Interoperating between Computer Algebra systems: computing homology of groups with Kenzo and GAP *

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ABSTRACT

In this paper we report on an experience communicating between the GAP computional algebra system (in particular, its HAP package for homological algebra computations) and the Kenzo computer system for Algebraic Topology. Both systems were made to cooperate through an OpenMath link in order to perform computations in group cohomology. Furthermore, once HAP output is integrated into Kenzo, it can be used to compute more complicated algebraic invariants such as the homology groups of various 2-types.

Categories and Subject Descriptors

H.4 [**Information Systems Applications**]: Communications Applications; G.4 [**Mathematics of Computing**]: Mathematical software

General Terms

Group Cohomology, Interoperability, OpenMath, GAP, Kenzo

1. INTRODUCTION

The GAP [1] computer algebra system is well-known for its contributions to Computational Group Theory. Kenzo [5] is a more specific system, developed by Sergeraert to implement his ideas on Constructive Algebraic Topology [13]. One area where Group Theory and Algebraic Topology meet is in the definition and calculation of the (co)homology of groups. Any textbook on the subject (such as Brown's book [4]) stresses this fact: the natural way to define the homology of a group G is to identify it with the homology of a canonical topological space $K(G,1)$ associated with G. It is quite common for Algebraic Topology to appear only in this first, definitional, step. Textbooks often continue with a more algebraic approach based on the notion of a *resolution.*

*Dedicated to the memory of Mirian Andrés

One reason for this distancing from Algebraic Topology could be that the subject is generally considered to be far from the explicit computations needed when dealing with homology of groups. However, the Kenzo system has dramatically changed this view in recent years. One can now handle complex simplicial spaces on a computer, applying high level constructors (such as fibrations, loop spaces, classifying spaces, and so on), and then compute their homology groups.

The second author is currently developping the HAP [6] package for homological algebra programming in GAP; this is aimed initially at the computation of group (co)homology. In particular, it implements various algorithms for computing free resolutions for a wide variety of groups. A natural question comes to the mind: could HAP and Kenzo cooperate in computations where homology of groups is needed? This paper gives a positive answer to the question.

The main contributions of the paper are: (1) an implemented algorithm for computing, from a small free resolution of a group G, the *effective homology* of the space $K(G,1)$; and (2) an OpenMath description of groups and free resolutions which can be *exported* from GAP [15], and then *imported* by Kenzo.

A consequence of these contributions is that, once the effective homology of $K(G,1)$ is built as a Kenzo object, it can then be applied in computations involving more complicated spaces constructed from $K(G,1)$ (for instance, spaces arising as fibrations with base or fibre equal to $K(G,1)$). Two such applications are presented in the paper.

The paper is organized as follows. The next section contains background material on: homology of groups, the effective homology technique underlying Kenzo, and the GAP, HAP and Kenzo systems. The main algorithm (constructing the effective homology of a $K(G,1)$ from a small resolution of the group G) is described in Section 3. Then, Section 4 deals with OpenMath issues. Section 5 is devoted to applications and examples. The paper ends with a section of conclusions and the bibliography.

2. PRELIMINARIES

2.1 Some fundamental notions about homology of groups

The following definitions and important results about homology of groups can be found in [8] and [4].

Definition 1. Given a ring R, a *chain complex* of R-modules is a pair of sequences $C_* = (C_n, d_n)_{n\in\mathbb{Z}}$ where, for each degree $n \in \mathbb{Z}$, C_n is an R-module and $d_n : C_n \to C_{n-1}$ (*the differential map*) is an R-module morphism such that $d_{n-1} \circ d_n = 0$ for all n.

Definition 2. Let $C_* = (C_n, d_n)_{n\in\mathbb{Z}}$ be a chain complex of R-modules, with R a general ring. For each degree $n \in \mathbb{Z}$, the *nth homology module* of C_* is defined to be the quotient module $H_n(C_*) = \operatorname{Ker} d_n / \operatorname{Im} d_{n+1}$. A chain complex C_* is *acyclic* if $H_n(C_*) = 0$ for all n.

Definition 3. Let G be a group and $\mathbb{Z}G$ the free $\mathbb{Z}$-module generated by the elements of G. The multiplication in G extends uniquely to a $\mathbb{Z}$-bilinear product $\mathbb{Z}G \times \mathbb{Z}G \to \mathbb{Z}G$ which makes $\mathbb{Z}G$ a ring. This is called the *integral group ring* of G.

Definition 4. A *resolution* F_* for a group G is an acyclic chain complex of $\mathbb{Z}G$-modules

$$\cdots \longrightarrow F_2 \xrightarrow{d_2} F_1 \xrightarrow{d_1} F_0 \xrightarrow{\varepsilon} F_{-1} = \mathbb{Z} \longrightarrow 0$$

where $F_{-1} = \mathbb{Z}$ is considered a $\mathbb{Z}G$-module with the trivial action and $F_i = 0$ for $i < -1$. The map $\varepsilon : F_0 \to F_{-1} = \mathbb{Z}$ is called the *augmentation*. If F_i is free for each $i \geq 0$, then F_* is said to be a *free resolution*.

