On phantom maps into suspension spaces

By

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Abstract

We show that there is an essential phantom map $f: K(\mathbb{Z}, n) \to \Sigma Y$ for a suitable *n* if $H_i(Y; \mathbb{Q}) \neq 0$ for some i > 0. The localized version of this problem is also considered. The ingredient of the proof is the computation of the Morava K-theories of the Eilenberg-MacLane spaces by Ravenel and Wilson.

1. Introduction

Throughout this paper we assume that a space has the homotopy type of a CW-complex with finite skeletons (or its localization) and has the base point, and that a map and a homotopy preserve the base points.

A map $f : X \to Y$ is said to be a phantom map provided that, for any finite CW-complex W and any map $j : W \to X$, the composite

$$W \xrightarrow{j} X \xrightarrow{f} Y$$

is null homotopic. By Ph(X, Y) we denote the subset of the pointed set [X, Y] consisting of homotopy classes of phantom maps. We write $Ph(-,Y) \equiv 0$ if Ph(X,Y) = * for any domain X, otherwise we write $Ph(-,Y) \not\equiv 0$. Similarly we define $Ph(X,-) \equiv 0$ and $Ph(X,-) \not\equiv 0$.

In his survey paper [7] on phantom maps Roitberg asked

Question. Is $Ph(-, \Sigma K(\mathbb{Z}, n)) \neq 0$ when $n \geq 2$?

That is, he asked if the Eckmann-Hilton dual of the result that $Ph(\Omega S^n, -) \equiv 0$ for $n \geq 2$ is false. In [1] we proved that $Ph(\Omega X, -) \equiv 0$ for a rationally elliptic finite complex X. In this paper we will consider the dual problem.

The following theorem characterizes a space Y such that $Ph(-,Y) \equiv 0$.

Theorem 1.1 (Theorem 1' of [5]). The following statements are equivalent.

(i) Ph(-, Y) ≡ 0.
 (ii) Ph(K(ℤ, n), Y) = * for every n.

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(iii) There exists a rational homotopy equivalence from a product of $K(\mathbb{Z},m)$'s to the base point component of ΩY .

By this theorem it is not difficult to see that $Ph(-, Y) \equiv 0$ if

(i) $\pi_n(Y)$ is finite for each n > 2, or

(ii) Y has only finitely many nonzero homotopy groups.

On the other hand, by Zabrodsky [9], $Ph(-, \Omega^n Y) \neq 0$ if Y is a simply connected finite complex with $\pi_i(\Omega^n Y) \otimes \mathbb{Q} \neq 0$ for some i > 2.

Theorem 1.2. $Ph(-,\Sigma Y) \neq 0$ for a space Y with $H_i(Y;\mathbb{Q}) \neq 0$ for some i > 0.

As a corollary we have the affirmative answer to the question of Roitberg.

Corollary 1.3. $Ph(-, \Sigma K(\mathbb{Z}, n)) \neq 0$ for every positive integer n.

Moreover, we have

Theorem 1.4. $Ph(-, \Sigma K(\mathbb{Z}_{(p)}, n)) \neq 0$ for every prime p and every positive integer n.

Needless to say, Theorem 1.4 implies Corollary 1.3 since there is a natural epimorphism

$$\operatorname{Ph}(X, \Sigma Y) \to \prod_{p} \operatorname{Ph}(X, \Sigma Y_{(p)})$$

for any spaces X and Y, see Section 6 of [4].

Corollary 1.5. For a space Y and a prime p we have $Ph(-, \Sigma Y_{(p)}) \neq 0$ if any of the following three conditions hold:

(i) Y is a finite complex with $H_i(Y; \mathbb{Q}) \neq 0$ for some i > 0.

(ii) There is an odd dimensional element $\alpha \in \pi_{2n+1}(Y)$ whose Hurewicz image $\rho(\alpha) \in H_{2n+1}(Y; \mathbb{Z})$ is of order infinite.

(iii) There are an even dimensional element $\alpha \in \pi_{2n}(Y)$, n > 0, and a cohomology class $v \in H^{2n}(Y;\mathbb{Z})$ with non-zero Kronecker product $\langle v, \rho(\alpha) \rangle \in \mathbb{Z}$. Moreover, v^2 is of order infinite.

