Hao, Y., Liu, X. and Sun, Q.
Osaka J. Math.
53 (2016), 971–981

THE HOMOTOPY FIXED POINT SETS OF SPHERES ACTIONS ON RATIONAL COMPLEXES

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(Received March 19, 2015, revised October 2, 2015)

Abstract

In this paper, we describe the homotopy type of the homotopy fixed point sets of S^3-actions on rational spheres and complex projective spaces, and provide some properties of S^1-actions on a general rational complex.

1. Introduction

An action of a group G on a space M gives rise to two natural spaces, the fixed point set M^G and the homotopy fixed point set M^{hG}. It is crucially important that there is an injection

$$k\colon M^G \to M^{hG}.$$

Indeed, one version of the *generalized Sullivan conjecture* asserts that, when G is a finite p-group, and M is a G-CW-complex, then the p-completion of k is a homotopy equivalence. This conjecture was proved in the case when M is a finite complex by Miller [7].

For a finite group G, the rational homotopy theory of M^{hG} has been studied by Goyo [5].

In [1, 2], the authors studied the homotopy type of M^{hG} for a compact Lie group G with particular emphasis when G is the circle.

From now on, and unless explicitly stated otherwise, G will denote a compact connected Lie group and by a topological G-space we mean a nilpotent G-space with the homotopy type of a CW-complex of finite type and $M^G \neq \emptyset$. Then the action of G on M induces an action of G on $M_{\mathbb{Q}}$.

We then start by setting a sufficiently general context in which ${M_{\mathbb{Q}}}^{hG}$ has the homotopy type of a nilpotent CW-complex. Identifying the homotopy fixed point set

2010 Mathematics Subject Classification. 55R91, 55R45.

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The second author was supported in part by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (Nos. 11171161, 11571186) and the Scientific Research Foundation for the Returned Overseas Chinese Scholars, State Education Ministry.

with the space $\mathrm{Sec}(\xi)$ of sections of the corresponding Borel fibration

$$\xi : M \to M_{hG} \to BG,$$

we have that if $\pi_{>n}(M)$ are torsion groups for a certain $n > 1$, then ${M_{\mathbb{Q}}}^{hG}$ is a rational nilpotent complex with the homotopy type of a CW-complex [1].

In this paper, we explicitly describe the rational homotopy type of the homotopy fixed point sets of certain S^3-actions.

Theorem 1.1. *Given an S^3-action on the rational n-sphere $S^n_{\mathbb{Q}}$.*
(1) *When n is odd, ${S^n_{\mathbb{Q}}}^{hS^3}$ has the rational homotopy type of products of odd dimensional spheres, precisely, we have*

$${S^n_{\mathbb{Q}}}^{hS^3} \simeq_{\mathbb{Q}} S^a \times S^{a+4} \times \cdots \times S^n,$$

where

$$a = \begin{cases} 1, & n = 4k+1, \\ 3, & n = 4k+3. \end{cases}$$

(2) *If $n = 4k$, ${S^n_{\mathbb{Q}}}^{hS^3}$ is either path connected, and of the rational homotopy type of $S^3 \times K_k$, where K_k has the minimal Sullivan model*

$$(\Lambda((x_s)_{1\le s\le k}, (y_r)_{2\le r\le 2k}), d)$$

with $|x_s| = 4s$, $|y_r| = 4r-1$, $dx_s = 0$ $(1 \le s \le k)$, $dy_r = \sum_{s+t=r} x_s x_t$ $(2 \le r \le 2k)$, or else, it has 2 components, each of them has the rational homotopy type of

$$S^{4k+3} \times S^{4k+7} \times \cdots \times S^{8k-1}.$$

(3) *If $n = 4k+2$, ${S^n_{\mathbb{Q}}}^{hS^3}$ is path connected, and of the rational homotopy type of $S^3 \times S^7 \times T_k$, where T_k has the minimal Sullivan model*

$$(\Lambda((x_s)_{1\le s\le k}, (y_r)_{3\le r\le 2k+1}), d)$$

with $|x_s| = 4s+2$, $|y_r| = 4r-1$, $dx_s = 0$ $(1 \le s \le k)$, $dy_r = \sum_{s+t=r-1} x_s x_t$ $(3 \le r \le 2k+1)$.