Given a free resolution F_*, one can consider the chain complex of $\mathbb{Z}$-modules (that is to say, Abelian groups) $C_* = (C_n, d_{C_n})_{n\in\mathbb{N}}$ defined by

$$C_n = (\mathbb{Z} \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}G} F_*)_n, \quad n \geq 0$$

(where $\mathbb{Z} \equiv C_*(\mathbb{Z}, 0)$ is the chain complex with only one non-null $\mathbb{Z}G$-module in dimension 0) with differential maps $d_{C_n} : C_n \to C_{n-1}$ induced by $d_n : F_n \to F_{n-1}$.

Let us emphasize the difference between the chain complexes F_* and $C_* = \mathbb{Z} \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}G} F_*$. The elements of F_n $(n \geq 0)$ can be seen as *words* $\sum \lambda_i(g_i, z_i)$ where $\lambda_i \in \mathbb{Z}$, $g_i \in G$ and z_i is a generator of F_n (which is a *free* $\mathbb{Z}G$-module). On the other hand, the associated chain complex $C_* = \mathbb{Z} \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}G} F_*$ of Abelian groups has elements in degree n of the form $\sum \lambda_i z_i$ with $\lambda_i \in \mathbb{Z}$ and z_i is a generator of the free $\mathbb{Z}$-module C_n.

Although the chain complex of $\mathbb{Z}G$-modules F_* is acyclic, $C_* = \mathbb{Z} \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}G} F_*$ is in general not exact and its homology groups are thus not null. An important result in homology of groups claims that these homology groups are independent of the chosen resolution for G.

THEOREM 1. *[4] Let G be a group and F_*, F'_* two free resolutions of G. Then*

$$H_n(\mathbb{Z} \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}G} F_*) \cong H_n(\mathbb{Z} \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}G} F'_*) \quad \textit{for all } n \in \mathbb{N}$$

The hypothesis that F and F' are free can in fact be relaxed; it suffices for the modules F and F' to be *p*rojective. This theorem leads to the following definition.

Definition 5. Given a group G, the *homology groups* $H_n(G)$ are defined as

$$H_n(G) = H_n(\mathbb{Z} \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}G} F_*), \quad n \in \mathbb{N}$$

where F_* is any free (or projective) resolution for G.

Given a group G, how can we determine a free resolution F_*? One approach is to consider the *bar resolution* $B_* = \operatorname{Bar}_*(G)$ [8] whose associated chain complex $\mathbb{Z} \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}G} B_*$ can be viewed as the Eilenberg-MacLane space $K(G,1)$ (see [4] for details). The homology groups of $K(G,1)$ are those of the group G and this space has a big structural richness. But it has a serious drawback: its size. If $n > 1$, then $K(G,1)_n = G^n$. In particular, if $G = \mathbb{Z}$, the space $K(G,1)$ is infinite. This fact is an important obstacle to using $K(G,1)$ as a means for computing the homology groups of G. It would be convenient to construct *smaller* resolutions.

For some particular cases, small (or minimal) resolutions can be directly constructed. For instance, let G be the cyclic group of order m with generator t. The resolution F_* for G

$$\cdots \xrightarrow{t-1} \mathbb{Z}G \xrightarrow{N} \mathbb{Z}G \xrightarrow{t-1} \mathbb{Z}G \longrightarrow \mathbb{Z} \longrightarrow 0$$

where N denotes the *norm element* $1 + t + \cdots + t^{m-1}$ of $\mathbb{Z}G$, produces the chain complex of Abelian groups

$$\cdots \xrightarrow{0} \mathbb{Z} \xrightarrow{m} \mathbb{Z} \xrightarrow{0} \mathbb{Z} \longrightarrow 0$$

and therefore

$$H_i(G) = \begin{cases} \mathbb{Z} & \text{if } i = 0 \\ \mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z} & \text{if } i \text{ is odd} \\ 0 & \text{if } i \text{ is even}, i > 0 \end{cases}$$

In general it is not so easy to obtain a resolution for a group G. As we will see in Section 2.3, the GAP package HAP has been designed as a tool for constructing resolutions for a wide variety of groups.

2.2 Effective homology

We now present the general ideas of the effective homology method. See [13] and [14] for more details.

Definition 6. A *reduction* ρ between two chain complexes $C_* = (C_n, d_{C_n})_{n\in\mathbb{N}}$ and $D_* = (D_n, d_{D_n})_{n\in\mathbb{N}}$ (which is denoted $\rho : C_* \Rrightarrow D_*$) is a triple (f, g, h) where: (a) the components f and g are chain complex morphisms $f : C_* \to D_*$ and $g : D_* \to C_*$; (b) the component h is a homotopy operator $h : C_* \to C_{*+1}$ (a graded group morphism of degree +1); (c) the following relations are satisfied: $fg = \operatorname{Id}_D$; $d_C h + h d_C = \operatorname{Id}_C - gf$; $fh = 0$; $hg = 0$; $hh = 0$.

These relations express that C_* is the direct sum of D_* and an acyclic complex. This decomposition is simply $C_* = \operatorname{Ker} f \oplus \operatorname{Im} g$, with $\operatorname{Im} g \cong D_*$ and $H_*(\operatorname{Ker} f) = 0$. In particular, this implies that the graded homology groups $H_*(C_*)$ and $H_*(D_*)$ are canonically isomorphic.

