Pacific Journal of Mathematics

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DAVID GOLBER

Vol. 46, No. 1 November 1973

PACIFIC JOURNAL OF MATHEMATICS
Vol. 46, No. 1, 1973

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The theorem proved in this paper is an example of a "regularity" theorem in the study of topological group actions—that is, it shows that a general topological action of a group continues to have certain properties of "linear" actions. Consider an action of a torus T on a cohomology n-sphere X, with fixed point set the cohomology r-sphere F. Consider the map $H^n(X_T; Z) \to H^n(F_T; Z)$, and let $c\eta$ be the image of the generator of $H^n(X; Z)$, considered as lying in $H^{n-r}(BT; Z)$, where c is an integer and η has no nontrivial integer divisors. The polynomial part η is well understood. The theorem will evaluate the integer part c in the following sense: in the linear case, c can be easily expressed in terms of the dimensions of the fixed point sets of various non-connected subgroups of T. It is shown that this formula continues to hold in the general topological case, given some weak assumptions. There is also a corresponding result for the case $F = \varnothing$.

The main tool will be the fibration $\pi: X_T \to B_T \equiv BT$, where X_T is as usual $E_T \times {}_T X$. We will use the usual limit arguments to allow ourselves to pretend that E_T is compact. Cohomology will be sheaf cohomology with compact supports (which will not usually be indicated). The spectral sequence of $X_T \to BT$ with coefficients in A will be denoted $E_r(X_T; A)$. The fixed point set of T acting on X will be denoted $F(T, X) \equiv F(T)$. $X \sim {}_Z Y (X \sim {}_p Y)$ will mean that X is a compact Z-cohomology (Z_p-cohomology) manifold with $Z(Z_p)$ cohomology ring the same as that of Y. $\dim_p(X)$ or $\dim_Z(X)$ will be the usual cohomological dimension of X over Z_p or Z. See [1] or [2] for details. For an abelian group A, let $\mathscr{F}A$ be $A/\mathrm{Torsion}(A)$.

If a torus T acts on a space X, a subtorus H of T is said to be *distinguished* if $F(H) \supsetneqq F(K)$ for any subtorus K which has $K \supsetneqq H$. In particular, the distinguished corank one subtori of T are those subtori H of corank one in T that have $F(H) \supsetneqq F(T)$. Recall that given a corank one subtorus of T, there is a corresponding integer-valued linear functional on the Lie algebra of T, a corresponding element of $H^1(T; Z)$ and a corresponding element (not divisible by any integer) in $H^2(BT; Z)$.

Now consider a torus T acting on $X \sim {}_Z S^n$. Let $F(T) \sim {}_Z S^r$, and look at $F_T \subseteqq X_T$. Consider the cases $r > 0$, $r = 0$, and $r = -1$ $(F(T) = \varnothing)$ separately.

In case $r > 0$, the map

$$H^n(X; Z) \cong E_\infty^{0,n}(X_T; Z) \longrightarrow E_\infty^{n-r,r}(F_T; Z) \cong H^{n-r}(BT; Z)$$

takes the generator of $H^n(X; Z)$ to $c\eta$ where c is an integer, and η is $\Pi g_i^{(n_i-r)/2}$. (Here the g_i's correspond to the distinguished corank one subtori U_i of T, and $n_i = \dim_Z F(U_i)$.)

In case $r = 0$, $F(T) \sim {}_Z S^0$, we have $\pi\colon F_T \cong F \times B_T \to BT$, and the inclusion $F_T \to X_T$ induces

$$H^n(X; Z) \longrightarrow \tilde{H}^0(F; Z) \otimes H^{n-r}(BT; Z)$$

which takes g to (generator) $\otimes\, c\eta$ as before.

In case $r = -1$, $F(T) = \varnothing$, the transgression

$$H^n(X; Z) \longrightarrow H^{n+1}(BT; Z)$$

takes the generator to $c\eta$.

The theorem below will identify the integer c.

Let p be any prime. (Several of the objects below will depend on p, although this dependence will not be explicitly indicated.) (The letter p will also be used as one of indices of a spectral sequence, but hopefully no confusion will result.) For $i = 1, 2, \cdots$ let $S(i)$ be the subgroup of elements t of T such that $p^i t = 1$, the identity element of T. Let $S(0)$ be the subgroup of T consisting of 1 only. Clearly $S(i) \cong (Z_{p^i})^k$, where k is the rank of T. Each $F(S(i))$ is a Z_p-cohomology n_i-sphere for some n_i.

