

TWISTED COHOMOLOGY THEORIES AND THE SINGLE OBSTRUCTION TO LIFTING

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Consider any fibration $p: E \rightarrow B$, any finite C.W. — pair (K, L) , and any maps $f: K \rightarrow B$ and $h: L \rightarrow E$ such that $p \circ h = f|L$. A map $g: K \rightarrow E$ such that $p \circ g = f$ and $g|L = h$ we call a *lifting of f rel h* .

In this paper single obstruction $\Gamma(f) \in H^1(K, L, f; \mathcal{E})$ is defined. \mathcal{E} is a so-called B -spectrum, and $H^*(\ ; \mathcal{E})$ is cohomology in that spectrum. If a lifting of f rel h exists, $\Gamma(f) = 0$; this condition is also sufficient if the fiber of p is k -connected and $\dim(K/L) \leq 2k + 1$.

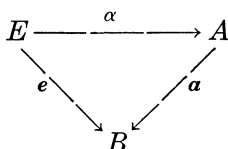
If g_0 and g_1 are liftings of f rel h , a single obstruction $\delta(g_0, g_1; h) \in H(K, L, f; \mathcal{E})$ is also defined; if g_0 and g_1 are connected by a homotopy of liftings of f rel h $\delta(g_0, g_1; h) = 0$; this condition is, also sufficient if p is k -connected and $\dim(K/L) \leq 2k$.

In §4, a spectral sequence is constructed for cohomology in a B -spectrum, based on the Postnikov tower of that spectrum, and the relationship between the single obstruction and the classical obstructions is defined.

For similar treatments, see Becker [1], [2], and Meyer [5].

Throughout this paper, let (K, L) be a finite C.W. pair, B any space, and $f: K \rightarrow B$ any map. All spaces and maps shall be in the category CG of compactly generated spaces and maps, as described by Steenrod [7], and all constructions (i.e., function spaces, quotient space, Cartesian products) shall be as defined in that paper. When possible without confusion, we shall allow $f|L$ and $f|K \cup L$ to be denoted simply as F . A map $\pi: X \rightarrow Y$ we call a *fibration* if it has a local product structure; the polyhedral covering homotopy extension property [4] is then satisfied.

2. Basic concepts. We define a B -bundle to be an ordered pair (E, e) such that $e: E \rightarrow B$ is a fibration. A B -bundle map from a B -bundle $e = (E, e)$ to another B -bundle $a = (A, a)$ is defined to be a commutative diagram:



We denote this map $\alpha: e \rightarrow a$. A *pointed B-bundle* is an ordered triple (E, e, e') such that $e: E \rightarrow B$ is a fibration and $e': B \rightarrow E$ is a *pointing*, i.e., $e \circ e' = 1$, the identity on B . We call e' a pointing because it chooses a base-point for each fiber of e . A *bi-pointed B-bundle* is an ordered quadruple (E, e, e', e'') such that (E, e) is a B -bundle and e' and e'' are both pointings. If $e = (E, e, e')$ and $a = (A, a, a')$ are pointed B -bundles, a B -bundle map $\alpha: e \rightarrow a$ is a *pointed map* if $\alpha \circ e' = a'$. Similarly, we can define bi-pointed maps between bi-pointed bundles. Two bundle maps (or pointed bundle maps, or bi-pointed bundle maps) are said to be homotopic if there exists a homotopy of bundle maps (or pointed bundle maps, or bi-pointed bundle maps) connecting them.

If $e = (E, e)$ is a B -bundle, $e^{-1}b$ is called the fiber of e over b , for any $b \in B$. If $e = (E, e, e')$ is a pointed B -bundle, each fiber, $(e^{-1}b, e'b)$ is a pointed space. If $e = (E, e, e', e'')$ is bi-pointed, we say that $e'b$ is the *South pole* of $e^{-1}b$, while $e''b$ is the *North pole*.

Let \mathcal{H}_B be the category of B -bundles and B -bundle maps. Let \mathcal{H}_B^* and \mathcal{H}_B^{**} be the categories of pointed and bi-pointed B -bundles and maps, respectively. We obviously have forgetful functors $\alpha: \mathcal{H}_B^{**} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}_B^*$ and $\beta: \mathcal{H}_B^* \rightarrow \mathcal{H}_B$ where $\alpha(E, e, e', e'') = (E, e, e')$ and $\beta(E, e, e') = (E, e)$. We shall, whenever convenient, identify any object with its image under α , β , or $\beta \circ \alpha$. We also define functors as follows:

$S: \mathcal{H}_B \rightarrow \mathcal{H}_B^{**}$ two-point suspension

$\Sigma: \mathcal{H}_B^* \rightarrow \mathcal{H}_B^*$ one-point suspension

$\Omega: \mathcal{H}_B^* \rightarrow \mathcal{H}_B^*$ looping

$P: \mathcal{H}_B^{**} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}_B$ paths from the South pole to the North pole

$S(E, e) = (S_B E, \mathbf{s}, s', s'')$ where $S_B E$ is the quotient space of $E \times I$ obtained by identifying $(x, 0)$ with $(y, 0)$ and $(x, 1)$ with $(y, 1)$ for any $x, y \in e^{-1}b$ for any $b \in B$. For all $[x, t] \in S_B E$, $\mathbf{s}[x, t] = ex$, while $s'b = [x, 0]$ and $s''b = [x, 1]$ for all $b \in B$, where x is any element in the fiber of e over b . $\Sigma(E, e, e) = (\Sigma_B E, \mathbf{s}, s')$ where $\Sigma_B E$ is the quotient space of $E \times I$ obtained by identifying $(x, 0)$ with $((e' \circ e)x, t)$ $(x, 1)$ for any $x \in E$ and any $t \in I$. Then $\mathbf{s}[x, t] = ex$ for all $[x, t] \in \Sigma_B E$ and $s'b = [e'b, 0]$ for any $b \in B$.

$\Omega(E, e, e') = (\Omega_B E, \sigma, \sigma')$ where $\Omega_B E$ is the space of all loops in E based on $e'(B)$ which lie in a single fiber of e ; $\sigma\alpha = (e \circ \alpha)(0)$ for all $\alpha \in \Omega_B E$, and $(\sigma'b)t = e'b$ for all $b \in B$, and all $t \in I$. $P(E, e, e', e'') = (P_B E, \mathbf{p})$ where $P_B E$ is the space of all paths from $e'(B)$ to $e''(B)$ which lie in a single fiber, and $\mathbf{p}\alpha = (e \circ \alpha)(0)$ for all $\alpha \in P_B E$.

