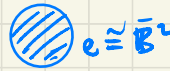


## Cell & CW complexes

A open  $n$ -cell is a space  $e^\circ \cong B^n$ .



A closed  $n$ -cell is a space  $e \cong \bar{B}^n$ .



$\diamond$  Let  $w$  writes  
 $e$  and  $\bar{e}$ .

Fact (Prop 5.1) Any compact convex subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^n$  is a closed  $n$ -cell.

Eg. A solid icosahedron is a closed 3-cell.

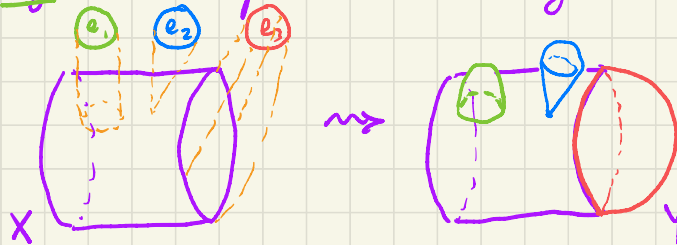
line segment joining any two pts in the set is contained in the set.



Say that  $Y$  is constructed from  $X$  by attaching  $n$ -cells when it is of the form

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \coprod_{\alpha \in A} \partial e_\alpha^n & \xrightarrow{\varphi} & X \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \coprod_{\alpha \in A} e_\alpha^n & \longrightarrow & Y \end{array}$$

Eg. Attaching 2-cells to a cylinder:

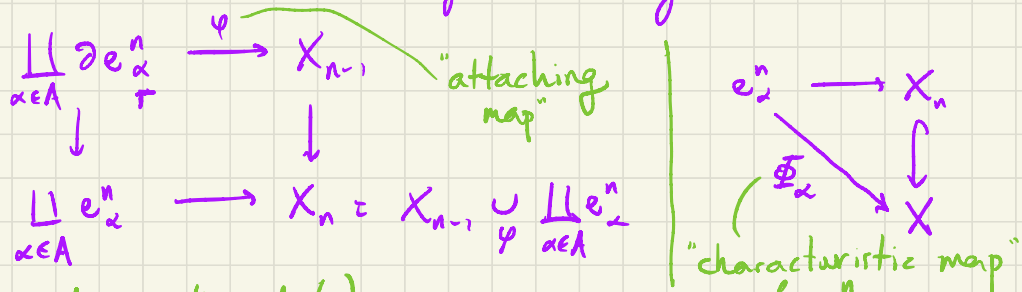


Given a family of subspaces  $\mathcal{B}$  with union  $X$ , call the topology of  $X$  coherent with  $\mathcal{B}$  when  $U \subseteq X$  open  $\Leftrightarrow U \cap B \in \mathcal{B}$  open  $\forall B \in \mathcal{B}$ .

E.g. Compactly generated spaces  $X$  are coherent with  $\{K \in X \mid K \text{ compact}\}$ .

Defn A cell complex is a  $T_0$  space  $X$  and subspaces  $X_0 \subseteq X_1 \subseteq X_2 \subseteq \dots \subseteq X$  such that

- (1)  $X_0$  is discrete
- (2)  $X_n$  is formed from  $X_{n-1}$  by attaching  $n$ -cells:



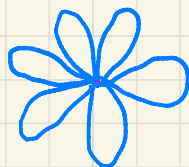
Call  $X_n$  the  $n$ -skeleton of  $X$ . If  $X = X_n$  for some  $n$ ,  $X$  is finite dimensional and the smallest  $n$  such that  $X = X_n$  is the dimension of  $X$ .

