

# BORDISM OF METACYCLIC GROUP ACTIONS

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In this paper the term *manifold* means a differentiable, compact manifold having a unitary (stably almost complex) structure [9]. A *G-action* on such a manifold is a differentiable action of a finite group  $G$  preserving the unitary structure. We write  $\Omega_*^U$  for the bordism ring of closed unitary manifolds; Milnor [9] proved that  $\Omega_*^U$  is an integral polynomial ring with one generator in each even dimension. Let  $\Omega_*^U(G)$  be the bordism of  $G$ -actions, as studied, for example, by Stong [13].

The following question, once under active study, has been dormant for several years. Is  $\Omega_*^U(G)$  always a free  $\Omega_*^U$ -module on even-dimensional generators? Stong [13] proved that this is true for abelian  $p$ -groups  $G$ , and Ossa [10] showed how to extend Stong's result to all abelian groups. Lazarov [8] showed that the answer is also yes if  $G$  is a group of order  $pq$  for distinct primes  $p$  and  $q$ . In this paper, we give an affirmative answer for a well-known class of metacyclic groups.

**THEOREM.** *Suppose all Sylow subgroups of  $G$  are cyclic. Then  $\Omega_*^U(G)$  is a free  $\Omega_*^U$ -module on even-dimensional generators.*

Some readers will recall that Landweber and Lazarov have announced such a theorem [7], although they required an additional hypothesis on the group  $G$ . Professor Lazarov was kind enough to send me, several years ago, a copy of a manuscript proving the theorem for groups of order  $p^m q^n$ . The proof given here is very different; although following the general outline proposed in [8], it uses the methods of [11] to reduce the necessary calculations by at least an order of magnitude.

There are six parts to the proof. The first two list some well-known facts we shall require. Part 3 is an outline of the proof. Part 4 recalls the machinery of [11]. The last two parts contain the computations.

## 1. GROUP THEORY

Let  $\mathcal{M}$  be the class of finite groups  $G$  such that every Sylow subgroup of  $G$  is cyclic. It is clear that if  $G \in \mathcal{M}$  then each subgroup and each factor group of  $G$  is also in  $\mathcal{M}$ . By a well-known theorem, (see [5, pp. 146–148], for example), if  $G \in \mathcal{M}$  then  $G$  may be written as an extension

$$1 \rightarrow H \rightarrow G \rightarrow K \rightarrow 1,$$

so that  $H$  and  $K$  are cyclic and have relatively prime orders. It follows that if  $n$  divides the order of  $G$  then  $G$  possesses a subgroup of order  $n$ . We will need the following refinements of this observation.

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PROPOSITION 1.1. *Suppose  $G \in \mathcal{M}$  and  $L$  is a normal subgroup of  $G$ . Let  $[G:L] = p_1^{r_1}, \dots, p_s^{r_s}$  be the prime factorization of the index of  $L$  in  $G$ .*

(a) *There is some subscript  $i$ , for which  $G$  has a normal subgroup  $K$ , of index  $p_i^{r_i}$  in  $G$ , containing  $L$ .*

(b) *For each subscript  $i$ , there is a subgroup  $K_i$  of  $G$  (not always normal), such that  $K_i$  contains  $L$  and  $[K_i:L] = p_i^{r_i}$ .*

The proof is an easy exercise. We shall also need a lemma from representation theory. Let  $\theta: K \times \mathbf{C}^n \rightarrow \mathbf{C}^n$  be a complex representation space for some normal subgroup  $K$  of  $G$ . For each  $g \in G$  there is a representation space  $g_*\theta$  defined by the rule

$$g_*\theta(k, z) = \theta(g^{-1}kg, z), (k, z) \in K \times \mathbf{C}^n.$$

Then  $\theta$  is  $G$ -invariant if  $g_*\theta \cong \theta$  whenever  $g \in G$ ; more generally the set of  $g \in G$  such that  $g_*\theta \cong \theta$  forms a subgroup  $J(\theta)$  of  $G$ , the isotropy subgroup of  $\theta$ .

