

# An abelian embedding for Moore spectra

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We embed the category of Moore spectra as a full subcategory of an abelian category, and make some remarks about abelian embeddings of various other categories of spectra.

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## 1 Introduction

Given any small additive category  $\mathcal{I}$ , we write  $[\mathcal{I}, \text{Ab}]$  for the category of additive functors  $\mathcal{I} \rightarrow \text{Ab}$ . We will call such categories *diagram categories*.

Let *Spectra* denote the homotopy category of spectra (and maps of degree zero only), and let  $\mathcal{C}$  be a full subcategory of *Spectra* (which need not be triangulated). By an *embedding* of  $\mathcal{C}$  we mean a full and faithful additive functor from  $\mathcal{C}$  to some diagram category.

In principle, such embeddings should be common. A theorem of Freyd [3] guarantees that every triangulated category can be embedded in an abelian category, and there are other theorems (the most famous due to Gabriel and Popescu [4]) saying that abelian categories can be embedded in diagram categories under fairly mild conditions. However, explicit examples are rare. The best known cases are as follows:

- (a) Let  $\mathcal{C}_0$  be the category of rational spectra (those for which each homotopy group  $\pi_n(X)$  is uniquely divisible). Let  $\mathcal{I}_0$  be the category with object set  $\mathbb{Z}$  and

$$\mathcal{I}_0(n, m) = \begin{cases} \mathbb{Q} & \text{if } n = m, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

so  $[\mathcal{I}_0, \text{Ab}]$  is the category of graded rational vector spaces. Then we have an equivalence  $\pi_*: \mathcal{C}_0 \rightarrow [\mathcal{I}_0, \text{Ab}]$ .

- (b) Let  $\mathcal{C}_1$  be the category of Eilenberg–Mac Lane spectra (those with  $\pi_k(X) = 0$  for  $k \neq 0$ ). Then  $\pi_0: \mathcal{C}_1 \rightarrow \text{Ab}$  is an equivalence.

- (c) By a *free Moore spectrum* we mean a  $(-1)$ -connected spectrum  $X$  such that  $\pi_0(X)$  is free abelian and  $H_k(X) = 0$  for  $k > 0$ . Let  $\mathcal{C}_2$  be the category of free Moore spectra. One can check that any such spectrum is a wedge of copies of the sphere spectrum  $S$ , and that  $\pi_0: \mathcal{C}_2 \rightarrow \text{FreeAb}$  is an equivalence.
- (d) Let  $\mathcal{C}_3$  be the category of finite spectra. Let  $\mathcal{I}_3$  be the category with object set  $\mathbb{Z}$  and  $\mathcal{I}_3(n, m) = \pi_{m-n}(S)$ , so  $[\mathcal{I}_3, \text{Ab}]$  is the category of graded modules over  $\pi_*(S)$ . We have a functor  $\pi_*: \mathcal{C}_3 \rightarrow [\mathcal{I}_3, \text{Ab}]$ , and an old conjecture of Freyd suggests that this should be an embedding. However, there is no proof in sight.
- (e) Say that a spectrum  $X$  is *MU-injective* if it is a retract of  $\text{MU} \wedge T$  for some  $T$ , and let  $\mathcal{C}_4$  be the category of MU-injective spectra. Let  $\mathcal{I}_4$  be the category with object set  $\mathbb{Z}$  and  $\mathcal{I}_4(n, m) = [\Sigma^{-n}\text{MU}, \Sigma^{-m}\text{MU}]$ . Define  $F: \mathcal{C}_4 \rightarrow [\mathcal{I}_4, \text{Ab}]$  by  $F(X)(n) = \pi_0(X \wedge \Sigma^{-n}\text{MU}) = \text{MU}_n(X)$ . It is known that this is an embedding.

On the other hand, there are various known examples of subcategories  $\mathcal{C}$  with functors  $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$  (for some diagram category  $\mathcal{A}$ ) where the maps  $F: [X, Y] \rightarrow \mathcal{A}(FX, FY)$  are surjective and the kernel has a straightforward description in terms of well understood invariants of  $X$  and  $Y$ . It is thus natural to ask what is needed to improve such a functor to an embedding in some more complex diagram category.

In this note we will carry out this programme in the simplest possible case, that of Moore spectra. (We also have some comments about slightly larger categories.) The essentially equivalent case of Moore spaces of fixed dimension  $d > 1$  has also been discussed by Baues in [1, Section V.3a] (which we read before writing this paper) and [2, Chapter 1] (which was brought to our attention by a referee). It seems likely that our main theorem could be obtained by combining his results and spelling out various definitions more explicitly. However, we will instead give a direct approach with more details and context, and greater focus on making all constructions manifestly natural. The amount of work involved was a surprise to the author, at least. We now describe the main result.

**Definition 1.1** A *Moore spectrum* is a spectrum  $X$  such that  $\pi_k(X) = 0$  for  $k < 0$  and  $H_k(X) = 0$  for  $k > 0$ . We write *Moore* for the category of Moore spectra (a full subcategory of the homotopy category of spectra).

**Remark 1.2** It is traditional and convenient to use notation  $SA$  or  $MA$  for a Moore spectrum  $X$  with  $\pi_0(X) \simeq A$ , but this suggests that  $SA$  is a functor of  $A$ , which is not quite correct. As we are focusing here on questions of naturality we therefore prefer to avoid such notation.

**Definition 1.3** A Moore diagram is a diagram  $M$  of Abelian groups of the form

$$A \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\phi} \\ \xleftarrow{\psi} \end{array} B$$

such that  $\psi\phi = 0$  and  $\phi\psi = 2.1_B$ . We write MD for the category of Moore diagrams. We define forgetful functors  $\alpha, \beta: \text{MD} \rightarrow \text{Ab}$  by  $\alpha(M) = A$  and  $\beta(M) = B$ .

Note that if  $M = (A, B, \phi, \psi)$  is a Moore diagram then  $2\phi = (\phi\psi)\phi = \phi(\psi\phi) = 0$  and similarly  $2\psi = 0$ . This means that we have induced maps

$$A/2 \xrightarrow{\phi} B \xrightarrow{\psi} A[2]$$

(where  $A[2]$  means  $\{a \in A \mid 2a = 0\}$ ). If this sequence is short exact, we say that  $M$  is an exact Moore diagram. We write EMD for the full subcategory of exact Moore diagrams.

We will prove that Moore is equivalent to EMD. To define the relevant functor, let  $S/2$  denote the cofibre of the degree two self-map of the sphere spectrum  $S$ , so we have a cofibration sequence

$$S \xrightarrow{2} S \xrightarrow{\rho} S/2 \xrightarrow{\beta} S^1 \xrightarrow{2} S^1.$$

Let  $\eta$  be the Hopf map, which is the unique nontrivial element of  $\pi_1(S)$ .

**Theorem 1.4** There is an equivalence  $F: \text{Moore} \rightarrow \text{EMD}$  sending  $X \in \text{Moore}$  to the diagram

$$[S, X] \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{(\eta\beta)^*} \\ \xleftarrow{\rho^*} \end{array} [S/2, X].$$

**Remark 1.5** Note here that  $[S, X]$  is just another notation for  $\pi_0(X)$ . It can also be shown that there is a map  $\zeta: S^2 \rightarrow S/2$  (of order 4) such that  $\beta\zeta = \Sigma\eta$ , and that the map  $\zeta^*: [S/2, X] \rightarrow \pi_2(X)$  is an isomorphism for Moore spectra  $X$ . (This will be proved as Lemma 5.16.) Thus, the diagram above is isomorphic to the diagram

$$\pi_0(X) \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{(\eta^2)^*} \\ \xleftarrow{\rho^*(\zeta^*)^{-1}} \end{array} \pi_2(X).$$

Theorem 1.4 will be proved in Section 5.

## 2 An Ext isomorphism

It will be convenient to have the following result in hand before we start our main discussion.

**Proposition 2.1** *Let  $U$  and  $V$  be abelian groups. Then for any extension*

$$E = (V \xrightarrow{i} M \xrightarrow{p} U)$$

*we have that there is a well-defined homomorphism  $\Phi(E): U[2] \rightarrow V/2$  given by  $\Phi(E)(u) = i^{-1}(2p^{-1}(u)) + 2V$ . This depends only on the equivalence class of the extension  $E$ , and the resulting map  $\Phi: \text{Ext}(U, V)/2 \rightarrow \text{Hom}(U[2], V/2)$  is an isomorphism. Moreover, there is always an exact sequence*

$$V[2] \xrightarrow{i} M[2] \xrightarrow{p} U[2] \xrightarrow{\Phi(E)} V/2 \xrightarrow{i} M/2 \xrightarrow{p} U/2.$$

**Proof** First, the homomorphism  $\Phi(E)$  arises by applying the Snake Lemma to the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} V & \xrightarrow{i} & M & \xrightarrow{p} & U \\ \downarrow 2 & & \downarrow 2 & & \downarrow 2 \\ V & \xrightarrow{i} & M & \xrightarrow{p} & U. \end{array}$$

This makes it clear that  $\Phi$  is well-defined, that it gives a six term exact sequence as claimed, and that it is natural in the following sense: for homomorphisms  $f: V \rightarrow V'$  and  $h: U' \rightarrow U$ , the map  $\Phi(h^* f_* E)$  is the composite

$$U'[2] \xrightarrow{h} U[2] \xrightarrow{\Phi(E)} V/2 \xrightarrow{f} V'/2.$$

It is also clear that  $\Phi(E \oplus E') = \Phi(E) \oplus \Phi(E')$ . Now suppose we have two parallel extensions  $E = (V \rightarrow M \rightarrow U)$  and  $E' = (V \rightarrow M' \rightarrow U)$ . In this context we have a diagonal map  $\Delta: U \rightarrow U \oplus U$  and a codiagonal map  $\nabla: V \oplus V \rightarrow V$ , so we can form the extension  $E'' = \nabla_* \Delta^*(E \oplus E')$ . This operation is called the Baer sum, and it corresponds to addition in the group  $\text{Ext}(U, V)$ . In this case the rule for  $\Phi(h^* f_* E)$  just tells us that  $\Phi(E'') = \Phi(E) + \Phi(E')$ , so  $\Phi$  gives a homomorphism  $\text{Ext}(U, V) \rightarrow \text{Hom}(U[2], V/2)$ .

Now consider the case where  $2U = 0$  and  $2V = 0$ , so  $U[2] = U$  and  $V/2 = V$  so we have a map  $\Phi: \text{Ext}(U, V) \rightarrow \text{Hom}(U, V)$ . Suppose that  $\Phi(E) = 0$ . The Snake Lemma gives an exact sequence

$$V \rightarrow M[2] \xrightarrow{p} U \xrightarrow{\Phi(E)} V \xrightarrow{i} M/2 \rightarrow U,$$

but  $\Phi(E) = 0$  so the map  $p: M[2] \rightarrow U$  is surjective. This can be regarded as an epimorphism of vector spaces over the field  $\mathbb{Z}/2$ , so it has a section, and any such section gives a splitting of  $E$ , so  $[E] = 0$  in  $\text{Ext}(U, V)$ . Thus, the map  $\Phi: \text{Ext}(U, V) \rightarrow \text{Hom}(U, V)$  is injective.

Now choose a basis  $\{u_\alpha\}_{\alpha \in I}$  for  $U$  over  $\mathbb{Z}/2$ . Let  $\tilde{U}$  be a free module over  $\mathbb{Z}/4$  with basis  $\{\tilde{u}_\alpha\}_{\alpha \in I}$ . We can then define an extension  $E_1 = (U \xrightarrow{i_1} \tilde{U} \xrightarrow{p_1} U)$ , where  $i_1(u_\alpha) = 2\tilde{u}_\alpha$  and  $p_1(\tilde{u}_\alpha) = u_\alpha$ . We then find that  $\Phi(E_1)$  is the identity map  $1_U$ . For any map  $f: U \rightarrow V$  we deduce that  $\Phi(f_* E_1) = f_* \Phi(E_1) = f$ . This proves that  $\Phi$  is surjective (and thus bijective) in the special case where  $U$  and  $V$  both have exponent two.

We now return to the general case. The standard six term exact sequences for  $\text{Ext}$  tell us that functors of the form  $\text{Ext}(U, -)$  preserve right-exact sequences, and contravariant functors of the form  $\text{Ext}(-, V)$  convert left-exact sequences to right exact sequences. We can apply this to the sequences  $U[2] \rightarrow U \xrightarrow{2} U$  and  $V \xrightarrow{2} V \rightarrow V/2$  to get a diagram with right-exact rows and columns as follows:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 \text{Ext}(U, V) & \xrightarrow{2} & \text{Ext}(U, V) & \longrightarrow & \text{Ext}(U[2], V) \\
 \downarrow 2 & & \downarrow 2 & & \downarrow 2=0 \\
 \text{Ext}(U, V) & \xrightarrow{2} & \text{Ext}(U, V) & \longrightarrow & \text{Ext}(U[2], V) \\
 \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \simeq \\
 \text{Ext}(U, V/2) & \xrightarrow{2=0} & \text{Ext}(U, V/2) & \longrightarrow & \text{Ext}(U[2], V/2).
 \end{array}$$

Right exactness means that all entries in the last row or column are isomorphic to  $\text{Ext}(U, V)/2$ , as claimed. □

**Remark 2.2** Note if  $2U = 0$  or  $2V = 0$  then (as  $\text{Ext}$  is a biadditive functor) we have  $2 \cdot \text{Ext}(U, V) = 0$ . It follows in these cases we have  $\text{Ext}(U, V) = \text{Hom}(U[2], V/2)$ .

**Proposition 2.3** Suppose we have the solid part of the following diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 V & \xrightarrow{i} & M & \xrightarrow{p} & U \\
 f \downarrow & & \downarrow g & & \downarrow h \\
 V' & \xrightarrow{i'} & M' & \xrightarrow{p'} & U'
 \end{array}$$

Suppose that the rows are exact, so they define extensions  $E$  and  $E'$ . Consider the following conditions:

- (a) there is a map  $g$  making the whole diagram commute;
- (b)  $[f_* E] = [h^* E']$  in  $\text{Ext}(U, V')$ ;
- (c) the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 U[2] & \xrightarrow{\Phi(E)} & V/2 \\
 h \downarrow & & \downarrow f \\
 U'[2] & \xrightarrow{\Phi(E')} & V'/2
 \end{array}$$

commutes.

Then (a) and (b) are equivalent, and they imply (c). The converse also holds provided that  $\text{Ext}(U, V')$  has exponent 2.

**Proof** The equivalence of (a) and (b) is standard and straightforward. Condition (c) can be written as  $f_* \Phi(E) = h^* \Phi(E')$  (in  $\text{Hom}(U[2], V'/2)$ ), so the naturality of  $\Phi$  tells us that (b) implies (c). If  $\text{Ext}(U, V')$  has exponent two then we have that the map  $\Phi: \text{Ext}(U, V') \rightarrow \text{Hom}(U[2], V'/2)$  is an isomorphism so (c) also implies (b).  $\square$

### 3 Some diagram categories

**Definition 3.1** (a) An  $\eta$ -diagram is just a diagram  $A \xrightarrow{\eta} C$  of abelian groups such that  $2\eta = 0$ . We write ED for the category of  $\eta$ -diagrams. There are evident functors  $\alpha, \gamma: \text{ED} \rightarrow \text{Ab}$  given by  $\alpha(A, C, \eta) = A$  and  $\gamma(A, C, \eta) = C$ .

