

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

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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 $E_{d+1,2}^1$.

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