

# Proof of the Projective Bundle Theorem:

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First we recall the statement.

Theorem: Let  $\begin{array}{c} \mathbb{C}^n \rightarrow E \\ \downarrow \\ B \end{array}$  be a cplx vector bundle, with  $B$  parcpt, and let  $\begin{array}{c} P(E) \\ \downarrow \\ B \end{array}$  be the corresponding projective space bundle.

Then the map  $q^*: H^*(B; \mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow H^*(P(E); \mathbb{Z})$  is injective, and the induced map

$$H^*(B) \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \underbrace{\mathbb{Z}[a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n]}_{\substack{\text{graded free abelian} \\ \text{group on } n \text{ generators,} \\ |a^i| = 2i}} \longrightarrow H^*(P(E); \mathbb{Z})$$

sending  $a^i \rightarrow c_1(L_E)^i$  is an isomorphism of  $H^*B$ -modules. The same result holds for real bundles, with  $\mathbb{Z}$  replaced by  $\mathbb{Z}/2$ .

Proof: We begin by proving the theorem for CW cplx  $B$ , starting with finite dim'l complexes. If  $B$  is zero-dim'l, then  $P(E) = \coprod_{b \in B} \mathbb{C}P^{n-1}$ , so the result follows from our computation of  $H^*(\mathbb{C}P^{n-1}; \mathbb{Z})$ , and the fact that the restriction of  $L_E$  to each copy of  $\mathbb{C}P^{n-1}$  is the tautological bundle  $\downarrow \mathbb{C}P^{n-1}$ .

Now assume the result for  $(k-1)$ -dim'l complexes, and say  $B$  is  $k$ -dim'l. We will consider the following diagram, in which  $B' \subseteq B$  denotes the subspace formed by removing one point from the interior of each  $k$ -cell, and we replace the polynomial ring by  $H^*\mathbb{C}P^{n-1}$ :

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 \dots \rightarrow H^{*-1}(q^{-1}B') \xrightarrow{\partial} H^*(PE, q^{-1}B') \xrightarrow{j^*} H^*(PE) \xrightarrow{i^*} H^*(q^{-1}B') \rightarrow \dots & & & & & & \delta \\
 \uparrow \Phi & \uparrow \Phi^{rel} & \uparrow \Phi & \uparrow \Phi' & & & \\
 H^{*-1}(B') \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} H^*CP^{n-1} \xrightarrow{\partial \otimes id} H^*(B, B') \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} H^*CP^{n-1} \xrightarrow{j^* \otimes id} H^*(B) \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} H^*CP^{n-1} \xrightarrow{i^* \otimes id} H^*(B') \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} H^*CP^{n-1} \rightarrow \dots & & & & & & 
 \end{array}$$

The top row of  $(\star)$  is just the LES of the pair  $(PE, q^{-1}B')$ . The bottom row requires some explanation.

We use  $H^*q^{-1}B' \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} H^*CP^{n-1}$  as short-hand for the  $*$ -th graded piece of the graded tensor product; this means that the lower LES is actually the sum of various shifted copies of the LES for the pair  $(B, B')$ ; here we use that  $H^*(CP^{n-1})$  is always either  $\mathbb{Z}$  or  $0$ .

The vertical maps  $\Phi, \Phi'$  are induced by the map of pairs

$$(PE, q^{-1}B') \xrightarrow{q} (B, B')$$

and the assignments  $\alpha \mapsto c_{i,LE}^i$  or  $\alpha \mapsto j^*(c_{i,LE}^i)$  ( $\alpha \in H^2CP^n$  is the canonical generator). The map  $\Phi^{rel}$  is defined similarly, via the relative cup product:

$$H^*(B, B') \otimes H^*CP^{n-1} \xrightarrow{q^* \otimes (\alpha \mapsto c_{i,LE}^i)} H^*(PE, q^{-1}B') \otimes H^*PE \xrightarrow{\cup} H^*(PE, q^{-1}B')$$

Commutativity of the middle and right squares is immediate, and we must check commutativity of the left square. We must show that for any  $x_i \in H^{*-1}B'$ ,

Sol: We must show that for any  $x_k \in H^{*-1}B'$ ,

$$\Phi^{rel} \partial \left( \sum_k x_k \otimes \alpha^k \right) = \partial \Phi' \left( \sum_k x_k \otimes \alpha^k \right).$$

We have

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi^{rel} \partial \left( \sum_k x_k \otimes \alpha^k \right) &= \Phi^{rel} \left( \sum_k (\partial x_k) \otimes \alpha^k \right) = \sum_k q^*(\partial x_k) \cup (c, L_E)^k \\ &= \sum_k \partial q^* x_k \cup (c, L_E)^k \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\partial \Phi' \left( \sum_k x_k \otimes \alpha^k \right) = \partial \left( \sum_k q^* x_k \cup i^*(c, L_E)^k \right) = \sum_k \partial (q^* x_k \cup i^*(c, L_E)^k).$$

So we need to show that  $\partial (q^* x_k \cup i^*(c, L_E)^k) = (\partial q^* x_k) \cup (c, L_E)^k$ .

