

A STUDY ON HOMOTOPY THEORY

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ABSTRACT:

we are presented with two spaces X and Y the problem of deciding whether or not they are homeomorphic is formidable. We have either to construct a homeomorphism between X and Y or, worse still, to prove that no such homeomorphism exists. We then try to reflect the problem algebraically.

INTRODUCTION:

For the sake of clarity, if we are presented with two spaces X and Y the problem of deciding whether or not they are homeomorphic is formidable. We have either to construct a homeomorphism between X and Y or, worse still, to prove that no such homeomorphism exists. We then try to reflect the problem algebraically.

DEFINITION:

Two continuous maps $f_0, f_1: X \rightarrow Y$ are said to be homotopic if there is a continuous map $F: X \times C \rightarrow Y$ such that for every $x \in X$,

$$F(x, 0) = f_0(x) \text{ and } F(x, 1) = f_1(x)$$

The map F is called **homotopy** between f_0 and f_1 .

EXAMPLE:

Let $X = Y = R^n$ and let $f_0(x) = x$ and $f_1(x) = 0$ for $x \in R^n$. Let $F: R^n \times C \rightarrow R^n$ be defined by

$$F(x, t) = (1 - t)x.$$

Then f is homotopy between f_0 and f_1 .

DEFINITION:

A continuous map $f: X \rightarrow Y$ is said to be **null homotopic** if it is homotopic to some constant map.

DEFINITION:

The equivalence class under \cong of f is denoted by $[f]$, and is called the **homotopy class** of f .

DEFINITION:

A homotopy from 1_x to the constant map of X to $x_0 \in X$ is called a **contraction** of X to x_0 .

DEFINITION:

The mappings f and g are called **homotopy equivalence**. The spaces X and Y are also called **homotopy**.

THEOREM:

If Y is contractible, then every continuous mapping $f: X \rightarrow Y$ is homotopy to a constant.

Proof:

Since Y is contractible, there exists a continuous mapping

$F: Y \times C \rightarrow Y$ with $F(y, 0) = y$ and $F(y, 1) = y_0$ for every $y \in Y$, where y_0 is a fixed element.

Let $f: X \rightarrow Y$ be a continuous mapping.

Define $G: X \rightarrow Y$ by

$$G(x, t) = F(f(x), t) \text{ for } x \in X.$$

G is continuous.

$$G(x, 0) = F(f(x), 0) = f(x)$$

$$G(x, 1) = F(f(x), 1) = y_0.$$

This shows that f is homotopy to $g: X \rightarrow Y$ where g is a constant mapping defined by $g(x) = y_0$ for every $x \in X$.

THEOREM:

The relation of being of the same homotopy type is an equivalence relation.

Proof:

Reflexivity and symmetry follow easily from the definition.

Let X, Y be the same homotopy type as Y and Z respectively.

There exist continuous mappings $f: X \rightarrow Y$, $G: Y \rightarrow X$, $f_1: Y \rightarrow Z$, $g_1: Z \rightarrow Y$ such that gf, fg, g_1f_1 and f_1g_1 are homotopy to the appropriate identity mappings.

Consider the transformations

$$f_2: X \rightarrow Z \text{ and } g_2: Z \rightarrow X$$

Defined by

$$f_2(x) = f_1(f(x)) \text{ and } g_2(x) = g(g_1(x)).$$

If f_2 and g_2 are continuous and $g(g_1f_1)$ is homotopy to g , because (g_1f_1) is homotopic to the identity.

So, $g_2f_2 = g((g_1f_1)f)$ is homotopy to gf and which ultimately gives that g_2f_2 is homotopy to the identity.

Similarly, f_2g_2 is homotopy to the identity $I: Z \rightarrow Z$.

This shows that X is of the same homotopy type as Z .

THEOREM:

If X and Y are topological spaces, X is path connected and $g: X \rightarrow Y$ is a continuous surjective mapping, then Y is path connected.

Proof:

Let $a, b \in Y$, then there are points $a', b' \in X$ such that $g(a') = a$ and $g(b') = b$. Now X is path connected, so there is a path f from a' to b' .

Consider the composite function $g \circ f$, which is clearly a path from a to b and this shows that Y is path connected.

Lemma:

Let $h, k: X \rightarrow Y$ be continuous maps; let $h(x_0) = y_0$ and $k(x_0) = y_1$. If h and k are homotopic, there is a path α in Y from y_0 to y_1 such that $k_* = \hat{\alpha} \circ h_*$. Indeed, if $H: X \rightarrow Y$ is the homotopy between h and k , then α is the path $\alpha(t) = H(x_0, t)$.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \pi_1(X, x_0) & \xrightarrow{h_*} & \pi_1(Y, y_0) \\ & \searrow & \downarrow \\ & & \pi_1(Y, y_1) \end{array}$$

Proof :

Let $f: I \rightarrow X$ be a loop in X based at x_0 . We show that

$$k_*([f]) = \hat{\alpha}(h_*([f])).$$

This equation states that $[kof] = [\hat{\alpha}] * [h \circ f] * \hat{\alpha}$, or equivalently, that

$$[a] * [k \circ f] = [h \circ f] * [\alpha].$$

This is the equation we shall verify.

To begin, consider the loop f_0 and f_1 in the space $X \times I$ given by the equations

$$f_0(s) = (f(s), 0) \quad \text{and} \quad f_1(s) = (f(s), 1).$$

Consider also the path in c in $X \times I$ given by the equation

$$c(t) = (x_0, t).$$

Then $H \circ f_0 = h \circ f$ and $H \circ f_1 = k \circ f$, while $H \circ c$ equals the path α

Let $F: I \times I \rightarrow X \times I$ be the map $F(s, t) = (f(s), t)$. consider the following path.

$$\beta_0(s) = (s, 0) \quad \text{and} \quad \beta_1(s) = (s, 1),$$

$$\gamma_0(t) = (0, t) \quad \text{and} \quad \gamma_1(t) = (1, t).$$

then $F \circ \beta_0 = f_0$ and $F \circ \beta_1 = f_1$, while $F \circ \gamma_0 = F \circ \gamma_1 = c$.

The broken-line path $\beta_0 * \gamma_1$ and $\gamma_0 * \beta_1$ and path in $I \times I$ from $(0,0)$ to $(1,1)$;

Since $I \times I$ is convex, there is path homotopy G between them. Then $F \circ G$ is a path homotopy in $X \times I$ between $f_0 * c$ and $c * f_1$. And $H \circ (F \circ G)$ is a path homotopy in Y between

$$(H \circ f_0) * (H \circ c) = (h \circ f) * \alpha \quad \text{and}$$

$$(H \circ c) * (H \circ f_1) = \alpha * (k \circ f),$$

CONCLUSION:

This paper concluded that briefly explained about homotopy theory and also its used in the fields are particularly mathematics, biology, science and engineering and etc.

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