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 THE COHOMOLOGY OF CERTAIN ORBIT SPACES¹

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Let (G, X) be a topological transformation group—or action—in which G is finite and X is locally compact. An important part of the cohomology of the orbit space X/G lies, so to speak, in the free part of the action (i.e. the union of orbits of cardinality $[G:1]$). The cohomology of f/G can be regarded as an $H(G)$ -module. We shall exhibit a complete set of generators and relations for this module assuming G to be the direct product of cyclic groups of prime order p and X to be a generalized sphere over Z_p (see [4, p. 404]). H will always denote cohomology with values in Z_p . A useful device consists in relating the generators of $H(G)$ to those of G .

Dimension functions. From now on let $G = Z_p \times \cdots \times Z_p$, r factors, and let g_i be the collection of subgroups of order p^i ; g_0 consists of the identity only. Let g, h, \cdots always denote subgroups of G and g_i, h_i, \cdots elements of g_i . In particular $g_0 = \{1\}$ and $g_r = G$.

By a *dimension function* of the pair (G, p) we shall mean an integer-valued function $n(g)$ of constant parity with values ≥ -1 and such that for each g different from G

$$(1) \quad n(g) = n(G) + \sum_h (n(h) - n(G))$$

summed over those h 's which lie in g_{r-1} and contain g ; when $p=2$, constant parity is not required.

For a given dimension function $n(g)$ let Ω be the totality of se-

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quences $\omega = (g_1, \dots, g_r)$ such that $g_i \subset g_{i+1}, n(g_i) > n(g_{i+1}), i = 1, \dots, r - 1$. Call $n(g)$ *effective* if Ω is nonempty.

In any action (G, X) denote by $F(g)$ the fixed-point set of g . If X is a generalized N -sphere over Z_p then $F(g)$ is a generalized k -sphere over Z_p with $k = -1$ if $F(g)$ is empty. It is known [1, Chapter XII] that the function $n(g) = k$ is a dimension function with $n(g_0) = N$. We shall call this $n(g)$ the dimension function of (G, X) ; it is effective if and only if (G, X) is effective (i.e. if the free part is nonempty). The relations (1) were obtained by Borel [1, Chapter XIII].

Generators and relations. Let $n(g)$ be an effective dimension function and let F be the free $H(G)$ -module which has the elements of Ω as free generators. The elements of F are of the form $\sum_{\omega} \lambda_{\omega} \omega$ where $\lambda_{\omega} \in H(G)$. We grade F by assigning the degree $n(G) + r$ to each ω and taking $\deg \lambda_{\omega} \omega = \deg \lambda_{\omega} + \deg \omega$. We shall define subsets R_1, R_2 of F . R_1 consists of all elements

$$(2) \quad \sum_{h_i} (g_1, \dots, h_i, \dots, g_r) \quad (i = 1, \dots, r - 1)$$

where the g 's are such that the set g^i of h_i 's for which $(g_1, \dots, h_i, \dots, g) \in \Omega$ is not empty, and the summation is over g^i . To define R_2 , choose a fixed base $t = (t_1, \dots, t_r)$ for G and for each $\omega = (g_1, \dots, g_r) \in \Omega$ choose a base $s(\omega)$ associated with ω , namely a base (s_1, \dots, s_r) of G the first i elements of which generate g_i ($i = 1, \dots, r$). In addition choose a base for $H(G)$, namely a set of elements u_i of degree 1 and v_i of degree 2 ($i = 1, \dots, r$) such that $\{u_i, v_i\}$ generates the algebra $H(G)$ (when $p = 2$, a base consists of r elements of degree 1 only). The s_i in $s(\omega)$ are uniquely expressible as $s_i = t_1^{p^{a_i}} \dots t_r^{p^{b_i}}$. Let $P(\omega)$ be the matrix (p_{ij}) . We shall define R_2 only for the case $p > 2$: it consists of all elements

$$(3) \quad V_i^{a_i} U_{i+1} V_{i+1}^{b_{i+1}} \dots U_r V_r^{b_r} \omega \quad (i = 1, \dots, r; \omega \in \Omega).$$

The U 's and V 's depend on ω and are given by

$$U_j = \sum q_{jk} u_k, \quad V_j = \sum q_{jk} v_k$$

where $Q(\omega) = (q_{jk})$ is the transposed inverse of $P(\omega)$. The a 's and b 's are:

$$a_i = a_i(\omega) = \frac{1}{2}(n(g_{r-i-1}) - n(g_{r-i})), \quad b_i = a_i - 1 \quad (i = 1, \dots, r).$$

Let $A_{n(g)} = F/R$ where R is generated additively by $R_1 \cup R_2$. It is easily shown that $A_{n(g)}$ depends only on $n(g)$.

