

Discrete differential geometry in homotopy type theory

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Summary

Summary

This work brings to HoTT

- connections, curvature, and vector fields
- the index of a vector field
- a theorem in dimension 2 that total curvature = total index

Classical \rightarrow HoTT

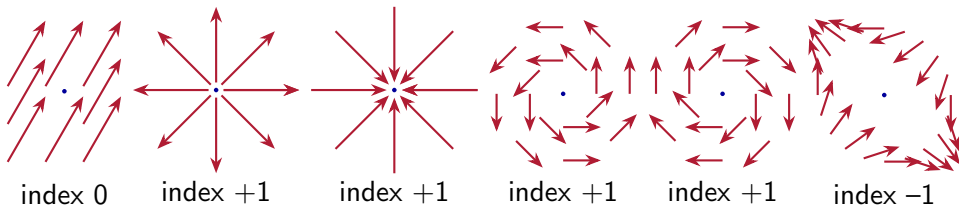
Let M be a smooth, oriented 2-manifold without boundary, F_A the curvature of a connection A on the tangent bundle, and X a vector field with isolated zeroes x_1, \dots, x_n .

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_M F_A = \sum_{i=1}^n \text{index}_X(x_i) = \chi(M) & & \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \sum_{\text{faces } F} b_F = & \Longleftrightarrow & \sum_{\text{faces } F} L_F^X \end{array}$$

Classical index

Near an isolated zero there are only three possibilities: index 0, 1, -1 .

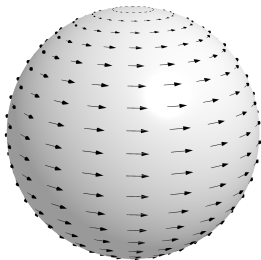
Index is the winding number of the field as you move clockwise around the zero.



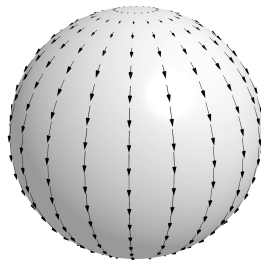
Poincaré-Hopf theorem

The total index of a vector field is the Euler characteristic.

Examples:



Rotation: index $+1$ at each pole $= 2$



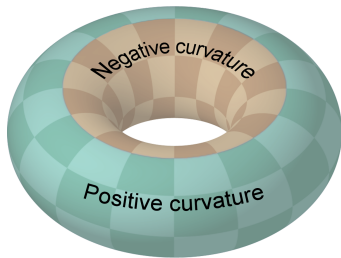
Height: index $+1$ at each pole $= 2$

Gauss-Bonnet theorem

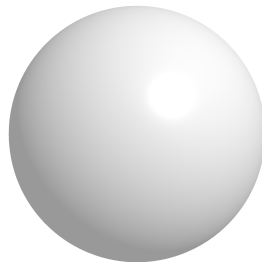
Total curvature divided by 2π is the Euler characteristic.

Curvature in 2D is a function $F_A : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$.

$\int_M F_A$ sums the values at every point.



Positive and negative curvature cancel: **0**



Constant curvature 1, area 4π : **2**

Plan

- Combinatorial manifolds
- Torsors and classifying maps
- Connections and curvature
- Vector fields
- Main theorem

HoTT background

① **Symmetry,**

Bezem, M., Buchholtz, U., Cagne, P., Dundas, B. I., and Grayson, D. R., (2021-)
<https://github.com/UniMath/SymmetryBook>.

② **Central H-spaces and banded types,**

Buchholtz, U., Christensen, J. D. , Flaten, J. G. T., and Rijke, E. (2023)
arXiv:2301.02636

③ **Nilpotent types and fracture squares in homotopy type theory,**

Scoccola, L. (2020)
MSCS 30(5). arXiv:1903.03245

Combinatorial manifolds

Manifolds in HoTT

- Recall the classical theory of **simplicial complexes**
- Define a **realization** procedure to construct types

Simplicial complexes

Definition

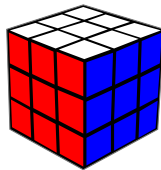
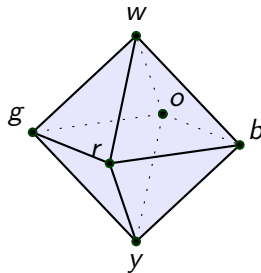
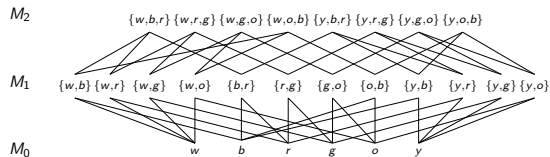
An **abstract simplicial complex** M of **dimension** n is an ordered list of sets

