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Autor(en): **Brown, E.H., Jr. / Peterson, F.P.**

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# A universal space for normal bundles of $n$ -manifolds

E. H. BROWN, JR, and F. P. PETERSON<sup>1</sup>

## §1. Introduction

In [3] the authors gave a simple criterion for deciding whether a polynomial in Stiefel–Whitney classes is zero on the normal bundles of all smooth  $n$ -manifolds. The ideal of relations among Stiefel–Whitney classes for all  $n$ -manifolds,  $I_n \subset H^*(BO)$  was defined by

$$I_n = \{w \in H^*(BO) \mid w(\nu_{M^n}) = 0 \text{ for all } M^n\}$$

where  $M^n$  denotes a smooth  $n$ -manifold and  $\nu_M$  is its stable normal bundle. Let  $\Phi: H^*(BO) \simeq H^*(MO)$  be the Thom isomorphism and for  $w \in H^*(BO)$ , define  $wSq^i$  to be  $\Phi^{-1}(\chi(Sq^i)\Phi(w))$ . It was shown that  $I_n$  consists of all  $\mathbb{Z}_2$ -linear combinations of elements of the form  $wSq^i$  where  $2i > n - |w|$  ( $|w|$  = dimension of  $w$ ).

In this paper we give a stronger version of this result, namely:

**THEOREM 1.** *There is a space  $BO/I_n$  and a map  $\pi: BO/I_n \rightarrow BO$  such that*

(a) *If  $M$  is a smooth, compact  $n$ -manifold and  $h: M \rightarrow BO$  classifies  $\nu_M$ , then there is a map  $\bar{h}: M \rightarrow BO/I_n$  such that  $\pi\bar{h} \simeq h$ .*

(b) *The following sequence is exact.*

$$0 \longrightarrow I_n \subset H^*(BO) \xrightarrow{\pi^*} H^*(BO/I_n) \longrightarrow 0.$$

Theorem 1 shows that  $BO/I_n$  is a universal space for normal bundles of  $n$ -manifolds in that stably, every such bundle is induced from the bundle over  $BO/I_n$  and  $BO/I_n$  is the space with the smallest cohomology having this property.

Our original result on  $I_n$  suggested the possibility of defining higher order characteristic classes, that is, one could form a space  $B$  over  $BO$  by killing the

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elements of  $I_n$ . Then an element of  $H^*(B)$  might give a “new” characteristic class for  $n$ -manifolds. For example, with  $n = 4$  or  $5$ , the relation

$$(Sq^2 + w_1 \cup Sq^1 + w_2 U)(v_3) = v_3 Sq^2 = (1Sq^3)Sq^2 = 0$$

where  $v_3$  is the Wu class, gives a class in  $H^4(B)$  which is not a polynomial in Stiefel–Whitney classes. Theorem 1 shows that on an  $n$ -manifold this “new” class will be a polynomial in Stiefel–Whitney classes modulo indeterminacy.

The spaces  $BO/I_n$  are also related to the conjecture that any smooth  $n$ -manifold immerses in  $R^{2n-\alpha(n)}$  where  $\alpha(n)$  is the number of ones in the dyadic expansion of  $n$ . Since this conjecture is equivalent to the normal bundle map  $h:M^n \rightarrow BO$  lifting to  $BO_{n-\alpha(n)}$  ([9]), the following is a stronger form of the conjecture:

CONJECTURE.  $\pi: BO/I_n \rightarrow BO$  lifts to  $BO_{n-\alpha(n)}$ .

Using our proof of Theorem 1, our results in [4] can be restated in the following way which gives some plausibility to the above conjecture.

**THEOREM 2.** *If  $\zeta$  is the stable universal bundle over  $BO$ ,  $MO$  is its Thom spectrum,  $MO/I_n$  is the Thom spectrum of  $\pi^*\zeta$  and  $MO(n-\alpha(n))$  is the Thom spectrum of the universal bundle over  $BO_{n-\alpha(n)}$ , then  $MO/I_n$  lifts to  $MO(n-\alpha(n))$ .*

This paper is organized as follows: In §2 we give a detailed outline of the proof of Theorem 1 setting forth most of the notation and describing the various technical problems arising in the construction of  $BO/I_n$ . Then in Sections 3, 4, 5, and 6 we prove the various lemmas stated in §2. Throughout the remainder of this paper  $n$  is a fixed positive integer.

## §2. Outline of the Proof of Theorem 1

All cohomology will be with  $Z_2$  coefficients,  $A$  will be the mod two Steenrod algebra and  $\chi: A \rightarrow A$  will be the canonical antiautomorphism. The semi-tensor product of  $A$  and  $H^*(BO)$  ([6]) will be denoted by  $A(BO)$ , that is,  $A(BO) = A \otimes H^*(BO)$  with the algebra structure defined by

$$(a \otimes u)(b \otimes v) = \sum a b_i' \otimes (\chi(b_i'')u)v$$

where  $b \rightarrow \sum b_i' \otimes b_i''$  under the diagonal of  $A$ . We denote  $a \otimes u$  by  $a \circ u$ .

By a spectrum  $Y$ , we will mean a collection of spaces  $Y_q$  and maps  $g_q: SY_q \rightarrow Y_{q+1}$ . If  $X$  and  $Y$  are spectra, a map  $f: X \rightarrow Y$  of degree  $p$  will be a collection of homotopy classes  $f_q \in [X_q, Y_{q+p}]$  compatible with the maps  $g_q$ . If  $\xi$  is a real  $k$ -plane bundle,  $T(\xi)$  will denote its Thom spectrum, i.e.,  $T(\xi)_q = S^{q-k}$  (Thom space of  $\xi$ ). Thus the Thom class is in  $H^0(T(\xi))$ . If  $\xi$  is a vector bundle over  $B$ ,  $\Phi: H^*(B) \approx H^*(T(\xi))$  will be the Thom isomorphism. We make  $H^*(T(\xi))$  into an  $A(BO)$  module as follows: Let  $h: B \rightarrow BO$  classify  $\xi$ . If  $u \in H^*(T(\xi))$ ,  $w \in H^*(BO)$  and  $a \in A$ ,  $(a \circ w)u = a(h^*(w)u)$ . One easily checks that  $\Phi(I_n) \subset H^*(MO)$  is an  $A(BO)$  submodule.

We begin by constructing an  $A$ -free, acyclic resolution of  $\Phi(I_n)$ . In [3] the following was proved:

**THEOREM 2.1.** *If  $\{u_i\}$  is an  $A$  basis for  $H^*(MO)$ , then  $\Phi(I_n)$  is the  $A$  module generated by*

$$\{\chi(Sq^j)u_i \mid 2j > n - |u_i|\}.$$

For a partition  $\omega = \{j_1, j_2, \dots, j_l\}$  let  $s_\omega \in H^*(BO)$  be the usual class ([17]) associated with the symmetric function  $\sum t_1^{j_1} t_2^{j_2} \cdots t_l^{j_l}$ . For each partition  $\omega$  let  $\omega_r$  be the partition consisting of odd integers  $j$ , one for each  $j2^r \in \omega$ . Let

$$u_\omega = \prod_r s_{\omega_r}^{2^r}$$

Since

$$u_\omega = s_\omega + \sum s_{\omega'}$$

where  $\omega'$  has fewer entries than  $\omega$  and  $\{s_\omega\}$  is a basis for  $H^*(BO)$ ,  $\{u_\omega\}$  is also a basis for  $H^*(BO)$ . Also  $\{\Phi(u_\omega) \mid 2^i - 1 \notin \omega\}$  is an  $A$  basis for  $H^*(MO)$  since  $\{\Phi(s_\omega) \mid 2^i - 1 \notin \omega\}$  is.

In [2] an  $A$ -free acyclic resolution of  $A/A\{\chi(Sq^i) \mid i > h\}$  was constructed. Combining these resolutions with 2.1 and the  $\Phi(u_\omega)$  basis, we obtain the following resolution of  $\Phi(I_n)$ .

Let  $\Lambda$  be the graded free associative algebra over  $Z_2$  with unit generated by  $\lambda_i$ ,  $i = 0, \pm 1, \pm 2, \dots$ ,  $|\lambda_i| = i$ , modulo the relations: If  $2i < j$

$$\lambda_i \lambda_j = \sum \binom{s-1}{2s-(j-2i)} \lambda_{i+s} \lambda_{j-s}.$$

If  $I = (i_1, i_2, \dots, i_l)$ , let  $\lambda_I = \lambda_{i_1} \lambda_{i_2} \cdots \lambda_{i_l}$ ,  $l(I) = l$ ,  $t(I) = i_l$ , and  $\lambda_{()} = 1$ . We define  $I$



to be admissible if  $2i_i \geq i_{i+1}$ . As we will see in §3,  $\{\lambda_I \mid I \text{ admissible}\}$  is a  $Z_2$  basis for  $\Lambda$ . Let  $\{\lambda^I \mid I \text{ admissible}\}$  be the dual basis of  $\Lambda^* = \text{Hom}(\Lambda, Z_2)$ .

Let  $U_l$  be the vector space over  $Z_2$  with basis the symbols  $\lambda^I u_\omega$  where  $I$  is admissible,  $2^i - 1 \notin \omega$ ,  $l(I) = l$  and  $2(t(I) + 1) > n - |u_\omega|$ . Grade  $U_l$  by  $|\lambda^I u_\omega| = |\lambda^I| + |u_\omega|$ . Let  $d: A \otimes U_l \rightarrow A \otimes U_{l-1}$  be the  $A$  linear map defined by

$$d(1 \otimes \lambda^I u_\omega) = \sum \lambda^I (\lambda_j \lambda_J) \chi(Sq^j) \otimes \lambda^J u_\omega$$

where the sum ranges over all  $j$  and admissible  $J$ . Note by 2.2, if  $\lambda^I (\lambda_j \lambda_J) \neq 0$ ,  $t(J) \geq t(I)$  and hence  $d$  is well defined. Let  $\eta: A \otimes U_0 \rightarrow H^*(MO)$  be given by  $\eta(a \otimes \lambda^I u_\omega) = a\Phi(u_\omega)$ .

**PROPOSITION 2.3.** *The following sequence is exact:*

$$\longrightarrow A \otimes U_l \xrightarrow{d} A \otimes U_{l-1} \longrightarrow \cdots \longrightarrow A \otimes U_0$$

and

$$\Phi(I_n) = \eta(\text{image}(d: A \otimes U_1 \rightarrow A \otimes U_0))$$

We prove 2.3 in §3.

For a graded vector space  $V$  over  $Z_2$ , let  $K(V)$  denote the Eilenberg-MacLane spectrum such that  $\pi_*(K(V)) = V^*$  and  $H^*(K(V)) = A \otimes V$ .

