

ON THE MAPPING THEOREM FOR LUSTERNIK-SCHNIRELMANN CATEGORY II

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0. Introduction. Let X and Y be 1-connected spaces having the homotopy type of cw-complexes.

Definition 0.1. A continuous map $f: X \rightarrow Y$ is Ω -split if $\Omega f: \Omega X \rightarrow \Omega Y$ admits a retraction up to homotopy.

In [6] we prove the following “mapping theorem”:

THEOREM 0.1. (a) *If f is Ω -split, then $\text{cat}(X) \cong \text{cat}(Y)$;*
(b) *If $\pi_*(f)$ is split injective and ΩY has the homotopy type of a product of Eilenberg-MacLane spaces, then f is Ω -split.*

This result applies to the case when X and Y are rational or tame spaces because the loop space of such a space has the homotopy type of a weak product of Eilenberg-MacLane spaces: actually the proof of this statement in the tame case given in [6] is incomplete and we therefore give another one in an appendix to this paper.

Other examples of Ω -split maps have been given by H. Scheerer [9], who kindly pointed out that our argument for tame spaces did not suffice.

Also in [6] we define the T^r -category of a space as either the category of its “ r -taming” or as the infimum of the categories of all spaces having the same tame homotopy type. Unfortunately these two definitions are not equivalent: for instance the three-sphere has category 1 while its 3-taming (which by definition has the same tame homotopy type!) is $K(\mathbf{Z}, 3)$ whose category is infinite. Indeed the category of a non contractible tame space “of finite type” is always infinite (Theorem 2.1 below). This justifies a new treatment of the tame case, which constitutes the first part of this paper; in the second we discuss an extension of the mapping theorem to non-simply connected spaces.

1. L.-S.-category of tame spaces. Let us first recall a few definitions. Denote R_k the ring $\mathbf{Z}[1/2, \dots, 1/l]$ with $l = [(k + 3)/2]$. Let r be an integer ≥ 3 . A map $f: X \rightarrow Y$ between $(r - 1)$ -connected spaces is called an *r -tame equivalence* if and only if $\pi_{r+k}(f) \otimes R_k$ is an isomorphism for all k . An $(r - 1)$ -connected space X is called *r -tame* if $\pi_{r+k}(X)$ is a R_k -module

Received September 24, 1987 and in revised form May 10, 1988. The research of the first author is supported by FNRS, and the second by CNRS. This research project was partially supported by a NATO grant.

for all k . A space X is called *of finite tame type*, or for short a *f.t.t. space*, if $\pi_{r+k}(X) \otimes R_k$ is a finitely generated R_k -module for each k . We assume once and for all that all spaces we consider have the homotopy type of cw-complexes and have a non-degenerate base-point when needed.

Every $(r - 1)$ -connected space X (of finite type) admits an “ r -taming” $\alpha: X \rightarrow X_T^{(r)}$ (of finite tame type) unique up to homotopy equivalence [3], and a map is an r -tame equivalence if and only if its r -taming is a homotopy equivalence.

Let $A_q(X; R_k)$ denote the cokernel of the Hurewicz map

$$h_q: \pi_q(X) \otimes R_k \rightarrow H_q(X; R_k);$$

the following proposition gives a useful criterion for r -tame equivalences:

PROPOSITION 1.1 [Berlin]. *Let $f: X \rightarrow Y$ be a map between $(r - 1)$ -connected f.t.t. spaces; then the following statements are equivalent:*

- (a) f is an r -tame equivalence.
- (b) For all $k \geq 0$,

$$H_{r+k}(X; R_k) \rightarrow H_{r+k}(Y; R_k)$$

is an isomorphism and

$$A_{r+k+1}(X; R_k) \rightarrow A_{r+k+1}(Y; R_k)$$

is surjective.

If moreover X is an r -tame space, (a) is equivalent to

- (c) For all $k \geq 0$ and finitely generated R_k -modules \mathcal{W}_k , the map

$$H^{r+k}(Y; \mathcal{W}_k) \rightarrow H^{r+k}(X; \mathcal{W}_k)$$

is an isomorphism and the map

$$H^{r+k+1}(Y; \mathcal{T}_k) \rightarrow H^{r+k+1}(X; \mathcal{T}_k)$$

is injective for all finite P_k -torsion modules \mathcal{T}_k , where P_k is the set of primes p such that $1/p \in R_{k+1} \setminus R_k$.

