

Pushout Squares in The Category of Topological Spaces

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We denote by Top the category of topological spaces and continuous maps.

A following diagram 1 in Top satisfies the conditions :

(1) $g' \circ f = f' \circ g$

(2) For any space T and any map $h : Y \longrightarrow T$,
 $k : Z \longrightarrow T$ with $h \circ f = k \circ g$ there

exists a unique map $p : W \longrightarrow T$ such that

$h = p \circ g'$ and $k = p \circ f'$.

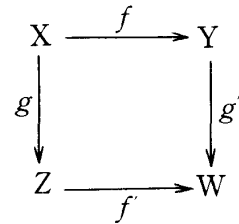


diagram 1

Then we say that diagram 1 is a pushout square. Note that space W is defined as a quotient space $(Y \sqcup Z) / R$ where $Y \sqcup Z$ is coproduct (disjoint union) Y and Z, R the equivalence relation generated by a relation \sim by setting $f(x) \sim g(x)$ on each $x \in X$.

Also note that f, g are composites $Y \xrightarrow{i_Y} Y \sqcup Z \xrightarrow{p} W, Z \xrightarrow{i_Z} Y \sqcup Z \xrightarrow{p} W$ respectively where i_Y, i_Z are natural injections and p is natural projection. Let $Y \cup_f X$

be the adjunction space by a map

$f : A \longrightarrow Y$ where A is a subset of X.

Then diagram 2 is a pushout square where

$i : A \longrightarrow X$ is inclusion map.

We are concerned with pushout square in Top.

1. We shall constantly use following proposition which is well known hence the proof is omitted.

Proposition 1.1 *In the commutative diagram 3 in Top, let the left hand square is a pushout. Then the right hand square is a pushout if and only if the exterior rectangle is a pushout.*

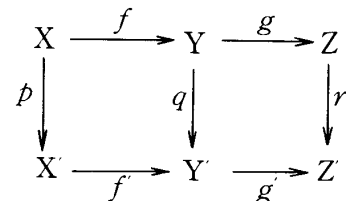


diagram 3

Proposition 1.2 *In the following pushout square in Top,*

- 1) if f is a injection then so is f' .
- 2) if f is a surjection then so is f' .
- 3) if f is an identification then so is f' .
- 4) if f is a closed map then so is f' .

Proof. 1) Let z, z' be elements of Z and suppose $f'(z) = f'(z')$. We shall show that $z = z'$.

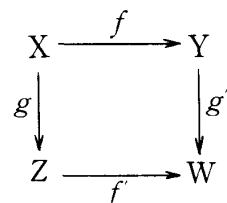


diagram 4

Recall that f' is composites $Z \xrightarrow{i_z} Y \sqcup Z \xrightarrow{p} W = (Y \sqcup Z) / R$ where i_z is the natural injection and p is a natural projection, and R is equivalence relation generated by relation \sim setting by $f(x) \sim g(x)$ for each $x \in X$. Then we have $p \circ i_z(z) = p \circ i_z(z')$ and $i_z(z) = i_z(z')$. Hence we have $z = z'$

2) Let w be element of W . Then there exists a $t \in Y \sqcup Z$ such that $p(t) = w$. If $t \in Y$ then there exists a $x \in X$ such that $f(x) = t$ because f is a surjection. We have $f(x) = t \sim g(x)$. Then we have $f'(g(x)) = p \circ i_z(g(x)) = p(t) = w$.

3) Let T is a space in Top and $h : W \rightarrow T$ be a map. Let $h \circ f'$ be continuous. Then we have $h \circ f' \circ g = h \circ g' \circ f$ and $h \circ g'$ is continuous map because f is a identification. h is continuous map, therefore W has final topology with respect to g' .

4) Let C is a closed subset of Z . We shall show that $f'(C)$ is a closed subse of W . To see this we need only show that $f'^{-1} \circ f'(C)$ is a closed subset of Z and $g'^{-1} \circ f'(C)$ is a closed subset of Y .

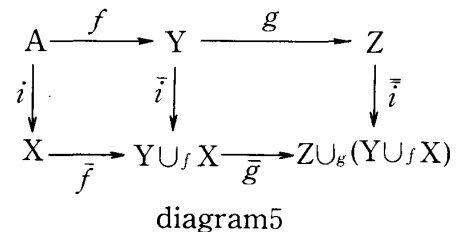
Now we have $f'^{-1} \circ f'(C) = C$ and $g'^{-1} \circ f'(C) = f \circ g^{-1}(C)$. Since the map f is closed, $f \circ g^{-1}(C)$ is closed subset of Y . This completes the proof.

Proposition 1.3 Let X, Y, Z be spaces and $f : A \rightarrow Y, g : Y \rightarrow Z$ in Top where A is a subspace of X .

Then we have a homeomorphism

$$\varphi : Z \cup_g (Y \cup_f X) \cong Z \cup_{g \circ f} X$$

Proof. In the diagram 5 left hand square and right hand one is pushout. Then exterior rectangle is pushout by proposition 1.1. It follows the universality of pushout.



Similarly we have the following.

