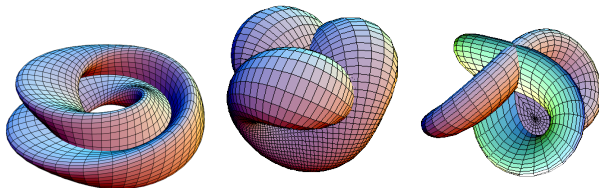


Introduction to Homology and Holes

Yann-Situ Gazull

November 2023





-
1. Topology joke, by Henry Segerman.
 2. Wikipedia.

Topology

- spaces
- simplicial complexes
- shapes
- ...



Algebra

- groups
- rings
- fields
- ...

Subfields

Homotopy, homology, cohomology, knot theory...

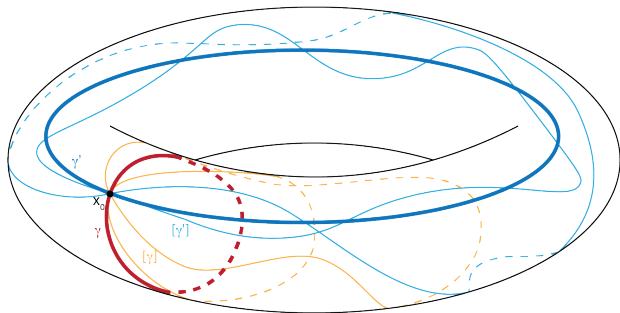


Figure – Illustration of homotopy on a torus.

homeomorphic \implies homotopic \implies homologous

Decidability in Algebraic Topology

- Are two groups isomorphic given their representations? **Undecidable**¹.
- Are two triangulations homeomorphic? **Undecidable**.
- Are two triangulations homotopic? **Undecidable**.
- Are two triangulations homologous? **Decidable**!

1. P. S. Novikov, "Unsolvability of the conjugacy problem in the theory of groups"(1954)

Why computing topology?

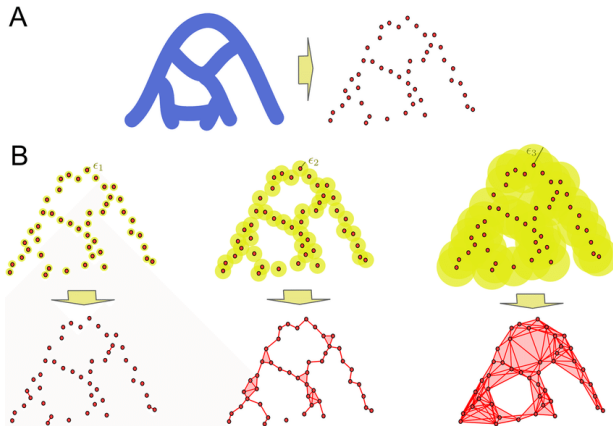


Figure – Topological data analysis.

1. Camara, Pablo & Levine, Arnold & Rabadan, Raul. (2015). Inference of Ancestral Recombination Graphs through Topological Data Analysis.

Why computing topology ?

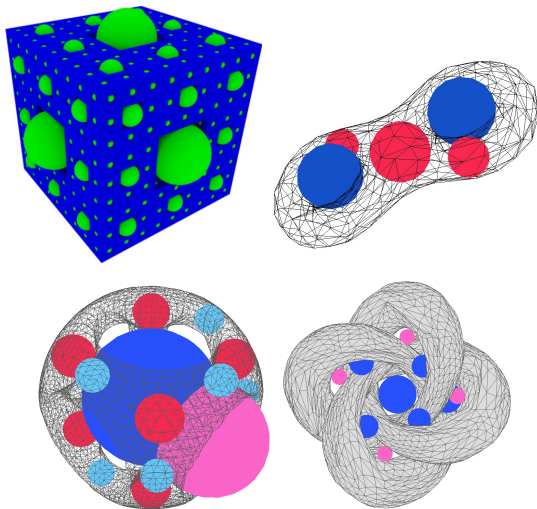
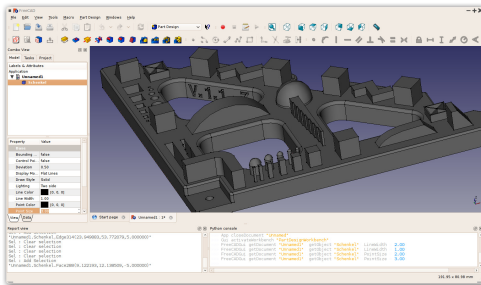


Figure – Holes measure, mainly useful for shape analysis or classification.