**PROPOSITION 2.4.** *There is a sequence of  $\Omega$ -spectra  $X_l$ ,  $l = 0, 1, 2, \dots$  and maps  $\alpha_l: X_{l-1} \rightarrow K(U_l)$  of degree  $+1$  such that*

- (i)  $X_0 = K(U_0)$
- (ii)  $X_l$  is the fibration over  $X_{l-1}$  induced by  $\alpha_l$  from the contractible fibration over  $K(U_l)$ .
- (iii) If  $i: K(U_l) \rightarrow X_l$  is the inclusion of the fibre of  $X_l \rightarrow X_{l-1}$ ,  $(\alpha_{l+1} i)^* = d: A \otimes U_{l+1} \rightarrow A \otimes U_l$ .
- (iv) If  $M$  is a smooth  $n$ -manifold,  $\nu$  is its normal bundle,  $g: MO \rightarrow K(U_0)$  realizes  $\eta$  and  $h: T(\nu) \rightarrow MO$  comes from the classifying map of  $\nu$ , then any lifting of  $gh: T(\nu) \rightarrow X_0$  to  $X_{l-1}$  lifts to  $X_l$ .

Since the  $X_l$ 's are constructed from an acyclic complex,

$$\lim H^*(X_l) \approx \text{Coker}(d: A \otimes U_1 \rightarrow A \otimes U_0) \approx H^*(MO)/\Phi(I_n).$$

To construct  $BO/I_n$  we essentially construct a tower of spaces

$$\rightarrow B_l \rightarrow B_{l-1} \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow B_0 = BO$$

with fibres Eilenberg-MacLane spaces, such that if  $T_l = T(\zeta_l)$  where  $\zeta_l \rightarrow B_l$  is the pull back of the universal bundle over  $BO$ , then  $T_l = X_l$  in dimensions  $\leq n$ . We can then, more or less, define  $BO/I_n = \lim B_l$ .

We recall how the cohomology of a Thom space of a vector bundle changes, in a stable range, when a cohomology class in the base is killed. Suppose  $g: B \rightarrow BO$  is a map such that  $g_*: \pi_q(B) \approx \pi_q(BO)$  for  $2q \leq n$ ,  $V$  is a graded vector space with  $V_q = 0$  for  $2q \leq n$  and  $p: B' \rightarrow B$  is the fibration induced by a map  $\gamma: B \rightarrow K(V)_1$  ( $K(V) = \{K(V)_q\}$ ). Let  $T = T(g^*\zeta)$  and  $T' = T(p^*g^*\zeta)$ . Viewing  $B' \subset B$  as the fibre of  $\gamma$ ,  $\gamma$  factors as  $B \xrightarrow{j} B/B' \xrightarrow{\gamma'} K(V)_1$ . Let

$$\Psi: (A(BO) \otimes V)^q \rightarrow H^{q+1}(T/T')$$

be given by  $\Psi(a \circ u \otimes v) = a(u\Phi((\gamma')^*(v_1)))$  where  $v_1 \in H^*(K(V)_1)$  is the element corresponding to  $v \in V$  and  $\Phi$  is the relative Thom isomorphism. In §6 we show that  $\Psi$  is an isomorphism for  $q \leq n$ . (An equivalent form of this was proved in [1].) Combining this with the exact sequence of the pair  $(T, T')$  we obtain an exact sequence,

$$\rightarrow H^q(T) \rightarrow H^q(T') \rightarrow (A(BO) \otimes V)^q \rightarrow H^{q+1}(T) \rightarrow$$

for  $q \leq n$ .

The cohomology of  $X_l$  and  $X_{l-1}$  are related by the Serre exact sequence,

$$\rightarrow H^q(X_{l-1}) \rightarrow H^q(X_l) \rightarrow (A \otimes U_l)^q \rightarrow H^{q+1}(X_{l-1}) \rightarrow.$$

Thus if we have constructed  $B_{l-1}$  such that  $T_{l-1} = X_{l-1}$  in dimensions  $\leq n$  and we wish to construct  $B_l$ , we should take  $B = B_{l-1}$  in the above and choose  $V_l$  so that  $A(BO) \otimes V_l = A \otimes U_l$  as  $A$  modules. Our main algebraic result asserts that this is possible. Let

$$V_l = \{\lambda^l u_\omega \in U_l \mid \omega_r = \{ \} \text{ for } r \geq l\}$$

**PROPOSITION 2.5.** *There are  $A$  linear isomorphisms  $\theta: A \otimes U_l \rightarrow A(BO) \otimes V_l$  and  $A(BO)$  linear maps  $d: A(BO) \otimes V_l \rightarrow A(BO) \otimes V_{l-1}$ ,  $l > 1$  and  $d: A(BO) \otimes V_1 \rightarrow H^*(MO)$  such that the following diagram is commutative:*

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} \longrightarrow & A \otimes U_l & \xrightarrow{d} & A \otimes U_{l-1} & \longrightarrow & \cdots & \longrightarrow A \otimes U_0 \\ & \downarrow \theta & & \downarrow \theta & & & \downarrow r \\ \longrightarrow & A(BO) \otimes V_l & \xrightarrow{d} & A(BO) \otimes V_{l-1} & \longrightarrow & \cdots & \longrightarrow H^*(MO). \end{array}$$

Furthermore, if  $u \in V_l \subset U_l$ , then  $\theta(1 \otimes u) = 1 \otimes u$ .

The construction of spaces  $B_l$  can now be made, modulo technical problems, using 2.5. Given  $B_{l-1}$  and  $f_{l-1}: T_{l-1} \rightarrow X_{l-1}$ , the  $k$ -invariant  $\beta_l: B_{l-1} \rightarrow K(V_l)_1$  is defined by:

$$\Phi\beta_l^*(v_1) = f_{l-1}^* \alpha_l^*(v)$$

where  $\alpha_l: X_{l-1} \rightarrow K(U_l)$  is the  $k$ -invariant for  $X_l$ ,  $v \in V$  and  $v_1 \in H^*(K(V)_1)$  corresponds to  $v$ . If  $M$  is an  $n$ -manifold and  $h: M \rightarrow BO$  classifies its normal bundle, 2.4(iv) shows that any lifting of  $h$  to  $B_{l-1}$  lifts to  $B_l$ . The  $A(BO)$  linearity of  $d$  allows one (more or less) to construct  $f_l: T_l \rightarrow X_l$ . Actually, this straightforward procedure is marred by two technical details which we now describe.

Let  $s = [n/2]$ . To form  $B_1$  from  $BO$ , one kills, among other things, the Wu class  $v_{s+1}$ , i.e.  $d\lambda^s = \chi(Sq^{s+1})U = v_{s+1}U$ , where the  $U$  is the Thom class. The map  $\Psi$  is zero on

$$\sum_{j>0} (Sq^j \circ v_{s+1-j}) \otimes \lambda^s \in (A(BO) \otimes V_1)^{2s+1}$$

As a result, there is a class  $x \in H^{2s+1}(X_1)$  which goes to zero in  $H^{2s+1}(T_1)$ . The class  $x$  is killed in going from  $X_1$  to  $X_2$ . Hence if one were to follow the recipe given by 2.5, one would kill a class in  $B_1$  which is already zero and thus produce a class in  $H^{2s}(B_2)$  not coming from  $H^{2s}(X_2)$ . To avoid this, we omit a basis element from  $V_2$ . This same phenomena occurs in dimension  $2s+2$  so we omit some more elements from  $V_2$  and  $V_3$ . Namely, let  $\bar{V}_l \subset V_l$  be spanned by  $\lambda^l u_\omega \in V_l$  except  $\lambda^{0,0} w_s^2$ ,  $\lambda^{0,-1} w_{s+1}^2$ ,  $\lambda^{-1,-2} w_{s+2}^2$  and for  $s$  odd,  $\lambda^{-1,-2,-4} w_1^4 w_s^2$  ( $w_s = u_{(1,1,\dots,1)}$ ).

In §3 we define a certain  $A(BO)$  linear map

$$r: A(BO) \otimes V_l \rightarrow A(BO) \otimes \bar{V}_l \quad (2.6)$$

such that  $r|_{A(BO) \otimes \bar{V}_l}$  is the identity. We then use  $r\theta$  in place of  $\theta$  in our construction of  $B_l$ .

The second difficulty arises in the following fashion. Again suppose we have  $B_{l-1}$  and  $f_{l-1}: T_{l-1} \rightarrow X_{l-1}$  and we construct  $B_l$  using  $\bar{V}_l$  instead of  $V_l$  as above. Let  $g_l: T_{l-1}/T_l \rightarrow K(U_l)$  be the map such that  $g_l^*(u) = \Psi r\theta(u)$  for  $u \in U_l$ . In order to construct  $f_l: T_l \rightarrow X_l$  we need commutativity of the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} T_{l-1} & \xrightarrow{j} & T_{l-1}/T_l \\ \downarrow f_{l-1} & & \downarrow g_l \\ X_{l-1} & \xrightarrow{\alpha_l} & K(U_l). \end{array}$$

We can only prove that this diagram commutes in dimensions  $\leq 2s+1$ . To correct for this we relabel  $B_l$  above,  $B'_l$  and we form  $B_l$  from  $B'_l$  by killing the obstructions to commutativity as follows:

Define  $\Delta = \Delta(f_{l-1}): U_l \rightarrow H^*(T_{l-1})$  by

$$\Delta(u) = f_{l-1}^* \alpha_l^* u - \sum x_i f_{l-1}^* \alpha_l^* u_i$$

where  $r\theta(u) = \sum x_i u_i$ ,  $x_i \in A(BO)$ ,  $u_i \in \bar{V}_l$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} j^* g_l^*(u) &= j^* \Psi r\theta(u) = j^* \Psi \left( \sum x_i u_i \right) = \sum x_i j^* \Phi((\beta'_l)^*(u_i)) \\ &= \sum x_i \Phi(\beta_l^*(u_i)) = \sum x_i f_{l-1}^* \alpha_l^*(u_i) = \Delta(u) + f_{l-1}^* \alpha_l^*(u) \end{aligned}$$

Thus  $\Delta$  is the deviation from commutativity of our diagram above. Let  $W_l = U_l / \ker \Delta$ . We kill  $\Phi^{-1}(\Delta(W))$  in  $B'_l$  to form  $B_l$ .

