

CPSC 531F

Feb 24, 2025

Last time: used Mayer-Vietoris to  
compute simplicial homology groups

$H_i^{\text{simp}}(K)$  for various abstract  
simplicial complexes,  $K$ , and

$$\beta_i^{\text{simp}}(K) = \dim \left( H_i^{\text{simp}}(K) \right)$$

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Today! Start to think

“geometrically” to better

understand  $\beta_i^{\text{simp}}(K)$

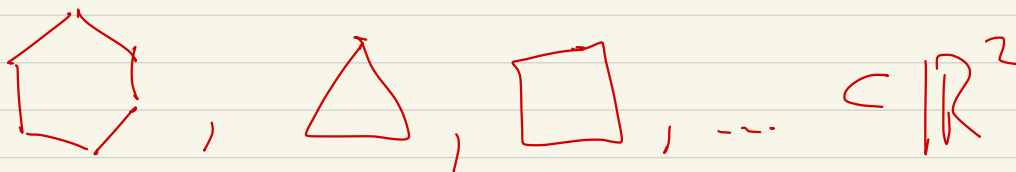
Example 1:

$$\beta_i^{\text{simp}} \left( \text{pentagon} \right) = \begin{cases} 1 & i=0,1 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

similarly for any cycle.

Why the same for any  $n$  cycles?

Ans:



are all homeomorphic as

subsets of  $\mathbb{R}^2$

Example 2: The following all have

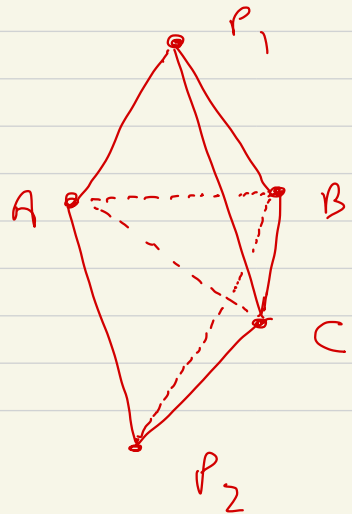
$$\beta_0 = \beta_2 = 1, \quad \beta_i = 0 \text{ if } i \neq 0, 2 :$$

(A)



"3-simplex minus its interior"

(B) the suspension of any cycle!



All homeomorphic

The plan!

- Define when  $X \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  and

$Y \subset \mathbb{R}^m$  are homeomorphic.

- Develop intuition for topological spaces.

- Eventually! define singular homology and

$$H_i^{\text{simp}}(K) \cong H_i^{\text{sing}}(|K|)$$

Recall!

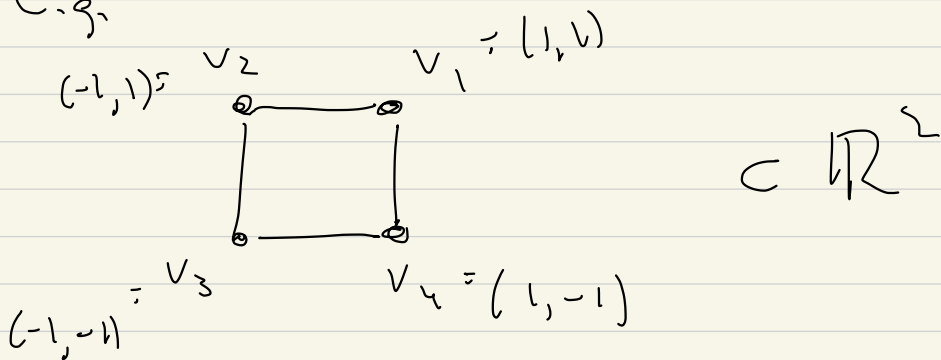
simplex a set

$$\text{Conv}(\vec{a}_0, \dots, \vec{a}_d) \subset \mathbb{R}^n$$

where  $\vec{a}_0, \dots, \vec{a}_d \in \mathbb{R}^n$  are in  
general position.

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E.g.



$$K = \left\{ \emptyset, \{v_1\}, \dots, \{v_n\}, \text{Conv}(v_1, v_2), \dots, \text{Conv}(v_2, v_3), \dots, \text{Conv}(v_4, v_1) \right\}$$

A simplicial complex  $K$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$   
is a set of simplices in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  st.

