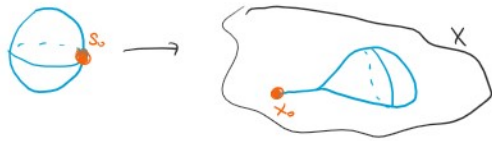


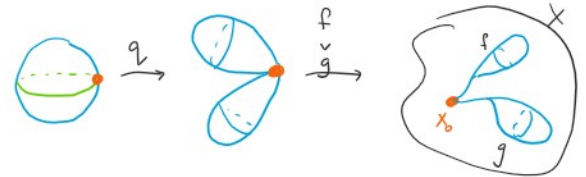
# Rapid introduction to higher homotopy groups

$\pi_n(X, x_0)$ :

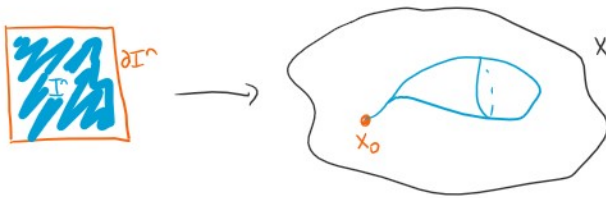
Defn 1:  $\{ f: (S^n, s_0) \rightarrow (X, x_0) \} / \text{homotopy (base point preserving)}$



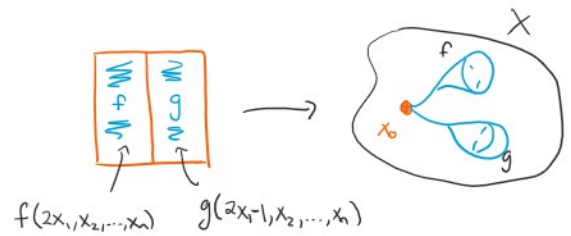
$f+g: (S^n, s_0) \rightarrow (X, x_0)$



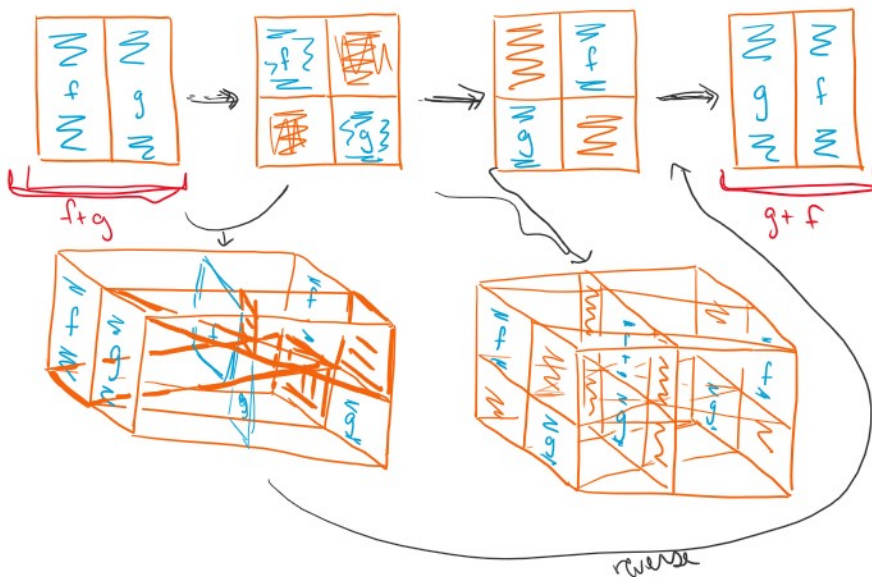
Defn 2:  $\{ f: (I^n, \partial I^n) \rightarrow (X, x_0) \} / \text{homotopy (through maps of this form)}$



$f+g: (I^n, \partial I^n) \rightarrow (X, x_0)$



$\pi_n(X, x_0)$  for  $n \geq 2$  is abelian (justifying the "+" notation for group structure)



