

Manifolds III

March 31, 2025

Review

If X, Y are topological spaces and $f, g : X \rightarrow Y$ continuous maps, we say f and g are homotopic (written $f \simeq g$) if there is a homotopy $H : X \times I \rightarrow Y$ (where $I = [0, 1]$) such that $H(x, 0) = f(x)$ and $H(x, 1) = g(x)$ for all $x \in X$. We say that f is null-homotopic if it is homotopic to a constant map.

Proposition

Homotopy is an equivalence relation on the collection of continuous maps.

1. $f \simeq f$ by $H(x, t) := f(x)$.
2. $f \stackrel{\tilde{H}}{\simeq} g \implies g \simeq f$ by defining $\tilde{H}(x, t) := H(x, 1 - t)$.
3. $(f \stackrel{F}{\simeq} g \wedge g \stackrel{G}{\simeq} h) \implies f \simeq h$ by

$$H(x, t) := \begin{cases} F(x, 2t) & 0 \leq t \leq 1/2 \\ G(x, 2t - 1) & 1/2 \leq t \leq 1 \end{cases}.$$

Proposition

For $f_0, f_1 : X \rightarrow Y$ and $g_0, g_1 : Y \rightarrow Z$, if $f_0 \stackrel{F}{\simeq} f_1$ and $g_0 \stackrel{G}{\simeq} g_1$, then $g_0 \circ f_0 \simeq g_1 \circ f_1$.

Proof

Define $H(x, t) := G(F(x, t), t)$ such that $H(x, 0) = G(F(x, 0), 0) = G(f_0(x), 0) = g_0 \circ f_0(x)$. Similarly, $H(x, 1) = g_1 \circ f_1(x)$.

Definition: Homotopic Spaces

We say that two spaces X and Y are homotopic to each other ($X \simeq Y$) if there are continuous maps $f : X \rightarrow Y$ and $g : Y \rightarrow X$ such that $f \circ g \simeq \text{id}_Y$ and $g \circ f \simeq \text{id}_X$.

Example

\mathbb{R}^n is homotopic to $\{0\}$ (or any single point) by $\iota : 0 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ and $r : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow 0$. Then $r \circ \iota : 0 \rightarrow 0$ is id_0 and $\iota \circ r : \mathbb{R}^n \ni x \mapsto 0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$ is homotopic to $\text{id}_{\mathbb{R}^n}$. In fact, consider $H : \mathbb{R}^n \times I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ where $H(x, t) = tx$, $H(x, 1) = x = \text{id}_{\mathbb{R}^n}(x)$ and $H(x, 0) = 0$.

Definition: Path

A path in X from p to q is a continuous map $f : I \rightarrow X$ such that $f(0) = p$ and $f(1) = q$.

Definition: Path Homotopic

Let $f, g : I \rightarrow X$ be two paths in X from p to q .

We say that f and g are path homotopic (write $f \sim g$) if there is a homotopy $H : I \times I \rightarrow X$ such that $H(s, 0) = f(s)$, $H(s, 1) = g(s)$, $H(0, t) = p$ and $H(1, t) = q$.

Proposition

Path homotopy is an equivalence relation on the collection of paths from p to q .
Write $[f]$, the equivalence class of f in the quotient.

Definition: Loop

In the special case that $p = q$, we say that $f : I \rightarrow X$ is a loop

Definition: Fundamental Group

Given (X, p) , $\pi_1(X, p)$ (the fundamental group of X at the point p) is the set of all loops at p modulo the path homotopy.

$$\{\text{loops at } p\} / \sim$$

Equivalently, $(S^1, 1)$, $\{\text{loops at } p\} = \{\text{continuous maps } f : (S^1, 1) \rightarrow (X, p)\}$ with $f(1) = p$. We say this is the homotopy “relative to $1 \in S^1$ ”. We have $H : S^1 \times I \rightarrow X$ such that $H(s, 0) = f(s)$, $H(s, 1) = g(s)$ and $H(1, t) = p$.

Definition: Free Homotopy

For two loops $f, g : S^1 \rightarrow X$, we say that f and g are free homotopic if $f \simeq g$.

Lemma

When $f : I \rightarrow X$ is a path from p to q , if $f \circ \varphi$ is a reparameterization of f then $(f \circ \varphi) \sim f$ where $\varphi : I \rightarrow I$ satisfies $\varphi(0) = 0$ and $\varphi(1) = 1$.

Proof

Note that φ is homotopic to the identity map id_I through $H(s, t) = ts + (1 - t)\varphi(s)$ since $H(s, 0) = \varphi(s)$ and $H(s, 1) = s = \text{id}_I(s)$.

Then consider $f \circ H : I \times I \rightarrow X$ which is a path homotopy between f and $f \circ \varphi$.

Fundamental Group

Let $f, g : I \rightarrow X$ be two paths with $f(1) = g(0)$.

Then we can “compose” (concatenate) f and g together $(f \cdot g) : I \rightarrow X$ by

$$(f \cdot g)(s) := \begin{cases} f(2s) & 0 \leq s \leq 1/2 \\ g(2s - 1) & 1/2 \leq s \leq 1 \end{cases}.$$

Lemma

If $f_0 \stackrel{F}{\sim} f_1$, $g_0 \stackrel{G}{\sim} g_1$ and $f_0(1) = f_1(1) = g_0(0) = g_1(0)$, then $f_0 \cdot g_0 \sim f_1 \cdot g_1$.

Proof

Define

$$H(s, t) := \begin{cases} F(2s, t) & 0 \leq s \leq 1/2 \\ G(2s - 1, t) & 1/2 \leq s \leq 1 \end{cases}.$$

Then

$$H(s, 0) = \begin{cases} F(2s, 0) = f_0(2s) & 0 \leq s \leq 1/2 \\ G(2s - 1, 0) = g_0(2s - 1) & 1/2 \leq s \leq 1 \end{cases}.$$

Similarly $H(s, 1) = (f_1 \cdot g_1)(s)$, hence $f_0 \cdot g_0 \sim f_1 \cdot g_1$.

With this, we have a well-defined $[f] \cdot [g] := [f \cdot g]$.

Simple Properties

For f from p to q where c_p is the constant map at p ,

1. $[c_p] \cdot [f] = [f] = [f] \cdot [c_q]$ since $c_p \cdot f$ is a reparameterization of f .
2. Let \bar{f} be the inverse path of f (i.e. $\bar{f}(s) = f(1 - s)$). Then $[f] \cdot [\bar{f}] = [c_p]$ and $[\bar{f}] \cdot [f] = [c_q]$.

$$H(s, t) := \begin{cases} f(2s) & 0 \leq s \leq t/2 \\ f(t) & t/2 \leq s \leq 1 - t/2 \\ f(2 - 2s) & 1 - t/2 \leq s \leq 2 \end{cases}.$$

1. $([f] \cdot [g]) \cdot [h] = [f] \cdot ([g] \cdot [h])$, since these are reparameterizations of the same path.

Group Structure

$\pi_1(X, p) = \{\text{loops at } p\} / \sim$.

Define $[f] \cdot [g] := [f \cdot g]$.

It has an identity element $[c_p] = e$.

For any $f \in \pi_1(X, p)$, it has an inverse $[\bar{f}]$ such that $[f] \cdot [\bar{f}] = [\bar{f}] \cdot [f] = [c_p]$.

Finally, it is associative by (3) above.

Proposition

Suppose $p, q \in X$ with X path-connected.

Then $\pi_1(X, p)$ is isomorphic to $\pi_1(X, q)$.

Remark: this isomorphism is not canonical.

Proof

We define a path γ from q to p and $\Phi_\gamma : \pi_1(X, p) \rightarrow \pi_1(X, q)$ by $[f] \mapsto [\gamma \cdot f \cdot \bar{\gamma}]$.

Φ_γ is a group homomorphism.

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi_\gamma[f] \cdot \Phi_\gamma[g] &= [\gamma \cdot f \cdot \bar{\gamma}] \cdot [\gamma \cdot g \cdot \bar{\gamma}] \\ &= [\gamma \cdot f \cdot \bar{\gamma} \cdot \gamma \cdot g \cdot \bar{\gamma}] \\ &= [\gamma \cdot f] \cdot \overbrace{[\bar{\gamma} \cdot \gamma]}^{=e} \cdot [g \cdot \bar{\gamma}] \\ &= [\gamma \cdot (f \cdot g) \cdot \bar{\gamma}] \\ &= \Phi_\gamma[f \cdot g]. \end{aligned}$$

Φ_γ has an inverse, $\Phi_{\bar{\gamma}} : \pi_1(X, q) \rightarrow \pi_1(X, p)$.

$$\Phi_{\bar{\gamma}} \circ \Phi_\gamma[f] = \Phi_{\bar{\gamma}}[\gamma \cdot f \cdot \bar{\gamma}] = [\bar{\gamma} \cdot \gamma \cdot f \cdot \bar{\gamma} \cdot \gamma] = [f].$$

Induced Homomorphism

$\varphi : (X, p) \rightarrow (Y, q)$ induces

$$\begin{aligned}\varphi_* : \pi_1(X, p) &\rightarrow \pi_1(Y, q) \\ [f] &\mapsto [\varphi \circ f].\end{aligned}$$

φ_* is a homomorphism.

$$(\varphi_*[f]) \cdot (\varphi_*[g]) = [\varphi \circ f] \cdot [\varphi \circ g] = [(\varphi \circ f) \cdot (\varphi \circ g)] = [\varphi \circ (f \cdot g)] = \varphi_*[f \cdot g].$$

Proposition

If $\varphi, \psi : (X, p) \rightarrow (Y, q)$ are homotopic, then $\varphi_* = \psi_* : \pi_1(X, p) \rightarrow \pi_1(Y, q)$.

Proof

Let $[f] \in \pi_1(X, p)$, $\varphi_*[f] = [\varphi \circ f]$ and $\psi_*[f] = [\psi \circ f]$ and $H : X \times I \rightarrow Y$ a homotopy between φ and ψ . Then define $\tilde{H} : I \times I \rightarrow Y$ by $\tilde{H}(s, t) = H(f(s), t)$ such that

$$\begin{aligned}\tilde{H}(s, 0) &= H(f(s), 0) = \varphi \circ f(s) \\ \tilde{H}(s, 1) &= H(f(s), 1) = \psi \circ f(s).\end{aligned}$$

Corollary

If $X \simeq Y$, then $\pi_1(X) \simeq \pi_1(Y)$.

Examples (*)

$\pi_1(S^1) \cong \mathbb{Z}$ and $\pi_1(S^n) = 0$ for $n \geq 2$.

For $n \geq 2$, write $S^n = A_+ \cup A_-$ where A_+ and A_- are large balls centered at the north and south pole respectively.

Then A_+ and A_- are both homeomorphic to \mathbb{R}^n and $A_+ \cap A_-$ (their intersection about the equator) is homeomorphic to $S^{n-1} \times \mathbb{R}$.

We fix a base point $p \in A_+ \cap A_-$ and let $f : I \rightarrow S^n$ be a loop based at p .

There exists a partition of I , $0 = s_0 < s_1 < \dots < s_k = 1$, such that $f|_{[s_i, s_{i+1}]}$ is contained in A_- or A_+ .

Draw a path γ_i from p to $f(s_i)$ such that $\gamma_i \subseteq A_+ \cap A_-$. Let $f_i = f|_{[s_i, s_{i+1}]}$ such that $f = f_0 \cdot f_1 \cdots f_k$. Then this is path homotopic to

$$(f_0 \cdot \bar{\gamma}_1) \cdot (\gamma_1 \cdot f \cdot \bar{\gamma}_2) \cdots (\gamma_{k-1} \cdot f_{k-1} \cdot \bar{\gamma}_k) \cdot (\gamma_k \cdot f_k).$$

Each $\gamma_i \cdot f_i \cdot \bar{\gamma}_i$ is contained in A_- or A_+ , hence $\gamma_i \cdot f_i \bar{\gamma}_{i+1} \sim c_p$, $f \simeq c_p$ and $[f] = e$.

April 2, 2025

Correction

For $\varphi, \psi : (X, x_0) \rightarrow (Y, y_0)$ where $\varphi \simeq \psi$, we say a homotopy H between φ and ψ is base point preserving if $H(x_0, t) = y_0$ for all $t \in [0, 1]$.

Proposition

If $\varphi \simeq \psi$ through a base point preserving homotopy, then $\varphi_* = \psi_*$, $\pi_1(X, x_0) \rightarrow \pi_1(Y, y_0)$.

For $X \simeq Y$, $\varphi : X \rightarrow Y$ and $\psi : Y \rightarrow X$ where $\psi \circ \varphi = \text{id}_X$ and $\varphi \circ \psi = \text{id}_Y$, in general $\psi \circ \varphi(x_0) \neq x_0$ and $\varphi \circ \psi(y_0) \neq y_0$.

Set up: $\varphi_0, \varphi_1 : X \rightarrow Y$ with $\varphi_0 \simeq \varphi_1$ through a homotopy H .

Write $\varphi_t = H(\cdot, t) : X \rightarrow Y$ and fix a base point $x_0 \in X$ and set $\gamma(t) = \varphi_t(x_0)$ for $t \in [0, 1]$.

Proposition 1

$$(\varphi_0)_* = \Phi_\gamma \circ (\varphi_1)_* : \pi_1(X, x_0) \rightarrow \pi_1(Y, \varphi(x_0)).$$

Proof

Let f be a loop at x_0 .

IMAGE 1

Let γ_t be $\gamma|_{[0, t]}$ and then, by rescaling the domain $[0, t]$ to $[0, 1]$ i.e.

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma_t : [0, 1] &\rightarrow Y \\ s &\mapsto \gamma(ts). \end{aligned}$$

from $\varphi_0(x_0)$ to $\gamma(t) = \varphi_t(x_0)$. Then $\gamma_t \cdot (\phi_t \circ f) \cdot \bar{\gamma}_t$ is a homotopy between $(\varphi_0 \circ f)$ and $\gamma \cdot (\varphi_1 \circ f) \cdot \bar{\gamma}$. Hence

$$(\varphi_0)_*[f] = [\varphi_0 \circ f] = [\gamma] \cdot [\varphi_1 \circ f] \cdot [\bar{\gamma}] = \Phi_\gamma \circ (\varphi_1)_*[f].$$

Proposition 2

If $X \simeq Y$, then $\pi_1(X) \cong \pi_1(Y)$.

Proof

Since $(\psi \circ \varphi) \simeq \text{id}_X$, by Proposition 1

$$\psi_* \circ \varphi_* = (\psi \circ \varphi)_* = \Phi_\gamma \circ (\text{id}_X)_* = \Phi_\gamma.$$

Hence $\psi_* \circ \varphi_*$ is an isomorphism (as is $\varphi_* \circ \psi_*$). Therefore φ_* and ψ_* are isomorphisms.

Recall: Covering Map

For X, \tilde{X} connected, $\pi : \tilde{X} \rightarrow X$ is a covering map if for each $p \in X$ there exists a neighborhood $U \subset X$ such that $\pi^{-1}(U)$ is a disjoint union

$$\pi^{-1}(U) = \bigcup_{\alpha \in A} U_\alpha$$

such that $\pi|_{U_\alpha} : U_\alpha \rightarrow U$ is a homeomorphism.

