

Functorial properties of discrete Morse theory

Nivedita

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1 Background structures

Definition 1.1. A simplicial complex K is a pair (V_K, S_K) where V_K is a set and S_K is a collection of finite nonempty subsets of V_K such that

- $v \in V_K \implies \{v\} \in S_K$
- $\sigma \in S_K$ and $\sigma' \subseteq \sigma$ and $\sigma' \neq \emptyset \implies \sigma' \in S_K$

The elements of V_K are called the vertices of K and the elements of S_K are called the simplices of K . For any simplex σ , define its dimension by $\dim \sigma = \text{card}(\sigma) - 1$. Denote by S_K^n be subset of S_K consisting of n -dimensional simplices. A codimension k face of a simplex σ is a subset $\sigma' \subseteq \sigma$ such that $\text{card}(\sigma \setminus \sigma') = k$. A finite simplicial complex is simplicial complex with a finite vertex set.

Definition 1.2. We define the category of simplicial complexes SC as

- Objects: Simplicial complexes
- A morphism $f: K \rightarrow L$ is a set function $f: V_K \rightarrow V_L$ such that for any simplex $\sigma \in S_K$, the image $f(\sigma) \in S_L$.
- Composition: We compose the underlying set functions.
- Identities: The identity morphism on K is given by id_{V_K} .

Let SC_{fin} denote the full subcategory consisting of the only the finite simplicial complexes.

Lemma 1.1. For $f: K \rightarrow L$ a simplicial map and $\sigma \in S_K$ such that $\dim \sigma > 0$, if $\dim f(\sigma) = \dim \sigma - 1$, then there are exactly two codimension 1 faces σ_1, σ_2 of σ such that $f(\sigma_1) = f(\sigma_2) = f(\sigma)$.

Proof. $f|_{\sigma}: \sigma \rightarrow f(\sigma)$ is surjective and $\text{card}(f(\sigma)) = \text{card}(\sigma) - 1$. Thus there will be exactly 2 elements of σ which have the same image under f , let these be v_1, v_2 . Then the only two proper subsets $\sigma' \subsetneq \sigma$ which have the same image as σ are $\sigma \setminus \{v_i\}$ ($i = 1, 2$), as removing any other point will mean that the image of the subset does not cover the image of σ . $\square$

Definition 1.3. Given a poset $(X, \leq)$ and $x_1, x_2 \in X$, we say x_2 covers x_1 , denoted by $x_1 \prec x_2$ if $x_1 < x_2$ and there is no x such that $x_1 < x < x_2$.

Definition 1.4. A graded poset is a triple $(X, \leq, \dim)$ such that $(X, \leq)$ is a poset and $\dim: X \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ is a monotone map such that if $x \prec x'$, then $\dim x' = \dim x + 1$.

A morphism of graded posets $f: (X_1, \leq_1, \dim_1) \rightarrow (X_2, \leq_2, \dim_2)$ is a monotone map $f: (X_1, \leq_1) \rightarrow (X_2, \leq_2)$ such that for any $x \in X_1$, $\dim_2 f(x) \leq \dim_1 x$. We call the category of graded posets GrPos. Let $\text{GrPos}_{\text{fin}}$ be the full subcategory of graded posets $(X, \leq, \dim)$ where X is a finite set.

There is an obvious forgetful functor $U_{\text{Gr}}: \text{GrPos} \rightarrow \text{Pos}$ and let $i_{\text{PC}}: \text{Pos} \rightarrow \text{Cat}$ be the inclusion. We will often leave these functor implicit.

Definition 1.5. Define a functor $S: \text{SC} \rightarrow \text{GrPos}$ which assigns a simplicial complex K to the graded poset $(S_K, \subseteq, \dim)$. This restricts to a functor $\text{SC}_{\text{fin}} \rightarrow \text{GrPos}_{\text{fin}}$.

Definition 1.6. Let $\mathcal{A}$ be a category and K be a simplicial complex. We define the category of $\mathcal{A}$ -sheaves on K by $\text{Sh}_{\mathcal{A}}(K) = [S_K, \mathcal{A}]$.

Definition 1.7. The category of $\mathcal{A}$ -sheaved simplicial complex, $\text{Sh}_{\mathcal{A}}\text{SC}$ is defined by

- Objects: Pairs $(K, \mathcal{F})$ where K is a simplicial complex and $\mathcal{F}$ is an $\mathcal{A}$ -sheaf on K .
- A morphism from $(K, \mathcal{F})$ to $(L, \mathcal{G})$ is pair (f, ϕ) where $f: K \rightarrow L$ is a simplicial map and $\phi: \mathcal{G} \circ S_f \rightarrow \mathcal{F}$ is a natural transformation.
- Given morphisms $(f, \phi): (K, \mathcal{F}) \rightarrow (L, \mathcal{G})$ and $(g, \psi): (L, \mathcal{G}) \rightarrow (M, \mathcal{H})$, we define the composite to be $(g \circ f, \phi \circ \psi_{S_f})$
- The identity morphism on $(K, \mathcal{F})$ is $(\text{id}_K, \text{id}_{\mathcal{F}})$

$\text{Sh}_{\mathcal{A}}\text{SC}_{\text{fin}}$ is the full subcategory of those objects whose underlying simplicial complex is finite.

There is an obvious forgetful functor $U_{\text{Sh}}: \text{Sh}_{\mathcal{A}}\text{SC} \rightarrow \text{SC}$. There is a similar functor for the finite case.

Definition 1.8. Given an object $V \in \mathcal{A}$ and a simplicial complex K , we define the constant sheaf $\Delta_V: S_K \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$ to be the functor that maps all objects to V and all morphisms to id_V .

Definition 1.9. We define the constant sheaf functor $\Delta: \text{SC} \times \mathcal{A}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \text{Sh}_{\mathcal{A}}\text{SC}$ by

- For any simplicial complex K and any object $V \in \mathcal{A}$, $\Delta(K, V) = (K, \Delta_V)$
- Given a morphism $f: K \rightarrow L$ and a morphism $T: W \rightarrow V$ in $\mathcal{A}$, the morphism $(K, \Delta_V) \rightarrow (L, \Delta_W)$ defined by (f, ϕ_T) where $\phi_T: \Delta_W \circ S_f \rightarrow \Delta_V$ is defined by $\phi_T(\sigma): \Delta_W(S_f(\sigma)) = W \rightarrow \Delta_V(\sigma) = V$ is just given by T .

