

DRAFT: Discrete differential geometry in homotopy type theory

Greg Langmead

Carnegie Mellon University

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Motivation

To use HoTT to study **connections** and **explain** their applicability to algebraic topology, via

- the Gauss-Bonnet theorem
- its vast generalization, Chern-Weil theory

Theorem (Gauss-Bonnet)

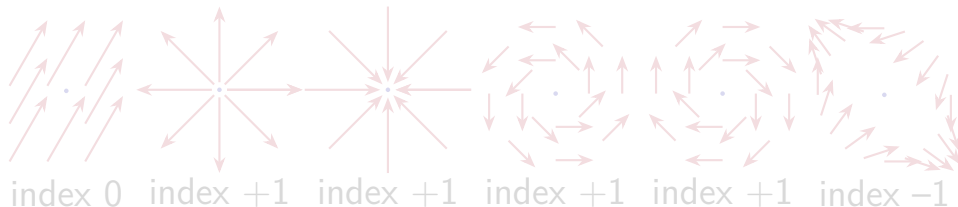
Let M be a compact 2-manifold with metric, without boundary. Let K be the Gaussian curvature of M and let $\chi(M)$ be the Euler characteristic. Then

$$\frac{1}{2\pi} \int_M K dA = \chi(M).$$

Theorem (Poincaré-Hopf)

Let M be a compact smooth manifold without boundary. Let X be a vector field on M with isolated zeroes x_1, \dots, x_n . Then

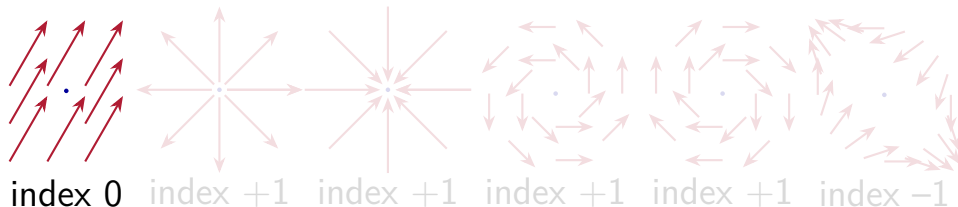
$$\sum_{i=1}^n \text{index}_{x_i} = \chi(M).$$



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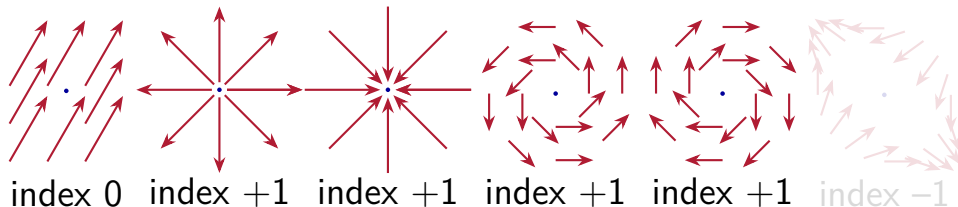
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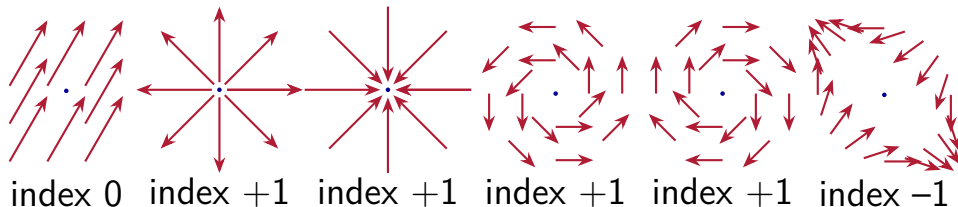
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Plan

- Manifolds
- Classifying maps
- Connections and curvature
- Theorems

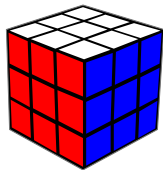
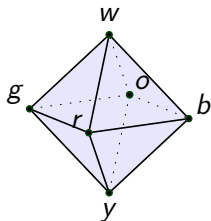
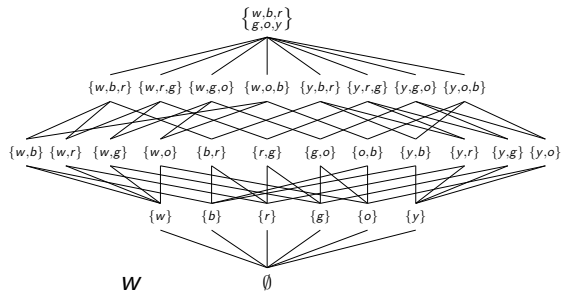
HoTT background

