

# Εφαρμογές της Λογικής στην Πληροφορική

## Αναφορά για Homotopy Type Theory

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### Περίληψη

Το περιεχόμενο της παρούσας αναφοράς πραγματεύεται τον κλάδο του Homotopy Type Theory (HoTT). Αρχικά, δίνουμε στον αναγνώστη μία αίσθηση της τοπολογικής αντίληψης της έννοιας του σχήματος και του χώρου. Ακολούθως, εμβαθύνουμε στα δύο βασικά συστατικά της HoTT : Αρχικά, αναφερόμαστε στην θεωρία τύπων, που αποτελεί κλάδο της λογικής και, ακολούθως, στην Homotopy Theory, που αποτελεί κλάδο της αλγεβρικής τοπολογίας. Τέλος, παρουσιάζουμε την βασική ιδέα του Homotopy Type Theory, που δεν είναι άλλη από το να προσφέρει μία αντιστοίχιση μεταξύ των δύο, εκ προοιμίου, ξένων μεταξύ τους προαναφερθέντων τομέων, της λογικής και της αλγεβρικής τοπολογίας.

**ΕΘΝΙΚΟ ΜΕΤΣΟΒΙΟ ΠΟΛΥΤΕΧΝΕΙΟ**



## Introduction

Homotopy type theory (HoTT) connects homotopy theory (algebraic topology) and type theory (logic, computer science). In order to obtain a better understanding on the topic, consider Curry-Howard isomorphism : *a proof is a program, and the formula it proves is the type for the program*. HoTT illuminates a new correspondance perspective. It starts with the idea that the points of a geometric space behave like computer programs. Imagine that a type is a geometric object and that terms of that type are points of that object. This is the main intuition of HoTT. It establishes a correspondance between types and inhabitants of a type with topological spaces and points of that space. Apart from that, its great insight is in systematizing the way in which these fields have all, in some sense been studying the 'same' thing.

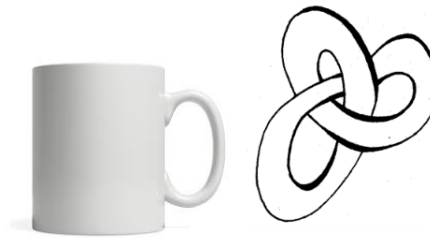
## Five issues we have to resolve before continuing.

- *Issue 1 : Before constructing a 'theory', we need to use a system upon which we can derive judgements.*
  - A **deductive system** is a bunch of **rules for deriving judgments**. Think of a deductive system as a formal game, then the judgments are the states in the game that we reach by playing according to the rules.
- *Issue 2 : Set theoretic foundation.*
  - It has two layers : the **deductive system of first-order logic**, and, formulated inside this system, the **axioms** of a particular theory, such as ZFC. Thus, set theory is built on top of logic.
- *Issue 3 : Type theoretic foundation.*
  - Type theory **is its own deductive system** : it needs not be formulated inside any superstructure, such as first-order logic. Anything is encoded as type. Thus, the mathematical activity of proving a theorem is identified with the construction of an object – in this case, an inhabitant of a type - that represents a proposition.
- *Issue 4 : So, who wins?*
  - It depends on the "application". The main interest in type theory comes from computer science: the creators of type theory very intentionally stuck with rules that were "computationally meaningful". This means that we can think of proofs in type theory as programs being run in a computer. Thus type theory becomes very useful in understanding how computation works.
- **Reminder** : Category :: Labeled directed graph, whose nodes are called objects, and whose labelled directed edges are called morphisms.
- *Issue 5 : And what about Category Theory?*

→ **Type theory and certain kinds of category theory are closely related.** By a syntax-semantics duality one may view type theory as a formal syntactic language for category theory, and, in reverse, one may think of category theory as providing semantics for type theory.

## Let's talk about what 'the same' means.

This section's goal is to introduce the reader into the topological point of view. The main question the reader should ask himself is : *Are these "the same" shape?*



Which are the rules? What "same" means? We have to give you the main rules on how the 'are they the same?' game is played. **Continuous deformation and 'cuts' are only accepted.** As far as continuous deformation is concerned, one can think that the objects we study are flexible and can be smoothly deformed according to the rules. As far as the cuts are concerned, the reader should remember that the cut has orientation and so different cut orientations can be 'glued' into different shapes (you can search for the rectangular example and on the ways it can create an open band, a Mobius strip, a torus and a Klein bottle).

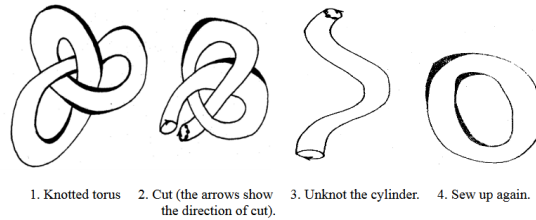
So, topologically speaking, these objects are the same...



Similarly, these objects are the same...

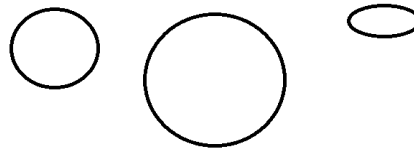


And this is why cut orientation is important. Here is why a simple knot can be deformed into a mug, according to the 'game' rules.



**Everyone cares about the notion of 'are these objects the same'**

- From a topologist's perspective
  - Are these 'the same' or not?



In topology, we ignore the geometric "realization" of a shape. [The essence of a shape is the class of all shapes it can be continuously deformed into.](#) From a programming perspective, the notion of a shape is a data structure (a class) referring to that shape and a representation of the shape refers to an instance of that class.

- From a programmer's (?) - mathematician's perspective
  - Are these 'the same' or not?
    - \*  $\lambda x. x > x \ (\equiv \lambda x. x)$
    - \*  $\lambda y. y > y$
    - \*  $(\lambda f. x > x) \ ()$
    - \*  $(\lambda g. y. x > x) \ () \ ()$

The notion of a function is the collections of all functions that it can be 'continuously' transformed into. Or maybe, we can think on how they act to the input. The function is all functions that act the same way (they have the exact response in the same input). Ignoring the geometric realization of a shape is like ignoring the domain of a function. From a programming perspective, a description of a function is a data structure (or a class) and as representation, we can enumerate functions (or objects of that class).

- From a programmer's perspective
  - Ignore Haskell's laziness for these data structures.

```

* data Pair a = Pair a a
* data Pair a = Pair (a,()) a
* data Pair a = Either Void (a,a)

```

The notion of a structure is the collection of all structures that it can be 'continuously' transformed into. Ignoring the geometric realization of a shape is like ignoring the construction of the data structure.

