ALGEBRAIC TOPOLOGY II LECTURE NOTES

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Contents

1. Geometric Description of Cocycles

Example 1.1. Let X be a Δ-complex and $\phi \in C^k(X;\mathbb{Z})$. What does it mean that $\delta\phi = 0$? As a toy model, we will consider a surface. One way to construct such a $\phi \in C^1(X;\mathbb{Z})$ is to take an oriented closed curve γ transverse to 1-simplices. Then we define $\phi(\sigma)$ to be the number of intersections between σ and γ with signs. See the following example:

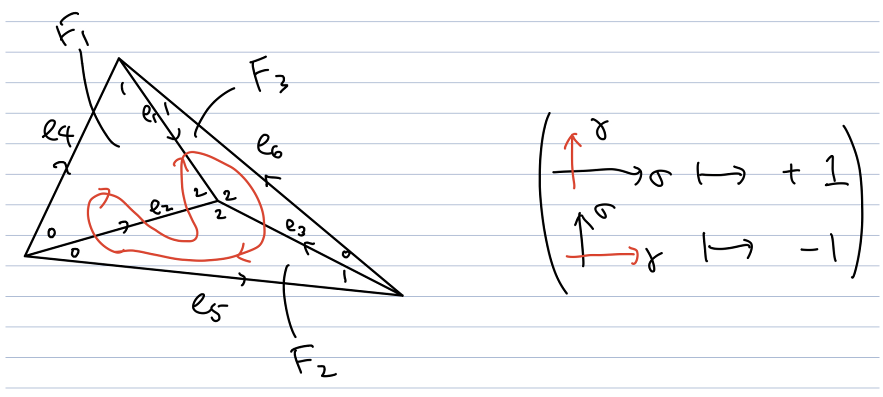

Figure 1. Oriented closed curve in a surface

γ gives us the following 1-cocycle ϕ which maps each e_i to an integer as following:

$$\begin{aligned} e_1 &\mapsto 1 \\ e_2 &\mapsto 1 - 1 + 1 = 1 \\ e_3 &\mapsto 1 \\ e_4 &\mapsto 0 \\ e_5 &\mapsto 0 \\ e_6 &\mapsto 0. \end{aligned}$$

Then $\delta\phi = 0$ because

$$(\delta\phi)(F_1) = \phi(\partial F_1) = \phi(e_1) - \phi(e_2) + \phi(e_4) = 0$$
$$(\delta\phi)(F_2) = \phi(\partial F_2) = \phi(e_3) - \phi(e_2) + \phi(e_5) = 0$$
$$(\delta\phi)(F_3) = \phi(\partial F_3) = \phi(e_1) - \phi(e_3) + \phi(e_6) = 0.$$

This is not a coincidence because $\phi(\partial\sigma)$ represents

(the number of times γ enters σ) - (the number of times γ exists σ)

which is always 0 for any 2-simplex σ and any traverse closed oriented curve γ. In this case, we call ϕ the **Poincare dual** to γ, or simply $\phi = \mathrm{PD}(\gamma)$, and this concept can be generalized further.

Definition 1.2. Let X be a topological manifold of dimension n. Let γ be an $(n-k)$-cycle in X transverse to the k-skeleton of X. Define $\phi \in C^k(X;\mathbb{Z})$ such that

$$\phi(\sigma) = \text{The number of intersections between } \sigma \text{ and } \gamma \text{ with signs.}$$

Then we call ϕ the **Poincare dual** of γ and denote it by $\phi = \mathrm{PD}(\gamma)$.

Example 1.3. We will look at a torus which is a slightly more complicated example. We obtain the following

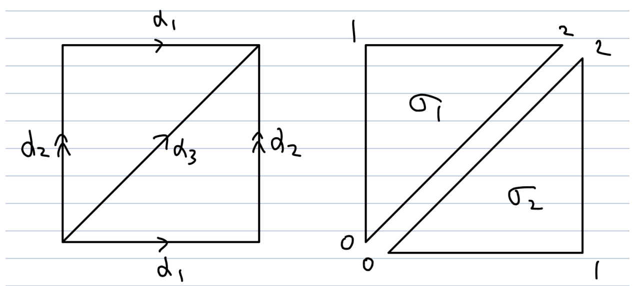

FIGURE 2. Torus

cellular chain complex from Figure 2:

$$C_2 = \langle \sigma_1, \sigma_2 \rangle \longrightarrow C_1 = \langle \alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_3 \rangle \longrightarrow C_0 = \langle v \rangle$$

$$\sigma_i \longmapsto \alpha_1 + \alpha_2 - \alpha_3$$

$$\alpha_i \longmapsto 0$$

Thus

$$H_i(T^2) = \begin{cases} \mathbb{Z} & (i = 0, 2) \\ \mathbb{Z}^2 & (i = 1). \end{cases}$$