To recapitulate, we inductively construct a sequence of spaces  $B_l$ , stable vector bundles  $\zeta_l$  over  $B_l$  and maps  $f_l: T_l = T(\zeta_l) \rightarrow X_l$  such that  $\Delta(f_l) = 0$ . We take  $B_0 = BO$ ,  $\zeta_0 = \zeta$  the universal bundle and  $f_0$  the map such that  $f_0^*(u_\omega) = \Phi(u_\omega)$  for  $u_\omega \in U_0$ . ( $X_0 = K(U_0)$ .) Referring to 2.5,  $f_0^* = \eta$ ,  $\alpha_1^* = d$  and  $\Delta(f_0) = \eta d - d\theta = 0$ . Suppose  $B_{l-1}$ ,  $\zeta_{l-1}$  and  $f_{l-1}$  have been defined and  $\Delta(f_{l-1}) = 0$ . Let  $p': B'_l \rightarrow B_{l-1}$  be the fibration induced by  $\beta_l: B_{l-1} \rightarrow K(\bar{V}_l)_1$  where  $\beta_l$  is defined by

$$\Phi(\beta_l^*(v_1)) = f_{l-1}^* \alpha_l^*(v)$$

for  $v \in \bar{V}_l \subset U_l$  and  $v_1 \in H^*(K(\bar{V}_l)_1)$  the element corresponding to  $v$ . Let  $\zeta'_l = (p')^* \zeta_{l-1}$  and  $T'_l = T(\zeta'_l)$ .

Viewing  $B'_l \subset B_{l-1}$  as the fibre of  $\beta_l$ ,  $\beta_l$  factors through  $\beta'_l$ .  $B_{l-1}/B'_l \rightarrow K(\bar{V}_l)_1$ . Let  $\Psi: A(BO) \otimes \bar{V}_l \rightarrow H^*(T_{l-1}/T'_l)$  be the  $A(BO)$  linear map such that  $\Psi(v) = \Phi((\beta'_l)^*(v_1))$  for  $v \in \bar{V}_l$ . Let  $\theta$  be as in 2.5,  $r$  as in 2.6, and let  $g'_l: T_{l-1}/T'_l \rightarrow K(U_l)$  be defined by  $(g'_l)^*(u) = \Psi r\theta(u)$ . Since  $\Delta(f_{l-1}) = 0$ , there is a map  $f'_l$  making a commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} T_{l-1}/T'_l & \longrightarrow & T'_l & \longrightarrow & T_{l-1} & \longrightarrow & T_{l-1}/T'_l \\ \downarrow g'_l & & \downarrow f'_l & & \downarrow f_{l-1} & & \downarrow g'_l \\ K(U_l) & \xrightarrow{i} & X_l & \longrightarrow & X_{l-1} & \xrightarrow{\alpha_l} & K(U_l). \end{array}$$

Let  $\Delta(f'_l): U_{l+1} \rightarrow H^*(T_l)$  be given by  $\Delta(f'_l)(u) = (f'_l)^* \alpha_{l+1}^* u + \sum x_i (f')^* \alpha_{l+1}^* u_i$  where  $r\theta u = \sum x_i u_i$ . Let  $W_{l+1} = U_{l+1} / \ker \Delta(f'_l)$  and let  $p: B_l \rightarrow B'_l$  be the fibration induced

by  $\gamma_l: B_l' \rightarrow K(W_{l+1})_1$  where  $\Phi(\gamma_l^* u_1) = \Delta(f_l)(u)$  for  $u \in W_{l+1}$ . Finally let  $\zeta_l = p^* \zeta_l'$  and  $f_l = f_l' T(p)$ . Then  $\Delta(f_l) = T(p)^* \Delta(f_l') = 0$  and the inductive step is complete.

In §5 we prove:

**LEMMA 2.7.** *If  $l \geq 3$  and  $q \leq n$ ,  $f_l^*: H^q(X_l) \approx H^q(T(\zeta_l))$ . Furthermore, if  $M$  is a smooth  $n$ -manifold and  $h: M \rightarrow B_0 = BO$  classifies its normal bundle, then any lifting of  $h$  to  $B_{l-1}$  lifts to  $B_l$ .*

We next examine  $H^*(B_l)$  for  $l$  large.

**LEMMA 2.8.** *If  $l \geq n$ ,  $V_l^q = U_l^q = 0$  for  $q < n-1$ ,  $W_l^q = 0$  for  $q \leq n$  and*

$$V_l^{n-1} = U_l^{n-1} = \{\lambda^{(0,0,\dots,0)} u_\omega \mid u_\omega \in U_0^{n-1}\}. \text{ Furthermore,}$$

$$\Phi(\beta_l^*(\lambda^{(0,0,\dots,0)} u_\omega)) = \delta_l \tilde{u}_\omega$$

$\tilde{u}_\omega \in H^*(T_{l-1}; Z_{2l})$ ,  $u_\omega U \in H^*(T_{l-1})$  is the mod two reduction of  $\tilde{u}_\omega$  and  $\delta_l$  is the Bockstein associated with  $Z_2 \rightarrow Z_{2l+1} \rightarrow Z_{2l}$ .

Thus for  $l \geq n$ ,

$$H^q(B_l) \approx H^q(BO)/I_n^q \quad q < n$$

$$H^n(B_l)/\Phi^{-1}\{\delta_{l+1} \tilde{u}_\omega\} \approx H^n(BO)/I_n^n$$

We form  $B_\infty$  from  $B_l$ ,  $l \geq n$ , by killing classes  $\Phi^{-1}(\delta^{l+1} \tilde{u}_\omega) \in H^{n+1}(B_l; Z_\tau)$  where  $Z_\tau$  denotes twisted integer coefficients, twisted by  $w_1$ ,  $\Phi: H^*(B_l; Z_\tau) \approx H^*(T(\zeta_l); Z)$  is the Thom isomorphism and  $\delta^l$  is the Bockstein associated with  $Z \rightarrow Z \rightarrow Z_{2^l}$ . Let  $\tilde{B}_l$  be the two sheeted cover of  $B_l$  defined by  $w_1$ . The classes  $\Phi^{-1}(\delta^{l+1} \tilde{u}_\omega)$  may be represented by  $Z_2$ -equivariant maps  $x_\omega: \tilde{B}_l \rightarrow K(Z, n)$  where  $K(Z, n)$  has the action defined by the nontrivial action of  $Z_2$  on  $Z$ . Let  $\tilde{B}_\infty$  be the fibration over  $\tilde{B}_l$  induced by

$$x = \prod x_\omega: \tilde{B}_l \rightarrow \prod K(Z, n)$$

Since  $x$  is  $Z_2$ -equivariant,  $Z_2$  acts freely on  $\tilde{B}_\infty$ . Let  $B_\infty = \tilde{B}_\infty/Z_2$ . The map  $B_\infty = \tilde{B}_\infty/Z_2 \rightarrow \tilde{B}_l/Z_2 = B_l$  has fibre  $\prod K(Z, n)$ . With  $Z_2$  coefficients,  $\pi_1(B_l)$  acts trivially on the cohomology of the fibre. The Serre spectral sequences, with  $Z_2$  coefficients has its usual, nonlocal coefficient form and the usual argument shows

that in dimensions  $\leq n$ ,

$$H^*(BO_\infty) = H^*(B_l) / \{\Phi^{-1}(\delta^{l+1}\tilde{u}_\omega)\}.$$

Thus for  $q \leq n$

$$0 \rightarrow I_n^q \rightarrow H^q(BO) \rightarrow H^q(B_\infty) \rightarrow 0$$

is exact. Also if  $M$  is an  $n$ -manifold and  $h: M \rightarrow B$  is covered by a bundle map  $g: \nu \rightarrow \zeta$ ,  $T(g)^*(\delta^{l+1}\tilde{u}_\omega) = \delta^{l+1}T(g^*)(\tilde{u}_l) = 0$  since the top homology class of  $T(\nu)$  is spherical. Therefore,  $h$  lifts to  $B_\infty$ .

Finally, assume  $B_\infty$  is a CW complex and let

$$BO/I_n = B_\infty^n \cup e_1^{n+1} \cup e_2^{n+1} \cdots e_m^{n+1}$$

where  $e_i^{n+1}$  is attached by  $f_i|S^n$ ,  $f_i: (D^{n+1}, S^n) \rightarrow (B_\infty^{n+1}, B_\infty^n)$  and  $[f_i] \in \pi_{n+1}(B_\infty^{n+1}, B_\infty^n)$  give a  $Z_2$ -basis for the image of

$$\pi_{n+1}(B_\infty^{n+1}, B_\infty^n) \xrightarrow{\rho} H_{n+1}(B_\infty^{n+1}, B_\infty^n) \xrightarrow{\partial^*} H_n(B_\infty^n, B_\infty^{n-1})$$

The maps  $f_i$  give an extension of  $B_\infty^n \subset B_\infty$ ,  $f: BO/I_n \rightarrow B_\infty$  and

$$f^*: H^q(B_\infty) \approx H^q(BO/I_n) \quad \text{for } q \leq n$$

$$H^q(BO/I_n) = H^q(BO)/I_n = 0 \quad \text{for } q > n$$

Also any map of an  $n$ -manifold into  $B_\infty$  is homotopic to a map factoring through  $f$ . The proof of Theorem 1 is thus complete, modulo the lemmas and propositions of this section.

### §3. Proofs of 2.3, 2.5, and 2.6

Let  $\Lambda_l^k$  be the  $Z_2$ -subspace of  $\Lambda^*$  generated by  $\lambda^I$  with  $l(I) = l$ ,  $t(I) \geq k$ , and  $I$  admissible. Let

$$d: A \otimes \Lambda_l^k \rightarrow A \otimes \Lambda_{l-1}^k$$

be defined by

$$d(1 \otimes \lambda^I) = \sum \lambda^I(\lambda_i \lambda_j) \chi(Sq^{j+1}) \otimes \lambda^J \quad (3.1)$$

where the sum is over all  $j$  and admissible  $J$ . Proposition 2.3 follows from 2.1 and 3.2(ii) below:

**PROPOSITION 3.2.**

- (i)  $\{\lambda_I \mid I \text{ admissible}\}$  is a  $Z_2$ -basis for  $\Lambda$ .
- (ii) The following is exact:

$$\longrightarrow A \otimes \Lambda_l^k \xrightarrow{d} A \otimes \Lambda_{l-1}^k \longrightarrow \cdots \longrightarrow A \otimes \Lambda_0^k \xrightarrow{\epsilon} A/A\{\chi(Sq^i) \mid i > k\}$$

where  $\epsilon(a \otimes \lambda^{(i)}) = \{a\}$ .

- (iii) If  $I$  and  $J$  are admissible,  $l(I) = l$ ,  $l(J) = l - 1$ , and  $I_l = (1, 2, 4, \dots, 2^{l-1})$ , then  $\lambda^{I+I_l}(\lambda_{j+r} \lambda_{J+2rI_{l-1}}) = \lambda^I(\lambda_j \lambda_J)$ .

