

I Homotopy Theory

A. Homotopy classes of maps

Recall if X, Y are topological spaces, then
two maps

$$f, g: X \rightarrow Y$$

are homotopic, denoted $f \simeq g$, if there is a
continuous map

$$\Phi: X \times [0, 1] \rightarrow Y$$

such that $f(x) = \Phi(x, 0)$ and $g(x) = \Phi(x, 1)$

note: Φ gives a one parameter family of maps

$$\phi_t: X \rightarrow Y: x \mapsto \Phi(x, t)$$

from f to g , call this a homotopy from f to g

example: X any space

$f: X \rightarrow [0, 1]$ is homotopic to the constant
map $g(x) = 0$, by the homotopy

$$\phi_t(x) = (1-t)f(x)$$

let $C(X, Y) =$ set of continuous maps from X to Y

$$[X, Y] = C(X, Y) / \simeq$$

(where homotopic maps are identified)

example: $[X, [0,1]] = \{g(x) = 0\}$

we call X a pointed space if it has a base point $x_0 \in X$

given pointed spaces $(X, x_0), (Y, y_0)$

let

$[X, Y]_0 =$ homotopy classes of continuous maps $f: X \rightarrow Y$ taking x_0 to y_0

If $f: X \rightarrow X'$ is a continuous map then it induces

$$[X', Y] \xrightarrow{f^*} [X, Y]$$
$$h: X' \rightarrow Y \mapsto h \circ f: X \rightarrow Y$$

and

$$[Y, X] \xrightarrow{f_*} [Y, X']$$
$$h: Y \rightarrow X \mapsto f \circ h: Y \rightarrow X'$$

(check this is well-defined!)

so $[X, \cdot]: \mathcal{Top} \rightarrow \mathcal{Set}$ is a covariant functor

$[\cdot, X]: \mathcal{Top} \rightarrow \mathcal{Set}$ is a contravariant functor

$f: X \rightarrow Y$ is a homotopy inverse of $g: Y \rightarrow X$

if $g \circ f \simeq \text{id}_X$ and $f \circ g \simeq \text{id}_Y$

if g has a homotopy inverse then it is called a homotopy equivalence and X and Y are called homotopy equivalent, denote $X \simeq Y$

examples:

① $X = S^1$, $Y = S^1 \times [0, 1]$ are homotopy equivalent

$$f: X \rightarrow Y: \theta \mapsto (\theta, 0)$$

$$g: Y \rightarrow X: (\theta, t) \mapsto \theta$$

$$g \circ f: S^1 \rightarrow S^1 \text{ is } \text{id}_{S^1}$$

$$f \circ g(\theta, s) = (\theta, 0) \text{ and}$$

$$\phi_t: S^1 \times [0, 1] \rightarrow S^1 \times [0, 1]$$

$$(\theta, s) \mapsto (\theta, (1-t)s)$$

is a homotopy $\phi_0 = \text{id}_Y$ to $\phi_1 = f \circ g$

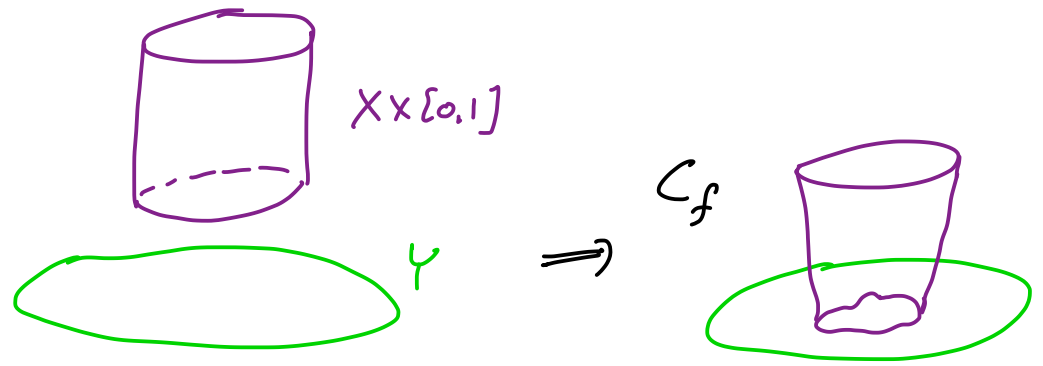
② X, Y any spaces

$f: X \rightarrow Y$ a continuous map

the mapping cylinder is

$$C_f = (X \times [0, 1]) \cup Y \sim$$

where $(x, 0) \sim f(x)$



exercise: $C_f \simeq Y$

indeed, show $\pi: C_f \rightarrow Y$
 $(x, t) \in X \times [0,1] \mapsto f(x)$
 $y \in Y \mapsto y$

is a homotopy equivalence with
 homotopy inverse $i: Y \rightarrow C_f$
 inclusion

there is an obvious inclusion

$$j: X \rightarrow C_f : x \mapsto (x, 1)$$

exercise: $j \simeq 1 \circ f$

Slogan: any map is an inclusion (up to homotopy)

a pointed space (Y, y_0) is an H-space if
 there exist continuous maps

$$\mu: Y \times Y \rightarrow Y \quad \text{and}$$

$$\nu: Y \rightarrow Y$$

such that

$$\textcircled{1} \quad \mu \circ \tau_1 \cong \text{id}_Y \quad \text{and} \quad \mu \circ \tau_2 \cong \text{id}_Y$$

