Lectures on Path Chain Complexes on Digraphs

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All papers are available on my web page:

https://www.math.uni-bielefeld.de/~grigor/pubs.htm

1 A path chain complex

1.1 Paths in a finite set

Let V be a finite set. For any $p \ge 0$, an *elementary* p-path is any sequence $i_0, ..., i_p$ of p + 1 vertices of V. Fix a field K and denote by $\Lambda_p = \Lambda_p(V, K)$ the K-linear space that consists of all formal K-linear combinations of elementary p-paths in V. Any element of Λ_p is called a p-path.

An elementary *p*-path $i_0, ..., i_p$ as an element of Λ_p will be denoted by $e_{i_0...i_p}$. For example, we have

$$\Lambda_0 = \langle e_i : i \in V \rangle, \quad \Lambda_1 = \langle e_{ij} : i, j \in V \rangle, \qquad \Lambda_2 = \langle e_{ijk} : i, j, k \in V \rangle$$

Any *p*-path *u* can be written in a form $u = \sum_{i_0, i_1, \dots, i_p \in V} u^{i_0 i_1 \dots i_p} e_{i_0 i_1 \dots i_p}$, where $u^{i_0 i_1 \dots i_p} \in \mathbb{K}$.

Definition. Define for any $p \ge 1$ a linear boundary operator $\partial : \Lambda_p \to \Lambda_{p-1}$ by

$$\partial e_{i_0\dots i_p} = \sum_{q=0}^p \left(-1\right)^q e_{i_0\dots \widehat{i_q}\dots i_p},$$

where $\widehat{}$ means omission of the index. For p = 0 set $\partial e_i = 0$.

For example, $\partial e_{ij} = e_j - e_i$ and $\partial e_{ijk} = e_{jk} - e_{ik} + e_{ij}$.

Lemma 1.1 $\partial^2 = 0.$

Proof. Indeed, for any $p \ge 2$ we have

$$\partial^{2} e_{i_{0}...i_{p}} = \sum_{q=0}^{p} (-1)^{q} \partial e_{i_{0}...\widehat{i_{q}}...i_{p}}$$

$$= \sum_{q=0}^{p} (-1)^{q} \left(\sum_{r=0}^{q-1} (-1)^{r} e_{i_{0}...\widehat{i_{r}}...\widehat{i_{q}}...i_{p}} + \sum_{r=q+1}^{p} (-1)^{r-1} e_{i_{0}...\widehat{i_{q}}...\widehat{i_{r}}...i_{p}} \right)$$

$$= \sum_{0 \le r < q \le p} (-1)^{q+r} e_{i_{0}...\widehat{i_{r}}...\widehat{i_{q}}...i_{p}} - \sum_{0 \le q < r \le p} (-1)^{q+r} e_{i_{0}...\widehat{i_{q}}...i_{p}}.$$

$$(1.1)$$

After switching q and r in the last sum we see that the two sums cancel out, whence $\partial^2 e_{i_0...i_p} = 0$. This implies $\partial^2 u = 0$ for all $u \in \Lambda_p$.

Hence, we obtain a chain complex $\Lambda_*(V)$:

$$0 \leftarrow \Lambda_0 \stackrel{\partial}{\leftarrow} \Lambda_1 \stackrel{\partial}{\leftarrow} \dots \stackrel{\partial}{\leftarrow} \Lambda_{p-1} \stackrel{\partial}{\leftarrow} \Lambda_p \stackrel{\partial}{\leftarrow} \dots$$

Definition. An elementary *p*-path $e_{i_0...i_p}$ is called *regular* if $i_k \neq i_{k+1}$ for all k = 0, ..., p-1, and irregular otherwise.

Let I_p be the subspace of Λ_p spanned by irregular $e_{i_0...i_p}$. We claim that $\partial I_p \subset I_{p-1}$. Indeed, if $e_{i_0...i_p}$ is irregular then $i_k = i_{k+1}$ for some k. We have

$$\partial e_{i_0...i_p} = e_{i_1...i_p} - e_{i_0i_2...i_p} + ... + (-1)^k e_{i_0...i_{k-1}i_{k+1}i_{k+2}...i_p} + (-1)^{k+1} e_{i_0...i_{k-1}i_ki_{k+2}...i_p} (1.2) + ... + (-1)^p e_{i_0...i_{p-1}}.$$

By $i_k = i_{k+1}$ the two terms in the middle line of (1.2) cancel out, whereas all other terms are non-regular, whence $\partial e_{i_0...i_p} \in I_{p-1}$.

Hence, ∂ is well-defined on the quotient spaces $\mathcal{R}_p := \Lambda_p / I_p$, and we obtain the chain complex $\mathcal{R}_*(V)$:

$$0 \leftarrow \mathcal{R}_0 \stackrel{\partial}{\leftarrow} \mathcal{R}_1 \stackrel{\partial}{\leftarrow} \dots \stackrel{\partial}{\leftarrow} \mathcal{R}_{p-1} \stackrel{\partial}{\leftarrow} \mathcal{R}_p \stackrel{\partial}{\leftarrow} \dots$$

By setting all irregular *p*-paths to be equal to 0, we identify \mathcal{R}_p with the subspace of Λ_p spanned by all regular paths. For example, if $i \neq j$ then $e_{iji} \in \mathcal{R}_2$ and

$$\partial e_{iji} = e_{ji} - e_{ii} + e_{ij} = e_{ji} + e_{ij}$$

because $e_{ii} = 0$. In what follows we always consider ∂ acting on \mathcal{R}_p .

1.2 Path chain complex and path homology of a digraph

Definition. A digraph (directed graph) is a pair G = (V, E) of a set V of vertices and a set $E \subset \{V \times V \setminus \text{diag}\}$ of arrows (directed edges). If $(i, j) \in E$ then we write $i \to j$.

Definition. Let G = (V, E) be a digraph. An elementary *p*-path $i_0...i_p$ on *V* is called allowed if $i_k \rightarrow i_{k+1}$ for any k = 0, ..., p - 1, and non-allowed otherwise.

Let $\mathcal{A}_{p} = \mathcal{A}_{p}(G)$ be K-linear space spanned by allowed elementary *p*-paths:

 $\mathcal{A}_p = \langle e_{i_0 \dots i_p} : i_0 \dots i_p \text{ is allowed} \rangle.$

The elements of \mathcal{A}_p are called *allowed* p-paths. Since any allowed path is regular, we have $\mathcal{A}_p \subset \mathcal{R}_p$.

We would like to build a chain complex based on subspaces \mathcal{A}_p of \mathcal{R}_p . However, the spaces \mathcal{A}_p are in general *not* invariant for ∂ . For example, in the digraph

$$\stackrel{a}{\bullet} \longrightarrow \stackrel{b}{\bullet} \longrightarrow \stackrel{c}{\bullet}$$

we have $e_{abc} \in \mathcal{A}_2$ but $\partial e_{abc} = e_{bc} - e_{ac} + e_{ab} \notin \mathcal{A}_1$ because e_{ac} is not allowed.

Consider the following subspace of \mathcal{A}_p

$$\Omega_p \equiv \Omega_p(G) := \{ u \in \mathcal{A}_p : \partial u \in \mathcal{A}_{p-1} \} \, .$$

Claim: $\partial \Omega_p \subset \Omega_{p-1}$. Indeed, $u \in \Omega_p$ implies $\partial u \in \mathcal{A}_{p-1}$ and $\partial (\partial u) = 0 \in \mathcal{A}_{p-2}$, whence $\partial u \in \Omega_{p-1}$.

The elements of Ω_p are called ∂ -invariant p-paths. Hence, we obtain a path chain complex $\Omega_* = \Omega_*(G)$:

$$0 \leftarrow \Omega_0 \stackrel{\partial}{\leftarrow} \Omega_1 \stackrel{\partial}{\leftarrow} \dots \stackrel{\partial}{\leftarrow} \Omega_{p-1} \stackrel{\partial}{\leftarrow} \Omega_p \stackrel{\partial}{\leftarrow} \Omega_{p+1} \stackrel{\partial}{\leftarrow} \dots$$

By construction we have $\Omega_0 = \mathcal{A}_0$ and $\Omega_1 = \mathcal{A}_1$, while in general $\Omega_p \subset \mathcal{A}_p$.

Path homologies of G are defined as the homology groups of the path chain complex $\Omega_*(G)$:

$$H_p(G) = \ker \partial|_{\Omega_p} / \operatorname{Im} \partial|_{\Omega_{p+1}}.$$

The elements of ker $\partial|_{\Omega_p}$ are called *closed paths* (or cycles), the elements of Im $\partial|_{\Omega_{p+1}}$ are called *boundaries*. Hence, $H_p(G)$ is a linear space that consists of closed paths modulo boundaries.

The Betti numbers of G are defined by $\beta_p(G) = \dim H_p(G)$.

It is easy to prove that $\beta_0(G) = \#$ of (undirected) connected components of G.

1.3 Examples of ∂ -invariant paths

A triangle is a sequence of three vertices a, b, csuch that $a \to b \to c, \ a \to c$. It determines 2-path $e_{abc} \in \Omega_2$ because $e_{abc} \in \mathcal{A}_2$

and $\partial e_{abc} = e_{bc} - e_{ac} + e_{ab} \in \mathcal{A}_1.$

A square is a sequence of four vertices
$$a, b, b', c$$

such that $a \to b, b \to c, a \to b', b' \to c$.
It determines a 2-path $u = e_{abc} - e_{ab'c} \in \Omega_2$ because $u \in \mathcal{A}_2$
and $\partial u = (e_{bc} - \underline{e_{ac}} + e_{ab}) - (e_{b'c} - \underline{e_{ac}} + e_{ab'})$
 $= e_{ab} + e_{bc} - e_{ab'} - e_{b'c} \in \mathcal{A}_1$



A *p*-simplex (or *p*-clique) is a sequence of p + 1 vertices, say, 0, 1, ..., p, such that $i \to j$ for all i < j. A *p*-simplex determines a *p*-path $e_{01...p} \in \Omega_p$. For example, on a 3-simplex $e_{0123} \in \Omega_3$.



A 3-simplex

A 3-*cube* is a sequence of 8 vertices 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, connected by arrows as here.

A 3-cube determines a ∂ -invariant 3-path $u = e_{0237} - e_{0137} + e_{0157} - e_{0457} + e_{0467} - e_{0267} \in \Omega_3$ because $u \in \mathcal{A}_3$ and

$$\partial u = (e_{013} - e_{023}) + (e_{157} - e_{137}) + (e_{237} - e_{267}) - (e_{046} - e_{026}) - (e_{457} - e_{467}) - (e_{015} - e_{045}) \in \mathcal{A}_2$$

A *broken cube* consists of 9 vertices connected by arrows as here.

It determines a ∂ -invariant 3-path

 $v = e_{0237} - e_{0137} + e_{0157} - e_{0457} + e_{0867} - e_{0267} \in \Omega_3$





1.4 Examples of spaces Ω_p and H_p

For a vector space A over \mathbb{K} we write $|A| = \dim_{\mathbb{K}} A$.

Consider a triangle as a digraph:

$$\Omega_1 = \langle e_{01}, e_{02}, e_{12} \rangle, \quad \Omega_2 = \langle e_{012} \rangle, \quad \Omega_p = \{0\} \text{ for } p \ge 3.$$

We have $\ker \partial|_{\Omega_1} = \langle e_{01} - e_{02} + e_{12} \rangle$ because
 $\partial (\alpha e_{01} + \beta e_{02} + \gamma e_{12}) = 0 \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad \alpha = \gamma = -\beta.$
However, $e_{01} - e_{02} + e_{12} = \partial e_{012}$ so that $H_1 = \{0\}.$
Since $\partial e_{012} \neq 0$, we have $H_p = \{0\}$ for all $p \ge 2.$

Consider a hexagon with two diagonals: We have $|\Omega_0| = 6$, $|\Omega_1| = 8$, $|\Omega_2| = 2$, where Ω_2 is spanned by 2 squares:

$$\begin{split} \Omega_2 &= \langle e_{013} - e_{023}, \ e_{014} - e_{024} \rangle, \\ \text{and } \Omega_p &= \{0\} \text{ for all } p \geq 3. \\ \text{For this digraph } H_1 &= \langle e_{13} - e_{53} + e_{54} - e_{14} \rangle, \\ \text{so that } |H_1| &= 1, \text{ and } H_p = \{0\} \text{ for all } p \geq 2. \end{split}$$



Consider an octahedron, where $|\Omega_0| = 6$, $|\Omega_1| = 12$. The space Ω_2 is spanned by 8 triangles: $\Omega_2 = \langle e_{024}, e_{034}, e_{025}, e_{035}, e_{124}, e_{134}, e_{125}, e_{135} \rangle$, so that $|\Omega_2| = 8$, whereas $\Omega_p = \{0\}$ for all $p \ge 3$. We have $H_2 = \langle e_{024} - e_{034} - e_{025} + e_{035} - e_{124} + e_{134} + e_{125} - e_{135} \rangle$ so that $|H_2| = 1$, and $|H_p| = 0$ for p = 1 and $p \ge 3$





Consider an octahedron with a different orientation:

$$\Omega_{2} = \langle e_{024}, e_{025}, e_{014}, e_{015}, e_{234}, e_{235}, e_{134}, e_{135}, e_{013} - e_{023} \rangle$$

$$\Omega_{3} = \langle e_{0234} - e_{0134}, e_{0235} - e_{0135} \rangle$$

$$|\Omega_{2}| = 9, \quad |\Omega_{3}| = 2 \text{ and } \Omega_{p} = \{0\} \text{ for all } p \ge 4.$$

We have $\ker \partial|_{\Omega_{2}} = \langle u, v \rangle$ where

$$u = e_{024} + e_{234} - e_{014} - e_{134} + (e_{013} - e_{023})$$

$$v = e_{025} + e_{235} - e_{015} - e_{135} + (e_{013} - e_{023})$$

but $H_2 = \{0\}$ because $u = \partial (e_{0234} - e_{0134})$ and $v = \partial (e_{0235} - e_{0135})$ Consider a 3-cube:

Here $|\Omega_0| = 8$, $|\Omega_1| = 12$. Space Ω_2 is spanned by 6 squares:

$$\Omega_2 = \langle e_{013} - e_{023}, \ e_{015} - e_{045}, \ e_{026} - e_{046}, \\ e_{137} - e_{157}, \ e_{237} - e_{267}, \ e_{457} - e_{467} \rangle$$

hence, $|\Omega_2| = 6$.

Space Ω_3 is spanned by one 3-cube:

$$\Omega_3 = \langle e_{0237} - e_{0137} + e_{0157} - e_{0457} + e_{0467} - e_{0267} \rangle$$

hence, $|\Omega_3| = 1$.

 $|\Omega_p| = 0$ for all $p \ge 4$ and $|H_p| = 0$ for all $p \ge 1$.



