

On the Splitting of Mapping Spaces between Classifying Spaces I

Dedicated to the memory of Professor Shichiro Oka

By

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§ 0. Introduction

A homomorphism from a product group of simple Lie groups to a simple Lie group cannot be a "crossed" homomorphism, unless the dimension of the source group is less than the one of the target group. This fact is closely related to the fact that the multiplication of a simple Lie group is not abelian and the classifying space is not an H -space. In this paper we show that the same statement replacing a Lie group and a homomorphism with a classifying space and a continuous mapping is valid in the case where the target space is a classifying space of a Lie group of rank one. To show this, we give another representation of a theorem of Miller [5].

Main Theorem. *Let G_1 and G_2 be compact connected Lie groups with finite fundamental groups and H a simple Lie group of rank 1 i. e. $H=SO(3)$ or $Sp(1)$. Then the canonical projections p_t of $BG_1 \times BG_2$ to the t -th factors induce the weak equivalences*

$$p_1^* \cup_{BH} p_2^* : \text{Map}(B(G_1 \times G_2), BH) \simeq_w \text{Map}(BG_1, BH) \cup_{BH} \text{Map}(BG_2, BH),$$

$$p_1^* \vee p_2^* : \text{Map}_*(B(G_1 \times G_2), BH) \simeq_w \text{Map}_*(BG_1, BH) \vee \text{Map}_*(BG_2, BH),$$

where $\text{Map}(A, B)$ and $\text{Map}_*(A, B)$ are the spaces of all mappings from A to B which are base point free and base point preserving respectively, BG denotes the classifying space of any group G , \simeq_w denotes a weak equivalence and \cup_Y means the pushout over Y .

Corollary. *Let G_i be compact connected Lie groups with finite fundamental groups, $i=1, \dots, r$, and let H be a simple Lie group of rank one. Then the canonical projections p_t to the t -th factors induce the bijection*

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$$\bigvee_t p_t^* : \pi_0(\text{Map}_*(B\prod_{i=1}^n G_i, BH), *) \cong \bigvee_{t=1}^r \pi_0(\text{Map}_*(BG_t, BH), *).$$

The corollary shows that $BSp(1)$ and $BSO(3)$ do not allow H -structures, and moreover, have no binary operations except for the trivial one. And we may give an example to the homotopy set of all self homotopy equivalences, which is suggested by the referee.

Example 4.3. $\text{SHE}(\prod^n HP^\infty) \cong \Sigma_n$ the n -th symmetric group, where $\text{SHE}(X)$ is the homotopy set of all self homotopy equivalences of a space X .

This example is simple and is a contrast to the fact that $\text{SHE}(\prod^n CP^\infty) \cong GL_n(\mathbf{Z})$ which is an infinite group if $n \geq 2$. The proof of Main Theorem depends deeply on Lemma 1.1 and Theorem 1.5 which are stated as follows.

Lemma 1.1. *Let G be a maximal compact subgroup of a reductive complex Lie group and Y a finite dimensional CW-complex. Then any element of $\pi_q \text{Map}_*(BG, Y)$ is represented by a phantom mapping for all $q \geq 0$.*

Theorem 1.5. *Let Y be simply connected and each X_t , for $t=1$ and 2 , a connected CW-complex such that $\text{Map}_*(X_t, \Omega Y)$ is weakly contractible. If any mapping h of $X_1 \times X_2$ to Y is homotopic to the mapping which annihilates one of the subspaces $X_1 \times \{*\}$ and $\{*\} \times X_2$, then the natural projections p_t of $X_1 \times X_2$ to X_t induce the weak equivalences*

$$p_1^* \cup_Y p_2^* : \text{Map}(X_1 \times X_2, Y) \simeq_w \text{Map}(X_1, Y) \cup_Y \text{Map}(X_2, Y),$$

$$p_1^* \vee p_2^* : \text{Map}_*(X_1 \times X_2, Y) \simeq_w \text{Map}_*(X_1, Y) \vee \text{Map}_*(X_2, Y).$$

Note that Lemma 1.1 is already known and stated for the case $q=0$ [3] which is used in [9], and is another representation of theorems of Miller [4, 5].

