

SIMPLICIAL HOMOLOGY, 2

Goal: calculate topological invariants of simplicial complexes $\subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$.

Given a simplicial complex, consider the family of all skeletons:



$K = K^{(2)}$. 2-skeleton

$K^{(1)} =$



1-skeleton

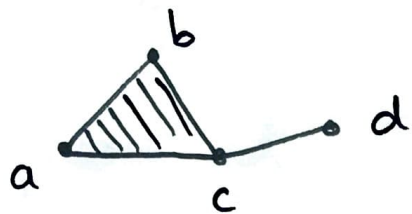
$K^{(0)} =$



0-skeleton

(2)

Consider p -chains = formal combinations of p -simplices in K .



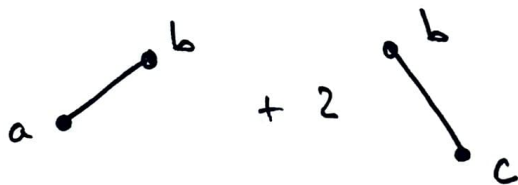
$$2\text{-simplex} = [a \ b \ c] \quad \begin{array}{c} b \\ \triangle \\ a \quad c \end{array}$$

$$1\text{-simplex: } [a \ b], [b \ c], [a \ c] \\ [c \ d]$$

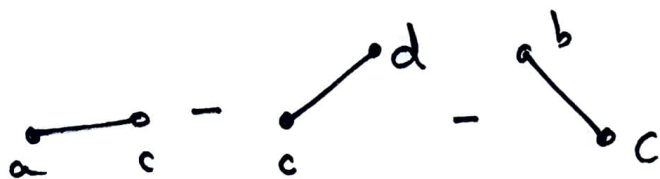
$$0\text{-simplices (vertices): } [a], [b], [c], [d].$$

$$C_p = \left\{ \sum a_i \sigma_i, \quad \sigma_i : p\text{-simplices in } K \right\}$$

$$x = [a \ b] + 2[b \ c] \in C_1$$



$$y = [a \ c] - [c \ d] - [b \ c]$$

 $\in C_1$


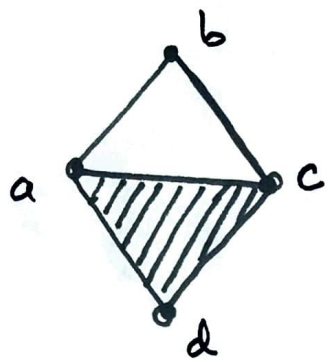
$$x + 2y = [a \ b] + 2[b \ c] + 2[a \ c] - 2[c \ d] - 2[b \ c]$$

$$= [a \ b] + 2[a \ c] - 2[c \ d]$$

C_p is called the space of p -chains of K .

Consider :

$K =$



(3)

• $C_2 = \{ \lambda [acd], \lambda \in \mathbb{R} \}$ $\dim C_2 = 1$



In C_2 : $\lambda [acd] + \mu [acd] = (\lambda + \mu) [acd]$

• C_1 is generated by $[ab], [bc], [ac], [ad], [dc]$



In C_1 : $2[ab] - [ac] + 3[dc]$

$\dim C_1 = 5$

• C_0 is generated by $[a], [b], [c], [d]$.

$\dim C_0 = 4$

We construct the boundary map:

$$\partial_p: C_p \longrightarrow C_{p-1}$$

$\sigma \in C_p$ is a combination of p -simplices:

$$\sigma = \sum a_i \sigma_i \quad \sigma_i: p\text{-simplex}$$

We will have ∂_p linear so

$$\partial_p(\sigma) = \sum a_i \partial_p(\sigma_i)$$

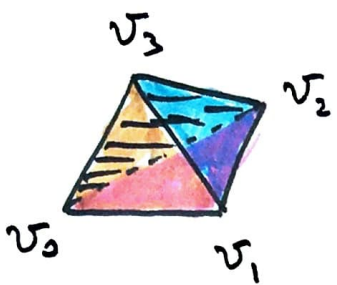
To define ∂_p on a p -simplex σ :

$$\text{let } \sigma = [v_0 \ v_1 \ \dots \ v_p]$$

$$\left[\partial_p(\sigma) = \sum_i (-1)^i [v_0 \ \dots \ \hat{v}_i \ \dots \ v_p] \right]$$

where $[v_0 \ \dots \ \hat{v}_i \ \dots \ v_p]$ is the $p-1$ -simplex

obtained by removing v_i from $\sigma = [v_0, \dots, v_p]$.