*Proof.* For any sequence  $T = (t_1, t_2, \dots, t_l)$  and integer  $r$ , let  $h^r(\lambda_T) = \lambda_{T+rI_l}$ . Extending linearly,  $h^r$  gives a well defined map  $h^r: \Lambda \rightarrow \Lambda$  since for any element of  $\Lambda$  of the form  $\alpha = \lambda_{I_1} \beta \lambda_{I_2}$  where  $\beta$  is a relation for  $\Lambda$  as in 2.2,  $h^r(\alpha)$  also has this form. Since  $h^r h^{-r}$  is the identity,  $h^r$  is an isomorphism for all  $r$ . Furthermore,  $h^r(\lambda_I)$  is admissible if and only if  $\lambda_I$  is admissible.

Let  $\bar{\Lambda} \subset \Lambda$  be the subalgebra generated by  $\lambda_0, \lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots$ . In [8] it is proved that  $\{\lambda_I \mid I \text{ admissible}\}$  is a basis for  $\bar{\Lambda}$ . For any  $\lambda_I$ ,  $h^r(\lambda_I) \in \bar{\Lambda}$  for  $r$  sufficiently large. Thus  $\{\lambda_I \mid I \text{ admissible}\}$  is a basis for  $\Lambda$ .

In [2], 3.2(ii) was proved for  $k \geq 0$ . From 2.2 one sees that  $\lambda_{-1} \lambda_{-1} = 0$  and if  $t(J) \geq 0$ ,  $\lambda_{-1} \lambda_J$  is a sum involving  $\lambda_{J'}$ 's with  $t(J') > 0$  and  $\lambda_J \lambda_{-1}$ . Suppose  $J_1 = (j_1, \dots, j_m)$ ,  $J_2 = (j_{m+1}, \dots, j_l)$  and  $J = (j_1, \dots, j_l)$  are admissible with  $J_1$  or  $J_2$  possibly the empty sequence  $()$ . Define  $\lambda^{J_1} \lambda^{J_2} = \lambda^J$ . Suppose  $j_m \geq 0$  and  $j_{m+1} < -1$ . Then 3.1 yields

$$d(\lambda^{J_1} \lambda^{-1} \lambda^{J_2}) = (d\lambda^{J_1}) \lambda^{-1} \lambda^{J_2} + \lambda^{J_1} \lambda^{J_2}$$

$$d(\lambda^{J_1} \lambda^{J_2}) = (d\lambda^{J_1}) \lambda^{J_2}.$$

Let

$$D(\lambda^{J_1} \lambda^{J_2}) = \lambda^{J_1} \lambda^{-1} \lambda^{J_2}, D(\lambda^{J_1} \lambda^{-1} \lambda^{J_2}) = 0.$$

Then for  $k < 0$ ,  $D: A \otimes \Lambda_l^k \rightarrow A \otimes \Lambda_{l+1}^k$  satisfies  $dD + Dd = \text{identity}$ . Therefore 3.2(ii) holds for  $k < 0$ .

Finally we prove 3.2(iii). Note that if  $I$  is admissible,  $I + rI_l$  is admissible and if  $(h^r)^*: \Lambda^* \rightarrow \Lambda^*$  is the dual of  $h^r$ ,  $h^r$ ,  $(h^r)^* \lambda^I = \lambda^{I-rI_l}$ . Therefore

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda^I(\lambda_j \lambda_J) &= (h^r)^*(\lambda^{I+rI_l})(\lambda_j \lambda_J) \\ &= \lambda^{I+rI_l}(h^r(\lambda_j \lambda_J)) = \lambda^{I+rI_l}(\lambda_{j+r} \lambda_{J+2rI_{l-1}}) \end{aligned}$$

*Proof of 2.5.* Let  $C_l = A \otimes U_l$ ,  $D_l = A(BO) \otimes V_l$ ,  $l > 0$ , and  $D_0 = H^*(MO)$ . Denote  $a \otimes u \in C_l$  by  $au$  and  $a \circ v \otimes w \in D_l$ ,  $l > 0$ , by  $(a \circ v)w$ . We filter  $C_l$  and  $D_l$  as follows:  $F_q(C_l)$  is spanned by  $a\lambda^I u_l$  with  $|u_\omega| \leq q$  and  $F_q(D_l)$ ,  $l > 0$ , is spanned by all  $a \circ v \lambda^I u_l$  with  $|u_\omega| + 2^l |v| \leq q$ .  $F_q(D_0)$  is spanned by all  $au_\omega$  where  $a \in A$ ,  $u_\omega \in U_0 = \{u_\omega \mid 2^i - 1 \notin \omega\}$  and  $|u_\omega| \leq q$ .

The chain complex  $(C_l, d)$  is a direct sum of chain complexes of the form described in 3.2, indexed by the  $u_\omega \in U_0$ . Hence  $d$  is filtration preserving and:

(3.3) The following is exact.

$$\longrightarrow F_q(C_l) \xrightarrow{d} F_q(C_{l-1}) \longrightarrow \cdots \longrightarrow F_q(C_0)$$

Using induction on  $l$  we define  $A$  linear maps  $\theta: C_l \rightarrow D_l$  and  $A(BO)$  linear maps  $d: D_l \rightarrow D_{l-1}$  such that

- (i)  $\theta$  is an isomorphism and  $\theta: C_0 \rightarrow D_0$  is given by  $\theta(a \otimes u_\omega) = a\Phi(u_\omega) \in H^*(MO)$ ,  $u_\omega \in U_0$ .
- (ii)  $d\theta = \theta d$
- (iii) If  $u \in V_l \subset U_l$ ,  $\theta(u) = u$
- (iv)  $\theta(F_q(C_l)) = F_q(D_l)$
- (v) Suppose  $\lambda^I u_\omega \in U_l$ . Let  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  be the partitions

$$\alpha = \bigcup_{r < l} 2^r \omega_r, \quad \beta = \bigcup_{r \geq l} 2^{r-l} \omega_r$$

Note  $u_\omega = u_\alpha u_\beta^{2^l}$ . Then  $\theta$  satisfies

$$\theta(\lambda^I u_\omega) = u_\beta \lambda^{I'} u_\alpha \mod F_{|u_\omega|-1}(D_l)$$

where  $I' = I + |u_\beta| I_l$ .

Note that Proposition 2.5 consists of statements (i), (ii), and (iii) above.

For  $l = 0$ ,  $\theta$  is defined by (i) and  $d = 0$  on  $D_0$ .

Suppose  $\theta$  and  $d$  have been defined on  $C_k$  and  $D_k$   $k < l$ , and satisfy (i)–(v). Define  $d = d_D: D_l \rightarrow D_{l-1}$  to be the  $A(BO)$  linear map such that for  $u \in V_l$ ,



$d_D(u) = \theta(d_C u)$ . We next define  $\theta: C_l \rightarrow D_l$ . Suppose  $\lambda^I u_\omega \in U_l$  and  $u_\omega = u_\alpha u_\beta^{2^l}$  as in (v). If  $u_\beta = 1$ ,  $\lambda^I u_\omega \in V_l$  and we define  $\theta(\lambda^I u_\omega) = \lambda^I u_\omega$ . In this case (i)–(v) are satisfied. Suppose  $u_\beta \neq 1$ . Let

$$X = \theta(d(\lambda^I u_\omega)) + u_\beta \theta(d\lambda^{I'} u_\alpha)$$

where  $I' = I + |u_\beta| I_l$ . By induction,  $\theta d = d\theta$  on  $C_{l-1}$  and hence  $\partial X = 0$ . We show that  $X \in F_{p-1}(D_l)$  where  $p = |u_\omega|$ . Decompose  $u_\alpha$  into  $u_{\alpha_1} u_{\alpha_2}^{2^{l-1}}$  as in (v).

$$\begin{aligned} \theta(d\lambda^I u_\omega) &= \sum \lambda^I (\lambda_j \lambda_K) \chi(Sq^{j+1}) \theta(\lambda^K u_\omega) \\ &= \sum \lambda^I (\lambda_j \lambda_K) (\chi(Sq^{j+1}) \circ u_{\alpha_2} u_\beta^2) \lambda^{K'} u_{\alpha_1} \bmod F_{p-1} \end{aligned}$$

where  $K' = K + |u_{\alpha_2} u_\beta^2| I_{l-1}$ . On the other hand,

$$u_\beta \theta(d\lambda^{I'} u_\alpha) = \sum \lambda^{I'} (\lambda_j \lambda_J) u_\beta \chi(Sq^{j+1}) \theta(\lambda^J u_\alpha)$$

In  $A(BO)$ ,

$$u_\beta \chi(Sq^{j+1}) = \chi(Sq^{j-q+1}) \circ u_\beta^2 + \sum_{k < q} \chi(Sq^{j-k+1}) \circ Sq^k u_\beta$$

where  $q = |u_\beta|$ .

$$\theta(\lambda^J u_\alpha) = u_{\alpha_2} \lambda^{J'} u_{\alpha_1} \bmod F_{|u_\alpha|-1}$$

where  $J' = J + |u_{\alpha_2}| I_{l-1}$ . If  $u \lambda^I v$  has filtration less than  $|u_\alpha| - 1$  and  $k < q$ ,  $Sq^k u_\beta u \lambda^I v$  has filtration less than  $p = |u_\omega|$ .

Hence

$$u_\beta \theta(d\lambda^{I'} u_\alpha) = \sum_{j, J} \lambda^{I'} (\lambda_j \lambda_J) (\chi(Sq^{j-q+1}) \circ u_\alpha u_\beta^2) \lambda^{J'} u_{\alpha_1} \bmod F_{p-1}$$

In the above sum, replace  $j$  by  $j+q$  and  $J$  by  $K+2qI_{l-1}$ . Then

$$u_\beta \theta(d\lambda^{I'} u_\alpha) = \sum_{j, K} \lambda^{I'} (\lambda_{j+q} \lambda_{K+2qI_{l-1}}) \chi(Sq^{j+1}) \circ u_{\alpha_2} u_\beta^2 \lambda^{K'} u_{\alpha_1} \bmod F_{p-1}$$

where  $K' = K + |u_{\alpha_2} u_\beta^2| I_{l-1}$ . But  $I' = I + qI_l$  and hence by 3.2(iii),

$$\lambda^{I'} (\lambda_{j+q} \lambda_{K+2qI_{l-1}}) = \lambda^I (\lambda_j \lambda_K)$$

Hence  $X \in F_{p-1}(D_l)$ .

