

The talk has three parts:

- I. a categorical view of the definitions;
- II. structure of the category of Mackey functors;
- III. applications to classifying spaces of Lie groups.

Parts I and II are joint work with Elango Panchadcharam

Part III is work of Jackowski-McClure:

Homotopy decomposition of classifying spaces via elementary abelian subgroups, Topology 31 (1992) 113-132

Part I The definitions

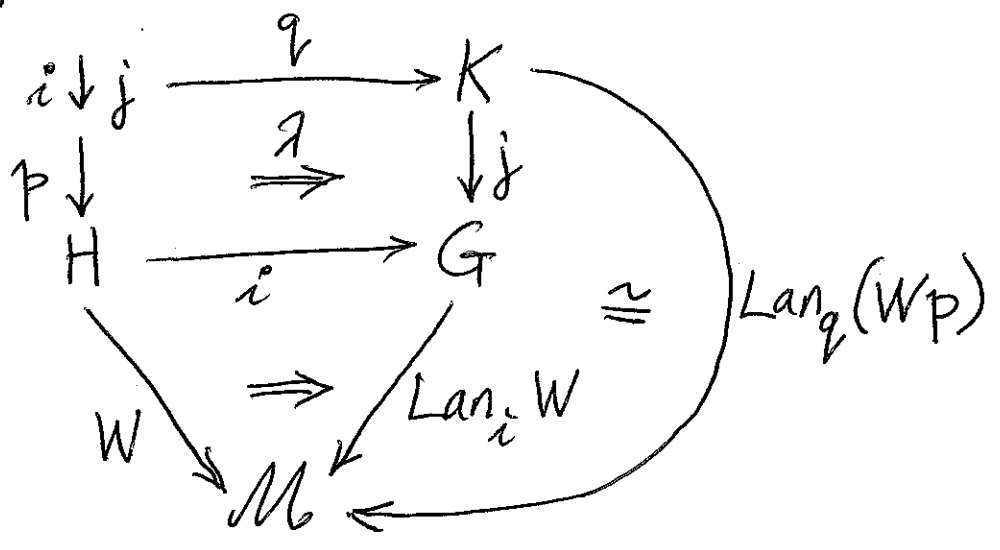
Recall that left Kan extension Lan_i along a functor $i: H \rightarrow G$ is the functor between functor categories which is left adjoint to restriction Res_i along i :

$$[G, \mathcal{M}] \begin{array}{c} \xleftarrow{Lan_i} \\ \perp \\ \xrightarrow{Res_i} \end{array} [H, \mathcal{M}]$$

$$(G \xrightarrow{v} \mathcal{M}) \longmapsto (H \xrightarrow{i} G \xrightarrow{v} \mathcal{M})$$

When \mathcal{M} is cocomplete and i satisfies smallness requirements, the natural transformation λ in the comma category square below induces a natural isomorphism

$$Res_j \circ Lan_i \cong Lan_q \circ Res_p$$



If a category D is a disjoint union ③

$$D = \sum_{\alpha \in \Lambda} D_{\alpha}$$

of subcategories $m_{\alpha} : D_{\alpha} \rightarrow D$ then, for all functors $r : D \rightarrow K$, there is a canonical isomorphism

$$\text{Lan}_r \cong \sum_{\alpha \in \Lambda} \text{Lan}_{r \circ m_{\alpha}} \circ \text{Res}_{m_{\alpha}}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} D_{\alpha} & \xrightarrow{m_{\alpha}} & D & \xrightarrow{r} & K \\ & & \searrow T & \Rightarrow & \swarrow \text{Lan}_r T \cong \sum_{\alpha} \text{Lan}_{r \circ m_{\alpha}} (T m_{\alpha}) \\ & & \mathcal{M} & & \end{array}$$

A groupoid is a category D with every morphism invertible. Each object $d \in D$ determines a group $D(d) = D(d, d)$ under composition. Let Λ be a representative set of objects in D for all isomorphism classes. Then we have an equivalence of categories

$$D \simeq \sum_{d \in \Lambda} D(d)$$

Suppose H and K are subgroups of a group G . ⁽⁴⁾
 We apply the above to the inclusion functors $i: H \rightarrow G$, $j: K \rightarrow G$, and to $D = i \downarrow j$.
 The groupoid D has as objects the elements g (morphisms!) of the group G while the morphisms $(h, k): g \rightarrow g'$ are elements of $H \times K$ such that $kg = g'h$. Isomorphism classes of objects of D are in bijection with double cosets