PROPOSITION 1.2. *Let  $G$  be a finite group, and let  $K$  be a normal subgroup of  $G$  such that  $G/K$  is cyclic. Let  $\theta$  be a  $G$ -invariant complex representation of  $K$ . Then there is a complex representation  $\sigma$  of  $G$  whose restriction  $\sigma_K$  to a  $K$ -representation is isomorphic to  $\theta$ .*

*Proof.* Our reference is Feit [4]. Let  $\xi$  be an irreducible component of  $\theta$  and let  $J = J(\xi)$ . Since  $\theta$  is  $G$ -invariant, it contains  $\Sigma h_*\xi$ , where  $h$  runs over a set of coset representatives of  $G/J$ . We can assume  $\theta = \Sigma h_*\xi$  without loss of generality. Suppose there is a  $J$ -representation  $\rho$  such that  $\rho_K \cong \xi$ ; then the induced  $G$ -representation  $\rho^G$  satisfies  $(\rho^G)_K \cong \Sigma h_*\xi = \theta$ , by [4, (9.10)]. Thus we may also assume that  $J = G$ . In that case, choose an irreducible component  $\lambda$  of  $\xi^G$ , such that  $\lambda_K$  contains  $\xi$ . Then  $\lambda_K = \xi$ , by [4, (9.12) and (9.10)].

## 2. BORDISM THEORY

We adopt the notations and definitions of [12, 13], giving only a brief review. A collection  $\mathcal{F}$  of subgroups  $G$  is a family if  $\mathcal{F}$  contains every subgroup and every conjugate of  $K$  whenever  $K \in \mathcal{F}$ . Suppose  $\mathcal{F}' \subseteq \mathcal{F}$  and both are families of subgroups of  $G$ ; then there is a "relative" bordism group  $\Omega_*^U(G)(\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{F}')$  whose elements are represented by  $G$ -manifolds  $M$  such that, for each  $x$  in  $M$ , the isotropy subgroup  $G_x \in \mathcal{F}$ , and for each  $x \in \partial M$ ,  $G_x \in \mathcal{F}'$ . In case  $\mathcal{F}' = \mathcal{Q}$ , then  $\partial M = \mathcal{Q}$  also, and one writes  $\Omega_*^U(G)(\mathcal{F})$  for the bordism group.

If  $K$  is a subgroup of  $G$ , there is a restriction homomorphism

$$r_K^G: \Omega_*^U(G) \rightarrow \Omega_*^U(K)$$

which restricts each  $G$ -action to a  $K$ -action, and an extension homomorphism  $e_G^K: \Omega_*^U(K) \rightarrow \Omega_*^U(G)$  which sends the class of a  $K$ -manifold  $M$  to the class of  $G \times_K M$ . (See [12] for detailed definitions in terms of the relative groups). A family  $\mathcal{F}$  of subgroups of  $K$  is  $G$ -invariant if  $g^{-1}Hg \in \mathcal{F}$  for every  $H \in \mathcal{F}$

and  $g \in G$ . Now suppose  $K$  is normal. Given a pair  $(\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{F}')$  of  $G$ -invariant families of subgroups of  $K$ , there is an action of  $G/K$  on  $\Omega_*^U(K)(\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{F}')$ : if  $\theta: K \times M \rightarrow M$  is a  $K$ -action and  $g \in G$  there is another  $K$ -action  $g_* \theta$  defined by the rule

$$g_* \theta(k, m) = \theta(g^{-1}kg, m), (k, m) \in K \times M;$$

$G/K$  acts on bordism via  $(gK)[M, \theta] = [M, g_* \theta]$ .

We define abbreviations for certain families of subgroups of  $G$ . If  $K$  is a subgroup of  $G$ , we write  $AK$  for the family of all subgroups conjugate in  $G$  to subgroups of  $K$ , and  $PK$  for the family of all subgroups conjugate in  $G$  to proper subgroups of  $K$ . In particular,  $\Omega_*^U(G) = \Omega_*^U(G)(AG)$ . If, in addition,  $L$  is a normal subgroup of  $G$ , we write  $AKPL$  for the family of subgroups  $H$  of  $G$  such that (1)  $H$  is conjugate to a subgroup of  $K$ , and (2)  $H \cap L$  is a proper subgroup of  $L$ .

Two families  $(\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{F}')$  are *adjacent, differing by  $L$* , if  $\mathcal{F}' \subseteq \mathcal{F}$  and  $\mathcal{F} - \mathcal{F}'$  consists of the conjugates of  $L$ .

**PROPOSITION 2.1.** *Suppose  $(\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{F}')$  are adjacent, differing by  $L$ . Then the inclusion  $(AL, PL) \subseteq (\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{F}')$  induces an isomorphism*

$$\Omega_*^U(G)(AL, PL) \xrightarrow{\cong} \Omega_*^U(G)(\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{F}').$$

Furthermore, if  $N$  is the normalizer of  $L$  in  $G$ , then the extension  $e_G^N$  is an isomorphism,

$$e_G^N: \Omega_*^U(N)(AL, PL) \xrightarrow{\cong} \Omega_*^U(G)(AL, PL).$$

For the proof of this fundamental result, see [12, pp. 14-20].

