

## A STUDY OF COVERING SPACES THROUGH LATTICES

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### Abstract.

Let  $C(X)$  denote the set of all covering spaces  $(\tilde{X}, \tilde{x}, p)$  of  $(X, x)$  where  $(X, x)$  are path connected, locally path connected and semilocally simply connected pointed topological spaces.

In this paper we show that:

(i)  $(C(X), \geq)$  is a lattice and  $(C^r(X), \geq)$  is a sublattice of  $(C(X), \geq)$  without assuming  $\pi(X, x)$  is abelian, where  $C(X)$  is the set of all regular covering spaces of  $(X, x)$ .

(ii)  $(C(X), \geq)$  is a modular, bounded and complete lattice when  $\pi(X, x)$  is abelian.

**Keywords:** fundamental group, covering space, universal covering, regular covering, covering homomorphism, lattice.

**1. INTRODUCTION**

Throughout the paper we assume that all the spaces  $(X, x)$  are path connected, locally path connected and semilocally simply connected pointed topological spaces and maps are base point preserving continuous maps. A covering space of a space  $(X, x)$  is a triple  $(\tilde{X}, \tilde{x}, p)$  consisting of a pointed space  $(X, x)$  and a continuous surjective map  $p : (\tilde{X}, \tilde{x}) \rightarrow (X, x)$  such that each point  $x \in X$  has a path connected open neighborhood  $U$  such that each path component of  $p^{-1}(U)$  is mapped homeomorphically onto  $U$  by  $p$ .

Let  $(\tilde{X}_1, \tilde{x}_1, p_1)$  and  $(\tilde{X}_2, \tilde{x}_2, p_2)$  be two covering spaces of  $(X, x)$ . A homomorphism of  $(\tilde{X}_1, \tilde{x}_1, p_1)$  into  $(\tilde{X}_2, \tilde{x}_2, p_2)$  is a base point preserving continuous map  $f : (\tilde{X}_1, \tilde{x}_1) \rightarrow (\tilde{X}_2, \tilde{x}_2)$  such that  $p_2 f = p_1$ . If in particular,  $f$  is a homeomorphism, then the coverings  $(\tilde{X}_1, \tilde{x}_1, p_1)$  and  $(\tilde{X}_2, \tilde{x}_2, p_2)$  are said to be isomorphic.

Let  $C(X)$  denote the set of all covering spaces  $(\tilde{X}, \tilde{x}, p)$  of  $(X, x)$ . Then for each  $(\tilde{X}, \tilde{x}, p) \in C(X)$ , the map  $p : (\tilde{X}, \tilde{x}) \rightarrow (X, x)$  induces a monomorphism  $p_* : \pi(\tilde{X}, \tilde{x}) \rightarrow \pi(X, x)$  in the corresponding fundamental groups. The image group  $H = p_*\pi(\tilde{X}, \tilde{x})$  depends on the choice of the base point  $\tilde{x} \in p^{-1}(x)$ .

Let  $(S, \leq)$  be a partially ordered set (Poset) and  $a, b$  are any two elements of  $S$ . The least upper bound(lub) of  $\{a, b\}$  in  $(S, \leq)$ , if it exists, is denoted by  $a \vee b$ . Similarly the greatest lower bound (glb) of  $\{a, b\}$  in  $(S, \leq)$ , if it exists, is denoted by  $a \wedge b$ .

A poset  $(S, \leq)$  is called an upper semi lattice if  $a \vee b$  exists in  $S$  for all  $a, b \in S$ . Similarly a poset  $(S, \leq)$  is called a lower semi lattice if  $a \wedge b$  exists in  $S$  for all  $a, b \in S$ .

A poset  $(L, \leq)$  is called a lattice if  $a \vee b$  and  $a \wedge b$  exists in  $L$  for all  $a, b \in L$ . Let  $(L, \leq)$  be a lattice and  $L'$  be a nonempty subset of  $L$  such that  $a \vee b$  and  $a \wedge b$  exists in  $L'$  for all  $a, b \in L'$ , then  $(L', \leq)$  is called a sublattice of  $(L, \leq)$ .

A lattice  $(L, \leq)$  is called a modular lattice if for all  $a, b, c \in L$ ,  $a \leq c$  implies  $a \vee (b \wedge c) = (a \vee b) \wedge c$  and is called a distributive lattice if  $a \wedge (b \vee c) = (a \wedge b) \vee (a \wedge c)$  for all  $a, b, c \in L$ .

A lattice  $(L, \leq)$  is called a complete lattice if every subsets of  $L$  have both a lub and a glb.

Let  $G$  be group and  $S$  be any subset of  $G$ . Write  $\langle S \rangle = \bigcap_T K$ , where  $T$  is the collection of subgroups  $K \subseteq G$  that contains  $S$ . Then  $\langle S \rangle$  is the smallest subgroup of  $G$  containing  $S$  and is called the subgroup generated by  $S$ . If  $G$  is an abelian group then every subgroup of  $G$  is normal, hence for any two subgroups  $A$  and  $B$  of  $G$ ,  $\langle A \cup B \rangle = A + B$ , their sum is a normal subgroup of  $G$ .

