

## *On the homotopy groups of Stiefel manifolds*

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J. H. C. Whitehead [3] gave a cellular decomposition of the Stiefel manifold  $V_{k+m, m}$  of  $m$ -frames in Euclidian  $(k+m)$ -space, and he and Baratt-Peacher [1] determined the homotopy groups  $\pi_{k+j}(V_{k+m, m})$  for  $j=1, 2, 3$ .

In the present paper, by making use of the above J. H. C. Whitehead's result and the Steenrod square, we shall give a reduced cell complex of  $P_{k-1}^l$  and determine  $\pi_{k+j}(V_{k+m, m})$  for  $j \leq 5$  ( $k \geq j+2$ ).

The basic tools used are following:

i) (*Whitehead's theorem*) [3 theorem 3]. If  $r < 2k$ , then  $\pi_r(V_n, m) = \pi_r(P_{k-1}^l)$ ,  $l = \text{Min}(r+1, n-1)$ ,  $k = n-m$ , where  $P_{k-1}^l$  is a space obtained from the  $l$ -dimensional projective space by shrinking its  $(k-1)$ -dimensional hyperplane to a point.

ii) (*Squaring formula*). If we denote by  $u^j$  the generator of  $H^j(P_{k-1}^l; Z_2)$ , we have  $Sq^i u^j = \binom{i}{j} u^{i+j}$  for  $i+j \leq l$ , where  $\binom{j}{i}$  is the binomial coefficient with the usual conventions.

I am deeply grateful to Prof. H. Toda for his kind advices during the preparation of this paper.

### 1. Notations.

We shall use the following notations throughout this paper.

$P_{k-1}^n$ : the space obtained from the  $l$ -dimensional projective space by shrinking its  $(k-1)$ -dimensional hyperplane to a point.

We denote  $\pi_{n+r}(P_{n-1}^{n+k})$ ,  $\pi_{n+r}(P_{n-1}^{n+k}, P_{n-1}^{n+k-1})$  by  $\pi_r^k$ ,  $\sigma_r^k$  respectively.

Let  $K = L \cup_r e^{n+1}$  be a complex such that  $e^{n+1}$  is attached to  $L$  by a mapping  $f$ .

A map  $\bar{g}e^{n+1}: (E^{p+1}, \dot{E}^{p+1}) \rightarrow (K, L)$  is defined as follows, where  $g$  is a map  $S^p$  to  $S^n$ ;  $\bar{g}e^{n+1}$  maps  $E^{p+1}$  in  $e^{n+1}$  by the suspension of  $g$ ,  $\bar{g}e^{n+1}|_{\dot{E}^{p+1}}$  in  $K$  by  $f \cdot g$ .

Now if  $f \cdot g$  is a nullhomotopic in  $L$ , we denote by  $ge^{n+1}: S^{p+1} = E_+^{p+1} \cup E_-^{p+1} \rightarrow K$  the following map:  $ge^{n+1}|_{E_+^{p+1}}$  maps  $E_+^{p+1}$  in  $e^{n+1}$  by the suspension of  $g$ , and  $ge^{n+1}|_{E_-^{p+1}}$  is a null homotopy of  $f \cdot g$ .

$\{\bar{g}e^{n+1}\}_q$ ,  $\{ge^{n+1}\}_q$  are cyclic subgroups of order  $q$  of  $\pi_{p+1}(K, L)$ ,  $\pi_{p+1}(K)$  which are generated by  $\{\bar{g}e^{n+1}\}$ ,  $\{ge^{n+1}\}$  whose representatives are  $\bar{g}e^{n+1}$ ,  $ge^{n+1}$  respectively.

We denote the generators and these representatives of  $\pi_{n+1}(S^n)$ ,  $\pi_{n+2}(S^n)$ ,  $\pi_{n+3}(S^n)$ , by the same letters  $\eta$ ,  $\varepsilon$ ,  $\nu$  respectively.

We denote the  $m$ -dimensional cell of  $P_{n-1}^l$  and the generator of  $H^m(P_{n-1}^l, Z_2)$  by the same letter  $e^m$ .

