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Source: *Journal of the American Mathematical Society*, Vol. 2, No. 1 (Jan., 1989), pp. 137-186
Published by: American Mathematical Society
Stable URL: http://www.jstor.org/stable/1990915
Accessed: 16/06/2010 06:15

ON THE RIGIDITY THEOREMS OF WITTEN

RAOUL BOTT AND CLIFFORD TAUBES

1. INTRODUCTION

In this paper we prove the rigidity theorems predicted by Witten in 1986, about the index of certain elliptic operators on manifolds with an S^1 action [W].

Witten's insight was the culmination of an interesting interchange of ideas between him and Hopkins, Landweber, Ochanine, and Stong. For the detailed history, we refer the reader to [La].

The present account is essentially a reinterpretation of the second author's (Taubes' [T]) original proof of the theorem. The senior author's contribution was solely to notice that the rather densely written arguments of the original manuscript could be formulated in terms of the well known fixed point formulae of equivariant index theory and equivariant cohomology. In this context, the final proof then appears in direct lineage of the Atiyah-Hirzebruch theorem concerning the vanishing of the $\hat{A}$ genus of spin manifolds admitting a circle action [A-H] and of the even older idea of Lusztig concerning circle actions in the complex case. There remains, however, the beautiful, physics inspired novelty of connecting these techniques with elliptic function theory.

2. STATEMENT OF THE THEOREM

Recall that for an elliptic operator

$$(2.1) \qquad\qquad D : \Gamma(E) \to \Gamma(F)$$

acting on sections of vector bundles E and F over the compact manifold M, the index of D is defined as the virtual vector space

$$(2.2) \qquad\qquad \text{index } D = \ker D - \text{coker } D.$$

If M admits a circle action preserving D, that is, acting on E and F and commuting with D, then this index clearly inherits an S^1 action and so becomes a virtual S^1-module. As such it has a Fourier decomposition into a finite sum of irreducible one-dimensional representations

$$(2.3) \qquad\qquad \text{index } D = \sum a_n L^n$$

where L^n denotes the representation of S^1 on $\mathbf{C}$ sending $e^{i\theta}$ to $e^{in\theta}$, and the a_n's are integers.

We call the operator D "rigid" if, in this Fourier expansion, all a_n with $n \neq 0$ *vanish*. Another way of saying this is that D is rigid only if every *nontrivial* irreducible representation of S^1 occurring in $\ker(D)$ also occurs in $\operatorname{coker}(D)$ with the same multiplicity.

The simplest examples of rigid operators arise in deRham theory as a consequence of the homotopy invariance of cohomology: If

(2.4) $$\Omega^0 \xrightarrow{d} \Omega^1 \xrightarrow{d} \cdots \xrightarrow{d} \Omega^n$$

is the usual deRham complex and d^* denotes the adjoint of the exterior derivative, d, relative to a Riemannian structure then

(2.5) $$d + d^* : \Omega^{\text{even}} \to \Omega^{\text{odd}}.$$

Acting from even-dimensional forms to odd-dimensional ones, it is rigid in our sense for *any* action of S^1 on M by isometries. This follows from the Hodge theory because the kernel and cokernel of this operator consist precisely of the harmonic forms, which, by homotopy invariance, must stay put under the S^1 action.

Similarly, if $\Omega_C^{\pm}$ are the complex forms on M which are even and odd, respectively, under the Hodge $*$, then the signature operator

$$d_S : \Omega_C^+ \to \Omega_C^-$$

of an *oriented* manifold is rigid under any S^1-action by isometries. (When an operator is rigid under any action of S^1 by isometries, we will say that it is *universally rigid.*)

Here again it is the homotopy invariance that forces the rigidity because $\ker d_S$ and coker d_S are again naturally identified with the subspace of harmonic forms on M which are invariant, and anti-invariant, respectively, under the Hodge $*$ operator of M.

Note that in both these examples, the index is rigid in the very strong sense that both the kernel and the cokernel are separately rigid. It is for this reason that the example provided by the Dirac operator on a compact spin manifold of even dimension is more interesting. This operator,

$$\not{\partial} : \Gamma(\Delta^+) \to \Gamma(\Delta^-),$$

acts between sections of the two spin bundles of the spin structure, and it is also universally rigid. Here, the kernel and cokernel can separately "move," although they must be isomorphic S^1 modules. Indeed, this assertion is a corollary of the Atiyah-Hirzebruch Theorem which states that

(2.6)

  index $\not{\partial}$ = 0 whenever M is connected and admits a nontrivial S^1 action.

Now, for R a representation of $O(n)$, we also write R, or $R(T)$, for the bundle associated to the frame bundle of a Riemann manifold M by R. Use

of the Levi-Civita connection allows a functorial twisting by R of each of the three operators just described. Thus, for example, the twist of d_S by R, denoted by $d_S \otimes R$, is a new elliptic operator

$$(2.7) \qquad\qquad d_S \otimes R : \Omega_C^+(R) \rightarrow \Omega_C^-(R).$$

The question now arises which of these twists remain universally rigid.

Witten does not quite answer this query. It is still an open question, but he predicted that for the sequence of representations $\{R_n\}$ characterized below, $d_S \otimes R_n$ will be rigid.

Precisely, let T denote the standard complex representation of $O(n)$ or, if you wish, the tangent bundle of M. We write $S^k(T)$ and $\Lambda^k(T)$ for the symmetric and exterior powers of this representation and, as is usual, set

$$(2.8) \qquad \begin{aligned} S_a(T) &= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} a^k S^k(T), \\ \Lambda_a(T) &= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} a^k \, \Lambda^k(T). \end{aligned}$$

These should be thought of as formal power series in a with values in the representation ring of $O(2n)$ or $\mathrm{Spin}\,(2n)$. We also write Δ^+ and Δ^- for the spin representations of $\mathrm{Spin}\,(2n)$ and set

$$\Delta_1 = \Delta^+ + \Delta^- \quad \text{and} \quad \Delta_{-1} = \Delta^+ - \Delta^-.$$

On a spin manifold of dimension $2n$ with Dirac operator $\partial\!\!\!/$ one then has the "twisting relations"

$$(2.9) \qquad\qquad d_S = \partial\!\!\!/ \otimes \Delta_1, \quad d + d^* = \partial\!\!\!/ \otimes \Delta_{-1}$$

(which, in a sense, establish $\partial\!\!\!/$ as the *primary* elliptic operator associated to a Riemann structure on M).

With all this understood we can state the theorem that Witten conjectured as follows.

Theorem. *Let M be a $2n$ dimensional, compact Riemannian manifold which admits a spin-structure with corresponding Dirac operator $\partial\!\!\!/$. Also let R_n and R'_n be sequences of representations defined by the formal series*

$$(2.10) \qquad R_q \equiv \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} q^n R_n = \bigotimes_{n=1}^{\infty} \Lambda_{q^n}(T) \bigotimes_{m=1}^{\infty} S_{q^m}(T),$$

$$(2.11) \qquad R'_q \equiv \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} q^{n/2} R'_n = \bigotimes_{n=1/2,3/2,\dots} \Lambda_{q^n}(T) \bigotimes_{m=1}^{\infty} S_{q^m}(T).$$

Then each of the operators

$$\partial\!\!\!/ \otimes R'_n \quad \text{and} \quad \partial\!\!\!/ \otimes \Delta_1 \otimes R_n \equiv d_S \otimes R_n$$

is universally rigid.

The theorem has been established under restricted hypotheses about the S^1-action by Landweber and Stong [L-S] and then by Ochanine [O].

Remarks. (1) The first few of these representations are given by

$$R_0' = 1,$$
$$R_1' = T,$$

(2.12)
$$R_2' = \Lambda^2 T \oplus T,$$
$$R_3' = \Lambda^3 T \oplus T \otimes T \oplus T,$$
$$\cdots$$

and

$$R_0 = 1,$$
$$R_1 = 2T,$$

(2.13)
$$R_2 = 2(T^2 + T),$$
$$R_3 = 2T^3 + \Lambda^3 T + S^3 T + 4T^2 + 2T,$$
$$\cdots$$

It is clear, therefore, that this is a complicated series of representations and one might at first think it is for this reason that their rigidity was not noted earlier in some other context. Amazingly, this is not so. For instance, even the rigidity of the first new candidate $d_S \otimes T$, cannot be established in isolation, so to speak, at least as far as we know. Note also that these operators are rigid only on *spin* manifolds, although the family $d_S \otimes R_n$ is perfectly well defined on all oriented ones.

(2) Where do these formulae come from? Certainly they make best conceptual sense from Witten's physics-inspired point of view as formulae on the loop space $\mathscr{L}M$. But, as we will see, they also make excellent sense purely in the context of the "fixed point formula" which we review in the next section.

The overall plan of the paper is as follows. In §3 we state the fixed point formulae and use them to prove the rigidity of d_S. In §§4 and 5 we combine these arguments with the power series R_q and so interpret $\tau_q(M)$, the Chern character of index$(d_S \otimes R_q)$ (= ch·index$(d_S \otimes R_q)$), as a meromorphic function on a complex torus T_{q^2} which has poles only at roots of 1 and which has no poles on a certain circle $S \subset T_{q^2}$. §§6 and 7 then show that under the spin hypothesis, $\tau_q(M)$ has no poles anywhere on T_{q^2}, and hence is *constant*. In all these sections we assume isolated fixed points. Then, in §§8 and 9 we extend these arguments to S^1 actions with larger fixed point sets. §10 deals with questions of orientability and brings a new proof of a theorem of Edmonds. In §11 we follow Witten to extend the rigidity to auxiliary spin-bundles V on M, which approximate the tangent bundle T of M in the sense that $w_2(V - T) = 0$ and $\frac{1}{2}p_1(V - T) = 0$, with these classes now taken in the equivariant sense. Actually our conditions are slightly weaker than the ones formulated by Witten.

In §12 we discuss the rigidity for $\not{\partial} \otimes R'_n$. Finally in §13 we describe the modular properties of $\tau_q(M)$, and $\tau'_q(M) = \mathrm{ch} \cdot \mathrm{index}(\not{\partial} \otimes R'_q)$, and in §14 we state the "almost complex" version of the rigidity theorem, which can be treated in precisely the same manner. Because a version of this theorem was quite recently proved by F. Hirzebruch [H] we did not go into the details there.

Our approach is in a sense "low-brow" and hopefully accessible to non-experts. For a more lofty overview of the entire subject of elliptic cohomology we refer the reader to G. Segal's incisive Bourbaki account [S] as well as [La].

3. THE FIXED POINT FORMULA FOR ELLIPTIC COMPLEXES

Recall that the fixed point formula of [A-B] deals with the trace of a geometrically induced automorphism f of an elliptic operator:

$$(3.1) \qquad\qquad D : \Gamma(E) \to \Gamma(F).$$

When f has only nondegenerate fixed points, the result is of the following sort:

$$(3.2) \qquad \mathrm{Trace}\, f \mid (\ker D - \mathrm{coker}\, D) = \sum_{p \in M : f(p) = p} \mu_p(D, f).$$

The "multiplicity" μ_p is locally determined by the behavior of D and f near the fixed point p.

For instance, if we are dealing with an even-dimensional, oriented manifold M and an S^1 action on M with only *isolated fixed points*, this formula easily specializes to yield the following.

Let f denote the action of $e^{i\theta}$ in S^1. Also if p is a *fixed* point of the action let

$$(3.3) \qquad\qquad T_p = E_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus E_d, \quad d = \tfrac{1}{2} \dim_{\mathbf{R}} M,$$

be a decomposition of the tangent space to M at p into S^1-invariant, real 2-planes. (On each 2-plane, S^1 is represented in a *nontrivial manner*, because p is assumed to be isolated.)

We next choose an isomorphism of $\mathbf{C}$ with E_j relative to which the representation of S^1 on E_j is given by $e^{i\theta} \to e^{im_j\theta}$ with $m_j \in \mathbf{Z}$. But we choose these orientations to be compatible with the orientation of M, $\mathbf{C}$ being oriented by $\{1, i\}$ in the usual manner. The resulting set of integers $m_1, \ldots, m_d$ is called the set of exponents of the action at p. Note that they are unique up to sign, but the signs of the m_i can only be changed in even lots.

With this understood, and setting $\lambda = e^{i\theta}$, the fixed point formulae for our three complexes read:

$$(3.4) \qquad\qquad \textit{trace } f \textit{ on } \mathrm{index}(d + d^*) = \sum_{f(p) = p} +1,$$

$$(3.5) \qquad \text{trace } f \text{ on index } d_S = \sum_{f(p)=p} \prod_{j=1}^{d} \frac{(1 + \lambda^{m_j})}{(1 - \lambda^{m_j})},$$

$$(3.6) \qquad \text{trace } f \text{ on index } \not{\partial} = \sum_{f(p)=p} \prod_{j=1}^{d} \frac{\lambda^{m_j/2}}{(1 - \lambda^{m_j})}.$$

As trace f on L^n is clearly λ^n these formulae in principle determine the index $= \ker - \mathrm{coker}$ qua S^1 module in every case. In fact, the formulae go further. They immediately prove the universal rigidity for each of the three operators.

