

Introduction to Topology

Group Theory, Lecture 11

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17 September 2019

THIS IS THE LECTURE NOTE FOR THE *Introduction to Topology*. The course covers the following topics: Naive Set Theory, Elementary Number Theory, Group Theory, Topological Spaces and Continuous Maps, Introduction to Algebraic Topology.

Abelian Group

Definition 1 (Abelian Group). Given a group (G, \square) , we say (G, \square) is a abelian group if $\forall g, g' \in G, g \square g' = g' \square g$.

The set $\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}$ is equivalent with $\{\{1, 2\} \xrightarrow{f} \mathbb{Z} | f \text{ is a map}\}$. For any $(x, y) \in \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}$, it can be represented as $f : 1 \mapsto x, 2 \mapsto y, \{1, 2\}$ is the ordinate. And for any maps $\{1, 2\} \xrightarrow{f} \mathbb{Z}$, it is corresponded by $(f(1), f(2)) \in \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}$.

Let S be a set, define

$$\mathbb{Z}^{\oplus S} := \{S \xrightarrow{f} \mathbb{Z} | f \text{ is a map s.t. } f(s) \neq 0 \text{ for finitely many } s \in S\}$$

The element of $\mathbb{Z}^{\oplus S}$ is encoding each element of S with integer, and only finite element of S will be encoded by nonzero integer.

Example 1. The element of $\mathbb{Z}^{\oplus \mathbb{N}}$ is a series of integer (x_1, x_2, \dots) ($x_i \in \mathbb{Z}, i \in \mathbb{N}$) which has only finite nonzero integers.

We can define add on $\mathbb{Z}^{\oplus S}$: $(x_s)_{s \in S} + (y_s)_{s \in S} = (x_s + y_s)_{s \in S}$. Then for any $(x_s)_{s \in S}, (y_s)_{s \in S} \in \mathbb{Z}^{\oplus S}$, the binary operation $(\mathbb{Z}^{\oplus S}, +)$ has

1. $(x_s + y_s)_{s \in S} \in \mathbb{Z}^{\oplus S}$ (for $(x_s)_{s \in S}, (y_s)_{s \in S}$ only has finite nonzero integers)
2. $e = (0)_{s \in S} \in \mathbb{Z}^{\oplus S}$
3. $((x_s)_{s \in S})^{-1} = (-x_s)_{s \in S} \in \mathbb{Z}^{\oplus S}$
4. $(x_s)_{s \in S} + (y_s)_{s \in S} = (x_s + y_s)_{s \in S} = (y_s)_{s \in S} + (x_s)_{s \in S}$

Thus $(\mathbb{Z}^{\oplus S}, +)$ is a abelian group, and we call $(\mathbb{Z}^{\oplus S}, +)$ as **Free Abelian Group**.

Definition 2 (Homomorphism). Given two groups $(G, \square), (G', \square')$, a map $G \xrightarrow{T} G'$ is a homomorphism w.r.t. \square and \square' if $\forall g_1, g_2 \in G, T(g_1 \square g_2) = T(g_1) \square' T(g_2)$.

Example 2. Map $\mathbb{Z} \xrightarrow{T} \mathbb{Z}/5\mathbb{Z}$ is a homomorphism, since for any $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}, (a + 5\mathbb{Z}) + (b + 5\mathbb{Z}) = (a + b) + 5\mathbb{Z}$.

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Note 1. Sometimes, we will denote $S \xrightarrow{f} \mathbb{Z}$ by $(x_s)_{s \in S}$.

Note 2. The purpose of defining a group homomorphism is to create functions that preserve the algebraic structure. An equivalent definition of group homomorphism is: The map $G \xrightarrow{h} G'$ is a group homomorphism if whenever $a \square b = c$ we have $h(a) \square' h(b) = h(c)$.

In other words, the group G' in some sense has a similar algebraic structure as G and the homomorphism h preserves that.

Definition 3 (Isomorphism). We say a homomorphism T is an isomorphism if T is a bijection.