Definition 1.10. Let R be a rig (additive inverse not necessary). An R -incidence relation on a finite simplicial complex K over a rig R is a function

$$r: \coprod_{n \in \mathbb{N}} S_K^n \times S_K^{n+1} \rightarrow R$$

such that for any $\sigma \in S_K^n$ and any $\sigma'' \in S_K^{n+2}$, we have

$$\sum_{\sigma \subsetneq \sigma' \subsetneq \sigma''} r(\sigma, \sigma') r(\sigma', \sigma'') = 0$$

This a generalisation of [Cur14, Definition 6.1.9].

Remark. Let K be simplicial complex an R -incidence structure r . Let $\sigma, \sigma'' \in S_K$ be such that $\dim \sigma'' = \dim \sigma + 2$. Then $\sigma'' \setminus \sigma$ will have exactly 2 elements, let them be v_1, v_2 . Thus the only σ' such that $\sigma \subsetneq \sigma' \subsetneq \sigma''$ are $\sigma'' \setminus \{v_1\}$ and $\sigma'' \setminus \{v_2\}$. Thus we can rephrase the condition in the redefinition of R -incidence relation as

$$r(\sigma, \sigma'' \setminus \{v_1\}) r(\sigma'' \setminus \{v_1\}, \sigma'') + r(\sigma, \sigma'' \setminus \{v_2\}) r(\sigma'' \setminus \{v_2\}, \sigma'') = 0$$

Definition 1.11. The category of finite simplicial complexes with an R -incidence relation, $\text{IR}_R\text{SC}_{\text{fin}}$ is defined by

- Objects: Pairs (K, r) where K is a finite simplicial complex and r is an R -incidence relation on K
- Morphisms: A morphism $(K, r) \rightarrow (L, s)$ is a pair (f, κ) where $f: K \rightarrow L$ is a simplicial map and $\kappa: S_K \rightarrow R$ is a set function such that for any $\sigma \in S_K$ such that $\dim \sigma > 0$
 - If $\dim f(\sigma) = \dim \sigma$, then for every codimension 1 face $\sigma' \subseteq \sigma$, we have

$$\kappa(\sigma') r(\sigma', \sigma) = \kappa(\sigma) r(f(\sigma'), f(\sigma))$$

- If $\dim f(\sigma) = \dim \sigma - 1$, then let σ_1, σ_2 be the two codimension 1 faces of σ such that $f(\sigma_1) = f(\sigma_2) = f(\sigma)$, then

$$\kappa(\sigma_1) r(\sigma_1, \sigma) + \kappa(\sigma_2) r(\sigma_2, \sigma) = 0$$

- Given two morphisms $(f, \kappa) : (K, r) \rightarrow (L, s)$ and $(g, \lambda) : (L, s) \rightarrow (H, t)$, then the composition is the pair $(g \circ f, \sigma \mapsto \kappa(\sigma) \lambda(f(\sigma)))$.
- The identity of (K, r) is $(\text{id}_K, \sigma \mapsto 1)$.

Let S be a multiplicative subset of R . There is a subcategory of $\text{IR}_R \text{SC}_{\text{fin}}$ such that the second component of each morphism is a set map into S , instead of all of R . We denote this by $\text{IR}_R^S \text{SC}_{\text{fin}}$. An important special case of this is $\text{IR}_R^{\{1\}} \text{SC}_{\text{fin}}$. Note $\text{IR}_R^R \text{SC}_{\text{fin}} = \text{IR}_R \text{SC}_{\text{fin}}$

Lemma 1.2 (Alternative characterisation of morphisms in $\text{IR}_R \text{SC}_{\text{fin}}$). Given two objects of $\text{IR}_R \text{SC}_{\text{fin}}$, (K, r) and (L, s) , a simplicial map $f : K \rightarrow L$ and a set map $\kappa : S_K \rightarrow R$ constitute a morphism $(K, r) \rightarrow (L, s)$ if and only if for any $n \in \mathbb{N}$, any $\sigma \in S_K^{n+1}$ and any $\rho \in S_{n_L}$, we have

$$\sum_{\sigma' \in S_K^n \mid f(\sigma') = \rho \wedge \sigma' \subseteq \sigma} \kappa(\sigma') r(\sigma', \sigma) = \begin{cases} \kappa(\sigma) s(\rho, f(\sigma)) & \text{if } f(\sigma) \in S_L^{n+1} \wedge \rho \subseteq f(\sigma) \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Proof. Let $\sigma \in S_K$ be such that $\dim \sigma = n + 1 > 0$

- Consider the case when $\dim f(\sigma) = \dim \sigma$. This is the same as saying $f(\sigma) \in S_L^{n+1}$, which is again equivalent to saying $f|_{\sigma} : \sigma \rightarrow f(\sigma)$ is a bijection. Now consider a choice of $\rho \in S_L^n$ such that $\rho \subseteq f(\sigma)$. This is equivalent to the choice of $\sigma' \subseteq \sigma$ of codimension 1, determined by $f|_{\sigma'}^{-1}(\rho)$. Thus, the sum in the lemma reduces to a single term, and the condition becomes exactly the same as the condition for (f, κ) to be a morphism (given $\dim f(\sigma) = \dim \sigma$)
- Now consider the case when $\dim f(\sigma) = \dim \sigma - 1 = n$. Then there is a unique $\rho \in S_L^n$ such that $\rho \subseteq f(\sigma)$, given by $\rho = f(\sigma)$ (as they have the same dimension). In this case, by Lemma 1.1, there are exactly 2 codimension 1 faces of σ (let them be σ_1, σ_2) such that $f(\sigma_i) = f(\sigma) = \rho$ ($i = 1, 2$). Thus, the sum in the lemma reduces to two terms, and the condition becomes exactly the same as the condition for (f, κ) to be a morphism (given $\dim f(\sigma) = \dim \sigma - 1$)
- In the case ρ is not contained in $f(\sigma)$ or $\dim \sigma - \dim f(\sigma) > 1$, there are no codimension 1 faces of σ such that $f(\sigma) = \rho$. Thus here, the sum in the lemma evaluates to 0, and the condition is trivially fulfilled.

