GEOMETRIC CONSTRUCTION OF A CLASSIFYING SPACE FOR THE FIBRE OF THE DOUBLE SUSPENSION

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Abstract

Let F(n) be the homotopy theoretic fibre of the double suspension $E^2: S^{2n-1} \to \Omega^2 S^{2n+1}$. It is known that there is a fibration $S^{2n-1} \to \Omega^2 S^{2n+1} \to BF(n)$ such that $\Omega BF(n) = F(n)$. In this paper, we construct BF(n) in terms of (n + 1)-tuples of polynomials.

1. Introduction

Let F(n) be the homotopy theoretic fibre of the double suspension $E^2: S^{2n-1} \to \Omega^2 S^{2n+1}$. In [2], Gray constructed a fibration

$$S^{2n-1} \xrightarrow{E^2} \Omega^2 S^{2n+1} \to BF(n) \tag{1.1}$$

such that $\Omega BF(n) = F(n)$. For n = 1, we can set $BF(1) = \Omega^2 S^3 \langle 3 \rangle$ (where $S^3 \langle 3 \rangle$ denotes the 3-connected cover of S^3), since $\Omega^2 S^3 \simeq S^1 \times \Omega^2 S^3 \langle 3 \rangle$. In order to construct BF(n) for all n, let $J^l(n)$ denote the

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l-th stage of the James construction which builds ΩS^{2n+1} , and let $W^{l}(n)$ be the homotopy theoretic fibre of the inclusion

$$j^{l}(n): J^{l}(n) \hookrightarrow J(n) \cong \Omega S^{2n+1}.$$
 (1.2)

For a certain map

$$\psi^{l}(n): W^{l}(n) \to S^{2(l+1)n-1},$$
(1.3)

we denote the fibre of $\psi^{l}(n)$ by $BF^{l}(n)$. Let p be a prime. It is shown in [2] that if $1 \leq l$, $l' \leq p-1$, then we have a homotopy equivalence localized at $p: BF^{l}(n) \cong BF^{l'}(n)$. Then, localized at p, we define BF(n)in (1.1) to be $BF^{l}(n)$ for $1 \leq l \leq p-1$. Thus for the construction of BF(n), it is important to construct a map $\psi^{l}(n)$ in (1.3). An alternate but equivalent construction of $\psi^{l}(n)$ is given in [6].

The purpose of this paper is to construct the map $\psi^l(n)$ in terms of (n+1)-tuples of polynomials. More precisely, we define a finite dimensional space $X_k^l(n)$ and a map

$$\varphi_k^l(n): X_k^l(n) \to S^{2(l+1)n-1}$$
 (1.4)

integrally so that if we form the direct limit $k \to \infty$, then we obtain $\psi^l(n)$. Thus if we denote the fibre of $\varphi^l_k(n)$ by $B^l_k(n)$, then we have $B^l_{\infty}(n) \simeq BF^l(n)$. Hence, $B^l_k(n)$ is a certain refinement of $BF^l(n)$.

Let $\operatorname{Rat}_k(n)$ denote the space of based holomorphic maps of degree k from the Riemannian sphere S^2 to the complex projective space $\mathbb{C}P^n$. The basepoint condition we assume is that $f(\infty) = [1, ..., 1]$. Such holomorphic maps are given by rational functions:

$$\begin{split} \operatorname{Rat}_k(n) &= \{(p_0(z), \, ..., \, p_n(z)): \operatorname{each} \, p_i(z) \text{ is monic, degree-}k \text{ polynomial} \\ & \text{and such that there are no roots common to all } p_i(z)\}. \end{split}$$

There is an inclusion

$$i_k(n) : \operatorname{Rat}_k(n) \hookrightarrow \Omega_k^2 \mathbb{C} P^n \cong \Omega^2 S^{2n+1}.$$
 (1.5)

Segal [7] proved that $i_k(n)$ is a homotopy equivalence up to dimension k(2n-1) (i.e., $i_k(n)$ induces isomorphisms in homotopy groups in dimensions less than k(2n-1), and an epimorphism in dimension k(2n-1)).

