

# Cohomology mod 3 of the classifying space $BF_4$ of the exceptional group $F_4$

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## 1. Introduction and the statement of the results

Let  $F_4$  be the compact simply connected exceptional Lie group of rank 4. The mod  $p$  cohomology rings are known [3]:

$$(1.1) \quad \begin{aligned} H^*(F_4; \mathbf{Z}_2) &= \mathbf{Z}_2[x_3]/(x_3^4) \otimes \Lambda(Sq^2x_3, x_{15}, Sq^8x_{15}), \\ H^*(F_4; \mathbf{Z}_3) &= \mathbf{Z}_3[\delta\mathcal{P}^1x_3]/((\delta\mathcal{P}^1x_3)^3) \\ &\quad \otimes \Lambda(x_3, \mathcal{P}^1x_3, x_{11}, \mathcal{P}^1x_{11}), \\ H^*(F_4; \mathbf{Z}_p) &= \Lambda(x_3, x_{11}, x_{15}, x_{23}) \quad \text{for } p \geq 5, \end{aligned}$$

where  $x_i \in H^i$ .

For the classifying space  $BF_4$  of  $F_4$ , its mod  $p$  cohomology ring is known except the case  $p=3$ :

$$\begin{aligned} H^*(BF_4; \mathbf{Z}_2) &= \mathbf{Z}_2[x_4, Sq^2x_4, Sq^3x_4, x_{16}, Sq^8x_{16}], \\ H^*(BF_4; \mathbf{Z}_p) &= \mathbf{Z}_p[x_4, x_{12}, x_{16}, x_{24}] \quad \text{for } p \geq 5. \end{aligned}$$

These results are consequences of (1.1) by applying Borel's transgression theorems [2] to the universal  $F_4$ -bundle over  $BF_4$ . For the case  $p=3$ , however, it seems very difficult to determine  $H^*(BF_4; \mathbf{Z}_3)$  directly from (1.1) because the element  $x_{11} \in H^{11}(BF_4; \mathbf{Z}_3)$  is not transgressive and there is a relation [1] of Araki

$$x_4(\delta\mathcal{P}^1x_4) = 0$$

for the transgression image  $x_4 \in H^4(BF_4; \mathbf{Z}_3)$  of  $x_3$ .

The purpose of the present paper is to determine the structure of  $H^*(BF_4; \mathbf{Z}_3)$  by use of the bundle

$$(1.2) \quad \mathbf{II} \longrightarrow B\mathbf{Spin}(9) \xrightarrow{p} BF_4$$

where  $\mathbf{II} = F_4/\mathbf{Spin}(9)$  is the Cayley plane.

Let  $\mathbf{T}$  be a maximal torus of  $\mathbf{Spin}(9) \subset F_4$  and let  $\phi(\mathbf{G})$  be the Weyl group of  $\mathbf{G}$  for  $\mathbf{G} = \mathbf{Spin}(9), = F_4$ . As is well-known [2] the natural map  $\rho : B\mathbf{T} \rightarrow B\mathbf{G}$  induces a homomorphism

$$(1.3) \quad \rho^* : H^*(B\mathbf{G}; \mathbf{Z}_3) \longrightarrow H^*(B\mathbf{T}; \mathbf{Z}_3)$$

such that the image of  $\rho^*$  is contained in the subalgebra  $H^*(B\mathbf{T}; \mathbf{Z}_3)^{\phi(\mathbf{G})}$  which consists of the elements invariant under the action of  $\phi(\mathbf{G})$ .

For  $\mathbf{G} = \mathbf{Spin}(9)$ ,  $\rho^*$  is injective and the image coincides with the invariant subalgebra which is a polynomial algebra on the Pontrjagin classes  $p_i \in H^{4i}$ . Thus we may identify as follows.

$$H^*(B\mathbf{Spin}(9); \mathbf{Z}_3) = H^*(B\mathbf{T}; \mathbf{Z}_3)^{\phi(\mathbf{Spin}(9))} = \mathbf{Z}_3[p_1, p_2, p_3, p_4].$$

First we shall determine  $H^*(B\mathbf{T}; \mathbf{Z}_3)^{\phi(F_4)}$  which is a subalgebra of  $\mathbf{Z}_3[p_1, p_2, p_3, p_4]$ , and the result (Lemma 2.1) is

$$H^*(B\mathbf{T}; \mathbf{Z}_3)^{\phi(F_4)} = \mathbf{Z}_3[\bar{p}_1, \bar{p}_2, \bar{p}_5, \bar{p}_9, \bar{p}_{12}] / (r_{15})$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{p}_2 &= p_2 - p_1^2, & \bar{p}_5 &= p_4 p_1 + p_3 \bar{p}_2, \\ \bar{p}_9 &= p_3^3 - p_4 p_3 p_1^2 + p_3^2 \bar{p}_2 p_1 - p_4 \bar{p}_2 p_1^3, \\ \bar{p}_{12} &= p_4^3 + p_4^2 \bar{p}_2^2 + p_4 \bar{p}_2^4 \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{and } r_{15} = \bar{p}_5^3 + \bar{p}_5^2 \bar{p}_2^2 p_1 - \bar{p}_{12} p_1^3 - \bar{p}_9 \bar{p}_2^3.$$

Then by use of the cohomology spectral sequence associated with the bundle (1.2) we have the following

**Theorem I.** *There exist elements  $x_i \in H^i(BF_4; \mathbf{Z}_3)$  for  $i = 4, 8, 9, 20, 21, 25, 26, 36, 48$  such that*

$$\rho^*(x_4) = p_1, \quad \rho^*(x_8) = \bar{p}_2, \quad \rho^*(x_{20}) = \bar{p}_5, \quad \rho^*(x_{36}) = \bar{p}_9, \quad \rho^*(x_{48}) = \bar{p}_{12}$$

and that by means of cup-product we have an additive isomorphism

$$\mathbf{Z}_3[x_{36}, x_{48}] \otimes \mathbf{C} \cong H^*(BF_4; \mathbf{Z}_3)$$

for

$$\mathbf{C} = \mathbf{Z}_3[x_4, x_8] \otimes \{1, x_{20}, x_{20}^2\} + A(x_9) \otimes \mathbf{Z}_3[x_{26}] \otimes \{1, x_{20}, x_{21}, x_{25}\}$$

where two terms of  $\mathbf{C}$  has the intersection  $\{1, x_{20}\}$ . Thus the kernel of  $\rho^*$  is the ideal generated by  $x_9, x_{21}, x_{25}$  and  $x_{26}$ .

In order to determine the ring structure of  $H^*(BF_4; \mathbf{Z}_3)$  we shall prove the non-triviality of  $\delta\mathcal{P}^4\delta\mathcal{P}^1x_4$  (Lemma 4.1). Then the ring structure is determined by the following

**Theorem II.** *We can choose the generators  $x_i$  in Theorem I such that  $x_9 = \delta x_8$ ,  $x_{21} = \delta x_{20}$ ,  $x_{25} = \mathcal{P}^1 x_{21}$  and  $x_{26} = \delta x_{25}$ . Then the relations in  $H^*(BF_4; \mathbf{Z}_3)$  are generated by the following ones:*

$$x_9 x_4 = x_9 x_8 = x_9^2 = x_{21} x_4 = x_{25} x_8 = x_{21} x_{20} = x_{21}^2 = x_{25} x_{20} = x_{25}^2 = 0,$$

$$x_{21} x_8 = x_{25} x_4 = -x_{20} x_9, \quad x_{26} x_4 = -x_{21} x_9,$$

$$x_{26} x_8 = x_{25} x_9, \quad x_{25} x_{21} = x_{26} x_{20}$$

and  $x_{20}^3 = x_{48} x_4^3 + x_{36} x_8^3 - x_{20}^2 x_8^2 x_4$ .

Thus the homomorphism  $\rho^*$  maps the subalgebra  $\mathbf{Z}_3[x_4, x_8, x_{36}, x_{48}] \otimes \{1, x_{20}, x_{20}^2\}$  generated by  $x_4, x_8, x_{20}, x_{36}, x_{48}$  isomorphically onto the invariant subalgebra  $H^*(BT; \mathbf{Z}_3)^{\phi(\mathbb{F}_4)}$ .

