

Cheat Sheet

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1 Introduction

Theorem 1.1 (Brouwer fixed point theorem). *Let $f : D^n \rightarrow D^n$ be continuous map from the (unit) disk in \mathbb{R}^n to itself. Then f has a fixed point, i.e., there is some point $x \in D^n$ such that $f(x) = x$.*

Theorem 1.2 (The fundamental theorem of algebra). *A polynomial equation*

$$z^n + a_{n-1}z^{n-1} + \dots + a_1z + a_0 = 0$$

2 Continuous maps

2.1 Metric spaces

Definition 2.1 (Metric spaces). *A metric space (X, d) is a non-empty set X together with a map $d : X \times X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ called a metric such that the following properties hold:*

- (i) **M1** $d(x, y) \geq 0$ for all $x, y \in X$, and $d(x, y) = 0$ if and only if $x = y$.
- (ii) **M2** $d(x, y) = d(y, x)$ for all $x, y \in X$
- (iii) **M3** $d(x, z) \leq d(x, y) + d(y, z)$ for all $x, y, z \in X$.

2.2 Continuous maps between metric spaces

Definition 2.2 (Continuous maps between metric spaces). *Let (X, d_X) and (Y, d_Y) be two metric spaces. A map $f : X \rightarrow Y$ is continuous at $p \in X$ if for all $\varepsilon > 0$ there exists a $\delta > 0$ such that if $d_X(p, q) < \delta$ then $d_Y(f(p), f(q)) < \varepsilon$. If f is continuous at every point $p \in X$, we say that f is continuous.*

Definition 2.3 (Open and closed balls). *Let (X, d) be a metric space, and let $a \in X$ and $r > 0$ be real number. The open ball centered at a with radius r is the subset*

$$B(a; r) = \{x \in X \mid d(x, a) < r\}$$

of X . The closed ball centered at a with radius r is the subset

$$\overline{B}(a; r) = \{x \in X \mid d(x, a) \leq r\}$$

of X .

Definition 2.4 (Open and closed sets). *Let (X, d) be a metric space. A subset $A \subseteq X$ is open in X if for every point $a \in A$, there exists an open ball $B(a; r)$ about a contained in A . We say that A is closed in X if the complement*

$A^c = X \setminus A = \{x \in X \mid x \notin A\}$ is open

Remark. Let $X = \{a, b, c\}$ and let $U = \{a, b\}$. Then if $\tau = \{X, \emptyset\}$, U is not open nor closed.

Lemma 2.1. Let (X, d) be a metric space, $x \in X$ and $r > 0$ a real number. Then the open ball $B(x; r) \subseteq X$ is open in X , and the closed ball $\bar{B}(x; r) \subseteq X$ is closed in X .

Definition 2.5 (Neighbourhoods). Let (X, d) be a metric space, A a subset of X and $x \in X$. We say that A is a neighbourhood of x if there is an open ball about x contained in A . We say that A is an open neighborhood (of x) if A itself is open.

Theorem 2.1 (Continuity of a point). Let (X, d_X) and (Y, d_Y) be two metric spaces and let $p \in X$. A map $f : X \rightarrow Y$ is continuous at p if and only if for all neighbourhoods B of $f(p)$, there is a neighbourhood A of p such that $f(A) \subseteq B$.

Theorem 2.2 (Continuous maps between metric spaces). Let (X, d_X) and (Y, d_Y) be two metric spaces. A map $f : X \rightarrow Y$ is continuous if and only if for every subset $B \subseteq Y$ open in Y , the preimage of B under f ,

$$f^{-1}(B) = \{x \in X \mid f(x) \in B\} \subseteq X,$$

is open in X .

3 Topological spaces

3.1 Definitions and examples

Definition 3.1 (Topological spaces.). Recall that a topological space is a set X together with a collection τ of subsets of X that are open in X s.t.

- **T1.** $\emptyset, X \in \tau$
- **T2.** τ is closed under union if $U_\lambda \in \tau$ for all $\lambda \in \Lambda$, then

$$\bigcup_{\lambda \in \Lambda} U_\lambda \in \tau$$

- **T3.** τ is under finite intersections if $U_1, U_2, \dots, U_n \in \tau$, then

$$U_1 \cap U_2 \cap \dots \cap U_n \in \tau$$

Theorem 3.1 (Metric spaces are topological spaces). Let (X, d) be a metric space. Let τ_d be the collection of subsets $U \subseteq X$ with the property that $U \in \tau_d$ if and only if for each $x \in U$ there is an $r > 0$ such that $B(x; r) \subseteq U$. Then τ_d defines a topology on X .

