

Contents

Introduction	1
Chapter 1. The fundamental group and some of its applications	5
1. What is algebraic topology?	5
2. The fundamental group	6
3. Dependence on the basepoint	7
4. Homotopy invariance	7
5. Calculations: $\pi_1(\mathbb{R}) = 0$ and $\pi_1(S^1) = \mathbb{Z}$	8
6. The Brouwer fixed point theorem	10
7. The fundamental theorem of algebra	10
Chapter 2. Categorical language and the van Kampen theorem	13
1. Categories	13
2. Functors	13
3. Natural transformations	14
4. Homotopy categories and homotopy equivalences	14
5. The fundamental groupoid	15
6. Limits and colimits	16
7. The van Kampen theorem	17
8. Examples of the van Kampen theorem	19
Chapter 3. Covering spaces	21
1. The definition of covering spaces	21
2. The unique path lifting property	22
3. Coverings of groupoids	22
4. Group actions and orbit categories	23
5. The classification of coverings of groupoids	25
6. The construction of coverings of groupoids	27
7. The classification of coverings of spaces	28
8. The construction of coverings of spaces	29
Chapter 4. Graphs	33
1. The definition of graphs	33
2. Edge paths and trees	33
3. The homotopy types of graphs	34
4. Covers of graphs and Euler characteristics	35
5. Applications to groups	35
Chapter 5. Compactly generated spaces	37
1. The definition of compactly generated spaces	37
2. The category of compactly generated spaces	38

Chapter 6. Cofibrations	41
1. The definition of cofibrations	41
2. Mapping cylinders and cofibrations	42
3. Replacing maps by cofibrations	43
4. A criterion for a map to be a cofibration	43
5. Cofiber homotopy equivalence	44
Chapter 7. Fibrations	47
1. The definition of fibrations	47
2. Path lifting functions and fibrations	47
3. Replacing maps by fibrations	48
4. A criterion for a map to be a fibration	49
5. Fiber homotopy equivalence	50
6. Change of fiber	51
Chapter 8. Based cofiber and fiber sequences	55
1. Based homotopy classes of maps	55
2. Cones, suspensions, paths, loops	55
3. Based cofibrations	56
4. Cofiber sequences	57
5. Based fibrations	59
6. Fiber sequences	59
7. Connections between cofiber and fiber sequences	61
Chapter 9. Higher homotopy groups	63
1. The definition of homotopy groups	63
2. Long exact sequences associated to pairs	63
3. Long exact sequences associated to fibrations	64
4. A few calculations	64
5. Change of basepoint	66
6. n -Equivalences, weak equivalences, and a technical lemma	67
Chapter 10. CW complexes	71
1. The definition and some examples of CW complexes	71
2. Some constructions on CW complexes	72
3. HELP and the Whitehead theorem	73
4. The cellular approximation theorem	74
5. Approximation of spaces by CW complexes	75
6. Approximation of pairs by CW pairs	76
7. Approximation of excisive triads by CW triads	77
Chapter 11. The homotopy excision and suspension theorems	81
1. Statement of the homotopy excision theorem	81
2. The Freudenthal suspension theorem	83
3. Proof of the homotopy excision theorem	84
Chapter 12. A little homological algebra	89
1. Chain complexes	89
2. Maps and homotopies of maps of chain complexes	89
3. Tensor products of chain complexes	90
4. Short and long exact sequences	91

