

Cell & CW complexes

A open n-cell is a space $e^n \cong B^n$.



A closed n-cell is a space $e \cong \bar{B}^n$.



↑ Lee writes
e and \bar{e} .

Fact (Prop 5.1) Any compact convex subspace of \mathbb{R}^n is a closed n-cell.

E.g. A solid icosahedron
is a closed 3-cell.

line segment joining any two pts in the set is contained in the set.



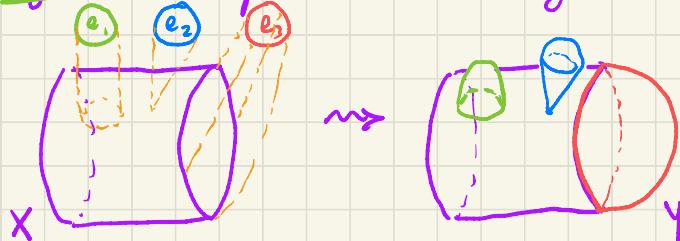
Say that Y is constructed from X by attaching n-cells when it is of the form

$$\coprod_{\alpha \in A} \partial e_\alpha^n \xrightarrow{\Phi} X$$

↓

$$\coprod_{\alpha \in A} e_\alpha^n \longrightarrow Y.$$

E.g. Attaching 2-cells to a cylinder:



Given a family of subspaces \mathcal{B} with union X , call the topology of X coherent with \mathcal{B} when $U \subseteq X$ open $\Leftrightarrow \bigcup_{B \in \mathcal{B}} U \cap B \in \mathcal{B}$ open.

E.g. Compactly generated spaces X are coherent with $\{K \subseteq X \mid K \text{ compact}\}$.

Defn A cell complex is a H'ff space X and subspaces $X_0 \subseteq X, X_1 \subseteq \dots \subseteq X$ such that (1) X_0 is discrete

(2) X_n is formed from X_{n-1} by attaching n -cells:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \coprod_{\alpha \in A} \partial e_\alpha^n & \xrightarrow{\psi} & X_{n-1} \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \coprod_{\alpha \in A} e_\alpha^n & \longrightarrow & X_n = X_{n-1} \cup \bigcup_{\alpha \in A} e_\alpha^n \end{array}$$

"attaching map"

(Note: $A = \emptyset$ allowed!)

$$e_\alpha^n \xrightarrow{\Phi_\alpha} X_n \xrightarrow{\phi} X$$

"characteristic map"

Note: $\Phi_\alpha : (e_\alpha^n)^0 \hookrightarrow X$ embedding

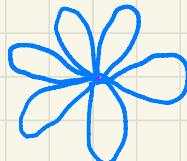
Call X_n the n -skeleton of X . If $X = X_n$ for some n , X is finite dimensional and the smallest n such that $X = X_n$ is the dimension of X .

E.g.

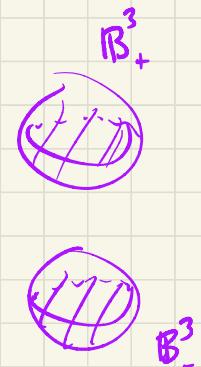
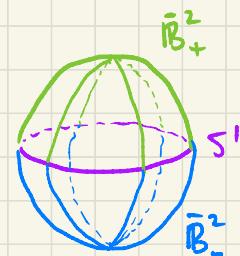
- A 1-dimensional cell complex is a graph



- A 1-dim'l cell complex with $X_0 = *$ is a bouquet of circles $\vee S^1$



$$\begin{array}{ccc} S^{n-1}_+ \sqcup S^{n-1}_- & \longrightarrow & S^{n-1} \\ \downarrow & \lrcorner & \downarrow \\ \bar{B}^n_+ \sqcup \bar{B}^n_- & \longrightarrow & S^n \end{array}$$



gives a presentation of S^n as an n -dimensional cell complex with 2 walls and 1 ($n-1$) cell. inductively.

The cells are regular because their characteristic maps are embeddings.

- We can also build S^n from one 0-cell + one n -cell:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 S^{n-1} & \longrightarrow & * \\
 \downarrow \Gamma & & \downarrow \\
 \bar{B}^n & \longrightarrow & \bar{B}^n / S^{n-1} \cong S^n \\
 & | & \\
 & \text{not regular} &
 \end{array}$$

- Any convex polyhedron presents S^2 as a cell complex with #faces 2-cells, #edges 1-cells, #verts 0-cells.



Defn A cell complex is a CW complex when

(c) the closure of each ^{open} cell is contained in a union of finitely many cells.

