MA571 Homework 13

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Problem 13.1 (Munkres §68, Ex. 1)

Check the details of Example 1.

Proof. The following is the statement of Example 1 as found in the book:

Examples 1. Consider the group P of bijections of the set $\{0, 1, 2\}$ with itself. For i = 1, 2, define an element π_1 of P by setting $\pi_i(i) = i - 1$ and $\pi_i(i - 1) = i$ and $\pi_i(j) = j$ otherwise. Then π_i generates a subgroup G_i of P of order 2. The group G_1 and G_2 generate P, as you can check. But P is not their free product. The reduced words (π_1, π_2, π_1) and (π_2, π_1, π_2) , for instance, represent the same element of P.

We need to check two claims (i) that G_1 and G_2 , as defined above, generate P and (ii) that $P \neq G_1 * G_2$, i.e., show that $(\pi_1, \pi_2, \pi_1) = (\pi_2, \pi_1, \pi_2)$. Let us deal with (i) first. We show that $\langle G_1, G_2 \rangle = P$. Our strategy is the following, by the pigeon-hole principle, it suffices to show that $\langle G_1, G_2 \rangle \subset P$ and that $|\langle G_1, G_2 \rangle| = |P|$. Since $G_1, G_2 < P$, i.e., G_1 and G_2 are subgroups of P, the group generated by G_1 and G_2 will be a subgroup of P hence, $\langle G_1, G_2 \rangle \subset P$. The group P is a well-known group, namely (up to group isomorphism) S_3 , and we shall not waste time any time showing that $|P| = |\{0,1,2\}| = 3! = 6$, but instead we proceed to showing that $|\langle G_1, G_2 \rangle| = 6$. From the definitions of G_1 and G_2 , we have at least 3 in $\langle G_1, G_2 \rangle$, these are the elements 1, π_1 and π_2 (the latter two have order 2, e.g.,

$$\pi_i^2(j) = \pi_i \begin{pmatrix} i - 1 & \text{if } j = i \\ i & \text{if } j = i - 1 \\ j & \text{otherwise} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{cases} i & \text{if } j = i \\ i - 1 & \text{if } j = i - 1 \\ j & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

which is the identity on $\{0,1,2\}$.) So the elements $1, \pi_1, \pi_2, \pi_1\pi_2, \pi_2\pi_1, \pi_1\pi_2\pi_1 \in \langle G_1, G_2 \rangle$ and all finite strings $\pi_1\pi_2\cdots\pi_i$, $\pi_2\pi_1\cdots\pi_i$ for that matter. But as a consequence of Lagrange's theorem, the size of $\langle G_1, G_2 \rangle$ must not exceed the size of P so that we are done when we show that the elements $\pi_1\pi_2, \pi_2\pi_1$ and $\pi_1\pi_2\pi_1$ are distinct elements. First, observe that

$$\pi_{2}\pi_{1}(j) = \pi_{2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \text{if } j = 0 \\ 0 & \text{if } j = 1 \\ 2 & \text{if } j = 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\pi_{1}\pi_{2}(j) = \pi_{1} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \text{if } j = 0 \\ 2 & \text{if } j = 1 \\ 1 & \text{if } j = 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{cases} 2 & \text{if } j = 0 \\ 0 & \text{if } j = 1 \\ 1 & \text{if } j = 2 \end{cases}$$

$$= \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } j = 0 \\ 2 & \text{if } j = 1 \\ 0 & \text{if } j = 2 \end{cases}$$

and, using the computations above,

$$\pi_1 \pi_2 \pi_1(j) = \pi_1 \begin{pmatrix} 2 & \text{if } j = 0 \\ 0 & \text{if } j = 1 \\ 1 & \text{if } j = 2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{cases} 2 & \text{if } j = 0 \\ 1 & \text{if } j = 1 \\ 0 & \text{if } j = 2 \end{cases}$$

Note that none of these elements are equivalent to any of 1, π_1 or π_2 and are certainly not equal to each other. Moreover, there are six of these elements and there are no more elements in P since |P| = 6. Thus, $\langle G_1, G_2 \rangle = P$.

