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## THE NIELSEN NUMBER OF SET-VALUED MAPS. AN APPROXIMATION APPROACH

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In the paper the fixed point classes and the Nielsen number of a set-valued map from the recently introduced class  $J$  are defined. The class  $J$  contains, for example, u. s. c. maps of compact ANR-spaces taking contractible values. The Nielsen number of a  $J$ -map  $\varphi$  is homotopy invariant and equal to the classical Nielsen number of a sufficiently close single-valued approximation on the graph of  $\varphi$ . All results are formulated for compositions of  $J$ -maps satisfying an additional assumption (A. 2). The given examples show the necessity of (A. 2) and the dependence on a decomposition.

**Introduction.** In the recent article [7] (see also [8]) a new class  $J$  of set-valued maps of compact ANR-spaces was defined and studied from the view-point of the fixed point index theory. The class  $J$  is quite large and fairly general. For example, it contains upper semicontinuous maps taking values being  $R_\delta$ -sets (the definition of an  $R_\delta$ -set is recalled below).

Below, we try to apply the approximation techniques developed by [7] in order to define the fixed point classes and the Nielsen number  $N(\varphi)$  of a map  $\varphi$  being a composition of  $J$ -maps. We prove that this number is homotopy invariant and constitutes a lower bound for the number of fixed points of  $\varphi$ .

We hope our approximation approach, being very simple and entirely elementary may be useful in a further development.

Let us remark that several different methods in the set-valued Nielsen theory were presented by H. Schirmer [10], [11], J. Jezierski [9], Z. Dzedzej [6]. As a general reference we use [2] (see also [4]).

We would like to express our gratitude to Professor Górniewicz for his kind encouragement during the preparation of this paper and to the referee for his suggestions.

**1. Preliminaries.** We denote by  $I$  the unit interval in  $\mathbb{R}^1$ . By a space we shall understand a compact metric ANR-space and by a map an upper semicontinuous transformation of spaces whose values are non-empty compact connected sets. The composition of two maps is a map again [1].

If  $M$  is a class of maps and  $X, Y$  are spaces, then by  $M(X, Y)$  we denote the totality of  $M$ -maps (i. e. maps from the class  $M$ ) from  $X$  to  $Y$ .

By  $S$  we denote the class of single-valued maps.

Let  $X$  be a space with a metric  $d$ . For a subset  $A \subset X$  and a number  $\varepsilon > 0$ ,  $B^X(A, \varepsilon) = \{x \in X \mid \text{dist}(x, A) < \varepsilon\}$  where  $\text{dist}(\cdot, A)$  stands for the distance from  $A$ . Unless it leads to ambiguity, we shall write  $B(A, \varepsilon)$ , too.

Let  $Y$  be a space. For any map  $\varphi: X \rightarrow Y$ ,  $x \in X$  and  $\varepsilon > 0$ , let  $\varphi(x, \varepsilon) = B^Y(\varphi(x), \varepsilon)$ .

Let  $X, Y$  be spaces,  $\varphi: X \rightarrow Y$  a map and let  $\varepsilon > 0$ . A map  $f \in S(X, Y)$  is an  $\varepsilon$ -approximation (on the graph) of  $\varphi$  — we write  $f \in a(\varphi, \varepsilon)$  — if, for each  $x \in X$ ,  $f(x) \subset \varphi(x, \varepsilon)$ . (i. e. the graph of  $f$  lies in the  $\varepsilon$ -neighbourhood of the graph of  $\varphi$ ).

One can easily verify the following lemmas.

(1.1) Lemma. *If  $Z$  is a space and  $\gamma: Y \rightarrow Z$  is a map, then, for each  $\varepsilon > 0$ , there is a  $\delta > 0$  such that a map  $g \circ f \in S(X, Z)$  is an  $\varepsilon$ -approximation of  $\gamma \circ \varphi$ , provided  $g \in a(\gamma, \delta)$  and  $f \in a(\varphi, \delta)$ .  $\square$*

Using symbols, we write down the assertion of (1.1) shortly:

$$a(\gamma, \delta) \circ a(\varphi, \delta) \subset a(\gamma \circ \varphi, \varepsilon).$$

(1.2). Lemma. If  $\text{Fix}(\varphi) = \{x \in X \mid x \in \varphi(x)\}$  is contained in an open set  $U \subset X$  then there is a  $\eta > 0$  such that  $\text{Fix}(f) \subset U$  for  $f \in a(\varphi, \eta)$ .  $\square$

We say that  $u$  is a path from  $x_0$  to  $x_1$  (resp. a loop at  $x$ ) in  $B \subset X$  if  $u \in S(I, X)$ ,  $u(i) = x_i$  for  $i=0, 1$  (resp.  $u(0) = u(1) = x$ ) and  $u(I) \subset B$ . The constant loop at  $x \in X$  will be denoted by  $x^\sim$ . If  $u$  is a path, then the reverse path  $u^-$  is given by  $u^-(t) = u(1-t)$ . If  $u_1, \dots, u_n$  are paths, then the product path  $u$  (given by  $u(t) = u_i(nt - i + 1)$  for  $n^{-1}(i-1) \leq t \leq n^{-1}i$ ) is denoted by  $u_1 * \dots * u_n$ .

Let  $B_0, B_1 \subset X$ . We say that the paths  $u_0, u_1 \in S(I, X)$  are homotopic with ends in  $B_0, B_1$  and write

$$u_0 \approx u_1 \text{ end } (B_0, B_1)$$

if there is a map  $u \in S(I \times I, X)$  such that  $u(t, i) = u_i(t)$ ,  $u(i, t) \in B_i$  for  $i=0, 1$  and  $t \in I$ .