A reduction is in fact a particular case of chain equivalence in the classical sense (see [8]), where the homotopy operator on the chain complex D_* is the null map.

Definition 7. A *(strong chain) equivalence* ε between two chain complexes C_* and D_*, denoted by $\varepsilon : C_* \Longleftrightarrow D_*$, is a triple (B_*, ρ_1, ρ_2) where B_* is a chain complex, and ρ_1 and ρ_2 are reductions $\rho_1 : B_* \Rightarrow C_*$ and $\rho_2 : B_* \Rightarrow D_*$.

REMARK 1. *We need the notion of* effective *chain complex: it is essentially a free chain complex* C_* *where each group* C_n *is finitely generated, and a provided algorithm returns a (distinguished)* $\mathbb{Z}$*-basis in each degree* n*; in particular, its homology groups are elementarily computable (for details, see [13]).*

Definition 8. An *object with effective homology* X is a quadruple $(X, C_*(X), HC_*, \varepsilon)$ where $C_*(X)$ is a chain complex canonically associated with X (which allows us to study the homological nature of X), HC_* is an effective chain complex, and ε is an equivalence $\varepsilon : C_*(X) \Longleftrightarrow HC_*$.

It is important to understand that in general the HC_* component of an object with effective homology is *not* made of the homology groups of X; this component HC_* is a free $\mathbb{Z}$-chain complex of finite type, in general with a non-null differential, whose homology groups $H_*(HC_*)$ can be determined by means of an elementary algorithm. From the equivalence ε one can deduce the isomorphism $H_*(X) := H_*(C_*(X)) \cong H_*(HC_*)$, which allows one to compute the homology groups of the initial space X.

In this way, the notion of object with effective homology makes it possible to compute homology groups of complicated spaces by means of homology groups of effective complexes. The effective homology technique is based on the following idea: given some topological spaces $X_1, \ldots, X_n$, a topological constructor Φ produces a new topological space X. If effective homology versions of the spaces $X_1, \ldots, X_n$ are known, then one should be able to build an effective homology version of the space X, and this version would allow us to compute the homology groups of X.

A typical example of this kind of situation is the loop space constructor. Given a 1-reduced simplicial set X with effective homology, it is possible to determine the effective homology of the loop space $\Omega(X)$, which in particular allows one to compute the homology groups $H_*(\Omega(X))$. Moreover, if X is m-reduced, this process may be iterated m times, producing an effective homology version of $\Omega^k(X)$, for $k \leq m$. Effective homology versions are also known for classifying spaces or total spaces of fibrations, see [14] for more information.

These ideas suggest that the effective homology technique should have a role in the computation of the homology of a group G. To this end, we consider the Eilenberg-MacLane space $K(G, 1)$, whose homology groups coincide with those of G. The size of this space makes it difficult to calculate the groups in a direct way, but it is possible to operate with this simplicial set making use of the *effective homology* technique: if we construct the effective homology of $K(G, 1)$ then we would be able to *efficiently* compute the homology groups of $K(G, 1)$, which are those of G. Furthermore, it should be possible to extend many group theoretic constructions to effective homology constructions of Eilenberg-MacLane spaces. We thus introduce the following definition.

Definition 9. A group G is a *group with effective homology* if $K(G, 1)$ is a simplicial set with effective homology.

The problem is, given a group G, how can we determine the effective homology of $K(G, 1)$? If the group G is finite, the simplicial set $K(G, 1)$ is effective too, so that it has trivial effective homology. However, the enormous size of this space makes it difficult to obtain real calculations, and therefore we will try to obtain an equivalence $C_*(K(G, 1)) \Longleftrightarrow E_*$ where E_* is effective and (much) smaller than the initial complex. The main result of this paper, presented in Section 3, is an algorithm that computes this equivalence from a resolution of G.

2.3 Kenzo, GAP and HAP

GAP and Kenzo are two different programs devoted to Symbolic Computation, which up to now have followed separate paths and have little functionality in common.

One the one hand, Kenzo [5] is a Common Lisp program devoted to Symbolic Computation in Algebraic Topology. It was developed by Francis Sergeraert and some co-workers, and makes use of the effective homology method to determine homology groups of complicated spaces; it has obtained some results (for example homology groups of iterated loop spaces of a loop space modified by a cell attachment, components of complex Postnikov towers, etc.) which had never been determined before. In principle Kenzo is not intended to compute homology of groups and it does not know what a resolution is, although it implements Eilenberg-MacLane spaces $K(G, n)$ for every n but only for $G = \mathbb{Z}$ and $G = \mathbb{Z}_2$.

On the other hand, GAP [1] is a system for computational discrete algebra with particular emphasis on Computational Group Theory. In our work we focus attention on the HAP homological algebra library for use with GAP (written by the second author of the paper and still under development). The initial focus of HAP is on computations related to the cohomology of groups. A range of finite and infinite groups are handled, with particular emphasis on integral coefficients. It also contains some functions for the integral (co)homology of: Lie rings, Leibniz rings, cat-1-groups and digital topological spaces. In particular, HAP allows one to obtain (small) resolutions of many different groups, but it does not implement the bar resolution nor Eilenberg-MacLane spaces $K(G, 1)$.