## Type theory - 1st Building Block of HoTT

- Type theory is a deductive system based on two forms of judgement :
  - 1)  $a : A$  ("*a is an object of type A*")
  - 2)  $a \equiv b : A$  ("*a and b are definitionally equal objects of type A*")
- Construction : Given types  $A$  and  $B$ , we can construct the type  $A \rightarrow B$  of mappings with domain  $A$  and codomain  $B$ .
- $\lambda$ -abstraction for expression  $f : (\lambda(x : A).f) : A \rightarrow B$
- Computation rule : A  $\lambda$ -abstraction is a function, so we can apply it to an argument  $a : A$ . We then have the following computation rule, which is a definitional equality:  $(\lambda x.f)(a) \equiv F$  where  $F$  is the expression  $f$  in which all occurrences of  $x$  have been replaced by  $a$ .
- Uniqueness principle for function types : From any function  $f : A \rightarrow B$ , we can construct a  $\lambda$ -abstraction function  $\lambda x.f(x)$  and we consider it to be definitionally equal to  $f$ .
- Currying :  $f : A \rightarrow (B \rightarrow C)$

## We need to formalize the expression "A is a type"

*Universes* : A universe is a type whose elements are types. To avoid the paradox of "a universe  $\mathcal{U}_\infty$  of all types including itself", we introduce a hierarchy of universes  $\mathcal{U}_0 : \mathcal{U}_1 : \mathcal{U}_2 : \dots$ , where every  $\mathcal{U}_i$  is an element of the next universe and we assume that our universes are cumulative (if  $A : \mathcal{U}_i$ , then  $A : \mathcal{U}_{i+1}$ ).

*Remark* : So, when we say  $A$  is a type, we mean that it inhabits some universe  $\mathcal{U}_i$ .

Now, we define some basic type theoretic notions :

- Families of types : To model a collection of types varying over a given type  $A$ , we use functions  $\mathcal{B} : A \rightarrow \mathcal{U}$  whose codomain is a universe. F.e. the family of finite set  $Fin : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathcal{U}$ , where  $Fin(n)$  is a type with exactly  $n$  elements.
- Dependent product types : Given a type  $A : \mathcal{U}$  and a family  $\mathcal{B} : A \rightarrow \mathcal{U}$ , we may construct the type of dependent functions  $\prod_{(x:A)} \mathcal{B}(x) : \mathcal{U}$ . If  $\mathcal{B}$  is a constant family, then  $\prod_{(x:A)} \mathcal{B} \equiv (A \rightarrow B)$ .
  - \* For example, if we want a function that gives a subset of naturals of length  $n$  and whose first element is 42 and the other elements are its successors :  $give42subsets : \prod_{(x:A)} Fin(x)$  and  $give42subsets(3) = \{42, 43, 44\} : 3SET : \mathcal{U}$ .

- An important class of dependent function types are functions that are polymorphic over a given universe. They take a type as one of its arguments and then act on elements of that type (take the "general" type). For example, the identity  $id : \prod_{(A:\mathcal{U})} A \rightarrow A$
- Product types : Cartesian product
- Dependent pair (sum) types : We generalize product types. Given a type  $A : \mathcal{U}$  and a family  $\mathcal{B} : A \rightarrow \mathcal{U}$ , the dependent pair type is  $\sum_{(x:A)} \mathcal{B}(x) : \mathcal{U}$ . If  $\mathcal{B}$  is a constant family, then  $\sum_{(x:A)} \mathcal{B} \equiv (A \times \mathcal{B})$ . The construction is done by pairing : we have  $(a, b) : \sum_{(x:A)} \mathcal{B}(x)$  for given  $a : A$  and  $b : \mathcal{B}(a)$
- Coproduct types : Given  $A, B : \mathcal{U}$ , the coproduct type  $A + B : \mathcal{U}$  corresponds to the disjoint union in set theory.

In conclusion :

- A dependent product type is just a function that maps the inhabitants  $x : A$  of type  $A$  to an inhabitant within the type  $\mathcal{B}(x)$  (where type  $\mathcal{B}(x)$  depends on the input object).
  - \* Example : If  $Vec(\mathbb{R}, n)$  for  $n$ -tuples of real numbers, then  $\prod_{n:\mathbb{N}} Vec(\mathbb{R}, n)$  would be the type of a function which, given a natural number  $n$ , returns a tuple of real numbers of size  $n$ .
- The dual of the dependent product type is the dependent pair (sum) type. The dependent pair type captures the idea of an ordered pair where the type of the second term is dependent on the value of the first. If  $(a, b) : \sum_{x:A} \mathcal{B}(x)$ , then  $a : A$  and  $b : \mathcal{B}(a)$ .

## The idea of Identity Type

In type theory, proofs are mathematical objects specifically computer programs, so it makes perfect sense to ask whether two of them are equal. In type theory, anything is a type. So why not define the type of identity between elements. The idea of identity between two inhabitants  $a, b : A$  will, in the next chapter, be connected to the geometrical notion of a path between points  $a, b$  on the topological space  $A$ .

*Identity type* : According to the propositions-as-types conception, the proposition that two elements of the same type  $a, b : A$  are equal must correspond to some type. So this identity type must be a type family  $Id_A$  dependent on two objects of the type  $A$ .

$$\prod_{(x:A)} \prod_{(y:A)} (x =_A y) : Id_A(x, y) : \mathcal{U}$$

$Id_A : A \rightarrow A \rightarrow \mathcal{U}$ , so that  $Id_A(a, b)$  is the type representing the proposition of equality between  $a$  and  $b$ .

Now, we provide some basic simple types :

*The type of unit*  $\mathbf{1}$  : For any  $x, y : \mathbf{1}$ , we have  $(x = y) \simeq \mathbf{1}$

*The type of booleans* : The type of booleans  $\mathbf{2} : \mathcal{U}$  is intended to have exactly two elements  $0_{\mathbf{2}}, 1_{\mathbf{2}} : \mathbf{2}$ .

*The type of Natural numbers*  $\mathbb{N} : \mathcal{U}$  : We can construct them with  $0 : \mathbb{N}$  and the successor operation  $succ : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ .

Propositions	Type Theory
True	<b>1</b>
False	<b>0</b>
A and B	$A \times B$
A or B	$A + B$
if A then B	$A \rightarrow B$
A iff B	$(A \rightarrow B) \times (B \rightarrow A)$
Not A	$A \rightarrow \mathbf{0}$
For all $x : A, P(x)$ holds	$\prod_{(x:A)} P(x)$
There exists $x : A$ s.t. $P(x)$	$\sum_{(x:A)} P(x)$

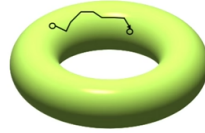
Table 1: Propositions as types

## Homotopy theory - 2nd Building Block of HoTT

*Topological space* : A topological space  $(X, T)$  is a pair of a set  $X$  together with a collection of open subsets  $T$  that satisfies the four conditions:

1. The empty set  $\emptyset \in T$ .
2.  $X \in T$ .
3. The intersection of a finite number of sets in  $T$  is also in  $T$ .
4. The union of an arbitrary number of sets in  $T$  is also in  $T$ .