Definition 4. Given two groups $(G, \square), (G', \square')$, let $G \xrightarrow{T} G'$ be a homomorphism:

1. $\ker(T) := T^{-1}(e') = \{g \in G \mid T(g) = e'\};$
2. $\text{im}(T) := T(G) = \{T(g) \mid g \in G\}.$

Exercise 1. Show that $\ker(T)$ is a subgroup of (G, \square) , $\text{im}(T)$ is a subgroup of (G', \square') .

Proof. 1.

(0.) Obviously $\ker(T) \subseteq G$.

(1.) for $\forall g_1, g_2 \in \ker(T)$:

$$\begin{aligned} T(g_1 \square g_2) &= T(g_1) \square' T(g_2) \\ &= e' \square' e' = e' \end{aligned}$$

thus $g_1 \square g_2 \in \ker(T)$.

(2.) for $\forall g \in \ker(T)$,

$$\begin{aligned} T(g) &= T(g \square e) \\ &= T(g) \square' T(e) \\ &= e' \square' T(e) = e' \end{aligned}$$

and $T(e) \square' e' = e'$ in the same way, thus $e \in \ker(T)$, and be the unit element of $\ker(T)$.

(3.) for $\forall g \in \ker(T)$,

$$\begin{aligned} T(e) &= T(g \square g^{-1}) \\ &= T(g) \square' T(g^{-1}) \\ &= e' \square' T(g^{-1}) \\ &= e' \end{aligned}$$

and $T(g^{-1}) \square' e' = e'$, thus $T(g^{-1}) = e'$, and $g^{-1} \in \ker(T)$.

Thus $\ker(T)$ is a subgroup of (G, \square) .

2.

o. Obviously $\text{im}(T) \subseteq G'$.

1. for $\forall g'_1, g'_2 \in \text{im}(T), \exists g_1, g_2$, s.t. $T(g_1) = g'_1, T(g_2) = g'_2$. Thus

$$\begin{aligned} T(g_1 \square g_2) &= T(g_1) \square' T(g_2) \\ &= g'_1 \square' g'_2 \end{aligned}$$

thus $g'_1 \square' g'_2 \in \text{im}(T)$.

(2.) Since $e \in \ker(T) \Rightarrow T(e) = e' \Rightarrow e' \in \text{im}(T)$.

(3.) for $\forall g' \in \text{im}(T), \exists g \in G$, s.t. $T(g) = g'$, and

$$\begin{aligned} T(e) &= T(g \square g^{-1}) \\ &= T(g) \square' T(g^{-1}) \\ &= g' \square' T(g^{-1}) \\ &= e' \end{aligned}$$

and $T(g^{-1}) \square' g' = e'$ in the same way, thus $T(g^{-1}) = g'^{-1}, g'^{-1} \in \text{im}(T)$.

Thus $\text{im}(T)$ is a subgroup of G' . \square

Exercise 2. $G \xrightarrow{T} G'$ is a homomorphism show that $T(e) = e'$ and $T(g^{-1}) = T(g)^{-1}$ for $\forall g \in G$. e' is the unit element of (G', \square') ,

Proof. 1. $\ker(T)$ is a subgroup of G , thus $e \in \ker(T) \Rightarrow T(e) = e'$. 2. $T(g^{-1}) \square' T(g) = T(g^{-1} \square g) = T(e) = e'$, thus $T(g^{-1}) = T(g)^{-1}$. \square

Definition 5. Given two groups $(G, \square), (G', \square')$, let $G \xrightarrow{T} G'$ be a homomorphism. If (G', \square') is abelian, $\text{cok}(T) := G' / \text{im}(T)$.