We give two adjoint constructions. First, let $e = (E, e, e')$ and $a = (A, \mathbf{a}, a')$ be two pointed B -bundles. If $\alpha: e \rightarrow a$ and $\beta: \Sigma e \rightarrow a$ are pointed B -bundle maps, we say that α and β are *adjoints* of each

other if, for any $x \in E$ and any $t \in I$, $\beta[x, t] = (\alpha x)t$. Second, let $e = (E, e)$ be a B -bundle and $a = (A, \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{a}', \mathbf{a}'')$ a bi-pointed B -bundles. We say that maps $\alpha: e \rightarrow Pa$ and $\beta: Se \rightarrow a$ (where β is bi-pointed) are *adjoints* of each other if $\beta[x, t] = (\alpha x)t$ for all $x \in E$ and all $t \in I$.

Let $[K, L, h; e]_f$ denote the set of rel L fiber-homotopy classes of liftings of f to E rel h , where $e = (E, e)$ is a B -bundle and $h: L \rightarrow E$ is a lifting of $f|L$. If L is empty, write $[K: e]_f$. If $e = (E, e, e')$ is pointed, write $[K, L; e]_f$ for $[K, L, e' | L; e]_f$. If $\alpha: e \rightarrow a$ is a B -bundle map, let $\alpha_*: [K, L, h; e]_f \rightarrow [K, L, \alpha \circ h; a]_f$ be the function where $\alpha_*[g] = [\alpha \circ g]$, where $[g]$ is the fiber-homotopy rel L class of any lifting g of f rel h . If $r: (K', L') \rightarrow (K, L)$ is a map of $C.W.$ pairs, let $r^*: [K, L, h; e]_f \rightarrow [K', L, h \circ r; e]_{f \circ r}$ be the function where $r^*[g] = [g \circ r]$. We omit the proof (based in part on the *PCHEP* of e) of the following lemma:

LEMMA 2.1. *If $r: (K', L') \rightarrow (K, L)$ is a homotopy equivalence of pairs, then $r^*: [K, L, h; e]_f \cong [K', L', h \circ r; e]_{f \circ r}$.*

Let $e = (E, e)$ be a B -bundle. If each fiber of e is connected, we say that e is connected. Similarly, if each fiber of e is n -connected, or n -simple, for some integer $n \geq 1$, we say that e is n -connected, or n -simple. If e is n -simple, define $\pi_n e$ to be the local system of Abelian groups over B such that, for every $b \in B$, $(\pi_n e)b = \pi_n(e^{-1}b)$. We call $\pi_n e$ the n^{th} homotopy group system of e . Similarly, if e is pointed, we can define $\pi_n e$ whether e is n -simple or not, since every fiber has a base-point. Note that e is n -connected if and only if e is connected and $\pi_k e = 0$ for all $k \leq n$. If $\alpha: e \rightarrow a$ is any B -bundle map, where e and a are both n -simple or both pointed (and α is pointed) or e is pointed and a is n -simple, α induces a homomorphism $\alpha_*: \pi_n e \rightarrow \pi_n a$ in the obvious way.

Let $\alpha: e \rightarrow a$ be any B -bundle map, where $e = (E, e)$ and $a = (A, \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{a}')$. We define the *fiber* of α to be the B -bundle $c = (C, \mathbf{c})$ where C is the space of all ordered pairs (x, σ) such that $x \in E$ and σ is a path in A such that $\sigma(0) \in \mathbf{a}'(B)$, $\sigma(1) = \alpha x$, and $(\alpha \circ \sigma)t = ex$ for all $t \in I$; and where $\mathbf{c}(x, \sigma) = ex$ for all $(x, \sigma) \in C$. If $e = (E, e, e')$ is pointed, then $c'b = (e'b, \sigma)$ gives a pointing of c , where $\sigma t = a'b$ for all $t \in I$. The reader will note that for any $b \in B$, $c^{-1}b$ is precisely the fiber of $\alpha: e^{-1}b \rightarrow a^{-1}b$. The following sequence is thus exact, if $\alpha: e \rightarrow a$ is pointed:

$$\dots \longrightarrow \pi_n(\Omega e) \xrightarrow{(\Omega \alpha)_*} \pi_n(\Omega a) \xrightarrow{j_*} \pi_n c \xrightarrow{i_*} \pi_n e \xrightarrow{\alpha_*} \pi_n a$$

where $i(x, \sigma) = \sigma(1)$ for all $(x, \sigma) \in C$, and $j(\tau) = (c'b, \tau)$ for all $\tau \in \Omega_B A$, where $b = (a, \tau)(1)$.

Now if $\alpha: e \rightarrow a$ is a B -bundle map, we say that α is n -connected for any $n \geq 0$ if, for all $b \in B$ and $y \in a^{-1}b$, the space

$$\{(x, \sigma) \in e^{-1}b \times (a^{-1}b)^I: \sigma(0) = y, \sigma(1) = \sigma x\}$$

is n -connected. If a is a connected pointed B -bundle, α is connected if and only if the fiber of α is n -connected.

Suppose now that $\alpha: e \rightarrow a$ is a B -bundle map. Consider

$$\alpha_*: [K, L, h; e]_f \longrightarrow [K, L, \alpha \circ h; a]_f .$$

LEMMA 2.2. *Suppose α is n -connected for some $n \geq 0$. Then:*
 (i) α_* is onto if $\dim(K/L) \leq n$. (ii) α_* is one-to-one if $\dim(K/L) \leq n - 1$.

Proof. The connectivity of α equals the connectivity of the fiber of $\alpha: E \rightarrow A$, considered as a map of spaces. Simple application of ordinary obstruction theory enables us to complete the proof in a routine manner; we omit the details.

Suppose now that $g_0, g_1: K \rightarrow E$ are both liftings of $f \text{ rel } h$.

