## Nielsen equalizer theory

P. Christopher Staecker<br>Fairfield University, Fairfield CT

Capitol Normal University, Beijing China, June 24, 2011

Given a set of maps: $f_{1}, \ldots, f_{k}: X \rightarrow Y$, the equalizer set is

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\operatorname{Eq}\left(f_{1}, \ldots, f_{k}\right)=\left\{x \in X \mid f_{1}(x)=\cdots=f_{k}(x)\right\}
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The points where all the functions agree.

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## Proposition

When $X$ and $Y$ have the same dimension, given $f_{1}, \ldots, f_{k}: X \rightarrow Y$ with $k>2$, we can change the maps by homotopy to be equalizer free.
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Make $\operatorname{Coin}\left(f_{1}, f_{i}\right)$ finite for each $i$, then arrange for these sets to be distinct.

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Then the coincidence sets $\operatorname{Coin}\left(f_{1}, f_{i}\right)$ will be submanifolds of $X$, and it's possible that their intersections would be essentially nonempty.

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Coin $(f, g)$ is points $(x, y)$ with $3 x+y=0 x+2 y \bmod \mathbb{Z}^{2}$, which is the "line" $y=3 x \bmod \mathbb{Z}^{2}$.

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We'll define a Nielsen number (easy matrix formula for tori), and in this case

$$
N(f, g, h)=10
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In various special cases, in appropriate codimensional settings, this gives:

- Nielsen fixed point theory $(B=\Delta)$
- root theory ( $B=p t$ )
- coincidence theory of $k$ maps $\left(B=\Delta \subset Y^{k}\right)$

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With apologies to Dobreńko and Kucharski, let's continue.

## Our theory is based on a simple trick:

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Then $F, G$ are maps of manifolds of the same dimension, and

$$
\operatorname{Eq}\left(f_{1}, \ldots, f_{k}\right)=\operatorname{Coin}(F, G)
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## Theorem

With these dimensions, the maps can be changed by homotopy so that $\mathrm{Eq}\left(f_{1}, \ldots, f_{k}\right)$ is finite.

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with $\operatorname{Coin}\left(F, G^{\prime}\right)=\operatorname{Eq}\left(f_{1}, f_{2}^{\prime}, \ldots, f_{k}^{\prime}\right)$ finite.

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Easy to show that this is homotopy invariant, and has appropriate other properties.

For differentiable maps we can compute the index at a point using derivative maps:

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d f_{1}-d f_{2} \\
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Equivalently, $x, x^{\prime} \in \operatorname{Eq}\left(f_{1}, \ldots, f_{k}\right)$ are in the same class when

$$
x, x^{\prime} \in p \operatorname{Eq}\left(\widetilde{f}_{1}, \alpha_{2} \widetilde{f}_{2}, \ldots, \alpha_{k} \widetilde{f}_{k}\right)
$$

for $\alpha_{i} \in \pi_{1}(Y)$.

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We say $\left(\alpha_{2}, \ldots \alpha_{k}\right) \sim\left(\beta_{2}, \ldots, \beta_{k}\right)$ if and only if there is $z \in \pi_{1}(X)$ with

$$
\beta_{i}=\varphi_{1}(z) \alpha_{i} \varphi_{i}(z)^{-1} \text { for all } i
$$

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$x, x^{\prime} \in \operatorname{Eq}\left(f_{1}, \ldots, f_{k}\right)$ are in the same class when there is a path $\gamma$ from $x$ to $x^{\prime}$ with

$$
f_{i}(\gamma) \simeq f_{1}(\gamma) \text { for all } i
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Also we have a "minimal equalizer number" with

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and these are equal when $(k-1) n \neq 2$.

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For more than 2 maps, this always holds except 3 maps on dimensions $2 \rightarrow 1$.

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Theorem
If $f_{1}, \ldots, f_{k}: T^{(k-1) n} \rightarrow T^{n}$ by matrices $A_{1}, \ldots, A_{k}$, then

$$
N\left(f_{1}, \ldots, f_{k}\right)=\text { abs det }\left[\begin{array}{c}
A_{1}-A_{2} \\
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\end{array}\right]
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For each $i, j$ we have

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Theorem
Any coincidence class containing an essential equalizer class must be geometrically essential.

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We invent a set of maps $f_{3}, \ldots, f_{k}$ and show that $C$ contains equalizer points of nonzero index.

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So Jezierski decreases the domain dimension to get codimension 0 .

This only works because $T^{2} \subset T^{7}$.

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Let $B_{1}, B_{2}$ be matrices of $\bar{f}_{1}, \bar{f}_{2}$, and $B_{2}-B_{1}$ still has rank 2 .

So we can invent matrices $B_{3}, \ldots B_{5}$ with

$$
\left[\begin{array}{c}
B_{2}-B_{1} \\
\vdots \\
B_{5}-B_{1}
\end{array}\right]
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of full rank (8).

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Hopefully this trick can be used elsewhere when we need to prove that coincidence classes are essential.

Thank you!

Paper at arxiv: "Nielsen Equalizer Theory", and in Topology and its applications

