

ANALYTIC AND HOMOLOGICAL ASPECTS
of
DIFFERENTIAL COHOMOLOGY

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arise in many analytic settings.**

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- MacPherson Formulas for Degeneracies of Bundle Maps

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The resulting mapping

$$\widehat{\mathbb{H}}^{n-k-1}(X) \longrightarrow \text{Hom} \left(\widehat{\mathbb{H}}^k(X), S^1 \right)$$

has dense range. In fact this gives an **isomorphism**

$$\widehat{\mathbb{H}}^{n-k-1}(X) \xrightarrow{\cong} \text{Hom}_\infty \left(\widehat{\mathbb{H}}^k(X), S^1 \right)$$

with the **smooth** homomorphisms.

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As with ordinary cohomology,
This universality makes differential cohomology
useful and important.

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In practice it is quite different
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The apparatus also extends beyond differential cohomology.

$\bar{\partial}$ -Sparks

Part I.

The de Rham-Federer Formulation of Differential Cohomology

- Devised by Harvey-L.-Zweck (2003)
- It motivates and is archetypical
of the spark apparatus.
- The product is geometrically clear.

De Rham - Federer Sparks

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$$dd^c \log |f| = -\text{Div}(f) \quad \text{on } U^{\text{open}} \subset \mathbf{C}^n.$$

for $f \in \mathcal{O}(U)$.

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Dirac Monopoles.

$L \rightarrow S^2 = \mathbf{P}_{\mathbf{C}}^1$ a hermitian holomorphic line bundle,
 $f \in \Gamma_{\text{hol}}(L)$

$$dd^c \log \|f\| = c_1(L) - \text{Div}(f)$$

More Generally.

$L \rightarrow X$ a hermitian holomorphic line bundle,
over any complex manifold X .

$$f \in \Gamma_{\text{hol}}(L)$$

$$\boxed{dT = c_1(L) - \text{Div}(f)}$$

where

$$T \equiv \frac{1}{2\pi i} \bar{\partial} \log \|f\|$$

is a 1-form with L^1_{loc} -coefficients.

Chern-Weil Transgressions.

$E \rightarrow X$ a real oriented vector bundle
with orthogonal connection

$\sigma \in \Gamma(E)$ a smooth section with non-degenerate zeros

$$\boxed{dT = \chi(\Omega^E) - \text{Zero}(\sigma)}$$

where

$\chi(\Omega^E)$ is the Chern-Euler form (the Pfaffian) and

T is an $(n - 1)$ -form with L_{loc}^1 -coefficients.

Chern-Weil Transgressions.

$E \rightarrow X$ a C^∞ complex vector bundle
with unitary connection

$\sigma_0, \dots, \sigma_k \in \Gamma(E)$ generic smooth sections

$$\boxed{dT = c_{n-k+1}(\Omega^E) - \mathcal{LID}(\sigma_0, \dots, \sigma_k)}$$

where

$\mathcal{LID}(\sigma_0, \dots, \sigma_k)$ is the linear dependency locus, and

T is an $(n-1)$ -form with L_{loc}^1 -coefficients.

Local MacPherson Formulas.

$E, F \rightarrow X$ C^∞ complex vector bundles
of same rank with unitary connections

$\sigma : E \rightarrow F$ smooth bundle map.

p a U_n -invariant polynomial on \mathfrak{u}_n .

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$$dT = p(\Omega^F) - p(\Omega^E) - \sum_k \text{Res}_{p,k}[\Sigma_k(\sigma)]$$

where

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Morse Theory.

$f : X \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$ a Morse function
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$\varphi_t : X \rightarrow X$ a Morse-Smale flow.

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$$T : \mathcal{E}^*(X) \longrightarrow \mathcal{E}'^{*-1}(X)$$

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for any closed form α with

$$n_p = \int_{U_p} \alpha \in \mathbf{Z}.$$

QUESTION:

What are these forms T ?

Do they define invariants?

DE RHAM THEORY

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currents of dimension k

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Example 1. $M \subset X$ a compact oriented submanifold of dimension k .

$$[M] \in \mathcal{E}'_k(X) \quad \text{defined by} \quad [M](\varphi) \equiv \int_M \varphi$$

$$\partial[M] = [\partial M]$$

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Example 2. $\psi \in \mathcal{E}^{n-k}(X)$.

$$[\psi] \in \mathcal{E}'_k(X) \quad \text{defined by} \quad [\psi](\varphi) \equiv \int_X \psi \wedge \varphi$$

$$\partial[\psi] = (-1)^{n-k+1} [d\psi]$$

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Theorem. (de Rham).

$$H^*(\mathcal{E}^*(X)) \cong H^*(\mathcal{E}'^*(X)) \cong H^*(X; \mathbf{R})$$

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Theorem. φ and R are uniquely determined by a and

$$d\varphi = dR = 0.$$

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$\mathcal{S}^k(X) \equiv$ the group of sparks of degree k .