Lifting Properties

A lift is a map \tilde{f} such that $f = \pi \circ \tilde{f}$.

1. Path Lifting: Let $f : I \rightarrow X$ be a path from x_0 . Then, for any $\tilde{x}_0 \in \pi^{-1}(x_0)$, there is a unique lift \tilde{f} of f with $\tilde{f}(0) = \tilde{x}_0$.
2. Homotopy Lifting: Let $f_0, f_1 : I \rightarrow X$ be paths in X with $f_0(0) = f_1(0) = x_0$ and $f_0(1) = f_1(1)$. Suppose H is a path homotopy between f_0 and f_1 . Then for any $\tilde{x}_0 \in \pi^{-1}(x_0)$, there is a unique lift $\tilde{H} : I \times I \rightarrow \tilde{X}$ of H . In particular, \tilde{H} is a path homotopy between \tilde{f}_0 and \tilde{f}_1 . That is if $H(0, t) = x_0$ then $\tilde{H}(0, t) \in \pi^{-1}(x_0)$ for all t . Hence $\tilde{H}(0, t) = \tilde{x}_0$, $\forall t \in [0, 1]$. Similarly, $\tilde{H}(1, t)$ is identically constant. In particular, $\tilde{f}_0(1) = \tilde{H}(1, 0) = \tilde{H}(1, 1) = \tilde{f}_1(1)$.

Fundamental Group of the Circle

$$\pi_1(S^1) = \mathbb{Z}.$$

Example

$$\pi : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow S^1 \text{ by } s \mapsto e^{2\pi i \cdot s}.$$

Proof

Take as a base point $1 = x_0 \in S^1 \subseteq \mathbb{C}$. For each $n \in \mathbb{Z}$, we define a loop $\omega_n : [0, 1] \rightarrow S^1$ by $s \mapsto e^{2\pi i \cdot ns}$. Let f be a loop at $x_0 \in S^1$. We can lift f to $\tilde{f} : I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ at $0 \in \mathbb{R}$. Then $\tilde{f}(1) \in \pi^{-1}(x_0) = \mathbb{Z} \subseteq \mathbb{R}$. This defines a map φ that sends a loop f to $\tilde{f}(1) \in \mathbb{Z}$. This φ induces $\varphi : \pi_1(S^1, x_0) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ well-defined. If $f_0, f_1 : I \rightarrow S^1$ at x_0 are path homotopic via H , then we may lift H to $\tilde{H} : I \times I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ which implies $\tilde{f}_0(1) = \tilde{f}_1(1)$.

φ is surjective, since for any $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ we may consider the loop ω_n where $\tilde{\omega}_n(1) = n$.

φ is a group homomorphism since $\varphi[f \cdot g] = \tilde{f \cdot g}(1) = \tilde{g} + \tilde{f}(1) = \varphi[f] + \varphi[g]$.

φ is injective, since if $\varphi[f] = 0$ (i.e. $\tilde{f}(0) = 0$) then \tilde{f} is a loop in \mathbb{R} and \tilde{f} is null-homotopic to c_0 by H . Therefore $\pi \circ \tilde{H}$ is a path-homotopy between f and c_{x_0} (i.e. $[f] = e$).

Path-Lifting

For $f : I \rightarrow X$, we have a special case where $\text{im } f \subseteq U$ evenly covered. Write $\pi^{-1}(U) = \dot{\bigcup} \tilde{U}_\alpha$ and pick the \tilde{U}_α which contains \tilde{x}_0 . Since $\pi|_{\tilde{U}_\alpha} : \tilde{U}_\alpha \rightarrow U$ is a homeomorphism, $\tilde{f} := (\pi|_{\tilde{U}_\alpha})^{-1} \circ f$ is the unique lift of f at \tilde{x}_0 .

In general, pick a partition of $I = [0, 1]$, $0 = t_0 < t_1 < \dots < t_m = 1$, such that $\text{im } f|_{[t_i, t_{i+1}]} \subseteq U_i$ evenly covered. We can lift $f|_{[0, t_1]}$ at \tilde{x}_0 , giving $\tilde{f} : [0, t_1] \rightarrow \tilde{X}$. Next, we lift $f|_{[t_1, t_2]}$ at $\tilde{f}(t_1) \in \tilde{X}$. Since the partition is finite, we may repeat the process until f is entirely lifted. This lift is unique.

Homotopy Lifting

For each fixed $(y_0, t_0) \in I \times I$, by continuity, there is a neighborhood $N(y_0) \times (t_0 - \varepsilon, t_0 + \varepsilon)$ such that H sends $N(y_0) \times (t_0 - \varepsilon, t_0 + \varepsilon)$ inside an evenly covered neighborhood. By compactness of $\{y_0\} \times [0, 1]$, there is a finite collection of $N_{t_i}(y_0) \times (t_i - \varepsilon_i, t_i + \varepsilon_i)$ such that they cover $\{y_0\} \times I$ and the image of each under H is contained in an evenly covered neighborhood. Set $N = \bigcap_i N_{t_i}(y_0)$, a neighborhood of y_0 , and construct a partition $0 = t_0 < t_1 < \dots < t_m = 1$ such that $H(N \times [t_i, t_{i+1}]) \subseteq U_i$ evenly covered. Then we can start with $H|_{N \times [0, t_1]}$ and lift it at \tilde{x}_0 by some $(\pi|_{\tilde{U}_\alpha})^{-1}$. Then lift each $H|_{N \times [t_i, t_{i+1}]}$ one by one. Eventually, we have $\tilde{H} : N \times [0, 1] \rightarrow \tilde{X}$ that lifts $H : N \times [0, 1] \rightarrow \tilde{X}$ at \tilde{x}_0 . This lift holds for any $y_0 \in I$ and, if two strips overlap, then the lift must agree there by the uniqueness of path lifting. This assures that $\tilde{H} : I^2 \rightarrow \tilde{X}$ is continuous.

Remark

Given a continuous map $F : Y \times I \rightarrow X$ and a covering $\pi : \tilde{X} \rightarrow X$, suppose that we have a map $\tilde{F} : Y \times \{0\} \rightarrow \tilde{X}$ that lifts $F|_{Y \times \{0\}} : Y \times \{0\} \rightarrow X$. Then there is a unique lift $\tilde{F} : Y \times I \rightarrow \tilde{X}$ of F which extends $\tilde{F} : Y \times \{0\} \rightarrow \tilde{X}$.

Theorem: Fundamental Theorem of Algebra

A polynomial $p(z) = z^n + a_1 z^{n-1} + \cdots + a_{n-1} z + a_n$ (with $a_i \in \mathbb{C}$) has a root in \mathbb{C} .

Proof

Suppose otherwise. Then $p(z) \neq 0, \forall z \in \mathbb{C}$. Consider $f_r : [0, 1] \rightarrow S^1$ ($r \geq 0$) by

$$f_r(s) = \frac{p(re^{2\pi i s})/p(r)}{|p(re^{2\pi i s})/p(r)|}.$$

Then $f_0(s) \equiv 1$ is a constant loop at $1 \in \mathbb{C}$, and $f_r \simeq f_0$ for each $r \geq 0$. Consider $R \geq 1$ large such that $R \gg \sum_{i=1}^n |a_i|$. On $\{z : |z| = R\}$, we have

$$|z^n| > \left(\sum_{i=1}^n |a_i| \right) \cdot |z^{n-1}| \geq \sum_{i=1}^n |a_i| \cdot |z^{n-i}| = \left| \sum_{i=1}^n a_i z^{n-i} \right|.$$

This implies that p does not have any roots on $\{|z| = R\}$. Moreover, for $p_t(z) = z^n + t(a_1 z^{n-1} + \cdots + a_{n-1} z + a_n)$ with $0 \leq t \leq 1$, p_t does not have any roots on $\{|z| = R\}$. Consider

$$f_{R,t}(s) = \frac{p_t(Re^{2\pi i s})/p_t(R)}{|p_t(Re^{2\pi i s})/p_t(R)|}.$$

Then

$$f_{R,0}(s) = \frac{(Re^{2\pi i s})^n / R^n}{|(Re^{2\pi i s})^n / R^n|} = (e^{2\pi i s})^n = \omega_n(s).$$

Therefore $f_{R,1}(s) \simeq f_R(s)$ and $f_R \simeq \omega_n$. But since $\omega_n \neq \text{constant}$ so this is a contradiction.

April 7, 2025

Definition: Retraction

Let X be a space and $A \subseteq X$ be a subset. We say that a continuous map $r : X \rightarrow A$ is a retraction if $r|_A = \text{id}_A$. In particular, because $r \circ \iota_A = \text{id}_A$, for $x_0 \in A$

$$r_* \circ (\iota_A)_* : \pi_1(A, x_0) \rightarrow \pi_1(A, x_0)$$

is an isomorphism. Hence $r_* : \pi(X, x_0) \rightarrow \pi(A, x_0)$ is surjective.

Corollary

There is no retraction $r : D^2 \rightarrow S^1 (= \partial D^2)$.

Proof

Suppose there is such a map r , then

$$r_* : \overbrace{\pi_1(D^2, x_0)}^{=0} \rightarrow \overbrace{\pi_1(S^1, x_0)}^{=\mathbb{Z}}$$

is surjective which is a contradiction.

Corollary

Every continuous map $h : D^2 \rightarrow D^2$ has a fixed point.

Proof

Suppose $\exists h : D^2 \rightarrow D^2$ without fixed points.

IMAGE 1

Define $r : D^2 \rightarrow D^2$ as the ray pictured from $h(x)$ through x to the boundary. If $x \in \partial D^2$, then by construction $r(x) = x$. Hence $r : D^2 \rightarrow S^1$ is a retraction which is a contradiction.

Corollary (Borsuk-Ulam)

Let $f : S^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$. Then there exists a pair of antipodal points x and $-x$ on S^2 such that $f(x) = f(-x)$. This carries analogously to higher dimensions.

Proof

Suppose that $f(x) \neq f(-x)$ for all $x \in S^2$. We define $g : S^2 \rightarrow S^1$ by $g(x) = \frac{f(x)-f(-x)}{\|f(x)-f(-x)\|}$. On $S^2 \subseteq \mathbb{R}^3$, we consider a loop γ at the equator by $\gamma(s) = (\cos(2\pi s), \sin(2\pi s), 0)$ for $s \in [0, 1]$. Because S^2 is simply connected, $g \circ \gamma : [0, 1] \rightarrow S^1$ is path-homotopic to a constant loop in S^1 . On the other hand, we lift $h := g \circ \gamma$ to $\tilde{h} : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ with $\tilde{h}(0) = 0 \in \mathbb{R}$. Note

$$h(s + 1/2) = g \circ \gamma(s + 1/2) = g(\cos(2\pi s + \pi), \sin(2\pi s + \pi), 0) = g(-\gamma(s)) = -g(\gamma(s)) = -h(s).$$

Hence $\tilde{h}(s + 1/2) \in \pi^{-1}(-h(s))$ where $\pi : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow S^1$ is the covering map. Since $\pi^{-1}(-h(s)) = \frac{1}{2} + \tilde{h}(s) + \mathbb{Z}$, for each $s \in [0, 1/2]$ there is an integer q_s such that $\tilde{h}(s + 1/2) = \frac{1}{2} + \tilde{h}(s) + q_s$ and

$$\tilde{h}(s + 1/2) - \tilde{h}(s) = \frac{1}{2} + q_s.$$

The left hand side depends continuously on s and, by continuity, q_s is a constant (call it q). This gives

$$\tilde{h}(1) = \tilde{h}(1/2) + \frac{1}{2} + q = \tilde{h}(0) + 1 + 2q = 1 + 2q \neq 0$$

which contradicts the assertion that h is homotopic to a constant loop.

Corollary (Large Fiber Lemma)

If $f : [0, 1]^{n+1} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ is a continuous map, then there exist $a, b \in [0, 1]^{n+1}$ such that $f(a) = f(b)$ and $|a - b| \geq 1$.

Remark: if $z = f(a) = f(b)$, then the lemma says that $\text{diam } f^{-1}(z) \geq 1$.

Proof

Take the sphere of radius $1/2$ in $[0, 1]^{n+1}$, then by Borsuk-Ulam there exist a pair of antipodal points $a, b \in S^1$ such that $f(a) = f(b)$ and $|a - b| \geq 1$.

Proposition

$$\pi_1(X \times Y) \cong \pi_1(X) \times \pi_1(Y)$$

Proof

Write $F : \pi_1(X \times Y) \rightarrow \pi_1(X) \times \pi_1(Y)$ by $[f] \mapsto ([g], [h])$. Then $f : [0, 1] \rightarrow X \times Y$ is a loop at (x_0, y_0) , $f(s) = (g(s), h(s))$, and $g : [0, 1] \rightarrow X$ and $h : [0, 1] \rightarrow Y$ are loops at x_0 and y_0 respectively.

Definition: Wedge Sum

Let X and Y be path-connected topological spaces. Then $X \vee Y = (X \amalg Y) / x_0 \sim y_0$

Let $\{X_\alpha\}$ be a family of such spaces. Then $\bigvee_\alpha X_\alpha = \bigamalg_\alpha X_\alpha / \sim$.

Sketch

$$\pi_1(S_-^1, x_0) \rightarrow \pi_1(X, x_0) \quad \text{gen} \mapsto \alpha$$

$$\pi_1(S_+^1, x_0) \rightarrow \pi_1(X, x_0) \quad \text{gen} \mapsto \beta$$

with $\alpha \neq \beta$, $\alpha\beta \neq \beta\alpha$. Then $\pi_1(X, x_0)$ should be $\langle \alpha, \beta \rangle$.

Definition: Free Product

Let $\{G_\alpha\}_\alpha$ be a family of groups. $*_\alpha G_\alpha = \{g_1 g_2 \cdots g_k : \text{each } g_i \text{ is a word in some } A_\alpha\}$.

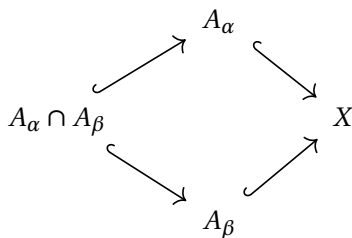
Proposition

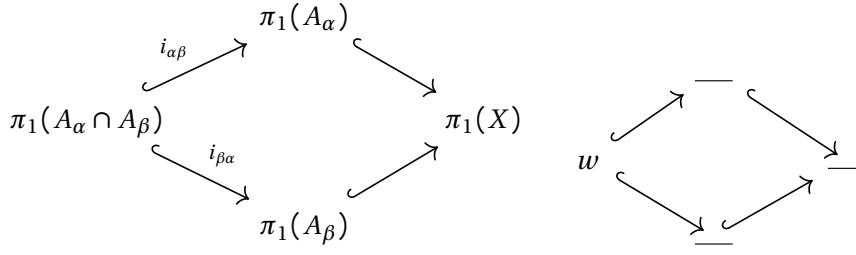
If for each α , there is a group homomorphism $\phi_\alpha : G_\alpha \rightarrow H$ then $\{\phi_\alpha\}$ induces a group homomorphism $\Phi : *_\alpha G_\alpha \rightarrow H$ by $g_1 \cdots g_k \mapsto \phi_{\alpha_1}(g_1) \cdots \phi_{\alpha_k}(g_k)$.