THEOREM. *Suppose that for any prime p and $i = 1, 2, \cdots$ that $F(S(i))$ has finitely generated Z-cohomology. Let p^a be the largest power of p that divides c. Then*

$$\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} [\dim_p F(S(i)) - \dim_Z F] = 2a\ .$$

Further, $F(S(i)) = F$ for $i > a$.

Proof. The second claim follows from the first and the fact that $\dim_p F(S(i)) - \dim_Z F$ is always even. (See [1], Chapter IV.)

We will first do the case $r > 0$ and then reduce the other two cases to this case.

Consider the spectral sequence of $F(S(i))_T \to BT$. Because $F(S(i)) \sim {}_p S^{n_i}$ and has finitely generated integral cohomology, it is easy to see from the universal coefficient theorem that $H^*(F(S(i)); Z)$ has no p-torsion, that $H^0(F(S(i)); Z) = Z$, and that $\mathscr{F} H^*(F(S(i)); Z) = H^*(S^{n_i}; Z)$. Because $r > 0$, the Z_p spectral sequence of $F(S(i))_T \to B_T$

collapses. It is then easy to verify the following facts about $E_\infty(F(S(i))_T; Z)$:

(i) $E_\infty(F(S(i))_T; Z)$ has no p-torsion.

(ii) $\mathscr{F}E_\infty^{p,q}(F(S(i))_T; Z) \cong H^p(BT; Z)$ if $q = 0$ or n_i, and $= 0$ otherwise. (As abelian groups with no reference to the multiplicative structure).

(iii) The bottom row $E_\infty^{*,0}(F(S(i))_T; Z)$ is isomorphic to $H^*(BT; Z)$, as a ring.

(iv) Let h be a generator of $\mathscr{F}E_\infty^{0,n_i}(F(S(i))_T; Z)$. Multiplication by h defines a map

$$H^p(BT; Z) \cong E_\infty^{p,0}(F(S(i))_T; Z) \longrightarrow \mathscr{F}E_\infty^{p,n_i}(F(S(i))_T; Z) \cong H^p(BT; Z)$$

This map is monomorphism, and its cokernel is finite with non-p order.

We know $F(S(i)) \sim {}_pS^{n_i}$ for $i = 0, 1, 2, \cdots$ where $n_0 = n$, and $F(S(\ell + 1)) = F$ for ℓ large enough, so $n_{\ell+1} = r$. We have

$$X = F(S(0)) \supseteqq F(S(1)) \supseteqq \cdots \supseteqq F(S(\ell)) \supseteqq F(S(\ell + 1)) = F .$$

We can consider the inclusion map $F_T \to X_T$ to be the composition

$$F(S(\ell + 1))_T \longrightarrow F(S(\ell))_T \longrightarrow \cdots \longrightarrow F(S(1))_T \longrightarrow F(S(0))_T .$$

Let h_i be a generator of $\mathscr{F}E_\infty^{0,n_i}(F(S(i))_T; Z)$. We will show below that the induced map φ: $\mathscr{F}E_\infty(F(S(i))_T; Z) \to \mathscr{F}E_\infty(F(S(i + 1))_T; Z)$ has $\varphi(h_i)$ divisible by $p^{i(n_i - n_{i+1})/2}$ and by no higher power of p. Using this and the facts (i)-(iv), we can show that $2a = \Sigma_{i=0}^{\ell} i(n_i - n_{i+1})$, which equals $\Sigma_{i=1}^{\ell}(n_i - n_{\ell+1})$, which is our conclusion. Thus we only have to prove our claim about the number of factors of p dividing $\varphi(h_i)$.