$$KgH = \{kgh \mid k \in K, h \in H\}.$$

Let $[K \backslash G / H] \subseteq G$ represent all double cosets KgH ; so we have an equivalence of categories

$$\sum_{g \in [K \backslash G / H]} (i \downarrow j)(g) \cong i \downarrow j, \quad \text{and}$$

$$\text{Res}_j \circ \text{Lan}_i \cong \sum_{g \in [K \backslash G / H]} \text{Lan}_{q_g} \circ \text{Res}_{p_g}$$

where $p_g: (i \downarrow j)(g) \rightarrow H$ and $q_g: (i \downarrow j)(g) \rightarrow K$ are restrictions of p and q . The last two restrictions induce isomorphisms

$$(i \downarrow j)(g) \cong H \cap K^g$$

$$(i \downarrow j)(g) \cong {}^g H \cap K$$

where $K^g = g^{-1}Kg$ and ${}^g H = gHg^{-1}$.

Define δ_g by commutativity of

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$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 {}^g H \cap K & \xrightarrow{\delta_g} & H \cap K^g \\
 \downarrow \cong & \searrow \cong & \downarrow \cong \\
 & (i \downarrow j)(g) & \\
 \downarrow \cong & \swarrow \cong & \downarrow \cong \\
 K & \xleftarrow{\iota_g} & \xrightarrow{\tau_g} H
 \end{array}$$

In representation theory, for $\mathcal{M} = \text{Mod } k$ (k commutative ring), note that Lan_i and Res_i are called Ind_H^G and Res_H^G .

Mackey Decomposition Theorem

$$\text{Res}_K^G \circ \text{Ind}_H^G \cong \sum_{g \in [K \backslash G / H]} \text{Ind}_{g H \cap K}^K \circ \text{Res}_{\delta_g} \circ \text{Res}_{H \cap K^g}^H$$

This inspires the technical axiom 4 in the first definition of Mackey functors which is as follows:

Green's definition of Mackey functor (over k) for a group G

- to each subgroup $H \leq G$, a k -module $M(H)$,
- for $K \leq H \leq G$, module morphisms

$$t_K^H : M(K) \rightarrow M(H) \quad \text{and} \quad r_K^H : M(H) \rightarrow M(K),$$
- for $H \leq G$ and $g \in G$, a module isomorphism

$$c_{g,H} : M(H) \rightarrow M(gH),$$

satisfying the following four axioms:

1. $t_K^H t_L^K = t_L^H$ and $r_L^K r_K^H = r_L^H$ ($L \leq K \leq H$),
2. $c_{g',gH} c_{g,H} = c_{g'g,H}$ and $c_{h,H} = 1_{M(H)}$ ($H \leq G, g, g' \in G, h \in H$),
3. $c_{g,H} t_K^H = t_{gK}^{gH} c_{g,K}$ and $c_{g,K} r_K^H = r_{gK}^{gH} c_{g,H}$ ($K \leq H \leq G \ni g$),
4. $r_K^L t_H^L = \sum_{g \in [K \backslash L / H]} t_{gH \cap K}^K c_{g, H \cap K} c_{g, H \cap K} r_{H \cap K}^H$ ($H \leq L, K \leq L$).

t_K^H is called transfer, trace or induction,

r_K^H is called restriction, and

$c_{g,H}$ is called a conjugation map.

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Suppose now that \mathcal{M} is a cocomplete monoidal category whose tensor preserves colimits in each variable. Suppose $i: H \rightarrow G$ is the inclusion of a subgroup $H \leq G$ and that the categories $[H, \mathcal{M}]$ and $[G, \mathcal{M}]$ are equipped with the pointwise tensor products. For $V \in [G, \mathcal{M}]$ and $W \in [H, \mathcal{M}]$, there is an isomorphism

$$V \otimes \text{Lan}_i(W) \cong \text{Lan}_i(\text{Res}_i(V) \otimes W).$$

In the case $\mathcal{M} = \text{Mod}_k$, we obtain

Frobenius Reciprocity

$$V \otimes \text{Ind}_H^G(W) \cong \text{Ind}_H^G(\text{Res}_H^G(V) \otimes W).$$

A Green functor A (over k) for G is a Mackey functor A equipped with a k -algebra structure on each k -module $A(H)$ ($H \leq G$) satisfying:

5. $t_K^H, r_K^H, c_{g,K}$ are k -algebra morphisms

6. $a \cdot t_K^H(b) = t_K^H(r_K^H(a) \cdot b)$ and

$t_K^H(b) \cdot a = t_K^H(b \cdot r_K^H(a))$

($K \leq H, a \in A(H), b \in A(K)$).

