

# Maps between Sol 3-manifolds and coincidence Nielsen numbers\*

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## Abstract

Let  $M_A$  be the torus bundle over  $S^1$  obtained using as gluing map an Anosov matrix  $A$ . In this paper we discuss maps from  $M_{A^r}$  to  $M_A$  and compute the coincidence Nielsen numbers for such maps, moreover we use that such manifolds are double covers of torus semi-bundles and compute the coincidence Nielsen number for selfmaps of Sol 3-manifolds which are torus semi-bundles.

## 1 Introduction

Maps between torus bundles over the circle and Nielsen theory for such spaces were studied by many authors (e.g. [Sa, SWW, GW, Vi, JL]). In some of these works the authors are concerned with the description of possible maps between such spaces (specially the non-trivial maps) and in others they try to compute Nielsen numbers for some maps. In this work, following some ideas from [GW], we discuss maps between Sol 3-manifolds which are torus bundles, in particular we study maps from a torus bundle obtained using a gluing map that is a power of the Anosov matrix used in the target space, such situation explore some covering maps. In the end, using [Je2], we compute the coincidence Nielsen numbers for those maps.

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Let  $T$  denote the torus obtained as the quotient space  $\frac{\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}}{\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}}$ . For each homeomorphism  $A$  on  $T$ , induced by a linear operator in  $\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}$  that preserves  $\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}$ , we identify  $A$  with an integer matrix with determinant either 1 or  $-1$ .

We constructed  $M_A = \frac{T \times \mathbb{R}}{((x, y), t) \sim (A^n(x, y), t - n)}$  which is a torus bundle over  $S^1$ . If  $A$  is an Anosov matrix (i.e. either  $\det(A) = 1$  and  $|tr(A)| > 2$  or  $\det(A) = -1$  and  $tr(A) \neq 0$  [Sa]), we have that  $M_A$  is a 3-manifold with Sol-geometry [[SWW], (1.3)].

The present paper is organized in two sections besides this Introduction. In Section 2 we present some general facts about maps between Sol-torus bundles, in special we describe the possible maps from  $M_{A^r}$  to  $M_A$  (such situation includes many covering maps) and we compute the Nielsen coincidence numbers for said maps. In Section 3 we use the fact that torus bundles are double covers of Sol-torus semi-bundles (also named sapphire manifolds) to compute the coincidence Nielsen number for these manifolds.

## 2 Coincidence Nielsen numbers

As observed above,  $T \rightarrow M_A \xrightarrow{p} S^1$  is a fiber bundle where  $p$  is the projection given by  $p[((x, y), t)] = [t] \in \frac{\mathbb{R}}{\mathbb{Z}} \simeq \frac{[0, 1]}{0 \sim 1} \simeq S^1$ .

$$\text{Let } f, g : M_{A^r} = \frac{T \times \mathbb{R}}{((x, y), t) \sim ((A^r)^n(x, y), t - n)} \rightarrow M_A = \frac{T \times \mathbb{R}}{((x, y), t) \sim (A^n(x, y), t - n)}$$

where  $r \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

By [[Je2], (5.5)], we have that the pair  $(f, g)$  is homotopic to a fiber pair, so the following diagram is commutative:

$$\begin{CD} T @>>> M_{A^r} @>>> S^1 \\ @V f' \downarrow g' VV @V f \downarrow g VV @V \bar{f} \downarrow \bar{g} VV \\ T @>>> M_A @>>> S^1 \end{CD} \tag{2.1}$$

The theorem below describe the possible maps in such context (that includes many covering maps). This characterization will be useful later.

**Theorem 2.1.** *Let  $f : M_{A^r} \rightarrow M_A$  be a map between Sol-torus bundles  $M_{A^r}$  and  $M_A$  with Anosov matrices  $A^r$  and  $A$ , respectively,  $A \in GL(2, \mathbb{Z})$ ,  $r \in \mathbb{N}$ . Let  $f' : T \rightarrow T$  be the induced map on the fiber such that  $f'_\# = B = \begin{pmatrix} m & n \\ p & q \end{pmatrix}$ , and let  $\bar{f} : S^1 \rightarrow S^1$ .*

