $r: f \rightarrow f'$ is a function $r: G \times G \rightarrow A$ in \mathcal{C} satisfying

$$r(x, y) + r(y, z) + f(x, y, z) = f'(x, y, z) + r(x, z).$$

A 2-cell $f \xrightarrow{\rho} f'$ is an arrow $\rho: G \rightarrow A$ in \mathcal{C} satisfying

$$\rho(x) + r(x, y) = s(x, y) + \rho(y).$$

Clearly,

$$\mathcal{H}^2(G; A) = \text{Bicat}_{\mathcal{C}}(G_{\mathcal{C}}, K(A, 2)),$$

the 2-category of morphisms of bicategories $G_{\mathcal{C}} \rightarrow K(A, 2)$, transformations, and modifications, all internal to the category \mathcal{C} .

Recall that a function $k: G \times G \rightarrow A$ satisfying $k(x, y) + k(xy, z) = xk(y, z) + k(x, yz)$ is called a factor set. If k is such then

$$f(x, y, z) = xk(x^{-1}y, y^{-1}z)$$

defines an object of $\mathcal{H}^2(G; A)$. Conversely, if f is an object of $\mathcal{H}^2(G; A)$ then a factor set is defined by

$$k(x, y) = f(e, x, xy).$$

Hence, $H^2(G; A)$ is isomorphic to the 2-category whose objects are factor sets k , whose arrows $h: k \rightarrow k'$ are functions $h: G \rightarrow A$ satisfying

$$h(x) + x h(y) + k(x, y) = k'(x, y) + h(xy),$$

and, whose 2-cells $k \begin{matrix} \xrightarrow{h} \\ \Downarrow c \\ \xrightarrow{l} \end{matrix} k'$ are elements c of A satisfying

$$c + h(x) = l(x) + xc.$$

Notice that $H^2(G; A)$ has every 2-cell and every arrow invertible. It is also an abelian group in the category of 2-categories under pointwise addition. The abelian group $H^2(G; A)$ consists of the equivalence classes (or isomorphism classes) of objects of $H^2(G; A)$.

Proposition 3. Regard $K(A, 1)$ as an abelian group in $\text{Cat}(\mathcal{C})$ so that $\text{Cat}(\mathcal{C})^{K(A, 1)}$ is the 2-category of categories T in \mathcal{C} together with a $K(A, 1)$ -action $K(A, 1) \times T \xrightarrow{u} T$. Then $H^2(G; A)$ is biequivalent to the full sub-2-category of $\text{Cat}(\mathcal{C})^{K(A, 1)}$ consisting of those objects (T, u) such that $\pi(T) \cong 1$ and

$$K(A, 1) \times T \xrightarrow{\begin{pmatrix} u \\ \pi_2 \end{pmatrix}} T \times T$$

is an equivalence of categories in \mathcal{D} .

Is every object of $H^2(G; A)$ equivalent to a normalized object g ?

$$\begin{aligned} & \cancel{f(x, y, z)} = \cancel{f(x, y, z)} \\ & \text{wxyz} \\ & f(x, y, z) + f(w, x, z) = f(w, y, z) + f(w, x, y) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{w=x} \\ & f(x, y, z) + f(x, x, z) = f(x, y, z) + f(x, x, y) \\ & f(x, x, y) = b(x) \text{ for all } y. \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{z=y} \\ & f(x, y, y) + f(x, x, y) = f(w, y, y) + f(x, x, y) \\ & f(x, y, y) = c(y) \text{ for all } x. \end{aligned}$$

$$b(x) = f(x, x, x) = c(x) \text{ for all } x.$$

$$g(x, y, z) = f(x, y, z) - b(y)$$

$$g(x, x, z) = f(x, x, z) - b(x) = 0$$

$$g(x, y, y) = f(x, y, y) - b(y) = 0$$

$$\begin{aligned} & f(x, y, z) + f(w, x, z) = f(w, y, z) + f(w, x, y) \\ & \left. \begin{array}{cccc} -b(y) & -b(x) & -b(y) & -b(x) \end{array} \right\} \checkmark \end{aligned}$$

So g is an object of $H^2(G; A)$.