- (b) An extended  $\eta$ -diagram (EED) is a diagram of the form

$$B \xrightarrow{\psi} A \xrightarrow{\eta} C \xrightarrow{\chi} B$$

such that  $2\eta = 0$  and  $\psi\chi = 0$  and  $\chi\eta\psi = 2.1_B$ . We write EED for the category of extended  $\eta$ -diagrams. There are evident projection functors  $\alpha, \beta, \gamma: \text{EED} \rightarrow \text{Ab}$  as well as a forgetful functor  $\pi: \text{EED} \rightarrow \text{ED}$ .

**Lemma 3.2** Let  $(A, B, C, \eta, \chi, \psi)$  be an extended  $\eta$ -diagram. Then  $2\psi = 0$  and  $2\chi = 0$  and  $4.1_B = 0$ . Thus,  $\psi$  and  $\chi$  induce maps

$$C/2 \xrightarrow{\chi} B \xrightarrow{\psi} A[2]$$

whose composite is zero.

**Proof** We have  $2\psi = \psi \circ (2.1_B) = \psi\chi\eta\psi$ , which is zero because  $\psi\chi = 0$ . Similarly we have  $2\chi = (2.1_B)\chi = \chi\eta\psi\chi = 0$  and  $4.1_B = (2.1_B)^2 = \chi\eta\psi\chi\eta\psi = 0$ . It follows that  $\chi(2C) = (2\chi)(C) = 0$ , so  $\chi$  factors through  $C/2$ . Similarly  $2\psi(B) = 0$ , so  $\psi(B) \leq A[2]$ .  $\square$

**Definition 3.3** An extended  $\eta$ -diagram is *exact* if the sequence

$$C \xrightarrow{2} C \xrightarrow{\chi} B \xrightarrow{\psi} A \xrightarrow{2} A$$

is exact, or equivalently the associated sequence

$$C/2 \xrightarrow{\chi} B \xrightarrow{\psi} A[2]$$

is short exact. We write EEED for the full subcategory of exact extended  $\eta$ -diagrams (EEEDs).

**Example 3.4** Let  $B$  be any free module over  $\mathbb{Z}/4$ . We then have an EEED as follows:

$$B \twoheadrightarrow B/2 \xrightarrow{1} B/2 \succ \xrightarrow{2} B.$$

**Lemma 3.5** Let  $(A, B, C, \eta, \chi, \psi)$  be an EEED, and let  $\bar{\eta}$  denote the composite

$$A[2] \succ \rightarrow A \xrightarrow{\eta} C \twoheadrightarrow C/2.$$

Then  $\Phi$  of the extension  $C/2 \rightarrow B \rightarrow A[2]$  is  $\bar{\eta}$ , so we have natural exact sequences

$$C/2 \succ \xrightarrow{\chi} B[2] \xrightarrow{\psi} A[2] \xrightarrow{\bar{\eta}} C/2 \xrightarrow{\chi} B/2 \twoheadrightarrow A[2].$$

**Proof** Consider an element  $a \in A[2]$ . Choose an element  $b \in B$  with  $\psi(b) = a$ . To determine  $\phi(E)(a)$ , we must find  $\bar{c} \in C/2$  with  $\chi(\bar{c}) = 2b$ . As  $2.1_B = \chi\eta\psi$ , we can take  $\bar{c} = \eta\psi(b) = \eta(a)$ . This shows that  $\phi(E) = \bar{\eta}$  as claimed, and the rest follows from Proposition 2.1.  $\square$

**Definition 3.6** Let  $N = (A, B, C, \eta, \chi, \psi)$  and  $N' = (A', B', C', \eta', \chi', \psi')$  be extended  $\eta$ -diagrams. We define  $\xi: \text{Hom}(A[2], C'/2) \rightarrow \text{EEED}(N, N')$  as follows. For any map  $u: A[2] \rightarrow C'/2$  we let  $\bar{u}$  denote the composite

$$B \xrightarrow{\psi} A[2] \xrightarrow{u} C'/2 \xrightarrow{\chi'} B',$$

and note that  $\psi'\bar{u} = 0$  and  $\bar{u}\chi = 0$ . We then let  $\xi(u)$  be the morphism  $N \rightarrow N'$  given by the following diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} B & \xrightarrow{\psi} & C & \xrightarrow{\eta} & A & \xrightarrow{\chi} & B \\ \bar{u} \downarrow & & 0 \downarrow & & \downarrow 0 & & \downarrow \bar{u} \\ B' & \xrightarrow{\psi'} & C' & \xrightarrow{\eta'} & A' & \xrightarrow{\chi'} & B'. \end{array}$$

**Proposition 3.7** *The functor  $\pi: \text{EEED} \rightarrow \text{ED}$  is essentially surjective and reflects isomorphisms. Moreover, for any  $N, N' \in \text{EEED}$  there is a natural short exact sequence*

$$\text{Hom}(\alpha(N)[2], \gamma(N')/2) \xrightarrow{\xi} \text{EEED}(N, N') \xrightarrow{\pi} \text{ED}(\pi(N), \pi(N')).$$

(In particular, the functor  $\pi$  is full.)

**Proof** First consider an  $\eta$ -diagram  $P = (A \xrightarrow{\eta} C)$ . Let  $\bar{\eta}$  denote the composite

$$A[2] \rightarrow A \xrightarrow{\eta} C \rightarrow C/2.$$

By Proposition 2.1 we can choose an extension

$$E = (C/2 \xrightarrow{\bar{\chi}} B \xrightarrow{\bar{\psi}} A[2])$$

with  $\Phi(E) = \bar{\eta}$ . We define  $\chi$  to be the composite

$$C \rightarrow C/2 \xrightarrow{\bar{\chi}} B,$$

and  $\psi$  to be the composite  $B \xrightarrow{\bar{\psi}} A[2] \rightarrow A$ . It is then clear that  $\psi\chi = 0$ . From the construction of  $\Phi$  we see that  $2.1_B = \bar{\chi}\bar{\eta}\bar{\psi} = \chi\eta\psi$ . We thus have an EEED  $N = (A, B, C, \eta, \chi, \psi)$  with  $\pi(N) = P$ , showing that  $\pi$  is essentially surjective.

Next, suppose we have another EEED  $N' = (A', B', C', \eta', \chi', \psi')$ . A morphism from  $N$  to  $N'$  is then a commutative diagram as shown on the left below, which automatically gives rise to a another diagram as shown on the right:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} B & \xrightarrow{\psi} & A & \xrightarrow{\eta} & C & \xrightarrow{\chi} & B \\ g \downarrow & & f \downarrow & & \downarrow h & & \downarrow g \\ B' & \xrightarrow{\psi'} & A' & \xrightarrow{\eta'} & C' & \xrightarrow{\chi'} & B', \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{ccccccc} C/2 & \xrightarrow{\chi} & B & \xrightarrow{\psi} & A[2] \\ h \downarrow & & \downarrow g & & \downarrow f \\ C'/2 & \xrightarrow{\chi'} & B' & \xrightarrow{\psi'} & A'[2]. \end{array}$$

If  $f$  and  $h$  are isomorphisms, then so are the induced maps  $A[2] \rightarrow A'[2]$  and  $C/2 \rightarrow C'/2$ , so  $g$  is also an isomorphism by the Five Lemma. This shows that  $\pi$

reflects isomorphisms. Suppose instead that  $f = 0$  and  $h = 0$ . We then have  $g\chi = \chi'h = 0$  and  $\psi'g = f\psi = 0$ , so  $g$  factors through the cokernel of  $\chi$  and the kernel of  $\psi'$ . In other words, there is a unique map  $\bar{g}: A[2] \rightarrow C'/2$  such that

$$g = (B \xrightarrow{\psi} A[2] \xrightarrow{\bar{g}} C'/2 \xrightarrow{\chi'} B'),$$

so  $(f, g, h) = \xi(\bar{g})$ . This shows that our sequence is left exact.

Finally, suppose we are given  $f$  and  $h$  making the middle square on the left commute, but not  $g$ . Let  $E$  and  $E'$  denote the extensions  $C/2 \rightarrow B \rightarrow A[2]$  and  $C'/2 \rightarrow B' \rightarrow A'[2]$ , so  $\Phi(E) = \bar{\eta}$  and  $\Phi(E') = \bar{\eta}'$  by Lemma 3.5. The relation  $h\eta = \eta'f$  implies that  $h_*\Phi(E) = f^*\Phi(E')$ , so Proposition 2.3 tells us that there exists  $g: B \rightarrow B'$  making the right hand diagram commute. It follows that the remaining squares on the left commute also, so we have a morphism  $(f, g, h) \in \text{EEED}(N, N')$  with  $\pi(f, g, h) = (f, h)$  as required.  $\square$

The following result proves is evidence that the work done in this paper is really necessary, and cannot be simplified away.

**Proposition 3.8** *There is no functor  $\sigma: \text{ED} \rightarrow \text{EEED}$  (additive or otherwise) such that the composite  $\pi\sigma: \text{ED} \rightarrow \text{ED}$  is naturally isomorphic to the identity functor.*

It will be convenient to give the core of the argument as a separate lemma.

**Lemma 3.9** *Let  $\text{ElAb}$  denote the category of elementary abelian 2-groups, and suppose we have a (not necessarily additive) functor  $F: \text{ElAb} \rightarrow \text{Ab}$  with a natural short exact sequence  $U \xrightarrow{\chi} F(U) \xrightarrow{\psi} U$ . Then the sequence is naturally split, so  $2F(U) = 0$ .*

**Proof** First, the exact sequence shows that  $F(0) = 0$ . Next, we can choose  $x \in F(\mathbb{Z}/2)$  with  $\psi(x) = 1$ . For an arbitrary group  $U \in \text{ElAb}$  and  $u \in U$  we have  $\alpha_u: \mathbb{Z}/2 \rightarrow U$  with  $\alpha_u(1) = u$ , and we put  $\theta(u) = F(\alpha_u)(x) \in F(U)$ . This defines a natural function (not obviously a homomorphism)  $\theta: U \rightarrow F(U)$  with  $\psi\theta = 1$ . Using  $F(0) = 0$  we see that  $\theta(0) = 0$  for all  $U$ . Now consider the element  $\omega_U = \sum_{u \in U} \theta(u) \in F(U)$ , which is evidently invariant under  $\text{Aut}(U)$ , so  $\psi(\omega_U) \in U^{\text{Aut}(U)}$ . Now suppose that  $|U| > 2$ , in which case it is easy to see that  $U^{\text{Aut}(U)} = 0$ . We thus have  $\psi(\omega_U) = 0$ , so  $\omega_U = \chi(\omega'_U)$  for a unique element  $\omega'_U \in U$ . This is again invariant under  $\text{Aut}(U)$  and so is zero, which implies that  $\omega_U = 0$ . Now specialise to the case  $U = (\mathbb{Z}/2)^2 = \{0, e_1, e_2, e_1 + e_2\}$ ; the conclusion is that  $\theta(e_1) + \theta(e_2) + \theta(e_1 + e_2) = 0$ . Now define  $\alpha_{u,v}: (\mathbb{Z}/2)^2 \rightarrow U$  by  $\alpha_{u,v}(i, j) = iu + jv$ . By applying naturality to this we get  $\theta(u) + \theta(v) + \theta(u + v) = 0$ . We can specialise to the case  $u = v$  to get  $2\theta(u) = 0$ , and then return to the general case to get  $\theta(u + v) = \theta(u) + \theta(v)$ . Thus,  $\theta$  is a natural homomorphism that splits the exact sequence.  $\square$

**Remark 3.10** In the statement of the above Lemma we have emphasised that  $F$  is not assumed to be additive, because that is necessary for our application. From the conclusion of the Lemma we see that  $F$  is actually forced to be additive. More generally, as the referee remarked, one can check that any extension of additive functors is automatically additive.

**Proof of Proposition 3.8** Suppose we have a functor  $\sigma: ED \rightarrow EEED$ , and a natural isomorphism  $\lambda: 1 \rightarrow \pi\sigma$ . Thus, for each object  $L = (\zeta: U \rightarrow V) \in ED$  we have an object  $\sigma(L) = (B \xrightarrow{\psi} A \xrightarrow{\eta} C \xrightarrow{\chi} B) \in EEED$  together with a commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} U & \xrightarrow{\zeta} & V \\ \lambda_1 \downarrow \simeq & & \simeq \downarrow \lambda_2 \\ A & \xrightarrow{\eta} & C. \end{array}$$

We can define a new functor  $\sigma': ED \rightarrow EEED$  by

$$\sigma'(L) = (B \xrightarrow{\lambda_1^{-1}\psi} U \xrightarrow{\zeta} V \xrightarrow{\chi\lambda_2} B),$$

and we find that  $\sigma' \simeq \sigma$  and  $\pi\sigma'$  is equal (not just isomorphic) to the identity. We will replace  $\sigma$  by  $\sigma'$  and assume that  $\pi\sigma = 1$ . We now have a functor  $F: E\text{Ab} \rightarrow \text{Ab}$  given by  $F(U) = \beta(\sigma(U \xrightarrow{1} U))$ , and a natural short exact sequence  $U \xrightarrow{\chi} F(U) \xrightarrow{\psi} U$  with  $2.1_{F(U)} = \chi\psi$ . By the Lemma, this must split, so  $2.1_{F(U)} = 0$ , so  $\chi\psi = 0$ . On the other hand, the sequence is short exact, so  $\chi$  is injective and  $\psi$  is surjective. This clearly gives a contradiction whenever  $U \neq 0$ .  $\square$

We now discuss a slightly different way to think about the category EED.

**Definition 3.11** We define a small additive category  $\mathcal{J}$  as follows. There are three objects, denoted by  $a, b$  and  $c$ . There are morphisms

$$b \xleftarrow{\rho} a \xleftarrow{\eta} c \xleftarrow{\beta} b$$

with  $2\rho = 0$ ,  $2\eta = 0$  and  $2\beta = 0$ . The full list of morphisms is as follows:

$$\begin{array}{lll} \mathcal{J}(a, a) = \mathbb{Z}, & \mathcal{J}(a, b) = (\mathbb{Z}/2)\rho, & \mathcal{J}(a, c) = 0, \\ \mathcal{J}(b, a) = (\mathbb{Z}/2)\eta\beta, & \mathcal{J}(b, b) = \mathbb{Z}/4, & \mathcal{J}(b, c) = (\mathbb{Z}/2)\beta, \\ \mathcal{J}(c, a) = (\mathbb{Z}/2)\eta, & \mathcal{J}(c, b) = (\mathbb{Z}/2)\rho\eta, & \mathcal{J}(c, c) = \mathbb{Z}. \end{array}$$

The composition is determined by the rules  $\beta\rho = 0$  and  $2.1_b = \rho\eta\beta$ .

