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Objekttyp: Article

Zeitschrift: Commentarii Mathematici Helvetici

Band (Jahr): 42 (1967)

PDF erstellt am: **15.08.2024**

Persistenter Link: https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-32136

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The Real Cohomology of Differentiable Fibre Bundles

PAUL BAUM¹) and LARRY SMITH²)

Throughout algebraic topology one very often studies fibre bundles $\xi = (E, p, B, G/H, G)$ where G is a compact connected Lie group and $H \subset G$ is a closed connected subgroup, E and B are differentiable manifolds and $p: E \rightarrow B$ is a differentiable map. Typically one tries to compute the cohomology of the total space from a knowledge of the cohomology of the base B, the fibre G/H and some invariant of the bundle. The usual procedure involves calculating with the Serre spectral sequence. However this does not take full advantage of the fact that ξ is a fibre bundle, for we have a classifying diagram

$$G/H = G/H$$

$$\downarrow \qquad \downarrow$$

$$E \rightarrow B_{H}$$

$$\stackrel{p}{\downarrow} \qquad \downarrow^{\varrho}$$

$$B \xrightarrow{f} B_{G}$$

where $\xi(G, H) = (B_H, \varrho, B_G, G/H, G)$ is a universal bundle. Using techniques of EILENBERG and MOORE [8] we shall show

THEOREM: If B is a Riemannian symmetric space [5] and R is the field of real numbers then $H^*(E; R)$ and $\operatorname{Tor}_{H^*(B_G; R)}(H^*(B; R), H^*(B_H; R))$ are isomorphic as algebras.

This extends results of BOREL [3] and CARTAN [6]. BOREL [3] further shows how the map $\varrho^*: H^*(B_G; R) \to H^*(B_H; R)$ can be computed from information on the Weyl groups of G and H.

It is well known [4], [13], [15] that $H^*(B_G; R)$ is a polynomial algebra (over R) on even dimensional generators. Therefore for the above result to be of use we must have available a fairly simple technique for computing $\operatorname{Tor}_A(B, A)$ when Λ is a polynomial algebra. This is the objective of the first section. The second section gives a proof of the above result. The final section gives an example to show that the technical assumption that B is a Riemannian symmetric space is essential.

We shall assume that the reader is familiar with the material of [1] or [8] or [13] or [16]. Our notation will be that of [12].

We wish to thank Prof. J. C. MOORE for many useful discussions.

¹) Partially supported by NSF-GP-2425

²) Partially supported by NSF-GP-4037

1. The Two Sided Koszul Complex

Throughout this section the ground ring will be a fixed field k. \otimes will always mean \otimes_k .

Suppose that

$$\Lambda = P[x_1, ..., x_n].$$

Of course if the characteristic of k is not 2 then of necessity $deg(x_i)$ will be even. Denote by

$$\mu: \Lambda \otimes \Lambda \to \Lambda$$

the multiplication map of Λ . Note that μ is onto.

LEMMA 1.1: ker $\mu = (x_1 \otimes 1 - 1 \otimes x_1, ..., x_n \otimes 1 - 1 \otimes x_n).$ *Proof*: Let $I = (x_1 \otimes 1 - 1 \otimes x_1, ..., x_n \otimes 1 - 1 \otimes x_n).$

Then clearly $I \subset \ker \mu$. Thus there is a natural map of algebras

$$\alpha: \frac{\Lambda \otimes \Lambda}{I} \to \frac{\Lambda \otimes \Lambda}{\ker \mu} = \Lambda.$$

Let $[x_i \otimes 1]$, $[1 \otimes x_j]$ denote $x_i \otimes 1$ and $1 \otimes x_j$ as elements of $\Lambda \otimes \Lambda/I$. Then the monomials in $[x_1 \otimes 1], ..., [x_n \otimes 1], [1 \otimes x_1], ..., [1 \otimes x_n]$ generate $\Lambda \otimes \Lambda/I$ as a k-module. Since $[x_i \otimes 1] = [1 \otimes x_i] i = 1, ..., n$ it follows that the monomials in $[x_1 \otimes 1], ..., [x_n \otimes 1]$ generate $\Lambda \otimes \Lambda/I$ as a k-module.

