

SELF-MAPS ON TWISTED EILENBERG-MACLANE SPACES

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1. Introduction.

To any (based) space X is associated the monoid $(\sigma(X, *) \sigma(X)$ of (based) homotopy classes of (based) self-maps of X . This monoid contains as its group of units the group $(\varepsilon(X, *) \varepsilon(X)$ of (based) homotopy classes of (based) homotopy equivalences of X .

Let π be any group, A a $\mathbf{Z}(\pi)$ -module, and denote by $L := L(A, n)$, $n \geq 2$, the unique homotopy type with $\pi_1(L) = \pi$, $\pi_n(L) = A$, $\pi_i(L) = 0$ for $i \neq 1, n$, that realizes A as a $\pi_1(L) = \pi$ -module and has k -invariant $k = 0 \in H^{n+1}(\pi, A)$.

The purpose of this note is to determine $\sigma(L, *)$ and $\varepsilon(L)$ explicitly in terms of group theoretic invariants, see Theorems 3.2 and 3.4.

The monoid $\sigma(L, *)$, or rather its subgroup of units $\varepsilon(L, *)$, has attracted some interest in recent years [7], [9], [10], [1], [2] but as far as I know, no explicit formula has been given, at least not in the case of a non-abelian fundamental group.

Throughout this note, I use the notation of [8]: If (X, A) is a pair of spaces, $p: Y \rightarrow B$ a fibration, and $u: X \rightarrow Y$ a continuous map, then $F_u(X, A; Y, B)$ is the space, equipped with the compactly generated topology associated to the compact-open topology, of all maps $v: X \rightarrow Y$ such that $v|_A = u|_A$ and $pv = pu$. An empty space in the A -entry or a one-point space in the B -entry will be omitted; thus e.g. $F_!(X, *; X)$ is the space of all based self-maps of X .

2. Strategy of proof.

Let $\omega: E\pi \rightarrow B\pi$ be a universal numerable principal π -bundle. Then $E\pi$ is a contractible free right π -space. Moreover, E and B are functors: For any group endomorphism $\alpha: \pi \rightarrow \pi$, denote by $E\alpha: E\pi \rightarrow E\pi$ and $B\alpha: B\pi \rightarrow B\pi$ the induced maps. Equip $E\pi$ and $B\pi$ with base points $e_0 \in E\pi$, $b_0 = \omega(e_0) \in B\pi$ fixed by all the maps $E\alpha$ and $B\alpha$, respectively.

Let π be any group and A a $\mathbf{Z}(\pi)$ -module. Realize the Eilenberg-MacLane space $K(A, n)$, $n \geq 2$, as a strictly associative H -space with strict unit $0 \in K(A, n)$. Since A is a π -module, π acts from the left on $K(A, n)$ by topological group homeomorphisms. As a model for $L(A, n)$, take the total space [5] of the associated fibre bundle

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$$L(A, n) = E\pi \times_{\pi} K(A, n) \xrightarrow{\hat{p}} B\pi.$$

Since $0 \in K(A, n)^{\pi}$, there is a section s given by $s(e\pi) = (e, 0)\pi$, $e \in E\pi$.

In the following, I use the abbreviations $E = E\pi$, $B = B\pi$, $K = K(A, n)$, and $L = L(A, n)$.

Let $(\mathcal{F}_1(L; *; L)) \mathcal{F}_1(L; L)$ be the space of all (based) fibre maps of L ; i. e. (based) maps $\bar{u}: L \rightarrow L$ such that $\hat{t}\bar{u} = u\hat{p}$ for some (based) map $u: B \rightarrow B$. Then there are pull back diagrams

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{F}_1(L; L) & \longrightarrow & F_1(L; L) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \hat{p} \\ F_1(B; B) & \xrightarrow{\bar{p}} & F_p(L; B) \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{F}_1(L, *; L) & \longrightarrow & F_1(L, *; L) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \hat{p} \\ F_1(B, *; B) & \xrightarrow{\bar{p}} & F_p(L, *; B) \end{array}$$

where \hat{p} is post-composition and \bar{p} pre-composition with p . Since \hat{p} is a fibration and \bar{p} a weak homotopy equivalence [3], [6] the left hand vertical maps, $\bar{u} \rightarrow u$, are fibrations and the inclusions $\mathcal{F}_1(L; L) \subset F_1(L; L)$ and $\mathcal{F}_1(L, *; L) \subset F_1(L, *; L)$ are weak homotopy equivalences and morphisms of topological monoids. Consequently

$$\sigma(L) = \pi_0 \mathcal{F}_1(L; L), \quad \sigma(L, *) = \pi_0 \mathcal{F}_1(L, *; L)$$

as monoids.