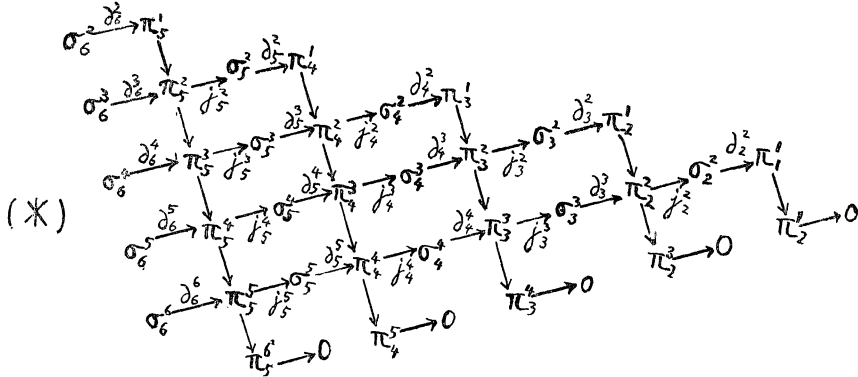
**2. Reduced complex of  $P_{n-1}^{n+i}$ .**

Let  $n$ -dimensional CW-complexes  $K, L$  be of the same homotopy type. Consider two complexes  $K' = K \cup_{\alpha} e^{n+1}$  and  $L' = L \cup_{\beta} e^{n+1}$ , where  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are characteristic mappings of  $e^{n+1}$  and  $e^{n+1}$  respectively. If  $f \cdot \alpha$  is homotopic to  $\beta$  in  $L$ , then  $g \cdot \beta$  is homotopic to  $\alpha$  in  $K$ , and  $L', K'$  are of the same homotopy type. Therefore if we can construct a reduced complex of  $P_{n-1}^{n+i}$ , then  $L = K \cup_{f_{n+i}} e^{n+i+1}$  is a reduced complex of  $P_{n-1}^{n+i+1}$  where  $f_{n+i}$  is a map representing an element of  $\pi_{n+i}(K)$ . Now  $P_{n-1}^n$  is an  $n$ -sphere. Hence by the determination of the homotopy class of the characteristic map  $f_{n+i}$  for each  $i$ , we can determine the homotopy type of  $P_{n-1}^{n+i}$ .

Throughout this paper we use the notation  $P_{n-1}^{n+i}$  to denote a reduced complex of  $P_{n-1}^{n+i}$ .

**3. The homotopy type and homotopy groups of  $P_{n-1}^l$ .**

We consider the following diagram



In this diagram, the sequence  $\dots \longrightarrow \sigma_r^k \xrightarrow{\partial_r^k} \pi_{r-1}^{k-1} \longrightarrow \pi_{r-1}^k \xrightarrow{j_{r-1}^k} \sigma_{r-1}^k \longrightarrow \dots$  are exact.

Divide the following 4 cases.

Case 1:  $n = 4l$ .

In this diagram (\*), we have  $\pi_r^1 = \pi_{n+r}(S^n)$  and  $\sigma_r^k \approx \pi_{n+r-1}(S^{n+k-1})$ . By a property of the projective space,  $e^{n+1}$  is attached to  $e^n$  by a mapping of degree 0. Therefore we have  $P_{n-1}^{n+1} = S^n \vee S^{n+1}$ ,  $\pi_1^1 = \{e^{n+1}\}_\infty + \{\eta e^n\}_2$  and  $\pi_2^1 = \{\eta e^{n+1}\}_2 + \{\varepsilon e^n\}_2$ .

Since  $Sq^1 e^{n+1} \neq 0$  and  $Sq^2 e^n = 0$ ,  $\partial e^{n+1}$  covers  $e^{n+1}$  with a mapping of degree 2 and does not cover  $e^n$ . Hence  $P_{n-1}^{n+2} = S^n \vee Y^{n+2}$ , where  $Y^{n+2}$  is the suspended space of the projective plane whose homotopy groups are studied by H. Toda.<sup>1)</sup>

1) See [2], p. 79.

We have  $\pi_2^1 = \{\eta e^{n+1}\}_2 + \{\varepsilon e^n\}_2$ , Image  $j_2^2 = 0$ ,  $\sigma_3^2 = \{\bar{\eta} e^{n+2}\}_2$  and Image  $\partial_3^2 = 0$ . These imply that  $\pi_2^2$  is isomorphic to  $\pi_2^1$ .

