

Relation between Thom classes & Poincaré duality

Say M^m oriented cpct (connected for simplicity) manifold, $E \downarrow M$ ^{rank k} oriented vector bundle, then E is a non-compact oriented manifold dimension $m+k$, so we have

non-compact formulation Poincaré duality for E :

$$H_c^*(E) \xrightarrow[\text{P.D.}]{\cong} H_{k+m-*}(E) \left(\xrightarrow{\cong} H_{k+m-*}(M) \right)$$

relates this to other groups we've studied.

b/c M is cpct.

Picking a metric $\langle -, - \rangle$ on E , get an exhaustion of E by cpct. sets $D_R(E) = \{(x,v) \mid \|v\| \leq R\}$

$$\Rightarrow H_c^*(E) \cong \varinjlim_R H^*(E, E \setminus D_R(E))$$

note $(E, E \setminus D_R(E)) \xrightarrow[\text{h.c.}]{\cong} (E, E^0)$

$$\cong H^*(E, E^0)$$

(by \curvearrowright)

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & & \nearrow \text{h.c.} \\ & \downarrow & \\ (E, E \setminus D_{R'}(E)) & & \end{array}$$

for $R > R'$

So therefore the Thom class $u \in H^k(E, E_0)$ corresponds to

an element of $H_c^k(E) \cong H_m(E)$ via Poincaré duality for E . what element?

$$i_M: M \xrightarrow{\cong} E \text{ homotopy inverse to } \pi: E \rightarrow M$$

Claim: P.D. for E sends Thom class u to $(i_M)_* [M]$ in $H_m(E)$.

(determined by orientation on E as manifold (which in turn is determined by orientation on M and one on E as a bundle))

How to use this fact?

(assume smooth)

If $K^k \subset M^m$ any submanifold, K, M oriented, cpct \Rightarrow got a class $i_* [K] \in H_k(M)$.

Can ask: how to think about P.D. $([K]) \in H^{m-k}(M)$ explicitly?

(i) (Tubular neighborhood theorem):

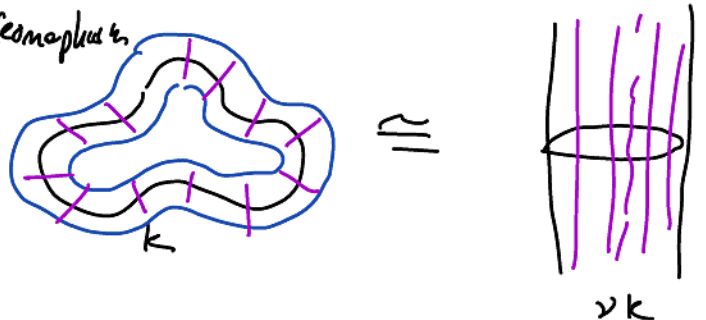
Thm: \exists open nbhd U of K in M and a diffeomorphism

normal bundle of K in M $(TM|_K / TK)$

$$\nu_K \cong U$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \uparrow \cong & & \uparrow \text{incl.} \\ \mathcal{G} & & K \end{array}$$

es.,

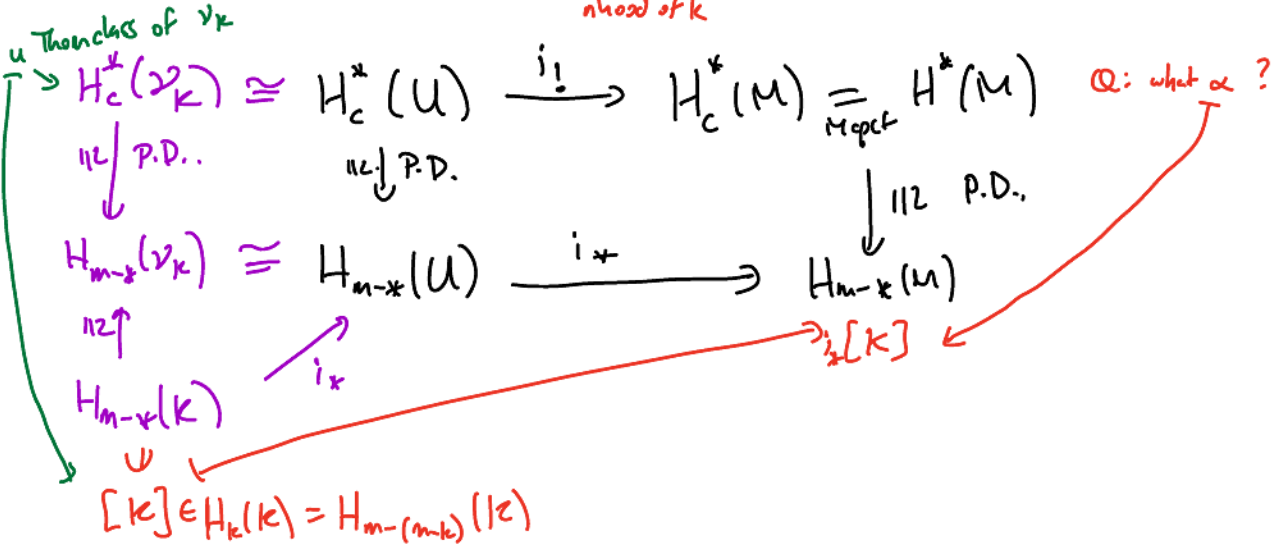


(2) Given an open inclusion of manifolds $W \xrightarrow{i} W'$, we prev. asserted one gets

$$\begin{array}{ccc} H_c^*(W) & \xrightarrow{i!} & H_c^*(W') \\ \downarrow \cong \text{P.D.} & & \downarrow \cong \text{P.D.} \\ H_{m-x}(W) & \xrightarrow{i_*} & H_{m-x}(W') \end{array}$$

"extend by zero" (covariant).

\Rightarrow in our setting above for $U \xrightarrow{i} M$, get:



Cor: $i_*[k]$ (sometimes just called $[k]$) $\in H_k(M)$ is P.D. in M to pushforward of Thom class of the normal bundle ν_k to k in M .

Cobordism rings Using what we've developed so far (plus some further indicated topics), want to compute cobordism rings.

- Recall: M, M' m -dim'l cpct manifolds. (smooth)
- say M, M' are cobordant if \exists cpct $(m+1)$ -manifold with $\partial W \cong M \sqcup M'$.
 - If M, M' oriented, say M, M' oriented cobordant if \exists cpct. oriented W s.t. $\partial W \cong \bar{M} \sqcup M'$ as oriented manifolds.
- \uparrow M w/ reversed orientation

Lemma: The relation of being cobordant resp. oriented cobordant is an equiv. relation. (exercise)

Define: $\Omega_n := \{ \text{cpct oriented } n\text{-manifolds} \} / \text{oriented cobordism}$ oriented cobordism group

$\mathcal{N}_n := \{ \text{cpct } n\text{-manifolds} \} / \text{cobordism}$ (unoriented) cobordism group.