An example of a space which does not satisfy any of the above conditions is the homotopy fiber F of the map $u_{2n}^2: K(\mathbb{Z}, 2n) \to K(\mathbb{Z}, 4n)$, where $u_{2n} \in$ $H^{2n}(K(\mathbb{Z}, 2n); \mathbb{Z})$ is a generator. If we could show that $Ph(-, \Sigma F_{(p)}) \neq 0$, then the answer of the following question would be yes.

Question 1.6. Is $Ph(-, \Sigma Y_{(p)}) \neq 0$ for a prime p and a space Y with $H_i(Y; \mathbb{Q}) \neq 0$ for some i > 0?

Another problem arises from Theorem 1.2.

Question 1.7. Let n be a positive integer. Is $Ph(-, \Omega^n \Sigma Y) \neq 0$ for a space Y with $\pi_i(\Omega^n \Sigma Y) \otimes \mathbb{Q} \neq 0$ for some i > 2?

2. Proofs

We begin with a proof of Theorem 1.4, for which we need the localized version of Theorem 1.1.

Theorem 2.1 (Theorem 1' of [5]). Let Y be a nilpotent space and p be a prime. Then $Ph(-, Y_{(p)}) \equiv 0$ if and only if there exists a rational homotopy equivalence from a product of $K(\mathbb{Z}_{(p)}, m)$'s to the base point component of $\Omega Y_{(p)}$.

From now on except in the proof of Theorem 1.2 we will assume that all spaces and groups are localized at a prime p, but the notation will not be burdened with this assumption. Thus, for example, \mathbb{Z} stands for $\mathbb{Z}_{(p)}$.

If $Ph(-, \Sigma K(\mathbb{Z}, n)) \equiv 0$, then by the theorem above we have a rational homotopy equivalence

$$\prod_{\beta} K(\mathbb{Z}, m_{\beta}) \to \Omega \Sigma K(\mathbb{Z}, n).$$

On the other hand we have the homotopy equivalence

$$\Omega \Sigma K(\mathbb{Z}, n) \simeq K(\mathbb{Z}, n) \times \Omega \Sigma (K(\mathbb{Z}, n) \wedge K(\mathbb{Z}, n))$$

by Stasheff [8]. Thus we have a rational homotopy equivalence

$$\prod_{m_{\beta}>n} K(\mathbb{Z}, m_{\beta}) \to \Omega \Sigma(K(\mathbb{Z}, n) \wedge K(\mathbb{Z}, n)).$$

We will show no such a rational homotopy equivalence exists. In fact, we have

Theorem 2.2. Let m, n and ℓ be positive integers. Then every map

 $f: K(\mathbb{Z}, m) \to \Omega\Sigma(K(\mathbb{Z}, n) \wedge K(\mathbb{Z}, \ell))$

induces the trivial map on rational homotopy groups.

Proof. For $n = \ell = 1$ this is well-known. According to Zabrodsky [9] f is a phantom map since $\Omega\Sigma(K(\mathbb{Z}, n) \wedge K(\mathbb{Z}, \ell)) = \Omega S^3$, and every phantom map induces the trivial map on homotopy groups.

To prove the theorem for n > 1 we first recall some consequences of the computation of the Morava K-theories of Eilenberg-MacLane spaces by Ravenel and Wilson [6] and the appendix of [2].

Theorem 2.3 (Corollaries 12.2 and 13.1 of [6]). Let p be a prime and k be a positive integer, then

$$\varinjlim_{j} K(q)_* K(\mathbb{Z}/(p^j), k) \cong K(q)_* K(\mathbb{Z}, k+1)$$

and

$$p_*^j: K(q)_*K(\mathbb{Z}, k+1) \to K(q)_*K(\mathbb{Z}, k+1)$$

is epimorphic.