□

Definition 1.12. We define the category of ordered finite simplicial complexes $\text{SC}_{\text{fin}, \text{or}}$ as

- Objects: Triples $(K, \leq)$ where K is a finite simplicial complex and $(V_K, \leq)$ is a total order
- A morphism $f : (K, \leq_1) \rightarrow (L, \leq_2)$ is a morphism $f : K \rightarrow L$ such that the map $V_K \rightarrow V_L$ is monotone.
- Composition is set composition
- Identities are identities as simplicial morphisms as they are automatically order preserving.

For any simplex $\sigma \in S_K$ and $0 \leq i \leq \dim \sigma$, define $\partial_i \sigma = \sigma \setminus \{v_i(\sigma)\}$ where $v_i(\sigma)$ is the i^{th} element of σ in the order induced by the inclusion $\sigma \subseteq V_K$.

Definition 1.13. If R is a ring, there is a functor $A_{\text{IR}, \text{or}} : \text{SC}_{\text{fin}, \text{or}} \rightarrow \text{IR}_R^{\{1\}} \text{SC}_{\text{fin}}$ defined by $(K, \leq) \mapsto (K, r)$ where r is given by (for any σ', σ such that $\dim \sigma = \dim \sigma' + 1$)

$$r(\sigma', \sigma) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } \sigma' \not\subseteq \sigma \\ (-1)^i & \text{if } \sigma' = \partial_i \sigma \end{cases}$$

and a $f : (K, \leq_1) \rightarrow (L, \leq_2)$ is assigned to (f, c_1) .

Proof that this is a functor. First we show that r is an incidence relation. So pick any simplices of K σ, σ'' such that $\dim \sigma'' = \dim \sigma + 2$. Then $\sigma'' \setminus \sigma$ consists of exactly 2 elements. Let these be $v_{i_1}(\sigma'')$ and $v_{i_2}(\sigma'')$ where $i_1 < i_2$. Thus the only two simplices σ' such that $\sigma \subsetneq \sigma' \subsetneq \sigma''$ are $\partial_{i_1}\sigma''$ and $\partial_{i_2}\sigma''$. Also $\partial_{i_1}\partial_{i_2}\sigma'' = \sigma$ and $\partial_{i_2-1}\partial_{i_1}\sigma'' = \sigma$

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{\sigma \subsetneq \sigma' \subsetneq \sigma''} r(\sigma, \sigma') r(\sigma', \sigma'') &= r(\sigma, \partial_{i_1}\sigma'') r(\partial_{i_1}\sigma'', \sigma'') + r(\sigma, \partial_{i_2}\sigma'') r(\partial_{i_2}\sigma'', \sigma'') \\ &= r(\partial_{i_2-1}\partial_{i_1}\sigma'', \partial_{i_1}\sigma'') r(\partial_{i_1}\sigma'', \sigma'') + r(\partial_{i_1}\partial_{i_2}\sigma'', \partial_{i_2}\sigma'') r(\partial_{i_2}\sigma'', \sigma'') \\ &= (-1)^{i_2-1} (-1)^{i_1} + (-1)^{i_1} (-1)^{i_2} = 0 \end{aligned}$$

Now we need to check if given a morphism $f: (K, \leq_1) \rightarrow (L, \leq_2)$, whether (f, c_1) is a morphism from $A_{\text{IR}, \text{or}}(K, \leq_1) \rightarrow A_{\text{IR}, \text{or}}(L, \leq_2)$. So pick a simplex $\sigma \in S_K$ such that $\dim \sigma > 0$.

- Let $\dim f(\sigma) = \dim \sigma$. Any codimension 1 face of σ is of the form $\partial_i \sigma$ for some $0 \leq i \leq \dim \sigma$. Since f is a monotone bijection between finite total orders, we have $f(v_i(\sigma)) = v_i(f(\sigma))$. Thus $\partial_i f(\sigma) = f(\partial_i \sigma)$. So we have

$$c_1(\partial_i \sigma) r(\partial_i \sigma, \sigma) = 1 \cdot (-1)^i = c_1(f(\partial_i \sigma)) r(\partial_i f(\sigma), f(\sigma)) = c_1(f(\partial_i \sigma)) r(f(\partial_i \sigma), f(\sigma))$$

Thus this condition is satisfies

- $\dim f(\sigma) = \dim \sigma - 1$. Let $v_{i_1}(\sigma), v_{i_2}(\sigma)$ ($i_1 < i_2$) be the two vertices of σ which have the same image. Then by monotnicity of f , these must be adjacent, i.e., $i_2 = i_1 + 1$ (for if they were not adjacent, then more than 2 elements would have had the same image and $\dim \sigma - \dim f(\sigma)$ would have been greater than 1). Then

$$c_1(\partial_{i_1} \sigma) r(\partial_{i_1} \sigma, \sigma) + c_1(\partial_{i_1+1} \sigma) r(\partial_{i_1+1} \sigma, \sigma) = 1 \cdot (-1)^{i_1} + 1 \cdot (-1)^{i_1+1} = 0$$

Thus this condtion is satisfied.

It is easy to see that $A_{\text{IR}, \text{or}}$ preserves identites and compositions. □

If R is a ring such that $1 + 1 = 0$ (i.e, R is a $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$ -algebra), then there is a similar functor $A_{\text{IR}}: \text{SC}_{\text{fin}} \rightarrow \text{IR}_R^{\{1\}} \text{SC}_{\text{fin}}$ which assigned the R -incidence structure defined by $r(\sigma', \sigma) = 1$ if σ' is a codimension 1 face of σ , and 0 otherwise.

