

# Discrete Vector Fields

## Constructive Algebraic Topology

### 1. Basic Facts

```
;; Clock  
Computing  
<TnPr <TnPr  
End of computing.  
  
;; Clock -> 2002-01-17, 19h 25m 36s.  
Computing the boundary of the generator 19 (dimension 7) :  
<TnPr <TnPr <TnPr S3 <<Abar[2 S1][2 S1]>>> <<Abar>>> <<Abar>>>  
End of computing.  
  
Homology in dimension 6 :  
  
Component Z/12Z  
  
---done---  
  
;; Clock -> 2002-01-17, 19h 27m 15s
```

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Francis Sergeraert, Institut Fourier, Grenoble  
Meeting Constructive Algebraic Topology  
Cirm, Luminy, January 24-28, 2011*

## Semantics of colours:

**Blue** = “Standard” Mathematics

**Red** = Constructive, effective,

algorithm, machine object, ...

**Violet** = Problem, difficulty,

obstacle, disadvantage, ...

**Green** = Solution, essential point,

mathematicians, ...

**Dark Orange** = Fuzzy objects.

**Pale grey** = Hyper-Fuzzy objects.

## Plan.

1. Introduction.
2. Discrete vector fields.
3. Homological Reductions.
4. Admissible Algebraic Vector Field  $\Rightarrow$   
Homological Reduction.

## 1/4. Introduction.

Algebraic Topology is a translator:



## 1/4. Introduction.

Algebraic Topology is a translator:



Serre (1950): Up to homotopy

any **map** can be transformed into a **fibration**.

**Fibration = Twisted Product**

		Topology $\longmapsto$ Algebra
Product		Eilenberg-Zilber Theorem
Twisted product		Serre Spectral Sequence

**Discrete vector fields**

$\Rightarrow$  **New understanding** of the **Eilenberg-Zilber Theorem**

$\Rightarrow$  An **effective** version of the **Serre Spectral Sequence**

as a **direct** consequence of this version of Eilenberg-Zilber.

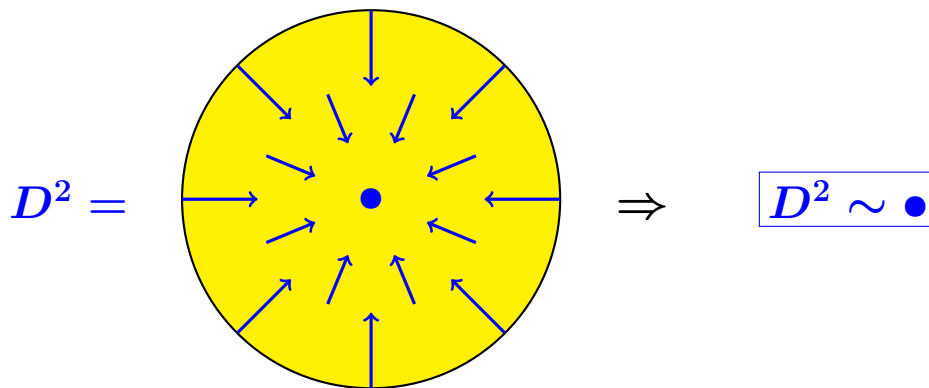
## 2/4. Discrete vector fields

Ordinary vector fields

Discrete vector fields

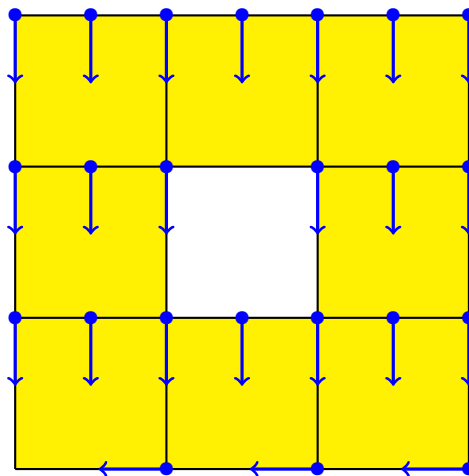
Algebraic vector fields

Ordinary vector field:



Discrete vector field in a cellular complex.

Example for a cubical complex.



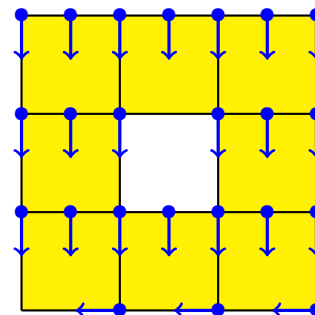


Definition:

A **Discrete Vector Field** is a pairing:

$$V = \{(\sigma_i, \tau_i)\}_{i \in v}$$

satisfying:



- $\forall i \in v$ ,  $\tau_i =$  some  $k_i$ -cell and  $\sigma_i =$  some  $(k_i - 1)$ -cell.
- $\forall i \in v$ ,  $\sigma_i$  is a **regular** face of  $\tau_i$ .
- $\forall i \neq j \in v$ ,  $\sigma_i \neq \sigma_j \neq \tau_i \neq \tau_j$ .
- The **vector field**  $V$  is **admissible**.

