

1. Let  $(X, x_0), (Y, y_0)$  be path connected spaces such that  $\pi_1(X, x_0) = 0$  and  $\pi_n(Y, y_0) = 0$  for  $n > 1$ . Show that the space  $Z = X \times Y$  is  $n$ -simple for all  $n > 1$ .
2. Show that if  $p: E \rightarrow B$  is a Serre fibration and  $B$  is a path connected space then  $p$  is onto.
3. Given a Serre fibration  $F \xrightarrow{i} E \xrightarrow{p} B$ , use the homotopy lifting property to define an action of  $\pi_1(E)$  on  $\pi_n(F)$ , that is a homomorphism from  $\pi_1(E)$  to  $\text{Aut}(\pi_n(F))$  – the group of automorphisms of  $\pi_n(F)$ , such that the composition  $\pi_1(F) \xrightarrow{i_*} \pi_1(E) \rightarrow \text{Aut}(\pi_n(F))$  is the usual action of  $\pi_1(F)$  on  $\pi_n(F)$ . As a consequence, if  $i: F \rightarrow E$  is an inclusion of the fiber of a Serre fibration and  $\pi_1(E) = 0$  then  $F$  must be a simple space.
4. Given maps  $p: E \rightarrow B$  and  $f: X \rightarrow B$  the *pullback* of  $p$  along  $f$  is the space  $f^*E \subseteq X \times E$  given by

$$f^*E = \{(x, e) \in X \times E \mid f(x) = p(e)\}$$

Consider the map  $p': f^*E \rightarrow X$  given by  $p'(x, e) = x$ . Show that if  $p$  is a Hurewicz (or Serre) fibration then  $p'$  is a Hurewicz (or, respectively, Serre) fibration.

5. Let  $p: E \rightarrow B$  be a Serre fibration. Show that if  $B$  is a path connected space then for any  $b_0, b_1 \in B$  we have  $\pi_n(p^{-1}(b_0)) \cong \pi_n(p^{-1}(b_1))$  for all  $n \geq 0$ .

**Hint.** Show this first assuming that  $B$  is a contractible space. In the case of a general Serre fibration  $p: E \rightarrow B$ , take a path  $\omega: [0, 1] \rightarrow B$  such that  $\omega(i) = b_i$  for  $i = 0, 1$  and consider the fibration  $p': \omega^*E \rightarrow [0, 1]$  defined as in problem 4.