Next recall that the monomials in $x_1, ..., x_n$ are a k-basis for Λ . Since $\alpha([x_i \otimes 1]) = x_i$, i = 1, ..., n and α is a map of algebras it follows that α maps a k-generating set for $\Lambda \otimes \Lambda/I$ in a one-one-onto fashion to a k-basis for Λ . Hence α must be an isomorphism.

Since everything in sight is of finite type it follows that in each degree I and ker μ have the same dimension (finite) as vector spaces over k. Since $I \subset \ker \mu$ it follows that $I = \ker \mu$. \Box

Now note that $x_1 \otimes 1 - 1 \otimes x_1, ..., x_n \otimes 1 - 1 \otimes x_n$ is an ESP-sequence in $\Lambda \otimes \Lambda$ generating the ideal ker μ . (See [16], also called an *E*-sequence in [1], or an *S*-sequence in [10]). Therefore we have the Koszul complex [1], [10], [12], [16], [18]

$$\mathscr{E}^{2} = \Lambda \otimes E[u_{1}, ..., u_{n}] \otimes \Lambda$$
$$d(a \otimes u_{i} \otimes b) = a x_{i} \otimes 1 \otimes b - a \otimes 1 \otimes x_{i} b, \quad i = 1, ..., n$$
$$d(a \otimes 1 \otimes b) = 0 \quad d \quad \text{a derivation}$$

 \mathscr{E}^2 is given a bigraded structure by requiring that

 $\deg u_i = (-1, \deg x_i), \quad i = 1, ..., n, \deg a = (0, \deg a) \quad \text{all} \quad a \in A.$

We then have [10; 7], [16; § 2.1]

$$H^0(\mathscr{E}^2) = \Lambda \otimes \Lambda/\ker \mu = \Lambda, H^p(\mathscr{E}^2) = 0, \quad p \neq 0.$$

Thus \mathscr{E}^2 is a $\Lambda \otimes \Lambda$ resolution of Λ . We will refer to \mathscr{E}^2 as the two sided Koszul complex by analogy with the two sided bar construction.

PROPOSITION 1.2: If A is any Λ -module then $\mathscr{E}^2 \otimes_{\Lambda} A$ is a free resolution of A as a Λ -module.

Proof: Since \mathscr{E}^2 is a free Λ -module we have a spectral sequence (see [12; page 400]) $E^r \Rightarrow H(\mathscr{E}^2 \otimes_A A), E^2 = \operatorname{Tor}_A(H(\mathscr{E}^2), A) = \operatorname{Tor}_A(\Lambda, A) = A$ i.e. $E_{p,*}^2 = 0 \ p \neq 0$ which implies

 $H^0(\mathscr{E}^2 \otimes_A A) = A, H^p(\mathscr{E}^2 \otimes_A A) = 0 \quad p \neq 0.$

Since $\mathscr{E}^2 \otimes_A A$ is obviously a free Λ -module the result follows. \Box

COROLLARY 1.3: If $(B_A, {}_AA)$ is given then

$$\operatorname{Tor}_{A}(B, A) = H(B \otimes E[u_{1}, ..., u_{n}] \otimes A; d)$$
 where

$$d(b \otimes 1 \otimes a) = 0, \quad d(b \otimes u_i \otimes a) = b x_i \otimes 1 \otimes a - b \otimes 1 \otimes x_i a, \\ \deg(u_i) = (-1, \deg x_i). \square$$

ACKNOWLEDGMENT: The existence of the two sided Koszul complex was suggested to us by Prof. J. P. MAY.

We shall have occasion to consider the case where A is a differential Λ -module. In this case we shall need:

PROPOSITION 1.4: If A is a differential Λ -module then $\mathscr{E}^2 \otimes_{\Lambda} A$ is a proper projective resolution ([12], [16]) of A as a differential Λ -module.

Proof: We must show the following

- (i) $\mathscr{E}^2 \otimes_A A$ is a proper projective Λ -module.
- (ii) $\mathscr{E}^2 \otimes_A A$ is a resolution of A.

(iii) If d_A denotes the differential in A then

 $Z_A(\mathscr{E}^2 \otimes_A A)$ is a resolution of Z(A).

$$H_A(\mathscr{E}^2 \otimes_A A)$$
 is a resolution of $H(A)$.

To see (i) observe that $\mathscr{E}^2 \otimes_A A = A \otimes E[u_1, ..., u_n] \otimes A$ as a Λ -module. Since k is a field it follows that $E^2 \otimes_A A$ is a proper projective Λ -module [13], [16]. (MOORE does not use the adjective proper.)