Definition: A(n algebraic) **cellular chain complex**  $C_*$

is a triple  $C_* = \{C_p, \beta_p, d_p\}_{p \in \mathbb{Z}}$  satisfying:

- $\beta_p$  is the **distinguished basis**  
of the free  $\mathbb{Z}$ -module  $C_p = \mathbb{Z}[\beta_p]$ .
- $d_p : C_p \rightarrow C_{p-1}$  is a **differential** ( $d^2 = 0$ ).

Examples: **Chain complexes** coming from:

- **Simplicial complexes, cubical complexes,**  
simplicial sets, CW-complexes...
- **Digital images.**
- **Chain complex** defining some **Koszul homology** ( $\mathbb{Z} \mapsto \mathfrak{k}$ ).
- ... ..

$C_* = \{C_p, \beta_p, d_p\}_{p \in \mathbb{Z}} = \text{Cellular chain complex.}$

Definition: A  $p$ -cell is an element of  $\beta_p$ .

Definition: If  $\tau \in \beta_p$  and  $\sigma \in \beta_{p-1}$ ,

then  $\varepsilon(\sigma, \tau) := \text{coefficient}$  of  $\sigma$  in  $d\tau$

is called the **incidence number** between  $\sigma$  and  $\tau$ .

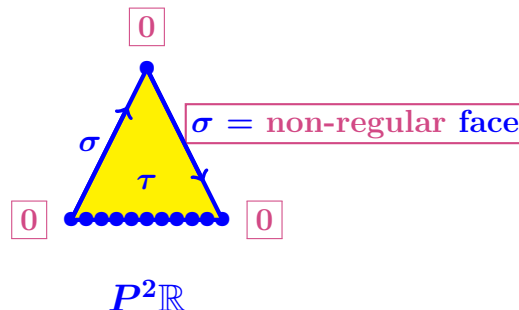
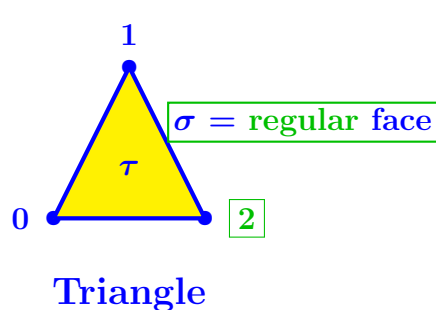
Definition:  $\sigma$  is a **face** of  $\tau$  if  $\varepsilon(\sigma, \tau) \neq 0$ .

Definition:  $\sigma$  is a **regular face** of  $\tau$  if  $\varepsilon(\sigma, \tau) = \pm 1$ .

[More generally if  $\mathbb{Z} \mapsto R$ ,

**regular face**  $\Leftrightarrow \varepsilon(\sigma, \tau)$  invertible]

## Geometrical example of non-regular face:



$$C_*(\text{Triangle}) = \{0 \longleftarrow \mathbb{Z}^3 \xleftarrow{\begin{bmatrix} -1 & -1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}} \mathbb{Z}^3 \xleftarrow{\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}} \mathbb{Z} \longleftarrow 0\}$$

$$C_*(P^2\mathbb{R}) = \{0 \longleftarrow \mathbb{Z} \xleftarrow{\begin{bmatrix} 0 \end{bmatrix}} \mathbb{Z} \xleftarrow{\begin{bmatrix} 2 \end{bmatrix}} \mathbb{Z} \longleftarrow 0\}$$

$C_* = \{C_p, \beta_p, d_p\}_{p \in \mathbb{Z}} = \text{Cellular chain complex.}$

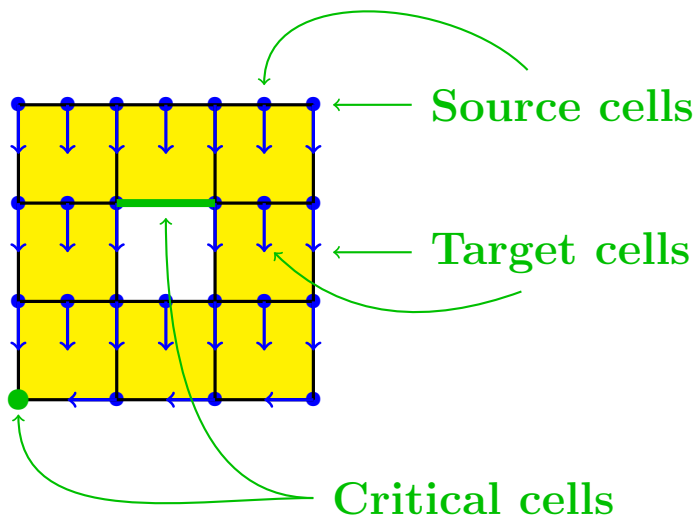
$V = \{(\sigma_i, \tau_i)\}_{i \in v} = \text{Vector field.}$

Definition: A **critical  $p$ -cell** is an **element** of  $\beta_p$

which **does not** occur in  $V$ .

