Symmetric Products and a realization of generators in the cohomology of Polyhedral Products

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A report of joint work with

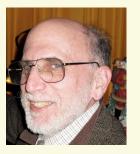


Martin Bendersky

and our late colleagues



Sam Gitler



Fred Cohen

and the work of others.

Begin by setting $[m] = \{1, 2, ..., m\}$ and define a category $\mathcal{C}([m])$ as follows

objects: Pairs $(\underline{X}, \underline{A})$ where

$$(\underline{X},\underline{A}) = \{(X_1,A_1), (X_2,A_2), \dots, (X_m,A_m)\}$$

is a family of based CW-pairs.

morphisms:

$$\underline{f} \colon (\underline{X}, \underline{A}) \longrightarrow (\underline{Y}, \underline{B})$$

consisting of m continuous maps $f_i \colon X_i \longrightarrow Y_i$

satisfying $f_i(A_i) \subset B_i$.

A functor

Next, let K be a simplicial complex on the vertex set [m].

A **polyhedral product** is a functor

$$Z(K; -) \colon \mathcal{C}([m]) \longrightarrow \operatorname{Top}$$

satisfying

$$Z(K; (\underline{X}, \underline{A})) \subseteq \prod_{i=1}^{m} X_i$$

and is defined as a colimit of a certain diagram

$$D: K \to CW_*$$

A definition

For each $\sigma \in K$, the diagram

 $D: K \to CW_*$

is defined by

$$D(\sigma) = \prod_{i=1}^{m} W_i, \text{ where } W_i = \begin{cases} X_i \text{ if } i \in \sigma \\ A_i \text{ if } i \in [m] - \sigma. \end{cases}$$

We set

$$Z(K; (\underline{X}, \underline{A})) = \operatorname{colim}(D(\sigma)).$$

Here, the colimit is a union of natural subspaces

$$\bigcup_{\sigma \in K} D(\sigma) \subseteq \prod_{i=1}^{m} X_i$$

(but the colimit structure is essential.

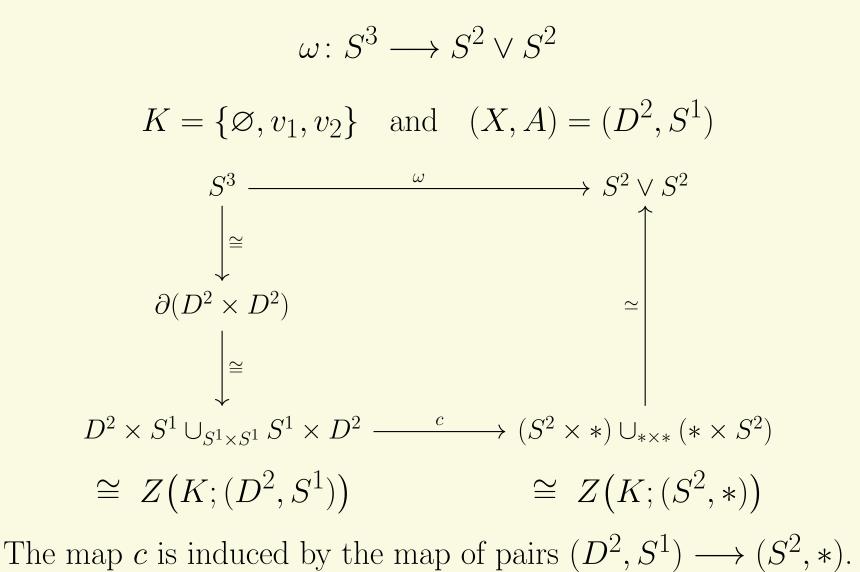
We take K to be the boundary of a square, so m = 4. $(\underline{X},\underline{A}) = \{ (D^1, S^0) \}.$ $\implies Z(K; (D^1, S^0)) \subseteq D^1 \times D^1 \times D^1 \times D^1$ is a subset of the 4-cube $D(\sigma_1) = D(\sigma_2) = D(\sigma_3) = D(\sigma_4)$

> This figure is from the thesis of Alvise Trevisan

To see the Hopf map in this setting, we take

Here, T^2 acts on $D^2 \times D^2 \subset \mathbb{C}^2$ and S^1 is the diagonal subgroup.

