### GROUPOID AS A COVERING SPACE

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#### 1. Introduction

Let X be a topological space. We consider a groupoid G over X and the quotient groupoid G/N for any normal subgroupoid N of G. The concept of groupoid (topological groupoid) is a natural generalization of the group (topological group). An useful example of a groupoid over X is the fundamental groupoid  $\pi X$  whose object group at  $x \in X$  is the fundamental group  $\pi(X, x)$ .

It is known [5] that if X is locally simply connected, then the topology of X determines a topology on  $\pi X$  so that it becomes a topological groupoid over X, and a covering space of the product space  $X \times X$ .

In this paper the concept of the locally simple connectivity of a topological space X is applied to the groupoid G over X. That concept is defined as a term '1-connected local subgroupoid' of G. Using this concept we topologize the groupoid G so that it becomes a topological groupoid over X. With this topology the connected groupoid G is a covering space of the product space  $X \times X$ . Furthermore, if ob  $(\tilde{G}) = \tilde{X}$  is a covering space of X, then the groupoid G is also a covering space of the groupoid G.

Since the fundamental groupoid  $\pi X$  of X satisfying a certain condition has an 1-connected local subgroupoid,  $\pi X$  can always be topologized. In this case the topology on  $\pi X$  is the same as that of [5].

In section 4 the results on the groupoid G are generalized to the quotient groupoid G/N. For any topological groupoid G over X and normal subgroupoid N of G, the abstract quotient groupoid G/N can be given the identification topology, but with this topology G/N need not be a topological groupoid over X [4]. However the induced topology  $\mathcal{T}(H)$  on G makes G/N (with the identification topology) a topological groupoid over X.

A final section is related to the covering morphism. Let  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  be groupoids over the sets  $X_1$  and  $X_2$ , respectively, and  $\phi: G_1 \longrightarrow G_2$  be a covering epimorphism. If  $X_2$  is a topological space and  $G_2$  has an 1-connected local subgroupoid, then we can topologize  $X_1$  so that  $ob(\phi): X_1 \longrightarrow X_2$  is a covering map and  $\phi: G_1 \longrightarrow G_2$  is a topological covering morphism.

### 2. Preliminaries

A groupoid G over a set X is a category in which every morphism is invertible and ob(G) = X. For each x, y in X the set of morphisms in G from x to y is

denoted by G(x, y). A topological groupoid G over X is a groupoid over the topological space X such that all the structure functions

- (1) the initial and fianl maps  $\partial_0$ ,  $\partial_1: G \longrightarrow X$ ,
- (2) the unit map  $u: X \longrightarrow G$ ,  $x \longrightarrow 1_x$ ,
- (3) the composition map  $\theta: G \times G \longrightarrow G$ ,  $(a, b) \longrightarrow ba$ , whose domain is the set of (a, b) such that  $\partial_1(a) = \partial_0(b)$ ,
  - (4) the inverse map  $G \longrightarrow G$ ,  $a \longrightarrow a^{-1}$

are continuous. Thus the groupoid is a natural generalization of the group, and the topological groupoid is also a natural generalization of the topological group. If x is an object of G, then under the composition the set G(x,x) is a group, written  $G\{x\}$ , and called the object group, or vertex group, of G at x. As an useful example of a groupoid over the topological space X, we can consider the fundamental groupoid  $\pi X$  whose object group at  $x \in X$  is the fundamental group  $\pi(X, x)$ .

A groupoid G is called connected if G(x, y) is nonempty, and called 1-connected if G(x, y) has exactly one element, for all objects x, y of G. A topological groupoid G is called locally trivial if each x in ob(G) has a neighborhood U such that there is a continuous function  $\lambda: U \longrightarrow G$  such that  $\lambda(y) \in G(x, y)$  for all  $y \in U$ .

Let G be a groupoid. Then  $H \subset G$  is said to be subgroupoid of G if H is a subcategory of G which is also a groupoid. A subgroupoid N is called wide in G if N has the same objects as G, and called normal if N is wide in G and for all objects x, y of G and  $g \in G(x, y)$  we have

$$g^{-1}N\{y\}g=N\{x\}.$$

In such case the quotient groupoid G/N is defined [2].