Theorem 1.2. *Given an S^3-action in the rational complex projective space $\mathbb{C}P^n_{\mathbb{Q}}$.*

(1) *If n is odd, ${\mathbb{C}P^n_{\mathbb{Q}}}^{hS^3}$ is path connected, and has the rational homotopy type of one of the following spaces*:

$$
\begin{aligned}
&\mathbb{C}P^1 \times S^7 \times S^{11} \times \cdots \times S^{2n+1},\\
&S^3 \times \mathbb{C}P^3 \times S^{11} \times \cdots \times S^{2n+1},\\
&S^3 \times S^7 \times \mathbb{C}P^5 \times \cdots \times S^{2n+1},\\
&\dots,\\
&S^3 \times S^7 \times \cdots \times S^{2n-3} \times \mathbb{C}P^n.
\end{aligned}
$$

(2) *If n is even, ${\mathbb{C}P^n_{\mathbb{Q}}}^{hS^3}$ is path connected, and has the rational homotopy type of one of the following spaces*:

$$
\begin{aligned}
&* \times S^5 \times S^9 \times \cdots \times S^{2n+1},\\
&S^1 \times \mathbb{C}P^2 \times S^9 \times \cdots \times S^{2n+1},\\
&S^1 \times S^5 \times \mathbb{C}P^4 \times \cdots \times S^{2n+1},\\
&\dots,\\
&S^1 \times S^5 \times \cdots \times S^{2n-3} \times \mathbb{C}P^n.
\end{aligned}
$$

In [1, Corollary 2], they give a criterion of an elliptic S^1-space. We first show that the condition M is a finite complex is necessary by the following example: there is a nilpotent S^1-complex M which is not an elliptic space, such that each component of ${M_{\mathbb{Q}}}^{hS^1}$ is elliptic. We also observe that an S^1-finite nilpotent complex M is elliptic if and only if one of the component of ${M_{\mathbb{Q}}}^{hS^1}$ is elliptic, complementing the mentioned result.

Finally, we show that the injection k is generally not a rational homotopy equivalence.

Theorem 1.3. *For an S^1-complex M which is simply connected with*

$$\dim \pi_*(M) \otimes \mathbb{Q} < \infty.$$

Then

$$k\colon M_{\mathbb{Q}}^{S^1} \hookrightarrow M_{\mathbb{Q}}^{hS^1}$$

is a rational homotopy equivalence if and only if M is rational homotopy equivalent to a product of $\mathbb{C}P^\infty$.

In the next section we prove Theorems 1.1 and 1.2. In Section 3 we prove Theorem 1.3.

2. S^3-rational spheres and complex projective spaces

Our results heavily depend on known facts and techniques arising from rational homotopy theory. All of them can be found with all details in [4]. We simply remark a few facts.

We recall that when M is path connected, the Sullivan model of M is a quasi-isomorphism

$$m\colon (\Lambda V_M, d) \to A_{PL}(M),$$

where $(\Lambda V_M, d)$ is a Sullivan algebra.

We also recall that a space M is elliptic if both $H^*(M; \mathbb{Q})$ and $\pi_*(M) \otimes \mathbb{Q}$ are finite dimensional vector spaces over $\mathbb{Q}$.

For a G-space M, we have the corresponding Borel fibration

$$\xi : M \to M_{hG} \to BG,$$

where $M_{hG} = (M \times EG)/G$. It is a classical fact that the homotopy fixed point set

$$M^{hG} = \mathrm{map}_G(EG, M)$$

is homotopy equivalent to the section space $\mathrm{Sec}(\xi)$ of this fibration.

Each fixed point gives rise to a trivial section of the product bundle

$$M^G \to BG \times M^G \to BG.$$

Composing with the injection $M_G \times BG \hookrightarrow EG \times M/G = M_{hG}$ gives a section of the Borel fibration. Thus we have a natural injection:

$$k\colon M^G \hookrightarrow M^{hG}.$$

For any G-CW complex M, there is an equivariant rationalization $m\colon M \to M_{\mathbb{Q}}$, that is, $M_{\mathbb{Q}}$ is also a G-CW complex, m is an equivariant map, and $(M_{\mathbb{Q}})^G \simeq (M^G)_{\mathbb{Q}}$. Moreover, we have

Proposition 2.1 ([1, Proposition 12]). *If M is a Postnikov piece, that is, $\pi_{>N}(M) = 0$ for some N, then*
(i) *M^{hG} has the homotopy type of a nilpotent CW-complex of finite type.*
(ii) $(M^{hG})_{\mathbb{Q}} \simeq (M_{\mathbb{Q}})^{hG}$.

