

Hand in Friday, April 19.

Definition. Let $f : S \rightarrow C$ be a continuous map from a circle in the plane to a circle in the plane. Define the **degree** of f to be the winding number of this map around the point \vec{c} at the center of C . If you prefer to think of winding numbers in terms of continuous maps from intervals, give the name θ to a variable running through the interval $[0, 2\pi]$, let $\gamma : [0, 2\pi] \rightarrow S$ parametrize S by $\gamma(\theta) = (x_0 + r \cos \theta, y_0 + r \sin \theta)$ for appropriate x_0, y_0 , and r , and define the degree of f to be the winding number of $f \circ \gamma$ around \vec{c} . [from the textbook by Fulton]

1. Show that, for an f as in the above definition, if f is not surjective, then the degree of f equals zero.

Proof. Using the parametrization $\gamma : [0, 2\pi] \rightarrow S$ by $\gamma(\theta) = (x_0 + r \cos \theta, y_0 + r \sin \theta)$ where (x_0, y_0) is the center of S and r is the radius of S . Then we have that f is a closed curve as

$$f \circ \gamma(0) = f(x_0 + r \cos 0, y_0 + r \sin 0) = f(x_0 + r \cos 2\pi, y_0 + r \sin 2\pi) = f \circ \gamma(2\pi)$$

Now let $\vec{p}_1 \in C$ be a point that is not in the image of f . Then we have a point $\vec{p}_2 \in C$ that is colinear with the line intersecting (x_0, y_0) and \vec{p}_1 .

We have the constant curve $g : S \rightarrow C$ given by the equation $g(\vec{x}) = \vec{p}_2$ for all $\vec{x} \in S$.

Then we create the homotopy $H : [0, 2\pi] \times [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2 \setminus \{(x_0, y_0)\}$ given by

$$H(\theta, s) = f(\gamma(\theta))(1 - s) + s \cdot \vec{p}_2$$

for all $\theta \in [0, 2\pi]$ and $s \in [0, 1]$.

We have $H(\theta, 0) = f(\gamma(\theta)) + 0 \cdot \vec{p}_2 = f(\gamma(\theta))$, and $H(\theta, 1) = f(\gamma(\theta)) \cdot 0 + 1 \cdot \vec{p}_2 = g(\gamma(\theta))$.

We have that H is continuous as it is the sum of two weighted continuous functions.

Additionally we have that the image of H is contained in $\mathbb{R}^2 \setminus \{(x_0, y_0)\}$ as for any $\theta \in [0, 2\pi]$ we have for all $s \in [0, 1]$ that $H(\theta, s) \neq (x_0, y_0)$ as the only point colinear with (x_0, y_0) and \vec{p}_2 is \vec{p}_1 and by our assumption that \vec{p}_1 is not in the image of f . Then we have that H is a homotopy between f and g .

Then we have that f and g are homotopic and thus have the same winding number. We have that the winding number of g is zero as it is a constant curve. Then we have that the winding number of f is zero. \square

2. Calculate the degree of each of the following maps from the unit circle centered at the origin to the unit circle centered at the origin.

a. $f(x, y) = (x, y)$

Using the parametrization $\gamma(\theta) = (\cos \theta, \sin \theta)$, for $\theta \in [0, 2\pi]$. With the four sectors

$$U_1 = \{(x, y) : x, y \in \mathbb{R} \text{ with } x > 0\}$$

$$U_2 = \{(x, y) : x, y \in \mathbb{R} \text{ with } y > 0\}$$

$$U_3 = \{(x, y) : x, y \in \mathbb{R} \text{ with } x < 0\}$$

$$U_4 = \{(x, y) : x, y \in \mathbb{R} \text{ with } y < 0\}$$

Then we have the the six subdivisions $t_0 = 0, t_1 = \pi/4, t_2 = 3\pi/4, t_3 = 5\pi/4, t_4 = 7\pi/4, t_5 = 2\pi$. With the angle function just being the angle of the point in polar coordinates.

b. $g(x, y) = (-x, -y)$

c. $h(x, y) = (x, -y)$

d. $k(\cos(\theta), \sin(\theta)) = (\cos(n\theta), \sin(n\theta))$, where n is an arbitrary integer

Definition. If Y is a topological subspace of a topological space X , a **retraction** from X to Y is a continuous map $r : X \rightarrow Y$ that satisfies, for all $y \in Y$, $r(y) = y$. When such a retraction exists, we call Y a **retract** of X . [from the textbook by Fulton]

3. Show that, if Y is a retract of X and if every continuous map from X to X has a fixed point, then every continuous map from Y to Y has a fixed point. **Hint.** Start with an arbitrary continuous map $f : Y \rightarrow Y$. How can you make a continuous map $g : X \rightarrow X$ whose behavior has the needed implications for f 's behavior?

4. Let B be the open unit disk in \mathbb{R}^2 and let D be the closed unit disk in \mathbb{R}^2 . Show that, for any $\vec{p} \in B$, the unit circle C in \mathbb{R}^2 is a retract of $D \setminus \{\vec{p}\}$. **Hint.** When \vec{p} is the origin, the map $\vec{x} \mapsto \frac{\vec{x}}{|\vec{x}|}$ is the retraction. When \vec{p} is more general, consider solving $|\vec{p} + t(\vec{x} - \vec{p})| = 1$ for t .

5. Let S and C be circles in the plane, and let $f : S \rightarrow C$ be a continuous map. Show that, for every \vec{p} in the open disk bounded by C , the winding number of f around \vec{p} equals the degree of f . (In particular the winding number is the same, regardless of which \vec{p} in the open disk is used.)