Homotopy Theory and Characteristic Classes

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Abstract

This is the notes of a course given by Prof. Ma Langte in 25spring at Shanghai Jiaotong University. The textbook is *Algebraic Topology* by Tammo tom Dieck.

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Part I
Homotopy Theory

Let **TOP** be the category of topological spaces. Then we can take a quotient of **TOP** and get the homotopy category $h-\mathbf{TOP}$. The quotient may bring more algebraic structures. For example, $\operatorname{Mor}\left(S^1, X\right)$, the homotopy classes of maps from S^1 to X, is the fundamental group of X. Our goal is to study functors from hmotopy category to some algebraic categories.

Let $\mathbf{TOP}^o$ be the pointed topological category, where the sum is wedge sum $(X, x_0) \wedge (Y, y_0) = X \sqcup Y / x_0 \sim y_0$ and the product is the smash product $(X, x_0) \vee (Y, y_0) = X \times Y / \{x_0\} \times Y \cup X \times \{y_0\}$. Similarly, we can take a quotient to get $h - \mathbf{TOP}^o$.

Let $\mathbf{TOP}(2)$ be the category of pairs and $h - \mathbf{TOP}(2)$ be its quotient.

Fix $K \in \operatorname{Ob}(\mathbf{TOP})$. Let's consider $\mathbf{TOP}^K$, the category of spaces under K. Its objects are maps $f\colon K \to X$ and morphisms are maps $\alpha\colon X \to Y$ such that $\alpha \circ f = g$.

$$\begin{tikzcd} & K \arrow[dl, "f"'] \arrow[dr, "g"] & \\ X \arrow[rr, "\alpha"] & & Y \end{tikzcd}$$

If $K = \{*\}$ is a single point set, then $\mathbf{TOP}^{\{*\}} = \mathbf{TOP}^o$ is the pointed topological category. Take $X = K$. A morphism from $f\colon K \to X$ to $\mathrm{id}\colon K \to K$ is $r\colon X \to K$ such that $r \circ f = \mathrm{id}$.

$$\begin{tikzcd} & K \arrow[dl, "f"'] \arrow[dr, "\mathrm{id}"] & \\ X \arrow[rr, "r"] & & K \end{tikzcd}$$

When $K \subset X$, $f = i\colon K \hookrightarrow X$, we say that r is a retraction.

We have $r\colon X \to K$ is a deformation retraction, if and only if $i \circ r \simeq \mathrm{id}_X$ rel K, if and only if $r\colon X \to K$ is a homotopy equivalence in $\mathbf{TOP}^K$.

Fix $B \in \operatorname{Ob}(\mathbf{TOP})$. Let's consider $\mathbf{TOP}_B$, the category of spaces over B, where the objects are $p\colon X \to B$ and morphisms are $f\colon X \to Y$ such that $p = q \circ f$.

$$\begin{tikzcd} X \arrow[rr, "f"] \arrow[dr, "p"'] & & Y \arrow[dl, "q"] \\ & B & \end{tikzcd}$$

Take $X = B$. A morphism from $\mathrm{id}\colon B \to B$ to $q\colon Y \to B$ is $s\colon B \to Y$ such that $q \circ s = \mathrm{id}_B$.

$$\begin{tikzcd} B \arrow[rr, "s"] \arrow[dr, "\mathrm{id}"'] & & Y \arrow[dl, "q"] \\ & B & \end{tikzcd}$$

Then s is called a section of q.

Similarly, we can define $h - \mathbf{TOP}^K$ and $h - \mathbf{TOP}_B$.

1 Cofibrations and Fibrations

1.1 Cofibrations

Definition 1.1. A map $i\colon A \to X$ has the homotopy extension property (HEP) for a space Y if for all homotopy $h\colon A \times I \to Y$ and $f\colon X \to Y$ with $f \circ i(a) = h(a, 1)$, there exists $H\colon X \times I \to Y$ satisfies

$$\begin{tikzcd}
& X \arrow[dr, "i_1"] \arrow[drr, bend left, "f"] & & \\
A \arrow[ur, "i"] \arrow[dr, "i_1"'] & & X \times I \arrow[r, dashed, "H"] & Y \\
& A \times I \arrow[ur, "i\times \mathrm{id}"] \arrow[urr, bend right, "h"'] & &
\end{tikzcd}$$

We say $i\colon A \to X$ is a cofibration if it has HEP for each $Y \in \mathrm{Ob}(\mathbf{TOP})$.

Recall the mapping cylinder: if $i\colon A \to X$ is a map, then $Z(i) \coloneqq (A \times I) \sqcup X/(a, 1) \sim i(a)$.

Proposition 1.2. Given a map $i\colon A \to X$. The followings are equivalent:

1. $i\colon A \to X$ is a cofibration.
2. i has HEP for $Z(i)$.
3. The map
$$\begin{aligned} s\colon Z(i) &\to X \times I \\ (a, t) &\mapsto (i(a), t), \\ x &\mapsto (x, 1) \end{aligned}$$
has a retraction.

Proof. (1)$\Longrightarrow$(2) is only by definition.

(2)$\Longrightarrow$(1): By definition, there exists $K\colon X \times I \to Z(i)$ such that the following diagram is commutative.

$$\begin{tikzcd}
& X \arrow[dr, "i_1"] \arrow[drr, bend left, "i_1"] & & \\
A \arrow[ur, "i"] \arrow[dr, "i_1"'] & & X \times I \arrow[r, dashed, "K"] & Z(i) \\
& A \times I \arrow[ur, "i\times \mathrm{id}"] \arrow[urr, bend right, "\mathrm{id}"'] & &
\end{tikzcd}$$

For any Y and homotopy $h\colon A \times I \to Y$ and $f\colon X \to Y$ with $f \circ i(a) = h(a, 1)$, we define

$$\begin{aligned} F\colon Z(i) &\to Y \\ (a, t) &\mapsto h(a, t) \\ x &\mapsto f(x). \end{aligned}$$

Then $F \circ K$ is as desired.

$$\begin{tikzcd}
& X \arrow[dr, "i_1"] \arrow[drr, bend left, "i_1"] \arrow[drrr, bend left, "f"] & & & \\
A \arrow[ur, "i"] \arrow[dr, "i_1"'] & & X \times I \arrow[r, dashed, "K"] & Z(i) \arrow[r, "F"] & Y \\
& A \times I \arrow[ur, "i\times \mathrm{id}"] \arrow[urr, bend right, "\mathrm{id}"'] \arrow[urrr, bend right, "h"'] & & &
\end{tikzcd}$$

(2)$\Longrightarrow$(3): We can easily check that the extension $K\colon X\times I\to Z(i)$ in the proof of (2)$\Longrightarrow$(1) is a retraction of s.