In this work, we try to relate both systems: we implement the spaces $K(G, 1)$ in Kenzo for other groups G and then take a resolution from HAP to determine its effective homology. This will make it possible to determine the homology groups of G and make use of $K(G, 1)$ (in an *effective* way) in other constructions.

3. AN ALGORITHM CONSTRUCTING THE EFFECTIVE HOMOLOGY OF A GROUP FROM A RESOLUTION

Let us suppose that G is a group and a (small) free $\mathbb{Z}G$-resolution

$$\cdots \longrightarrow F_2 \xrightarrow{d_2} F_1 \xrightarrow{d_1} F_0 \xrightarrow{\varepsilon} F_{-1} = \mathbb{Z} \longrightarrow 0$$

is provided. Furthermore, let us assume that the resolution F_* is given with a *contracting homotopy*, that is to say, Abelian group morphisms $h_n : F_n \to F_{n+1}$ for each $n \geq -1$ (in general not compatible with the G-action), such that

$$\begin{aligned} \varepsilon h_{-1} &= \mathrm{Id}_{\mathbb{Z}} \\ h_{-1}\varepsilon + d_1 h_0 &= \mathrm{Id}_{F_0} \\ h_{i-1}d_i + d_{i+1}h_i &= \mathrm{Id}_{F_i}, \quad i > 0. \end{aligned}$$

We also consider the bar resolution $B_* = \mathrm{Bar}_*(G)$ for G with augmentation ε' and contracting homotopy h'. (See [4] for details about the definition of these maps.)

As B_* and F_* are free resolutions for G, it is well known [4] that one can construct a morphism of chain complexes of $\mathbb{Z}G$-modules $f : B_* \to F_*$ (compatible with the augmentations ε and ε'), and such that f is a homotopy equivalence. The explicit definition of this morphism can be found in [4] and is recalled here.

For degree -1 we consider $f_{-1} = \mathrm{Id} : \mathbb{Z} \to \mathbb{Z}$. For each $n \geq 0$ we take $\{u^n_\alpha\}_\alpha$ a $\mathbb{Z}G$-basis of B_n (which is a free $\mathbb{Z}G$-module), and then we give a definition of f_n over each generator u^n_α. This definition is then extended by linearity over all elements of B_n, which implies that each f_n is a morphism of $\mathbb{Z}G$-modules.

First of all, f_0 is given by

$$f_0(u^0_\alpha) = h_{-1}\varepsilon'(u^0_\alpha)$$

Once we have defined $f_{n-1} : B_{n-1} \to F_{n-1}$, we consider

$$f_n(u^n_\alpha) = h_{n-1}f_{n-1}d_n(u^n_\alpha)$$

In a similar way, one can construct an augmentation-preserving morphism of chain complexes of $\mathbb{Z}G$-modules $g : F_* \to B_*$ given by

$$\begin{aligned} g_{-1} &= \mathrm{Id} : \mathbb{Z} \to \mathbb{Z} \\ g_0(v^0_\alpha) &= h'_{-1}\varepsilon(v^0_\alpha) \\ g_n(v^n_\alpha) &= h'_{n-1}g_{n-1}d_n(v^n_\alpha), \quad n \geq 1 \end{aligned}$$

where $\{v^n_\alpha\}_\alpha$ is a basis of the $\mathbb{Z}G$-module F_n.

In order to prove that f and g are homotopy equivalences, we construct graded morphisms of $\mathbb{Z}G$-modules

$$k : F_* \to F_{*+1}, \qquad k' : B_* \to B_{*+1}$$

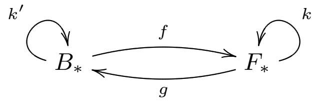
such that $d_F k + k d_F = \mathrm{Id}_F - fg$ and $d_B k' + k' d_B = \mathrm{Id}_B - gf$.

The explicit expressions are not included in the classical texts about this subject but are not difficult to deduce. For degree -1, $k_{-1} : \mathbb{Z} \to F_0$ is the null map. For $n \geq 0$, the homotopy operator k can be defined inductively (over the generators of each $\mathbb{Z}G$-module F_n) as

$$\begin{aligned} k_0(v^0_\alpha) &= h_0(v^0_\alpha) - h_0 f_0 g_0(v^0_\alpha) \\ k_n(v^n_\alpha) &= h_n(\mathrm{Id}_{F_n} - f_n g_n - k_{n-1}d_n)(v^n_\alpha) \end{aligned}$$

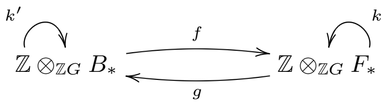
It is not hard to prove then that $d_{n+1}k_n + k_{n-1}d_n = \mathrm{Id}_{F_n} - f_n g_n$ for every $n \geq 0$. Analogously we can define $k' : B_* \to B_{*+1}$ satisfying $d_B k' + k' d_B = \mathrm{Id}_B - gf$.

We have therefore a homotopy equivalence (in the classical sense):



where the four components f, g, k and k' are compatible with the action of the group G.