Normal Subgroup

Consider a group (G, \square) and natural projection π . Are there is map \square' such that the following commutative diagram holds? i.e. for $\forall g_1, g_2, \pi(g_1 \square g_2) = \pi(g_1) \square' \pi(g_2)$?

$$\begin{array}{ccc} (a,b) G \times G^{(a,b)} & \xrightarrow{\square} & G^{a \square b} \\ \pi \times \pi \downarrow & & \downarrow \pi \\ (a \square H, b \square H) G/H \times G/H & \xrightarrow{\square'} & (a \square H) \square' (b \square H) G/H^{a \square b \square H} \end{array}$$

In the other word, for $(a, b) \in G \times G$, we can define map \square' as

$$(a \square H) \square' (b \square H) := a \square b \square H$$

But there is not well-defined, because there would exists $a', b' \in G$ such that $a' \square H = a \square H, b' \square H = b \square H$, thus $(a \square H) \square' (b \square H) = (a' \square H) \square' (b' \square H)$, but $a' \square b' \square H \neq a \square b \square H$.

Definition 6 (Normal Subgroup). Given a group (G, \square) , (H, \square) is a subgroup of (G, \square) (denote by $H \leq G$). We call H is a normal subgroup, denote by $H \trianglelefteq G$, if $\forall g \in G, \forall h \in H, g^{-1} \square h \square g \in H$.

Exercise 3. Show that the definition of normal subgroup is equivalent with $g^{-1} \square H \square g = H$.

Note 3. Given maps f_1, f_2 and a surjection g , we have proved if $g \circ f_1 = g \circ f_2 \Rightarrow f_1 = f_2$, thus if \square' exists, there would be only one.

Note 4. The definition of normal subgroup is equivalent with

1. $\forall g \in G, \forall h \in H, g \square h \square g^{-1} \in H$.
2. $g^{-1} \square H \square g \subseteq H$
3. $g \square H \square g^{-1} \subseteq H$
4. $g^{-1} \square H \square g = H$
5. $g \square H \square g^{-1} = H$

Proof. $\forall g \in G, \forall h \in H, g^{-1} \square h \square g \in H \Leftrightarrow g^{-1} \square H \square g \subseteq H$ by the definition of coset. And then for $\forall g \in G, H \square g \subseteq g \square H$ and $g^{-1} \square H \subseteq H \square g^{-1} \Rightarrow g \square H \subseteq H \square g$ Because $g = (g^{-1})^{-1}$. So $g \square H = H \square g$ and $g^{-1} \square H \square g = H$. \square

Exercise 4. If $H \trianglelefteq G$, show that $a^{-1} \square a' \in H, b^{-1} \square b' \in H \Rightarrow (a \square b)^{-1} \square (a' \square b') \in H$, that is $H \trianglelefteq G$ is the **sufficient condition**.

Proof. Denote $a^{-1} \square a' = h \in H, \exists h' \in H$, s.t. $b^{-1} \square b' = h' \Rightarrow b' = b \square h'$, thus

$$\begin{aligned} & (a \square b)^{-1} \square (a' \square b') \\ &= b^{-1} \square a^{-1} \square a' \square b' \\ &= b^{-1} \square h \square b \square h' \\ &= (b^{-1} \square h \square b) \square h' \end{aligned}$$

$H \trianglelefteq G \Rightarrow b^{-1} \square h \square b \in H \Rightarrow (a \square b)^{-1} \square (a' \square b') \in H$. \square

Note 5. a, a' belong to the same coset of $H \Leftrightarrow a \square H = a' \square H \Leftrightarrow a^{-1} a' \in H \Leftrightarrow a' = a \square h$.

We have seen that if $H \trianglelefteq G$ then there is a binary operation $G/H \times G/H \xrightarrow{\square'} G/H ((a \square H, b \square H) \mapsto a \square b \square H)$, such that the commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} G \times G & \xrightarrow{\square} & G \\ \pi \times \pi \downarrow & & \downarrow \pi \\ G/H \times G/H & \xrightarrow{\square'} & G/H \end{array}$$

holds.

Exercise 5 (Quotient Group). $H \trianglelefteq G$, show that $(G/H, \square')$ is a group.

