

92. A Property of Certain Differentiable Manifolds

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Let M be a compact oriented differentiable manifold without boundary which satisfies the following conditions :

- (1) M is $(n-1)$ -connected,
- (2) $\dim M = 2n+1$, $n \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$.

Then the oriented cobordism class of M is determined by a Stiefel-Whitney number $W_n \cdot W_{n+1}[M]$, for other Stiefel-Whitney numbers and all Pontryagin numbers vanish. In this paper we shall show that the property of M to be cobordant to zero can be represented by a property of $H_n(M, Z)$. In case $n=2$ this was done by Wall [1].

We shall prove the following

Theorem. $W_n \cdot W_{n+1}[M] = 0 \iff H_n(M, Z) \approx F \oplus T \oplus T$

$W_n \cdot W_{n+1}[M] \neq 0 \iff H_n(M, Z) \approx F \oplus T \oplus T \oplus Z_2$

where F and T denote a free abelian group and a torsion group respectively and Z_2 is the group of order 2, \oplus denotes the direct sum.

The proof will be given in several steps.

$H_n(M, Z)$ can be decomposed as follows :

$$H_n(M, Z) = \sum_{i=1}^{a_0} Z[\bar{u}_i] + \sum_p \sum_i^{a_i(p)} \sum_{j=1}^{a_i(p)} Z_p \iota[\bar{u}_p^{i,j}],$$

where p runs over all prime numbers, $\bar{u}_i, \bar{u}_p^{i,j}$ denote generators. Since we are interested in $a_i(p)$, it is sufficient for us to consider $H^n(M, Z_p)$ and $H^{n+1}(M, Z_p)$, i.e.

$$H^n(M, Z_p) = \sum_{i=1}^{a_0} Z_p[u_i] + \sum_{i=1}^{a_i(p)} \sum_{j=1}^{a_i(p)} Z_p \iota[u_p^{i,j}]$$

$$H^{n+1}(M, Z_p) = \sum_{i=0}^{a_0} Z_p[v_i] + \sum_{i=1}^{a_i(p)} \sum_{j=1}^{a_i(p)} Z_p \iota[v_p^{i,j}].$$

Now we consider a matrix $A = (a_{s,t})$ over Z_p defined by

$$\begin{aligned} a_{s,t} &= u_p^{j,i} \cdot v_p^{i,k} [M] \text{ for } a_0 + \sum_{m=1}^{j-1} a_m(p) < s \leq a_0 + \sum_{m=1}^j a_m(p), a_0 + \sum_{m=1}^{i-1} a_m(p) < t \\ &\leq a_0 + \sum_{m=1}^i a_m(p) \text{ where } j, l, i, k \text{ are given by } s = a_0 + \sum_{m=1}^{j-1} a_m(p) + l, t = a_0 \\ &+ \sum_{m=1}^{i-1} a_m(p) + k, i, j \geq 1, \text{ and } a_{s,t} = u^s \cdot v^t [M] \text{ for } 1 \leq s, t \leq a_0. \end{aligned}$$

By Poincaré duality we have $\det A \neq 0$. Let Δ_p^i denote the higher Bockstein operator. As we can take $v_p^{i,k} = \Delta_p^i(u_p^{i,k})$ ($i \geq 1$), we obtain

Lemma 1. If p is odd, we have

- (1) $u^k \cdot v_p^{i,j} = 0$
- (2) $u_p^{i,j} \cdot v_p^{s,t} = 0$ ($s < i$)

$$(3) \quad u_p^{i,j} \cdot v_p^{i,t} = -u_p^{i,t} \cdot v_p^{i,j} \quad (j \neq t)$$

$$(4) \quad u_p^{i,j} \cdot v_p^{i,j} = 0;$$

thus A has the following form

$$A = \begin{array}{c|c|c|c} & A_0 & & 0 \\ \hline & & A_1 & * \\ \hline * & & 0 & A_2 \quad * \\ \hline & & & 0 \end{array}$$

where $A_0, A_1, A_2 \dots$ are antisymmetric and have zero diagonal.

Since $\det A = \det A_0 \cdot \det A_1 \cdot \det A_2 \dots$ we have $\det A_i \neq 0$. Hence the degree of A_i must be even.

Lemma 2. If p is 2, we have

$$(1) \quad u_2^k v_2^{s,j} = 0$$

$$(2) \quad u_2^{i,j} v_2^{s,t} = 0 \quad (i > s)$$

$$(3) \quad u_2^{i,j} v_2^{i,t} = 0 \quad (j \neq t)$$

$$(4) \quad u_2^{i,j} v_2^{i,j} = 0 \quad (i > 1)$$

$$u_2^{1,j} v_2^{1,j} = S_q^n v_2^{1,j}.$$

In this case A_0, A_2, A_3, \dots are antisymmetric and have zero diagonal, but A_1 has not always zero diagonal. However, if $n \neq 2, 4, 8, S_q^n$ is known to be decomposable, so that $u_2^{1,j} \cdot v_2^{1,j} = S_q^n v_2^{1,j} = 0$, A_1 has zero diagonal. Since A_1 is antisymmetric degree of A_1 is also even, therefore $H_n(M, Z) \cong F \oplus T \oplus T$. On the other hand, in these case $n \neq 2, 4, 8$ the decomposability of S_q^n and Wu 's formula between Stiefel-Whitney classes and squaring operations imply that M is cobordant to zero. Now consider the case $n = 2, 4, 8$. A computation of matrix using Wu 's formula shows $W_n \cdot W_{n+1}[M] = a_1(2)$. Then it is easy to see the conclusion of our theorem.

Reference

- [1] C. T. C. Wall: Killing the middle homotopy groups of odd dimensional manifolds, Trans. Amer. Math. Soc., **103**, 421-433 (1962).