Observe that  $u_0 \approx u_1 \text{ end } (B_0, B_1)$  if and only if there are paths  $w_0, w_1$  in  $B_0, B_1$ , respectively, such that  $w_j(i) = u_j(j)$  for  $i, j=0, 1$  and the loop  $u_0 * w_1 * u_1^- * w_0^-$  is homotopic rel  $\{0, 1\}$  to the constant loop  $u_0(0)^\sim$ .

**2. Admissible maps.** One sees easily that not all maps may be approximated on the graph, however, if  $X, Y$  are spaces and  $\varphi: X \rightarrow Y$  is a  $J$ -map, i. e. satisfies the following condition

( $J$ ) for each  $x \in X$ ,  $\varepsilon > 0$ , there is a  $\delta = \delta(x, \varepsilon) > 0$ ,  $\delta \leq \varepsilon$ , such that, for any positive integer  $n$  and  $y_0 \in B(\varphi(x), \delta)$ , the inclusion  $B(\varphi(x), \delta) \subset B(\varphi(x), \varepsilon)$  induces the trivial homomorphism

$$\pi_n(B(\varphi(x), \delta), y_0) \rightarrow \pi_n(B(\varphi(x), \varepsilon), y_0),$$

then  $\varphi$  has arbitrarily close approximations.

Observe that  $\varphi$  is a  $J$ -map if, for each  $x \in X$ , the set  $\varphi(x)$  is proximally  $n$ -connected, in the sense of Dugundji [5], for any nonnegative integer  $n$ .

The class  $J$  was introduced in [7] where actually the following theorem was proved.

(2.1) Theorem. Let  $\varphi \in J(X, Y)$ .

(i) For each  $\varepsilon > 0$ ,  $a(\varphi, \varepsilon) \neq \emptyset$ .

(ii) For each  $\rho > 0$  there is an  $\varepsilon > 0$  such that any maps  $f_0, f_1 \in a(\varphi, \varepsilon)$  are joined by a homotopy  $f \in S(X \times I, Y)$  (i. e.  $f(\cdot, i) = f_i$ ,  $i=0, 1$ ) such that  $f(\cdot, t) \in a(\varphi, \rho)$  for any  $t \in I$ .  $\square$

In the above situation, we say that  $f_0, f_1$  are homotopic  $\rho$ -close to  $\varphi$ .

The maps  $\varphi_0, \varphi_1 \in J(X, Y)$  are said to be  $J$ -homotopic (we write  $\varphi_0 \approx_J \varphi_1$ ) if  $\varphi_i = \varphi(\cdot, i)$  for  $\varphi \in J(X \times I, Y)$ ,  $i=0, 1$ .

Let  $X$  be a space. A map  $\Psi: X \rightarrow X$ , is called admissible (or  $\Psi$  is an  $A$ -map) if

(A.1) there exists a diagram of  $J$ -maps and spaces

$$D: X = X_1 \xrightarrow{\varphi_1} X_2 \xrightarrow{\varphi_2} \dots \rightarrow X_n \xrightarrow{\varphi_n} X_{n+1} = X$$

(called a decomposition of  $\Psi$ ) such that  $\Psi = \varphi_n \circ \dots \circ \varphi_2 \circ \varphi_1$ .

(A.2) for  $x \in \text{Fix}(\Psi)$  there is a neighbourhood  $W_x$  of  $\Psi(x)$  which is trivial in the sense that, for each  $y_0 \in W_x$ , the inclusion  $W_x \subset X$  induces the trivial homomorphism  $\pi_1(W_x, y_0) \rightarrow \pi_1(X, y_0)$ .

Remark. Observe that (A.2) is equivalent to the assertion that each loop in  $W_x$  is fixed ends homotopic to a constant loop. This condition was assumed in [9] where a different approach to the definition of a Nielsen number for a set-valued map was presented.

Let  $\Psi_0, \Psi_1 \in A(X, X)$  and let  $D_0: X = X_1 \xrightarrow{\phi_1} X_2 \xrightarrow{\phi_2} \dots \rightarrow X_n \xrightarrow{\phi_n} X_{n+1} = X, D_1: X = Y_1 \xrightarrow{\gamma_1} Y_2 \xrightarrow{\gamma_2} \dots Y_m \xrightarrow{\gamma_m} Y_{m+1} = X$  be decompositions of  $\Psi_0, \Psi_1$ , respectively. We say that the pairs  $(\Psi_0, D_0), (\Psi_1, D_1)$  are homotopic if  $n=m, Y_k = X_k$  and  $\gamma_k \approx_J \phi_k$  for each  $k=1, 2, \dots, n$ .

The class  $A$  seems to be quite large.

**Example** ([7]). Denote by  $\mathbf{P}$  one of the following classes of subsets of  $X$ :  
 $\mathbf{C} = \{K \subset X \mid K \text{ is compact and contractible}\},$   
 $\mathbf{R}_\delta = \{K \subset X \mid \text{there are sets } K_i \in \mathbf{C}, K_{i+1} \subset K_i \text{ for } i=1, 2, \dots, \text{ such that } K = \bigcap K_i\},$   
 $\mathbf{F} = \{K \subset X \mid K \text{ is a fundamental absolute retract}\}$  (see [3]).

If  $\varphi: X \rightarrow X$  and  $\varphi(X) \in \mathbf{P}$  for each  $x \in X$ , then  $\varphi \in J(X, X) \subset A(X, X)$ .  $\square$

**3. Properties of admissible maps.** In order to make the further study and notation as clear as possible, we are going to deal only with admissible maps being compositions of two  $J$ -maps. It should be observed that passing to a more general situation causes no serious trouble.

