M3P21 Geometry II: Algebraic Topology

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0   Introduction

0.1   Introduction

Combines topological spaces with algebraic objects, which are 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

The following are prerequisites.

- 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   Some underlying geometric notions

0.2.1   Homotopy and homotopy type

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

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

$$f_t : \begin{array}{ccc} X & \to & Y \\ x & \mapsto & f_t(x) = F(x, t) \end{array} .$$

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

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

for all $x \in X$. We write $f_0 \cong f_1$. (Exercise: this is an equivalence relation)

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

- $r(X) = A$, and

- $r \mid_A = id_A$.

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

Definition. 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

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

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

Example. The closed n-dimensional **n-disc** $D^n = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid |x| \leq 1\}$ deformation retracts to $(0, \ldots, 0) \in \mathbb{R}^n$. Let $f_t(x) = t \cdot x$. $t = 1$ gives $f_1 = id_{D^n}$ and $t = 0$ gives $f_0 : D^n \to (0, \ldots, 0)$.

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

$$\begin{array}{ccc} I & \to & X \\ t & \mapsto & F(x, t) \end{array}$$

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

Example. 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. A continuous map $f : X \to Y$ is a **homotopy equivalence** if there is a continuous map $g : Y \to X$ 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 0.1. *A deformation retraction $f : X \to A$ 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. □

Example. The disc with two holes is equivalent to $O \cdot O$.

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

Definition.

- 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.

0.2.2 Cell complexes

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

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

Lecture 2
Tuesday
15/01/19

Definition. 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 $\phi_\alpha : \partial D_\alpha^n \to X^{n-1}$, such that

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

  where $x \sim \phi_\alpha\left(x\right)$ 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.

Remark.

- 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. The following are CW-complexes.

$$[0,1], \qquad \mathbb{R}, \qquad S^1, \qquad \text{a graph}, \qquad S^n = D^n / \partial D^n.$$

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

Fact. $\chi\left(X\right)$ does not depend of the choice of cells decomposition.

Example.

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

- $\chi\left(S^1 \times S^1\right) = 0$.

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

Fact. CW-complexes are always Hausdorff.

1 The fundamental group

1.1 Basic constructions

1.1.1 Paths and homotopy

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

Definition. 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

$$
\begin{array}{rrcl}
F: & I \times I & \to & X \\
 & (s, t) & \mapsto & f_t(s)
\end{array} ,
$$

such that

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

for all $t \in I$, and

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

for all $s \in I$.

Example. 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 $f_0, f_1 : I \to X$ be two paths such that $f_0(0) = f_1(0)$ and $f_0(1) = f_1(1)$. Define

$$
f_t(s) = (1 - t) f_0(s) + t f_1(s).
$$

$\square$

Lemma 1.1. *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

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

  Then

$$
\begin{array}{rrcl}
H: & I \times I & \to & X \\
 & (s, t) & \mapsto & h_t(s)
\end{array}
$$

  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 $f : I \to X$ is a path, $[f]$ is the class of all paths on X homotopic to f.

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

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

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

Lemma 1.2. *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.
$$\begin{array}{ccc} I \times I & \to & X \\ (s,t) & \mapsto & (f_t \cdot g_t)(s) \end{array}$$

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

Remark. Let $\phi : [0,1] \to [0,1]$ be continuous such that $\phi(0) = 0$ and $\phi(1) = 1$. If $f : I \to X$ is a path, then $f\phi \cong f$. This is a **reparametrisation**.

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

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

$$\begin{array}{cccc} c_x : & I & \to & X \\ & s & \mapsto & x \end{array}.$$

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

$$\begin{array}{cccc} f^{-1} : & I & \to & X \\ & s & \mapsto & f(1-s) \end{array}.$$

Lemma 1.3. *Let* $f, g, h : I \to X$ *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. $((f \cdot g) \cdot h)\phi = f \cdot (g \cdot h)$, 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

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

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

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

   The inverse is similar.

$\qquad\square$

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

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

Proposition 1.4. $\pi_1(X, x_0)$ *is a group with product* $[f][g] = [f \cdot g]$ *and neutral element* $c_{x_0} : I \to X$, *the constant path at* x_0.

Proof. Follows directly from Lemma 1.2 and Lemma 1.3. $\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\square$

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

Example. 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. $\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\square$

Example.

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

- The fundamental group of a space X with the discrete topology is trivial, since $f : I \to X$ 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 $h : I \to X$ be a path such that $h(0) = x_0$ and $h(1) = x_1$. Define

$$\begin{array}{rcl} \beta_h : & \pi_1(X, x_1) & \to \quad \pi_1(X, x_0) \\ & [f] & \mapsto \quad [h \cdot f \cdot h^{-1}] \end{array}.$$

This is well-defined by Lemma 1.2.

Proposition 1.5. $\beta_h : \pi_1(X, x_1) \to \pi_1(X, x_0)$ *is an isomorphism.*

Proof. It is a homomorphism.

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

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

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

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

Proposition 1.6. X *is simply-connected if and only if there exists a unique homotopy class of paths between any two points of* X.

Proof.

$\implies$ 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

$$f \cong f \cdot g^{-1} \cdot g \cong g \cdot g^{-1} \cdot g \cong g.$$

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

$\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\square$

1.1.2   The fundamental group of the circle

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

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

- $p^{-1}(U) = \bigcup_{j \in J} \widetilde{U_j}$, where $\widetilde{U_j} \subseteq \widetilde{X}$ is open,

- $\widetilde{U_i} \cap \widetilde{U_j} = \emptyset$ if $i \neq j$, and

- $p\mid_{\widetilde{U_j}} : \widetilde{U_j} \to U$ is a homeomorphism for all $j \in J$.

Such a U is called **evenly covered**. The $\widetilde{U_j}$ are called **sheets**.

Example.
$$
\begin{array}{rcl}
p : & \mathbb{R} & \to \quad S^1 \\
& s & \mapsto \quad (\cos(2\pi s), \sin(2\pi s))
\end{array} .
$$

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

$$
\begin{array}{ccc}
& & \widetilde{X} \\
& \overset{\widetilde{f}}{\nearrow} & \downarrow p \\
Y & \xrightarrow{\;\;f\;\;} & X
\end{array} .
$$

Proposition 1.7 (Unique lifting property)**.** *Let $p : \widetilde{X} \to X$ be a covering space and $f : Y \to X$ be a continuous map. If there are two lifts $\widetilde{f_1}, \widetilde{f_2} : Y \to \widetilde{X}$ of f such that $\widetilde{f_1}(y) = \widetilde{f_2}(y)$ for some $y \in Y$ and if Y is connected, then $\widetilde{f_1} = \widetilde{f_2}$.*

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

$$
p^{-1}(U) = \bigcup_j \widetilde{U_j}.
$$

Let $\widetilde{U_1}$ be the sheet such that $\widetilde{f_1}(y) \in \widetilde{U_1}$, and let $\widetilde{U_2}$ be the sheet such that $\widetilde{f_2}(y) \in \widetilde{U_2}$. Let $N \subseteq Y$ be open and $y \in N$ such that $\widetilde{f_1}(N) \subseteq \widetilde{U_1}$ and $\widetilde{f_2}(N) \subseteq \widetilde{U_2}$. We have $p\widetilde{f_1} = p\widetilde{f_2}$. Then $\widetilde{f_1}(y) = \widetilde{f_2}(y)$ if and only if $\widetilde{U_1} = \widetilde{U_2}$, if and only if $\widetilde{f_1}\mid_N = \widetilde{f_2}\mid_N$. Let

$$
A = \left\{ y \in Y \mid \widetilde{f_1}(y) = \widetilde{f_2}(y) \right\},
$$

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

Proposition 1.8 (Homotopy lifting property)**.** *Let $p : \widetilde{X} \to X$ be a covering space and $F : Y \times I \to X$ be a continuous map such that there exists a lift $\widetilde{f_0} : Y \times \{0\} \to \widetilde{X}$ of $F\mid_{Y \times \{0\}}$. Then there is a unique lift $\widetilde{F} : Y \times I \to \widetilde{X}$ of F such that $\widetilde{F}\mid_{Y \times \{0\}} = \widetilde{f_0}$.*

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

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

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 $\widetilde{F}\mid_{N \times I}$ of $F\mid_{N \times I}$.

- $\widetilde{F}\mid_{N \times [0,0]} = \widetilde{f_0}\mid_{N \times [0,0]}$ exists.

- Assume the lift has been constructed on $N \times [0, t_i]$. Let $\widetilde{U_i} \subseteq \widetilde{X}$ be such that $p \mid_{\widetilde{U_i}} : \widetilde{U_i} \to U_i$ such that $\widetilde{F}(y_0, t_i) \subseteq \widetilde{U_i}$. After shrinking N, may assume $\widetilde{F}(N \times \{t_i\}) \subseteq \widetilde{U_i}$. Define $\widetilde{F}$ on $N \times [t_i, t_{i+1}]$ to be composition of F with the homeomorphism $p^{-1} : U_i \to \widetilde{U_i}$.

After finitely many steps we obtain a lift $\widetilde{F} : N \times I \to \widetilde{X}$, 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 $F \mid_{N_y \times I} : N_y \times I \to X$ lifts. For all $y \in Y$, $\{y\} \times I$ is connected and can be lifted, so Proposition 1.7 gives that the lift of $N \times I$ is unique. Thus there is a unique lift $\widetilde{F} : Y \times I \to \widetilde{X}$. $\qquad\square$

Example. Let X be a topological space and A be discrete. Then $p : X \times A \to X$ 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 1.9. *Let $f : I \to X$ be a path, $f(0) = x_0$, and $p : \widetilde{X} \to X$ be a covering space. For each $\widetilde{x_0} \in p^{-1}(x_0)$, there is a unique lift $\widetilde{f} : I \to \widetilde{X}$ such that $\widetilde{f}(0) = \widetilde{x_0}$.*

Proof. Proposition 1.8 for Y a point. $\qquad\square$

Theorem 1.10. *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*
$$\omega : \begin{array}{ccc} I & \to & S^1 \\ s & \mapsto & (\cos(2\pi s), \sin(2\pi s)) \end{array}.$$

Remark.

- $[\omega]^n = [\omega_n]$, where
$$\omega_n(s) = (\cos(2\pi n s), \sin(2\pi n s)).$$

-
$$p : \begin{array}{ccc} \mathbb{R} & \to & S^1 \\ s & \mapsto & (\cos(2\pi s), \sin(2\pi s)) \end{array}$$
  is a covering space.

- ω_n lifts to
$$\widetilde{\omega_n} : \begin{array}{ccc} I & \to & \mathbb{R} \\ s & \mapsto & ns \end{array},$$
  such that $\widetilde{\omega_n}(0) = 0$ and $\widetilde{\omega_n}(1) = n$.

Proof of Theorem 1.10.

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

- Let $m, n \in \mathbb{Z}$ and assume $\omega_m \cong \omega_n$. Let $F : I \times I \to S^1$ be a homotopy.

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

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

$\qquad\square$

Lecture 5 is a problem class.

Theorem 1.11. *Every non-constant polynomial $p \in \mathbb{C}[z]$ has a root in $\mathbb{C}$.*

Proof. May assume

$$p(z) = z^n + a_1 z^{n-1} + \cdots + a_n.$$

Assume p has no roots in $\mathbb{C}$. For each $r \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ we obtain a loop

$$
\begin{aligned}
f_r: \quad I \quad &\to \quad \mathbb{C} \\
s \quad &\mapsto \quad \frac{p\left(re^{2\pi is}\right)/p(r)}{\left|p\left(re^{2\pi is}\right)/p(r)\right|},
\end{aligned}
$$

so $|f_r(s)| = 1$. $f_r(0) = 1$ and $f_r(1) = 1$, so f_r is a loop based at 1. f_0 is the constant loop at 1. $f_r(s)$ depends continuously on r, so $f_r \cong f_0$ for all $r \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ and $[f_r] = [f_0] = 0 \in \pi_1\left(S^1\right)$. Fix $r \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ such that $r > 1$ and $r > |a_1| + \cdots + |a_n|$. For $|z| = r$ we have

$$\left|z^n\right| > \left(|a_1| + \cdots + |a_n|\right)\left|z^{n-1}\right| \geq \left|a_1 z^{n-1}\right| + \cdots + |a_n| \geq \left|a_1 z^{n-1} + \cdots + a_n\right|.$$

Hence, for $0 \leq t \leq 1$ the polynomial

$$p_t(z) = z^n + t\left(a_1 z^{n-1} + \cdots + a_n\right)$$

has no root z with $|z| = r$. Define

$$F_r(t, s) = \frac{p_t\left(re^{2\pi is}\right)/p_t(r)}{\left|p_t\left(re^{2\pi is}\right)/p_t(r)\right|}.$$

$F_r(0, s) = \omega_n(s)$ and $F_r(1, s) = f_r(s)$, so $[\omega_n] = [f_r] = 0 \in \pi_1\left(S^1\right)$. Theorem 1.10 gives that $n = 0$, so p is constant. $\square$

See Hatcher Theorem 1.9 and Theorem 1.10 for more applications.

Proposition 1.12. *Let X, Y be topological spaces, $x_0 \in X$, and $y_0 \in Y$. Then*

$$\pi_1\left(X \times Y, (x_0, y_0)\right) \cong \pi_1(X, x_0) \times \pi_1(Y, y_0).$$

Proof. A map

$$
\begin{aligned}
f: \quad Z \quad &\to \quad X \times Y \\
z \quad &\mapsto \quad (g(z), h(z))
\end{aligned}
$$

is continuous if and only if $g : Z \to X$ and $h : Z \to Y$ are continuous. For $Z = I$,

$$\{ \text{ loops in } X \times Y \text{ based at } (x_0, y_0) \} \quad \longleftrightarrow \quad \{ \text{ loops in } X \text{ based at } x_0 \} \times \{ \text{ loops in } Y \text{ based at } y_0 \}.$$

Two loops

$$
\begin{aligned}
f_1: \quad I \quad &\to \quad X \times Y & \qquad f_2: \quad I \quad &\to \quad X \times Y \\
s \quad &\mapsto \quad (g_1(s), h_1(s)) & s \quad &\mapsto \quad (g_2(s), h_2(s))
\end{aligned}
$$

are homotopic if and only if $g_1 \cong g_2$ and $h_1 \cong h_2$, so there is a bijection

$$\pi_1\left(X \times Y, (x_0, y_0)\right) \cong \pi_1(X, x_0) \times \pi_1(Y, y_0).$$

$f_1 \cdot f_2 = (g_1 \cdot g_2, h_1 \cdot h_2)$ and the constant loop is mapped to the constant loop, so this is also a group isomorphism. $\square$

Example. The torus $S^1 \times S^1$ has

$$\pi_1\left(S^1 \times S^1\right) \cong \pi_1\left(S^1\right) \times \pi_1\left(S^1\right) \cong \mathbb{Z}^2.$$

1.1.3   Induced homomorphisms

Let X, Y be topological spaces, $x_0 \in X$, and $\phi : X \to Y$. An observation is that ϕ induces a homomorphism

$$\phi_* : \quad \pi_1(X, x_0) \quad \to \quad \pi_1(Y, \phi(x_0)) \atop [f] \quad \mapsto \quad [\phi f]} \quad .$$

ϕ_* is well-defined, since if f_t is a homotopy between the loops f_0 and f_1 based at x_0, then ϕf_t is a homotopy of loops between ϕf_0 and ϕf_1. Moreover, $\phi(f \cdot g) = (\phi f) \cdot (\phi g)$ and ϕ maps the constant path at x_0 to the constant path at $\phi(x_0)$, so ϕ is a homomorphism.

Proposition 1.13.

1. *Let $\psi : X \to Y$ and $\phi : Y \to Z$ be continuous maps between topological spaces, $x_0 \in X$, and*

$$\psi_* : \pi_1(X, x_0) \to \pi_1(Y, \psi(x_0)), \qquad \phi_* : \pi_1(Y, \psi(x_0)) \to \pi_1(Z, \phi\psi(x_0)),$$

$$(\phi\psi)_* : \pi_1(X, x_0) \to \pi_1(Z, \phi\psi(x_0)).$$

   Then $(\phi\psi)_* = \phi_*\psi_*$.

2. *Let $id_X : X \to X$ be the identity then*

$$(id_X)_* : \pi_1(X, x_0) \to \pi_1(X, x_0)$$

   is the identity.

Proof.

1. Let $f : I \to X$ be a loop at x_0, then

$$(\phi\psi)_*([f]) = [(\phi\psi) f] = [\phi(\psi f)] = \phi_*([\psi f]) = \phi_*\psi_*([f]).$$

2. $(id_X)_*([f]) = [id_X f] = [f]$.

$\square$

These two observations yield in particular that if $\phi : X \to Y$ is a homeomorphism with inverse $\psi : Y \to X$, then

$$\phi_* : \pi_1(X, x_0) \to \pi_1(Y, \phi(x_0))$$

is an isomorphism with inverse ψ_*.

Proposition 1.14. *Let $\phi : X \to Y$ be a homotopy equivalence. Then*

$$\phi_* : \pi_1(X, x_0) \to \pi_1(Y, \phi(x_0))$$

is an isomorphism for all $x_0 \in X$.

Recall that if $x_0, x_1 \in X$ and $h : I \to X$ is a path such that $h(0) = x_0$ and $h(1) = x_1$, then we obtain an isomorphism

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

Lemma 1.15. *Let $\phi_t : X \to Y$ be a homotopy and $x_0 \in X$. Define the path*

$$h : \quad I \quad \to \quad Y \atop s \quad \mapsto \quad \phi_s(x_0)} \quad ,$$

where $h(0) = \phi_0(x_0)$ and $h(1) = \phi_1(x_0)$. Then $\phi_{0*} = \beta_h \phi_{1*}$, that is the following diagram commutes.

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 & & \pi_1(Y, \phi_1(x_0)) \\
 & \overset{\phi_{1*}}{\nearrow} & \\
\pi_1(X, x_0) & & \sim \downarrow \beta_h \\
 & \underset{\phi_{0*}}{\searrow} & \\
 & & \pi_1(Y, \phi_0(x_0))
\end{array} \quad .$$

Proof. For $t \in I$, define the path

$$h_t : \quad \begin{aligned} I &\rightarrow X \\ s &\mapsto h(ts) \end{aligned} \,,$$

where $h_t(0) = \phi_0(x_0)$ and $h_t(1) = h(t) = \phi_t(x_0)$. Let f be a loop at x_0. Define

$$F_t = h_t \cdot (\phi_t f) \cdot h_t^{-1}.$$

Then F_t is a loop at $\phi_0(x_0)$, which is continuous in t. So F_t is a homotopy of loops between

$$F_0 = h_0 \cdot (\phi_0 f) \cdot h_0^{-1} \cong \phi_0 f, \qquad F_1 = h_1 \cdot (\phi_1 f) \cdot h_1^{-1} = h \cdot (\phi_1 f) \cdot h^{-1}.$$

Hence

$$\phi_{0*}([f]) = [\phi_0 f] = \left[h \cdot (\phi_1 f) \cdot h^{-1} \right] = \beta_h([\phi_1 f]) = \beta_h \phi_{1*}([f]).$$

$\square$

Lemma 1.15 implies in particular the following.

Corollary 1.16. *If $\psi : X \to X$ is continuous and $\psi \cong id_X$, then*

$$\psi_* : \pi_1(X, x_0) \to \pi_1(X, \psi(x_0))$$

is an isomorphism for all $x_0 \in X$.

Proof. By Lemma 1.15 there is a path h from $\psi(x_0)$ to x_0 such that

so $\psi_* = \beta_h$ hence an isomorphism. $\square$

Proof of Proposition 1.14. Let $\phi : X \to Y$ be a homotopy equivalence. Let $\psi : Y \to X$ be a homotopy inverse of ϕ, that is $\phi\psi \cong id_Y$ and $\psi\phi \cong id_X$.

$$\pi_1(X, x_0) \xrightarrow{\phi_*} \pi_1(Y, \phi(x_0)) \xrightarrow{\psi_*} \pi_1(X, \psi\phi(x_0)) \xrightarrow{\phi_*} \pi_1(Y, \psi\phi\psi(x_0)).$$

Have to show that ϕ_* is bijective. The observation above gives that $(\psi\phi)_* = \psi_*\phi_*$ is an isomorphism, so ϕ_* is injective and ψ_* is surjective. Similarly $(\phi\psi)_* = \phi_*\psi_*$ is an isomorphism, so ψ_* is injective and ϕ_* is surjective. $\square$

Lemma 1.17. *Let X be a topological space and $x_0 \in X$. Assume*

$$X = \bigcup_{\alpha \in \Lambda} A_\alpha,$$

such that

- *the A_α are all open and path-connected,*

- *$x_0 \in A_\alpha$ for all $\alpha \in \Lambda$, and*

- *all the intersections $A_\alpha \cap A_\beta$ are path-connected for all $\alpha, \beta \in \Lambda$.*

If f is a loop in X at x_0, then we can write

$$[f] = [h_1] \ldots [h_m],$$

such that the h_i are loops at x_0, and each contained in a single A_{α_i}.