Note that if $M_{\mathbb{Q}}$ is a Postnikov piece, then $(M_{\mathbb{Q}})^{hG}$ makes sense and is a rational space.

Now, we determine the homotopy type of the homotopy fixed point sets of certain S^3-actions.

Proof of Theorem 1.1. (1) CASE 1: n is odd.

We only prove the case $n = 4k+3$, the case $n = 4k+1$ is similar, so we omit it.

As in the proof of [1, Theorem 19], it is not hard to get the model of the corresponding Borel fibration

$$\xi : (A, 0) \hookrightarrow ((\Lambda e) \otimes A, D) \to (\Lambda e, 0),$$

where $(A, 0) = (\Lambda x/x^k, 0)$ and $|x| = 4$, $|e| = n$. This fibration is trivial, so $\mathrm{Sec}(\xi) \simeq \mathrm{Map}(\mathbb{H}P^k, S^n)$.

By [1, Theorem 9], the model of $S^{n\ hS^3}_{\mathbb{Q}}$ is $(\Lambda(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_{n+1/4}), 0)$. It is exactly the model of $S^3 \times S^7 \times \cdots \times S^n$. It follows that $S^{n\ hS^3}_{\mathbb{Q}} \simeq_{\mathbb{Q}} S^a \times S^{a+4} \times \cdots \times S^n$.

(2) CASE 2: $n = 4k$.

As $\pi_{\geq 2n}(S^n) \otimes \mathbb{Q} = 0$, a model of the Borel fibration is

$$\xi_{2n} : (A, 0) \hookrightarrow (\Lambda(e, e') \otimes A, D) \to (\Lambda(e, e'), d),$$

where $A = \Lambda x/x^{2k+1}$, x, e, e' are of degree 4, n, $2n-1$ respectively, $De = 0$, $De' = e^2 + \lambda x^{n/4} e$, $de' = e^2$.

(i) If $\lambda = 0$, then ξ_{2n} is trivial and

$$S^{n\ hS^3}_{\mathbb{Q}} \simeq \mathrm{Map}(\mathbb{H}P^{2k}, S^n)_{\mathbb{Q}}.$$

A straightforward computation shows that this mapping space has a model of the form

$$(\Lambda y_1, 0) \otimes (\Lambda((x_s)_{1\leq s\leq k}, (y_r)_{2\leq r\leq 2k}), d)$$

with $|x_s| = 4s$, $|y_r| = 4r-1$, $dx_s = 0$ $(1 \leq s \leq k)$, $dy_r = \sum_{s+t=r} x_s x_t$ $(r > 1)$.

(ii) If $\lambda \neq 0$, then the fibration ξ_n has two non homotopic sections σ, τ which correspond to the only two possible retractions of its model:

$$\varphi_\sigma, \varphi_\tau : (\Lambda(e, e') \otimes A, D) \to (A, 0), \quad \varphi_\sigma(e) = 0, \quad \varphi_\tau(e) = \lambda x^k.$$

By the same way in [1], we have that the model of $\mathrm{Sec}_\sigma(\xi_{2n})$ is of the form

$$(\Lambda((x_s)_{1\leq s\leq k}, (y_r)_{1\leq r\leq 2k}), \tilde{d})$$

with $|x_s| = 4s$, $|y_r| = 4r-1$. The linear part of $\tilde{d}$ is:

$$\tilde{d}(y_r) = \lambda x_r$$

for $1 \leq r \leq k$, which shows that the minimal model of $\mathrm{Sec}_\sigma(\xi_{2n})$ is

$$(\Lambda(y_r)_{k+1\leq r\leq 2k}, 0).$$

Replace λ by $-\lambda$, we have that the model of $\mathrm{Sec}_{\tau}(\xi_{2n})$ is the same.

(3) **Case 2**: $n = 4k + 2$.

