

Thm.: Let M, N be smooth manifolds of the same dimension, M compact and N connected (and possibly with boundary). Then for a smooth map $f: M \rightarrow N$ with regular value y the "mod 2 degree" of f $\deg_2(f) := |f^{-1}(y)| \pmod{2}$ is independent of the choice of the regular value y and depends only on the smooth homotopy class of f .

proof: Let y & z be two regular values and h an isotopy as in the previous Lemma so that $h_1(y) = z$.

Then z is a regular value of $h_1 \circ f$ and by using homotopy:

$$|f^{-1}(y)| \pmod{2} = |(h_1 \circ f)^{-1}(z)| \pmod{2} = |f^{-1}(z)| \pmod{2}$$

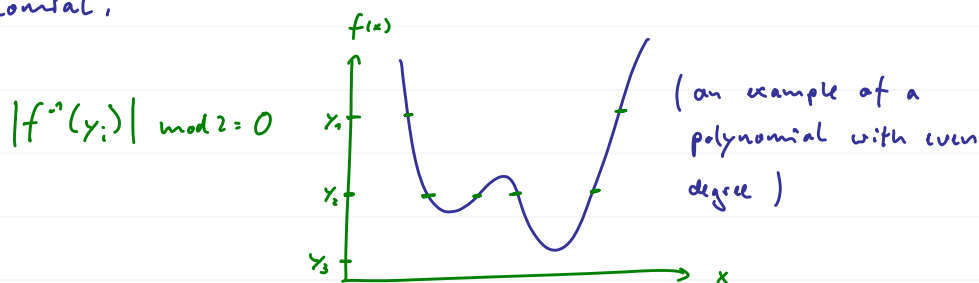
\uparrow \uparrow
 $y = h_1^{-1}(z)$ h_1 smoothly homotopic to $h_0 = \text{id}$

If f & g are smoothly homotopic, then $\deg_2(f) = \deg_2(g)$ if there is a common regular value, which always exists by Sard's thm. □

- remarks:
- $\deg_2(f)$ is only defined if $\dim(M) = \dim(N)$, N is connected & M is compact.
 - If $\deg_2(f) = 0$ we say that f has "even degree" (and "odd degree" if $\deg_2(f) = 1$).
 - beyond mod 2 the notion of a "degree" is only defined if M & N are "oriented".

- Examples:
- $\text{id}: M \rightarrow M$ has odd degree (as well as any other bijective map)
 - A const. map $f: M \rightarrow M$ with $f: x \mapsto c$ has even degree, since any $y \neq c$ is a regular value & $|f^{-1}(y)| = 0$.

- More generally, if $f: M \rightarrow N$ is not surjective, f has even degree.
- As a consequence, f has even degree if N is not compact (since $f(M)$ is) or N has boundary (since then f is homotopic to a map that is not surjective - by 'contracting' $f(M)$ & moving it away from the boundary)
- Note that this generalizes the notion of the degree of a polynomial:



Winding number mod 2

Def.: Let N be a compact smooth manifold with $\dim N = n$ and let $f: N \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$ be a smooth map and $y \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1} \setminus f(N)$. The "mod 2-winding number" of f around y is defined as

$$W_2(f, y) := \deg_2(v)$$

where $v: N \rightarrow S^n$ is defined as $v(x) := \frac{f(x) - y}{\|f(x) - y\|}$.

remarks:

- Note that $|v^{-1}(z)|$ is the number of times $f(x) - y$ points in the same direction as z if we vary x over all of N . So $W_2(f, y)$ is the mod 2 of this number.

- If $N = S^1$ it is easy to see that $W_2(f, y)$ is indeed the mod 2 of the familiar winding number of the closed curve $f(x)$ around y .

Thm.: Let M be a compact n -dim. smooth manifold with boundary $\partial M \neq \emptyset$, $f: \partial M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ a smooth map and $F: M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ smooth s.t. $F|_{\partial M} = f$.

If $y \notin f(\partial M)$ is a regular value of F , then $F^{-1}(y)$ is a finite set &
 $W_2(f, y) = |F^{-1}(y)| \pmod{2}$.

proof: Suppose first that $y \notin F(M)$.

Then $V: M \rightarrow S^{n-1}$, $V(x) := \frac{F(x) - y}{\|F(x) - y\|}$ is well defined and $v = V|_{\partial M}$.

By Sard's thm. there exists a common regular value $z \in S^{n-1}$ of v & V .

$V^{-1}(z)$ is then a compact 1-dim. smooth manifold so that

$\partial(V^{-1}(z)) = \partial M \cap V^{-1}(z) = v^{-1}(z)$ contains an even number of points.