*Path* : A path in a topological space  $\mathcal{X}$  is a continuous function  $f : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathcal{X}$ . The initial point of the path is  $f(0)$  and the terminal point is  $f(1)$ .



*Homotopy* ("Continuous deformation of  $f$  into  $g$  fixing endpoints") : A homotopy between two continuous functions  $f$  and  $g$  from a top. space  $\mathcal{X}$  to a top. space  $\mathcal{Y}$  is defined to be a continuous function  $\mathcal{H} : \mathcal{X} \times [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}$  such that, if  $x \in \mathcal{X}$ , then  $H(x, 0) = f(x)$  and  $H(x, 1) = g(x)$ ,

where,  $f|_A ::=$  restriction of function  $f$  from  $\text{Dom}(f)$  to  $A$ .

$\mathcal{K}$  is compact if each of its open covers, say  $C$  and  $\mathcal{K} = \cup_{x \in C} x$ , has a finite subcover  $F \subset C$  ( $\mathcal{K} = \cup_{x \in F} x$ ).

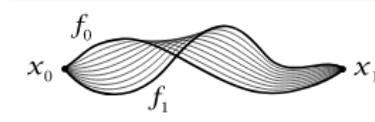
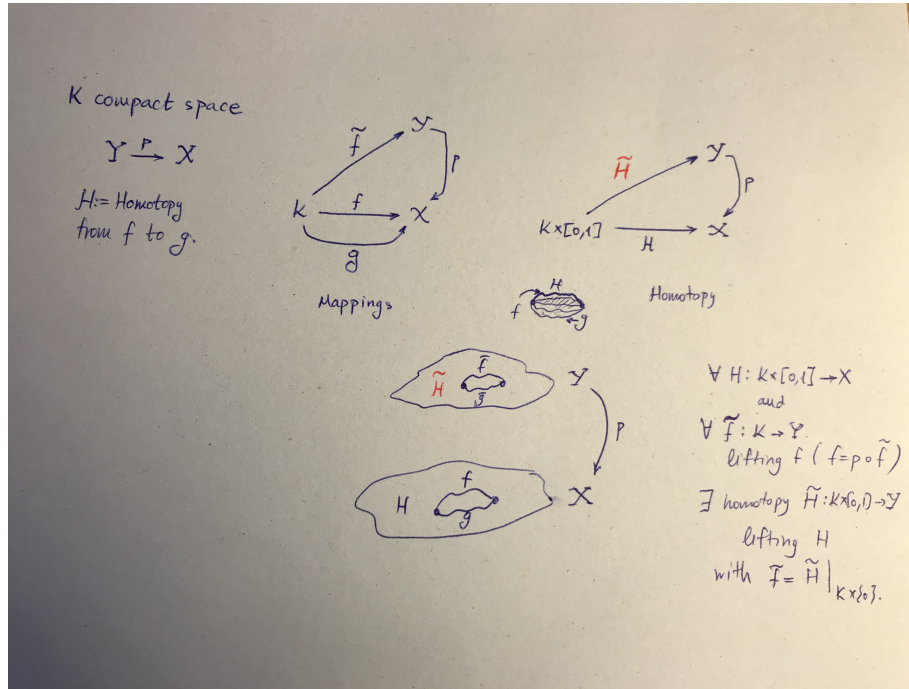


FIGURE 1. A picture of a homotopy between paths  $f_1$  and  $f_2$  from  $x_0$  to  $x_1$

*Homotopy lifting property* : Given a projection map  $p : Y \rightarrow X$  and a compact space  $\mathcal{K}$ , one says that  $(\mathcal{K}, p)$  has the homotopy lifting property with respect to  $\mathcal{K}$  if:

- for any homotopy  $H : \mathcal{K} \times [0, 1] \rightarrow X$  and,
- for any map  $\tilde{f} : \mathcal{K} \rightarrow Y$  lifting  $f = H|_{\mathcal{K} \times \{0\}}$  (that is  $f = p \circ \tilde{f}$ ), there exists a homotopy  $\tilde{H} : \mathcal{K} \times [0, 1] \rightarrow Y$  lifting  $H$  (that is  $H = p \circ \tilde{H}$ ) which also satisfies  $\tilde{f} = \tilde{H}|_{\mathcal{K} \times \{0\}}$ .



*Loop - Loop Space* : Loop : Paths from a point to itself (very interesting in Homotopy). We define the loop space  $\Omega(A, a)$  to be the type  $a =_A a$ .

We can then consider the loop space of the loop space of  $A$ , which is the space of 2-dim loops on the identity loop at  $a$ . This is  $\Omega^2(A, a)$  and is represented in type theory by the type  $refl_a =_{(a =_A a)} refl_a$ . Fibration A fibration is a continuous mapping  $p : Y \rightarrow X$  satisfying the homotopy lifting property with respect to any space  $\mathcal{K}$ . This is basically a property. A more clear definition is presented in the next chapter.

*Path space* : Let  $I = [0, 1]$ . Path space  $A^I$  is the space of all continuous maps  $I \rightarrow A$  from the unit interval. So loop space is just a subspace of path space.



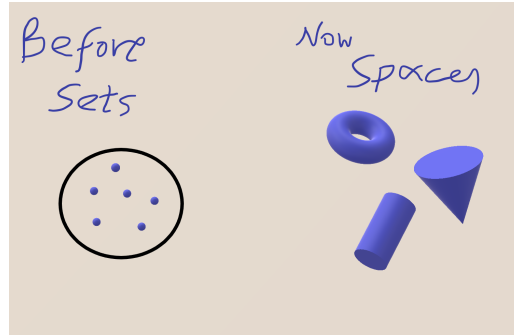
## Homotopy type theory - Building the correspondence

Now, we are able to construct our new correspondence perspective. Consider the model where:

- Types are (equivalence classes of) topological spaces (collections of points with a notion of continuity).
- Two points are equal if there is a continuous path between them.

*Remarks :*

- 1) Equality types are types, they have their own equality types, etc.
- 2) Paths between points are lines, paths between lines are surfaces, etc.



Type Theory	Homotopy Theory
types $A$	spaces $\mathcal{A}$
terms $a$	points $a$
$a : A$	$a \in \mathcal{A}$
dependent type $x : A \vdash B(x)$	fibration $\mathcal{B} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$
identity type $Id_A(a, b)$	path space
$p : Id_A(a, b)$	path $p : a \rightarrow b$
$H : Id_{Id_A(a, b)}(p, q)$	homotopy $H : p \Rightarrow q$

Table 2: Homotopy type theory correspondances.

### Groupoids and the $\infty$ -groupoid

In classical mathematics, the base point of set theory is the set. In HoTT, the base point is the  $\infty$ -groupoid.

*Groupoid - Viewpoint 1 :* Group with a partial function replacing the binary operation, that is  $(G, *)$  where there may exist  $a, b \in G$ , with  $a * b$  not always well defined. For instance, let  $G = \{\mathbb{Z}, \mathbb{Z}^2\}$  and define  $+$  properly.