As $\pi_{\geq 2n}(S^n) \otimes \mathbb{Q} = 0$, a model of the Borel fibration is

$$\xi_{2n}\colon (A, 0) \hookrightarrow (\Lambda(e, e') \otimes A, D) \to (\Lambda(e, e'), d),$$

where $A = \Lambda x / x^{2k+1}$, x, e, e' are of degree 4, n, $2n-1$ respectively, $De = 0$, $De' = e^2$, $de' = e^2$. It follows that the fibration ξ_{2n} is trivial, we have

$$S^{n\,hG}_{\mathbb{Q}} \simeq \mathrm{Map}(\mathbb{H}P^{2k}, S^n)_{\mathbb{Q}}.$$

The model of $S^{n\,hG}_{\mathbb{Q}}$ is

$$(\Lambda(y_1, y_2), 0) \otimes (\Lambda((x_s)_{1\leq s\leq k}, (y_r)_{3\leq r\leq 2k+1}), d)$$

with $|x_s| = 4s + 2$, $|y_r| = 4r - 1$, $dx_s = 0$ $(1 \leq s \leq k)$, $dy_r = \sum_{s+t=r-1} x_s x_t$ $(3 \leq r \leq 2k + 1)$.

The desired result follows. $\square$

Proof of Theorem 1.2. First, we assume $n = 2k + 1$. As $\pi_{\geq 4k+4}(\mathbb{C}P^n_{\mathbb{Q}}) = 0$, it suffice to use the model of ξ_{2n+2}

$$(A, 0) \to (\Lambda(e, e') \otimes A, D) \to (\Lambda(e, e'), d),$$

where $A = (\Lambda x)/x^{k+2}$, $|x| = 4$, $|e| = 2$, $|e'| = 4k + 3$, and

$$De = 0, \quad De' = e^{n+1} + \sum_{j=1}^{k} \lambda_j e^j x^{n+1-2j}, \quad \lambda \in \mathbb{Q},\ j = 1, \ldots, n.$$

The retraction of this model of fibration is just $\varphi(e) = 0$. So we have $\mathrm{Sec}(\xi_{4k+4})$ is connected, and the model of it is

$$(\Lambda(e, (e'_r)_{1\leq r\leq k+1}, \tilde{d})$$

with $|e| = 2$, $|e'_r| = 4r - 1$, $\tilde{d}(e'_r) = \lambda_{k+1-r} e^{2r}$ for $1 \leq r \leq k$ and $\tilde{d}(e'_{k+1}) = e^{2k+2}$.

If $\lambda_1 \neq 0$ this is a model of

$$S^2 \times S^7 \times \cdots \times S^{4k+3}.$$

If $\lambda_1 = \cdots = \lambda_{i-1} = 0$ and $\lambda_i \neq 0$, this is a model of

$$S^3 \times \cdots \times S^{4k-4i-1} \times \mathbb{C}P^{2k+1-2i} \times S^{4k-4i+3} \times \cdots \times S^{4k+3}.$$

Finally, if all $\lambda_i = 0$, then it is a model of

$$S^3 \times S^7 \times \cdots \times S^{4k-1} \times \mathbb{C}P^{2k+1}.$$

For n even, the proof is similar, so we omit it. $\square$

3. The Inclusion $k\colon M^{S^1} \hookrightarrow M^{hS^1}$

We begin with some interesting observations on S^1-actions.

In [2, Example 12], there is an S^1-action on $M = K(\mathbb{Z}, n) \times K(\mathbb{Z}, n+1)$, such that the model of it's Borel fibration is

$$\eta_n\colon (\Lambda x, 0) \hookrightarrow (\Lambda x \otimes \Lambda(z, y), D) \to (\Lambda(z, y), d),$$

where $|x| = 2$, $|z| = n$, $|y| = n+1$, $D(z) = 0$, and $D(y) = xz$. For $n = 2k$, there is only one retraction $\sigma\colon \sigma(z) = \sigma(y) = 0$. Thus $\mathrm{Sec}(\eta_{2k})$ is path connected.

By the same method used in [1], a model of $\mathrm{Sec}(\eta_{2k})$ is

$$(\Lambda((z_i)_{1\le i\le k}, (y_j)_{1\le j\le k+1}), d),$$

where $|z_i| = 2i$, $|y_j| = 2j-1$ and $d(y_i) = z_i$. Since the minimal model of $\mathrm{Sec}(\eta_{2k})$ is $(\Lambda y_{k+1}, 0)$, $\mathrm{Sec}(\eta_{2k}) \simeq_{\mathbb{Q}} S^{2k+1}$ is an elliptic space. However, M is not an elliptic space.