Why computing topology?



Topology optimization flow source:3DPrint.com

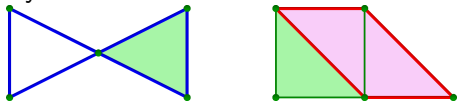
Figure – Computer aided design and topological optimization.

1. wiki.freecad.org
2. 3DPrint.com

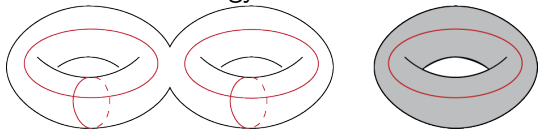
1 Simplicial and Chain Complexes



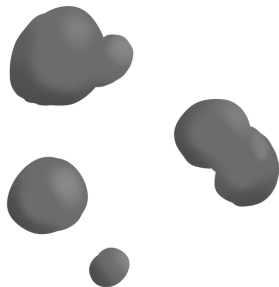
2 Cycles and Boundaries



3 Holes and Homology



- 0-holes : connected components



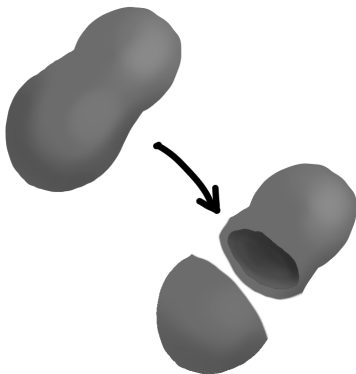
Holes and Dimension

- 0-holes : connected components
- 1-holes : tunnels or handles



Holes and Dimension

- 0-holes : connected components
- 1-holes : tunnels or handles
- 2-holes : cavities



Simplices



Simplices



Boundary of simplices

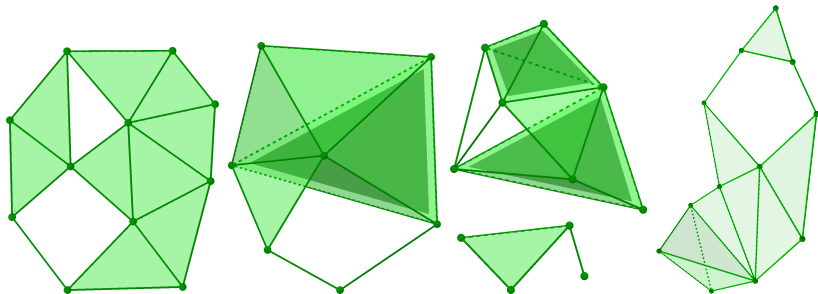


Simplicial complex - Definition

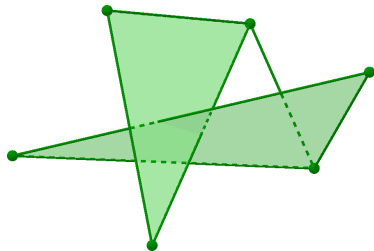
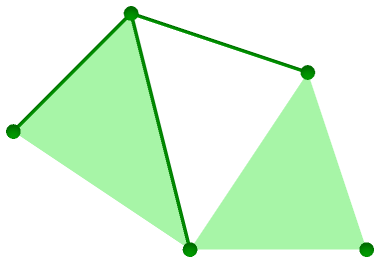
A simplicial complex K is a set of simplices satisfying the two following properties :

- the boundary of every simplex in K is also included in K .
- the intersection of two simplices of K is either empty, either exactly one common subspace.

