UNIVERSAL CELL-LIKE MAPS

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Abstract. The main results of the paper are the following:

Theorem. Suppose $n < \infty$. There is a cell-like map $f : X \to Y$ of complete and separable metric spaces such that $\dim X \leq n$, and for any cell-like map $f' : X' \to Y'$ of (complete) separable metric spaces with $\dim X' \leq n$ there exist (closed) embeddings $i : Y' \to Y$ and $j : X' \to f^{-1}(i(Y'))$ such that $fj = if'$.

Corollary. Suppose $n < \infty$. There is a complete and separable metric space $Y$ such that $\dim Y \leq n$, and any (complete) separable metric space $Y'$ with $\dim Y' \leq n$ embeds as a (closed) subset of $Y$.

1. Introduction

This paper is devoted to the existence of universal separable spaces for integral cohomological dimension. The question of existence of such spaces was posed by L. Rubin [Ru] (see also [We]). Rubin's question was generalized in [Dy1]:

1.1. Conjecture. If $K$ is a countable CW complex, then there is a universal space in the class of separable metric spaces

$$\{X \mid K \in AE(X)\}.$$ 

Recall that $K \in AE(X)$ means that any map $g : C \to K$, $C$ closed in $X$, extends over $X$ (see [Hu]). Also, $S^n \in AE(X)$ is equivalent to $\dim X \leq n$, and $K(Z, n) \in AE(X)$ is equivalent to $\dim Z \leq n$ (see [Wal]).

Let us recall work done up to now which relates to Conjecture 1.1.

First, A. Chigogidze [Ch] proved the following result:

1.2. Theorem (A. Chigogidze). Let $n \geq 0$ and $G$ be an abelian group such that there exists a separable completely metrizable ANR-space homotopy equivalent to the Eilenberg-MacLane complex $K(G, n)$. Then, there exists a separa-
ble, completely metrizable space $X(G, n)$ such that the following conditions are 
equivalent for each metrizable compactum $K$:

(i) $\dim G K \leq n$,

(ii) $K$ embeds into $X(G, n)$.

Second, Conjecture 1.1 was verified [Dyt] for finite complexes:

1.3. Theorem. Suppose $\{K_i\}_{i \geq 1}$ is a sequence of CW complexes homotopy 
dominated by finite CW complexes. Then

(a) Given a separable, metrizable space $Y$ such that $K_i \in \text{AE}(Y)$, $i \geq 1$, 
there exists a metrizable compactification $c(Y)$ of $Y$ such that $K_i \in \text{AE}(c(Y))$, 
$i \geq 1$.

(b) There is a universal space of the class

$\mathcal{C} = \{Y \text{ is compact metrizable} \mid K_i \in \text{AE}(Y) \text{ for all } i \geq 1\}$.

(c) There is a completely metrizable and separable space $Z$ such that $K_i \in \text{AE}(Z)$ 
for all $i \geq 1$ with the property that any completely metrizable and separable space $Z'$ 
with $K_i \in \text{AE}(Z')$ for all $i \geq 1$ embeds in $Z$ as a closed subset.

Our goal is to prove the existence of universal cell-like maps whose domain 
are $n$-dimensional. The positive answer to Rubin's question is obtained with 
the help of the following result:

1.4. Theorem (Rubin-Schapiro [R-S]). If $\dim X \leq n$ and $X$ is a separable 
metrizable space, then there is a cell-like map $f : X' \to X$ such that $\dim X' \leq n$ 
and $X'$ is a separable metrizable space.

Thus, the purpose of this paper is to verify Conjecture 1.1 for Eilenberg-MacLane spaces $K(Z, n)$. Notice that our techniques can be used to show the 
existence of universal $\mathbb{Z}/p$-acyclic maps whose domain is $n$-dimensional. Thus, 
in order to verify Conjecture 1.1 for $K(Z/p, n)$, all that is needed is to prove 
the analog of the Rubin-Schapiro Theorem for $\mathbb{Z}/p$-coefficients. Such a result 
in the compact case is due to A. Dranishnikov [Dr3].

Theorem 1.3 (and its proof) indicated that there ought to be a connection 
between existence of compactifications in the class $\{X \mid X$ is separable and $K \in \text{AE}(X)\}$ 
and the existence of universal spaces for $\{X \mid X$ is compact and $K \in \text{AE}(X)\}$. Such a connection exists:

1.5. Theorem. Suppose $K$ is a CW complex such that any metrizable compactification $c(X)$ of 
a separable space $X$ with $K \in \text{AE}(X)$ admits a metrizable compactification $c'(X) \geq c(X)$ (i.e., there is a map $h : c'(X) \to c(X)$, $h|X = \text{id}$) 
with $K \in \text{AE}(c'(X))$. Then, there is a map $\pi : M \to Q$ of a compactum $M$ 
to the Hilbert cube $Q$ such that $K \in \text{AE}(M)$ and for any map $g : X \to Q$, $X$ 
separable metrizable, and $K \in \text{AE}(X)$, there is an embedding $i : X \to M$ with 
$\pi i = g$.