Axioms 4 and 6 are obvious abstractions (8)
of Mackey Decomposition & Frobenius
Reciprocity. Yet, moreover, we obtain
an example of a Green functor (over \mathbb{Z})
by defining

$$A(H) = K_0 \text{Rep}_k(H).$$

Green [JPAA 1 (1971)] looked at the category
 $\mathcal{S}(G)$ defined as follows:

- objects are subgroups H of G ,
- morphisms $g: H \rightarrow K$ are elements
 $g \in G$ satisfying $H^g \leq K$,
- composition is reverse product in G .

$\mathcal{S}(G)$ is equivalent to the category \mathcal{C}_G
of connected G -sets (transitive and non-empty).

Each $g: H \rightarrow K$ determines a G -set morphism

$$G/H \rightarrow G/K, \quad xH \mapsto xgK.$$

Green re-expressed:

A Mackey functor M for G defines two functors

$$M^* : \mathcal{S}(G)^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \text{Mod}_R, \quad M_* : \mathcal{S}(G) \rightarrow \text{Mod}_R$$

with $M^*(H) = M_*(H) = M(H)$ and, for $g: H \rightarrow K$,

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 M(K) & \xrightarrow{\Gamma_{H^g}^K} & M(H^g) \\
 \downarrow c_{g,K} & \searrow M^*(g) & \downarrow c_{g,H^g} \\
 M(gK) & \xrightarrow{\Gamma_H^{gK}} & M(H)
 \end{array}
 \qquad
 \begin{array}{ccc}
 M(H) & \xrightarrow{\Gamma_H^{gK}} & M(gK) \\
 \downarrow c_{H,g^{-1}} & \searrow M_*(g) & \downarrow c_{g^{-1},gK} \\
 M(H^g) & \xrightarrow{\Gamma_H^{gK}} & M(K)
 \end{array}$$

Dress [SLNM 342 (1973)] looked at the case of a finite group G and extended M^* and M_* to functors on the category G -set of finite G -sets. Note that G -set is the free completion of \mathcal{C}_G under finite coproducts:

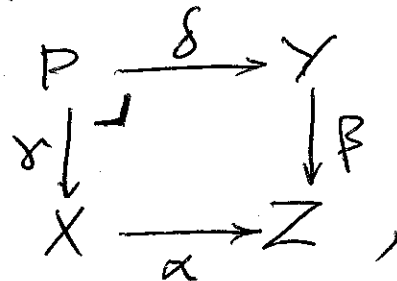
$$G\text{-set} \simeq \text{Fam}_{\text{fin}}(\mathcal{C}_G).$$

In this form, the axioms 1 to 4 neatly reduce to two.

A Mackey functor M (over k) for G consists of a pair of functors

$M^* : G\text{-set}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \text{Mod}_k$, $M_* : G\text{-set} \rightarrow \text{Mod}_k$
which agree $M(X) := M^*(X) = M_*(X)$ on objects X of $G\text{-set}$ and satisfy:

1. $M^*(\beta)M_*(\alpha) = M_*(\delta)M^*(\gamma)$ for every pullback



$$2. \quad M(X) \begin{array}{c} \xleftarrow{M^*(\alpha)} \\ \xrightarrow{M_*(\alpha)} \end{array} M(X+Y) \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{M^*(\beta)} \\ \xleftarrow{M_*(\beta)} \end{array} M(Y)$$

is a direct sum situation in Mod_k for every coproduct $X \xrightarrow{i} X+Y \xleftarrow{j} Y$ in $G\text{-set}$.

Harald Lindner [Manuscripta Math. 18(1976)] realized M^* and M_* could be combined into a single functor defined on spans in $G\text{-set}$.