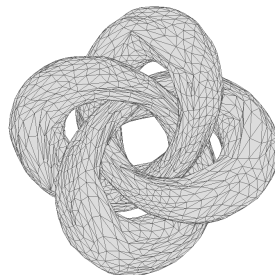
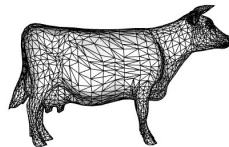
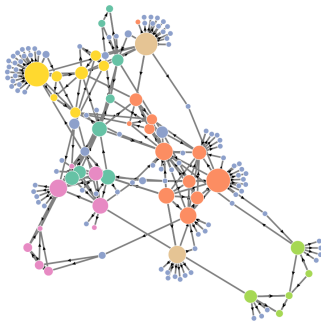
Examples of simplicial complexes



Counter examples of simplicial complexes



Examples of practical simplicial complexes



a. Game of Thrones Relationship Graph, by Kumar, Martinez, Wong, Zhao.

$$K : C_n \xrightarrow{\partial_n} \dots \xrightarrow{\partial_{q+1}} C_q \xrightarrow{\partial_q} C_{q-1} \xrightarrow{\partial_{q-1}} \dots \xrightarrow{\partial_1} C_0 \xrightarrow{\partial_0} 0$$

$$K : C_n \xrightarrow{\partial_n} \dots \xrightarrow{\partial_{q+1}} C_q \xrightarrow{\partial_q} C_{q-1} \xrightarrow{\partial_{q-1}} \dots \xrightarrow{\partial_1} C_0 \xrightarrow{\partial_0} 0$$

C_q : q -chains

C_q is a vector space called the q -chains.

∂_q : boundary operator

∂_q is a linear map from C_q to C_{q-1} that satisfies $\partial_{q+1} \circ \partial_q = 0$.
It is called the q -boundary operator.

Chain complex of a simplicial complex

$$K : C_n \xrightarrow{\partial_n} \dots \xrightarrow{\partial_{q+1}} C_q \xrightarrow{\partial_q} C_{q-1} \xrightarrow{\partial_{q-1}} \dots \xrightarrow{\partial_1} C_0 \xrightarrow{\partial_0} 0$$

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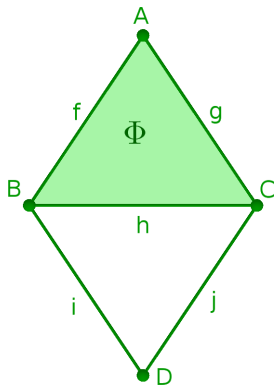
C_q is the $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$ vector space generated by the q -simplices.

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∂_q is the map generated by the boundary of the q -simplices.

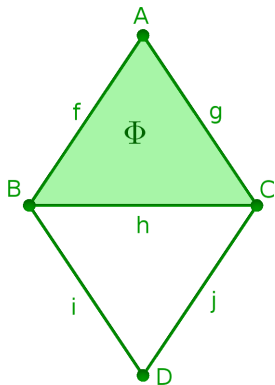
Concrete example



$K : \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$ -chain complex

- $C_0 = \text{span}(A, B, C, D)$
- $C_1 = \text{span}(f, g, h, i, j)$
- $C_2 = \text{span}(\Phi)$

Concrete example



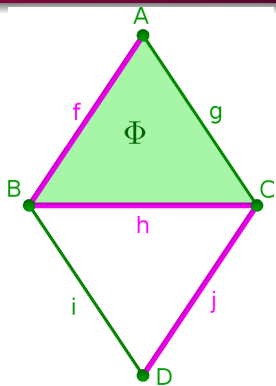
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Concrete example



$$x = f + h + j \in C_1$$

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_1(x) &= \partial_1(f + h + j) \\ &= (A + B) + (B + C) \\ &\quad + (C + D) \end{aligned}$$

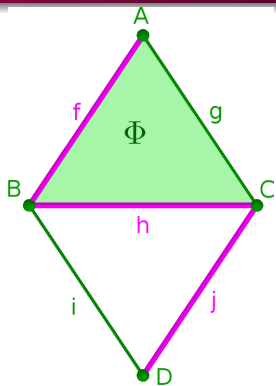
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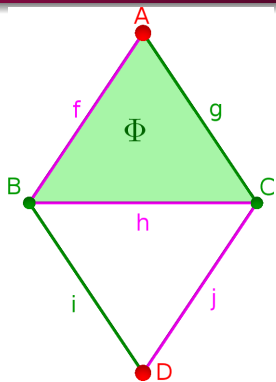
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$$\partial_1(x) = A + D$$