Finally we shall determine the reduced power operations. By means of Cartan formula and Adem relations and by dimensional reasons, it is sufficient to determine the values of  $\mathcal{P}^1$ ,  $\mathcal{P}^3$  and  $\mathcal{P}^9$  for the generators, and the results are stated as follows.

**Theorem III.**

$$(i) \quad \mathcal{P}^1(x_9) = \mathcal{P}^1(x_{20}) = \mathcal{P}^1(x_{25}) = \mathcal{P}^1(x_{26}) = 0,$$

$$\mathcal{P}^1(x_4) = -x_8 + x_4^2, \quad \mathcal{P}^1(x_8) = x_8 x_4,$$

$$\mathcal{P}^1(x_{21}) = x_{25}, \quad \mathcal{P}^1(x_{36}) = -x_{20}^2$$

and  $\mathcal{P}^1(x_{48}) = x_{26}^2$ .

$$(ii) \quad \mathcal{P}^3(x_4) = \mathcal{P}^3(x_{21}) = \mathcal{P}^3(x_{25}) = \mathcal{P}^3(x_{26}) = 0,$$

$$\mathcal{P}^3(x_8) = x_{20} - x_8^2 x_4, \quad \mathcal{P}^3(x_9) = x_{21},$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& \mathcal{P}^3(x_{20}) = x_{20}(-x_8 + x_4^2)x_4, \\
& \mathcal{P}^3(x_{36}) = x_{48} - x_{36}(x_8 + x_4^2)x_4 + x_{20}^2(x_8 + x_4^2) \\
\text{and} \quad & \mathcal{P}^3(x_{48}) = -x_{48}(x_8 + x_4^2)x_4. \\
\text{(iii)} \quad & \mathcal{P}^0(x_4) = \mathcal{P}^0(x_8) = \mathcal{P}^0(x_9) = 0, \\
& \mathcal{P}^0(x_{20}) = (x_{48} + x_{20}^2 x_8)(-x_8 + x_4^2) + x_{36}(x_{20} + x_8^2 x_4) + x_{26} x_{21} x_9, \\
& \mathcal{P}^0(x_{21}) = -x_{48} x_9 + x_{36} x_{21}, \\
& \mathcal{P}^0(x_{25}) = x_{36} x_{25} - x_{26}^2 x_9, \\
& \mathcal{P}^0(x_{26}) = x_{36} x_{26}, \\
& \mathcal{P}^0(x_{36}) = -x_{48} x_{20} x_4 + x_{48}(x_8^2 + x_4^4)x_4^2 - x_{36}^2 + x_{36} x_{20}(x_8 + x_4^2)x_4^2 \\
& \quad - x_{36}(x_8^2 + x_4^4)^2 x_4 + x_{20}^2 x_8(x_8^3 + (x_8 + x_4^2)^2 x_4^2) \\
\text{and} \quad & \mathcal{P}^0(x_{48}) = -x_{48} x_{36} + x_{48} x_{20}(-x_8^2 - x_8 x_4^2 + x_4^4) - x_{48}(x_8^2 + x_4^4)^2 x_4.
\end{aligned}$$

Recently, N. Shimada has shown that  $E_2$ -term  $\text{Cotor}^{H^*(\mathbb{F}_4; \mathbf{Z}_3)}$   $(\mathbf{Z}_3, \mathbf{Z}_3)$  of Eilenberg-Moore spectral sequence converging to  $H^*(BF_4; \mathbf{Z}_3)$  is additively isomorphic to  $H^*(BF_4; \mathbf{Z}_3)$ . Thus the spectral sequence collapses.

Theorem I will be proved in section 3 after determining the invariant subalgebra  $H^*(BT; \mathbf{Z}_3)^{\phi(\mathbb{F}_4)}$  in section 2. Theorems II and III will be proved in section 5 by auxiliary computations of cohomology operations in section 4.

## 2. Mod 3 invariant forms

Let  $T'$  be the usual maximal torus of  $\mathbf{SO}(9)$ , then  $H^*(BT')$   $= \mathbf{Z}[t_1, t_2, t_3, t_4]$  for canonical generators  $t_i \in H^2$  and the Weyl group  $\phi(\mathbf{SO}(9))$  of  $\mathbf{SO}(9)$  acts on  $H^*(BT')$  as the permutations of  $t_i$  and the changements of the signs of  $t_i$ . Take a maximal torus  $T$  of  $\mathbf{Spin}(9)$  as the inverse image of  $T'$  under the universal covering  $\mathbf{Spin}(9) \rightarrow \mathbf{SO}(9)$ . Denote by the same symbol  $t_i \in H^2(BT)$  the image of  $t_i$  under the natural homomorphism  $H^*(BT') \rightarrow H^*(BT)$ . Then  $H^*(BT) = \mathbf{Z}[t_1, t_2, t_3, t_4](c_1/2) = \mathbf{Z}[t_1, t_2, t_3, c_1/2]$  and the action of  $\phi(\mathbf{Spin}(9))$  is same as  $\phi(\mathbf{SO}(9))$ , where  $c_1 = t_1 + t_2 + t_3 + t_4$ .

Let  $p$  be an odd prime, then  $H^*(BT; \mathbf{Z}_p) = \mathbf{Z}_p[t_1, t_2, t_3, t_4]$  and

$$(2.1) \quad H^*(BT; \mathbf{Z}_p)^{\phi(\text{Spin}(9))} = \mathbf{Z}_p[p_1, p_2, p_3, p_4]$$

where  $p_i \in H^{4i}$  stands for the  $i$ -th elementary symmetric function on  $t_i^2$ , that is,

$$\sum_{i=0}^4 p_i x^{2i} = \prod_{j=1}^4 (1 + t_j^2 x^2), \quad p_0 = 1.$$

According to the section 19 of [4] we choose  $\text{Spin}(9)$  as a subgroup of  $F_4$  such that  $F_4/\text{Spin}(9)$  is the Cayley plane  $\mathbf{II}$ . Then the Weyl group  $\phi(F_4)$  of  $F_4$  is generated by  $\phi(\text{Spin}(9))$  and an element  $R$  which acts as the reflection to the plane  $t_1 + t_2 + t_3 + t_4 = 0$ , that is,

$$R(t_i) = t_i - (c_1/2), \quad i = 1, 2, 3, 4.$$

Now we discuss in  $\mathbf{Z}_3$ -coefficient. Then

$$(2.2) \quad H^*[BT; \mathbf{Z}_3]^{\phi(F_4)} = \mathbf{Z}_3[p_1, p_2, p_3, p_4] \cap \mathbf{Z}_3[t_1, t_2, t_3, t_4]^R$$

and  $R(t_i) = t_i + c_1$ .

Let  $c_i$  be the  $i$ -th elementary symmetric function on  $t_i$ , that is,

$$\sum c_i x^i = \Pi(1 + t_j x), \quad c_0 = 1,$$

then we have easily

$$(2.3) \quad R(c_i) = \sum_{j+k=i} \binom{4-j}{k} c_j c_k^t \quad \text{and} \quad p_i = \sum_{j+k=2i} (-1)^{i+j} c_j c_k.$$

From these relations it follows directly

$$(2.4) \quad R(p_1) = p_1, \quad R(\bar{p}_2) = \bar{p}_2 \quad \text{for} \quad \bar{p}_2 = p_2 - p_1^2,$$

$$R(p_3) = p_3 - \bar{p}_2 p_1 - c_4 p_1, \quad R(c_4) = -c_4 + \bar{p}_2$$

and  $R(p_4) = p_4 + \bar{p}_2^2 + c_4 \bar{p}_2$ .