(ii) is just Proposition 1.2.

To obtain (iii) we note that there is a decomposition of vector spaces,

$$A=R\oplus P\oplus Q,$$

with d_A given by $d^n: Q^n \approx R^{n+1}$ (see [12; page 398]) and so we see

$$Z_{A}(\mathscr{E}^{2} \otimes_{A} A) = Z_{A}(A \otimes E[u_{1}, ..., u_{n}] \otimes A) = Z_{A}(A \otimes E[u_{1}, ..., u_{n}] \otimes (R \oplus P \oplus Q))$$
$$= A \otimes E[u_{1}, ..., u_{n}] \otimes (R \otimes P) = A \otimes E[u_{1}, ..., u_{n}] \otimes Z(A) = \mathscr{E}^{2} \otimes_{A} Z(A).$$

which is a resolution of Z(A) by Proposition 1.2.

Finally since k is a field the Kunneth theorem gives

$$H_{A}(\mathscr{E}^{2} \otimes_{A} A) = H(A \otimes E[u_{1}, ..., u_{n}] \otimes A) = A \otimes E[u_{1}, ..., u_{n}] \otimes H(A) = \mathscr{E}^{2} \otimes_{A} H(A)$$

which is a resolution of H(A) by Proposition 1.2. \Box

We can now proceed in the obvious fashion to compute $\text{Tor}_A(B, A)$ when B, A are differential Λ -modules.

2. Differentiable Fibre Bundles

Suppose that $\xi = (E, p, B, G/H, G)$ is a differentiable fibre bundle with classifying diagram

$$G/H = G/H$$

$$\downarrow \qquad \downarrow$$

$$E \rightarrow B_H$$

$$\downarrow \qquad \downarrow$$

$$B \rightarrow B_G$$

Let us assume that G is a compact connected Lie group and $H \subset G$ is a closed connected subgroup. In addition assume that B is a compact Riemannian symmetric space. (We recall that a compact Riemannian symmetric space M is an analytic manifold with a fixed Riemannian metric such that each point $x \in M$ is a fixed point of some involutive isometry of M.)

Throughout this section the ground field k will be the field of real numbers R. If X is a topological space we shall write $H^*(X)$ for $H^*(X; R)$. Our goal is to prove

THEOREM 2.1: Under the above conditions there is an isomorphism of algebras

$$H^{*}(E) \cong \operatorname{Tor}_{H^{*}(B_{G})}(H^{*}(B), H^{*}(B_{H})).$$

The proof of Theorem 2.1 will be accomplished with the use of deRham cohomology for manifolds modeled on separable Hilbert spaces (see [7], [9], [14]). For the convenience of the reader we will recall some of the important facts that we shall use.

If M is a Riemannian manifold modeled on a separable Hilbert space then $R^{\#}(M)$ denotes the deRham cochain algebra of M. The differential (exterior derivative) is denoted by d. We then have [7] that the algebras $H^{*}(M)$ and $H^{*}(R_{\#}(M), d)$ are naturally isomorphic.

If M is a compact Riemannian manifold then the Riemannian metric g on M induces an inner product in $R^{\#}(M)$ by

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$$(\alpha, \beta) = \int_{M} \alpha \wedge \beta^*, \quad \deg \alpha = \deg \beta$$

The adjoint of d relative to this inner product is called the coderivative and is denoted by δ .

DEFINITION: A form $\alpha \in R^{\#}(M)$ is said to be

closed iff
$$d(\alpha) = 0$$

coclosed iff $\delta(\alpha) = 0$
harmonic iff $d(\alpha) = 0 = \delta(\alpha)$.

THEOREM 2.2 (HODGE): If M is a compact Riemannian manifold then each cohomology class $a \in H^*(M)$ contains a unique harmonic form $\alpha \in R^{\#}(M)$.

Let M be a Riemannian manifold and denote by I(M) the group of isometries of M. Then I(M) is a Lie group and acts on the algebra $R^{\#}(M)$ of differential forms on M.

THEOREM 2.3 (E. CARTAN [5]): If M is a compact Riemannian symmetric space then the harmonic forms on M are precisely the I(M) invariant forms. Therefore the \wedge product of two harmonic forms is again harmonic.

