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FINITE GROUP ACTION AND EQUIVARIANT BORDISM

S. S. KHARE

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Conner and Floyd proved that if \mathbf{Z}_2^k acts on a closed manifold M differentiably and without any fixed point, then M is a boundary. Stong gave a stronger result proving that if (M, θ) is a closed \mathbf{Z}_2^k -differential manifold with no stationary point, then (M, θ) is a \mathbf{Z}_2^k -boundary. In the present note, we discuss this problem for a finite group in detail. Let G be a finite group. By the 2-central component $G_2(C)$ of G , we will mean the subgroup of G consisting of the identity element and all the elements of order 2 in the center of G . We prove in this note that the fixed data of the 2-central component $G_2(C)$ of G determines G -bordism.

1. Preliminaries. Throughout the note we will take G to be a finite group. By a G -manifold we will mean a differential compact manifold with a differential action of G on it. A family \mathcal{F} in G is a collection of subgroups of G such that if $H \in \mathcal{F}$, then all the subgroups of H and all the conjugates of H are in \mathcal{F} . Let $\mathcal{F}' \subset \mathcal{F}$ be families in G such that \exists a central element a in G of order 2 such that

- (i) $a \notin H, \forall H \in \mathcal{F} - \mathcal{F}'$
- (ii) $H \in \mathcal{F}' \Rightarrow [H \cup \{a\}] \in \mathcal{F}'$

(iii) The intersection S of all members of $\mathcal{F} - \mathcal{F}'$ is in $\mathcal{F} - \mathcal{F}'$. We call such a pair $(\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{F}')$ of families an admissible pair of families in G with respect to $a \in G$.

EXAMPLE 2.1. Let G be a finite group. We can write the 2-central component $G_2(C)$ as $\mathbf{Z}_2^r = [t_1, \dots, t_r]$, where t_1, \dots, t_r are generators of \mathbf{Z}_2^r with $t_i^2 =$ the identity element and $t_i t_j = t_j t_i$. Let \mathcal{F}_k be the family of all subgroups of G not containing \mathbf{Z}_2^k , $0 < k \leq r$, where \mathbf{Z}_2^k denotes the subgroup of G generated by the first k generators t_1, \dots, t_k . Then $(\mathcal{F}_{k+1}, \mathcal{F}_k)$ is an admissible pair with respect to t_{k+1} , $0 < k < r$.

2. Stationary point free action of $G_2(C)$ and G -bordism. The object of this section is to show that if (M, θ) is a G -manifold with the stationary point free action of $G_2(C)$ then (M, θ) is G -boundary. Following the notation of Stong [2], let $\mathfrak{N}_*(G; \mathcal{F}, \mathcal{F}')$ denote the $(\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{F}')$ -free G -bordism group for a pair $(\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{F}')$ of families in G . For a given family \mathcal{F}

in G and an element g in G , let \mathcal{F}_g denote the smallest family in G consisting of all subgroups $[H \cup \{g\}]$, $H \in \mathcal{F}$.

THEOREM 3.1. *If $(\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{F}')$ is an admissible pair of families in G with respect to a in G , then an $(\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{F}')$ -free element in $\mathfrak{N}_*(G, \mathcal{F}, \mathcal{F}')$ is zero in $\mathfrak{N}_*(G; \mathcal{F}_a, \mathcal{F}'_a)$.*

Proof. Let $[M, \theta]$ be in $\mathfrak{N}_*(G, \mathcal{F}, \mathcal{F}')$. Let F denote the fixed points set of S in M , S being the intersection of all the members of $\mathcal{F} - \mathcal{F}'$. Since $\mathcal{F} - \mathcal{F}'$ is invariant under conjugation, S is normal in G and hence the action θ on M induces an action on F which we denote once again by θ . Let ν be the normal bundle of the imbedding of F in the interior of M and $D(\nu)$ be its disc bundle with the action θ^* of G on $D(\nu)$ induced by the real vector bundle maps covering the action θ on F . Since F is fixed point set of S , $a \notin H$, $\forall H \in \mathcal{F} - \mathcal{F}'$ and no point of F is fixed by the subgroup $[S \cup \{a\}]$ generated by $S \cup \{a\}$, a will act freely on F and hence on $D(\nu)$. Let $F' = F/[a]$ and $D'(\nu) = D(\nu)/[a]$. Since a is central the actions θ and θ^* on F and $D(\nu)$ induce actions θ' and θ'^* on F' and $D'(\nu)$ respectively. Let C_1 and C_2 be the mapping cylinders of the equivariant double covers $q_1: F \rightarrow F'$ and $q_2: D(\nu) \rightarrow D'(\nu)$ respectively and ψ_1 and ψ_2 be the induced actions on C_1 and C_2 respectively. We have the following commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} C_2 & \rightarrow & D'(\nu) \\ \downarrow \alpha & & \downarrow \nu' \\ C_1 & \rightarrow & F' \end{array} ,$$