Note:  $\Phi_\alpha: \text{Int}(e_\alpha^n) \hookrightarrow X$  embedding

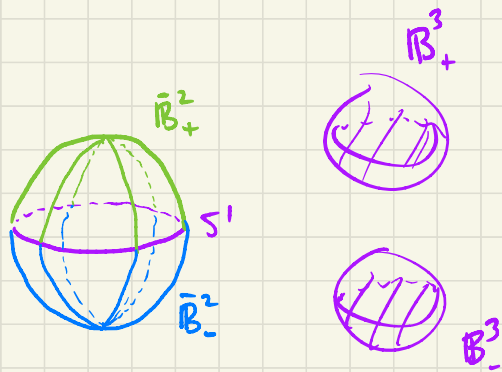
E.g. • A 1-dimensional cell complex is a graph



• A 1-dim'l cell complex with  $X_0 = *$  is a bouquet of circles  $\vee S^1$



$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 S^{n-1}_+ \sqcup S^{n-1}_- & \xrightarrow{r} & S^{n-1} \\
 \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 \bar{B}^n_+ \sqcup \bar{B}^n_- & \xrightarrow{\quad} & S^n
 \end{array}$$



gives a presentation of  $S^n$  as an  $n$ -dimensional cell complex with ~~2  $n$ -cells and 1  $(n-1)$  cell.~~ inductively.

The cells are regular because their characteristic maps are embeddings.

- We can also build  $S^n$  from one 0-cell + one  $n$ -cell:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 S^{n-1} & \longrightarrow & * \\
 \downarrow \tau & & \downarrow \\
 \bar{B}^n & \longrightarrow & \bar{B}^n / S^{n-1} \cong S^n
 \end{array}$$

|  
not regular



- Any convex polyhedron presents  $S^2$  as a cell complex with #faces 2-cells, #edges 1-cells, #vxs 0-cells.



Defn A cell complex is a CW complex when

- (C) the closure of each <sup>open</sup> cell is contained in a union of finitely many cells.
- (W) the topology is coherent with the family of closed cells.

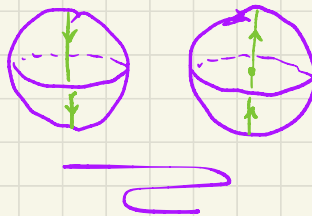
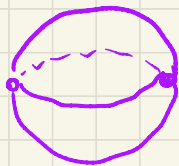
C = closure finiteness, W = "weak topology"



Above examples are CW, and  $C$  is automatic in our presentation.  
 If  $X$  is finite-dimensional,  $W$  is automatic, if it's infinite dimensional,  
 it admits a unique  $W$  topology, possibly finer than its given topology.

↕ Text defines cell decompositions of  $X$  as a partition  $\mathcal{E}$  of a space  $X$   
 into open cell subspaces  $e^i$  admitting characteristic maps  $\mathbb{R}^n \xrightarrow{\Phi} X$   
 s.t.  $\Phi|_{\mathbb{R}^n}$  is a homeo onto  $e^i$  and maps  $\partial\mathbb{R}^n = S^{n-1}$  into the  
 union of cells of lower dimn. Props 5.18 + 5.20 show this is equivalent.

E.g. The infinite dimensional sphere: Recall  $S^n$  presented as two  $n$ -cells attached  
 to  $S^{n-1}$ . Don't stop  $\rightsquigarrow S^\infty$ .



Loop in  $S^3$

## CW complexes are nice

5.11 path conn'd  $\Leftrightarrow$  conn'd  $\Leftrightarrow$

1-skeleton conn'd  $\Leftrightarrow$  some

n-skeleton conn'd *finitely many cells*

5.12 closure of each cell  $\subseteq$  finite subcomplex  $\rightarrow$  union of cells containing the closure of each cell

5.13  $A \subseteq X$  discrete  $\Leftrightarrow A \cap e$  finite for all cells  $e$

5.14  $A \subseteq X$  compact  $\Leftrightarrow A$  closed &  $\subseteq$  finite subcomplex

5.15  $X$  compact  $\Leftrightarrow$  finite

5.22 paracompact

5.23 countably many cells + locally Euclidean  $\Rightarrow$  manifold

5.24 for CW mflds, CW dimn = mfld dimn.