**Proposition 3.12** Any EED  $N$  gives an additive functor  $Q(N): \mathcal{J}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \text{Ab}$  by the rules

$$\begin{aligned} Q(N)(a) &= A, & Q(N)(b) &= B, & Q(N)(c) &= C, \\ Q(N)(\beta) &= \chi, & Q(N)(\eta) &= \eta, & Q(N)(\rho) &= \psi, \end{aligned}$$

so

$$Q(N)(b \xleftarrow{\rho} a \xleftarrow{\eta} c \xleftarrow{\beta} b) = (B \xrightarrow{\psi} A \xrightarrow{\eta} C \xrightarrow{\chi} B).$$

Moreover, this construction gives an equivalence from EED to the category  $[\mathcal{J}^{\text{op}}, \text{Ab}]$  of additive contravariant functors from  $\mathcal{J}$  to  $\text{Ab}$ .

**Proof** Straightforward comparison of definitions. □

From now on we will not distinguish notationally between  $N$  and  $Q(N)$ .

**Corollary 3.13** We have a representable functor  $F_x = \mathcal{J}(-, x): \mathcal{J}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \text{Ab}$  for any  $x \in \mathcal{J}$ , so  $F_x \in \text{EED}$ . For any morphism  $u: x \rightarrow y$  in  $\mathcal{J}$  we have a morphism  $F_u: F_x \rightarrow F_y$  in EED. The object  $F_x$  can be displayed as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} F_b &= (\mathbb{Z}/4 \longrightarrow \twoheadrightarrow \mathbb{Z}/2 \xrightarrow{1} \mathbb{Z}/2 \xrightarrow{2} \mathbb{Z}/4), \\ F_c &= (\mathbb{Z}/2 \longrightarrow \rightarrow 0 \longrightarrow \rightarrow \mathbb{Z} \longrightarrow \twoheadrightarrow \mathbb{Z}/2), \\ F_a &= (\mathbb{Z}/2_0 \longrightarrow \rightarrow \mathbb{Z} \longrightarrow \twoheadrightarrow \mathbb{Z}/2_1 \longrightarrow \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/2). \end{aligned}$$

The morphisms  $F_u$  are given by the following square. The rows are  $F_b, F_c, F_a$  and  $F_b$  respectively. The maps from the first row to the second comprise the morphism  $F_\beta: F_b \rightarrow F_c$ . Similarly, the second group of vertical maps comprise the morphism  $F_\eta: F_c \rightarrow F_a$ , and the third group comprise  $F_\rho: F_a \rightarrow F_b$ .

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} F_b & & \mathbb{Z}/4 & \longrightarrow & \twoheadrightarrow & \mathbb{Z}/2 & \xrightarrow{1} & \mathbb{Z}/2 & \xrightarrow{2} & \mathbb{Z}/4 \\ F_\beta \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow 0 & & \downarrow & \\ F_c & & \mathbb{Z}/2 & \longrightarrow & \rightarrow & 0 & \longrightarrow & \rightarrow & \mathbb{Z} & \longrightarrow & \twoheadrightarrow & \mathbb{Z}/2 \\ F_\eta \downarrow & & 1 \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow 1 & \\ F_a & & \mathbb{Z}/2 & \longrightarrow & \rightarrow & \mathbb{Z} & \longrightarrow & \twoheadrightarrow & \mathbb{Z}/2 & \longrightarrow & \rightarrow & \mathbb{Z}/2 \\ F_\rho \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow 1 & & \downarrow & & \downarrow 2 & \\ F_b & & \mathbb{Z}/4 & \longrightarrow & \twoheadrightarrow & \mathbb{Z}/2 & \longrightarrow & \rightarrow & \mathbb{Z}/2 & \xrightarrow{2} & \mathbb{Z}/4. \end{array}$$

By the Yoneda Lemma we have  $\text{EED}(F_x, N) = N(x)$ .

**Proof** This is a straightforward (if somewhat lengthy) calculation from the definitions. For example, the first row is

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 \mathcal{J}(b, b) & \xrightarrow{\rho^*} & \mathcal{J}(a, b) & \xrightarrow{\eta^*} & \mathcal{J}(c, b) & \xrightarrow{\beta^*} & \mathcal{J}(b, b) \\
 \parallel & & \parallel & & \parallel & & \parallel \\
 \mathbb{Z}/4 & \longrightarrow & (\mathbb{Z}/2)\rho & \xrightarrow{\simeq} & (\mathbb{Z}/2)\rho\eta & \longrightarrow & \mathbb{Z}/4.
 \end{array}$$

The others follow similarly. □

**Definition 3.14** Given subcategories  $\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{C} \subseteq \text{Ab}$  we write  $\text{ED}[\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{C}]$  for the subcategory of ED consisting of  $\eta$ -diagrams  $A \xrightarrow{\eta} C$  with  $A \in \mathcal{A}$  and  $C \in \mathcal{C}$ . We will particularly be interested in the categories

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathcal{F} &= \{A \in \text{Ab} \mid 2.1_A \text{ is injective}\} = \{A \mid A[2] = 0\}, \\
 \mathcal{D} &= \{C \in \text{Ab} \mid 2.1_C \text{ is surjective}\} = \{C \mid C/2 = 0\}.
 \end{aligned}$$

**Remark 3.15** Consider an exact extended  $\eta$ -diagram  $M = (A, B, C, \eta, \chi, \psi)$ , so we have a short exact sequence  $C/2 \xrightarrow{\chi} B \xrightarrow{\psi} A[2]$ . If  $\chi = 0$  we must have  $C/2 = 0$  (so  $C \in \mathcal{D}$ ) and  $\psi$  gives an isomorphism  $B \rightarrow A[2]$ . Similarly, if  $\psi = 0$  then  $A \in \mathcal{F}$  and  $C/2 \simeq B$ . Arguing along these lines, we find that:

- the functor  $\pi$  gives an equivalence  $\{M \mid \chi = 0\} \rightarrow \text{ED}[\text{Ab}, \mathcal{D}]$ ; moreover,  $\alpha$  gives an equivalence  $\{M \mid C = 0\} \rightarrow \text{Ab}$ ;
- the functor  $\pi$  gives an equivalence  $\{M \mid \psi = 0\} \rightarrow \text{ED}[\mathcal{F}, \text{Ab}]$ ; moreover,  $\gamma$  gives an equivalence  $\{M \mid A = 0\} \rightarrow \text{Ab}$ ;
- the functor  $\pi$  also gives an equivalence  $\{M \mid B = 0\} \rightarrow \text{ED}[\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{D}]$ .

To complete the picture, we should analyse the case where  $\eta = 0$ . This is a little more elaborate.

**Definition 3.16** We define a category SPP (short for “split Postnikov pairs”) as follows. The objects are pairs  $(A, C)$  of abelian groups. The morphisms from  $(A_0, C_0)$  to  $(A_1, C_1)$  are triples  $(f, g, u)$  where  $f: A_0 \rightarrow A_1$  and  $h: C_0 \rightarrow C_1$  and  $u: A_0[2] \rightarrow C_1/2$ . The identity morphism of  $(A, C)$  is  $(1_A, 1_C, 0)$ . The composite of

$$(A_0, C_0) \xrightarrow{(f_0, h_0, u_0)} (A_1, C_1) \xrightarrow{(f_1, h_1, u_1)} (A_2, C_2)$$

is  $(f_1 f_0, h_1 h_0, (h_1)_* u_0 + (f_0)_* u_1)$ . (We leave it to the reader to check that this is associative and unital.) Next, for  $(A, C) \in \text{SPP}$  we define  $H(A, C) \in \text{EEED}$  to be the diagram

$$C/2 \oplus A[2] \xrightarrow{\psi} A \xrightarrow{0} C \xrightarrow{\chi} C/2 \oplus A[2],$$

where  $\psi(\bar{c}, a) = a$ ,  $\chi(c) = (c + 2C, 0)$ . Given a morphism  $(f, h, u): (A_0, C_0) \rightarrow (A_1, C_1)$ , we define  $g: C_0/2 \oplus A_0[2] \rightarrow C_1/2 \oplus A_1[2]$  by

$$g(c_0 + 2C_0, a_0) = (h(c_0) + u(a_0) + 2C_1, f(a_0)).$$

We find that the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} C_0/2 \oplus A_0[2] & \xrightarrow{\psi_0} & A_0 & \xrightarrow{0} & C_0 & \xrightarrow{\chi_0} & C_0/2 \oplus A_0[2] \\ \downarrow g & & \downarrow f & & \downarrow h & & \downarrow g \\ C_1/2 \oplus A_1[2] & \xrightarrow{\psi_1} & A_1 & \xrightarrow{0} & C_1 & \xrightarrow{\chi_1} & C_1/2 \oplus A_1[2] \end{array}$$

commutes, so we have a morphism  $(f, g, h) \in \text{EEED}(H(A_0, C_0), H(A_1, C_1))$ . We write  $H(f, h, u)$  for this morphism.

**Proposition 3.17** *The construction given in Definition 3.16 gives an equivalence  $H: \text{SPP} \rightarrow \{M \in \text{EEED} \mid \eta = 0\}$ .*

**Proof** We leave it to the reader to check that  $H$  gives an isomorphism

$$\text{SPP}((A_0, C_0), (A_1, C_1)) \rightarrow \text{EEED}(H(A_0, C_0), H(A_1, C_1)),$$

and that this is compatible with composition. Thus,  $H$  defines a full and faithful embedding  $\text{SPP} \rightarrow \text{EEED}$ . Consider an EEED  $M$  with  $\eta = 0$ , say  $M = (A, B, C, 0, \chi, \psi)$ . We then have  $2.1_B = \psi\eta\chi = 0$ , so the sequence  $C/2 \rightarrow B \rightarrow A[2]$  is a short exact sequence of vector spaces over the field  $\mathbb{Z}/2$ , so it splits. Any choice of splitting gives an isomorphism  $H(A, C) \rightarrow M$ . It follows that the essential image of  $H$  is  $\{M \mid \eta = 0\}$ , as claimed.  $\square$

We now explain the precise connection between Moore diagrams and  $\eta$ -diagrams.

**Proposition 3.18** *Let  $\text{EMD}'$  denote the full subcategory of EEED consisting of diagrams  $(A, B, C, \eta, \chi, \psi)$  for which the map  $\eta: A \rightarrow C$  is surjective with kernel  $2A$ . Then there is an equivalence  $E: \text{EMD} \rightarrow \text{EMD}'$  given by*

$$E(B \xrightarrow{\psi} A \xrightarrow{\phi} B) = (B \xrightarrow{\psi} A \xrightarrow{\text{proj}} A/2 \xrightarrow{\bar{\phi}} B),$$

(where  $\bar{\phi}$  is the unique map with  $\bar{\phi} \circ \text{proj} = \phi$ ).

**Proof** The inverse functor is just

$$E^{-1}(B \xrightarrow{\psi} A \xrightarrow{\eta} C \xrightarrow{\chi} B) = (B \xrightarrow{\psi} A \xrightarrow{\chi\eta} B).$$

We leave all further details to the reader.  $\square$

**Lemma 3.19** *If  $N \in \text{EMD}'$  and  $N' \in \text{EEED}$ , then the map  $\alpha: \text{ED}(\pi(N), \pi(N')) \rightarrow \text{Hom}(\alpha(N), \alpha(N'))$  is a bijection.*

**Proof** If we write  $N$  and  $N'$  in the usual form, then  $\text{ED}(\pi(N), \pi(N'))$  is the set of pairs  $(f, h)$  making the following diagram commute:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A & \xrightarrow{\eta} & C \\ f \downarrow & & \downarrow h \\ A' & \xrightarrow{\eta'} & C'. \end{array}$$

If we are given an arbitrary homomorphism  $f: A \rightarrow A'$ , we can define  $h: C \rightarrow C'$  as follows. Given  $a \in A$ , we choose  $c \in C$  with  $\eta(c) = a$ , then put  $h(a) = \eta'(f(c))$ . By assumption we have  $\ker(\eta) = 2A$  and  $2\eta' = 0$  so  $\eta'(f(2A)) = 0$ , which proves that  $h$  is well-defined. It is clear that  $h$  is the unique homomorphism making the diagram commute. Thus, the projection map  $(f, h) \mapsto f$  is an isomorphism as claimed.  $\square$

**Corollary 3.20** *The functor  $\alpha: \text{EMD} \rightarrow \text{Ab}$  is full and essentially surjective, and reflects isomorphisms. For any  $M, M' \in \text{EMD}$  there is a natural short exact sequence*

$$\text{Hom}(\alpha(M)[2], \alpha(M')/2) \rightarrow \text{EMD}(M, M') \rightarrow \text{Hom}(\alpha(M), \alpha(M')).$$

**Proof** Put  $N = E(M)$  and  $N' = E(M')$ , so these are objects in the full subcategory  $\text{EMD}' \subseteq \text{EEED}$ . **Proposition 3.7** gives a short exact sequence

$$\text{Hom}(\alpha(N)[2], \gamma(N')/2) \xrightarrow{\xi} \text{EEED}(N, N') \xrightarrow{\pi} \text{ED}(\pi(N), \pi(N')).$$

From the definition of  $E$  we have that  $\alpha(N) = \alpha(M)$  and  $\gamma(N')/2 = \alpha(M')/2$ . **Proposition 3.18** identifies  $\text{EEED}(N, N')$  with  $\text{EMD}(M, M')$ , and **Lemma 3.19** identifies  $\text{ED}(\pi(N), \pi(N'))$  with  $\text{Hom}(\alpha(M), \alpha(M'))$ . The above short exact sequence can thus be rewritten as

$$\text{Hom}(\alpha(M)[2], \alpha(M')/2) \rightarrow \text{EMD}(M, M') \rightarrow \text{Hom}(\alpha(M), \alpha(M')),$$

as claimed. This shows that  $\alpha: \text{EMD} \rightarrow \text{Ab}$  is full.

We could prove that  $\alpha$  is essentially surjective by a similar process of translation. More directly, for any abelian group  $A$  we can take  $B = A/2 \oplus A[2]$  and  $\phi(a) = (a + 2A, 0)$  and  $\psi(a + 2A, a') = a'$ ; this gives an exact Moore diagram  $M = (A, B, \phi, \psi)$  with  $\alpha(M) = A$ , proving that  $\alpha$  is essentially surjective.

