RATIONAL HOMOTOPY OF SPACES OF MAPS INTO SPHERES AND COMPLEX PROJECTIVE SPACES

BY

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ABSTRACT. We investigate the rational homotopy classification problem for the components of some function spaces with $S^n$ or $CP^n$ as target space.

1. Introduction. For any pair of topological spaces $X$ and $Y$, let $F(X,Y)$ be the space of all (free, continuous) maps of $X$ into $Y$. In general, $F(X,Y)$ is a disconnected space; so for any map $f: X \to Y$, we let $F_f(X,Y) \subset F(X,Y)$ denote the (path-) component that contains $f$. A fundamental problem is to classify the components of $F(X,Y)$ up to homotopy type; initiated by the results of V. L. Hansen [5, 6] on the case $Y = S^n$, this has been the subject of a number of papers [1, 10, 11, 15] concerning the cases $Y = S^n$, $RP^n$ or $CP^n$. In this paper we discuss the homotopy classification problem from the point of view of rational homotopy theory restricting ourselves to the case where $Y = S^n$, $CP^n$ is an $n$-sphere or complex projective $n$-space.

Our main result for the case where $Y = S^n$ is an $n$-sphere may be stated as follows.

THEOREM 1. If $n$ is odd, then all components of $F(X,S^n)$ are rationally homotopy equivalent.

In the case where $n$ is even, fix a generator $s_n \in H^n(S^n;\mathbb{Q})$ of $H^n(S^n;\mathbb{Z}) \subset H^n(S^n;\mathbb{Q})$. Let $f, g: X \to S^n$ be maps of $X$ into $S^n$ and let $f^*(s_n), g^*(s_n) \in H^n(X;\mathbb{Q})$ be the images of $s_n$ in rational cohomology. Denote the constant map by $0: X \to S^n$.

THEOREM 2. Assume that $n > 2$ is an even integer and that $X$ is a connected and rationally $(2n-1)$-coconnected space, i.e. $\tilde{H}^0(X;\mathbb{Q}) = 0 = H^{2n-1}(X;\mathbb{Q})$. Then

1. $F_f(X, S^n) \simeq Q F_0(X, S^n)$ if and only if $f^*(s_n) = 0$.
2. $F_f(X, S^n) \simeq Q F_g(X, S^n)$ if there exist an algebra automorphism $\varphi$ on $H^*(X;\mathbb{Q})$ and a rational number $t \neq 0$ such that $tf^*(s_n) = \varphi g^*(s_n)$.

As a very special case we emphasize the following consequence which shows the connection with [5, 6].

COROLLARY. Let $M^n$ be a closed $n$-manifold, $n \geq 1$. The components of $F(M^n, S^n)$ represent two rational homotopy types if $M^n$ is orientable and $n$ is even and one otherwise.

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Actually, the investigations presented in this paper were prompted by the ob-
servation that the invariant used in [5, 6, 15] to distinguish between components
associated to positive degrees is a torsion group, so that one might expect these
components to be identical spaces in the rational category. The Corollary above is
the affirmative answer to this conjecture.

We prove Theorem 2 by constructing (minimal) models for the components of
$F(X, S^n)$ using a method of Haefliger’s [4]. The applied technique works in fact
whenever the target space $Y$ is a 2-stage Postnikov tower. As an illustration of
this, we consider in §3 spaces of maps into complex (and quaternionic) projective
$n$-space (see Corollary 3.3 for an analogue of Theorem 2).

In order to assure e.g. continuity of evaluation maps, we shall work in the cat-
egory of compactly generated spaces. Thus for any pair of compactly generated
spaces $X$ and $Y$, $F(X, Y)$ is equipped with the compactly generated topology asso-
ciated with the compact-open topology (cf. [18, pp. 17–21]). Furthermore, we
assume throughout that the domain space $X$ is finite dimensional and of finite type;
in particular, $\beta_i(x) = \dim\mathbb{Q}H^i(X; \mathbb{Q}) < \infty$ for all $i \geq 0$. For short, we write $H^*(X)$
for $H^*(X; \mathbb{Q})$ and $H_*(X)$ for $H_*(X; \mathbb{Q})$. Our main references for rational homotopy
theory are [12, 14, 16].

2. Minimal models for the components of $F(X, S^n)$. Note first that any
component $F_f(X, S^n)$ of $F(X, S^n)$ is a nilpotent space by Theorem A of [9] and
thus has a well-defined rational homotopy type. Moreover [9, Theorem B], its
rationalization is given by

$$F_f(X, S^n)(0) = Fr_f(X, S^n(0)),$$

where $r: S^n \to S^n(0)$ is the rationalization map. Thus, Theorems 1 and 2 are
immediate consequences of the following two theorems.

THEOREM 2.1. If $n \geq 1$ is odd, then all components of $F(X, S^n(0))$ are homotopy
equivalent.

THEOREM 2.2. Assume that $n \geq 2$ is even and that $X$ is a connected and
rationally $(2n - 1)$-coconnected space. Let $\lambda \in H^n(X)$ be an $n$-dimensional rational
cohomology class. Then

1. $F_\lambda(X, S^n(0)) \simeq F_0(X, S^n(0))$ if and only if $\lambda = 0$.
2. $F_\lambda(X, S^n(0)) \simeq F_\lambda(X, S^n(0))$ for any rational number $t \neq 0$.
3. $F_\lambda(X, S^n(0)) \simeq F_\varphi(X, S^n(0))$ for any algebra automorphism $\varphi$ on $H^*(X)$.