(1) if  $X \in K$ , then any face  
of  $X$  also lies in  $K$

$(X = \text{Conv}(a_0, \dots, a_d) \in K \Rightarrow$   
 $A' \subset \{a_0, \dots, a_d\},$   
 $\text{Conv}(A')$  is a face of  $X$   
and  $\text{Conv}(A') \in K$ )

(2) If  $X, X' \in K$  then  
 $X \cap X'$  is a face of both  $X, X'$

$$K^{obs} = \{ \emptyset, \{v_1\}, \dots, \{v_n\}, \{v_1, v_2\}, \dots, \{v_n, v_1\} \}$$

combinatorial structure

Also defined:

$$|K| = |K|_{geom}$$

$$= \bigcup_{X \in K} X \subset \mathbb{R}^2$$


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In the example

$$|K| = \square \subset \mathbb{R}^2$$

Claim:

$$\square \subset \mathbb{R}^2$$



and

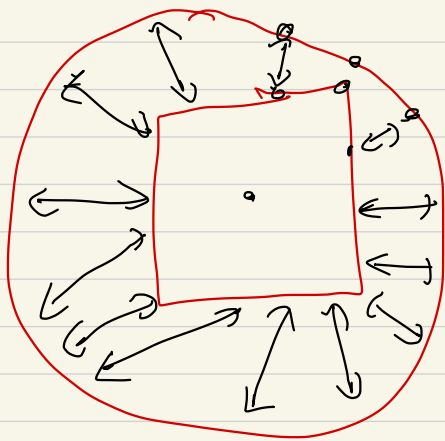
$$S^1 = \{ (x, y) \mid x^2 + y^2 = 1 \} \subset \mathbb{R}^2$$

$$\circ \subset \mathbb{R}^2$$

are "topologically the same"



Why are  and  the  
same, or homeomorphic



There's a (one-to-one) bijection

$$f: \text{circle} \rightarrow \text{square}$$

s.t.  $f$  and  $f^{-1}$  are continuous

So...  $X \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $Y \subset \mathbb{R}^m$

and

$$f: X \rightarrow Y$$

is continuous at  $x_0 \in X$  if

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} f(x) = f(x_0) \quad (*)$$

What does  $(*)$  "limit" mean

"We can get  $f(x)$  ~~as~~ close to  $f(x_0)$  as we like, by taking  $x$  sufficiently close to  $x_0$ "

i.e.,

for any  $\epsilon > 0$ , there is a  $\delta > 0$

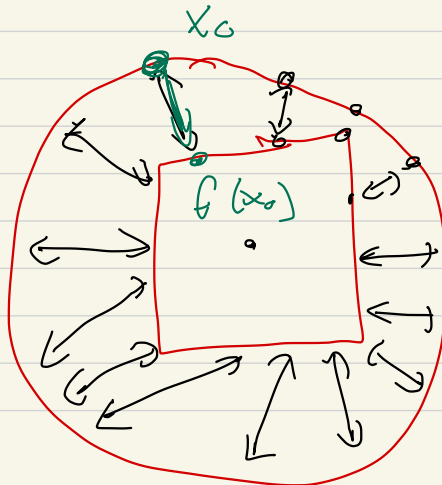
st.

$$|f(x_0) - f(x)| \leq \epsilon$$

provided that

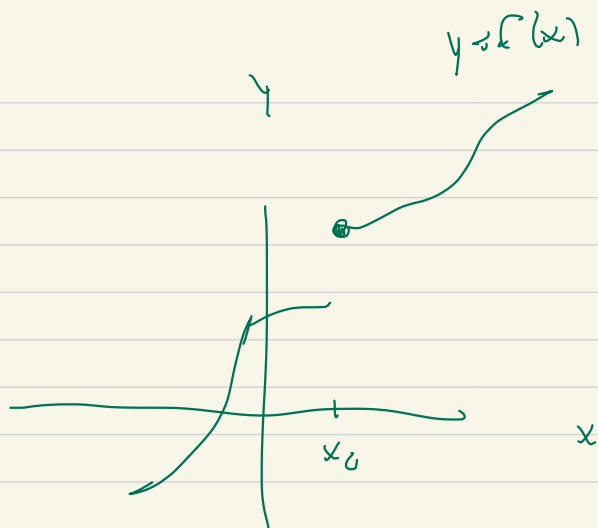
$$|x_0 - x| \leq \delta \quad (\text{and } x \in X)$$

~~(\*)~~

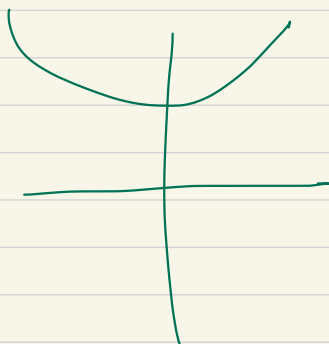


Rem:

$$f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$



not continuous



is continuous

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If  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , then a neighbourhood

of  $x$  is a subset  $N \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  s.t.

