

Last Time fix top spaces  $X, Y$  and  $x$  in  $X$

Thm if  $f : X$  to  $Y$  is a homotopy equiv., then  
 $f_* : \pi_1(X, x)$  to  $\pi_1(Y, f(x))$  is an iso

Lem 1 if  $\varphi : G$  to  $G'$  and  $\psi : G'$  to  $G''$  are maps  
s.t.  $\psi \circ \varphi$  is bijective  
then  $\varphi$  is injective and  $\psi$  is surjective

Lem 2 let  $h : X \times [0, 1]$  to  $Y$  be a homotopy  
set  $f_0(s) = h(s, 0)$ ,  
 $f_1(s) = h(s, 1)$ ,  
 $\alpha(t) = h(0, t)$  [starting pt at time  $t$ ]

then we have

$f_{1*} = \check{\alpha} \circ f_{0*} : \pi_1(X, x)$  to  $\pi_1(Y, f_1(x))$

here,  $\alpha$  is a path in  $Y$  and  $\check{\alpha}([Y]) = [\alpha'] * [Y] * [\alpha]$   
thus  $\check{\alpha}$  is an automorphism of  $\pi_1(Y, f_1(x))$

Pf of Thm from Lem's

have  $g : Y$  to  $X$  s.t.  $g \circ f$  is homotopic to  $\text{id}_X$   
 $f \circ g$  is homotopic to  $\text{id}_Y$

now look at  $(f \circ g \circ f)_* = f_* \circ g_* \circ f_*$   
:  $\pi_1(X, x)$  to  $\pi_1(Y, f_1(x))$

by lem 2,  $g_* \circ f_* = (g \circ f)_* = \check{\alpha}_X \circ \text{id}_{\{X, *\}}$   
 $= \check{\alpha}_X$   
 $f_* \circ g_* = (f \circ g)_* = \check{\alpha}_Y \circ \text{id}_{\{Y, *\}}$   
 $= \check{\alpha}_Y$

for some paths  $\alpha_X, \alpha_Y$  in  $X, Y$ , respectively

so, by lem 1,  $f_*$  is both injective and surjective  
i.e.,  $f_*$  is bijective  $\square$

to finish off, some more discussion of retracts:

recall that

- a function-theoretic retract is  
a map  $r$  with a right inverse
- a retract of a space  $X$  onto a subspace  $A$  is  
a map  $r : X$  to  $A$  s.t.  $r(a) = a$  for all  $a$  in  $A$   
here,  $r \circ i = \text{id}_A$ , where  $i : A$  to  $X$  is inclusion

Df a deformation retract of  $X$  onto  $A$  is  
a homotopy  $h : X \times [0, 1]$  to  $X$  s.t.  
 $h(-, 0) = \text{id}_X$   
 $h(-, 1)$  has image  $A$ ,  
 $h(-, t)|_A = \text{id}_A$  for all  $t$

sometimes we also say that  $A$  is, itself,  
the deformation retract of  $X$

[how does this relate to homotopy equivalences?]

Lem if  $h$  is a deformation retract of  $X$  onto  $A$ ,  
 $r : X$  to  $A$  is given by  $r(x) = h(x, 1)$ ,  
 $i : A$  to  $X$  is the inclusion,  
then  $r$  and  $i$  form a homotopy equiv.

Pf  $r \circ i = \text{id}_A$   
 $h$  is a homotopy from  $\text{id}_X$  to  $i \circ r$

Ex let  $X = \mathbb{R}^2 - \{(0, 0)\}$  and  $A = S^1$   
here  $r$  is radial projection  
the point: can choose  $h$  so that, at any  $t$ ,  
the map  $h(-, t)$  restricts to  $\text{id}_{S^1}$

so a deformation retract is just a special kind of homotopy equivalence

(Munkres §68–69) next: Seifert–van Kampen  
first: more group theory

Df for any set  $X$ , let

$$X^{\pm} = X \cup \{x^{-1} \mid x \in X\}$$

where  $x^{-1}$  is just a formal symbol indexed by  $x$

- a (signed) word in  $X$  is a finite sequence of elts of  $X^{\pm}$
- a word is reduced iff no consecutive elts look like “ $x, x^{-1}$ ” or “ $x^{-1}, x$ ”

an elementary reduction in a word  $w$  is the operation of deleting such consec elts from  $w$

a reduction of  $w$  is a reduced[!] word obtained from  $w$  by successive elementary reductions