Thus, Theorem 1.3 is a consequence of Theorem 1.5 and a result of Shvedov 
(use $K$ being the weak product $\lim_{n=1}^\infty K_i$ of $K_i$, $i \geq 1$):

1.6. Theorem (I. A. Shvedov [Ku]). Let $X$ be a separable and metrizable space 
and suppose $K_i \in \text{AE}(X)$, $i \geq 1$, are CW complexes homotopy dominated by 
finitie polyhedra. Then, for any metrizable compactification $c(X)$ of $X$, there
exists a metrizable compactification $c'(X) \supset c(X)$ (i.e., there is a map $h : c'(X) \to c(X)$ with $h|X = \text{id}$) of $X$ such that $K_i \in AE(c'(X))$ for all $i \geq 1$.

**Remark.** Strictly speaking, Shvedov proved Theorem 1.6 in the case of $K_i$ being finite. However, the proof in [Ku] easily modifies to yield the general case.

2. **Universal cell-like maps**

2.1. **Lemma.** Suppose $f : X \to Y$ is a proper map of separable metrizable spaces and $K$ is a countable CW complex. Then, the set

$Z = \{y \in Y \mid [f^{-1}(y), K] = 0\}$

is a $G_\delta$-set in $Y$.

**Proof.** Choose a metrizable compactification $X'$ of $X$, and choose a sequence $\{F_i\}_{i \geq 1}$ of closed subsets of $X'$ such that for any closed subset $A$ of $X'$ and for any neighborhood $U$ of $A$ there exists $k$ with $A \subset \text{int} F_k \subset F_k \subset U$. For each $i$ choose a sequence $g_{i,k} : F_i \to K$, $k \geq 1$, of maps such that for any map $g : F_i \to K$ there is $k$ such that $g \simeq g_{i,k}$. Put

$$G_i = \{y \in Y : f^{-1}(y) \subset \text{int} F_i \text{ and } g_{i,k}|f^{-1}(y) \simeq \text{const} \text{ for all } k \text{ or } f^{-1}(y) \cap (X' - \text{int} F_i) \neq \emptyset\}.$$ 

Then, $Z = \bigcap G_i$. Since each set

$$\{y \in Y : f^{-1}(y) \subset \text{int} F_i \text{ and } g_{i,k}|f^{-1}(y) \simeq \text{const}\}$$

is open and the set

$$\{y \in Y : f^{-1}(y) \cap (X' - \text{int} F_i) \neq \emptyset\}$$

is closed, each $G_i$ is a $G_\delta$-set. □

2.2. **Theorem.** Suppose $n \leq \infty$. There is a cell-like map $f : X \to Y$ of complete and separable metric spaces and a map $v : Y \to \mathbb{Q}$ from $Y$ to the Hilbert cube $\mathbb{Q}$ such that the following conditions are satisfied:

(a) $\text{dim } X \leq n$,

(b) for any cell-like map $f' : X' \to Y'$ of separable metric spaces with $\text{dim } X' \leq n$ and $Y' \subset \mathbb{Q}$ there exist embeddings $i : Y' \to Y$ and $j : X' \to f^{-1}(Y)$ such that $j \circ f = i \circ f'$, $\text{id} = vi$, and $f^{-1}(i(Y')) = j(X')$.