Consider the attaching map of the top cell of $T^2 \times T^2$



A variety of contexts

| $(\underline{X},\underline{A})$ |
|--------------------------------------------------------|
| (D^2,S^1) |
| (D^1,S^0) |
| $(S^1,*)$ |
| $(\mathbb{R}\mathrm{P}^{\infty},*)$ |
| $(\mathbb{C},\mathbb{C}^*)$ |
| $(\mathbb{R}^n, \mathbb{R}^n \setminus \{0\})$ |
| $(\mathbb{C}\mathrm{P}^\infty,\mathbb{C}\mathrm{P}^k)$ |
| (EG,G) |
| (BG,*) |
| $(PX, \Omega X)$ |
| (S^{2k+1},\ast) |

$Z(K; (\underline{X}, \underline{A}))$

toric geometry and topology surfaces, number theory robotics, right-angled Artin groups right-angled Coxeter groups complements of coordinate arrangements complements of certain non-coordinate arrangements monomial ideal rings free groups monodromy, combinatorics homotopy theory, Whitehead products graph products, quadratic algebras

The next theorem reduces the complexity of the polyhedral product $Z(K; (\underline{X}, \underline{A}))$

Theorem 1. Topological spaces $\widehat{Z}(K_I; (\underline{X_I}, \underline{A_I})))$ exist such that

$$\Sigma \left(Z(K; (\underline{X}, \underline{A})) \right) \xrightarrow{\simeq} \Sigma \left(\bigvee_{I \subseteq [m]} \widehat{Z}(K_I; (\underline{X}_I, \underline{A}_I)) \right)$$

where $I = (i_1, \cdots, i_k)$ satisfies $1 \le i_1 < \cdots < i_k \le m$,

and $K_I \subseteq K$ denotes the full subcomplex of K consisting of all simplices which have their vertices in I.

The content of this theorem lies in the fact that the spaces $\widehat{Z}(K_I; (\underline{X}_I, \underline{A}_I)))$ are generally much simpler geometrically than are $Z(K; (\underline{X}, \underline{A}))$.

The polyhedral smash product $\widehat{Z}(L; (\underline{Y}, \underline{B}))$ is defined using smash products in a way entirely analogous to the polyhedral product.

A family of CW pairs
$$(\underline{U}, \underline{V})$$
 of the form

$$(\underline{U}, \underline{V}) = (\underline{B \lor C}, \underline{B \lor E})$$

with

$$(U_i, V_i) = (B_i \lor C_i, B_i \lor E_i)$$

for all i, and such that

$$E_i \hookrightarrow C_i$$

is a null homotopic inclusion, is called wedge decomposable.

Remark. It's not a surprise that the polyhedral smash product loves pairs of this form because the smash product distributes over the wedge.

The special case of wedge pairs – a Cartan-type formula –

Wedge decomposable pairs allow for a nice description of the the polyhedral smash product.

Theorem 2. There is a homotopy equivalence

$$\widehat{Z}\big(K; (\underline{B \lor C}, \underline{B \lor E})\big) \longrightarrow \bigvee_{I \le [m]} \widehat{Z}\big(K_I; (\underline{C}, \underline{E})\big) \land \widehat{Z}\big(K_{[m]-I}; (\underline{B}, \underline{B})\big)$$

with the convention that

$$\widehat{Z}(K_{\varnothing};(\underline{B},\underline{B})_{\varnothing}),\ \widehat{Z}(K_{\varnothing};(\underline{C},\underline{E})_{\varnothing}) \text{ and } \widehat{Z}(K_{I};(\varnothing,\varnothing)_{I})$$

are all S^{0} .

The equivalence is natural with respect to maps of wedge decomposable pairs.

The wedge lemma helps us

The wedge lemma identifies $\widehat{Z}(K_I; (\underline{C}, \underline{E}))$ because $E_i \hookrightarrow C_i$ is null homotopic.

Corollary 1. There is a homotopy equivalence

a smash product of the B_i

where

$$\widehat{D}_{\underline{C},\underline{E}}^{I}(\sigma) = \bigwedge_{j=1}^{m} W_{i_{j}}, \quad \text{with} \quad W_{i_{j}} = \begin{cases} C_{i_{j}} & \text{if } i_{j} \in \sigma \\ E_{i_{j}} & \text{if } i_{j} \in I - \sigma. \end{cases}$$

We wish to use symmetric products to prove the following:

Theorem 3. Let K have m vertices and suppose that $(\underline{X}, \underline{A})$ is a family of pointed, path-connected pairs of finite CW-complexes. Then there exist spaces

$$B_j, C_j, E_j, 1 \le j \le m$$

which are finite wedges of spheres and mod-n Moore spaces so that

$$H_*(\widehat{Z}(K; (\underline{X}, \underline{A}))) \cong H_*(\widehat{Z}(K; (\underline{B \lor C}, \underline{B \lor E})))$$

over the integers.