Chapter 13. Axiomatic and cellular homology theory	93
1. Axioms for homology	93
2. Cellular homology	94
3. Verification of the axioms	98
4. The cellular chains of products	99
5. Some examples: T , K , and $\mathbb{R}P^n$	101
Chapter 14. Derivations of properties from the axioms	105
1. Reduced homology; based versus unbased spaces	105
2. Cofibrations and the homology of pairs	106
3. Suspension and the long exact sequence of pairs	107
4. Axioms for reduced homology	108
5. Mayer-Vietoris sequences	110
6. The homology of colimits	112
Chapter 15. The Hurewicz and uniqueness theorems	115
1. The Hurewicz theorem	115
2. The uniqueness of the homology of CW complexes	117
Chapter 16. Singular homology theory	121
1. The singular chain complex	121
2. Geometric realization	122
3. Proofs of the theorems	123
4. Simplicial objects in algebraic topology	124
5. Classifying spaces and $K(\pi, n)$ s	126
Chapter 17. Some more homological algebra	129
1. Universal coefficients in homology	129
2. The Künneth theorem	130
3. Hom functors and universal coefficients in cohomology	131
4. Proof of the universal coefficient theorem	133
5. Relations between \otimes and Hom	133
Chapter 18. Axiomatic and cellular cohomology theory	135
1. Axioms for cohomology	135
2. Cellular and singular cohomology	136
3. Cup products in cohomology	137
4. An example: $\mathbb{R}P^n$ and the Borsuk-Ulam theorem	138
5. Obstruction theory	140
Chapter 19. Derivations of properties from the axioms	143
1. Reduced cohomology groups and their properties	143
2. Axioms for reduced cohomology	144
3. Mayer-Vietoris sequences in cohomology	145
4. Lim^1 and the cohomology of colimits	146
5. The uniqueness of the cohomology of CW complexes	147
Chapter 20. The Poincaré duality theorem	149
1. Statement of the theorem	149
2. The definition of the cap product	151
3. Orientations and fundamental classes	153

4. The proof of the vanishing theorem	155
5. The proof of the Poincaré duality theorem	158
6. The orientation cover	161
Chapter 21. The index of manifolds; manifolds with boundary	163
1. The Euler characteristic of compact manifolds	163
2. The index of compact oriented manifolds	164
3. Manifolds with boundary	166
4. Poincaré duality for manifolds with boundary	167
5. The index of manifolds that are boundaries	169
Chapter 22. Homology, cohomology, and $K(\pi, n)$ s	171
1. $K(\pi, n)$ s and homology	171
2. $K(\pi, n)$ s and cohomology	173
3. Cup and cap products	175
4. Postnikov systems	178
5. Cohomology operations	180
Chapter 23. Characteristic classes of vector bundles	183
1. The classification of vector bundles	183
2. Characteristic classes for vector bundles	185
3. Stiefel-Whitney classes of manifolds	187
4. Characteristic numbers of manifolds	189
5. Thom spaces and the Thom isomorphism theorem	190
6. The construction of the Stiefel-Whitney classes	192
7. Chern, Pontryagin, and Euler classes	193
8. A glimpse at the general theory	196
Chapter 24. An introduction to K -theory	199
1. The definition of K -theory	199
2. The Bott periodicity theorem	202
3. The splitting principle and the Thom isomorphism	204
4. The Chern character; almost complex structures on spheres	207
5. The Adams operations	209
6. The Hopf invariant one problem and its applications	211
Chapter 25. An introduction to cobordism	215
1. The cobordism groups of smooth closed manifolds	215
2. Sketch proof that \mathcal{N}_* is isomorphic to $\pi_*(TO)$	216
3. Prespectra and the algebra $H_*(TO; \mathbb{Z}_2)$	219
4. The Steenrod algebra and its coaction on $H_*(TO)$	222
5. The relationship to Stiefel-Whitney numbers	224
6. Spectra and the computation of $\pi_*(TO) = \pi_*(MO)$	226
7. An introduction to the stable category	228
Suggestions for further reading	231
1. A classic book and historical references	231
2. Textbooks in algebraic topology and homotopy theory	231
3. Books on CW complexes	232
4. Differential forms and Morse theory	232
5. Equivariant algebraic topology	233

6. Category theory and homological algebra	233
7. Simplicial sets in algebraic topology	233
8. The Serre spectral sequence and Serre class theory	233
9. The Eilenberg-Moore spectral sequence	233
10. Cohomology operations	234
11. Vector bundles	234
12. Characteristic classes	234
13. K -theory	235
14. Hopf algebras; the Steenrod algebra, Adams spectral sequence	235
15. Cobordism	236
16. Generalized homology theory and stable homotopy theory	236
17. Quillen model categories	236
18. Localization and completion; rational homotopy theory	237
19. Infinite loop space theory	237
20. Complex cobordism and stable homotopy theory	238
21. Follow-ups to this book	238
Index	239