1.5 An example of computation of Ω_p and H_p

Consider the following digraph with 4 vertices and 5 arrows (a square with a diagonal):

 $\begin{aligned} \Omega_0 &= \mathcal{A}_0 = \langle e_0, e_1, e_2, e_3 \rangle, \quad |\Omega_0| = 4, \\ \Omega_1 &= \mathcal{A}_1 = \langle e_{01}, e_{02}, e_{13}, e_{23}, e_{30} \rangle, \quad |\Omega_1| = 5, \\ \mathcal{A}_2 &= \langle e_{013}, e_{023}, e_{130}, e_{230}, e_{301}, e_{302} \rangle \quad |\mathcal{A}_2| = 6. \end{aligned}$

In order to determine $\Omega_2 = \{v \in \mathcal{A}_2 : \partial v \in \mathcal{A}_1\},\$ we first compute $\partial|_{\mathcal{A}_2} \mod \mathcal{A}_1$:



$$\partial e_{013} = e_{13} - e_{03} + e_{01} = -e_{03} \mod \mathcal{A}_{1}$$
$$\partial e_{023} = e_{23} - e_{03} + e_{02} = -e_{03} \mod \mathcal{A}_{1}$$
$$\partial e_{130} = e_{30} - e_{10} + e_{13} = -e_{10} \mod \mathcal{A}_{1}$$
$$\partial e_{230} = e_{30} - e_{20} + e_{23} = -e_{20} \mod \mathcal{A}_{1}$$
$$\partial e_{301} = e_{01} - e_{31} + e_{30} = -e_{31} \mod \mathcal{A}_{1}$$
$$\partial e_{302} = e_{02} - e_{32} + e_{30} = -e_{32} \mod \mathcal{A}_{1}$$

Hence,

$$\operatorname{matrix} \text{ of } \partial|_{\mathcal{A}_2} \operatorname{mod} \mathcal{A}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} e_{013} & e_{023} & e_{130} & e_{230} & e_{301} & e_{302} \\ e_{03} & -1 & -1 & & & 0 \\ e_{10} & & -1 & & & & 0 \\ e_{10} & & & -1 & & & & \\ e_{20} & & & & -1 & & & \\ e_{31} & & & & & -1 & & \\ e_{32} & 0 & & & & & -1 \end{pmatrix} := D$$

$$\Omega_2 = \ker \partial|_{\mathcal{A}_2} \operatorname{mod} \mathcal{A}_1 = \operatorname{nullspace} D = \langle e_{013} - e_{023} \rangle.$$

One can show that $|\Omega_p| = 0$ for all $p \ge 3$ and, hence, $|H_p| = 0$ for all $p \ge 3$. Let us compute H_1 and H_2 . We have for the basis in Ω_1 :

$$\partial e_{01} = -e_0 + e_1$$
$$\partial e_{02} = -e_0 + e_2$$
$$\partial e_{13} = -e_1 + e_3$$
$$\partial e_{23} = -e_2 + e_3$$
$$\partial e_{30} = e_0 - e_3$$

Hence,

matrix of
$$\partial|_{\Omega_1} = \begin{pmatrix} e_{01} & e_{02} & e_{13} & e_{23} & e_{30} \\ e_0 & -1 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ e_1 & 1 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ e_2 & 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ e_3 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix} =: D$$

and

$$\ker \partial|_{\Omega_1} = \text{nullspace } D = \langle e_{01} + e_{13} - e_{02} - e_{23}, \ e_{01} + e_{13} + e_{30} \rangle.$$

Similarly, for the basis in Ω_2 we have

$$\partial (e_{013} - e_{023}) = (e_{13} - e_{03} + e_{01}) - (e_{23} - e_{03} + e_{02}) = e_{01} + e_{13} - e_{02} - e_{23}$$

whence

Im
$$\partial|_{\Omega_2} = \langle e_{01} + e_{13} - e_{02} - e_{23} \rangle$$
 and ker $\partial|_{\Omega_2} = \{0\}$.

It follows that $H_2 = \{0\}$ and

$$H_1 = \ker \partial|_{\Omega_1} / \operatorname{Im} \partial|_{\Omega_2} = \langle e_{01} + e_{13} + e_{30} \rangle.$$

As we have seen, computation of the spaces $\Omega_p(G)$ and $H_p(G)$ amounts to computing ranks and null-spaces of large matrices. We currently use for numerical computation of $H_p(G, \mathbb{F}_2)$ a C++ program written by Chao Chen in 2012.

1.6 Structure of Ω_2

As we know, $\Omega_0 = \langle e_i \rangle$ consists of all vertices and $\Omega_1 = \{e_{ij} : i \to j\}$ consists of all arrows.

Proposition 1.2 (a) The space Ω_2 is spanned by all triangles e_{abc} , squares $e_{abc} - e_{ab'c}$ and double arrows e_{aba} .

(b) $|\Omega_2| = |\mathcal{A}_2| - s$ where s is the number of semi-arrows, that is, pairs of vertices (x, y) such that $x \not\rightarrow y$ but $x \rightarrow z \rightarrow y$ for some vertex z.

The triangles and double arrows are always linearly independent but the squares can be dependent.

For example, on this digraph we have three squares:

 $e_{013} - e_{023}$, $e_{043} - e_{013}$, $e_{023} - e_{043}$ but they are linearly dependent as their sum is 0. Since $\mathcal{A}_2 = \{e_{013}, e_{023}, e_{043}\}$ and there is only one semi-arrow (0, 3), we obtain

 $|\Omega_2| = 2 = |\mathcal{A}_2| - s = 3 - 1 = 2.$

Clearly, $\Omega_2 = \langle e_{013} - e_{023}, e_{043} - e_{013} \rangle$.



Let X, Y be two digraphs. A map $f : X \to Y$ is called a *morphism of digraphs* if for any arrow $a \to b$ in X we have either $f(a) \to f(b)$ or f(a) = f(b) (that is, the image of an arrow is either an arrow or a vertex). Define images of paths by

$$f\left(e_{i_0\dots i_p}\right) = e_{f(i_0)\dots f(i_p)}$$

so that the image of an allowed path is either allowed or zero (that is also allowed). It is easy to see that $f \circ \partial = \partial \circ f$ so that the morphism images of ∂ -invariant paths are again ∂ -invariant.

A triangle e_{abc} and a double arrow e_{aba} are morphism images of a square $e_{013} - e_{023}$ as on these pictures:



Hence, we can rephrase Proposition 1.2 as follows: Ω_2 is spanned by squares and their morphism images. Or: squares are *basic shapes* of Ω_2 .

Problem 1.3 Describe all basic shapes in Ω_3 (as well as in Ω_p for p > 3).

1.7 Triangulation as a closed path

Let T be a triangulation of closed oriented n-manifold M, that is, a partition of M into n-dimensional simplexes. Denote by $V = \{0, 1, ...\}$ the set of all vertices of the simplexes of T and by E – the set of all edges, so that (V, E) is a graph embedded on M.

Let us make each edge $(i, j) \in E$ into an arrow $i \to j$ if i < j. Then each simplex from T becomes a digraph-simplex. Denote by \overrightarrow{T} the set of all digraph simplexes constructed in this way. That is, $i_0...i_n \in \overrightarrow{T}$ if $i_0...i_n$ is a monotone increasing sequence that determines a simplex from T. Clearly, any such path $i_0...i_p$ is allowed in the digraph G = (V, E).

For any simplex from T with the vertices $i_0...i_n$ define the quantity $\sigma^{i_0...i_n}$ to be equal to 1 if the orientation of the simplex $i_0...i_n$ matches the orientation of the manifold M, and -1 otherwise. Then consider the following allowed n-path on G:

$$\sigma = \sum_{i_0 \dots i_n \in \overrightarrow{T}} \sigma^{i_0 \dots i_n} e_{i_0 \dots i_n}.$$
(1.3)

Lemma 1.4 The path σ is closed, that is, $\partial \sigma = 0$, which, in particular, implies that σ is ∂ -invariant.

Proof. Observe that $\partial \sigma$ is the a linear combination with coefficients ± 1 of the terms

 $e_{j_0...j_{n-1}}$ where the sequence $j_0, ..., j_{n-1}$ is monotone increasing and forms an (n-1)-dimensional face of one of the *n*-simplexes from *T*. In fact, every (n-1)-face arises from *two n*-simplexes, say

 $A = j_0 \dots j_{k-1} a j_k \dots j_{n-1}$

and

 $B = j_0 \dots j_{l-1} b j_l \dots j_{n-1}$

that is, two *n*-simplexes A, B have a common (n-1)-dimensional face $j_0...j_{n-1}$.



3-simplexes A and B

We have

$$\partial e_A = \partial e_{j_0 \dots j_{k-1} a j_k \dots j_{n-1}} = \dots + (-1)^k e_{j_0 \dots j_{k-1} j_k \dots j_{n-1}} + \dots$$

Since interchanging the order of two neighboring vertices in an n-simplex changes its orientation, we have

$$\sigma^{A} = \sigma^{j_0 \dots j_{k-1} a j_k \dots j_{n-1}} = (-1)^k \, \sigma^{a j_0 \dots j_{k-1} j_k \dots j_{n-1}}$$

Multiplying the above lines, we obtain

$$\partial \left(\sigma^A e_A \right) = \dots + \sigma^{a j_0 \dots j_{n-1}} e_{j_0 \dots j_{n-1}} + \dots ,$$

and in the same way

$$\partial \left(\sigma^B e_B \right) = \dots + \sigma^{bj_0 \dots j_{n-1}} e_{j_0 \dots j_{n-1}} + \dots$$

However, the vertices a and b are located on the opposite sides of the face $j_0...j_{n-1}$, which implies that the simplexes $aj_0...j_{n-1}$ and $bj_0...j_{n-1}$ have the opposite orientations relative to that of M. Hence,

$$\sigma^{aj_0\dots j_{n-1}} + \sigma^{bj_0\dots j_{n-1}} = 0,$$

which means that the term $e_{j_0...j_{n-1}}$ cancels out in the sum $\partial (\sigma^A e_A + \sigma^B e_B)$ and, hence, in $\partial \sigma$. This proves that $\partial \sigma = 0$.

The closed path σ defined by (1.3) is called a *surface path* on M.

There is a number of examples when a surface path σ happens to be exact, that is, $\sigma = \partial v$ for some (n + 1)-path v. In this case v is called a *solid path* on M because v represents a "solid" shape whose boundary is given by a surface path. If σ is not exact then σ determines a non-trivial homology class from $H_n(G)$ and, hence, represents a "cavity" of triangulation T.

Example. $M = \mathbb{S}^1$.

A triangulation of \mathbb{S}^1 is a polygon, and the corresponding digraph G is *cyclic*.

On each edge (i, j) of a polygon we choose an arrow $i \to j$ arbitrary (not necessarily if i < j).

We have

$$\sigma = \sum_{i \to j} \sigma^{ij} e_{ij}$$

where $\sigma^{ij} = 1$ if the arrow $i \to j$ goes counterclockwise, and $\sigma^{ij} = -1$ otherwise.

On the digraph on the picture we have

 $\sigma = e_{01} - e_{21} + e_{23} + e_{34} - e_{54} + e_{50}$

Proposition 1.5 (a) If a polygon G is neither triangle nor square then $\Omega_p = \{0\}$ for all $p \ge 2$, $H_1 = \langle \sigma \rangle$ and $H_p = \{0\}$ for all $p \ge 2$.

(b) If G is either triangle or square then $\Omega_p = \{0\}$ for $p \ge 3$ and $H_p = \{0\}$ for all $p \ge 1$.



Example. Let $M = \mathbb{S}^n$ and let triangulation of \mathbb{S}^n be given by an (n+1)-simplex. Then G is a (n+1)-simplex digraph.

On this picture n = 2,

 $\sigma = e_{123} - e_{023} + e_{013} - e_{012} = \partial e_{0123}$

so that e_{0123} is a solid path representing a tetrahedron.

In general we also have

$$\sigma = \partial e_{0\dots n+1}$$

so that $e_{0...n+1}$ is a solid path representing a (n + 1)-simplex.



Example. $M = \mathbb{S}^2$, octahedron.

Here is a triangulation of \mathbb{S}^2 by an *octahedron* with two ways of numbering.

Case A:
$$H_2 = \{0\}$$

 $\sigma = e_{024} - e_{025} - e_{014} + e_{015} - e_{234} + e_{235} + e_{134} - e_{135}$
 $= \partial (e_{0134} - e_{0234} + e_{0135} - e_{0235})$

Hence,

 $v = e_{0134} - e_{0234} + e_{0135} - e_{0235}$ is a solid path, and the octahedron represents a solid shape.

Case B: $H_2 = \langle \sigma \rangle$ $\sigma = e_{024} - e_{034} - e_{025} + e_{035} - e_{124} + e_{134} + e_{125} - e_{135}$ and the octahedron represents a cavity.





Example. $M = \mathbb{S}^2$, icosahedron.

Consider an *icosahedron* as a triangulation of \mathbb{S}^2 : (here $i \to j$ if i < j). We have |V| = 12, |E| = 30, $H_1 = \{0\}$, and $H_2 = \langle \sigma \rangle$ where

$$\begin{split} \sigma &= -e_{0\,1\,9} + e_{0\,1\,2} - e_{1\,2\,11} + e_{0\,2\,6} + e_{0\,5\,9} \\ -e_{0\,5\,6} + e_{5\,6\,10} - e_{1\,3\,9} + e_{1\,3\,11} - e_{2\,6\,7} \\ +e_{6\,7\,10} - e_{2\,7\,11} - e_{3\,4\,9} + e_{3\,4\,8} - e_{4\,8\,10} \\ +e_{3\,8\,11} - e_{4\,5\,9} + e_{4\,5\,10} + e_{7\,8\,10} - e_{7\,8\,11}. \end{split}$$

Hence, the icosahedron represents a cavity.



Conjecture 1.6 For icosahedron dim $H_2(G) = 1$ for any numbering of the vertices.

Conjecture 1.7 For a general triangulation of \mathbb{S}^n , the homology group $H_n(G)$ is either trivial or is generated by σ . All other homology groups $H_p(G)$ are trivial.

1.8 Computational challenge

An interesting paper:



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Cliques of Neurons Bound into Cavities Provide a Missing Link between Structure and Function

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¹ Blue Brain Project, École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Geneva, Switzerland, ² Laboratory for Topology and Neuroscience, Brain Mind Institute, École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland, ³ Laboratory of Neural Microcircuitry, Brain Mind Institute, École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland, ⁴ DataShape, INRIA Saclay, Palaiseau, France, ⁶ Institute of Mathematics, University of Aberdeen, Aberdeen, United Kingdom They reconstruct a microcircuit from a rat brain as a graph (neurons and connections between them). The size of the graph is $|V| \sim 31,000$ and $|E| \sim 8,000,000$.



Then they detect cliques in this graph, form out of the cliques a simplicial complex, and compute its Betti numbers over \mathbb{F}_2 . They were able to compute Betti number β_5 and to show that $\beta_5 > 0$.

Problem 1.8 Create computational tools capable of computing low dimensional Betti numbers for path homologies of digraphs of similar size.

At present our program can compute β_1 on a digraph with $|V| \sim 7000$ and $|E| \sim 100,000$, and β_2 on a digraph with $|V| \sim 4000$ and $|E| \sim 25000$.

2 Combinatorial curvature of digraphs

2.1 Motivation

Let Γ be a finite planar graph. There is the following old notion of *combinatorial curvature* K_x at any vertex x of Γ :

$$K_x = 1 - \frac{\deg(x)}{2} + \sum_{f \ni x} \frac{1}{\deg(f)},$$
(2.1)

where the sum is taken over all faces f containing x and deg (f) denotes the number of vertices of f.

For example, for this graph we have

$$\deg\left(x\right) = 4$$

and

 $K_x = 1 - \frac{4}{2} + \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{5} = \frac{7}{60}.$



A planar graph Γ

In particular, if all faces of Γ are triangles then we obtain from (2.1)

$$K_x = 1 - \frac{\deg(x)}{2} + \frac{\deg_{\Delta}(x)}{3},$$
 (2.2)

where $\deg_{\Delta}(x)$ is the number of triangular faces having x as a vertex.

In general, denote by V, E and F the number of vertices, edges and faces of Γ , respectively, and observe that

$$\sum_{x} \deg(x) = 2E \quad \text{and} \quad \sum_{x} \sum_{f \ni x} \frac{1}{\deg(f)} = \sum_{f} \sum_{x \in f} \frac{1}{\deg(f)} = F.$$

Hence, we obtain from (2.1)

$$K_{total} := \sum_{x} K_{x} = V - E + F = \chi,$$

where χ is the Euler characteristic of the graph.

We try to realize this idea in order to define the curvature on an arbitrary digraph: to "distribute" the Euler characteristic over all vertices and, hence, to obtain an analog of the Gauss curvature that satisfies the Gauss-Bonnet formula.

2.2 Curvature operator

Let G = (V, E) be a finite digraph and $\mathbb{K} = \mathbb{R}$. We would like to generalize (2.1) to arbitrary digraphs, so that the faces in (2.1) should be replaced by the elements of a basis in Ω_p . However, the result should be independent of the choice of a basis.

Fix $p \ge 0$. Any function $f: V \to \mathbb{R}$ induces a linear operator on the space \mathcal{R}_p of regular p-paths

$$T_f: \mathcal{R}_p \to \mathcal{R}_p$$

as follows

$$T_f e_{i_0...i_p} = (f(i_0) + ... + f(i_p)) e_{i_0...i_p}.$$

For example, for a constant function f = 1 on V, we have $T_1 e_{i_0 \dots i_p} = (p+1) e_{i_0 \dots i_p}$ and, hence,

$$T_1\omega = (p+1)\omega$$
 for any $\omega \in \mathcal{R}_p$. (2.3)

If $f = \mathbf{1}_x$ where $x \in V$, then

 $T_{\mathbf{1}_x} e_{i_0 \dots i_p} = m e_{i_0 \dots i_p}$, where *m* is the number of occurrences of *x* in i_0, \dots, i_p . (2.4)

Fix in \mathcal{R}_p an inner product (\cdot, \cdot) . For example, this can be a *natural inner product* when all regular elementary paths $e_{i_0...i_p}$ form an orthonormal basis in \mathcal{R}_p .