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The short exact sequence of the groups $0 \to \mathbb{Z} \xrightarrow{p^j} \mathbb{Z} \to \mathbb{Z}/(p^j) \to 0$ induces the fiber sequence

$$K(\mathbb{Z}/(p^j),k) \xrightarrow{\delta} K(\mathbb{Z},k+1) \xrightarrow{p^j} K(\mathbb{Z},k+1) \xrightarrow{red} K(\mathbb{Z}/(p^j),k+1)$$

Since $p_*^j : K(q)_*K(\mathbb{Z}, k+1) \to K(q)_*K(\mathbb{Z}, k+1)$ is epimorphic, $red_* : K(q)_*K(\mathbb{Z}, k+1) \to K(q)_*K(\mathbb{Z}/(p^j), k+1)$ is the trivial map, which we are now using to prove Theorem 2.2.

If $f: K(\mathbb{Z},m) \to \Omega\Sigma(K(\mathbb{Z},n) \wedge K(\mathbb{Z},\ell))$ induces a non-trivial map on rational homotopy groups, then there is a map

$$g \in H^m(\Omega\Sigma(K(\mathbb{Z}, n) \wedge K(\mathbb{Z}, \ell)); \mathbb{Z}) \cong [\Omega\Sigma(K(\mathbb{Z}, n) \wedge K(\mathbb{Z}, \ell)), K(\mathbb{Z}, m)]$$

such that

$$gf = p^j \in H^m(K(\mathbb{Z}, m); \mathbb{Z}) \cong [K(\mathbb{Z}, m), K(\mathbb{Z}, m)] \cong \mathbb{Z}$$

with some non-negative integer j. Since $(gf)_* = p_*^j : K(q)_*K(\mathbb{Z}, m) \to K(q)_*K(\mathbb{Z}, m)$ is epimorphic,

$$g_*: K(q)_*(\Omega\Sigma(K(\mathbb{Z}, n) \land K(\mathbb{Z}, \ell))) \to K(q)_*K(\mathbb{Z}, m)$$

must be epimorphic. But as we will show below g_* is the trivial map which contradicts the fact that g_* is epimorphic since $K(q)_*K(\mathbb{Z}, m)$ is non-trivial for $q \ge m-1$ by Theorem 12.1 of [6].

Since the Morava K-theory possesses Künneth isomorphisms, we have the following isomorphism

$$\varinjlim K(q)_*(\Omega\Sigma(K(\mathbb{Z}/(p^j), n-1) \wedge K(\mathbb{Z}, \ell))) \cong K(q)_*(\Omega\Sigma(K(\mathbb{Z}, n) \wedge K(\mathbb{Z}, \ell))).$$

Thus to prove that g_* is trivial, it is sufficient to prove that

$$h = g \circ \Omega\Sigma(\delta \wedge 1) : \Omega\Sigma(K(\mathbb{Z}/(p^j), n-1) \wedge K(\mathbb{Z}, \ell)) \to K(\mathbb{Z}, m)$$

induces the trivial map on the Morava K-theories for each positive integer *j*.

Proposition 2.4. For sufficiently large t

$$\begin{split} \Omega\Sigma(1\wedge red)^*: H^m(\Omega\Sigma(K(\mathbb{Z}/(p^j),n-1)\wedge K(\mathbb{Z}/(p^t),\ell));\mathbb{Z}) \\ & \to H^m(\Omega\Sigma(K(\mathbb{Z}/(p^j),n-1)\wedge K(\mathbb{Z},\ell));\mathbb{Z}) \end{split}$$

is epimorphic.

Assume for the moment that this proposition is true. By this proposition there is a map

$$h': \Omega\Sigma(K(\mathbb{Z}/(p^j), n-1) \wedge K(\mathbb{Z}/(p^t), \ell)) \to K(\mathbb{Z}, m)$$

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for sufficiently large t such that $h = h' \circ \Omega\Sigma(1 \wedge red)$. Since $red : K(\mathbb{Z}, \ell) \to K(\mathbb{Z}/(p^t), \ell)$ induces the trivial map on the Morava K-theories, $\Omega\Sigma(1 \wedge red)$ induces also the trivial map on the Morava K-theories by the Künneth isomorphisms. Thus h induces the trivial map on the Morava K-theories and we complete the proof of Theorem 2.2.

