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FIBRATIONS OVER A CWh-BASE

ROLF SCHÖN

ABSTRACT. This note provides a short argument for the known fact that the total space of a fibration has the homotopy type of a CW-complex if base and fiber have.

1. **NOTATION.** $F \rightarrow E \rightarrow B$ is a (Hurewicz) fibration. A CWh-space is a space having the homotopy type of a CW-complex. The following result is due to Stasheff [9, Proposition (0)].¹

2. **THEOREM.** E is a CWh-space if F and B are.

PROOF. We replace the inductive construction of [9] by the CW approximation theorem [8, p. 412] that is due to Whitehead [11]: to the topological space E there exists a CW-complex X , called ‘CW-substitute for E ’ in [10, p. 97], and a weak homotopy equivalence $f: X \rightarrow E$. We make f into a fibration by taking the associated mapping path fibration $q: P_f \rightarrow E$, see e.g. [8, p. 99]. Then q is a weak homotopy equivalence too, and P_f is a CWh-space. Therefore pq is a fibration with a CWh-fiber by 3 below. Hence q induces a genuine homotopy equivalence between the fibers of pq and p and is therefore a fiber homotopy equivalence by [3, 6.3].

3. **PROPOSITION.** F is a CWh-space if E and B are.

PROOF. Compare [9, Corollary (13)]. By coglueing homotopy equivalences, see [4, (1.2)] or [5, (8.7)], the pullbacks of the horizontal rows in the following diagram are homotopy equivalent.

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 * & \longrightarrow & B & \longleftarrow & E \\
 \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 PB & \longrightarrow & B & \xleftarrow{p} & E \\
 \uparrow & & \uparrow f & & \uparrow \\
 PZ_p & \longrightarrow & Z_p & \xleftarrow{i} & E
 \end{array}$$

fi is the standard factorization of p over its mapping cylinder Z_p , $PZ_p \rightarrow Z_p$, $PB \rightarrow B$ are the fibrations of paths starting from a point $b \in Z_p$, resp.

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¹ As it is remarked in [7, p. 27] Stasheff’s proof is not correct, but can be patched.

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$f(b) = * \in B$, and the other arrows are obvious. The upper pullback is the fiber F (over $*$), the lower one is the space of the paths on the CWh-space Z_p starting from b and ending in $E \subset Z_p$, and is therefore a CWh-space by [6].

4. REMARK. If we assume that F and E are CWh-spaces, then the following is true: (a) B is not a CWh-space in general. Fiber and total spaces of Example 2.4.8 of [8, p. 77] are contractible, but the base space, the “Warsaw circle”, is not contractible, because it has the nonvanishing Čech homotopy group $\check{\pi}_1(B) \cong \mathbf{Z}$ [2, §6]. (b) the loop space ΩB is a CWh-space, because it is homotopy equivalent to the fiber of the inclusion $F \rightarrow E$ [10, 2.56], and by delooping homotopy equivalences, see [1], B is a CWh-space too, if it is path-connected and has a numerable, null homotopic covering.

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