*Suppose that  $A^r = \begin{pmatrix} a' & b' \\ c' & d' \end{pmatrix}$ . Then:*

$$B = \begin{cases} \begin{pmatrix} q + \left[ \frac{a' - d'}{c'} \right] p & \left[ \frac{b'}{c'} \right] p \\ p & q \end{pmatrix} & , \text{ if } \deg \bar{f} = r \\ \begin{pmatrix} -q & \left[ \frac{a' - d'}{c'} \right] q - \left[ \frac{b'}{c'} \right] p \\ p & q \end{pmatrix} & , \text{ if } \deg \bar{f} = -r \\ \begin{pmatrix} -q & \left[ \frac{b'}{d'} \right] q \\ -\left[ \frac{c'}{a'} \right] q & q \end{pmatrix} & , \text{ if } \deg \bar{f} = -r; r \text{ odd and } \det A = -1 \\ 0 & , \text{ if } \deg \bar{f} \neq \pm r \end{cases} ,$$

where  $\left[ \frac{a' - d'}{c'} \right] p, \left[ \frac{b'}{c'} \right] p, \left[ \frac{a' - d'}{c'} \right] q, \left[ \frac{b'}{d'} \right] q, \left[ \frac{c'}{a'} \right] q \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

*Proof.* Suppose  $\deg \bar{f} = r$ . The commutative diagram (2.1) implies that  $BA^r = A^r B$ . By solving this matrix equation we get to the first case.

If  $\deg \bar{f} = -r$ , then the commutative diagram (2.1) implies that  $BA^r = A^{-r} B$ , and the result follows solving this matrix equation.

Suppose now that  $\deg \bar{f} = k \neq \pm r$ .

Since  $A$  is an Anosov matrix,  $A$  is diagonalizable. So, there exists  $P \in GL(2, \mathbb{R})$  such that  $P^{-1}AP = \bar{A} = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2 \end{pmatrix}$ , where  $\lambda_1$  and  $\lambda_2$  are the eigenvalues of  $A$ .

Let  $\bar{B} = P^{-1}BP = \begin{pmatrix} x & y \\ z & w \end{pmatrix}$ . By the commutative diagram (2.1) we have that  $BA^r = A^k B$ .

It follows that  $\bar{B}\bar{A}^r = \bar{A}^k \bar{B}$ , that is,  $\begin{pmatrix} x\lambda_1^r & y\lambda_2^r \\ z\lambda_1^r & w\lambda_2^r \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1^k x & \lambda_1^k y \\ \lambda_2^k z & \lambda_2^k w \end{pmatrix}$ .

Since  $\lambda_1 \lambda_2 = \det \bar{A} = \pm 1, k \neq r$  and  $\lambda_1^{|k-r|} \neq 1 \neq \lambda_2^{|k-r|}$ , we conclude that  $x = 0 = w$ . Also  $y = 0 = z$  since  $\lambda_1 = \pm \frac{1}{\lambda_2}, \lambda_2^{r+k} \neq \pm 1$ , and  $k \neq -r$ .

Thus,  $\bar{B} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$  and consequently,  $B = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ . ■

REMARK 1: This form of the matrix  $B$  coincides with the one given by [SWW] when  $f$  is a selfmap, that is,  $r = 1$ .

The next theorem follows from Corollary (5.5) of [Je2].

**Theorem 2.2.** Let  $f, g : M_{A^r} \rightarrow M_A$  be maps between Sol-torus bundles  $M_{A^r}$  and  $M_A$  with Anosov matrices  $A^r$  and  $A$ , respectively,  $A \in GL(2, \mathbb{Z})$ ,  $r \in \mathbb{N}$ . Let  $f'g' : T \rightarrow T$  be the induced maps on the fiber such that  $f'_\# = B$  and  $g'_\# = C$ . Let  $\bar{f}, \bar{g} : S^1 \rightarrow S^1$  such that  $\deg \bar{f} = k$  and  $\deg \bar{g} = l$ . Then

$$N(f, g) = \begin{cases} 0 & , \text{ if } k = l \\ \sum_{i=0}^{|k-l|-1} |\det(A^{\text{sign}(k)i} B - C)| & , \text{ if } k \neq l \end{cases}$$

$$\text{where } \text{sign}(k) := \begin{cases} -1 & , \text{ if } k < 0 \\ 1 & , \text{ if } k > 0. \end{cases}$$

REMARK 2: Under the hypotheses of Theorem 2.2, if  $A \in SL(2, \mathbb{Z})$  and  $f, g : M_{A^r} \rightarrow M_A$ , when  $B$  and  $C$  are of the form of Theorem 2.1, then a straightforward calculation shows that  $\det(A^i B - C) = \det(B) + \det(C)$ .