Proof. f is continuous, so for all $s \in I$ there is an open neighbourhood V_s such that $f(V_s)$ such that $f(V_s) \subseteq A_\alpha$ for some α. We can choose V_s to be an interval (a_s, b_s) such that $f([a_s, b_s]) \subseteq A_\alpha$. I is compact gives that a finite number of such intervals cover I, so there is a partition

$$0 = s_0 < \cdots < s_m = 1,$$

such that $f([s_{i-1}, s_i]) \subseteq A_{\alpha_i}$ for some α_i. Let f_i be the path obtained by restricting f to $[s_{i-1}, s_i]$, and rescaling. $f \cong f_1 \cdots \cdots f_m$ for $f_i \subseteq A_{\alpha_i}$ and $A_{\alpha_i} \cap A_{\alpha_j}$ is path-connected. Let g_i be a path from x_0 to $f(s_i)$ in $A_{\alpha_i} \cap A_{\alpha_{i+1}}$. Let g_0, g_m be the constant loops at x_0. $h_i = g_{i-1} \cdot f_i \cdot g_i^{-1}$ is a loop based at x_0 and $h_i \subseteq A_{\alpha_i}$. Thus

$$f \cong \left(g_0 \cdot f_1 \cdot g_1^{-1} \right) \cdot \cdots \cdot \left(g_{m-1} \cdot f_m \cdot g_m^{-1} \right),$$

so

$$[f] = [h_1] \ldots [h_m].$$

$\square$

Example. Möbius strip M deformation retracts to S^1. Thus $\phi : M \to S^1$ is a homotopy equivalence, so $\pi_1(M) \cong \pi_1(S^1) \cong \mathbb{Z}$.

Example. There is no deformation retraction of S^1 to a point $p \in S^1$ because $\pi_1(S^1) \not\cong \pi_1(p)$.

Example. There is no retraction of the disc D^2 to its boundary $S^1 \subseteq D^2$.

Proof. Assume there is a retraction $r : D^2 \to S^1$, consider the embedding $i : S^1 \hookrightarrow D^2$. Then $ri = id_{S^1}$. Thus

$$\pi_1\left(S^1\right) \xrightarrow{i_*} \pi_1\left(D^2\right) \xrightarrow{r_*} \pi_1\left(S^1\right) \;,$$
$$\begin{array}{ccc} \shortparallel & \shortparallel & \shortparallel \\ \mathbb{Z} & 0 & \mathbb{Z} \end{array}$$

so $r_* i_* \left(\pi_1\left(S^1\right)\right) = 0$ but $r_* i_* = (ri)_* = id_{\pi_1(S^1)}$, a contradiction. $\square$

Theorem 1.18 (Brouwer fixed point theorem). *Let $h : D^2 \to D^2$ be a continuous map. Then h has a fixed point, that is there exists $x \in D^2$ such that $h(x) = x$.*

Proof. Assume $h(x) \neq x$ for all $x \in D^2$. Define $r : D^2 \to S^1$ by defining $r(x)$ to be the intersection of the ray starting at $h(x)$ towards x with S^1. r is continuous, and if $x \in S^1$, then $r(x) = x$, so r is a retraction, a contradiction. $\square$

Lemma 1.17 gives that if $U_1, U_2 \subseteq X$ are open and path-connected such that $U_1 \cup U_2 = X$ and $U_1 \cap U_2$ is path-connected and $x_0 \in U_1 \cap U_2$, then every $[f] \in \pi_1(X, x_0)$ can be factorised as

$$[f] = [g_1][h_1] \ldots [g_n][h_n],$$

such that the g_i are loops at x_0 contained in U_1 and the h_i are loops at x_0 contained in U_2. In other words, $i_1 : U_1 \hookrightarrow X$ and $i_2 : U_2 \hookrightarrow X$, so

$$i_{1*} : \pi_1(U_1, x_0) \to \pi_1(X, x_0), \qquad i_{2*} : \pi_1(U_2, x_0) \to \pi_1(X, x_0).$$

Lemma 1.17 gives that $i_{1*}(\pi_1(U_1, x_0)) \cup i_{2*}(\pi_1(U_2, x_0))$ generate $\pi_1(X, x_0)$.

Proposition 1.19. $\pi_1(S^n) = 0$ *if* $n \geq 2$.

Proof. Let

$$U_1 = S^n \setminus \{(1, 0, \ldots, 0)\}, \qquad U_2 = S^n \setminus \{(-1, 0, \ldots, 0)\}.$$

Then $U_1 \cong \mathbb{R}^n$ and $U_2 \cong \mathbb{R}^n$, by stereographic projection. $U_1 \cup U_2 = S^n$ and $U_1 \cap U_2$ is path-connected. Let $x_0 \in U_1 \cap U_2$. $\pi_1(U_1, x_0) = 0$ and $\pi_1(U_2, x_0) = 0$, so Lemma 1.17 gives that $\pi_1(S^n, x_0)$. $\square$
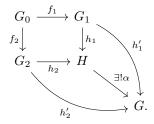
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1.2   Seifert-van Kampen theorem

1.2.1   Free products with amalgamation

Definition. If S is a set, then F_S is the **free group** on S. We can write any group G as a quotient of some free group F_S, $G = F/\langle\langle R\rangle\rangle$, where $\langle\langle R\rangle\rangle$ is the **normal closure** of $R \subseteq F_S$, the smallest normal subgroup of F_S containing R. We write $G = \langle S \mid R\rangle$. This is called a **presentation** of G.

Let G_0, G_1, G_2 be groups, and $f_1 : G_0 \to G_1$ and $f_2 : G_0 \to G_2$ be homomorphisms.

Definition. A group H together with homomorphisms $h_1 : G_1 \to H$ and $h_2 : G_2 \to H$ such that $h_1 f_1 = h_2 f_2$ is an **amalgamated product** of G_1 and G_2 over G_0 if it satisfies the following universal property. For every group G and all homomorphisms $h_1' : G_1 \to G$ and $h_2' : G_2 \to G$ such that $h_1' f_1 = h_2' f_2$, there exists a unique homomorphism $\alpha : H \to G$ such that $h_1' = \alpha h_1$ and $h_2' = \alpha h_2$.

Theorem 1.20. *Given $f_1 : G_0 \to G_1$ and $f_2 : G_0 \to G_2$. Then there exists an amalgamated product, unique up to isomorphism. We denote it by $G_1 \underset{G_0}{*} G_2$.*

Proof. Worksheet 2.   □

$G_0 = \{id\}$ is the **free product**. We write $G_1 * G_2$ instead of $G_1 \underset{\{id\}}{*} G_2$. Let $G_1 = \langle S_1 \mid R_1\rangle$ and $G_2 = \langle S_2 \mid R_2\rangle$. Then $G_1 * G_2 = \langle S_1 \sqcup S_2 \mid R_1 \cup R_2\rangle$, with injections $G_i \hookrightarrow G_1 * G_2$ for $i = 1, 2$. More generally,

$$G_1 * G_2 \cong \frac{G_1 \underset{G_0}{*} G_2}{N}.$$

where N is the normal closure of the set

$$\left\{ f_1(g) f_2(g)^{-1} \mid g \in G_0 \right\} \subseteq G_1 * G_2.$$

1.2.2   The Seifert-van Kampen theorem

Theorem 1.21 (Seifert-van Kampen). *Let X be a topological space and $U_1, U_2 \subseteq X$ be open and path-connected such that $X = U_1 \cup U_2$ and $U_1 \cap U_2$ is path-connected and let $x_0 \in U_1 \cap U_2$. Then*

$$\pi_1(X, x_0) \cong \pi_1(U_1, x_0) \underset{\pi_1(U_1 \cap U_2, x_0)}{*} \pi_2(U_2, x_0) \cong \frac{\pi_1(U_1, x_0) * \pi_1(U_2, x_0)}{N},$$

where N is the normal closure of the set

$$\left\{ j_{1*}(\omega) j_{2*}(\omega)^{-1} \mid \omega \in \pi_1(U_1 \cap U_2, x_0) \right\},$$

and $j_i : U_1 \cap U_2 \hookrightarrow U_i$.

Proof of Theorem 1.21. Appendix A.1.   □

Theorem 1.22 (Seifert-van Kampen, strong version)**.** *Let X be a path-connected topological space such that*

- $X = \bigcup_\alpha A_\alpha$,

- A_α, $A_\alpha \cap A_\beta$, and $A_\alpha \cap A_\beta \cap A_\gamma$ are open and path-connected for all α, β, γ, and

- $x_0 \in \cap_\alpha A_\alpha$.

Then

$$\pi_1\left(X, x_0\right) \cong \frac{\underset{\alpha}{*}\pi_1\left(A_\alpha, x_0\right)}{N},$$

where $N \subseteq \underset{\alpha}{*}\pi_1\left(A_\alpha, x_0\right)$ is the normal closure of the set

$$\left\{\left(i_{\alpha\beta}\right)_*\left(\omega\right)\left(i_{\beta\alpha}\right)_*\left(\omega\right)^{-1} \mid \omega \in \pi_1\left(A_\alpha \cap A_\beta\right)\right\},$$

and $i_{\alpha\beta} : A_\alpha \cap A_\beta \hookrightarrow A_\alpha$ is the inclusion.

Example. Let $S^1 \vee S^1$ be the wedge product. Fix $x \in S^1$ and $y \in S^1$. Then

$$S^1 \vee S^1 = \frac{S^1 \sqcup S^1}{x \sim y} = \overset{b}{\text{O}} \cdot \overset{a}{\text{O}}.$$

Let

$$A = \text{O} \cdot (, \qquad B =) \cdot \text{O}, \qquad A \cap B =) \cdot (.$$

$\pi_1\left(A\right) \cong \langle b \rangle \cong \mathbb{Z}$, $\pi_1\left(B\right) \cong \langle a \rangle \cong \mathbb{Z}$, and $\pi_1\left(A \cap B\right) = \{id\}$. A, B, and $A \cap B$ are open and path-connected. Van Kampen gives

$$\pi_1\left(S^1 \vee S^1\right) \cong \pi_1\left(A\right) * \pi_1\left(B\right) \cong \mathbb{Z} * \mathbb{Z} \cong F_{\{a,b\}}.$$

More generally, let $X = S^1_{a_1} \vee \cdots \vee S^1_{a_n}$. Induction gives

$$\pi_1\left(X\right) = \mathbb{Z} * \cdots * \mathbb{Z} \cong F_{\{a_1,\ldots,a_n\}}.$$

Similarly, let $X = \bigvee_{\alpha \in \Lambda} S^1_\alpha$. Strong version of van Kampen gives

$$\pi_1\left(X\right) = \underset{\alpha \in \Lambda}{*} \mathbb{Z} = F_\Lambda.$$

Example. Let T be a torus and $x_0 \in T$. Let

$$A = T \setminus \{\text{small closed disc } D\}, \qquad B = \{\text{open set that contains } D \text{ and } x_0\}.$$

- A is homotopy equivalent to $S^1 \vee S^1$, so $\pi_1\left(A\right) \cong F_{\{a,b\}}$.

- B is homeomorphic to D^2, so $\pi_1\left(B\right) = \{id\}$.

- $A \cap B$ is homotopy equivalent to S^1, so $\pi_1\left(A \cap B\right) \cong \mathbb{Z}$.

A, B, and $A \cap B$ are open and path-connected. Van Kampen gives

$$\pi_1\left(T\right) \cong \frac{\pi_1\left(A\right)}{\langle\langle i_*\left(\pi_1\left(A \cap B\right)\right)\rangle\rangle},$$

where $i : A \cap B \hookrightarrow A$. Then

$$i_* : \quad \begin{aligned} \pi_1\left(A \cap B\right) = \langle \omega \rangle &\rightarrow \pi_1\left(A\right) \\ \omega &\mapsto aba^{-1}b^{-1} \end{aligned},$$

so

$$\pi_1\left(T\right) \cong \frac{F_{\{a,b\}}}{\langle\langle aba^{-1}b^{-1}\rangle\rangle} = \left\langle a, b \mid aba^{-1}b^{-1} \right\rangle \cong \mathbb{Z}^2.$$

1.2.3   Applications to CW-complexes

Let X be a path-connected topological space. Let Y be the space obtained by attaching 2-cells $\{e_\alpha^2\}$ to X along maps $\phi_\alpha : \partial D^2 = S^1 \to X$. Consider the loops

$$\phi_\alpha' : \begin{array}{ccc} I & \to & X \\ s & \mapsto & \phi_\alpha \left(\cos\left(2\pi s\right), \sin\left(2\pi s\right)\right) \end{array},$$

based at $\phi_\alpha'(0)$. Let γ_α be a path from x_0 to $\phi_\alpha'(0)$ for each α. Then $\gamma_\alpha \cdot \phi_\alpha \cdot \gamma_\alpha^{-1}$ is a loop at x_0. After attaching e_α^2, the loop $\gamma_\alpha \cdot \phi_\alpha \cdot \gamma_\alpha^{-1}$ is homotopic to the constant loop at x_0. Let $N \subseteq \pi_1\left(X, x_0\right)$ be the normal closure of all the elements of the form $\left[\gamma_\alpha \cdot \phi_\alpha \cdot \gamma_\alpha^{-1}\right]$. The inclusion $i : X \hookrightarrow Y$ yields

$$i_* : \pi_1\left(X, x_0\right) \to \pi_1\left(Y, x_0\right),$$

and $N \subseteq Ker\left(i_*\right)$.

Proposition 1.23. *This inclusion $i : X \hookrightarrow Y$ induces a surjection*

$$i_* : \pi_1\left(X, x_0\right) \to \pi_1\left(Y, x_0\right),$$

and $Ker\left(i_*\right) = N$, so $\pi_1\left(Y, x_0\right) \cong \pi_1\left(X, x_0\right)/N$.

Proof. Construct a space Z from Y by attaching a strip $I \times I$ to Y by identifying the lower edge $I \times \{0\}$ with the path γ_α and the right edge $\{1\} \times I$ with an arch on e_α^2. Attach all the left edges of the strips with each other. Z deformation retracts to Y. Choose a point $y_\alpha \in e_\alpha^2$ for each α, such that y_α is not contained in X or in the attached strip. Let

$$A = Z \setminus \bigcup_\alpha \{y_\alpha\}, \qquad B = Z \setminus X.$$

- A deformation retracts to X.

- B is homotopy equivalent to a point.

- $A \cap B$ is homotopy equivalent to

$$\{\text{paths } \gamma_\alpha \text{ from } x_0 \text{ to loops } \phi_\alpha'\} = \overset{\phi_\alpha'}{\text{O}} - \overset{\gamma_\alpha}{\underset{\cdot}{}} \overset{x_0}{} \overset{\gamma_\alpha}{} - \overset{\phi_\alpha'}{\text{O}}.$$

A, B, and $A \cap B$ are open and path-connected. Van Kampen gives

$$\pi_1\left(Y\right) \cong \pi_1\left(Z\right) = \frac{\pi_1\left(A\right)}{\langle\langle j_*\left(\pi_1\left(A \cap B\right)\right)\rangle\rangle},$$

where $j : A \cap B \hookrightarrow A$ is the inclusion. So $\langle\langle j_*\left(\pi_1\left(A \cap B\right)\right)\rangle\rangle$ is exactly N. Thus $\pi_1\left(A\right) = \pi_1\left(X\right)$. $\qquad\square$

Corollary 1.24. *For every group G there exists a two-dimensional CW-complex X_G such that $\pi_1\left(X_G\right) = G$.*

Proof. Let $G = \langle \{g_\alpha\} \mid \{r_\beta\}\rangle$ be a presentation of G, that is

$$G = \frac{F_{\{g_\alpha\}}}{\langle\langle\{r_\beta\}\rangle\rangle}.$$

Seen last time that $\pi_1\left(\bigvee_{g_\alpha} S_{g_\alpha}^1\right) = F_{\{g_\alpha\}}$. Each word r_β defines a loop in $\bigvee_{g_\alpha} S_{g_\alpha}^1$. Attach 2-cells to $\bigvee_{g_\alpha} S_{g_\alpha}^1$ along the loops defined by the relations $\{r_\beta\}$. Call this new CW-complex Y. Proposition 1.23 gives that

$$\pi_1\left(Y, x_0\right) \cong \frac{\pi_1\left(X, x_0\right)}{\langle\langle\{r_\beta\}\rangle\rangle} \cong \frac{F_{\{g_\alpha\}}}{\langle\langle\{r_\beta\}\rangle\rangle} \cong G.$$

$\qquad\square$

Remark. Let $X = \bigcup_n X^n$ be a CW-complex, path-connected. Proposition 1.23 can be used to show the following two facts.

- The inclusion $X^1 \hookrightarrow X$ induces a surjective homomorphism $\pi_1\left(X^1\right) \to \pi_1\left(X\right)$.

- The inclusion $X^2 \hookrightarrow X$ induces an isomorphism $\pi_1\left(X^2\right) \to \pi_1\left(X\right)$.

1.3   Covering spaces

1.3.1   Lifting properties

Let X be a topological space. Recall that a **covering space** is $p : \widetilde{X} \to X$ such that each $x \in X$ has an open neighbourhood U such that

$$p^{-1}(U) = \bigcup_\alpha \widetilde{U_\alpha},$$

where U_α are pairwise disjoint and $p \mid_{\widetilde{U_\alpha}} : \widetilde{U_\alpha} \to U$ is a homeomorphism for all α.

Example.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathbb{R} & \to & S^1 \\ s & \mapsto & (\cos(2\pi s), \sin(2\pi s)) \end{array}, \qquad \begin{array}{ccc} S^1 & \to & S^1 \\ z & \mapsto & z^n \end{array}, \qquad \mathrm{O} \cdot \mathrm{O} \cdot \mathrm{O} \to S^1 \vee S^1 = \mathrm{O} \cdot \mathrm{O}.$$

Let $f : Y \to X$ be a continuous map. A **lift** of f is a continuous map $\widetilde{f} : Y \to \widetilde{X}$ such that $p\widetilde{f} = f$, where $p : \widetilde{X} \to X$ is a covering space. Let Y be connected.

- **Unique lifting property** states that if two lifts $\widetilde{f_1}$ and $\widetilde{f_2}$ of f coincide at one point, then they coincide on all of Y.

- **Homotopy lifting property** states that if $f_t : Y \to X$ is a homotopy and $\widetilde{f_0} : Y \to \widetilde{X}$ is a lift of f_0 then there exists a unique homotopy $\widetilde{f_t} : Y \to \widetilde{X}$ of $\widetilde{f_0}$ that lifts f_t.

Remark.

- If Y is a point, this is called the **path lifting property**. Let $f : I \to X$ be a path with $f(0) = x_0$. If $\widetilde{x_0} \in p^{-1}(x_0)$, then there is a unique path $\widetilde{f} : I \to \widetilde{X}$ lifting f and starting at $\widetilde{x_0}$.

- In particular, the lift of a constant path is constant.

- This implies in particular that the lift of a homotopy of paths is again a homotopy of paths. The endpoints $f_t(0)$ and $f_t(1)$ define constant paths as t varies.

Fix $x_0 \in X$ and $\widetilde{x_0} \in \widetilde{X}$ such that $p(\widetilde{x_0}) = x_0$, so

$$p_* : \pi_1\left(\widetilde{X}, \widetilde{x_0}\right) \to \pi_1(X, x_0).$$

To every element in $\pi_1(X, x_0)$ we can associate a homotopy class of paths in $\widetilde{X}$ starting at $\widetilde{x_0}$.

Proposition 1.25.

1. $p_* : \pi_1\left(\widetilde{X}, \widetilde{x_0}\right) \to \pi_1(X, x_0)$ is injective.

2. $p_*\left(\pi_1\left(\widetilde{X}, \widetilde{x_0}\right)\right) \subseteq \pi_1(X, x_0)$ consists of the homotopy classes of loops at x_0 whose lifts to $\widetilde{X}$ starting at $\widetilde{x_0}$ are loops.

Proof.

1. Let $\widetilde{f_0} : I \to \widetilde{X}$ be a loop at $\widetilde{x_0}$ such that $\left[\widetilde{f_0}\right] \in Ker(p_*)$, so $p\widetilde{f_0} = f_0$ is homotopic to the constant loop at x_0. Let $f_t : I \to X$ be a homotopy between f_0 and the constant loop. Homotopy lifting property and remark gives that f_t lifts to a homotopy $\widetilde{f_t}$ of paths between $\widetilde{f_0}$ and the constant loop, so $\left[\widetilde{f_0}\right] = id \in \pi_1\left(\widetilde{X}, \widetilde{x_0}\right)$ and p_* is injective.