Similarly, suppose we have a morphism  $p: M \rightarrow M'$  in EMD, given by maps  $f: A \rightarrow A'$  and  $g: B \rightarrow B'$ , and suppose that  $\alpha(p) = f$  is an isomorphism. We then have a commutative diagram with exact rows as follows:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 A/2 & \xrightarrow{\phi} & B & \xrightarrow{\psi} & A[2] \\
 f \downarrow \simeq & & \downarrow g & & \simeq \downarrow f \\
 A'/2 & \xrightarrow{\phi'} & B' & \xrightarrow{\psi'} & A'[2].
 \end{array}$$

It follows that  $g$  is also an isomorphism, so  $p$  is an isomorphism in EMD. □

### 4 Functors from spectra

In order to construct extended  $\eta$ -diagrams from spectra, we need some low-dimensional calculations of stable homotopy groups. In discussing these, it is helpful to remember that the graded groups  $[X, Y]_*$  are naturally modules over  $\pi_*(S)$ , and composition is bilinear. For example, if we have a map  $f: \Sigma^k X \rightarrow Y$  then the following composites are all the same and can be denoted by  $\eta \cdot f$ :

$$(\Sigma^{k+1} X \xrightarrow{\eta \wedge 1_X} \Sigma^k X \xrightarrow{f} Y) = (\Sigma^{k+1} X \xrightarrow{\eta \wedge f} Y) = (\Sigma^{k+1} X \xrightarrow{\Sigma f} \Sigma Y \xrightarrow{\eta \wedge 1_Y} Y).$$

(We have suppressed any mention of signs here because  $2\eta = 0$ .) Similar remarks apply with  $\eta$  replaced by  $2: S \rightarrow S$ . In particular we have the cofibration sequence

$$S \xrightarrow{2} S \xrightarrow{\rho} S/2 \xrightarrow{\beta} S^1 \xrightarrow{2} S^1,$$

in which adjacent composites vanish, so  $2 \cdot \rho = 0$  and  $2 \cdot \beta = 0$ .

**Proposition 4.1** *The identity map of  $S/2$  has order 4, and the following diagram commutes:*

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 S/2 & \xrightarrow{\beta} & S^1 \\
 2 \downarrow & & \downarrow \eta \\
 S/2 & \xleftarrow{\rho} & S^0.
 \end{array}$$

**Proof** This is classical, probably due to Toda [5]. One argument is as follows. We have  $S/2 = \Sigma^{-1} \mathbb{R}P^2$ , so  $H^*(S/2; \mathbb{Z}/2) = \mathbb{Z}/2\{a, b\}$  with  $|a| = 0$  and  $|b| = 1$  and  $Sq^1(a) = b$ . This gives

$$H^*(S/2 \wedge S/2) = (\mathbb{Z}/2)\{a \otimes a, a \otimes b, b \otimes a, b \otimes b\},$$

and by the Cartan formula we have  $Sq^2(a \otimes a) = b \otimes b \neq 0$ . On the other hand, if we let  $\iota$  denote the identity map of  $S/2$ , we see that  $S/2 \wedge S/2$  is the cofibre of  $2\iota$ . If  $2\iota$  were zero then  $S/2 \wedge S/2$  would split as  $S/2 \vee S^1/2$  and we would have  $Sq^2 = 0$  in cohomology, which is false. Thus, we must have  $2\iota \neq 0$ . On the other hand, the cofibration sequence  $S \xrightarrow{\rho} S/2 \xrightarrow{\beta} S^1$  gives an exact sequence

$$\pi_1(S/2) = [S^1, S/2] \xrightarrow{\beta^*} [S/2, S/2] \xrightarrow{\rho^*} [S, S/2] = \pi_0(S/2).$$

We will take it as given that  $\pi_0(S) = \mathbb{Z}$  and  $\pi_1(S) = (\mathbb{Z}/2)\eta$  and  $\pi_2(S) = (\mathbb{Z}/2)\eta^2$ . There is a long exact sequence

$$\pi_i(S) \xrightarrow{2} \pi_i(S) \xrightarrow{\rho^*} \pi_i(S/2) \xrightarrow{\beta^*} \pi_{i-1}(S) \xrightarrow{2} \pi_{i-1}(S).$$

From this we read off that  $\pi_0(S/2) = (\mathbb{Z}/2)\rho$  and  $\pi_1(S/2) = (\mathbb{Z}/2)\rho\eta$ . Thus, our previous exact sequence looks like

$$(\mathbb{Z}/2)\rho\eta \xrightarrow{\beta^*} [S/2, S/2] \xrightarrow{\rho^*} (\mathbb{Z}/2)\rho,$$

and of course  $\rho^*(\iota) = \rho$ . The only way we can have  $2\iota \neq 0$  is if  $\beta^*$  is injective and  $2\iota = \beta^*(\rho\eta) = \rho\eta\beta$  as claimed. □

**Corollary 4.2** *There is a full and faithful additive embedding  $T: \mathcal{J} \rightarrow \text{Spectra}$  given by  $T(a) = S$  and  $T(b) = S/2$  and  $T(c) = S^1$ .*

**Corollary 4.3** *For any spectrum  $X$ , we have that there is an exact extended  $\eta$ -diagram  $G(X): \mathcal{J}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \text{Ab}$  given by  $G(X)(x) = [T(x), X]$  for all  $x \in \mathcal{J}$ . In the notation of Corollary 3.13, we have  $G(S) = F_a$ ,  $G(S/2) = F_b$  and  $G(S^1) = F_c$ .*

**Proof** It is formal that the given rule defines an additive functor  $\mathcal{J}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \text{Ab}$ , or in other words an extended  $\eta$  diagram. The sequence

$$T(a) \xrightarrow{2} T(a) \xrightarrow{T(\rho)} T(b) \xrightarrow{T(\beta)} T(c) \xrightarrow{2} T(c)$$

is the cofibration sequence

$$S \xrightarrow{2} S \xrightarrow{\rho} S/2 \xrightarrow{\beta} S^1 \xrightarrow{2} S^1,$$

so when we apply  $[-, X]$  we get an exact sequence

$$G(X)(a) \xleftarrow{2} G(X)(a) \xleftarrow{\psi} G(X)(b) \xleftarrow{\chi} G(X)(c) \xleftarrow{2} G(X)(c),$$

or equivalently

$$G(X)(c)/2 \xrightarrow{\chi} G(X)(b) \xrightarrow{\psi} G(X)(a)[2].$$

Thus, we actually have an exact extended  $\eta$ -diagram. As  $T$  is full and faithful we have

$$G(T(w))(x) = [T(x), T(w)] = \mathcal{J}(x, w) = F_w(x),$$

so  $G(T(w)) = F_w$ . This gives  $G(S) = F_a$ ,  $G(S/2) = F_b$  and  $G(S^1) = F_c$  as claimed.  $\square$

**Remark 4.4** We will prove  $G$  is essentially surjective (Corollary 5.13). Lemma 4.13 describes a subcategory on which it reflects isomorphism. Corollary 5.12 gives a smaller subcategory where  $G$  is full, together with a good description of the kernel of the map  $G: [X, Y] \rightarrow \text{EEED}(G(X), G(Y))$  in that context.

**Example 4.5** Given any pair of abelian groups  $A$  and  $C$ , we have Eilenberg–Mac Lane spectra  $HA$  and  $HC$  and we find that  $G(HA \vee \Sigma HC) = G(HA) \oplus G(\Sigma HC)$  is the diagram  $H(A, C)$  defined in Definition 3.16. However, the resulting map

$$\begin{aligned} [HA_0 \vee \Sigma HC_0, HA_1 \vee \Sigma HC_1] &\rightarrow \text{SPP}((A_0, C_0), (A_1, C_1)) \\ &= \text{EEED}(H(A_0, C_0), H(A_1, C_1)) \end{aligned}$$

is not an isomorphism in general. To cure this, let  $\text{SPP}^+$  be the category with the same objects as  $\text{SPP}$ , and morphisms

$$\text{SPP}^+((A_0, C_0), (A_1, C_1)) = \text{Hom}(A_0, A_1) \times \text{Hom}(C_0, C_1) \times \text{Ext}(A_0, C_1),$$

with composition

$$(f_1, g_1, u_1) \circ (f_0, g_0, u_0) = (f_1 f_0, g_1 g_0, (g_1)_*(u_0) + f_0^*(u_1)).$$

Using the Hurewicz and Universal Coefficient theorems, we obtain natural isomorphisms

$$\begin{aligned} [HA_0, HA_1] &\simeq \text{Hom}(A_0, A_1), & [\Sigma HC_0, HA_1] &\simeq 0, \\ [HA_0, \Sigma HC_1] &\simeq \text{Ext}(A_0, C_1), & [\Sigma HC_0, \Sigma HC_1] &\simeq \text{Hom}(C_0, C_1). \end{aligned}$$

Using this we see that there is a full and faithful embedding  $\tilde{H}: \text{SPP}^+ \rightarrow \text{Spectra}$  given by  $\tilde{H}(A, C) = HA \vee \Sigma HC$ . The map  $\Phi: \text{Ext}(A_0, C_1) \rightarrow \text{Hom}(A_0[2], C_1/2)$  from Proposition 2.1 gives rise to a functor  $\text{SPP}^+ \rightarrow \text{SPP}$ , which we also denote by  $\Phi$ . We then find that the following diagram commutes up to natural isomorphism:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{SPP}^+ & \xrightarrow{\tilde{H}} & \text{Spectra} \\ \Phi \downarrow & & \downarrow G \\ \text{SPP} & \xrightarrow{H} & \text{EEED} . \end{array}$$

**Definition 4.6** For any spectra  $X$  and  $Y$ , we define

$$\begin{aligned} L(X, Y) &= \ker(G: [X, Y] \rightarrow \text{EED}(G(X), G(Y))), \\ K(X, Y) &= \ker(\pi G: [X, Y] \rightarrow \text{ED}(\pi G(X), \pi G(Y))) \\ &= \{f: X \rightarrow Y \mid \pi_0(f) = 0 \text{ and } \pi_1(f) = 0\}. \end{aligned}$$

For any  $f \in K(X, Y)$  we form a cofibration sequence  $X \rightarrow Y \rightarrow Cf \rightarrow \Sigma X$ , giving an exact sequence

$$\pi_1(X) \xrightarrow{f_*=0} \pi_1(Y) \rightarrow \pi_1(Cf) \rightarrow \pi_0(X) \xrightarrow{f_*=0} \pi_0(Y)$$

and thus an extension

$$E(f) = (\pi_1(Y) \hookrightarrow \pi_1(Cf) \twoheadrightarrow \pi_0(X)).$$

Standard results about uniqueness of cofibration sequences show that this is well-defined up to equivalence, we have a well-defined class  $\omega(f) = [E(f)] \in \text{Ext}(\pi_0(X), \pi_1(Y))$ .

**Lemma 4.7** *The map  $\omega: K(X, Y) \rightarrow \text{Ext}(\pi_0(X), \pi_1(Y))$  is a homomorphism. Also, given maps*

$$W \xrightarrow{p} X \xrightarrow{f} Y \xrightarrow{q} Z$$

with  $f \in K(X, Y)$  we have

$$\omega(qfp) = \pi_1(q)_* \pi_0(p)^* \omega(f) \in \text{Ext}(\pi_0(W), \pi_1(Z)).$$

**Proof** First suppose we have  $X \xrightarrow{f} Y \xrightarrow{q} Z$  with  $f \in K(X, Y)$ . The octahedral axiom then gives a commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} Y & \longrightarrow & Cf & \longrightarrow & \Sigma X \\ q \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \parallel \\ Z & \longrightarrow & C(qf) & \longrightarrow & \Sigma X. \end{array}$$

We can apply  $\pi_1$  to get a morphism of extensions, and then use the first part of **Proposition 2.3** to deduce that  $\omega(qf) = \pi_1(q)_* \omega(f)$ . A similar argument shows that  $\omega(fp) = \pi_0(p)^* \omega(f)$ . Now consider the diagonal map  $X \rightarrow X \vee X$  and the codiagonal map  $\nabla: Y \vee Y \rightarrow Y$ . Given another map  $f' \in K(X, Y)$  we have

$$\omega(f + f') = \omega(\nabla \circ (f \vee f') \circ \Delta) = \nabla_* \Delta^* (\omega(f) \oplus \omega(f')) = \omega(f) + \omega(f'),$$

so  $\omega$  is a homomorphism. □

**Proposition 4.8** *There is a natural commutative diagram as follows, in which the rectangle and the squares are pullbacks:*

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 L(X, Y) & \xrightarrow{\omega'} & 2. \text{Ext}(\pi_0(X), \pi_1(Y)) & \longrightarrow & 0 & & \\
 \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \\
 K(X, Y) & \xrightarrow{\omega} & \text{Ext}(\pi_0(X), \pi_1(Y)) & \xrightarrow{\Phi} & \text{Hom}(\pi_0(X)[2], \pi_1(Y)/2) & \longrightarrow & 0 \\
 \downarrow & & & & \downarrow \xi & & \downarrow \\
 [X, Y] & \xrightarrow{G} & \text{EEED}(G(X), G(Y)) & \xrightarrow{\pi} & \text{ED}(\pi G(X), \pi G(Y)). & & 
 \end{array}$$

Moreover:

- (a) if the maps  $\pi G$  and  $\omega$  are surjective, then so is  $G$ ;
- (b) if  $\omega$  is an isomorphism then so is  $\omega'$ ;
- (c) if  $\omega$  is an isomorphism and  $2. \text{Ext}(\pi_0(X), \pi_1(Y)) = 0$ , then  $G$  is injective.

**Proof** The bottom right square is a pullback (with  $\pi$  surjective) by Proposition 3.7, and the top middle square is a pullback (with  $\Phi$  surjective) by Proposition 2.1. We next show that the bottom left rectangle commutes. Consider an element  $f \in K(X, Y)$ , so  $\pi G(f) = 0$ . As  $\xi$  is the kernel of  $\pi$ , we have that  $G(f) = \xi(s)$  for some  $s: \pi_0(X)[2] \rightarrow \pi_1(Y)/2$ . We need to show that  $s = \Phi(\omega(f))$ . Consider an element  $w \in \pi_0(X)[2]$ . By inspecting the definitions, we see that  $s(w)$  can be described as follows: we choose any  $v: S/2 \rightarrow X$  with  $v\rho = w$ , then choose any  $u \in \pi_1(Y)$  with  $u\beta = fv: S/2 \rightarrow Y$ , then  $s(w)$  is the coset  $u + 2\pi_1(Y)$ . The best way to choose  $u$  is as follows. Let  $h: \Sigma^{-1}Cf \rightarrow X$  be the connecting map. As  $\pi_0(f) = 0$  we have  $fw = 0$ , so we can choose  $z: S \rightarrow \Sigma^{-1}Cf$  with  $hz = w = v\rho$ . This gives the solid part of the diagram below, in which the rows are cofibration sequences:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccc}
 S & \xrightarrow{\rho} & S/2 & \xrightarrow{\beta} & S^1 & \xrightarrow{2} & S^1 & \xrightarrow{\Sigma\rho} & S^1/2 \\
 z \downarrow & & v \downarrow & & u \downarrow \cdots & & \downarrow \Sigma z & & \downarrow \Sigma v \\
 \Sigma^{-1}Cf & \xrightarrow{h} & X & \xrightarrow{f} & Y & \xrightarrow{g} & Cf & \xrightarrow{\Sigma h} & \Sigma X.
 \end{array}$$

By the axioms for a triangulated category, there is a map  $u$  making everything commute. In particular we have  $u\beta = fv$  so  $u$  represents  $s(w)$ . On the other hand, we can also

apply  $\pi_1$  to obtain a commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 \mathbb{Z} & \xrightarrow{2} & \mathbb{Z} & \twoheadrightarrow & \mathbb{Z}/2 \\
 u \downarrow & & z \downarrow & & \downarrow w \\
 \pi_1(Y) & \xrightarrow{\quad} & \pi_1(Cf) & \twoheadrightarrow & \pi_0(X),
 \end{array}$$

from which we can read off the fact that  $\Phi(\omega(f))(w)$  is represented by  $u$ . Thus we have that  $\xi\Phi\omega = G|_{K(X,Y)}$ , as claimed. Moreover, we have  $f \in L(X, Y)$  if and only if  $G(f) = 0$  if and only if  $\xi\Phi\omega(f) = 0$  if and only if  $\Phi\omega(f) = 0$  if and only if  $\omega(f) \in \ker(\Phi) = 2 \cdot \text{Ext}(\pi_0(X), \pi_1(Y))$ . We can thus define  $\omega'$  to be the restriction of  $\omega$ , and this makes the top left square a pullback. It also follows formally from the definition of  $K(X, Y)$  that the bottom left rectangle is a pullback. The auxiliary statements (a), (b) and (c) now follow easily by chasing the diagram.  $\square$

**Lemma 4.9** *There is a finite spectrum  $Q$  fitting in a diagram as follows, in which the rows and columns are cofibration sequences:*

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 & & S & \xlongequal{\quad} & S & & \\
 & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \theta & & \\
 S^2 & \xrightarrow{\lambda} & S/\eta & \longrightarrow & Q & \longrightarrow & S^3 \\
 \parallel & & \delta \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \parallel \\
 S^2 & \xrightarrow{2} & S^2 & \xrightarrow{\rho} & S^2/2 & \xrightarrow{\beta} & S^3 \\
 & & \eta \downarrow & & \downarrow \xi & & \\
 & & S^1 & \xlongequal{\quad} & S^1 & & 
 \end{array}$$

Moreover, the unit map  $S \rightarrow H$  factors uniquely through  $\theta: S \rightarrow Q$ , and the fibre of the resulting map  $Q \rightarrow H$  is 2-connected.

