

M3P21 Geometry II: Algebraic Topology

Lectured by Dr Christian Urech
Typeset by David Kurniadi Angdinata

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0 Some underlying geometric notions

0.1 Introduction

Combines topological spaces with algebraic objects, groups.

- How to show that a torus is not homeomorphic to a sphere?
- How to show that $\mathbb{R}^n \not\cong \mathbb{R}^m$ if $n \neq m$?

Content is fundamental groups and homology. We will follow chapter one and two from

- A Hatcher, Algebraic topology, 2002

Prerequisites are the following.

- Point set topology. Topological spaces, continuous maps, product and quotient topologies, Hausdorff spaces, etc.
- Basic group theory. Normal subgroups and quotients, isomorphism theorems, free groups, presentation of groups, etc.

0.2 Homotopy

Let X, Y be topological spaces and $I = [0, 1]$.

Definition 0.1. A **homotopy** is a continuous map $F : X \times I \rightarrow Y$. For every $t \in I$ we obtain a continuous map

$$\begin{aligned} f_t : X &\rightarrow Y \\ x &\mapsto f_t(x) = F(x, t) \end{aligned}$$

Definition 0.2. Two continuous maps $f_0, f_1 : X \rightarrow Y$ are **homotopic** if there exists a homotopy $F : X \times I \rightarrow Y$ such that

$$f_0(x) = F(x, 0), \quad f_1(x) = F(x, 1),$$

for all $x \in X$. We write $f_0 \cong f_1$.

(Exercise: this is an equivalence relation)

Definition 0.3. Let $A \subseteq X$ be a subspace. A **retraction** of X onto A is a continuous map $r : X \rightarrow A$ such that

- $r(X) = A$, and
- $r|_A = id_A$.

Example 0.4. If $X \neq \emptyset$, $p \in X$, then X retracts to p by the constant map $X \rightarrow \{p\}$.

Definition 0.5. A **deformation retraction** of X onto $A \subseteq X$ is a retraction that is homotopic to the identity. That is, there is a continuous map

$$\begin{aligned} F : X \times I &\rightarrow A \\ (x, t) &\mapsto f_t(x) \end{aligned}$$

such that $f_0 = id_X$ and $f_1 : X \rightarrow A$ is the deformation retraction.

Example 0.6. The closed n -dimensional n -disc

$$D^n = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid |x| \leq 1\}$$

deformation retracts to $(0, \dots, 0) \in \mathbb{R}^n$. Let $f_t(x) = t \cdot x$. $t = 1$ gives $f_1 = id_{D^n}$ and $t = 0$ gives $f_0 : D^n \rightarrow (0, \dots, 0)$.

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Example 0.7. Let S^n be the n -sphere,

$$\partial D^{n+1} = S^n = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid |x| = 1\}.$$

The cylinder $S^n \times I$ deformation retracts to $S^n \times \{0\}$, by defining $f_t(x, r) = (x, t \cdot r)$.

An observation is if X is a topological space, and $f : X \rightarrow \{p\}$ for $p \in X$ is a deformation retraction of X to p , then X is path connected. Indeed, if $F : X \times I \rightarrow X$ is a homotopy from id_X to f and $x \in X$ is a point, then this gives a path

$$\begin{aligned} I &\rightarrow X \\ t &\mapsto F(x, t) \end{aligned}$$

that connects x to p . This implies that not all retractions are deformation retractions.

Example 0.8. A retraction that is not a deformation retraction. Take a space that is not path connected and retract it to a point. Let $X = \{0, 1\}$ with discrete topology. $x \mapsto 0$ is a retraction, but not a deformation retraction because X is not path connected.

Definition 0.9. A continuous map $f : X \rightarrow Y$ is a **homotopy equivalence** if there is a continuous map $g : Y \rightarrow X$ such that $fg \cong id_Y$ and $gf \cong id_X$. If there exists a homotopy equivalence between X and Y , X and Y are **homotopy equivalent** or they have the same **homotopy type**.

