

7 - Complex orientable ring spectra

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Def: $E = \text{comm ring spectrum}$

A vector bundle $V \downarrow B$ (dim $\mathbb{R} = d$) is E -orientable

if $\exists [V] \in E^k(D(V), S(V))$ "Thom class"

s.t. $\forall x \in X, [V]_x \in E^k(D(V)_x, S(V)_x) \cong E^{k-d}(pt) \cong \pi_{d-k} E$ is a unit. (typically $k=d$)

Thom isomorphism

$$D(V)/S(V) = X^V \quad \text{Thom class } [V] \in E^k(X^V)$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} V & \rightarrow & V \times 0 \\ \downarrow & \lrcorner & \downarrow \\ X & \xrightarrow{\Delta} & X \times X \end{array} \rightarrow X^V \xrightarrow{\Delta} (\otimes X)^V = X_+ \wedge X^V \quad \text{"Thom diagonal"}$$

$$E \wedge X^V \xrightarrow{1 \wedge \Delta} E \wedge X_+ \wedge X^V \xrightarrow{1 \wedge [V]} E \wedge X_+ \wedge \Sigma^k E \xrightarrow{h} \Sigma^k E \wedge X_+$$

Thom (Thom iso)
(E_X)

$$E \wedge X^V \xrightarrow{\sim} \Sigma^k E \wedge X_+$$

$$\left(\tilde{E}^{++k}(X^V) \cong E^*(X) \right)$$

$$[V]_X \longleftarrow x$$

Def: E is $\mathbb{C}\pi$ orientable

if $\exists \downarrow \mathbb{C}P^\infty$ is E -orientable.

(E is $\mathbb{C}\pi$ orientable if we fix: $[h_{\mathbb{C}\pi}] \in \tilde{E}^k((\mathbb{C}P^\infty)^{\wedge 2})$ $\mathbb{C}\pi$ orientation)

E $\mathbb{C}\pi$ orientable $\Rightarrow \forall \mathbb{Z}/2$ $\mathbb{C}\pi$ line bundle, \exists preferred

E cx -orientable $\Rightarrow \forall L \xrightarrow{\downarrow} B$ cx line bundle, \exists preferred orientation $[L] \in \tilde{E}^k(B^L)$

(Easy)

$$\begin{array}{ccc} L & \rightarrow & L_{\text{line}} \\ \downarrow & \rightarrow & \downarrow \\ B & \rightarrow & \mathbb{C}P^\infty \end{array}$$

Thm E cx orientable

$d = \dim_{\mathbb{C}} V$

\Rightarrow every cx V.B. inherits an E -orientation, $[V] \in \tilde{E}^{dk}(B^V)$

Prop: E cx orientable $\Rightarrow E^*(\mathbb{C}P^\infty) \cong E^*[x]$

Prop: $E^*(BU(d)) \xrightarrow{\cong} E^*(\mathbb{C}P^\infty)^{E_d} \cong E^*[[c_1^E, \dots, c_d^E]]$

Use map of AHSS's

$c_i^E = e_i(c_1^E(L_1), \dots, c_1^E(L_d))$

[Exercise: make above argument precise]

$$\begin{array}{ccc} x_+ & \rightarrow & x_+ \wedge x_+ \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ x^V & \rightarrow & x^V \wedge x^V \end{array}$$

(Pt of thm) $BU(d-1)_+ \rightarrow BU(d)_+ \rightarrow (BU(d))^{V_d^{univ}}$

$$0 \leftarrow E^*(BU(d-1)) \xleftarrow{\circ \leftarrow c_d} E^*(BU(d)) \leftarrow (cd) \leftarrow 0$$

$\Rightarrow (BU(d))^{V_d^{univ}} \cong (cd)_{E^*(BU(d))\text{-module}}$

(i.e. particular, free of rank 1)