**PROPOSITION 2.2.** *There is a canonical isomorphism*

$$\Omega_*^U(G)(AG, PG) \cong \sum_{\sigma} \Omega_*^U(B\sigma)$$

in which  $\sigma$  runs over the set of complex  $G$ -representation spaces, and each  $B\sigma$  is a classifying space homotopy equivalent to a Cartesian product of  $BU(k)$ 's. In particular,  $\Omega_*^U(G)(AG, PG)$  is a free  $\Omega_*^U$ -module on even-dimensional generators.

The essentials of the proof are present in Conner and Floyd [2, section 38]. Recall that the construction assigns, to a  $G$ -manifold  $M$ , the disjoint union of tubular neighborhoods of the various components  $F$  of the fixed set of  $G$  in  $M$ . Each such neighborhood is regarded as the total space of a  $G$ -vector bundle  $\nu \rightarrow F$  whose fiber exhibits a  $G$ -representation  $\sigma$ . Corresponding to a decomposition of  $\sigma$  into irreducible components,  $\sigma = \Sigma \xi_i$ , there exist bundles  $\nu_i$  so that  $\nu = \Sigma \nu_i \otimes \xi_i$ . Classifying the  $\nu_i$  gives a mapping  $F \rightarrow \Pi_i BU(k_i)$ ,  $k_i = \dim \nu_i$ , so the latter space serves as  $B\sigma$ . Finally the last statement holds because  $H_*(BU(k_i))$  is free abelian and vanishes in odd dimensions [3, Proposition (3.3)].

Now let  $L$  be a normal subgroup of  $G$ . We shall use (2.2) to describe the action of  $G/L$  on  $\Omega_*^U(L)(AL, PL)$ . Suppose  $[M, \theta] \in \Omega_*^U(L)(AL, PL)$ . If  $F$  is a component

of the fixed set of  $L$  in  $(M, \theta)$ , then it is also a component of the fixed set of  $L$  in  $(M, g_*\theta)$  for each  $g \in G$ , but the associated representation  $\sigma$  is changed to  $g_*\sigma$  in the latter case. Thus the effect of  $g_*$  is to permute the summands of  $\Sigma \Omega_*^U(B\sigma)$  in the obvious fashion. This gives the following result.

**PROPOSITION 2.3.** *Suppose  $L$  is a normal subgroup of  $G$ , and  $C$  is a set of representatives of  $G$ -conjugacy classes of representations of  $L$ . Then there is an isomorphism of  $(G/L)$ -modules,*

$$\Omega_*^U(L)(AL, PL) \cong \sum_{\sigma \in C} \Omega_*^U(B\sigma) \otimes Z(G/J(\sigma)).$$

### 3. OUTLINE OF THE PROOF

If  $M_*$  is a graded  $\Omega_*^U$ -module, we write  $M_+ = \sum_i M_{2i}$  and  $M_- = \sum_i M_{2i+1}$ .

**PROPOSITION 3.1.** *Suppose  $G \in \mathcal{M}$  and suppose  $(\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{F}')$  is an adjacent pair of families of subgroups of  $G$ . Then  $\Omega_+^U(G)(\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{F}')$  is a free  $\Omega_*^U$ -module, and  $\Omega_-^U(G)(\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{F}')$  has projective dimension one over  $\Omega_*^U$ .*

*Proof.* See section 5 below.

**PROPOSITION 3.2.** *Given the same hypothesis, the homomorphism*

$$\Omega_-^U(G)(\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{F}') \rightarrow \Omega_-^U(G)(AG, \mathcal{F}')$$

*is the zero homomorphism.*

*Proof.* See section 6 below.

The theorem appears as the case  $\mathcal{F}' = \emptyset$  of the following proposition.

**PROPOSITION 3.3.** *Suppose  $G \in \mathcal{M}$  and  $\mathcal{F}'$  is a family of subgroups of  $G$ . Then  $\Omega_*^U(G)(AG, \mathcal{F}')$  is a free  $\Omega_*^U$ -module on even-dimensional generators.*

*Proof.* Select a chain of families  $\mathcal{F}' \subset \mathcal{F} \subset \dots \subset PG \subset AG$  such that each pair of successive entries is adjacent. By (2.2) the Proposition holds for  $\Omega_*^U(G)(AG, PG)$ . Applying an obvious inductive argument, assume the Proposition holds for  $\Omega_*^U(G)(AG, \mathcal{F})$ . In particular,  $\Omega_-^U(G)(AG, \mathcal{F}) = 0$ .

