

Axioms for homology

A (reduced) homology theory assigns to each (non-empty) CW-complex X a sequence of abelian groups $\tilde{h}_n(X)$, and to each map $f: X \rightarrow Y$ a homomorphism $f_*: \tilde{h}_n(X) \rightarrow \tilde{h}_n(Y)$ s.t. $(fg)_* = f_* g_*$ and $1_* = 1$, such that:

- 1) $f \circ g: X \rightarrow Y$ then $f_* = g_*: \tilde{h}_n(X) \rightarrow \tilde{h}_n(Y)$
- 2) there are boundary maps $\partial: \tilde{h}_n(X/A) \rightarrow \tilde{h}_{n-1}(A)$

defined for each CW pair (X, A) , with an exact sequence

$$\cdots \rightarrow \tilde{h}_n(A) \xrightarrow{i_*} \tilde{h}_n(X) \xrightarrow{q_*} \tilde{h}_n(X/A) \xrightarrow{\partial} \tilde{h}_{n-1}(A)$$

which are natural, i.e. given $f: (X, A) \rightarrow (Y, B)$

with quotient map $\bar{f}: X/A \rightarrow Y/B$, then

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \tilde{h}_n(X/A) & \xrightarrow{\partial} & \tilde{h}_{n-1}(A) \\ \downarrow \bar{f}_* & & \downarrow f_* \\ \tilde{h}_n(Y/B) & \xrightarrow{\partial} & \tilde{h}_{n-1}(B) \end{array} \quad \text{commutes.}$$

- 3) if $X = \bigvee_{\alpha} X_{\alpha}$, $i_{\alpha}: X_{\alpha} \hookrightarrow X$, then $\bigoplus_{\alpha} i_{\alpha}: \bigoplus_{\alpha} \tilde{h}_n(X_{\alpha}) \xrightarrow{\cong} \tilde{h}_n(X)$
 $\uparrow$
 Isomorphism.

Examples

$\tilde{H}_n(X)$ reduced singular homology
 $\tilde{H}_n^{CW}(X)$ reduced cellular homology } also w/ coeffs.