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MICROBUNDLES

PART I

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§1. INTRODUCTION

THIS paper will define the concept of (topological) microbundles, and prove a number of fundamental properties.

The following paragraph is intended to motivate this concept. (For further motivation, see the author's preliminary report [15].) Suppose that one tries to construct something like a 'tangent bundle' for a manifold M which has no differentiable structure. Each point $x \in M$ has neighborhoods which are homeomorphic to Euclidean space. It would be plausible to choose one such neighborhood U_x for each x, and to call $(x) \times U_x$ the 'fibre' over x. Unfortunately however, it seems difficult to choose such a neighborhood U_x simultaneously for each $x \in M$, in such a way that U_x varies continuously with x. Furthermore even if such a choice were possible, it is not clear that the resulting object would be a topological invariant of M. To get around these difficulties we consider a new type of bundle, in which the fibre is only a 'germ' of a topological space. Thus for the tangent microbundle of M, the fibre over x is a completely arbitrary neighborhood of x (subject only to the uniformity condition that the set of all (x, y) with $y \in U_x$ should form a neighborhood of the diagonal in $M \times M$). At any stage of the argument we will be allowed to pass to smaller neighborhoods; hence any particular choice of the U_x becomes irrelevant.

The paper is organized as follows. In §§2–7 it is shown that microbundles behave very much like vector bundles. The concepts of tangent microbundle, induced microbundle, Whitney sum, and normal microbundle are studied; and a version of the covering homotopy theorem is proved. (Sections 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 respectively). On the other hand in §8 and §9 the differences between microbundles and vector bundles are emphasized. Thus it is shown that a non-trivial vector bundle may give rise to a trivial microbundle (§9.1). As an application it is shown that the tangent vector bundle of a smooth† manifold is not, in general, a topological invariant.

I hope to develop these ideas further in one or more later papers: in particular to study the analogous concept of piecewise-linear microbundle, to construct universal microbundles, and to study characteristic classes.

† The word 'smooth' will always mean differentiable of class C^∞.

At this point I wish to express my indebtedness to ARNOLD SHAPIRO Many extremely useful discussions with Shapiro served to crystallize the concept of microbundle. In particular the word 'microbundle' itself is Shapiro's invention.

§2. DEFINITIONS AND EXAMPLES

The notation $\mathbf{R}^n$ will be used for n dimensional Euclidean space.

DEFINITION. *A microbundle* $\mathfrak{x}$ *is a diagram*

$$B \xrightarrow{i} E \xrightarrow{j} B$$

consisting of the following:†

(1) *a topological space* B *called the* base space;

(2) *a topological space* E *or* $E(\mathfrak{x})$ *called the* total space,

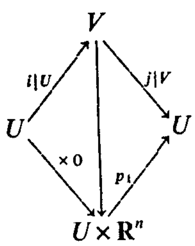
and

(3) *continuous maps* i *and* j *called the* injection *and* projection *maps respectively. The composition* ji *is required to be the identity map of* B. Furthermore we require:

Local triviality condition. For each $b \in B$ there should exist an open neighborhood U of b and an open neighborhood V of $i(b)$, with

$$i(U) \subset V, \qquad j(V) \subset U,$$

so that V is homeomorphic to $U \times \mathbf{R}^n$ under a homeomorphism which makes the following diagram commutative:



Here $\times 0$ denotes the injection $u \to (u, 0)$, and p_1 denotes the projection $p_1(u, x) = u$. The integer $n \geq 0$ is called the *fibre dimension* of $\mathfrak{x}$.

Remark. Note that E can be more or less arbitrary except in the neighborhood of $i(B)$. Only the neighborhoods of $i(B)$ in E will play an essential role in the theory. For example if E' is an arbitrary neighborhood of $i(B)$ in E, then we will see that the microbundle

$$B \xrightarrow{i} E' \xrightarrow{j|E'} B$$

can be identified with $\mathfrak{x}$ for all practical purposes. (Compare the definition of 'isomorphism' below.)

† German letters such as $\mathfrak{x}$, $\mathfrak{t}$, $\mathfrak{e}$ will be used for microbundles; while Greek letters such as ξ, τ, ε will be used for vector bundles.

Here are three examples.

Example (1). For any B and any $n \geq 0$ the diagram

$$B \xrightarrow{\times 0} B \times \mathbf{R}^n \xrightarrow{p_1} B$$

constitutes a microbundle over B. This will be called the standard *trivial* microbundle. It will be denoted by $\mathfrak{e}^n$ or $\mathfrak{e}^n_B$.

Example (2). Let ξ be an n-dimensional vector bundle over B (i.e., a fibre bundle with $\mathbf{R}^n$ as fibre and the general linear group $GL(n, \mathbf{R})$ as structural group). Let E be the total space, j the projection map, and

$$i : B \to E$$

the zero cross-section [which maps each $b \in B$ to the zero vector in the vector space $j^{-1}(b)$]. Then the diagram

$$B \xrightarrow{i} E \xrightarrow{j} B$$

constitutes a microbundle. This will be called the *underlying microbundle* of ξ, and will be denoted by $|\xi|$.

Example (3). Let M be any topological manifold, and let $\Delta: M \to M \times M$ denote the diagonal map.

LEMMA (2.1). *The diagram* $M \xrightarrow{\Delta} M \times M \xrightarrow{p_1} M$ *constitutes a microbundle.*

This will be called the *tangent microbundle* of M, and will be denoted by $\mathfrak{t}$ or $\mathfrak{t}_M$.

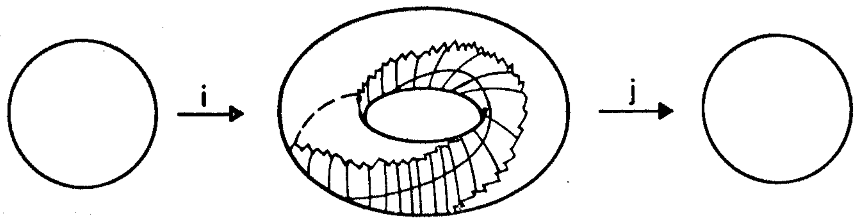


FIG. 1. THE TANGENT MICROBUNDLE OF THE CIRCLE. THE IMAGE $i(S^1)$ AND THE FIBRES $j^{-1}(b)$ ARE EMPHASIZED.

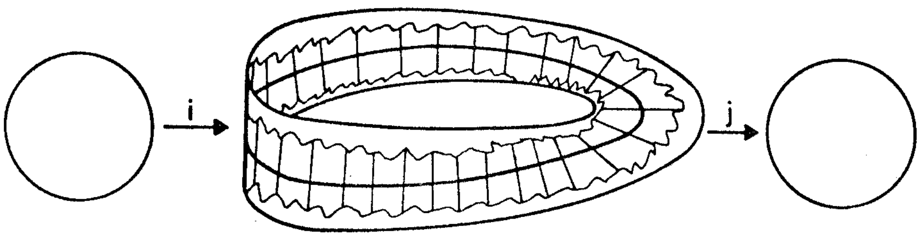
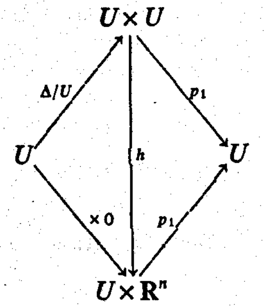


FIG. 2. A NON-TRIVIAL MICROBUNDLE OVER THE CIRCLE

Proof. Clearly $p_1 \circ \Delta$ is the identity map of M. Given $p \in M$ let U be a neighborhood which is homeomorphic to $\mathbf{R}^n$, and let $f : U \to \mathbf{R}^n$ be a specific homeomorphism. Define

$$h : U \times U \to U \times \mathbf{R}^n$$

by $h(a, b) = (a, f(b) - f(a))$. It is clear that h is a homeomorphism, and that the diagram

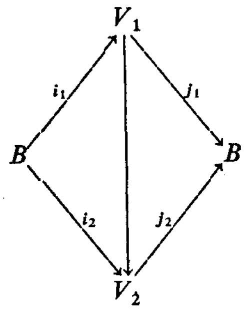


is commutative. This proves that $\mathfrak{t}_M$ is a microbundle.

If M happens to be a smooth $(=C^\infty)$ manifold, note that one has two radically different concepts of tangent bundle. These will be compared in Theorem (2.2) below.

The concept of isomorphism between two microbundles $\mathfrak{x}_1$ and $\mathfrak{x}_2$ over the same base space is defined as follows. Let $\mathfrak{x}_\alpha$ have diagram $B \xrightarrow{i_\alpha} E_\alpha \xrightarrow{j_\alpha} B$ for $\alpha = 1, 2$.

DEFINITION. *$\mathfrak{x}_1$ is isomorphic to $\mathfrak{x}_2$ if there exist neighborhoods V_1 of i_1B in E_1 and V_2 of i_2B in E_2, and a homeomorphism $V_1 \to V_2$ so that the following diagram is commutative.*



The notation $\mathfrak{x}_1 \cong \mathfrak{x}_2$ will be used for this relation of isomorphism.