**Lemma 1.1**

Two covering spaces  $(\tilde{X}_1, \tilde{x}_1, p_1)$  and  $(\tilde{X}_2, \tilde{x}_2, p_2)$  such that  $p_1(\tilde{x}_1) = p_2(\tilde{x}_2) = x$  are isomorphic if and only if the subgroups  $p_1 * \pi(\tilde{X}_1, \tilde{x}_1)$  and  $p_2 * \pi(\tilde{X}_2, \tilde{x}_2)$  belong to the same conjugacy class in  $\pi(X, x)$ .

**Lemma 1.2**

Given a subgroup  $H$  of  $\pi(X, x)$ , there exists a covering space  $(\tilde{X}, \tilde{x}, p)$  of  $(X, x)$  such that  $p * \pi(\tilde{X}, \tilde{x}) = H$ .

Let  $(\tilde{X}_1, \tilde{x}_1, p_1)$  and  $(\tilde{X}_2, \tilde{x}_2, p_2) \in C(X)$ . Define a binary relation  $\rho$  on  $C(X)$  by  $(\tilde{X}_1, \tilde{x}_1, p_1) \rho (\tilde{X}_2, \tilde{x}_2, p_2) \Leftrightarrow p_1 * \pi(\tilde{X}_1, \tilde{x}_1) = p_2 * \pi(\tilde{X}_2, \tilde{x}_2)$ . Then  $\rho$  is an equivalence relation.

Let  $C(X)/\rho$  denote the set of all  $\rho$  equivalence classes  $(\tilde{X}, \tilde{x}, p)\rho$  of the coverings of  $(X, x)$ . Define ' $\geq$ ' on  $C(X)/\rho$  by  $(\tilde{X}_1, \tilde{x}_1, p_1)\rho \geq (\tilde{X}_2, \tilde{x}_2, p_2)\rho \Leftrightarrow p_1 * \pi(\tilde{X}_1, \tilde{x}_1) \subseteq p_2 * \pi(\tilde{X}_2, \tilde{x}_2)$ .

**Proposition 1.3**

' $\geq$ ' is a partial order relation on  $C(X)/\rho$ .

**Proof :** As the relation ' $\geq$ ' on  $C(X)/\rho$  is determined in terms of set inclusion, it follows that ' $\geq$ ' is a partial order relation on  $C(X)/\rho$ .

**Theorem 1.4**

The partially ordered set  $(C(X)/\rho, \geq)$  is a semilattice.

**Proof :** Let  $(\tilde{X}_1, \tilde{x}_1, p_1)\rho, (\tilde{X}_2, \tilde{x}_2, p_2)\rho \in C(X)/\rho$ . Then  $p_1 * \pi(\tilde{X}_1, \tilde{x}_1)$  and  $p_2 * \pi(\tilde{X}_2, \tilde{x}_2)$  are subgroups of  $\pi(X, x)$ . Let  $A = p_1 * \pi(\tilde{X}_1, \tilde{x}_1) \cap p_2 * \pi(\tilde{X}_2, \tilde{x}_2)$ . Then  $A$  is a subgroup of  $\pi(X, x)$ . Hence by **Lemma 1.2**, we find a covering space  $(\tilde{X}, \tilde{x}, p) \in C(X)$  such that  $p * \pi(\tilde{X}, \tilde{x}) = A$ .

Then  $p * \pi(\tilde{X}, \tilde{x}) \subseteq p_1 * \pi(\tilde{X}_1, \tilde{x}_1) \Leftrightarrow (\tilde{X}, \tilde{x}, p)\rho \geq (\tilde{X}_1, \tilde{x}_1, p_1)\rho$ . Again,  $p * \pi(\tilde{X}, \tilde{x}) \subseteq p_2 * \pi(\tilde{X}_2, \tilde{x}_2) \Leftrightarrow (\tilde{X}, \tilde{x}, p)\rho \geq (\tilde{X}_2, \tilde{x}_2, p_2)\rho$ . Consequently,  $(\tilde{X}, \tilde{x}, p)\rho$  is an upper bound of  $(\tilde{X}_1, \tilde{x}_1, p_1)\rho$  and  $(\tilde{X}_2, \tilde{x}_2, p_2)\rho$ . We claim that  $(\tilde{X}, \tilde{x}, p)\rho$  is the lub of  $(\tilde{X}_1, \tilde{x}_1, p_1)\rho$  and  $(\tilde{X}_2, \tilde{x}_2, p_2)\rho$ . Let  $(\tilde{X}', \tilde{x}', p')\rho \geq (\tilde{X}_1, \tilde{x}_1, p_1)\rho$  and  $(\tilde{X}', \tilde{x}', p')\rho \geq (\tilde{X}_2, \tilde{x}_2, p_2)\rho$  in  $C(X)/\rho$ . Then  $p' * \pi(\tilde{X}', \tilde{x}') \subseteq p_1 * \pi(\tilde{X}_1, \tilde{x}_1)$  and  $p' * \pi(\tilde{X}', \tilde{x}') \subseteq p_2 * \pi(\tilde{X}_2, \tilde{x}_2)$ . Consequently,  $p' * \pi(\tilde{X}', \tilde{x}') \subseteq p_1 * \pi(\tilde{X}_1, \tilde{x}_1) \cap p_2 * \pi(\tilde{X}_2, \tilde{x}_2) = A = p * \pi(\tilde{X}, \tilde{x})$ . Hence  $(\tilde{X}', \tilde{x}', p')\rho \geq (\tilde{X}, \tilde{x}, p)\rho$ .