Proof. Every object \mathbb{Z} of $H^2(G; A)$ is isomorphic to an object f with $f(x, x, y) = f(x, y, y) = f(x, y, x) = 0$. From such an f define T to be the category whose objects are elements x of G , whose arrows $a: x \rightarrow y$ are $a \in A$, and whose composition is

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} x & \xrightarrow{a} & y & \xrightarrow{b} & z \\ & & \searrow & & \nearrow \\ & & & & a+b+f(x, y, z) \end{array}$$

This becomes a category in \mathcal{C} by defining

$$\begin{array}{ccc} G \times T & \longrightarrow & T \\ (w, x \xrightarrow{a} y) & \longmapsto & (wx \xrightarrow{wa} wy). \end{array}$$

There is an action of $K(A, 1)$ on T in \mathcal{C} given by

$$\begin{array}{ccc} K(A, 1) \times T & \xrightarrow{u} & T \\ (c \xrightarrow{\cdot} \cdot, x \xrightarrow{a} y) & \longmapsto & (x \xrightarrow{c+a} y). \end{array}$$

Notice that T is a connected groupoid. The functor

$$K(A, 1) \times T \xrightarrow{\begin{pmatrix} u \\ \pi_2 \end{pmatrix}} T \times T$$

is fully faithful. Thus (T, u) is as advertised. The converse is left to the reader. \square

The general setting for 1-dimensional cohomology

\mathcal{E} is a respectable category such as a topos.

A is a category in \mathcal{E} .

Each epic $e: V \twoheadrightarrow U$ determines a category

$$\text{ex}(e): V \times_V V \rightrightarrows V$$

which is the "equivalence relation determined by e "; it is a poset in \mathcal{E} .

$$\boxed{H_{\mathcal{E}}^1(U, A) = \text{colim}_{V \twoheadrightarrow U} \text{Cat}(\mathcal{E})(\text{ex}(e), A)}$$

Each cocycle category.

Also, $(\text{Tors}_{\mathcal{E}} A) U$ is the full subcategory of $\mathcal{E}^{A^{\text{op}} \times U}$ (= discrete fibrations from U to A) consisting of those

$$A \begin{array}{c} \nearrow E \\ \searrow \end{array} U$$

for which there exists $e: V \twoheadrightarrow U$ such that e^*E :

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} & & e^*E & & \\ & \swarrow & & \searrow & \\ & E & \text{fib} & V & \\ \swarrow & & \searrow & \swarrow & \\ A & & U & \leftarrow e & \end{array}$$

is representable. ["Torsors are locally convergent modules"]

Theorem: $H_{\mathcal{E}}^1(U, A) \simeq (\text{Tors}_{\mathcal{E}} A) U$.

Let \mathcal{F} be a locally small fibration over \mathcal{E} (recall Bénabou's lectures). Think of \mathcal{F} as a category of structures in the mathematics based on the set theory \mathcal{E} . Objects of the fibre \mathcal{F}_U

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are families of structures of type \mathcal{X} indexed by W .

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{E}/W & \xrightarrow{X} & \mathcal{X} \\ & \searrow \text{co} & \uparrow \text{ff} \\ & & \mathcal{E} // [X] \end{array}$$

There exists, for each $X \in \mathcal{X}_W$, a category

$$[X] : ? \rightrightarrows W$$

in \mathcal{E} which should be thought of as the full subcategory of \mathcal{X} consisting of the "objects in the family X ".

Call \mathcal{X} a stack when it satisfies the descent condition (recall Joyal and Tierney's talks). Equivalently, \mathcal{X} is a stack when it admits colimits ~~over~~ weighted by torsors.