The loop space on an r -connected r -tame f.t.t. space has the homotopy type of a weak product of Eilenberg-MacLane spaces (see the Appendix), thus Theorem 0.1 above implies the following

PROPOSITION 1.2. *Let X and Y be r -connected spaces and let $f: X \rightarrow Y$ be a map such that $\pi_*(f)$ is split injective. If Y is r -tame of finite tame type, then $\text{cat}(X) \leq \text{cat}(Y)$.*

We use this result to show that ordinary L.-S.-category is irrelevant for tame spaces of finite tame type:

THEOREM 1.3. *Every non-contractible r -connected r -tame f.t.t. space type has infinite category.*

Proof. Let X be such a space; since it is both non-contractible and r -tame of finite tame type, we can choose a prime p and an integer $n < 2p - 3$ such that:

- (1) for all $m > n$, $\pi_{r+m}(X)$ is p -divisible
- (2) $\pi_{r+n}(X)$ contains a summand isomorphic to R_n or $\mathbf{Z}/p^s\mathbf{Z}$ for some s .

Let us denote $X\langle t \rangle$ the t -connected Postnikov fibre of X as usual. Since $\pi_*(X\langle r + n \rangle)$ is p -divisible,

$$H^+(X\langle r + m \rangle; \mathbf{Z}/p\mathbf{Z}) = 0,$$

and therefore

$$H^*(X\langle r + n - 1 \rangle; \mathbf{Z}/p\mathbf{Z}) \cong H^*(K(\pi_{r+n}(X), r + n); \mathbf{Z}/p\mathbf{Z})$$

by the Serre spectral sequence, and the latter has infinite cup-length. Thus $\text{cat}(X\langle r + n - 1 \rangle) = \infty$ and by 1.1, $\text{cat}(X) = \infty$.

We now introduce a new definition for the “tame” category for which we can prove a mapping theorem.

Let X be a space and Y be a subspace of X . Let

$$T^{n+1}(X, Y) = \{ (x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n) \in X^{n+1}; \exists i \in \{0, \dots, n\}, x_i \in Y \}.$$

Then $T^n(X) = T^n(X, *)$ is the usual fat wedge; let us recall that $\text{cat}(X) < n$ if and only if the n -fold diagonal $X \rightarrow X^n$ factors through $T^n(X)$ up to homotopy. Let us also observe that while the r -taming commutes with products, it does not commute with wedges or fat wedges.

Definition 1.4. The r -tame category $\text{Tcat}^{(r)}(X)$ of an $(r - 1)$ -connected space X is the least integer n (or ∞ if there is no such integer) such that the r -taming of the diagonal map

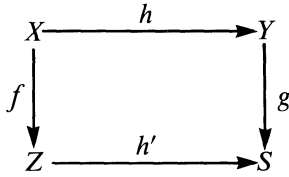
$$X_T^{(r)} \rightarrow (X^{n+1})_T^{(r)} = (X_T^{(r)})^{n+1}$$

factors through the r -taming of the inclusion of the fat wedge

$$\gamma: (T^{n+1}X)_T^{(r)} \rightarrow (X^{n+1})_T^{(r)}.$$

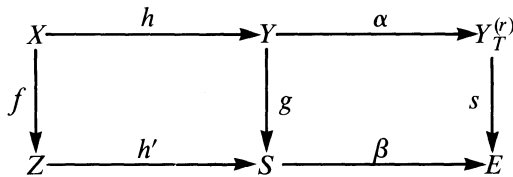
One of course expects that r -tame category is invariant under r -tame equivalences; we first show that r -tame equivalences behave well with respect to cofibrations: actually, this essentially amounts to saying that the category of r -connected f.t.t. spaces, together with the usual cofibrations as “cofibrations” and the r -tame equivalences as “weak equivalences”, make up a cofibration category in the sense of H. J. Baues (cf. [Berlin], Ch. I, or Baues’s forthcoming book); since this is not the cofibration category explicitly considered in [3] or [Berlin], but the subcategory of fibrant objects (namely the r -tame spaces), we include a proof of this lemma.

LEMMA 1.5. *Let*



be a pushout square, in which X, Y, Z are f.t.t. spaces, h is a cofibration and f is an r -tame equivalence. Then q is an r -tame equivalence.