*Groupoid - Viewpoint 2 :* Category in which every morphism is invertible (isomorphism).

- Points ( $\dim = 0$ ), paths ( $\dim = 1$ ), paths of paths ( $\dim = 2$ ), ...
- Because homotopies are themselves a kind of 2-dimensional path, there is a natural notion of 3-dimensional homotopy between homotopies, and then homotopy between homotopies between homotopies, and so on.
- Smoothness of the  $\infty$ -gpd : We have to equip it with cohesion in the form of smooth structure (smooth manifolds, Lie groups).

*On Smoothness :* A differentiable manifold is a topological space which is locally homeomorphic to a Euclidean space (a topological manifold) and such that the gluing functions which relate these Euclidean local charts to each other are differentiable functions, for a fixed degree of differentiability. If one considers arbitrary differentiability, then one speaks of smooth manifolds. The definition of an atlas depends on the notion of a chart. To make an infinity groupoid smooth, you have to equip it with a diffeomorphism between two atlases. For more info : <https://ncatlab.org/nlab/show/smooth+infinity-groupoid>

So, the  $\infty$ -groupoid is an infinite stack of points, paths, homotopies, homotopies between homotopies, ..., equipped with algebraic operations such as the fundamental group, is an instance of an algebraic structure called a (weak)  $\infty$ -groupoid.

*Properties :*

- Every topological space  $\mathcal{X}$  has a fundamental  $\infty$ -groupoid whose  $k$ -morphisms are the  $k$ -dimensional paths in  $\mathcal{X}$ .
- The weakness of the  $\infty$ -groupoid corresponds directly to the fact that paths form a group only up to homotopy, with the  $(k+1)$ -paths serving as the homotopies between the  $k$ -paths.

## Connection with category theory

An  $\infty$ -category is defined as follows :

In an ordinary category, one has morphisms going between objects.

In a 2-category, one has both 1-morphisms between objects and 2-morphisms going between 1-morphisms.

...

In an  $\infty$ -category, the objects are the 0-morphisms and there are  $k$ -morphisms going between  $(k - 1)$ -morphisms for all  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ .

*$\infty$ -groupoid and  $\infty$ -category :* An  $\infty$ -groupoid (also  $\omega$ -groupoid) is an  $\infty$ -category in which all  $k$ -morphisms for all  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  are equivalences (isomorphisms).

- An  $\infty$ -groupoid consists of a collection of objects, and then a collection of morphisms between objects, and then morphisms between morphisms, and so on, equipped with some complex algebraic structure; a morphism at level  $k$  is called a  $k$ -morphism.

## Types are higher groupoids.

The connection between type theory and homotopy type theory arises from the fact that Types are weak  $\infty$ -groupoids.

Equality	Homotopy	$\infty$ -Groupoid
reflexivity	constant path	identity morphism
symmetry	inversion of paths	inverse morphism
transitivity	concatenation of paths	composition of morphisms

Table 3: Homotopy type theory correspondances.

So homotopy properties can be written as types.

$\text{refl} : \prod_{a:A} (a =_A a)$  *Paths can be reversed* For every type  $A$  and every  $x, y : A$ , there is a function  $(x = y) \rightarrow (y = x)$ , denoted  $p \mapsto p^{-1}$ , such that  $\text{refl}_x^{-1} \equiv \text{refl}_x$  for each  $x : A$ .

This function is a type :  $\prod_{(A:\mathcal{U})} \prod_{(x,y:A)} (x = y) \rightarrow (y = x)$ .

*Concatenation of paths* For every type  $A$  and every  $x, y, z : A$ , there is a function  $(x = y) \rightarrow (y = z) \rightarrow (x = z)$  written  $p \mapsto q \mapsto p * q$ , such that  $\text{refl}_x * \text{refl}_x \equiv \text{refl}_x$  for any  $x : A$ . We call  $p * q$  the concatenation or composite of  $p$  and  $q$ .

## Functions are functors (maps between categories).

Now we wish to establish that functions  $f : A \rightarrow B$  behave functorially on paths. In traditional type theory, this is equivalently the statement that functions respect equality. Topologically, this corresponds to saying that every function is “continuous”, i.e. preserves paths.

*Application of  $f$  to a path* Suppose that  $f : A \rightarrow B$  is a function. Then for any  $x, y : A$  there is an operation  $ap_f : (x =_A y) \rightarrow (f(x) =_B f(y))$ . Moreover, for each  $x : A$ , we have  $ap_f(\text{refl}_x) \equiv \text{refl}_{f(x)}$ .

## Type families are fibrations

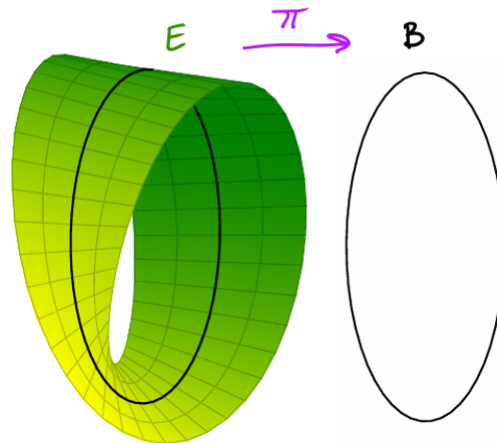
What is a fibration? Fibration is a ‘twisted’ Cartesian product.

### Understanding fibration via Cartesian product :

A cartesian product has a projection (to  $B$ ):  $(A \rightarrow) A \times B \rightarrow B$

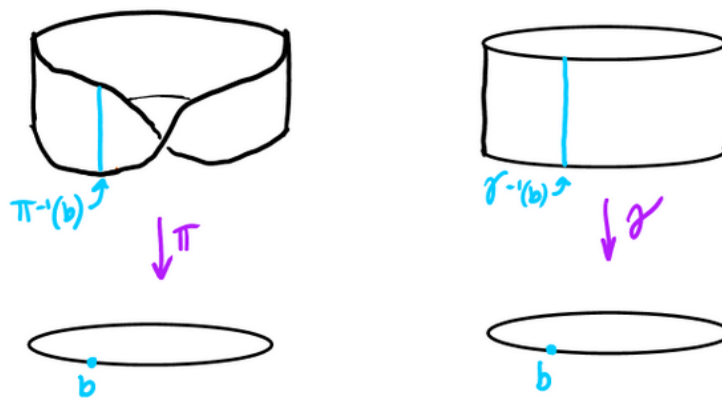
So, for an element  $b \in B$ ,  $\exists$  space  $X$  s.t.  $X \rightarrow b \in B$ . and space  $X$  is of the form  $A \times \{b\} \simeq A$  (fiber over  $b$ ). A fibration is something that has a projection like this. For an element  $b$  in projection space  $B$ , if the subspace of the Total Space  $E$  is of the form  $F \times \{b\}$ , then  $F$  is the fiber over  $b$ . The fibration is the mapping  $F \rightarrow E \rightarrow B$ .

