

and 12, we also obtain:

THEOREM 15. - (The third normalization theorem for homotopies of functions between $(n+1)$ -tuples). Let S, S_1, \dots, S_n be a $(n+1)$ -tuple of topological spaces, where S is a compact triangulable space, S_1, \dots, S_n are closed triangulable subspaces, G, G_1, \dots, G_n a $(n+1)$ -tuple of finite directed graphs, C, C_1, \dots, C_n and D, D_1, \dots, D_n two finite cellular decompositions of S, S_1, \dots, S_n and $e, f: S, S_1, \dots, S_n \rightarrow G, G_1, \dots, G_n$ two functions pre-cellular w.r.t. C, C_1, \dots, C_n and D, D_1, \dots, D_n respectively, which are o -homotopic. Then, from any finite cellular decomposition of the $(n+1)$ -tuple $S \times \left[\frac{1}{3}, \frac{2}{3}\right], S_1 \times \left[\frac{1}{3}, \frac{2}{3}\right], \dots, S_n \times \left[\frac{1}{3}, \frac{2}{3}\right]$, of suitable mesh, which induces on the bases decompositions finer than C, C_1, \dots, C_n and D, D_1, \dots, D_n , we obtain a finite cellular decomposition $\Gamma, \Gamma_1, \dots, \Gamma_n$ of the $(n+1)$ -tuple $S \times I, S_1 \times I, \dots, S_n \times I$, and a homotopy between e and f , which is a pre-cellular function w.r.t. $\Gamma, \Gamma_1, \dots, \Gamma_n$. \square

8) Case of homotopy groups.

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Since the n -cube I^n is a triangulable compact manifold, we can apply the results of the previous paragraphs to the case of absolute and relative n -dimensional groups of regular homotopy. So we can choose, as representative of any homotopy class, a loop which is pre-cellular w.r.t. a suitable cellular decomposition of I^n . Now, the cellular decompositions of I^n which are relevant for applications, are the triangulations and the subdivisions into cubes (the latter are determined by a partition into k parts of equal size of every edge of I^n). To construct the absolute groups $Q_n(G, v)$ we consider o -regular loops i.e. o -regular functions $f: I^n, \dot{I}^n \rightarrow G, v$ where \dot{I}^n is the boundary of I^n and v a vertex of G , whereas, in the case of relative groups $Q_n(G, G', v)$ we use the o -regular relative loops, i.e. o -regular functions $f: I^n, \dot{I}^n, J^{n-1} \rightarrow G, G', v$ where J^{n-1} is the union of the $(n-1)$ -faces of I^n , different from the face $x_n = 0$. Since the subspaces \dot{I}^n, J^{n-1} are an union of faces of I^n , they are closed subspaces, which can be triangulated and subdivided into cubes. So, by applying the third normalization theorem (see Theorems 11 and 14), directly we obtain:

THEOREM 16. - On the previous assumptions, in every o -homotopy class of the group $Q_n(G, v)$ (resp. $Q_n(G, G', v)$) there exists a loop which is pre-cellular w.r.t. a suitable triangulation (subdivision into cubes) of I^n .

Proof. - Let α be an o-homotopy class and $f \in \alpha$ a loop. By [4], Theorem 15 and its generalization, we can replace f by a c.o-regular function $g \in \alpha$. Moreover, by Theorems 11 and 14, we can replace g by a function $h \in \alpha$ which satisfies the sought conditions, since there always exist triangulations and subdivisions into cubes with mesh $< r$, where r is a predetermined real number. \square

REMARK. - If G is a finite undirected graph, we obtain Property 13 of [8] again. Nevertheless, we remark that the meaning of properly quasi-constant function of Definition 10 is weaker than that one given there. In fact, now, the constant value of a cell σ is equal to the value of a maximal cell $\tau \in st(\sigma)$, whileas, before, the value of σ must also correspond to that one of a cell of properly upper dimension.

To obtain the third normalization theorem for homotopies, we recall that the cellular decompositions Γ_1 and Γ_2 are product decompositions. Consequently, we have:

- i) To obtain a triangulation of $I^n \times I$, first we must triangulate every prism of the product. To this aim, we remark that it can be done by retaining the same triangulations \tilde{C} and \tilde{D} on the respective bases.
- ii) Whileas, to obtain a subdivision of $I^n \times I$ into k^{n+1} cubes (where k is a multiple of 3), we must complete the subdivision of $I^n \times \left[\frac{1}{3}, \frac{2}{3}\right]$ into $\frac{1}{3}k^{n+1}$ cubes, by giving a subdivision into cubes of the parallel-pipeda of the product cellular decompositions Γ_1 and Γ_2 .

Then we have:

THEOREM 17. - *On the previous assumptions, let f, g be two o-homotopic loops which are pre-cellular w.r.t. the triangulations T and T' (subdivisions into cubes Q and Q') of I^n . Then, between f and g there exists a homotopy which is pre-cellular w.r.t. a suitable triangulation (subdivision into cubes), which induces on $I^n \times \{0\}$ and $I^n \times \{1\}$ triangulations (subdivisions into cubes) finer than T and T' (than Q and Q'). \square*

REMARK 1. - If G is a undirected graph we obtain Property 14 of [8] again. Moreover now we can avoid the extension k of the c.o-regular function, by choosing as image of a cell σ , whose closure intersects the basis $S \times \{0\}$ ($S \times \{1\}$), the value of any maximal cell of $\bar{\sigma} \cap (S \times \{0\})$ ($\bar{\sigma} \cap (S \times \{1\})$).

REMARK 2. - The subdivision into cubes is useful to obtain the regular homotopy groups by blocks of vertices of G . (See [10]).