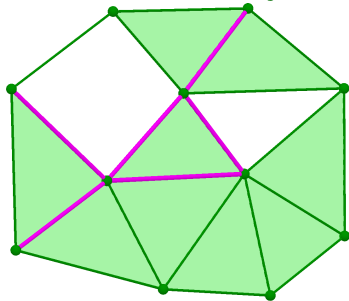
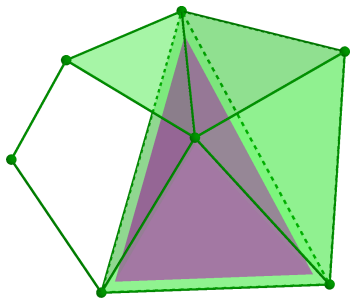
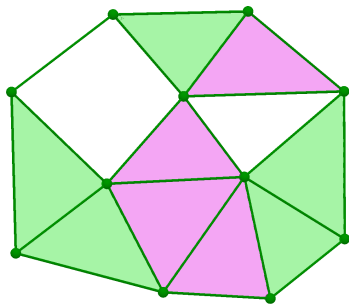
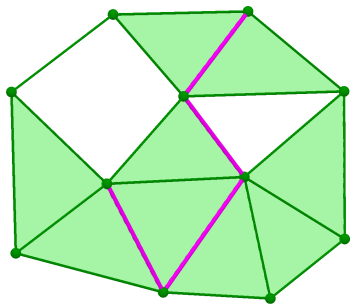
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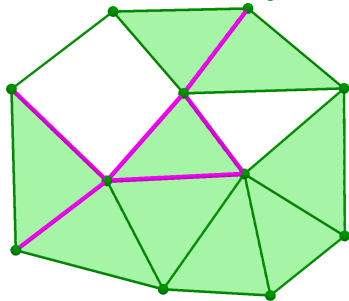
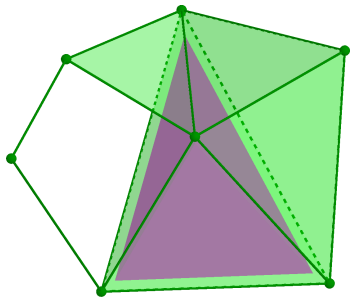
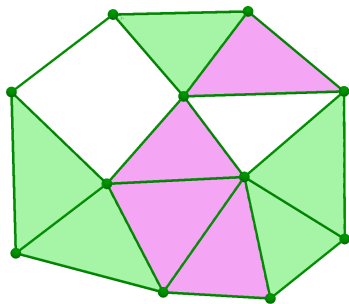
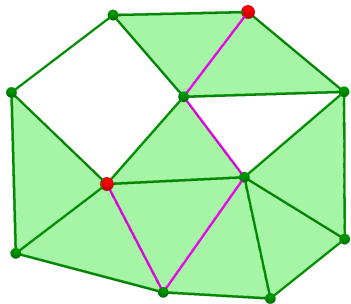
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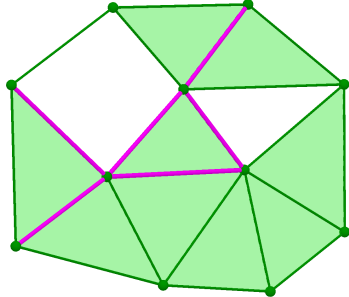
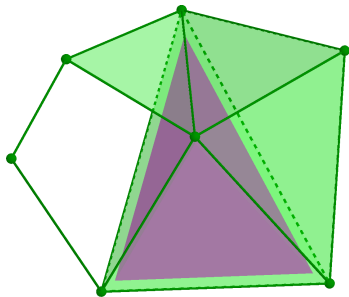
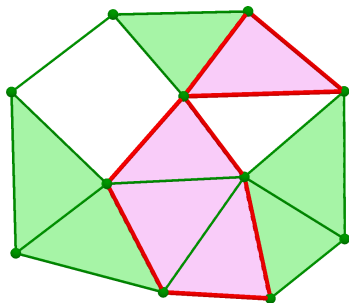
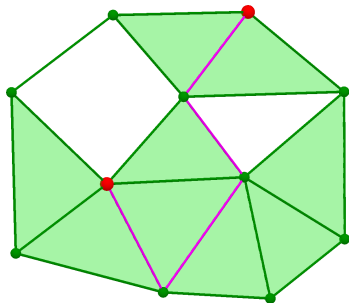
Boundary operator examples