Lemma 0.10. A deformation retraction $f : X \rightarrow A$ is a homotopy equivalence.

Proof. Let $i : A \hookrightarrow X$ be the inclusion map. Then $fi = id_A$ and $if = f \cong id_X$ by definition. \square

Example 0.11. The disc with two holes is equivalent to ∞ .

Example 0.12. \mathbb{R}^n deformation retracts to a point, by $f_t(x) = t \cdot x$.

Definition 0.13.

- X is **contractible** if it is homotopy equivalent to a point.
- A continuous map is **nullhomotopic** if it is homotopy equivalent to a constant map.

0.3 Cell complexes

Example 0.14. The torus $S^1 \times S^1$ is the union of a point, two open intervals, and the open disc $Int(D^2)$.

These are called **cells**. Can think of discs D^n glued together.

Definition 0.15. A **CW-complex**, or **cell complex**, is a topological space X such that there exists a decomposition

$$X = \bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} X^n,$$

where the X^n are constructed inductively in the following way.

- X^n is a discrete set.
- For each $n \geq 0$ there is an collection of closed n -discs $\{D_\alpha^n\}$ together with continuous maps

$$\phi_\alpha : \partial D_\alpha^n \rightarrow X^{n-1},$$

such that

$$X^n = \frac{X^{n-1} \sqcup \bigsqcup_\alpha D_\alpha^n}{\sim},$$

where $x \sim \phi_\alpha(x)$ for all $x \in \partial D_\alpha^n$ for all α .

- A subset $U \subseteq X$ is open if and only if $U \cap X^n$ is open for all n .

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Remark 0.16.

- As a set,

$$X^n = X^{n-1} \sqcup \bigsqcup_{\alpha} e_{\alpha}^n,$$

where each e_{α}^n is homeomorphic to an open n -disc. These e_{α}^n are called the **n -cells** of X .

- If $X = X^m$ for some m , then X is called **finite dimensional**. The minimal m such that $X = X^m$ is the **dimension** of X .

Example 0.17.

- $[0, 1]$ is a CW-complex.
- \mathbb{R} is a CW-complex.
- S^1 is a CW-complex.
- A graph is a CW-complex.
- $S^n = D^n / \partial D^n$ is a CW-complex. See worksheet 1.

Can also decompose CW-complexes.

- The sphere S^2 is one 0-cell, one 1-cell, and two 2-cells.
- The torus $S^1 \times S^1$ is one 0-cell, two 1-cells, and one 2-cell.
- The Möbius strip is two 0-cells, three 1-cells, and one 2-cell.
- The Klein bottle is one 0-cell, two 1-cells, and one 2-cell.

Definition 0.18. If X is a CW-complex with finitely many cells the **Euler characteristic** $\chi(X)$ of X is the number of even cells minus the number of odd cells.

A fact is that $\chi(X)$ does not depend of the choice of cells decomposition.

Example 0.19.

- $\chi(S^n) = 0$ if n is odd and $\chi(S^n) = 2$ if n is even.
- $\chi(S^1 \times S^1) = 0$.

This is the generalisation of the following observation by Leonhard Euler. Let P be a convex polyhedron, where

- V is the number of vertices of P ,
- E is the number of edges of P , and
- F is the number of faces of P .

Then $V - E + F = 2$.

Example 0.20. A topological space that is not a CW-complex. $X = \{0, 1\}$ with trivial topology does not contain any closed points. A fact is that CW-complexes are always Hausdorff.

1 The fundamental group

1.1 Paths and homotopy

Let X be a topological space. A **path** is a continuous map $f : I \rightarrow X$, where $I = [0, 1]$.

Definition 1.1. Two paths f_0, f_1 are **homotopic** if there exists a homotopy between f_0 and f_1 preserving the endpoints, that is a continuous map

$$F : I \times I \rightarrow X \\ (s, t) \mapsto f_t(s) ,$$

such that

$$f_t(0) = f_0(0), \quad f_t(1) = f_0(1),$$

for all $t \in I$, and

$$F(s, 0) = f_0(s), \quad F(s, 1) = f_1(s),$$

for all $s \in I$.