Proof. o. $H \trianglelefteq G \Rightarrow \square'$ is well-defined by $(g_1 \square H) \square' (g_2 \square H) := (g_1 \square g_2) \square H$ for any $g_1, g_2 \in G$.

1. $\forall g_1, g_2 \in G, g_1 \square H, g_2 \square H \in G/H$, then $(g_1 \square H) \square' (g_2 \square H) = (g_1 \square g_2) \square H$. $g_1 \square g_2 \in G$ thus $(g_1 \square g_2) \square H \in G/H$.

2. $\forall g \in G, g \square H \in G/H$, then $(g \square H) \square H = (g \square e) \square H = g \square H$, thus $e_{G/H} = H \in G/H$.

3. $(g \square H)^{-1} = g^{-1} \square H \in G/H$. \square

Exercise 6. $G \xrightarrow{T} G'$ is a homomorphism, show that $\ker(T) \trianglelefteq G$ and $\text{im}(T) \leq G'$.

Proof. 1. For $\forall g \in G, k \in \ker(T)$,

$$\begin{aligned} T(g^{-1} \square k \square g) &= T(g^{-1}) \square' e' \square' T(g) \\ &= T(g)^{-1} \square' T(g) \\ &= e' \end{aligned}$$

Thus $g^{-1} \square k \square g \in \ker(T) \Rightarrow \ker(T) \trianglelefteq G$.

2. (1.) $T(g_1) \square' T(g_2) = T(g_1 \square g_2) \in \text{im}(T)$; (2.) $e' = T(e) \in \text{im}(T)$; (3) $T(g)^{-1} = T(g^{-1}) \in \text{im}(T)$. \square

Thus if subgroup (H, \square) is normal then $(G/H, \square')$ is a group. Conversely, if (G, \square) is abelian, then any subgroup (H, \square) is normal, for $ghg^{-1} = gg^{-1}h = h \in H$; and $(G/H, \square')$ is abelian, for

$$\begin{aligned} (a\square H)\square'(b\square H) &= a\square b\square H = b\square a\square H \\ &= (b\square H)\square'(a\square H). \end{aligned}$$

Exercise 7. $G \xrightarrow{T} G'$ is a homomorphism, show that T is injection $\Leftrightarrow \ker(T) = \{e\}$.

Proof. \Rightarrow : $\forall g \in G, k \in \ker(T), T(g\square k) = T(g)\square'T(k) = T(g)\square'e' = T(g) \Rightarrow g = g\square k$. Similarly, $g = k\square g$, thus $k = e$ ($\forall k \in \ker(T)$) and $\ker(T) = \{e\}$.

\Leftarrow : For any $g_1, g_2 \in G$, if $T(g_1) = T(g_2)$, then

$$\begin{aligned} T(g_2)\square T(g_2)^{-1} &= T(g_1)\square'T(g_2)^{-1} \\ &= T(g_1)\square'T(g_2^{-1}) \\ &= T(g_1\square g_2^{-1}) \\ &= e' \end{aligned}$$

Thus $g_1\square g_2^{-1} \in \ker(T) = \{e\} \Rightarrow g_1\square g_2^{-1} = e \Rightarrow g_1 = g_2$. \square

Theorem of Isomorphism

Theorem 1 (Theorem of homomorphism). *Given groups (G, \square) and (G', \square') , suppose $G \xrightarrow{T} G'$ is a homomorphism, $H \leq G$. Then*

1. $T(H) = \{e'\}$, i.e. $H \subseteq \ker(T) \Leftrightarrow \exists!$ map $G/H \xrightarrow{\tilde{T}} G'$ s.t.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} G & \xrightarrow{T} & G' \\ & \searrow \pi & \nearrow \tilde{T} \\ & G/H & \end{array}$$

2. If $H \subseteq \ker(T)$ and $H \trianglelefteq G$ then $G/H \xrightarrow{\tilde{T}} G'$ is a homomorphism.
3. $H = \ker(T) \Leftrightarrow \tilde{T}$ is injection.
4. T is surjection $\Leftrightarrow \tilde{T}$ is surjection.

