

Lecture Chapter 1

Introduction, simplices

Topics to be covered: singular homology, CW-complexes, basics of category theory, homological algebra, Künneth theorem, UCT, cohomology, cup and cap products, Poincaré duality.

Examples to keep in mind: \mathbf{R}^n . Inside, S^n being the n -sphere, topologized as a subspace of Euclidean space. Take quotient by $x \simeq -x$ and get \mathbf{RP}^n i.e. space of lines through the origin in \mathbf{R}^{n+1} . Also, look at $V_k(\mathbf{R}^n)$, which is the space of orthonormal k -frames (ordered collection of k orthonormal vectors) in \mathbf{R}^n , called the Stiefel manifold, topologized as a subspace of $(S^{n-1})^k$. The Grassmannian, $\text{Gr}_k(\mathbf{R}^n)$, the space of k -dimensional linear subspaces of \mathbf{R}^n . It's a quotient space of $V_k(\mathbf{R}^n)$, since a k -frame spans a k -dimensional subspace. (For example, $\text{Gr}_1(\mathbf{R}^n) = \mathbf{RP}^{n-1}$. These are all manifolds.)

Definition 1.1. A manifold is a Hausdorff space, locally homeomorphic to \mathbf{R}^n .

All are compact except for \mathbf{R}^n . *these manifolds* *Manifolds exhibit a hidden symmetry, captured by* A "symmetry" is exploited in Poincaré duality. We'll probe general topological spaces through simplices.

Definition 1.2. The standard n -simplex Δ^n is the convex hull of $\{e_0, \dots, e_n\}$ in \mathbf{R}^{n+1} . More explicitly,

$$\Delta^n = \left\{ \sum t_i e_i = \sum_{i=0}^n t_i = 1, t_i \geq 0 \right\} \subseteq \mathbf{R}^{n+1}$$

The t_i s are called barycentric coordinates.

Usually just drop the e_i s and just write " i ". There are maps between them, namely inclusions of faces. (The map $d^2 : \Delta^1 \rightarrow \Delta^2$ that misses the vertex i (where $0 \leq i \leq 2$) is denoted d^i . They're called "face inclusions", and are maps $d^i : \Delta^{n-1} \rightarrow \Delta^n$ where $0 \leq i \leq n$; they miss the vertex i .

Definition 1.3. Let X be any topological space. A singular n -simplex in X is a continuous map $\Delta^n \rightarrow X$. Denote by $\text{Sin}_n(X)$ as the collection of all n -simplices of X . This seems like a "fairly insane" thing to do.

See drawing for a torus. The direction of the simplex is like an orientation given by ordering of the indices of Δ^n . The standard notation is $\sigma : \Delta^n \rightarrow X$.

If $\sigma : \Delta^n \rightarrow X$. Find $(n-1)$ -simplices by looking faces of simplex; get a map $d_i : \text{Sin}_n(X) \rightarrow \text{Sin}_{n-1}(X)$ for $0 \leq i \leq n$ by taking $\sigma \mapsto \sigma \circ d^i =: d_i \sigma$, which is the i th face of σ . This carries a lot of information about the space.

Some simplices are particularly interesting. The issue of when boundaries match up is a key aspect of simplices. If σ is a simplex that goes around the hole in a torus, then $d_1 \sigma = d_0 \sigma$, and this means that the "boundary" is zero. So we want to understand things like $d_0 \sigma - d_1 \sigma$, but this isn't even a simplex anymore; we need to take formal sums and differences. We'll therefore consider the abelian group generated by simplices.

Definition 1.4. The abelian group of singular n -chains in X is the free abelian group generated by n -simplices

$$S_n(X) = \mathbf{Z} \text{Sin}_n(X)$$

Its elements are

Finite linear combinations, i.e. formal sums of the form $\sum_{i \in \text{finite set}} a_i \sigma_i$ where $a_i \in \mathbb{Z}$. It's a pretty big group. If $n < 0$, say that this is zero . Define a map $\partial : S_n(X) \rightarrow S_{n-1}(X)$ via:

$$S_n(X) = 0$$

$$\partial \sigma = \sum_{i=0}^n (-1)^i d_i \sigma$$

We'll extend this to $S_n(X) \rightarrow S_{n-1}(X)$ by additivity

Cycles are chains whose boundary is zero. These are the interesting chains.