Later, the stable homotopy type of $\operatorname{Rat}_k(n)$ was described in [1] in terms of Snaith's stable summands of $\Omega^2 S^{2n+1}$. The Segal theorem is sharp only for n = 1 as it follows from results of [1] that $i_k(n)$ is a homotopy equivalence up to dimension (k+1)(2n-1)-1.

We generalize the definition of $\operatorname{Rat}_k(n)$ as follows. We set

$$X_k^l(n) = \{(p_0(z), ..., p_n(z)) : \text{ each } p_i(z) \text{ is a monic, degree-}k \text{ polynomial} \\ \text{ and such that there are at most } l \text{ roots common to all } p_i(z)\}.$$

In [3] for l = 1 and in [4] for general l, the stable homotopy type of $X_k^l(n)$ was described in terms of stable summands of $W^l(n)$, where $W^l(n)$ is defined in (1.2). But a stability theorem as in [7] is not known. Far from it: we do not know an unstable map $X_k^l(n) \to W^l(n)$ which is a generalization of $i_k(n)$ for l = 0 (compare (1.5)). Our first result is then:

Theorem A. For $l \ge 1$, there is a map

$$\alpha_k^l(n): X_k^l(n) \to W^l(n)$$

which satisfies the following properties: For a prime p and the homomorphism $\alpha_k^l(n)_* : H_*(X_k^l(n); \mathbb{Z}/p) \to H_*(W^l(n); \mathbb{Z}/p),$

(i) $\alpha_k^l(n)_*$ is injective.

(ii) Im $\alpha_k^l(n)_*$ is spanned by monomials in $H_*(W^l(n); \mathbb{Z}/p)$ of weight $\leq k$.

From Theorem A, we obtain:

Theorem B. For $l \ge 1$, $\alpha_k^l(n)$ is a homotopy equivalence up to dimension $\left(\left[\frac{k}{l+1}\right]+1\right)(2(l+1)n-1)-1$, where $\left[\frac{k}{l+1}\right]$ is as usual the largest integer $\le \frac{k}{l+1}$.

Remarks.

1. We construct the map $\alpha_k^l(n)$ in Section 2. The construction essentially uses the fact that

$$X_k^l(n)/X_k^{l-1}(n) \simeq \Sigma^{2ln} (\operatorname{Rat}_{k-l}(n) \vee S^0).$$

Note that $\alpha_k^l(n)$ is defined integrally.

2. The structures of $H_*(X_k^l(n); \mathbb{Z}/p)$ and $H_*(W^l(n); \mathbb{Z}/p)$ were determined in [3] for l = 1 and in [4] for general l. We recall them in Section 2.

In Section 2 we construct a map $\varphi_k^l(n): X_k^l(n) \to S^{2(l+1)n-1}$ integrally (compare (2.1)). Let $B_k^l(n)$ be the fibre of $\varphi_k^l(n)$.

Theorem C. Let $l \ge 1$.

(i) We have the following homotopy commutative diagram:

where $\beta_k^l(n)$ is the restriction of $\alpha_k^l(n)$ to the fibres.

(ii) $\beta_k^l(n)$ is a homotopy equivalence up to dimension $\left(\left[\frac{k}{l+1}\right]+1\right)$ (2(l+1)n-1)-2. Since we can use $BF^{1}(n)$ as BF(n) in (1.1) integrally, we study $B_{k}^{1}(n)$ in detail.

Theorem D.

(i) Let p be a prime and we write k = ps + i, where $0 \le i \le p - 1$. Then there are homotopy equivalences localized at p:

$$B_{ps}^{1}(n) \simeq B_{ps+1}^{1}(n) \quad and \quad B_{ps+2}^{1}(n) \simeq B_{ps+i}^{1}(n) \ (2 \le i \le p-1),$$

where we consider the latter only for odd primes p.

(ii) We have

$$H_*(B^1_{2s}(n); \mathbb{Z}/2) \cong H_*(X^1_{2s}(n); \mathbb{Z}/2) \otimes H_*(\Omega S^{4n-1}; \mathbb{Z}/2).$$

(iii) For an odd prime p and $s \ge 0$, there is a homotopy equivalence localized at p:

$$\Sigma^2 \operatorname{Rat}_{ps+1}(n) \simeq \Sigma^2(S^{2n-1} \times B^1_{ps+2}(n)).$$

Remarks.