**Proof.** Let $\alpha : M \to \mathbb{Q}$ be a map of compacts such that $\text{dim } M \leq n$, and for any map $g : Z \to \mathbb{Q}$, $Z$ being $n$-dimensional and separable, there is an embedding $i : Z \to M$ such that $\alpha i = g$ (see Corollary 3.4). Let $\beta : C \to 2^M$ be a surjective map from the Cantor set onto the hyperspace $2^M$ of $M$. Consider the subspace $A = \bigcup \{\{c\} \times \beta(c) \mid c \in C\}$ of $C \times M$. Define $\mu : A \to C \times \mathbb{Q}$ by $\mu(c, x) = (c, \alpha(x))$. Let $Y$ be the set of all $y \in C \times \mathbb{Q}$ such that $\mu^{-1}(y)$ is cell-like. By Lemma 2.1, $Y$ is a $G_\delta$-set in $C \times \mathbb{Q}$; hence, $Y$ is completely metrizable. Let $X = \mu^{-1}(Y)$, $f : X \to Y$ be the restriction of $\mu$, and $v : Y \to \mathbb{Q}$ be the projection onto the last coordinate. Suppose $f' : X' \to Y'$ is a cell-like map of separable metric spaces with $\text{dim } X' \leq n$ and $Y' \subset \mathbb{Q}$. Choose an embedding $i' : X' \to M$ such that $\alpha i' = f'$. Without loss of generality we may assume that $i' = \text{id}$ (i.e., $X' \subset M$). Choose $c \in C$ with $\text{cl}(X') = \beta(c)$. Notice that $\mu(\{c\} \times X') \subset Y$. Indeed, suppose $\alpha(x) = y \in Y'$ and $x \in \text{cl}(X')$. Choose a sequence $x_n \in X'$ converging to $x$ so that $\alpha(x_n) \to y$. If $x \notin X'$, then the set
\{x_n\}_{n \geq 1} is closed in \ X'. Hence, \ \{\alpha(x_n)\}_{n \geq 1} is closed in \ Y' and \ y = \alpha(x_k)\ for \ infinitely \ many \ k. \ Thus, \ x \in (f')^{-1}(y) \ and \ x \in \ X'.

Finally, \ j : X' \to X \ is \ defined \ by \ j(x) = (c, x) \ and \ i : Y' \to Y \ is \ defined \ by \ i(y) = (c, y). \ \Box

2.3. Corollary. Suppose \ n < \infty. There is a complete and separable metric space \ Z \ such that \ \dim Z \leq n \ and \ any \ (complete) \ separable \ metric \ space \ Y' \ with \ \dim Y' \leq n \ embeds \ as \ a \ (closed) \ subset \ of \ Y.

Proof. Choose \ v : Y \to Q \ as \ in \ Theorem 2.2. Put \ Z = v^{-1}(s), \ where \ s \ is \ the \ pseudo-interior \ of \ Q. \ \Box

3. Universal maps

Theorem 1.3 was deduced in \ [Dy_1] \ from the following theorem:

3.1. Theorem. Suppose \ u : K \to L \ is \ a \ map \ from \ a \ countable \ CW \ complex \ K \ to \ a \ compact \ metrizable \ space \ L. Given \ a \ compactum \ X \ there is a compactum \ X' \ and \ a \ map \ \pi : X' \to X \ with \ the \ following \ properties:

(a) \ Given \ f : Y \to X, \ K \in \AE(Y), \ there \ is \ f' : Y \to X' \ with \ f = \pi f',

(b) \ Given \ g : C \to K, \ C \ closed \ in \ X', \ there \ is \ g' : X' \to L \ with \ g'|C homotopic \ to \ ug.

This result generalized Shvedov's Theorem (dealing with existence of compactifications) and at the same time it produced universal maps which led to the existence of universal spaces. The purpose of this section is to separate the issue of universal maps from the issue of compactifications and to prove a result which, together with Shvedov's Theorem, implies Theorem 1.3.

3.2. Theorem. Suppose \ K \ is \ a \ countable \ CW \ complex. There is a map \ \pi : M \to Q \ of \ a \ completely \ metrizable \ space \ M \ to \ the \ Hilbert \ cube \ Q \ such \ that \ K \in \AE(M) \ and \ for \ any \ map \ g : X \to Q, \ X \ compact \ metrizable, \ and \ K \in \AE(X), \ there \ is \ an \ embedding \ i : X \to M \ with \ \pi i = g.

Proof. Consider the subset \ A \ of the hyperspace \ 2^{Q \times Q} \ of \ Q \times Q \ consisting \ of \ compacta \ X \ with \ K \in \AE(X). \ By \ Theorem 3.1 \ of \ \[D-R\], \ A \ is \ a \ dense \ Gδ-subset \ of \ 2^{Q \times Q}. \ Choose \ a \ surjective \ map \ \alpha : C \to 2^{Q \times Q} \ from \ the \ Cantor \ set \ C \ onto \ 2^{Q \times Q}. \ Notice \ that \ B = \alpha^{-1}(A) \ is \ a \ Gδ-set \ in \ C, \ hence \ B \ is \ completely \ metrizable. \ Let \ M = \bigcup\{\{p\} \times \alpha(p) \mid p \in B\} \subset B \times Q \times Q. \ Let \ \pi : M \to Q \be \ the \ projection \ onto \ the \ last \ coordinate. \ Given \ g : X \to Q, \ X \subset Q \ compact \ and \ K \in \AE(X), \ define \ g' : X \to Q \times Q \ by \ g'(x) = (x, g(x)), \ x \in X. \ Let \ c \in C \ satisfy \ \alpha(c) = g'(X). \ Define \ i : X \to M \ by \ i(x) = (c, x, g(x)), \ x \in X. \ Then, \ \pi i = g.

