

We consider the maps

$$\gamma : (S^1, \infty) \longrightarrow (S^1, \infty) \vee (S^1, \infty)$$

$$\iota : (S^1, \infty) \longrightarrow (S^1, \infty)$$

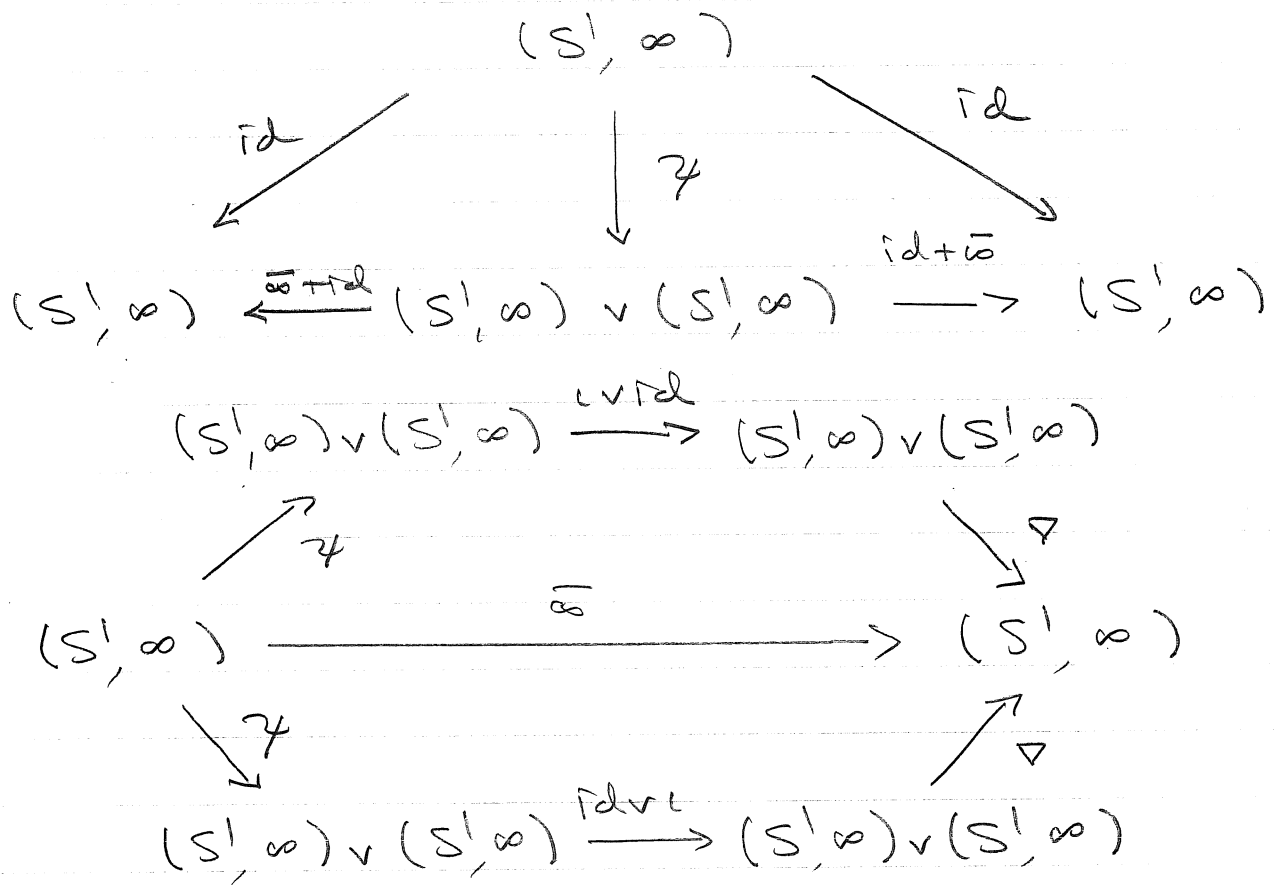
defined by

$$\gamma(t) = \begin{cases} \text{in}_1(t - t^{-1}) & (t \in (0, \infty)) \\ \text{in}_2(t - t^{-1}) & (t \in (-\infty, 0)) \\ \infty & (t \in \{0, \infty\}) \end{cases}$$