We now define ' $\vee$ ' on  $C(X)/\rho$  by the rule  $(\tilde{X}_1, \tilde{x}_1, p_1)\rho \vee (\tilde{X}_2, \tilde{x}_2, p_2)\rho = (\tilde{X}, \tilde{x}, p)\rho$  (the latter is determined as above). Consequently the partially ordered set  $(C(X)/\rho, \geq)$  is a semilattice.

**Theorem 1.5**

Let  $(X, x)$  be a space such that its fundamental group  $\pi(X, x)$  is abelian. Then  $(C(X), \geq)$  is a lattice.

**Proof :** We now consider covering spaces of  $(X, x)$ . As  $\pi(X, x)$  is abelian,

two subgroups of  $\pi(X, x)$  are conjugate iff they are equal. Consequently, two covering spaces of  $(X, x)$  are isomorphic iff they correspond to the same subgroup of  $\pi(X, x)$ , by lemma 1.1. Let  $(\widetilde{X}_1, \widetilde{x}_1, p_1), (\widetilde{X}_2, \widetilde{x}_2, p_2) \in C(X)$ .

Define  $(\widetilde{X}_1, \widetilde{x}_1, p_1) \geq (\widetilde{X}_2, \widetilde{x}_2, p_2) \Leftrightarrow p_1 * \pi(\widetilde{X}_1, \widetilde{x}_1) \subseteq p_2 * \pi(\widetilde{X}_2, \widetilde{x}_2)$ . Then ' $\geq$ ' is a partial order relation and  $(C(X), \vee)$  is an upper semilattice by **theorem 1.4**.

Again suppose  $A = p_1 * \pi(\widetilde{X}_1, \widetilde{x}_1)$  and  $B = p_2 * \pi(\widetilde{X}_2, \widetilde{x}_2)$  for some  $(\widetilde{X}_1, \widetilde{x}_1, p_1)$  and  $(\widetilde{X}_2, \widetilde{x}_2, p_2) \in C(X)$ . As  $\pi(X, x)$  is abelian, the subgroups  $A$  and  $B$  of  $\pi(X, x)$  are also abelian. Hence their sum  $A+B$  is also a subgroup of  $\pi(X, x)$  such that  $A \subseteq A+B$  and  $B \subseteq A+B$ . Then by **Lemma 1.2**, there exists a covering space  $(\widetilde{X}, \widetilde{x}, p)$  of  $(X, x)$  such that  $p * \pi(\widetilde{X}, \widetilde{x}) = A+B$ . Now  $A \subseteq A+B \Rightarrow p_1 * \pi(\widetilde{X}_1, \widetilde{x}_1) \subseteq p * \pi(\widetilde{X}, \widetilde{x}) \Rightarrow (\widetilde{X}_1, \widetilde{x}_1, p_1) \geq (\widetilde{X}, \widetilde{x}, p)$ . Similarly  $B \subseteq A+B \Rightarrow (\widetilde{X}_2, \widetilde{x}_2, p_2) \geq (\widetilde{X}, \widetilde{x}, p)$ . Thus  $(\widetilde{X}, \widetilde{x}, p)$  is a lower bound of  $(\widetilde{X}_1, \widetilde{x}_1, p_1)$  and  $(\widetilde{X}_2, \widetilde{x}_2, p_2)$ . We claim that it is their glb. To prove this, let  $(\widetilde{X}', \widetilde{x}', p')$  be such that  $(\widetilde{X}_1, \widetilde{x}_1, p_1) \geq (\widetilde{X}', \widetilde{x}', p')$  and  $(\widetilde{X}_2, \widetilde{x}_2, p_2) \geq (\widetilde{X}', \widetilde{x}', p')$ . Then  $A \subseteq p' * \pi(\widetilde{X}', \widetilde{x}') = D$ . Similarly  $B \subseteq D$ . Consequently  $A+B \subseteq D$  and this implies  $(\widetilde{X}, \widetilde{x}, p) \geq (\widetilde{X}', \widetilde{x}', p')$ . Define ' $\wedge$ ' on  $C(X)$  by  $(\widetilde{X}_1, \widetilde{x}_1, p_1) \wedge (\widetilde{X}_2, \widetilde{x}_2, p_2) = (\widetilde{X}, \widetilde{x}, p)$ . Thus  $(C(X), \wedge)$  is a lower semilattice. Hence  $(C(X), \geq)$  is a lattice.