Proof of Proposition 2.4. We first recall the mod p cohomology (resp. homology) Bockstein spectral sequence $\{E_r(X)\}$ (resp. $\{E^r(X)\}$) of a space X. $\{E_r(X)\}$ (resp. $\{E^r(X)\}$) is a spectral sequence of differential algebras (resp. coalgebras) such that $E_1(X) = H^*(X; \mathbb{Z}/(p))$ (resp. $E^1(X) = H_*(X; \mathbb{Z}/(p))$) and $E_{r+1}(X)$ (resp. $E^{r+1}(X)$) is the homology of $E_r(X)$ (resp. $E^r(X)$) with respect to the Bockstein operation β_r for $r \geq 1$. The mod p cohomology Bockstein spectral sequence $\{E_r(X)\}$ and the mod p homology Bockstein spectral sequence $\{E^r(X)\}$ are dual each other. $H^*(X; \mathbb{Z})$ (resp. $H_*(X; \mathbb{Z})$) is a direct sum of cyclic groups with one generator of order p^r for each basis element of $\operatorname{Im}(\beta_r) \subset E_r(X)$ (resp. $\operatorname{Im}(\beta_r) \subset E^r(X)$) and one generator of infinite order for each basis element of $E_{\infty}(X)$ (resp. $E^{\infty}(X)$).

Lemma 2.5. Let $f : X \to Y$ be a map and n a positive integer. Consider the following four conditions.

 $I_n: f_*: H_*(X; \mathbb{Z}) \to H_*(Y; \mathbb{Z})$ has a left inverse for $* \leq n$.

 $\Pi_n: f_* : H_*(X; \mathbb{Z}/(p)) \to H_*(Y; \mathbb{Z}/(p)) \text{ induces monomorphisms of the Bockstein spectral sequences } f_* : E^r(X) \to E^r(Y) \text{ up to degree n for all } r.$

 $\operatorname{III}_n: f^*: H^*(Y; \mathbb{Z}) \to H^*(X; \mathbb{Z}) \text{ has a right inverse for } * \leq n.$

IV_n: $f^*: H^*(Y; \mathbb{Z}/(p)) \to H^*(X; \mathbb{Z}/(p))$ induces epimorphisms of the Bockstein spectral sequences $f^*: E_r(Y) \to E_r(X)$ up to degree n for all r. Then the conditions I_n , II_n and IV_n are equivalent, and I_n implies III_n and III_{n+1} implies I_n .

Proof. It is easy to see that I_n implies II_n . The converse is also proved easily as follows. Let $k \leq n$ and consider the following commutative diagram.

Let $\beta_r(x_1), \ldots, \beta_r(x_s)$ be a basis of $\operatorname{Im}(\beta_r) \subset E_k^r(X)$, then

$$f_*(\beta_r(x_1)) = \beta_r(f_*(x_1)), \dots, f_*(\beta_r(x_s)) = \beta_r(f_*(x_s))$$

are linearly independent in $\operatorname{Im}(\beta_r) \subset E_k^r(Y)$ since $f_* : E_k^r(X) \to E_k^r(Y)$ is monomorphic by the assumption. Thus f_* maps a direct summand of all cyclic groups of order p^r in $H_*(X;\mathbb{Z})$ monomorphically into $H_*(Y;\mathbb{Z})$ as a direct summand. This is also true for a direct summand of cyclic groups of infinite order since $E_k^r(X) \cong E_k^\infty(X)$ and $E_k^r(Y) \cong E_k^\infty(Y)$ for sufficiently large r. These two facts imply I_n .

By duality II_n is equivalent to IV_n .

By the universal coefficient theorem it is easy to see that I_n implies III_n and III_{n+1} implies I_n .

By Lemma 2.5 to prove Proposition 2.4 it is sufficient to prove that if t > j, then

$$\begin{split} \Omega\Sigma(1\wedge red)_* &: H_*(\Omega\Sigma(K(\mathbb{Z}/(p^j), n-1)\wedge K(\mathbb{Z}, \ell)); \mathbb{Z}/(p)) \\ &\to H_*(\Omega\Sigma(K(\mathbb{Z}/(p^j), n-1)\wedge K(\mathbb{Z}/(p^t), \ell)); \mathbb{Z}/(p)) \end{split}$$

