# Functor homology 

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A biased overview
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Modules over small categories

Functor homology

## Examples

$E_{n}$-homology

Stabilization

References

## Motivation

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Tor- and Ext-functors have universal properties, and this helps to obtain uniqueness results.
In order to get functor homology interpretations we have to understand what something really is...

## Some small categories

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2. $\Gamma$, the small category of finite pointed sets. Objects are again the sets $[n]=\{0,1, \ldots, n\}, n \geq 0$ but 0 is interpreted as a basepoint of $[n]$ and morphisms have to send 0 to 0 .
3. $\Delta$, the small category of finite ordered sets with objects $[n]=\{0,1, \ldots, n\}, n \geq 0$ considered as an ordered set with the standard ordering $0<1<\ldots<n$. Morphisms are order preserving, i.e., for $f \in \Delta([n],[m])$ and $i<j$ in $[n]$ we require $f(i) \leq f(j)$.

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We write $\mathcal{C}$-mod and mod- $\mathcal{C}$ for the corresponding categories of functors (with natural transformations as morphisms).
Examples:
A simplicial $R$-module is a right $\Delta$-module.
A covariant functor $F: \Gamma \rightarrow R$-mod is a $\Gamma$-module.

## Algebraic properties I

As the category of $R$-modules is abelian, so are $\mathcal{C}$-mod and mod- $\mathcal{C}$ for every small $\mathcal{C}$.

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\operatorname{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}-\bmod }(R\{\mathcal{C}(C,-)\}, F) \cong F(C)
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for all $F \in \mathcal{C}$-mod and $\operatorname{Hom}_{\bmod -\mathcal{C}}(R\{\mathcal{C}(-, C)\}, G) \cong G(C)$ for all $G$ in $\bmod -\mathcal{C}$.

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Let $t: \Gamma^{o p} \rightarrow R$-mod be the functor with $t[n]=\operatorname{Hom}_{\operatorname{Sets}_{*}}([n], R)$. Then $t$ can be written as the cokernel

$$
R\{\Gamma(-,[2])\} \rightarrow R\{\Gamma(-,[1])\} \rightarrow t \rightarrow 0
$$

where the map from $R\{\Gamma(-,[2])\}$ to $R\{\Gamma(-,[1])\}$ is induced by $f-p_{1}-p_{2}$ with $f:[2] \rightarrow[1]$ being the fold map, sending 1,2 to 1 and $p_{i}(i)=1$ and $p_{i}(j)=0$ otherwise.

## Tensor products

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Definition For any left $\mathcal{C}$-module $F$ and any right $\mathcal{C}$-module $G$ we define

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G \otimes_{\mathcal{C}} F:=\bigoplus_{C \in \mathcal{C}} G(C) \otimes_{R} F(C) / \sim
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where we have $x \otimes F(f)(y) \sim G(f)(x) \otimes y$ for all $f: C \rightarrow C^{\prime}$, $x \in G\left(C^{\prime}\right), y \in F(C)$.

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Proposition The natural evaluation map induces isomorphisms

$$
R\{\mathcal{C}(-, C)\} \otimes_{\mathcal{C}} F \cong F(C), \quad G \otimes_{\mathcal{C}} R\{\mathcal{C}(C,-)\} \cong G(C)
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## Tor- and Ext-functors

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Definition For $G \in \bmod -C$ and $F \in \mathcal{C}$-mod we define

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\operatorname{Tor}_{i}^{\mathcal{C}}(G, F):=H_{i}\left(P_{*} \otimes_{\mathcal{C}} F\right)
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- $H_{i}(F)=0$ for all projective $F$ and $i>0$, then $H_{i}(F) \cong \operatorname{Tor}_{i}^{\mathcal{C}}(G, F)$ for all $F$.


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Here, $b=\sum_{i=0}^{n}(-1)^{i} d_{i}$ where
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$d_{n}\left(a_{0} \otimes \ldots \otimes a_{n}\right)=a_{n} a_{0} \otimes \ldots \otimes a_{n-1}$.
Hochschild homology is André-Quillen homology for associative algebras up to a shift of degree. For a free algebra (a tensor algebra) it vanishes in degrees higher than one.

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Via finite 'associative sets'
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Interpreting $\mathbb{S}^{1}$ as a functor $\Delta^{O P} \rightarrow \Gamma$ we get by composition $\mathcal{L}(A ; M) \circ \mathbb{S}^{1}: \Delta^{o p} \rightarrow R-\bmod$ and

$$
H H_{*}(A ; M)=\pi_{*} \mathcal{L}(A ; M)\left(\mathbb{S}^{1}\right)
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A morphism $[n] \rightarrow[m]$ is a pointed map $f:[n] \rightarrow[m]$ together with a total ordering on the preimages $f^{-1}(j)$ for all $j \in[m]$. Theorem [Pirashvili-R 2002] For any associative unital $R$-algebra $A$ and any $A$-bimodule $M$

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H H_{*}(A ; M) \cong \operatorname{Tor}_{*}^{\ulcorner(a s)}(\bar{b}, \mathcal{L}(A ; M)) .
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Here, $\bar{b}$ is $\bar{b}(-)=\operatorname{coker}(R\{\Gamma(a s)(-,[1])\} \rightarrow R\{\Gamma(a s)(-,[0])\})$ where the map is induced by $d_{0}-d_{1}$ where $d_{0}$ and $d_{1}$ send 0,1 to 0 but $d_{0}$ has $0<1$ as ordering on the preimage whereas $d_{1}$ has the ordering $1<0$ on [1].

