

**THE EQUIVARIANT STRUCTURE  
 OF EILENBERG-MAC LANE SPACES. I.  
 THE  $\mathbf{Z}$ -TORSION FREE CASE**

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**ABSTRACT.** The purpose of this paper is to continue the work begun in [7]. That paper described an obstruction theory for topologically realizing an (equivariant) chain-complex as *the* equivariant chain-complex of a CW-complex. The obstructions essentially turned out to be homological  $k$ -invariants of Eilenberg-Mac Lane spaces and the key to their computation consists in developing tractable models for the chain-complexes of these spaces. The present paper constructs such a model in the  $\mathbf{Z}$ -torsion free case. The model is sufficiently simple that in some cases it is possible to simply read off homological  $k$ -invariants, and thereby derive some topological results.

**Introduction.** Recall the *bar-construction*  $\bar{B}(\ast)$  of Eilenberg and Mac Lane—see [2]. If  $M$  is an abelian group it is a well-known fact that the chain-complex of an Eilenberg-Mac Lane space  $K(M, n)$  is chain-homotopy equivalent to  $n$ -fold iterated bar construction  $\bar{B}^n(\mathbf{Z}M)$  (which we will denote as  $A(M, n)$ ). Our main result is

**THEOREM.** *There is a functor  $A$  from torsion free abelian groups to torsion-free DGA-algebras, and a natural transformation  $e: \bar{B}(\mathbf{Z}M) \rightarrow A(M)$  with the following properties:*

- (i)  *$e$  is a homology equivalence;*
- (ii)  *$A(M)$  is finitely generated in each dimension if  $M$  is finitely generated.*

**REMARKS.** 1. This is essentially Theorem 1.5.

2. This immediately implies the existence of a natural transformation  $A(M, n) \rightarrow \bar{B}^{n-1}(A(M))$  that is a homology equivalence.

Before we state our next result we recall the definition of the DGA-algebra  $U(M, 2)$  given in [3, §18]:<sup>1</sup> For all integers  $t \geq 1$   $U(M, 2)_{2t-1} = 0$  and  $U(M, 2)_{2t}$  is generated, as an abelian group, by symbols  $\gamma_t(m)$  for all  $m \in M$  and these symbols satisfy the relations:  $\gamma_0(m) = 1 \in U(M, 2)_0 = \mathbf{Z}$ ;  $\gamma_\alpha(m) \bullet \gamma_\beta(m) = (\alpha + \beta)! / \alpha! \beta! \gamma_{\alpha+\beta}(m)$ , for all  $m \in M$  and  $\alpha, \beta \geq 0$ ;

$$\gamma_t(m_1 + m_2) = \sum_{\alpha+\beta=t} \gamma_\alpha(m_1) \bullet \gamma_\beta(m_2); \quad \gamma_t(rm) = r^t \gamma_t(m),$$

for all  $m \in M$  and  $r \in \mathbf{Z}$ .

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<sup>1</sup>This DGA-algebra was denoted  $\Gamma(M)$  there but our notation is standard today.

For instance  $U(M, 2)_4 = \Gamma(M)$  and  $U(M, 2)_{2t}$  is a  $t$ -fold symmetric power of  $M$ —the submodule of  $M^t$  generated by elements of the form  $m \otimes \cdots \otimes m$  ( $t$  factors) for all  $m \in M$ . Let  $\Omega(M)$  denote the following pull-back (or fibered product):

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & \Gamma(M) & \\ & \downarrow g & \\ M & \xrightarrow[p]{} & M/2M \end{array}$$

Note that there exists a natural projection  $\mathcal{F}: \Omega(M) \rightarrow M$ . The complex  $\mathcal{A}(M)$  defined in §1 has the property that its 1-dimensional chain module is precisely  $\Omega(M)$ . This implies

**COROLLARY 1.** *A splitting of  $\mathcal{F}: \Omega(M) \rightarrow M$  naturally determines a DGA-algebra map  $U(M, 2) \rightarrow \overline{\mathcal{B}}\mathcal{A}(M)$  which is a homology equivalence.*