Example 1.2. Let $X \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ be a convex set. Then all the paths in X are homotopic if they have the same endpoints.

Proof. Let $f_0, f_1 : I \rightarrow X$ be two paths such that $f_0(0) = f_1(0)$ and $f_0(1) = f_1(1)$. Define $f_t(s) = (1-t)f_0(s) + tf_1(s)$. \square

Lemma 1.3. *Being homotopic is an equivalence relation on the set of paths with fixed endpoints. We will write $f_0 \cong f_1$ for two homotopic paths f_0 and f_1 .*

Proof.

- f is homotopic to f .
- If f_0 is homotopic to f_1 by a homotopy f_t , then f_1 is homotopic to f_0 by the homotopy f_{1-t} .
- If f_0 is homotopic to f_1 by a homotopy f_t and $f_1 = g_0$ is homotopic to g_1 by a homotopy g_t , then f_0 is homotopic to g_1 by the homotopy

$$h_t = \begin{cases} f_{2t} & 0 \leq t \leq \frac{1}{2} \\ g_{2t-1} & \frac{1}{2} \leq t \leq 1 \end{cases}.$$

Then

$$H : I \times I \rightarrow X \\ (s, t) \mapsto h_t(s)$$

is continuous because its restriction to the closed subsets $I \times [0, 1/2]$ and $I \times [1/2, 1]$ is continuous, since if the restriction to two closed subsets is continuous then the restriction to the union of these subsets is continuous. \square

Let X be a topological space and $I = [0, 1]$. If $f : I \rightarrow X$ is a path, $[f]$ is the class of all paths on X homotopic to f .

Definition 1.4. Let $f, g : I \rightarrow X$ be two paths such that $f(1) = g(0)$. The **product path** $f \cdot g$ is the path

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

A convention is that whenever we write $f \cdot g$ we implicitly assume $f(1) = g(0)$.

Lemma 1.5. Let f_0, f_1, g_0, g_1 be paths on X such that $f_1 \cong f_0$ and $g_0 \cong g_1$. Then $f_0 \cdot g_0 \cong f_1 \cdot g_1$.

Proof.

$$\begin{aligned} I \times I &\rightarrow X \\ (s, t) &\mapsto (f_t \cdot g_t)(s) \end{aligned}$$

is a homotopy between $f_0 \cdot g_0$ and $f_1 \cdot g_1$. \square

Remark 1.6. Reparametrisation. Let $\phi : [0, 1] \rightarrow [0, 1]$ be continuous such that $\phi(0) = 0$ and $\phi(1) = 1$. If $f : I \rightarrow X$ is a path, then $f \circ \phi \cong f$.

Proof. Define $\phi_t(s) = (1-t)\phi(s) + ts$, then $f \circ \phi_t$ is a homotopy between $f \circ \phi$ and f . \square

For $x \in X$, let the **constant path** at x be

$$\begin{aligned} c_x : I &\rightarrow X \\ s &\mapsto x \end{aligned}$$

For a path $f : I \rightarrow X$, define

$$\begin{aligned} f^{-1} : I &\rightarrow X \\ s &\mapsto f(1-s) \end{aligned}$$

Lemma 1.7. Let $f, g, h : I \rightarrow X$ be paths. Then

1. $(f \cdot g) \cdot h \cong f \cdot (g \cdot h)$,
2. $f \cdot c_{f(1)} \cong f$ and $c_{f(0)} \cdot f \cong f$, and
3. $f \cdot f^{-1} \cong c_{f(0)}$ and $f^{-1} \cdot f \cong c_{f(1)}$.

Proof.

1. $((f \cdot g) \cdot h) \circ \phi = f \cdot (g \cdot h)$, where

$$\phi(s) = \begin{cases} \frac{s}{2} & s \in [0, \frac{1}{2}] \\ s - \frac{1}{4} & s \in [\frac{1}{2}, \frac{3}{4}] \\ 2s - 1 & s \in [\frac{3}{4}, 1] \end{cases},$$

so $(f \cdot g) \cdot h \cong f \cdot (g \cdot h)$ by reparametrisation.