We consider the characteristic map of  $e^{n+3}$ . Since  $\text{Sq}^2 e^{n+1} = 0$ ,  $\partial e^{n+3}$  does not cover  $e^{n+1}$ . And we may suppose that  $\partial e^{n+3}$  does not cover  $e^n$ . This fact is proved as follows: Since the fibre bundle  $V_{n+4, 4}/V_{n+3, 3} = S^{n+3}$  has a cross-section for  $n = 4l$ ,<sup>2)</sup> we have  $\pi_{n+2}(P_{n-1}^{n+3}) = \pi_{n+2}(V_{n+4, 4}) \approx \pi_{n+2}(V_{n+3, 3}) = \pi_{n+2}(P_{n-1}^{n+2}) = \{\eta e^{n+1}\}_2 + \{\varepsilon e^n\}_2$ . If  $\partial e^{n+3}$  covers  $e_n$  then  $\{\varepsilon e^n\}$  is a nullhomotopic map in  $\pi_2^3$ . This is a contradiction. Then we have  $P_{n-1}^{n+3} = S^n \vee Y^{n+2} \vee S^{n+3}$ .

We have  $\pi_2^3 = \{\eta e^{n+1}\}_2 + \{\varepsilon e^n\}_2$ ,  $\pi_3^1 = \{\varepsilon e^{n+1}\}_2 + \{\nu e^n\}_{24}$ ,  $\pi_3^2 = \{\eta e^{n+2}\}_4 + \{\nu e^n\}_{24}$ ,<sup>1)</sup> Image  $\partial_4^3 = 0$  and Kernel  $\partial_3^3 = \{e^{n+3}\}_\infty$ . These implies that  $\pi_3^3 = \{e^{n+3}\}_\infty + \{\eta e^{n+2}\}_4 + \{\nu e^n\}_{24}$ .

Since  $\text{Sq}^1 e^{n+3} \neq 0$  and  $\text{Sq}^2 e^{n+2} \neq 0$ ,  $\partial e^{n+4}$  covers  $e^{n+3}$  with a mapping of degree 2 and covers  $e^{n+2}$  by  $\eta$ .

Consider the following two cases.

i)  $l \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$ . Since  $\text{Sq}^4 e^n = 0$ ,  $\partial e^{n+4}$  covers  $e^n$  by  $k\nu$  with even  $k$ . However the homotopy type of  $P_{n-1}^{n+4}$  depends only on  $k \pmod{2}$ . This is proved as follows: Let  $K = (S^n \vee Y^{n-2} \vee S^{n+3}) \cup e^{n+4}$ , where  $\partial e^{n+4}$  covers  $S^{n+3}$  with a mapping of degree 2,  $e^{n+2}$  by  $\eta$  and  $S^n$  by  $k\nu$ . Let  $K' = (S^n \vee Y^{n+2} \vee S^{n+3}) \cup e^{n+4}$ , where  $\partial e^{n+4}$  covers  $S^{n+3}$  by a mapping of degree 2,  $e^{n+2}$  by  $\eta$  and  $S^n$  by  $k'\nu$  with  $k' = k + 2a$ . Consider a map  $f: (S^n \vee Y^{n+2} \vee S^{n+3}) \rightarrow (S^n \vee Y^{n+2} \vee S^{n+3})$  such that i)  $f|S^n$  maps  $S^n$  in  $S^n$  with degree 1, ii)  $f|Y^{n+2}$  maps  $e^{n+2}$  in  $e^{n+2}$  with degree 1, iii)  $f$  maps the upper hemi-sphere  $E_+^{n+3}$  of  $S^{n+3}$  in  $S^{n+3}$  with degree 1 and maps the lower hemi-sphere  $E_-^{n+3}$  in  $S^n$  by  $a\nu$ . Consider also a map  $f': (S^n \vee Y^{n+2} \vee S^{n+3}) \rightarrow (S^n \vee Y^{n+2} \vee S^{n+3})$  such that  $f$  maps  $S^n$ ,  $e^{n+2}$ ,  $E_+^{n+3}$  are mapped in  $S^n$ ,  $e^{n+2}$ ,  $S^{n+3}$  with degree 1 respectively and  $E_-^{n+3}$  is mapped in  $S^n$  by  $-a\nu$ . Then  $f \cdot f'$ ,  $f' \cdot f$  are homotopic to identity maps of  $P_{n-1}^{n+3}$ ,  $P_{n-1}^{n+3}$  respectively. On the other hand,  $f$  and  $f'$  are extended to mappings  $g: K \rightarrow K'$ ,  $g': K' \rightarrow K$  such that  $g \cdot g'$ ,  $g' \cdot g$  are homotopic to identity mappings of  $K$ ,  $K'$  respectively. Thus we may suppose that  $\partial e^{n+4}$  does not cover  $e^n$ .