Let $\Pi_p : \mathcal{R}_p \to \Omega_p$ be the orthogonal projection onto Ω_p in the space \mathcal{R}_p .

Considering T_f as an operator from Ω_p to \mathcal{R}_p , we obtain the following operator in Ω_p :

$$T'_f := \Pi_p \circ T_f : \Omega_p \to \Omega_p$$



Definition. Define the *incidence* of f and Ω_p by $[f, \Omega_p] = \operatorname{trace} T'_f$.

Example. Assume that $\Omega_2 = \langle e_{abc} - e_{ab'c} \rangle$ and let

$$f(a) = 2, f(b) = f(c) = 1, f(b') = 0.$$

Then for $\omega = e_{abc} - e_{ab'c}$ we have

$$T_{f}\omega = (f(a) + f(b) + f(c)) e_{abc} - (f(a) + f(b') + f(c)) e_{ab'c} = 4e_{abc} - 3e_{ab'c}.$$

Setting $\overline{\omega} = \frac{e_{abc} - e_{ab'c}}{\sqrt{2}}$ we obtain
$$T'_{f}\omega = (T_{f}\omega, \overline{\omega}) \overline{\omega} = (4e_{abc} - 3e_{ab'c}, \frac{e_{abc} - e_{ab'c}}{\sqrt{2}}) \overline{\omega} = \frac{7}{\sqrt{2}} \overline{\omega}.$$

It follows that $[f, \Omega_2] = \operatorname{trace} T'_f = (T'_f \overline{\omega}, \overline{\omega}) = (\frac{7}{2}\overline{\omega}, \overline{\omega}) = \frac{7}{2}.$

In order to compute $[f, \Omega_p]$ in general, we need the following notion.

Definition. For any $\omega \in \Omega_p$ define the *incidence* of f and ω by $|[f, \omega] = (T_f \omega, \omega)|$.

Lemma 2.1 For any orthogonal basis $\{\omega_k\}$ in Ω_p we have

$$[f, \Omega_p] = \sum_k \frac{[f, \omega_k]}{\|\omega_k\|^2}.$$
(2.5)

Proof. It suffices to prove (2.5) for orthonormal basis when $\|\omega_k\| = 1$ for all k. By the definition of the trace

trace
$$T'_f = \sum_k \left(T'_f \omega_k, \omega_k \right)$$
.

For any $\omega \in \Omega_p$ (in particular, for $\omega = \omega_p$) we have

$$(T'_f\omega,\omega) = (\Pi_p T_f\omega,\omega) = (T_f\omega,\Pi_p\omega) = (T_f\omega,\omega) = [f,\omega],$$

whence (2.5) follows.

Definition. For any $N \in \mathbb{N}$ define the *curvature operator* $K^{(N)} : \mathbb{R}^V \to \mathbb{R}$ of order N by

$$K^{(N)}f = \sum_{p=0}^{N} \frac{(-1)^p}{p+1} [f, \Omega_p]$$

If $\Omega_p = \{0\}$ for all p > N, then write $K_f^{(N)} = K_f$. For $f = \mathbf{1}_x$ where $x \in V$, we write

 $[x, \Omega_p] := [\mathbf{1}_x, \Omega_p] \quad \text{and} \quad [x, \omega] := [\mathbf{1}_x, \omega],$

If $\{\omega_k\}$ is an orthogonal basis of Ω_p , then by (2.5)

$$[x, \Omega_p] = \sum_k \frac{[x, \omega_k]}{\|\omega_k\|^2}$$

If the inner product is natural so that $\{e_{i_0...i_p}\}$ is orthonormal then by (2.4)

 $[x, e_{i_0...i_p}] = m$, where m is the number of occurrences of x in $i_0, ..., i_p$.

For example,

$$[a, e_{abca}] = 2, \quad [b, e_{abca}] = 1, \quad [d, e_{abca}] = 0.$$
In this case, for $\omega = \sum \omega^{i_0 \dots i_p} e_{i_0 \dots i_p}$ we have

$$[x,\omega] = \sum_{i_0\dots i_p \in V} \left(\omega^{i_0\dots i_p}\right)^2 \left[x, e_{i_0\dots i_p}\right]$$

Definition. For any $N \in \mathbb{N}$ define the *curvature of order* N at a vertex x by

$$K_x^{(N)} := K^{(N)} \mathbf{1}_x = \sum_{p=0}^N \frac{(-1)^p}{p+1} [x, \Omega_p]$$

Proposition 2.2 (Gauss-Bonnet) For any choice of the inner product in \mathcal{R}_p and for any N we have

$$K_{total}^{(N)} := \sum_{x \in V} K_x^{(N)} = \sum_{p=0}^N (-1)^p \dim \Omega_p =: \chi^{(N)}.$$

Proof. Since $\sum_{x \in V} \mathbf{1}_x = \mathbf{1}$, we obtain that

$$K_{total}^{(N)} = \sum_{x \in V} K_x^{(N)} = \sum_{x \in V} K^{(N)} \mathbf{1}_x = K^{(N)} \mathbf{1} = \sum_{p=0}^N (-1)^p \frac{[\mathbf{1}, \Omega_p]}{p+1}$$

On the other hand, by (2.3)

$$[\mathbf{1}, \omega] = (T_{\mathbf{1}}\omega, \omega) = (p+1) \|\omega\|^2.$$

If $\{\omega_k\}$ is an orthogonal basis in Ω_p then by (2.5)

$$[\mathbf{1}, \Omega_p] = \sum_k \frac{[\mathbf{1}, \omega_k]}{\|\omega_k\|^2} = (p+1) \dim \Omega_p,$$

which implies

$$K_{total}^{(N)} = \sum_{p=0}^{N} (-1)^p \dim \Omega_p = \chi^{(N)}.$$

Remark. If $\Omega_p = \{0\}$ for all p > N then

$$\chi := \sum_{p=0}^{N} (-1)^{p} \dim \Omega_{p} = \sum_{p=0}^{N} (-1)^{p} \dim H_{p}.$$

Remark. It can happen that $\Omega_p \neq \{0\}$ for all p. For example, let $G = \{a \rightleftharpoons b\}$. For this digraph we have

$$\Omega_0 = \langle e_a, e_b \rangle, \quad \Omega_1 = \langle e_{ab}, e_{ba} \rangle, \quad \Omega_3 = \langle e_{aba}, e_{bab} \rangle, \quad \Omega_4 = \{ e_{abab}, e_{baba} \}, \text{ etc.}$$

so that $|\Omega_p| = 2$ for all $p \ge 0$. Indeed, $e_{aba} \in \mathcal{A}_2$ and

$$\partial e_{aba} = e_{ba} - e_{aa} + e_{ab} = e_{ba} + e_{ab} \in \mathcal{A}_1$$

so that $e_{aba} \in \Omega_2$. Similarly, $e_{abab} \in \mathcal{A}_3$ and

$$\partial e_{abab} = e_{bab} - e_{aab} + e_{abb} - e_{aba} = e_{bab} - e_{aba} \in \mathcal{A}_2$$

so that $e_{abab} \in \Omega_3$, etc.

Problem 2.3 How to decide whether the sequence $\{\Omega_p(G)\}$ vanishes for all large p?

Alternatively, one can always truncate the chain complex to make it finite by setting by definition $\Omega_{N+1} = \{0\}$ for some N :

$$0 \leftarrow \Omega_0 \stackrel{\partial}{\leftarrow} \Omega_1 \stackrel{\partial}{\leftarrow} \dots \stackrel{\partial}{\leftarrow} \Omega_{N-1} \stackrel{\partial}{\leftarrow} \Omega_N \leftarrow 0$$

and work with homology groups of this complex. This corresponds to the following modification of the notion of allowed paths: all paths of length > N are declared non-allowed.

2.3 Examples of computation of curvature

Let us fix in \mathcal{R}_p the natural inner product. Using the orthonormal basis $\{e_i\}$ in Ω_0 we obtain

$$[x, \Omega_0] = \sum_i [x, e_i] = 1$$

and, using the orthonormal basis $\{e_{ij}\}$ with $i \to j$ in Ω_1 , we obtain

$$[x, \Omega_1] = \sum_{i \to j} [x, e_{ij}] = \deg(x).$$

Therefore,

$$K_x^{(1)} = 1 - \frac{\deg(x)}{2}$$

and, for any $N \ge 1$,

$$K_x^{(N)} = 1 - \frac{\deg(x)}{2} + \sum_{p=2}^N \frac{(-1)^p}{p+1} [x, \Omega_p].$$
(2.6)

By Proposition 1.2, in the absence of double arrows the space Ω_2 has always a basis of triangles and squares (but this basis is not necessarily orthogonal).

For a triangle $e_{abc} \in \Omega_2$ we have

$$[x, e_{abc}] = \begin{cases} 1, & x \in \{a, b, c\} \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

and for a square $e_{abc} - e_{ab'c} \in \Omega_2$

$$[x, e_{abc} - e_{ab'c}] = \begin{cases} 2, & x \in \{a, c\} \\ 1, & x \in \{b, b'\} \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

In particular, if G has no square then Ω_2 has a basis $\{\omega_k\}$ that consists of all triangles in G. This basis is orthonormal and

$$[x, \Omega_2] = \sum_k [x, \omega_k] = \deg_\Delta(x) := \#$$
triangles containing x.

It follows that

$$K_x^{(2)} = 1 - \frac{\deg(x)}{2} + \frac{\deg_{\Delta}(x)}{3},$$

which matches (2.2).

Example. Let G be a line digraph, for example, $\dots \bullet \to \bullet \leftarrow \bullet \to \bullet \dots$. Then by (2.6) $K_x = \frac{1}{2}$ for the endpoints, and $K_x = 0$ for the interior points.

Example. Let G be a cyclic digraph (polygon) different from triangle or square:

Then we have $\Omega_p = \{0\}$ for p > 1. Hence by (2.6), for any vertex x,

$$K_x = 1 - \frac{\deg(x)}{2} = 0.$$

and $K_{total} = 0.$
For comparison,
 $\chi = |\Omega_0| - |\Omega_1| = 6 - 6 = 0$



Example. Consider a dodecahedron (with any orientation of edges):

We have
$$|\Omega_0| = 20$$
, $|\Omega_1| = 30$, $|\Omega_2| = 0$,
and $|H_1| = 11$, $|H_p| = 0$ for $p > 1$.
Then, for any vertex x ,
 $K_x = 1 - \frac{\deg(x)}{2} = -\frac{1}{2}$
and $K_{total} = -10$.
For comparison,
 $\chi = 1 - 11 = 20 - 30 = -10$.



Example. Let G be a triangle. We have $\Omega_2 = \langle e_{012} \rangle$ and $\Omega_p = \{0\}$ for p > 2.

Hence, for each vertex x,

$$K_x = 1 - \frac{\deg(x)}{2} + \frac{\deg_{\Delta}(x)}{3} = \frac{1}{3}.$$





Example. Let G be a square. Then $\Omega_2 = \langle e_{013} - e_{023} \rangle$ and $\Omega_p = \{0\}$ for p > 2. Since $||e_{013} - e_{023}||^2 = 2$, we obtain

$$[0, \Omega_2] = \frac{1}{2} [0, e_{013} - e_{023}] = 1, \quad [3, \Omega_2] = 1$$

$$[1, \Omega_2] = \frac{1}{2} [1, e_{013} - e_{023}] = \frac{1}{2}, \quad [2, \Omega_2] = \frac{1}{2}$$



It follows that

$$K_3 = K_0 = 1 - \frac{\deg(0)}{2} + \frac{1}{3} = \frac{1}{3}, \quad K_2 = K_1 = 1 - \frac{\deg(1)}{2} + \frac{1}{6} = \frac{1}{6}, \quad K_{total} = 1 = \chi.$$

Example. Let G be a 3-simplex



We have

$$\Omega_2 = \langle e_{012}, e_{013}, e_{023}, e_{123} \rangle$$

and

 $\Omega_3 = \langle e_{0123} \rangle,$

while $\Omega_p = 0$ for p > 3. It follows that, for any vertex x,

$$[x, \Omega_2] = \deg_{\Delta} (x) = 3 \text{ and } [x, \Omega_3] = 1$$

whence

$$K_x = 1 - \frac{\deg(x)}{2} + \frac{[x, \Omega_2]}{3} - \frac{[x, \Omega_3]}{4} = \frac{1}{4}, \quad K_{total} = 1 = \chi$$

Example. Let G be an *n*-simplex, that is, a digraph with a set of vertices $\{0, 1, ..., n\}$ and edges $i \to j$ whenever i < j. Then, for any p = 0, 1, ..., n

$$\Omega_p = \mathcal{A}_p = \langle e_{i_0 \dots i_p} : i_0 < i_1 < \dots < i_p \rangle$$

so that dim $\Omega_p = \binom{n+1}{p+1}$. It follows that, for any vertex x,

$$[x, \Omega_p] = \# \{ e_{i_0 \dots i_p} \text{ such that } x \in \{i_0, \dots, i_p\} \} = \binom{n}{p},$$

and

$$K_x = \sum_{p=0}^n (-1)^p \frac{\binom{n}{p}}{p+1}.$$

Change j = p + 1 gives

$$(n+1) K_x = \sum_{j=1}^{n+1} (-1)^{j-1} \frac{(n+1) \binom{n}{j-1}}{j} = \sum_{j=1}^{n+1} (-1)^{j-1} \binom{n+1}{j} = 1,$$

whence

$$K_x = \frac{1}{n+1}$$
 and $K_{total} = 1$

Example. Let G be a bipyramid:

We have $|\Omega_0| = 5$, $|\Omega_1| = 9$,

 $\Omega_2 = \langle e_{013}, e_{123}, e_{023}, e_{014}, e_{124}, e_{024}, e_{012} \rangle$

 $\Omega_3 = \langle e_{0123}, e_{0124} \rangle$

and $|\Omega_p| = 0$ for $p \ge 4$.

Hence,

$$\chi = |\Omega_0| - |\Omega_1| + |\Omega_2| - |\Omega_3| = 5 - 9 + 7 - 2 = 1.$$

Let us compute the curvature:

x	$[x, \Omega_2]$	$[x, \Omega_3]$	$1 - \frac{\deg(x)}{2} + \frac{[x,\Omega_2]}{3} - \frac{[x,\Omega_3]}{4}$	$=K_x$
3,4	3	1	$1 - \frac{3}{2} + \frac{3}{3} - \frac{1}{4}$	$=\frac{1}{4}$
0, 1, 2	5	2	$1 - \frac{4}{2} + \frac{5}{3} - \frac{2}{4}$	$=\frac{1}{6}$

Hence, $K_{total} = \frac{2}{4} + \frac{3}{6} = 1.$



Example. Let G be a 3-cube. We have

$$\Omega_2 = \langle e_{013} - e_{023}, e_{015} - e_{045}, e_{026} - e_{046}, \\ e_{137} - e_{157}, e_{237} - e_{267}, e_{457} - e_{467} \rangle$$

(note that this above basis in Ω_2 is orthogonal)

$$\Omega_3 = \langle e_{0237} - e_{0137} + e_{0157} - e_{0457} + e_{0467} - e_{0267} \rangle$$
$$\chi = |\Omega_0| - |\Omega_1| + |\Omega_2| - |\Omega_3| = 8 - 12 + 6 - 1 = 1$$





Consequently, $K_{total} = \frac{2}{4} + \frac{6}{12} = 1 = \chi$.



Example. Consider on octahedron:

We have

 $\Omega_2 = \langle e_{024}, e_{034}, e_{025}, e_{035}, e_{124}, e_{134}, e_{125}, e_{135} \rangle,$

and $\Omega_p = \{0\}$ for all $p \ge 3$

For any vertex x we obtain

$$[x, \Omega_2] = \deg_\Delta(x) = 4$$

whence

$$K_x = 1 - \frac{\deg(x)}{2} + \frac{\deg_{\Delta}(x)}{3} = 1 - \frac{4}{2} + \frac{4}{3} = \frac{1}{3}$$

In particular, $K_{total} = \frac{6}{3} = 2 = \chi$.