Definition. Two sparks $a, a' \in \mathcal{S}^k(X)$ are **equivalent** if

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Definition. The group of **de Rham-Federer spark classes** of degree k is the quotient

$$\widehat{\mathcal{H}}^k(X) \equiv \mathcal{S}^k(X) / \{d\mathcal{E}'^{k-1}(X) + \mathcal{R}^k(X)\}$$

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Note. φ has **integral periods**

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Theorem. Given $[a] \in \widehat{\mathbb{H}}^k(X)$ with

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This determines homomorphisms.

$$\delta_1 : \widehat{\mathbb{H}}^k(X) \longrightarrow \mathcal{Z}_0^{k+1}(X)$$

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by

$$\delta_1([a]) = \varphi \quad \text{and} \quad \delta_2([a]) = [R]$$

SEQUENCES

Theorem. *There are short exact sequences*

$$0 \longrightarrow H^k(X, S^1) \longrightarrow \widehat{H}^k(X) \xrightarrow{\delta_1} \mathcal{Z}_0^{k+1}(X) \longrightarrow 0$$

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where

$$\widehat{\mathbb{H}}_\infty^k(X) \equiv \mathcal{E}^k(X) / \mathcal{Z}_0^k(X)$$

are the **smooth** characters,
those represented by smooth forms.

THE EXACT GRID

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 & 0 & & 0 & & 0 & \\
 & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & \\
 0 & \rightarrow & \frac{H^k(X, \mathbf{R})}{H_{\text{free}}^k(X, \mathbf{Z})} & \rightarrow & \widehat{H}_{\infty}^k(X) & \rightarrow & d\mathcal{E}^k(X) \rightarrow 0 \\
 & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & \\
 0 & \rightarrow & H^k(X, S^1) & \rightarrow & \widehat{H}^k(X) & \xrightarrow{\delta_1} & \mathcal{Z}_0^{k+1}(X) \rightarrow 0 \\
 & \downarrow & & \delta_2 \downarrow & & \downarrow & \\
 0 & \rightarrow & H_{\text{tor}}^{k+1}(X, \mathbf{Z}) & \rightarrow & H^{k+1}(X, \mathbf{Z}) & \rightarrow & H_{\text{free}}^{k+1}(X, \mathbf{Z}) \rightarrow 0 \\
 & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & \\
 & 0 & & 0 & & 0 &
 \end{array}$$

THE PRODUCT

Theorem. *Given classes*

$$\alpha \in \widehat{\mathbb{H}}^k(X) \quad \text{and} \quad \beta \in \widehat{\mathbb{H}}^\ell(X).$$

there exist representatives $a \in \alpha$ and $b \in \beta$ with

$$da = \phi - R \quad \text{and} \quad db = \psi - S$$

*so that $a \wedge S$, $R \wedge b$ and $R \wedge S$ are well-defined currents
and $R \wedge S$ is rectifiable.*

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Definition. Given a and b as above, define products

$$a * b \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} a \wedge \psi + (-1)^{k+1} R \wedge b$$

$$a \tilde{*} b \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} a \wedge S + (-1)^{k+1} \phi \wedge b$$

and note that

$$d(a * b) = d(a \tilde{*} b) = \phi \wedge \psi - R \wedge S.$$

THE PRODUCT

Proposition. *Given classes*

$$\alpha \in \widehat{\mathbb{H}}^k(X) \quad \text{and} \quad \beta \in \widehat{\mathbb{H}}^\ell(X).$$

there exist representatives $a \in \alpha$ and $b \in \beta$ with

$$da = \phi - R \quad \text{and} \quad db = \psi - S$$

*so that $a \wedge S$, $R \wedge b$ and $R \wedge S$ are well-defined currents
and $R \wedge S$ is rectifiable.*