**Corollary 2.1.** Under the hypotheses of Theorem 2.2, if  $A \in SL(2, \mathbb{Z})$ , then

$$N(f, g) = |k - l| |\det(B) + \det(C)|.$$

**Corollary 2.2.** Under the hypotheses of Theorem 2.2, if  $f, g : M_A \rightarrow M_A$  are self homeomorphisms, then either  $N(f, g) = 0$  or  $N(f, g) = 4$ .

*Proof.* First, we observe that since  $f$  and  $g$  are homeomorphisms,  $k = \deg(\bar{f}) = \pm 1$  and  $l = \deg(\bar{g}) = \pm 1$ .

If  $\det(A) = -1$ , then by [[Sa], Lemma 1.7 (3)] we have that there exists no matrix  $B$  with  $\det(B) = \pm 1$  such that  $BA = A^{-1}B$ . Thus,  $\deg \bar{f} = 1$ , that is,  $\bar{f}$  must induce the identity homomorphism on  $\pi_1(S^1)$ . Analogously,  $\bar{g}$  also induces the identity homomorphism on  $\pi_1(S^1)$ . Therefore,  $N(f, g) = 0$ .

If  $\det(A) = 1$ , then in the cases where  $k = 1 = l$  and  $k = -1 = l$ , we get  $N(f, g) = 0$ . For  $k = -1$  and  $l = 1$  (or the symmetric case) we have, by Corollary 2.1, that  $N(f, g) = 2|\det(B) + \det(C)|$ .

So, we see that

- $N(f, g) = 0$  when either  $\det(B) = 1$  and  $\det(C) = -1$  or  $\det(B) = -1$  and  $\det(C) = 1$ ;
- $N(f, g) = 4$  when  $\det(B) = \det(C)$ . ■

REMARK 3: This corollary generalizes to coincidence the Theorem 2.2 of [GW].

### 3 Coincidence Nielsen numbers for selfmaps on sapphires

The family of 3-dimensional manifolds with Sol-geometry has two subfamilies, one of them consists of the torus bundles with an Anosov gluing map, the other one contains the torus semi-bundles (also named sapphire manifolds) (see [Mo]).

The construction of torus semi-bundles can be found in [SWW] or [Mo]. We will follow the approach of [GW] about such spaces, and we will use the same notation found there.

Let  $N_\phi$  be a sapphire space that is not a torus bundle over  $S^1$ . By [SWW] we have that  $N_\phi$  admits a Sol-geometry if and only if  $\det \phi_* = \pm 1$  and  $xyzw \neq 0$  where  $\phi_* = \begin{pmatrix} x & y \\ z & w \end{pmatrix}$ . By [[GW],(3.2)] we have that  $N_\phi$  is double-covered by a torus bundle  $M$  over  $S^1$ , that has Anosov gluing map, and the Lemma 3.3 of the same paper shows that the fundamental group  $\pi_1(M)$  is fully-invariant in  $\pi_1(N_\phi)$ . This torus bundle,  $M$ , is always orientable [[SWW],(2.8)].

In this section we compute the coincidence Nielsen number of selfmaps  $f, g : N_\phi \rightarrow N_\phi$ , beginning with self homeomorphisms.

**Theorem 3.1.** *Let  $N_\phi$  be a sapphire space that is not a torus bundle over  $S^1$ . If  $N_\phi$  supports Sol-geometry, then for every pair of self homeomorphisms  $(f, g) : N_\phi \rightarrow N_\phi$ , we have either  $N(f, g) = 0$  or  $N(f, g) = 4$ .*

*Proof.* Since  $f, g : N_\phi \rightarrow N_\phi$  are self homeomorphisms, they can be lifted to  $(f_1, g_1), (\alpha f_1, \alpha g_1), (\alpha f_1, g_1), (f_1, \alpha g_1) : M \rightarrow M$ , where  $\alpha : M \rightarrow M$  is a deck transformation. Besides, we have that  $\deg f = \pm 1$  and  $\deg g = \pm 1$ . So we have to analyze three possibilities:

- (i)  $\deg f = 1 = \deg g$ ;
- (ii)  $\deg f = -1 = \deg g$ ;
- (iii)  $\deg f = -1$  and  $\deg g = 1$ .

