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3.3. LEMMA. Let R be a local ring and F be the associated field. Let $f: C_1 \rightarrow C_0$ be a R -homomorphism of finitely generated free R -modules and let $\bar{f}: F \otimes_R C_1 \rightarrow F \otimes_R C_0$ be the induced F -homomorphism. If $\text{rk } f = \text{rk } \bar{f}$ then with respect to some bases in C_1, C_0 the homomorphism f is presented by the matrix $\begin{bmatrix} E & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ where E is the unit matrix of order $\text{rk } f$.

Proof. Since F is a field we can choose bases d_0, d_1 respectively in $F \otimes_k C_0, F \otimes_K C_1$ so that the matrix of \bar{f} regarding these bases has the form $\begin{bmatrix} E & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$. Let \mathcal{D}_i be a lifting of d_i to $C_i, i = 1, 2$. Here \mathcal{D}_i is a sequence of $\text{rg } C_i$ elements of C_i . In view of Nakayama's lemma \mathcal{D}_i generate C_i . This implies that \mathcal{D}_i generates the $(\text{rg } C_i)$ -dimensional vector space $Q(R) \otimes_R C_i$ over the field $Q(R)$. Therefore, the elements of the sequence \mathcal{D}_i are linearly independent over $Q(R)$ and, hence, over R . Thus \mathcal{D}_i is a basis of C_i for $i = 0, 1$. The matrix of f with respect to bases $\mathcal{D}_0, \mathcal{D}_1$ has the form $\begin{bmatrix} E+U & Z \\ X & Y \end{bmatrix}$ where U, X, Y, Z are matrices over the maximal ideal u of R . Note that $\det(E+U) = 1 \pmod{u}$. Since all elements of $R \setminus U$ are invertible in R the square matrix $E+U$ is invertible over R . Therefore we can choose bases in C_0, C_1 so that the corresponding matrix of f equals $\begin{bmatrix} E & 0 \\ 0 & Y' \end{bmatrix}$. Since $\text{rk } f = \text{rk } \bar{f} = \text{rk } E, Y' = 0$.

3.4. LEMMA. Let R be a local ring and F be the associated field. Let $C = (\dots \rightarrow C_{i+1} \rightarrow C_i \rightarrow \dots)$ be a finitely generated free chain complex over R . Let C' be the chain F -complex $F \otimes_R C$. Let ∂_i, ∂'_i be the boundary homomorphisms $C_{i+1} \rightarrow C_i, C'_{i+1} \rightarrow C'_i$. If $\text{rk}_R H_i(C) = \text{rk}_F H_i(C')$ for some i then: $H_i(C), \text{Im } \partial_{i+1}, \text{Im } \partial_i$ are free R -modules and $C_i = \text{Im } \partial_{i+1} \oplus H_i(C) \oplus \text{Im } \partial_i$; the projection $C \rightarrow C'$ induces F -isomorphisms $F \otimes_R H_i(C) \rightarrow H_i(C')$, $F \otimes_R \text{Im } \partial_j \rightarrow \text{Im } \partial'_j$ with $j = i, i+1$.

This Lemma directly follows from Lemmas 3.2 (ii) and 3.3.

§ 4. PROOF OF THEOREMS 1 AND 2

4.1. PROOF OF THEOREM 1. Denote by Q_n the fraction field of the ring $\Lambda_n = \mathbf{Z}[t_1, t_1^{-1}, \dots, t_n, t_n^{-1}]$. Denote by Q_n^0 the subring of Q_n which consists of rational functions fg^{-1} with $f, g \in \Lambda_n$ and $g \notin (t_n - 1)\Lambda_n$ (so that

$g(t_1, \dots, t_{n-1}, 1) \neq 0$. The homomorphism $f \mapsto f(t_1, \dots, t_{n-1}, 1): \Lambda_n \rightarrow \Lambda_{n-1}$ uniquely extends to a ring homomorphism $Q_n^0 \rightarrow Q_{n-1}$ which is denoted by φ .

