

# Cohomological non-rigidity of eight-dimensional complex projective towers

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A complex projective tower, or simply  $\mathbb{C}P$  tower, is an iterated complex projective fibration starting from a point. In this paper, we classify a certain class of 8–dimensional  $\mathbb{C}P$  towers up to diffeomorphism. As a consequence, we show that cohomological rigidity is not satisfied by the collection of 8–dimensional  $\mathbb{C}P$  towers: there are two distinct 8–dimensional  $\mathbb{C}P$  towers that have the same cohomology rings.

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## 1 Introduction

Let  $\mathcal{M}$  be a collection of diffeomorphism classes of smooth manifolds, and let  $\mathbf{H}^*\mathcal{M}$  be the isomorphism classes of cohomology rings of manifolds in  $\mathcal{M}$ . Let  $H^*: \mathcal{M} \rightarrow \mathbf{H}^*\mathcal{M}$  be the map defined by  $M \in \mathcal{M} \mapsto H^*(M; \mathbb{Z})$ . In general,  $H^*$  is not bijective. However, if we restrict the class of manifolds then this map sometimes becomes a bijection. For example, if  $\mathcal{M}$  is a collection of orientable 2–dimensional manifolds then it is well known that the map  $H^*$  is bijective. We say such a collection  $\mathcal{M}$  is *cohomologically rigid*, or that  $\mathcal{M}$  satisfies *cohomological rigidity*. The problem of whether the map  $H^*: \mathcal{M} \rightarrow \mathbf{H}^*\mathcal{M}$  is bijective or not is called the *cohomological rigidity problem*. In this paper, we study the cohomological rigidity problem for *complex projective towers* (or simply  $\mathbb{C}P$  towers), which we introduced in [7].

A  $\mathbb{C}P$  tower of height  $m$  is a sequence of complex projective fibrations

$$(1) \quad C_m \xrightarrow{\pi_m} C_{m-1} \xrightarrow{\pi_{m-1}} \cdots \xrightarrow{\pi_2} C_1 \xrightarrow{\pi_1} C_0 = \{\text{point}\},$$

where  $C_i = P(\xi_{i-1})$  is the projectivization of a complex vector bundle  $\xi_{i-1}$  over  $C_{i-1}$ . We call each  $C_i$  the  $i^{\text{th}}$  stage of the tower. If we forget the tower structure, then we call  $C_i$  an ( $i$ –stage)  $\mathbb{C}P$  manifold. In [7], we show that the diffeomorphism types of 6–dimensional  $\mathbb{C}P$  manifolds are determined by their cohomology rings; ie the collection of 6–dimensional  $\mathbb{C}P$  manifolds  $\mathbb{C}P\mathcal{M}^6$  is cohomologically rigid. This is a generalization of the fact, due to Choi, Masuda and Suh [5], that the collection  $\mathcal{GBM}^6$

of 6–dimensional generalized Bott manifolds is cohomologically rigid. It is also known that the collection  $\mathcal{GBM}_2^{2n}$  of  $2n$ –dimensional 2–stage generalized Bott manifolds is cohomologically rigid. The purpose of this paper is to show that the collection  $\mathcal{CPM}_2^8$  of 8–dimensional 2–stage  $\mathbb{C}P$  manifolds is not cohomologically rigid.

To state our main theorem, let us recall a theorem of Atiyah and Rees [1, Theorem 2.8]. Let  $\text{Vect}_2(\mathbb{C}P^3)$  be the collection of isomorphism classes of 2–dimensional complex vector bundles over  $\mathbb{C}P^3$ .

**Theorem 1.1** (Atiyah–Rees) *There exists an injective map*

$$\phi: \text{Vect}_2(\mathbb{C}P^3) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_2 \oplus \mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z}, \quad \xi \mapsto (\alpha(\xi), c_1(\xi), c_2(\xi)),$$

where  $c_1(\xi)$  and  $c_2(\xi)$  are the first and the second Chern classes of  $\xi$ , and  $\alpha(\xi) \in \mathbb{Z}_2$  is 0 when  $c_1(\xi)$  is odd.

By Theorem 1.1, any element in  $\text{Vect}_2(\mathbb{C}P^3)$  can be denoted by  $\eta_{(\alpha, c_1, c_2)}$ , where  $(\alpha, c_1, c_2) \in \mathbb{Z}_2 \oplus \mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z}$  is such that  $\alpha \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$  when  $c_1 \equiv 1 \pmod{2}$ . On the other hand, it's easy to see that  $P(\eta_{(\alpha, c_1, c_2)})$  is diffeomorphic to  $P(\eta_{(0, 1, c_2 - (c_1^2 - 1)/4)})$  if  $c_1 \equiv 1 \pmod{2}$ , and diffeomorphic to  $P(\eta_{(\alpha, 0, c_2 - c_1^2/4)})$  if  $c_1 \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$ ; see Lemma 3.2.

We now state the main result of the paper; see Theorem 4.2 for (1) and Theorem 5.2 for a more precise statement of (2).

**Theorem 1.2** *Let  $N(u) := P(\eta_{(0, 1, u)})$  and  $\mathcal{N} := \{N(u) \mid u \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ . Similarly, let  $M_\alpha(u) := P(\eta_{(\alpha, 0, u)})$  and  $\mathcal{M} := \{M_\alpha(u) \mid \alpha \in \{0, 1\}, u \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ .*

- (1)  $\mathcal{N}$  is cohomologically rigid. In fact, the following are equivalent:
  - (a)  $N(u)$  is diffeomorphic to  $N(u')$ .
  - (b)  $u = u'$ .
  - (c)  $H^*(N(u); \mathbb{Z})$  and  $H^*(N(u'); \mathbb{Z})$  are isomorphic as graded rings.
- (2)  $\mathcal{M}$  is not cohomologically rigid. In fact,  $H^*(M_0(u); \mathbb{Z})$  and  $H^*(M_1(u); \mathbb{Z})$  are isomorphic as graded rings for all  $u$ , but if  $u(u + 1)/12 \in \mathbb{Z}$  then  $M_0(u)$  is not diffeomorphic, or even homotopic, to  $M_1(u)$ .

