

# Lecture 3

- Construction of the universal cover  $\tilde{X}_x$  : The points of : Homotopy classes of paths starting from  $x$ .

The projection  $\pi$  : For each point  $\tilde{y} \in \tilde{X}_x$  pick a path  $f : [0, 1] \rightarrow X$  with  $f(0) = x$  representing  $\tilde{X}_y$  and put  $\pi(\tilde{X}_y) = f(1) = y$ . (well-defined ?)

The topology on  $\tilde{X}_x$  : Take the following set  $\tilde{U}$  as a basis of open neighbourhoods of a point  $\tilde{y}$  : start from a simply connected nbhd  $U$  of  $\pi(\tilde{X}_x) = y$  and if  $f : [0, 1] \rightarrow X$  is a path representing  $\tilde{y}$ , define  $\tilde{U}_{\tilde{y}}$  to be the set of homotopy classes of paths obtained by composing the homotopy class of  $f$  with the homotopy class of some path  $g : [0, 1] \rightarrow X$  with  $g(0) = y$  and  $g([0, 1]) \subseteq U$ .

- Proof of the theorem 2.3.5 : For a connected and locally simply connected topological space  $X$  and a base point  $x \in X$  the functor  $\text{Fib}_x$  is representable by a cover  $\tilde{X}_x \rightarrow X$ , i.e.  $\text{Fib}_x(.) \cong \text{Hom}(\tilde{X}_x, .)$ .

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- **Lemma 2.4.2** : The space  $\tilde{X}_x$  is connected.
- **Proposition 2.4.3** : The cover  $\pi : \tilde{X}_x \rightarrow X$  is Galois.  
For proof, we need two lemmas :
- **Lemma 2.4.4** : A cover of a simply connected and locally path-connected space is trivial.  
Proof :...
- **Corollary 2.4.5** : Let  $X$  be a locally simply connected space. Given two covers  $p : Y \rightarrow X$  and  $q : Z \rightarrow Y$ , their composite  $q \circ p : Z \rightarrow X$  is again a cover of  $X$ .
- *Proof of Theorem 2.3.4* : Let  $X$  be connected and locally simply connected top. space and  $x \in X$  a base point. The functor  $\text{Fib}_x$  induces an equivalence of the category of covers of  $X$  with the category of left  $\pi_1(X, x)$ -sets.  
Connected covers correspond to  $\pi_1(X, x)$ -sets with transitive action and Galois covers to coset spaces of normal subgroups.

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- *Proof of Proposition 2.4.6* : There is a natural isomorphism  $\text{Aut}(\tilde{X}_x|X)^{op} \cong \pi_1(X, x)$ .
- **Dependence of the fundamental group on the choice of the base point** : Assume  $X$  is a path-connected and locally simply connected space. Pick two base points  $x, y \in X$ .
- **Proposition 2.4.7** : There is a bijection between homotopy classes of path joining  $x$  to  $y$  and isomorphisms  $\tilde{X}_y \xrightarrow{\sim} \tilde{X}_x$  in the category of covers of  $X$ .
- A cover isomorphism  $\lambda : \tilde{X}_y \xrightarrow{\sim} \tilde{X}_x$  induces a group isomorphism  $\text{Aut}(\tilde{X}_y|X) \xrightarrow{\sim} \text{Aut}(\tilde{X}_x|X)$  by the map  $\phi \mapsto \lambda \circ \phi \lambda^{-1}$ . Via Prop. 2.4.6, it corresponds to an isomorphism  $\lambda^{op} : \pi_1(X, y) \xrightarrow{\sim} \pi_1(X, x)$ . Thus we get the dependence of  $\pi_1(X, \cdot)$  on the base point.  $\lambda^{op}$  is uniquely determined up to an inner automorphism of  $\pi_1(X, x)$ .

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- Any cover isomorphic to some  $\pi_1(X, x)$  is called a *universal cover* of  $X$ .
- **Proposition 2.4.9** Let  $X$  be a path-connected and locally simply connected space. A cover  $\tilde{X} \rightarrow X$  is universal iff it is simply connected.

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