Notes on SHT

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1 Spectra

Definition 1 (The Spectra Category). A *spectrum* X is a family of based topoogical spaces $\{X_n\ n \geq 0\}$ together with structure maps

$$\varepsilon_n : \Sigma X_n \to X_{n+1},$$

in which Σ is the based suspension functor.

A map between to spectra, $f : X \to Y$, is a family of maps of based topological spaces, $\{f_n : X_n \to Y_n : n \geq 0\}$, that agrees with the structure maps, that is, for each n we have a commutative square:

$$
\begin{array}{ccc}
\Sigma X_n & \xrightarrow{\varepsilon_n} & X_{n+1} \\
\downarrow{f_n} & & \downarrow{f_{n+1}} \\
\Sigma Y_n & \xrightarrow{\varepsilon_n} & Y_{n+1}
\end{array}
\; .
$$

Having objects and maps we can define a category of prespectra, which we will denote as **pSp**.

Let $X = (X_n : n \geq 0)$ be a spectrum. For each, n we have homotopy groups, $\pi_k(X_n)$. Notice that the structure maps induce a map

$$\varepsilon_{n*} : \pi_k(\Sigma X_n) \to \pi_k(X_{n+1}),$$

and by the definition of suspension, for each map

$$\alpha : S^k \to X_n,$$

we have a suspension

$$\Sigma\alpha : S^{k+1} \to \Sigma X_n.$$

Therefore, Σ induce maps

$$\Sigma_* : \pi_k(X_n) \to \pi_{k+1}(\Sigma X_n).$$

Adding the above information together, for each $k \in \mathbb{Z}$, we get a sequence

$$\pi_k(X_0) \longrightarrow \cdots \longrightarrow \pi_{k+n}(X_n) \xrightarrow{\Sigma^*} \pi_{k+n+1}(\Sigma X_n) \xrightarrow{\varepsilon_{n*}}$$

$$\xrightarrow{\varepsilon_{n*}} \pi_{k+n+1}(X_{n+1}) \longrightarrow \cdots$$

The colimit of this sequence will be called the k-th homotopy group of the spectrum X, and denoted $\pi_k(X)$.

The book asserts that for $k < 0$ the sequence is defined from $n \geq |k|$. I would correct it as such: The sequence is defined for $n \geq \max\{2-k, 0\}$, for in that case all groups are abelian groups. There is no problem in not starting at 0 as this definition is meant to capture the asymptotical homotopical behavior. Would this be the same as taking the homotopy colimit of

$$\cdots \longrightarrow X_n \xrightarrow{\Sigma} \Sigma X_n \xrightarrow{\varepsilon} X_{n+1} \longrightarrow \cdots \tag{1}$$

Remark 1. For each k, π_k is a functor from **pSp** to **Ab**, the category of abelian groups.

If we were working with CW-complexes, this would be the moment we would discuss cells, but as we are not, we approximate this but a discussion of "elements".

Definition 2. Given $X = (X_n : n \geq 0)$ a spectrum, a k dimensional element of X is the set of maps

$$\sigma : S^{k+n} X_n \to X_n,$$

quotiented by the relation generated by

$$\sigma_i \sim \sigma_j, \text{ if } \Sigma \sigma_i = \sigma_j.$$

So now $\pi_k(X)$ is the set of k dimensional elements of X up to homotopy.

Remark 2. The suspension is given by smash product by S^1 on the right, i.e.

$$\Sigma X = X \wedge S^1.$$

Now we define a important type of spectrum.

Definition 3 (Suspension Spectrum). Let X be a based topological space. De suspension spectrum over X, $\Sigma^\infty X$, is defined levelwise as

$$\Sigma^\infty X_n = \Sigma^n X = X \wedge S^n,$$

with structure maps the canonical homeomorphisms

$$X \wedge S^n \wedge S^1 \cong X \wedge S^{n+1}.$$

We can "reverse" this process.

Definition 4 (Shift desuspension spectrum)**.** Given X a based topological space, and a natural number k, the *k free spectrum*, or *k shift desuspension spectrum* of X, $F_k X$, is given levelwise as

$$F_k X_n = \begin{cases} \Sigma^{n-k} X, \text{ for } n \geq d, \\ *, \text{ for } n < d, \end{cases}$$

with the same structure maps of the suspension spectrum.