where $\alpha: C_2 \rightarrow C_1$ is the map induced from $\nu': D'(\nu) \rightarrow F'$ by going to mapping cylinders. Clearly ∂C_1 is homeomorphic to F , $\alpha^{-1}(\partial C_1)$ is homeomorphic to $D(\nu)$ and the action ψ_1 on $\alpha^{-1}(\partial C_1)$ is isomorphic to the action θ^* on $D(\nu)$. Consider

$$W = (M \times [0, 1]) \cup C_2 / \sim ,$$

where \sim is the equivalence relation in W obtained by identifying $D(\nu) \times \{1\}$ with $\alpha^{-1}(\partial C_1)$. Let the action ϕ of G on W be given by $\phi|_{M \times [0, 1]} = \theta \times 1$ and $\phi|_{C_2} = \psi_1$. Take V to be $(\partial M \times [0, 1]) \cup (M \times \{1\} - (D(\nu) \times \{1\})^\circ) \cup (\partial C_2 - (\alpha^{-1}(\partial C_1))^\circ)$, where $^\circ$ denotes the interior operator. Since S is the intersection of all the members of $\mathcal{F} - \mathcal{F}'$, V will be $(\mathcal{F}'_a, \mathcal{F}'_a)$ -free. Also W is $(\mathcal{F}'_a, \mathcal{F}'_a)$ -free and ∂W is homeomorphic to $M \cup V$ by identifying ∂V with ∂M . This shows that $[M, \theta]$ is zero in $\mathfrak{N}_*(G; \mathcal{F}_a, \mathcal{F}'_a)$. \square

Let \mathfrak{A} denote the family of all subgroups of G and \mathcal{F}_0 denote the empty family. Then following the notations of Example 2.1 and using the above Theorem, one immediately gets the following.

COROLLARY 3.2. *For every k , $0 \leq k < r$, the homomorphism $\mathfrak{N}_*(G; \mathcal{F}_{k+1}, \mathcal{F}_k) \rightarrow \mathfrak{N}_*(G; \mathfrak{A}, \mathcal{F}_k)$ induced from the inclusion map $(\mathcal{F}_{k+1}, \mathcal{F}_k) \rightarrow (\mathfrak{A}, \mathcal{F}_k)$ is zero.*

Proof. Since $(\mathcal{F}_{k+1}, \mathcal{F}_k)$ is admissible pair of families with respect to t_{k+1} for $0 \leq k < r$ and no point of the submanifold V in the above construction is fixed by \mathbf{Z}_2^k . Theorem 3.1 gives the Corollary immediately. \square

COROLLARY 3.3. *Let \mathbf{P} be the family of all subgroups of G which do not contain $G_2(C)$. Then the homomorphism $\mathfrak{N}_*(G; \mathbf{P}) \rightarrow \mathfrak{N}_*(G; \mathfrak{A})$ induced from the inclusion map $\mathbf{P} \rightarrow \mathfrak{A}$ is the zero homomorphism.*

Proof. By Corollary 3.2, one gets that

$$\mathfrak{N}_*(G; \mathcal{F}_{k+1}, \mathcal{F}_k) \xrightarrow{i_*} \mathfrak{N}_*(G; \mathfrak{A}, \mathcal{F}_k)$$

is the zero homomorphism, $0 \leq k < r$. Consider the exact bordism sequence for the triple

$$\begin{aligned} (\mathfrak{A}, \mathcal{F}_{k+1}, \mathcal{F}_k) &\rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow \mathfrak{N}_*(G; \mathcal{F}_{k+1}, \mathcal{F}_k) \xrightarrow{i_*} \mathfrak{N}_*(G; \mathfrak{A}, \mathcal{F}_k) \\ &\xrightarrow{i_*} \mathfrak{N}_*(G; \mathfrak{A}, \mathcal{F}_{k+1}) \rightarrow \cdots \end{aligned}$$

where j_* is the homomorphism induced from the inclusion $j: (\mathfrak{A}, \mathcal{F}_k) \rightarrow (\mathfrak{A}, \mathcal{F}_{k+1})$. Since i_* is the zero homomorphism, j_* will be a monomorphism. Therefore the composite

$$\mathfrak{N}_*(G; \mathfrak{A}, \mathcal{F}_0) \rightarrow \mathfrak{N}_*(G; \mathfrak{A}, \mathcal{F}_1) \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow \mathfrak{N}_*(G; \mathfrak{A}, \mathcal{F}_r)$$

is a monomorphism and hence by the exact bordism sequence of the triple $(\mathfrak{A}, \mathcal{F}_r, \mathcal{F}_0)$, one get that $\mathfrak{N}_*(G; \mathcal{F}_r, \mathcal{F}_0) \rightarrow \mathfrak{N}_*(G; \mathfrak{A}, \mathcal{F}_0)$ is the zero homomorphism. This completes the proof since $\mathcal{F}_r = \mathbf{P}$ and $\mathcal{F}_0 = \emptyset$. \square