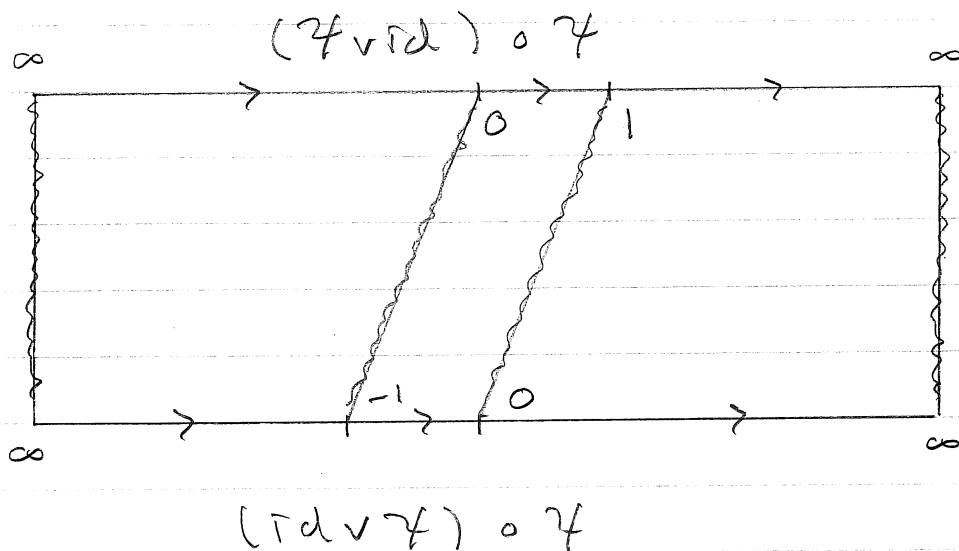
$$\iota(t) = \begin{cases} -t & (t \in \mathbb{R}) \\ \infty & (t = \infty) \end{cases}$$

The following diagrams in $\mathcal{K}_*$ are homotopy commutative

$$\begin{array}{ccc} (S^1, \infty) & \xrightarrow{\gamma} & (S^1, \infty) \vee (S^1, \infty) \\ \downarrow \gamma & & \downarrow \gamma \vee \text{id} \\ (S^1, \infty) \vee (S^1, \infty) & \xrightarrow{\text{id} \vee \gamma} & (S^1, \infty) \vee (S^1, \infty) \vee (S^1, \infty) \end{array}$$



The following picture explains the homotopy between the two compositions in the first diagram:



We define the fundamental group of the pointed k -space (X, x) to be the set

$$\pi_1(X, x) = [(S^1, \omega), (X, x)]$$

with the following group structure:
The product of the classes of the maps $f: (S^1, \omega) \rightarrow (X, x)$ and $g: (S^1, \omega) \rightarrow (X, x)$ is the class of the map

$$f * g: (S^1, \omega) \rightarrow (X, x)$$

defined to be the composition

$$(S^1, \omega) \xrightarrow{\gamma} (S^1, \omega) \vee (S^1, \omega) \xrightarrow{f+g} (X, x);$$

the inverse of the class of f is the class of the composite map

$$(S^1, \omega) \xrightarrow{c} (S^1, \omega) \xrightarrow{f} (X, x);$$

and the unit element $e \in \pi_1(X, x)$ is the class of the constant map $\bar{x}$.

Similarly, we can define two multiplications $*$ and $*'$ on

the pointed set

$$\pi_2(X, x) = [(S^2, \omega), (X, x)] \\ \xleftarrow{\sim} [(S^1, \omega) \wedge (S^1, \omega), (X, x)]$$