Definition. *Given a and b as above, define products*

$$\begin{aligned} a * b &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} a \wedge \psi + (-1)^{k+1} R \wedge b \\ a \tilde{*} b &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} a \wedge S + (-1)^{k+1} \phi \wedge b \end{aligned}$$

and note that

$$d(a * b) = d(a \tilde{*} b) = \phi \wedge \psi - R \wedge S.$$

Theorem. *The classes $[a * b]$ and $[a \tilde{*} b]$ in $\widehat{\mathbb{H}}^{k+\ell+1}(X)$ agree and are independent of the choice of representatives $a \in \alpha$ and $b \in \beta$. Setting*

$$\alpha * \beta \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} [a * b] = [a \tilde{*} b]$$

gives $\widehat{\mathbb{H}}^(X)$ the structure of a graded commutative ring with unit such that δ_1, δ_2 are a ring homomorphisms.*

THE ORIGINAL CHEEGER-SIMONS CHARACTERS

$$\widehat{H}^k(X, \mathbf{R}/\mathbf{Z})$$

given by

$$h \in \text{Hom}(\mathcal{Z}_k(X), \mathbf{R}/\mathbf{Z})$$

with

$$\delta h \equiv \phi \pmod{\mathbf{Z}} \quad \text{for some } \phi \in \mathcal{E}^{k+1}(X)$$

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Theorem. *There is a natural isomorphism*

$$\Psi : \widehat{\mathbb{H}}^k(X) \xrightarrow{\cong} \widehat{H}^k(X; \mathbf{R}/\mathbf{Z})$$

induced by integration.

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Idea: Given $\alpha \in \widehat{\mathbb{H}}^k(X)$ and $Z \in \mathcal{Z}_k(X)$, there exists $a \in \alpha$ smooth on a neighborhood of $\text{supp}(Z)$.

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$$\Psi(\alpha) = \int_Z a$$

Given two such representatives $a, a' \in \alpha$,

$$\int_Z a \equiv \int_Z a' \pmod{\mathbf{Z}}.$$

DIFFERENT D-F SPARK COMPLEXES

In the above one could:

Replace $\mathcal{R}^k(X)$ by C^∞ singular $(n - k)$ -chains

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Replace $\mathcal{E}'^k(X)$ by flat currents

THE VARIOUS FORMULATIONS

- (i) De Rham-Federer Theories
- (ii) Abelian Gerbes with Connection
mod Gauge Equivalence
- (iii) Cheeger-Simons Characters
(the historical beginning)
- (iv) Hypersparks
- (v) Holonomy Maps
- (vi) Many others

ARE ALL COVERED BY THE FOLLOWING
HOMOLOGICAL ALGEBRAIC MACHINE

HOMOLOGICAL SPARK COMPLEXES

Definition. A homological spark complex is a triple of cochain complexes (F^*, E^*, I^*) together with morphisms

$$I^* \xrightarrow{\Psi} F^* \supset E^*$$

such that:

- (i) $\Psi(I^k) \cap E^k = \{0\}$ for $k > 0$,
- (ii) $H^*(E) \cong H^*(F)$, and
- (iii) $\Psi : I^0 \rightarrow F^0$ is injective.

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Definition. Given (F^*, E^*, I^*) a **spark of degree k** is a pair

$$(a, r) \in F^k \oplus I^{k+1}$$

which satisfies the **spark equation**

- (i) $da = e - \Psi(r)$ for some $e \in E^{k+1}$, and
- (ii) $dr = 0$.
- (iii) $de = 0$ (follows from (i) and (ii))

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$$\mathcal{S}^k \equiv \mathcal{S}^k(F^*, E^*, I^*)$$

is the **group of sparks** of degree k .

EQUIVALENCE

Definition. Two sparks $(a, r), (a' r') \in \mathcal{S}^k(F^*, E^*, I^*)$ are **equivalent** if there exists a pair

$$(b, s) \in F^{k-1} \oplus I^k$$

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The equivalence classes:

$$\widehat{\mathbb{H}}^k(F^*, E^*, I^*) = \widehat{\mathbb{H}}^k$$

are the **group of spark classes of degree k**

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Lemma. *There exist well-defined surjective homomorphisms:*

$$\widehat{IH}^k \xrightarrow{\delta_1} Z_I^{k+1}(E) \quad \text{and} \quad \widehat{IH}^k \xrightarrow{\delta_2} H^{k+1}(I)$$

given on $(a, r) \in \mathcal{S}^k$ by

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Lemma. *Let $\widehat{\mathbb{H}}_E^k = \ker \delta_2$. Then*

$$\widehat{\mathbb{H}}_E^k = E^k / Z_I^k(E)$$

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Definition. Associated to (F^*, E^*, I^*) is the cone complex (G^*, D) defined by

$$\begin{aligned} G^k &\equiv F^k \oplus I^{k+1} & k \geq -1 \\ D(a, r) &= (da + \Psi(r), -dr) \end{aligned}$$