1. From results of [1], there is a homotopy equivalence localized at *p*:

$$\operatorname{Rat}_{ps+1}(n) \simeq \operatorname{Rat}_{ps+i}(n) \ (1 \le i \le p-1).$$

Similarly, from results of [3], there are homotopy equivalences localized at *p*:

$$X_{ps}^{1}(n) \simeq X_{ps+1}^{1}(n)$$
 and $X_{ps+2}^{1}(n) \simeq X_{ps+i}^{1}(n) \ (2 \le i \le p-1).$

Theorem D(i) is a consequence of the latter.

2. For an odd prime p, we know $H_*(B_{ps+2}^1(n); \mathbb{Z}/p)$ from Theorem D (iii) (compare Lemma 2.5). In particular, $\beta_{ps+2}^1(n)_* : H_*(B_{ps+2}^1(n); \mathbb{Z}/p)$ $\rightarrow H_*(BF^1(n); \mathbb{Z}/p)$ is injective. On the other hand, $H_*(B_{ps}^1(n); \mathbb{Z}/p)$ is somewhat complicated and contains unstable elements (i.e., $\beta_{ps}^1(n)_*$ is not injective). 3. For all k, l and n, there is a map

$$\mathbf{v}_k^l(n) : \operatorname{Rat}_k(n) \to B_k^l(n)$$

so that when localized at p and $1 \le l \le p-1$, $v_{\infty}^{l}(n)$ is the map $\Omega^{2}S^{2n+1}$ $\rightarrow BF(n)$ in (1.1). It is interesting to study how different the fibre of $\mathbf{v}_k^l(n)$ is from $S^{2n-1}.$ We discuss this briefly in Section 2 (compare Lemma 2.7).

2. Proofs

Note that as sets we have

$$X_k^l(n) = \prod_{q=0}^l \mathbf{C}^q \times \operatorname{Rat}_{k-q}(n),$$

where $\mathbf{C}^q imes \operatorname{Rat}_{k-q}(n)$ corresponds to the subspace of $X^l_k(n)$ consisting of elements $(p_0(z), ..., p_n(z))$ such that there are exactly q roots common to all $p_i(z)$. Hence,

$$X_k^l(n) = X_k^{l-1}(n) \coprod \mathbf{C}^l \times \operatorname{Rat}_{k-l}(n).$$

It is known that the normal bundle of $\mathbf{C}^l \times \operatorname{Rat}_{k-l}(n)$ in $X_k^l(n)$ is trivial (compare [3] and [4]). In $X_k^l(n)$, we pinch an open set $X_k^{l-1}(n)$ to a point. Then we have a map

$$\pi_1: X_k^l(n) \to X_k^l(n) / X_k^{l-1}(n) \cong \Sigma^{2ln}((\mathbf{C}^l \times \operatorname{Rat}_{k-l}(n)) \vee S^0).$$

Let

$$\pi_2: \Sigma^{2ln} \operatorname{Rat}_{k-l}(n) \vee S^{2ln} \to \Sigma^{2ln} \operatorname{Rat}_{k-l}(n)$$

be the map pinching S^{2ln} to a point. We set

$$p_k^l(n) = \pi_2 \circ \pi_1 : X_k^l(n) \to \Sigma^{2ln} \operatorname{Rat}_{k-l}(n).$$

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Recall that there is an inclusion (compare (1.5)):

$$i_{k-l}(n) : \operatorname{Rat}_{k-l}(n) \hookrightarrow \Omega^2 S^{2n+1}$$

Taking the adjoint of $i_{k-l}(n)$ and the (2ln-2)-fold suspensions, we have

$$\Sigma^{2ln-2}(\operatorname{Ad}(i_{k-l}(n))):\Sigma^{2ln}\operatorname{Rat}_{k-l}(n)\to S^{2(l+1)n-1}.$$

Let $\phi_k^l(n): X_k^l(n) \to S^{2(l+1)n-1}$ be the composition

$$\varphi_k^l(n) = \sum^{2ln-2} (\operatorname{Ad}(i_{k-l}(n))) \circ p_k^l(n).$$
(2.1)