A microbundle over B will be called *trivial* if it is isomorphic to the standard trivial microbundle $\mathfrak{e}^n_B$. A manifold M will be called *topologically parallelizable* if the tangent microbundle $\mathfrak{t}_M$ is trivial.

The following theorem will provide a basic transition between the theory of microbundles and the theory of vector bundles.

THEOREM (2.2). *Let M be a smooth paracompact manifold with tangent vector bundle τ. Then the underlying microbundle $|\tau|$ is isomorphic to the tangent microbundle of M.*

Proof. Since M is paracompact, it possesses a Riemannian metric. Let $E(\tau)$ be the total space, consisting of all pairs (p, v) with $p \in M$ and v in the tangent vector space to M at p; and let $i : M \to E(\tau)$ be the zero cross-section: $i(p) = (p, 0)$. As usual let $\exp(p, v) \in M$ denote the endpoint $g(1)$ of the unique geodesic

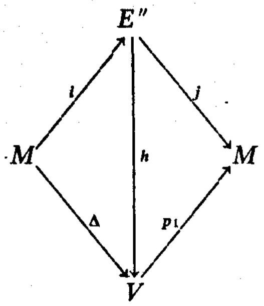
$$g : [0, 1] \to M$$

satisfying the initial conditions

$$g(0) = p, \qquad \frac{dg}{dt}(0) = v.$$

(Here $\frac{dg}{dt}$ denote the velocity vector of g.)

If M happens to be geodesically complete then $\exp(p, v)$ is defined for all $(p, v) \in E(\tau)$. In general, however, $\exp(p, v)$ can only be defined for (p, v) belonging to some neighborhood E' of the subset $i(M) \subset E(\tau)$. Define the smooth map $h: E' \to M \times M$ by $h(p, v) = (p, \exp(p, v))$. Using the inverse function theorem one sees, for each $(p, 0) \in i(M)$, that h carries some neighborhood of $(p, 0)$ in E' diffeomorphically onto a neighborhood of $(p, p) \in M \times M$. (Compare [16, §10.3].) Now it follows by an argument in point-set topology that h maps some neighborhood E'' of $i(M) \subset E'$ diffeomorphically onto a neighborhood V of the diagonal in $M \times M$. (Compare J. H. C. Whitehead [26, §4].) Since the diagram



is commutative, this proves that $|\tau|$ is isomorphic to $\mathfrak{t}_M$.

To conclude this section we provide a sharper description of trivial microbundles.

LEMMA (2.3). *Let $\mathfrak{x}$ be a trivial microbundle over a paracompact base space B. Then some open subset of $E(\mathfrak{x})$ is homeomorphic to all of $B \times \mathbf{R}^n$ (rather than to an open subset of $B \times \mathbf{R}^n$); the homeomorphism being compatible with injection and projection maps.*

Proof. Without loss of generality we may assume that $E(\mathfrak{x})$ is an open subset of $B \times \mathbf{R}^n$. Using a partition of unity, construct a map $\lambda: B \to (0, 1]$ so that every point $(b, x) \in B \times \mathbf{R}^n$ with $|x| < \lambda(b)$ belongs to $E(\mathfrak{x})$. (Here $|x|$ stands for $(x_1^2 + \dots + x_n^2)^{1/2}$.) Now the homeomorphism

$$(b, x) \to \left(b, x/(\lambda(b) - |x|)\right)$$

maps the open set $\{(b, x): |x| < \lambda(b)\}$ homeomorphically onto $B \times \mathbf{R}^n$. This completes the proof.

§3. INDUCED MICROBUNDLES

Many of the standard constructions for vector bundles carry over immediately to microbundles. Thus if $\mathfrak{x}$ denotes the microbundle

$$B \xrightarrow{i} E \xrightarrow{j} B$$

and if A is a subset of B then one can define the *restricted microbundle* $\mathfrak{x}|A$ to be the diagram

$$A \xrightarrow{i'} j^{-1}A \xrightarrow{j'} A$$

where $i' = i|A$, $j' = j|j^{-1}A$. [With this terminology the 'local triviality' condition can be restated as follows: Every point of B has a neighborhood U so that $\mathfrak{x}|U$ is trivial.]

More generally let A be an arbitrary topological space, and let $f: A \to B$ be a mapping. Then the *induced microbundle* $f^*\mathfrak{x}$ is defined to be the diagram

$$A \xrightarrow{i'} E' \xrightarrow{p_1} A$$

where $E' \subset A \times E$ is the set of all pairs (a, e) with $f(a) = j(e)$; and where

$$i'(a) = (a, if(a)), \qquad p_1(a, e) = a.$$

Local triviality is easily verified.

If f happens to be an inclusion map, note that $f^*\mathfrak{x} \cong \mathfrak{x}|A$.

The following basic theorem will be proved in §6. Let $\mathfrak{x}$ be a microbundle over B, and let f and g be maps from A to B.

HOMOTOPY THEOREM (3.1). *If A is paracompact and if f is homotopic to g, then $f^*\mathfrak{x} \cong g^*\mathfrak{x}$.*

As an immediate consequence one has:

COROLLARY (3.2). *If B is paracompact and contractible, then any microbundle over B is trivial.*

Another useful consequence is the following. Given $f: A \to B$ let $B \bigcup_f CA$ denote the space obtained from B by attaching the cone

$$CA = A \times [0, 1]/A \times [0]$$

to B; identifying each $(a, 1)$ in $A \times [1]$ with $f(a) \in B$. Assume that A is paracompact.

LEMMA (3.3). *A microbundle $\mathfrak{x}$ over B can be extended to a microbundle over $B \bigcup_f CA$ if and only if $f^*\mathfrak{x}$ is trivial.*

Proof. The composition $A \xrightarrow{f} B \subset B \bigcup_f CA$ is null-homotopic. Hence if $\mathfrak{x}$ extends it follows that $f^*\mathfrak{x}$ is trivial.

To prove that converse, consider the mapping cylinder $M = B \bigcup_f (A \times [0, 1])$ of f. (Each pair $(a, 1) \in A \times [1]$ is to be identified with $f(a) \in B$.) Since B is a retract of M it follows that $\mathfrak{x}$ can be extended to a microbundle $\mathfrak{x}_1$ over M. Now suppose that $f^*\mathfrak{x}$ is trivial. Then $\mathfrak{x}_1|A \times [0]$ is also trivial. Clearly this implies that $\mathfrak{x}_1|A \times [0, \frac{1}{2}]$ is trivial.

According to §2.3 this means that some open subset of $E(\mathfrak{x}_1|A \times [0, \frac{1}{2}])$ is homeomorphic to $A \times [0, \frac{1}{2}] \times \mathbf{R}^n$. After removing a closed subset of $E(\mathfrak{x}_1)$, if necessary, we may assume that $E(\mathfrak{x}_1|A \times [0, \frac{1}{2}])$ itself is homeomorphic to $A \times [0, \frac{1}{2}] \times \mathbf{R}^n$; the homeomorphism h being compatible with injections and projections.

The space $B \bigcup_f CA$ can be obtained from M by collapsing $A \times [0]$ to a point. Let $E(\mathfrak{x}_2)$ be obtained from $E(\mathfrak{x}_1)$ by collapsing $h^{-1}(A \times [0] \times \{x\})$ to a point for each $x \in \mathbf{R}^n$. Then evidently $E(\mathfrak{x}_2)$ is the total space of the required microbundle over $B \bigcup_f CA$.

§4. THE GROUP $k_{Top}B$

Let $\mathfrak{x}$ and $\mathfrak{x}'$ be two microbundles over the same base space. The *Whitney sum* $\mathfrak{x} \oplus \mathfrak{x}'$ is defined just as for vector bundles. Thus the total space $E(\mathfrak{x} \oplus \mathfrak{x}')$ is the subset of $E(\mathfrak{x}) \times E(\mathfrak{x}')$ consisting of all pairs (e, e') with $j(e) = j'(e')$. The injection and projection maps

$$B \to E(\mathfrak{x} \oplus \mathfrak{x}') \to B$$

are defined by $b \to (i(b), i'(b))$ and $(e, e') \to j(e)$ respectively. Local triviality is easily verified. This sum operation is associative and commutative up to isomorphism.

Alternatively one can first define the Cartesian product operation. Given microbundles $\mathfrak{x}_1$ and $\mathfrak{x}_2$ over distinct base spaces let $\mathfrak{x}_1 \times \mathfrak{x}_2$ be the microbundle with diagram

$$B(\mathfrak{x}_1) \times B(\mathfrak{x}_2) \xrightarrow{i_1 \times i_2} E(\mathfrak{x}_1) \times E(\mathfrak{x}_2) \xrightarrow{j_1 \times j_2} B(\mathfrak{x}_1) \times B(\mathfrak{x}_2).$$

Now $\mathfrak{x} \oplus \mathfrak{x}'$ can be defined as $\Delta^*(\mathfrak{x} \times \mathfrak{x}')$, where $\Delta: B \to B \times B$ denotes the diagonal map. This $\mathfrak{x} \oplus \mathfrak{x}'$ is isomorphic to the previously defined $\mathfrak{x} \oplus \mathfrak{x}'$.