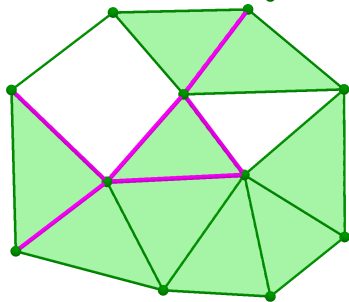
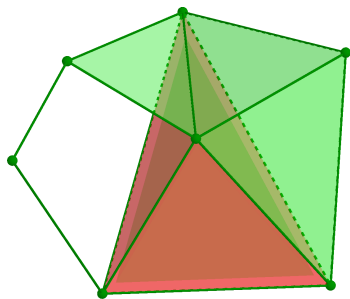
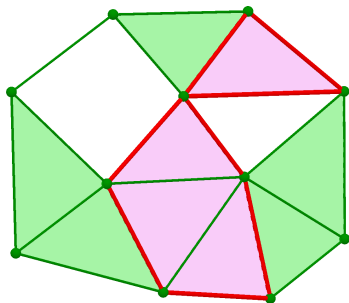
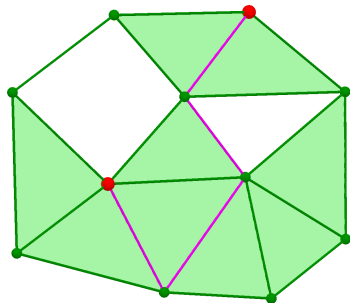
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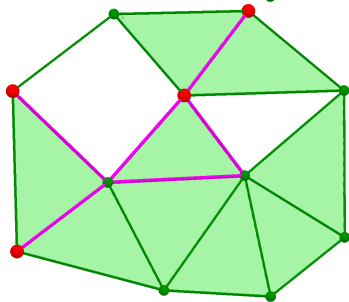
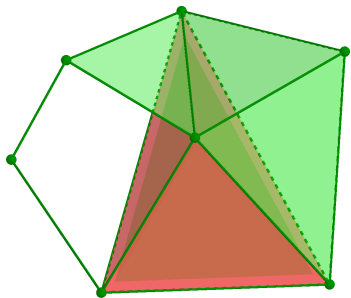
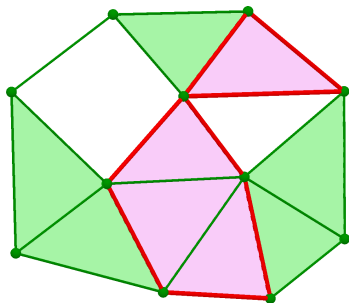
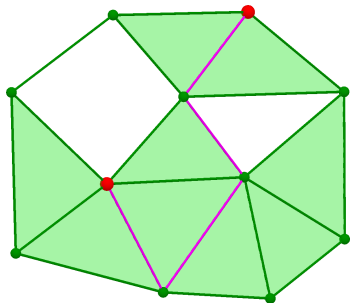
Boundary operator examples



Boundary operator examples



Boundary operator examples



Boundary - Definition

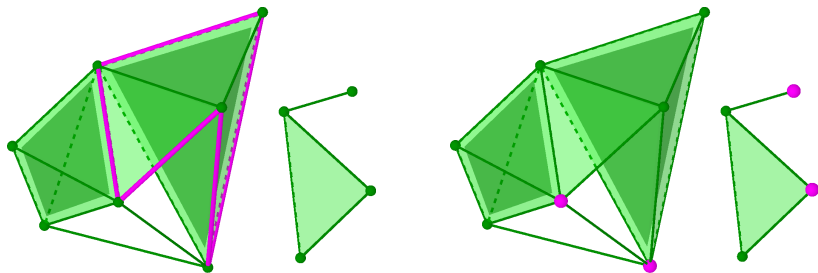
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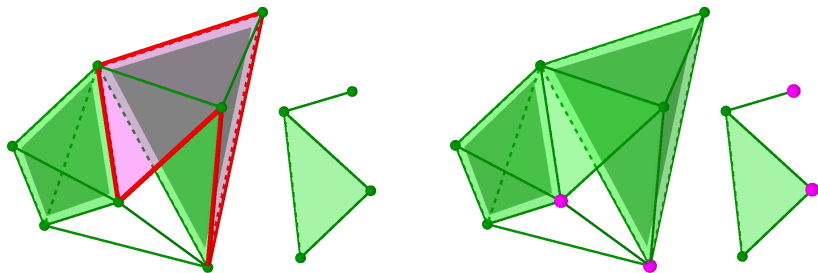
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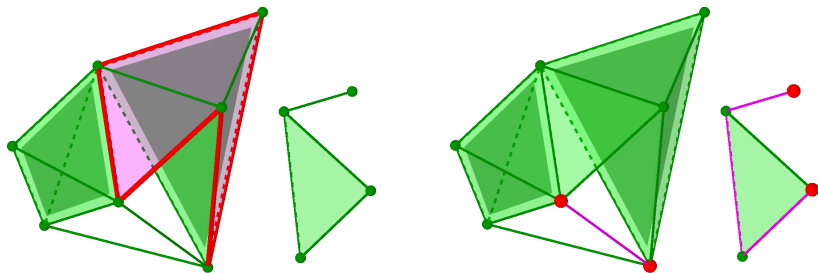
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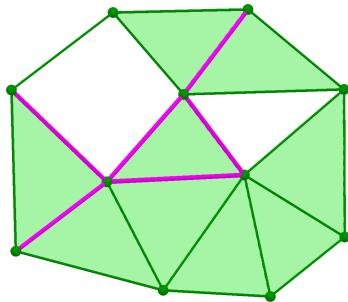
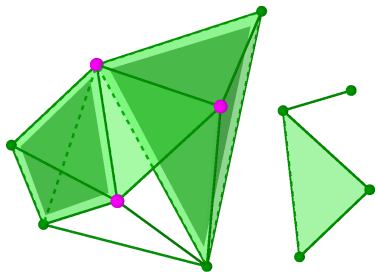
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Non boundaries