To define $*$, we first recall that the functor $- \wedge (Z, z)$ has a right adjoint, and hence, preserves colimits. In particular, the canonical map

$$(X, x) \wedge (Z, z) \vee (Y, y) \wedge (Z, z) \\ \longrightarrow ((X, x) \vee (Y, y)) \wedge (Z, z)$$

is a homeomorphism. We write

$$\rho: ((X, x) \vee (Y, y)) \wedge (Z, z) \\ \longrightarrow (X, x) \wedge (Z, z) \vee (Y, y) \wedge (Z, z)$$

for the inverse homeomorphism and call it the right distributivity homeomorphism. Now, let

$$f, g: (S^1, \omega) \wedge (S^1, \omega) \longrightarrow (X, x)$$

be two maps. Then we define

$$f * g : (S', \omega) \wedge (S', \omega) \rightarrow (X, x)$$

to be the composite map

$$(S', \omega) \wedge (S', \omega)$$

$$\xrightarrow{\gamma \wedge id} ((S', \omega) \vee (S', \omega)) \wedge (S', \omega)$$

$$\xrightarrow{p} (S', \omega) \wedge (S', \omega) \vee (S', \omega) \wedge (S', \omega)$$

$$\xrightarrow{f+g} (X, x).$$

The product $*$ is the induced map of homotopy classes of maps.

To define $*'$, we first define

$$\gamma : (X, x) \wedge (Y, y) \rightarrow (Y, y) \wedge (X, x)$$

to be the homeomorphism given by

$$\gamma(\text{class of } (x', y')) = \text{class of } (y', x').$$

We then define the left distributivity homeomorphism

$$\lambda := (X, x) \wedge ((Y, y) \vee (Z, z))$$

$$\longrightarrow (X, x) \wedge (Z, z) \vee (X, x) \wedge (Y, y)$$

to be the composition

$$(X, x) \wedge ((Y, y) \vee (Z, z))$$

$$\xrightarrow{\gamma} ((Y, y) \vee (Z, z)) \wedge (X, x)$$

$$\xrightarrow{\rho} (Y, y) \wedge (X, x) \vee (Z, z) \wedge (X, x)$$

$$\xrightarrow{\gamma \vee \gamma} (X, x) \wedge (Y, y) \vee (X, x) \wedge (Z, z)$$

Then with f and g as before, we define the map

$$f *' g := (S', \omega) \wedge (S', \omega) \longrightarrow (X, x)$$

to be the composition

$$(S', \omega) \wedge (S', \omega)$$

$$\xrightarrow{\text{id} \wedge \gamma} (S', \omega) \wedge ((S', \omega) \vee (S', \omega))$$

$$\xrightarrow{\lambda} (S', \omega) \wedge (S', \omega) \vee (S', \omega) \wedge (S', \omega)$$