If we now apply the functor $\mathbb{Z} \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}G} -$, which is additive, we obtain an equivalence of chain complexes (of $\mathbb{Z}$-modules):

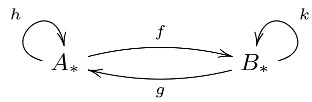


and both chain complexes provide us the homology of the initial group G, that is,

$$H_*(\mathbb{Z} \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}G} B_*) \cong H_*(\mathbb{Z} \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}G} F_*) \equiv H_*(G)$$

In order to obtain a strong chain equivalence (in other words, a pair of reductions, following the framework of effective homology), we make use of the mapping cylinder construction.

Let us consider now a "general" chain equivalence of $\mathbb{Z}$-modules



where $f : A_* \to B_*$ and $g : B_* \to A_*$ are chain complex morphisms and $h : A_* \to A_{*+1}$ and $k : B_* \to B_{*+1}$ are graded group morphisms such that

$$gf = \mathrm{Id}_A - d_A h - h d_A; \qquad fg = \mathrm{Id}_B - d_B k - k d_B$$

The mapping cylinder $\mathrm{Cylinder}(f)_* \equiv C_*$ is a chain complex with $C_n = A_{n-1} \oplus B_n \oplus A_n$ and differential map given by the matrix

$$D_C = \begin{bmatrix} -d_A & 0 & 0 \\ f & d_B & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & d_A \end{bmatrix}$$

that is to say, $d_C(a_{n-1}, b_n, a_n) = (-d_A(a_{n-1}), f(a_{n-1}) + d_B(b_n), -a_{n-1} + d_A(a_n))$.

A reduction $\rho_B : \mathrm{Cylinder}(f)_* \Rrightarrow B_*$ can be constructed for every chain map f (not necessarily a homotopy equivalence), where $\rho_B = (F_B, G_B, H_B)$ with

$$\begin{aligned} F_B(a_{n-1}, b_n, a_n) &= b_n + f(a_n) \\ G_B(b_n) &= (0, b_n, 0) \\ H_B(a_{n-1}, b_n, a_n) &= (-a_n, 0, 0) \end{aligned}$$

The difficult part of the required strong equivalence is the construction of a reduction $\rho_A : \text{Cylinder}(f)_* \Rrightarrow A_*$, where we should use the fact that f is a homotopy equivalence, in other words, we should take into account the components g, h and k. The formulas for the three elements of the reduction $\rho_A = (F_A, G_A, H_A)$ can be deduced from [3]; they are given concretely by the matrices

$$F_A = \begin{bmatrix} -h & g & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$G_A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

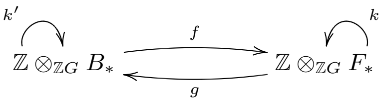
$$H_A = \begin{bmatrix} -h - gkf + gfh & g & 0 \\ -kkf + kfh & k & 0 \\ -hh - hgkf + hgfh + gkkf - gkfh & hg - gk & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

One can prove that these maps satisfy the equations $F_A G_A = \text{Id}_A$ and $G_A F_A = \text{Id}_C - d_C H_A - H_A d_C$, so that we obtain a reduction $\rho_A : C_* = \text{Cylinder}(f)_* \Rrightarrow A_*$.

Considering now our reductions $\rho_B : \text{Cylinder}(f)_* \Rrightarrow B_*$ and $\rho_A : \text{Cylinder}(f)_* \Rrightarrow A_*$ we obtain a strong chain equivalence

$$A_* \overset{\rho_A}{\Lleftarrow} \text{Cylinder}(f)_* \overset{\rho_B}{\Rrightarrow} B_*$$

In our particular case, we have the (classical) equivalence



so that we can construct a strong equivalence

$$\mathbb{Z} \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}G} B_* \overset{\rho'}{\Lleftarrow} \text{Cylinder}(f)_* \overset{\rho}{\Rrightarrow} \mathbb{Z} \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}G} F_*$$

Now we recall that the left chain complex $\mathbb{Z} \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}G} B_*$ is equal to $C_*(K(G,1))$. If we suppose that the initial resolution F_* is of finite type (and small), then the right chain complex $\mathbb{Z} \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}G} F_* \equiv E_*$ is effective (and small too), so that we have obtained the desired effective homology of $K(G,1)$. In summary, we have an algorithm with the following input and output.

Algorithm 1. Input: *a group G and a free resolution F_* of finite type with contracting homotopy.*
Output: *the effective homology of $K(G,1)$, that is, a (strong chain) equivalence $C_*(K(G,1)) \Longleftrightarrow E_*$ where E_* is an effective chain complex.*

The effective homology of $K(G,1)$ makes it possible to determine the homology groups of G, and, what is more interesting, once we have $K(G,1)$ with its effective homology we could apply different constructors and obtain the effective homology of the results. For instance, if G is Abelian, one can apply the classifying space constructor and obtain the effective homology of $\overline{\mathcal{W}}(K(G,1)) = K(G,2)$, which could be useful in order to compute the homology of a 2-type, as we will see later.

Algorithm 1 has been implemented in Common Lisp and enhances the Kenzo system. The first step was to create a new class `GROUP` with a slot `resolution`. This resolution is used to compute the effective homology of the simplicial set $K(G,1)$, as illustrated in the following example.