Definition 1.14. We define the category $\text{Sh}_{\mathcal{A}} \text{IR}_R^S \text{SC}_{\text{fin}}$ by

- Objects: Triples $(K, \mathcal{F}, r)$ such that $(K, \mathcal{F})$ is on object of $\text{Sh}_{\mathcal{A}} \text{SC}_{\text{fin}}$ and (K, r) is on object of $\text{IR}_R^S \text{SC}_{\text{fin}}$.
- Morphisms are triples similar to above, and composition and identites are also done using the compositions of $\text{Sh}_{\mathcal{A}} \text{SC}_{\text{fin}}$ and $\text{IR}_R^S \text{SC}_{\text{fin}}$.

Lemma 1.3. We have a (1-)pullback diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Sh}_{\mathcal{A}} \text{IR}_R^S \text{SC}_{\text{fin}} & \xrightarrow{p_{\text{Sh}}} & \text{IR}_R^S \text{SC}_{\text{fin}} \\ p_{\text{IR}} \downarrow & \lrcorner & \downarrow U_{\text{IR}} \\ \text{Sh}_{\mathcal{A}} \text{SC}_{\text{fin}} & \xrightarrow{U_{\text{Sh}}} & \text{SC}_{\text{fin}} \end{array}$$

where $p_{\text{IR}}, p_{\text{Sh}}$ are the obvious forgetful projection functors. This is, in fact, a (2, 1)-pullback diagram.

2 Sheaf Cohomology

We now assume that $\mathcal{A}$ is an semiadditive category (it has finite products and coproducts and they coincide) enriched over a rig R .

Definition 2.1. For an $\mathcal{A}$ -sheaved finite simplicial complex $(K, \mathcal{F})$ with a signed incidence relation r , define

$$C^n(K, \mathcal{F}, r) = \bigoplus_{\sigma \in S_K^n} \mathcal{F}(\sigma)$$

Define maps $d_{K, \mathcal{F}, r}^n : C^n(K, \mathcal{F}, r) \rightarrow C^{n+1}(K, \mathcal{F}, r)$ by (here $\sigma \in S_K^n$ and $\sigma' \in S_K^{n+1}$)

$$\text{proj}_{\mathcal{F}(\sigma')} \circ d_{K, \mathcal{F}, r}^n \circ \text{incl}_{\mathcal{F}(\sigma)} = \begin{cases} r(\sigma, \sigma') \mathcal{F}(\sigma \subseteq \sigma') & \text{if } \sigma \subseteq \sigma' \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Define $C^\bullet(K, \mathcal{F}, r) = (C^n(K, \mathcal{F}, r), d_{K, \mathcal{F}, r}^n)$. This is a cochain complex concentrate in nonnegative degrees.

Proof $C^\bullet(K, \mathcal{F}, r)$ is a cochain complex. We need to prove that $d_{K, \mathcal{F}, r}^{n+1} \circ d_{K, \mathcal{F}, r}^n = 0$. Pick a $\sigma \in S_K^n$ and $\sigma'' \in S_K^{n+2}$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} \text{proj}_{\mathcal{F}(\sigma'')} \circ d_{K, \mathcal{F}, r}^{n+1} \circ d_{K, \mathcal{F}, r}^n \circ \text{incl}_{\mathcal{F}(\sigma)} &= \sum_{\sigma \subsetneq \sigma' \subsetneq \sigma''} r(\sigma, \sigma') r(\sigma', \sigma'') \mathcal{F}(\sigma' \subseteq \sigma'') \circ \mathcal{F}(\sigma \subseteq \sigma') \\ &= \left(\sum_{\sigma \subsetneq \sigma' \subsetneq \sigma''} r(\sigma, \sigma') r(\sigma', \sigma'') \right) \mathcal{F}(\sigma \subseteq \sigma'') = 0 \end{aligned}$$

Since this is true for any σ, σ'' and $d_{K, \mathcal{F}, r}^{n+1} \circ d_{K, \mathcal{F}, r}^n$ is a map from a coproduct to a product, the required statement is proved. $\square$

Definition 2.2. Given a morphism $(f, \phi, \kappa) : (K, \mathcal{F}, r) \rightarrow (L, \mathcal{G}, s)$, we define a map $C^n(f, \phi, \kappa) : C^n(L, \mathcal{G}, s) \rightarrow C^n(K, \mathcal{F}, r)$ by (here $\rho \in S_L^n$ and $\sigma \in S_K^n$)

$$\text{proj}_{\mathcal{F}(\sigma)} \circ C^n(f, \phi, \kappa) \circ \text{incl}_{\mathcal{G}(\rho)} = \begin{cases} \kappa(\sigma) \phi_\sigma & \text{if } \rho = f(\sigma) \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Proof that $C^n(f, \phi, \kappa)$ assemble to cochain map $C^\bullet(L, \mathcal{G}, s) \rightarrow C^\bullet(K, \mathcal{F}, r)$. We need to prove that the following square commutes

$$\begin{array}{ccc} C^n(K, \mathcal{F}) & \xrightarrow{d_{K, \mathcal{F}, r}^n} & C^{n+1}(K, \mathcal{F}) \\ C^n(f, \phi, \kappa) \uparrow & & \uparrow C^{n+1}(f, \phi, \kappa) \\ C^n(L, \mathcal{G}) & \xrightarrow{d_{L, \mathcal{G}, s}^n} & C^{n+1}(L, \mathcal{G}) \end{array}$$