Next we show that  $(C(X), \geq)$  is a lattice without assuming that  $\pi(X, x)$  is abelian.

**Theorem 1.6**

We show that  $(C(X), \geq)$  is a lattice, without assuming that  $\pi(X, x)$  is abelian.

**Proof :** Let  $(\widetilde{X}_1, \widetilde{x}_1, p_1), (\widetilde{X}_2, \widetilde{x}_2, p_2) \in C(X)$ . Define  $(\widetilde{X}_1, \widetilde{x}_1, p_1) \geq (\widetilde{X}_2, \widetilde{x}_2, p_2) \Leftrightarrow p_1 * \pi(\widetilde{X}_1, \widetilde{x}_1) \subseteq p_2 * \pi(\widetilde{X}_2, \widetilde{x}_2)$ . Then ' $\geq$ ' is a partial order relation and  $(C(X), \vee)$  is an upper semilattice by **theorem 1.4**.

Again suppose  $A = p_1 * \pi(\widetilde{X}_1, \widetilde{x}_1)$  and  $B = p_2 * \pi(\widetilde{X}_2, \widetilde{x}_2)$  for some  $(\widetilde{X}_1, \widetilde{x}_1, p_1)$  and  $(\widetilde{X}_2, \widetilde{x}_2, p_2) \in C(X)$ . Let  $S = A \cup B$ .

Then  $\langle S \rangle = \bigcap_T K$ , where  $T$  is the collection of subgroups  $K \subseteq \pi(X, x)$  that contains both  $A$  and  $B$ . It is clear that  $A \subseteq \langle S \rangle$  and  $B \subseteq \langle S \rangle$ . Then by **Lemma 1.2**, there exists a covering space  $(\widetilde{X}', \widetilde{x}', p')$  of  $(X, x)$  such that  $p' * \pi(\widetilde{X}', \widetilde{x}') = \langle S \rangle = \langle A \cup B \rangle$ . Now  $A \subseteq \langle S \rangle \Rightarrow p_1 * \pi(\widetilde{X}_1, \widetilde{x}_1) \subseteq p' * \pi(\widetilde{X}', \widetilde{x}') \Rightarrow (\widetilde{X}_1, \widetilde{x}_1, p_1) \geq (\widetilde{X}', \widetilde{x}', p')$ . Similarly  $B \subseteq \langle S \rangle \Rightarrow (\widetilde{X}_2, \widetilde{x}_2, p_2) \geq (\widetilde{X}', \widetilde{x}', p')$ . Thus  $(\widetilde{X}', \widetilde{x}', p')$  is a lower bound of  $(\widetilde{X}_1, \widetilde{x}_1, p_1)$  and  $(\widetilde{X}_2, \widetilde{x}_2, p_2)$ . We claim that it is their glb. To prove this, let  $(\widetilde{X}'', \widetilde{x}'', p'') \in C(X)$  be such that  $(\widetilde{X}_1, \widetilde{x}_1, p_1) \geq (\widetilde{X}'', \widetilde{x}'', p'')$  and  $(\widetilde{X}_2, \widetilde{x}_2, p_2) \geq (\widetilde{X}'', \widetilde{x}'', p'')$ .

Then  $A \subseteq p'' * \pi(\widetilde{X}'', \widetilde{x}'') = \langle S \rangle$ . Similarly  $B \subseteq p'' * \pi(\widetilde{X}'', \widetilde{x}'') = \langle S \rangle$ . Consequently  $\langle S \rangle = \langle A \cup B \rangle \subseteq p'' * \pi(\widetilde{X}'', \widetilde{x}'')$  by definition of  $\langle S \rangle$  and this implies  $(\widetilde{X}', \widetilde{x}', p') \geq (\widetilde{X}'', \widetilde{x}'', p'')$ . Define ' $\wedge$ ' on  $C(X)$  by  $(\widetilde{X}_1, \widetilde{x}_1, p_1) \wedge (\widetilde{X}_2, \widetilde{x}_2, p_2) = (\widetilde{X}', \widetilde{x}', p')$ . Thus  $(C(X), \wedge)$  is a lower semilattice. Hence  $(C(X), \geq)$  is a lattice.

**In the section 2**, if  $C(X)$  be the collection of all regular covering spaces of  $(X, x)$ , then we will show that  $(C(X), \geq)$  is a sublattice of  $(C(X), \geq)$ . Finally, assuming  $\pi(X, x)$  is abelian we will show that  $(C(X), \geq)$  is a modular, bounded and complete lattice.

**Theorem 2.1:**

$(C(X), \geq)$  is a sublattice of  $(C(X), \geq)$ , where  $C(X)$  be the collection of all regular covering spaces of  $(X, x)$ .