In the formulation of Theorem 2.2 we write $F_\lambda(X, S^n(0))$ for $F_f(X, S^n(0))$ when
$\lambda = f^*(s_n)$, using the fact that, under the assumptions made, the components of
$F(X, S^n(0))$ are classified by $H^n(X)$.

The proof of Theorem 2.1 is very easy. For if $n$ is odd, then the rationalized
$n$-sphere $S^n(0) = K(\mathbb{Q}, n)$ is an Eilenberg-Mac Lane space and hence the function
space

$$F(X, S^n(0)) = \prod_{i=0}^n K(H^{n-i}(X; \mathbb{Q}), i)$$

is a product of Eilenberg-Mac Lane spaces by a theorem of Thom [17, 4] (see also
Federer [2, 10]). In particular, all the components of $F(X, S^n(0))$ are homotopy
equivalent. For the sake of completeness we mention that $F_f(X, S^n)$ for any map $f: X \to S^n$ has the minimal model

$$\prod_{i=1}^{n} L_i(H_{n-i}(X))$$

with trivial differential. For any rational vector space $V$, $L_i(V)$ denotes the free commutative graded algebra generated by $V$ considered as homogeneous of degree $i$. We also identify $\text{Hom}(H^{n-i}(X), Q) = H_{n-i}(X)$ so that $H^*(K(H^{n-i}(X), i)) = L_i(H_{n-i}(X))$ becomes the minimal model for the formal space $K(H_{n-i}(X), i)$ (see [16]).

For the rest of this section we concentrate on the even dimensional case. So assume now that $n \geq 2$ is an even integer and that $X$ is a connected and rationally $(2n - 1)$-coconnected space of finite type. In order to construct a model for $F_\lambda(X, S^n_{(0)})$ we apply the method of Haefliger [4].

Since $n$ is even, the rationalized $n$-sphere $S^n_{(0)}$ is the mapping fibre of $k = \iota_n^*: K(Q, n) \to K(Q, 2n)$, where $\iota_n \in H^n(Q, n; Q)$ is the characteristic class. As $X$ is rationally $(2n - 1)$-coconnected this implies (see e.g. [4]) that $F_\lambda(X, S^n_{(0)})$ is the mapping fibre of the map

$$k: F_\lambda(X, K(Q, n)) \to F(X, K(Q, 2n))$$

obtained by composition with $k$. Write

$$k = \prod_{i=2}^{2n} k_i: F_\lambda(X, K(Q, n)) \to \prod_{i=2}^{2n} K(H^{2n-i}(X), i)$$

corresponding to the factorization of $F(X, K(Q, 2n))$ given by Thom’s theorem and let

$$k^*_i: H_{2n-i}(X) = H^i(H^{2n-i}(X), i) \to H^i(F_\lambda(X, K(Q, n)))$$

be the homomorphism induced on cohomology. Now, the rational cohomology algebra

$$B := H^*(F_\lambda(X, K(Q, n))) = \prod_{i=1}^{n} L_i(H_{n-i}(X))$$

is a (minimal) model for $F_\lambda(X, K(Q, n))$ and hence $F_\lambda(X, S^n_{(0)})$, as the mapping fibre of $k = \prod k_i$, has a model of the form $(A_\lambda, d)$ where

$$A_\lambda = B \otimes \bigotimes_{i=2}^{2n} L_{i-1}(H_{2n-i}(X)),$$

$dB = 0$ and $dv = k^*_i(v)$ for $v \in H_{2n-i}(X)$.

We now aim at a more explicit description of the model $(A_\lambda, d)$. Choose a vector space basis $\{a_{ij}| j \in J_i\}$ for $H^i(X)$, $0 < i < 2n - 1$, $J_i = \emptyset$ if $H^i(X) = 0$ and $J_i = \{j| 1 \leq j \leq \beta_i\}$ if $\beta_i = \dim Q H^i(X) > 0$. If $\lambda \neq 0$, take $a_{n1} = \lambda$. Let $\{b_{n-i,j}| 1 \leq j \leq \beta_i\} \subset \text{Hom}(H^i(X), Q) = H_i(X)$ be the dual basis to $\{a_{ij}\}$, $0 < i < 2n - 1$, and let $b_n \in \text{Hom}(H^0(X), Q) = H_0(X)$ be the generator dual to $1 \in H^0(X)$. Note that $b_n \in B^n$ and $b_{n-i,j} \in B^{n-i}$ for $0 < i < n$, $j \in J_i$; in fact the set $\{b_{n-i,j}| 0 < i < n, j \in J_i\}$ freely generates $B$.  