Van-Kapen Theorem

Setup

Let $X = \bigcup_\alpha A_\alpha$, each A_α open and connected where $\{A_\alpha\}$ have a common point x_0 . Assume also that each $A_\alpha \cap A_\beta$ is path connected. Then $j_\alpha : A_\alpha \hookrightarrow X$ induces $j_\alpha : \pi_1(A_\alpha, x_0) \rightarrow \pi_1(X, x_0)$. $\{j_\alpha\}_\alpha$ induces $\Phi : *_\alpha \pi_1(A_\alpha, x_0) \rightarrow \pi_1(X, x_0)$ which is surjective by a similar argument as was used above for Example (*) ($S^2 = A_- \cup A_+$) applied to $X = \bigcup_\alpha A_\alpha$. Now, what is the kernel of Φ ?





Then $i_{\beta\alpha}(w)i_{\alpha\beta}(w)^{-1}$ is NOT id in $*_\alpha\pi_1(A_\alpha)$.

But through Φ , it should be $\text{id} \in \pi_1(X, x_0)$. Hence every element in $*_\alpha\pi_1(A_\alpha)$ of the form $i_{\beta\alpha}(w)i_{\alpha\beta}(w)^{-1}$ where $w \in \pi_1(A_\alpha \cap A_\beta)$ is in the kernel of Φ .

Theorem (Van-Kampen)

If every $A_\alpha \cap A_\beta \cap A_\gamma$ is path connected, $\ker \Phi$ is the normal subgroup N generated by $\{i_{\beta\alpha}(w)i_{\alpha\beta}(w)^{-1} : \alpha, \beta \in A, w \in \pi_1(A_\alpha \cap A_\beta)\}$. Hence $\pi_1(X, x_0) \cong (*_\alpha\pi_1(A_\alpha, x_0))/N$.

Remarks

1. In the case that $X = A_0 \cup A_1$ with $A_0 \cap A_1$ path connected, then the intersection condition holds.
2. If $X = A_0 \cup A_1$ and $A_0 \cap A_1$ is simply connected, then $N = \{\text{id}\}$ and $\pi_1(X) = \pi_1(A_0) * \pi_1(A_1)$.
3. If $X = A_0 \cup A_1$ and A_1 is simply connected, then $\pi_1(X) = \pi_1(A_0)/N$ and N is the normal subgroup generated by

$$i_{01}(w) \overbrace{i_{10}(w)^{-1}}^{\in \pi_1(A_1, x_0)} = i_{01}(w)$$

i.e. N is the normal closure of $i_{01}(\pi_1(A_0 \cap A_1))$.

Example

IMAGE 2

For each $\alpha \in \{1, \dots, 5\}$, let A_α be a small neighborhood of $T \cup e_1$. Every double/triple intersection is a neighborhood of T . Hence it is path continuous and we have that $\pi_1(A_\alpha) = \mathbb{Z}$. Thus $\pi_1(A_\alpha \cap A_\beta) = \text{id}$, and $\pi_1(X) = *_\alpha\pi_1(A_\alpha)/N = *_1^5\mathbb{Z}$.

Example

IMAGE 3

By Van-Kampen, $\pi_1(X) = \pi_1(A_0)$ modulo the normal closure of $i(\pi_1(A_0 \cap A_1))$. That is

$$\langle a, b \mid aba^{-1}b^1 \rangle = \mathbb{Z}^2.$$

Remark

In general, orientable M_g is the connected sum of g many toruses.

April 9, 2025

Recall: Van-Kampen Theorem

Write $\pi_1(X) = (\pi_1(A) * \pi_1(B))/N$ where N is the normal closure of $i_{\alpha\beta}(w)i_{\beta\alpha}(w)^{-1}$ for $w \in \pi_1(A \cap B)$, $i_{\alpha\beta} : \pi_1(A \cap B) \rightarrow \pi_1(A)$ and $i_{\beta\alpha} : \pi_1(A \cap B) \rightarrow \pi_1(B)$.

Example

M_g is the connected sum of g many tori, and $\pi_1(M_g) = \langle a_1, b_1, \dots, a_g, b_g \mid [a_1 b_1] \cdots [a_g b_g] \rangle$.

Example

N_g is the connected sum of g many \mathbb{RP}^2 (e.g. N_2 is the Klein bottle). N_g has a polygon-representation by the $2g$ -gon with boundary identified through $a_1 a_1 a_2 a_2 \cdots a_g a_g$. Therefore $\pi_1(N_g) = \langle a_1 \cdots a_g \mid a_1^2 \cdots a_g^2 \rangle$.

Abelianization

1. $\text{Ab}(\pi_1(M_g))$ is the free abelian group generated by $\{a_1, b_1, \dots, a_g, b_g\} = \mathbb{Z}^{2g}$.
2. $\text{Ab}(\pi_1(N_g)) = \text{Ab}(\langle a_1 \cdots a_{g-1} a_1 a_2 \cdots a_g \mid a_1^2 \cdots a_g^2 \rangle) = \mathbb{Z}^{g-1} \oplus \mathbb{Z}_2$.

Corollary

None of the surfaces in $\{S^2, M_1, \dots, M_g, \dots, N_1, \dots, N_g, \dots\}$ are homotopic to each other.

Definition: Cell Complex

0-cells are points; 1-cells, e^1 , are intervals; 2-cells, e^2 , are disks; n -cells, e^n , are \overline{B}^n .

A cell complex for space X is a decomposition (assuming finite dimensions) $X = X^0 \cup X^1 \cup \dots \cup X^n$ where X^0 is the discrete set of points (i.e. 0-cells), X^1 is the space obtained by gluing 1-cells to X^0 ($\varphi_\alpha : \partial e_\alpha^1 \rightarrow X^0$), X^2 is the space obtained by gluing 2-cells to X^1 ($\varphi_\alpha : \partial e_\alpha^2 \rightarrow X^1$), and in general X^n is obtained by gluing n -cells $\{e_\alpha^n\}_\alpha$ to X^{n-1} by $\varphi_\alpha : \partial e_\alpha^n = S^{n-1} \rightarrow X^{n-1}$.

Examples

Cell complexes need not be unique. $S^2 = X^1 \cup_\alpha e_+^2 \cup_\alpha e_-^2$ and $S^2 = \{e^0\} \cup_\alpha \{e^2\}$.

$\mathbb{RP}^2 = \{e^1\} \cup_\alpha \{e^2\}$ where φ_α is given by $z \mapsto z^2$.

\mathbb{T}^2 is gluing e^2 to $S^1 \vee S^1$.

Theorem (Computing Fundamental Group)

Set up

Let X be a path-connected space, $Y = X \cup_\alpha e_\alpha^2$ (i.e. X is created by gluing 2-cells $\{e_\alpha^2\}_\alpha$ to X via $\phi_\alpha : \partial e_\alpha^2 \rightarrow X$). The inclusion $\iota : X \rightarrow Y$ induces $\iota_* : \pi_1(X) \rightarrow \pi_1(Y)$. Fix a base point $s_0 \in S^1$. For each α we draw a path γ_α from x_0 to $\varphi_\alpha(s_0)$. Then $\gamma_\alpha \cdot \varphi_\alpha \cdot \bar{\gamma}_\alpha$ is a loop based at x_0 . Thus $\gamma_\alpha \cdot \varphi_\alpha \cdot \bar{\gamma}_\alpha$ is null-homotopic in Y (because φ_α is null-homotopic in e_α^2). That is $\iota_*[\gamma_\alpha \cdot \varphi_\alpha \cdot \bar{\gamma}_\alpha] = \text{id}$ in $\pi_1(Y)$ and is therefore in the kernel.

Theorem

Let N be the normal subgroup in $\pi_1(X)$ generated by elements of the form $[\gamma_\alpha \cdot \varphi_\alpha \cdot \bar{\gamma}_\alpha]$. Then $\pi_1(Y) \cong \pi_1(X)/N$.

IMAGE 1

Example

\mathbb{RP}^2 is X^1 with e^2 glued to it by the map $\varphi : z \mapsto z^2$. Then $\pi_1(\mathbb{RP}^2) = \pi_1(S^1)/N = \langle \gamma \mid \gamma^2 \rangle$ where N is generated by φ . Similarly, the theorem applies to any M_g or N_g .

Definition: Deformation Retraction

For $X \subseteq Z$, $r : Z \rightarrow X$ is a retraction if $r|_X = \text{id}_X$ implies $r \circ \iota = \text{id}_X$. If $\iota \circ r : Z \rightarrow Z$ is homotopic to id_Z , then $r_* : \pi_1(Z) \rightarrow \pi_1(X)$ is an isomorphism.

Proof

For each α , we glue a strip S_α along γ_α . We set the base at z_0 above x_0 , $Z = Y \cup_\alpha S_\alpha$. Y is a deformation retraction of Z ($\pi_1(Y) = \pi_1(Z)$).

IMAGE 2

Set $A = Z - \bigcup_\alpha \{y_\alpha\}$, where y_α is a point in e_α^2 not intersecting S_α . $B = Z - X$. A deformation retracts to X $\pi_1(A) = \pi_1(X)$. B is the union of some S_α (removing r_α) and some e_α^2 (removing ∂e_α^2). B is contractible, $\pi_1(B) = \text{id}$ and $A \cap B$ is the union of strips S_α and open disks punctured at y_α . Therefore

$$\pi_1(Y) = \pi_1(Z) = (\pi_1(A) * \pi_1(B))/N = \pi_1(A)/\iota_*(\pi_1(A \cap B)) \cong \pi_1(X)/\iota_*(\pi_1(A \cap B)).$$

Consider the loop $\delta_\alpha \cdot \gamma_\alpha \cdot \varphi_\alpha \cdot \bar{\gamma}_\alpha \cdot \bar{\delta}_\alpha$ where δ_α runs from z_0 to x_0 , call this λ_α . It suffices to show that these generate $\pi_1(A \cap B, z_0)$. Cover $A \cap B$ by $A_\alpha = (A \cap B) - \bigcup_{\beta \neq \alpha} e_\beta^2$. Then A_α is a union of strips (with trivial fundamental group) and a single punctured, open disk $e_\alpha^2 - \{y_\alpha\}$ and $\pi_1(A_\alpha) = \mathbb{Z} = \langle \lambda_\alpha \rangle$. So $A_\alpha \cap A_\beta$ is the union of strips, equal to $A_\alpha \cap A_\beta \cap A_\gamma$ and simply connected. By Van-Kampen,

$$\pi_1(A \cap B) = (*_\alpha \pi_1(A_\alpha))/N = *_\alpha \pi_1(A_\alpha)$$

is the free group generated by $\{\lambda_\alpha\}_\alpha$. This completes the proof.

Generalization (Theorem: Part 2)

If $Y = X \cup_\alpha e_\alpha^n$ for $n \geq 3$, then $\pi_1(Y) \cong \pi_1(X)$.

This follows from the same argument where instead A_α is the union of strips and a single punctured ball $B^n - \{y_\alpha\} \simeq S^{n-1}$. So $\pi_1(A_\alpha) = \text{id}$, $\pi_1(A \cap B) = \text{id}$, and $\pi_1(X) \cong \pi_1(Y)$.

Theorem: Part 3

Suppose X has a cell complex $X = X^0 \cup X^1 \cup \dots \cup X^n$. Then $\pi_1(X) \cong \pi_1(X^2)$.

The proof follows directly from part 2.

Corollary

Given any group represented by generators and relations $G = \langle g_\alpha \mid r_\beta \rangle$, there is a cell complex X_G , of dimension 2, such that $\pi_1(X_G) \cong G$.

Proof

For each g_α , we draw a circle S_α^1 . Then $X^1 = \bigvee_\alpha S_\alpha^1$ has fundamental group $*_a \pi_1(S_\alpha) = \langle g_\alpha \rangle_\alpha$. To construct X_G , for each r_β glue a 2-cell e_α^2 along r_β (think of r_β as a loop in X^1). Then in $X_G := X^1 \cup_\beta e_\beta^2$ we have $\pi_1(X_G) = \langle g_\alpha \mid r_\beta \rangle$.

April 14, 2025

Recall: Covering Spaces

Let $p : \tilde{X} \rightarrow X$, both X and \tilde{X} path-connected.

1. Path-lifting: let $f : I \rightarrow X$ starting at $f(0) = x_0$. There is a unique lifting \tilde{f} of f at $\tilde{x}_0 \in p^{-1}(x_0)$.
2. Homotopy-lifting: let $f_0, f_1 : I \rightarrow X$ be two paths with $f_0(0) = f_1(0) = x_0$ and $f_0(1) = f_1(1)$. Suppose f_t is a path-homotopy between f_0 and f_1 . Then there exists a unique lift \tilde{f}_t between \tilde{f}_0 and \tilde{f}_1 at $\tilde{x} \in p^{-1}(x)$.

These come from the following: let $f_t : Y \rightarrow X$ be a homotopy between f_0 and f_1 . Given $\tilde{f}_0 : Y \rightarrow \tilde{X}$ that lifts f_0 , there exists a unique lifting \tilde{f}_t . For path-lifting, we take Y a point; for homotopy-lifting, $Y = [0, 1]$.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & \tilde{X} & \\ f \nearrow & & \downarrow p \\ I & \xrightarrow{p \circ f} & X \end{array}$$

Proposition 1.31 (in Hatcher)

The covering map $p : \tilde{X} \rightarrow X$ induces $p_* : \pi_1(\tilde{X}, \tilde{x}_0) \rightarrow \pi_1(X, x)$.

1. p_* is injective.
2. $p_*(\pi_1(\tilde{X}, \tilde{x}_0))$ are exactly loops at x_0 that lift to loops at \tilde{x}_0 .

Proof of 1

Suppose $p_*[f] = \text{id} \in \pi_1(X, x_0)$ where $[f] \in \pi_1(\tilde{X}, \tilde{x}_0)$. Then $[p \circ f] = \text{id}$, and $[p \circ f]$ is path-homotopic to the constant loop c_{x_0} . Hence the lifting $\tilde{p \circ f} = f$ is path-homotopic to a constant loop $c_{\tilde{x}_0}$.

Proof of 2

Let $[f] \in \pi_1(\tilde{X}, \tilde{x}_0)$. $p_*[f] = [p \circ f]$, $p \circ f$ lifts to f at \tilde{x}_0 which is a loop at \tilde{x}_0 .

Let f be a loop at \tilde{x}_0 . Suppose f lifts to a loop \tilde{f} at \tilde{x}_0 (i.e. $p \circ \tilde{f} = f$). Hence $[f] = [p \circ \tilde{f}] = p_*[\tilde{f}] \in p_*(\pi_1(\tilde{X}, \tilde{x}_0))$.

Example

If $p : S^1 \rightarrow S^1$ by $z \rightarrow z^2$, then $p_*(\pi_1(S^1, 1)) = 2\mathbb{Z} \leq \mathbb{Z} = \pi_1(S^1, 1)$.

Remark

If $p : \tilde{X} \rightarrow X$ connected, then $p^{-1}(x)$ has the same cardinality for all $x \in X$.

Proof

Fix $x_0 \in X$. Consider $\mathcal{A} = \{x \in X : p^{-1}(x) \text{ and } p^{-1}(x_0) \text{ have the same cardinality}\} \neq \emptyset$. Then \mathcal{A} is open since for each $x \in \mathcal{A}$, there is a neighborhood U of x such that U is evenly covered by p (i.e. $p^{-1}(U) = \bigcup_{\alpha \in I} V_\alpha$ where $V_\alpha \stackrel{p}{\cong} U$). Then $p^{-1}(x')$ has cardinality $|I|$ for all $x' \in U$. It follows, since \mathcal{A}^c is open, that \mathcal{A} is also closed.

