

Singular Homology

This document is a seminar note on singular homology.

Before reading this article, make sure you have known the Chapter 1-3 of *An Introduction to Algebraic Topology*, written by Rotman.

Reference

- *An Introduction to Algebraic Topology*, Rotman
- *Topology and Geometry*, Bredon
- 代数学方法 卷一：基础架构, 李文威
- [nlab](#)

Why should we learn homology?

When we use calculus to solve physical problems, we often encounter functions like

$$E(x, y, z) = \frac{kQ}{(x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{3/2}}(x, y, z),$$

where k, Q are constants.

It can be noticed that $(0, 0, 0)$ is a singularity of it, and when integrating this function, we always choose an integration path or integration surface that bypasses the singularity. Moreover, from Maxwell's equations (or Stokes' theorem), we know that if we choose a closed surface in space for integration, the value of the integration only relates to the singularities inside. Here, the singularities can be considered as holes in the space defined by the function. This is why we are interested in the holes in space and consequently study their properties.

Homology was initially defined as closed curves or surfaces with the same integral values, but this definition cannot adapt to general topological spaces. From a geometric intuition, a hole should be a type of topological invariant that remains unchanged under homeomorphism. Therefore, we need to find some new methods to define homology, and thereby study the properties of these holes. Next, we will begin to learn a definition method of homology, which is the singular homology.

1. Definition of Singular Homology

Let's begin with some basic definitions.

1.1 Definition.

Let A be a set and $F = \{f : A \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}; f^{-1}(\mathbb{Z} - \{0\}) \text{ is finite}\}$.

We can define a binary operation

$$\begin{aligned} + : F \times F &\rightarrow F, \\ (f_1, f_2) &\mapsto [a \mapsto f_1(a) + f_2(a)]. \end{aligned}$$

It's easy to check that $(F, +)$ is an abelian group. And we call it the **free abelian group** on A .

We usually denote $f \in F$ as $\sum_{a \in A} f(a)a$.

For example, we can use $2a_1 - a_2$ to denote $f : A \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}, a \mapsto \begin{cases} 2, & a = a_1, \\ -1, & a = a_2, \\ 0, & a \neq a_1, a_2. \end{cases}$

We also use $\mathbb{Z}^{\oplus A}$ to denote the free abelian group on A .

The free abelian group has a universal property.

1.2 Theorem (Universal Property).

Let A be a set and F be the free abelian group on it.

G is an abelian group and there is a function $f : A \rightarrow G$. Then there exists a unique group homomorphism $\sigma : F \rightarrow G$ making diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A & \xrightarrow{i} & F \\ & \searrow f & \downarrow \exists! \sigma \\ & & G \end{array}$$

commute, where i is the inclusion. And σ is called **extending by linearity**.

Proof.

Define $\sigma : F \rightarrow G, \sum_i c_i a_i \mapsto \sum_i c_i f(a_i)$. It's easy to check that σ is a group homomorphism.

Then let's prove σ is unique.

Let σ_0 is another function fit the theorem. Then we have

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma_0\left(\sum_i c_i a_i\right) &= \sum_i c_i \sigma_0(a_i) \\ &= \sum_i c_i f(a_i) \\ &= \sigma\left(\sum_i c_i a_i\right).\end{aligned}$$

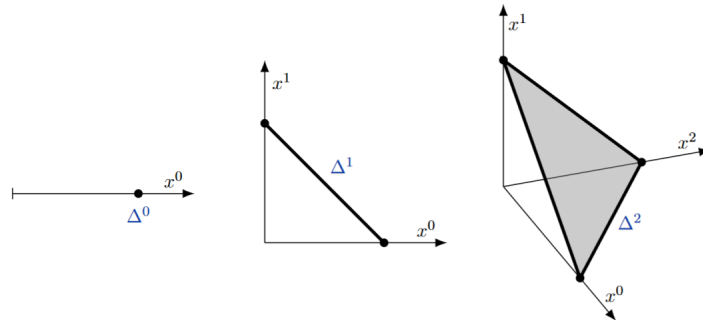
Therefore, $\sigma_0 = \sigma$ and σ is unique. \square

1.3 Definition.

For $n \in \mathbb{N}$, the **standard n -simplex** is

$$\Delta^n := \left\{ (t_0, t_1, \dots, t_n) \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1}; t_i \geq 0, \forall i \text{ and } \sum_{j=0}^n t_j = 1 \right\}.$$

We can see their graphs in this picture:



We can denote Δ^n as $[e_0, e_1, \dots, e_n]$, where e_0, e_1, \dots, e_n are vertices of Δ^n .

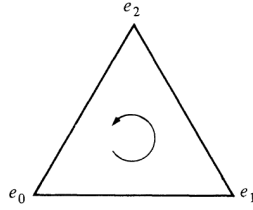
Sometimes, we will see Δ^2 as I with $(1-t, t) \mapsto t$.

When we perform integrations on some geometric shapes, these shapes often have an orientation. Similarly, we can also define an orientation for simplices.

1.4 Definition.

An **orientation** of $\Delta^n = [e_0, e_1, \dots, e_n]$ is a linear ordering of its vertices.

An orientation thus gives a tour of the vertices. For example, the orientation $e_0 < e_1 < e_2$ of Δ^2 gives a counterclockwise tour.



Two orientations of Δ^n are the **same** if, as permutations of $\{e_0, e_1, \dots, e_n\}$, they have the same parity (i.e., both are even or both are odd); otherwise the orientations are **opposite**.

1.5 Definition.

Let X be a topological space, $n \geq 0$. A **(singular) n -simplex** in X is a continue function $f : \Delta^n \rightarrow X$.

$S_n(X)$ denotes the free abelian group generated by all singular n -simplices in X ; and we define $S_m(X) = 0$ for all integers $m < 0$.

And we call an element in $S_n(X)$ is an **n -chain** on X .

Let's consider what the elements in $S_n(X)$ are.

Let $\sum_i m_i \sigma_i$ be an n -chain, where $m_i \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $\sigma_i : \Delta^n \rightarrow X$ is continuous. We can regard σ_i as a n -dimensional geometric shape on X (this may not be accurate), and the sign of m_i denote the orientation of γ_i . Then we can consider $\sum_i m_i \sigma_i$ as a combination of some n -dimensional geometric shapes on X .

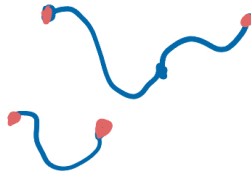
How to use n -chains to describe holes in X ?

When X is a plane with some holes, we can notice that the holes in the plane can be surrounded by a 1-chain, whose simplices precisely form some "closed curves".



Therefore, we need a method to find "closed curves" and try to use them to describe holes.

As we can see, "closed curves" have no boundary while "open curves" always have at least two points as its boundary.



Thus, we need to describe the boundary of an n -chain.

1.6 Definition.

Define the i -th **face map** of Δ^n

$$\begin{aligned}\varepsilon_i &= \varepsilon_i^n : \Delta^{n-1} \rightarrow \Delta^n, \\ (t_0, \dots, t_{n-1}) &\mapsto (t_0, \dots, t_{i-1}, 0, t_i, \dots, t_{n-1}).\end{aligned}$$

We can consider that the usage of these maps is to take out the face opposite to the i -th vertex in the n -simplex. With these maps, we can define the boundary of n -chains.

