$$0 = 1 - 1 = -1 + 1 = 0$$

From Elementary School to Higher Algebras

Keyao Peng

IMB

March 31, 2024

- $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$
- $e^{i\pi} + 1 = 0$
- $\int_{\partial D} \omega = \int_D d\omega$
- . . .

- $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$
- $e^{i\pi} + 1 = 0$
- $\int_{\partial D} \omega = \int_{D} d\omega$
- . . .

But, what is an **equation**?

- $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$
- $e^{i\pi} + 1 = 0$
- $\int_{\partial D} \omega = \int_{D} d\omega$
- ...

But, what is an equation?

A = B says A is equal to B, how they are equal depends on the *proof*.

- $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$
- $e^{i\pi} + 1 = 0$
- $\int_{\partial D} \omega = \int_{D} d\omega$
- ...

But, what is an equation?

A = B says A is equal to B, how they are equal depends on the *proof*.

Question

Can you prove 0 = 0, non-trivially?

Test your math level

Test your math level



Hopf fibration

Hopf fibration is a map defined by

$$H:\mathbb{S}^3\subset\mathbb{C}^2-\{0\}\to\mathbb{CP}^1\cong\mathbb{S}^2, (z_1,z_2)\mapsto[z_1,z_2]$$

For any point $x \in \mathbb{S}^2$, preimage $H^{-1}(x)$ is a circle \mathbb{S}^1 .

Hopf fibration

Hopf fibration is a map defined by

$$H: \mathbb{S}^3 \subset \mathbb{C}^2 - \{0\} \to \mathbb{CP}^1 \cong \mathbb{S}^2, (z_1, z_2) \mapsto [z_1, z_2]$$

For any point $x \in \mathbb{S}^2$, preimage $H^{-1}(x)$ is a circle \mathbb{S}^1 . We can visualize this map by considering $H : \mathbb{R}^3 \cong \mathbb{S}^3 - \{\infty\} \to \mathbb{S}^2$:



To understand a space X, we use some homotopy invariants:

• $\pi_0 X \in \text{Set}$, how many "pieces" X has.

To understand a space X, we use some homotopy invariants:

- $\pi_0 X \in \text{Set}$, how many "pieces" X has.
- Chose a base point $x \in X$, Let $\operatorname{Map}_*(\mathbb{S}^1, X) \in \operatorname{Space}$ be the space of loops in X started from x.

To understand a space X, we use some homotopy invariants:

- $\pi_0 X \in \text{Set}$, how many "pieces" X has.
- Chose a base point $x \in X$, Let $\operatorname{Map}_*(\mathbb{S}^1, X) \in \operatorname{Space}$ be the space of loops in X started from x.
- $\pi_1(X, x) = \pi_0 \operatorname{Map}_*(\mathbb{S}^1, X) \in \operatorname{Group}$, how many loops in X up to deformation.

To understand a space X, we use some homotopy invariants:

- $\pi_0 X \in \text{Set}$, how many "pieces" X has.
- Chose a base point $x \in X$, Let $\operatorname{Map}_*(\mathbb{S}^1, X) \in \operatorname{Space}$ be the space of loops in X started from x.
- $\pi_1(X, x) = \pi_0 \operatorname{Map}_*(\mathbb{S}^1, X) \in \operatorname{Group}$, how many loops in X up to deformation.
- $i > 1, \pi_i(X, x) = \pi_0 \operatorname{Map}_*(\mathbb{S}^i, X) \cong \pi_0 \operatorname{Map}_*(\mathbb{S}^1, \operatorname{Map}_*(\mathbb{S}^{i-1}, X)) \in \operatorname{Abel}$

To understand a space X, we use some homotopy invariants:

- $\pi_0 X \in \text{Set}$, how many "pieces" X has.
- Chose a base point $x \in X$, Let $\operatorname{Map}_*(\mathbb{S}^1, X) \in \operatorname{Space}$ be the space of loops in X started from x.
- $\pi_1(X, x) = \pi_0 \operatorname{Map}_*(\mathbb{S}^1, X) \in \operatorname{Group}$, how many loops in X up to deformation.
- $i > 1, \pi_i(X, X) = \pi_0 \operatorname{Map}_*(\mathbb{S}^i, X) \cong \pi_0 \operatorname{Map}_*(\mathbb{S}^1, \operatorname{Map}_*(\mathbb{S}^{i-1}, X)) \in \operatorname{Abel}$

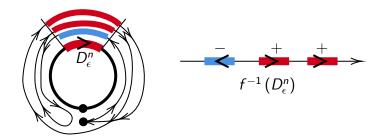
Let us study the cases $X = \mathbb{S}^n$.

