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Number 5

George W. Whitehead

Recent advances
in homotopy theory

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RECENT ADVANCES IN HOMOTOPY THEORY

by

George W. Whitehead

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PREFACE

At the end of the second World War, the subject of homotopy theory was in a very rudimentary state. Since then its development has been very rapid, and it has had a profound effect on other branches of topology. In fact, the reduction of geometric questions to problems in homotopy theory is almost "standard operating procedure". Examples of this approach are the classification of fibre bundles and the determination of the ring of cobordism classes of manifolds.

Early in the history of the subject it was observed that many phenomena became much more regular in the "stable range". This has led to a particularly rapid development of stable homotopy theory as a subject in its own right. Yet, despite all the great advances that have been made, such is our ignorance that there is not a single stably nontrivial finite complex whose stable homotopy groups are completely known.

These lectures are intended to describe some of these advances, particularly in the stable theory. Because of the breadth of the subject, I have made no attempt at completeness, but have chosen instead to discuss those topics which have been closest to my own interests.

Chapter I is devoted to general homology and cohomology theories, pairings, and duality theorems. In Chapter II, semi-simplicial spectra are introduced as a setting for my joint work with Kan on Poincaré duality. Chapter III discusses the Adams spectral sequence and some of its recent unstable analogues. Chapter IV is devoted to stable homotopy groups as modules over the stable homotopy ring σ_* , and Chapter V to some of the module extensions which arise naturally in the subject.

These lectures were delivered at the 1969–1970 Holiday Mathematics Symposium at the New Mexico State University at Las Cruces, as part of the Regional Conference Program sponsored by the Conference Board of the Mathematical Sciences with the support of the National Science Foundation. I wish to express my appreciation to the Conference Board for making them possible, and to the Department of Mathematical Sciences of the University for their invitation, as well as for their lavish hospitality during the conference.

George W. Whitehead

Massachusetts Institute of Technology
June 16, 1970

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6	$(h_1^2 d_0)$ 12433 $(54411)_1 81233$ $(72411)_1 104111$	$(h_0^2 e_0)$ 22433 $(351233)_1 62333$	$(324333)_1 56233$ $(361233)_1 47233$ $(744111)_1 124111$	$(551233)_1 66233$	$(h_0^2 g)$ 24533 $(944111)_1 121233$ $(336233)_1 48333$ $(112411)_1 149111$ $(564111)_1 612111$	$(345333)_1 45733$ $(624333)_1 131233$ $(751233)_1 86233$	$(645333)_1 164111$ $(536233)_1 68333$ $(724333)_1 96233$ $(784111)_1 812111$	545333
5	$(34333)_1 4733$ $(71233)_1 9233$ $(94111)_1 105111$	$(35333)_1 4633$ $(h_0^2 e_0)$ 36233	$(36333)_1 4733$ $(91233)_1 16111$ $45333 (h_0^2 e_0)$ $(114111)_1 12311$	$(101233)_1 12233$ $(111233)_1 12233$ $(134111)_1 14511$	$47333 (h_0^2 g)$ $(111233)_1 12233$ $(134111)_1 14511$	$(58333)_1 20111$ $(712111)_1 81311$ $(154111)_1 16511$	55733	
4	$(7333)_1 953$ $(9511)_1 1061$ $(13111)_1 1421$	$(3653)_1 477$ $(51011)_1 6111$ $8333 (e_0)$ $(14111)_1 1611$	$(11511)_1 1261$ $9333 (h_0^2 h_4)$ $(15111)_1 1621$ $(10233)_1 1711$	$(5653)_1 677$ $(10333)_1 1453$ $(11233)_1 1433$	$6653 (g)$ $(13511)_1 1461$ $(11333)_1 1353$ $(17111)_1 1821$	$3577 (h_2 c_1)$ $(71311)_1 8141$ $(8653)_1 111$ $(13533)_1 1233$ $(12333)_1 1633$ $(1811)_1 2011$ $(13533)_1 1233$ $(15511)_1 1661$ $(12911)_1 2021$	4	
3	$(961)_1 107$ $(1321)_1 143$ $(1411)_1 161$	$1133 (h_1^2 h_4)$ $(1511)_1 171$	$1053 (h_0^2 h_4)$ $(1233)_1 181$ $(1161)_1 127$ $(1521)_1 163$	$577 (c_1)$ $(1153)_1 137$ $(1333)_1 123$	$0361)_1 147$ $(1721)_1 183$ $(1811)_1 201$	$777 (h_3^3)$ $(1533)_1 123$ $(1911)_1 211$	$(7141)_1 815$ $(1453)_1 221$ $(1561)_1 167$ $(1921)_1 203$	3
2	$133 (h_1^4)$ $(1511)_1 17$	$(170)_1 18$	$117 (h_2 h_4)$ $(153)_1 19$	$(190)_1 20$	$(191)_1 21$	$(157)_1 23$	2	
1							1	
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	

TABLE I, Section 3

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TABLE III. The Adams spectral sequence for P^∞ .