Notice that

$$\pi_m(F_k X) = \pi_{m-k}(\Sigma^\infty X).$$

NOw let's talk about homotopy theory.

Definition 5 (homotopy of spectra)**.** Let $X = (X_n)$, $Y = (Y_n)$ be two spectra, and $f, g : X \rightrightarrows Y$ two maps of spectra. Let $\mathrm{Cyl}(X)$ be the spectrum defined levelwise as

$$\mathrm{Cyl}(X)_n = X_n \wedge I_+,$$

in which the structure maps are

$$\varepsilon'_n = \varepsilon_n \wedge 1_{I_+},$$

ε_n being the structure maps of X.

We say that f and g are homotopic, and write $f \sim g$, if there is a map of spectra

$$h : \mathrm{Cyl}(X) \rightarrow Y$$

such that for each $n \geq 0$,

$$h_n : X_n \wedge I_+ \rightarrow Y_n,$$

is a homotopy of based topological spaces.

Definition 6. Let $X = (X_n)$ and $Y = (Y_n)$ be two spectra, and $f : X \rightarrow Y$ be a map of spectra. We say that f is a *stable equivalence*, or a π_*-*isomorphism*, if, for each $k \in \mathbb{Z}$, $f_* : \pi_k(X) \rightarrow \pi_k(Y)$ is an isomorphism.

Also, f is called a *level equivalence* if, for each $n \geq 0$, $f_n : X_n \rightarrow Y_n$ is a weak homotopy equivalence.

Lastly, f is called a *homotopy equivalence* if there is a map $g : Y \rightarrow X$ such that

$$fg \sim 1_Y \text{ and } gf \sim 1_X,$$

where $\sim$ means that there is a homotopy of spectra.

And stable homotopy theory will focus, as the names suggests, on stable equivalences. Notice that if f is a homotopy equivalence, then it is a level equivalence. And if f is a level equivalence, then it is a stable equivalence.

We now have the language to better express the idea that the stable homotopy groups are meant to capture the asymptotical homotopy behaviour of spectra.

Definition 7. Let $X = (X_n)$ be a spectrum, and $k \geq 0$. We define the k eventual spectrum, X^k levelwise as

$$X_n^k = \begin{cases} X_n, \text{ if } n \geq k; \\ *, \text{ if } 0 \leq n < k. \end{cases}$$

Proposition 1.1. *Let X be a spectrum, and $k \geq 0$. The inclusion $X^k \subseteq X$ is a stable equivalence.*

Proof. Let's begin by proving that $\pi_m(X^k) = \pi_m(X)$ for all $m \in \mathbb{Z}$. Indeed, for each $n \geq 0$, we have maps

$$\pi_{m+n}(X_n) \to \pi_m(X),$$

that factor any map leaving $\pi_{m+n}(X_n)$. And, as

$$\pi_{m+n'}(X_{n'}^k) = \pi_{m+n'}(*) = *, n' < k$$

any map leaving $\pi_{m+n'}(X_n^k)$ factor trough

$$\pi_{m+n'}(X_{n'}^k) \to \pi_m(X).$$

That is, $\pi_m(X)$ is the colimit of the sequence that defines $\pi_m(X^k)$, and therefore they are isomorphic. NOw let's look at the inclusion

$$\iota : X^k \to X.$$

It is given levelwise as

$$\iota_n = \begin{cases} 0, \text{ if } n < k; \\ 1_{X_n}, \text{ if } n \geq k. \end{cases}$$

so that it induces the identity isomorphism, or the 0 morphism in each homotopy group. By the same reasoning about the 0 map, the identity on $\pi_m(X)$ is the desired colimit, and therefore the inclusion is a stable equivalence. $\square$

2 Operations on Spectra

If we want to work in the category of spectra define above, we should be able to define some operations in it.

Definition 8 (Coproduct of spectra)**.** Let $X = (X_n)$ and $Y = (Y_n)$ be two spectra. The *coproduct* of X and Y, $X \vee Y$, is defined levelwise as

$$(X \vee Y)_n = X_n \vee Y_n,$$

with structure maps the canonical homeomorphisms

$$(X_n \vee Y_n) \wedge S^1 \cong (X_n \wedge S^1) \vee (Y_n \wedge S^1) \xrightarrow{\varepsilon_n \vee \varepsilon'_n} X_{n+1} \vee Y_{n+1},$$

where ε_n and ε'_n are the structure maps of X and Y, respectively.

