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Fields-Schubert Wkshop
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Basics of Equivariant Cohomology.

X
smooth cx proj. variety $\rightsquigarrow H^*(X)$

$G \curvearrowright X \rightsquigarrow H_G^*(X)$ moral: although this is bigger, maybe easier to compute.

First definition of $H_G^*(X)$

Take EG a contractible space with a free G -action

$\downarrow$

$$BG = EG/G$$

Consider $G \curvearrowright EG \times X$ by $g \cdot (p, x) = (gp, g^{-1}x)$

Define $X_G := EG \times X / G = EG \times_G X$

Then $H_G^*(X) := H^*(X_G)$ [indep. of choice of EG]

Qs: - What is EG ?
- properties of EG ?
- how to compute?

EG :

FACT: For $n > 0$, if the principal G -bundle $E \downarrow B$ is n -connected

$(S^m \rightarrow E \text{ contractible for } m \leq n)$

Then $H_G^m(X) = H^m(E \times_G X)$ for $m \leq n$, $\dim X \leq n$.

Ex: $G = S^1$

G acts freely on $S^{2n-1} \subseteq \mathbb{C}^n$

with $S^{2n-1}/S^1 \cong \mathbb{C}P^{n-1}$

S^{2n-1} is $(2n-2)$ -connected

$\downarrow$
 $\mathbb{C}P^{n-1}$

Taking $ES^1 = \lim S^{2n-1} = S^\infty$
 $BS^1 = \lim \mathbb{C}P^{n-1} = \mathbb{C}P^\infty$

} so $H_{S^1}^*(pt) = \mathbb{R}[t]$, $t = \deg z$.

Similarly $BT = (\mathbb{C}P^\infty)^m$ for $T = (S^1)^m$

$$H_T^*(pt) = H^*(BT) = \mathbb{R}[t_1, \dots, t_n] \quad \deg t_i = 2.$$

... can get a lot of mileage out of this!

Proposition: G compact conn. Lie gp, $T \subset G$ max'l torus,

$$W = N(T)/T, \quad G \curvearrowright X.$$

$$\text{Then } H_G^*(X) = H_T^*(X)^W.$$

We have projections

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} EG & \longleftarrow & EG \times X & \longrightarrow & X \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ BG & \longleftarrow & X_G & \xrightarrow{\sigma} & X/G \\ & \pi & & \sigma & \end{array}$$

FACTS:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \bullet \text{ we get a homomorphism } \pi^*: H_G^*(pt) & \longrightarrow & H_G^*(X), \\ & \parallel & \parallel \\ & H^*(BG) & H^*(X_G) \end{array}$$

which gives $H_G^*(X)$ the structure of a $H_G^*(pt)$ -module.

• For nice cases,

$$H_T^*(X) \cong H^*(X) \otimes H_T^*(pt) \quad (\text{as v. sp.})$$

and can recover $H^*(X)$ by setting $t_1 = \dots = t_n = 0$.

• The fiber $\sigma^{-1}(Gx) \simeq BG_{Gx}$ where Gx is the stabilizer of x in G .

In particular, if G acts freely on X , then the homomorphism

$$\sigma^*: H^*(X/G) \longrightarrow H_G^*(X) \quad \text{is an isom.}$$

[in fact the whole point of the $EG \times X/G$ construction is to "free up" the action.]

$$\bullet \text{ Also by inclusion of fibers } X \xhookrightarrow{\iota} X_G, \text{ get } \eta^*: H_G^*(X) \longrightarrow H^*(X)$$

$$\downarrow$$

$$BG$$

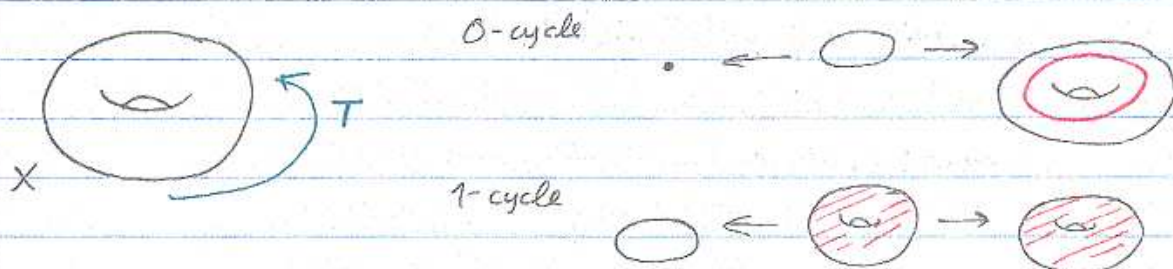
... get a lot of properties on $H_T^*(-)$.

