

## Contents

35 Cohomology	1
36 Cup products	9
37 Cohomology of cyclic groups	13

### 35 Cohomology

Suppose that  $C \in Ch_+$  is an ordinary chain complex, and that  $A$  is an abelian group.

There is a *cochain complex*  $\hom(C, A)$  with

$$\hom(C, A)^n = \hom(C_n, A)$$

and *coboundary*

$$\delta : \hom(C_n, A) \rightarrow \hom(C_{n+1}, A)$$

defined by precomposition with  $\partial : C_{n+1} \rightarrow C_n$ .

Generally, a **cochain complex** is an unbounded complex which is concentrated in negative degrees.  
See Section 1.

We use classical notation for  $\hom(C, A)$ : the corresponding complex in negative degrees is specified by

$$\hom(C, A)_{-n} = \hom(C_n, A).$$

The **cohomology group**  $H^n \text{hom}(C, A)$  is specified by

$$H^n \text{hom}(C, A) := \frac{\ker(\delta : \text{hom}(C_n, A) \rightarrow \text{hom}(C_{n+1}, A))}{\text{im}(\delta : \text{hom}(C_{n-1}, A) \rightarrow \text{hom}(C_n, A))}.$$

This group coincides with the group  $H_{-n} \text{hom}(C, A)$  for the complex in negative degrees.

**Exercise:** Show that there is a natural isomorphism

$$H^n \text{hom}(C, A) \cong \pi(C, A(n))$$

where  $A(n)$  is the chain complex consisting of the group  $A$  concentrated in degree  $n$ , and  $\pi(C, A(n))$  is chain homotopy classes of maps.

**Example:** If  $X$  is a space, then the cohomology group  $H^n(X, A)$  is defined by

$$H^n(X, A) = H^n \text{hom}(\mathbb{Z}(X), A) \cong \pi(\mathbb{Z}(X), A(n)),$$

where  $\mathbb{Z}(X)$  is the Moore complex for the free simplicial abelian group  $\mathbb{Z}(X)$  on  $X$ .

Here is why the classical definition of  $H^n(X, A)$  is not silly: all ordinary chain complexes are fibrant, and the Moore complex  $\mathbb{Z}(X)$  is free in each degree, hence cofibrant, and so there is an isomorphism

$$\pi(\mathbb{Z}(X), A(n)) \cong [\mathbb{Z}(X), A(n)],$$

where the square brackets determine morphisms in the homotopy category for the standard model structure on  $Ch_+$  (Theorem 3.1).

The normalized chain complex  $N\mathbb{Z}(X)$  is naturally weakly equivalent to the Moore complex  $\mathbb{Z}(X)$ , and there are natural isomorphisms

$$\begin{aligned} [\mathbb{Z}(X), A(n)] &\cong [N\mathbb{Z}(X), A(n)] \\ &\cong [\mathbb{Z}(X), K(A, n)] \text{ (Dold-Kan correspondence)} \\ &\cong [X, K(A, n)] \text{ (Quillen adjunction)} \end{aligned}$$

Here,  $[X, K(A, n)]$  is morphisms in the homotopy category for simplicial sets. We have proved the following:

**Theorem 35.1.** *There is a natural isomorphism*

$$H^n(X, A) \cong [X, K(A, n)]$$

*for all simplicial sets  $X$  and abelian groups  $A$ .*

In other words,  $H^n(X, A)$  is representable by the Eilenberg-Mac Lane space  $K(A, n)$  in the homotopy category.

Suppose that  $C$  is a chain complex and  $A$  is an abelian group. Define the **cohomology groups** (or hypercohomology groups)  $H^n(C, A)$  of  $C$  with coefficients in  $A$  by

$$H^n(C, A) = [C, A(n)].$$

This is the derived functor definition of cohomology.

**Example:** Suppose that  $A$  and  $B$  are abelian groups. We compute the groups  $H^n(A(0), B) = [A(0), B(n)]$ . This is done by replacing  $A(0)$  by a cofibrant model. There is a short exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow F_1 \rightarrow F_0 \rightarrow A \rightarrow 0$$

with  $F_i$  free abelian. The chain complex  $F_*$  given by

$$\cdots \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow F_1 \rightarrow F_0$$

is cofibrant, and the chain map  $F_* \rightarrow A(0)$  is a weak equivalence, hence a cofibrant replacement for the complex  $A(0)$ .