The exact sequence [13, Prop. 2.2] for the triple  $(AG, \mathcal{F}, \mathcal{F}')$  then has the following form:

$$\begin{aligned} 0 \rightarrow \Omega_+^U(G)(\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{F}') &\rightarrow \Omega_+^U(G)(AG, \mathcal{F}') \\ &\xrightarrow{a_*} \Omega_+^U(G)(AG, \mathcal{F}) \rightarrow \Omega_-^U(G)(\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{F}') \\ &\xrightarrow{b_*} \Omega_-^U(G)(AG, \mathcal{F}') \rightarrow 0. \end{aligned}$$

By (3.2), we have  $b_* = 0$ ; thus  $\Omega_-^U(G)(AG, \mathcal{F}') = 0$ . By (3.1), the image of  $a_*$  is a free  $\Omega_*^U$ -module. Thus the exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \Omega_+^U(G)(\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{F}') \rightarrow \Omega_+^U(G)(AG, \mathcal{F}') \rightarrow \text{Im } a_* \rightarrow 0$$

must split. By (3.1) again, this implies that  $\Omega_+^U(G)(AG, \mathcal{F}')$  is free, as required.

Notice that the plan of attack is the same as that of Lazarov [8] for groups of order  $pq$ ; the problem is to find tolerable proofs of (3.1) and (3.2). One should also notice that (3.1) often fails without the requirement that  $G \in \mathcal{M}$ . If  $\mathcal{F} = \{\{1\}\}$  and  $\mathcal{F}' = \emptyset$ , then  $\Omega_*^U(G)(\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{F}')$  becomes the bordism  $\bar{\Omega}_*^U(G)$  of free  $G$ -actions; by [2, (19.1)] the latter is isomorphic to the bordism  $\Omega_*^U(BG)$  of a classifying space for principal  $G$ -bundles. Landweber [6, Theorem 3] has shown that  $\dim \Omega_*^U(BG) \leq 1$  if and only if  $G$  has periodic cohomology.

#### 4. THE EQUIVARIANT BORDISM SPECTRAL SEQUENCE

We record here some results from [11].

**PROPOSITION 4.1.** *Suppose  $K$  is a normal subgroup of  $G$ ,  $(\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{F}')$  is a pair of  $G$ -invariant families of subgroups of  $G$ , and  $\Omega_*^U(K)(\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{F}')$  is a  $(G/K)$ -module as described in section 2. Then there is a spectral sequence  $\{E_{a,b}^r: r \geq 2; a, b \geq 0\}$  such that*

- (i)  $E_{a,b}^2 = H_a(G/K; \Omega_b^U(K)(\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{F}'))$ ;
- (ii)  $E_{a,b}^\infty$  is associated with a filtration of  $\Omega_{a+b}^U(G)(\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{F}')$ ; and
- (iii) the edge homomorphism  $\Omega_b^U(K)(\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{F}') \cong E_{0,b}^\infty \rightarrow E_{0,b}^2 \Omega_b^U(G)(\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{F}')$  is the extension,  $e_G^K$ .

For the proof, see [11, (2.1)]. Our only applications of (4.1) will be in the case  $(\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{F}') = (AL, PL)$  for some normal subgroup  $L$  of  $G$  which is contained in  $K$ . Thus (2.3) will compute the  $E^2$  term of the spectral sequence.

If  $K$  is a subgroup of  $G$ ,  $P(G:K)$  is the collection of primes not dividing the index of  $K$  in  $G$ . If  $P$  is a collection of primes,  $Z_P$  denotes the  $P$ -local integers (integers not in  $P$  have inverses).

**PROPOSITION 4.2.** *Suppose  $L$  is a subgroup of  $G$ , and  $P = P(G:L)$ . Then  $\Omega_*^U(G)(AL, PL) \otimes Z_P$  is a free module over  $\Omega_*^U \otimes Z_P$ .*

*Proof.* see [11, (3.2)]. In particular, note that  $\Omega_-^U(G)(AL, PL)$  contains only torsion, of orders involving primes that divide the index of  $L$  in its normalizer.

**PROPOSITION 4.3.** *Let  $(\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{F}', \mathcal{F}'')$  be a triple of families of subgroups of  $G$ , and let  $P = \cap \{P(G:K): K \in \mathcal{F}' - \mathcal{F}''\}$ . Then the forgetful homomorphism*

$$i_*: \Omega_*^U(G)(\mathcal{F}', \mathcal{F}'') \otimes Z_P \rightarrow \Omega_*^U(G)(\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{F}'') \otimes Z_P$$

*is a split monomorphism.*

*Proof.* See [11,(3.3)]. We use the following corollary: suppose  $x \in \Omega_*^U(G)(\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{F}'')$  is a  $q$ -torsion class for some prime  $q$ , and  $x = i_*(y)$ . Then we may assume  $y$  is also a  $q$ -torsion class.

