



Math 5605

Algebraic Topology


Book 1



If X, Y are top. spaces, $f: X \rightarrow Y$ is continuous if $f^{-1}(U) \subseteq X$ is open whenever $U \subseteq Y$ is open.

$f: X \rightarrow Y$ is a homeomorphism if f is bijective and f, f^{-1} are continuous.


$X \cong Y$ are homeomorphic if there exists a homeomorphism $X \xrightarrow{\cong} Y$.


$\mathbb{R}^2 \not\cong S^1$ since S^2 is compact; \mathbb{R}^2 is not.

$S^2 \cong \{(x, y, z) \in \mathbb{R}^3 : x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = 1\} =$ 

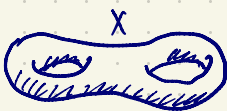

$S^2 \not\cong T^2 = \coprod_{S^1} S^1 =$  $=$ 

S^2, T^2 are compact surfaces. They are locally homeomorphic but not globally homeomorphic.

$T^1 = S^1 =$  $=$ circle $\cong \{z \in \mathbb{C} : |z| = 1\}$

$S^2 \not\cong T^2$ because S^2 is simply connected whereas T^2 is not. 

In S^1 , every closed path can be "continuously shrink" to a point (homotopic to a point, i.e. null-homotopic)

X  $\not\cong$ T^2 

although both surfaces are compact, connected, not simply connected

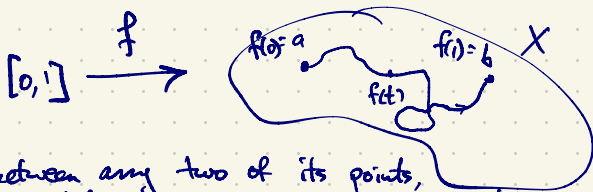
These two surfaces have different fundamental group: $\pi_1(X)$ is nonabelian, $\pi_1(T^2) \cong \mathbb{Z}^2$ is a (nontrivial) abelian group.

If $X \cong Y$ (homeomorphic) then $\pi_1(X) \cong \pi_1(Y)$.

For much of alg. top., the algebraic invariants that we define are actually invariant under the weaker equivalence relation of homotopy equivalence.

Eg. For every $n \geq 0$, \mathbb{R}^n is homotopy equivalent to $\mathbb{R}^0 = \{0\}$.

Given points $a, b \in X$ (a topological space), a path from a to b is a function $f: [0, 1] \rightarrow X$ such that $f(0) = a, f(1) = b$. (continuous)



All maps (unless indicated otherwise) are assumed to be continuous.

If X has a path between any two of its points, then X is path-connected. For the time being, we'll assume X is path-connected. (In general, we instead define the fundamental groupoid of X .) If $\varphi: [0, 1] \rightarrow [0, 1]$ (recall: continuous) such that $\varphi(0) = 0, \varphi(1) = 1$ then $f \circ \varphi: [0, 1] \rightarrow X$ is just a reparameterization of the same path and we don't distinguish it from f .

If $f, g: [0, 1] \rightarrow X$ are paths such that $f(1) = g(0)$ then we can concatenate them to form a new path from $f(0)$ to $g(1)$:



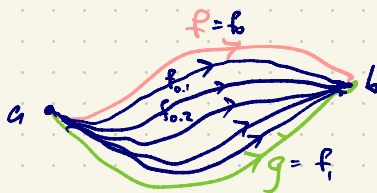
$(fg)h$ is the same path as $f(gh)$ after reparameterization:

$$((fg)h)(t) = \begin{cases} f(4t) & t \in [0, \frac{1}{4}] \\ g(4t-1) & t \in [\frac{1}{4}, \frac{1}{2}] \\ h(2t-1) & t \in [\frac{1}{2}, 1] \end{cases}$$

$$(f(gh))(t) = \begin{cases} f(2t) & t \in [0, \frac{1}{2}] \\ g(4t-2) & t \in [\frac{1}{2}, \frac{3}{4}] \\ h(4t-3) & t \in [\frac{3}{4}, 1] \end{cases}$$



f, g are homotopic but h is not homotopic to f, g



More precisely, we require a map $[0, 1]^2 \rightarrow X$
 $(s, t) \mapsto f(s, t) = f_s(t)$
 such that $f_0 = f$ i.e. $f_0(t) = f(t)$
 $f_1 = g$ i.e. $f_1(t) = g(t)$
 $f_s(0) = a$ for all $s \in [0, 1]$
 $f_s(1) = b$ for all $s \in [0, 1]$
 This is a homotopy from f to g .