It follows that there are isomorphisms

$$[A(0), B(n)] \cong [F_*, B(n)] \cong \pi(F_*, B(n)) = H^n \text{hom}(F_*, A),$$

and there is an exact sequence

$$\begin{aligned} 0 \rightarrow H^0 \text{hom}(F_*, B) &\rightarrow \text{hom}(F_0, B) \rightarrow \text{hom}(F_1, B) \\ &\rightarrow H^1 \text{hom}(F_*, B) \rightarrow 0. \end{aligned}$$

It follows that

$$[A(0), B(n)] = H^n \text{hom}(F_*, B) = \begin{cases} \text{hom}(A, B) & \text{if } n = 0, \\ \text{Ext}^1(A, B) & \text{if } n = 1, \\ 0 & \text{if } n > 1. \end{cases}$$

Similarly, there are isomorphisms

$$[A(p), B(n)] = \begin{cases} \hom(A, B) & \text{if } n = p, \\ \mathrm{Ext}^1(A, B) & \text{if } n = p + 1, \\ 0 & \text{if } n > p + 1 \text{ or } n < p. \end{cases}$$

Most generally, for ordinary chain complexes, we have the following:

**Theorem 35.2.** *Suppose that  $C$  is a chain complex, and  $B$  is an abelian group.*

*There is a short exact sequence*

$$0 \rightarrow \mathrm{Ext}^1(H_{n-1}(C), B) \rightarrow H^n(C, B) \xrightarrow{p} \hom(H_n(C), B) \rightarrow 0. \quad (1)$$

*The map  $p$  is natural in  $C$  and  $B$ . This sequence is split, with a non-natural splitting.*

Theorem 35.2 is the **universal coefficients theorem** for cohomology.

*Proof.* Let  $Z_p = \ker(\partial : C_p \rightarrow C_{p-1})$ . Pick a surjective homomorphism,  $F_0^p \rightarrow Z_p$  with  $F_0^p$  free, and  $F_1^p$  be the kernel of the (surjective) composite

$$F_0^p \rightarrow Z_p \rightarrow H_p(C).$$

Then  $F_1^p$  is free, and there is a map  $F_1^p \rightarrow C_{p+1}$

such that the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} F_1^p & \longrightarrow & C_{p+1} \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \partial \\ F_0^p & \longrightarrow & Z_p \longrightarrow C_p \end{array}$$

commutes. Write  $\phi_p$  for the resulting chain map  $F_*^p[-p] \rightarrow C$ . Then the sum

$$\phi : \bigoplus_{p \geq 0} F_*^p[-p] \rightarrow C$$

( $\phi_n$  on the  $n^{th}$  summand) is a cofibrant replacement for the complex  $C$ .

At the same time, we have cofibrant resolutions  $F_*^p[-p] \rightarrow H_p(C)(p)$ , for  $p \geq 0$ .

It follows that there are isomorphisms

$$\begin{aligned} [C, B(n)] &\cong [\bigoplus_{p \geq 0} H_p(C)(p), B(n)] \\ &\cong \prod_{p \geq 0} [H_p(C)(p), B(n)] \\ &\cong \hom(H_n(C), B) \oplus \mathrm{Ext}^1(H_{n-1}(C), B). \end{aligned}$$

The induced map  $p : [C, B(n)] \rightarrow \hom(H_p(C), B)$  is defined by restricting a chain map  $F \rightarrow B(n)$  to the group homomorphism  $Z_n(F) \subset F_n \rightarrow B$ , where  $F \rightarrow C$  is a cofibrant model of  $C$ .  $\square$

Recall that there are various models for the space  $K(A, n)$  in simplicial abelian groups. These include the object  $\Gamma A(n)$  arising from the Dold-Kan correspondence, and the space

$$A \otimes S^n \cong A \otimes (S^1)^{\otimes n}$$

where

$$S^n = (S^1)^{\wedge n} = S^1 \wedge \cdots \wedge S^1 \quad (n \text{ smash factors}).$$

In general, if  $K$  is a pointed simplicial set and  $A$  is a simplicial abelian group, we write

$$A \otimes K = A \otimes \tilde{\mathbb{Z}}(K),$$

where  $\tilde{\mathbb{Z}}(K)$  is the reduced Moore complex for  $K$ .

Suppose given a short exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow A \xrightarrow{i} B \xrightarrow{p} C \rightarrow 0 \tag{2}$$

of simplicial abelian groups.

The diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A & \longrightarrow & A \otimes \Delta_*^1 \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow 0 \\ B & \xrightarrow{p} & C \end{array}$$

is homotopy cocartesian, so there is a natural map  $\delta : C \rightarrow A \otimes S^1$  in the homotopy category. Pro-

ceeding inductively gives the **Puppe sequence**

$$0 \rightarrow A \xrightarrow{i} B \xrightarrow{p} C \xrightarrow{\delta} A \otimes S^1 \xrightarrow{i \otimes 1} B \otimes S^1 \xrightarrow{p \otimes 1} \dots \quad (3)$$

and a long exact sequence

$$[E, A] \rightarrow [E, B] \rightarrow [E, C] \xrightarrow{\delta} [E, A \otimes S^1] \rightarrow [E, B \otimes S^1] \rightarrow \dots$$

or equivalently

$$H^0(E, A) \rightarrow H^0(E, B) \rightarrow H^0(E, C) \xrightarrow{\delta} H^1(E, A) \rightarrow H^1(E, B) \rightarrow \dots \quad (4)$$

in cohomology, for arbitrary simplicial abelian groups (or chain complexes)  $E$ .

The morphisms  $\delta$  in the long exact sequence (4) are called **boundary** maps.

Specializing to  $E = \mathbb{Z}(X)$  for a space  $X$  and a short exact sequence of groups (2) gives the standard long exact sequence

$$H^0(X, A) \rightarrow H^0(X, B) \rightarrow H^0(X, C) \xrightarrow{\delta} H^1(X, A) \rightarrow H^1(X, B) \rightarrow \dots \quad (5)$$

in cohomology for the space  $X$ .

There are other ways of constructing the long exact sequence (5) — exercise.

### 36 Cup products

**Lemma 36.1.** *The twist automorphism*

$$\tau : S^1 \wedge S^1 \xrightarrow{\cong} S^1 \wedge S^1, \quad x \wedge y \mapsto y \wedge x.$$

*induces*

$$\tau_* = \times(-1) : H_2(S^1 \wedge S^1, \mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow H_2(S^1 \wedge S^1, \mathbb{Z}).$$

*Proof.* There are two non-degenerate 2-simplices  $\sigma_1, \sigma_2$  in  $S^1 \wedge S^1$  and a single non-degenerate 1-simplex  $\gamma = d_1\sigma_1 = d_1\sigma_2$ .

It follows that the normalized chain complex  $N\mathbb{Z}(S^1 \wedge S^1)$  has the form

$$\cdots \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow \mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z} \xrightarrow{\nabla} \mathbb{Z} \xrightarrow{0} \mathbb{Z}$$

where  $\nabla(m, n) = m + n$ . Thus,  $H_2(S^1 \wedge S^1, \mathbb{Z}) \cong \mathbb{Z}$ , generated by  $\sigma_1 - \sigma_2$ .

The twist  $\tau$  satisfies  $\tau(\sigma_1) = \sigma_2$  and fixes their common face  $\gamma$ .

Thus,  $\tau_*(\sigma_1 - \sigma_2) = \sigma_2 - \sigma_1$ . □

**Corollary 36.2.** *Suppose that  $\sigma \in \Sigma_n$  acts on  $(S^1)^{\wedge n}$  by shuffling smash factors.*

*Then the induced automorphism*

$$\sigma_* : H_n((S^1)^{\wedge n}, \mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow H_n((S^1)^{\wedge n}, \mathbb{Z}) \cong \mathbb{Z}$$

*is multiplication by the sign of  $\sigma$ .*

Explicitly, the action of  $\sigma$  on  $(S^1)^{\wedge n}$  is specified by

$$\sigma(x_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge x_n) = x_{\sigma(1)} \wedge \cdots \wedge x_{\sigma(n)}.$$

Suppose that  $A$  and  $B$  are abelian groups. There are natural isomorphisms of simplicial abelian groups

$$K(A, n) \otimes K(B, m) \xrightarrow{\cong} A \otimes B \otimes (S^1)^{\otimes(n+m)} = K(A \otimes B, n+m)$$

where the displayed isomorphism

$$(S^1)^{\otimes n} \otimes A \otimes (S^1)^{\otimes m} \otimes B \xrightarrow{\cong} (S^1)^{\otimes n} \otimes (S^1)^{\otimes m} \otimes A \otimes B$$

is defined by permuting the middle tensor factors.