Proof. 1. \Leftarrow : for $\forall h \in H, \pi(h) = \pi(e) = H$, thus

$$T(h) = \tilde{T} \circ \pi(h) = \tilde{T} \circ \pi(e) = T(e) = e',$$

thus $T(h) = e' (\forall h \in H)$, that is $H \subseteq \ker(T)$.

\Rightarrow : Define $\tilde{T}(g\square H) := T(g)$. For any $g, g_1 \in G$, s.t. $\pi(g) = \pi(g_1)$, that is $g\square H = g_1\square H \Leftrightarrow \exists h \in H$ s.t. $g = g_1\square h$. Thus $T(g) = T(g_1\square h) = T(g_1)\square'T(h) = T(g_1)$. Thus the definition of \tilde{T} is **well defined**. π is surjection $\Rightarrow \tilde{T}$ has uniqueness.

2. $H \trianglelefteq G$, thus $(G/H, \square^*)$ is a group, where $(g_1 \square G) \square^* (g_2 \square H) = g_1 \square g_2 \square H$ for any $g_1, g_2 \in G$. Thus

$$\begin{aligned}\tilde{T}((g_1 \square H) \square^* (g_2 \square H)) &= \tilde{T}(g_1 \square g_2 \square H) \\ &= T(g_1 \square g_2) = T(g_1) \square' T(g_2) \\ &= \tilde{T}(g_1 \square H) \square' \tilde{T}(g_2 \square H).\end{aligned}$$

So \tilde{T} is a homomorphism.

3. We now explore the structure of $\ker(\tilde{T})$. Given $a \in G$, then

$$\begin{aligned}a \square H \in \ker(\tilde{T}) &\Leftrightarrow \tilde{T}(a \square H) = T(a) = e' \\ &\Leftrightarrow a \in \ker(T) \\ &\Rightarrow a \square H \in \ker(T)/H\end{aligned}$$

Note 6. Easy to check: $H \leq G, \ker(T) \leq G, H \subseteq \ker(T) \Rightarrow H \leq \ker(T)$.
If $H \leq \ker(T)$, then $\ker(T)/H := \{k \square H | k \in \ker(T)\}$.

If $a \square H \in \ker(T)/H$, then $\exists k \in \ker(T)$, s.t. $a \square H = k \square H$, then $\exists h \in H \subseteq \ker(T)$, s.t. $a = k \square h \in \ker(T)$ (for $k, h \in \ker(T)$, $\ker(T) \leq G$ and enclosed with \square) Thus $a \square H \in \ker(\tilde{T}) \Leftrightarrow a \square H \in \ker(T)/H$, thus $\ker(\tilde{T}) = \ker(T)/H$.

Thus \tilde{T} is injection $\Leftrightarrow \ker(\tilde{T}) = \{H\}$ (for H is unit element of G/H) $\Leftrightarrow \ker(T) = H$.

4. \Rightarrow : $\tilde{T} \circ \pi$ is surj. $\Rightarrow \tilde{T}$ is surj. \Leftarrow : Composite of surj. is surj. \square

Collectively, \tilde{T} is inj. $\Leftrightarrow H = \ker(T)$; \tilde{T} is surj. $\Leftrightarrow T$ is surj. Thus \tilde{T} is isomorphism (bij. + homomorphism) $\Leftrightarrow T$ is surj and $H = \ker(T)$.

So $G \xrightarrow{T} G'$ is a homomorphism then exists an isomorphism $G/\ker(T) \xrightarrow{\tilde{T}} \text{im}(T)$, denote by $G/\ker(T) \simeq \text{im}(T)$. This conclusion is called **1st theorem of isomorphism**.

Example 3. Define $S_3 := \{\{1, 2, 3\} \xrightarrow{\sigma} \{1, 2, 3\} | \sigma \text{ is bij.}\}$, then (S_3, \circ) is a group. And the element of (S_3, \circ) is $e' = (1)(2)(3)$.