Let  $X$  be a space,  $\Psi \in A(X, X)$  and  $D: X \xrightarrow{\phi} Y \xrightarrow{\gamma} X$  be a decomposition of  $\Psi$ . Directly from (1.1) and (2.1) we get that for any  $\xi > 0$ , there exists  $F \in a(\Psi, \xi)$ ; precisely  $F = g \circ f$  where  $g$  and  $f$  are sufficiently close approximations of  $\gamma$  and  $\phi$ , respectively. Next we have

(3.1) **Lemma.** (i) *There is a number  $\alpha_0 = \alpha_0(\Psi) > 0$  such that, for any  $y \in \text{Fix}(\Psi)$ , the neighbourhood  $\Psi(y, \alpha_0)$  of  $\Psi(y)$  is trivial (in the sense of (A.2)).*

(ii) *For  $x \in X$  and an open set  $U, \Psi(x) \subset U$ , there is a  $\eta > 0$  such that any two points  $a, b \in \Psi(x, \eta)$  are joined by a path in  $U$ . In particular, there is a number  $\beta_0 = \beta_0(\Psi) < 2^{-1}\alpha_0$  such that, for each  $y \in \text{Fix}(\Psi)$ , points  $a, b \in \Psi(y, \beta_0)$  are joined by a path in  $\Psi(y, 2^{-1}\alpha_0)$ .*

**Proof.** Let  $K = \text{Fix}(\Psi)$ . For  $x \in K$ , there is a  $\eta = \eta(x)$  such that  $B(\Psi(x), \eta) \subset W_x$  (see (A.2)). By the upper semicontinuity of  $\Psi$ , there is a  $\mu = \mu(x) < \eta$  such that  $\Psi(B(x, \mu)) \subset B(\Psi(x), 2^{-1}\eta)$ . Since  $K$  is compact, there are points  $x_1, \dots, x_n \in K$  such that  $K \subset \bigcup B(x_i, 2^{-1}\mu(x_i))$ .

Let  $\alpha_0 = 2^{-1} \min \{\mu(x_i) \mid 1 \leq i \leq n\}$ . Take any  $y \in K$ . There is  $j, 1 \leq j \leq n$ , such that  $B(y, \alpha_0) \subset B(x_j, \mu(x_j))$ . Hence  $\Psi(y, \alpha_0) \subset B(\Psi(x_j), 2^{-1}\eta + \alpha_0) \subset W_{x_j}$ . Thus any loop in  $\Psi(y, \alpha_0)$  is homotopic to a constant loop.

**Assertion** (ii) can be proved similarly, but, in place of (A.2), one should use the connectedness of values of  $\Psi$  and the uniform local contractibility property (ULC — see [4]) of ANR-spaces.  $\square$

In the sequel, for  $y \in \text{Fix}(\Psi)$ , we put  $B_y = \Psi(y, \alpha_0)$ .

Now, we are going to define the fixed point index of  $A$ -maps. Let  $V$  be an open subset of  $X$  such that  $\text{Fix}(\Psi) \cap \partial(V) = \emptyset$ .

In view of (1.2), there is a number  $\eta_0 = \eta_0(\Psi, V) > 0$  such that no element of  $a(\Psi, \eta_0)$  has fixed points on  $\partial(V)$ . By (1.1), there is a  $\rho_0 = \rho_0(\Psi, V) > 0$  such that,  $g \circ f \in a(\Psi, \eta_0)$  for  $g \in a(\gamma, \rho_0)$  and  $f \in a(\phi, \rho_0)$ . At last, by (2.1)(ii), there is an  $\varepsilon_0 = \varepsilon_0(\Psi, V) > 0$  such that, for  $f_0, f_1 \in a(\phi, \varepsilon_0)$  and  $g_0, g_1 \in a(\gamma, \varepsilon_0)$ , there are maps  $f \in S(X \times I, Y), g \in S(Y \times I, X)$  such that  $f(\cdot, i) = f_i, g(\cdot, i) = g_i, i=0, 1$ , and  $f(\cdot, t) \in a(\phi, \rho_0), g(\cdot, t) \in a(\gamma, \rho_0)$ .

The homotopy  $F: X \times I \rightarrow X$  (given by the formula  $F(x, t) = g(f(x, t), t)$ ) joins  $F_0 = g_0 \circ f_0$  and  $F_1 = g_1 \circ f_1$ .

Moreover, for any  $t \in I, F(\cdot, t) = g(\cdot, t) \circ f(\cdot, t) \in a(\Psi, \eta_0)$ . Hence  $x \neq F(x, t)$  for  $x \in \partial(V), t \in I$ . By the homotopy invariance of the ordinary fixed point index of single-valued maps (see [4])

$$\text{ind}(X, F_0, V) = \text{ind}(X, F_1, V).$$

We may define the fixed point index of the pair  $(\Psi, D)$  on  $V$  by

$$(3.2) \quad \text{ind}(X, \Psi, D, V) = \text{ind}(X, g \circ f, V)$$

where  $g \in a(\gamma, \varepsilon)$ ,  $f \in a(\varphi, \varepsilon)$  and  $0 < \varepsilon < \varepsilon_0(\Psi, V)$ . The index is well defined since it does not depend on the choice of  $g$  and  $f$ .

Using the same reasoning, we are in a position to define a number  $\bar{N}$  by

$$(3.3) \quad \bar{N}(\Psi, D) = N(g \circ f)$$

where  $g \in a(\gamma, \varepsilon_0(\Psi, X))$ ,  $f \in a(\varphi, \varepsilon_0(\Psi, X))$ , and  $N(g \circ f)$  is the Nielsen number of  $g \circ f$  (see [2] or [4]). The number  $\bar{N}$  is well defined once again.

Remark. The above index in a natural way generalizes the index introduced in [7] (or [8]) for  $J$ -maps. One can easily prove that standard properties of an index are satisfied (maybe except that of commutativity). Observe that, to define the index (or the number  $\bar{N}(\Psi, D)$ ), assumption (A.2) is superfluous.