Other **cells** divided in **source cells** and **target cells**.

Example:



$C_* = \{C_p, \beta_p, d_p\}_{p \in \mathbb{Z}} = \text{Cellular chain complex.}$

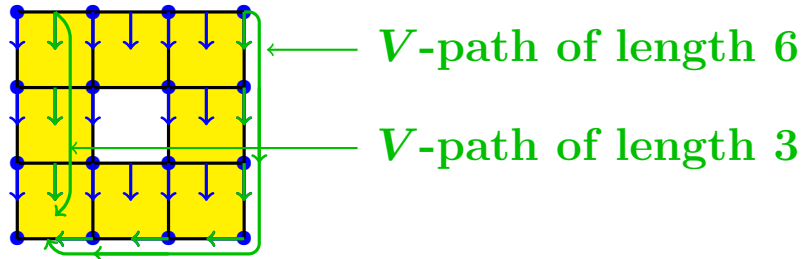
$V = \{(\sigma_i, \tau_i)\}_{i \in v} = \text{Vector field.}$

Definition: **V-path** = sequence  $(\sigma_{i_1}, \tau_{i_1}, \sigma_{i_2}, \tau_{i_2}, \dots, \sigma_{i_n}, \tau_{i_n})$

- satisfying:
1.  $(\sigma_{i_j}, \tau_{i_j}) \in V.$
  2.  $\sigma_{i_j}$  face of  $\tau_{i_{j-1}}.$
  3.  $\sigma_{i_j} \neq \sigma_{i_{j-1}}.$

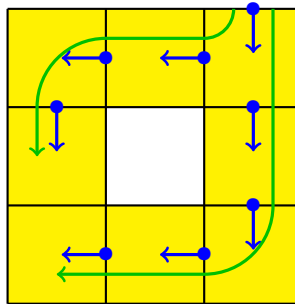
Remark:  $\sigma_{i_j}$  not necessarily regular face of  $\tau_{i_{j-1}}.$

Examples:



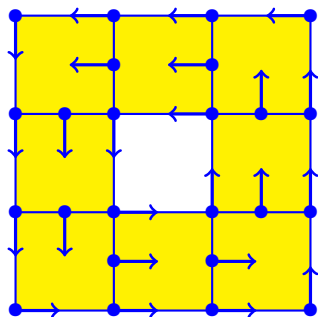
Definition: A vector field is **admissible** if  
 for every source cell  $\sigma$ ,  
 the **length** of any path starting from  $\sigma$   
 is **bounded** by a fixed integer  $\lambda(\sigma)$ .

Example of **two different** paths with the **same** starting cell.



Remark: The paths from a starting cell  
 are **not necessarily** organized as a **tree**.

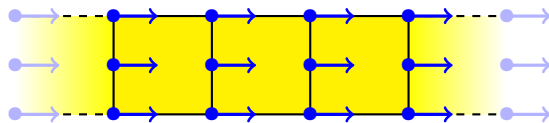
Typical examples of **non-admissible** vector fields.



???!!!

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$\emptyset$



???!!!

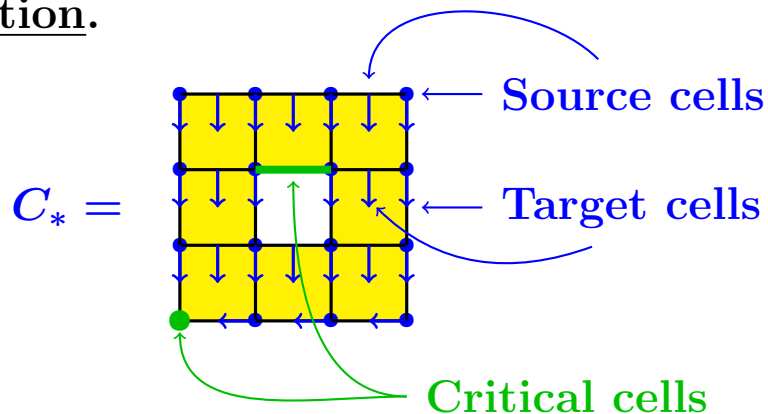
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$\emptyset$

$\mathbb{R} \times I$



## Main motivation.



## Fundamental Reduction Theorem $\Rightarrow$

$$\rho : C_* \xrightarrow{\cong} C_*^c = \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \\ \curvearrowright \\ \bullet \end{array} \\ \hline \end{array} = \mathbb{Z} \xleftarrow{d_1^c=0} \mathbb{Z} = \text{Circle}$$

$\text{Rank}(C_*) = (16, 24, 8)$	vs	$\text{Rank}(C_*^c) = (1, 1, 0)$
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### 3/4. Homological Reductions.