Consider the following diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
\mathscr{F}E_\infty(F(S(i))_T; Z) & \xrightarrow{\varphi} & \mathscr{F}E_\infty(F(S(i + 1))_T; Z) \\
\uparrow{\scriptstyle\alpha} & & \uparrow{\scriptstyle\beta} \\
\mathscr{F}E_\infty(F(S(i))_{T/S(i)}; Z) & \xrightarrow{\psi} & \mathscr{F}E_\infty(F(S(i + 1))_{T/S(i)}; Z) \\
\downarrow{\scriptstyle\gamma} & & \downarrow{\scriptstyle\delta} \\
E_\infty(F(S(i))_{T/S(i)}; Z_p) & \longrightarrow & E_\infty(F(S(i + 1))_{T/S(i)}; Z_p) \\
\downarrow{\scriptstyle\varepsilon} & & \downarrow{\scriptstyle\zeta} \\
E_\infty(F(S(i))_{S(i+1)/S(i)}; Z_p) & \xrightarrow{\tau} & E_\infty(F(S(i + 1))_{S(i+1)/S(i)}; Z_p)
\end{array}$$

Let k_i be the generator of $\mathscr{F}E_\infty^{0,n_i}(F(S(i))_{T/S(i)}; Z)$. It is easy to see that $\alpha(k_i)$ is a non-p multiple of h_i. Now the map β on the

$E^{2,0}$ terms is $Z^k \cong H^2(BT/S(i); Z) \to H^2(BT; Z) \cong Z^k$, which is multiplication by p^i. Since $\psi(k_i)$ lies in filtration degree $n_i - n_{i+1}$, we can see using (iv) above that $\beta(\psi(k_i))$ contains precisely $i(n_i - n_{i+1})/2$ more factors of p than $\psi(k_i)$ does. Thus it is sufficient to show that $\psi(k_i)$ is not divisible by p.

The map δ is reduction mod p, so it suffices to show that $\delta\psi(k_i) \neq 0$. Therefore it suffices to show that $\tau\varepsilon\gamma(k_i) \neq 0$. But $S(i+1)/S(i) \cong (Z_p)^k$ acts on $F(S(i)) \sim {}_pS^{n_i}$, with fixed point set $F(S(i+1)) \sim {}_pS^{n_{i+1}}$, and $\varepsilon\gamma(k_i)$ is the generator of $E_\infty^{0,n_i}(F(S(i))_{S(i+1)/S(i)}; Z_p)$. In these circumstances, we must have $\tau\varepsilon\gamma(k_i)$ nonzero (see [1], Chapter XIII, and [3]) which finishes the proof in the case $r > 0$.

The cases $r = 0$ and $r = -1$ are handled by replacing X by SX and S^2X respectively, where SX denotes the nonreduced suspension. The action of T on SX (or S^2X) then has a nonempty connected fixed point set, so the problem is reduced to the previous case. It is not hard to see that if $X \sim {}_ZS^n$, then $SX \sim {}_ZS^{n+1}$. Thus we only need to show: (1) Suppose T acts on $X \sim {}_ZS^n$ with $F(T) = \emptyset$. Consider the actions of T on X $(F(T, X) = \emptyset, r = -1)$ and on SX $(F(T, SX) \sim {}_ZS^0, r = 0)$. One gets an integer c from each action. We need to show that the two c's are the same, at least up to sign. And (2) Suppose T acts on $X \sim {}_ZS^n$ with $F(T) \sim {}_ZS^0$. Consider the actions of T on $X(F(T, X) \sim {}_ZS^0, r = 0)$ and on SX $(F(T; SX) \sim {}_ZS^1, r = 1)$. Again, one gets two c's which we need to prove are the same up to sign.

The second case, going from $r = 0$ to $r = 1$, is easy; one merely uses the naturality of the suspension map.

In the first case, going from $r = -1$ to $r = 0$, we have an action of T on $X \sim {}_ZS^n$ with $F = \emptyset$, so n is odd. In the spectral sequence of $p\colon X_T \to B_T$, the generator of $H^n(X)$ transgresses to $c\eta \in H^{n+1}(BT)$, $c\eta \neq 0$. On the other hand, the spectral sequence of $q\colon (SX)_T \to BT$ collapses. Then it is easy to check that $H^n(X_T) = 0$, $H^{n+1}(X_T) = H^{n+1}(BT)/\langle c\eta \rangle$, $H^{n+2}((SX)_T) = 0$, and there is a split short exact sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow H^{n+1}(BT) \xrightarrow{q^*} H^{n+1}((SX)_T) \xrightarrow{j^*} H^{n+1}(SX) \longrightarrow 0\ ,$$