A morphism  $\phi: G_1 \longrightarrow G_2$  of groupoids is simply a functor. For each object x of G the star of x in G, denoted by St(G,x), is the union of the sets G(x,y) for all object y of G. Thus St(G,x) consists of all elements of G with initial point x. A morphism  $\phi: \widetilde{G} \longrightarrow G$  of groupoids is called a covering morphism if for each ocject  $\widetilde{x}$  of  $\widetilde{G}$  the restriction of  $\phi$ 

$$St(\tilde{G}, \ \tilde{x}) \longrightarrow St(G, \ \phi(\tilde{x}))$$

is bijective; specially,  $\phi$  is called a covering epimorphism if  $\phi$  is a surjective covering morphism. Furthermore, we say that  $\phi$  is a topological covering morphism if for each object  $\tilde{x}$  of  $\tilde{G}$  the restriction of  $\phi$ 

$$St(\widetilde{G}, \ \widehat{x}) \longrightarrow St(G, \ \phi(\widehat{x}))$$

is a homeomorphism. (See [2] and [3]).

# 3. Groupoids

DEFINITION 3.1. Let G be a groupoid over a topological space X.  $H \subset G$  is said to be an 1-connected local subgroupoid of G if each  $x \in X$  has a neighborhood

U such that HU is an 1-connected subgroupoid of G, where  $HU = \bigcup_{x,y \in U} H(x,y)$ .

For  $x \in X$ , denote  $\mathcal{U}(H, x)$  the family of neighborhoods U of x such that HU is an 1-connected subgroupoid of G.

Every groupoid G need not have an 1-connected local subgroupoid, but has an 1-connected (local) subgroupoid if G is connected and X is finite.

Theorem 3.2. Let G be a connected groupoid over a topological space X such that X is finite. Then there exists an 1-connected (local) subgroupoid H of G.

**Proof.** If the space X consists of one element, then the theorem is clear. We assume that the theorem is satisfied when the space X has nelements. Suppose that X has n+1 elements, say,  $X = \{x_1, \dots, x_n, x_{n+1}\}$ . Let  $A = \{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$ . Then GA is a subgroupoid of G. And there exists an 1-connected (local) subgroupoid C of C by the assumption. Since C is connected we can choose an element C in the sequence of C in the sequence C in the sequence C in the sequence C is a follows;

$$\begin{split} &H(x_i, x_j) = L(x_i, x_j) &\text{ if } x_i \neq x_{n+1} \text{ and } x_j \neq x_{n+1}, \\ &H(x_i, x_{n+1}) = \{a_n^{n} + 1 a_n^{i} \mid a_n^{i} \in L(x_i, x_n)\}, \\ &H(x_{n+1}, x_i) = \{a_i^{n} (a_n^{n} + 1)^{-1} \mid a_i^{n} \in L(x_n, x_i)\}, \\ &H(x_{n+1}, x_{n+1}) = \{1_{x_{n+1}}\}. \end{split}$$

Then it is clear that H is an 1-connected (local) subgroupoid of G.

Using the 1-connected local subgroupoid H of G, we topologize the groupoid G as follows. Given  $a \in G$ , choose elements U and V of  $\mathcal{M}(H, \partial_0(a))$  and  $\mathcal{M}(H, \partial_1(a))$ , respectively. Let H(U, a, V) be defined by

$$\{cab | b \in HU, c \in HV\}.$$

Then the set of forms of H(U, a, V) constitutes a basis for a topology on G. This topology will be called the induced topology by H, and denoted by  $\mathcal{T}(H)$ . Throughout this section we assume that G is a groupoid over the topological space X with the induced topology  $\mathcal{T}(H)$  by an 1-connected local subgroupoid H of G.

Theorem 3.3. G is a locally trivial topological groupoid over X with (topologically) discrete object groups.