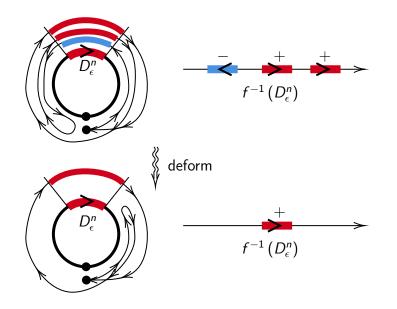
• For i < n, $\pi_i(\mathbb{S}^n) = \{0\}$, where $0 : \mathbb{S}^i \to * \xrightarrow{\text{base}} \mathbb{S}^n$.

- For i < n, $\pi_i(\mathbb{S}^n) = \{0\}$, where $0 : \mathbb{S}^i \to * \xrightarrow{\text{base}} \mathbb{S}^n$.
- For $\pi_n(\mathbb{S}^n)$, we consider the space $\operatorname{End}_*(\mathbb{S}^n) = \operatorname{Map}_*(\mathbb{S}^n, \mathbb{S}^n)$.

- For i < n, $\pi_i(\mathbb{S}^n) = \{0\}$, where $0 : \mathbb{S}^i \to * \xrightarrow{\text{base}} \mathbb{S}^n$.
- For $\pi_n(\mathbb{S}^n)$, we consider the space $\operatorname{End}_*(\mathbb{S}^n) = \operatorname{Map}_*(\mathbb{S}^n, \mathbb{S}^n)$.

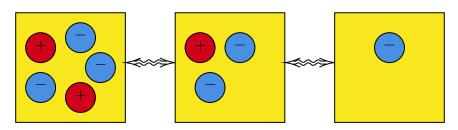
Let $f \in \operatorname{End}_*(\mathbb{S}^n)$, take a small disk $D^n_{\epsilon} \subset \mathbb{S}^n$ away from the base point. Then the preimage $f^{-1}(D^n_{\epsilon}) \subset \mathbb{S}^n - \{*\} \cong \mathbb{R}^n$ is a disjoint union of disks for ϵ small enough. Notice that the disks in the union have orientations + and -.





- For i < n, $\pi_i(\mathbb{S}^n) = \{0\}$, where $0 : \mathbb{S}^i \to * \xrightarrow{\text{base}} \mathbb{S}^n$.
- For $\pi_n(\mathbb{S}^n)$, we consider the space $\operatorname{End}_*(\mathbb{S}^n) = \operatorname{Map}_*(\mathbb{S}^n, \mathbb{S}^n)$.

Let $f \in \operatorname{End}_*(\mathbb{S}^n)$, take a small disk $D^n_{\epsilon} \subset \mathbb{S}^n$ away from the base point. Then the preimage $f^{-1}(D^n_{\epsilon}) \subset \mathbb{S}^n - \{*\} \cong \mathbb{R}^n$ is a disjoint union of disks for ϵ small enough. Notice that the disks in the union have orientations + and -.



- For i < n, $\pi_i(\mathbb{S}^n) = \{0\}$, where $0 : \mathbb{S}^i \to * \xrightarrow{\text{base}} \mathbb{S}^n$.
- For $\pi_n(\mathbb{S}^n)$, we consider the space $\operatorname{End}_*(\mathbb{S}^n) = \operatorname{Map}_*(\mathbb{S}^n, \mathbb{S}^n)$.

Let $f \in \operatorname{End}_*(\mathbb{S}^n)$, take a small disk $D^n_{\epsilon} \subset \mathbb{S}^n$ away from the base point. Then the preimage $f^{-1}(D^n_{\epsilon}) \subset \mathbb{S}^n - \{*\} \cong \mathbb{R}^n$ is a disjoint union of disks for ϵ small enough. Notice that the disks in the union have orientations + and -.

This gives an isomorphism to the configuration space of disks.

$$\operatorname{End}_*(\mathbb{S}^n) \cong \operatorname{Conf}(\mathbb{R}^n) = \bigcup_{j,k} \operatorname{Emb}(\bigsqcup_j D_+^n \sqcup \bigsqcup_k D_-^n, \mathbb{R}^n)$$

Therefore, $\pi_0 \operatorname{End}_*(\mathbb{S}^n) \cong \mathbb{Z}, (j, k) \mapsto j - k$

• For i > n, $\pi_i(\mathbb{S}^n) = ?$

- For i > n, $\pi_i(\mathbb{S}^n) = ?$
- For i > 1, $\pi_i(\mathbb{S}^1) = \{0\}$.