Given a group $(\mathbb{Z}, +)$, define a homomorphism $\mathbb{Z} \xrightarrow{T} S_3$. So if $1 \mapsto (12)$, then $T(2) = T(1+1) = T(1) \circ T(1) = e'$, $T(-1) = T(1)^{-1} = T(1) = (12)$. Furthermore $T(2\mathbb{Z}) = e'$, $T(2\mathbb{Z}+1) = (12)$. And $\ker(T) = 2\mathbb{Z}$, $\text{im}(T) = \{(12), e'\}$. So $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \simeq \{(12), e'\}$. Similarly, $\mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z} \simeq \{e', (123), (132)\}$ (Define $T(1) = (123)$).

$$\begin{array}{ccc}\mathbb{Z} & \xrightarrow{T} & S_3 \\ & \searrow \pi & \nearrow \tilde{T} \\ & \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} & \end{array}$$

Homotopy

Definition 7 (Path). Assume X is a top. sp. $p, q \in X$.

1. A path from p to q in X is a continuous map $[0, 1] \xrightarrow{\gamma} X$, s.t. $\gamma(0) = p, \gamma(1) = q$.

2. Define $\Omega(X, p, q) := \{[0, 1] \xrightarrow{\gamma} \mid \gamma \text{ is conti.}, \gamma(0) = p, \gamma(1) = q\}$.
3. $\forall \gamma \in \Omega(X, p, q)$, define inverse path $[0, 1] \xrightarrow{\gamma^-} X(t \mapsto \gamma(1 - t))$.

Thus we attain a map $\Omega(X, p, q) \rightarrow \Omega(X, q, p)(\gamma \mapsto \gamma^-)$, which is a bijection.

Definition 8. Assume X is a top. sp. $p, q, r, s \in X$. For $\sigma \in \Omega(X, p, q), \gamma \in \Omega(X, q, r)$, define $[0, 1] \xrightarrow{\sigma \cdot \gamma} X$ by

$$(\sigma \cdot \gamma)(t) := \begin{cases} \sigma(2t), & t \in [0, 1/2], \\ \gamma(2t - 1), & t \in [1/2, 1]. \end{cases}$$

Exercise 8. Given a top. sp. X and subspace A, B of X , s.t. $X = A \cup B$ and either $A, B \subseteq_{\text{open}} X$ or $A, B \subseteq_{\text{close}} X$. Show that a map $X \xrightarrow{f} Y$ to a top. sp. Y is conti. $\Leftrightarrow A \xrightarrow{f|_A} Y$ and $B \xrightarrow{f|_B} Y$ are conti.

Proof. \Rightarrow : f is conti, thus $\forall U \subseteq_{\text{open}} Y, f^{-1}(U) \subseteq_{\text{open}} X$. And $f|_A^{-1}(U) = f^{-1}(U) \cap A \subseteq_{\text{open}} A$, since A is equipped by subspace top. So $f|_A$ is conti. and the same thing to $f|_B$.

\Leftarrow : Suppose $A, B \subseteq_{\text{open}} X$, for any $U \subseteq_{\text{open}} Y$, since $f|_A$ conti., $f|_A^{-1}(U) \subseteq_{\text{open}} A$, thus $\exists V \subseteq_{\text{open}} X$, s.t. $f|_A^{-1}(U) = V \cap A \subseteq_{\text{open}} X$, and similarly $f|_B^{-1}(U) \subseteq_{\text{open}} X$. Thus

$$\begin{aligned} f^{-1}(U) &= \{x \in X \mid f(x) \in U\} \\ &= \{x \in A \mid f(x) \in U\} \cup \{x \in B \mid f(x) \in U\} \\ &= f|_A^{-1}(U) \cup f|_B^{-1}(U) \\ &\subseteq_{\text{open}} X. \end{aligned}$$