The previous square commutes if and only if the two paths sandwiched between an inclusion and projection are equal, as the two paths are maps between a coproduct and a product. Evaluating the first path,

$$\begin{aligned} \text{proj}_{\mathcal{F}(\sigma)} \circ d_{K, \mathcal{F}, r}^n \circ C^n(f, \phi, \kappa) \circ \text{incl}_{\mathcal{G}(\rho)} &= \sum_{\sigma' \in S_K^n | f(\sigma') = \rho \wedge \sigma' \subseteq \sigma} \kappa(\sigma') r(\sigma', \sigma) \mathcal{F}(\sigma' \subseteq \sigma) \circ \phi_{\sigma'} \\ &= \sum_{\sigma' \in S_K^n | f(\sigma') = \rho \wedge \sigma' \subseteq \sigma} \kappa(\sigma') r(\sigma', \sigma) \phi_\sigma \circ \mathcal{G}(f(\sigma') \subseteq f(\sigma)) \\ &= \left(\sum_{\sigma' \in S_K^n | f(\sigma') = \rho \wedge \sigma' \subseteq \sigma} \kappa(\sigma') r(\sigma', \sigma) \right) \phi_\sigma \circ \mathcal{G}(\rho \subseteq f(\sigma)) \end{aligned}$$

where in the second line, we have used that naturality of $\phi : \mathcal{G} \circ i_{\text{PC}}(S_f) \rightarrow \mathcal{F}$. Now, we evaluate the second path,

$$\begin{aligned} \text{proj}_{\mathcal{F}(\sigma)} \circ C^{n+1}(f, \phi, \kappa) \circ d_{L, \mathcal{G}, s}^n \circ \text{incl}_{\mathcal{G}(\rho)} &= \sum_{\rho' \in S_L^{n+1} | f(\sigma) = \rho' \wedge \rho \subseteq \rho'} \kappa(\sigma) s(\rho, \rho') \phi_\sigma \circ \mathcal{G}(\rho \subseteq \rho') \\ &= \begin{cases} \kappa(\sigma) s(\rho, f(\sigma)) \phi_\sigma \circ \mathcal{G}(\rho \subseteq f(\sigma)) & \text{if } f(\sigma) \in S_L^{n+1} \wedge \rho \subseteq f(\sigma) \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

This equals the previous expression by using Lemma 1.2, and thus the square commutes. $\square$

Definition 2.3. We define the functor $C^\bullet: \text{Sh}_{\mathcal{A}}\text{IR}_R\text{SC}_{\text{fin}}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \text{CoCh}^{\geq 0}(\mathcal{A})$ by the previous constructions.

Proof that $C^\bullet$ is a functor. We need the check if $C^\bullet$ preserves identities and compositions.

Identity Let $\sigma, \rho \in S_K^n$ be any two simplices. Then

$$\text{proj}_{\mathcal{F}(\sigma)} \circ C^n(\text{id}_K, \text{id}_{\mathcal{F}}, c_1) \circ \text{incl}_{\mathcal{F}(\rho)} = \begin{cases} 1 \cdot \text{id}_{\mathcal{F}(\sigma)} & \text{if } \rho = \sigma \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

This is precisely the identity when $\rho = \sigma$ and 0 otherwise. These are the components of

$$\text{id}_{C^n(K, \mathcal{F}, r)}: \bigoplus_{\sigma \in S_K^n} \mathcal{F}(\sigma) \rightarrow \bigoplus_{\sigma \in S_K^n} \mathcal{F}(\sigma)$$

Hence $C^n(\text{id}_{K, \mathcal{F}, r}) = \text{id}_{C^n(K, \mathcal{F}, r)}$.

Composition Let $(f, \phi, \kappa): (K, \mathcal{F}, r) \rightarrow (L, \mathcal{G}, s)$ and $(g, \psi, \lambda): (L, \mathcal{G}, s) \rightarrow (H, \mathcal{I}, t)$ be morphisms. For any two simplices $\sigma \in S_K^n$ and $\mu \in S_H^n$, we compute

$$\begin{aligned} \text{proj}_{\mathcal{F}(\sigma)} \circ C^n(f, \phi, \kappa) \circ C^n(g, \psi, \lambda) \circ \text{incl}_{\mathcal{I}(\mu)} &= \sum_{\rho \in S_L^n} \begin{cases} \kappa(\sigma) \phi_\sigma & \text{if } f(\sigma) = \rho \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \circ \begin{cases} \lambda(\rho) \psi_\rho & \text{if } g(\rho) = \mu \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \\ &= \begin{cases} \kappa(\sigma) \lambda(f(\sigma)) \phi_\sigma \circ \psi_{f(\sigma)} & \text{if } g(f(\sigma)) = \mu \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \\ &= \text{proj}_{\mathcal{F}(\sigma)} \circ C^n((g, \psi, \lambda) \circ ((f, \phi, \kappa)) \circ \text{incl}_{\mathcal{I}(\mu)}) \end{aligned}$$

Thus $C^n(f, \phi, \kappa) \circ C^n(g, \psi, \lambda) = C^n((g, \psi, \lambda) \circ ((f, \phi, \kappa)))$. $\square$

Now, if $\mathcal{A}$ is an abelian category, we have functors $H^n: \text{CoCh}^{\geq 0}(\mathcal{A}) \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$ (defined in the usual way). Then we define the sheaf cohomology to be the functor

$$\text{Sh}_{\mathcal{A}}\text{IR}_R\text{SC}_{\text{fin}}^{\text{op}} \xrightarrow{C^\bullet} \text{CoCh}^{\geq 0}(\mathcal{A}) \xrightarrow{H^n} \mathcal{A}$$

We often abuse the notation, and denote by H^n the composite.

Remark. If $\mathcal{A}$ is abelian and R -enriched, the rig R must be a ring as in an abelian category, the CMon-enrichment as a semiadditive category is extended to an Ab-enrichment.

Remark. Since if $\mathcal{A}$ is abelian, so is $\mathcal{A}^{\text{op}}$, we can play the while game by using $\mathcal{A}^{\text{op}}$ instead. A cosheaf is a functor $S_K \rightarrow \mathcal{A}^{\text{op}}$. And in the end H^n lands in $\mathcal{A}^{\text{op}}$. So we have a functor from $\text{Sh}_{\mathcal{A}^{\text{op}}}\text{IR}_R\text{SC}_{\text{fin}}^{\text{op}} = \text{CoSh}_{\mathcal{A}}\text{IR}_R\text{SC}_{\text{fin}}^{\text{op}}$ to $\mathcal{A}^{\text{op}}$, or taking opposite categories, a functor (which we denote H_n)

$$H_n: \text{CoSh}_{\mathcal{A}}\text{IR}_R\text{SC}_{\text{fin}} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$$

This is called cosheaf homology.