Lemma: For any pair  $(X, A)$ , the bdry map in the LES

$$H^{*-1}X \xrightarrow{i^*} H^{*-1}A \xrightarrow{\partial} H^*(X, A) \xrightarrow{\delta} H^*X$$

satisfies  $\partial(\alpha \cup i^*x) = \partial\alpha \cup x$ .

Proof: The map  $\partial$  is defined as follows: if  $\tilde{\alpha} \in C^{*-1}X$  is any cochain restricting to a cocycle  $a \in C^*A$ , then  $\partial([\tilde{\alpha}]) := [\delta(\tilde{\alpha})]$ , which is a cochain vanishing on  $C_*A$ , i.e.  $\delta(\tilde{\alpha}) \in C^*(X, A) \subseteq C^*X$ .

Now, given  $x = [x] \in H^{*-1}X$  and  $\alpha = [a] \in H^{*-1}A$ , choose  $\tilde{\alpha} \in C^{*-1}X$  extending  $a$ . Then  $\tilde{\alpha} \cup x \in C^{*-2}X$  restricts to  $a \cup i^*x$ , so

$$\partial(\alpha \cup i^*x) = \partial[a \cup i^*x] = \delta(\tilde{\alpha} \cup x)$$

$$\stackrel{\delta \text{ is a derivation}}{=} (\delta\tilde{\alpha}) \cup x \pm \tilde{\alpha} \cup \delta x = \delta\tilde{\alpha} \cup x. \quad \square$$

$\delta$  is a derivation

$x$  is a cocycle  
so  $\delta x = 0$

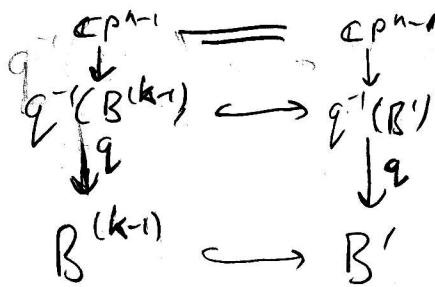
By the 5-lemma, to complete the argument for finite dim'l CW base spaces, it suffices to prove:

Claim 1:  $\Phi'$  is an isomorphism.

Claim 2:  $\Phi^{rel}$  is an isomorphism

Proof of Claim 1: We have a commutative diagram

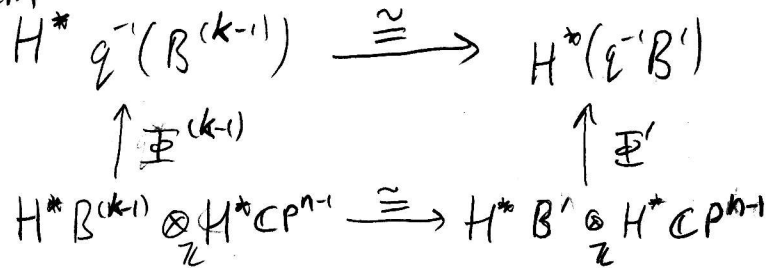
of fibrations



Since  $D^k - \{pt\}$  deformation retracts to  $S^{n-1}$ ,  $B'$  deformation retracts to  $B^{(k-1)}$ .

The 5-lemma now implies that  $q^{-1}(B^{(k-1)}) \xrightarrow{\cong} q^{-1}(B')$  induces an isomorphism on  $\pi_*$ , and hence on  $H^*$  (by Hatcher Prop. 4.21)

The diagram

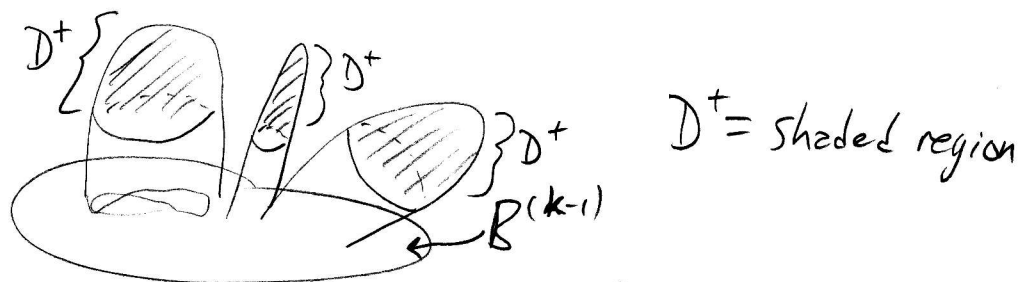


completes the proof of Claim 1, since by induction  $\Phi^{(k-1)}$  is an isomorphism. □

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## Proof of Claim 2:

Let  $D^+ \subseteq B$  denote the disjoint union of the closed, radius  $\frac{1}{2}$  disks inside each  $n$ -cell in  $B$ :



Then  $D^+$  deformation retracts to the disjoint union of points  $B - B'$ , and  $D^+ \cap B'$  deformation retracts to the disjoint union of the boundary  $(k-1)$ -spheres of the various disks in  $D^+$ . Note that these are both CW cplx of  $\dim \leq k$ , so the theorem applies to them by induction.