Definition 1.5. An n -cycle in X is an n -chain c with $\partial c = 0$. Denote $Z_n(X) = \ker(S_n(X) \xrightarrow{\partial} S_{n-1}(X))$.

For example, with the σ on the torus described before, $\partial c = d_0 \sigma - d_1 \sigma$ and this is zero.

Theorem 1.6. Any boundary is a cycle, i.e., $B_n(X) := \text{Im}(\partial : S_{n+1}(X) \rightarrow S_n(X)) \subseteq Z_n(X)$. This is homework.

Definition 1.7. The n th singular homology group of X is:

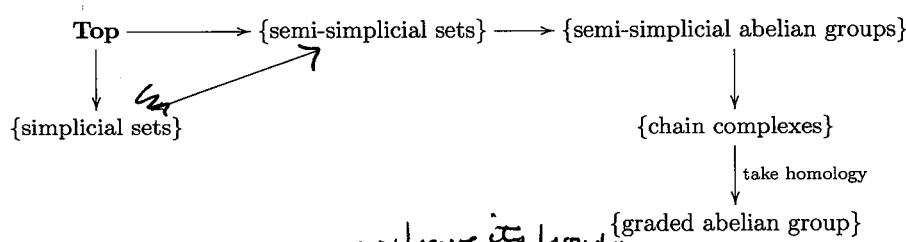
$$H_n(X) = Z_n(X) / B_n(X) = \frac{\ker(S_n(X) \xrightarrow{\partial} S_{n-1}(X))}{\text{Im}(\partial : S_{n+1}(X) \rightarrow S_n(X))}$$

The kernel is a free abelian group, and so is the image because they're both subgroups of free abelian groups; but the quotient isn't necessarily free abelian. The quotient is finitely generated for all the space we are talking about although the kernel and image are uncountably generated.

Chapter 2

Simplices, more about homology

the standard n-simples
Recall that $\Delta^n \subseteq \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$. A singular simplex is a map $\sigma : \Delta^n \rightarrow X$, which forms $\text{Sin}_n(X)$. For example, $\text{Sin}_0(X)$ consists of points of X . You have a huge collection of maps $d^i : \text{Sin}_n(X) \rightarrow \text{Sin}_{n-1}(X)$ and $s^i : \text{Sin}_n(X) \rightarrow \text{Sin}_{n+1}(X)$, and the collection $\{\text{Sin}_n(X), d^i, s^i\}$ forms a simplicial set. You therefore get a functor $\mathbf{Top} \rightarrow \{\text{simplicial sets}\}$. Simplicial sets are really cool, because they're combinatorial models for topological spaces.
They are the elements of the set
producer, for each space, a
Now, you get induced maps on the free abelian groups. This extends the functor from \mathbf{Top} to semi-simplicial sets to the collection of semi-simplicial abelian groups. Using the d^i 's and s^i 's, you get a boundary map ∂ , and therefore a chain complex because $\partial^2 = 0$ (see homework). In other words, a huge diagram (of categories and functors, which we'll discuss more next week): *we capture this process in a diagram:*