By composing, in the case of free maps, with the evaluation fibration $F_1(B; B) \rightarrow B$, we obtain a third fibration of the form

$$\mathcal{F}_1(L, *; L) \longrightarrow \mathcal{F}_1(L; L) \longrightarrow B$$

and thus $\sigma(L) = \sigma(L, *) / \pi$ is known once $\sigma(L, *)$ is known as a monoid with π -action. But $\sigma(L, *)$ is actually easily determined since each component of the base space $F_1(B, *; B)$ is weakly contractible [3], [6] and the π -action will follow from Lemma 2.1 below.

For any group element $\eta \in \pi$, $\bar{\eta} \in \text{Aut}(\pi)$ will denote conjugation by η , $\bar{\eta}(\zeta) = \eta\zeta\eta^{-1}$ for $\zeta \in \pi$.

LEMMA 2.1. *There exist maps $\bar{\mu}: E \times E \rightarrow E$ and $\mu: E \times B \rightarrow B$ such that $\omega\bar{\mu} = \mu(1 \times \omega)$ and*

$$(1) \quad \bar{\mu}(e_0\eta, e) = (E(\bar{\eta})e)\eta, \quad \bar{\mu}(e, e_0\eta) = e\eta$$

$$(2) \quad \bar{\mu}(e_1\eta, E(\bar{\eta})^{-1}e_2) = \bar{\mu}(e_1, e_2)\eta$$

$$(3) \quad \bar{\mu}(e_1, e_2\eta) = \bar{\mu}(e_1, e_2)\eta$$

for all $e, e_1, e_2 \in E$ and $\eta \in \pi$.

Proof. Consider the maps

$$\bar{\mu} : (E \times e_0 \pi) \cup (e_0 \pi \times E) \longrightarrow E$$

$$\mu' : (E \times b_0) \cup (e_0 \pi \times B) \longrightarrow B$$

given by $\bar{\mu}(e, e_0 \eta) = e \eta$, $\bar{\mu}(e_0 \eta, e) = (E(\bar{\eta})e) \eta$, $\mu'(e, b_0) = \omega(e)$, and $\mu'(e_0 \eta, b) = B(\bar{\eta})b$. Note that $\bar{\mu}$ and μ' are well defined and that $\omega \bar{\mu} = \mu'(1 \times \omega)$. Equip $E \times B$ with the free right π -action

$$(e, b) \eta = (e \eta, B(\bar{\eta})^{-1} b) \quad e \in E, b \in B, \eta \in \pi.$$

Note that $(E \times b_0) \cup (\pi \times B)$ is a π -invariant subspace and μ' a π -invariant map. Let μ be the map induced by μ' on the orbits. Then the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} (E \times \pi) \cup (\pi \times E) & \xrightarrow{\bar{\mu}} & E \\ \downarrow 1 \times \omega & & \downarrow \omega \\ (E \times b_0) \cup (\pi \times B) & \xrightarrow{\mu'} & B \\ \downarrow & & \\ (E \times B) / \pi \supset (E \times b_0 \cup \pi \times B) / \pi & & \end{array}$$

commutes and so does the induced diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \pi_2((E, \pi) \times (E, \pi)) & \xrightarrow{\partial_3} & \pi_1(E \times \pi \cup \pi \times E) & \xrightarrow{\bar{\mu}_*} & \pi_1(E) = 1 \\ \cong \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \omega_* \downarrow \\ \pi_2((E, \pi) \times (B, b_0)) & \xrightarrow{\partial_2} & \pi_1(E \times b_0 \cup \pi \times B) & \xrightarrow{\mu'_*} & \pi_1(B) \\ \cong \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \\ \pi_2(((E, \pi) \times (B, b_0)) / \pi) & \xrightarrow{\partial_1} & \pi_1((E \times b_0 \cup \pi \times B) / \pi) & & \end{array}$$

where $\partial_3, \partial_2, \partial_1$ denote boundary maps. The left hand vertical maps are all isomorphisms and hence $\mu_* \partial_1$ is trivial. But the inclusion

$$\pi_1((E \times b_0 \cup \pi \times B) / \pi) \longrightarrow \pi_1((E \times B) / \pi)$$

is an epimorphism since

$$\pi_1(((E, \pi) \times (B, b_0)) / \pi) \cong \pi_1((E, \pi) \times (E, \pi)) \cong \pi_0(E \times \pi \cup \pi \times E) = 1$$

and thus $\mu_* \partial_1$ is the obstruction to extending μ . Hence μ extends to $(E \times B) / \pi$.

