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*Stabilization of Homotopy Limits.*

Given a functor  $F : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{S}$ , we study the spectrum  $\Sigma^\infty \text{holim}_{\mathcal{C}} F$ . The natural map

$$\Sigma^\infty \text{holim}_{\mathcal{C}} F \rightarrow \text{holim}_{\mathcal{C}} \Sigma^\infty F$$

is rarely an equivalence, but can be thought of as a linear approximation to  $\Sigma^\infty \text{holim}_{\mathcal{C}} F$  in the sense of Goodwillie. We describe a family of endofunctors  $B_n : \mathcal{C}at \rightarrow \mathcal{C}at$  such that there is a tower of fibrations

$$\cdots \rightarrow \text{holim}_{B_n(\mathcal{C})} \Sigma^\infty F_n \rightarrow \text{holim}_{B_{n-1}(\mathcal{C})} \Sigma^\infty F_{n-1} \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow \text{holim}_{B_1(\mathcal{C})} \Sigma^\infty F_1$$

Under some hypotheses on  $\mathcal{C}$  and  $F$ , we show that  $\Sigma^\infty \text{holim}_{\mathcal{C}} F$  is equivalent to the inverse limit of this tower, so that we have a natural filtration of the stable homotopy type of a homotopy limit.

Various special cases of this construction yield familiar results. When the indexing category  $\mathcal{C}$  is discrete, we obtain the classical Snaith splitting of a product of spaces. We also describe the connection of this construction to the Bousfield-Kan spectral sequence of a cosimplicial space. (Received September 01, 2008)