Definition: A (homological) reduction is a diagram:

$$\rho: \boxed{h \hookrightarrow \widehat{C}_* \begin{array}{c} \xleftarrow{g} \\ \xrightarrow{f} \end{array} C_*}$$

with:

1.  $\widehat{C}_*$  and  $C_* =$  chain complexes.
2.  $f$  and  $g =$  chain complex morphisms.
3.  $h =$  homotopy operator (degree +1).
4.  $fg = \text{id}_{C_*}$  and  $d_{\widehat{C}}h + hd_{\widehat{C}} + gf = \text{id}_{\widehat{C}_*}$ .
5.  $fh = 0$ ,  $hg = 0$  and  $hh = 0$ .

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \{ \cdots \xleftarrow[h]{d} \widehat{C}_{m-1} \xleftarrow[h]{d} \widehat{C}_m \xleftarrow[h]{d} \widehat{C}_{m+1} \xleftarrow[h]{d} \cdots \} = \widehat{C}_* \\
 \parallel \\
 \{ \cdots \xleftarrow[h]{d} A_{m-1} \xleftarrow[h]{d} A_m \xleftarrow[h]{d} A_{m+1} \xleftarrow[h]{d} \cdots \} = A_* \\
 \parallel \\
 \{ \cdots \xleftarrow[h]{d} B_{m-1} \xleftarrow[h]{d} B_m \xleftarrow[h]{d} B_{m+1} \xleftarrow[h]{d} \cdots \} = B_* \\
 \parallel \\
 \{ \cdots \xleftarrow[d]{d} C'_{m-1} \xleftarrow[d]{d} C'_m \xleftarrow[d]{d} C'_{m+1} \xleftarrow[d]{d} \cdots \} = C'_* \\
 \parallel \\
 \{ \cdots \xleftarrow[d]{d} C_{m-1} \xleftarrow[d]{d} C_m \xleftarrow[d]{d} C_{m+1} \xleftarrow[d]{d} \cdots \} = C_*
 \end{array}$$

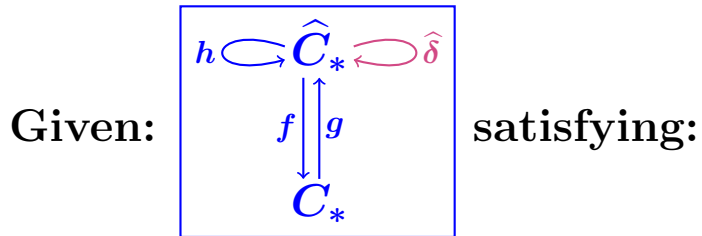
$$A_* = \ker f \cap \ker h$$

$$B_* = \ker f \cap \ker d$$

$$C'_* = \text{im}(g)$$

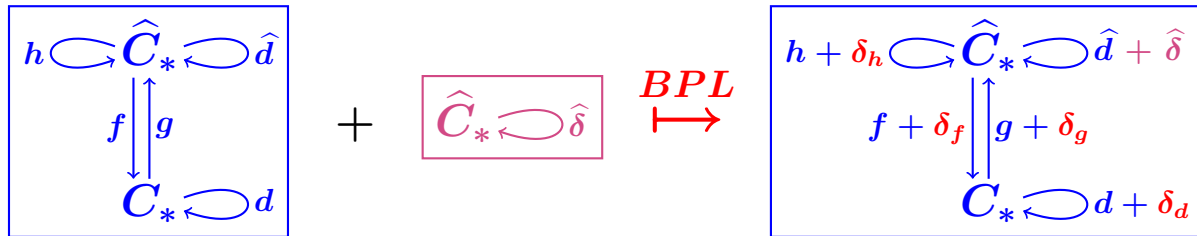
$$\widehat{C}_* = A_* \oplus B_{*\text{exact}} \oplus C'_* \cong C_*$$

## Basic Perturbation “Lemma” (BPL):



1.  $\hat{\delta}$  is a **perturbation** of the differential  $\hat{d}$  of  $\hat{C}_*$ ;
2. The operator  $h \circ \hat{\delta}$  is **pointwise nilpotent**.

Then a **general algorithm BPL** constructs:



## 4/4. Admissible Algebraic Vector Field

⇒ Homological Reduction.

### Fundamental Theorem:

Given:  $C_* = (C_p, \beta_p, d_p)_{p \in \mathbb{Z}} =$  Cellular chain complex.