LEMMA 2.3. *If α is n -connected for some $n \geq 1$, then g_0 and g_1 are homotopic rel h if and only if $\alpha \circ g_0$ and $\alpha \circ g_1$ are homotopic, rel L ; provided $\dim(K/L) \leq n - 1$.*

Proof. We have a bi-pointed K -bundle map $f^{-1}\alpha: f^{-1}e \rightarrow f^{-1}a$, where $f^{-1}e = (f^{-1}E, f^{-1}e, f^{-1}g_0, f^{-1}g_1)$ and

$$f^{-1}a = (f^{-1}A, f^{-1}a, f^{-1}(\alpha \circ g_0), f^{-1}(\alpha \circ g_1)) ;$$

and $Pf^{-1}\alpha: Pf^{-1}e \rightarrow Pf^{-1}a$ is $(n-1)$ -connected. A section of $Pf^{-1}e$ is equivalent to a fiber homotopy, rel L , of g_0 with g_1 , while a section of $Pf^{-1}a$ is equivalent to a fiber homotopy, rel L , of $\alpha \circ g_0$ with $\alpha \circ g_1$. Apply Lemma 2.2, and we are done.

3. B -Spectra. Suppose $e = (E, e, e')$ is a pointed B -bundle. We define an operation “+” on $[K, L, \Omega e]_f$ as follows: for any two liftings of $f \text{ rel } e' | L$, g and g' , let $g + g': K \rightarrow \Omega_B E$ be the map where $((g+g')x)t = (gx)(2t)$ if $0 \leq t \leq 1/2$, $g'(x)(2t-1)$ if $1/2 \leq t \leq 1$, for all $x \in K$. Then $g + g'$ is also a lifting of $f \text{ rel } e' | L$. We define $[g] + [g'] = [g+g']$; it is trivial to verify that the operation is well-defined.

THEOREM 3.1. $[K, L; \Omega e]_f$ is a group under the operation “+” with identity $[e']$.

Proof. Let $[g]^{-1} = [g^{-1}]$ for any lifting g of $f \text{ rel } e' | L$, where $(g^{-1}x)t = (gx)(1-t)$ for all $x \in K$ and all $t \in I$; it is routine to check that the group axioms are satisfied.

THEOREM 3.2. $[K, L; \Omega^2e]_f$ is an Abelian group.

Proof. We omit the details; if g and g' are both liftings of $f \text{ rel } e' | L$, a fiber homotopy $\text{rel } L$ of $g + g'$ with $g' + g$ can easily be constructed in the same manner as the proof that $[X; \Omega^2 Y]$ is Abelian for pointed spaces X and Y , but the construction is done fiberwise over B .

DEFINITION 3.1. A B -spectrum is an ordered pair

$$\mathcal{E} = (\{e_i\}_{i \geq m}, \{\varepsilon_i\}_{i \geq m})$$

for some integer m such that:

- (i) For each $i \geq m$, e_i is a pointed B -bundle.
- (ii) For each $i \geq m$, $\varepsilon_i: e_i \rightarrow e_{i+1}$ is a pointed B -bundle map.

Furthermore, we say that \mathcal{E} is a Ω_B -spectrum if ε_i is a homotopy equivalence (in the category \mathcal{E}_B^*) for each i , and we say that ε is a weak Ω_B -spectrum if ε_i is infinitely connected for all $i \geq m$. We say that ε is *stabilizing* if, for each integer n , there exists an integer $N \geq m$ such that ε_i is $(n+i)$ -connected for all $i \geq N$. The e_i are called the elements of the spectrum, the ε_i are called the connection maps, and m is called the starting value. If the first finitely many elements of a spectrum are altered, no change occurs in cohomology with coefficients in that spectrum; in that sense, the starting value is arbitrary. We define the homotopy of a spectrum $\pi_n(\mathcal{E})$ for any integer n , to be the direct limit $\text{Lim}_{i \rightarrow \infty} \pi_{n+i}e_i$, under the system of homomorphisms

$$(\varepsilon)_{i\sharp}: \pi_{n+i}e_i \longrightarrow \pi_{n+i}\Omega e_{i+1} \cong \pi_{n+i+1}e_{i+1}$$

thus $\pi_n(\mathcal{E})$ is a local system of Abelian groups on B . Note that $\pi_n(\mathcal{E})$ need not be zero for negative values of n .

Henceforth, we shall assume that $\mathcal{E} = (\{e_i\}_{i \geq m}, \{\varepsilon_i\}_{i \geq m})$ is a B -spectrum.

DEFINITION 3.2. For any integer n , let $H^n(K, L, f; \mathcal{E})$ be the direct limit of the system of groups $\{[K, L; \Omega^{i-n}e_i]_f\}$ and homomorphisms $\{(\Omega^{i-n}\varepsilon_i)_\sharp\}$. (If L is empty, we write $H^n(K, f; \mathcal{E})$.) For any $i \geq \min(n, m)$, let

$$[K, L; \Omega^{i-n}e_i]_f \longrightarrow H^n(K, L, f; \mathcal{E})$$

be called the representation. If \mathcal{E} is stabilizing, the direct limit is achieved eventually, i.e., beyond some point, all representations are bijective; if \mathcal{E} is a weak Ω_b -spectrum, the direct limit is achieved immediately, i.e., all representations are bijective. We call $H^*(K, L, f; \mathcal{E})$ the cohomology of the triple (K, L, f) with coefficients in the spectrum \mathcal{E} . If (K', L') is another *C.W.* pair, and

$$r: (K', L') \longrightarrow (K, L)$$

is a map, an induced homomorphism

$$r^*: H^*(K, L, f; \mathcal{E}) \longrightarrow H^*(K', L', f \circ r; \mathcal{E})$$

can be defined in the obvious way.

Henceforth, let (K'', L') be the pair $(K \times \{1\} \cup L \times I, L \times \{0\})$, and let $p; (K'', L') \rightarrow (K, L)$ be projection onto the first factor. The reader can easily verify that p is a relative homotopy equivalence, and hence by the direct limit version of Lemma 2.1,

$$p^*: H^*(K, L, f; \mathcal{E}) \longrightarrow H^*(K'', L', f \circ p; \mathcal{E})$$

is an isomorphism.