If we take $R = \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$ and $\mathcal{A} = \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}\text{-Mod} = \text{Vect}_{\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}}$, then consider

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} & & & \text{IR}_{\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}}^{\{1\}}\text{SC}_{\text{fin}} & \\ & & & \downarrow \text{inclusion} & \\ \text{Vect}_{\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}} & \xleftarrow{H_n} & \text{CoSh}_{\text{Vect}_{\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}}}\text{IR}_{\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}}\text{SC}_{\text{fin}} & \xrightarrow{p_{\text{CoSh}}} & \text{IR}_{\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}}\text{SC}_{\text{fin}} \\ & & \downarrow p_{\text{IR}} & \swarrow u & \downarrow U_{\text{IR}} \\ & & \text{CoSh}_{\text{Vect}_{\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}}}\text{SC}_{\text{fin}} & \xrightarrow{U_{\text{CoSh}}} & \text{SC}_{\text{fin}} \\ & & & \nwarrow \Delta(-, \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}) & \uparrow A_{\text{IR}} \end{array}$$

The dotted functor $u: \text{SC}_{\text{fin}} \rightarrow \text{CoSh}_{\text{Vect}_{\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}}}\text{IR}_{\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}}\text{SC}_{\text{fin}}$ is induced by the cone induced by SC_{fin} over the pullback diagram. Then $H_n \circ u$ is just the usual homology functor (with coefficients in $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$). We can similarly recover ordinary homology (with coefficients in any ring) for ordered complexes.

3 Discrete Morse Theory

In this section, we try to understand the functorial properties of all constructions in [CGN16].

Definition 3.1. Let $\mathcal{A}$ be an abelian category. A parameterisation of a chain complex $(A^\bullet, d_A^\bullet)$ by a finite graded poset $(X, \leq, \dim)$ is an assignment F such that

$$\begin{aligned} x \in X &\mapsto F(x) \in \mathcal{A} \\ x \prec x' &\mapsto F_{xx'}: F(x) \rightarrow F(x') \end{aligned}$$

and a collection of isomorphisms $\alpha_n: A^n \rightarrow \bigoplus_{\dim x=n} F(x)$ such that for any $x, x' \in X$ such that $\dim x = n$ and $\dim x' = n+1$

$$\text{proj}_{F(x')} \circ \alpha_{n+1} \circ d_A^n \circ \alpha_n^{-1} \circ \text{incl}_{F(x)} = \begin{cases} F_{xx'} & \text{if } x \prec x' \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Definition 3.2. We define the category $\text{GrPos}_{\text{fin}}\text{CoCh}^{\geq 0}(\mathcal{A})$ as

- Objects: $(X, A^\bullet, F, \alpha)$ such that (F, α) is an X -parameterisation of $A^\bullet$
- A morphism $(X, A^\bullet, F, \alpha) \rightarrow (Y, B^\bullet, G, \beta)$ is a tuple (f, a, Φ) where $f: X \rightarrow Y$ is a morphism of graded posets, $a: B^\bullet \rightarrow A^\bullet$ is a cochain map and $\Phi = \{\Phi_x: G(f(x)) \rightarrow F(x)\}_{x \in X}$ is a collection of morphisms such that for any $x \in X$ and $y \in Y$ such that $\dim x = \dim y = n$, we have

$$\text{proj}_{F(x)} \circ \alpha_n \circ a_n \circ \beta_n^{-1} \circ \text{incl}_{G(y)} = \begin{cases} \Phi_x & \text{if } f(x) = y \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Definition 3.3. $\Pi: \text{Sh}_{\mathcal{A}}\text{IR}_R\text{SC}_{\text{fin}} \rightarrow \text{GrPos}_{\text{fin}}\text{CoCh}^{\geq 0}(\mathcal{A})$ defined on objects by

$$\begin{aligned} \Pi(K, \mathcal{F}, r) &= (S_K, C^\bullet(K, \mathcal{F}, r), F, \alpha) \\ \text{where } F(\sigma) &= \mathcal{F}(\sigma) \text{ and } F(x \prec x') = r(\sigma, \sigma') \mathcal{F}(\sigma \subseteq \sigma') \text{ and } \alpha_n = \text{id}_{C^n(K, \mathcal{F}, r)} \end{aligned}$$

and given a morphism $(f, \phi, \kappa): (K, \mathcal{F}, r) \rightarrow (L, \mathcal{G}, s)$, we define

$$\begin{aligned} \Pi(f, \phi, \kappa) &= (S_f, C^\bullet(f, \phi, \kappa), \Phi) \\ \text{where } \Phi_\sigma &= \kappa(\sigma) \phi_\sigma \end{aligned}$$

It is very easy to see that this preserves identities and composition.

Definition 3.4. We define a category $\text{GrPos}_{\text{fin}}\text{Par}_{\mathcal{A}}$ as

- Objects: Pairs (X, F) such that X is a graded poset and F is an assignment such that

$$\begin{aligned} x \in X &\mapsto F(x) \in \mathcal{A} \\ x \prec x' &\mapsto F_{xx'}: F(x) \rightarrow F(x') \end{aligned}$$

satisfying for any $x, x'' \in X$ such that $\dim x'' = \dim x + 2$, we have

$$\sum_{x' \in X \mid \dim x' = \dim x + 1 \wedge x \prec x' \prec x''} F_{x'x''} \circ F_{xx'} = 0$$

- A morphism $(X, F) \rightarrow (Y, G)$ is a pair (f, Φ) where $f: X \rightarrow Y$ is a map of graded posets and $\Phi = \{\Phi_x: G(f(x)) \rightarrow F(x)\}_{x \in X}$ is a collection of morphisms such that for any $x' \in X$ and $y \in Y$ such that $\dim x' = n+1$ and $\dim y = n$, we have

$$\sum_{x \in X \mid \dim x = n \wedge x \prec x' \wedge f(x) = y} F_{xx'} \circ \Phi_x = \begin{cases} \Phi_{x'} \circ G_{yf(x')} & \text{if } \dim f(x') = n+1 \wedge y \prec f(x') \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Definition 3.5. Define a functor $AC: \text{GrPos}_{\text{fin}}\text{Par}_{\mathcal{A}} \rightarrow \text{GrPos}_{\text{fin}}\text{CoCh}^{\geq 0}(\mathcal{A})$ which maps (X, F) to $(X, A^\bullet, F, \alpha)$ where $A^n = \bigoplus_{x \in X \mid \dim x = n} F(x)$ and the differential is given in the usual way and each α_n is identity.