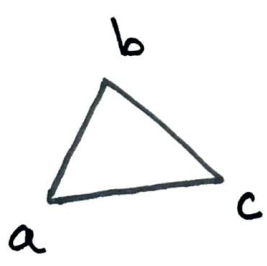
$$\sigma = [v_0 v_1 v_2 v_3] \in C_3$$

$$\partial_3(\sigma) = (-1)^0 [\hat{v}_0 v_1 v_2 v_3] + (-1)^1 [v_0 \hat{v}_1 v_2 v_3] + \dots$$

$$= [v_1 v_2 v_3] - [v_0 v_2 v_3] + [v_0 v_1 v_3] - [v_0 v_1 v_2]$$

$$\in C_2$$

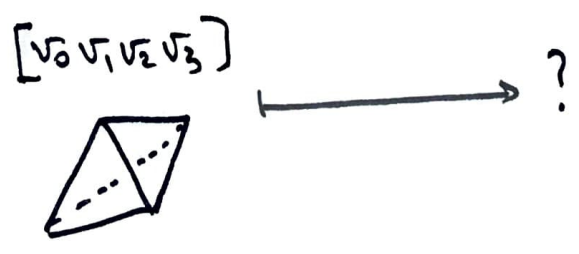
$$= \begin{array}{c} v_3 \\ \triangle \\ v_1 \quad v_2 \end{array} - \begin{array}{c} v_3 \\ \triangle \\ v_0 \quad v_2 \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} v_3 \\ \triangle \\ v_0 \quad v_1 \end{array} - \begin{array}{c} v_2 \\ \triangle \\ v_0 \quad v_1 \end{array}$$



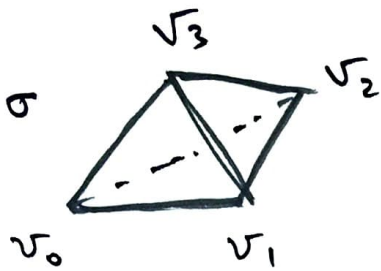
$$\sigma = [a b c] \in C_2$$

$$\partial_2(\sigma) = [bc] - [ac] + [ab] \in C_1$$

$$C_3 \xrightarrow{\partial_3} C_2 \xrightarrow{\partial_2} C_1$$



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 $\in C_3$

$$\partial_3(\sigma) = [v_1, v_2, v_3] - [v_0, v_2, v_3] + [v_0, v_1, v_3] - [v_0, v_1, v_2]$$

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_2(\partial_3(\sigma)) &= \partial_2([v_1, v_2, v_3]) - \partial_2([v_0, v_2, v_3]) \\ &\quad + \partial_2([v_0, v_1, v_3]) - \partial_2([v_0, v_1, v_2]) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= [v_2, v_3] - [v_1, v_3] + [v_1, v_2] \\ &\quad - ([v_2, v_3] - [v_0, v_3] + [v_0, v_2]) \\ &\quad + [v_1, v_3] - [v_0, v_3] + [v_0, v_1] \\ &\quad - ([v_1, v_2] - [v_0, v_2] + [v_0, v_1]) \\ &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$C_3 \xrightarrow{\partial_3} C_2 \xrightarrow{\partial_2} C_1$$

HW: check that

$$C_2 \xrightarrow{\partial_2} C_1 \xrightarrow{\partial_1} C_0$$

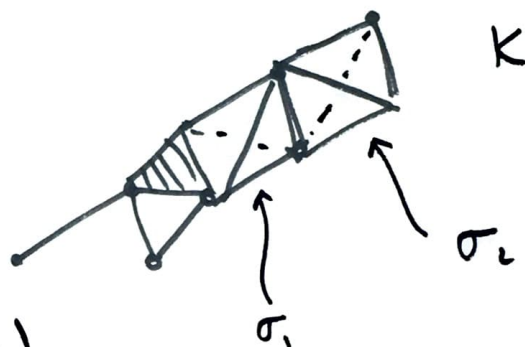
We checked directly that for any tetrahedron σ ,

$$\partial_2(\partial_3(\sigma)) = 0 \in C_1$$

Now, every element in C_3 is a combination of tetrahedra:

$$x = \sum_i a_i \sigma_i$$

with $\sigma_i =$ 



$$\partial_2(\partial_3(\underbrace{2\sigma_1 - 3\sigma_2}_{\in C_3}))$$

$$= 2 \underbrace{\partial_2(\partial_3(\sigma_1))}_{=0} - 3 \underbrace{\partial_2(\partial_3(\sigma_2))}_{=0}$$

$$= 0$$

More generally:

Th. The combination
is 0: for any

$$\sigma \in C_{p+1}, \quad \partial_p(\partial_{p+1}(\sigma)) = 0 \in C_{p-1}$$

$$C_{p+1} \xrightarrow{\partial_{p+1}} C_p \xrightarrow{\partial_p} C_{p-1}$$

We will use the maps ∂_p to count holes of any dimension in simplicial complexes.