$$\text{where } \tau_1: Y \rightarrow Y \times Y: y \mapsto (y, y_0)$$

$$\tau_2: Y \rightarrow Y \times Y: y \mapsto (y_0, y)$$

$\textcircled{2}$ the compositions

$$Y \times (Y \times Y) \xrightarrow{\text{id}_Y \times \mu} Y \times Y \xrightarrow{\mu} Y$$

and

$$(Y \times Y) \times Y \xrightarrow{\mu \times \text{id}_Y} Y \times Y \xrightarrow{\mu} Y$$

are homotopic

$\textcircled{3}$ the composition

$$Y \xrightarrow{\text{id}_Y \times \nu} Y \times Y \xrightarrow{\mu} Y$$

and

$$Y \xrightarrow{\nu \times \text{id}_Y} Y \times Y \xrightarrow{\mu} Y$$

are homotopic to constant maps

if G is a topological group (i.e. a group with a topology such that product and

inverse are continuous) then
 (G, e) is an H-space
↑ identity element

We will see more examples later but first

Th^m 1:

the set $[X, Y]_0$ has a natural group structure for all pointed spaces X
 \Leftrightarrow
 Y is an H-space

natural means if $f: X \rightarrow X'$ is continuous
then the induced map

$$f^*: [X', Y]_0 \rightarrow [X, Y]_0$$

is a homeomorphism

Proof: (\Leftarrow) Suppose Y is an H-space

given any (X, x_0) notice that $\mu: Y \times Y \rightarrow Y$
gives a map

$$\mu_*: [X, Y \times Y]_0 \rightarrow [X, Y]_0$$

there is a map

$$\begin{aligned} \phi: [X, Y]_0 \times [X, Y]_0 &\longrightarrow [X, Y \times Y]_0 \\ ([f], [g]) &\longmapsto [f \times g] \end{aligned}$$

exercise: check ϕ is well-defined
and a bijection

so we get "multiplication"

$$m = \mu \circ \phi: [X, Y]_0 \times [X, Y]_0 \rightarrow [X, Y]_0$$

denote $m([f], [g])$ by $[f] \cdot [g]$

similarly ν gives

$$\nu_*: [X, Y]_0 \rightarrow [X, Y]_0 \text{ and}$$

denote $\nu_*([f])$ by $[f]^{-1}$

property ① says the constant map
 $c(x) = Y_0$ satisfies

$$[c] \cdot [g] = [g] = [g] \cdot [c]$$

② shows $[f] \cdot ([g] \cdot [h]) = ([f] \cdot [g]) \cdot [h]$

③ shows $[f]^{-1} \cdot [f] = [c] = [f] \cdot [f]^{-1}$

also easy to see $f: X \rightarrow X'$ induces
a homomorphism of groups

(\Rightarrow) Suppose $[X, Y]_0$ has a natural group structure $\forall X$

take $X = Y \times Y$

let $p_1, p_2: Y \times Y \rightarrow Y$ be projection onto 1st, 2nd factor

$$[p_1], [p_2] \in [Y \times Y, Y]_0$$

$$\text{let } [\mu] = [p_1] \cdot [p_2] \in [Y \times Y, Y]_0$$

and $\mu: Y \times Y \rightarrow Y$ be any map in $[\mu]$

$$\text{let } [\nu] = [\text{id}_Y]^{-1} \in [Y, Y]_0 \text{ and } \nu: Y \rightarrow Y$$

any map in $[\nu]$

we now check ①

$$\tau_1: Y \rightarrow Y \times Y: y \mapsto (y, y_0)$$

induces

$$\tau_1^*: [Y \times Y, Y]_0 \rightarrow [Y, Y]_0$$

$$[p_1] \mapsto [p_1 \circ \tau_1] = [\text{id}_Y]$$

$$[p_2] \mapsto [p_2 \circ \tau_1] = [\text{const}]$$

$$\text{naturality gives } \tau_1^*([p_1] \cdot [p_2]) = [\text{id}_Y] \cdot [\text{const}] = [\text{id}_Y]$$

(note $[\text{const}]$ is the identity in $[Y, Y]_0$)

since let $X = 1\text{-pt space}$

$$f: Y \rightarrow X \quad g: X \rightarrow Y: x_0 \mapsto y_0$$

$$[X, Y]_0 \xrightarrow{f^*} [Y, Y]$$

$$[g] \mapsto [\text{const}]$$

only elt!
so identity \therefore identity)

$$\text{so } \tau_1^*([\mu]) = [\text{id}_Y] \Rightarrow \mu \circ \tau_1 \simeq \text{id}_Y$$

similarly for $\mu \circ \alpha_2 \cong \text{id}_Y$

can similarly check ② and ③ 

If (Y, y_0) is a pointed space, then the loop space of Y

is

$$\begin{aligned}\Omega(Y) &= C([0,1], \{y_0\}, (Y, y_0)) \\ &= \{f \in C([0,1], Y) \text{ s.t. } f(0) = f(1) = y_0\}\end{aligned}$$

or equivalently for $x_0 \in S^1$

$$\Omega(Y) = C(S^1, x_0, (Y, y_0))$$

lemma 2:

$\Omega(Y)$ is an H-space

Proof: define $\mu: \Omega(Y) \times \Omega(Y) \rightarrow \Omega(Y)$

$$\text{by } \mu(f, g)(t) = \begin{cases} f(2t) & 0 \leq t \leq 1/2 \\ g(2t-1) & 1/2 \leq t \leq 1 \end{cases}$$

and $\nu: \Omega(Y) \rightarrow \Omega(Y)$

$$\text{by } \nu(f)(t) = f(1-t)$$

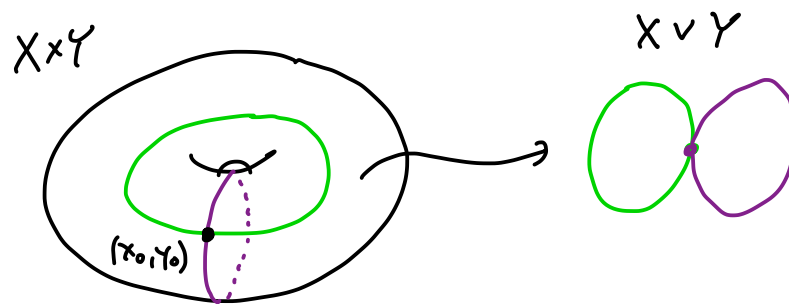
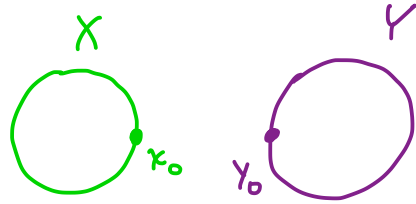
exercise: Check ①, ②, and ③ 

given $(X, x_0), (Y, y_0)$ their wedge product is

$$X \vee Y = (X \times \{y_0\}) \cup (\{x_0\} \times Y) \subset X \times Y$$

with base point (x_0, y_0)

example:



a pointed space (Y, y_0) is an H¹-space if there are

maps $\mu: Y \rightarrow Y \vee Y$ and

$\nu: Y \rightarrow Y$

such that

① $p_1 \circ \mu \cong \text{id}_Y$ and $p_2 \circ \mu \cong \text{id}_Y$

where $p_1, p_2: Y \vee Y \rightarrow Y$ are

projections onto the 1st and 2nd factors

② the compositions

$$Y \xrightarrow{\mu} Y \vee Y \xrightarrow{\text{id}_Y \vee \mu} Y \vee (Y \vee Y)$$

and

$$Y \xrightarrow{\mu} Y \vee Y \xrightarrow{\mu \vee \text{id}_Y} (Y \vee Y) \vee Y$$

are homotopic

③ the compositions

$$Y \xrightarrow{\mu} Y \vee Y \xrightarrow{a} Y$$

$$Y \xrightarrow{\mu} Y \vee Y \xrightarrow{b} Y$$

are homotopic to the constant map

where a on $1^{\text{st}} Y$ is \vee and is the identity on 2^{nd}
 b on " " id_Y " " \vee on 2^{nd}

Th^m 3:

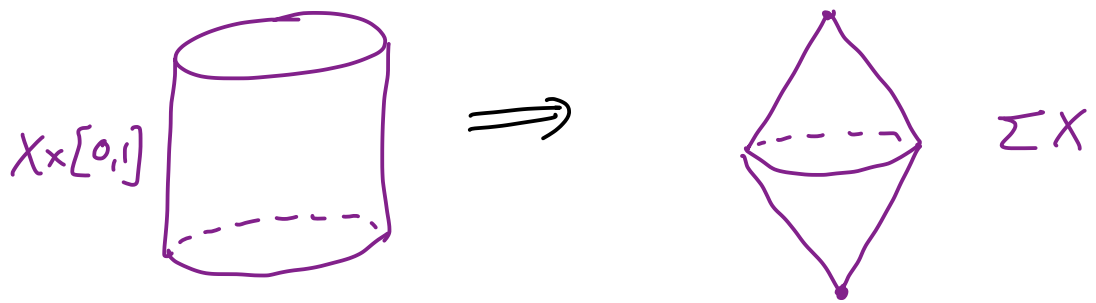
the set $[Y, X]_0$ has a natural group structure
 for all for all pointed spaces (X, x_0)
 \iff
 Y is an H^1 -space

Proof: exercise

given a space X its suspension is

$$\Sigma X = X \times [0, 1] / \sim$$

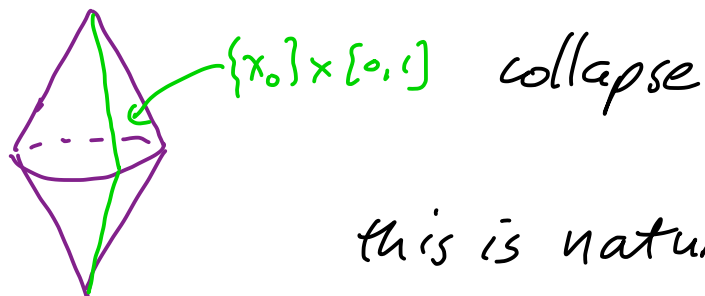
where $X \times \{0\}$ and $X \times \{1\}$ are
 collapsed to distinct points



if (X, x_0) is a pointed space then its suspension

is

$$\Sigma X = X \times [0,1] / \{X \times \{0\}, X \times \{1\}, \{x_0\} \times [0,1]\}$$



this is naturally a pointed space

examples:

① $S^n = \Sigma S^{n-1} = S^{n-1} \times [0,1] / \{S^{n-1} \times \{0\}, S^{n-1} \times \{1\}\}$

② a little harder

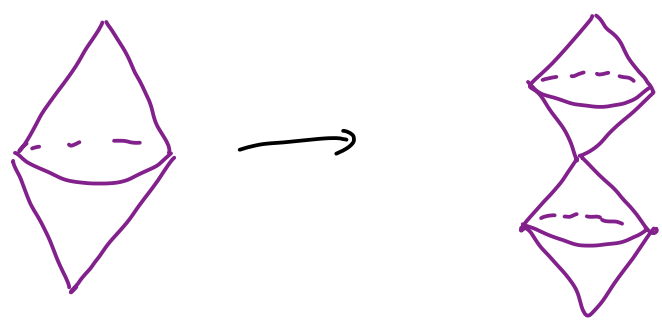
$$(S^n, x_0) = \Sigma (S^{n-1}, x_0)$$

exercise: If M a manifold and C an embedded arc prove M/C is homeomorphic to M

lemma 4:

for any pointed space (Y, y_0) , its suspension ΣY is an H' -space

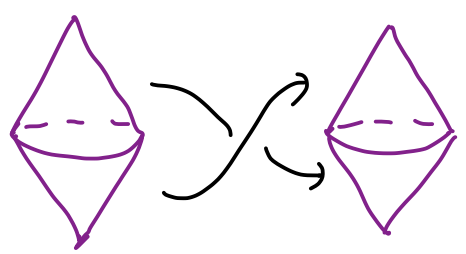
Proof: define $\mu: \Sigma Y \rightarrow \Sigma Y \vee \Sigma Y$ by



note: $\Sigma Y \vee \Sigma Y = Y \times [0,1] / \{Y \times \{0\}, Y \times \{1\}, Y \times \{1/2\}, \{y_0\} \times [0,1]\}$

so μ is just collapse $Y \times \{1/2\}$

and set $\nu: \Sigma Y \rightarrow \Sigma Y$
 $(y, t) \mapsto (y, 1-t)$



exercise: check (1), (2), and (3) 

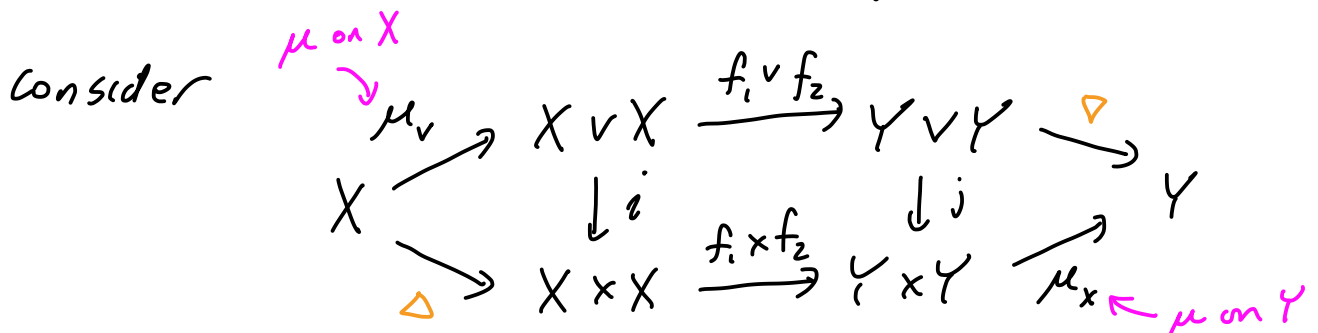
Th^m 5:

If X is an H' -space and Y is an H -space then the product structures on $[X, Y]_0$ agree and are commutative

Proof:

denote the product from H' -space by $+$
and from H -space by \cdot

let f_1, f_2 be maps representing elts of $[X, Y]_0$



$\Delta(x) = (x, x)$ is diagonal map
 $\nabla(y_1, y_2) = y = \nabla(y_0, y)$

we know $[f_1] \cdot [f_2] = [\mu_x \circ (f_1 \times f_2) \circ \Delta]$ and

$$[f_1] + [f_2] = [\nabla \circ (f_1 \vee f_2) \circ \mu_v]$$

condition ① of H' -space says $1_0 \mu_v \simeq \Delta$

① of H -space says $\mu_x \circ j \simeq \nabla$

also note

$(x, x_0) \in X \vee X$ then $i(x, x_0) = (x, x_0) \in X \times X$

and $(f_1 \times f_2) \circ i(x, x_0) = (f_1(x), y_0)$

and $f_1 \vee f_2(x, x_0) = (f_1(x), y_0)$

$j \circ (f_1 \vee f_2) = (f_1(x), y_0)$

and similarly for (x_0, x) so

center square commutes

$$\text{so } \nabla \circ (f_1 \vee f_2) \circ \mu_V \simeq \mu_X \circ j \circ (f_1 \vee f_2) \circ \mu_V$$

$$= \mu_X \circ (f_1 \times f_2) \circ i \circ \mu_V$$

$$\simeq \mu_X \circ (f_1 \times f_2) \circ \Delta$$

\therefore product structures same!