By (iv) there is a  $Y \in F_{p-1}(C_{l-1})$  such that  $\theta(Y) = X$  and by (i) and (ii),  $dY = 0$ . Hence for  $l > 1$ , by 3.3, there is a  $Z \in F_{p-1}(C_l)$  such that  $dZ = Y$ . We verify that there is such a  $Z$  for  $l = 1$  by showing that when  $l = 1$ ,  $X \in \Phi(I_n)$ . In this case

$$\begin{aligned} X &= \chi(Sq^{i+1})\Phi(u_\alpha u_\beta^2) + u_\beta \chi(Sq^{i+q+1})\Phi(u_\alpha) \\ &= \sum_{j < q} \chi(Sq^{i+q+1-j})\Phi((Sq^j u_\beta)u_\alpha) \end{aligned}$$

where  $2(i+1) > n - q$ ,  $q = |u_\beta|$ . But then,  $2(i+q-j+1) > n - |(Sq^j u_\beta)u_\alpha|$  and hence  $X \in \Phi(I_n)$ .

We now define  $\theta(\lambda^I u_\omega)$  by induction on  $|u_\omega|$  = filtration degree of  $\lambda^I u_\omega$ . For  $|u_\omega| = 0$ ,  $\theta(\lambda^I 1) = \lambda^I 1$ . If  $\theta$  is defined on  $F_{|u_\omega|-1}(C_l)$ , let

$$\theta(\lambda^I u_\omega) = u_\beta \lambda^{I'} u_\alpha + \theta(Z)$$

where  $Z$ ,  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ , and  $I'$  are as above. Then  $d\theta(Z) = \theta(dZ) = \theta(Y) = X$  and

$$\begin{aligned} d\theta(\lambda^I u_\omega) &= d(u_\beta \lambda^{I'} u_\alpha) + d\theta(Z) \\ &= u_\beta \theta(d(\lambda^{I'} u_\alpha)) + X = \theta(d(\lambda^I u_\omega)) \end{aligned}$$

Note that elements of the form  $u_\beta \lambda^{I'} u_\alpha$ , as above, together with  $F_{p-1}(D_l)$ , span  $F_p(D_l)$  over  $A$ . Thus  $\theta: C_l \rightarrow D_l$  is an epimorphism. (It is at this point that we use  $\lambda^I$  where  $I$  has negative entries. For each  $u_\beta \lambda^{I'} u_\alpha \in H^*(BO)V_l$  we need  $\lambda^I u_\alpha u_{\beta_l}^{2^l} \in U_l$  such that  $I' = I + |u_l| I_l$ .) Elements of the form  $\lambda^I u_\alpha u_\beta^{2^l}$  are an  $A$  basis for  $C_l$  and elements of the form  $u_\beta \lambda^{I'} u_\alpha$  are an  $A$  basis for  $D_l$ . Hence  $\theta: C_l \rightarrow D_l$  is an isomorphism and the proof of 2.5 is complete.

*Proof of 2.6.* Let  $v_i \in H^*(BO)$  be the Wu classes, that is,  $\Phi(v_i) = \chi(Sq^i)\Phi(1)$  where  $\Phi: H^*(BO) \rightarrow H^*(MO)$  is the Thom isomorphism.

LEMMA 3.4.

$$v_i = \sum s_\omega$$

where the sum ranges over all  $\omega$  with entries only of the form  $2^j - 1$  and  $|s_\omega| = i$ .

*Proof.* We view  $H^*(BO) \subset \mathbb{Z}_2[t_1, t_2, \dots]$ ,  $|t_i| = 1$ , and  $t_1 t_2 \dots$  as the Thom class. Let  $Sq = Sq^0 + Sq^1 + \dots$  and  $v = v_0 + v_1 + \dots$ . Then

$$\chi(Sq)t_i = \sum t_i^{2^j}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} v(t_1, t_2, \dots)(t_1 t_2 \cdots) &= \chi(Sq)(t_1 t_2 \cdots) \\ &= \prod_i \left( \sum_j t_i^{2^j-1} \right) (t_1 t_2 \cdots) = \left( \sum_{\omega} s_{\omega} \right) (t_1 t_2 \cdots) \end{aligned}$$

where the sum ranges over  $\omega$  with entries only of the form  $2^j - 1$ .

Let  $x_1$  and  $x_2 \in A(BO)$  be given by

$$x_1 = \sum_{j>0} Sq^j \circ v_{s+1-j}, \quad x_2 = \sum Sq^j \circ v_{s+2-j}$$

Recall  $s = [n/2]$  and  $n$  is the dimension of the manifolds we are considering. Let  $y_i^1 \in D_1$  be defined by

$$y_1^1 = x_1 \lambda^s, \quad y_2^1 = x_2 \lambda^s, \quad y_3^1 = v_{s+1} \lambda^{s+1} + v_{s+2} \lambda^s + x_2 \lambda^s$$

LEMMA 3.5. *There are elements  $y_i^2 \in D_2$  such that  $dy_i^2 = y_i^1$  and*

$$\begin{aligned} y_1^2 &= \lambda^{0,0} v_s^2 \bmod F_{2s-1} \\ y_2^2 &= \lambda^{0,-1} v_{s+1}^2 \bmod F_{2s+1} \\ y_3^2 &= \lambda^{-1,-2} v_{s+2}^2 \bmod F_{2s+3} \end{aligned}$$

If  $s$  is odd, there is an element  $y_2^3$  such that  $y_2^3 = (Sq^1 + w_1)y_2^2$  and

$$y_2^3 = \lambda^{-1,-2,-4} w_1^4 v_{s+2}^2 \bmod F_{2s+7}$$

*Proof.* We first show that  $dy_i^1 = 0$ ,  $d : D_1 \rightarrow D_0 = H^*(MO)$ . Let  $U \in H^0(MO)$  be the Thom class.

$$\begin{aligned} dy_1^1 &= x_1 d\lambda^s = \sum Sq^j (v_{s+1-j} \chi(Sq^{s+1}) U) + v_{s+1} \chi(Sq^{s+1}) U \\ &= (Sq^{s+1} v_{s+1}) U + v_{s+1}^2 U = 0 \\ dy_2^1 &= \sum Sq^j (v_{s+2-j} \chi(Sq^{s+1}) U) \\ &= \sum Sq^j (v_{s+1} \chi(Sq^{s+2-j}) U) = (Sq^{s+2} v_{s+1}) U = 0 \\ dy_3^1 &= v_{s+1} \chi(Sq^{s+2}) U + v_{s+2} \chi(Sq^{s+1}) U + dy_2^1 = 0 \end{aligned}$$

We next show that  $y_1^2$  exists. In  $A \otimes \Lambda^*$  one may easily calculate  $d\lambda^{0,0} = Sq^1 \lambda^0$ .

Hence, by the arguments in the proof of 2.5,

$$\begin{aligned} d\lambda^{0,0}v_s^2 &= \theta(d\lambda^{0,0}v_s^2) = \theta(Sq^1\lambda^0v_s^2) \\ &= Sq^1 \circ v_s\lambda^s \bmod F_{2s-1} \\ &= \sum_{j>0} Sq^j \circ v_{s+1-j}\lambda^s \bmod F_{2s-1} = y_1^1 \bmod F_{2s-1} \end{aligned}$$

Thus  $u = d\lambda^{0,0}v_s^2 + y_1^1 \in F_{2s-1}$  and  $du = 0$ . Therefore there is a  $z \in F_{2s-1}(D_2)$  such that  $dz = u$ . Let  $y_1^2 = \lambda^{0,0}v_s^2 + z$ . The existence of  $y_2^2$ ,  $y_3^2$ , and  $y_3^3$  are proven in an analogous fashion.

We now define  $r: A(BO) \otimes V_l \rightarrow A(BO) \otimes \bar{V}_l$ . For  $l \neq 2$  and  $l \neq 3$ ,  $s$  odd,  $\bar{V}_l = V_l$  and  $r$  is the identity;  $\bar{V}_l \subset V_l$  and  $r|_{A(BO) \otimes \bar{V}_l}$  is the identity.  $\bar{V}_2$  is formed from  $V_2$  by omitting the basis elements  $\lambda^{0,0}w_s^2$ ,  $\lambda^{0,-1}w_{s+1}^2$  and  $\lambda^{-1,-2}w_{s+2}^2$ . By 3.4,  $v_i$  involves  $w_i = s_{(1,1,\dots,1)}$  when  $v_i$  is expressed in the  $u_\omega$  basis. Let

$$\begin{aligned} r(\lambda^{0,0}w_s^2) &= y_1^2 - \lambda^{0,0}w_s^2 \\ r(\lambda^{0,-1}w_{s+1}^2) &= y_2^2 - \lambda^{0,-1}w_{s+1}^2 \\ r(\lambda^{-1,-2}w_{s+2}^2) &= y_2^3 - \lambda^{-1,-2}w_{s+2}^2 \end{aligned}$$

We define  $r$  on  $A(BO) \otimes V_3$  analogously. Then  $r(y_i^2) = r(y_i^3) = 0$ .

We conclude this section with an algebraic lemma about the  $y_j^i$ 's. Let  $L_l \subset A(BO) \otimes V_l$  be defined as follows:  $L_l = 0$  for  $l = 0$ ,  $l = 3$  and  $s$  even, and  $l > 3$ .

$$L_1 = A(BO)(\{y_i^1\} + S_1)$$

where  $S_1 = \{v_3Sq^2\lambda^2\}$  when  $s = 2$  and  $S_1 = 0$  for  $s \neq 2$ .

$$L_2 = A(BO)(\{y_i^2\} + S)$$

where  $S_2 = \{v_3\lambda^{1,2}\}$  when  $s = 2$  and  $S_2 = 0$ ,  $s \neq 2$ .

$$L_3 = A(BO)\{y_3^2\}$$

$$(d(v_3\lambda^{1,2}) = v_3Sq^2\lambda^2).$$

LEMMA 3.6.  $d(L_l) \subset L_{l-1}$ ,  $r(L_l) = 0$  for  $l > 1$  and the sequence

$$\longrightarrow L_l \xrightarrow{d} L_{l-1} \longrightarrow \cdots \longrightarrow L_0$$

is exact at  $L_l^q$  for all  $l$  and  $q \leq 2s + 2$ .

