

Writing Assignment 5

Due Monday, March 15, 11:59 PM

Choose one of the following questions and write about it:

1. Why is $\pi_1(X, x_0)$ a group?
2. If X is path-connected, why is $\pi_1(X, x_0)$ isomorphic to $\pi_1(X, x'_0)$ for any choice of $x_0, x'_0 \in X$?
3. I claimed any group should be the set of symmetries of something. What is $\pi_1(X, x_0)$ the symmetry group of? (You may want to look up the notion of a covering space for this challenging question.)