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CHAPTER 1

The Fundamental Group

1. Homotopies

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Theorem 1.1. *There is a functor* $\mathsf{Top} \to \mathsf{Grpd}$.

Proof. The proof is divided into several steps. Let us denote $\Pi : \mathsf{Top} \to \mathsf{Grpd}$ for the claimed functor.

Step 1: Definition of Π *on objects.* Let X be a topological space. Set $\mathrm{ob}(\Pi(X)) := X$ and $\Pi(X)(p, q) := \{[u] : u \text{ is a path from } p \text{ to } q\}$. Moreover, define composition by

$\square$

CHAPTER 2

Singular Homology

Free Abelian Groups

Proposition 2.1. *The forgetful functor $U : \mathsf{Ab} \to \mathsf{Set}$ admits a left adjoint.*

Proof. We have to construct a functor $F : \mathsf{Set} \to \mathsf{Ab}$. Let S be a set. Define

$$F(S) := \left\{ f \in \mathbb{Z}^S : \operatorname{supp} f \text{ is finite} \right\}.$$

Equipped with pointwise addition, $F(S)$ is an abelian group. There is a natural inclusion $\iota : S \hookrightarrow U\left(F(S)\right)$ sending $x \in S$ to the function taking the value one at x and zero else. Hence we may regard elements of $F(S)$ as formal linear combinations $\sum_{x\in S} m_x x$, where $m_x \in \mathbb{Z}$ for all $x \in S$. Let $G \in \mathrm{ob}(\mathsf{Ab})$ be an abelian group and $\varphi \in \mathsf{Ab}\left(F(S), G\right)$ a morphism of groups. Define $\overline{\varphi} \in \mathsf{Set}\left(S, U(G)\right)$ by $\overline{\varphi} := U(\varphi)$. Conversly, if we have $f \in \mathsf{Set}\left(S, U(G)\right)$, define $\overline{f} \in \mathsf{Ab}\left(F(S), G\right)$ by $\overline{f}\left(\sum_{x\in S} m_x x\right) := \sum_{x\in S} m_x f(x)$. This is well defined since all but finitely many m_x are zero and G is abelian. It is easy to check that $\overline{f}$ is indeed a morphism of groups. Let $\varphi \in \mathsf{Ab}\left(F(S), G\right)$. Then

$$\begin{aligned}
\overline{\overline{\varphi}}\left(\sum_{x\in S} m_x x\right) &= \sum_{x\in S} m_x \overline{\varphi}(x) \\
&= \sum_{x\in S} m_x U(\varphi)(x) \\
&= \sum_{x\in S} m_x \varphi(x) \\
&= \varphi\left(\sum_{x\in S} m_x x\right).
\end{aligned}$$

And for $f \in \mathsf{Set}\left(S, U(G)\right)$ we have that

$$\overline{\overline{f}}(x) = U(\overline{f})(x) = \overline{f}(x) = f(x).$$

Hence $\overline{\overline{\varphi}} = \varphi$ and $\overline{\overline{f}} = f$ and so we have a bijection

$$\mathsf{Ab}\left(F(S), G\right) \cong \mathsf{Set}\left(S, U(G)\right).$$

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The mapping $f \mapsto \overline{f}$ will be referred to as ***extending by linearity***. To check naturality in S and G is left as an exercise. □

Exercise 0.1. Check the naturality of the bijection in proposition 2.1. Also check that $F : \mathsf{Set} \to \mathsf{Ab}$ is indeed a functor. F is called the ***free functor from* Set *to* Ab**.

Definition 2.1 (Free Abelian Group). *Let $F : \mathsf{Set} \to \mathsf{Ab}$ be the free functor. For any set S, we call $F(S)$ the **free group generated by S**.*

Chain Complexes

Definition 2.2 (Chain Complex). *A **chain complex** is a tuple $(C_\bullet, \partial_\bullet)$ consisting of a sequence $(C_n)_{n\in\mathbb{Z}}$ in $\mathrm{ob}(\mathsf{Ab})$ and a sequence $(\partial_n)_{n\in\mathbb{Z}}$ in $\mathrm{mor}(\mathsf{Ab})$, called **boundary operators**, such that we have $\partial_n \in \mathsf{Ab}(C_n, C_{n-1})$ and $\partial_n \circ \partial_{n+1} = 0$ for all $n \in \mathbb{Z}$.*