Proposition

The number of sheets is given by $[\pi_1(X, x_0) : p_*(\pi_1(\tilde{X}, \tilde{x}_0))]$.

Proof

Write $H = p_*(\pi_1(\tilde{X}, \tilde{x}_0))$. Define $\Phi : \{H\text{-cosets in } \pi_1(X, x_0)\} \rightarrow p^{-1}(x_0)$ by $H[g] \mapsto \tilde{g}(1)$ where \tilde{g} is a lift of g at \tilde{x}_0 . This map is well defined, since for $[h \cdot g]$ with $h \in H$, $\overline{h \cdot g}(1) = \tilde{g}(1)$ (because $\tilde{h}(1) = \tilde{x}_0$). Φ is surjective. Let $\tilde{x}_1 \in p^{-1}(x_0)$

IMAGE 1

and let \tilde{g} be a path from \tilde{x}_0 to \tilde{x}_1 . Define $g = p \circ \tilde{g}$, a loop at x_0 . Then $\Phi(H[g]) = \tilde{g}(1) = \tilde{x}_1$. Φ is injective. Suppose $\Phi(H[g_1]) = \Phi(H[g_2])$ (i.e. $\tilde{g}_1(1) = \tilde{g}_2(1)$).

IMAGE 2

Consider the loop $g_1 \bar{g}_2$ in X at x_0 . It lifts to $\tilde{g}_1 \bar{\tilde{g}_2}$, which is a loop at \tilde{x}_0 . This shows that $[g_1 \bar{g}_2] \in H$ (i.e. $H[g_1] = H[g_2]$).

Recall (Manifolds 2)

If a smooth manifold M is non-orientable, then there is a double cover (2 sheets) $p : \hat{M} \rightarrow M$ (\hat{M} connected). Consequently, $\pi_1(M)$ has a subgroup of index 2.

Definition: Locally Path-Connected

A topological space is called locally path-connected if for each $x \in X$ and every neighborhood $U \ni x$, there is a neighborhood $V \ni x$ such that $V \subseteq U$ and V is path-connected (i.e. $\forall x \in X$, there exists a local basis $\{U_\alpha\}$ at x such that each U_α is path-connected). For example, the Topologist's sine curve with endpoints identified is path-connected but not locally path-connected.

Proposition: Lifting Criterion

Let Y be path-connected and locally path-connected. Given a covering map $p : (\tilde{X}, \tilde{x}_0) \rightarrow (X, x_0)$ and a map $f : (Y, y_0) \rightarrow (X, x_0)$, f has a lift \tilde{f} at \tilde{x}_0 ($\tilde{f}(y_0) = \tilde{x}_0$) if and only if $f_*(\pi_1(Y, y_0)) \subseteq p_*(\pi_1(\tilde{X}, \tilde{x}_0))$.

Proof

(\Rightarrow)

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & \tilde{X} & \\ \tilde{f} \nearrow & \downarrow p & \\ Y & \xrightarrow{f} & X \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{ccc} & \pi(\tilde{X}) & \\ \tilde{f}_* \nearrow & \downarrow p_* & \\ \pi_1(Y) & \xrightarrow{f_*} & \pi_1(X) \end{array}$$

$$f_*\pi_1(Y) = (p_* \circ \tilde{f}_*)(\pi_1(Y)) \subseteq p_*\pi_1(\tilde{X}).$$

(\Leftarrow) Let $y \in Y$, and draw a path γ from y_0 to y .

IMAGE 3

We lift $f \circ \gamma$ to a path in \tilde{X} starting at \tilde{x}_0 and define $\tilde{f}(y)$ as the endpoint (i.e. $\tilde{f}(y) = \widetilde{f \circ \gamma}(a)$).

This is well-defined, since $(f \circ \gamma) \cdot (f \circ \gamma')$ is a loop at x_0 and $[(f \circ \gamma) \cdot (f \circ \gamma')] = f_*[\gamma \cdot \gamma'] \in f_*\pi_1(Y, y_0) \leq p_*\pi_1(\tilde{X}, \tilde{x}_0)$. Hence $(f \circ \gamma) \cdot (f \circ \gamma')$ lifts to a loop at \tilde{x}_0 .

IMAGE 4

Therefore $\widetilde{f \circ \gamma}(1) = \widetilde{f \circ \gamma'}(1)$.

\tilde{f} is continuous. Fix $f(y) \in X$ and let U be a neighborhood of $f(y)$ that is evenly covered by p . Choose a path-connected neighborhood V of y such that $f(V) \subseteq U$. We check $\tilde{f}|_V$.

IMAGE 5

Because V is path-connected, we may draw a path η in V from y to y' . Then $\tilde{f}(y') = \widetilde{f \circ \gamma \circ \eta}(1)$, and $\widetilde{\gamma \cdot \eta}$ is first lifting $f \circ \gamma$ at \tilde{x}_0 followed by lifting $f \circ \eta$ at $\tilde{\gamma}(1)$. Let $\tilde{U} \subseteq \tilde{X}$ such that $p|_{\tilde{U}} : \tilde{U} \rightarrow U$ is a homeomorphism and $\widetilde{f \circ \gamma}(1) \in \tilde{U}$. Then $\widetilde{f \circ \eta}(1) = (p^{-1})|_U \circ f(y')$. Hence $\tilde{f}(y') = f \circ (\gamma \circ \eta)(1) = \widetilde{f \circ \eta}(1) = (p^{-1})|_U \circ f(y')$ (i.e. $\tilde{f} = (p^{-1})|_U = f$ on V). Hence \tilde{f} is continuous at y .

\tilde{f} is a lift of f . In fact, $(p \circ \tilde{f})(y) = p \circ (\tilde{f}\gamma(1)) = f(y)$.

Corollary

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & \tilde{X} & \\ & \downarrow p & \\ Y & \xrightarrow{f} & X \end{array}$$

If Y is simply connected, then $f_*\pi_1(Y) \leq p_*\pi_1(\tilde{X})$ always holds (i.e. we can always lift f to $\tilde{f} : Y \rightarrow \tilde{X}$ in this case).

Proposition: Unique Lifting

Given $p : \tilde{X} \rightarrow X$ and $f : Y \rightarrow X$, if two lifts \tilde{f}_1 and \tilde{f}_2 of f agree at one point, then they agree everywhere on Y .

Proof

Take $\mathcal{A} = \{y \in Y : \tilde{f}_1(y) = \tilde{f}_2(y)\} \neq \emptyset$. Locally for each $y \in Y$ there exists a neighborhood V of y such that $\tilde{f} = (p^{-1})|_U \circ f$. If $y \in \mathcal{A}$, then $\tilde{f}_1(y) = \tilde{f}_2(y)$. Take a neighborhood U of $f(y)$ that is evenly covered and \tilde{U} of $\tilde{f}_1(y) = \tilde{f}_2(y)$ such that $p|_{\tilde{U}} : \tilde{U} \rightarrow U$ is a homeomorphism. Then on V , a path-connected neighborhood such that $f(V) \subseteq U$, $\tilde{f}_i = (p^{-1})|_U \circ f$ (i.e. $\tilde{f}_1 = \tilde{f}_2$ on V). If $y \in \mathcal{A}^c$, $\tilde{f}_1(y) \neq \tilde{f}_2(y)$. Then $\tilde{U}_i \ni \tilde{f}_i(y)$ with $\tilde{U}_1 \cap \tilde{U}_2 = \emptyset$. Then on V , $\tilde{f}_i = (p^{-1})|_{\tilde{U}_i} \circ f$ (ie \tilde{f}_1 and \tilde{f}_2 never agree on V). Hence $\mathcal{A} = Y$.

Remark

If $p : \tilde{X} \rightarrow X$ is a covering map, recall that a covering transformation is a map $f : \tilde{X} \rightarrow \tilde{X}$ such that

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \tilde{X} & \xrightarrow{f} & \tilde{X} \\ & \searrow p & \swarrow p \\ & X & \end{array}$$

commutes. This $f : \tilde{X} \rightarrow \tilde{X}$ is a lift of $p : \tilde{X} \rightarrow X$. If we fix $\tilde{x}_1, \tilde{x}_2 \in p^{-1}(x_0)$, the lifting criterion says that $p_*\pi_1(\tilde{X}, \tilde{x}_1) \leq p_*\pi_1(\tilde{X}, \tilde{x}_2)$. In particular, if $\pi_1(\tilde{X})$ is trivial, then this holds. Hence there is a unique lift of p (i.e. covering transformation) f such that $f(\tilde{x}_1) = \tilde{x}_2$.

April 16, 2025

Question

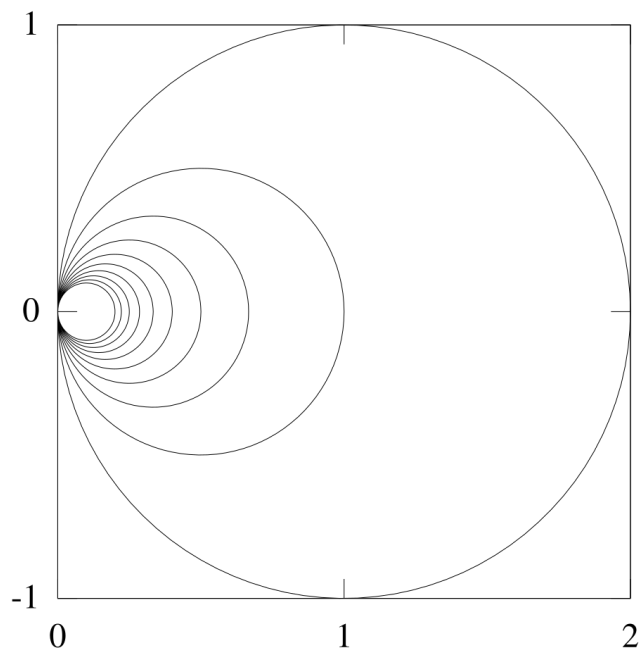
Given X path-connected and locally path-connected, when does X admit a simply connected covering space $p : \tilde{X} \rightarrow X$?

Definition: Semi-locally Simply Connected

We say that X is semi-locally simply connected if for any $x \in X$ there exists a neighborhood U such that every loop in U is null-homotopic in X . That is $\text{Im}(\pi_1(U) \rightarrow \pi_1(X))$ is trivial.

Non-example

The Hawaiian earring in \mathbb{R}^2 .



Example

The cones over the Hawaiian earring.

IMAGE 1

In fact, this is simply connected.

Example

The double Hawaiian earring with cones.

IMAGE 2

Theorem

X has a simply connected covering space (i.e. a universal covering) if and only if X is semi-locally simply connected.

Proof

(\implies) Let $x \in X$ and pick a neighborhood U of x that is evenly covered by p . Let f be a loop at x in U . f lifts to \tilde{f} at \tilde{x}_0 , which is a loop. Retract \tilde{f} to $c_{\tilde{x}_0}$ by a path-homotopy H . Then $p \circ H$ shows that f is null-homotopic in X .

(\impliedby) We construct \tilde{X} as follows: fix $x_0 \in X$ and set $\tilde{X} = \{[\gamma] \text{ path homotopies} : \gamma \text{ is a path starting at } x_0\}$. Let $\mathcal{U} = \{U : \text{Im}(\pi_1(U) \rightarrow \pi_1(X)) \text{ is trivial}\}$. By assumption \mathcal{U} is a basis for X . For each $u \in \mathcal{U}$ and each γ from x_0 to a point in U , we define $U_{[\gamma]} = \{\gamma \cdot \eta : \eta \text{ starting at } \gamma(1) \text{ stays in } U\}$. Then $p : \tilde{X} \rightarrow X$ by $[\gamma] \rightarrow \gamma(1)$.

We need to check that $\{U_{[\gamma]} : U \in \mathcal{U}, \gamma \text{ a path from } x_0 \text{ to a point in } U\}$ generates a topology on \tilde{X} .

We need also to check that $p : U_{[\gamma]} \rightarrow U$ is bijective. It is clearly surjective, and if $p[\gamma \cdot \eta] = p[\gamma \cdot \delta]$ with η, δ paths starting at $\gamma(1)$ and staying in U . Then $\eta(1) = \delta(1)$ and, since η, δ share the same endpoints and they stay in $U_{[\gamma]}$, then $[\eta] = [\delta]$. Hence $[\gamma \cdot \eta] = [\gamma \cdot \delta]$ and p is injective.

Further, we need to check that $p : U_{[\gamma]} \rightarrow U$ is a homeomorphism and that $p^{-1}(U) = \bigcup_{[\gamma]} U_{[\gamma]}$. Hence p is a covering map.

Finally, we need to check that \tilde{X} is simply connected. Recall that $p : \tilde{X} \rightarrow X$ induces an injective homomorphism $p_* : \pi_1(\tilde{X}, \tilde{x}_0) \rightarrow \pi_1(X, x_0)$. It suffices to show that $p_*\pi_1(\tilde{X}, \tilde{x}_0) = \text{id}$. We set $\tilde{x}_0 = [C_{x_0}] \in \tilde{X}$. Recall also that elements in $p_*\pi_1(\tilde{X}, \tilde{x}_0)$ are exactly the loops in X at x_0 such that they lift to loops at \tilde{x}_0 . Suppose $[\gamma] \in p_*\pi_1(\tilde{X}, \tilde{x}_0)$. Then γ lifts to a loop $\tilde{\gamma}$ at $\tilde{x}_0 = [C_{x_0}]$. For $t \in [0, 1]$, consider the path γ_t which follows γ on $[0, t]$ then stays stationary at $\gamma(t)$ for the remaining time. Then $t \mapsto [\gamma_t]$ is a path on \tilde{X} , $p([\gamma_t]) = \gamma_t(1) = \gamma(t)$, and $t \mapsto [\gamma_t]$ is a lift of γ at $\tilde{x}_0 = [C_{x_0}]$. Then $t \mapsto [\gamma_t]$ is a loop (i.e. $[\gamma] = [\gamma_1] = \tilde{x}_0 = [C_{x_0}]$) and γ is null-homotopic. This shows that $p_*\pi_1(\tilde{X}, \tilde{x}_0) = \text{id}$ (i.e. \tilde{X} is simply connected).

Group Actions on Fibers (Monodromy Action)

Given $p : (\tilde{X}, \tilde{x}_0) \rightarrow (X, x_0)$ a covering map, $\pi_1(X, x_0)$ acts on p^{-1} as follows: $p^{-1}(x_0) \times \pi_1(X, x_0) \rightarrow p^{-1}(x_0)$ by $(e, [f]) \mapsto \tilde{f}_e(1)$ where \tilde{f}_e is the (unique) lift of f at $e \in p^{-1}(x_0)$. This is a right $\pi_1(X, x)$ action.

We want to check that $(e \cdot [f]) \cdot [g] = e \cdot [f \cdot g]$. We have that $e \cdot [f \cdot g] = (\widetilde{f \cdot g})_e(1)$, but $(\widetilde{f \cdot g})_e$ is the lift of f at e followed by the lift of g at the endpoint of \tilde{f}_e , call it $\tilde{f}_e(1) = z$. Then $(\widetilde{f \cdot g})_e(1) = \tilde{g}_z(1) = z \cdot [g] = (e \cdot [f]) \cdot [g]$.