(3)$\Longrightarrow$(2): Let r be a retraction of s. For any homotopy $h\colon A\times I\to Z(i)$ and $f\colon X\to Z(i)$ with $f\circ i(a)=h(a,1)$, we define

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma\colon Z(i)&\to Z(i)\\ (a,t)&\mapsto h(a,t)\\ x&\mapsto f(x).\end{aligned}$$

Then we can verify that $H=\sigma\circ r\colon X\times I\to Z(i)$ extends h.

$$\begin{tikzcd}
& X \arrow[dr, "i_1"] \arrow[drr, bend left, "f"] & & \\
A \arrow[ur, "i"] \arrow[dr, "i_1"'] & & X\times I \arrow[r, bend right, "r"'] & Z(i) \arrow[l, bend right, "s"'] \\
& A\times I \arrow[ur, "i\times\mathrm{id}"] \arrow[urr, bend right, "h"'] & &
\end{tikzcd}$$

$\square$

Corollary 1.3. When $A\subset X$ is a close subset, $i\colon A\hookrightarrow X$ is the inclusion map. Then $i\colon A\to X$ is a cofibration $\Longleftrightarrow$ $Z(i)=A\times I\cup X\times\{1\}$ is a retraction of $X\times I$.

Therefore, we can construct many cofibrations. For example, let (X,A) be a manifold with boundary, then $i\colon A\hookrightarrow X$ is a cofibration.

1.1.1 Push-Out of Cofibration

Given a commutative diagram,

$$\begin{tikzcd}
A \arrow[r, "f"] \arrow[d, "j"'] & B \arrow[d, "J"] \\
X \arrow[r, "F"] & Y
\end{tikzcd}$$

the push-out of j along f is the initial object of this diagram, i.e. $j\colon B\to Y$, $F\colon X\to Y$, s.t. $\forall Z$ with $J'\colon B\to Z$, $F'\colon X\to Z$ satisfying $J'\circ f=F'\circ j$, $\exists!$ map $p\colon Y\to Z$ such that the diagram is commutative.

$$\begin{tikzcd}
& B \arrow[dr, "J"] \arrow[drr, bend left, "J'"] & & \\
A \arrow[ur, "f"] \arrow[dr, "j"'] & & Y \arrow[r, dashed, "\exists!p"] & Z \\
& X \arrow[ur, "F"'] \arrow[urr, bend right, "F'"'] & &
\end{tikzcd}$$

In our setting, we can construct $Y=X\sqcup B/f(a)\sim j(a)$ directly.

Proposition 1.4. If $j\colon A\to X$ is a cofibration, then the push-out of j along f $J\colon B\to Y$ is also a cofibration.

Proof. For any Z, $g\colon Y \to Z$, $h\colon B\times I \to Z$ such that $g\circ J = h\circ(i_1 \times \mathrm{id})$, we need to find $H\colon Y\times I \to Z$ such that the following diagram is commutative.

$$
\begin{tikzcd}
 & X \arrow[dr, "F"] & & & \\
A \arrow[ur, "j"] \arrow[dr, "f"'] & & Y \arrow[dr] \arrow[drr, bend left, "g"] & & \\
 & B \arrow[ur, "J"] \arrow[dr] & & Y\times I \arrow[r, dashed, "H"] & Z \\
 & & B\times I \arrow[ur] \arrow[urr, bend right, "h"'] & &
\end{tikzcd}
$$

Because $j\colon A \to X$ is a cofibration, we have $G\colon X\times I \to Z$ such that the following diagram is commutative.

$$
\begin{tikzcd}
 & X \arrow[dr] \arrow[drr, bend left, "g\circ F"] & & \\
A \arrow[ur, "j"] \arrow[dr] & & X\times I \arrow[r, dashed, "G"] & Z \\
 & A\times I \arrow[ur] \arrow[urr, bend right, "h\circ(f\times\mathrm{id})"'] & &
\end{tikzcd}
$$

Using the fact that $J\times\mathrm{id}\colon B\times I \to Y\times I$ is also the push-out of $j\times\mathrm{id}\colon A\times I \to X\times I$ along $f\times\mathrm{id}\colon A\times I \to B\times I$, we have unique $H\colon Y\times I \to Z$ such that the following diagram is commutative.

$$
\begin{tikzcd}
 & B\times I \arrow[dr] \arrow[drr, bend left, "h"] & & \\
A\times I \arrow[ur, "f\times\mathrm{id}"] \arrow[dr] & & Y\times I \arrow[r, dashed, "H"] & Z \\
 & X\times I \arrow[ur] \arrow[urr, bend right, "G"'] & &
\end{tikzcd}
$$

The $H\colon Y\times I \to Z$ is the extension of $h\colon B\times I \to Z$, as desired. $\square$

In terms of categorical language, let $\Pi(A,B)$ be a category, whose objects are continue maps from A to B and morphisms are homotopy of maps from A to B. Consider $\mathbf{COF}^B \subset \mathbf{TOP}^B$ the subcategory of cofibrations under B (i.e. $J\colon B \to Y$). Then we have homotopy category $h - \mathbf{COF}^B$. Given a cofibration $i\colon A \to X$, we get a contravariant functor

$$\beta\colon \Pi(A,B) \to h - \mathbf{COF}^B.$$

In fact, we only need to check that if $f_0 \simeq f_1\colon A \to B$, then we get a morphism from $J_0\colon B \to Y_0$ to $J_1\colon B \to Y_1$. Firstly, consider the homotopy $J_0\circ f_t\colon A\times I \to Y_0$, we get its extension $\Psi\colon X\times I \to Y_0$.

$$
\begin{tikzcd}
 & X \arrow[dr] \arrow[drr, bend left, "F_0"] & & \\
A \arrow[ur, "i"] \arrow[dr] & & X\times I \arrow[r, dashed, "\Psi"] & Y_0 \\
 & A\times I \arrow[ur] \arrow[urr, bend right, "J_0\circ f_t"'] & &
\end{tikzcd}
$$

Then by the universal property of the push-out $J_1 \colon B \to Y_1$ of i along f_1 for $J_0 \colon B \to Y_0$ and $\Psi_1 \colon X \to Y_0$, we get a map $K \colon Y_1 \to Y_0$, as desired.

$$\begin{tikzcd}
 & B \arrow[dr, "J_1"] \arrow[drr, bend left, "J_0"] & & \\
A \arrow[ur, "f_1"] \arrow[dr, "i"'] & & Y_1 \arrow[r, dashed, "K"] & Y_0 \\
 & X \arrow[ur, "F_1"'] \arrow[urr, bend right, "\Psi_1"'] & &
\end{tikzcd}$$

1.1.2 Replacing a Map by a Cofibration

Given a map $f \colon X \to Y$, consider the mapping cylinder $Z(f)$. We can notice that $Z(f)$ is the push-out.

$$\begin{tikzcd}
X \arrow[r, "f"] \arrow[d, "i_1"'] & Y \arrow[d, "s"] \\
X \times I \arrow[r, "a"] & Z(f)
\end{tikzcd}$$

We also have a map

$$\begin{aligned} q \colon Z(f) &\to Y \\ (x,t) &\mapsto f(x). \end{aligned}$$

Note that by Proposition 1.2, $i_1 \colon X \hookrightarrow X \times I$ is a cofibration $\iff X \times \{1\} \times I \cup X \times I \times \{1\}$ is a retraction of $X \times I \times I$, we have $s \colon Y \to Z(f)$ is a cofibration.