So indeed $W_2(f, y) \stackrel{\text{Def.}}{=} \deg_2(v) = 0 = |F^{-1}(y)| \pmod{2}$
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 $y \notin F(M)$

Now consider the complementary case $F^{-1}(y) \neq \emptyset$

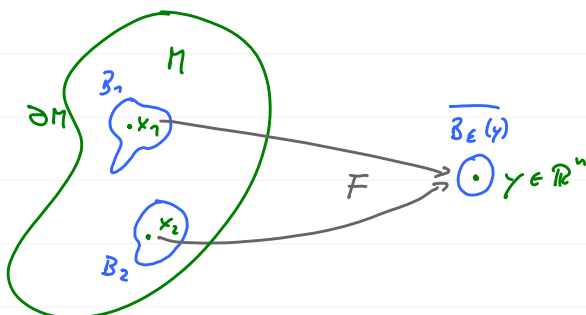
By assumption $y \notin f(\partial M) = F(\partial M)$, so that $\text{Int } M \ni F^{-1}(y) = \{x_1, \dots, x_k\}$

According to the stack-of-records thm. there are disjoint open neighborhoods

$U_i \ni x_i$ and $\tilde{U} \ni y$ s.t. $F|_{U_i}: U_i \rightarrow \tilde{U}$ are diffeomorphisms.

Take a closed ball $\overline{B_\epsilon(y)} \subseteq \tilde{U}$ with radius $\epsilon > 0$ around y and define

$B_i \subseteq U_i$ to be the closed preimages of $\overline{B_\epsilon(y)}$ under $F|_{U_i}$.



Define $\tilde{M} := M \setminus \left(\bigcup_{i=1}^k \text{Int } B_i \right)$, $\tilde{F} := F|_{\tilde{M}}$, $\tilde{V} := V|_{\tilde{M}}$, $\tilde{v} := \tilde{V}|_{\partial \tilde{M}}$.

Then $y \notin \tilde{F}(\tilde{M})$, so we are back at the first case and know that \tilde{v} has even degree.

Moreover, $\tilde{v}^{-1}(y) = v^{-1}(y) \sqcup v_1^{-1}(y) \sqcup \dots \sqcup v_k^{-1}(y)$ where

$$v_i: \partial B_i \rightarrow S^{n-1}, \quad v_i(x) := \frac{F(x) - y}{\|F(x) - y\|} = \frac{F(x) - y}{\epsilon}$$

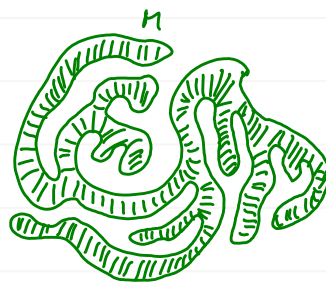
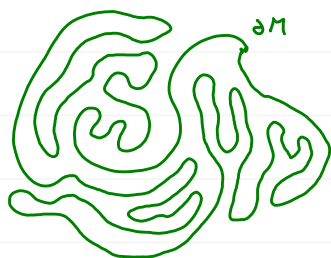
So $0 = \deg_2(\tilde{v}) = \deg_2(v) + \sum_{i=1}^k \deg_2(v_i) \pmod{2}$ and therefore

$$\deg_2(v) = \sum_{i=1}^k \deg_2(v_i) \pmod{2}$$

By the choice of B_i we have that v_i is bijective and therefore $\deg_2(v_i) = 1$.

Hence, $\deg_2(v) = k \pmod{2} = |F^{-1}(y)| \pmod{2}$

□



Suppose $M \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ is a compact smooth submanifold and ∂M a connected "hypersurface" (i.e. of codimension 1) with inclusion map $f: \partial M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$.

Then for $x \notin \partial M$ the value of $w_2(f, x)$ separates \mathbb{R}^n in "inside" ($w_2(f, x) = 1$) & "outside" ($w_2(f, x) = 0$). More generally:

Thm.: (Jordan-Brouwer Separation thm.)

Let X be a compact, connected smooth submanifold of \mathbb{R}^n with co-dim. 1. Then $\mathbb{R}^n \setminus X = A_0 \cup A_1$ where the A_i 's are disjoint connected smooth submanifolds of \mathbb{R}^n , A_1 is bounded and A_0 and A_1 have point set boundaries $\partial A_0 = \partial A_1 = X$.

proof: \rightarrow see [Guillemin Pollack] for the idea.

The Borsuk-Ulam theorem

Def.: We call a map $f: S^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ "odd" if $\forall x \in S^n, f(-x) = -f(x)$.

Examples: the antipodal map $x \mapsto -x$, $x \mapsto \sin x$ and polynomials with only odd degree terms

Thm. (Borsuk-Ulam I) Let $f: S^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{n+1} \setminus \{0\}$ be an odd smooth map.
Then $W_2(f, 0) = 1$.