We prove (2) in Proposition 5.4 by showing that  $\pi_6(M_0(u)) \not\cong \pi_6(M_1(u))$  when  $u(u + 1)/12 \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

The organization of this paper is as follows. In Section 2, as examples of  $\mathbb{C}P$  towers, we explain when a flag manifold admits the structure of a  $\mathbb{C}P$  tower. In Section 3, we recall some basic facts from [7]. In Section 4, we show that  $\mathcal{N}$  satisfies cohomological rigidity. In Section 5, we compute the 6–dimensional homotopy group of the elements in some class of  $\mathcal{M}$  and show that  $\mathcal{M}$  does not satisfy cohomological rigidity.

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## 2 Flag manifolds of type A and C

$\mathbb{C}P$  towers include many interesting classes of manifolds. In a previous paper [7], we showed that generalized Bott manifolds and the Milnor hypersurface admit a  $\mathbb{C}P$  tower structure. We first introduce two other examples of  $\mathbb{C}P$  towers. Let  $\mathbb{C}PM_m^{2n}$  be the collection of  $2n$ -dimensional  $m$ -stage  $\mathbb{C}P$  manifolds up to diffeomorphism.

**Example 2.1** A partial flag manifold  $\mathcal{F}(d_1, d_2, \dots, d_k)$ , where  $0 = d_0 < d_1 < d_2 < \dots < d_{k-1} < d_k = n + 1$ , is defined by the set of partial flags

$$\{0\} \subset V_1 \subset V_2 \subset \dots \subset V_{k-1} \subset V_k = \mathbb{C}^{n+1},$$

where  $V_i$  is a complex subspace of  $\mathbb{C}^{n+1}$  of complex dimension  $d_i$ . This is well known to be diffeomorphic to the homogeneous space  $U(n+1)/(U(n_1) \times \dots \times U(n_k))$ , where  $n_i = d_i - d_{i-1}$  for  $i = 1, \dots, k$ . Denote the partial flag manifold  $\mathcal{F}(i, i+1, \dots, n+1)$  by  $\mathcal{F}_i$ . In particular, we call  $\mathcal{F}_1 = \mathcal{F}(1, 2, \dots, n+1)$  a *flag manifold of type A* (or a *complete flag manifold*), and denote it by  $\mathcal{F}l(\mathbb{C}^{n+1})$ . We will show that the flag manifold of type A has the structure of a  $\mathbb{C}P$  tower with height  $n$ . We first define a map  $p_i: \mathcal{F}_i \rightarrow \mathcal{F}_{i+1}$  by

$$p_i: \{0\} \subset V_i \subset V_{i+1} \subset \dots \subset V_n \subset \mathbb{C}^{n+1} \mapsto \{0\} \subset V_{i+1} \subset \dots \subset V_n \subset \mathbb{C}^{n+1}.$$

As the pull-back of a point in  $\mathcal{F}_{i+1}$  by  $p_i$  can be regarded as the set of codimension-one subspaces  $V_i \subset V_{i+1}$ ,  $\mathcal{F}_i$  is a  $\text{Gr}_i(V_{i+1})$ -bundle over  $\mathcal{F}_{i+1}$ . Here,  $\text{Gr}_i(V_{i+1})$

is the complex Grassmannian of  $i$ -dimensional subspaces in  $V_{i+1}$ ; ie  $\mathcal{F}(i, i + 1)$ . Because the normal subspace of a codimension-one subspace  $V_i \subset V_{i+1}$  is just a line through the origin, the complex Grassmannian  $\text{Gr}_i(V_{i+1})$  may be regarded as the  $i$ -dimensional complex projective space  $\mathbb{C}P(V_{i+1}) = (V_{i+1} \setminus \{0\})/\mathbb{C}^*$ . Using this fact, it is easy to check that  $\mathcal{F}_i$  is the projectivization of the tautological bundle over  $\mathcal{F}_{i+1}$ ; ie  $\mathcal{F}_i = \mathbb{C}P(\eta_{i+1})$ , where the tautological bundle  $\eta_{i+1}$  is the complex  $(i + 1)$ -dimensional vector bundle defined by the subset

$$\{(\{0\} \subset V_{i+1} \subset \dots \subset V_n \subset \mathbb{C}^{n+1}, x) \mid x \in V_{i+1}\}$$

of  $\mathcal{F}_{i+1} \times \mathbb{C}^{n+1}$ . Therefore,  $\mathcal{F}l(\mathbb{C}^{n+1})$  has the structure of a  $\mathbb{C}P$  tower:

$$\mathcal{F}l(\mathbb{C}^{n+1}) = P(\eta_2) \xrightarrow{\mathbb{C}P^1} \mathcal{F}_2 = P(\eta_3) \xrightarrow{\mathbb{C}P^2} \dots \xrightarrow{\mathbb{C}P^{n-1}} \mathcal{F}_n \simeq \mathbb{C}P^n \longrightarrow \{*\}.$$

Hence the flag manifold of type A is an element of  $\mathbb{C}PM_n^{n^2+n}$ .

