

# Lecture 11 HOMOTOPY AND CW-COMPLEXES

Last time: notions of  $n$ -connectivity and  $n$ -equivalence  
 $(X, A)$   $\pi_i(X, A) = 0$  for  $1 \leq i \leq n$ ,  $f: X \rightarrow Y$   $\pi_i(X) \rightarrow \pi_i(Y)$  iso  $i \leq n-1$   
epi  $i = n$

Compression lemma:  $(X, A)$  pair of CW-complexes,  
 $(Y, B)$  pair of spaces

$$\pi_n(Y, B, y_0) = 0 \text{ for all } y_0 \in B$$

whenever there is an  $n$ -cell in  $X - A$ .

Then every  $f: (X, A) \rightarrow (Y, B)$  is homotopic rel  $A$   
to a map  $g: X \rightarrow B$ .

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A & \xrightarrow{f|_A} & B \\ \downarrow & \nearrow g & \downarrow \\ X & \xrightarrow{f} & Y \end{array}$$

Theorem Let  $h: Z \rightarrow Y$  be an  $n$ -equivalence.

For every CW-complex  $X$  the induced map

$$h_*: [X, Z] \rightarrow [X, Y]$$

is

- (1) surjection if  $\dim X \leq n$ ,
- (2) bijection if  $\dim X \leq n-1$ .

Proof: If  $h$  is an inclusion we use  
compression lemma. If  $\dim X \leq n$  for this situation

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \emptyset & \longrightarrow & Z \\ \downarrow & \nearrow & \downarrow h \\ X & \longrightarrow & Y \end{array}$$

It implies (1).

For  $\dim X \leq n-1$ , for this situation

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 X \times \{0\} \cup X \times \{1\} & \xrightarrow{f_0} & Z \\
 \downarrow & \nearrow f_1 & \downarrow h \\
 X \times I & \xrightarrow{f} & Y
 \end{array}$$

which implies (2).

If  $h$  is not an inclusion, we replace  $Y$  by the cylinder of  $h$ :

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 & & Z & & \\
 & \nearrow h & \downarrow i_Z \simeq & \searrow h & \\
 X & \longrightarrow & Y & \xrightarrow{\simeq} & M_h & \xrightarrow{\simeq} & Y
 \end{array}$$

$i_Y$  below the arrow  $Y \xrightarrow{\simeq} M_h$   
 $p$  below the arrow  $M_h \xrightarrow{\simeq} Y$

### Weak homotopy equivalence

A map  $f: X \rightarrow Y$  is called a weak homotopy equivalence if

$$f_* \pi_n(X, x_0) \rightarrow \pi_n(Y, f(x_0))$$

is an isomorphism for all  $n \geq 0$  and  $x_0 \in X$ .

### WHITEHEAD THEOREM

Let  $h: Z \rightarrow Y$  be a weak equivalence between two CW-complexes. Then  $h$  is a homotopy equivalence.

Proof: If  $h$  is an inclusion we again apply the compression lemma:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 Z & \xrightarrow{\text{id}_Z} & Z \\
 h \downarrow & \nearrow g & \downarrow h \\
 Y & \xrightarrow{\text{id}_Y} & Y
 \end{array}
 \quad \pi_n(Y, Z) = 0 \text{ for all } n$$

$g$  is a homotopy inverse of  $h$ .

If  $h$  is not an inclusion we use the mapping cylinder of  $h$ .

### SIMPLICIAL APPROXIMATION LEMMA

Assumptions:  $f: I^m \rightarrow Z = W \cup e^k$  where  $W$  is a space and  $e^k$  is a  $k$ -cell.

Conclusion: There is a map  $f_1: I^m \rightarrow Z$  and a simplex  $\Delta^k \subset e^k$  such that

(1)  $f_1 \sim f$  rel  $f^{-1}(W)$

(2)  $f_1^{-1}(\Delta^k)$  is a union of finitely many convex polyhedra such that  $f_1$  on the polyhedra is an affine projection (surjective)  $\mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^k$ . (If  $k > m$ , then  $f_1^{-1}(\Delta^k)$  is empty.)

$$f_1: (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_m) \mapsto (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_m)$$

Hatcher Lemma 4.40 (350-351)

Further we need a version with  $k \leq m$ .

## CELLULAR APPROXIMATION THEOREM

Let  $f: X \rightarrow Y$  is a map between two CW-complexes, which is cellular on subcomplex  $A \subset X$ . Then there is a cellular map  $g: X \rightarrow Y$  such that  $g \sim f \text{ rel } A$ .

Corollary 1:  $\pi_k(S^m) = 0$  for  $k < m$ . (sit  $f: (S^k, s_0) \rightarrow (S^m, s_0)$   $f_1: (S^k, s_0) \rightarrow (k\text{-skeleton of } S^m, s_0)$ )

Corollary 2: Let  $(X, A)$  be a pair of CW-complexes and let  $X \setminus A$  contain cells of dim  $> n$ . Then the pair  $(X, A)$  is  $n_0$ -connected.