For (3.4) this is true by inspection: If the trace of multiplication by $e^{i\theta}$ is independent of θ then only the trivial representation occurs. For (3.5) we have to work a little harder and take the substitution $\lambda = e^{i\theta}$ more seriously: In terms of λ, the left-hand side (LHS), being the character of a finite-dimensional virtual S^1 module, is of the form

$$(3.7) \qquad \text{LHS} = \sum_{n=-N}^{n=+N} a_n \lambda^n.$$

This is the restriction to $S^1 \subset \mathbf{C}$ of a finite Laurent series on the λ-plane. On the other hand, the right-hand side (RHS) is the restriction to S^1 of the rational function

$$(3.8) \qquad \text{RHS} = \sum_{f(p)=p} \frac{\Pi(1 + \lambda^{m_j})}{\Pi(1 - \lambda^{m_j})}, \qquad \lambda = e^{i\theta}$$

also defined on the λ-plane.

The fixed point formula implies that these two expressions are equal on a dense set of the circle $|\lambda| = 1$. Hence they are equal as rational functions on $\mathbf{C}$. In fact, both obviously extend to rational functions on $S^2 = \mathbf{C} \cup \infty$.

But the LHS can have poles only at 0 and at ∞ while the RHS has poles only on the unit circle. Since the LHS and RHS are equal, both LHS and RHS are constant as functions of λ, this constant being the signature $\tau(M)$. QED

Essentially the same argument holds for the Dirac operator (3.6). All one might have to do is to pass to a double cover of S^1 if the square root occurs on the RHS. (In fact, taking $\lambda = 0$ or $\lambda = \infty$ in (3.6) shows that the index for the Dirac operator vanishes (as in [A-H]).) Thus for an S^1 action with only isolated fixed points, the rigidity properties of all our operators are beautifully transparent.

In the next sections we will present the extension of this rigidity argument to the family of operators $\{d_S \otimes R_n\}$, but still in the isolated singularity case.

4. PROOF OF THE RIGIDITY OF $d_S \otimes R_n$; BEGINNINGS

Recall that under a twist by R the multiplicities of our fixed point formula behave very simply. At a fixed point p of the action we have a natural lifting

ι_p of S^1 to the fiber over p, O_p, of the orthogonal frame-bundle over M. In terms of ι_p the twisted multiplicity $\mu_p(D \otimes R)$ is related to the untwisted one $\mu_p(D)$ by

(4.1) $$\mu_p(D \otimes R) = \mu_p(D) \cdot \text{ch } \iota_p^* R.$$

In short we simply multiply by the character of R restricted to $\iota_p S^1$. For instance (in the notation of §3)

(4.2) $$\mu_p(d_S \otimes T) = \prod \frac{(1 + \lambda^{m_i})}{(1 - \lambda^{m_i})} \cdot \left[\sum (\lambda^{m_i} + \lambda^{-m_i}) \right].$$

If one now attempted to prove the rigidity of $d_S \otimes T$ one would have to deal with this multiplicity in the corresponding fixed point formula:

(4.3) $$\sum_{n=-N}^{n=+N} a_n \lambda^n = \sum \mu_p.$$

But now the expression

(4.4) $$\frac{1 + \lambda^n}{1 - \lambda^n} \cdot (\lambda^n + \lambda^{-n}),$$

and hence each μ_p, has a pole at 0 and ∞ as well as on the unit circle $|\lambda| = 1$. For this reason, the old argument does not prove the vanishing of a_n's; at best, it yields inequalities for the N in (4.3).

It is important to note, however, that by comparing the right and left sides of (3.2) this argument does prove that the poles of μ_p on the *unit circle must cancel* in the RHS, just as before!

This, then, is the situation if one attempts to prove the rigidity of $d_S \otimes T$ in isolation.

Let us now turn to the Witten framework; we write down the fixed point formula for the twists $d_S \otimes R_n$ of (2.10) and then sum them to form the formal expression $\sum q^n \text{ index}(d_S \otimes R_n)$. Precisely let a_{nm} be defined by

(4.5) $$\text{index}(d_S \otimes R_n) = \sum_{m=-N_n}^{m=+N_n} a_{nm} L^m$$

so that the sum in question is given by the expression

(4.6) $$\text{index}(d_S \otimes R_q) \equiv \sum_n \sum_m q^n a_{nm} L^m.$$

The LHS of the fixed point formula is now given by

(4.7) $$\text{ch} \cdot \text{index}(d_S \otimes R_q) = \sum_{n,m} q^n a_n(\lambda),$$

where $a_n(\lambda)$ denotes the *finite Laurent series*

(4.8) $$a_n(\lambda) = \sum_m a_{nm} \lambda^m.$$

We turn now to the RHS of the fixed point formula, that is, to the multiplicity formulae $\mu_p(d_S \otimes R_n)$ and to the power series

$$(4.9) \qquad \mu_p(q;\lambda) = \sum q^n \mu_p(d_S \otimes R_n),$$

a formal power series in q with coefficients which are meromorphic functions in λ.

Using the well-known identity, qua formal power series in q,

$$(4.10) \qquad S_q(T) = \frac{1}{\Lambda_{-q}(T)}$$

we can recast Witten's R_q into the form

$$(4.11) \qquad R_q(T) = \bigotimes_{k=1}^{\infty} \Lambda_{q^k}(T)/\Lambda_{-q^k}(T).$$

Then, using the multiplicative properties of Λ we arrive at the formula

$$(4.12) \qquad \mu_p(d_S \otimes R_q) = \prod_{i=1}^{d} \frac{(1+\lambda^{m_i})}{(1-\lambda^{m_i})} \prod_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{(1+q^k\lambda^{m_i})(1+q^k\lambda^{-m_i})}{(1-q^k\lambda^{m_i})(1-q^k\lambda^{-m_i})},$$

where the right-hand side is taken in the sense of a formal power series in q. It clearly makes sense as such; in fact, it is of the form

$$(4.13) \qquad \text{RHS} = \sum b_n^p(\lambda)q^n$$

where $b_n^p(\lambda)$ is *a rational function*

$$(4.14) \qquad b_n^p(\lambda) = \mu_p(d_S \otimes R_n).$$

With all this understood, the fixed point formula applied to all the $d_S \otimes R_n$ is summarized by the equality

$$(4.15) \qquad \sum_n a_n(\lambda)q^n = \sum_n \left\{ \sum_{\{p\}} b_n^p(\lambda)q^n \right\}.$$

Note that it is *immediate* from the preceding equality that *the sum over the fixed points*, $\sum_{\{p\}} b_n^p(\lambda)$, *has no poles on* $|\lambda| = 1$.

Further progress is made by exploiting the modular properties of $\mu_p(d_S \otimes R_q)$ and it will be in the language of elliptic functions that the proof of the rigidity will be carried out in the next sections.

5. THE MULTIPLICITY AS A MEROMORPHIC FUNCTION ON $\mathbf{C}^*/q^2$

If one divides the multiplicative group of nonzero complex numbers by the subgroup generated by an element $q \neq 0$, one obtains a complex torus, which we denote by T_q.

Our first remark will be that the formal series (4.12) is a *convergent* Laurent series in the region $0 < |q| < 1$, and $|q|^{1/N} < |\lambda| < |q|^{-1/N}$ of the pull-back to

$\mathbf{C}^*$ of a *meromorphic function on the torus* T_{q^2}. Here N is some (determined) positive integer.

To explain this, it is best to start with the function

(5.1) $$\varphi_0(\lambda) = \frac{1+\lambda}{1-\lambda} \quad \text{on } \mathbf{C}^*$$

and consider a corresponding infinite product

(5.2) $$\varphi_1(\lambda) = \prod_{k=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{1+q^k\lambda}{1-q^k\lambda} \right) \left(\frac{1+q^k\lambda^{-1}}{1-q^k\lambda^{-1}} \right).$$

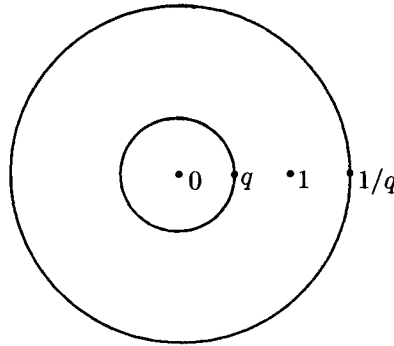This product converges absolutely in the annulus $D : |q| < |\lambda| < \frac{1}{|q|}$; $|q| < 1$.

FIGURE 1

Indeed, in this region $|q^k\lambda|$ and $|q^k\lambda^{-1}|$ are $\leq |q|^{k-1}$ and $|q| < 1$. Thus $\varphi_1(\lambda)$ is a holomorphic function on the annulus D; and

(5.3) $$\varphi(\lambda) \equiv \varphi_0(\lambda) \cdot \varphi_1(\lambda)$$

is therefore a meromorphic function on D with a pole of order 1 at $\lambda = 1$.

Let us now make the substitution $\lambda \longrightarrow \lambda \cdot q$. Formally,

(5.4) $$\varphi(\lambda q) = -\varphi(\lambda).$$

Indeed, under this substitution $(1+q^k\lambda)$ moves to $(1+q^{k+1}\lambda)$ and $(1+q^k\lambda^{-1})$ to $(1+q^{k-1}\lambda^{-1})$ so

(5.5) $$\varphi(\lambda q) = \frac{1-\lambda}{1-\lambda^{-1}} \cdot \frac{1+\lambda^{-1}}{1+\lambda} \cdot \varphi(\lambda) = -\varphi(\lambda).$$

As this substitution maps $|q| < |\lambda| < 1$ to $1 < |\lambda| < \frac{1}{|q|}$, we see that this symmetry can be used to extend $\varphi(\lambda)$ to a *meromorphic function on all of* $\mathbf{C}^*$. We write $\varphi(\lambda)$ for this extended function also. In view of the symmetry $\varphi(q\lambda) = -\varphi(\lambda)$, we then have

(5.6) $$\varphi(q^2\lambda) = \varphi(\lambda).$$

It follows that φ is the *pull-back of a meromorphic function* (also written φ) on the torus T_{q^2}. As such φ clearly has a pole of order 1 at the cosets of 0 and q mod q^2, and a zero of order 1 at the cosets of -1 and $-q$. Now the points $\pm q$ and ± 1 are precisely the points of order 2 on T_{q^2}, so that up to a normalization factor φ is one of the canonically associated meromorphic functions on the complex torus T which have poles of order one at the origin and at one of the other points, ω_1, of order 2 on T while vanishing with order one at the remaining two points of order 2, say ω_2 and ω_3.

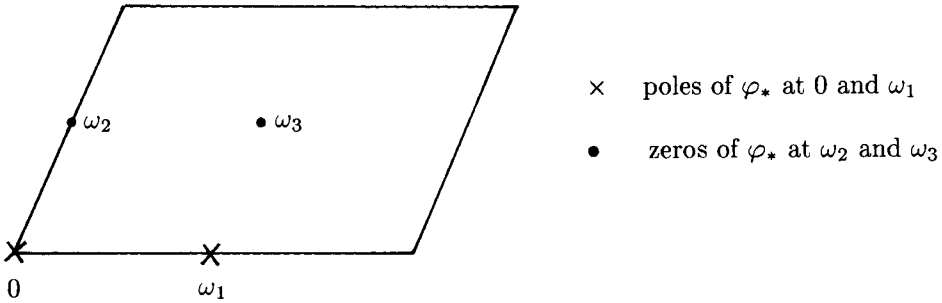In the more standard picture of an additive torus, the divisor of φ is of the form

$\times$ poles of φ_* at 0 and ω_1

$\bullet$ zeros of φ_* at ω_2 and ω_3

FIGURE 2

Note also that on T_{q^2} the residue of φ at the identity is given by

$$(5.7) \qquad \operatorname{res} \varphi|_{\lambda=1} = -2\frac{\Pi(1+q^n)^2}{\Pi(1-q^n)^2}.$$

Hence the renormalized φ given by

$$\varphi_* = \frac{1}{2}\frac{\Pi(1-q^n)^2}{\Pi(1+q^n)^2} \cdot \varphi$$

has residue -1 at 1, and, therefore, $+1$ at q.

The canonical nature of this function on all tori (T, ω_1) with a singled out point ω_1 with $\omega_1 + \omega_1 = 0$, $\omega_1 \neq 0$ (with T additive as in Figure 2), will be used later to discuss the modular properties of $\operatorname{index}(d_S \otimes R_q)$.