For any integer n , we define a connecting homomorphism

$$\delta: H^n(L, f; \mathcal{E}) \longrightarrow H^{n+1}(K, L, f; \mathcal{E})$$

as follows. For any $a \in H^n(L, f; \mathcal{E})$, pick $i \geq m$ and $[g] \in [L; \Omega^{i-n}e_i]_f$ representing a . Consider $\Omega^{i-n}e_i = \Omega\Omega^{i-n-1}e_i$. Let $p^*\delta a$ be the image, in the direct limit, of $[G] \in [K'', L''; \Omega^{i-n-1}e_i]_{f \circ p}$, where $G(x, t) = (gx)t$ for all $x \in L$ and $t \in I$, and where $G(x, 1) = a'(fx)$ for all $x \in K$, where a' is the pointing of $\Omega^{i-n-1}e_i$; δa is well-defined since p^* is an isomorphism.

The following remarks (analogous to some of the Eilenberg Steenrod axioms for a cohomology theory [3]) we state without proof:

REMARK 3.3. The following long sequence is exact, where i and j are inclusions:

$$\begin{aligned} \dots \longrightarrow H^{n-1}(L, f; \mathcal{E}) &\xrightarrow{\delta} H^n(K, L, f; \mathcal{E}) \xrightarrow{j^*} H^n(K, f; \mathcal{E}) \\ &\xrightarrow{i^*} H^n(L, f; \mathcal{E}) \xrightarrow{\delta} H^{n+1}(K, L, ; \mathcal{E}) \longrightarrow \dots \end{aligned}$$

REMARK 3.5. If $r_t: (K', L') \rightarrow (K, L)$, $0 \leq t \leq 1$, is a homotopy of maps, where (K', L') is another *C.W.* pair, such that $f \circ r_t = f \circ r_0$ for all t , then $r_1^* = r_0^*$.

Suppose now that $f_t: K \rightarrow B$, $0 \leq t \leq 1$, is a homotopy such that $f_0 = f$. Let $F: K \times I \rightarrow B$ be the map where $F(x, t) = f_t x$ for all

$(x, t) \in K \times I$. Let $i_0, i_1: (K, L) \rightarrow (K \times I, L \times I)$ be the inclusions along 0 and 1, respectively. According to Lemma 2.1., $(i_j)_\#$ is an isomorphism for $j = 0$ or 1 . Let

$$F_\# = (i_1)_\# \circ (i_0)_\#^{-1}: H^*(K, L, f; \mathcal{E}) \longrightarrow H^*(K, L, f; \mathcal{E}),$$

clearly an isomorphism. Again without proof, we state:

REMARK 3.6. $F_\#$ depends only on the homotopy class of F , rel $K \times \{0, 1\}$.

REMARK 3.7. If G is a homotopy of f_1 with f_2 , then

$$G_\# \circ F_\# = (F+G)_\#: H^*(K, L, f; \mathcal{E}) \longrightarrow H^*(K, L, f_2; \mathcal{E})$$

where $(F+G)(x, t) = F(x, 2t)$ if $0 \leq t \leq 1/2$; $G(x, 2t)$ if $1/2 \leq t \leq 1$, for all $x \in K$.

An immediate question one may ask is: if $f_1 = f$, is $F_\#$ the identity? The answer is generally no.

4. The associated spectrum and the single obstruction. Let $e = (E, e)$ be a B -bundle and $h: L \rightarrow E$ a lifting of $f|L$. Let

$$\mathcal{E} = \mathcal{E}(e) = (\{e_i\}_{i \geq 1}, \{\varepsilon_i\}_{i \geq 1})$$

be the B -spectrum where $e_i = \sum^{i-1} Se$ for all $i \geq 1$, and $\varepsilon_i: e_i \rightarrow \Omega e_{i+1}$ is adjoint to the identity on $e_{i+1} = \sum e_i$. We call \mathcal{E} the B -spectrum associated to e . We shall write $e_1 = Se = (S_B E, s, s', s'')$.

Recall $(K'', L'') = (K \times \{1\} \cup L \times I, L \cup \{0\})$. We define $\Gamma(f; h) \in H^1(K, L, f; \mathcal{E})$ (or simply $\Gamma(f)$ when L is empty, or when h is understood), the *single obstruction to lifting f rel h* , to be $(p^*)^{-1}$ of the representation of $[H] \in [K'', L''; Se]_{f \circ p}$, where $H: K'' \rightarrow S_B E$ is the map such that $H(x, t) = [hx, t]$ for all $(x, t) \in L \times I$, and $H(x, 1) = (e'' \circ f)x$, the North pole of $e^{-1}fx$, for all $x \in K$. We leave it to the reader to verify that if $f_t: K \rightarrow B$, for $0 \leq t \leq 1$, is a homotopy, and if $h_t: L \rightarrow E$ is a homotopy such that $e \circ h_t = f_t|L$ for all t , and if $F(x, t) = f_t x$ for all $(x, t) \in K \times I$, then $F_\# \Gamma(f_0; h_0) = \Gamma(f_1; h_1)$; i.e., $\Gamma(f; h)$ is a homotopy invariant.

THEOREM 4.2. If f has a lifting to E rel h , $\Gamma(f; h) = 0$.

Proof. Let $g: K \rightarrow E$ be such a lifting. Let $H_u: K'' \rightarrow S_B E$, for $0 \leq u \leq 1$, be the rel L'' lifting of $f \circ p$ where $H_u(x, t) = [gx, tu]$ for all $0 \leq t, u \leq 1$. Then $H_1 = H$, while $H_0 = s' \circ f \circ p$, and we are done.

THEOREM 4.3. If e is $(n-1)$ -connected for some $n \geq 1$, and if

$\dim(K/L) \leq 2n - 1$, then f has a lifting to E rel h if and only if $\Gamma(f; h) = 0$.

Proof. "Only if" is the previous theorem. Suppose then that $\Gamma(f; h) = 0$. Without loss of generality, we may assume that L has empty interior, whence $\dim K'' \leq 2n - 1$. By a Serre spectral sequence argument, $(\Omega^{i-1}\varepsilon_i): \Omega^{i-1}e_i \rightarrow \Omega^i e_{i+1}$ is $(2n+i-1)$ -connected for all $i \geq 1$, whence, by Lemma 2.2, the representation

$$[K'', L''; e_1]_{f,p} \longrightarrow H^1(K'', L'', f \circ p; \mathcal{E})$$

is one-to-one and onto. Thus $[H] = [s' \circ f \circ p]$. Let $H_i: K'' \rightarrow S_B E$ be a fiber-homotopy rel L'' such that $H_1 = H$ and $H_0 = s' \circ f \circ p$; define $G: K'' \rightarrow P_B S_B E$ to be the map where $(Gy)u = H_u y$ for all $y \in K''$. Let $i: e \rightarrow PSe$ be adjoint to the identity on $Se = e_1$. Again, by a Serre spectral sequence argument, i is $(2n-2)$ -connected. Since $[K'', L'', i \circ h: PSe]_{f,p}$ is nonempty, $[K, L, h; e]_f$ is nonempty by Lemmas 2.1 and 2.2, and we are done.