The following theorem will be of fundamental importance.

By a 'simplicial complex' we will mean a possibly infinite simplicial complex with the direct limit topology (=fine topology).

THEOREM (4.1). *Let $\mathfrak{x}$ be a microbundle over a finite dimensional simplicial complex B. Then there exists a microbundle $\mathfrak{y}$ over B so that the Whitney sum $\mathfrak{x} \oplus \mathfrak{y}$ is trivial.*

The proof will be based on the following lemma, whose proof will be deferred until §7.7.

LEMMA (4.2). *Suppose that the CW-complex B is a 'bouquet' of finitely or infinitely many spheres, meeting at a single point. Let $r: B \to B$ map each sphere into itself with degree -1. Then for any $\mathfrak{x}$ over B the sum $\mathfrak{x} \oplus r^*\mathfrak{x}$ is trivial.*

Assuming this result, the proof of (4.1) proceeds by induction on the dimension d of B, as follows.

Start of Induction. If $d = 0$ then $\mathfrak{x}$ itself is trivial and there is nothing to prove. If $d = 1$ then each component of B has the homotopy type of a bouquet of circles, so the assertion follows from (4.2).

Inductive step. Let B' denote the $(d-1)$-skeleton of B. Assume by induction that there exists a microbundle $\mathfrak{y}'$ over B' so that $(\mathfrak{x}|B') \oplus \mathfrak{y}'$ is trivial.

Let $\mathfrak{e}^n$ be the trivial microbundle over B', where n is the fibre dimension of $\mathfrak{x}$. We will first see that $\mathfrak{y}' \oplus \mathfrak{e}^n$ extends to some microbundle $\mathfrak{z}$ over B. Clearly a microbundle over B' can be extended over a given d-simplex σ if and only if its restriction to the boundary $\dot{\sigma}$ is trivial. (Compare §3.3.) Thus $\mathfrak{x}|\dot{\sigma}$ is trivial. Hence $(\mathfrak{y}' \oplus \mathfrak{e}^n)|\dot{\sigma}$ is isomorphic to $(\mathfrak{y}' \oplus \mathfrak{x})|\dot{\sigma}$ which is known to be trivial. Therefore the microbundle $\mathfrak{y}' \oplus \mathfrak{e}^n$ can be extended over each d-simplex σ.

In order to extend $\mathfrak{y}' \oplus \mathfrak{e}^n$ simultaneously over all the d-simplexes of B, a little more care is needed. Let B'' be obtained from B by removing a small open d-cell in each d-simplex. Since B' is a retract of B'', it is clear that $\mathfrak{y}' \oplus \mathfrak{e}^n$ extends over B''. Now the 'holes' in B''

are well separated from each other so that there is no further difficulty in constructing the required extension $\mathfrak{z}$ over B itself.

Consider the complex $B \cup CB'$ obtained from B by adjoining a cone over the $(d-1)$-skeleton B'. Since $(\mathfrak{x} \oplus \mathfrak{z})|B'$ is trivial, it follows by (3.3) that $\mathfrak{x} \oplus \mathfrak{z}$ extends to some microbundle $\mathfrak{w}$ over $B \cup CB'$. But $B \cup CB'$ has the homotopy type of a bouquet of d-spheres. Hence there exists a microbundle $r^*\mathfrak{w}$ over $B \cup CB'$ so that $\mathfrak{w} \oplus r^*\mathfrak{w}$ is trivial. Now $\mathfrak{x} \oplus \mathfrak{z} \oplus (r^*\mathfrak{w}|B)$ is trivial, which completes the induction.

Remark. A short computation shows that the microbundle $\mathfrak{y} = \mathfrak{z} \oplus (r^*\mathfrak{w}|B)$ constructed in this way has fibre dimension $n(2^{d+1} - 3)$. This number seems extravagantly large, but at least one has a specific estimate.

DEFINITION. *Two microbundles $\mathfrak{x}$ and $\mathfrak{x}'$ over B belong to the same s-class if $\mathfrak{x} \oplus \mathfrak{e}_B^q$ is isomorphic to $\mathfrak{x}' \oplus \mathfrak{e}_B^r$ for some integers q, r. We will also say that $\mathfrak{x}$ is s-isomorphic to $\mathfrak{x}'$. The s-class of $\mathfrak{x}$ will be denoted by $(\mathfrak{x})$.*

As an immediate consequence of Theorem (4.1) we have:

COROLLARY (4.3). *The s-classes of microbundles over a finite dimensional complex B form an abelian group under the composition operation $(\mathfrak{x}) + (\mathfrak{y}) = (\mathfrak{x} \oplus \mathfrak{y})$.*

The proof is straightforward.

DEFINITION. *This group will be denoted by $\mathbf{k}_{\mathrm{Top}}B$.*

Note that $\mathbf{k}_{\mathrm{Top}}$ is a contravariant functor. That is any map $f: A \to B$ gives rise to a homomorphism

$$f^* : \mathbf{k}_{\mathrm{Top}}B \to \mathbf{k}_{\mathrm{Top}}A,$$

which depends only on the homotopy class of f. In particular if $f: A \to B$ is a homotopy equivalence, it follows that $f^*: \mathbf{k}_{\mathrm{Top}}B \to \mathbf{k}_{\mathrm{Top}}A$ is an isomorphism.

Thus $\mathbf{k}_{\mathrm{Top}}$ behaves somewhat like a cohomology theory. This analogy is brought out by the following. Let SB denote the suspension of B, and let $B \bigcup_f CA$ denote the space obtained from B by attaching the cone over A, using the attaching map f.

LEMMA (4.4). *The half-infinite sequence*

$$\cdots \to \mathbf{k}_{\mathrm{Top}}SB \xrightarrow{Sf^*} \mathbf{k}_{\mathrm{Top}}SA \xrightarrow{c^*} \mathbf{k}_{\mathrm{Top}}(B \textstyle\bigcup_f CA) \xrightarrow{i^*} \mathbf{k}_{\mathrm{Top}}B \xrightarrow{f^*} \mathbf{k}_{\mathrm{Top}}A$$

is exact; where $i : B \to B \bigcup_f CA$ is the inclusion map; and where $c: B \bigcup_f CA \to SA$ collapses B to a point.

Proof. It follows from §3.3 that this sequence is exact at $\mathbf{k}_{\mathrm{Top}}B$. Combining this fact with Puppe [17; Theorem 5, p. 310] one sees immediately that the entire sequence is exact.

In the theory of vector bundles, one constructs an analogous group consisting of s-classes of vector bundles over B. We will denote this group by $\mathbf{k}_{\mathbf{O}}B$ (where $\mathbf{O}$ stands for the orthogonal group). The analogues of assertions (4.1), (4.2), (4.3) and (4.4) for vector bundles are all true, and can be proved by similar or easier arguments.

The groups $\mathbf{k}_0 B$ have been much studied by Atiyah, Hirzebruch, Bott, Adams and others. (See references [1], [3], [5]. The first three use the notation $\tilde{K}O(B)$ for this group; while Adams uses the notation $\tilde{K}_R(B)$. Our $\mathbf{k}$ is to be thought of as an abbreviation for $\tilde{K}$.)

There is a natural transformation $\mathbf{k}_0 B \to \mathbf{k}_{\text{Top}} B$ which carries each s-class (ξ) to the s-class $(|\xi|)$ of its underlying microbundle. This will play an important role in what follows. The word 'natural' means that for each $f : A \to B$ the following diagram commutes:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathbf{k}_0 B & \longrightarrow & \mathbf{k}_{\text{Top}} B \\ \downarrow f^* & & \downarrow f^* \\ \mathbf{k}_0 A & \longrightarrow & \mathbf{k}_{\text{Top}} A \end{array}$$

5. NORMAL MICROBUNDLES AND THE SMOOTHING PROBLEM

Consider a submanifold $M \subset N$; where M and N are topological manifolds of dimensions m and n respectively. We will always assume there is a countable basis for the topology of M and of N.

DEFINITION. *M has a* microbundle neighborhood *in N if there exists a neighborhood U of M in N and a retraction $j : U \to M$ so that the diagram*

$$M \xrightarrow{\text{inclusion}} U \xrightarrow{j} M$$

constitutes a microbundle. This microbundle will be denoted by the letter $\mathfrak{n}$, and will be called a normal microbundle *of M in N.*

If M has a microbundle neighborhood in N, then it clearly follows that M is 'locally flat' in N. (Compare Brown [7]. As an example, it follows that a wild knot in 3-space cannot have a microbundle neighborhood.)

Remark (1). In general it is not known that M has a microbundle neighborhood in N even if M happens to be locally flat in N. However, in any case, we will see that M has a microbundle neighborhood in $N \times \mathbf{R}^q$ for sufficiently large q (Theorem (5.8)). The proof will rely on ideas which are due to Curtis and Lashof [8].

Remark (2). Even if M does have a microbundle neighborhood, it is not known that the resulting normal microbundle $\mathfrak{n}$ is unique up to isomorphism. However, we will prove that the Whitney sum $\mathfrak{t}_M \oplus \mathfrak{n}$ is isomorphic to $\mathfrak{t}_N | M$. This clearly implies that $\mathfrak{n}$ is well defined up to s-isomorphism. (§5.10.)

