

Let $n \in \mathbb{N}$. Let $y \in \mathbb{S}^n$, and f a map $f: \mathbb{S}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{S}^n$ such that $f^{-1}(\{y\})$ is finite.

Let $m \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $f^{-1}(\{y\}) = \{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_i, \dots, x_m\}$. Let V and open neighborhood of y for all i U_i are pairwise disjoint open neighborhoods of x_i , respectively, and $f(U_i) \subseteq V$.

Then, for all i $f|_{U_i - \{x_i\}}: U_i - \{x_i\} \rightarrow V - \{y\}$ is a map that induces a homology homomorphism, $f_{i*}: H_n(U_i, U_i - \{x_i\}) \rightarrow H_n(V, V - \{y\})$.

Detail 1.

In the long exact sequence $\dots \rightarrow H_n(\mathbb{S}^n - \{x\}) \xrightarrow{i_*} H_n(\mathbb{S}^n) \xrightarrow{j_*} H_n(\mathbb{S}^n, \mathbb{S}^n - \{x\}) \xrightarrow{\partial} H_{n-1}(\mathbb{S}^n - \{x\}) \rightarrow \dots$, $\mathbb{S}^n - \{x\}$ is contractible, so for all $n > 0$, $H_n(\mathbb{S}^n - \{x\}) \cong 0$. Hence, $0 \rightarrow H_n(\mathbb{S}^n) \rightarrow H_n(\mathbb{S}^n, \mathbb{S}^n - \{x\}) \rightarrow 0$ is a short exact sequence. This implies that $H_n(\mathbb{S}^n, \mathbb{S}^n - \{x\}) \cong H_n(\mathbb{S}^n) \cong \mathbb{Z}$.

For all $x \in \mathbb{S}^n$ and open neighborhood U of x . $\{x\}$ is closed, so $\mathbb{S}^n - \{x\}$ is open, U is open, so $\mathbb{S}^n - U$ is closed. $\{x\} \subseteq U$ implies that $\mathbb{S}^n - U \subseteq \mathbb{S}^n - \{x\}$; therefore, by Excision Theorem, $H_n(U, U - \{x\}) = H_n(\mathbb{S}^n - (\mathbb{S}^n - U), (\mathbb{S}^n - \{x\}) - (\mathbb{S}^n - U)) \cong H_n(\mathbb{S}^n, \mathbb{S}^n - \{x\}) \cong \mathbb{Z}$.

It follows that f_{i*} is a group homomorphism between infinite cyclic groups.

The local degree of f at x_i is given by $\deg f|_{x_i} = f_{i*}(1)$

Proposition 2.30.

Let $\deg f = \sum_i \deg f|_{x_i}$.

Proof.

The set $\{x_1, \dots, x_i, \dots, x_m\} = f^{-1}(\{y\})$ is closed, so $\mathbb{S}^n - f^{-1}(\{y\})$ is open. $\bigcup_{i=1}^m U_i$ is also open, so $\mathbb{S}^n - \bigcup_{i=1}^m U_i$ is closed and $\mathbb{S}^n - \bigcup_{i=1}^m U_i \subseteq \mathbb{S}^n - f^{-1}(\{y\})$; therefore, by

Excision Theorem, $H_n(\coprod_{i=1}^m U_i, \coprod_{i=1}^m (U_i - \{x_i\})) = H_n(\coprod_{i=1}^m U_i, \coprod_{i=1}^m U_i - \cup_{i=1}^m \{x_i\}) = H_n(\mathbb{S}^n - (\mathbb{S}^n - \cup_{i=1}^m U_i), (\mathbb{S}^n - f^{-1}(\{y\})) - (\mathbb{S}^n - \cup_{i=1}^m U_i)) \cong H_n(\mathbb{S}^n, \mathbb{S}^n - f^{-1}(\{y\}))$.

Each U_i is a disconnection of $\coprod_{i=1}^m U_i$, so in particular it is a path-disconnection. Then, by proposition 2.6, $H_n(\coprod_{i=1}^m U_i, \coprod_{i=1}^m (U_i - \{x_i\})) \cong \oplus_{i=1}^m H_n(U_i, U_i - \{x_i\}) \cong \oplus_{i=1}^m \mathbb{Z}$.

$f|_{\mathbb{S}^n - f^{-1}(\{y\})}$ is a map such that $f|_{\mathbb{S}^n - f^{-1}(\{y\})}: \mathbb{S}^n - f^{-1}(\{y\}) \rightarrow \mathbb{S}^n - \{y\}$, so there is an induced group homomorphism $g_*: H_n(\mathbb{S}^n, \mathbb{S}^n - f^{-1}(\{y\})) \rightarrow H_n(\mathbb{S}^n, \mathbb{S}^n - \{y\})$.

Let the following diagrams.

