

Proposition. Let $p: X \rightarrow Y$ be a fibration. If $b, c \in Y$ are in the same path-component, then X_b is homotopy equivalent to X_c .

proof. Let $\phi: I' \rightarrow Y$ be a path. It suffices to show that $X_{\phi(0)} \cong X_{\phi(1)}$. Consider the lifting problem

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X_{\phi(0)} \times \{0\} & \longrightarrow & X \\ \downarrow & \nearrow g & \downarrow p \\ X_{\phi(0)} \times I' & \xrightarrow{h} & Y \end{array}$$

where $h(x, t) = \phi(t)$. Since p is a fibration, a lift g exists, and defines a map $X_{\phi(0)} \rightarrow X_{\phi(1)}$ by restriction to $X_{\phi(0)} \times \{1\}$ and commutativity.

Suppose $\phi \simeq \gamma$ rel $\partial I'$. We get two maps $X_{\phi(0)} \rightarrow X_{\phi(1)}$. It turns out that they're homotopic. We pick

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{[Diagram: } X_{\phi(0)} \times I \times \{0\} \cup X_{\phi(0)} \times \partial I' \times I' \text{]} & \longrightarrow & X \\ \downarrow & \nearrow m & \downarrow p \\ X_{\phi(0)} \times I' \times I' & \xrightarrow{k} & Y \end{array}$$

inclusion of $X_{\phi(0)}$ on $X_{\phi(0)} \times I' \times \{0\}$, and the two lifts as chosen for ϕ, γ on $X_{\phi(0)} \times \partial I' \times I'$.

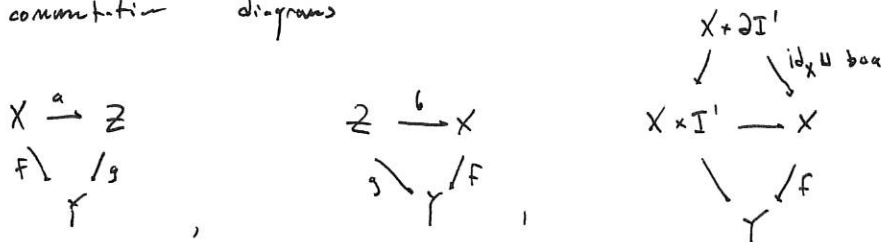
where $k(x, s, t) = j(s, t)$, a homotopy from ϕ to γ rel $\partial I'$.

Note that $(I \times I, I \vee \{0\} \cup \partial I \times I) \cong (I \times I, I \times \{0\})$.



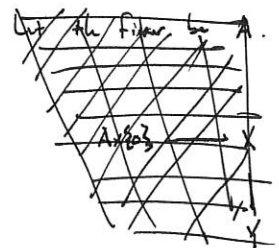
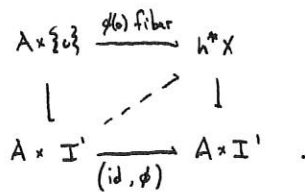
Hence \square fibrations also satisfy this lifting property, and a map m as in the diagram exists. $m(x, s, t)$ is the desired homotopy. In particular, $\phi \circ \phi^{-1} \simeq \text{id}_{X_{\phi(1)}}$ and $\phi^{-1} \circ \phi \simeq \text{id}_{X_{\phi(0)}}$.

If Y is a space, Top/Y is the category of spaces with a fixed map to Y , as $f: X \rightarrow Y$. In Top/Y , the notion of homotopy is fiber-wise. For example, two spaces $f: X \rightarrow Y$ and $g: Z \rightarrow Y$ over Y are homotopy equivalent over Y , or fiber-wise homotopy equivalent, if there are maps $a: X \rightarrow Z$ and $b: Z \rightarrow X$ in Top/Y s.t. $a \circ b \simeq id_Z$ and $b \circ a \simeq id_X$ in Top/Y . So, one has various commutative diagrams



Proposition. If Y is locally contractible, then any fibration $X \xrightarrow{p} Y$ is locally fiber homotopy equivalent to a product fibration.

proof. We can assume Y is contractible, so that $id_Y \simeq * \in Y$. It suffices then to show that if $A \times I' \xrightarrow{h} Y$, then $h_0^* p \simeq h_1^* p$ over A . The idea is to follow the argument in the previous proposition:



This automatically preserves fibers.

Motto. Fibrations are homotopy fiber bundles.

Proposition. Let $f: X \rightarrow Y$ be a pointed map, $P_* f$ the homotopy fiber, pointed by $(*, c_*)$, the constant loop at the basepoint. For any pointed space Z , the sequence

$$[Z, P_* f]_* \xrightarrow{i_*} [Z, X]_* \xrightarrow{f_*} [Z, Y]_*$$

is exact, where i_* is induced from $P_* f \subseteq Pf \rightarrow X$.

proof. There is a commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} [Z, X]_* & \longrightarrow & [Z, Y]_* \\ \parallel & & \parallel \\ [Z, P_* f]_* & \longrightarrow & [Z, Pf]_* \xrightarrow{ev} [Z, Y]_* \end{array}$$

from which we see that we can just work with the bottom row and show exactness there.

Clearly if $[g] \in [Z, Pf]_*$ is $\neq j_* [f]$, then $ev_* [g] \neq [*]$. Suppose that $ev_* [g] = [*]$. Since $Pf \rightarrow Y$ is a fibration, there exists a lift

$$\begin{array}{ccc} Z \times \{0\} & \xrightarrow{g} & Pf \\ \downarrow & \nearrow k & \downarrow \\ Z \times I & \xrightarrow{h} & Y \end{array}$$

where h is a homotopy from g to $*$. Hence, k is a homotopy from g to a map $Z \rightarrow P_* f \subseteq Pf$.

Remark. If $Z = S^n, n \geq 1$, then we exact sequence of groups.