Let $f^{l}(n): S^{2(l+1)n-1} \to J^{l}(n)$ be the map which may be used to attach a cell to obtain $J^{l+1}(n)$. In particular, $f^{1}(n)$ is the Whitehead product $[e_{2n}, e_{2n}]$, where e_{2n} denotes the generator of $\pi_{2n}(S^{2n})$ represented by the identity map. Let $h_{k}^{l}(n): X_{k}^{l}(n) \to J^{l}(n)$ be the composition

$$h_k^l(n) = f^l(n) \circ \varphi_k^l(n).$$

Recall the map $j^{l}(n)$ in (1.2). Since $j^{l}(n) \circ f^{l}(n)$ is null homotopic, so is $j^{l}(n) \circ h_{k}^{l}(n)$. Hence, there is a lifting

$$\widetilde{h}_k^l(n): X_k^l(n) \to W^l(n).$$
(2.2)

Recall that $H_*(\Omega^2 S^{2n+1}; \mathbf{Z}/p)$ is given as follows. There is a (torsion free) generator $\iota_{2n-1} \in H_{2n-1}(\Omega^2 S^{2n+1}; \mathbf{Z}/p) \cong \mathbf{Z}/p$, and the following hold:

(i) For p = 2, $H_*(\Omega^2 S^{2n+1}; \mathbb{Z}/2) \cong \mathbb{Z}/2[\iota_{2n-1}, Q_1(\iota_{2n-1}), ..., Q_1 \cdots Q_1(\iota_{2n-1}), ...].$

(ii) For an odd prime p,

$$\begin{aligned} H_*(\Omega^2 S^{2n+1}; \, \mathbf{Z}/p) &\cong \bigwedge (\mathfrak{l}_{2n-1}, \, Q_1(\mathfrak{l}_{2n-1}), \, ..., \, Q_1 \cdots Q_1(\mathfrak{l}_{2n-1}), \, ...) \\ &\otimes \mathbf{Z}/p \left[\beta Q_1(\mathfrak{l}_{2n-1}), \, ..., \, \beta Q_1 \cdots Q_1(\mathfrak{l}_{2n-1}), \, ...\right] \end{aligned}$$

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In (i) and (ii), Q_1 is the first Dyer-Lashof operation (it takes a class of dimension d to a class of dimension dp + p - 1) and β is the mod p Bockstein operation.

For each monomial in (i) and (ii), we define a weight function w in the usual manner, that is, (1) $w(\iota_{2n-1}) = 1$; (2) $w(Q_1^d(\iota_{2n-1})) = w(\beta Q_1^d(\iota_{2n-1})) = p^d$, where $Q_1^d = \underbrace{Q_1 \cdots Q_1}_{d \text{ times}}$; (3) w(x * y) = w(x) + w(y), where * is the

loop sum Pontryagin product.

The structure of $H_*(W^l(n); \mathbb{Z}/p)$ is given in [4]. For simplicity, we recall only the case l = 1 (compare also [3] and [5]).

(i) For p = 2,

$$H_*(W^1(n); \mathbb{Z}/2) \cong \mathbb{Z}/2 [Q_1(\iota_{2n-1}), ..., Q_1 \cdots Q_1(\iota_{2n-1}), ...].$$

(ii) For an odd prime p, there is a (torsion free) generator $x_{4n-1} \in H_{4n-1}(W^1(n); \mathbb{Z}/p) \cong \mathbb{Z}/p$ so that

$$H_{*}(W^{1}(n); \mathbb{Z}/p) \cong \bigwedge (x_{4n-1}, Q_{1}(\iota_{2n-1}), ..., Q_{1} \cdots Q_{1}(\iota_{2n-1}), ...) \\ \otimes \mathbb{Z}/p \left[\beta Q_{1}(\iota_{2n-1}), ..., \beta Q_{1} \cdots Q_{1}(\iota_{2n-1}), ...\right].$$
(2.3)

We set $w(x_{4n-1}) = 2$. The structure of $H_*(X_k^l(n); \mathbb{Z}/p)$ is given as follows.