to see the product structure is commutative
we use

Fact: if $p: G \times G \rightarrow G: (g, h) \mapsto gh$ is
a homomorphism, then G is commutative

indeed:

$$p((g, h) \cdot (g^{-1}, h^{-1})) = p(gg^{-1}, hh^{-1}) = p(e, e) = e$$

$$p(g, h) p(g^{-1}, h^{-1}) = ghg^{-1}h^{-1}$$

$$\text{so } gh = hg \quad \checkmark$$

now $\mu_x: Y \times Y \rightarrow Y$ induces a homomorphism

$$[X, Y \times Y]_0 \xrightarrow{\mu_*} [X, Y]_0$$

we also have the bijection

$$\begin{aligned} \phi: [X, Y]_0 \times [X, Y]_0 &\longrightarrow [X, Y \times Y]_0 \\ ([f], [g]) &\longmapsto [f \times g] \end{aligned}$$

is a homomorphism since X is an H^1 -space

to see this let $p_i: Y \times Y \rightarrow Y$ be projection
to the i^{th} factor

this induces a homomorphism

$$(p_i)_*: [X, Y \times Y]_0 \rightarrow [X, Y]_0$$

and ϕ is clearly the inverse of $(p_1)_* \times (p_2)_*$

so $(p_1)_* \times (p_2)_*$ is an isomorphism with
inverse ϕ

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore \mu_* \circ \phi: [X, Y]_0 \times [X, Y]_0 &\longrightarrow [X, Y]_0 \\ ([f], [g]) &\longmapsto [f] \cdot [g] \end{aligned}$$

is a homomorphism and hence

$[X, Y]_0$ is abelian from above fact 

lemma 6:

If Y is locally compact and Hausdorff there is a

$$\text{bijection } C^0(X \times Y, Z) \longrightarrow C^0(X, C^0(Y, Z))$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \psi & & \\ g: X \times Y \rightarrow Z & \longmapsto & \psi: X \rightarrow C^0(Y, Z) \\ & & x \mapsto g(x, \cdot): Y \rightarrow Z \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \phi: X \times Y \rightarrow Z & \longleftarrow & f: X \rightarrow C^0(Y, Z) \\ (x, y) \mapsto f(x)(y) & & \end{array}$$

if X is also Hausdorff this is a homeomorphism

a space is locally compact if every point has a nbhd U that is contained in a compact set.

Remark: lemma implies $[X \times Y, Z] = [X, C^0(Y, Z)]$

Proof: to prove this lemma we need a topology on $C^0(X, Y)$


We use the compact open topology

given C a compact set in X and W an open set in Y

$$\text{set } U(C, W) = \{f \in C^0(X, Y) : f(C) \subset W\}$$

this forms a subbasis for a topology on $C^0(X, Y)$ called the compact open topology

exercice:

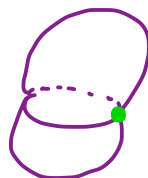
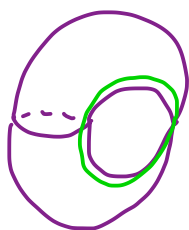
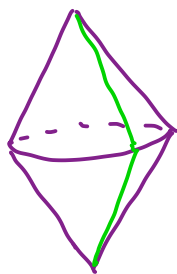
- 1) if Y is a metric space, show this is the "topology of compact convergence"
i.e. $f_n \rightarrow f$ iff \forall compact $C \subset X, f_n|_C \rightarrow f|_C$ uniformly
- 2) If $f: X \times Y \rightarrow Z$ is continuous, then so is $F: X \rightarrow C^0(Y, Z): x \mapsto f_x: Y \rightarrow Z$
 $y \mapsto f(x, y)$ also continuous
- 3) the converse is true if Y is locally compact and Hausdorff
- 4) prove the theorem 

the smash product of two pointed spaces X, Y is

$$X \wedge Y = \frac{X \times Y}{X \vee Y} = \frac{X \times Y}{X \times \{x_0\} \cup \{x_0\} \times Y}$$

note the reduced suspension is

$$\Sigma X = S^1 \wedge X = \frac{S^1 \times X}{\{pt\} \times X \cup S^1 \times \{x_0\}}$$



$$\frac{S^1 \times X}{\{pt\} \times X}$$

Corollary 7:

If Y is locally compact and Hausdorff

$$[X \wedge Y, Z]_0 = [X, C_{\text{based}}^0(Y, Z)]_0$$

Proof: if $f \in C_{\text{based}}^0(X, C_{\text{based}}^0(Y, Z))$

then $f(x_0) = \text{constant map } Y \rightarrow Z: y \mapsto z_0$


so the map $F: X \times Y \rightarrow Z: (x, y) \mapsto f(x)(y)$

sends $\{x_0\} \times Y \mapsto z_0$

also $f(x): Y \rightarrow Z$ that sends y_0 to z_0

$$\text{so } F(X \times \{y_0\}) = \{z_0\}$$

and F induces a map in $[X \wedge Y, Z]_0$.