Other computations: BBCG 2014, Qibing Zheng 2014

Definition. Let (X, *) denote a pointed topological space.

The *m*-fold symmetric product for (X, *) is the orbit space

$$SP^m(X) = X^m / \Sigma_m$$

where the symmetric group on *m*-letters Σ_m acts on the left by permutation of coordinates.

There are natural maps

$$e: SP^{m}(X) \longrightarrow SP^{m+1}(X)$$
$$[x_1, x_2, \dots, x_m] \mapsto [x_1, x_2, \dots, x_m, *]$$

which allow for the definition of the *infinite* symmetric product as a colimit

$$SP(X) = \operatorname{colim}_{1 \le m} SP^m(X).$$

Symmetric products

The next theorem is a version of a result due to Dold & Thom.

- **Theorem 3.** Given a pointed, path-connected pair of finite CW-complexes (X, A, *), then
 - (i) SP(X) is homotopy equivalent to a product of Eilenberg-MacLane spaces

$$\prod_{1 \le q \le \infty} K(H_q(X), q)$$
$$\implies \pi_i SP(X) \cong \widetilde{H}_i(X).$$

(ii) When A is a closed subcomplex of X, the natural map

$$SP(X) \longrightarrow SP(X/A)$$

is a quasi-fibration with quasi-fibre SP(A).

A natural map

$$SP^{q_1}(X_1) \wedge SP^{q_2}(X_2) \wedge \dots \wedge SP^{q_m}(X_m)$$
$$\xrightarrow{\widehat{\theta}} SP^q(X_1 \wedge X_2 \wedge \dots \wedge X_m),$$

is constructed for $q = q_1 q_2 \cdots q_m$ by setting

$$\widehat{\theta} \left(\left[[x_{11}, x_{12}, \dots, x_{1q_1}], [x_{21}, x_{22}, \dots, x_{2q_2}], \dots, [x_{m1}, x_{m2}, \dots, x_{mq_m}] \right]^{\wedge} \right) \\ = \left[\prod_{\substack{1 \le j_t \le q_t \\ 1 \le t \le m}} \left[x_{1j_1}, x_{2j_2}, \dots, x_{mj_m} \right]^{\wedge} \right]$$

where square brackets [] are used to denote equivalence classes in the symmetric product, and $[]^{\wedge}$ for the smash products.

Symmetric products and polyhedral products

The map $\widehat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}$ extends in a natural way to give a map of colimits

$$SP(X_1) \wedge SP(X_2) \wedge \cdots \wedge SP(X_m)$$
$$\xrightarrow{\widehat{\theta}} SP(X_1 \wedge X_2 \wedge \cdots \wedge X_m)$$

This induces a structure map,

$$\boldsymbol{\zeta}: \ \widehat{Z}\big(K; (\underline{SP(X)}, \underline{SP(A)})\big) \longrightarrow SP\big(\widehat{Z}\big(K; (\underline{X}, \underline{A})\big)\big).$$

in not an entirely obvious way.

A definition (which will not restrict us)

The pairs

 $(\underline{U},\underline{V})$ and $(\underline{X},\underline{A})$

are said to have strongly isomorphic homology provided three things happen:

(1) There are isomorphisms of singular homology groups $\alpha_j: H_*(U_j) \to H_*(X_j)$

and

$$\beta_j : H_*(V_j) \to H_*(A_j)$$

(2) There is a commutative diagram

where $\lambda_j : V_j \subset U_j$, and $\iota_j : A_j \subset X_j$ are the natural inclusions.

A definition

(3) There is an induced morphism of exact sequences for which all vertical arrows are isomorphisms:

where $\bar{\alpha}_j$ is induced by α_j .

Strongly isomorphic pairs are good because they ensure that everything behaves well with respect to the Künneth theorem.

Lemma. Let $(\underline{X}, \underline{A})$, and $(\underline{U}, \underline{V})$ be pairs of pointed, path connected finite CW complexes.

Then, if they have strongly isomorphic homology groups, there is an isomorphism of singular homology groups

$$\bar{H}_*\big(\widehat{D}_{(\underline{X},\underline{A})}(\sigma)\big) \longrightarrow \bar{H}_*\big(\widehat{D}_{(\underline{U},\underline{V})}(\sigma)\big).$$

for any face σ in the simplicial complex K,

Lemma. Let $(\underline{X}, \underline{A})$ consist of pointed, path-connected pairs of finite CW-complexes.