Now, we will examine the cellular cochain complex.

$$\begin{aligned} \delta(v^*)(\alpha_i) &= v^*(\partial\alpha_i) \\ &= v^*(0) \\ &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

for any $\alpha_i \in C_1$. Therefore, $\delta(v^*) = 0$.

$$\begin{aligned}\delta(\alpha_1^*)(\sigma_i) &= \alpha_1^*(\partial(\sigma_i))\\ &= \alpha_1^*(\alpha_1 + \alpha_2 - \alpha_3)\\ &= 1\end{aligned}$$

for any $\sigma_i \in C_2$. By performing similar calculation on α_2^* and α_3^*, we obtain

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} C^2 = \langle \sigma_1^*, \sigma_2^* \rangle & \longleftarrow & C^1 = \langle \alpha_1^*, \alpha_2^*, \alpha_3^* \rangle & \longleftarrow & C^0 = \langle v^* \rangle \\ \\ \sigma_1^* + \sigma_2^* & \longleftarrow\!\shortmid & \alpha_1^*, \alpha_2^* & & \\ \\ -(\sigma_1^* + \sigma_2^*) & \longleftarrow\!\shortmid & \alpha_3^* & & \\ \\ & & 0 & \longleftarrow\!\shortmid & v^* \end{array}$$

Thus

$$H^i(T^2) = \begin{cases} \mathbb{Z} & (i = 0, 2) \\ \mathbb{Z}^2 & (i = 1). \end{cases}$$

- $H^0(T^2) = \langle v^* \rangle / 0$, so $H^0(T^2)$ is generated by $[v^*]$.
- $H^2(T^2)$ is generated by $[\sigma_2^*]$ because $H^2(T^2) = \langle \sigma_1^*, \sigma_2^* \rangle / \langle \sigma_1^* + \sigma_2^* \rangle$.

We can picture $H^1(T^2)$ by using Poincare duals. Let $\phi_1 = \mathrm{PD}(\gamma_1), \phi_2 = \mathrm{PD}(\gamma_2)$. Then $\phi_1(\alpha_1) = 0, \phi_1(\alpha_2) =$

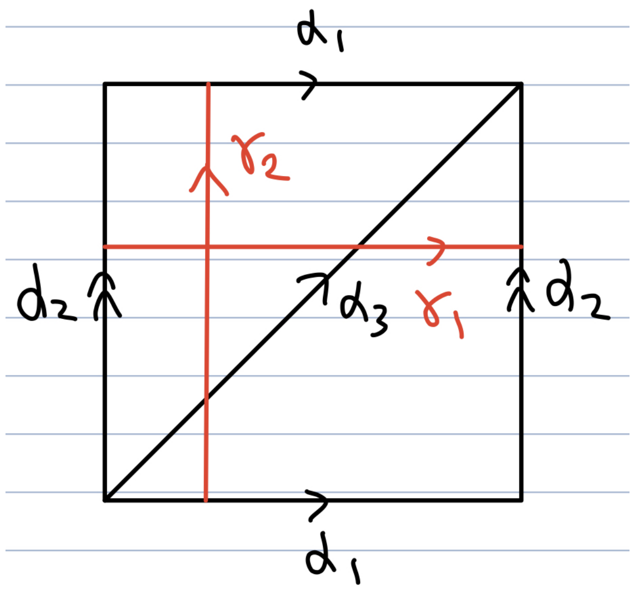

FIGURE 3. Torus Poincare Duals

$1, \phi_1(\alpha_3) = 1$, and $\phi_2(\alpha_1) = -1, \phi_2(\alpha_2) = 0, \phi_2(\alpha_3) = -1$. Moreover,

$$(\delta\phi_1)(\sigma_i) = \phi_1(\partial\sigma_i) = \phi_1(\alpha_1 + \alpha_2 - \alpha_3) = \phi_1(\alpha_1) + \phi_1(\alpha_2) - \phi_1(\alpha_3) = 0.$$
$$(\delta\phi_2)(\sigma_i) = \phi_2(\partial\sigma_i) = \phi_2(\alpha_1 + \alpha_2 - \alpha_3) = \phi_1(\alpha_1) + \phi_1(\alpha_2) - \phi_1(\alpha_3) = 0.$$