This action is transitive. Given e and e' , draw a path connecting them \tilde{g} . Under the map p , we have that $p \circ \tilde{g} = g$ which is a loop at x_0 . Then $e \cdot [g] = \tilde{g}(1) = e'$.

Recall: Given a right G -set S , $G_s = \{g \in G : s \cdot g = s\}$ is the isotropy subgroup at $s \in S$.

Given $e \in p^{-1}(x_0)$, the isotropy subgroup at e is all the loops such that their lifts at e are loops (i.e. the isotropy subgroup at e is precisely $p_*\pi_1(\tilde{X}, e)$).

Recall: $G \cdot S = G/G_s$. Here, this tells us that $p^{-1}(x_0) = \pi_1(X, x_0)/p_*\pi_1(\tilde{X}, e)$. This recovers the fact that the number of sheets is equal to the index of $\text{im}(p_*)$.

In particular, if \tilde{X} is simply connected, then

- $\pi_1(X, x_0)$ acts freely on $p^{-1}(x_0)$ and
- the number of sheets equals the cardinality of $\pi_1(X, x_0)$.

Definition: Universal Cover

A covering space $p : \tilde{X} \rightarrow X$ is called universal if it has the universal property (i.e. for any covering space $q : Y \rightarrow X$, there is a covering map $\tilde{p} : \tilde{X} \rightarrow Y$ such that the associated diagram commutes).

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
\tilde{X} & \xrightarrow{\tilde{p}} & Y \\
p \downarrow & \swarrow q & \\
X & &
\end{array}$$

Definition: Covering Homomorphism

Let $p_1 : X_1 \rightarrow X$ and $p_2 : X_2 \rightarrow X$ be two covering spaces. A covering homomorphism is a map $\varphi : X_1 \rightarrow X_2$ such that the associated diagram commutes

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
X_1 & \xrightarrow{\varphi} & X_2 \\
p_1 \searrow & & \swarrow p_2 \\
& X &
\end{array}$$

By definition, φ is a lift of p_1 .

Proposition

1. A covering homomorphism φ is uniquely determined by its value at one point.
2. For each $x \in X$, $\varphi|_{p_1^{-1}(x)} : p_1^{-1}(x) \rightarrow p_2^{-1}(x)$ is $\pi_1(X, x_0)$ -equivariant.
3. A covering homomorphism $\varphi : X_1 \rightarrow X_2$ is a covering map. Assuming this, the universal cover is unique.

Recall: if S_1, S_2 are right G -sets, a G -equivariant map $\varphi : S_1 \rightarrow S_2$ is a map such that the associated diagram commutes

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
S_1 & \xrightarrow{\varphi} & S_2 \\
\downarrow \cdot g & & \downarrow \cdot g \\
S_1 & \xrightarrow{\varphi} & S_2
\end{array}$$

Proof of 2

Let $e \in p_1^{-1}(x)$. We need to show that $\varphi(e) \cdot g = \varphi(e \cdot g)$. We have that $g \in \pi_1(X, x_0)$ is represented by a loop f at x_0 . So $e \cdot g = e \cdot [f] = \tilde{f}_e(1) \in X_1$, and $\varphi(e \cdot g) = \varphi(\tilde{f}_e(1))$. On the left hand side, we have that $\varphi(e) \cdot g = f_{\varphi(e)}(1) \in X_2$. We need to verify that $\varphi(\tilde{f}_e) = \tilde{f}_{\varphi(e)}$ which are both lifts of f at $\varphi(e)$. But since the diagram commutes, $p_2(\varphi \circ \tilde{f}_e) = p_1 \circ \tilde{f}_e = f$.

Uniqueness in 3

Suppose we have

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
X_1 & \xleftarrow{\psi} & X_2 \\
p_1 \searrow & \varphi & \swarrow p_2 \\
& X &
\end{array}$$

with $\varphi(e_1) = e_2$ and $\psi(e_2) = e_1$. Then $\psi \circ \varphi(e_1) = e_1$. Hence $\psi \circ \varphi = \text{id}$ and, similarly, $\varphi \circ \psi = \text{id}$. Hence φ is a bijection and a homomorphism.

Proof of 3

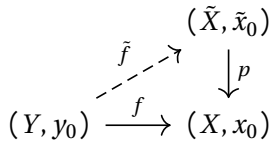
φ is surjective. Given any $e' \in X_2$, set $x_0 = p_2(e)$ and let $e \in p_1^{-1}(x_0)$ so $\varphi(e) \in p_2^{-1}(x_0)$. Since $\pi_1(X, x_0)$ acts transitively on $p_2^{-1}(x_0)$, there exists $g \in \pi_1(X, x_0)$ such that $e' = \varphi(e) \cdot g = \varphi(e \cdot g)$.

φ is a covering map. Let V be a neighborhood of $x_0 \in X$ such that V is evenly covered by both p_1 and p_2 . Let U be a component in $p_2^{-1}(V)$ that contains e_2 . Then $p_1^{-1}(V) = \bigcup U_\alpha$. U as a component in $p_2^{-1}(V)$ is both open and closed.

Hence $\varphi^{-1}(U)$ is open and closed in $p_1^{-1}(V) = \bigcup U_\alpha$. It follows that $\varphi^{-1}(U)$ is the disjoint union of several components of $\{U_\alpha\}_\alpha$, and each component is homemorphic to V and consequently homeomorphic to U . This shows that φ is a covering map.

April 21, 2025

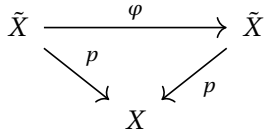
Recall: Lifting Criterion



There exists a lift \tilde{f} of f at \tilde{x}_0 if and only if $f_*\pi_1(Y, y_0) \subseteq p_*\pi_1(\tilde{X}, \tilde{x}_0)$.

If $(\tilde{X}, \tilde{x}_0) \xrightarrow{p} (Y, y_0)$, $\pi_1(X, x_0)$ acts transitively on $p^{-1}(x_0)$ by path lifting (a right action where $e \in p^{-1}(x_0)$ by $e \cdot [\gamma] = \tilde{\gamma}_e(1)$). The isotropy subgroup at e is $p_*\pi_1(\tilde{X}, e)$.

Covering Transformations



Write $\text{Aut}(\tilde{X} \xrightarrow{p} X)$ for the covering group $\{\varphi : \tilde{X} \rightarrow \tilde{X} \text{ covering transformations}\}$.

1. $\varphi : \tilde{X} \rightarrow \tilde{X}$ is uniquely determined by its value at one point.
2. Given $e_1, e_2 \in p^{-1}(x)$, there is $\varphi \in \text{Aut}(\tilde{X} \xrightarrow{p} X)$ if and only if $p_*\pi_1(\tilde{X}, e_1) = p_*\pi_1(\tilde{X}, e_2)$. In fact, for $\varphi \in \text{Aut}(\tilde{X} \xrightarrow{p} X)$ with $p_*\pi_1(\tilde{X}, e_1) \subseteq p_*\pi_1(\tilde{X}, e_2)$.
3. $\varphi|_{p^{-1}(x)} : p^{-1}(x) \rightarrow p^{-1}(x)$ is $\pi_1(X, x)$ -equivariant (i.e. $\varphi(e) \cdot \gamma = \varphi(e \cdot \gamma)$).

Example

Given $p : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow S^1$, what is $\text{Aut}(\mathbb{R} \xrightarrow{p} S^1)$?

$1 \in S^1$, $p^{-1}(1) = \mathbb{Z} \subseteq \mathbb{R}$, $\forall \varphi \in \text{Aut}(\mathbb{R} \xrightarrow{p} S^1)$, $\varphi(0) = k \in \mathbb{Z}$. Then $\varphi(x) = x + k$. In fact, the map $x \mapsto x + k$ is a covering transofmratio that agrees with φ at $0 \in \mathbb{R}$. Hence they agree everywhere (i.e. $\varphi(x) = x + k$ for all x).

Example

Given $p : S^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{RP}^2$, then $\text{Aut}(S^2 \xrightarrow{p} \mathbb{RP}^2) = \{\text{id}, A\}$ with A the antipodal map.

Proposition: Normal Covering

Let $\tilde{X} \xrightarrow{p} X$ be a covering map. The following are equivalent

1. There exists $x \in X$ such that $p_*\pi_1(\tilde{X}, e)$ is normal for one (thus for all) $e \in p^{-1}(x)$.
2. For every $x \in X$ and each $e \in p^{-1}(x)$, $p_*\pi_1(\tilde{X}, e)$ is normal.

3. $\text{Aut}(\tilde{X} \xrightarrow{p} X)$ acts transitively on some (thus all) fiber $p^{-1}(x)$.

If any of these hold, we say that $p : \tilde{X} \rightarrow X$ is a normal covering.

Proof

Suppose $e, e' \in p^{-1}(x)$ with $p_*\pi_1(\tilde{X}, e)$ and $p_*\pi_1(\tilde{X}, e')$. These are the isotropy subgroups at e and e' respectively. We know also $\pi_1(X, x)$ acts transitively on $p^{-1}(x)$.

Fact: If S is a right G -set, then $G_s = \{h \in G : s \cdot h = s\}$ and $G_{sg} = \{h \in G : s \cdot g \cdot h = s \cdot g\} = \{h \in S : s \cdot g \cdot h \cdot g^{-1} = s\}$. So $g \cdot G_{sg} \cdot g^{-1} \in G_s$ which implies that $G_{sg} = g^{-1} \cdot G_s \cdot g$. So if G_s is normal then so is G_{sg} .

IMAGE 1

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \pi_1(\tilde{X}, e_0) & \xrightarrow{\Phi_{\tilde{h}}} & \pi_1(\tilde{X}, e) \\ \downarrow p_* & & \downarrow p_* \\ \pi_1(X, x_0) & \xrightarrow{\Phi_h} & \pi_1(X, x) \end{array}$$

commutes. Hence Φ_h maps $p_*\pi_1(\tilde{X}, e_0)$ to $p_*\pi_1(\tilde{X}, e)$, and $\Phi_h : \pi_1(X, x_0) \xrightarrow{\sim} \pi_1(X, x)$ preserves normal subgroups.

(3) implies (1)

Finally, for every $e_1, e_2 \in p^{-1}(x)$, there exists $\varphi \in \text{Aut}(\tilde{X} \xrightarrow{p} X)$ such that $\varphi(e_1) = e_2$. This holds if and only if $p_*\pi_1(\tilde{X}, e_1) = p_*\pi_1(\tilde{X}, e_2)$ for every $e_1, e_2 \in p^{-1}(x)$. That is, $e_2 = e_1 \cdot \gamma$ for some $\gamma \in \pi_1(X, x)$ and $H = \gamma^{-1}H\gamma$ for every $\gamma \in \pi_1(X, x)$. So H is normal.

Remark

The (simply connected) universal cover is always normal because $\{\text{id}\}$ is normal in $\pi_1(X, x)$.

Theorem

Let $p : \tilde{X} \rightarrow X$ be a covering map with $x \in X$ and $e \in p^{-1}(x)$. Then $\text{Aut}(\tilde{X} \xrightarrow{p} X) \cong \frac{N_G(H)}{H}$ where $G = \pi_1(X, x)$, $H = p_*\pi_1(\tilde{X}, e)$, and $N_G(H) = \{g \in G : g^{-1}Hg = H\}$.

Special Case 1

If $p : \tilde{X} \rightarrow X$ is a normal covering, then H is normal in G . Then also $\text{Aut}(\tilde{X} \xrightarrow{p} X) \cong G/H$.

Special Case 2

If $p : \tilde{X} \rightarrow X$ is the (simply connected) universal covering, then $\text{Aut}(\tilde{X} \xrightarrow{p} X) \cong \pi_1(X, x)$.

Proof

Let S be a right G -set with transitive action and $\text{Aut}_G(S) = \{\varphi : S \rightarrow S \text{ } G\text{-equivariant bijections}\}$. Fix $s \in S$. Then $\text{Aut}_G(S) \cong \frac{N_G(H)}{H}$ where $h = G_s$.

Define $\Phi : N_G(H) \rightarrow \text{Aut}_G(S)$ by $\gamma \mapsto \Phi(\gamma) = \varphi_\gamma$ with $\varphi_\gamma : S \rightarrow S$ defined by

$$G_{s \cdot \gamma} = \gamma^{-1}H\gamma = H = G_s.$$

Then there exists a unique $\varphi_\gamma \in \text{Aut}_G(S)$ such that $\varphi_\gamma(s) = s \cdot \gamma$.

• Lemma

For each $s' \in S$, $s' = s \cdot \gamma'$ for some $\gamma' \in G$. Then $\varphi_\gamma(s') = \varphi_\gamma(s \cdot \gamma') = \varphi_\gamma(s) \cdot \gamma' = s \cdot \gamma \gamma'$. This is well defined. If $s' = s \cdot \gamma''$, then $s = s(\gamma \cdot \gamma'' \cdot (\gamma')^{-1} \cdot \gamma^{-1})$ which implies that $\gamma \cdot \gamma''(\gamma')^{-1} \cdot \gamma^{-1} \in G_s$ and $\gamma'' \cdot (\gamma')^{-1} \in G_s$.

Φ is a group homomorphism since

$$\varphi_{\gamma_1} \circ \varphi_{\gamma_2}(s) = \varphi_{\gamma_1}(s \cdot \gamma_2) = \varphi_{\gamma_1}(s) \cdot \gamma_2 = s \cdot \gamma_1 \cdot \gamma_2.$$

Φ is surjective since letting $\varphi \in \text{Aut}_G(S)$, it maps s to some $\varphi(s) = s' = s \cdot \gamma$ and hence $\varphi = \varphi_\gamma$.

If $\varphi_\gamma = \text{id}$, then $\varphi_\gamma(s) = s$ and $\gamma \in G_s = H$. So Φ induces $\frac{N_G(H)}{H} \cong \text{Aut}_G(S)$.

Take $G = \pi_1(X, x)$ and $\text{Aut}(\tilde{X} \xrightarrow{p} X) \rightarrow \text{Aut}_G(p^{-1}(x)) \cong \frac{N_G(H)}{H}$ by $\varphi \mapsto \varphi|_{p^{-1}(x)}$ where H is the isotropy subgroup of the $\pi_1(X, x)$ action at e ($p_*\pi_1(\tilde{X}, e)$). Then $\varphi \mapsto \varphi|_{p^{-1}(x)}$ is injective because it is uniquely determined by its value at one point.