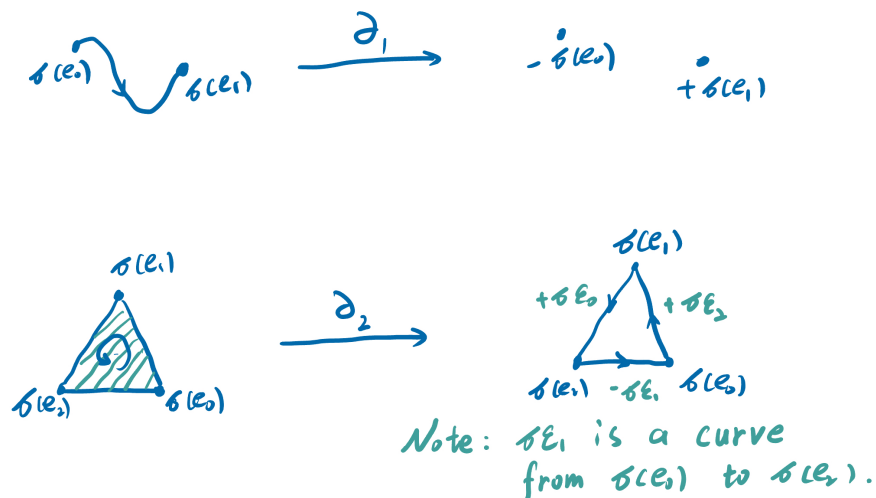
1.7 Definition.

If $\sigma : \Delta^n \rightarrow X$ is continuous and $n > 0$, then its **boundary** is

$$\partial_n \sigma = \sum_{i=0}^n (-1)^i \sigma \varepsilon_i^n \in S_{n-1}(X);$$

if $n = 0$, define $\partial_0 \sigma = 0$.

As shown in the following figure, defining the boundary in this way is consistent with our geometric intuition.



Then we extend ∂_n by linearity, and hence we get a group homomorphism $\partial_n : S_n(X) \rightarrow S_{n-1}(X)$, for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$. The homomorphisms ∂_n are called **boundary operators**.

Strictly speaking, we ought to write ∂_n^X instead of ∂_n since these homomorphisms do depend on X ; however, this is rarely done.

For each X , we have constructed a sequence of free abelian groups and homomorphisms

$$\cdots \longrightarrow S_n(X) \xrightarrow{\partial_n} S_{n-1}(X) \longrightarrow \cdots \longrightarrow S_1(X) \xrightarrow{\partial_1} S_0(X) \xrightarrow{\partial_0} 0$$

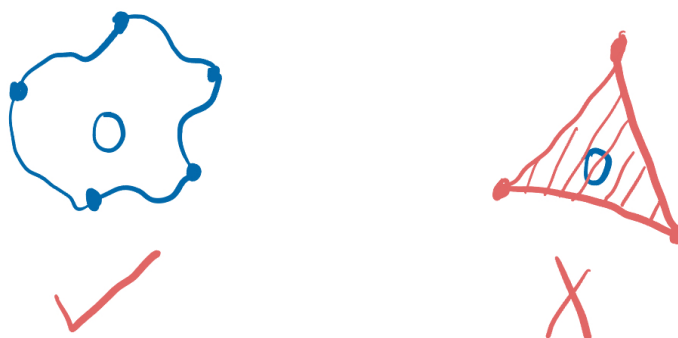
, called the **singular complex** of X ; it is denoted by $(S_*(X), \partial)$ or, more simply, by $S_*(X)$.

Then, we can find all "closed curves".

1.8 Definition.

The group of **(singular) n -cycles** in X , denoted by $Z_n(X)$, is $\ker \partial_n$.

Although we can find all "closed curves" in a plane X , we still can't describe holes in X . We can note that the holes in the plane can be surrounded by 1-chains, but cannot be covered by 2-chains.



Therefore, we know that there are some "closed curves", boundaries of 2-chains, surrounding no holes!

1.9 Definition.

The group of **(singular) n -boundaries** in X , denoted by $B_n(X)$, is $\text{im } \partial_{n+1}$.

Wait, are n -boundaries really n -cycles?

1.10 Lemma.

If $j < i$, the face maps satisfy

$$\varepsilon_i^{n+1} \varepsilon_j^n = \varepsilon_j^{n+1} \varepsilon_{i-1}^n : \Delta^{n-1} \rightarrow \Delta^{n+1}.$$

It's easy to prove by using the definition of ε_i^n .

1.11 Theorem.

For all n , we have $\partial_n \partial_{n+1} = 0$; and thus $B_n(X) \subset Z_n(X)$.

Proof.

Since $S_{n+1}(X)$ is generated by all $(n+1)$ -simplices σ , it suffices to show that $\partial \partial \sigma = 0$ for each such σ .

$$\begin{aligned}
\partial \partial \sigma &= \partial \left(\sum_{i=0}^{n+1} (-1)^i \sigma \varepsilon_i \right) \\
&= \sum_{i=0}^{n+1} (-1)^i \partial (\sigma \varepsilon_i) \\
&= \sum_{i=0}^{n+1} (-1)^i \sum_{j=0}^n (-1)^j \sigma \varepsilon_i \varepsilon_j \\
&= \sum_{i=0}^{n+1} \sum_{j=0}^n (-1)^{i+j} \sigma \varepsilon_i \varepsilon_j \\
&= \left(\sum_{i=1}^{n+1} \sum_{0 \leq j < i} (-1)^{i+j} \sigma \varepsilon_i \varepsilon_j \right) + \left(\sum_{i=0}^n \sum_{i \leq j \leq n} (-1)^{i+j} \sigma \varepsilon_i \varepsilon_j \right) \\
&= \left(\sum_{i=1}^{n+1} \sum_{0 \leq j < i} (-1)^{i+j} \sigma \varepsilon_j \varepsilon_{i-1} \right) + \left(\sum_{i=0}^n \sum_{i \leq j \leq n} (-1)^{i+j} \sigma \varepsilon_i \varepsilon_j \right) \\
&= \left(\sum_{i=0}^n \sum_{0 \leq j \leq i} (-1)^{i+j+1} \sigma \varepsilon_j \varepsilon_i \right) + \left(\sum_{i=0}^n \sum_{i \leq j \leq n} (-1)^{i+j} \sigma \varepsilon_i \varepsilon_j \right) \\
&= \left(\sum_{j=0}^n \sum_{j \leq i \leq n} (-1)^{i+j+1} \sigma \varepsilon_j \varepsilon_i \right) + \left(\sum_{i=0}^n \sum_{i \leq j \leq n} (-1)^{i+j} \sigma \varepsilon_i \varepsilon_j \right) \\
&= 0 \quad \square
\end{aligned}$$

Eventually, we can describe holes by using the quotient group.