To return to the multiplicity formula (4.12), observe that the function $\varphi_0(\lambda) = (1+\lambda)/(1-\lambda)$ is the prototype for all the factors of μ_p. In fact, if ψ_m denotes the operation of raising λ to the mth power, then at a fixed point p of our circle action, with exponents $m_1, \cdots, m_d$, the multiplicity μ_p has the form

$$(5.8) \qquad \mu_p = \psi_{m_1}\varphi \cdot \psi_{m_2}\varphi \cdots \psi_{m_d}\varphi.$$

Because the nth power operation ψ_n is also well defined on T_{q^2} and commutes with the pullback, our discussion concerning φ identifies $\mu_p(d_S \otimes R_q)$ as a Laurent series of the meromorphic function $\psi_{m_1}\varphi \cdots \psi_{m_d}\varphi$ on T_{q^2}:

$$(5.9) \qquad \mu_p(d_S \otimes R_q) = \psi_{m_1}\varphi \cdots \psi_{m_d}\varphi.$$

At this stage we can assemble these remarks to yield a first interesting consequence of the fixed point theorem.

Proposition 5.1. *Consider an action of S^1 by isometries on the oriented compact Riemannian manifold M with isolated fixed points, and let N be the largest of the exponents $\{m_i\}$ occurring at them. Then the formal series*

$$(5.10) \qquad \mathrm{ch} \cdot \mathrm{index}(d_S \otimes R_q) = \sum q^n a_{nm} \lambda^m$$

is convergent in the annulus $0 < |q| < 1$, $|q|^{1/N} < \lambda < |q|^{-1/N}$ to the Laurent series of a meromorphic function on the torus T_{q^2}.

Proof. Recall that φ is the product of a q-independent rational function of λ with poles only on the circle $|\lambda| = 1$ and a convergent Laurent expansion in q and λ with domain of convergence $0 < |q| < 1$ and $|q| < |\lambda| < |q|^{-1}$. Thus, $\psi_m\varphi$ is the product of a q-independent, rational function of λ with poles only on $|\lambda| = 1$ and a convergent Laurent expansion in q and λ whose domain of convergence has shrunk to $|q|^{1/m} < \lambda < |q|^{-1/m}$. Hence, by (5.8) each multiplicity $\mu_p(d_S \otimes R_q)$ is the product of a q-independent, rational function on $\mathbf{C}$ with poles only on the circle $|\lambda| = 1$ with a convergent Laurent series on the region $|q|^{1/N} < |\lambda| < |q|^{-1/N}$. Also, $\mu_p(d_S \otimes R_q)$ is the pull-back to $\mathbf{C}^*$ of a meromorphic function on T_{q^2}.

By the fixed point theorem, we have, as was already remarked in §4, the equality

$$(5.11) \qquad \mathrm{ch} \cdot \mathrm{index}(d_S \otimes R_q) \equiv \sum_p \mu_p(d_S \otimes R_q),$$

qua formal powers series in q with coefficients which are the restriction to the circle $|\lambda| = 1$ of rational functions on the λ-plane. By (4.14), the polar parts of the coefficients of the formal q-expansion of the RHS in (5.11) cancel on the circle $|\lambda| = 1$. Thus, the RHS of (5.11) defines a *convergent* Laurent expansion in q and λ with domain $0 < |q| < 1$ and $|q|^{1/N} < |\lambda| < |q|^{-1/N}$, the only poles possible lie on $|\lambda| = 1$, and (4.14) implies that there are none. To see this, we write $\mu_p = r_p(\lambda) \cdot h_p(\lambda, q)$, where r_p is a rational function on $\mathbf{C}$ with its poles on S, and h_p is a function on λ and q with a convergent power series in λ and q for $|q| < 1$ and λ in an annulus that contains S. Thus, a pole in $\sum_p \mu_p$ at $c \in S$ of order $N > 0$ has leading coefficient a function $f_N(q)$, which is a *linear* combination of the values of the $\{h_p\}$ and their λ-derivatives at c to some finite order—hence, an *analytic* function of q for $|q| < 1$. So taking the polar part and taking the q-expansion are commuting operations

on $\sum_p \mu_p$. Thus, the index theorem plus the fixed point formula applied to each $\{d_S \otimes R_n\}_{n \geq 0}$ insures that the power series expansion of f_N is zero, and $f_N \equiv 0$.

Thus, (5.11) identifies the LHS as the restriction to the circle $|\lambda| = 1$ of a convergent power series in q and Laurent series in λ on the domain $0 < |q| < 1$, $|q|^{1/N} < |\lambda| < |q|^{-1/N}$. This convergent Laurent expansion represents, of course, a meromorphic function of the type described because the RHS is a sum of such functions.   QED

Remarks. In view of this proposition the character of the index of $d_S \otimes R_q$ is a well-defined meromorphic function on T_{q^2}, which we call the *q-signature* of M, and denote by $\tau_q(M)$

$$(5.12) \qquad\qquad \tau_q(M) \underset{\text{def}}{\equiv} \text{ch} \cdot \text{index}(d_S \otimes R_q).$$

In some formal sense $\tau_q(M)$ represents the "signature" of the loop-space $\mathscr{L}(M)$. But in any case it is a well-defined *meromorphic function on T_{q^2}* and has no poles on the *circle $S \subset T_{q^2}$* corresponding to $|\lambda| = 1$.

In this context the rigidity of $d_S \otimes R_q$ is equivalent to the assertion that $\tau_q(M)$ has no poles *at all* on T_{q^2}.

A priori $\tau_q(M) = \sum \mu_p(d_S \otimes R_q)$ has only poles at the points of finite order on T_{q^2} because the multiplicities μ_p have only poles there. Hence one can test for the poles of $\tau_q(M)$ by considering the behavior of its translates $t_\alpha \tau_q(M)$ by nth roots of 1 on T_{q^2}. For example, consider the points of order 2 first. For $\alpha = -1$, t_α preserves S, and therefore $t_\alpha \tau_q(M)$ has no poles on S because $\tau_q(M)$ did not to start with.

Next set $\alpha = q$, the more interesting point of order 2 on T_{q^2}. Then

$$(5.13) \qquad\qquad t_\alpha \varphi = -\varphi;$$

hence at a fixed point p with exponents $m_1, \cdots, m_d$ we obtain

$$(5.14) \qquad\qquad t_\alpha \mu_p = (-1)^{\sum m_j} \cdot \mu_p.$$

If the exponents of the action satisfy the condition

$$(5.15) \qquad\qquad \sum m_j^{(p)} \equiv \sum m_i^{(p')} \pmod 2$$

for any pair of fixed points p and p', then $t_\alpha \tau_q(M) = \pm \tau_q(M)$ and $\tau_q(M)$ also has no poles on $q \cdot S$. In short, under the exponent condition (5.15) $\tau_q(M)$ *has no poles of order* 2.

We will show later that (5.15) is always satisfied on a *spin manifold* (this assertion is also made in [A-H]). *But it is easily seen to fail for other actions.* For example, consider the projective space $P(V)$ of lines in the S^1 module

$$(5.16) \qquad\qquad V = L^0 \oplus L^1 \oplus L^2.$$

Then $P(V)$ is $\mathbb{CP}^2$ with an induced holomorphic S^1-action whose fixed points correspond precisely to the axes L^0, L^1, and L^2 of V. At these fixed points, the exponents are seen to be

$$
\begin{array}{ccc}
 & L^0 & \quad 1 \quad\quad 2 \\
(5.17) & L^1 & \quad -1 \quad\quad 1 \\
 & L^2 & \quad -2 \quad -1
\end{array}
$$

where we have now chosen the holomorphic orientations at the fixed points. Note that the parities of their sums are different at L^1 and L^2.

For this example we have

$$(5.18) \qquad\qquad \tau_q = 2\varphi \cdot \psi_2 \varphi - \varphi^2$$

and it is easy to check that this τ_q has no pole at 1, but does have a pole of order two at q. Of course this is not alarming because $\mathbb{CP}^2$ is *not* a spin manifold.

To test for poles of $\tau_q(M)$ at higher roots of 1 is more difficult and requires a "transfer" argument as well as a twisted form of Proposition 5.1. We explain this extension in the next section.

6. Twisting τ_q

The arguments of the preceding sections admit some straightforward extensions which correspond in the present context to the operation of twisting d_S by an auxiliary complex S^1-bundle F over M. At each fixed point p, the fiber F_p of F at p, decomposes into a sum

$$(6.1) \qquad\qquad F_p = \bigoplus_j L^{m_j}$$

of irreducible S^1 modules and we call the integers m_j the exponents of F at p.

The fixed point formula for the twist of d_S by F then reads

$$(6.2) \qquad \text{ch} \cdot \text{index}(d_S \otimes F) = \sum \mu_p(d_S) \cdot \text{ch}(F_p)$$

with ch $F_p = \sum \lambda^{m_j}$. Just as before, this relation implies that on *the unit circle* the poles of the *right-hand side cancel out*.

Such a result persists if we twist $d_S \otimes R_q$ by F but would destroy the elliptic nature of the answer. To remedy this we will twist $d_S \otimes R_q$ by a q-dependent vector bundle constructed as follows. Recall the Laurent expansion of our basic meromorphic function, φ, on T_{q^2}:

$$(6.3) \qquad \varphi(\lambda) = \frac{1+\lambda}{1-\lambda} \cdot \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1+q^n\lambda}{1-q^n\lambda} \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1+q^n\lambda^{-1}}{1-q^n\lambda^{-1}}$$

and let a be a point in the region, $|q| < |\lambda| < 1$, of convergence of the infinite product.

It then follows that the translate by a of φ defined by

$$(6.4) \qquad\qquad \varphi_a(\lambda) \equiv t_a\varphi(\lambda) \equiv \varphi(a\lambda)$$

is the product of a q-independent rational function with simple pole at $\lambda = 1/a$ and a Laurent series in q and λ which converges for $0 < |q| < 1$ on the annulus $|q/a| < |\lambda| < 1/|aq|$ containing the unit circle. Notice that the Laurent expansion is of "finite type in λ." That is, the expansion has the form

$$(6.5) \qquad\qquad \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} q^n b_n(\lambda)$$

with each $b_n(\lambda)$ a *finite Laurent series*. Indeed, this property of (5.2) is not altered by the translation by a.

Since $\varphi(\lambda q) = -\varphi(\lambda)$, equation (6.4) defines the translate $\varphi_a(\lambda)$ for any point $a \in T_{q^2}$. This function $\varphi_a(\lambda)$ is then a meromorphic function on T_{q^2}.

It follows by the splitting principle that φ_a can be extended to complex vector bundles F, to yield a formal power series

$$(6.6) \qquad\qquad \varphi_a(F) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} q^n b_n(F).$$

In fact, for $|q| < |a| < 1$, we have the expansion

$$(6.7) \qquad\qquad \varphi_a(F) = \frac{\Lambda_a F}{\Lambda_{-a} F} \bigotimes_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{\Lambda_{aq^n} F}{\Lambda_{-aq^n} F} \otimes \frac{\Lambda_{a^{-1}q^n} F^*}{\Lambda_{-a^{-1}q^n} F^*} \right)$$

for the bundle analogue to (6.3); here, F^* is the complex, dual bundle to F.

Now, then, the arguments of the previous sections easily extend to the twisting of $d_S \otimes R_q$ by $\varphi_a(F)$ to yield the following.

Proposition 6.1. *In the context of our discussion above, define* $\tau_q(M; \varphi_a(F))$ *as the formal Laurent series*

$$(6.8) \qquad\qquad \tau_q(M; \varphi_a(F)) \equiv \text{ch} \cdot \text{index}(d_S \otimes R_q \otimes \varphi_a(F)).$$

Then $\tau_q(M; \varphi_a(F))$ *converges on some annulus* D *containing* $S = (|\lambda| = 1)$ *to the Laurent series of a meromorphic function on* T_{q^2} *which has no poles on the unit circle* $S \subset T_{q^2}$. *Similarly twisting by a finite number of* $\varphi_a(F)$'s *preserves the regularity of* τ_q *on* S.

As an example consider the action of (5.16) on the "subbundle H^*" of $P(V)$ whose fiber at a line L is L itself. The exponents of H^* are then 0, 1, and 2, respectively, so that

$$(6.9) \qquad \tau_q(M; \varphi_a(H^*)) = \varphi \cdot \psi_2\varphi \cdot \psi_0\varphi_a - \varphi \cdot \varphi \cdot \varphi_a + \psi_2\varphi \cdot \varphi \cdot \psi_2\varphi_a.$$

Thus Proposition 6.1 asserts that this rational function on T_{q^2} has no pole on S. This can be checked from first principles using the polar properties of φ, but already requires a more subtle analysis than the regularity of $\tau_q(M)$ (as given by (5.18)) required.