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According to [4, p. 614],
\[ e^*_\lambda(\iota_n) = b_n \otimes 1 + \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \sum_{j \in J_i} b_{n-i,j} \otimes a_{ij} + 1 \otimes \lambda \in B \otimes H^*(X), \]
where \( e_\lambda : F_\lambda(X, K(\mathbb{Q}, n)) \times X \rightarrow K(\mathbb{Q}, n) \) is the evaluation map, \( e_\lambda(f, x) = f(x), f \in F_\lambda(X, K(\mathbb{Q}, n)), x \in X \). Therefore the adjoint of \( k, \)
\[ K_\lambda = k \circ e_\lambda : F_\lambda(X, K(\mathbb{Q}, n)) \times X \rightarrow K(\mathbb{Q}, 2n), \]
pulls back the characteristic element \( \iota_{2n} \in H^{2n}(\mathbb{Q}, 2n; \mathbb{Q}) \) to
\[ K_\lambda^*(\iota_{2n}) = (k \circ e_\lambda)^*(\iota_{2n}) = e^*_\lambda(\iota_{2n})^2 \]
\[ = \left( b_n \otimes 1 + \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \sum_{j \in J_i} b_{n-i,j} \otimes a_{ij} + 1 \otimes \lambda \right)^2 \]
\[ = b_n^2 \otimes 1 + \sum_{r=2}^{2n-2} s_r + 2 \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \sum_{j \in J_i} (b_n b_{n-i,j} \otimes a_{ij} + b_{n-i,j} \otimes \lambda a_{ij}) + 2b_n \otimes \lambda, \]
where
\[ s_r = \sum_{i,j,k,l} (-1)^{ik} b_{n-i,j} b_{n-k,l} \otimes a_{ij} a_{kl}, \quad 2 \leq r \leq 2n - 2, \]
summation over all \( i, j, k, l \) such that \( 1 \leq i, k \leq n - 1, i + k = r, j \in J_i, l \in J_k \).
For \( 0 < i < 2n - 1 \), finally let
\[ \{ v_{2n-1-i,j} \mid j \in J_i \} \subset Hom(H^i(X), \mathbb{Q}) = H_i(X) \subset L_{2n-1-i}(H_i(X)) \]
be the basis dual to \( \{a_{ij} \mid j \in J_i \} \subset H^i(X) \) and let
\[ v_{2n-1} \in Hom(H^0(X), \mathbb{Q}) = H_0(X) \subset L_{2n-1}(H_0(X)) \]
be the linear form dual to the generator \( 1 \in H^0(X) \).
According to [4, 1.2] we now have
\[ dv_{2n-1-i,j} = k_{2n-i}^*(v_{2n-1-i,j}) = K_\lambda^*(\iota_{2n}) \cap b_{n-i,j}, \quad 0 < i < 2n - 1, j \in J_i, \]
\[ dv_{2n-1} = k_{2n}^*(v_{2n-1}) = K_\lambda^*(\iota_{2n}) \cap b_n, \]
where, as in [4], \((b \otimes a) \cap b_{n-i,j} = b \cdot (b_{n-i,j} a)\) for \( b \otimes a \in B \otimes H^*(X) \). Using the above expression for \( K_\lambda^*(\iota_{2n}) \) we arrive at the following explicit formula for the differential \( d \) of the model \( A_\lambda = B \otimes \bigotimes_{i=2}^{2n} L_{i-1}(H_{2n-i}(X)) \) for \( F_\lambda(X, S^n_{(0)}) \):
\[ db_n = 0, \quad db_{n-i,j} = 0 \quad \text{for} \ 0 < i < n, \]
\[ dv_{2n-1-i,j} = \left( s_i + 2 \sum_{j \in J_i} b_{n-i,j} \otimes \lambda a_{i-n,j} \right) \cap b_{n-i,j}, \quad n < i < 2n - 1, j \in J_i, \]
\[ dv_{n-1-i} = s_n \cap b_{01} + 2 \delta(\lambda) b_n, \]
\[ dv_{n-1,j} = s_n \cap b_{0j}, \quad 1 < j \leq \beta_n, \]
\[ dv_{2n-1-i,j} = s_i \cap b_{n-i,j} + 2b_n b_{n-i,j}, \quad 1 < i < n, j \in J_i, \]
\[ dv_{2n-2,j} = 2b_n b_{n-1,j}, \quad j \in J_1, \]
\[ dv_{2n-1} = b_n^2, \]
where $\delta(\lambda) = 1$ if $\lambda \neq 0$ and $\delta(\lambda) = 0$ if $\lambda = 0$. We get immediately

**Proposition 2.3.** Let $n > 1$ be an even integer. Then $m_0 = (A_0, d)$ is a minimal model for the component $F_0(X, S^n)$ of the constant map. Furthermore,

$$\dim_{\mathbb{Q}} \text{Hom}(\pi_i(F_0(X, S^n)), \mathbb{Q}) = \beta_{n-i} + \beta_{2n-i-1}, \quad i \geq 0,$$

and if $\beta_{n-1} = \beta_{2n-2} = 0$, then $F_0(X, S^n)$ is a simply connected coformal space (see [16]).

**Proof.** Clearly, $(A_0, d)$ is a minimal nilpotent DGA and thus a minimal model for $F_0(X, S^n)$. As a graded algebra, $A_0$ is freely generated by the set

$$S = \{b_{n-i,j} | 0 < i < n, \ j \in J_i\} \cup \{b_n\}$$

$$\cup \{v_{2n-i-1,j} | 0 < i < 2n - 1, \ j \in J_i\} \cup \{v_{2n-1}\}$$

which contains $\beta_{n-i} + \beta_{2n-i-1}$ elements of degree $i$. This yields the evaluation of the rank of the dual to the homotopy group $\pi_i(F(X, S^n), 0)$. As to the final assertion, we just note that the differential $d$ on $A_0$ is quadratic (see e.g. [3, 16]).