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There is a short exact sequence of complexes

$$0 \rightarrow F^* \rightarrow G^* \rightarrow I^*(1) \rightarrow 0$$

where $I^k(1) \equiv I^{k+1}$. The morphism Ψ defines a chain map of degree 1:

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Proposition. *There are two short exact sequences:*

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & H^k(G) & \longrightarrow & \widehat{\mathbb{H}}^k & \xrightarrow{\delta_1} & Z_I^{k+1}(E) \longrightarrow 0 \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & \widehat{\mathbb{H}}_E^k & \longrightarrow & \widehat{\mathbb{H}}^k & \xrightarrow{\delta_2} & H^{k+1}(I) \longrightarrow 0 \end{array}$$

THE GRID

Consider $\Psi_* : H^k(I) \rightarrow H^k(F) \cong H^k(E)$, and define

$$H_I^k(E) \equiv \text{Image}\{\Psi_*\} \quad \text{and} \quad \text{Ker}^k(I) \equiv \ker\{\Psi_*\}$$

THE GRID

The exact sequences fit into a 3×3 commutative grid.

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 & & 0 & & 0 & & 0 \\
 & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 0 & \longrightarrow & \frac{H^k(E)}{H_I^k(E)} & \longrightarrow & \widehat{H}_E^k & \longrightarrow & dE^k \longrightarrow 0 \\
 & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 0 & \longrightarrow & H^k(G) & \longrightarrow & \widehat{H}^k & \xrightarrow{\delta_1} & Z_I^{k+1}(E) \longrightarrow 0 \\
 & & \downarrow & & \delta_2 \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 0 & \longrightarrow & Ker^{k+1}(I) & \longrightarrow & H^{k+1}(I) & \xrightarrow{\Psi_*} & H_I^{k+1}(E) \longrightarrow 0 \\
 & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 & & 0 & & 0 & & 0
 \end{array}$$

IMPORTANT CONCEPT

QUASI-ISOMORPHISMS OF SPARK COMPLEXES

Definition. Two spark complexes (F^*, E^*, I^*) and $(\overline{F}^*, \overline{E}^*, \overline{I}^*)$ are **quasi-isomorphic** if there exists a commutative diagram of morphisms

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 \overline{I}^* & \xrightarrow{\overline{\Psi}} & \overline{F}^* & \supset & \overline{E}^* \\
 \psi \uparrow & & \cup & & \parallel \\
 I^* & \xrightarrow{\Psi} & F^* & \supset & E^*
 \end{array}$$

inducing an isomorphism

$$\psi^* : H^*(I) \xrightarrow{\cong} H^*(\overline{I})$$

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Theorem. A quasi-isomorphism

$$(F^*, E^*, I^*) \cong (\overline{F}^*, \overline{E}^*, \overline{I}^*)$$

induces an isomorphism

$$\widehat{IH}^*(F^*, E^*, I^*) \cong \widehat{IH}^*(\overline{F}^*, \overline{E}^*, \overline{I}^*)$$

and an isomorphism of the associated grids.

EXAMPLES

1. de Rham -Federer Spark Complexes.

$$F^* = \mathcal{E}'^*(X)$$

$$E^* = \mathcal{E}^*(X)$$

$$I^* = \mathcal{I}^*(X)$$

$$\mathcal{I}^k(X) = \{R \in \mathcal{E}'^k(X) : R \text{ and } \partial R \text{ are rectifiable}\}$$

EXAMPLES

1. de Rham -Federer Spark Complexes.

$$F^* = \mathcal{E}'^*(X)$$

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EXAMPLES

1. de Rham -Federer Spark Complexes.

$$F^* = \mathcal{E}'_{L^1_{\text{loc}}}(X)$$

$$E^* = \mathcal{E}^*(X)$$

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EXAMPLES

1. de Rham -Federer Spark Complexes.