Theorem. If \mathcal{X} is a stack and $X \in \mathcal{X}_W$ then

$\text{Tors}_{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathcal{X}}[X]$ is the locally small category fibred over \mathcal{E} of objects of \mathcal{X} locally isomorphic to a member of the family X .

Let A be a $\mathbb{Z}G$ -module. So A is an abelian group in \mathcal{S}^G . Define an abelian group $A^{G^2} = \{k: G \times G \rightarrow A \text{ in } \mathcal{S}\}$ in $\mathcal{S}^{G^{op} \times G}$

by:

$$(x \cdot k)(y, z) = x \cdot k(y, z)$$

$$(k \cdot x)(y, z) = k(x, y) + k(x, yz) - k(x, yz)$$

Let \bar{G} be the category whose objects are $(u, v) \in G^2$ and $\bar{G}((u, v), (x, y)) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{when } uv = xy \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$

Notice that \bar{G} is a category in $\mathcal{S}^{G^{op} \times G}$ with

$$w \cdot (u, v) = (wu, v)$$

$$(u, v) \cdot w = (u, vw)$$

$$(u, v) \rightarrow (x, y) \begin{matrix} \Rightarrow (wu, v) \rightarrow (wx, y) \\ \Rightarrow (u, vw) \rightarrow (x, yw) \end{matrix}$$

Consider the category

$$\text{Cat}(\mathcal{S}^{G^{op} \times G})(\bar{G}, K(A^{G^2}, 1))$$

A functor $f: \bar{G} \rightarrow K(A^{G^2}, 1)$

$$\{(u, v) \rightarrow (x, y) \mid \exists (r, s, w) \text{ such that } (u, v) \rightarrow (r, s) \rightarrow (x, y) \text{ and } rs = uv\} \xrightarrow{\cong} \{(u, v, x, y) \mid uv = xy\} \xrightarrow{\cong} G \times G$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A^{G^2} \times A^{G^2} & \xrightarrow{\mu_1} & A^{G^2} \\ \downarrow & \xrightarrow{+} & \downarrow f \\ & \xrightarrow{\mu_2} & 1 \end{array}$$

$$f(u, v, u, v) = 0$$

$$f(u, v, z, w) = f(u, v, x, y) + f(x, y, z, w)$$

$$t \cdot f(u, v, x, y) = f(tu, v, tx, y) \quad (f \cdot t)(u, v, x, y) = f(u, vt, x, yt)$$

$$f(x, y, z) = x \cdot m(y) \cdot z$$

$$G \times G \times G \longrightarrow \{(u, v, x, y) \mid uv = xy\}$$

$$(a, b, c) \longrightarrow (a, a^{-1}b, bc^{-1}, c)$$

$$\frac{av = xc}{v = a^{-1}xc}$$

$$a^{-1}b \quad bc^{-1}$$

$$m(x) = f(1, x, x, 1)$$

$$\textcircled{G^2} \quad m(1) = 0$$

$$t \cdot m(x) = f(t, x, tx, 1)$$

$$t \cdot m(x) \cdot s = f(t, xs, ts, s)$$

$$\quad \quad \quad \parallel \quad \parallel$$

$$\quad \quad \quad u \quad v$$

$$f(t, u, v, s) = t \cdot m(us^{-1}) \cdot s$$

$$u m(vw^{-1})w = u m(vy^{-1})y + x m(yw^{-1})w$$

$$w = 1,$$

$$u m(v) = u m(vy^{-1})y + x m(y)$$

~~u m(v)~~

$$(u, v) \longrightarrow (x, y) \longrightarrow (z, 1)$$

$$\boxed{uv = xy} = z$$

$$v y^{-1} = u^{-1}x$$

$$u m(v) = u m(u^{-1}x) + x m(y)$$

$$u m(u^{-1}xy) \quad m(xy) = m(x)y + x m(y)$$