2. Let $f : I \to X$ be a loop at x_0 that lifts to a loop $\widetilde{f}$ at $\widetilde{x_0}$. Then $p\widetilde{f} = f$, so $p_*\left(\left[\widetilde{f}\right]\right) = [f]$. On the other hand, if $f : I \to X$ is a loop at x_0 such that there exists a loop $\widetilde{f} : I \to \widetilde{X}$ at $\widetilde{x_0}$ with $p_*\left(\left[\widetilde{f}\right]\right) = [f]$, then f is homotopic to $p\widetilde{f}$. Homotopy lifting property gives that there exists a loop $\widetilde{f'} : I \to \widetilde{X}$ at x_0 such that $p\widetilde{f'} = f$.

$\square$

Let $p : \widetilde{X} \to X$ be a covering space. Let $U \subseteq X$ be an evenly covered neighbourhood of $x \in X$. Let

$$p^{-1}(U) = \bigsqcup_{\alpha \in \Lambda} \widetilde{U_\alpha}.$$

Then the cardinality $\left| p^{-1}(x) \right|$ of $p^{-1}(x)$ is exactly the cardinality of $|\Lambda|$. The set of sheets is in bijection with $p^{-1}(x)$. So the cardinality of $p^{-1}(x)$ is locally constant. If X is connected, the cardinality of $p^{-1}(x)$ is constant.

Notation. Let X, Y be topological spaces, $x \in X$, and $y \in Y$. A continuous map

$$f : (X, x) \to (Y, y)$$

is a continuous map $f : X \to Y$ such that $f(x) = y$.

Proposition 1.26. *Let $X, \widetilde{X}$ be path-connected and*

$$p : \left(\widetilde{X}, \widetilde{x_0} \right) \to (X, x_0)$$

be a covering space. Then the number of sheets of p equals the index of $p_* \left(\pi_1 \left(\widetilde{X}, \widetilde{x_0} \right) \right)$ in $\pi_1(X, x_0)$.

Proof. Let g be a loop in X at x_0 and $\widetilde{g}$ be its lift to $\widetilde{X}$ starting at $\widetilde{x_0}$. Let $H = p_* \left(\pi_1 \left(\widetilde{X}, \widetilde{x_0} \right) \right)$ and let $[h] \in H$. Then $h \cdot g$ lifts to a path $\widetilde{h} \cdot \widetilde{g}$ in $\widetilde{X}$ starting at $\widetilde{x_0}$ with the same endpoint as $\widetilde{g}$, because $\widetilde{h}$ is a loop, by Proposition 1.25. Define

$$\Phi : \quad \begin{aligned} \{\text{cosets of } H \text{ in } \pi_1(X, x_0)\} &\to p^{-1}(x_0) \\ H[g] &\mapsto \widetilde{g}(1) \end{aligned},$$

so Φ is well-defined. Want to show that Φ is bijective.

- Φ is surjective because $\widetilde{X}$ is path-connected. Let $\widetilde{g}$ be a path in $\widetilde{X}$ from $\widetilde{x_0}$ to any point $\widetilde{x_0'} \in p^{-1}(x_0)$, then $g = p \cdot \widetilde{g}$ and $\Phi(H[g]) = \widetilde{x_0'}$.

- Φ is injective, since if $\Phi(H[g_1]) = \Phi(H[g_2])$ then the lift $\widetilde{g_1} \cdot \widetilde{g_2}^{-1}$ of $g_1 \cdot g_2^{-1}$ defines a loop in $\widetilde{X}$ at $\widetilde{x_0}$. Proposition 1.25 gives $[g_1][g_2]^{-1} \in H$, so $H[g_1] = H[g_2]$.

$\square$

We say that a topological space X has a certain property (P) **locally** if for each point $x \in X$ and each neighbourhood U of x there is an open neighbourhood $V \subseteq U$ having this property (P).

Example. X is locally path-connected or X is locally simply-connected.

Proposition 1.27. *Let*

$$p : \left(\widetilde{X}, \widetilde{x_0} \right) \to (X, x_0)$$

be a covering space and

$$f : (Y, y_0) \to (X, x_0)$$

a continuous map, where Y is path-connected and locally path-connected. Then there is a lift

$$\widetilde{f} : (Y, y_0) \to \left(\widetilde{X}, \widetilde{x_0} \right)$$

if and only if

$$f_*(\pi_1(Y, y_0)) \subseteq p_* \left(\pi_1 \left(\widetilde{X}, \widetilde{x_0} \right) \right).$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & & \left(\widetilde{X}, \widetilde{x_0} \right) \\ & \overset{\widetilde{f}}{\nearrow} & \downarrow p \\ (Y, y_0) & \underset{f}{\longrightarrow} & (X, x_0) \end{array}.$$

Proof.

$\implies$ Clear, because $f = p\widetilde{f}$ implies $f_* = p_*\widetilde{f}_*$.

$\impliedby$ Assume

$$f_*\left(\pi_1\left(Y, y_0\right)\right) \subseteq p_*\left(\pi_1\left(\widetilde{X}, \widetilde{x_0}\right)\right).$$

For each $y \in Y$ choose a path γ from y_0 to y, so $f\gamma$ is a path in X from x_0 to $f(y)$. By path lifting, we can lift $f\gamma$ to a path $\widetilde{f\gamma}$ in $\widetilde{X}$ starting at $\widetilde{x_0}$. Define the map

$$\begin{aligned} \widetilde{f}: \quad (Y, y_0) &\rightarrow \left(\widetilde{X}, \widetilde{x_0}\right) \\ y &\mapsto \widetilde{f\gamma}(1) \end{aligned}.$$

$$\widetilde{x_0} \overset{\widetilde{f\gamma}}{\underset{\widetilde{f\gamma'}}{=\!=}} \widetilde{f}(y)$$

$$\widetilde{f} \nearrow \qquad \downarrow p$$

$$y_0 \overset{\gamma}{\underset{\gamma'}{=}} y \xrightarrow{\ f\ } x_0 \overset{f\gamma}{\underset{f\gamma'}{=\!=}} f(y)$$

-   This map is well-defined, that is does not depend on the choice of γ. Let γ' be another path from y_0 to y. Then $h_0 = (f\gamma') \cdot (f\gamma)^{-1}$ is a loop at x_0 and

    $$[h_0] \in f_*\left(\pi_1\left(Y, y_0\right)\right) \subseteq p_*\left(\pi_1\left(\widetilde{X}, \widetilde{x_0}\right)\right).$$

    Proposition 1.25 gives that can lift h_0 to a loop $\widetilde{h_0}$ at $\widetilde{x_0}$. The first half of $\widetilde{h_0}$ is $\widetilde{f\gamma'}$ and the second half is $\widetilde{f\gamma}^{-1}$, so $\widetilde{f\gamma}(1) = \widetilde{f\gamma'}(1)$. Thus $\widetilde{f}$ is well-defined.

-   We have $p\widetilde{f} = f$, so $\widetilde{f}$ lifts f.

-   It remains to show that $\widetilde{f}$ is continuous. Let $y \in Y$ and let U be an evenly covered neighbourhood of $f(y)$. Let $\widetilde{U}$ be the sheet above U such that $\widetilde{f}(y) \in \widetilde{U}$, so $p|_{\widetilde{U}}: \widetilde{U} \to U$ is a homeomorphism. Let $V \subseteq Y$ be a path-connected neighbourhood of y such that $f(V) \subseteq U$. Fix a path γ from y_0 to y. Let $y' \in V$ be arbitrary and η be a path from y to y', so $\gamma \cdot \eta$ is a path from y_0 to y'. Then $(f\gamma) \cdot (f\eta)$ is a path in U from x_0 to $f(y')$. $\widetilde{f\eta} = \left(p|_{\widetilde{U}}\right)^{-1} f\eta$, so $\widetilde{f}|_V = \left(p|_{\widetilde{U}}\right)^{-1} f$. Thus $\widetilde{f}|_V: V \to \widetilde{U}$ is continuous, so $\widetilde{f}$ is continuous.

$\square$

Lecture 13
Friday
08/02/19

1.3.2   The classification of covering spaces

Definition. A covering space $p: \widetilde{X} \to X$ is a **universal cover** if $\widetilde{X}$ is simply-connected.

Definition. A topological space X is **semilocally simply-connected** if each $x \in X$ has a neighbourhood U such that

$$i_*: \pi_1\left(U, x\right) \to \pi_1\left(X, x\right)$$

is trivial, where $i: U \hookrightarrow X$ is the inclusion.

Example. Let $X = \bigcup_n C_n \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2$ be the Hawaiian earrings, where $C_n \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2$ is the circle of radius $1/n$ and centre $(1/n, 0)$. Then X is not semilocally simply-connected.

Proposition 1.28. *If $p: \widetilde{X} \to X$ is a universal cover, then X is semilocally simply-connected.*

Proof. Let $U \subseteq X$ be an evenly covered neighbourhood of $x_0 \in X$, $\widetilde{U} \subseteq \widetilde{X}$ be a sheet over U, and $\gamma \subseteq U$ be a loop at x_0, so γ lifts to a loop $\widetilde{\gamma} \subseteq \widetilde{U}$ at $\widetilde{x_0}$. $\widetilde{\gamma}$ is homotopic to the constant loop at $\widetilde{x_0}$. Compose this homotopy with p gives that γ is homotopic to the constant loop at x_0 in X, so

$$\pi_1\left(U, x_0\right) \to \pi_1\left(X, x_0\right)$$

is trivial. $\square$

Theorem 1.29. *Let X be path-connected, locally path-connected, and semilocally simply-connected. Then there exists a universal cover $p : \widetilde{X} \to X$.*

Remark. If

$$p : \left(\widetilde{X}, \widetilde{x_0} \right) \to (X, x_0)$$

is a universal cover, each point $\widetilde{x} \in \widetilde{X}$ can be joined to $\widetilde{x_0}$ by a unique homotopy class of paths, by Proposition 1.6.

$$\left\{ \text{points in } \widetilde{X} \right\} \rightsquigarrow \left\{ [\gamma] \mid \gamma \text{ is a path in } \widetilde{X} \text{ starting at } \widetilde{x_0} \right\} \rightsquigarrow \left\{ [\gamma] \mid \gamma \text{ is a path in } X \text{ starting at } x_0 \right\},$$

by the homotopy lifting property.

Proof. Let $x_0 \in X$, and

$$\widetilde{X} = \{ [\gamma] \mid \gamma \text{ is a path in } X \text{ starting at } x_0 \}, \qquad p : \begin{array}{ccc} \widetilde{X} & \to & X \\ [\gamma] & \mapsto & \gamma(1) \end{array}.$$

Have to

1. give $\widetilde{X}$ a topology,

2. show that $p : \widetilde{X} \to X$ is a covering, and

3. show that $\widetilde{X}$ is simply-connected.

Recall that a **basis** for a topology on a set Y is a collection $\mathcal{B}$ of subsets such that

- $Y = \bigcup_{U \in \mathcal{B}} U$, and

- if $U_1, U_2 \in \mathcal{B}$ and $y \in U_1 \cap U_2$ then there exists $V \in \mathcal{B}$ such that $y \in V$ and $V \subseteq U_1 \cap U_2$.

A basis defines a topology on Y, by $A \subseteq Y$ is open if and only if A is the union of elements of $\mathcal{B}$. A map $f : Z \to Y$ is continuous if and only if $f^{-1}(U)$ is open for all $U \in \mathcal{B}$.

1. Let $\mathcal{U}$ be the collection of all path-connected open sets $U \subseteq X$ such that $\pi_1(U) \to \pi_1(X)$ is trivial. Then $X = \bigcup_{U \in \mathcal{U}} U$ because X is semilocally simply-connected. Let $U_1, U_2 \in \mathcal{U}$ and $y \in U_1 \cap U_2$, and let $y \in V \subseteq U_1 \cap U_2$ be path-connected and open.

$$V \lhook\joinrel\longrightarrow U_1 \lhook\joinrel\longrightarrow X$$

,

$$\pi_1(V) \underset{\text{trivial}}{\overset{}{\rightrightarrows}} \pi_1(U_1) \xrightarrow{\text{trivial}} \pi_1(X)$$

so $V \in \mathcal{U}$ gives that $\mathcal{U}$ is a basis for the topology on X. For $U \in \mathcal{U}$ and γ a path in X from x_0 to a point in U, we define

$$U_{[\gamma]} = \{ [\gamma \cdot \eta] \mid \eta \text{ a path in } U \text{ such that } \eta(0) = \gamma(1) \} \subseteq \widetilde{X}.$$

$U_{[\gamma]}$ only depends on the class $[\gamma]$, so $p \mid_{U_{[\gamma]}} : U_{[\gamma]} \to U$ is bijective. Surjective because U is path-connected and injective because all paths η in U with the same endpoint are homotopic. Claim that $\{ U_{[\gamma]} \}$ forms a basis on $\widetilde{X}$.

- $\bigcup_{U \in \mathcal{U}, \, \gamma} U_{[\gamma]} = \widetilde{X}$, because $\bigcup_{U \in \mathcal{U}} U = X$.
- Observe that if $[\gamma'] \in U_{[\gamma]}$ then $U_{[\gamma]} = U_{[\gamma']}$. If $\gamma' = \gamma \cdot \eta$ for η a path in U, then elements in $U_{[\gamma']}$ have the form $[\gamma \cdot \eta \cdot \mu]$, so $U_{[\gamma']} \subseteq U_{[\gamma]}$. Elements in $U_{[\gamma]}$ have the form

$$[\gamma \cdot \mu] = [\gamma \cdot \eta \cdot \eta^{-1} \cdot \mu] = [\gamma' \cdot \eta^{-1} \cdot \mu],$$

so $U_{[\gamma]} \subseteq U_{[\gamma']}$. Consider $U_{[\gamma]}$ and $V_{[\gamma']}$ and let $[\gamma''] \in U_{[\gamma]} \cap V_{[\gamma']}$, so $U_{[\gamma]} = U_{[\gamma'']}$ and $V_{[\gamma']} = V_{[\gamma'']}$. Let $W \in \mathcal{U}$ such that $W \subseteq U \cap V$ and such that $\gamma''(1) \in W$, so $W_{[\gamma'']} \subseteq U_{[\gamma'']} \cap V_{[\gamma'']}$ and $[\gamma''] \in W_{[\gamma'']}$. This proves the claim.

2. $p\mid_{U_{[\gamma]}}\colon U_{[\gamma]}\to U$ is a homeomorphism. It is bijective, let $V_{[\gamma']}\subseteq U_{[\gamma]}$ be an element of the basis, so $p\left(V_{[\gamma']}\right)=V\in\mathcal{U}$. $p^{-1}\left(V\right)\cap U_{[\gamma]}=V_{[\gamma']}$. Thus $p\colon\widetilde{X}\to X$ is continuous. If $U\in\mathcal{U}$, then

$$p^{-1}\left(U\right)=\bigsqcup_{[\gamma]}U_{[\gamma]},$$

so $p\colon\widetilde{X}\to X$ is a covering space.

3. Let $\widetilde{x_0}\in\widetilde{X}$ be the class of the constant path at x_0. Let $[\gamma]\in\widetilde{X}$ be arbitrary. $\gamma\colon[0,1]\to X$ and $\gamma\left(0\right)=x_0$. Let γ_t be the path in X defined by

$$\gamma_t\left(s\right)=\begin{cases}\gamma\left(s\right) & s\in[0,t]\\ \gamma\left(t\right) & s\in[t,1]\end{cases}.$$

Then

$$\begin{array}{rccc}\widetilde{\gamma}\colon & I & \to & \widetilde{X}\\ & t & \mapsto & [\gamma_t]\end{array}$$

is a path in $\widetilde{X}$ from $\widetilde{x_0}$ to $[\gamma]$, so $\widetilde{X}$ is path-connected. Recall that $p_*\left(\pi_1\left(\widetilde{X},\widetilde{x_0}\right)\right)$ consists of the classes of loops at x_0 in X that lifts to loops in $\widetilde{X}$ at $\widetilde{x_0}$. Let $[\gamma]\in p_*\left(\pi_1\left(\widetilde{X},\widetilde{x_0}\right)\right)$. Then γ lifts to a loop at $\widetilde{x_0}$ by $t\mapsto[\gamma_t]$. Because it is a loop we have $\widetilde{x_0}=[\gamma_1]=[\gamma]$, so γ is homotopic to the constant loop. Thus $p_*\left(\pi_1\left(\widetilde{X},\widetilde{x_0}\right)\right)=\{id\}$, so $\widetilde{X}$ is simply-connected.

$\square$

Lecture 14 is a problem class.

Let $p\colon\widetilde{X}\to X$ be a covering space, so $p_*\left(\pi_1\left(\widetilde{X},\widetilde{x_0}\right)\right)\subseteq\pi_1\left(X,x_0\right)$.

Proposition 1.30. *Let X be path-connected, locally path-connected, and semilocally simply-connected. Then for every subgroup $H\subseteq\pi_1\left(X,x_0\right)$ there is a covering space $p\colon X_H\to X$ such that $p_*\left(\pi_1\left(X_H,\widetilde{x_0}\right)\right)=H$ for some basepoint x_0.*

Proof. Let $\widetilde{X}$ be as constructed above. Define $X_H=\widetilde{X}/\sim$, where $[\gamma]\sim[\gamma']$ if $\gamma\left(1\right)=\gamma'\left(1\right)$ and $\left[\gamma\cdot\left(\gamma'\right)^{-1}\right]\in H$. This is an equivalence relation.

- $[\gamma]\sim[\gamma]$ because $id\in H$.

- $[\gamma]\sim[\gamma']$ gives $[\gamma']\sim[\gamma]$ because H contains all its inverses.

- $[\gamma]\sim[\gamma']$ and $[\gamma']\sim[\gamma'']$ gives $[\gamma]\sim[\gamma'']$ because H is closed under product.

$$\widetilde{X}\longrightarrow\frac{\widetilde{X}}{\sim}=X_H$$
$$\downarrow\qquad\swarrow_{p}$$
$$X$$

Let $U_{[\gamma]},U_{[\gamma']}$ be basis neighbourhoods. If $[\gamma]\sim[\gamma']$ then $[\gamma\cdot\eta]\sim[\gamma'\cdot\eta]$, so p is a covering space, and $p^{-1}\left(U\right)=\bigcup_{\gamma}U_{[\gamma]}$. Let $\widetilde{x_0}\in X_H$ be the equivalence class of the constant path c_{x_0} at x_0. Let γ be a loop in X at x_0 such that $[\gamma]\in p_*\left(\pi_1\left(X_H,\widetilde{x_0}\right)\right)$. Again $t\mapsto[\gamma_t]$ is a lift of γ at $\widetilde{x_0}$.

$$t\mapsto[\gamma_t]\text{ is a loop in }X_H\quad\Longleftrightarrow\quad[\gamma_1]=[\gamma]=[c_{x_0}]\text{ in }X_H\quad\Longleftrightarrow\quad[\gamma]\sim[c_{x_0}]\quad\Longleftrightarrow\quad\gamma\in H.$$

$\square$

Definition. We say that two covering spaces $p_1 : \widetilde{X_1} \to X$ and $p_2 : \widetilde{X_2} \to X$ are **isomorphic** if there exists a homeomorphism $f : \widetilde{X_1} \to \widetilde{X_2}$ such that

$$
\begin{array}{ccc}
\widetilde{X_1} & \xrightarrow{\quad f \quad} & \widetilde{X_2} \\
& \searrow^{p_1} \quad \swarrow^{p_2} & \\
& X &
\end{array} .
$$

Proposition 1.31. *Let X be path-connected and locally path-connected and $x_0 \in X$. Two path-connected covering spaces $p_1 : \widetilde{X_1} \to X$ and $p_2 : \widetilde{X_2} \to X$ are isomorphic via an isomorphism $f : \widetilde{X_1} \to \widetilde{X_2}$ mapping a basepoint $\widetilde{x_1} \in p_1^{-1}(x_0)$ to a basepoint $\widetilde{x_2} \in p_2^{-1}(x_0)$ if and only if*

$$
p_{1*}\left(\pi_1\left(\widetilde{X_1}, \widetilde{x_1}\right)\right) = p_{2*}\left(\pi_1\left(\widetilde{X_2}, \widetilde{x_2}\right)\right).
$$

Proof.

