

Classifying bundles with fiber $K(\pi, 1)$

In the Postnikov system for a map $f : X \rightarrow B$ there are commutative diagrams

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 & X^n & \\
 u^n \nearrow & \downarrow q^n & \searrow p^n \\
 X & & B \\
 u^{n-1} \searrow & & \nearrow p^{n-1} \\
 & X^{n-1} &
 \end{array}$$

where the u^n are n -connected and the p^n and q^n are n -covers for $n \geq 0$. If F is the fiber of f and F^n the fiber of p^n , then we have diagrams

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 F & \longrightarrow & F^n \\
 & \searrow & \swarrow \\
 & F^{n-1} &
 \end{array}$$

which are a Postnikov system for F . Looking at the commutative diagrams above, we see that the fiber of q^n is the fiber of $F^n \rightarrow F^{n-1}$ which is $K(\pi_n(F), n)$. Assuming f is a minimal fibration, the q^n will also be minimal fibrations and hence bundles with fiber $K(\pi_n(F), n)$. So, for $n \geq 2$, The situation is as we indicated at CT 2011. The classifying spaces are homotopy colimits of diagrams of $K(\pi_n, n+1)$'s over the fundamental groupoid.

The case $n = 1$, is different, however, for then the fiber is $K(\pi_1(F), 1)$, which, in general, is not a simplicial abelian group etc. If we assume F is connected, then $X^0 = B$ and $q^1 : X^1 \rightarrow B$ is a bundle with fiber $K(\pi_1(F), 1)$, so we need to know how to classify these. In the literature this problem is either ignored, leading to mistakes, or swept under the rug by assuming $\pi_1(F)$ is abelian. In the talk, we give a complete, general solution to the problem. This is joint work with Andr Joyal.