A total space, a base space  
& a projection map.



(Left) Total Space = Möbius band  $\mathcal{M}$ , Projection Space = Circle  $\mathcal{C}$ . Then the fiber is a vertical interval  $\mathcal{I}$  (like a twisted Cartesian product). The fibration is  $\mathcal{I} \rightarrow \mathcal{M} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ .

(Right) Total Space = Simple Band. Then the fiber is a vertical interval (like a Cartesian product).



1) Examples of Cart.Prods :  $R \times S^1 = \text{Cylinder}$ ,  $S^1 \times S^1 = \text{Torus}$ .

2) Remark : Fibration is a 'twisted' Cartesian product.

*Transport Lemma* Suppose that  $P$  is a type family over  $A$  and that  $p : x =_A y$ . Then there is a function  $p_* : P(x) \rightarrow P(y)$ .

## Homotopies and equivalences

So far, we have seen how the identity type  $x =_A y$  can be regarded as a type of identifications, paths, or equivalences between two elements  $x$  and  $y$  of a type  $A$ . Let's recall the main question : When functions  $f, g$  are equal? Under the propositions-as-types interpretation, this suggests that two functions  $f$  and  $g$  (perhaps dependently typed) should be the same if the type  $\prod_{(x:A)} (f(x) = g(x))$  is inhabited. Under the homotopical interpretation, this dependent function type consists of continuous paths or functorial equivalences, and thus may be regarded as the type of homotopies or of natural isomorphisms.

Let  $f, g : \prod_{(x:A)} P(x)$  be two sections of a type family  $P : A \rightarrow \mathcal{U}$ . A homotopy from  $f$  to  $g$  is a dependent function of type  $(f \sim g) := \prod_{(x:A)} (f(x) = g(x))$ .

Note that a homotopy is not the same as an identification ( $f = g$ ). However, we will introduce an axiom making homotopies and identifications “equivalent”.

*About homotopies :*

Homotopy is an equivalence relation on each function type  $A \rightarrow B$ . That is, we have elements of the types

$$\begin{aligned} R) & \prod_{f:A \rightarrow B} (f \sim f) \\ S) & \prod_{f,g:A \rightarrow B} (f \sim g) \rightarrow (g \sim f) \\ T) & \prod_{f,g,h:A \rightarrow B} (f \sim g) \rightarrow (g \sim h) \rightarrow (f \sim h). \end{aligned}$$

*Identity type :* Just as the type  $a =_A a'$  is characterized up to isomorphism, with a separate “definition” for each  $A$ , there is no simple characterization of the type  $p =_{a=_A a'} q$  of paths between paths  $p, q : a =_A a'$

Application of equivalence  $f$  to paths is equivalence : If  $f : A \rightarrow B$  is an equivalence, then for all  $a, a' : A$ , so is  $ap_f : (a =_A a') \rightarrow (f(a) =_B f(a'))$ .

## The Univalence Axiom

### Introduction to the Univalence Axiom

In type theory, one can have a universe (it's a type)  $\mathcal{U}$ , the terms  $\{A_i\}$  of which are themselves types,  $A_i : \mathcal{U}$ . (We do not have  $\mathcal{U} : \mathcal{U}$ , so only some types are terms of  $\mathcal{U}$ ) These types are called [the small types](#). Like any type,  $\mathcal{U}$  has an identity type  $Id_{\mathcal{U}}$ , which expresses the identity relation  $A =_{\mathcal{U}} B$  among small types. Thinking of types as spaces,  $\mathcal{U}$  is a space, the points of which are spaces.

*Main Question :* To understand its identity type, we must ask, “What is a path  $p : A \rightarrow B$  between spaces in  $\mathcal{U}$  ?”

The Univalence Axiom says that such paths correspond to homotopy equivalences  $A \simeq B$

A bit more precisely : Given any small types  $A$  and  $B$ , in addition to the type  $Id_{\mathcal{U}}(A, B)$  of identities between  $A$  and  $B$ , there is the type  $Eq(A, B)$  of equivalences from  $A$  to  $B$ . Since the identity map on any object is an equivalence, there is a canonical map  $Id_{\mathcal{U}}(A, B) \rightarrow Eq(A, B)$ . The Univalence Axiom states that this map is itself an equivalence :

Univalence Axiom:  $(A \simeq B) \simeq (A = B)$ . In other words, equivalence is equivalent to identity (equality).

*Equivalence is equivalent to equality :*

Think of the boolean space. What means here that equivalence is equivalent to equality?

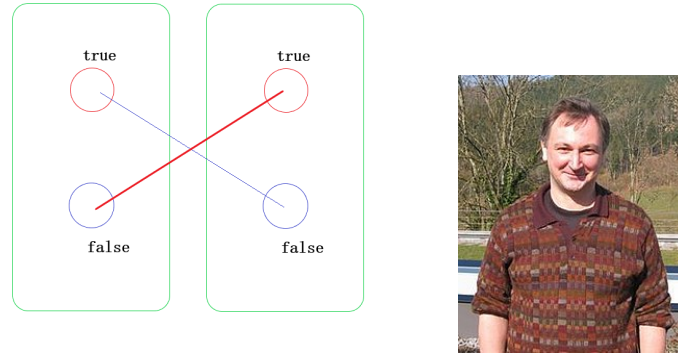


Figure 1: Vladimir Voevodsky (1966-2017)

Or think of the Finitely Generated Abelian Groups. We have that for  $p, q \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$  with  $(p, q) = 1$ , then  $\mathbb{Z}_{pq} \cong \mathbb{Z}_p \times \mathbb{Z}_q$ .

Given two types  $A$  and  $B$ , we may consider them as elements of some universe type  $\mathcal{U}$ , and thereby form the identity type  $A =_{\mathcal{U}} B$ . Univalence is the identification of  $A =_{\mathcal{U}} B$  with the type  $(A \simeq B)$  of equivalences from  $A$  to  $B$ .

idtoeqv For types  $A, B : \mathcal{U}$ , there is a certain function :

idtoeqv :  $(A =_{\mathcal{U}} B) \rightarrow (A \simeq B)$

*Proof* Note that the identity function  $id_{\mathcal{U}} : \mathcal{U} \rightarrow \mathcal{U}$  may be regarded as a type family indexed by the universe  $\mathcal{U}$ ; it assigns to each type  $X : \mathcal{U}$  the type  $X$  itself. Thus, given a path  $p : A =_{\mathcal{U}} B$ , we have a transport function  $p_* : A \rightarrow B$ . We claim that  $p_*$  is an equivalence. But by induction, it suffices to assume that  $p$  is  $refl_A$ , in which case  $p_* \equiv id_A$ , which is an equivalence. Thus, define  $idtoeqv(p)$  to be  $p_*$ .