Note that if  $\bar{f}_1$  induces the identity on  $\pi_1(S^1)$ , then  $\bar{f}_1$  is homotopic to the identity map on  $S^1$  and since  $\alpha$  induces  $-id$  on the base  $S^1$  [GW], we have that  $\overline{\alpha f_1}$  induces  $-id$  on  $\pi_1(S^1)$ .

So, we have four possibilities for the maps  $\bar{f}_1, \bar{g}_1, \overline{\alpha f_1}, \overline{\alpha g_1}$ :

- $\bar{f}_1$  and  $\bar{g}_1$  induce  $id_{S^1}$  while  $\overline{\alpha f_1}$  and  $\overline{\alpha g_1}$  induce  $-id_{S^1}$ ;
- $\bar{f}_1$  induces  $id_{S^1}$  and  $\bar{g}_1$  induces  $-id_{S^1}$  while  $\overline{\alpha f_1}$  induces  $-id_{S^1}$  and  $\overline{\alpha g_1}$  induces  $id_{S^1}$ ;
- $\bar{f}_1$  induces  $-id_{S^1}$  and  $\bar{g}_1$  induces  $id_{S^1}$  while  $\overline{\alpha f_1}$  induces  $id_{S^1}$  and  $\overline{\alpha g_1}$  induces  $-id_{S^1}$ ;
- $\bar{f}_1$  and  $\bar{g}_1$  induce  $-id_{S^1}$  while  $\overline{\alpha f_1}$  and  $\overline{\alpha g_1}$  induce  $id_{S^1}$ .

The first and last cases are symmetric, as well as the second and the third cases, so we need to analyze just the third and fourth cases.

(i) If  $\deg f = 1 = \deg g$ , then  $\deg f_1 = 1 = \deg \alpha f_1$  and  $\deg g_1 = 1 = \deg \alpha g_1$ .

Also, if  $\bar{f}_1, \bar{g}_1 \simeq -id_{S_1}$  and  $\overline{\alpha f_1}, \overline{\alpha g_1} \simeq id_{S_1}$ , then  $\deg \bar{f}_1 = \deg \bar{g}_1 = -1$  and  $\deg \overline{\alpha f_1} = \deg \overline{\alpha g_1} = 1$ . So, by Theorem 2.2, we have that  $N(f_1, g_1) = 0$  and

$$N(f_1, \alpha g_1) = \sum_{i=0}^1 \left| \det(A^{-i}B - \alpha_{\#}C) \right| \stackrel{\text{Corollary 2.1}}{=} 2 |\det(B) + \det(\alpha_{\#}C)|.$$

We only need to analyze these two pairs of lifts because  $(\alpha f_1, \alpha g_1) = \alpha(f_1, g_1)$  and  $(\alpha f_1, g_1) = \alpha(f_1, \alpha g_1)$ , which means that the two first pairs of lifts  $(\alpha f_1, \alpha g_1)$  and  $(f_1, g_1)$  are conjugated and so are the two last  $(\alpha f_1, g_1)$  and  $(f_1, \alpha g_1)$ .

Now,  $f'_{1\#} = B$  with  $\det(B) = \pm 1$  and  $g'_{1\#} = C$  with  $\det(C) = \pm 1$ . Since  $\alpha$  induces  $\alpha_{\#} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$  on the fiber  $T$  [GW],  $\det(\alpha_{\#}C) = -\det(C)$ .

Besides, it can not happen that  $\det(\alpha_{\#}C) = -1$  and  $\det(B) = 1$ , because for  $\det(\alpha_{\#}C) = -1$  we must have  $\deg g'_{1\#} = 1$  and since  $\deg \bar{g}_1 = -1$ , we obtain  $\deg g_1 = -1$ , a contradiction. The same occurs to  $\det(B) = 1$ . Therefore, we can only have  $\det(B) = -1$  and  $\det(\alpha_{\#}C) = 1$ , which implies  $|\det(B) + \det(\alpha_{\#}C)| = 0$ , that is,  $N(f_1, \alpha g_1) = 0$ .

Now, since the coincidence Nielsen numbers of the lifts are null, we conclude that  $N(f, g) = 0$ .