Suppose now that $f_0, g_1: K \rightarrow E$ are liftings of f rel h . We define $\Delta(g_0, g_1; h) \in H^0(K, L, f; \mathcal{E})$, the single obstruction to fiber homotopy, rel L , of g_0 with g_1 , to be $(p^*)^{-1}$ of the representation in $H^0(K'', L'', f \circ p; \mathcal{E})$ of $[G] \in [K'', L''; \Omega Se]_{f,p}$, where for all $(x, t) \in K''$ and all $0 \leq u \leq 1$:

$$G(x, t)u = \begin{cases} [g_1 x, 2u] & \text{if } t = 0 \text{ and } 0 \leq u \leq 1/2 \\ [g_0 x, 2-2u] & \text{if } t = 0 \text{ and } 1/2 \leq u \leq 1 \\ [hx, 2u(1-t)] & \text{if } x \in L \text{ and } 0 \leq u \leq 1/2 \\ [hx, (2-2u)(1-t)] & \text{if } x \in L \text{ and } 1/2 \leq u \leq 1. \end{cases}$$

We leave it to the reader to check that $\Delta(g_0, g_1; h)$ is a homotopy invariant in the same sense that $\Gamma(f; h)$ is.

Hence forth, we shall write $\Omega Se = (\Omega_B S_B E, c, c')$.

THEOREM 4.4. *If g_0 and g_1 are fiber-homotopic rel h , then $\Delta(g_0, g_1; h) = 0$.*

Proof. Let g_t be a fiber homotopy rel L . Let $G_v: K'' \rightarrow \Omega_B S_B E$, $0 \leq v \leq 1$, be the rel L'' fiber homotopy, where for all $0 \leq u, v \leq 1$:

$$G_v(x, t)u = \begin{cases} [g_{2v-1}x, 2u] & \text{if } t = 1, 0 \leq u \leq 1/2, \text{ and } 1/2 \leq v \leq 1. \\ [g_0 x, 2-2u] & \text{if } t = 1, 1/2 \leq u \leq 1, \text{ and } 1/2 \leq v \leq 1. \\ [hx, 2u(1-t)] & \text{if } x \in L, 0 \leq u \leq 1/2, \text{ and } 1/2 \leq v \leq 1. \\ [hx, (2-2u)(1-t)] & \text{if } x \in L, 1/2 \leq u \leq 1, \text{ and } 1/2 \leq v \leq 1. \\ [g_0 x, 4uv(1-t)] & \text{if } 0 \leq u \leq 1/2 \text{ and } 0 \leq v \leq 1/2. \\ [g_0 x, 4(1-u)v(1-t)] & \text{if } 1/2 \leq u \leq 1 \text{ and } 0 \leq v \leq 1/2. \end{cases}$$

Note that $G_1 = G$ and $G_0 = c' \circ f \circ p$, and we are done.

THEOREM 4.5. *If e is $(n-1)$ -connected for some $n \geq 1$, and if $\dim(K/L) \leq 2n-2$, then g_0 and g_1 are fiber homotopic if and only if $\Delta(g_0, g_1; h) = 0$.*

Proof. “Only if” is the previous theorem. Suppose, then, that $\Delta(g_0, g_1; h) = 0$. Then G is fiber homotopic, rel L'' , to c' , since by Lemma 2.2, $[K'', L''; \Omega Se]_{f \circ p} \rightarrow H^0(K'', L'', f \circ p; \mathcal{E})$ is onto. A routine argument using Lemma 2.1 then shows that $i \circ g_0$ is fiber homotopic, rel $i \circ h$, to $i \circ g_1$, where $i: e \rightarrow PSe$ is adjoint to the identity on Se . Our result follows immediately from Lemma 2.3.

THEOREM 4.6. *If g is any lifting of f rel h , and if $d \in H^0(K, L, f; \mathcal{E})$, then there exists some lifting g' of f rel h , such that $\Delta(g, g'; h) = d$, provided e is $(n-1)$ -connected for some $n \geq 1$ and $\dim(K/L) \leq 2n - 1$.*

Proof. The representation $[K, L; \Omega Se]_f \rightarrow H^0(K, L, f; \mathcal{E})$ is onto by Lemma 2.2; pick a lifting, H , of f rel $c' \circ f | L$ which represents d . Let s be the lifting of f to $P_B S_B E$:

$$(sx)t = \begin{cases} (Hx)(2t) & \text{if } 0 \leq t \leq 1/2 \\ ((i \circ g)x)(2t-1) & \text{if } 1/2 \leq t \leq 1 \end{cases}$$

where $i: e \rightarrow PSe$ is adjoint to the identity map of Se . Now by the *PCHEP* of PSe , s is fiber homotopic to a lifting s' where $s|L' = i \circ h$. Now $i_*: [K, L, h; e]_f \rightarrow [K, L, i \circ h; PSe]_f$ is onto by Lemma 2.2. Choose g' to be any rel h lifting of f such that $i_*[g'] = [s']$. We leave it to the reader to verify that $\Delta(g, g'; h) = d$.

The proof of the next theorem we omit; it is a routine homotopy argument of the type the reader should by now be familiar with.