$\alpha: X \rightarrow Y$

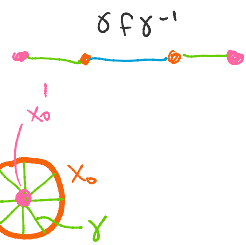


$\alpha_*: \pi_n(X, x_0) \rightarrow \pi_n(Y, y_0)$

$y_0 = \alpha(x_0)$

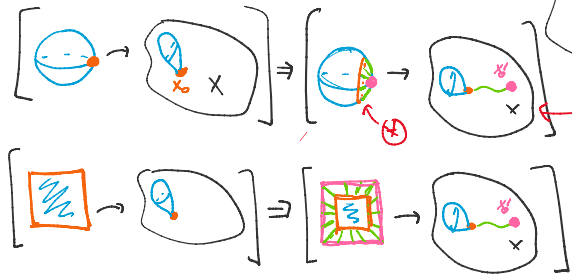
$$\alpha: X \rightarrow Y \quad \rightsquigarrow \quad \alpha_*: \pi_n(X, x_0) \rightarrow \pi_n(Y, y_0) \quad y_0 = \alpha(x_0)$$

$$[f] \mapsto [\alpha \circ f]$$



If  $X$  is path connected (or  $x_0, x_0'$  are in same path components)

$$B_\gamma: \pi_n(X, x_0) \xrightarrow{\cong} \pi_n(X, x_0')$$

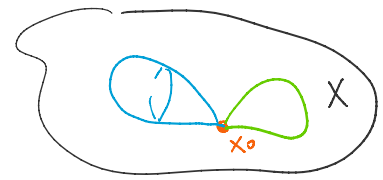


$B_\gamma$  is not canonical  
depends on choice of  $\gamma$ .  
Only depends on homotopy class of  $\gamma$

For  $\gamma$  a loop ( $[\gamma] \in \pi_1(X, x_0)$ )

$$B_\gamma: \pi_n(X, x_0) \xrightarrow{\cong} \pi_n(X, x_0)$$

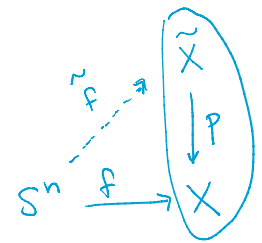
$\rightsquigarrow$  group action of  $\pi_1(X, x_0)$  on  $\pi_n(X, x_0)$



### Covering maps and higher homotopy groups

Theorem:  $p: \tilde{X} \rightarrow X$  covering map  $\Rightarrow p_*: \pi_n(\tilde{X}, \tilde{x}_0) \rightarrow \pi_n(X, x_0)$  ( $n \geq 2$ )  
 $\Rightarrow$  is an isomorphism

Idea: lifting property



$$\pi_1(S^n) = 1 \quad \text{for } n \geq 2$$

$$f_* (\underbrace{\pi_1(S^n)}_{1^n}) = p_* (\pi_1(\tilde{X}))$$

Corollary:  $\pi_n(S^n) = 0$  for  $n \geq 2$ . (Since it is covered by  $\mathbb{R}$ )

### Homotopy groups of spheres

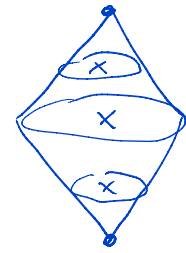
eventually unknown  $\rightarrow$

$\pi_1$	$\pi_2$	$\pi_3$	$\pi_4$	$\pi_5$	$\pi_6$	$\pi_7$	$\pi_8$	$\pi_9$	$\pi_{10}$	$\pi_{11}$	$\pi_{12}$	$\pi_{13}$	$\pi_{14}$	$\pi_{15}$
---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------