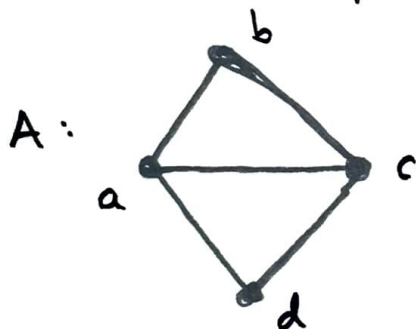
Def. Given K a simplicial complex, the sequence

$$\cdots \rightarrow C_{p+2} \rightarrow C_{p+1} \xrightarrow{\partial_{p+1}} C_p \xrightarrow{\partial_p} C_{p-1} \rightarrow \cdots \xrightarrow{\partial_1} C_0$$

is called the chain complex associated with K .

→ How to count holes?

Compare two examples:

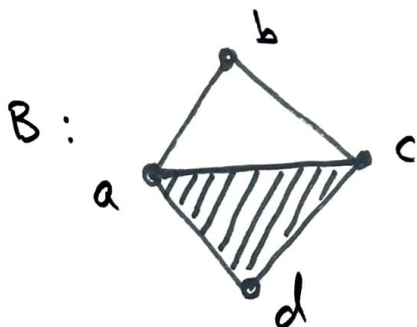


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2 holes

homeo.



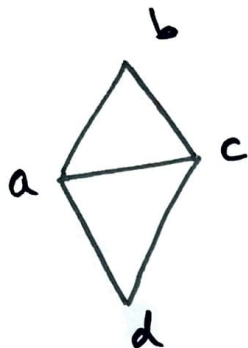
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1 hole

For both examples, let us calculate the chain complex and study $\text{Ker } \partial_p$ for each p .

Example A:



$$C_2 \xrightarrow{\partial_2} C_1 \xrightarrow{\partial_1} C_0$$

(9)

$$C_2 = \{0\}, \quad C_1 \cong \mathbb{R}^5 \text{ generated by}$$

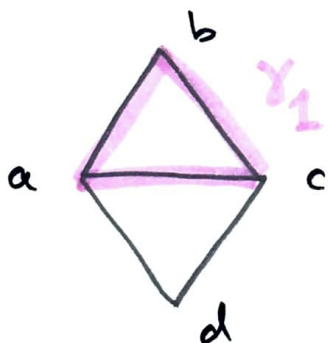
$$[ab], [bc], [ca], [ad], [dc]$$

$$C_0 \cong \mathbb{R}^4, \text{ generated by } [a], [b], [c], [d].$$

$$\partial_1 : C_1 \longrightarrow C_0$$

$$\boxed{\text{Ker } \partial_1 = \{x \in C_1 \mid \partial_1(x) = 0 \in C_0\}}$$

$$\text{Consider } \gamma_1 = [ab] + [bc] + [ca]$$

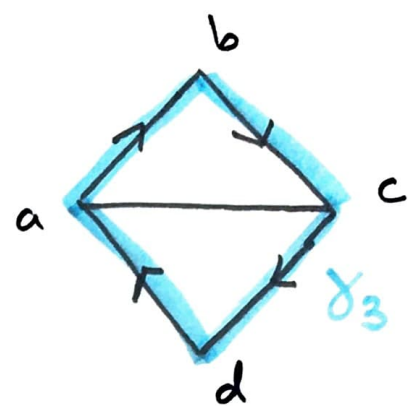
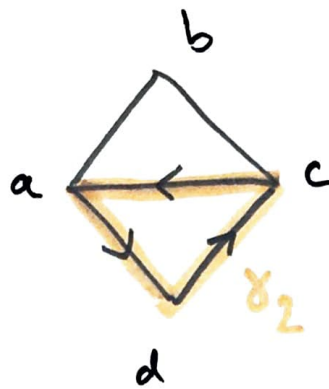


Prove that $\gamma_1 \in \text{Ker } \partial_1$.

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_1(\gamma_1) &= \partial_1([ab]) + \partial_1([bc]) + \partial_1([ca]) \\ &= [b] - [a] + [c] - [b] + [a] - [c] = 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$\gamma_1 \in \text{Ker } \partial_1.$$

Consider also:



$$\gamma_2 = [ca] + [ad] + [dc]$$

$$\gamma_3 = [ab] + [bc] + [cd] + [da].$$

Check: $\partial_1(\gamma_2) = 0$

$$\partial_1(\gamma_3) = 0$$

We have found 3 different elements in $\text{Ker } \partial_1$.

