

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* $\text{hom}(C, A)$ with

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

and *coboundary*

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

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 $\text{hom}(C, A)$: the corresponding complex in negative degrees is specified by

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(ϕ_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

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

The induced map $p : [C, B(n)] \rightarrow \text{hom}(H_p(C), B)$ 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

$$0 \rightarrow A \xrightarrow{i} B \xrightarrow{p} C \rightarrow 0 \quad (2)$$

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 δ 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 σ_1, σ_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 τ satisfies $\tau(\sigma_1) = \sigma_2$ and fixes their common face γ .

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 σ .

Explicitly, the action of σ 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

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

It 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 ℓ is a prime $\neq 2$. What follows is directly applicable to cyclic groups of ℓ -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

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

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 ℓ -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 $\text{hom}(_, \mathbb{Z})$ 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

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

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

Then

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

for $k > 0$ and

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

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}/ℓ -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.