COROLLARY 3.4. *If $G_2(C)$ acts on M under θ without any stationary point then (M, θ) is a G -boundary.*

3. The stationary points set $F_{G_2(C)}$ and the normal bundle. In the last section we dealt with the case when $F_{G_2(C)}$ is empty. In this section we consider the case when $F_{G_2(C)} \neq \emptyset$. For this we introduce the concept of

equivariant trivial normal bundle and use this concept to settle the case $F_{G_2(C)} \neq \emptyset$ in the form of Theorem 4.2.

Let (M^n, θ) be a closed G -manifold. Consider the decomposition of $F = F_{G_2(C)}(M^n)$ as $F = \bigcup_{l=0}^n F^l$, where F^l denotes the l -dimensional component of F . Let $\mathcal{D}(\nu_l)$ be the normal disc bundle of F^l in M^n with the induced action θ_l of G on $\mathcal{D}(\nu_l)$.

DEFINITION 4.1. F is said to have an equivariant trivial normal bundle in M^n , if $G/G_2(C)$ acts trivially on F and \exists some positive dimensional G -representations (W_l, ϕ_l) , $0 \leq l \leq n$, such that in $\mathfrak{R}_*(G; \mathfrak{A}, \mathbf{P})$

$$[D(\nu_l), \theta_l] = [F^l][D(W_l), \phi_l],$$

$D(W_l)$ being the unit disc of W_l .

Let $\{V_k, \psi_k\}_{1 \leq k \leq m}$ be the finite set of all irreducible representations of G . Let \mathbf{Z}^+ be the set of all non-negative integers. Then any G -representation can be written as $(V(f), \psi(f))$ for some map $f: \{1, \dots, m\} \rightarrow \mathbf{Z}^+$ where $V(f) = \bigoplus_{k=1}^m (V_k, \psi_k)^{f(k)}$, $(V_k, \psi_k)^{f(k)}$ being the direct sum of $f(k)$ copies of (V_k, ψ_k) . Let us denote the unit disc and the unit sphere of $V(f)$ by $D(f)$ and $S(f)$.

THEOREM 4.2. *If F has an equivariant trivial normal bundle in M^n , then F is a boundary and (M^n, θ) is a G -boundary.*

Proof. Since F has an equivariant trivial normal bundle in M^n , we have

$$[\mathcal{D}(\nu_l), \theta_l] = [F^l][D(W_l), \theta_l]$$

for some positive dimensional G -representations (W_l, ϕ_l) , $0 \leq l \leq n$. Also $(W_l, \phi_l) = (V(f_l), \psi(f_l))$ for some map $f_l: \{1, \dots, m\} \rightarrow \mathbf{Z}^+$. Therefore

$$[\mathcal{D}(\nu_l), \theta_l] = [F^l][D(f_l), \psi(f_l)].$$

Let $i_*: \mathfrak{R}_*(G; \mathfrak{A}) \rightarrow \mathfrak{R}_*(G; \mathfrak{A}, \mathbf{P})$ be the homomorphism induced by the inclusion map $i: (\mathfrak{A}, \phi) \rightarrow (\mathfrak{A}, \mathbf{P})$. Then

$$i_*[M^n, \theta] = \sum_{l=0}^n [\mathcal{D}(\nu_l), \theta_l] = \sum_{l=0}^n [F^l][D(f_l), \psi(f_l)].$$

Therefore

$$\partial_* i_*[M^n, \theta] = \sum_{l=0}^n [F^l][S(f_l), \psi(f_l)] = 0$$

in $\mathfrak{N}_*(G; \mathbf{P})$, where $\partial_*: \mathfrak{N}_*(G; \mathfrak{A}, \mathbf{P}) \rightarrow \mathfrak{N}_*(G; \mathbf{P})$ is the boundary homomorphism. Therefore \exists a \mathbf{P} -free G -manifold (D, η) such that

$$(1) \quad (\partial D, \eta) = \bigcup_{l=0}^n (F^l \times (S(f_l), \psi(f_l))).$$

Since (W_l, ϕ_l) is positive dimensional G -representation, $\forall l, \exists$ a member $k(l)$ in the set $\{1, \dots, m\}$ such that $f_l(k(l)) \neq 0$. Consider the irreducible G -representation $(V_{k(l)}, \psi_{k(l)})$. Let $(\tilde{V}_{k(l)}, \tilde{\psi}_{k(l)})$ be an irreducible component of the $G_2(C)$ -representation induced by the G -representation $(V_{k(l)}, \psi_{k(l)})$. Then \exists a subgroup $H_{k(l)}$ of G isomorphic to \mathbf{Z}_2^{r-1} which fixes $\tilde{V}_{k(l)}$, $G_2(C)$ being \mathbf{Z}_2^r . Let us fix some $\beta, 0 \leq \beta \leq n$.