$\Longrightarrow$ If
$$
f : \left(\widetilde{X_1}, \widetilde{x_1}\right) \to \left(\widetilde{X_2}, \widetilde{x_2}\right)
$$
is an isomorphism, then $p_1 = p_2 f$, so
$$
p_{1*}\left(\pi_1\left(\widetilde{X_1}, \widetilde{x_1}\right)\right) \subseteq p_{2*}\left(\pi_1\left(\widetilde{X_2}, \widetilde{x_2}\right)\right),
$$
and $p_2 = p_1 f^{-1}$, so
$$
p_{2*}\left(\pi_1\left(\widetilde{X_2}, \widetilde{x_2}\right)\right) \subseteq p_{1*}\left(\pi_1\left(\widetilde{X_1}, \widetilde{x_1}\right)\right).
$$

$\Longleftarrow$ Assume
$$
p_{1*}\left(\pi_1\left(\widetilde{X_1}, \widetilde{x_1}\right)\right) = p_{2*}\left(\pi_1\left(\widetilde{X_2}, \widetilde{x_2}\right)\right).
$$
By lifting criterion in Proposition 1.27, we can lift p_1 to a continuous map
$$
\widetilde{p_1} : \left(\widetilde{X_1}, \widetilde{x_1}\right) \to \left(\widetilde{X_2}, \widetilde{x_2}\right),
$$
and p_2 to a continuous map
$$
\widetilde{p_2} : \left(\widetilde{X_2}, \widetilde{x_2}\right) \to \left(\widetilde{X_1}, \widetilde{x_1}\right),
$$
so $p_1 \widetilde{p_2} = p_2$ and $p_2 \widetilde{p_1} = p_1$.

$$
\begin{array}{ccc}
\left(\widetilde{X_1}, \widetilde{x_1}\right) & \underset{\widetilde{p_2}}{\overset{\widetilde{p_1}}{\rightleftarrows}} & \left(\widetilde{X_2}, \widetilde{x_2}\right) \\
& \searrow^{p_1} \quad \swarrow^{p_2} & \\
& (X, x_0) &
\end{array} .
$$

$\widetilde{p_1}\widetilde{p_2}$ fixes the point $\widetilde{x_2} \in \widetilde{X_2}$. By the unique lifting property in Proposition 1.7, $\widetilde{p_1}\widetilde{p_2} = id_{\widetilde{x_2}}$. Similarly, $\widetilde{p_2}\widetilde{p_1} = id_{\widetilde{x_1}}$, so $\widetilde{p_1}$ is an isomorphism.

$\square$

Fix $x_0 \in X$, $\widetilde{x_1} \in p_1^{-1}(x_0)$, and $\widetilde{x_2} \in p_2^{-1}(x_0)$. A **basepoint preserving isomorphism**

$$f : \left(\widetilde{X_1}, \widetilde{x_1} \right) \to \left(\widetilde{X_2}, \widetilde{x_2} \right)$$

is an isomorphism such that $f(\widetilde{x_1}) = \widetilde{x_2}$.

Theorem 1.32 (Galois correspondence). *Let X be path-connected, locally path-connected, and semilocally simply-connected, and $x_0 \in X$. Then*

1. there is a bijection

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{path-connected covering spaces } p : \left(\widetilde{X}, \widetilde{x_0} \right) \to (X, x_0) \\ \text{up to basepoint preserving isomorphisms} \end{array} \right\} \quad \longleftrightarrow \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{subgroups} \\ H \subseteq \pi_1(X, x_0) \end{array} \right\},$$

2. if we ignore the basepoints, this correspondence gives a bijection

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{path-connected covering spaces } p : \widetilde{X} \to X \\ \text{up to isomorphisms} \end{array} \right\} \quad \longleftrightarrow \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{conjugacy classes of subgroups} \\ H \subseteq \pi_1(X, x_0) \end{array} \right\}.$$

Proof.

1. To a covering space
$$p : \left(\widetilde{X}, \widetilde{x_0} \right) \to (X, x_0),$$

   we associate the subgroup
$$p_* \left(\pi_1 \left(\widetilde{X}, \widetilde{x_0} \right) \right) \subseteq \pi_1(X, x_0).$$

   Proposition 1.30 and Proposition 1.31 show that this is well-defined on the isomorphism classes and it is bijective.

2. Let $p : \widetilde{X} \to X$ be a covering space and $\widetilde{x_1}, \widetilde{x_2} \in p^{-1}(x_0)$. Let
$$H_i = p_* \left(\pi_1 \left(\widetilde{X}, \widetilde{x_i} \right) \right) \subseteq \pi_1(X, x_0),$$

   for $i = 1, 2$. Let $\widetilde{\gamma}$ be a path from $\widetilde{x_1}$ to $\widetilde{x_2}$. Let $\gamma = p\widetilde{\gamma}$ be a loop at x_0. Let $[f] \in \pi_1(X, x_0)$. Then $[f] \in H_1$ if and only if the lift $\widetilde{f}$ is a loop at $\widetilde{x_1}$. $\widetilde{\gamma}^{-1} \cdot \widetilde{f} \cdot \widetilde{\gamma}$ is a loop at $\widetilde{x_2}$ gives
$$p_* \left(\widetilde{\gamma}^{-1} \cdot \widetilde{f} \cdot \widetilde{\gamma} \right) = \gamma^{-1} \cdot f \cdot \gamma,$$

   so $[\gamma]^{-1} [f] [\gamma] \in H_2$. Thus $[\gamma]^{-1} H_1 [\gamma] \subseteq H_2$. Similarly, $[\gamma] H_2 [\gamma]^{-1} \subseteq H_1$. Conversely, let $H_1 \subseteq \pi_1(X, x_0)$ as above and $[\delta] \in \pi_1(X, x_0)$ be an arbitrary element. Let $\widetilde{\delta}$ be a lift of δ such that $\widetilde{\delta}(0) = \widetilde{x_0}$ and define $x_3 = \widetilde{\delta}(1)$. Then the same construction yields
$$p_* \left(\pi_1 \left(\widetilde{X}, \widetilde{x_3} \right) \right) = [\delta]^{-1} H_1 [\delta].$$

$\square$

1.3.3 Deck transformations and group actions

Definition. Let $p : \widetilde{X} \to X$ be a covering space. A **deck-transformation** is an isomorphism from $\widetilde{X}$ to itself.

$$\widetilde{X} \xrightarrow{\quad f \quad} \widetilde{X}$$
$$p \searrow \qquad \swarrow p$$
$$X$$

The group of deck-transformations is denoted by $G\left(\widetilde{X}\right)$.

Example.

- Let
$$p : \begin{array}{ccc} \mathbb{R} & \to & S^1 \subseteq \mathbb{C} \\ t & \mapsto & e^{2\pi i t} \end{array}.$$

  Then $f : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$ such that $p\left(f\left(t\right)\right) = p\left(t\right)$ if and only if $e^{2\pi i f(t)} = e^{2\pi i t}$, if and only if $f\left(t\right) = t + n$, so $G\left(\mathbb{R}\right) \cong \mathbb{Z}$.

- Let
$$p : \begin{array}{ccc} S^1 & \to & S^1 \\ z & \mapsto & z^n \end{array}.$$

  Then $G\left(S^1\right) \cong \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$.

An observation is that if $\widetilde{X}$ is path-connected then $f \in G\left(\widetilde{X}\right)$ is uniquely determined by where it sends a single point.

$$\widetilde{X} \rightrightarrows \widetilde{X}$$
$$p \searrow \qquad \swarrow p$$
$$X$$

If $f\left(x\right) = f'\left(x\right)$ for a single x, by unique lifting $f = f'$. So the identity is the only deck-transformation with a fixed point.

Definition. A covering space $p : \widetilde{X} \to X$ is **normal**, or **regular**, or **Galois**, if for each $x \in X$ and every pair $\widetilde{x}, \widetilde{x}' \in p^{-1}\left(x\right)$ there is an $f \in G\left(\widetilde{X}\right)$ such that $f\left(\widetilde{x}\right) = \widetilde{x}'$.

Example.

- $p : \mathbb{R} \to S^1$ is normal.

- $p : S^1 \to S^1$ is normal.

Proposition 1.33. *Let*
$$p : \left(\widetilde{X}, \widetilde{x_0}\right) \to \left(X, x_0\right)$$

be a path-connected covering space, and X be path-connected and locally path-connected. Then $p : \widetilde{X} \to X$ is normal if and only if
$$H = p_*\left(\pi_1\left(\widetilde{X}, \widetilde{x_0}\right)\right) \subseteq \pi_1\left(X, x_0\right)$$

is a normal subgroup.

Proof. Let $\widetilde{x_1} \in p^{-1}(x_0)$, let $\widetilde{\gamma}$ be a path from $\widetilde{x_0}$ to $\widetilde{x_1}$ and $\gamma = p(\widetilde{\gamma})$. Then $[\gamma]$ conjugates H to $p_* \left(\pi_1 \left(\widetilde{X}, \widetilde{x_1} \right) \right)$ so $[\gamma] H [\gamma]^{-1} = H$, if and only if $H = p_* \left(\pi_1 \left(\widetilde{X}, \widetilde{x_1} \right) \right)$, by Proposition 1.31 if and only if $f(\widetilde{x_0}) = \widetilde{x_1}$. So $G\left(\widetilde{X} \right)$ acts transitively on $p^{-1}(x_0)$ if and only if $H \subseteq \pi_1(X, x_0)$ is a normal subgroup. Let $x_0' \in X$ be another point and h a path from x_0 to $\widetilde{x_0}$. Let $\widetilde{h}$ be a lift of h such that $\widetilde{h}(0) = \widetilde{x_0}$. Set $\widetilde{x_0} = \widetilde{h}(1)$ and $p\left(\widetilde{x_0'} \right) = x_0'$. Then

$$
\begin{array}{ccc}
\pi_1\left(\widetilde{X}, \widetilde{x_0} \right) & \xrightarrow{\beta_{\widetilde{h}}} & \pi_1\left(\widetilde{X}, \widetilde{x_0'} \right) \\
{\scriptstyle p_*}\downarrow & & \downarrow{\scriptstyle p_*} \\
\pi_1(X, x_0) & \xrightarrow[\beta_h]{} & \pi_1(X, x_0')
\end{array} \quad .
$$

$H \subseteq \pi_1(X, x_0)$ is normal if and only if

$$
p_* \left(\pi_1 \left(\widetilde{X}, \widetilde{x_0'} \right) \right) \subseteq \pi_1(X, x_0')
$$

is normal, as before if and only if $G\left(\widetilde{X} \right)$ acts transitively on $p^{-1}(x_0')$. $\qquad\square$

Proposition 1.34. *Let*

$$
p : \left(\widetilde{X}, \widetilde{x_0} \right) \to (X, x_0)
$$

be a covering space, and $X, \widetilde{X}$ be path-connected and locally path-connected. Let $H = p_* \left(\pi_1 \left(\widetilde{X}, \widetilde{x_0} \right) \right)$ and $N(H) \subseteq \pi_1(X, x_0)$ be the normaliser of H. Then $G\left(\widetilde{X} \right)$ is isomorphic to $N(H)/H$. In particular,

- *if $\widetilde{X}$ is normal, then $G\left(\widetilde{X} \right) \cong \pi_1(X, x_0)/H$, and*

- *if $\widetilde{X}$ is the universal cover, then $G\left(\widetilde{X} \right) \cong \pi_1(X, x_0)$.*

Proof. Exercise: read the proof of this in Hatcher. $\qquad\square$

Example. Let $X = S^1 \vee S^1$, so $\pi_1(X) = F_{\{a,b\}}$. Then the following are covering spaces.

- A normal covering space

$$
\widetilde{X} = \overset{a}{\mathrm{O}} \overset{\widetilde{x_0}}{\cdot} \overset{b}{\mathrm{O}} \cdot \overset{a}{\mathrm{O}} \to \overset{a}{\mathrm{O}} \cdot \overset{b}{\mathrm{O}} = X, \qquad p_* \left(\pi_1 \left(\widetilde{X}, \widetilde{x_0} \right) \right) = \left\langle a, b^2, bab^{-1} \right\rangle \overset{2}{\subseteq} F_{\{a,b\}}.
$$

  In general, a two-oriented graph is a covering space of X.

- Not a normal covering space

$$
\widetilde{X} = \overset{a}{\mathrm{O}} \cdot \overset{b}{\mathrm{O}} \overset{\widetilde{x_0}}{\cdot} \overset{a}{\mathrm{O}} \cdot \overset{b}{\mathrm{O}} \to \overset{a}{\mathrm{O}} \cdot \overset{b}{\mathrm{O}} = X, \qquad p_* \left(\pi_1 \left(\widetilde{X}, \widetilde{x_0} \right) \right) = \left\langle b^2, bab^{-1}, a^2, aba^{-1} \right\rangle.
$$

- A normal covering space

$$
\widetilde{X} = \ldots \underset{b}{\mathrm{O}} \underset{b\,\widetilde{x_0}\,b}{\overset{a}{\mathrm{O}}} \underset{b}{\overset{a}{\mathrm{O}}} \cdots \to \overset{a}{\mathrm{O}} \cdot \overset{b}{\mathrm{O}} = X, \qquad p_* \left(\pi_1 \left(\widetilde{X}, \widetilde{x_0} \right) \right) = \left\langle b^n a b^{-n} \mid n \in \mathbb{Z} \right\rangle.
$$

  Universal cover is a tree.

Example. Let $T = S^1 \times S^1$, so $\pi_1(T) = \mathbb{Z}^2$. This is abelian, so all covering spaces are normal. Universal cover is

$$\begin{array}{rcl} \mathbb{R}^2 & \to & S^1 \times S^1 \\ (s,t) & \mapsto & \left(e^{2\pi is}, e^{2\pi it}\right) \end{array},$$

since $\mathbb{R}^2$ is simply connected. (Exercise: check that it is a covering space) More generally, if $p : \widetilde{X} \to X$ and $q : \widetilde{X} \to X$ are covering spaces then

$$\begin{array}{rcl} \widetilde{X} \times \widetilde{Y} & \to & X \times Y \\ (x,y) & \mapsto & (p(x), q(y)) \end{array}$$

is again a covering space. For example,

$$\begin{array}{rcl} S^1 \times S^1 & \to & S^1 \times S^1 \\ (z_1, z_2) & \mapsto & (z_1^n, z_2^m) \end{array}.$$

Example. Worksheet 3 exercise 7. Let

$$\mathbb{RP}^n = \frac{\mathbb{R}^{n+1} \setminus \{0\}}{\sim} = \frac{S^n}{\sim}$$

be the **projective n-space**, the space of all lines through the origin in $\mathbb{R}^{n+1}$, where $x \sim -x$. Let $p : S^n \to \mathbb{RP}^n$ be the quotient map. Claim that this is a covering space. Let $[x] \in \mathbb{RP}^n$. Then $p^{-1}([x]) = \{\pm x\}$. Let U be an open neighbourhood of x such that $U \cap (-U) = \emptyset$, so $p(U) = \{[x] \mid x \in U\}$. Then $p^{-1}(p(U)) = U \cup (-U)$ is open and disjoint. Thus $p\,|_U : U \to p(U)$ is a homeomorphism, so it is a covering space.

- $n \geq 2$ gives that S^n is simply-connected, so $S^n \to \mathbb{RP}^n$ is a universal cover. Then

$$\{id\} = p_*(\pi_1(S^n)) \overset{2}{\subseteq} \pi_1(\mathbb{RP}^n),$$

  so $|\pi_1(\mathbb{RP}^n)| = 2$. Thus $\pi_1(\mathbb{RP}^n) \cong \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$.

- $n = 1$ gives $\mathbb{RP}^1 = S^1$, so

$$\begin{array}{rrcl} p: & S^1 & \to & S^1 \\ & z & \mapsto & z^2 \end{array}$$

  is a covering space.

2   Homology

Higher homotopy groups $\pi_n(X, x_0)$ are groups of basepoint preserving homotopies of continuous $\phi : I^n \to X$ such that $\phi(\partial I^n) = x_0$.

Example.

$$\pi_1(S^n) = \begin{cases} \mathbb{Z} & n = 1 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases},$$

$$\pi_2(S^n) = \begin{cases} \mathbb{Z} & n = 2 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases},$$

$$\pi_3(S^n) = \begin{cases} \mathbb{Z} & n = 2, 3 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases},$$

$$\pi_i(S^2) = \begin{cases} \dfrac{\mathbb{Z}}{2\mathbb{Z}} & i = 4, 5 \\ \dfrac{\mathbb{Z}}{12\mathbb{Z}} & i = 6 \end{cases}.$$

Homology is more suitable. The following is the plan.

- Simplicial homology.

- Singular homology.

- Technical machinery to show that they coincide.

- Applications.

2.1   Δ-complexes

Definition. Let $m, n \geq 0$.

- An **n-simplex** in $\mathbb{R}^m$ is the convex hull of a set V of $n + 1$ points in $\mathbb{R}^m$ that are not all contained in an affine $(n-1)$-dimensional subspace of $\mathbb{R}^m$.

- The **standard n-simplex** is the convex hull of the standard basis $\{e_1, \ldots, e_{n+1}\}$ in $\mathbb{R}^{n+1}$,

$$\left\{ (x_0, \ldots, x_n) \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1} \mid x_i \geq 0, \ x_0 + \cdots + x_n = 1 \right\}.$$

- An **ordered n-simplex** is an n-simplex with an ordering on the vertices. We denote it by $[v_0, \ldots, v_n]$, where $v_0, \ldots, v_n$ are the vertices in ascending order.

- The **standard ordered n-simplex** is the ordered n-simplex $[e_1, \ldots, e_{n+1}]$ in $\mathbb{R}^{n+1}$. It is denoted by Δ^n.

- Let $[v_0, \ldots, v_{n+1}]$ be an n-simplex in $\mathbb{R}^m$ and let $L \subseteq \mathbb{R}^m$ be the affine subspace spanned by $v_0, \ldots, v_n$. Then there exists a unique affine morphism

$$\begin{array}{ccc} L & \to & \mathbb{R}^{n+1} \\ v_i & \mapsto & e_{i+1} \end{array},$$

for $i = 0, \ldots, n$. This gives a homeomorphism from $[v_0, \ldots, v_n]$ to Δ^n that preserves this ordering.

- For $n \geq 1$, the **faces** of an ordered n-simplex $[v_0, \ldots, v_n]$ are the ordered $(n-1)$-simplices

$$[v_0, \ldots, \widehat{v_i}, \ldots, v_n].$$

$\widehat{v_i}$ means we omit the vertex v_i.

- The union of all the faces of a simplex Δ is the **boundary** $\partial \Delta$.

- The **interior** of Δ is $\mathring{\Delta} = \Delta \setminus \partial \Delta$.

Example. Let $\Delta^2 = [e_1, e_2, e_3]$. Then $\partial \Delta^2 = [e_1, e_2] \cup [e_1, e_3] \cup [e_2, e_3]$.

Definition. Let X be a topological space. A **Δ-complex structure** on X is a collection of continuous maps $\sigma_\alpha : \Delta^{n(\alpha)} \to X$ for $\alpha \in A$ and $n(\alpha) \in \mathbb{N}$ such that

1. the restriction $\sigma_\alpha \mid_{\mathring{\Delta}^{n(\alpha)}}$ is injective for all $\alpha \in A$ and for each $x \in X$ there is a unique $\alpha \in A$ such that $x \in \sigma_\alpha \left(\mathring{\Delta}^{n(\alpha)} \right)$,

2. the restriction of σ_α to a face of $\Delta^{n(\alpha)}$ is equal to σ_β for some $\beta \in A$ and $n(\beta) = n(\alpha) - 1$, and

3. $U \subseteq X$ is open if and only if $\sigma_\alpha^{-1}(U)$ is open in $\Delta^{n(\alpha)}$ for all $\alpha \in A$.

An observation is that

$$\sigma : \bigsqcup_{\alpha \in A} \Delta^{n(\alpha)} \to X$$

induced by the σ_α is a quotient map, since it is surjective by 1 and $U \subseteq X$ is open if and only if $\sigma^{-1}(U)$ is open by 3.

Remark. One can show that an X with a Δ-complex structure is a CW-complex.

Example.

- Torus or Klein bottle is two Δ^2, three Δ^1, and one Δ^0.

- S^2 is a tetrahedron.

- Dunce hat, by identifying all the three faces of the standard 2-simplex with each other, is one Δ^2, one Δ^1, and one Δ^0.

2.2 Simplicial homology

2.2.1 Simplicial homology

Let X be a Δ-complex. The group of n-**chains** $\Delta_n(X)$ is the free abelian group on the n-simplices $\sigma_\alpha :$ $\Delta^{n(\alpha)} \to X$, where $n(\alpha) = n$. So an element in $\Delta_n(X)$ is of the form

$$\sum_{\alpha \in A,\ n(\alpha)=n} c_\alpha \cdot \sigma_\alpha,$$

where $c_\alpha \in \mathbb{Z}$ and all but finitely many of the c_α are zero.

Example. Let K be a Klein bottle.

- $\Delta_0(K) = \{n \cdot v \mid n \in \mathbb{Z}\} = \mathbb{Z} \cdot v \cong \mathbb{Z}$.

- $\Delta_1(K) = \{n_1 \cdot a + n_2 \cdot b + n_3 \cdot c \mid n_1, n_2, n_3 \in \mathbb{Z}\} = \mathbb{Z} \cdot a \oplus \mathbb{Z} \cdot b \oplus \mathbb{Z} \cdot c \cong \mathbb{Z}^3$.

- $\Delta_2(K) = \{n_1 \cdot U + n_2 \cdot V \mid n_1, n_2 \in \mathbb{Z}\} = \mathbb{Z} \cdot U \oplus \mathbb{Z} \cdot V \cong \mathbb{Z}^2$.