THEOREM 4.7. *If g_0, g_1 , and g_2 are liftings of f rel h , then*

$$\Delta(g_0, g_2; h) = \Delta(g_0, g_1; h) + \Delta(g_1, g_2; h) .$$

COROLLARY 4.8. (Becker) *If e is $(n-1)$ -connected for some $n \geq 1$, and if $\dim(K/L) \leq 2n - 2$, then $[K, L, h; e]_f$ has the structure of an affine group, and, if nonempty, is isomorphic to $H^0(K, L, f; \mathcal{E})$.*

Proof. See Becker [1] for the definition of an affine group. Pick any $[g_0] \in [K, L, h; e]_f$. Let $\iota: [K, L, h; e]_f \rightarrow H^0(K, L, f; \mathcal{E})$ be given by $\iota[g] = \Delta(g_0, g; h)$. This function is well-defined, one-to-one, and onto, and induces an affine group structure on $[K, L, h; e]_f$ which is

independent of the choice of g_0 , by Theorems 4.4, 4.5, 4.6, and 4.7. We leave the details to the reader.

5. *B*-spectrum maps and a spectral sequence for $H^*(K, L, f; \mathcal{E})$. Let $\mathcal{E} = (\{e_i\}_{i \geq m}, \{\varepsilon_i\})$ and $\mathcal{A} = (\{a_i\}_{i \geq n}, \{\alpha_i\})$ be *B*-spectra. We define a *B*-spectrum map $f: \mathcal{E} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$ of degree d to be an indexed collection $\{f_i\}_{i \geq p}$ of pointed *B*-bundle maps, where $p \geq \max(m, n-d)$, such that for any $i \geq p$, $f_i: e_i \rightarrow a_{i+d}$ and the following diagram is commutative:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 e_i & \xrightarrow{\varepsilon_i} & e_{i+1} \\
 \downarrow f_i & & \downarrow f_{i+1} \\
 a_{i+d} & \xrightarrow{\alpha_{i+d}} & a_{i+d+1} .
 \end{array}$$

We can define $f_{\#}^k: H^k(K, L, f; \mathcal{E}) \rightarrow H^{k+d}(K, L, f; \mathcal{A})$ for any integer k to be the direct limit of the $(f_i)_{\#}$; similarly we can define

$$f_{\#}^k: \pi_k(\mathcal{E}) \longrightarrow \pi_{k-d}(\mathcal{A})$$

for any integer k .

Let $\mathcal{D} = (\{d_i\}_{i \geq p}, \{\delta_i\})$ be the fiber of f , defined as follows. For any $i \geq p$, $d_i = (D_i, d_i, d'_i)$ where

$$\begin{aligned}
 D_i &= \{(x, \sigma) \in E_i \times A_{i+d}^t : \sigma(0) = (a'_{i+d} \circ e_i)x, \sigma(1) \\
 &= f_i x, \text{ \& } a_{i+d}(\sigma t) = e_i x \text{ for all } t \in I\} ,
 \end{aligned}$$

$d_i(x, \sigma) = e_i x$ for all $(x, \sigma) \in D_i$ and $d'_i b = (e_i b, \langle b \rangle)$ for all $b \in B$, where $\langle b \rangle t = a'_{i+d} b$ for all $t \in I$. Let $\delta_i: d_i \rightarrow \Omega d_{i+1}$ be defined as follows: For any $(x, \sigma) \in D_i$ and any $t \in I$, $(\delta_i(x, \sigma))t = ((\varepsilon_i x)t, \tau)$, where $\tau u = (\alpha_{i+d}(\sigma u))t$ for all $u \in I$. Consider the sequence of *B*-spectra and *B*-spectrum maps (called the fibration sequence of f):

$$(5-1) \quad \mathcal{A} \xrightarrow{h} \mathcal{D} \xrightarrow{\mathcal{J}} \mathcal{E} \xrightarrow{f} \mathcal{A}$$

where $\mathcal{J} = \{g_i\}_{i \geq p}$ has degree 0 and $h = \{h_i\}_{i \geq p+d-1}$ has degree $-d+1$; defined as follows: For any $(x, \sigma) \in D_i$, $h_i(x, \sigma) = x$; and for any $y \in A_i$, $g_i y = ((e'_{i-d+1} \circ a_i)y, \alpha_i y)$. The sequence (5-1) is analogous to the fibration sequence for any map of pointed spaces (where F is the fiber of f):

$$Y \longrightarrow F \longrightarrow X \xrightarrow{f} Y .$$

As in that case, we may, in a straightforward manner, verify the exactness of the long sequences:

$$\begin{aligned} \dots \longrightarrow \pi_{k-d+1}(\mathcal{A}) \xrightarrow{\mathcal{I}_\#} \pi_k(\mathcal{D}) \xrightarrow{\mathcal{I}_\#} \pi_k(\mathcal{E}) \xrightarrow{\mathcal{I}_\#} \pi_{k-d}(\mathcal{A}) \longrightarrow \dots \\ \dots \longrightarrow H^{k+d-1}(K, L, f; \mathcal{A}) \xrightarrow{\mathcal{I}_\#} H^k(K, L, f; \mathcal{D}) \xrightarrow{\mathcal{I}_\#} H^k(K, L, f; \mathcal{E}) \\ \xrightarrow{\mathcal{I}_\#} H^{k+d}(K, L, f; \mathcal{A}) \longrightarrow \dots \end{aligned}$$

We say that $\mathcal{I} : \mathcal{E} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$ is k -connected if \mathcal{D} is k -connected, and we say that \mathcal{I} is k -coconnected if \mathcal{D} is k -coconnected, i.e., $\pi_r(\mathcal{D}) = 0$ for all $r \geq k$.

Henceforth in this section, let $\mathcal{E} = (\{e_i\}_{i \geq m}, \{\varepsilon_i\})$ be a B -spectrum. We define a resolution of \mathcal{E} to be a commutative diagram of B -spectra, where each map has degree 0:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} \dots & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{E}_{k+1} & \xrightarrow{\mathcal{I}^{k+1}} & \mathcal{E}_k & \xrightarrow{\mathcal{I}^k} & \mathcal{E}_{k-1} & \longrightarrow & \dots \\ & & & \swarrow \text{//}_{k+1} & \uparrow \text{//}_k & \searrow \text{//}_{k-1} & & & \\ & & & & \mathcal{E} & & & & \end{array}$$

such that for any integer r , there exists an integer N such that \mathcal{I}_k is r -connected for all $k \geq N$, and an integer M such that \mathcal{E}_k is r -coconnected for all $k \leq M$. We are thus assured that $H^*(K, L, f; \mathcal{E})$ is isomorphic to the inverse limit $\text{Lim}_{k \rightarrow \infty} H(K, L, f; \mathcal{E}_k)$ under the homomorphisms $(\mathcal{I}_k)_\#$. An important special case of a resolution of \mathcal{E} is a Postnikov resolution: that is where $(\mathcal{I}_k)_\# : \pi_r(\mathcal{E}) \rightarrow \pi_r(\mathcal{E}_k)$ is an isomorphism for all $r \leq k$, and where each \mathcal{E}_k is $(k+1)$ -coconnected. In § 6, we shall show that every B -spectrum has a Postnikov resolution.