$M \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} [M_0, \dots, M_n]$ consisting of

- a set M_0 of vertices
- sets M_k of subsets of M_0 of cardinality $k + 1$
- downward closed: if $F \in M_k$ and $G \subseteq F$, $|G| = j + 1$ then $G \in M_j$

We call the truncated list

$M_{\leq k} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} [M_0, \dots, M_k]$ **the k -skeleton of M .**

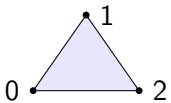
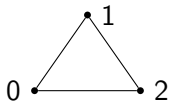


Simplicial complexes

Example

The **complete simplex of dimension n** , denoted $\Delta(n)$, is the set $\{0, \dots, n\}$ and its power set. The $(n-1)$ -skeleton $\Delta(n)_{\leq (n-1)}$ is denoted $\partial\Delta(n)$ and will serve as a combinatorial $(n-1)$ -sphere.

$\Delta(1)$ is visually $0 \bullet \text{---} \bullet 1$, $\partial\Delta(1)$ is visually $0 \bullet \quad \bullet 1$,

$\Delta(2)$ is visually , $\partial\Delta(2)$ is visually 

Homotopy realization: dimension 0

We will **realize** simplicial complexes by means of a **sequence of pushouts**.

Base case: the realization \mathbb{M} of a 0-dimensional complex M is M_0 .

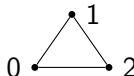
In particular the 0-sphere $\partial\Delta(1) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \partial\Delta(1)_0$.

Homotopy realization: dimension 1

For a 1-dim complex $M \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} [M_0, M_1]$ the realization is given by

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

Homotopy realization: dimension 1

For example the simplicial 1-sphere $\partial\Delta(2) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$  is given by

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \partial\Delta(2)_1 \times \partial\Delta(1) & \longrightarrow & \partial\Delta(2)_1 \\ \downarrow & \nearrow h_1 & \downarrow \\ \partial\Delta(2)_0 & \longrightarrow & \partial\Delta(2) \end{array}$$

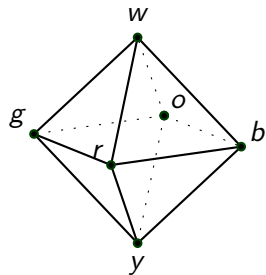
i.e.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \{\{0,1\},\{1,2\},\{2,0\}\} \times \{0,1\} & \longrightarrow & \{\{0,1\},\{1,2\},\{2,0\}\} \\ \downarrow & \nearrow h_1 & \downarrow \\ \{0,1,2\} & \longrightarrow & \partial\Delta(2) \end{array}$$

Homotopy realization: dimension 1

Or the 1-skeleton of the octahedron \mathbb{O} :

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \{\{w, g\}, \dots\} \times \{0, 1\} & \longrightarrow & \{\{w, g\}, \dots\} \\ \downarrow & \nearrow h_1 & \downarrow \\ \{w, g, \dots\} & \xrightarrow{\quad \perp \quad} & \mathbb{O}_1 \end{array}$$



Homotopy realization: dimension 2

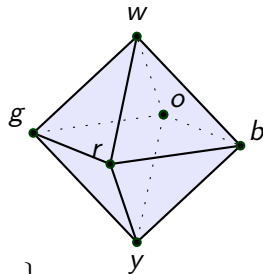
To realize $M \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} [M_0, M_1, M_2]$ use $\partial\Delta(1), \partial\Delta(2)$:

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

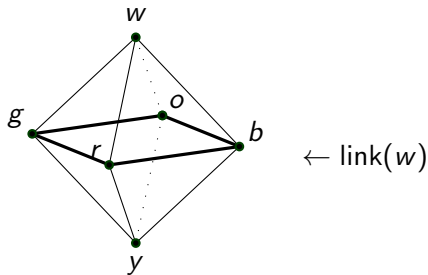
Homotopy realization: dimension 2

The full octahedron \mathbb{O} :

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 \{\{w, g\}, \dots\} \times \{0, 1\} & \xrightarrow{\text{pr}_1} & \{\{w, g\}, \dots\} & & \\
 \downarrow & \nearrow h_1 & \downarrow & & \\
 \{w, g, \dots\} & \xrightarrow{\quad} & \mathbb{O}_1 & \xrightarrow{\quad} & \mathbb{O}_2 \\
 & & \uparrow & \searrow h_2 & \uparrow \\
 & & \{\{w, g, r\}, \dots\} \times \partial\Delta(2) & \xrightarrow{\text{pr}_1} & \{\{w, g, r\}, \dots\}
 \end{array}$$



Homotopy realization: dimension 2



The **link** of a vertex w in a 2-complex is: the sets not containing w but whose union with w is a face.