(w) the topology is coherent with the family of closed cells.

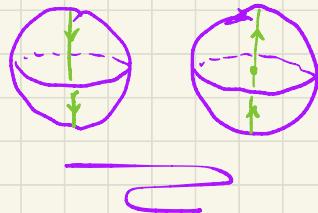
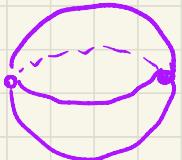
C = closure finiteness, W = "weak topology"

Above examples are CW, and C is automatic in our presentation.

If X is finite-dimensional, W is automatic, if it's infinite dimensional, it admits a unique W topology, possibly finer than its given topology.

↑ Text defines cell decompositions of X as a partition Σ of a space X into open cell subspaces e° admitting characteristic maps $\bar{B}^n \xrightarrow{\Phi} X$ s.t. $\Phi|_{\bar{B}^n}$ is a homeo onto e° and maps $\partial \bar{B}^n = S^{n-1}$ into the union of cells of lower dimm. Props 5.18 + 5.20 show this is equivalent.

E.g. The infinite dimensional sphere : Recall S^n presented as two n-cells attached to S^{n-1} . Don't stop $\rightsquigarrow S^\infty$.



Loop in S^3

CW complexes are nice

5.11 path conn'd \Leftrightarrow conn'd \Leftrightarrow

1-skeleton conn'd \Leftrightarrow some

n-skeleton conn'd finitely many cells

5.12 closure of each cell \subseteq finite subcomplex union of cells containing the closure of each cell

5.13 $A \subseteq X$ discrete $\Leftrightarrow A \cap e$ finite for all cells e

5.14 $A \subseteq X$ compact $\Leftrightarrow A$ closed & \subseteq finite subcomplex

5.15 X compact \Leftrightarrow finite

5.22 paracompact

5.23 countably many cells + locally Euclidean \Rightarrow manifold

5.24 for CW mflds, CW dimn = mfld dimn.

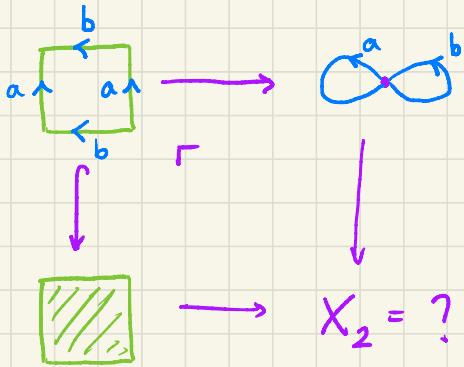


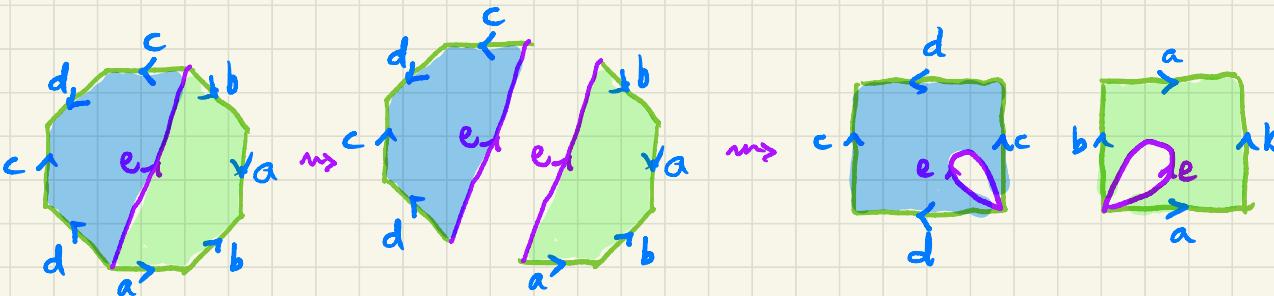
J.H.C. Whitehead (1904 - 1960)
and his pig

TP5

$$X_0 = *$$

$$X_1 = \text{a loop with arrows } a \text{ and } b$$

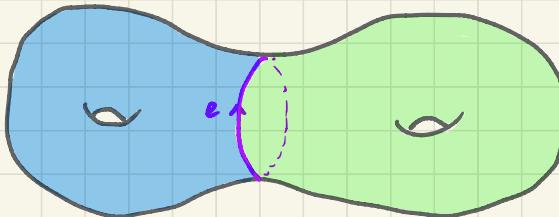




\rightsquigarrow



\rightsquigarrow



Exercice Draw a, b, c, d on
the diagram



surprise: back side of paper
is a different color!