**PROPOSITION 4.4.** *Suppose  $L \leq K \leq G$ , and  $L$  is normal in  $G$ . Let  $q$  be a prime which does not divide  $[G:K]$ . Then the  $q$ -torsion submodule of  $\Omega_*^U(G)(AL, PL)$  is contained in the image of  $e_G^K$ .*

*Proof.* By (2.1) we may suppose  $K$  is normal in  $G$ . The result then follows from (4.1), since  $E_{a,b}^2 = H_a(G/K; \Omega_b^U(K)(AL, PL))$  has no  $q$ -torsion for  $a > 0$ .

5. THE PROOF OF 3.1

For the rest of the paper, we assume  $G \in \mathcal{M}$ . However, this restriction is not actually needed in the proofs of (5.1), (5.2), or (6.1).

Suppose  $(\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{F}')$  are adjacent, differing by  $L$ . By (2.1) and induction on the order of  $G$ , it suffices to assume that  $L$  is normal in  $G$ , and that

$$(\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{F}') = (AL, PL).$$

**PROPOSITION 5.1.** *If  $L$  is normal in  $G$ , and  $G/L$  is cyclic, then the extension*

$$e_G^L: \Omega_+^U(L)(AL, PL) \rightarrow \Omega_+^U(G)(AL, PL)$$

*is a split epimorphism.*

*Proof.* Let  $t$  be a generator of  $G/L$ ,  $t_*: \Omega_*^U(L)(AL, PL) \rightarrow \Omega_*^U(L)(AL, PL)$ ,  $D_* = 1 - t_*$ , and  $N_* = \Sigma \{t_*^i: 0 \leq i \leq [G:L] - 1\}$ . Of course,

$$H_a(G/L; \Omega_b^U(L)(AL, PL))$$

is  $\text{Ker } N_* / \text{Im } D_*$  for even  $a > 0$ , and  $\text{Ker } D_* / \text{Im } N_*$  for odd  $a$ .

Let  $\sigma$  be a complex representation of  $L$ . Since  $G/L$  is cyclic, the isotropy subgroup  $J(\sigma)$  is normal in  $G$ . Note that  $H_a(G/L; Z(G/J(\sigma))) = 0$  for even  $a > 0$ . By (2.3),

$$H_a(G/L; \Omega_b^U(L)(AL, PL)) = 0$$

for  $a > 0$  even, or for  $b$  odd. By (4.1),  $e_G^L: \Omega_+^U(L)(AL, PL) \rightarrow \Omega_+^U(G)(AL, PL)$  is surjective.

Moreover,  $(2.3)$  implies that  $\text{Im } \nu_* \cap \text{Ker } N_*$  is an  $\Omega_*^U$ -module summand of  $\Omega_+^U(L)(AL, PL)$ . By [2, pp. 52-54] it is easy to see that

$$\text{Im } D_* \subseteq \text{Ker } e_G^L \subseteq \text{Ker } N_*;$$

thus  $\text{Ker } e_G^L$  is a summand and  $e_G^L$  is a split epimorphism.

*Note.* This argument also shows that the spectral sequence collapses. Since  $H_0(G/L; \Omega_b^U(L)(AL, PL)) = \Omega_b^U(L)(AL, PL) / \text{Im } D_*$ , and  $\text{Ker } e_G^L = \text{Im } D_*$ , the

homomorphism  $E_{0,b}^2 \rightarrow \Omega_b^U(G)(AL, PL)$  is injective. It follows that there can be no nonzero differentials in the spectral sequence.

**PROPOSITION 5.2.** *If  $L$  is normal in  $G$ , and  $G/L$  is cyclic, then  $\Omega_-^U(G)(AL, PL)$  has projective dimension 1 over  $\Omega_*^U$ .*

*Proof.* First observe that  $H_{2n+1}(G/L; Z(G/J(\sigma)))$  is cyclic; by (2.3) it follows that  $H_{2n+1} = H_{2n+1}(G/L; \Omega_*^U(L)(AL, PL))$  has projective dimension one. By (4.1) there is a filtration

$$0 = V^{-1} \subseteq V^1 \subseteq V^3 \subseteq \dots \subseteq V^{2n+1} \subseteq \dots \subseteq \Omega_-^U(G)(AL, PL)$$

such that  $V^{2n+1}/V^{2n-1} \cong H_{2n+1}$ . In particular,  $V^1 \cong H_1$  and thus  $\dim V^1 = 1$ . Using the exact sequences  $0 \rightarrow V^{2n-1} \rightarrow V^{2n+1} \rightarrow H_{2n+1} \rightarrow 0$  it follows that  $\dim V^{2n+1} = 1$  for each  $n$ .