Example. Consider on octahedron with a different orientation:

We have the following orthogonal bases:

 $\Omega_2 = \langle e_{024}, e_{025}, e_{014}, e_{015}, e_{234}, e_{235}, e_{134}, e_{135}, e_{013} - e_{023} \rangle$

 $\Omega_3 = \langle e_{0234} - e_{0134}, \ e_{0235} - e_{0135} \rangle$

 $\chi = |\Omega_0| - |\Omega_1| + |\Omega_2| - |\Omega_3| = 6 - 12 + 9 - 2 = 1$



x	$[x,\Omega_2]$	$[x,\Omega_3]$	$1 - \frac{\deg(x)}{2} + \frac{[x,\Omega_2]}{3} - \frac{[x,\Omega_3]}{4}$	$=K_x$
0	$4 + \frac{2}{2} = 1$	$\frac{4}{2} = 2$	$1 - \frac{4}{2} + \frac{5}{3} - \frac{2}{4}$	$=\frac{1}{6}$
1	$4 + \frac{1}{2} = \frac{9}{2}$	$\frac{2}{2} = 1$	$1 - \frac{4}{2} + \frac{9/2}{3} - \frac{1}{4}$	$=\frac{1}{4}$
2	$4 + \frac{1}{2} = \frac{9}{2}$	$\frac{2}{2} = 1$	$1 - \frac{4}{2} + \frac{9/2}{3} - \frac{1}{4}$	$=\frac{1}{4}$
3	$4 + \frac{2}{2} = \bar{5}$	$\frac{4}{2} = 2$	$1 - \frac{4}{2} + \frac{5}{3} - \frac{2}{4}$	$=\frac{1}{6}$
4	4	$\frac{2}{2} = 1$	$1 - \frac{4}{2} + \frac{4}{3} - \frac{1}{4}$	$=\frac{1}{12}$
5	4	$\frac{2}{2} = 1$	$1 - \frac{4}{2} + \frac{4}{3} - \frac{1}{4}$	$=\frac{1}{12}$

$$K_{total} = \frac{2}{6} + \frac{2}{4} + \frac{2}{12} = 1 = \chi$$

Example. Here is yet another octahedron. We have to orthogonalize the bases:

$$\begin{split} \Omega_2 &= \langle e_{014}, e_{015}, e_{024}, e_{052}, e_{134}, e_{153}, e_{234}, e_{523}, \\ &e_{013} - e_{023}, e_{013} - e_{053}, e_{524} - e_{534} \rangle \\ &= \langle e_{014}, e_{015}, e_{024}, e_{052}, e_{134}, e_{153}, e_{234}, e_{523}, \\ &e_{013} - e_{023}, e_{013} + e_{023} - 2e_{053}, e_{524} - e_{534} \rangle \\ \Omega_3 &= \langle e_{0153}, e_{0523}, e_{5234}, e_{0134} - e_{0234}, e_{0534} - e_{0134} - e_{0524} \rangle \\ &= \langle e_{0153}, e_{0523}, e_{5234}, e_{0134} - e_{0234}, e_{0134} + e_{0234} - 2e_{0534} + 2e_{0524} \rangle \\ \Omega_4 &= \langle e_{05234} \rangle, \ \Omega_p &= \{0\} \text{ for } p \geq 5. \end{split}$$



 $\chi = |\Omega_0| - |\Omega_1| + |\Omega_2| - |\Omega_3| + |\Omega_4| = 6 - 12 + 11 - 5 + 1 = 1.$

x	$[x,\Omega_2]$	$[x,\Omega_3]$	$[x,\Omega_4]$	$1 - \frac{\deg(x)}{2} + \frac{[x,\Omega_2]}{3} - \frac{[x,\Omega_3]}{4} + \frac{[x,\Omega_4]}{5}$	$=K_x$
0	$4 + \frac{2}{2} + \frac{6}{6} = 6$	$2 + \frac{2}{2} + \frac{10}{10} = 4$	1	$1 - \frac{4}{2} + \frac{6}{3} - \frac{4}{4} + \frac{1}{5}$	$=\frac{1}{5}$
1	$4 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{6} = \frac{14}{3}$	$1 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{10} = \frac{8}{5}$	0	$1 - \frac{4}{2} + \frac{14/3}{3} - \frac{8/5}{4}$	$=\frac{7}{45}$
2	$4 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{6} + \frac{1}{2} = \frac{31}{6}$	$2 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{5}{10} = 3$	1	$1 - \frac{4}{2} + \frac{31/6}{3} - \frac{3}{4} + \frac{1}{5}$	$=\frac{31}{180}$
3	$4 + \frac{2}{2} + \frac{6}{6} + \frac{1}{2} = \frac{13}{2}$	$3 + \frac{2}{2} + \frac{6}{10} = \frac{23}{5}$	1	$1 - \frac{4}{2} + \frac{13/2}{3} - \frac{23/5}{4} + \frac{1}{5} = \frac{13}{60}$	$=\frac{13}{60}$
4	$4 + \frac{2}{2} = 5$	$1 + \frac{2}{2} + \frac{10}{10} = 3$	1	$1 - \frac{4}{2} + \frac{5}{3} - \frac{3}{4} + \frac{1}{5}$	$=\frac{7}{60}$
5	$4 + \frac{4}{6} + \frac{2}{2} = \frac{17}{3}$	$3 + \frac{8}{10} = \frac{19}{5}$	1	$1 - \frac{4}{2} + \frac{17/3}{3} - \frac{19/5}{4} + \frac{1}{5}$	$=\frac{5}{36}$

 $K_{total} = \frac{1}{5} + \frac{7}{45} + \frac{31}{180} + \frac{13}{60} + \frac{7}{60} + \frac{5}{36} = 1 = \chi$

Example. Consider the following spider-like digraph G:



The space Ω_2 consists of squares $e_{ab_ic} - e_{ab_jc}$ and their linear combinations, while $\Omega_p = \{0\}$ for all p > 2. It is easy to see that

$$\Omega_2 = \langle e_{ab_0c} - e_{ab_jc} \rangle_{j=1}^m \tag{2.7}$$

so that $|\Omega_2| = m$ and $K_{total} = \chi = |\Omega_0| - |\Omega_1| + |\Omega_2| = (m+3) - 2(m+1) + m = 1$. Orthogonalization of (2.7) gives the following orthogonal basis in Ω_2 :

$$\omega_1 = e_{ab_0c} - e_{ab_1c}$$
$$\omega_2 = e_{ab_0c} + e_{ab_1c} - 2e_{ab_2c}$$

. . .

$$\omega_i = e_{ab_0c} + \dots + e_{ab_{i-1}c} - ie_{ab_ic}$$
$$\dots$$
$$\omega_m = e_{ab_0c} + \dots + e_{ab_{m-1}c} - me_{ab_mc}$$

We have $[a, \omega_i] = [c, \omega_i] = \|\omega_i\|^2 = i(i+1)$ while

$$[b_j, \omega_i] = \begin{cases} 0, & j > i \\ 1, & j < i \\ i^2, & j = i \end{cases}$$

which implies

$$K_{c} = K_{a} = 1 - \frac{\deg(a)}{2} + \frac{1}{3} \sum_{i=1}^{m} \frac{[a, \omega_{i}]}{\|\omega_{i}\|^{2}} = 1 - \frac{m+1}{2} + \frac{m}{3} = \frac{5}{6} - \frac{m}{6}$$

and

$$K_{b_j} = 1 - \frac{\deg(b_j)}{2} + \frac{1}{3} \sum_{i=1}^m \frac{[b_j, \omega_i]}{i(i+1)} = \frac{1}{3} \frac{j^2}{j(j+1)} + \frac{1}{3} \sum_{i=j+1}^m \frac{1}{i(i+1)} = \frac{1}{3} \left(1 - \frac{1}{m+1} \right).$$

Example. Consider a rhombicuboctahedron:

It has 24 vertices, 48 edges and 26 faces, among them 8 triangular and 18 rectangular.

Let us make it into a digraph G by choosing direction $i \rightarrow j$ on an edge (i, j) if i < j. Then each face becomes a triangle or square.

For this digraph $|H_2| = 1$ and $H_p = \{0\}$ for p = 1 and p > 2.

Spaces Ω_p with $p \geq 3$ are trivial, while $|\Omega_2| = 26$. Space Ω_2 is generated by 8 triangles and 18 squares:



$$\begin{aligned} \Omega_2 &= \langle e_{023}, e_{178}, e_{456}, e_{91011}, e_{121415}, e_{131920}, e_{161718}, e_{212223}, \\ &e_{018} - e_{038}, e_{0113} - e_{01213}, e_{0214} - e_{01214}, e_{1719} - e_{11319}, e_{236} - e_{246}, \\ &e_{2416} - e_{21416}, e_{3611} - e_{3811}, e_{4517} - e_{41617}, e_{51011} - e_{5611}, e_{51022} - e_{51722}, \\ &e_{7811} - e_{7911}, e_{7921} - e_{71921}, e_{91022} - e_{92122}, e_{121320} - e_{121520}, \\ &e_{141518} - e_{141618}, e_{151823} - e_{152023}, e_{172223} - e_{171823}, e_{192023} - e_{192123} \rangle, \end{aligned}$$

while the generator of H_2 is a signed sum of all these 2-paths.

This basis in Ω_2 is orthogonal. Hence, we compute the curvature:

x=	0,11,23	1,3,4,6,8,9,12,13,15,16,18,20,21	2,5,7,14,17,19,22	10
$[x,\Omega_2]=$	$1 + \frac{6}{2} = 4$	$1 + \frac{4}{2} = 3$	$1 + \frac{5}{2} = \frac{7}{2}$	$1 + \frac{3}{2} = \frac{5}{2}$
$1 - \frac{\deg(x)}{2} + \frac{[x,\Omega_2]}{3} =$	$1 - \frac{1}{2} + \frac{4}{3}$	$1 - \frac{4}{2} + \frac{3}{3}$	$1 - \frac{4}{2} + \frac{7/2}{3}$	$1 - \frac{4}{2} + \frac{5/2}{3}$
K_x	$=\frac{1}{3}$	= 0	$=\frac{1}{6}$	$=-\frac{1}{6}$

It follows that

$$K_{total} = \frac{3}{3} + \frac{7}{6} - \frac{1}{6} = 2.$$

For comparison

$$\chi = |\Omega_0| - |\Omega_1| + |\Omega_2| = 24 - 48 + 26 = 2$$

= |H_0| - |H_1| + |H_2|.

Example. Consider the following pyramid:

Let us make it into a digraph G by choosing direction $i \to j$ on an edge (i, j) if i < j. We have $|\Omega_0| = 8$, $|\Omega_1| = 18$,

 $\Omega_2 = \langle e_{017}, e_{027}, e_{037}, e_{047}, e_{057}, e_{067} \\ e_{012}, e_{023}, e_{034}, e_{045}, e_{056}, e_{127}, e_{237}, e_{347}, e_{457}, e_{567} \rangle$

$$\Omega_3 = \langle e_{0127}, e_{0237}, e_{0347}, e_{0457}, e_{0567} \rangle$$

 $\Omega_p = \{0\}$ for $p \ge 4$.

Let us compute the curvature:

x	$[x,\Omega_2]$	$[x,\Omega_3]$	$1 - \frac{\deg(x)}{2} + \frac{[x,\Omega_2]}{3} - \frac{[x,\Omega_3]}{4}$	$=K_x$
0,7	11	5	$1 - \frac{7}{2} + \frac{11}{3} - \frac{5}{4}$	$=-\frac{1}{12}$
1, 6	3	1	$1 - \frac{3}{2} + \frac{3}{3} - \frac{1}{4}$	$=\frac{1}{4}$
2, 3, 4, 5	5	2	$1 - \frac{4}{2} + \frac{5}{3} - \frac{2}{4}$	$=\frac{1}{6}$

It follows that $K_{total} = -\frac{2}{12} + \frac{2}{4} + \frac{4}{6} = 1$. For comparison $\chi = 8 - 18 + 16 - 5 = 1$.

Example. Let us compute the curvature of icosahedron (cf. p. 28).

Here we choose direction $i \to j$ if i < j. We have

 $\begin{aligned} |H_1| &= 0, \ |H_2| = 1, \ |H_p| &= 0 \text{ for } p > 2\\ |\Omega_0| &= 12, \ |\Omega_1| = 30, \ |\Omega_2| = 25, \ |\Omega_3| = 6, \\ |\Omega_4| &= 1 \text{ and } \Omega_p = \{0\} \text{ for } p \ge 5. \end{aligned}$

Hence,
$$\chi = |H_0| - |H_1| + |H_2|$$

= $|\Omega_0| - |\Omega_1| + |\Omega_2| - |\Omega_3| + |\Omega_4| = 2.$



We have

 $\Omega_2 = \langle e_{019}, e_{012}, e_{1211}, e_{026}, e_{059}, e_{056}, e_{5610}, e_{139}, e_{1311}, e_{267}, e_{1311}, e_{1267}, e_{$

 $e_{6\,7\,10}, e_{2\,7\,11}, e_{3\,4\,9}, e_{3\,4\,8}, e_{4\,8\,10}, e_{3\,8\,11}, e_{4\,5\,9}, e_{4\,5\,10}, e_{7\,8\,10}, e_{7\,8\,11},$

 $e_{0111} - e_{0211}, \ e_{0510} - e_{0610}, \ e_{2610} - e_{2710}, \ e_{3410} - e_{3810}, \ e_{027} - e_{067} \rangle$ $\Omega_3 = \langle e_{01211}, \ e_{05610}, \ e_{34810}, \ e_{0267}, \ e_{26710}, \ -e_{06710} + e_{02710} - e_{02610} \rangle$

a "snake like" path $e_{i_0...i_p}$ with $i_k \to i_{k+1}$ and $i_k \to i_{k+2}$ is ∂ -invariant Computation of the curvature:

x=	0	1		2	3, 11
$[x,\Omega_2]=$	$6 + \frac{4}{2} = 8$	$5 + \frac{1}{2} = \frac{11}{2}$	$5 + \frac{4}{2}$	= 7	$5 + \frac{2}{2} = 6$
$[x,\Omega_3]=$	$3 + \frac{3}{3} = 4$	1	$3 + \frac{2}{3}$	$=\frac{11}{3}$	1
$[x,\Omega_4]=$	1	0	1		0
$\sum_{p=0}^{4} (-1)^p \frac{[x, \Omega]}{p+1}$	$\frac{2p}{1}$ $1 - \frac{5}{2} + \frac{8}{3} - \frac{4}{4} + \frac{1}{5}$	$1 - \frac{5}{2} + \frac{11/2}{3} - \frac{1}{4}$	$1 - \frac{5}{2}$	$+\frac{7}{3}-\frac{11/3}{4}+$	$-\frac{1}{5}$ $1-\frac{5}{2}+\frac{6}{3}-\frac{1}{4}$
	$=\frac{11}{30}$	$=\frac{1}{12}$	$=\frac{7}{60}$		$=\frac{1}{4}$
4, 5, 8	6	7		9	10
$5 + \frac{1}{2} = \frac{11}{2}$	$5 + \frac{3}{2} = \frac{13}{2}$	$5 + \frac{3}{2} = \frac{13}{2}$		5	$5 + \frac{6}{2} = 8$
1	$3 + \frac{2}{3} = \frac{11}{3}$	$2 + \frac{2}{3} = \frac{8}{3}$		0	$3 + \frac{3}{3} = 4$
0	1	1		0	1
$1 - \frac{5}{2} + \frac{11/2}{3} - \frac{1}{4}$	$1 - \frac{5}{2} + \frac{13/2}{3} - \frac{11/3}{4} + \frac{1}{5}$	$1 - \frac{5}{2} + \frac{13/2}{3} - \frac{8}{4}$	$\frac{\sqrt{3}}{4} + \frac{1}{5}$	$1 - \frac{5}{2} + \frac{5}{3}$	$1 - \frac{5}{2} + \frac{8}{3} - \frac{4}{4} + \frac{1}{5}$
$=\frac{1}{12}$	$=-\frac{1}{20}$	$=\frac{1}{5}$		$=\frac{1}{6}$	$=\frac{11}{30}$

Note that $K_6 = -\frac{1}{20} < 0$. The total curvature: $K_{total} = \frac{11}{30} \cdot 2 + \frac{1}{12} \cdot 4 + \frac{7}{60} + \frac{1}{4} \cdot 2 - \frac{1}{20} + \frac{1}{5} + \frac{1}{6} = 2$. **Example.** Consider a randomly generated digraph:

We have
$$V = 15$$
, $E = 39$
 $|H_1| = 2$, $|H_2| = 1$, $H_p = \{0\}$ for $p \ge 3$
 $|\Omega_2| = 28$, $|\Omega_3| = 4$, $\Omega_p = \{0\}$ for $p \ge 4$.