- 1 Bezem, M., Buchholtz, U., Cagne, P., Dundas, B. I., and Grayson, D. R., (2021-) Symmetry.
<https://github.com/UniMath/SymmetryBook>.
- 2 Buchholtz, U., Christensen, J. D. , Flaten, J. G. T., and Rijke, E. (2023) Central H-spaces and banded types.
arXiv:2301.02636
- 3 Scoccola, L. (2020) Nilpotent types and fracture squares in homotopy type theory, MSCS 30(5). arXiv:1903.03245

Discrete manifolds in HoTT

- Recall the classical theory of **simplicial complexes**
- Define a **realization** functor to turn them into homotopy pushouts

Simplicial complexes



A **Hasse diagram** of a simplicial complex (vertices named for the colors on a Hungarian Cube)

Higher realization

Let $M \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} [M_0, M_1, M_2]$ be a simplicial complex. Form a type $\mathbb{M} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathbb{M}_0 \rightarrow \mathbb{M}_1 \rightarrow \mathbb{M}_2$ with pushouts.

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 M_1 \times \partial\Delta^1 & \xrightarrow{\text{pr}_1} & M_1 \\
 \mathbb{A}_0 \downarrow & \nearrow h_1 & \downarrow *_{\mathbb{M}_1} \\
 M_0 = \mathbb{M}_0 & \longrightarrow & \mathbb{M}_1
 \end{array}$$

$\partial\Delta^1$ is a 0-sphere: the set $\{a, b\}$.

Higher realization

Definition

An *n*-gon $\mathbb{C}(n)$ is the realization of a complex $C(n)$:

$$C(n)_0 = \{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$$

$$C(n)_1 = \{e_1 = \{v_1, v_2\}, \dots, e_{n-1} = \{v_{n-1}, v_n\}, e_n = \{v_n, v_1\}\}$$

Toss in two non-complexes

$$\mathbb{C}(1) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} S^1, \quad \mathbb{C}(2) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \ell_{12} \begin{array}{c} v_1 \\ \circ \\ \text{---} \\ \circ \\ v_2 \end{array} r_{21}$$

Higher realization

Then push out faces \circ from a 2-dim type.

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 M_1 \times \partial\Delta^1 & \xrightarrow{\text{pr}_1} & M_1 & & \\
 \mathbb{A}_0 \downarrow & \nearrow h_1 & \downarrow *M_1 & & \\
 M_0 = \mathbb{M}_0 & \longrightarrow & \mathbb{M}_1 & \longrightarrow & \mathbb{M}_2 \\
 & & \uparrow \mathbb{A}_1 & \searrow h_2 & \uparrow *M_2 \\
 & & M_2 \times \partial\Delta^2 & \xrightarrow{\text{pr}_1} & M_2
 \end{array}$$

$\partial\Delta^2$ is a 1-sphere, i.e. $\mathbb{C}(3)$.

Higher realization

Lemma

$\mathbb{C}(2) \simeq \mathbb{C}(1)$ and in general $\mathbb{C}(n) \simeq \mathbb{C}(n-1)$.

Corollary

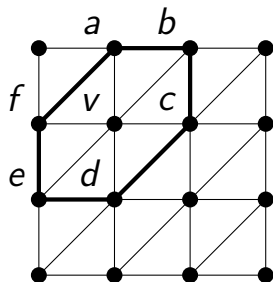
All n -gons are equivalent to S^1 .

Higher realization

$*M_1, *M_2$ provide **hubs**. h_1, h_2 provide **spokes**.

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 M_1 \times \partial\Delta^1 & \xrightarrow{\text{pr}_1} & M_1 & & \\
 \mathbb{A}_0 \downarrow & \nearrow h_1 & \downarrow *M_1 & & \\
 M_0 = M_0 & \longrightarrow & M_1 & \longrightarrow & M_2 \\
 & & \uparrow \mathbb{A}_1 & \searrow h_2 & \uparrow *M_2 \\
 & & M_2 \times \partial\Delta^2 & \xrightarrow{\text{pr}_1} & M_2
 \end{array}$$

Higher realization



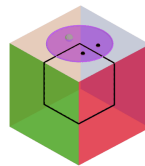
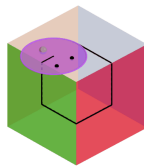
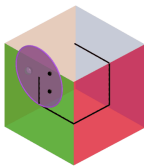
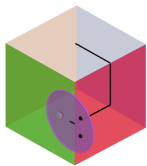
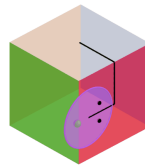
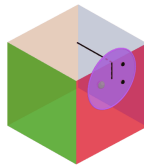
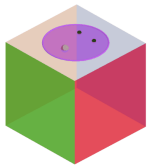
The **link** of a vertex v in a 2-complex is the polygon of edges not containing v but whose union with v is a face.

