

The known part of the Bousfield semiring

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Outline of the talk

- ▶ Fix a prime p , and let \mathcal{L} denote the semiring of p -local Bousfield classes.
- ▶ The literature contains many results about the structure of \mathcal{L} . We seek a consolidated statement that incorporates as much of this information as possible.
- ▶ The Telescope Conjecture is a key open question about \mathcal{L} . It is widely expected to be false, but this remains unproven. We will work with a quotient semiring $\overline{\mathcal{L}}$ in which TC is true.
- ▶ We will give a complete description of a subsemiring $\mathcal{A} \leq \overline{\mathcal{L}}$ which contains almost all classes that have previously been named and studied.

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- ▶ $\mathcal{B} = \{p\text{-local spectra}\}$.
- ▶ This is a triangulated category, and in particular is additive.
- ▶ There is a binary coproduct written $X \vee Y$, and more generally an indexed coproduct written $\bigvee_i X_i$.
- ▶ There is a bilinear symmetric monoidal smash product written $X \wedge Y$, with unit object S .
- ▶ All this is similar to the derived category $D(R)$ of a ring R , with \vee like \oplus and \wedge like \otimes .
- ▶ $\langle X \rangle = \{T \mid X \wedge T = 0\}$ and $\mathcal{L} = \{\langle X \rangle \mid X \in \mathcal{B}\}$.
- ▶ Theorem of Ohkawa: \mathcal{L} is a set, not a proper class.
- ▶ There are well-defined operations $\langle X \rangle \vee \langle Y \rangle = \langle X \vee Y \rangle$ and $\langle X \rangle \wedge \langle Y \rangle = \langle X \wedge Y \rangle$. We put $0 = \langle 0 \rangle$ and $1 = \langle S \rangle$.
- ▶ We order Bousfield classes by reverse inclusion, so $\langle X \rangle \leq \langle Y \rangle$ means $\langle X \rangle \supseteq \langle Y \rangle$.

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An *ordered semiring* is a set \mathcal{R} with $0, 1 \in \mathcal{R}$ and operations \vee and \wedge such that:

- (a) \vee is commutative and associative, with 0 as an identity element.
- (b) \wedge is commutative and associative, with 1 as an identity element.
- (c) \wedge distributes over \vee .
- (d) For all $u \in \mathcal{R}$ we have $0 \wedge u = 0$ and $1 \vee u = 1$ and $u \vee u = u$.
 - ▶ This gives a partial order by the rule $u \leq v$ iff $u \vee v = v$.
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 - ▶ We say that \mathcal{R} is *complete* if every family of elements $(u_i)_{i \in I}$ has least upper bound $\bigvee_i u_i$.
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Ordered semirings

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Let \mathcal{R} be an ordered semiring.

- ▶ We say that $u \in \mathcal{R}$ is *idempotent* if $u \wedge u = u$.
- ▶ We write $\mathcal{R}_{\text{latt}}$ for the set of idempotent elements. This is a subsemiring of \mathcal{L} and is a distributive lattice.
- ▶ We say that $u \in \mathcal{R}$ is *complemented* if there is a (necessarily unique) element $\neg u$ with $u \vee \neg u = 1$ and $u \wedge \neg u = 0$.
- ▶ We write $\mathcal{R}_{\text{bool}}$ for the set of complemented elements. This is a sublattice of $\mathcal{R}_{\text{latt}}$ and is a Boolean algebra.
- ▶ If $e \in \mathcal{R}$ is idempotent then there is a semiring \mathcal{R}/e and a homomorphism $\pi: \mathcal{R} \rightarrow \mathcal{R}/e$ that is initial among homomorphisms sending e to zero.
- ▶ In fact, we can take $\mathcal{R}/e = \{x \in \mathcal{R} \mid x \geq e\}$ and $\pi(x) = x \vee e$ and define operations on \mathcal{R}/e so as to make π a homomorphism.
- ▶ $\overline{\mathcal{L}}$ will be a colimit of quotients $\mathcal{L}/\epsilon(n)$ for some idempotents $\epsilon(n)$ to be described later.

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- ▶ We say that $u \in \mathcal{R}$ is *complemented* if there is a (necessarily unique) element $\neg u$ with $u \vee \neg u = 1$ and $u \wedge \neg u = 0$.
- ▶ We write $\mathcal{R}_{\text{bool}}$ for the set of complemented elements. This is a sublattice of $\mathcal{R}_{\text{latt}}$ and is a Boolean algebra.
- ▶ If $e \in \mathcal{R}$ is idempotent then there is a semiring \mathcal{R}/e and a homomorphism $\pi: \mathcal{R} \rightarrow \mathcal{R}/e$ that is initial among homomorphisms sending e to zero.
- ▶ In fact, we can take $\mathcal{R}/e = \{x \in \mathcal{R} \mid x \geq e\}$ and $\pi(x) = x \vee e$ and define operations on \mathcal{R}/e so as to make π a homomorphism.
- ▶ $\overline{\mathcal{L}}$ will be a colimit of quotients $\mathcal{L}/\epsilon(n)$ for some idempotents $\epsilon(n)$ to be described later.