1.12 Definition.

For each n , the n -th **(singular) homology group** of a space X is

$$H_n(X) = \frac{Z_n(X)}{B_n(X)} = \frac{\ker \partial_n}{\operatorname{im} \partial_{n+1}}.$$

The coset $z_n + B_n(X)$, where z_n is an n -cycle, is called the **homology class** of z_n , and it is denoted by $\operatorname{cls} z_n$.

2. Functorialities of S_* and H_n

When we view S_* and H_n from the perspective of category theory, we can find that they are actually functors.

2.1 Definition.

A **(chain) complex** is a sequence of abelian groups and homomorphisms

$$\cdots \longrightarrow C_{n+1} \xrightarrow{\partial_{n+1}} C_n \xrightarrow{\partial_n} C_{n-1} \longrightarrow \cdots$$

, where $n \in \mathbb{Z}$, such that $\partial_n \partial_{n+1} = 0$ for each $n \in \mathbb{Z}$. The homomorphism ∂_n is called the **differentiation** of **degree n** , and C_n is called the **term** of **degree n** .

The complex above is denoted by (C_*, ∂) or, more simply, by C_* .

2.2 Definition.

If (C_*, ∂) and (C'_*, ∂') are complexes, a **chain map** $f : (C_*, \partial) \rightarrow (C'_*, \partial')$ is a sequence of homomorphisms $\{f_n : C_n \rightarrow C'_n\}$ such that the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} \cdots & \longrightarrow & C_{n+1} & \xrightarrow{\partial_{n+1}} & C_n & \xrightarrow{\partial_n} & C_{n-1} \longrightarrow \cdots \\ & & \downarrow f_{n+1} & & \downarrow f_n & & \downarrow f_{n-1} \\ \cdots & \longrightarrow & C'_{n+1} & \xrightarrow{\partial'_{n+1}} & C'_n & \xrightarrow{\partial'_n} & C'_{n-1} \longrightarrow \cdots \end{array}$$

commutes.

2.3 Theorem.

All complexes and chain maps form a category, denoted by **Comp**, when one defines composition of chain maps coordinatewise: $\{g_n\} \circ \{f_n\} := \{g_n \circ f_n\}$.

It's easy to prove this is a category.

2.4 Theorem.

Let $f : X \rightarrow Y$ be a continuous function and $\sum_i m_i \sigma_i \in S_n(X)$, where $m_i \in \mathbb{Z}$ and σ_i is an n -simplex for all i . Define $f_{\#}(\sum_i m_i \sigma_i) = \sum_i m_i f \circ \sigma_i \in S_n(Y)$, and then we get a sequence of homomorphisms $\{f_{\#} : S_n(X) \rightarrow S_n(Y)\}$. (Note: $f_{\#}$ does depend on n , but we usually don't give it a subscript.)

Define $S_*(f) := f_{\#}$. And then $S_n : \mathbf{Top} \rightarrow \mathbf{Ab}$, $S_* : \mathbf{Top} \rightarrow \mathbf{Comp}$ are functors.

Proof.

Let $f : X \rightarrow Y$ and $g : Y \rightarrow Z$ are continuous functions. Then, for any n -simplex σ in X , we have

$$\begin{aligned} (f \circ g)_{\#}(\sigma) &= f \circ g \circ \sigma \\ &= f_{\#}(g \circ \sigma) \\ &= f_{\#} \circ g_{\#}(\sigma). \end{aligned}$$

By the universal property of free abelian groups, we have $(f \circ g)_{\#} = f_{\#} \circ g_{\#}$.

Let 1_X be the identity map of X . Then, for any n -simplex σ in X , we have

$$(1_X)_{\#}(\sigma) = 1_X \circ \sigma = \sigma$$

Similarly, because of the universal property of free abelian groups, we have $(1_X)_{\#} = 1_{S_n(X)}$.

Consequently, S_n is a functor.

Next, to check S_* is a functor, we need to verify the commutation of diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} S_n(X) & \xrightarrow{\partial} & S_{n-1}(X) \\ f_{\#} \downarrow & & \downarrow f_{\#} \\ S_n(Y) & \xrightarrow{\partial} & S_{n-1}(Y) \end{array}$$

; for any n -simplices σ in X , we have

$$\begin{aligned}
f_{\#}\partial(\sigma) &= f_{\#}\left(\sum_{i=0}^n (-1)^i \sigma \varepsilon_i\right) \\
&= \sum_{i=0}^n (-1)^i (f\sigma) \varepsilon_i \\
&= \partial(f\sigma) \\
&= \partial f_{\#}(\sigma). \quad \square
\end{aligned}$$

2.5 Definition.

Let (C_*, ∂) be a chain complex. Then, there are

$$\begin{aligned}
Z_n(C_*) &:= \ker \partial_n, \\
B_n(C_*) &:= \operatorname{im} \partial_{n+1}, \\
H_n(C_*) &:= \frac{Z_n(C_*)}{B_n(C_*)}.
\end{aligned}$$

Similarly, $Z_n(C_*)$ is called the group of **n -cycles**, $B_n(C_*)$ is called the group of **n -boundaries**, and $H_n(C_*)$ is called **n -th homology group**.

Let $f : (C_*, \partial) \rightarrow (C'_*, \partial')$ be a chain map. Define

$$\begin{aligned}
H_n(f) : H_n(C_*) &\rightarrow H_n(C'_*), \\
\operatorname{cls} z_n &\mapsto \operatorname{cls}(f_n z_n).
\end{aligned}$$

We also denote $H_n(f)$ as f_* . If $g : X \rightarrow Y$ is continuous. We denote $H_n(S_*(g))$ as g_* , too.

2.6 Theorem.

$H_n : \mathbf{Comp} \rightarrow \mathbf{Ab}$ is a functor.

And thus, the composition $H_n \circ S_* : \mathbf{Top} \rightarrow \mathbf{Ab}$ is also a functor. We always write $H_n \circ S_*$ as H_n .

Proof.

Let C_*, C'_*, C''_* be chain complexes, and $\{f_n\} : C_* \rightarrow C'_*, \{g_n\} : C'_* \rightarrow C''_*$ be chain maps.

Then we have

$$\begin{aligned}
H_n(gf) \operatorname{cls} z_n &= \operatorname{cls} g_n f_n z_n \\
&= H_n(g) \operatorname{cls} f_n z_n \\
&= H_n(g) \circ H_n(f)(\operatorname{cls} z_n),
\end{aligned}$$

and

$$H_n(1_{C_*}) \text{cls } z_n = \text{cls } 1_{C_n} z_n = \text{cls } z_n.$$

Therefore, H_n is a functor. \square

2.7 Lemma.

Let A be a subspace of X with inclusion $j : A \hookrightarrow X$. Then $j_\# : S_n(A) \rightarrow S_n(X)$ is an injection for every $n \geq 0$.

Proof.

Let $\gamma = \sum m_i \sigma_i \in \ker j_\#$, where σ_i are distinct n -simplices.

Then we have $j_\#(\gamma) = \sum m_i (j\sigma_i) = 0$.

