


Fundamental group

$X = \text{top. space}$ fix a basepoint $x_0 \in X$

Def A loop in X is a continuous map
 $\gamma: [0, 1] \rightarrow X$ such that $\gamma(0) = \gamma(1) = x_0$

Def $\pi_1(X) =$ fundamental group of X

 is $\pi_1(X, x_0) = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{all loops} \\ \text{starting and} \\ \text{ending at } x_0 \end{array} \right\} / \sim$

\sim homotopy of loops fixing the endpoints.

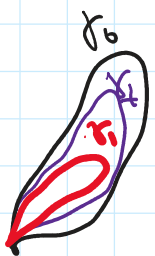
$\gamma_0: [0, 1] \rightarrow X$ $\gamma_1: [0, 1] \rightarrow X$

$\gamma_0 \sim \gamma_1$ if there is a homotopy

$\gamma_t: [0, 1] \rightarrow X$ such that

at $t=0$ get γ_0 , $t=1$ get γ_1 , and

$\gamma_t(0) = \gamma_t(1) = x_0$ for all t .



This is a group! Composition of loops:



$\gamma_1 * \gamma_2 = \text{new loop}$

$$\gamma(s) = \begin{cases} \gamma_1(2s), & 0 \leq s \leq \frac{1}{2} \\ \gamma_2(2s-1), & \frac{1}{2} \leq s \leq 1 \end{cases}$$

$$\gamma_2(2s-1), \frac{1}{2} \leq s \leq 1$$

At $s = \frac{1}{2}$, we get $\gamma(\frac{1}{2}) = \gamma_1(1) = x_0 = \gamma_2(0)$
 so this is continuous.

$$s=0 \quad \gamma(0) = \gamma_1(0) = x_0 \quad s=1 \quad \gamma(1) = \gamma_2(1) = x_0.$$

Thm (a) The composition is well defined:

$$\gamma_1 \sim \gamma_1', \text{ then } \gamma_1 * \gamma_2 \sim \gamma_1' * \gamma_2$$

(b) $\pi_1(X)$ is a group

- identity
- associativity
- inverse

s = loop parameter
 t = homotopy

Proof (a) $\gamma_1 \sim \gamma_1'$ then there is a homotopy

$$\gamma : [0, 1] \rightarrow X \quad \gamma^{(0)} = \gamma_1 \quad \gamma^{(1)} = \gamma_1'$$

$$\gamma_1(2s), \quad s \leq \frac{1}{2}$$

$$\gamma_2(2s-1), \quad s \geq \frac{1}{2}$$

$$\gamma^{(t)} = \begin{cases} \gamma^{(t)}(2s), & s \leq \frac{1}{2} \\ \gamma_2(2s-1), & s \geq \frac{1}{2} \end{cases}$$

Since $\gamma^{(t)}(1) = x_0$ for all t , this is continuous for all t .

$$\gamma^{(t)} = \gamma^{(t)} * \gamma_2$$

$$\gamma^{(0)} = \gamma^{(0)} * \gamma_2 = \gamma_1 * \gamma_2$$

$$\tilde{\gamma}^{(1)} = \gamma^{(1)} * \gamma_2 = \gamma_1 * \gamma_2.$$

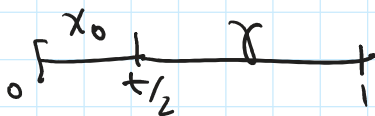
(b) Identity : $e(s) = x_0 \quad 0 \leq s \leq 1$

constant loop.

$$e * \gamma(s) = \begin{cases} x_0, & 0 \leq s \leq \frac{1}{2} \\ \gamma(2s-1), & \frac{1}{2} \leq s \leq 1 \end{cases}$$

This is NOT equal to γ but it is homotopic to γ .

$$\Gamma_t(s) = \begin{cases} x_0, & 0 \leq s \leq \frac{t}{2} \\ \gamma\left(\frac{s-t/2}{1-t/2}\right), & \frac{t}{2} \leq s \leq 1 \end{cases}$$



• continuous in s :

$$\Gamma_t(s=t/2) = x_0 = \gamma(0)$$

• loop for all t : $\Gamma_t(0) = x_0 \quad \Gamma_t(1) = \gamma\left(\frac{1-t/2}{1-t/2}\right) = \gamma(1) = x_0$