When $\lambda \neq 0$, the model $(A_0, d)$ is in general far from being minimal. However, if $X$ is $(n + 1)$-coconnected, then the model $(A_\lambda, d)$ for $\lambda \neq 0$ simplifies to

$$db_n = 0, \quad db_{n-i,j} = 0 \quad \text{for } 0 < i < n,$$

$$dv_{n-1,1} = s_n \cap b_{01} + 2b_n,$$

$$dv_{n-1,j} = s_n \cap b_{0j}, \quad 1 < j \leq \beta_n,$$

$$dv_{2n-i-1,j} = s_i \cap b_{n-i,j} + 2b_nb_{n-i,j}, \quad 1 < i < n, \ j \in J_i,$$

$$dv_{2n-2,j} = -s_n \cap b_{01} + 2b_nb_{n-1,j}, \quad j \in J_1,$$

$$dv_{2n-1} = b_n^2.$$

Here the only deviation from minimality occurs in the relation for $dv_{n-1,1}$, so in this important special case it is easy to construct the minimal model for the nilpotent DGA $A_\lambda$.

**Proposition 2.4.** Assume furthermore, that $X$ is $(n + 1)$-coconnected, $n \geq 2$ even. Then the minimal model $m_\lambda$ for $F_\lambda(X, S^n(0)), \lambda \neq 0$, is the graded commutative algebra freely generated by the set $\{b_{n-i,j} | 0 < i < n, \ j \in J_i\} \cup \{v_{2n-i-1,j} | 0 < i < n, \ j \in J_i; \ i = n, j > 1\} \cup \{v_{2n-1}\}$ and with differential $d$ given by

$$db_{n-i,j} = 0, \quad 0 < i < n,$$

$$dv_{n-1,j} = s_n \cap b_{01}, \quad 1 < j \leq \beta_n,$$

$$dv_{n-1,j} = s_i \cap b_{n-i,j} - (s_n \cap b_{01})b_{n-i,j}, \quad 1 < i < n, \ j \in J_i,$$

$$dv_{2n-2,j} = -(s_n \cap b_{01})b_{n-1,j}, \quad j \in J_1,$$

$$dv_{2n-1} = \frac{1}{4}(s_n \cap b_{01})^2.$$

Next follow two examples of the computation of the minimal models $m_\lambda$ from Propositions 2.3 and 2.4.

**Example 2.5.** (1) For any even integer $n \geq 2$,

$$m_0 = (S[b_n] \otimes E(v_{n-1}, v_{2n-1}); db_n = 0, dv_{n-1} = 0, dv_{2n-1} = b_n^2)$$
is a minimal model for $F_0(S^n, S^n)$ while $m_1 = (E(v_{2n-1}), d = 0)$ is a minimal model for $F_f(S^n, S^n)$, where $f: S^n \to S^n$ is any map of nonzero degree.

Using Thom's theorem [17] for the case of an odd $n$, we conclude that

$$F_f(S^n, S^n) \cong Q \left\{ \begin{array}{ll}
S^n \times S^{n-1}, & n \text{ even, } \deg f = 0, \\
S^{2n-1}, & n \text{ even, } \deg f \neq 0, \\
S^n, & n \text{ odd.} 
\end{array} \right.$$  

In particular, the evaluation fibration $\text{Ev}(S^n, S^n)$ from [8] is always rationally decomposable. (See V. L. Hansen [5, 6, 7] and W. A. Sutherland [15] for a discussion of the integral homotopy types represented by the components of $F(S^n, S^n)$.)

(2) The graded algebra

$$m_0 = S[b_2, b_4, \ldots, b_{2m-2}, b_{2m}] \otimes E(v_{2m-1}, v_{2m+1}, \ldots, v_{4m-1})$$

with differential $d$ given by

$$db_{2i} = 0, \quad 1 \leq i \leq m,$$

$$dv_{4m-2i-1} = \sum_{r+s=2m-i} b_{2r}b_{2s}, \quad 0 \leq i \leq m,$$

is the minimal model for $F_0(CP^m, S^{2m})$.

The graded algebra $m_1 = S[b_2, b_4, \ldots, b_{2m-2}] \otimes E(v_{2m+1}, v_{2m+3}, \ldots, v_{4m-1})$ with differential $d$ given by

$$db_{2i} = 0, \quad 1 \leq i < m,$$

$$dv_{4m-2i-1} = \sum_{r+s=2m-i} b_{2r}b_{2s} - b_{2m-2i}\Delta_m, \quad 0 < i < m,$$

$$dv_{4m-1} = \frac{1}{4}\Delta_m,$$

with $\Delta_m = \sum_{r+s=m} b_{2r}b_{2s}$, is the minimal model for the component $F_f(CP^m, S^{2m})$ for any map $f: CP^m \to S^{2m}$ of nonzero degree.

We now turn to the

PROOF OF THEOREM 2.2. The fibration of rational spaces

$$F(X, K(Q, 2n - 1)) \to F_{\lambda}(X, S^n(0)) \to F_{\lambda}(X, K(Q, n))$$

has an associated long exact homotopy sequence of the form

$$\to H^{n-i-1}(X) \xrightarrow{\partial} H^{2n-i-1}(X) \to \pi_i(F_{\lambda}) \xrightarrow{\partial} H^n(X) \to H^{2n-i}(X) \to$$

in which the cohomology groups have rational coefficients and $F_{\lambda}(X, S^n(0))$ has been abbreviated to $F_{\lambda}$. It is not hard to see, and it was proved by Federer [2], that $\partial$ is cup product with $\lambda \in H^n(X)$. We deduce e.g. that

$$\dim Q\pi_{n-1}(F_0) > \dim Q\pi_{n-1}(F_{\lambda})$$

whenever $\lambda \neq 0$ (cf. [6, Lemma 2(i)]). This proves the first part of Theorem 2.2.