Theorem 3.2. Let X be any set, and let d_1 and d_2 be two equivalent metrics on X . Then

$$\tau_{d_1} = \tau_{d_2}.$$

Definition 3.2 (Comparable topologies). Let X be a set and suppose that τ_1 and τ_2 are two topologies on X . If $\tau_1 \subseteq \tau_2$, we say that τ_1 is coarser than τ_2 and that τ_2 is finer than τ_1 . We say that τ_1 and τ_2 are comparable if either $\tau_1 \subseteq \tau_2$ or $\tau_2 \subseteq \tau_1$.

3.2 Continuous maps .

Theorem 3.3. Continuity between topological spaces. Let X, Y be topological spaces. A map $f : X \rightarrow Y$ is said to be continuous if preimages of open sets are open, i.e., if V is an open set in Y then the preimage $f^{-1}(V)$ of V is open in X .

Theorem 3.4 (Composition of continuous maps). Let X, Y and Z be topological spaces. If $f : X \rightarrow Y$ and $g : Y \rightarrow Z$ are continuous maps, then the composite $g \circ f : X \rightarrow Z$ is continuous.

Definition 3.3 (Continuity at a point). Let X and Y be topological space, and let $x \in X$. A map $f : X \rightarrow Y$ is continuous at x if for all neighbourhoods V of $f(x)$ there is a neighbourhood U of x such that

$$f(U) \subseteq V$$

Theorem 3.5. Let X and Y be topological spaces. A map $f : X \rightarrow Y$ is continuous if and only if it is continuous at each $x \in X$.

3.3 Homeomorphism

Definition 3.4 (Homeomorphism). Let X and Y be topological spaces. A bijective map $f : X \rightarrow Y$ with the property that both f and $f^{-1} : Y \rightarrow X$ are continuous, is called a homeomorphism. If there exists a homeomorphism $f : X \rightarrow Y$, we say that X and Y are homeomorphic.

Theorem 3.6. Let X, Y and Z be topological spaces.

- (i) **Reflexivity** : The identity map: $\text{id} : X \rightarrow X$ (where the domain and the codomain are equipped with the same topology), given by $\text{id}(x) = x$ for $x \in X$, is a homeomorphism.
- (ii) **Symmetry** : If $f : X \rightarrow Y$ is a homeomorphism, then $f^{-1} : Y \rightarrow X$ is also a homeomorphism.
- (iii) **Transitivity** : If $f : X \rightarrow Y$ and $g : Y \rightarrow Z$ are homeomorphisms, then $g \circ f : X \rightarrow Z$ is also a homeomorphism.

3.4 Closed sets

Definition 3.5 (Closed subsets). A subset K of a topological space X is closed in X if and only if the complement

$$K^c = X \setminus K$$

is open in X .

Theorem 3.7. Let X be a topological space.

- (i) Both \emptyset and X are closed (as subsets) in X .
- (ii) The intersection of any subcollection of closed sets in X is closed in X .

(iii) The union of any finite subcollection of closed sets in X is closed in X .

Definition 3.6 (Closure). Let X be a topological space, and let A be a subset of X . The closure of A , written \overline{A} , is the intersection of all subsets of X that contains A and which are closed in X .

Definition 3.7 (Dense). Let X be a topological space, and let A be a subset of X . We say that A is dense in X if $\overline{A} = X$.

Theorem 3.8. Let $f : X \rightarrow Y$ be a map between the topological spaces. Then the following are equivalent:

- (i) f is continuous.
- (ii) for every subset A of X , we have $f(\overline{A}) \subseteq \overline{f(A)}$.
- (iii) for every closed subset B of Y , the preimage $f^{-1}(B)$ of B under f is closed in X .

4 Generating topologies

4.1 Generating topologies from subsets

Theorem 4.1 (The intersection of two topologies is a topology). Let X be a set, and let τ_1 and τ_2 be two topologies on X . Then $\tau_1 \cap \tau_2$ is also a topology on X .