Cycle - Definition

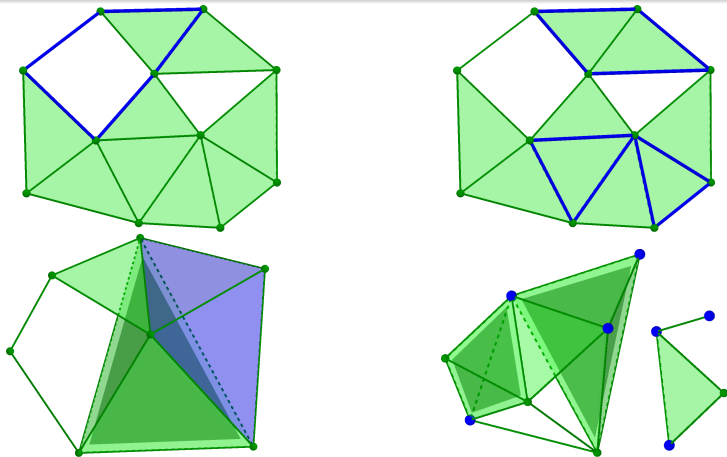
A q -cycle is a q -chain whose boundary is null.

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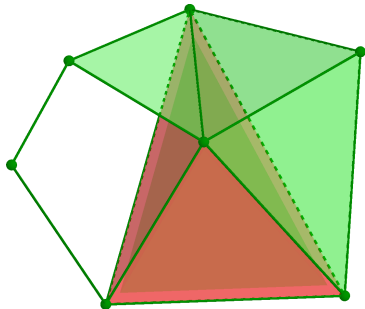
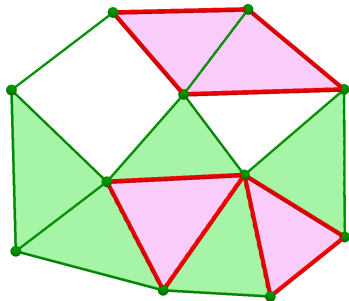
Proposition

A **boundary** is a **cycle**.

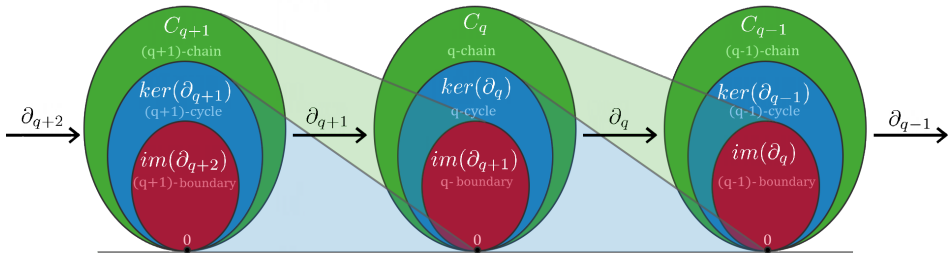
Proposition

A **boundary** is a **cycle**.