A **combinatorial manifold** is a simplicial complex all of whose links are* simplicial spheres.

This will be our model of the **tangent space**.

*the (classical) geometric realization is homeomorphic to a sphere

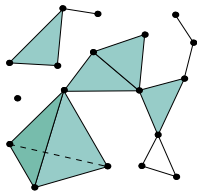
Combinatorial manifolds \leftrightarrow smooth manifolds

Theorem (Whitehead (1940))

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

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

Counterexample: Wikipedia says this is a simplicial complex, but we can see it fails the link condition:



Torsors

What type families $\mathbb{M} \rightarrow \mathcal{U}$ will we consider? Families of **torsors**, also called **principal bundles**.

Torsors

Let G be a (higher) group.

Definition

- A **right G -object** is a type X equipped with a homomorphism $\phi : G^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \text{Aut}(X)$.
- X is furthermore a **G -torsor** if it is inhabited and the map $(\text{pr}_1, \phi) : X \times G \rightarrow X \times X$ is an equivalence.
- The inverse is (pr_1, s) where $s : X \times X \rightarrow G$ is called **subtraction** (when G is commutative).
- Let BG be the type of G -torsors.
- Let G_{reg} be the G -torsor consisting of G acting on itself on the right.

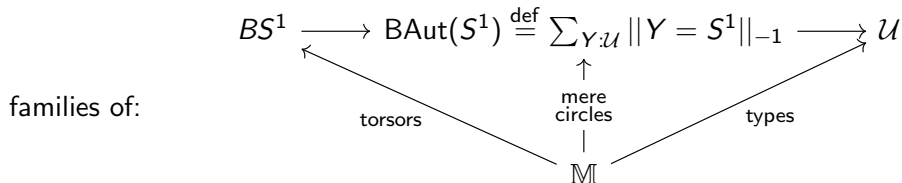
Facts

- ① $\Omega(BG, G_{\text{reg}}) \simeq G$ and composition of loops corresponds to multiplication in G .
- ② BG is connected.
- ③ $1 \ \& \ 2 \implies BG$ is a $K(G, 1)$.

See the Buchholtz et. al. H-spaces paper for more.

How to map into BS^1

To construct maps into BS^1 we **lift** a family of **mere circles**.



We will assume we have such a lift when we need it. (Remark: the lift is a choice of **orientation**.)

Other names:

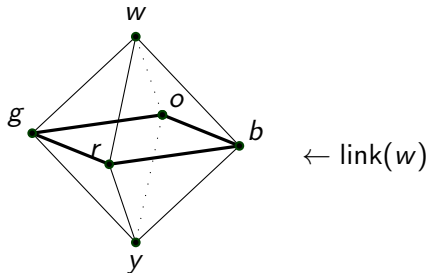
- $\text{BAut}(S^1) = BO(2) = \text{EM}(\mathbb{Z}, 1)$ (where $\text{EM}(G, n) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{BAut}(K(G, n))$)
- $BS^1 = BSO(2) = K(\mathbb{Z}, 2)$

Connections and curvature

Connections

Connections are extensions of the bundle to higher skeleta.

Recall link



The **link** of a vertex w in a 2-complex is: the sets not containing w but whose union with w is a face.

Define **the tangent bundle** on a combinatorial manifold to be $T_0 \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{link} : \mathbb{M}_0 \rightarrow \text{BAut}(S^1)$.

Connections on the tangent bundle

An extension T_1 of T_0 to \mathbb{M}_1 is called a **connection on the tangent bundle**.