Proposition 1.5. Let

$$\begin{aligned} j \colon X &\to Z(f) \\ x &\mapsto (x,0), \end{aligned}$$

we have

1. $j \colon X \to Z(f)$ is a cofibration.
2. $s \circ q \simeq \mathrm{id}_{Z(f)}$ rel Y.
3. If f is a cofibration, then $q \colon Z(f) \to Y$ is a homotopy equicalence in $\mathbf{TOP}^X$.

Proof. (1). We construct a retraction $R \colon Z(f) \times I \to X \times I \cup Z(f) \times \{1\}$ as follow. Let $R' \colon I \times I \to I \times \{1\} \cup \{0\} \times I$ be a retraction. Then we define

$$\begin{aligned} R \colon Z(f) \times I &\to X \times I \cup Z(f) \times \{1\} \\ ((x,s),t) &\mapsto (x, R'(s,t)) \\ (y,t) &\mapsto (y,1) \end{aligned}$$

is as desired. By Proposition 1.2, $j \colon X \to Z(f)$ is a cofibration.

(2). The homotopy

$$\begin{aligned} h_t \colon Z(f) &\to Z(f) \\ (x,\sigma) &\mapsto (x, (1-t)\sigma + t) \end{aligned}$$

is as desired.

(3). By Proposition 1.2, there is a retraction $r\colon Y \times I \to Z(f)$. Define

$$\begin{aligned} g\colon Y &\to Z(f) \\ y &\mapsto r(y,1). \end{aligned}$$

One can verifies that g is the homotopy inverse of q. $\square$

Summery 1. Any map $f\colon X \to Y$ factors into

$$X \xrightarrow{j} Z \xrightarrow{q} Y$$

where $j\colon X \to Z$ is a cofibration and $q\colon Z \to Y$ is a homotopy equivalence. Moreover, such a factorization is unique up to homotopy equivalence. In particular, we can choose $Z = Z(f)$. We define $C_f = Z(f)/\operatorname{im} j$ as the homotopy cofibre of f, i.e. $C_f = X \times I \sqcup Y/(x,0) \sim *, (x,1) \sim f(x)$, is called the mapping cone of f.

$$X \xrightarrow{f} Y \xrightarrow{s} C_f$$

1.1.3 The Cofibre Sequence (Puppe's Sequence)

To get finer structure, we work in $\mathbf{TOP}^o$. Given a map $f\colon (X,x_0) \to (Y,y_0)$, we get an induced map

$$\begin{aligned} f^*\colon [Y,B]^o &\to [X,B]^o \\ [\alpha] &\mapsto [f \circ \alpha], \end{aligned}$$

where $[X,B]^o$ is the homotopy class of basepoint preserving maps. In particular, we have the constant map

$$\begin{aligned} [*]\colon X &\to B \\ x &\mapsto b_0. \end{aligned}$$

Definition 1.6. We say a sequence

$$(X,x_0) \xrightarrow{f} (Y,y_0) \xrightarrow{g} (Z,z_0)$$

in $\mathbf{TOP}^o$ is h-coexact if $\forall\,(B,b_0) \in \operatorname{Ob}(\mathbf{TOP}^o)$,

$$[Z,B]^o \xrightarrow{g^*} [Y,B]^o \xrightarrow{f^*} [X,B]^o$$

is exact, i.e. $(f^*)^{-1}([*]) = \operatorname{im} g^*$.

In $\mathbf{TOP}^o$, we consider the reduced mapping cone $CX \coloneqq X \times I/X \times \{0\} \cup \{x_0\} \times I$. The basepoint of CX is $X \times \{0\} \cup \{x_0\} \times I$. And we consider the reduced mapping cone: For $f\colon (X,x_0) \to (Y,y_0)$, $C(f) \coloneqq CX \vee Y/(x,1) \sim f(x)$. It is equivalent to the following push-out diagram.q

$$\begin{tikzcd} X \arrow[r, "f"] \arrow[d, "i_1"'] & Y \arrow[d, "f_1"] \\ CX \arrow[r] & C(f) \end{tikzcd}$$

In fact, f_1 maps y to $(y,1)$.

We will also use symbol X instead of (X,x_0) in $\mathbf{TOP}^o$ for short.

Proposition 1.7. The sequence

$$X \xrightarrow{f} Y \xrightarrow{f_1} C(f)$$

is h-coexact.

Proof. Consider the following sequence

$$[C(f), B]^o \xrightarrow{f_1^*} [Y, B]^o \xrightarrow{f^*} [X, B]^o$$

for any (B, b_0).

$$\begin{tikzcd}
X \arrow[r, "f"] \arrow[dr] & Y \arrow[r, "f_1"] \arrow[d, "\alpha"] & C(f) \arrow[dl] \\
& B &
\end{tikzcd}$$

Assume that $[\alpha] \in [Y, B]^o$ s.t. $[\alpha \circ f] = [*] \in [X, B]^o$, i.e. $\alpha \circ f$ is null-homotopic. This is equivalent that there exists a map $h \colon CX \to B$. The mapping cone $C(f)$ is the push-out of

$$\begin{tikzcd}
X \arrow[r, "f"] \arrow[d, "i_1"'] & Y \arrow[d, "f_1"] \\
CX \arrow[r] & C(f)
\end{tikzcd}$$

Using the universal property of push-out, we have the following commutative diagram,

$$\begin{tikzcd}
& Y \arrow[dr, "f_1"] \arrow[drr, bend left, "\alpha"] & & \\
X \arrow[ur, "f"] \arrow[dr, "i_1"'] & & C(f) \arrow[r, dashed, "\exists\beta"] & B \\
& CX \arrow[ur] \arrow[urr, bend right, "h"'] & &
\end{tikzcd}$$

i.e. $\alpha = \beta \circ f_1$. Therefore $[\alpha] = f_1^*[\beta]$ and this proposition follows. $\square$

Iterate the procedure, we get a long h-coexact sequence:

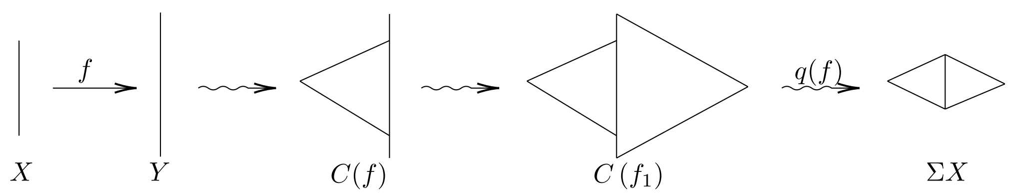
$$X \xrightarrow{f} Y \xrightarrow{f_1} C(f) \xrightarrow{f_2} C(f_1) \xrightarrow{f_3} C(f_2) \longrightarrow \cdots$$

Consider the injection $j_1 \colon CY \to C(f_1)$, we have that

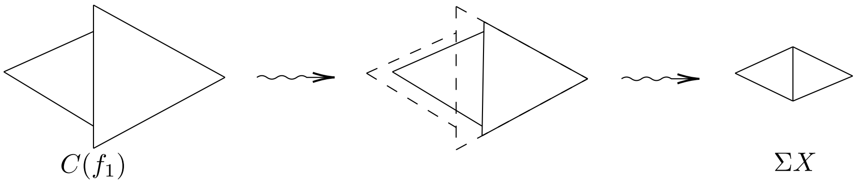
$$C(f_1)/j_1(CY) = X \times I / X \times \partial I \cup \{x_0\} \times I = \Sigma X$$

is the reduced suspension of X. Then we get a quotient map

$$q(f) \colon C(f_1) \to \Sigma X.$$



Claim 1. $q(f)$ is a homotopy equivalence.