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This paper is organized as follows. We prove Main Theorem dividing into the two cases $H=Sp(1)$ and $H=SO(3)$. At first, we prepare the Lemma 1.1 and prove Main Theorem in the case when $H=Sp(1)$ using theorem 1.5 and Proposition 1.3 in Section 1 and prove Theorem 1.5 in Section 2. Next, we prove Main Theorem in the case $H=SO(3)$ in Section 3. Finally, we shall give in Section 4 some applications of Main Theorem and show in Appendix that there are some counter-examples if we omit any hypothesis of Main Theorem.

§ 1. Preliminaries

Throughout this paper, we denote by S^q the functor taking q -fold reduced suspension and by Ω the loop space functor. We at first generalize slightly the theorem of Miller [5], using the theory of phantom mappings due to Zabrodsky [8].

Lemma 1.1. *Let G be a maximal compact subgroup of a reductive complex Lie group and Y a finite dimensional CW-complex. Then any element of $\pi_q \text{Map}_*(BG, Y)$ is represented by a phantom mapping for all $q \geq 0$.*

Proof. By the theorem of E. M. Friedlander and G. Mislin [3], for each prime p , we can take a locally finite group π and a mapping $\phi : B\pi \rightarrow BG$ which induces a $\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}$ -cohomology isomorphism. For any mapping f of $\text{Map}_*(S^q(BG), Y)$, $f(S^q(\phi))$ belongs to $\text{Map}_*(S^q(B\pi), Y)$ which is weakly contractible by H. Miller [5]. Therefore, $f(S^q(\phi))$ is null-homotopic. We can take the Sullivan completion of Y provided that Y is simply connected. We at first assume that Y is simply connected and take the Sullivan p -completion $e_p^{\wedge} : Y \rightarrow Y_p^{\wedge}$. Then we have

$$e_p^{\wedge} f(S^q(\phi)) \simeq *,$$

in $\text{Map}_*(S^q(B\pi), Y_p^{\wedge})$. On the other hand, since $H^*(S^q(\phi); \mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})$ is an isomorphism, $e_p^{\wedge} f$ is null-homotopic. Hence the composition of f with the Sullivan completion mapping $e^{\wedge} : Y \rightarrow Y^{\wedge}$ is null-homotopic. This implies that f is a phantom mapping. When Y is not simply connected, we take the universal covering space \bar{Y} of Y . Then \bar{Y} is a simply connected, finite dimensional complex and this lemma holds for \bar{Y} . f induces the trivial homomorphism between fundamental groups. If it were not so, then there should exist an element g of G such that the composition of f with the mapping $B\langle g \rangle \rightarrow BG$ induced from the inclusion is non-trivial. This contradicts to the theorem of H. Miller [5]. Hence, all mappings from $S^q(BG)$ to Y induce trivial homomorphisms between their fundamental groups, $q \geq 0$, and the covering projection induces a following continuous bijection:

$$\text{Map}_*(S^q(BG), \bar{Y}) \cong \text{Map}_*(S^q(BG), Y),$$

which maps a phantom mapping to a phantom mapping, and moreover, is a homeomorphism, since a covering projection is an open mapping. This completes the proof of the lemma.

Using this, we get

Proposition 1.2. *Let G be a compact connected Lie group and Y a finite dimensional CW-complex with finite homotopy groups in all dimensions except for*

2 and 3. Then the space $\text{Map}_*(BG, Y)$ is weakly contractible.

Proof. Recall that the Chevalley’s complexification of the compact connected Lie group G is a complex reductive Lie group whose maximal compact subgroup is conjugate with G ([1]). By Lemma 1.1, it is sufficient to prove that the space of all phantom mappings from BG to Y is weakly contractible. According to A. Zabrodsky [8], the q -th homotopy group of the space of all phantom mappings from a CW -complex X of finite type with a finite fundamental group to a simply connected CW -complex Z of finite type is a quotient group of $\prod_{n>0} \text{Ext}(\bar{H}_n(X; \mathbf{Q}), \pi_{n+1}(Z)/\text{torsion})$. For the dimensional reasons, this must be 0, and the proof of this proposition is completed.

We prepare a cohomological information as follows.

