

Correction to last time:

Naturality for S-W classes - required only for bundle maps that map fibers of E to fibers of E' isomorphically.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} E & \xrightarrow{\Phi} & E' \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ M & \xrightarrow{j} & M' \end{array}$$

- Then, one wants $w_i(E) = j^* w_i(E')$.

(in particular, $E = j^* E'$ is an example.)

• Stiefel-Whitney numbers:

For M a closed ^{smooth} n -mfd, we have a unique fundamental ^{homology} class (with \mathbb{Z}_2 -coefficients)

$\mu_M \in H_n(M, \mathbb{Z}_2)$. Any $\text{deg} = n$ cohomology class $v \in H^n(M, \mathbb{Z}_2)$ can be paired to it:

$$\langle v, \mu_M \rangle \in \mathbb{Z}_2.$$

If \bigoplus_M^E a v. bun., and $r_1, \dots, r_n \geq 0$ s.t. $r_1 + 2r_2 + \dots + nr_n = n$, then

(1)

We can form $\langle w_1(E)^{r_1} \dots w_n(E)^{r_n}, \mu_M \rangle \in \mathbb{Z}_2$.

For $E = TM$, these are "S-L numbers of M ", $\langle w_1(TM)^{r_1} \dots w_n(TM)^{r_n}, \mu_M \rangle =: w_1^{r_1} \dots w_n^{r_n} [M]$

- S-L number of M associated with the monomial $w_1^{r_1} \dots w_n^{r_n}$

Ex:

• for n even, $w_n(\mathbb{R}P^n) = (n+1)a^n \neq 0 \Rightarrow w_n[\mathbb{R}P^n] = 1$
 $\mathbb{Z}_2 = \{0, 1\}$

• " " " " , $w_1(\mathbb{R}P^n) = (n+1)a = a \neq 0 \Rightarrow w_1^n[\mathbb{R}P^n] = 1$

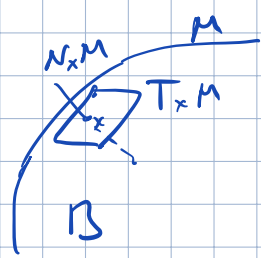
• for n odd, $w_j(\mathbb{R}P^n) = (1+a^2)^k = (1+a^2)^k \Rightarrow w_j = 0$ for j odd
 but a monomial $w_1^{r_1} \dots w_n^{r_n}$ of (odd) degree n must contain some w_j for j odd

\Rightarrow all S-L numbers for $\mathbb{R}P^n$ with n odd vanish.

Thm (Pontrjagin) If B is an $(n+1)$ -dim. C^∞ mfd with boundary $\partial B = M$, then all S-L numbers of M are zero.

Proof Let $\mu_B \in H_{n+1}(B, M; \mathbb{Z}_2)$ -relative fund. class. Then $\partial \mu_B = \mu_M$
 $H_{n+1}(B, M) \xrightarrow{\partial} H_n(M)$
 $H^n(M) \xrightarrow{\delta} H^{n+1}(B, M)$
 for any $v \in H^n(M)$, we have $\langle v, \partial \mu_B \rangle = \langle \delta v, \mu_B \rangle$ (*)

$TB|_M = TM \oplus NM$
 $i^* TB$, trivial line bundle (outward normal - after closing a metric on B) = non-vanishing section
 $i: M \hookrightarrow B$



So: $w_j(TM) = i^* w_j(TB)$ under $H^j(B) \xrightarrow{i^*} H^j(M)$
 $\Rightarrow \delta(w_1^{r_1} \dots w_n^{r_n}) = 0$ from $H^n(B) \xrightarrow{i^*} H^n(M) \xrightarrow{\delta} H^{n+1}(B, M)$
 $\Rightarrow \langle w_1^{r_1} \dots w_n^{r_n}, \mu_M \rangle \stackrel{(*)}{=} 0$ \square

Converse: Thm (Thom)

If all S-W numbers of M are zero, then M can be realized as the boundary of some smooth compact manifold.

Ex: (1) for any M , S-W numbers of $M \sqcup M$ are zero.

Indeed $M \sqcup M = \partial \underbrace{(M \times [0,1])}_B$

(2) $M = \mathbb{R}P^{2k-1}$ has SW numbers $= 0 \Rightarrow \exists B$ s.t. $\partial B = \mathbb{R}P^{2k-1}$
 $\dim = 2k$

def two closed n -manifolds M_1 and M_2 belong to the same unoriented cobordism class iff $M_1 \sqcup M_2$ is the boundary of a compact $(n+1)$ -mfd.