- $\Delta_n(K) = 0$ for $n \geq 3$.

Similarly for a torus T.

Define the **boundary homomorphism** by

$$\begin{array}{rlll} \partial_n : & \Delta_n(X) & \to & \Delta_{n-1}(X) \\ & \sigma_\alpha & \mapsto & \sum_{i=0}^{n} (-1)^i \, \sigma_\alpha \mid_{[v_0,\ldots,\widehat{v_i},\ldots,v_n]} \end{array} .$$

Moreover, we define $\partial_0 = 0$.

Example. Let $\sigma : [v_0, v_1, v_2, v_3] \to X$. Then

$$\partial_3(\sigma) = \sigma \mid_{[v_1,v_2,v_3]} - \sigma \mid_{[v_0,v_2,v_3]} + \sigma \mid_{[v_0,v_1,v_3]} - \sigma \mid_{[v_0,v_1,v_2]}.$$

Lemma 2.1. *The composition*

$$\Delta_n(X) \xrightarrow{\partial_n} \Delta_{n-1}(X) \xrightarrow{\partial_{n-1}} \Delta_{n-2}(X)$$

is the zero map.

Proof. Let $\sigma : [v_0, \ldots, v_n] \to X$ be an n-simplex. Then

$$\partial_n(\sigma) = \sum_{i=0}^{n} (-1)^i \, \sigma \mid_{[v_0,\ldots,\widehat{v_i},\ldots,v_n]},$$

so

$$(\partial_{n-1} \circ \partial_n)(\sigma) = \sum_{j<i} (-1)^i (-1)^j \, \sigma \mid_{[v_0,\ldots,\widehat{v_j},\ldots,\widehat{v_i},\ldots,v_n]} + \sum_{j>i} (-1)^i (-1)^{j-1} \, \sigma \mid_{[v_0,\ldots,\widehat{v_i},\ldots,\widehat{v_j},\ldots,v_n]} = 0.$$

If $n = 1$, clear. $\qquad\qquad\square$

2.2.2   Algebraic situation

A **chain complex** of abelian groups is a diagram $(C_., \partial)$ of the form

$$\ldots \xrightarrow{\partial_{n+1}} C_n \xrightarrow{\partial_n} \ldots \xrightarrow{\partial_1} C_0 \xrightarrow{\partial_0} 0,$$

where the C_i are abelian groups and the ∂_n are group homomorphisms such that $\partial_n \circ \partial_{n-1} = 0$ for all n. ∂_n are **boundary homomorphisms**. Elements in C_n are n-**chains**.

$$Z_n = Ker(\partial_n) \subseteq C_n, \qquad B_n = Im(\partial_{n+1}) \subseteq C_n.$$

Elements in Z_n are **cycles** and elements in B_n are **boundaries**. Since $\partial_{n+1} \circ \partial_n = 0$, we have that $B_n \subseteq Z_n$. The n-**th homology group** of this chain complex is defined by

$$H_n(C_., \partial) = \frac{Z_n}{B_n}.$$

So, by Lemma 2.1

$$\ldots \xrightarrow{\partial_{n+1}} \Delta_n(X) \xrightarrow{\partial_n} \ldots \xrightarrow{\partial_1} \Delta_0(X) \xrightarrow{\partial_0} 0$$

is a chain complex. The n-**th simplicial homology group** is

$$H_n^\Delta(X) = \frac{Ker(\partial_n)}{Im(\partial_{n+1})}.$$

Example. Let $X = S^1$.

$$\ldots \xrightarrow{\partial_3} \underset{\underset{0}{\shortparallel}}{\Delta_2(X)} \xrightarrow{\partial_2} \underset{\underset{\mathbb{Z}}{\shortparallel}}{\Delta_1(X)} \xrightarrow{\partial_1} \underset{\underset{\mathbb{Z}}{\shortparallel}}{\Delta_0(X)} \xrightarrow{\partial_0} 0 \quad .$$

- $Ker(\partial_0) = \mathbb{Z}$ and $Im(\partial_1) = 0$, so $H_0^\Delta(X) \cong \mathbb{Z}$.

- $Ker(\partial_1) = \Delta_1(X)$ and $Im(\partial_2) = 0$, so $H_1^\Delta(X) \cong \mathbb{Z}$.

- $H_n^\Delta(X) = 0$ if $n \geq 2$.

Example. Let T be a torus.

$$\ldots \xrightarrow{\partial_4} \underset{\underset{0}{\shortparallel}}{\Delta_3(T)} \xrightarrow{\partial_3} \underset{\underset{\mathbb{Z} \cdot U \oplus \mathbb{Z} \cdot V}{\shortparallel}}{\Delta_2(T)} \xrightarrow{\partial_2} \underset{\underset{\mathbb{Z} \cdot a \oplus \mathbb{Z} \cdot b \oplus \mathbb{Z} \cdot c}{\shortparallel}}{\Delta_1(T)} \xrightarrow{\partial_1} \underset{\underset{\mathbb{Z} \cdot v}{\shortparallel}}{\Delta_0(T)} \xrightarrow{\partial_0} 0 \quad .$$

- $Ker(\partial_0) = \mathbb{Z}$ and $Im(\partial_1) = 0$, so $H_0^\Delta(T) \cong \mathbb{Z}$.

- $\partial_2(U) = a + b - c$ and $\partial_2(V) = a + b - c$, and $\{a, b, a + b - c\}$ is a basis for $\Delta_1(T)$.

$$Ker(\partial_1) = \Delta_1(T), \qquad Im(\partial_2) = \mathbb{Z} \cdot (a + b - c),$$

  so $H_1^\Delta(T) \cong \mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z}$.

- $H_2^\Delta(T) \cong \mathbb{Z}$. (Exercise)

Lecture 20 is a problem class.

2.3   Singular homology

2.3.1   Singular homology

A **singular n-simplex** in a topological space X is a continuous map $\sigma : \Delta^n \to X$. Let $C_n(X)$ be the free abelian group on the set of all singular simplices in X, that is elements in $C_n(X)$ are finite formal sums

$$\sum_i n_i \sigma_i, \qquad n_i \in \mathbb{Z},$$

where $\sigma_i : \Delta^n \to X$ are singular n-simplices. Elements in $C_n(X)$ are called **singular n-chains**. Define a **boundary map**

$$
\begin{array}{rccl}
\partial_n : & C_n(X) & \to & C_{n-1}(X) \\
 & \sigma & \mapsto & \sum_{i=0}^n (-1)^i \, \sigma \mid_{[v_1,\ldots,\widetilde{v_i},\ldots,v_n]}
\end{array} \ ,
$$

for a singular n-simplex σ. Extend it linearly to $C_n(X)$.

Lemma 2.2. $\partial_n \circ \partial_{n+1} = 0$.

Proof. Same proof as for Lemma 2.1.   □

We obtain a chain complex

$$\ldots \xrightarrow{\partial_{n+1}} C_n(X) \xrightarrow{\partial_n} \ldots \xrightarrow{\partial_1} C_0(X) \xrightarrow{\partial_0} 0.$$

Remark. Often we write ∂ instead of ∂_n.

We define the **n-th singular homology group** by

$$H_n(X) = \frac{Ker(\partial_n)}{Im(\partial_{n+1})}.$$

An observation is that if X and Y are homeomorphic then $H_n(X) \cong H_n(Y)$.

Proposition 2.3. *Let X be a topological space and $X = \bigcup_\alpha X_\alpha$ be the decomposition into its path-components. Then*

$$H_n(X) \cong \bigoplus_\alpha H_n(X_\alpha).$$

Proof. A singular n-simplex $\sigma : \Delta^n \to X$ has a path-connected image. So

$$C_n(X) = \bigoplus_\alpha C_n(X_\alpha).$$

The boundary maps ∂_n preserve this decomposition, so $\partial_n(C_n(X_\alpha)) \subseteq C_{n-1}(X_\alpha)$ gives that $Ker(\partial_n)$ and $Im(\partial_{n+1})$ split as well as direct sums, so

$$H_n(X) = \frac{Ker(\partial_n)}{Im(\partial_{n+1})} \cong \bigoplus_\alpha H_n(X_\alpha).$$

□

Proposition 2.4. *If X is a path-connected, and as always $X \neq \emptyset$, topological space, then $H_0(X) \cong \mathbb{Z}$. Hence for X arbitrary $H_0(X)$ is a direct sum of $\mathbb{Z}$'s, one for each path-component.*

Proof. $\partial_0 = 0$, so $H_0(X) = C_0(X)/Im(\partial_1)$. Define

$$\epsilon: \quad \begin{matrix} C_0(X) & \to & \mathbb{Z} \\ \sum_i n_i \sigma_i & \mapsto & \sum_i n_i \end{matrix}.$$

ϵ is surjective. Enough to show that $Ker(\epsilon) = Im(\partial_1)$. This implies by the isomorphism theorem $H_0(X) \cong \mathbb{Z}$. Let $\sigma: \Delta^1 \to X$ be a 1-simplex. Then

$$\partial_1(\sigma) = \sigma\,|_{[v_1]} - \sigma\,|_{[v_0]},$$

so $\epsilon(\partial_1(\sigma)) = 0$ gives $Im(\partial_1) \subseteq Ker(\epsilon)$. On the other hand, $\epsilon(\sum_i n_i \sigma_i) = 0$ gives $\sum_i n_i = 0$. The σ_i correspond to points $\sigma_i([v])$ in X. Choose a basepoint $x_0 \in X$ and let

$$\sigma_0: \quad \begin{matrix} \Delta^0 & \to & X \\ \Delta^0 & \mapsto & x_0 \end{matrix}$$

be the singular 0-simplex. Let τ_i be a path from x_0 to $\sigma_i([v])$. Consider τ_i as a singular 1-simplex $\tau_i: [v_0, v_1] \to X$. We have $\partial_1 \circ \tau_i = \sigma_i - \sigma_0$, so

$$\partial_1\left(\sum_i n_i \tau_i\right) = \sum_i n_i(\sigma_i - \sigma_0) = \sum_i n_i \sigma_i - \sum_i n_i \sigma_0 = \sum_i n_i \sigma_i.$$

Thus $Ker(\epsilon) \subseteq Im(\partial_1)$. $\qquad\square$

Proposition 2.5. *If X is a point, then*

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

Proof. For each n there exists a unique singular n-simplex $\partial_n: \Delta^n \to X$, so $C_n(X) \cong \mathbb{Z}$ for all n.

$$\partial_n(\sigma_n) = \sum_{i=0}^{n}(-1)^i \sigma_{n-1} = \begin{cases} 0 & n \text{ odd} \\ \sigma_{n-1} & n \text{ even} \end{cases},$$

so $\partial_n = 0$ if n is odd and ∂_n is an isomorphism if n is even.

$$\begin{matrix} \cdots & \xrightarrow{\partial_2} & C_1(X) & \xrightarrow{\partial_1} & C_0(X) & \xrightarrow{\partial_0} & 0 \\ & & \shortparallel & & \shortparallel & & \\ \cdots & \xrightarrow{\ 0\ } & \mathbb{Z} & \xrightarrow{\ \sim\ } & \mathbb{Z} & \xrightarrow{\ 0\ } & 0 \end{matrix},$$

so $H_n = Ker(\partial_n)/Im(\partial_{n+1}) = 0$ if $n \geq 1$ and $H_0(X) \cong \mathbb{Z}$. $\qquad\square$

2.3.2   Reduced homology groups

The **reduced homology groups** $\widetilde{H_n}(X)$ are the homology groups of the **augmented chain complex**

$$\cdots \xrightarrow{\partial_2} C_1(X) \xrightarrow{\partial_1} C_0(X) \xrightarrow{\partial_0} \mathbb{Z} \xrightarrow{\epsilon} 0,$$

where ϵ is as in proof of Proposition 2.4.

$$H_n(X) \cong \widetilde{H_n}(X), \qquad n \geq 1.$$

Seen in the proof of Proposition 2.4 that ϵ is surjective and $\epsilon \circ \partial_1 = 0$ gives $Im(\partial_1) \subseteq Ker(\epsilon)$, so ϵ induces a surjective homomorphism

$$\phi_\epsilon: H_0(X) = \frac{C_0(X)}{Im(\partial_1)} \to \mathbb{Z}.$$

Then $Ker(\phi_\epsilon) = Ker(\epsilon)/Im(\partial_1) = \widetilde{H_0}(X)$ gives $H_0(X)/\widetilde{H_0}(X) \cong \mathbb{Z}$, so

$$H_0(X) \cong \widetilde{H_0}(X) \oplus \mathbb{Z}.$$

2.4   Homotopy invariance

Let $(A., \partial)$ and $(B., \partial)$ be two chain complexes. A **chain map** $f : (A., \partial) \to (B., \partial)$ is a collection of homomorphisms $f_n : A_n \to B_n$ such that $\partial \circ f_n = f_{n+1} \circ \partial$, that is the following diagram commutes.

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccc}
\dots & \xrightarrow{\partial} & A_{n+1} & \xrightarrow{\partial} & A_n & \xrightarrow{\partial} & A_{n-1} & \xrightarrow{\partial} & \dots \\
& & \downarrow{f_{n+1}} & & \downarrow{f_n} & & \downarrow{f_{n-1}} & & \\
\dots & \xrightarrow{\partial} & B_{n+1} & \xrightarrow{\partial} & B_n & \xrightarrow{\partial} & B_{n-1} & \xrightarrow{\partial} & \dots
\end{array} \quad .$$

If X and Y are topological spaces and $f : X \to Y$ is a continuous map define the homomorphisms

$$f_\# : \quad \begin{array}{ccc} C_n(X) & \to & C_n(Y) \\ \sigma : \Delta^n \to X & \mapsto & f \circ \sigma : \Delta^n \to Y \end{array} \, ,$$

and extend it linearly to $C_n(X)$.

$$(f_\# \circ \partial)(\sigma) = f_\# \left(\sum_{i=0}^n (-1)^i \sigma \mid_{[v_0, \dots, \widehat{v_i}, \dots, v_n]} \right) = \sum_{i=0}^n (f \circ \sigma) \mid_{[v_0, \dots, \widehat{v_i}, \dots, v_n]} = (\partial \circ f_\#)(\sigma)$$

gives $f_\# \circ \partial = \partial \circ f_\#$, so $f_\#$ defines a chain map

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccc}
\dots & \xrightarrow{\partial} & C_{n+1}(X) & \xrightarrow{\partial} & C_n(X) & \xrightarrow{\partial} & C_{n-1}(X) & \xrightarrow{\partial} & \dots \\
& & \downarrow{f_\#} & & \downarrow{f_\#} & & \downarrow{f_\#} & & \\
\dots & \xrightarrow{\partial} & C_{n+1}(Y) & \xrightarrow{\partial} & C_n(Y) & \xrightarrow{\partial} & C_{n-1}(Y) & \xrightarrow{\partial} & \dots
\end{array} \quad .$$

$f_\#$ maps cycles to cycles, since $\alpha \in C_n(X)$ such that $\partial \circ \alpha = 0$ gives

$$(\partial \circ f_\#)(\alpha) = (f_\# \circ \partial)(\alpha) = 0.$$

$f_\#$ maps boundaries to boundaries, since

$$f_\# \circ (\partial \circ \beta) = \partial \circ (f_\# \circ \beta).$$

$f_\#(Ker(\partial_n)) \subseteq Ker(\partial_n)$ and $f_\#(Im(\partial_{n+1})) \subseteq Im(\partial_{n+1})$ gives that $f_\#$ induces a homomorphism

$$f_* : H_n(X) \to H_n(Y).$$

The following are observations.

- $X \xrightarrow{g} Y \xrightarrow{f} Z$ gives $(f \circ g)_\# = f_\# \circ g_\#$, since

$$\Delta^n \xrightarrow{\sigma} X \xrightarrow{g} Y \xrightarrow{f} Z$$

gives $f \circ (g \circ \sigma) = (f \circ g) \circ \sigma$, so $(f \circ g)_* = f_* \circ g_*$.

- $(id_X)_* = id_{H_n(X)}$.

Theorem 2.6. *If two continuous maps $f, g : X \to Y$ are homotopic, then $f_* = g_* : H_n(X) \to H_n(Y)$.*

Corollary 2.7. *If $f : X \to Y$ is a homotopy equivalence, then $f_* : H_n(X) \to H_n(Y)$ is an isomorphism.*

Proof. Let $g : Y \to X$ be a continuous map such that $f \circ g \cong id_Y$ and $g \circ f = id_X$. Then $f_* \circ g_* = (f \circ g)_* = (id_Y)_* = id$. Similarly $g_* \circ f_* = id$, so f_* is an isomorphism. $\square$

Example.

$$H_n(\mathbb{R}^k) = \begin{cases} \mathbb{Z} & n = 0 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}, \qquad \widetilde{H_n}(\mathbb{R}^k) = 0.$$

Proof of Theorem 2.6. Let $F : X \times I \to Y$ be a homotopy from f to g and $\sigma : \Delta_n \to X$ be a singular n-simplex. Consider the map

$$\Delta^n \times I \xrightarrow{\sigma \times I} X \times I \xrightarrow{F} Y.$$

$\Delta^n \times I$ is not a simplex. But we can subdivide $\Delta^n \times I$ into $(n+1)$ simplices. In general, we can decompose $\Delta^n \times I$ into $n + 1$ $(n+1)$-simplices

$$[v_0, \ldots, v_i, w_i, \ldots, w_n], \qquad i = 0, \ldots, n.$$

Define **prism-operators**

$$\begin{array}{rcl} P: & C_n(X) & \to & C_{n+1}(Y) \\ & \sigma & \mapsto & \sum_{i=0}^{n} (-1)^i F \circ (\sigma \times id) \,|_{[v_0,\ldots,v_i,w_i,\ldots,w_n]} \end{array},$$

for $\sigma : \Delta^n \to X$ a singular n-simplex.

$$\ldots \xrightarrow{\partial} C_{n+1}(X) \xrightarrow{\partial} C_n(X) \xrightarrow{\partial} C_{n-1}(X) \xrightarrow{\partial} \ldots$$
$$\ldots \xrightarrow{\partial} C_{n+1}(Y) \xrightarrow{\partial} C_n(Y) \xrightarrow{\partial} C_{n-1}(Y) \xrightarrow{\partial} \ldots$$

Claim that

$$\partial \circ P = g_\# - f_\# - P \circ \partial,$$

if and only if $g_\# - f_\# = \partial \circ P + P \circ \partial$. The claim implies the theorem, since if $\alpha \in C_n(X)$ is a cycle, then

$$g_\#(\alpha) - f_\#(\alpha) = (\partial \circ P)(\alpha) + (P \circ \partial)(\alpha) = (\partial \circ P)(\alpha),$$

so $g_\#(\alpha) - f_\#(\alpha)$ is a boundary. Thus $g_\#(\alpha)$ and $f_\#(\alpha)$ are in the same homology class, so $g_*([\alpha]) = f_*([\alpha])$, where $[\alpha]$ is the homology class of α. Let $\sigma : \Delta^n \to X$ be a singular n-simplex.

$$\begin{aligned} (\partial \circ P)(\sigma) &= \partial \left(\sum_{i=0}^{n} (-1)^i F \circ (\sigma \times id) \,|_{[v_0,\ldots,v_i,w_i,\ldots,w_n]} \right) \\ &= \sum_{j \leq i} (-1)^i (-1)^j F \circ (\sigma \times id) \,|_{[v_0,\ldots,\widehat{v_j},\ldots,v_i,w_i,\ldots,w_n]} \\ &\quad + \sum_{j \geq i} (-1)^i (-1)^{j+1} F \circ (\sigma \times id) \,|_{[v_0,\ldots,v_i,w_i,\ldots,\widehat{w_j},\ldots,w_n]}. \end{aligned}$$

If $i = j$ the two sums cancel except for

$$F \circ (\sigma \times id) \,|_{[\widehat{v_0},w_0,\ldots,w_n]} = g \circ \sigma = g_\#(\sigma),$$

and

$$-F \circ (\sigma \times id) \,|_{[v_0,\ldots,v_n,\widehat{w_n}]} = -f \circ \sigma = -f_\#(\sigma).$$

The terms with $i \neq j$ sum up to $(P \circ \partial)(\sigma)$, since we have

$$\begin{aligned} (P \circ \partial)(\sigma) &= \sum_{j < i} (-1)^i (-1)^j F \circ (\sigma \times id) \,|_{[v_0,\ldots,\widehat{v_j},\ldots,v_i,w_i,\ldots,w_n]} \\ &\quad + \sum_{j > i} (-1)^i (-1)^{j+1} F \circ (\sigma \times id) \,|_{[v_0,\ldots,v_i,w_i,\ldots,\widehat{w_j},\ldots,w_n]}. \end{aligned}$$

$\square$

Remark. One can show that there are also induced homomorphisms $f_* : \widetilde{H}_n(X) \to \widetilde{H}_n(Y)$ invariant under homotopy. (Exercise)

Lecture 23
Tuesday
05/03/19

2.5   Exact sequences and excision

2.5.1   Exact sequences

Let $A \subseteq X$ be a subspace. What is the relationship between $H_n(A), H_n(X), H_n(X/A)$?

