

Today the n -sphere

$$S^n = \{(x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n) \mid \sum_i x_i^2 = 1\}$$

as a subspace of analytic \mathbb{R}^{n+1}

Thm 1 $\pi_1(S^1) \simeq \mathbb{Z}$ via explicit iso

Thm 2 $\pi_1(S^n)$ trivial for all $n \geq 2$

Q why did I omit the basept?

S^n is path-connected for any $n \geq 1$ [$n = 0$?]

so $\pi_1(S^n, x) \simeq \pi_1(S^n, y)$ for any x, y in S^n

Df X is simply connected iff
 X is path connected and $\pi_1(X)$ is trivial

Ex any star-convex subspace of \mathbb{R}^{n+1}
is simply connected

but S^n is not star-convex

Naive Pf of Thm 2 [Munkres 370, #2]

pick basept x and loop γ in S^n at x
pick p in $S^n - \text{image}(\gamma)$

there is a homeo $S^n - \{p\}$ to \mathbb{R}^n :
namely, stereographic projection

\mathbb{R}^n is simply-connected
so $[\gamma] = [e_x]$ [i.e., γ nullhomotopic] in $S^n - \{p\}$
hence $[\gamma] = [e_x]$ in S^n

[where did we use $n \geq 2$?]

Problem how do we know that $\text{image}(\gamma) \neq S^n$?

definitely false when $n = 1$

but also false when $n \geq 2$:

Thm (Peano) there are “space-filling curves”(!)

Cor there are loops γ in S^n that are surjective as maps $[0, 1]$ to S^n

Solution if $n \geq 2$, then any loop in S^n is path-homotopic to a non-surjective loop

[proof is hard so we merely sketch:]

Pf sketch of Claim

suppose the loop is γ , based at x
pick open hemispheres B, C s.t.

$$B \cup C = S^n$$

$$B \cap C \text{ homeo to } S^{n-1} \times (-\varepsilon, \varepsilon)$$

$$x \in B \cap C$$

then $C - B$ is nonempty

idea: path-homotope γ to a loop avoiding $C - B$

for all s in $[0, 1]$, know $\gamma(s) \in B$ or $\gamma(s) \in C$
but B, C open, so must have $\delta_s > 0$ s.t.

$$\text{either } \gamma((s - \delta_s, s + \delta_s)) \subset B$$

$$\text{or } \gamma((s - \delta_s, s + \delta_s)) \subset C$$

let $U_s = (s - \delta_s, s + \delta_s)$
 then $\{U_s\}_s$ is an open cover of $[0, 1]$
 so it has a finite subcover $\{U_{s_j}\}_j$

[draw]

pick t_j in $U_{s_j} \cap U_{s_{j+1}}$ for all j

$$0 = t_0 < t_1 < \dots < t_N = 1$$

s.t. for all j , either $\gamma([t_j, t_{j+1}])$ sub B
 or $\gamma([t_j, t_{j+1}])$ sub C

path-homotope the sub-paths in C
 to sub-paths inside $B \cap C$

Pf of Thm 1 will use covering map

\mathbb{R} to S^1

for now, just mention: an explicit iso

$$\Phi : \mathbb{Z} \text{ to } \pi_1(S^1, (1, 0))$$

given by $\Phi(n) = [\omega_n]$,
 where $\omega_n : [0, 1] \text{ to } S^1$ is defined by

$$\omega_n(s) = (\cos(2\pi ns), \sin(2\pi ns))$$

claiming: Φ is a homomorphism,
 i.e., $[\omega_{m+n}] = [\omega_m * \omega_n]$
 Φ is bijective

Q what is $\pi_1(\text{solid donut})$?

A solid donut $\sim S^1$, so $\pi_1 \simeq \mathbb{Z}$

Q what is $\pi_1(\text{hollow donut})$?

A hollow donut $\sim S^1 \times S^1$

PS5, #6(1): $\pi_1(X \times Y) \simeq \pi_1(X) \times \pi_1(Y)$

thus $\pi_1(S^1 \times S^1) \simeq \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}$

Q what is $\pi_1(\text{two-holed solid donut})$?