Put

$$q_3 = p_3 + c_4 p_1 \quad \text{and} \quad q_4 = p_4 - c_4 \bar{p}_2$$

then it follows from (2.4)

$$(2.5) \quad p_1, \bar{p}_2, q_3 \text{ and } q_4 \text{ are invariant under } R.$$

First we prove

**Lemma 2.1.** *The invariant subalgebra  $H^*(BT; \mathbf{Z}_3)^{\phi(F_4)}$  is*

generated by the elements  $p_1, \bar{p}_2, \bar{p}_5 = p_4 p_1 + p_3 \bar{p}_2, \bar{p}_9 = p_3^3 - p_4 p_3 p_1^2 + p_3^2 \bar{p}_2 p_1 - p_4 \bar{p}_2 p_1^3$  and  $\bar{p}_{12} = p_4^3 + p_4^2 \bar{p}_2^2 + p_4 \bar{p}_2^4$  having the only relation  $r_{15} = \bar{p}_5^3 + \bar{p}_5^2 \bar{p}_2^2 p_1 - \bar{p}_{12} p_1^3 - \bar{p}_9 \bar{p}_2^3$ . Thus

$$H^*(BT; \mathbf{Z}_3)^{\mathcal{O}(\mathbb{F}_4)} = \mathbf{Z}_3 [p_1, \bar{p}_2, \bar{p}_5, \bar{p}_9, \bar{p}_{12}] / (r_{15}).$$

*Proof.* An arbitrary element  $f$  of  $\mathbf{Z}_3 [p_1, \bar{p}_2, p_3, c_4]$ ,  $p_4 = c_4^2$ , is written uniquely in a form

$$f = f_0 + c_4 f_1 \quad \text{for } f_0, f_1 \in \mathbf{Z}_3 [p_1, \bar{p}_2, q_3, q_4].$$

If  $f$  is invariant:  $R(f) = f$ , then it follows from (2.4) and (2.5)

$$2(c_4 + \bar{p}_2) f_1 = 0 \quad \text{hence } f_1 = 0.$$

Thus we have  $\mathbf{Z}_3 [p_1, \bar{p}_2, p_3, c_4]^R = \mathbf{Z}_3 [p_1, \bar{p}_2, q_3, q_4]$ , and by (2.2)

$$(2.6) \quad H^*(BT; \mathbf{Z}_3)^{\mathcal{O}(\mathbb{F}_4)} = \mathbf{Z}_3 [p_1, \bar{p}_2, p_3, p_4] \cap \mathbf{Z}_3 [p_1, \bar{p}_2, q_3, q_4],$$

The generators of the lemma are invariant since  $\bar{p}_5 = q_4 p_1 + q_3 \bar{p}_2$ ,  $\bar{p}_9 = q_3^3 + q_3^2 \bar{p}_2 p_1 - q_4 q_3 p_1^2$  and  $\bar{p}_{12} = q_4^3 + q_4^2 \bar{p}_2^2$ . The relation  $r_{15} = 0$  is directly checked. Thus

$$\mathbf{Z}_3 [p_1, \bar{p}_2, \bar{p}_5, \bar{p}_9, \bar{p}_{12}] / (r_{15}) \subset H^*(BT; \mathbf{Z}_3)^{\mathcal{O}(\mathbb{F}_4)}.$$

On the other hand, an arbitrary element  $f$  of  $\mathbf{Z}_3 [p_1, \bar{p}_2, q_3, q_4]$  is written uniquely in a form

$$f = g + c_4 h \quad \text{for } g, h \in \mathbf{Z}_3 [p_1, \bar{p}_2, p_3, p_4],$$

and also  $f$  and  $h$  are written uniquely in forms

$$f = \sum q_3^i q_4^j f_{ij}, \quad h = \sum p_3^i p_4^j h_{ij} \quad (i, j = 0, 1, 2)$$

for some  $f_{ij}, h_{ij} \in \mathbf{Z}_3 [p_1, \bar{p}_2, \bar{p}_9, \bar{p}_{12}]$ . Then we have

$$\begin{aligned} h_{00} &= p_1 f_{10} - \bar{p}_2 f_{01}, & h_{01} &= p_1 f_{11} + \bar{p}_2 f_{02} - \bar{p}_2 p_1^2 f_{21} + \bar{p}_2^2 p_1 f_{12}, \\ h_{10} &= -p_1 f_{20} - \bar{p}_2 f_{11}, & h_{02} &= p_1 f_{12} + \bar{p}_2 p_1^2 f_{22}, \\ h_{20} &= -\bar{p}_2 f_{21} & \text{and } h_{12} &= -p_1 f_{22}. \end{aligned}$$

If  $f$  belongs to  $\mathbf{Z}_3 [p_1, \bar{p}_2, p_3, p_4]$  then  $h = 0$ , and  $h_{ij} = 0$ . It follows that  $f_{12} = f_{21} = f_{22} = 0$  and that there exist  $g_1, g_2 \in \mathbf{Z}_3 [p_1, \bar{p}_2, \bar{p}_9, \bar{p}_{12}]$  such that  $f_{01} = p_1 g_1$ ,  $f_{10} = \bar{p}_2 g_1$ ,  $f_{02} = p_1^2 g_2$ ,  $f_{11} = -\bar{p}_2 p_1 g_2$  and  $f_{20}$

$= \bar{p}_2^2 g_2$ . Thus  $f = g + \bar{p}_5 g_1 + \bar{p}_5^2 g_2$ , and the lemma is proved by (2.6).

Consider the following ideals  $A'$  and  $A''$  of  $H^*(BT; \mathbf{Z}_3)^{\phi(\mathbb{F}_4)}$ :

$$(2.7) \quad A' = (\bar{p}_1, \bar{p}_2, \bar{p}_5^2) \quad \text{and} \quad A'' = (\bar{p}_1^2, \bar{p}_2 \bar{p}_1, \bar{p}_2^2, \bar{p}_5 \bar{p}_1, \bar{p}_5 \bar{p}_2, \bar{p}_5^2).$$

The following lemma will be necessary in the next section.

**Lemma 2.2.**  $Z_2[p_1, p_2, p_3, p_4]$  is additively isomorphic to the direct sum of  $H^*(BT; \mathbf{Z}_3)^{\phi(\mathbb{F}_4)}$ ,  $s^8 A'$  and  $s^{16} A''$  where  $s'$  increases the degree by  $t (= 8 \text{ or } 16)$ .

*Proof.* The Poincaré polynomials of the three direct summands are

$$P_1 = (1 + x^{20} + x^{40})(1 - x^4)^{-1}(1 - x^8)^{-1}(1 - x^{36})^{-1}(1 - x^{48})^{-1},$$

$$P_2 = x^8 (P_1 - (1 + x^{20})(1 - x^{36})^{-1}(1 - x^{48})^{-1})$$

and  $P_3 = x^{16} (P_1 - (1 + x^4 + x^8 + x^{20})(1 - x^{36})^{-1}(1 - x^{48})^{-1})$ .

Then  $P_1 + P_2 + P_3 = (1 - x^4)^{-1}(1 - x^8)^{-1}(1 - x^{12})^{-1}(1 - x^{16})^{-1}$  is the Poincaré polynomial of  $Z_3[p_1, p_2, p_3, p_4]$ , and the lemma follows.

### 3. Proof of Theorem I.

The natural map  $\rho : BT \rightarrow BF_4$  is the composition of the natural map  $\rho : BT \rightarrow B\text{Spin}(9)$  and the projection  $p$  of the bundle (1.2). Under the identification

$$H^*(BT; \mathbf{Z}_3)^{\phi(\text{Spin}(9))} = H^*(B\text{Spin}(9); \mathbf{Z}_3) = \mathbf{Z}_3[p_1, p_2, p_3, p_4],$$

it follows from Lemma 2.1

$$(3.1) \quad \text{Im } p^* \subset \mathbf{Z}_3[p_1, \bar{p}_2, \bar{p}_5, \bar{p}_9, \bar{p}_{12}] / (r_{15}) \subset \mathbf{Z}_3[p_1, p_2, p_3, p_4]$$

$$\text{for } p^* : H^*(BF_4; \mathbf{Z}_3) \rightarrow H^*(B\text{Spin}(9); \mathbf{Z}_3).$$