This will be our model of the tangent space.

Theorem (Whitehead (1940))

*Every smooth manifold has a compatible structure of a **combinatorial manifold**: a simplicial complex of dimension n such that the link is the geometric realization of an $(n - 1)$ -sphere.*

<https://ncatlab.org/nlab/show/triangulation+theorem>



Rotation

Let $R : [abcd] \rightarrow [abcd]$ send $a \mapsto b, b \mapsto c, c \mapsto d, d \mapsto a$.

Extend R to edges.

Lemma

$\llbracket R \rrbracket : \llbracket abcd \rrbracket \rightarrow \llbracket abcd \rrbracket$ is homotopic to the identity, i.e. we have $\prod_{x: \llbracket abcd \rrbracket} x = \llbracket R \rrbracket(x)$.

Proof.

Use edges.



Definition

Let G be a group with identity element e . A **G -set** is a set X equipped with a homomorphism $\phi : (G, e) \rightarrow \text{Aut}(X)$. If we have

$$\text{is_torsor}(X, \phi) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \|X\|_{-1} \times \prod_{x:X} \text{is_equiv}(\phi(-, x) : (G, e) \rightarrow (X, x))$$

we say (X, ϕ) is a **G -torsor**. Denote the type of G -torsors by BG .

Lemma

Point BG at G_{reg} , the G -torsor G acting on itself on the right. Then $\Omega_{G_{\text{reg}}} BG \simeq G$, so BG is a $K(G, 1)$.

- $S^1 : \mathcal{U}$ is not an $\text{Aut } S^1$ -torsor.
- It's a torsor for $(S^1 = S^1)_{(\text{id})}$, the identity component.
- This omits the flip, the reversal of **orientation**.
- See the Buchholtz et. al. H-spaces paper for more.

Definition

$$\mathrm{EM}(G, n) \stackrel{\mathrm{def}}{=} \mathrm{BAut}(\mathrm{K}(G, n)) \stackrel{\mathrm{def}}{=} \sum_{Y:\mathcal{U}} \|Y \simeq \mathrm{K}(G, n)\|_{-1}$$

Definition

A $\mathrm{K}(G, n)$ -bundle on a type M is a map $f : M \rightarrow \mathrm{EM}(G, n)$.

We further assume f factors through $\mathrm{K}(G, n+1)$ and so is principal.

Definition

If $\mathbb{M} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathbb{M}_0 \xrightarrow{\iota_0} \dots \xrightarrow{\iota_{n-1}} \mathbb{M}_n$ is a cellular type and all the triangles commute in the diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 \mathbb{M}_0 & \xrightarrow{\iota_0} & \mathbb{M}_1 & \xrightarrow{\iota_1} & \mathbb{M}_2 & \xrightarrow{\iota_2} & \dots \xrightarrow{\iota_{n-1}} \mathbb{M}_n \\
 & & \searrow f_0 & \searrow f_1 & \downarrow f_2 & & \swarrow f_n \\
 & & & & \mathcal{U} & &
 \end{array}$$

- The map f_k is a **k -bundle** on \mathbb{M} .
- The pair given by the map f_k and the proof $f_k \circ \iota_{k-1} = f_{k-1}$, i.e. that f_k extends f_{k-1} is called a **k -connection on the $(k-1)$ -bundle f_{k-1}** .

Definition

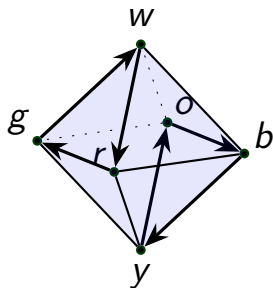
$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 M_k \times \partial\Delta^k & \xrightarrow{\text{pr}_1} & M_k \\
 \mathbb{A}_{k-1} \downarrow & \nearrow h_k & \downarrow *M_k \\
 \mathbb{M}_{k-1} & \xrightarrow{v_{k-1}} & \mathbb{M}_k \\
 & \searrow f_{k-1} & \downarrow f_k \\
 & & \mathcal{U}
 \end{array}
 \qquad
 \begin{array}{ccc}
 \{m_k\} \times \partial\Delta^k & \xrightarrow{!} & \mathbf{1} \\
 \mathbb{A}_{k-1} \downarrow & \nwarrow b_k & \downarrow *M_k \\
 \mathbb{M}_{k-1} & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{U}
 \end{array}$$