Proof of Theorem 2.1: Let

$$G/H = G/H$$

$$\downarrow \qquad \downarrow$$

$$E \rightarrow B_{H}$$

$$p \downarrow \qquad \downarrow^{\varrho}$$

$$B \xrightarrow{f} B_{G}$$

be the classifying diagram for ξ . Following EELLS in [7] we may assume that B_H and B_G are differentiable manifolds modeled on separable Hilbert space. By differentiable approximation we may then assume that all the maps are differentiable.

Following [8] (see also [1], [16]) we then have a natural isomorphism of algebras $H^*(E) \cong \operatorname{Tor}_{R^{\#}(B_G)}(R^{\#}(B), R^{\#}(B_H)).$

Now we know [3] $H^*(B_G) = P[x_1, ..., x_n]$ $n = \operatorname{rank} G$,

$$H^*(B_H) = P[y_1, ..., y_m] \quad m = \operatorname{rank} H.$$

Choose representative cocycles $\alpha_1, ..., \alpha_n \in R^{\#}(B_G)$ for $x_1, ..., x_n$. Since the multiplication in $R^{\#}(B_G)$ is commutative the map $x_i \rightarrow \alpha_i$ i=1, ..., n extends to a unique map of algebras $\alpha: H^*(B_G) \rightarrow R_{\#}(B_G)$. If we think of $H^*(B_G)$ as a differential algebra with zero differential then α is a map of differential algebras inducing an isomorphism in homology.

In a similar manner we construct a map $\beta: H^*(B_H) \rightarrow R^{\#}(B_H)$. Consider the diagram

We do not claim that the left hand square commutes. However using this diagram we can make $R^{\#}(B_H)$ into an $H^{*}(B_G)$ module in two different ways, i.e. by means of the maps $\beta \varrho^{*}$ and $\varrho^{\#} \alpha$. We can also make $R^{\#}(B)$ into an $H^{*}(B_G)$ module by means of the map $f^{\#} \alpha$.

Hence there are two different torsion products which we shall denote by

$$_{\beta \ \varrho^{*}} \operatorname{Tor}_{H^{*}(B_{G})} \left(R^{\#}(B), R^{\#}(B_{H}) \right)$$

$$_{\varrho^{\#} \alpha} \operatorname{Tor}_{H^{*}(B_{G})} \left(R^{\#}(B), R^{\#}(B_{H}) \right)$$

We claim that these two torsion products are isomorphic. To see this set $\beta \varrho^*(x_i) = \eta_i$ $\varrho^* \alpha(x_i) = \eta'_i f^* \alpha(x_i) = \zeta_i$. Let d_B denote the boundary in $R^*(B)$ and d_H the boundary in $R^*(B_H)$. Then using the two sided Koszul complex of the previous section we see

$$_{\beta \, \varrho^*} \operatorname{Tor}_{H^*(B_G)} \left(R^{\#}(B), R^{\#}(B_H) \right) = H \left(R^{\#}(B) \otimes E \left[u_1, ..., u_n \right] \otimes R^{\#}(B_H) \right)$$

where

 $d(\alpha \otimes 1 \otimes \beta) = d_{B}\alpha \otimes 1 \otimes \beta + \alpha \otimes 1 \otimes d_{H}\beta$

$$d(1 \otimes u_i \otimes 1) = \zeta_i \otimes 1 \otimes 1 + 1 \otimes 1 \otimes \eta_i$$

and similarly

$$e^{*\alpha} \operatorname{Tor}_{H^*(B_G)} \left(R^{\#}(B), R^{\#}(B_H) \right) = H \left(R^{\#}(B) \otimes E \left[v_1, \dots, v_n \right] \otimes R^{\#}(B_H) \right)$$

where

$$d(\alpha \otimes 1 \otimes \beta) = d_B \alpha \otimes 1 \otimes \beta + \alpha \otimes 1 \otimes d_H \beta$$
$$d(1 \otimes v_i \otimes 1) = \zeta_i \otimes 1 \otimes 1 + 1 \otimes 1 \otimes \eta'_i$$

Now since Figure A certainly commutes when we pass to homology it follows that for each *i* we can choose $\lambda_i \in R^{\#}(B_H)$ so that $\eta'_i = \eta_i + d_H \lambda_i$.

