

Alg Topo 4/16

CW Complex

Def (page 5, 519)

A CW complex (or cell complex)

is a space X constructed in the following way:

(i) Start with a discrete set X^0 called the 0-cells of X

(ii) Inductively, form the n -skeleton X^n from X^{n-1} by attaching n -cells e_α^n via maps

$$\varphi_\alpha: S^{n-1} \longrightarrow X^{n-1}$$

That is,

$$X^{n-1} \parallel \parallel D^n \quad \diagdown$$

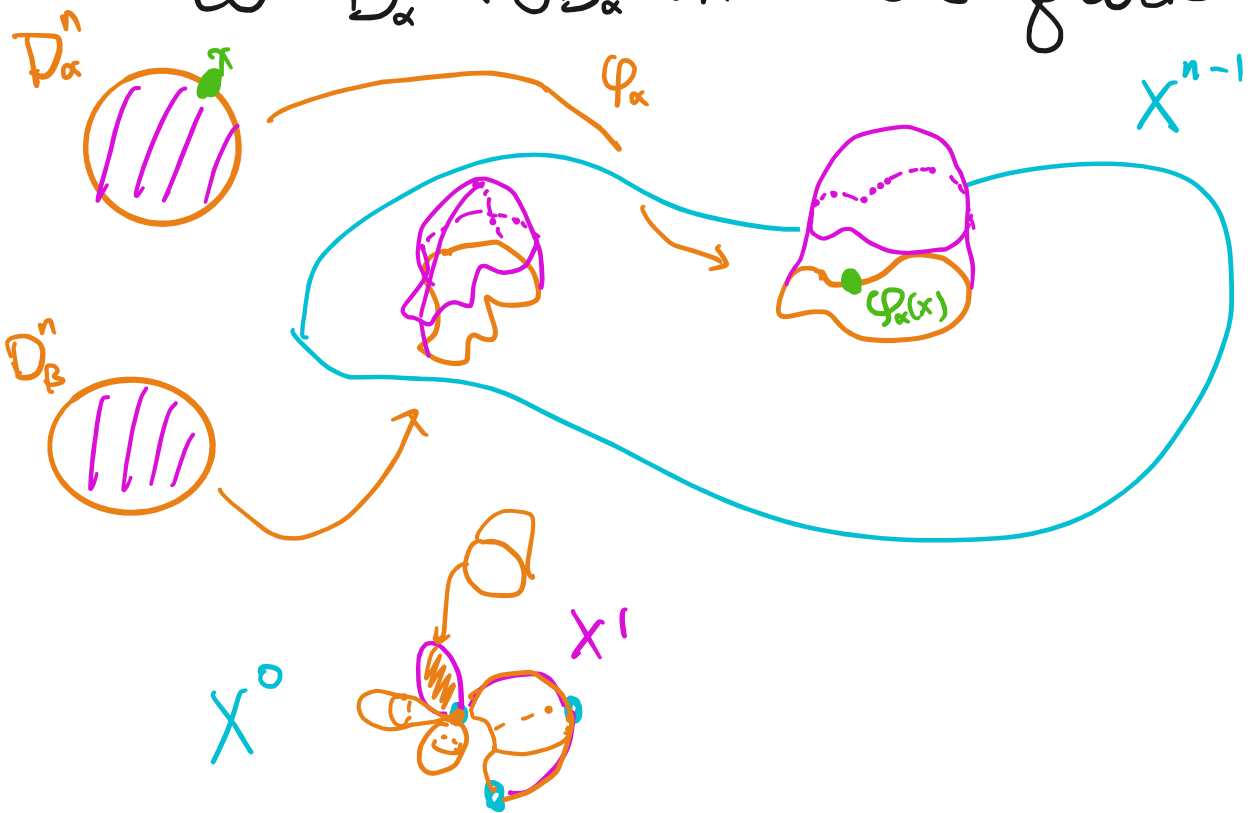
$$X^n = \bigcup_{\alpha} e_{\alpha}^n / \sim$$

$x \sim \varphi_{\alpha}(x), x \in \partial D_{\alpha}^n$

where

$$D_{\alpha}^n = D^n.$$

Note that the cell e_{α}^n is homeomorphic to $D^n \setminus \partial D^n$ under the quotient map



(iii) The space $X = \bigcup_n X^n$ is equipped with the weak topology:

A subset $A \subseteq X$ is open iff

$A \cap X^n$ is open for each n .