Denote by X the exterior of K and by Y the exterior of L .

We shall prove the following two statements.

(4.1.1). $\varphi(\Delta(K)) = \Delta(K)(t_1, \dots, t_{n-1}, 1)$ divides $\Delta(L)$ in Λ_{n-1} .

(4.1.2). There exists a representative ω of the torsion $\omega(X) \subset Q_n$ such that $(t_n - 1)\omega \in Q_n^0$ and $\varphi((t_n - 1)\omega)$ represents $\omega(Y) \subset Q_{n-1}$.

Let us show first that these two statements imply the Theorem. Let ω be the element of Q_n produced by (4.1.2). Put $\pi = \prod_{i=1}^{n-1} (t_i - 1)$. According to the results formulated in Sec. 2.2 the product $(t_n - 1)\pi \cdot \Delta(K)$ represents $\omega(X)$. Thus

$$\omega \doteq \frac{f\bar{f}}{g\bar{g}} (t_n - 1)\pi \Delta(K)$$

where $f, g \in \Lambda_n \setminus 0$. We may assume that $f\bar{f}$ and $g\bar{g}$ are relatively prime. If $t_n - 1$ does not divide g then $\omega \in Q_n^0$ and $\varphi((t_n - 1)\omega) = 0$ which contradicts to the inclusion $\varphi((t_n - 1)\omega) \in \omega(Y)$. Thus $g = (t_n - 1)h$ with $h \in \Lambda_n$. In view of (4.1.1), $\varphi(\Delta(K)) \neq 0$, i.e. $t_n - 1$ does not divide $\Delta(K)$. If $\varphi(h) = 0$ then $(t_n - 1)^2$ divides g which obviously contradicts the inclusion $(t_n - 1)\omega \in Q_n^0$. Thus $\varphi(h) \neq 0$. We have

$$h\bar{h}(t_n - 1)\omega \doteq f\bar{f} \pi \Delta(K).$$

Since $\varphi(h\bar{h}(t_n - 1)\omega) \neq 0$ we have $\varphi(f) \neq 0$. This implies that $\pi \cdot \varphi(\Delta(K)) \doteq q\bar{q} \varphi((t_n - 1)\omega)$ where $q = \varphi(h)/\varphi(f)$. Thus $\pi\varphi(\Delta(K))$ represents $\omega(Y)$. Since $\pi\Delta(L) \in \omega(Y)$ we have

$$\varphi(\Delta(K))\lambda\bar{\lambda} = \Delta(L)\mu\bar{\mu}$$

with non-zero $\lambda, \mu \in \Lambda_{n-1}$. We may assume that $\lambda\bar{\lambda}$ and $\mu\bar{\mu}$ are relatively prime. Since $\varphi(\Delta(K))$ divides $\Delta(L)$ we immediately obtain $\mu\bar{\mu} = 1$. Thus, $\Delta(L) = \varphi(\Delta(K))\lambda\bar{\lambda}$.

Let us prove (4.1.1) and (4.1.2). We may assume that $X \subset Y$ and that $Y \setminus X$ is the interior of the regular neighborhood $U \subset Y$ of the n -th component of K in Y . Let $p: \tilde{X} \rightarrow X$ and $q: \tilde{Y} \rightarrow Y$ be the maximal abelian coverings with the groups of covering transformations respectively $H_1(X) \approx \mathbf{Z}^n$ (generators t_1, \dots, t_n) and $H_1(Y) \approx \mathbf{Z}^{n-1}$ (generators t_1, \dots, t_{n-1}). It is clear that p is the composition of an infinite cyclic covering $\tilde{X} \rightarrow q^{-1}(X)$ and the covering $q: q^{-1}(X) \rightarrow X$.

Fix a C^1 -triangulation of Y so that X and U are simplicial subcomplexes of Y . Fix also the induced equivariant triangulations in \tilde{X} and \tilde{Y} .