In fact, if  $0 \rightarrow G^{2n+1} \rightarrow F^{2n+1} \rightarrow H^{2n+1} \rightarrow 0$  is a projective resolution (= free resolution, by [3], Proposition (3.2)), then one may construct free resolutions

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} 0 \rightarrow & \sum_{i=1}^n G^{2i+1} & \rightarrow & \sum_{i=1}^n F^{2i+1} & \rightarrow & V^{2n+1} & \rightarrow 0 \\ & \downarrow \alpha & & \downarrow \beta & & \downarrow \gamma & \\ 0 \rightarrow & \sum_{i=1}^{n+1} G^{2i+1} & \rightarrow & \sum_{i=1}^{n+1} F^{2i+1} & \rightarrow & V^{2n+3} & \rightarrow 0 \end{array}$$

so that  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are the obvious injections  $x \mapsto (x, 0)$  and  $\gamma$  is the inclusion. This is an easy exercise, or the construction may be found in [1, p.79]. Thus, by taking direct limits we obtain a free resolution

$$0 \rightarrow \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} G^{2i+1} \rightarrow \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} F^{2i+1} \rightarrow \Omega_-^U(G)(AL, PL) \rightarrow 0,$$

as required.

We now complete the proof of (3.1). If  $L$  has prime-power index in  $G$ , then  $G/L$  is cyclic and (3.1) would follow from (5.1) and (5.2). Otherwise, use (1.1a) to select a normal subgroup  $K$  of  $G$  containing  $L$ , such that  $[G:K] = q^s$  for some prime  $q$  which does not divide  $[K:L]$ . By induction on the order of  $G$ , assume  $\Omega_+^U(K)(AL, PL)$  is free,  $e_K^L: \Omega_+^U(L)(AL, PL) \rightarrow \Omega_+^U(K)(AL, PL)$  is a split epimorphism, and  $\Omega_-^U(K)(AL, PL)$  has projective dimension one.

Consider the action of the cyclic group  $G/K$  on  $\Omega_+^U(K)(AL, PL)$ . Let  $t \in G - K$  be an element of order  $n$  whose coset generates  $G/K$ . Then  $t$  induces a  $Z/n$  action on  $\Omega_+^U(L)(AL, PL)$ , and with this action  $e_K^L$  becomes a  $Z/n$ -morphism. In fact, there is a  $K$ -equivariant diffeomorphism  $t_*(K \times_L M) \rightarrow K \times_L (t_*M)$  defined by  $[k, m] \mapsto [t k t^{-1}, m]$ . Therefore  $\Omega_+^U(K)(AL, PL)$  is isomorphic as a  $G/K$ -module to a summand of  $\Omega_+^U(L)(AL, PL)$ .

As in the proof of (5.1), this implies that  $H_{2a}(G/K; \Omega_+^U(K)(AL, PL)) = 0$  for  $a > 0$ . On the other hand,  $H_-(G/K; \Omega_-^U(K)(AL, PL)) = 0$  because the coefficients contain only torsion of orders prime to  $q$  (by (4.2)). Thus

$$e_G^K: \Omega_+^U(K)(AL, PL) \rightarrow \Omega_+^U(G)(AL, PL)$$

is surjective, by (4.1). As in (5.1), we see that  $e_G^K$  is in fact a split epimorphism, so  $\Omega_+^U(G)(AL, PL)$  is free.

In the odd dimensions, let us write  $\Omega_-^U(G)(AL, PL) = Q_- + T_-$ , where  $Q_-$  is the  $q$ -torsion submodule. By (4.4),  $\text{Im } e_G^K = T_-$ . By [2, p. 54],

$$e_G^K r_K^G e_G^K = [G:K] e_G^K = q^s e_G^K;$$

hence  $e_G^K r_K^G | T_-$  is an isomorphism. Therefore  $T_-$  is isomorphic to a summand of  $\Omega_-^U(K)(AL, PL)$  and must have projective dimension one. Since

$$H_-(G/K; \Omega_+^U(K)(AL, PL))$$

has projective dimension one, while  $H_{2a}(G/K; \Omega_-^U(K)(AL, PL)) = 0$  by (4.2), it follows as in the proof of (5.2) that  $Q_-$  also has projective dimension one. The proof of (3.1) is thus complete.