For each cell e_a^\wedge , the map

$$\bar{\Phi}_\alpha: D^n = D_\alpha^\wedge \hookrightarrow (X^{n-1} \sqcup \bigsqcup_\alpha D_\alpha^\wedge) \rightarrow X^n \hookrightarrow X$$

is called the characteristic map of e_a^\wedge

If $X = X^n$ for some n , then X is said to be finite-dimensional. In this case, the smallest number n s.t.

$$X = X^n$$

is called the dimension of X .

Remark (page 520)

"CW" means the following properties:

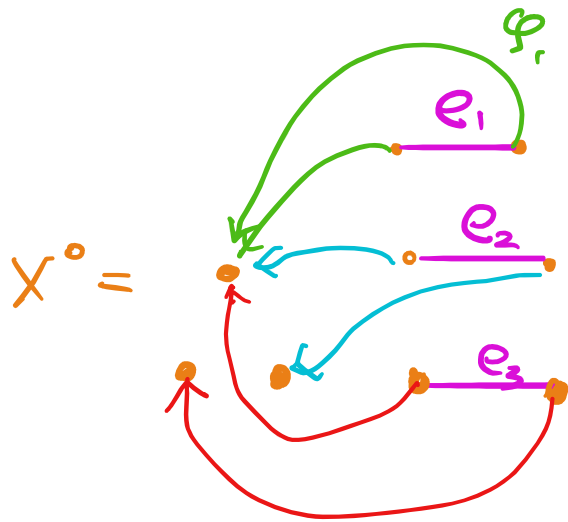
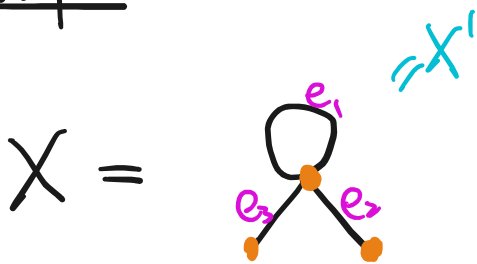
(i) C = closure-finiteness:

The closure of each cell meets only finitely many other cells.

(ii) $W =$ weak topology :

A set is closed iff its intersection with the closure of each cell is closed.

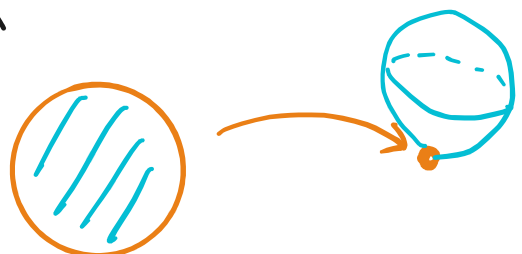
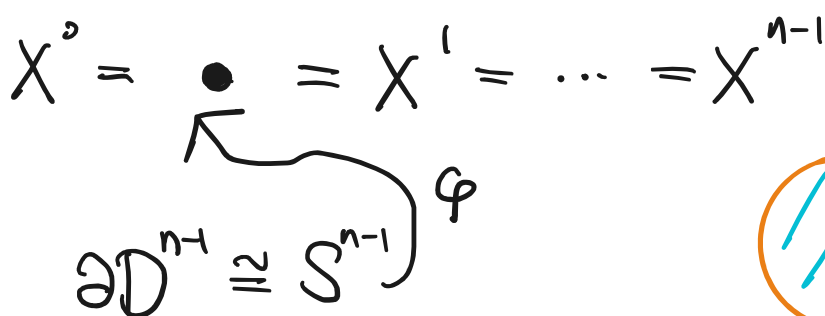
Example



A one-dimensional CW complex.