The ring Λ_{n-1} determines via the natural homomorphism $\mathbf{Z}[\pi_1(Y)] \rightarrow \mathbf{Z}[H_1 Y] = \Lambda_{n-1}$ a system of local coefficients on Y which we denote by the same symbol Λ_{n-1} . According to definitions, for any simplicial subsets $A \supset B$ of Y the Λ_{n-1} -module $H_*(A, B; \Lambda_{n-1})$ equals $H_*(C(q^{-1}(A), q^{-1}(B); \mathbf{Z}))$. Here the simplicial chain complex $C_*(q^{-1}(A), q^{-1}(B); \mathbf{Z})$ is a finitely generated free Λ_{n-1} -complex. Analogously Λ_n defines a system of local coefficients on X and for simplicial subsets $A \supset B$ of X the Λ_n -module $H_*(A, B; \Lambda_n)$ equals $H_*(C(p^{-1}(A), p^{-1}(B); \mathbf{Z}))$. Note that

$$\Lambda_{n-1} \otimes_{\Lambda_n} C_*(p^{-1}(A), p^{-1}(B); \mathbf{Z}) = C_*(q^{-1}(A), q^{-1}(B); \mathbf{Z})$$

where Λ_n acts on Λ_{n-1} via φ .

Claim 1. For $i \neq 1, m-1$,

$$\text{rk}_{\Lambda_n} H_i(X; \Lambda_n) = \text{rk}_{\Lambda_{n-1}} H_i(X; \Lambda_{n-1}) = \text{rk}_{\Lambda_{n-1}} H_i(Y; \Lambda_{n-1}) = 0.$$

For $i = 1, m-1$,

$$\text{rk}_{\Lambda_n} H_i(X; \Lambda_n) = \text{rk}_{\Lambda_{n-1}} H_i(X; \Lambda_{n-1}) = n-1; \text{rk}_{\Lambda_{n-1}} H_i(Y; \Lambda_{n-1}) = n-2.$$

Proof of Claim 1. We shall compute the rank of $H_i(X; \Lambda_n)$; modules $H_i(X; \Lambda_{n-1})$ and $H_i(Y; \Lambda_{n-1})$ can be treated similarly.

Denote by V a wedge of n circles in X such that the inclusion homomorphism $H_1(V; \mathbf{Z}) \rightarrow H_1(X; \mathbf{Z}) = \mathbf{Z}^n$ is bijective. Then $H_i(X, V; \mathbf{Z}) = 0$ for $i \leq m-2$. Therefore an application of Lemma 3.2(i) to complexes $C_*(\tilde{X}, p^{-1}(V); \mathbf{Z})$ and $C_*(X, V; \mathbf{Z})$ gives that $\text{rk}_{\Lambda_n} H_i(X, V; \Lambda_n) = 0$ for $i \leq m-2$. This implies that $\text{rk} H_i(X; \Lambda_n) = \text{rk} H_i(V; \Lambda_n)$ for $i \leq m-3$ and that $\text{rk} H_{m-2}(X; \Lambda_n) \leq \text{rk} H_{m-2}(V; \Lambda_n)$. The rank of $H_i(V; \Lambda_n)$ can be computed directly: It is equal to 0 if $i \neq 1$ and to $n-1$ if $i = 1$. Thus the rank of $H_i(X; \Lambda_n)$ equals 0 if $i \neq 1, m-1$ and equals $n-1$ if $i = 1$. The equality $\text{rk} H_{m-1}(X; \Lambda_n) = n-1$ follows from duality or from the equalities

$$\sum_{i=0}^m (-1)^i \text{rk} H_i(X; \Lambda_n) = \chi(X) = 0.$$

Claim 2. The exact homology sequence of (Y, X) with coefficients in Λ_{n-1} splits into short exact sequences

$$\begin{aligned}
0 &\rightarrow H_m(Y, X; \Lambda_{n-1}) \rightarrow H_{m-1}(X; \Lambda_{n-1}) \rightarrow H_{m-1}(Y; \Lambda_{n-1}) \rightarrow 0, \\
0 &\rightarrow H_i(X; \Lambda_{n-1}) \xrightarrow{\cong} H_i(Y; \Lambda_{n-1}) \rightarrow 0, \quad (i \neq 1, m-1) \\
0 &\rightarrow H_2(Y, X; \Lambda_{n-1}) \xrightarrow{\partial_1} H_1(X; \Lambda_{n-1}) \rightarrow H_1(Y; \Lambda_{n-1}) \rightarrow 0.
\end{aligned}$$