Since Image  $\partial_3^4 = \{2e^{n+1}\} + \{\eta e^{n+2}\}$ , we have  $\pi_3^4 = \{e^{n+3}\}_8 + \{\nu e^n\}_{24}$ .

ii)  $l \equiv 1 \pmod{2}$ . Since  $\text{Sq}^4 e^n \neq 0$ ,  $\partial e^{n+4}$  covers  $e^n$  by  $k\nu$  with odd  $k$ . By the same reason as in the case  $l \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$ , the homotopy type of  $P_{n-1}^{n+4}$  depends only on  $k \pmod{2}$ . Thus we may suppose  $k = 1$ . Hence we have Image  $\partial_3^4 = \{2e^{n+3}\} + \{\eta e^{n+2}\} + \{\nu e^n\}$  and  $\pi_3^4 = \{e^{n+3}\}_{48} + \{\eta e^{n+2}\}_4$ .

We have  $\pi_4^1 = \{\nu e^{n+1}\}_{24}$ ,  $\sigma_5^2 = \{\bar{\nu} e^{n+2}\}$ , Image  $\partial_5^2 = 2\nu e^{n+1}$ ,  $\sigma_4^2 = \{\bar{\varepsilon} e^{n+2}\}$  and  $j_4^2$  is an onto-homomorphism. Thus we have  $\pi_4^2 = \{\varepsilon e^{n+2}\}_2 + \{\nu e^{n+1}\}_2$ .

Since Image  $\partial_5^3 = 0$ ,  $\sigma_4^3 = \{\bar{\eta} e^{n+3}\}$ ,  $j_4^3$  is an onto-homomorphism and  $2\{\eta e^{n+3}\} = 0$  in  $\pi_4^3$ , we have  $\pi_4^3 = \{\eta e^{n+3}\}_2 + \{\varepsilon e^{n+2}\}_2 + \{\nu e^{n+1}\}_2$ .

We have  $\sigma_5^4 = \{\bar{\eta} e^{n+4}\}$ , Image  $\partial_5^4 = \{\varepsilon e^{n+2}\}$  and Image  $j_4^4 = 0$ . These imply that  $\pi_4^4 = \{\eta e^{n+3}\}_2 + \{\nu e^{n+1}\}_2$ .

2) For example, see Steenrod's book: The topology of fibre bundles, p. 142.

Since  $\text{Sq}^2 e^{n+3} \neq 0$  and  $\text{Sq}^4 e^{n+1} = 0$  for  $l \equiv 0$ ,  $\partial e^{n+5}$  covers  $e^{n+3}$  by  $\eta$  and  $e^{n+1}$  by  $k\nu$  with even  $k$ . However  $2\{\nu e^{n+1}\}$  is nullhomotopic in  $\pi_4^4$ , and so we may suppose that  $\partial e^{n+5}$  does not cover  $e^{n+1}$ .

Since  $\text{Sq}^2 e^{n+3} \neq 0$  and  $\text{Sq}^4 e^{n+1} \neq 0$  for  $l \equiv 1$ , we may suppose that  $\partial e^{n+5}$  covers  $e^{n+3}$  by  $\eta$  and  $e^{n+1}$  by  $\nu$ .

Therefore we have  $\pi_4^4 = \{\nu e^{n+1}\}_2$  for both cases.

Since  $\pi_5^5 = 0$  and  $\text{Kernel } j_5^3 = \{12\nu e^{n+2}\}$ , we have  $\pi_5^2 = \{12\nu e^{n+2}\}_2$ .

We have also  $\text{Image } \partial_3^3 = 0$ ,  $\sigma_3^3 = \{\bar{\varepsilon} e^{n+3}\}$  and  $j_3^3$  is an onto-homomorphism. These imply that  $\pi_3^3 = \{\varepsilon e^{n+3}\}_2 + \{12\nu e^{n+2}\}_2$ .

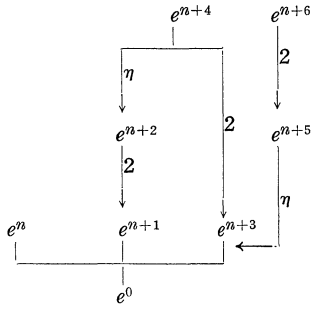
Since  $\sigma_6^4 = \{\bar{\varepsilon} e^{n+4}\}_2$ ,  $\text{Image } \partial_6^4 = \{12\nu e^{n+2}\}$  and  $\text{Image } j_5^4 = 0$ , we have  $\pi_5^4 = \{\varepsilon e^{n+3}\}_2$ .

