Introduction to Topology

Chapter 9. The Fundamental Group Section 58. Deformation Retracts and Homotopy Type—Proofs of Theorems



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Lemma 58.1. Let $h, k : (X, x_0) \to (Y, y_0)$ be continuous maps. If h and k are homotopic and if the image of the base point $x_0 \in X$ remains fixed at y_0 during the homotopy then the induced homomorphisms h_* and k_* are equal.

Proof. Let $H: X \times I \to Y$ be a homotopy between h and k such that $H(x_0, t) = y_0$ for all $t \in I$. Let f be a loop in X based at x_0 . Consider the composition

$$I \times I \xrightarrow{f \times ID} X \times I \xrightarrow{H} Y$$
(1)

Now H(x,0) = h(x) and H(x,1) = k(x) by the definition of homotopy. Also, $(f \times ID)(x,0) = (f(x),0)$ and $(f \times ID)(x,1) = (f(x),1)$ so $H \circ (f \times ID)(x,0) = h(f(x))$ and $H \circ (f \times ID)(x,1) = k(f(x))$.

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Lemma 58.1 Continued

Since f is a loop based at x_0 , then $h \circ f$ and $k \circ f$ are loops based at y_0 and since H maps $\{x_0\} \times I$ to y_0 , the homotopy is a path homotopy. So,

$$h_*[f] = [h \circ f]$$

= [k \circ f] because of the path homotopy
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for all loops f based at x_0 . So $h_* = k_*$ on $\pi_1(X, x_0)$.

(2)

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Theorem 58.2. The inclusion map $j: S^n \to \mathbb{R}^{n+1} \setminus \{\vec{0}\}$ induces an isomorphism of fundamental groups $\pi_1(S^n, x_0)$ and $\pi_1(\mathbb{R}^{n+1} \setminus \{\vec{0}\}, x_0)$ for $n \ge 1$. **Proof.** Let $X = \mathbb{R}^{n+1} \setminus \{\vec{0}\}$ and let $b_0 = (1, 0, ..., 0)$. Define $r: X \to S^n$ as $r(\vec{x}) = \vec{x}/||\vec{x}||$. Then $r \circ j$ is the identity map on S^n and so $(r \circ j)_* = r_* \circ j_*$ is the identity homomorphism on $\pi_1(S^n, b_0)$.

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Now consider $j \circ r : x \to x$:

$$X \xrightarrow{\mathsf{r}} S^n \xrightarrow{\mathsf{j}} X \tag{3}$$

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Now consider $j \circ r : x \to x$:

$$X \xrightarrow{\mathsf{r}} S^n \xrightarrow{\mathsf{j}} X \tag{3}$$

Now $j \circ r$ is obviously not the identity map on X. But $j \circ r$ is straight line homotopic to the identity on X since

$$H(\vec{x},t) = (1-t)\vec{x} + t\vec{x}/\|\vec{x}\|$$
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is a homotopy between the identity map on X (When t = 0) and $j \circ r$ (when t = 1).

Notice H(x, t) is never $\vec{0}$ since $(1 - t) + t ||\vec{x}||$ is a number between 1 and $1/||\vec{x}||$. Also, $b_0 = (1, 0, ..., 0)$ remains fixed during the homotopy since $||b_0|| = 1$.

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Lemma 58.4

Lemma 58.4. Let $h, k : X \to Y$ be continuous maps. Let $h(x_0) = y_0$ and $k(x_0) = y_1$. if h and k are homotopic, there is a path α in Y from y_0 to y_1 such that $k_* = \hat{\alpha} \circ h_*$ (where k_* and h_* are induced homomorphisms on the fundamental group and $\hat{\alpha} : \pi_1(Y, y_0) \to \pi_1(Y, y_1)$ is defined as $\hat{\alpha}([f]) = [\bar{\alpha}] * [f] * [\alpha]$ —see Figure Below). Indeed, if $H : X \times I \to Y$ is the homotopy between h and k, then α is the path $\alpha(t) = H(x_0, t)$.