Hence,
$$\chi = |H_0| - |H_1| + |H_2|$$

= $|\Omega_0| - |\Omega_1| + |\Omega_2| - |\Omega_3| = 0$



$$\Omega_{2} = \langle e_{13214} - e_{131214}, e_{13214} - e_{13914}, e_{0214} - e_{0914}, e_{143} - e_{163}, \\
e_{1413} - e_{1613}, e_{506} - e_{516}, e_{7214} - e_{7914}, e_{914} - e_{9124}, \\
e_{1014} - e_{10124}, e_{1072} - e_{10112}, e_{10113} - e_{10143}, e_{1109} - e_{1179}, \\
e_{1151} - e_{1171}, e_{1243} - e_{12143}, e_{1271} - e_{12141}, e_{791}, e_{91214}, e_{9141}, \\
e_{1071}, e_{10117}, e_{10127}, e_{101214}, e_{10141}, e_{1102}, e_{1135}, e_{1150}, e_{1172}, e_{13912} \rangle \\
\Omega_{3} = \langle e_{101172}, e_{1391214}, e_{101271} - e_{1012141}, e_{110214} - e_{110914} + e_{117914} - e_{117214} \rangle \\
\{K_{x}\}_{x=0}^{14} = \left\{ -\frac{7}{24}, -\frac{1}{12}, -\frac{23}{72}, -\frac{1}{6}, \frac{1}{6}, \frac{1}{6}, -\frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{6}, 0, \frac{13}{72}, \frac{2}{3}, \frac{1}{6}, \frac{1}{18}, -\frac{11}{12}, \frac{13}{24} \right\}.$$

2.4 Some problems

Problem 2.4 Compare this notion of curvature with other definitions of curvature of graphs.

Problem 2.5 Is it true that for icosahedron (see p. 56) $|\Omega_2| = 25$ for any numbering of the vertices?

Problem 2.6 Devise an efficient algorithm/software for computation of the spaces Ω_p for arbitrary digraphs, possibly avoiding null-spaces of large matrices. Such algorithms exist for Ω_2 and Ω_3 .

Problem 2.7 Let a digraph G be determined by a triangulation of \mathbb{S}^2 (see Section 1.7). Assume that deg $(x) \leq 4$ for all $x \in G$. Is it true that $K_x \geq 0$ for all $x \in G$?

For triangulations of \mathbb{S}^1 we have always $K_x \ge 0$: these are triangles and squares with $K_x > 0$ and other polygons with $K_x \equiv 0$.

For triangulations of \mathbb{S}^2 we have verified above that $K_x \geq 0$ for simplex, bipyramid, octahedron, but with specific orientations of edges (the question remains open when the

numbering of vertices is arbitrary). All these digraphs have deg $(x) \le 4$. We have seen that $K_x < 0$ can occur for icosahedron with deg (x) = 5 and for a pyramid with deg (x) = 7.

Problem 2.8 Denote $D = \max_{x \in G} \deg(x)$. Is it true that $|K_x| \leq C_D$ for some constant C_D depending only on D? The same question about $K_x^{(2)}$ and $K_x^{(3)}$.

Note that K_x can be arbitrarily large, for example, for a strongly regular digraph satisfying (B(k, m)), we have

$$K_x = \frac{1 - (1 - m)^k}{km}$$

while $\deg(x) = (k-1)m$.

Problem 2.9 What can be said about the curvature of random digraphs?

3 Cartesian product of digraphs

3.1 Cross product of paths

Given two finite sets X, Y, consider their product

$$Z = X \times Y = \{(a, b) : a \in X \text{ and } b \in Y\}.$$

Let $z = z_0 z_1 \dots z_r$ be a regular elementary *r*-path on *Z*, where $z_k = (a_k, b_k)$ with $a_k \in X$ and $b_k \in Y$. We say that *z* is *stair-like* if, for any $k = 1, \dots, r$, either $a_{k-1} = a_k$ or $b_{k-1} = b_k$ is satisfied. That is, any couple $z_{k-1} z_k$ of consecutive vertices is either vertical (when $a_{k-1} = a_k$) or horizontal (when $b_{k-1} = b_k$).

For any stair-like path z on Z, define its projection onto X as an elementary path x on X obtained from z by removing the Y-components in all the vertices of z and by collapsing in the resulting sequence of points of X consecutive repeated vertices to one vertex.



In the same way we define projection of z onto Y and denote it by y.

Projections $x = x_0...x_p$ and $y = y_0...y_q$ are regular elementary paths, and p + q = r.

Every vertex (x_i, y_j) of path z can be represented as a point (i, j) of \mathbb{Z}^2 so that path z is represented by a *staircase* S(z) in \mathbb{Z}^2 connecting points (0, 0)and (p, q).

Define the *elevation* L(z) of z as the number of cells in \mathbb{Z}^2_+ below the staircase S(z).



For given elementary regular paths x on X and y on Y, denote by $\Pi_{x,y}$ the set of all stair-like paths z on Z whose projections on X and Y are respectively x and y.

Definition. Define the cross product of the paths e_x and e_y as a path $e_x \times e_y$ on Z as follows:

$$e_x \times e_y = \sum_{z \in \Pi_{x,y}} (-1)^{L(z)} e_z$$
 (3.1)

and it extend by linearity to all $u \in \mathcal{R}_p(X)$ and $v \in \mathcal{R}_q(Y)$ so that $u \times v \in \mathcal{R}_{p+q}(Z)$.

Example. Let us denote the vertices on X by letters a, b, c etc and the vertices on Y by integers 1, 2, 3, etc so that the vertices on Z can be denoted as a1, b2 etc as the fields on the chessboard. Then we have

$$e_a \times e_{123} = e_{a1 a2 a3}, \quad e_{abc} \times e_1 = e_{a1 b1 c1}$$

 $e_{ab} \times e_{12} = e_{a1\,b1\,b2} - e_{a1\,a2\,b2}$

 $e_{ab} \times e_{123} = e_{a1\,b1\,b2\,b3} - e_{a1\,a2\,b2\,b3} + e_{a1\,a2\,a3\,b3}$

$$e_{abc} \times e_{123} = e_{a1\,b1\,c1\,c2\,c3} - e_{a1\,b1\,b2\,c2\,c3} + e_{a1\,b1\,b2\,b3\,c3} + e_{a1\,a2\,b2\,c2\,c3} - e_{a1\,a2\,b2\,b3\,c3} + e_{a1\,a2\,a3\,b3\,c3}$$



Lemma 3.1 If $u \in \mathcal{R}_p(X)$ and $v \in \mathcal{R}_q(Y)$ where $p, q \ge 0$, then

$$\partial (u \times v) = (\partial u) \times v + (-1)^p u \times (\partial v).$$
(3.2)

Example. For example, let $u = e_{ab}$ and $v = e_{123}$. We have

$$\partial (u \times v) = \partial (e_{a1 b1 b2 b3} - e_{a1 a2 b2 b3} + e_{a1 a2 a3 b3})$$

$$= \overline{e_{b1 b2 b3}} - \underbrace{e_{a1 b2 b3}}_{\leftarrow} + \underbrace{e_{a1 b1 b3}}_{\leftarrow} - \underbrace{e_{a1 b1 b2}}_{\leftarrow} - \underbrace{\left(\underline{e_{a2 b2 b3}}_{\leftarrow} - \underbrace{e_{a1 b2 b3}}_{\leftarrow} + \underbrace{e_{a1 a2 b3}}_{\leftarrow} - \underbrace{e_{a1 a2 b2}}_{\leftarrow} - \underbrace{e_{a1 a2 b3}}_{\leftarrow} - \underbrace{e_{a1 a2 b3}$$

$$(\partial e_{ab}) \times e_{123} = (e_b - a_a) \times e_{123} = e_{b1 \, b2 \, b3} - e_{a1 \, a2 \, a3}$$

$$(-1)^{p} e_{ab} \times \partial e_{123} = -e_{ab} \times (e_{23} - e_{13} + e_{12}) = -(e_{a2b2b3} - e_{a2a3b3}) + (e_{a1b1b3} - e_{a1a3b3}) - (e_{a1b1b2} - e_{a1a2b2}).$$

The comparison of all terms shows that the identity (3.2) holds.

3.2 Cartesian product of digraphs

Denote a digraph and its set of vertices by the same letters to simplify notation. Given two digraphs X and Y, define there Cartesian product as a digraph $Z = X \Box Y$ as follows:

- the set of vertices of Z is $X \times Y$, that is, the vertices of Z are the couples (a, b) where $a \in X$ and $b \in Y$;
- the edges in Z are of two types: $(a, b) \rightarrow (a', b)$ where $a \rightarrow a'$ (a horizontal edge) and $(a, b) \rightarrow (a, b')$ where $b \rightarrow b'$ (a vertical edge):



It follows that any allowed elementary path in Z is stair-like.

Moreover, any regular elementary path on Z is allowed if and only if it is stair-like and its projections onto X and Y are allowed.

It follows from definition (3.1) of the cross product that

$$u \in \mathcal{A}_p(X) \text{ and } v \in \mathcal{A}_q(Y) \Rightarrow u \times v \in \mathcal{A}_{p+q}(Z).$$
 (3.3)

Furthermore, the following is true.

Lemma 3.2 If $u \in \Omega_p(X)$ and $v \in \Omega_q(Y)$ then $u \times v \in \Omega_{p+q}(Z)$.

Proof. $u \times v$ is allowed by (3.3). Since ∂u and ∂v are allowed, by (3.3) also $\partial u \times v$ and $u \times \partial v$ are allowed. By (3.2), $\partial (u \times v)$ is also allowed. Hence, $u \times v \in \Omega_{p+q}(Z)$.

Theorem 3.3 Any ∂ -invariant path w on $Z = X \Box Y$ admits a representation in the form

$$w = \sum_{i=1}^{m} u_i \times v_i$$

for some finite m, where u_i and v_i are ∂ -invariant paths on X and Y, respectively.

3.3 Künneth formula

Here is the main result of this section.

Theorem 3.4 Let X, Y be two finite digraphs. Then, for any $r \ge 0$,

$$\Omega_r \left(X \Box Y \right) \cong \bigoplus_{\{p,q \ge 0: p+q=r\}} \Omega_p \left(X \right) \otimes \Omega_q \left(Y \right), \tag{3.4}$$

where the isomorphism is given by

 $u \otimes v \mapsto u \times v$

for $u \in \Omega_p(X)$ and $v \in \Omega_q(Y)$. Consequently, we have

$$H_r(X \Box Y) \cong \bigoplus_{\{p,q \ge 0: p+q=r\}} H_p(X) \otimes H_q(Y)$$
(3.5)

and

$$\beta_{r}\left(X \Box Y\right) = \sum_{\left\{p,q \geq 0: p+q=r\right\}} \beta_{p}\left(X\right) \beta_{q}\left(Y\right).$$

Example. Let X be an interval and Y be a square:

$$X = {}^{a} \bullet \to \bullet^{b} \text{ and } Y = \begin{array}{c} {}^{2} \bullet & \to & \bullet_{3} \\ \uparrow & & \uparrow \\ {}_{0} \bullet & \to & \bullet_{1} \end{array}$$



$$\Omega_3(Z) \cong \Omega_1(X) \otimes \Omega_2(Y) = \langle e_{ab} \times (e_{013} - e_{023}) \rangle.$$

Let us compute the cross-products:



$$\Omega_3(Z) = \langle e_{0457} - e_{0157} + e_{0137} - e_{0467} + e_{0267} - e_{0237} \rangle$$

that is the ∂ -invariant 3-path associated with 3-cube.

Define *n*-cube as follows:

$$n\text{-}\operatorname{cube} = \underbrace{I \Box I \Box \ldots \Box I}_{n} =: I^{n},$$

where $I = \{\bullet \to \bullet\}$. In particular, the square $=I^2$ and the above cube is I^3 .

Similarly one shows that Ω_n (*n*-cube) is spanned by a single *n*-path that is an alternating sum of *n*! elementary *n*-paths connecting the vertices 0 and $2^n - 1$. This corresponds to partitioning of a solid *n*-dim cube into *n*! simplexes.

Proposition 3.5 We have for any $p \ge 0$

$$\dim \Omega_p(I^n) = 2^{n-p} \binom{n}{p},\tag{3.6}$$

and

$$\beta_p(I^n) = \begin{cases} 1, & p = 0\\ 0, & p > 0 \end{cases}$$
(3.7)

Recall that $\beta_r = \dim H_p$.

For example,

dim
$$\Omega_0(I^3) = 8$$
, dim $\Omega_1(I^3) = 12$, dim $\Omega_2(I^3) = 6$, dim $\Omega_3(I^3) = 1$.

An example: 2-torus $\mathbf{3.4}$

Example. Denote by T the following 3-cycle (=1-torus):

 $T = a \overset{b}{\swarrow} c = a \overset{1}{\swarrow} a \overset{1}{\swarrow} c$

Consider a 2-torus $T^2 = T \Box T$ shown here:

Let us compute $\Omega_r(G)$, $H_r(G)$, $K_x(G)$.

We know that

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$$\Omega_0(T) = \langle e_0, e_1, e_2 \rangle, \quad \Omega_1(T) = \langle e_{01}, e_{12}, e_{20} \rangle, \quad \Omega_p(T) = \{0\} \text{ for } p \ge 2$$

By (3.4) we obtain $\Omega_r = \{0\}$ for $r \ge 3$ and
$$\Omega_2(T^2) = \Omega_1(T) \otimes \Omega_1(T)$$
$$= \langle e_{ab} \times e_{01}, e_{ab} \times e_{12}, e_{ab} \times e_{20}, e_{bc} \times e_{01}, e_{bc} \times e_{12}, e_{bc} \times e_{20}, e_{ca} \times e_{01}, e_{ca} \times e_{12}, e_{ca} \times e_{20} \rangle$$



we obtain that

$$\Omega_2 (T^2) = \langle e_{a0\,b0\,b1} - e_{a0\,a1\,b1}, \ e_{a1\,b1\,b2} - e_{a1\,a2\,b2}, \ e_{a2\,b2\,b0} - e_{a2\,a0\,b0}, \\ e_{b0\,c0\,c1} - e_{b0\,b1\,c1}, \ e_{b1\,c1\,c2} - e_{b1\,b2\,c2}, \ e_{b2\,c2\,c0} - e_{b2\,b0\,c0}, \\ e_{c0\,a0\,a1} - e_{c0\,c1\,a1}, \ e_{c1\,a1\,a2} - e_{c1\,c2\,a2}, \ e_{c2\,a2\,a0} - e_{c2\,c0\,a0} \rangle$$

that is,

$$\Omega_2 \left(T^2 \right) = \langle e_{034} - e_{014}, \ e_{145} - e_{125}, \ e_{253} - e_{203}, \\ e_{367} - e_{347}, \ e_{478} - e_{458}, \ e_{586} - e_{536} \\ e_{601} - e_{671}, \ e_{712} - e_{782}, \ e_{820} - e_{860} \rangle.$$

We see that $\Omega_2(T^2)$ is generated by 9 squares.
This can be visualized using the following embedding of $G = T^2$ on a topological torus:

Using $\Omega_2(G)$, let us compute the curvature K_x on G. The above basis in $\Omega_2(G)$ is orthogonal and $||\omega||^2 = 2$ for any element ω of the basis.