$\partial_{q+1} \circ \partial_q = 0$, "a boundary has no boundary", $\text{im}(\partial_{q+1}) \subseteq \text{ker}(\partial_q)$.



Cycles and Boundaries : Summary



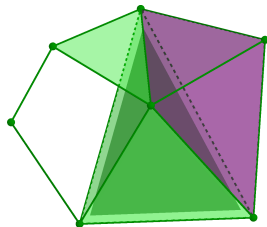
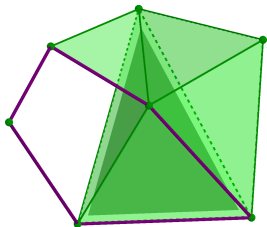
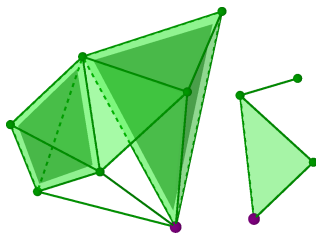
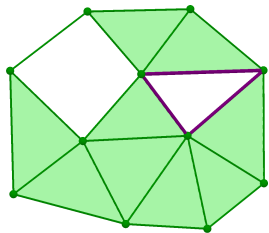
Hole - Intuitive definition

A q -hole is a q -cycle that is not a q -boundary.

Holes and Homology

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Hole - Equivalence

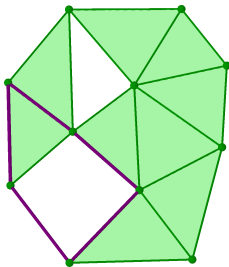
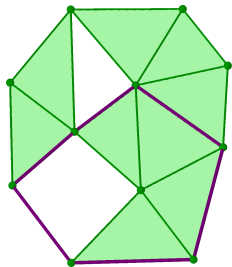
Two q -holes are equivalent iff their difference is a q -boundary.

$$x \stackrel{q}{\sim} y \iff x - y \in \text{im}(\partial_{q+1})$$

Hole - Equivalence

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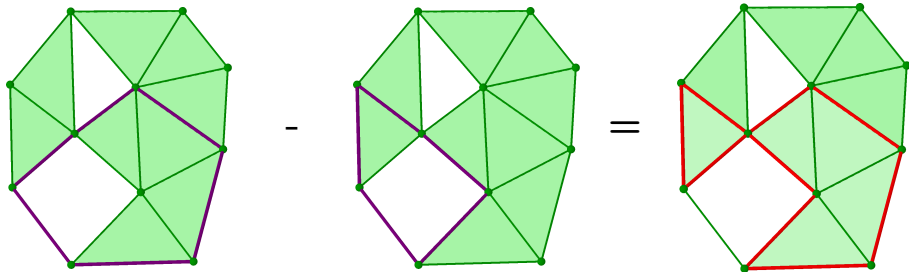
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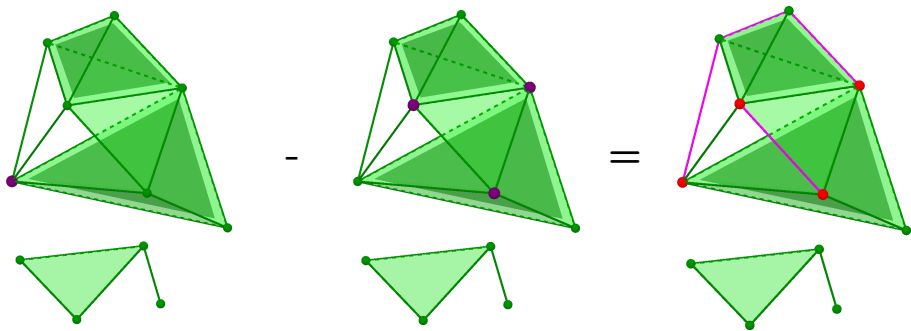
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Homology group - Definition

The equivalence classes of \sim^q form a group structure, called the **q -homology group** :

$$H_q(K) = \frac{\ker(\partial_q)}{\sim^q}$$

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Betti numbers - Proposition

There exist a number β_q such that $H_q(K) \approx (\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})^{\beta_q}$.