Proof. Let f be an arbitrary loop in X based at x_0 . We must show that

$$k_*([f]) = \hat{\alpha}(h_*([f])) \tag{5}$$

By definition of the induced homomorphism, their equation is equivalent to $[k \circ f] = \hat{\alpha}([h \circ f]) = [\bar{\alpha}] * [h \circ f] * [\alpha]$ by the definition of $\hat{\alpha}$, where $\bar{\alpha}$ is the reverse of α .

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$$[\alpha] * [k \circ f] = [h \circ f] * [\alpha] \quad (*) \tag{6}$$

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Consider the loops f_0 and f_1 in the space $X \times I$ given as

$$f_0(s) = (f(s), 0) \text{ and } f_1(s) = (f(s), 1)$$
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$$c(t) = (x_0, t) \tag{8}$$

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Lemma 58.4 Continued

Since H is a homotopy between h and k, then

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$$H \circ f_0 = H(f(s), 0) = h(f(s)) = h \circ f$$
 and
(††) $H \circ f_1 = H(f(s), 1) = k(f(s)) = k \circ f$ (9)

While we define $\alpha(t)$ as $H(x_0, t) = H \circ c$. († † †)

Notice that $H(x_0, 0) = h(x_0) = y_0$ and $H(x_0, 1) = k(x_0) = y_1$. So in fact α is a path from y_0 to y_1 .

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Let $F : I \times I \to X \times I$ be the map F(s, t) = (f(s), t). Consider the following paths in $I \times I$ which run along the four edges of $I \times I$:

$$\beta_0(s) = (s, 0) \quad \beta_1(s) = (s, 1) \gamma_0(t) = (0, t) \quad \gamma_1(t) = (1, t)$$
(10)

Then $F \circ \beta_0 = F(s, 0) = (f(s), 0)$ and $F \circ \beta_1 = F(s, 1) = (f(s), 1)$, while $F \circ \gamma_0 = F(0, t) = (f(0), t) = (x_0, t) = c(t)$ and $F \circ \gamma_1 = F(1, t) = (f(1), t) = (x_0, t) = c(t)$.

Lemma 58.4 Continued

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Lemma 58.4 Continued

Now paths $\beta_0 * \gamma_1$ and $\gamma_0 * \beta_1$ are paths in $I \times I$ (along the boundary) from (0,0) to (1,1). Since $I \times I$ is convex (See Example 51.1), there is a path homotopy G between them (say from $\beta_0 * \gamma_1$ to $\gamma_0 * \beta_1$).

Then for $F \circ G : (X \times I) \times I$ we have $(F \circ G)(\beta_0 * \gamma_1, 0) = F(\beta_0 * \gamma_1)$, $(F \circ G)(\beta_0 * \gamma_1, 0) = F(\beta_0 * \gamma_1) = F(\beta_0) * F(\gamma_1) = (f(s), 0) * c(t) = f_0 * c$, and

 $(F \circ G)(\beta_0 * \gamma_1, 1) = F(\gamma_0 * \beta_1) = F(\gamma_0) * F(\beta_1) = c(t) * (f(s), 1) = c * f_1.$

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So $F \circ G$ is a path homotopy in $X \times I$ from $f_0 * c$ to $c * f_1$. Now consider $H \circ (F \circ G)$. Recall $H : X \times I \rightarrow Y$ and notice that $f_0 * c, c * f_1 \in X \times I$ (See Figure 58.3)

Lemma 58.4 Continued

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So $F \circ G$ is a path homotopy in $X \times I$ from $f_0 * c$ to $c * f_1$. Now consider $H \circ (F \circ G)$. Recall $H : X \times I \rightarrow Y$ and notice that $f_0 * c, c * f_1 \in X \times I$ (See Figure 58.3)

Lemma 58.4 Continued

Apply
$$H \circ (F \circ G)$$
 to $(\beta_0 * \gamma_1, 0)$ gives
 $H \circ (F \circ G)(\beta_0 * \gamma_1, 0) = H(f_0 * c)$
 $= H(f_0) * H(c) = (H \circ f_0) * (H \circ c)$ (11)
 $= (h \circ f) * \alpha$ by (†) and († † †)

and

$$H \circ (F \circ G)(\beta_0 * \gamma_1, 1) = H(c * f_1)$$

= $H(c) * H(f_1) = (H \circ c) * (H \circ f_1)$ (12)
= $\alpha * (k \circ f)$ by $(\dagger \dagger)$ and $(\dagger \dagger \dagger)$

