

Pacific Journal of Mathematics

**HOMOTOPY INVARIANCE OF CONTRAVARIANT FUNCTORS
ACTING ON SMOOTH MANIFOLDS**

BRIAN KIRKWOOD SCHMIDT

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It is sometimes possible to prove that a functor is homotopy invariant using only a knowledge of the domain and range categories of the functor. It is known, for example, that every covariant or contravariant functor from the category of simplicial complexes (with continuous mappings) to the category of countable groups is homotopy invariant. This result has been extended to covariant, but not contravariant, functors with domain the category of smooth manifolds. In the contravariant case, the proof breaks down because certain mappings are not differentiable. This fault will be corrected in this paper. Among other results, it will be shown that every contravariant functor from the category of smooth manifolds to the category of countable groups is homotopy invariant.

The results mentioned above are proved in [4]. As in [4], we will use the word "cofunctor" to mean a contravariant functor. \mathcal{E} will denote any full subcategory of the category of smooth manifolds which contains the real line \mathbf{R} and is closed under the operation product-with- \mathbf{R} . \mathcal{S} will denote any subcategory of the category of sets in which every object is countable. Let $C^\infty(\mathbf{R}, \mathbf{R})$ denote the monoid of smooth mappings from \mathbf{R} to \mathbf{R} under composition. Let D denote the monoid dual to $C^\infty(\mathbf{R}, \mathbf{R})$. In light of paragraphs 15 and 16 of [4], Theorem 11 of [4] may be restated as follows:

THEOREM 2. *If D cannot act faithfully on any countable set, then every cofunctor $\Delta: \mathcal{E} \rightarrow \mathcal{S}$ is homotopy invariant.*

The revised approach.

3. Suppose that D acts faithfully on a set B . We will prove that B is uncountable. Let I denote the closed interval $[0, 1]$. For each $x \in I$, let P_x be the set of all $p \in D$ such that the following two conditions are satisfied:

4. $w \in (x, 1) \Rightarrow p(w) \in (x, 1)$
5. $w \notin (x, 1) \Rightarrow p(w) = w$.

It is easy to verify that:

6. If $p' \in P_w$, $p \in P_x$, and $w \leq x$, then $pp' \in P_w$.

7. Observe that every subset of I has a greatest lower bound in I . Hence we may define, for each $b \in B$, a number $\lambda(b) \in I$ which is

the greatest lower bound of $\{x \in I \mid p \in P_x \Rightarrow pb = b\}$.

THEOREM 8. *Consider $x \in I$ and $b \in B$ with $x \neq \lambda(b)$. Then $\lambda(b) < x \Leftrightarrow pb = b$ for all $p \in P_x$.*

Proof. (\Leftarrow) Obvious. (\Rightarrow) If $\lambda(b) < x$, there exists $w \in I$ such that $\lambda(b) \leq w < x$ and $p'b = b$ for all $p' \in P_w$. Consider any $p \in P_x$. By 6, we have $pp' \in P_w$. Hence $pp'b = b$, and so $pb = b$.

9. Let F denote the set of all $f \in D$ such that $w \notin (0, 1)$ implies $f(w) = w$ and such that f has an inverse in D . Recall that the order of composition is reversed in D . Given $p \in P_x$ and $f \in F$, it is easy to verify that $f^{-1}pf \in P_{f(x)}$. Hence, for fixed $f \in F$, we have a mapping $p \mapsto f^{-1}pf$ from P_x to $P_{f(x)}$. This mapping has an inverse, namely $p \mapsto fpf^{-1}$. So:

10. Given $x \in I$ and $f \in F$, a one-to-one correspondence between P_x and $P_{f(x)}$ is provided by $p \mapsto f^{-1}pf$.

