

Fibrant replacement. Let $f: X \rightarrow Y$. We can factor f as

$$X \xrightarrow{c} PF \xrightarrow{p} Y,$$

where c is a homotopy equivalence and p is a fibration.

Proof. $PF = \{ (x, \phi) \in X \times PY \mid f(x) = \text{ev}_0(\phi) \}$. The map c includes X by the constant ~~maps~~ ^{paths}, while $p = \text{ev}_1$. By contracting ~~maps~~ ^{paths}, we see that PF deformation retracts onto X . Hence, c is a homotopy equivalence.

One checks that the evaluation map is continuous. In fact, continuity of evaluation maps is built in to the compact-open topology. See Hatcher, Appendix A.

Now, consider a diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A \times \{0\} & \xrightarrow{g_0} & PF \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \text{ev}_1 \\ A \times I & \xrightarrow{h} & Y. \end{array}$$

We can write $g_0(a) = (x(a), \phi(a)) \in X \times PY$. Set

$$g_t(a) = (x(a), \phi(a) \cdot h_{[0,t]}(a)),$$

which makes sense as ~~maps~~ $\phi(a)(1) = h(a)(0)$.

Remark. The map $X \rightarrow *$ is a fibration for any space X .

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

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X_{\phi(0)} \times \{0\} & \longrightarrow & X \\ \downarrow & \nearrow g & \downarrow p \\ X_{\phi(0)} \times I^1 & \xrightarrow{h} & Y \end{array},$$

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 ∂I^1 . We get two maps $X_{\phi(0)} \rightarrow X_{\phi(1)}$. It turns out that they're homotopic. We pick

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{[Crossed out diagram]} & \longrightarrow & X \\ \downarrow & \nearrow m & \downarrow p \\ X_{\phi(0)} \times I^1 \times \{0\} \cup X_{\phi(0)} \times \partial I^1 \times I^1 & \xrightarrow{k} & Y \end{array},$$

inclusion of $X_{\phi(0)}$ on $X_{\phi(0)} \times I^1 \times \{0\}$, and the two lifts as above for ϕ, γ on $X_{\phi(0)} \times \partial I^1 \times I^1$.

where $k(x, s, t) = j(s, t)$, a homotopy from ϕ to γ rel ∂I^1 .

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. $m(x, t)$ 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. $a \circ b \simeq \text{id}_Z$ and $b \circ a \simeq \text{id}_X$ in Top/Y . So, one has various commutative diagrams

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 X \xrightarrow{a} Z & & Z \xrightarrow{b} X \\
 f \downarrow & & g \downarrow \\
 Y & & Y
 \end{array}
 , \quad
 \begin{array}{ccc}
 X \times I' & & X \\
 \downarrow & \searrow \text{id}_X \cup b \circ a & \downarrow \\
 X \times I' & \xrightarrow{\quad} & X \\
 \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 Y & & Y
 \end{array}$$

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 $\text{id}_Y \simeq * \in Y$. 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:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 A \times \{0\} & \xrightarrow{\text{fibers}} & h_0^* X \\
 \downarrow & \nearrow & \downarrow \\
 A \times I' & \xrightarrow{(id, \phi)} & A \times I'
 \end{array}$$

This automatically preserves fibers.

Motto. Fibrations are homotopy fiber bundles.