Proof. First we prove that G is a topological groupoid over X. Only a proof of the continuity of the composition map  $\theta: G\widetilde{\times} G \longrightarrow G$  is sketched. The proof of continuity of the other maps are similiar. Let  $\theta(a,b)=ba$  for  $(a,b)\in G\widetilde{\times} G$ , and W be any neighborhood of ba in G. Then there exist  $U\in \mathcal{U}(H,\ \partial_0(a))$  and  $V\in \mathcal{U}(H,\ \partial_1(b))$  such that  $H(U,\ ba,\ V)\subset W$ . Let  $D\in \mathcal{U}(H,\partial_1(a))$ . Then H(U,a,D) is a neighborhood of a and H(D,b,V) is a neighborhood of b. Furthermore,  $\theta((H(U,\ a,\ D)\times H(D,\ b,\ V))\cap (G\widetilde{\times} G)\subset H(U,\ ba,\ V)\subset W$ . In fact, if  $(\gamma,\delta)\in (H(U,\ a,\ D)\times H(D,\ b,\ V))\cap (G\widetilde{\times} G)$ , then  $\gamma=caa'$  and

 $\delta = b'bd$  for  $a' \in HU$ ,  $b' \in HV$ , and  $c, d \in HD$  such that  $\partial_1(c) = \partial_0(d)$ . Hence  $\theta(\gamma, \delta) = \delta \gamma = b'bdcaa' = b'baa' \in H(U, ba, V)$ . Thus the composition map  $\theta$  is continuous.

Second, G is locally trivial. For  $x \in X$ , choose an element U of  $\mathcal{M}(H, x)$ . Define a map  $\lambda: U \longrightarrow G$  by  $\lambda(y) \in H(x, y)$ . Then  $\lambda$  is a well-defined and continuous map since H is an 1-connected local subgroupoid of G.

Finally,  $G\{x\}$  has the discrete topology for each  $x \in X$ . If  $a \in G\{x\}$ , then the intersection of  $G\{x\}$  with a basic neighborhood of a is  $\{a\}$ . So  $G\{x\}$  has the discrete topology.

Let  $\mathcal{L}(G)$  be the family of all 1-connected local subgroupoids of G. Then the relation between the induced topologies on G by the elements of  $\mathcal{L}(G)$  is described as follows.

THEOREM 3.4. Let  $H_1$  and  $H_2$  be in  $\mathcal{L}(G)$ , and  $H_1 \cap H_2$  in  $\mathcal{L}(G)$ . Then  $\mathcal{T}(H_1) = \mathcal{T}(H_2)$ .

*Proof.* Let  $W \in \mathcal{T}(H_1)$  and  $a \in W$ . Then there exist  $U \in \mathcal{H}(H_1, \partial_0(a))$  and  $V \in \mathcal{H}(H_1, \partial_1(a))$  such that  $H_1(U, a, V) \subset W$ . Choose two elements U' and V' of  $\mathcal{H}(H_2, \partial_0(a))$  and  $\mathcal{H}(H_2, \partial_1(a))$ , respectively, such that  $U' \subset U$  and  $V' \subset V$ . Then  $H_2(U', a, V') \subset H_1(U, a, V) \subset W$  since  $H_1 \cap H_2 \in \mathcal{L}(G)$ . Hence we have  $W \in \mathcal{T}(H_2)$ . The converse is similiar.

COROLLARY 3.5. Let  $H_1$  and  $H_2$  be in  $\mathcal{L}(G)$ , and  $H_1 \subset H_2$ . Then  $\mathcal{T}(H_1) = \mathcal{T}(H_2)$ .

Any groupoid G need not have an 1-connected local subgroupoid but every fundamental groupoid  $\pi X$  of X satisfying a certain condition has an 1-connected local subgroupoid.

Theorem 3.6. Let  $\pi X$  be the fundamental groupoid of a topological space X. Suppose that there is a covering  $\mathcal U$  of X whose members are null homotopic open subsets of X such that for any U,  $V \in \mathcal U$ , if  $U \cap V \neq \phi$ , then  $U \cup V$  is contained in some null homotopic open subset of X. Then there exists an 1-connected local subgroupoid of  $\pi X$ .

