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**AXIOMS FOR THE ČECH COHOMOLOGY OF
PARACOMPACTA**

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The Čech cohomology of paracompact Hausdorff spaces is characterized (up to isomorphism) by supplementing the Eilenberg-Steenrod axioms for cohomology.

1. **The theorem.** Let C be an admissible category for homology theory, as defined by Eilenberg-Steenrod [2, p. 5]. We say H is a *cohomology theory* on C if H satisfies the Eilenberg-Steenrod axioms [2, p. 14] and (1.1) and (1.2) below.

(1.1) **Additivity axiom.** If a space X is the union of a collection \mathcal{U} of pairwise disjoint open sets and for each U in \mathcal{U} the inclusion map $j_U: U \subset X$ is in C , then $\{j_U^*: H^q(X) \rightarrow H^q(U) \mid U \in \mathcal{U}\}$ is a representation of $H^q(X)$ as a direct product.

(1.2) **Nonnegativity axiom.** $H^q(X, A) = 0$ if $(X, A) \in C$ and $q < 0$.

We say a cohomology theory H is *point reductive* if (1.3) holds. The Čech and Alexander-Spanier cohomology theories are examples of point reductive cohomology theories.

(1.3) If $X \in C$, if S is a singleton (one-point) subset of X , if $h \in H^q(X)$ and if $h|_S = 0$, then there is a neighborhood N of S such that the inclusion map $N \subset X$ is in C and $h|_N = 0$.

A *homomorphism* $t: H \rightarrow J$ of cohomology theories H and J on C is a natural transformation from H to J that commutes with coboundary homomorphisms. A pair (X, A) is a *paracompact pair* if X is a paracompact Hausdorff space and A is a closed subset of X . The category P of paracompact pairs and all maps among them is an admissible category for homology theory. We shall prove—

THEOREM 1. *Suppose H and L are cohomology theories on P , S is a singleton, $k^0(S): H^0(S) \rightarrow L^0(S)$ is a homomorphism and H is point reductive. There is a unique extension of $k^0(S)$ to a homomorphism $k: H \rightarrow L$ of cohomology theories. If L is point reductive and $k^0(S)$ is an isomorphism, then k is an isomorphism.*

For related theorems see [1], [2, p. 287, Theorem 12.1], and [6].

2. *The proof.* As an immediate consequence of a theorem due to Lawson [3] we have the following.

LEMMA 2.1. *Suppose J and H are point reductive cohomology theories on \mathbf{P} and $m: J \rightarrow H$ is a homomorphism of cohomology theories such that $m^0(S): J^0(S) \rightarrow H^0(S)$ is an isomorphism for some singleton S . Then m is an isomorphism of cohomology theories.*

A *polyhedron* is the union of the simplexes of a geometric simplicial complex with the metric topology [2, p. 75]. A polyhedron and its underlying simplicial complex will be denoted by the same symbol. If L is a subcomplex of a simplicial complex K , (K, L) is a *polyhedral pair*. The category \mathbf{K} of polyhedral pairs and all maps among them is an admissible category for homology theory. It is a subcategory of \mathbf{P} .

If H is a cohomology theory on \mathbf{K} , the Čech method may be applied to H to define a cohomology theory J on \mathbf{P} . J is called the *Čech extension* of H . We briefly recall the method (see [4]). Let (X, A) be a paracompact pair and let $\mathcal{A}(X)$ be the collection of all locally finite open covers of X . If $\alpha \in \mathcal{A}(X)$, let (X_α, A_α) be the polyhedral pair determined by the nerve of α . If $\beta \in \mathcal{A}(X)$ and β refines α , there is a simplicial map $r_{\alpha\beta}: (X_\beta, A_\beta) \rightarrow (X_\alpha, A_\alpha)$ that maps each vertex V of X_β to a vertex U of X_α such that $V \subset U$. If in addition $\gamma \in \mathcal{A}(X)$ and γ refines β , $r_{\alpha\beta}r_{\beta\gamma}$ and $r_{\alpha\gamma}$ are homotopic, which implies that $r_{\beta\gamma}^*r_{\alpha\beta}^* = r_{\alpha\gamma}^*$. Hence there is a direct system of groups $\{H^q(X_\alpha, A_\alpha) | \alpha \in \mathcal{A}(X)\}$ and homomorphisms $\{r_{\alpha\beta}^* | \beta \text{ refines } \alpha\}$, whose direct limit we shall denote by $J^q(X, A)$. The coboundary homomorphism $\delta: J^q(A) \rightarrow J^{q+1}(X, A)$ for a paracompact pair (X, A) and the homomorphism $J^q(f): J^q(Y, B) \rightarrow J^q(X, A)$ induced by a map $f: (X, A) \rightarrow (Y, B)$ in \mathbf{P} are suitable limit homomorphisms.