Ex let  $X = \{g, h, k\}$  and [from Terry Tao]

$$w = g^{-1}k^{-1}gk k^{-1}g^{-1}h^{-1}ghk$$

elementary reductions give  $g^{-1}k^{-1}h^{-1}ghk$

Thm every word in  $X$  has a unique reduction

Pf existence: words have finite length

uniqueness: induct on the length  $|w|$

if  $w$  is empty, then done

else let  $w$  to  $u_1$  to  $u_2$  to ... to  $u_m$

$w$  to  $v_1$  to  $v_2$  to ... to  $v_n$

be two chains of elementary reductions  
with  $u_m$  and  $v_n$  reduced

Claim either  $u_1 = v_1$   
or there is a word  $w'$  obtained from both  
by a single elementary reduction

Pf of Claim either the elementary reductions  
from  $w$  to  $u_1$ ,  $v_1$  overlap  
or they do not:  
check each case separately

Claim Implies Thm

if  $u_1 = v_1$ , then  $u_m = v_n$  by the inductive hyp.  
because  $|u_1| = |v_1| < |w|$   
otherwise, let  $w''$  be a reduction of  $w'$   
then  $w''$  is also a reduction of both  $u_1$  and  $v_1$   
so  $u_m = w'' = v_n$ , again by the inductive hyp.

Df let  $v|w$  denote concatenation of  $v$  and  $w$

the free group generated by  $X$  is

$$F_X = \{\text{reduced words in } X\}$$

under the group law  $v \cdot w = \text{reduction}(v|w)$   
we call this concatenation as well, and drop the  $\cdot$

associativity:

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{reduct}(\text{reduct}(u|v)|w) \\ &= \text{reduct}(u|v|w) \\ &= \text{reduct}(u|\text{reduct}(v|w)) \end{aligned}$$

[what is the id elt?]  $\text{id}_{\{F_X\}} = \text{empty word}$   
[inverses should be clear]

### Universal Property of Free Groups

for any group  $G$ , there is a bijection

$$\{\text{set-theoretic maps } X \text{ to } G\} = \{\text{hom.'s } F_X \text{ to } G\}$$

$$\begin{aligned} f : X \text{ to } G \text{ goes to } \varphi_f : F_X \text{ to } G \text{ def by} \\ \varphi_f(x_1^{e_1}, x_2^{e_2}, \dots) = f(x_1)^{e_1} * f(x_2)^{e_2} * \dots \end{aligned}$$

[ $F_X$  is the “freest”, or “most universal”, way to build a group from an arbitrary set  $X$ ]

if  $X$  is finite, and we only care about  $n = |X|$ , then we write  $F_n$  in place of  $F_X$

Ex       $F_1$  is a copy of  $Z$

### Groups via Generators and Relations

Df      for any  $S \text{ sub } G$ , the subgroup of  $G$  generated by  $S$  is both:

- 1) the image of the hom.  $F_S$  to  $G$  corresponding to the inclusion of  $S$
- 2) the unique minimal subgroup of  $G$  containing  $S$

if it is  $G$ , then we say  $S$  is generating set for  $G$   
in this case, the map

$$F_S \rightarrow G$$

is surjective [but usually  $F_S$  is much much larger]  
[how to measure the shrinkage?]

recall: the kernel of a homomorphism  $\varphi: G$  to  $K$  is

$$\ker(\varphi) = \{g \in G \mid \varphi(g) = e_K\}$$

Fact a subgroup  $H \leq G$  is a kernel iff  
 $H$  is normal: i.e.,  $gHg^{-1} = H$  for all  $g$

[where  $gHg^{-1} = \{ghg^{-1} \mid h \in H\}$ ]

Df for any  $R \leq G$  and generating set  $S$ :

$R$  is a set of relations for  $G$  wrt  $S$  iff  $\ker(F_S \rightarrow G)$   
is the minimal normal subgroup of  $G$  containing  $R$

in this case, we write  $G = \langle S \mid R \rangle$   
and say  $G$  is gen'd by  $S$  modulo the relations  $R$

Ex up to iso, a unique group of size 2:

$$G = \{e, s\} \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \begin{aligned} e * e &= s * s = e \\ s * e &= e * s = s \end{aligned}$$

$S = \{s\}$  generates  $G$

$F_S \rightarrow G$  sends powers of  $s$  to powers of  $s$   
 $\ker(F_S \rightarrow G) = \{\text{even powers of } s\}$   
altogether,  $G = \langle s \mid s^2 \rangle$