Using a resolution of \mathcal{E} , (5-2), we construct a spectral sequence for $H^*(K, L, f; \mathcal{E})$. For any integer r , we have a filtration of $H^r(K, L, f; \mathcal{E})$:

$$0 \subset \dots \subset G^{r+q, q} \subset G^{r+q-1, q-1} \subset \dots \subset H^r(K, L, f; \mathcal{E})$$

where $G^{p, q}$ is the kernel of

$$(\mathcal{I}_q)_\# : H^{p-q}(K, L, f; \mathcal{E}) \longrightarrow H^{p-q}(K, L, f; \mathcal{E}_q) .$$

(The conditions that \mathcal{I}_k is highly connected for large k and \mathcal{E}_k is highly coconnected for small k insures that the filtration has only finitely many distinct terms.) For any k , consider the fibration sequence of \mathcal{I}_k :

$$\mathcal{E}_{k-1} \xrightarrow{\varepsilon_k} \mathcal{H}_k \xrightarrow{\delta_k} \mathcal{E}_k \xrightarrow{\mathcal{I}_k} \mathcal{E}_{k-1} .$$

Recall that δ_k and \mathcal{I}_k have degree 0, and ε_k has degree 1. For any integers p and q , define $E_2^{p,q} = H^{p-q}(K, L, f; \mathcal{H}_q)$ and

$$D_2^{p,q} = H^{p-q}(K, L, f; \mathcal{E}_q) .$$

Let $(\mathcal{I}_q)_\sharp = i_2: D_2^{p,q} \rightarrow D_2^{p-1,q-1}$, $(\varepsilon_{q+1})_\sharp = j_2: D_2^{p,q} \rightarrow E_2^{p+2,q+1}$, and

$$(\delta_q)_\sharp = k_2: E_2^{p,q} \longrightarrow D_2^{p,q} .$$

Using general spectral sequence arguments, we can verify that

$$d_{r,\sharp}: E_2^{p,q} \longrightarrow E_2^{p+r,q+r-1} \quad \text{for all } r \geq 2 ,$$

and that $E_\infty^{p,q} = G^{p-1,q-1}/G^{p,q}$ for all p and q .

In the special case that (5-2) is a Postnikov resolution, we can construct an E_1 term of the spectral sequence as follows. Let K^r be the r -skeleton of K , for any $r: K^r = \emptyset$ if $r < 0$. For any p and q , let $D_1^{p,q} = H^{p,q}(K^p \cup L, f; \mathcal{E})$ and $E_1^{p,q} = C^p(K, L, f^{-1}\pi_q(\mathcal{E}))$, the group of cochains with coefficients in the local system $f^{-1}\pi_q(\mathcal{E})$ over K . Let $i_1: D_1^{p,q} \rightarrow D_1^{p-1,q-1}$ and $k_1: E_1^{p,q} \rightarrow D_1^{p,q}$ be the homomorphisms induced by the appropriate inclusions, and let $j_1: D_1^{p,q} \rightarrow E_1^{p+1,q}$ be the connecting homomorphism of the pair $(K^{p+1} \cup L, K^p \cup L)$. The differential $d_1: C^p(K, L; f^{-1}\pi_q(\mathcal{E})) \rightarrow C^{p+1}(K, L; f^{-1}\pi_q(\mathcal{E}))$ is then the usual co-boundary on cochains with local coefficients, hence

$$E_2^{p,q} = H^p(K, L; f^{-1}\pi_q(\mathcal{E})) .$$

We leave the rather routine verification that the above E_1, D_1, i_1, j_1 , and k_1 yield the correct E_2, D_2 , etc., to the reader. (Hint: If \mathcal{E} is k -connected, $H^p(K, L, f; \mathcal{E}) = 0$ for all $p \geq n - k$, where $n = \dim(K/L)$.)

We now explore the relation between the single obstruction and the classical obstructions. Let us suppose that $e = (E, e)$ is a k -connected B -bundle, for some $k \geq 1$, and that diagram (5-2) is a Postnikov system for $\mathcal{E} = \mathcal{E}(e)$. For any integer r , let $\iota_r: \pi_r e \rightarrow \pi_r(\mathcal{E})$ be the composition

$$\pi_r e \longrightarrow \pi_r PSe \cong \pi_r \Omega Se \cong \pi_{r+1} e_1 \longrightarrow \pi_r(\mathcal{E}) ,$$

an isomorphism if $r \leq 2k$. Now suppose that $f|K^m \cap L$ has a rel h lifting, g^m , for some integer m . Then

$$i^* \Gamma(f, h) = \Gamma(f|K^m \cup L; h) = 0$$

by Theorem 4.2. Consider the commutative diagram of groups and homomorphisms:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 H^1(K, L, f; \mathcal{K}_m) & \xrightarrow{(\iota_m)_\#} & H^1(K, L, f; \mathcal{E}_m) & \xrightarrow{(\iota_m)_\#} & H^1(K, L, f; \mathcal{E}) \\
 \uparrow = & & \downarrow (\mathcal{I}_m)_\# & \swarrow (\iota_{m-1})_\# & \\
 H^{k+1}(K, L, f^{-1}\pi_m(\mathcal{E})) & & H^1(K, L, f; \mathcal{E}_{m-1}) & & \\
 \uparrow (\iota_m)_\# & & & & \\
 H^{k+1}(K, L; f^{-1}\pi_m e) . & & & &
 \end{array}$$

Since \mathcal{E}_{m-1} is m -coconnected,

$$i^*: H^1(K, L, f; \mathcal{E}_{m-1}) \longrightarrow H^1(K^m \cup L, L, f; \mathcal{E}_{m-1})$$

is an isomorphism. Thus $(\iota_{m-1})_\# \Gamma(f; h) = 0$. Since \mathcal{K}_m is the fiber of \mathcal{I}_m , $(\iota_m)_\# \Gamma(f; h) \in (\iota_m)_\# H^1(K, L, \mathcal{K}_m)$. The classical obstruction to extending g^m over $K^{m+1} \cup L$, $\gamma(g^m) \in H^{k+1}(K, L; f^{-1}\pi_m e)$ up to some indeterminacy. It is a routine matter of checking definitions to verify that $(\iota_m)_\# (\iota_m)_\# \gamma(g^m) = (\iota_m)_\# \Gamma(f; h)$.