$\varphi \mapsto \varphi|_{p^{-1}(x)}$ is surjective. Letting $\eta \in \text{Aut}_g(p^{-1}(x))$ and $e_1 \in p^{-1}(x)$, we set $e_2 = \eta(e_1)$ and see that $p_*\pi_1(\tilde{X}, e_1) = G_{e_1} = G_{e_2} = p_*\pi_1(\tilde{X}, e_2)$. By the lifting criterion, there exists $\varphi \in \text{Aut}(\tilde{X} \xrightarrow{p} X)$ such that $\varphi(e_1) = e_2$. Then $\varphi|_{p^{-1}(x)} = \eta$ since both are in $\text{Aut}_G(p^{-1}(x))$ and they agree at one point (hence everywhere). Thus we conclude that the map is a bijection and

$$\text{Aut}(\tilde{X} \xrightarrow{p} X) \cong \text{Aut}_G(p^{-1}(x)) \cong \frac{N_G(H)}{H}.$$

Definition: Covering Space Action

Let X be connected and locally path connected with a group action Γ acting by homeomorphism. The quotient map $p : X \rightarrow X/\Gamma$ will be a covering map if we impose $(*)$ for all $x \in X$, there exists a neighborhood U of x such that $U \cap (g \cdot U) = \emptyset$ for each $g \in \Gamma - \{\text{id}\}$. In particular, G acts freely on X . We say that a Γ -action on X is a covering space action if $(*)$ is fulfilled.

Counter-example

Consider an \mathbb{R} action on \mathbb{R}^2 by translation. Then $U \cap (g \cdot U) \neq \emptyset$.

IMAGE 2

Remark

Assuming $(*)$, $\{g \cdot U : g \in \Gamma\}$ is a disjoint family of open sets.

Example

Take a \mathbb{Z} -action by \mathbb{R}^2 given by $\gamma(x, y) = (x + 1, -y)$.

IMAGE 3

Example

S^2 with \mathbb{Z}_2 -action $(\{\text{id}, A\})$.

Theorem

If Γ acts on X as a covering space action, then $q : X \rightarrow X/\Gamma$ is a normal covering map.

Proof

Let $\bar{x} \in X/\Gamma$ and pick $x \in q^{-1}(\bar{x})$. By $(*)$, we have a neighborhood U such that $\{g \cdot U : g \in \Gamma\}$ is a disjoint collection. Let $V = q(U)$, an open neighborhood of \bar{x} in X/Γ . Then $q^{-1}(V) = \{g \cdot U : g \in \Gamma\}$. Moreover, $g \cdot U \rightarrow V$ is a homeomorphism. If there exist $x', g'x' \in g \cdot U$, then $x' = h_1 \cdot u_1$ and $g'x' = h_2 \cdot u_2$. So $h_1^{-1}x' \in U$ and $h_2^{-1}g'x' \in U$ but this holds only for the identity map. So the covering map is injective.

Classifications of Covering Spaces

Take X path-connected, locally path-connected and semi-locally simply path connected (guaranteeing a simply connected universal cover). Then there is a 1 – 1 correspondence between

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{isomorphism classes of covering} \\ \text{spaces } p: \hat{X} \rightarrow X \end{array} \right\} \leftrightarrow \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{conjugacy classes of} \\ \text{subgroups in } \pi_1(X, x) \end{array} \right\}$$

$$(p : \hat{X} \rightarrow X) \mapsto [p_*\pi_1(\hat{X}, \hat{x})]$$

April 23, 2025

Recall: Theorem

For X path-connected, locally path-connected and semi-locally simply path connected, Γ acts on X as a covering group action (i.e. $\forall x \in X$, there exists a neighborhood U of x such that $U \cap (g \cdot U) = \emptyset$ for all $g \in \Gamma \setminus \{e\}$).

Then $p : X \rightarrow X/\Gamma$ is a normal covering map. Moreover $\text{Aut}(X \xrightarrow{p} X/\Gamma) = \Gamma$.

Proof

(\supseteq) this follows from

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X & \xrightarrow{g \cdot} & X \\ & \searrow p & \swarrow p \\ & X/\Gamma & \end{array}$$

(\subseteq) Let $\varphi \in \text{Aut}(X \xrightarrow{p} X/\Gamma)$. That is

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X & \xrightarrow{\varphi} & X \\ & \searrow p & \swarrow p \\ & X/\Gamma & \end{array}$$

commutes with φ a homeomorphism. Now let $x \in p^{-1}(\bar{x})$ where $\bar{x} \in X/\Gamma$, and let $x' = \varphi(x)$. Then $p(x) = \bar{x} = p(x')$, hence $x, x' \in p^{-1}(\bar{x})$. Hence there is $g \in \Gamma$ such that $gx = x'$. So we have

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi : X &\rightarrow X \varphi(x) = x' \\ g : X &\rightarrow X g(x) = x' \end{aligned}$$

so φ is equivalent to an action by g .

Theorem

Take X path-connected, locally path-connected and semi-locally simply path connected (guaranteeing a simply connected universal cover). Then there is a 1 – 1 correspondence between

$$\{\text{isomorphism classes of covering maps } p: \tilde{X} \rightarrow X\} \leftrightarrow \{\text{conjugacy classes of subgroups in } \pi_1(X, x_0)\}$$

→ Assign a subgroup $H = p_*(\hat{X}, \hat{e})$ for $\hat{e} \in p^{-1}(x_0)$.

← Given a conjugacy class of subgroups, pick a subgroup H in the class.

$$H \leq \pi_1(X, x_0) \cong \text{Aut}(\tilde{X} \xrightarrow{p} X)$$

Hence H acts naturally on \tilde{X} as covering transformations. Consider $q: \tilde{X} \rightarrow \tilde{X}/H =: \hat{X}$, a normal covering map.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \tilde{X} & & \\ \downarrow p & \searrow /H & \\ X & & \hat{X} \end{array}$$

Since $\tilde{X}/\pi_1(X, x_0) = x$, we have an induced map $\hat{p}: \hat{X} \rightarrow X$. We need to show that $\hat{p}: \hat{X} \rightarrow X$ is a covering map with $\hat{p}_*\pi_1(\hat{X}, \hat{e}) = H$ for some $\hat{e} \in \hat{p}^{-1}(x)$. Let U be a neighborhood of x such that $p^{-1}(U) = \bigcup_{\alpha} \tilde{U}_{\alpha}$. Then $\{\tilde{U}_{\alpha}\}$ is a collect iof disjoint open sets and identical to $\{g \cdot \tilde{U} : g \in \pi_1(X, x)\}$ where \tilde{U} is a component of $p^{-1}(U)$. The H -action permutes the copies in $\{g \cdot \tilde{U}\} = \{\tilde{U}_{\alpha}\}$. Hence $q|_{\tilde{U}_{\alpha}}: \tilde{U}_{\alpha} \rightarrow \hat{X}$ is a homeomorphism. Let \hat{U} be a component in $\hat{p}^{-1}(U)$. Then $q^{-1}(\hat{p}^{-1}(U)) = p^{-1}(U) = \bigcup_{\alpha} \tilde{U}_{\alpha}$ where $q^{-1}(\hat{U})$ is a union of components in $\bigcup_{\alpha} \tilde{U}_{\alpha}$. Hence \hat{U} is homeomorphic to U , and $\hat{p}^{-1}(U)$ is a union of components that are homemorphic to U .

Lastly, we show that $\hat{p}_*\pi_1(\hat{X}, \hat{e}_0) = H$. This is the isotropy subgroup of $\pi_1(X, x_0)$ -actions at \hat{e}_0 . $q|_{p^{-1}(x_0)}: p^{-1}(x_0) \rightarrow \hat{p}^{-1}(x_0)$ is $\pi_1(X, x_0)$ -equivariant (i.e. $q(e \cdot \gamma) = q(e) \cdot \gamma$, $q(e) = \hat{e}$ for $e \in \tilde{X}$). Hence γ fixes $q(e) = \hat{e}$ if and only if $q(e \cdot \gamma) = q(e)$, if and only if $e \cdot \gamma$ and e are in the same H -orbit, if and only if $\gamma \in H$.

Example 1

$X = S^1$ with $\pi_1(S^1) = \mathbb{Z}$.

\mathbb{Z} has subgroups $\mathbb{Z}, 2\mathbb{Z}, 3\mathbb{Z}, \dots, k\mathbb{Z}, \dots$ where $k\mathbb{Z}$ corresponds to the covering map $p_k: z \mapsto z^k$.

Example 2

X the Mobius strip with $\pi_1(X) = \mathbb{Z}$ with $\pi_1(X) = \langle \gamma \rangle$ and $\gamma(x, y) = (x + 1, -y)$.

Take $H = 2\mathbb{Z} = \langle 2\gamma \rangle \leq \mathbb{Z}$. Then $2\gamma(x, y) = (x + 2, y)$ and \mathbb{R}^2/H is the cylinder while the cylinder modulo \mathbb{Z}_2 is the mobius strip.

Example 3

The Klein bottle, $K = \mathbb{R}^2/\Gamma$ with Γ generated by $g(x, y) = (x + 1, -y)$ and $h(x, y) = (x, y + 1)$.

So $\pi_1(K) = \langle g, h \rangle$. $g^2(x, y) = (x + 2, y)$ commutes with h , so $\mathbb{Z}^2 \cong \langle g^2, h \rangle \leq \pi_1(K)$ and $\mathbb{R}^2/\langle g^2, h \rangle = \mathbb{T}^2$ covers K .

Simplexes

IMAGE 1

The standard n -simplex is

$$\Delta^n = \left\{ (t_0, t_1, \dots, t_n) \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1} : \sum_{i=0}^n t_i = 1, t_i \geq 0, \forall i \right\}$$

$$\Delta^1 = \left\{ (t_0, t_1) \in \mathbb{R}^2 : t_0 + t_1 = 1, t_0, t_1 \geq 0 \right\}$$

IMAGE 2

$$\Delta^2 = \{(t_0, t_1, t_2) \in \mathbb{R}^3 : t_0 + t_1 + t_2 = 1, t_0, t_1, t_2 \geq 0\}$$

IMAGE 3

Δ^n has $(n+1)$ -many faces ($(n+1)$ -simplex) where the i th face is $\Delta^{n-1} \rightarrow \Delta^n$ by $(t_0, \dots, t_{n-1}) \mapsto (t_0, \dots, t_{i-1}, 0, t_i, \dots, t_{n-1})$. Let X be a topological space. A Δ -complex structure on X is a family of maps $\sigma_\alpha : \Delta^n \rightarrow X$ (n may depend on α) such that

1. $\sigma_\alpha|_{\Delta^n} : \Delta^n \rightarrow X$ is injective and each point is in the image of at most one of $\sigma_\alpha|_{\Delta^n}$.
2. $\sigma_\alpha|_{\text{a face of } \Delta^n}$ is some $\sigma_\beta : \Delta^{n-1} \rightarrow X$ in the family.
3. $A \subseteq X$ is open if and only if $\sigma_\alpha^{-1}(A)$ is open in Δ^n for all α .

$$\sigma_\beta \text{ is } \Delta^{n-1} \xrightarrow{\text{ith face}} \Delta^n \xrightarrow{\sigma} X.$$

Example

S^1 is the following 1-simplex

IMAGE 4

Then the “body” of $\Delta^1 \xrightarrow{\sigma} X$ is

IMAGE 5

with $\sigma \circ \delta_0 : \Delta^0 \rightarrow X$ and $\sigma \circ \delta_1 : \Delta^0 \rightarrow X$. The boundary $\partial\sigma = \sum_{i=0}^n (-1)^i \sigma \circ \delta_i$. They define $\delta : C_n(X) \rightarrow C_{n-1}(X)$. For this example, we have $\partial\sigma = \sigma \circ \delta_0 + (-1)\sigma \circ \delta_1 = 0$.

The i th face is $\delta_i : \Delta^{n-1} \rightarrow \Delta^n$ by $(t_0, \dots, t_{n-1}) \mapsto (t_0, \dots, t_{i-1}, 0, t_i, \dots, t_{n-1})$.

In Hatcher’s notation, the boundary is $\partial\sigma = \sum_{i=0}^n (-1)^i \sigma|_{[v_0, \dots, \hat{v}_i, \dots, v_n]}$ where we should think of $[v_0, \dots, \hat{v}_i, \dots, v_n]$ as the i th face. So $\sigma : \Delta^n = [v_0, \dots, v_n] \rightarrow X$. Now we have

$$\cdots \xrightarrow{\partial} C_n(X) \xrightarrow{\partial} C_{n-1}(X) \cdots$$

where $\partial^2 = 0$.

Proof

$$\begin{aligned} \partial(\partial\sigma) &= \partial\left(\sum_{i=0}^n (-1)^i \sigma|_{[v_0, \dots, \hat{v}_i, \dots, v_n]}\right) \\ &= \sum_{i=0}^n (-1)^i \partial(\sigma|_{[v_0, \dots, \hat{v}_i, \dots, v_n]}) \\ &= \sum_{j < i} (-1)^i (-1)^j \sigma|_{[v_0, \dots, \hat{v}_j, \dots, \hat{v}_i, \dots, v_n]} + \sum_{j > i} (-1)^i (-1)^{j-1} \sigma|_{[v_0, \dots, \hat{v}_i, \dots, \hat{v}_j, \dots, v_n]} \\ &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

Homology Associated to the Delta Complex

We have $\ker \partial \supseteq \operatorname{im} \partial$ where $\ker \partial$ are the n -cycles and $\operatorname{im} \partial$ are the n -boundaries, and

$$H_n^\Delta(X) = \frac{\{n\text{-cycles}\}}{\{n\text{-boundaries}\}} = \frac{\ker \partial}{\operatorname{im} \partial}$$

Example

For the circle, $C_1(X) = \mathbb{Z} = \langle \sigma \rangle$ and $C_0(X) = \mathbb{Z} = \langle v \rangle$. Therefore

$$\overbrace{C_2(X)}^{=0} \rightarrow \overbrace{C_1(X)}^{=\mathbb{Z}} \xrightarrow{0} \overbrace{C_0(X)}^{=\mathbb{Z}} \rightarrow 0$$

Then $H_1^\Delta(X) = \frac{\ker \partial}{\operatorname{im} \partial} = \mathbb{Z}/\{0\} = \mathbb{Z}$ and $H_0^\Delta(X) = \frac{\ker \partial}{\operatorname{im} \partial} = \mathbb{Z}$.

An Aside

IMAGE 7

$$\partial[v_0, v_1, v_2] = [v_1, v_2] - [v_0, v_2] + [v_0, v_1]$$

Example

For the torus, draw

IMAGE 6

So $C_0(X) = \langle v \rangle = \mathbb{Z}$, $C_1(X) = \langle a, b, c \rangle = \mathbb{Z}^3$ and $C_2(X) = \langle U, L \rangle = \mathbb{Z}^2$. Then also $\partial U = a + b - c$ and $\partial L = a + b - c$, so $\partial(U - L) = 0$ and $\ker \partial_2 = \langle U - L \rangle \cong \mathbb{Z}$. That is $H_2^\Delta(X) = \frac{\ker \partial_2}{\operatorname{im} \partial_2} \cong \mathbb{Z}$. Now $\partial a = 0 = \partial b = \partial c$, so $\ker \partial_1 = \langle a, b, c \rangle$ and $H_1^\Delta(X) = \frac{\ker \partial_1}{\operatorname{im} \partial_1} = \frac{\langle a, b, a+b-c \rangle}{\langle a+b-c \rangle} \cong \mathbb{Z}^2$. Finally we have that $H_0^\Delta(X) = \frac{\ker \partial_0}{\operatorname{im} \partial_0} = \frac{\langle v \rangle}{\{0\}} \cong \mathbb{Z}$.