Suppose that  $X$  and  $Y$  are simplicial sets, and suppose that  $f : X \rightarrow K(A, n)$  and  $g : Y \rightarrow K(B, m)$  are simplicial set maps.

There is a natural map

$$X \times Y \xrightarrow{\eta} \mathbb{Z}(X) \otimes \mathbb{Z}(Y),$$

which is defined by  $(x, y) \mapsto x \otimes y$ .

The composite

$$X \times Y \xrightarrow{\eta} \mathbb{Z}(X) \otimes \mathbb{Z}(Y) \xrightarrow{f_* \otimes g_*} K(A, n) \otimes K(B, m) \cong K(A \otimes B, n+m)$$

represents an element of  $H^{n+m}(X \times Y, A \otimes B)$ .

**Warning:** The displayed isomorphism has the form

$$\begin{aligned} a \otimes (x_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge x_n) \otimes b \otimes (y_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge y_m) \\ \mapsto a \otimes b \otimes (x_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge x_n \wedge y_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge y_m). \end{aligned}$$

Do **not** shuffle smash factors.

We have defined a pairing

$$\cup : H^n(X, A) \otimes H^m(Y, B) \rightarrow H^{n+m}(X \times Y, A \otimes B),$$

called the **external cup product**.

If  $R$  is a unitary ring, then the ring multiplication  $m : R \otimes R \rightarrow R$  and the diagonal  $\Delta : X \rightarrow X \times X$  together induce a composite

$$H^n(X, R) \otimes H^m(X, R) \xrightarrow{\cup} H^{n+m}(X \times X, R \otimes R) \xrightarrow{\Delta^* \cdot m_*} H^{n+m}(X, R)$$

which is the cup product

$$\cup : H^n(X, R) \otimes H^m(X, R) \rightarrow H^{n+m}(X, R)$$

for  $H^*(X, R)$ .

**Exercise:** Show that the cup product gives the cohomology  $H^*(X, R)$  the structure of a graded commutative ring with identity. This ring structure is natural in spaces  $X$  and rings  $R$ .

The graded commutativity follows from Corollary 36.2.

Suppose that we have a short exact sequence of simplicial abelian groups

$$0 \rightarrow A \rightarrow B \rightarrow C \rightarrow 0$$

and that  $D$  is a flat simplicial abelian group in the sense that the functor  $? \otimes D$  is exact. The sequence

$$\begin{aligned} 0 \rightarrow A \otimes D &\xrightarrow{i \otimes 1} B \otimes D \xrightarrow{p \otimes 1} C \otimes D \xrightarrow{\delta \otimes 1} A \otimes S^1 \otimes D \\ &\xrightarrow{i \otimes 1} B \otimes S^1 \otimes D \xrightarrow{p \otimes 1} \dots \end{aligned}$$

is equivalent to the Puppe sequence for the short exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow A \otimes D \rightarrow B \otimes D \rightarrow C \otimes D \rightarrow 0$$

It follows that there is a commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} [E, C] \otimes [F, D] & \xrightarrow{\cup} & [E \otimes F, C \otimes D] \\ \delta \otimes 1 \downarrow & & \downarrow \delta \\ [E, A \otimes S^1] \otimes [F, D] & \xrightarrow{\cup} & [E \otimes F, A \otimes D \otimes S^1] \end{array}$$

In particular, if  $0 \rightarrow A \rightarrow B \rightarrow C \rightarrow 0$  is a short exact sequence of  $R$ -modules and  $X$  is a space, then there is a commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} H^p(X, C) \otimes H^q(X, R) & \xrightarrow{\cup} & H^{p+q}(X, C) \\ \delta \otimes 1 \downarrow & & \downarrow \delta \\ H^{p+1}(X, A) \otimes H^q(X, R) & \xrightarrow{\cup} & H^{p+q+1}(X, A) \end{array} \quad (6)$$

It is an exercise to show that the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} H^q(X, R) \otimes H^p(X, C) & \xrightarrow{\cup} & H^{q+p}(X, C) \\ 1 \otimes \delta \downarrow & & \downarrow (-1)^q \delta \\ H^q(X, R) \otimes H^{p+1}(X, A) & \xrightarrow{\cup} & H^{q+p+1}(X, A) \end{array} \quad (7)$$

commutes.

The diagrams (6) and (7) are cup product formulas for the boundary homomorphism.

### 37 Cohomology of cyclic groups

Suppose that  $\ell$  is a prime  $\neq 2$ . What follows is directly applicable to cyclic groups of  $\ell$ -primary roots of unity in fields.

