

# Equivariant spaces

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Summer School on Equivariant Homotopy Theory, Shanghai

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## Plan

1. G-spaces and G-CW complexes
2. Equivariant cellular theory
3. Fixed points and orbits
4. Homotopy fixed points and orbits

## 1. G-SPACES AND G-CW COMPLEXES

We take all spaces to be compactly generated and weak Hausdorff.

$G$ : topological group, compact Lie group, finite group

Definition

- left G-space

space  $X$  with  $\downarrow$  continuous map  $G \times X \rightarrow X$  such that  $g_1(g_2 x) = (g_1 g_2) x$   
 $(g, x) \mapsto gx$   $eX = x$

- G-map (equivariant map)

$f: X \rightarrow Y$   
 such that  $f(gx) = gf(x)$

Remark: right G-space

$X$ : right G-space, then it can be regarded as a left G-space  
 by  $gx = xg^{-1}$ .

$G\text{Top}$  and  $\text{Top}_G$

obj: G-spaces

mor:  $G\text{Top}(X, Y) = \text{Map}_G(X, Y)$  G-maps, a space

$\text{Top}_G(X, Y) = \text{Map}(X, Y)$ , a G-space.  $G$  acts by conjugation

$$\text{Map}_G(X, Y) = (\text{Map}(X, Y))^G$$

$(G\text{Top}, \times, \text{pt})$  is a closed Cartesian monoidal category

Cartesian product

$X, Y \in G\text{Top}$

$X \times Y \in G\text{Top}$

$G$  acts diagonally

$$g(x, y) = (gx, gy)$$

internal hom

$$\underline{G\text{Top}}(X, Y) = \text{Map}(X, Y) = \text{Top}_G(X, Y)$$

is a G-space

$$\bullet \text{Map}_G(X \times Y, Z) \cong \text{Map}_G(X, \text{Map}(Y, Z))$$

obtained from taking G-f.p. of

$$\bullet \text{Map}(X \times Y, Z) \cong \text{Map}(X, \text{Map}(Y, Z))$$

The pointed version

$G\text{Top}_*$

obj: based G-spaces.  $X$ : G-space  $x \in X$  such that  $x$  is G-fixed.

the pointed version

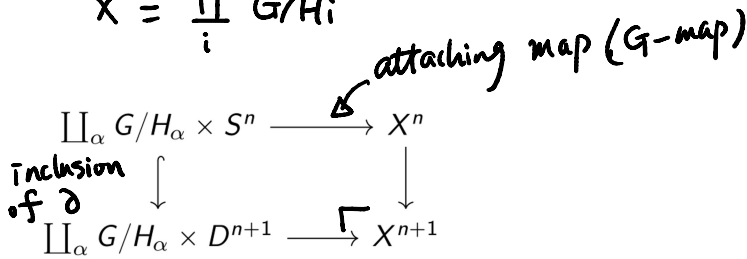
$G\text{Top}_*$  obj: based  $G$ -spaces.  $X: G$ -space  $*$   $\in X$  such that  $*$  is  $G$ -fixed.  
 mor: based  $G$ -maps (is a based space, based at  $*$  the constant map to  $*$ .)  
 •  $\text{Map}_+(X \wedge Y, Z) \cong \text{Map}_*(X, \text{Map}_*(Y, Z))$   
 $\text{Map}_{G,*}(X \wedge Y, Z) \cong \text{Map}_{G,*}(X, \text{Map}_*(Y, Z))$

Adjunction

$$G\text{Top} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{(\ )_+} \\ \xleftarrow{\perp} \\ \xrightarrow{\text{fgt}} \end{array} G\text{Top}_* \quad G\text{Top}_*(X_+, Y) \cong G\text{Top}(X, Y)$$