This is a fairly well-known example in low-dimensional stable homotopy theory, and is often characterised by the ‘‘cell diagram’’

$$\bullet \xrightarrow{\text{Sq}^2} \bullet \xrightarrow{\text{Sq}^1} \bullet$$

However, it will be simpler to prove the precise properties that we need rather than trying to extract them from the literature.

**Proof** The third row is a familiar cofibration sequence. We define  $S/\eta$  to be the cofibre of the map  $\eta: S^1 \rightarrow S$ . (This can also be described as  $\Sigma^{-2}\mathbb{C}P^2$ .) We let  $\delta$  denote the connecting map, so that the second column in the diagram is also a cofibration sequence. Using this cofibration sequence and our knowledge of  $\pi_{\leq 2}(S)$ , we see that there is a unique element  $\lambda \in \pi_2(S/2)$  with  $\delta\lambda = 2$ , so that the left square commutes. We also find that  $\pi_0(S/\eta) = \mathbb{Z}$  and  $\pi_1(S/\eta) = 0$  and  $\pi_2(S/\eta) = \mathbb{Z}\lambda$ .

Next, we define  $Q$  to be the cofibre of  $\lambda$ , so the second row is another cofibration sequence. The octahedral axiom now tells us that the third column can be filled in as claimed. If we apply the functor  $[-, H]$  to that column we see that the unit map  $S \rightarrow H$  factors uniquely through  $\theta$ . We can also apply  $\pi_*$  to the second row to see that  $\pi_0(Q) = \mathbb{Z}$  and  $\pi_1(Q) = \pi_2(Q) = 0$ . Now let  $F$  be the fibre of the map  $Q \rightarrow H$ . We then have  $\pi_0(F) = 0$  and  $\pi_k(F) = \pi_k(Q)$  for  $k > 0$ , so in particular  $\pi_1(F) = \pi_2(F) = 0$  as claimed.  $\square$

**Remark 4.10** It is possible to give a more geometric construction, as follows. Let  $\mathbb{H}$  denote the space of quaternions, and  $\mathbb{H}_0$  the subspace of purely imaginary ones. There are evident maps

$$P_{\mathbb{R}}(\mathbb{H} \oplus \mathbb{H}_0) \rightarrow P_{\mathbb{R}}(\mathbb{H} \oplus \mathbb{H}) \rightarrow P_{\mathbb{H}}(\mathbb{H} \oplus \mathbb{H}) \simeq \mathbb{H}_{\infty} \simeq S^4.$$

The composite sends  $P_{\mathbb{R}}(0 \oplus \mathbb{H}_0)$  to the basepoint. Thus, we have an induced map  $f$  from the quotient space  $P = P_{\mathbb{R}}(\mathbb{H} \oplus \mathbb{H}_0)/P_{\mathbb{R}}(0 \oplus \mathbb{H}_0) \simeq \mathbb{R}P^6/\mathbb{R}P^2$  to  $S^4$ . We put  $Q = \Sigma^{-4}Cf$ .

We have  $H^*(P; \mathbb{Z}/2) = (\mathbb{Z}/2)\{a_3, a_4, a_5, a_6\}$  with  $Sq^1(a_3) = a_4$ ,  $Sq^1(a_5) = a_6$  and  $Sq^2(a_3) = a_5$ . We can check  $f$  restricts to give a map  $P_{\mathbb{R}}(\mathbb{C} \oplus \mathbb{H}_0)/P_{\mathbb{R}}(0 \oplus \mathbb{H}_0) \rightarrow S^4$  that is generically bijective, and therefore sends the generator of  $H^4(S^4; \mathbb{Z}/2)$  to  $a_4$ . It follows that  $H^*(Q; \mathbb{Z}/2)$  has the form  $(\mathbb{Z}/2)\{b_0, b_2, b_3\}$  with  $|b_i| = i$ ,  $Sq^2(b_0) = b_2$  and  $Sq^1(b_2) = b_3$ . From this one can deduce that  $Q$  fits into a system of cofibration sequences as indicated. We leave further details of this approach to the reader.

We next recall a standard fact for ease of reference.

**Lemma 4.11** *Let  $X$  be a connective spectrum.*

- (a) *If  $H_*(X) = 0$  then  $X$  is contractible.*
- (b) *If  $i$  is the smallest integer such that  $H_i(X) \neq 0$ , then the Hurewicz map  $\pi_i(X) \rightarrow H_i(X)$  is an isomorphism.*

**Proof** First suppose that  $H_*(X) = 0$ . By assumption  $X$  is connective, so there exists  $n$  such that  $\pi_j(X) = 0$  for all  $j < n$ . The Hurewicz theorem then tells us that  $\pi_n(X) \simeq H_n(X) = 0$ . This allows us to apply the Hurewicz theorem one dimension higher, so  $\pi_{n+1}(X) \simeq H_{n+1}(X) = 0$ . We can continue this inductively to see that  $\pi_i(X) = 0$  for all  $X$ , so  $X$  is contractible. The proof for (b) is essentially the same.  $\square$

**Remark 4.12** Connectivity is certainly required here; for example, the spectrum  $X = KU \wedge S/2$  is not contractible but has  $H_*(X) = 0$ .

**Lemma 4.13** *Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be the category of  $(-1)$ -connected spectra  $X$  with  $H_k(X) = 0$  for  $k > 1$ . Then for  $X \in \mathcal{C}$  there is a natural short exact sequence*

$$\pi_0(X)/2 \xrightarrow{\eta} \pi_1(X) \xrightarrow{h} H_1(X).$$

Moreover, the functor  $G: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \text{EEED}$  reflects isomorphism.

**Proof** Let  $Q$  be as in Lemma 4.9, and let  $F$  be the fibre of the map  $Q \rightarrow H$ . As  $X$  is  $(-1)$ -connected and  $F$  is 2-connected we see that  $F \wedge X$  is 2-connected and thus that the map  $\pi_k(Q \wedge X) \rightarrow \pi_k(H \wedge X) = H_k(X)$  is an isomorphism for  $k \leq 2$ .

Next, from the third column in Lemma 4.9 we have an exact sequence

$$\pi_2(Q \wedge X) \rightarrow \pi_1((S^1/2) \wedge X) \rightarrow \pi_1(X) \rightarrow \pi_1(Q \wedge X) \rightarrow \pi_0((S^1/2) \wedge X).$$

The first group is  $H_2(X)$ , which is zero by assumption. The second is  $\pi_0((S/2) \wedge X)$ , which is easily shown to be  $\pi_0(X)/2$ . The fourth is  $H_1(X)$ , and the last is zero for connectivity reasons. We thus have an exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \pi_0(X)/2 \xrightarrow{\eta} \pi_1(X) \rightarrow H_1(X) \rightarrow 0,$$

as claimed.

Now suppose we have a map  $f: X \rightarrow Y$  in  $\mathcal{C}$  such that  $G(f)$  is an isomorphism. This means that  $\pi_0(f) = \alpha(G(f))$  and  $\pi_1(f) = \gamma(G(f))$  are isomorphisms, so  $H_1(f)$  is also an isomorphism by our short exact sequence. We also know that  $H_0(f) = \pi_0(f)$  by the Hurewicz theorem, and  $H_k$  vanishes for  $k < 0$  or  $k > 1$ , so  $H_*(f)$  is an isomorphism in all degrees. As  $X$  and  $Y$  are connective this means that  $f$  is an equivalence. Thus, the functor  $G: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \text{EEED}$  reflects isomorphism.  $\square$

## 5 Moore spectra

**Lemma 5.1** *If  $X$  is a Moore spectrum then the Hurewicz map  $\pi_0(X) \rightarrow H_0(X)$  is an isomorphism, and  $H_k(X) = 0$  for all  $k \neq 0$ .*

**Proof** We have  $\pi_k(X) = 0$  for  $k < 0$  by assumption, so the Hurewicz theorem tells us that  $H_k(X) = 0$  for  $k < 0$  and that  $\pi_0(X) \simeq H_0(X)$ . We also have  $H_k(X) = 0$  for  $k > 0$  by assumption.  $\square$

**Corollary 5.2** *The functor  $\pi_0: \text{Moore} \rightarrow \text{Ab}$  reflects isomorphism.*

**Proof** Suppose that  $f: X \rightarrow Y$  is a morphism of Moore spectra such that  $\pi_0(f)$  is an isomorphism, and let  $Cf$  be the cofibre. Using the Lemma we see that  $H_*(f)$  is an isomorphism, so  $H_*(Cf) = 0$ . As  $X$  and  $Y$  are connective, the same is true of  $Cf$ .

**Lemma 4.11** therefore tells us that  $Cf$  is contractible, so  $f$  is an equivalence.  $\square$

**Definition 5.3** *A free Moore spectrum is a Moore spectrum  $X$  for which the group  $\pi_0(X)$  is free. We write  $\text{FreeMoore}$  for the category of such spectra.*

**Lemma 5.4** (a) *The functor  $\pi_0: \text{FreeMoore} \rightarrow \text{FreeAb}$  is an equivalence.*

(b) *Every free Moore spectrum is a wedge of some family of copies of  $S$ .*

(c) *If  $X$  is a free Moore spectrum, then the map  $\pi_0: [X, Y] \rightarrow \text{Hom}(\pi_0(X), \pi_0(Y))$  is an isomorphism for all  $Y$ , as is the map  $\eta: \pi_0(X)/2 \rightarrow \pi_1(X)$ .*

**Proof** Let  $X$  be a free Moore spectrum. Choose a family of maps  $\{g_i: S \rightarrow X\}_{i \in I}$  giving a basis for the free abelian group  $\pi_0(X)$ . Put  $Q = \bigvee_I S$  and let  $g: Q \rightarrow X$  be given by  $g_i$  on the  $i^{\text{th}}$  summand. Let  $Y$  be the cofibre of  $g$ , so  $Y$  is connective. By construction  $g$  gives an isomorphism from  $\pi_0(Q) = H_0(Q)$  to  $\pi_0(X) = H_0(X)$ , and both  $Q$  and  $X$  have homology concentrated in degree zero, so  $H_*(Y) = 0$ . We thus have  $Y = 0$ , so  $g$  is an equivalence. This proves (b). Next, the category of those spectra for which (c) holds clearly contains  $S$  and is closed under coproducts, so it contains  $Q$  and therefore  $X$ . By specialising to the case where  $Y$  is also a free Moore spectrum we obtain (a).  $\square$

**Definition 5.5** *A presentation of a Moore spectrum  $X$  is a cofibration sequence*

$$P \xrightarrow{f} Q \xrightarrow{g} X \xrightarrow{h} \Sigma P,$$

where both  $P$  and  $Q$  are free Moore spectra.

**Remark 5.6** As  $H_1(X) = 0$  by the definition of a Moore spectrum, we find that the map  $\pi_0(f) = H_0(f)$  must be injective.

**Lemma 5.7** Every Moore spectrum admits a presentation.

**Proof** Let  $X$  be a Moore spectrum. Choose a free abelian group  $Q_0$  and a surjective map  $g_0: Q_0 \rightarrow \pi_0(X)$ . By Lemma 5.4 we can find a free Moore spectrum  $Q$  with  $\pi_0(Q) = Q_0$ , and a map  $g: Q \rightarrow X$  with  $\pi_0(g) = g_0$ . We can then form a cofibration sequence

$$P \xrightarrow{f} Q \xrightarrow{g} X \xrightarrow{h} \Sigma P$$

for some spectrum  $P$ . This gives long exact sequences of homotopy and homology groups, showing that  $P$  is a Moore spectrum with  $\pi_0(P) = \ker(g_0)$ . This is a subgroup of the free abelian group  $Q_0$ , so it is again free, so  $P$  is a free Moore spectrum as required.  $\square$

**Lemma 5.8** If  $X$  is a Moore spectrum then the map  $\eta: \pi_0(X)/2 \rightarrow \pi_1(X)$  is an isomorphism. Thus, the diagram  $G(X)$  lies in the subcategory  $\text{EMD}' \subseteq \text{EEED}$ . The corresponding exact Moore diagram  $F(X) = E^{-1}G(X)$  is

$$[S, X] \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{(\eta\beta)^*} \\ \xleftarrow{\rho^*} \end{array} [S/2, X],$$

as in Theorem 1.4.

**Proof** Choose a presentation  $P \xrightarrow{f} Q \xrightarrow{g} X \xrightarrow{h} \Sigma P$ . This gives an exact sequence

$$\pi_1(P) \xrightarrow{\pi_1(f)} \pi_1(Q) \rightarrow \pi_1(X) \rightarrow \pi_0(P) \xrightarrow{\pi_0(f)} \pi_0(Q) \rightarrow \pi_0(X) \rightarrow 0.$$

Here  $\pi_0(f)$  is injective by the definition of a presentation, so  $\pi_1(X)$  is the cokernel of  $\pi_1(f)$ , and also  $\pi_0(X)$  is the cokernel of  $\pi_0(f)$ . Tensoring with  $\mathbb{Z}/2$  is right exact, so  $\pi_0(X)/2$  is the cokernel of the map  $\pi_0(P)/2 \rightarrow \pi_0(Q)/2$  induced by  $\pi_0(f)$ . We thus have a commutative diagram with right exact rows:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \pi_0(P)/2 & \longrightarrow & \pi_0(Q)/2 & \longrightarrow & \pi_0(X)/2 \\ \eta \downarrow & & \eta \downarrow & & \eta \downarrow \\ \pi_1(P) & \longrightarrow & \pi_1(Q) & \longrightarrow & \pi_1(X). \end{array}$$

The first two vertical maps are isomorphisms by Lemma 5.4(c), so the third one is also an isomorphism, as claimed. The rest is clear from this.  $\square$

**Lemma 5.9** *The functor  $F: \text{Moore} \rightarrow \text{EMD}$  is essentially surjective and reflects isomorphisms.*

**Proof** First, let  $f: X \rightarrow Y$  be a map of Moore spectra such that  $F(f)$  is an isomorphism. Then  $\pi_0(f) = \alpha(F(f))$  is an isomorphism, so  $f$  is an isomorphism by [Corollary 5.2](#). This means that  $F$  reflects isomorphism, as claimed. (This could also be deduced from [Lemma 4.13](#).)