Definition. A sequence of group homomorphisms of abelian groups

$$\ldots \xrightarrow{\alpha_{n+1}} A_n \xrightarrow{\alpha_n} \ldots$$

is **exact at** A_n if $Ker(\alpha_n) = Im(\alpha_{n+1})$. The sequence is **exact** if it is exact at A_n for all n.

An observation is if the sequence is exact, then

- $\alpha_n \alpha_{n+1} = 0$, so exact sequences are chain complexes, and

- the homology groups of this chain complex are all trivial.

Example.

- $0 \to A \xrightarrow{\alpha} B$ is exact if and only if $Ker(\alpha) = 0$, if and only if α is injective.

- $A \xrightarrow{\alpha} B \to 0$ is exact if and only if $Im(\alpha) = B$, if and only if α is surjective.

- $0 \to A \xrightarrow{\alpha} B \to 0$ is exact if and only if α is an isomorphism.

- $0 \to A \xrightarrow{\alpha} B \xrightarrow{\beta} C \to 0$ is exact if and only if α is injective, β is surjective, and $Ker(\beta) = Im(\alpha)$, hence β induces an isomorphism

$$C \cong \frac{B}{Im(\alpha)} = \frac{B}{A}.$$

This is called a **short exact sequence**.

Definition. Let X be a topological space and $A \subseteq X$. Then A is a **strong deformation retract** of X if there exists a retraction $r : X \to A$ such that r is homotopic to the identity, and $F : I \times X \to X$ continuous such that

$$F(0,x) = x, \qquad F(1,x) = r(x), \qquad F(t,a) = a,$$

for all $x \in X$, for all $a \in A$, and for all $t \in I$. Let X be a topological space and $A \subseteq X$ a non-empty closed subspace. Then (X, A) is called a **good pair** if A has a neighbourhood in X that strongly deformation retracts to A.

Example.

- (D^n, S^{n-1}) is a good pair, since S^{n-1} is a deformation retract of $D^n \setminus \{0\}$.

- Let $A = \{1/n \mid n \in \mathbb{N}\} \cup \{0\} \subseteq [0,1]$ then $([0,1], A)$ is not a good pair.

Theorem 2.8. *Let (X, A) be a good pair, then there is an exact sequence*

$$\cdots \to \widetilde{H}_1(A) \xrightarrow{i_*} \widetilde{H}_1(X) \xrightarrow{j_*} \widetilde{H}_1\left(\frac{X}{A}\right) \xrightarrow{\partial} \widetilde{H}_0(A) \xrightarrow{i_*} \widetilde{H}_0(X) \xrightarrow{j_*} \widetilde{H}_0\left(\frac{X}{A}\right) \to 0,$$

where $i : A \hookrightarrow X$ is the inclusion and $j : X \to X/A$ is the quotient.

Corollary 2.9.

$$\widetilde{H}_i\left(S^n\right) = \begin{cases} \mathbb{Z} & i = n \\ 0 & i \neq n \end{cases}.$$

Proof. $\left(D^n, S^{n-1}\right)$ is a good pair. Let $n > 0$. Recall that $D^n/S^{n-1} \cong S^n$, so

$$\ldots \to \widetilde{H}_i\left(S^{n-1}\right) \xrightarrow{i_*} \underset{\substack{\parallel \\ 0}}{\widetilde{H}_i\left(D^n\right)} \xrightarrow{j_*} \widetilde{H}_i\left(S^n\right) \xrightarrow{\partial} \widetilde{H_{i-1}}\left(S^{n-1}\right) \xrightarrow{i_*} \underset{\substack{\parallel \\ 0}}{\widetilde{H_{i-1}}\left(D^n\right)} \xrightarrow{j_*} \widetilde{H_{i-1}}\left(S^n\right) \to \ldots .$$

Then $\widetilde{H}_i\left(S^n\right) \cong \widetilde{H_{i-1}}\left(S^{n-1}\right)$ for $i > 0$, so

$$\ldots \to \widetilde{H}_1\left(S^{n-1}\right) \xrightarrow{i_*} \underset{\substack{\parallel \\ 0}}{\widetilde{H}_1\left(D^n\right)} \xrightarrow{j_*} \widetilde{H}_1\left(S^n\right) \xrightarrow{\partial} \widetilde{H}_0\left(S^{n-1}\right) \xrightarrow{i_*} \underset{\substack{\parallel \\ 0}}{\widetilde{H}_0\left(D^n\right)} \xrightarrow{j_*} \widetilde{H}_0\left(S^n\right) \to 0 .$$

$n > 0$ and $i > 0$, so $\widetilde{H}_i\left(S^n\right) \cong \widetilde{H_{i-1}}\left(S^{n-1}\right)$, and $\widetilde{H}_0\left(S^n\right) = 0$. We know that $\widetilde{H}_0\left(S^0\right) \cong \mathbb{Z}$ and $\widetilde{H}_n\left(S^0\right) = 0$, by Proposition 2.3 and Proposition 2.5. Doing induction on n,

$$\widetilde{H}_i\left(S^n\right) = \begin{cases} \mathbb{Z} & i = n \\ 0 & i \neq n \end{cases}.$$

$\square$

Corollary 2.10. *There exists no retraction $r : D^n \to \partial D^n$.*

Proof. Assume there exists such an $r : D^n \to \partial D^n$. Let $i : \partial D^n \to D^n$. Then $ri = id_{\partial D^n}$ gives $r_* i_* = (ri)_* = id$, so

$$\underset{\substack{\parallel \\ \mathbb{Z}}}{\widetilde{H_{n-1}}\left(\partial D^n\right)} \xrightarrow{i_*} \underset{\substack{\parallel \\ 0}}{\widetilde{H_{n-1}}\left(D^n\right)} \xrightarrow{r_*} \underset{\substack{\parallel \\ \mathbb{Z}}}{\widetilde{H_{n-1}}\left(\partial D^n\right)} .$$

Thus $i_* = 0$ and $r_* = 0$, a contradiction. $\square$

Theorem 2.11 (Brouwer fixed point theorem)**.** *Every continuous map $f : D^n \to D^n$ has a fixed point.*

Proof. Assume there exists a fixed point then construct as in dimension two a retraction $D^n \to \partial D^n$, a contradiction to Corollary 2.10. $\square$

2.5.2   Relative homology groups

Let X be a topological space and $A \subseteq X$ be a subspace. Define

$$C_n\left(X, A\right) = \frac{C_n\left(X\right)}{C_n\left(A\right)}.$$

Let $\partial : C_n\left(X\right) \to C_{n-1}\left(X\right)$ be the boundary map then $\partial\left(\sigma : \Delta^n \to A\right) \in \partial\left(C_n\left(A\right)\right) \subseteq C_{n-1}\left(A\right)$. So ∂ induces a homomorphism

$$\partial : C_n\left(X, A\right) \to C_{n-1}\left(X, A\right),$$

such that $\partial \circ \partial = 0$. This gives a chain complex

$$\cdots \to C_{n+1}\left(X, A\right) \xrightarrow{\partial} C_n\left(X, A\right) \xrightarrow{\partial} C_{n-1}\left(X, A\right) \to \ldots .$$

- The homology groups $H_n\left(X, A\right)$ of this complex are the **relative homology groups**.

- The **relative n-chains** are $C_n\left(X, A\right)$.

- The **relative n-cycles** are $Ker\left(\partial\right) \subseteq C_n\left(X, A\right)$, of the form $[\alpha]$, for $\alpha \in C_n\left(X\right)$ such that $\partial\left(\alpha\right) \in C_{n-1}\left(A\right)$.

- The **relative n-boundaries** are $Im\left(\partial\right) \subseteq C_n\left(X, A\right)$, of the form $[\alpha]$, for $\alpha \in C_n\left(X\right)$ such that $\alpha = \partial\beta + \gamma$ for $\beta \in C_{n+1}\left(X\right)$ and $\gamma \in C_n\left(A\right)$.

A **short exact sequence of chain complexes** is

$$0 \to (A., \partial) \xrightarrow{i} (B., \partial) \xrightarrow{j} (C., \partial) \to 0,$$

for i, j chain maps, where

$$0 \to A_n \xrightarrow{i} B_n \xrightarrow{j} C_n \to 0$$

is a short exact sequence for all n, so

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

A short exact sequence of chain complexes always yields a **long exact sequence** of homology groups

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

This is the **zig-zag lemma**. First we construct the **connecting map** $\partial : H_n(C) \to H_{n-1}(A)$. Let $c \in C_n$ be a cycle.

- j is surjective, so $c = j(b)$ for some $b \in B_n$.

- $j(\partial(b)) = \partial(j(b)) = \partial c = 0$, so $\partial b \in Ker(j) \subseteq B_{n-1}$ gives that $\partial(b) = i(a)$ for some $a \in A_{n-1}$, by exactness.

- $\partial(a) = 0$, since $i(\partial(a)) = \partial(i(a)) = \partial(\partial(b)) = 0$ and i is injective, so $\partial(a) = 0$.

$$
\begin{array}{ccc}
& & a \in A_{n-1} \\
& & \downarrow i \\
b \in B_n & \xrightarrow{\partial} & \in \partial(b) \in B_{n-1} \\
\downarrow j & & \\
c \in C_n & &
\end{array} \cdot
$$

Define

$$
\begin{array}{rccc}
\partial : & H_n(C) & \to & H_{n-1}(A) \\
& [c] & \mapsto & [a]
\end{array} \cdot
$$

This is well-defined.

- a is uniquely determined by $\partial(b)$ because i is injective.

- If we choose b' instead of b, then $j(b') = j(b)$, so $j(b' - b) = j(b') - j(b) = 0$ gives that $b' - b \in Ker(j) = Im(i)$, hence $b' - b = i(a')$ for some $a' \in A_n$, so $b' = b + i(a')$. If we replace b by $b' = b + i(a')$ this corresponds to replacing a by $a + \partial(a')$, because

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

  and $[a] = [a + \partial(a')]$.

- A different choice of c in its homology class has the form $c + \partial(c')$ for some $c' \in C_{n+1}$. Let $b' \in B_{n+1}$ such that $j(b') = c'$. Then

$$c + \partial(c') = c + \partial(j(b')) = j(b) + j(\partial(b')) = j(b + \partial(b')),$$

  so b is replaced by $b + \partial(b')$ but $\partial(b) = \partial(b + \partial b')$, so $\partial(b)$ is unchanged and hence a is unchanged.

The map $\partial : H_n(C) \to H_{n-1}(A)$ is a homomorphism, since if $\partial([c_1]) = [a_1]$ and $\partial([c_2]) = [a_2]$ via elements b_1 and b_2 in B_n, then

$$j(b_1 + b_2) = j(b_1) + j(b_2) = c_1 + c_2, \qquad i(a_1 + a_2) = i(a_1) + i(a_2) = \partial(b_1) + \partial(b_2) = \partial(b_1 + b_2),$$

so $\partial([c_1] + [c_2]) = [a_1] + [a_2]$.

Theorem 2.12. *The sequence*

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

is exact.

Proof. Diagram chase, see Hatcher. $\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad$ $\square$

Let i be the inclusion and j be the quotient.

$$
\begin{array}{ccccc}
& 0 & & 0 & \\
& \downarrow & & \downarrow & \\
\cdots \xrightarrow{\partial} & C_n(A) & \xrightarrow{\partial} & C_{n-1}(A) & \xrightarrow{\partial} \cdots \\
& \downarrow i & & \downarrow i & \\
\cdots \xrightarrow{\partial} & C_n(X) & \xrightarrow{\partial} & C_{n-1}(X) & \xrightarrow{\partial} \cdots \\
& \downarrow j & & \downarrow j & \\
\cdots \xrightarrow{\partial} & C_n(X,A) & \xrightarrow{\partial} & C_{n-1}(X,A) & \xrightarrow{\partial} \cdots \\
& \downarrow & & \downarrow & \\
& 0 & & 0 &
\end{array}
$$

This diagram commutes, so this is a short exact sequence of chain complexes. Zig-zag gives a long exact sequence of homology groups

$$\cdots \to H_1(A) \xrightarrow{i_*} H_1(X) \xrightarrow{j_*} H_1(X,A) \xrightarrow{\partial} H_0(A) \xrightarrow{i_*} H_0(X) \xrightarrow{j_*} H_0(X,A) \to 0.$$

What is $\partial : H_n(X,A) \to H_{n-1}(A)$? If $[a] \in H_n(X,A)$ is represented by a cycle $\alpha \in C_n(X)$, then $\partial([\alpha])$ is the class of the cycle $\partial(\alpha)$, so $\partial([\alpha]) = [\partial(\alpha)]$. We also obtain a short exact sequence of the augmented chain complex

$$
\begin{array}{ccccccc}
& 0 & & 0 & & 0 & \\
& \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & \\
\cdots \longrightarrow & C_1(A) & \longrightarrow & C_0(A) & \longrightarrow & \mathbb{Z} & \longrightarrow 0 \\
& \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & \\
\cdots \longrightarrow & C_1(X) & \longrightarrow & C_0(X) & \longrightarrow & \mathbb{Z} & \longrightarrow 0 \\
& \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & \\
\cdots \longrightarrow & C_1(X,A) & \longrightarrow & C_0(X,A) & \longrightarrow & 0 & \longrightarrow 0 \\
& \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & \\
& 0 & & 0 & & 0 &
\end{array}
$$
,

so if $A \neq \emptyset$, then $\widetilde{H_n}(X,A) = H_n(X,A)$ for all n. We also have a long exact sequence

$$\cdots \to \widetilde{H_n}(A) \to \widetilde{H_n}(X) \to \widetilde{H_n}(X,A) \to \widetilde{H_{n-1}}(A) \to \widetilde{H_{n-1}}(X) \to \widetilde{H_{n-1}}(X,A) \to \cdots.$$

An observation is if $x_0 \in X$ then $H_n(X,x_0) \cong \widetilde{H_n}(X)$ for all n. Another observation is that a continuous map $f : X \to Y$ such that $f(A) \subseteq B$ induces a chain map

$$f_\# : C_n(X,A) \to C_n(Y,B),$$

since $f_\# : C_n(X) \to C_n(Y)$ maps $C_n(A)$ to $C_n(B)$ so it is well-defined on the quotient, and hence homomorphisms

$$f_* : H_n(X,A) \to H_n(Y,B).$$

This is functorial, so $(f \circ g)_* = f_* \circ g_*$.

Definition. A **homotopy** between two maps

$$f, g : (X, A) \to (Y, B)$$

is a continuous map $F : I \times X \to Y$ such that

$$F(0, x) = f(x), \qquad F(1, x) = g(x), \qquad F(s, a) \in B,$$

for all $x \in X$, for all $s \in I$, and for all $a \in A$.

Proposition 2.13. *If*

$$f, g : (X, A) \to (Y, B)$$

are homotopic, then

$$f_* = g_* : H_n(X, A) \to H_n(Y, B).$$

Proof. Analogous to proof of Theorem 2.6. Prism operator $P : C_n(X) \to C_{n+1}(Y)$ maps $C_n(A)$ to $C_n(B)$ so it induces a map

$$P' : \frac{C_n(X)}{C_n(A)} \to \frac{C_{n+1}(Y)}{C_{n+1}(B)},$$

and $\partial P' + P' \partial = g_\# - f_\#$, so $f_* = g_*$. $\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\square$

Let (X, A, B) be a triple, for X a topological space and $B \subset A \subset X$, so

$$(A, B) \to (X, B) \to (X, A).$$

There is a short exact sequence of chain complexes

$$0 \longrightarrow C_n(A, B) \longrightarrow C_n(X, B) \longrightarrow C_n(X, A) \longrightarrow 0$$
$$\underset{\displaystyle \frac{C_n(A)}{C_n(B)}}{\shortparallel} \qquad\qquad \underset{\displaystyle \frac{C_n(X)}{C_n(B)}}{\shortparallel} \qquad\qquad \underset{\displaystyle \frac{C_n(X)}{C_n(A)}}{\shortparallel} \qquad\qquad ,$$

so there is a long exact sequence

$$\cdots \to H_n(A, B) \to H_n(X, B) \to H_n(X, A) \to H_{n-1}(A, B) \to H_{n-1}(X, B) \to H_{n-1}(X, A) \to \ldots.$$

2.5.3 Excision

Theorem 2.14 (Excision). *Let X be a topological space and $Z \subset A \subset X$ be subspaces such that the closure $\overline{Z}$ of Z is contained in the interior $\mathring{A}$ of A. Then the inclusion*

$$(X \setminus Z, A \setminus Z) \hookrightarrow (X, A)$$

induces isomorphisms

$$H_n(X \setminus Z, A \setminus Z) \xrightarrow{\sim} H_n(X, A),$$

for all n. Equivalently, let $A, B \subseteq X$ such that $\mathring{A} \cup \mathring{B} = X$. Then the inclusion

$$(B, A \cap B) \to (X, A)$$

induces isomorphisms

$$H_n(B, A \cap B) \xrightarrow{\sim} H_n(X, A),$$

for all n.

Why equivalent? Set $B = X \setminus Z$ and $Z = X \setminus B$. Then $A \cap B = A \setminus Z$ and $\overline{Z} = X \setminus \mathring{B}$. Then $\overline{Z} \subseteq \mathring{A}$ if and only if $X = \mathring{A} \cup \mathring{B}$.

Proof. Hatcher page 119 to 124. $\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\square$

Proposition 2.15. *Let (X, A) be a good pair. Then the quotient map*

$$q : (X, A) \to \left(\frac{X}{A}, \frac{A}{A} \right)$$

induces isomorphisms

$$q_* : H_n(X, A) \xrightarrow{\sim} H_n\left(\frac{X}{A}, \frac{A}{A} \right) \cong \widetilde{H_n}\left(\frac{X}{A} \right),$$

for all n.

Proof. Let $V \subseteq X$ be a neighbourhood of A that strongly deformation retracts to A. Then (V, A) is homotopy equivalent to (A, A), so

$$H_n(V, A) \cong H_n(A, A) = 0.$$

The triple (X, V, A) where $A \subset V \subset X$ induces a long exact sequence

$$\cdots \longrightarrow \underset{\underset{0}{\shortparallel}}{H_n(V, A)} \longrightarrow H_n(X, A) \longrightarrow H_n(X, V) \longrightarrow \underset{\underset{0}{\shortparallel}}{H_{n-1}(V, A)} \longrightarrow \cdots,$$

so

$$H_n(X, A) \cong H_n(X, V).$$

Same with the triple $(X/A, V/A, A/A)$, so again

$$H_n\left(\frac{V}{A}, \frac{A}{A} \right) \cong H_n\left(\frac{A}{A}, \frac{A}{A} \right) = 0.$$

This gives a long exact sequence

$$H_n\left(\frac{X}{A}, \frac{A}{A} \right) \cong H_n\left(\frac{X}{A}, \frac{V}{A} \right).$$

Consider the diagram

$$
\begin{array}{ccccc}
H_n(X, A) & \xrightarrow{\ \sim\ } & H_n(X, V) & \xleftarrow{\ \sim\ \alpha\ } & H_n(X \setminus A, V \setminus A) \\
\downarrow{\scriptstyle q_*} & & \downarrow{\scriptstyle q_*} & & \sim\downarrow{\scriptstyle j} \\
H_n\left(\frac{X}{A}, \frac{A}{A} \right) & \xrightarrow{\ \sim\ } & H_n\left(\frac{X}{A}, \frac{V}{A} \right) & \xleftarrow{\ \sim\ \beta\ } & H_n\left(\frac{X}{A} \setminus \frac{A}{A}, \frac{V}{A} \setminus \frac{A}{A} \right)
\end{array}.
$$

- This diagram commutes.

- $q : X \to X/A$ induces a homeomorphism $X \setminus A \to X/A \setminus A/A$, so j is an isomorphism.

- α and β are isomorphisms by the excision theorem.

