197. Inertia Groups of Low Dimensional Complex Projective Spaces and Some Free Differentiable Actions on Spheres. I

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1. Introduction and preliminary lemmas. Sullivan has proved that the concordance classes of smoothing the combinatorial complex projective space is in one-to-one correspondence with the *c*-orientation preserving diffeomorphism classes where *c* is the generator of $H^2(CP^n)$ (see [6]). The conjugation map $g: (e_0, \dots, e_n) \rightarrow (\bar{e}_0, \dots, \bar{e}_n)$ (the complex conjugation) induces the diffeomorphism $g: CP^n \rightarrow CP^n$ such that $g_*(c)$ = -c. Let $s: [CP^n, PD/O] \rightarrow S(CP^n)$ be the natural correspondence from the concordance classes to the smooth structures. If $s(c_1) = CP^n$ (the natural smooth structure) and $s(c_2) = CP'^n$ and if there exists a diffeomorphism $d: CP^n \rightarrow CP'^n$ such that $d_*(c) = -c$ (where *c* is determined by the concordance class), then $(dg)_*(c) = d_*g_*(c) = d_*(-c) = c$, i.e., the composed diffeomorphism $d \cdot g$ induces the *c*-orientation preserving diffeomorphism. This implies that two concordance classes c_1, c_2 such that $s(c_1) = s(c_2) = CP^n$ are equivalent.

The inertia group of a smooth manifold M^n is interpreted as follows. (For the definition of the inertia group, see [5]). We may assume that the smooth structure M^n corresponds to the zero element $0 \in [M, PD/O]$.

Lemma 1. $I(M^n) = (sj)^{-1}(M^n)$ where j denotes the homomorphism of the Puppe's exact sequence

 $\rightarrow [M/M\text{-Int} D, PD/O] \xrightarrow{j} [M, PD/O] \rightarrow [M\text{-Int} D, PD/O] \rightarrow .$

Therefore, to study the inertia group $I(CP^n)$, we have only to study the following Puppe's exact sequence,

 \rightarrow [SCP^{*n*-1}, PD/O] $\xrightarrow{\partial}$ [S^{2*n*}, PD/O] \xrightarrow{j} [CP^{*n*}, PD/O] \rightarrow .

Let f be the attaching map $f: \partial e^{2n} \rightarrow CP^{n-1}$ of the 2n-cell e^{2n} in CP^n and S(f) be its suspension map. Then we shall have

Lemma 2. $\partial = \{S(f)\}^*$ where $\{S(f)\}^*$ denotes the homomorphism induced by S(f).

It is well-known that every free differentiable action of S^1 (or S^3) on a homotopy sphere \tilde{S}^n is always a principal fibration (see [2]) and that this fibration is homotopically equivalent to the classical Hopf fibration (see [4]). Therefore the bundle-theoretic approach to smooth-