As for the other case, that is,  $\bar{f}_1, \overline{\alpha g_1} \simeq -id_{S_1}$  and  $\bar{g}_1, \overline{\alpha f_1} \simeq id_{S_1}$ , we can argue in the same way as above to conclude that we can only have  $\det(B) = -1$  and  $\det(C) = 1$ , which means that  $|\det(B) + \det(C)| = 0$ , that is,  $N(f_1, g_1) = 0$ . And since  $N(f_1, \alpha g_1) = 0$ , we obtain that  $N(f, g) = 0$ .

(ii) If  $\deg f = -1 = \deg g$ , then  $\deg f_1 = -1 = \deg \alpha f_1$  and  $\deg g_1 = -1 = \deg \alpha g_1$ . Following the same procedure as above, we find  $N(f_1, g_1) = 0$  and  $N(f_1, \alpha g_1) = 0$  for the first case, and for the other case we have  $N(f_1, g_1) = 0$  and  $N(f_1, \alpha g_1) = 0$ . So, we conclude that  $N(f, g) = 0$ .

(iii) If  $\deg f = -1$  and  $\deg g = 1$ , then  $\deg f_1 = -1 = \deg \alpha f_1$  and  $\deg g_1 = 1 = \deg \alpha g_1$ . Thus,  $N(f_1, g_1) = 0$  and  $N(f_1, \alpha g_1) = 4$  for the first case, and  $N(f_1, g_1) = 4$  and  $N(f_1, \alpha g_1) = 0$  for the other case. So, we conclude that  $N(f, g) = 4$ . ■

Now, we will need of some definitions from [DJ].

In our context, the lift  $f_1$  will be called *odd* if  $f_1(\alpha \tilde{x}) = \alpha f_1(\tilde{x})$  and will be called *even* if  $f_1(\alpha \tilde{x}) = f_1(\tilde{x})$ , for all  $\tilde{x} \in M$  and a deck transformation  $\alpha : M \rightarrow M$ .

We already know that  $(\alpha f_1, \alpha g_1)$  and  $(f_1, g_1)$  are in the same lifting class; and the same for  $(\alpha f_1, g_1)$  and  $(f_1, \alpha g_1)$ .

Now:

$$\alpha(\alpha f_1, g_1) = (f_1, \alpha g_1).$$

$$(\alpha f_1, g_1)\alpha = (\alpha f_1\alpha, g_1\alpha) = \begin{cases} (\alpha f_1, g_1) & \text{if } f_1 \text{ and } g_1 \text{ are both even;} \\ (f_1, \alpha g_1) & \text{if } f_1 \text{ and } g_1 \text{ are both odd;} \\ (\alpha f_1, \alpha g_1) & \text{if } f_1 \text{ is even and } g_1 \text{ is odd;} \\ (f_1, g_1) & \text{if } f_1 \text{ is odd and } g_1 \text{ is even.} \end{cases}$$

$$\alpha(\alpha f_1, g_1)\alpha = (f_1\alpha, \alpha g_1\alpha) = \begin{cases} (f_1, \alpha g_1) & \text{if } f_1 \text{ and } g_1 \text{ are both even;} \\ (\alpha f_1, g_1) & \text{if } f_1 \text{ and } g_1 \text{ are both odd;} \\ (f_1, g_1) & \text{if } f_1 \text{ is even and } g_1 \text{ is odd;} \\ (\alpha f_1, \alpha g_1) & \text{if } f_1 \text{ is odd and } g_1 \text{ is even.} \end{cases}$$

Thus, if  $f_1$  and  $g_1$  are simultaneously even or odd, then we have two lifting classes,  $\{(f_1, g_1); (\alpha f_1, \alpha g_1)\}$  and  $\{(\alpha f_1, g_1); (f_1, \alpha g_1)\}$ . If one of  $f_1, g_1$  is even and the other is odd, then all four pairs of lifts form one lifting class.

Let us denote  $C(f_{\#}, g_{\#})_x = \{\beta \in \pi_1(N_{\phi}, x) : f_{\#}\beta = g_{\#}\beta\}$ , for  $x \in \text{Coin}(f, g)$ .