**4. The Nielsen number of an admissible map.** Let  $X$  be a space,  $\Psi \in A(X, X)$  and let  $D: X \xrightarrow{\varphi} Y \xrightarrow{\gamma} X$  be a decomposition of  $\Psi$ . We say that points  $x, y \in \text{Fix}(\Psi)$  are  $D$ -equivalent, if there are:

- (i) a path  $u$  from  $x$  to  $y$ ,
- (ii) a number  $\delta > 0$ , trivial neighbourhoods  $W_x$  of  $\Psi(x)$  and  $W_y$  of  $\Psi(y)$  such that

$$u \approx g \circ f \circ u \text{ end}(W_x, W_y),$$

for any  $f \in a(\varphi, \delta)$ ,  $g \in a(\gamma, \delta)$ .

If fixed points  $x, y$  are  $D$ -equivalent, then we write  $x \sim^D y$ .

First, we shall prove the following

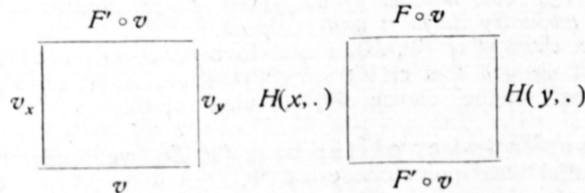
(4.1) Lemma. *There exists  $\delta_0 = \delta_0(\Psi)$  such that, for arbitrarily chosen points  $x, y \in \text{Fix}(\Psi)$ ,  $x \sim^D y$  if and only if there is a path  $v$  from  $x$  to  $y$  such that  $v \approx g \circ f \circ v \text{ end}(B_x, B_y)$  for any  $f \in a(\varphi, \delta_0)$ ,  $g \in a(\gamma, \delta_0)$ .*

Proof. The "only if" part is to be proved. By (1.1), (2.1)(ii), choose  $\delta_0 = \delta_0(\Psi)$  such that for any  $f, f' \in a(\varphi, \delta_0)$ ,  $g, g' \in a(\gamma, \delta_0)$  the compositions  $g \circ f$  and  $g' \circ f'$  are homotopic  $a_0$ -close to  $\Psi$ .

Let  $x, y \in \text{Fix}(\Psi)$ ,  $x \sim^D y$ . There is a path  $u$  from  $x$  to  $y$ ,  $\delta > 0$ , and trivial neighbourhoods  $W_x$  of  $\Psi(x)$  and  $W_y$  of  $\Psi(y)$  such that  $u \approx g' \circ f' \circ u \text{ end}(W_x, W_y)$  for  $g' \in a(\gamma, \delta)$ ,  $f' \in a(\varphi, \delta)$ .

By (3.1)(ii), choose  $\eta > 0$  such that any two points from  $\Psi(x, \eta)$  (resp. from  $\Psi(y, \eta)$ ) may be joined by a path in  $B_x \cap W_x$  (resp. in  $B_y \cap W_y$ ).

Let  $v := u$  and let  $g \in a(\gamma, \delta_0)$ ,  $f \in a(\varphi, \delta_0)$ . Take  $\delta_1 > 0$ ,  $\delta_1 < \min(\delta_0, \delta)$ , such that  $a(\gamma, \delta_1) \circ a(\varphi, \delta_1) \subset a(\Psi, \eta)$ . Let  $g' \in a(\gamma, \delta_1)$ ,  $f' \in a(\varphi, \delta_1)$ ,  $F' := g' \circ f'$ . Obviously,  $x, F'(x) \in \Psi(x, \eta)$  and  $y, F'(y) \in \Psi(y, \eta)$ . Hence there are paths  $v_x$  from  $x$  to  $F'(x)$  in  $B_x \cap W_x$  and  $v_y$  from  $y$  to  $F'(y)$  in  $B_y \cap W_y$ . Moreover, by the choice of  $\delta_0$ , there is a homotopy  $H \in S(X \times I, X)$ ,  $H(\cdot, 0) = F'$ ,  $H(\cdot, 1) = F = g \circ f$  such that, for any  $t \in I$ ,  $H(\cdot, t) \in a(\Psi, \alpha_0)$ . In the diagrams of paths



any loop is homotopic rel  $\{0, 1\}$  to a constant loop and  $v_x * H(x, \cdot) \subset B_x$ ,  $v_y * H(y, \cdot) \subset B_y$ . Hence  $v \approx F \circ v \text{ end}(B_x, B_y)$ .  $\square$

The relation “ $D$ ” is non empty. Moreover, we prove

(4.2) Theorem. *The relation “ $D$ ” is an equivalence.*

Proof. Let  $x \in \text{Fix}(\Psi)$ . By (1.1), there is a  $\delta > 0$  such that  $a(\gamma, \delta) \circ a(\varphi, \delta) \subset a(\Psi, \beta_0)$ , ( $\beta_0 = \beta_0(\Psi)$ ). Let  $f \in a(\varphi, \delta)$ ,  $g \in a(\gamma, \delta)$  and  $F = g \circ f$ . Obviously,  $x, F(x) \in \Psi(x, \beta_0)$ . By (3.1)(ii), there is a path  $v$  from  $x$  to  $F(x)$  in  $\Psi(x, 2^{-1}a_0) \subset B_x$ . The homotopy  $h \in S(\tilde{\lambda} \times I, X)$ ,  $h(s, t) = v(t)$ , shows that  $x \sim^D F \circ x \sim^D \text{end}(B_x, B_x)$  and  $x \sim^D x$ .

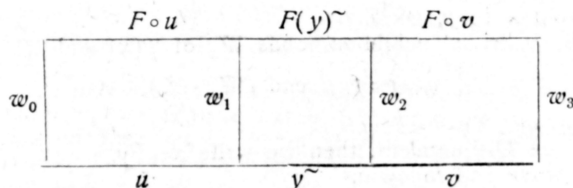
If  $x \sim^D y$ , then, reversing the path, we easily see that  $y \sim^D x$ .

