

Here is an example of the machinery we developed, a classical result from 1910 due to Brouwer, known as

INVARIANCE OF DIMENSION

If non-empty open sets $U \subset \mathbb{R}^m$ and $V \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ are homeomorphic, then $m = n$.

Let $x \in U$. By excision

$$H_p(U, U - \{x\}) \cong H_p(\mathbb{R}^m, \mathbb{R}^m - \{x\}).$$

From LES of $(\mathbb{R}^m, \mathbb{R}^m - \{x\})$

$$\begin{aligned} \dots \tilde{H}_p(\mathbb{R}^m - \{x\}) \rightarrow \tilde{H}_p(\mathbb{R}^m) \rightarrow H_p(\mathbb{R}^m, \mathbb{R}^m - \{x\}) \rightarrow \\ \rightarrow \tilde{H}_{p-1}(\mathbb{R}^m - \{x\}) \rightarrow \tilde{H}_{p-1}(\mathbb{R}^m) \rightarrow \dots \end{aligned}$$

we get $H_p(\mathbb{R}^m, \mathbb{R}^m - \{x\}) \cong \tilde{H}_{p-1}(\mathbb{R}^m - \{x\})$

Since $\mathbb{R}^m - \{x\}$ strongly deformation

retracts to S^{m-1} ,

$$H_p(U, U - \{x\}) \cong H_{p-1}(S^{m-1}) = \begin{cases} \mathbb{Z} & p=m \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Homeomorphism $h: U \rightarrow V$ yields

a homeomorphism of pairs

$$(U, U - \{x\}) \text{ and } (V, V - \{h(x)\})$$

and so

$$H_p(U, U - \{x\}) \cong H_p(V, V - \{h(x)\}).$$

Since also

$$H_p(V, V - \{h(x)\}) \cong H_{p-1}(S^{n-1}) = \begin{cases} \mathbb{Z} & p=n \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

it follows that $m=n$.