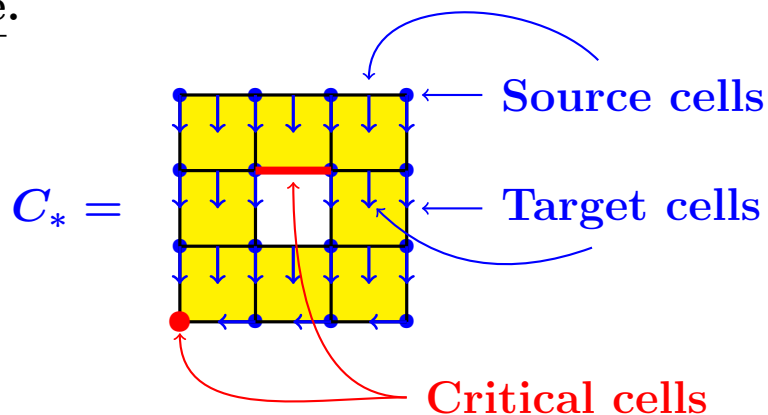
$V = (\sigma_i, \tau_i)_{i \in v} =$  Admissible Discrete Vector Field.

⇒ Canonical Reduction:

$$\rho_V = \left[ h \circlearrowleft (C_p, \beta_p, d_p)_{p \in \mathbb{Z}} \begin{array}{c} \xleftarrow{g} \\ \xrightarrow{f} \end{array} (C_p^c, \beta_p^c, d_p^c)_{p \in \mathbb{Z}} \right]$$

Initial Complex  $\xRightarrow{\rho_V}$  Critical complex

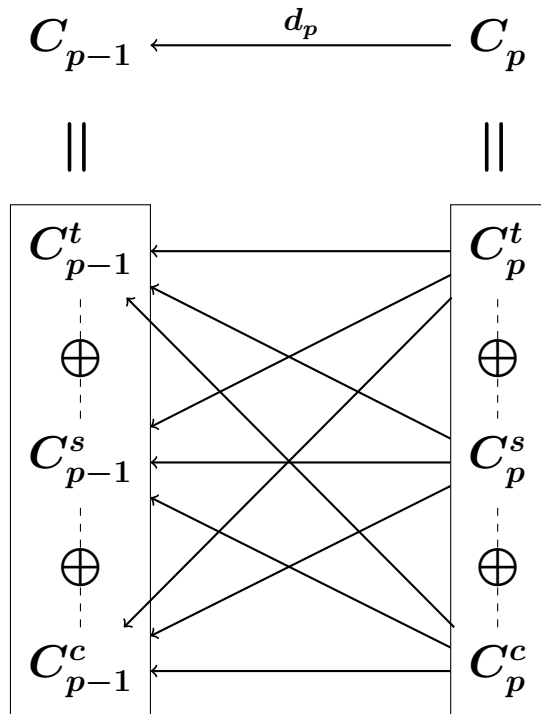
## Toy Example.

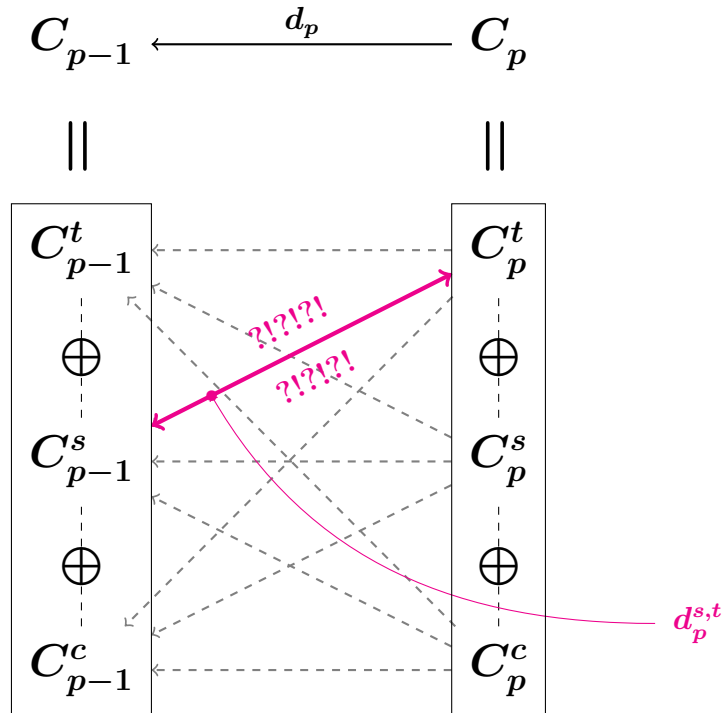


## Fundamental Reduction Theorem $\Rightarrow$

$$\rho : C_* \rightsquigarrow C_*^c = \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \\ \curvearrowright \\ \bullet \end{array} \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{l} d_1^c \\ d_1^c \end{array} = \mathbb{Z} \xleftarrow{d_1^c=0} \mathbb{Z} = \text{Circle}$$