- For i > n, $\pi_i(\mathbb{S}^n) = ?$
- For i > 1, $\pi_i(\mathbb{S}^1) = \{0\}$.
- But $\pi_3(\mathbb{S}^2)=\pi_0\mathrm{Map}_*(\mathbb{S}^3,\mathbb{S}^2)\ni H$, and $H\nsim 0$, i.e. H can not deform to 0

How to see that?

- For i > n, $\pi_i(\mathbb{S}^n) = ?$
- For i > 1, $\pi_i(\mathbb{S}^1) = \{0\}$.
- But $\pi_3(\mathbb{S}^2) = \pi_0 \mathrm{Map}_*(\mathbb{S}^3, \mathbb{S}^2) \ni H$, and $H \nsim 0$, i.e. H can not deform to 0

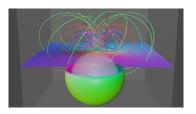
How to see that?

$$\operatorname{Map}_*(\mathbb{S}^3, \mathbb{S}^2) \cong \operatorname{Map}_*(\mathbb{S}^1, \operatorname{End}_*(\mathbb{S}^n)) \to \operatorname{Map}_*([0, 1], \operatorname{End}_*(\mathbb{S}^n))$$

Then H corresponds to a path (deformation or homotopy) form $0 \in \operatorname{End}_*(\mathbb{S}^n)$ to 0 itself.

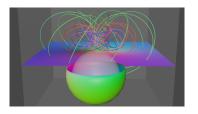
Visualize H as deformation

I made an animation to visualize this deformation.



Visualize H as deformation

I made an animation to visualize this deformation.



We can also visualize it as a movement in the configuration space. We will show it in the end.

How to define \mathbb{Z}

We can define natural number $\ensuremath{\mathbb{N}}$ as isomorphic classes of finite sets.

$$\operatorname{FinSet}_{/\cong} \xrightarrow{|\cdot|} \mathbb{N}, |X \sqcup Y| = |X| + |Y|$$

How to define integral number \mathbb{Z} with finite sets?

How to define \mathbb{Z}

We can define natural number $\mathbb N$ as isomorphic classes of finite sets.

$$\operatorname{FinSet}_{/\cong} \xrightarrow{|\cdot|} \mathbb{N}, |X \sqcup Y| = |X| + |Y|$$

How to define integral number \mathbb{Z} with finite sets? We use the **Grothendieck group** $\mathcal{K}_0(\operatorname{FinSet})$

$$\textit{K}_0(\mathrm{FinSet}) = \{(\textit{X},\textit{Y}) \in (\mathrm{FinSet}_{/\cong})^2\} / \{(\textit{X} \sqcup \textit{Z},\textit{Y} \sqcup \textit{Z}) \sim (\textit{X},\textit{Y})\}$$

We can think we formally define "X - Y" in this way.

How to define \mathbb{Z}

We can define natural number $\ensuremath{\mathbb{N}}$ as isomorphic classes of finite sets.

$$\operatorname{FinSet}_{/\cong} \xrightarrow{|\cdot|} \mathbb{N}, |X \sqcup Y| = |X| + |Y|$$

How to define integral number \mathbb{Z} with finite sets? We use the **Grothendieck group** $\mathcal{K}_0(\operatorname{FinSet})$

$$\mathcal{K}_0(\mathrm{FinSet}) = \{(X,Y) \in (\mathrm{FinSet}_{/\cong})^2\}/\{(X \sqcup Z,Y \sqcup Z) \sim (X,Y)\}$$

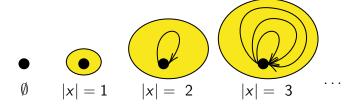
We can think we formally define "X - Y" in this way. But what is $K_i(\operatorname{FinSet})$ for i > 0?

Space of "finite sets"

Instead of thinking the set of "finite sets", we now consider the space of them $F = \operatorname{FinSet}^{\cong}$: every point $x \in F$ corresponds to a finite set, and a path between to points corresponds to an isomorphism $f: x \to y$ of two finite sets.

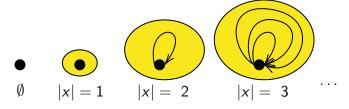
Space of "finite sets"

Instead of thinking the set of "finite sets", we now consider the space of them $F = \operatorname{FinSet}^{\cong}$: every point $x \in F$ corresponds to a finite set, and a path between to points corresponds to an isomorphism $f: x \to y$ of two finite sets.



Space of "finite sets"

Instead of thinking the set of "finite sets", we now consider the space of them $F = \operatorname{FinSet}^{\cong}$: every point $x \in F$ corresponds to a finite set, and a path between to points corresponds to an isomorphism $f: x \to y$ of two finite sets.