where $j\colon SX \to (SX)_T$ is the inclusion of the fiber. One can consider $(SX)_T$ to be the space $(X_T \times I)/\sim$, where $(a, 1) \sim (b, 1)$ and $(a, 0) \sim (b, 0)$ iff $p(a) = p(b)$. The map $q\colon (SX)_T \to BT$ is given by $[a, t] \to p(a)$. The sets $E_0 = \{[a, 0] \in (SX)_T\}$ and $E_1 = \{[a, 1] \in (SX)_T\}$ are each mapped homeomorphically onto BT by q. Let i_0 and $i_1\colon BT \to (SX)_T$ be the corresponding two sections of q. Showing that the action on SX gives rise to the same c as that on X reduces to showing that in

$$H^{n+1}(SX) \xleftarrow{j^*} H^{n+1}((SX)_T) \xrightarrow{i_0^* - i_1^*} H^{n+1}(BT)\ ,$$

$(i_0^* - i_1^*)\circ(j^*)^{-1}$ takes the generator of $H^{n+1}(SX)$ to $\pm c\eta$.

Let $U = \{[a, t] \in (SX)_T \mid t > 1/4\}$; let $V = \{[a, t] \in (SX)_T \mid t < 3/4\}$. U and V have E_0 and E_1 as strong deformation retracts, $U \cup V = (SX)_T$, and $U \cap V$ has $\{[a, 1/2] \in (SX)_T\} \cong X_T$ as a strong deformation retract. Consider the Meyer-Vietoris sequence of pair (U, V):

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccc}
H^n(U\cap V) & \longrightarrow & H^{n+1}(U\cup V) & \longrightarrow & H^{n+1}(U)\oplus H^{n+1}(V) & \longrightarrow & H^{n+1}(U\cap V) & \longrightarrow & H^{n+2}(U\cup V) \\
\| & & \| & & \| & & \| & & \| \\
H^n(X_T) & & H^{n+1}((SX)_T) & & H^{n+1}(BT)\oplus H^{n+1}(BT) & & H^{n+1}(X_T) & & H^{n+2}((SX)_T) \\
\| & & & & & & \| & & \| \\
0 & & & & & & \dfrac{H^{n+1}(BT)}{\langle c\eta\rangle} & & 0
\end{array}$$

so we have the commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccc}
 & & 0 & & 0 & & 0 & & \\
 & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \\
0 & \longrightarrow & H^{n+1}(BT) & = & H^{n+1}(BT) & \longrightarrow & 0 & \longrightarrow & 0 \\
 & & \downarrow{\scriptstyle q^*} & & \downarrow{\scriptstyle \Delta} & & \downarrow & & \\
0 & \longrightarrow & H^{n+1}((SX)_T) & \longrightarrow & H^{n+1}(BT)\oplus H^{n+1}(BT) & \longrightarrow & \dfrac{H^{n+1}(BT)}{\langle c\eta\rangle} & \longrightarrow & 0 \\
 & & \downarrow{\scriptstyle j^*} & \searrow{\scriptstyle i_0^*-i_1^*} & \downarrow{\scriptstyle D} & & \| & & \\
0 & \longrightarrow & H^{n+1}(SX) & \longrightarrow & H^{n+1}(BT) & \longrightarrow & \dfrac{H^{n+1}(BT)}{\langle c\eta\rangle} & \longrightarrow & 0 \\
 & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \\
 & & 0 & & 0 & & 0 & &
\end{array}$$

where Δ is the diagonal map and D is given by $D(a, b) = a - b$. The top two rows and all three columns are exact, so that bottom row is also exact. The horizontal map on the bottom left is $(i_0^* - i_1^*)\circ(j^*)^{-1}$, so we can see that this map takes the generator of $H^{n+1}(SX)$ to $\pm c\eta \in H^{n+1}(BT)$, as was to be shown.

This finishes the proof of the theorem.

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Received December 7, 1971.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

PACIFIC JOURNAL OF MATHEMATICS

Printed in Japan by International Academic Printing Co., Ltd., Tokyo, Japan

Pacific Journal of Mathematics

Vol. 46, No. 1 November, 1973