Now let  $M = (A, B, \phi, \psi)$  be any exact Moore diagram. Choose a surjective homomorphism  $g_0: Q_0 \rightarrow A$  with  $Q_0$  a free abelian group, and let  $f_0: P_0 \rightarrow Q_0$  be the kernel of  $g_0$ . Note that  $P_0$  is a subgroup of the free abelian group  $Q_0$  and so is free. We can thus find a map  $f: P \rightarrow Q$  of free Moore spectra with  $\pi_0(P) = P_0$ ,  $\pi_0(Q) = Q_0$  and  $\pi_0(f) = f_0$ . Let  $X$  be the cofibre of  $f$ ; we find that  $X$  is a Moore spectrum with  $\pi_0(X) = A$ , or in other words  $\alpha(F(X)) = \alpha(M)$ . [Corollary 3.20](#) tells us that the functor  $\alpha: \text{EMD} \rightarrow \text{Ab}$  is full, so we can choose  $p: F(X) \rightarrow M$  with  $\alpha(p) = 1_A$ . As  $\alpha$  reflects isomorphism, we deduce that  $p$  is an isomorphism. This proves that  $F$  is essentially surjective.  $\square$

**Proposition 5.10** *Let  $X$  be a Moore spectrum, and let  $X'$  be an arbitrary spectrum. Then the map*

$$\pi G: [X, X'] \rightarrow \text{ED}(\pi G(X), \pi G(X'))$$

*is surjective. The kernel is  $K(X, X')$ , and the map  $\omega: K(X, X') \rightarrow \text{Ext}(\pi_0(X), \pi_1(X'))$  is a bijection.*

**Proof** Note that  $G(X) \in \text{EMD}'$  by [Lemma 5.8](#), so the map

$$\alpha: \text{ED}(\pi G(X), \pi G(X')) \rightarrow \text{Hom}(\pi_0(X), \pi_0(X'))$$

is a bijection by [Lemma 3.19](#). It will thus suffice to show that the map  $\pi_0: [X, X'] \rightarrow \text{Hom}(\pi_0(X), \pi_0(X'))$  is surjective, and to identify its kernel.

We will use the standard notation  $N = (A, B, C, \eta, \chi, \psi)$  for  $G(X)$  (so  $A = \pi_0(X)$  and so on), and similarly for  $G(X')$ . Choose a presentation

$$P \xrightarrow{f} Q \xrightarrow{g} X \xrightarrow{h} \Sigma P,$$

and write  $P_0 = \pi_0(P)$  and so on. We then have a diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccc} [\Sigma Q, X'] & \xrightarrow{f^*} & [\Sigma P, X'] & \xrightarrow{h^*} & [X, X'] & \xrightarrow{g^*} & [Q, X'] & \xrightarrow{f^*} & [P, X'] \\ \pi_1 \downarrow \simeq & & \pi_1 \downarrow \simeq & & \downarrow \pi_0 & & \simeq \downarrow \pi_0 & & \simeq \downarrow \pi_0 \\ \text{Hom}(Q_0, C') & \xrightarrow{f_0^*} & \text{Hom}(P_0, C') & & \text{Hom}(A, A') & \xrightarrow{g_0^*} & \text{Hom}(Q_0, A') & \xrightarrow{f_0^*} & \text{Hom}(P_0, A'). \end{array}$$

The arrows marked as isomorphisms are indeed isomorphisms, by Lemma 5.4(c). The top row is exact because it comes from a cofibration sequence. The right hand half of the bottom row is left exact, because it arises from the right exact sequence  $P_0 \rightarrow Q_0 \rightarrow A$ . It follows by diagram chasing that the map  $\pi_0: [X, X'] \rightarrow \text{Hom}(A, A')$  is surjective, and that the kernel  $K(X, X')$  is the cokernel of the map  $f_0^*: \text{Hom}(Q_0, C') \rightarrow \text{Hom}(P_0, C')$ . As the sequence  $E = (P_0 \rightarrow Q_0 \rightarrow A)$  is a free resolution of  $A$ , we see that this cokernel is just  $\text{Ext}(A, C')$ . More precisely, we can define  $\lambda: \text{Hom}(P_0, C') \rightarrow \text{Ext}(A, C')$  by  $\lambda(u) = u_*([E])$ , and standard homological algebra says that the sequence

$$\text{Hom}(Q_0, C') \xrightarrow{f_0^*} \text{Hom}(P_0, C') \xrightarrow{\lambda} \text{Ext}(A, C')$$

is right exact. Consider the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} [\Sigma Q, X'] & \xrightarrow{f^*} & [\Sigma P, X'] & \xrightarrow{h^*} & K(X, X') \\ \pi_1 \downarrow \simeq & & \pi_1 \downarrow \simeq & & \downarrow \omega \\ \text{Hom}(Q_0, C') & \xrightarrow{f_0^*} & \text{Hom}(P_0, C') & \xrightarrow{\lambda} & \text{Ext}(A, C'). \end{array}$$

To see that the right hand square commutes, note that  $h \in K(X, \Sigma P)$  and  $\omega(h) = [E]$ . It follows that for  $u: \Sigma P \rightarrow X'$  we have

$$\omega(h^*(u)) = \omega(uh) = \omega(u_*h) = \pi_0(u)_*\omega(h) = \pi_0(u)_*[E] = \lambda(\pi_0(u)),$$

as required. As both rows are right exact, we see that  $\omega: K(X, Y) \rightarrow \text{Ext}(A, C')$  is an isomorphism as claimed. □

**Corollary 5.11** *Let  $X$  be a Moore spectrum, and let  $X'$  be an arbitrary spectrum. Then there is a natural short exact sequence*

$$2. \text{Ext}(\pi_0(X), \pi_1(X')) \rightarrow [X, X'] \rightarrow \text{EEED}(G(X), G(X')).$$

**Proof** This follows from the Proposition together with Proposition 4.8. □

**Corollary 5.12** *Let  $X$  be a CW spectrum with only 0-cells and 1-cells, and let  $X'$  be an arbitrary spectrum. Then there is a natural short exact sequence*

$$2. \text{Ext}(\pi_0(X), \pi_1(X')) \rightarrow [X, X'] \xrightarrow{G} \text{EEED}(G(X), G(X')).$$

**Proof** The assumption on  $X$  is that there is a cofibration sequence  $P \rightarrow Q \rightarrow X \rightarrow \Sigma P$  where  $P$  and  $Q$  are again free Moore spectra, but the map  $\pi_0(P) \rightarrow \pi_0(Q)$  need not be injective. Let  $R_0$  and  $F_0$  be the kernel and image of this map. These are subgroups

of the free abelian groups  $\pi_0(P)$  and  $\pi_0(Q)$ , so they are again free. We have a short exact sequence  $R_0 \rightarrow \pi_0(P) \rightarrow F_0$ , which must split as  $F_0$  is free. We know that  $\pi_0: \text{FreeMoore} \rightarrow \text{FreeAb}$  is an equivalence, so we have a parallel splitting  $P = R \vee F$  with  $\pi_0(R) = R_0$  and  $\pi_0(F) = F_0$ , and we find that the map  $P \rightarrow Q$  is zero on  $R$ . Now let  $Y$  be the cofibre of the map  $F \rightarrow Q$ . We find that  $Y$  is a Moore spectrum, and that  $X = Y \vee \Sigma R$ . Thus [Corollary 5.11](#) gives the claim for  $Y$ , and we need only check the claim for  $\Sigma R$ . As  $\pi_0(\Sigma R) = 0$  the first term in the short exact sequence vanishes, so the claim is just that the map  $G: [\Sigma R, X'] \rightarrow \text{EEED}(G(\Sigma R), G(X'))$  is bijective. Here  $R$  is a free Moore spectrum and so is a wedge of copies of  $S$ , so we can reduce to the case  $R = S$ . Here the claim is that  $\pi_1(X') \simeq [G(S^1), G(X')]$ . This is easy to see directly, or one can appeal to the Yoneda Lemma as in [Corollary 3.13](#).  $\square$

We can now prove as promised that  $F: \text{Moore} \rightarrow \text{EMD}$  is an equivalence.

**Proof of Theorem 1.4** Suppose that  $X$  and  $X'$  are both Moore spectra. Then  $2 \cdot \pi_1(X') = 0$  by [Lemma 5.8](#), and so  $2 \cdot \text{Ext}(\pi_0(X), \pi_1(X')) = 0$ . Thus, [Corollary 5.11](#) tells us that  $[X, X'] = \text{EEED}(G(X), G(X')) = \text{EMD}(F(X), F(X'))$ , and therefore  $F: \text{Moore} \rightarrow \text{EMD}$  is full and faithful. It is also essentially surjective by [Lemma 5.9](#), so it is an equivalence.  $\square$

**Corollary 5.13** *The functor  $G: \text{Spectra} \rightarrow \text{EEED}$  is essentially surjective.*

Here we give a proof using Moore spectra. [Proposition 6.2](#) will give an alternative proof using two-stage Postnikov systems.

**Proof** Consider an object  $N = (A, B, C, \eta, \chi, \psi) \in \text{EEED}$ . Choose Moore spectra  $W, X$  and  $Y$  with  $\pi_0(W) = A/2$  and  $\pi_0(X) = C$  and  $\pi_0(Y) = A$ . Recall that multiplication by  $\eta$  gives an isomorphism  $A/2 \rightarrow \pi_1(Y)$ . Using [Proposition 5.10](#) and the isomorphism  $[\Sigma W, T] = [W, \Sigma^{-1}T]$  we see that there is a map  $f: \Sigma W \rightarrow \Sigma X \vee Y$  such that the induced map  $\pi_1(f): A/2 \rightarrow C \oplus A/2$  is  $a \mapsto (\eta(a), a)$ . Let  $Z$  be the cofibre of  $f$ . A straightforward calculation with the long exact sequence from the defining cofibration sequence gives  $\pi_0(Z) = A$  and  $\pi_1(Z) = C$ , with multiplication by  $\eta$  being the originally given map  $\eta: A \rightarrow C$ . This gives an isomorphism  $u: \pi N \rightarrow \pi G(Z)$  in ED. We know from [Proposition 3.7](#) that  $\pi$  is full, so we can choose  $v: N \rightarrow G(Z)$  with  $\pi(v) = u$ . The same proposition tells us that  $\pi$  reflects isomorphism, and  $u$  is an isomorphism, so  $v$  is an isomorphism. Thus,  $N$  is in the essential image of  $G$ , as required.  $\square$

We conclude this section by justifying [Remark 1.5](#).

**Lemma 5.14** *There is an element  $\zeta \in \pi_2(S/2)$  with  $\beta\zeta = \eta: S^2 \rightarrow S^1$  and  $2\zeta = \rho\eta^2$  and  $\pi_2(S/2) = (\mathbb{Z}/4)\zeta$ .*

This is classical but we include a proof for completeness.

**Proof** From the cofibration sequence defining  $S/2$  we obtain an exact sequence

$$\pi_2(S) \xrightarrow{2} \pi_2(S) \xrightarrow{\rho_*} \pi_2(S/2) \xrightarrow{\beta_*} \pi_1(S) \xrightarrow{2} \pi_1(S),$$

or equivalently

$$(\mathbb{Z}/2)\eta^2 \xrightarrow{2=0} (\mathbb{Z}/2)\eta^2 \xrightarrow{\rho_*} \pi_2(S/2) \xrightarrow{\beta_*} (\mathbb{Z}/2)\eta \xrightarrow{2=0} (\mathbb{Z}/2)\eta.$$

It follows that there exists  $\zeta$  with  $\beta\zeta = \eta$ , and that  $\pi_2(S/2) = \{0, \zeta, \rho\eta^2, \zeta + \rho\eta^2\}$ . We also know that  $2.1_{S/2} = \rho\eta\beta$ , so  $2\zeta = \rho\eta\beta\zeta = \rho\eta^2$ , so in fact  $\pi_2(S/2) = \{0, \zeta, 2\zeta, 3\zeta\}$  and  $\zeta$  has order 4. □

**Remark 5.15** There is some indeterminacy in the construction of  $\zeta$ , but at the end of the argument we see that the only ambiguity is that  $\zeta$  could be replaced by  $-\zeta$ . We do not know of any other approach that eliminates this ambiguity.

**Lemma 5.16** *For any Moore spectrum  $X$  the map  $\zeta^*: [S/2, X] \rightarrow \pi_2(X)$  is an isomorphism.*

**Proof** First, if  $X = S^1$ , we have  $[S/2, X] = (\mathbb{Z}/2)\beta$  and  $\pi_2(X) = (\mathbb{Z}/2)\eta = (\mathbb{Z}/2)\beta\zeta$ , so  $\zeta^*: [S/2, X] \rightarrow \pi_2(X)$  is an isomorphism. Similarly, if  $X = S$  then we have  $\pi_2(X) = (\mathbb{Z}/2)\eta^2$ ,  $[S/2, X] = (\mathbb{Z}/2)\eta\beta = (\mathbb{Z}/2)$  and  $\pi_2(X) = (\mathbb{Z}/2)\eta^2 = (\mathbb{Z}/2)\eta\beta\zeta$ , so again  $\zeta^*: [S/2, X] \rightarrow \pi_2(X)$  is an isomorphism. Now choose a presentation

$$P \xrightarrow{f} Q \xrightarrow{g} X \xrightarrow{h} \Sigma P.$$

As  $P$  is a wedge of copies of  $S$  and  $\Sigma P$  is a wedge of copies of  $S^1$  we find that the maps  $\zeta^*: [S/2, P] \rightarrow \pi_2(P)$  and  $\zeta^*: [S/2, \Sigma P] \rightarrow \pi_2(\Sigma P)$  are isomorphisms, and similarly for  $Q$ . We can now apply the Five Lemma to the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccc} [S/2, P] & \xrightarrow{f_*} & [S/2, Q] & \xrightarrow{g_*} & [S/2, X] & \xrightarrow{h_*} & [S/2, \Sigma P] & \xrightarrow{f_*} & [S/2, \Sigma Q] \\ \zeta^* \downarrow \simeq & & \zeta^* \downarrow \simeq & & \downarrow & & \simeq \downarrow \zeta^* & & \simeq \downarrow \zeta^* \\ \pi_2(P) & \xrightarrow{f_*} & \pi_2(Q) & \xrightarrow{g_*} & \pi_2(X) & \xrightarrow{h_*} & \pi_1(P) & \xrightarrow{f_*} & \pi_1(Q) \end{array}$$

to see that  $\zeta^*: [S/2, X] \rightarrow \pi_2(X)$  is also an isomorphism. □

## 6 Two-stage Postnikov systems

**Definition 6.1** We write Postnikov for the category of spectra  $X$  such that  $\pi_k(X) = 0$  for  $k \notin \{0, 1\}$ .