**Theorem 3.2.** *Let  $N_{\phi}$  be a sapphire space that is not a torus bundle over  $S^1$ . Suppose  $N_{\phi}$  supports Sol-geometry, then for every pair of selfmaps  $(f, g) : N_{\phi} \rightarrow N_{\phi}$ , let  $(f_1, g_1), (f_1, \alpha g_1) : M \rightarrow M$  be the lifts to the torus bundle  $M$  which is a two fold cover of  $N_{\phi}$ . Then*

$$N(f, g) = \begin{cases} \frac{N(f_1, g_1) + N(f_1, \alpha g_1)}{2} & \text{if } C(f_{\#}, g_{\#})_{p\tilde{x}} \subseteq p_{\#}\pi_1(M, \tilde{x}), \\ & \forall \tilde{x} \in \text{Coin}(f_1, g_1); \\ N(f_1, g_1) + N(f_1, \alpha g_1) & \text{if } C(f_{\#}, g_{\#})_{p\tilde{x}} \not\subseteq p_{\#}\pi_1(M, \tilde{x}). \end{cases}$$

*Proof.* Suppose that  $f_1$  and  $g_1$  are simultaneously even or odd.

If  $C(f_{\#}, g_{\#})_{p\tilde{x}} \subseteq p_{\#}\pi_1(M, \tilde{x})$  for any  $\tilde{x} \in \text{Coin}(f_1, g_1)$ , then following [[D]],(2.5)], we obtain that if a Nielsen class  $A \subset \text{Coin}(f, g)$  satisfies  $A \subset p(\text{Coin}(f_1, g_1))$ , then  $p^{-1}A$  is the sum of two Nielsen classes of  $(f_1, g_1)$  both of the same index as  $A$ . Therefore, these classes are essential if and only if  $A$  is essential. The same is true for any class in  $p(\text{Coin}(f_1, \alpha g_1))$  and since the pair of lifts  $(f_1, g_1)$  and  $(f_1, \alpha g_1)$  aren't conjugated, the sets  $p(\text{Coin}(f_1, g_1))$  and  $p(\text{Coin}(f_1, \alpha g_1))$  are disjoint [[D]],(2.3)].

Thus, 
$$N(f, g) = \frac{N(f_1, g_1) + N(f_1, \alpha g_1)}{2}.$$

If  $C(f_{\#}, g_{\#})_{p\tilde{x}} \not\subseteq p_{\#}\pi_1(M, \tilde{x})$ , then there exists  $w \in C(f_{\#}, g_{\#})_{x_0}$  that lifts to the open path  $\tilde{w}$  such that  $f_1\tilde{w} \simeq g_1\tilde{w}$ . Such  $w$  establishes the Nielsen relation between  $\tilde{x}_0$  and  $\alpha\tilde{x}_0$ ; since  $p$  is a local homeomorphism and  $\alpha$  is orientation preserving [GW], the index on  $\tilde{x}_0$  and  $\alpha\tilde{x}_0$  are equal, so this class has the double of the index of the class  $A$ , therefore it is essential if and only if  $A$  is essential. Since we have two lifting classes,  $N(f, g) = N(f_1, g_1) + N(f_1, \alpha g_1)$ .

Now, let us assume that  $f_1$  is even and  $g_1$  is odd.

If  $C(f_{\#}, g_{\#})_{p\tilde{x}} \subseteq p_{\#}\pi_1(M, \tilde{x})$  for any  $\tilde{x} \in \text{Coin}(f_1, g_1)$ , then  $p : \text{Coin}(f_1, g_1) \rightarrow \text{Coin}(f, g)$  is a bijection preserving Nielsen relation. So, for each class  $A \in \text{Coin}(f, g)$ , we have that  $p^{-1}A$  is the sum of two Nielsen classes,  $\tilde{A}_1 \subset \text{Coin}(f_1, g_1)$  and  $\tilde{A}_2 \subset \text{Coin}(f_1, \alpha g_1)$ , both of the same index as  $A$ , thus 
$$N(f, g) = \frac{N(f_1, g_1) + N(f_1, \alpha g_1)}{2}.$$

The case  $C(f_{\#}, g_{\#})_{p\tilde{x}} \not\subseteq p_{\#}\pi_1(M, \tilde{x})$  does not happen when  $f_1$  and  $g_1$  don't have the same parity.

Suppose otherwise; then there exists  $w \in C(f_{\#}, g_{\#})_{x_0}$  that lifts to the open path  $\tilde{w}$ . Since  $f_1$  is even and  $g_1$  is odd,  $f_1\tilde{w}$  lifts to a loop and  $g_1\tilde{w}$  lifts to an open path [D]], which is a contradiction because  $f_1\tilde{w} \simeq g_1\tilde{w}$  relative to the endpoints. ■

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