It remains to show that \ K \in \AE(M). \ Notice \ that \ the \ projection \ p : M \to B \ is \ a \ closed \ map. Suppose \ h : D \to K \ and \ D \ is \ closed \ in \ M. \ For \ every \ b \in B \ there \ is \ an \ extension \ h_b : C \cup p^{-1}(U_b) \to K \ of \ h, \ where \ U_b \ is \ an \ open-closed \ neighborhood \ of \ b \ in \ B. \ Choose \ a \ countable \ subset \ \{b(n)\}_{n \geq 1} \ of \ B \ such \ that \ \bigcup U_{b(n)} = B. \ Now, \ h' : M \to K \ defined \ by \ h'(x) = h_{b(n)}(x), \ where \ n \ is \ the \ smallest \ integer \ so \ that \ x \in U_{b(n)}, \ is \ an \ extension \ of \ h. \ \Box

3.3. Corollary. Suppose \ K \ is \ a \ countable \ CW \ complex \ such \ that \ any \ separable \ metrizable \ space \ Y \ with \ K \in \AE(Y) \ admits \ a \ metrizable \ compactification \ Y' with \ K \in \AE(Y'). \ Then, \ there \ is \ a \ universal \ compactum \ X \ in \ the \ class \ of \ all \ compacta \ Y \ such \ that \ K \in \AE(Y).
Proof. Choose $M$ as in Theorem 3.2, and let $X$ be a metrizable compactification of $M$ such that $K \in AE(X)$. \qed

3.4. Corollary. Suppose $K$ is a countable CW complex such that any metrizable compactification $c(X)$ of a separable space $X$ with $K \in AE(X)$ admits a metrizable compactification $c'(X) \geq c(X)$ (i.e., there is a map $h : c'(X) \to c(X)$, $h|X = \text{id}$) with $K \in AE(c'(X))$. Then, there is a map $s : Z \to Q$ of a compactum $Z$ to the Hilbert cube $Q$ such that $K \in AE(Z)$ and for any map $g : X \to Q$, $X$ separable metrizable, and $K \in AE(X)$, there is an embedding $i : X \to Z$ with $si = g$.

Proof. Choose $M$ as in Theorem 3.2. We may assume $M \subset Q$. Let $c(M)$ be the closure in $Q \times Q$ of the image of $M$ under the map $x \to (x, \pi(x))$. Let $Z$ be a metrizable compactification of $M$ such that $K \in AE(Z)$ and there is a map $h : Z \to c(M)$ with $h(x) = (x, \pi(x))$ for $x \in M$. Define $s$ as the composition of $h$ and the projection of $Q \times Q$ onto the last coordinate. \qed

Remark. In case of $K = S^n$ one can construct maps with much stronger properties than those in Corollary 3.4 (see [Dr$_4$]). Our next result shows that the hypotheses of Corollary 3.4 cannot be omitted and that the space $M$ in Theorem 3.2 cannot be compact, in general.

3.5. Theorem. For any map $s : Z \to Q$ of a compactum $Z$ to the Hilbert cube $Q$ such that $\dim Z \leq n$ there is a compactum $X \subset Q$ such that $\dim X \leq n$ and the inclusion $X \hookrightarrow Q$ does not lift to $Z$.

Proof. Choose a CW complex $K$ being a $K(Z,n)$ and having finite skeleta. Let $X_k \subset Q$ be compacta as in [D-W]. Thus, $X_k$ has the following properties:

(a) $\dim X_k \leq n$ for each $k$,
(b) each $X_k$ contains the same copy of $S^n$,
(c) the inclusion $S^n \hookrightarrow K$ cannot be extended over $X_k$ so that the image of the extension is contained in the $k$-skeleton $K^{(k)}$ of $K$.

Suppose $s : Z \to Q$ exists, and choose an extension $g : Z \to K$ of $s^{-1}(S^n) \to S^n \hookrightarrow K$. There is $k \geq 1$ such that $g(Z) \subset K^{(k)}$ which demonstrates that $X_k \hookrightarrow Q$ cannot be lifted to $Z$. \qed

Remark. In view of Theorem 3.5 and its proof one is inclined to believe that there is a stronger connection between existence of compactifications and the existence of universal spaces than that of Corollary 3.3. We conjecture that universal spaces for integral cohomological dimension do not exist based on the fact that, in general, compactifications preserving cohomological dimension do not exist (see [Dr$_2$], [D-W] and [Dy$_2$]).

References


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