Now, assume that  $x \sim^D y, y \sim^D z, x, y, z \in \text{Fix}(\Psi)$ . There are paths  $u$  from  $x$  to  $y$ ,  $v$  from  $y$  to  $z$  and a number  $\varepsilon > 0$  such that

$$u \approx F \circ u \text{ end}(B_x, B_y), \quad v \approx F \circ v \text{ end}(B_y, B_z)$$

for any  $F = g \circ f$  where  $g \in a(\gamma, \varepsilon), f \in a(\varphi, \varepsilon)$ . Let  $h_1, h_2 \in S(I \times I, X)$  join  $u$  and  $F \circ u, v$  and  $F \circ v$ , respectively. Let  $w_i = h_1(i, \cdot), i = 0, 1, w_j = h_2(j - 2, \cdot), j = 2, 3$ . The loop  $u * w_2 * F(y) \sim * w_1^{-1}$  lies in  $B_y$ , so by (3.1)(i), it is homotopic to a constant one.

The diagram



shows that  $x \sim^D z$ .  $\square$

The equivalence classes of the relation “ $\sim^D$ ” are called fixed point classes of  $(\Psi, D)$  and denoted by  $\Psi_D$  (below we shall omit the subscript  $D$  unless it leads to ambiguity).

(4.3) Theorem. *Any fixed point class  $\Psi$  of  $(\Psi, D)$  is an open subset of the set  $\text{Fix}(\Psi)$ .*

Proof. Let  $x \in \Psi$ . By the ULC property of the space  $X$ , there is a number  $\eta > 0$  such that any point  $y \in B(x, \eta) \cap \text{Fix}(\Psi)$  is joined with  $x$  by a path  $u$  lying in  $B(x, \beta_0)$ . Observe that  $u(I) \subset \Psi(x, \beta_0)$ . Choose an  $\varepsilon > 0$  such that  $a(\gamma, \varepsilon) \circ a(\varphi, \varepsilon) \subset a(\Psi, \beta_0)$  and let  $F = g \circ f$  where  $g \in a(\gamma, \varepsilon), f \in a(\varphi, \varepsilon)$ . For each  $t \in I, F \circ u(t) \in \Psi(u(t), \beta_0) \subset \Psi(x, a_0)$ . Obviously,  $x, F(x) \in \Psi(x, \beta_0), y, F(y) \in \Psi(y, \beta_0)$ .

By (3.1)(ii), there are paths  $w_x$  from  $x$  to  $F(x)$  and  $w_y$  from  $y$  to  $F(y)$  lying in  $\Psi(x, 2^{-1}a_0)$  and  $\Psi(y, 2^{-1}a_0)$ . But  $\Psi(x, 2^{-1}a_0) \cup \Psi(y, 2^{-1}a_0) \subset \Psi(x, a_0)$ . The loop  $u * w_y * (F \circ u)^{-1} * w_x^{-1}$  lies in  $\Psi(x, a_0)$ , so  $x \sim^D y$  since  $u \approx F \circ u \text{ end}(B_x, B_y)$ . Thus  $B(x, \eta) \cap \text{Fix}(\Psi) \subset \Psi$ .  $\square$

Recall that as  $\Psi$  is upper semi-continuous  $\text{Fix}(\Psi)$  is compact; hence we have

(4.4) Corollary. *The number of all fixed point classes of  $(\Psi, D)$  is finite. These classes are mutually disjoint and compact.*  $\square$

The fixed point class  $\Psi$  of  $(\Psi, D)$  is said to be  $D$ -essential if, for each open neighbourhood  $V$  of  $\Psi$  such that  $\text{cl}(V) \cap \text{Fix}(\Psi) = \Psi, \text{ind}(X, \Psi, D, V) \neq 0$ . This definition does not depend on the choice of  $V$  in view of the excision property of the index.

By the Nielsen number of the pair  $(\Psi, D)$  we understand the number  $N(\Psi, D)$  of  $D$ -essential fixed point classes of  $(\Psi, D)$ .

(4.5) Corollary. *Any admissible map  $\Psi: X \rightarrow X$  with a decomposition  $D$  has at least  $N(\Psi, D)$  fixed points.*  $\square$

5. Homotopy invariance of  $N(\cdot, \cdot)$ . In this section we are going to prove that the

Nielsen number  $N(\Psi, D)$  is homotopy invariant and  $N(\Psi, D) = \bar{N}(\Psi, D)$ . As above, let  $X$  be a space and let  $\Psi \in A(X, X)$  have a decomposition  $D: X \xrightarrow{\varphi} Y \xrightarrow{f} X$ .

Let  $\Psi_1, \dots, \Psi_n$  be all fixed point classes of  $(\Psi, D)$ . There exists a number  $\xi_0 = \xi_0(\Psi)$ ,  $0 < \xi_0 < \beta_0(\Psi)$ , such that  $B(\Psi_i, \xi_0) \cap B(\Psi_j, \xi_0) = \emptyset$  for  $i \neq j$ ,  $1 \leq i, j \leq n$ , and such that for any  $x \in X$  whatever  $a, b \in B(x, \xi_0)$ , may be joined by a path in  $B(x, 2^{-1}\alpha_0)$ .