Since $j\sigma_i = j\sigma_j \Rightarrow \sigma_i = \sigma_j$, we have $j\sigma_i$ are distinct. Therefore, for each i , $m_i = 0$. \square

Recall: Coproduct

Let \mathcal{C} be a category, $\{X_\lambda; \lambda \in \Lambda\} \subset \text{Obj}(\mathcal{C})$ is a set of some objects.

Then the **coproduct** is an object $\coprod_\lambda X_\lambda$ with inclusions $i_\lambda : X_\lambda \rightarrow \coprod_\lambda X_\lambda$ such that for all morphisms $\{f_\lambda : X_\lambda \rightarrow L\}$, there is a unique morphism α make all diagrams like

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X_{\lambda_0} & & \\ & \searrow^{i_{\lambda_0}} & \\ & & \coprod X_\lambda \\ & \searrow_{f_{\lambda_0}} & \downarrow \exists! \alpha \\ & & L \end{array}$$

commute.

Coproduct is a specific example of colimits (direct limits). Next, I will show you that H_n preserve coproduct. Actually, H_n is co-continuous; that is H_n preserve colimits.

2.8 Lemma.

Functor S_* preserve coproduct; that is $\{X_\lambda; \lambda \in \Lambda\}$ is a set of topological spaces and let $X = \coprod X_\lambda$, and then we have $S_*(X) \cong \coprod S_*(X_\lambda)$.

Proof.

Let $j_\lambda : X_\lambda \rightarrow X$ be inclusions.

It's sufficient to prove $S_*(X)$ has the same universal property as $S_*(\coprod X_\lambda)$; that is, for all complexes L_* and chain maps $f_\lambda : S_*(X_\lambda) \rightarrow L_*$, there is a unique chain map φ such that the diagrams

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 S_*(X_\lambda) & & \\
 \searrow^{j_{\lambda\#}} & & \searrow \\
 & S_*(X) & \\
 \searrow^{f_\lambda} & \downarrow \exists! \varphi & \\
 & L_* &
 \end{array}$$

commute.

- Existence of φ :

For each n -simplex σ , since Δ^n is path connected, there is a $\lambda \in \Lambda$ such that $\text{im } \sigma \subset j_\lambda(X_\lambda)$.

Therefore, for each $\gamma = \sum m_i \sigma_i \in S_n(X)$ with σ_i are n -simplices, we have $\gamma = \sum_i m_i j_{\lambda_i\#} j_{\lambda_i\#}^{-1}(\sigma_i)$, where $\sigma_i \subset j_{\lambda_i}(X_{\lambda_i})$.

Define

$$\begin{aligned}
 \varphi_n : S_n(X) &\rightarrow L_n, \\
 \sum_i m_i \sigma_i &\mapsto \sum_i m_i f_{\lambda,n} j_{\lambda\#}^{-1}(\sigma_i).
 \end{aligned}$$

It's easy to know φ_n are group homomorphisms. We should show that $\varphi = \{\varphi_n\}$ is a chain map.

For f_λ and $j_{\lambda\#}$ are chain maps, we have commutative diagrams

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 S_n(X_\lambda) & \xrightarrow{\partial} & S_{n-1}(X_\lambda) \\
 f_{\lambda,n} \downarrow & & \downarrow f_{\lambda,(n-1)} \\
 L_n & \xrightarrow{\partial} & L_{n-1}
 \end{array}$$

and

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 S_n(X_\lambda) & \xrightarrow{\partial} & S_{n-1}(X_\lambda) \\
 j_{\lambda\#} \downarrow & & \downarrow j_{\lambda\#} \\
 S_n(X) & \xrightarrow{\partial} & S_{n-1}(X)
 \end{array}$$

; hence

$$\begin{aligned}
\partial\varphi_n(\sum_i m_i\sigma_i) &= \partial(\sum_i m_i f_{\lambda,n} j_{\lambda_i\#}(\sigma_i)) \\
&= \sum_i m_i \partial f_{\lambda,n} j_{\lambda_i\#}^{-1}(\sigma_i) \\
&= \sum_i m_i f_{\lambda,n} \partial j_{\lambda_i\#}^{-1}(\sigma_i) \\
&= \sum_i m_i f_{\lambda,n} j_{\lambda_i\#}^{-1} \partial(\sigma_i) \\
&= \varphi_{n-1}(\sum_i m_i \partial(\sigma_i)) \\
&= \varphi_{n-1} \partial(\sum_i m_i \sigma_i).
\end{aligned}$$

- Uniqueness of φ :

If there are φ and ψ both satisfy the properties, then we have

$$\begin{aligned}
(\varphi - \psi)(\sum_i m_i\sigma_i) &= (\varphi - \psi)(\sum_i m_i j_{\lambda_i\#} j_{\lambda_i\#}^{-1}(\sigma_i)) \\
&= \sum_i m_i ((\varphi - \psi) j_{\lambda_i\#}) j_{\lambda_i\#}^{-1}(\sigma_i) \\
&= \sum_i m_i (f - f) j_{\lambda_i\#}^{-1}(\sigma_i) = 0.
\end{aligned}$$

Therefore, $\varphi = \psi$. \square

2.9 Theorem.

Functor H_n preserve coproduct; that is $\{C_{\lambda*}\}$ is a set of chain complexes, and then we have $H_n(\coprod_{\lambda} C_{\lambda*}) \cong \coprod_{\lambda} H_n(C_{\lambda*})$.

Proof.

Let $C_* = \coprod_{\lambda} C_{\lambda*}$ and $j_{\lambda} : C_{\lambda*} \rightarrow C_*$ be inclusions.

It's sufficient to prove $H_n(C_*)$ has the same universal property as $\coprod_{\lambda} H_n(C_{\lambda*})$; that is, for all abelian groups L and homomorphisms $f_{\lambda} : H_n(C_{\lambda*}) \rightarrow L$, there is a unique homomorphism $\varphi : H_n(C_*) \rightarrow L$, such that the diagrams

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
H_n(C_{\lambda*}) & & \\
\searrow j_* & \searrow f_{\lambda} & \\
& H_n(C_*) & \\
& \downarrow \exists! \varphi & \\
& L &
\end{array}$$

commute.

- Existence of φ :

Each $\text{cls } z \in H_n(C_*)$, where $z \in Z_n(C_*)$, can be write as $z = \sum z_\lambda$ with $z_\lambda \in j_\lambda(C_{\lambda,n})$.

Define

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi : H_n(C_*) &\rightarrow L, \\ \text{cls } z &\mapsto \sum_{\lambda} f_{\lambda}(\text{cls } j_{\lambda}^{-1} z_{\lambda}). \end{aligned}$$

Next, let's show that φ is well-defined.

Let $b \in B_n(C_*)$, and then there is $\gamma \in C_{n+1}$ with $\partial\gamma = b$.

Because of the commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} C_{\lambda,(n+1)} & \xrightarrow{\partial} & C_{\lambda,n} \\ j_{\lambda} \downarrow & & \downarrow j_{\lambda} \\ C_{n+1} & \xrightarrow{\partial} & C_n \end{array}$$

, we have $\sum j_{\lambda} b_{\lambda} = b = \partial\gamma = \partial \sum j_{\lambda} \gamma_{\lambda} = \sum \partial j_{\lambda} \gamma_{\lambda} = \sum j_{\lambda}(\partial\gamma_{\lambda})$. Consequently, we have $\sum j_{\lambda}(b_{\lambda} - \partial\gamma_{\lambda}) = 0$.