2. Again reparametrisation, by

$$\psi(s) = \begin{cases} 2s & s \in [0, \frac{1}{2}] \\ 1 & s \in [\frac{1}{2}, 1] \end{cases}, \quad \chi(s) = \begin{cases} 0 & s \in [0, \frac{1}{2}] \\ 2s - 1 & s \in [\frac{1}{2}, 1] \end{cases}.$$

3. Define

$$H(s, t) = \begin{cases} f(\max\{1 - 2s, t\}) & s \in [0, \frac{1}{2}] \\ f(\max\{2s - 1, t\}) & s \in [\frac{1}{2}, 1] \end{cases}.$$

H is continuous, and

$$H(s, 0) = f^{-1} \cdot f, \quad H(s, 1) = c_{f(1)}.$$

\square

Definition 1.8. A **loop** with **basepoint** $x_0 \in X$ is a path $f : I \rightarrow X$ such that $f(0) = f(1) = x_0$.

Definition 1.9. Denote by $\pi_1(X, x_0)$ the set of homotopy classes $[f]$ of loops $f : I \rightarrow X$ with basepoint x_0 .

Proposition 1.10. $\pi_1(X, x_0)$ is a group with product $[f][g] = [f \cdot g]$ and neutral element $c_{x_0} : I \rightarrow X$, the constant path at x_0 .

Proof. Follows directly from Lemma 1.5 and Lemma 1.7. \square

Definition 1.11. $\pi_1(X, x_0)$ is the **fundamental group** of X at x_0 .

Example 1.12. Let $X \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ be a convex set and $x_0 \in X$. Then $\pi_1(X, x_0) = 0$.

Proof. X is convex gives that all loops are homotopic to each other. \square

Example 1.13.

- The fundamental group of a space X with the trivial topology is trivial, since X is simply connected, because all maps $f : I \rightarrow X$ are continuous, so path connected and all paths are homotopic.
- The fundamental group of a space X with the discrete topology is trivial, since $f : I \rightarrow X$ continuous gives f constant.

Assume $x_0, x_1 \in X$ such that x_0 and x_1 are in the same path component of X . Let $h : I \rightarrow X$ be a path such that $h(0) = x_0$ and $h(1) = x_1$. Define

$$\beta_h : \pi_1(X, x_1) \rightarrow \pi_1(X, x_0) \\ [f] \mapsto [h \cdot f \cdot h^{-1}] .$$

This is well-defined by Lemma 1.5.

Proposition 1.14. $\beta_h : \pi_1(X, x_1) \rightarrow \pi_1(X, x_0)$ is an isomorphism.

Proof. It is a homomorphism.

$$\beta_h[f \cdot g] = [h \cdot f \cdot g \cdot h^{-1}] = [h \cdot f \cdot h^{-1}] [h \cdot g \cdot h^{-1}] = \beta_h[f] \cdot \beta_h[g] ,$$

and $\beta_h[c_{x_1}] = [c_{x_1}]$. It is bijective with $(\beta_h)^{-1} = \beta_{h^{-1}}$. \square

If X is path connected, we often write $\pi_1(X)$ instead of $\pi_1(X, x_0)$.

Definition 1.15. X is **simply connected** if it is path connected and $\pi_1(X) = 0$.

Proposition 1.16. X is simply connected if and only if there exists a unique homotopy class of paths between any two points of X .

Proof.

\Rightarrow There exists a path between any two points. Let f, g be two paths from x_0 to x_1 for $x_0, x_1 \in X$. $f \cdot g^{-1} \cong g \cdot g^{-1}$ gives $f \cong f \cdot g^{-1} \cdot g \cong g \cdot g^{-1} \cdot g \cong g$.

