

Math 8307, Algebraic Topology II  
Homework 6  
Due in-class on **Wednesday, March 11**

Eilenberg-MacLane spaces.

1. Suppose  $G$  is an abelian group and  $n \geq 2$ . We know from algebra that we can find an exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow R \rightarrow F \rightarrow G \rightarrow 0$$

where  $F$  is free on some set of generators  $\{e_\alpha | \alpha \in A\} \subset F$  for  $A$  and  $R$  is free on some set of relations  $\{f_\beta | \beta \in B\} \subset R$ . Show that we can find a map

$$\bigvee_{\beta \in B} S^n \rightarrow \bigvee_{\alpha \in A} S^n$$

such that the induced map on  $\pi_n$  is isomorphic to the map  $R \rightarrow F$ .

2. (continuing the previous problem) Show that we can construct a CW-complex  $X$ , having cells only in dimensions  $n$  and  $(n+1)$ , with  $\pi_k(X) = 0$  for  $k < n$  and  $\pi_n(X) = G$ .
3. (still continuing) Show that we can construct a CW-complex  $K(G, n)$ , having cells only in dimensions  $n$  and higher, with the only nonzero homotopy group being  $\pi_n(K(G, n)) = G$ .
4. (still continuing) Given any based space  $Y$  with  $\pi_n(Y) = G$  and  $\pi_k(Y) = 0$  for  $k > n$ , show that we can construct a map  $K(G, n) \rightarrow Y$  which is an isomorphism in dimension  $n$ .

Then use the Whitehead theorem to conclude that any two CW complexes with the only nonzero homotopy group,  $\pi_n$ , being isomorphic to  $G$  are homotopy equivalent.