(5.1). Lemma. *There is a number  $0 < \varepsilon_1 = \varepsilon_1(\Psi) < \delta_0(\Psi)$  such that, for  $f \in a(\varphi, \varepsilon_1)$ ,  $g \in a(\gamma, \varepsilon_1)$  and an arbitrary fixed point class  $F$  of  $F = g \circ f$  (see [2] or [4]), there is  $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$  such that  $F = B(\Psi_i, \xi_0) \cap \text{Fix}(F)$ .*

Proof. By (1.2), there is  $\mu < \xi_0$  such that if  $G \in a(\Psi, \mu)$ , then  $\text{Fix}(G) \subset B(\text{Fix}(\Psi), \xi_0)$ . Choose an  $\varepsilon_1 = \varepsilon_1(\Psi) < \delta_0(\Psi)$  such that  $a(\gamma, \varepsilon_1) \circ a(\varphi, \varepsilon_1) \subset a(\Psi, \mu)$ . Let  $F = g \circ f$  where  $g \in a(\gamma, \varepsilon_1)$ ,  $f \in a(\varphi, \varepsilon_1)$ . Denote by  $F$  an arbitrary fixed point class of  $F$  and take  $x' \in F$ ,  $y' \in \text{Fix}(F)$ . There are points  $x, y \in \text{Fix}(\Psi)$  such that  $x' \in B(x, \xi_0)$ ,  $y' \in B(y, \xi_0)$ . Hence  $x, x', F(x) \in \Psi(x, \beta_0)$ ,  $y, y', F(y) \in \Psi(y, \beta_0)$ . There are paths  $u_x$  from  $x$  to  $x'$  in  $B(x, 2^{-1}\alpha_0)$  and  $u_y$  from  $y$  to  $y'$  in  $B(y, 2^{-1}\alpha_0)$ . By (3.1)(ii), we have paths  $w_x$  from  $x$  to  $F(x)$  in  $\Psi(x, 2^{-1}\alpha_0)$  and  $w_y$  from  $y$  to  $F(y)$  in  $\Psi(y, 2^{-1}\alpha_0)$ . Observe that the paths  $F \circ u_x, F \circ u_y$  lie in  $\Psi(x, \alpha_0)$  and  $\Psi(y, \alpha_0)$ , respectively.

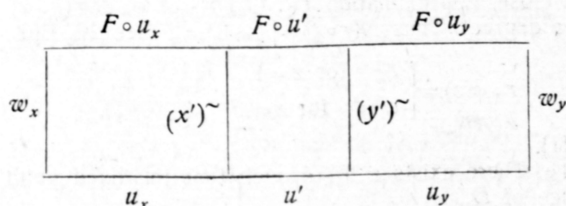
Let  $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$  be such that  $x \in \Psi_i$ . We shall end the proof by showing that:

(i) if  $y' \in F$ , then  $y \in \Psi_i$ ; and

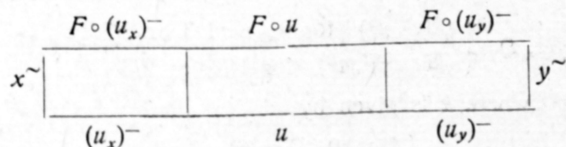
(ii) if  $y \in \Psi_i$ , then  $y' \in F$ .

Ad (i). There is a path  $u'$  from  $x'$  to  $y'$  such that  $u' \approx F \circ u' \text{ rel } \{0, 1\}$ .

The diagram



shows that  $u_x * u' * u_y \approx F \circ (u_x * u' * u_y)$  end  $(B_x, B_y)$ , hence  $x \sim^D y$ ,  $y \in \Psi_i$ . Ad (ii). Since  $x \sim^D y$ , therefore, by lemma (4.1), there is a path  $u$  from  $x$  to  $y$  such that  $u \approx F \circ u$  end  $(B_x, B_y)$ . The diagram



shows that  $w \approx F \circ w \text{ rel } \{0, 1\}$ , ( $w = (u_x)^- * u * (u_y)^-$ ), i. e.  $x \sim y$ ,  $y \in F$ .  $\square$

(5.2) Theorem.  $N(\Psi, D) = \bar{N}(\Psi, D)$ .

Proof. Let  $\varepsilon < \varepsilon_0(\Psi, B(\text{Fix}(\Psi), \xi_0))$  and  $\varepsilon < \varepsilon_1(\Psi)$ . By (3.4),  $\bar{N}(\Psi, D) = N(F)$  where  $F = g \circ f$ ,  $g \in a(\gamma, \varepsilon)$ ,  $f \in a(\varphi, \varepsilon)$ . Let  $\Psi$  be a  $D$ -essential class of  $(\Psi, D)$ . Then, by (3.2),  $\text{ind}(X, \Psi, D, B(\Psi, \xi_0)) = \text{ind}(X, F, B(\Psi, \xi_0)) \neq 0$ . Hence there is  $x \in B(\Psi, \xi_0) \cap \text{Fix}(F)$ . Let  $F$  be a fixed point class of  $F$  that contains  $x$ . By (5.1), we find a class  $\Psi'$  of  $(\Psi, D)$  such that  $F = B(\Psi', \xi_0) \cap \text{Fix}(F)$ . Therefore  $\Psi = \Psi'$  and  $F$  is essential. Thus  $\Psi \rightarrow B(\Psi, \xi_0) \cap \text{Fix}(F)$  defines a bijection between the sets of all essential fixed point classes of  $(\Psi, D)$  and  $F$ . (For its surjectivity see (5.1)).  $\square$

To prove the homotopy invariance of the Nielsen number  $N(\Psi, D)$ , we shall need the following lemma which is proved in [8].

(5.3) Lemma. Let  $\varphi \in J(X \times I, Y)$ . For any  $\varepsilon > 0, t \in I$ , there is  $\lambda > 0$  such that for  $h \in a(\varphi, \lambda), \tilde{h}(\cdot, t) \in a(\varphi(\cdot, t), \varepsilon)$ .  $\square$

(5.4) Theorem. The Nielsen number  $N(\Psi, D)$  is homotopy invariant.