$$\xrightarrow{f+g} (X, x).$$

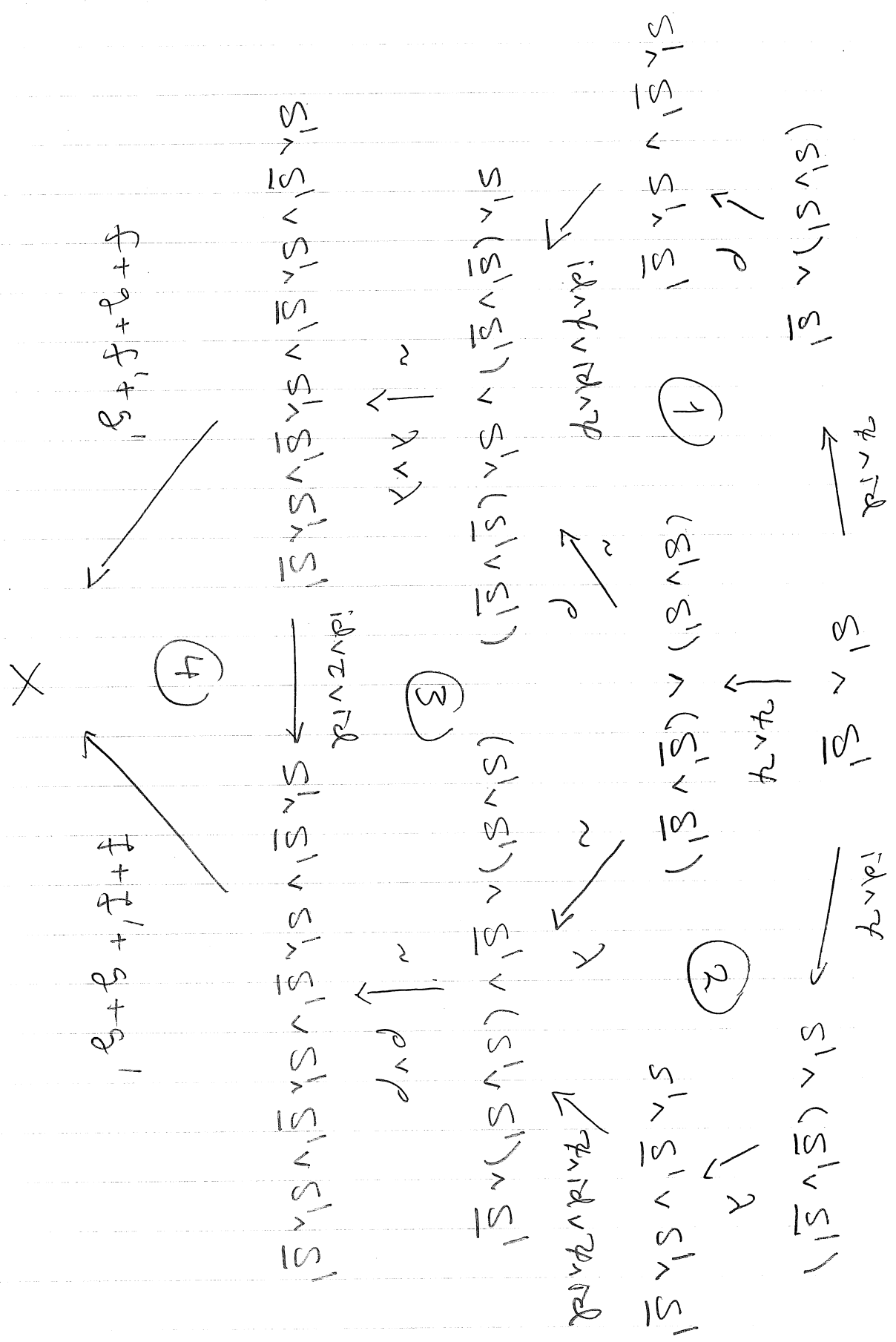
The commutativity of the diagram on the next page shows that $*$ and $*'$ satisfy the identity

$$(f *' g) * (f' *' g') = (f * f') *' (g * g').$$

Indeed, the left-hand side is equal to the composition of the maps on the left-hand side of the diagram and the right-hand side is equal to the composition of the maps on the right-hand side of the diagram. We have omitted to write base-points in the diagram. The sub-diagrams (1) and (2) commute by naturality of the maps ρ and λ , respectively. The homeomorphism τ is defined by

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} (X, x) & \xrightarrow{\text{in}_1} & (X, x) \vee (Y, y) & \xleftarrow{\text{in}_2} & (Y, y) \\ & \searrow \text{in}_2 & \downarrow \tau & \swarrow \text{in}_1 & \\ & & (Y, y) \vee (X, x) & & \end{array}$$

One checks directly that (3) commutes. It is clear that (4) commutes. The under-bar has no mathematical meaning.



Let us write $[f]$ for the homotopy class of the map f , and let $e = \bar{x}$ be the constant map. The formula on page 113 shows that

$$\begin{aligned} [f * g] &= [(f *' e) * (e *' g)] \\ &= [(f * e) *' (e * g)] = [f *' g] \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} [g * f] &= [(e *' g) * (f *' e)] \\ &= [(e * f) *' (g * e)] = [f *' g]. \end{aligned}$$

Hence, $*$ and $*'$ define the same group structure on $\pi_2(X, x)$ and this group structure is abelian. For all $n \geq 0$, we define

$$\pi_n(X, x) = [(S^n, \omega), (X, x)].$$

It is a pointed set, if $n=0$, a group, if $n=1$, and an abelian group, if $n \geq 2$. We define

$$\pi_n(\Omega(X, x), \bar{x}) \xrightarrow{\omega} \pi_{n+1}(X, x)$$

to be the isomorphism given by the composition

$$[(S^n, \omega), \Omega(X, x)]$$

$$\xleftarrow{\sim} [\Sigma(S^n, \omega), (X, x)]$$

$$\xrightarrow{\sim} [(S^{n+1}, \omega), (X, x)]$$

of the adjunction isomorphism and the canonical isomorphism.