Proposition 1.3. *Let G_1 and G_2 be connected compact Lie groups with finite fundamental groups, $Sp(1)$ the symplectic group of rank 1 and $j_t: BG_t \rightarrow BG_1 \times BG_2$ be the canonical inclusion into the t -th factor $t=1, 2$. Then for any mapping $h: BG_1 \times BG_2 \rightarrow BSp(1)$, we have $H^*(hj_1; \mathbf{Z})=0$ or $H^*(hj_2; \mathbf{Z})=0$.*

Proof. Since $H^*(BSp(1); \mathbf{Z}) \cong \mathbf{Z}[w_4]$, it is sufficient to show that $H^*(hj_t; \mathbf{Z})(w_4) = 0$, for $t=1$ or 2. Let $q_t: \bar{G}_t \rightarrow G_t$ be a universal covering of G_t . $H^*(BG_t; \mathbf{Z})$ is a free abelian group of finite rank r_t , $t=1$ or 2, over \mathbf{Z} and $H^*(Bq_t; \mathbf{Z})$ is injective by the dimensional reasons in the Serre spectral sequence for $B\bar{G}_t \rightarrow BG_t \rightarrow K(\pi_1(G_t), 2)$. Since \bar{G}_t is simply connected and semi-simple, there is an inclusion homomorphism;

$$i_t: (Sp(1))^{r_t} \longrightarrow \bar{G}_t$$

such that $H^*(Bi_t; \mathbf{Z})$ is an isomorphism. If we assume $H^*(hj_1; \mathbf{Z})(w_4) = \sum_{i=1}^{r_1} a_i u_i \neq 0$ and $H^*(hj_2; \mathbf{Z})(w_4) = \sum_{j=1}^{r_2} b_j v_j \neq 0$, then we may assume $a_1 \neq 0$, $b_1 \neq 0$ and $\bar{H}^*(hB(q_1 i_1 i_{n_1}); \mathbf{Z})(w_4) \neq 0$, where $i_t: Sp(1) \rightarrow (Sp(1))^{r_t}$ is the canonical inclusion into the first coordinate. Let k be the following mapping

$$h(B(q_1 i_1 i_{n_1}) \times B(q_2 i_2 i_{n_2})): BSp(1) \times BSp(1) \longrightarrow BSp(1),$$

then we get $\bar{H}^*(k; \mathbf{Z})(w_4) = aw_4 \times 1 + 1 \times bw_4$, $ab \neq 0$.

Take an odd prime p to be mutually prime with ab , and then $ab \neq 0$ in $\mathbf{Z}/p\mathbf{Z}$ and it contradicts to the commutativity of $\bar{H}^*(k; \mathbf{Z}/p\mathbf{Z})$ with the Steenrod p -th power operation P^1 .

Actually, $\bar{H}^*(k; \mathbf{Z}/p\mathbf{Z})(P^1 w_4) = 2\bar{H}^*(k; \mathbf{Z}/p\mathbf{Z})(w_4^{(p+1)/2}) = 2(aw_4 \times 1 + 1 \times bw_4)^{(p+1)/2} = 2a^{(p+1)/2}(w_4)^{(p+1)/2} \times 1 + 1 \times 2b^{(p+1)/2}(w_4)^{(p+1)} + 2a^{(p-1)/2}b(w_4)^{(p-1)/2} \times w_4 + \dots$, while $P^1 \bar{H}^*(k; \mathbf{Z}/p\mathbf{Z})(w_4) = 2a(w_4)^{(p+1)/2} \times 1 + 1 \times 2b(w_4)^{(p+1)}$.

It is a contradiction. This completes the proof of this proposition.

Remark 1.4. Combining this with Zabrodsky’s Theorem ([9], Theorem 2),

the conclusion of the above lemma can be translated to the following form:

$$h|_{\{*\} \times BG_2} \simeq * \quad \text{or} \quad h|_{BG_1 \times \{*\}} \simeq *.$$

We state here the following theorem which will be proved in Section 2.

Theorem 1.5. *Let Y be simply connected and X_1 and X_2 such connected CW-complexes that $\text{Map}_*(X_t, Y)$ is weakly contractible for $t=1, 2$. If any mapping h of $X_1 \times X_2$ to Y is homotopic to the mapping which annihilates one of the subspaces $X_1 \times \{*\}$ and $\{*\} \times X_2$. Then there exist weak equivalences*

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Map}(X_1 \times X_2, Y) &\simeq_w \text{Map}(X_1, Y) \cup_Y \text{Map}(X_2, Y), \\ \text{Map}_*(X_1 \times X_2, Y) &\simeq_w \text{Map}_*(X_1, Y) \vee \text{Map}_*(X_2, Y). \end{aligned}$$

This together with Proposition 1.2, Proposition 1.3 and Remark 1.4 implies Main theorem in the case when $H=Sp(1)$.