induces monomorphisms of the Bockstein spectral sequences

$$\begin{split} \Omega\Sigma(1\wedge red)_* &: E^r(\Omega\Sigma(K(\mathbb{Z}/(p^j), n-1)\wedge K(\mathbb{Z}, \ell))) \\ &\to E^r(\Omega\Sigma(K(\mathbb{Z}/(p^j), n-1)\wedge K(\mathbb{Z}/(p^t), \ell))) \end{split}$$

up to degree $2p^{t+1-j}$ for all r. For any space X we have

$$E^r(\Omega \Sigma X) \cong T(\tilde{E}^r(X)),$$

where T(A) denotes the tensor algebra generated by a module A and $\{\tilde{E}^r(X)\}$ denotes the Bockstein spectral sequence associated with $\tilde{H}_*(X;\mathbb{Z})$. Thus it is sufficient to prove that if t > j, then

$$(1 \wedge red)_* : H_*(K(\mathbb{Z}/(p^j), n-1) \wedge K(\mathbb{Z}, \ell); \mathbb{Z}/(p)) \to H_*(K(\mathbb{Z}/(p^j), n-1) \wedge K(\mathbb{Z}/(p^t), \ell); \mathbb{Z}/(p))$$

induces monomorphisms of the Bockstein spectral sequences

$$(1 \wedge red)_* : E^r(K(\mathbb{Z}/(p^j), n-1) \wedge K(\mathbb{Z}, \ell)) \to E^r(K(\mathbb{Z}/(p^j), n-1) \wedge K(\mathbb{Z}/(p^t), \ell))$$

up to degree $2p^{t+1-j}$ for all r. By duality we show that if t > j, then

(2.6)
$$(1 \wedge red)^* : E_r(K(\mathbb{Z}/(p^j), n-1) \wedge K(\mathbb{Z}/(p^t), \ell))$$

 $\rightarrow E_r(K(\mathbb{Z}/(p^j), n-1) \wedge K(\mathbb{Z}, \ell))$

are epimorphic up to degree $2p^{t+1-j}$ for all r. Since (2.6) is epimorphic for $r \leq t$ by Theorem 10.4 of [3], it is sufficient to show that

$$\tilde{E}_{t+1}(K(\mathbb{Z}/(p^j), n-1) \wedge K(\mathbb{Z}, \ell))
\cong \tilde{E}_{t+1}(K(\mathbb{Z}/(p^j), n-1)) \otimes \tilde{E}_{t+1}(K(\mathbb{Z}, \ell)) = 0$$

up to degree $2p^{t+1-j}$. For n = 2 clearly $\tilde{E}_{t+1}(K(\mathbb{Z}/(p^j), 1)) = 0$ since t > j. For n > 3 $\tilde{E}_{t+1}(K(\mathbb{Z}/(p^j), n-1)) = 0$ up to degree $2p^{t+1-j}$ by Theorem 10.4

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of [3]. Thus we complete the proof of Proposition 2.4 and, therefore, the proof of Theorem 1.4. $\hfill \Box$

Proof of Corollary 1.5. If the condition (i) holds, then $Ph(-, \Sigma Y) \neq 0$ by a localized version of the theorem of Zabrodsky [9].

We suppose that the condition (ii) holds, then there is a map $g: Y \to K(\mathbb{Z}, 2n+1)$ such that the composite

$$S^{2n+1} \xrightarrow{\alpha} Y \xrightarrow{g} K(\mathbb{Z}, 2n+1)$$

is a rational equivalence. Therefore the composite

$$\Omega S^{2n+2} \to \Omega \Sigma Y \to \Omega \Sigma K(\mathbb{Z}, 2n+1)$$

is also a rational equivalence. If $Ph(-, \Sigma Y) \equiv 0$, then there is a map

$$K(\mathbb{Z}, 4n+2) \to \Omega \Sigma Y \to \Omega \Sigma K(\mathbb{Z}, 2n+1)$$

which induces an essential map on rational homotopy groups by Theorem 2.1. But this contradicts Theorem 2.2 since $\Omega \Sigma K(\mathbb{Z}, 2n+1) \simeq K(\mathbb{Z}, 2n+1) \times \Omega \Sigma (K(\mathbb{Z}, 2n+1) \wedge K(\mathbb{Z}, 2n+1))$, and so the proof follows.