Proof. If Y is r -tame the lemma follows from Proposition 1.1 (c) and diagram chasing in the cohomology exact sequences of the cofibrations h and h' . If Y is not r -tame, we consider the pushout of g and the r -taming α of Y :



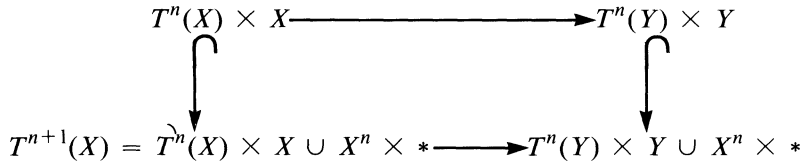
Since $Y_T^{(r)}$ is r -tame and the composite of the two squares is a pushout, s is an r -tame equivalence; Proposition 1.1 (b) and diagram chasing in the homology exact sequences of α and β show that β is an r -tame equivalence, and so is g .

PROPOSITION 1.6. *If $f: X \rightarrow Y$ is an r -tame equivalence between $(r - 1)$ -connected f.t.t. spaces, then so is the induced map $T^n(f): T^n(X) \rightarrow T^n(Y)$ between the fat wedges.*

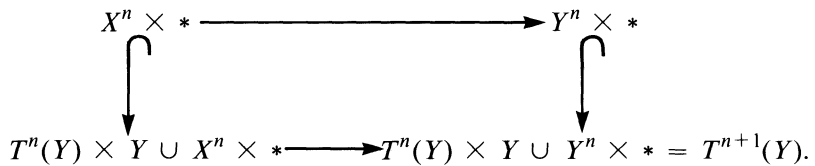
Proof. This should be a standard result in any cofibration category. The proposition is trivial for $n = 1$, and for $n \geq 1$ one has

$$T^{n+1}(X) = (T^n(X) \times X) \cup (X^n \times *);$$

we may assume that f is a closed cofibration, and the induction step follows from Lemma 1.5 applied to the following pushout diagrams:



and



COROLLARY 1.7. *Within f.t.t. spaces, r -tame category is invariant under r -tame equivalences and one has:*

$$\text{cat}(X_0) \cong \text{Tcat}^{(r-1)}(X) \cong \text{Tcat}^{(r)}(X) \cong \text{cat}(X)$$

where X_0 is the rationalization of X .

We can now state and prove a mapping theorem for r -tame category:

THEOREM 1.8. *If $f: X \rightarrow Y$ is a continuous map between r -connected f.t.t. spaces ($r \geq 3$) such that $\pi_{r+k}(f) \otimes R_k$ is split injective for all $k \geq 0$, then*

$$\text{Tcat}^{(r)}(X) \cong \text{Tcat}^{(r)}(Y).$$

Proof. We may assume that f is a fibration and that the spaces X and Y are r -tame. Let F be the fibre of f . Let us consider the following diagram, in which the squares are pullbacks:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} F^{n+1} & = & F^{n+1} & = & F^{n+1} \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow i^{n+1} \\ T^{n+1}(X, F) & \xrightarrow{\alpha'} & E & \xrightarrow{\quad} & X^{n+1} \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ T^{n+1}(Y) & \xrightarrow{\alpha} & (T^{n+1}(Y))_T^{(r)} & \xrightarrow{\quad} & Y^{n+1} \end{array}$$

We first claim that α' is an r -tame equivalence. It is well-known that the inclusion map

$$j: T^{n+1}(Y) \rightarrow Y^{n+1}$$

is (split) surjective on homotopy groups, because Ωj admits a section. Since the exact homotopy sequence splits, the fibre of

$$(j)_T^{(r)}: (T^{n+1}(Y))_T^{(r)} \rightarrow Y^{n+1}$$

is the r -taming of the fibre of j , namely ΩX^{*n+1} , the join of $n + 1$ copies of ΩX . Thus the fibre of the inclusion of $T^{n+1}(X, F)$ into X^{n+1} (resp. of $E \rightarrow X^{n+1}$) is ΩX^{*n+1} (resp. $(\Omega X^{*n+1})_T^{(r)}$). So we have a map of fibrations:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \Omega X^{*n+1} & \longrightarrow & T^{n+1}(X, F) & \longrightarrow & X^{n+1} \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \alpha' & & \downarrow = \\ (\Omega X^{*n+1})_T^{(r)} & \longrightarrow & E & \longrightarrow & X^{n+1} \end{array}$$

in which the left and right vertical maps are r -tame equivalences. We conclude by the five-lemma applied to the homotopy exact ladder after tensoring the upper row by R_k .