Proposition 2.4 [4]. For a prime p, $H_*(X_k^l(n); \mathbb{Z}/p)$ is isomorphic to the subspace of $H_*(W^l(n); \mathbb{Z}/p)$ spanned by monomials of weight $\leq k$.

Proof of Theorem A. From the construction of the map $h_k^l(n)$ and Proposition 2.4, we see that we can choose a lifting $\tilde{h}_k^l(n)$ in (2.2) so that $\tilde{h}_k^l(n)_* : H_*(X_k^l(n); \mathbb{Z}/p) \to H_*(W^l(n); \mathbb{Z}/p)$ satisfies the properties of Theorem A (i) and (ii). Setting $\alpha_k^l(n) = \tilde{h}_k^l(n)$, we obtain Theorem A.

Proof of Theorem B. Among elements of $H_*(W^l(n); \mathbb{Z}/p)$ which are not contained in $\operatorname{Im} \alpha_k^l(n)_*$, the element of least degree is given as

follows. Note that $X_k^l(n) \equiv \mathbf{C}^{k(n+1)}$ $(k \leq l)$ and $X_{l+1}^l(n) \equiv \mathbf{C}^{l+1} \times (\mathbf{C}^{(l+1)n})^*$. Hence, when $k \geq l+1$, the element of $H_*(X_k^l(n); \mathbf{Z}/p)$ of least positive degree has degree 2(l+1)n-1. We write the element by $x_{2(l+1)n-1}$ (compare (2.3) for l = 1). When p = 2, $x_{2(l+1)n-1}^i$ is non-trivial in $H_*(W^l(n); \mathbf{Z}/2)$ for all $i \geq 1$ (compare [4]). Hence, the least degree element of $H_*(W^l(n); \mathbf{Z}/p)$ which is not contained in $\operatorname{Im} \alpha_k^l(n)_*$ occurs when p = 2 and is of the form $x_{2(l+1)n-1}^i$. Since $w(x_{2(l+1)n-1}) = l+1$, we have $(l+1)i \geq k+1$, i.e., $i \geq \left\lfloor \frac{k}{l+1} \right\rfloor + 1$. Hence, $\alpha_k^l(n)_* : H_*(X_k^l(n); \mathbf{Z}/p) \to H_*(W^l(n); \mathbf{Z}/p)$ is an isomorphism for $* \leq \left(\left\lfloor \frac{k}{l+1} \right\rfloor + 1 \right) (2(l+1)n-1)-1$. From the universal coefficient theorem and the Whitehead theorem, $\alpha_k^l(n)_* : \pi_*(X_k^l(n)) \to \pi_*(W^l(n))$ is an isomorphism for $* < \left(\left\lfloor \frac{k}{l+1} \right\rfloor + 1 \right) (2(l+1)n-1) - 1$. This completes the proof of Theorem B.

Proof of Theorem C. The map $\psi^{l}(n)$ is defined as the following composition (compare [2, p. 304]):

$$W^{l}(n) \to W^{l}(n) \cup CW^{l-1}(n) \to \Sigma^{l}(S^{2n-1})^{(l+1)}.$$

Noting the map $p_k^l(n): X_k^l(n) \to \Sigma^{2ln} \operatorname{Rat}_{k-l}(n)$, it is easy to show that the restriction of $\psi^l(n)$ to $X_k^l(n)$ is homotopic to $\varphi_k^l(n)$. Hence (i) follows. (ii) is an immediate consequence of Theorem B and the five lemma. This completes the proof of Theorem C.

Proof of Theorem D. From the structure of $H_*(W^1(n); \mathbb{Z}/p)$ and Proposition 2.4, each monomial in $H_*(X_k^1(n); \mathbb{Z}/p)$ has weight 0 or 2 mod p. Hence, localized at p, we have

$$X_{ps}^{1}(n) \cong X_{ps+1}^{1}(n)$$
 and $X_{ps+2}^{1}(n) \cong X_{ps+i}^{1}(n) \ (2 \le i \le p-1).$

Now (i) is clear from the fibration of the first row of Theorem C(i).

(ii) is proved by comparing the mod 2 Serre spectral sequence for the fibrations:



For the rest of this paper we prove (iii).

Lemma 2.5. Let p be an odd prime.