We assume that the condition (iii) holds. Let $g: Y \to K(\mathbb{Z}, 2n)$ represent the class v. Then it is easy to see that the map

$$\Omega \Sigma Y \stackrel{^{M \Sigma g}}{\to} \Omega \Sigma K(\mathbb{Z}, 2n)$$

induces a non-trivial map on $\pi_{4n}(-) \otimes \mathbb{Q}$. Now we complete the proof by the similar argument as above.

Proof of Theorem 1.2. In this proof spaces and groups are not localized at any prime. By Corollary 1.5 it suffices to prove the theorem for a space Y such that there are an even dimensional element $\alpha \in \pi_{2n}(Y)$, n > 0, and a cohomology class $v \in H^{2n}(Y;\mathbb{Z})$ with non-zero Kronecker product $\langle v, \rho(\alpha) \rangle \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $v^2 = 0$.

Let

 $F_{2n} \xrightarrow{i} K(\mathbb{Z}, 2n) \xrightarrow{u_{2n}^2} K(\mathbb{Z}, 4n)$

be the fibration, where $u_{2n} \in H^{2n}(K(\mathbb{Z}, 2n); \mathbb{Z})$ is a generator. Then there is a map $f: Y \to F_{2n}$ such that $\Sigma f: \Sigma Y \to \Sigma F_{2n}$ induces an epimorphism on the rational homotopy groups. By Theorem 2 of [5] Σf induces an epimorphism

$$Ph(X, \Sigma Y) \to Ph(X, \Sigma F_{2n})$$

for any space X. Therefore it suffices to prove the theorem for the space F_{2n} . $i^*(u_{2n})$ is a generator of $H^{2n}(F_{2n};\mathbb{Z}) \cong \mathbb{Z}$ and $i^*(u_{2n})^2 = 0$ by the definition of F_{2n} . Let $v_{2n} \in H^{2n}(\Omega \Sigma F_{2n};\mathbb{Z}) \cong \mathbb{Z}$ be a generator. Then it is easy to see that $v_{2n}^p = 0$ in $H^{2pn}(\Omega \Sigma F_{2n};\mathbb{Z}/(p))$ for any prime p. If $Ph(-,\Sigma F_{2n}) \equiv 0$, then by Theorem 1 there is a rational equivalence

$$K(\mathbb{Z}, 2n) \xrightarrow{n} \Omega \Sigma F_{2n}.$$

Let $g: \Omega \Sigma F_{2n} \to K(\mathbb{Z}, 2n)$ represent the cohomology class v_{2n} . Then $hg = a \neq 0$ and, therefore, there is a prime p which is coprime to a. We have

$$a^{p}u_{2n}^{p} = (au_{2n})^{p} = ((gh)^{*}(u_{2n}))^{p} = h^{*}(v_{2n})^{p} = h^{*}(v_{2n}^{p}) = 0$$

in $H^*(K(\mathbb{Z}, 2n); \mathbb{Z}/(p))$. Since a^p is a unit in $\mathbb{Z}/(p)$, this contradicts the fact that $u_{2n}^p \neq 0$. We complete the proof of Theorem 1.2.

Remark. For $F = F_2$ we have the Atiyah-Hirzebruch-Serre spectral sequence

$$E^2 \cong H_*(K(\mathbb{Z},2);K(q)_*K(\mathbb{Z},3)) \Longrightarrow K(q)_*F$$

associated with the fibration

$$K(\mathbb{Z},3) \to F \xrightarrow{i} K(\mathbb{Z},2).$$

Since $K(q)_*K(\mathbb{Z},3)$ is concentrated in even dimensions by Theorem 12.1 of [6], the above spectral sequence has no nontrivial differentials for dimensional reasons and hence collapses. This implies that $i_*: K(q)_*F \to K(q)_*K(\mathbb{Z},2)$ is epimorphic. It is easy to show that for any nontrivial map $g: \Omega\Sigma F \to K(\mathbb{Z},2)$

$$g_*: K(q)_*(\Omega \Sigma F) \to K(q)_*K(\mathbb{Z},2)$$

is also epimorphic. Thus the argument in the proof of Theorem 1.4 does *not* apply to this case.

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