

Alexander relative duality:

Theorem. Let $K \subset M$ be a compact, locally contractible subset of a closed (compact, no boundary), oriented n -manifold.

$$\text{Then } H^k(K) \cong H_{n-k}(M, M-K)$$

pf: Let U be a neighborhood of K in M .



$$\text{Then } M = U \cup (M-K)$$

Mayer-Vietoris;

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} \cdots & \rightarrow & H_n(U) \oplus H_n(M-K) & \rightarrow & H_n(M) & \rightarrow & H_{n-1}(U-K) \rightarrow \cdots \\ & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \\ 0 & \rightarrow & H_n(U, U-K) \oplus H_n(M-K, U-K) & \xrightarrow{\cong} & H_n(M, U-K) & \rightarrow & 0 \\ & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \\ & & [U] & & [M-K] & & \end{array}$$

Then we have a long exact ladder:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} \cdots & \rightarrow & H_i(M-K) & \rightarrow & H_i(M) & \rightarrow & H_i(M, M-K) \rightarrow \cdots \\ & & \uparrow [M-K]_n & & \uparrow [M-K]_n & & \uparrow [M-K]_n \\ & & H^{n-i}(M-K, U-K) & & H^{n-i}(M, U-K) & & H^{n-i}(M, M-K) \\ & & \uparrow \cong & & \uparrow \cong & & \uparrow \cong \\ \cdots & \rightarrow & H^{n-i}(M, U) & \rightarrow & H^{n-i}(M) & \rightarrow & H^{n-i}(U) \rightarrow \cdots \end{array}$$

Now take $\text{colim}_{U \supset K} H^{n-i}(U) \cong H^{n-i}(K)$ (reading homology)

$$\text{becomes } H^{n-i}(M-K) \xrightarrow{\uparrow \cong} H^{n-i}(M, M-K) \xrightarrow{\uparrow \cong} H^{n-i}(K)$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{5-lemma} \Rightarrow \text{colim}_{U \supset K} H^{n-i}(U) \cong H^{n-i}(M, M-K) \xrightarrow{\uparrow \cong} H^{n-i}(K)$$

Corollary (Alexander duality)

Let $\emptyset \neq K \subsetneq S^n$ be compact, locally contractible.

$$\text{Then } H^k(K) \cong \tilde{H}_{n-k-1}(S^n - K)$$

pf (sketch) $H_i(S^n, S^n - K) \cong \tilde{H}_{i-1}(S^n - K)$ except in degree $i=n$, taken care of by taking reduced cohomology $\tilde{H}^i(K)$

Examples. Let $S^1 \subset S^3$ be a knot.



$$\tilde{H}^k(S^1) = \begin{cases} \mathbb{Z} & k=1 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$\Rightarrow \tilde{H}^k(S^3 - S^1) \cong \begin{cases} \mathbb{Z} & k=1 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

independent of the embedding.

On the other hand,

Thm (1989) Gordon-Luecke: if two knots are non-isotopic then their complements are not homotopy equivalent

So $S^3 - S^1$ might have a complicated π_1 , but

$$(\pi_1)^{\text{ab}} = H_1 \cong \mathbb{Z}$$

Ex: Let $f: S^{n-1} \hookrightarrow S^n$ be any embedding.

$$\text{Then } \tilde{H}^{n-1}(S^{n-1}) \cong \tilde{H}_0(S^n - S^{n-1})$$

So $S^n - S^{n-1}$ has two components

=> generalized Jordan curve theorem (Jordan-Schoenflies thm)



(In dimension > 2 , the homotopy type of these two components can be wild!)

"Alexander horned sphere"

Corollary. $X \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$, X compact, locally contractible.

$$\text{Then } H_k(X) = \begin{cases} 0, & k \geq n \\ \text{torsion free}, & k = n-1 \text{ or } n-2. \end{cases}$$

$$\text{pf: } \tilde{H}_k(S^n - X) \cong \tilde{H}^{n-1-k}(X)$$

$$\tilde{H}_k(S^n - X) = \begin{cases} 0, & k < 0 \\ \text{torsion free}, & k = 0 \end{cases}$$

$$\text{so } \tilde{H}^i(X) = \begin{cases} 0, & i \geq n \\ \text{torsion free}, & i = n-1 \end{cases}$$

Look at the universal coefficient sequence: $0 \rightarrow \text{Ext}(H_{k-1}(X); \mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow H^k(X) \rightarrow \text{Hom}(H_k(X); \mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow 0$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} k \geq n & & 0 \\ k = n-1 & & \text{torsion free} \end{array}$$

$$\text{so } H_k(X) = 0 \quad k \geq n$$

$$\text{Ext}(H_{k-1}(X); \mathbb{Z}) = 0 \Rightarrow H_{k-1}(X) \text{ is torsion free}$$

$$\text{Ext}(H_{k-2}(X); \mathbb{Z}) \text{ torsion free} \Rightarrow H_{k-2}(X) \text{ is torsion free.}$$

Cor: Closed, non-orientable manifolds cannot be embedded in codimension 1. (since $H_{n-1}(M) \cong \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$)

e.g. $\mathbb{RP}^n \subset \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$