We say f, g are homotopic if there is a continuous family of paths from a to b in X , f_s ($s \in [0, 1]$) with $f_0 = f, f_1 = g$.

If $\varphi: [0,1] \rightarrow [0,1]$ is a map with $\varphi(0)=0$, $\varphi(1)=1$ then the reparameterized path $f \circ \varphi: [0,1] \rightarrow X$ is homotopic to f . A homotopy from f to $f \circ \varphi$ is

$$[0,1]^2 \rightarrow X$$

$$(s,t) \mapsto f(\underbrace{(1-s)t + s\varphi(t)}_{\uparrow [0,1]}) = f_s(t)$$

$$f_0(t) = f(t)$$

$$f_s(t) = f(\varphi(t))$$

$$f_s(0) = f((1-s) \cdot 0 + s \cdot \varphi(0)) = f(0)$$

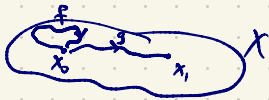
$$f_s(1) = f((1-s) \cdot 1 + s \cdot \varphi(1)) = f(1)$$

Fix $x_0 \in X$. Assume X is path-connected. $\pi_1(X, x_0)$ is the group of all homotopy classes of paths from x_0 to x_0 in X under concatenation. It turns out $\pi_1(X, x_0) \cong \pi_1(X, x_1)$ for all $x_0, x_1 \in X$.

This gives the fundamental group $\pi_1(X)$.

$$\pi_1(\mathbb{R}^n) = 1 \quad (\text{trivial group}).$$

$$\pi_1(S^1) \cong \mathbb{Z} \quad (\text{free group on one generator})$$



Fix g path in X from x_0 to x_1 .

An isomorphism $\phi: \pi_1(X, x_0) \rightarrow \pi_1(X, x_1)$

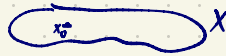
$$f \xrightarrow{\phi} \bar{g}fg$$

$$gf\bar{g} \xleftarrow{\phi^{-1}} h$$

$$\phi(f_1 f_2) = \bar{g} f_1 f_2 g = (\bar{g} f_1 g)(\bar{g} f_2 g)$$

$$f_1, f_2 \in \pi_1(X, x_0)$$

γ : Identity in $\pi_1(X, x_0)$



$$\gamma(t) = x_0 \quad \text{for } t \in [0,1]$$

$$\gamma f = f \gamma = f \quad \text{for all } f \in \pi_1(X, x_0)$$

The inverse of $f \in \pi_1(X, x_0)$ is

$$\bar{f}(t) = f(1-t), \quad t \in [0,1]$$

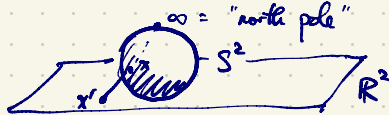
(same path in the reverse direction)



$$f \bar{f} = \bar{f} f = \gamma = \text{null path}$$

$\pi_1(S^2) = 1$ (trivial group: all closed paths in S^2 are null-homotopic)

$S^2 \cong \mathbb{R}^2 \cup \{\infty\}$ (one-point compactification)



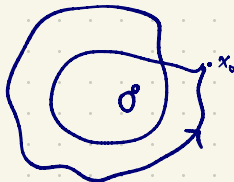
$x \mapsto x'$ is stereographic projection from the north pole ∞



See Hatcher for general case including possibly space-filling curves.

$\pi_1(\mathbb{R}^2) = 1$

$\pi_1(\mathbb{R}^2 - \{0\}) \cong \mathbb{Z}$
punctured plane



follows from the fact that

$\mathbb{R}^2 - \{0\}$ and S^1 have the same homotopy type

$\mathbb{R}^3 - (x\text{-axis}) \simeq \mathbb{R}^2 - \{0\} \simeq S^1$

$\mathbb{R}^3 - \{0\} \simeq S^2$

$X \simeq Y$: X, Y are homotopic / have the same homotopy type / are homotopy equivalent

Note: this is weaker than $X \cong Y$ (homeomorphic)

Hatcher writes $X \approx Y$ for homeomorphic

- retraction
- deformation retraction

"def. retraction in the weak sense"

- strong deformation retraction

"def. retraction"

- homotopy
- relative homotopy
- homotopy equivalence

Let $A \subseteq X$ (subspace of a top. space).