**Proof :** Here  $C(X) = \{(\widetilde{X}, \widetilde{x}, p) : (\widetilde{X}, \widetilde{x}, p) \text{ is a regular covering space of } (X, x)\}$ . As universal covering is regular, so  $C(X)$  is a nonempty subset of  $C(X)$ . So it is enough to show that  $(C(X), \geq)$  is a lattice that is  $(C(X), \vee)$  is an upper semilattice and  $(C(X), \wedge)$  is a lower semilattice. Let  $(\widetilde{X}_1, \widetilde{x}_1, p_1), (\widetilde{X}_2, \widetilde{x}_2, p_2) \in C(X)$ . Then  $H_1 = p_1 * \pi(\widetilde{X}_1, \widetilde{x}_1)$  and  $H_2 = p_2 * \pi(\widetilde{X}_2, \widetilde{x}_2)$  are normal subgroups of  $\pi(X, x)$ . Let  $H = p_1 * \pi(\widetilde{X}_1, \widetilde{x}_1) \cap p_2 * \pi(\widetilde{X}_2, \widetilde{x}_2)$ . Then  $H$  is a (normal) subgroup of  $\pi(X, x)$ . Hence by **Lemma 1.2**, we find a covering space  $(\widetilde{X}, \widetilde{x}, p)$  of  $(X, x)$  such that  $p * \pi(\widetilde{X}, \widetilde{x}) = H$ . As  $H$  is a normal subgroup of  $\pi(X, x)$ ,  $(\widetilde{X}, \widetilde{x}, p) \in C(X)$ . Then  $p * \pi(\widetilde{X}, \widetilde{x}) \subseteq p_1 * \pi(\widetilde{X}_1, \widetilde{x}_1) \Leftrightarrow (\widetilde{X}, \widetilde{x}, p) \geq (\widetilde{X}_1, \widetilde{x}_1, p_1)$ . Again,  $p * \pi(\widetilde{X}, \widetilde{x}) \subseteq p_2 * \pi(\widetilde{X}_2, \widetilde{x}_2) \Leftrightarrow (\widetilde{X}, \widetilde{x}, p) \geq (\widetilde{X}_2, \widetilde{x}_2, p_2)$ . Consequently,  $(\widetilde{X}, \widetilde{x}, p)$  is an upper bound of  $(\widetilde{X}_1, \widetilde{x}_1, p_1)$  and  $(\widetilde{X}_2, \widetilde{x}_2, p_2)$ . We claim that  $(\widetilde{X}, \widetilde{x}, p)$  is the lub of  $(\widetilde{X}_1, \widetilde{x}_1, p_1)$  and  $(\widetilde{X}_2, \widetilde{x}_2, p_2)$ . Let  $(\widetilde{X}', \widetilde{x}', p') \geq (\widetilde{X}_1, \widetilde{x}_1, p_1)$  and  $(\widetilde{X}', \widetilde{x}', p') \geq (\widetilde{X}_2, \widetilde{x}_2, p_2)$  in  $C(X)$ . Then  $p' * \pi(\widetilde{X}', \widetilde{x}') \subseteq p_1 * \pi(\widetilde{X}_1, \widetilde{x}_1)$  and  $p' * \pi(\widetilde{X}', \widetilde{x}') \subseteq p_2 * \pi(\widetilde{X}_2, \widetilde{x}_2)$ . Consequently,  $p' * \pi(\widetilde{X}', \widetilde{x}') \subseteq p_1 * \pi(\widetilde{X}_1, \widetilde{x}_1) \cap p_2 * \pi(\widetilde{X}_2, \widetilde{x}_2) = H = p * \pi(\widetilde{X}, \widetilde{x})$ . Hence  $(\widetilde{X}', \widetilde{x}', p') \geq (\widetilde{X}, \widetilde{x}, p)$ . We now define ' $\vee$ ' on  $C(X)$  by the rule  $(\widetilde{X}_1, \widetilde{x}_1, p_1) \vee (\widetilde{X}_2, \widetilde{x}_2, p_2) = (\widetilde{X}, \widetilde{x}, p)$ . Consequently the partially ordered set  $(C(X), \vee)$  is an upper semilattice.

Again, as  $H_1$  and  $H_2$  are normal subgroups of  $\pi(X, x)$ , hence  $\langle H_1 \cup H_2 \rangle = H_1 + H_2$  is a (normal) subgroup of  $\pi(X, x)$  such that  $H_1 \subseteq H_1 + H_2$  and  $H_2 \subseteq H_1 + H_2$ . Then by **Lemma 1.2**, there exists a covering space  $(\widetilde{Y}, \widetilde{y}, p)$  of  $(X, x)$  such that  $p * \pi(\widetilde{Y}, \widetilde{y}) = H_1 + H_2$ . As  $H_1 + H_2$  is a normal subgroup of  $\pi(X, x)$ ,  $(\widetilde{Y}, \widetilde{y}, p) \in C(X)$ . Now  $H_1 \subseteq H_1 + H_2 \Rightarrow p_1 * \pi(\widetilde{X}_1, \widetilde{x}_1) \subseteq p * \pi(\widetilde{Y}, \widetilde{y}) \Rightarrow (\widetilde{X}_1, \widetilde{x}_1, p_1) \geq (\widetilde{Y}, \widetilde{y}, p)$ . Similarly  $H_2 \subseteq H_1 + H_2 \Rightarrow (\widetilde{X}_2, \widetilde{x}_2, p_2) \geq (\widetilde{Y}, \widetilde{y}, p)$ .