Proof of Claim 2. Clearly, $H_i(Y, X; \Lambda_{n-1}) = H_i(U, \partial U; \Lambda_{n-1}) = 0$ for $i \neq 2, m$. Therefore the only thing to prove is the injectivity of ∂_1 . According to Claim 1 $\text{rk } H_1(X; \Lambda_{n-1}) = n-1$ and $\text{rk } H_1(Y; \Lambda_{n-1}) = n-2$. Since $H_2(Y, X; \Lambda_{n-1}) = \Lambda_{n-1}$ we see that ∂_1 is injective.

Proof of (4.1.1). In view of the equalities $\text{rg } H_i(X; \Lambda_n) = \text{rg } H_i(X; \Lambda_{n-1})$, $i = 0, 1, \dots$ we may apply Lemma 3.2 (iii) to the chain complexes $C_*(\tilde{X}; \mathbf{Z})$ and $C_*(q^{-1}(X); \mathbf{Z})$ respectively over Λ_n and Λ_{n-1} . Since $m-1 > r > 1$ Claims 1, 2 show that $H_r(X; \Lambda_n)$ and $H_r(X; \Lambda_{n-1})$ are torsion modules respectively over Λ_n and Λ_{n-1} and $H_r(X, \Lambda_{n-1}) = H_r(Y; \Lambda_{n-1})$. By definition $\Delta(K) = \text{ord } H_r(X; \Lambda_n)$ and $\Delta(L) = \text{ord } H_r(Y; \Lambda_{n-1}) = \text{ord } H_r(X; \Lambda_{n-1})$. Lemma 3.2 (iii) directly implies that $\varphi(\Delta(K))$ divides $\Delta(L)$.

It remains to prove Statement (4.1.2) which is, of course, the core of Theorem 1. For simplicial subsets $A \supset B$ of Y we shall denote by $C(A, B)$ the (simplicial) chain Q_{n-1} -complex $Q_{n-1} \otimes_{\Lambda_{n-1}} C_*(q^{-1}(A), q^{-1}(B); \mathbf{Z})$. Clearly

$$H_i(A, B; Q_{n-1}) = H_i(C(A, B)) = Q_{n-1} \otimes_{\Lambda_{n-1}} H_i(A, B; \Lambda_{n-1}).$$

Consider the short exact sequence of chain Q_{n-1} -complexes

$$(5) \quad 0 \rightarrow C(X) \rightarrow C(Y) \rightarrow C(Y, X) \rightarrow 0.$$

Provide the homology modules of complexes $C(X)$, $C(Y)$, $C(Y, X)$ with bases as follows. It is evident that $H_i(C(Y, X)) = 0$ for $i \neq 2, m$ and

$$H_i(C(Y, X)) = H_i(C(U, \partial U)) = H_i(U, \partial U; Q_{n-1}) = Q_{n-1}$$

for $i = 2, m$. Fix a lifting $\tilde{U} \subset \tilde{Y}$ of $U \approx S^{m-2} \times D^2$. Fix in $H_m(C(Y, X))$ the generator $[\tilde{U}, \partial \tilde{U}]$. Fix in $H_2(C(Y, X))$ the generator $[\Delta, \partial \Delta]$ where Δ is the meridional disk of \tilde{U} .