• At $t=0$ get $\gamma(s)$ = $\Gamma_0(s)$

At $t=1$ get $e * \gamma$ = $\Gamma_1(s)$

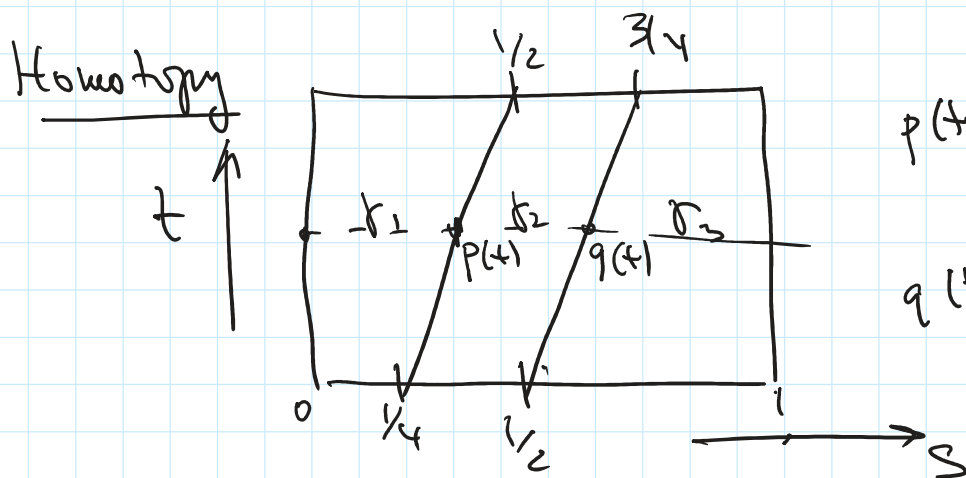
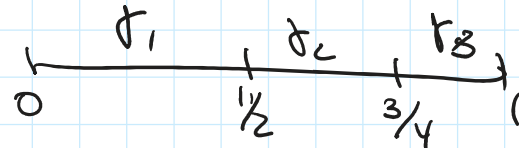
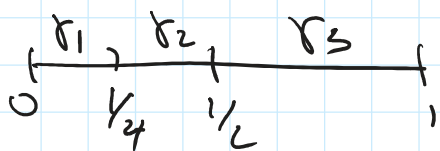
Conclusion $e * \gamma \sim \gamma$ for all γ , so e is the identity.

• Associativity $(\gamma_1 * \gamma_2) * \gamma_3 \sim \gamma_1 * (\gamma_2 * \gamma_3)$

$$\rightarrow \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \gamma_1(4s), \quad 0 \leq s \leq 1/4 \\ \gamma_1(4s-1), \quad 1/4 \leq s \leq 1/2 \end{array} \right\} \sim \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \gamma_1(2s), \quad 0 \leq s \leq 1/2 \\ \gamma_2(4s-2), \quad 1/2 \leq s \leq 3/4 \end{array} \right.$$

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \gamma_1(1-s), 0 \leq s \leq 1/4 \\ \gamma_2(4s-1), 1/2 \leq s \leq 1/2 \\ \gamma_3(2s-1), 1/2 \leq s \leq 1 \end{array} \right.$$

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \gamma_1(1-s), 0 \leq s \leq 1/2 \\ \gamma_2(4s-2), 1/2 \leq s \leq 3/4 \\ \gamma_3(4s-3), 3/4 \leq s \leq 1 \end{array} \right.$$

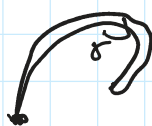
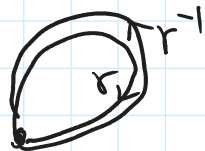


$$\begin{aligned} p(t) &= t \cdot 1/2 + (1-t) \cdot 1/4 \\ &= 1/4 + 1/4 t \\ q(t) &= 1/2 + 1/4 t \end{aligned}$$

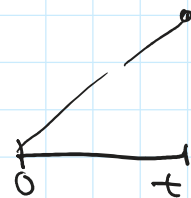
$$\Gamma_t(s) = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \gamma_1\left(\frac{s}{p(t)}\right), 0 \leq s \leq p(t) \\ \gamma_2\left(\frac{s-p(t)}{q(t)-p(t)}\right), p(t) \leq s \leq q(t) \\ \gamma_3\left(\frac{s-q(t)}{1-q(t)}\right), q(t) \leq s \leq 1 \end{array} \right.$$

Inverse $\gamma^{-1}(s) = \gamma(1-s)$

$$\gamma * \gamma^{-1}(s) = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \gamma(2s), 0 \leq s \leq 1/2 \\ \gamma(1-(2s-1)) = \gamma(2-2s), 1/2 \leq s \leq 1 \end{array} \right.$$



$$\Gamma_t(s) = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \gamma(2ts), 0 \leq s \leq 1/2 \\ \gamma(1-(2s-1)), 1/2 \leq s \leq 1 \end{array} \right.$$



$$I_t(s) = \begin{cases} 0 & s=0 \\ \gamma((1-s) \cdot 2t), & \frac{1}{2} \leq s \leq 1 \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{array}{l} t=0 \quad e = I_0(s) \\ t=1 \quad \gamma * \gamma^{-1} = I_1(s) \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{linear fm} \\ f(\frac{1}{2}) = t \quad f(1) = 0 \end{array}$$

Conclusion: $\gamma * \gamma^{-1} \sim e$.

Facts about $\pi_1(X)$: (to be proved later)

- X contractible $\Rightarrow \pi_1(X) = \{e\}$
- $\pi_1(S^1) = \mathbb{Z}$! $\Rightarrow S^1$ is not contractible
- $\pi_1(X)$ does not need to be abelian
- $f: X \rightarrow Y$ continuous
 $f_*: \pi_1(X) \rightarrow \pi_1(Y)$ group homomorphism.
- $X = CW$ complex $\Rightarrow \pi_1(X)$ can be described explicitly by generators and relations.
- If X is homotopy eq. to Y then
 $\pi_1(X) \cong \pi_1(Y)$