Definition 4.1 (Topology generated by a collection of subsets). Let X be a set, and let \mathcal{S} be a collection of subsets of X . The topology generated by \mathcal{S} is the topology

$$\langle \mathcal{S} \rangle = \bigcap_{\substack{\tau \text{ topology} \\ \mathcal{S} \subseteq \tau}} \tau$$

4.2 Basis for a topology

Definition 4.2 (Basis). Let X be a set. a **basis** for a topology on X is a collection \mathcal{B} of subsets of X such that

- **B1:** for each $x \in X$, there is a $B \in \mathcal{B}$ such that $x \in B$
- **B1:** if B_1, B_2 and $x \in B_1 \cap B_2$, then there is a $B_3 \in \mathcal{B}$ such that $x \in B_3 \subseteq B_1 \cap B_2$.

Theorem 4.2. Let X be a set, and let \mathcal{B} be basis for a topology on X . The collection τ generated by \mathcal{B} of subsets U of X with the property that for each $x \in U$ there is a basis element $B \in \mathcal{B}$ with $x \in B \subseteq U$ is a topology on X .

Theorem 4.3. Let X be a set, and let \mathcal{B} be a basis for a topology τ on X . Then τ is equal to the collection of all unions of elements of \mathcal{B} .

Theorem 4.4. Let X be a set, and let \mathcal{B}_1 and \mathcal{B}_2 be bases for topologies τ_1 and τ_2 , respectively, on X . Then the following are equivalent.

- (i) τ_2 is finer than τ_1 , i.e., $\tau_1 \subseteq \tau_2$.

(ii) For each $B_1 \in \mathcal{B}_1$ and each $x \in B_1$, there is a $B_2 \in \mathcal{B}_2$ such that $x \in B_2 \subseteq B_1$.

4.3 Subbasis for a topology

Definition 4.3 (Subbasis). Let X be a set. A **subbasis** for a topology on X is a collection \mathcal{S} whose union equals X .

Lemma 4.1. Let X be a set, and let \mathcal{S} be a subbasis for a topology on X . The collection \mathcal{B} consisting of all finite intersections of elements of \mathcal{S} is a basis for a topology on X and is called the basis associated to \mathcal{S} .

Definition 4.4 (Standard topology). (Not in compendium.) The standard topology on \mathbb{R} is the topology generated by a basis consisting of all open intervals of \mathbb{R} .

Lemma 4.2. Let X be a set, and let \mathcal{S} be a subbasis for a topology on X . The collection τ generated by \mathcal{S} consisting of all unions of all basis elements of the associated basis \mathcal{B} is a topology on X .

Theorem 4.5. Let X be a set, and let \mathcal{S} be a subbasis for a topology on X . Then there exists a unique topology $\langle \mathcal{S} \rangle$ generated by \mathcal{S} which is smaller than any other topology containing \mathcal{S} , where

$$\langle \mathcal{S} \rangle = \left\{ \bigcup_{\lambda \in \Lambda} \bigcap_{i=1}^{n_\lambda} S_{\lambda,i} \mid S_{\lambda,i} \in \mathcal{S} \right\}$$

Theorem 4.6. Let X and Y be topological spaces, and let \mathcal{B} (resp., \mathcal{S}) be a basis (resp., subbasis). Then a map $f : X \rightarrow Y$ is continuous if and only if for each $B \in \mathcal{B}$ (resp. $S \in \mathcal{S}$) the preimage $f^{-1}(B)$ (resp., $f^{-1}(S)$) is open in X .

5 Constructing topological spaces

5.1 Subspaces

Definition 5.1 (Subspace topology). Let X be a topological space, and let A be a subset of X . The collection

$$\tau_A = \{A \cap U \mid U \text{ is open in } X\}$$

of subsets of A is called the topology on A .

Lemma 5.1. Let X be a topological space, and let A be a subset of X . Then the collection

$$\tau_A = \{A \cap U \mid U \text{ is open in } X\}$$

is a topology on A .

Theorem 5.1. Let X be a topological space, and let \mathcal{B} be a basis for the topology on X . If A is a subset of X , the collection

$$\mathcal{B}_A = \{A \cap B \mid B \in \mathcal{B}\}$$

is a basis for the subspace topology on A .

Theorem 5.2. Let X be a topological space, and let A be a subset of X . Then the subspace topology on A is the only topology on A with the following universal property: for every topological space Y and every map :

$$f : Y \rightarrow A$$

f is continuous if and only if $i \circ f : Y \rightarrow X$ is continuous where $i : A \rightarrow X$ is the inclusion map given by $i(x) = x$ for $x \in A$.

