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CHAPTER 1

The Fundamental Group

1. The Fundamental Grupoid

Lemma 1.1 (Gluing Lemma). *Let $X, Y \in \text{ob}(\text{Top})$, $(X_\alpha)_{\alpha \in A}$ a finite closed cover of X and $(f_\alpha)_{\alpha \in A}$ a finite family of maps $f_\alpha \in \text{Top}(X_\alpha, Y)$ such that $f_\alpha|_{X_\alpha \cap X_\beta} = f_\beta|_{X_\alpha \cap X_\beta}$ for all $\alpha, \beta \in A$. Then there exists a unique $f \in \text{Top}(X, Y)$ such that $f|_{X_\alpha} = f_\alpha$ for all $\alpha \in A$.*

Proof. Let $x \in X$. Since $(X_\alpha)_{\alpha \in A}$ is a cover of X , we find $\alpha \in A$ such that $x \in X_\alpha$. Define $f(x) := f_\alpha(x)$. This is well defined, since if $x \in X_\alpha \cap X_\beta$ for some $\beta \in A$, we have that $f(x) = f_\beta(x) = f_\alpha(x)$. Clearly $f|_{X_\alpha} = f_\alpha$ for all $\alpha \in A$ and f is unique. Let us show continuity. To this end, let $K \subseteq Y$ be closed. Then

$$\begin{aligned} f^{-1}(K) &= X \cap f^{-1}(K) \\ &= \bigcup_{\alpha \in A} X_\alpha \cap f^{-1}(K) \\ &= \bigcup_{\alpha \in A} (X_\alpha \cap f^{-1}(K)) \\ &= \bigcup_{\alpha \in A} (X_\alpha \cap f_\alpha^{-1}(K)). \end{aligned}$$

Since each f_α is continuous, $f_\alpha^{-1}(K)$ is closed in X_α for each $\alpha \in A$ and thus since X_α is closed, $f^{-1}(K)$ is closed as a finite union of closed sets. \square

Theorem 1.1. *There is a functor $\text{Top} \rightarrow \text{Grpd}$.*

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

Step 1: Definition of Π on objects. Let $X, Y \in \text{ob}(\text{Top})$, $f, g \in \text{Top}(X, Y)$ and $A \subseteq X$. A map $F \in \text{Top}(X \times I, Y)$ is called a **homotopy from X to Y relative to A** , if

- $F(x, 0) = f(x)$, for all $x \in X$.
- $F(x, 1) = g(x)$, for all $x \in X$.
- $F(x, t) = f(x) = g(x)$, for all $x \in A$ and for all $t \in I$.

If there exists a homotopy between f and g relative to A we say that f and g are **homotopic relative to A** and write $f \simeq_A g$. If we want to emphasize the homotopy relative to A , we write $F : f \simeq_A g$.

Lemma 1.2. *Let $X, Y \in \text{ob}(\text{Top})$ and $A \subseteq X$. Then being homotopic relative to A is an equivalence relation on $\text{Top}(X, Y)$.*

Proof. Define a binary relation $R_A \subseteq \text{Top}(X, Y) \times \text{Top}(X, Y)$ by

$$f R_A g \quad :\Leftrightarrow \quad f \simeq_A g.$$

Let $f \in \text{Top}(X, Y)$. Define $F \in \text{Top}(X \times I, Y)$ by

$$F(x, t) := f(x).$$

Then clearly $F : f \simeq_A f$. Hence R_A is reflexive.

Let $g \in \text{Top}(X, Y)$ and assume that $f R_A g$. Thus $G : f \simeq_A g$. Define $F \in \text{Top}(X \times I, Y)$ by

$$F(x, t) := G(x, 1 - t).$$

Then it is easy to check that $F : g \simeq_A f$ and so R_A is symmetric.

Finally, let $h \in \text{Top}(X, Y)$ and suppose that $f R_A g$ and $g R_A h$. Hence $F_1 : f \simeq_A g$ and $F_2 : g \simeq_A h$. Define $F \in \text{Top}(X \times I, Y)$ by

$$F(x, t) := \begin{cases} F_1(x, 2t) & 0 \leq t \leq \frac{1}{2}, \\ F_2(x, 2t - 1) & \frac{1}{2} \leq t \leq 1. \end{cases}$$

Continuity of F follows by an application of the gluing lemma 1.1. Then it is easy to check that $F : f \simeq_A h$ and hence R_A is transitive. \square

Let $X \in \text{ob}(\text{Top})$ and u a path in X from p to q . Define the **path class $[u]$ of u** by $[u] := [u]_{R_{\partial I}}$. Define now