Proposition 1.4 Let X, Y be spaces and A, B subspaces of X with $A \subset B$ and map $f : A \rightarrow Y$ in Top .

Then we have homeomorphism $\varphi : (Y \cup_f B) \cup_{\bar{f}} X \cong Y \cup_f X$.

Let X, Y, Z be spaces and $f : X \rightarrow Y, g : Y \rightarrow Z$ be maps in Top .

Then we have diagram 7 where CX is cone over X and I is interval $[0, 1]$ of real line R .

By the proposition 1.3 and 1.4 we have $Z \cup (Y \cup_f CX) \cong Z \cup_{g \circ f} CX$ and $(Y \cup_f CX) \cup_{\bar{f}} (X \times I) \cong Y \cup_f (X \times I)$.

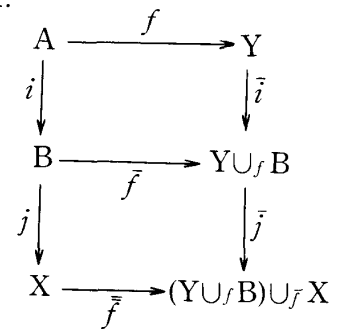


diagram 6

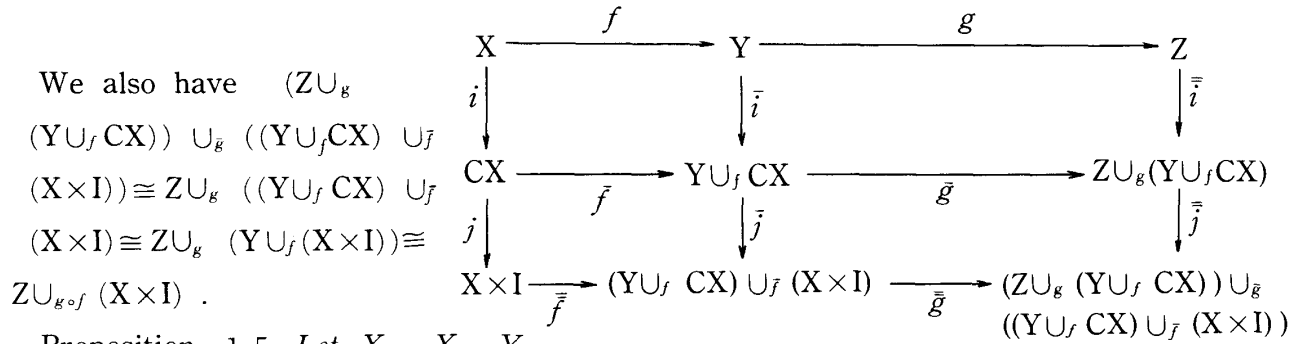


diagram 7

Proposition 1.5 Let X_1, X_2, Y

be spaces and $A_1 \subset X_1, A_2 \subset X_2$

be subspaces. Then there is a

homeomorphism $\varphi : X_2 \cup_{i_2} (YU_{f_1} X) \cong YU_{f_1 \sqcup f_2} (X_1 \sqcup X_2)$.

Proof. By the conditions we have three pushout squares in diagram 8

where $i_1 \sqcup i_2, f_1 \sqcup f_2$ are

induced by inclusions $i_1 : A_1 \longrightarrow X_1,$

$i_2 : A_2 \longrightarrow X_2$ and $f_1 : A_1 \longrightarrow Y,$

$f_2 : A_2 \longrightarrow Y$ respectively.

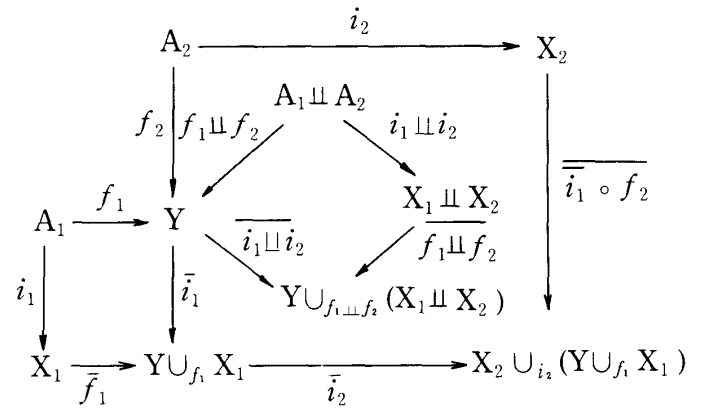


diagram 8

We have $\overline{i_1 \sqcup i_2} \circ f = \overline{f_1 \sqcup f_2} \circ k_2 \circ \bar{i}_2$.

Then there exists a unique map $g : YU_{f_1} X_1 \longrightarrow YU_{f_1 \sqcup f_2} (X_1 \sqcup X_2)$

such that $i_1 \sqcup i_2 = g \circ i_1$ and

$\overline{f_1 \sqcup f_2} \circ k_1 = g \circ \bar{f}_1$.

We also have $\overline{f_1 \sqcup f_2} \circ k_2 \circ i_2 = g \circ \bar{i}_1 \circ f_2$.