One case of particular interest occurs if the neighborhood U and the retraction j can be chosen so that the microbundle $\mathfrak{n}$ is trivial. In this case we will say that M has a *product neighborhood* in N. This phrase is justified as follows:

LEMMA (5.1). *A submanifold $M \subset N$ has a microbundle neighborhood with $\mathfrak{n}$ trivial if and only if, for some neighborhood U of M, the pair (U, M) is homeomorphic to $M \times (\mathbf{R}^n, 0)$.*

Proof. This follows from §2.3.

Now we will try to construct microbundle neighborhoods. The proof will be broken up into many small steps. First consider three manifolds $M \subset N \subset P$.

LEMMA (5.2). *If M has a microbundle neighborhood in N, and N has a microbundle neighborhood in P, then M has a microbundle neighborhood in P.*

The proof is straightforward. (Compare the proof of (5.9).)

We will make frequent use of the theorem that every manifold is an absolute neighborhood retract. See (Hanner [9], Theorem (3.3).) Thus, replacing N by some small neighborhood of M if necessary, we can always assume that there exists a retraction $r: N \to M$.

Let $i: M \to N$ be the inclusion map. Then the tangent microbundle $\mathfrak{t}_N$ restricts to a microbundle $i^*\mathfrak{t}_N$ over M; and conversely, using r, the tangent microbundle $\mathfrak{t}_M$ can be lifted to N.

LEMMA (5.3). *The total space of the microbundle $i^*\mathfrak{t}_N$ is homeomorphic to the total space of $r^*\mathfrak{t}_M$.*

Remark. This is one of the few occasions when it is important that a microbundle has a specific total space, rather than a vague equivalence class of total spaces.

Proof. By definition $E(i^*\mathfrak{t}_N)$ is the set of pairs $(x, (y, y'))$ in $M \times (N \times N)$ with $i(x) = y$. Thus it is homeomorphic to $M \times N$. On the other hand $E(r^*\mathfrak{t}_M)$ is the set of pairs $(y, (x, x'))$ in $N \times (M \times M)$ with $r(y) = x$. Thus it is homeomorphic to $N \times M$; which completes the proof.

Note that the injection map $M \to E(i^*\mathfrak{t}_N)$ corresponds under this homeomorphism to the injection map $M \subset N \to E(r^*\mathfrak{t}_M)$. Therefore Lemma (5.3) can be restated as follows:

LEMMA (5.4). *The submanifold $M \subset N \subset E(r^*\mathfrak{t}_M)$ has a microbundle neighborhood; with $\mathfrak{n} \cong i^*\mathfrak{t}_N$.*

As a special case suppose that $\mathfrak{t}_M$ is trivial. Then $r^*\mathfrak{t}_M$ is also trivial; hence the total space $E(r^*\mathfrak{t}_M)$ can be replaced by the total space $N \times \mathbf{R}^m$ of the canonical trivial microbundle. This proves:

THEOREM (5.5). *If M is topologically parallelizable, then $M \times 0$ has a microbundle neighborhood in $N \times \mathbf{R}^m$; with normal microbundle $\mathfrak{n} \cong i^*\mathfrak{t}_N$.*

If $\mathfrak{t}_N$ is also trivial, it follows that $\mathfrak{n}$ is trivial. Thus:

COROLLARY (5.6). (Curtis and Lashof) *If M and N are both topologically parallelizable, then $M \times 0$ has a product neighborhood in $N \times \mathbf{R}^m$.*

COROLLARY (5.7). *If M is a topologically parallelizable manifold, then the product $M \times \mathbf{R}^{2m+1}$ can be imbedded as an open subset of $\mathbf{R}^{3m+1}$.*

Proof. Choose an imbedding of M in $\mathbf{R}^{2m+1}$ (see [12, p. 60]) and apply (5.6).

We now return to the general case. Let $M \subset N$ be arbitrary manifolds with countable basis.

THEOREM (5.8). *If the integer q is sufficiently large then $M \times 0$ has a microbundle neighborhood in $N \times \mathbf{R}^q$.*

Proof. Choose a microbundle $\mathfrak{y}$ over M so that the Whitney sum $\mathfrak{t}_M \oplus \mathfrak{y}$ is trivial; say $\mathfrak{t}_M \oplus \mathfrak{y} \cong \mathfrak{e}_M^q$. This is possible (for large q) since we can imbed M in $\mathbf{R}^{2m+1}$ as a retract of some open neighborhood V, then extend $\mathfrak{t}_M$ over V, and apply Theorem (4.1).

According to Lemma (5.4), the submanifold $M \subset N \subset E(r^*\mathfrak{t}_M)$ has a microbundle neighborhood. Furthermore it is clear that the submanifold

$$E(r^*\mathfrak{t}_M) \subset E(r^*\mathfrak{t}_M \oplus r^*\mathfrak{y})$$

has a microbundle neighborhood. Therefore, by Lemma (5.2), the submanifold $M \subset E(r^*\mathfrak{t}_M \oplus r^*\mathfrak{y})$ has a microbundle neighborhood. But $r^*\mathfrak{t}_M \oplus r^*\mathfrak{y}$ is trivial. Therefore we can replace $E(r^*\mathfrak{t}_M \oplus r^*\mathfrak{y})$ by $N \times \mathbf{R}^q$ without changing this conclusion. This completes the proof that $M = M \times 0$ has a microbundle neighborhood in $N \times \mathbf{R}^q$.

Remark. To be more specific this argument works providing that $q \geq m(2^{2m+2} - 2)$, where m is the dimension of M. In special cases it is possible to reduce this estimate substantially. (Compare (5.5).) Thus if $\mathfrak{t}_M \cong |\xi|$ for some vector bundle ξ, then one can show that $M \times 0$ has a microbundle neighborhood in $N \times \mathbf{R}^{2m}$.

Now let us study the extent to which a normal microbundle is unique. Consider a submanifold $M \subset N$ with normal microbundle $\mathfrak{n}$.

THEOREM (5.9). *The Whitney sum* $\mathfrak{t}_M \oplus \mathfrak{n}$ *is isomorphic to* $\mathfrak{t}_N|M$.

The proof will depend on the following construction. Let $\mathfrak{x}$ and $\mathfrak{y}$ be two microbundles, with diagrams

$$B \to E \to B \quad \text{and} \quad E \to E' \to E$$

respectively, such that the total space of $\mathfrak{x}$ is equal to the base space of $\mathfrak{y}$. Then the *composition* $\mathfrak{x} \circ \mathfrak{y}$ is defined to be the microbundle

$$B \to E' \to B$$

having the composition of injection maps as injection, and the composition of projection maps as projection.

Example (1). Consider the two microbundles $\mathfrak{t}_M$ and $p_2^*\mathfrak{n}$; where $p_2 : M \times M \to M$ denotes the projection to the second factor. Then it is not difficult to see that the composition $\mathfrak{t}_M \circ p_2^*\mathfrak{n}$ is defined; and is isomorphic to $\mathfrak{t}_N|M$.

Example (2). Similarly we can compose $\mathfrak{t}_M$ with $p_1^*\mathfrak{n}$. In this case, since p_1 is the projection map of $\mathfrak{t}_M$, it is easily seen that $\mathfrak{t}_M \circ p_1^*\mathfrak{n} \cong \mathfrak{t}_M \oplus \mathfrak{n}$.

Let D be a neighborhood of the diagonal in $M \times M$ which is so small that the mapping $p_1|D$ is homotopic to $p_2|D$. [Such a neighborhood can be constructed as follows: Imbed M as a retract of a neighborhood V in some Euclidean space; and let D be the set of pairs (x, x') in $M \times M$ such that the line segment from x to x' lies completely within V.]

It follows that the restricted microbundle $p_1^*\mathfrak{n}|D$ is isomorphic to $p_2^*\mathfrak{n}|D$ Let $\mathfrak{t}'_M$ denote the microbundle $M \xrightarrow{\Delta} D \xrightarrow{p_1|D} M$ (which is of course isomorphic to $\mathfrak{t}_M$). Then

$$\mathfrak{t}_M \circ p_1^*\mathfrak{n} \cong \mathfrak{t}'_M \circ (p_1^*\mathfrak{n}|D) \cong \mathfrak{t}'_M \circ (p_2^*\mathfrak{n}|D) \cong \mathfrak{t}_M \circ p_2^*\mathfrak{n}.$$

Therefore $\mathfrak{t}_M \oplus \mathfrak{n} \cong \mathfrak{t}_N|M$; which completes the proof.

Passing to the group $\mathbf{k}_{\mathrm{Top}}M$ of s-classes, it follows that

$$(\mathfrak{t}_M) + (\mathfrak{n}) = i^*(\mathfrak{t}_N),$$

or in other words that $(\mathfrak{n}) = i^*(\mathfrak{t}_N) - (\mathfrak{t}_M)$. Thus:

COROLLARY (5.10) *If the normal microbundle* $\mathfrak{n}$ *exists, then it is uniquely determined up to s-isomorphism.*

COROLLARY (5.11). *The submanifold* $M \times 0 \subset N \times \mathbf{R}^{q'}$ *has a product neighborhood, for sufficiently large values of* q', *if and only if* $(\mathfrak{t}_M) = i^*(\mathfrak{t}_N)$.