Let now also μ denote an extension of μ . By covering space theory there exists a (unique) based lift $\bar{\mu} : E \times E \rightarrow E$ of $\mu(1 \times \omega)$ which extends the given lift $\bar{\mu}$ on $(E \times \pi) \cup (\pi \times E)$. It is not hard to see that $\bar{\mu}$ has the properties (1)-(3). \square

COROLLARY 2.2. *The equivariant self-map on E given by $e \rightarrow (E(\bar{\zeta})e)\zeta$, $\zeta \in \pi$, is π -homotopic to the identity map.*

Proof. $\bar{\mu}(e_0 \zeta, e) = (E(\bar{\zeta})e)\zeta$, $\bar{\mu}(e_0, e) = e$, e_0 and $e_0 \zeta$ can be connected by a

path. \square

3. Construction of self-maps.

For any group G , let $\text{End}(G)$ denote the monoid (under composition) of group endomorphisms of G . For $\alpha \in \text{End}(\pi)$, let

$$\text{End}(A)_\alpha = \{\varphi \in \text{End}(A) \mid \forall \zeta \in \pi, a \in A : \varphi(\zeta a) = \alpha(\zeta)\varphi(a)\}$$

$$F_0(E, e_0; K)_\alpha = \{x : (E, e_0) \longrightarrow (K, 0) \mid \forall \zeta \in \pi, e \in E : x(e\zeta) = \alpha(\zeta)^{-1}x(e)\}$$

$\text{End}(A)_\alpha$ is viewed as a discrete space and $F_0(E, e_0; K)_\alpha$ as a subspace of $F_0(E, e_0; K)$. Algebraically $\text{End}(A)_\alpha$ is an abelian group under pointwise addition and $\text{End}_\alpha(A) = \text{End}(A)_1$ is also a monoid under composition of maps.

Consider the disjoint union

$$\Sigma(L; *) := \bigcup_{\alpha \in \text{End}(\pi)} F_0(E, e_0; K)_\alpha \times \text{End}(A)_\alpha.$$

equipped with the product

$$(x, \varphi)_\alpha \cdot (u, \psi)_\beta = (x \circ E\beta + \varphi\psi, \varphi\psi)_{\alpha\beta}$$

where a typical element of $\Sigma(L, *)$ is denoted by $(x, \varphi)_\alpha$ for

$$\alpha \in \text{End}(\pi), \varphi \in \text{End}(A)_\alpha, x \in F_0(E, e_0; K)_\alpha.$$

This product is associative and $(0, 1)_1$ is a unit element so $(\Sigma(L, *), \cdot)$ is a topological monoid.

Define a map $F : \Sigma(L, *) \rightarrow \mathcal{F}_1(L, *; L)$ by the formula

$$F((x, \varphi)_\alpha)((e, k)\pi) = (E\alpha(e), x(e) + \varphi(k))\pi$$

for $(x, \varphi)_\alpha \in \Sigma(L, *)$, $e \in E$, and $k \in K$. (Since $K(-, n)$ has a functorial construction, we may confuse $\varphi \in \text{End}(A)_\alpha$ with the induced map $K(\varphi, n) = \varphi$; + refers to the H -space structure of K .)

LEMMA 3.1. *F is a morphism of topological monoids and $\pi_0(F) : \pi_0 \Sigma(L, *) \rightarrow \pi_0 \mathcal{F}_1(L, *; L) = \sigma(L, *)$ is an isomorphism of monoids.*

Proof. A direct verification shows that F respects the monoid structures.

