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# NILPOTENCY CLASS OF A MAP AND STASHEFF'S CRITERION

CHEONG SENG HOO

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# NILPOTENCY CLASS OF A MAP AND STASHEFF'S CRITERION

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Let  $f: X \to Y$  be a map and let  $e: \Sigma \Omega X \to X$  be the map whose adjoint is  $1_{\Omega Z}$ . Then we prove the following results.

THEOREM 1. nil  $f \leq 1$  if and only if  $feV: \Sigma \Omega X \vee \Sigma \Omega X \rightarrow Y$ can be extended to  $\Sigma \Omega X \times \Sigma \Omega X$ .

THEOREM 2. Let X be an H'-space. Then nil  $f \leq 1$  if and only if  $fV: X \lor X \to Y$  can be extended to  $X \times X$ .

**THEOREM 3.** nil f = nil(fe).

Theorem 1 may be regarded as an extension of Stasheff's criterion for a loop space to be homotopy-commutative. These theorems may all be regarded as extensions of Stasheff's criterion in various ways. We also discuss the duals of these results. Theorem 3 dualises, but the others do not. A sample result in the dual situation is

THEOREM. conil  $f \leq \Sigma w \operatorname{cat} (e'f)$  where  $e' \colon Y \to \Omega \Sigma Y$  is the adjoint of  $1_{\Sigma Y}$ .

In this paper we shall work in the category  $\mathcal{T}$  of spaces with base point and having the homotopy type of countable CW complexes. All maps and homotopies shall respect base points. The maps of our category  $\mathcal{T}$  shall be homotopy classes of maps, but for simplicity we shall use the same symbol for a map and its homotopy class. Given spaces X, Y, we denote the set of homotopy classes of maps from X to Y by [X, Y]. We have an isomorphism  $\tau: [\Sigma X, Y] \to [X, \Omega Y]$ where  $\Sigma, \Omega$  are the suspension and loop functors respectively. We denote  $\tau(1_{\Sigma X})$  by e' and  $\tau^{-1}(1_{QX})$  by e.

1. For convenience let us recall some notions of Peterson's theory of structures [7]. We shall follow the definitions and notations of [4]. Let  $\mathscr{C}$  be a category. By a left structure system  $\mathscr{L}$  over  $\mathscr{C}$ we mean  $\mathscr{L} = (L, W, S; d, j)$  where  $L, W, S: \mathscr{C} \to \mathscr{T}$  are covariant functors and  $d: W \to L, j: W \to S$  are natural transformations. Given an object X of  $\mathscr{C}$  we say that X is  $\mathscr{L}$ -structured if there exists a map  $\varphi: SX \to LX$  such that  $\varphi j(X) \simeq d(X)$ . Given a category  $\mathscr{C}$ , we have a category  $\mathscr{C}^2$  of pairs. An object of  $\mathscr{C}^2$  is a map  $f: X \to Y$ of  $\mathscr{C}$ , and given objects  $f: X_1 \to X_2, g: Y_1 \to Y_2$  of  $\mathscr{C}^2$ , a map (u, v): $f \to g$  is a pair of maps  $u: X_1 \to Y_1, v: X_2 \to Y_2$  such that gu = vf. We have convariant functors  $D_0, D_1: \mathscr{C}^2 \to \mathscr{C}$  given by  $D_0(f) = Y, D_1(f) =$  X where  $f: X \to Y$ . Also given  $(u, v): f \to g$ , we have  $D_0(u, v) = v$ ,  $D_1(u, v) = u$ . We have a natural transformation  $G: D_1 \to D_0$  given by G(f) = f for  $f \in \mathbb{C}^2$ . Given a left structure  $\mathscr{L} = (L, W, S; d, j)$  over  $\mathscr{C}$ , we have a left structure  $\mathscr{L}^2 = (LD_0, WD_1, SD_1; (dD_0)(WG), jD_1)$ over  $\mathscr{C}^2$ . Given an object f of  $\mathscr{C}^2$ , we shall say that f is  $\mathscr{L}$ -structured if it is  $\mathscr{L}^2$ -structured. It is easily seen that if  $f: X \to Y$  is an object of  $\mathscr{C}^2$ , and X or Y is  $\mathscr{L}$ -structured, then f is  $\mathscr{L}$ -structured.

We have the left structure  $H = (1, \bigvee_{i=1}^{2}, \prod_{i=1}^{2}, \nabla, j)$  over  $\mathscr{S}$ , where 1 is the identity functor of  $\mathscr{S}$ ,  $\bigvee_{i=1}^{2}$  is the wedge product,  $\prod_{i=1}^{2}$  is the cartesian product and  $\nabla, j$  are the folding and inclusion natural transformations respectively. We observe that a space X is H-structured precisely if it is an H-space. Also a map  $f: X \to Y$  is H-structured if and only if  $f\nabla: X \vee X \to Y$  extends to  $X \times X$ .