Definition.  $G$ -CW complex  $X = \bigcup_n X^n$

$$X^0 = \coprod_i G/H_i$$



orbit category  $O_G$   
 obj:  $G/H$  for closed subgroups  $H \subseteq G$

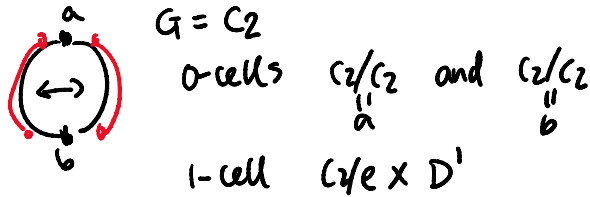
mor:  $G$ -maps

The attaching map  $G/H \times S^n \rightarrow X^n$  is determined by its restriction  $S^n \rightarrow (X^n)^H$ .

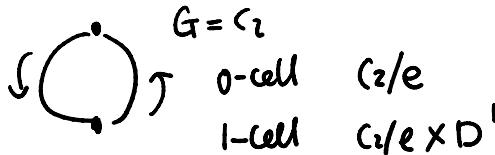
Remark: orbits  $G/H$  play the role of points.

Example.

- The circle with the reflection action.



- The circle with the rotation action.



- $EG$  and  $BG$

$EG$ : free  $G$ -space such that  $EG \simeq *$ .

$BG = EG/G$  space

examples.  $BO(n)$  Grassmannian

$\bar{E}O(n)$  framings in Grassmannian

## 2. EQUIVARIANT CELLULAR THEORY

Definition. G-homotopy  $f \simeq g: X \rightarrow Y$   
 such that there is  $H: X \times I \rightarrow Y$  (G-map)  
 $f = H(-, 0)$ ,  $I = [0, 1]$  with trivial G-action  
 $g = H(-, 1)$

We use  $[X, Y]_G$  to denote the homotopy classes of G-maps.

Definition. H-equivariant homotopy groups  $H \subseteq G$  closed subgroup

$$\pi_n^H(X) = \pi_0 \text{Hom}_G(G/H_+ \wedge S^n, X) = \pi_n(X^H)$$

Definition. Weak (homotopy) equivalence  $f: X \rightarrow Y$  is a w.e.  
 if  $\forall H$ ,  $f^H: X^H \rightarrow Y^H$  is a w.e.

homotopy category  
 $\mathcal{C}$ ,  $\mathcal{W}$  morphisms in  $\mathcal{C}$   
 $\uparrow$   
 w.e.  
 $\Rightarrow \text{Ho}(\mathcal{C}) = \mathcal{C}[\mathcal{W}^{-1}]$

Remark. Borel weak equivalence  $f: X \rightarrow Y$  is a Borel w.e.  
 if  $f^e: X^e \rightarrow Y^e$  (underlying map)  
 is a w.e.

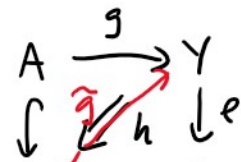
Definition. n-equivalence (non-equivariant)  $f: X \rightarrow Y$   
 $(n \geq 0)$  if  $\pi_q(f)$  is a bijection for  $q < n$  and a surjection for  $q = n$ .  
 $(n = -1)$   $f: \phi \rightarrow Y$  is a (-1)-equi  $\Leftrightarrow Y = \phi$

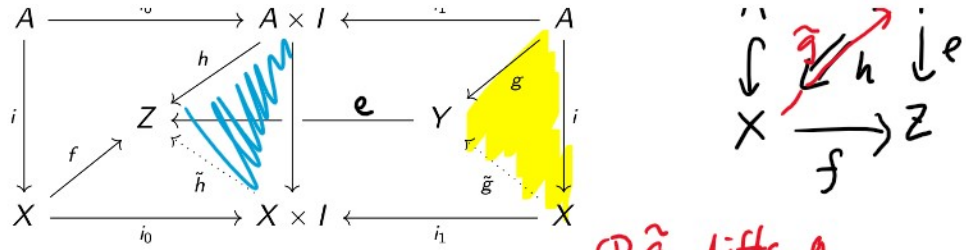
**Definition 2.4.** Let  $\nu$  be a function from conjugacy classes of subgroups of  $G$  to the integers  $\geq -1$ . We say that a map  $e: Y \rightarrow Z$  is a  $\nu$ -equivalence if  $e^H: Y^H \rightarrow Z^H$  is a  $\nu(H)$ -equivalence for all  $H$ . We say a  $G$ -CW complex  $X$  has dimension  $\leq \nu$  if its cells of orbit type  $G/H$  have dimensions  $\leq \nu(H)$ .