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 & H_n(U_i, U_i - \{x_i\}) & \xrightarrow{f_{i*}} & H_n(V, V - \{y\}) \\
 & \swarrow \cong & & \downarrow ET \\
 H_n(\mathbb{S}^n, \mathbb{S}^n - \{x_i\}) & & & H_n(\mathbb{S}^n, \mathbb{S}^n - \{y\}) \\
 & \nwarrow \cong & & \downarrow LES \\
 & H_n(\mathbb{S}^n) & \xrightarrow{f_*} & H_n(\mathbb{S}^n)
 \end{array}
 \quad \text{Pic 1}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 & H_n(U_i, U_i - \{x_i\}) & \xrightarrow{f_{i*}} & H_n(V, V - \{y\}) \\
 & \swarrow \cong & & \downarrow ET \\
 H_n(\mathbb{S}^n, \mathbb{S}^n - \{x_i\}) & \xleftarrow{p_i} & \bigoplus_{i=1}^m H_n(U_i, U_i - \{x_i\}) & \xrightarrow{f_{i*}} & H_n(\mathbb{S}^n, \mathbb{S}^n - \{y\}) \\
 & \nwarrow \cong & \downarrow \iota_i & & \downarrow LES \\
 & & H_n(\mathbb{S}^n) & \xrightarrow{f_*} & H_n(\mathbb{S}^n)
 \end{array}
 \quad \text{Pic 2}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 & H_n(U_i, U_i - \{x_i\}) & \xrightarrow{f_{i*}} & H_n(V, V - \{y\}) \\
 & \swarrow \cong & & \downarrow ET \\
 H_n(\mathbb{S}^n, \mathbb{S}^n - \{x_i\}) & \xleftarrow{p_i} & H_n(\mathbb{S}^n, \mathbb{S}^n - f^{-1}(\{y\})) & \xrightarrow{g_*} & H_n(\mathbb{S}^n, \mathbb{S}^n - \{y\}) \\
 & \nwarrow \cong & \downarrow \iota_i & & \downarrow LES \\
 & & H_n(\mathbb{S}^n) & \xrightarrow{f_*} & H_n(\mathbb{S}^n)
 \end{array}
 \quad \text{Pic 3}$$

$\oplus_{i=1}^m H_n(U_i, U_i - \{x_i\}) \cong H_n(\mathbb{S}^n, \mathbb{S}^n - f^{-1}(\{y\}))$ yields the next diagram.

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
& H_n(U_i, U_i - \{x_i\}) & \xrightarrow{f_{i*}} & H_n(V, V - \{y\}) & \\
\swarrow \cong & \downarrow \iota_i & & \downarrow ET & \\
H_n(\mathbb{S}^n, \mathbb{S}^n - \{x_i\}) & \xleftarrow{p_i} \bigoplus_{i=1}^m H_n(U_i, U_i - \{x_i\}) & \xrightarrow{g_*} & H_n(\mathbb{S}^n, \mathbb{S}^n - \{y\}) & \text{Pic 4} \\
\nwarrow \cong & \uparrow j_* & & \downarrow LES & \\
& H_n(\mathbb{S}^n) & \xrightarrow{f_*} & H_n(\mathbb{S}^n) &
\end{array}$$

In the diagram, the maps ι_i and p_i are induced by the inclusion map. The map j_* is induced by the quotient map. Hence, the squares and triangles in the diagrams commute.

Passing the former diagram to its isomorphic images yields.

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
& \mathbb{Z}_i & \xrightarrow{f_{i*}} & \mathbb{Z} & \\
\swarrow \cong & \downarrow \iota_i & & \downarrow ET & \\
\mathbb{Z}_i & \xleftarrow{p_i} \bigoplus_{i=1}^m \mathbb{Z}_i & \xrightarrow{g_*} & \mathbb{Z} & \text{Pic 5} \\
\nwarrow \cong & \uparrow j_* & & \downarrow LES & \\
& \mathbb{Z} & \xrightarrow{f_*} & \mathbb{Z} &
\end{array}$$

ι_i is the inclusion homomorphism, p_i is the projection homomorphism, and $j_*(1) = \prod_{i=1}^m \{1\}_i$.

Due to the commutativity of the upper square, $g_*(\iota_i(1)) = \pm f_{i*}(1) = \pm \text{deg}f|_{x_i}$. Due to the commutativity of the lower square, $g_*(j_*(1)) = \pm f_*(1) = \pm \text{deg}f$, where $g_*(j_*(1)) = g_*(\prod_{i=1}^m \{1\}_i) = g_*(\bigoplus_{i=1}^m \iota_i(1)) = \bigoplus_{i=1}^m g_*(\iota_i(1)) = \sum_{i=1}^m \pm \text{deg}f|_{x_i}$.

References.

Hatcher, A. (2001). Algebraic Topology.