*Proof.* The first part of 3.6 is clear from the definition of  $L_l$ . One easily checks that if  $x \in A(BO)$ ,  $|x| \leq 1$  and  $d(xy_2^3) = 0$ , then  $x = 0$  and therefore  $d : L_3^q \rightarrow L_2^{q+1}$  is an injection for  $q \leq 2s+2$ .  $d : L_2 \rightarrow L_1$  is clearly onto. To check exactness at  $L_2^q$ ,  $q \leq 2s+2$  one must verify that if  $y = x_1 y_1^1 + x_2 y_2^1 + x_3 y_3^1 + x_4 v_3 S q^2 \lambda^2 = 0$ ,  $x_i \in A(BO)$  and  $|y| \leq 2s+3$ , then  $x_1 = x_3 = x_4 = 0$  and  $x_2 = 0$  or  $s$  is odd and  $x_2 = S q^1 + w_1$ . This is a tedious but straightforward calculation, made somewhat simpler by the following observation. Let

$$F : A(BO) \otimes \{\lambda^s\} \rightarrow H^*(MO \wedge K(Z_2, N))$$

be given by

$$F(a \circ u \lambda^s) = a(u \chi(S q^{s+1}) U \otimes \iota_N)$$

Then

$$F(y_1^1) = v_{s+1} U \otimes \iota_N + U \otimes S q^{s+1} \iota_N$$

$$F(y_2^1) = U \otimes S q^{s+2} \iota_N$$

$$F(v_3 S q^2 \lambda^2) = v_3^2 U \otimes S q^2 \iota_N$$

We leave the details to the reader.

#### §4. Proofs of 2.4 and 2.8

Let  $\{A \otimes \Lambda_l^k, d\}$  be the chain complex described in Proposition 3.2.

**PROPOSITION 4.1.** *For each integer  $k$ , there are  $\Omega$ -spectra  $Y_l = Y_l(k)$  and maps  $\rho_l = \rho_l(k) : Y_{l-1} \rightarrow K(\Lambda_l^k)$  of degree one,  $l = 0, 1, 2, \dots$  such that*

(i)  $Y_0 = K(\Lambda_0^k)$ .  $Y_l$  is a fibration over  $Y_{l-1}$  induced by  $\rho_l$  from the contractible fibration over  $K(\Lambda_l^k)$ .

(ii) If  $i : K(\Lambda_{l-1}^k) \rightarrow Y_{l-1}$  is the inclusion of the fibre,

$$(\rho_l i)^* = d : A \otimes \Lambda_l^k \rightarrow A \otimes \Lambda_{l-1}^k$$

where  $d$  is as in 3.2.

(iii) If  $M$  is a smooth, compact  $n$ -manifold and  $\nu$  is its normal bundle, then

$$[T(\nu), Y_l]_p \rightarrow [T(\nu), Y_{l-1}]_p$$

is an epimorphism for  $p < 2k+2$ .

(iv) Suppose  $k = 0$ . Let  $I(l, 0) = (0, \dots, 0)$  have length  $l$ .

$$\rho_l^* \lambda^{I(l,0)} = \delta_l \tilde{\iota}$$

where  $\iota \in H^0(Y_{l-1}; Z_{2l})$ ,  $\tilde{\iota}$  reduced modulo two is the generator  $\iota \in H^0(Y_{l-1}) \approx Z_2$  and  $\delta_l$  is the Bockstein associated to  $Z_2 \rightarrow Z_{2^{l+1}} \rightarrow Z_{2^l}$ .

*Proof.* For  $k \geq 0$ , 4.1(i), (ii), and (iii) were proved in [5]. For  $k < 0$ ,  $\{A \otimes \Lambda_l^k, d\}$  is a free acyclic resolution of the zero  $A$  module so that the existence of  $Y_l$  and  $\rho_l$  easily follow by induction on  $l$ . If  $M$  is as in (iii),  $v: T(\nu) \rightarrow Y_{l-1}$  has degree  $p$ ,  $p < 2k + 2$  and  $k < 0$ , then  $|(\rho_l v)^*(\lambda^I)| > n$  and (iii) follows.

Finally we prove (iv). The formula for  $d$  in 3.1 shows that  $d\lambda^{I(l,0)} = Sq^1 \lambda^{I(l-1,0)}$ . The complex,

$$\longrightarrow A \otimes \{\lambda^{I(l,0)}\} \xrightarrow{d} A \otimes \{\lambda^{I(l-1,0)}\} \longrightarrow \dots A \otimes \{\lambda^{I(0,0)}\}$$

is realized by the tower

$$\rightarrow K(Z_{2l}) \rightarrow K(Z_{2^{l-1}}) \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow K(Z_2)$$

with  $k$ -invariants,  $\delta_l: K(Z_{2l}) \rightarrow K(Z_2)$ . Except for  $\lambda^{I(l,0)}$ , the generators of  $\Lambda_l^0$  have dimension  $> 0$  and hence kill classes of dimension  $> 1$ . Thus  $Y_l = K(Z_{2^{l+1}})$  in dimensions  $\leq 1$ . Therefore (iv) holds.

*Proof of 2.4:* We wish to realize the complex  $\{A \otimes U_l, d\}$  by a tower of spectra,  $X_l$ . Let  $Y_l(k)$  and  $\rho_l(k)$  be as in 4.1. For a spectrum  $Z$ , let  $SZ$  denote the shift suspension, i.e.,  $(SZ)_q = Z_{q+1}$ . Define  $X_l$  and  $\alpha_l: X_{l-1} \rightarrow K(Y_l)$  by

$$X_l = \prod_{u_\omega \in U_0} S^{|u_\omega|} Y_l(\lfloor (n - |u_\omega|)/2 \rfloor)$$

$$\alpha_l = \prod S^{|u_\omega|} \rho_l(\lfloor (n - |u_\omega|)/2 \rfloor)$$

The map  $\alpha_l$  takes  $X_{l-1}$  into  $K(U_l)$  since

$$\prod S^k K(\Lambda_l^k) = K(U_l)$$

where  $k$  ranges over  $\lfloor (n - |u_\omega|)/2 \rfloor$ ,  $|u_\omega| \in U_0$ . Proposition 2.4 now follows directly from 4.1.

*Proof of 2.8:* Using induction on  $l$ , one easily proves that if  $I$  is admissible and  $l = l(I)$ ,

$$|\lambda^I| \geq 2t(I) \left(1 - \frac{1}{2^l}\right)$$

Suppose  $l \geq n$  and  $\lambda^I u_\omega \in U_l$ . Then  $2(t(I) + 1) > n - |u_\omega|$ . Therefore

$$|\lambda^I u_\omega| \geq 2t(I) \left(1 - \frac{1}{2^l}\right) + |u_\omega| \geq n - 1 - \frac{n - |u_\omega| - 1}{2^l} > n - 2$$

Also if  $|u_\omega| > n - 1$ ,  $|\lambda^I u_\omega| > n - 1$ . If  $|u_\omega| < n - 1$ ,  $t(I) \geq 1$  and hence  $|\lambda^I| \geq l \geq n$ . Therefore  $U_l^q = 0$  for  $q < n - 1$  and  $U_l^{n-1} = \{\lambda^{I(l,0)} u_\omega \mid u_\omega \in U_0^{n-1}\}$  since  $\lambda^{I(l,0)}$  is the only  $\lambda^I$  with  $t(I) \geq 0$  and  $|\lambda^I| = 0$ . If  $r > l$  and  $\omega_r \neq \{ \}$ ,  $|u_\omega| \geq |u_{\omega_r}^{2^r}| \geq 2^r > n$ . Hence  $V_l^q = U_l^q$  for  $q \leq n - 1$ .

By the definition of  $\beta_l: B_{l-1} \rightarrow K(V_l)$ ,

$$\Phi(\beta_l^*(\lambda^{I(l,0)} u_\omega)) = f_{l-1}^* \alpha_l^*(\lambda^{I(l,0)} u_\omega)$$

By 4.1(iv)  $\alpha_l^*(\lambda^{I(l,0)} u_\omega) = \delta_l \tilde{t}$  where  $\tilde{t} \in H^*(X_{l-1}; Z_2)$  comes from the factor of  $X_{l-1}$ ,  $Y([n - |u_\omega|/2])$ . Since the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} T_{l-1} & \xrightarrow{f_{l-1}} & X_{l-1} \\ \downarrow p_1 & & \downarrow p_2 \\ T_0 & \xrightarrow{f_0} & X_0 \end{array}$$

commutes,  $\tilde{u} = f_{0-1}^* \tilde{t}$  reduced modulo two is  $p_1^* f_0^* u_\omega = p_1^* u_\omega U_0 = u_\omega U_{l-1}$ , where  $U_l$  is the Thom class of  $T_l$  and the proof of 2.8 is complete.

## §5. Proof of 2.7

If  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  are graded groups and  $h: G_1 \rightarrow G_2$  is a homomorphism of degree  $i$ , we will say that  $h$  is  $k$  connected if  $h: G_1^q \rightarrow G_2^{q+i}$  is an epimorphism for  $q < k$  and a monomorphism if  $q \leq k$ . We will say that a sequence of graded groups and homomorphisms,

$$\cdots \rightarrow G_l \rightarrow G_{l-1} \rightarrow \cdots$$

is  $k$ -exact if

$$G_{l+1}^{q-i} \rightarrow G_l^q \rightarrow G_{l-1}^{q+i}$$

is exact for all  $l$  and  $q \leq k$ .

In §3 we constructed isomorphisms  $\theta: A \otimes U_l \rightarrow A(BO) \otimes V_l$  and a subcomplex  $\{L_l, d\} \subset \{A(BO) \otimes V_l, d\}$  such that

$$\longrightarrow L_l \xrightarrow{d} L_{l-1} \xrightarrow{d} \cdots \longrightarrow L_0 = 0$$

is  $2s+2$  exact,  $s = [n/2]$ . In §4 we constructed a tower of fibrations  $\rightarrow X_l \rightarrow X_{l-1} \rightarrow$  with  $k$ -invariants  $\alpha_l: X_{l-1} \rightarrow K(U_l)$  associated to the complex  $\{A \otimes U_l, d\}$ . Let

$$\bar{H}^*(K(U_l)) = H^*(K(U_l))/\theta^{-1}(L_l)$$

$$\bar{H}^*(X_l) = H^*(X_l)/\alpha_{l-1}^* \theta^{-1}(L_{l-1})$$

LEMMA 5.1: *The maps*

$$K(U_l) \xrightarrow{i} X_l \xrightarrow{p} X_{l-1} \xrightarrow{\alpha_l} K(U_l)$$

induce a  $2s+2$ -exact sequence

$$\rightarrow \bar{H}^*(K(U)) \rightarrow \bar{H}^*(X_{l-1}) \rightarrow \bar{H}^*(X_l) \rightarrow$$

*Proof:* Let  $E_l$  be the kernel of

$$H^*(X_l) \rightarrow \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} H^*(X_k)$$

Then  $H^*(X_l) \approx H^*(MO)/\Phi(I_n) \oplus E_l$  and  $E_l$  and  $A \otimes U_l$  are related by the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} \longrightarrow & A \otimes U_l & \xrightarrow{d} & A \otimes U_{l-1} & \longrightarrow & A \otimes U_{l-2} & \longrightarrow \\ & \searrow \alpha_l & & \nearrow \bar{v}_2 & & \nearrow & \\ & & E_{l-1} & & & E_{l-2} & \\ & \nearrow & \searrow & & \nearrow & \searrow & \\ 0 & & 0 & & 0 & & 0 \end{array}$$



where the  $\bar{\alpha}_l$  and  $\bar{i}_l$  are defined by  $\alpha_l^*$  and  $i_l^*$  and each pair of composable arrows is exact. Dividing  $A \otimes U_l$  and  $E_{l-1}$  by  $\theta^{-1}(L_l)$  and  $\bar{\alpha}_l \theta^{-1}(L_{l-1})$ , respectively, produces the same type of diagram with exactness replaced by  $2s+2$ -exactness. The desired result then follows.