Denote by  $(E_r^{*,*})$  the mod 3 cohomology spectral sequence associated with the fibering (1.2). Let  $w$  be a generator of  $H^8(\mathbf{II}; \mathbf{Z}_3)$ . Then the spectral sequence satisfies the following properties:

$$E_2^{*,*} = H^*(BF_4; \mathbf{Z}_3) \otimes \{1, w, w^2\},$$

$$E_r^{*,*} = E_r^{*,0} + E_r^{*,8} + E_r^{*,16} \quad (r = 2, 3, \dots, \infty),$$

$$\begin{aligned}
E_2^{*,*} &= E_9^{*,*}, \quad H(E_9^{*,*}) = E_{10}^{*,*} = E_{17}^{*,*}, \quad H(E_{17}^{*,*}) = E_{18}^{*,*} = E_\infty^{*,*}, \\
E_\infty^{*,0} &\cong D^{*,0}, \quad E_\infty^{*,8} \cong D^{*,8}/D^{*,0}, \quad E_\infty^{*,16} \cong D^{*,16}/D^{*,8} \\
&\text{for } \text{Im } p^* = D^{*,0} \subset D^{*,8} \subset D^{*,16} = H^*(B\text{Spin}(9); \mathbf{Z}_3).
\end{aligned}$$

Let  $x_9 \in H^9(B\mathbf{F}_4; \mathbf{Z}_3)$  be the transgression image of  $w$ , then the differential  $d_9$  in  $E_9^{*,*}$  is given by

$$\begin{aligned}
(3.2) \quad d_9(b \otimes 1) &= 0, \quad d_9(b \otimes w) = b \cdot x_9 \otimes 1 \\
&\text{and } d_9(b \otimes w^2) = -b \cdot x_9 \otimes w \quad \text{for } b \in H^*(B\mathbf{F}_4; \mathbf{Z}_3).
\end{aligned}$$

We shall discuss the following assertions.

- (3.3) (i) *There exist  $x_i \in H_i(B\mathbf{F}_4; \mathbf{Z}_3)$  for  $i=4, 8, 20, 36, 48$  such that*  

$$p^*(x_4) = \bar{p}_1, \quad p^*(x_8) = \bar{p}_2, \quad p^*(x_{20}) = \bar{p}_5, \quad p^*(x_{36}) = \bar{p}_9$$
*and  $p^*(x_{48}) = \bar{p}_{12}$ .*
- (ii)  $x_4 \otimes w, x_8 \otimes w, x_{20}^2 \otimes w, x_{20} x_4 \otimes w^2, x_{20} x_8 \otimes w^2$  and  $x_{20}^2 \otimes w^2$  are permanent cycles.

(3.2) implies

- (3.4)  $x_9 x_4 = 0$  and  $x_9 x_8 = 0$  provided the assertion (3.3), (ii) for  $x_4 \otimes w$  and  $x_8 \otimes w$  respectively.

Obviously  $x_9^2 = 0$ . By (3.2),  $x_4 \otimes w^2, x_8 \otimes w^2$  and  $x_9 \otimes w^2$  are  $d_9$ -cycles, and we can define elements  $x_i \in H^i(B\mathbf{F}_4; \mathbf{Z}_3)$  for  $i=21, 25$  and 26 by

$$\begin{aligned}
(3.5) \quad x_{21} \otimes 1 &= d_{17}(x_4 \otimes w^2), \quad x_{25} \otimes 1 = d_{17}(x_8 \otimes w^2) \\
&\text{and } x_{26} \otimes 1 = d_{17}(x_9 \otimes w^2).
\end{aligned}$$

First we prove the following

**Lemma 3.1.** *If the assertion (3.3) holds for total degree  $\leq n$ , then Theorem I holds for degree  $\leq n$ .*

*Proof.* The following discussions are considered for total degree  $\leq n$ . Consider subgroups  $A, A'$  and  $A''$  of  $H^*(B\mathbf{F}_4; \mathbf{Z}_3)$  which are given by



$$A = \mathbf{Z}_3[x_4, x_8, x_{36}, x_{48}] \otimes \{1, x_{20}, x_{20}^2\},$$

$$A' = A - \mathbf{Z}_3[x_{36}, x_{48}] \otimes \{1, x_{20}\}$$

and 
$$A'' = A' - \mathbf{Z}_3[x_{36}, x_{48}] \otimes \{x_4, x_8\}.$$

By (3.3), (i) and (3.1), we see that  $\text{Im } p^* = p^*(A)$ ,  $p^*$  is injective on  $A$ , and in the spectral sequence  $A \otimes 1$  is not bounded and

$$A \otimes 1 = E_{\infty}^{*,0} \quad (\text{for } * \leq n).$$

$A' \otimes w$  is the product of  $A \otimes 1$  and  $\{x_4 \otimes w, x_8 \otimes w, x_{20}^2 \otimes w\}$ . It follows from (3.3), (ii) that  $A' \otimes w$  is permanent cycle. Similarly  $A'' \otimes w^2$  is permanent cycle by (3.3), (ii) and by that  $x_4^2 \otimes w^2$  (and  $x_8 x_4 \otimes w^2, x_8^2 \otimes w^2$ ) are permanent cycles if  $x_4 \otimes w$  (and  $x_8 \otimes w$ ) are so. Obviously  $A'' \otimes w^2$  is not bounded. Thus we have an inclusion

$$A'' \otimes w^2 \subset E_{\infty}^{*,16} \quad (* + 16 \leq n).$$

Assume that  $a \otimes w \in A' \otimes w$  is bounded. Then, by (3.2),  $a = -b \cdot x_8$  for some  $b$ , and  $p^*(a) = 0$  by  $p^*(x_8) = 0$ . Since  $p^*$  is injective on  $A' \subset A$ , we have that  $A' \otimes w$  is not bounded and

$$A' \otimes w \subset E_{\infty}^{*,8} \quad (* + 8 \leq n).$$

$H^*(B\text{Spin}(9); \mathbf{Z}_3) = \mathbf{Z}_3[p_1, p_2, p_3, p_4]$  is additively isomorphic to the direct sum of  $E_{\infty}^{*,0}, E_{\infty}^{*-8,8}$  and  $E_{\infty}^{*-16,16}$ . The three direct summands of Lemma 2.2 is isomorphic to  $A \otimes 1, A' \otimes w$  and  $A'' \otimes w^2$  respectively. Then it follows from Lemma 2.2 the equalities

$$(3.6) \quad A \otimes 1 = E_{\infty}^{*,0}, \quad A' \otimes w = E_{\infty}^{*,8} \quad \text{and} \quad A'' \otimes w = E_{\infty}^{*,16}$$

for total degree  $\leq n$ .

Now we assume that Theorem I is true for degree  $< n$ , and compute  $d_9$  and  $E_{17} = E_{10} = H(E_9)$  by (3.2) and (3.4). Then we have

$$E_{17}^{n-17,16} = (A'' + B'')^{n-17} \otimes w^2$$

for 
$$B'' = \mathbf{Z}_3[x_{36}, x_{48}] \otimes [\{x_4, x_8\} + \mathbf{Z}_3[x_{26}] \otimes \{x_9, x_{20}x_9, x_{21}x_9, x_{25}x_9\}]$$

and 
$$\text{Im } d_9(\text{in } E_9^{n,0}) \cong E_9^{n-9,8} / (d_9 E_9^{n-18,16} \oplus A' \otimes w) = (B')^{n-9} \otimes w$$

for 
$$B' = \mathbf{Z}_3[x_{26}, x_{36}, x_{48}] \otimes \{1, x_{20}, x_{21}, x_{25}\}.$$

By the properties of the spectral sequence we have exact sequences

$$0 \longrightarrow (B')^{n-9} \xrightarrow{\cdot x_9} H^n(\mathbf{BF}_4; \mathbf{Z}_3) \longrightarrow E_{17}^{n,0} \longrightarrow 0$$

$$\text{and } 0 \longrightarrow (B'')^{n-17} \xrightarrow{g} E_{17}^{n,0} \longrightarrow (A)^n \longrightarrow 0,$$

where  $g$  is given by  $d_{17}(b \otimes w^2) = g(b) \otimes 1$ . By (3.5)

$$g(B'') \oplus B' \cdot x_9 = \mathbf{Z}_3 [x_{26}, x_{36}, x_{48}] \\ \otimes \{x_9, x_{21}, x_{25}, x_{26}, x_{20}x_9, x_{21}x_9, x_{25}x_9, x_{26}x_{20}\}$$

and  $H^*(\mathbf{BF}_4; \mathbf{Z}_3)$  is additively isomorphic to  $A \oplus g(B'') \oplus B' \cdot x_9$ . This shows the first statement  $\mathbf{Z}_3 [x_{36}, x_{48}] \otimes C \cong H^*(\mathbf{BF}_4; \mathbf{Z}_3)$  of Theorem I. Obviously the generators  $x_9, x_{21}, x_{25}$  and  $x_{26}$  vanishes under  $\rho^*$ . Thus the ideal generated by these elements is contained in the kernel of  $\rho^*$ . The kernel contains  $g(B'') \oplus B' \cdot x_9$ . Since  $\rho^*$  is injective on  $A$ , we have that the kernel of  $\rho^*$  coincides with the ideal. Consequently the lemma is proved by induction on  $n$ . We have also proved

$$(3.7) \quad \text{Ker } \rho^* = \mathbf{Z}_3 [x_{26}, x_{36}, x_{48}] \\ \otimes \{x_9, x_{21}, x_{25}, x_{26}, x_{20}x_9, x_{21}x_9, x_{25}x_9, x_{26}x_{20}\}.$$

Next we shall prove (3.3) by dividing into three steps.