Therefore, we have $b_{\lambda} = \partial\gamma_{\lambda}$; hence $\varphi(\text{cls } b) = \sum f_{\lambda}(\text{cls } b_{\lambda}) = 0$.

- Uniqueness of φ :

If there are φ and ψ both satisfy the properties, then we have

$$\begin{aligned} (\varphi - \psi) \text{cls } z &= \sum_{\lambda} (\varphi - \psi) j_{\lambda} \text{cls } j_{\lambda}^{-1} z_{\lambda} \\ &= \sum_{\lambda} (f - f) \text{cls } j_{\lambda}^{-1} z_{\lambda} = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, $\varphi = \psi$. \square

2.10 Corollary.

If $\{X_{\lambda}; \lambda \in \Lambda\}$ is the set of path components of X , then we have

$$H_n(X) \cong \coprod_{\lambda} H_n(X_{\lambda}).$$

3. Dimension Axiom and Homotopy Axiom

In this section, we will introduce two axioms of homology theory.

3.1 Theorem (Dimension Axiom).

If X is a one-point space, then $H_n(X) = 0$ for all $n \geq 1$.

Proof.

For each $n \geq 0$, there is only one singular n -simplex $\sigma_n : \Delta^n \rightarrow X$, where σ_n is a constant map.

Therefore, $S_n(X) = \langle \sigma_n \rangle$. Then, let's compute the boundary operators:

$$\partial_n \sigma_n = \sum_{i=0}^n (-1)^i \sigma_n \varepsilon_i = \sum_{i=0}^n (-1)^i \sigma_{n-1}.$$

It follows that, for all $n \geq 1$,

$$\partial_n \sigma_n = \begin{cases} 0, & n \text{ is odd,} \\ \sigma_{n-1}, & n \text{ is even.} \end{cases}$$

Thus, for each $n \geq 1$, we have two conditions:

- If n is odd, we have $Z_n(X) = H_n(X)$ and $\sigma_n \in B_n(X)$. Hence, $Z_n(X) = B_n(X)$.
- If n is even, we have $Z_n(X) = 0$.

Therefore, $H_n(X) = 0$. \square

3.2 Definition.

A space X is called **acyclic** if $H_n(X) = 0$ for all $n \geq 1$.

3.3 Proposition.

- If $X = \emptyset$, then $H_n(X) = 0$ for all $n \geq 0$.
- If X is a one-point space, then $H_0(X) = \mathbb{Z}$.
- If X is the Cantor set, then $H_n(X) = \begin{cases} \mathbb{Z}^{\oplus X}, & n = 0, \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$

3.4 Theorem.

If X is a non-empty path-connected space, then $H_0(X) = \mathbb{Z}$.

Hence, for any topological space Y , $H_0(Y) = \coprod_{\lambda \in \Lambda} H_0(Y_\lambda) = \mathbb{Z}^{\oplus \Lambda}$, where $\{Y_\lambda; \lambda \in \Lambda\}$ are path components of Y .

Proof.

For $\partial_0 = 0$, we have $Z_0(X) = S_0(X)$.

(We will use $x \in X$ to denote the map $\Delta^0 \rightarrow X, e_0 \mapsto x$.)

Define $B = \{\sum m_i x_i; \sum m_i = 0\}$. It's obvious that B is a subgroup of $S_0(X)$.

Next, let's prove $B = B_0(X)$.

- If $\sum m_i x_i \in B_0(X)$, then there is $\gamma = \sum a_i \sigma_i \in S_1(X)$ with $\partial \gamma = \sum m_i x_i$.

And then, we have $\partial \gamma = \sum (a_i \sigma_i \varepsilon_0 - a_i \sigma_i \varepsilon_1) = \sum m_i x_i$.

Since $x_i, \sigma_i \varepsilon_0, \sigma_i \varepsilon_1$ are generators, $\sum m_i = \sum (a_i - a_i) = 0$.

Therefore, $\sum m_i x_i \in B$.

- Let $\sum m_i x_i \in B$, and fix a point $p \in X$.

Let $\sigma_x : \Delta^1 \rightarrow X$ be a path from p to x (consider Δ^1 as I).

Then let $\gamma = \sum m_i \sigma_{x_i} \in S_1(X)$. We can find that

$$\begin{aligned} \partial \gamma &= \sum m_i (\sigma_{x_i} \varepsilon_0 - \sigma_{x_i} \varepsilon_1) \\ &= \sum m_i (x_i - p) \\ &= -(\sum m_i) p + \sum m_i x_i \\ &= \sum m_i x_i. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, $\sum m_i x_i \in B_0(X)$.

Define $\varphi : Z_0(X) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}, \sum m_i x_i \mapsto \sum m_i$. It's trivial that φ is a homomorphism with $\ker \varphi = B$.

Consequently, $H_0(X) = Z_0(X)/B_0(X) \cong \mathbb{Z}$. \square

Next, we will learn the homotopy axiom; that is if f, g are two homotopic continuous maps, then we have $f_* = g_*$. However, we will not prove this theorem directly. Let us prove it step by step.

3.5 Lemma.

If X be a bounded convex subset of \mathbb{R}^k , then $H_n(X) = 0$ for all $n \geq 1$.

Proof.

Fix a point $b \in X$. Let σ be a n -simplex.

For all $n \geq 0$, define

$$\begin{aligned} b. \sigma : \Delta^{n+1} &\rightarrow X, \\ (t_0, \dots, t_{n+1}) &\mapsto \begin{cases} b, & t_0 = 1, \\ t_0 b + (1 - t_0) \sigma(\frac{t_1}{1-t_0}, \dots, \frac{t_{n+1}}{1-t_0}), & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

And then define

$$\begin{aligned} c_n : S_n(X) &\rightarrow S_{n+1}(X), \\ \sum_i m_i \sigma_i &\mapsto \sum_i m_i (b. \sigma_i). \end{aligned}$$

It's easy to check c_n is a homomorphism.

When $n \geq 1$, we claim that, for a n -chain γ ,

$$\partial c_n \gamma = \gamma - c_{n-1} \partial \gamma. \quad (*)$$

If $(*)$ is true, we have, for all $z \in Z_n(X)$,

$$\partial c_n z = z - c_{n-1}(\partial z) = z.$$

Consequently, $z \in B_n(X)$; hence, the lemma has been proved.

Next, we will prove $(*)$.

Let σ be a n -simplex. And then we have

$$\begin{aligned} \partial c_n \sigma &= \sum_{i=0}^{n+1} (-1)^n (b. \sigma) \varepsilon_i \\ &= \sigma + \sum_{i=1}^{n+1} (-1)^n (b. \sigma) \varepsilon_i \end{aligned}$$

; and

$$b. (\sigma \varepsilon_i) = (b. \sigma) \varepsilon_{i+1}.$$

Thus, we have $\partial c_n \sigma = \sigma - c_{n-1} \partial \sigma$.