Example

The n -sphere S^n has a CW structure with 2 cells: e^0 and e^n



Example (Example 0.4, 0.5)

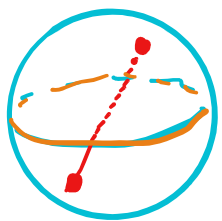
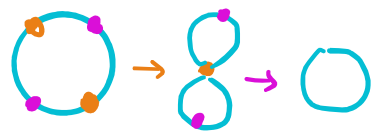
The real projective n-space $\mathbb{R}P^n$ is

$$\mathbb{R}P^n = \left\{ \text{one-dimensional real vector spaces in } \mathbb{R}^{n+1} \right\}$$

$$= \frac{\mathbb{R}^{n+1} - \{\vec{0}\}}{\vec{v} \sim \lambda \vec{v}, \lambda \neq 0, \vec{v} \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1} - \{\vec{0}\}}$$

Note

$$\mathbb{R}P^1 = \frac{S^1}{\vec{v} \sim -\vec{v}} \cong S^1$$



$$= \frac{S^n}{\vec{v} \sim -\vec{v}}$$



$$= \frac{D^n}{\vec{v} \sim -\vec{v}, \vec{v} \in \partial D^n \cong S^{n-1}}$$

Thus,

$$\mathbb{R}P^n = \mathbb{R}P^{n-1} \cup_{\mathbb{Z}_2} e^n$$

where

$$\varphi_n = \text{quotient map: } \partial D^n = S^{n-1} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}P^{n-1}$$

$\begin{matrix} = \\ S^{n-1} \\ \sim \\ \vec{v} \sim -\vec{v} \end{matrix}$

So

$$\mathbb{R}P^n = e^0 \cup_{\varphi_1} e^1 \cup_{\varphi_2} \dots \cup_{\varphi_n} e^n$$

— an n -dimensional CW complex.

In fact, one can consider

$$\mathbb{R}P^\infty = \bigcup_n \mathbb{R}P^n = e^0 \cup_{\varphi_1} e^1 \cup_{\varphi_2} \dots$$

Example (Example 0.6)

The complex projective n -space $\mathbb{C}P^n$ is

$$\mathbb{C}P^n = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{one-dimensional complex} \\ \text{vector subspaces in } \mathbb{C}^{n+1} \end{array} \right\}$$

$$\stackrel{\mathbb{R}^{2n+2}}{\cong} \mathbb{C}^{n+1}$$

$$\frac{\mathbb{C}^{n+1} \setminus \{0\}}{\sim}$$

$$\vec{v} \sim \lambda \vec{v}, \lambda \neq 0, \lambda \in \mathbb{C}, \vec{v} \in \mathbb{C}^{n+1} \setminus \{0\}$$

$$\cong \{ (z_0, \dots, z_n) \in \mathbb{C}^{n+1} \mid |z_0|^2 + \dots + |z_n|^2 = 1 \}$$




Diagram: A complex plane with a unit circle labeled $|z|=1$. A vector \vec{v} is shown pointing from the origin to the circle.

$$S^{2n+1} = \{ (z_1, \dots, z_{n+1}) \in \mathbb{C}^{n+1} \mid |z_i|^2 = 1 \}$$

$$\vec{v} \sim \lambda \vec{v}, \quad |\lambda| = 1, \quad \lambda \in \mathbb{C}$$

Notation:

$$[z_1 : z_2 : \dots : z_{n+1}] \in \mathbb{C}P^n = \mathbb{C}^{n+1} \setminus \{0\} / \sim$$

= the equivalence class represented

by $(z_1, \dots, z_{n+1}) \in \mathbb{C}^{n+1} \setminus \{0\}$

$$\sim (\lambda z_1, \dots, \lambda z_{n+1}) \quad \text{hope } \lambda > 0$$

Let $(z_1, \dots, z_{n+1}) \in S^{2n+1} \subseteq \mathbb{C}^{2n+1}$.

