

A pointed k -space is a pair (X, x) of a k -space X and a point $x \in X$. The point x is called the base-point. A map $f: (X, x) \rightarrow (Y, y)$ is a continuous map $f: X \rightarrow Y$ such that $f(x) = y$. We write \mathcal{K}_* for the category of pointed k -spaces. The forgetful functor $U: \mathcal{K}_* \rightarrow \mathcal{K}$ defined by $U(X, x) = X$ has a left-adjoint functor $(-)_+ : \mathcal{K} \rightarrow \mathcal{K}_*$ that to the k -space X associates the pointed k -space $(X_+, +)$, where $X_+ = X \amalg \{+\}$ is the disjoint union of X and a base-point $+$. It follows that U preserves limits: The limit of the diagram $i \in I \mapsto (X_i, x_i) \in \mathcal{K}_*$ is

$$\lim_{i \in I} (X_i, x_i) = \left(\lim_{i \in I} X_i, (x_i) \right).$$

The functor $(-)_+$ preserves colimits, but the functor U does not. The colimit of $i \in I \mapsto (X_i, x_i)$ is the quotient space

$$\operatorname{colim}_{i \in I} (X_i, x_i) = \left((\operatorname{colim}_{i \in I} X_i) / B, \bar{B} \right)$$

obtained from the colimit of the

diagram $i \in I \mapsto X_i \in \mathcal{K}$ by collapsing the subspace

$$B = \{ \text{in}_i(x_i) \mid i \in I \}$$

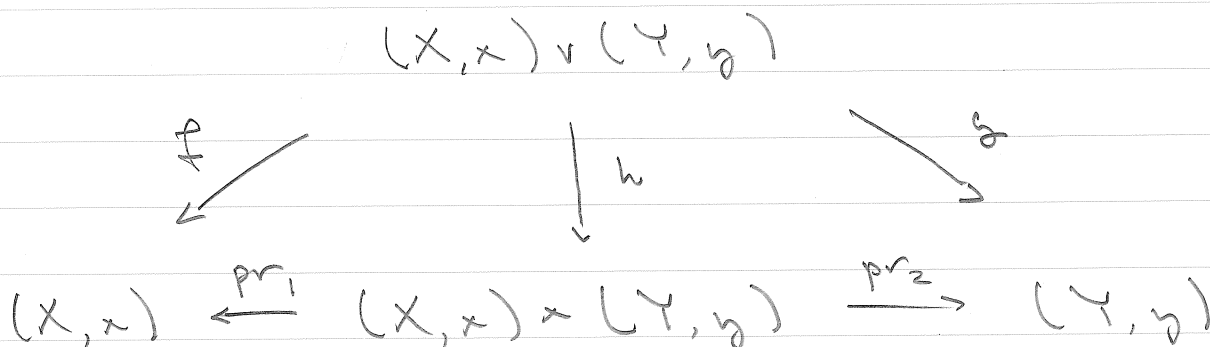
to a single point \bar{B} . The point \bar{B} is the base-point of the colimit. For example, the coproduct of (X, x) and (Y, y) is the quotient space

$$(X, x) \vee (Y, y) := ((X \amalg Y) / \{x, y\}, \overline{\{x, y\}})$$

obtained from $X \amalg Y$ by identifying $x \in X$ and $y \in Y$ to a single point $\overline{\{x, y\}}$. The coproduct is called the wedge sum of (X, x) and (Y, y) . There is a canonical map

$$(X, x) \vee (Y, y) \xrightarrow{h} (X, x) \times (Y, y)$$

defined by the diagram



where the map f collapses Y to the base-point and the map g collapses X to the base-point. We define the smash product of (X, x) and (Y, y) to be the pointed k -space

$$(X, x) \wedge (Y, y)$$

$$= \left(\frac{X \times Y}{h(X \vee Y)}, \overline{h(X \vee Y)} \right)$$

$$= \left(\frac{X \times Y}{\{x\} \times Y \cup X \times \{y\}}, \{x\} \times Y \cup X \times \{y\} \right)$$

obtained from $X \times Y$ by collapsing the subspace $h(X \vee Y)$ to a point. We also define the mapping space

$$\underline{\text{Hom}}_{\mathcal{K}_*}((X, x), (Y, y)) = \underline{\text{Hom}}_{\mathcal{K}}(X, Y)$$