**Lemma 3.2.** (3.3) holds for total degree  $\leq 35$ . By a suitable choice of the generator  $w$ ,  $p_3$  and  $p_4$  represent  $-x_4 \otimes w$  and  $x_8 \otimes w$  respectively.

*Proof.* The existence of  $x_4$  is very easy. By (3.1)

$$p^*(H^{12}(\mathbf{BF}_4; \mathbf{Z}_2)) = D^{12,0} \subset \{\bar{p}_2 p_1, p_1^3\}.$$

Then  $E_{\infty}^{4,8} = D^{4,8}/D^{12,0} = H^{12}(B\mathbf{Spin}(9); \mathbf{Z}_3)/D^{12,0}$  contains non-trivial class of  $p_3$ . Since  $E_2^{4,8}$  has only one generator  $x_4 \otimes w$ ,  $E_2^{4,8} = E_{\infty}^{4,8}$  and  $-x_4 \otimes w$  is a permanent cycle represented by  $p_3 \bmod \{\bar{p}_2 p_1, p_1^3\}$ , by changing the sign of  $w$  if it is necessary.

Next assume that  $\bar{p}_2$  is not a  $p^*$ -image. Then as above,  $\bar{p}_2$  represents  $1 \otimes w \bmod D^{8,0}$ , up to sign. So,  $\bar{p}_2 p_1$  represents  $x_4 \otimes w$

mod  $D^{12,0} = \{\bar{p}_2 p_1, p_1^3\}$  which contradicts to the above result. Therefore  $\bar{p}_2$  is a  $p^*$ -image, and the existence of  $x_8$  follows.

Now, as in the proof of the previous lemma,  $D^{16,0} = (A)^{16}$  and  $H^{16}(B\mathbf{Spin}(9); \mathbf{Z}_3)/D^{16,0} = \{p_4, p_3 p_1\}$ . Since  $d_9(1 \otimes w^2) = -x_9 \otimes w \neq 0$ , we have  $E_\infty^{0,16} = 0$ ,  $H^{16}(B\mathbf{Spin}(9); \mathbf{Z}_3) = D^{8,8}$  and  $E_\infty^{8,8} = D^{8,8}/D^{16,0} = \{p_4, p_3 p_1\}$ . On the other hand,  $E_2^{8,8} = \{x_8 \otimes w, x_4^2 \otimes w\}$  and  $p_3 p_1$  represents  $-x_4^2 \otimes w$ . It follows that  $x_8 \otimes w$  is a permanent cycle and that  $p_4$  represents  $(sx_8 + tx_4^2) \otimes w$  for some  $s, t \in \mathbf{Z}_3$ .

Finally,  $p_4 p_1$  and  $-s p_3 \bar{p}_2 - t p_3 p_1^2$  represent the same element  $(sx_8 x_4 + tx_4^3) \otimes w \bmod D^{20,0}$ . Thus  $p_4 p_1 + s p_3 \bar{p}_2 + t p_3 p_1^2$  belongs to  $\text{Im } p^*$ . By (3.1) we have  $s=1, t=0$ , and that  $p_4$  represents  $x_8 \otimes w$ , and also the existence of  $x_{20}$  such that  $p^* x_{20} = p_4 p_1 + p_3 \bar{p}_2 = \bar{p}_5$ .

Consequently, (3.3) is proved for total degree  $\leq 35$ .

**Lemma 3.3.** (3.3) holds for total degree  $n \leq 43$  and  $n = 48$ .

*Proof.* Consider the discussions in the proof of Lemma 3.1 for the cases  $n=36, 40, 48$ . Then we see  $E_\infty^{n,0} \subset H^n(BT; \mathbf{Z}_3)^{\phi(\mathbb{F}_4)}$ ,  $E_\infty^{n-8,8} \subset (A')^{n-8} \otimes w = E_{10}^{n-8,8}$  and  $E_\infty^{n-16,16} \subset (A'')^{n-16} \otimes w^2 = E_{10}^{n-16,16}$ . It follows from Lemma 2.2 that the equalities hold in the above three inclusions. This proves (3.3).

**Lemma 3.4.** (3.3) holds for all degree.

*Proof.* The proof of the above lemma valids for the cases  $n=44$  and  $n=56$  provided that  $d_9$  is injective on  $(A-A')^{n-8} \otimes w$ , that is,  $d_9(x_{36} \otimes w) \neq 0$  and  $d_9(x_{48} \otimes w) \neq 0$ .

Assume that  $d_9(x_{36} \otimes w) = 0$ , then  $x_{36} \otimes w$  is a permanent cycle and represented by an element  $f \in H^{44}(B\mathbf{Spin}(9); \mathbf{Z}_3)$ . Since  $x_{36} x_4 \otimes w$  is represented by both of  $f p_1$  and  $-\bar{p}_9 p_3$ ,  $f p_1 + \bar{p}_9 p_3 \in \text{Im } p^*$ . The coefficient of  $p_3^4$  in  $f p_1 + \bar{p}_9 p_3$  is 1, but such an element is not contained in  $\text{Im } p^* \subset \mathbf{Z}_3[\bar{p}_1, \bar{p}_2, \bar{p}_5, \bar{p}_9, \bar{p}_{12}]/(r_{15})$ . Thus we have  $d_9(x_{36} \otimes w) \neq 0$ . Similarly  $d_9(x_{48} \otimes w) \neq 0$ .

Consequently we have proved all the assertions of (3.3).

*Proof of Theorem I.* By Lemma 3.4, (3.3) holds. Then Lemma 3.1 implies Theorem I.

**Remark.** We have insisted to prove Theorem I without use of cohomology operations. The use of cohomology operations simplifies the proof of the theorem as follows. The existence of  $x_4$  implies the existence of  $x_8$  and  $x_{20}$  by use of  $\mathcal{P}^1$  and  $\mathcal{P}^3\mathcal{P}^1$ . The existence of  $x_{36}$  implies that of  $x_{48}$  by use of  $\mathcal{P}^3$ . The assertions in (3.3), (ii) are equivalent to  $x_9x_4 = x_9x_8 = x_{20}^2x_9 = 0$  and  $x_{21}x_{20} \equiv x_{25}x_{20} \equiv 0 \pmod{(x_9)}$  except the last assertion for  $x_{20}^2 \otimes w^2$ . Then the first relation  $x_9x_4 = 0$  implies the others by applying suitable cohomology operations as is seen in section 5.