Let us now assume that $\text{Tcat}^{(r)}(Y) \leq n$. Since Y is r -tame, the diagonal map $Y \rightarrow Y^{n+1}$ factors through $(T^{n+1}(Y))_T^{(r)}$, and therefore the diagonal map $X \rightarrow X^{n+1}$ factors through the pullback space E , which by the above argument has the r -tame homotopy type of $T^{n+1}(X, F)$. Thus we have got a factorization of the diagonal $X \rightarrow X^{n+1}$ through $(T^{n+1}(X, F))_T^{(r)}$. Now as in Theorem 1.2, f is Ω -split and so $i: F \rightarrow X$ is null-homotopic. Since we have assumed non-degenerate base-points, i is a cofibration by Strøm's lemma ([10], [1] (0.17) B), and there exists $\varphi: X \rightarrow X$ which is homotopic to the identity and such that $\varphi(F) = *$. Then

$$\Phi = \varphi^{n+1}: X^{n+1} \rightarrow X^{n+1}$$

is homotopic to the identity and satisfies

$$\Phi(T^{n+1}(X, F)) \subset T^{n+1}(X).$$

Applying the r -taming again yields a factorization of the diagonal $X \rightarrow X^{n+1}$ through $(T^{n+1}(X))_T^{(r)}$ and completes the proof.

We conclude this section with a question:

Question: Is the r -tame category of a space X always equal to the actual category of some space r -tame equivalent to X ?

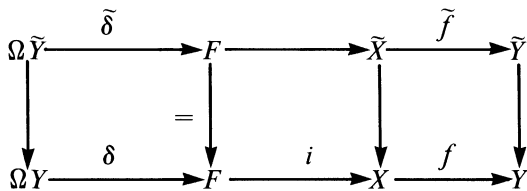
2. Non simply-connected spaces. We begin with a rather immediate generalization of Theorem 0.1 to non simply-connected spaces:

THEOREM 2.1. *Let $f: X \rightarrow Y$ be a continuous map between connected pointed spaces having the homotopy type of cw-complexes, such that:*

- (1) $\pi_1(f)$ is injective
- (2) the universal cover $\tilde{f}: \tilde{X} \rightarrow \tilde{Y}$ of f is Ω -split

then $\text{cat}(X) \leq \text{cat}(Y)$.

Proof. If $\pi_1(f)$ is an isomorphism, one has the following commutative diagram:



Since \tilde{f} is Ω -split, $\tilde{\delta}$ admits a section up to homotopy and so does δ : therefore i is null-homotopic and $\text{cat}(X) \leq \text{cat}(Y)$ by Lemma 2 of [6]. If $\pi_1(f)$ is injective, let $p: Y' \rightarrow Y$ be the covering space which corresponds to the subgroup $\pi_1(f)(\pi_1(X))$ of $\pi_1(Y)$. The map f factors as $f = p \circ g$ where $g: X \rightarrow Y'$ induces an isomorphism on π_1 ; since p is a covering space one has $\text{cat}(Y') \leq \text{cat}(Y)$, and since $\pi_1(g)$ is an isomorphism and $\tilde{f} = \tilde{g}$, one has $\text{cat}(X) \leq \text{cat}(Y')$.

Following Henn [7] we shall say that a space is almost rational if its universal cover is a rational space; from Theorem 2 we readily deduce:

COROLLARY 2.2. *Let X and Y be almost rational spaces and $f: X \rightarrow Y$ be a map such that $\pi_*(f)$ is injective; then $\text{cat}(X) \cong \text{cat}(Y)$.*

Remark 2.3. As in the 1-connected case, an almost rational associative H -space of finite type G has the homotopy type of a (weak) product of Eilenberg-MacLane spaces: indeed the Hurewicz map $\pi_*(G) \rightarrow H_*(G; \mathbf{Q})$ is injective in degrees ≥ 2 by the Milnor-Moore theorem. Therefore $H^*(G; \mathbf{Q}) \rightarrow H^*(\tilde{G}; \mathbf{Q})$ is surjective, and since \tilde{G} is a product of Eilenberg-MacLane spaces, $p: \tilde{G} \rightarrow G$ admits a homotopy retraction σ and

$$(\sigma, k_1): G \rightarrow \tilde{G} \times K(\pi_1(G), 1)$$

is a homotopy equivalence. This result is dual to Henn's, who showed that an almost rational co- H -space has the homotopy type of a wedge of circles and rational spheres of dimension ≥ 2 .