5.2 Products

Definition 5.2 (Product topology). Let X and Y be topological spaces. The product topology on $X \times Y$ is the topology generated by the basis

$$\mathcal{B} = \{U \times V \mid U \text{ is open in } X \text{ and } V \text{ is open in } Y\}$$

Lemma 5.2. Let X and Y be topological spaces. Then the collection

$$\mathcal{B} = \{U \times V \mid U \text{ is open in } X \text{ and } V \text{ is open in } Y\}$$

is a basis for a topology on $X \times Y$.

Theorem 5.3. Let X and Y be topological spaces. If \mathcal{B}_X is a basis for the topology on X and \mathcal{B}_Y is a basis for the topology on Y , then the collection

$$\mathcal{B}_{X \times Y} = \{B_X \times B_Y \mid B_X \in \mathcal{B}_X \text{ and } B_Y \in \mathcal{B}_Y\}$$

is a basis for the product topology on $X \times Y$.

Theorem 5.4. Let X and Y be topological spaces. Let $\pi_1 : X \times Y \rightarrow X$ and $\pi_2 : X \times Y \rightarrow Y$ be the projections of $X \times Y$ onto its first and second factors, respectively. The product topology is the only topology on $X \times Y$ with the following universal property: for every topological space Z and every map $f : Z \rightarrow X \times Y$, f is continuous if and only if $\pi_1 \circ f : Z \rightarrow X$ and $\pi_2 \circ f : Z \rightarrow Y$ are continuous.

5.3 Quotient spaces

Definition 5.3 (Equivalence classes). Let X be a set, and let \sim be an equivalence relation on X . The equivalence class of $x \in X$ is the subset

$$[x] = \{y \in X \mid x \sim y\}$$

of X . Let

$$X / \sim = \{[x] \mid x \in X\}$$

Lemma 5.3. Let X and A be sets, and let $\pi : X \rightarrow A$ be a surjective map. Then the map

$$\phi : X / \sim \rightarrow A$$

given by $\phi([x]) = \pi(x)$, where $x_1 \sim x_2$ if and only if $\pi(x_1) = \pi(x_2)$, is a bijection.

Definition 5.4 (Quotient space). Let X be a topological space, let A be a set, and let $\pi : X \rightarrow A$ be a surjective map. The quotient topology on A induced by π is the collection of subsets U of A such that $\pi^{-1}(U)$ is open in X . We say

that π is a quotient map if A is given the quotient topology, and we call A the quotient space.

Lemma 5.4. Let X be a topological space, let A be a set, and let $\pi : X \rightarrow A$ be a surjective map. Then the quotient topology on A induced by π is a topology and it is the finest topology on A such that π is continuous.

Definition 5.5 (Open and closed maps). Let X and Y be topological spaces, and let $f : X \rightarrow Y$ be a continuous map. We say that f is an open map for each subset U of X that is open in X the image $f(U)$ is open in Y . Likewise, we say that f is a closed map if for each subset V of X that is closed in X the image $f(V)$ is closed in Y .

Lemma 5.5. Let X and Y be topological spaces, and let $\pi : X \rightarrow Y$ be a surjective continuous map.

- (i) If π is in addition open then it is a quotient map.
- (ii) If π is in addition closed then it is a quotient map.

Theorem 5.5. Let X be a topological space, let A be a set, and let $\pi : X \rightarrow A$ be a surjective map. The quotient topology is the only topology on A with the following universal property: for every topological space Y and every map $f : A \rightarrow Y$, f is continuous if and only if $f \circ \pi : X \rightarrow Y$ is continuous.

6 Topological properties

6.1 Connected spaces

Definition 6.1 (Connected space). Let X be a topological space. A **separation** of X is a pair of non-empty subsets U and V that are open in X , disjoint and whose union equal X . We say that X is **connected** if there are no separations of X . Otherwise it is **disconnected**.

Theorem 6.1 (Closed and open subsets). Let X be a topological space. Then X is connected if and only if there are no non-empty proper subsets of X that are both open and closed in X .

Lemma 6.1 (Disconnectivity). Let X be a disconnected space with separation U and V , and let A be a connected subspace of X . Then $A \subseteq U$ and $A \subseteq V$.