A retraction $f: X \rightarrow A$ is a ^(continuous) map such that $f|_A = id_A = 1_A$ i.e. $f(a) = a$ for all $a \in A$.

If such a map exists then A is a retract of X .

Eg. \mathbb{R}^n has a retraction to any one of its points. If $a \in \mathbb{R}^n$ then the constant map $\mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \{a\}$, $x \mapsto a$ is a retraction.

$\mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow x\text{-axis}$, $(x, y) \mapsto (x, 0)$.

If $S^1 \subset \mathbb{R}^2$ is the unit circle, then there is no retraction $\mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow S^1$.
(But this may not be obvious.)

A deformation retraction is (a homotopy from id_X to a retraction), $A \subseteq X$.

i.e. $f: [0,1] \times X \rightarrow X$

$$f(t, x) = f_t(x)$$

$$f_0(x) = x$$

i.e. $f_0 = \text{id}_X$

$$f_1(x) \in A$$

f_1 is a retraction $X \rightarrow A$

$$f_t(a) = a \text{ for all } a \in A.$$

If a def. retraction exists from X to $A \subseteq X$, we say A is a deformation retract of X .

(This is stronger than retract)

Ex. $f: [0,1] \times \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$

$$f_t(x) = (1-t)x \text{ is a def. retraction to } \{0\}.$$

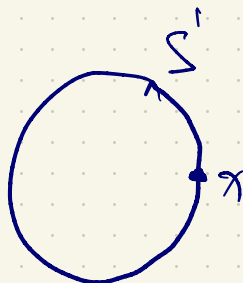
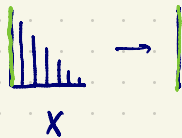
Ex. $x \in S^1$ x is a retract of S^1 but not a def. retract of S^1 .

A strong def. retract $f: [0,1] \times X \rightarrow X$:

$$f_0(x) = x \text{ i.e. } f_0 = \text{id}_X$$

f_t is a retraction $X \rightarrow A$

$$f_t|_A = \text{id}_A \text{ for all } t \in [0,1]$$



def. retract
but not strong def. retract.

$$X \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2$$

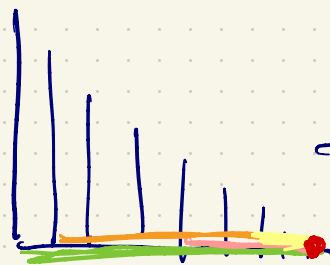
$$X = ([0,1] \times \{0\}) \cup \bigcup_{r \in \mathbb{Q} \cap [0,1]} (\{r\} \times [0,1-r])$$



This is a def. retract, but not a strong def. retract.

There is no strong def. retract $X \rightarrow A$.

X has a def. ret. to $A = \{0\} \times [0,1]$.



$$0 \leq t \leq \frac{1}{2}$$

$$\frac{1}{2} \leq t \leq 1$$



Let $f_0, f_1: X \rightarrow Y$ be maps. A homotopy from f_0 to f_1 is a map $f: [0,1] \times X \rightarrow Y$ such that $f(0,x) = f_0(x)$ and $f(1,x) = f_1(x)$. ("continuous deformation")

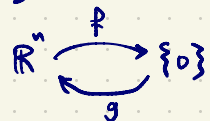
If $A \subseteq X$ is any subspace, a homotopy relative to A from f_0 to f_1 is a homotopy $f: [0,1] \times X \rightarrow Y$ such that $f_t(a)$ is independent of $t \in [0,1]$ for all $a \in A$. (constant)

A path from a to b in X is a homotopy from a to b .

Given two paths f_0, f_1 in X from a to b ($a, b \in X$) is a homotopy relative to $\{0,1\}$.

A homotopy equivalence from X to Y is a pair of maps $X \xrightarrow{f} Y$ such that $f \circ g : Y \rightarrow Y$ and $g \circ f : X \rightarrow X$ are homotopic to id_Y and id_X respectively.