We consider the cyclic group of order 5. We construct it with our Lisp function `CyclicGroup` and store it in the variable `C5`. In this case, at the same time the group is built, a (small) resolution of it (with a contracting homotopy) is automatically stored in a slot of `C5` called `resolution`. It is a reduction from the $\mathbb{Z}G$-chain complex $K2$ to the trivial chain complex $K5 \equiv \mathbb{Z}$. This resolution allows us to compute the homology groups of $G = C_5$:

```
> (setf C5 (CyclicGroup 5))
[K1 Abelian-Group]
> (setf F (resolution C5))
[K10 Reduction K2 => K5]
> (orgn (k 2))
(zg-chain complex for [K1 Abelian-Group])
> (orgn (k 5))
(z-chcm)
> (homology C5 3)
Homology in dimension 3 :
Component Z/5Z
---done---
```

Let us emphasize that in this particular case the homology of the group C_5 could also be determined using the Bar resolution $B_* = \text{Bar}_*(C_5)$, which in this case produces an effective chain complex $\mathbb{Z} \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}G} B_* \equiv E_*$. However, the size of this space is much bigger than the resolution used, and therefore computations could only be done for low dimensions.

This resolution (with contracting homotopy) will be also used in the computation of the effective homology of $K(G,1)$. With the following instruction we construct this space; since `C5` is Abelian, we obtain a simplicial Abelian group.

```
> (setf KG1 (K-G-1 C5))
[K17 Abelian-Simplicial-Group]
```

The effective homology of a space is obtained with the function `efhm`. In our case we observe that the right chain complex $K11$ is produced from $K2$ by applying the functor $\mathbb{Z} \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}G} -$, while the top *big* chain complex is obtained making use of the cylinder construction, as explained in the previous lines.

```
> (efhm KG1)
[K54 Homotopy-Equivalence K17 <= K44 => K11]
> (orgn (k 11))
(tensor-with-integers [K2 zg-chain complex for [K1 Abelian-Group]])
> (orgn (k 44))
(cylinder [K37 Morphism (degree 0): K17 -> K11])
```

The small (effective) resolution associated with the group $G = C_5$ is the one explained at the end of Section 2.1. It could be exported from HAP (see the following sections) or, in this particular case, it could be directly implemented in Kenzo. For more complicated groups it is not so easy to deduce and implement such a resolution; instead of programming it directly in Kenzo, we will try the first method: to obtain it from the system HAP.

4. EXPORTING RESOLUTIONS FROM HAP

As explained in Section 2.3, the GAP package HAP allows one to obtain resolutions of many different groups, making it possible to compute their homology. Our goal consists in using these resolutions in Kenzo: we want to use HAP to produce resolutions of some groups and import them into Kenzo to construct the effective homology of spaces $K(G,1)$, which will be later involved in new constructions.

In order to export resolutions from HAP, we use OpenMath [2], an XML standard for representing mathematical objects. There exist OpenMath translators from several Computer Algebra systems, and in particular GAP includes a package [15] which produces OpenMath code from some GAP elements (lists, groups...). We have extended this package in order to represent resolutions. A resolution in OpenMath will be given by 5 elements: group, highest degree, list of ranks of each $\mathbb{Z}G$-module, boundary map and contracting homotopy.

First of all, for the group we use the representation already defined in the OpenMath package. For instance, the permutation group generated by the elements $(3,2,1)$ and $(1,3,5,4,2)$ will be given by:

```
<OMA>
     <OMS cd="group1" name="Group"/>
     <OMA>
          <OMS cd="permut1" name="Permutation"/>
          <OMI> 3</OMI>
          <OMI> 2</OMI>
          <OMI> 1</OMI>
     </OMA>
     <OMA>
          <OMS cd="permut1" name="Permutation"/>
          <OMI> 1</OMI>
          <OMI> 3</OMI>
          <OMI> 5</OMI>
          <OMI> 4</OMI>
          <OMI> 2</OMI>
     </OMA>
</OMA>
```

The highest degree of the resolution is simply an integer number, therefore will be denoted inside `<OMI>` and `</OMI>`.

```
<OMI> 5</OMI>
```

The next element of the resolution is the list of ranks of each $\mathbb{Z}G$-module, that is, a list of integers, one for each degree from 0 to the highest one. For the permutation group already constructed, we obtain the following list:

```
<OMA>
     <OMS cd="list1" name="list"/>
     <OMI> 1</OMI>
     <OMI> 3</OMI>
     <OMI> 6</OMI>
     <OMI> 10</OMI>
     <OMI> 15</OMI>
     <OMI> 20</OMI>
</OMA>
```

The description of the $\mathbb{Z}G$-boundary and the contracting homotopy is not so easy. These two maps are represented as