**REMARK.** Such a splitting exists if  $M/2M = 0$ —e.g. if  $M$  is a module over  $\mathbf{Z}[1/2]$ .

**PROOF.** The hypothesis implies that  $\Omega(M) = M \oplus \Gamma(M)$ , so that  $\overline{\mathcal{B}}(\mathcal{A}(M))_{2k}$  has a direct summand equal to  $M^k$ . We map  $U(M, 2)$  to  $\overline{\mathcal{B}}\mathcal{A}(M)$  via the map that sends  $\gamma_t(m) \in U(M, 2)_{2t}$  to  $[m]_2 \cdots [m]_2 \in \overline{\mathcal{B}}\mathcal{A}(M)_{2k}$  ( $t$  copies of  $m$ ). This map induces an isomorphism of homology. This statement follows from the proof of Theorem 21.1 on p. 117 of [3]. Theorem 18.1 (of [3]) and the Künneth formula imply that the homology of  $A(M, 2)$  is  $\mathbf{Z}$ -torsion free. This implies that the map  $\pi_*$  on p. 117 of [3] is an isomorphism and the conclusion follows.  $\square$

If  $Z_*$  is a projective  $\mathbf{Z}\pi$ -resolution of  $\mathbf{Z}$  then  $e \otimes 1: A(M, 1) \otimes Z_* \rightarrow \mathcal{A}(M) \otimes Z_*$  is a chain-homotopy equivalence. This implies that we can use  $\mathcal{A}(M)$  to compute the equivariant chain-complexes and some of the homological  $k$ -invariants<sup>2</sup> of Eilenberg-Mac Lane spaces—these turn out to be significant in topological applications of this theory:

**COROLLARY 2.** *Let  $M$  be a  $\mathbf{Z}$ -torsion free  $\mathbf{Z}\pi$ -module and let  $Z$  be a projective  $\mathbf{Z}\pi$ -resolution of  $\mathbf{Z}$ . The first homological  $k$ -invariant of  $A(M, n) \otimes Z$  is*

- (a)  $\alpha^*(x) \in \text{Ext}_{\mathbf{Z}\pi}^3(M, \Gamma(M)) = H^3(\pi, \text{Hom}_{\mathbf{Z}}(M, \Gamma(M)))$ , if  $n = 2$ ;
- (b)  $\beta_*\alpha^*(x) \in \text{Ext}_{\mathbf{Z}\pi}^3(M, M/2M) = H^3(\pi, \text{Hom}_{\mathbf{Z}}(M, M/2M))$ , if  $n \geq 2$ ;

where  $\alpha: M \rightarrow M/2M$  and  $\beta: \Gamma(M) \rightarrow M/2M$  are the projections and  $x \in \text{Ext}_{\mathbf{Z}\pi}^3(M/2M, \Gamma(M))$  is the class represented by the following 3-fold extension of  $\mathbf{Z}\pi$ -modules:

$$0 \rightarrow \Gamma(M) \xrightarrow{\textcircled{1}} M \otimes M \xrightarrow{\textcircled{2}} M \otimes M \xrightarrow{\textcircled{3}} \Gamma(M) \xrightarrow{\textcircled{4}} M/2M \rightarrow 0$$

where map 1 is diagonal inclusion ( $\gamma(m) \rightarrow m \otimes m$ ), map 2 is antisymmetrization ( $m_1 \otimes m_2 \rightarrow m_1 \otimes m_2 - m_2 \otimes m_1$ ), map 3 is symmetrization ( $m_1 \otimes m_2 \rightarrow \gamma(m_1) + \gamma(m_2) - \gamma(m_1 + m_2)$ ) and map 4 sends  $\gamma(m)$  to the class of  $m$ .  $\square$

**REMARKS.** 1. Recall that  $\Gamma(M)$  is Whitehead’s “universal quadratic functor”.

<sup>2</sup>Recall that homological  $k$ -invariants are a homological analogue of topological  $k$ -invariants—a chain-complex whose homological  $k$ -invariants all vanish is chain-homotopy equivalent to a direct sum of suspended projective resolutions of its homology modules. For a discussion of homological  $k$ -invariants see [4].