**Proof.** Let H be the set of all homotopy equivalence classes of paths in elements of  $\mathcal{U}$ . For each  $x \in X$  there is a member U of  $\mathcal{U}$  containing x. Let y, z be in U. Since there exists a path  $\alpha$  in U from y to z, the set H(y, z) is nonempty. Each element of H(y, z) is the homotopy equivalence class of some path  $\beta$  in a member V of  $\mathcal{U}$  containing y and z. Since  $U \cup V$  is contained in some null homotopic open subset of X,  $\beta$  and  $\alpha$  are homotopic. Thus the set H(y, z) has exactly one element, and so HU is 1-connected.

It is not hard to show that HU is a subgroupoid of  $\pi X$ . Consequently, H is an 1-connected local subgroupoid of  $\pi X$ .

THEOREM 3.7. Let G be a connected groupoid over X. Then G is a covering

space of the product space  $X \times X$ . Morever if the cardinality of G(x, y),  $x, y \in X$ , is n, then G is the n-fold covering space of  $X \times X$ .

*Proof.* Define a map  $p: G \longrightarrow X \times X$  by the equation

$$p(a) = (\partial_0(a), \partial_1(a)), a \in G.$$

Then p is a well-defined and continuous map since the initial and final maps are continuous. It is clear that p is surjective by the connectivity of G.

For any basic neighborhood H(U, a, V) of a in G,  $\partial_0(H(U, a, V)) = U$  and  $\partial_1((H(U, a, V)) = V$ . Hence  $p(H(U, a, V)) = U \times V$  is open in  $X \times X$ . Therefore p is and open map.

Let x, y be in X, and  $U \in \mathcal{U}(H, x)$  and  $V \in \mathcal{U}(H, y)$ . Then  $p^{-1}(U, V) = \bigcup_{a \in G(x, y)} H(U, a, V)$ . Since HU and HV are 1-connected,  $H(U, a, V) \cap H(U, b, V) = \phi$  if  $a \neq b$ , and for each  $a \in G(x, y)$  the restriction of p

$$H(U, a, V) \longrightarrow U \times V$$

is bijective. Consequently, p is a covering map.

By definition,  $p^{-1}(x, y) = G(x, y)$  for  $x, y \in X$ . Since G is connected, G(x, y) and G(z, w) are 1-1 correspondence for any  $x, y, z, w \in X$ . Hence p is a covering map determined by the cardinality of G(x, y) for  $x, y \in X$ .

If we consider the subspace St(G, x) of G, then we have the following corollary immediately.

COROLLARY 3.8. Let G be a connected groupoid over X. For each x in X, the subspace St(G, x) of G is a covering space of X based at x.

Theorem 3.9. Let  $\tilde{G}$  and G be groupoids over  $\tilde{X}$  and X, respectively. If  $\phi: \tilde{G} \longrightarrow G$  is a morphism of groupoids such that  $ob(\phi): \tilde{X} \longrightarrow X$  is a covering map, then  $\phi$  is also a covering map.

Proof. Consider the following diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
\widetilde{G} & \stackrel{\phi}{\longrightarrow} & G \\
p_1 \downarrow & & \downarrow p_2 \\
\widetilde{X} \times \widetilde{X} \xrightarrow{\phi \times \phi} & X \times X
\end{array}$$

where  $p_1$  and  $p_2$  are the covering maps considered in Theorem 3.7, and the map  $\phi \times \phi$  is defined by  $(\phi \times \phi)(x, y) = (\phi(x), \phi(y))$  for  $x, y \in \widetilde{X}$ . Then the above diagram commutes. Hence the morphism  $\phi : \widetilde{G} \longrightarrow G$  is also a covering map.