**Proposition 6.2** *The functor  $G: \text{Postnikov} \rightarrow \text{EEED}$  is full and essentially surjective, and it reflects isomorphisms. If  $X, X' \in \text{Postnikov}$  then there is a natural short exact sequence*

$$2. \text{Ext}(\pi_0(X), \pi_1(X')) \rightarrow [X, X'] \xrightarrow{G} \text{EEED}(G(X), G(X')).$$

The proof will follow after some preliminary results.

**Lemma 6.3** *If  $X$  is  $(-1)$ -connected then the maps*

$$[X, HA'] \xrightarrow{G} \text{EEED}(G(X), G(HA')) \xrightarrow{\pi} \text{ED}(\pi G(X), \pi G(HA')) \xrightarrow{\alpha} \text{Hom}(\pi_0(X), A')$$

*are all isomorphisms.*

**Proof** As  $\gamma G(HA') = \pi_1(HA') = 0$ , [Proposition 3.7](#) tells us that

$$\text{EEED}(G(X), G(HA')) = \text{ED}(\pi G(X), \pi G(HA')),$$

and using  $\gamma G(HA') = 0$  again we see that this is the same as  $\text{Hom}(\pi_0(X), A')$ . The Universal Coefficient Theorem gives a short exact sequence

$$\text{Ext}(H_{-1}(X), A') \rightarrow [X, HA'] = H^0(X; A') \rightarrow \text{Hom}(H_0(X), A').$$

As  $X$  is  $(-1)$ -connected we have  $H_{-1}(X) = 0$  and  $H_0(X) = \pi_0(X)$  so this collapses to an isomorphism  $[X, HA'] \rightarrow \text{Hom}(\pi_0(X), A') = \text{EEED}(G(X), G(HA'))$  as required. □

**Lemma 6.4** *If  $X$  is  $(-1)$ -connected then there is a short exact sequence*

$$2. \text{Ext}(\pi_0(X), C') \rightarrow [X, \Sigma HC'] \xrightarrow{G} \text{EEED}(G(X), G(\Sigma HC')).$$

**Proof** In view of [Proposition 4.8](#), it will suffice to give a short exact sequence

$$\text{Ext}(\pi_0(X), C') \rightarrow [X, \Sigma HC'] \xrightarrow{\pi G} \text{ED}(\pi G(X), \pi G(\Sigma HC')).$$

The Universal Coefficient Theorem gives a short exact sequence

$$\text{Ext}(H_0(X), C') \rightarrow [X, \Sigma HC'] \rightarrow \text{Hom}(H_1(X), C').$$

We know from Lemma 4.13 that  $H_1(X)$  is the cokernel of the map  $\eta: \pi_0(X) \rightarrow \pi_1(X)$ , so  $\text{Hom}(H_1(X), C')$  is the same as the group of maps  $h$  making the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \pi_0(X) & \xrightarrow{\eta} & \pi_1(X) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow h \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & C' \end{array}$$

commute, which is  $\text{ED}(\pi G(X), \pi G(\Sigma HC'))$ . □

**Lemma 6.5** For any abelian groups  $A$  and  $C$  we have  $H_1 HA = 0$  and  $H_2 HA = A/2$  and  $[HA, \Sigma^2 HC] = H^2(HA; C) = \text{Hom}(A/2, C)$ . Moreover, if  $X$  is the fibre of a map  $h: HA \rightarrow \Sigma^2 HC$  corresponding to a homomorphism  $\sigma: A/2 \rightarrow C$ , then the map

$$\eta: A = \pi_0(X) \rightarrow \pi_1(X) = C$$

is just the composite of  $\sigma$  with the projection  $A \rightarrow A/2$ .

**Proof** First, Lemma 4.13 tells us  $H_1 HA$  is the cokernel of  $\eta: \pi_0 HA \rightarrow \pi_1 HA$ , but  $\pi_1 HA = 0$ , so  $H_1 HA = 0$ . For the second claim, we reuse the spectrum  $Q$  from Lemma 4.9. Since the fibre of the map  $Q \rightarrow H$  is 2-connected, we see that  $H_2 HA = \pi_2(Q \wedge HA) = H_2(Q; A)$ . The cofibration sequence  $S \rightarrow Q \rightarrow S^2/2 \rightarrow S^1$  gives  $H_2(Q; A) = H_2(S^2/2; A) = H_0(S/2; A)$ , and the Universal Coefficient Theorem gives a short exact sequence

$$H_0(S/2) \otimes A \rightarrow H_0(S/2; A) \rightarrow \text{Tor}(H_{-1}(S/2), A),$$

which collapses to an isomorphism  $H_0(S/2; A) = A/2$ . Finally, the cohomological Universal Coefficient Theorem gives a short exact sequence

$$\text{Ext}(H_1 HA, C) \rightarrow H^2(HA; C) \rightarrow \text{Hom}(H_2 HA, C),$$

which collapses to an isomorphism  $H^2(HA; C) = \text{Hom}(H_2 HA, C) = \text{Hom}(A/2, C)$  as claimed.

We now see in particular that  $[H, \Sigma^2 H/2] = \mathbb{Z}/2$ , so there is a unique nontrivial map  $h_1: H \rightarrow \Sigma^2 H/2$ . We can also compose the projection  $H \rightarrow H/2$  with the Steenrod operation  $\text{Sq}^2: H/2 \rightarrow \Sigma^2 H/2$  to get a map  $h_2: H \rightarrow \Sigma^2 H/2$ . Standard calculations show that the reduced cohomology of  $\mathbb{C}P^2$  is  $\mathbb{Z}\{x, x^2\}$  with  $|x| = 2$ , and  $\text{Sq}^2$  sends the mod 2 reduction of  $x$  to the mod 2 reduction of  $x^2$ . This shows that  $h_2 \neq 0$  and so  $h_2 = h_1$ . Moreover,  $\mathbb{C}P^2$  is just the cofibre of  $\eta: S^3 \rightarrow S^2$ , so  $S/\eta = \Sigma^{-2}\mathbb{C}P^2$ .

The above calculation therefore gives a commutative diagram as follows:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 S/\eta & \xrightarrow{\delta} & S^2 \\
 a_1 \downarrow & & \downarrow c_1 \\
 H & \xrightarrow{h_1} & \Sigma^2 H/2.
 \end{array}$$

Now suppose we have a general map  $h: HA \rightarrow \Sigma^2 HC$ , corresponding to  $\sigma: A/2 \rightarrow C$ , and we form a cofibration sequence

$$\Sigma HC \xrightarrow{f} X \xrightarrow{g} HA \xrightarrow{h} \Sigma^2 HC.$$

Consider an element  $a \in A$  and the corresponding element  $c = \sigma(a + 2A) \in C$  (which automatically has  $2c = 0$ ). We have a map  $\mu_a: \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow A$  given by  $\mu_a(n) = na$ , and a map  $\nu_c: \mathbb{Z}/2 \rightarrow C$  given by  $\nu_c(1) = c$ . Consider the following diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 S^1 & \xrightarrow{\eta} & S & \longrightarrow & S/\eta & \xrightarrow{\delta} & S^2 \\
 \downarrow c & & \downarrow a' & & a_1 \downarrow & & \downarrow b_1 \\
 & & & & H & \xrightarrow{h_1} & \Sigma^2 H/2 \\
 & & & & \downarrow H(\mu_a) & & \downarrow H(\nu_c) \\
 \Sigma HC & \xrightarrow{f} & X & \xrightarrow{g} & HA & \xrightarrow{h} & \Sigma^2 HC.
 \end{array}$$

We have just shown that the top right square commutes. As our identification of  $[HA, \Sigma^2 HC]$  is natural, the bottom right square commutes as well. As the top and bottom rows are cofibration sequences, we can choose  $a'$  making everything commute. If we use  $f_*$  to identify  $\pi_0(X)$  with  $A$ , and  $g_*$  to identify  $\pi_1(X)$  with  $C$ , then the conclusion is that  $\eta a = c$ . This shows that  $\eta: \pi_0(X) \rightarrow \pi_1(X)$  is essentially the same as  $\sigma$ , as claimed. □

**Lemma 6.6** *Suppose that  $X$  is  $(-1)$ -connected and  $X' \in \text{Postnikov}$ . Then there is a left exact sequence*

$$\text{Ext}(\pi_0(X), \pi_1(X')) \rightarrow [X, X'] \xrightarrow{\pi G} \text{ED}(G(X), G(X')).$$

**Proof** We will use the notation

$$\begin{aligned}
 M &= \pi G(X) = (A \xrightarrow{\eta} C) \\
 M' &= \pi G(X') = (A' \xrightarrow{\eta} C').
 \end{aligned}$$

Put  $A' = \pi_0(X')$  and  $C' = \pi_1(X')$ , so we have a Postnikov cofibration sequence

$$\Sigma HC' \xrightarrow{f} X' \xrightarrow{g} HA' \xrightarrow{h} \Sigma^2 HC'.$$

(This is usually constructed as a fibration sequence, but in the stable category a fibration sequence can be converted to a cofibration sequence by changing the sign of any one of the maps.) This gives a commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \text{Ext}(A, C') & \longrightarrow & K(X, X') & \xrightarrow{\omega} & \text{Ext}(A, C') \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \\ [X, \Sigma HC'] & \xrightarrow{f_*} & [X, X'] & \xrightarrow{g_*} & [X, HA] \\ \pi G \downarrow & & \pi G \downarrow & & \simeq \downarrow \pi G \\ \text{ED}(M, (0 \rightarrow C')) & \xrightarrow{f_*} & \text{ED}(M, M') & \xrightarrow{g_*} & \text{ED}(M, (A' \rightarrow 0)). \end{array}$$

The middle row is exact as it arises from a cofibration sequence. The bottom row is left exact by inspection of the definitions. The first column is short exact by [Lemma 6.4](#). The middle column is left exact by definition of  $K(X, X')$ . The map  $[X, HA] \rightarrow \text{ED}(M, A' \rightarrow 0)$  is an isomorphism by [Lemma 6.3](#). We leave it to the reader to check that the composite of the top row is the identity. It follows that the map  $\text{Ext}(A, C') \rightarrow K(X, X')$  is injective, and by chasing the diagram we see that it is also surjective. □

**Proof of Proposition 6.2** Suppose that  $X, X' \in \text{Postnikov}$ , and use the usual notation  $A = \pi_0(X)$  and so on. Suppose we are given a commutative square

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A & \xrightarrow{\eta} & C \\ f \downarrow & & \downarrow h \\ A' & \xrightarrow{\eta'} & C', \end{array}$$

corresponding to a morphism  $(f, h) \in \text{ED}(\pi G(X), \pi G(X'))$ . Consider the following diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} \Sigma HC & \longrightarrow & X & \longrightarrow & HA & \xrightarrow{d} & \Sigma^2 HC \\ \Sigma Hh \downarrow & & \vdots p & & Hf \downarrow & & \downarrow \Sigma^2 Hh \\ \Sigma HC' & \longrightarrow & X' & \longrightarrow & HA' & \xrightarrow{d'} & \Sigma^2 HC'. \end{array}$$

The rows are the standard Postnikov cofibration sequences for  $X$  and  $X'$ . As  $d$  and  $d'$  correspond to  $\eta$  and  $\eta'$  as in Lemma 6.5, we see that the right hand square commutes, so we can choose  $p$  making everything commute; we then have  $\pi G(p) = (f, h)$ . This shows that  $\pi G: \text{Postnikov} \rightarrow \text{ED}$  is full. If  $\pi G(p)$  is an isomorphism then  $\pi_k(p)$  is an isomorphism for  $k \in \{0, 1\}$  (by assumption) and also for  $k \notin \{0, 1\}$  (as in that case  $\pi_k(X) = 0 = \pi_k(X')$ ); so  $p$  is an equivalence. This shows that  $\pi G$  reflects isomorphism, and *a fortiori*  $G$  has the same property. Next, given an object  $(A \xrightarrow{\eta} C) \in \text{ED}$  we note that  $\eta$  factors through  $A/2$  and so gives a map  $h: HA \rightarrow \Sigma^2 HC$ . The fibre  $Fh$  is then an object of Postnikov with  $\pi G(Fh) \simeq (A \rightarrow C)$ ; so  $\pi G: \text{Postnikov} \rightarrow \text{EEED}$  is essentially surjective.

We also see from Lemma 6.6 that the map  $\omega: K(X, X') \rightarrow \text{Ext}(A, C')$  is an isomorphism. We deduce using Proposition 4.8 that there is a natural short exact sequence

$$2. \text{Ext}(A, C') \rightarrow [X, X'] \rightarrow \text{EEED}(G(X), G(X')).$$

In particular, the functor  $G: \text{Postnikov} \rightarrow \text{EEED}$  is full.

Finally, suppose we have an object  $N \in \text{EEED}$ . We have seen that  $\pi G$  is essentially surjective, so we can choose  $X \in \text{Postnikov}$  and an isomorphism  $p_0: \pi G(X) \rightarrow \pi N$ . As  $\pi$  is full we can choose  $p: G(X) \rightarrow N$  lifting  $p_0$ , and as  $\pi$  reflects isomorphisms we see that  $p$  is an isomorphism. This proves that  $G$  is essentially surjective.  $\square$

## 7 Duality

We next discuss two kinds of duality for the category EEED.

**Lemma 7.1** *Let  $\mathcal{J}$  be as in Definition 3.11. Then there is a functor  $\Delta: \mathcal{J}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \mathcal{J}$  given by*

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta(a) &= c, & \Delta(b) &= b, & \Delta(c) &= S, \\ \Delta(\rho) &= \beta, & \Delta(\eta) &= \eta, & \Delta(\beta) &= \rho. \end{aligned}$$

Moreover, this satisfies  $\Delta^2 = 1$ .

**Proof** A straightforward check of definitions.  $\square$

This is connected with topology as follows.