We have  $\sigma_6^5 = \{\bar{\eta} e^{n+5}\}$ ,  $\text{Image } \partial_6^5 = \{\varepsilon e^{n+3}\}$  and  $\text{Kernel } \partial_5^5 = \{2e^{n+5}\}$ . These imply that  $\pi_5^5 = \{2e^{n+5}\}_\infty$  for  $l \equiv 0$ ,  $= \{2\bar{e} e^{n+5} + \bar{\nu} e^{n+2}\}_\infty$  for  $l \equiv 1$ , where  $f = (2\bar{e} e^{n+5} + \bar{\nu} e^{n+2}) : S^{n+5} \rightarrow P_{n-1}^{n+5}$  is a mapping such that the upper hemi-sphere  $E_+^{n+5}$  of  $S^{n+5}$  is mapped in  $e^{n+5}$  with degree 2 and the lower hemi-sphere  $E_-^{n+5}$  of  $S^{n+5}$  in  $e^{n+2}$  by the suspension of  $\nu$ .

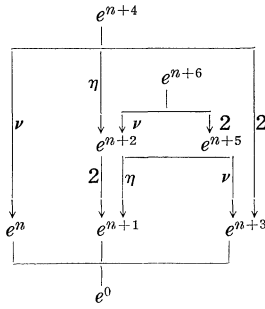
Since  $\text{Sq}^1 e^{n+5} \neq 0$ ,  $e^{n+6}$  is attached to  $P_{n-1}^{n+5}$  by a generator of  $\pi_5^5$ . Thus we have  $\pi_5^6 = 0$  for both cases.

Summing up the above, the homotopy type of  $P_{n-1}^{n+6}$  is described as follows:

$l \equiv 0$



$l \equiv 1$

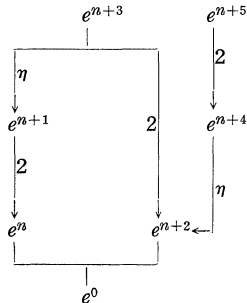


Case 2:  $n = 4l + 1$ .

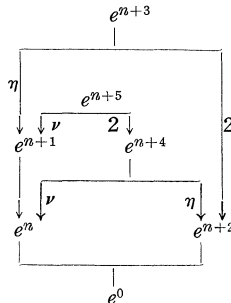
In this case  $P_{n-1}^{n+5}$  is of the same homotopy type as the complex  $K$  obtained by shrinking  $e^{n-1}$  to a point in  $P_{n-2}^{n+5}$ .

Therefore the homotopy type of  $P_{n-1}^{n+5}$  is described as follows:

$l \equiv 0$



$l \equiv 1$



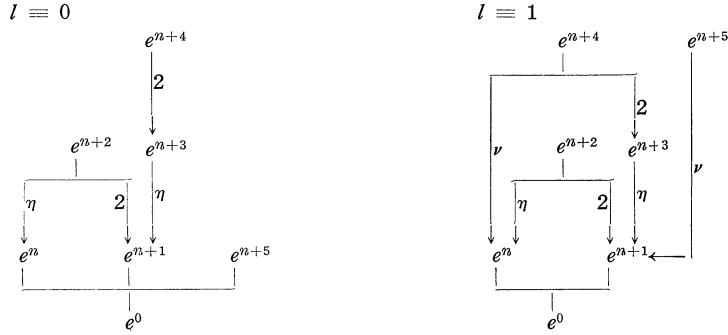
Then we have:

$$\begin{aligned} \pi_1^1 &= \{\eta e^n\}_2, \quad \pi_1^2 = \{\eta e^n\}_2, \quad \pi_1^3 = \{\eta e^{n+1}\}_4, \quad \pi_2^2 = \{e^{n+2}\}_\infty + \{\eta e^{n+1}\}_4, \quad \pi_2^3 = \{e^{n+2}\}_8, \\ \pi_3^1 &= \{\varepsilon e^{n+1}\}_2 + \{\nu e^n\}_2, \quad \pi_3^2 = \{\eta e^{n+2}\}_2 + \{\varepsilon e^{n+1}\}_2 + \{\nu e^n\}_2, \quad \pi_3^3 = \{\eta e^{n+2}\}_2 + \{\nu e^n\}_2, \quad \pi_4^3 = \{\nu e^n\}_2, \\ \pi_4^1 &= \{12\nu e^{n+1}\}_2, \quad \pi_4^2 = \{\varepsilon e^{n+2}\}_2 + \{12\nu e^{n+1}\}_2, \quad \pi_4^3 = \{\varepsilon e^{n+2}\}_2, \quad \pi_4^4 = \{2e^{n+4}\}_\infty \text{ for } l \equiv 0, \\ &= \{2\bar{e}^{n+4} + \bar{\nu}e^{n+1}\}_\infty \text{ for } l \equiv 1, \quad \pi_5^4 = 0, \quad \pi_5^5 = 0, \quad \pi_5^2 = \{\nu e^{n+2}\}_{24}, \quad \pi_5^3 = \{\nu e^{n+2}\}_2, \quad \pi_5^4 \approx \pi_5^5 \approx \pi_5^3. \end{aligned}$$

Since  $\text{Sq}^4 e^{n+2} = 0$  for  $l \equiv 0$  and  $\neq 0$  for  $l \equiv 1$ ,  $e^{n+6}$  is attached to  $e^{n+2}$  by  $k\nu$ , where  $k$  is even for  $l \equiv 0$  and  $k$  is odd for  $l \equiv 1$ . However  $2\{\nu e^{n+2}\} = 0$  in  $\pi_5^5$ , thus we have the following, the homotopy type depends only on  $k \bmod 2$ ,  $\pi_5^6 = \{\nu e^{n+2}\}_2$  for  $l \equiv 0$  and  $\pi_5^6 = 0$  for  $l \equiv 1$ .

Case 3:  $n = 4l + 2$ .

We obtain  $P_{n-1}^{n+5}$  from  $P_{n-2}^{n+5}$  by the same manner in the preceding section. The homotopy type  $P_{n-1}^{n+5}$  is described as follows:



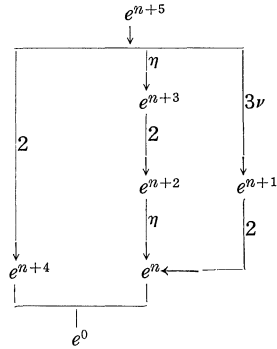
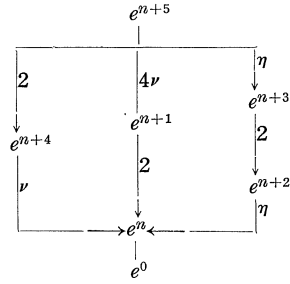
Then we have:

$$\begin{aligned} \pi_1^1 &= \{e^{n+1}\}_\infty + \{\eta e^n\}_2, \quad \pi_1^2 = \{e^{n+1}\}_4, \quad \pi_1^3 = \{\eta e^{n+1}\}_2 + \{\varepsilon e^n\}_2, \quad \pi_2^2 = \{\eta e^{n+1}\}_2, \quad \pi_2^3 = 0, \\ \pi_3^1 &= \{\varepsilon e^{n+1}\}_2 + \{\nu e^n\}_{24}, \quad \pi_3^2 = \{\varepsilon e^{n+1}\}_2 + \{\nu e^n\}_{12}, \quad \pi_3^3 = \{2e^{n+2}\}_\infty + \{\nu e^n\}_{12}, \quad \pi_4^3 = \{\nu e^n\}_{12}, \\ \pi_4^1 &= \{\nu e^{n+1}\}_{24}, \quad \pi_4^2 = \{\nu e^{n+1}\}_2, \quad \pi_4^3 \approx \pi_4^4 \approx \pi_4^2, \quad \pi_4^5 = \{\nu e^{n+1}\}_2 \text{ for } l \equiv 0, \quad \pi_4^5 = 0 \text{ for } l \equiv 1, \\ \pi_5^1 &= 0, \quad \pi_5^2 = \{12\nu e^{n+2}\}_2, \quad \pi_5^3 = \{\bar{\varepsilon}e^{n+3} + 6\bar{\nu}e^{n+4}\}_4, \quad \pi_5^4 = \{\bar{\eta}e^{n+4} + 3\bar{\nu}e^{n+2}\}_8 \text{ where } g = (\bar{\eta}e^{n+4} \\ &+ 3\bar{\nu}e^{n+2}): E_+^{n+5} \cup E_-^{n+5} \rightarrow P_{n-1}^{n+4} \text{ is a mapping such that } g|E_+^{n+5} = \bar{\eta}e^{n+4} \text{ and } g|E_-^{n+5} \\ &= 3\bar{\nu}e^{n+2}. \text{ We have } g|E_+^{n+5} = \{\eta, 2, \eta\} e^{n-1}, \text{ where } \{\eta, 2, \eta\} \text{ is a Toda's construction} \\ &\text{and is known } \{\eta, 2, \eta\} = \pm 6\nu \text{ (See [2, Chap. 5]), and so } g \text{ represents an element of} \\ &\pi_{n+5}(P_{n-1}^{n+5}), \quad \pi_5^5 = \{e^{n+5}\}_\infty + \{g\}_8 \text{ for } l \equiv 0, \quad \pi_5^5 = \{2\bar{e}^{n+5} + \bar{\nu}e^{n+2}\}_\infty + \{g\}_8 \text{ for } l \equiv 1. \end{aligned}$$

