

**Theorem 1.** *Let  $f : E \rightarrow X$  be a covering map. Let  $Y$  be a connected space and  $g : Y \rightarrow X$  be a continuous map. The two lifts  $H_1, H_2 : Y \rightarrow E$  of  $g$  with respect to  $f$  are equal if and only if there exists  $y \in Y$  such that  $H_1(y) = H_2(y)$ .*

Alternatively, we can state the theorem as follows:

**Theorem 2.** *Let  $f : E \rightarrow X$  be a covering map. Let  $Y$  be a topological space and  $H_1, H_2 : Y \rightarrow E$  be two continuous maps such that*

$$f \circ H_1 = f \circ H_2.$$

*Suppose for every connected component  $C$  of  $Y$ , there exists  $y \in C$  such that  $H_1(y) = H_2(y)$ , then  $H_1 = H_2$ .*

*Proof sketch.* Claim 1: If a closed and open set  $S \subseteq Y$  intersects with all the connected components of  $Y$ , then  $S = Y$ .

Claim 2: A set  $S \subseteq Y$  is closed and open in  $Y$  if and only if for every  $y \in Y$  there is a neighborhood  $U_y$  of  $y$  such that  $U_y \cap S$  is closed and open in  $U_y$ .

Claim 3: If  $f, g : X \rightarrow Y$  are continuous and  $Y$  is a discrete topological space, then the set  $\{x \in X \mid f(x) = g(x)\}$  is closed and open in  $X$ .

We now proceed with the proof of the theorem. Let

$$S = \{y \in Y \mid H_1(y) = H_2(y)\}.$$

We will show that  $S$  is closed and open in  $Y$ . Let  $y \in Y$ , since  $f : E \rightarrow X$  is a covering space, we get open neighborhood  $V_y \subseteq X$  of  $(f \circ H_1)(y)$  such that

$$f^{-1}(V_y) \cong V_y \times D$$

for a discrete space  $D$ . Let

$$U_y = (f \circ H_1)^{-1}(V_y) = (f \circ H_2)^{-1}(V_y).$$

From claim 2, it is enough to show that  $U_y \cap S$  is closed and open in  $U_y$ . Note that

$$U_y \cap S = \{u \in U_y \mid \text{Proj}_D(H_1(u)) = \text{Proj}_D(H_2(u))\}$$

From claim 3, since  $D$  is a discrete set, we get that  $U_y \cap S$  is closed and open in  $U_y$ . Hence,  $S$  is closed and open in  $Y$ . From assumption we get that  $S$  intersects with all the connected components of  $Y$ . From claim 1, we get that  $S = Y$ . Hence,  $H_1 = H_2$ .  $\square$