## Cyclic homology

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Here, $\mathcal{F}(a s)$ is the category of associative (unpointed) sets and $b$ is the cokernel

$$
b=\operatorname{coker}(R\{\mathcal{F}(a s)(-,[1])\} \rightarrow R\{\mathcal{F}(a s)(-,[0])\})
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$C_{n}$ acts on and detects $n$-fold based loop spaces.

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Let $C_{n}$ denote the operad of little $n$-cubes. $C_{n}(r), r \geq 0$.
$n=2, r=3$ :

$C_{n}$ acts on and detects $n$-fold based loop spaces.
$\left(C_{*} C_{n}(r)\right)_{r}, r \geq 1$ is an operad in the category of chain complexes. Let $E_{n}$ be a cofibrant replacement of $C_{*} C_{n}$.

## $E_{n}$-homology

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For simplicity, let $A \rightarrow R$ be an augmented commutative $R$-algebra and $\bar{A}$ its augmentation ideal.

## From $E_{n}$ to $E_{n+1}$

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Fresse's description in terms of iterated bar constructions gives a direct identification (in the commutative case over a field $k$ ) of $H_{*}^{E_{n}}(\bar{A})$ with $H H_{*+n}^{[n]}(A ; k)$, that is Pirashvili's Hochschild homology of order $n$.

## Higher order Hochschild homology

In general: Let $k$ be a field and $A$ an augmented commutative $k$-algebra.

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Definition [Pirashvili] Hochschild homology of order $n \geq 1$ of $A$ with coefficients in $k, H H_{*}^{[n]}(A ; k)$ is $\pi_{*} \mathcal{L}(A ; k)\left(\mathbb{S}^{n}\right)$.

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The case $n=1$ coincides with the usual definition of Hochschild homology of $A$ with coefficients in $k$.
'Proof' that $H_{*}^{E_{n}}(\bar{A}) \cong H H_{*+n}^{[n]}(A ; k)$ :

$$
\begin{aligned}
H_{*}^{E_{n}}(\bar{A}) & \cong H_{*}\left(\Sigma^{-n} B^{n}(\bar{A})\right) \cong H_{*+n} B^{n}(\bar{A}) \\
& \cong H_{*+n}\left(\mathbb{S}^{n} \bar{\otimes} A\right) \cong H H_{*+n}^{[n]}(A ; k)
\end{aligned}
$$

## The limit: Gamma homology

Fresse showed as well, that in the limiting case

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H^{E_{\infty}}(\bar{A}) \cong H \Gamma_{*}(A ; k)
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Here, $H \Gamma_{*}(A ; k)$ denotes Gamma homology of $A$ with coefficients in $k$, as defined by Alan Robinson and Sarah Whitehouse.

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For Gamma homology a functor homology description is known:
Theorem [Pirashvili-R, 2000]

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Here $t[n]=\operatorname{Hom}_{\text {Sets }_{*}}([n], k)$ as above.
Gamma (co)homology plays an important role as the habitat for obstructions to $E_{\infty}$-ring structures on ring spectra.

## A functor homology description

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$b_{n}^{\text {epi }}$ is a cokernel $\operatorname{coker}\left(k\left\{\operatorname{Epi}_{n}\left(-, Y_{n}\right)\right\} \rightarrow k\left\{\operatorname{Epi}_{n}\left(-, I_{n}\right)\right\}\right)$.

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$E_{n i}{ }_{n}$ is a category that captures the combinatorial properties of $n$-fold bar constructions, a category of trees with $n$ levels. $b_{n}^{\text {epi }}$ is a cokernel $\operatorname{coker}\left(k\left\{\operatorname{Epi}_{n}\left(-, Y_{n}\right)\right\} \rightarrow k\left\{\operatorname{Epi}_{n}\left(-, I_{n}\right)\right\}\right)$. Here, $I_{n}$ is the $n$-tree with only one leaf and $Y_{n}$ is the tree that has two leaves at the top level.

The category $\mathrm{Epi}_{n}$ - an example


## The category Epi ${ }_{n}$ - the definition

Objects are sequences

$$
\begin{equation*}
\left[r_{n}\right] \xrightarrow{f_{n}}\left[r_{n-1}\right] \xrightarrow{f_{n-1}} \ldots \xrightarrow{f_{2}}\left[r_{1}\right] \tag{1}
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where the $f_{i}$ are surjective and order-preserving.
A morphism to an object $\left[r_{n}^{\prime}\right] \xrightarrow{f_{n}^{\prime}}\left[r_{n-1}^{\prime}\right] \xrightarrow{f_{n-1}^{\prime}} \ldots \xrightarrow{f_{2}^{\prime}}\left[r_{1}^{\prime}\right]$ consists of surjective maps $\sigma_{i}:\left[r_{i}\right] \rightarrow\left[r_{i}^{\prime}\right]$ for $1 \leq i \leq n$ such that $\sigma_{1}$ is order-preserving surjective and for all $2 \leq i \leq n$ the map $\sigma_{i}$ is order-preserving on the fibres $f_{i}^{-1}(j)$ for all $j \in\left[r_{i-1}\right]$ and such that the diagram

$$
\begin{aligned}
& {\left[r_{n}\right] \xrightarrow{f_{n}}\left[r_{n-1}\right] \xrightarrow{f_{n-1}} \cdots \xrightarrow{f_{2}}\left[r_{1}\right]}
\end{aligned}
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commutes.

## Some references

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