Cor (of Pontryagin-Thom theorems):

Two closed n -mfd's M_1, M_2 belong to the same cobordism class iff all of their corresponding SW numbers are equal.

recall Künneth f-l-a:
 $H^j(M \times M', F) \cong \bigoplus_{r+s=j} H^r(M, F) \otimes H^s(M', F)$

• Lemma given v.bun. $\begin{matrix} E \\ \downarrow \\ M \end{matrix}, \begin{matrix} E' \\ \downarrow \\ M' \end{matrix}, w(E \times E') = w(E) \otimes w(E')$

(in particular, $w_j(E \times E') = \sum_{i=0}^j w_i(E) \otimes w_{j-i}(E')$)

Proof: let \tilde{E}, \tilde{E}' - pullbacks of E, E' to $M \times M'$. under p_1, p_2

then $E \times E' = p_1^* E \oplus p_2^* E'$
 $\Rightarrow w(E \times E') = p_1^* w(E) \cup p_2^* w(E')$

Ex: $w(\mathbb{R}P^2 \times \mathbb{R}P^2) = (1+a+a^2)(1+b+b^2) = 1 + \underbrace{(a+b)}_{w_1} + \underbrace{(a^2+ab+b^2)}_{w_2} + \underbrace{(a^2b+ab^2)}_{w_3} + \underbrace{a^2b^2}_{w_4}$
 generators of $H^*(\mathbb{R}P^2, \mathbb{Z}_2)$ for the two copies of $\mathbb{R}P^2$

Compare with $w(\mathbb{R}P^4) = 1 + c + c^4$
 $w_1 \quad w_4$

SW numbers:	$\mathbb{R}P^4$	$\mathbb{R}P^2 \times \mathbb{R}P^2$
w_1	1	0
w_2	0	0
w_3	0	0
w_4	0	1
w_5	1	1

$(a^4 + 4a^3b + 6a^2b^2 + 4ab^3 + b^4)$ [fund class]

so: $[\mathbb{R}P^4] \neq [\mathbb{R}P^2 \times \mathbb{R}P^2]$
 cobordism class

another notation: $\mathcal{N}_n^0, \mathcal{N}_n^+$

• $\mathcal{N}_n = \{ \text{closed } n\text{-manifolds} \} / \text{unoriented cobordism}$ - additive group with $+$ = \sqcup .
 - it is a \mathbb{Z}_2 -module.

disj. union Cartesian product

• $\mathcal{N}_* = \bigoplus_{n \geq 0} \mathcal{N}_n$ - cobordism ring, $+$ = \sqcup , \cdot = \times

Lemma for any rank = k bundle $E \downarrow M$ over a compact base M ,

there exists a map $f: M \rightarrow Gr(k, m)$ for m sufficiently large,

s.t. $E \cong_{iso} f^* \tau^k$ (*)

Proof: Let $\{U_\alpha\}_{\alpha \in 1 \dots r}$ a (finite) trivializing cover, $\varphi_\alpha: U_\alpha \times \mathbb{R}^k \rightarrow \pi^{-1}(U_\alpha)$ trivializing maps

Let $\{\psi_\alpha\}$ be a partition of unity subordinate to $\{U_\alpha\}$.

Let $h_\alpha = \text{proj}_2 \circ \varphi_\alpha^{-1}: \pi^{-1}(U_\alpha) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^k$ - a map linear on fibers

Let $h'_\alpha: E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^k$, $h'_\alpha(p) = \begin{cases} \psi_\alpha(\pi(p)) \cdot h_\alpha(p) & \text{for } \pi(p) \in U_\alpha \\ 0 & \text{outside } U_\alpha \end{cases}$

Define $F: E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{k \cdot r}$ - a continuous/smooth map
 $p \mapsto (h'_1(p), \dots, h'_r(p))$ linear and injective on fibers of E .

Define $f: M \rightarrow Gr(k, k \cdot r)$
 $x \mapsto F(E_x)$. By construction, $E \cong f^* \tau^k$. □

Terminology

• f satisfying (*) is the "classifying map" for E .

$\tau^k \downarrow Gr(k, m)$ is the "universal bundle" (or "classifying bundle")