Therefore, the classes represented by ϕ_1, ϕ_2 are in $H^1(T^2;\mathbb{Z})$. Moreover, they clearly generate $H^1(T^2;\mathbb{Z})$, so every element in $H^1(T^2;\mathbb{Z})$ can be considered as a function with a fixed closed curve that counts the number of times the curve intersects a given 1-simplex.

2. Poincare Duality

Since $H^*(T^n) \equiv \wedge_{\mathbb{Z}} M$ where $M = \langle v_1, \cdots, v_n \rangle$, we have

k	0	1	2	$\cdots$	$n-1$	n
rank $H^k(T^n;\mathbb{Z})$	$\binom{n}{0}$	$\binom{n}{1}$	$\binom{n}{2}$	$\cdots$	$\binom{n}{n-1}$	$\binom{n}{n}$

This symmetry phenomenon is true in general and very useful. Another example: The cellular complex for $\mathbb{CP}^n$ is $\mathbb{Z} \to 0 \to \mathbb{Z} \to 0 \to \cdots \to 0 \to \mathbb{Z} \to 0$. Thus

k	0	1	2	$\cdots$	$2n-1$	$2n$
rank $H^k(\mathbb{CP}^n;\mathbb{Z})$	1	0	1	$\cdots$	0	1

2.1. **Orientations.**

Definition 2.1. Let M be a triangulable closed n-manifold. Let $\sigma_1, \cdots, \sigma_k$ be n-simplices such that $M = \sigma_1 \cup \cdots \cup \sigma_k$. Then $\sigma_i \in C_n(M)$ for each i. Suppose that the ordering of the vertices in σ_i and the signs $\pm$ can be chosen such that

$$\sum \pm \partial \sigma_i = 0 \in C_{n-1}(M).$$

Then M is said to be *orientable*.

Example 2.2. A tetrahedron and torus are examples of orientable manifolds.

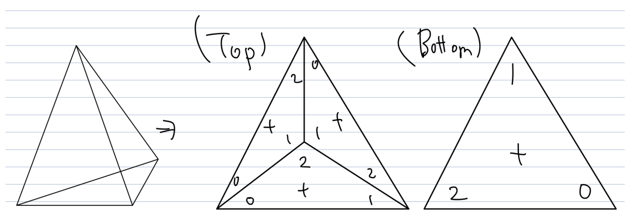

Figure 4. Orientation of a tetrahedron

Definition 2.3. Let M be an n-dimensional orientable manifold. Choose $\sigma_i \in C_n(M)$ and signs $\mathrm{sgn}_i \in \{-1, 1\}$ such that $M = \sigma_1 \cup \cdots \cup \sigma_k$ and $\sum \mathrm{sgn}_i \partial \sigma_i = 0$. The class represented by $\sum \mathrm{sgn}_i \sigma_i \in \ker(\partial)$ in $H_n(M)$ is called a fundamental class $[M]$.

Theorem 2.4. *If M connected, then $[M]$ is a generator of $H_n(M)$.*

Proof. By Poincare Duality(which will be discussed later (2.7)), $H_n(M) \cong H^0(M) = \mathbb{Z}$. Let $\sum c_i \sigma_i$ represent a generator of $H_n(M)$ where $c_i \in \mathbb{Z}$. Then $\sum \mathrm{sgn}_i \sigma_i = \lambda \sum c_i \sigma_i = \sum (\lambda c_i) \sigma_i$ for some $\lambda \in \mathbb{Z}$. Since each $\lambda c_i = \mathrm{sgn}_i \in \{-1, 1\}$, λ must be 1 or -1. Therefore, the class represented by $\sum \mathrm{sgn}_i \sigma_i$ is a generator of $H_n(M)$. $\square$

Corollary 2.5. *There are two fundamental classes for any connected orientable manifold.*

Proof. By (2.4), a fundamental class $[M]$ is a generator of $H_n(M) = \mathbb{Z}$. Since $\mathbb{Z}$ has exactly two generators $1, -1$, M has exactly two fundamental classes. $\square$

Definition 2.6. Let M be a connected, orientable manifold. Then a choice of a fundamental class is called an orientation of M.

