

Equivariant homology theories (Lecture IV)

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- We have introduced the **Farrell-Jones Conjecture** and the **Baum-Connes Conjecture** for torsionfree groups and discussed applications of these conjectures such as to the **Kaplansky Conjecture** and the **Borel Conjecture**.
- We have explained that the formulations for torsionfree groups cannot extend to arbitrary groups.
Our goal is to find a formulation which makes sense for all groups and all rings.
- For this purpose we have introduced classifying spaces for families of subgroups of a group G which we will recall next.
- In the sequel group will mean discrete group.

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Definition (Family of subgroups)

A *family \mathcal{F} of subgroups* of G is a set of subgroups of G which is closed under conjugation and finite intersections.

Examples for \mathcal{F} are:

- TR = {trivial subgroup};
- FIN = {finite subgroups};
- $FCYC$ = {finite cyclic subgroups};
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Definition (Classifying G -CW-complex for a family of subgroups)

Let \mathcal{F} be a family of subgroups of G . A model for the *classifying G -CW-complex for the family \mathcal{F}* is a G -CW-complex $E_{\mathcal{F}}(G)$ which has the following properties:

- All isotropy groups of $E_{\mathcal{F}}(G)$ belong to \mathcal{F} ;
- For any G -CW-complex Y , whose isotropy groups belong to \mathcal{F} , there is up to G -homotopy precisely one G -map $Y \rightarrow X$.

We abbreviate $\underline{E}G := E_{\mathcal{FIN}}(G)$ and call it the *universal G -CW-complex for proper G -actions*.

We also write $EG = E_{\mathcal{TR}}(G)$.

- A model for $E_{\mathcal{F}}(G)$ exists and is unique up to G -homotopy.

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Question (Homological computations based on nice models for $\underline{E}G$)

Can nice geometric models for $\underline{E}G$ be used to compute the group homology and more general homology and cohomology theories of a group G ?

Question (K -theory of group rings and group homology)

Is there a relation between $K_n(RG)$ and the group homology of G ?

Question (Isomorphism Conjectures and classifying spaces of families)

Can classifying spaces of families be used to formulate a version of the Farrell-Jones Conjecture and the Baum-Connes Conjecture which may hold for all groups and all rings?

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Can classifying spaces of families be used to formulate a version of the Farrell-Jones Conjecture and the Baum-Connes Conjecture which may hold for all groups and all rings?

- We introduce the notion of an **equivariant homology theory**.
- We present the general formulation of the **Farrell-Jones Conjecture** and the **Baum-Connes Conjecture**.
- We discuss **equivariant Chern characters**.
- We present some explicit **computations** of equivariant topological K -groups and of homology groups associated to classifying spaces of groups.

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Definition (equivariant homology theory)

A *G -homology theory* \mathcal{H}_* is a covariant functor from the category of G -CW-pairs to the category of \mathbb{Z} -graded Λ -modules together with natural transformations

$$\partial_n(X, A): \mathcal{H}_n(X, A) \rightarrow \mathcal{H}_{n-1}(A)$$

for $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ satisfying the following axioms:

- G -homotopy invariance;
- Long exact sequence of a pair;
- Excision;
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Definition (Equivariant homology theory)

An *equivariant homology theory* $\mathcal{H}_*^?$ assigns to every group G a G -homology theory \mathcal{H}_*^G . These are linked together with the following so called *induction structure*: given a group homomorphism $\alpha: H \rightarrow G$ and a H -CW-pair (X, A) , there are for all $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ natural homomorphisms

$$\text{ind}_\alpha: \mathcal{H}_n^H(X, A) \rightarrow \mathcal{H}_n^G(\text{ind}_\alpha(X, A))$$

satisfying

- Bijectivity
If $\ker(\alpha)$ acts freely on X , then ind_α is a bijection;
- Compatibility with the boundary homomorphisms;
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Example (Equivariant homology theories)

- Given a non-equivariant homology theory \mathcal{K}_* , put

$$\mathcal{H}_*^G(X) := \mathcal{K}_*(X/G);$$

$$\mathcal{H}_*^G(X) := \mathcal{K}_*(EG \times_G X) \quad (\text{Borel homology}).$$

- Equivariant bordism $\Omega_*^?(X)$;
- Equivariant topological K -theory $K_*^?(X)$.

