

# A computational review of spectral sequences and applications

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XVI Encuentro de Álgebra Computacional y Aplicaciones  
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# Introduction

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- Many people do not know them or are afraid of using them.
- Many people think they are not a computational tool.
- I have worked with spectral sequences for a long time...



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Given a simplicial set  $X$ , a chain complex  $C_*(X)$  can be constructed such that the homology groups of  $X$  are defined as

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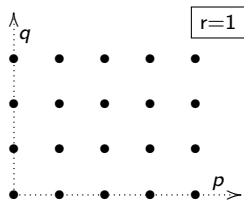
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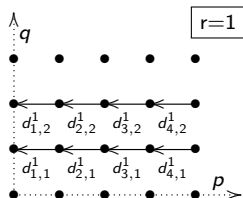
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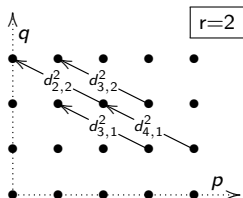
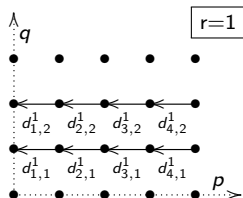




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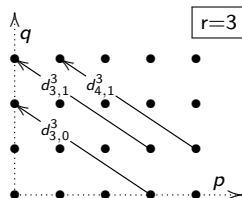
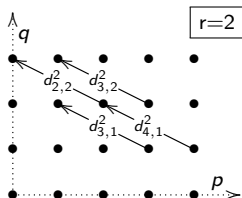
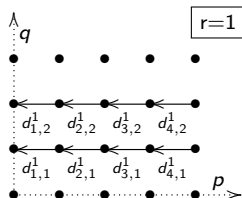
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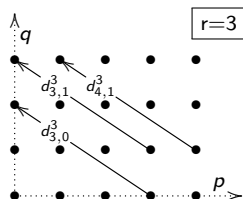
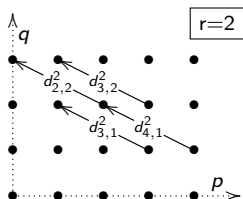
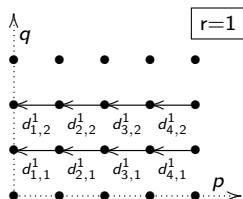
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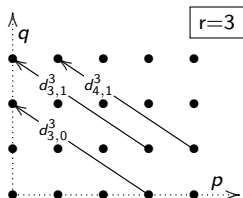
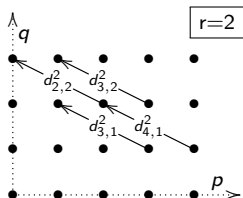
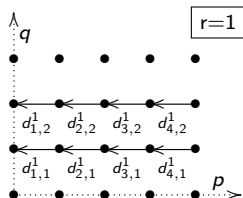


Since  $E_{p,q}^{r+1}$  is a subquotient of  $E_{p,q}^r$  for each  $r \geq 1$ , one can define the *final groups* of the spectral sequence as  $E_{p,q}^\infty = \bigcap_{r \geq 1} E_{p,q}^r$ .

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- The *Eilenberg-Moore spectral sequence* converges to the homology groups of the loop space of a simplicial set.
- The *Adams spectral sequence* converges to the homotopy groups of a simplicial set  $X$ .

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## Theorem (Serre spectral sequence)

*Let  $G \hookrightarrow E \rightarrow B$  be a fibration with a simply connected base space  $B$ . Then a first quadrant spectral sequence  $E = (E^r, d^r)_{r \geq 1}$  can be defined with  $E_{p,q}^2 = H_p(B, H_q(G))$  and  $E^1 \Rightarrow H_*(E)$ .*

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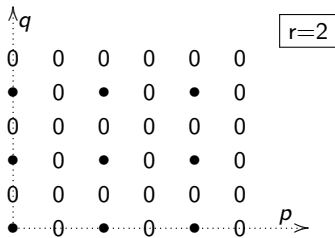
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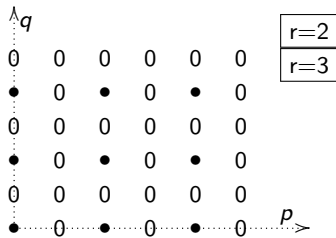


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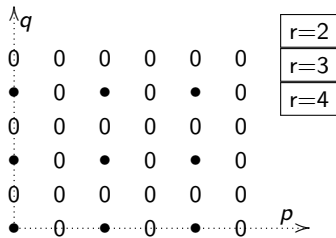