Proof. If $M \times 0 \subset N \times \mathbf{R}^q$ has normal microbundle $\mathfrak{n}$ with $(\mathfrak{n}) = 0$, then there exists an integer r so that $\mathfrak{n} \oplus \mathfrak{e}^r$ is trivial. It follows that $M \times 0 \subset N \times \mathbf{R}^{q+r}$ has a product neighborhood.

Now let us consider the problem of imposing a smoothness structure on a given manifold M. If we are willing to replace M by some product $M \times \mathbf{R}^q$, then a solution can be given as follows:

THEOREM (5.12). *Let M be a topological manifold. The product* $M \times \mathbf{R}^q$ *can be given a smoothness structure, for sufficiently large values of q, if and only if* $\mathfrak{t}_M$ *is s-isomorphic to* $|\xi|$ *for some vector bundle* ξ *over M.*

Proof. If $M \times \mathbf{R}^q$ can be given a smoothness structure with tangent bundle τ, then

$$\mathfrak{t}_{M \times \mathbf{R}^q} \cong \mathfrak{t}_M \times \mathfrak{t}_{\mathbf{R}^q} \cong |\tau|$$

hence $\mathfrak{t}_M \oplus \mathfrak{e}_M^q$ is isomorphic to $|\tau|$ restricted to M.

Conversely suppose that $\mathfrak{t}_M$ is s-isomorphic to $|\xi|$. Imbed M as a retract of some neighborhood V in the Euclidean space $\mathbf{R}^{2m+1}$. Then ξ extends to a vector bundle ξ' over V. We may give ξ' the structure of a smooth vector bundle. To do this it is only necessary to observe that there exists a bundle map from ξ' to the universal bundle over some Grassmann manifold $G_{m'}(\mathbf{R}^l)$. Now approximating the resulting function $V \to G_{m'}(\mathbf{R}^l)$ by a smooth map, we obtain a smooth induced bundle which is isomorphic to ξ'.

Thus the total space $E = E(\xi')$ is a smooth manifold. Now consider the injection map $M \subset V \to E$. Evidently $\tau_V \oplus \xi' \cong \tau_E|V$. Restricting to M, this means that $\varepsilon^{2m+1} \oplus \xi \cong \tau_E|M$. Therefore the tangent microbundle of E, restricted to M, is isomorphic to $\mathfrak{e}^{2m+1} \oplus |\xi|$, which is s-isomorphic to $\mathfrak{t}_M$. By Corollary (5.11) this implies that $M \times 0$ has a product neighborhood in $E \times \mathbf{R}^s$ for large s. Therefore $M \times \mathbf{R}^q$ can be imbedded as an open subset of the smooth manifold $E \times \mathbf{R}^s$; where $q = \dim E + s - m$. Evidently $M \times \mathbf{R}^q$ inherits a smoothness structure; which completes the proof.

It is easily verified that the tangent bundle τ of this smooth manifold $M \times \mathbf{R}^q$ is isomorphic to $\xi \times \varepsilon^{2m+1+s}$. Thus our theorem can be sharpened as follows.

SMOOTHING THEOREM (5.13). *Let ξ be a vector bundle over the topological manifold M. Then some product $M \times \mathbf{R}^q$ can be smoothed so as to have tangent bundle isomorphic to $\xi \times \varepsilon^{q'}$ if and only if the homomorphism $\mathrm{k_O}M \to \mathrm{k_{Top}}M$ carries (ξ) to (t_M).*

§6. BUNDLE MAP-GERMS AND THE HOMOTOPY THEOREM

Before starting the proof of the (covering) homotopy theorem (§3.1) it is necessary to introduce several new concepts, and to prove several lemmas. Let $X \supset A$ and $Y \supset B$ be topological spaces.

DEFINITION (6.1). *A* map-germ *from (X, A) to (Y, B) is an equivalence class of mappings f, each defined on some neighborhood U_f of A in X, and mapping the pair (U_f, A) into (Y, B). Two such maps f, f' are equivalent (i.e. give rise to the same map-germ) if and only if $f|V = f'|V$ for some sufficiently small neighborhood V of A. The notation*

$$F : (X, A) \Rightarrow (Y, B)$$

will be used for such a map-germ.

The composition GF of two map-germs

$$(X, A) \overset{F}{\Rightarrow} (Y, B) \overset{G}{\Rightarrow} (Z, C)$$

is readily defined. F will be called a *homeomorphism-germ* if it possesses a two-sided inverse $G : (Y, B) \Rightarrow (X, A)$. Clearly F is a homeomorphism-germ if and only if a representative map f carries some neighborhood of A homeomorphically onto a neighborhood of B.

Now consider a microbundle $\mathfrak{x}$ over B. The projection map $j : E \to B$ determines a map-germ $(E, iB) \Rightarrow (B, B)$ which will be denoted by J, and called the *projection-germ* of $\mathfrak{x}$. It will be convenient to simplify the notation in two ways:

(1) The pair (B, B) will be denoted briefly by B.

(2) The space B will be identified with its image $iB \subset E$.

With these conventions we may write simply

$$J : (E, B) \Rightarrow B$$

for the projection-germ.

Let $\mathfrak{x}'$ be a second microbundle over B with projection-germ $J' : (E', B) \Rightarrow B$.

DEFINITION (6.2). *An* isomorphism-germ *from $\mathfrak{x}$ to $\mathfrak{x}'$ is a homeomorphism-germ*

$$F : (E, B) \Rightarrow (E', B)$$

which is fibre-preserving, in the sense that $J'F = J$.

Clearly there exists such an isomorphism-germ if and only if $\mathfrak{x}$ is isomorphic to $\mathfrak{x}'$ (in the sense of §2).

More generally consider a microbundle $\mathfrak{x}'$ over a different base space B'. The fibre dimensions of $\mathfrak{x}$ and $\mathfrak{x}'$ should be the same. Let $F : (E, B) \Rightarrow (E', B')$ be a map-germ, with representative map $f : U_f \to E'$.

DEFINITION (6.3). *F will be called a* bundle map-germ *from $\mathfrak{x}$ to $\mathfrak{x}'$ if there exists a neighborhood V of B in U_f so that f maps each fibre $j^{-1}(b) \cap V$ in one-one fashion into some fibre $j'^{-1}(b')$* of $\mathfrak{x}'$.

The notation $F : \mathfrak{x} \Rightarrow \mathfrak{x}'$ will also be used. I am indebted to R. Williamson for this concept of bundle map.

It follows that the following diagram commutes:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} (E, B) & \overset{F}{\Longrightarrow} & (E', B') \\ {\scriptstyle j}\Big\Downarrow & & \Big\Downarrow{\scriptstyle j'} \\ B & \xrightarrow{F|B} & B' \end{array}$$

We will say that the mapping $F|B$ is *covered* by the bundle map-germ F.

The following lemma helps to justify this definition:

LEMMA (6.4). (Williamson) *Suppose that $B = B'$, and let F be a bundle map-germ from $\mathfrak{x}$ to $\mathfrak{x}'$ which covers the identity map of B. Then F is an isomorphism-germ.*

Proof. First consider the following very special case. Consider a map

$$g : B \times \mathbf{R}^n \to B \times \mathbf{R}^n$$

which is one-one and fibre preserving. In other words assume that g can be expressed in the form

$$g(b, x) = (b, g_b(x))$$

where each $g_b : \mathbf{R}^n \to \mathbf{R}^n$ is one-one. It follows from the theorem of invariance of domain that each g_b is an open mapping. (See [12, p. 95].) We will show that g itself is an open mapping. This will imply that g maps $B \times \mathbf{R}^n$ homeomorphically onto an open subset of itself.

Let $N_\varepsilon(x)$ denote the closed ball of radius ε centered at the point $x \in \mathbf{R}^n$. For any $(b_0, x_0) \in B \times \mathbf{R}^n$ and any $\varepsilon > 0$ note that $g_{b_0} N_\varepsilon(x_0)$ is a neighborhood of the image point $x_1 = g_{b_0}(x_0)$. Choose $\delta > 0$ so that

$$N_{2\delta}(x_1) \subset g_{b_0} N_\varepsilon(x_0).$$

Let V be a neighborhood of b_0 which is so small that

$$|g_b(x) - g_{b_0}(x)| < \delta$$

for all $x \in N_\varepsilon(x_0)$ and all $b \in V$. Such a neighborhood exists since $N_\varepsilon(x_0)$ is compact. Now for each $b \in V$ it can be seen that the image $g_b N_\varepsilon(x_0)$ contains the smaller ball $N_\delta(x_1)$. Therefore

$$g(V \times N_\varepsilon(x_0)) \supset V \times N_\delta(x_1);$$

which proves that g is an open mapping.