Thus

$$q_* : H_n(X, A) \to H_n\left(\frac{X}{A}, \frac{A}{A} \right)$$

is an isomorphism. $\square$

Proof of Theorem 2.8. Long exact sequence of pair (X, A) with reduced homology

$$\cdots \to \widetilde{H_n}(A) \to \widetilde{H_n}(X) \to \widetilde{H_n}(X, A) \to \widetilde{H_{n-1}}(A) \to \widetilde{H_{n-1}}(X) \to \widetilde{H_{n-1}}(X, A) \to \cdots,$$

so

$$\widetilde{H_n}(X, A) = H_n(X, A) \cong \widetilde{H_n}\left(\frac{X}{A} \right),$$

by last time. $\square$

Corollary 2.16. *Let $\{X_\alpha\}$, for $\alpha \in A$, be a collection of topological spaces and $x_\alpha \in X_\alpha$ such that (X_α, x_α) is a good pair, for all $\alpha \in A$. Let $\bigvee_\alpha X_\alpha$ be the wedge sum with respect to the points x_α. Then there is an isomorphism*

$$\widetilde{H}_n \left(\bigsqcup_\alpha X_\alpha \right) \cong \bigoplus_\alpha \widetilde{H}_n \left(X_\alpha \right) \xrightarrow{\sim} \widetilde{H}_n \left(\bigvee_\alpha X_\alpha \right).$$

Proof. $(X, A) = \left(\bigsqcup_\alpha X_\alpha, \bigsqcup_\alpha \{x_\alpha\} \right)$ is a good pair, so Proposition 2.15 gives that

$$H_n(X, A) \cong H_n \left(\bigvee_\alpha X_\alpha, \frac{\bigsqcup_\alpha \{x_\alpha\}}{\bigsqcup_\alpha \{x_\alpha\}} \right) \cong \widetilde{H}_n \left(\bigvee_\alpha X_\alpha \right),$$

and

$$H_n(X, A) \cong \bigoplus_\alpha H_n(X_\alpha, x_\alpha) \cong \bigoplus_\alpha \widetilde{H}_n(X_\alpha).$$

$\square$

Example.

$$\widetilde{H}_n \left(S^1 \vee S^1 \right) \cong \widetilde{H}_n \left(S^1 \right) \oplus \widetilde{H}_n \left(S^1 \right) \cong \begin{cases} 0 & n = 0 \\ \mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z} & n = 1 \\ 0 & n \geq 2 \end{cases}.$$

$$\widetilde{H}_n \left(S^1 \vee S^1 \vee S^2 \right) \cong \widetilde{H}_n \left(S^1 \right) \oplus \widetilde{H}_n \left(S^1 \right) \oplus \widetilde{H}_n \left(S^2 \right) \cong \begin{cases} 0 & n = 0 \\ \mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z} & n = 1 \\ \mathbb{Z} & n = 2 \\ 0 & n \geq 3 \end{cases}.$$

Recall that

$$H_n^\Delta \left(S^1 \times S^1 \right) = \begin{cases} \mathbb{Z} & n = 0 \\ \mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z} & n = 1 \\ \mathbb{Z} & n = 2 \\ 0 & n \geq 3 \end{cases}.$$

We will see that singular and simplicial homology coincide, so $S^1 \vee S^1 \vee S^2$ and $S^1 \times S^1$ have isomorphic homology groups, but they are not homotopy equivalent.

Theorem 2.17 (Invariance of dimension). *Let $U \subseteq \mathbb{R}^m$ and $V \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ be open, non-empty. If U and V are homeomorphic, then $m = n$.*

Proof. For $x \in U$ set $A = \mathbb{R}^m \setminus \{x\}$ and $B = U$. Excision gives

$$H_k(U, U \setminus \{x\}) \cong H_k(\mathbb{R}^m, \mathbb{R}^m \setminus \{x\}).$$

Long exact sequence of a pair gives

$$\ldots \longrightarrow \underset{\substack{\| \\ 0}}{\widetilde{H}_k(\mathbb{R}^m)} \longrightarrow \widetilde{H}_k(\mathbb{R}^m, \mathbb{R}^m \setminus \{x\}) \longrightarrow \widetilde{H}_{k-1}(\mathbb{R}^m \setminus \{x\}) \longrightarrow \underset{\substack{\| \\ 0}}{\widetilde{H}_{k-1}(\mathbb{R}^m)} \longrightarrow \ldots,$$

so $H_k(\mathbb{R}^m, \mathbb{R}^m \setminus \{x\}) \cong \widetilde{H}_{k-1}(\mathbb{R}^m \setminus \{x\})$. $\mathbb{R}^m \setminus \{x\}$ deformation retracts to S^{m-1}, so

$$H_k(U, U \setminus \{x\}) = \begin{cases} \mathbb{Z} & k = m \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}.$$

Similarly

$$H_k\left(V, V \setminus \{x\}\right) = \begin{cases} \mathbb{Z} & k = n \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}.$$

Let $h : U \to V$ be a homeomorphism then this induces isomorphisms

$$h_* : H_k\left(U, U \setminus \{x\}\right) \to H_k\left(V, V \setminus \{h\left(x\right)\}\right),$$

for all k, so $m = n$.   □

2.5.4   Naturality

Proposition 2.18 (Naturality of connecting homomorphisms)**.** *Let* $(A_., \partial)$, $(B_., \partial)$, $(C_., \partial)$, $(A'_., \partial)$, $(B'_., \partial)$, *and* $(C'_., \partial)$ *be chain complexes. Consider a commutative diagram of chain maps*

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & A_. & \xrightarrow{\;i\;} & B_. & \xrightarrow{\;j\;} & C_. & \longrightarrow & 0 \\ & & \downarrow{\scriptstyle \alpha} & & \downarrow{\scriptstyle \beta} & & \downarrow{\scriptstyle \gamma} & & \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & A'_. & \xrightarrow{\;i'\;} & B'_. & \xrightarrow{\;j'\;} & C'_. & \longrightarrow & 0 \end{array},$$

where the rows are short exact sequences. Then the induced diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccccccc} \ldots & \longrightarrow & H_n\left(A\right) & \xrightarrow{\;i_*\;} & H_n\left(B\right) & \xrightarrow{\;j_*\;} & H_n\left(C\right) & \xrightarrow{\;\partial\;} & H_{n-1}\left(A\right) & \xrightarrow{\;i_*\;} & H_{n-1}\left(B\right) & \xrightarrow{\;j_*\;} & H_{n-1}\left(C\right) & \longrightarrow & \ldots \\ & & \downarrow{\scriptstyle \alpha_*} & & \downarrow{\scriptstyle \beta_*} & & \downarrow{\scriptstyle \gamma_*} & & \downarrow{\scriptstyle \alpha_*} & & \downarrow{\scriptstyle \beta_*} & & \downarrow{\scriptstyle \gamma_*} & & \\ \ldots & \longrightarrow & H_n\left(A'\right) & \xrightarrow{\;i'_*\;} & H_n\left(B'\right) & \xrightarrow{\;j'_*\;} & H_n\left(C'\right) & \xrightarrow{\;\partial\;} & H_{n-1}\left(A'\right) & \xrightarrow{\;i'_*\;} & H_{n-1}\left(B'\right) & \xrightarrow{\;j'_*\;} & H_{n-1}\left(C'\right) & \longrightarrow & \ldots \end{array}$$

is commutative.

Proof. The first two squares commute by functoriality.

$$\partial : \begin{array}{ccc} H_n\left(C\right) & \to & H_{n-1}\left(A\right) \\ \left[c\right] & \mapsto & \left[a\right] \end{array},$$

so

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & & a \in A_{n-1} \\ & & \downarrow{\scriptstyle i} \\ b \in B_n & \xrightarrow{\;\partial\;} & \in \partial\left(b\right) \in B_{n-1} \\ \downarrow{\scriptstyle j} & & \\ c \in C_n & & \end{array}.$$

$\gamma\left(c\right) = \gamma\left(j\left(b\right)\right) = j'\left(\beta\left(b\right)\right)$ and $i'\left(\alpha\left(a\right)\right) = \beta\left(i\left(a\right)\right) = \beta\left(\partial\left(b\right)\right) = \partial\left(\beta\left(b\right)\right)$ gives

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & & \alpha\left(a\right) \in A'_{n-1} \\ & & \downarrow{\scriptstyle i'} \\ \beta\left(b\right) \in B'_n & \xrightarrow{\;\partial\;} & \in \partial\left(\beta\left(b\right)\right) \in B'_{n-1} \\ \downarrow{\scriptstyle j'} & & \\ \gamma\left(c\right) \in C'_n & & \end{array},$$

so $\partial\left[\gamma\left(c\right)\right] = \left[\alpha\left(a\right)\right]$ and hence $\partial\left(\gamma_*\left[c\right]\right) = \alpha_*\left[a\right] = \alpha_*\left(\partial\left[c\right]\right)$.   □

2.6   Mayer-Vietoris sequences

2.6.1   The Mayer-Vietoris sequence

The main ingredient of the proof of the excision theorem is **barycentric subdivision**. Let X be a topological space and $\mathcal{U} = \{U_i\}$ be a collection of subspaces whose interiors form an open cover of X. Define $C_n^{\mathcal{U}} \subseteq C_n(X)$ as the subgroup of all chains of the form $\sum_i n_i \sigma_i$ such that the image of σ_i is contained in some $U_j \in \mathcal{U}$. Then $\partial : C_n(X) \to C_{n-1}(X)$ satisfies $\partial\left(C_n^{\mathcal{U}}(X)\right) \subseteq C_{n-1}^{\mathcal{U}}(X)$ so the $C_n^{\mathcal{U}}(X)$ define a chain complex. Let $H_n^{\mathcal{U}}(X)$ be the homology groups with respect to this chain complex.

Proposition 2.19. *The inclusion $i : C_n^{\mathcal{U}}(X) \hookrightarrow C_n(X)$ induces isomorphisms $H_n^{\mathcal{U}}(X) \cong H_n(X)$ for all n.*

Proof. Hatcher page 119.   □

Notation. If $\mathcal{U} = \{A, B\}$ we write $C_n(A+B)$ instead of $C_n^{\mathcal{U}}(X)$.

Theorem 2.20 (Mayer-Vietoris sequence). *Let X be a topological space, $A, B \subseteq X$ such that $\mathring{A} \cup \mathring{B} = X$, and*

$$i_1 : A \cap B \hookrightarrow A, \qquad i_2 : A \cap B \hookrightarrow B, \qquad j_1 : A \hookrightarrow X, \qquad j_2 : B \hookrightarrow X$$

be inclusions. Then there is an exact sequence

$$\cdots \to H_1(A \cap B) \xrightarrow{\Phi} H_1(A) \oplus H_1(B) \xrightarrow{\Psi} H_1(X) \xrightarrow{\partial} H_0(A \cap B) \xrightarrow{\Phi} H_0(A) \oplus H_0(B) \xrightarrow{\Psi} H_0(X) \to 0,$$

where $\Phi(x) = (i_{1*}(x), -i_{2*}(x))$, $\Psi(x, y) = j_{1*}(x) + j_{2*}(y)$, and ∂ is the connecting homomorphism.

Proof. Let a sequence of chain complexes be

$$0 \to C_n(A \cap B) \xrightarrow{\phi} C_n(A) \oplus C_n(B) \xrightarrow{\psi} C_n(A+B) \to 0,$$

where $\phi(x) = (x, -x)$ and $\psi(x, y) = x + y$.

- ϕ is injective.

- $Im(\phi) \subseteq Ker(\psi)$.

- If $(x, y) \in Ker(\psi)$, then $y = -x$, and $x \in C_n(A)$ and $y \in C_n(B)$, so $x \in C_n(A \cap B)$ gives that $Ker(\psi) \subseteq Im(\phi)$.

- ψ is surjective by the definition of $C_n(A+B)$.

So this is a short exact sequence of chain complexes. This induces a long exact sequence of homology groups

$$\ldots \to H_1(A \cap B) \xrightarrow{\Phi} H_1(A) \oplus H_1(B) \xrightarrow{\Psi} \underset{\shortparallel}{H_1^{A+B}(X)} \xrightarrow{\partial} H_0(A \cap B) \xrightarrow{\Phi} H_0(A) \oplus H_0(B) \xrightarrow{\Psi} \underset{\shortparallel}{H_0^{A+B}(X)} \to 0$$
$$ H_1(X) H_0(X)$$

by barycentric division.   □

If $A \cap B \neq \emptyset$ we can augment these chain complexes and obtain a short exact sequence between these augmented chain complexes

$$
\begin{array}{ccccccccc}
& & \vdots & & \vdots & & \vdots & & \\
& & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \\
0 & \longrightarrow & C_0(A \cap B) & \xrightarrow{\phi} & C_0(A) \oplus C_0(B) & \xrightarrow{\psi} & C_0(A+B) & \longrightarrow & 0 \\
& & \downarrow{\scriptstyle \epsilon} & & \downarrow{\scriptstyle \epsilon} & & \downarrow{\scriptstyle \epsilon} & & \\
0 & \longrightarrow & \mathbb{Z} & \longrightarrow & \mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z} & \longrightarrow & \mathbb{Z} & \longrightarrow & 0
\end{array}
$$

This induces a long exact sequence of homology groups

$$\cdots \to \widetilde{H_1}(A \cap B) \xrightarrow{\Phi} \widetilde{H_1}(A) \oplus \widetilde{H_1}(B) \xrightarrow{\Psi} \widetilde{H_1}(X) \xrightarrow{\partial} \widetilde{H_0}(A \cap B) \xrightarrow{\Phi} \widetilde{H_0}(A) \oplus \widetilde{H_0}(B) \xrightarrow{\Psi} \widetilde{H_0}(X) \to 0.$$

This is the Mayer-Vietoris sequence for reduced homology groups.

Note. This is the same as in the non-reduced case, but we need to assume that $A \cap B \neq \emptyset$.

An observation is that if $A \cap B$ is path-connected, then $\widetilde{H}_0 (A \cap B) = 0$, so we have an exact sequence

$$\ldots \longrightarrow \widetilde{H}_1 (A \cap B) \overset{\Phi}{\longrightarrow} \widetilde{H}_1 (A) \oplus \widetilde{H}_1 (B) \overset{\Psi}{\longrightarrow} \widetilde{H}_1 (X) \overset{\partial}{\longrightarrow} \underset{\underset{0}{\shortparallel}}{\widetilde{H}_0 (A \cap B)} \longrightarrow \ldots \quad .$$

Thus

$$H_1 (X) \cong \frac{H_1 (A) \oplus H_1 (B)}{\Phi (H_1 (A \cap B))}.$$

This is the abelianised version of the theorem of Seifert-van Kampen.

Example. Let $X = S^n \subseteq \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$ and let $x \in S^n$. Define $A = S^n \setminus \{x\}$ and $B = S^n \setminus \{-x\}$. A and B are contractible, so $\widetilde{H}_n (A) = \widetilde{H}_n (B) = 0$ for all n. $A \cap B$ deformation retracts to S^{n-1}. Mayer-Vietoris gives

$$\ldots \longrightarrow \underset{\underset{0}{\shortparallel}}{\widetilde{H}_i (A) \oplus \widetilde{H}_i (B)} \longrightarrow \widetilde{H}_i (X) \longrightarrow \underset{\underset{\widetilde{H_{i-1}} (S^{n-1})}{\shortparallel}}{\widetilde{H_{i-1}} (A \cap B)} \longrightarrow \underset{\underset{0}{\shortparallel}}{\widetilde{H_{i-1}} (A) \oplus \widetilde{H_{i-1}} (B)} \longrightarrow \ldots \quad ,$$

so $\widetilde{H}_i (S^n) \cong \widetilde{H_{i-1}} (S^{n-1})$ for $n \geq 1$. We know $\widetilde{H}_0 (S^0) \cong \mathbb{Z}$ and $\widetilde{H}_0 (S^n) = 0$ for $n \geq 1$, so induction and knowledge on $H_n (S^0)$ gives

$$\widetilde{H}_k (S^n) = \begin{cases} \mathbb{Z} & k = n \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}.$$

Example. Let $U, V \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ be two path-connected open subsets such that $U \cup V = \mathbb{R}^n$. Then $U \cap V$ is path-connected as well. Enough to show that $H_0 (U \cap V) \cong \mathbb{Z}$, if and only if $\widetilde{H}_0 (U \cap V) = 0$. $U \cap V \neq \emptyset$ because $\mathbb{R}^n$ is connected. U and V are open, so $\overset{\circ}{U} = U$ and $\overset{\circ}{V} = V$, so $\overset{\circ}{U} \cup \overset{\circ}{V} = \mathbb{R}^n$. Mayer-Vietoris long exact sequence for reduced homology groups gives

$$\ldots \longrightarrow \underset{\underset{0}{\shortparallel}}{\widetilde{H}_1 (\mathbb{R}^n)} \longrightarrow \widetilde{H}_0 (U \cap V) \longrightarrow \underset{\underset{0}{\shortparallel}}{\widetilde{H}_0 (U) \oplus \widetilde{H}_0 (V)} \longrightarrow \underset{\underset{0}{\shortparallel}}{\widetilde{H}_0 (\mathbb{R}^n)} \longrightarrow 0 \quad ,$$

since $\mathbb{R}^n$ is contractible, so $\widetilde{H}_k (\mathbb{R}^n) = 0$ for all k, and $\widetilde{H}_0 (U) = \widetilde{H}_0 (V) = 0$, because U and V are path-connected. Thus $\widetilde{H}_0 (U \cap V) = 0$.

2.6.2 Classical applications

Definition. Let X and Y be topological spaces. A continuous map $\phi : X \to Y$ is an **embedding** if it is a homeomorphism to its image.

Example. If X is compact and Y is Hausdorff, and $\phi : X \to Y$ is a continuous and injective map, then ϕ is an embedding, since $\phi : X \to \phi (X)$ is continuous and bijective and $\phi (X)$ is Hausdorff, so worksheet 1 gives that ϕ is a homeomorphism $X \to \phi (X)$.

Proposition 2.21.

1. Let $h : D^k \to S^n$ be an embedding, then $\widetilde{H}_i (S^n \setminus h (D^k)) = 0$ for all i.

2. Let $h : S^k \to S^n$ be an embedding, with $k < n$, then

$$\widetilde{H}_i (S^n \setminus h (S^k)) = \begin{cases} \mathbb{Z} & i = n - k - 1 \\ 0 & otherwise \end{cases}.$$

Corollary 2.22. Let $h : S^1 \to S^2$ be an embedding. Then $S^2 \setminus h (S^1)$ consists of exactly two path-components.

Proof. $\widetilde{H}_0 (S^2 \setminus h (S^1)) \cong \mathbb{Z}$ by Proposition 2.21. $\qquad \square$

Corollary 2.23 (Jordan curve theorem). *Let $h : S^1 \to \mathbb{R}^2$ be an embedding. Then $\mathbb{R}^2 \setminus h\left(S^1\right)$ consists of exactly two path-components.*

Proof. $\mathbb{R}^2$ is homeomorphic to $S^2 \setminus \{x\}$, by stereographic projection. $\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad$ $\square$

Similarly, $\mathbb{R}^n \setminus h\left(S^{n-1}\right)$ consists of exactly two path-components.

Proof of Proposition 2.21.

1. Induction on k.

    $k = 0$. $S^n \setminus h\left(D^0\right) \cong \mathbb{R}^n$, so $\widetilde{H}_i\left(S^n \setminus h\left(D^n\right)\right) = 0$ for all n.

    $k - 1 \mapsto k$. Let $h : D^k \to S^n$ be an embedding. Replace D^k by I^k. For a contradiction, assume there is a cycle α in $S^n \setminus h\left(I^k\right)$ that is not a boundary in $S^n \setminus h\left(I^k\right)$. Claim that there is a nested sequence of intervals
    $$[0,1] = I_0 \supseteq I_1 \supseteq \dots,$$
    such that I_i is of length $1/2^i$ and such that α is a cycle in $S^n \setminus h\left(I^{k-1} \times I_i\right)$ but not a boundary in $S^n \setminus h\left(I^{k-1} \times I_i\right)$. Let $A = S^n \setminus h\left(I^{k-1} \times [0,1/2]\right)$ and $B = S^n \setminus h\left(I^{k-1} \times [1/2,1]\right)$, so $A \cap B = S^n \setminus h\left(I^k\right)$ and $A \cup B = S^n \setminus h\left(I^{k-1} \times \{1/2\}\right)$. Induction hypothesis gives $\widetilde{H}_j\left(A \cup B\right) = 0$ for all j. Mayer-Vietoris gives
    $$\dots \to \widetilde{H_{j+1}\left(A \cup B\right)} \to \widetilde{H}_j\left(A \cap B\right) \xrightarrow{\sim} \widetilde{H}_j\left(A\right) \oplus \widetilde{H}_j\left(B\right) \to \widetilde{H}_j\left(A \cup B\right) \to \dots \; ,$$
    $$\qquad\qquad \underset{0}{\overset{\shortparallel}{}} \qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad \underset{0}{\overset{\shortparallel}{}}$$
    so
    $$\widetilde{H}_j\left(S^n \setminus h\left(I^k\right)\right) \cong \widetilde{H}_j\left(S^n \setminus h\left(I^{k-1} \times \left[0,\tfrac{1}{2}\right]\right)\right) \oplus \widetilde{H}_j\left(S^n \setminus h\left(I^{k-1} \times \left[\tfrac{1}{2},1\right]\right)\right).$$
    Hence α is a cycle but not a boundary in $S^n \setminus h\left(I^{k-1} \times [0,1/2]\right)$ or in $S^n \setminus h\left(I^{k-1} \times [1/2,1]\right)$. This gives us I_1. Iterating, this proves the claim. By induction, α is a boundary of some cycle β in $S^n \setminus h\left(I^{k-1} \times \{x\}\right)$ for any $x \in I$, so in particular, for $\{x\} = \bigcap_i I_i$. $\beta = \sum_i n_i \sigma_i$ is a sum of finitely many singular simplices. The images of the σ_i are compact. But $S^n \setminus h\left(I^{k-1} \times I_i\right)$ form an open cover of $S^n \setminus h\left(I^{k-1} \times \{x\}\right)$. So, by compactness, β is a chain in $S^n \setminus h\left(I^{k-1} \times I_i\right)$ for some i. Thus α is a boundary in $S^n \setminus h\left(I^{k-1} \times I_i\right)$, a contradiction.