for some  $\rho > 0$ , we have

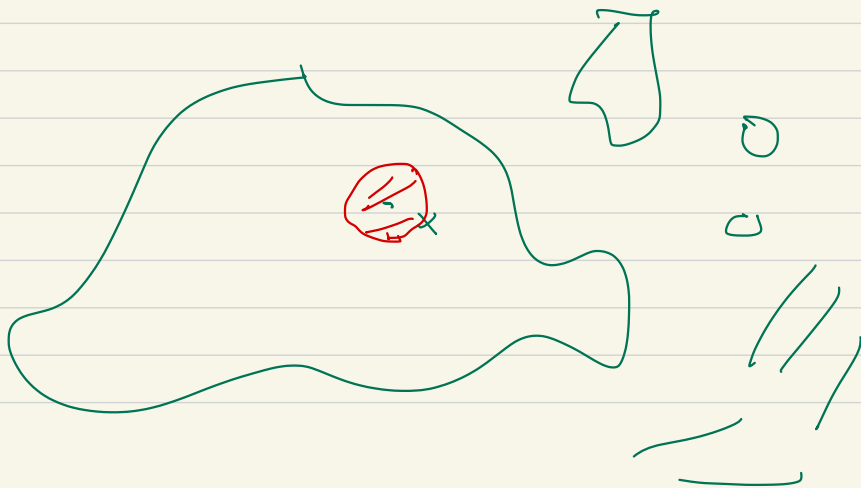
$$\text{Ball}_p^{\text{closed}}(x) \subset N$$

where

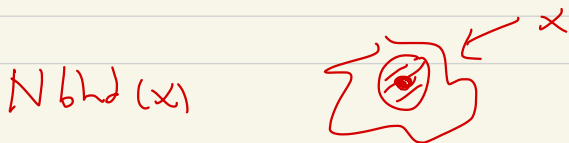
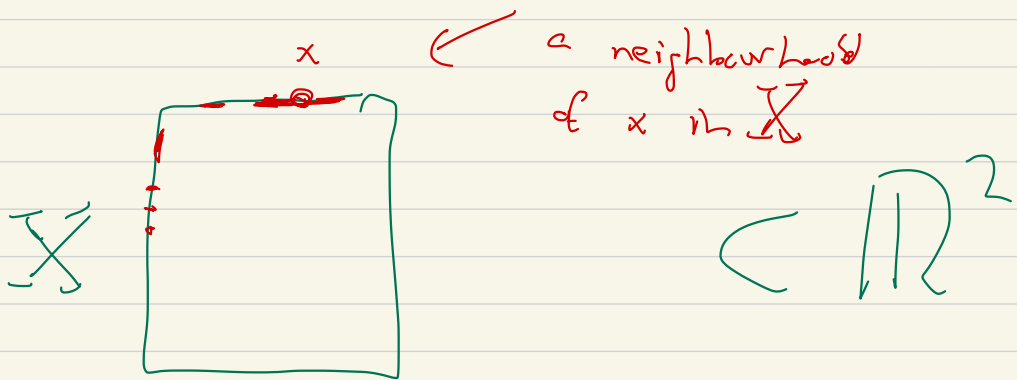
$$\text{Ball}_p^{\text{closed}}(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{x' \mid |x' - x| \leq p\}$$



$N$ !



Also, if  $X \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ , and  $x \in X$ ,  
 then a neighbourhood of  $x$  in  $X$   
 (with respect to viewing  $X$  as contained in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ )  
 is any set of the form  $X \cap N$   
 where  $N$  is a neighbourhood of  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,



There is a textbook by Armstrong  
that takes this pedagogical approach  
(Chapters 1 & 2):

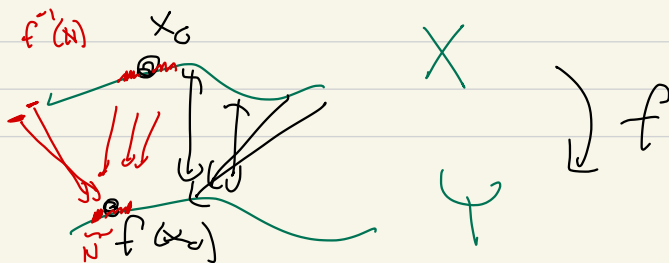
(\*) is equivalent to:

if  $N$  is any neighbourhood of  $f(x_0)$ ,

then

$$f^{-1}(N) = \{ x \mid f(x) \in N \}$$

is a neighborhood of  $x_0$



So

$$f: X \rightarrow Y$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \cap & & \cap \\ \mathbb{R}^h & & \mathbb{R}^m \end{array}$$

is continuous if for every  $x_0$ ,  
every neighbourhood,  $N_1$ , of  $f(x_0)$   
has

$$f^{-1}(N_1)$$

a neighbourhood of  $x_0$ .

$$\text{Claim: } X \xrightarrow{f} Y \xrightarrow{g} Z$$

$f, g$  continuous,  $g \circ f$  is continuous



Next time: even simpler !

we'll look at

{ open subsets  
open neighbourhood }