

# Singular Homology

Another homology theory (the homology of another chain complex:  $(C(X), d)$ )

Input: Topological space  $X$  (no  $\Delta$ -complex str needed)

$C_n(X)$  = Free  $\mathbb{Z}$  module generated by  $\left\{ \sigma: \Delta^n \rightarrow X \right\}$   
any continuous map

← singular chain

"Singular" indicates that  $\sigma$  can be as bad as it wants

In general, there are uncountably infinitely many such generators

Differential  $d_n: C_n(X) \rightarrow C_{n-1}(X)$

$$d(\sigma) = \sum_{i=0}^n (-1)^i \sigma|_{[v_0, \dots, \hat{v}_i, \dots, v_n]}$$



Note: Restriction of  $\sigma$  to a face is an  $(n-1)$  singular chain

$d_{n-1} \circ d_n = 0$  ← Follows from same calculation in simplicial homology

$$H_n(X) = \frac{\text{Ker } d_n}{\text{im } d_{n+1}} \qquad C_{n+1}(X) \xrightarrow{d_{n+1}} C_n(X) \xrightarrow{d_n} C_{n-1}(X)$$

## $n^{\text{th}}$ Singular homology

Not generally practical to compute from the definition.

Eventually we will find that  $H_n(X) \cong H_n^{\Delta}(X)$

↑  
for proofs of abstract properties

↑  
use for calculations

Prop:

$H_0(X) \cong \mathbb{Z}^{\mathcal{I}}$  where  $\mathcal{I}$  is the index set for the # of path connected components of  $X$ .

Proof:

$$\dots \rightarrow C_1(X) \xrightarrow{d_1} C_0(X) \xrightarrow{d_0} 0$$

$$\mathbb{Z}\{\sigma: \Delta^1 \rightarrow X\} \quad \mathbb{Z}\{\sigma: \Delta^0 \rightarrow X\} \cong \mathbb{Z}\{x \in X\}$$

$$H_0(X) = \frac{\text{Ker } d_0}{\text{im } d_1}$$

$$\text{Ker}(d_0) = \mathbb{Z}\{x \in X\}$$

im  $d_1 = \mathbb{Z}\{x - y \mid x, y \in X, x, y \text{ are connected}\}$

$$\{1\}$$

$$\text{im } d_1 = \mathbb{Z} \left\{ \underbrace{\sigma|_{v_1}}_{\substack{\text{one endpoint} \\ \text{of path} \\ 0}} - \underbrace{\sigma|_{v_0}}_{\substack{\text{other} \\ \text{endpoint}}} \right\} = \mathbb{Z} \left\{ x-y \mid \begin{array}{l} x, y \text{ are connected} \\ \text{by a path in } X \end{array} \right\}$$

$$H_0(X) = \mathbb{Z} \langle x \in X \mid x=y \text{ if } (x-y=0) \text{ if } x \text{ \& } y \text{ are connected by a path} \rangle$$

$$\cong \mathbb{Z} \langle \text{path components of } X \rangle \quad \square$$

More generally  $H_n(X) \cong \bigoplus_{\alpha} H_n(X_{\alpha})$  if  $X_{\alpha}$  are path components of  $X$

$\sigma: \Delta^n \rightarrow X$

Variation on singular homology: reduced singular homology

$\tilde{H}(X)$  is homology of reduced chain complex

$$\tilde{C}_n(X) = C_n(X) \text{ when } n \neq -1$$

$$\tilde{C}_{-1}(X) = \mathbb{Z}$$

$$\tilde{d}_n = d_n \text{ when } n \neq 0$$

$\tilde{d}_0$  changes

$$C_n(X) \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow C_2(X) \rightarrow C_1(X) \xrightarrow{\tilde{d}_1} C_0(X) \xrightarrow{\tilde{d}_0} \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow 0 \dots$$

$$\tilde{d}_0 \left( \sum_i k_i \sigma_i \right) = \sum k_i$$

$\uparrow$   
 $\sigma_i: \Delta^0 \rightarrow X$

$$\tilde{d}_0 \circ \tilde{d}_1(\sigma: \Delta^1 \rightarrow X) = \tilde{d}_0(x-y) = 1-1=0$$

$\uparrow \quad \uparrow$   
endpts of  $\sigma$

If  $X \neq \emptyset$ ,

$$\tilde{H}_n(X) \cong H_n(X) \text{ for } n \neq 0$$

$$\tilde{H}_0(X) \oplus \mathbb{Z} \cong H_0(X)$$

Reduced homology of a 1 point space is 0 in every degree.

Algebra interlude

## Algebra interlude

Defn: Given 2 chain complexes  $(C, d)$   $(C', d')$

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 \dots & \xrightarrow{d_{n+2}} & C_{n+1} & \xrightarrow{d_{n+1}} & C_n & \xrightarrow{d_n} & C_{n-1} & \xrightarrow{d_{n-1}} & C_{n-2} & \xrightarrow{d_{n-2}} & \dots \\
 & & \downarrow \Phi_{n+1} & & \downarrow \Phi_n & & \downarrow \Phi_{n-1} & & \downarrow \Phi_{n-2} & & \\
 & & C'_{n+1} & \xrightarrow{d'_{n+1}} & C'_n & \xrightarrow{d'_n} & C'_{n-1} & \xrightarrow{d'_{n-1}} & C'_{n-2} & \xrightarrow{d'_{n-2}} & 
 \end{array}$$

a chain map  $\Phi: (C, d) \rightarrow (C', d')$  is a collection of module maps  $\Phi_n: C_n \rightarrow C'_n$  such that this diagram commutes:  $d'_n \circ \Phi_n = \Phi_{n-1} \circ d_n$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

Prop: A chain map  $\Phi$  induces a well-defined map  $\Phi_*$  on homology

$$H_n = \text{Ker } d_n / \text{im } d_{n+1} \quad H'_n = \text{Ker } d'_n / \text{im } d'_{n+1}$$

$\Phi_*: H_n \rightarrow H'_n$  is defined by

$$\Phi_*([c]) = [\Phi(c)] \quad c \in \text{Ker } d_n \subset C_n$$

$[ ] \leftarrow$  equiv class where elts that differ by  $\text{im } d_{n+1}$  are equivalent.  
 $[ ]' \leftarrow$  " " "  $\text{im } d'_{n+1}$  are equiv

Well-defined requires:

① Need  $\Phi_n(c) \in \text{Ker } d'_n$

By assumption  $d_n(c) = 0$

$$d'_n(\Phi_n(c)) = \Phi_{n-1} \circ d_n(c) = \Phi_{n-1}(0) = 0 \quad \checkmark$$

$$\textcircled{2} \Phi_*[c + d_{n+1}(b)] = [\Phi_n(c) + \Phi_n(d_{n+1}(b))] = [\Phi_n(c) + d'_n(\Phi_{n+1}(b))]$$

different representative of  $[c] \in H_n$

image under  $\Phi_*$  is same as image of  $[c]$

$\parallel$  is 0 under 'equiv rel  $[\Phi_n(c)]'$

image under  $\Phi_*$  is same  
as image of  $[c]$

Moral: chain maps induce maps on homology.