Thus  $(\widetilde{Y}, \widetilde{y}, p)$  is a lower bound of  $(\widetilde{X}_1, \widetilde{x}_1, p_1)$  and  $(\widetilde{X}_2, \widetilde{x}_2, p_2)$ . We claim that it is their glb. To prove this, let  $(\widetilde{Y}', \widetilde{y}', p') \in C(X)$  be such that  $(\widetilde{X}_1, \widetilde{x}_1, p_1) \geq (\widetilde{Y}', \widetilde{y}', p')$  and  $(\widetilde{X}_2, \widetilde{x}_2, p_2) \geq (\widetilde{Y}', \widetilde{y}', p')$ . Then  $H_1 \subseteq p' * \pi(\widetilde{Y}', \widetilde{y}') = \langle H_1 \cup H_2 \rangle$ . Similarly  $H_2 \subseteq p' * \pi(\widetilde{Y}', \widetilde{y}')$ . Consequently  $H_1 + H_2 \subseteq p' * \pi(\widetilde{Y}', \widetilde{y}')$  and this implies  $(\widetilde{Y}, \widetilde{y}, p) \geq (\widetilde{Y}', \widetilde{y}', p')$ . Define ' $\wedge$ ' on  $C(X)$  by  $(\widetilde{X}_1, \widetilde{x}_1, p_1) \wedge (\widetilde{X}_2, \widetilde{x}_2, p_2) = (\widetilde{Y}, \widetilde{y}, p)$ . Thus  $(C(X), \wedge)$  is a lower semilattice. Hence  $(C(X), \geq)$  is a lattice. Hence  $(C(X), \geq)$  is a sublattice of  $(C(X), \geq)$ .

**Theorem 2.2**

Let  $(X, x)$  be a space such that its fundamental group  $\pi(X, x)$  is abelian. Then  $(C(X), \geq)$  is a modular lattice.

**Proof :** By **theorem 1.5**,  $(C(X), \geq)$  is a lattice. we need to show that it is modular. Let  $(\widetilde{X}_1, \widetilde{x}_1, p_1), (\widetilde{X}_2, \widetilde{x}_2, p_2)$ ,

$(\widetilde{X}_3, \widetilde{x}_3, p_3) \in C(X)$  be such that  $(\widetilde{X}_1, \widetilde{x}_1, p_1) \geq (\widetilde{X}_3, \widetilde{x}_3, p_3)$ . We have to show that  $(\widetilde{X}_1, \widetilde{x}_1, p_1) \vee ((\widetilde{X}_2, \widetilde{x}_2, p_2) \wedge (\widetilde{X}_3, \widetilde{x}_3, p_3)) = ((\widetilde{X}_1, \widetilde{x}_1, p_1) \vee (\widetilde{X}_2, \widetilde{x}_2, p_2)) \wedge (\widetilde{X}_3, \widetilde{x}_3, p_3)$ . Let  $A = p_1 * \pi(\widetilde{X}_1, \widetilde{x}_1)$ ,  $B = p_2 * \pi(\widetilde{X}_2, \widetilde{x}_2)$ ,  $C = p_3 * \pi(\widetilde{X}_3, \widetilde{x}_3)$ . By definition of ' $\geq$ ', it is enough to show that  $A + (B \cap C) = (A + B) \cap C$  as  $(A + B)$ ,  $(B \cap C)$ ,  $A + (B \cap C)$  and  $(A + B) \cap C$  are all (normal) subgroups of  $\pi(X, x)$ , as  $\pi(X, x)$  is abelian. Now  $(\widetilde{X}_1, \widetilde{x}_1, p_1) \geq (\widetilde{X}_3, \widetilde{x}_3, p_3)$  implies  $A \subseteq C$  which implies  $A + (B \cap C) \subseteq (A + B) \cap C$ . So, we have to show that  $(A + B) \cap C \subseteq A + (B \cap C)$ . Let  $t \in (A + B) \cap C$ . Then  $t = a + b = c$  for  $a \in A$ ,  $b \in B$  and  $c \in C$ . Thus  $t - a = b = c - a \in B \cap C$  as  $A \subseteq C$  and  $t = a + b \in A + (B \cap C)$ . Consequently  $(A + B) \cap C \subseteq A + (B \cap C)$ . Hence  $A + (B \cap C) = (A + B) \cap C$ . Thus  $(C(X), \geq)$  is a modular lattice.