Remarks. In general, $\varphi_a(F) \neq \varphi_a(F^*)$. Hence φ_a cannot be extended to an operation on *real* vector bundles. Note, however, that $\varphi_{\pm q^{1/2}}(\lambda)$ is symmetric in λ and λ^{-1}, and so extends to a well-defined operation on *real* vector bundles: If F is a real vector bundle, we have

$$(6.10) \qquad \varphi_{\pm q^{1/2}}(F) \equiv \frac{\bigotimes_{n=1}^{\infty} \Lambda_{\pm q^{n-1/2}} F}{\bigotimes_{n=1}^{\infty} \Lambda_{\mp q^{n-1/2}} F} .$$

7. THE TRANSFER FORMULAE

To prove the rigidity of $\tau_q(M)$, we plan to show that under suitable circumstances none of the translates $t_a \tau_q(M)$, $a \in T_{q^2}$, by points of finite order on T_{q^2}, has a pole on the circle $S \subset T_{q^2}$. This will follow immediately from the discussion of the previous section if we can express these $t_a \tau_q(M)$ as twisted forms of τ_q on some auxiliary manifolds. It should also be clear that it is sufficient to carry out this program as k ranges over the positive integers and as a ranges over the roots of the form

$$(7.1) \qquad a = \alpha^s, \qquad \alpha^k = q$$

for k and s having no common factors save 1.

The auxiliary manifold pertinent to the translation by such an a is the manifold M_k of fixed points in M under the action of the subgroup $\mathbf{Z}_k \subset S^1$, generated by $\xi \equiv e^{2\pi i/k}$. Thus,

$$(7.2) \qquad M_k = \text{fixed point set of } \mathbf{Z}_k .$$

The cyclic group $\mathbf{Z}_k$ acts on the normal bundle of M_k in M and we have a natural decomposition of the tangent space T of M along M_k according to the irreducible *real* representations $\{\rho\}$ of $\mathbf{Z}_k$:

$$(7.3) \qquad T|M_k = \sum T_\rho .$$

Now, our S^1-action on M induces an action on M_k; and its differential induces an action on $T|M_k$ which preserves the decomposition (7.3) thus making each T_ρ an S^1-bundle over M_k.

To illustrate our plan in the simplest instance, assume that k is odd. In this case, the irreducible real representations ρ of $\mathbf{Z}_k$, other than the trivial one, admit unique complex structures so that ξ maps to ξ^r under ρ, with $r = 1, \ldots, (k-1)/2$.

Hence, in our context, each T_ρ for ρ not trivial can be given a unique complex structure on which ξ acts by ξ^r for some $r = 1, \ldots, (k-1)/2$; and let T_r denote this *complex* bundle. Then, the decomposition in (7.3) has the form

$$(7.4) \qquad T|M_k = TM_k + T_1^\# + \cdots + T_{(k-1)/2}^\#$$

with # indicating the underlying *real* bundle of the indicated complex one.

The bundle TM_k is the tangent bundle to M_k and corresponds to the trivial representation. It need not carry a complex structure, but if we use the natural (complex) orientation of $T_r^{\#}$, then (7.4) does serve to *induce* an orientation on TM_k, and hence on M_k, once one is selected for M and hence for T.

With all this understood, assuming now that M is a *spin* manifold, we have the following *transfer formula for odd* k:

$$(7.5) \qquad t_{\alpha^s}\, \tau_q(M) = \tau_q\left(M_k'; \bigotimes_{r=1}^{(k-1)/2} \varphi_{\alpha^{\omega(r)}}(T_r) \right),$$

where $\omega(r) \in \{1, \cdots, k-1\}$ is the mod k reduction of $s \cdot r$ and where M_k' denotes M_k, but with a specific orientation which may differ from the induced one. In fact, if the connected components of M_k are labelled by $\{M_{k,\sigma}\}$, and if the induced orientation is denoted by $+1 \in \{\pm 1\}$, then the orientation on $M_{k,\sigma}'$ is given by $(-1)^{u(k,\sigma)}$ where $u(k,\sigma)$ is computed from the exponents at any fixed point $p \in M_{k,\sigma}$. It is the number $\varepsilon(p)$ in (7.9) and Lemma 7.1 below. If S^1 acts on a component of M_k with no fixed points, then that component contributes 0 to (7.5) and any orientation used for that component will suffice.

To prove (7.5), we can apply the fixed point formula to both sides and compare the contributions at each fixed point p. Indeed, partition the exponents at p into the various exponents of $T_r^{\#}$ and TM_k, with the exponents $\equiv \pm r$ (mod k) occurring in $T_r^{\#}$. Using the complex orientation on $T_r^{\#}$ amounts to choosing $m_j < 0$ if $|m_j| = k - r$ (mod k) and $m_j > 0$ if $|m_j| = r$ (mod k). Let this be done and choose the remaining ones to be compatible with the induced orientation of TM_k. These are the m_j which are congruent to 0 mod k.

With this choice of m_j, the fixed point contribution to $\tau_q(M)$ is given by

$$(7.6) \qquad \mu_p = \prod_{j=1}^{d} \psi_{m_j} \varphi.$$

Hence $t_{\alpha^s}\mu_p = \prod t_{\alpha^s}(\psi_{m_j}\varphi)$. But,

$$(7.7) \qquad t_{\alpha^s}\psi_m = \psi_m t_{\alpha^s \cdot m}$$

so that

$$(7.8) \qquad t_{\alpha^s}\mu_p = \prod_{j=1}^{d} \psi_{m_j} \varphi_{\alpha^{sm_j}}.$$

Now write $s \cdot m_j = \ell_j \cdot k + \omega_j$, where $\omega_j \in \{0, \cdots, k-1\}$ is the mod k reduction of $s \cdot m_j$, and then introduce the integer

$$(7.9) \qquad \varepsilon(p) = \sum_{j=1}^{d} \ell_j.$$

Then use the formula $\varphi_q = -\varphi$ to rewrite (7.8) in the form

$$(7.10) \qquad t_{\alpha^s}\mu_p = (-1)^{\varepsilon(p)} \prod_{j=1}^{d} \psi_{m_j}\varphi_{\alpha^{\omega_j}}.$$

On the other hand, if M_k replaces M'_k in the right side of (7.5), then this side contributes at a fixed point p with this same expression, but with *no* factor $(-1)^{\varepsilon(p)}$. Indeed, the right side of (7.5) with M_k replacing M'_k gives (7.10) without $(-1)^{\varepsilon(p)}$ and bracketed according to the congruences of the m_j. The $m_j \equiv 0 \pmod{k}$ occur in $\tau_q(M_k)$, those with $m_j = 1 \pmod{k}$ occur in $\varphi_{\alpha^{\omega(1)}}(T_1)$, and so on.

Thus, the transfer formula holds for odd k once we prove that $(-1)^{\varepsilon(p)} = (-1)^{\varepsilon(p')}$ when p and p' are in the same component of M_k. But this assertion follows from the following more general fact, which is proved in §9.

Lemma 7.1. *Suppose that M is an oriented spin manifold on which S^1 acts with isolated fixed points, and, for $k \in \mathbf{N}$, let $M_k \subseteq M$ be a connected, oriented component of the fixed point set of $\mathbf{Z}_k \subset S^1$. Also, let $s \in \mathbf{Z}$ be relatively prime to k. Suppose that $p \in M_k$ is fixed by S^1 and that exponents $\{m_j\}$ for $T|_p$ have been chosen to be compatible with the orientation of M, and also so that those which are $0 \bmod k$ give the correct orientation for $TM_k|_p$. For each m_j, define $\ell_j \in \mathbf{Z}$ and $\omega_j \in \{0, \dots, k-1\}$ by $s \cdot m_j = \ell_j \cdot k + \omega_j$, and then define $\varepsilon(p) = \sum_j \ell_j$. If $p, p' \in M_k$, then $(-1)^{\varepsilon(p)} = (-1)^{\varepsilon(p')}$.*

Before continuing, we note that changing m_j to $-m_j$ does not change $(-1)^{\varepsilon(p)}$ if $m_j \equiv 0 \bmod (k)$, but $(-1)^{\varepsilon(p)}$ changes to $(-1)^{\varepsilon(p)+1}$ if $m_j \not\equiv 0 \bmod (k)$.

Assuming Lemma 7.1, there still remains the case k even. In this case,

$$(7.11) \qquad T|_{M_k} = TM_k \oplus T_1^{\#} \oplus \cdots \oplus T_{k/2-1}^{\#} \oplus T_{k/2}$$

where each $T_r^{\#}$ for $r = 1, \cdots, \frac{k}{2} - 1$ is a real bundle which has a natural complex structure so that $\xi \in \mathbf{Z}_k$ acts on the resulting complex bundle, T_r, as ξ^r. The vector bundle $T_{k/2}$ is a real bundle on which ξ acts as (-1).

A transfer formula such as (7.5) for the k even case requires, a priori, that M_k be orientable (so a signature operator can be defined). This is the case if M is spin, a corollary of a general theorem of Edmonds, but we will bring a short proof of this assertion in §10. Here, we record this fact as

Lemma 7.2. *If M is spin and orientable, and if S^1 acts, then the fixed point set M_k of the $\mathbf{Z}_k \subset S^1$ action is orientable.*

Armed with this result, and again assuming that M is spin, we can state the k even transfer formula:

$$(7.12) \qquad t_{\alpha^s}\tau_q(M) = \tau_q\left(M'_k; \bigotimes_{r=1}^{k/2} \varphi_{\alpha^{\omega(r)}}(T_r)\right)$$

where, as in (7.5), $\omega(r)$ is the mod k reduction of $s \cdot r$ and M'_k is M_k with a specific orientation selected. To explain this orientation, we note first that the natural complex structures on $T_r^{\#}$ for $1 \leq r \leq \frac{k}{2} - 1$ orient these vector bundles, and so, with the orientation of T, the Whitney sum $TM_k \oplus T_{k/2}$ gets an orientation. Choose an orientation for TM_k and call it $+1$. With respect to this orientation, the orientation for M'_k is defined on a component, $M_{k,\sigma}$, to be $(-1)^{u(k,\sigma)}$ where $u(k,\sigma) \equiv \varepsilon(p)$ of Lemma 7.1 for any fixed point $p \in M_{k,\sigma}$.

Here, a comment is in order. If the orientation of M_k is changed, then $(-1)^{\varepsilon(p)}$ as computed in Lemma 7.1 also changes sign. This is because the orientation of $T_{k/2}$ must change. To see why such a change affects $(-1)^{\varepsilon(p)}$, choose the signs for the exponents of T at p by the following convention.

The exponents which are not congruent to 0 or $\frac{k}{2}$ mod k are chosen as before. For the rest, fix an orientation for TM_k. This induces one on $T_{k/2}$. Choose the signs of the exponents that are 0 mod k so that the orientations for TM_k and for $T_{k/2}$ at p are separately compatible.

Now observe that a change in the orientation of $T_{k/2}$ will require an odd number of exponents m_j congruent to $\frac{k}{2}$ mod k to change sign, and this will change an odd number of the corresponding ℓ_j to $-(\ell_j + 1)$.

With the preceding convention for the exponents at p chosen, the argument for (7.12) is virtually identical to the one for (7.5), and so the transfer formula for both even and odd cases stands with Lemma 7.1, the subject of §9.

This brings us to the result we wanted.

Theorem 7.3. *Let S^1 act on a compact, oriented spin manifold so as to have only isolated fixed points. Then its q-signature, τ_q, has no poles on T_{q^2} and, hence, is a constant. As a consequence, the rigidity theorem holds.*

8. FIXED POINT SETS OF HIGHER DIMENSION

In general, the fixed points of an S^1 action on M fall into components $\{P\}$ which are themselves smooth manifolds and although a fixed point formula is still valid, the contribution of each P is now more complicated. The precise nature of this contribution is described by the G-signature theorem of Atiyah-Segal [A-S].

We will here first formulate this result in purely K-theoretic terms which fit most naturally into our context. We will also spell out some of the K-theoretic details to make the arguments accessible to nonexperts.

First note that if P is a *component* of the fixed point set of an S^1-action on the oriented manifold M, then along P the tangent bundle T of M splits into a direct sum

$$(8.1) \qquad T|P = TP \oplus \bigoplus_{i=1}^{k} E_i^{\#}$$

where $E_i^{\#}$ denotes the underlying real bundle or "realization" of the complex bundle E_i on which S^1 acts by sending ξ to ξ^{m_i}. Here, $|m_i| \neq |m_j|$ unless $i = j$. Although $E_i^{\#}$ is canonical, E_i is not. Indeed, the complex conjugate $\overline{E}_i$ of E_i, of course, has the same "realization" $\overline{E}_i^{\#} = E_i^{\#}$, but the action S^1 on $\overline{E}_i$ is given by $\xi \to \xi^{-m_i}$. Hence the exponents are only canonical up to signs and a choice of the sign of m_i chooses between E_i and $\overline{E}_i$. In any case, once the exponents are fixed a definite orientation on TP is induced from one on TM.