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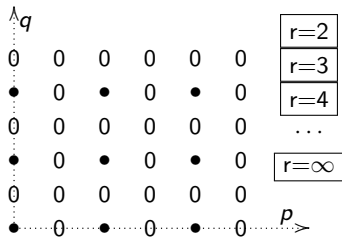


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$$\begin{array}{cccccc}
 & & & & & \boxed{r=2} \\
 \begin{array}{c} \vdots \\ \mathbb{Z} \\ \vdots \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ \mathbb{Z} \\ \vdots \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ \mathbb{Z} \\ \vdots \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ \mathbb{Z} \\ \vdots \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ \mathbb{Z} \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} \mathbb{Z} \\ 0 \\ \mathbb{Z} \\ 0 \\ \mathbb{Z} \\ 0 \\ \mathbb{Z} \\ 0 \\ \mathbb{Z} \\ 0 \\ \mathbb{Z} \\ 0 \\ \mathbb{Z} \\ 0 \\ \mathbb{Z} \\ 0 \\ \mathbb{Z} \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \end{array} \\
 & & & & & \begin{array}{c} q \\ p \end{array}
 \end{array}$$

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$$\begin{array}{cccccc}
 & \wedge^q & & & & \\
 \mathbb{Z} & 0 & 0 & \mathbb{Z} & 0 & \\
 \vdots & & & & & \\
 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \\
 \vdots & & & & & \\
 \mathbb{Z} & 0 & 0 & \mathbb{Z} & 0 & \\
 \vdots & & & & & \\
 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \\
 \vdots & & & & & \\
 \mathbb{Z} & 0 & 0 & \mathbb{Z} & 0 & \\
 \vdots & & & & & \\
 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \\
 \vdots & & & & & \\
 \mathbb{Z} & 0 & 0 & \mathbb{Z} & 0 & p \triangleright
 \end{array}
 \quad
 \begin{array}{|c|}
 \hline
 r = 2 \\
 \hline
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 \hline
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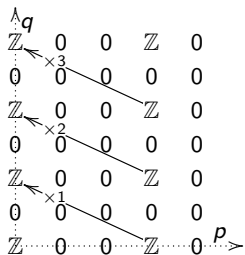
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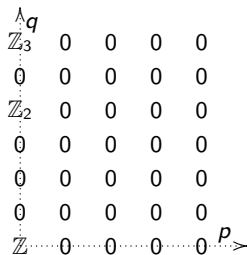
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$$\boxed{r=\infty}$$

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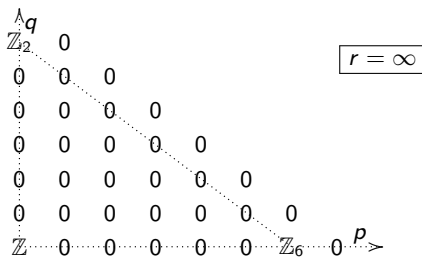
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$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 & \mathbb{Z}_2 & & & & & \\
 \uparrow q & 0 & & & & & \\
 \vdots & & & & & & \\
 0 & 0 & 0 & & & & \\
 \vdots & & & & & & \\
 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & & & \\
 \vdots & & & & & & \\
 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & & \\
 \vdots & & & & & & \\
 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
 \vdots & & & & & & \\
 \mathbb{Z} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \mathbb{Z}_6 & 0 & p >
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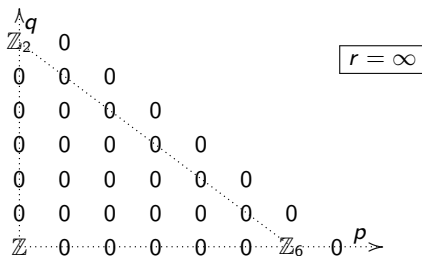
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We obtain a short exact sequence:

$$0 \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_6 \leftarrow H_6(E) \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_2 \leftarrow 0$$

but now there are two possible extensions: the trivial one  $\mathbb{Z}_2 \oplus \mathbb{Z}_6$  and the twisted one  $\mathbb{Z}_{12}$ .