By using the universal property of free abelian groups, we proved $(*)$. \square

3.6 Definition.

Let C_*, C'_* be two chain complexes, and f and g be chain maps. We call f and g are **(chain) homotopic** if there are homomorphisms $P_n : C_n \rightarrow C'_{n+1}$ such that $\partial P_n + P_{n-1} \partial = f_n - g_n$ for each n .

The following diagram is NOT commutative.

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 \longrightarrow & C_{n+1} & \longrightarrow & C_n & \xrightarrow{\partial} & C_{n-1} & \longrightarrow \\
 & & & \searrow P_n & \downarrow f & \swarrow P_{n-1} & \\
 & & & & C'_n & & \\
 & & & & \downarrow g & & \\
 \longrightarrow & C'_{n+1} & \xrightarrow{\partial} & C'_n & \longrightarrow & C'_{n-1} & \longrightarrow
 \end{array}$$

3.7 Theorem.

If f and g are chain homotopic, then we have $H_n(f) = H_n(g)$ for each n .

Proof.

Let $\text{cls } z \in H_n(C_*)$, and then we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 (H_n(f) - H_n(g))(\text{cls } z) &= \text{cls}(f_n z - g_n z) \\
 &= \text{cls}((f_n - g_n)z) \\
 &= \text{cls}((\partial P_n + P_{n-1} \partial)z) \\
 &= \text{cls}(\partial P_n z) + \text{cls}(P_{n-1}(\partial z)) \\
 &= 0 \quad \square
 \end{aligned}$$

3.8 Lemma.

Let X be a space and, for $i = 0, 1$, define

$$\begin{aligned}
 \lambda_i^X : X &\rightarrow X \times I, \\
 x &\mapsto (x, i).
 \end{aligned}$$

Let $f, g : X \rightarrow Y$ be two homotopic continuous maps.

If $H_n(\lambda_0^X) = H_n(\lambda_1^X)$, then we have $H_n(f) = H_n(g)$.

Proof.

Let $F : f \simeq g$ be the homotopy. Then we have

$$\begin{aligned}
H_n(f) &= H_n(F\lambda_0^X) \\
&= H_n(F)H_n(\lambda_0^X) \\
&= H_n(F)H_n(\lambda_1^X) \\
&= H_n(F\lambda_1^X) \\
&= H_n(g). \quad \square
\end{aligned}$$

3.9 Definition.

Let \mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D} be two categories, and $F, G : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ be two (covariant) functors. A **natural transformation** $\theta : F \rightarrow G$ is a collection of morphisms $\{\theta_X : F(X) \rightarrow G(X); X \in \text{Obj}(\mathcal{C})\}$ such that the diagrams

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
F(X) & \xrightarrow{\theta_X} & G(X) \\
F(f) \downarrow & & \downarrow G(f) \\
F(Y) & \xrightarrow{\theta_Y} & G(Y)
\end{array}$$

commute.

3.10 Theorem (Homotopy Axiom).

If $f, g : X \rightarrow Y$ be two homotopic continuous maps, then

$$H_n(f) = H_n(g).$$

Notations:

Let $f : A \rightarrow B, g : C \rightarrow D$ are maps. Define

$$\begin{aligned}
f \times g : A \times C &\rightarrow B \times D, \\
(a, c) &\mapsto (f(a), g(c)).
\end{aligned}$$

Let $h : A \rightarrow E$ is a map. Define

$$\begin{aligned}
(f, h) : A &\rightarrow B \times E, \\
a &\mapsto (f(a), h(a)).
\end{aligned}$$

Proof.

As what we discussed above (3.5, 3.6 and 3.7), it's sufficient to prove $\lambda_{0\#}^X$ and $\lambda_{1\#}^X$ are chain homotopic.

Define $T_n(X) = S_{n+1}(X \times I)$, and $T_*(f) = (f \times 1_I)_\#$, where f is a continuous map.

It's easy to check $T_n : \mathbf{Top} \rightarrow \mathbf{Ab}$ is a functor.

Actually, we will construct natural transformations $P_n = \{P_n^X : S_n(X) \rightarrow T_n(X)\}$ such that

$$P_{n-1}^X \partial + \partial P_n^X = \lambda_{0\#}^X - \lambda_{1\#}^X. \quad (*)$$

Since P_n is a natural transformation, we also have a commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} S_n(X) & \xrightarrow{P_n^X} & S_{n+1}(X \times I) \\ f_{\#} \downarrow & & \downarrow (f \times 1)_{\#} \\ S_n(Y) & \xrightarrow{P_n^Y} & S_{n+1}(Y \times I) \end{array}$$

. Let $\delta : \Delta^n \rightarrow \Delta^n$ be the identity map and σ be a n -simplex on X . (We will use Δ in short for Δ^n in the remaining part of this proof.)

If P exists, we can notice that

$$\begin{aligned} P_n^X(\sigma) &= P_n^X(\sigma \circ \delta) \\ &= P_n^X \circ \sigma_{\#}(\delta) \\ &= (\sigma \times 1)_{\#} P_n^{\Delta}(\delta). \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, in order to construct $P_n^X(\sigma)$, we only need to construct $P_n^{\Delta}(\delta)$.

Next, let's construct P by induction on n .

- Base step for induction ($n = 0$):

We have $P_{-1}^X = 0$ for $0 \rightarrow S_0(X \times I)$ only has one homomorphism.

Let $\delta : \Delta^0 \rightarrow \Delta^0$ be the identity map.

Define

$$\begin{aligned} P_0^{\Delta}(\delta) : \Delta^1 &\rightarrow \Delta^1 \times I, \\ t &\mapsto (\delta(e_0), t), \end{aligned}$$

and, for 0-simplex σ ,

$$\begin{aligned} P_0^X(\sigma) &:= (\sigma \times 1)_{\#} P_0^{\Delta}(\delta) : t \mapsto (\sigma \times 1)_{\#}(\delta(e_0), t) \\ &= (\sigma(e_0), t). \end{aligned}$$

By extending P_0^X by linearity, we get homomorphisms $P_0^X : S_0(X) \rightarrow S_1(X \times I)$.

Then we should verify the inductive hypothesis.

- For 0-simplex σ , we have

$$\begin{aligned}
\partial P_0^X(\sigma) &= (\sigma(e_0), 1) - (\sigma(e_0), 0), \\
P_{-1}^X \partial(\sigma) &= 0, \\
\lambda_{0\#}^X(\sigma) &= (\sigma(e_0), 0), \\
\lambda_{1\#}^X(\sigma) &= (\sigma(e_0), 1).
\end{aligned}$$

Consequently,

$$(P_{n-1}^X \partial + \partial P_n^X)(\sigma) = (\lambda_{0\#}^X - \lambda_{1\#}^X)(\sigma).$$

And by the universal property of the abelian groups, we know $(*)$ is true.