THEOREM. *Let $n(g)$ be the dimension function of an effective action*

(G, X) where X is a generalized sphere over Z_p and let f be the free part of the action. The $H(G)$ -modules $A_{n(g)}$ and $H(f/G)$ are isomorphic. Every effective dimension function $n(g)$ is the dimension function of an effective orthogonal action (G, S) where $N = n(g_0)$.

Remark. The elements in $R_1 \cup R_2$ are not necessarily linearly independent and therefore $R_1 \cup R_2$ can generally be replaced by a proper subset. It can be shown for example that when $r = 2$, the index i in (3) need only take the value 1. Thus when $r = 2$, we may take for R_2 the elements $V_1^{a_1}\omega, \omega \in \Omega$.

An example. Let $r = 2, p = 3$. g_1 consists of four subgroups,—call them g^1, \dots, g^4 omitting the subscript 1. Let $n(g_0) = 9, n(g^1) = n(g^2) = n(g^3) = 1, n(g^4) = 3, n(g_2) = n(G) = -1$. This defines a dimension function $n(g)$ for G and $n(g)$ is effective: $\Omega = \{\omega_i\}$ where $\omega_i = (g^i, g_2), i = 1, \dots, 4$. R_1 consists of the single element $\omega_1 + \omega_2 + \omega_3 + \omega_4$. We take R_2 as in the Remark. Simple calculations give $R_2 = \{v_2\omega_1, (-v_1 + v_2)\omega_2, (v_1 + v_2)\omega_3, v_1^2\omega_4\}$. Evidently $A_{n(g)} = F'/R'$ where F' is generated by $\omega_1, \omega_2, \omega_3$ and R' by

$$(4) \quad v_2\omega_1, \quad (-v_1 + v_2)\omega_2, \quad (v_1 + v_2)\omega_3, \quad v_1^2(\omega_1 + \omega_2 + \omega_3).$$

It can be verified that $A_{n(g)}$ agrees with known formulas [3] for $H(f/G)$. It is known for example that $H^n(f/G)$ is cyclic when $n = n(g_0)$ and is trivial for larger n . To see how this works out in the present example where $n(g_0) = 9$, one verifies first that all elements $\lambda\omega_i$ in F' of degree greater than 7 in which λ is a polynomial in v_1, v_2 alone, is in R' . For example

$$-v_1^4\omega_1 = v_1^2v_2r_1 + (v_1^3 + v_1^2v_2)r_2 + (v_1^2v_2 - v_1^3)r_3 + (v_1^2 - v_2^2)r_4,$$

where r_1, \dots are the elements in (4). Now $u_1^2 = u_2^2 = 0$ since the u 's are of odd degree. It follows readily that all elements of F' of degree > 9 are in R' . As for the degree 9, it is easily shown that the element $e = u_1u_2v_1^3\omega_1$ is not in R' . Moreover if e_1 is of degree 9 then $e_1 = xe \pmod{R'}$ where $x \in Z_p$. For example

$$u_1u_2v_1^3\omega_2 = u_1u_2v_1^3\omega_1 + u_1u_2(v_1^2r_1 + (v_2^2 + v_1v_2 - v_1^2)r_2v_1r_3 - (v_1 + v_2)r_4).$$

The structure of $A_{n(g)}$ in lower degrees can be determined just as readily and compared with the results in [3].