to be the subspace of all maps $f: X \rightarrow Y$ such that $f(x) = y$ with the constant map $\bar{y}: (X, x) \rightarrow (Y, y)$, $\bar{y}(x') = y$, as the base-point. The canonical homeomorphism

$$\underline{\text{Hom}}_{\mathcal{K}}(X \times Y, Z) \xrightarrow{\cong} \underline{\text{Hom}}_{\mathcal{K}}(X, \underline{\text{Hom}}_{\mathcal{K}}(Y, Z))$$

induces the homeomorphism

$$\begin{aligned} & \underline{\text{Hom}}_{\pi_*} ((X, x) \wedge (Y, y), (Z, z)) \\ & \xrightarrow{a} \underline{\text{Hom}}_{\pi_*} ((X, x), \underline{\text{Hom}}_{\pi_*} ((Y, y), (Z, z))) \end{aligned}$$

defined by

$$a(f)(x')(y') = f(\text{class of } (x', y')),$$

In particular, the functor $- \wedge (Y, y)$ is left adjoint to $\underline{\text{Hom}}_{\pi_*} ((Y, y), -)$.

We define the n-sphere to be the pointed k-space

$$(S^n, \infty) = ((\mathbb{R}^n)^+, \infty)$$

given by the one-point compactification of \mathbb{R}^n with the point ∞ as the base-point. So S^n is the set $\mathbb{R}^n \cup \{\infty\}$ and the subset $U \subset S^n$ is open iff either $U \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ is open or $\infty \in U$ and $S^n \setminus U = K$ with $K \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ compact. There is a canonical homeomorphism

$$(S^{m+n}, \infty) \xrightarrow{\sim} (S^m, \infty) \wedge (S^n, \infty)$$

that takes $(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^m \times \mathbb{R}^n$ to the class of (x, y) and the base-point ∞ to the base-point $\infty \times S^n \cup S^m \times \infty$.

Let (X, x) be a pointed k -space. We define the suspension and loop space of (X, x) by

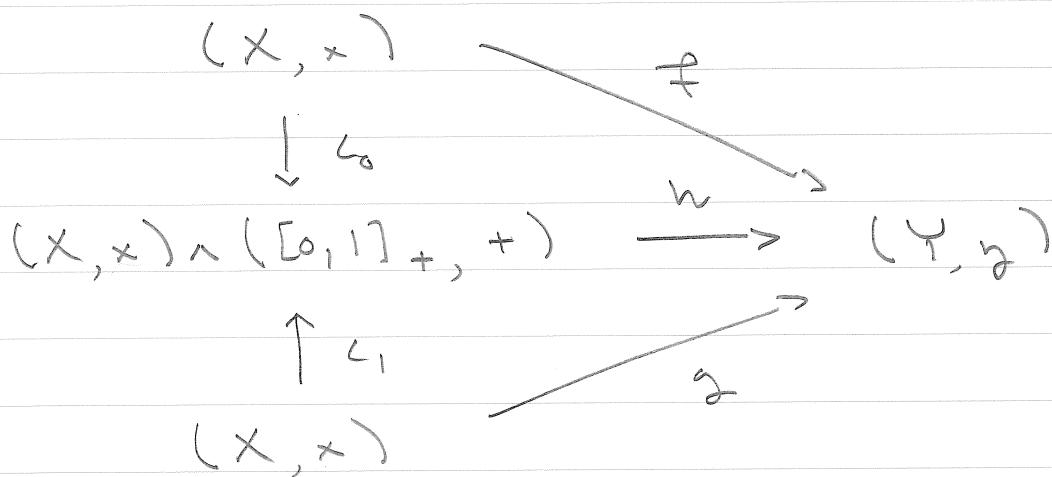
$$\Sigma(X, x) = (X, x) \wedge (S^1, \infty)$$

$$\Omega(X, x) = \underline{\text{Hom}}_{\mathcal{T}_x}((S^1, \infty), (X, x))$$

Then Σ is left adjoint to Ω and we have canonical homeomorphisms

$$(S^{n+1}, \infty) \xrightarrow{\sim} \Sigma(S^n, \infty).$$

A homotopy from $f: (X, x) \rightarrow (Y, y)$ to $g: (X, x) \rightarrow (Y, y)$ is a commutative diagram



where $\wr_\varepsilon(x')$ = class of (x', ε) . If a homotopy from f to g exists, we say that f and g are homotopic and write $f \sim g$. This defines an equivalence relation on the set of maps from (X, x) to (Y, y) , and we define

$$[(X, x), (Y, y)] = \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}_*}((X, x), (Y, y)) / \sim$$

to be the pointed set of equivalence classes. The base-point of this set is the class of the constant map $\bar{y}: (X, x) \rightarrow (Y, y)$. If $f: (X, x) \rightarrow (Y, y)$ is homotopic to $\bar{y}: (X, x) \rightarrow (Y, y)$, we say that f is null-homotopic.