To prove the second part, we just note that multiplication by $t \neq 0$ on $Q = H^n(S^n(0), Q)$ can be realized by a homotopy self equivalence $M_t$ on $S^n(0)$. By composition with $M_t$ we get a homotopy equivalence $M_t: F_{\lambda}(X, S^n(0)) \to F_{\lambda}(X, S^n(0))$ between components.
The third and final part of Theorem 2.2 is a special case of the next theorem. □

Noting that the isomorphism type of the “pointed algebra” \((H^*(X), \lambda)\) determines the isomorphism type of the model \((A_{\lambda}, d)\), as constructed above, we derive the following consequence:

**THEOREM 2.6.** Let \(n \geq 2\) be an even integer and let \(X\) and \(Y\) be connected and rationally \((2n - 1)\)-coconnected spaces of finite type. Assume that there exists an isomorphism \(\varphi : H^*(X) \to H^*(Y)\) between the cohomology algebras. Then

\[
F_{\lambda}(X, S^n_{(0)}) \simeq_\mathbb{Q} F_{\varphi\lambda}(Y, S^n_{(0)})
\]

for any \(\lambda \in H^n(X)\). In particular, \(F_f(X, S^n) \simeq_\mathbb{Q} F_g(Y, S^n)\) if \(f : X \to S^n, g : Y \to S^n\) are maps such that \(\varphi f^*(s_n) = tg^*(s_n)\) for some rational number \(t \neq 0\).

We are now heading towards a partial converse to Theorem 2.2(3). We ask whether a rational homotopy equivalence \(\alpha : F_{\lambda}(X, Sn) \to F_{\mu}(X, Sn)\) implies the existence of an algebra-automorphism \(\varphi\) on \(H^*(X)\) such that \(\varphi(\lambda) = \mu\). This is true under some restrictions—at least if \(X\) is \((n + 1)\)-coconnected.

Let \(V_1, V_2\) be graded vector spaces, and \(\Lambda V_1, \Lambda V_2\) the graded commutative algebras freely generated by them. An algebra map \(\alpha : \Lambda v_1 \to \Lambda v_2\) is called **linearly generated** iff there is a graded linear map \(\tilde{\alpha} : V_1 \to V_2\) such that \(\alpha = \Lambda \tilde{\alpha}\) (compare [16, p. 26]). Remark that one may construct a linearly generated rational isomorphism of models \(\alpha : m_\mu \to m_\lambda\) in the situation of Theorem 2.2(3).

We investigate the following situation: Let \(n\) be even and \(X\) a simply-connected and \((n + 1)\)-coconnected CW-complex; furthermore \(\lambda, \mu \in H^n(X)\) are linearly independent elements. Then, one may choose a basis \(\{a_{ij}\}_{i=1,\ldots,n}\) of \(H^+(X)\) such that \(a_{n1} = \lambda\) and \(a_{n2} = \mu\). These in turn allow us to construct a minimal \(m_\lambda\) of \(F_{\lambda}(X, S^n_{(0)})\) as in Proposition 2.4; a minimal model \(m_\mu\) of \(F_{\mu}(X, S^n_{(0)})\) is obtained by replacing \(v_{n-1,2}\) by \(v_{n-1,1}\) and \(s_n \cap b_{01}\) by \(s_n \cap b_{02}\).

**PROPOSITION 2.7.** Assume \(X\) and \(\lambda, \mu \in H^n(X)\) given as above. If there is a linearly generated rational isomorphism \(\alpha : m_\mu \to m_\lambda\), then there is an algebra automorphism \(\varphi\) on \(H^*(X)\) and a rational number \(t \neq 0\) such that \(\varphi(\lambda) = t \cdot \mu\).

**REMARKS.** (1) If \(\lambda\) and \(\mu\) are linearly dependent, \(\varphi\) may be chosen as the identity map.

(2) We were unable to decide whether an arbitrary rational isomorphism \(\alpha : m_\mu \to m_\lambda\) implies a cohomology isomorphism as in Proposition 2.7.

**PROOF.** As \(\alpha\) is linearly generated, it restricts to vector space automorphisms

\[
\begin{align*}
\alpha_{n-s} & : \langle b_{n-s,j} \rangle_{j \in J_s}, \quad 2 \leq s < n; \\
\alpha_{2n-s-1} & : \langle v_{2n-s-1,j} \rangle_{j \in J_s}, \quad 2 \leq s < n; \\
\alpha_{2n-1} & : \langle v_{2n-1} \rangle \\
\end{align*}
\]

and an isomorphism

\[
\alpha_{n-1} : \langle v_{n-1,j} \rangle_{j \in J_n \setminus \{2\}} \to \langle v_{n-1,j} \rangle_{j \in J_n \setminus \{1\}}.
\]

In particular, \(\alpha_{2n-1}(v_{2n-1}) = k^2 \cdot v_{2n-1}, k \in \mathbb{Q}^*\), because \(da(v_{2n-1}) = ad(v_{2n-1})\) is a square. Furthermore, \(s_n \cap b_{01}\) and \(s_n \cap b_{02}\) are either both zero or nonzero. In the first case, \(\lambda\) and \(\mu\) are both undecomposable; then, \(\varphi\) may be chosen to be the
identity map on \( H^* (X) \), \( * < n \) and on \( \langle a_{n3}, \ldots, a_{n, \beta_3} \rangle \subset H^n(X) \) and permuting \( \lambda = a_{n1} \) and \( \mu = a_{n2} \). From now on, we may assume that

\[
s_n \cap b_{01} \text{ and } s_n \cap b_{02} \text{ are both nonzero.}
\]