	$\pi_1$	$\pi_2$	$\pi_3$	$\pi_4$	$\pi_5$	$\pi_6$	$\pi_7$	$\pi_8$	$\pi_9$	$\pi_{10}$	$\pi_{11}$	$\pi_{12}$	$\pi_{13}$	$\pi_{14}$	$\pi_{15}$
$S^0$	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
$S^1$	$\mathbb{Z}$	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
$S^2$	0	$\mathbb{Z}$	$\mathbb{Z}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_{12}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_3$	$\mathbb{Z}_{15}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2^2$	$\mathbb{Z}_{12} \times \mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_{84} \times \mathbb{Z}_2^2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2^2$
$S^3$	0	0	$\mathbb{Z}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_{12}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_3$	$\mathbb{Z}_{15}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2^2$	$\mathbb{Z}_{12} \times \mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_{84} \times \mathbb{Z}_2^2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2^2$
$S^4$	0	0	0	$\mathbb{Z}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}_{12}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2^2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2^2$	$\mathbb{Z}_{24} \times \mathbb{Z}_3$	$\mathbb{Z}_{15}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2^3$	$\mathbb{Z}_{120} \times \mathbb{Z}_{12} \times \mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_{84} \times \mathbb{Z}_2^5$
$S^5$	0	0	0	0	$\mathbb{Z}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_{24}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_{30}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2^3$	$\mathbb{Z}_{72} \times \mathbb{Z}_2$
$S^6$	0	0	0	0	0	$\mathbb{Z}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_{24}$	0	$\mathbb{Z}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_{60}$	$\mathbb{Z}_{24} \times \mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2^3$
$S^7$	0	0	0	0	0	0	$\mathbb{Z}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_{24}$	0	0	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_{120}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2^3$
$S^8$	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	$\mathbb{Z}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_{24}$	0	0	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}_{120}$

### Freudenthal Suspension Theorem

Suspension:  $X \rightarrow \Sigma X = X \times \mathbb{I} / \sim$   $(x,0) \sim (x',0)$   
 $(x,1) \sim (x',1)$



$S^n \rightarrow \Sigma S^n \cong S^{n+1}$



$f: S^n \rightarrow X \rightsquigarrow \Sigma f: \Sigma S^n \rightarrow \Sigma X$   $\Sigma f(x,t) = (f(x), t)$   
 $\Rightarrow \Sigma: \pi_n(X) \rightarrow \pi_{n+1}(\Sigma X)$   $(f(x),0) \sim (y,0)$   
 $(f(x),1) \sim (y,1)$

Theorem [Freudenthal]  $\Sigma: \pi_n(S^k) \rightarrow \pi_{n+1}(S^{k+1})$

is an isomorphism for  $n < 2k-1$  and surjective for  $n = 2k-1$ .

### Relative homotopy groups + exact sequence of pairs

$\pi_n(X, A, x_0)$

$\{ f: (D^n, \partial D^n, \underline{d_0}) \rightarrow (X, A, \underline{x_0}) \} / \text{homotopy through maps of this type}$

$x_0 \in A \subset X$



$x_0 \in A \subset X$



or  $\{ f: (I^n, I^{n-1} \times \{1\}, \partial I^n \setminus \{I^{n-1} \times \{1\}\}) \rightarrow (X, A, x_0) \}$  / homotopy through maps of this type

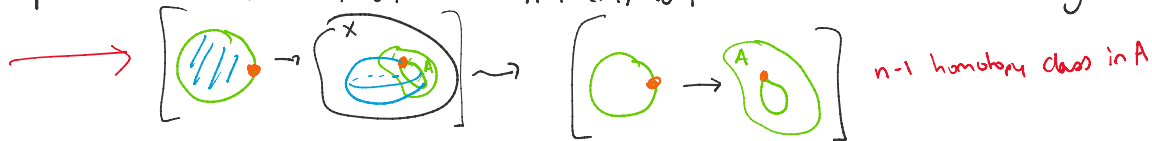


Observe:  $\pi_n(X, x_0) = \pi_n(X, \{x_0\}, x_0)$

Inclusions of pairs  $i: (A, x_0) \hookrightarrow (X, x_0)$   $[(A, x_0, x_0) \rightarrow (X, x_0, x_0)]$

$j: (X, x_0, x_0) \hookrightarrow (X, A, x_0)$

Boundary map:  $\partial: \pi_n(X, A, x_0) \rightarrow \pi_{n-1}(A, x_0)$  "restrict to boundary"



Exact sequence of pairs:

$$\dots \xrightarrow{\partial} \pi_n(A, x_0) \xrightarrow{i_*} \pi_n(X, x_0) \xrightarrow{j_*} \pi_n(X, A, x_0) \xrightarrow{\partial} \pi_{n-1}(A, x_0) \xrightarrow{i_*} \dots$$

Understanding  $\pi_n(S^k)$ ,  $\pi_n(D^k, \partial D^k)$  + exact sequence gives some power to study CW complexes

Note: We do not generally understand  $\pi_n(S^k)$  for  $n \gg k$  & there are limitations on understanding  $\pi_n$  for cell complexes.