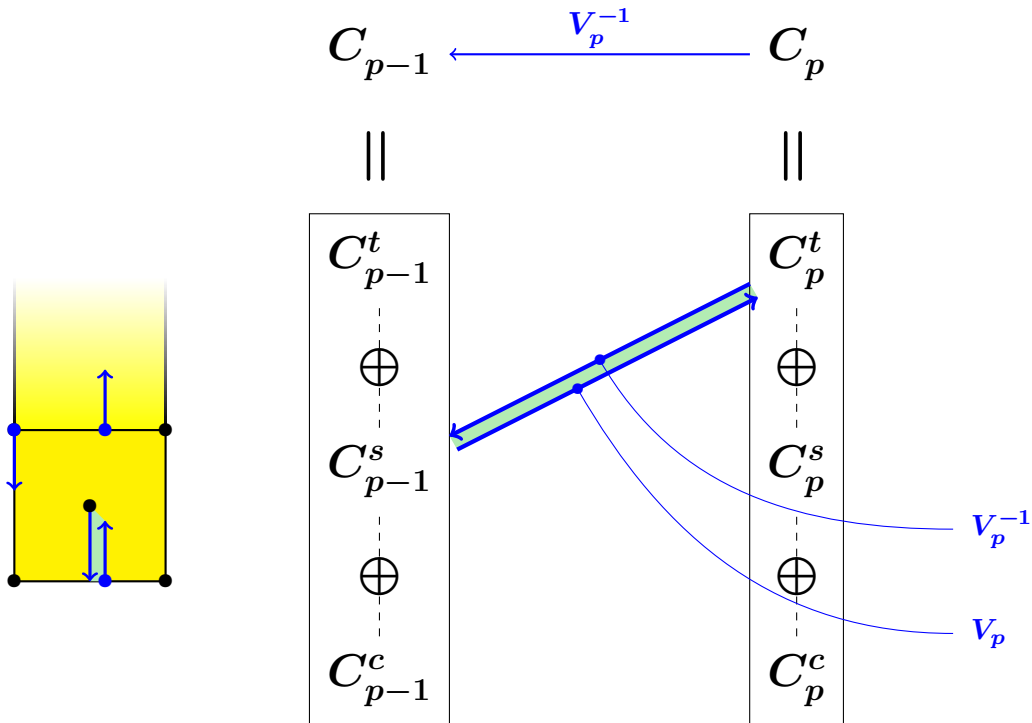
$\text{Rank}(C_*) = (16, 24, 8)$	vs	$\text{Rank}(C_*^c) = (1, 1, 0)$
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Proof 1:

Proof 2:





Proof 4:

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \{ \cdots \xleftarrow[h]{d} \widehat{C}_{m-1} \xleftarrow[h]{d} \widehat{C}_m \xleftarrow[h]{d} \widehat{C}_{m+1} \xleftarrow[h]{d} \cdots \} = \widehat{C}_* \\
 \parallel \\
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 \parallel \\
 \{ \cdots \xleftarrow[h]{d} B_{m-1} \xleftarrow[h]{d} B_m \xleftarrow[h]{d} B_{m+1} \xleftarrow[h]{d} \cdots \} = B_* \\
 \parallel \\
 \{ \cdots \xleftarrow[d]{d} C'_{m-1} \xleftarrow[d]{d} C'_m \xleftarrow[d]{d} C'_{m+1} \xleftarrow[d]{d} \cdots \} = C'_* \\
 \parallel \\
 \{ \cdots \xleftarrow[d]{d} C_{m-1} \xleftarrow[d]{d} C_m \xleftarrow[d]{d} C_{m+1} \xleftarrow[d]{d} \cdots \} = C_*
 \end{array}$$

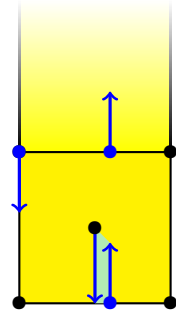
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$$C'_* = \text{im}(g)$$

$$\widehat{C}_* = A_* \oplus B_* \text{ exact} \oplus C'_* \cong C_*$$

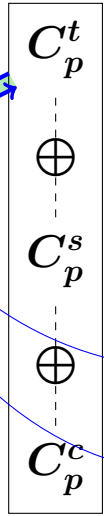
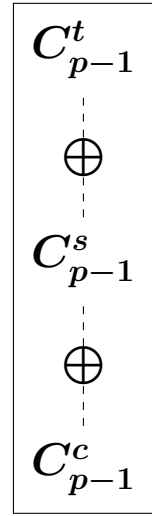
Proof 5:



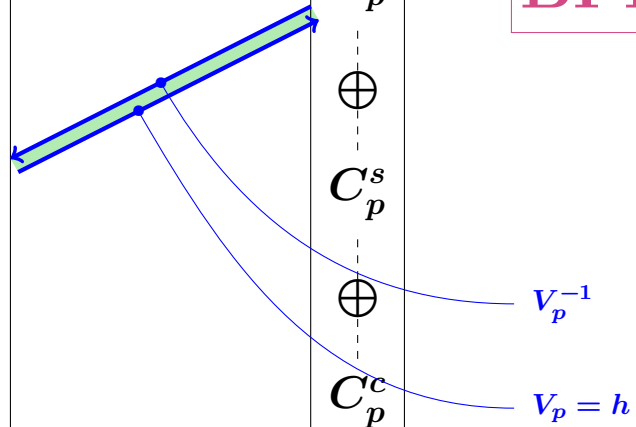
$$C_{p-1} \xleftarrow{V_p^{-1}} C_p$$

||

||



BPL(0.0)