HELP

$A \hookrightarrow X$   $\dim X \leq \nu$

**Theorem 2.5** (Homotopy extension and lifting property). Let  $A$  be a subcomplex of a  $G$ -CW complex  $X$  of dimension  $\leq \nu$  and let  $e: Y \rightarrow Z$  be a  $\nu$ -equivalence. Suppose given maps  $g: A \rightarrow Y$ ,  $h: A \times I \rightarrow Z$ , and  $f: X \rightarrow Z$  such that  $eg = hi_0$  and  $fi = hi_1$  in the following diagram: then there exists maps  $\tilde{g}$  and  $\tilde{h}$  that make the diagram commutes.





①  $\tilde{g}$  lifts  $g$   
 ②  $\{X \times \{0\} \cup A \times I \cup X \times \{1\}\} \xrightarrow{e\tilde{g}} Z$   
 $\downarrow$   
 $X \times I \rightarrow Z$

- Theorem (equivariant Whitehead theorem)  $e: Y \rightarrow Z$   $\nu$ -equiv,  $X: G$ -CW  
 $e_*: [X, Y]_G \rightarrow [X, Z]_G$  is a  $\begin{cases} \text{bijection if } \dim X < \nu \\ \text{surjection if } \dim X \leq \nu \end{cases}$

PROOF. Apply HELP to the pair  $(X, \emptyset)$  for the surjectivity. Apply HELP to the pair  $(X \times I, X \times \partial I)$  for the injectivity.  $\square$

- Corollary  $e: Y \rightarrow Z$   $\nu$ -equiv,  $Y, Z: G$ -CW,  $\dim < \nu$   
 $\Rightarrow e$  is a  $G$ -homotopy equivalence.

- Theorem (G-CW approximation)

For any  $G$ -space  $X$ , there is a  $G$ -CW  $G$ -CW/h.e.  $\cong \text{Ho}(G\text{Top})$   
 complex  $TX$  and a w.e.  $TX \rightarrow X$ .  
 The  $\Gamma$  can be taken functorially.

### 3. FIXED POINTS AND ORBITS

$X: G$ -space  $H \subseteq G$

$$X^H = \{x | hx = x \text{ for all } h \in H\};$$

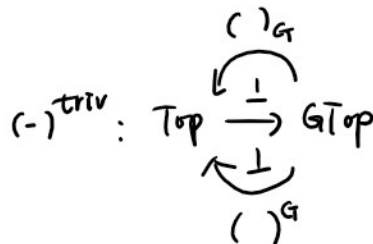
$$X^H \cong \text{Map}_G(G/H, X)$$

$$X_H = X/H = X / (x \sim hx \text{ for } x \in X \text{ and } h \in H).$$

}  $W_G H$ -spaces

- $W_G H = N_G H / H \cong \text{Hom}_G(G/H, G/H)$ .

- As adjoints





$$G\text{Top}(X^{\text{triv}}, Y) \cong \text{Top}(X, Y^G)$$

$$G\text{Top}(X, Y^{\text{triv}}) \cong \text{Top}(X/G, Y)$$

- The general formulation and two special cases

$f: H \rightarrow K$  group homomorphism

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 & \downarrow \perp & \\
 K\text{Top} & \xrightarrow{f^*} & H\text{Top} \\
 & \uparrow \perp & \\
 & & f_*
 \end{array}$$

$$f_!(X) = K \times_H X$$

$$f_*(X) = \text{Map}(K, X)^H$$

①  $K = \{e\}$ .  $f^* = (-)^{\text{triv}}$ .