$H(G)$ -modules. Let $C = (C^n)_{n \geq 0}$ be the graded Z_p -module in which each C^n is the group ring $Z_p(Z_p)$. Let $t = (t_1, \dots, t_r)$ be a base for G and let

$$C_t = C_{(1)} \otimes \cdots \otimes C_{(r)}$$

where the $C_{(i)}$ are copies of C . Convert C_t to a G -module by the action

$$\gamma(c_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes c_r) = \gamma_1 c_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes \gamma_r c_r \quad (\gamma \in G)$$

where γ_i is the t_i -component of γ . Define coboundaries in C_t by taking $d_t^n: C_{(i)}^n \rightarrow C_{(i)}^{n+1}$ to be multiplication by $\sigma(t_i) = 1 + t_i + \cdots + t_i^{p-1}$ when n is odd and by $1 - t_i$ when n is even. C_t is now a free acyclic G -complex of cochains. Let

$$u_i(t) = 1 \otimes \cdots \otimes \sigma(t_i) \otimes \cdots \otimes 1 \quad (i = 1, \dots, r)$$

where the 1's are of degree zero, $\sigma(t_i)$ of degree 1 and let $v_i(t)$ be the same except that $\sigma(t_i)$ is of degree 2. On introducing products in the usual way [2, p. 252] C_t becomes an algebra which induces an algebra $H(C_t)^G$ where $(C_t)^G$ consists of the invariant elements of C_t . The elements of $H(C_t)^G$ represented by $\{u_i(t), v_i(t)\}$ (by $\{u_i(t)\}$ only when $p=2$) form a base β_t . Let $s = (s_1, \dots, s_r)$ be a base for G . Now let G act diagonally on $C_s \otimes C_t$. The equivariant map $C_t \rightarrow C_s \otimes C_t$ defined by $c_t \rightarrow \epsilon(s) \otimes c_t$ where $\epsilon(s) = 1 \otimes \cdots \otimes 1 \in C_s^0$, is known to induce an algebra isomorphism $H(C_t)^G \rightarrow H(C_s \otimes C_t)^G$ and there is also an isomorphism $H(C_s)^G \rightarrow H(C_s \otimes C_t)^G$. We introduce into $\cup_t H(C_t)$ an equivalence which is compatible with multiplication: if $a \in H(C_s)^G$, $b \in H(C_t)^G$ then $a \sim b$ if a and b have equal images in $H(C_s \otimes C_t)^G = H(C_t \otimes C_s)^G$. We take for $H(G)$ the algebra of equivalence classes. There is a canonical isomorphism $\phi_t: H(C_t)^G \rightarrow H(G)$ for every t . The images in $H(G)$ of the elements of β_t give a base $\beta_s = \{u_i(t), v_i(t)\}$ for $H(G)$.

PROPOSITION 1. *Let s, t be bases for G and let $s_i = t^{p s_{i1}} \cdots t^{p s_{ir}}$, $i = 1, \dots, r$. Then $u_i(s) = \sum q_{ij} u_j(t)$, $v_i(s) = \sum q_{ij} v_j(t)$ where $Q = (q_{ij})$ is the transposed inverse of $P = (p_{ij})$. (When $p=2$, the v 's do not appear.)*

The orbit space of f . Let (G, X) be an action and let $C'(X)$ be the Alexander-Spanier cochains of X with values in Z_p modulo those with empty supports. Let $C(X)$ be the compactly supported elements of $C'(X)$. Let f be the free part of the action. $C(f)$ is a free G -module and $H(f/G)$ can be identified with $H(C(f))^G$. The map $\psi_t: C(f) \rightarrow C_t \otimes C(f)$ defined by $c \rightarrow \epsilon(t) \otimes c$ induces an isomorphism $H(f/G) \rightarrow H(C_t \otimes C(f))^G$. Thus an element x in $H(f/G)$ can be regarded as an equivariant cohomology class of $C_t \otimes C(f)$. It can be verified that the map $C_t \otimes (C_t \otimes C(f)) \rightarrow C_t \otimes C(f)$ defined by $c \otimes (c' \otimes x) \rightarrow cc' \otimes x$, $c' \in C_t$, $x \in C(f)$ induces an action by $H(C_t)^G$ on

$H(C_t \otimes \mathbf{C}(f))^a$, hence on $H(f/G)$ such that $H(f/G)$ is an $H(C_t)^a$ -module. Through the isomorphism ψ_t , $H(f/G)$ becomes an $H(G)$ -module; the action by $H(G)$ on $H(f/G)$ is independent of t .