#### 4. Cohomology operations

In the first half of this section we shall prove the following

**Lemma 4.1.** *For a generator  $x_4$  of  $H_4(BF_4; \mathbf{Z}_3)$  we have, up to sign,  $x_9 = -\delta\mathcal{P}^1x_4$ ,  $x_{21} = -\mathcal{P}^3\delta\mathcal{P}^1x_4$ ,  $x_{25} = \mathcal{P}^1x_{21}$  and  $x_{26} = \delta x_{25} = -\delta\mathcal{P}^4\delta\mathcal{P}^1x_4$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $\widetilde{BF}_4$  be a 4-connective fibre space over  $BF_4$ .  $\widetilde{BF}_4$  is a fibre of a fibering

$$(4.1) \quad \widetilde{BF}_4 \longrightarrow BF_4 \longrightarrow K(\mathbf{Z}, 4).$$

Let  $\widetilde{F}_4$  be the loop space of  $\widetilde{BF}_4$ . Since  $F_4$  is equivalent to the loop space of  $BF_4$ , we see that  $\widetilde{F}_4$  is a 3-connective fibre space over  $F_4$ . The cohomology of  $\widetilde{F}_4$  was computed in [8: Th. 2.5] and the result is

$$H^*(\widetilde{F}_4; \mathbf{Z}_3) = \mathbf{Z}_3[y_{18}] \otimes \mathcal{A}(y_{11}, \mathcal{P}^1y_{11}, \delta y_{18}, \mathcal{P}^1\delta y_{18}).$$

Consider a contractible fibering over  $\widetilde{BF}_4$  with a fibre  $\widetilde{F}_4$ . By dimensional reasons,  $y_{11}$  and  $y_{18}$  are transgressive. Let  $y_{12}$  and  $y_{19}$  be transgression images of  $y_{11}$  and  $y_{18}$  respectively. Then we have

$$(4.2) \quad \begin{aligned} & \text{The natural homomorphism } \mathbf{Z}_3[y_{12}, \mathcal{P}^1y_{12}, \delta y_{19}, \mathcal{P}^1\delta y_{19}] \\ & \otimes \mathcal{A}(y_{19}) \rightarrow H^*(\widetilde{BF}_4; \mathbf{Z}_3) \text{ is bijective for degree } \leq 54. \end{aligned}$$

This can be proved by use of the comparison theorem [10], but we need (4.2) only for degree  $\leq 26$  and whence (4.2) is an easy exercise of spectral sequence.

Now let  $(E_r^{*,*})$  be the mod 3 cohomology spectral sequence associated with the fibering (4.1) converging to  $H^*(BF_4; \mathbf{Z}_3)$  and having

$$E_2^{*,*} = H^*(\mathbf{Z}, 4; \mathbf{Z}_3) \otimes H^*(\widetilde{BF}_4; \mathbf{Z}_3),$$

where, by [6] for  $u \in H^4$ ,

$$H^*(\mathbf{Z}, 4; \mathbf{Z}_3) = \mathbf{Z}_3[u, \mathcal{P}^1 u, \mathcal{P}^3 \mathcal{P}^1 u, \delta \mathcal{P}^4 \delta \mathcal{P}^1 u, \dots] \\ \otimes A(\delta \mathcal{P}^1 u, \delta \mathcal{P}^3 \mathcal{P}^1 u, \mathcal{P}^4 \delta \mathcal{P}^1 u, \dots).$$

By checking the degrees, we see that  $E_2^{s, 26-s} = 0$  unless  $s = 26$ , and  $E_2^{26, 0}$  is generated by  $\delta \mathcal{P}^4 \delta \mathcal{P}^1 u \otimes 1$ . On the other hand  $H^{26}(BF_4; \mathbf{Z}_3)$  is generated by  $x_{26}$ , by Theorem I. This shows that up to sign  $x_{26}$  is the image  $\delta \mathcal{P}^4 \delta \mathcal{P}^1 x_4$  of  $\delta \mathcal{P}^4 \delta \mathcal{P}^1 u$ . It follows that  $\delta \mathcal{P}^4 \delta \mathcal{P}^1 x_4 = \delta \mathcal{P}^1(\mathcal{P}^3 \delta \mathcal{P}^1 x_4) \neq 0$ ,  $\mathcal{P}^3 \delta \mathcal{P}^1 x_4 \neq 0$  and  $\delta \mathcal{P}^1 x_4 \neq 0$ . By Theorem I,  $H^i(BF_4; \mathbf{Z}_3)$  has only one generator  $x_i$  for  $i = 9, 21, 25, 26$ . Therefore the lemma is proved.

Next we compute the reduced power operations in  $H^*(BT; \mathbf{Z}_3)^{\phi(\mathbb{F}_4)}$  by means of the methods in [5]. The reduced powers of  $p_i$  are computed directly or computing those of  $c_i$  at first and then applying the Cartan formula to the second equation of (2.3). The results are stated as follows.

$$(4.3) \quad \begin{array}{ll} \text{(i)} & \mathcal{P}^1 p_1 = -p_2 - p_1^2, & \mathcal{P}^2 p_1 = p_1^3. \\ \text{(ii)} & \mathcal{P}^1 p_2 = -p_2 p_1, & \mathcal{P}^2 p_2 = -p_2^2 + p_2 p_1^2, \\ & \mathcal{P}^3 p_2 = p_4 p_1 + p_3 p_2 - p_3 p_1^2 - p_2^2 p_1, & \mathcal{P}^4 p_2 = p_2^3. \\ \text{(iii)} & \mathcal{P}^1 p_3 = p_4 - p_3 p_1, & \mathcal{P}^2 p_3 = -p_4 p_1 - p_3 p_2 + p_3 p_1^2, \\ & \mathcal{P}^3 p_3 = p_4 p_2 - p_3^2 - p_3 p_2 p_1, & \mathcal{P}^4 p_3 = p_4 p_3 - p_3^2 p_1 + p_3 p_2^2, \\ & \mathcal{P}^5 p_3 = -p_4^2 + p_4 p_3 p_1 - p_4 p_2^2 - p_3^2 p_2, & \mathcal{P}^6 p_3 = p_3^3. \\ \text{(iv)} & \mathcal{P}^1 p_4 = -p_4 p_1, & \mathcal{P}^2 p_4 = -p_4 p_2 + p_4 p_1^2, \\ & \mathcal{P}^3 p_4 = -p_4 p_3 - p_4 p_2 p_1, & \mathcal{P}^4 p_4 = -p_4^2 - p_4 p_3 p_1 + p_4 p_2^2, \end{array}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{P}^5 p_4 &= -p_4^2 p_1 - p_4 p_3 p_2, & \mathcal{L}^6 p_4 &= -p_4^2 p_2 + p_4 p_3^2, \\ \mathcal{P}^7 p_4 &= -p_4^2 p_3, & \mathcal{L}^8 p_4 &= p_4^3.\end{aligned}$$

Then the reduced powers of the generators  $p_1, \bar{p}_2, \bar{p}_5, \bar{p}_9, \bar{p}_{12}$  can be computed by use of the Cartan formula. By sequences of many routine computations we have the following

**Proposition 4.2.**

- (i)  $\mathcal{L}^1 p_1 = -\bar{p}_2 + p_1^2, \quad \mathcal{L}^1 \bar{p}_2 = \bar{p}_2 p_1, \quad \mathcal{L}^1 \bar{p}_5 = 0,$   
 $\mathcal{L}^1 \bar{p}_9 = -\bar{p}_5^2 \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{L}^1 \bar{p}_{12} = 0.$
- (ii)  $\mathcal{L}^3 p_1 = 0, \quad \mathcal{L}^3 \bar{p}_2 = \bar{p}_5 - \bar{p}_2^2 p_1, \quad \mathcal{L}^3 \bar{p}_5 = \bar{p}_5(-\bar{p}_2 + p_1^2) p_1,$   
 $\mathcal{L}^3 \bar{p}_9 = \bar{p}_{12} + (-\bar{p}_9 p_1 + \bar{p}_5^2)(\bar{p}_2 + p_1^2),$   
 $\mathcal{L}^3 \bar{p}_{12} = -\bar{p}_{12}(\bar{p}_2 + p_1^2) p_1.$
- (iii)  $\mathcal{L}^9 p_1 = \mathcal{L}^9 \bar{p}_2 = 0,$   
 $\mathcal{L}^9 \bar{p}_5 = \bar{p}_{12}(-\bar{p}_2 + p_1^2) + \bar{p}_9 \bar{p}_5 + \bar{p}_9 \bar{p}_2^2 p_1 + \bar{p}_5^2(-\bar{p}_2^2 + \bar{p}_2 p_1^2),$   
 $\mathcal{L}^9 \bar{p}_9 = -\bar{p}_{12} \bar{p}_5 p_1 + \bar{p}_{12}(\bar{p}_2^2 p_1^2 + p_1^6) - \bar{p}_5^2 + \bar{p}_9 \bar{p}_5(\bar{p}_2 p_1^2 + p_1^4)$   
 $\quad - \bar{p}_9(\bar{p}_2^2 + p_1^4)^2 p_1 + \bar{p}_5^2 \bar{p}_2(\bar{p}_2^2 + (\bar{p}_2 + p_1^2)^2 p_1^2),$   
 $\mathcal{L}^9 \bar{p}_{12} = -\bar{p}_{12} \bar{p}_9 - \bar{p}_{12} \bar{p}_5(\bar{p}_2^2 + \bar{p}_2 p_1^2 - p_1^4) - \bar{p}_{12}(\bar{p}_2^2 + p_1^4)^2 p_1.$