**Theorem 2.3**

Let  $(X, x)$  be a space such that its fundamental group  $\pi(X, x)$  is abelian. Then  $(C(X), \geq)$  is a bounded lattice.

**Proof :** Let  $(X, x)$  be a space such that its fundamental group  $\pi(X, x)$  is abelian. Now  $(C(X), \geq)$  has the top element, the universal covering space and has the bottom element, the trivial covering space. Hence  $(C(X), \geq)$  is a bounded lattice.

**Theorem 2.4**

Let  $(X, x)$  be a space such that its fundamental group  $\pi(X, x)$  is abelian. Then  $(C(X), \geq)$  is a complete lattice.

**Proof :** Let  $(X, x)$  be a space such that its fundamental group  $\pi(X, x)$  is abelian. Let  $S = \{(\widetilde{X}_\alpha, \widetilde{x}_\alpha, p_\alpha) : (\widetilde{X}_\alpha, \widetilde{x}_\alpha, p_\alpha) \in C(X), \alpha \in I \text{ (an indexing set)}\}$  be a subset of  $(C(X), \geq)$ . Let  $A_\alpha = p_\alpha * \pi(\widetilde{X}_\alpha, \widetilde{x}_\alpha)$ . Then  $A_\alpha$  are (abelian and normal) subgroups of the abelian group  $\pi(X, x)$ . Let  $A = \bigcap_{\alpha \in I} p_\alpha * \pi(\widetilde{X}_\alpha, \widetilde{x}_\alpha)$ . Then  $A$  is a (abelian and normal) subgroup of  $\pi(X, x)$ . Hence by **Lemma 1.2**, we find a covering space  $(\widetilde{X}, \widetilde{x}, p) \in C(X)$  such that  $p * \pi(\widetilde{X}, \widetilde{x}) = A$ . Now  $p * \pi(\widetilde{X}, \widetilde{x}) \subseteq p_\alpha * \pi(\widetilde{X}_\alpha, \widetilde{x}_\alpha) \Leftrightarrow (\widetilde{X}, \widetilde{x}, p) \geq (\widetilde{X}_\alpha, \widetilde{x}_\alpha, p_\alpha)$ . Consequently,  $(\widetilde{X}, \widetilde{x}, p)$  is an upper bound of  $(\widetilde{X}_\alpha, \widetilde{x}_\alpha, p_\alpha)$ . We claim that  $(\widetilde{X}, \widetilde{x}, p)$  is the lub of  $(\widetilde{X}_\alpha, \widetilde{x}_\alpha, p_\alpha)$ . Let  $(\widetilde{X}', \widetilde{x}', p') \geq (\widetilde{X}_\alpha, \widetilde{x}_\alpha, p_\alpha)$  in  $C(X)$ . Then  $p' * \pi(\widetilde{X}', \widetilde{x}') \subseteq p_\alpha * \pi(\widetilde{X}_\alpha, \widetilde{x}_\alpha)$  for every  $\alpha \in I$ . Consequently,  $p' * \pi(\widetilde{X}', \widetilde{x}') \subseteq \bigcap_{\alpha \in I} p_\alpha * \pi(\widetilde{X}_\alpha, \widetilde{x}_\alpha) = A = p * \pi(\widetilde{X}, \widetilde{x})$ .

Hence  $(\widetilde{X}', \widetilde{x}', p') \geq (\widetilde{X}, \widetilde{x}, p)$ . Hence  $(\widetilde{X}, \widetilde{x}, p)$  is the lub of  $S = \{(\widetilde{X}_\alpha, \widetilde{x}_\alpha, p_\alpha) : (\widetilde{X}_\alpha, \widetilde{x}_\alpha, p_\alpha) \in C(X), \alpha \in I\}$ .

That is  $(\widetilde{X}, \widetilde{x}, p) = \bigvee_{\alpha \in I} (\widetilde{X}_\alpha, \widetilde{x}_\alpha, p_\alpha)$ .