$$F^* = \mathcal{E}'^*(X)$$

$$E^* = \mathcal{E}^*(X)$$

$$I^* = \mathcal{C}^*(X)$$

$\mathcal{C}^*(X) =$ smooth singular chains

EXAMPLES

2. Smooth Hyperspark Complexes.

Fix an open covering $\mathcal{U} = \{U_i\}$ of X with each $U_I = U_{i_0} \cap \cdots \cap U_{i_p}$ contractible. Consider the Čech-de Rham double complex

$$\bigoplus_{p,q \geq 0} C^p(\mathcal{U}, \mathcal{E}^q) \quad \text{with} \quad D = (-1)^q \delta + d$$

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There are two **edge complexes**:

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{E}^q(X) \rightarrow C^0(\mathcal{U}, \mathcal{E}^q) \xrightarrow{\delta} C^1(\mathcal{U}, \mathcal{E}^q)$$

$$0 \rightarrow C^p(\mathcal{U}, \mathbf{R}) \rightarrow C^p(\mathcal{U}, \mathcal{E}^0) \xrightarrow{d} C^p(\mathcal{U}, \mathcal{E}^1)$$

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Define:

$$F^k = \bigoplus_{p+q=k} C^p(\mathcal{U}, \mathcal{E}^q)$$

$$E^k = \mathcal{E}^k(X)$$

$$I^k = C^k(\mathcal{U}, \mathbf{Z}) \subset C^k(\mathcal{U}, \mathbf{R})$$

$$\begin{array}{cccccccc}
& \uparrow & & \uparrow & & \uparrow & & \uparrow \\
\mathcal{E}^2(X) & \subset & C^0(\mathcal{U}, \mathcal{E}^2) & \rightarrow & C^1(\mathcal{U}, \mathcal{E}^2) & \rightarrow & C^2(\mathcal{U}, \mathcal{E}^2) & \rightarrow \dots \\
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\end{array}$$

The spark classes are abelian gerbes with connection modulo gauge equivalence.

EXAMPLES

3. Hyperspark Complexes.

Almost the same:

$$F^k = \bigoplus_{p+q=k} C^p(\mathcal{U}, \mathcal{E}'^q)$$
$$E^k = \mathcal{E}^k(X)$$
$$I^k = \bigoplus_{p+q=k} C^p(\mathcal{U}, \mathcal{I}_{\text{loc}}^q)$$

This evidently contains the smooth Hyperspark complex.

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$$\begin{aligned} F^k &= \bigoplus_{p+q=k} C^p(\mathcal{U}, \mathcal{E}'^q) \\ E^k &= \mathcal{E}^k(X) \\ I^k &= \bigoplus_{p+q=k} C^p(\mathcal{U}, \mathcal{I}_{\text{loc}}^q) \end{aligned}$$

This evidently contains the smooth Hyperspark complex.

It also contains the dR-F complexes.

These inclusions are quasi-isomorphisms.

EXAMPLES

4. Cheeger-Simons Spark Complex.

$\mathcal{C}_k(X) \equiv C^\infty$ singular integral k -chains

$C_{\mathbf{R}}^k(X) \equiv \text{Hom}(\mathcal{C}_k(X), \mathbf{R})$ and $C_{\mathbf{Z}}^k(X) \equiv \text{Hom}(\mathcal{C}_k(X), \mathbf{Z})$

EXAMPLES

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$$\widehat{H}^* \cong \text{DiffChar}^*$$

This is quasi-isomorphic to smooth hypersparks, therefore ...

OTHER COMPLEXES

$\bar{\partial}$ -Sparks.

X a complex manifold.

Fix an integer $p > 0$.

OTHER COMPLEXES

$\bar{\partial}$ -Sparks.

X a complex manifold.

Fix an integer $p > 0$.

Consider the truncated de Rham complex $(\mathcal{E}'^*(X, p), \bar{d})$ with

$$\mathcal{E}'^k(X, p) \equiv \bigoplus_{r+s=k, r < p} \mathcal{E}'^{r,s}(X) \quad \text{and} \quad \bar{d} \equiv \Psi \circ d$$

where

$$\Psi : \mathcal{E}'^k(X) \longrightarrow \mathcal{E}'^k(X, p)$$

is the projection $\Psi(a) = a^{0,k} + a^{1,k-1} + \dots + a^{p-1,k-p+1}$.

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Note the subcomplex

$$\mathcal{E}^k(X, p) \equiv \bigoplus_{r+s=k, r < p} \mathcal{E}^{r,s}(X)$$

of smooth forms with projection $\Psi : \mathcal{E}^*(X) \rightarrow \mathcal{E}^*(X, p)$.