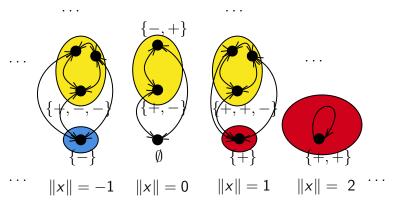
- $\pi_0(F) = \operatorname{FinSet}_{/\cong} \cong \mathbb{N}$.
- $\pi_1(F, x) = S_{|x|}$ the permutation group.
- $\pi_i(F,x) = \{0\}$ for i > 0 (one can never deform an isomorphism of set to another).

K-space (spectrum) of "finite sets"

We want to add "negative" to F. We can consider the space K(F) of (ordered) finite sets, whose elements are marked by + or -, and we also want to identify the sets with same "value" $||X|| = |X_+| - |X_-|$, and these identifications will be the paths.

K-space (spectrum) of "finite sets"

We want to add "negative" to F. We can consider the space K(F) of (ordered) finite sets, whose elements are marked by + or -, and we also want to identify the sets with same "value" $\|X\| = |X_+| - |X_-|$, and these identifications will be the paths.



K-groups of "finite sets"

Let $K_i(\operatorname{FinSet}) = \pi_i K(F)$ to be the higher K-groups, we have the following observations:

K-groups of "finite sets"

Let $K_i(\operatorname{FinSet}) = \pi_i K(F)$ to be the higher K-groups, we have the following observations:

• $\pi_0 K(F) = \mathbb{Z}$, by $x \mapsto ||x||$. This coincides with $K_0(\text{FinSet})$.

Let $K_i(\operatorname{FinSet}) = \pi_i K(F)$ to be the higher K-groups, we have the following observations:

- $\pi_0 K(F) = \mathbb{Z}$, by $x \mapsto ||x||$. This coincides with $K_0(\text{FinSet})$.
- We can construct a loop $h \in \pi_1 K(F)$ by using identifications

$$h: \emptyset \sim \{+, -\} \sim \{-, +\} \sim \emptyset$$

Let $K_i(\operatorname{FinSet}) = \pi_i K(F)$ to be the higher K-groups, we have the following observations:

- $\pi_0 K(F) = \mathbb{Z}$, by $x \mapsto ||x||$. This coincides with $K_0(\operatorname{FinSet})$.
- We can construct a loop $h \in \pi_1 K(F)$ by using identifications

$$h: \emptyset \sim \{+, -\} \sim \{-, +\} \sim \emptyset$$

• In fact $\pi_1 K(F) = S_n^{ab} = \mathbb{Z}/2$ with h as the generator. That is to say, h is a non-trivial identification.

K-groups of "finite sets"

Let $K_i(\operatorname{FinSet}) = \pi_i K(F)$ to be the higher K-groups, we have the following observations:

- $\pi_0 K(F) = \mathbb{Z}$, by $x \mapsto ||x||$. This coincides with $K_0(\operatorname{FinSet})$.
- We can construct a loop $h \in \pi_1 K(F)$ by using identifications

$$h: \emptyset \sim \{+, -\} \sim \{-, +\} \sim \emptyset$$

• In fact $\pi_1 K(F) = S_n^{ab} = \mathbb{Z}/2$ with h as the generator. That is to say, h is a non-trivial identification.

Answer

We can prove 0 = 0 non-trivially with h: 0 = 1 - 1 = -1 + 1 = 0!

What's more?

But what is the connection between these two topics?

What's more?

But what is the connection between these two topics?

• In fact, $K_i(\operatorname{FinSet}) \cong \lim_{n \to \infty} \pi_{i+n}(\mathbb{S}^n)$.

What's more?

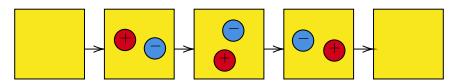
But what is the connection between these two topics?

- In fact, $K_i(\operatorname{FinSet}) \cong \lim_{n \to \infty} \pi_{i+n}(\mathbb{S}^n)$.
- So, K(F) can be seen as $Conf(\mathbb{R}^{\infty})$, and both the Hopf map H and h can be represented as movements within it.

But what is the connection between these two topics?

- In fact, $K_i(\operatorname{FinSet}) \cong \lim_{n \to \infty} \pi_{i+n}(\mathbb{S}^n)$.
- So, K(F) can be seen as $Conf(\mathbb{R}^{\infty})$, and both the Hopf map H and h can be represented as movements within it.

And they are the same!



Thank you, hope you have got the brain upgrades!