6. Construction of the Postnikov resolution of \mathcal{E} . For every integer, n , we define a functor $K_n: \mathcal{L}_B^* \rightarrow \mathcal{L}_B^*$ as follows. If $n < 0$, let K_n be the identity. Otherwise, if $e = (E, e, e')$ is a pointed B -bundle, let B^{n+1} be a (topological) $(n+1)$ -ball with boundary S^n and basepoint $* \in S^n$. Let $E_B^{S^n}$ be the space of all continuous maps $h: S^n \rightarrow E$ such that $h(*) \in e'(B)$ and $e \circ h$ is constant. Let $\varepsilon: E_B^{S^n} \rightarrow E$ be the evaluation map, and let $(K_n)_B E = E \cup_\varepsilon (E_B^{S^n} \times B^{n+1})$. We define $K_n e$ to be the pointed B -bundle $((K_n)_B E, k, k')$, where $k' = e'$, $k|_E = e$, and $k(h, b) = (e \circ h)(*)$ for all $(h, b) \in (E_B^{S^n} \times B^{n+1})$. If $\alpha: e \rightarrow a$ is any pointed B -bundle map, we define $K_n \alpha: K_n e \rightarrow K_n a$ in the obvious way: $K_n \alpha|_E = \alpha$, and $(K_n \alpha)(h, b) = (\alpha \circ h, b)$ for all $(h, b) \in E_B^{S^n} \times B^{n+1}$. A very simple homotopy argument shows:

REMARK 6.1. (i) For all $k < n$, $i_k: \pi_k e \rightarrow \pi_k(K_k e)$ is an isomorphism, where $i: e \rightarrow K_n e$ is the inclusion. (ii) $\pi_n(K_n e) = 0$.

We define functors $K_n^r: \mathcal{L}_B^* \rightarrow \mathcal{L}_B^*$ for all integers $n \leq r$, inductively, as follows: $K_n^n = K_n$, and $K_n^{r+1} = K_{r+1} K_n^r$ for all $n \leq r$. It is very simple to see that the “union” $\bigcup_{r=n}^\infty K_n^r$ is also a functor, which we call $K_n^\infty: \mathcal{L}_B^* \rightarrow \mathcal{L}_B^*$. We call K_n , K_n^r , and K_n^∞ *homotopy-killing* functors. The following remark is an immediate Corollary of 6.1:

REMARK 6.2. (i) $i_k: \pi_k e \rightarrow \pi_k(K_n^\infty e)$ is an isomorphism for all $k < n$, where $i: e \rightarrow K_n e$ is the inclusion. (ii) $\pi_k(K_n e) = 0$ for all $k \geq n$.

Thus K_n^∞ is the analogue of the $(n-1)^{\text{th}}$ stage in the Postnikov tower of a space. In order to pass to spectra, we must examine the relationship between the homotopy-killing functors and the looping functor. We define a pointed B -bundle map $T_n: K_n \Omega e \rightarrow \Omega K_{n+1} e$ for all integers n as follows: If $n \leq -2$, T_n is the identity. If $n = -1$, $T_n = \Omega i: \Omega e \rightarrow \Omega K_0 e$, where $i: e \rightarrow K_0 e$ is the inclusion. Otherwise, let $T_n: \Omega_B E \cup_\varepsilon ((\Omega_B E)^{S^n} \times B^{n+1}) \rightarrow \Omega_B (E \cup_\varepsilon (E_B^{S^{n+1}} \times B^{n+1}))$ be the identity on $\Omega_B E$, and for any $(h, b) \in (\Omega_B E)_B^{S^n} \times B^{n+1}$, and any $t \in I$, let $(T_n(h, b))t = (h, [b, t])$. Note: $B^{n+2} = \sum B^{n+1}$ and $(\Omega_B E)_B^{S^n} = E_B^{S^{n+1}}$. We leave it to the reader to verify that $(T_n)_k: \pi_k(K_n \Omega e) \rightarrow \pi_k(\Omega K_{n+1} e)$ is an isomorphism for all $k \leq n$.

Similarly, we define $T_n^r: K_n^r \Omega e \rightarrow K_{n+1}^{r+1} e$ inductively for all $n \leq r$ as follows: $T_n^n = T_n$, and $T_n^{r+1} = T_{r+1} \circ (K_{r+1} T_n^r)$ for all $r \geq n$. In an obvious way we can then define $T_n: K_n^\infty \Omega e \rightarrow \Omega K_{n+1}^\infty e$. We leave the proof of the following to the reader:

REMARK 6.3. The B -bundle map $T_n: K_n^\infty \Omega e \rightarrow \Omega K_{n+1}^\infty e$ is a weak homotopy equivalence.

We are now ready to define the Postnikov resolution of B -spectrum $\mathcal{E} = (\{e_i\}_{i \geq m}, \{\varepsilon_i\})$. For each integer n , let

$$\mathcal{E}_n = (\{K_{n+i+1}^\infty e_i\}_{i \geq m}, \{T_{n+i+1}^\infty \circ (K_{n+i+1} \varepsilon_i)\}) .$$

Let $\mathcal{I}_n: \mathcal{E} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}_n = \{p_i\}_{i \geq m}$, where $p_i: e_i \rightarrow K_{n+i+1} e_i$ is the inclusion, and let $\mathcal{J}_n: \mathcal{E}_n \rightarrow \mathcal{E}_{n-1} = \{q_{n,i}\}_{i \geq m}$, where $q_{n,i} = K_{n+i+1}^\infty j: K_{n+i+1}^\infty e_i \rightarrow K_{n-i+1}^\infty e_i$, where $j: e_i \rightarrow K_{n+i} e_i$ is the inclusion. The resolution of \mathcal{E} described above (see diagram (5-2)) is a Postnikov resolution, by Remarks 6.2 and 6.3.

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