Definition 2.3 (Chain Maps). *Let $(C_\bullet, \partial_\bullet)$ and $(C'_\bullet, \partial'_\bullet)$ be two chain complexes. A **chain map $f_\bullet : C_\bullet \to C'_\bullet$** is a sequence $(f_n)_{n\in\mathbb{Z}}$ in $\mathrm{mor}(\mathsf{Ab})$ such that $f_n \in \mathsf{Ab}(C_n, C'_n)$ and the diagram*

$$\begin{tikzcd} C_n \arrow[r, "\partial_n"] \arrow[d, "f_n"'] & C_{n-1} \arrow[d, "f_{n-1}"] \\ C'_n \arrow[r, "\partial'_n"'] & C'_{n-1} \end{tikzcd}$$

commutes for all $n \in \mathbb{Z}$.

Proposition 2.2. *There is a category with objects chain complexes and morphisms chain maps.*

Proof. Let $f_\bullet : C_\bullet \to C'_\bullet$ and $g_\bullet : C'_\bullet \to C''_\bullet$ be chain maps. Define a map $g_\bullet \circ f_\bullet$ by $g_n \circ f_n$ for each $n \in \mathbb{Z}$. This defines a chain map. Moreover, for each chain complex $C_\bullet$ define $\mathrm{id}_{C_\bullet}$ by id_{C_n} for all $n \in \mathbb{Z}$. It is easy to check, that then $\circ$ is associative and the identity laws hold. □

Definition 2.4 (Comp). *The category in 2.2 is called the **category of chain complexes** and we refer to it as* Comp.

Theorem 2.1. *There is a functor* $\mathsf{Top} \to \mathsf{Comp}$.

Proof. The proof is divided into several steps. Let us denote $C_\bullet : \mathsf{Top} \to \mathsf{Comp}$ for the claimed functor.

Step 1: Construction of a sequence of abelian groups. Let $v_0, \ldots, v_k \in \mathbb{R}^n$ for some $n, k \in \mathbb{N}$. We say that $(v_0, \ldots, v_k)$ is ***affinely independent*** if $(v_1 - v_0, \ldots, v_k - v_0)$

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is linearly independent. We define the ***k*-simplex spanned by $(v_0, \dots, v_k)$**, written $[v_0, \dots, v_k]$, to be

$$[v_0, \dots, v_k] := \left\{\sum_{i=0}^k s_i v_i : s_i \geq 0 \text{ for all } i = 0, \dots, k \text{ and } \sum_{i=0}^k s_i = 1\right\}. \tag{1}$$

equipped with the subspace topology. Moreover, we define the ***standard n-simplex* Δ^n** to be the n-simplex spanned by $(e_0, \dots, e_n)$ where $(e_{i+1})_i$ is the standard basis of $\mathbb{R}^{n+1}$. Let $X \in \mathrm{ob}(\mathsf{Top})$. Define a ***singular n-simplex in X*** to be a map $\sigma \in \mathsf{Top}(\Delta^n, X)$. Let $n \in \mathbb{Z}$. Define

$$C_n(X) := \begin{cases} F\left(\mathsf{Top}(\Delta^n, X)\right) & n \geq 0, \\ 0 & n < 0. \end{cases} \tag{2}$$

We will call elements of $C_n(X)$ ***singular n-chains***.

Step 2: Construction of boundary operators. Let $X \in \mathrm{ob}(\mathsf{Top})$ and σ a singular n-simplex in X for $n \geq 1$. We define $\varphi_k^n : \Delta^{n-1} \to \Delta^n$, called the ***k-th face map***, by

$$\varphi_k^n(s_0, \dots, s_{n-1}) := \begin{cases} (0, s_0, \dots, s_{n-1}) & k = 0, \\ (s_0, \dots, s_{k-1}, 0, s_k, \dots, s_{n-1}) & 1 \leq k \leq n-1. \end{cases} \tag{3}$$

Define now

$$\partial\sigma := \sum_{k=0}^n (-1)^k \sigma \circ \varphi_k^n \in U\left(C_{n-1}(X)\right) \tag{4}$$

to be the ***boundary of σ***. Moreover, the ***singular boundary operator*** is defined to be $\overline{\partial_n}$ and $\partial_n := 0$ for $n \leq 0$.