Derivation of R_2 . For each subgroup g of G there is an induced action $(G/g, F(g))$. We denote its free part by $f(g)$ agreeing that $f(g_r) = F(g_r)$. Now assume that (G, X) is effective and let $\omega = (g_1, \dots, g_r)$ be an element of Ω . Let $s(\omega) = (s_1, \dots, s_r)$ be associated with ω and let h_j be the subgroup generated by $s^j = (s_{r-j+1}, \dots, s_r)$. The induced action $(h_j, F(g_{r-j}))$ can be identified with $(G/g_{r-j}, F(g_{r-j}))$ and hence $f(g_{r-j})$ is the free part of $(h_j, F(g_{r-j}))$ and $H(f(g_{r-j})/h_j)$ is an $H(h_j)$ -module.

PROPOSITION 2. *There exist maps of degree 1*

$$H(f(g_r)) \xrightarrow{\alpha_r} H(f(g_{r-1})/h_1) \xrightarrow{\alpha_{r-1}} H(f(g_{r-2})/h_2) \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow H(f/G)$$

such that for $x \in H(f(g_{r-j})/h_j)$,

$$(5) \quad \alpha_{r-j} u_i(s^j) x = u_i(s^{j+1}) \alpha_{r-j} x, \quad j = 0, \dots, r-1, i = 1, \dots, j.$$

If $p > 2$, the same relation holds with u replaced by v .

The α 's are essentially connecting homomorphisms in the cohomology sequences for certain pairs.

PROPOSITION 3. *Let t be a fixed base for G and (G, X) be an action. Let $n(g) \geq -1$ be an integer-valued function, of constant parity if $p > 2$, and such that $F(g) = \emptyset$ when $n(g) = -1$ and $H^n(f(g)/h) = 0$ ($h = G/g$) whenever $n > n(g)$. Let $g_1 \subset g_2 \subset \dots \subset g_r$ be subgroups of G and η an element of $H^{n(g_r)}(f(g_r))$ and let*

$$(6) \quad w(g_1, \dots, g_r) = \alpha_1 \dots \alpha_r \eta.$$

The expressions (3) are annulled when ω is replaced by the corresponding w and u_i by $u_i(t)$, v_i by $v_i(t)$.

PROOF FOR THE CASE $p > 2$. It will be seen that

$$y = v_i(s^i)^{a_i} \alpha_i u_{i+1}(s^{i+1}) v_{i+1}(s^{i+1})^{b_{i+1}} \alpha_{i+1} \dots \alpha_r u_r(s^{r-1}) v_{r-1}(s_{r-1})^{b_{r-1}} \alpha_r \eta$$

lies in $H(f(g_{r-1})/h_{r-i+1})$ and is of degree

$$2(a_i + b_{i+1} \dots + b_r) + (r - i) + (r - i + 1) = n(g_{i-1}) + 1$$

hence is zero. Hence $\alpha_1 \dots \alpha_{i-1} y = 0$. On transferring the α 's to the right by (5) we obtain

$$v_i(s)^{a_i} u_{i+1}(s) \cdots u_r(s) v_r(s)^{b_r} w = 0.$$

From Proposition 1 we have $v_i(s) = V_i$, $u_{i+1}(s) = U_{i+1}$, etc. which completes the proof.

Now let X be a generalized sphere over Z_p and let $n(g)$ be the dimension function of (G, X) assumed to be effective. Let η be a nonzero element of $H^{n(g_r)}(\mathfrak{f}(G))$ and let

$$W = \{w(g_1 \cdots g_r), (g_1, \cdots, g_r) \in \Omega\}$$

where w is given by (6). (In case $F(g) = \emptyset$, replace α, η by any nonzero element of $H^0(g_{r-1})$.) It can be shown that W generates the $H(G)$ -module $H(F/G)$ and that its elements annul the expressions (2) when substituted for the corresponding ω 's (the proof of this last does not involve $H(G)$). From Proposition 3 the expressions (3) are also annulled. It follows that there is a natural homomorphism $\mu: A_{n(g)} \rightarrow H(\mathfrak{f}/G)$ which is surjective. An argument based on [3] shows that μ is also injective.

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