Next we complement [1, Corollary 2] with the following

Proposition 3.1. *For an S^1-space M which is a nilpotent finite complex, the following conditions are equivalent*:

1) *M is elliptic.*
2) *Each component of ${M_{\mathbb{Q}}}^{hS^1}$ is elliptic.*
3) *One of the components of ${M_{\mathbb{Q}}}^{hS^1}$ is elliptic.*

Proof. 1) $\Rightarrow$ 2): [1, Theorem 15].

2) $\Rightarrow$ 3): Trivial.

3) $\Rightarrow$ 1): By [2, Theorem 13], $2\dim\pi_*(\mathrm{Sec}_\sigma(\xi)\otimes\mathbb{Q}) \ge \dim\pi_*(M)\otimes\mathbb{Q}$. By $\mathrm{Sec}_\sigma(\xi)$ is elliptic, $\dim\pi_*(\mathrm{Sec}_\sigma(\xi))\otimes\mathbb{Q}$ is finite, so $\dim\pi_*(M)\otimes\mathbb{Q}$ is finite. Then M is elliptic. $\square$

REMARK 3.2. The theorem holds also for $G = S^3$. The proof is similar.

The rest of the section is devoted to showing Theorem 1.3.

Let M be an S^1-space and $M^G \neq \emptyset$. Then the inclusion $M^{S^1} \hookrightarrow M$ induces a map of Borel fibrations:

$$\begin{tikzcd} M^{S^1} \arrow[rr] \arrow[d] & & M \arrow[d] \\ \mathbb{C}P^\infty \times M^{S^1} \arrow[rr, "\gamma"] \arrow[dr, "\eta"'] & & M_{hS^1} \arrow[dl, "\xi"] \\ & \mathbb{C}P^\infty. & \end{tikzcd} \tag{3.1}$$

If there exists some N such that $\pi_{\geq N}(M_{\mathbb{Q}}) = 0$ and $\pi_{\geq N}(M_{\mathbb{Q}}^{S^1}) = 0$. Then k is identified with the corresponding

$$M^{S^1} \hookrightarrow \mathrm{Map}((\mathbb{C}P^\infty)^{(N)}, M^{S^1}) \to \mathrm{Sec}(\xi_N) \cong M^{hS^1},$$

which can be obtained by truncating in the diagram (3.1):

$$\begin{tikzcd} M^{S^1} \arrow[rr] \arrow[d] & & M \arrow[d] \\ F_N \arrow[rr, "\gamma_N"] \arrow[dr, "\eta_N"'] & & E_N \arrow[dl, "\xi_N"] \\ & (\mathbb{C}P^\infty)^{(N)}. & \end{tikzcd}$$

Now let

$$\begin{tikzcd} & (A \otimes \Lambda V, D) \arrow[r] \arrow[d, "\psi"'] & (\Lambda V, d) \arrow[d, "\varphi"'] \\ (A, 0) \arrow[ur] \arrow[dr] & & \\ & (A, 0) \otimes (\Lambda Z, d) \arrow[r] & (\Lambda Z, d) \end{tikzcd} \tag{3.2}$$

be a model of the above diagram, where $(A,0) = (\Lambda x/(\Lambda x)^{>N}, 0)$, $(\Lambda V, d)$ and $(\Lambda Z, d)$ are minimal Sullivan models of M and M^{S^1}, respectively.

Then we have the following

Theorem 3.3. [1, Theorem 21] *The composition*

$$(\Lambda(V \otimes A^{\#}), \tilde{d}) \xrightarrow{\phi} (\Lambda(Z \otimes A^{\#}), \tilde{d}) \xrightarrow{\gamma} (\Lambda Z, d)$$

is a model of $k\colon M_{\mathbb{Q}}^{S^1} \hookrightarrow M_{\mathbb{Q}}^{hS^1}$. *The morphisms above are defined by*

$$\phi(v \otimes \alpha) = \rho^{-1}[\psi(v) \otimes \alpha], \quad v \otimes \alpha \in V \otimes A^{\#},$$
$$\gamma(z \otimes \alpha) = \begin{cases} z & \alpha = 1, \\ 0 & \alpha \neq 1, \end{cases} \quad z \otimes \alpha \in Z \otimes A^{\#}.$$