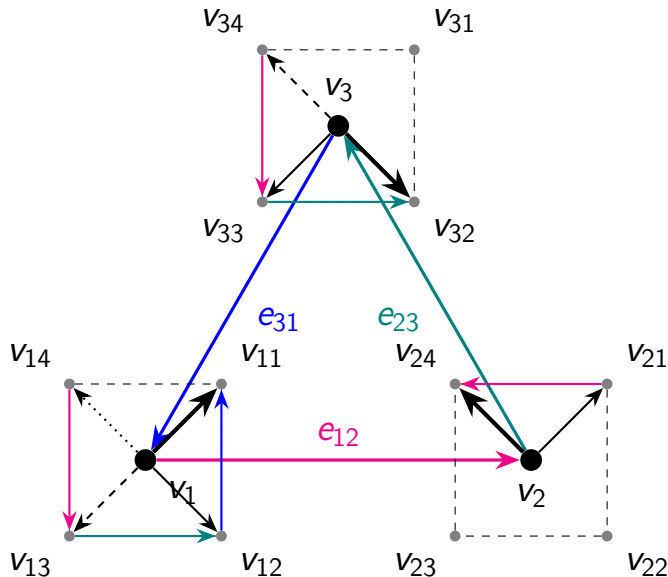
the filler b_k is called a **flatness structure** for the face m_k , and its ending path is called **curvature at the face m_k** .

Vector fields

Let $T : \mathbb{M}_2 \rightarrow K(\mathbb{Z}, 2)$ be an oriented tangent bundle on an oriented 2-dim cellular type

- A **vector field** is a term $X : \prod_{m:\mathbb{M}_1} Tm$.
- It's a **nonvanishing** vector field on the 1-skeleton.
- We model classical zeros by omitting the faces.





- $\partial F \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} e_{12} \cdot e_{23} \cdot e_{31}$
- We access pathovers asymmetrically:
 $X_{12} : T_{12}X_1 = X_2$
- $X(\partial F)$ is 3-sided inside a square
- To make a loop we cat with $b(\partial F)$

$$\mathrm{tr}_F \stackrel{\mathrm{def}}{=} \mathrm{tr}(\partial F) \quad : \quad Tm = Tm$$

holonomy

$$\flat_F \stackrel{\mathrm{def}}{=} \flat(\partial F) \quad : \quad \mathrm{id} =_{Tm=Tm} \mathrm{tr}(\partial F)$$

flatness

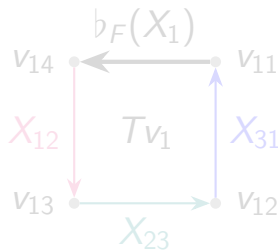
$$X_F \stackrel{\mathrm{def}}{=} X(\partial F) \quad : \quad \mathrm{tr}(\partial F)(X(m)) =_{Tm} X(m)$$

swirling

Definition

The index of the vector field X on the face F is the integer

$$I_F^X \stackrel{\mathrm{def}}{=} \Omega(\flat_F(X(m)) \cdot X_F) : \Omega(X(m) =_{Tm} X(m)).$$



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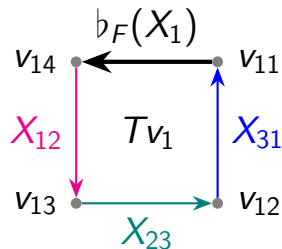
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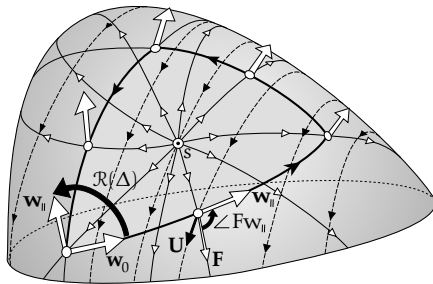
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Classical proof



[26.2] The difference $\mathcal{R}(\Delta) - 2\pi\mathcal{I}_F(s)$ can be found by summing over the edges K_j the change $\Phi(K_j)$ in the illustrated angle $\angle Fw_{||}$, i.e., the rotation of $w_{||}$ relative to F .

- The classical proof is discrete-flavored.
- “ $\angle Fw_{||}$ ” looked a lot like a pathover.
- Hopf’s Φ is defined on edges, not loops. We imitated that too.

Figure: Needham, T. (2021) Visual Differential Geometry and Forms.