① If $z_{n+1} \neq 0$, then

$$(\lambda z_1, \dots, \lambda z_n, \lambda z_{n+1} = |z_{n+1}| > 0)$$

$\lambda = \frac{|z_{n+1}|}{z_{n+1}}$ is the unit vector with

a positive last component that is

equivalent to (z_1, \dots, z_{n+1}) in $\mathbb{C}P^n$.

So

$$\mathbb{C}P^n \cong \mathbb{C}P^n \setminus \{0\} / \sim$$

$$\{ [z_1 : \dots : z_{n+1}] \in \mathbb{C}P^n \mid z_{n+1} \neq 0 \}$$

$$= \{ [z_1 : \dots : z_n : z_{n+1}] \in \mathbb{C}P^n \mid z_{n+1} > 0 \}$$

$$[w_1 : \dots : w_n : \sqrt{1 - \|\vec{w}\|^2}]$$

$$[z_1 : \dots : z_n : z_{n+1}]$$

↓

$$(z_1, \dots, z_n)$$

$$|z_1|^2 + \dots + |z_n|^2 < 1$$

$$(w_1, \dots, w_n) = \vec{w}$$

$$\cong D^{2n} - \partial D^{2n} \subseteq \mathbb{C}^n$$

② If $z_{n+1} = 0$, then

$$\{ [z_1 : \dots : z_n : z_{n+1}] \in \mathbb{C}P^n \mid z_{n+1} = 0 \}$$

$$\cong \mathbb{C}P^{n-1}$$

So

$$\mathbb{C}P^n = \mathbb{C}P^{n-1} \cup e^{2n}$$

⇒

$$\mathbb{C}P^n = e^0 \cup e^2 \cup e^4 \cup \dots \cup e^{2n}$$

≠

Def

A subcomplex of a CW complex X is a closed subspace $A \subseteq X$ that is a union of cells of X .

A pair (X, A) of a CW complex X and a subcomplex is called a CW pair

exer

A CW pair is a good pair.

Cor

If a CW complex X is a union of subcomplexes A and B , then

$$(B, A \cap B) \hookrightarrow (X, A)$$

good pair
↙
~ (X, U)
for some nbd U of A

induces isomorphisms

$$H_n(B, A \cap B) \cong H_n(X, A) \quad \forall n.$$


$$H_n(X, A) \cong \tilde{H}_n(X/A)$$

pf

∩ ↗

Since CW pairs are good pairs,

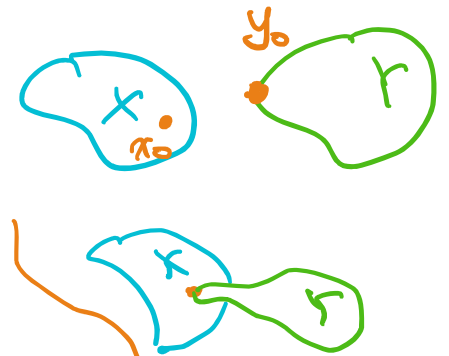
$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 H_n(B, A \cap B) & \xrightarrow{\cong} & H_n\left(\frac{B}{A \cap B}, \frac{A \cap B}{A \cap B}\right) & \xleftarrow{\cong} & \tilde{H}_n\left(\frac{B}{A \cap B}\right) \\
 \text{Cor} \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \text{is} \\
 H_n(X, A) & \xrightarrow{\cong} & H_n\left(\frac{X}{A}, \frac{A}{A}\right) & \xleftarrow{\cong} & \tilde{H}_n\left(\frac{X}{A}\right)
 \end{array}$$

$\frac{B}{A \cap B} \cong \frac{X}{A}$

 $\#$

Def

Given spaces X and Y with $x_0 \in X, y_0 \in Y$, the wedge sum $X \vee Y$ is

$$X \vee Y = \frac{X \sqcup Y}{x_0 \sim y_0}$$



If we are given $X_\alpha, x_\alpha \in X_\alpha, \alpha \in \Lambda, X \vee Y$ then we have

$$\bigvee_{\alpha \in \Lambda} X_\alpha = \frac{\bigsqcup_{\alpha \in \Lambda} X_\alpha}{x_\alpha \sim x_\beta, \alpha, \beta \in \Lambda}$$

Example

the \vee ...

