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Unifying ad hoc Equivariant Cohomology Theories

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Topologia. — *Unifying ad hoc Equivariant Cohomology Theories.*

Nota di MICHAEL J. CELLINI e YUH-CHING CHEN, presentata (*) dal Corrisp. G. FICHERA.

RIASSUNTO. — In questa Nota noi annunciamo la costruzione di una teoria di coomologia su G -insiemi simpliciali che include come caso speciale la teoria di coomologia singolare di Illman. Il concetto della realizzazione geometrica di G -insiemi simpliciali dà allora la teoria di coomologia equivariante cellulare di Walker ed i suoi «classifying spaces».

Equivariant cohomology theories have been constructed by Bredon [B1] [B2], Bröcher [Br1], Illman [I1], [I2], [I3], Lee [L1], and Walker [W1] in different contexts. They can be unified under stack cohomology (cfr. [C1]) defined by derived functors of a limit functor H_G^0 . In this note, we shall announce the construction of a stack cohomology theory on simplicial G -sets which will include Illman's equivariant singular cohomology theory as a special case. This will also provide a simple functorial construction of Illman's theory. Furthermore, the notion of geometrical realization of simplicial G -sets will yield Walker's equivariant cellular cohomology theory and its classifying spaces.

A *simplicial G -set* is a simplicial set K on which a group G acts simplicially. This arises naturally from the singular complex $K = S(X)$ of a topological G -space X . We view K as a small category with simplices as objects and the face operators $d^i: d^i \sigma \rightarrow \sigma$, the degeneracy operators $s^j: \tau \leftarrow s^j \tau$, G -actions $g: \sigma \rightarrow g\sigma$, and their compositions as morphisms and define a *stack* over K as a functor $A: K \rightarrow Ab$ such that $A(s^j)$ is an isomorphism for every s^j . The category Ab^K of all stacks over K has enough injectives. Therefore we can define a *stack cohomology*

$$H_G^*(K; A) = R^* H_G^0(K; A), \quad \text{where } H_G^0(K; A) = \lim A.$$

Let $H_G^*(K; A)$ be the cohomology defined as usual via an equivariant cochain complex. Then by a standard theorem in [G1], one shows

THEOREM 1. $H_G^*(K; A) \approx H_G^*(K; A)$ for every $A \in Ab^K$. As a consequence, Illman's cohomology of a topological G -space with a system of coefficients l is a stack cohomology once one realizes that the system l is in fact a specially chosen stack over $K = S(X)$.

(*) Nella seduta del 13 dicembre 1975.

Given any stack A over K extending techniques used in [C1] one shows

THEOREM 2. H_G^* defines a unique equivariant cohomology theory (with coefficients in A) on the category of pairs of simplicial G -sets over K satisfying all Eilenberg-Steenrod-Milnor axioms.

The dimension axiom of this theory is modelled in a form to include the case when A is a general “variable” coefficient system. When K is a point, A is a local system and H_G^* gives Illman’s unique theory and therefore other theories mentioned above except Walker’s theory which is a “geometrical realization” of H_G^* to be discussed in the next paragraph.

The first author has shown that the geometrical realization of K as he defined is an equivariant CW-complex in Walker’s sense [W1]. Since the cellular theory is equivalent to the singular theory (see [W1], it is essentially a stack cohomology. Moreover, the geometrical realization of generalized (equivariant) Eilenberg-MacLane complexes gives rise to Walker’s classifying spaces. The above results will be presented in detail elsewhere.

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