As each component of $F_1(B, *; B)$ is weakly contractible and $\pi_0 = \text{End}(\pi)$, one of the fibrations of the preceding section shows that, as a set,

$$\pi_0 \mathcal{F}_1(L, *; L) = \bigcup_{\alpha \in \text{End}(\pi)} \pi_0 F_{s \circ B \alpha \circ p}(L, *; L, B)$$

Furthermore, the restriction of $\pi_0(F)$,

$$\pi_0 F_0(E, e_0; K)_\alpha \times \text{End}(A)_\alpha \longrightarrow \pi_0 F_{s \circ B \alpha \circ p}(L, *; L, B)$$

is bijective according to the split exact sequence of ([5], p. 4)

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 & & \xrightarrow{\bar{p}} & & \xrightarrow{\bar{s}} & & \\
 \pi_0 F_{S \circ B \alpha}(B, *; L, B) & \xleftrightarrow{\quad} & \pi_0 F_{S \circ B \alpha \circ p}(L, *; L, B) & & & & \\
 & \parallel & & \parallel & & & \\
 0 \rightarrow \bar{H}^n(B; \alpha^* A) & \xleftrightarrow[S^*]{p^*} & \bar{H}^n(L; \alpha^* A) & \xrightarrow{i^*} & \text{End}(A)_\alpha & \rightarrow & 0
 \end{array}$$

combined with the facts that $p: L \rightarrow B$ classifies cohomology with local coefficients [1] and ([4], Theorem 4.8.1) $F_0(E, e_0; K)_\alpha = F_{S \circ B \alpha}(B, *; L, B)$. \square

A typical element of

$$\pi_0 \Sigma(L, *) = \bigcup_{\alpha \in \text{End}(\pi)} H^n(B; \alpha^* A) \times \text{End}(A)_\alpha$$

will, by a slight abuse of notation, also be denoted by $(x, \varphi)_\alpha$ where $\alpha \in \text{End}(\pi)$, $x \in H^n(B; \alpha^* A)$, and $\varphi \in \text{End}(A)_\alpha$. Note that if $\alpha, \beta \in \text{End}(\pi)$ and $\varphi \in \text{End}(A)_\alpha$, composition with φ induces a coefficient group homomorphism $\varphi_*: H^n(B; \beta^* A) \rightarrow H^n(B; (\alpha\beta)^* A)$.

An immediate corollary of Lemma 3.1 is

THEOREM 3.2. *The monoid $\sigma(L, *)$ of based homotopy classes of based self-maps of L is isomorphic to*

$$(\pi_0 \Sigma(L, *), \cdot)$$

where $(x, \varphi)_\alpha \cdot (y, \psi)_\beta = (B\beta^*(x) + \varphi_*(y), \varphi\psi)_{\alpha\beta}$. In particular, there exists a short exact sequence

$$1 \rightarrow \text{Ext}_\pi^2(\mathbb{Z}, A) \rtimes \text{End}_\pi(A) \rightarrow \sigma(L, *) \rightarrow \text{End}(\pi) \rightarrow 1$$

of monoids.

The next goal is to describe the monoid of free maps $\sigma(L)$.

For $\eta \in \pi$ and

$$(x, \varphi)_\alpha \in \Sigma(L, *), \quad \text{let}$$

$$\eta(x, \varphi)_\alpha = (\eta x, \eta\varphi)_{\bar{\eta}\alpha}$$

this defines a left π -action on $\Sigma(L, *)$ which doesn't respect the monoid structure, though. Indeed one easily verifies

PROPOSITION 3.3. *Suppose $(x, \varphi)_\alpha, (y, \eta)_\beta \in \Sigma(L, *)$ and $\eta, \zeta \in \pi$. Then*

$$(\eta(x, \varphi)_\alpha) \cdot (\zeta(y, \psi)_\beta) = \eta\alpha(\zeta)(\alpha(\zeta)^{-1}x \circ E(\bar{\zeta}\beta) + \varphi y, \varphi\psi)_{\alpha\beta}$$

in the monoid $\Sigma(L, *)$.

There is, however, an induced π -action on $\pi_0\Sigma(L, *)$ given by

$$\eta(x, \varphi)_\alpha = (\eta_*(x), \eta\varphi)_{\bar{\eta}\alpha}$$

where $\eta_*: H^n(B; \alpha^*A) \rightarrow H^n(B; (\bar{\eta}\alpha)^*A)$ is the coefficient group homomorphism induced by $\eta \in \text{End}(A)_{\bar{\eta}}$. Since, in the situation of Proposition 3.3,

$$\alpha(\zeta)^{-1}x(E(\bar{\zeta}\beta)(e)) = x(E(\bar{\zeta}\beta)(e)\zeta)$$

for any $e \in E$, Corollary 2.2 implies that the formula

$$(\eta(x, \varphi)_\alpha) \cdot (\zeta(y, \phi)_\beta) = \eta\alpha(\zeta)((x, \varphi)_\alpha \cdot (y, \phi)_\beta)$$

does hold in the monoid $\pi_0\Sigma(L, *)$ of components. Hence the monoid structure on $\pi_0 \in (L, *)$ descends to one on the orbit set $\pi_0\Sigma(L, *)/\pi$.