2. From this result it is *immediately clear* that the first homological  $k$ -invariant of  $A(M, 2)$  is a 2-torsion element.

3. This corollary follows from the description of the low-dimensional structure of  $\mathcal{A}(M)$  in the discussion that precedes 1.1.

4. The formula  $\text{Ext}_{\mathbf{Z}\pi}^3(M, \Gamma(M)) = H^3(\pi, \text{Hom}_{\mathbf{Z}}(M, \Gamma(M)))$  makes use of the main result of [6].

5. Here is an example of a module  $M$  for which this invariant is *nonzero* (see [5] for a proof):  $\pi = \mathbf{Z}/2\mathbf{Z} \oplus \mathbf{Z}/2\mathbf{Z}$  on generators  $s$  and  $t$ ,  $M = \mathbf{Z} \oplus \mathbf{Z} \oplus \mathbf{Z}$  and  $s$  and  $t$  act via right multiplication by the matrices

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & -1 \\ 1 & -1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \text{respectively.}$$

PROOF. Recall the definition of  $\Omega(M)$  given in Remark 3 following Theorem 1. We can define the *symmetrization map*  $S: M \otimes M \rightarrow \Omega(M)$ —it sends  $m_1 \otimes m_2$  to  $\gamma(m_1) + \gamma(m_2) - \gamma(m_1 + m_2) \in \ker g \subset \Omega(M)$ . The kernel of this map is  $\Lambda^2(M)$  (since  $M$  is  $\mathbf{Z}$ -torsion free) and the cokernel is  $M$ . The projection to the cokernel  $\Omega(M) \rightarrow M$  is denoted  $\mathcal{F}$ . We can, consequently, define maps:

$A(M, 1)_1 \rightarrow \Omega(M)$ , sending  $[m]$  to the class of  $(m, \gamma(m))$ ;

$A(M, 1)_2 \rightarrow M \otimes M$ , sending  $[m_1|m_2]$  to  $m_1 \otimes m_2$ ;

and it is not hard to see that this is a *chain-map* from the 2-skeleton for  $A(M, 1)$  to the chain-complex  $C_*$ , where  $C_1 = \Omega(M)$  and  $C_2 = M \otimes M$  and where the boundary map is  $S$ . Furthermore this map induces isomorphisms in homology in dimensions 1 and 2. This implies the corollary.  $\square$

This has immediate consequences in the study of the *Steenrod problem* and the related question of when *chain-complexes* are *topologically realizable*. Let  $\tilde{K}(\pi, 1)$  denote the *universal covering space* of a  $K(\pi, 1)$ . The first result of the present paper, coupled with the theory of realizations of chain-complexes presented in [7] implies

COROLLARY 3. *Let  $X$  be a topological space with  $\pi_1(X) = \pi$ ,  $H_i(X; \mathbf{Z}\pi) = M$ , a  $\mathbf{Z}$ -torsion free  $\mathbf{Z}\pi$ -module, and with  $H_{i+1}(X; \mathbf{Z}\pi) = H_{i+2}(X; \mathbf{Z}\pi) = 0$  for some  $i \geq 2$  and suppose that  $H_j(X; \mathbf{Z}\pi) = 0$  for all  $2 \leq j < i$ . If the first  $k$ -invariant of  $X$  is 0 then the  $k$ -invariant of  $X$  in  $H^{i+3}(K(M, i) \times_{\pi} \tilde{K}(\pi, 1); H_{i+2}(K(M, i))) = H^{i+3}(K(M, i) \times_{\pi} \tilde{K}(\pi, 1); V) = H^3(\pi, \text{Hom}_{\mathbf{Z}}(M, V))$  must be equal to*

$\alpha^*(x)$  defined in statement (a) of Corollary 2 if  $i = 2$  (here  $V = \Gamma(M)$ );

$\beta_*\alpha^*(x)$  defined in statement (b) of Corollary 2 if  $i > 2$  (here  $V = M/2M$ ).  $\square$

REMARKS. We take the cartesian product of  $K(M, i)$  with  $\tilde{K}(\pi, 1)$  and equip the result with the *diagonal  $\pi$ -action* so that we will have a space upon which  $\pi$  acts *freely*.