Lastly, we show that $P \neq G_1 * G_2$ since

$$(\pi_1, \pi_2, \pi_1) = \pi_1 \pi_2 \pi_1(j) = \begin{cases} 2 & \text{if } j = 0\\ 1 & \text{if } j = 1\\ 0 & \text{if } j = 2 \end{cases}$$

and

$$(\pi_2, \pi_1, \pi_2) = \pi_2 \pi_1 \pi_2(j) = \pi_1 \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \text{if } j = 0 \\ 2 & \text{if } j = 1 \\ 0 & \text{if } j = 2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{cases} 2 & \text{if } j = 0 \\ 1 & \text{if } j = 1 \\ 0 & \text{if } j = 2 \end{cases}$$

would imply that $(\pi_1, \pi_2, \pi_1) = (\pi_2, \pi_1, \pi_2)$ in the free product $G_1 * G_2$, but $\pi_1 \neq \pi_2$.

PROBLEM 13.2 (MUNKRES §68, Ex. 2(A,B,C))

Let $G = G_1 * G_2$, where G_1 and G_2 are nontrivial groups.

- (a) Show G is not Abelian.
- (b) If $x \in G$, define the length of x to be the length of the unique reduced word in the elements of G_1 and G_2 that represents x. Show that if x has even length (at least 2), then x does not have finite order. Show that if x has odd length (at least 3), then x is conjugate to an element of shorter length.
- (c) Show that the only elements of G that have finite order are the elements of G_1 and G_2 that have finite order, and their conjugates.
- *Proof.* (i) Suppose G is Abelian. Take an element $x \in G_1$ and $y \in G_2$. Then (x, y) = (y, x). By the definition of a free product (Munkres §68, pp. 413-414) this implies that the word $(x^{-1}, y^{-1}, x, y) = 1$ which implies that $y^{-1}x = 1$, but $y^{-1} \notin G_1$.
- (ii) Let $x \in G$ be a word of even length. Then $x = (y_1, y_2, ..., y_{2k})$ for $k \in \mathbb{N}$ where the right hand-side is irreducible, i.e., either $y_i \in G_1$ if $2 \mid i$ and $y_j \in G_2$ if $2 \nmid j$ or vice-versa since two consecutive "letters" in a word must be from distinct groups or else we can reduce the word further. Then $x^2 = (y_1, y_2, ..., y_{2k}, y_1, y_2, ..., y_{2k})$ is again irreducible since $y_{2k} \in G_1$ and $y_1 \in G_2$ or vice-versa. It follows by induction that $x^n \neq 1$ for any finite positive integer n.

Now, suppose that $x \in G$ has odd length. Then $x = (y_1, y_2, ..., y_{2k+1})$ for $k \in \mathbb{N}$ where the right hand-side is irreducible. Without loss of generality, we may assume that $y_1, y_{2k+1} \in G_1$. Then, setting $y'_{2k+1} := y_{2k+1}y_1$, we have

$$y_1^{-1}xy_1 = y_1^{-1}(y_1, y_2, ..., y_{2k+1})y_1 = (y_2, y_3, ..., y_{2k+1}y_1) = (y_2, y_3, ..., y'_{2k+1})$$

which has length 2k. Thus, x is conjugate to a word of shorter length.

(iii) Suppose that $x \in G$ has finite order. By part (i) the length of x cannot be even. Moreover, if x is of finite order, i.e., if $x^n = 1$ for some positive integer n, and y is conjugate to x, i.e., there exist $g \in G$ such that $y = g^{-1}xg$, then

$$y^n = (g^{-1}xg)^n = (g^{-1}xg)(g^{-1}xg)\cdots(g^{-1}xg) = g^{-1}x^ng = 1$$

so y is of finite order. It remains to show that if x has finite order then x is a conjugate of an element y of G_i , where i = 1, 2. Let 2k + 1 be the length of x. By part (ii), x is conjugate to an element y' of shorter length. Since x has finite order y has finite order so by part (i) y' must be of odd length. If y' is of length 1 we are done. If not, then y' is conjugate to a word y'' of shorter length with finite order. Since the length of x is finite, this process must terminate at a word y of length 1 with finite order.

PROBLEM 13.3 (MUNKRES §68, Ex. 3)

Let $G = G_1 * G_2$. Given $c \in G$, let cG_1c^{-1} denote the set of all elements of the form cxc^{-1} , for $x \in G_1$. It is a subgroup of G; show that the intersection with G_2 is the identity alone.

Proof. Suppose $y \in cG_1c^{-1} \cap G_2$. Then $y = cxc^{-1}$ for some $x \in G_1$ and we have, $c = ycx^{-1}$. Let us deal with the trivial case first. If c = 1 then, since G is the free group of G_1 and G_2 , we have $1 \cdot G_1 \cdot 1^{-1} = G_1$ so $(1 \cdot G_1 \cdot 1^{-1}) \cap G_2 = G_1 \cap G_2 = 1$ by definition of the free product. Now, suppose $c \neq 1$, say that c is represented by the unique reduced word $(y_1, ..., y_k)$, $k \in \mathbb{N}$. We show that for the following cases (i) $y_1, y_k \in G_i$, (ii) $y_1 \in G_1$ and $y_k \in G_2$, or $y_1 \in G_2$ and $y_k \in G_1$, y = 1, i.e., the intersection $cG_1c^{-1} \cap G_2 = 1$.