In §2 we defined maps

$$g'_l: K(U_l) \rightarrow T_{l-1}/T'_l$$

In §6 we prove:

LEMMA 5.2. *The map  $g'_l$  induces a  $2s+2$ -connected map*

$$F_l: \bar{H}^*(K(U_l)) \rightarrow H^*(T_{l-1}/T'_l)$$

for  $l \geq 1$ .

*Proof of 2.7:* We first prove 2.7(ii). Suppose  $M$  is a smooth  $n$ -manifold,  $h: M \rightarrow B_0 = BO$  classifies  $\nu$ , the normal bundle of  $M$  and  $\tilde{h}: M \rightarrow B_{l-1}$  is a lifting of  $h$ . Let  $T(\tilde{h}): T(\nu) \rightarrow T_{l-1}$  denote the associated Thom space map. Then  $f_{l-1}T(\tilde{h}): T(\nu) \rightarrow X_{l-1}$  is a lifting of  $f_0T(h): T(\nu) \rightarrow X_0$  and hence by 2.4(iv),  $f_{l-1}T(\tilde{h})$  lifts to  $X_l$  and therefore  $\alpha_l f_{l-1}T(\tilde{h}) = 0$ . Thus for  $v \in \bar{V}_l$

$$\Phi h^* \beta_l^*(v_1) = T(\tilde{h})^* \Phi(\beta_l^*(v_1)) = T(\tilde{h})^* f_{l-1}^* \alpha_l^*(v) = 0$$

Thus  $\beta_l \tilde{h} = 0$  and  $\tilde{h}$  lifts to  $h': M \rightarrow B'_l$

If  $u \in U_{l+1}$ ,  $\bar{u} = \{u\} \in W_{l+1} = U_{l+1}/\ker \Delta$  and  $\nu\theta(u) = \sum x_i u_i$ ,  $x_i \in A(BO)$  and  $u_i \in V_{l+1}$ , then

$$\Phi((h')^* \gamma_l^*(\bar{u}_1)) = T(h')^* \Phi(\gamma_l^* \bar{u}_1) = T(h')^* \Delta(u).$$

Recall,

$$\Delta(u) = (f'_l)^* \alpha_{l+1}^* u - \sum x_i (f'_{l+1})^* \alpha^* u_i$$

But  $T(h')^*$  is  $A(BO)$  linear and  $\alpha_{l+1} f' T(h') = 0$  as above. Thus  $T(h')^* \Delta(u) = 0$  and hence  $\gamma_l h' = 0$ . Therefore  $h'$  lifts to  $B_l$  and the proof of 2.7(ii) is complete. We note for further reference:

LEMMA 5.3:  $T(h')^* \Delta(u) = 0$  for  $u \in U_{l+1}$ .

LEMMA 5.4. If  $\delta^*: H^*(T'_l) \rightarrow H^*(T_{l-1}/T'_l)$ ,  $\delta^* \Delta(u) = 0$  for  $u \in U_{l+1}$ .

*Proof.* Consider the commutative diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} H^*(X_l) & \xrightarrow{i^*} & H^*(K(U_l)) \\ \downarrow f_l' & & \downarrow (g_l') \\ H^*(T_l) & \xrightarrow{\alpha^*} & H^*(T_{l-1}/T_l') \end{array}$$

Recall,  $g_l'$  realizes  $\Psi r\theta$ ,  $i^*\alpha_{l+1}^* = d$  and  $\Psi$ ,  $r$ , and  $d : A(BO) \otimes V_{l-1} \rightarrow A(BO) \otimes V_{l-1}$  are  $A(BO)$  linear. Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} \delta^* \Delta(u) &= \delta^*((f_l')^* \alpha_{l+1}^* u + \sum x_i (f_l')^* \alpha_{l+1}^* u_i) \\ &= (g_l')^* i^* \alpha_{l+1}^* u + \sum x_i (g_l')^* i^* \alpha_{l+1}^* u_i \\ &= \Psi r \theta du + \sum x_i \Psi r \theta du_i = \Psi r d\theta u + \sum \Psi r dx_i \theta(u_i) \end{aligned}$$

where  $r\theta(u) = \sum x_i u_i$ ,  $x_i \in A(BO)$  and  $u_i \in V_{l+1}$ . But for  $v \in V_{l+1}$ ,  $\theta(v) = v$ . Thus

$$\sum x_i \theta(u_i) = \sum x_i u_i = r\theta u = \theta u + z$$

where  $z \in L_{l+1}$ . Furthermore  $dz \in L_l$ . Hence  $\delta^* \Delta(u) = \Psi r dz = \Psi r \theta \theta^{-1} dz = (g_l')^* \theta^{-1} dz$ .

But by 5.2,  $\theta^{-1}(L_l)$  is the kernel of  $(g_l')^*$ .

We now prove that  $f_l$  induces a  $2s+2$ -connected map  $\bar{f}_l : \bar{H}(X_l) \rightarrow H^*(T_l)$  by induction on  $l \geq 0$ . We first show that  $\bar{f}_l$  is well defined.

$$\bar{H}^*(X_l) = H^*(X_l) / \alpha_{l+1}^*(\theta^{-1}(L_{l+1}))$$

From the commutative diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} T_l & \xrightarrow{j} & T_l/T_{l+1}' \\ \downarrow f_l & & \downarrow g_{l+1}' \\ X_l & \xrightarrow{\alpha_{l+1}} & K(U_{l+1}) \end{array}$$

we see that

$$f_l^* \alpha_{l+1}^*(\theta^{-1}(L_{l+1})) = j^*(g_{l+1}')^*(\theta^{-1}(L_{l+1}))$$

By 5.2,  $\theta^{-1}(L_{l+1})$  is in the kernel of  $(g_{l+1}')^*$ .

Since  $f_0^*$  is an isomorphism,  $\bar{f}_0 = f_0^*$  and  $\bar{f}_0$  is an isomorphism.

Suppose  $\bar{f}_{l-1}$  is  $2s+2$  connected. If  $u \in U_{l+1}$ ,  $\Delta(u) \in H^q(T'_l)$  pulls back to  $H^q(T_{l-1})$  since, by 5.4,  $\delta^* \Delta(u) = 0$  and it pulls back to  $H^q(X_{l-1})$  if  $q < 2s+2$ , that is, if  $|u| < 2s+1$ ,  $\Delta(u) = (f'_l)^* p^* x$  where  $p: X_l \rightarrow X_{l-1}$ . But since the  $X_l$ 's are constructed from an acyclic complex,  $\text{image } p^* = \text{image } (H^*(X_0) \rightarrow H^*(X_l))$ . Therefore  $\text{image } (f'_l)^* p^* = \text{image } (H^*(T_0) \rightarrow H^*(T'_l)) = H^*(MO)/\Phi(I_n)$ . But by 5.3,  $\Delta(u)$  is zero on all  $n$ -manifolds. Hence  $\Delta(u) = 0$  and we have shown that  $W_{l+1}^q = (U_{l+1}/\ker \Delta)^q = 0$  for  $q < 2s+1$ . Therefore  $H^q(B'_l) \rightarrow H^q(B_l)$  is an isomorphism for  $q \leq 2s+2$  since  $B_l$  is a fibration over  $B'_{l-1}$  induced by  $\gamma_l: B'_l \rightarrow K(W_{l+1})_1$ . Then  $H^q(T'_l/T_l) = H^q(B'_l, B_l) = 0$  for  $q < 2s+2$  and hence

$$H^*(T_{l-1}/T'_l) \rightarrow H^*(T_{l-1}/T_l)$$

is  $(2s+2)$ -connected. Let  $g_l$  be the composition

$$T_{l-1}/T_l \longrightarrow T_{l-1}/T'_l \xrightarrow{g_l} K(U_l)$$

and let  $\bar{g}_l: \bar{H}^*(K(U_l)) \rightarrow H^*(T_{l-1}/T_l)$  be induced by  $g_l$ . Then  $\bar{g}_l$  is  $(2s+2)$ -connected by 5.2. Consider the commutative diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} \longrightarrow & \bar{H}^*(K(U_l)) & \longrightarrow & \bar{H}^*(X_{l-1}) & \longrightarrow & \bar{H}^*(X_l) & \longrightarrow \bar{H}^*(K(U)) \longrightarrow \\ & \downarrow \bar{g}_l & & \downarrow \bar{f}_{l-1} & & \downarrow \bar{f} \sim & \downarrow \\ \longrightarrow & H^*(T_{l-1}/T_l) & \longrightarrow & H^*(T_{l-1}) & \longrightarrow & H^*(T_l) & \longrightarrow H^*(T_{l-1}/T_l) \longrightarrow \end{array}$$

A five lemma argument and the fact that  $\bar{f}_{l-1}$  and  $\bar{g}_l$  are  $(2s+2)$ -connected shows that  $\bar{f}_l$  is  $2s+2$ -connected.

Since  $L_l = 0$  for  $l > 3$ ,  $\bar{H}^*(X_l) = H^*(X_l)$  for  $l \geq 3$  and therefore  $f_l^*: H^q(X_l) \rightarrow H^q(T_l)$  is an isomorphism for  $q \leq n < 2s+2$ . This completes the proof of 2.7.

## §6. Proof of 5.2

LEMMA 6.1.

$$H^q(B_{l-1}) \rightarrow H^q(B'_l)$$

is an isomorphism for  $l > 1$  and  $q \leq s+1$ . For  $l = 1$  it is an epimorphism for  $q \leq s+1$  and  $v_{s+1}$ ,  $w_1 v_{s+1}$ ,  $Sq^1 v_{s+1}$  and  $v_{s+2}$  generate the kernel for  $q \leq s+2$ .