We consider the maps

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

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

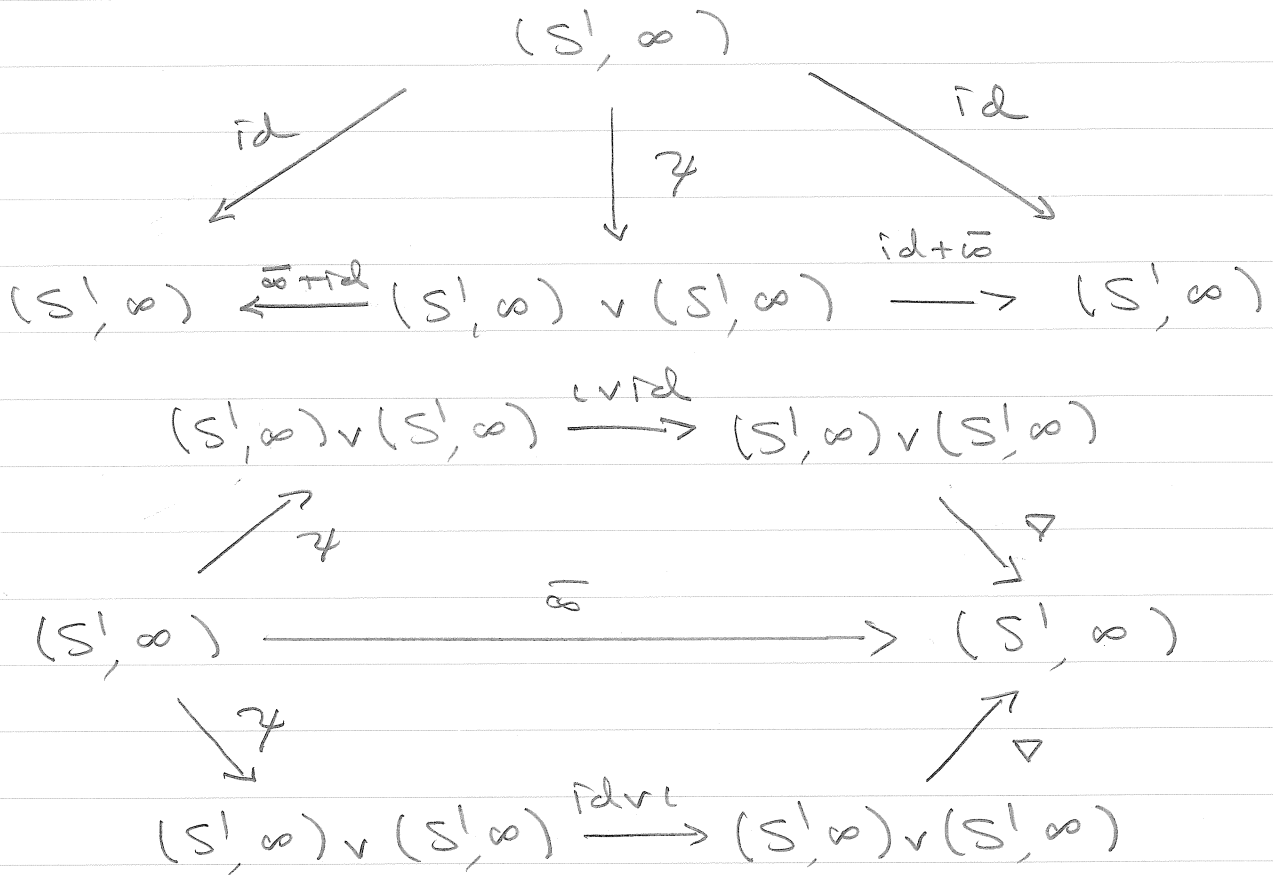
defined by

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

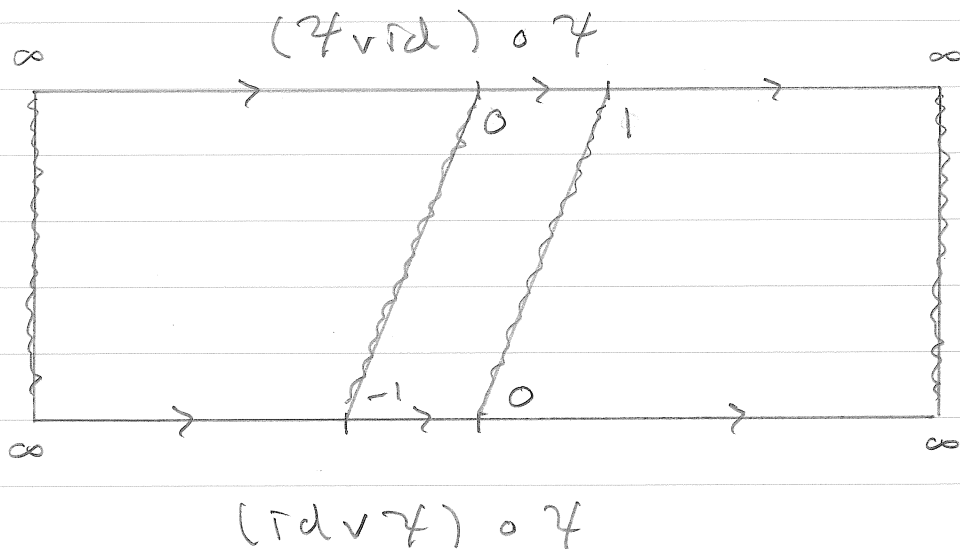
$$\iota(t) = \begin{cases} -t & (t \in \mathbb{R}) \\ \infty & (t = \infty) \end{cases}$$

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

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

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

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

defined to be the composition

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

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

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

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

$$\pi_2(X, x) = [(S^2, \infty), (X, x)]$$

$$\xleftarrow{\sim} [(S^1, \infty) \wedge (S^1, \infty), (X, x)]$$