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## Definition

An *increasing filtration*  $F$  of a chain complex  $C_* = (C_n, d_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  is a family of sub-chain complexes  $\dots \subseteq F_{p-1}C_* \subseteq F_pC_* \subseteq F_{p+1}C_* \subseteq \dots$

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## Theorem

Let  $C_*$  be a chain complex with a filtration. There exists a spectral sequence with

$$E_{p,q}^r = \frac{Z_{p,q}^r + F_{p-1}C_{p+q}}{d_{p+q+1}(Z_{p+r-1,q-r+2}^{r-1}) + F_{p-1}C_{p+q}}$$

where  $Z_{p,q}^r$  is  $Z_{p,q}^r = \{a \in F_pC_{p+q} \mid d_{p+q}(a) \in F_{p-r}C_{p+q-1}\} \subseteq F_pC_{p+q}$ , and  $d_{p,q}^r : E_{p,q}^r \rightarrow E_{p-r,q+r-1}^r$  is the morphism induced by  $d_{p+q} : C_{p+q} \rightarrow C_{p+q-1}$ . This spectral sequence converges to  $H_*(C)$ .



S. MacLane. *Homology*. Springer, 1963.

# Programs computing spectral seq. of filtered complexes

**Remark:** when the initial chain complex is of finite type, the groups  $E_{p,q}^r$  (of all levels!) can be determined by means of diagonalization algorithms on some matrices

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G. Ellis, P. Smith. *Computing group cohomology rings from the Lyndon-Hochschild-Serre spectral sequence*. Journal of Symbolic Computation 46 (4), 360–370, 2011.



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By using the *effective homology* theory, implemented in the Kenzo system, it is also possible to determine spectral sequences of chain complexes which are not of finite type.

# Programs computing spectral seq. of filtered complexes

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Examples: total space of a fibration, loop space of a simplicial set...



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Applications of programs computing spectral sequences of filtered complexes:

- We can compute the spectral sequence associated with a bicomplex.
- We can compute the classical spectral sequences of Serre and Eilenberg-Moore, defined by means of filtered complexes, even when the spaces are not of finite type and (some) differential maps cannot be easily deduced.



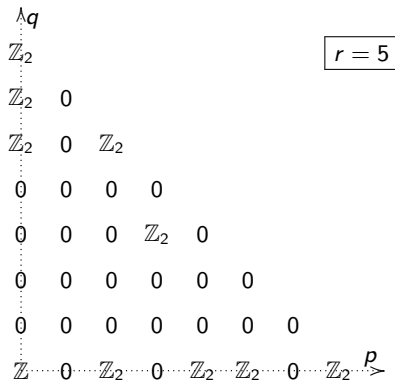
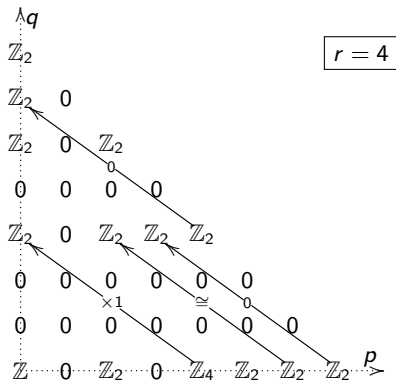
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One can compute the Serre spectral sequence associated with  $X_3 = K(\mathbb{Z}_2, 3) \times_{k_3} K(\mathbb{Z}_2, 2)$ , total space of a fibration  $K(\mathbb{Z}_2, 3) \hookrightarrow X_3 \rightarrow K(\mathbb{Z}_2, 2)$ .

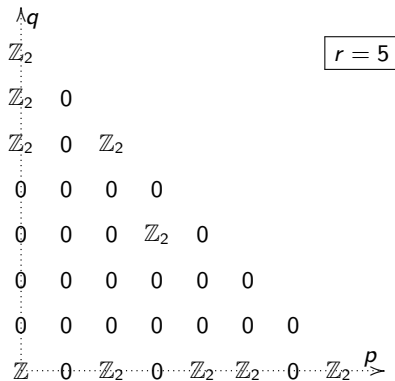
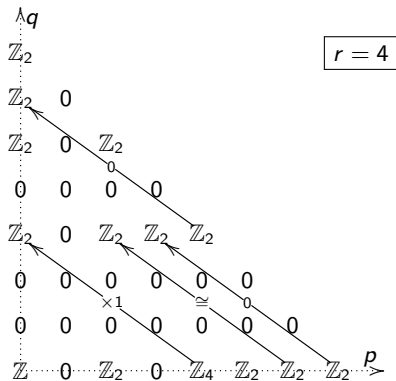
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The object  $X_3$  is already of finite type, but its effective homology gives us an associated effective chain complex which is much smaller.