◦ (Naturality of P_n)

Let $f : X \rightarrow Y$ be a continuous map. Then we have

$$\begin{aligned}
(f \times 1)_\# P_0^X(\sigma) &= (f \times 1)_\# (\sigma \times 1)_\# P_0^\Delta(\delta) \\
&= ((f \circ \sigma) \times 1)_\# P_0^\Delta(\delta) \\
&= P_0^Y(f \circ \sigma) \\
&= P_0^Y f_\#(\sigma).
\end{aligned}$$

Similarly, by the universal property, we know P_0 is a natural transformation.

• Assume that $n > 0$.

Let $\delta : \Delta^n \rightarrow \Delta^n$ be the identity map.

If $(*)$ is true, we have

$$\partial P_n^\Delta(\delta) = \lambda_{0\#}^X(\delta) - \lambda_{1\#}^X(\delta) - P_{n-1}^\Delta \partial(\delta).$$

Therefore, we need to prove $(\lambda_{0\#}^X - \lambda_{1\#}^X - P_{n-1}^\Delta \partial)(\delta) \in B_n(\Delta^n \times I)$.

Since $\Delta^n \times I$ is a bounded convex subset of \mathbb{R}^{n+2} , by lemma 3.4, we have $H_n(\Delta^n \times I) = 0$; that is $B_n(\Delta^n \times I) = Z_n(\Delta^n \times I)$.

Consequently, we only need to prove $(\lambda_{0\#}^X - \lambda_{1\#}^X - P_{n-1}^\Delta \partial)(\delta) \in Z_n(\Delta^n \times I)$.

Since

$$\begin{aligned}
&\partial(\lambda_{0\#}^X - \lambda_{1\#}^X - P_{n-1}^\Delta \partial) \\
&= \partial \lambda_{0\#}^X - \partial \lambda_{1\#}^X - \partial P_{n-1}^\Delta \partial \\
&= \partial \lambda_{0\#}^X - \partial \lambda_{1\#}^X - (\lambda_{0\#}^X - \lambda_{1\#}^X - P_{n-1}^\Delta \partial) \partial \quad (\text{by inductive hypothesis}) \\
&= \lambda_{0\#} \partial - \lambda_{1\#} \partial - (\lambda_{0\#} \partial - \lambda_{1\#} \partial) + P_{n-1}^\Delta \partial \partial \\
&= 0,
\end{aligned}$$

we have $(\lambda_{0\#}^X - \lambda_{1\#}^X - P_{n-1}^\Delta \partial)(\delta) \in B_n(\Delta^n \times I)$; that is $\exists \beta_{n+1} \in S_{n+1}(\Delta \times I)$, such that $\partial \beta_{n+1} = (\lambda_{0\#}^X - \lambda_{1\#}^X - P_{n-1}^\Delta \partial)(\delta)$.

Define

$$P_n^\Delta(\delta) = \beta_{n+1},$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} P_n^X(\sigma) &= (\sigma \times 1)_\# P_n^X(\delta) \\ &= (\sigma \times 1)_\# \beta_{n+1}. \end{aligned}$$

By extending P_n^X by linearity, we get homomorphisms $P_n^X : S_n(X) \rightarrow S_{n+1}(X \times I)$.

Next, we need to verify inductive hypothesis.

- For n -simplex σ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \partial P_n^X(\sigma) &= \partial(\sigma \times 1)_\# \beta_{n+1} \\ &= (\sigma \times 1)_\# \partial \beta_{n+1} \\ &= (\sigma \times 1)_\# (\lambda_{0\#}^X - \lambda_{1\#}^X - P_{n-1}^\Delta \partial)(\delta) \\ &= (\lambda_{0\#}^X - \lambda_{1\#}^X - P_{n-1}^X \partial)(\sigma) \end{aligned}$$

And by the universal property of the abelian groups, we know $(*)$ is true.

- (Naturality of P_n)

Let $f : X \rightarrow Y$ be a continuous map. Then we have

$$\begin{aligned} (f \times 1)_\# P_n^X(\sigma) &= (f \times 1)_\# (\sigma \times 1)_\# \beta_{n+1} \\ &= ((f \circ \sigma) \times 1)_\# \beta_{n+1} \\ &= P_n^Y(f \circ \sigma) \\ &= P_n^Y f_\#(\sigma). \end{aligned}$$

Similarly, by the universal property, we know P_n is a natural transformation. \square

Therefore, we can also see H_1 as a functor from **hTop** to **Ab**.

3.11 Corollary.

If X and Y have the same homotopic type, then we have $H_n(X) \cong H_n(Y)$.

3.12 Corollary.

If X is contractible, then $H_n(X) = 0$ for all $n > 0$, and $H_0(X) = \mathbb{Z}$.

4. Hurewicz Theorem

In this section, let's talk about the relationship between π_1 and H_1 . Additionally, **all the topological spaces in this section are path-connected**, and we always choose a base point $x_0 \in X$.

We will denote the abelianized fundamental group of X at x_0 as $\tilde{\pi}_1$; that is $\tilde{\pi}_1 = \pi_1(X, x_0) / \pi'_1(X, x_0)$, where $\pi'_1(X, x_0)$ is the commutator subgroup of $\pi_1(X, x_0)$.

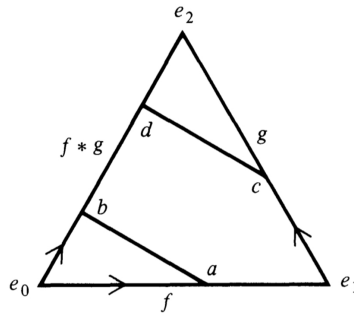
We will use $[f]$ stands for a homotopy class; \overline{f} stands for the coset of $[f]$ in $\tilde{\pi}_1$; and $f \simeq g$ stands for " f is homotopic to g ", while " $f \sim g$ stands for f is homologous to g ".

4.1 Lemma.

If f and g are paths in X such that $f(1) = g(0)$ then the 1-chain $f * g - f - g$ is a boundary.

Proof.

Define a continuous map $\sigma : \Delta^2 \rightarrow X$ as indicated by the following picture.



In more detail, first define σ on Δ^2 :

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma(1-t, t, 0) &= f(t); \\ \sigma(0, 1-t, t) &= g(t); \\ \sigma(1-t, 0, t) &= (f * g)(t).\end{aligned}$$

Now define σ on all of Δ^2 by setting it constant on the line segment with endpoints $a = a(t) = (1-t, t, 0)$ and $b = b(t) = ((2-t)/2, 0, t/2)$, and constant on the line segments with endpoints $c = c(t) = (0, 1-t, t)$ and $d = d(t) = ((1-t)/2, 0, (1+t)/2)$.

Then we can find that $\partial\sigma = f + g - f * g$. \square

4.2 Lemma.

If f is a constant, then f is a boundary.

Proof.

By lemma 3.1, we have $f * f - f - f = -f$ is a boundary. \square

4.3 Lemma.

If f and g are paths with $f \simeq g \text{ rel } \dot{I}$, then $f \sim g$.

And thus $f * f^{-1}$ is a boundary; hence, $f + f^{-1}$ is a boundary by lemma 3.2.

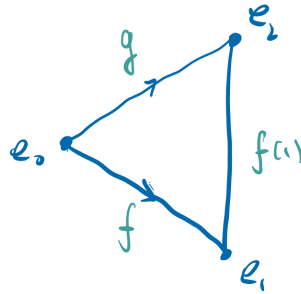
Proof.