2. Let  $\mathscr{L} = (L, W, S; d, j)$  be a left structure system over a category  $\mathscr{C}$ . Let  $f: X \to Y, g: Y \to Z$  be maps. Then it is easily seen that if f is  $\mathscr{L}$ -structured or g is  $\mathscr{L}$ -structured, then gf is  $\mathscr{L}$ -structured.

We recall that in [1], there is defined a generalized Whitehead product  $[,]: [\Sigma A, X] \times [\Sigma B, X] \rightarrow [\Sigma(A \land B), X]$  where A, B, X are spaces and  $A \land B$  is the smashed product. Now suppose X is an Hspace. Then we have a generalized Samelson product (see [2])  $\langle , \rangle$ :  $[A, X] \times [B, X] \rightarrow [A \land B, X]$ . These homotopy operations are related in the following way. Suppose  $\alpha$  is an element of  $[\Sigma A, X], \beta$  is an element of  $[\Sigma B, X]$  where A, B, X are spaces. Then

$$\tau[\alpha, \beta] = \langle \tau(\alpha), \tau(\beta) \rangle$$
.

We shall also make the following convention. Let  $f: X \to Y$  be a map. Then we have an *H*-map  $\Omega f: \Omega X \to \Omega Y$ . We shall write nil f for nil  $\Omega f$  (see [3] for definitions). Similarly, we have an *H'*-map  $\Sigma f: \Sigma X \to \Sigma Y$ . We shall write conil f for conil  $\Sigma f$ .

THEOREM 1. Let  $f: X \to Y$  be a map. Then nil  $f \leq 1$  if and only if fe7:  $\Sigma \Omega X \vee \Sigma \Omega X \to Y$  can be extended to  $\Sigma \Omega X \times \Sigma \Omega X$ .

*Proof.* Let  $c: \Omega X \times \Omega X \to \Omega X$  be the basic commutator of  $\Omega X$ . Then nil  $f \leq 1$  if and only if  $(\Omega f) c \simeq *$ . Let  $i_1, i_2: \Sigma \Omega X \to \Sigma \Omega X \vee \Sigma \Omega X$  be the inclusions in the first and second coordinates respectively. Then we have a generalized Whitehead product

$$[i_1, i_2] \in [\varSigma(\Omega X \land \Omega X), \varSigma\Omega X \lor \varSigma\Omega X]$$
.

Now  $\Sigma \Omega X \times \Sigma \Omega X$  is homotopically equivalent to

$$(arsigma arOmega X ee arSigma arOmega X) igcup_{_{[i_1,i_2]}} C arSigma (arOmega X imes arOmega X)$$

(see [1]), so that  $fe\mathcal{P}$  extends to  $\Sigma\Omega X \times \Sigma\Omega X$  if and only if  $fe\mathcal{P}[i_1, i_2] = 0$ , that is, [fe, fe] = 0. Now  $\tau[fe, fe] = \langle \Omega f, \Omega f \rangle$  and

$$q^{\sharp}\langle \Omega f, \Omega f \rangle = c(\Omega f \times \Omega f) \simeq (\Omega f)c$$

where the first c denotes the commutator  $\Omega Y \times \Omega X \to \Omega Y$  and the second c denotes the commutor  $\Omega X \times \Omega X \to \Omega X$  and  $q: \Omega Y \times \Omega Y \Omega Y \land \Omega Y$ is the projection. Since  $\tau$  is an isomorphism and  $q^{\sharp}$  is a monomorphism, it follows that  $fe^{\gamma}$  extends to  $\Sigma \Omega X \times \Sigma \Omega X$  if and only if  $\operatorname{nil} f \leq 1$ .

REMARK. If we take f to be the identity map of X, then the theorem says that nil  $X \leq 1$  if and only if  $e^{7}: \Sigma \Omega X \vee \Sigma \Omega X \rightarrow X$  extends to  $\Sigma \Omega X \times \Sigma \Omega X$ , which is just Stasheff's criterion for the homotopy-commutativity of a loop space (see [8]). We also observe that the statement that  $fe^{7}$  extends to  $\Sigma \Omega X \times \Sigma \Omega X$  is just the statement that fe can be H-structured.

THEOREM 2. Let  $f: X \to Y$  be a map where X is an H'-space. Then nil  $f \leq 1$  if and only if  $fV: X \lor X \to Y$  can be extended to  $X \times X$ .

In view of the fact that fV can be extended if and only if f can be H structured, Theorem 2 will follow from Theorem 1 and the following lemma.

LEMMA. Let  $f: X \to Y$  be a map where X is an H'-space. Then f is H-structured if and only if  $fe: \Sigma \Omega X \to Y$  is H-structured.