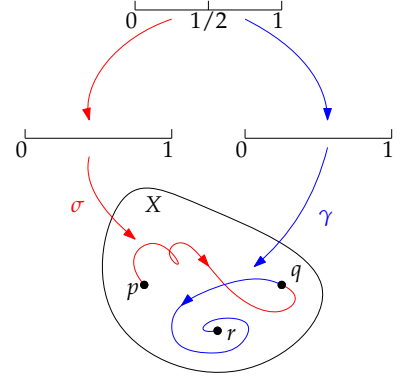
Thus f is conti. If $A, B \subseteq_{\text{close}} X$, the argument is similar, because

$X \xrightarrow{f} Y$ is conti. $\Leftrightarrow \forall U \subseteq_{\text{open}} Y, f^{-1} \subseteq_{\text{open}} X \Leftrightarrow \forall U \subseteq_{\text{close}} Y, f^{-1} \subseteq_{\text{close}} X$. \square

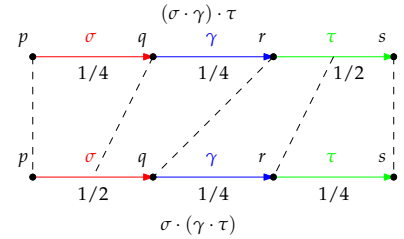
Thus map $[0, 1] \xrightarrow{\sigma \cdot \gamma} X$ is also conti. and $\sigma \cdot \gamma \in \Omega(X, p, r)$. And we can define another map: $\Omega(X, p, q) \times \Omega(X, q, r) \rightarrow \Omega(X, p, r)((\sigma, \gamma) \mapsto \sigma \cdot \gamma)$.

Notice that the "composite" path does not have "associative" property, that is for any 3 paths $\sigma \in \Omega(X, p, q), \gamma \in \Omega(X, q, r), \tau \in \Omega(X, r, s)$, $(\sigma \cdot \gamma) \cdot \tau$ is not necessarily equal to $\sigma \cdot (\gamma \cdot \tau)$. Because the time (or say speed) distribution on these two composite paths is different, the former is $\sigma(0 - 1/4) \rightarrow \gamma(1/4 - 1/2) \rightarrow \tau(1/2 - 1)$, whereas the later is $\sigma(0 - 1/2) \rightarrow \gamma(1/2 - 3/4) \rightarrow \tau(3/4 - 1)$.

Definition 9 (Homotopy). Given two conti. maps $X \xrightarrow{f} Y, X \xrightarrow{g} Y$ between top. sp. X and Y . A map $X \times [0, 1] \xrightarrow{H} Y$ is a homotopy from f to g if H is conti. and $\forall x \in X, H(x, 0) = f(x), H(x, 1) = g(x)$.



Note 7. Notice that the open set in subspace topology is not necessarily open set in (parent) topology.



The intuition of homotopy is creating a map H that starts from f and generally approximates to g as time goes on. On the other hand, we can also view H as creating a path from y_1 to y_2 . If H exists, we say f and g are homotopy, denote by $f \sim_H g$.

Definition 10. Suppose X is a top. sp. $p, q \in X, \sigma, \gamma \in \Omega(X, p, q)$, we say σ and γ are homotopic with fixed initial and end point if \exists homotopy $[0, 1] \times [0, 1] \xrightarrow{H} X$ from σ to γ , s.t. $\forall s \in [0, 1], H(0, s) = p, H(1, s) = q$, and denote by $p \sim q$.

Notice that homotopy is only required to be two maps at beginning and end, that is $H(x, 0) = \sigma(x)$ and $H(x, 1) = \gamma(x)$. But when we say two paths are homotopic, we need for any $s \in [0, 1]$, path $H(x, s)$ is from p to q . \sim is an equivalence relation on $\Omega(X, p, q)$, and define $\pi_1(X, p, q) := \Omega(X, p, q) / \sim$, and denote the equivalence class of $\gamma \in \Omega(X, p, q)$ as $[\gamma]$. So if $\gamma \sim \sigma$, then $[\gamma] = [\sigma] \in \pi_1(X, p, q)$.