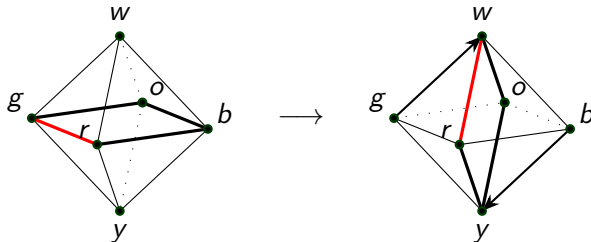
$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \mathbb{M}_0 & \longrightarrow & \mathbb{M}_1 & \longrightarrow & \mathbb{M}_2 \\ & \searrow & \downarrow & \nearrow & \\ & T_0 \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{link} & T_1 & & \\ & & \text{BAut}(S^1) & & \end{array}$$

$T_1 : \mathbb{M}_1 \rightarrow \text{BAut}(S^1)$ extending link

We will define T_1 on the edge wb , so we need a term

$$T_1(wb) : \text{link}(w) =_{\text{BAut}(S^1)} \text{link}(b).$$

We imagine tipping:

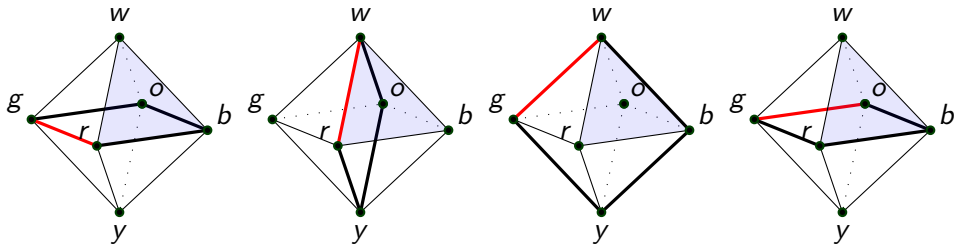


$$T_1(g : \text{link}(w)) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} w : \text{link}(b), \dots$$

Use this method to define T_1 on every edge.

$T_1 : \mathbb{M}_1 \rightarrow \text{BAut}(S^1)$ extending link

Denote the path $wb \cdot br \cdot rw$ by $\partial(wbr)$. Consider $T_1(\partial(wbr))$:



We come back rotated by $1/4$ turn. Call this rotation $R : \text{link}(w) =_{\text{BAut}(S^1)} \text{link}(w)$.

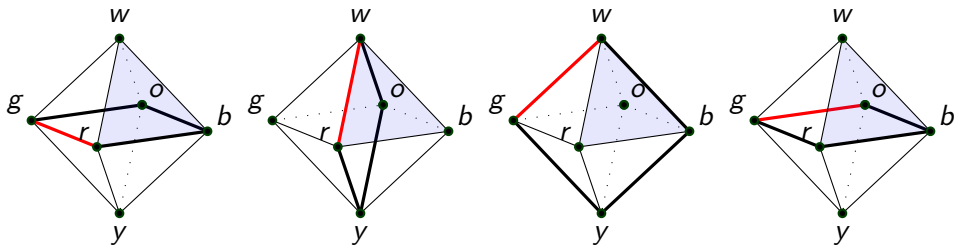
Extending T_1 to a face

Let $H_{wbr} : \text{refl}_w =_{w=\mathbb{M}w} \partial(wbr)$ be the filler homotopy of the face.

T_2 must live in $T_1(\text{refl}_w) =_{(\text{link}(w)=_{\text{BAut}(S^1)} \text{link}(w))} T_1(\partial(wbr)) = R$

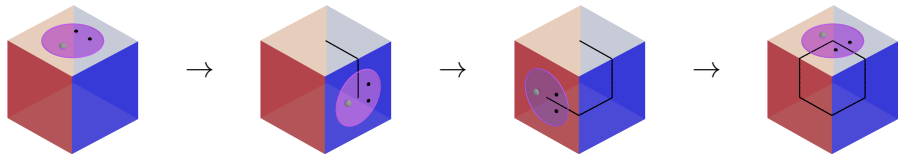
T_2 must be a homotopy $H_R : \text{id} = R$ between automorphisms of $\text{link}(w)$.

For example, a path $H_R(g) : g = Rg = o$. Choose go .



(Subtle remark: R and H_R are constructed at the HIT level. The HoTT path is the **realization** of H_R .)

Original inspiration



The definition of a connection

Definition

If $\mathbb{M} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathbb{M}_0 \xrightarrow{i_0} \dots \xrightarrow{i_{n-1}} \mathbb{M}_n$ is the realization of a combinatorial manifold and all the triangles commute in the diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} \mathbb{M}_0 & \xrightarrow{i_0} & \mathbb{M}_1 & \xrightarrow{i_1} & \mathbb{M}_2 & \xrightarrow{i_2} & \dots \xrightarrow{i_{n-1}} \mathbb{M}_n \\ & \searrow & \swarrow f_0 & \searrow f_1 & \downarrow f_2 & \swarrow f_n & \\ & & & & \mathcal{U} & & \end{array}$$

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

The definition of curvature

Definition (cont.)