*Proof.* We need only show that if fe is *H*-structured then f is *H*-structured. Suppose fe can be *H*-structured. Then we can find a map  $\varphi: \Sigma\Omega X \times \Sigma\Omega X \to Y$  such that  $\varphi j \simeq \overline{\nu}(fe \lor fe) = fe\overline{\nu}$ . Since X is an *H*':space we have a map  $s: X \to \Sigma\Omega X$  such that  $es \simeq 1_x$ . Then  $\varphi(s \times s): X \times X \to Y$  is an *H*-structure for f. In fact  $\varphi(s \times s)j = \varphi j(s \lor s) \simeq fe\overline{\nu}(s \lor s) = fes\overline{\nu} \simeq f\overline{\nu}$ .

REMARK. Theorems 1 and 2 imply that nil  $e \leq 1$  if and only if  $\Omega X$  is homotopy-commutative, that is, if and only if nil  $X \leq 1$ . In fact, we always have nil X =nil e. This fact follows from the next result.

THEOREM 3. Let  $f: X \rightarrow Y$  be a map. Then  $\operatorname{nil} f = \operatorname{nil} (fe)$ .

*Proof.* Since we always have nil  $(fe) \leq nil f$ , it suffices to show that nil  $f \leq nil (fe)$ . Suppose nil  $(fe) \leq n$ . Then  $(\Omega f)(\Omega e)c_{n+1} \simeq *$ 

where  $c_{n+1}: (\Omega \Sigma \Omega X)^{n+1} \longrightarrow \Omega \Sigma \Omega X$  is the commutator map of weight (n + 1). Then we have

$$(\Omega f)c_{n+1}(\Omega e \times \cdots \times \Omega e) \simeq *$$

where  $c_{n+1}: (\Omega X)^{n+1} \to \Omega X$  is also the commutator map of weight (n+1). Consider the map  $e': \Omega X \to \Omega \Sigma \Omega X$  such that  $e' = \tau(1_{\Omega \Sigma X})$ . Clearly  $(\Omega e)e' = 1_{\Omega \Sigma}$ . Hence we have  $(\Omega f)c_{n+1} \simeq *$ , that is, nil  $f \leq n$ . This proves the theorem.

3. We now consider the dual situation. It is clear that Theorem 3 dualises immediately to give the following result.

THEOREM 4. Let  $f: X \to Y$  be a map and let  $e': Y \to \Omega \Sigma Y$  be the adjoint of  $1_{\Sigma X}$ . Then could f = could(e'f).

Let us first define a right structure system over a category  $\mathscr{C}$ . By this we shall mean  $\mathscr{R} = (R, P, T; d, j)$  where  $R, P, T: \mathscr{C} \to \mathscr{T}$ are covariant functors and  $d: R \to P, j: T \to P$  are natural transformations. Given an object  $X \in \mathscr{C}$ , we say that X is  $\mathscr{R}$ -structured if there exists a map  $\varphi: RX \to TX$  such that  $j(X)\varphi \simeq d(X)$ . Given a right structure  $\mathscr{R} = (R, P, T; d, j)$  over  $\mathscr{C}$ , we can form a right structure  $\mathscr{R}^2 = (RD_1, PD_0, TD_0; (dD_0)(RG), jD_0)$  over  $\mathscr{C}^2$ . We shall say that an element  $f: X \to Y$  of  $\mathscr{C}^2$  is  $\mathscr{R}$ -structured if it is  $\mathscr{R}^2$ structured. It is easily checked that if X or Y is  $\mathscr{R}$ -structured, then f is  $\mathscr{R}$ -structured.

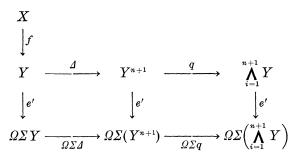
The dual of the *H*-structure is the *H'*-structure  $(1, \prod_{i=1}^{2}, \bigvee_{i=1}^{2}; \varDelta, j)$ , a right structure over  $\mathscr{T}$ . Clearly a space X is *H'*-structured if and only if it is an *H'*-space. Also a map  $f: X \to Y$  is *H'*-structured if and only if  $\varDelta f: X \to Y^2$  can be compressed into  $Y \vee Y$ . The dual of Theorem 1 would read: conil  $f \leq 1$  if and only if  $\varDelta e'f: X \to (\varOmega \Sigma Y)^2$ can be compressed into  $\varOmega \Sigma Y \vee \varOmega \Sigma Y$ . This, however, is false (see [5]). But in this case, we can generalize the *H'*-structure to another familiar right structure, namely the *n*-cat structure  $(1, \prod_{i=1}^{n+1}; T_i, \varDelta, j)$ over  $\mathscr{T}$ , where  $T_1$  is the fat wedge functor. Thus the 1-cat structure is precisely the *H'*-structure. Given a space X, we have cat  $X \leq n$ if there exists a map  $\varphi: X \to T_1(X, \dots, X)$  such that  $j\varphi \simeq \varDelta: X \to X^{n+1}$ . Given a map  $f: X \to Y$ , we have cat  $f \leq n$  if  $\varDelta f: X \to Y^{n+1}$  can be compressed into  $T_1(Y, \dots, Y)$ .