THEOREM 3.4. *The monoid $\sigma(L)$ of free homotopy classes of free self maps of L is isomorphic to $\pi_0\Sigma(L, *)/\pi$. In particular there exists a short exact sequence of monoids*

$$1 \longrightarrow \text{Ext}_\pi^2(\mathbf{Z}, A) \rtimes \text{End}_\pi(A)/Z \longrightarrow \sigma(L) \longrightarrow \text{End}(\pi)/\text{Inn}(\pi) \longrightarrow 1$$

where $Z = \{(0, \varphi) \mid \varphi(a) = za \text{ for some } z \in Z(\pi)\}$, $Z(\pi)$ the center of π , and $\text{Inn}(\pi)$ is the group of inner automorphisms of π .

Proof. Extend F to a B -map

$$\begin{array}{ccc} E \times_\pi \Sigma(L, *) & \xrightarrow{F} & \mathcal{F}_1(L; L) \\ & \searrow & \swarrow \\ & B & \end{array}$$

by the formula

$$F((e_1, (x, \varphi)_\alpha)\pi)((e, k)\pi) = (\bar{\mu}(e_1, E\alpha(e)), x(e) + \varphi(k))\pi$$

where $e_1, e \in E$, $(x, \varphi)_\alpha \in \Sigma(L, *)$, $k \in K$, and $\bar{\mu}$ is the H -space structure on E from Lemma 2.1.

Note that F is well defined and that $F((e_1, (x, \varphi)_\alpha)\pi)$ is really a fiber map. F induces a map F_* between the homotopy sequences of the two fibrations and since $F_*: \pi_0\Sigma(L, *) \rightarrow \pi_0\mathcal{F}_1(L, *; L)$ is an isomorphism of monoids by Theorem 3.2, it follows that also

$$F_*: \pi_0(E \times_\pi \Sigma(L, *)) = \pi_0\Sigma(L, *)/\pi \longrightarrow \pi_0\mathcal{F}_1(L; L) = \sigma(L)$$

is an isomorphism of monoids.

The epimorphism $\pi_0\Sigma(L, *)/\pi \rightarrow \text{End}(\pi)/\text{Inn}(\pi)$ which takes $\pi(x, \varphi)_\alpha$ to α has kernel equal to the orbit set of

$$I = \bigcup_{\alpha \in \text{Inn}(\pi)} H^n(B; \alpha^*A) \times \text{End}(A)_\alpha$$

and the epimorphism $H^n(B; A) \rtimes \text{End}_\pi(A) \rightarrow I/\pi$ given by $(x, \varphi) \rightarrow \pi(x, \varphi)_1$ for $x \in H^n(B; A)$, $\varphi \in \text{End}_\pi(A)$, has kernel Z . \square

Extraction of units yields

COROLLARY 3.5. *The group $\varepsilon(L, *)$ is isomorphic to the set*

$$\bigcup_{\alpha \in \text{Aut}(\pi)} H^n(B; \alpha^*A) \times \text{Aut}(A)_\alpha$$

equipped with the product of Theorem 3.2, $\varepsilon(L) = \varepsilon(L, *)/\pi$, and there are short exact sequences of groups

$$1 \longrightarrow \text{Ext}_\pi^2(\mathbf{Z}, A) \rtimes \text{Aut}_\pi(A) \longrightarrow \varepsilon(L, *) \longrightarrow \text{Aut}(\pi) \longrightarrow 1$$

$$1 \longrightarrow \text{Ext}_\pi^2(\mathbf{Z}, A) \rtimes \text{Aut}_\pi(A)/Z \longrightarrow \varepsilon(L) \longrightarrow \text{Out}(\pi) \longrightarrow 1$$

where $\text{Out}(\pi) = \text{Aut}(\pi)/\text{Inn}(\pi)$ is the group of outer automorphisms of π .

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