Notice that the first map is an isomorphism because the suspension functor is a left adjoint, and as such commutes with colimts. Dually, we can define the product of spectra.

Definition 9 (Product of spectra)**.** Let $X = (X_n)$ and $Y = (Y_n)$ be two spectra. The *product* of X and Y, $X \times Y$, is defined levelwise as

$$(X \times Y)_n = X_n \times Y_n,$$

with structure maps the canonical homeomorphisms

$$(X_n \times Y_n) \wedge S^1 \longrightarrow (X_n \wedge S^1) \times (Y_n \wedge S^1) \xrightarrow{\varepsilon_n \times \varepsilon'_n} X_{n+1} \times Y_{n+1},$$

where ε_n and ε'_n are the structure maps of X and Y, respectively. In this case, we hae that the adjoint structure map is

$$X_n \times Y_n \xrightarrow{\bar{\varepsilon}_n \times \bar{\varepsilon}'_n} \Omega X_{n+1} \times \Omega Y_{n+1} \xrightarrow{\cong} \Omega(X_{n+1} \times Y_{n+1}).$$

Remark 3. When working with colimits it's more natural to use the normal structure map, or suspension bonding map, while when working with limits it's more natural to use the adjoint structure map, or loop bonding map.

Another useful pair of constructions are the *smash product* and the *function spectrum*.

Definition 10 (Smash product)**.** Let $X = (X_n)$ be a spectrum, and K be a based topological space. The smash product of K, and$X$ is the spectra, $K \wedge X$, defined levelwise as

$$(K \wedge X)_n = K \wedge X_n,$$

and the structure maps are

$$K \wedge X \xrightarrow{1_K \wedge \varepsilon_n} K \wedge X_{n+1}.$$

One example of such spectrum is the reduced suspension spectrum of X, $\mathbf{\Sigma} X = S^1 \wedge X$.

Remark 4. Now the motivation to define the suspension functor by applying S^1 on the right becomes clear. If we were to apply it on the left we would need to shuffle the two spheres before applying the structure maps. But the real condition is that the two spheres are on different sides, and the choice of which sphere is in each side is a question of preference.

Definition 11 (Functions spectrum)**.** Let $X = (X_n)$ be a spectrum, and K be a based topological space. The function spectrum from K to X, $F(K, X)$, is defined levelwise as

$$F(K, X)_n = \text{Map}_*(K, X_n),$$

the space of based maps from K to X_n. The structure maps are given by the adjunction

$$\text{Map}_*(K, X_n) \xrightarrow{\text{Map}_*(K, \bar{\varepsilon}_n)} \text{Map}_*(K, \Omega X_{n+1}) \xrightarrow{\cong} \Omega \text{Map}_*(K, X_{n+1}).$$

One example of such spectrum is the loop spectrum of X, $\boldsymbol{\Omega}X = F(S^1, X)$.

Remark 5. In this case we wil need to use a shuffling map to define the adjoint structure map, as the spheres appear in reverse order in

$$\text{Map}_*(S^1, \text{Map}_*(S^1, X_{n+1})).$$

Proposition 2.1. *The operations $K \wedge$ _, and $F(K, \_)$ are adjoint.*

Proof. this seems to depend on a definition of mapping spectrum that I don't have here. Indeed, we have and adjunction at each level. We have to show that the maps that define the adjunction commute with the structure maps, i.e.

$$
\begin{array}{ccc}
\text{Map}_*(K \wedge X_n, Y_n) & \xrightarrow{\cong} & \text{Map}_*(X_n, F(K, Y_n)) \\
\downarrow{\scriptstyle \text{Map}_*(1_K \wedge \bar{\varepsilon}_n)} & & \downarrow{\scriptstyle \bar{\varepsilon}_n^*} \\
\text{Map}_*(K \wedge X_{n+1}, Y_{n+1}) & \xrightarrow{\cong} & \text{Map}_*(X_{n+1}, F(K, Y_{n+1}))
\end{array}
$$

$\square$