Before defining \( \varphi \), we have to agree on some notation. The following vector space isomorphisms will be helpful:

\[
\psi_{n-s}: \{b_{n-s, j} \}_{j \in J_i} \to \{v_{2n-s-1,j} \}_{j \in J_i}, \quad 2 \leq s \leq n,
\]

\[
b_{n-s,j} \to v_{2n-s-1,j}.
\]

Let us now define \( \varphi = \oplus \varphi_i: H^i(X) \to H^i(X) \) as a graded vector space isomorphism, and then verify that \( \varphi \) indeed can be made to an algebra homomorphism:

\[
\begin{align*}
\varphi_s &= a_s^*: H^s(X) \to H^s(X), \quad s < n, \\
\varphi_n(\lambda) &= \varphi_n(a_{n1}) = a_{n2} = \mu \quad \text{and} \quad \varphi_n = (\psi_0^{-1} \circ \alpha_{n-1} \circ \psi_0)^* \text{ on } \langle a_{n2}, \ldots, a_{n, \beta(n)} \rangle.
\end{align*}
\]

This is indeed a vector space isomorphism, as \( \alpha \) is one. To make sure that \( \alpha \) is a ring homomorphism, we have to run through the following calculations using that \( \alpha \) is a chain map:

\[
da(\alpha v_{2n-1}) = k^2 \cdot d_\lambda (v_{2n-1})
\]

\[
= \left( \sum kb_{01}(a_{ri} \cdot a_{n-r,j})b_{n-r,i} \cdot b_{rj} \right)^2,
\]

\[
ad(\alpha v_{2n-1}) = \left( \sum b_{02}(a_{ri} \cdot a_{n-r,j}) \alpha(b_{n-r,i} \cdot \alpha(b_{rj})) \right)^2
\]

\[
= \left( \sum b_{02}(\varphi a_{ri} \cdot \varphi a_{n-r,j})b_{n-r,i} \cdot b_{rj} \right)^2.
\]

We conclude

\[
k \cdot b_{01}(x \cdot y) = b_{02}(\varphi x \cdot \varphi y), \quad x \in H^r(X), \ y \in H^{n-r}(X), \ 0 < r < n.
\]

A similar calculation on \( v_{2n-s-1,j} \) yields by comparison of coefficients:

\[
(\psi^{-1} \alpha \psi b_{n-s})(x \cdot y) = b_{n-s}(\varphi x \cdot \varphi y),
\]

where \( b_{n-s} \in H_{n-s}(X) \), \( x \in H^r(X) \) and \( y \in H^{s-r}(X) \), \( 0 < s < n \), and

\[
\sum b_{01}(a_{ri} \cdot a_{n-r,j}) \cdot b_{n-r,i} \cdot b_{rj} \psi^{-1} \alpha \psi b_{n-r,j}
\]

\[
= \sum b_{02}(\varphi a_{ri} \cdot \varphi a_{n-r,j}) \cdot b_{n-r,i} \cdot b_{rj} \cdot b_{n-r,j}.
\]

From (1), (2) and (4), we may conclude:

\[
\psi^{-1} \alpha \psi = k \cdot \alpha \text{ in dimensions less than } n.
\]

Using this in (3) yields

\[
k \cdot (\varphi b_{n-s})(x \cdot y) = b_{n-s}(\varphi x \cdot \varphi y),
\]

where \( b_{n-s} \in H_{n-s}(X) \), \( x \in H^r(X) \) and \( y \in H^{s-r}(X) \), \( 0 < s < n \).

Lastly a similar calculation for \( v_{n-1,j} \) yields

\[
k \cdot (\varphi^* z)(x \cdot y) = z(\varphi x \cdot \varphi y),
\]

where \( \varphi^* z \) is defined on \( H^s(X) \), \( s < n \) and \( \varphi^* z = \varphi z \).
where \( z \in \langle b_0 \rangle_{j \in J_n \setminus \{2\}} \), \( x \in H^r(X) \) and \( y \in H^{n-r}(X) \), \( 0 < r < n \). Thus, collecting (2), (6), and (7), we get

\[
(8) \quad k \cdot (\varphi^*z)(x \cdot y) = z(\varphi x \cdot \varphi y), \quad z \in H_*(X), \ x, y \in H^*(X).
\]

For \( \varphi' = t \cdot \varphi \), \( t = k^{-1} \), this implies

\[
((\varphi')^*z)(x \cdot y) = z(\varphi' x \cdot \varphi'y), \quad z \in H_*(X), \ x, y \in H^*(X);
\]

hence \( \varphi' \) is an algebra automorphism with \( \varphi' (\lambda) = t \cdot \varphi(\lambda) = t \cdot \mu \). \( \square \)

3. Spaces of maps into \( CP^n_0 \). In this section, we let \( X \) denote a connected and rationally \((2n + 1)\)-coconnected space with first Betti number \( \beta_1(X) = 0 \). The components of the space \( F(X, CP^n_0) \) of maps of \( X \) into the rationalized complex projective \( n \)-space \( CP^n_0 \), \( n \geq 1 \), are classified by \( H^2(X) \). For any \( \lambda \in H^2(X; \mathbb{Q}) \), let

\[
F_\lambda(X, CP^n_0) = \{ f \in F(X, CP^n_0) | f^* c_1 = \lambda \},
\]

where \( c_1 \in H^2(CP^n_0; \mathbb{Q}) \) is the first rational Chern class, be the corresponding component of \( F(X, CP^n_0) \).