Let $F : f \simeq g \text{ rel } \dot{I}$ be the homotopy.

Define

$$\sigma : \Delta^2 \rightarrow X, \\ (t_0, t_1, t_2) \mapsto \begin{cases} f(0), & t_0 = 0, \\ F(1 - t_0, \frac{t_2}{1 - t_0}), & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

The definition of this map is illustrated in the following picture.



Then, it's obvious that $\partial\sigma = f - g + c$, where $c : (t_0, t_1) \mapsto f(1)$ is a constant map.

Therefore, by lemma 3.2, $f - g \in B_1(X)$. \square

4.4 Definition.

The **Hurewicz map** is

$$\phi : \pi_1(X, x_0) \rightarrow H_1(X), \\ [f] \mapsto \text{cls } f.$$

By lemma 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3, we can know that ϕ is a well-defined homomorphism.

As we can see, $H_1(X)$ is a abelian group, while π_1 may not. Therefore, ϕ induces a homomorphism

$$\phi_* : \tilde{\pi}_1(X, x_0) \rightarrow H_1(X).$$

In fact, ϕ_* is an isomorphism, I will show you soon.

To prove ϕ_* is an isomorphism, we can try to construct its inverse.

Since X is path-connected, for all $x \in X$ there is a path L_x from x_0 to x .

For each 1-simplex σ , which is also a path, define $\psi(\sigma) = \overline{L_{\sigma(e_0)} * \sigma * L_{\sigma(e_1)}^{-1}}$.

Then by extending ψ by linearity, we get a homomorphism $\psi : S_1(X) \rightarrow \tilde{\pi}_1(X, x_0)$.

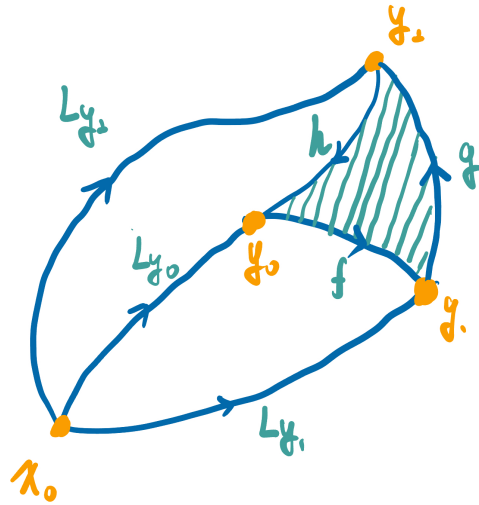
To ensure ψ can induce a map from $H_1(X)$ to $\tilde{\pi}_1$, we should check $B_0(X) \subset \ker \psi$.

4.5 Lemma.

The map ψ takes the group $B_1(X)$ into $1 \in \tilde{\pi}_1$.

Proof.

Let σ be a 2-simplex. Let $\sigma(e_i) = y_i$ for $i = 1, 2, 3$ and $f = \sigma\epsilon_2, g = \sigma\epsilon_0, h = (\sigma\epsilon_1)^{-1}$.



Then

$$\begin{aligned}
 \psi(\partial\sigma) &= \psi(\sigma\epsilon_0 - \sigma\epsilon_1 + \sigma\epsilon_2) \\
 &= \psi(g - h^{-1} + f) \\
 &= \psi(f + g - h^{-1}) \\
 &= \psi(f) * \psi(g) * \psi(h^{-1})^{-1} \\
 &= \overline{L_{y_0} * f * L_{y_1}^{-1} * L_{y_1} * g * L_{y_2}^{-1} * (L_{y_0} * h^{-1} * L_{y_2}^{-1})^{-1}} \\
 &= \overline{L_{y_0} * f * g * h * L_{y_0}^{-1}}
 \end{aligned}$$

For $f * g * h$ is a boundary of 2-simplex, which is nullhomotopic rel \dot{I} (Rotman, Exercise 3.4), $\psi(\partial\sigma) = 1$.

Therefore, by the universal property of the abelian group, we get $B_0(X) \subset \ker \psi$. \square

Consequently, ψ induces the homomorphism $\psi_* : H_1(X) \rightarrow \tilde{\pi}_1$.

If f is a loop, then we can easily find $\psi_*\phi_*(\bar{f}) = \psi_* \text{cls } f = \overline{L_{x_0}fL_{x_0}^{-1}} = \bar{f}$.

Thus, to show ψ_* is the inverse of ϕ_* , it's sufficient to prove $\phi_*\psi_* = 1$.

4.6 Lemma.

If γ is a 1-cycle, then $\phi_*\psi(\gamma) = \text{cls } \gamma$.

Proof.

Let $\gamma = \sum m_i \sigma_i$, where σ_i are 1-simplices.

Then we have $\partial\gamma = \sum m_i(\sigma_i(e_0) - \sigma_i(e_1)) = 0$; hence $\sum m_i(L_{\sigma_i(e_0)} - L_{\sigma_i(e_1)}) = 0$.

Therefore, by lemma 4.1-4.3, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \phi_*\psi(\gamma) &= \phi_*\psi\left(\sum_i m_i \sigma_i\right) \\ &= \phi_*\left(\prod_i \overline{(L_{\sigma_i(e_0)} * \sigma_i * L_{\sigma_i(e_1)}^{-1})}^{m_i}\right) \\ &= \sum_i m_i \text{cls}(L_{\sigma_i(e_0)} + \sigma_i + L_{\sigma_i(e_1)}^{-1}) \\ &= \text{cls } \gamma + \sum m_i \text{cls}(L_{\sigma_i(e_0)} - L_{\sigma_i(e_1)}) \\ &= \text{cls } \gamma. \quad \square \end{aligned}$$

Finally, we proved the Hurewicz theorem.

4.7 Theorem (Hurewicz).

If X is a path-connected space with base point x_0 , then

$$\tilde{\pi}_1(X, x_0) \cong H_1(X).$$

Proof.

From what we talked above, ϕ_* is the isomorphism. \square

4.8 Corollary.

- $H_1(S^1) = \mathbb{Z}$.
- If X is simply connected, then $H_1(X) = 0$.

4.9 Theorem.

Let $\phi^X : \pi_1(X, x_0) \rightarrow H_1(X)$ be the Hurewicz map.

Then $\{\phi^X\}$ is a natural transformation from π_1 to H_1 ; that is the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \pi_1(X, x_0) & \xrightarrow{h_*} & \pi_1(Y, y_0) \\ \phi^X \downarrow & & \downarrow \phi^Y \\ H_1(X) & \xrightarrow{h_*} & H_1(Y) \end{array}$$

commutes, for each continuous map $h : (X, x_0) \rightarrow (Y, y_0)$.

Proof.

If f be a loop in X with base point x_0 , then

$$\begin{aligned} \phi^Y h_*([f]) &= \phi^Y([hf]) \\ &= \text{cls } hf \\ &= h_*(\text{cls } f) \\ &= h_*\phi^X([f]). \quad \square \end{aligned}$$