$f: G \rightarrow \{e\}$

$$\Rightarrow f_!(X) = * \times_G X = X/G$$

$$f_*(X) = \text{Map}(*, X)^G = X^G$$

②  $f: H \hookrightarrow G$   $f^* = \text{Res}_H^G$

$$\Rightarrow f_!(X) = G \times_H X$$

$$f_*(X) = \text{Map}_H(G, X)$$

**Exercise 3.1.** Verify that the attaching map  $G/H \times S^n \rightarrow X^n$  is determined by its restriction  $S^n \rightarrow (X^n)^H$ .

- As limits and colimits

$BG$ : category of one obj  $*$   $\mathcal{Q}G$   
(some authors call this category  $G$ )

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 G\text{Top} & \cong & \text{Fun}(BG, \text{Top}) \quad \text{naive identification} \\
 \downarrow & & \\
 X & &
 \end{array}$$

$$\chi: G \cdot \longmapsto X \mathcal{Q} G$$

To see this, we have

inclusion of  $X^G \rightarrow X \mathcal{Q} G$   
f.p.

projection to orbits  $G \times X \rightarrow X_G$

$$X^G = \lim_{BG} X$$

$$X_G = \text{colim}_{BG} X$$

- Aside: The general formulation

$$\begin{aligned}
 f: G \rightarrow K &\Rightarrow F: BG \rightarrow BK \\
 \Rightarrow \text{Fun}(BK, \text{Top}) &\xrightarrow{F^*} \text{Fun}(BG, \text{Top}) \\
 \parallel \text{S} & \parallel \text{S} \\
 K\text{Top} &\xrightarrow{f^*} G\text{Top} \\
 \Rightarrow F^* &\text{ has left and right adjoints.}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 BG & \xrightarrow{X} & \text{Top} \\
 F \downarrow & \dashrightarrow & \uparrow \\
 BK & & 
 \end{array}
 \quad
 \begin{aligned}
 \text{Lan}_F X &= f_! X \\
 \text{Ran}_F X &= f_* X
 \end{aligned}$$

When  $K = \{e\}$ ,  $BK = *$ ,  $F: BG \rightarrow *$ .

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Lan}_F X &= \text{colim}_{BG} X \\
 \text{Ran}_F X &= \text{lim}_{BG} X
 \end{aligned}$$

#### 4. HOMOTOPY FIXED POINTS AND HOMOTOPY ORBITS

$EG$ : free  $G$ -space such that  $EG \simeq *$

**Definition 4.1.** The homotopy  $G$ -fixed point space of  $X$  is

$$X^{hG} = \text{Map}_G(EG, X) = \text{Map}(EG, X)^G.$$

In  $G\text{Top}_*$

$$X^{hG} = \text{Map}_{G,X}(EG_+, X)$$

The homotopy  $G$ -orbit space of  $X$  is

$$X_{hG} = EG \times_G X = (EG \times X)_G.$$

$$X_{hG} = EG_+ \wedge_G X$$

**Exercise 4.2.** Find the homotopy fixed point and homotopy orbit of a space  $X$  with the trivial  $G$ -action.

$$\begin{aligned}
 X^{hG} &= \text{Map}(BG, X) \not\cong X^G \\
 X_{hG} &= BG \times X \not\cong X_G
 \end{aligned}$$

- Goal:  $X^{hG} \simeq \text{holim}_{BG} X$ ; We have natural maps  $X^G \rightarrow X^{hG}$   
 $X_{hG} \simeq \text{hocolim}_{BG} X$ .  $X_{hG} \rightarrow X_G$

- Why do we study homotopy (co)limits of diagrams?

