

1. Basic intro to singular chain complexes, compute homology of a point.

(a) Basic understanding of simplices, give definition.

**Definition.**  $\Delta_n$ , the  $n$ -simplex, is defined as

$$\{(x_0, \dots, x_n) \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1} : \sum x_i = 1, x_i \geq 0\}.$$

**Definition.** The  $i$ th **face map** is a map

$$F_i : \Delta_n \rightarrow \Delta_{n+1},$$

given by adding in a zero in any possible position.

From these, we get a complex  $S_*(X)$ , the singular complex of  $X$ .  
It's objects are

$$S_n(X) := \mathbb{Z}[\text{Hom}(\Delta_n, X)]$$

which we call the  $n$ -chains in  $X$ .

Draw pictures

Each  $F_i$  induces a map  $F_i^* : \text{Hom}(\Delta_{n+1}, X) \rightarrow \text{Hom}(\Delta_n, X)$ .

Collecting these together gives a map

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_{n+1} : S_{n+1}(X) &\rightarrow S_n(X) \\ \partial_{n+1} &= \sum_{i=0}^{n+1} F_i^* \end{aligned}$$

Called the **boundary map**

An easy computation yields that this is a complex,  $S_*(X)$ . It's homology groups are  $H_*(X)$  are topological and homotopy invariants, the homology of  $X$ .

(b) Compute homology of a point. Let  $\sigma_n : \Delta^n \rightarrow *$  be the unique map. Let  $f_i$  be the inclusion of the  $i$ th face. Then

$$S_n(X) \cong \mathbb{Z}$$

with  $\sigma_n$  as basis. We compute

$$\partial_n(\sigma_n) = \sum_{i=0}^n (-1)^i \sigma_n \circ f_i = \sum_{i=0}^n (-1)^i \sigma_{n-1} = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } n \text{ is odd} \\ \sigma_{n-1} & \text{if } n \text{ is even} \end{cases}$$

So the singular complex is

$$\dots \longrightarrow \mathbb{Z} \xrightarrow{0} \mathbb{Z} \xrightarrow{\text{id}} \mathbb{Z} \xrightarrow{0} \mathbb{Z} \longrightarrow 0$$

With homologies

$$\dots \quad 0 \quad 0 \quad 0 \quad \mathbb{Z}$$

## 2. Basic covering space stuff

- (a) Define a covering map/space.

**Definition.** Let  $\varphi : E \rightarrow X$  be a continuous map. Then we say  $\varphi$  is a covering map if every point  $p \in X$  has an evenly covered neighborhood  $U$ .

This means that  $\varphi^{-1}(U) = \coprod_{\alpha \in A} U_\alpha$  where  $\varphi : U_\alpha \rightarrow U$  is a homeomorphism.

Draw pictures.

- (b) Define classifying space, show  $BG$  is Eilenberg-MacLane (long exact sequence in homotopy)
- (c) Define a (proper) group action on a space.

**Definition.** A group action of  $G$  on a space  $X$  is a homomorphism

$$\rho : G \rightarrow \{\text{Homeomorphisms } X \rightarrow X\}$$

**Definition.** An action  $\rho$  is called **proper** if The resulting quotient

$$X \rightarrow X/G$$

is a covering map.

3. Prove that if  $G$  acts on  $X$ , then  $G$  acts on  $S_*(X)$ , with

$$S_*(X)_G \cong S_*(X/G)$$

(Lemma 6.10.2)

*Proof.* We have an obvious map  $S_n(X) \xrightarrow{\pi_*} S_n(X/G)$  given by composition with  $X \xrightarrow{\pi} X/G$ . Suppose we have  $\sigma : \Delta_n \rightarrow X$  and  $g \in G$ . Then TFDC

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \Delta_n & \xrightarrow{\sigma} & X & \xrightarrow{g} & X \\ & \searrow & \downarrow & \swarrow & \\ & & X/G & & \end{array}$$

Thus,  $\pi_*$  descends to the quotient  $S_*(X)_G \rightarrow S_*(X/G)$ . The unique lifting property of covering maps yields that this is an isomorphism.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & & X \\ & \nearrow & \downarrow \\ \Delta_n & \longrightarrow & X/G \end{array}$$

□

**Definition.** Let  $G$  be a group. Suppose we have a contractible space  $EG$  on which  $G$  acts properly. Then the quotient space  $X/G =: BG$  is called a **Classifying space** for  $G$ . ‘

4.

**Theorem 1.** Let  $BG$  be a classifying space for  $G$ . Then the (co)homology of  $BG$  is naturally isomorphic to the (co)homology of  $G$ .

5. Examples:

- (a)  $S^1$  as a classifying space for  $\mathbb{R}$ .
- (b)  $\mathbb{R}P^\infty$  as classifying space for  $\mathbb{Z}/2$
- (c)  $B\mathbb{Z}/n$  gives finitely generated abelian groups.