For  $t=1, 3, 9$  and for  $i=1, 2, 5, 9, 12$ , denote by

$$(4.3) \quad \mathcal{L}^t(\bar{p}_i) = f_{t,i}(p_1, \bar{p}_2, \bar{p}_5, \bar{p}_9, \bar{p}_{12}), \quad (\bar{p}_1 = p_1)$$

the formulas of the above proposition. By the naturality of  $\mathcal{L}^t$ , the difference

$$\mathcal{L}^t(x_{4i}) - f_{t,i}(x_4, x_8, x_{20}, x_{36}, x_{48})$$

vanishes under  $p^*$ .  $\text{Ker } p^* = \text{Ker } \rho^*$  can be read off by (3.7). Then we have

**Corollary 4.3.** (i) *The formulas in Theorem II hold for  $\mathcal{L}^1(x_4), \mathcal{L}^1(x_8), \mathcal{L}^1(x_{20}), \mathcal{L}^1(x_{36}), \mathcal{L}^3(x_4), \mathcal{L}^3(x_8), \mathcal{L}^3(x_{20}), \mathcal{L}^3(x_{36}), \mathcal{L}^9(x_4), \mathcal{L}^9(x_8)$  and  $\mathcal{L}^9(x_{48})$ .*

(ii) *For some coefficients  $a, b, c, d \in \mathbf{Z}_3$  the following relations hold:*

$$\mathcal{L}^1(x_{48}) = a \cdot x_{28}^2,$$

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{P}^3(x_{48}) &= -x_{48}(x_8 + x_4^2)x_4 + b \cdot x_{26}x_{25}x_9, \\ \mathcal{P}^0(x_{20}) &= f_{0,5}(x_4, x_8, x_{20}, x_{36}, x_{48}) + c \cdot x_{26}x_{21}x_9, \\ \text{and } \mathcal{P}^0(x_{36}) &= f_{9,9}(x_4, x_8, x_{20}, x_{36}, x_{48}) + d \cdot x_{26}^2x_{20}.\end{aligned}$$

## 5. Proof of Theorems II and III

By Theorem I and (3.7)

$$\begin{aligned}H^n(BF_4; \mathbf{Z}_3) &= 0 \\ \text{for } n &= 5, 13, 17, 18, 22, 27, 33, 37, 38, 41, 42, 49, 50,\end{aligned}$$

thus the following trivialities follow.

$$(5.1) \quad x_9x_4 = x_9x_8 = x_9^2 = x_{25}x_8 = x_{21}x_{20} = x_{21}^2 = x_{25}^2 = 0.$$

$$(5.2) \quad \delta x_4 = \delta x_{21} = \delta x_{26} = \delta x_{36} = \delta x_{48} = 0.$$

$$(5.3) \quad \mathcal{P}^1(x_9) = 0, \quad \mathcal{P}^3(x_{21}) = \mathcal{P}^3(x_{25}) = \mathcal{P}^3(x_{26}) = 0.$$

*Proof of Theorem II.* We choose the generators  $x_9, x_{21}, x_{25}$  and  $x_{26}$  such that they satisfy the equalities of Lemma 4.1.  $\mathcal{P}^1x_4 = -x_8 + x_4^2$  by Corollary 4.3, (i). Then, by (5.2),

$$x_9 = -\delta\mathcal{P}^1x_4 = (x_8 - x_4^2) = \delta x_8 \quad \text{and} \quad x_{21} = -\mathcal{P}^3\delta\mathcal{P}^1x_4 = \mathcal{P}^3x_9.$$

$\mathcal{P}^3x_8 = x_{20} - x_8^2x_4$  by Corollary 4.3, (i) and  $\mathcal{P}^2x_4 = x_4^3$ ,  $\mathcal{P}^0x_9 = 0$  by dimensional reasons. By Cartan formula,  $\mathcal{P}^3x_4^2 = (x_8 - x_4^2)x_4^2$ . By (5.1) and (5.2),  $\delta\mathcal{P}^3x_4^2 = 0$  and  $\delta(x_8^2x_4) = 0$ . Then, by use of Adem relation  $\mathcal{P}^3\delta\mathcal{P}^1 = \delta\mathcal{P}^3\mathcal{P}^1$ , we have

$$x_{21} = -\mathcal{P}^3\delta\mathcal{P}^1x_4 = -\delta\mathcal{P}^3\mathcal{P}^1x_4 = \delta\mathcal{P}^3(x_8 - x_4^2) = \delta x_{20}.$$

We have proved

$$(5.4) \quad \begin{aligned}\delta x_8 &= x_9, \quad \delta x_{20} = x_{21}, \quad \delta x_{25} = x_{26}, \quad \mathcal{P}^1(x_{21}) = x_{25}, \\ \mathcal{P}^3(x_9) &= x_{21} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{P}^0(x_9) = 0.\end{aligned}$$

By Adem relations  $\mathcal{P}^1\mathcal{P}^1\mathcal{P}^3 = -\mathcal{P}^5$  and  $\mathcal{P}^1\delta\mathcal{P}^1\mathcal{P}^3 = \delta\mathcal{P}^5 + \mathcal{P}^5\delta$ , we have  $\mathcal{P}^1x_{25} = \mathcal{P}^1\mathcal{P}^1\mathcal{P}^3x_9 = -\mathcal{P}^5x_9 = 0$  and  $\mathcal{P}^1x_{26} = \mathcal{P}^1\delta\mathcal{P}^1\mathcal{P}^3\delta x_8 = \delta\mathcal{P}^5x_9 = 0$ , i.e.,

$$(5.5) \quad \mathcal{P}^1(x_{25}) = \mathcal{P}^1(x_{26}) = 0.$$

By  $\mathcal{P}^1\mathcal{P}^1 = -\mathcal{P}^2$ , (5.5) and (5.3) imply  $\mathcal{P}^2x_9 = \mathcal{P}^2x_{25} = \mathcal{P}^2x_{26} = 0$ . Then, by Cartan formula we have

$$(5.5)' \quad \begin{aligned} \mathcal{P}^3(x_9f) &= x_{21}f + x_9\mathcal{P}^3(f), & \mathcal{P}^3(x_{25}f) &= x_{25}\mathcal{P}^3(f) \\ \text{and } \mathcal{P}^3(x_{26}f) &= x_{26}\mathcal{P}^3(f). \end{aligned}$$

For example, applying (5.5)' to the relations  $x_9x_4 = x_9x_8 = x_{25}x_8 = 0$  we have

$$(5.6) \quad x_{21}x_4 = 0, \quad x_{21}x_8 = -x_{20}x_9 \quad \text{and} \quad x_{25}x_{20} = 0.$$

Since  $\delta$  and  $\mathcal{P}^1$  are derivative, we have

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= \delta(x_{25}x_8) = x_{26}x_8 - x_{25}x_9, \\ 0 &= \delta(x_{25}x_{20}) = x_{26}x_{20} - x_{25}x_{21}, \\ 0 &= \mathcal{P}^1(x_{21}x_4) = x_{25}x_4 + x_{21}(-x_8 + x_4^2) = x_{25}x_4 - x_{21}x_8 \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{and} \quad 0 = \delta(x_{25}x_4 - x_{21}x_8) = x_{26}x_4 + x_{21}x_9.$$