(i)

$$H_*(BF^1(n); \mathbb{Z}/p) \cong \bigwedge (Q_1(\iota_{2n-1}), ..., Q_1 \cdots Q_1(\iota_{2n-1}), ...)$$
$$\otimes \mathbb{Z}/p \left[\beta Q_1(\iota_{2n-1}), ..., \beta Q_1 \cdots Q_1(\iota_{2n-1}), ...\right]$$

(ii) $\beta_{ps+2}^1(n)_* : H_*(B_{ps+2}^1(n); \mathbb{Z}/p) \to H_*(BF^1(n); \mathbb{Z}/p)$ is injective so that $\operatorname{Im} \beta_{ps+2}^1(n)_*$ is spanned by monomials in $H_*(BF^1(n); \mathbb{Z}/p)$ of weight $\leq ps$.

Proof. (i) is clear from the fibration $BF^1(n) \to W^1(n) \to S^{4n-1}$. To prove (ii), let M_k be the subspace of $H_*(BF^1(n); \mathbb{Z}/p)$ spanned by monomials of weight $\leq k$. From (2.3) and Proposition 2.4, $H_*(X_{ps+2}^1(n); \mathbb{Z}/p)$ is isomorphic to $M_{ps} \oplus x_{4n-1} \otimes M_{ps}$. (Recall that $w(x_{4n-1}) = 2$.) From the mod p Serre spectral sequence for the fibration $B_{ps+2}^1(n) \to X_{ps+2}^1(n) \to S^{4n-1}$, we have $H_*(B_{ps+2}^1(n); \mathbb{Z}/p) \cong M_{ps}$. Hence (ii) holds. This completes the proof of Lemma 2.5.

Since $\pi_1 | X_k^{l-1}(n)$ is null homotopic, so is $\varphi_k^l(n) | X_k^{l-1}(n)$. Hence, the inclusion $X_k^{l-1}(n) \hookrightarrow X_k^l(n)$ lifts to a map $X_k^{l-1}(n) \to B_k^l(n)$ (compare the fibration of the first row of Theorem C(i)). Restricting to $\operatorname{Rat}_k(n)$, there is

a map

$$\mathbf{v}_k^l(n): \operatorname{Rat}_k(n) \to B_k^l(n).$$

Note that when localized at p and $1 \le l \le p-1$, $v_{\infty}^{l}(n)$ is the map $\Omega^{2}S^{2n+1} \to BF(n)$ in (1.1). In particular, we consider the map

$$\mathbf{v}_k^1(n) : \operatorname{Rat}_k(n) \to B_k^1(n). \tag{2.6}$$

Let $C_k(n)$ be the fibre of (2.6).

Lemma 2.7. For an odd prime p and k = ps + i with $2 \le i \le p - 1$,

$$H_*(C_k(n); \mathbf{Z}/p) \cong H_*(S^{2n-1}; \mathbf{Z}/p).$$

Proof. The lemma follows easily from Lemma 2.5 and the mod p Serre spectral sequence for the fibration (2.6).

Lemma 2.7 implies that localized at p, there is a fibration

$$S^{2n-1} \to \operatorname{Rat}_{ps+2}(n) \to B^{1}_{ps+2}(n).$$
 (2.8)

Let $F \to E \xrightarrow{\pi} B$ be a fibration with a retraction $\Sigma^r E \to \Sigma^r F$. Then we have a homotopy equivalence

$$\Sigma^r E \simeq \Sigma^r (F \times B).$$

(Compare the proof of [2, Proposition 7].) We use this for r = 2 and apply to (2.8). A retraction $\Sigma^2 \operatorname{Rat}_{ps+2}(n) \to S^{2n+1}$ is constructed as the adjoint of $i_{ps+2}(n)$ in (1.5). Then

$$\Sigma^2 \operatorname{Rat}_{ps+2}(n) \simeq \Sigma^2(S^{2n-1} \times B^1_{ps+2}(n)).$$

Localized at p, we have $\operatorname{Rat}_{ps+1}(n) \simeq \operatorname{Rat}_{ps+2}(n)$. Hence Theorem D(iii) holds. This completes the proof of Theorem D.

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