Theorem (L.-Reich (2005))

Given a functor $\mathbf{E}: \text{Groupoids} \rightarrow \text{Spectra}$ sending equivalences to weak equivalences, there exists an equivariant homology theory $\mathcal{H}_*^?(-; \mathbf{E})$ satisfying

$$\mathcal{H}_n^H(\text{pt}) \cong \mathcal{H}_n^G(G/H) \cong \pi_n(\mathbf{E}(H)).$$

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The general formulation of the Isomorphism Conjectures

Conjecture (*K*-theoretic Farrell-Jones-Conjecture)

The *K*-theoretic Farrell-Jones Conjecture with coefficients in R for the group G predicts that the assembly map

$$H_n^G(E_{\text{vcyc}}(G), \mathbf{K}_R) \rightarrow H_n^G(\text{pt}, \mathbf{K}_R) = K_n(RG)$$

is bijective for all $n \in \mathbb{Z}$.

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- Let \mathcal{H}_* be a (non-equivariant) homology theory. There is the **Atiyah-Hirzebruch spectral sequence** which converges to $\mathcal{H}_{p+q}(X)$ and has as E^2 -term

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- Rationally it collapses completely. Namely, one has the following result

Theorem (Non-equivariant Chern character, Dold (1962))

Let \mathcal{H}_* be a homology theory with values in Λ -modules for $\mathbb{Q} \subseteq \Lambda$. Then there exists for every $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ and every CW-complex X a natural isomorphism

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Equivariant Chern characters

- Let \mathcal{H}_* be a (non-equivariant) homology theory. There is the **Atiyah-Hirzebruch spectral sequence** which converges to $\mathcal{H}_{p+q}(X)$ and has as E^2 -term

$$E_{p,q}^2 = H_p(X; \mathcal{H}_q(\text{pt})).$$

- Rationally it collapses completely. Namely, one has the following result

Theorem (Non-equivariant Chern character, Dold (1962))

Let \mathcal{H}_* be a homology theory with values in Λ -modules for $\mathbb{Q} \subseteq \Lambda$. Then there exists for every $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ and every CW-complex X a natural isomorphism

$$\bigoplus_{p+q=n} H_p(X; \Lambda) \otimes_{\Lambda} \mathcal{H}_q(\text{pt}) \xrightarrow{\cong} \mathcal{H}_n(X).$$

Dold's Chern character for a CW-complex X is given by the following composite:

$$\text{ch}_n: \bigoplus_{p+q=n} H_p(X; \mathcal{H}_q(*)) \xrightarrow{\alpha^{-1}} \bigoplus_{p+q=n} H_p(X; \mathbb{Z}) \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathcal{H}_q(*)$$

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where $D_{p,q}$ sends $[f: (S^{p+k}, \text{pt}) \rightarrow (S^k \wedge X_+, \text{pt})] \otimes \eta$ to the image of η under the composite

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- We want to extend this to the equivariant setting.
- This requires an extra structure on the coefficients of an equivariant homology theory $\mathcal{H}_*^?$.
- We define a covariant functor called **induction**

$$\text{ind}: \mathcal{FGI} \rightarrow \Lambda\text{-Mod}$$

from the category \mathcal{FGI} of finite groups with injective group homomorphisms as morphisms to the category of Λ -modules as follows. It sends G to $\mathcal{H}_n^G(\text{pt})$ and an injection of finite groups $\alpha: H \rightarrow G$ to the morphism given by the induction structure

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Definition (Mackey extension)

We say that $\mathcal{H}_*^?$ has a **Mackey extension** if for every $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ there is a contravariant functor called **restriction**

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such that these two functors ind and res agree on objects and satisfy the **double coset formula**, i.e., we have for two subgroups $H, K \subset G$ of the finite group G

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- In every case we will consider such a Mackey extension does exist and is given by an actual restriction.
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Theorem (Equivariant Chern character, L. (2002))

Let $\mathcal{H}_*^?$ be a equivariant homology theory with values in Λ -modules for $\mathbb{Q} \subseteq \Lambda$. Suppose that $\mathcal{H}_*^?$ has a **Mackey extension**. Let I be the set of conjugacy classes (H) of finite subgroups H of G .

Then there is for every group G , every proper G -CW-complex X and every $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ a natural isomorphism called **equivariant Chern character**

$$\text{ch}_n^G: \bigoplus_{p+q=n} \bigoplus_{(H) \in I} H_p(C_G H \backslash X^H; \Lambda) \otimes_{\Lambda[W_G H]} S_H \left(\mathcal{H}_q^H(*) \right) \xrightarrow{\cong} \mathcal{H}_n^G(X).$$

- $C_G H$ is the **centralizer** and $N_G H$ the **normalizer** of $H \subseteq G$;
- $W_G H := N_G H / H \cdot C_G H$ (This is always a finite group);
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Let G be finite. Then the map

$$\bigoplus_{C \subset G} \text{ind}_C^G : \bigoplus_{C \subset G} R_C(C) \rightarrow R_C(G)$$

is surjective after inverting $|G|$, where $C \subset G$ runs through the cyclic subgroups of G .