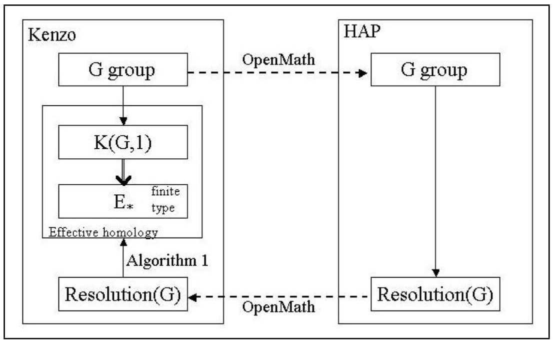


Figure 1: Communication between Kenzo and HAP

lists containing the images of the generators of each module F_i, which are $\mathbb{Z}G$-combinations. For instance, in degree 1 $F_1 = (\mathbb{Z}G)^3$ has three generators. For the first one, its boundary is the combination $1 * (g_2, z_1) - 1 * (g_1, z_1)$ where g_i is the i-element of the group G and z_i is the i-generator of $F_0 = \mathbb{Z}G$. It is represented in OpenMath as:

```
<OMA>
     <OMS cd="resolutions" name="zgcombination"/>
     <OMA>
          <OMS cd="resolutions" name="zgterm"/>
          <OMI> 1</OMI>
          <OMA>
               <OMS cd="resolutions" name="zggnrt"/>
               <OMI> 2</OMI>
               <OMI> 1</OMI>
          </OMA>
     </OMA>
     <OMA>
          <OMS cd="resolutions" name="zgterm"/>
          <OMI> -1</OMI>
          <OMA>
               <OMS cd="resolutions" name="zggnrt"/>
               <OMI> 1</OMI>
               <OMI> 1</OMI>
          </OMA>
     </OMA>
</OMA>
```

Similar $\mathbb{Z}G$-combinations are obtained for the generators 2 and 3 of $F_1 = (\mathbb{Z}G)^3$, and the same process is applied for each degree. Some examples of OpenMath representations of resolutions written by our methods can be found in [10]. In the same site one can read the Content Dictionary formalizing all the OpenMath tags involved in our description.

The communication between HAP and Kenzo is done as follows: given a group G, the system HAP produces a $\mathbb{Z}G$-resolution (including the homotopy operator). The resolution can be automatically translated to OpenMath code thanks to a new function (parser) we have added to the OpenMath package [15] for GAP, and this code is written in a text file. Then Kenzo imports the file (and translates the OpenMath code into Kenzo elements thanks to the corresponding parser) so that one can use the resolution directly without the need of constructing it. Once the resolution is defined in Kenzo, we can use it to determine the effective homology of $K(G,1)$ as explained in Section 3. Figure 1 gives a general idea of the whole process. Some examples of application are presented in the next section.

5. APPLICATIONS AND EXAMPLES

5.1 Homology of cyclic groups

Let $G = C_m$ be the cyclic group of order m. As seen before, it is not difficult to construct a resolution F_* of G. This allows one to compute some homology groups of every cyclic group C_m. For instance, for $m = 7$:

```
> (setf C7 (cyclicgroup 7))
[K55 Abelian-Group]
> (resolution C7)
[K62 Reduction K56 => K5]
> (homology C7 5)
Homology in dimension 5 :
Component Z/7Z
---done---
```

The same resolution can also be imported from HAP. To this aim, we make HAP write the OpenMath code to a file "resolutionC7.txt" (see [10]) and then import it into Kenzo with the instruction `OmparseNextObject`.

```
> (setf rsltnC7 (OmparseNextObject
                  (filetostring "resolutionC7.txt")))
[K75 Reduction K69 => K5]
> (orgn rsltnC7)
(resolution of [K55 Abelian-Group] obtained from hap)
```

If we assign it to the slot `resolution` of `C7`, then this resolution will be used to compute the homology of the group. As expected, we obtain the same result.

```
> (setf (slot-value C7 'resolution) rsltnC7)
[K75 Reduction K69 => K5]
> (homology C7 5)
Homology in dimension 5 :
Component Z/7Z
---done---
```

These examples are very simple, but the case presented in Section 4 is already more interesting: to construct small resolutions for permutation groups is challenging, and we need the expert knowledge implemented in HAP to import it into Kenzo. But even the simpler case of cyclic groups can give interesting applications when combining HAP with all the power of Kenzo, as we will show in the two following subsections.

5.2 Computations with K(G,n)'s

The first real application of our results is that we have allowed Kenzo to compute the effective homology of the spaces $K(G, n)$ for every Abelian group G and all $n \geq 1$, provided that HAP knows how to compute a resolution of G. In particular, it is the case for the cyclic groups C_m of order m.

Given $n = 1$, our Algorithm 1 provides us the effective homology of $K(G, 1)$. We have already seen an example of computation in Section 3. Let us consider now $G = C_7$.

```
> (setf KC71 (K-G-1 C7))
[K82 Abelian-Simplicial-Group]
> (efhm KC71)
[K119 Homotopy-Equivalence K82 <= K109 => K76]
```

Since $G = C_7$ is Abelian, $K(G, 1)$ is a simplicial Abelian group, and we can apply the classifying space constructor $\overline{\mathcal{W}}$ which gives us $\overline{\mathcal{W}}(K(G, 1)) = K(G, 2)$, which is also a simplicial Abelian group *with effective homology.*

```
> (setf KC72 (classifying-space KC71))
[K120 Abelian-Simplicial-Group]
> (efhm KC72)
[K259 Homotopy-Equivalence K120 <= K249 => K245]
> (homology KC72 3 6)
Homology in dimension 3 :
---done---
Homology in dimension 4 :
Component Z/7Z
---done---
Homology in dimension 5 :
---done---
```