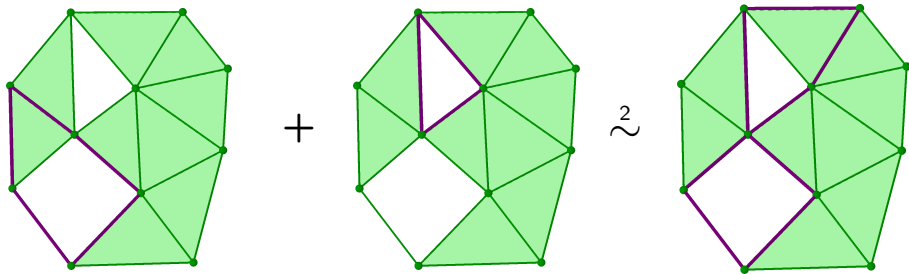
β_q is called the **Betti number** of dimension q and intuitively represent the number of holes of dimension q .

Clarification

$H_q(K) \approx (\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})^{\beta_q}$: there are β_q holes and 2^{β_q} equivalence classes in $H_q(K)$. Each equivalence class represents a subset of holes.

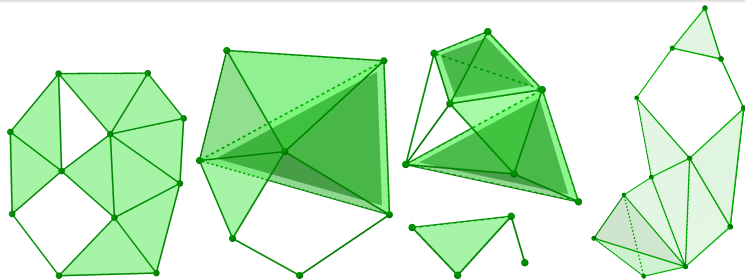
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$$H_1(K) \approx (\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})^2$$

Starting from a combinatorial/geometric structure (**simplicial complex**), we built an algebraic structure (**chain complex**) that allowed us to intuitively define **holes** and formally grasp **homology groups**.



Three approaches for computational homology :

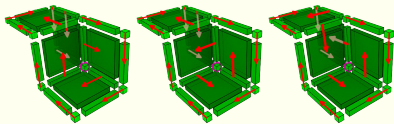
Effective approach

Computation of reductions

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} \cdots & \longrightarrow & C_{q+1} & \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\partial_{q+1}} \\ \xleftarrow{h_q} \end{array} & C_q & \longrightarrow & \cdots \\ & & \uparrow \varepsilon_{q+1} & & \uparrow \varepsilon_q & & \\ & & \downarrow f_{q+1} & & \downarrow f_q & & \\ \cdots & \longrightarrow & C'_{q+1} & \xrightarrow{0} & C'_q & \longrightarrow & \cdots \end{array}$$

Combinatorial approach

Discrete Morse Theory



Algebraic approach

Smith Normal Form

$$\partial = P \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_1 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & \ddots & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \alpha_r & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & & & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \cdots & & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} Q$$

where $\alpha_i \mid \alpha_{i+1}$.

Chain complex with a ring

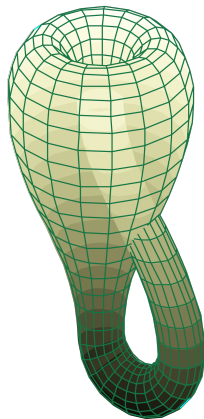
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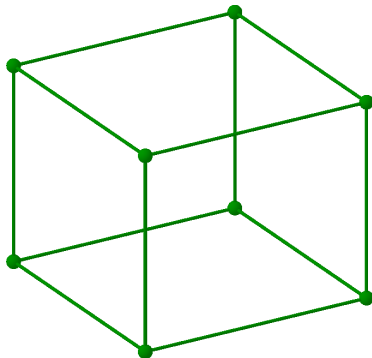
Holes and torsion

$$H_q(K) \approx \underbrace{\mathbb{Z}^{\beta_q}}_{\text{holes}} \times \underbrace{\frac{\mathbb{Z}}{\alpha_1\mathbb{Z}} \times \frac{\mathbb{Z}}{\alpha_2\mathbb{Z}} \times \cdots \times \frac{\mathbb{Z}}{\alpha_m\mathbb{Z}}}_{\text{torsion}}$$



$$H_1(K) \approx \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$$

The location of a hole : where intuition struggles



The location of a hole : where intuition struggles