Group structure? (Focus on Ω_n, Π_n case is same - and simpler).

identity? $0 = [\emptyset]$

addition? $[M] + [M'] := [M \sqcup M']$

inverses? note that $M \sqcup \bar{M} = \partial(M \times [0,1])$ ↑ oriented sense $\Rightarrow [M] + [\bar{M}] = 0$.

$\Rightarrow [\bar{M}]$ additive inverse to $[M]$.

(in Π_n , note that $M \sqcup M = \partial(M \times [0,1]) \Rightarrow [M] + [M] = 0$. i.e., $2[M] = 0$
 $\Rightarrow [M]$ is its own additive inverse $\Rightarrow \Pi_n$ is $\mathbb{Z}/2$ -torsion)

note: if $M \cong_{\text{oriented diff}} M'$
 then $[M] = [M']$
 in Ω_n , similarly
 in Π_n if $M \cong_{\text{diff}} M'$.

Product structure:

$M^m, N^n \longmapsto (M \times N)^{m+n}$, inherits a canonical orientation if M, N oriented.

induces $\Omega_m \times \Omega_n \rightarrow \Omega_{m+n} \rightsquigarrow \Omega_* = \bigoplus_{i \geq 0} \Omega_i$ into a graded ring.

($\& \Pi_m \times \Pi_n \rightarrow \Pi_{m+n}$.
 $\rightsquigarrow \Pi_* := \bigoplus \Pi_i$ similarly.)

(graded commutative?)

$$M^m \times N^n \cong_{\text{non-orient. diff}} (-1)^{mn} N^n \times M^m$$

↑ means orientation reverse if mn is odd.

$$\Rightarrow [M] \cdot [N] = (-1)^{mn} [N] \cdot [M]$$

Basic tools for studying Ω_*/Π_* : Pontryagin/Stiefel-Whitney numbers:

For any unordered partition $I = \{i_1, \dots, i_r\}$ of k , have Pontryagin numbers

$$[M^{4k}] \longmapsto P_I[M^{4k}] := \left\langle \prod_{j=1}^r P_{i_j}(M), [M] \right\rangle \in \mathbb{Z}$$

↳ \mathbb{Z} -fund. class.

$$\begin{aligned} \{1, 2, 1, 3\} &= \{1, 1, 1, 2\} \\ &\downarrow \\ P_1 P_1 P_2 \\ &\uparrow \\ P_1^2 P_2 \end{aligned}$$

& Stiefel-Whitney numbers

$$[N^k] \longmapsto w_I[N^k] := \left\langle \prod_{j=1}^r w_{i_j}(N), [N] \right\rangle \in \mathbb{Z}/2$$

↳ $\mathbb{Z}/2$ -fund. class

what we've shown is that those associations give group homomorphisms:

$$P_I: \Omega_{4k} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}, \quad w_I: \Pi_k \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/2 \quad \text{respectively.}$$

HW had an application of w_I to bounding below size of Π_k , for instance.

Similarly, a computation reveals that:

Thm: (e.g., Milnor - Stasheff): The collection $\{\underbrace{\mathbb{C}P^{2j_1} \times \dots \times \mathbb{C}P^{2j_r}}_{\mathbb{C}P_J}\}_{J=(j_1 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow j_r) \in p(k)}$ are all linearly independent and non-zero in Ω_{4k} . 4k-dim'l real manifolds, oriented. (unordered) partitions of k

$\Rightarrow \text{rank}(\Omega_{4k}) \geq \#p(k)$.

A couple ideas of proof:

Basic idea is to show that the matrix $(P_I(\mathbb{C}P_J))_{I, J \in p(k)}$ is non-singular.

$$\Rightarrow \prod_{I \in p(k)} P_I: \Omega_{4k} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}^{\#p(k)}$$

sends $\{\mathbb{C}P_J\}_{J \in p(k)}$ to a linearly independent collection.

Input: $p(\mathbb{C}P^{2k}) = (1+h^2)^{2k+1}$ in $\mathbb{Z}[h]/h^{2k+1}$

(so for $i < k$ $p_i(\mathbb{C}P^{2k}) = \binom{2k+1}{i} h^{2i} \Rightarrow P_I(\mathbb{C}P^{2k}) = \binom{2n+1}{i_1} \dots \binom{2n+1}{i_r}$ I = $i_1 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow i_r$)

• formula for products. □

A few oriented cobordism groups (Milnor - Stasheff p. 203): share — .

The key to computing cobordism ring is the following fundamental theorem of Thom:

Def: $G_k(\mathbb{R}^\infty)$ Grassmannian of k -planes, $E_{\text{fant}}^k \rightarrow G_k(\mathbb{R}^\infty)$. BO(k)

$\widetilde{G}_k(\mathbb{R}^\infty)$ Grassmannian of oriented k -planes, $\widetilde{E}_{\text{fant}}^k \rightarrow \widetilde{G}_k(\mathbb{R}^\infty)$. BSO(k) (classifying space for oriented vector bundles) oriented rank k vector bundle. (2:1 cover of $BO(k)$ via $(V, w) \mapsto V$.)

Thm: ([Thom]) Fix n . For any $k > n+1$, there is an isomorphism

$$\begin{aligned} \pi_{n+k}(T(\widetilde{E}_{\text{fant}}^k), \text{to}) &\xrightarrow{\cong} \Omega_n \\ \pi_{n+k}(T(E_{\text{fant}}^k), \text{to}) &\xrightarrow{\cong} \Omega_n \end{aligned}$$

(n+k)th homology group as above Thom space as above canonical basepoint in any Thom space.

Goal: explain ingredients of proof, & a way of computing ZHS in terms of homology groups.

Thom spaces of vector bundles

$E \rightarrow X$ real rank k vector bundle. Fixing metric, get

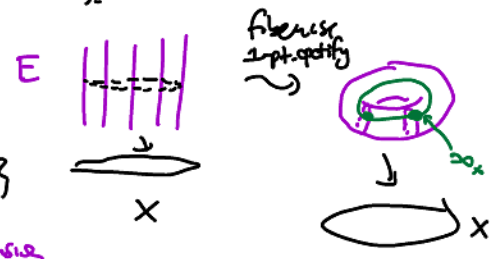
$D(E)$ unit disc bundle, $S(E)$ unit sphere bundle, $S(E) \subseteq D(E)$.

Define the Thom space of E to be $T(E) := D(E)/S(E) \cong E/\{(x,v) \mid \|v\| \geq 1\}$.

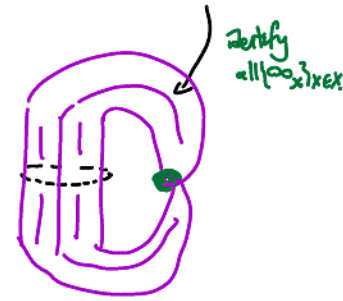
There's a preferred basepoint $t_0 \in T(E)$ given by $[S(E)] =: t_0$ in $T(E)$.

Can think of forming $T(E)$ in two steps:

- in fiber E_x , take quotient $D(E_x)/S(E_x) \cong E_x \cup \{\infty_x\}$
 \leftarrow rank k
 \nearrow k -disk $\quad \nearrow$ k -sphere
 sphere of diameter k (one point compactifies E_x).