γ_3 does not correspond to a hole....

Do we really have $\dim \text{Ker } \partial_1 = 3$? No

Notice that $\gamma_3 = \gamma_1 + \gamma_2$

$$\gamma_3 = \underbrace{[ab] + [bc] + [ca]}_{=\gamma_1} + \underbrace{[ca] + [cd] + [da]}_{=\gamma_2}$$

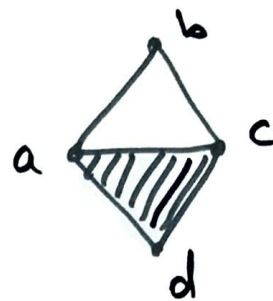
It follows that $\partial_1(\gamma_3) = \partial_1(\gamma_1) + \partial_1(\gamma_2) = 0$

so $\gamma_3 \in \text{Ker } \partial_1$ generated by γ_1, γ_2 .

$$\underline{\dim \text{Ker } \partial_1 = 2} \quad \blacksquare$$

Hope: $\dim \text{Ker } \partial_2 = \text{number of holes} ??$

Does it work on example B:



Here $C_2 \cong \mathbb{R}$ generated



$C_1 \cong \mathbb{R}^5$ generated by $[ab], [bc], [ac], [ad], [cd]$

$C_0 \cong \mathbb{R}^4$ ————— $[a], [b], [c], [d]$.



Example A

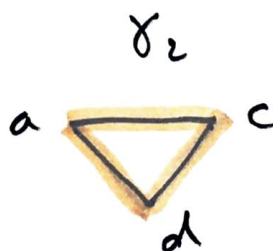
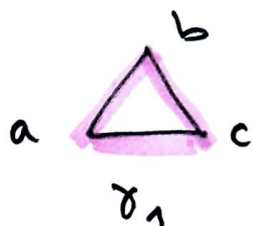
$$\{0\} \xrightarrow{\quad} \overline{\mathbb{R}^5} \xrightarrow{\quad} \overline{\mathbb{R}^4}$$



Example B

$$\mathbb{R} \xrightarrow{\quad} \mathbb{R}^5 \xrightarrow{\quad} \mathbb{R}^4$$

In C_1 of , we still have γ_1, γ_2 :



$\text{Ker } \partial_2$ is still generated by γ_1 and γ_2

so $\dim \text{Ker } \partial_2 = 2$ but there is only 1 hole...

The issue is that in C_1 , we cannot see the difference between a full triangle and an empty one ...

In fact, γ_2 comes from C_2 :

$$\gamma_2 = \partial_2(T) \quad \text{where } T = [acd]$$

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} C_2 & \xrightarrow{\partial_2} & C_1 & \xrightarrow{\partial_1} & C_0 \\ T \quad \triangle & \mapsto & \begin{array}{c} a \quad c \\ \triangle \\ d \end{array} & \mapsto & 0 \\ & & \gamma_2 & & \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} X & \cdots X & \rightarrow & \triangle & \mapsto 0 \\ & & & \gamma_1 & \end{array}$$

Holes come from triangles that are not in

$$\text{Im } \partial_2 = \{ \partial_2(x), x \in C_2 \}.$$

To count holes, calculate $\dim \text{Ker } \partial_1 - \dim \text{Im } \partial_2$.

$$\text{Here : } 2 - 1 = 1$$

Given a simplicial complex K , consider the chain complex

$$\cdots \longrightarrow C_{p+1} \xrightarrow{\partial_{p+1}} C_p \xrightarrow{\partial_p} C_{p-1} \longrightarrow \cdots$$

with $\partial_p \circ \partial_{p+1} = 0$, that is:

$$\left[\operatorname{Im} \partial_{p+1} \subseteq \operatorname{Ker} \partial_p \right]$$

The p^{th} homology group of K is:

$$\left[H_p = \operatorname{Ker} \partial_p / \operatorname{Im} \partial_{p+1} \right]$$

$$\left[\begin{aligned} \dim H_p &= \dim \operatorname{Ker} \partial_p - \dim \operatorname{Im} \partial_{p+1} \\ &= \beta_p : p^{\text{th}} \text{ Betti number of } K. \end{aligned} \right]$$

Ex. A : $\beta_1(\diamond) = 2 - 0 = 2$

Ex. B : $\beta_1(\blacklozenge) = 2 - 1 = 1$