## 4. Quotient groupoids

Let G be a groupoid over the topological space X, and N be a normal subgroupoid of G. If H is an 1-connected local subgroupoid of G, then we can easily see that H/N is also an 1-connected local subgroupoid of the quotient groupoid G/N. Hence we can consider the induced topology  $\mathcal{T}(H/N)$  on the

quotient groupoid G/N. Throughout this section we assume that the groupoid G has the induced topology  $\mathcal{T}(H)$ , and the quotient groupoid G/N has the induced topology  $\mathcal{T}(H/N)$ .

THEOREM 4.1. G/N is a locally trivial topological groupoid over X with (topologically) discrete object groups.

Proof. It is similar to Theorem 3.3.

THEOREM 4.2. Let G be a connected groupoid over X, and N be a normal subgroupoid of G. Then G/N is a covering space of the product space  $X \times X$ . Moreover if the cardinality of  $G\{x\}/N\{x\}$ ,  $x \in X$  is n, then G/N is the n-fold covering space of  $X \times X$ .

*Proof.* It is similar to Theorem 3.7.

COROLLARY 4.3. Let G be a connected groupoid over X, and N be a normal subgroupoid of G. Then the subspace St(G/N,x) of G/N is a covering space of X based at x.

THEOREM 4.4. Let  $q: G \longrightarrow G/N$  be the quotient map. Then q is a continuous and open map.

*Proof.* Let W be a neighborhood of q(a),  $a \in G$ . There exist  $U \in N(H/N, \partial_0(a))$  and  $V \in \mathcal{H}(H/N, \partial_1(a))$  such that  $H/N(U, q(a), V) \subset W$ . H(U, a, V) is a neighborhood of a and  $q(H(U, a, V)) \subset H/N(U, q(a), V) \subset W$ . Thus q is continuous.

Let W be an open subset of G. For any  $a \in W$  there exist  $U \in \mathcal{M}(H, \partial_0(a))$  and  $V \in \mathcal{M}(H, \partial_1(a))$  such that  $H(U, a, V) \subset W$ . Then  $q(a) \in H/N(U, q(a), V) = q(H(U, a, V)) \subset q(W)$  since N is normal. Hence q(W) is an open subset of G/N. Consequently q is an open map.

LEMMA 4.5. Let  $q: G \longrightarrow G/N$  be the quotient map. If  $\mathcal{T}$  is the identification topology on G/N with respect to q, then  $\mathcal{T} = \mathcal{T}(H/N)$ .

*Proof.* Since q is continuous,  $\mathcal{T}(H/N) \subset \mathcal{T}$ . Let  $W \in \mathcal{T}$ , and  $a \in W \subset G/N$ . Then we have  $q^{-1}(a) \subset q^{-1}(W) \in \mathcal{T}(H)$ . Choose an element b in  $q^{-1}(a)$ . Then there exist  $U \in \mathcal{H}(H, \partial_0(b))$  and  $V \in \mathcal{H}(H, \partial_1(b))$  such that  $H(U, b, V) \subset q^{-1}(W)$ . Consequently we get  $H/N(U, a, V) = q(H(U, b, V)) \subset qq^{-1}(W) \subset W$ . Hence we proved that  $W \in \mathcal{T}(H/N)$ .

For any topological groupoid G and normal subgroupoid N of G, the quotient groupoid G/N can be given the identification topology, but the proof of the continuity used in the group case breaks down [4]. However the induced topology  $\mathfrak{T}(H)$  on G makes G/N (with the identification topology) a topological groupoid over X.

THEOREM 4.6. Let G/N be topologized by the identification map  $q: G \longrightarrow G/N$ . Then G/N is a locally trivial topological groupoid over X with (topological-

ly) discrete object groups.

*Proof.* By Lemma 4.5, the identification topology on G/N is the same as the induced topology  $\mathcal{T}(H/N)$ . Hence G/N is a topological groupoid over X by Theorem 4.1.