Example

For \mathbb{RP}^2 , draw

IMAGE 8

$AC_0(X) = \langle v, w \rangle \cong \mathbb{Z}^2$, $C_1(X) = \langle a, b, c \rangle \cong \mathbb{Z}^3$, and $C_2(X) = \langle U, L \rangle \cong \mathbb{Z}^2$. Then $\partial U = a + b + c$ while $\partial L = a + b - c$, so $\ker \partial_2 = \{0\}$ and $H_2^\Delta(X) = \frac{\ker \partial_2}{\operatorname{im} \partial_2} = \{0\}$. $\partial_1(a) = w - v$, $\partial_1(b) = v - w$ and $\partial_1(c) = 0$, so $\ker \partial_1 = \langle c, a - b \rangle$ and

$$H_1^\Delta(X) = \frac{\ker \partial_1}{\operatorname{im} \partial_1} = \frac{\langle c, a + b \rangle}{\langle a + b + c, a + b - c \rangle} = \langle a + b + c, c \rangle / \langle a + b + c, 2c \rangle \cong \langle c \rangle / \langle 2c \rangle \cong \mathbb{Z}^2.$$

April 28th, 2025

Recall:

For X with a Δ -complex structure, we have $H_n^\Delta(X)$.

Definition: Singular Simplex

A singular n -simplex is a continuous map $\sigma : \Delta^n \rightarrow X$.

The singular chain $C_n(X)$ is the free Abelian group generated by singular n -simplices. Write

$$C_n(X) = \left\{ \sum n_i \sigma_i : \left| \sum n_i \sigma_i \right| < \infty, n_i \in \mathbb{Z}, \sigma_i : \Delta^n \rightarrow X \right\}$$

$$\cdots \xrightarrow{\partial} C_{n+1}(X) \xrightarrow{\partial_{n+1}} C_n \xrightarrow{\partial_n} C_{n-1}(X) \xrightarrow{\partial} \cdots$$

$$\partial(\sigma) = \sum_{i=0}^n (-1)^i \sigma|_{[v_0, \dots, \hat{v}_i, \dots, v_n]}$$

While $\partial^2 = 0$ and $H_n(X) = \ker \partial_n / \text{Im } \partial_{n+1}$ is the singular homology.

Proposition

If $X = \coprod_{\alpha} X_{\alpha}$ with X_{α} connected components of X , then $H_n(X) \cong \oplus_{\alpha} H_n(X_{\alpha})$.

Proof

$\sigma : \Delta^n \rightarrow x$, $\text{im } \sigma \subseteq X_{\alpha}$ for some α . So $C_n(X) = \oplus_{\alpha} C_n(X_{\alpha})$ and $\partial : C_n(X) \rightarrow C_{n-1}(X)$ maps $C_n(X_{\alpha})$ to $C_{n-1}(X_{\alpha})$. Therefore $\ker \partial_n = \oplus_{\alpha} \ker(\partial|_{C_n(X_{\alpha})})$ and $\text{im } \partial_{n+1} = \oplus_{\alpha} \text{im}(\partial|_{C_{n+1}(X_{\alpha})})$. Then $H_n(X) \cong \oplus_{\alpha} \ker(\partial|_{C_n(X_{\alpha})}) / \oplus_{\alpha} \text{im}(\partial|_{C_{n+1}(X_{\alpha})}) \cong \oplus_{\alpha} H_n(X_{\alpha})$.

Proposition

Let X be a point. Then

$$H_n(X) = \begin{cases} \mathbb{Z} & n = 0 \\ 0 & n \geq 1 \end{cases}$$

Proof

For each n , $C_n(X)$ is generated by a single element $\sigma_n : \Delta^n \rightarrow p$ so $C_n(X) \cong \mathbb{Z}$. Then

$$\partial \sigma_n = \sum_{i=0}^n (-1)^i \sigma_n|_{[v_0, \dots, \hat{v}_i, \dots, v_n]} = \sum_{i=0}^n (-1)^i \sigma_{n-1} = \begin{cases} 0 & n \text{ odd} \\ \sigma_{n-1} & n \text{ even} \end{cases}$$

$$\cdots \longrightarrow C_{n+1}(X) \longrightarrow C_n(X) \longrightarrow C_{n-1}(X) \longrightarrow \cdots$$

$$\cdots \xrightarrow{0} \mathbb{Z} \xrightarrow{\cong} \mathbb{Z} \xrightarrow{0} \mathbb{Z} \xrightarrow{\cong} \cdots \quad \text{We see that}$$

$$\partial_n = \begin{cases} \cong & n \text{ even} \\ 0 & n \text{ odd} \end{cases}$$

Therefore $\ker / \text{im} = 0$ or $\ker / \text{im} = \mathbb{Z} / \mathbb{Z} = 0$. Because

$$C_1(X) \xrightarrow{0} C_0(X) \xrightarrow{0} 0 \quad \text{we have that } H_0(X) = \ker / \text{im} = \mathbb{Z} / \{0\} = \mathbb{Z}.$$

Proposition

If X is path connected, then $H_0(X) \cong \mathbb{Z}$.

Proof

Define a map $\epsilon : C_0(X) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ by $\sum n_i \sigma_i \mapsto \sum n_i$ given that $\sigma_i : \{v\} \rightarrow X$. Then ϵ is surjective. Also,

$$H_0(X) = \ker \partial_0 / \operatorname{im} \partial_1 = C_0(X) / \operatorname{im} \partial_1 = C_0(X) / \ker \epsilon \cong \operatorname{im} \epsilon \cong \mathbb{Z}$$

We claim that $\ker \epsilon = \operatorname{im} \partial_1$.

(\supseteq) Let $\sigma : \Delta^1 \rightarrow X$, $\epsilon(\delta_1(\sigma)) = \epsilon(v_1 - v_0) = 1 - 1 = 0$.

(\subseteq) Let $\sum n_i \sigma_i \in C_0(X)$ such that $0 = \epsilon(\sum n_i \sigma_i) = \sum n_i$. We fix a point $x_0 \in X$. Because X is path-connected, we can draw paths τ_i from x_0 to σ_i . Consider $\sum n_i \tau_i \in C_1(X)$, then

$$\partial(\sum n_i \tau_i) = \sum n_i (\partial \tau_i) = \sum n_i (\sigma_i - x_0) = \sum n_i \sigma_i - \sum \overbrace{n_i}^{=0} x_0 = \sum n_i \sigma_i$$

Reduced Homology

$\cdots \longrightarrow C_n(X) \longrightarrow \cdots \longrightarrow C_1(X) \longrightarrow C_0(X) \xrightarrow{\epsilon} \mathbb{Z} \longrightarrow 0$
 Usually written as $\tilde{H}_n(X)$, and $\tilde{H}_n(X) = H_n(X)$ if $n \geq 1$. We have that $\tilde{H}_0(X) = \ker \epsilon / \operatorname{im} \partial_1$ and $\epsilon|_{\operatorname{im} \partial_1} = 0$ so ϵ induces a map $\tilde{\epsilon} : \tilde{H}_0(X) \hookrightarrow \mathbb{Z}$. Then $\ker \tilde{\epsilon} = \tilde{H}_0(X)$. It follows that

$0 \longrightarrow \tilde{H}_0(X) \longrightarrow H_0(X) \longrightarrow \mathbb{Z} \longrightarrow 0$
 is a split exact sequence since $H_0(X) \cong \tilde{H}_0(X) \oplus \mathbb{Z}$. In particular, $\tilde{H}(\text{pt}) = \{0\}$.

Remark

$$\pi_1 / [\pi_1, \pi_1] \cong H_1$$

Homotopy Invariance

Suppose we have $f : X \rightarrow Y$ continuous. It induces $f_\# : C_n(X) \rightarrow C_n(Y)$ by $\sigma \mapsto f \circ \sigma$. $f_\#$ is called a chain map and the following diagram commutes

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} \cdots & \longrightarrow & C_n(X) & \xrightarrow{\partial} & C_{n-1} & \xrightarrow{\partial} & \cdots \\ & & \downarrow f_\# & & \downarrow f_\# & & \\ \cdots & \longrightarrow & C_n(X) & \xrightarrow{\partial} & C_{n-1} & \xrightarrow{\partial} & \cdots \end{array}$$

Let $\sigma \in C_n(X)$ and

$$f_\#(\partial \sigma) = f_\# \left(\sum_{i=0}^n (-1)^i \sigma|_{[v_0, \dots, \hat{v}_i, \dots, v_n]} \right) = \sum_{i=0}^n (-1)^i (f \circ \sigma)|_{[v_0, \dots, \hat{v}_i, \dots, v_n]} = \partial(f_\# \sigma)$$

Then $f_\#$ maps cycles to cycles ($\partial c = 0$, $\partial(f_\# c) = f_\#(\partial c) = 0$) and boundaries to boundaries ($f_\#(\partial c) = \partial(f_\# c)$). So $f_\#$ induces $f_* : H_n(X) \rightarrow H_n(Y)$.

Theorem

If $f, g : X \rightarrow Y$ are homotopic, then $f_* = g_* : H_n(X) \rightarrow H_n(Y)$ for all n .

Corollary

If $X \simeq Y$ are homotopic, then $H_n(X) \cong H_n(Y)$. $g \circ f \simeq \text{id}_X$, $f \circ g \simeq \text{id}_Y$,

$$g_* \circ f_* = (g \circ f)_* = (\text{id}_X)_* = \text{id}$$

and similarly $g_* \circ f_* = \text{id}$. So f_* and g_* are isomorphisms.

Definition

Let $f, g : C_*(X) \rightarrow C_*(Y)$ be two chain maps. We say that f and g are chain homotopic if there is a map $p : C_n(X) \rightarrow C_{n+1}(Y)$ such that $\partial p + p \partial = g - f$.

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} \cdots & \longrightarrow & C_n(X) & \xrightarrow{\partial} & C_{n-1} & \xrightarrow{\partial} & \cdots \\ & \swarrow p & \downarrow f, g & \swarrow p & \downarrow f, g & & \\ \cdots & \longrightarrow & C_n(X) & \xrightarrow{\partial} & C_{n-1} & \xrightarrow{\partial} & \cdots \end{array}$$

Theorem

If $f \simeq g$ are homotopic, then

1. $f_\#$ and $g_\#$ are chain homotopic,
2. $f_* = g_*$ on homology
3. For any n -cycle, $c \in C_n(X)$, $g(c) - f(c) = \partial p(c) + \overbrace{p(\partial c)}^{=0}$. Hence $g_*[c] = f_*[c]$.

Proof

Consider $\Delta^n \times I$, and set $\Delta^n \times \{0\} = [v_0, \dots, v_n]$ and $\Delta^n \times \{1\} = [w_0, \dots, w_n]$. Then the following are all n -simplices

$$\begin{aligned} & [v_0, v_1, \dots, v_{n-1}, v_n] \\ & [v_0, v_1, \dots, v_{n-1}, w_n] \\ & [v_0, v_1, \dots, w_{n-1}, w_n] \\ & \vdots \\ & [v_0, w_1, \dots, w_{n-1}, w_n] \\ & [w_0, w_1, \dots, w_{n-1}, w_n] \end{aligned}$$

They divide $\Delta^n \times I$ into $(n+1)$ -simplices, $\{[v_0, \dots, v_i, w_i, \dots, w_n] : i = 0, \dots, n\}$. Now let $F : X \times I \rightarrow Y$ be a homotopy between f and g . Consider

$\Delta^n \times I \xrightarrow{\sigma \times \text{id}} X \times I \xrightarrow{F} Y$ and define $P : C_n(X) \rightarrow C_{n+1}(Y)$ by $\sigma \mapsto \sum_{i=0}^n (-1)^i F \circ (\sigma \times \text{id})|_{[v_0, \dots, v_i, w_i, \dots, w_n]}$. We need to check that $\partial P + P \partial = g_\# - f_\#$.

Short Exact Sequences of Chain Complexes Induce Long Exact Sequences of Homology Groups

Applications

1. Relative homology group.
2. Meyer-Vietoris sequence.

F

Suppose we have sequences

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 0 & & 0 & & 0 & & 0 \\
 \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 A_* & \longrightarrow & \cdots & \longrightarrow & A_{n+1} & \xrightarrow{\partial} & A_n & \xrightarrow{\partial} & A_{n-1} & \longrightarrow & \cdots \\
 \downarrow i & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 B_* & \longrightarrow & \cdots & \longrightarrow & B_{n+1} & \xrightarrow{\partial} & B_n & \xrightarrow{\partial} & B_{n-1} & \longrightarrow & \cdots \\
 \downarrow j & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 C_* & \longrightarrow & \cdots & \longrightarrow & C_{n+1} & \xrightarrow{\partial} & C_n & \xrightarrow{\partial} & C_{n-1} & \longrightarrow & \cdots \\
 \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 0 & & 0 & & 0 & & 0 & & 0
 \end{array}$$

So H induces a long exact sequence

$$\cdots \xrightarrow{\partial} H_n(A) \xrightarrow{i_*} H_n(B) \xrightarrow{j_*} H_n(C) \xrightarrow{\partial} H_{n-1}(A) \xrightarrow{i_*} \cdots$$

$$\cdots \xrightarrow{\partial} H_{n-1}(A) \xrightarrow{i_*} \cdots$$

where $\partial : H_n(C) \rightarrow H_{n-1}(A)$ by $[c] \mapsto [a]$, our connecting homomorphism, for $c \in C_n$. Then we have that the following commutes

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 & a & \xrightarrow{\partial} & & \\
 & \downarrow i & & \downarrow i & \\
 b & \xrightarrow{\quad} & \partial b & \xrightarrow{\quad} & 0 \\
 \downarrow j & & \downarrow j & & \\
 c & \xrightarrow{\quad} & 0 & &
 \end{array}$$

So a is a cycle. We need to show that $\partial a = 0$. Note that $i(\partial a) = \partial(i a) = \partial(\partial b) = 0$. Because i is injective, $\partial a = 0$. ∂ is well defined since

- choice of a : i is injective
- choice of b : suppose $b' \in B_n$ such that $j(b') = j(b) = c$. Then $b - b'$ satisfies $j(b - b') = 0$ and $b - b' \in \ker j = \text{im } i$ (i.e. there exists $a' \in A_n$ such that $i(a') = b - b'$, so $b' = b + i(a')$). Then

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
a' & \xrightarrow{\quad} & \partial a' \\
\downarrow & & \\
b - b' & & \\
\downarrow & & \\
0 & &
\end{array}$$

So $a + \partial a'$ satisfies

$$i(a + \partial a') = i(a) + i(\partial a') = \partial b + \partial(i a') = \partial b'$$

and

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
& & a + \partial a' \\
& & \downarrow \\
b' & \xrightarrow{\quad} & \partial b' \\
\downarrow & & \\
c & &
\end{array}$$

since $[a + \partial a'] = [a]$.

- We need to check choice of c , but we will skip this.
- We need to check that δ is a homomorphism, which follows from the definitions.
- Finally, check that the induced long sequence is exact. We will check only exactness about $H_n(C)$ (i.e. $\text{im } j_* = \ker \delta$).

$\text{im } j_* \subseteq \ker \delta$: $\delta(j_*[b]) = 0$ because

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
& & 0 \\
& & \downarrow \\
b & \xrightarrow{\partial} & 0 \\
\downarrow j & & \\
j(b) & &
\end{array}$$

$\ker \delta \subseteq \text{im } j_*$: Suppose $[c] \in H_n(C)$ such that $\partial[c] = 0$, then

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
a' & \xrightarrow{\partial} & a = \partial a' \\
& & \downarrow \\
b & \xrightarrow{\quad} & \partial b \\
\downarrow j & & \\
c & &
\end{array}$$

Consider $b - i(a')$, then $j(b - i(a')) = j(b) - \overbrace{j \circ i(a')}^{=0} = j(b) = c$. So $[c] = j_*[b - i(a')] \in \text{im } j_*$.
This is a cycle, since $\partial(b - i(a')) = \partial b - i(\partial a') = \partial b - \partial b = 0$.