Since  $\text{Sq}^1 e^{n+5} \neq 0$  and  $\text{Sq}^2 e^{n+4} \neq 0$ ,  $e^{n+6}$  is attached to  $e^{n+5}$  by a mapping of degree 2 and to  $e^{n+4}$  by  $\eta$ . Thus we have  $\pi_5^6 = \{e^{n+5}\}_{16}$  for  $l \equiv 0$  and  $\pi_5^6 = \{2\bar{e}^{n+5} + \bar{\nu}e^{n+2}\}_8$  for  $l \equiv 1$ .

Case 4:  $n = 4l + 3$ .

The homotopy type of  $P_{n-1}^{n+5}$  is described as follows:

$l \equiv 0$  $l \equiv 1$ 

The we have:

$\pi_1^1 = \{\eta e^n\}_2$ ,  $\pi_1^2 = 0$ ,  $\pi_1^3 = \{\eta e^{n+1}\}_{4, 1}$ ,  $\pi_1^4 = \{2e^{n+2}\}_\infty + \{\eta e^{n+1}\}_2$ ,  $\pi_1^5 = \{\eta e^{n+1}\}_2$ ,  $\pi_1^6 = \{\nu e^n\}_2 + \{\varepsilon e^{n+1}\}_{2, 1}$ ,  $\pi_1^7 \approx \pi_1^8 \approx \pi_1^9$ ,  $\pi_1^{10} = \{\varepsilon e^{n+1}\}_2$  for  $l \equiv 1$ ,  $\pi_1^{11} = \{\nu e^n\}_2 + \{\varepsilon e^{n+1}\}_2$  for  $l \equiv 0$ ,  $\pi_1^{12} = \{12\nu e^{n+1}\}_{2, 1}$ ,  $\pi_1^{13} = \{\bar{\varepsilon} e^{n+2} + 6\bar{\nu} e^{n+1}\}_4$ ,  $\pi_1^{14} = \{\bar{\eta} e^{n+3} + 3\bar{\nu} e^{n+1}\}_8$ ,  $\pi_1^{15} = \{e^{n+4}\}_\infty + \{\bar{\eta} e^{n+3} + 3\bar{\nu} e^{n+1}\}_8$  for  $l \equiv 0$ ,  $\pi_1^{16} = \{2e^{n+4} + \bar{\nu} e^{n+1}\}_\infty + \{\bar{\eta} e^{n+3} + 3\bar{\nu} e^{n+1}\}_8$  for  $l \equiv 1$ ,  $\pi_1^{17} = \{e^{n+4}\}_{16}$  for  $l \equiv 0$ ,  $\pi_1^{18} = \{2e^{n+4} + \bar{\nu} e^{n+1}\}_8$  for  $l \equiv 1$ ,  $\pi_1^{19} = 0$ ,  $\pi_1^{20} = \{\nu e^{n+2}\}_{24}$ ,  $\pi_1^{21} = \{\nu e^{n+2}\}_2 + \{\varepsilon e^{n+3}\}_2$ ,  $\pi_1^{22} = \{\nu e^{n+2}\}_2 + \{\varepsilon e^{n+2}\}_2 + \{\eta e^{n+4}\}_2$ ,  $\pi_1^{23} = \{\nu e^{n+2}\}_2 + \{\eta e^{n+4}\}_2$ .