Suppose X is CW complex

$$X = \begin{array}{c} \text{[Diagram of a chain of 3 cells with orange dots]} \\ = X^2 \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} X^0 = \text{[4 orange dots]} \\ X^1 = \text{[Chain of 3 circles with orange dots]} \end{array}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{X^1}{X^0} = \text{[Flower diagram with 6 petals]} \cong \overset{\text{6 times}}{S^1 \vee S^1 \vee \dots \vee S^1}$$

$$\frac{X^2}{X^1} = \text{[Diagram of 3 spheres meeting at a point]} \cong S^2 \vee S^2 \vee S^2$$

In general,

$$\frac{X^n}{X^{n-1}} = \overset{\text{k times}}{S^n \vee \dots \vee S^n}$$

k = number of n -cells in X

Prop

For a wedge sum $\bigvee_{\alpha} X_{\alpha}$, the inclusions

$$i_{\alpha}: X_{\alpha} \hookrightarrow \bigvee_{\alpha} X_{\alpha}$$

induce an isomorphism

$$\bigoplus_{\alpha} i_{\alpha}: \bigoplus_{\alpha} \tilde{H}_n(X_{\alpha}) \xrightarrow{\cong} \tilde{H}_n(\bigvee_{\alpha} X_{\alpha})$$

provided the pairs $(X_{\alpha}, \{x_{\alpha}\})$ are good.

pf

$$\bigvee_{\alpha} X_{\alpha} \cong \coprod_{\alpha} X_{\alpha} / \coprod_{\alpha} \{x_{\alpha}\}$$

$$\tilde{H}_n(\bigvee_{\alpha} X_{\alpha}) \cong \tilde{H}_n(\coprod_{\alpha} X_{\alpha} / \coprod_{\alpha} \{x_{\alpha}\})$$

good pairs assumption $\cong \tilde{H}_n(\coprod_{\alpha} X_{\alpha}, \coprod_{\alpha} \{x_{\alpha}\})$

$$\cong \bigoplus_{\alpha} \tilde{H}_n(X_{\alpha}, \{x_{\alpha}\})$$

$$\cong \bigoplus_{\alpha} \tilde{H}_n(X_{\alpha})$$

exact seq:

$$\dots \rightarrow \tilde{H}_n(\{x_{\alpha}\}) \rightarrow \tilde{H}_n(X_{\alpha}) \xrightarrow{\cong} \tilde{H}_n(X_{\alpha}, \{x_{\alpha}\}) \rightarrow \tilde{H}_{n-1}(\{x_{\alpha}\}) \rightarrow \dots$$

Next:

Assume X is a CW complex

The singular homology of X actually

can be computed by a smaller
 chain complex, called the cellular
chain complex

$$\begin{aligned}
 \dots &\rightarrow \underline{H_n(X^n, X^{n-1})} \rightarrow H_n(X^{n-1}, X^{n-2}) \rightarrow \dots \\
 &\quad \parallel \\
 &\quad \tilde{H}_n(X^n/X^{n-1}) \\
 &\quad \parallel \\
 &\quad \tilde{H}_n(S^n \vee \dots) \\
 &\quad \parallel \\
 &\quad \mathbb{Z} \oplus \dots \\
 &\quad \parallel \\
 &\quad \mathbb{Z}^{k_n}
 \end{aligned}$$

$k_n = \#$ of cells in X