

! Zeta functions in number theory,  
! algebraic geometry and beyond! !

Warmup: In small groups,

- recall some examples of zeta functions in any areas of math
- if possible, give precise definitions
- discuss any known connections between your examples  
e.g. is one a special case of another?



## Examples

$$\textcircled{1} \zeta_{\mathbb{Q}}(s) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^s}, \quad s \in \mathbb{C}$$

$\textcircled{2} K/\mathbb{Q}$  # field

$$\zeta_K(s) = \sum_{\substack{\text{ideals} \\ d \in \mathcal{O}_K}} \frac{1}{N_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(d)^s}$$

$\textcircled{3}$  Function fields  $\longleftrightarrow$  alg. curve  
 $K$  tr. deg 1  $C/\mathbb{F}_q$

$\#C(\mathbb{F}_q) =$  number of  $\mathbb{F}_q$ -pts.  
of  $C$

$$Z(C, t) = \exp \left[ \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\#C(\mathbb{F}_{q^n})}{n} t^n \right]$$

More generally, this can be  
defined (exactly the same)

for variety  $V/\mathbb{F}_q$

(Hasse-Weil zeta function)

④ Motivic zeta function

$K_0(\text{Var}_k) =$  Gr. gp. of  
 $k$ -varieties

$$:= \langle [X] \rangle / \left( \begin{array}{l} [X] - [U] - [X \setminus U] \\ \text{if } U \subseteq X \\ \text{open} \end{array} \right)$$

$$X = U \cup (X \setminus U)$$

Kapranov's  $Z_{\text{mot}}(X, t)$  is:

$$Z_{\text{mot}}(X, t) := \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} [\text{Sym}^n X] t^n$$

$K_0(\text{Var}_k)[[t]]$

$$\text{Sym}^0 X = \text{Spec } \mathbb{K} = *$$

$$\text{Sym}^n X = X^n / \Sigma_n$$

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$$X = \mathbb{C}, \quad \# \text{Sym}^n X(\mathbb{F}_q) = \# X(\mathbb{F}_q^n)$$

$$\# Z_{\text{mot}}(X, t) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \underbrace{\# X(\mathbb{F}_q^n)}_{t^n} t^n$$

⋮

$$= Z_{\text{HW}}(X, t).$$

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## Zeta functions for posets

Classical setup: let  $(P, \leq)$  be  
a poset and define an **interval**

to be:  $[x, y] = \{z \in P \mid x \leq z \leq y\}$

**Ex**  $(\mathbb{N}, \leq)$ ,  $[x, y]$  = the usual interval

**Ex**  $(\mathbb{N}, |)$ ,  $[x, y] = \{d : x|d, d|y\}$

**DEF** For a poset  $(P, \leq)$ , define its incidence coalgebra  $C(P)$  to be the free  $k$ -vector space on intervals  $[x, y]$  with comultiplication

$$\Delta: C(P) \longrightarrow C(P) \otimes C(P)$$

$$[x, y] \longmapsto \sum_{z \in [x, y]} [x, z] \otimes [z, y]$$

and counit

$$\delta: C(P) \longrightarrow k$$

$$[x, y] \mapsto \delta_{x, y} = \begin{cases} 1, & x=y \\ 0, & x \neq y. \end{cases}$$

**DEF**

The incidence algebra of

$(P, \leq)$  is the vector space

$$I(P) = \text{Hom}_k(C(P), k)$$

with multiplication

$$I(P) \otimes I(P) \longrightarrow I(P)$$

$$\varphi \otimes \psi \mapsto (\varphi * \psi)([x, y]) :=$$

$$\sum_{z \in [x, y]} \varphi([x, z]) \psi([z, y])$$

Assumption:  $(P, \leq)$  is locally finite,

i.e. all intervals  $[x, y]$  are finite.