\Leftarrow X is path connected. $x_1 = x_0$ gives that all loops at x_0 are homotopic to each other, so $\pi_1(X) = 0$. \square

1.2 The fundamental group of the circle

Goal is to show that $\pi_1(S^1) \cong \mathbb{Z}$.

Definition 1.17. A **covering space** of a space X is a space \tilde{X} and a continuous map $p : \tilde{X} \rightarrow X$ such that for each $x \in X$ there is an open $U \subseteq X$ such that

- $p^{-1}(U) = \bigcup_{j \in J} \tilde{U}_j$, where $\tilde{U}_j \subseteq \tilde{X}$ is open,
- $\tilde{U}_i \cap \tilde{U}_j = \emptyset$ if $i \neq j$, and
- $p|_{\tilde{U}_j} : \tilde{U}_j \rightarrow U$ is a homeomorphism for all $j \in J$.

Such a U is called **evenly covered**. The \tilde{U}_j are called **sheets**.

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Example 1.18.

$$\begin{aligned} p : \mathbb{R} &\rightarrow S^1 \\ s &\mapsto (\cos(2\pi s), \sin(2\pi s)) \end{aligned}$$

Definition 1.19. Let $p : \tilde{X} \rightarrow X$ be a covering space. A **lift** of a continuous map $f : Y \rightarrow X$ is a continuous map $\tilde{f} : Y \rightarrow \tilde{X}$ such that $p \circ \tilde{f} = f$, so

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

Proposition 1.20 (Unique lifting property). *Let $p : \tilde{X} \rightarrow X$ be a covering space and $f : Y \rightarrow X$ be a continuous map. If there are two lifts $\tilde{f}_1, \tilde{f}_2 : Y \rightarrow \tilde{X}$ of f such that $\tilde{f}_1(y) = \tilde{f}_2(y)$ for some $y \in Y$ and if Y is connected, then $\tilde{f}_1 = \tilde{f}_2$.*

Proof. Let $y \in Y$ and $U \subseteq X$ be an evenly covered neighbourhood of $f(y)$. Then

$$p^{-1}(U) = \bigcup_j \tilde{U}_j.$$

Let \tilde{U}_1 be the sheet such that $\tilde{f}_1(y) \in \tilde{U}_1$, and let \tilde{U}_2 be the sheet such that $\tilde{f}_2(y) \in \tilde{U}_2$. Let $N \subseteq Y$ be open and $y \in N$ such that $\tilde{f}_1(N) \subseteq \tilde{U}_1$ and $\tilde{f}_2(N) \subseteq \tilde{U}_2$. We have $p \circ \tilde{f}_1 = p \circ \tilde{f}_2$.

$$\tilde{f}_1(y) = \tilde{f}_2(y) \iff \tilde{U}_1 = \tilde{U}_2 \iff \tilde{f}_1|_N = \tilde{f}_2|_N.$$

Let

$$A = \{y \in Y \mid \tilde{f}_1(y) = \tilde{f}_2(y)\},$$

so A is open and $Y \setminus A$ is open. Thus $A \neq \emptyset$ gives $A = Y$. \square

Proposition 1.21 (Homotopy lifting property). *Let $p : \tilde{X} \rightarrow X$ be a covering space and $F : Y \times I \rightarrow X$ be a continuous map such that there exists a lift $\tilde{f}_0 : Y \times \{0\} \rightarrow \tilde{X}$ of $F|_{Y \times \{0\}}$. Then there is a unique lift $\tilde{F} : Y \times I \rightarrow \tilde{X}$ of F such that $\tilde{F}|_{Y \times \{0\}} = \tilde{f}_0$.*

Proof. Let $y_0 \in Y$ and $t \in I$. There are open $y_0 \in N_t \subseteq Y$ and $t \in (a_t, b_t) \subseteq I$ such that $F(N_t \times (a_t, b_t)) \subseteq U \subseteq X$, where $U \subseteq X$ is open and evenly covered. Compactness of I gives that there exist

$$0 = t_0 < \dots < t_m = 1,$$

and there exists $y_0 \in N \subseteq Y$ open such that $F(N \times [t_i, t_{i+1}]) \subseteq U_i \subseteq X$, where $U_i \subseteq X$ is open and evenly covered. We inductively construct a lift $\tilde{F}|_{N \times I}$ of $F|_{N \times I}$.