Since  $\text{Sq}^2 e^{n+4} \neq 0$  and  $\text{Sq}^4 e^{n+2} = 0$  for  $l \equiv 0$ ,  $e^{n+6}$  is attached to  $P_{n-1}^{n+5}$  by  $\{\eta e^{n+4}\}$ . Since  $\text{Sq}^4 e^{n+2} \neq 0$  for  $l \equiv 1$ ,  $e^{n+6}$  is attached to  $P_{n-1}^{n+5}$  by  $\{\nu e^{n+2}\} + \{\eta e^{n+4}\}$ . Thus we have  $\pi_1^{24} = \{\nu e^{n+2}\}_2$  for both cases.

#### 4. The homotopy groups of the Stiefel manifolds.

From the Whitehead's theorem, we have the tables of the homotopy groups of the Stiefel manifolds.

Theorem 1. *The table of the homotopy groups  $\pi_{k+2}(V_{k+m}, m)$  ( $k \geq 4$ ) is the following:*

$k \backslash m$	1	2	3	$4 \leq m$
$4l$	$Z_2$	$Z_2 + Z_2$	$Z_2 + Z_2$	$Z_2 + Z_2$
$4l + 1$	$Z_2$	$Z_4$	$Z_\infty + Z_4$	$Z_8$
$4l + 2$	$Z_2$	$Z_2 + Z_2$	$Z_2$	0
$4l + 3$	$Z_2$	$Z_4$	$Z_\infty + Z_2$	$Z_2$

Theorem 2. *The table of the homotopy groups  $\pi_{k+3}(V_{k+m}, m)$  ( $k \geq 5$ ) is the following:*

$k \backslash m$	1	2	3	4	$5 \leq m$
$4l \begin{cases} l \equiv 0 \\ l \equiv 1 \end{cases}$	$Z_{24}$	$Z_2 + Z_{24}$	$Z_4 + Z_{24}$	$Z_\infty + Z_4 + Z_{24}$	$\begin{cases} Z_8 + Z_{24} \\ Z_4 + Z_{48} \end{cases}$
$4l + 1$	$Z_{24}$	$Z_2 + Z_2$	$Z_2 + Z_2 + Z_2$	$Z_2 + Z_2$	$Z_2$
$4l + 2$	$Z_{24}$	$Z_2 + Z_{24}$	$Z_2 + Z_{12}$	$Z_\infty + Z_{12}$	$Z_{12}$
$4l + 3 \begin{cases} l \equiv 0 \\ l \equiv 1 \end{cases}$	$Z_{24}$	$Z_2 + Z_2$	$Z_2 + Z_2$	$Z_2 + Z_2$	$\begin{cases} Z_2 + Z_2 \\ Z_2 \end{cases}$

Theorem 3. The table of the homotopy groups  $\pi_{k+4}(V_{k+m}, m)$  ( $k \geq 6$ ) is the following:

$k \backslash m$	1	2	3	4	5	$6 \leq m$
$4l$	0	$Z_{24}$	$Z_2 + Z_2$	$Z_2 + Z_2 + Z_2$	$Z_2 + Z_2$	$Z_2$
$4l + 1$	0	$Z_2$	$Z_2 + Z_2$	$Z_2$	$Z_\infty$	0
$4l + 2$ $\begin{cases} l \equiv 0 \\ l \equiv 1 \end{cases}$	0	$Z_{24}$	$Z_2$	$Z_2$	$Z_2$	$\begin{cases} Z_2 \\ 0 \end{cases}$
$4l + 3$ $\begin{cases} l \equiv 0 \\ l \equiv 1 \end{cases}$	0	$Z_2$	$Z_4$	$Z_8$	$Z_\infty + Z_8$	$\begin{cases} Z_{16} \\ Z_8 \end{cases}$

Theorem 4. The table of the homotopy groups  $\pi_{k+5}(V_{k+m}, m)$  ( $k \geq 7$ ) is the following:

$k \backslash m$	1	2	3	4	5	6	$m \leq 7$
$4l$	0	0	$Z_2$	$Z_2 + Z_2$	$Z_2$	$Z_\infty$	0
$4l + 1$ $\begin{cases} l \equiv 0 \\ l \equiv 1 \end{cases}$	0	0	$Z_{24}$	$Z_2$	$Z_2$	$Z_2$	$\begin{cases} Z_2 \\ 0 \end{cases}$
$4l + 2$	0	0	$Z_2$	$Z_4$	$Z_8$	$Z_\infty + Z_8$	$Z_{16}$
$4l + 3$	0	0	$Z_{24}$	$Z_2 + Z_2$	$Z_2 + Z_2 + Z_2$	$Z_2 + Z_2$	$Z_2$

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