We now proceed to construct the minimal model for \( F_\lambda(X, CP^n_0) \). Since \( CP^n_0 \) is the mapping fibre of \( k = \iota_{2}^n : K(Q, 2) \to K(Q, 2n + 2) \), where \( \iota_2 \in H^2(Q, 2; \mathbb{Q}) \) is the characteristic class, \( F_\lambda(X, CP^n_0) \) is the mapping fibre of the map

\[
k : K(H^0(X), 2) = F(X, K(Q, 2)) \to F(X, K(Q, 2n + 2))
\]

obtained by composition with \( k \). Hence \( F_\lambda(X, CP^n_0) \) has a model whose underlying graded algebra is

\[
A_\lambda = S[b] \otimes \bigotimes_{i=2}^{2n+2} L_{i-1}(H_{2n+2-i}(X)),
\]

where \( S[b] = H^*(F_\lambda(X, K(Q, 2)); \mathbb{Q}) \) is the symmetric algebra generated by an element \( b \) of degree 2. The differential \( d \) and \( A_\lambda \) is given by \( db = 0 \) and

\[
\forall v \in H_{2n+2-i}(X) : dv = k^*_i(v),
\]

where

\[
k = \prod_{i=2}^{2n+2} k_i : F_\lambda(X, K(Q, 2)) \to F(X, K(Q, 2n + 2)) = \prod_{i=2}^{2n+2} K(H^{2n+2-i}(X), i)
\]

and

\[
k^*_i : H_{2n+2-i}(X) = H^i(H^{2n+2-i}(X), i; \mathbb{Q}) \to H^i(F_\lambda(X, K(Q, 2)))
\]

is the map induced on cohomology.

As in the previous section, we now offer a more explicit expression for the model \( A_\lambda \). To \( \lambda \in H^2(X) \) we associate its height, \( h(\lambda) \), defined by

\[
h(\lambda) = \begin{cases} \max\{i > 0 | \lambda^i \neq 0\} & \text{if } \lambda \neq 0, \\ 0 & \text{if } \lambda = 0. \end{cases}
\]

Choose a vector space basis \( \{a_{ij} | j \in J_i\} \) for \( H^i(X), \ 2 \leq i \leq 2n, \ J_i = \{j | 1 \leq j \leq \beta_i\} \), such that \( a_{2i,1} = \lambda^i \) when \( 1 \leq i \leq h(\lambda) \). Let

\[
\{v_{2n+1-i,j} \} \subset \text{Hom}(H^i(X), \mathbb{Q}) = H^i(X) \subset L_{2n+1-i}(H^i(X))
\]

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be the dual basis to \( \{ a_{ij} \} \subset H^i(X), \ 2 \leq i \leq 2n \), and let

\[ v_{2n+1} \in \text{Hom}(H^0(X), \mathbb{Q}) = H_0(X) \subset L_{2n+1}(H_0(X)) \]

be the generator dual to \( 1 \in H^0(X) \). Then the set

\[ \{ v_{2n+1-i,j} | 2 \leq i \leq 2n, \ j \in J_i \} \cup \{ v_{2n+1} \} \]

generates the graded algebra \( \bigotimes_{i=2}^{2n+2} L_{i-1}(H_{2n+2-i}(X)) \).

The evaluation map \( e_{\lambda}: F_\lambda(X, K(\mathbb{Q}, 2)) \times X \to K(\mathbb{Q}, 2) \) is given by (see [4, 11])

\[ e_{\lambda}(\iota_2) = 1 \otimes \lambda + b \otimes 1 \in B \otimes H^*(X). \]

Thus the adjoint \( K_\lambda = k \circ e_{\lambda}: F_\lambda(X, K(\mathbb{Q}, 2)) \times X \to K(\mathbb{Q}, 2n+2) \) of \( k \) satisfies

\[ K_\lambda(\iota_{2n+2}) = e_{\lambda}(\iota_2)^n+1 = \sum_{i=0}^{h(\lambda)} \binom{n+1}{i} b^{n+1-i} \otimes \lambda^i. \]

This means [4, 1.2] that

\[ k^*_\lambda(2m+2-2i) = \binom{n+1}{i} b^{n+1-i}, \quad 0 < i \leq h(\lambda), \]

\[ k^*_\lambda(2n+2) = (n+1)b^{n+1}. \]

A model \( A_\lambda \) for \( F_\lambda(X, \mathbb{C}P^n(0)) \) may be constructed as the commutative graded algebra freely generated by the set

\[ S = \{ b \} \cup \{ v_{2n+1-i,j} | 2 \leq i \leq 2n, \ j \in J_i \} \cup \{ v_{2n+1} \} \]

together with the differential \( d: A_\lambda \to A_\lambda \) given by

\[ ds = \begin{cases} 
    b^{n+1-i} & \text{if } s = v_{2n+1-2i,1}, \ 1 \leq i \leq h(\lambda), \\
    b^{n+1} & \text{if } s = v_{2n+1}, \\
    0 & \text{otherwise},
\end{cases} \]

for any \( s \in S \). Remark that the binomial coefficients can be omitted by appropriate choice of the \( v_{i,j} \). Then \( (A_\lambda, d) \) is a minimal nilpotent DGA when \( h(\lambda) < n \). \( (A_\lambda, d) \) is not minimal when \( h(\lambda) = n \), but one easily sees that the algebra \( m_\lambda \) freely generated by \( S \setminus \{ b, v_{1,1} \} \) and equipped with trivial differential may serve as a minimal model in this case.