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For every group G and every $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ we obtain an isomorphism

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Topological K -theory of classifying spaces

- For a prime p denote by $r(p) = |\text{con}_p(G)|$ the number of conjugacy classes (g) of elements $g \neq 1$ in G of p -power order.
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- Let $\mathbb{I}_p(G)$ be the image of the restriction homomorphism $\mathbb{I}(G) \rightarrow \mathbb{I}(G_p)$.

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Let G be a discrete group. Denote by $K^*(BG)$ the topological (complex) K -theory of its classifying space BG . Suppose that there is a cocompact G -CW-model for the classifying space $\underline{E}G$ for proper G -actions.

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Example ($SL_3(\mathbb{Z})$)

- It is well-known that its rational cohomology satisfies $\widetilde{H}^n(BSL_3(\mathbb{Z}); \mathbb{Q}) = 0$ for all $n \in \mathbb{Z}$.
- Actually, by a result of Soule (1978) the quotient space $SL_3(\mathbb{Z}) \backslash \underline{ESL}_3(\mathbb{Z})$ is contractible and compact.
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- The rational homology of each of the centralizers of elements in $\text{con}_2(G)$ and $\text{con}_3(G)$ agrees with the one of the trivial group.
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- Let G be a discrete group. Let \mathcal{MFIN} be the subset of \mathcal{FIN} consisting of elements in \mathcal{FIN} which are maximal in \mathcal{FIN} .
- Assume that G satisfies the following assertions:
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 - (NM) $M \in \mathcal{MFIN}, M \neq \{1\} \Rightarrow N_G M = M$.
- Here are some examples of groups G which satisfy conditions (M) and (NM):
 - Extensions $1 \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}^n \rightarrow G \rightarrow F \rightarrow 1$ for finite F such that the conjugation action of F on \mathbb{Z}^n is free outside $0 \in \mathbb{Z}^n$;
 - Fuchsian groups;
 - One-relator groups G .

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- Let G be a discrete group. Let \mathcal{MFIN} be the subset of \mathcal{FIN} consisting of elements in \mathcal{FIN} which are maximal in \mathcal{FIN} .
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- For such a group there is a nice model for $\underline{E}G$ with as few non-free cells as possible. Let $\{(M_i) \mid i \in I\}$ be the set of conjugacy classes of maximal finite subgroups of $M_i \subseteq G$. By attaching free G -cells we get an inclusion of G -CW-complexes $j_1: \coprod_{i \in I} G \times_{M_i} EM_i \rightarrow EG$.
- Define $\underline{E}G$ as the G -pushout

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \coprod_{i \in I} G \times_{M_i} EM_i & \xrightarrow{j_1} & EG \\
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- Next we explain why $\underline{E}G$ is a model for the classifying space for proper actions of G .
- Its isotropy groups are all finite. We have to show for $H \subseteq G$ finite that $\underline{E}G^H$ contractible.
- We begin with the case $H \neq \{1\}$. Because of conditions (M) and (NM) there is precisely one index $i_0 \in I$ such that H is subconjugated to M_{i_0} and is not subconjugated to M_i for $i \neq i_0$. We get

$$\left(\prod_{i \in I} G/M_i \right)^H = (G/M_{i_0})^H = \text{pt.}$$

Hence $\underline{E}G^H = \text{pt.}$

- It remains to treat $H = \{1\}$. Since u_1 is a non-equivariant homotopy equivalence and j_1 is a cofibration, f_1 is a non-equivariant homotopy equivalence. Hence $\underline{E}G$ is contractible.

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- Consider the pushout obtained from the G -pushout above by dividing the G -action

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \coprod_{i \in I} BM_i & \longrightarrow & BG \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \coprod_{i \in I} \text{pt} & \longrightarrow & G \backslash \underline{EG} \end{array}$$

- The associated Mayer-Vietoris sequence yields

$$\begin{aligned} \dots \rightarrow \tilde{H}_{p+1}(G \backslash \underline{EG}) \rightarrow \bigoplus_{i \in I} \tilde{H}_p(BM_i) \rightarrow \tilde{H}_p(BG) \\ \rightarrow \tilde{H}_p(G \backslash \underline{EG}) \rightarrow \dots \end{aligned}$$

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Theorem

Let G be a discrete group which satisfies the conditions (M) and (NM) above.

Then there is an isomorphism

$$K_1^G(\underline{EG}) \xrightarrow{\cong} K_1(G \backslash \underline{EG}),$$

and a short exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \bigoplus_{i \in I} \tilde{R}_{\mathbb{C}}(M_i) \rightarrow K_0(\underline{EG}) \rightarrow K_0(G \backslash \underline{EG}) \rightarrow 0.$$

It splits if we invert the orders of all finite subgroups of G .

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Question (Consequences)

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