Eg. \mathbb{R}^n is homotopy equivalent to $\mathbb{R}^0 = \{0\}$ (or $\mathbb{R}^n \simeq \{0\}$)



$$f(x) = 0 \text{ for all } x \in \mathbb{R}^n$$

$$g(0) = 0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$$

$$g \circ f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$$

$$x \mapsto 0$$

$$f \circ g : \{0\} \rightarrow \{0\}$$

$$0 \mapsto 0$$

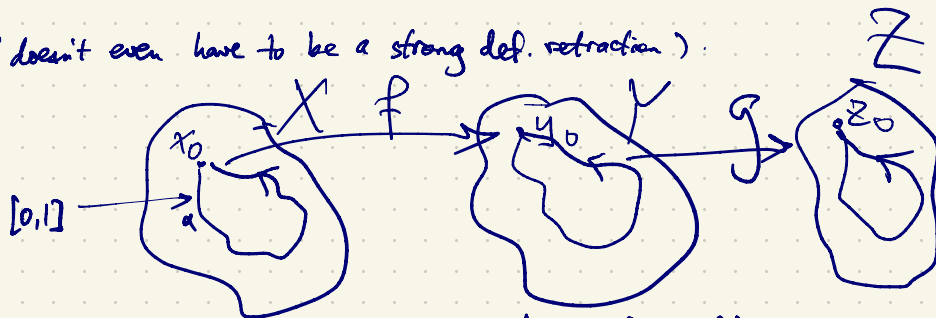
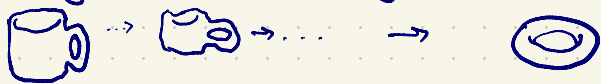
A homotopy from $g \circ f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ to $\text{id}_{\mathbb{R}^n} : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ is $h_t(x) = tx$, $0 \leq t \leq 1$, $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$

Not relative to any subspace necessarily.

$$h_0 = g \circ f$$

$$h_1 = \text{id}_{\mathbb{R}^n}$$

The same argument works for any def. retraction (doesn't even have to be a strong def. retraction).



S^1 is not homotopic to a point.
(S^1 is not null homotopic; not contractible)

If $f : X \rightarrow Y$ where both X, Y are path-connected then f induces a homomorphism $f_* : \pi_1(X) \rightarrow \pi_1(Y)$

$$\alpha : [0, 1] \rightarrow X \text{ gives } f_* \alpha = f \circ \alpha : [0, 1] \rightarrow Y$$

$$(g \circ f)_* = g_* \circ f_*$$

If $X \simeq Y$ then $\pi_1(X) \cong \pi_1(Y)$

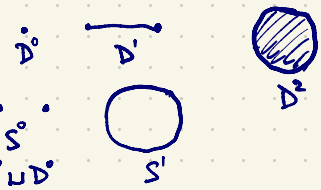
D^n = closed ball in \mathbb{R}^n
 disk

$S^n = \partial D^{n+1}$ = n-sphere

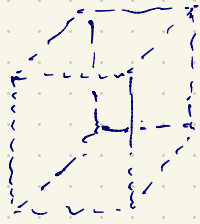
A CW complex is formed

from $X = X^0 \cup X^1 \cup X^2 \cup X^3 \cup \dots$

X^n is a union of copies of D^n with the boundaries of D^n attached to X^{n-1} via attaching maps.



Eq. Torus $T^2 = S^1 \times S^1 =$

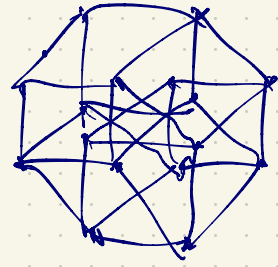


$X^0 = \bullet = D^0$

$X^1 =$  $\cong S^1 \vee S^1$



X^2

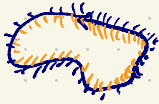


$\pi_1(T^2) \cong \mathbb{Z}^2 = \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}$

Möbius strip

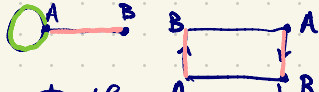


not orientable



not homeomorphic to cylinder $S^1 \times [0, 1]$

$X^0 =$
 $X^1 =$
 $X^2 =$

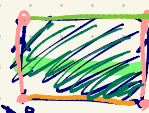


Both are homotopy equivalent
 Both have \mathbb{Z} as fund. gp.