So $H \circ (F \circ G)$ is a path homotopy between $(h \circ f) * \alpha$ and $\alpha * (k \circ f)$. That is,

$$[\alpha * (k \circ f)] = [(h \circ f) * \alpha] \text{ or}$$

[\alpha] * [k \circ f] = [h \circ f] * [\alpha] (13)

This is the equation (*) that we needed to verify

Lemma 58.4 Continued

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 to $(\beta_0 * \gamma_1, 0)$ gives
 $H \circ (F \circ G)(\beta_0 * \gamma_1, 0) = H(f_0 * c)$
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Corollary 58.5

Corollary 58.5. Let $h, k : X \to Y$ be homotopic continuous maps. Let $h(x_0) = y_0$ and $k(x_0) = y_1$. If induced homomorphism h_* is injective (one to one), surjective (onto), or trivial then so is the induced homomorphism k_* .

Proof. By Lemma 58.4, there exists a path from y_0 to y_1 , such that $k_* = \hat{\alpha} \circ h_*$. By Theorem 52.1, $\hat{\alpha}$ is a group isomorphism and so is one to one and onto.

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Corollary 58.6. Let $h: X \to Y$. If *h* is nulhomotopic, then h_* is the trivial homomorphism.

Proof. Let *h* be homotopic to a constant with $h(x_0) = y_0$. Define $i(x) = y_0$ for all $x \in X$, then by Theorem 58.4, we have that $\iota_* = \hat{\alpha} \circ h_*$ where α is a path from y_0 to y_0 . The constant map ι induces the trivial homomorphism, so $\hat{\alpha} \circ h_*$ must be the trivial homomorphism and h_* must be trivial.

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Theorem 58.7. Let $f : X \to Y$ be continuous. Let $f(x_0) = y_0$. If f is a homotopy equivalence, then the induced homomorphism

$$f_*: \pi_1(X, x_0) \to \pi_1(Y, y_0)$$
 (14)

is an isomorphism.

Proof. Every homotopy is invertible, so let $g: Y \to X$ be a homotopy inverse for f. Consider the maps

$$(X, x_0) \xrightarrow{f} (Y, y_0) \xrightarrow{g} (X, x_1) \xrightarrow{f} (Y, y_1)$$
 (15)

where $x_1 = g(y_0)$ and $y_1 = f(x_1)$. The corresponding induced homomorphisms (which depend on the base point and this is indicated when necessary with subscript):

$$\pi_1(X, x_0) \xrightarrow{(f_{x_0})_*} \pi_1(Y, y_0) \xrightarrow{g_*} \pi_1(X, x_1) \xrightarrow{(f_{x_1})_*} \pi_1(Y, y_1)$$
(16)

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 (14)

is an isomorphism.

Proof. Every homotopy is invertible, so let $g: Y \to X$ be a homotopy inverse for f. Consider the maps

$$(X, x_0) \xrightarrow{f} (Y, y_0) \xrightarrow{g} (X, x_1) \xrightarrow{f} (Y, y_1)$$
 (15)

where $x_1 = g(y_0)$ and $y_1 = f(x_1)$. The corresponding induced homomorphisms (which depend on the base point and this is indicated when necessary with subscript):

$$\pi_1(X, x_0) \xrightarrow{(f_{x_0})_*} \pi_1(Y, y_0) \xrightarrow{g_*} \pi_1(X, x_1) \xrightarrow{(f_{x_1})_*} \pi_1(Y, y_1)$$
(16)

Since g is a homotopy inverse then

$$g \circ f: (X, x_0) \to (X, x_1) \tag{17}$$

is homotopic to the identity map, so by Lemma 58.4 there is a path α in X from x_0 to x_1 such that

$$(g \circ f)_* = \hat{\alpha} \circ (\iota_x)_* = \hat{\alpha} \tag{18}$$

since the identity map induces the identity group homomorphism. Now $\hat{\alpha}$ is a group isomorphism by Theorem 52.1, so $\hat{\alpha} = (g \circ f)_* = g_* \circ (f_{x_0})_*$ is an isomorphism.

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