Then there exists a unique map

$\varphi : X_2 \cup_{i_2} (YU_{f_1} X) \longrightarrow YU_{f_1 \sqcup f_2} (X_1 \sqcup X_2)$

such that $\overline{f_1 \sqcup f_2} \circ k = \varphi \circ \bar{i}_1 \circ f_2$

and $g = \varphi \circ \bar{i}_2$.

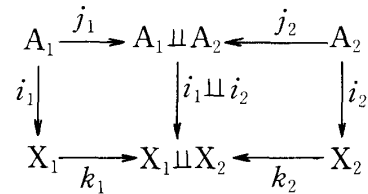


diagram 9

Let $h : X_1 \sqcup X_2 \longrightarrow X \cup_{i_2} (YU_{f_1} X_1)$ be a map induced by the maps $\bar{i}_2 \circ f_1 : X_1 \longrightarrow X_2 \cup_{i_2} (YU_{f_1} X_1)$ and $\overline{i_1 \circ f_2} : X_2 \longrightarrow X_2 \cup_{i_2} (YU_{f_1} X_1)$. Then we have $h \circ (i_1 \sqcup i_2) = \bar{i}_2 \circ \bar{i}_1 \circ (f_1 \sqcup f_2)$.

Hence there exists a unique map $\psi : YU_{f_1 \sqcup f_2} (X_1 \sqcup X_2) \longrightarrow X_2 \cup_{i_2} (YU_{f_1} X_1)$ with $h = \psi \circ \overline{f_1 \sqcup f_2}$ and $\bar{i}_2 \circ \bar{i}_1 = \psi \circ i_1 \sqcup i_2$. By the universality of pushout square $\psi \circ \varphi =$ identity on the space $X_2 \cup_{i_2} (YU_{f_1} X_1)$ and $\varphi \circ \psi =$ identity on the space $YU_{f_1 \sqcup f_2} (X_1 \sqcup X_2)$.

This completes the proof.

2. Next we shall show another application of pushout squares. We begin by proving the following proposition.

Proposition 2.1 Let X and Y be spaces in Top and let $f : X \longrightarrow Y$ be a map (may be not continuous). Let A and B be subsets of X such that $A \cup B = X$, $A - B \subset Int A$ and $B - A \subset Int B$. If $f|_A, f|_B$ are continuous, so is f where $f|_A, f|_B$ are restriction of f on A, B respectively.

Proof. Let $x \in X$ and U be a neighborhood of $f(x)$ in Y . If $x \in A \cap B$ then there exist neighborhoods M, N of x in X such that $(f|_A)^{-1}(U) = M \cap A$ and $(f|_B)^{-1}(U) = M \cap B$. We have $M \cap N \subset (M \cap A) \cup (M \cap B) = f^{-1}(U)$.

If $x \in A - B$, then we have $A - B \subset Int A$ by hypothesis. Hence subset A is a neighborhoods of x in X . Since $f|_A$ is continuous, there exists a neighborhood M of x in X such that $(f|_A)^{-1}(U) = M \cap A$.

We have $M \cap A = f^{-1}(U) \cap A \subset f^{-1}(U)$.

If $x \in B - A$, then we may show that $f^{-1}(U)$ is a neighborhood of x in X .

Proposition 2.2 Let X be a space in Top and let A, B be subsets of X with $B \subset A$. If B is closed in X and $B \subset Int A$ then the following diagram 10 is a pushout square.

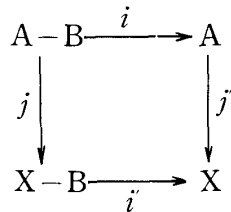


diagram 10

Proof. Let Y be space in Top and let maps $f : A \longrightarrow Y, g : X - B \longrightarrow Y$ be in Top with $f \circ i = g \circ j$.

We define a map $p : X \longrightarrow Y$ by $p(x) = f(x), x \in A$ and $p(x) = g(x), x \in X - A$. It is that $p|_A, p|_{X - B}$ are continuous.

We have $(X - B) - A \subset X - B$ and $A - (X - B) \subset Int A$. By proposition 2.1 p is continuous and uniqueness of p is easily checked. This completes the proof.

Proposition 2.3 With the notations and hypotheses of proposition 2.2, there exists a homeomorphism $h : (X - B) / (A - B) \cong X / A$.

Proof. In the diagram 11, the left hand square is pushout by proposition 2.2 and also is right hand one.

By proposition 1.1 the exterior rectangle is a pushout.

The assertion follows at once from the universality of pushout square. (We denote by X/A the quotient space of X with A identified to a point and $*$ is the one point space in Top .)

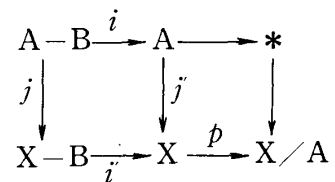


diagram 11

References

- 1) R. Brown, *Elements of Modern Topology*, McGraw-Hill (1968)
- 2) J. Dugundji, *Topology*, Allyn and Bacon (1975)
- 3) S. MacLane, *Categories for the Working Mathematician*, Springer (1971)