**Example 2.2** Let  $(\mathbb{C}^{2n}, \omega)$  be a complex vector space with a symplectic structure  $\omega$  given by the skew-symmetric bilinear form

$$\Omega = \begin{pmatrix} O & I_n \\ -I_n & O \end{pmatrix},$$

where  $O$  is the  $n \times n$  zero matrix and  $I_n$  is the  $n \times n$  identity matrix. Let  $V$  be a complex linear subspace in  $\mathbb{C}^{2n}$ . Define the  $\omega$ -perpendicular space of  $V$  to be the subspace

$$V^\omega = \{w \in \mathbb{C}^{2n} \mid \omega(v, w) = v^T \Omega w = 0 \text{ for all } v \in V\}.$$

Note that  $(V^\omega)^\omega = V$  and  $\dim_{\mathbb{C}} V + \dim_{\mathbb{C}} V^\omega = 2n$ . We call  $V$  isotropic or coisotropic if  $V \subset V^\omega$  or  $V^\omega \subset V$ , respectively. A symplectic partial flag manifold  $\text{Sp}^n \mathcal{F}(d_1, d_2, \dots, d_k)$ , where  $0 = d_0 < d_1 < d_2 < \dots < d_{k-1} < d_k \leq n$ , is defined by the set of (isotropic) partial flags

$$\{0\} \subset V_1 \subset V_2 \subset \dots \subset V_{k-1} \subset V_k \subset \mathbb{C}^{2n},$$

where  $V_i$  is a complex isotropic subspace of  $(\mathbb{C}^{2n}, \omega)$  of complex dimension  $d_i$ . It is easy to check that this is equivalent to the set of partial flags

$$\{0\} \subset V_1 \subset \dots \subset V_{k-1} \subset V_k \subset V_k^\omega \subset V_{k-1}^\omega \subset \dots \subset V_1^\omega \subset \mathbb{C}^{2n}.$$

This is well known to be diffeomorphic to the homogeneous space  $\text{Sp}(n)/(U(n_1) \times \dots \times U(n_k) \times \text{Sp}(n_{k+1}))$ , where  $n_i = d_i - d_{i-1}$  for  $i = 1, \dots, k$  and  $n_{k+1} = \frac{1}{2}(\dim V_k^\omega - \dim V_k) = n - d_k$ . If  $d_k = \frac{1}{2} \dim V_k = n$ , ie  $V_k = V_k^\omega$  is a Lagrangian subspace, then  $\text{Sp}^n \mathcal{F}(d_1, d_2, \dots, d_{k-1}, n)$  is diffeomorphic to  $\text{Sp}(n)/(U(n_1) \times \dots \times U(n_k))$ . Denote the symplectic partial flag manifold  $\text{Sp}^n \mathcal{F}(1, 2, \dots, i)$  by  $\text{Sp}^n \mathcal{F}_i$  for  $i \geq 1$ .

In particular, we call  $\text{Sp}^n \mathcal{F}_n = \text{Sp}^n \mathcal{F}(1, 2, \dots, n)$  a *flag manifold of type C* (or a *symplectic flag manifold*), and denote it by  $\text{Sp} \mathcal{F}l(\mathbb{C}^{2n})$ . We will show that the flag manifold of type C has the structure of a CP tower with height  $n$ . We first define a map  $q_i: \text{Sp}^n \mathcal{F}_{i+1} \rightarrow \text{Sp}^n \mathcal{F}_i$  by

$$q_i: \{0\} \subset V_1 \subset \dots \subset V_i \subset V_{i+1} \subset V_{i+1}^\omega \subset V_i^\omega \subset \dots \subset V_1^\omega \subset \mathbb{C}^{2n} \\ \mapsto \{0\} \subset V_1 \subset \dots \subset V_i \subset V_i^\omega \subset \dots \subset V_1^\omega \subset \mathbb{C}^{2n}.$$

The pull-back of a point in  $\text{Sp}^n \mathcal{F}_i$  by  $q_i$  can be regarded as the set of isotropic subspaces  $V_{i+1}$  in  $\mathbb{C}^{2n}$  which contain the isotropic subspace  $V_i$  as a codimension-one subspace. Note that for any vectors  $v \in V_i^\omega \setminus V_i$ , the subspace  $V_i \oplus \text{span}_{\mathbb{C}}(v)$  is an isotropic subspace which contains  $V_i$  as a codimension-one subspace. Therefore, there exists a one-to-one correspondence between the pull-back of a point in  $\text{Sp}^n \mathcal{F}_i$  by  $q_i$  and all complex lines in the quotient vector space  $V_i^\omega / V_i \simeq \mathbb{C}^{2n-2i}$ ; ie  $\text{Sp}^n \mathcal{F}_{i+1}$  is a  $\mathbb{C}P^{2n-2i-1}$ -bundle over  $\text{Sp}^n \mathcal{F}_i$ . Using this fact, it is easy to check that  $\text{Sp}^n \mathcal{F}_{i+1}$  is the projectivization of the quotient bundle over  $\text{Sp}^n \mathcal{F}_i$ ; ie  $\text{Sp}^n \mathcal{F}_{i+1} = P(\zeta_i^\omega / \zeta_i)$ , where the two tautological bundles  $\zeta_i^\omega$  and  $\zeta_i$  are defined by the following subsets in  $\text{Sp}^n \mathcal{F}_i \times \mathbb{C}^{2n}$ , respectively:

$$\{(\{0\} \subset V_1 \subset \dots \subset V_i \subset V_i^\omega \subset \dots \subset V_1^\omega \subset \mathbb{C}^{2n}, x) \mid x \in V_i^\omega\}, \\ \{(\{0\} \subset V_1 \subset \dots \subset V_i \subset V_i^\omega \subset \dots \subset V_1^\omega \subset \mathbb{C}^{2n}, x) \mid x \in V_i\}.$$

Note that  $\zeta_i^\omega$  is a  $\mathbb{C}^{2n-i}$ -vector bundle and  $\zeta_i$  is a  $\mathbb{C}^i$ -vector bundle; therefore, the quotient bundle  $\zeta_i^\omega / \zeta_i$  is a  $\mathbb{C}^{2n-2i}$ -vector bundle. Therefore,  $\text{Sp} \mathcal{F}l(\mathbb{C}^{2n})$  has the structure of a CP tower:

$$\text{Sp} \mathcal{F}l(\mathbb{C}^{2n}) = P(\zeta_{n-1}^\omega / \zeta_{n-1}) \xrightarrow{\mathbb{C}P^1} \text{Sp}^n \mathcal{F}_{n-1} = P(\zeta_{n-2}^\omega / \zeta_{n-2}) \xrightarrow{\mathbb{C}P^3} \dots \xrightarrow{\mathbb{C}P^{2n-3}} \text{Sp}^n \mathcal{F}_1 \\ \simeq \mathbb{C}P^{2n-1} \longrightarrow \{*\}.$$

Hence the flag manifold of type C is an element of  $\mathbb{C}P\mathcal{M}_n^{2n^2}$ .