Second definition (via equivariant homology):

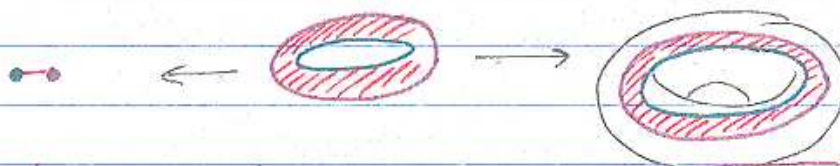
Defⁿ: An equivariant i -cycle is a free G -space E , $P = E/G$ of dim i pseudomfd and a diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & E & \\ \swarrow & & \searrow \\ P & & X \end{array} \quad \text{respecting } G.$$

Ex: $X = S^1 \times S^1$
 $T = S^1$



Cobordism between two 0-cycles:



Defⁿ: $H_i^G(X) := \{ \text{cobordism classes of eqvt } i\text{-cycles} \}$
 abelian gp: $-P$ has opposite orientation
 $P_1 + P_2$ union.

so then $H_0^{S^1}(S^1 \times S^1) = \mathbb{R}$
 $H_1^{S^1}(S^1 \times S^1) = \mathbb{R}$ } and that's all you have.

NOTE: This was a free action,

$$H_*^{S^1}(S^1 \times S^1) \cong H_*(S^1 \times S^1 / S^1 = S^1). \quad \checkmark \quad (\text{as expected})$$

Defⁿ: As a v.s. $H_i^G(X) = \text{v.s. dual } (H_i^G(X))^* = \text{Hom}(H_i^G(X), \mathbb{R})$

with multiplication given by dualizing:

$$H_i^G(X) \otimes H_j^G(X) \xrightarrow{\cong} H_{i+j}^{G \times G}(X \times X) \xleftarrow{\Delta} H_{i+j}^G(X)$$

$$(g, g) \xleftarrow{\Delta} g$$

$$(x, x) \xleftarrow{\Delta} x$$

Ex: $X = pt, T = S^1$

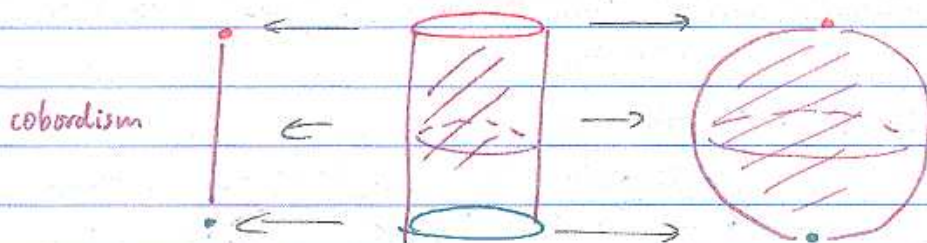
2k-cycle $CP^k \leftarrow S^{2k-1} \rightarrow pt$

$$H_i^T(pt) = \begin{cases} \mathbb{R}[CP^k] & \text{for } i=2k \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

and again $H_T^*(pt) = \mathbb{R}[t]$.

Ex: $X = S^2, T = S^1$

A relation in deg 0



$$\rightsquigarrow [CP_N^0] = [CP_S^0]$$

In fact, $0 \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \rightarrow H_*^T(NUS) \rightarrow H_*^T(S^2) \rightarrow 0$

$$1 \mapsto [CP_N^0] - [CP_S^0]$$

Dualizing,

$$0 \leftarrow \mathbb{R} \leftarrow H_T^*(NUS) \leftarrow H_T^*(S^2) \leftarrow 0$$

$$\quad \quad \quad \parallel$$

$$H_T^*(N) \oplus H_T^*(S)$$

$$\quad \quad \quad \parallel$$

$$\{(f, g) : f, g \in \mathbb{R}[t]\}$$

$$1 \leftarrow 1_N - 1_S$$

Conclusion: $H_T^*(S^2) = \{(f, g) \mid f, g \in \mathbb{R}[t], f(0) = g(0)\}$