Define a map

$$T: R^{\#}(B) \otimes E[u_1, ..., u_n] \otimes R^{\#}(B_H) \to R^{\#}(B) \otimes E[v_1, ..., v_n] \otimes R^{\#}(B_H)$$

by $T(\alpha \otimes 1 \otimes \beta) = \alpha \otimes 1 \otimes \beta$

$$T(1 \otimes u_i \otimes 1) = 1 \otimes v_i \otimes 1 - 1 \otimes 1 \otimes \lambda_i$$

and requiring that T be a map of algebras. A direct computation shows that T is a map of complexes. As T^{-1} is readily defined we see that T gives an isomorphism of algebras

$$T^*:_{\beta \varrho^*} \operatorname{Tor}_{H^*(B_G)} \left(R^{\#}(B), R^{\#}(B_H) \right) \to_{\varrho^{\#} \varrho} \operatorname{Tor}_{H^*(B_G)} \left(R^{\#}(B), R^{\#}(B_H) \right).$$

We then have algebra isomorphisms

$$\operatorname{Tor}_{R^{\#}(B_{G})}\left(R^{\#}(B), R^{\#}(B_{H})\right)_{\approx \uparrow} \operatorname{Tor}_{\alpha}(1, 1)$$

$${}_{\varrho^{\#}\alpha}\operatorname{Tor}_{H^{*}(B_{G})}\left(R^{\#}(B), R^{\#}(B_{H})\right)_{\approx \uparrow} \operatorname{Tor}_{H^{*}(B_{G})}\left(R^{\#}(B), R^{\#}(B_{H})\right)_{\approx \uparrow} \operatorname{Tor}_{1}(1, \beta)$$

$$\operatorname{Tor}_{H^{*}(B_{G})}\left(R^{\#}(B), H^{*}(B_{H})\right)$$

Recall now that we assumed B to be a compact Riemannian symmetric space. Define a map $\theta: H^*(B) \to R^{\#}(B)$ by $a \to$ the unique harmonic form contained in a. It follows from the results of Hodge and Cartan stated above that θ is a map of algebras inducing an isomorphism in homology. Consider now the diagram

$$\begin{array}{c} R^{\#}(B_G) \xrightarrow{f} R^{\#}(B) \\ \stackrel{\alpha}{\downarrow} & \downarrow^{\theta} \\ H^{*}(B_G) \rightarrow H^{*}(B) \end{array}$$

As above this leads to two torsion products

$$_{f^{\#} \alpha} \operatorname{Tor}_{H^{*}(B_{G})} (R^{\#}(B), H^{*}(B_{H}))$$

 $_{\theta f^{*}} \operatorname{Tor}_{H^{*}(B_{G})} (R^{\#}(B), H^{*}(B_{H}))$

which are seen to be isomorphic by an argument analogous to the one above. This gives us a string of algebra isomorphisms

$$H^{*}(E) \cong \operatorname{Tor}_{R^{*}(B_{G})} \left(R^{*}(B), R^{*}(B_{H}) \right)_{\uparrow \operatorname{Tor}_{\alpha}(1, 1)}$$

$$e^{*\alpha} \operatorname{Tor}_{H^{*}(B_{G})} \left(R^{*}(B), R^{*}(B_{H}) \right)_{\uparrow T}$$

$$\beta e^{*} \operatorname{Tor}_{H^{*}(B_{G})} \left(R^{*}(B), R^{*}(B_{H}) \right)_{\uparrow \operatorname{Tor}_{1}(1, \beta)}$$

$$f^{*\alpha} \operatorname{Tor}_{H^{*}(B_{G})} \left(R^{*}(B), H^{*}(B_{H}) \right)_{\uparrow \operatorname{Tor}_{1}(\theta, 1)}$$

$$\theta f^{*} \operatorname{Tor}_{H^{*}(B_{D})} \left(R^{*}(B), H^{*}(B_{H}) \right)_{\uparrow \operatorname{Tor}_{1}(\theta, 1)}$$

$$\operatorname{Tor}_{H^{*}(B_{G})} \left(H^{*}(B), H^{*}(B_{H}) \right)$$

which completes the proof. \Box

If in Theorem 2.1 we set B = point then we obtain a result of CARTAN [6] as restated by BAUM in [2]. If we set H=1 in Theorem 2.1 then we obtain a result of BOREL and HIRSCH [4].