Denote by $s(f)\colon \Sigma X \to C(f_1)$ the homotopy inverse of $q(f)$. Then our original sequence becomes

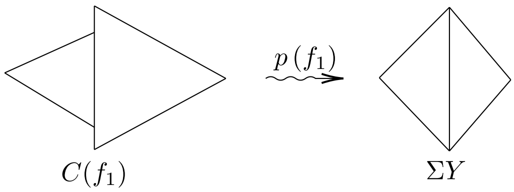
$$\begin{tikzcd}
X \arrow[r, "f"] & Y \arrow[r, "f_1"] & C(f) \arrow[r, "f_2"] \arrow[dr, "q(f)\circ f_2"'] & C(f_1) \arrow[r, "f_3"] \arrow[d, "q(f)"] & C(f_2) \\
 & & & \Sigma X &
\end{tikzcd}$$

Consider the following diagram.

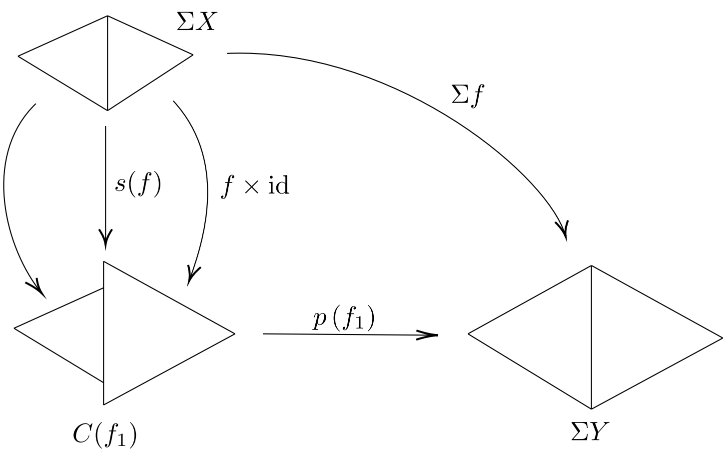
$$\begin{tikzcd}
C(f_1) \arrow[r, "f_3"] \arrow[d, shift right, "q(f)"'] & C(f_2) \arrow[d, "q(f_1)"] \\
\Sigma X \arrow[u, shift right, "s(f)"'] \arrow[r, dashed, "q(f_1)\circ f_3\circ s(f)"'] & \Sigma Y
\end{tikzcd}$$

Claim 2. Consider $\tau\colon \Sigma X \to \Sigma X$ which maps (x, t) to $(x, 1-t)$, we have $q(f_1) \circ f_3 \circ s(f) \simeq \Sigma f \circ \tau$

To prove it, denote $p(f_1) = q(f_1) \circ f_3$. In fact, $p(f_1)$ retracts the left triangle, i.e. CX to a point.



In the following diagram, $s(f)$ is the union of id and $f \times \mathrm{id}$, i.e. id maps the left triangel of ΣX to the left triangle of $C(f_1)$, $f \times \mathrm{id}$ maps the right triangel of ΣX to the right triangle of $C(f_1)$. Then $\Sigma f = p(f_1) \circ s(f)$ naturally. Notice that τ flips ΣX left and right. Therefore, by symmetry, we have $p(f_1) \circ s(f) \simeq \Sigma f \circ \tau$, as desired.



Now we get

$$X \xrightarrow{f} Y \xrightarrow{f_1} C(f) \xrightarrow{p(f)} \Sigma X \xrightarrow{\Sigma f} \Sigma Y \xrightarrow{(\Sigma f)_1} C(\Sigma f)$$

Claim 3. There is a homeomorphism $\tau_1\colon C(\Sigma f) \to \Sigma C(f)$ such that the following diagram is commutative.

$$\begin{tikzcd} \Sigma Y \arrow[r, "(\Sigma f)_1"] \arrow[dr, "\Sigma f_1"'] & C(\Sigma f) \arrow[d, "\tau_1"] \\ & \Sigma C(f) \end{tikzcd}$$

In fact, regard both $C(\Sigma f)$ and $\Sigma C(f)$ as the quotient spaces of $X \times I \times I$ unioned with Y, τ_1 is induced from interchanging the two I-factors.

As conclusion, we have

Theorem 1.8 (Puppe's Sequence)**.** The sequence

$$X \xrightarrow{f} Y \xrightarrow{f_1} C(f) \xrightarrow{p(f)} \Sigma X \xrightarrow{\Sigma f} \Sigma Y \xrightarrow{\Sigma f_1} \Sigma C(f) \xrightarrow{p(\Sigma f)} \Sigma^2 X \longrightarrow \Sigma^2 Y \longrightarrow \cdots$$

is h-coexact.

1.2 Fibrations

Definition 1.9. A map $p\colon E \to B$ has the homotopy lifting property (HLP) for the space X if $\forall$ homotopy $h\colon X \times I \to B$ and $a\colon X \to E$ s.t. $p \circ a(x) = h(x, 0)$, there exists a homotopy $H\colon X \times I \to E$ s.t. $p \circ H = h$. H is called a lifting of h.

$$\begin{tikzcd} X \arrow[r, "a"] \arrow[d, "i_0"'] & E \arrow[d, "p"] \\ X \times I \arrow[r, "h"] \arrow[ur, dashed, "H"] & B \end{tikzcd}$$

A map $p\colon E \to B$ is called a fibration if it has HLP for all spaces X.

Definition 1.10. Given maps $f\colon A \to B$ and $p\colon E \to B$. The pull-back of p along f is the terminal object of the following diagram,

$$\begin{tikzcd} f^*E \arrow[r] \arrow[d] & E \arrow[d, "p"] \\ A \arrow[r, "f"] & B \end{tikzcd}$$

i.e. for any C, $g\colon C \to E$, $h\colon C \to A$, there exists unique r such that the following diagram is commutative.

$$\begin{tikzcd} & & E \arrow[dr, "p"] & \\ C \arrow[urr, bend left, "g"] \arrow[r, dashed, "r"] \arrow[drr, bend right, "h"'] & f^*E \arrow[ur] \arrow[dr] & & B \\ & & A \arrow[ur, "f"'] & \end{tikzcd}$$

Explicity,

$$f^*E = \big\{(a, e) \in A \times E : f(a) = p(e)\big\}$$

and $\pi\colon f^*E \to A$ is the projection.