Besides, for any vertex x, we have $[x, \omega] = 2$ for two of ω , $[x, \omega] = 1$ for two of ω , and $[x, \omega] = 0$ for the rest of ω . Hence,

$$[x, \Omega_2] = \sum_{\omega} \frac{[x, \omega]}{\|\omega\|^2} = \frac{2 \cdot 2 + 2 \cdot 1}{2} = 3$$

and

$$K_x = 1 - \frac{\deg(x)}{2} + \frac{[x, \Omega_2]}{3} = 1 - \frac{4}{2} + \frac{3}{3} = 0$$

Let us compute the homology groups of G. We know that

$$H_0(T) = \langle e_0 \rangle, \quad H_1(T) = \langle e_{01} + e_{12} + e_{20} \rangle, \quad H_p(T) = \{0\} \text{ for } p \ge 2$$

By (3.5) we have

$$H_1(G) = H_0(T) \otimes H_1(T) + H_1(T) \otimes H_0(T) = \langle v_1, v_2 \rangle$$

where

$$v_1 = e_a \times (e_{01} + e_{12} + e_{20}) = e_{a0a1} + e_{a1a2} + e_{a2a0} = e_{01} + e_{12} + e_{20}$$

$$v_2 = (e_{ab} + e_{bc} + e_{ca}) \times e_0 = e_{a0\,b0} + e_{b0\,c0} + e_{c0\,a0} = e_{03} + e_{36} + e_{60}.$$

Again by (3.5)

$$H_2(G) = H_1(T) \otimes H_1(T) = \langle u \rangle,$$

where

$$u = (e_{ab} + e_{bc} + e_{ca}) \times (e_{01} + e_{12} + e_{20}),$$

and $H_r(Z) = 0$ for all $r \ge 2$.

Hence, we obtain

$$u = e_{a0\ b0\ b1} - e_{a0\ a1\ b1} + e_{a1\ b1\ b2} - e_{a1\ a2\ b2} + e_{a2\ b2\ b0} - e_{a2\ a0\ b0} + e_{b0\ c0\ c1} - e_{b0\ b1\ c1} + e_{b1\ c1\ c2} - e_{b1\ b2\ c2} + e_{b2\ c2\ c0} - e_{b2\ b0\ c0} + e_{c0\ a0\ a1} - e_{c0\ c1\ a1} + e_{c1\ a1\ a2} - e_{c1\ c2\ a2} + e_{c2\ a2\ a0} - e_{c2\ c0\ a0}$$

that is

$$u = (e_{034} - e_{014}) + (e_{145} - e_{125}) + (e_{253} - e_{203}) + (e_{367} - e_{347}) + (e_{478} - e_{458}) + (e_{586} - e_{536}) + (e_{601} - e_{671}) + (e_{712} - e_{782}) + (e_{820} - e_{860}).$$

3.5 Cartesian product and curvature

Proposition 3.6 Let X be any digraph with a finite chain sequence $\{\Omega_p\}$ and Y be a cyclic digraph

 $Y = \{0 \to 1 \to 2 \to \dots \to m \to 0\}$

with $m \geq 2$. Then, with respect to the natural inner product,

 $K_z\left(X\Box Y\right) = 0$

for any $z \in X \Box Y$. In particular, $K(T^n) = 0$ where T is an 1-torus.

Consider an *n*-cube = I^n where $I = \{0 \rightarrow 1\}$. Then any vertex x of the *n*-cube is represented by a binary sequence $(x_1, ..., x_n)$. Set $|x| = x_1 + ... + x_n$.

Proposition 3.7 For any vertex x of the n-cube we have

$$K_x(n\text{-cube}) = \frac{1}{(n+1)\binom{n}{|x|}}.$$

Problem 3.8 How to compute $K(X \Box Y)$ in general?

3.6 Strong product

Define a strong product $X \square Y$ of digraphs as follows: the set of vertices of $X \square Y$ is $X \times Y$, while the arrows are defined as follows: $(a, b) \rightarrow (a', b)$ where $a \rightarrow a'$ (a horizontal edge), $(a, b) \rightarrow (a, b')$ where $b \rightarrow b'$ (a vertical edge), and $(a, b) \rightarrow (a', b')$ where $a \rightarrow a'$ and $b \rightarrow b'$ (a diagonal edge):



Conjecture 3.9 The Künneth formula holds for the strong product:

$$H_{r}\left(X \boxtimes Y\right) \cong \bigoplus_{\{p,q \ge 0: p+q=r\}} \left(H_{p}\left(X\right) \otimes H_{q}\left(Y\right)\right),$$

where the isomorphism is given by $u \otimes v \mapsto u \times v$.

It suffices to prove an analogue of the theorem of Eilenberg-Zilber: there are chain maps

$$F: \Omega_* \left(X \boxtimes Y \right) \to \Omega_* \left(X \right) \otimes \Omega_* \left(Y \right)$$

and

$$G: \Omega_*(X) \otimes \Omega_*(Y) \to \Omega_*(X \boxtimes Y)$$

such that FG = id and GF is *chain-homotopic* to id.

In fact, one can define G by $G(u \otimes v) = u \times v$, while the main difficulty is in construction of F. In the setting of Theorem 3.4, one uses Theorem 3.3 to show that G is bijective so that one can take $F = G^{-1}$.

4 Join of digraphs

Given two digraphs X, Y, define their *join* X * Y as follows: take first a disjoint union $X \sqcup Y$ and add arrows from any vertex of X to any vertex of Y.

For example,



In order to compute homology of X * Y we use the *augmented chain complex*

$$\mathbb{K} \stackrel{\partial}{\leftarrow} \Omega_0 \stackrel{\partial}{\leftarrow} \Omega_1 \stackrel{\partial}{\leftarrow} \dots \stackrel{\partial}{\leftarrow} \Omega_{p-1} \stackrel{\partial}{\leftarrow} \Omega_p \stackrel{\partial}{\leftarrow} \dots \tag{4.1}$$

where $\partial e_i = e$ = the unity of K.

The homology groups of (4.1) are called the reduced homology groups of G and are denoted by $\widetilde{H}_{p}(G)$. We have

$$\widetilde{H}_{p}(G) = H_{p}(G) \text{ for } p \ge 1 \text{ and } \widetilde{H}_{0}(G) = H_{0}(G) / \mathbb{K}.$$

Define the reduced Betti numbers: $\widetilde{\beta}_{p}(G) = \dim \widetilde{H}_{p}(G)$.

Define the join of elementary *p*-paths $u = e_{i_0...i_p}$ on X and $v = e_{j_0...j_q}$ on Y by

$$u * v = e_{i_0 \dots i_p j_0 \dots j_q}$$

so that u * v is a (p + q + 1)-path on X * Y. Then extend this definition by linearity to all paths u on X and v on Y.

If u and v are allowed then u * v is also allowed. The join of paths satisfies the product rule

$$\partial (u * v) = (\partial u) * v + (-1)^{p+1} u * \partial v.$$

It follows that the join of ∂ -invariant paths is ∂ -invariant: if $u \in \Omega_p(X)$ and $v \in \Omega_q(Y)$ then $u * v \in \Omega_r(X * Y)$ where r = p + q + 1. **Theorem 4.1** We have the following isomorphism for any $r \ge -1$:

$$\Omega_r(Z) \cong \bigoplus_{\{p,q \ge -1: p+q=r-1\}} \Omega_p(X) \otimes \Omega_q(Y)$$
(4.2)

that is given by the map $u \otimes v \mapsto u * v$ with $u \in \Omega_p(X)$ and $v \in \Omega_q(Y)$. Consequently, for any $r \ge 0$,

$$\widetilde{H}_{r}\left(X*Y\right) \cong \bigoplus_{\{p,q\geq 0: p+q=r-1\}} \widetilde{H}_{p}\left(X\right) \otimes \widetilde{H}_{q}\left(Y\right)$$

$$(4.3)$$

and

$$\widetilde{\beta}_{r}\left(X\ast Y\right)\cong\sum_{\left\{p,q\geq0:p+q=r-1\right\}}\widetilde{\beta}_{p}\left(X\right)\widetilde{\beta}_{q}\left(Y\right).$$

5 Digraphs of constant curvature

Fix a finite digraph G = (V, E). The space \mathcal{A}_p of allowed *p*-paths on *G* consists of all formal linear combinations of *elementary* allowed *p*-paths $e_{i_0...i_p}$ (where $i_0 \to i_1 \to ... \to i_p$ on *G*). Consider its subspace $\Omega_p = \{\omega \in \mathcal{A}_p : \partial \omega \in \mathcal{A}_{p-1}\}$. Then we have a path chain complex of digraph *G*:

$$0 \leftarrow \Omega_0 \stackrel{\partial}{\leftarrow} \Omega_1 \stackrel{\partial}{\leftarrow} \dots \stackrel{\partial}{\leftarrow} \Omega_{p-1} \stackrel{\partial}{\leftarrow} \Omega_p \stackrel{\partial}{\leftarrow} \Omega_{p+1} \stackrel{\partial}{\leftarrow} \dots$$

Fix in each \mathcal{A}_p the *natural* inner product such that all allowed elementary *p*-paths $e_{i_0...i_p}$ form an orthonormal basis in \mathcal{A}_p . This induces an inner product in all chain spaces Ω_p .

For any vertex x of G and any p-path $\omega = \sum \omega^{i_0 \dots i_p} e_{i_0 \dots i_p}$ we have

$$[x,\omega] = \sum_{i_0\dots i_p \in V} \left(\omega^{i_0\dots i_p}\right)^2 \left[x, e_{i_0\dots i_p}\right],$$

where $[x, e_{i_0...i_p}]$ = the number of occurrences of x in $i_0, ..., i_p$. If $\{\omega_k\}$ is an orthogonal basis of Ω_p , then by (2.5)

$$[x, \Omega_p] = \sum_k \frac{[x, \omega_k]}{\|\omega_k\|^2}$$

If the sequence $\{\Omega_p\}$ is finite, that is, $\Omega_p = \{0\}$ for large enough p, then we define the combinatorial curvature of G at a vertex x by

$$K_x = \sum_{p=0}^{\infty} \left(-\right)^p \frac{[x, \Omega_p]}{p+1}$$

Recall the Gauss-Bonnet formula:

$$K_{total} := \sum_{x \in V} K_x = \sum_{p=0}^{\infty} (-)^p \dim \Omega_p =: \chi.$$

In this section we construct a two-parameter family of digraphs with $K_x = \text{const}$.

Recall that a graph is called regular if deg (x) is constant. We say that a digraph G is strongly regular if the function $x \mapsto [x, \Omega_p]$ is constant for any p (and $\Omega_p = \{0\}$ for large enough p). In particular, a strongly regular digraph G is regular because deg $(x) = [x, \Omega_1]$. In this case $K_x = \text{const}$ and, hence,

$$K_x = \frac{K_{total}}{|V|} = \frac{\chi(G)}{|V|} =: K(G).$$

For any digraph G and any $m \in \mathbb{N}$ let us construct a new digraph by adding to G m new vertices $\{y_1, ..., y_m\}$ and all arrows $x \to y_i$ for all $x \in X$. This digraph is called m-suspension of G and is denoted by $sus_m G$.

In fact, $sus_m G = G * \{y_1, ..., y_m\}$.



Theorem 5.1 Let G be a strongly regular digraph, such that for some $k, m \in \mathbb{N}$ and, any $p \ge 0$,

$$\dim \Omega_p(G) = \binom{k}{p+1} m^{p+1}.$$
 (B(k,m))

Then $sus_m G$ is also strongly regular, and for all $p \ge 0$,

$$\dim \Omega_p(\operatorname{sus}_m G) = \binom{k+1}{p+1} m^{p+1}.$$
 (B(k+1,m))

For the digraph G as in Theorem 5.1 we have

$$\chi(G) = \sum_{p \ge 0} (-1)^p \dim \Omega_p = \sum_{p=0}^{k-1} (-1)^p \binom{k}{p+1} m^{p+1} = -\sum_{j=1}^k (-1)^j \binom{k}{j} m^j = 1 - (1-m)^k$$

It follows that

$$K(G) = \frac{\chi(G)}{|V|} = \frac{\chi(G)}{\dim \Omega_0} = \frac{1 - (1 - m)^k}{km}$$

Of course, the same formula is true for $K(sus_m G)$ with k replaced by k + 1:

$$K(sus_m G) = \frac{1 - (1 - m)^{k+1}}{(k+1)m}$$

Let us now construct a family $\{D_m^k\}_{k,m\in\mathbb{N}}$ of digraphs, satisfying $(\mathbf{B}(k,m))$. Denote by D_m the digraph that consists of m disjoint vertices and no arrows: $D_m = \{\underbrace{\bullet, ..., \bullet}_{m \text{ vertices}}\}$. Then

 D_m is strongly regular and satisfies (B(1,m)) because

dim
$$\Omega_0(D_m) = m = {\binom{1}{p+1}} m^{p+1}$$
 for $p = 0$, dim $\Omega_p(D_m) = 0 = {\binom{1}{p+1}} m^{p+1}$ for $p \ge 1$

Define the digraph D_m^k by

$$D_m^k = \underbrace{D_m * \dots * D_m}_k$$

that is, $D_m^{k+1} = \sup_m D_m^k$. From Theorem 5.1 we obtain by induction that D_m^k is strongly regular and satisfies $(\mathbf{B}(k,m))$.

Hence, D_m^k has a constant curvature

$$K(D_m^k) = \frac{1 - (1 - m)^k}{km}.$$
(5.1)

One can show that the only non-trivial Betti number of D_m^k with $k \ge 2$ is

$$\beta_{k-1} = \left(m-1\right)^k.$$

Example. For m = 1 we have by (5.1) $K(D_1^k) = \frac{1}{k}$.



Example. For m = 2 we have by (5.1)

$$K(D_2^k) = \begin{cases} 0, & k \text{ even,} \\ \frac{1}{k}, & k \text{ odd.} \end{cases}$$

Digraph D_2^2 is a *diamond*: It is an analogue of 1-sphere. It has constant curvature 0.



 D_2^3 is the octahedron: It is an analogue of 2-sphere. It has constant curvature $\frac{1}{3}$.

 D_2^4 is an analogue of 3-sphere. It has constant curvature 0.

 D_2^{k+1} is a digraph analogue of a k-sphere \mathbb{S}^k because D_2^{k+1} is obtained from D_2^k by 2-suspension.

Besides, the only non-trivial Betti number of D_2^{k+1} is $\beta_k = 1$ like Betti numbers for \mathbb{S}^k .



Example. For m = 3 we have by (5.1)

$$K(D_3^k) = \frac{1 - (-2)^k}{3k} = \frac{1}{3k} \begin{cases} 1 - 2^k, & k \text{ even,} \\ 1 + 2^k, & k \text{ odd.} \end{cases}$$

For example, D_3^2 is a directed version of $K_{3,3}$:

We have

$$K(D_3^2) = -\frac{1}{2}$$

and

$$K(D_3^3) = 1.$$



6 Hodge Laplacian on digraphs

As above, we fix the natural inner product $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ in all spaces Ω_p .

6.1 Definition of Δ_p

For the operator $\partial : \Omega_p \to \Omega_{p-1}$ consider the adjoint operator $\partial^* : \Omega_{p-1} \to \Omega_p$ so that $\langle \partial u, v \rangle = \langle u, \partial^* v \rangle$ for all $u \in \Omega_p$ and $v \in \Omega_{p-1}$.

Definition. Define the Hodge-Laplace operator on paths $\Delta_p : \Omega_p \to \Omega_p$ by

$$\Delta_p u = \partial^* \partial u + \partial \partial^* u. \tag{6.1}$$

Here we use the following operators ∂ and ∂^* : $\Omega_{p-1} \stackrel{\partial}{\underset{\partial^*}{\hookrightarrow}} \Omega_p$ and $\Omega_p \stackrel{\partial^*}{\underset{\partial}{\longrightarrow}} \Omega_{p+1}$.

Proposition 6.1 The operator Δ_p is self-adjoint and non-negative definite.

Denote by $\lambda_{\max}(\Delta_p)$ and $\lambda_{\min}(\Delta_p)$ the maximal and minimal eigenvalues of Δ_p . As we will see below, $\lambda_{\min}(\Delta_p) = 0$ if and only if $\beta_p > 0$; moreover, β_p is the multiplicity of the eigenvalue 0 of Δ_p .

Problem 6.2 Find a reasonable upper bounds for $\lambda_{\max}(\Delta_p)$. (Some upper bound for $\lambda_{\max}(\Delta_1)$ will be given below).

Problem 6.3 Find lower bounds for $\lambda_{\min}(\Delta_p)$ when $\beta_p = 0$.

Problem 6.4 Devise a program for computing the spectrum of Δ_p for large digraphs.

Problem 6.5 For which classes of digraphs the spectrum of Δ_p can be computed exactly? (Some partial answer will be given below).

We say that two digraphs G and G' are Hodge isospectral if spec $\Delta_p(G) = \operatorname{spec} \Delta_p(G')$ for all $p \geq 0$. A natural question in the spirit of inverse spectral problems is whether Hodge isospectral digraphs are isomorphic. In general the answer is "no", but in the existing examples the digraph G' is obtained from G by changing orientation of some arrows.