We collect the preceding remarks in

**Proposition 3.1.** The minimal model for the component \( F_\lambda(X, \mathbb{C}P^n(0)) \) is \( (A_\lambda, d) \) if \( h(\lambda) < n \), and \( (m_\lambda, d = 0) \) if \( h(\lambda) = n \).

An immediate consequence is the following solution to the rational homotopy classification problem for the components of \( F(X, \mathbb{C}P^n) \).

**Theorem 3.2.** Let \( X \) be a connected and rationally \((2n+1)\)-coconnected space of finite type with first Betti number \( \beta_1(X) = 0 \). Then

\[ F_\lambda(X, \mathbb{C}P^n(0)) \simeq_{\mathbb{Q}} F_\mu(X, \mathbb{C}P^n(0)) \iff h(\lambda) = h(\mu) \]

for any pair of cohomology classes \( \lambda, \mu \in H^2(X) \).

Using [9, Theorem B], Theorem 3.2 can also be interpreted as a statement on the rational homotopy types represented by the components of the space \( F(X, \mathbb{C}P^n) \) of maps of \( X \) into the unrationlized projective space \( \mathbb{C}P^n \).
Corollary 3.3. Let $X$ be as in Theorem 3.2 and let $f, g: X \to \mathbb{CP}^n$ be two maps of $X$ into $\mathbb{CP}^n$. Then $F_f(X, \mathbb{CP}^n) \simeq \mathbb{Q} F_g(X, \mathbb{CP}^n) \Leftrightarrow h(f^*c_1) = h(g^*c_1)$, where $c_1 \in H^2(\mathbb{CP}^n; \mathbb{Q})$ is the first rational Chern class.

The integral homotopy types represented by the components of $F(X, \mathbb{CP}^m)$ have been studied in [1, 10, 11] for some special domain spaces $X$.

We now conclude this paper by a few examples of the applications of the results in this section.

Example 3.4. (1) For $1 \leq m \leq n$, let $M_f(m, n)$ denote the minimal model for the component $F_f(\mathbb{CP}^m, \mathbb{CP}^n)$ containing the map $f: \mathbb{CP}^m \to \mathbb{CP}^n$ between complex projective spaces. Let $\deg f \in \mathbb{Z}$ denote the degree of $f$; i.e. $\deg f = f_*(1)$, where $f_*: \mathbb{Z} = H_2(\mathbb{CP}^m; \mathbb{Z}) \to \mathbb{Z} = H_2(\mathbb{CP}^n; \mathbb{Z})$ is the homomorphism induced on integral homology. Then

$$
M_f(m, n) = \begin{cases} 
(A(m, n), d_0), & 1 \leq m \leq n, \deg f = 0, \\
(A(m, n), d_1), & 1 \leq m < n, \deg f \neq 0, \\
(E, d = 0), & 1 \leq m = n, \deg f \neq 0.
\end{cases}
$$

Here,

$$
A(m, n) = S[b] \otimes E(v_{2n-2m+1}, v_{2n-2m+3}, \ldots, v_{2n-1}, v_{2n+1}),
$$

$$
d_0b = 0, \quad d_0v_{2n-2m+1} = d_0v_{2n-2m+3} = \cdots = d_0v_{2n-1} = 0, \quad d_0v_{2n+1} = b^{n+1},
$$

$$
d_1b = 0, \quad d_1v_{2n-2m+1} = b^{n-m+1}, \quad d_1v_{2n-2m+3} = b^{n-m+2}, \ldots, \quad d_1v_{2n+1} = b^{n+1},
$$

and $E$ is the exterior algebra $E = E(v_3, v_5, \ldots, v_{2n+1})$.

Thus the countably infinitely many integral homotopy types [1, 10] represented by the components of $F(\mathbb{CP}^m, \mathbb{CP}^n)$ localize to only two distinct rational homotopy types, $F_0(\mathbb{CP}^m, \mathbb{CP}^n)$ and $F_i(\mathbb{CP}^m, \mathbb{CP}^n)$, $i: \mathbb{CP}^m \to \mathbb{CP}^n$ the inclusion map. For $m = n$ we get in particular

$$
F_0(\mathbb{CP}^n, \mathbb{CP}^n) \simeq \mathbb{Q} S^1 \times S^3 \times S^5 \times \cdots \times S^{2n-1} \times \mathbb{CP}^n,
$$

$$
F_i(\mathbb{CP}^n, \mathbb{CP}^n) \simeq \mathbb{Q} S^3 \times S^5 \times \cdots \times S^{2n-1} \times S^{2n+1}.
$$

By [13, Theorem 1.1(a)], the result for the component of the inclusion can also be interpreted as the determination of the rational homotopy type of a certain quotient space of the unitary group $U(n + 1)$.

(2) It is obvious that the applied technique works just as well when the target space is quaternionic projective $n$-space $\mathbb{HP}^n$. By analogy with the preceding example we get in particular the rational homotopy equivalences

$$
F_0(\mathbb{HP}^n, \mathbb{HP}^n) \simeq \mathbb{Q} S^3 \times S^7 \times S^{11} \times \cdots \times S^{4n-1} \times \mathbb{HP}^n,
$$

$$
F_i(\mathbb{HP}^n, \mathbb{HP}^n) \simeq \mathbb{Q} S^7 \times S^{11} \times \cdots \times S^{4n-1} \times S^{4n+3}
$$

for the components of the space $F(\mathbb{HP}^n, \mathbb{HP}^n)$ of self maps on $\mathbb{HP}^n$. The result for the component of the identity improves some results from [19].

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