We would like to say that idtoeqv is an equivalence. the type theory described before is insufficient to guarantee this. We formulate this property as an axiom: Voevodsky's univalence axiom. *Axiom* For types  $A, B : \mathcal{U}$ , the function  $idtoeqv : (A =_{\mathcal{U}} B) \rightarrow (A \simeq B)$  is an equivalence.

Thus, equivalent types may be identified.

It can be shown that corresponding statements looking like the classical law of double negation and law of excluded middle are incompatible with the univalence axiom : For instance, It is not the case that for all  $A : \mathcal{U}$  we have  $\neg(\neg A) \rightarrow A$ .  
It is not the case that for all  $A : \mathcal{U}$  we have  $A + (\neg A)$ .

*Univalence axiom from logical point of view ...* it is revolutionary: it says that isomorphic things can be identified! People are used to identify isomorphic structures in practice, but they generally do so knowing that the identification is not 'officially' justified by the foundations. But, working on this new foundational scheme, such structures are formally identified.

## Inductive types

An inductive type  $X$  can be intuitively understood as a type “freely generated” by a certain finite collection of constructors, each of which is a function with codomain  $X$ .

- Type  $\mathbb{N}$  of Naturals :  $0 : \mathbb{N}, succ : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ .
- Type  $\mathbb{N}'$  of new Naturals :  $0' : \mathbb{N}', succ' : \mathbb{N}' \rightarrow \mathbb{N}'$ .
- Type  $List(A)$  of finite lists of elements of some type  $A$  :  $nil : List(A), cons : A \rightarrow List(A) \rightarrow List(A)$ .

How to create an inductive type ? The elements of an inductive type are exactly what can be obtained by starting from nothing and applying the constructors repeatedly. In the case of  $\mathbb{N}$ , we should expect that every element is either 0 or obtained by applying  $succ$  to some “previously constructed” natural number.

*Question :*  $\mathbb{N}'$  has identical-looking induction and recursion principles to  $\mathbb{N}$ . But what is the relation between  $\mathbb{N}$  and  $\mathbb{N}'$ ?

*Uniqueness principle :*

Let  $f, g : \prod_{(x:\mathbb{N})} E(x)$  be two functions which satisfy the recurrences  $e_z : E(0)$  and  $e_s :$   
 $\prod_{(n:\mathbb{N})} \prod_{(y:E(n))} E(succ(n))$  up to propositional equality  
 i.e., s.t.  $f(0) = e_z$  and  $g(0) = e_z$  as well as :  
 $\prod_{(n:\mathbb{N})} f(succ(n)) = e_s(n, f(n)),$   
 $\prod_{(n:\mathbb{N})} g(succ(n)) = e_s(n, g(n)).$   
 Then  $f, g$  are equal.

Proof : Use induction on the type family  $D(x) := (f(x) = g(x))$ .

Of course, if two versions of the natural numbers satisfy identical induction principles, then they have identical induced structure. First observe that we have the following definable maps:  $f \equiv rec_{\mathbb{N}}(\mathbb{N}, 0', \lambda n. succ') : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}'$ ,  $g \equiv rec_{\mathbb{N}'}(\mathbb{N}', 0, \lambda n. succ) : \mathbb{N}' \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ . Since the composition of  $g$  and  $f$  satisfies the same recurrences as the identity function on  $\mathbb{N}$ , Theorem 5.1.1 gives that  $\prod_{(n:\mathbb{N})} g(f(n)) = n$  and  $\prod_{(n:\mathbb{N}')} f(g(n)) = n$ . Thus,  $f$  and  $g$  are quasi-inverses, so that  $\mathbb{N} \simeq \mathbb{N}'$ . We can now transfer functions on  $\mathbb{N}$  directly to functions on  $\mathbb{N}'$  (and vice

versa) along this equivalence. Here is where the univalence axiom steps in : Since  $\mathbb{N} \simeq \mathbb{N}'$ , we have that  $\mathbb{N} =_{\mathcal{U}} \mathbb{N}'$ , i.e.  $\mathbb{N}$  and  $\mathbb{N}'$  are equal as types.

Same :  $\mathbb{N}$  and  $List(1)$  are equal as types.

## Higher inductive types

*Issue : How to **construct** homotopically non-trivial objects and spaces?*

Use Higher(-dimensional) Inductive Types :

This is how you can generate a circle. It's higher dimensional because you need both a point constructor (base) and a path constructor (loop).

Circle : Type where  
 | base :: Circle  
 | loop :: Path base base (start and end same point).

```

1  (*Higher inductive types list.*)
2
3  (*For instance, a circle S1 is generated by a point base
4  | and a dependent path loop.*)
5  Inductive circle : Type :=
6  | base : circle
7  | loop : base == base
8
9  Inductive Interval : Type :=
10 | left : Interval
11 | right : Interval
12 | segment : Id Interval left right
13
14 Inductive sphere2 : Type :=
15 | base2 : sphere2
16 | surf2 : idpath base2 == idpath base2
17
18 (*The suspension is the universal way to make points into paths.*)
19 Inductive susp (X : Type) : Type :=
20 | north : susp X
21 | south : susp X
22 | merid : X -> north == south.
23

```

Higher inductive types are a general schema for defining new types generated by some constructors.



- We can consider the higher inductive type  $\mathbb{S}^1$  generated by a point  $base : \mathbb{S}^1$  and a path  $loop : base =_{\mathbb{S}^1} base$ .
- This can be regarded as entirely analogous to  $\mathbf{2}$  generated by a point  $0_2 : \mathbf{2}$  and a point  $1_2 : \mathbf{2}$  or the definition of  $\mathbb{N}$  as generated by a point  $0 : \mathbb{N}$  and a function  $succ : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ .
- ...

*Example (How to use) :* Prove that  $\pi_1(\mathbb{S}^1) = \mathbb{Z}$ .

- Let  $A$  be a HIT (f.e. Circle) and say we want to describe a type family  $P : A \rightarrow \mathcal{U}$ . Then for the point constructors (base), we have to provide types and for path constructors (loop), we have to provide paths between these types. Thanks to Univalence, it suffices to give equivalences between these types.
- Define the map from Circle to a Type  $C : \mathbb{S}^1 \rightarrow \mathcal{U}$ , where :  
 $C(base) = \mathbb{Z}$  and to transport along loop we apply the equivalence  $succ : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ .
- We will use  $C$  to show that  $(base =_{\mathbb{S}^1} base) \simeq \mathbb{Z}$

Assuming univalence, the loop space of Circle is homotopy-equivalent to the type  $\text{Int}$ .