Theorem 6.2 (Collection connectivity). Let X be a topological space, and let $\{A_\lambda\}_{\lambda \in \Lambda}$ be a collection of connected subspaces of X such that $\bigcap_{\lambda \in \Lambda} A_\lambda$ is non-empty. Then $\bigcup_{\lambda \in \Lambda} A_\lambda$ is connected.

Definition 6.2 (Path connected space). Let X be a topological space, and let $x, y \in X$. A path from x to y is a continuous map: $f : [a, b] \rightarrow X$.t. $f(a) = x$ and $f(b) = y$ where $[a, b]$ is a subspace of \mathbb{R} with the standard topology. We say that X is **path connected** if every pair of points of X can be joined by a path in X .

Theorem 6.3 (Connectivity in product spaces). Let X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n be connected spaces. Then the product space $X_1 \times X_2 \times \dots \times X_n$ is connected.

Theorem 6.4 (The real numbers are connected). *Let \mathbb{R} be the set of real numbers equipped with the standard topology. Then \mathbb{R} is connected.*

Theorem 6.5 (Generalized intermediate value theorem). *Let X be a connected space and let $f : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a continuous map where \mathbb{R} is given the standard topology. If $a, b \in X$ and if r is a real number that lies between $f(a)$ and $f(b)$, there is a $c \in X$ such that $f(c) = r$*

Theorem 6.6 (Connectivity). *Let X be a topological space. Then X is connected if and only if there are no non-empty proper subsets of X that are both open and closed.*

Theorem 6.7 (Path connectedness implies connectedness). *Let X be a path connectedness space. Then X is connected.*

6.2 Hausdorff spaces

Definition 6.3 (Hausdorff). *Let X be a topological space. We say that X is **Hausdorff** if for each pair of points $x, y \in X$ with $x \neq y$, there are disjoint neighborhoods U and V of x and y , respectively. In other words, for each pair of distinct points $x, y \in X$ there are open subsets U and V of X with $x \in U$, $y \in V$ where $U \cap V = \emptyset$*

Theorem 6.8. *Every metric space is Hausdorff*

Theorem 6.9. *Let X be a Hausdorff space. Then for each $x \in X$ the subset $\{x\}$ of X is closed in X .*

Theorem 6.10. *Let X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n be Hausdorff spaces. Then the product space $X_1 \times X_2 \times \dots \times X_n$ is Hausdorff.*

Theorem 6.11. *Let X be a topological space. Then X is Hausdorff if and only if the diagonal*

$$\Delta = \{(x, x) \mid x \in X\}$$

is closed in the product space $X \times X$.

6.3 Compact spaces

Definition 6.4 (Cover of a space). *Let X be a topological space, and let \mathcal{A} be the collection of subsets of X . We say that \mathcal{A} is a cover of X , or covering of X if $X = \bigcup_{A \in \mathcal{A}} A$. If A is also open in X for each $A \in \mathcal{A}$, we say that \mathcal{A} is an **open** cover of X , or open covering of X . We say that \mathcal{A}' is a subcover of \mathcal{A} if \mathcal{A}' is another cover of X that satisfies $\mathcal{A}' \subseteq \mathcal{A}$.*

Definition 6.5 (Compact spaces). *Let X be a topological space. We say that X is **compact** if every open cover \mathcal{A} of X contains a finite subcover.*

Definition 6.6 (Compact subspaces). *Let X be a topological space, and let A be a subset of X . We say that A is compact in X if A is compact in the subspace topology.*

Lemma 6.2. *Let X be a topological space, and let A be a subspace of X . Then A is compact in X if and only if every cover of A by open subsets of X contains a finite subcollection that covers A .*

Theorem 6.12. *Let X be a compact space, and let A be a closed subset of X . Then A is compact in X .*

Theorem 6.13. *Let X be a Hausdorff space, and let K be a subset of X which is compact in X . Then K is closed in X .*

Theorem 6.14. *Let X be a compact space, Y a topological space and let $f : X \rightarrow Y$ be a surjective continuous map. Then Y is compact.*

Lemma 6.3 (Tube lemma). *Let X be a topological space, and let Y be a compact space. If $x \in X$ and U is an open set in the product space $X \times Y$ containing $\{x\} \times Y$, then there is a neighborhood W of x in X such that $W \times Y \subseteq U$.*

Theorem 6.15. *Let X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n be compact spaces. Then the product space $X_1 \times X_2 \times \dots \times X_n$ is compact.*