THEOREM 11. *For any $f \in F$ and $b \in B$, $f^{-1}(\lambda(b)) = \lambda(fb)$.*

Proof. Consider $x \in I$ such that x is not equal to $f^{-1}(\lambda(b))$ or $\lambda(fb)$. It suffices to prove that $f^{-1}(\lambda(b)) < x \Leftrightarrow \lambda(fb) < x$. Our approach is as follows:

$$\begin{array}{c}
 f^{-1}(\lambda(b)) < x \\
 \Downarrow \text{(i)} \\
 \lambda(b) < f(x) \\
 \Downarrow \text{(ii)} \\
 p'b = b, \text{ for all } p' \in P_{f(x)} \\
 \Downarrow \text{(iii)} \\
 f^{-1}pfb = b, \text{ for all } p \in P_x \\
 \Downarrow \text{(iv)} \\
 pfb = fb, \text{ for all } p \in P_x \\
 \Downarrow \text{(v)} \\
 \lambda(fb) < x
 \end{array}$$

(i) follows from the fact that f and f^{-1} preserve order. Note that since $x \neq f^{-1}(\lambda(b))$, $f(x) \neq \lambda(b)$. So (ii) follows from Theorem 8. (iii)

follows from 10. (iv) is obvious, and (v) follows from Theorem 8.

Theorem 11, restated categorically as in [4], asserts that λ is a natural transformation.

THEOREM 12. *There exists $b \in B$ with $0 < \lambda(b) < 1$.*

Proof. There exists $r \in D$ such that $r(1/2) = 1/2$ and $r(w) = 3/4$ for all $w \in [3/4, 1]$. Note that $pr = r$ for all $p \in P_{3/4}$. Hence, for any $b \in B$, $prb = rb$ for all $p \in P_{3/4}$. So $\lambda(rb) \leq 3/4$ for any $b \in B$.

There also exists $p' \in P_{1/4}$ such that $p'(1/2) = 3/4$. Since $r(p'(1/2)) = 3/4$ and $r(1/2) = 1/2$, we have $p'r \neq r$. Since D acts faithfully on B , there exists $b \in B$ such that $p'rb \neq rb$. And since $p' \in P_{1/4}$, $\lambda(rb) \geq 1/4$ for this b .

In summary, we have found $b \in B$ such that $1/4 \leq \lambda(rb) \leq 3/4$.

THEOREM 13. *λ maps B onto $(0, 1)$.*

Proof. By Theorem 12 there exists $b \in B$ with $\lambda(b) \in (0, 1)$. Given any $x \in (0, 1)$, there exists $f \in F$ such that $f^{-1}(\lambda(b)) = x$. Then, by Theorem 11, $\lambda(fb) = x$.

COROLLARY 14. *B is uncountable.*

And by Theorem 2:

COROLLARY 15. *Every cofunctor $\Delta: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ is homotopy invariant.*

This proves, for example, that every cofunctor from smooth manifolds to countable groups is homotopy invariant.

Categories without R .

16. Until now, we have been assuming that R was an object in \mathcal{C} . Hence we cannot at present apply Corollary 15 to the category of compact smooth manifolds. Let us correct this problem. As was noted in paragraphs 15 and 16 of [4], we may use the circle S^1 to take the place of R . Viewing S^1 as the closed interval $[-1, 2]$ with end points identified, we may define P_x to be the set of all smooth mappings from S^1 to S^1 satisfying 4 and 5. Likewise, we may replace R by S^1 in 6 through 15 without problems. So Corollary 15 applies to any full subcategory \mathcal{C} of the category of smooth manifolds which contains S^1 and is closed under the operation product-

with- S^1 .

Other generalizations.

17. If we replace the word "smooth" by "continuous" everywhere in this paper, the proofs remain valid. We have spoken only of smooth structures because our results were already established for continuous structures [4]. Likewise, the proofs given here can be applied to functors as well as cofunctors, with only slight modification. Thus neither $\text{Top}(I, I)$, $\text{Top}(\mathbf{R}, \mathbf{R})$, $\text{Top}(S^1, S^1)$, $C^\infty(\mathbf{R}, \mathbf{R})$, $C^\infty(S^1, S^1)$, nor their duals can act faithfully on a countable set.

Conclusion.