Denote $B^I = \mathrm{Map}(I, B)$. Consider the pull-back

$$W(p) \coloneqq \big\{(x, w) \in E \times B^I : p(x) = w(0)\big\}$$

which is given by the pull-back

$$\begin{tikzcd}
W(p) \arrow[r, "k"] \arrow[d, "b"'] & B^I \arrow[d, "e^0"] \\
E \arrow[r, "p"'] & B
\end{tikzcd}$$

where e^0 maps w to $w(0)$.

Proposition 1.11. Given a map $p\colon E \to B$, the followings are equivalence:

1. $p\colon E \to B$ is a fibration.

2. p has HLP for $W(p)$.

3.
$$\begin{aligned} r\colon E^I &\to W(p) \\ \alpha &\mapsto (\alpha(0), p \circ \alpha) \end{aligned}$$

   admits a section.

Proof. (1)$\Longrightarrow$(2) is by definition.

(2)$\Longrightarrow$(3): Because $W(p)$ is a pull-back, by its universal property, we have the following diagram and we want to find s such that $r \circ s = \mathrm{id}$.

$$\begin{tikzcd}
 & & B^I \arrow[dr, "e^0"] & \\
E^I \arrow[urr, bend left, "p^I"] \arrow[r, shift right, "r"'] \arrow[drr, bend right, "e^0"'] & W(p) \arrow[l, dashed, shift right, "s"'] \arrow[ur, "k"] \arrow[dr, "b"] & & B \\
 & & E \arrow[ur, "p"'] &
\end{tikzcd}$$

Notice that $\mathrm{Map}\left(W(p), E^I\right) = \mathrm{Map}\left(W(p) \times I, E\right)$, because p has HLP for $W(p)$, we have the following commutative diagram.

$$\begin{tikzcd}
W(p) \arrow[r, "b"] \arrow[d] & E \arrow[d, "p"] \\
W(p) \times I \arrow[r, "k"] \arrow[ur, dashed, "s"] & B
\end{tikzcd}$$

We have $b \circ r \circ s = e^0 \circ s = b$ and $k \circ r \circ s = p^I s = k$. Using the universal property (uniqueness) of pull-back $W(p)$ for $W(p)$, we must have $r \circ s = \mathrm{id}$, i.e. s is a section of r.

(3)$\Longrightarrow$(1): Let s be the section of r. For any X, a, h as in the definition of fibration, we want to find H such that the following diagram is commutative.

$$\begin{tikzcd}
X \arrow[r, "a"] \arrow[d, "i_0"'] & E \arrow[d, "p"] \\
X \times I \arrow[r, "h"] \arrow[ur, dashed, "H"] & B
\end{tikzcd}$$

Using the universal property of pull-back $W(p)$, we have unique f such that the following diagram is commutative, where $h\colon X \to B^I$ is the same as $h\colon X \times I \to B$.

$$\begin{tikzcd}
& & B^I \arrow[dr, "e^0"] & \\
X \arrow[urr, bend left, "h"] \arrow[drr, bend right, "a"'] \arrow[r, dashed, "\exists! f"] & W(p) \arrow[ur, "k"'] \arrow[dr, "b"] & & B \\
& & E \arrow[ur, "p"'] &
\end{tikzcd}$$

Then because $\mathrm{Map}\left(W(p), E^I\right) = \mathrm{Map}\left(W(p) \times I, E\right)$, one can check that $H = s \circ f$ is as desired. In fact,

$$p \circ H(x,t) = (p \circ H(x))(t) = (k \circ r \circ s \circ f(x))(t) = (k \circ \mathrm{id} \circ f(x))(t) = h(x,t)$$

and $H \circ i_0 = a$ is similar. $\square$

1.2.1 Pull-back of Fibration

Proposition 1.12. If $p\colon E \to B$ is a fibration, then $f^*E \to A$ is also a fibration.

Proof. In the following diagram, F is induced by HLP for fibration $p\colon E \to B$ and then H is induced by universal property of pull-back f^*E.

$$\begin{tikzcd}
X \arrow[r, "a"] \arrow[d, "i_0"'] & f^*E \arrow[r] \arrow[d, "\pi"] & E \arrow[d, "p"] \\
X \times I \arrow[r, "h"] \arrow[ur, dashed, "H"] \arrow[urr, dashed, "F"] & A \arrow[r, "f"] & B
\end{tikzcd}$$

$\square$

1.2.2 Replacing Maps by Fibration

Proposition 1.13. The evaluation $e^1\colon Y^I \to Y$, $w \mapsto w(1)$ is a fibration.

Proof. We can define H directly:

$$\begin{aligned}
H\colon X \times I &\to Y^I \\
(x,s) &\mapsto \begin{cases} [t \mapsto a|_X((1+s)t)], \ \textit{when } 0 \le (1+s)t \le 1 \\ [t \mapsto h(x,(1+s)t-1)], \ \textit{when } (1+s)t \ge 1. \end{cases}
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{tikzcd}
X \arrow[r, "a"] \arrow[d, "i_0"'] & Y^I \arrow[d, "e^1"] \\
X \times I \arrow[r, "h"] \arrow[ur, dashed, "H"] & Y
\end{tikzcd}$$

$\square$

Given $f\colon X \to Y$, consider the following pull-back.

$$\begin{tikzcd}
W(f) = f^*Y^I \arrow[r] \arrow[d, "i_0"'] & Y^I \arrow[d, "e^1"] \\
X \arrow[r, "f"'] & Y
\end{tikzcd}$$

In fact,

$$W(f) = \left\{(x, w) \in X \times Y^I : f(x) = w(1)\right\}.$$

Denote $p\colon W(f) \to Y$, $(x, w) \mapsto w(0)$ and $s\colon X \to W(f)$, $x \mapsto \left(x, k_{f(x)}\right)$ where $k_{f(x)}$ is a constant path at $f(x)$, and $q\colon W(f) \to X$, $(x, w) \mapsto x$. We can check that the following diagram is commutative.

$$\begin{tikzcd}
W(f) = f^*Y^I \arrow[r] \arrow[d, shift right, "i_0"'] \arrow[dr, "p"] & Y^I \arrow[d, "e^1"] \\
X \arrow[u, shift right, "s"'] \arrow[r, "f"'] & Y
\end{tikzcd}$$

Theorem 1.14. In the following commutative diagram,

$$\begin{tikzcd}
X \arrow[rr, "s"] \arrow[dr, "f"'] & & W(f) \arrow[dl, "p"] \\
& Y &
\end{tikzcd}$$

s is a homotopy equivalence and p is a fibration.

Proof. Consider the following fibration

$$\begin{tikzcd}
(f \times \mathrm{id})^*Y^I \arrow[r] \arrow[d, "{(q,p)}"'] & Y^I \arrow[d, "{(e^1,e^0)}"] \\
X \times Y \arrow[r, "f \times \mathrm{id}"] & Y \times Y
\end{tikzcd}$$

Claim 4. $(f \times \mathrm{id})^*Y^I = W(f)$.