**Remark 1** As is well known, both of the flag manifolds  $\mathcal{F}l(\mathbb{C}^{n+1}) \simeq U(n+1)/T^{n+1}$  and  $\text{Sp} \mathcal{F}l(\mathbb{C}^{2n}) \simeq \text{Sp}(n)/T^n$  with  $n \geq 2$  do not admit the structure of a *toric manifold*; see [3], for example. On the other hand,  $U(2)/T^2 \cong \text{Sp}(1)/T^1 \cong \mathbb{C}P^1$  is a toric manifold.

Moreover, by computing the generators of flag manifolds of other types —  $B_n$  ( $n \geq 3$ ),  $D_n$  ( $n \geq 4$ ),  $G_2, F_4, E_6, E_7, E_8$  — we see that not all flag manifolds admit the structure of a CP tower; see [2], or [6] for classical types. This leads us to the following proposition.

**Proposition 2.3** *Let  $M = G/T$  be a flag manifold, where  $G$  is a compact simple Lie group and  $T$  is its maximal torus. If  $M$  admits the structure of a  $\mathbb{C}P$  tower, then  $G$  must be a compact Lie group of type  $A$  or  $C$ .*

The following open problem naturally arises (also see Remark 2).

**Problem 1** Let  $H^*: \mathbb{C}PM \rightarrow H^*\mathbb{C}PM$  be the map defined by taking cohomology rings. Classify the diffeomorphism types of all manifolds in the classes

$$(H^*)^{-1}(H^*(U(n+1)/T^{n+1})) \quad \text{and} \quad (H^*)^{-1}(H^*(Sp(n)/T^n)).$$

### 3 Some preliminaries

#### 3A Preliminaries from [7]

We first recall some basic facts from [7, Section 2].

Let  $\xi$  be an  $n$ -dimensional complex vector bundle over a topological space  $X$ , and let  $P(\xi)$  denote its projectivization. Then

$$(2) \quad H^*(P(\xi); \mathbb{Z}) \cong H^*(X; \mathbb{Z})[x] / \left\langle x^{n+1} + \sum_{i=1}^n (-1)^i c_i(\pi^*\xi)x^{n+1-i} \right\rangle,$$

where  $\pi^*\xi$  is the pull-back of  $\xi$  along  $\pi: P(\xi) \rightarrow X$  and  $c_i(\pi^*\xi)$  is the  $i^{\text{th}}$  Chern class of  $\pi^*\xi$  [7]. Here  $x$  can be viewed as the first Chern class of the canonical line bundle over  $P(\xi)$ ; ie the complex 1-dimensional sub-bundle  $\gamma_\xi$  in  $\pi^*\xi \rightarrow P(\xi)$  such that the restriction  $\gamma_\xi|_{\pi^{-1}(a)}$  is the canonical line bundle over  $\pi^{-1}(a) \cong \mathbb{C}P^{n-1}$  for all  $a \in X$ . Therefore  $\deg x = 2$ . Since it is well known that the induced homomorphism  $\pi^*: H^*(X; \mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow H^*(P(\xi); \mathbb{Z})$  is injective, we often abuse the notation  $c_i(\pi^*\xi)$  by writing  $c_i(\xi)$ . The formula (2) is called the *Borel–Hirzebruch formula*.

To prove the main theorem, we often use the following two lemmas.

**Lemma 3.1** *Let  $\gamma$  be any complex line bundle over  $M$  and let  $P(\xi)$  be the projectivization of a complex vector bundle  $\xi$  over  $M$ . Then  $P(\xi)$  is diffeomorphic to  $P(\xi \otimes \gamma)$ .*

**Lemma 3.2** *Let  $\gamma$  be a complex line bundle and let  $\xi$  be a 2-dimensional complex vector bundle over a manifold  $M$ . Then the Chern classes of the tensor product  $\xi \otimes \gamma$  are*

$$\begin{aligned} c_1(\xi \otimes \gamma) &= c_1(\xi) + 2c_1(\gamma), \\ c_2(\xi \otimes \gamma) &= c_1(\gamma)^2 + c_1(\gamma)c_1(\xi) + c_2(\xi). \end{aligned}$$

### 3B The Atiyah–Rees theorem

By Theorem 1.1, all of the complex 2-plane bundles over  $\mathbb{C}P^3$  can be written  $\eta_{(\alpha, c_1, c_2)}$  for some  $(\alpha, c_1, c_2) \in \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}$ . Using Lemma 3.1, its projectivization  $P(\eta_{(\alpha, c_1, c_2)})$  is diffeomorphic to  $P(\eta_{(\alpha, c_1, c_2)} \otimes \gamma)$  for any complex line bundle  $\gamma$  over  $\mathbb{C}P^3$ . By Lemma 3.2 and the proof of [1, Theorem 2.8] (Theorem 1.1 here), we also have

$$\eta_{(\alpha, c_1, c_2)} \otimes \gamma \equiv \eta_{(\alpha, c_1 + 2c_1(\gamma), c_1(\gamma)^2 + c_1(\gamma)c_1 + c_2)}.$$

Thus we may assume  $c_1 \in \{0, 1\}$ . Consequently, to classify all  $P(\eta_{(\alpha, c_1, c_2)})$  up to diffeomorphisms, it is enough to classify

$$\begin{aligned} M_0(u) &= P(\eta_{(0, 0, u)}), \\ M_1(u) &= P(\eta_{(1, 0, u)}), \\ N(u) &= P(\eta_{(0, 1, u)}), \end{aligned}$$

with  $u \in \mathbb{Z}$ . We denote the class of  $M_0(u), M_1(u)$  up to diffeomorphism by  $\mathcal{M}$  and that of  $N(u)$  by  $\mathcal{N}$ . Then both classes  $\mathcal{M}$  and  $\mathcal{N}$  are subclasses of  $\mathbb{C}PM_2^8$  consisting of 8-dimensional 2-stage CP manifolds.