2.2. **Poincare Duality(Version 1).**

Theorem 2.7. *If M is an orientable closed n-manifold, then*

$$H^k(M;G) \cong H_{n-k}(M;G)$$

for any integer $0 \leq k \leq n$ and an abelian group G.

Remark. *If M is not orientable, Poincare Duality holds when $G = \mathbb{Z}/2$. In other words,*

$$H^k(M;\mathbb{Z}/2) \cong H_{n-k}(M;\mathbb{Z}/2).$$

For instance,

$H_*(\mathbb{RP}^2;\mathbb{Z})$	*0*	$\mathbb{Z}/2$	$\mathbb{Z}$
$H^*(\mathbb{RP}^2;\mathbb{Z})$	$\mathbb{Z}/2$	*0*	$\mathbb{Z}$

so Poincare Duality does not hold in this case. However, with $\mathbb{Z}/2$,

$H_*(\mathbb{RP}^2;\mathbb{Z}/2)$	$\mathbb{Z}/2$	$\mathbb{Z}/2$	$\mathbb{Z}/2$
$H^*(\mathbb{RP}^2;\mathbb{Z}/2)$	$\mathbb{Z}/2$	$\mathbb{Z}/2$	$\mathbb{Z}/2$

so Poincare Duality holds in this case.

Definition 2.8. The kth Betti number of a manifold M is defined to be $b_k = \text{rank}(H^k(M;\mathbb{Z}))$.

Theorem 2.9. *$b_k = b_{n-k}$ for all k if M is a closed orientable n-manifold.*

Proof. By the Universal Coefficient Theorem, $\text{rank}(H^k(M)) = \text{rank}(H_k(M))$. By Poincare Duality, $\text{rank}(H^k(M)) = \text{rank}(H_{n-k}(M))$. Therefore, $b_k = \text{rank}(H^k(M)) = \text{rank}(H_{n-k}(M)) = \text{rank}(H^{n-k}(M)) = b_{n-k}$. □

2.3. **Cap Products.** There is a nice way to explicitly write down the isomorphism when G is a commutative ring.

Definition 2.10. Let a space X and a commutative ring R be given. For any $k \geq l$, define the cap product

$$\frown: \qquad C_k(X;R) \otimes C^l(X;R) \longrightarrow C_{k-l}(X;R)$$

$$\sigma \otimes \phi \longmapsto \phi(\sigma|_{[v_0,\cdots,v_l]})\sigma|_{[v_l,\cdots,v_k]}$$

Theorem 2.11. $\partial(\sigma \frown \phi) = (-1)^l((\partial\sigma) \frown \phi - \sigma \frown (\partial\phi))$.

Proof. Let $k \geq l, \sigma \in C_{k+1}(X;R), \phi \in C^l(X;R)$ be given.