The above three cases can trivially be adapted to just the case where $y_1, y_k \in G_1$ or $y_1, y_k \in G_2$, so we shall prove the aforementioned. Assuming $y_1, y_k \in G_1$, c is represented by $(y_1, ..., y_k)$ and $(y, y_1, ..., y_k, x^{-1})$ where the latter reduces to the word $(y, y_1, ..., y_k x^{-1})$. Now, by the uniqueness of representation by reduced word, $(y_1, ..., y_k) = (y, y_1, ..., y_k x^{-1})$, but the right-hand side has length k+1 and cannot be reduced further unless $y_k x^{-1} = 1$. Suppose that $y_k x^{-1}$ then we have, $y_1 = y, y_2 = y_1, ..., y_k = y_{k-1}$ which can only happen if y = 1 and $y_i = 1$ for all i. But this contradicts the assumption that $c \neq 1$. Thus, y = 1 to begin with.

Now, suppose $y_1, y_k \in G_2$, then c is represented by $(y_1, ..., y_k)$ and $(y, y_1, ..., y_k, x^{-1})$ where the latter reduces to the word $(yy_1, ..., y_k, x^{-1})$. Now, by the uniqueness of representation by reduced word, $(y_1, ..., y_k) = (yy_1, ..., y_k, x^{-1})$, but the right-hand side has length k+1 and cannot be reduced further unless the product $yy_1 = 1$. Suppose that $yy_1 = 1$. Then we have, $y_2 = y_1, ..., y_{k-1} = y_k, y_k = x$. This implies that, since $y_i \notin G_{\alpha_{i+1}}$, x = 1 and $y_i = 1$ for all i. But this contradicts the assumption that $c \neq 1$. Thus, y must have been 1 to begin with.

PROBLEM 13.4 (A)

- (i) Do the case of p. 367 # 9(e) where h and k take b_0 to b_0 . (The proof is similar to the proof of Lemma 55.3, (3) \implies (1), that I gave in class).
- (ii) Let G be a path-connected topological group and let $a \in G$. Prove that the map $\varphi \colon G \to G$ defined by $\varphi(g) \coloneqq ag$ is homotopic to the identity map.
- (iii) Use part (ii) to complete the proof of p. 367 # 9(e).

Proof. (i) Set $d := \deg h$. Suppose that $h(b_0) = k(b_0) = b_0$ and that $\deg h = \deg k$. Consider the path $f(s) := (\cos(2\pi s), \sin(2\pi s))$ from the handout on "The fundamental group of S^1 ." This path is a loop at b_0 $(f(0) = (\cos(2\pi \cdot 0), \sin(2\pi \cdot 0)) = (1, 0) = (\cos(2\pi), \sin(2\pi))f(1))$ of index 1 (i.e., the winding number of f is 1), hence is a generator for $\pi_1(S^1, b_0)$. Thus, we have

$$h_*([f]) = d \cdot [f] = k_*([f])$$

so $h \circ f \simeq_p k \circ f$. Let $H: I \times I \to S^1$ denote the homotopy from $h \circ f$ to $k \circ f$, i.e., the continuous map such that $H(s,0) = h \circ f(s)$ and $H(s,1) = k \circ f(s)$. Next, by the Problem 9.2 (Munkres §46, Ex. 9), we see that the map $(f, \mathrm{id}_I): I \times I \to S^1 \times I$ is a quotient map so that the following diagram commutes

$$I \times I \xrightarrow{H} S^1$$

$$(f, \operatorname{id}_I) \downarrow \qquad \overline{H}$$

$$S^1 \times I.$$

By Theorem Q.2, the map \overline{H} is continuous and H factors through \overline{H} , i.e., $H(s,0) = h \circ f(s) = \overline{H}(f(s),0)$ and $H(s,1) = k \circ f(s) = \overline{H}(f(s),1)$. But since f is onto S^1 , setting $x \coloneqq f(s)$ for $s \in I$, we have $\overline{H}(x,0) = h(x)$ and $\overline{H}(x,1) = k(x)$. Thus, \overline{H} is a homotopy from h to k so $h \simeq_p k$.