Proof. Let  $\Psi_0, \Psi_1 \in A(X, X)$  and let  $D_0: X \xrightarrow{\varphi_0} Y' \xrightarrow{\gamma_0} X, D_1: X \xrightarrow{\varphi_1} Y'' \xrightarrow{\gamma_1} X$  be decompositions of  $\Psi_0, \Psi_1$ , respectively. Assume that  $(\Psi_0, D_0) \approx (\Psi_1, D_1)$ , i. e.  $\varphi_0 \approx J\varphi_1, \gamma_0 \approx J\gamma_1$  and  $Y' = Y''$ . We have  $\varphi \in J(X \times I, Y')$  and  $\gamma \in J(Y' \times I, X)$  such that  $\varphi(\cdot, i) = \varphi_i$  and  $\gamma(\cdot, i) = \gamma_i$  for  $i = 0, 1$ .

By (5.2), (3.3), there is  $\varepsilon > 0$  such that  $N(\Psi_i, D_i) = N(g_i \circ f_i)$  for arbitrary  $g_i \in a(\gamma_i, \varepsilon), f_i \in a(\varphi_i, \varepsilon), i = 0, 1$ . By (5.3) take  $\lambda > 0$  such that, for  $h \in a(\varphi, \lambda)$  and  $k \in a(\gamma, \lambda), \tilde{h}(\cdot, i) \in a(\varphi_i, \varepsilon)$  and  $k(\cdot, i) \in a(\gamma_i, \varepsilon), i = 0, 1$ . Such maps  $h, k$  exist in view of (2.1)(i). Obviously,  $N(\Psi_0, D_0) = N(k(\cdot, 0) \circ h(\cdot, 0)) = N(k(\cdot, 1) \circ h(\cdot, 1)) = N(\Psi_1, D_1)$ .  $\square$

6. Examples. In this section we shall show several examples.

(6.1) Example. First, we shall prove that condition (A.2) in the definition of an admissible map is really not superfluous.

Let  $C$  be the complex plane,  $X = S^1 \subset C$ , where  $S^1$  is the unit circle, and  $Y = \{(e^{6\pi it}, e^{2\pi it}) \in C \times C \mid t \in I\}$ . Define a  $J$ -map  $\varphi: X \rightarrow Y$  by

$$\varphi(z) = \begin{cases} \{(e^{6\pi it}, e^{2\pi it}) \mid t \in [0, 2/3]\} & \text{for } z = 1 \\ \{(e^{6\pi i(t^2+2)/3}, e^{2\pi i(t^2+2)/3}) & \text{for } z = e^{2\pi it}, t \in (0, 1) \end{cases}$$

and  $r \in S(Y, X)$  by  $r(z, s) = z$ . Observe that the pair  $(Y, r)$  is a 3-fold covering of  $X$ . For a sufficiently close approximation  $f \in S(X, Y)$  of  $\varphi, \text{deg}(r \circ \varphi) = 3$  (by  $\text{deg}(\cdot)$  we denote the Brouwer degree). Thus  $N(r \circ f) = |1 - 3| = 2$  (see [2]). But

$$r \circ \varphi(z) = \begin{cases} S^1 & \text{for } z = 1 \\ e^{2\pi it^2} & \text{for } z = e^{2\pi it}, t \in (0, 1). \end{cases}$$

Hence  $\text{Fix}(r \circ \varphi) = \{1\}$ .

(6.2) Example. There exists a  $\Psi \in A$  such that the fixed point classes of  $(\Psi, D)$  depend on the choice of  $D$ .

Let  $X = S^1 \times I$  and define maps  $\varphi \in J(X, X), f, g \in S(X, X)$  by the formulae

$$\varphi(z, t) = \begin{cases} (z, t) & \text{for } 0 \leq t < 1/3 \text{ or } 2/3 < t \leq 1 \\ \{ze^{2\pi is} \mid 0 \leq s \leq 1/2\} \times \{t\} & \text{for } 1/3 \leq t \leq 2/3, \end{cases}$$

$$f(z, t) = \begin{cases} (k(z), t^2) & \text{for } 0 \leq t < 1/3 \text{ or } 2/3 < t \leq 1 \\ (k(z)e^{6\pi it}, t^2) & \text{for } 1/3 \leq t \leq 2/3, \end{cases}$$

and  $g(z, t) = (k(z), t^2)$  where  $k$  is given by

$$k(z) = \begin{cases} z^4, & 0 \leq \text{Arg}(z) \leq 3\pi/2 \\ z^{-8}, & 3\pi/2 \leq \text{Arg}(z) \leq 2\pi. \end{cases}$$

It is easy to see that the diagrams  $D: X \xrightarrow{\varphi} X \xrightarrow{f} X$  and  $D': X \xrightarrow{\varphi} X \xrightarrow{g} X$  are decompositions of the same map  $\Psi \in A(X, X)$ . Let  $x = (1, 0), y = (1, 1)$ . Then  $x, y \in \text{Fix}(\Psi)$  and  $x \sim^{D'} y$ . We shall show that  $x$  is not  $D$ -equivalent to  $y$ .

First, observe that  $(z, t) \in \varphi(z, t)$  for any  $(z, t) \in X$ . Thus, for each  $\varepsilon > 0, F = f \circ \text{id}_X \in a(\Psi, \varepsilon)$  and  $x, y \in \text{Fix}(F)$ . Suppose to the contrary that  $x \sim^D y$ . Then, by (5.1),  $x, y$  belong to the same fixed point class of  $F$ , so there is a path  $u$  from  $x$  to  $y$  such that  $u \approx F \circ u \text{ rel } \{0, 1\}$ . If  $r: X \rightarrow S^1$  is given by  $r(z, t) = z$ , then the maps  $r \circ u$  and  $r \circ F \circ u$  are homotopic to each other. But this is a contradiction since, as it is easy to compute  $\text{deg}(r \circ F \circ u) = \text{deg}(r \circ u) + 1$  (the Brouwer degree is homotopy invariant).  $\square$



Let  $X$  be a space. We shall say that a map  $\Psi \in A(X, X)$  is strongly admissible if condition (A.2) holds for each  $x \in X$  (not only for  $x \in \text{Fix}(\Psi)$ ).