- identify all $\{\infty_x\}_{x \in X}$ to a single point.



We'd like to develop some tools for studying homology (homotopy groups!) of $T(E)$.

Lemma: E oriented, then \exists canonical iso

$$H_{k+i}(T(E), t_0) \cong H_i(B) \quad (\text{homology variant of Thom isomorphism, for Thom spaces})$$

(\exists such an iso. w/ $\mathbb{Z}/2$ coeffs w/o assuming E oriented).

Pf sketch:

$$H_{k+i}(T(E), t_0) \cong H_{k+i}(T(E), \overbrace{T(E)}^{\circ} - \underline{0}_x)$$

(note as sets $T(E) \cong E \cup t_0$
 'one point specification of E '
 (provided X is compact))

(b/c $T(E)^\circ = \sqcup E_x^\circ \cup t_0$ is contractible, homy equiv. to t_0)

$$\cong H_{k+i}(E, E^\circ) \cong H_i(X).$$

excision
(exercise to)

Thom iso.
(homology version)

given Thom class $u \in H^k(E, E^\circ)$, $-\cap u : H_{k+i}(E, E^\circ) \rightarrow H_i(E)$

$$\downarrow \cong$$

$$H_i(X)$$

Homotopy groups:

$k > 0$, by def'n $\pi_k(X, x_0) := [(S^k, s_0), (X, x_0)]$. in analogy w/ π_1 ,

have $(S^k, s_0) \cong (I^k, \partial I^k)$, so can think of?

write $\pi_k(X)$
if x_0 implicit

$$\pi_k(X, x_0) := [(I^k, \partial I^k), (X, x_0)] \quad \& \quad \pi_k(X, A) := [(I^k, \partial I^k), (X, A)].$$

There's a group structure on each π_k , most natural to see via

'concatenate' in first coordinate'

$$\begin{matrix} \boxed{\sigma_1} \\ 0 \quad 1 \end{matrix} \cdot \begin{matrix} \boxed{\sigma_2} \\ 0 \quad 1 \end{matrix} := \begin{matrix} \boxed{\sigma_1 \quad \sigma_2} \\ 0 \quad \frac{1}{2} \quad 1 \end{matrix}$$

π_k is abelian for $k \geq 2$, via following homotopy:

$$\boxed{\sigma_1 \mid \sigma_2} \simeq \begin{matrix} \sigma_1 & * \\ * & \sigma_2 \end{matrix} \simeq \begin{matrix} \sigma_2 & * \\ * & \sigma_1 \end{matrix} \simeq \boxed{\sigma_2 \mid \sigma_1} .$$

4/14/2021

Today: More about Thom's cobordism theorem:

- homotopy groups + methods of computing (to compute LHS of theorem in some cases) - sketch.
- proof of Thom's thm (sketch)
- applications (sketch)

Homotopy groups are much more difficult to compute (failure of excision). However, in suitable ranges, they can be ^(partly) computed in terms of homology via (versions of the) Hurewicz theorem.

There's a map

$$\begin{matrix} \pi_r(X) & \xrightarrow{h} & H_r(X; \mathbb{Z}) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ [\alpha: S^r \rightarrow X] & \longmapsto & \alpha_* [S^r] \end{matrix} \quad \text{for any (based) } X := (X, x_0)$$

can check: h is a group homomorphism.

Can't always be an isomorphism, & for $r=1$ h has to factor through abelianization $\pi_1 / [\pi_1, \pi_1]$ b/c H_1 abelian.

In Math 540 one proves Thm ($r=1$ Hurewicz thm): h induces an iso. $\pi_1(X) / [\pi_1(X), \pi_1(X)] \xrightarrow{\cong} H_1(X; \mathbb{Z})$.

Now, π_k abelian for $k \geq 2$, & thm states: \leftarrow means $\pi_i(X) = 0$ for $i < n$.

Thm: (Hurewicz) If X is ^(based) $(n-1)$ -connected, $n \geq 2$. Then,

$$\tilde{H}_i(X) = 0 \quad \text{for } i < n \quad \text{and} \quad h: \pi_n(X) \xrightarrow{\cong} H_n(X).$$

reduced homology
(= H_i ; $i > 0$, 0 ; $i = 0$)

\uparrow
Hurewicz homomorphism.

(Similarly have Hurewicz for pairs: if (X, A) $(n-1)$ -connected, & A is simply connected non-empty, then ...)

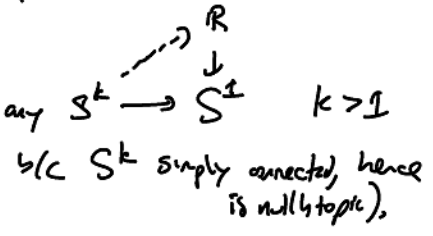
Prmk: There are various ways to show that if X CW complex w/ ^{no i -} cells (aside from one 0-cell) for $i < k$, then X is $(k-1)$ -connected, i.e., $\pi_i(X) = 0$ for $i < k$. (consequence of "cellular approximation" of maps,

c.f. Hatcher

⇒ π_i(S^k) = 0 for i < k.

(moment you know a given f: Sⁱ → S^k up to homotopy misses a point, it factors through R^k, which is contractible)

know: • π₁(S¹) = Z, know π_k(S¹) = 0 for k > 1 (why? any S^k → S¹ k > 1



The above then tells us: S^k k >= 2, then

π_i(S^k) = 0 i < k, and π_k(S^k) ≅ H_k(S^k) = Z

(in general π_j(S^k) j > k are quite interesting, unlike H_j(S^k) = 0)

e.g., using cup product on CP² we argued that [attaching map in CP²: ∂e⁴ → S² = CP¹] ≠ 0 in π₃(S²) (in fact, π₃(S²) ≅ Z).

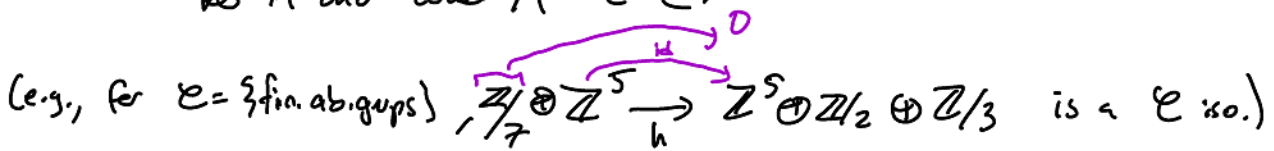
However, range of Hurewicz can be extended, provided one forgets some information, [Serre, "Serre classes"]

One instance: let C denote the class of all finite abelian groups (e.g., Z/2, Z/3Z ⊕ Z/5Z, NOT Z)

C is an instance of a Serre class (subsets of all groups closed under subgroups, quotients, extensions)

→ other examples include {fin. gen. abelian groups}, {p-groups}

A homomorphism h: A → B is said to be a C-iso. (or iso. mod C) C any Serre class, if ker A and coker A ∈ C.



Similarly, A = 0 mod C if A ∈ C.

Thm: (Hurewicz) If X is (n-1)-connected mod C, n >= 2. Then, means π_i(X) = 0 mod C ∀ i ≤ n-1.