The two fibrations we are using in short :

$$p_w : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{S}^1.$$

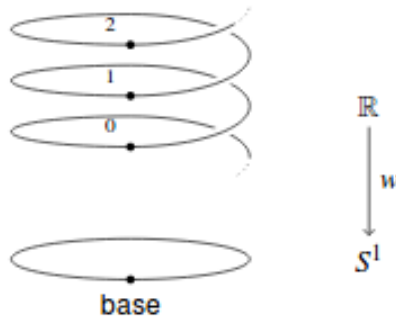
$$p_C : \Omega(\mathbb{S}^1) \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_{base}\mathbb{S}^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{S}^1,$$

where  $\mathbb{P}_{base}\mathbb{S}^1$  is the space of all the paths with starting point the base and terminal point defined by the mapping.

Let  $w : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{S}^1$  be the 'winding' map, projecting the helix to the circle. This map is a fibration (i.e. a dependent type) and the fiber over each point is isomorphic to  $\mathbb{Z}$ .

By walking around the loop, we either go up or down to the helix according to the direction of our walk.

As a result of univalence, the fibers of two fibrations are homotopy equivalent. Thus, since  $\mathbb{R}$  and the helix  $\mathbb{P}_{base}\mathbb{S}^1$  are both contractible (that can be shrunk to a point), they are homotopy equivalent and thus the fibers over base are isomorphic.



## Studying abstract spaces.

One question homotopy theorists investigate is how to tell whether two spaces are the same, where “the same” means homotopy equivalence (continuous maps back and forth that compose to the identity up to homotopy).

One common way to tell whether two spaces are the same is to calculate algebraic invariants associated with a space, which include its homotopy groups and homology and cohomology groups.

We will see in short the technique of the **fundamental group of a space**.

## Fundamental group

The simplest example of a homotopy group is the fundamental group of a space, which is written  $\pi_1(X, x_0)$ .

**Informally :** The fundamental group is a mathematical group associated to any given pointed topological space that provides a way to determine **when two paths, starting and ending at a fixed base point, can be continuously deformed into each other**. It records information about the basic shape, or holes, of the topological space.

A path-connected topological space is simply connected iff its fundamental group is trivial.

Let  $\mathcal{X}$  be a topological space, and let  $x_0$  be a point of  $X$ .

We study the following set  $\mathcal{L} = \text{Omega}(X, x_0)$  of continuous functions called **loops with base point  $x_0$** , that is :

$$\mathcal{L} = \{f : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathcal{X} : f(0) = x_0 = f(1)\}.$$

Now we create the **fundamental group of  $\mathcal{X}$  with base point  $x_0$**  is this set  $\mathcal{L}$  modulo homotopy  $h$  :

$$\pi_1(\mathcal{X}, x_0) = \mathcal{L}/h. \text{ (quotient group).}$$

To make this set a group, we have to equip it with the group multiplication defined by :

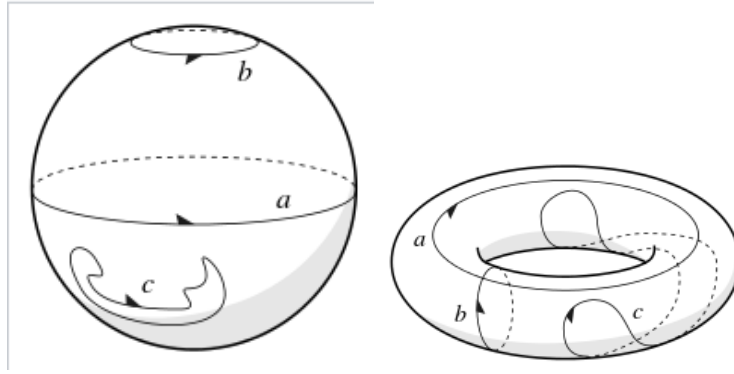
$$(f * g)(t) = \begin{cases} f(2t), & 0 \leq t \leq 1/2 \\ g(2t - 1), & 1/2 \leq t \leq 1 \end{cases}$$

So **the set of all homotopy classes of loops with base point  $x_0$  forms the fundamental group of  $\mathcal{X}$  at the point  $x_0$** .

*Fundamental group : Examples*

→ Sphere  $\mathbb{S}_2$  and the torus  $\mathbb{T}^2$  are not homotopy equivalent :

The fundamental group of the 2-sphere is trivial ( $\pi_1(\mathbb{S}_2) = \{h\}$ ) (using Jordan curve theorem), but the fundamental group of the torus has cardinality  $> 1$  (not trivial). The intuition is that every loop on the sphere is homotopic to the identity, because its inside can be filled in. In contrast, a loop on the torus (see a,b) is not homotopic to the identity, so there are non-trivial elements in the fundamental group.



- In  $\mathbb{R}_n$  or any convex subset of  $\mathbb{R}_n$ , there is only one homotopy class of loops, and the fundamental group is therefore the trivial group with one element.
- For the infinite cyclic fundamental group : Each homotopy class consists of all loops which wind around the circle a given number of times (which can be positive or negative, depending on the direction of winding). So  $\pi_1(\mathbb{S}_1) \simeq (\mathbb{Z}, +)$ . (You can use that to prove Brouwer fixed-point theorem on dim 2).

### **$n$ -th homotopy group :**

The first and simplest [homotopy group](#) is the fundamental group, that we already saw.

To define the  $n$ -th homotopy group, the base-point-preserving maps from an  $n$ -dimensional sphere (with base point) into a given space (with base point) are collected into equivalence classes, called [homotopy classes](#). These homotopy classes form a group, called the  $n$ -th homotopy group,  $\pi_n(\mathcal{X})$ , of the given space  $\mathcal{X}$  with base point  $x_0$ .

Why? The higher homotopy groups provide additional information about a space.

**Informally :** Fix a point  $x_0$  in  $X$ , and consider the constant path  $refl_{x_0}$ . Then the homotopy classes of homotopies between  $refl_{x_0}$  and itself form a group  $\pi_2(X, x_0)$ , which tells us something about the two-dimensional structure of the space. Then  $\pi_3(X, x_0)$  is the group of homotopy classes of homotopies between homotopies, and so on.

*$n$ -th homotopy group :* In the  $n$ -sphere  $\mathbb{S}^n$  we choose a base point  $a$ . For a space  $\mathcal{X}$  with base point  $b$ , we define  $\pi_n(\mathcal{X})$  to be the set of homotopy classes of maps  $f : \mathbb{S}^n \rightarrow \mathcal{X}$  that map the base point  $a$  to the base point  $b$ .