An extension consists of M_2 -many extensions to faces:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 M_2 \times \partial\Delta(2) & \xrightarrow{\text{pr}_1} & M_2 \\
 \mathbb{A}_1 \downarrow & \nearrow h_2 & \downarrow \\
 \mathbb{M}_1 & \xrightarrow{\quad} & \mathbb{M}_2 \\
 & \searrow T_1 & \downarrow T_2 \\
 & & \mathcal{U}
 \end{array}$$

Here's the outer square for a single face F :

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \{F\} \times \partial\Delta(2) & \xrightarrow{\text{pr}_1} & \{F\} \\
 \mathbb{A}_1 \downarrow & \nwarrow b_F & \downarrow \\
 \mathbb{M}_1 & \xrightarrow{\quad} & \mathcal{U}
 \end{array}$$

$T_1(\partial(F))$ is **the curvature at the face F** and the filler $b_F : \text{id} = T_1(\partial F)$ is called a **flatness structure for the face F** .

The distinction between the path b_F and the endpoint $T_1(\partial(F))$ is small enough to be confusing.

Vector fields

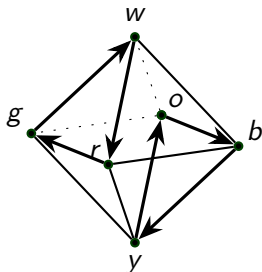
Vector fields

Let $T : \mathbb{M} \rightarrow BS^1$ be an oriented tangent bundle on a 2-dim combinatorial manifold.

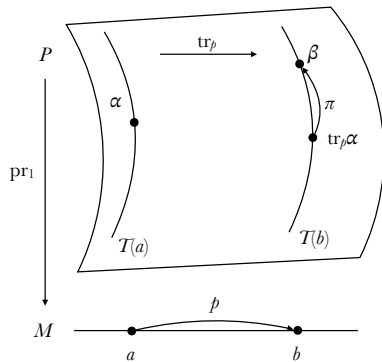
- Our bundles of mere circles can only model **nonzero** tangent vectors.
- A global section would be a trivialization of T , so there is an obstruction.

Our solution:

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

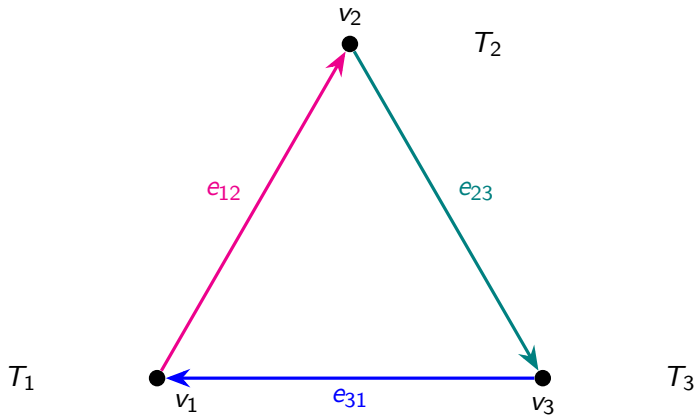


Reminder: pathovers

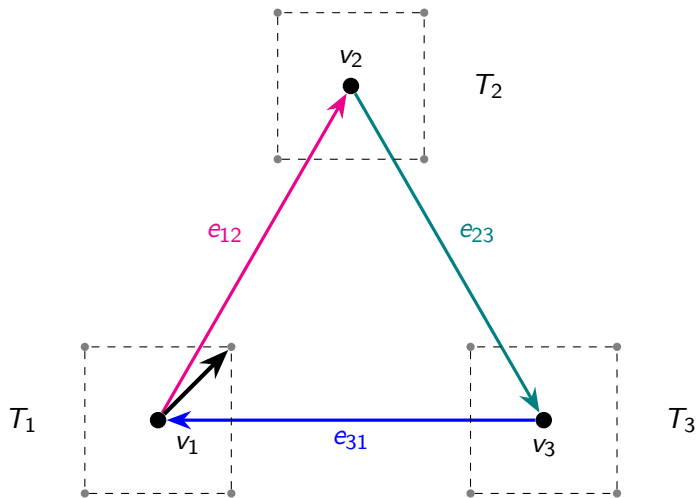


- Recall pathovers (dependent paths).
- There is an asymmetry: we pick a fiber to display π , the path over p .
- Dependent functions map paths to pathovers:
 $\text{apd}(X)(p) : \text{tr}_p(X(a)) = X(b)$ (simply denoted $X(p)$).