A category \mathcal{E} is lexensive when it has finite coproducts, finite limits, and

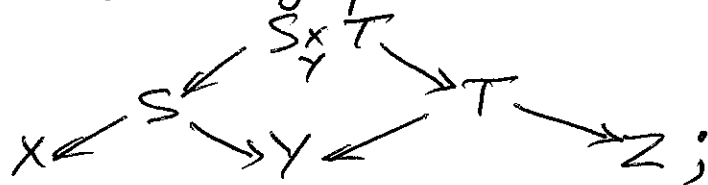
$$\mathcal{E}/X \times \mathcal{E}/Y \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathcal{E}/X+Y$$

$$(u \rightarrow X, v \rightarrow Y) \longmapsto (u+v \rightarrow X+Y)$$

Definition of the autonomous monoidal,
commutative monoid enriched category
 $\text{Spn}(\mathcal{E})$:

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the objects are those of \mathcal{E} ;
the morphisms $[S]: X \rightarrow Y$ are isomorphism
classes of "spans" $X \xleftarrow{u} S \xrightarrow{v} Y$;
composition is by pullback

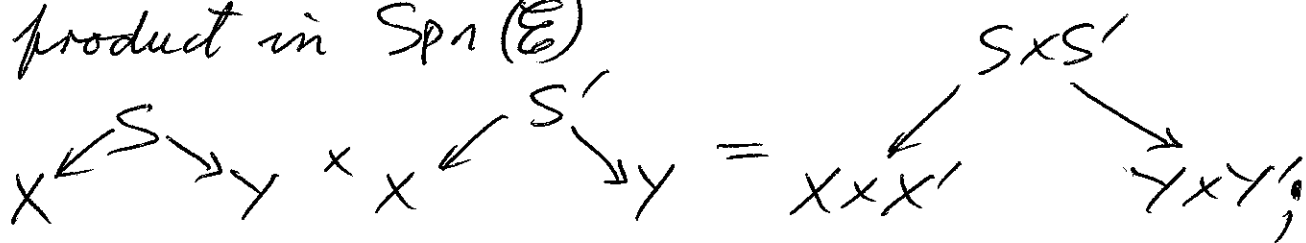


using extensivity, coproduct in \mathcal{E} becomes
direct sum in $\text{Spn}(\mathcal{E})$

$$\text{Spn}(\mathcal{E})(X, Y+Z) \cong \text{Spn}(\mathcal{E})(X, Y) \times \text{Spn}(\mathcal{E})(X, Z)$$

$$\text{Spn}(\mathcal{E})(X+Y, Z) \cong \text{Spn}(\mathcal{E})(X, Z) \times \text{Spn}(\mathcal{E})(Y, Z);$$

cartesian product in \mathcal{E} gives the tensor
product in $\text{Spn}(\mathcal{E})$



each object is its own dual

$$\text{Spn}(\mathcal{E})(X \times Y, Z) \cong \text{Spn}(\mathcal{E})(Y, X \times Z).$$

A Mackey functor on \mathcal{E} is an additive functor

$$M: \text{Spn}(\mathcal{E}) \rightarrow \text{Mod}_R.$$

($\mathcal{E} = G\text{-set}$ gives back Dress' definition)

Part II The category of Mackey functors

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$$\text{Mk}_{\mathbb{R}}(\mathcal{E}) = [\text{Spn}(\mathcal{E}), \text{Mod}_{\mathbb{R}}]_{\text{add}}$$

is the category of Mackey functors on \mathcal{E} .

It is closed monoidal by Day convolution:

$$(M * N)(Z) = \int^Y M(Z \times Y) \otimes_{\mathbb{R}} N Y$$

$$\text{Hom}(M, N)(Z) = \text{Mk}_{\mathbb{R}}(\mathcal{E})(M(Z \times -), N)$$

The unit J is the Burnside functor:

JX is the free \mathbb{R} -module on the commutative monoid (under coproduct) of isomorphism classes of \mathcal{E}/X .

Green functors A are monoids in $\text{Mk}_{\mathbb{R}}(\mathcal{E})$:

$$AX \otimes_{\mathbb{R}} AY \xrightarrow{\mu} A(X \times Y), \quad \mathbb{R} \xrightarrow{\eta} A 1$$

Fact A monoid Z in the monoidal lax centre $\mathcal{Z}_{\ell} \mathcal{C}$ of a monoidal category \mathcal{C} becomes a monoidal functor $Z \otimes - : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$.