- List A. simplicial complexes
 topological manifolds
 topological manifolds with boundary
 compact topological manifolds
 compact topological manifolds with boundary
 smooth manifolds
 smooth manifolds with boundary
 compact smooth manifolds
 compact smooth manifolds with boundary
 pairs in any category above
- List B. countable groups
 countable rings
 countable dimensional vector spaces over a field K
 countable dimensional algebras over a field K

18. Putting together the results of this paper and [4], we have shown that every functor or cofunctor from a category in List A to a category in List B is homotopy invariant.

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Norman Larrabee Alling, <i>On Cauchy's theorem for real algebraic curves with boundary</i>	315
Daniel D. Anderson, <i>A remark on the lattice of ideals of a Prüfer domain</i>	323
Dennis Neal Barr and Peter D. Miletta, <i>A necessary and sufficient condition for uniqueness of solutions to two point boundary value problems</i>	325
Ladislav Beran, <i>On solvability of generalized orthomodular lattices</i>	331
L. Carlitz, <i>A three-term relation for some sums related to Dedekind sums</i>	339
Arthur Herbert Copeland, Jr. and Albert Oscar Shar, <i>Images and pre-images of localization maps</i>	349
G. G. Dandapat, John L. Hunsucker and Carl Pomerance, <i>Some new results on odd perfect numbers</i>	359
M. Edelstein and L. Keener, <i>Characterizations of infinite-dimensional and nonreflexive spaces</i>	365
Francis James Flanigan, <i>On Levi factors of derivation algebras and the radical embedding problem</i>	371
Harvey Friedman, <i>Provable equality in primitive recursive arithmetic with and without induction</i>	379
Joseph Braucher Fugate and Lee K. Mohler, <i>The fixed point property for tree-like continua with finitely many arc components</i>	393
John Norman Ginsburg and Victor Harold Saks, <i>Some applications of ultrafilters in topology</i>	403
Arjun K. Gupta, <i>Generalisation of a "square" functional equation</i>	419
Thomas Lee Hayden and Frank Jones Massey, <i>Nonlinear holomorphic semigroups</i>	423
V. Kannan and Thekkedath Thrivikraman, <i>Lattices of Hausdorff compactifications of a locally compact space</i>	441
J. E. Kerlin and Wilfred Dennis Pepe, <i>Norm decreasing homomorphisms between group algebras</i>	445
Young K. Kwon, <i>Behavior of Φ-bounded harmonic functions at the Wiener boundary</i>	453
Richard Arthur Levaro, <i>Projective quasi-coherent sheaves of modules</i>	457
Chung Lin, <i>Rearranging Fourier transforms on groups</i>	463
David Lowell Lovelady, <i>An asymptotic analysis of an odd order linear differential equation</i>	475
Jerry Malzan, <i>On groups with a single involution</i>	481
J. F. McClendon, <i>Metric families</i>	491
Carl Pomerance, <i>On multiply perfect numbers with a special property</i>	511
Mohan S. Putcha and Adil Mohamed Yaqub, <i>Polynomial constraints for finiteness of semisimple rings</i>	519
Calvin R. Putnam, <i>Hyponormal contractions and strong power convergence</i>	531
Douglas Conner Ravenel, <i>Multiplicative operations in BP^*BP</i>	539
Judith Roitman, <i>Attaining the spread at cardinals which are not strong limits</i>	545
Kazuyuki Saitô, <i>Groups of $*$-automorphisms and invariant maps of von Neumann algebras</i>	553
Brian Kirkwood Schmidt, <i>Homotopy invariance of contravariant functors acting on smooth manifolds</i>	559
Kenneth Barry Stolarsky, <i>The sum of the distances to N points on a sphere</i>	563
Mark Lawrence Teply, <i>Semiprime rings with the singular splitting property</i>	575
J. Pelham Thomas, <i>Maximal connected Hausdorff spaces</i>	581
Charles Thomas Tucker, II, <i>Concerning σ-homomorphisms of Riesz spaces</i>	585
Rangachari Venkataraman, <i>Compactness in abelian topological groups</i>	591
William Charles Waterhouse, <i>Basically bounded functors and flat sheaves</i>	597
David Westreich, <i>Bifurcation of operator equations with unbounded linearized part</i>	611
William Robin Zame, <i>Extendibility, boundedness and sequential convergence in spaces of holomorphic functions</i>	619