We write d_i for $\dim_C E_i$ and refer to this integer as the dimension of E_i. In terms of these bundles, the equivariant index theorem of [A-S] now specializes to give the equivariant signature of M in the following form:

$$(8.2) \qquad \tau(M) = \sum_{\{P\}} \mu(P),$$

with

$$(8.3) \qquad \mu(P) = \text{index}\left[d_S^P \otimes \bigotimes_{i=1}^{k}\{\Lambda_{\lambda^{m_i}} E_i / \Lambda_{-\lambda^{m_i}} E_i\}\right].$$

Remarks. In this formula we have used the substitution $e^{i\theta} = \lambda$ as throughout, and d_S^P denotes the signature operator of P, qua oriented manifold.

The twisting bundle of d_S^P in (8.3) makes good sense in the K theory of P, tensored by the rational function in λ by virtue of the nilpotence of the ideal, $^\circ K(P)$ "of dimension 0 bundles" in $K(P)$. Indeed, given a bundle E of dimension d, then in $K(P)$ the class of $^\circ E = E - d1$ has dimension 0, and the exterior powers of $^\circ E$ and E are related by

$$(8.4) \qquad \Lambda_a E = \Lambda_a(^\circ E + d \cdot 1) = (1 + a)^d \Lambda_{a/(1+a)}(^\circ E).$$

Hence the denominator in (8.3) is of the form

$$(8.5) \qquad \prod(1 - \lambda^{m_i})^{d_i}\{1 + N\}$$

where N is a finite linear combination of nilpotent elements in $K(P)$ with coefficients which are monomials in $\lambda^{m_i}/(1 - \lambda^{m_i})$; the denominator can therefore be inverted so that the twisting factor $\bigotimes_{i=1}^{k} \Lambda_{\lambda^{m_i}} E_i / \Lambda_{-\lambda^{m_i}} E_i$ finally takes on the form of a finite sum

$$(8.6) \qquad \sum_{(j)} a_j^P(\lambda) N_j$$

where the $N_j \in K(P)$ and the $a_j^P(\lambda)$ are rational functions whose poles are entirely on the unit circle and possibly at ∞ or/and 0. It follows that

$$(8.7) \qquad \mu(P) = \sum a_j^P(\lambda) \cdot \text{index}(d_S^P \otimes N_j)$$

is also a rational function in λ with this polar behavior. (Actually there are no poles at 0 or ∞ in $\mu(P)$ because $\Lambda_{\lambda^{m_i}}(E_i)/\Lambda_{-\lambda^{m_i}}(E_i)$ at most changes sign under the substitution $\lambda \to \lambda^{-1}$.)

Hence the rigidity proof for $\tau(M)$ goes forward in the general case just as it did before.

It is easiest to see the genesis from (3.5) to (8.3) if we assume that all of the E_i are line bundles because then the twisting factor of (8.3) is simply

$$(8.8) \qquad \prod(1 + \lambda^{m_i} E_i) \Big/ \prod(1 - \lambda^{m_i} E_i),$$

so that, when P is simply a point p and consequently $E_i = 1$ in $K(pt)$, this factor is precisely $\mu(p)$. In this extreme case index d_S^p is interpreted as the $\pm$ identity map, the sign depending on the induced orientation of p.

Using this same technique, now we can easily compute the contribution of P to $\tau_q(M)$. The formula is given by

$$(8.9) \qquad \mu(P) = \tau_q(P \, ; \bigotimes \varphi_{\lambda^{m_i}}(E_i)),$$

and we will now spell its meaning out in greater detail and explore its nature as a meromorphic function on T_{q^2}.

First the terms $\varphi_{\lambda^{m_i}}(E_i)$. These are well-defined elements in $K(P)\otimes_{\mathbf{Z}}\mathscr{M}(T_{q^2})$ where $\mathscr{M}(T_{q^2})$ denotes the ring of meromorphic functions on T_{q^2}, which we will think of as a meromorphic function on $\mathbf{C} - \{0\}$ invariant under multiplication by q^2.

Note that in §6 we already defined $\varphi_a(F)$ as an element in $K(M)\otimes_{\mathbf{Z}}\mathbf{C}$ when $|q| < |a| < 1$. Thus $\varphi_{\lambda^m}(E)$ makes sense for $|q|^{1/m} < |\lambda| < 1$ by the previous definition, but now we want to emphasize that it extends to a well-defined element of $K(P)\otimes_{\mathbf{Z}} \mathscr{M}(T_{q^2})$, and in particular we want to study its polar structure in λ.

For this purpose observe that if E is a line bundle over P, then we can define $\log E \in {}^{\circ}K(P)\otimes_{\mathbf{Z}}\mathbf{Q}$ by the formula

$$(8.10) \qquad \log E = \log(1 + {}^{\circ}E) = -\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{{}^{\circ}E^k}{k}(-1)^k$$

because this sum terminates.

Next consider the substitution $\lambda = e^z$ so that $\varphi(\lambda) = \hat{\varphi}(z)$ and define $\varphi^{(k)}(\lambda)$ to be the kth derivative of $\hat{\varphi}(z)$ relative to z:

$$(8.11) \qquad \varphi^{(k)}(\lambda) \equiv \left(\frac{d}{dz}\right)^k \hat{\varphi}(z).$$

These are new meromorphic functions on T_{q^2} with degree k poles at 1 and q.

With all this understood define

$$(8.12) \qquad \varphi_\lambda(E) = \hat{\varphi}(z + \log E) \equiv \sum_0^{\infty} \frac{(\log E)^k}{k!} \cdot \varphi^{(k)}(\lambda).$$

Because $\log E$ is nilpotent in $K(P)$ this expression now clearly exhibits $\varphi_\lambda(E)$ as an element in $K(P) \otimes_{\mathbf{Z}} \mathcal{M}(T_{q^2})$.

Now if $E = \bigoplus_i E_i$ is a sum of line bundles, then $\varphi_\lambda(E) = \bigotimes_i \varphi_\lambda(E_i)$ and so (8.12) defines $\varphi_\lambda(E) \in K(P) \otimes \mathcal{M}(T_{q^2})$ for sums of line bundles, and hence, by the splitting principle, for any complex E.

The operation ψ_m applied to $\varphi_\lambda(E)$ finally produces $\varphi_{\lambda^m}(E)$ and this explains the twisting part of the formula (8.9). It remains to recall that just as in §3, $\tau_q(P;(\;))$ is shorthand for

$$\mathrm{ch} \cdot \mathrm{index}\left\{ d_S^P \otimes R_q(T) \otimes (\;) \right\}.$$

Note also that again using the nilpotence of $^\circ K(P)$ as in our treatment of $\varphi_\lambda(E)$, $R_q(T)$ is seen to be a finite expression of the form $\sum a_r(q) W_r$ in $K(P) \otimes_{\mathbf{Z}} \mathbf{C}$ where the $a_r(q)$ are given by convergent power series in q for $|q| < 1$.

All in all, then, we see that the contribution of P to $\tau_q(M)$ is given by a polynomial in $\psi_{m_i} \varphi^{(k)}(\lambda)$ with coefficients that are analytic functions of q in $|q| < 1$. As in the case of isolated fixed points, we have identified $\tau_q(M)$ as a meromorphic function on T_{q^2} and our previous argument may be used to show that this meromorphic function is regular on the circle $|\lambda| = 1$. Again, the proof of our rigidity theorem boils down to proving that $\tau_q(M)$ has no poles at all.

Now, a priori, poles can appear only at roots of q^2, that is, on circles of radius $|a|$ where $a = \alpha^s$ for α a kth root of q and for s relatively prime to k. Also we will rule out such poles by proving that the transfer formulae of (7.5) and (7.12) for $t_\alpha, \tau_q(M)$ generalize to S^1 actions without constraints. In fact, the transfer formulae generalize essentially unchanged. If we let $[\frac{k}{2}]$ denote the greatest integer less than or equal to $\frac{k}{2}$, then, when M is a spin manifold, we still have

$$(8.13) \qquad t_{\alpha^s} \tau_q(M) = \tau_q(M_k'; \otimes_{r=1}^{[k/2]} \varphi_{\alpha^{\omega(r)}}(T_r))$$

where $\omega(r) \in \{1, \ldots, k-1\}$ is the mod k reduction of $s \cdot r$, and where $M_k' \subseteq M$ is the fixed point manifold of $\mathbf{Z}_k \subset S^1$ with a specific orientation which we will now describe.

When k is odd, the tangent bundle $TM|_{M_k}$ decomposes according to (7.4) and induces an orientation on TM_k. Call this orientation $+1$. Let P be a component of the fixed point set of the S^1 action with $P \subseteq M_k$ and choose the signs of the exponents along P so that each $m_j \not\equiv 0 \pmod{k}$ is congruent mod k to some $r \in \{1, \cdots, (k-1)/2\}$. Choose the orientation of TP and choose the signs of those $m_j \equiv 0 \pmod{k}$ so that the induced orientation on $TM|_P$ is the correct one; then, the induced orientation on $TM_k|_P$ will be the $+1$ orientation. For each m_j, introduce $(\ell_j, \omega_j) \in \mathbf{Z} \times \{1, \ldots, k-1\}$ by

$$(8.14) \qquad s \cdot m_j = \ell_j \cdot k + \omega_j$$

and then define

(8.15)
$$\varepsilon(P) = \sum_j d_j \cdot \ell_j$$

where $d_j = \dim_{\mathbf{C}} E_j$.

The orientation for M_k' is now defined to be $+1 \cdot (-1)^{\varepsilon(P)}$ on that component of M_k which contains P_j, and Lemma 8.1 below insures that $(-1)^{\varepsilon(P)} = (-1)^{\varepsilon(P')}$ when P and P' are both fixed point manifolds of S^1 in the same component of M_k.

For the case k even, $T|_{M_k}$ decomposes according to (7.11), and as $\bigoplus_{r=1}^{k/2-1} T_r^{\#}$ is naturally oriented, an orientation is induced on $TM_k \oplus T_{k/2}$. Choose an orientation for TM_k and call it $+1$; this induces one on $T_{k/2}$.

Let P be a component of the fixed point set of S^1 and choose the signs of the exponents at P by the folowing rule. If $m_j \not\equiv 0, \frac{k}{2} \bmod k$, make the choice as before so that $(m_j)_{\bmod(k)} \in \{1, \dots, \frac{k}{2} - 1\}$. Choose the signs for those $m_j \equiv 0, \frac{k}{2} \pmod{k}$ and choose the orientation of TP to make the induced orientation on $TM_k \oplus T_{k/2}|_P$ correct. This will make the induced orientation on $TM|_P$ correct. However, the induced orientation of $TM_k|_P$ may not be the correct one $(+1)$. To keep track of the discrepancy, introduce $\varepsilon_0 = 0, 1$ with $\varepsilon_0 = 0$ if the induced orientation on $TM_k|_P$ is correct, and $\varepsilon_0 = +1$ if the induced orientation on $TM_k|_P$ is incorrect. (If $\bigoplus_{j \,:\, m_j \equiv k/2 \bmod k} E_j$ equivariantly splits an odd (complex) dimensional subbundle, it is always possible to choose the signs of the $m_j \equiv 0, \frac{k}{2} \pmod{k}$ and the orientation of P to get the correct orientation for both $TM|_P$ and $TM_k|_P$.)

For each m_j, introduce (ℓ_j, ω_j) by (8.14) and set

(8.16)
$$\varepsilon(P) = \varepsilon_0 + \sum_j d_j \cdot \ell_j.$$

The orientation for M_k' is again $+1 \cdot (-1)^{\varepsilon(P)}$ on that component of M_k that contains P, and the assertion that this orientation is unambiguous is made in Lemma 8.1. The proof of Lemma 8.1 is deferred to the next section.

Lemma 8.1. *Let M be an oriented spin manifold on which S^1 acts and for a positive integer k, let $M_k \subseteq M$ be a connected component of the fixed point set of $\mathbf{Z}_k \subset S^1$. Let $s \in \mathbf{Z}$ be relatively prime to k. Let P, P' be connected fixed point manifolds for the S^1-action, both lying in M_k. Use the prescription above to define the numbers $\varepsilon(P)$ and $\varepsilon(P')$ in (8.15) for k odd and (8.16) for k even. Then $(-1)^{\varepsilon(P)} = (-1)^{\varepsilon(P')}$.*

To prove our general transfer formula (8.13), we begin with the remark that when we choose our exponents at P according to the preceding prescription, then the analog of (7.10) still holds:

(8.17)
$$t_{\alpha^s}\mu_P = (-1)^{\varepsilon(P)} \cdot \tau_q \left(P ; \bigotimes \varphi_{\lambda^{m_i} \alpha^{\omega_i}}(E_i) \right).$$

We see (8.17) by using the antiperiodicity $\varphi(\lambda q) = -\varphi(\lambda)$ to first prove

$$(8.18) \qquad t_{\alpha^s} \varphi(\lambda^m) = \varphi(\lambda^m \alpha^{ms}) = (-1)^\ell \varphi(\lambda^m \alpha^\omega)$$

for $(\ell, \omega) \in \mathbf{Z} \times \{1, \cdots, k-1\}$ defined by $s \cdot m = \ell \cdot k + \omega$. Now we observe that (8.17) is a direct consequence of (8.18) when we go back to (8.12) to define $\varphi_a(E)$.