you can similarly construct the inverse map 

recall: the loop space is $\Omega(X) = C_{\text{based}}^0(S^1, X)$

Corollary 8:

$$[\Sigma X, Y]_0 = [X, \Omega(Y)]_0$$

"suspension is the adjoint of looping"

Proof:

$$\begin{aligned} [\Sigma X, Y]_0 &= [S^1 \wedge X, Y]_0 = [X, C_{\text{based}}^0(S^1, Y)]_0 \\ &= [X, \Omega(Y)]_0 \end{aligned}$$

the n^{th} homotopy group of a based space (X, π_0) is

$$\pi_n(X) = [S^n, X]_0$$

note: 1) $\pi_n(X) = [S^n, X]_0 = [\Sigma S^{n-1}, X]_0$

$$= [S^{n-1}, \Omega(X)]_0$$

$$= \dots = [S^1, \Omega^{n-1}(X)] = \pi_1(\Omega^{n-1}(X))$$

so $\pi_n(X) = \pi_1(\Omega^{n-1}(X))$

and $\pi_n(X) = \pi_0(\Omega^n(X))$

recall $\pi_0(Y) = \#$ path components

so $\pi_n(X) = \#$ of path components of $\Omega^n(X)$

2) $\pi_n(X) = [S^{n-1}, \Omega(X)]_0$

$n \geq 2$, $\Omega(X)$ an H-space on S^{n-1} an

H'-space so $\pi_1^m S$ gives

$\pi_n(X)$ is abelian for $n \geq 2$

3) if X is a Lie group, then it is an H -space
so $\pi_1(X)$ is abelian

How does $[X, Y]_0$ depend on the base points?

given $f_0, f_1 : X \rightarrow Y$ and
 $u : [0, 1] \rightarrow Y$

if there is a homotopy $F : X \times [0, 1] \rightarrow Y$ s.t.

$$F(x, 0) = f_0(x)$$

$$F(x, 1) = f_1(x)$$

$$F(x_0, t) = u(t)$$

then we say f_0 and f_1 are homotopic along u

and denote this $f_0 \simeq_u f_1$

if f_0 and f_1 preserve base points then
 u is a loop in Y

to have nice properties when we move the base point, we need (X, x_0) to be "non-degenerate"
by which we mean they are an NDR-pair

$A \subset X$ is an NDR-pair if there
are maps

↑ Neighborhood
Deformation
Retract

$$u: X \rightarrow [0,1]$$

$$h: X \times [0,1] \rightarrow X$$

such that

$$1) A = u^{-1}(0)$$

$$2) h(\cdot, 0) = \text{id}_X(\cdot)$$

$$3) h(a, t) = a \quad \forall t \in [0,1], a \in A$$

$$4) h(x, 1) \in A \quad \forall x \in X \text{ with } u(x) < 1$$

(so the nbhd $u^{-1}([0,1))$ of A deformation retracts to A)

exercise:

1) if A is a sub-CW complex of X then

(X, A) is an NDR-pair

2) if A is a submanifold of X then

(X, A) is an NDR-pair

in particular $A = \text{pt}$ in S^n is an NDR-pair

lemma 9:

If (X, A) is an NDR-pair, then

$(X \times \{0\}) \cup (A \times [0,1])$ is a

retract of $X \times [0,1]$

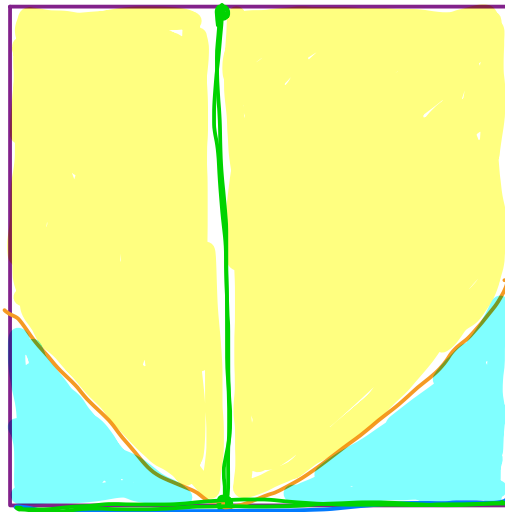
Proof: set

$$R: X \times [0,1] \longrightarrow (X \times \{0\}) \cup (A \times [0,1])$$

to be

$$R(x,t) = \begin{cases} (x,t) & x \in A \text{ or } t = 0 \\ (h(x,1), t - u(x)) & t \geq u(x) \text{ and } t > 0 \\ (h(x, \frac{t}{u(x)}), 0) & u(x) \geq t \text{ and } u(x) > 0 \end{cases}$$

$$u(x) = t$$



exercise: check this is a retract 

lemma 10:

If (X, x_0) an NDR-pair and

$$f_0: X \rightarrow Y \quad \text{with } f_0(x_0) = y_0$$

$\gamma: [0,1] \rightarrow Y$ a path y_0 to y_1 ,

then \exists an $f_1: X \rightarrow Y$ such that

$$f_1(x_0) = y_1 \text{ and } f_0 \simeq_\gamma f_1$$

denote f_1 by $\gamma \cdot f_0$ (well-defined once R fixed)

Proof: let R be as defined in the last proof for (X, x_0) so R is a retract

$$R: X \times [0, 1] \rightarrow (X \times \{0\}) \cup (\{x_0\} \times [0, 1])$$

now let $H: X \times [0, 1] \rightarrow Y$ be

$$H(x, t) = \begin{cases} f_0(R(x, t)) & \text{if } R(x, t) \in X \times \{0\} \\ \gamma(R(x, t)) & \text{if } R(x, t) \in \{x_0\} \times [0, 1] \end{cases}$$

let $f_1(x) = H(x, 1)$

clearly H is a homotopy along γ between f_0 and f_1 

lemma II:

Suppose $f_0, f_1, f_2: X \rightarrow Y$ are based maps, and (X, x_0) is an NDR-pair.