Remark $\mathcal{Z}_{\ell}(G\text{-set}) = \mathcal{Z}(G\text{-set}) = G\text{-set}/G_{\text{conj}}$

The Dress construction :

$Zx- : \mathcal{E} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}$ preserves pullbacks and finite coproducts and so induces an additive functor

$$Zx- : \text{Spn}(\mathcal{E}) \rightarrow \text{Spn}(\mathcal{E}).$$

Each Mackey functor M on \mathcal{E} defines a Mackey functor

$$M_Z := M \circ (Zx-) : \text{Spn}(\mathcal{E}) \rightarrow \text{Mod}_k.$$

Consequently, if Z is a monoid in $\mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{E})$ (where \mathcal{E} has the cartesian monoidal structure) then each Green functor A on \mathcal{E} defines a Green functor

$$A_Z = (\text{Spn}(\mathcal{E}) \xrightarrow{Zx-} \text{Spn}(\mathcal{E}) \xrightarrow{A} \text{Mod}_k).$$

A monoidal category \mathcal{C} is *-autonomous (Barr) when there exists an equivalence of categories $S : \mathcal{C}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ and a natural isomorphism

$$\mathcal{C}(B, SA) \cong \mathcal{C}(I, S(A \otimes B)).$$

Case: $\mathcal{E} = G\text{-set}$, k field

A Mackey functor M is finite when each MX is finite dimensional. Write $fMkY_k$ for the full subcategory of such.

Theorem [PS] $fMkY_k$ is a monoidal full subcategory of MkY_k which is $*$ -autonomous with $S(M)X = (MX)^*$.

Let $fRep_k$ denote category of finite dimensional k -linear representations of G . We have the functor

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \tilde{k}_* : fRep_k & \longrightarrow & fMkY_k \\ R & \longmapsto & G\text{-Set}(-, R) \end{array}$$

where $(u, S, v) : X \rightarrow Y$ goes to

$$\begin{array}{ccc} G\text{-Set}(X, R) & \longrightarrow & G\text{-Set}(Y, R) \\ \tau & \longmapsto & \tau_S \end{array}$$

$$\tau_S(y) = \sum_{v(s)=y} \tau(u(s))$$

Proposition \tilde{k}_* is fully faithful with a strong monoidal left adjoint.

Modules for Green functors

We study Morita equivalence of green functors in terms of adjoint two-sided (bi)modules rather than "Morita contexts".

Put $W = \text{Mod}_k(\mathcal{E})$ as a symmetric cocomplete closed monoidal category.

Let $\mathcal{M} = \text{Mod}(W)$ be the monoidal bicategory whose objects are green functors (monoids in W), whose morphisms $M: A \rightarrow B$ are modules

$$AU \otimes_k MV \otimes_k BW \longrightarrow M(U \times V \times W), \text{ and}$$

whose composition $N \circ M = M \underset{B}{*} N$ is obtained as the expected coequalizer.

We define green functors A and B to be Morita equivalent when they are equivalent in \mathcal{M} .

Each green functor A has a W -category \hat{A} of right A -modules where $\hat{A}(M, N) \in W$ is defined by the expected equalizer.

The Cauchy completion $\mathcal{O}A$ of A is the full sub- W -category of \hat{A} consisting of the modules $M: J \rightarrow A$ with right adjoints in \mathcal{M} .

Theorem [PS] $M \in QA$ iff $\exists Z_1, \dots, Z_k \in Spn(\mathbb{E})$
such that M is a retract of

$$\bigoplus_{i=1}^k A_{Z_i} .$$

Theorem Green functors A and B are Morita
equivalent iff $QA \simeq QB$ as W -categories.

This implies an equivalence of ordinary
categories

$$Mod A \simeq Mod B$$

of right modules.

($Mod A = M(\mathcal{J}, A)$ is the underlying
category of \hat{A})

Part III Application?

Reference: Jackowski-McClure 1992

Here G is a compact (connected) Lie group.

BG is the classifying space of G
(homotopy classes of continuous functions $X \rightarrow BG$ are in bijection with isomorphism classes of G -fibre bundles over X).

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 E & \longrightarrow & EG \\
 p \downarrow & \wr & \downarrow \uparrow \text{ universal } G\text{-fibre bundle} \\
 X & \xrightarrow{f} & BG
 \end{array}$$

For some classical examples of G there are nice explicit models of BG .

Calculating the cohomology groups of BG is a major research problem.

A. Borel (1967) Let NT denote the normalizer of a maximal torus T of G . If the prime p does not divide the order of the Weyl group $W_G = NT/T$ then $BNT \rightarrow BG$ induces an isomorphism on mod p cohomology.

Dwyer-Miller-Wilkerson (1987) $G = SO(3)$, $p = 2 \nmid \#W_G$ (18)

The square

$$\begin{array}{ccc} BD_8 & \longrightarrow & BO_{24} \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ BO(2) & \longrightarrow & BSO(3) \end{array}$$

is seen as a homotopy pushout by mod 2 cohomology.