That is, an odd map must wind around the origin an odd number of times.

here is an alternative formulation:

Thm. (Borsuk-Ulam II) Let $\phi: S^n \rightarrow S^n$ be an odd smooth map.
Then $\deg_2 \phi = 1$.

proof that $(\text{BU I} \Leftrightarrow \text{BU II}) \forall n \in \mathbb{N}$:

$\text{BU I} \Rightarrow \text{BU II}$: We may consider $\phi: S^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{n+1} \setminus \{0\}$. Then by BU I
 $1 = W_2(\phi, 0) = \deg_2 \left(x \mapsto \frac{\phi(x)}{\|\phi(x)\|} \right) = \deg_2(\phi)$

$\text{BU II} \Rightarrow \text{BU I}$: Setting $\phi(x) = \frac{f(x)}{\|f(x)\|}$ we get

$$W_2(f, 0) = \deg_2 \left(x \mapsto \frac{f(x)}{\|f(x)\|} \right) = \deg_2(\phi) \quad \square$$

proof of BU I by induction. Assume it is true for $n-1, n \geq 2$.

Consider S^{n-1} to be the equator of S^n , i.e., embedded by the inclusion map $\iota: (x_1, \dots, x_n) \mapsto (x_1, \dots, x_n, 0)$. So

$$S^{n-1} \cong \iota(S^{n-1}) = \{(x, 0) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R} \mid \|x\| = 1\} \subseteq S^n.$$

Define $g: S^{n-1} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$ as $g(x) := f(\iota(x))$, i.e., $g = f|_{\iota(S^{n-1})}$ restricted to the equator. By Sard's thm. $\hat{g} := \frac{g}{\|g\|}: S^{n-1} \rightarrow S^n$ and $\hat{f} := \frac{f}{\|f\|}: S^n \rightarrow S^n$ have a common regular value, say $y \in S^n$. By symmetry also $-y$ is a common regular value.

Since for \hat{g} the image space has larger dimension than the preimage (and therefore $d\hat{g}_x$ can never be surjective), y being a regular value means that it is not in the image of \hat{g} . Consequently, $g(S^{n-1})$ does not intersect the ray $\mathbb{R} \cdot y$.

For \hat{f} , on the other hand, y being a regular value implies that

$$|\hat{f}^{-1}(y)| \pmod{2} = \deg_2(\hat{f}) = W_2(f, 0).$$

Using symmetry we get $|\hat{f}^{-1}(y)| = \frac{1}{2} |f^{-1}(\mathbb{R}y)|$. Since f does not map points on the equator into $\mathbb{R}y$, it suffices to restrict to the upper hemisphere $S_+^n := \{x \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1} \mid \|x\|=1 \wedge x_{n+1} \geq 0\}$ and to consider $f_+ := f|_{S_+^n}$. Then $\frac{1}{2} |f^{-1}(\mathbb{R}y)| = |f_+^{-1}(\mathbb{R}y)|$ and thus

$$W_2(f, 0) = |f_+^{-1}(\mathbb{R}y)| \pmod{2} \quad (1)$$

Now S_+^n is a manifold with boundary $\partial S_+^n = \iota(S^{n-1})$ on which we want to apply the induction hypothesis. To this end let $V \subseteq \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$ be the orthogonal complement of $\mathbb{R}y$ and $\pi: \mathbb{R}^{n+1} \rightarrow V$ the corresponding orthogonal projection. Then with $h := \pi \circ f_+: S_+^n \rightarrow V \cong \mathbb{R}^n$ $h|_{\iota(S^{n-1})}$ is odd (since f is odd & π is linear) and 0 is not in its image since $g(S^{n-1}) \cap \{y, -y\} = \emptyset$. So by the induction hypothesis we have

$$W_2(h|_{\iota(S^{n-1})}, 0) = 1 \quad (2)$$

Since $\pm y$ are regular values of \hat{f} it follows (after a little computation starting from $h(x) = 0 \Leftrightarrow \hat{f}(x) \in \{\pm y\}$) that 0 is a regular value of h .

We can thus exploit the main thm. of the previous lecture & get:

$$\begin{aligned} W_2(h|_{U(S^{n-1})}, 0) &= |h^{-1}(0)| \bmod 2 \\ &\stackrel{h = \pi \circ f_+}{=} |f_+^{-1}(y \mathbb{R})| \bmod 2 \\ &\stackrel{(2)}{=} W_2(f, 0) \end{aligned}$$

Together with (2) this proves the induction step.

It remains to prove the statement for $n=1$, which can be done by going to the complex plane & will be skipped here. \square