H_i(X) = 0 mod C for i < n and h: π_n(X) ≅ H_n(X) mod C. (reduced homology (i > 0, 0 i = 0) Hurewicz homomorphism.)

Have a relative version for (X, A), A ⊂ X, & more generally a version for maps A → X: Thm: (generalized Whitehead mod C): f: A → X map, A, X both simply connected.

- (a) π_i(A) → π_i(X) is an iso. mod C for i ≤ n and surjective mod C for i = n+1,
(b) H_i(A) → H_i(X) " " " " " "

Using this, one can show the following claim:

Cor: (Milner-Stasheff): Say X $(k-1)$ -connected, $k > 2$. $\mathcal{C} = \{\text{finite abelian groups}\}$

Then $\pi_r(X) \xrightarrow{h} H_r(X; \mathbb{Z})$ is a \mathcal{C} iso. for all $r < 2k-1$
(ordinary iso. for $r \leq k$ by usual Hurewicz)

Pf sketch:

(i) True for spheres S^k . (uses the fact that $\pi_i(S^k) = \begin{cases} \mathbb{Z} & i = k \\ \text{finite} & i < 2k-1, i \neq k \end{cases}$) (note $\pi_3(S^2) = \mathbb{Z}$)

(ii) If true for X, Y , then true for $X \vee Y$
 \Rightarrow true for any $S^{i_1} \vee \dots \vee S^{i_k}$ ($i_1, \dots, i_k > 1$)

(iii) General X , (fact: $\pi_i(X)$ are finitely generated (omitted)):

Pick generators for all free parts of $\pi_i(X)$, $i < 2k-1$, $\{f_k: S^{n_k} \rightarrow X\}$, wedge together:

$$S^{n_1} \vee \dots \vee S^{n_j} \xrightarrow{\vee f_k} X \text{ induces an iso. } \pi_i(S^{n_1} \vee \dots \vee S^{n_j}) \xrightarrow{\cong} \pi_i(X) \text{ mod } \mathcal{C} \text{ for } i < 2k-1.$$

By generalized Hurewicz mod \mathcal{C} , there's also a homology iso. mod \mathcal{C}

$$H_i(S^{n_1} \vee \dots \vee S^{n_j}) \xrightarrow{\cong} H_i(X),$$

reducing us to case (i).

□.

$\mathcal{C} = \{\text{finite abelian groups}\}$ for below: rank k oriented

Cor: (computation of homotopy groups of $T(E \rightarrow X)$)

If $E \rightarrow X$ rank k oriented bundle,

$$\pi_{n+k}(T(E), to) \xrightarrow{\cong} H_n(X; \mathbb{Z}) \text{ for all } n < k-1; \text{ mod } \mathcal{C}.$$

$$\text{Pf: } \pi_{n+k}(T(E), to) \xrightarrow{\cong \text{ (mod } \mathcal{C})} H_{n+k}(T(E); \mathbb{Z}) \xrightarrow{\cong \text{ Thom iso (last class)}} H_n(X; \mathbb{Z}).$$

check: $(k-1)$ -connected space.

Milner-Stasheff cor. ($n < k-1$) so $k+n < 2k-1$.

(bijection i cells of $X \leftrightarrow i+k$ cells of $T(E)$)
for $i > 0$;
cell analog of Thom iso.

Cor: Mod \mathcal{C} , $\pi_{n+k}(\tilde{E}_{\text{fact}}^k) \xrightarrow{\cong} H_n(\tilde{O}_k(\mathbb{R}^\infty); \mathbb{Z})$.

we've computed variants in class, e.g., we computed $H_*(G_k(\mathbb{R}^\infty), \mathbb{Z}/2)$, $H_*(G_k(\mathbb{C}^\infty), \mathbb{Z})$.

Returning to:

Thm: (Thom) Fix n . For any $k > n+1$, there is an isomorphism

$$\pi_{n+k}(T(\tilde{E}_{\text{taut}}^k), to) \xrightarrow{\cong} \Omega_n$$

$$\pi_{n+k}(T(E_{\text{taut}}^k), to) \xrightarrow{\cong} \Omega_n$$

We'd like to explain some details of the proof. The first is, how to construct a map?

Roughly the idea is to find in $[f: S^n \rightarrow T(\tilde{E}_{\text{taut}}^k)]$ a "smooth" rep, & try to take $f^{-1}(0 \text{ section})$.

First, $\pi_{n+k}(T(\tilde{E}_{\text{taut}}^k), to) \cong \pi_{n+k}(T(\tilde{E}_{\text{taut}}^{k,p}), to)$, $\tilde{E}_{\text{taut}}^{k,p}$ for $p \gg 0$. (by cellular approx)
 \downarrow
 $\tilde{G}_k(\mathbb{R}^{k+p})$
 smooth vector bundle; smooth manifold
 so total space of E is a smooth manifold.

Basic useful ^{defs/} facts from smooth manifold theory:

M^m, N^n smooth, $f: M \rightarrow N$ smooth, recall $y \in N$ regular value of f (or f is transverse to y)
 if at every $x \in f^{-1}(y)$, $df_x: T_x M \rightarrow T_y N$. (if $m < n$, this can only happen when $f^{-1}(y) = \emptyset$)

IFT \Rightarrow at a regular value $f^{-1}(y) \subseteq M$ submanifold dimension $m-n$.

More generally, if $Y \subseteq N^n$ submanifold of codimension k (meaning $\dim(Y) = n-k$). f is transverse to Y if at every $x \in f^{-1}(Y)$,

$$df_x(T_x M) + T_{f(x)} Y = T_{f(x)} N, \text{ or equivalently}$$

$$T_x M \xrightarrow{df_x} T_{f(x)} N \xrightarrow{pr} \nu_{f(x)} Y = T_{f(x)} N / T_{f(x)} Y.$$

is surjective:

(special case: $M \subset N \ni Y$, then i is transverse to $Y \Leftrightarrow M \pitchfork Y$).

IFT \Rightarrow If f transverse to Y , then $f^{-1}(Y) \subseteq M$ submanifold of dimension $m-k$. (codimension k in M).

(if $f=i$ inclusion, $f^{-1}(Y) = M \cap Y$)
 & lem: orientation of 2/3 of $0 \rightarrow A \rightarrow B \rightarrow C \rightarrow 0 \Rightarrow$ orientation of 3rd covariantly.

$(T_x f^{-1}(Y) = \ker(T_x M \rightarrow \nu_{f(x)} Y))$, so $0 \rightarrow T_x f^{-1}(Y) \rightarrow T_x M \rightarrow \nu_{f(x)} Y \rightarrow 0$,
 \Rightarrow if M orientd, νY orientd, then $f^{-1}(Y)$ is.

Techniques from smooth topology show that transversality is a "generic condition": by either wiggling f or Y a little, can ensure \bar{f} is transverse to Y or f is transverse to \tilde{Y} .

\nwarrow smoothly homotopic to f , and equals f outside a region.

e.g., [Sard's theorem] \Rightarrow Regular values of $f: M \rightarrow N$ are open dense

\Rightarrow any $y \in N$, $\exists \tilde{y}$ arbitrarily nearby regular value.