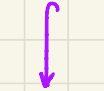
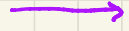
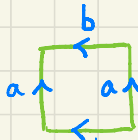


J.H.C. Whitehead (1904-1960)  
and his pig

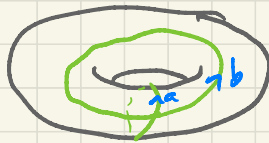
TPS

$$X_0 = *$$

$$X_1 = \text{figure-eight}$$

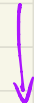
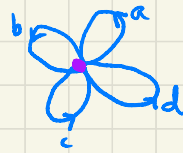
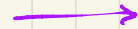
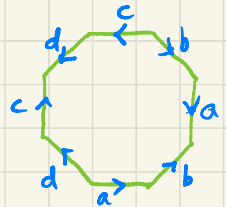


$$X_2 = ?$$

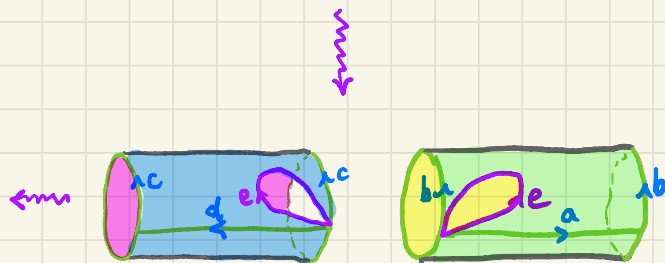
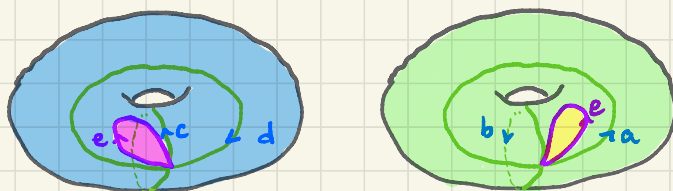
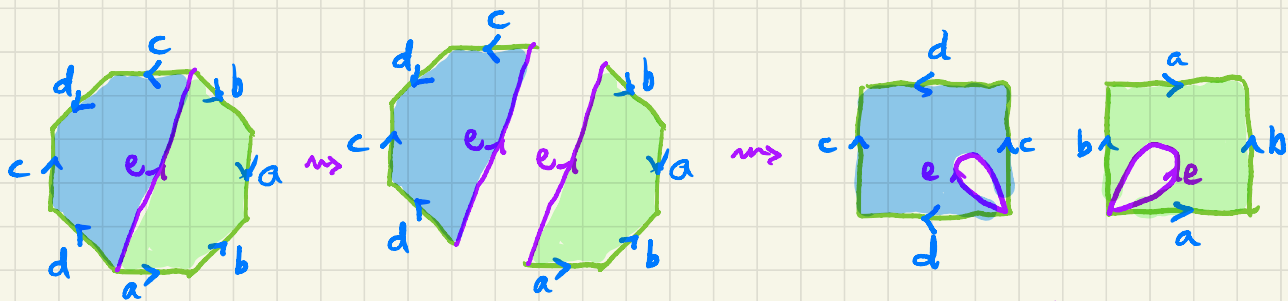


$$Y_0 = *$$

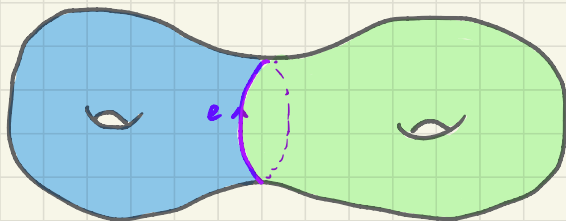
$$Y_1 = \text{four-petaled flower}$$



$$Y_2 = ?$$



surprise: back side of paper is a different color!



Exercise Draw a, b, c, d on the diagram