Cylinder:

$X^0 =$
 $X^1 =$
 $X^2 =$

$D^1 \times D^1$



orientable

equivalent to S^1 (def. retract to S^1)

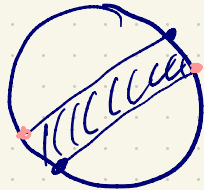
$\mathbb{P}^2 \mathbb{R}$ (or $\mathbb{R}\mathbb{P}^2$) is the real projective plane is obtained from a disk D^2 with opposite boundary points identified



D^2

(non-orientable surface)

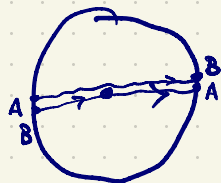
$\mathbb{P}^2 \mathbb{R} = D^2$ glued to a Möbius strip



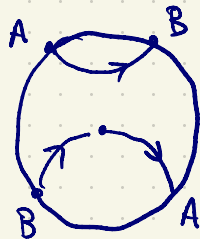
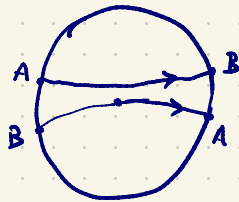
$$\pi_1(\mathbb{P}^1) \cong \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$$



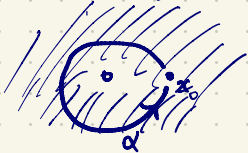
α is not homotopic to the null path γ . α^2 is homotopic to γ .



α^2



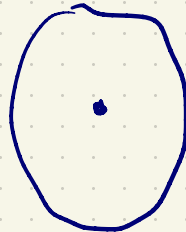
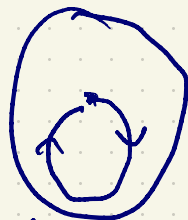
$$\mathbb{R}^2 - \{0\} \cong S^1$$



A homotopy equivalence

$$\mathbb{R}^2 - \{0\} \xrightarrow{f_t} S^1$$

$$f_t(x,y) = \left(\frac{x}{\sqrt{x^2+y^2}}, \frac{y}{\sqrt{x^2+y^2}} \right)$$



$$f_t(v) = (1-t)v + t \frac{v}{|v|}$$

$$f_t(v) = \frac{v}{|v|}$$

$$f_t: \mathbb{R}^2 - \{0\} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2 - \{0\}$$

strong def. retraction since

$$f_0 = \text{id}_{\mathbb{R}^2 - \{0\}}$$

$f_t|_{S^1} = \text{id}_{S^1}$ for all $t \in [0,1]$.

f_t is a retraction to S^1

$$\{\alpha^n : n \in \mathbb{Z}\}$$

$$\langle \alpha \rangle = \pi_1(\mathbb{R}^2 - \{0\}) \cong \mathbb{Z}$$

free group on one generator

$$\pi_1(S^1) \cong \mathbb{Z}$$

Given a closed path α in S^1 with base point $1 \in S^1 = \{z \in \mathbb{C} : |z| = 1\}$

$$\text{define } w(\beta) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\beta} \frac{dz}{z} = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\beta(0)}^{\beta(1)} \frac{dz}{z}$$

$$\beta: [0, 1] \rightarrow S^1$$

$$\beta(0) = 1$$

$$\beta(e^{2\pi i \theta}) = \theta + n$$



$$w(\alpha) = 1$$

$$w(\alpha^n) = n$$

w is an isomorphism from $\pi_1(S^1)$ to \mathbb{Z} .

In $\mathbb{C} - \{0\}$ the same argument works

$$\mathbb{R}^2 - \{0\} \quad 0 = (0,0)$$

$$\pi_1(\mathbb{R}^2 - \{0\}) = \langle \alpha \rangle \cong \mathbb{Z}$$



distinct

$$k\text{-punctured plane } X = \mathbb{R}^2 - \{A_1, \dots, A_k\}$$

$$\pi_1(X) = F_k = \text{Free}(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_k)$$

$$X \simeq \underbrace{S^1 \vee S^1 \vee \dots \vee S^1}_k$$



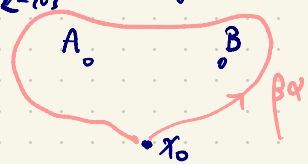
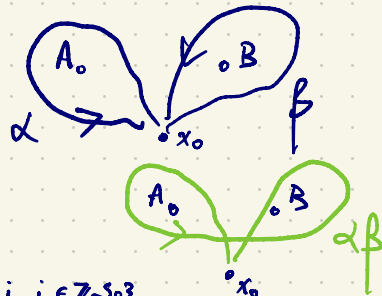
$$X = \mathbb{R}^2 - \{A, B\}$$

$$\pi_1(X) = \langle \alpha^i \beta^j \alpha^k \beta^l \dots \alpha^m \beta^n \alpha^p \beta^q \dots \alpha^r \beta^s \alpha^t \beta^u \dots \alpha^v \beta^w \alpha^x \beta^y \dots \alpha^z \beta^{\dots} \rangle$$

$\pi_1(X)$ is the free group on two generators i.e. $k \geq 0$

$$F_2 = \text{Free}(\alpha, \beta) = \langle \alpha, \beta \rangle = \langle \alpha \rangle * \langle \beta \rangle = \mathbb{Z} * \mathbb{Z}$$

$$\int \frac{dz}{z} = \ln|z| + 2\pi i \arg z$$



The Van Kampen Theorem gives a presentation for $\pi_1(X)$ when X is suitably described in terms of smaller pieces.