Now, let  $B = \langle \bigcup_{\alpha \in I} A_\alpha \rangle$ . Then  $B = \sum_{\alpha \in I} A_\alpha$ , as  $A_\alpha$  are (abelian and normal) subgroups of the abelian group  $\pi(X, x)$ . Hence  $B$  is a (abelian and normal) subgroup of  $\pi(X, x)$ . Hence by **Lemma 1.2**, we find a covering space  $(\widetilde{Y}, \widetilde{y}, p) \in C(X)$  such that  $p * \pi(\widetilde{Y}, \widetilde{y}) = B$ . Now each  $A_\alpha \subseteq B$  implies  $p_\alpha * \pi(\widetilde{X}_\alpha, \widetilde{x}_\alpha) \subseteq p * \pi(\widetilde{Y}, \widetilde{y})$ . Thus  $(\widetilde{Y}, \widetilde{y}, p)$  is a lower bound of  $S = \{(\widetilde{X}_\alpha, \widetilde{x}_\alpha, p_\alpha) : (\widetilde{X}_\alpha, \widetilde{x}_\alpha, p_\alpha) \in C(X), \alpha \in I\}$ . We claim that it is their glb. To prove this, let  $(\widetilde{Y}', \widetilde{y}', p') \in C(X)$  be such that  $(\widetilde{X}_\alpha, \widetilde{x}_\alpha, p_\alpha) \geq (\widetilde{Y}', \widetilde{y}', p')$ . Then  $A_\alpha \subseteq p' * \pi(\widetilde{Y}', \widetilde{y}')$  and this implies  $(\widetilde{Y}, \widetilde{y}, p) \geq (\widetilde{Y}', \widetilde{y}', p')$ . Thus  $(\widetilde{Y}, \widetilde{y}, p)$  is the glb of  $S = \{(\widetilde{X}_\alpha, \widetilde{x}_\alpha, p_\alpha) : (\widetilde{X}_\alpha, \widetilde{x}_\alpha, p_\alpha) \in C(X), \alpha \in I\}$ . That is  $(\widetilde{Y}, \widetilde{y}, p) = \bigwedge_{\alpha \in I} (\widetilde{X}_\alpha, \widetilde{x}_\alpha, p_\alpha)$ . Hence  $(C(X), \geq)$  is a complete lattice.

**In the section 3 we give some applications and examples.**

**Theorem 3.1**

Let  $(C(X), \geq)$  be a complete lattice and  $f: (C(X), \geq) \rightarrow (C(X), \geq)$  be an isotone function. Then  $f((\widetilde{X}, \widetilde{x}, p)) = (\widetilde{X}, \widetilde{x}, p)$  for some  $(\widetilde{X}, \widetilde{x}, p) \in C(X)$ .

**Proof :** Let  $S = \{(\widetilde{X}', \widetilde{x}', p') \in C(X) : (\widetilde{X}', \widetilde{x}', p') \geq f((\widetilde{X}', \widetilde{x}', p'))\}$ . As  $S$  is a subset of the complete lattice  $(C(X), \geq)$ , lub and glb of  $S$  exist. Define  $(\widetilde{X}, \widetilde{x}, p)$  as the lub of  $S$ . As  $(\widetilde{X}, \widetilde{x}, p)$  is the lub of the set  $S$ , we have  $(\widetilde{X}', \widetilde{x}', p') \geq (\widetilde{X}, \widetilde{x}, p)$  for all  $(\widetilde{X}', \widetilde{x}', p') \in S$ . Now as  $f$  is an isotone function, so we have  $(\widetilde{X}', \widetilde{x}', p') \geq f((\widetilde{X}', \widetilde{x}', p')) \geq f((\widetilde{X}, \widetilde{x}, p))$  for all  $(\widetilde{X}', \widetilde{x}', p') \in S$ . Hence  $(\widetilde{X}, \widetilde{x}, p) = \text{lub } S \geq f((\widetilde{X}, \widetilde{x}, p))$ . Again as  $f$  is isotone function, it follows that  $f((\widetilde{X}, \widetilde{x}, p)) \geq f(f((\widetilde{X}, \widetilde{x}, p)))$ , whence  $f((\widetilde{X}, \widetilde{x}, p)) \in S$ . Now since  $(\widetilde{X}, \widetilde{x}, p) = \text{lub } S$ , it follows that  $f((\widetilde{X}, \widetilde{x}, p)) \geq (\widetilde{X}, \widetilde{x}, p)$ .

Hence  $f((\widetilde{X}, \widetilde{x}, p)) = (\widetilde{X}, \widetilde{x}, p)$ .

**Example 3.2:** Let  $T = S^1 \times S^1 = \text{Torus}$ . Then  $\pi(T) = \mathbf{Z} \oplus \mathbf{Z}$ , which is abelian. Also  $\mathbb{R}^2$  is an universal covering space of  $T$ . Hence, by **Theorem 1.5**,  $(C(T), \geq)$  is a lattice, by **Theorem 2.2**,  $(C(T), \geq)$  is a modular lattice. By **Theorem 2.3** it is a bounded lattice and by **Theorem 2.4**, it is a complete lattice.

**Example 3.3:** Let  $\mathbb{R}P^n$  be the real projective  $n$ -space.  $\pi(\mathbb{R}P^n) = \mathbf{C}_2$ , which is a cyclic group of order 2, hence an abelian group. Again  $S^n$  is an universal covering space of  $\mathbb{R}P^n$  for  $n \geq 2$ . Hence, by **theorem 1.5**,  $(C(\mathbb{R}P^n), \geq)$  is a lattice for  $n \geq 2$ , by **theorem 2.2**,  $(C(\mathbb{R}P^n), \geq)$  is a modular lattice for  $n \geq 2$ . By **theorem 2.3** it is a bounded lattice for  $n \geq 2$  and by **theorem 2.4**, it is a complete lattice for  $n \geq 2$ .

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This paper doesn't any conflict of interest statement as it is produced and processed under purely private interest.

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