If $f_0 \simeq_{\gamma} f_1$ and $f_0 \simeq_{\gamma'} f_2$ with $\gamma \simeq \gamma'$ rel boundary then $f_1 \simeq f_2$ rel base point

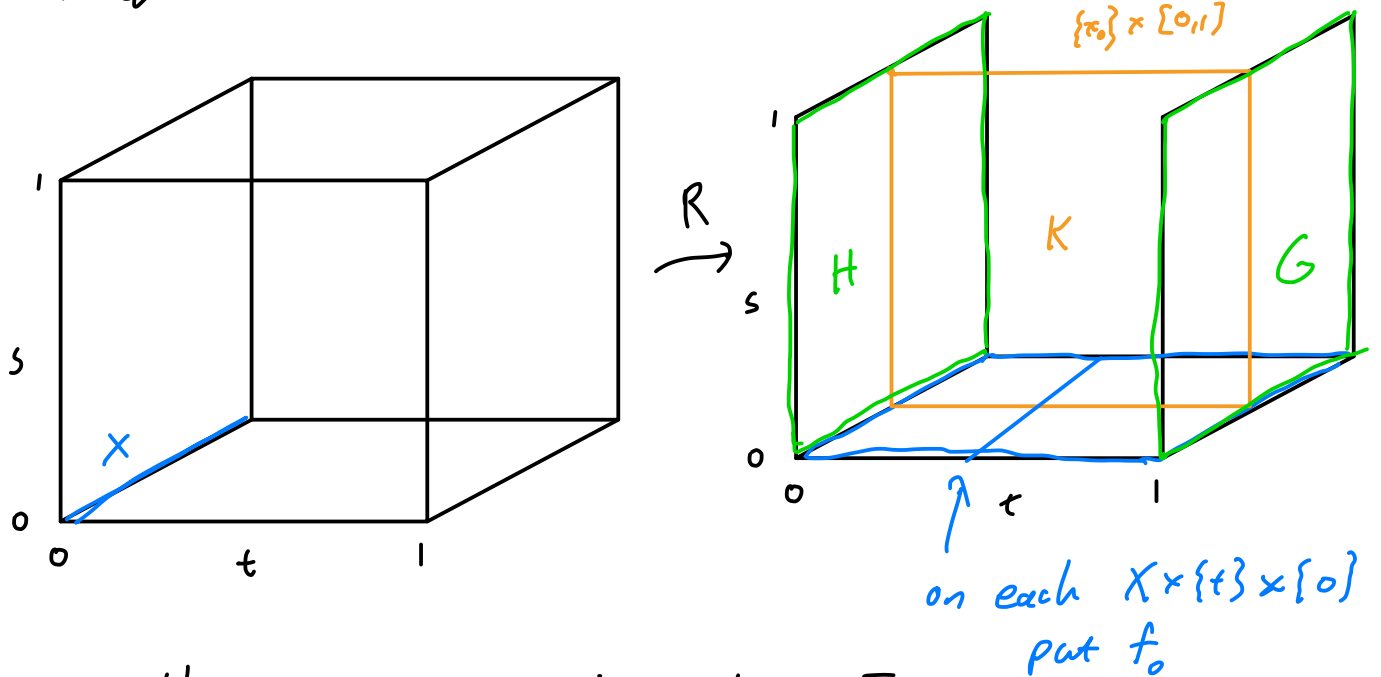
Idea of Proof: (X, x_0) an NDR-pair then you can

show $(X \times [0, 1], (X \times \{0, 1\}) \cup (\{x_0\} \times [0, 1]))$ is an NDR-pair so there is a retraction


$$R: X \times [0, 1] \times [0, 1] \rightarrow \underbrace{(X \times [0, 1]) \times \{0\}} \cup \underbrace{((X \times \{0, 1\}) \cup (\{x_0\} \times [0, 1])) \times [0, 1]}$$

let H be the homotopy $f_0 \sim_{\gamma} f_1$,
 G " " " $f_0 \sim_{\gamma'} f_2$, and
 K " " " $\gamma \sim \gamma'$ rel end pts