Theorem 6.16. *Let \mathbb{R} be the set of real numbers equipped with the standard topology. Then every closed interval $[a, b] \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ is compact in \mathbb{R} .*

Definition 6.7 (Bounded subsets). *Let (X, d) be a metric space, and let A be a subset of X . We say that A is bounded if there is an $M \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $d(a_1, a_2) \leq M$ for all $a_1, a_2 \in A$.*

Theorem 6.17 (Heine- Borel). *Let \mathbb{R}^n be given the (Euclidian) metric topology and the Euclidian metric. A subset A of \mathbb{R}^n is compact if and only if it is closed and bounded.*

Theorem 6.18 (Generalized extreme value theorem). *Let X be compact space, and let $f : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a continuous map where \mathbb{R} is given the standard topology. Then there are $m, M \in \mathbb{R}$ such that*

$$f(m) \leq f(x) \leq f(M)$$

for all $x \in X$.

7 The fundamental group

7.1 Homotopy of paths

Definition 7.1 (Homotopy). *Let X and Y be topological spaces, and let $f_0, f_1 : X \rightarrow Y$ be two continuous maps. Furthermore, let \mathbb{R} be the set of real numbers with the standard topology, $I = [0, 1]$ be a subspace of \mathbb{R} , and let $X \times I$ be the given topology. We say that f_0 is homotopic to f_1 , written $f_0 \simeq f_1$, if there is a continuous map*

$$H : X \times I \rightarrow Y$$

such that $H(x, 0) = f_0(x)$ and $H(x, 1) = f_1(x)$ for all $x \in X$. The map H is called a homotopy between f_0 and f_1 . If $f_0 \simeq f_1$ and f_1 is a constant map, we say that f_0 is nullhomotopic.

Lemma 7.1 (Pasting lemma). Let $X = A \cup B$ be a topological space where A and B are closed in X . Furthermore, let Y be a topological space, and assume that $f : A \rightarrow Y$ and $g : B \rightarrow Y$ are continuous maps. If $f(x) = g(x)$ for all $x \in A \cap B$, then the map $h : X \rightarrow Y$ given by

$$h(x) = \begin{cases} f(x), & x \in A \\ g(x), & x \in B \end{cases}$$

is continuous.

Theorem 7.1. The relation \simeq is an equivalence relation on the set of all continuous maps from a topological space X to a topological space Y .

Definition 7.2 (Homotopy classes). Let X and Y be topological spaces, and let $C(X, Y)$ be the set of continuous maps from X to Y . The homotopy classes in $C(X, Y)$ are the equivalence classes under the relation \simeq . We write $[f]$ for the homotopy class of $f \in C(X, Y)$, i.e.,

$$[f] = \{g \in C(X, Y) \mid f \simeq g\}$$

and we write $[X, Y]$ for the set of homotopy classes of continuous maps from X to Y , i.e.,

$$[X, Y] = C(X, Y) / \simeq$$

Definition 7.3 (Path homotopy). Let X be a topological space, and let $x_0, x_1 \in X$. We say that two paths $f, g : I \rightarrow X$ in X from x_0 to x_1 are path homotopic, written $f \simeq_p g$, if there is a continuous map $F : I \times I \rightarrow X$ such that

$$H(s, 0) = f(s) \quad \text{and} \quad H(s, 1) = g(s)$$

for all $s \in I$, and

$$H(0, t) = x_0 \quad \text{and} \quad H(1, t) = x_1$$

for all $t \in I$. We call H a path homotopy from f to g .

Theorem 7.2. Let X be a topological space, and let $x_0, x_1 \in X$. Then the relation \simeq_p is an equivalence relation on the set of all paths from x_0 to x_1 in X .

Definition 7.4 (Path homotopy classes). Let X be a topological space, and let $x_0, x_1 \in X$. If $f : I \rightarrow X$ is a path from x_0 to x_1 , we write $[f]$ for its path homotopy class, i.e.,

$$[f] = \{g : I \rightarrow X \mid g \text{ is a path from } x_0 \text{ to } x_1 \text{ and } f \simeq_p g\}$$

Definition 7.5 (Product of paths). Let X be a topological space, and let $x_0, x_1, x_2 \in X$. If $f : I \rightarrow X$ is a path from x_0 to x_1 , and $g : I \rightarrow X$ is a path from x_1 to x_2 , we define the product of f and g as the path $f * g : I \rightarrow X$ from x_0 to x_2 given by

$$(f * g)(s) = \begin{cases} f(2s), & 0 \leq s \leq \frac{1}{2} \\ g(2s - 1), & \frac{1}{2} \leq s \leq 1. \end{cases}$$