Now let $\mathfrak{x}$ and $\mathfrak{x}'$ be microbundles over B and let $F : \mathfrak{x} \Rightarrow \mathfrak{x}'$ cover the identity map of B. Let $f : U \to E'$ be a representative map for F. By choosing U sufficiently small we may assume that f is one-one and fibre preserving.

Since microbundles are locally trivial, the argument given above can be applied locally. For each $b \in B$ it follows that there is a neighborhood W_b of $i(b)$ in U such that f maps W_b homeomorphically onto an open set $f(W_b) \subset E'$. Taking $W = \cup W_b$ it follows immediately that f maps W homeomorphically onto the open set $f(W)$. Therefore F is a homeomorphism-germ. This completes the proof of Lemma (6.4).

COROLLARY (6.5). *If a map $g: B \to B'$ is covered by a bundle map-germ $\mathfrak{x} \Rightarrow \mathfrak{x}'$ then $\mathfrak{x}$ is isomorphic to the induced bundle $g^*\mathfrak{x}'$.*

The proof is easily supplied.

The next lemma asserts that bundle maps can be 'pieced together'.

LEMMA (6.6). *Let $\mathfrak{x}$ be a microbundle over B and let $\{B_\alpha\}$ be a locally finite collection of closed sets covering B. Suppose that one is given bundle map-germs*

$$F_\alpha : \mathfrak{x}|B_\alpha \Rightarrow \mathfrak{y}$$

such that F_α coincides with F_β on $\mathfrak{x}|B_\alpha \cap B_\beta$ for each α, β. Then there exists a bundle map-germ $F : \mathfrak{x} \Rightarrow \mathfrak{y}$ which extends the F_α.

Proof. Let $f_\alpha : U_\alpha \to E'$ be a representative map for F_α. Suppose that f_α coincides with f_β on a set $U_{\alpha\beta}$ which is an open neighborhood of $B_\alpha \cap B_\beta$ in $U_\alpha \cap U_\beta$. Let U be the set consisting of all $e \in E$ such that, for each α, β:

(1) if $j(e) \in B_\alpha$ then $e \in U_\alpha$, and
(2) if $j(e) \in B_\alpha \cap B_\beta$ then $e \in U_{\alpha\beta}$.

Since $\{B_\alpha\}$ is a locally finite closed covering, the set U is open. Clearly the f_α piece together to yield a map

$$f: U \to E'$$

which represents the required bundle map-germ.

We are now ready to begin the proof of the homotopy theorem.

LEMMA (6.7). *Let $\mathfrak{x}$ be a microbundle over the product $B \times [0, 1]$ such that both $\mathfrak{x}|B \times [0, \frac{1}{2}]$ and $\mathfrak{x}|B \times [\frac{1}{2}, 1]$ are trivial. Then $\mathfrak{x}$ itself is trivial.*

Proof. Since $\mathfrak{x}|B \times [\frac{1}{2}, 1]$ is trivial it follows that the identity bundle map-germ of $\mathfrak{x}|B \times [\frac{1}{2}]$ can be extended to a map-germ

$$\mathfrak{x}|B \times [\tfrac{1}{2}, 1] \Rightarrow \mathfrak{x}|B \times [\tfrac{1}{2}].$$

Piecing this together with the identity map-germ of $\mathfrak{x}|B \times [0, \frac{1}{2}]$, by Lemma (6.6), this yields a map-germ

$$\mathfrak{x} \Rightarrow \mathfrak{x}|B \times [0, \tfrac{1}{2}].$$

But the latter bundle is trivial, hence $\mathfrak{x}$ itself is trivial.

LEMMA (6.8). *Let $\mathfrak{x}$ be any microbundle over $B \times [0, 1]$. Then each $b \in B$ has a neighborhood V so that $\mathfrak{x}|V \times [0, 1]$ is trivial.*

Proof. For each $t \in [0, 1]$ choose a neighborhood $V_t \times (t - \varepsilon_t, t + \varepsilon_t)$ of (b, t) so that $\mathfrak{x}$ restricted to this neighborhood is trivial. The compact set $b \times [0, 1]$ is covered by finitely many such neighborhoods. Let V be the intersection of the corresponding neighborhoods V_t. Then there exists a subdivision $0 = t_0 < t_1 < t_2 < \ldots < t_k = 1$ so that each $\mathfrak{x}|V \times [t_{i-1}, t_i]$ is trivial. Applying Lemma (6.7) inductively, it follows that $\mathfrak{x}|V \times [0, 1]$ is trivial.

LEMMA (6.9). *Let $\mathfrak{x}$ be a microbundle over $B \times [0, 1]$, where B is paracompact. Then the standard retraction*

$$r : B \times [0, 1] \rightarrow B \times [1]$$

is covered by a bundle map-germ $\mathfrak{x} \Rightarrow \mathfrak{x}|B \times [1]$.

Proof. Let $\{V_\alpha\}$ be a locally finite covering of B by open sets V_α such that $\mathfrak{x}|V_\alpha \times [0, 1]$ is trivial. Choose continuous real valued functions

$$\lambda_\alpha : B \rightarrow [0, 1]$$

so that the support of each λ_α is contained in V_α, and so that

$$\operatorname*{Max}_\alpha \lambda_\alpha(b) = 1$$

for each $b \in B$. Now define a retraction r_α of $B \times [0, 1]$ into itself by

$$r_\alpha(b, t) = (b, \operatorname{Max}(t, \lambda_\alpha(b))).$$

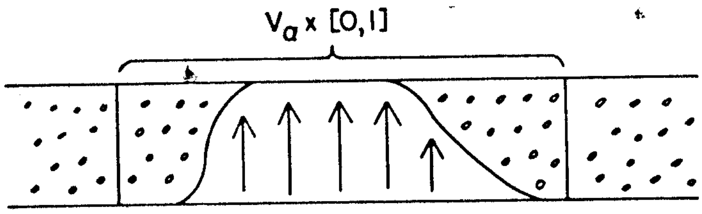


FIG. 3.

(This is represented schematically in Fig. 3, where the curved line represents the graph of λ_α.) Note that the 'composition' of the infinitely many retractions r_α is just

$$r(b, t) = (b, 1).$$

Each r_α is covered by a bundle map-germ $R_\alpha : \mathfrak{x} \Rightarrow \mathfrak{x}$ as follows. Express $B \times [0, 1]$ as the union of the two closed sets

$$A_\alpha = (\text{Support } \lambda_\alpha) \times [0, 1],$$

$$A'_\alpha = \{(b, t) : t \geq \lambda_\alpha(b)\}.$$

Since $\mathfrak{x}|A_\alpha$ is trivial, the identity map-germ of $\mathfrak{x}|A_\alpha \cap A'_\alpha$ extends to a bundle map-germ

$$\mathfrak{x}|A_\alpha \Rightarrow \mathfrak{x}|A_\alpha \cap A'_\alpha$$

which covers $r_\alpha|A_\alpha$. Piecing this together with the identity map-germ of $\mathfrak{x}|A'_\alpha$ (using Lemma (6.6)), we obtain the required map-germ R_α.

Choose some fixed ordering of the index set $\{\alpha\}$. The required bundle map-germ

$$R : \mathfrak{x} \Rightarrow \mathfrak{x}|B \times [1]$$

will now be defined as the 'composition' of all of the R_α, in the prescribed order. This will make sense since, locally, all but a finite number of the R_α are the identity.

To be more precise let $\{B_\beta\}$ be a locally finite covering of B by closed sets, such that each B_β intersects only finitely many V_α. Suppose that B_β intersects only $V_{\alpha_1}, \ldots, V_{\alpha_k}$ where $\alpha_1 < \alpha_2 < \ldots < \alpha_k$. Then the composition $R_{\alpha_1} R_{\alpha_2} \ldots R_{\alpha_k}$ restricts to a map-germ $R(\beta): \mathfrak{x}|B_\beta \times [0, 1] \Rightarrow \mathfrak{x}|B_\beta \times [1]$. Piecing together the $R(\beta)$ by (6.6) we obtain the required bundle map-germ R.

The homotopy theorem (§3.1) now follows easily. Let $f_0, f_1: B \to B'$ be two maps which are homotopic under a homotopy $f: B \times [0, 1] \to B'$; and let $\mathfrak{y}$ be a microbundle over B'. By (6.9) there exists a map-germ $R: f^*\mathfrak{y} \Rightarrow f^*\mathfrak{y}|B \times [1]$ which covers the standard retraction $B \times [0, 1] \to B \times [1]$.

Forming the composition

$$f_0^*\mathfrak{y} \subset f^*\mathfrak{y} \overset{R}{\Rightarrow} f^*\mathfrak{y}|B \times [1] = f_1^*\mathfrak{y}$$

we obtain an isomorphism-germ $f_0^*\mathfrak{y} \Rightarrow f_1^*\mathfrak{y}$. This completes the proof.

§7. MICROBUNDLES OVER A SUSPENSION

Let B be a space with a distinguished base point b_0.