Given a right structure system  $\mathscr{R} = (R, P, T; d, j)$  over  $\mathscr{C}$ , let us consider the cofibre of  $j: T \to P$ . Suppose the cofibre of j is  $q: P \to Q$ . Let  $j_w \to P$  be the fibre of q. Then we obtain a right structure system  $\mathscr{R}_w = (R, P, T_w; d, j_w)$  over  $\mathscr{C}$ , called the associated weak structure. We shall say that an object  $X \in \mathscr{C}$  is weakly  $\mathscr{R}$ - structured if it can be  $\mathscr{R}_w$ -structured. Clearly, given a map  $f: X \to Y$ we have  $w \text{ cat } f \leq n$  if  $q \Delta f \simeq *$  where  $q: Y^{n+1} \to \bigwedge_{i=1}^{n+1} Y$  is the projection onto the smashed product. Given a right structure  $\mathscr{R} = (R, P, T; d, j)$  over  $\mathscr{C}$ , we have a right structure  $\Sigma \mathscr{R} = (\Sigma R, \Sigma P, \Sigma T; \Sigma d, \Sigma f)$  over  $\mathscr{C}$ , where  $\Sigma$  is the suspension functor. Clearly, if f is  $\mathscr{R}$ structured, it is  $\Sigma \mathscr{R}$ -structured and it is weakly  $\mathscr{R}$ -structured. Thus  $\Sigma w \text{ cat } f \leq w \text{ cat } f \leq \text{ cat } f$  for any map f.

Let  $f: X \to Y$ ,  $g: Y \to Z$  be maps. Then it is easily seen that  $\operatorname{cat}(gf) \leq \min \{\operatorname{cat} f, \operatorname{cat} g\}$  and  $w \operatorname{cat}(gf) \leq \min \{w \operatorname{cat} f, w \operatorname{cat} g\}$ .

THEOREM 5. Let  $f: X \to Y$  be a map and let  $e': Y \to \Omega \Sigma Y$  be the adjoint of  $1_{\Sigma Y}$ . Then could  $f \leq \Sigma w \operatorname{cat}(e'f)$ .

**Proof.** Suppose  $\Sigma w \operatorname{cat} (e'f) \leq n$ . Then  $\Sigma(q \triangleleft e'f) \simeq *$  where  $q: (\Omega \Sigma Y)^{n+1} \to \bigwedge_{i=1}^{n+1} \Omega \Sigma Y$  is the projection. Let  $c: \Sigma Y \to \bigvee_{i=1}^{n+1} \Sigma Y$  be the commutator map of weight (n + 1) for  $\Sigma Y$ . Then we can form a map  $\overline{c}: Y^{n+1} \to \Omega(\bigvee_{i=1}^{n+1} \Sigma Y)$  such that  $\overline{c} \triangleleft = \tau(c)$  (see [5]). Since  $\Sigma(q \triangleleft e'f) \simeq *$ , applying  $\tau$  we have  $\Omega \Sigma(q \triangleleft) e'f \simeq *$ . Consider the following diagram where each square is homotopy-commutative.



We have then that  $e'q_{\Delta}f \simeq *$ . Using Lemmas  $4.1_k$  and  $4.2_k$  of [5], it follows that  $\bar{c}_{\Delta}f \simeq *$ , that is,  $\tau(c)f \simeq *$ . Hence  $c(\Sigma f) \simeq *$ , and hence coull  $f \leq n$ . This proves that coull  $f \leq \Sigma w$  cat (e'f).

THEOREM 6. Let  $f: X \to Y$  be a map where Y is an H-space. Then  $\operatorname{cat} f = \operatorname{cat} (e'f)$ ,  $w \operatorname{cat} f = w \operatorname{cat} (e'f)$  where  $e': Y \to \Omega \Sigma Y$  is the adjoint of  $1_{\Sigma Y}$ .

*Proof.* We need only show that  $\operatorname{cat} f \leq \operatorname{cat} (e'f)$ , and

$$w \operatorname{cat} f \leq w \operatorname{cat} (e'f)$$
.

Since Y is an H-space, we have a map  $r: \Omega \Sigma Y \to Y$  such that  $re' \simeq 1_Y$ . Then  $\operatorname{cat} f = \operatorname{cat} (re'f) \leq \operatorname{cat} (e'f)$  and  $w \operatorname{cat} f = w \operatorname{cat} (re'f) \leq w \operatorname{cat} (e'f)$ .

## C. S. HOO

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