COROLLARY 4. *Let  $C$  be an  $i + 3$ -dimensional projective  $\mathbf{Z}\pi$ -chain-complex for some  $i > 2$  with*

1.  $H_0(C) = \mathbf{Z}$  and  $H_i(C) = M$ , a  $\mathbf{Z}$ -torsion free  $\mathbf{Z}\pi$ -module;

2.  $H_j(C) = 0$  for all  $2 \leq j \leq i$ .

*Then  $C_*$  is topologically realizable iff the element  $e \in H^{i+3}(C^+, M/2M)$  vanishes where  $e$  is defined as follows:*

Let  $\mathfrak{M}$  be the  $\mathbf{Z}$ -free  $\mathbf{Z}\pi$ -chain-complex

$$0 \rightarrow \Gamma(M) \xrightarrow{\textcircled{1}} M \otimes M \xrightarrow{\textcircled{2}} M \otimes M \xrightarrow{\textcircled{3}} \Omega(M) \rightarrow 0$$

and regard it as a resolution of  $M$ . Let  $\alpha: C^+ \rightarrow \Sigma^i \mathfrak{M}$  be the unique chain-homotopy class of chain maps inducing the identity map in homology in dimension  $i$ . Then  $e$  is the cocycle that results from forming the composite

$$C_{i+3} \xrightarrow{\alpha_{i+3}} \Gamma(M) \xrightarrow{\textcircled{4}} M/2M. \quad \square$$

REMARKS. 1. Here  $C^+$  is a desuspension of the algebraic mapping cone of the unique (up to a chain-homotopy) chain-map  $C \rightarrow Z$  induced by the augmentation  $\varepsilon: C \rightarrow \mathbf{Z}$ , where  $Z$  is a projective resolution of  $\mathbf{Z}$  over  $\mathbf{Z}\pi$ .  $C^+$  is uniquely determined up to an isomorphism (since homotopic maps give rise to isomorphic algebraic mapping cones).

2. The circled maps 1, 2, 3 and 4 have the same significance here as they do in the preceding theorem and  $\Omega(M)$  has the meaning it was given in the discussion preceding Corollary 1.

3. Since  $\alpha$  is unique up to a chain-homotopy, the class  $e \in H^{i+3}(C^+, M/2M)$  is uniquely defined and only depends upon  $C$ .

4. See §2 for the proof.

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**1. Proof of the main result.** Consider the fibered product  $P$ , formed with respect to the following diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & & M_n \\ & \bullet & \downarrow f_n \\ & M_2 & \downarrow f_2 \\ M_1 & \xrightarrow{f_1} & T \end{array}$$

Let the canonical maps from  $P$  to the  $M_i$  be  $\tilde{f}_i: P \rightarrow M_i$ —these have the well-known property that  $f_i \circ \tilde{f}_i = f_j \circ \tilde{f}_j$  for all  $i$  and  $j$ . We will make use of the following well-known properties of such fibered products in the sequel:

PROPERTY 1. The canonical map  $c: P \rightarrow T$  has the property that

$$\ker c = \prod_{i=1}^n \ker f_i.$$

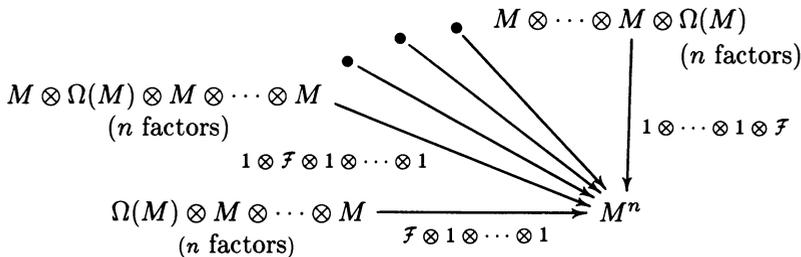
PROPERTY 2. Let  $V$  be a  $\mathbf{Z}$ -module and  $g_i: V \rightarrow M_i$  is a set of homomorphisms such that  $f_i \circ g_i = f_j \circ g_j$ . Then the canonical map  $h: V \rightarrow P$  such that  $g_i = \tilde{f}_i \circ h$  has the property that  $\ker h = \bigcap_{i=1}^n \ker g_i$ .