you have its boundary
If you have a chain complex $\partial : A_n \rightarrow A_{n-1}$, then $H_n(A, \partial) = \ker \partial / \text{Im } \partial$. *display, with n.*
Let's practice with simplices. Suppose we have $\sigma : \Delta^1 \rightarrow X$. Construct a map $\phi : \Delta^1 \rightarrow \Delta^1$ via $(t, 1-t) \mapsto (1-t, t)$. This reverses the orientation of σ . Composing σ with ϕ gives another singular simplex $\bar{\sigma}$. It is not true that $\bar{\sigma} = -\sigma$ in $S_1(X)$. *are homologous, satisfying $\partial(\bar{\sigma}) = -\partial(\sigma)$, so $\bar{\sigma} + \sigma$ is a cycle*
Claim: $\bar{\sigma} \equiv -\sigma \text{ mod } B_1(X) = \text{Im}(\partial)$, i.e., they define the same homology class. That is, if $d_0\sigma = d_1\sigma$, so $\sigma \in Z_1(X)$, then $[\bar{\sigma}] = -[\sigma]$ in $H_1(X)$. In other words, $\bar{\sigma} + \sigma$ is a boundary. We have to come up with a 2-simplex in X whose boundary is $\bar{\sigma} + \sigma$.
Let π denote the projection map from $[0, 1, 2]$ to $[0, 1]$ (MUST UPLOAD PICTURE HERE). Then, $\partial(\sigma \circ \pi) = \sigma\pi d^0 - \sigma\pi d^1 + \sigma\pi d^2 = \bar{\sigma} - c^1_{\sigma(0)} + \sigma$ where $c^1_{\sigma(0)}$ is the constant 1-simplex at $\sigma(0)$ (similarly for $c^0_{\sigma(0)}$). The $c^1_{\sigma(0)}$ is an error term. How do we correct this? Consider the constant 2-simplex $c^2_{\sigma(0)}$ at $\sigma(0)$; then the boundary is $c^1_{\sigma(0)} - c^1_{\sigma(0)} + c^1_{\sigma(0)}$, which is $c^1_{\sigma(0)}$. So, $\bar{\sigma} + \sigma = \partial(\sigma \circ \pi + c^2_{\sigma(0)})$. *picture*
Let's compute the homologies of \emptyset and $*$. Well, $\text{Sin}_n(\emptyset) = \emptyset$, so $S_*(\emptyset) = 0$. So, $\dots \rightarrow S_2 \rightarrow S_1 \rightarrow S_0$ is the zero chain complex. This means that $Z_*(\emptyset) = 0$ and similarly for boundaries. The homology in all dimensions is therefore 0.
Now for $*$. Clearly $\text{Sin}_n(*) = *$, and this generates $S_n(*)$, which is *thus* \mathbb{Z} . The chain complex is $S_0(*) \leftarrow S_1(*) \leftarrow S_2(*) \leftarrow \dots$. What are the boundary maps? $\partial(c^1_*) = 0$, *but* $\partial(c^2_*) = c^1_*$, *but* $\partial(c^3_*) = 0$, because you have two pluses and two minuses. As a chain complex: *say more*

$$\dots \rightarrow \mathbb{Z} \xrightarrow{0} \mathbb{Z} \xrightarrow{1} \mathbb{Z} \xrightarrow{0} \mathbb{Z}$$

The cycles therefore alternate between 0s and \mathbb{Z} s, namely as $\mathbb{Z}, \mathbb{Z}, 0, \mathbb{Z}, 0, \dots$. The boundaries are the same as the cycles except for dimension zero, namely as $0, \mathbb{Z}, 0, \mathbb{Z}, 0, \dots$. This means that $H_0(*) = \mathbb{Z}$ but $H_i(*) = 0$ for $i > 0$. *do these constructions do*

What happens to maps of spaces? Suppose you have $f : X \rightarrow Y$. You have a map $f_* : \text{Sin}_n(X) \rightarrow \text{Sin}_n(Y)$ induced by composition, namely $\sigma \mapsto f \circ \sigma =: f_*\sigma$. What about face maps; does the following diagram commute?

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Sin}_n(X) & \xrightarrow{f_*} & \text{Sin}_n(Y) \\ \downarrow d_i & & \downarrow d_i \\ \text{Sin}_{n-1}(X) & \xrightarrow{f_*} & \text{Sin}_{n-1}(Y) \end{array}$$

so the answer is yes!

We see that $d_i f_* \sigma = (f_* \sigma) \circ d^i = f \circ \sigma \circ d^i$, and $f_*(d_i \sigma) = f_*(\sigma \circ d^i) = f \circ \sigma \circ d^i$. This also holds for the free abelian groups. You therefore get a map of chain complexes. *st . . .*

A chain map $f : C_* \rightarrow D_*$ is a map $C_n \rightarrow D_n$ with an appropriate commutative diagram. Does this induce a map in homology $f_* : H_n(C) \rightarrow H_n(D)$? ~~From diagram chasing, we get a map $Z_n(C_*)(C) \rightarrow Z_n(C_*)(D)$ and a map $B_n(C) \rightarrow B_n(D)$, which gives a map on homology. Rather simple diagram chasing.~~ This means *specify out* that we get a map $f_* : H_n(X) \rightarrow H_n(Y)$.