

LECTURE 2

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THU JAN

Overview of Algebraic Topology

An Abstract simplicial complex Δ is a collection of non-empty subsets such that it is closed under subset operation.

i.e. if $A \in \Delta$, & B is a non-empty subset of A , then $B \in \Delta$

Example $\Delta = \{ \{a, b, c\}, \{a, b\}, \{a, c\}, \{b, c\}, \{a\}, \{b\}, \{c\}, \emptyset \}$

Hypergraph: A hypergraph is a pair (V, E) where V denotes the vertex set & E is a collection of non-empty subsets of V called hyperedges.

~~Hyper~~ hypergraph, edge set is more than size 2. So, $E = \{ \{1, 2, 3\} \}$, but for graph it is modeled as size 2 i.e. $\{1, 2\}, \{1, 3\}$ etc.

Hence a ~~hypergraph~~ simplicial complex is a hypergraph. As a hypergraph, need not be closed under subset.

1	8	15	22	29	M	D
2	9	16	23	30	T	E
3	10	17	24	31	W	C
4	11	18	25		T	2
5	12	19	26		F	0
6	13	20	27		S	1
7	14	21	28		S	4

Example:

Let $V = \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$

$$\Delta := 2^V \setminus \emptyset$$

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$$= \{ \{1\}, \{2\}, \dots, \{1, 2\}, \dots, \{1, 2, \dots, n\} \}$$

Δ is closed under subset operation

Dimension of a face $\sigma \in \Delta$

(elements in Δ as faces)

$$\dim(\sigma) = |\sigma| - 1$$

0-dimensional faces are set of vertices

1-dim faces are 2-element edges

2-dim ... are triangles

Higher dim are called simplices

Dimension of simplicial complex is the maximum among all dimension of faces in it.

So, for $\Delta = \{1, 2, 3, 12, 13, 23, 123\}$

$$\dim(\Delta) = |123| - 1 = 3 - 1 = 2$$

A simplicial complex of at most 1 is a graph

For $k \geq 1$, the k -th skeleton $\Delta^{(k)}$ of Δ is the subcomplex obtained by removing all

faces of dimension greater than k

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1	8	15	22	29	36
2	9	16	23	30	37
3	10	17	24	31	38
4	11	18	25	32	39
5	12	19	26	33	40
6	13	20	27	34	41
7	14	21	28	35	42

So, 1-skeleton of a simplicial complex is a graph

Focus on simplicial complex with finite vertices

Geometric Realization of Simplicial Complex

Formally, a geometric realization is a way to associate a topological space to a simplicial complex

* Some Basic definitions of Topology.

Now, One formal way to define a geometric realization of a given complex Δ is as follows

Suppose V is the vertex set of a Δ .

$$\text{Let } f: V \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$$

$$v \longrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{pmatrix}$$

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For every d -dimensional face (i.e. d -face $\sigma: \{v_0, \dots, v_d\}$ of Δ), f induces a map

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$f: X^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$
 given by

$$f(\lambda_0, \dots, \lambda_d)$$

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$$:= \lambda_0 f(v_0) + \dots + \lambda_d f(v_d)$$

where X^d is the standard d -simplex or the
 convex hull of points $(1, 0, \dots, 0), (0, 1, 0, \dots, 0)$
 $\dots, (0, 0, \dots, 1)$

X^0 is the convex hull of $\{1\}$ in \mathbb{R}

X^1 is $(1, 0), (0, 1)$ in \mathbb{R}^2

X^2 is $(1, 0, 0), (0, 1, 0), (0, 0, 1)$