## 5. Covering morphisms

Let  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  be groupoids over the sets  $X_1$  and  $X_2$ , respectively, and  $\phi: G_1 \longrightarrow G_2$  be a covering epimorphism. If  $X_2$  is a topological space and  $G_2$  has an 1-conneced local subgoupoid  $H_2$  of  $G_2$ , thet we topologize  $X_1$  so that  $\phi: X_1 \longrightarrow X_2$  is a covering map and  $\phi: G_1 \longrightarrow G_2$  is a topological covering morphism. For  $x \in X_1$ , choose an element U of  $\mathcal{K}(H_2, \phi(x))$ . Let U(x) be defined by  $\{y \in X_1 \mid \text{ there exists } a \in G_1(x,y) \text{ such that } \phi(a) \in H_2U\}$ .

Then we can easily prove that the set of the forms of U(x) constitutes a basis for a topology on  $X_1$ .

With this topology on  $X_1$ , we have the followings.

THEOREM 5.1.  $\phi: X_1 \longrightarrow X_2$  is a covering map.

*Proof.* Let W be any open subset of  $X_2$ , and  $x \in \phi^{-1}(W)$ . Choose an element U of  $\mathcal{H}(H_2, \phi(x))$  such that  $U \subset W$ . Then U(x) is a basic neighborhood of x. Let  $y \in U(x)$ . Then there exists  $a \in G_1(x, y)$  such that  $\phi(a) \in H_2U$ . Hence we have  $\phi(y) \in U$ , and so  $y \in \phi^{-1}(U)$ . Consequently, we get  $U(x) \subset \phi^{-1}(U) \subset \phi^{-1}(W)$ . Thus  $\phi$  is a continuous map.

Let V be any open subset of  $X_1$ , and  $y \in \phi(V)$ . Then there exists  $x \in V$  such that  $\phi(x) = y$ . Choose an element U of  $\mathcal{M}(H_2, y)$  such that  $U(x) \subset V$ . Then we can easily see that  $U \subset \phi(U(x)) \subset \phi(V)$ . Hence  $\phi$  is an open map.

Let  $y \in X_2$ . Since  $\phi : G_1 \longrightarrow G_2$  is a covering epimorphism, there exists  $a \in G_1$  such that  $\phi(a) = 1_y$ . Hence we have  $\partial_0(a) = x \in X_1$ , and  $\phi(x) = y$ . So  $\phi$  is surjective.

Let  $y \in X_2$ , and  $U \in \mathcal{N}(H_2, y)$ . Then we have  $\phi^{-1}(U) = \bigcup_{x \in \phi^{-1}(y)} U(x)$ , where the union is disjoint. In fact, if  $U(x) \cap U(z) \neq \phi$  for  $x, z \in \phi^{-1}(y)$ , then there exists  $w \in U(x) \cap U(z)$ , and so exist  $a \in G_1(x, w)$  and  $b \in G_1(z, w)$  such that  $\phi(a)$ ,  $\phi(b) \in H_2U$ . Since  $\phi(x) = \phi(z)$ ,  $\phi(a) = \phi(b)$ , and so  $a^{-1} = b^{-1}$ . Consequently, we have x = z.

Finally it is not hard to show that  $\phi: U(x) \longrightarrow U$  is bijective for each  $x \in \phi^{-1}(y)$ .

Now we construct an 1-connected local subgroupoid  $H_1$  of  $G_1$ , and using this subgroupoid  $H_1$  we prove that the covering morphism  $\phi: G_1 \longrightarrow G_2$  is a topological covering morphism.

LEMMA 5.2. Let  $H_1 = \{a \in G_1 | \text{there is } U \in \mathcal{H}(H_2, \partial_0(\phi(a)) \text{ such that } \phi(a) \in H_2U\}$ . Then  $H_1$  is an 1-connected local subgroupoid of  $G_1$ .

**Proof.** For  $x \in X_1$ , choose an element U of  $\mathcal{U}(H_2, \phi(x))$ . Then U(x) is a basic neighborhood of x. It is enough to show that  $H_1U(x)$  is an 1-connected subgroupoid of G.