**Lemma 7.2** *If we define  $\Xi: (\mathcal{J} \times \mathcal{J})^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \text{Ab}$  by  $\Xi(x, y) = [T(x) \wedge T(y), S^1]$ , then there are natural isomorphisms*

$$\mathcal{J}(x, \Delta(y)) \simeq \Xi(x, y) \simeq \mathcal{J}(y, \Delta(x)).$$

**Proof** It is equivalent to claim there are natural isomorphisms  $T(\Delta(x)) \simeq F(T(x), S^1)$ . This is clear for  $x \in \{a, c\}$  (so  $T(x) \in \{S, S^1\}$ ). Next, we can apply  $F(-, S^1)$  to the cofibration sequence

$$S \xrightarrow{2} S \xrightarrow{\rho} S/2 \xrightarrow{\beta} S^1 \xrightarrow{2} S^1$$

to get a fibration sequence

$$S \xrightarrow{2} S \xrightarrow{\beta^*} F(S/2, S^1) \xrightarrow{\rho^*} S^1 \xrightarrow{2} S^1.$$

In principle we need to change a sign to convert this fibration to a cofibration, but  $\rho = -\rho$  and  $\beta = -\beta$  so we need not worry about this. It follows from the essential uniqueness of cofibration sequences that there is an equivalence  $\nu: S/2 \rightarrow F(S/2, S^1)$  making the diagram on the left commute:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 S & \xrightarrow{\rho} & S/2 \\
 \beta^* \downarrow & \nu \swarrow & \downarrow \beta \\
 F(S/2, S^1) & \xrightarrow{\rho^*} & S^1,
 \end{array}
 \qquad
 \begin{array}{ccc}
 (S/2)^{(2)} & \xleftarrow{\rho \wedge 1} & S/2 \\
 \rho \wedge 1 \uparrow & \nu^\# \searrow & \downarrow \beta \\
 S/2 & \xrightarrow{\beta} & S^1.
 \end{array}$$

(One can check that  $\nu$  has order 4, and that the only indeterminacy is that we could replace  $\nu$  by  $-\nu$ .) The map  $\nu$  is adjoint to a map  $\nu^\#: S/2 \wedge S/2 \rightarrow S^1$ , and the adjoint form of the left hand diagram is shown on the right. It follows that everything fits together as described. □

We can use this to define a Brown–Comenetz type duality as follows.

**Definition 7.3** For  $N \in \text{EED} = [\mathcal{J}^{\text{op}}, \text{Ab}]$ , we define  $JN: \mathcal{J}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \text{Ab}$  by making  $JN(x) = \text{Hom}(N(\Delta x), \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z})$ . More explicitly, we have

$$J(B \xrightarrow{\psi} A \xrightarrow{\eta} C \xrightarrow{\chi} B) = (B^* \xrightarrow{\chi^*} C^* \xrightarrow{\eta^*} A^* \xrightarrow{\psi^*} B^*)$$

(where  $U^*$  denotes  $\text{Hom}(U, \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z})$ ).

**Remark 7.4** As the group  $\mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z}$  is divisible, the functor  $U \mapsto U^*$  is exact, so the functor  $J: \text{EED}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \text{EED}$  preserves EEED. It is also clear that there is a natural map  $N \rightarrow J^2(N)$  which is an isomorphism when the groups  $A, B$  and  $C$  are all finite.

**Proposition 7.5** Let  $IX$  denote the Brown–Comenetz dual of a spectrum  $X$ , which is characterised by a natural isomorphism  $[W, IX] \simeq \text{Hom}(\pi_0(W \wedge X), \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z})$  for all spectra  $W$ . Then  $G(\Sigma IX) = J(G(X))$ .

**Proof** For  $u \in \mathcal{J}$  we have

$$G(\Sigma IX)(u) = [\Sigma^{-1}T(u), IX] = \text{Hom}(\pi_0(\Sigma^{-1}T(u) \wedge X), \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z}).$$

We also have  $T(u) = T(\Delta^2 u) = F(T(\Delta u), S^1)$ , so  $\Sigma^{-1}T(u) \wedge X = F(T(\Delta u), X)$ , so

$$\pi_0(\Sigma^{-1}T(u) \wedge X) = [T(\Delta u), X] = G(X)(\Delta u).$$

Putting this together gives  $G(\Sigma IX)(u) = \text{Hom}(G(X)(\Delta u), \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z}) = J(G(X))(u)$ .  $\square$

We now discuss a different construction that is more analogous to Spanier–Whitehead duality. It does not work very well, but it is interesting that it works at all.

**Definition 7.6** Recall that  $F_x$  denotes the representable functor  $\mathcal{J}(-, x): \mathcal{J}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \text{Ab}$ . We define  $\Delta: \text{EED}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \text{EED}$  by

$$\Delta(N)(x) = \text{EED}(N, F_{\Delta(x)}).$$

Note: a map  $M \rightarrow \Delta N$  consists of a natural system of maps  $M(x) \rightarrow \text{EED}(N, F_{\Delta(x)})$ , or equivalently a natural system of maps  $M(x) \rightarrow \text{Hom}(N(y), \mathcal{J}(y, \Delta(x)))$ , or equivalently a natural system of maps

$$M(x) \otimes N(y) \rightarrow \mathfrak{E}(x, y).$$

Using this we see that  $\text{EED}(M, \Delta(N)) \simeq \text{EED}(N, \Delta(M))$ , so  $\Delta$  is its own adjoint. In particular, we have natural maps

$$M(x) \otimes (\Delta M)(y)$$

$$= M(x) \otimes \text{EED}(M, F_{\Delta(y)}) \xrightarrow{1 \otimes \text{eval}_x} M(x) \otimes \text{Hom}(M(x), \mathfrak{E}(y, x)) \xrightarrow{\text{eval}} \mathfrak{E}(y, x) \simeq \mathfrak{E}(x, y),$$

and these correspond to a natural map  $\kappa: M \rightarrow \Delta^2 M$ . If we regard this as a morphism in  $\text{EED}$ , this is the unit of our adjunction; if we regard it instead as a morphism  $\Delta^2 M \rightarrow M$  in  $\text{EED}^{\text{op}}$ , it is the counit.

We can also use the Yoneda Lemma to see that

$$\Delta(F_x)(y) = \text{EED}(F_x, F_{\Delta(y)}) = F_{\Delta(y)}(x) = \mathcal{J}(x, \Delta(y)) \simeq \mathcal{J}(y, \Delta(x)) = F_{\Delta(x)}(y),$$

so  $\Delta(F_x) = F_{\Delta(x)}$ .

**Proposition 7.7** *There is a natural map  $G(F(X, S^1)) \rightarrow \Delta(G(X))$ , which is an isomorphism when  $X$  is any wedge of copies of  $S$ ,  $S^1$  and  $S/2$ .*

**Proof** Using the evaluation map  $\text{ev}: F(X, S^1) \wedge X \rightarrow S^1$  we get maps

$$\begin{aligned} G(F(X, S^1))(x) \otimes G(X)(y) &= [T(x), F(X, S^1)] \otimes [T(y), X] \\ &\rightarrow [T(x) \wedge T(y), F(X, S^1) \wedge X] \\ &\xrightarrow{\text{ev}_*} [T(x) \wedge T(y), S^1] = \Xi(x, y). \end{aligned}$$

As explained above this gives a map  $\kappa_X: G(F(X, S^1)) \rightarrow \Delta(G(X))$ . In particular, when  $X = T(u) \in \{S, S^1, S/2\}$  we have  $F(X, S^1) = T(\Delta(u))$  so  $\kappa_X$  is a map from  $G(T(\Delta u)) = F_{\Delta u}$  to  $\Delta(F_u)$ ; we leave it to the reader to check that this is the same as the isomorphism established previously. Moreover, the domain and codomain of  $\kappa$  are both functors that convert wedges to products, so we see that  $\kappa_X$  is an isomorphism when  $X$  is any wedge of copies of  $S, S^1$  and  $S/2$ . □

We can make the functor  $\Delta$  more explicit as follows.

**Proposition 7.8** *If  $N = (A, B, C, \eta, \chi, \psi) \in \text{EED}$  then  $\Delta(N) \simeq (A', B', C', \eta', \chi', \psi')$ , where  $B' = \text{Hom}(B, \mathbb{Z}/4)$ , and  $A'$  is the set of pairs  $(g, h)$  making the left hand diagram below commute, and  $C'$  is the set of pairs  $(f, g)$  making the right hand diagram commute:*

$$\begin{array}{ccc} C & \xrightarrow{\chi} & B \\ h \downarrow & & \downarrow g \\ \mathbb{Z} & \twoheadrightarrow & \mathbb{Z}/2, \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{ccc} A & \xrightarrow{\chi\eta} & B \\ f \downarrow & & \downarrow g \\ \mathbb{Z} & \twoheadrightarrow & \mathbb{Z}/2. \end{array}$$

There is a unique nonzero homomorphism  $t: \mathbb{Z}/2 \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/4$  and a unique nonzero homomorphism  $s: \mathbb{Z}/4 \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/2$ , and using these we can describe  $\eta', \chi'$  and  $\psi'$  as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \psi'(g) &= (sg, 0), \\ \eta'(g, h) &= (0, g), \\ \chi'(f, g) &= tg. \end{aligned}$$

**Proof** By definition we have

$$A' = \Delta(N)(a) = \text{EED}(N, F_{\Delta(a)}) = \text{EED}(N, F_c).$$

Looking back to [Corollary 3.13](#), we see that this is the set of triples  $(f, g, h)$  making the following diagram commute:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 B & \xrightarrow{\psi} & A & \xrightarrow{\eta} & C & \xrightarrow{\chi} & B \\
 g \downarrow & & f \downarrow & & h \downarrow & & g \downarrow \\
 \mathbb{Z}/2 & \longrightarrow & 0 & \longrightarrow & \mathbb{Z} & \twoheadrightarrow & \mathbb{Z}/2.
 \end{array}$$

Of course  $f$  must be zero and the first square commutes automatically. Note also that for any homomorphism  $h: C \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$  we have  $2h\eta = h \circ (2\eta) = 0$  but  $\mathbb{Z}$  is torsion free so  $h\eta = 0$ . Thus, the second square also commutes automatically and we need only consider the third one. This gives the stated description of  $A'$ .

Similarly,  $C'$  is the set of triples  $(f, g, h)$  making the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 B & \xrightarrow{\psi} & A & \xrightarrow{\eta} & C & \xrightarrow{\chi} & B \\
 g \downarrow & & f \downarrow & & h \downarrow & & g \downarrow \\
 \mathbb{Z}/2 & \xrightarrow{0} & \mathbb{Z} & \twoheadrightarrow & \mathbb{Z}/2 & \xrightarrow{1} & \mathbb{Z}/2.
 \end{array}$$

The first square commutes automatically because  $2\psi = 0$ . The third square forces  $h$  to be  $g\chi$ , so we need not mention  $h$  explicitly. The only remaining condition is that  $g\chi\eta$  should be the mod two reduction of  $f$ , which is the stated description of  $C'$ .

Next,  $B'$  is the set of triples  $(f, g, h)$  making the diagram on the left (and therefore also the diagram on the right) commute:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 B & \xrightarrow{\psi} & A & \xrightarrow{\eta} & C & \xrightarrow{\chi} & B \\
 g \downarrow & & f \downarrow & & h \downarrow & & g \downarrow \\
 \mathbb{Z}/4 & \xrightarrow{s} & \mathbb{Z}/2 & \xrightarrow{1} & \mathbb{Z}/2 & \xrightarrow{t} & \mathbb{Z}/4,
 \end{array}
 \qquad
 \begin{array}{ccccc}
 C/2 & \twoheadrightarrow & B & \twoheadrightarrow & A[2] \\
 h \downarrow & & g \downarrow & & f \downarrow \\
 \mathbb{Z}/2 & \xrightarrow{t} & \mathbb{Z}/4 & \xrightarrow{s} & \mathbb{Z}/2.
 \end{array}$$

There is a projection  $\pi: B' \rightarrow \text{Hom}(B, \mathbb{Z}/4)$  given by  $(f, g, h) \mapsto g$ , and we claim that this is bijective. First, suppose that  $g = 0$ . The left half of the right hand diagram shows that  $h = 0$ , and then the middle square of the left diagram shows that  $f = h\eta = 0$ . This proves that  $\pi$  is injective. Suppose instead that we start with an arbitrary map  $g: B \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/4$ . As  $2\chi = 0$  we have  $2g\chi = 0$  so the map  $g\chi: C \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/4$  factors through  $(\mathbb{Z}/4)[2] = t(\mathbb{Z}/2)$ . Thus, there is a unique map  $h: C \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/2$  with  $g\chi = th$ , so the right square of the left diagram commutes. We define  $f = h\eta: A \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/2$ , which makes the middle square commute. We now have  $tf\psi = th\eta\psi = g\chi\eta\psi$ , and  $\chi\eta\psi = 2 \cdot 1_B$  so  $tf\psi = 2g$ . On the other hand,  $ts = 2: \mathbb{Z}/4 \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/4$ , so we also have  $tsg = 2g$ .

As  $t$  is injective and  $tf\psi = 2g = tsg$  we conclude that  $f\psi = sg$ , so the left square commutes. We thus have an element  $(f, g, h) \in B'$  with  $\pi(f, g, h) = g$ , showing that  $\pi$  is actually an isomorphism. We will therefore identify  $B'$  with  $\text{Hom}(B, \mathbb{Z}/4)$ .

Now consider the picture

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 B & \xrightarrow{\psi} & A & \xrightarrow{\eta} & C & \xrightarrow{\chi} & B \\
 g \downarrow & & f \downarrow & & h \downarrow & & g \downarrow \\
 \mathbb{Z}/4 & \xrightarrow{s} & \mathbb{Z}/2 & \xrightarrow{1} & \mathbb{Z}/2 & \xrightarrow{t} & \mathbb{Z}/4 \\
 s \downarrow & & 0 \downarrow & & 0 \downarrow & & s \downarrow \\
 \mathbb{Z}/2 & \longrightarrow & 0 & \longrightarrow & \mathbb{Z} & \xrightarrow{s} & \mathbb{Z}/2.
 \end{array}$$

The second and third rows are  $F_{\Delta(b)} = F_b$  and  $F_{\Delta(a)} = F_c$ , and the map between them is  $F_{\Delta(\rho)} = F_\beta$ . The map from the first to the second row defines a general element of  $B' = \text{EED}(N, F_b)$ . The map  $\psi': B' \rightarrow A'$  is defined by composing vertically to give the system of maps  $0: A \rightarrow 0$ ,  $sg: B \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/2$  and  $0: C \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ . In terms of our slightly more compact notation for elements of  $B'$  and  $A'$ , the formula is  $\psi'(g) = (sg, 0)$  as claimed. We leave it to the reader to check the formulae  $\eta'(g, h) = (0, g)$  and  $\chi'(f, g) = tg$  in the same way. □

**Remark 7.9** It follows easily from the above that the torsion subgroups in  $A'$  and  $C'$  have exponent 2 (or are trivial). Thus, if  $A$  or  $C$  has any elements of order greater than 2, we see that  $N \not\cong \Delta^2(N)$ . In fact, if  $A$  and  $C$  are finite groups of odd order (which forces the structure maps to be zero, and  $B$  to be the zero group) then  $\Delta(N) = 0$ .

**Remark 7.10** Consider an object  $N = (A, B, C, \eta, \chi, \psi) \in \text{EEED}$ . Suppose  $A$  and  $C$  are elementary abelian groups of finite rank, and that  $\eta: A \rightarrow C$  is zero. We then see from [Proposition 3.17](#) that  $B = A \oplus C$ , and [Proposition 7.8](#) gives  $A' = \text{Hom}(A, \mathbb{Z}/2)$  and  $B' = C' = \text{Hom}(A, \mathbb{Z}/2) \oplus \text{Hom}(C, \mathbb{Z}/2)$ . Just by comparing orders we deduce that the sequence  $C = C/2 \rightarrow B \rightarrow A[2] = A$  cannot be short exact, so  $\Delta(N) \notin \text{EEED}$ . Thus, the functor  $\Delta: \text{EED}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \text{EED}$  does not preserve the category EEED.

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