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Definition. The \bar{d} -spark complex of level p is the triple (F^*, E^*, I^*) where

$$F^k \equiv \mathcal{E}'^k(X, p)$$

$$E^k \equiv \mathcal{E}^k(X, p)$$

$$I^k \equiv \mathcal{I}^k(X)$$

with maps

$$E^* \subset F^* \quad \text{and} \quad \Psi : I^* \longrightarrow F^*$$

The group of associated spark classes is

$$\widehat{\mathbf{H}}^k(X, p).$$

THE GRID

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 & & 0 & & 0 & & 0 \\
 & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 0 & \rightarrow & \mathcal{J}_p(X) & \rightarrow & \widehat{\mathbf{H}}_{\infty}^{2p-1}(X, p) & \rightarrow & \overline{d}\mathcal{E}^{2p-1}(X, p) \rightarrow \\
 & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 0 & \rightarrow & H_{\mathcal{D}}^{2p}(X, \mathbf{Z}(p))(X) & \rightarrow & \widehat{\mathbf{H}}^{2p-1}(X, p) & \rightarrow & \mathcal{Z}_{\mathbf{Z}}^{2p}(X, p) \rightarrow \\
 & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 0 & \rightarrow & \mathrm{Hdg}^{p,p}(X) & \rightarrow & H^{2p}(X; \mathbf{Z}) & \rightarrow & H_{\mathbf{Z}}^{2p}(X, p) \rightarrow \\
 & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 & & 0 & & 0 & & 0
 \end{array}$$

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Recall: For a locally compact abelian topological group G , the **Pontrjagin dual** is:

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If $\Lambda \subset \mathbf{R}^m$ is a lattice of full rank,

$$\text{Hom}(\mathbf{R}^m/\Lambda, S^1) = \text{Hom}(\Lambda, \mathbf{Z})$$

$$\text{Hom}(\Lambda, S^1) = \text{Hom}(\Lambda, \mathbf{R})/\text{Hom}(\Lambda, \mathbf{Z})$$

Theorem. (Poincaré-Pontrjagin Duality). X a compact oriented manifold of dimension n . The pairing

$$\widehat{H}^{n-k-1}(X) \times \widehat{H}^k(X) \longrightarrow S^1$$

given by

$$(a, b) \mapsto a * b([X])$$

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The resulting mapping

$$\widehat{\mathbb{H}}^{n-k-1}(X) \longrightarrow \text{Hom} \left(\widehat{\mathbb{H}}^k(X), S^1 \right)$$

has dense range. In fact this gives an **isomorphism**

$$\widehat{\mathbb{H}}^{n-k-1}(X) \xrightarrow{\cong} \text{Hom}_\infty \left(\widehat{\mathbb{H}}^k(X), S^1 \right)$$

with the **smooth** homomorphisms.

Definition of Hom_∞

A homomorphism $h : \widehat{\mathbb{H}}_\infty^k(X) \rightarrow S^1$ is called **smooth** if there exists a smooth form $\omega \in \mathcal{Z}_0^{n-k}(X)$ such that

$$h(\alpha) \equiv \int_X a \wedge \omega \pmod{\mathbf{Z}}$$

for $a \in \alpha$. This is independent of the choice of $a \in \alpha$.

The **smooth Pontrjagin dual** of $\widehat{\mathbb{H}}^k(X)$ is the subgroup

$$\text{Hom}_\infty(\widehat{\mathbb{H}}^k(X), S^1) \subset \text{Hom}(\widehat{\mathbb{H}}^k(X), S^1)$$

of those elements whose restriction to $\widehat{\mathbb{H}}_\infty^k$ is smooth.

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$$\mathrm{Hom}(d\mathcal{E}^k, \mathbf{R}/\mathbf{Z}) = \mathrm{Hom}(d\mathcal{E}^k, \mathbf{R}) = (d\mathcal{E}^k)' = d\mathcal{E}'^{n-k-1}$$

Def. $\mathrm{Hom}_{\infty}(d\mathcal{E}^k, \mathbf{R}/\mathbf{Z}) = d\mathcal{E}^{n-k-1}$

A Simple Picture of Duality

There are (non-canonical) group homomorphisms:

$$\widehat{\mathbb{H}}^k(X) \cong d\mathcal{E}^k(X) \times \frac{H^k(X; \mathbf{R})}{H_{\text{free}}^k(X; \mathbf{Z})} \times H^{k+1}(X; \mathbf{Z})$$