### 3C The intersection of $\mathcal{M}$ and $\mathcal{N}$ is empty

We prove that  $\mathcal{M} \cap \mathcal{N} = \emptyset$  by comparing cohomology rings. Namely, we prove the following lemma.

**Lemma 3.3** *Two cohomology rings  $H^*(M_\alpha(u))$  and  $H^*(N(u'))$  are not isomorphic for any  $u, u' \in \mathbb{Z}$ .*

**Proof** Using the Borel–Hirzebruch formula (2), we have the cohomology rings with  $\mathbb{Z}_2$ -coefficients

$$\begin{aligned} H^*(M_\alpha(u); \mathbb{Z}_2) &\cong \mathbb{Z}_2[X, Y] / \langle X^4, uX^2 + Y^2 \rangle, \\ H^*(N(u'); \mathbb{Z}_2) &\cong \mathbb{Z}_2[x, y] / \langle x^4, u'x^2 + xy + y^2 \rangle. \end{aligned}$$

Now, the element  $uX + Y$  in  $H^2(M_\alpha(u); \mathbb{Z}_2)$  satisfies

$$(uX + Y)^2 = u^2X^2 + 2uXY + Y^2 \equiv uX^2 + Y^2 (= 0) \pmod{2}.$$

However, the squares of all non-zero elements  $x, y, x + y$  in  $H^2(N(u'); \mathbb{Z}_2)$  are not zero because of its ring structure. Hence

$$H^*(M_\alpha(u)) \not\cong H^*(N(u')) \quad \text{for all } u, u' \in \mathbb{Z}. \quad \square$$

**Corollary 3.4** *The classes  $\mathcal{M}$  and  $\mathcal{N}$  are disjoint.*

### 4 Cohomological rigidity of $\mathcal{N}$

In this section, we prove the cohomological rigidity of the class  $\mathcal{N}$ . It is enough to prove the following lemma.

**Lemma 4.1** *The following statements are equivalent for integers  $u, u'$ :*

- (1)  $H^*(N(u)) \cong H^*(N(u'))$ .
- (2)  $u = u'$ .

**Proof** Because (2)  $\Rightarrow$  (1) is trivial, it is enough to show (1)  $\Rightarrow$  (2). Assume there is an isomorphism  $f: H^*(N(u)) \cong H^*(N(u'))$ , where

$$H^*(N(u)) \cong \mathbb{Z}[X, Y]/\langle X^4, uX^2 + xy + Y^2 \rangle,$$

$$H^*(N(u')) \cong \mathbb{Z}[x, y]/\langle x^4, u'x^2 + xy + y^2 \rangle.$$

Here we may set

$$f(X) = ax + by \quad \text{and} \quad f(Y) = cx + dy$$

for some  $a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{Z}$  such that  $ad - bc = \epsilon = \pm 1$ . By taking its inverse, we also have

$$f^{-1}(x) = d\epsilon X - b\epsilon Y \quad \text{and} \quad f^{-1}(y) = -c\epsilon X + a\epsilon Y.$$

Because  $f(Y^2 + XY + uX^2) = 0$  and  $f^{-1}(y^2 + xy + u'x^2) = 0$ , we get

$$(3) \quad c^2 - d^2u' = -ua^2 + b^2uu' - ac + bdu',$$

$$(4) \quad 2cd - d^2 = -2abu + b^2u - ad - bc + bd.$$

Because  $f(X^4) = 0$  and  $f^{-1}(x^4) = 0$ , one of the following holds:

- (1)  $b = 0$ .
- (2)  $b \neq 0$  and  $4a^3 - 6a^2b + 4ab^2(1 - u') + b^3(2u' - 1) = -4d^3 - 6d^2b - 4db^2(1 - u) + b^3(2u - 1) = 0$ .

If  $b = 0$ , then  $|a| = |d| = 1$ . Therefore, by (4),  $2c = d - a$ ; ie  $c = 0$  if  $d = a$  or  $c = -a$  if  $d = -a$ . Because  $c^2 - u' = -u - ac$  by (3), we have that  $u = u'$ .

Assume  $b \neq 0$ . Because  $4a^3 - 6a^2b + 4ab^2(1 - u') + b^3(2u' - 1) = 0$ ,  $b$  is even. Therefore, since  $ad - bc = \pm 1$ ,  $a$  is odd. We note that the equation  $4a^3 - 6a^2b + 4ab^2(1 - u') + b^3(2u' - 1) = 0$  can be written

$$(2a - b)(2a^2 - 2ab + b^2 - 2b^2u') = 0.$$

Because  $a$  is odd and  $b$  is even, the second factor is not zero; therefore

$$b = 2a.$$



Since  $ad - bc = \pm 1$ , we conclude  $(a, b) = \pm(1, 2)$ . The same argument applied to the equation  $-4d^3 - 6d^2b - 4db^2(1 - u) + b^3(2u - 1) = 0$  shows that  $-b = 2d$  and  $(d, b) = \pm(-1, 2)$ . Therefore,  $(a, b, d)$  must be either  $(1, 2, -1)$  or  $(-1, -2, 1)$ . Then  $c = 0$  or  $-1$  in the former case while  $c = 0$  or  $1$  in the latter because  $ad - bc = \pm 1$ . In any case, it follows from (3) that  $u' + u = 4uu'$ , an identity which holds only when  $u = u' = 0$  since  $u, u' \in \mathbb{Z}$ . This completes the case where  $b \neq 0$ .  $\square$

Theorem 1.1 and Lemma 4.1 give the next theorem, which establishes Theorem 1.2(1).