- $\tilde{F}|_{N \times [0,0]} = \tilde{f}_0|_{N \times [0,0]}$ exists.
- Assume the lift has been constructed on $N \times [0, t_i]$. Let $\tilde{U}_i \subseteq \tilde{X}$ be such that $p|_{\tilde{U}_i} : \tilde{U}_i \rightarrow U_i$ such that $\tilde{F}(y_0, t_i) \in \tilde{U}_i$. After shrinking N , may assume $\tilde{F}(N \times \{t_i\}) \subseteq \tilde{U}_i$. Define \tilde{F} on $N \times [t_i, t_{i+1}]$ to be composition of F with the homeomorphism $p^{-1} : U_i \rightarrow \tilde{U}_i$.

After finitely many steps we obtain a lift $\tilde{F} : N \times I \rightarrow \tilde{X}$, where $y_0 \in N \subseteq Y$ is open, so for each $y \in Y$ there is a neighbourhood $N_y \subseteq Y$ such that $F|_{N_y \times I} : N_y \times I \rightarrow X$ lifts. For all $y \in Y$, $\{y\} \times I$ is connected and can be lifted, so Proposition 1.20 gives that the lift of $N \times I$ is unique. Thus there is a unique lift $\tilde{F} : Y \times I \rightarrow \tilde{X}$. \square

Example 1.22. Let X be a topological space and A be discrete. Then $p : X \times A \rightarrow X$ is a covering space. This is the **trivial covering**. (Exercise: show the unique lifting property and the homotopy lifting property for the trivial covering)

Corollary 1.23. Let $f : I \rightarrow X$ be a path, $f(0) = x_0$, and $p : \tilde{X} \rightarrow X$ be a covering space. For each $\tilde{x}_0 \in p^{-1}(x_0)$, there is a unique lift $\tilde{f} : I \rightarrow \tilde{X}$ such that $\tilde{f}(0) = \tilde{x}_0$.

Proof. Proposition 1.21 for Y a point. □

Theorem 1.24. Let $x_0 = (1, 0) \in S^1$. $\pi_1(S^1, x_0)$ is the infinite cyclic group generated by the homotopy class of the loop

$$\begin{aligned} \omega : I &\rightarrow S^1 \\ s &\mapsto (\cos(2\pi s), \sin(2\pi s)) \end{aligned}$$

Remark 1.25.

- $[\omega]^n = [\omega_n]$, where

$$\omega_n(s) = (\cos(2\pi ns), \sin(2\pi ns)).$$

-

$$\begin{aligned} p : \mathbb{R} &\rightarrow S^1 \\ s &\mapsto (\cos(2\pi s), \sin(2\pi s)) \end{aligned}$$

is a covering space.

- ω_n lifts to

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\omega}_n : I &\rightarrow \mathbb{R} \\ s &\mapsto ns \end{aligned}$$

such that $\tilde{\omega}_n(0) = 0$ and $\tilde{\omega}_n(1) = n$.

Proof of Theorem 1.24.

- If $f : I \rightarrow S^1$ be a loop at x_0 , then the homotopy lifting property gives that there exists a lift $\tilde{f} : I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ such that $\tilde{f}(0) = 0$. Since $p(\tilde{f}(1)) = f(1) = x_0$, then $\tilde{f}(1) = n$ for some $n \in \mathbb{Z}$. $\tilde{\omega}_n : I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is another path such that $\tilde{\omega}_n(0) = 0$ and $\tilde{\omega}_n(1) = n$, so $\tilde{f} \cong \tilde{\omega}_n$. Let $F : I \times I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a homotopy equivalence between \tilde{f} and $\tilde{\omega}_n$. Then $p \circ F : I \times I \rightarrow S^1$ gives a homotopy between $p \circ \tilde{f} = f$ and $p \circ \tilde{\omega}_n = \omega_n$.
- Let $m, n \in \mathbb{Z}$ and assume $\omega_m \cong \omega_n$. Let $F : I \times I \rightarrow S^1$ be a homotopy.