Next goal: define the index of a vector field on a face.



An example of **swirling** and **index** at this face.



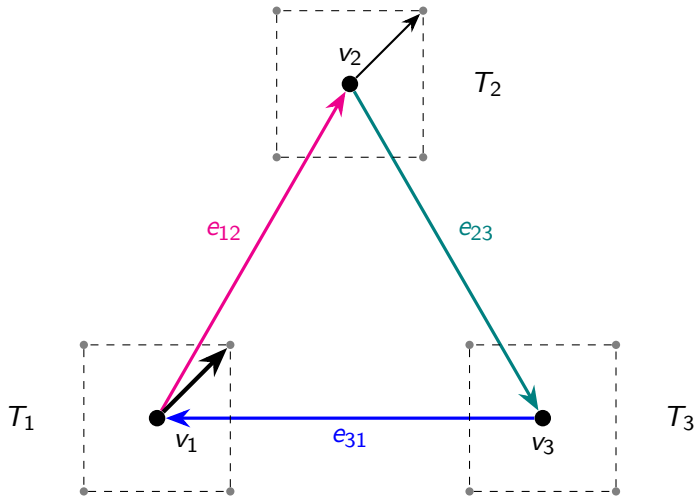
An example of **swirling** and **index** at this face.

- Denote by X_1 this vector $X(v_1) : T_1$.

•

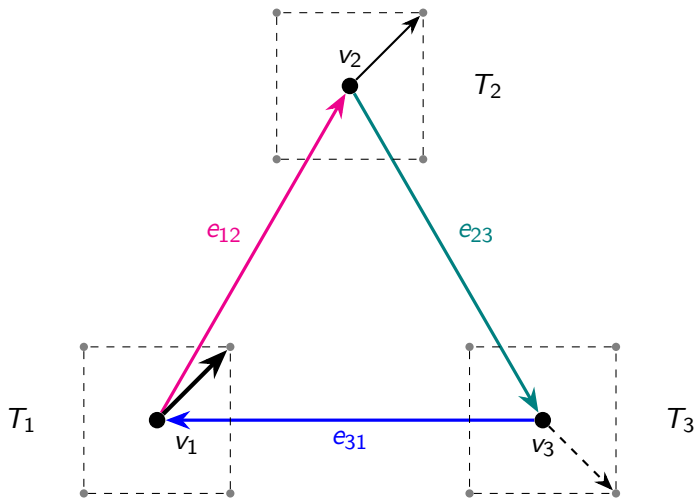
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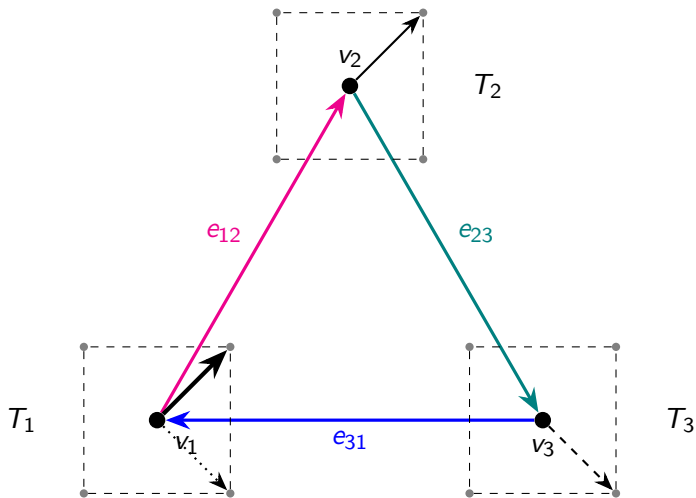
An example of **swirling** and **index** at this face.

- Denote by X_1 this vector $X(v_1) : T_1$.
- Say T_{12} is trivial. Denote the transported vector as thinner.
-
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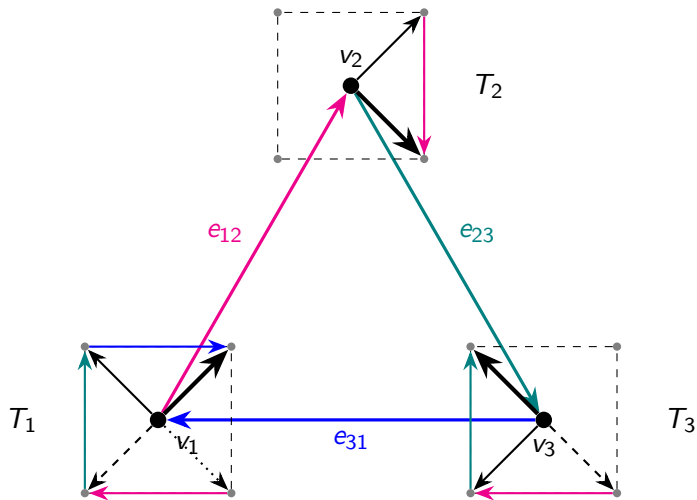
An example of **swirling** and **index** at this face.