Iterating the process, $K(G, n) = \overline{\mathcal{W}}(K(G, n-1))$ has effective homology for every $n \in \mathbb{N}$. Our new Kenzo function `K-Cm-n` allows us to construct $K(C_m, n)$; we observe that the slot `efhm` is directly constructed.

```
> (setf KC42 (K-Cm-n 4 2))
[K555 Abelian-Simplicial-Group]
> (efhm KC42)
[K729 Homotopy-Equivalence K555 <= K719 => K715]
> (homology KC42 4)
Homology in dimension 4 :
Component Z/8Z
---done---
```

This same technique allows one to compute the effective homology of spaces $K(G, n)$, where G is a finitely generated Abelian group. In this case, the homology of $K(G, n)$ is one of the main ingredients to compute homotopy groups of spaces (see [13] and [14] for details).

5.3 An example of homology of a 2-type

Let us consider now $G = C_3$ the cyclic group of order 3. Let $A = \mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z}$ be the Abelian group of three elements with trivial G-action (the groups G and A are in fact isomorphic; different notations are used to distinguish multiplicative and additive operations). Then the third cohomology group of G with coefficients in A is

$$H^3(G, A) = \mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z}.$$

The elements of this cohomology group correspond to 2-types [7] with $\pi_1 = G$ and $\pi_2 = A$. One such 2-type X corresponding to a non-trivial cohomology class $[f]$ in $H^3(G, A)$ can be seen as a twisted Cartesian product (simplicial version of a fibration, see [9]) $X = K(A, 2) \times_f K(G, 1)$. It can be constructed by Kenzo in the following way:

```
> (setf K-C3-1 (K-Cm-n 3 1))
[K261 Abelian-Simplicial-Group]
> (setf chml-clss (chml-clss K-C3-1 3))
[K308 Cohomology-Class on K288 of degree 3]
> (setf tau (zp-whitehead 3 K-C3-1 chml-clss))
[K323 Fibration K261 -> K309]
> (setf x (fibration-total tau))
[K329 Kan-Simplicial-Set]
```

As explained in the previous example, $K(A, 2)$ and $K(G, 1)$ are objects with effective homology. From the two equivalences $C_*(K(A, 2)) \Longleftarrow\!\!\!\Rightarrow E_*$ and $C_*(K(G, 1)) \Longleftarrow\!\!\!\Rightarrow E'_*$, Kenzo knows how to construct the effective homology of the twisted Cartesian product $X = K(A,2) \times_f K(G,1)$, which makes it possible to determine its homology groups:

```
> (efhm x)
[K541 Homotopy-Equivalence K329 <= K531 => K527]
> (homology x 5)
Homology in dimension 5 :
Component Z/3Z
---done---
```

In the same way, the homology groups of $X = K(A,2) \times_f K(G,1)$ can be determined for all groups A and G with given (small) resolutions and cohomology class $[f]$ in $H^3(G,A)$. If the group G acts non-trivially on A, we obtain a different 2-type $X' = K(A,2) \times'_f K(G,1)$. In this case, to compute the effective homology of X' it would be necessary to include in Kenzo the construction of *induced* fibration (or induced twisted Cartesian product, in our simplicial setting); it should not be difficult as a further work.

6. CONCLUSIONS AND FURTHER WORK

In this paper we have reported on a successful attempt at connecting two computer algebra systems: GAP and Kenzo. The first is devoted to Group Theory (with its package HAP focusing on homology of groups), and the second is devoted to Algebraic Topology. An OpenMath link allows us to make them work together. Concretely, some resolutions are exported from HAP to Kenzo, allowing our programs to compute the effective homology of Eilenberg-MacLane spaces. Then, these spaces are used as ingredients in other Algebraic Topology constructions (namely, classifying spaces and fibrations), in order to get homology groups of 2-types which are an important concept in homotopy theory [7].

Obviously, one could re-program in Kenzo the algorithms already implemented in HAP, since Kenzo is a Common Lisp program which can be easily extended (things would be more difficult the other way around: the effective homology algorithms require higher order functional programming, and it seems that the GAP programming language [1] is not specially designed for this kind of task). But it is more efficient, from the engineering point of view, to apply a separation of concerns principle: each system must be devoted to its own domain of expertise, and then systems should interoperate to get new and challenging results. Fortunately, technique is mature enough at this moment to undertake such a work. Our OpenMath link between HAP and Kenzo can be understood as a demonstration of this claim.

With respect to future research, two big lines are open. In the first one, Computational Group Theory could be applied to Algebraic Topology. This has been briefly evoked at the end of the previous section: a group can act non-trivially on a space, producing new interesting spaces (2-types in our example) where the Kenzo computation of homology groups could increase our knowledge of them.

As a second research line, more information on homology of groups could be extracted from the collaboration between the algebraic techniques in HAP and the topological ones in Kenzo. For instance, to investigate the homology of central extensions a topological approach was provided in [12]; since these kind of extensions have been also dealt with in HAP, to compare *experimentally* both approaches could give a more complete view of it. To this aim it could be instrumental our program to explore spectral sequences of fibrations, explained in [11].

7. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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