Lemma 3.1. AC is an equivalence of categories.

Thus from now on, we will work with the category $\text{GrPos}_{\text{fin}}\text{Par}_{\mathcal{A}}$.

Definition 3.6. Given an object $(X, F) \in \text{GrPos}_{\text{fin}}\text{Par}_{\mathcal{A}}$, an F -compatible acyclic partial matching on X is a subset $\Sigma \in X \times X$ such that

- If $(x, x') \in \Sigma$ then $x \prec x'$
- If $(x, x') \in \Sigma$, then neither x nor x' appears in any other pair in Σ
- If $(x, x') \in \Sigma$, then $F_{xx'}$ is an isomorphism
- Given two pairs $(x_1, x'_1), (x_2, x'_2) \in \Sigma$, we say $(x_1, x'_1) \triangleleft (x_2, x'_2)$ if and only if $x_1 \prec x'_2$. We require the transitive closure of the relation $\triangleleft$ to give be a poset on Σ .

Definition 3.7. Let Σ be an F -compatible acyclic partial matching on X .

- A gradient path γ in Σ is a strictly $\triangleleft$ -increasing sequence of elements of Σ , i.e,

$$\gamma = (x_1, x'_1) \triangleleft \cdots \triangleleft (x_n, x'_n) \text{ where } n > 0$$

For such a path, $s_\gamma = x'_1$ and $t_\gamma = x_n$.

- Define $M_{(X, \Sigma)} = X \setminus (\text{proj}_l(\Sigma) \cup \text{proj}_r(\Sigma))$ where $\text{proj}_l, \text{proj}_r: X \times X \rightarrow X$ are the left and right projections respectively. For $m, m' \in M_{(X, \Sigma)}$, we say a path γ flows from m to m' if $m \prec s_\gamma$ and $t_\gamma \prec m'$. We define the relation $\leq_\Sigma \subseteq M_{(X, \Sigma)} \times M_{(X, \Sigma)}$ as

transitive closure $\{m, m' \text{ are related if } \exists \text{ gradient path flowing from } m \text{ to } m' \text{ or if } m \leq m' \text{ in } X\}$.

Also, let the dimension of elements of $M_{(X, \Sigma)}$ just be the dimension as elements of X .

- For a gradient path $\gamma = (x_1, x'_1) \triangleleft \cdots \triangleleft (x_n, x'_n)$, define $F_\gamma: F(x'_1) \rightarrow F(x_n)$ as

$$F_\gamma = \left(-F_{x_n x'_n}^{-1}\right) \circ F_{x_{n-1} x'_n} \circ \cdots \circ F_{x_1 x'_2} \circ \left(-F_{x_1 x'_1}^{-1}\right)$$

- Now define an assignment on $M_{(X, \Sigma)}$ denoted by F^Σ which assigns

$$F^\Sigma(m) = F(m)$$

$$F_{mm'}^\Sigma = F_{mm'} + \sum_{\gamma \mid m \prec s_\gamma \wedge t_\gamma \prec m'} F_{t_\gamma m'} \circ F_\gamma \circ F_{ms_\gamma}$$

Lemma 3.2. $(M_{(X, \Sigma)}, F^\Sigma)$ is an object of $\text{GrPos}_{\text{fin}}\text{Par}_{\mathcal{A}}$.

Proof. [CGN16, Proposition 3.1] □

Definition 3.8. We define a category $\text{APM}_{\mathcal{A}}$ as:

- Objects: triples (X, F, Σ) such that $(X, F) \in \text{GrPos}_{\text{fin}}\text{Par}_{\mathcal{A}}$ and Σ is an F -compatible acyclic partial matching on X .
- A morphism $(X, F, \Sigma) \rightarrow (Y, G, \Gamma)$ is just a morphism $(f, \Phi): (X, F) \rightarrow (Y, G)$ such that for any $m \in M_{(X, \Sigma)}$, we have $f(m) \in M_{(Y, \Gamma)}$

3.1 Only one non-critical element

Let $(X, \mathcal{F}, \Sigma)$ and $(Y, \mathcal{G}, \Pi)$ be graded posets with assignments and compatible acyclic partial matchings (with only one critical element). If we want the assignment of Morse data to be a functor, we need an induced map from $M_{(X, \Sigma)}$ to $M_{(Y, \Pi)}$. A morphism $(f, \phi) : (X, \mathcal{F}, \Sigma) \rightarrow (Y, \mathcal{G}, \Pi)$ has to satisfy

$$f(X \setminus \{x_1, x'_1\}) \subseteq Y \setminus \{y_1, y'_1\}$$

Let $\Sigma = \{(x_1, x'_1)\}$ and $\Pi = \{(y_1, y'_1)\}$. The poset on $M_{X, \Sigma}$ is given by

$$\text{transitive closure of } \{m \leq m' \vee m \prec x'_1 \succ x_1 \prec m'\}$$

This is given by $m \leq m' \vee m \leq x'_1 \succ x_1 \leq m'$. Thus if f were to induce a monotone map on the Morse data, we would need

$$m \leq m' \vee m \leq x'_1 \succ x_1 \leq m' \implies f(m) \leq f(m') \vee f(m) \leq y'_1 \succ y_1 \leq f(m')$$

Since f is monotone, we already have $m \leq m' \implies f(m) \leq f(m')$. So The second condition will be true (in general) iff $f(x_1) = y_1$ and $f(x'_1) = y'_1$. Also, Φ will have to satisfy the conditions that Φ_{x_1} and $\Phi_{x'_1}$ are iso to get a map between the assignments (and hence a chain map between the Morse data).

I am not sure how to generalise these conditions to the case of more non-critical elements, as these conditions seem way too restrictive. This will help define the category $\text{APA}_{\mathcal{A}}$.