We have excision isomorphisms  $H^*(B, B') \cong H^*(D^+, D^+ \cap B')$  and  $H^*(PE, PE') \cong H^*(PE|_{D^+}, PE|_{D^+ \cap B'})$ , coming from excising the complements of  $D^+$  and of  $PE|_{D^+}$  respectively.

This gives a comm. diagram

$$H^*(PE, PE') \cong H^*(PE|_{D^+}, PE|_{D^+ \cap B'})$$

and hence it suffices to prove that the right hand map is an isom.

$$H^*(B, B') \otimes H^*CP^{n-1} \xrightarrow{\cong} H^*(D^+, D^+ \cap B') \otimes H^*CP^{n-1}$$

But this follows by applying the induction hypothesis to the LES's of the pairs  $(PE|_{D^+}, PE|_{D^+ \cap B'})$ ,  $(D^+, D^+ \cap B')$ :  
 We have a diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 \cdots \rightarrow & H^{*-1}(PE|_{D^+ \cap B'}) & \xrightarrow{\partial} & H^*(PE|_{D^+}, PE|_{D^+ \cap B'}) & \rightarrow & H^*PE|_{D^+} & \rightarrow & H^*PE|_{D^+ \cap B'} & \rightarrow \cdots \\
 & \uparrow & & \uparrow \Phi^{rel} & & \uparrow & & \uparrow & \\
 \cdots \rightarrow & H^{*-1}(D^+ \cap B) \otimes H^*CP^{n-1} & \rightarrow & H^*(PE|_{D^+}, PE|_{D^+ \cap B}) \otimes H^*CP^{n-1} & \rightarrow & H^*PE|_{D^+} \otimes H^*CP^{n-1} & \rightarrow & H^*(D^+ \cap B) \otimes H^*CP^{n-1} & \rightarrow \cdots
 \end{array}$$

and the argument in the proof of Claim 1 shows that the vertical arrows other than  $\Phi^{rel}$  are isom's. The 5-Lemma completes the proof.  $\square$

We have now shown that the Proj. Bjk Thm holds for any finite dim'l CW cplx.

If  $B$  is a possibly infinite-dim'l CW complex, then we need to show that the map

$$\Phi : H^*B \otimes H^*CP^{n-1} \stackrel{def}{=} \bigoplus_{\substack{*k \text{ even} \\ *-k > 0}} H^k B \otimes H^{*-k} CP^{n-1} \rightarrow H^*PE$$

is an isomorphism. If we choose  $N > *+1$ , then by the cellular approximation theorem we have  $\pi_i B^{(N)} \cong \pi_i B$  for  $i \leq N-1$ , and in particular for  $i \leq *+1$ . Hence by [Hatcher 4.21],  $B^{(N)} \hookrightarrow B$  (and consequently  $PE|_{B^{(N)}} \hookrightarrow PE$ ) induce isom's

on  $H^k$  for  $k \leq *$ . The result now follows from the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 H^* PE|_{B^M} & \xleftarrow{\cong} & H^* PE \\
 \uparrow \cong & & \uparrow \\
 H^* B \otimes H^* \mathbb{C}P^{n-1} & \xleftarrow{\cong} & H^* B \otimes H^* \mathbb{C}P^{n-1}
 \end{array}$$

Finally, consider an arbitrary paracompact base space  $B$ . Then as shown in Hatcher Prop'n 4.13 there exists a "CW approximation"  $K \xrightarrow{f} B$ , i.e.  $K$  is a CW cplx and  $f_*: \pi_* K \rightarrow \pi_* B$  is an isom. for all  $*$  (hence  $H^* B \rightarrow H^* K$  is also an isom.).

The diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 H^* PE & \xrightarrow{\cong} & H^*(P(f^*E)) \\
 \uparrow & & \uparrow \cong \\
 H^* B \otimes H^* \mathbb{C}P^n & \xrightarrow{\cong} & H^* K \otimes \mathbb{C}P^n
 \end{array}$$

now completes the proof; the top map comes from the isomorphism  $P(f^*E) \cong f^*P(E)$  and

the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 f^*PE & \longrightarrow & PE \\
 \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 K & \xrightarrow{f} & B
 \end{array}$$

(the top map is an isom on  $\pi_*$  and hence  $H^*$  by the 5-lemma). □

Rmk: Where did we use paracompactness of the base space  $B$ ?? For this argument to make sense, we need to know that the class  $c_1(L_E) \in H^2(PE)$  is defined. This means the line bundle  $L_E$  must

admit a classifying map  $PE \xrightarrow{f} \mathbb{C}P^\infty$ , which we can only guarantee if  $B$  is paracompact [MS §5, or Hatcher's VB notes, p. 79]

On the other hand, in the real case we saw that  $w_1(\frac{L}{X}) \in H^1(X; \mathbb{Z}/2) \cong \text{Hom}(\pi_1 X, \mathbb{Z}/2)$  could be defined over any base space. So we don't need paracompactness when the bundle is a real vector bundle.

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