The remainder of this section will be spent extending the chain-map defined in the proof of Corollary 2 to the higher dimensions of  $A(M, 1)$ .

DEFINITION 1.1. Define  $\Omega_n(M)$  to be

1.  $\mathbf{Z}$  if  $n = 0$ ;
2.  $\Omega(M)$  if  $n = 1$ ;

3. The fibered product of the diagram:



if  $n > 1$ .  $\square$

REMARKS. 1. In the diagram above there are  $n$  objects mapping to  $M^n$ —and  $M^n$  denotes an  $n$ -fold tensor product (over  $\mathbf{Z}$ ) of  $M$  with itself.

2. Consider the map  $S_n: M^n \rightarrow \Omega_{n-1}(M)$  defined to be  $S \otimes 1 \otimes \dots \otimes 1 - 1 \otimes S \otimes 1 \otimes \dots \otimes 1 + \dots + (-1)^{n-1} 1 \otimes \dots \otimes 1 \otimes S$  ( $n - 2$  factors equal to the identity map in each term). Property 2 of a fibered product implies that the kernel of this map is  $\Lambda^2(M) \otimes M \otimes \dots \otimes M \cap M \otimes \Lambda^2(M) \otimes M \otimes \dots \otimes M \cap \dots \cap M \otimes \dots \otimes M \otimes \Lambda^2(M)$  ( $n - 1$  factors in each term)  $= \Lambda^n(M)$ .

3. An element of  $\Omega_n(M)$  will be denoted by  $[(m_1, e_1)(m_2, e_2) \dots (m_n, e_n)]$ , where  $m_i \in M$  and  $e_i \in \Omega(M)$ . The following facts are easily verified:

PROPOSITION 1.2. (a)  $[(m_1, e_1)(m_2, e_2) \dots (m_n, e_n)]$  maps to  $m_1 \otimes \dots \otimes m_n$  under the canonical projection  $p_n: \Omega(M) \rightarrow M^n$ ;

(b) in  $[(m_1, e_1)(m_2, e_2) \dots (m_n, e_n)]$  if any  $m_i = 0$  then the values of the  $e_j$  for  $j \neq i$  are not significant;

(c) the kernel of  $p_n$  is generated by elements of the form

$$[(m_1, e_1)(m_2, e_2) \dots (m_n, e_n)]$$

with  $m_i = 0$  for some  $i$  and the corresponding  $e_i$  equal to  $S(m \otimes m')$  for some  $m, m' \in M$ ;

(d) any symbol  $[(m_1, e_1)(m_2, e_2) \dots (m_n, e_n)]$  with  $m_i = 0$  for two distinct indices  $i$  represents the zero element of  $\Omega_n(M)$ .  $\square$

PROPOSITION 1.3. There exists a bilinear map  $b: \Omega_i(M) \otimes \Omega_j(M) \rightarrow \Omega_{i+j}(M)$  that sends

$$[(m_1, e_1)(m_2, e_2) \dots (m_i, e_i)] \otimes [(m_{i+1}, e_{i+1})(m_{i+2}, e_{i+2}) \dots (m_{i+j}, e_{i+j})]$$

to  $[(m_1, e_1)(m_2, e_2) \dots (m_{i+j}, e_{i+j})]$ .