- (ii) Let 1 denote the identity element of G. Since G is path-connected there exists a path $\alpha\colon I\to G$ from a to 1, i.e., $\alpha(0)=a$ and $\alpha(1)=1$. Define the map $H\colon G\times I\to G$ by $H(g,t)\coloneqq \alpha(t)g$. Then H is a homotopy from φ to the identity map $\mathrm{id}_G\ (H(g,0)=\alpha(0)g=ag=\varphi(g)$ and $H(g,1)=\alpha(1)g=1\cdot g=\mathrm{id}_G(g)$; moreover, H is continuous since α is continuous and multiplication in G is continuous). Thus, $\varphi\simeq\mathrm{id}_G$.
- (iii) Suppose that $h, k \colon S^1 \to S^1$ have the same degree d. By part (a) of Ex. 9, we know that the degree of a map between circles is independent of the basepoint so we may as well let b_0 be the basepoint for the fundamental group of S^1 . Now, the induced maps $h_* \colon \pi_1(S^1, b_0) \to \pi_1(S^1, h(b_0))$ and $k_* \colon \pi_1(S^1, b_0) \to \pi_1(S^1, k(b_0))$ send the generator of $\pi_1(S^1, b_0)$, say γ , to

$$h_*(\gamma) = d \cdot \gamma(h(x_0))$$
 and $k_*(\gamma) = d \cdot \gamma(k(x_0)).$

But since S^1 is a path-connected topological group (viewing S^1 as a subset of \mathbb{C} , multiplication is the standard multiplication on the complex numbers, where if $z_1, z_2 \in S^1$ then $z_1 z_2 \in S^1$ since

 $||z_1z_2||=1$) we can define maps $\varphi_h, \varphi_k \colon S^1 \to S^1$ such that $\varphi_h(h(b_0))=b_0$ and $\varphi_k(k(b_0))=b_0$ (these are rotation maps/matrices and they can be easily constructed from the argument of $h(b_0)$, $k(b_0)$ etc.) so that the induced maps by the composition $(\varphi_h \circ h)_*, (\varphi_k \circ k)_* \colon \pi_1(S_1, b_0) \to \pi_1(S^1, b_0)$ have the same degree. By part (i), $\varphi_h \circ h \simeq \varphi_k \circ k$ so by part (ii), $h \simeq k$.

PROBLEM 13.5 (B)

Let $q: S^2 \to P^2$ be the quotient map, where P^2 is the projective plane. Let $x_0 = q(1,0,0)$ and let

$$f(s) = q(\cos(\pi s), \sin(\pi s), 0)$$

for $0 \le s \le 1$. Then $f: I \to P^2$ is a loop at x_0 . Prove that $[f] * [f] = [e_{x_0}]$.

Proof. Recall that the projective plane is constructed from the sphere by identifying antipodal points, i.e., $P^2 \approx S^2/\sim$ where $x \sim y$ if and only if y = x or y = -x. We will show that $f * f \simeq_p e_{x_0}$ by constructing a homotopy between f * f and e_{x_0} . Define $\tilde{f} \colon S^2 \to I$ by $\tilde{f}(s) \coloneqq (\cos(\pi s), \sin(\pi s), 0)$. Note that $q(\tilde{f}) = f$ and that, by the equivalence relation on S^2 , $q(\tilde{f}) = q(-\tilde{f})$. Now, we want to show that $f * f \simeq_p e_{x_0}$ so we shall construct a homotopy $\tilde{f} * \tilde{f} \simeq_p e_{(1,0,0)}$

PROBLEM 13.6 (C)

Let Y be the following subset of \mathbf{R}^2 : $Y = \{(s,t) \in I \times I \mid s \in \{0,1\} \text{ or } t \in \{0,1\}\}$ (that is, Y is the boundary of the square $I \times I$). Give Y the equivalence relation \sim that identifies the top and the bottom edges and the left and the right edges: specifically, \sim is the equivalence relation associated to the partition of Y into the following sets:

- for each $s \notin \{0, 1\}$, the set $\{(s, 0), (s, 1)\}$,
- for each $t \notin \{0,1\}$, the set $\{(t,0),(t,1)\}$,
- the set $\{0,1\} \times \{0,1\}$.

Prove that Y/\sim is a wedge of two circles.