Let  $y, z \in U(x)$ . Then there exist  $a \in G_1(x, y)$  and  $b \in G_1(x, z)$  such that  $\phi(a)$  and  $\phi(b)$  are in  $H_2U$ . Since  $\phi(y) \in U$ ,  $U \in \mathcal{U}(H_2, \phi(y))$ . Now  $ba^{-1} \in G_1(y, z)$  and  $\phi(ba^{-1}) = \phi(b)\phi(a)^{-1} \in H_2U$ . By definition of  $H_1$ ,  $ba^{-1} \in H_1(y, z)$ . Hence we have  $H_1(y, z) \neq \phi$ .

Let  $c, d \in H_1(y, z)$ . Then  $\phi(c)$  and  $\phi(d)$  are in  $H_2U$ , and so  $\phi(c) = \phi(d)$ . Since  $\phi$  is a covering morphism, c = d. Consequently,  $H_1U(x)$  is 1-connected.

Let a and b be two elements of  $H_1U(x)$  such that  $\partial_0(b) = \partial_1(a)$ . Then  $a \in H_1(y,z)$  and  $b \in H_1(z,w)$  for some  $y,z,w \in U(x)$ . By definition, there exist  $U_1 \in \mathcal{M}(H_2,\phi(y))$  and  $U_2 \in \mathcal{M}(H_2,\phi(z))$  such that  $\phi(a) \in H_2U_1$  and  $\phi(b) \in H_2U_2$ . On the other hand  $\phi(a)$  and  $\phi(b)$  are in  $H_2U$ , and  $U \in \mathcal{M}(H_2,\phi(y))$ . Thus  $\phi(ba) = \phi(b)\phi(a) \in H_2U$ , and so  $ba \in H_1(y,w) \subset H_1U(x)$ .

Similarly we can prove that the inverse of each element of  $H_1U(x)$  is also in  $H_1U(x)$ . Hence  $H_1U(x)$  is a subgroupoid of  $G_1$ .

THEOREM 5.3.  $\phi: G_1 \longrightarrow G_2$  is a topological covering morphism.

Proof. Let  $a \in G_1$ , and W be any neighborhood of  $\phi(a)$ , Then there exist  $U_2 \in \mathcal{U}(H_2, \ \partial_0(\phi(a)))$  and  $V_2 \in \mathcal{U}(H_2, \ \partial_1(\phi(a)))$  such that  $H_2(U_2, \ \phi(a), \ V_2) \subset W$ . Since  $\phi: X_1 \longrightarrow X_2$  is continuous, there exist  $U_1 \in \mathcal{U}(H_1, \ \partial_0(a))$  and  $V_1 \in \mathcal{U}(H_1, \ \partial_1(a))$  such that  $\phi(U_1) \subset U_2$  and  $\phi(V_1) \subset V_2$ . By definition of  $H_1$ ,  $\phi(H_1) \subset H_2$ . Hence we get  $\phi(H_1(U_1, \ a, \ V_1)) \subset H_2(U_2, \ \phi(a), \ V_2) \subset W$ . Thus  $\phi$  is continuous.

Let W be any open subset of  $G_1$ , and  $a \in \phi(W)$ . Then there exists  $b \in W$  such that  $\phi(b) = a$ , and exist  $U_1 \in \mathcal{R}(H_1, \ \partial_0(b))$  and  $V_1 \in \mathcal{R}(H_1, \ \partial_1(b))$  such that  $H_1$   $(U_1, b, V_1) \subset W$ . Furthermore there exist  $U_2 \in \mathcal{R}(H_2, \ \partial_0(a))$  and  $V_2 \in \mathcal{R}(H_2, \ \partial_1(a))$  such that  $U_2(\partial_0(b)) \subset U_1$  and  $V_2(\partial_1(b)) \subset V_1$ . We get  $H_2(U_2, a, V_2) \subset \phi(H_1(U_1, b, V_1)) \subset \phi(W)$ . Thus  $\phi(W)$  is an open subset of  $G_2$ . Hence  $\phi$  is an open map. Consequently, we proved that the restriction of  $\phi$ 

$$St(G_1, x) \longrightarrow St(G_2, \phi(x))$$

is a homeomorphism for each  $x \in X_1$ .

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