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

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

be two maps. Then we define

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

to be the composite map

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

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

$$\xrightarrow{\rho} (S', \infty) \wedge (S', \infty) \vee (S', \infty) \wedge (S', \infty)$$

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

to be the composition

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

$$\xrightarrow{\rho \wedge \gamma} (S', \infty) \wedge ((S', \infty) \vee (S', \infty))$$

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

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

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

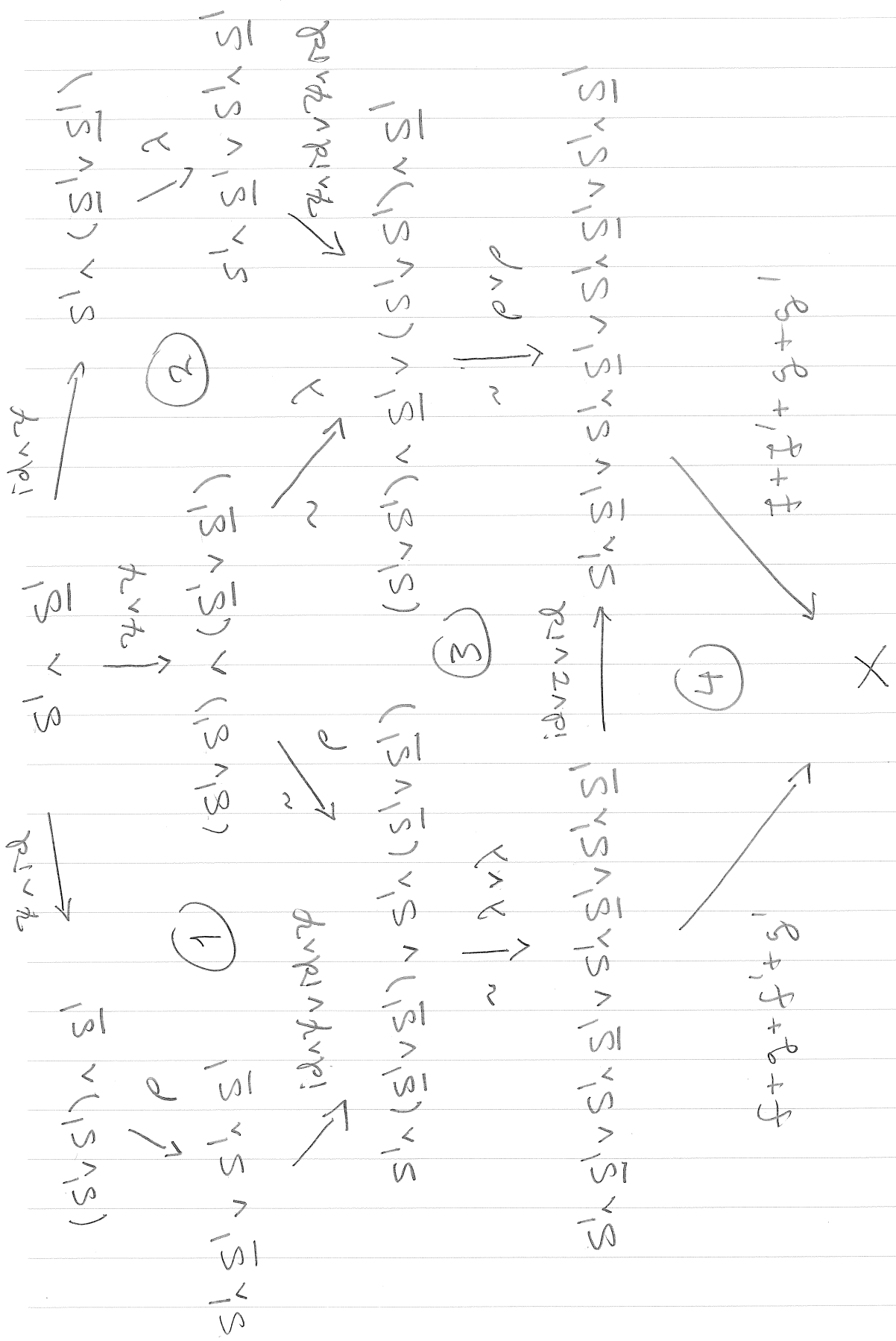
$$(f *' g) * (f' *' g') = (f * f') *' (g * g').$$