- Denote by X_1 this vector $X(v_1) : T_1$.
- Say T_{12} is trivial. Denote the transported vector as thinner.
- Say T_{23} rotates clockwise. Denote the twice-transported vector as dashed.
-



An example of **swirling** and **index** at this face.

- Denote by X_1 this vector $X(v_1) : T_1$.
- Say T_{12} is trivial. Denote the transported vector as thinner.
- Say T_{23} rotates clockwise. Denote the twice-transported vector as dashed.
- Say T_{31} is trivial. The thrice-transported vector is dotted.



- X on e_{12} is red, etc.
- We translated all results to the end of the loop.
- (Reminds me of scooping ice cream towards the last fiber.)
- The total pathover is called **the swirling** X_F of X at the face F .

Symbolic version

$$T_1 \xrightarrow{T_{21}} T_2 \xrightarrow{T_{32}} T_3 \xrightarrow{T_{13}} T_1$$

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 & & & & T_{13} T_{32} T_{21} X_1 & & \\
 & & & & T_{13} T_{32} X_{12} : \parallel & & \\
 & & T_{32} T_{21} X_1 & & T_{13} T_{32} X_2 & & \\
 & & T_{32} X_{12} : \parallel & & T_{13} X_{23} : \parallel & & \\
 & T_{21} X_1 & T_{32} X_2 & T_{13} X_3 & & & \\
 X_{12} : \parallel & & X_{23} : \parallel & X_{31} : \parallel & & & \\
 X_1 & X_2 & X_3 & X_1 & & &
 \end{array}$$

Index

$$\mathrm{tr}_F \stackrel{\mathrm{def}}{=} \mathrm{tr}(\partial F) \quad : T_1 =_{BS^1} T_1 \quad \text{curvature}$$

$$b_F \stackrel{\mathrm{def}}{=} b(\partial F) \quad : \mathrm{id} =_{(T_1 =_{BS^1} T_1)} \mathrm{tr}_F \quad \text{flatness}$$

$$X_F \stackrel{\mathrm{def}}{=} X(\partial F) \quad : \mathrm{tr}_F(X_1) =_{T_1} X_1 \quad \text{swirling}$$

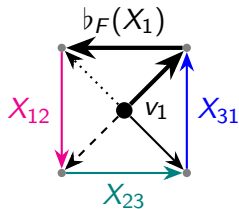
Recall that T_1 being an S^1 -torsor means we can use subtraction to obtain an equivalence $s(-, X_1) : T_1 \xrightarrow{x \mapsto x - X_1} S^1$.

Definition

The **flattened swirling** of the vector field X on the face F is the loop

$$L_F^X \stackrel{\mathrm{def}}{=} b_F(X_1) \cdot X_F : (X_1 =_{T_1} X_1).$$

The **index** of the vector field X on the face F is the integer I_F^X such that $\mathrm{loop}_F^{I_F^X} =_{S^1} (L_F^X) - X_1$.



Main theorem

Simplifying swirling

Swirling involves concatenating dependent paths. Can we simplify that?

Pay off all our assumptions 1: torsor structure, vector field

T_1

- Def: $\alpha_i \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} s(-, X_i) : T_i \xrightarrow{\sim} S^1$ (**trivialization on 0-skeleton**).
- Def: $\rho_{ji} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \alpha_j(T_{ji}(X_i))$ is **the rotation of T_{ji}** .

$$\begin{array}{c}
 T_{13} T_{32} T_{21} X_1 \\
 T_{13} T_{32} X_{21} : \parallel \\
 T_{13} T_{32} X_2 \\
 T_{13} X_{32} : \parallel \\
 T_{13} X_3 \\
 X_{13} : \parallel \\
 X_1
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 T_i & \xrightarrow{T_{ji}} & T_j \\
 \text{base} \mapsto X_i \nearrow \alpha_i \downarrow & & \downarrow \alpha_j \nwarrow \text{base} \mapsto X_j \\
 S^1 & \xrightarrow{(-) \odot \rho_{ji}} & S^1
 \end{array}$$

- Lemma: $\rho_{ij} = \rho_{ji}^{-1}$ because **in T_j** :
 $\rho_{ij} \odot \rho_{ji} \odot X_j = \rho_{ij} \odot T_{ji} X_i = T_{ji}(\rho_{ij} \odot X_i) = T_{ji} T_{ij} X_j = X_j.$

Pay off all our assumptions 1: torsor structure, vector field (cont.)