To the incidence algebra  $I(P)$ , there

In any incidence algebra...

are distinguished elements:

the zeta function  $\zeta : C(P) \rightarrow k$   
 $[x, y] \mapsto 1$

the Möbius function

$$\mu : C(P) \rightarrow k$$

$$[x, y] \mapsto \begin{cases} 1, & x = y \\ -\sum_{z \in [x, y]} \mu([x, z]), & x \neq y \end{cases}$$

↑ recursive

which satisfy

$$\zeta * \mu = \delta = \mu * \zeta$$

(i.e.  $\zeta$  and  $\mu$  are convolution inverses in  $I(P)$ ).

$$\boxed{\text{Prop. 1.1}} \quad \zeta * \mu = \delta = \mu * \zeta$$

EX1

Let  $(1, \varepsilon) \cap \mathbb{N} = \{1, 2, \dots\}$ .

For "arithmetic functions"  $f: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$

can construct a Dirichlet

series 
$$F(s) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{f(n)}{n^s}.$$

e.g. the Riemann zeta function

$$\zeta(s) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^s}$$

is the Dirichlet series attached

to  $\gamma: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$

$$n \mapsto 1$$

e.g. the Möbius series

$$\mu(s) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\mu(n)}{n^s}$$

Int (Möbius inversion)



Fact (Möbius Inverse)

$$\mu_Q(s) = \zeta_Q(s)^{-1}$$

Idea:  $F(s) = \sum \frac{f(n)}{n^s}$

$$G(s) = \sum \frac{g(n)}{n^s}$$

$$F(s)G(s) = \sum \frac{(f * g)(n)}{n^s}$$

where  $(f * g)(n) = \sum_{ij=n} f(i)g(j)$

product in the  
incidence algebra

$I(N, I)$

Subtlety: this follows from the  
poset-level formula after taking  
the reduced incidence algebra

$$[x, y] \longmapsto [1, \frac{1}{x}]$$

Fact: can deduce the Euler product

$$\zeta_Q(s) = \prod_P \left(1 - \frac{1}{p^s}\right)^{-1}$$

from a decomposition of posets

$$(N, \leq) \cong \prod_P (\{P^k\}, |) \cong \prod_P (N_{P, \leq})$$

$$n = \prod p_i^{k_i} \longleftrightarrow (p_i^{k_i}) \longleftrightarrow (k_i)$$

"... and beyond": incidence algebras  
of decomposition spaces

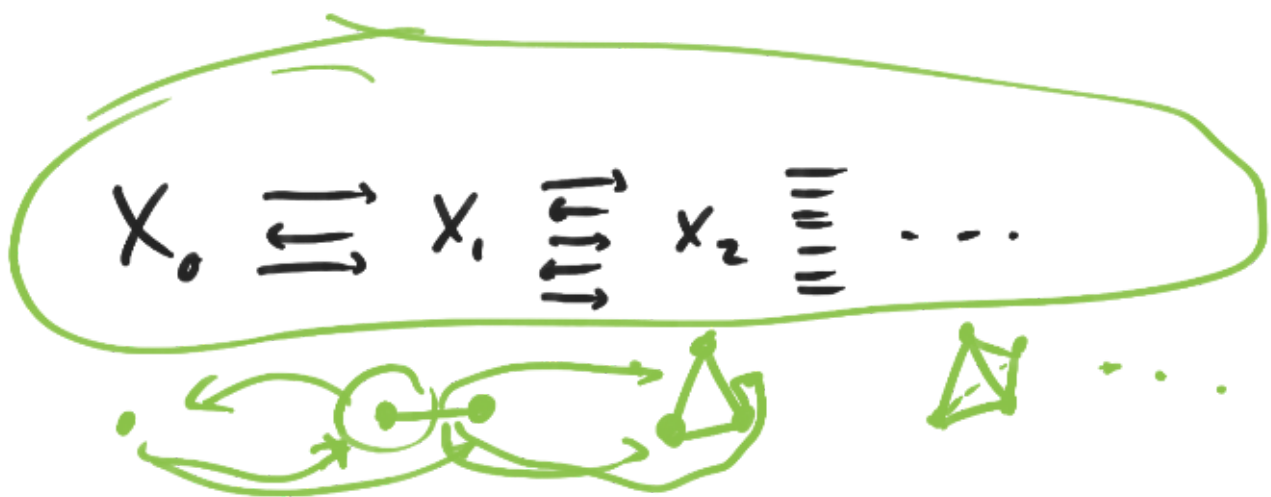
(due to Gálvez-Carrillo — Kock — Tenks)

Idea: incidence algebras don't just

come from posets (or more generally, categories), but from higher homotopy theoretic structure.