Now, using these techniques, plus 'smooth approximation' (any continuous $f: \mathbb{Q}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ can be approximated up to homotopy by a smooth map (in that region), unchanged outside a neighborhood of that region).

All of these techniques imply:

Thm: (Milnor-Stasheff Thm 18.6): $E \rightarrow B$ smooth vec. bdl over a smooth manifold, and let $f: S^m \rightarrow T(E)$ continuous, sending $s_0 \mapsto t_0$. Then, f is homotopic to a map $g: S^m \rightarrow T(E)$

\uparrow (recall $E \subset T(E)$ w/ $T(E) - E = t_0$)
 \uparrow open
 \uparrow smooth manifold

Satisfying:

• g is smooth over $g^{-1}(E) = g^{-1}(T(E) - t_0)$.
 (smooth approx') \uparrow open subset of S^m

• g transverse to $B \subseteq E$, submanifold of codimension k .
 (transversality theory) \uparrow (gen section inclusion) (note $\nu B = E$)

$\Rightarrow g^{-1}(B)$ is a submanifold of S^m of dimension $m-k$.

Moreover, $g^{-1}(B)$ inherits an orientation from an orientation of E . \leftarrow (\Leftrightarrow orientation of νB).
 (S^m is oriented).

• any homotopic \tilde{g} as above induces a cobordant (oriented cobordant if E oriented) manifold:

$$[\tilde{g}^{-1}(B)] = [g^{-1}(B)] \in \Omega_{m-k} \quad (\text{or } \Omega_{m-k}^{\text{or}}).$$

(why? if $g \simeq \tilde{g}$, smoothly approximate the homotopy to get $H: S^m \times [0,1] \rightarrow T(E)$ which is smooth over $H^{-1}(E)$, & further perturb H to ensure $H \pitchfork B$.

$\Rightarrow H^{-1}(B)$ m -fold w/ boundary, orient'd if E is, w/

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ [0,1] & & \partial H^{-1}(B) = \overline{g^{-1}(B)} \sqcup \tilde{g}^{-1}(B) \\ \text{smooth rank } k \text{ bundle} & & \uparrow \text{ over } 0 \quad \uparrow \text{ over } 1 \\ \text{over smooth } B & & \end{array}$$

gives a map $\pi_m(T(E), t_0) \rightarrow \Omega_{m-k}$ (or Ω_{m-k}^{or} if E unoriented).

This is Thom's map:

$$\pi_{n+k}(\tilde{E}_{\text{tub}}^{k,p}) \longrightarrow \Omega_n$$

$$\beta \pi_{n+k}(E_{\text{tub}}^{k,p}) \longrightarrow \Omega_n.$$

Why is the map an iso? Let's just show its surjective: Focus on oriented case.

Start with any M^n cpt oriented manifold, $[M^n] \in \Omega_n$.

(1) [Whitney embedding]

\exists smooth embedding $M \hookrightarrow \mathbb{R}^{n+k}$, $k \gg 0$. ν_M oriented b/c M, \mathbb{R}^{n+k} are.

(2) [Tubular neighborhood theorem]: \exists nbhd U of M in \mathbb{R}^{n+k} & diffeo.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} U & \xrightarrow{\cong} & \nu_M \\ \uparrow i & & \uparrow \rho \\ M & & \underline{0} \end{array}$$

(3) [Classification of ν_M]: $\nu_M \cong (TM)^\perp$ inside $T\mathbb{R}^{n+k}|_M \cong \mathbb{R}^{n+k}$.
 a rank k oriented bundle over M ,

so classified by

$$\begin{array}{ccc} M & \xrightarrow{f} & \tilde{G}_k(\mathbb{R}^{n+p}) \text{ any } p \geq k. \\ \times \longmapsto & & \{ \nu_x M = T_x M^\perp \text{ in } \mathbb{R}^{n+k} \subset \mathbb{R}^{n+p} \} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \nu_M & \xrightarrow{\tilde{f}} & \tilde{E}_{\text{tub}}^{k,p} \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ M & \xrightarrow{f} & \tilde{G}_k(\mathbb{R}^{n+p}) \end{array}$$

These maps are smooth, and $\tilde{f}: \nu_M \rightarrow \tilde{E}_{\text{tub}}^{k,p}$ is a homeom to $B = \underline{0} = \tilde{G}_k(\mathbb{R}^{n+p})$.

(check: this follows from the fact that \tilde{f} induces an iso.

(4) The tubular nbhd $U \cong \nu M$ induces a map

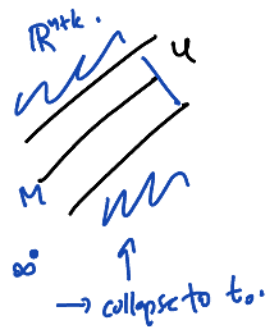
$$\begin{array}{ccc} \nu_M & \xrightarrow{\cong} & p^* \tilde{E}_{\text{tub}}^{k,p} \\ \downarrow \text{inv} & & \downarrow \text{inv} \\ T\nu_M & \xrightarrow{\cong} & \nu_{(0,0)B}^k \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} S^{n+k} = (\mathbb{R}^{n+k} \cup \{\infty\}) & \longrightarrow & T\nu M \\ & \searrow F & \downarrow T\tilde{f} \\ & & T(\tilde{E}_{\text{tub}}^k) \end{array}$$

(Crushing everything outside U to a point to)

can check: F is smooth outside $F^{-1}(\infty)$ (i.e., on U) and $F^{-1}(B = \underline{0}) = M$.

so $[F] \mapsto [M]$ under Thom's map.



$$\pi_{n+k}(T(\hat{E}_{\text{taut}}^{k,p}), to)$$

$\Rightarrow [n] \hookrightarrow [F]$ gives an (at least one-sided) inverse map $\Omega_n \rightarrow \pi_{n+k}(\hat{E}_{\text{taut}}^{k,p})$ to map in other direction (called 'Pontryagin-Thom' construction).