8																$\hat{h}_4 h_0^7$	8
7											$P^1 \hat{h}_2 h_0^2$					$\hat{h}_4 h_0^6$	7
6										$\hat{h}_1 P^1 h_1$					$\hat{d}_0 h_0^2$	$\hat{h}_4 h_0^5$	6
5										$P^1 \hat{h}_1$					$\hat{d}_0 h_0$	$\hat{h}_1 d_0$ $\hat{h}_4 h_0^4$	5
4										$\hat{h}_1 c_0$					\hat{d}_0	$\hat{h}_4 h_0^3$	4
3										$\hat{h}_1 h_1 h_3$ $\hat{h}_2 h_2^2$					$\hat{h}_3 h_0 h_3$	$\hat{h}_1 h_3^2$ $\hat{h}_4 h_0^2$	3
2										$\hat{h}_1 h_3$ $\hat{h}_3 h_1$					$\hat{h}_3 h_3$	$\hat{h}_4 h_0$	2
1										\hat{h}_3						\hat{h}_4	1
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15		

TABLE III, Section 1

TABLE IV. Stable homotopy groups of S^0 and P^∞ .

n	$\sigma_n(Z)$	$\sigma_n(P^\infty)$	$\text{Ker } j$
1	$Z_2(\eta)$	$Z_2(\hat{\eta})$	0
2	$Z_2(\eta^2)$	$Z_2(\hat{\eta}\eta)$	0
3	$Z_8(\nu)$	$Z_8(\hat{\nu})$	0
4	0	$Z_2(\hat{\eta}\nu)$	$Z_2(\hat{\eta}\nu)$
5	0	0	0
6	$Z_2(\nu^2)$	$Z_2(\hat{\nu}\nu)$	0
7	$Z_{16}(\sigma)$	$Z_2(\hat{\eta}\nu^2) + Z_{16}(\hat{\sigma})$	$Z_2(\hat{\eta}\nu^2)$
8	$Z_2(\eta\sigma) + Z_2(\epsilon)$	$Z_2(\hat{\eta}\sigma) + Z_2(\hat{\sigma}\eta) + Z_2(\hat{\epsilon})$	$Z_2(\hat{\eta}\sigma + \hat{\sigma}\eta)$
9	$Z_2(\nu^3) + Z_2(\eta\epsilon) + Z_2(\mu)$	$Z_2(\hat{\eta}\eta\sigma) + Z_2(\hat{\nu}\nu^2) + Z_2(\hat{\eta}\epsilon) + Z_2(\hat{\mu})$	$Z_2((\hat{\eta}\sigma + \hat{\sigma}\eta)\eta)$
10	$Z_2(\eta\mu)$	$Z_2(\hat{\eta}\mu) + Z_8(\hat{\nu}\sigma)$	$Z_8(\hat{\nu}\sigma)$
11	$Z_8(\zeta)$	$Z_8(\hat{\zeta})$	0
12/13	0	0	0
14	$Z_2(\sigma^2) + Z_2(\kappa)$	$Z_2(\hat{\sigma}\sigma) + Z_2(\hat{\kappa})$	0
15	$Z_{32}(\rho) + Z_2(\eta\kappa)$	$Z_{32}(\hat{\rho}) + Z_2(\hat{\eta}\kappa) + Z_2(\hat{\eta}\sigma^2)$	$Z_2(\hat{\eta}\sigma^2)$
16	$Z_2(\eta\rho) + Z_2(\eta^*)$	$Z_2(\hat{\eta}_1^*) + Z_2(\hat{\eta}_2^*) + Z_2([\alpha_{16}]) + Z_2(\hat{\eta}\rho)$	$Z_2(\hat{\eta}_1^* + \hat{\eta}_2^*) + Z_2([\alpha_{16}])$
17	$Z_2(\eta\eta^*) + Z_2(\nu\kappa)$ + $Z_2(\eta^2\rho) + Z_2(\bar{\mu})$	$Z_2(\hat{\eta}_1^*\hat{\eta}) + Z_2(\hat{\eta}\eta^*) + Z_2(\hat{\nu}\sigma^2)$ + $Z_2(\hat{\nu}\kappa) + Z_2(\hat{\eta}\eta\rho) + Z_2(\hat{\bar{\mu}})$	$Z_2((\hat{\eta}_1^* + \hat{\eta}_2^*)\eta) + Z_2(\hat{\nu}\sigma^2)$
