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Central Extensions of Divisible Groups.

Central extensions are easier to understand than general extensions because the kernel is a trivial module for the quotient. The Universal Coefficient Theorem becomes helpful, especially when the kernel is divisible. Moreover, such extensions are universal in the sense that they contain copies of all central extensions. Particularly, a nilpotent group of class c embeds into such an extension with quotient of class $c - 1$. We pay special attention to the case when the quotient is abelian. (Received September 21, 2009)