4/19/2021. We've so far explained, & sketched part of:

Thm: ([Thom]) Fix n . For any $k > n+1$, there is an isomorphism

$$\pi_{n+k}(T(\hat{E}_{\text{taut}}^k), to) \xrightarrow{\cong} \Omega_n \quad (\text{oriented cobordism grp})$$

$$\pi_{n+k}(T(E_{\text{taut}}^k), to) \xrightarrow{\cong} \Omega_n \quad (\text{unoriented cobordisms})$$

Today: some geometric considerations. First using previously stated results about homology groups (of Thom spaces), we can deduce the following from above theorem: (focusing on Ω_n)

Cor:

$$\Omega_n \cong \pi_{n+k}(T(\hat{E}_{\text{taut}}^{k,p}), to) \xrightarrow[\substack{\text{mod } e = \\ \text{same class of finite groups}}]{\text{(previously)}} H_n(\tilde{G}_k(\mathbb{R}^{k+p}); \mathbb{Z}) \quad (k, p \gg 0)$$

\uparrow $\hat{E}_{\text{taut}}^{k,p}$ (tangential complex bundle) rank k
 \downarrow $\tilde{G}_k(\mathbb{R}^{k+p})$ oriented Grassmannian

$$\Rightarrow \Omega_n \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{Q} \cong H_n(\tilde{G}_k(\mathbb{R}^{k+p}); \mathbb{Q}) \quad (k, p \gg 0).$$

Furthermore, we can compute RHS:

Thm: R any integral domain containing $\frac{1}{2}$ (e.g., $\mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{Z}[\frac{1}{2}], \dots$). Let $e := e(\hat{E}_{\text{taut}}^k)$, $|e| = k$. Let $p_i := p_i(\hat{E}_{\text{taut}}^k)$, $|p_i| = 4i$.

$$H^*(\tilde{G}_k(\mathbb{R}^\infty); R) \cong \begin{cases} R[p_1, \dots, p_s] & k=2s+1 \text{ is odd} \\ R[p_1, \dots, p_{s-1}, e] & k=2s \text{ is even} \end{cases}$$

(Recall when k is odd, e is 2-torsion so 0 in R)
 \uparrow $\deg 4 \dots \deg k=2s$
 $\cong R[p_1, \dots, p_s, e] / e^2 = p_s$

HW: show for any oriented E , $\frac{1}{e}(E)^2 = p_s(E)$.

Assuming Thm:

And $H^i(\tilde{G}_k(\mathbb{R}^{k+p}); \mathbb{R}) \cong H^i(\tilde{G}_k(\mathbb{R}^\infty); \mathbb{R})$ for $p \gg i$.

Cor: $\text{rank}_{\mathbb{Q}} H_n(\tilde{G}_k(\mathbb{R}^{k+p}); \mathbb{Q}) = \text{rank}_{\mathbb{Q}} H^n(\tilde{G}_k(\mathbb{R}^{k+p}); \mathbb{Q}) = \text{rank}_{\mathbb{Q}} H^n(\tilde{G}_k(\mathbb{R}^\infty); \mathbb{Q})$

$\cong \text{rank}(\Omega_n \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{Q})$.

$\left\{ \begin{array}{ll} 0 & n \neq 4t \text{ some } t \\ \#p(t) & n = 4t \end{array} \right.$

k large
 unordered partitions of t . e.g., $\{1, 1, 2\}$ unordered partition of 4
 $p_1 p_1 p_2 = p_1^2 p_2$

We've already exhibited previously a surjection

$\Omega_{4t} \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{Q} \xrightarrow{(*)} \mathbb{Q}^{\#p(t)}$
 $\left[\underbrace{\mathbb{C}P^{2i_1} \times \dots \times \mathbb{C}P^{2i_r}}_{\mathbb{C}P^I} \right]_{I = \{i_1, \dots, i_r\} \in p(t)} \rightarrow \left(\mathbb{C}P^I \right)_{I \in p(t)}$

\Rightarrow by above, this map $(*)$ is an isomorphism.

Cor: $\Omega_* \otimes \mathbb{Q}$ is a polynomial algebra over \mathbb{Q} w/ generators $[\mathbb{C}P^2], [\mathbb{C}P^4], [\mathbb{C}P^6], \dots$
 $\uparrow \quad \uparrow \quad \uparrow$
 $\Omega_4 \quad \Omega_8 \quad \Omega_{12}$

Cor: If M^{4k} closed oriented, and all $\int_I [M] = 0 \quad I \in p(k)$ then $[M] = 0$ in $\Omega_{4k} \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{Q}$.
 $\Rightarrow [M]$ is torsion in $\Omega_{4k} \Rightarrow$ for some l , $\underbrace{M \# \dots \# M}_l$ bounds an oriented W .

Sharper variants on this Theorem:

oriented case:

Thm (Wall): M^n closed oriented, then $M = \partial W^{n+1}$ iff $\int_I [M] = 0$ and $w_J [M] = 0 \quad \forall I, J$.
 $(\Rightarrow \Omega_s \cong \mathbb{Z}^{\oplus a} \oplus \mathbb{Z}/2^{\oplus b}$ for some s, b).

unoriented case

Thm (Thom): $M^n = \partial W^n$ iff $w_2 [M] = 0$.
 (closed unoriented $\Leftrightarrow [M] = 0$ in Ω_n)

PF proceeds by exhibiting an injection

$\Omega_n \cong \pi_{n+k}(TE_{\text{fact}}^{k,p}) \hookrightarrow H_{n+k}(TE_{\text{fact}}^{k,p}; \mathbb{Z}/2) \cong H_n(G_k(\mathbb{R}^\infty); \mathbb{Z}/2)$

& check:

$[M] \mapsto \langle f^*(-); [M] \rangle : H^n(G_k(\mathbb{R}^\infty); \mathbb{Z}/2) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/2$

constructed using other methods in homotopy theory.

where $f: M \rightarrow G_k(\mathbb{R}^\infty)$ classifies normal bundle to some embedding.
 $M \hookrightarrow \mathbb{R}^N$

Computing $H^*(\tilde{G}_k(\mathbb{R}^\infty); \mathbb{R})$:

$BSO(k)$

(b/c oriented real k vec. bundles \leftrightarrow $SO(k)$ -principal bundles).

Furthermore, we can compute RHS:

Let $e := e(\tilde{E}_{\text{taut}}^k)$, $|e| = k$.

Then: \mathbb{R} any integral domain containing $\frac{1}{2}$ (e.g. $\mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{Z}[\frac{1}{2}], \dots$). Let $p_i := p_i(\tilde{E}_{\text{taut}}^k)$, $|p_i| = 4i$

$$H^*(\tilde{G}_k(\mathbb{R}^\infty); \mathbb{R}) \cong \begin{cases} \mathbb{R}[p_1, \dots, p_s] & k=2s+1 \text{ is odd} \\ \mathbb{R}[p_1, \dots, p_s, e] / e^2 = p_s & k=2s \text{ is even} \end{cases}$$

$\uparrow s = \lfloor \frac{k}{2} \rfloor$

$\uparrow s = \lfloor \frac{k}{2} \rfloor$ using HW

$= \mathbb{R}[p_1, \dots, p_{\lfloor \frac{k}{2} \rfloor}, e] / \begin{matrix} e=0 & k \text{ odd} \\ e^2 = p_{\lfloor \frac{k}{2} \rfloor} & k \text{ even.} \end{matrix}$

We'll compute using a different method than what we used for $H^*(BU(k); \mathbb{Z})$ & $H^*(BSO(k); \mathbb{Z}/2)$ (applicable to these prov. computations): Gysin sequence

Pf: Induct on k .

• $k=1$. $\tilde{G}_1(\mathbb{R}^\infty)$ is the 2:1 cover of $G_1(\mathbb{R}^\infty) = \mathbb{R}P^\infty$, i.e., $\tilde{G}_1(\mathbb{R}^\infty) = S^\infty$, which is contractible (check). $\Rightarrow H^*(\tilde{G}_1(\mathbb{R}^\infty); \mathbb{R}) = \mathbb{R}$ in degree 0. ✓

• Assume true for $k-1$.