From the equation (1), we get

$$F_{H_{k(\beta)}}(\partial D, \eta) = F_{H_{k(\beta)}} \left(\bigcup_{l=0}^n (F^l \times (S(f_l), \psi(f_l))) \right).$$

Let $F_{H_{k(\beta)}}(D) = F^*$ and $\mathbf{Z}_{2,\beta} \approx \mathbf{Z}_2$ be the complement of $H_{k(\beta)}$ in $G_2(C) = \mathbf{Z}_2^r$. Then one gets

$$(\partial F^*, \eta |_{\mathbf{Z}_{2,\beta}}) = \bigcup_{l=0}^n (F^l \times (S^{\Delta(l,\beta)-1}, a)),$$

where a is the antipodal involution and the integer $\Delta(l, \beta)$ is the nonnegative integer depending on l and β . Since $H_{k(\beta)}$ fixed $\tilde{V}_{k(\beta)}$ and $f_\beta(k(\beta)) \neq 0$, one infers that $\Delta(\beta, \beta) \geq 1$. Since D is \mathbf{P} -free, $\mathbf{Z}_{2,\beta}$ will act freely on F^* and therefore $[\partial F^*, \eta |_{\mathbf{Z}_{2,\beta}}]$ is zero in $\mathfrak{N}_*(\mathbf{Z}_{2,\beta}; \mathcal{F}_1)$, \mathcal{F}_1 being the family consisting of only trivial subgroup of $\mathbf{Z}_{2,\beta}$. This gives

$$\sum_{l=0}^n [F^l] [S^{\Delta(l,\beta)-1}, a] = 0$$

in $\mathfrak{N}_*(\mathbf{Z}_{2,\beta}; \mathcal{F}_1)$. But $\mathfrak{N}_*(\mathbf{Z}_{2,\beta}; \mathcal{F}_1)$ is free \mathfrak{N}_* -module with a set $\{[S^n, a], n \in \mathbf{Z}^+\}$ of generators. This together with the fact that $\Delta(\beta, \beta) \geq 1$ gives $[F^\beta] = 0$ in \mathfrak{N}_* . By varying β , one gets $[F^\beta] = 0, \forall \beta = 0, \dots, n$. Hence $[F] = 0$ in \mathfrak{N}_* . Therefore

$$i_*[M^n, \theta] = \sum_{l=0}^n [F^l] [D(f_l), \psi(f_l)] = 0 \quad \text{in } \mathfrak{N}_*(G; \mathfrak{A}, \mathbf{P}).$$

But from Corollary 3.3, one infers that $i_*: \mathfrak{N}_*(G, \mathfrak{A}) \rightarrow \mathfrak{N}_*(G; \mathfrak{A}, \mathbf{P})$ is an injection. Therefore $[M^n, \theta]$ is zero in $\mathfrak{N}_*(G; \mathfrak{A})$. \square

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K. Adachi , Le problème de Lévi pour les fibrés grassmanniens et les variétés drapeaux	1
John MacLeod Ball , Remarks on the paper: "Basic calculus of variations"	7
John Kelly Beem and Phillip E. Parker , Whitney stability of solvability	11
Alberto Facchini , Decompositions of algebraically compact modules	25
S. S. Khare , Finite group action and equivariant bordism	39
Horst Leptin , A new kind of eigenfunction expansions on groups	45
Pei-Kee Lin , Unconditional bases and fixed points of nonexpansive mappings	69
Charles Livingston , Stably irreducible surfaces in S^4	77
Kevin Mor McCrimmon , Nonassociative algebras with scalar involution	85
Albert Milani , Singular limits of quasilinear hyperbolic systems in a bounded domain of \mathbf{R}^3 with applications to Maxwell's equations	111
Takemi Mizokami , On M -structures and strongly regularly stratifiable spaces	131
Jesper M. Møller , On the homology of spaces of sections of complex projective bundles	143
Nikolaos S. Papageorgiou , Carathéodory convex integrand operators and probability theory	155
Robert John Piacenza , Transfer in generalized prestack cohomology	185
Lance W. Small and Adrian R. Wadsworth , Integrality of subrings of matrix rings	195
James Michael Wilson , On the atomic decomposition for Hardy spaces	201