PROOF. Simply note that the fibered products with respect to the diagrams

$$\begin{array}{ccc} M^i & & M^j \\ \downarrow & \text{and} & \downarrow \\ \Omega_i(M) \longrightarrow M^i & & \Omega_j(M) \longrightarrow M^j \end{array}$$

are  $\Omega_i(M)$  and  $\Omega_j(M)$ , respectively. These fibered products are also submodules of  $\Omega_i(M) \oplus M^i$  and  $\Omega_j(M) \oplus M^j$  so we can form the tensor product of these direct sums and project onto the summand  $\Omega_i(M) \otimes M^j \oplus M^i \otimes \Omega_j(M)$ . Now substituting

the definitions of the  $\Omega_i(M)$ 's into this direct sum implies the existence of a linear map from  $\Omega_i(M) \otimes M^j \oplus M^i \otimes \Omega_i(M)$  to  $\Omega_{i+j}(M)$ .  $\square$

This tensor product bilinear mapping implies that we can define an analogue to the *shuffle product* (in the bar construction) on the  $\Omega_i(M)$ 's—see [2].

PROPOSITION 1.4. *Define a chain-complex  $\Omega_*(M)$  as follows:*

1.  $\Omega_*(M)_i = \Omega_i(M)$  as defined above;
2. the boundary map  $\Omega_i(M) \rightarrow \Omega_{i-1}(M)$  is defined to be 0 if  $i = 1$  and  $S_n \circ p$  where  $S_n$  is defined in Remark 2 above and  $p$  is the canonical projection  $\Omega_i(M) \rightarrow M^i$ .

Then the map  $A(M, 1) \rightarrow \Omega_*(M)$  that sends  $[m_1 | \cdots | m_n]$  to

$$[(m_1, \omega(m_1))(m_2, \omega(m_2)) \cdots (m_n, \omega(m_n))]$$

is a chain map. Furthermore it carries the shuffle product on the bar construction to that on  $\Omega_*(M)$  and so defines a homomorphism of DGA-algebras.  $\square$

REMARKS. 1. This follows by a straightforward induction on  $n$ .

2. This map is not a homology equivalence—for instance property 2 of a fibered product implies that the cycle module  $Z_i(\Omega_*(M)) = p^{-1}(\Lambda^n(M))$  and property 1 implies that  $p^{-1}(0) = S^2(M) \otimes M \otimes \cdots \otimes M \oplus M \otimes S^2(M) \otimes M \otimes \cdots \otimes M \oplus \dots$ , where  $S^2(M)$  is the image of  $S$ —the symmetric product of  $M$ .

The final step in computing the model for  $A(M, 1)$  consists in modifying this chain-complex giving a complex denoted  $\mathcal{A}(M)$  so that the canonical map from  $A(M, 1) \rightarrow \mathcal{A}(M)$  becomes a homology equivalence and extending the shuffle product to  $\mathcal{A}(M)$ . The main result of this section is

THEOREM 1.5. *Let  $\mathcal{A}(M)$  denote the following chain-complex:*

1.  $\mathcal{A}(M)_i = \Omega_i(M)$  if  $i < 3$ ;
2.  $\mathcal{A}(M)_i = \Omega_i(M) \oplus \bigoplus_{j=1}^{i-2} F_{ij}(M)$ , where  $F_{ij}(M) = M^j \otimes S^2(M) \otimes M^{i-2-j}$ ;
3. the boundary maps on the  $\Omega_i(M)$ -summands are identical to those on  $\Omega_*(M)$ ;
4. the boundary map from  $F_{ij}(M)$  to  $\mathcal{A}(M)_{i-1}$  has its image in  $\Omega_{i-1}(M)$ . It sends  $m_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes S(m_{j+1} \otimes m_{j+2}) \otimes \cdots \otimes m_i$  to

$$[(m_1, \omega(m_1)) \cdots (0, S(m_{j+1} \otimes m_{j+2})) \cdots (m_n, \omega(m_n))].$$

Then the composite  $A(M, 1) \rightarrow \Omega_*(M) \subset \mathcal{A}(M)$  is a homology equivalence and  $\mathcal{A}(M)$  can be given a DGA-algebra structure to make this map a DGA-algebra homomorphism.