Then there exist wedges of spheres, and mod- p^r Moore spaces $(\underline{B \lor C}, \underline{B \lor E})$

together with isomorphisms of singular homology groups $\alpha_j \colon H_*(B_j \vee C_j) \to H_*(X_j)$

and

$$\beta_j \colon H_*(B_j \vee E_j) \to H_*(A_j),$$

which give strong homology isomorphisms.

The inclusions $E_j \to C_j$ are null-homotopic, so the pairs

 $(\underline{B \lor C}, \underline{B \lor E})$

satisfy condition of wedge decomposability.

Suppose that $(\underline{U}, \underline{V})$ and $(\underline{X}, \underline{A})$ are pointed, connected, pairs of finite CW-complexes, with strongly isomorphic homology groups.

[We have in mind: $(\underline{U}, \underline{V}) = (\underline{B \lor C}, \underline{B \lor E})$.]

Then a multiplicative map of pairs

$$g: (SP(U), SP(V)) \longrightarrow (SP(X), SP(A))$$

exists inducing strongly isomorphic homology groups including a commutative diagram

... and another for which all vertical arrows are isomorphisms:

where \bar{g}_* is induced by g_* .

Remark. The map g might not be homotopic to the one which is given automatically by virtue of the fact that SP(X) is homotopy equivalent to a product of Eilenberg-MacLane spaces. Applying the functor $\widehat{D}_{(-,-)}(\sigma)$ to the map of pointed pairs $g: \left(\underline{SP(B \lor C)}, \underline{SP(B \lor E)}\right) \longrightarrow \left(\underline{SP(X)}, \underline{SP(A)}\right)$

(which induces a strong isomorphism in homology),

we get a morphism

$$\widehat{D}_{(\underline{SP(B\vee C)}, \underline{SP(B\vee E)})}(\sigma) \xrightarrow{\widehat{D}(\sigma;g)} \widehat{D}_{(\underline{SP(X)}, \underline{SP(A)})}(\sigma)$$

and, for each $\tau \subset \sigma$, a commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \widehat{D}_{(\underline{SP(B\vee C)},\ \underline{SP(B\vee E)})}(\tau) & \xrightarrow{\widehat{D}(\tau;g)} & \widehat{D}_{(\underline{SP(X)},\underline{SP(A)})}(\tau) \\ & & \downarrow^{\beta} & & \downarrow^{\beta} \\ \widehat{D}_{(\underline{SP(B\vee C)},\ \underline{SP(B\vee E)})}(\sigma) & \xrightarrow{\widehat{D}(\sigma;g)} & \widehat{D}_{(\underline{SP(X)},\underline{SP(A)})}(\sigma) \end{array}$$

Further there are induced morphisms of commutative diagrams via the structure map ζ .

$$\begin{split} \widehat{D}_{(\underline{SP(B\vee C)},\ \underline{SP(B\vee E)})}(\sigma) & \xrightarrow{\simeq} & \widehat{D}_{(\underline{SP(X)},\underline{SP(A)})}(\sigma) \\ & \downarrow^{\zeta} & \downarrow^{\zeta} \\ & SP\big(\widehat{D}_{(\underline{B\vee C},\ \underline{B\vee E})}(\sigma)\big) & \xrightarrow{\simeq} & SP\big(\widehat{D}_{(\underline{X},\ \underline{A})}(\sigma)\big) \end{split}$$

where the lower horizontal arrow is a homotopy equivalence by the Dold-Thom theorem.

A conclusion

So, there is a map

Finally, we invoke Quillen's Projection Lemma to conclude the proof.

Lemma. Let \mathcal{D} and \mathcal{E} be finite diagrams of finite CW complexes over the same finite category \mathfrak{C} , satisfying:

- (i) All inclusions in the intersection poset are closed cofibrations.
- (ii) We have colimits

$$U = \bigcup_{\alpha \in \mathfrak{C}} D_{\alpha}$$
 and $X = \bigcup_{\alpha \in \mathcal{C}} E_{\alpha}$

(iii) There is a map

$$\mu\colon SP(U) \longrightarrow SP(X)$$

which restricts to homotopy equivalences on

$$\mu|_{SP(D_{\alpha})}:SP(D_{\alpha})\longrightarrow SP(E_{\alpha})$$

Then μ is a homotopy equivalence.