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Now apply:

$$\text{Hom}(H^k(X; \mathbf{Z}), S^1) \cong H^{n-k}(X; S^1)$$

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We see this explicitly from

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$$0 \rightarrow \frac{H^0(\Sigma; \mathbf{R})}{H^0(\Sigma; \mathbf{Z})} \rightarrow \widehat{IH}^0(\Sigma) \rightarrow d\mathcal{E}^0(\Sigma) \times \mathbf{Z}^{2g} \rightarrow 0$$

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from which we deduce that

$$\begin{aligned} \widehat{IH}^1(\Sigma) &\cong (S^1)^{2g} \times \mathbf{Z} \times d\mathcal{E}^1(\Sigma) \\ \widehat{IH}^0(\Sigma) &\cong \mathbf{Z}^{2g} \times S^1 \times d\mathcal{E}^0(\Sigma) \end{aligned}$$

Example 2. (3-manifolds).

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Using Poincaré duality this can be rewritten

$$\text{Hom}(H_1(M; \mathbf{Z})_{\text{free}}, S^1) \times H_1(M; \mathbf{Z})_{\text{free}} \times d\mathcal{E}^1(M) \times H_1(M; \mathbf{Z})_{\text{torsion}}$$

from which the self-duality is manifest.

Example 3. (Complex Projective Space $\mathbf{P}_{\mathbf{C}}^n$). If $X = \mathbf{P}_{\mathbf{C}}^n$, we see that

$$\frac{H^k(X; \mathbf{R})}{H^k(X; \mathbf{Z})} = \begin{cases} S^1 & \text{if } k \text{ is even} \\ 0 & \text{if } k \text{ is odd.} \end{cases}$$

and

$$\mathcal{Z}_0^{k+1}(X) = \begin{cases} d\mathcal{E}^k(X) & \text{if } k \text{ is even} \\ \mathbf{Z} \times d\mathcal{E}^k(X) & \text{if } k \text{ is odd.} \end{cases}$$

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We find that:

| k | $\widehat{H}^k(X)$ |
|----------|---|
| -1 | \mathbf{Z} |
| 0 | $S^1 \times d\mathcal{E}^0$ |
| 1 | $\mathbf{Z} \times d\mathcal{E}^1$ |
| 2 | $S^1 \times d\mathcal{E}^2$ |
| 3 | $\mathbf{Z} \times d\mathcal{E}^3$ |
| . | . |
| . | . |
| . | . |
| $2n - 3$ | $\mathbf{Z} \times d\mathcal{E}^{2n-3}$ |
| $2n - 2$ | $S^1 \times d\mathcal{E}^{2n-2}$ |
| $2n - 1$ | $\mathbf{Z} \times d\mathcal{E}^{2n-1}$ |
| $2n$ | S^1 |

Example 4. (Real Projective Space $\mathbf{P}_{\mathbf{R}}^{2n+1}$)

For $X = \mathbf{P}_{\mathbf{R}}^{2n+1}$ we have that:

| k | $\widehat{H}^k(X)$ |
|----------|---|
| -1 | \mathbf{Z} |
| 0 | $S^1 \times d\mathcal{E}^0$ |
| 1 | $\mathbf{Z}_2 \times d\mathcal{E}^1$ |
| 2 | $d\mathcal{E}^2$ |
| 3 | $\mathbf{Z}_2 \times d\mathcal{E}^3$ |
| 4 | $d\mathcal{E}^4$ |
| 5 | $\mathbf{Z}_2 \times d\mathcal{E}^5$ |
| 6 | $d\mathcal{E}^6$ |
| . | . |
| . | . |
| . | . |
| $2n - 4$ | $d\mathcal{E}^{2n-4}$ |
| $2n - 3$ | $\mathbf{Z}_2 \times d\mathcal{E}^{2n-3}$ |
| $2n - 2$ | $d\mathcal{E}^{2n-2}$ |
| $2n - 1$ | $\mathbf{Z}_2 \times d\mathcal{E}^{2n-1}$ |
| $2n - 0$ | $\mathbf{Z} \times d\mathcal{E}^{2n}$ |
| $2n + 1$ | S^1 |

Recall that $\text{Hom}(\mathbf{Z}_2, S^1) = \mathbf{Z}_2$.

Example 5. (Products of projective spaces).