**Theorem 4.2** *The following three statements are equivalent:*

- (1)  $N(u)$  and  $N(u')$  are diffeomorphic.
- (2) The cohomology rings  $H^*(N(u))$  and  $H^*(N(u'))$  are isomorphic.
- (3)  $u = u' \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

*In particular, the class  $\mathcal{N}$  is cohomologically rigid.*

## 5 Cohomological non-rigidity of $\mathbb{C}P\mathcal{M}_2^8$

**Lemma 5.1** *The following two statements are equivalent for integers  $u, u'$ :*

- (1)  $H^*(M_\alpha(u)) \cong H^*(M_{\alpha'}(u'))$ , where  $\alpha, \alpha' \in \{0, 1\}$ .
- (2)  $u = u'$ .

**Proof** Because (2)  $\Rightarrow$  (1) is trivial, it is enough to show (1)  $\Rightarrow$  (2). Assume there is an isomorphism  $f: H^*(M_\alpha(u)) \rightarrow H^*(M_{\alpha'}(u'))$ , where

$$H^*(M_\alpha(u)) \cong \mathbb{Z}[X, Y]/\langle X^4, uX^2 + Y^2 \rangle,$$

$$H^*(M_{\alpha'}(u')) \cong \mathbb{Z}[x, y]/\langle x^4, u'x^2 + y^2 \rangle.$$

We may use the same representation for  $f$  as in the proof of Lemma 4.1. Note that  $f(uX^2 + Y^2) = 0$  and  $f^{-1}(u'x^2 + y^2) = 0$ . Using the representation of  $f$ , we have

$$(5) \quad ua^2 - uu'b^2 + c^2 - u'd^2 = 0,$$

$$(6) \quad u'd^2 - uu'b^2 + c^2 - a^2u = 0,$$

which lead to

$$(7) \quad c^2 = b^2uu',$$

$$(8) \quad ua^2 = u'd^2.$$

Because  $X^4 = 0$ ,

$$ab(a^2 - b^2u') = 0.$$

We first assume  $ab \neq 0$ . Then

$$a^2 = b^2u'.$$

Together with (7) and (8), we have

$$c^2b^2 = b^4uu' = b^2a^2u = b^2d^2u' = a^2d^2.$$

This implies

$$(ad - bc)(ad + bc) = \epsilon(ad + bc) = 0.$$

Hence  $ad = -bc$ . However this gives a contradiction because  $ad - bc = 2ad = \epsilon = \pm 1$ . Consequently,  $ab = 0$ . Since  $ad - bc = \epsilon$ , if  $a = 0$  then  $|b| = |c| = 1$ , so  $u = u' = \pm 1$  by (7), and if  $b = 0$  then  $|a| = |d| = 1$ , so  $u = u'$  by (8). This establishes the lemma.  $\square$

Lemma 5.1 says that cohomology rings of  $\mathcal{M}$  are not affected by  $\alpha \in \mathbb{Z}_2$ . On the other hand, the goal of this section is to prove the following theorem, that some topological types of  $\mathcal{M}$  are affected by  $\alpha \in \mathbb{Z}_2$ .

**Theorem 5.2** *Assume  $u(u + 1)/12 \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{Z}_2$ . The following are equivalent:*

- (1)  $M_\alpha(u)$  and  $M_\beta(u')$  are diffeomorphic.
- (2)  $(\alpha, u) = (\beta, u') \in \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}$ .
- (3)  $M_\alpha(u)$  and  $M_\beta(u')$  are homotopy equivalent.

In order to prove Theorem 5.2, we first compute the 6-dimensional homotopy group of  $M_\alpha(u)$  in Proposition 5.4. Now  $M_\alpha(u)$  can be defined by the following pull-back diagram.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} M_\alpha(u) & \longrightarrow & EU(2) \times_{U(2)} \mathbb{C}P^1 \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \mathbb{C}P^3 & \xrightarrow{\mu_{\alpha,u}} & BU(2) \end{array}$$

Let  $p: S^7 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}P^3$  be the canonical  $S^1$ -fibration and  $P(\xi_{\alpha,u})$  be the pull-back of  $M_\alpha(u)$  along  $p$ . Namely, the following diagram commutes.

$$(9) \quad \begin{array}{ccccc} P(\xi_{\alpha,u}) & \longrightarrow & M_\alpha(u) & \longrightarrow & EU(2) \times_{U(2)} \mathbb{C}P^1 \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ S^7 & \xrightarrow{p} & \mathbb{C}P^3 & \xrightarrow{\mu_{\alpha,u}} & BU(2) \end{array}$$

**Lemma 5.3** For  $* \geq 3$ ,  $\pi_*(P(\xi_{\alpha,u})) \cong \pi_*(M_\alpha(u))$ .

**Proof** Because  $P(\xi_{\alpha,u})$  is the pull-back of  $M_\alpha(u)$ , the homotopy exact sequences of  $P(\xi_{\alpha,u})$  and  $M_\alpha(u)$  satisfy the following commutative diagram.

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccc}
 \pi_{*+1}(S^7) & \longrightarrow & \pi_*(\mathbb{C}P^1) & \longrightarrow & \pi_*(P(\xi_{\alpha,u})) & \longrightarrow & \pi_*(S^7) & \longrightarrow & \pi_{*-1}(\mathbb{C}P^1) \\
 \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 \pi_{*+1}(\mathbb{C}P^3) & \longrightarrow & \pi_*(\mathbb{C}P^1) & \longrightarrow & \pi_*(M_\alpha(u)) & \longrightarrow & \pi_*(\mathbb{C}P^3) & \longrightarrow & \pi_{*-1}(\mathbb{C}P^1)
 \end{array}$$

From the homotopy exact sequence of the fibration  $S^1 \rightarrow S^7 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}P^3$ , we have  $\pi_*(S^7) \cong \pi_*(\mathbb{C}P^3)$  for  $* \geq 3$ . Therefore, by the five lemma, the proof is complete.  $\square$

**Proposition 5.4** Assume  $u(u + 1)/12 \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

- (1)  $\pi_6(P(\xi_{\alpha,u})) \cong \pi_6(M_\alpha(u)) \cong \mathbb{Z}_{12}$  if  $\alpha \equiv u(u + 1)/12 \pmod{2}$ .
- (2)  $\pi_6(P(\xi_{\beta,u})) \cong \pi_6(M_\beta(u)) \cong \mathbb{Z}_6$  if  $\beta \not\equiv u(u + 1)/12 \pmod{2}$ .