A presentation for a group G expresses G as a homomorphic image of a free group F i.e. $G \cong F/N$, $N \triangleleft F$.

Let X be a set of generators of G ($X \subseteq G$, $\langle X \rangle = G$).

$\text{Free}(X) \longrightarrow G$ is a surjective homomorphism; N is its kernel.

$G = \langle x_1, \dots, x_k : \underbrace{r_1, \dots, r_m}_{\in F} \rangle$ is a presentation for G if $X = \{x_1, \dots, x_k\}$ is a set of k symbols, $F = \text{Free}(X)$ (the free group on x_1, \dots, x_k).

Let N be the smallest normal subgp of F containing r_1, \dots, r_m i.e.

the normal closure of $\langle r_1, \dots, r_m \rangle \leq F$

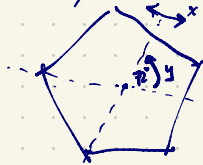
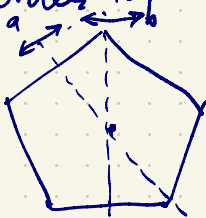
i.e. the subgp. of F generated by r_1, \dots, r_m and their conjugates in F

$N = \langle h r_i h^{-1} : i=1, \dots, m; h \in F \rangle$. (When there are k generators and m relators,

we say G is finitely presented.)

eg. the dihedral group of order 10 is

$$D_{10} \cong \langle a, b : a^2, b^2, (ab)^5 \rangle \cong \langle x, y : x^2, y^5, xyx^{-1}y \rangle$$



$$\begin{aligned} xyx^{-1}y &= 1 \\ xy &= yx \\ xyx^{-1} &= y \end{aligned}$$

$$D_{10} \cong \langle a, b : a^2, b^2, (ab)^5 \rangle \cong \langle x, y : x^2, y^5, xyx^{-1}y \rangle$$

$\xrightarrow{\phi}$

$$x = a \\ y = ab$$

$$x^2 = a^2 = 1 \\ y^5 = (ab)^5 = 1 \\ xyx^{-1} = a \cdot ab \cdot a^{-1} = ba \\ \text{whereas } y^{-1} = (ab)^{-1} = b^{-1}a^{-1} = ba$$

$\xleftarrow{\text{check}}$

A free product $G * H$ is the set of all words from elements in G and H having no relations between elements in G and elements in H (except if one of these elements is the identity).

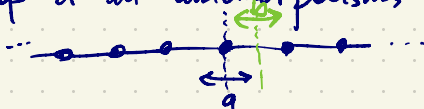
$$\mathbb{Z} * \mathbb{Z} = \langle a \rangle * \langle b \rangle = \text{Free} \{a, b\} = \langle a, b \rangle = \{a^i b^j a^k b^l \dots a^m b^n, \dots\}$$

$\underbrace{\mathbb{Z}}_{\text{infinite cyclic}} * \underbrace{\mathbb{Z}}_{\text{infinite cyclic}}$

$$= \langle a, b : a^2, b^2 \rangle$$

$$\langle a : a^2 \rangle * \langle b : b^2 \rangle = \{1, a, b, ab, ba, aba, bab, abab, baba, ababa, babab, \dots\} = D_{\infty}$$

$$\cong (\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}) * (\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}) = \langle x, y : x^2, \underbrace{xyx^{-1} = y^{-1}}_{xyx^{-1}y = 1} \rangle = \text{group of all automorphisms of}$$



ie. $\langle X : R \rangle = \langle x_1, \dots, x_m : r_1, \dots, r_k \rangle$

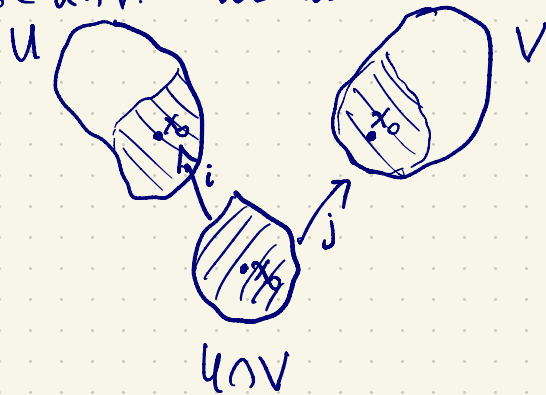
$$\langle Y : S \rangle = \langle y_1, \dots, y_n : s_1, \dots, s_l \rangle$$

$$\langle X : R \rangle * \langle Y : S \rangle = \langle XY : R \cup S \rangle = \langle x_1, \dots, x_m, y_1, \dots, y_n : r_1, \dots, r_k, s_1, \dots, s_l \rangle$$

