

Erratum to “You could have invented spectral
sequences” [Notices. Amer. Math. Soc. 53:1
(January 2006), 15–19]

Timothy Y. Chow

April 2019

Near the middle of the first column on page 17, it is stated that

$$\frac{Z_d}{B_d} \simeq \frac{Z_d + C_{d,1}}{B_d + C_{d,1}} \oplus \frac{Z_d \cap C_{d,1}}{B_d \cap C_{d,1}}$$

but this is not true in general. What is true is that there is always a short exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \frac{Z_d \cap C_{d,1}}{B_d \cap C_{d,1}} \rightarrow \frac{Z_d}{B_d} \rightarrow \frac{Z_d + C_{d,1}}{B_d + C_{d,1}} \rightarrow 0,$$

but this short exact sequence does not always split. Fortunately, since this error occurs only in the context of a motivational discussion of what one might hope to be true but is not true, it does not materially affect the rest of the paper.

Additionally, in Claim 2 on page 17, $E_{d,2}^1$ should be $E_{d+1,2}^1$.

The author is grateful to Fei-Tong Lyu and Stuart Ambler for drawing his attention to these errors.