**Proof** First we prove (1). If  $u(u + 1)/12 \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $\alpha \equiv u(u + 1)/12 \pmod{2}$ , then it follows from [1] that  $\xi_{\alpha,u}$  is induced from the rank-2 complex vector bundle over  $\mathbb{C}P^4$ . Namely, the following diagram commutes.

$$(10) \quad \begin{array}{ccccccc}
 \xi_{\alpha,u} & \longrightarrow & \eta_{(\alpha,0,u)} & \longrightarrow & \tilde{\mu}_{\alpha,u} & \longrightarrow & EU(2) \times_{U(2)} \mathbb{C}^2 \\
 \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 S^7 & \xrightarrow{p} & \mathbb{C}P^3 & \longrightarrow & \mathbb{C}P^4 & \longrightarrow & BU(2)
 \end{array}$$

On the other hand,  $\pi_7(\mathbb{C}P^4) \cong \pi_7(S^9) = \{0\}$ , using the homotopy exact sequence for the fibration  $S^1 \rightarrow S^9 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}P^4$ . This implies that  $\xi_{\alpha,u}$  is the trivial  $\mathbb{C}^2$ -bundle over  $S^7$ . Therefore,

$$P(\xi_{\alpha,u}) = S^7 \times \mathbb{C}P^1$$

when  $u(u + 1)/12 \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $\alpha \equiv u(u + 1)/12 \pmod{2}$ . Hence, we also have

$$\pi_6(M_\alpha(u)) \cong \pi_6(S^7 \times \mathbb{C}P^1) \cong \pi_6(\mathbb{C}P^1) \cong \mathbb{Z}_{12}.$$

Next we prove the second statement. Let  $\mu_{\alpha,u}: \mathbb{C}P^3 \rightarrow BU(2)$  be a continuous map which induces the above  $\eta_{(\alpha,0,u)}$ , and  $\beta$  be the element in  $\mathbb{Z}_2$  which is not equal to  $\alpha$ . Let  $x \in \mathbb{C}P^3$  and  $s = \mu_{\alpha,u}(x) \in BU(2)$  be base points. Take a disk neighborhood around  $x \in \mathbb{C}P^3$  and pinch its boundary to a point, ie the boundary of  $D^6 \subset \mathbb{C}P^3$  pinches to a point; then we obtain a surjective map

$$\rho: \mathbb{C}P^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}P^3 \vee S^6,$$

where  $\mathbb{C}P^3 \vee S^6$  may be regarded as the wedge sum with respect to the base points  $x \in \mathbb{C}P^3$  and  $y \in S^6$ . Due to Theorem 1.1, we have  $\eta_{(\beta,0,u)} \not\cong \eta_{(\alpha,0,u)}$ . This implies that the vector bundle  $\eta_{(\beta,0,u)}$  is induced from the continuous map

$$(11) \quad \mu_{\beta,u}: \mathbb{C}P^3 \xrightarrow{\rho} \mathbb{C}P^3 \vee S^6 \xrightarrow{v_\alpha} BU(2),$$

where  $v_\alpha = \mu_{\alpha,u} \vee \kappa$  for the generator  $\kappa \in \pi_6(BU(2), s) \cong \mathbb{Z}_2$ .<sup>1</sup> Hence, we have the following commutative diagram.

$$(12) \quad \begin{array}{ccccc} P(\xi_{\beta,u}) & \longrightarrow & M_\beta(u) & \longrightarrow & EU(2) \times_{U(2)} \mathbb{C}P^1 \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ S^7 & \xrightarrow{p} & \mathbb{C}P^3 & \xrightarrow{\mu_{\beta,u}} & BU(2) \\ & \searrow & \downarrow \rho & \nearrow v_\alpha & \\ & & \mathbb{C}P^3 \vee S^6 & & \end{array}$$

From the  $\mathbb{C}P^1$ -fibrations  $\mathbb{C}P^1 \rightarrow P(\xi_{\beta,u}) \rightarrow S^7$  and  $\mathbb{C}P^1 \rightarrow EU(2) \times_{U(2)} \mathbb{C}P^1 \cong BT^2 \rightarrow BU(2)$  in the diagram (12), we get the following commutative diagram.

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} \pi_7(S^7) \cong \mathbb{Z} & \longrightarrow & \pi_6(\mathbb{C}P^1) & \longrightarrow & \pi_6(P(\xi_{\beta,u})) & \longrightarrow & \pi_6(S^7) = \{0\} \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \cong & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \pi_7(BU(2)) \cong \mathbb{Z}_{12} & \xrightarrow{\cong} & \pi_6(\mathbb{C}P^1) & \longrightarrow & \pi_6(BT^2) = \{0\} & \longrightarrow & \pi_6(BU(2)) \cong \mathbb{Z}_2 \end{array}$$

This diagram shows that the following sequence is exact:

$$(13) \quad \mathbb{Z} \cong \pi_7(S^7) \rightarrow \pi_7(BU(2)) (\cong \mathbb{Z}_{12}) \rightarrow \pi_6(P(\xi_{\beta,u})) \rightarrow \{0\}.$$

In this diagram, the left homomorphism is induced from  $\tilde{\mu} := \mu_{\beta,u} \circ p: S^7 \rightarrow BU(2)$ , say  $\tilde{\mu}_\#: \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_{12}$ . We claim  $\tilde{\mu}_\#(1) = [6]_{12} \in \mathbb{Z}_{12}$ . Because the diagram (12) is commutative, we can think of  $\tilde{\mu} := \mu_{\beta,u} \circ p: S^7 \rightarrow BU(2)$  as being defined by passing through the map  $v_\alpha: \mathbb{C}P^3 \vee S^6 \rightarrow BU(2)$ ; ie  $\tilde{\mu} = v_\alpha \circ \rho \circ p$ . Because  $v_\alpha = \mu_{\alpha,u} \vee \kappa$ , we also have

$$\tilde{\mu} = (\mu_{\alpha,u} \vee \kappa) \circ \rho \circ p = (\mu_{\alpha,u} \circ \rho \circ p) \vee (\kappa \circ \rho \circ p).$$