Problem 6.6 Is it true that Hodge isospectral digraphs are isomorphic as undirected graphs?

6.2 Harmonic paths

A path $u \in \Omega_p$ is called *harmonic* if $\Delta_p u = 0$. One can easily verify that a path $u \in \Omega_p$ is harmonic if and only if $\partial u = 0$ and $\partial^* u = 0$.

Denote by \mathcal{H}_p the set of all harmonic paths in Ω_p so that \mathcal{H}_p is a subspace of Ω_p .

Theorem 6.7 (Hodge decomposition) The space Ω_p is an orthogonal sum:

$$\Omega_p = \partial \Omega_{p+1} \bigoplus \partial^* \Omega_{p-1} \bigoplus \mathcal{H}_p \tag{6.2}$$

where ∂ and ∂^* are as follows:

$$\Omega_{p-1} \xrightarrow{\partial^*} \Omega_p \xleftarrow{\partial} \Omega_{p+1}.$$

Corollary 6.8 There is a natural linear isomorphism

$$H_p \cong \mathcal{H}_p. \tag{6.3}$$

In particular, dim $\mathcal{H}_p = \beta_p$, that is, the multiplicity of 0 as an eigenvalue of Δ_p is equal to the Betti number β_p .

Proof. Consider the operators

$$\Omega_{p-1} \stackrel{\partial}{\underset{\partial^*}{\longleftrightarrow}} \Omega_p.$$

It follows from (6.2) that

$$\ker \partial|_{\Omega_p} = \left(\partial^* \Omega_{p-1}\right)^{\perp} = \partial \Omega_{p+1} \bigoplus \mathcal{H}_p \tag{6.4}$$

whence $H_p = \ker \partial|_{\Omega_p} / \partial \Omega_{p+1} \cong \mathcal{H}_p$.

6.3 Matrix of Δ_p

Let $\{\alpha_i\}$ be an orthonormal basis in Ω_p , $\{\beta_m\}$ be an orthonormal basis in Ω_{p-1} and $\{\gamma_n\}$ be an orthonormal basis in Ω_{p+1} :

The operator $\partial: \Omega_p \to \Omega_{p-1}$ has in the bases $\{\alpha_i\}$ and $\{\beta_m\}$ the matrix

$$B = (\langle \beta_m, \partial \alpha_i \rangle)_{m,i} \tag{6.5}$$

where m is the row index and i is the column index.

Similarly, the operator $\partial^* : \Omega_p \to \Omega_{p+1}$ has the matrix

$$C = (\langle \gamma_n, \partial^* \alpha_i \rangle)_{n,i} = (\langle \partial \gamma_n, \alpha_i \rangle)_{n,i} \quad .$$
(6.6)

Since $\Delta_p = \partial^* \partial + (\partial^*)^* \partial^*$, we obtain the matrix of Δ_p in the basis $\{\alpha_i\}$:

matrix of
$$\Delta_p = B^T B + C^T C$$
. (6.7)

More explicitly, the (i, j)-entry of the matrix of Δ_p in the basis $\{\alpha_i\}$ is given by

$$\left\langle \Delta_p \alpha_i, \alpha_j \right\rangle = \sum_m \left\langle \partial \alpha_i, \beta_m \right\rangle \left\langle \partial \alpha_j, \beta_m \right\rangle + \sum_n \left\langle \alpha_i, \partial \gamma_n \right\rangle \left\langle \alpha_j, \partial \gamma_n \right\rangle.$$
(6.8)

Example. Recall that $\Omega_{-1} = \{0\}$, $\Omega_0 = \{e_i : i \in V\}$ and $\Omega_1 = \langle e_{kl} : k \to l \rangle$. Assuming that $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ is the natural inner product, we obtain by (6.8) that the matrix of Δ_0 is

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \Delta_0 e_i, e_j \rangle &= \sum_{k \to l} \langle e_i, \partial e_{kl} \rangle \langle e_j, \partial e_{kl} \rangle \\ &= \sum_{k \to l} \langle e_i, e_l - e_k \rangle \langle e_j, e_l - e_k \rangle \\ &= \sum_{k \to l} \left(\delta_{il} - \delta_{ik} \right) \left(\delta_{jl} - \delta_{jk} \right) \\ &= \sum_{k \to i} \delta_{ij} + \sum_{i \to l} \delta_{ij} - \mathbf{1}_{\{i \to j\}} - \mathbf{1}_{\{j \to i\}} \\ &= \deg(i) \, \delta_{ij} - \mathbf{1}_{\{i \to j\}} - \mathbf{1}_{\{j \to i\}}. \end{aligned}$$

If G has no double arrow then the matrix of $\Delta_0 = \text{diag}(\text{deg}(i)) - \mathbf{1}_{\{i \sim j\}}$ where $\mathbf{1}_{\{i \sim j\}}$ is the adjacency matrix of G. Hence, Δ_0 is the usual unnormalized Laplacian (=Kirchhoff operator) on functions on G.

Consequently, trace $\Delta_0 = \sum_{i \in V} \deg(i) = 2E$.

6.4 Examples of computation of Δ_1

Let us compute Δ_1 for the natural inner product. We use the orthonormal bases $\{e_m\}$ in Ω_0 and $\{e_{ij}: i \to j\}$ in Ω_1 . Let $\{\gamma_n\}$ be an orthonormal basis in Ω_2 . The matrix of Δ_1 has dimensions $E \times E$ and, by (6.8), its entries are

$$\left\langle \Delta_1 e_{ij}, e_{i'j'} \right\rangle = \sum_m \left\langle \partial e_{ij}, e_m \right\rangle \left\langle \partial e_{i'j'}, e_m \right\rangle + \sum_n \left\langle e_{ij}, \partial \gamma_n \right\rangle \left\langle e_{i'j'}, \partial \gamma_n \right\rangle \tag{6.9}$$

for all arrows $i \to j$ and $i' \to j'$. For the first sum in (6.9) we have

$$\sum_{m} \left\langle \partial e_{ij}, e_m \right\rangle \left\langle \partial e_{i'j'}, e_m \right\rangle = \sum_{m} \left\langle e_j - e_i, e_m \right\rangle \left\langle e_{j'} - e_{i'}, e_m \right\rangle = \sum_{m} \left(\delta_{jm} - \delta_{im} \right) \left(\delta_{j'm} - \delta_{i'm} \right)$$
$$= \delta_{jj'} - \delta_{ij'} - \delta_{ji'} + \delta_{ii'} =: [ij, i'j'].$$

The values of [ij, i'j'] are shown here:

Hence, in the case p = 1, we have

$$B^T B = ([ij, i'j'])$$

In particular, diagonal entries of $B^T B$ are 2.



Example. Consider an 1-torus

the



In this case $\Omega_1 = \langle e_{01}, e_{12}, e_{20} \rangle$, $\Omega_2 = \{0\}$, $|H_1| = 1$. Hence, we obtain

matrix of
$$\Delta_1 = B^T B = ([ij, i'j'])$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} e_{01} & e_{12} & e_{20} \\ e_{01} & [01, 01] & [01, 12] & [01, 20] \\ e_{12} & [12, 01] & [12, 12] & [12, 20] \\ e_{20} & [20, 01] & [20, 12] & [20, 20] \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -1 & -1 \\ -1 & 2 & -1 \\ -1 & -1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

The eigenvalues of Δ_1 are $\{0,3,3\} = \{0,3_2\}$.

Example. Consider a dodecahedron (like on p.2.3):

We have V = 20, E = 30, $\Omega_2 = \{0\}$ and $|H_1| = 11$. In particular, $C^T C = 0$.

The matrix of $\Delta_1 = B^T B$ is shown here:

The eigenvalues of Δ_1 are:

 $0_{11}, 2_5, 3_4, 5_4, (3 \pm \sqrt{5})_3,$

where the subscripts show multiplicity.



For a general digraph G with $\Omega_2 \neq \{0\}$, let us compute the entry $\langle e_{ij}, \partial \gamma_n \rangle$ of the matrix C assuming that $\gamma_n = \gamma$ is a triangle or square (note that although Ω_2 has always a basis of triangles and squares, the squares in this basis do not have to be orthogonal). If $\gamma = e_{abc}$ is a triangle then we have

$$\langle e_{ij}, \partial \gamma \rangle = \langle e_{ij}, e_{ab} + e_{bc} - e_{ac} \rangle = [ij, \gamma],$$

where

(1,	if $ij \in \{ab, bc\}$	
$[ij,\gamma] := \mathbf{k}$	-1	if $ij = ac$	
l	0,	otherwise.	a

If $\gamma = \frac{e_{abc} - e_{ab'c}}{\sqrt{2}}$ is a (normalized) square then

$$\langle e_{ij}, \partial \gamma \rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \langle e_{ij}, e_{ab} + e_{bc} - e_{ab'} - e_{b'c} \rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} [ij, \gamma],$$

where

$$[ij, \gamma] = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } ij \in \{ab, bc\} \\ -1 & \text{if } ij \in \{ab', b'c\} \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Example. Let G be a triangle $\{0 \to 1 \to 2, 0 \to 2\}$. Then $\Omega_1 = \langle e_{01}, e_{12}, e_{02} \rangle$ and

$$B^{T}B = ([ij, i'j']) = \begin{pmatrix} e_{01} & e_{12} & e_{02} \\ e_{01} & [01, 01] & [01, 12] & [01, 20] \\ e_{12} & [12, 01] & [12, 12] & [12, 20] \\ e_{02} & [02, 01] & [02, 12] & [02, 02] \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -1 & 1 \\ -1 & 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

The basis $\{\gamma_n\}$ of Ω_2 consists of a single triangle $\gamma = e_{012}$ so that

$$C = \begin{pmatrix} e_{01} & e_{12} & e_{02} \\ e_{012} & [01,\gamma] & [12,\gamma] & [02,\gamma] \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$
$$C^{T}C = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 & -1 \\ -1 & -1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$
$$matrix \text{ of } \Delta_{1} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -1 & 1 \\ -1 & 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 & -1 \\ -1 & -1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Example. Let G be a square $\{0 \to 1 \to 3, 0 \to 2 \to 3\}$. Then $\Omega_1 = \langle e_{01}, e_{02}, e_{13}, e_{23} \rangle$ and

$$B^{T}B = ([ij, i'j']) = \begin{pmatrix} e_{01} & e_{02} & e_{13} & e_{23} \\ e_{01} & [01, 01] & [01, 02] & [01, 13] & [01, 23] \\ e_{02} & [02, 01] & [02, 02] & [02, 13] & [02, 23] \\ e_{13} & [12, 01] & [13, 02] & [13, 13] & [13, 23] \\ e_{23} & [23, 01] & [23, 02] & [23, 13] & [23, 23] \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 1 & 2 & 0 & -1 \\ -1 & 0 & 2 & 1 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

The basis $\{\gamma_n\}$ of Ω_2 consists of a single square $\gamma = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (e_{013} - e_{023})$ so that

$$C = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} e_{01} & e_{02} & e_{13} & e_{23} \\ \gamma & [01,\gamma] & [02,\gamma] & [13,\gamma] & [23,\gamma] \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 & 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$
$$C^{T}C = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 & 1 & -1 \\ -1 & 1 & -1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 & 1 & -1 \\ -1 & 1 & -1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$
matrix of $\Delta_{1} = B^{T}B + C^{T}C = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{5}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{1}{2} & \frac{5}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} \\ -\frac{1}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} & \frac{5}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \\ -\frac{1}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} & \frac{5}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \end{pmatrix}$, the eigenvalues are $\{2_{3}, 4\}$.

Example. Consider a following digraph:

Here $|\Omega_1| = E = 6$, $|\Omega_2| = 2$ and

 $\Omega_2 = \langle e_{014} - e_{024}, e_{014} - e_{034} \rangle$

However, this basis is not orthogonal.

Orthogonalization gives an orthonormal basis in Ω_2 :



$$\begin{split} \gamma_1 &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left(e_{014} - e_{024} \right), \\ \gamma_2 &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} \left(e_{014} + e_{024} - 2e_{034} \right). \end{split}$$

Since

$$\begin{aligned} \partial \gamma_1 &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left(e_{01} + e_{14} - e_{02} - e_{24} \right), \\ \partial \gamma_2 &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} \left(e_{01} + e_{04} + e_{02} + e_{24} - 2e_{03} - 2e_{34} \right), \end{aligned}$$

we compute the matrix C:

$$C = (\langle e_{ij}, \partial \gamma_n \rangle) = \begin{pmatrix} e_{01} & e_{14} & e_{02} & e_{24} & e_{03} & e_{34} \\ \partial \gamma_1 & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & 0 & 0 \\ \partial \gamma_2 & \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} & -\frac{2}{\sqrt{6}} & -\frac{2}{\sqrt{6}} \end{pmatrix}$$

and

$$C^{T}C = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{2}{3} & \frac{2}{3} & -\frac{1}{3} & -\frac{1}{3} & -\frac{1}{3} & -\frac{1}{3} & -\frac{1}{3} \\ \frac{2}{3} & \frac{2}{3} & -\frac{1}{3} & -\frac{1}{3} & -\frac{1}{3} & -\frac{1}{3} \\ -\frac{1}{3} & -\frac{1}{3} & \frac{2}{3} & \frac{2}{3} & -\frac{1}{3} & -\frac{1}{3} \\ -\frac{1}{3} & -\frac{1}{3} & \frac{2}{3} & \frac{2}{3} & -\frac{1}{3} & -\frac{1}{3} \\ -\frac{1}{3} & -\frac{1}{3} & -\frac{1}{3} & -\frac{1}{3} & -\frac{1}{3} & \frac{2}{3} \\ -\frac{1}{3} & -\frac{1}{3} & -\frac{1}{3} & -\frac{1}{3} & -\frac{1}{3} & \frac{2}{3} & \frac{2}{3} \end{pmatrix}$$

We compute also B:

$$B^{T}B = ([e_{ij}, e_{i'j'}]) = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 2 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 2 & -1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & 2 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 2 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & -1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

whence

matrix of
$$\Delta_1 = B^T B + C^T C = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{8}{3} & -\frac{1}{3} & \frac{2}{3} & -\frac{1}{3} & \frac{2}{3} & -\frac{1}{3} \\ -\frac{1}{3} & \frac{8}{3} & -\frac{1}{3} & \frac{2}{3} & -\frac{1}{3} & \frac{2}{3} \\ \frac{2}{3} & -\frac{1}{3} & \frac{8}{3} & -\frac{1}{3} & \frac{2}{3} & -\frac{1}{3} & \frac{2}{3} \\ -\frac{1}{3} & \frac{2}{3} & -\frac{1}{3} & \frac{8}{3} & -\frac{1}{3} & \frac{2}{3} & -\frac{1}{3} \\ \frac{2}{3} & -\frac{1}{3} & \frac{2}{3} & -\frac{1}{3} & \frac{8}{3} & -\frac{1}{3} & \frac{2}{3} \\ -\frac{1}{3} & \frac{2}{3} & -\frac{1}{3} & \frac{2}{3} & -\frac{1}{3} & \frac{8}{3} & -\frac{1}{3} \\ -\frac{1}{3} & \frac{2}{3} & -\frac{1}{3} & \frac{2}{3} & -\frac{1}{3} & \frac{8}{3} \end{pmatrix}$$

The spectrum of Δ_1 is $\{2_4, 3, 5\}$.