§2. Proof of Theorem 1.5

Since Y is simply connected, we have isomorphisms

$$\begin{aligned} \pi_0(\text{Map}_*(X_1 \times X_2, Y), *) &\cong \pi_0(\text{Map}(X_1 \times X_2, Y), *), \\ \pi_0(\text{Map}_*(X_t, Y), *) &\cong \pi_0(\text{Map}(X_t, Y), *), \\ \text{Map}(X_1 \times X_2, Y) &\cong \text{Map}(X_1, \text{Map}(X_2, Y)) \\ &= \coprod_{\alpha} \text{Map}(X_1, C_{\alpha}^{\wedge}(X_2, Y)), \end{aligned}$$

where $C_{\alpha}^{\wedge}(X, Z)$ is the connected component of α in $\text{Map}(X, Z)$ and α runs over all connected components. We similarly denote the connected component of α in $\text{Map}_*(X, Z)$ by $C_{\alpha}(X, Z)$. Note that $C_0(X_t, Y)$ is weakly contractible by the assumption. And by Zabrodsky's Lemma ([9], Lemma 1.5), the evaluation mapping $ev_t: C_0^{\wedge}(X_t, Y) \rightarrow Y$ is a weak equivalence. Hence we can see that the composition mapping $(ev_2)_{\#}: \text{Map}(X_1, C_0^{\wedge}(X_2, Y)) \rightarrow \text{Map}(X_1, Y)$ is also a weak equivalence. Assume $\alpha \neq 0$ and take the representative mapping f of α . For any mapping h of $\text{Map}(X_1, C_{\alpha}^{\wedge}(X_2, Y))$, the diagram (2.1) is homotopy commutative by the assumption. On the other hand, a mapping which makes the diagram (2.1) homotopy commutative belongs to $\text{Map}(X_1, C_{\alpha}^{\wedge}(X_2, Y))$;

$$(2.1) \quad \begin{array}{ccc} X_1 & \xrightarrow{h} & C_{\alpha}^{\wedge}(X_2, Y) \\ & \searrow * & \downarrow ev'_2 \\ & & Y, \end{array}$$

where $ev'_t: C_a^\wedge(X_t, Y) \rightarrow Y$ is an evaluation mapping. By double adjoining this mapping h , the above homotopy commutative diagram is equivalent to the following one.

$$(2.2) \quad \begin{array}{ccc} X_2 & \xrightarrow{h'} & C_0^\wedge(X_1, Y) \\ & \searrow f & \downarrow ev_1 \\ & & Y. \end{array}$$

Let us recall that both ev_1 and the mapping of composing with ev_1 are weak equivalences. Hence the last term of

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Map}(X_1, C_a^\wedge(X_2, Y)) &= (ev_2)_\#^{-1}(C_0^\wedge(X_1, Y)) \\ &= (ev_1)_\#^{-1}(C_a^\wedge(X_2, Y)) \end{aligned}$$

is weakly homotopic to $C_a^\wedge(X_2, Y)$. Finally, we obtain that

$$\text{Map}(X_1 \times X_2, Y) \simeq_w \text{Map}(X_1, Y) \cup_Y \text{Map}(X_2, Y),$$

where we regard the mapping space $\text{Map}(X_t, Y)$ as $(\coprod_{\alpha \neq 0} C_\alpha^\wedge(X_t, Y)) \amalg C_0^\wedge(X_t, Y)$ with $C_0^\wedge(X_t, Y) \cong_w Y$.

By the commutativity of the following diagram, the mapping in the upper sequence is also a weak equivalence:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Map}_*(X_1 \times X_2, Y) & \longleftarrow & \text{Map}_*(X_1, Y) \vee \text{Map}_*(X_2, Y) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \text{Map}(X_1 \times X_2, Y) & \xleftarrow{\simeq_w} & \text{Map}(X_1, Y) \cup_Y \text{Map}(X_2, Y) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ Y & \xlongequal{\quad} & Y, \end{array}$$

where the mappings in the upper and middle sequences are induced by the canonical projections $p_t: X_1 \times X_2 \rightarrow X_t$ ($t=1, 2$), and we regard the mapping space $\text{Map}_*(X_t, Y)$ as $(\coprod_{\alpha \neq 0} C_\alpha(X_t, Y)) \amalg C_0(X_t, Y)$ with $C_0(X_t, Y) \cong_w *$.