# Applications: homotopy of suspended classifying spaces

## Applications: homotopy of suspended classifying spaces

The homotopy groups of suspended classifying spaces  $\Sigma K(G, 1)$  can be computed by means of the Serre spectral sequence associated with some fibrations involved in the Postnikov tower of these spaces, or directly using the effective homology of these fibrations.

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Our algorithms have made it possible to determine the homotopy groups of spaces  $\Sigma K(G, 1)$  for different groups  $G$ , and our calculations have found an error in the paper



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Mikhailov and Wu say that:

*Theorem 5.4: Let  $A_4$  be the 4-th alternating group.*

*Then  $\pi_4(\Sigma K(A_4, 1)) = \mathbb{Z}_4$*

but we have obtained  $\pi_4(\Sigma K(A_4, 1)) = \mathbb{Z}_{12}$



# Applications: homology of groups

From: Markus Szymik  
jue 26/01/2017 22:14  
To: Ana Romero

Dear Ana,

I hope this finds you well.

I am interested in computing homology with computers...

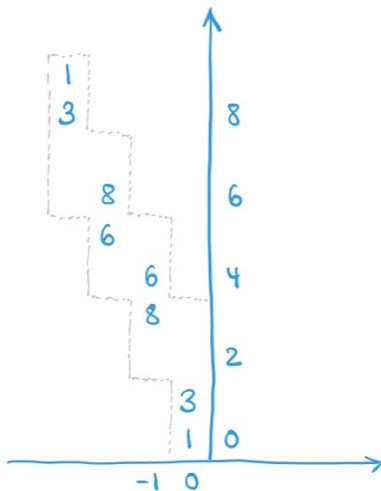
Let's take two elementary abelian 2-groups  $A = (\mathbb{Z}/2)^a$  and  $B = (\mathbb{Z}/2)^b$  and a map  $K(A, 1) \dashrightarrow K(B, 2)$

...

and I would like to see the Eilenberg--Moore spectral sequence for the fiber of this map...

Private communication with Prof. Markus Szymik, NTNU Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim.

# Applications: homology of groups



# Applications: homology of finite topological spaces

Ph.D. of Julián Cuevas Rozo, started in November 2017 (supervised by L. Lambán and A. R.):

“Effective computation of invariants of finite topological spaces”

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Several techniques:

- Beat and weak points
- Discrete vector fields
- Spectral sequence of a filtered complex associated with a poset defined in



N. Cianci, M. Ottina. *On homology of finite topological spaces*. Topology and its Applications 217, 1-19, 2017.



# Bousfield-Kan spectral sequence

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Its definition is much more complicated and involves different mathematical structures such as

- Cosimplicial spaces
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There does not exist a formal expression for the groups  $E_{p,q}^r$ 's as in the case of the spectral sequence associated with a filtered complex.

# Bousfield-Kan spectral sequence

We have developed an algorithm computing all the components of the Bousfield-Kan spectral sequence.



A. R., F. Sergeraert. *A Bousfield-Kan Algorithm for Computing the Effective Homotopy of a Space*. Foundations of Computational Mathematics 17(5), 1335-1366, 2017.

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A. R., F. Sergeraert. *Effective homotopy of fibrations*. Appl. Algebra Eng. Commun. Comput. 23(1-2), 85-100, 2012.

Other *ingredients* have been necessary.



A. R. *Computing the first stages of the Bousfield-Kan spectral sequence*. Appl. Algebra Eng. Commun. Comput. 21(3), 227-248, 2010.



A. R., F. Sergeraert. *Programming before theorizing, a case study*. Proceedings ISSAC 2012, 289-296.



A. R., F. Sergeraert: *A Combinatorial Tool for Computing the Effective Homotopy of Iterated Loop Spaces*. Discrete and Computational Geometry 53(1), 1-15, 2015.