Lemma 7.2. Let X be a topological space, and let $x_0, x_1, x_2 \in X$. If $f : I \rightarrow X$ is a path from x_0 to x_1 and $g : I \rightarrow X$ is a path from x_1 to x_2 , then the product $f * g$ induces a well-defined operation on path homotopy classes given by

$$[f] * [g] = [f * g]$$

Theorem 7.3. Let X be a topological space. Then the product paths, $*$, has the following properties on the set of path homotopy classes.

- (i) **Associativity.** Let x_0, x_1, x_2 and x_3 be the points in X . If $f_0 : I \rightarrow X$ is a path from x_0 to x_1 , $f_1 : I \rightarrow X$ is a path from x_1 to x_2 , and $f_2 : I \rightarrow X$ is a path from x_2 to x_3 , then

$$([f_0] * [f_1]) * [f_2] = [f_0] * ([f_1] * [f_2])$$

- (ii) **Left and right units.** For $x \in X$, let $c_x : I \rightarrow X$ denote the constant path at x , given $c_x(s) = x$ for all $s \in I$. If $f : I \rightarrow X$ is a path from x_0 to x_1 then

$$[c_{x_0}] * [f] = [f] = [f] * [c_{x_1}]$$

- (iii) **inverse** If $f : I \rightarrow X$ is a path from x_0 to x_1 , let $\bar{f} : I \rightarrow X$ be the reverse path from x_1 to x_0 , given by $\bar{f}(s) = f(1 - s)$ for all $s \in I$. Then

$$[f] * [\bar{f}] = [c_{x_0}] \text{ and } [\bar{f}] * [f] = [c_{x_1}]$$

7.2 Definition and elementary properties of the fundamental group

Definition 7.6 (The fundamental group). Let (X, x_0) be a based space. A path $f : I \rightarrow X$ from x_0 to x_0 is called a loop in X based at x_0 . Let

$$\pi_1(X, x_0) = \{[f] \mid f \text{ is a loop in } X \text{ based at } x_0\}$$

be the set of path homotopy classes of loops in X at x_0 . We say that $\pi_1(X, x_0)$ is the fundamental group of X based at x_0 .

Theorem 7.4. Let (X, x_0) be a based space. Then the fundamental group $\pi_1(X, x_0)$ of X based at x_0 is, in fact, a group with product paths, $*$, as its binary operation. The identity element e is equal to the path homotopy class of the constant path at x_0 , $e = [c_{x_0}]$, and the inverse of $[f]$ is $[f]^{-1} = [\bar{f}]$, where \bar{f} is the reverse path of f .

Theorem 7.5. Let X be a path connected space, and let $x_0, x_1 \in X$. Then $\pi_1(X, x_0)$ is isomorphic to $\pi_1(X, x_1)$.

Definition 7.7 (Simply connected spaces). Let X be a path connected space. We say that X is simply connected if $\pi_1(X, x_0)$ is the trivial group for some $x_0 \in X$, and hence, for all $x_0 \in X$.

Definition 7.8 (Based maps). Let (X, x_0) and (Y, y_0) be based spaces. A based map

$$h : (X, x_0) \rightarrow (Y, y_0)$$

is a continuous map $h : X \rightarrow Y$ such that $h(x_0) = y_0$.

Definition 7.9 (Homomorphism induced by based maps). Let (X, x_0) and (Y, y_0) be based spaces, and let $h : (X, x_0) \rightarrow (Y, y_0)$ be based map. The map

$$h_* : \pi_1(X, x_0) \rightarrow \pi_1(Y, y_0)$$

given by

$$h_*([f]) = [h \circ f]$$

is called the homomorphism induced by h .

Lemma 7.3. Let (X, x_0) and (Y, y_0) be based spaces, and let $h : (X, x_0) \rightarrow (Y, y_0)$ be a based map. The map

$$h_* : \pi_1(X, x_0) \rightarrow \pi_1(Y, y_0).$$

given by

$$h_*([f]) = [h \circ f]$$

is a homomorphism.