A Finite simplicial complexes with an incidence relation form a category

Proof that composition is of morphisms is a morphism. Given two morphisms $(f, \kappa) : (K, r) \rightarrow (L, s)$ and $(g, \lambda) : (L, s) \rightarrow (H, t)$, we want to show that the composite (h, ω) defined by $h = g \circ f$ and $\omega(\sigma) = \kappa(\sigma) \lambda(f(\sigma))$ for any $\sigma \in S_K$ is a morphism from $(K, r) \rightarrow (H, t)$. So we choose $\sigma \in S_K^{n+1}$ and $\mu \in S_H^n$ and we compute

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{\sigma' \in S_K^n \mid h(\sigma') = \mu \wedge \sigma' \subseteq \sigma} \omega(\sigma') r(\sigma', \sigma) &= \sum_{\rho \in S_L^n \mid g(\rho) = \mu \wedge \rho \subseteq f(\sigma)} \left(\sum_{\sigma' \in S_K^n \mid f(\sigma') = \rho \wedge \sigma' \subseteq \sigma} \kappa(\sigma') \lambda(f(\sigma')) r(\sigma', \sigma) \right) \\ &= \sum_{\rho \in S_L^n \mid g(\rho) = \mu \wedge \rho \subseteq f(\sigma)} \lambda(\rho) \left(\sum_{\sigma' \in S_K^n \mid f(\sigma') = \rho \wedge \sigma' \subseteq \sigma} \kappa(\sigma') r(\sigma', \sigma) \right) \\ &= \sum_{\rho \in S_L^n \mid g(\rho) = \mu \wedge \rho \subseteq f(\sigma)} \lambda(\rho) \begin{cases} \kappa(\sigma) s(\rho, f(\sigma)) & \text{if } f(\sigma) \in S_L^{n+1} \wedge \rho \subseteq f(\sigma) \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \\ &= \begin{cases} \kappa(\sigma) \sum_{\rho \in S_L^n \mid g(\rho) = \mu \wedge \rho \subseteq f(\sigma)} \lambda(\rho) s(\rho, f(\sigma)) & \text{if } f(\sigma) \in S_L^{n+1} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \\ &= \begin{cases} \kappa(\sigma) \begin{cases} \lambda(f(\sigma)) t(\mu, g(f(\sigma))) & \text{if } g(f(\sigma)) \in S_H^{n+1} \wedge \mu \subseteq g(f(\sigma)) \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} & \text{if } f(\sigma) \in S_L^{n+1} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \\ &= \begin{cases} \kappa(\sigma) \lambda(f(\sigma)) t(\mu, g(f(\sigma))) & \text{if } g(f(\sigma)) \in S_H^{n+1} \wedge \mu \subseteq g(f(\sigma)) \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \\ &= \begin{cases} \omega(\sigma) t(\mu, h(\sigma)) & \text{if } h(\sigma) \in S_H^{n+1} \wedge \mu \subseteq h(\sigma) \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

□

Composition is associative. Given three morphisms $(f, \kappa) : (K, r) \rightarrow (L, s)$, $(g, \lambda) : (L, s) \rightarrow (H, t)$ and $(h, \theta) : (H, t) \rightarrow (I, u)$, we want to show that the composition is associative.

$$\begin{aligned} ((h, \theta) \circ (g, \lambda)) \circ (f, \kappa) &= (h \circ g, \omega) \circ (f, \kappa) \text{ where } \omega : S_L \rightarrow R \text{ is given by } \omega(\rho) = \lambda(\rho) \theta(g(\rho)) \\ &= (h \circ g \circ f, \omega') \text{ where } \omega' : S_K \rightarrow R \text{ is given by } \omega'(\sigma) = \kappa(\sigma) \omega(f(\sigma)) = \kappa(\sigma) \lambda(f(\sigma)) \theta(g(f(\sigma))) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} (h, \theta) \circ ((g, \lambda) \circ (f, \kappa)) &= (h, \theta) \circ (g \circ f, \omega'') \text{ where } \omega'' : S_K \rightarrow R \text{ is given by } \omega''(\sigma) = \kappa(\sigma) \lambda(f(\sigma)) \\ &= (h \circ g \circ f, \omega''') \text{ where } \omega''' : S_K \rightarrow R \text{ is given by } \omega'''(\sigma) = \omega''(\sigma) \theta(g(f(\sigma))) = \kappa(\sigma) \lambda(f(\sigma)) \theta(g(f(\sigma))) \end{aligned}$$

Since we know composition of morphisms of simplicial complexes is associative, we do not distinguish between $h \circ (g \circ f)$ and $(h \circ g) \circ f$. Since $\omega' = \omega'''$, we see that the second component of the compositions are also equal, and hence the composition is associative. $\square$

Proof that identities exist. Let (K, r) be an object. Consider the morphism (id_K, c_1) where $c_1 : S_K \rightarrow R$ maps everything to $1 \in R$. To show that this is a morphism, we need to show that for any $\rho \in S_K^n$ and any $\sigma \in S_K^{n+1}$, we have

$$\sum_{\sigma' \in S_K^n \mid \sigma' = \rho \wedge \sigma' \subseteq \sigma} r(\sigma', \sigma) = \begin{cases} s(\rho, f(\sigma)) & \text{if } \rho \subseteq \sigma \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

This is obviously true. Now let $(f, \kappa) : (K, r) \rightarrow (L, s)$ be a morphism.

$$\begin{aligned} (f, \kappa) \circ (\text{id}_K, c_1) &= (f, \omega) \text{ where } \omega : S_K \rightarrow R \text{ is given by } \omega(\sigma) = 1 \cdot \kappa(\sigma), \text{ so } \omega = \kappa \\ (\text{id}_L, c_1) \circ (f, \kappa) &= (f, \omega') \text{ where } \omega' : S_K \rightarrow R \text{ is given by } \omega'(\sigma) = \kappa(\sigma) \cdot 1, \text{ so } \omega = \kappa \end{aligned}$$

Thus $(\text{id}_K, c_1) = \text{id}_{(K, r)}$. $\square$

References

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