Then we give some information about ψ. First, let $(\Lambda x \otimes \Lambda V, D)$ be a model of the fibration ξ, we can decompose the differential D in $A \otimes \Lambda V$ into

$$D = \sum_{i \leq 1} D_i, \quad D_i(V) \subset \Lambda x \otimes \Lambda^i V.$$

Proposition 3.4. [2, *Lemma* 14] *The vector space* V *can be decomposed into a direct sum* $W \oplus K \oplus S$ *where*
(1) $W \oplus K = \ker D_1$,
(2) K *and* S *have the same dimension admitting bases* $\{v_i\}_{i\in I}$, $\{s_i\}_{i\in I}$, *and for any* $i \in I$, *there exists* $n_i \geq 1$ *such that* $D_1(s_i) = x^{n_i} v_i$.

Let $\mathbb{K} = Q(x)$, the field of fractions of Λx, we obtain a morphism of (ungraded) differential vector spaces

$$\bar{\psi}\colon (\mathbb{K} \otimes V, D_1) \to (\mathbb{K} \otimes Z, 0) = (Z_{\mathbb{K}}, 0).$$

If we assume $\mathbb{K}$ concentrated in degree 0 and consider in V and Z the usual $\mathbb{Z}_2$-grading given by the parity of the generators, then the Borel localization theorem claim that:

Theorem 3.5. [1, Theorem 22] *The morphism*

$$\bar{\psi}\colon (\mathbb{K} \otimes V, D_1) \to (Z_{\mathbb{K}}, 0)$$

is a quasi-isomorphism.

By Proposition 3.4, we have

Lemma 3.6. (1) $\dim W = \dim Z$.
(2) *There are* $\{w_j\}_{j\in J}$, $\{z_j\}_{j\in J}$ *which are homogeneous basis of* W *and* Z *respectively, and non negative integers* $\{m_j\}_{j\in J}$ *such that*

$$\psi(w_j) = x^{m_j} z_j + \Gamma_j, \quad \Gamma_j \in R \otimes \Lambda^{\geq 2} Z, \quad j \in J,$$

and

$$\psi(s_i) \in R \otimes \Lambda^{\geq 2} Z, \quad \psi(v_i) \in R \otimes \Lambda^{\geq 2} Z, \quad s_i \in S,\ v_i \in K,\ i \in I.$$

Theorem 3.7. *For an S^1-complex M which is simply connected with*

$$\dim \pi_*(M) \otimes \mathbb{Q} < \infty.$$

Then the inclusion

$$k\colon M^{S^1} \hookrightarrow M^{hS^1}$$

is a rational homotopy equivalence if and only if M is rational homotopy equivalent to a product of $\mathbb{C}P^\infty$.

Proof. By Theorem 3.3, the model of k is

$$\alpha\colon (\Lambda(V \otimes A^\#), \tilde{d}) \to (\Lambda(Z \otimes A^\#), \tilde{d}) \to (\Lambda Z, d).$$

By [1, Theorem 24], $\pi_*(k) \otimes \mathbb{Q}$ is injective, so we only consider the surjective part.

By [1, Theorem 11], $(\Lambda(V \otimes A^\#), \tilde{d})$ is a model of $M_{\mathbb{Q}}^{hS^1}$. Then we have

$$H^k(V \otimes A^\#, \tilde{d}_1) \cong \operatorname{Hom}(\pi_k(M_{\mathbb{Q}}^{hS^1}), \mathbb{Q}),$$

where $k \geq 1$.

By Proposition 3.4, $V = W \oplus K \oplus S$. An easy computation shows that $(W \otimes A^\#) \oplus S \subset H^*(V \otimes A^\#, \tilde{d}_1)$. It is obvious that

$$\begin{aligned}
&\alpha(w_j) = 0 \Leftrightarrow m_j \neq 0,\\
&\alpha(w_j \otimes (x^i)^\#) = 0 \Leftrightarrow m_j \neq i,\\
&\alpha(s_j) = 0.
\end{aligned}$$

If there exists some j such that $|w_j| \geq 2$ or $S \neq \emptyset$, then $H(\alpha, \tilde{d}_1)$ is not injective, so k is not a rational homotopy equivalence.

If $|w_j| = 2$, for each $j \in J$, and $S = \emptyset$, we have $(\Lambda W, d)$ is a model of a product of $\mathbb{C}P^\infty$. It is easy to show that k is a rational homotopy equivalence. □

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