It follows from Claim 1 that $H_i(C(X)) = H_i(C(Y)) = 0$ for $i \neq 1, m-1$. Fix an arbitrary basis f in the $(n-2)$ -dimensional vector Q_{n-1} -space $H_1(Y; Q_{n-1})$. Fix the dual basis g in $H_{m-1}(Y; Q_{n-1})$. It follows from Claim 2 that inclusion homomorphisms $H_i(C(X)) \rightarrow H_i(C(Y))$ are surjective for all i . Let F and G be sequences of $n-2$ vectors in $H_1(C(X))$ and in $H_{m-1}(C(X))$ whose images under these inclusion homomorphisms are equal respectively to f and g . Claim 2 implies that $[\partial \tilde{U}]$, G is a basis in $H_{m-1}(C(X))$ and

$[\partial\Delta]$, F is a basis in $H_1(C(X))$. Now all homology modules of complexes $C(X)$, $C(Y)$, $C(Y, X)$ are provided with bases.

Provide the modules of $C(X)$, $C(Y)$, $C(Y, X)$ with natural bases (see Sec. 2.2). We may choose these bases to be compatible in the sense of Lemma 2.1.1. According to this Lemma

$$\tau(C(Y)) = \pm \tau(C(X))\tau(C(Y, X))\tau(\mathcal{H})$$

where \mathcal{H} is the homology sequence associated with the exact sequence (5). It is evident that $\tau(\mathcal{H}) = \pm 1$. It is easy to verify that $\tau(C(Y, X)) = \tau(C(U, \partial U)) = \pm 1$. (Indeed, the pair $(U, \partial U)$ has a cell structure such that $\text{Int } U$ contains 2 open cells; the meridional disc and its complement; for such cell structure the equality $\tau(C(U, \partial U)) = \pm 1$ is evident. The case of an arbitrary cell structure (or triangulation) follows from the invariance of torsion under cell subdivision). Thus $\tau(C(Y)) = \pm \tau(C(X))$. Note that $\tau(C(Y))$ represents $\omega(Y)$. Therefore $\tau(C(X))$ also represents $\omega(Y)$.

Consider the chain complex

$$C = Q_n^0 \otimes_{\Lambda_n} C_*(\tilde{X}; \mathbf{Z}).$$

Note that Q_n^0 is a local ring with the maximal ideal $(t_n - 1)Q_n^0$ and associated field Q_{n-1} . Clearly, $Q_{n-1} \otimes_{Q_n^0} C = C(X)$. The natural bases in chain modules of $C(X)$ lift to natural bases in chain modules of C . Claim 1 implies that for all $i \geq 0$

$$\text{rk}_{Q_n^0} H_i(C) = \text{rk}_{\Lambda_n} H_i(X; \Lambda_n) = \text{rk}_{Q_{n-1}} H_i(C(X)).$$

Therefore we may apply Lemma 3.4 to complexes C , $C(X)$. This lemma shows that: $H_i(C) = H_i(C(X)) = 0$ for $i \neq 1, m - 1$; the basis $[\partial\Delta]$, F in $H_1(C(X))$ lifts to a basis, say, f_0, f_1, \dots, f_{n-2} in $H_1(C)$; the basis $[\partial\tilde{U}]$, G in $H_{m-1}(C(X))$ lifts to a basis, say, g_0, g_1, \dots, g_{n-2} in $H_{m-1}(C)$; the submodules of cycles and boundaries of C are free in all dimensions. Thus we may apply the constructions of Sec. 2.1 to C which gives rise to a torsion $\tau(C) \in Q_n^0$. It follows directly from the formula (3) that $\varphi(\tau(C)) = \tau(C(X))$. Thus $\varphi(\tau(C))$ represents $\omega(Y)$.

Let v be the matrix of the semi-linear intersection pairing

$$\langle \ , \ \rangle : H_1(X; Q_n^0) \times H_{m-1}(X; Q_n^0) \rightarrow Q_n^0$$

with respect to bases f_0, f_1, \dots, f_{n-2} and g_0, g_1, \dots, g_{n-2} . (Here $H_i(X; Q_n^0) = H_i(C)$). It is clear that $\tau(C) (\det v)^{-1}$ represents $\omega(X)$. Put $\omega = \tau(C) (\det v)^{-1}$. We shall prove that

$$(6) \quad \det v = \pm (t_n - 1) + (t_n - 1)^2 a$$

where $a \in Q_n^0$. Then $(t_n - 1)\omega \in Q_n^0$ and

$$\phi((t_n - 1)\omega) = \phi(\tau(C)[\pm 1 + (t_n - 1)a]^{-1}) = \pm \phi(\tau(C)) \in \omega(Y).$$

This would complete the proof of (4.1.2).