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The combinatorial model

- ▶ $\mathbb{N}_\infty = \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4, \dots, \infty\}$ $\mathbb{N}_\omega = \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4, \dots, \omega, \infty\}$
- ▶ A set $S \subset \mathbb{N}_\infty$ is *small* if $S \subseteq [0, n)$ for some $n < \infty$, otherwise *large*.
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- ▶ The set \mathcal{A} has elements as follows:
 - ▶ $t(q, T)$ for $q \in \mathbb{N}_\infty$ and $T \subseteq \mathbb{N}_\infty$ cosmall.
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The combinatorial model: addition

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$$t(q, T) \vee t(q', T') = t(\min(q, q'), T \cup T')$$

$$t(q, T) \vee j(m', S') = t(q, T \cup S')$$

$$t(q, T) \vee k(U') = t(q, T \cup U')$$

$$j(m, S) \vee j(m', S') = j(\max(m, m'), S \cup S')$$

$$j(m, S) \vee k(U') = \begin{cases} j(m, S \cup U') & \text{if } U' \text{ is small} \\ k(S \cup U') & \text{if } U' \text{ is big} \end{cases}$$

$$k(U) \vee k(U') = k(U \cup U').$$

Note that $\text{tail}(a \vee b) = \text{tail}(a) \cup \text{tail}(b)$.

The combinatorial model: multiplication

- ▶ $t(q, T)$ for $q \in \mathbb{N}_\infty$ and $T \subseteq \mathbb{N}_\infty$ cosmall.
 - ▶ $j(m, S)$ for $m \in \mathbb{N}_\omega$ and $S \subset \mathbb{N}_\infty$ small.
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-

$$\begin{aligned}t(q, T) \wedge t(q', T') &= t(\max(q, q'), T \cap T') \\t(q, T) \wedge j(m', S') &= \begin{cases} j(m', T \cap S') & \text{if } q \leq m' \\ k(T \cap S') & \text{if } q > m' \end{cases} \\t(q, T) \wedge k(U') &= k(T \cap U') \\j(m, S) \wedge j(m', S') &= k(S \cap S') \\j(m, S) \wedge k(U') &= k(S \cap U') \\k(U) \wedge k(U') &= k(U \cap U').\end{aligned}$$

Note that $\text{tail}(a \wedge b) = \text{tail}(a) \cap \text{tail}(b)$.

Theorem: these operations make \mathcal{A} a completely distributive ordered semiring.

$$t(q, T) \vee t(q', T') = t(\min(q, q'), T \cup T')$$

$$t(q, T) \vee j(m', S') = t(q, T \cup S')$$

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$$k(U) \vee k(U') = k(U \cup U')$$

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$$t(q, T) \wedge k(U') = k(T \cap U')$$

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Outline of proof:

- ▶ It is long but straightforward to check that the operations satisfy all axioms for an ordered semiring.
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The order on \mathcal{A} can be made more explicit as follows:

- ▶ We have $t(q, T) \leq t(q', T')$ iff $T \subseteq T'$ and $q \geq q'$.
 - ▶ We never have $t(q, T) \leq j(m, S)$ or $t(q, T) \leq k(U)$.
 - ▶ We have $j(m, S) \leq t(q, T)$ iff $S \subseteq T$.
 - ▶ We have $j(m, S) \leq j(m', S')$ iff $S \subseteq S'$ and $m \leq m'$.
 - ▶ We have $j(m, S) \leq k(U)$ iff $S \subseteq U$ and U is big.
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- ▶ Theorem: There is an injective semiring homomorphism $\phi: \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \overline{\mathcal{L}}$ which preserves all joins.
- ▶ This is defined as a composite $\mathcal{A} \xrightarrow{\phi_0} \mathcal{L} \xrightarrow{\pi} \overline{\mathcal{L}}$, but ϕ_0 is not a homomorphism of semirings unless TC holds.
- ▶ For each element x in \mathcal{A} , we will define an element in \mathcal{L} with the same name, which will be the image of x under ϕ_0 .