April 30, 2025

Recall

1. if $f, g : X \rightarrow Y$ are homotopic, then $f_* = g_* : H_n(X) \rightarrow H_n(Y)$.

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
\cdots & \xrightarrow{\partial} & C_{n+1}(X) & \xrightarrow{\partial} & C_n(X) & \xrightarrow{\partial} & \cdots \\
& \swarrow P & \downarrow f_{\#}=g_{\#} & \swarrow P & \downarrow f_{\#}=g_{\#} & & \\
\cdots & \xrightarrow{\partial} & C_{n+1}(Y) & \xrightarrow{\partial} & C_n(Y) & \xrightarrow{\partial} & \cdots
\end{array}$$

$\partial P + P\partial = f_{\#} - g_{\#}.$

1. Short exact sequence of chain complexes

$$0 \longrightarrow A_* \xrightarrow{i} B_* \xrightarrow{j} C_* \longrightarrow 0$$

induces a long exact sequence of homology groups

$$\cdots \longrightarrow H_n(A) \longrightarrow H_n(B) \longrightarrow H_n(C) \longrightarrow \cdots$$

$$\xrightarrow{\partial} H_{n-1}(A) \longrightarrow \cdots$$

Relative Homology Group

Setup: $A \subseteq X$, A closed and non-empty. Then

$$C_n(A) = \{c \in C_n(X) : c = \sum n_i \sigma_i, \text{ im } \sigma_i \subseteq A\}.$$

Define $C_n(X, A) = C_n(X)/C_n(A)$ such that

$$0 \longrightarrow C_n(A) \xrightarrow{i} C_n(X) \xrightarrow{j} C_n(X, A) \longrightarrow 0$$

is a short exact sequence. Then $C_*(X, A)$ is a chain complex

$$\cdots \xrightarrow{\partial} C_n(X, A) \xrightarrow{\partial} C_{n-1}(X, A) \xrightarrow{\partial} \cdots$$

with $\partial^2 = 0$. Note that $\partial : C_n(X) \rightarrow C_{n-1}(X)$ maps $C_n(A)$ to $C_{n-1}(A)$. Hence it induces $\partial : C_n(X)/C_n(A) \rightarrow C_{n-1}(X)/C_{n-1}(A)$. It gives homology groups $H_n(X, A) = \ker \partial_n / \text{im } \partial_{n+1}$ and induces a long exact sequence

$$\cdots \longrightarrow H_n(A) \xrightarrow{i_*} H_n(X) \xrightarrow{j_*} H_n(X, A) \longrightarrow \cdots$$

$$\xrightarrow{\partial} H_{n-1}(A) \longrightarrow \cdots$$

Remarks

1. the elements in $H_n(X, A)$ are represented by relative cycles (i.e. $\alpha \in C_n(X)$ such that $\partial\alpha \in C_{n-1}(A)$).
2. A relative cycle α is trivial in $H_n(X, A)$ means α is a “relative boundary” (i.e. $\alpha = \partial\beta + \gamma$ for $\beta \in C_{n+1}(X)$ and $\gamma \in C_n(A)$).

$\partial : H_n(X, A) \rightarrow H_{n-1}(A)$ is defined by $[\alpha] \mapsto [\partial\alpha]$

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
& & \partial\alpha \\
& & \downarrow i \\
\alpha \in C_n(X) & \xrightarrow{\partial} & \partial\alpha \in C_{n-1}(A) \\
\downarrow j & & \\
\alpha \in C_n(X, A) & &
\end{array}$$

We can also define the relative version.

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
& 0 & & 0 & & & \\
& \downarrow & & \downarrow & & & \\
\cdots & \xrightarrow{\partial} & C_0(A) & \xrightarrow{\epsilon} & \mathbb{Z} & \longrightarrow & 0 \\
& \downarrow & & \downarrow \cong & & & \\
\cdots & \xrightarrow{\partial} & C_0(X) & \xrightarrow{\epsilon} & \mathbb{Z} & \longrightarrow & 0 \\
& \downarrow & & \downarrow 0 & & & \\
\cdots & \xrightarrow{\partial} & C_0(X, A) & \xrightarrow{0} & 0 & \longrightarrow & 0 \\
& \downarrow & & \downarrow & & & \\
& 0 & & 0 & & &
\end{array}
\quad
\begin{array}{ccc}
\sum n_i \sigma_i & \longrightarrow & \sum n_i \\
\downarrow & & \downarrow = \\
\sum n_i \sigma_i & \longmapsto & \sum n_i
\end{array}
\quad
\begin{array}{ccccccc}
\tilde{H}_n(A) & \longrightarrow & \tilde{H}_n(X) & \longrightarrow & H_n(X, A) & & \\
& \xrightarrow{\partial} & & & & & \\
& & & & \tilde{H}_0(A) & \longrightarrow & \tilde{H}_0(X) \longrightarrow H_0(X, A) \\
& & & & & & \\
& & & & & & 0
\end{array}$$

Example

$H_n(X, X) = 0$ for all n , because $C_n(X, X) = C_n(X)/C_n(X) = \{0\}$. So $H_n(X, X_0) \cong \tilde{H}_n(X)$

$$\overbrace{\tilde{H}_n(X_0)}^{=0} \longrightarrow \tilde{H}_n(X) \xrightarrow{\cong} H_n(X, X_0)$$

$$\xrightarrow{\partial} \overbrace{\tilde{H}_{n-1}(X_0)}^{=0} \longrightarrow \cdots$$

Fact

$H_n(X, A) \cong \tilde{H}_n(X/A)$ if (X, A) is a “good” pair (i.e. there exists a neighborhood V of A which deformation retracts to A).

Example

$(X, A) = (D^n, \partial D^n)$ is a good pair, so $H_i(X, A) \cong \tilde{H}_i(D^n / \partial D^n) = \tilde{H}_i(S^n)$. This give a long exact sequence

$$\tilde{H}_i(S^{n-1}) \longrightarrow \overbrace{\tilde{H}_i(D^n)}^{=0} \longrightarrow H_i(X, A)$$

$$\xrightarrow{\partial} \tilde{H}_{i-1}(S^{n-1}) \longrightarrow \overbrace{\tilde{H}_{i-1}(D^n)}^{=0} \longrightarrow \cdots$$

and $\tilde{H}_{i-1}(S^{n-1}) \cong H_i(D^n, \partial D^n) \cong \tilde{H}_i(S^n)$. We conclude

that $\tilde{H}_i(S^n) \cong \tilde{H}_{i-1}(S^{n-1})$.

For $n = 0$, S^0 is two points, $\tilde{H}_0(S^0) = \mathbb{Z}$, and $\tilde{H}_i(S^0) = \tilde{H}_i(\text{pt}) \oplus \tilde{H}_i(\text{pt}) = 0$ for each $i \geq 1$.

For $n = 1$, $\tilde{H}_1(S^1) \cong \tilde{H}_0(S^0) \cong \mathbb{Z}$ and $\tilde{H}_0(S^1) = 0$.

For $n = 2$, $\tilde{H}_2(S^2) \cong \tilde{H}_1(S^1) \cong \mathbb{Z}$, $\tilde{H}_1(S^2) \cong \tilde{H}_0(S^1) = 0$ and $\tilde{H}_0(S^2) = 0$.

So $\tilde{H}_i(S^n)$ is \mathbb{Z} when $i = n$ and 0 otherwise.

Induced Maps on Pairs

Write $f : (X, A) \rightarrow (Y, B)$ for a continuous map $f : X \rightarrow Y$ such that $f(A) \subseteq B$. Then $f_{\#} : C_n(X) \rightarrow C_n(Y)$ ($f_{\#} : C_n(A) \rightarrow C_n(B)$) induces $f_{\#} : C_n(X, A) \rightarrow C_n(Y, B)$ a chain map $\partial f_{\#} = f_{\#} \partial$. This induces $f_* : H_n(X, A) \rightarrow H_n(Y, B)$.

Proposition

Given $f, g : (X, A) \rightarrow (Y, B)$ which are homotopic through maps between pairs $(X, A) \rightarrow (Y, B)$, then $f_* = g_* : H_n(X, A) \rightarrow H_n(Y, B)$.

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
\cdots & \longrightarrow & C_{n+1}(X, A) & \longrightarrow & C_n(X, A) & \longrightarrow & \cdots \\
& & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \\
\cdots & \xrightarrow{p} & C_{n+1}(Y, B) & \longrightarrow & C_n(Y, B) & \longrightarrow & \cdots
\end{array}$$

such that $\partial P + P\partial = g_{\#} - f_{\#}$ (i.e. $f_* = g_*$). $P : C_n(X) \rightarrow C_{n+1}(Y)$

maps $C_n(A)$ to $C_{n+1}(B)$. P defined by $P(\sigma) \sum (-1)^i F \circ (0 \times \text{id})|_{[v_0, \dots, v_i, w_i, \dots, w_j]}$

$\Delta^n \times I \xrightarrow{0 \times \text{id}} X \xrightarrow{F} Y$ If $\sigma : \Delta^n \rightarrow A$, then $P(\sigma) : \Delta^{n+1} \rightarrow B$.

Excision

Given a good pair (X, A) , $H_n(X, A) \cong \tilde{H}_n(X/A)$.

Suppose we have $Z \subseteq A \subseteq X$ such that $\overline{Z} \subseteq A^\circ$ (i.e. the closure of Z is in the interior of A). Then $H_n(X, A) \cong H_n(X - Z, A - Z)$. Equivalently, if $B = X - Z$ then $A \cap B = A - Z$ and $\overline{Z} \subseteq A^\circ \implies A^\circ \cup B^\circ = X$. If A and B satisfy $A^\circ \cup B^\circ = X$, then by excision $H_n(X, A) \cong H_n(B, A \cap B)$.

Remark

If X has a Δ -complex structure such that A , $X - Z$ and $A - Z$ are subcomplexes, then we claim that $C_n^\Delta(X, A) = C_n^\Delta(X - Z, A - Z)$ (and $H_n^\Delta(X, A) = H_n^\Delta(X - Z, A - Z)$). In fact, consider $\varphi : C_n^\Delta(X - Z) \rightarrow C_n^\Delta(X)/C_n^\Delta(A)$ which factors through

$$C_n^\Delta(X - Z) \xhookrightarrow{\iota} C_n^\Delta(X) \longrightarrow C_n^\Delta(X, A) = C_n^\Delta(X)/C_n^\Delta(A)$$

Then φ is surjective, $\ker \varphi = C_n^\Delta(A - Z)$ and

$$C_n^\Delta(X, A) = C_n^\Delta(X)/C_n^\Delta(A) = C_n^\Delta(X - Z)/\ker \varphi = C_n^\Delta(X - Z, A - Z)$$

Proof

Let $\{U_\alpha\}_\alpha = \mathcal{U}$ be a collection of subsets such that $\{U_\alpha^\circ\}_\alpha$ is an open cover of X (it will suffice to consider $\mathcal{U} = \{A, B\}$). Write

$$C_n^\mathcal{U}(X) = \left\{ \sum n_i \sigma_i \in C_n(X) : \text{im } \sigma_i \subseteq U_j^\circ \text{ for some } j \right\}.$$

Then $\partial : C_n(X) \rightarrow C_{n-1}(X)$ maps $C_n^\mathcal{U}(X)$ to $C_{n-1}^\mathcal{U}(X)$. The chain complex $C_*^\mathcal{U}(X)$ gives homology groups $H_*^\mathcal{U}(X)$.

Proposition

$\iota : C_n^\mathcal{U} \rightarrow C_n(X)$ induces an isomorphism $H_n^\mathcal{U}(X) \cong H_n(X)$.

The sketch of this proof is to construct a map $\rho : C_n(X) \rightarrow C_n^\mathcal{U}(X)$ by subdivision. That is, if the simplex $\sigma : \Delta^n \rightarrow X$ does not sit inside any U_α we may subdivide into further simplices that do. Then $\rho \circ \iota = \text{id}$ and $\iota \circ \rho$ is chain homotopic to the identity.

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
\cdots & \longrightarrow & C_n(X) & \longrightarrow & C_{n-1}(X) & \longrightarrow & \cdots \\
& & \downarrow \iota \circ \rho & & \downarrow & & \\
\cdots & \xrightarrow{D} & C_n(X) & \longrightarrow & C_{n-1}(X) & \longrightarrow & \cdots
\end{array}$$

where $D : C_{n-1}(X) \rightarrow C_n(X)$ such that $\partial D + D\partial = \text{id} - \iota \circ \rho$ which implies $(\iota \circ \rho)_* : H_n(X) \rightarrow H_n(X)$ is the identity map. There also exists a relative version. For simplicity, say $\mathcal{U} = \{A, B\}$ and denote $C_n^\mathcal{U}(X) \triangleq C_n(A + B)$ so we have $H_n(A + B, A) \cong H_n(X, A)$.

Proof Continued

We have that $H_n(A + B, A) \cong H_n(X, A)$ (proof in Hatcher).
The left hand side comes from the chain complex of

$$C_n(A + B, A) = C_n(A + B) / C_n(A) = C_n(B) / C_n(A \cap B) = C_n(B, A \cap B)$$

so $H_n(A + B, A) = H_n(B, A \cap B)$.

Proposition

Let (X, A) be a good pair. Then the quotient map $q : (X, A) \rightarrow (X/A, A/A)$ induces an isomorphism $q_* : H_n(X, A) \xrightarrow{\sim} H_n(X/A, \text{pt}) \cong \tilde{H}_n(X/A)$.

Proof

Let V be a neighborhood of A which deformation retracts to A .

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} H_n(X, A) & \xrightarrow{(1)} & H_n(X, V) & \xrightarrow{\sim} & H_n(X - A, V - A) \\ \downarrow q_* & & & & \downarrow \sim \\ H_n(X/A, A/A) & \xrightarrow{(2)} & H_n(X/A, V/A) & \xleftarrow[\text{excision}]{H_n((X-A)/A, (V-A)/A)} & H_n(X/A - A/A, V/A - A/A) \end{array}$$

It remains to show that (1) and (2) are isomorphisms. For (2), V/A deformation retracts to A/A in X/A . So consider the triple $A \subseteq V \subseteq X$. It induces a short exact sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow \frac{C_n(V, A)}{C_n(V)/C_n(A)} \xrightarrow{i} \frac{C_n(X, A)}{C_n(X)/C_n(A)} \xrightarrow{j} \frac{C_n(X, V)}{C_n(X)/C_n(V)} \longrightarrow 0$$

sequence

So $\ker j = \text{im } i$, and this induces a long exact

$$\longrightarrow \overbrace{H_n(V, A)}^{=0} \longrightarrow H_n(X, A) \xrightarrow{\sim} H_n(X, V)$$

$$\xrightarrow{\partial} \overbrace{H_{n-1}(V, A)}^{=0} \longrightarrow$$

where the terms zero since V deformation retracts to A .