Have $\tilde{E}_{\text{taut}}^k$ tautological (oriented) bundle. The std metric on \mathbb{R}^∞ induces a fibrewise metric on $\tilde{E}_{\text{taut}}^k$ & take unit sphere:

$$S^{k-1} \rightarrow S(\tilde{E}_{\text{taut}}^k) \xrightarrow{\pi} \tilde{G}_k(\mathbb{R}^\infty)$$

Claim: There is a homotopy equivalence

$$\tilde{G}_{k-1}(\mathbb{R}^\infty) \xrightarrow[\cong]{f} S(\tilde{E}_{\text{taut}}^k), \text{ under which } \pi^* \tilde{E}_{\text{taut}}^k \cong \tilde{E}_{\text{taut}}^{k-1} \oplus \underline{\mathbb{R}}.$$

incl. \swarrow \searrow π

$\tilde{G}_{k-1}(\mathbb{R}^\infty) \rightarrow \tilde{G}_k(\mathbb{R}^\infty) \rightarrow \tilde{G}_k(\mathbb{R}^\infty)$

\swarrow \searrow \swarrow \searrow

$V \rightarrow V \oplus \mathbb{R} \rightarrow V \oplus \mathbb{R} \rightarrow V \oplus \mathbb{R}$

in $\mathbb{R}^p \oplus \mathbb{R}$

$\tilde{G}_k(\mathbb{R}^N)$

$(V, w \in V \text{ and } \text{vec}) \mapsto w^\perp \text{ in } V, \text{ a } k-1 \text{ subspace of } \mathbb{R}^N.$

Sketch:

The map g is induced by:

$$S(\tilde{E}_k^{\text{tot}}) \xrightarrow{g_N} \tilde{G}_{k-1}(\mathbb{R}^N)$$

$$\pi \searrow$$

$$\tilde{G}_k(\mathbb{R}^N)$$

The map f is induced by:

$$V \xrightarrow{\quad} (V \oplus \mathbb{R}, 0 \oplus 1)$$

$$\tilde{G}_{k-1}(\mathbb{R}^N) \xrightarrow{f_N} S(\tilde{E}_{\text{tot}}^k) \xrightarrow{\pi} \tilde{G}_k(\mathbb{R}^{N+1})$$

\uparrow unit vector in $V \oplus \mathbb{R}$.

exercise: check f, g homotopy equiv, compatible w/ π , incl., etc. (finish claim).

Gysin sequence for $S(\tilde{E}_{\text{tot}}^k) = \tilde{G}_{k-1}(\mathbb{R}^N)$ says: $(BSO(k) = \tilde{G}_k(\mathbb{R}^\infty))$

(\mathbb{R} -coeffs.)

$$\dots \rightarrow H^{q-1}(BSO(k-1)) \xrightarrow{\delta_*} H^{q-k}(BSO(k)) \xrightarrow{e} H^q(BSO(k)) \xrightarrow{\pi^*} H^q(BSO(k-1)) \xrightarrow{\delta_*} \dots$$

\uparrow total space \uparrow base \uparrow $e := e(\tilde{E}_{\text{tot}}^k)$

Obs: since $\pi^* \tilde{E}_k^{\text{tot}} \cong \tilde{E}_{k-1}^{\text{tot}} \oplus \mathbb{R}$, Whitney sum formula for π^* says in \mathbb{R} (mod 2-torsion),

$$\boxed{\pi^* p_i = p_i}, \quad i \in \lfloor \frac{k-1}{2} \rfloor.$$

\uparrow $p_i(\tilde{E}_k^{\text{tot}})$ \uparrow $p_i(\tilde{E}_{k-1}^{\text{tot}})$
 \uparrow $H^i(BSO(k))$ \uparrow $H^i(BSO(k-1))$

Case 1: $k=2s$ even.

$H^*(BSO(2s-1); \mathbb{R})$ inductively equals $\mathbb{R}[p_1, \dots, p_{s-1}]$, so obs $\Rightarrow \pi^*$ is surjective $\Rightarrow \delta_* = 0$ (obvious)

\Rightarrow get SES:

$$0 \rightarrow H^q(BSO(k)) \xrightarrow{e} H^{q+k}(BSO(k)) \xrightarrow{\pi^*} H^{q+k}(BSO(k-1)) \rightarrow 0$$

$\Rightarrow H^{q+k}(BSO(k))$ is gen. by p_1, \dots, p_{s-1} and e . \checkmark

Case 2: $k=2s+1$ odd.

In this case, $e=0$ so Gysin gives a SE S:

$$0 \rightarrow H^j(BSO(2s+1)) \xrightarrow{\pi^*} H^j(BSO(2s)) \xrightarrow{\delta_*} H^{j-2s}(BSO(2s+1)) \rightarrow 0.$$

$\Rightarrow \pi^*$ injects $H^*(BSO(2s+1))$ into $H^*(BSO(2s))$, sends p_i to p_i .

// want $R(p_1, \dots, p_s)$ // inductively $R(p_1, \dots, p_s, e)/e^2 = p_s$.

Get a map $A^* = R(p_1, \dots, p_s) \rightarrow H^*(BSO(2s+1)) \xrightarrow{\pi^*} H^*(BSO(2s))$

// $R(p_1, \dots, p_s, e)/e^2 = p_s$.

Every element of $H^*(BSO(2s))$ is

of the form $a + eb$, $a, b \in R(p_1, \dots, p_s)$.

$\Rightarrow \dim(H^j(BSO(2s))) = \dim A^j + \dim A^{j-2s}$

// SES // as a conclusion.

$\dim(H^j(BSO(2s+1))) + \dim(H^{j-2s}(BSO(2s+1)))$

\Rightarrow by rank computation $R(p_1, \dots, p_s) \xrightarrow{\cong} H^*(BSO(2s))_{\mathbb{Q}}$

$$\Omega_{4k} \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{Q} \xrightarrow{\cong} \mathbb{Q}^{\#p(k)}$$

$$\underbrace{[\mathbb{C}P^{2i_1} \times \dots \times \mathbb{C}P^{2i_r}]}_{\mathbb{C}P^{\mathbb{I}}} \xrightarrow{\mathbb{I} = \{i_1, \dots, i_r\} \in p(k)} \left(P_J(\mathbb{C}P^{\mathbb{I}}) \right)_{J \in p(k)}$$

Observe any homomorphism $\Omega_s \xrightarrow{f} \mathbb{Z}$ induces $\Omega_s \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{Q} \xrightarrow{f} \mathbb{Q}$ which knows original f , b/c $\mathbb{Z} \hookrightarrow \mathbb{Q}$ is injective.

Cor: Any homomorphism $\Omega_{4k} \xrightarrow{f} \mathbb{Z}$, that is, an association $M^{4k} \xrightarrow{f} f(M) \in \mathbb{Z}$ satisfying

• $f(M \sqcup N) = f(M) + f(N)$

• $f(\partial W) = 0$.

↑ *closed, oriented.*

can be expressed as a rational linear combination of Pontryagin numbers.