§3. Proof of Main Theorem for $H=SO(3)$

In this section, to extend Main Theorem for the case when $H=SO(3)$, we use the propositions of Section 2 together with the following propositions.

Proposition 3.1. *Let G be a connected compact Lie groups with finite fundamental group, $p: \bar{G} \rightarrow G$ the universal covering, and f an arbitrary mapping from BG to $BSO(3)$, Then $fBp \simeq *$ implies $f \simeq *$.*

Proof. Consider the following fibration ;

$$B\bar{G} \xrightarrow{B\phi} BG \xrightarrow{\lambda} K(\pi_1(G), 2).$$

Since $\pi_1(G)$ is a finite group, \bar{G} is a compact connected Lie group and $\pi_q C_0(B\bar{G}, BSO(3))=0$ by Proposition 1.2 with $Y=\Omega BSO(3)=SO(3)$. Again by Zabrodsky's Lemma ([9], Lemma 1.5), there exists a mapping $\bar{f}:K(\pi_1(G), 2)\rightarrow BSO(3)$ such that $f\simeq\bar{f}\lambda$. On the other hand, $\pi_m \text{Map}_*(K(\pi_1(G), 2), BSO(3))=\prod_{n>0} \text{Ext}(\bar{H}_*(K(\pi_1(G), 2); \mathbb{Q}), \pi_{n+m+1}(BSO(3))/\text{torsion})=0$ by Zabrodsky's Theorems ([8], Theorem 2.1, 2.1.4, Theorem 4.1(C)₁) with the fact that $\pi_1(G)$ is finite. So, $\bar{f}\simeq*$. This implies the proposition.

Now, we can prove for $H=SO(3)$ the following proposition instead of Proposition 1.3 and Remark 1.4.

Proposition 3.2. *Let G_1 and G_2 be compact connected Lie groups with finite fundamental groups and $j_t:BG_t\rightarrow BG_1\times BG_2$ the canonical inclusion into the t -th factor, $t=1, 2$. Then for any mapping $h:BG_1\times BG_2\rightarrow BSO(3), hj_1\simeq*$ or $hj_2\simeq*$.*

Proof. Let $p_t:\bar{G}_t\rightarrow G_t$ and $p:Sp(1)\rightarrow SO(3)$ be the universal coverings. Then we can take a lift \bar{h} of h such that the following diagram commutes :

$$\begin{array}{ccc} B\bar{G}_1\times B\bar{G}_2 & \xrightarrow{\bar{h}} & BSp(1) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ BG_1\times BG_2 & \xrightarrow{h} & BSO(3). \end{array}$$

By Proposition 1.3 and Remark 1.4, we have $\bar{h}|B\bar{G}_1\times\{*\}\simeq*$ or $\bar{h}|\{*\}\times B\bar{G}_2\simeq*$. Therefore we have $h|BG_1\times\{*\}\simeq*$ or $h|\{*\}\times BG_2\simeq*$ by Proposition 3.1. This implies the proposition.

Main Theorem for the case when $H=SO(3)$ is also obtained by Theorem 1.5 together with Proposition 1.2 and 3.2.

§ 4. Applications

In this section, we determine the homotopy sets and of some mapping spaces between product spaces of HP^∞ 's. We will here abbreviate $\pi_0(\text{Map}_*(X, Y), *)$ by $[X, Y]$, and we denote by $\text{SHE}(X)$ the homotopy set of all self homotopy equivalences.

At first, by Corollary, we have the following example.

Example 4.1. (1) $\text{Map}(\prod^n HP^\infty, HP^\infty)$ is weakly equivalent to $\text{Map}(HP^\infty, HP^\infty) \cup_{HP^\infty} \dots \cup_{HP^\infty} \text{Map}(HP^\infty, HP^\infty)$ (push-out of n copies).

(2) $\text{Map}_*(\prod^n HP^\infty, HP^\infty)$ is weakly equivalent to $\text{Map}_*(HP^\infty, HP^\infty) \vee \dots \vee \text{Map}_*(HP^\infty, HP^\infty)^{*1)}$ (wedge-sum of n copies).

This example shows that $HP^\infty = BSp(1)$ does not allow H -structure, and moreover, does not have binary operations except for the trivial one. In contrast, $BU(1)$ and $BO(1)$ are H -spaces.