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \emptyset = \downarrow \rightarrow \cdot & F_1 & \begin{array}{ccc} S^0 & \rightarrow & [0,1] \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ * & \rightarrow & S^1 \end{array} \\
 & & F_2 & \begin{array}{ccc} S^0 & \rightarrow & * \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ * & \rightarrow & * \end{array}
 \end{array}$$

$F_1 \rightarrow F_2$  levelwise w.e.

$\Rightarrow \text{colim } F_1 \rightarrow \text{colim } F_2$  not a w.e.

- Homotopy invariance  $F_1 \rightarrow F_2$  levelwise w.e.

Prop. ① If the image of the objects in  $F_1, F_2$  are all cofibrant

then  $\text{hocolim } F_1 \rightarrow \text{hocolim } F_2$  is a w.e.

② If  $\dots$  are all fibrant (automatic in  $\text{Top}$ )

then  $\text{holim } F_1 \rightarrow \text{holim } F_2$  is a w.e.

- Definition, the (co)simplicial one

$\mathcal{D}$ : topological category (small)  $X: \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \text{Top}$ .

$$B_n(*, \mathcal{D}, X) = \{(\underline{f}, s) \mid \underline{f} = \underbrace{i_0 \xleftarrow{f_1} i_1 \xleftarrow{\dots} i_{n-1} \xleftarrow{f_n} i_n}_{n \text{ composable morphisms in } \mathcal{D}}, s \in X(i_n)\}$$

$$B_n(*, \mathcal{D}, X) \rightarrow B_{n-1}(*, \mathcal{D}, X)$$

face map

$d_0$

forgets  $f_1$

$d_i, 1 \leq i < n-1$  compose  $f_{i-1} f_i$

$d_n$

forgets  $f_n$ , replace  $s$  by

$(f_n)_*(s) \in X(i_{n-1})$

degeneracy map inserts  $i_k \xleftarrow{\text{id}} i_k$ .

$$\Rightarrow \text{Def. } \text{hocolim}_{\mathcal{D}} X = |B_*(*, \mathcal{D}, X)|.$$

Example.  $\mathcal{D} = \text{BG}$ . we write  $\mathcal{D} = \text{G}$  in the bar construction.

$$B_*(*, \text{G}, *) \quad \dots \quad \text{G} \times \text{G} \rightrightarrows \text{G} \rightrightarrows *$$

$$\Rightarrow |B(*, \text{G}, *)| \simeq \text{BG}$$

$$d_0(g_1, g_2) = g_2$$

$$d_1(g_1, g_2) = g_1 g_2$$

$$d_2(g_1, g_2) = g_1$$

$$B_*(*, \text{G}, \text{G}) \quad \dots \quad \text{G} \times \text{G} \times \text{G} \rightrightarrows \text{G} \times \text{G} \rightrightarrows \text{G}$$

$$\Rightarrow |B(*, \text{G}, \text{G})| \simeq \text{EG}$$

$$d_0(g_0, g_1) = g_1$$

$$d_1(g_0, g_1) = g_0 g_1$$

$$B_x(*, G, X) \quad \dots \rightrightarrows \boxed{G \times X \rightrightarrows X}$$

$$\Rightarrow |B_x(*, G, X)| = |B_x(*, G, G) \times_G X| \quad \begin{array}{l} d_0(g, x) = x \\ d_1(g, x) = gx \end{array}$$

$$\cong |B_x(*, G, G)| \times_G X \cong EG \times_G X$$

$$\Rightarrow |B_x(*, G, X)| \rightarrow \text{coreg}(G \times X \rightrightarrows X) = X_G$$

$$\Rightarrow X \times_G \rightarrow X_G$$

or, using  $EG \rightarrow *$ , we have  $EG \times X \rightarrow * \times X = X$

$$\Rightarrow EG \times_G X \rightarrow X_G$$

$$\parallel$$

$$X \times_G$$

Dually, we have a cosimplicial space,  $C_x(G, X)$  called co-bar construction.