*Proof.* As we saw in the proof of 2.8, if  $\lambda^I u_\omega \in V_l$ ,  $|\lambda^I u_\omega| \geq (n-1) - (n-|u_\omega|-1)/2^l$ . Hence the lowest dimensional element in  $V_l$  is of the form  $\lambda^I$  with  $t(I)=s$ . For such an  $I$ ,  $|\lambda^I| \geq s+2$  except for  $l=1$  or  $l=2$  and  $s=1$  and 2. The space  $B'_l$  is a fibration over  $B_{l-1}$  induced by  $\beta_l: B_{l-1} \rightarrow K(V_l)_1$  and for  $l > 1$ ,  $K(V_l)_1$  is  $s+2$  connected except when  $l=2$  and  $s=1$  or 2. For  $s=1$  or 2, the lowest dimensional elements in  $V_2$  are  $\lambda^{1,1}$  and  $\lambda^{1,2}$  respectively;  $d\lambda^{1,1} \neq 0$  and  $d\lambda^{1,2} \neq 0$  so these elements kill nonzero classes in  $B_1$ . Thus for  $l > 1$ ,  $H^q(B_{l-1}) \approx H^q(B'_l)$  for  $q \leq s+1$ .

Suppose  $l=1$ . From 3.1 one sees that  $d\lambda^i = \chi(Sq^{i+1})U = \Phi(v_{i+1})$  where  $U$  is the Thom class and  $v_{i+1}$  is the Wu class. Hence  $\beta_1: B_0 \rightarrow K(V_1)_1$  takes  $\lambda^i$  into  $v_{i+1}$ . One easily checks that  $V_1^q = 0$  for  $q < s$ ,  $V_1^s = \{\lambda^s\}$  and  $V_1^{s+1} = \{\lambda^{s+1}\}$ . The remainder of 6.1 now follows by a simple Serre spectral sequence argument.

Let  $K_l = K(V_l)_1$ . Viewing  $\beta_l: B_{l-1} \rightarrow K_l$  as a fibre map with fibre  $B'_l$ , consider the pair of fibrations  $p_1$  and  $p_2$ :

$$\begin{array}{ccc} (B_{l-1}, B'_l) & \xrightarrow{c} & (B_{l-1} \times K_l, B_{l-1} \times \{*\}) \\ & \searrow p_1 \quad \swarrow p_2 & \\ & (K_l, *) & \end{array}$$

where  $p_1$  is defined by  $\beta_l$ ,  $p_2$  is projection on the second factor and  $c = id \times p$ . Note  $c$  is a fibre preserving map so we may use it to compare the Serre spectral sequences of  $p_1$  and  $p_2$ .

**LEMMA 6.2.** *For  $l > 1$ ,  $c^*: H^q(B_{l-1} \times K_l, B_{l-1} \times \{*\}) \rightarrow H^q(B_{l-1}, B'_l)$  is an isomorphism for  $q \leq 2s+3$ . For  $l=1$ ,  $c^*$  is an epimorphism for  $q \leq 2s+2$  and for  $q \leq 2s+3$  the kernel is generated by*

$$\begin{aligned} & v_{s+1} \otimes \lambda_1^s + 1 \otimes (\lambda_1^s)^2 \\ & v_{s+1} \otimes Sq^1 \lambda_1^s + 1 \otimes \lambda_1^s Sq^1 \lambda_1^s \\ & v_{s+1} \otimes \lambda_1^{s+1} + 1 \otimes \lambda_1^s \lambda_1^{s+1} \\ & w_1 v_{s+1} \otimes \lambda_1^s + w_1 \otimes (\lambda_1^s)^2 \\ & Sq^1 v_{s+1} \otimes \lambda_1^s + 1 \otimes \lambda_1^s Sq^1 \lambda_1^s \\ & v_{s+2} \otimes \lambda_1^s + 1 \otimes \lambda_1^s \lambda_1^{s+1} \end{aligned}$$

*Proof.* Let  $E_r^{p,q}$  and  $\bar{E}_r^{p,q}$  denote the Serre spectral sequences for  $p_1$  and  $p_2$  respectively.

$$E_2^{p,q} = H^p(K_l, *) \otimes H^q(B_{l-1})$$

$$\bar{E}_2^{p,q} = H^p(K_l, *) \otimes H^q(B')$$

As we saw above, for  $l > 1$ ,  $K_l$  is  $s+2$  connected and  $H^q(B_{l-1}) \approx H^q(B'_l)$  for  $q \leq s+1$ . Therefore  $c$  induces an isomorphism at the  $E_2$  level for  $p+q \leq 2s+3$  and the differentials are trivial for  $p_2$  because it is a product fibration. This proves 6.2 for  $l > 1$ .

For  $l = 1$ , 6.2 is true at the  $E_2$  level with the first summands in the above list of elements as a basis for the kernel; the second summands are of lower filtration. The same is true at the  $E_\infty$  level, so to complete the proof, we must show that these elements are in the kernel of  $c^*$ .

Under the map  $H^*(B_0, B'_1) \rightarrow H^*(B_0)$ ,  $c^*(1 \otimes \lambda_1^s)$  goes to  $v_{s+1}$ . Hence

$$c^*(v_{s+1} \otimes \lambda_1^s + 1 \otimes (\lambda_1^s)^2) = v_{s+1} c^*(1 \otimes \lambda_1^s) + c^*(1 \otimes \lambda_1^s)^2 = 0$$

(If  $j: X \subset (X, A)$  and  $x \in H^*(X, A)$ ,  $x^2 = (j^*x)x$ .) The same argument applies to the other five elements.

Let

$$\phi: (A(BO) \otimes \bar{V}_l)^q \rightarrow H^{q+1}(T_{l-1} \wedge K_l)$$

be defined by

$$\phi((a \otimes w)u) = a(wU \otimes u_1)$$

where  $U$  is the Thom class,  $a \in A$ ,  $w \in H^*(BO)$  and  $u \in \bar{V}_l$ .

**LEMMA 6.3.** *For  $q \leq 2s+1$ ,  $\phi$  is an epimorphism. For  $q \leq 2s+2$  the kernel of  $\phi$  is zero for  $l > 1$  and  $(l, s) \neq (2, 2)$ , is  $\{v_3 \lambda^{1,2}\}$  for  $(l, s) = (2, 2)$  and is  $\{(\sum Sq^i \circ v_{s+2-i}) \lambda^s\}$  for  $l = 1$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $\mu, \mu': A(BO) \rightarrow A(BO)$  be defined by

$$\mu(a \circ w) = \sum a'_i \circ w \zeta(a''_i)$$

$$\mu'(a \circ w) = \sum a'_i \circ w \chi(a''_i)$$

(Recall,  $w a$  is defined by  $(w a)/U = \chi(a)(wU)$ .)

Where  $a \rightarrow \sum a'_i \otimes a''_i$  in the diagonal in  $A$ . Then  $\mu\mu' = \mu'\mu = \text{identity}$  and thus  $\mu$  is a  $\mathbb{Z}_2$ -isomorphism. Let  $\phi' = \phi(\mu \otimes id)$ . Then

$$\phi'((a \circ w)u) = \sum a'_i (\chi(a''_i)(wU) \otimes u_1) = wU \otimes a u_1$$

Let  $\lambda^l$  be the lowest dimensional element in  $\bar{V}_l$ ;  $|\lambda^l| > s$  for  $l = 1$ . The lowest

dimensional element in  $H^*(T_{l-1} \wedge K_l)$  not in the image of  $\phi'$  is  $U \otimes (\lambda_1^I \cup Sq^i \lambda_1^I)$ , an element of dimension  $\geq 2s+3$ . Hence  $\phi$  is an epimorphism for  $q < 2s+2$ . The lowest dimensional elements in the kernel of  $\phi'$  are  $1 \circ v_{s+1} \lambda_1^I$  or  $(Sq^m \circ 1) \lambda_1^I$  where  $m = |\lambda_1^I| + 1$ . For  $l > 2$ ,  $(l, s) \neq (2, 2)$ ,  $\lambda_1^I > s+1$  and hence these elements occur in dimensions  $> 2s+3$ . For  $(l, s) = (2, 2)$ ,  $\phi(v_3 \lambda^{1,2}) = \phi'(v_3 \lambda^{1,2}) = 0$ . For  $l = 1$

$$0 = \phi'((Sq^{s+2} \circ 1) \lambda^s) = \phi\left(\left(\sum Sq^i \circ v_{s+2-i}\right) \lambda^s\right)$$

This proves the last part of 6.3.

*Proof of 5.2:* We must show that

$$(g_l')^* = \Psi r \theta : (A \otimes U_l)^q \rightarrow H^{q+1}(T_{l-1}/T_l')$$

is an epimorphism for  $q \leq 2s+2$  and  $(L_l)^q$  is the kernel for  $q \leq 2s+2$ . By 2.5,  $\theta$  is an isomorphism. Let  $\phi$  be the map in 6.3 and  $c$  the map in 6.2. Lifting  $c$  to the Thom space level we obtain a map

$$T(c) : T_{l-1}/T_l' \rightarrow T_{l-1} \wedge K_l$$

Furthermore  $\Psi = T(c)^*$ . Thus by 6.2 and 6.3,  $\Psi$  is an epimorphism for  $q \leq 2s+1$  and since  $r$  is an epimorphism,  $(g_l')^*$  is an epimorphism for  $q \leq 2s+1$ . For  $l > 1$  and  $(l, s) \neq (2, 2)$ ,  $T(c)^*$  and  $\phi$  are monomorphisms for  $q \leq 2s+2$  and  $L_l^q$  is the kernel of  $r$ . When  $(l, s) = (2, 2)$   $r(L_l) = \{v_3 \lambda^{1,2}\}$ . This completes the proof of 5.2 for  $l > 1$ .

Suppose  $l = 1$ . Then  $r = \text{identity}$ . We wish to show that  $L_1 = \phi^{-1}(\ker T(c)^*)$ . In 6.2 a basis for  $\ker c^*$  was given for  $q \leq 2s+2$ . Since  $\text{image } \phi = \text{image } \phi'$  cannot involve cup products (except squares) in  $H^*(K_l)$ , the above basis shows that the following is a basis for  $\text{image } \phi \cap \ker T(c)^*$ :

$$\begin{aligned} & v_{s+1} U \otimes \lambda_1^s + U \otimes Sq^{s+1} \lambda_1^s \\ & w_1 v_{s+1} U \otimes \lambda_1^s + w_1 U \otimes Sq^{s+1} \lambda_1^s \\ & v_{s+1} U \otimes Sq^1 \lambda_1^s + (Sq^1 v_{s+1}) U \otimes \lambda_1^s \\ & v_{s+1} U \otimes \lambda_1^{s+2} + v_{s+2} U \otimes \lambda_1^s \end{aligned}$$

Thus a basis for  $\phi^{-1}(\ker c^*)$  is  $\phi^{-1}$  of these elements and  $(\sum Sq^i \circ v_{s+2-i}) \lambda^s$  from the kernel of  $\phi$ . A simple calculation shows that these elements form a basis for  $L_1^q$ ,  $q \leq 2s+2$ , completing the proof of 5.2.

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