Free products with amalgamation: add more relations involving x_i 's and y_j 's e.g.

$$D_{10} = \langle a, b : a^2, b^2, (ab)^5 \rangle = \underbrace{\langle a : a^2 \rangle}_{\text{cyclic of order 2}} *_{(ab)^5} \underbrace{\langle b : b^2 \rangle}_{\text{cyclic of order 2}} = D_{10} / \text{Normal closure of } \langle (ab)^5 \rangle$$

Let X be a path-connected top. space covered by two open sets U, V . Since X is connected, $U \cap V \neq \emptyset$. Pick $x_0 \in U \cap V$. We also assume $U \cap V$ is path-connected.

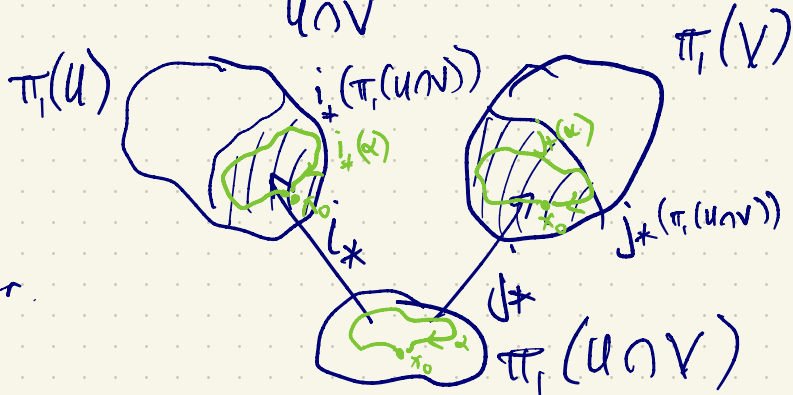


i, j inclusion maps as shown (injective, continuous)

Theorem (Van Kampen, special case)

$$\pi_1(X) = \pi_1(U) *_{\pi_1(U \cap V)} \pi_1(V)$$

where the amalgamation over $\pi_1(U \cap V)$ is given by: for all $\alpha \in \pi_1(U \cap V)$, identify $i_* \alpha$ with $j_* \alpha$ i.e. $i_* \alpha \sim j_* \alpha$ is a new relation.



This induces group homomorphisms i_*, j_* as shown.

Eg. $X = S^2 = D \cup D'$

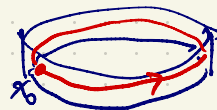
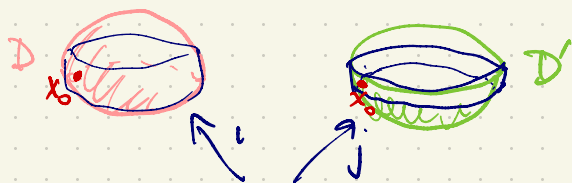