Jackowski-McClure (1992) (any prime p)

Consider the category $A_p(G)$:

objects are nontrivial elementary abelian p -subgroups of G (they prove there are only finitely many conjugacy classes of these subgroups);

morphisms are restrictions of inner automorphisms of G .

Let $C(E)$ be the centralizer of $E \in A_p(G)$ in G .

$BC(E)$ is homotopy equivalent to a functor in $E \in A_p(G)$. The result is:

$$\text{hocolim}_{E \in A_p(G)^{\text{op}}} BC(E) \longrightarrow BG$$

induces an isomorphism on mod p cohomology.

(This implies the Borel and Dwyer-M-W results.)

The proof of [J-M-C] uses Mackey and Green functors.

Step 1 There is a standard spectral sequence associated with the cohomology of a homotopy colimit. As usual, to use the spectral sequence, we need it to collapse. This involves proving:

$$(a) \lim_{E \in \mathcal{A}_p(G)^{op}}^i H^j(BC(E)) = 0 \text{ for all } j \text{ and all } i > 0. \\ \text{(acyclicity)}$$

$$(b) H^*(BG) \cong \lim_{E \in \mathcal{A}_p(G)^{op}} H^*(BC(E)) \\ \text{induced by restriction.}$$

Here \lim^i is the i -th derived functor of $\lim : [\mathcal{A}_p(G)^{op}, Ab] \rightarrow Ab$.

Consider a functor $M : \mathcal{B}^{op} \rightarrow Ab$. Then

$$\lim M = [\mathcal{B}^{op}, Ab](\Delta \mathbb{Z}, M)$$

so the i -th derived functor of \lim is

$$H^i(\mathcal{B}; M) := \text{Ext}_{[\mathcal{B}^{op}, Ab]}^i(\Delta \mathbb{Z}, M).$$

Call M acyclic when $H^i(\mathcal{B}; M) = 0$ for $i > 0$.

Step 2

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A functor $M: \mathcal{B}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \text{Ab}$ is proto-Mackey when its extension $M_+ : \text{Fam}_{\text{fin}}(\mathcal{B})^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \text{Ab}$ extends to a Mackey functor $M : \text{SpnFam}_{\text{fin}}(\mathcal{B}) \rightarrow \text{Ab}$.

Observation $H^i(\mathcal{B}; M) \cong H^i(\text{Fam}_{\text{fin}}(\mathcal{B}); M_+)$

[J-McC] prove that $\text{Fam}_{\text{fin}} A_p(G)$ is extensive enough for Mackey theory to be useful and that $M(E) = H^{\mathbb{Z}}(BC(E); \mathbb{Z}/p)$ is a proto-Mackey functor on $A_p(G)$.

It remains to prove, for this M ,

(a) M is acyclic

(b) $H^{\mathbb{Z}}(BG; \mathbb{Z}/p) \cong \varinjlim M$

The proof of (b) imitates the Dress induction theorem [SLNM 342 (1973) p. 199] in Mackey functor theory.

Step 3

The proof of (a) follows from

(a)' every proto-Mackey functor $A_p(G)^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/p\text{-mod}$ is acyclic.

The inspiration for the proof of (a)' comes from two simple lemmas:

Lemma 1 Every functor $M: \mathcal{C}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \text{Ab}$ is acyclic if \mathcal{C} has a terminal object.

Proof $\lim M = M \perp$ is exact in M and so the derived functors of \lim vanish. \square

Lemma 2 If multiplication by $\#\Gamma$ as a function $M \rightarrow M$ is invertible, where Γ is a finite group and M is a Γ -module, then

$$H^i(\Gamma; M) = 0 \text{ for all } i > 0.$$

Proof

$$\begin{array}{ccc} [\Gamma^{\text{op}}, \text{Ab}] & \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\cup} \\ \perp \\ \xleftarrow{\cup} \end{array} & \text{Ab} \\ \cup & & \cup \\ \Delta \mathbb{Z} & \text{Set}(\Gamma, -) & N \end{array}$$

$$N \cong \text{Ab}(\mathbb{Z}, N) \cong [\Gamma^{\text{op}}, \text{Ab}](\Delta \mathbb{Z}, \text{Set}(\Gamma, N))$$

$$\Rightarrow 0 \cong H^i(\Gamma; \text{Set}(\Gamma, N)) \quad i > 0$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} M & \xrightarrow{\quad} & \text{Set}(\Gamma, M) \xrightarrow{\quad} M \\ & \searrow \text{mult. by } \#\Gamma & \nearrow \end{array}$$

M is a retract of $\text{Set}(\Gamma, M)$. \square