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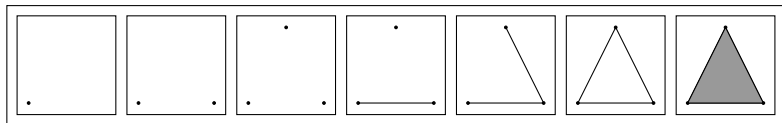




Example:

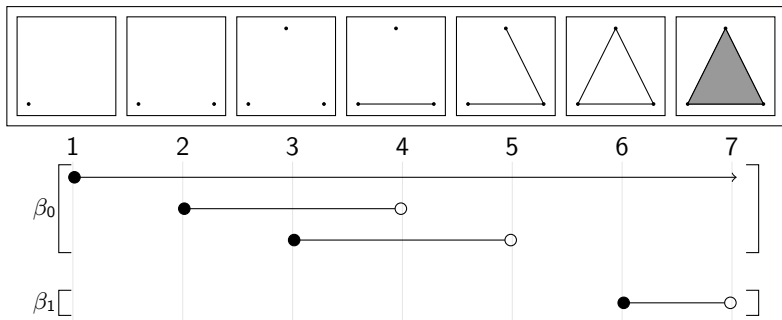
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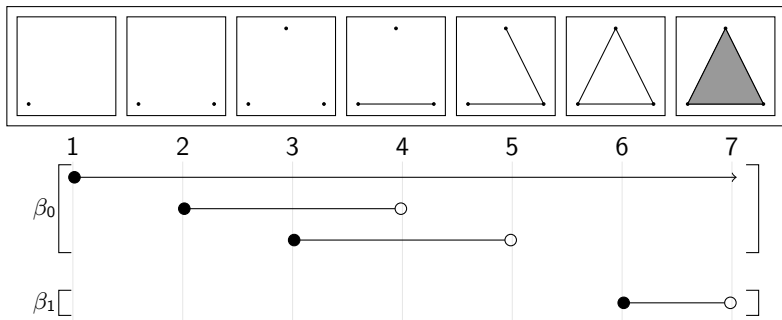
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Roughly speaking:

- Homology detects topological features (connected components, holes, and so on).
- Persistent homology describes the evolution of topological features looking at the different steps of the filtration.

# Programs computing persistent homology

- The groups  $H_n^{i,j}$  can also be expressed in terms of the subgroups involved in the spectral sequence:

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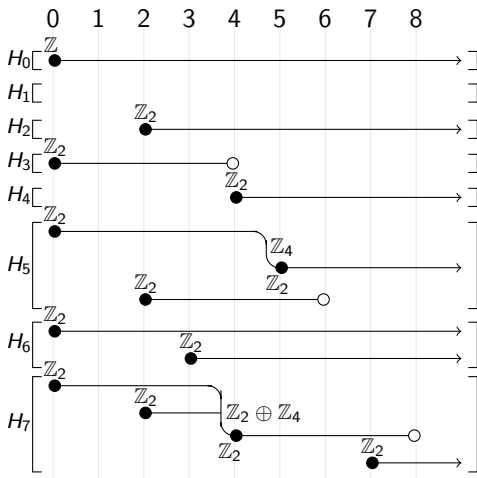
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- Our programs are also valid in the integer case and this makes it possible to solve the possible extension problems.
- They can also be applied in the infinite case, where the effective homology method can be used to determine the groups  $H_n^{i,j}$  by means of an *equivalence* between the initial chain complex  $C_*$  and an auxiliary chain complex of finite type.

# Programs computing persistent homology

New definition of *barcode diagram* for integer persistence, solving extension problems:

# Programs computing persistent homology

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# Multipersistence

Multidimensional filtration of a simplicial complex:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 K_{m1} & \hookrightarrow & K_{m2} & \hookrightarrow & \cdots & \hookrightarrow & K_{mm'} \\
 \uparrow & & \uparrow & & & & \uparrow \\
 \cdots & & \cdots & & & & \cdots \\
 \uparrow & & \uparrow & & & & \uparrow \\
 K_{21} & \hookrightarrow & K_{22} & \hookrightarrow & \cdots & \hookrightarrow & K_{2m'} \\
 \uparrow & & \uparrow & & & & \uparrow \\
 K_{11} & \hookrightarrow & K_{12} & \hookrightarrow & \cdots & \hookrightarrow & K_{1m'}
 \end{array}$$

Multidimensional filtration of a simplicial complex:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 K_{m1} & \hookrightarrow & K_{m2} & \hookrightarrow & \cdots & \hookrightarrow & K_{mm'} \\
 \uparrow & & \uparrow & & & & \uparrow \\
 \cdots & & \cdots & & & & \cdots \\
 \uparrow & & \uparrow & & & & \uparrow \\
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 \end{array}$$

Multipersistance groups:

$$H_n^{P,Q} := \text{Im}(f_n^{P,Q} : H_n(K_P) \rightarrow H_n(K_Q)), \quad P, Q \in \mathbb{Z}^2, P \preceq Q.$$



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# Programs computing generalized spectral sequences

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Thank you!