Now, as before, we observe that $\tau_q(P \otimes_i \varphi_{\lambda^{m_i} \alpha^{\omega_i}}(E_i))$ is the contribution from P to the fixed point expression for $\tau_q(M_k ; \otimes_{r=1}^{[k/2]} \varphi_{\alpha^{\omega(r)}}(T_r))$. The argument is the same as before. Since Lemma 8.1 insures that $(-1)^{\varepsilon(P)}$ depends only on the component of M_k that contains P, we can define M_k' as M_k with the new orientation and our transfer formula is complete.

9. EXPONENTS MOD 2

The proofs of Lemmas 7.1 and 8.1 presented here compare the exponents at different points of M by means of judicious equivariant maps of the standard two sphere S^2 into M. These maps pull back equivariant vector bundles on M to S^2 where we can exploit more or less standard facts concerning equivariant bundles on S^2.

Then let S^1 act on $S^2 = S^2_{(1)}$ by rotations about the north-south axis in the standard manner, and let $S^2_{(k)}$ denote the kth iterate of this action, which rotates S^2 k times about its axis as we go once around S^1. These two actions of S^1 on S^2 are related by an S^1 equivariant map

$$(9.1) \qquad \begin{array}{c} S^2 \\ \pi_k \downarrow \\ S^2_{(k)} \end{array}$$

which is of degree k, and which, under stereographic projection of S^2 onto $\mathbf{C} \cup \infty$, corresponds to the map $z \to z^k$. The first of the two facts we need concerns complex bundles over $S^2 = S^2_{(1)}$.

Lemma 9.1. *Let E be a complex vector bundle over $S^2_{(1)}$ to which the S^1 action is lifted. Then the first Chern class of E is given by*

$$\int_{S^2} c_1(E) = \sum (m_i^n - m_i^s)$$

where the m_i^n and m_i^s are the exponents of the S^1 action on E at the north and south poles, respectively.

The second fact we need is an equivariant generalization of the statement that all even-dimensional *real* bundles $E^\#$ over S^2 admit complex structures.

Lemma 9.2. *Every real, oriented, even dimensional, equivariant bundle $E^\#$ over $S^2_{(k)}$ is the underlying real oriented bundle of a complex equivariant vector bundle E over $S^2_{(k)}$.*

Now Lemma 7.1 is a special case of Lemma 8.1, which can be generalized by considering, rather than TM, any real, oriented vector bundle $V \to M$ with $w(V) = 0$ and to which our S^1 action lifts. Restricting V to M_k produces a vector bundle $V|_{M_k}$ on which $\mathbf{Z}_k \hookrightarrow S^1$ acts; just rotate $2\pi/k$ radians around S^1. As in the previous section, this $\mathbf{Z}_k$ action decomposes $V|_{M_k}$ into constituents

$$(9.2) \qquad V|_{M_k} = V_0 + V_1^{\#} + \cdots + V_{(k-1)/2}^{\#}$$

if k is odd, and into constituents

$$(9.3) \qquad V|_{M_k} = V_0 + V_1^{\#} + \cdots + V_{k/2-1}^{\#} + V_{k/2}$$

if k is even. Here $\mathbf{Z}_k$ acts trivially on V_0, the generator acts by (-1) on $V_{k/2}$, and each $V_r^{\#}$ for $1 \le r < \frac{k}{2}$ has a unique complex structure with the property that the generator of $\mathbf{Z}_k$ acts on the resulting complex bundle, V_r, by $\xi \to \xi^r$.

When k is odd, (9.2) orients V_0. When k is even, (9.3) orients $V_0 \oplus V_{k/2}$ and, looking ahead to Lemma 10.1, we assert that V_0 is orientable. Assuming this, fixing an orientation on V_0 orients $V_{k/2}$.

At a component, P, of the fixed point set of S^1, V decomposes as

$$(9.4) \qquad V = E_0 \oplus \bigoplus_i E_i^{\#}$$

where S^1 acts trivially on E_0 and where each $E_i^{\#}$ is the realization of a complex bundle, $E_i \to P$, on which S^1 acts by $\lambda \to \lambda^{m_i}$ for some $m_i \in \mathbf{Z}$. As with $V = TM$, the exponents $\{m_i\}$ are canonical up to sign, as $\{E_i\}$ are canonical up to conjugation and choosing the signs for $\{m_i\}$ specifies $\{E_i\}$. Choose these signs compatibly with orientation by requiring those $m_i \not\equiv 0, \frac{k}{2} \pmod{k}$ to have mod k reduction in $\{1, \cdots (k-1)/2\}$ or $\{1, \cdots, \frac{k}{2} - 1\}$ depending on whether k is odd or even. When k is odd, choose the orientation for E_0 and the signs of those $m_i \equiv 0 \pmod{k}$ so that the induced orientation on $V_0|_P = E_0 \oplus \bigoplus_{i:m_i \equiv 0 \pmod{k}} E_i^{\#}$ is also correct. When k is even, choose the signs of those $m_i \equiv 0, \frac{k}{2} \pmod{k}$ and the orientation of E_0 so that the induced orientation on $V_0 \oplus V_{k/2}|_P$ is correct.

It may be impossible to choose the signs of those $m_i \equiv 0, \frac{k}{2} \pmod{k}$ and then the orientation of E_0 to obtain correct orientations for both $V_0 \oplus V_{k/2}|_P$ and $V_0|_P$. Let $\varepsilon_0 = 0$ when the correct orientation for $V_0|_P$ is obtained (one can always arrange this when $\bigoplus_{i:m_i = k/2 \pmod{k}} E_i$ splits equivariantly with an odd complex dimensional summand) and let $\varepsilon_0 = +1$ when $V_0|_P$ inherits the wrong orientation.

For any s relatively prime to k, introduce $\{(\ell_i, \omega_i)\} \subset \mathbf{Z} \times \{1, \ldots, k-1\}$ by $s \cdot m_i = \ell_i \cdot k + \omega_i$; and then introduce $\varepsilon(P) = \varepsilon_0 + \sum_i d_i \cdot \ell_i$ where $d_i = \dim_{\mathbf{C}} E_i$.
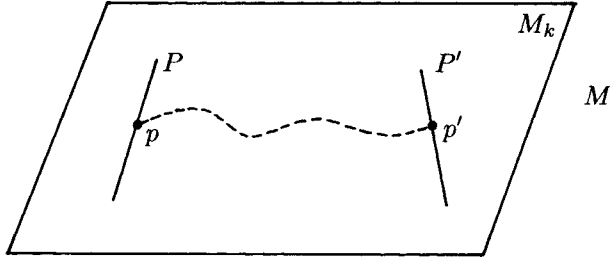
Now we can state our generalization of Lemma 8.1.

FIGURE 3

Lemma 9.3. *Let M be a smooth manifold and let $V \to M$ be a real, oriented vector bundle with $w_2(V) = 0$. Suppose S^1 acts on M and compatibly on V and, for $k \in \mathbf{Z}$, let $M_k \subseteq M$ be a connected component of the set in M fixed under $\mathbf{Z}_k \subset S^1$. Let $P, P' \subset M_k$ be distinct, connected components of the set in M_k fixed under S^1 and define the numbers $\varepsilon(P), \varepsilon(P')$ by the prescription in the preceding paragraphs. Then $\varepsilon(P) - \varepsilon(P')$ is an even number.*

We will now turn to the proof of Lemma 9.1. Choose a point $p \in P$ and a point $p' \in P'$. The situation is depicted in Figure 3, where the dotted line represents a path from p to p' which lies in M_k and is so constructed that it avoids all other fixed points of our action, and with the property that rotating the path via our S^1 action induces an equivariant map of S^2 into M_k,

$$(9.5) \qquad f : S^2 \to M_k,$$

taking the north pole to p and the south pole to p'.

Since the path in Figure 3 lies in M_k, a second map from S^2 into M_k is constructed by rotating the path through an angle of $2\pi/k$ radians by our S^1 action.

This new map is denoted by

$$(9.6) \qquad f_k : S^2 \to M_k,$$

and in the equivariant context, f_k fits into the commutative diagram

$$(9.7) \qquad \begin{array}{c} S^2 \\ \pi_k \downarrow \quad \overset{f}{\searrow} \\ S^2_{(k)} \quad \underset{f_k}{\longrightarrow} \quad M_{(k)} \end{array}$$

We now pull the bundles V_r back to $S^2_{(k)}$ via f_k. For $r \neq 0$, $\frac{k}{2}$ these $f_k^* V_r$ are complex equivariant bundles a priori, and for $r = 0$ or $\frac{k}{2}$, Lemma 9.2 allows us to think of $f_k^* V_r$ as a complex bundle also.

In all cases, $f^* V_r = (\pi_k \circ f_k)^* V_r$ is an S^1-equivariant, complex bundle for the standard S^1 action on S^2 and restricts equivariantly to n (= north pole) as a direct sum of lines $f^* V_r |_n = \bigoplus_\alpha L_\alpha(r)$, and S^1 acts on $L_\alpha(r)$ by

$\lambda \to \lambda^{m_\alpha(r)}$. For $r \neq 0, \frac{k}{2}$ (mod k), the set of exponents $\{m_\alpha(r)\}$ is precisely the subset $\{m_i : m_i \equiv r$ (mod k)$\}$ of the set of exponents for the action of S^1 on $V|_p$, but counted with multiplicity $d_i = \dim_{\mathbb{C}} E_i$. For k odd and $r = 0$, $f^* V_0|_n$ also decomposes as a sum $\bigoplus_\alpha L_\alpha(0)$ of complex lines on which the S^1 action is defined by exponents $\{m_\alpha(0)\}$ and this is precisely the subset $\{m_i : m_i \equiv 0$ (mod k)$\}$ after counting with multiplicity d_i. When k is even, either $\varepsilon_0 = 0$ or 1 and if $\varepsilon_0 = 0$, then one has the same situation for $f^* V_0|_n$ and a similar situation for $f^* V_{k/2}|_n$ which defines exponents $\{m_\alpha(\frac{k}{2})\}_{\alpha=1}^{\dim_{\mathbb{C}} V_{k/2}}$ as the subset $\{m_i : m_i \equiv \frac{k}{2}$ (mod k)$\}$ after counting with multiplicity d_i. However, when $\varepsilon_0 = +1$, the orientations on $f^* V_0|_n$ and $f^* V_{k/2}|_n$ must be corrected so the exponents for the line decomposition of $f^* V_0|_n$ are $\{m_\alpha(0)\}$ which differs from the subset $\{m_i : m_i \equiv 0$ (mod k)$\}$ counted with multiplicity in that *one* $m_\alpha(0)$ has the *wrong* sign. Likewise, the exponents for $f^* V_{k/2}|_n$ are a set $\{m_\alpha(\frac{k}{2})\}_{\alpha=1}^{\dim_{\mathbb{C}} V_{k/2}}$ which differs from the set $\{m_i : m_i \equiv \frac{k}{2}$ (mod k)$\}$ counted with multiplicity in that *one* $m_\alpha(\frac{k}{2})$ has the wrong sign. (Changing an odd number of complex lines to the conjugate line will switch the orientation.)

We likewise introduce the set of exponents $\{m'_\alpha(r)\}$ for the S^1-action on the restriction to the south pole of $f^* V_r$.

