



Math for the people, by the people.

Morse complex

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Let M be a smooth manifold, and $u : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a Morse function. Let $C_n^u(M)$ be a vector space of formal \mathbb{C} -linear combinations of critical points of u with index n . Then there exists a differential $\partial_n : C_n \rightarrow C_{n-1}$ based on the Morse flow making C_* into a chain complex called the *Morse complex* such that the homology of the complex is the singular homology of M . In particular, the number of critical points of u of index n on M is at least the n -th Betti number, and the alternating sum of the number of critical points of u is the Euler characteristic of M .