$$X^{hG} = \text{holim}_{BG} X = \text{Tot}(C_x(G, X))$$

and we have  $X^G \rightarrow X^{hG}$

• As adjunctions

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & \text{colim} & \\ & \leftarrow \quad \perp \quad \rightarrow & \\ \text{Top} & \xrightarrow{\text{const}} & \text{Top}^\infty \\ & \leftarrow \quad \perp \quad \rightarrow & \\ & \text{lim} & \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & \text{hocolim} & \\ & \leftarrow \quad \perp \quad \rightarrow & \\ \text{Top} & \xrightarrow{\text{map}(B(-/\infty), -)} & \text{Top}^\infty \\ X & \xrightarrow{\quad} & \infty \rightarrow \text{Top} \end{array}$$

Example

$$\infty = BG.$$

$$*/BG \cong \tilde{G}$$

obj:  $G, g$

mor:  $f_i \rightarrow g_i$

$$B(* / BG) \subseteq EG$$

$$\begin{array}{l}
 \text{map}(B(-/\mathcal{D}), -) \\
 X \xrightarrow{1} \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \text{Top} \\
 d \mapsto \text{Map}(B(d/\mathcal{D}), X) \\
 d_1 \rightarrow d_2 \quad d_1/\mathcal{D} \leftarrow d_2/\mathcal{D}
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{l}
 B(\ast/BG) \subseteq EG \\
 \text{Top} \xleftarrow{(\ )_{hg}} \text{Top}^{BG} \\
 \text{Map}(EG, -)
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \xrightarrow{-x B(\mathcal{D}/-)} \\
 \text{Top} \xrightleftharpoons[\text{holim}]{\perp} \text{Top}^{\mathcal{D}}
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \xrightarrow{-XEG} \\
 \text{Top} \xrightleftharpoons[(\ )_{hg}]{\perp} \text{Top}^{BG}
 \end{array}$$

• (Aside) using model category

$\text{Top}^{\mathcal{D}}$  has injective model structure  
& projective model structure

levelwise cof. w.e  
levelwise fib. w.e.

$$\textcircled{1} \quad \text{Top} \xrightleftharpoons[\text{const}]{\text{colim}} (\text{Top}^{\mathcal{D}})_{\text{proj}}$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{Ho}(\text{Top}) \xrightleftharpoons[\text{const}]{L} \text{Ho}(\text{Top}^{\mathcal{D}})$$

$$LX \simeq \text{colim}_{\text{hard}} (Q_{\text{proj}} X)$$

$$\textcircled{2} \quad \text{Top} \xrightleftharpoons[\text{Map}(B(-/\mathcal{D}), -)]{\text{hocolim}} (\text{Top}^{\mathcal{D}})_{\text{inj}}$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{Ho}(\text{Top}) \xrightleftharpoons[\text{const}]{L} \text{Ho}(\text{Top}^{\mathcal{D}})$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 LX &\simeq \text{hocolim} (Q_{\text{inj}} X) \\
 &\simeq \text{hocolim} X
 \end{aligned}$$

if  $X(d)$  are all cofibrant  
for  $d \in \mathcal{D}$

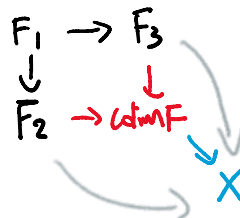
• Universal properties

$$\text{Map}(\text{colim}_I F, X) \cong \lim_I \text{Map}(F(i), X)$$

$$\text{Map}(X, \lim_I F) \cong \lim_I \text{Map}(X, F(i))$$

$$\text{Map}(\text{hocolim}_I F, X) \simeq \text{holim}_I \text{Map}(F(i), X)$$

$$\text{Map}(X, \text{holim}_I F) \simeq \text{holim}_I \text{Map}(X, F(i))$$



$$\text{Map}(\text{hocolim}_I F, X) \simeq \text{holim}_I \text{Map}(F(i), X)$$

$$\text{Map}(X, \text{holim}_I F) \simeq \text{holim}_I \text{Map}(X, F(i))$$