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

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

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

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

to be the isomorphism given by the composition

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

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

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

of the inverse of the adjunction isomorphism and the canonical isomorphism.

Let $f: (X, x) \rightarrow (Y, y)$ be a map. Then we have the induced map

$$f_*: \pi_n(X, x) \rightarrow \pi_n(Y, y)$$

defined by

$$f_*([w]) = [f \circ w].$$

We will show that f_* fits in a long-exact sequence of homotopy groups. We first define the path space of (Y, y) to be the pointed mapping space

$$(P(Y, y), \bar{y}) = (\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{X}_*}([0, 1], 0), \bar{y}).$$

It is a contractible space. Indeed, a homotopy from the constant map \bar{y} to the identity map is given by

$$h: (P(Y, y), \bar{y}) \wedge ([0, 1], 0) \rightarrow (P(Y, y), \bar{y})$$

$$h(\sigma, s)(t) = \sigma(s \cdot t).$$

We now define the mapping fiber of f over y to be the pull-back

$$\begin{array}{ccc} (F(f, y), (x, \bar{y})) & \xrightarrow{i} & (X, x) \\ \downarrow i' & & \downarrow f \\ (P(Y, y), \bar{y}) & \xrightarrow{ev_1} & (Y, y) \end{array}$$

where $ev_1(\sigma) = \sigma(1)$.

Lemma The sequence

$$\pi_n(F(f, y), (x, \bar{y})) \xrightarrow{i_*} \pi_n(X, x) \xrightarrow{f_*} \pi_n(Y, y)$$

is exact.

Proof The composition $f_* \circ i_*$ is equal to the composition

$$\pi_n(F(F, y), (x, \bar{y})) \xrightarrow{i_*} \pi_n(P(Y, y), \bar{y}) \xrightarrow{w_*} \pi_n(Y, y)$$

and $\pi_n(P(Y, y), \bar{y}) = \{[\bar{y}]\}$. Hence, $f_* \circ i_*$ is the constant map $[\bar{y}]$.