18	$Z_8(\nu^*) + Z_2(\eta\bar{\mu})$	$Z_8(\hat{\nu}_1^*) + Z_8(\hat{\nu}_2^*) + Z_2(\hat{\eta}\bar{\mu})$	$Z_8((\hat{\nu}_1^* - \hat{\nu}_2^*))$
19	$Z_2(\bar{\sigma}) + Z_8(\hat{\zeta})$	$Z_2(\hat{\sigma}) + Z_2(\hat{\eta}\nu^*) + Z_2([\alpha_{16}]\nu) + Z_8(\hat{\zeta})$	$Z_2(\hat{\eta}\nu^*) + Z_2([\alpha_{16}]\nu)$
20	$Z_8(\bar{\kappa})$	$Z_2(\hat{\eta}\bar{\sigma}) + Z_8(\hat{\bar{\kappa}})$	$Z_2(\hat{\eta}\bar{\sigma})$
21	$Z_2(\sigma^3) + Z_2(\eta\bar{\kappa})$	$Z_2(\hat{\nu}\nu^*) + Z_2(\hat{\sigma}\sigma^2) + Z_2([\alpha_{21}])$ + $Z_2(\hat{\eta}\bar{\kappa}) + Z_2(\hat{\bar{\kappa}}\eta)$	$Z_2(\hat{\nu}\nu^* + \hat{\sigma}\sigma^2) + Z_2([\alpha_{21}])$ + $Z_2(\hat{\eta}\bar{\kappa} + \hat{\bar{\kappa}}\eta)$
22	$Z_2(\nu\bar{\sigma}) + Z_2(\epsilon\kappa)$	$Z_{16}(\hat{\sigma}^*) + Z_2(\hat{\nu}\bar{\sigma}) + Z_2(\hat{\eta}\sigma^3)$ + $Z_2(\hat{\eta}\eta\bar{\kappa}) + Z_2(\hat{\epsilon}\kappa)$	$Z_{16}(\hat{\sigma}^*) + Z_2(\hat{\eta}\sigma^3)$ + $Z_2((\hat{\eta}\bar{\kappa} + \hat{\bar{\kappa}}\eta)\eta)$
23	$Z_{16}(\bar{\rho}) + Z_8(\nu\bar{\kappa}) + Z_2(\eta^*\sigma)$	$Z_2(\hat{\sigma}\eta^*) + Z_2(\hat{\eta}_1^*\sigma) + Z_2(\hat{\eta}_2^*\sigma) + Z_2(\hat{\eta}\nu\bar{\sigma})$ + $Z_8(\hat{\nu}\bar{\kappa}) + Z_{16}(\hat{\bar{\rho}})$	$Z_2(\hat{\sigma}\eta^* + \hat{\eta}_1^*\sigma) + Z_2((\hat{\eta}_1^* + \hat{\eta}_2^*)\sigma)$ + $Z_2(\hat{\eta}\nu\bar{\sigma})$
24	$Z_2(\eta\eta^*\sigma) + Z_2(\eta\bar{\rho})$	$Z_2(\hat{\nu}\sigma^3) + Z_2(\hat{\eta}\eta^*\sigma) + Z_2(\hat{\eta}_2^*\eta\sigma) + Z_2(\hat{\eta}\bar{\rho}) + Z_2(\hat{\bar{\rho}})$	$Z_2(\hat{\nu}\sigma^3) + Z_2((\hat{\eta}\eta^* + \hat{\eta}_2^*\eta)\sigma) + Z_2(\hat{\eta}\bar{\rho})$
25	$Z_2(\eta^2\bar{\rho}) + Z_2(\bar{\mu})$	$Z_2(\hat{\eta}\eta\bar{\rho}) + Z_2(\hat{\bar{\mu}})$	0
26	$Z_2(\nu^2\bar{\kappa}) + Z_2(\eta\bar{\mu})$	$Z_2(\hat{\nu}\nu\bar{\kappa}) + Z_2(\hat{\eta}\bar{\mu})$	0
27	$Z_8(\hat{\zeta})$	$Z_8(\hat{\zeta})$	0
28	$Z_2(\epsilon\bar{\kappa})$	$Z_2(\hat{\epsilon}\bar{\kappa})$	0
29	0	0	0
30	$Z_2(\theta_4)$	$Z_2(\hat{\theta}_4) + Z_2([\delta_{30}])$	$Z_2([\delta_{30}])$