We now observe that the finiteness of the category of an almost rational space imposes a strong restriction on its fundamental group.

PROPOSITION 2.4. *The fundamental group of an almost rational space of finite category is torsion-free (i.e. contains no element $\neq 1$ of finite order).*

Proof. Let X be an almost rational space of finite category and let \tilde{X} be its universal cover, which is a rational space. If $\pi_1(X)$ is not torsion-free, it contains a cyclic group C_p of prime order p ; let Y be the covering space of X such that $\pi_1(Y) = C_p$. The space Y is almost rational with universal cover \tilde{X} . Since $H^+(\tilde{X}; \mathbf{Z}/p\mathbf{Z}) = 0$, the spectral sequence of the fibration

$$\tilde{X} \rightarrow Y \rightarrow K(C_p, 1)$$

shows that

$$H^*(Y, \mathbf{Z}/p\mathbf{Z}) \cong H^*(C_p; \mathbf{Z}/p\mathbf{Z}) \supset \mathbf{Z}/p\mathbf{Z}[\beta u_1].$$

Therefore $\text{cat}(Y)$ is infinite, and so is $\text{cat}(X)$ since Y is a covering space of X .

In the particular case of $K(\pi, 1)$'s, this result is a consequence of the fact that

$$\text{cat}(K(\pi, 1)) = \text{coh.dim}(\pi) \quad [4].$$

As in the 1-connected case again, we can use the mapping theorem to obtain some results on the Gottlieb groups of an almost rational space of finite category. Recall that the Gottlieb subgroup $G_p(X)$ of $\pi_p(X)$ is the set of classes of maps $g: S^p \rightarrow X$ such that $g \vee X: S^p \vee X \rightarrow X$ extends to $S^p \times X$. In particular a Gottlieb element is central for the Whitehead product.

PROPOSITION 2.5. *Let X be an almost rational space of category $\leq m$. Then the Gottlieb subgroup $G_1(X)$ of $\pi_1(X)$ is a torsion free abelian group of finite rank r , and one has*

$$r + \sum_{k>0} \dim_{\mathbf{Q}} G_{2k+1}(X) \leq m.$$

Moreover, one has $G_{2k}(X) = 0$ for all $k \geq 1$.

Proof (cf [5, 8]). Clearly $G_1(X)$ is abelian. Let $g_1, g_2, \dots, g_s: S^1 \rightarrow X$ represent \mathbf{Z} -independent elements in $G_1(X)$, and g_{s+1}, \dots, g_t , with $g_j: S^{n_j} \rightarrow X$, represent \mathbf{Q} -linearly independent elements in $G_{>1}(X)$. They define a map

$$g: S^1 \vee \dots \vee S^1 \vee (S^{n_s} + 1)_0 \vee \dots \vee (S^{n_t})_0 \rightarrow X$$

(where $S^{n_j}_0$ are rational odd spheres) which extends to the product of the s circles and the $t - s$ rational spheres, which is an almost rational space; this extension is injective on homotopy groups by construction, and since the category of this product is t , one must have $t \leq m$ by Corollary 2.2. The second statement is proven as in [5].

Remark 2.6. For any connected cw-complex X of category m or less, since $G_*(X) \subset G_*(\tilde{X})$ and $\text{cat}(\tilde{X}_0) \leq \text{cat}(\tilde{X}) \leq \text{cat}(X)$, one has

$$\sum_{k \geq 1} \dim_{\mathbf{Q}} G_{2k+1}(X) \otimes \mathbf{Q} \leq m \quad \text{and} \quad \forall k \geq 1, \quad G_{2k}(X) \otimes \mathbf{Q} = 0.$$

However, in contrast with the simply connected case, the first inequality in Proposition 2.5 does not obviously extend to non almost rational spaces because category does not behave well under ‘almost-rationalization’: the latter is obtained by fibrewise localization of the universal cover fibration

$$\tilde{X} \rightarrow X \rightarrow K(\pi_1(X), 1)$$

into

$$\tilde{X}_0 \rightarrow X_0 \rightarrow K(\pi_1(X), 1).$$

Unfortunately Proposition 2.4 above shows that one cannot have $\text{cat}(X_0) \leq \text{cat}(X)$ in general: indeed for instance $\text{cat}(\mathbf{RP}(2)) = 2$ while the argument in the proof of Proposition 1 shows that $\text{cat}(\mathbf{RP}(2)_0) = \infty$.