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- ▶ For $q \in \mathbb{N}$ we recall that the Bott periodicity isomorphism $\Omega SU = BU$ gives a natural virtual vector bundle over $\Omega SU(p^q)$, and the associated Thom spectrum $X(p^q)$ has a natural ring structure. The p -localisation of this has a p -typical summand called $T(q)$. We have $T(0) = S$ and $T(\infty) = BP$. In all cases we put $t(q) = \langle T(q) \rangle$ and $t(q; n) = t(q) \wedge f(n)$.
- ▶ Suppose $q \in \mathbb{N}_\infty$ and $T \subseteq \mathbb{N}_\infty$ is cosmall.
If $[n, \infty] \subseteq T$, we put $t(q, T; n) = t(q; n) \vee k(T)$.
Put $t(q, T) = t(q, T; n_0)$, where n_0 is smallest such that $[n_0, \infty] \subseteq T$.
- ▶ For $m \in \mathbb{N}_\infty$ we let $J(m)$ denote the Brown-Comenetz dual of $T(m)$, so there is a natural isomorphism

$$[X, J(m)] \simeq \text{Hom}(\pi_0(T(m) \wedge X), \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z}).$$

Put $J(\omega) = \bigvee_{m \in \mathbb{N}} J(m)$, and $j(m) = \langle J(m) \rangle$ for all $m \in \mathbb{N}_\omega$.
Given a small set S , put $j(m, S) = j(m) \vee k(S)$.

- ▶ For $n \in \mathbb{N}$ we choose a good v_n element $w_n \in \pi_*(F(n))$. This means that $w_n = v_n^{p^{d_n}}$ in $BP_*F(n)$ for some d_n , plus some additional properties. Put $K'(n) = F(n)[w_n^{-1}]$ and $k'(n) = \langle K'(n) \rangle$.
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- ▶ The Telescope Conjecture is equivalent to $a(i) = 0$ for all i , or $\epsilon(n) = 0$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$, or $\epsilon(\infty) = 0$.
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- (a) If R is a ring spectrum then $\langle R \rangle \wedge \langle R \rangle = \langle R \rangle$. Moreover, if M is any R -module spectrum then $\langle M \rangle = \langle R \rangle \wedge \langle M \rangle \leq \langle R \rangle$.
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- ▶ The classes $t(q)$, $f(n)$, $t(q; n)$ and $k'(n)$ are represented by ring spectra and so are idempotent. The class $k(U)$ is also idempotent.
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Adjusted equations in \mathcal{L}

- ▶ Recall that $t(q, T; n) = t(q) \wedge f(n) \vee k(T)$ for sufficiently large n .
- ▶ The following rules are valid in \mathcal{L} (provided that n is large enough for the terms on the left to be defined):

$$t(q, T; n) \wedge t(q', T'; n) = t(\max(q, q'), T \cap T'; n)$$

$$t(q, T; n) \vee t(q', T'; n) = t(\min(q, q'), T \cup T'; n)$$

$$t(q, T; n) \vee j(m', S') = t(q, T \cup S'; n)$$

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- ▶ In the quotient $\overline{\mathcal{L}}$, the class $t(q, T; n)$ is independent of n . (Increasing n by 1 swaps a $k'(n)$ for a $k(n)$.)

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$$\begin{aligned}
 0 &= k(\emptyset) \\
 S &= S_p^\wedge = T(0) = t(0, \mathbb{N}_\infty) \\
 S/p &= S/p^\infty = t(0, [1, \infty]) \\
 F(n) &= t(0, [n, \infty]) \\
 HQ &= SQ = I(HQ) = k(\{0\}) \\
 H/p &= H/p^\infty = I(H) = I(H/p) = I(BP\langle n \rangle) = k(\{\infty\}) \\
 H &= k(\{0, \infty\}) \\
 v_n^{-1}F(n) &= K'(n) \simeq k(\{n\}) \\
 T(q) &= t(q, \mathbb{N}) \\
 BP &= BP_p^\wedge = T(\infty) = t(\infty, \mathbb{N}) \\
 P(n) &= BP/I_n = t(\infty, [n, \infty]) \\
 B(n) &= v_n^{-1}P(n) = K(n) = M_n S = k(\{n\}) \\
 IB(n) &= IK(n) = k(\{n\})
 \end{aligned}$$

$$E(n) = v_n^{-1}BP\langle n \rangle = v_n^{-1}BP = L_n S = k([0, n])$$

$$\widehat{E(n)} = L_{K(n)} S = k([0, n])$$

$$C_n S \simeq t(0, [n+1, \infty])$$

$$BP\langle n \rangle = k([0, n] \cup \{\infty\})$$

$$BP\langle n \rangle / I_n = k(\{n, \infty\})$$

$$KU = KO = k(\{0, 1\})$$

$$kU = kO = k(\{0, 1, \infty\})$$

$$EII = TMF = k(\{0, 1, 2\})$$

$$I(S) = I(T(0)) = I(F(n)) = j(0, \emptyset)$$

$$I(S_p^\wedge) = I(S/p^\infty) = j(0, \{0\})$$

$$I(T(m)) = I(T(m) \wedge F(n)) = j(m, \emptyset)$$