With all of this understood, Lemma 9.1 tells us that

$$(9.8) \qquad \sum_\alpha (m_\alpha(r) - m'_\alpha(r)) = \int_{S^2} c_1(f^* V_r)$$

and since $\pi_k : S^2 \to S^2_{(k)}$ is a degree k map, we can conclude that

$$(9.9) \qquad \sum_\alpha (m_\alpha(r) - m'_\alpha(r)) = k \cdot \int_{S^2} c_1(f_k^* V_r).$$

Next, let s be relatively prime to k. Since $m_\alpha(r)$ is an exponent of V_r at p, r equals its mod k reduction, and likewise for $m'_\alpha(r)$. Thus $s \cdot m_\alpha(r)$ and $s \cdot m'_\alpha(r)$ all have the same mod k reduction, $(s \cdot r)_{\text{mod } k}$ which we fix once and for all. Hence, integers $\{\ell_\alpha(r)\}$ are defined at p by

$$(9.10) \qquad s \cdot m_\alpha(r) = \ell_\alpha(r) \cdot k + (s \cdot r)_{\text{mod } k}.$$

Similarly we obtain $\{\ell'_\alpha(r)\}$. Hence, if we divide (9.8) by k and multiply by s we find that

$$(9.11) \qquad \sum_\alpha (\ell_\alpha(r) - \ell'_\alpha(r)) = s \cdot \int_{S^2} c_1(f_k^*(V_r)).$$

Now if $r \not\equiv 0, \frac{k}{2}$ (mod k), then

$$(9.12) \qquad \sum_\alpha \ell_\alpha(r) = \sum_{i : m_i \equiv r \text{ (mod) } k} d_i \cdot \ell_i$$

since each $m_i \equiv r$ (mod k) appears in the set $\{m_\alpha(r)\}$ with multiplicity d_i. If k is odd, (9.12) holds for $r = 0$ also, and if k is even, (9.12) holds for

$r = 0$ and $\frac{k}{2}$ provided that $\varepsilon_0 = 0$. However, if $\varepsilon_0 = +1$, then one $m_\alpha(0)$ and one $m_\alpha(\frac{k}{2})$ have the "wrong" signs and so

(9.13)
$$\sum_\alpha \ell_\alpha(0) = \left(\sum_{i:m_i \neq 0 \,(\mathrm{mod}\, k)} d_i \cdot \ell_i \right) - 2 \cdot \varepsilon_0 \cdot \ell_1(0)$$

and

(9.14)
$$\sum_\alpha \ell_\alpha\left(\frac{k}{2}\right) = \left(\sum_{i:m_i \equiv k/2 \,(\mathrm{mod}\, k)} d_i \cdot \ell_i \right) - 2 \cdot \varepsilon_0 \cdot \ell_1\left(\frac{k}{2}\right) - \varepsilon_0$$

give correct formulae for $\varepsilon_0 = 0$ or 1.

Now similar formulae hold at the south pole, so summing over r, we obtain

(9.15)
$$\sum_i (d_i \ell_i - d_i \ell_i') - \varepsilon_0 + \varepsilon_0' - 2\varepsilon_0 \left[\ell_1(0) + \ell_1\left(\frac{k}{2}\right) - \ell_1'(0) - \ell_1'\left(\frac{k}{2}\right) \right] = s \cdot \int_{S^2} c_1(f_k^*(V_r)).$$

But this establishes our lemma because the spin hypothesis on V implies that $w_2(V) = 0$, whence $w_2(f_k^* V) = 0$ so that $c_1(f_k^* V)$ is even! But then $\sum(\ell_i - \ell_i') + \varepsilon_0 - \varepsilon_0'$ is even, as was to be shown.   QED

For the sake of completeness, we now give proofs of Lemmas 9.1 and 9.2.

Proof of Lemma 9.1. Since S^1 acts on E we can construct the vector bundle

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
E_{S_1} & = & E \times_{S^1} ES_1 \\
\downarrow & & \downarrow \\
S^2_{S^1} & = & S^2 \times_{S^1} ES^1
\end{array}$$

where ES^1 is the universal S^1-bundle over the classifying space BS^1. As a complex vector bundle, it has a first Chern class, $c_1(E_{S^1}) \in H^2(S^2 \times_{S^1} ES^1)$. Now the projection $\pi : ES^1 \to BS^1$ identifies $S^2 \times_{S^1} ES^1$ as a fiber bundle over BS^1 with fiber S^2. Two canonical sections, N and S, correspond to the north and south poles of S^2, respectively.

A typical fiber F of this bundle defines a class $[F] \in H_2(S^2 \times_{S^1} ES^1)$. Two additional classes are defined by $N_*[\mathbf{P}^1]$ and $S_*[\mathbf{P}^1]$ where $[\mathbf{P}^1] \in H_2(BS^1)$ is the generator. An easy exercise shows that

(9.16)
$$N_*[\mathbf{P}^1] - S_*[\mathbf{P}^1] = [F],$$

and our formula in Lemma 9.1 is obtained by evaluating $c_1(E_{S^1})$ on both sides of (9.16).

Proof of Lemma 9.2. Rotating S^1 through $2\pi/k$ radians gives the identity on $S^2_{(k)}$ and so generates a $\mathbf{Z}_k$ action on $E^\#$ which decomposes $E^\#$ in the usual way, i.e., as

(9.17)
$$E^\# = E_0 + E_1^\# + \cdots + E_{(h-1)/2}^\#$$

or as

$$(9.18) \qquad E^{\#} = E_0^{\#} + E_1^{\#} + \cdots + E_{h/2-1}^{\#} + E_{h/2}^{\#}$$

depending on whether k is odd or even. For $r \neq 0$, $\frac{k}{2}$ each $E_r^{\#}$ has a complexification to E_r on which the $\mathbf{Z}_k$ generator acts as ξ^r, so we need only concern ourselves with $r = 0$, $\frac{k}{2}$. First, we observe

Lemma 9.4. *Let $E^{\#}$ be as in Lemma 9.2 with k even. Decompose $E^{\#}$ as in (9.18); then $E_0^{\#}$ and $E_{k/2}^{\#}$ are even dimensional.*

Proof of Lemma 9.4. As $E^{\#}$ is even dimensional, we may consider $E^{\#} = E_0^{\#} \oplus E_{k/2}^{\#}$. As $\mathbf{Z}_k \subset S^1$, it acts as an orientation preserving automorphism of $E^{\#}$, hence on the real line bundle det $E^{\#} = $ det $E_0^{\#} \otimes$ det $E_{k/2}^{\#}$ it must act as $+1$. But it acts a priori as $+1$ on det $E_0^{\#}$ and it acts as $(-1)^{\dim \ E_{k/2}^{\#}}$ on det $E_{k/2}^{\#}$ so dim $E_{k/2}^{\#}$ is even.   QED

Now our standard S^1 action (rotation once about S^1 gives one rotation of S^2) lifts to $E_0^{\#}$. At the north and south poles we may give $E_0^{\#}$ a complex structure which is compatible with the linear S^1 action on the fiber and with the orientation. Indeed, we can choose our exponents $(m_1, \ldots, m_{(\dim \ E_0^{\#})/2})$ which are $0 \pmod{k}$ at n and s to uniquely define such a complex structure. Now pick a longitude, ℓ, and extend our complex structures at n and s to a complex structure for $E_0^{\#}|\ell$. We can do this because $SO(2n)/U(n)$ is path connected. Since each S^1 orbit save n and s intersects ℓ exactly once, we can use the S^1 action to extend the complex structure along ℓ to a global one which is, a priori, S^1-equivariant.

For $E_{k/2}^{\#}$ we can make the same construction. Though it is true here that rotating once around S^2 does not lift to the identity on $E_{k/2}^{\#}$, rather it lifts to (-1). However, $(-1) \in SO(2n)$ lies in $U(n)$, so it does not hinder our construction.

10. Orientation

It was essential for our program that the fixed point set $M_n \subset M$ of $\mathbf{Z}_n \subset S^1$ be orientable, provided M is spin. This result is a special case of a more general phenomenon which arises in the context of a $\mathbf{Z}_n$ action on a manifold M, and a real, oriented vector bundle, $V \to M$, to which the $\mathbf{Z}_n$ action lifts. When restricted to the fixed point manifold, $M_n \subset M$ for $\mathbf{Z}_n$, $V|_{M_n}$ admits a $\mathbf{Z}_n$ action which decomposes $V|_{M_n}$ in the usual way:

$$(10.1) \qquad V|_{M_n} = V_0 + V_1^{\#} + \cdots + V_{(n-1)/2}^{\#}$$

if n is odd, or

$$(10.2) \qquad V|_{M_n} = V_0 + V_1^{\#} + \cdots + V_{n/2-1}^{\#} + V_{n/2}$$

if n is even, where the generator of $\mathbf{Z}_n$ acts trivially on V_0, by (-1) on $V_{n/2}$ and where $V_r^{\#}$ for $1 \leq r < n/2$ have natural complex structures.

Lemma 10.1. *If V is spin and if the $\mathbf{Z}_n$ action preserves the orientation and the spin structure of V, then V_0 is orientable.*

Taking $V = TM$ produces our result that $M_n \subset M$ is orientable for M a spin manifold. As we remarked, this corollary can be deduced from a theorem of Edmonds [E]; his theorem asserts that the fixed point set of an involution on a spin manifold is orientable.

However, we will present a proof of this lemma along different lines from his. To begin, we note that for n odd, V needs only to be orientable for V_0 to be orientable, as the other constituents of V have complex structures.

For the n even case, we base our proof on the following quite general proposition.

Proposition 10.2 (Bott-Samelson [B-S]). *In a connected and simply-connected compact Lie group the centralizer of an element is connected.*

Gist of proof. Let G be the group and g the element and consider the orbit of g under the adjoint action of G on itself. We write O_g for this orbit, and clearly $O_g \simeq G/C_g$, where C_g is the centralizer of G. Under our assumptions it follows from the homotopy exact sequence that

(10.3) $$\pi_0(C_g) \simeq \pi_1(O_g).$$

Now let $\Omega(G; O_g)$ be the space of paths on G ending on O_g. It has the same homotopy type as O_g. Projection on the initial point of such a path gives us a fibering

(10.4) $$\Omega_e(G, O_g) \longrightarrow \Omega(G; O_g) \longrightarrow G,$$

with fiber the space of paths in G starting at e and ending on O_g. The space on the left is simply connected by an old theorem of Bott and Samelson [B-S]. In fact, by Morse theory $\Omega_e(G; O_g)$ is torsion free and has only even-dimensional homology.

With the aid of this result we can prove Lemma 10.1 in the following manner. Let Q be the principal Spin (d) bundle covering the oriented frame bundle P of V and let $f : M \to M$ be the map induced by the action of $e^{2\pi i/n} \in \mathbf{Z}_n$ on M. Then $M_n = M^f$ is the fixed point set of f and by assumption we have induced bundle maps $f_Q : Q \to Q$ and $f_P : P \to P$ covering f.

Let Q' be the preimage of a connected component of M^f in Q. Then $f_Q|Q'$ covers the identity automorphism of Q'. Therefore, $f_q|Q'$ is induced by an equivariant map $h : Q' \to \mathrm{Spin}(n)$ in the sense that

(10.5) $$f_Q(q) = q \cdot h(q), \qquad q \in Q'.$$

Equivariance implies that $f_Q(q \cdot g) = f_Q(q) \cdot g$ which translates to

(10.6) $$h(g \cdot g) = g^{-1}h(q)g.$$

This h maps the fibers of Q' to Ad-orbits of Spin (d). Now f_Q being of finite order, $f_Q|Q'$ is also, so that h takes values in orbits of points of finite order. These being discrete, we see that h actually takes values in a fixed orbit O_g:

(10.7) $h : Q \longrightarrow O_g .$

Let $g \in O_g$ be a point of this orbit and consider the inverse image

(10.8) $Q'' = h^{-1}(g) .$

Then it is clear that $Q'' \subset Q'$ has C_g as its structure group. In short, *along M^f the structure group of Q is naturally broken to C_g.*

Consider now the projection of Q'' to the oriented orthogonal frame bundle P of V. The structure group of P is $SO(n)$, and along M^f it is broken to the centralizer $\underline{C}$ of an element $\underline{g}$ in $SO(n)$, which might well have *two* components. (Indeed an involution breaks $O(n)$ into $O(n-k) \times O(k)$ and hence $SO(n)$ to a two-component subgroup of $O(n-k) \times O(k)$.) These two components of the reduction along each fiber of $P|M^f$ define a double cover $\widetilde{M}^f$ of M^f and the orientability of V_0 clearly hinges on the question of whether this double cover is *trivial* or not.

Now, then, we see from the connectedness of C_g that the projection of Q'' into $P|M^f$ singles out *one* component of this double cover, whence $\widetilde{M}^f = M^f \times \mathbb{Z}_2$.   QED

11. GENERALIZATIONS

Witten considered a generalization of the basic rigidity theorem by introducing an auxiliary Spin($2k$) principal bundle Q_V over our spin manifold M to which the double of the S^1 action lifts. Let $\Delta(V)$ and V denote the vector bundles over M which are associated to Q_V via the spinor and vector representations, respectively. Similarly we write $\Delta(T)$ to denote the bundle of spinors which is associated to a choice of spin structure on our spin manifold M and in terms of these we introduce the expression

(11.1) $E_q(V/T) = \left(\Delta(V) \bigotimes_{n=1}^{\infty} \Lambda_{q^n} V \right) \cdot \left(\Delta(T) \bigotimes_{m=1}^{\infty} \Lambda_{q^m} T \right)^{-1}$

as a formal power series in q with coefficients in the real K-theory of M. Witten conjectured that

(11.2) $\tau_q(M;E) \equiv \text{ch} \cdot \text{ind}(d_S \otimes R_q(T) \otimes E_q(V/T))$

is rigid when the equivariant characteristic classes of V are suitably constrained.