Recall: a simplicial set is a functor  $X: \Delta^{op} \rightarrow \text{Set}$ , i.e.

cat. of comb. simplices



**DEF** If  $X$  is a (locally finite) simplicial set, its incidence coalgebra is a  $k$ -vector space

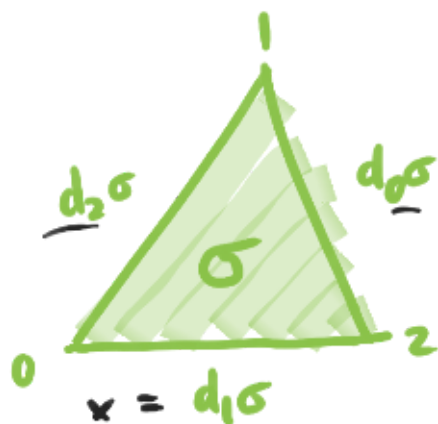
is the  $k$ -vector space

$$C(X) = \bigoplus_{x \in X} k$$

with comultiplication

$$\Delta : C(X) \rightarrow C(X) \otimes C(X)$$

$$[x] \mapsto \sum_{\substack{\sigma \in X_2 \\ d_1 \sigma = x}} \underline{d_2 \sigma} \otimes \underline{d_0 \sigma}$$



Fact / "definition"

$C(X)$  is a

coassociative, counital  $k$ -coalgebra

exactly when  $X$  is a

decomposition set (aka a

2-Segal set. → generalizing  
of  $N(\varepsilon)$

Epilogue: "It's never too late  
to topologize"

Gálvez-Carillo — Kock — Tonks (and  
independently Dyckerhoff-Kapranov)  
generalize decomposition sets (resp.  
2-Segal sets) to decomposition  
spaces (resp. 2-Segal spaces).

sets  $\rightsquigarrow$  spaces  
 $X: \Delta^{op} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}$   $\rightsquigarrow$   $X: \Delta^{op} \rightarrow \mathbf{C}$

vector space  
with basis  
 $B \in \text{Set}$



objects in the  
slice category  
 $\mathcal{C}/B$

$$C(x) = \bigoplus_{x \in X_1} k$$



$$C(x) = \mathcal{C}/X_1$$

"free v.s. on  $X_1$ "

$$\Delta: C(x) \rightarrow C(x) \otimes C(x)$$

$$[x] \mapsto \sum_{d_1, d_2: x} d_1 \otimes d_2$$



$$\Delta: \mathcal{C}/X_1 \rightarrow \mathcal{C}/X_1 \times X_1$$

induced by

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & X_2 & \\ d_1 \swarrow & & \searrow (d_2, d_0) \\ X_1 & & X_1 \times X_1 \end{array}$$

$$I(x) = \text{Hom}_k(C(x), k) \rightsquigarrow I(x) = \text{Fun}(\mathcal{C}/X_1, \mathcal{C})$$

$$\gamma: [x] \mapsto 1 \rightsquigarrow \mathcal{C}/X_1 \xrightarrow{\gamma} \mathcal{C}$$

induced by

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & K_1 & \\ \text{id} \swarrow & & \searrow \\ K_1 & & * \end{array}$$

To recover the classical theory,  
take  $\mathcal{C} = \text{Set}$  and apply

cardinality  $X \mapsto |X|$ .

When  $\mathcal{C} = \text{Top}$ ,  $\infty\text{-Cat}$ , etc.,  
can take homotopy cardinality.