By the argument we used while proving the first statement, we see that  $\mu_{\alpha,u} \circ \rho \circ p$  induces the trivial bundle over  $S^7$ ; ie  $\mu_{\alpha,u} \circ \rho \circ p$  is homotopic to the trivial map. This

<sup>1</sup>This construction induces the free  $\pi_6(BU(2)) \cong \pi_5(U(2)) \cong \mathbb{Z}_2$  action on  $\widetilde{KSp}(\mathbb{C}P^3) \cong \mathbb{Z}_2 \oplus \mathbb{Z}$ ; see [1].

also implies that the decomposition

$$\tilde{\mu}: S^7 \xrightarrow{p} \mathbb{C}P^3 \xrightarrow{\rho} \mathbb{C}P^3 \vee S^6 \xrightarrow{\pi} S^6 \xrightarrow{\kappa} BU(2)$$

exists up to homotopy, where  $\pi$  is the collapsing map of  $\mathbb{C}P^3$  to a point. Therefore, we have the following decomposition for the induced map:

$$\tilde{\mu}_\#: \pi_7(S^7) \xrightarrow{\Psi_\#} \pi_7(S^6) \cong \mathbb{Z}_2 \xrightarrow{\kappa_\#} \pi_7(BU(2)) \cong \mathbb{Z}_{12},$$

where the first map is induced from the surjective map  $\Psi = \pi \circ \rho \circ p$ . Because  $\Psi$  is surjective, ie not homotopic to the trivial map, we have  $\Psi_\#(1) = [1]_2$  (the generator of  $\pi_7(S^6) \cong \mathbb{Z}_2$ ). Moreover, because  $\kappa \in \pi_6(BU(2)) \cong \mathbb{Z}_2$  is the generator, ie non-trivial map, we have  $\kappa_\#([1]_2) = [6]_{12} \in \mathbb{Z}_{12}$ . This shows that  $\tilde{\mu}_\#(1) = [6]_{12}$ ; therefore  $\tilde{\mu}_\#(\pi_7(S^7)) = \{[0]_{12}, [6]_{12}\} \subset \mathbb{Z}_{12}$ .

Consequently, by the exact sequence (13),

$$\pi_6(P(\xi_{\beta,u})) \cong \pi_7(BU(2))/\tilde{\mu}_\#(\pi_7(S^7)) \cong \mathbb{Z}_{12}/\{[0]_{12}, [6]_{12}\} \cong \mathbb{Z}_6.$$

By Lemma 5.3, we have the statement. □

**Remark 2** For example, the condition  $u(u + 1)/12 \in \mathbb{Z}$  is satisfied when  $u = 0$  and  $u = 3$ . In these cases, using Proposition 5.4, we have

$$\pi_6(M_\alpha(0)) \cong \begin{cases} \mathbb{Z}_{12} & \text{for } \alpha \equiv 0 \\ \mathbb{Z}_6 & \text{for } \alpha \equiv 1 \end{cases} \quad \text{and} \quad \pi_6(M_\alpha(3)) \cong \begin{cases} \mathbb{Z}_6 & \text{for } \alpha \equiv 0 \\ \mathbb{Z}_{12} & \text{for } \alpha \equiv 1. \end{cases}$$

On the other hand, the case when  $u = 1$  does not satisfy the condition  $u(u + 1)/12 \in \mathbb{Z}$ . It follows from the cohomology ring of the flag manifold of type C (see for example [2] or [6]) that the flag manifold  $Sp(2)/T^2$  is one for which  $u = 1$ ; ie  $M_0(1)$  or  $M_1(1)$ . However, using the homotopy exact sequence for the fibration  $T^2 \rightarrow Sp(2) \rightarrow Sp(2)/T^2$  and the computation in [8],

$$\pi_6(Sp(2)/T^2) \cong \pi_6(Sp(2)) = 0.$$

Therefore, Proposition 5.4 is not true in the case where  $u(u + 1)/12 \notin \mathbb{Z}$ .

**Proof of Theorem 5.2** (2)  $\Rightarrow$  (1) is trivial, as is (1)  $\Rightarrow$  (3). We claim (3)  $\Rightarrow$  (2). Assume  $M_\alpha(u)$  and  $M_\beta(u')$  are homotopy equivalent. Then  $H^*(M_\alpha(u)) \cong H^*(M_\beta(u'))$ . Therefore, it follows from Lemma 5.1 that  $u = u'$ . Moreover, in this case,  $\pi_6(M_\alpha(u)) \cong \pi_6(M_\beta(u))$ . If  $\alpha \not\equiv \beta \pmod{2}$ , then this gives a contradiction to Proposition 5.4. Hence,  $\alpha \equiv \beta \pmod{2}$ . We have (3)  $\Rightarrow$  (2). This establishes Theorem 5.2. □

Lemma 5.1 and Theorem 5.2 imply the following corollary, establishing Theorem 1.2(2).

**Corollary 5.5** *The set of 8-dimensional CP manifolds is not cohomologically rigid.*

Note that if we restrict the class of 8–dimensional  $\mathbb{C}P$  manifolds to the 8–dimensional generalized Bott manifolds with height 2, then cohomological rigidity holds [4]. On the other hand, the following seems to be more natural to ask of the class of  $\mathbb{C}P$  manifolds  $\mathbb{C}PM$  than the cohomological rigidity problem.

**Problem 2** Is the class  $\mathbb{C}PM$  of  $\mathbb{C}P$  manifolds (up to diffeomorphism) determined by homotopy types? More precisely, are  $M_1, M_2 \in \mathbb{C}PM$  diffeomorphic if they have the same homotopy type?

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