REMARKS. Recall that  $S^2(M)$  denotes the symmetric product of  $M$ —by abuse of notation we identify it with the image of  $S: M^2 \rightarrow \Gamma(M)$  and its image in  $\Omega(M)$ . This is possible because  $M$  is  $\mathbf{Z}$ -torsion free.

PROOF. Essentially we constructed  $\mathcal{A}(M)$  so that  $\mathcal{A}(M)_n / \partial(\mathcal{A}(M)_{n+1}) = M^n$ . If we take that for granted for a moment it is not hard to see that the map  $A(M, 1) \rightarrow \mathcal{A}(M)$  described above is a homology equivalence.

Property 1 at the beginning of this section implies that the kernel of the canonical map  $\Omega_i(M) \rightarrow M^i$  is  $\bigoplus_{j=0}^{i-2} F_{ij}(M)$ —note that here the summation starts from 0 rather than 1 in the definition of  $\mathcal{A}(M)$ . Essentially the boundary map from  $\Omega_{i+1}(M)$  kills off one copy of  $F_{ij}(M)$  and the terms  $F_{ij}(M)$  in the definition of  $\mathcal{A}(M)$  kill off the remaining copies.

All that remains to be done is to define the DGA-algebra structure  $\mathcal{A}(M)$ .

*Claim.* We may define  $u^*u' = 0$ , where  $u \in F_{ij}(M)$ ,  $u' \in F_{i'j'}(M)$ .

This follows from the fact that 1.2(d) implies that the product of the *boundaries* of  $u$  and  $u'$  (which lie in  $\Omega_*(M)$ ) must be 0.

In order to define  $z^*u$ , where  $z \in \Omega_i(M)$  and  $u \in F_{i'j'}(M)$  simply note that the tensor product of  $z$  by  $\partial(u)$  (using the tensor product operation defined in 1.3) will be in the image of some  $F_{i''j''}(M)$  and this fact will not be altered by shuffling operations. The product  $z^*u$  is *uniquely defined* since the boundary operation on the  $F_{ij}(M)$ 's is *injective*. Note that the  $F_{ij}(M)$ 's will constitute an *ideal* in  $\mathcal{A}(M)$  under this multiplication law.  $\square$

**2. Proof of Corollary 4.** The obstruction to topologically realizing a chain-complex in [7] are essentially obstructions to the existence of a chain-map from the original chain-complex to the chain-complex of a partial Postnikov tower.

The chain-complex of such a Postnikov tower will generally be an iterated twisted tensor product—except in the “stable range” where it will be a twisted *direct sum* (i.e. a desuspension of an algebraic mapping cone). This is the case in the *present result*. The chain-complex  $C$  is topologically realizable if and only if there exists a chain-map from  $C$  to  $Z \oplus_{\xi} Z \otimes \mathfrak{M}$  inducing the identity map in homology in dimension  $i$ , where  $\xi$  is essentially the first homological  $k$ -invariant of  $C$ . (If  $\xi$  vanishes  $C$  is chain-homotopy equivalent to  $Z \oplus C^+$ .) Clearly such a chain-map will exist if and only if there exists a chain-map  $C^+$  to  $Z \otimes \mathfrak{M}$  (since  $C$  and  $Z \oplus_{\xi} Z \otimes \mathfrak{M}$  are compatible chain-complex extensions of  $Z$  by  $C^+$  and  $Z \otimes \mathfrak{M}$ , respectively). The obstruction to the existence of a chain-map  $C^+ \rightarrow Z \otimes \mathfrak{M}$  was described in [7] as the cocycle that results from taking the *following* composite:

$$C_{i+3} \xrightarrow{\partial} C_{i+2} \xrightarrow{\alpha_{i+2}} Z(\mathfrak{M}^{i+2})_{i+2} \rightarrow H_{i+2}(\mathfrak{M}^{i+2}) = \Gamma(M) \rightarrow M/2M$$

where we assume that the  $\alpha$ -map has been constructed up to dimension  $i+2$ —but this is clearly equal to the cocycle described in the statement of the corollary.  $\square$

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