3. An Example

Of all the hypotheses of Theorem 2.1 probably the least satisfying is the assumption that B be a Riemannian symmetric space. However this is an essential assumption as the following example will show.

Let $Y = S^2 \vee S^2 \vee S^2$. Let f, g, $h \in \Pi_2(Y)$ represent the homotopy classes of the inclusions

$$S^{2} \xrightarrow{g} S^{2} \lor * \lor * \subset Y$$
$$S^{2} \xrightarrow{g} * \lor S^{2} \lor * \subset Y$$
$$S^{2} \xrightarrow{h} * \lor * \lor S^{2} \subset Y$$

Let $t: S^4 \to Y$ represent the Whitehead product $[f, [g, h]] \in \Pi_4(Y)$ and let $X = Y U_t e^5$ where e^5 is a five cell. MASSEY and UEHARA [11] have shown that there are indecomposable elements $z_1, z_2, z_3 \in H^2(X; Z)$ and $w \in H^5(X; Z)$ with the triple product $\langle z_1, z_2, z_3 \rangle$ defined and

$$\langle z_1, z_2, z_3 \rangle = w \neq 0 \in H^*(X, Z) / H^*(X, Z) z_1 + z_3 H^*(X; Z)$$

Also from [11] we shall need

LEMMA 3.1: Suppose that $f: A \rightarrow B$ is a continuous map. Let $u, v, w \in H^*(B; Z)$ such that

(i)
$$uv=0=vw$$
, (ii) $f^*(u)=0=f^*(w)$ then
 $\langle u, v, w \rangle \in \ker(f^*: H^*(B; Z) \to H^*(A, Z)).$

Proof: See [11] Lemma 5 on page 369. □

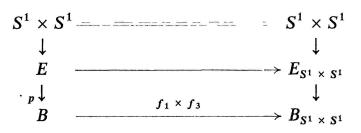
Now X is a 5-dimensional simplicial complex and so we can imbed X in R^{11} . Let B be the double of a regular neighborhood of X in R^{11} . Then B is a smooth manifold, but not a Riemannian symmetric space. X is a retract of B. Thus there are classes $x_1, x_2, x_3 \in H^2(B; Z)$ and $y \in H^5(B; Z)$ with $\langle x_1, x_2, x_3 \rangle$ defined and

$$\langle x_1, x_2, x_3 \rangle = y \neq 0 \in H^*(B, Z)/H^*(B, Z) x_1 + x_3 H^*(B, Z).$$

We now construct an $S^1 \times S^1$ bundle over B as follows. Choose maps

$$f_i: B \to K(Z, 2) = CP^{\infty} = B_{S^1}$$
 $i = 1, 3$

representing the classes x_1 , x_3 . Form the diagram



which is the classifying diagram of a principal $S^1 \times S^1$ bundle ξ over B.

PROPOSITION 3.2: $H^*(E; k)$ and $\operatorname{Tor}_{H^*(B_{S_1 \times S_1}; k)}(H^*(B; k), k)$ are not isomorphic as vector spaces for any field k.

Proof: Consider the Eilenberg-Moore spectral sequence [1], [8], [16] $\{E_r, d_r\}$ of the above diagram with k as coefficients. It has

$$E_r \Rightarrow H^*(E; k)$$

$$E_2 = \operatorname{Tor}_{H^*(B_{S^1} \times S^1; k)} (H^*(B; k), k).$$

Clearly it suffices to show that $E_2 \neq E_{\infty}$.

By direct computation we have

$$E_2^{0,*} = H^*(B;k)/H^*(B;k) x_1 + x_3 H^*(B;k).$$

Now the map $p^*: H^*(B; k) \rightarrow H^*(E; k)$ is given by the composition

$$H^*(B; k) \to H^*(B; k)/(x_1, x_3) = E_2^{0, *} \stackrel{\varepsilon}{\to} E_{\infty}^{0, *} \subset H^*(E; k).$$

Now we claim that $p^*(y)=0$. For we know that $y=\langle x_1, x_2, x_3 \rangle$ and $p^*(x_1)=0=p^*(x_3)$ and so by Lemma 3.1 $p^*(y)=0$.

But $y \neq 0 \in H^*(B; k)/(x_1, x_3)$ and hence the map $\in :E_2^{0,*} \to E_{\infty}^{0,*}$ is not a monomorphism. Therefore $E_2 \neq E_{\infty}$.

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Received July 19, 1967