$$F(0, t) = \omega_m(t), \quad F(1, t) = \omega_n(t), \quad F(s, 0) = F(s, 1) = x_0,$$

for all $s, t \in I$. The unique lifting property gives that $\tilde{\omega}_n, \tilde{\omega}_m : I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ are unique lifts such that $\tilde{\omega}_n(0) = 0 = \tilde{\omega}_m(0)$. The homotopy lifting property gives that F lifts uniquely to a homotopy $\tilde{F} : I \times I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ between $\tilde{\omega}_n$ and $\tilde{\omega}_m$, and $\tilde{F}(s, 1) \in \mathbb{Z}$ for all $s \in I$. Thus $\tilde{F}(s, 1) = n = m$, so $\omega_m \cong \omega_n$ if and only if $n = m$.

□

Lecture 5 is a problem class.

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A Quotient topology

Recall that if X is a set with equivalence relation \sim , there is a quotient set X/\sim . The quotient map

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \pi : X & \rightarrow & \frac{X}{\sim} \\ x & \mapsto & [x] \end{array}$$

is characterised by the following universal property. For every map $g : X \rightarrow Y$ such that

$$a \sim b \quad \implies \quad g(a) = g(b),$$

there exists a unique $f : X/\sim \rightarrow Y$ such that $g = f \cdot \pi$, so

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X & & \\ \pi \downarrow & \searrow g & \\ \frac{X}{\sim} & \xrightarrow{\exists! f} & Y \end{array}.$$

Let X be a topological space and \sim be an equivalence relation on X . We define a topology on X/\sim by

$$U \subseteq \frac{X}{\sim} \text{ open} \quad \iff \quad \pi^{-1}(U) \text{ open.}$$

Remark A.1.

- This is the largest topology on X/\sim such that π is continuous. Exercise 1 states that if Z is a topological space and $f : X/\sim \rightarrow Z$ is a map, then f is continuous if and only if $f \circ \pi : X \rightarrow Z$ is continuous. This implies that the topological quotient $\pi : X \rightarrow X/\sim$ is characterised by the following universal property. For any topological space Z and a continuous $g : X \rightarrow Z$ such that

$$a \sim b \quad \implies \quad g(a) = g(b),$$

there exists a unique continuous map $f : X/\sim \rightarrow Z$ such that $gf \cdot \pi$, so

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X & & \\ \pi \downarrow & \searrow g & \\ \frac{X}{\sim} & \xrightarrow{\exists! f} & Z \end{array}.$$

- The quotient map is in general not open. For example, if $\pi : [0, 1] \rightarrow S^1$, then $[0, 1] \subset [0, 1]$ is open but $\pi([0, 1)) \subseteq S^1$ is not open.
- If X is Hausdorff, in general X/\sim is not Hausdorff.
- If \sim is the trivial relation, then $\pi : X \rightarrow X/\sim$ is a homeomorphism. Exercise 3 states that if X, Y are topological spaces, X is compact, Y is Hausdorff, and $\pi : X \rightarrow Y$ is surjective and continuous, then π is a quotient, that is there exists \sim on X and $\pi : X \rightarrow Y \cong X/\sim$ is a quotient map.
- In particular, if $\pi : X \rightarrow Y$ is bijective, then π is a homeomorphism. Exercise 4, 5, 6 states that if f is continuous and surjective, $f(\partial D^n)$ is a point, and f is a bijection on $D^n \setminus \partial D^n$, then

$$\begin{array}{ccc} D^n & & \\ \pi \downarrow & \searrow f & \\ \frac{D^n}{\partial D^n} & \xrightarrow{\sim} & S^1 \end{array}.$$