Let $[\omega] \in \pi_n(X, x)$ and suppose that $f_*([\omega]) = [\bar{y}]$. Then there exists a homotopy

$$h: (S^n, \infty) \wedge ([0, 1], 0) \rightarrow (Y, y)$$

from the constant map \bar{y} to the map $f \circ \omega$. Hence, we have a commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} (S^n, \infty) & \xrightarrow{\omega} & (X, x) \\ \downarrow \wr & & \downarrow f \\ (S^n, \infty) \wedge ([0, 1], 0) & \xrightarrow{h} & (Y, y) \end{array}$$

We adjoin h to get the map

$$a(h): (S^n, \infty) \rightarrow (P(Y, y), \bar{y})$$

Then the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 (S^n, \infty) & \xrightarrow{\omega} & (X, x) \\
 \downarrow a(h) & & \downarrow f \\
 (P(Y, y), \bar{y}) & \xrightarrow{ev_1} & (Y, y)
 \end{array}$$

commutes. The induced map

$$(\omega, a(h)) : (S^n, \infty) \rightarrow (F(F, y), (x, \bar{y}))$$

satisfies $i \circ (\omega, a(h)) = \omega$. Hence, $i_*([(\omega, a(h))]) = [\omega]$, so the kernel of f_* is equal to the image of i_* . //

We may apply the lemma to the map

$$i : (F(F, y), (x, \bar{y})) \rightarrow (X, x).$$

It turns out that the mapping fiber $(F(i, x), ((x, \bar{y}), \bar{x}))$ is homotopy equivalent to the loop space $(\Omega(Y, y), \bar{y})$. To see this, we first let

$$\tau : ([-1, 1] / \{-1, 1\}, \overline{\{-1, 1\}}) \rightarrow (S^1, \infty)$$

be the homeomorphism defined by

$$z(t) = \tan\left(\frac{\pi}{2} \cdot t\right).$$

It induces the homeomorphism

$$\begin{aligned} (\Omega(Y, y), \bar{y}) &= \left(\underline{\text{Hom}}_{X_*}((S^1, \infty), (Y, y)), \bar{y} \right) \\ &\xrightarrow[\sim]{z^*} \left(\underline{\text{Hom}}_{X_*}([1, 1] / \{1, 1\}, \overline{\{1, 1\}}), (Y, y), \bar{y} \right). \end{aligned}$$

Now, we have the pull-back diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} (\Omega(Y, y), \bar{y}) & \xrightarrow{\rho_-} & (P(Y, y), \bar{y}) \\ \downarrow \rho_+ & & \downarrow \text{ev}_1 \\ (P(Y, y), \bar{y}) & \xrightarrow{\text{ev}_1} & (Y, y) \end{array}$$

where

$$\rho_-(w)(t) = z^*(w)(t-1), \quad t \in [0, 1],$$

$$\rho_+(w)(t) = z^*(w)(1-t), \quad t \in [0, 1].$$

On the other hand, the mapping fiber of i over (x, \bar{y}) is defined to be the pull-back

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 (F(i, x), ((x, \bar{y}), \bar{x})) & \xrightarrow{j} & (F(f, y), (x, \bar{y})) \\
 \downarrow j' & & \downarrow i \\
 (P(X, x), \bar{x}) & \xrightarrow{ev_1} & (X, x)
 \end{array}$$

and the mapping fiber of f over y is defined to be the pull-back

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 (F(f, y), (x, \bar{y})) & \xrightarrow{i'} & (P(Y, y), \bar{y}) \\
 \downarrow i & & \downarrow ev_1 \\
 (X, x) & \xrightarrow{f} & (Y, y)
 \end{array}$$

It follows that we have a pull-back

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 (F(i, x), ((x, \bar{y}), \bar{x})) & \xrightarrow{i' \circ j} & (P(Y, y), \bar{y}) \\
 \downarrow j' & & \downarrow ev_1 \\
 (P(X, x), \bar{x}) & \xrightarrow{f \circ ev_1} & (Y, y)
 \end{array}$$

We now define

$$\alpha: (F(i, x), ((x, \bar{y}), \bar{x})) \rightarrow (\Omega(Y, y), \bar{y})$$

to be the unique map such that

$$\rho_- \circ \alpha = i' \circ j$$

$$\rho_+ \circ \alpha = f_* \circ j'$$

where $f_* = (P(X, x), \bar{x}) \rightarrow (P(Y, y), \bar{y})$ is the map induced by f . We define