### 6. THE PROOF OF 3.2

We continue to suppose that  $(\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{F}')$  are adjacent, differing by  $L$ . As before, by (2.1) and induction on the order of  $G$  it will suffice to assume that  $L$  is normal, and that  $(\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{F}') = (AL, PL)$ . By (2.2) we may assume that  $L$  is a proper subgroup. Fix a prime  $q$  which divides  $[G:L]$ ; by (4.2) it suffices to show that the  $q$ -torsion of  $\Omega_-^U(G)(AL, PL)$  is sent to zero in  $\Omega_-^U(G)(AG, PL)$ .

PROPOSITION 6.1. *Suppose  $G/L$  is cyclic of order  $q^s$ . Then*

$$\Omega_-^U(G)(AL, PL) \rightarrow \Omega_+^U(G)(AG, AGPL)$$

*is the zero homomorphism.*

*Proof.* We continue the computations of (5.1) and (5.2), which cover this case. Suppose  $x \in V^{2j+1} \cap \Omega_{2k+1}^U(G)(AL, PL)$ . Then  $x$  determines a certain coset

$$[x] \in E_{2j+1, 2(k-j)}^2 = H_{2i+1}(G/L; \Omega_{2(k-j)}^U(L)(AL, PL)).$$

Let  $y \in \text{Ker } D_* \subseteq \Omega_{2(k-j)}^U(L)(AL, PL)$  determine this same coset. We show that there exists some  $[M] \in \Omega_{2(k-j)}^U(G)(AG, AGPL)$  such that  $r_L^G [M] = y$ .

By (2.3), it suffices to assume that

$$y \in \sum_{i=0}^{[G:J]-1} \Omega_*^U(Bt_*^i \sigma)$$



for some  $L$ -representation  $\sigma$  and  $J = J(\sigma)$ . Thus, since  $t_* y = y$ , we may write  $y = \sum_{i=0}^{[G:J]-1} t_*^i(z)$  for some  $z \in \Omega_*(B\sigma)$ . By (1.2) there exists a  $J$ -action  $M'$  such that  $[M'] \in \Omega_*^U(J)(AJ, AJPL)$  and  $r_L^J[M'] = z$ . It follows that  $r_L^G e_G^J[M'] = y$ , so we choose  $[M] = e_G^J[M'] \in \Omega_*^U(G)(AG, AGPL)$ .

Next, let  $S^{2j+1}$  have the standard free action of  $G/L$ , in which  $t$  acts as multiplication by a primitive  $[G:L]$ -th root of one in each coordinate of complex  $(j + 1)$ -space. We regard this as an action of  $G$  via the projection  $G \rightarrow G/L$ . The product  $S^{2j+1} \times M$  is thus a  $G$ -space, admitting a  $G$ -equivariant map  $S^{2j+1} \times M \rightarrow S^{2j+1} \rightarrow E(G/L)$  to a classifying space for free  $G/L$ -actions. By the proof of [11, (2.1)] it follows that  $[S^{2j+1} \times M] \in \Omega_*(G)(AL, PL)$  represents the coset  $[x]$ . Now  $S^{2j+1} \times \partial M = \partial(D^{2j+2} \times \partial M)$ , and in  $D^{2j+2} \times \partial M$  all isotropy groups lie in  $AGPL$ . Therefore  $[S^{2j+1} \times M] = 0 \in \Omega_*^U(G)(AG, AGPL)$ . It follows, by a straightforward induction on  $j$ , that  $V^{2j+1}$  has zero image in  $\Omega_*^U(G)(AG, AGPL)$ .

By (1.2b), there is a subgroup  $K$  of  $G$  containing  $L$ , so that  $[K:L] = q^s$  and  $[G:K]$  is prime to  $q$ . By (4.4),  $e_G^K: \Omega_*^U(K)(AL, PL) \rightarrow \Omega_*^U(G)(AL, PL)$  maps onto the  $q$ -torsion. It follows by induction on the order of  $G$  that  $\Omega_*^U(G)(AL, PL) \rightarrow \Omega_*^U(G)(AG, AKPL)$  kills  $q$ -torsion, for each prime  $q$  dividing  $[G:L]$ , and must therefore be the zero homomorphism.

PROPOSITION 6.2. *Suppose  $G \in \mathcal{M}$ ,  $G/L$  is cyclic of order  $q^s$ , and  $\mathcal{F}_0$  is a family of subgroups of  $G$  such that  $PL \subseteq \mathcal{F}_0 \subseteq AGPL$ . Then*

$$\Omega_*^U(G)(AGPL, \mathcal{F}_0) \rightarrow \Omega_*^U(G)(AG, \mathcal{F}_0)$$

is zero on  $q$ -torsion.