$$\begin{aligned}
(\partial\sigma) \frown \phi &= (\sum_j (-1)^j \sigma|_{[v_0,\cdots,\hat{v}_j,\cdots,v_k]}) \frown \phi \\
&= \sum_j (-1)^j (\sigma|_{[v_0,\cdots,\hat{v}_j,\cdots,v_k]} \frown \phi) \\
&= \sum_{j=1}^{l} (-1)^j \phi(\sigma|_{[v_0,\cdots,\hat{v}_j,\cdots,v_{l+1}]})\sigma|_{[v_{l+1},\cdots,v_k]} + \sum_{j=l+1}^{k} (-1)^j \phi(\sigma|_{[v_0,\cdots,v_l]})\sigma|_{[v_l,\cdots,\hat{v}_j,\cdots,v_k]} \\
&= \sum_{j=1}^{l} (-1)^j \phi(\sigma|_{[v_0,\cdots,\hat{v}_j,\cdots,v_{l+1}]})\sigma|_{[v_{l+1},\cdots,v_k]} + (-1)^{l+1}\phi(\sigma|_{[v_0,\cdots,v_l,\hat{v}_{l+1}]})\sigma|_{[v_{l+1},\cdots,v_k]} \\
&+ (-1)^l \phi(\sigma|_{[v_0,\cdots,v_l]})\sigma|_{[\hat{v}_l,v_{l+1},\cdots,v_k]} + \sum_{j=l+1}^{k} (-1)^j \phi(\sigma|_{[v_0,\cdots,v_l]})\sigma|_{[v_l,\cdots,\hat{v}_j,\cdots,v_k]} \\
&= \sum_{j=1}^{l+1} (-1)^j \phi(\sigma|_{[v_0,\cdots,\hat{v}_j,\cdots,v_{l+1}]})\sigma|_{[v_{l+1},\cdots,v_k]} + \sum_{j=l}^{k} (-1)^j \phi(\sigma|_{[v_0,\cdots,v_l]})\sigma|_{[v_l,\cdots,\hat{v}_j,\cdots,v_k]}.
\end{aligned}$$

We will compute each summand.

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum_{j=1}^{l+1}(-1)^j\phi(\sigma|_{[v_0,\cdots,\hat{v}_j,\cdots,v_{l+1}]})\sigma|_{[v_{l+1},\cdots,v_k]} &= \phi(\sum_{j=1}^{l+1}(-1)^j\sigma|_{[v_0,\cdots,\hat{v}_j,\cdots,v_{l+1}]})\sigma|_{[v_{l+1},\cdots,v_k]} \\
&= \phi(\partial\sigma|_{[v_0,\cdots,v_{l+1}]})\sigma|_{[v_{l+1},\cdots,v_k]} \\
&= \sigma \frown \delta\phi.
\end{aligned}$$

On the other hand,

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum_{j=l}^{k}(-1)^j\phi(\sigma|_{[v_0,\cdots,v_l]})\sigma|_{[v_l,\cdots,\hat{v}_j,\cdots,v_k]} &= (-1)^l\sum_{j=0}^{k-l}(-1)^j\phi(\sigma|_{[v_0,\cdots,v_{l+j}]})\sigma|_{[v_l,\cdots,\hat{v}_{l+j},\cdots,v_k]} \\
&= (-1)^l\partial(\phi(\sigma|_{[v_0,\cdots,v_{l+j}]})\sigma|_{[v_l,\cdots,v_k]}) \\
&= (-1)^l\partial(\sigma \frown \phi).
\end{aligned}$$

Therefore, we obtain the desired result $\partial(\sigma \frown \phi) = (-1)^l((\partial\sigma) \frown \phi - \sigma \frown (\delta\phi))$. □

Theorem 2.12. *$\frown$: $C_k(X;R)\otimes C^l(X;R) \to C_{k-l}(X;R)$ induces a map $H_k(X;R)\otimes H^l(X;R) \to H_{k-l}(X;R)$.*

Proof. Let $[\sigma] \in H_k(X;R)$ and $[\phi] \in H^l(X;R)$ be given where $\sigma \in C_k(X;R)$ and $\phi \in C^l(X;R)$. Then $\partial(\sigma) = \delta(\phi) = 0$. By (2.11), $\partial(\sigma \frown \phi) = (-1)^l(0-0) = 0$. Therefore, $\sigma \frown \phi$ represents a class in $H_{k-l}(X;R)$. □

2.4. **Poincare Duality(Version 2).**

Theorem 2.13. *If M is an orientable closed n-manifold, let $[M] \in H_n(M)$ be a fundamental class for M, and let R be a commutative ring. View $[M] \in H_n(M;R)$. Then the map*

$$H^l(M;R) \longrightarrow H_{n-l}(M;R)$$

$$\phi \longmapsto [M] \frown \phi$$

is an R-module isomorphism.

If M is not orientable, then $[M] \in H_n(M;\mathbb{Z}/2)$ still exists, and we have

$$H^l(M;\mathbb{Z}/2) \longrightarrow H_{n-l}(M;\mathbb{Z}/2)$$

$$\phi \longmapsto [M] \frown \phi$$