$$\beta: (\Omega(Y, y), \bar{y}) \rightarrow (F(i, x), (x, \bar{y}), \bar{x})$$

to be the unique map such that

$$(i' \circ j \circ \beta)(w)(t) = \tau^*(w)(2t-1), \quad t \in [0, 1]$$

$$(j' \circ \beta)(w) = \bar{x}$$

There are homotopies

$$\alpha \circ \beta \simeq \text{id}$$

$$\beta \circ \alpha \simeq \text{id}.$$

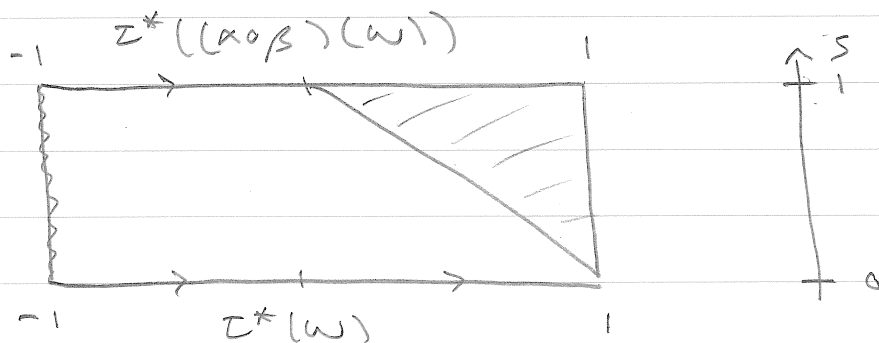
We give the first homotopy and leave it as an exercise to write down the second homotopy. We have

$$z^*(\alpha \circ \beta)(\omega)(t) = \begin{cases} z^*(\omega)(2t+1) & (-1 \leq t \leq 0) \\ \eta & (0 \leq t \leq 1) \end{cases}$$

so a homotopy h from $z^*(\omega)$ to $z^*(\alpha \circ \beta)(\omega)$ is given by

$$h(z^*(\omega), s)(t) = \begin{cases} z^*(\omega)(st + s + t) & (-1 \leq t \leq \frac{1-s}{1+s}) \\ \eta & (\frac{1-s}{1+s} \leq t \leq 1) \end{cases}$$

The following picture illustrates h :



We define the boundary map

$$\partial: (\Omega(Y, y), \bar{y}) \rightarrow (F(f, y), (x, \bar{y}))$$

to be the composition $j \circ \beta$. Then the lemma shows that the maps

$$(\Omega(Y, y), \bar{y}) \xrightarrow{\partial} (F(f, y), (x, \bar{y})) \xrightarrow{i} (X, x) \xrightarrow{f} (Y, y)$$

induce an exact sequence

$$\pi_n(\Omega(Y, y), \bar{y}) \xrightarrow{d_*} \pi_n(F(f, y), (x, \bar{y})) \xrightarrow{i_*} \pi_n(X, x) \xrightarrow{f_*} \pi_n(Y, y).$$

of homotopy groups. Hence, we have the exact sequence

$$\pi_{n+1}(Y, y) \xrightarrow{\delta} \pi_n(F(f, y), (x, \bar{y})) \xrightarrow{i_*} \pi_n(X, x) \xrightarrow{f_*} \pi_n(Y, y)$$

where δ is the composite

$$\pi_{n+1}(Y, y) \xrightarrow{\tilde{\alpha}^{-1}} \pi_n(\Omega(Y, y), \bar{y}) \xrightarrow{d_*} \pi_n(F(f, y), (x, \bar{y})).$$

We leave it as an exercise to show that the composition

$$(\Omega(X, x), \bar{x}) \xrightarrow{\partial'} (F(i, x), ((x, \bar{y}), \bar{x})) \xrightarrow{\alpha} (\Omega(Y, y), \bar{y})$$

of the boundary map ∂' corresponding to the map i and the homotopy equivalence α is homotopic to the composition

$$(\Omega(X, x), \bar{x}) \xrightarrow{c^*} (\Omega(X, x), \bar{x}) \xrightarrow{f_*} (\Omega(Y, y), \bar{y})$$

of the map induced by the inversion c of the circle and the map induced

by f . It follows that we have a long-exact sequence of homotopy groups

$$\begin{array}{c} \vdots \\ \downarrow \\ \pi_{n+2}(Y, y) \\ \downarrow - \delta \\ \pi_{n+1}(F(f, y), (x, \bar{y})) \\ \downarrow - i_* \\ \pi_{n+1}(X, x) \\ \downarrow - f_* \\ \pi_{n+1}(Y, y) \\ \downarrow \delta \\ \pi_n(F(f, y), (x, \bar{y})) \\ \downarrow i_* \\ \pi_n(X, x) \\ \downarrow f_* \\ \pi_n(Y, y) \\ \downarrow - \delta \\ \vdots \end{array}$$