T_1

$$\begin{array}{c}
 T_{13} T_{32} T_{21} X_1 \\
 T_{13} T_{32} X_{21} : \parallel \\
 T_{13} T_{32} X_2 \\
 T_{13} X_{32} : \parallel \\
 T_{13} X_3 \\
 X_{13} : \parallel \\
 X_1
 \end{array}$$

- Define $\sigma_{ji} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \alpha_j(X_{ji}) : \rho_{ji} =_{S^1} \text{base},$
- Paths of the form $(a =_{S^1} \text{base})$ can be multiplied:
 - $\odot : (a = \text{base}) \times (b = \text{base}) \rightarrow (a \odot b = \text{base}).$
 - $p \odot q = (p \odot b) \cdot q.$
- Lemma: $\text{apd}(X)(\text{refl}) = \text{refl} \implies X_{ij} \cdot T_{ij} X_{ji} = \text{refl}_{X_i}$
 $\implies \sigma_{ij} \odot \sigma_{ji} = \text{refl}_{\text{base}} \text{ } (T_{ij} \text{ just translates } X_{ji} \text{ to cat with } X_{ji}).$

Pay off all our assumptions 2: no boundary, commutativity

T_1

Definition

Let F_1, \dots, F_n be the faces of \mathbb{M} , and $\partial F_1, \dots, \partial F_n$ be the triangular boundaries. The **total swirling** is

$$X_{\text{tot}} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sigma_{\partial F_1} \odot \cdots \odot \sigma_{\partial F_n}$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
 T_{13} T_{32} T_{21} X_1 \\
 T_{13} T_{32} X_{21} : \parallel \\
 T_{13} T_{32} X_2 \\
 T_{13} X_{32} : \parallel \\
 T_{13} X_3 \\
 X_{13} : \parallel \\
 X_1
 \end{array}
 .$$

- We assume that this expression involves **every edge once in each direction**.
- S^1 is commutative, hence **complete cancellation**.

Consequence

$\mathrm{tr}_F \stackrel{\mathrm{def}}{=} \mathrm{tr}(\partial F)$	$: T_1 =_{BS^1} T_1$	curvature
$b_F \stackrel{\mathrm{def}}{=} b(\partial F)$	$: \mathrm{id} =_{(T_1 =_{BS^1} T_1)} \mathrm{tr}_F$	flatness
$X_F \stackrel{\mathrm{def}}{=} X(\partial F)$	$: \mathrm{tr}_F(X_1) =_{T_1} X_1$	swirling
$L_F^X \stackrel{\mathrm{def}}{=} b_F(X_1) \cdot X_F$	$: (X_1 =_{T_1} X_1)$	flattened swirling

These can all be totaled in S^1 to give

$$\mathrm{tr}_{\mathrm{tot}} \stackrel{\mathrm{def}}{=} \bigcirc_i \rho_{\partial F} = \mathrm{base}$$

$$X_{\mathrm{tot}} \stackrel{\mathrm{def}}{=} \bigcirc_i \sigma_{\partial F} = \mathrm{refl}_{\mathrm{base}}$$

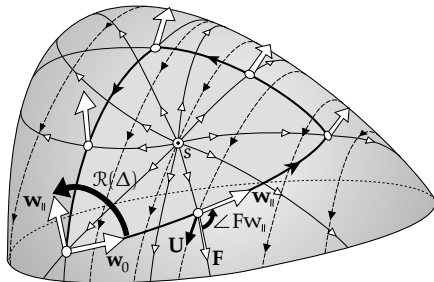
$$b_{\mathrm{tot}} \stackrel{\mathrm{def}}{=} \bigcirc_i b_{\partial F}$$

$$L_{\mathrm{tot}}^X \stackrel{\mathrm{def}}{=} \bigcirc_i b_{\partial F} \odot \sigma_{\partial F} = \bigcirc_i b_{\partial F}$$

So in our lingo: the total flatness equals the total flattened swirling.



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.

Thank you!