

Toy example: projectives and Ext: 2×2 upper triangular matrices.

Let A be the algebra of 2×2 upper triangular matrices over \mathbb{C} . Write $A\text{-mod}$ for the category of left A -modules. We define some distinguished objects in this category:

set $V_1 = \mathbb{C}\text{-span}\{v_1\}$ with an A -action given by $\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ 0 & c \end{pmatrix} v_1 = cv_1$.
 set $V_2 = \mathbb{C}\text{-span}\{v_2\}$ with A -module structure given by $\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ 0 & c \end{pmatrix} v_2 = av_2$. It is clear that both V_1 and V_2 are simple.

In fact, these are all the simple modules (upto isomorphism) in $A\text{-mod}$.

Finally, set $P_1 = \mathbb{C}\text{-span}\{v_1, v_2\}$ with $\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ 0 & c \end{pmatrix} v_1 = cv_1 + bv_2$ and $\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ 0 & c \end{pmatrix} v_2 = av_2$. The algebra A itself is an object of $A\text{-mod}$ (via multiplication on the left) and $A \cong P_1 \oplus V_2$ (in $A\text{-mod}$). Thus, both P_1 and V_2 are projective modules. Further, we have a non-split exact sequence:

$$0 \rightarrow V_2 \rightarrow P_1 \rightarrow V_1 \rightarrow 0.$$

This is also a projective resolution of V_1 . Let $x \in A\text{-mod}$, and apply the functor $\text{Hom}_A(-, x)$ to this resolution to get the complex of vector spaces:

$$0 \rightarrow \text{Hom}_A(V_1, x) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_A(P_1, x) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_A(V_2, x) \rightarrow 0.$$

The cohomology of the truncated complex:

$$0 \rightarrow \text{Hom}_A(P_1, x) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_A(V_2, x) \rightarrow 0$$

is by definition $R^i \text{Hom}_A$. As $\text{Hom}_A(V_1, x)$ is left exact, $R^0 \text{Hom}_A(V_1, x) = \text{Hom}_A(V_1, x)$.

set $x = V_1$ to get

$$0 \rightarrow \text{Hom}_A(P_1, V_1) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_A(V_2, V_1) \rightarrow 0$$

so $R^0 \text{Hom}_A(V_1, V_1) \cong \mathbb{C}$ and $R^i \text{Hom}_A(V_1, V_1) = 0$ for $i \neq 0$.

set $x = V_2$ to get

$$0 \rightarrow \text{Hom}_A(P_1, V_2) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_A(V_2, V_2) \rightarrow 0$$

so $R^i \text{Hom}_A(V_1, V_2) = 0$ for $i \neq 1$ and $R^1 \text{Hom}_A(V_1, V_2) \cong \mathbb{C}$.