*Proof.* There is nothing to prove if  $\mathcal{F}_0 = AGPL$ . Suppose  $\mathcal{F}_0 \subset \mathcal{F}_1 \subseteq AGPL$ ,  $(\mathcal{F}_1, \mathcal{F}_0)$  are adjacent differing by  $H$ , and  $\Omega_*^U(G)(AGPL, \mathcal{F}_1) \rightarrow \Omega_*^U(G)(AG, \mathcal{F}_1)$  is zero on  $q$ -torsion. Consider the commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} \dots & \rightarrow & \Omega_*^U(G)(\mathcal{F}_1, \mathcal{F}_0) & \xrightarrow{j_*} & \Omega_*^U(G)(AGPL, \mathcal{F}_0) & \rightarrow & \Omega_*^U(G)(AGPL, \mathcal{F}_1) \rightarrow \dots \\ & & \downarrow \text{id} & & \downarrow k_* & & \downarrow \\ \dots & \rightarrow & \Omega_*^U(G)(\mathcal{F}_1, \mathcal{F}_0) & \rightarrow & \Omega_*^U(G)(AG, \mathcal{F}_0) & \rightarrow & \Omega_*^U(G)(AG, \mathcal{F}_1) \rightarrow \dots \end{array}$$

If  $y \in \Omega_*^U(G)(AGPL, \mathcal{F}_0)$  is a  $q$ -torsion class, then  $y = j_*(z) + w$  for certain  $z$  and  $w$  such that  $k_*(w) = 0$ . We may as well assume  $y = j_*(z)$ ; by (4.3) we can assume  $z$  is a  $q$ -torsion class also.

Now  $\Omega_*^U(G)(\mathcal{F}_1, \mathcal{F}_0)$  is without  $q$ -torsion unless  $q$  divides  $[G:H]$ , by (2.1) and (4.2). Suppose  $[G:H] = q^t$ ; then either  $H \leq L$  or  $L \leq H$ , according as  $t \geq s$  or  $t \leq s$ , respectively. Since  $H \notin \mathcal{F}_0$  and  $\mathcal{F}_0 \supseteq PL$ , we must have  $L \leq H$ . This is not possible, since  $H \in \mathcal{F}_1$ , and  $\mathcal{F}_1 \subseteq AGPL$ . Thus some other prime  $p$  divides  $[G:H]$ .

We wish to prove that  $\Omega_*^U(G)(\mathcal{F}_1, \mathcal{F}_0) \rightarrow \Omega_*^U(G)(AG, \mathcal{F}_0)$  kills  $q$ -torsion. By (2.1) we may assume  $H$  is normal in  $G$ . Use (1.1b) to select a subgroup  $Q$  so that  $H < Q < G$ ,  $[Q:H] = q^t$ , and  $[G:Q]$  is prime to  $q$ . Then there is a commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \Omega_*^U(Q)(AH, PH) & \xrightarrow{i'_*} & \Omega_*^U(Q)(AQ, PH) \\ \downarrow e_G^Q & & \downarrow e_G^Q \\ \Omega_*^U(G)(\mathcal{F}_1, \mathcal{F}_0) \cong \Omega_*^U(G)(AH, PH) & \xrightarrow{i_*} & \Omega_*^U(G)(AG, PH) \end{array}$$

By (4.4),  $e_G^Q$  maps onto the  $q$ -torsion. By induction on the order of  $G$ ,  $i'_*$  is zero. Thus  $i_*$  is zero on  $q$ -torsion, which completes the proof.

We can now finish the proof of (3.2). Consider the commutative diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \Omega_-^U(G)(AL, PL) & \xrightarrow{id} & \Omega_-^U(G)(AL, PL) & & \\ & & \downarrow l_* & & \downarrow j_* \\ \Omega_-^U(G)(AKPL, PL) & \xrightarrow{i_*} & \Omega_-^U(G)(AG, PL) & \rightarrow & \Omega_-^U(G)(AG, AKPL) \\ \uparrow e_L^K & & \uparrow e_L^K & & \\ \Omega_-^U(K)(AKPL, PL) & \rightarrow & \Omega_-^U(K)(AK, PL) & & \end{array}$$

If  $y \in \Omega_-^U(G)(AL, PL)$  is a  $q$ -torsion class, then by (6.1) we know  $j_*(y) = 0$ . Let  $l_*(y) = i_*(x)$  for suitable  $x \in \Omega_-^U(G)(AKPL, PL)$ . By (4.3) we may assume  $x$  is a  $q$ -torsion class. If  $[G:L] = q^s$  then  $K = G$  and we are done, by (6.2). Otherwise  $K < G$  and we apply induction on the order of  $G$  and the knowledge that  $e_L^K$  maps onto the  $q$ -torsion.

This finishes the proof of (3.2), and thus the proof of the theorem.

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