Topics in Equivariant Cohomology

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# Contents

Abstract v

Signed Statement vii

Acknowledgements ix

1 Introduction 1

2 Classical Equivariant Cohomology 7
   2.1 Topological Equivariant Cohomology 7
      2.1.1 Group Actions 7
      2.1.2 The Borel Construction 9
      2.1.3 Principal Bundles and the Classifying Space 11
   2.2 The Geometry of Principal Bundles 20
      2.2.1 The Action of a Lie Algebra 20
      2.2.2 Connections and Curvature 21
      2.2.3 Basic Differential Forms 26
   2.3 Equivariant de Rham Theory 28
      2.3.1 The Weil Algebra 28
      2.3.2 The Weil Model 34
      2.3.3 The Chern-Weil Homomorphism 35
      2.3.4 The Mathai-Quillen Isomorphism 36
      2.3.5 The Cartan Model 37

3 Simplicial Methods 39
   3.1 Simplicial and Cosimplicial Objects 39
      3.1.1 The Simplicial Category 39
      3.1.2 Cosimplicial Objects 41
      3.1.3 Simplicial Objects 43
      3.1.4 The Nerve of a Category 47
      3.1.5 Geometric Realisation 49
3.2 A Simplicial Construction of the Universal Bundle ........................................... 53
3.2.1 Basic Properties of $|N\mathbb{G}|$ ................................................................. 53
3.2.2 Principal Bundles and Local Trivialisations .................................................. 56
3.2.3 The Homotopy Extension Property and NDR Pairs ....................................... 57
3.2.4 Constructing Local Sections ................................................................. 61

4 Simplicial Equivariant de Rham Theory ............................................................... 65
4.1 Dupont’s Simplicial de Rham Theorem ............................................................ 65
4.1.1 The Double Complex of a Simplicial Space ............................................... 65
4.1.2 Geometric Realisation of a Simplicial Manifold ......................................... 68
4.1.3 Simplicial Differential Forms ................................................................. 70
4.2 Simplicial Chern-Weil Theory ................................................................. 72
4.2.1 Basic Simplicial Differential Forms ......................................................... 72
4.2.2 Simplicial Connections and Curvature ...................................................... 74
4.2.3 The Simplicial Chern-Weil Homomorphism ............................................. 76
4.3 An Analogue of the Weil Model ................................................................. 80
4.3.1 $G^*$ Algebras ......................................................................................... 80
4.3.2 The Cohomology of a $G^*$ Algebra ...................................................... 84
4.3.3 The Cartan Model for $G^*$ Algebras ...................................................... 85
4.4 Simplicial Equivariant Cohomology and Cartan’s Theorem ............................. 86
4.4.1 Constructing a $G^*$ Homomorphism ...................................................... 86
4.4.2 Cartan’s Theorem via Simplicial Differential Forms .................................. 89
4.4.3 The Weil Model via Simplicial Differential Forms .................................... 96

Bibliography ........................................................................................................ 99
Abstract

The equivariant cohomology of a manifold $M$ acted upon by a compact Lie group $G$ is defined to be the singular cohomology groups of the topological space

$$(M \times EG)/G.$$ 

It is well known that the equivariant cohomology of $M$ is parametrised by the Cartan model of equivariant differential forms. However, this model has no obvious geometric interpretation – partly because the expression above is not a manifold in general. Work in the 70s by Segal, Bott and Dupont indicated that this space can be constructed as the geometric realisation of a simplicial manifold that is naturally built out of $M$ and $G$. This simplicial manifold carries a complex of so-called simplicial differential forms which gives a much more natural geometric interpretation of differential forms on the topological space $(M \times EG)/G$.

This thesis provides a model for the equivariant cohomology of a manifold in terms of this complex of simplicial differential forms. Explicit chain maps are constructed, inducing isomorphisms on cohomology, between this complex of simplicial differential forms and the more standard models of equivariant cohomology, namely the Cartan and Weil models.
Signed Statement

I certify that this work contains no material which has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma in my name in any university or other tertiary institution and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, contains no material previously published or written by another person, except where due reference has been made in the text. In addition, I certify that no part of this work will, in the future, be used in a submission in my name for any other degree or diploma in any university or other tertiary institution without the prior approval of the University of Adelaide and where applicable, any partner institution responsible for the joint award of this degree.

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DATE: 08/02/17
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