When $X = \mathbf{P}_{\mathbf{C}}^2 \times \mathbf{P}_{\mathbf{C}}^2$, we find that:

| k | $\widehat{H}^k(X)$ |
|-----|--|
| -1 | \mathbf{Z} |
| 0 | $S^1 \times d\mathcal{E}^0$ |
| 1 | $\mathbf{Z} \times \mathbf{Z} \times d\mathcal{E}^1$ |
| 2 | $S^1 \times S^1 \times d\mathcal{E}^2$ |
| 3 | $\mathbf{Z} \times \mathbf{Z} \times \mathbf{Z} \times d\mathcal{E}^3$ |
| 4 | $S^1 \times S^1 \times S^1 \times d\mathcal{E}^4$ |
| 5 | $\mathbf{Z} \times \mathbf{Z} \times d\mathcal{E}^5$ |
| 6 | $S^1 \times S^1 \times d\mathcal{E}^6$ |
| 7 | $\mathbf{Z} \times d\mathcal{E}^7$ |
| 8 | S^1 |

A Proof of Duality. Show the pairing is non-degenerate. Fix $\alpha \in \widehat{H}^{n-k-1}(X)$ and assume

$$(\alpha * \beta)[X] = 0 \quad \forall \beta \in \widehat{H}^k(X).$$

We shall prove that $\alpha = 0$.

To begin suppose β is represented by a smooth form b . Then

$$(\alpha * \beta)[X] = (-1)^{n-k} \int_X \delta_1 \alpha \wedge b \equiv 0 \pmod{\mathbf{Z}}.$$

Since this holds $\forall k$ -forms b , we have $\delta_1 \alpha = 0$.

Hence, $\exists a \in \alpha$ with $da = R$, a rectifiable cycle whose integral homology class $[R]$ is torsion.

We show $[R] = 0$. Choose a class $u \in H^{k+1}(X; \mathbf{Z})_{\text{tor}}$ of order m , and let T be a rectifiable cycle with $[T] = u$. Since $m[T] = 0$ there exists a rectifiable current S of degree k with $mT = dS$. Set $\beta = [\frac{1}{m}S] \in \widehat{H}^k(X)$ and note that $\delta_1 \beta = 0$. Now

$$\begin{aligned} (\alpha * \beta)[X] &= (-1)^{n-k} (d_2 a \wedge b)[X] = (-1)^{n-k} (R \wedge \frac{1}{m} S)[X] \\ &= (-1)^{n-k} \frac{1}{m} \{\text{intersection number of } R \text{ with } S\} \\ &= (-1)^{n-k} Lk([R], u) \\ &\equiv 0 \pmod{\mathbf{Z}} \end{aligned}$$

where Lk denotes the Seifert-deRham linking number. Since this holds for all u , the non-degeneracy of this linking pairing on torsion cycles implies that $[R] = 0$ in $H^{n-k}(X; \mathbf{Z})$. Hence $\delta_2 \alpha = 0$ and so after adding an exact current we may assume that a is a smooth d -closed form of degree $n - k - 1$.

Now choose any class $v \in H^{k+1}(X; \mathbf{Z}) \cong H_{n-k-1}(X; \mathbf{Z})$ and let S be a rectifiable cycle in v . Let ϕ be a smooth d -closed form representing $v \otimes \mathbf{R}$ and choose a current b with $db = \phi - S$. Let $\beta = [b] \in \widehat{\mathbb{H}}^k(X)$. Then

$$(\alpha * [b])[X] = (a \wedge d_2 b)[X] \equiv \int_S a \equiv 0 \pmod{\mathbf{Z}}.$$

Hence, $[a] = 0$ in $H^{n-k-1}(X; \mathbf{R})/H_{\text{free}}^{n-k-1}(X; \mathbf{Z}) = \ker \delta$, and so $\alpha = 0$ as claimed.

By the commutativity of the $*$ -product we may interchange α and β above and conclude that the pairing is non-degenerate as asserted.

Finally we recall that $\widehat{\mathbb{H}}_{\infty}^k(X) \subset \widehat{\mathbb{H}}^k(X)$ is a closed subgroup with discrete quotient, and $\widehat{\mathbb{H}}_{\infty}^k(X) \cong \mathcal{E}^k(X)/\mathcal{Z}_0^k(X) \cong d\mathcal{E}^k(X) \oplus \{H^k(X; \mathbf{R})/H_{\text{free}}^k(X; \mathbf{Z})\}$. Recall that

$$\text{Hom}(d\mathcal{E}^k(X), S^1) = d\mathcal{E}'^{n-k-1}(X).$$

It follows that the image of the duality homomorphism consists exactly of the smooth homomorphisms. ■