Thus we do not know whether the full inequality

$$\sum_{k \geq 0} \dim_{\mathbf{Q}} G_{2k+1}(X) \otimes \mathbf{Q} \leq \text{cat}(X)$$

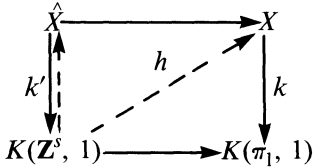
holds; we only can show:

PROPOSITION 2.7. *For any connected cw-complex of finite category m , one has*

$$\text{rank}(G_1(X)) \leq m$$

(and hence $\sum_{k \geq 0} \dim_{\mathbf{Q}} G_{2k+1}(X) \otimes \mathbf{Q} \leq 2m$).

Proof. Let $g_1, g_2, \dots, g_s: S^1 \rightarrow X$ represent \mathbf{Z} -independent elements in $G_1(X)$ as above, and let $h: (S^1)^n \rightarrow X$ be the extension of the map from the wedge of circles defined by the g_i 's. Let \hat{X} be the covering space of X corresponding to $\mathbf{Z}^s \subset G_1(X) \subset \pi_1(X)$. In the fibre square:



the projection k' has a section. Therefore $s = \text{cat}(K(\mathbf{Z}^s, 1)) \leq \text{cat}(\hat{X}) \leq \text{cat}(X) = m$.

Appendix. Let $T_*(r)$ be the ring system defined by $T_{r+k}(r) = R_k$ for all $k \geq 0$. In [3], W. Dwyer has extended Quillen's theory to obtain an equivalence of homotopy categories between the homotopy category $\mathcal{S}(r, T_*(r))$ of r -reduced r -tame spaces and the homotopy category $\text{DGL}(r - 1, T_*(r))$ of "tame" $(r - 1)$ -reduced differential graded Lie algebras: let us denote

$$\lambda: \mathcal{S}(r, T_*(r)) \rightarrow \text{DGL}(r - 1, T_*(r))$$

this equivalence and μ its quasi-inverse.

PROPOSITION A.1. *Let X be an r -connected r -tame space of finite type; then ΩX has the homotopy type of a weak product of Eilenberg-MacLane spaces.*

Proof. Let $(L, d) = \lambda(X)$. L is a chain Lie \mathbf{Z} -algebra whose homology is of finite type over the ring system $T_*(r)$. Let us consider the short exact sequence of chain Lie algebras:

$$0 \rightarrow (s^{-1}L, D) \rightarrow (s^{-1}L \oplus L, D) \rightarrow (L, d) \rightarrow 0$$

with $(s^{-1}L)_n = L_{n+1}$

$$\forall l \in L, \quad Dl = dl + s^{-1}l \quad [s^{-1}l, l'] = 2^{-1}s^{-1}[l, l']$$

$$Ds^{-1}l = -s^{-1}dl \quad [s^{-1}l, s^{-1}l'] = 0.$$

One easily checks that $(s^{-1}L \oplus L, D)$ is acyclic. The above exact sequence is a fibration in $\text{DGL}(r - 1, T_*(r))$ whose image under μ is a fibration in $\mathcal{S}(r, T_*(r))$ the total space of which is contractible. Therefore $(s^{-1}L, D)$ is equivalent in $\text{Ho DGL}(r - 1, T_*(r))$ to $\lambda(\Omega X)$.

Since $s^{-1}L$ is an abelian Lie algebra, i.e., a \mathbf{Z} -complex, whose homology is of finite type over the principal ring system $s^{-1}T_*(r)$, there exist quasi-isomorphisms:

$$(s^{-1}L, D) \xleftarrow{\sim} C_* \xrightarrow{\sim} H_*(s^{-1}L, D) \cong \bigoplus A_i$$

where C_* is $s^{-1}T_*(r)$ -free and A_i is the abelian Lie algebra which consists of the group A_i concentrated in degree i , endowed with the zero differential. Clearly enough

$$\mu(A_i) \simeq K(A_i, i) \quad \text{and} \quad \mu\left(\bigoplus A_i\right) \simeq \lim_{\substack{\rightarrow \\ n}} \prod_{i=r}^n K(A_i, i) \xrightarrow{\sim} \Omega X.$$

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