To see that, notice that

$$(f \times \mathrm{id})^*Y^I = \left\{(x, y, w) \in X \times Y \times Y^I : f(x) = w(1), y = w(0)\right\},$$

we can construct a map from $W(f)$ to $(f \times \mathrm{id})^*Y^I$ that maps (x, w) to $()x, w(0), w)$. It's one to one.

Then $p\colon W(f) \to Y$ is a fibration if and only if $(f \times \mathrm{id})^*Y^I \xrightarrow{(q,p)} X \times Y \xrightarrow{p_2} Y$ is a fibration. It's a composition of two fibration and then a fibration, as desired.

Claim 5. q is a homotopy inverse of s.

□

By this theorem, given any $f\colon X \to Y$, we can replace it by a fibration $p\colon W(f) \to Y$ homotopically. Then we can define the homotopy fibre at y_0 of $f\colon X \to Y$ to be

$$F(f) \coloneqq p^{-1}(y_0) = \left\{(x, w) \in X \times Y^I : f(x) = w(1), y_0 = w(0)\right\}.$$

Remark 1.15. Apply HLP again, we can prove the factorization $f = s \circ p\colon X \to Y$ such that $s\colon X \to W$ is a homotopy equivalence and $p\colon W \to Y$ is a fibration. And this factorization is unique up to homotopy equivalence.

Theorem 1.16. Let $p\colon E \to B$ be a fibration and B is path-connected. Then all fibres $p^{-1}(b)$ are homotopy equivalent.

Proof. Given a path $\alpha\colon I \to B$, $\alpha(0) = b_0$ and $\alpha(1) = b_1$. Consider HLP property:

$$\begin{tikzcd} p^{-1}(b_0) \arrow[r] \arrow[d] & E \arrow[d, "p"] \\ p^{-1}(b_0) \times I \arrow[r, "h"] \arrow[ur, "H"] & B \end{tikzcd}$$

where $h(x,t) = \alpha(t)$. Consider $H_1\colon p^{-1}(b_0) \to p^{-1}(b_1)$ the restriction of H at $t = 1$. Similarly, consider the reversed path $\overline{\alpha}$ of α, we get $\overline{H_1}\colon p^{-1}(b_1) \to p^{-1}(b_0)$.

Claim 6. $\overline{H_1} \circ H_1 \simeq \mathrm{id}$.

It's by applying homotopy lifting to the homotopy from $\overline{\alpha}\alpha$ to k_{b_0}. Therefore, all fibres $p^{-1}(b)$ are homotopy equivalent. □

1.2.3 Fibre Exact Sequence (Puppe's Sequence)

Definition 1.17. We say a sequence of pointed maps

$$(X, x_0) \xrightarrow{f} (Y, y_0) \xrightarrow{g} (Z, z_0)$$

is h-coexact if $\forall\, (B, b_0)$, the induced sequence

$$[B, X]^o \xrightarrow{f_*} [B, Y]^o \xrightarrow{g_*} [B, Z]^o$$

is exact, i.e. $g_*^{-1}([c_{z_0}]) = \operatorname{im} f_*$.

Recall the homotopy fibre of $f\colon X \to Y$ is

$$F(f) := p^{-1}(y_0) = \left\{(x, w) \in X \times Y^I : f(x) = w(1), y_0 = w(0)\right\}.$$

Denote $f^1\colon F(f) \to X$, $(x, w) \mapsto x$.

Proposition 1.18. For any $f\colon (X, x_0) \to (Y, y_0)$, the sequence

$$F(f) \xrightarrow{f^1} X \xrightarrow{f} Y$$

is h-coexact.

Proof. Assume $\alpha\colon B \to X$ satisfies $f \circ \alpha\colon B \to Y$ is null-homotopic and $f_*[\alpha] = [c_{y_0}]$. Apply HLP property:

$$\begin{tikzcd} B \arrow[r] \arrow[d] & FY = \left\{w \in Y^I : w(0) = y_0\right\} \arrow[d, "e^1"] \\ B \times I \arrow[r, "h"'] \arrow[ur, "H"] & Y \end{tikzcd}$$

where h is a null-homotopy from $f \circ \alpha$ to c_{y_0}. Notice that $H_0\colon B \times \{1\} \to FY$ satisfies

$$\begin{tikzcd} & & FY \arrow[dr] & \\ B \arrow[r, dashed, "\beta"] \arrow[urr, bend left, "H_0"] \arrow[drr, bend right, "\alpha"'] & F(f) \arrow[ur] \arrow[dr, "f^1"] & & Y \\ & & X \arrow[ur] & \end{tikzcd}$$

where β is induced by the universal property of the pull-back $F(f)$, such that $f^1 \circ \beta = \alpha$. Therefore, $f^1_*([\beta]) = [\alpha]$. □

Iterate the procedure, we get a long h-exact sequence

$$\cdots \longrightarrow F\left(f^2\right) \xrightarrow{f^3} F\left(f^1\right) \xrightarrow{f^2} F(f) \xrightarrow{f^1} X \longrightarrow Y\ .$$

Question 1.19. How to understand $F\left(f^n\right) \xrightarrow{f^{n+1}} F\left(f^{n-1}\right)$?

We consider the loop space

$$\Omega Y := \left\{w \in Y^I : w(0) = w(1) = y_0\right\}.$$

Notice that

$$\left(f^1\right)^{-1}(x_0) = \left\{(x_0, w) \in X \times Y^I : w(0) = y_0, w(1) = f(x_0) = y_0\right\},$$

we have $\Omega Y = \left(f^1\right)^{-1}(x_0)$. We write $i(f)\colon \Omega Y \to F(f)$ for the inclusion.

Theorem 1.20 (The puppe's fibre sequence)**.** The sequence

$$\Omega^k F(f) \xrightarrow{\Omega^k f^1} \Omega^k X \xrightarrow{\Omega^k f} \Omega^k Y \xrightarrow{i(\Omega^{k-1} f)} \cdots \longrightarrow \Omega X \longrightarrow \Omega Y \longrightarrow F(f) \xrightarrow{f^1} X \longrightarrow Y$$

is h-exact.

Proof. Step 1:

$$\begin{aligned} F\left(f^1\right) &= \left\{(x, w, v) \in X \times Y^I \times X^I : w(0) = y_0, v(0) = x_0, w(1) = f(x), v(1) = x\right\} \\ &= \left\{(w, v) \in Y^I \times X^I : w(0) = g_0, v(0) = x_0, w(1) = f(v(1))\right\}. \end{aligned}$$

Define $j(f)\colon \Omega Y \to F\left(f^1\right)$, $w \mapsto (w, k_{x_0})$.

Claim 7. $j(f)$ is a homotopy equivalence.

In fact, define $r(f)\colon F\left(f^1\right) \to \Omega Y$, $(w, v) \mapsto w * \overline{(f \circ v)}$, then $r(f) \circ j(f) = \mathrm{id}$. The homotopy from $\mathrm{id}_{F(f^1)}$ to $j(f) \circ r(f)$ is $h_t(w, v) = \left(h_t^1, h_t^2\right)$, where $h_t^1(s) = \begin{cases} w(s(1+t)), & s(1+t) \le 1, \\ f(v(2-(1+t)s)), & s(1+t) \ge 1 \end{cases}$ and $h_t^2(s) = v(s(1-t))$.