Proposition 4.2. *The homotopy set $[\prod^h HP^\infty, \prod^k HP^\infty]$ is classified by the degrees of mappings and is isomorphic with $M(k, h; A)$, where $M(k, h; A)$ denotes the set of all (k, h) -matrices whose entries in each arrow are all zero without one entry and are all belonging to $A = \{0, j^2; j \text{ is an odd number}\}$.*

Proof. Let us recall that the degree of a self mapping of HP^∞ is in A ([2]). Define the degree $\text{deg}(f)$ of a mapping $f : \prod^h HP^\infty \rightarrow HP^\infty$ by the vector (a^1, \dots, a^h) of integers, whose j -th entry $a^j = \text{deg}(f^j)$ is the degree of the restriction f^j of f to the j -th factor of $\prod^h HP^\infty$. Then the entries of $\text{deg}(f)$ are all zero without one entry and are belonging to A , since $[\prod^h HP^\infty, HP^\infty]$ must be the pointed sum of the h copies of $[HP^\infty, HP^\infty]$ by Corollary. Let us define the mapping D of $[\prod^h HP^\infty, \prod^k HP^\infty] \cong \prod^k [\prod^h HP^\infty, HP^\infty]$ to $M(k, h; A)$ by

$$D(f) = \begin{pmatrix} \text{deg}(f_1) \\ \vdots \\ \text{deg}(f_k) \end{pmatrix},$$

where $f = f_1 \cdots f_k$ and $f_i : \prod^h HP^\infty \rightarrow HP^\infty$. On the other hand, D. Sullivan constructed self mapping of HP^∞ of any given odd square degree ([7]), and recently, G. Mislin shows that a self mapping of HP^∞ is classified by its degree (see [6], Classification Theorem). Therefore D is a bijection. This implies the proposition.

This proposition implies that the monoid $[\prod^n HP^\infty, \prod^n HP^\infty]$ can be regarded as the matrix monoid $M(n, n; A)$. Hence we obtain

Example 4.3. $\text{SHE}(\prod^n HP^\infty) \cong \Sigma_n$ the symmetric group.

Appendix

The Main Theorem has counter examples if we omit the assumption for H or G_t 's.

Counter Examples. 1) Let $H = Sp(2)$, $G_1 = G_2 = Sp(1)$ and f the inclusion of

1) Recently, W. G. Dwyer shows that every non-trivial component of $\text{Map}_(HP^\infty, HP^\infty)$ is weakly equivalent to the completion of $SO(3)$.

$G_1 \times G_2$ into $Sp(2)$ which maps (u, v) to the diagonal matrix $u \oplus v$. Then f is a homomorphism with $f|_{G_1 \times \{e\}}$ and $f|_{\{e\} \times G_2}$ being non-trivial homomorphism, and both of the restrictions to $BG_1 \times \{e\}$ and $\{e\} \times BG_2$ of Bf are non-trivial.

2) Let G_1 and G_2 be $SO(3)$, and let H be $U(1)$. Put $f: BG_1 \times BG_2 \rightarrow BU(1)$ be a representing mapping of $u_1 \times 1 + 1 \times u_2$ in $H^2(BG_1 \times BG_2; \mathbb{Z})$ where u_t is a generator of $H^2(BG_t; \mathbb{Z}) \cong \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$. Then f has nontrivial restrictions to the factors, because they are just the representing mappings of non-zero elements u_1, u_2 .

3) Let G_1 and G_2 be non-trivial tori $U(1)^n$ and $U(1)^m$. (for $k=n$ or m , $\pi_1((U(1)^k) = \mathbb{Z}^k$ is an infinite group!) Let H be $SO(3)$ or $Sp(1)$, $i: U(1) \rightarrow H$ the injection of the maximal torus, and $m: BG_1 \times BG_2 \rightarrow BU(1)$ the multiplication of the H -space $BU(1)$. Put $f: BG_1 \times BG_2 \rightarrow BH$ be $(Bi)m(Bq_1 \times Bq_2)$, where $q_t: G_t \rightarrow U(1)$ are non-trivial projections to some coordinates. Then f has restrictions to the factors which can be regarded as the non-trivial mappings $(Bi)(Bq_t)$ for $t=1, 2$. (This example is pointed out by the referee.)

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