DEFINITION. *A* rooted *microbundle over B will mean a microbundle $\mathfrak{x}$ together with a specific isomorphism-germ*

$$R: \mathfrak{x}|b_0 \Rightarrow \mathfrak{e}^n_{b_0},$$

where n is the fibre dimension of $\mathfrak{x}$, and $\mathfrak{e}^n_{b_0}$ denotes the standard trivial microbundle over b_0. Two rooted microbundles $\mathfrak{x}'$ and $\mathfrak{x}$ over B are isomorphic *if there exists an isomorphism-germ $\mathfrak{x}' \Rightarrow \mathfrak{x}$ which extends the given isomorphism-germ*

$$R^{-1}R': \mathfrak{x}'|b_0 \Rightarrow \mathfrak{x}|b_0.$$

It will be convenient to have a slightly sharper form of the homotopy theorem. If $f: B \to B'$ is a map preserving base points, note that any rooted microbundle $\mathfrak{y}$ over B' gives rise to a rooted microbundle $f^*\mathfrak{y}$ over B.

LEMMA (7.1). (Rooted homotopy theorem). *Let $f_0, f_1: B \to B'$ be two maps which are homotopic under a homotopy f which leaves the base point fixed. Then $f_0^*\mathfrak{y}$ is isomorphic, as rooted microbundle, to $f_1^*\mathfrak{y}$.*

The proof is essentially the same as that given in §6. It is only necessary to prove (6.8) in a slightly sharper form. Note that the rooting of $\mathfrak{y}$ gives rise to an isomorphism-germ

$$\bar{R}: f^*\mathfrak{y}|b_0 \times [0, 1] \Rightarrow \mathfrak{e}^n_{b_0 \times [0,1]}.$$

We must show that $\bar{R}$ extends to an isomorphism-germ

$$f^*\mathfrak{y}|V \times [0, 1] \Rightarrow \mathfrak{e}^n_{V \times [0,1]}$$

for some neighborhood V of b_0.

According to (6.8) there exists some isomorphism-germ $Q: f^*\mathfrak{y}|V \times [0, 1] \Rightarrow \mathfrak{e}^n_{V \times [0,1]}$ providing that V is small enough. Now consider the composition

$$Q\bar{R}^{-1} : \mathfrak{e}^n_{b_0 \times [0,1]} \Rightarrow \mathfrak{e}^n_{b_0 \times [0,1]}$$

ince $b_0 \times [0, 1]$ is a retract of $V \times [0, 1]$, it follows easily that $Q\bar{R}^{-1}$ extends to some omorphism-germ $P: \mathfrak{e}^n_{V \times [0,1]} \Rightarrow \mathfrak{e}^n_{V \times [0,1]}$. Now $P^{-1}Q: f^*\mathfrak{y}|V \times [0, 1] \Rightarrow \mathfrak{e}^n_{V \times [0,1]}$ is the equired extension of $\bar{R}$.

The remainder of the proof of (7.1) follows that in §6. Details will be left to the reader.

Consider two rooted microbundles $\mathfrak{x}$ and $\mathfrak{y}$, with the same fibre dimension, over base paces A and B respectively. Let $A \vee B$ denote the union of the two base spaces with a ngle point, namely the preferred base point, in common. Then a new microbundle $\mathfrak{x} \vee \mathfrak{y}$ ver $A \vee B$ is obtained by pasting the fibre $\mathfrak{x}|a_0$ onto the fibre $\mathfrak{y}|b_0$, using the given iso-orphism-germs

$$\mathfrak{x}|a_0 \Rightarrow \mathfrak{e}^n_{a_0} = \mathfrak{e}^n_{b_0} \Leftarrow \mathfrak{y}|b_0.$$

can be seen that $\mathfrak{x} \vee \mathfrak{y}$ is well defined up to isomorphism.

Suppose in particular that B is the reduced suspension

$$SX = (X \times [0, 1])/(X \times \{0, 1\} \cup x_0 \times [0, 1])$$

f a topological space X. There is a standard map

$$\phi : B \to B \vee B$$

hich is obtained by collapsing $X \times [\frac{1}{2}] \subset B$ to a point, and then identifying the result ith $B \vee B$. Now given two rooted microbundles $\mathfrak{x}$ and $\mathfrak{y}$ over B, with the same fibre imension n, one can form the induced microbundle $\phi^*(\mathfrak{x} \vee \mathfrak{y})$ over B; also with fibre imension n.

EXAMPLE (7.2). *Let $\mathfrak{e}^n$ denote the trivial microbundle over $B = SX$. Then*

$$\phi^*(\mathfrak{x} \vee \mathfrak{e}^n) \cong \phi^*(\mathfrak{e}^n \vee \mathfrak{x}) \cong \mathfrak{x}.$$

Proof. Let $c_1 : B \vee B \to B$ be the identity on the first 'summand' of $B \vee B$ and collapse he second summand to b_0. Then $c_1^* \mathfrak{x} \cong \mathfrak{x} \vee \mathfrak{e}^n$. But the composition $c_1\phi : B \to B$ is homo-opic to the identity. Therefore

$$\phi^*(\mathfrak{x} \vee \mathfrak{e}^n) \cong \phi^* c_1^* \mathfrak{x} \cong \mathfrak{x}.$$

Together with a similar argument using c_2 in place of c_1, this completes the proof.

EXAMPLE (7.3). *Let $r : B \to B$ denote the 'reflection' of $B = SX$, corresponding to the utomorphism $(x, t) \to (x, 1 - t)$ of $X \times [0, 1]$. Then $\phi^*(\mathfrak{x} \vee r^*\mathfrak{x})$ is trivial.*

Proof. Let $f : B \vee B \to B$ coincide with the identity on the first summand and with r on the second. Then $f\phi : B \to B$ is homotopic to the constant map. Hence

$$\phi^*(\mathfrak{x} \vee r^*\mathfrak{x}) \cong \phi^* f^* \mathfrak{x} \cong \mathfrak{e}^n_B.$$

Next consider two rooted microbundles $\mathfrak{x}$ and $\mathfrak{x}'$ with fibre dimensions n and n' over the same base space. The *Whitney sum* $\mathfrak{x} \oplus \mathfrak{x}'$ is defined to be the rooted microbundle whose distinguished isomorphism is the direct sum

$$R \oplus R' : (\mathfrak{x} \oplus \mathfrak{x}')|b_0 \Rightarrow \mathfrak{e}^n_{b_0} \oplus \mathfrak{e}^{n'}_{b_0} \cong \mathfrak{e}^{n+n'}_{b_0}.$$

LEMMA (7.4). *Given rooted microbundles $\mathfrak{x}$ and $\mathfrak{x}'$ over A and $\mathfrak{y}$ and $\mathfrak{y}'$ over B,, the sum $(\mathfrak{x} \vee \mathfrak{y}) \oplus (\mathfrak{x}' \vee \mathfrak{y}')$ over $A \vee B$ is isomorphic to $(\mathfrak{x} \oplus \mathfrak{x}') \vee (\mathfrak{y} \oplus \mathfrak{y}')$.*

Proof. This is obvious.

Now a word of caution. It is not clear that the Whitney sum $\mathfrak{x} \oplus \mathfrak{x}'$ is isomorphic (as rooted microbundle) to $\mathfrak{x}' \oplus \mathfrak{x}$. However this can be proved in one special case, which will suffice for our purposes. Suppose that B is a completely regular (=Tychonoff) space. Let n be the fibre dimension of $\mathfrak{x}$.

LEMMA (7.5). *The sum $\mathfrak{x} \oplus \mathfrak{e}^n_B$ is isomorphic (as rooted microbundle!) to $\mathfrak{e}^n_B \oplus \mathfrak{x}$.*

Proof. It will be convenient to drop the subscript and superscript on $\mathfrak{e}^n_B$. Consider the preferred isomorphism-germs

$$(\mathfrak{x} \oplus \mathfrak{e})|b_0 \overset{R\oplus I}{\Longrightarrow} \mathfrak{e}^n_{b_0} \oplus \mathfrak{e}^n_{b_0} \overset{I\oplus R}{\Longleftarrow} (\mathfrak{e} \oplus \mathfrak{x})|b_0,$$

where I denotes the identity map-germ of $\mathfrak{e}|b_0$. Composing these we obtain an isomorphism-germ

$$R \oplus R^{-1} : (\mathfrak{x} \oplus \mathfrak{e})|b_0 \Rightarrow (\mathfrak{e} \oplus \mathfrak{x})|b_0.$$

We must show that $R \oplus R^{-1}$ extends to an isomorphism-germ $\mathfrak{x} \oplus \mathfrak{e} \Rightarrow \mathfrak{e} \oplus \mathfrak{x}$.

If we ignore the rooting, then the map $f : E(\mathfrak{x}) \times \mathbf{R}^n \to \mathbf{R}^n \times E(\mathfrak{x})$ which is defined by $f(e, x) = (-x, e)$ gives rise to an isomorphism-germ $F : \mathfrak{x} \oplus \mathfrak{e} \Rightarrow \mathfrak{e} \oplus \mathfrak{x}$. We will modify F near b_0.