- $\text{ob}(\Pi(X)) := X$.
- $\Pi(X)(p, q) := \{[u] : u \text{ is a path from } p \text{ to } q\}$ for all $p, q \in X$.
- And $\Pi(X)(q, r) \times \Pi(X)(p, q) \rightarrow \Pi(X)(p, r)$ by

$$([v], [u]) \mapsto [u * v]$$

Where $u * v \in \text{Top}(p, r)$ is the **concatenated path of u and v** , defined by

$$(u * v)(s) := \begin{cases} u(2s) & 0 \leq s \leq \frac{1}{2}, \\ v(2s - 1) & \frac{1}{2} \leq s \leq 1. \end{cases}$$

Continuity follows again from the gluing lemma 1.1. \square

CHAPTER 2

Singular Homology

Free Abelian Groups

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

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

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

Equipped with pointwise addition, $F(S)$ is an abelian group. There is a natural inclusion $\iota : S \hookrightarrow U(F(S))$ 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 $G \in \mathbf{ob}(\mathbf{Ab})$ be an abelian group and $\varphi \in \mathbf{Ab}(F(S), G)$ a morphism of groups. Define $\bar{\varphi} \in \mathbf{Set}(S, U(G))$ by $\bar{\varphi} := U(\varphi)$. Conversely, if we have $f \in \mathbf{Set}(S, U(G))$, define $\bar{f} \in \mathbf{Ab}(F(S), G)$ by $\bar{f}(\sum_{x \in S} m_x x) := \sum_{x \in S} m_x f(x)$. This is well defined since all but finitely many m_x are zero and G is abelian. It is easy to check that \bar{f} is indeed a morphism of groups. Let $\varphi \in \mathbf{Ab}(F(S), G)$. Then

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

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

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

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

$$\mathbf{Ab}(F(S), G) \cong \mathbf{Set}(S, U(G)).$$

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

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

Definition 2.1 (Free Abelian Group). Let $F : \text{Set} \rightarrow \text{Ab}$ 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 $\text{ob}(\text{Ab})$ and a sequence $(\partial_n)_{n \in \mathbb{Z}}$ in $\text{mor}(\text{Ab})$, called **boundary operators**, such that we have $\partial_n \in \text{Ab}(C_n, C_{n-1})$ 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** $f_\bullet : C_\bullet \rightarrow C'_\bullet$ is a sequence $(f_n)_{n \in \mathbb{Z}}$ in $\text{mor}(\text{Ab})$ such that $f_n \in \text{Ab}(C_n, C'_n)$ and the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} C_n & \xrightarrow{\partial_n} & C_{n-1} \\ f_n \downarrow & & \downarrow f_{n-1} \\ C'_n & \xrightarrow{\partial'_n} & C'_{n-1} \end{array}$$

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

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

Proof. Let $f_\bullet : C_\bullet \rightarrow C'_\bullet$ and $g_\bullet : C'_\bullet \rightarrow C''_\bullet$ 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 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. \square

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 $\text{Top} \rightarrow \text{Comp}$.

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

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

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

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

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 $X \in \text{ob}(\text{Top})$. Define a ***singular n -simplex in X*** to be a map $\sigma \in \text{Top}(\Delta^n, X)$. Let $n \in \mathbb{Z}$. Define

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

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

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

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

Define now

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

to be the ***boundary of σ*** . Moreover, the ***singular boundary operator*** is defined to be $\bar{\partial}_n$ and $\bar{\partial}_n := 0$ 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 $X \in \text{ob}(\text{Top})$ and $\sigma \in \text{Top}(\Delta^{n+1}, X)$. Then we have

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

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

Step 4: Construction of chain maps. Let $X, Y \in \text{ob}(\text{Top})$ and $f \in \text{Top}(X, Y)$. For $n \geq 0$, define $f_n^\# : \text{Top}(\Delta^n, X) \rightarrow U(C_n(Y))$ by $f_n^\# := f \circ \sigma$. Extending this map by linearity yields a homomorphism $f_n^\# : C_n(X) \rightarrow C_n(Y)$. Moreover, set $f_n^\# = 0$ for $n < 0$. Let $n \geq 1$ and $\sigma \in \text{Top}(\Delta^n, X)$. 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 $C_\bullet : \text{Top} \rightarrow \text{Comp}$. Let $C_\bullet(X)$ be the chain complex consisting of $(C_n(X))_{n \in \mathbb{Z}}$ and $(\partial_n)_{n \in \mathbb{Z}}$. □

APPENDIX A

Set Theory

1. Basic Concepts

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

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