We shall sketch the proof of the following:

**Theorem 37.1.** *There is a ring isomorphism*

$$H^*(B\mathbb{Z}/\ell^n, \mathbb{Z}/\ell) \cong \mathbb{Z}/\ell[x] \otimes \Lambda(y)$$

where  $|x| = 2$  and  $|y| = 1$ .

We write  $|z| = n$  for  $z \in H^n(X, A)$ .  $|z|$  is the **degree** of  $z$ .

In the statement of Theorem 37.1,  $x \in H^2(B\mathbb{Z}/\ell^n, \mathbb{Z}/\ell)$  and  $y \in H^1(B\mathbb{Z}/\ell^n, \mathbb{Z}/\ell)$ .

$\mathbb{Z}/\ell[x]$  is a graded polynomial ring with generator  $x$  in degree 2, and  $\Lambda(y)$  is an exterior algebra with generator  $y$  in degree 1.

**Fact:** If  $z \in H^{2k+1}(X, \mathbb{Z}/\ell)$  and  $\ell \neq 2$ , then

$$z \cdot z = (-1)^{(2k+1)(2k+1)} z \cdot z = (-1)z \cdot z,$$

so that  $2(z \cdot z) = 0$ , and  $z \cdot z = 0$ .

We know, from the Example at the end of Section 25, that there are isomorphisms

$$H_p(B\mathbb{Z}/\ell^n, \mathbb{Z}) = \begin{cases} \mathbb{Z} & \text{if } p = 0, \\ \mathbb{Z}/\ell^n & \text{if } p = 2k + 1, k \geq 0, \\ 0 & \text{if } p = 2k, k > 0. \end{cases}$$

It follows (exercise) that there are isomorphisms

$$H_p(B\mathbb{Z}/\ell^n, \mathbb{Z}/\ell) \cong \mathbb{Z}/\ell, \quad \text{for } p \geq 0.$$

There is an isomorphism

$$H^p(B\mathbb{Z}/\ell^n, \mathbb{Z}/\ell) \cong \text{hom}(H_p(B\mathbb{Z}/\ell^n, \mathbb{Z}/\ell), \mathbb{Z}/\ell) \cong \mathbb{Z}/\ell$$

for  $p \geq 0$  (Theorem 35.2).

1)  $x \in H^2(B\mathbb{Z}/\ell^n, \mathbb{Z}/\ell)$  is dual to the generator of the  $\ell$ -torsion subgroup of

$$\mathbb{Z}/\ell^n = H_1(B\mathbb{Z}/\ell^n, \mathbb{Z}).$$

2)  $y \in H^1(B\mathbb{Z}/\ell^n, \mathbb{Z}/\ell)$  is dual to the generator of

$$\mathbb{Z}/\ell \cong \mathbb{Z}/\ell^n \otimes \mathbb{Z}/\ell = H_1(B\mathbb{Z}/\ell^n, \mathbb{Z}/\ell).$$

Here's an integral coefficients calculation:

**Theorem 37.2.** *There is a ring isomorphism*

$$H^*(B\mathbb{Z}/\ell^n, \mathbb{Z}) \cong \mathbb{Z}[x]/(\ell^n \cdot x)$$

where  $|x| = 2$ .

This result appears in a book of Snaith, [1]. The argument uses explicit cocycles, with the Alexander-Whitney map ((7) of Section 26).

We can verify the underlying additive statement, namely that

$$H^p(B\mathbb{Z}/\ell^n, \mathbb{Z}) \cong \begin{cases} \mathbb{Z} & \text{if } p = 0, \\ \mathbb{Z}/\ell^n & \text{if } p = 2k, k > 0, \\ 0 & \text{if } p \text{ odd} \end{cases}$$

Apply  $\hom( , \mathbb{Z})$  to the exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \mathbb{Z} \xrightarrow{\ell^n} \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/\ell^n \rightarrow 0$$

to get the exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \hom(\mathbb{Z}/\ell^n, \mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z} \xrightarrow{\ell^n} \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathrm{Ext}^1(\mathbb{Z}/\ell^n, \mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow 0$$

to show that  $\hom(\mathbb{Z}/\ell^n, \mathbb{Z}) = 0$  (we knew this) and  $\mathrm{Ext}^1(\mathbb{Z}/\ell^n, \mathbb{Z}) \cong \mathbb{Z}/\ell^n$ .