It is obvious that

$$v = \begin{bmatrix} \langle f_0, g_0 \rangle & (t_n - 1)\alpha \\ (t_n - 1)\beta & E + (t_n - 1)\gamma \end{bmatrix}$$

where α, β, γ are respectively a $(n-2)$ -row, $(n-2)$ -column and $(n-2) \times (n-2)$ -matrix over Q_n^0 . It turns out that

$$(7) \quad \langle f_0, g_0 \rangle = \pm (t_n - 1) + (t_n - 1)^2 b$$

with $b \in Q_n^0$. This immediately implies (6).

I shall prove (7) for a special choice of f_0 which is sufficient for our aims. Let $\theta: [0, 1] \rightarrow \partial \tilde{X}$ be a path whose projection to \tilde{Y} is a loop parametrizing $\partial \Delta \subset \partial \tilde{U}$. Let $\eta: [0, 1] \rightarrow \tilde{X}$ be a path such that $\eta(0) = \theta(0)$ and $\eta(1) = t_1 \cdot \theta(0)$. Consider the singular chain $\vartheta = \theta - t_1 \theta + t_n \eta - \eta$. It is easy to check up that ϑ is a cycle in \tilde{X} and that its homology class $[\vartheta] \in H_1(C)$ projects to $(1 - t_1)[\partial \Delta] \in H_1(C(X))$. Put $f_0 = (1 - t_1)^{-1}[\vartheta]$. Then $\langle f_0, g_0 \rangle = (1 - t_1)^{-1} \langle [\vartheta], g_0 \rangle = (1 - t_1)^{-1}(t_n - 1) \langle \eta, g_0 \rangle$ where in the right part the brackets \langle , \rangle denote the intersection pairing

$$H_1(X, \partial X; Q_n^0) \times H_{m-1}(X; Q_n^0) \rightarrow Q_n^0.$$

The image of $\langle \eta, g_0 \rangle$ under $\phi: Q_n^0 \rightarrow Q_{n-1}$ can be computed using the analogous pairing

$$H_1(X, \partial X; Q_{n-1}) \times H_{m-1}(X; Q_{n-1}) \rightarrow Q_{n-1}.$$

Namely, $\phi(\langle \eta, g_0 \rangle) = \pm (t_1 - 1)$. Thus $\langle \eta, g_0 \rangle = \pm (t_1 - 1) + (t_n - 1)c$ with $c \in Q_n^0$. Therefore $\langle f_0, g_0 \rangle = \pm (t_n - 1) + (t_n - 1)^2 b$ where $b = (1 - t_1)^{-1}c$. This implies (7).

4.2. Proof of Theorem 2. We may assume that $\Delta_{n-1}(L) \neq 0$ and $l_1 = l_2 = \dots = l_{n-1} = 0$. Then the n -th component of K lifts to the maximal abelian covering of the exterior Y of L . The remaining part of the proof is analogous to the proof of Theorem 1. Note, however, the necessary changes. In Claim 1 for $i = 1, 2$

$$\text{rk}_{\Lambda_n} H_i(X; \Delta_n) = \text{rk}_{\Lambda_{n-1}} H_i(X; \Lambda_{n-1}) = u - 1; \text{rk}_{\Lambda_{n-1}} H_i(Y; \Lambda_{n-1}) = u - 2.$$

In the proof of (4.1.1) one should take into account that $\text{Tors}_{\Lambda_{n-1}} H_1(X; \Lambda_{n-1})$ injects into $\text{Tors}_{\Lambda_{n-1}} H_1(Y; \Lambda_{n-1})$ and thus the order of the first of these 2 modules divides the order of the second one.

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