Step 3: $\partial_n \circ \partial_{n+1} = 0$ for all $n \in \mathbb{Z}$. It is enough to consider $n \geq 1$, since $\partial_n \circ \partial_{n+1} = 0$ holds trivially in the other cases. Let $X \in \mathrm{ob}(\mathsf{Top})$ and $\sigma \in \mathsf{Top}(\Delta^{n+1}, X)$. Then we have

$$\begin{aligned}
(\partial_n \circ \partial_{n+1})(\sigma) &= \partial_n\left(\sum_{k=0}^{n+1}(-1)^k \sigma \circ \varphi_k^{n+1}\right) \\
&= \sum_{k=0}^{n+1}(-1)^k \partial_n\left(\sigma \circ \varphi_k^{n+1}\right) \\
&= \sum_{k=0}^{n+1}\sum_{j=0}^{n}(-1)^{k+j} \sigma \circ \varphi_k^{n+1} \circ \varphi_j^n \\
&= \sum_{0 \leq k \leq j \leq n} (-1)^{k+j} \sigma \circ \varphi_k^{n+1} \circ \varphi_j^n + \sum_{0 \leq j < k \leq n+1} (-1)^{k+j} \sigma \circ \varphi_k^{n+1} \circ \varphi_j^n \\
&= \sum_{0 \leq j \leq k \leq n} (-1)^{k+j} \sigma \circ \varphi_j^{n+1} \circ \varphi_k^n + \sum_{0 \leq j < k \leq n+1} (-1)^{k+j} \sigma \circ \varphi_k^{n+1} \circ \varphi_j^n
\end{aligned}$$

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$$= \sum_{0 \leq j < k \leq n+1} \left((-1)^{k+j-1} \sigma \circ \varphi_j^{n+1} \circ \varphi_{k-1}^n + (-1)^{k+j} \sigma \circ \varphi_k^{n+1} \circ \varphi_j^n \right)$$

Step 4: Construction of chain maps. Let $X, Y \in \mathrm{ob}(\mathsf{Top})$ and $f \in \mathsf{Top}(X, Y)$. For $n \geq 0$, define $f_n^\# : \mathsf{Top}(\Delta^n, X) \to U\left(C_n(Y)\right)$ by $f^\# := f \circ \sigma$. Extending this map by linearity yields a homomorphism $f_n^\# : C_n(X) \to C_n(Y)$. Moreover, set $f_n^\# = 0$ for $n < 0$. Let $n \geq 1$ and $\sigma \in \mathsf{Top}(\Delta^n, X)$. Then on one hand we have

$$(f_{n-1}^\# \circ \partial_n)(\sigma) = f_{n-1}^\# \left(\sum_{k=0}^n (-1)^k \sigma \circ \varphi_k^n \right) = \sum_{k=0}^n (-1)^k f \circ \sigma \circ \varphi_k^n$$

and on the other

$$(\partial_n \circ f_n^\#)(\sigma) = \partial_n(f \circ \sigma) = \sum_{k=0}^n (-1)^k f \circ \sigma \circ \varphi_k^n.$$

Step 5: Checking functorial properties. We are ready to define the functor $C_\bullet : \mathsf{Top} \to \mathsf{Comp}$. Let $C_\bullet(X)$ be the chain complex consisting of $\left(C_n(X)\right)_{n \in \mathbb{Z}}$ and $(\partial_n)_{n \in \mathbb{Z}}$.

$\square$

APPENDIX A

Set Theory

1. Basic Concepts

Problem 1.1. Let $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and $a_{kj} \in \mathbb{C}$ for $k = 0, \ldots, n+1$, $j = 0, \ldots, n$. Show that

$$\sum_{k=0}^{n+1} \sum_{j=0}^{n} a_{kj} = \sum_{0 \le k \le j \le n} a_{kj} + \sum_{0 \le j < k \le n+1} a_{kj}.$$