Proof of Cor 2 Every class in  $\pi_k(X, A)$ ,  $k \leq n$  contains a cellular representative  $g: I^k \rightarrow X \setminus A$ . Hence  $[g] = 0$  in  $\pi_k(X, A)$ . (see the criterion of definition of hom. groups)

Proof of cellular app. thm: By induction

$$f_{-1} = f$$

$f_n: X \rightarrow Y$ ,  $f_n$  is cellular on  $X^n$

$$f_n \sim f_{n-1} \text{ rel } X^{n-1} \cup A$$

If we have such a sequence of maps we can define  $g(x) = f_n(x)$  for  $x \in X^n$

and we will have  $g \sim f \text{ rel } A$ .

Induction step: Suppose we have  $f_{n-1}$ .  $f_{n-1}(e^n)$  does not lie in  $Y^n$  for an  $n$ -cell  $e^n$ . Then

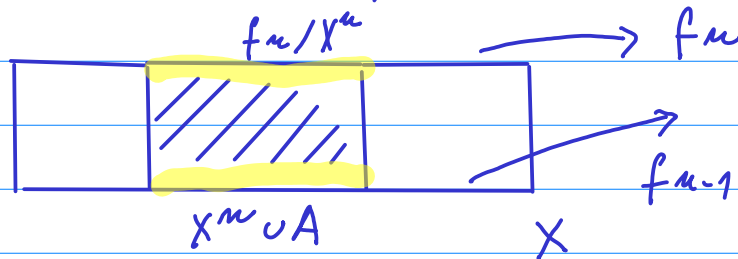
$f(e^n)$  has an intersection with a cell  $e^k$  in  $Y$ ,  $k > n$ . According to simpl. app. lemma, there is  $h: \bar{e}^n \rightarrow Y$ ,  $h \sim f_{n-1}|_{\bar{e}^n} \text{ rel } \partial e^n$  and there is a  $\Delta^k \subset e^k$ ,  $h(\bar{e}^n) \subset Y \setminus \Delta^k$ .



$\partial e^k$  is a deformation retract of  $\bar{e}^k - \Delta^k$ , hence there is  $g : \bar{e}^k \rightarrow Y \cdot e^k, g \sim h \text{ rel } \partial \bar{e}^k$ . We repeat this procedure until we get a map  $\bar{e}^n \rightarrow Y$  with image in  $Y^m$ , which is homotopic to  $f_{n-1} / \bar{e}^n \text{ rel } \partial \bar{e}^n$ .

So we get  $f_n : X^m \rightarrow Y^m \quad f_n \sim f_{n-1} \text{ rel } A \cup X^{n-1}$

Using HEP we extend  $f_n$  on the map  $X \rightarrow Y$ .



## Approximation of spaces by CW-complexes

Let  $(X, A)$  be a pair,  $X$  a general space,  $A$  a CW-complex. A pair of CW-complexes  $(Z, A)$  is called

$n$ -connected CW model for  $(X, A)$

if there is a map  $f : Z \rightarrow X$  such that

- (1)  $f|_A = \text{id}_A$ ,
- (2)  $f_* \pi_i(Z) \rightarrow \pi_i(X)$  is an iso for  $i > n$ ,
- (3)  $f_* \pi_n(Z) \rightarrow \pi_n(X)$  is a mono.

If  $A$  contains a point from every component of path connectivity of  $X$ , then 0-connected model  $f : Z \rightarrow X$  is a weak homotopy equivalence.

## CW approximation theorem

For every  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and every pair  $(X, A)$  where  $A$  is a CW-complex there is an  $n$ -connected CW-model

$$f: (Z, A) \longrightarrow (X, A)$$

such that  $Z \setminus A$  has only cells of  $\dim > n$ .

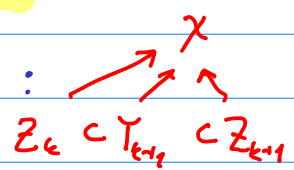
### Proof by induction

$A = Z_m \subset Z_{m+1} \subset \dots \subset Z_{k-1} \subset Z_k \subset \dots \subset Z$   
 $Z_k$  arises from  $Z_{k-1}$  by attaching cells of  $\dim k$ .

$$f: Z_k \rightarrow X, \quad f|_A = \text{id}_A$$

$$f_*: \pi_i(Z_k) \rightarrow \pi_i(X) \text{ mono for } m \leq i < k \\ \text{epi for } m < i \leq k$$

Suppose  $X, A$  path connected,  $x_0 \in A$  fixed.