Step 2: From $F\left(f^1\right) \xrightarrow{f^2} F(f) \xrightarrow{f^1} X$, we get

$$\begin{tikzcd} F\left(f^2\right) \arrow[r, "f^3"] & F\left(f^1\right) \\ \Omega X \arrow[u, "j(f^1)"] \arrow[ur, "i(f^1)"'] \arrow[r, "\Omega f"'] & \Omega Y \arrow[u, "j(f)"'] \end{tikzcd}$$

Because $j\left(f^1\right)$ is a homotopy equivalence, we have $i\left(f^1\right) \simeq j(f) \circ \Omega f$.

Step 3: Now we have $\Omega X \xrightarrow{\Omega f} \Omega Y i(f) \longrightarrow F(f)$. Then we get $F\Omega f \longrightarrow \Omega X \xrightarrow{\Omega f} \Omega Y$.

Claim 8. $F(\Omega f)$ is homotopy equivalent to $\Omega F(f)$.

To see that, notice that $F(\Omega f)$ and $\Omega F(f)$ are all quotient of $\mathrm{Map}(I \times I, Y)$.

Finally, we get the h-exact sequence

$$\Omega F(f) \longrightarrow \Omega X \longrightarrow \Omega Y \longrightarrow F(f) \longrightarrow X \longrightarrow Y\ .$$

$\square$

1.3 Duality of Cofibration and Fibration

1.3.1 Duality of Reduced Suspension and Loop Space

Write $Y^X = \mathrm{Map}(X, Y)$ equipped with compact-open topology. We define the adjunction

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha\colon Z^{X\times Y} &\to \left(Z^Y\right)^X \\ f &\mapsto [x \mapsto f(x,\cdot)]. \end{aligned}$$

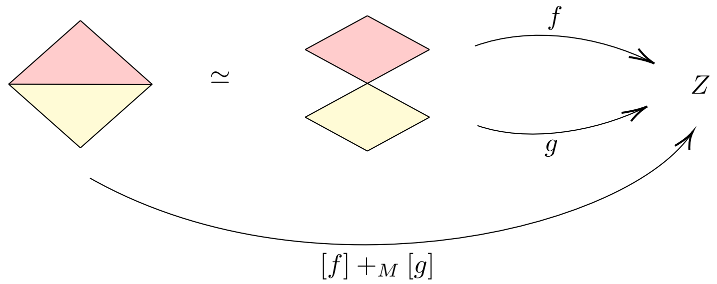
Theorem 1.21. Suppose that X and Y are locally compact. Then α is a homeomorphism.

In the pointed version, we replace $X \times Y$ by $X \wedge Y = X \times Y / \{x_0\} \times Y \cup X \times \{y_0\}$ and $\mathrm{Map}^o(X, Y)$ is the space of basepoint preserving maps. Then $\alpha^o\colon \mathrm{Map}^o(X \wedge Y, Z) \to \mathrm{Map}^o(X, \mathrm{Map}^o(Y, Z))$ is a homeomorphism. Therefore, α^o induces a bijection $\alpha^o_*\colon [X \wedge Y, Z]^o \to [X, \mathrm{Map}^o(Y, Z)]^o$.

Choose $Y = S^1 = I/\partial I$, then $X \wedge Y = X \times I / X \times \partial I \cup \{x_0\} \times I = \Sigma X$ is the reduced suspension of X and $\mathrm{Map}^o(Y, Z) = \Omega Z$ is the loop space of Z. Therefore, we get a bijection $\alpha^o_*\colon [\Sigma X, Z]^o \to [X, \Omega Z]^o$.

On $[\Sigma X, Z]^o$, we have a group structure:

$$[f] +_M [g]\colon (x,t) \mapsto \begin{cases} f(x, 2t), & t \le \frac{1}{2}, \\ g(x, 2t-1), & t \ge \frac{1}{2}. \end{cases}$$



Let τ be the inversion of ΣX. For any $[f]$, $-[f] = [f \circ \tau]$.

On $[X, \Omega Z]^o$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} m\colon \Omega Z \times \Omega Z &\to \Omega Z \\ (u, v) &\mapsto u * v. \end{aligned}$$

Define

$$[f] +_m [g] \coloneqq [m \circ (f \times g) \circ d],$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} d\colon X &\to X \times X \\ x &\mapsto (x, x) \end{aligned}$$

is the diagonal embedding.

One can verify that

$$\alpha^o_*\left([f] +_M [g]\right) = \alpha^o_*([f]) +_m \alpha^o_*([g]).$$

Then the adjunction map $\alpha^o_*\colon [\Sigma X, Z]^o \to [X, \Omega Z]^o$ is an isomorphism. In categorical language, this means $\mathrm{Mor}(\Sigma X, Z) = \mathrm{Mor}(X, \Omega Z)$ in $\mathbf{TOP}^o$. As conclusion, $\Sigma\colon \mathbf{TOP}^o \to \mathbf{TOP}^o$ and $\Omega\colon \mathbf{TOP}^o \to \mathbf{TOP}^o$ are dual functors.

1.3.2 Duality of HLP and HEP

Given a homotopy lifting diagram,

$$\begin{tikzcd} X \times \{0\} \arrow[r] \arrow[d] & E \arrow[d, "p"] \\ X \times I \arrow[r] \arrow[ur, dashed] & B \end{tikzcd}$$

notice that $\mathrm{Map}(X \times I, Z) = \mathrm{Map}\left(X, Z^I\right)$, it is equivalent to

$$\begin{tikzcd} E & E^I \arrow[l, "e^0"'] \arrow[d] \\ X \arrow[u] \arrow[r] \arrow[ur, dashed] & B^I \end{tikzcd}$$

Dualize it, also by, $\mathrm{Map}(X \times I, Z) = \mathrm{Map}\left(X, Z^I\right)$, we have

$$\begin{tikzcd} E' \arrow[r, "i_0"] \arrow[d] & E' \times I \arrow[dl, dashed] \\ X' & B' \times I \arrow[l] \arrow[u] \end{tikzcd}$$

It is equivalent to

$$\begin{tikzcd} & E' \arrow[dr] \arrow[drr, bend left] & & \\ B' \arrow[ur] \arrow[dr] & & E' \times I \arrow[r, dashed] & X' \\ & B' \times I \arrow[ur] \arrow[urr, bend right] & & \end{tikzcd}$$

which is the homotopy extension diagram.