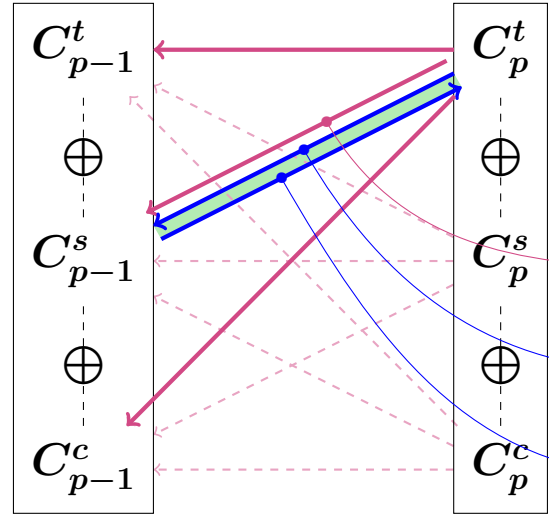


$$C_{p-1}^c \xleftarrow{0} C_p^c$$

Proof 6:

$$C_{p-1} \xleftarrow[V_p^{-1}]{d_p - V_p^{-1}} C_p$$

|| ||

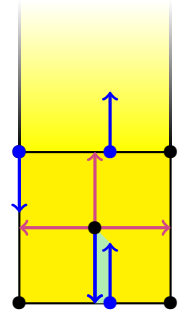


**BPL(0.5)**

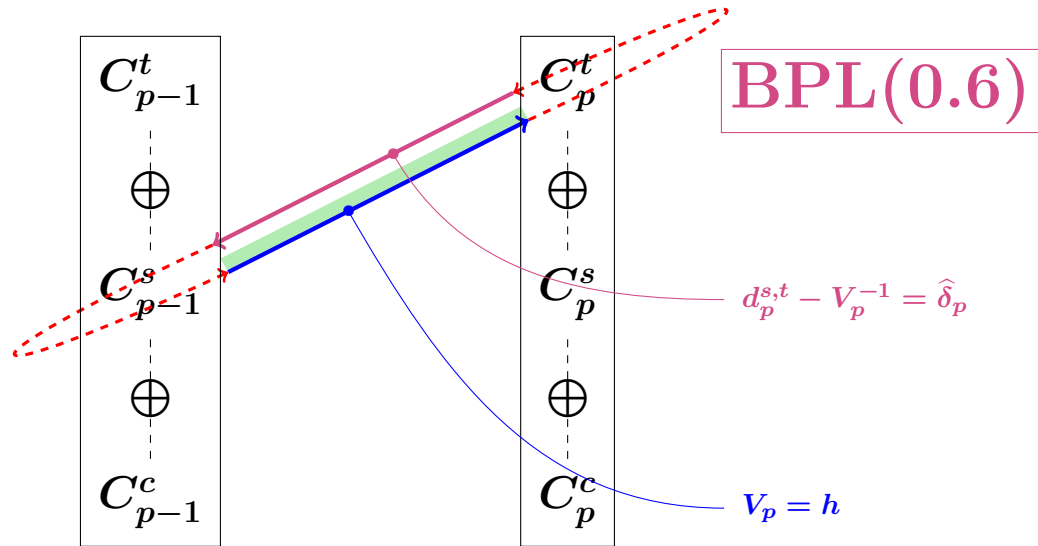
$$d_p^{s,t} - V_p^{-1} = \hat{\delta}_p^{s,t}$$

$$V_p^{-1}$$

$$V_p = h$$



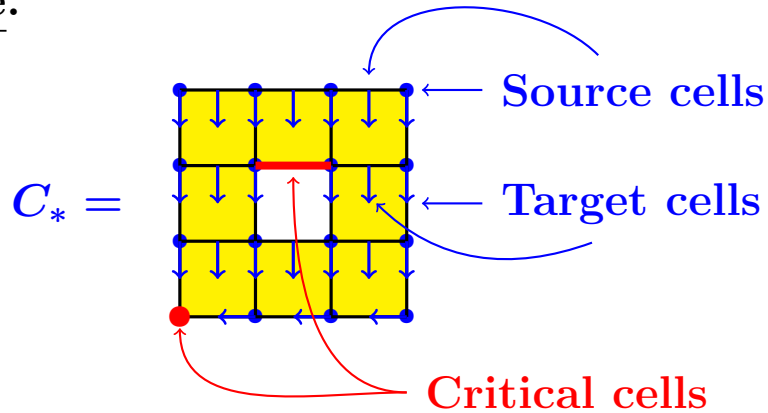
$$C_{p-1}^c \xleftarrow{0} C_p^c$$

Proof 7:

Nilpotency Hypothesis ??? = **Admissibility** of Vector Field



## Toy Example.



## Fundamental Reduction Theorem $\Rightarrow$

$$\rho : C_* \rightsquigarrow C_*^c = \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \\ \curvearrowright \\ \bullet \end{array} \\ \hline \end{array} = \mathbb{Z} \xleftarrow{d_1^c=0} \mathbb{Z} = \text{Circle}$$

$$\text{Rank}(C_*) = (16, 24, 8) \quad \text{vs} \quad \text{Rank}(C_*^c) = (1, 1, 0)$$



More sophisticated example:

$K = K(\mathbb{Z}, 1) =$  Kan minimal (!) model of  $B\mathbb{Z}$ .

$$K_n = \mathbb{Z}_*^n \Rightarrow C_n(K) = \mathbb{Z}[\mathbb{Z}_*^n]$$

$$d[1|2|3|4] := [2|3|4] - [3|3|4] + [1|5|4] - [1|2|7] + [1|2|3]$$

Represents the functor  $X \mapsto H^1(X, \mathbb{Z})$

in the simplicial world.

$K(\mathbb{Z}, 1) =$  the fundamental base

of the algebraic topology of the fibrations.

What about the homological nature of  $K(\mathbb{Z}, 1)$  ??

Solution = Vector Field  $V$ .

Recipe:

Every  $[1|a_2|a_3|\dots]$  with  $a_2 > 0$

is the target of the vector  $([a_2 + 1|a_3|\dots], [1|a_2|a_3|\dots])$ .

Every  $[1|a_2|a_3|\dots]$  with  $a_2 < 0$

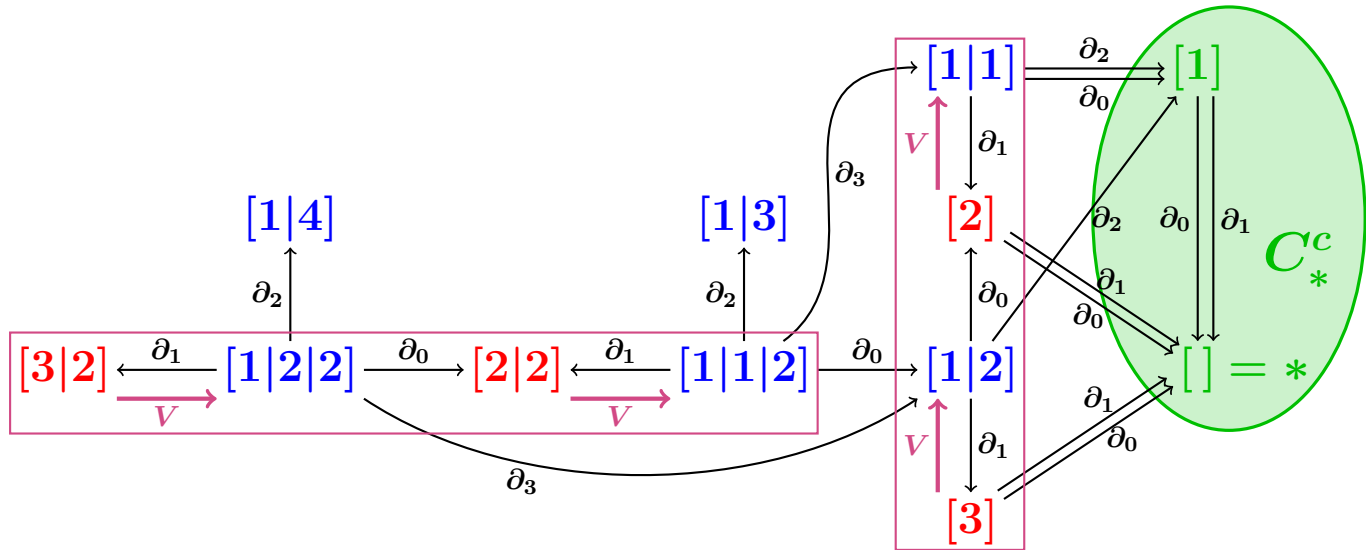
is the target of the vector  $([a_2|a_3|\dots], [1|a_2|a_3|\dots])$ .

Exercise: The critical cells are  $\beta_0^c = \{[]\}$  and  $\beta_1^c = \{[1]\}$ .

$\Rightarrow K(\mathbb{Z}, 1)$  has the homology type of the circle  $S^1$

and also the homotopy type.

## Typical examples of **V-path**:



**Red** = Source cell

**Green** = Critical cell

**Blue** = Target cell

**Violet** = Vector Field

The END

```
;; Clock  
Computing  
<TnPr <TnPr  
End of computing.  
  
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Homology in dimension 6 :  
  
Component Z/12Z  
  
---done---  
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```

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Mathematics Algorithms and Proofs  
Logroño, Spain, 8-12 November, 2010*