Choose a small closed neighborhood U of b_0 and an isomorphism-germ $Q : \mathfrak{x}|U \Rightarrow \mathfrak{e}|U$ which extends R. Let $\lambda : B \to [0, \pi/2]$ satisfy

$$(\text{Support } \lambda) \subset U, \ \lambda(b_0) = \pi/2.$$

Now define the homeomorphism

$$g : U \times \mathbf{R}^n \times \mathbf{R}^n \to U \times \mathbf{R}^n \times \mathbf{R}^n$$

by

$$g(b, x, y) = (b, x \sin \lambda(b) - y \cos \lambda(b), x \cos \lambda(b) + y \sin \lambda(b)).$$

Thus

$$g(b, x, y) = \begin{cases} (b, x, y) & \text{if } \ b = b_0 \\ (b, -y, x) & \text{if } \ \lambda(b) = 0. \end{cases}$$

Hence the composite isomorphism-germ

$$(\mathfrak{x} \oplus \mathfrak{e})|U \overset{Q\oplus I}{\Longrightarrow} (\mathfrak{e} \oplus \mathfrak{e})|U \overset{g}{\longrightarrow} (\mathfrak{e} \oplus \mathfrak{e})|U \overset{I\oplus Q^{-1}}{\Longrightarrow} (\mathfrak{e} \oplus \mathfrak{x})|U$$

coincides with $R \oplus R^{-1}$ over b_0; and coincides with F over the closed set $U \cap \lambda^{-1}(0) \subset B$. Piecing this composite together with $F|\lambda^{-1}(0)$ by means of Lemma (6.6), we obtain the required isomorphism-germ.

THEOREM (7.6). *Let B be a completely regular space which is a reduced suspension, and let $\mathfrak{x}$ and $\mathfrak{y}$ be rooted microbundles over B with the same fibre dimension. Then*

$$\phi^*(\mathfrak{x} \vee \mathfrak{y}) \oplus \mathfrak{e}^n_B \cong \mathfrak{x} \oplus \mathfrak{y}.$$

Proof. Since $\mathfrak{y} \oplus \mathfrak{e}$ is rooted-isomorphic to $\mathfrak{e} \oplus \mathfrak{y}$ we have

$$\phi^*((\mathfrak{x} \oplus \mathfrak{e}) \vee (\mathfrak{y} \oplus \mathfrak{e})) \cong \phi^*((\mathfrak{x} \oplus \mathfrak{e}) \vee (\mathfrak{e} \oplus \mathfrak{y})).$$

But the left side is isomorphic to

$$\phi^*((\mathfrak{x} \vee \mathfrak{y}) \oplus (\mathfrak{e} \vee \mathfrak{e})) \cong \phi^*(\mathfrak{x} \vee \mathfrak{y}) \oplus \mathfrak{e};$$

while the right side is isomorphic to

$$\phi^*((\mathfrak{x} \vee \mathfrak{e}) \oplus (\mathfrak{e} \vee \mathfrak{y})) \cong \mathfrak{x} \oplus \mathfrak{y}.$$

This completes the proof.

As a special case, since $\phi^*(\mathfrak{x} \vee r^*\mathfrak{x})$ is trivial, this gives:

COROLLARY (7.7). *The sum* $\mathfrak{x} \oplus r^*\mathfrak{x}$ *is trivial.*

Clearly this proves the Lemma (4.2) which was assumed earlier.

Another useful consequence is the following. Let $f_d: S^k \to S^k$ be a mapping from the sphere to itself of degree d.

COROLLARY (7.8). *The induced homomorphism*

$$f_d^* : \mathbf{k}_{\mathrm{Top}}(S^k) \to \mathbf{k}_{\mathrm{Top}}(S^k)$$

is just multiplication by d.

Proof. For $d = 0$ or $d = 1$ this assertion is clear. The proof for other values of d will be by ascending or descending induction on d.

Let $g: S^k \vee S^k \to S^k$ be the identity map on the first summand, and have degree d on the second summand. Then the composition $g\phi: S^k \to S^k$ has degree $d + 1$. Hence for any $\mathfrak{x}$ over S^k:

$$f_{d+1}^*\mathfrak{x} \cong \phi^*g^*\mathfrak{x} \cong \phi^*(\mathfrak{x} \vee f_d^*\mathfrak{x}).$$

Adding a trivial microbundle to both sides, this gives

$$(f_{d+1}^*\mathfrak{x}) \oplus \mathfrak{e} \cong \mathfrak{x} \oplus f_d^*\mathfrak{x}.$$

After a straightforward induction argument, this completes the proof.

§8. THE HOMOMORPHISM $\mathbf{k}_O(S^{4n}) \to \mathbf{k}_{\mathrm{Top}}(S^{4n})$

According to Bott ([4], [5]) the group $\mathbf{k}_O(S^{4n})$ is infinite cyclic. Let (γ) denote a generator. Let B_n denote the nth Bernoulli number and let num(B_n/n) denote the numerator of the rational number B_n/n when expressed as a fraction in lowest terms. The object of this section will be to prove the following:

THEOREM (8.1). *The image in* $\mathbf{k}_{\mathrm{Top}}(S^{4n})$ *of the generator* (γ) *is divisible by the integer* $(2^{2n-1} - 1)\mathrm{num}(B_n/n)$.

For $n = 1, 2, 3, 4$ this integer is respectively 1, 7, 31, 127. (*Remark.* The factor num(B_n/n) equals 1 for $n = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7$ only. It grows more than exponentially for larger values of n.)

It follows that this homomorphism $\mathbf{k}_O(S^{4n}) \to \mathbf{k}_{\mathrm{Top}}(S^{4n})$ is not an isomorphism for $n > 1$. It is difficult to say anything much more precise about this homomorphism; since it is not even known whether the groups $\mathbf{k}_{\mathrm{Top}}(S^r)$ are finite, countably infinite, or uncountably infinite.

In order to prove (8.1) we must have a procedure for constructing exotic microbundles over S^{4n}. This will be done as follows. We may assume that $n > 1$, since there is nothing to prove in the case $n = 1$.

According to Kervaire and Milnor [13, Part II] there exists a manifold-with-boundary W of dimension $4n$, $n > 1$, with the following description. W is smooth, parallelizable, and has the homotopy type of the 8-fold bouquet $S^{2n} \vee S^{2n} \vee \ldots \vee S^{2n}$. The boundary ∂W is topologically a $(4n-1)$-sphere. In fact, choosing a C^1-triangulation [24], ∂W is even a piecewise-linear sphere. Finally the intersection-number pairing

$$H_{2n}W \otimes H_{2n}W \to Z$$

is positive definite; so that the signature of W is $+8$.

Let $M = W \cup C(\partial W)$ be the topological manifold which is obtained by adjoining a cone over the boundary of W. (Actually M can be given the structure of a piecewise-linear manifold.) Let $f: M \to S^{4n}$ have degree 1.

LEMMA (8.2). *There exists a microbundle $\mathfrak{x}$ over S^{4n} so that $f^*\mathfrak{x}$ is isomorphic to the tangent microbundle $\mathfrak{t}_M$.*

Proof. Since a neighborhood of W in M can be given the structure of a parallelizable smooth manifold, it follows from §2.2 that $\mathfrak{t}_M|W$ is trivial. Therefore, according to §3.3, it follows that $\mathfrak{t}_M$ can be extended to a microbundle over $M \cup C(W)$. Since $M \cup C(W)$ has the homotopy type of S^{4n}; this completes the proof.

Thus we have constructed an unusual microbundle $\mathfrak{x}$ over S^{4n}. We will prove that the corresponding s-class $(\mathfrak{x}) \in \mathbf{k}_{\mathrm{Top}}S^{4n}$ is related to the generator (γ) of $\mathbf{k}_0 S^{4n}$ as follows. Let j_n denote the order of the image

$$J\pi_{4n-1}(\mathbf{SO}_l) \subset \pi_{4n-1+l}(S^l)$$

of the stable J-homomorphism $(l > 4n)$; and let a_n equal 1 or 2 according as n is even or odd. It will be convenient to introduce the abbreviation

$$b_n = 2^{2n-4}(2^{2n-1}-1)B_n j_n a_n/n.$$

This number b_n is an integer. (Compare [17].) We may assume that orientations are chosen so that $p_n(\gamma)[S^{4n}] > 0$.

THEOREM (8.3). *The sum $\mathfrak{x} \oplus \ldots \oplus \mathfrak{x}$ of b_n copies of $\mathfrak{x}$ is s-isomorphic to the sum $|\gamma \oplus \ldots \oplus \gamma|$ of j_n copies of $|\gamma|$.*

In other words, the identity $b_n(\mathfrak{x}) = j_n(|\gamma|)$ is valid in $\mathbf{k}_{\mathrm{Top}}S^{4n}$.

Remark (1). In the terminology of Kervaire and Milnor [13, §7.6], the integer b_n is equal to the order of the cyclic group $bP_{4n} \subset \Theta_{4n-1}$, consisting of h-cobordism classes of homotopy spheres which bound parallelizable manifolds.

Remark (2). The reader who wishes to skip the number theory need only think of one special case; namely: $n = 2$, $j_2 = 240$, $a_2 = 1$, $B_2 = 1/30$, $b_2 = 28$. This case will suffice for all practical purposes.