Theorem 7.6 (Functoriality). Let (X, x_0) , (Y, y_0) and (Z, z_0) be based spaces, and let $h_2 : (X, x_0) \rightarrow (Y, y_0)$ and $h_1 : (Y, y_0) \rightarrow (Z, z_0)$ be based maps. Then

$$(h_2 \circ h_1)_* = (h_2)_* \circ (h_1)_*.$$

If $\text{id}_X : X \rightarrow X$ is the identity map, then $(\text{id}_X)_*$ is the identity automorphism of $\pi_1(X, x_0)$.

Corollary 7.1. Let (X, x_0) and (Y, y_0) be based spaces. If $h : X \rightarrow Y$ is a homeomorphism such that $h(x_0) = y_0$, then

$$h_* : \pi_1(X, x_0) \rightarrow \pi_1(Y, y_0)$$

is an isomorphism.

Theorem 7.7. Let (X, x_0) and (Y, y_0) be based spaces. Then $\pi_1(X \times Y, (x_0, y_0))$ is isomorphic to the direct product $\pi_1(X, x_0) \times \pi_1(Y, y_0)$.

7.3 Homotopy type

Lemma 7.4. Let (X, x_0) and (Y, y_0) be based spaces, and let $h : (X, x_0) \rightarrow (Y, y_0)$ and $k : (X, x_0) \rightarrow (Y, y_0)$ be based maps. If there is a homotopy $H : X \times I \rightarrow Y$ from h to k such that $H(X_0, t) = y_0$ for all $t \in I$, then the homomorphism $h_* : \pi_1(X, x_0) \rightarrow \pi_1(Y, y_0)$ and $k_* : \pi_1(X, x_0) \rightarrow \pi_1(Y, y_0)$ induced by h and k , respectively, are equal.

Definition 7.10 (Retractions). Let X be topological space, and let A be subspace of X . We say that a continuous map $r : X \rightarrow A$ is a retraction of X onto A if $r(a) = a$ for each $a \in A$. If there is a retraction of X onto A , we say that A is retract of X .

Lemma 7.5. Let X be topological space, and let A be a subspace of X . If $x_0 \in A$ and A is a retract of X . Then the homomorphism $i_* : \pi_1(A, x_0) \rightarrow \pi_1(X, x_0)$ induced by the inclusion map $i : A \rightarrow X$ is a monomorphism.

Definition 7.11 (Deformation retracts). Let X be a topological space, and let A be a subspace of X . A homotopy

$$H : X \times I \rightarrow X$$

is called deformation retraction of X onto A if $H(x, 0) = x$ and $H(x, 1) \in A$ for all $x \in X$, and $H(a, t) = a$ for all $a \in A$ and all $t \in I$. We say that A is a deformation tract of X .

Theorem 7.8. Let X be a topological space, and let A be a subspace of X . If $x_0 \in A$ and A is a deformation retract of X , then the homomorphism $i_* : \pi_1(A, x_0) \rightarrow \pi_1(X, x_0)$ induced by the inclusion map $i : A \rightarrow X$ is an isomorphism.

Definition 7.12 (Homotopy equivalences). Let X and Y be topological spaces. If $f : X \rightarrow Y$ and $g : Y \rightarrow X$ are continuous maps such that $g \circ f$ is homotopic to the identity map of X , id_X , and $f \circ g$ is homotopic to the identity map of Y , id_Y , we say that f and g are homotopy equivalences. We say that each of f and g is a homotopy inverse of the other.

Definition 7.13 (Homotopy types). Let X and Y be topological spaces. We say that X and Y have the same homotopy type if there is a homotopy equivalence $f : X \rightarrow Y$.

Lemma 7.6. Let X and Y be topological spaces, and let $f : X \rightarrow Y$ and $g : X \rightarrow Y$ be continuous maps such that $f(x_0) = y_0$ and $g(x_0) = y_1$. If $H : X \times I \rightarrow Y$ is a homotopy from f to g , there is a path $\alpha : I \rightarrow Y$ in Y from y_0 to y_1 given by $\alpha(t) = H(x_0, t)$ such that $g_* = \hat{\alpha} \circ f_*$.

Theorem 7.9. Let X and Y be topological spaces, and let $f : X \rightarrow Y$ be homotopy equivalence such that $f(x_0) = y_0$. Then

$$f_* : \pi_1(X, x_0) \rightarrow \pi_1(Y, y_0)$$

is an isomorphism.

8 The fundamental group of the circle

9 References

References