LEMMA 2.2. *If H is a cohomology theory on \mathbf{K} , then the Čech extension of H is a point reductive cohomology theory on \mathbf{P} .*

The proof is left to the reader.

Suppose H is a cohomology theory on \mathbf{P} , L is the restriction of H to \mathbf{K} and J is the Čech extension of L . We shall construct a homomorphism $m: J \rightarrow H$ called the *canonical homomorphism*.

Let (X, A) be a paracompact pair and let $\mathcal{A}(X)$ be the collection of locally finite open covers of X . If $\alpha \in \mathcal{A}(X)$, there is a map $r_\alpha: (X, A) \rightarrow (X_\alpha, A_\alpha)$ defined by a partition of unity subordinate to α [5, p. 833, Proposition 2]. Any two choices of r_α are homotopic. If $\beta \in \mathcal{A}(X)$ and β refines α , then $r_{\alpha\beta}r_\beta$ and r_α are homotopic, which implies that $r_{\beta\alpha}^*r_\alpha^* = r_\alpha^*$. Hence the homomorphisms $\{H^q(r_\alpha) | \alpha \in \mathcal{A}(X)\}$ induce

a homomorphism $m^q(X, A): J^q(X, A) \rightarrow H^q(X, A)$. It follows from the way m is defined that m is a homomorphism from J to H .

If S is a singleton, $m^0(S): J^0(S) \rightarrow H^0(S)$ is an isomorphism because $\{r_\alpha | \alpha \in \Lambda(S)\}$ consists of just one map, a homeomorphism. Hence by Lemmas 2.1 and 2.2 we have—

LEMMA 2.3. *If H is a point reductive cohomology theory on \mathbf{P} and J is the Čech extension of the restriction of H to \mathbf{K} , then the canonical homomorphism $m: J \rightarrow H$ is an isomorphism.*

Lemma 2.3 implies Lemma 2.4, which in turn implies Lemma 2.5.

LEMMA 2.4. *If H is a point reductive cohomology theory on \mathbf{P} and $(X, A) \in \mathbf{P}$, then $(H^q(X, A), \{H^q(r_\alpha) | \alpha \in \Lambda(X)\})$ is a direct limit of the direct system $(\{H^q(X_\alpha, A_\alpha)\}, \{H^q(r_{\alpha\beta})\})$.*

LEMMA 2.5. *Suppose H and L are cohomology theories on \mathbf{P} and $t: H|_{\mathbf{K}} \rightarrow L|_{\mathbf{K}}$ is a homomorphism of cohomology theories. If H is point reductive, there is a unique extension of t to a homomorphism $k: H \rightarrow L$.*

Lemma 2.6 was essentially proved by Milnor in [6], although the uniqueness part of it was not stated there.

LEMMA 2.6. *Suppose H and J are cohomology theories on \mathbf{K} . If S is a singleton and $t^0(S): H^0(S) \rightarrow J^0(S)$ is a homomorphism, there is a unique extension of $t^0(S)$ to a homomorphism $t: H \rightarrow J$ of cohomology theories on \mathbf{K} .*

Theorem 1 follows from Lemmas 2.5 and 2.6.

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