

Phantom mappings and a shape-theoretic problem concerning products

In 1977 Y. Kodama proved that the Cartesian product of an FANR (compact metric space shape dominated by a compact polyhedron) and a paracompact space is a product in the shape category of topological spaces $\text{Sh}(\text{Top})$. In the same paper he stated the following problem, which is still open.

PROBLEM 1. Let X be a movable continuum and let P be a metric space. Is the Cartesian product $X \times P$ a product in $\text{Sh}(\text{Top})$?

Since the simplest movable continuum, which is not an FANR, is the Hawaiian earring, it is natural to try to solve the following (also open) problem.

PROBLEM 2. Let X be the Hawaiian earring and let P be the wedge of a sequence of copies of the 1-sphere S^1 (weak topology). Is $X \times P$ a product in $\text{Sh}(\text{Top})$?

The next (open) problem is a simplification of Problem 2. A positive answer would imply a negative answer to problems 2 and 1.

PROBLEM 3. Let X and P be as in Problem 2 and let Z be a polyhedron. Is there a nontrivial shape morphism $H: Z \rightarrow X \times P$, whose compositions with the canonical projections $\pi_X: X \times P \rightarrow X$ and $\pi_P: X \times P \rightarrow P$ are constant shape morphisms $*$: $Z \rightarrow X$ and $*$: $Z \rightarrow P$.

We construct a polyhedral resolution $\mathbf{q}: X \times P \rightarrow \mathbf{Y} = (Y_\mu)$ and show that Problem 3 is equivalent to the following Problem 4, involving phantom mappings (restrictions to compact subsets are homotopic to constant mappings $*$).

PROBLEM 4. Is there a nontrivial homotopy mapping $\mathbf{h} = (h_\mu): \mathbf{Y}$, consisting of phantom mappings $h_\mu: Z \rightarrow Y_\mu$?