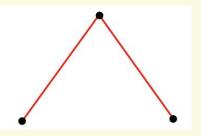
Consider the composite

$$f\colon \mathbb{C}P^2 \hookrightarrow \mathbb{C}P^3 \to \mathbb{C}P^3/\mathbb{C}P^1.$$

and denote the mapping cylinder of f by M_f .

We shall describe describe the Poincaré series of $\widehat{Z}(K; (M_f, \mathbb{C}P^2))$ for any for the special case

 $K = \{\{v_1\}, \{v_2\}, \{v_3\}, \{v_1, v_2\}, \{v_1, v_3\}\}.$



For
$$(X, A) = (M_f, \mathbb{C}P^2)$$
, we have
 $(U, V) = \left(S^4 \lor S^6, S^4 \lor S^2\right)$

so that

$$B = S^4$$
, $C = S^6$ and $E = S^2$

The theorem gives:

$$\widetilde{H}^*\big(\widehat{Z}\big(K;(M_f,\mathbb{C}P^2)\big)\big)\cong \widetilde{H}^*\big(\widehat{Z}(K;(B\vee C,B\vee E))\big).$$

Applying the Cartan decomposition we get:

$$\widehat{Z}(K; (B \lor C, B \lor E)) \xrightarrow{\simeq} \bigvee_{I \le [m]} \widehat{Z}(K_I; (S^6, S^2)) \land \widehat{Z}(K_{[m]-I}; (S^4, S^4))$$

$$= \bigvee_{I \le [m]} \widehat{Z}(K_I; (S^6, S^2)) \land (S^4)^{\land |[m]-I||}$$

The Wedge Lemma decomposes

$$\widehat{Z}(K_I; (S^6, S^2))$$

further by enumerating all the links $|lk_{\sigma}(K_I)|$. The reduced Hilbert-Poincaré series for $\widehat{Z}(K; (B \lor C, B \lor E))$, and hence for $\widehat{Z}(K; (\underline{X}, \underline{A}))$ is

$$\overline{P}\left(\widehat{Z}(K; (B \lor C, B \lor E)), t\right)$$
$$= \sum_{I \le [m]} \left[\sum_{\sigma \in K_I} \left[t \cdot \overline{P}(|\mathrm{lk}_{\sigma}(K_I)|, t) \cdot \overline{P}\left(\widehat{D}_{\underline{S^6}, \underline{S^2}}^I(\sigma), t\right)\right] \cdot \prod_{j \in [m] - I} \overline{P}(B_j, t)\right]$$

The cohomology of $(M_f, \mathbb{C}P^2)$ satisfies

$$H^*(M_f) = \mathbb{Z}\{b_4, c_6\}$$
 and $H^*(\mathbb{C}P^2)) = \mathbb{Z}\{e_2, b_4\}$

where the dimensions of the classes are given by the subscripts. The classes $\{e_2, b_4, c_6\}$ supported on the vertex *i* are denoted by $\{e_2^i, b_4^i, c_6^i\}$.

We illustrate the computation by determining the summand corresponding to

$$I = \{2, 3\}$$
 and $\sigma = \emptyset$.

An example with numbers

In this case, $I = \{2, 3\}$ and $\sigma = \emptyset$, we have: (i) $\widehat{D}_{\underline{C},\underline{E}}^{I}(\sigma) = E_2 \wedge E_3 = S^2 \wedge S^2$ and $\widetilde{H}(\widehat{D}_{\underline{C},\underline{E}}^{I}(\sigma)) = k\{e_2^2 \otimes e_2^3\}$ and so we get $\overline{P}(\widehat{D}_{\underline{S^6},\underline{S^2}}^{I}(\sigma), t) = t^4$.

(ii) Next, since $[m] - I = \{1\}$, we have:

$$\prod_{j \in \{1\}} \overline{P}(B_j, t) = \overline{P}(B_1, t) = \overline{P}(S^4, t) \implies \overline{P}(b_4^1, t) = t^4.$$

(iii) Turning to the links,

 $|lk_{\varnothing}(K_I)| = |\{\{2\}, \{3\}\}| = S^0$ so that $t \cdot \overline{P}(|lk_{\varnothing}(K_I), t|) = t.$ Finally, for the case at hand, we get a contribution of t^9 to the Poincaré series for $H^*(\widehat{Z}(K; (\underline{X}, \underline{A})))$.

Continuing in this way, we arrive at the (reduced) Poincaré series:

$$\overline{P}\left(H^*(\widehat{Z}(K;(M_f,\mathbb{C}P^2)),t\right) = t^9 + t^{11} + 3t^{12} + 5t^{14} + 2t^{16}$$