X

$$\pi_1(S^2) = \pi_1(D) * \pi_1(D') = 1$$

$$= \underbrace{\pi_1(D) * \pi_1(D')}_{\text{amalgamation}} = 1.$$

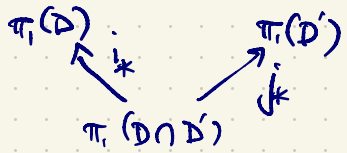
trivial



$$D \cap D' \cong S^1$$

$$\pi_1(D) \cong \pi_1(D') = 1 \quad \text{trivial}$$

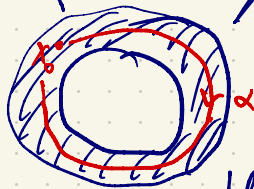
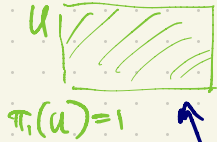
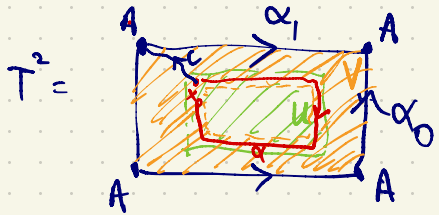
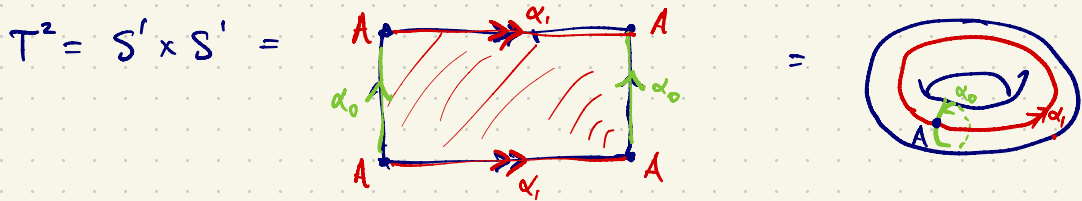
$$\pi_1(D \cap D') = \langle \alpha \rangle$$



i_* , j_*
not one-to-one

$$i_*(\alpha) = 1$$

$$j_*(\alpha) = 1.$$



$U \cap V \cong S_1 \times (-\varepsilon, \varepsilon)$

$\pi_1(U \cap V) = \langle \alpha \rangle$

$\pi_1(U) * \pi_1(V)$
 $= 1 * \langle a, b \rangle$
 $= \langle a, b \rangle$

Then identify α with 1 due to the inclusion $U \cap V \subset U$.

In V , α is homotopic to $c \alpha_1 \alpha_0^{-1} \alpha_1^{-1} \alpha_0 c^{-1}$.
Then identify $c \alpha_1 \alpha_0^{-1} \alpha_1^{-1} \alpha_0 c^{-1}$ with α .

So we identify $c \alpha_1 \alpha_0^{-1} \alpha_1^{-1} \alpha_0 c^{-1}$ with 1.

So identify $\alpha_1 \alpha_0^{-1} \alpha_1^{-1} \alpha_0$ with 1.

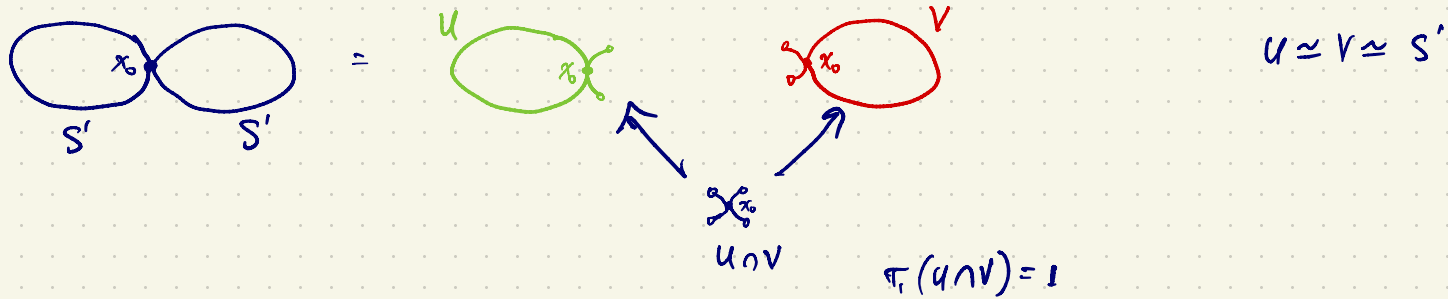
Identify $\alpha_1 \alpha_0^{-1}$ with $\alpha_0^{-1} \alpha_1$; $\alpha_0 \alpha_1$ with $\alpha_1 \alpha_0$.

So identify ab with ba .
 $\pi_1(T^2) = \langle a, b \rangle / \langle ab=ba \rangle \cong \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}$

$= \langle a, b \rangle / \text{Normal closure of } aba^{-1}b^{-1}$
 $= \text{the abelianization of } \langle a, b \rangle$

$\pi_1(S' \vee S') = \pi_1(S') * \pi_1(S')$ also follows from Van Kampen's Theorem.

If X and Y are path-connected top. spaces then $\pi_1(X \vee Y) = \pi_1(X) * \pi_1(Y)$.



$$\pi_1(S_1 \vee S_1) = \pi_1(U) * \pi_1(V) = \mathbb{Z} * \mathbb{Z} = \text{free group on two generators.}$$

□