Then

$$H^{2k}(B\mathbb{Z}/\ell^n, \mathbb{Z}) \cong \mathrm{Ext}^1(H_{2k-1}(B\mathbb{Z}/\ell^n, \mathbb{Z}), \mathbb{Z}) \cong \mathbb{Z}/\ell^n$$

for  $k > 0$  and

$$H^{2k+1}(B\mathbb{Z}/\ell^n, \mathbb{Z}) \cong \hom(H_{2k+1}(B\mathbb{Z}/\ell^n, \mathbb{Z}), \mathbb{Z}) = 0$$

for  $k \geq 0$ .

*Proof of Theorem 37.1.* The exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \mathbb{Z} \xrightarrow{\times \ell} \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/\ell \rightarrow 0$$

is an exact sequence of  $\mathbb{Z}$ -modules, so that the Puppe sequence

$$0 \rightarrow K(\mathbb{Z}, 0) \xrightarrow{\times \ell} K(\mathbb{Z}, 0) \rightarrow K(\mathbb{Z}/\ell, 0) \xrightarrow{\delta} K(\mathbb{Z}, 1) \xrightarrow{\times \ell} K(\mathbb{Z}, 1) \rightarrow \dots$$

has an action by  $K(\mathbb{Z}, 2)$ .

It follows that there are commutative diagrams

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} H^p(B\mathbb{Z}/\ell^n, \mathbb{Z}) & \xrightarrow{\times \ell} & H^p(B\mathbb{Z}/\ell^n, \mathbb{Z}) & \longrightarrow & H^p(B\mathbb{Z}/\ell^n, \mathbb{Z}/\ell) \\ \cdot x \downarrow \cong & & \cong \downarrow \cdot x & & \downarrow \cdot x \\ H^{p+2}(B\mathbb{Z}/\ell^n, \mathbb{Z}) & \xrightarrow[\times \ell]{} & H^{p+2}(B\mathbb{Z}/\ell^n, \mathbb{Z}) & \longrightarrow & H^{p+2}(B\mathbb{Z}/\ell^n, \mathbb{Z}/\ell) \end{array}$$

and

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} H^p(B\mathbb{Z}/\ell^n, \mathbb{Z}/\ell) & \xrightarrow{\delta} & H^{p+1}(B\mathbb{Z}/\ell^n, \mathbb{Z}) & \xrightarrow{\times \ell} & H^{p+1}(B\mathbb{Z}/\ell^n, \mathbb{Z}) \\ \cdot x \downarrow & & \cdot x \downarrow \cong & & \cong \downarrow \cdot x \\ H^{p+2}(B\mathbb{Z}/\ell^n, \mathbb{Z}/\ell) & \xrightarrow[\delta]{} & H^{p+3}(B\mathbb{Z}/\ell^n, \mathbb{Z}) & \xrightarrow[\times \ell]{} & H^{p+3}(B\mathbb{Z}/\ell^n, \mathbb{Z}) \end{array}$$

for  $p > 0$ .

Thus, the cup product map

$$\cdot x : H^p(B\mathbb{Z}/\ell^n, \mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow H^{p+2}(B\mathbb{Z}/\ell^n, \mathbb{Z}/\ell)$$

is an isomorphism for all  $p$ .

Finally, the map

$$H^2(B\mathbb{Z}/\ell^n, \mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow H^2(B\mathbb{Z}/\ell^n, \mathbb{Z}/\ell)$$

is surjective, so the generator  $x \in H^2(B\mathbb{Z}/\ell^n, \mathbb{Z})$  maps to a generator  $x$  of  $H^2(B\mathbb{Z}/\ell^n, \mathbb{Z}/\ell)$ .

The ring homomorphism

$$\mathbb{Z}/\ell[x] \otimes \Lambda(y) \rightarrow H^*(B\mathbb{Z}/\ell^n, \mathbb{Z}/\ell)$$

defined by  $x \in H^2(B\mathbb{Z}/\ell^n, \mathbb{Z}/\ell)$  and a generator  $y \in H^1(B\mathbb{Z}/\ell^n, \mathbb{Z}/\ell)$  is then an isomorphism of  $\mathbb{Z}/\ell$ -vector spaces in all degrees.  $\square$

## References

- [1] Victor P. Snaith. *Topological methods in Galois representation theory*. Canadian Mathematical Society Series of Monographs and Advanced Texts. John Wiley & Sons Inc., New York, 1989. A Wiley-Interscience Publication.