(which linear combination? compute $f(\mathbb{C}P^{\mathbb{I}})$ for each $\mathbb{I} \in p(k)$ & compare $P_J(\mathbb{C}P^{\mathbb{I}})_{J \in p(k)}$)

$$\mathbb{C}P^{2i, x} \times \mathbb{C}P^{2i, r}$$

Ex: M^{4k} cpct., oriented manifold, have a bilinear P.D. pairing, perfect / non-degenerate:

$$H^{2k}(M; \mathbb{Q}) \times H^{2k}(M; \mathbb{Q}) \xrightarrow{\langle -, - \rangle, [M]} \mathbb{Q}$$

since M $4k$ -dim'l, this is a symmetric pairing, by $\alpha \cup \beta = (-1)^{2k \cdot 2k} \beta \cup \alpha = \beta \cup \alpha$.

spectral theorem

\Rightarrow can diagonalize the symmetric matrix associated to this pairing,

no 0 eigenvalues by non-degeneracy, & take its

signature: # positive diagonal entries - # negative diagonal entries.

e.g., $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & & \\ & 1 & \\ & & -1 \end{pmatrix}$ signature 1 $\quad \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \\ & -1 \end{pmatrix}$ signature 0.

$\begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$ signature -2.

Define $\sigma(M^{4k}) := \text{signature}(H^{2k} \times H^{2k} \rightarrow \mathbb{Q})$.

cpct oriented.

Prop: $M^{4k} \rightarrow \sigma(M)$ satisfies.

(1) $\sigma(M \sqcup N) = \sigma(M) + \sigma(N)$ ✓ Straightforward.

(2) If $M = \partial W^{4k+1}$, $\sigma(M) = 0$, (exercise)

(1) recall $i: M \hookrightarrow W$, $i_*(M) = 0$,
b/c $\partial_*[W] = [M]$.

(2) If $\exists \frac{1}{2}$ -dim'l $S \subset (V, \langle -, - \rangle)$ sym. non-deg. bilinear
half-dimensional s.t. $\langle s_1, s_2 \rangle = 0$
(S isotropic) \Rightarrow
 $\sigma(V, \langle -, - \rangle) = 0$.

(3) $\sigma(M \times N) = \sigma(M) \times \sigma(N)$
(uses Künneth)

(3) use LES of $(W, \partial W)$ to note

$$0 \leftarrow H^{n+1}(W, \partial W) \leftarrow H^n(M \rightarrow \partial W) \leftarrow H^n(W) \leftarrow H^{n-1}(\partial W) \leftarrow \dots$$

112 P.D.W
 $H^n(W)^{\vee}$

and $i^*(H^n(W))$ is half-dim'l isotropic by (1).

$\Rightarrow \sigma$ gives (not just a group hom., but an)

algebra hom: $\sigma: \Omega_* \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$.

$\Rightarrow \sigma|_{\Omega_{4k}}: \Omega_{4k} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ is a rational

linear combination of Pontryagin numbers. What linear combination? depends on k , though because of (3) there's an elegant closed form expression in terms of 'multiplicative char.

classes built out of p_i 's, called Hirzebruch Signature Theorem.

dimension 4 ($k=1$): $\Omega_4 \otimes \mathbb{Q} \cong \mathbb{Q} \langle [\mathbb{C}P^2] \rangle$.

checks: $\sigma(\mathbb{C}P^2) = 1$. $\begin{matrix} H^2(\mathbb{C}P^2) \times H^2(\mathbb{C}P^2) & \longrightarrow & \mathbb{Q} \\ h^2 & \longleftarrow & h^2 \end{matrix} \xrightarrow{\quad} \langle h^4, [\mathbb{C}P^2] \rangle = 1$.

$\bullet p_1[\mathbb{C}P^2] = \langle p_1(\mathbb{C}P^2), [\mathbb{C}P^2] \rangle = \langle (1+h^2)^{2+1} / \text{deg } 4, [\mathbb{C}P^2] \rangle = \langle 3h^2, [\mathbb{C}P^2] \rangle = 3$.

So $p_1 = 3\sigma$ on $\mathbb{C}P^2$

\Rightarrow Cor: For any 4-manifold (closed oriented), M^4 , $\sigma(M) = \frac{p_1[M]}{3}$. (special case of signature thm, stated below).

Thm (Hirzebruch's signature theorem): M^{4k} closed, oriented, smooth. Then:

$\sigma(M) = \langle L_k(p_1, \dots, p_k), [M^{4k}] \rangle$, where:

\uparrow Hirzebruch 'L genus' k 'th Bernoulli #.

Start w/ power series assoc. to $f(t) = \frac{\sqrt{t}}{\tanh \sqrt{t}}$, $f(t) = 1 + \frac{1}{3}t - \frac{1}{45}t^2 + \dots + (-1)^{k-1} \frac{2^{2k} B_k t^k}{(2k)!} + \dots$

\Rightarrow form $f(t_1, \dots, t_k) = f(t_1) f(t_2) \dots f(t_k)$ power series in t_1, \dots, t_k .

\nearrow deg 4 \searrow deg 4.

Look at homogenous deg $4k$ part of this power series, symmetric in t_1, \dots, t_k

\Rightarrow can be written as a poly. in $\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_k$. \uparrow elementary symmetric poly's in t_1, \dots, t_k \downarrow even deg's sym. poly.

$|\sigma_i| = 4i$.

$\Rightarrow (f(t_1, \dots, t_k))_{4k} = L_k(\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_k)$.

This defines $L_k(p_1, \dots, p_k)$.

eg., $\sigma(M^{12}) = \frac{1}{3^3 \cdot 5 \cdot 7} (62 p_3 - 13 p_2 p_1 + 2 p_1^3) [M]$.

\Rightarrow If $H^4(M) = 0$ (so $p_1(M) = 0$) then $\sigma(M)$ must be divisible by 62.

Ex application of such a result: by construction, if one can show

$\exists M^{12}$ top-orientable manifold w/ $H^4(M) = 0$ but $\sigma(M)$ not divisible by 62.

$\Rightarrow M^{12}$ has no smooth structure!

Such examples exist, see [Brieskorn, Heegaard]. For instance:

Let $A^{12} = \overline{B_1(0)} \cap \underbrace{(z_1^2 + z_2^2 + z_3^2 + z_4^2 + z_5^2 + z_6^3 + z_7^5 = \epsilon)}_{\text{cplx. codim 1, smooth near 0}} \subseteq \mathbb{C}^7$; (real 12-manifold w/ ∂)

Set $M^{12} = A^{12} / \partial A^{12}$.

It turns out this is homeomorphic to a sphere, so $M^{12} \cong_{\text{homeo.}} A^{12} \cup_{\partial A \cong S^{11} \text{ homeo.}} D^{12}$ is a top. manifold, check orientable.

Computations: $H^4(M^{12}) = 0$ and $\sigma(M) = -8$, not divisible by 62!

Historical Remark:

[Milnor '56]: First examples of ^{non-diffeomorphic ('exotic')} smooth structures on top. manifolds (these examples were 'exotic' S^7 's)

[Kervaire '60]: First example of a top. manifold (M^{10}) not admitting a smooth structure.