Example. Consider the following pyramid:

Here $|\Omega_0| = 5$, $|\Omega_1| = 8$, $|\Omega_2| = 5$,

and

$$\Omega_2 = \langle e_{014}, e_{024}, e_{134}, e_{234}, e_{013} - e_{023} \rangle.$$



We have

$$B^{T}B = ([ij, i'j']) = \begin{pmatrix} e_{01} & e_{02} & e_{13} & e_{23} & e_{04} & e_{14} & e_{24} & e_{34} \\ e_{01} & 2 & 1 & -1 & 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ e_{02} & 1 & 2 & 0 & -1 & 1 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ e_{13} & -1 & 0 & 2 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 \\ e_{23} & 0 & -1 & 1 & 2 & 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 \\ e_{04} & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 2 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ e_{14} & -1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 2 & 1 & 1 \\ e_{24} & 0 & -1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 2 & 1 \\ e_{34} & 0 & 0 & -1 & -1 & 1 & 1 & 2 & 1 \\ e_{34} & 0 & 0 & -1 & -1 & 1 & 1 & 2 & 1 \\ e_{134} & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ e_{134} & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 1 \\ e_{014} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ e_{134} & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 1 \\ e_{014} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ e_{024} & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ e_{134} & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 1 \\ e_{014} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 1 \\ e_{014} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 1 \\ e_{014} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 1 \\ e_{014} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 1 \\ e_{014} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 1 \\ e_{014} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 1 \\ e_{014} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 1 \\ e_{014} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 1 \\ e_{014} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 1 \\ e_{014} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 1 \\ e_{014} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 1 \\ e_{014} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 1 \\ e_{014} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 1 \\ e_{014} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 1 \\ e_{014} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ e_{014} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ e_{014} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ e_{014} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ e_{014} & e_{014} &$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} e_{234} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 1 \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (e_{013} - e_{023}) & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \end{pmatrix}$$

$$C^{T}C = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{3}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} & -1 & 1 & 0 & 0\\ -\frac{1}{2} & \frac{3}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & -1 & 0 & 1 & 0\\ \frac{1}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} & \frac{3}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} & 0 & -1 & 0 & 1\\ -\frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} & \frac{3}{2} & 0 & 0 & -1 & 1\\ -1 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 2 & -1 & -1 & 0\\ 1 & 0 & -1 & 0 & -1 & 2 & 0 & -1\\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 & -1 & 0 & 2 & -1\\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & -1 & -1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

matrix of $\Delta_{1} = B^{T}B + C^{T}C = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{7}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} & 0 & 0 & 0\\ \frac{1}{2} & \frac{7}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} & 0 & 0 & 0\\ -\frac{1}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} & \frac{7}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & 0 & 0 & 0\\ -\frac{1}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} & \frac{7}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & 0 & 0 & 0\\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 4 & 0 & 0\\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 4 & 0 & 0\\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 4 & 0\\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 4 \end{pmatrix}$

(6.10)

The eigenvalues of Δ_1 are $\{3_5, 5_3\}$.

Example. Consider the icosahedron:

Here V = 12, E = 30, $|\Omega_2| = 25$

Space Ω_2 is generated by 20 triangles and 5 squares (see p.56).

Computation shows that

 $\lambda_{\min} = 0.810...$ and $\lambda_{\max} = (5 + \sqrt{5})_3$

Other multiple eigenvalues are

$$6_5 \text{ and } (5 - \sqrt{5})_3.$$

The full spectrum of Δ_1 is shown here:





4.5	-0.5	1.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	-1.0	0.0	-0.5	0.0	0.0	-0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
-0.5	5.0	1.0	1.0	-0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	-0.5	-0.5	0.0	-0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1.0	1.0	4.5	0.0	-0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-0.5	0.0	-0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0.0	1.0	0.0	4.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1.0	-0.5	-0.5	1.0	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-0.5	-0.5	-0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	-1.0	-1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
-1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	4.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-1.0	-1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	4.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
-0.5	-0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	4.5	0.0	0.0	-0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	1.0
0.0	-0.5	0.0	0.0	-0.5	-1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.0	-0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-0.5	-0.5	-1.0	-0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-0.5	4.5	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-0.5	0.0	-0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
-0.5	-0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-0.5	0.0	1.0	4.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0
0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.5	-0.5	0.0	1.0	-1.0	0.0	0.0	-0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-0.5	0.0
0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-0.5	4.5	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	-0.5	0.0
0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	4.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	1.0	4.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0
0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	-1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	4.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-1.0
0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	4.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-0.5	-0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	4.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	-0.5	0.0
0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.0	1.0	0.0	-1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	4.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0.0	0.0	-0.5	0.0	-0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	4.5	0.0	-0.5	0.0	1.0	0.0	1.0	0.0
0.0	-0.5	0.0	0.0	-0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-1.0	0.0	0.0	4.5	0.0	-1.0	0.0	-1.0	0.0	0.0
0.0	0.0	-0.5	0.0	-0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-0.5	-0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	-0.5	0.0	5.0	0.0	-0.5	0.0	1.0	0.0
0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-1.0	0.0	4.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-0.5	-0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	-0.5	0.0	4.5	1.0	0.0	0.0
0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-1.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	4.0	0.0	0.0
0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-0.5	-0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-0.5	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.5	1.0
0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	4.0

For icosahedron the matrix of $\Delta_1 =$
Example. Consider a rhombicuboctahedron (see also p.53):

Here V = 24, E = 48, $|\Omega_2| = 26$.

Space Ω_2 is generated by 8 triangles and 18 squares.

We have $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 7_2$ and $\lambda_{\text{min}} = 0.518...$, and there are many multiple eigenvalues:

 $5_6, 4_4, 3_3, 2_3, 1_3$ etc.

The spectrum of Δ_1 is shown here:





For rhombicuboctahedron the matrix of $\Delta_1 =$

30 10 05 -10 -05 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 -0.5 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0	0.0
1.0 3.5 0.0 0.0 0.0 1.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0	0.0
	0.0
	0.0
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6.5 Trace of Δ_1

Recall that, for any digraph G,

trace
$$\Delta_0 = \sum_{i \in V} \deg(i) = 2E$$
.

There is a similar result for the trace of Δ_1 .

Theorem 6.9 Let T be the number of triangles in Ω_2 , S be the number of linearly independent squares in Ω_2 , and D be the number of double arrows $a \rightleftharpoons b$. Then

trace
$$\Delta_1 = 2E + 3T + 2S + 4D.$$
 (6.11)

By a square here we mean an allowed 2-path $e_{abc} - e_{ab'c}$ such that $a \neq c$ and $a \not\rightarrow c$.

For example, for this pyramid (as on p.104) we have E = 8, T = 4, S = 1 and D = 0, whence trace $\Delta_1 = 2 \cdot 8 + 3 \cdot 4 + 2 \cdot 1 = 30$, which matches the sum of the eigenvalues as well as the sum of the diagonal entries of the matrix of Δ_1 in (6.10).



6.6 An estimate of $\lambda_{\max}(\Delta_1)$

Denote by $\lambda_{\max}(A)$ the maximal eigenvalue of a symmetric operator A. It is easy to prove that

$$\lambda_{\max}\left(\Delta_{0}\right) \leq 2\max_{i} \deg\left(i\right).$$

For any arrow ξ in G denote by $\deg_{\Delta} \xi$ the number of triangles containing ξ and by $\deg_{\Box} \xi$ the number of squares containing ξ .

Theorem 6.10 Assume that there is an orthogonal basis in Ω_2 that consists of triangles and squares. Then

$$\lambda_{\max}\left(\Delta_{1}\right) \leq \max\left(2\max_{i\in V}\deg i, \max_{\xi\in E}\left(3\deg_{\Delta}\xi + 2\deg_{\Box}\xi\right)\right).$$
(6.12)

Problem 6.11 Extend (6.12) to the general case.

Problem 6.12 Is it true that in fact

$$\lambda_{\max}(\Delta_1) \le 2 \max_{i \in V} \deg i$$
?

This is the case in all known examples.

6.7 Exact computation of spec Δ_p on some digraphs

6.7.1 Spectrum of Δ_p on digraph spheres

Let $D_m = \{\underbrace{\bullet, ..., \bullet}_{m \text{ vertices}}\}$ be the digraph that consists of $m \ge 1$ disjoint vertices and no arrows. Consider for any $n \ge 1$ the digraph $D_m^n = \underbrace{D_m * ... * D_m}_{n \text{ times}}$.

Theorem 6.13 We have, for all $n, m \ge 1$ and $r \ge 2$,

spec
$$\Delta_{r-1}(D_m^n) = \left\{ ((n-k)m)_{(m-1)^k \binom{r}{k} \binom{n}{r}} \right\}_{k=0}^r.$$
 (6.13)

More explicitly, (6.13) means the following: if r > n then spec $\Delta_{r-1}(D_m^n) = \emptyset$, while for $r \leq n$ the spectrum of $\Delta_{r-1}(D_m^n)$ consists of the following r+1 eigenvalues

$$(n-r)m, (n-r+1)m, (n-r+2)m, ..., (n-1)m, nm,$$
 (6.14)

with the multiplicities

$$(m-1)^r \binom{n}{r}, \quad (m-1)^{r-1} r\binom{n}{r}, \quad (m-1)^{r-2} \binom{r}{2} \binom{n}{r}, \dots, (m-1) r\binom{n}{r}, \quad \binom{n}{r}.$$
 (6.15)

Example. Let m = 1, that is, $D_1 = \{\bullet\}$. Clearly, $D_1^n = K_n$ where K_n is a complete

digraph that consist of n vertices



In this case all the multiplicities in (6.15) are 0 except for the last one $\binom{n}{r}$. Hence,

 $\operatorname{spec} \Delta_{r-1}(K_n) = \{n_{\binom{n}{r}}\}.$

Example. Let m = 2, that is, $D_2 = \{\bullet, \bullet\}$. Then $D_2^n =: S^{n-1}$ can be regarded as a digraph sphere of dim = n - 1. For example, S^1 is a *diamond* and S^2 is an *octahedron*.



In this case (6.13) becomes

spec
$$\Delta_{r-1}(S^{n-1}) = \left\{ (2(n-k))_{\binom{r}{k}\binom{n}{r}} \right\}_{k=0}^r.$$

Consequently, if $2 \leq r \leq n$ then

$$\lambda_{\max}\left(\Delta_{r-1}(S^{n-1})\right) = 2n_{\binom{n}{r}} \quad \text{and} \quad \lambda_{\min}\left(\Delta_{r-1}(S^{n-1})\right) = (2(n-r))_{\binom{n}{r}}.$$

For example, for r = 2 we have

spec
$$\Delta_1(S^{n-1}) = \left\{ (2(n-2))_{\binom{n}{2}}, (2(n-1))_{\binom{n}{2}}, (2n)_{\binom{n}{2}} \right\},\$$

and for r = 3

spec
$$\Delta_2(S^{n-1}) = \left\{ (2(n-3))_{\binom{n}{3}}, (2(n-2))_{\binom{n}{3}}, (2(n-1))_{\binom{n}{3}}, (2n)_{\binom{n}{3}} \right\}$$

For the octahedron S^2 (that is n = 3) we obtain

spec
$$\Delta_1(S^2) = \{2_3, 4_6, 6_3\}$$

and

spec
$$\Delta_2(S^2) = \{0, 2_3, 4_3, 6\}$$
.

Example. Let m = 3 and n = 2.

Then D_3^2 coincides with the complete bipartite digraph $K_{3,3}$:



Then (6.13) yields for r = 2 that

spec
$$\Delta_1(K_{3,3}) = \left\{ (3(2-k))_{\binom{2}{k}\binom{2}{2}2^k} \right\}_{k=0}^2 = \{0_4, 3_4, 6\}.$$

6.7.2 Spectrum of Δ_p on cubes

Recall that the *n*-cube I^n is defined by

$$I^n = \underbrace{I \square I \square \dots \square I}_n$$

where $I = \{\bullet \rightarrow \bullet\}.$



The operator $\Delta_p(I^n)$ is non-trivial if $0 \le p \le n$. It is possible to prove that

spec
$$\Delta_0(I^n) = \left\{ (2k)_{\binom{n}{k}} \right\}_{k=0}^n$$
 (6.16)

Theorem 6.14 For all $1 \le p \le n$ we have

spec
$$\Delta_p(I^n) = \left\{ \left(\frac{2k}{p}\right)_{\binom{n}{k}\binom{k-1}{p-1}} \right\}_{k=p}^n \bigsqcup \left\{ \left(\frac{2k}{p+1}\right)_{\binom{n}{k}\binom{k-1}{p}} \right\}_{k=p+1}^n.$$
 (6.17)

In particular,

$$\lambda_{\max}\left(\Delta_p(I^n)\right) = \left(\frac{2n}{p}\right)_{\binom{n-1}{p-1}} \quad and \quad \lambda_{\min}\left(\Delta_p(I^n)\right) = 2_{\binom{n+1}{p+1}}$$

For example, for p = 1 we obtain

spec
$$\Delta_1(I^n) = \left\{ (2k)_{\binom{n}{k}} \right\}_{k=1}^n \bigsqcup \left\{ k_{\binom{k-1}{k}} \right\}_{k=2}^n,$$
 (6.18)

and

$$\lambda_{\min}(\Delta_1(I^n)) = 2_{\binom{n}{2}}$$
 and $\lambda_{\max}(\Delta_1(I^n)) = (2n)_1$.

Example. For a 3-cube we obtain

$$\operatorname{spec} \Delta_{1}(I^{3}) = \left\{ (2k)_{\binom{3}{k}} \right\}_{k=1}^{3} \bigsqcup \left\{ k_{(k-1)\binom{3}{k}} \right\}_{k=2}^{3} = \{2_{3}, 4_{3}, 6\} \bigsqcup \{2_{3}, 3_{2}\} = \{2_{6}, 3_{2}, 4_{3}, 6\},$$
$$\operatorname{spec} \Delta_{2} \left(I^{3} \right) = \left\{ k_{\binom{3}{k}\binom{k-1}{1}} \right\}_{k=2}^{3} \bigsqcup \left\{ \binom{2}{3}k \right\}_{\binom{3}{k}\binom{k-1}{2}} \right\}_{k=3}^{3} = \{2_{3}, 3_{2}\} \bigsqcup \{2_{1}\} = \{2_{4}, 3_{2}\},$$
$$\operatorname{spec} \Delta_{3} \left(I^{3} \right) = \left\{ \binom{2k}{3} \right\}_{\binom{3}{k}\binom{k-1}{2}} \right\}_{k=3}^{3} = \{2_{1}\}$$

It follows from (6.18) that

spec $\Delta_1(I^4) = \{2_{10}, 3_8, 4_9, 6_4, 8\}, \text{ spec } \Delta_1(I^5) = \{2_{15}, 3_{20}, 4_{25}, 5_4, 6_{10}, 8_5, 10\}.$

6.7.3 Spectrum of Δ_p on tori

Recall that the *n*-torus T^n is defined by

$$T^n = \underbrace{T \Box T \Box \dots \Box T}_n$$

where
$$T = \{0 \rightarrow 1 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 0\}.$$

We have

spec
$$\Delta_0(T^n) = \left\{ (3k)_{2^k \binom{n}{k}} \right\}_{k=0}^n$$
. (6.19)

Theorem 6.15 For all $1 \le p \le n$ we have

$$\operatorname{spec} \Delta_p(T^n) = \left\{ \left(\frac{3k}{p}\right)_{2^k \binom{n}{k} \binom{n-1}{p-1}} \right\}_{k=0}^n \bigsqcup \left\{ \left(\frac{3k}{p+1}\right)_{2^k \binom{n}{k} \binom{n-1}{p}} \right\}_{k=0}^n.$$
(6.20)

In particular,

$$\lambda_{\max}\left(\Delta_p(T^n)\right) = \left(\frac{3n}{p}\right)_{2^n\binom{n-1}{p-1}} \quad and \quad \lambda_{\min}\left(\Delta_p(T^n)\right) = 0_{\binom{n}{p}}.$$



For example, for p = 1 we obtain

spec
$$\Delta_1(T^n) = \left\{ (3k)_{2^k \binom{n}{k}} \right\}_{k=0}^n \bigsqcup \left\{ \left(\frac{3k}{2} \right)_{2^k \binom{n}{k}(n-1)} \right\}_{k=0}^n$$

Example. For T^2 we obtain

$$\operatorname{spec} \Delta_{1}(T^{2}) = \left\{ (3k)_{2^{k} \binom{2}{k}} \right\}_{k=0}^{2} \bigsqcup \left\{ \left(\frac{3k}{2} \right)_{2^{k} \binom{2}{k}} \right\}_{k=0}^{2}$$
$$= \left\{ 0_{1}, 3_{4}, 6_{4} \right\} \bigsqcup \left\{ 0_{1}, \left(\frac{3}{2} \right)_{4}, 3_{4} \right\} = \left\{ 0_{2}, \left(\frac{3}{2} \right)_{4}, 3_{8}, 6_{4} \right\}$$
$$\operatorname{spec} \Delta_{2} \left(T^{2} \right) = \left\{ \left(\frac{3}{2}k \right)_{2^{k} \binom{2}{k}} \right\}_{k=0}^{2} = \left\{ 0, \left(\frac{3}{2} \right)_{4}, 3_{4} \right\},$$

and for T^3

spec
$$\Delta_1(T^3) = \left\{ 0_3, \left(\frac{3}{2}\right)_{12}, 3_{30}, \left(\frac{9}{2}\right)_{16}, 6_{12}, 9_8 \right\}.$$