Therefore

$$(5.7) \quad \begin{aligned} x_{25}x_4 &= -x_{20}x_9, & x_{26}x_4 &= -x_{21}x_9, & x_{26}x_8 &= x_{25}x_9 \\ \text{and } x_{25}x_{21} &= x_{26}x_{20}. \end{aligned}$$

Finally consider the difference

$$x_{20}^3 - (x_{48}x_4^3 + x_{36}x_8^3 - x_{20}^2x_8^2x_4)$$

which vanishes by  $p^*$  since the relation  $r_{15} = 0$  holds. By (3.7) the kernel of  $p^*$  for degree 60 is generated by  $x_{26}x_{25}x_9$ . Let the difference be  $e \cdot x_{26}x_{25}x_9$  for some  $e \in \mathbb{Z}_3$ . Then we have

$$0 = \delta(x_{20}^3) = x_{21}x_{20}x_8^2x_4 + x_{20}^2x_9x_8x_4 + e \cdot x_{26}^3x_9 = e \cdot x_{26}^3x_9.$$

It follows  $e = 0$  and the relation

$$(5.8) \quad x_{20}^3 = x_{48}x_4^3 + x_{36}x_8^3 - x_{20}^2x_8^2x_4.$$

Consequently, (5.1), (5.6), (5.7) and (5.8) cover all the relations of Theorem II, and by use of the relations each polynomial of the generators can be written in a form of Theorem I. Note the following relations:



$$(5.7)' \quad x_{20}^2 x_9 = x_{26} x_{20}^2 = 0.$$

The proof of Lemma 3.1 and the relation (5.8) show the last half of Theorem II.

*Proof of Theorem III.* First we shall prove

$$(5.9) \quad b=0 \text{ and } d=0 \text{ in Corollary 4.3, (ii).}$$

By Adem relation  $\mathcal{P}^2 \delta \mathcal{P}^1 = \delta \mathcal{P}^3 - \mathcal{P}^3 \delta$ ,

$$\delta \mathcal{P}^3 x_{48} = \mathcal{P}^2 \delta \mathcal{P}^1 x_{48} + \mathcal{P}^3 \delta x_{48} = a \mathcal{P}^2 \delta x_{26}^2 = 0.$$

On the other hand,

$$\begin{aligned} \delta \mathcal{P}^3 x_{48} &= \delta(-x_{48}(x_8 + x_4^2)x_4 + b \cdot x_{26} x_{25} x_9) \\ &= -x_{48} x_9 x_4 + b \cdot x_{26}^2 x_9 = b \cdot x_{26}^2 x_9. \end{aligned}$$

It follows that  $b=0$ . Similarly, using Adem relation  $\mathcal{P}^8 \delta \mathcal{P}^1 = \delta \mathcal{P}^9 - \mathcal{P}^9 \delta$  and computing  $\delta(f_{9,9}(x_4, x_8, x_{20}, x_{36}, x_{48})) = 0$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= \mathcal{P}^8(x_{21} x_{20}) = \mathcal{P}^8 \delta(-x_{20}^2) = \mathcal{P}^8 \delta \mathcal{P}^1 x_{36} = \delta \mathcal{P}^9 x_{36} \\ &= \delta(f_{9,9}) + d \cdot \delta(x_{26}^2 x_{20}) = d \cdot x_{26}^2 x_{21}, \end{aligned}$$

and  $d=0$ .

Next we shall prove

$$(5.10) \quad \begin{aligned} \mathcal{P}^0(x_{21}) &= -x_{48} x_9 + x_{36} x_{21}, \quad \mathcal{P}^0(x_{25}) = x_{36} x_{25} - x_{26}^2 x_9 \\ \text{and } \mathcal{P}^0(x_{26}) &= x_{36} x_{26}. \end{aligned}$$

Since  $\mathcal{P}^1 x_{20} = 0$ , Adem relation  $\mathcal{P}^8 \delta \mathcal{P}^1 = \delta \mathcal{P}^9 - \mathcal{P}^9 \delta$  implies  $\mathcal{P}^9 x_{21} = \mathcal{P}^9 \delta x_{20} = \delta \mathcal{P}^9 x_{20} = \delta(f_{9,5}) + c \cdot \delta(x_{26} x_{21} x_9) = \delta(f_{9,5})$ , and  $\delta(f_{9,5}) = -x_{48} x_9 + x_{36} x_{21}$  by (5.1), (5.2), (5.4). Thus the first formula is proved.

Since  $\mathcal{P}^3 x_{21} = 0$ , Adem relation  $\mathcal{P}^9 \mathcal{P}^1 - \mathcal{P}^1 \mathcal{P}^9 = \mathcal{P}^3 \mathcal{P}^7 = \mathcal{P}^3 \mathcal{P}^4 \mathcal{P}^3$  implies

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{P}^9 x_{25} &= \mathcal{P}^9 \mathcal{P}^1 x_{21} = \mathcal{P}^1 \mathcal{P}^9 x_{21} = \mathcal{P}^1(-x_{48} x_9 + x_{36} x_{21}) \\ &= -a \cdot x_{26}^2 x_9 - x_{20}^2 x_{21} + x_{36} x_{25} = -a \cdot x_{26}^2 x_9 + x_{36} x_{25}. \end{aligned}$$

The coefficient  $a$  will be fixed in later.

Since  $\mathcal{P}^1 x_{25} = 0$ , Adem relation  $\mathcal{P}^8 \delta \mathcal{P}^1 = \delta \mathcal{P}^9 - \mathcal{P}^9 \delta$  implies

$$\mathcal{P}^9 x_{26} = \mathcal{P}^9 \delta x_{25} = \delta \mathcal{P}^9 x_{25} = \delta(x_{36} x_{25} - a \cdot x_{26}^2 x_9) = x_{36} x_{26},$$

and the last formula of (5.10).

Finally we shall prove

(5.11)  $a=1$  and  $c=1$  in Corollary 4.3, (ii).

By Adem relation  $\mathcal{P}^{13} = \mathcal{P}^1 \mathcal{P}^3 \mathcal{P}^9 - \mathcal{P}^4 \mathcal{P}^8 \mathcal{P}^1$ , (5.5), (5.5)' (5.6) and by (5.7)

$$\begin{aligned} x_{26}^3 &= \mathcal{P}^{13} x_{26} = \mathcal{P}^1 \mathcal{P}^3 \mathcal{P}^9 x_{26} - \mathcal{P}^4 \mathcal{P}^8 \mathcal{P}^1 x_{26} \\ &= \mathcal{P}^1 \mathcal{P}^3 (x_{36} x_{26}) = \mathcal{P}^1 (\mathcal{P}^3 (x_{36}) x_{26}) \\ &= \mathcal{P}^1 (x_{48} x_{26} + x_{36} (x_8 + x_4^2) x_{21} x_9 + x_{20}^2 (x_{25} x_9 - x_{21} x_9 x_4)) \\ &= \mathcal{P}^1 (x_{48} x_{26}) = a \cdot x_{26}^3. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore  $a=1$ . Also we have, by Adem relation  $\mathcal{P}^{10} = \mathcal{P}^1 \mathcal{P}^9$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} x_{20}^3 &= \mathcal{P}^{10} x_{20} = \mathcal{P}^1 \mathcal{P}^9 x_{20} = \mathcal{P}^1 (f_{9,5} + c \cdot x_{26} x_{21} x_9) \\ &= x_{26}^2 (-x_8 + x_4^2) - x_{48} x_4^3 - x_{20}^3 - x_{20}^2 x_8^2 x_4 - x_{36} x_8^3 \\ &\quad + x_{20}^2 (x_8 x_4 (-x_8 + x_4^2) + x_8 (-x_4^2)) + c \cdot x_{26} x_{25} x_9 \\ &= (c-1) x_{26} x_{25} x_9 - x_{48} x_4^3 - x_{36} x_8^3 - x_{20}^3 + x_{20}^2 x_8^2 x_4. \end{aligned}$$

Then by use of the relation (5.8) we have  $(c-1)x_{26}x_{25}x_9=0$ , and  $c=1$ .

Consequently all the relations in Theorem III are established by Corollary 4.3, (5.3), (5.4), (5.5), (5.9), (5.10) and (5.11).

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