	$S^0$	$S^1$	$S^2$	$S^3$	$S^4$	$S^5$	$S^6$	$S^7$	$S^8$
$\pi_1$	0	$\mathbb{Z}$	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
$\pi_2$	0	0	$\mathbb{Z}$	0	0	0	0	0	0
$\pi_3$	0	0	$\mathbb{Z}$	$\mathbb{Z}$	0	0	0	0	0
$\pi_4$	0	0	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}$	0	0	0	0
$\pi_5$	0	0	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}$	0	0	0
$\pi_6$	0	0	$\mathbb{Z}_{12}$	$\mathbb{Z}_{12}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}$	0	0
$\pi_7$	0	0	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}_{12}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}$	0
$\pi_8$	0	0	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2^2$	$\mathbb{Z}_{24}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}$
$\pi_9$	0	0	$\mathbb{Z}_3$	$\mathbb{Z}_3$	$\mathbb{Z}_2^2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_{24}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$
$\pi_{10}$	0	0	$\mathbb{Z}_{15}$	$\mathbb{Z}_{15}$	$\mathbb{Z}_{24} \times \mathbb{Z}_3$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	0	$\mathbb{Z}_{24}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$
$\pi_{11}$	0	0	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_{15}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}$	0	$\mathbb{Z}_{24}$
$\pi_{12}$	0	0	$\mathbb{Z}_2^2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2^2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_{30}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	0	0
$\pi_{13}$	0	0	$\mathbb{Z}_{12} \times \mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_{12} \times \mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2^3$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_{60}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	0

Table 8.1: Homotopy groups of spheres [Wik13]. The  $k^{\text{th}}$  homotopy group  $\pi_k$  of the  $n$ -dimensional sphere  $S^n$  is isomorphic to the group listed in each entry, where  $\mathbb{Z}$  is the additive group of integers, and  $\mathbb{Z}_m$  is the cyclic group of order  $m$ .

For  $n : \mathbb{N}$ , the  $n$ -fold iterated loop space of a pointed type  $(A, a)$  is defined recursively by:

$$\Omega^0(A, a) = (A, a)$$

$$\Omega^{n+1}(A, a) = \Omega^n(\Omega(A, a))$$

This gives a space (a type) of  $n$ -dimensional loops, which itself has higher homotopies.

So, given  $n \geq 1$  and  $(A, a)$  a pointed type, we define the homotopy groups of  $A$  at  $a$  by  $\pi_n(A, a) := ||\Omega^n(A, a)||_0$

### Properties of homotopy groups $\pi_n(A, a)$

Properties for  $n = 1$ . (Fundamental group)

- Recall the fibration  $F \rightarrow E \rightarrow B$ . Then when all the spaces are connected, this has the following consequences for the fundamental groups:  $\pi_1(B)$  and  $\pi_1(E)$  are isomorphic if  $F$  is simply connected (that is path-connected and every path between two points can be continuously transformed into any other such path while preserving the two endpoints in question).
- Van Kampen's Theorem : Space decomposition into simpler spaces. Let's see this theorem using an example. Let  $(A, *)$  and  $(B, *)$  be two free groups generated by  $a$  and  $b$  respectively (equiv. the grammar  $\{a^n\}$  and  $((a^4b^{-1}) * (b^3) = a^4b^2)$ ). We know that  $\pi_1(A) \simeq \mathbb{Z}$ . Similarly, for  $B$ . Then consider the space  $Infty$ . The theorem implies that  $\pi_1(Infty) \simeq \pi_1(A) * \pi_1(B) \simeq \mathbb{Z} * \mathbb{Z}$ .



Properties for homotopy groups  $\pi_i(\mathbb{S}_n, a)$

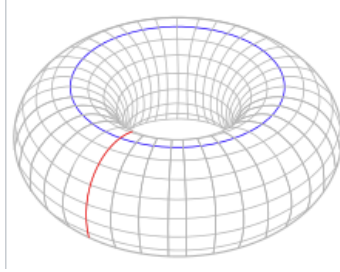
- Case  $i < n$  :  $\pi_i(\mathbb{S}_n) = 0 (= \{h\} = \text{trivial group})$ .
- Case  $i = n$  :  $\pi_n(\mathbb{S}_n) = H_n(\mathbb{S}_n) = \mathbb{Z}$ .

*Hurewicz theorem* For any space  $\mathcal{X}$  and  $i \in \mathbb{N}$ , there exists a group homomorphism  $h_* : \pi_i(\mathcal{X}) \rightarrow H_i(\mathcal{X})$  *Remark*  $i = 1$  The Hurewicz homomorphism for  $i = 1$  and for  $\mathcal{X}$  is path-connected is equivalent to the canonical abelianization map (commutator subgroup  $G/[G, G]$ ).

where  $H_i(\mathcal{X})$  is the  $i$ -th homology group.

*Homology group* Let  $\mathcal{X}$  a topological space and fix  $k \in \mathbb{N}_0$ . Then, the  $k$ -th homology group  $H_k(\mathcal{X})$  describes the  $k$ -th dimensional holes in  $\mathcal{X}$ .  $H_0(\mathcal{X})$  describes the path-connected components of the space.

$$\begin{aligned}
 - H_k(\mathbb{S}_1) &= \begin{cases} \mathbb{Z}, k = 0, 1 \\ \{0\}, k > 1 \end{cases} & H_k(\mathbb{S}_n) &= \begin{cases} \mathbb{Z}, k = 0, n \\ \{0\}, \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \\
 - H_k(\mathbb{T}^2) &= \begin{cases} \mathbb{Z}, k = 0, 2 \\ \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}, k = 1 \\ \{0\}, \text{otherwise} \end{cases}
 \end{aligned}$$



*Construction of homology groups* Complex chain of abelian groups  $C(\mathcal{X}) = \{C_i\}_{i \geq 0}$  and boundary operators  $\partial_n : C_n \rightarrow C_{n-1}$  with  $\partial_n \circ \partial_{n+1} = 0_{n+1, n-1}$ , then we can create the quotient group  $H_n(\mathcal{X}) = \text{Ker}(\partial_n) / \text{Im}(\partial_{n+1})$ . ( $\text{Ker}(\partial_n)$  is abelian and  $\text{Im}(\partial_{n+1})$  is normal subgroup of the kernel).

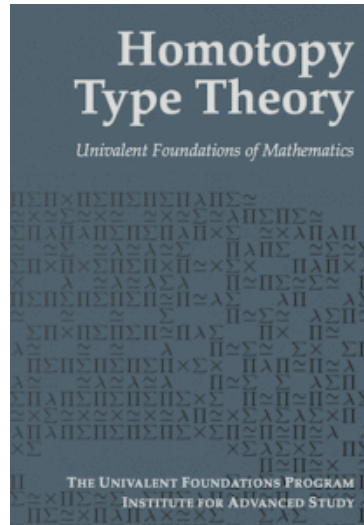
- Case  $i > n$  : The homology groups  $H_i(\mathbb{S}_n)$  are all trivial. The corresponding homotopy groups are not trivial. They are surprisingly complex and difficult to compute.

*Mathematics is security. Certainty. Truth. Beauty. Insight. Structure. Architecture. I see mathematics, the part of human knowledge that I call mathematics, as one thing-one great, glorious thing. Whether it is differential topology, or functional analysis, or homological algebra, it is all one thing. ... They are intimately interconnected, they are all facets of the same thing. That interconnection, that architecture, is secure truth and is beauty. That's what mathematics is to me.*

Paul Halmos

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