2. Induction on k.

    $k = 0$. $S^n \setminus h\left(S^0\right) \cong S^{n-1} \times \mathbb{R}$, so
    $$\widetilde{H}_i\left(S^n \setminus h\left(S^0\right)\right) \cong \begin{cases} \mathbb{Z} & i = n - k - 1 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}.$$

    $k - 1 \mapsto k$. Let $h : S^k \to S^n$ be an embedding and $S^k = D^k_+ \cup D^k_-$, so 1 gives $\widetilde{H}_i\left(S^n \setminus h\left(D^k_\pm\right)\right) = 0$ for all i. Let $A = S^n \setminus h\left(D^k_+\right)$ and $B = S^n \setminus h\left(D^k_-\right)$, so $A \cap B = S^n \setminus h\left(S^k\right)$ and $A \cup B = S^n \setminus h\left(S^{k-1}\right)$. Mayer-Vietoris gives
    $$\dots \to \widetilde{H_{i+1}\left(A\right)} \oplus \widetilde{H_{i+1}\left(B\right)} \to \widetilde{H}_i\left(A \cup B\right) \xrightarrow{\sim} \widetilde{H_{i+1}\left(A \cap B\right)} \to \widetilde{H}_i\left(A\right) \oplus \widetilde{H}_i\left(B\right) \to \dots \; ,$$
    $$\qquad\qquad \underset{0}{\overset{\shortparallel}{}} \qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad \underset{0}{\overset{\shortparallel}{}}$$

    by 1, so
    $$\widetilde{H_{i+1}}\left(S^n \setminus h\left(S^{k-1}\right)\right) \cong \widetilde{H}_i\left(S^n \setminus h\left(S^k\right)\right) \cong \begin{cases} \mathbb{Z} & i + 1 = n - (k-1) - 1 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases},$$

    by induction.

    $\hfill \square$

Lecture 29 is a problem class.

2.7 Degree

Let $n \geq 1$. We have seen that $H_n(S^n) \cong \langle a \rangle \cong \mathbb{Z}$. Let $f : S^n \to S^n$ be a continuous map, so $f_* : H_n(S^n) \to H_n(S^n)$ is a homomorphism. Then f_* is given by $f_*(\alpha) = d\alpha$ for some $d \in \mathbb{Z}$ depending only on f. This integer is the **degree** of f.

Proposition 2.24. *The following are observations.*

1. $\deg(id_{S^n}) = 1$.

2. *If f is not surjective, then $\deg(f) = 0$.*

3. *If $f \cong g$, then $f_* = g_*$, so $\deg(f) = \deg(g)$.*

4. $\deg(fg) = \deg(f)\deg(g)$. *In particular, if f is a homotopy equivalence, then $\deg(f) = \pm 1$.*

5. *Let*
$$R_i : \qquad S^n \quad \to \quad S^n$$
$$(x_1, \ldots, x_i, \ldots, x_{n+1}) \quad \mapsto \quad (x_1, \ldots, -x_i, \ldots, x_{n+1})$$
   be the reflection map. Then $\deg(R_i) = -1$.

6. *The antipodal map*
$$-id_{S^n} : \quad S^n \quad \to \quad S^n$$
$$x \quad \mapsto \quad -x$$
   has degree $(-1)^{n+1}$.

7. *If $f : S^n \to S^n$ has no fixed points, then $\deg(f) = (-1)^{n+1}$.*

   Hopf gives that if $\deg(f) = \deg(g)$ then $f \cong g$.

Proof. 1 and 3 are clear.

2. Let $x_0 \in S^n \setminus f(S^n)$. So f factors as $f = i \circ f'$, where
$$S^n \xrightarrow{f'} S^n \setminus \{x_0\} \overset{i}{\hookrightarrow} S^n.$$
$H_n(S^n \setminus \{x_0\}) = 0$ since $S^n \setminus \{x_0\}$ is contractible, so $f_* = i_* \circ f'_* = 0$.

4. $(fg)_* = f_* g_*$, and there exists $g : S^n \to S^n$ such that $fg \cong id_{S^n}$, so
$$\deg(f)\deg(g) = \deg(fg) = \deg(id_{S^n}) = 1.$$

5. Enough to show it for $i = 1$. Induction on n.

   $n = 1$. $R_1(x_1, x_2) = (-x_1, x_2)$. Then $\omega : t \mapsto (\cos(2\pi t), \sin(2\pi t))$ gives $R_1([\omega]) = -[\omega]$, so $\deg(R_1) = -1$.

   $n - 1 \mapsto n$. Claim that there is an isomorphism $\phi : H_n(S^n) \xrightarrow{\sim} H_{n-1}(S^{n-1})$ such that

$$
\begin{array}{ccc}
H_n(S^n) & \xrightarrow{\phi} & H_{n-1}(S^{n-1}) \\
\downarrow{\scriptstyle R_{1*}} & & \downarrow{\scriptstyle R_{1*}} \\
H_n(S^n) & \xrightarrow{\phi} & H_{n-1}(S^{n-1})
\end{array}
$$

   commutes. Let
$$N = (0, \ldots, 0, 1), \qquad S = (0, \ldots, 0, -1), \qquad U = S^n \setminus \{N\}, \qquad V = S^n \setminus \{S\},$$
   so $R_1(U) = U$ and $R_1(V) = V$. There is a commutative diagram of chain maps

$$
\begin{array}{ccccccccc}
0 & \longrightarrow & C.(U \cap V) & \longrightarrow & C.(U) \oplus C.(V) & \longrightarrow & C.(U + V) & \longrightarrow & 0 \\
 & & \downarrow{\scriptstyle R_{1\#}} & & \downarrow{\scriptstyle R_{1\#} \oplus R_{1\#}} & & \downarrow{\scriptstyle R_{1\#}} & & \\
0 & \longrightarrow & C.(U \cap V) & \longrightarrow & C.(U) \oplus C.(V) & \longrightarrow & C.(U + V) & \longrightarrow & 0
\end{array}
$$

This induces a commutative diagram

$$
\begin{array}{ccccc}
H_n\left(S^n\right) & \xrightarrow{\ \partial\ } & H_{n-1}\left(U \cap V\right) & \xleftarrow{\ i_*\ } & H_{n-1}\left(S^{n-1}\right) \\
\downarrow{\scriptstyle R_{1*}} & & \downarrow{\scriptstyle R_{1*}} & & \downarrow{\scriptstyle R_{1*}} \\
H_n\left(S^n\right) & \xrightarrow{\ \partial\ } & H_{n-1}\left(U \cap V\right) & \xleftarrow{\ i_*\ } & H_{n-1}\left(S^{n-1}\right)
\end{array} \quad ,
$$

where

$$
\begin{aligned}
i: \quad S^{n-1} &\to U \cap V \\
(x_1, \ldots, x_n) &\mapsto (x_1, \ldots, x_n, 0)
\end{aligned}
$$

is a homotopy equivalence. i_* is an isomorphism because i is a homotopy equivalence and ∂ is an isomorphism as seen last week. The first square commutes by naturality and the second square commutes by functoriality.

6. $-id_{S^n} = R_1 \ldots R_{n+1}$, so

$$
\deg\left(-id_{S^n}\right) = \deg\left(R_1\right) \ldots \deg\left(R_{n+1}\right) = (-1)^{n+1}.
$$

7. If $f(x) \neq x$ for all $x \in S^n$, then the line segment from $f(x)$ to $-x$ defined by

$$
t \mapsto (1-t) f(x) - tx
$$

does not pass through the origin. Define

$$
f_t(x) = \frac{(1-t) f(x) - tx}{|(1-t) f(x) - tx|},
$$

so f_t is a homotopy from f to $-id_{S^n}$. Thus

$$
\deg(f) = \deg\left(-id_{S^n}\right) = (-1)^{n+1}.
$$

$\square$

Proposition 2.25. *If n is even, then $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$ is the only non-trivial group that can act freely by homeomorphisms on S^n.*

Proof. Let G be a group acting freely by homeomorphisms on S^n, so $G \subseteq Homeo\left(S^n\right)$. So for $f \in G$, $\deg(f) = \pm 1$ by 4, and $\deg(fg) = \deg(f) \deg(g)$ for all $f, g \in G$ by 3, so the degree defines a homeomorphism $d: G \to \{\pm 1\} \cong \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$. The action is free, so if $g \in G \setminus \{id\}$, then g has no fixed points, so 7 and n even gives that $\deg(g) = (-1)^{n+1} = -1$. Then $Ker(d) = \{id\}$ gives that d is injective, so $G = \{id\}$ or $G \cong \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$. $\square$

Definition. A **vector field** on S^n is a continuous map $v: S^n \to \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$ such that for each $x \in S^n$, $v(x)$ is **tangent** to S^n at x, that is $v(x)$ and x are orthogonal.

Theorem 2.26 (Hairy ball theorem). *S^n admits a continuous vector field $v: S^n \to \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$ that is nowhere zero if and only if n is odd.*

Proof. If $v(x) \neq 0$ for all $x \in S^n$, let

$$
\begin{aligned}
v': \quad S^n &\to \mathbb{R}^{n-1} \\
x &\mapsto \frac{v(x)}{|v(x)|}.
\end{aligned}
$$

Define

$$
f_t(x) = \cos(t\pi) x + \sin(t\pi) v'(x).
$$

Then $f_t(x) \in S^n$ for all $x \in S^n$ and for all $t \in I$ gives that f_t is a homotopy from id_{S^n} to $-id_{S^n}$, so

$$
1 = \deg\left(id_{S^n}\right) = \deg\left(-id_{S^n}\right) = (-1)^{n+1}.
$$

Thus n is odd. Conversely, if $n = 2k - 1$,

$$
v(x_1, \ldots, x_{2k}) = (-x_2, x_1, \ldots, -x_{2k}, x_{2k-1})
$$

is a vector field on S^n. $\square$

A   Proofs

A.1   The Seifert-van Kampen theorem

Proof of Theorem 1.21. Consider the natural homomorphism

$$\Phi : \pi_1\left(U_1, x_0\right) * \pi_1\left(U_2, x_0\right) \to \pi_1\left(X, x_0\right).$$

Φ is surjective by Lemma 1.17. $N \subseteq Ker\left(\Phi\right)$. Want to show that $N = Ker\left(\Phi\right)$. A **factorisation** of an element $[f] \in \pi_1\left(X, x_0\right)$ is a formal product $[f_1] \ldots [f_k]$ such that

- each f_i is a loop at x_0 in one of the U_i and $[f_i] \in \pi_1\left(U_i, x_0\right)$ is its homotopy class, and

- the loop $f_1 \cdot \cdots \cdot f_k$ is homotopic to f in X.

A factorisation of $[f]$ is a word in $\pi_1\left(U_1, x_0\right) * \pi_1\left(U_2, x_0\right)$ that is mapped to $[f]$ by Φ. Two factorisations of $[f]$ are **equivalent** if they are related by finitely many of the following two moves.

- If $[f_i]$ and $[f_{i+1}]$ lie in the same group $\pi_1\left(U_i, x_0\right)$, exchange $[f_i][f_{i+1}]$ with $[f_i \cdot f_{i+1}]$. These are the relations in $\pi_1\left(U_i, x_0\right) * \pi_1\left(U_i, x_0\right)$.

- If f_i is a loop in $U_1 \cap U_2$, consider $[f_i]$ as an element in $\pi_1\left(U_1, x_0\right)$ instead of $\pi_1\left(U_2, x_0\right)$, and vice versa. These are the relations in $\pi_1\left(U_1, x_0\right) * \pi_1\left(U_2, x_0\right)/N$.

Given $[f] \in \pi_1\left(X, x_0\right)$, we want to show that any two factorisations of $[f]$ are equivalent. Let $[f_1] \ldots [f_k]$ and $[f_1'] \ldots [f_l']$ be two factorisations of $[f]$, so the two loops $f_1 \cdot \cdots \cdot f_k$ and $f_1' \cdot \cdots \cdot f_k'$ are homotopic. Let $F : I \times I \to X$ be a homotopy. By compactness, there exist

$$0 = s_0 < \cdots < s_m = 1, \qquad 0 = t_0 < \cdots < t_n = 1,$$

such that $R_{i,j} = [s_{i-1}, s_i] \times [t_{j-1}, t_j]$ and $F\left(R_{ij}\right) \subseteq U_1$ or $F\left(R_{ij}\right) \subseteq U_2$. May assume $0 = s_0 < \cdots < s_m = 1$ subdivides the products $f_1 \cdot \cdots \cdot f_k$ and $f_1' \cdot \cdots \cdot f_l'$. Relabel the R_{ij} to $R_1, \ldots, R_{mn}$.

$mn - m + 1$	$\ldots$	mn
$\vdots$	$\ddots$	$\vdots$
1	$\ldots$	m

A path γ in $I \times I$ from left to right gives a loop $F\mid_\gamma$ in X at x_0. Let γ_r be the path separating the first r rectangles from the others, so

$$F\mid_{\gamma_0} \cong f_1 \cdot \cdots \cdot f_k, \qquad F\mid_{\gamma_{mn}} = f_1' \cdot \cdots \cdot f_l'.$$

Let v be a grid point. Choose a path g_v in X from x_0 to $F\left(v\right)$, such that g_v is contained in $U_1 \cap U_2$ if $F\left(v\right) \in U_1 \cap U_2$ and in a single U_i otherwise. This gives us a factorisation of $[F\mid_{\gamma_r}]$ into loops only contained in U_1 or U_2. The factorisations associated to γ_r and γ_{r+1} are equivalent, because the homotopy between $F\mid_{\gamma_r}$ and $F\mid_{\gamma_{r+1}}$ by pushing γ_r through R_r takes place within a single U_i. $\qquad \square$

A.2   The equivalence of simplicial and singular homology

Lemma A.1 (Five lemma). *Consider the following diagram of abelian groups*

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccc}
A & \xrightarrow{i} & B & \xrightarrow{j} & C & \xrightarrow{k} & D & \xrightarrow{l} & E \\
\downarrow{\alpha} & & \downarrow{\beta} & & \downarrow{\gamma} & & \downarrow{\delta} & & \downarrow{\epsilon} \\
A & \xrightarrow{i'} & B' & \xrightarrow{j'} & C' & \xrightarrow{k'} & D' & \xrightarrow{l'} & E'
\end{array} \; .$$

If the rows are exact and $\alpha, \beta, \delta, \epsilon$ are isomorphisms, then γ is an isomorphism.

Proof. Enough to show

- if β and δ are surjective and ϵ is injective, then γ is surjective, and

- if β and δ are injective and α is surjective, then γ is injective.

$\square$

Let $n \geq 1$. Then

$$H_n\left(\Delta^n, \partial\Delta^n\right) \cong \widetilde{H_n}\left(\frac{\Delta^n}{\partial\Delta^n}\right) \cong \widetilde{H_n}\left(S^n\right) \cong \mathbb{Z},$$

and $H_0\left(\Delta^0, \partial\Delta^0\right) \cong \mathbb{Z}$.

Lemma A.2. $H_n\left(\Delta^n, \partial\Delta^n\right)$ *is generated by the class of the cycle $i_n : \Delta^n \to \Delta^n$.*

Proof. i_n is a cycle. Induction on n.

$n = 0$. $H_0\left(\Delta^0, \emptyset\right)$ is generated by $[i_0]$.

$n - 1 \mapsto n$. Let $\Lambda \subseteq \partial\Delta^n$ be the union of all but one of the $(n-1)$-dimensional faces of Δ^n. Δ^n strongly deformation retracts to Λ, so

$$H_i\left(\Delta^n, \Lambda\right) = H_i\left(\Lambda, \Lambda\right) = 0.$$

Long exact sequence of the triple $\Lambda \subseteq \partial\Delta^n \subseteq \Delta^n$ gives

$$\ldots \to \underset{\substack{\| \\ 0}}{H_n\left(\Delta^n, \Lambda\right)} \to H_n\left(\Delta^n, \partial\Delta^n\right) \xrightarrow{\sim} H_{n-1}\left(\partial\Delta^n, \Lambda\right) \to \underset{\substack{\| \\ 0}}{H_{n-1}\left(\Delta^n, \Lambda\right)} \to \ldots \; .$$

Note that $\partial\Delta^n / \Lambda$ is homeomorphic to $\Delta^{n-1}/\partial\Delta^{n-1}$, which are good pairs, so

$$H_n\left(\Delta^n, \partial\Delta^n\right) \cong H_{n-1}\left(\partial\Delta^n, \Lambda\right) \cong \widetilde{H_{n-1}}\left(\frac{\partial\Delta^n}{\Lambda}\right) \cong \widetilde{H_{n-1}}\left(\frac{\Delta^{n-1}}{\partial\Delta^{n-1}}\right) \cong H_{n-1}\left(\Delta^{n-1}, \partial\Delta^{n-1}\right).$$

One can check that $[i_n]$ maps to $[\pm i_{n-1}]$ along these isomorphisms, so induction gives that $H_n\left(\Delta^n, \partial\Delta^n\right)$ is generated by $[i_n]$.

$\square$

Let X be a topological space with a Δ-complex structure, so there is a simplicial chain complex

$$\cdots \to \Delta_{n+1}(X) \to \Delta_n(X) \to \Delta_{n-1}(X) \to \ldots.$$

Every simplicial chain complex can be viewed as a singular n-chain, so we obtain an inclusion of chain complexes $\Delta.(X) \to C.(X)$.

Theorem A.3. *This inclusion of chain complexes induces an isomorphism* $H_n^\Delta(X) \xrightarrow{\sim} H_n(X)$ *for all* n.

Proof. We only consider the case, where the Δ-complex structure on X is finite dimensional, that is $\Delta_m(X) = 0$ for all $m > k$, and the maximal such k is $\dim(X)$. Induction on k, the dimension.

$k = 0$. $H_n^\Delta(X) \cong H_n(X)$ for X points.

$k - 1 \mapsto k$. Let X^l be the l-skeleton of X consisting of all simplicies of dimension at most l. $H_n^\Delta(X^k, X^{k-1})$ are the homology groups of the chain complex

$$\cdots \to \frac{\Delta_{k+1}(X^k)}{\Delta_{k+1}(X^{k-1})} \to \frac{\Delta_k(X^k)}{\Delta_k(X^{k-1})} \to \frac{\Delta_{k-1}(X^k)}{\Delta_{k-1}(X^{k-1})} \to \cdots,$$

so

$$H_n^\Delta(X^k, X^{k-1}) = \begin{cases} 0 & n \neq k \\ \text{free abelian group with basis the } k\text{-simplices of } X & n = k \end{cases}.$$

The short exact sequence of chain complexes

$$0 \to \Delta_n(X^{k-1}) \to \Delta_n(X^k) \to \frac{\Delta_n(X^k)}{\Delta_n(X^{k-1})} \to 0$$

gives a long exact sequence

$$\cdots \to H_{n+1}^\Delta(X^k, X^{k-1}) \to H_n^\Delta(X^{k-1}) \to H_n^\Delta(X^k) \to H_n^\Delta(X^k, X^{k-1}) \to H_{n-1}^\Delta(X^{k-1}) \to \cdots$$
$$\downarrow \alpha \qquad\qquad \downarrow \beta \qquad\qquad \downarrow \gamma \qquad\qquad \downarrow \delta \qquad\qquad \downarrow \epsilon$$
$$\cdots \to H_{n+1}(X^k, X^{k-1}) \to H_n(X^{k-1}) \to H_n^\Delta(X^k) \to H_n(X^k, X^{k-1}) \to H_{n-1}(X^{k-1}) \to \cdots$$

,

which commutes by naturality. β and ϵ are isomorphisms by induction. Consider the continuous map $\Phi : \bigsqcup_\alpha (\Delta_\alpha^k, \partial \Delta_\alpha^k) \to (X^k, X^{k-1})$. This induces an isomorphism

$$H_n(X^k, X^{k-1}) \cong H_n\left(\bigsqcup_\alpha \Delta_\alpha^k, \bigsqcup_\alpha \partial \Delta^k\right) = \bigoplus_\alpha H_n(\Delta_\alpha^k, \partial \Delta_\alpha^k),$$

which is the free abelian group on $i_{n\alpha} : \Delta_\alpha^n \to \Delta_\alpha^n$ by Lemma A.2, so α and δ are isomorphisms. Thus five lemma gives that γ is an isomorphism.

$\square$