1.3.3 Duality of Two Puppe's Sequences

Notice that $[\mathrm{id}] \in [\Sigma X, \Sigma X]^o$, it induces $\alpha_*^o[\mathrm{id}] = \eta\colon X \to \Omega\Sigma X$. For each map $f\colon X \to Y$, it induces

$$\begin{aligned} \eta\colon F(f) &\to \Omega C(f) \\ (x, w) &\mapsto \begin{cases} (x, 2t), & t \le \frac{1}{2}, \\ w(2-2t), & t \ge \frac{1}{2}, \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

where $C(f) = X \times I \sqcup Y / \{x_0\} \times I, f(x) \sim (x, 1)$ is the reduced cone of f. Then we get a diagram commutative up to homotopy.

$$\begin{tikzcd} \Omega Y \arrow[r] \arrow[d, "\mathrm{id}"'] & F(f) \arrow[r] \arrow[d] & X \arrow[d] \\ \Omega Y \arrow[r] & \Omega C(f) \arrow[r] & \Omega\Sigma X \end{tikzcd}$$

2 Homotopy Groups

2.1 Definitions and Properties

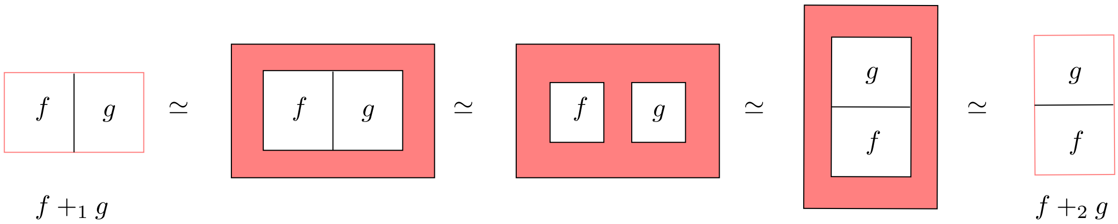
Given (X, x_0), define n-th homotopy group

$$\pi_n(X, x_0) \coloneqq [(I^n, \partial I^n), (X, x_0)],$$

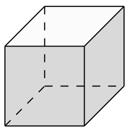
where the identity element is the constant map and $[f] + [g]$ can be represented by

$$f +_i g \colon (t_1, \cdots, t_n) \mapsto \begin{cases} f(t_1, \cdots, 2t_i, \cdots, t_n), & t_i \leq \frac{1}{2} \\ g(t_1, \cdots, 2t_i - 1, \cdots, t_n), & t_i \geq \frac{1}{2} \end{cases}$$

for any i. The following picture shows that $f +_i g$ and $f +_j g$ are homotopy equivalent for any $i \neq j$, where the red parts are mapped into the base point so the homotopies work. Sometimes, we write $\pi_n(X)$ for short.



Given a pair (X, A, x_0), $J^n = \partial I^n \times I \cup I^n \times \{0\} = I^n - I^n \times \{1\} \subset I^{n+1}$,



define the $n+1$-th relative homotopy group to be

$$\pi_{n+1}(X, A, x_0) \coloneqq \left[\left(I^{n+1}, \partial I^{n+1}, J^n\right), (X, A, x_0)\right].$$

Similarly, we sometimes use $\pi_{n+1}(X, A)$ for short.

Proposition 2.1. When $n \geq 2$, $\pi_n(X, x_0)$ and $\pi_{n+1}(X, A, x_0)$ are both abelian.

Proof. Exchanging f and g in the picture after the definition of $\pi_n(X, x_0)$, we can know that $\pi_n(X, x_0)$ is abelian for $n \geq 2$. For the relative case, we can not process homotopy in the top red region. But for $n \geq 3$, the squares of f and g should be cubes, then we can place the cubes in front and behind to get new homotopy. Therefore, $\pi_n(X, A, x_0)$ is abelian for $n \geq 3$. $\square$

Theorem 2.2 (Exact Homotopy Sequence)**.** Given a pair (X, A), we have a long exact sequence

$$\longrightarrow \pi_n(A, x_0) \xrightarrow{i_*} \pi_n(X, x_0) \xrightarrow{j_*} \pi_n(X, A, x_0) \xrightarrow{\partial} \pi_{n-1}(A, x_0) \longrightarrow \cdots \longrightarrow \pi_0(A, x_0) \xrightarrow{i_*} \pi_0(X, x_0),$$

where $j \colon (X, x_0, x_0) \to (X, A, x_0)$ is the inclusion and ∂ is induced from the restriction of I^n on $I^{n-1} \times \{1\}$.

Proof. Notice that each map $f \colon (I^n, \partial I^n) \to (X, x_0)$ induces a map

$$\begin{aligned} \overline{f_k} \colon I^{n-k} &\to \Omega^k(X, x_0) \\ (u_1, \cdots, u_{n-k}) &\mapsto [(t_1, \cdots, t_k) \mapsto f(t_1, \cdots, t_k, u_1, \cdots, u_{n-k})]. \end{aligned}$$

Then we get an isomorphism $\pi_n(X, x_0) \to \pi_{n-k}\left(\Omega^k X, c_{x_0}\right)$. This is because $\pi_n(X, x_0) = [S^n, X]^o$ and $\Sigma S^{n-1} = S^n$, then $[S^n, X]^o = \left[\Sigma S^{n-1}, X\right]^o \cong \left[S^{n-1}, \Omega X\right]^o \cong \left[S^{n-k}, \Omega^k X\right]^o$ by duality (Section 1.3.1).

Given a pair (X, A), the homotopy fibre of $\iota\colon A \hookrightarrow X$ is

$$F(\iota) = \left\{(a, w) \in A \times X^I : w(0) = x_0, w(1) = a\right\} = \left\{w \in X^I : w(0) = x_0, w(1) \in A\right\} \coloneqq F(X, A).$$

Each map $f\colon \left(I^{n+1}, \partial I^{n+1}, J^n\right) \to (X, A, x_0)$ induces a map

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{f}\colon I^n &\to F(X, A) \\ (t_1, \cdots, t_n) &\mapsto [t \mapsto f(t_1, \cdots, t_n, t)], \end{aligned}$$

induces an isomorphism $\pi_{n+1}(X, A, x_0) \to \pi_n(F(X, A), x_0)$.

The fibre sequence of $\iota\colon A \hookrightarrow X$ is

$$\Omega^n F(\iota) \longrightarrow \Omega^n A \longrightarrow \Omega^n X \longrightarrow \cdots \longrightarrow F(\iota) \longrightarrow A \xrightarrow{\iota} X .$$

Appling $\left[S^1, \cdot\right]^o$, we have

$$\left[S^1, \Omega^n F(\iota)\right]^o = \pi_1(\Omega^n F(\iota)) = \pi_{n+1}(F(\iota)) = \pi_{n+2}(X, A),$$

$$\left[S^1, \Omega^n A\right]^o = \pi_1(\Omega^n A) = \pi_{n+1}(A),$$

$$\left[S^1, \Omega^n X\right]^o = \pi_1(\Omega^n X) = \pi_{n+1}(X).$$

Then we get exact sequence

$$\pi_{n+2}(X, A) \longrightarrow \pi_{n+1}(A) \longrightarrow \pi_{n+1}(X) \longrightarrow \cdots \longrightarrow \pi_1(X) \longrightarrow \pi_1(X, A) \longrightarrow \pi_0(A) \longrightarrow \pi_0(X) ,$$

where the exactness of the last a few places is straightforward to verify. □

Part II
Generalized Homology

Part III
Characteristic Classes