now



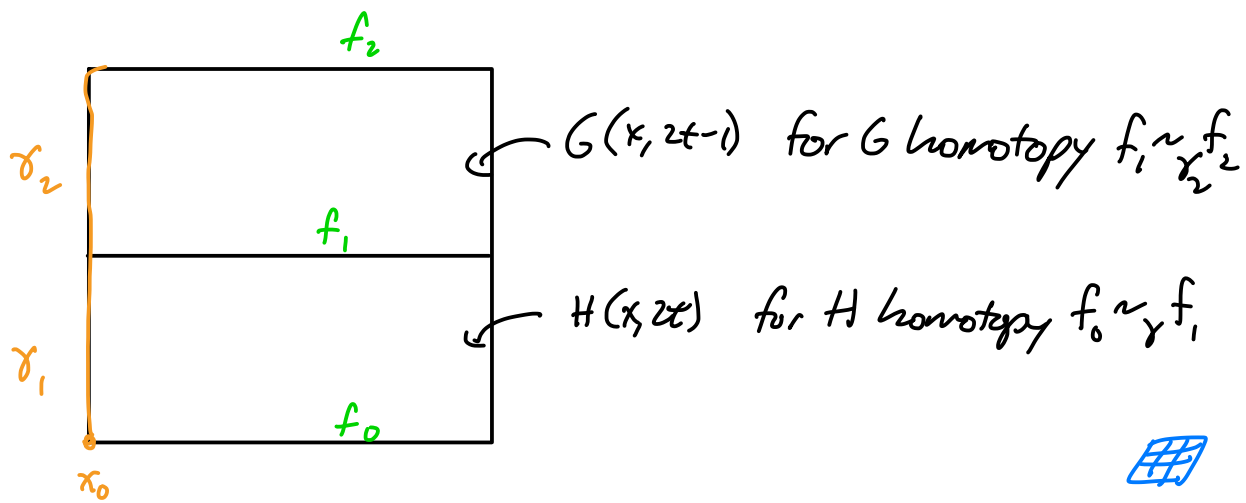
call the composition above \bar{R}

$\bar{R}|_{X \times [0,1] \times \{1\}}$ is the homotopy $f_1 \sim f_2$
 rel base pt 

lemma 12:

Suppose $f_0: X \rightarrow Y$ and $f_1: X \rightarrow Y$ are homotopic along γ_1 ,
 $f_2: X \rightarrow Y$ is homotopic to f_1 along γ_2 and
 $\gamma_1(1) = \gamma_2(0)$, then $f_0 \sim_{\gamma_1 * \gamma_2} f_2$

Proof: just concatenate the homotopies



Thm 13:

If x_0 is a nondegenerate base point of X then

$\pi_1(Y, x_0)$ acts on $[X, Y]_0$.

moreover, $[X, Y]$ is the quotient set of $[X, Y]_0$

by the $\pi_1(X, x_0)$ action if Y is

path connected

Proof: $[\gamma] \in \pi_1(Y, x_0)$ and $[f] \in [X, Y]_0$.

by lemma 10 we have $\gamma \cdot f: X \rightarrow Y$

and $[\gamma \cdot f]$ clearly in $[X, Y]_0$.

Claim: $[\gamma \cdot f]$ is well-defined.

suppose $f, g \in [f]$ so $f \approx g$ rel base pt

by lemma 10 $\exists f_1, g_1$ such that

$f \approx_{\gamma} f_1$ and $g \approx_{\gamma} g_1$

thus $f_1 \simeq_{\gamma^{-1}} f \simeq_{\substack{\uparrow \\ \text{rel base point}}} g \simeq_{\gamma} g_1$

by lemma 12 $f_1 \simeq_{\gamma^{-1} * \text{const} * \gamma} g_1$

and lemma 11 says $f_1 \simeq g_1$ rel base point

so $[\gamma \cdot f] = [\gamma \cdot g]$ and $[\gamma \cdot f]$ does not depend
on $f \in [f]$

and $[\gamma \cdot f]$ does not depend on $\gamma \in [\gamma]$ by lemma 11

let $\Phi: [X, Y]_0 \rightarrow [X, Y]$ be the map that forgets base pt.

clearly $\Phi([\gamma] \cdot [f]) = \Phi([\gamma])$

so Φ is invariant under $\pi_1(Y, y_0)$ action

$\therefore \Phi$ defines a map $[X, Y]_0 / \pi_1(Y, y_0) \rightarrow [X, Y]$

if $\Phi([f]) = \Phi([g])$, then


let H be the free homotopy f to g

and $\gamma(t) = H(x_0, t)$

f, g both take x_0 to y_0 so $\gamma \in \pi_1(Y, y_0)$

and $[\gamma] \cdot [f] = [g]$

so Φ is injective on $[X, Y]_0 / \pi_1(Y, y_0)$

Φ is clearly onto by lemma 10 if
 Y is path connected 

Corollary 14:

a based map is null-homotopic
 \Leftrightarrow
it is based null-homotopic

Proof: clearly based null-homotopic \Rightarrow null-homotopic

now if $f \simeq c$ (the constant map, can assume $c(x) = y_0$) by homotopy H

let $\gamma(t) = H(x_0, t)$ and we see $f \simeq_{\gamma} c$

so $c \simeq_{\gamma^{-1}} f$

of course $c \simeq_{\gamma^{-1}} c$

so $f \simeq c$ rel base point by lemma 11 

Corollary 15:

if Y is simply connected then
 $[X, Y]_0 \rightarrow [X, Y]$
is a bijection

note: a special case of Th^m 13 says

$\pi_1(Y, y_0)$ acts on $\pi_n(Y, y_0)$

with quotient $[S^n, Y]$

(if Y is connected)