

n -cells, and so the cells appearing in the coboundary $\delta \Delta_\alpha^{n-k}$ of Δ_α^{n-k} will be just the k -fold intersections $\Delta_j^{n-k+1} = \bigcap_{i \neq j} \Delta_i^n$ of the n cells Δ_i^n ,

i.e. the dual cells of the faces σ_j^{k-1} of σ_α^k .

We claim that the basic relation

$$\sigma_j^{k-1} = \langle \sigma_\alpha^0 \cdots \hat{\sigma}_j^0 \cdots \sigma_\alpha^k \rangle$$

$$\begin{aligned} \delta(\Delta_\alpha^{n-k}) &= (-1)^{n-k+1} * (\partial \sigma_\alpha^k) = (-1)^{n-k+1} * \left(\sum_{j=0}^k (-1)^j \sigma_j^{k-1} \right) = \\ &= (-1)^{n-k+1} \sum_{j=0}^k (-1)^j * \sigma_j^{k-1} = (-1)^{n-k+1} \sum_{j=0}^k (-1)^j \Delta_j^{n-k+1} \end{aligned}$$

holds on the level of oriented cells. i.e. that if σ_j^{k-1} and Δ_j^{n-k+1} are oriented as the boundary and coboundary of σ_α^k and Δ_α^{n-k} respectively, then at $p' \in \sigma_j^{k-1} \cap \Delta_j^{n-k+1}$,

$$\bar{i}_{p'}(\sigma_j^{k-1} \cdot \Delta_j^{n-k+1}) = (-1)^{n-k+1}.$$

Let $\delta(\Delta_\alpha^{n-k}) = \epsilon \sum_{j=0}^k (-1)^j \Delta_j^{n-k+1}$ where $\epsilon = \pm 1$.

\Rightarrow We claim $\epsilon = (-1)^{n-k+1}$.

Assume $\langle \delta(\Delta_\alpha^{n-k}), \sigma_j^{k-1} \rangle = (-1)^j \langle \Delta_\alpha^{n-k}, \sigma_\alpha^k \rangle$ and we didn't give any orientation on Δ_j^{n-k+1} yet, do not assume $\bar{i}_{p'}(\sigma_j^{k-1} \cdot \Delta_j^{n-k+1}) = +1$. Δ_j^{n-k+1} is oriented since one of part of the boundary of Δ_j^{n-k+1} is oriented by.

This is the same sort of argument as made in the verification of homology-invariance of intersection number.

The simplex σ_α^k intersects the cell Δ_j^{n-k+1} in an arc γ running from the barycenter $p = \gamma(0)$ of σ_α^k to the barycenter $p' = \gamma(1)$ of the face σ_j^{k-1} of σ_α^k .