

# 16 | Cellular Approximation Theorem

**16.1 Definition.** Let  $X, Y$  be CW complexes. A map  $f: X \rightarrow Y$  is *cellular* if  $f(X^{(n)}) \subseteq Y^{(n)}$  for all  $n \geq 0$ .

**16.2 Cellular Approximation Theorem.** *Let  $X, Y$  be CW complexes. For any map  $f: X \rightarrow Y$  there exists a cellular map  $g: X \rightarrow Y$  such that  $f \simeq g$ . Moreover, if  $A \subseteq X$  is a subcomplex and  $f|_A: A \rightarrow Y$  is a cellular map then  $g$  can be selected so that  $f|_A = g|_A$  and  $f \simeq g$  (rel  $A$ ).*

**16.3 Theorem.** *Let  $X$  be a CW complex and let  $x_0 \in X^{(2)}$ . The inclusion map  $i: X^{(2)} \rightarrow X$  induces an isomorphism  $i_*: \pi_1(X^{(2)}, x_0) \rightarrow \pi_1(X, x_0)$ .*