Proof. Let $q\colon Y\to Y/\sim$ denote the quotient map. Recall from the definition at the top of Munkres §71, p. 434, that the wedge of two circles $S^1\vee S^1$ is the union of two subspaces, say S_1 and S_2A , which are homeomorphic to S^1 such that $S_1\cap S_2=\{p\}$. Since translation in \mathbf{R}^2 is an isometry, in particular, a homeomorphism, we may as well assume that p=(0,0) and that $S_1=S^1-(1,0)$ and $S_2=S^1+(1,0)$. The plan of attack is as follows, we define a continuous map $f\colon Y\to S^1\vee S^1$ and show that the induced map on the quotient, $\bar f\colon Y/\sim \to S^1\vee S^1$ is a homeomorphism. Define

$$f(s,t) := \begin{cases} (\cos(2\pi s), \sin(2\pi s)) - (1,0) & \text{if } t = 0\\ (\cos(2\pi t + \pi), \sin(2\pi t + \pi)) + (1,0) & \text{if } s = 1\\ (\cos(2\pi s), \sin(2\pi s)) - (1,0) & \text{if } t = 1\\ (\cos(2\pi t + \pi), \sin(2\pi t + \pi)) + (1,0) & \text{if } s = 0. \end{cases}$$

Note that these maps are continuous on their respective intervals since their projections are trigonometric functions plus constants, and addition is continuous in **R** by Theorem 25.1, hence the pieces are continuous by Theorem 18.4. Moreover, note that on the intersection, that is, on the points x = (0,0), (1,0), (1,1) and (0,1) we have f(x) = (0,0). Therefore, by the pasting lemma, f is continuous.¹ Now, observe that for each $(s,t) \sim (s',t')$ as in the bullet we have f(s,t) = f(s',t') (we have already checked the case where (s,t) is a point in one of the four vertices of Y so we check only the first two bullets above): either $s \neq 0, 1$ so $(s,0) \sim (s,1)$ and we have

$$f(s,0) = (\cos(2\pi s), \sin(2\pi s)) - (1,0) = f(s,1)$$

or $t \neq 0, 1$ so $(0, t) \sim (1, t)$ and we have

$$f(0,t) = (\cos(2\pi t + \pi), \sin(2\pi t + \pi)) + (1,0) = f(1,t).$$

Therefore, the induced map on the quotient space $\bar{f}: Y/\sim \to S^1 \vee S^1$ is continuous, by Theorem Q.3. It is clear that this map f is surjective since for any (x,y) in S_1 , setting $s = \arctan(y/(x-1))/2\pi$,

¹What we ought to do is to first define a continuous map counterclockwise from the origin going around the bottom interval $\{(s,0)\}_{s\in I} \cup \{(1,t)\}_{t\in I}$ using the pasting lemma and do the same for $\{(s,1)\}_{s\in I} \cup \{(0,t)\}_{t\in I}$ then use the pasting lemma again to define a continuous map on Y. But we trust the grader will sympathize with the writer in that such a display is unnecessary and only adds bulk, but content, to the proof.

we have

$$f(s,0) = (\cos(\arctan(y/(x-1))), \sin(\arctan(y/(x-1)))) + (1,0)$$

$$= \left(\frac{x-1}{\sqrt{(x-1)^2 + y^2}}, \frac{y}{\sqrt{(x-1)^2 + y^2}}\right) + (1,0)$$

but the expression $\sqrt{(x-1)^2+y^2}=1$ since the circle S_1 is centered at (1,0)

$$= (x - 1, y) + (1, 0)$$

= (x, y) .

One can similarly show that f is onto S_2 . Thus, the map \bar{f} is onto. To see that this map is one-to-one let $(x,y),(x',y')\in Y$ and suppose that f(x,y)=f(x',y'). Then f(x,y) can be one of three points: (i) f(x,y)=(0,0), (ii) $f(x,y)\in S_1$ or (iii) $f(x,y)\in S_2$. If f(x,y)=(0,0) then we know that each of the components of f(s) is zero at (0,0), (1,0), (1,1) and (0,1) so $\bar{f}^{-1}((0,0))=[0,0]$ so that indeed, we must hav $(x,y)\sim (x',y')$. Otherwise, $f(x,y)\in S_1$ (or S_2 and the demonstration is similar) so $f^{-1}(x,y)=\{(s,0),(s,1)\}$ that in the quotient [x,y]=[s,0]=[x',y']. Thus, \bar{f} is injective. By Theorem 26.6, since Y/\sim is compact because it is the quotient of a compact space and $S^1\vee S^1$ is Hausdorff by the commentary on §71, p. 434, $\bar{f}:Y/\sim\to S^1\vee S^1$ is a homeomorphism.