We get  $Z_{k+1}$  from  $Z_k$  in two steps: 

- We have  $f: Z_k \rightarrow X$ . Let  $\varphi_\alpha: S^k \rightarrow Z_k$  which are generators of

$$\ker(f_*: \pi_k(Z_k) \rightarrow \pi_k(X))$$

Put

$$Y_{k+1} = Z_k \cup_{\varphi_\alpha}^{S^k} \cup D_\alpha^{k+1}$$

$f: Z_k \rightarrow X$  can be extended to  $f: Y_{k+1} \rightarrow X$  due to the fact that  $f_*[\varphi_\alpha] = 0 \in \pi_k(X)$ .

$$\pi_i(Y_{k+1}) = \pi_i(Z_k) \quad \text{for } i \leq k-1$$

according to cellular app. thm.

$$S^i \rightarrow Y_{k+1}$$

- 7 - epi

$$\pi_k(Z_k) \longrightarrow \pi_k(Y_{k+1}) \xrightarrow{\text{epi}} \pi_k(X)$$

is an epi according to assumption on

$$f_* \pi_k(Z_k) \longrightarrow \pi_k(X).$$

Hence extended  $f$  gives also epi

$$f_* : \pi_k(Y_{k+1}) \longrightarrow \pi_k(X)$$

We prove that  $f_* : \pi_k(Y_{k+1}) \longrightarrow \pi_k(X)$  is a mono.

Let  $[\varphi] \in \pi_k(Y_{k+1})$  and  $f_*[\varphi] = 0$ .

$\varphi : S^k \rightarrow Y_{k+1}$  is homotopic to  $\bar{\varphi} : S^k \rightarrow Y_{k+1}^k = Z_k$  and  $[f_*\bar{\varphi}] = 0$  in  $\pi_k(X)$ .

That is why  $[\bar{\varphi}] \in \ker f_*$  and consequently

$$[\bar{\varphi}] = \sum [\varphi_\alpha].$$

Now  $[\varphi_\alpha] = 0$  in  $\pi_k(Y_{k+1})$ , and so  $[\bar{\varphi}] = 0$  in  $\pi_k(Y_{k+1})$ .

Conclusion  $f_* : \pi_i(Y_{k+1}) \longrightarrow \pi_i(X)$  mono  $n \leq i \leq k$   
and epi  $n < i \leq k$ .

- Let  $\psi_\beta : S_\beta^{k+1} \rightarrow X$  be generators of  $\pi_{k+1}(X)$ .  
Put

$$Z_{k+1} = Y_{k+1} \vee \bigvee_\beta S_\beta^{k+1}$$

and define  $f = \psi_\beta$  on  $S_\beta^{k+1}$ .

$$\text{id. } S^{k+1} \rightarrow S_\beta^{k+1} \longmapsto \psi_\beta : S^{k+1} \rightarrow X$$

Then  $f_* : \pi_{k+1}(Z_{k+1}) \longrightarrow \pi_{k+1}(X)$  is an epimorphism.

Next  $\pi_i(Z_{k+1}) = \pi_i(Y_{k+1})$  for  $i \leq k$  and so

$$f_* : \pi_i(Z_{k+1}) \longrightarrow \pi_i(X)$$

are epi according to assumptions of  $Y_{k+1}$ .

Similarly  $f_* : \pi_i(Z_{k+1}) \rightarrow \pi_i(X)$   
 are mono for  $i \leq k-1$  using cellular app. theorem  
 and properties of  $f$  on  $Y_{k+1}$ .

It remains to show that

$$f_* : \pi_k(Z_{k+1}) \rightarrow \pi_k(X)$$

is a mono.

We use the long exact sequence of the pair  $(Z_{k+1}, Y_{k+1})$

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} \pi_{k+1}(Z_{k+1}, Y_{k+1}) & \rightarrow & \pi_k(Y_{k+1}) & \xrightarrow{\text{epi}} & \pi_k(Z_{k+1}) & \xrightarrow{0} & \pi_k(Z_{k+1}, Y_{k+1}) = 0 \\ & & & & \downarrow f_* \text{ mono} & & \downarrow 0 \\ & & & & \pi_k(X) & & \pi_{k-1}(Y_{k+1}) \\ & \swarrow \text{iso} \cong & & & & & \downarrow \cong \\ & & & & & & \pi_{k-1}(Z_{k+1}) \end{array}$$

Corollary:  $n$ -connected pair of CW-complexes  
 $(X, A)$  is homotopy equivalent to a pair  
 of CW-complexes  $(Z, A)$  where  $Z - A$  has only  
 cells in  $\text{dim} \geq n+1$ .

$$\begin{array}{l} f: Z \rightarrow X \\ f_* : \pi_i(Z) \rightarrow \pi_i(X) \quad i > n \quad \text{iso} \\ f_* : \pi_n(Z) \rightarrow \pi_n(X) \quad \text{mono} \\ \pi_n(A) \xrightarrow{f_*} \pi_n(X) \quad \text{epi} \\ \text{\textit{n-equivalence}} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{l} [\varphi] \in \pi_n(Z) \quad \bar{\varphi}: S^n \rightarrow Z^{(n)} = A \\ f_* [\varphi] = i_* [\bar{\varphi}] \quad i_* \text{ is an epi} \\ \Rightarrow f_* \text{ is an epi} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{l} i < n \quad f_* \cong i_* \quad i_* : \pi_n(A) \rightarrow \pi_n(X) \text{ is an iso} \\ f_* \text{ is a weak hom. equiv} \quad \text{iso} \downarrow \pi_n(Z) \text{ also iso} \end{array}$$



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which because  $Z$  and  $Y$  are CW-complexes  
means according to Whitehead that  
that  $f$  is a homotopy equivalence.