(6.3) Proposition. *If  $\Psi: X \rightarrow X$  is strongly admissible, then the fixed point classes of  $(\Psi, D)$  do not depend on  $D$ .*

Proof. Using the strong admissibility of  $\Psi$ , we prove (comp. (3.1)) that there are numbers  $\alpha_1 = \alpha_1(\Psi) < \alpha_0(\Psi)$ ,  $\beta_1 = \beta_1(\Psi) < 2^{-1}\alpha_1$  such that: for  $x \in X$ ,  $\Psi(x, \alpha_1)$  is trivial and any two points from  $\Psi(x, \beta_1)$  may be joined by a path in  $\Psi(x, 2^{-1}\alpha_1)$ . Let  $D_i: X \xrightarrow{\sigma_i} Y_i \xrightarrow{\gamma_i} X$ ,  $i=0, 1$ , be two distinct decompositions of  $\Psi$ . Take  $x, y \in \text{Fix}(\Psi)$  and assume that there is a path  $u$  from  $x$  to  $y$ . By (1.1), there is  $\varepsilon > 0$  such that, for  $f_i \in a(\varphi_i, \varepsilon)$ ,  $g_i \in a(\gamma_i, \varepsilon)$ ,  $F_i = g_i \circ f_i \in a(\Psi, \beta_1)$ ,  $i=0, 1$ . Hence, for any  $t \in I$ ,  $F_i(u(t)) \in \Psi(u(t), \beta_1)$ . By compactness, there are points  $t_0 = 0 < t_1 < \dots < t_n = 1$  such that, for each  $j=1, \dots, n$ ,  $F_i \circ u([t_{j-1}, t_j]) \subset \Psi(u(\tau_j), \beta_1)$  for some  $\tau_j \in I$ . Additionally, we assume that  $u(\tau_j) \in B(u(\tau_{j-1}), 2^{-1}\alpha_1)$  for  $j=1, \dots, n+1$ , where  $\tau_0=0$  and  $\tau_{n+1}=1$ . Points  $F_0 \circ u(t_j)$  and  $F_1 \circ u(t_j)$  may be joined by a path  $w_j$  in  $\Psi(u(\tau_j), 2^{-1}\alpha_1)$ . Points  $F_0 \circ u(t_{j-1})$  and  $F_1 \circ u(t_{j-1})$  may be joined by a path  $v_j$  in  $\Psi(u(\tau_j), 2^{-1}\alpha_1)$ . Hence the loops  $w_{j-1} * (v_j)^-$  and  $(F_0 \circ u|[t_{j-1}, t_j]) * w_j * (F_1 \circ u|[t_{j-1}, t_j])^-$  are homotopic rel  $\{0, 1\}$  to constant loops. Thus we see that

$$F_0 \circ u \approx F_1 \circ u \text{ end } (B_x, B_y),$$

which shows that  $x \sim_{D_0} y$  if and only if  $x \sim_{D_1} y$ .  $\square$

(6.4) Example. There exists a strongly admissible map  $\Psi$  such that  $N(\Psi, D)$  depends on the choice of  $D$ .

Indeed, define maps  $\varphi' \in J(S^1, S^1)$ ,  $f', g' \in S(S^1, S^1)$  by the formulae:

$$\varphi'(z) = \{ze^{2\pi it} \mid 0 \leq t \leq 1/2\},$$

$$f'(z) = z^2$$

$$g'(z) = \begin{cases} z^4 & \text{for } 0 \leq \text{Arg}(z) \leq 3\pi/2 \\ z^{-16} & \text{for } 3\pi/2 \leq \text{Arg}(z) \leq 2\pi \end{cases}$$

and let  $f, g \in S(S^2, S^2)$  be the suspensions of  $f', g'$ , respectively.

Next, let  $\varphi$  be the suspension of  $\varphi'$  (i. e.  $\varphi$  maps the segment  $[e_-, z, e_+]$  linearly onto the join of  $\varphi'(z)$  with  $e_-, e_+$ , where  $e_-$  is the south pole and  $e_+$  the north pole of  $S^2$ ). Then  $\varphi \in J(S^2, S^2)$ , and  $D: S^2 \xrightarrow{\sigma} S^2 \xrightarrow{f} S^2$ ,  $D': S^2 \xrightarrow{\sigma} S^2 \xrightarrow{g} S^2$  are decompositions of the same strongly admissible map  $\Psi: S^2 \rightarrow S^2$ ,  $\Psi(x) = S^2$  for each  $x \in S^2$ . Obviously,  $S^2 = \text{Fix}(\Psi)$  is the single fixed point class of  $(\Psi, D)$  and  $(\Psi, D')$ . By (3.2),  $\text{ind}(S^2, \Psi, D, S^2) = \text{ind}(S^2, f \circ \text{id}, S^2) = 1 + \text{deg}(f') = 3$  and  $\text{ind}(S^2, \Psi, D', S^2) = 1 + \text{deg}(g') = 0$ . Thus  $N(\Psi, D) = 1$  and  $N(\Psi, D') = 0$ .  $\square$

(6.5) Proposition. *If  $\Psi$  is a J-map, then  $N(\Psi, D)$  does not depend on the choice of  $D$ .*

The proof follows easily from (1.1), (2.1)(ii), (3.3) and (5.2).  $\square$

Finally let us note that the notions of the Nielsen theory given above, related to a single-valued map will be equivalent to the classical ones. This is a simple consequence of (5.1) and (5.2).

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