To explain these constraints recall that the "equivariant cohomology" of an S^1-manifold M is *defined* as the cohomology of an auxiliary space M_S, constructed as follows. Let ES be a contractible S^1-space, e.g., the unit sphere in

a Hilbert space of infinite dimensions on which S^1 acts by complex multiplication.

Then define M_S by

$$(11.3) \qquad M_S = M \times ES/S^1$$

where the quotient is taken relative to the product action on $M \times ES$.

This space fibers over $ES/S^1 = BS^1$, which in this case is just CP_∞. Thus

$$H_S^*(pt) \equiv H^*(CP_\infty) = \mathbf{Z}[u], \qquad u \in H_{S^1}^2,$$

so that $H_S^*(M) \equiv H^*(M_S)$ is naturally a module over this ring. Equivariant maps $f : M \to M'$ induce maps $f_S : M_S \to M_S'$ and induce $f_S^* : H_S^*(M') \to H_S^*(M)$, in short, H_S^* is a generalized cohomology theory over $\mathbf{Z}[u]$.

Similarly S^1-bundles V over M extend to bundles V_S over M_S

$$V_S = V \times ES/S^1$$

so that their characteristic classes are naturally defined in $H_S^*(M)$. Thus $w_2(V_S)$ and $p_1(V_S)$ are well defined in $H_S^*(M; \mathbf{Z}_2)$ and $H_S^*(M; \mathbf{Z})$, respectively.

The class $w_2(V_S) \in H_S^2(M; \mathbf{Z}_2)$ plays the role of an obstruction to an equivariant spin structure on V, and it is a fact, which we learned from Dan Freed, that if $w_2(E) = 0$ for a real, oriented bundle E over a space X, then there exists a canonical class $e(E) \in H^4(X; \mathbf{Z})$ with

$$(11.4) \qquad p_1(E) = 2 \cdot e(E).$$

We write $\frac{1}{2}p_1(E)$ for this class, as is the tradition among physicists.

In any case the pertinent conditions which Witten proposed for the rigidity of (11.2) are now expressed by

$$(11.5) \qquad w_2(V_S - T_S) = 0, \qquad \frac{1}{2}p_1(V_S - T_S) = 0$$

where these classes are taken in $H_S^*(M)$. Actually, our proof of his conjectures works under the following slightly weaker hypotheses. For each $k > 1$, consider $\mathbf{Z}_k \subset S^1$, the cyclic subgroup of order k.

We have the $\mathbf{Z}_k$ equivariant cohomology of M, defined by

$$(11.6) \qquad H_{\mathbf{Z}_k}^*(M) = H^*(M \times ES/\mathbf{Z}_k)$$

and there is a natural "forgetful" map

$$(11.7) \qquad \alpha(S^1; \mathbf{Z}_k) : M \times ES^1/\mathbf{Z}_k \to M_S$$

which induces by pullback

$$\alpha(S^1, \mathbf{Z}_k)^* : H_S^* \to H_{\mathbf{Z}_k}^*.$$

The arrow which forgets the S^1 action altogether we denote by $\alpha(S^1; 1)$. Thus

$$(11.8) \qquad \alpha(S^1, 1)^* : H_S^* \to H^*$$

is induced by the inclusion of M into M_S as a fiber over BS .

Finally, note that if $\mathbf{Z}_k$ acts *trivially* on a space X then there is a new arrow

$$\pi^* : H^*(X) \to H^*_{\mathbf{Z}_k}(X)$$

induced by the projection

$$(11.9) \qquad X_{\mathbf{Z}_k} = (X \times ES^1)/\mathbf{Z}_k = X \times B\mathbf{Z}_k \overset{\pi}{\to} X .$$

With these concepts understood, we let $\mathbf{Z}_\infty \equiv S^1$ and then we have the following proposition.

Proposition 11.1. *Let M be compact oriented and spin, and let V be an auxiliary spin bundle over M . For each $1 < k \leq \infty$, let $i : M_k \to M$ be the inclusion of the fixed point set of $\mathbf{Z}^k \subset S^1$ in M and so i induces $i_S : M_k \times_{S^1} ES^1 \to M_S$. Now assume that*

$$(11.10) \qquad \alpha(S^1, \mathbf{Z}_k)^* \circ i_S^* \text{ annihilates } \mathrm{w}_2(V_S - T_S) \in H^2_{\mathbf{Z}_k}(M; \mathbf{Z}_2),$$

while for $e = \frac{1}{2}p_1(V_S - T_S)$,

$$(11.11) \qquad \alpha(S^1; \mathbf{Z}_k)^* \circ i_S^* e = \pi^* \circ \alpha(S^1; 1)^* \circ i_S^* e .$$

Then $\tau_q(M; E_q(V/T))$ is rigid.

Note that the relations (11.10) and (11.11) clearly follow from (11.5) by pulling back and forgetting, so that they are weaker.

Proposition 11.1 is again proved via the fixed point formula, and again the proof is most transparent where the fixed points are isolated. For simplicity we will treat that case only.

The fixed point formula asserts that

$$(11.12) \qquad \tau_q(M; E) = \sum_p \mu_p \cdot f_p$$

where $\mu_p = \prod_{i=1}^d \psi_{m_i} \varphi$ is our old friend, and where $f_p(q, \lambda)$ is a formal power series in q with coefficients that are finite Laurent series in λ. To write down f_p, we will need the infinite product

$$(11.13) \qquad \theta(\lambda) = (1 + \lambda) \cdot \prod_{n=1}^\infty (1 + q^n \lambda)(1 + q^n \lambda^{-1}),$$

which, when expanded, defines a convergent power series in q with finite Laurent series in λ as coefficients and the domain of convergence for θ is $0 < |q| < 1$ and $0 < |\lambda|$.

Note that

$$\theta(q\lambda) = \lambda^{-1}\theta(\lambda)$$

and that θ is related to our φ by

$$(11.14) \qquad \varphi(\lambda) = \theta(\lambda)/\theta(-\lambda).$$

Thus θ is precisely one of the classical "theta functions" written out in our λ-parameter.

To construct f_p from θ we need to use the exponents of the S^1 action on T and V at the fixed point p. Now the action on the tangent bundle at a fixed point p is described by the integers $\{m_1, \ldots, m_d\}$, while the S^1 action on $V|_p$ is described by nonzero exponents $\{v_1, \cdots, v_\ell\}$ and a subspace, $V'|_p$, on which the S^1 action is trivial.

With all of this understood, the multiplicity f_p is now seen to be

$$(11.15) \qquad f_p = \lambda^{(\sum_i m_i - \sum_i v_i)/2} \cdot \prod_{i=1}^{\ell} \psi_{v_i} \theta \Big/ \left(\prod_{i=1}^{d} \psi_{m_i} \theta \right).$$

Remark. The exponent of λ in (11.15) is an integer by assumption (11.10). Let us spell this out a little. First note that $BZ_2 = RP_\infty$ and that $H^*(RP_\infty; Z_2) \simeq Z_2[x]$ where x has dimension 1. Hence if $L = R$ is the nontrivial Z_2 module, of dimension 1, on which the generator acts by -1, then the total Stiefel-Whitney class $w(L) \in H^*_{Z_2}(pt; Z_2)$ is given by $1 + x$.

Hence the decomposition

$$(11.16) \qquad T_p \cong \bigoplus_i E_i^\#$$

implies that

$$(11.17) \qquad w_2(T_p) = \prod(1 + xm_i)^2 = \prod(1 + x^2 m_i^2)$$

as an element in $H^*_{Z_2}(p; Z_2)$.

On the other hand, the map

$$\alpha(S^1, Z_2) : H^*_S(p; Z_2) \to H^*_{Z_2}(p; Z_2)$$

sends u to x^2. It follows that

$$i^*_S \circ w_2(T_S) = \left(\sum m_i^2 \right) u \equiv \left(\sum m_i \right) \cdot u \pmod{2}$$

in $H^2(\{p\} \times BS^1; Z_2)$. Similarly

$$(11.18) \qquad i^*_S w_2(T_S - V_S) = \sum (m_i - v_i) \cdot u \pmod{2}$$

whence (11.10) implies that $\sum(m_i - v_i) \equiv 0(2)$. \qquad QED

Our strategy now is to show first that the right side of (11.12) defines a meromorphic function on T_{q^2}. Then we generalize the transfer formula of §7 to argue that this meromorphic function is constant.

The multiplicity f_p descends to T_{q^2} if and only if $f_p(\lambda q) = \pm f_p(\lambda)$, and since (11.13) obeys $\theta(\lambda q) = \lambda^{-1} \cdot \theta(\lambda)$ we first need to understand how $\psi_m \theta$ transforms. Thus,

$$(11.19) \qquad \psi_m \theta(\lambda q) = \theta(\lambda^m q^m) = \theta(\lambda^m q^{m-1} \cdot q) = \lambda^{-m} q^{1-m} \cdot \theta(\lambda^m q^{m-1})$$

so that repeated iteration yields

(11.20) $(\psi_m \theta)(\lambda q) = \lambda^{-m^2} \cdot q^{-(m)(m-1)/2} \psi_m \theta$.

Substituted into (11.15) we therefore obtain the transformation law

(11.21) $f_p(\lambda q) = (\lambda^2 q)^{(\sum(m_i^2 - \nu_i^2))/2} f_p(\lambda)$.

Hence f_p descends to a meromorphic function on T_{q^2} if and only if the exponents of T and V are related by

(11.22) $\frac{1}{2} \sum (m_i^2 - \nu_i^2) = 0$.

But the relation $c(E_i) = 1 + m_i u$ in $H_S^*(pt)$ for the total Chern class of the E_i in (11.16) shows that

(11.23) $p_1(E_i) = 1 - m_i^2 u^2$

so that $\iota_S^* p_1(T_S) = \prod(1 - m_i^2 u^2)$. Hence under our assumption f_p does descend to T_{q^2} and our old arguments easily generalize to

Lemma 11.2. *The formal power series in* (11.2) *defines a meromorphic function on* T_{q^2} *without poles on the circle* $|\lambda| = 1$.

As before, the constancy of the resulting meromorphic function on T_{q^2} is proved by checking that it has no poles on the circles $|\lambda| = |a|$ where $a \in T_{q^2}$ is of the form α^s for α some kth root of q, $\alpha^k = q$. As before, a "transfer formula" will identify $t_a \tau_q(M; E)$ as the character of the index of an elliptic operator on $M_k \subset M$; as such, it is a priori regular on the circle $|\lambda| = a$.

So, Proposition 11.1 requires us to find a transfer formula for $\tau_q(M; E)$, and with this our motivation we extend θ to an operation $\theta_a(F)$ on complex vector bundles F by the formal power series

(11.24) $\theta_a(F) \equiv \Lambda_a F \bigotimes_{n=1}^{\infty} \Lambda_{q^n a} F \bigotimes_{m=1}^{\infty} \Lambda_{q^m a^{-1}} F^*$, $|q| < a < 1$.

If $a = q^{1/2}$ and if $F \to X$ is a *real* vector bundle, introduce

(11.25) $\theta_{q^{1/2}}(F) = \bigotimes_{n=1}^{\infty} \Lambda_{q^{n-1/2}} F$.

Both (11.24) and (11.25) define formal power series in q with coefficients in the complex or real vector bundles over X. Thus in K-theory, $\theta_a(F)/\theta_{-a}(F)$ agrees with $\varphi_a(F)$ of §8.

We will apply this construction to those vector bundles over the fixed point set M_k, which occur in the Z_k-decompositions (10.1) and (10.2) of $T|_{m_k}$ and $V|_{m_k}$.

Our transfer formula for the cases k odd and k even differ and for this reason we separate them.

Case 1. k *is odd.* We need a word about Spin_C-structures, so let X be a space and $E \to X$ a real, oriented vector bundle and $L \to X$ a complex line bundle. If $w_2(E)$ is the mod 2 reduction of $c_1(L)$, then E can be given a Spin_C-structure which is defined by the line bundle L and we use $\Delta(E;L) \to X$ to denote the corresponding Spin_C-bundle. That is, if we let $L^\#$ denote the underlying real, oriented $SO(2)$ bundle of L, then $E \oplus L^\#$ is spin, and there is a bundle of spinors, $\Delta(E \oplus L^\#) \to X$, which is related in K-theory to $\Delta(E;L)$ by $\Delta(E \oplus L^\#) = \Delta(E;L) \cdot (1+L)^{-1}$. If E is already spin, then $c_1(L) \equiv 0$ (mod 2) and L has a square root, in which case one can choose a spin structure on E and a square root $L^{1/2}$ of L such that $\Delta(E;L) = \Delta(E) \otimes L^{-1/2}$ where $\Delta(E)$ is the bundle of spinors for the spin structure on E.

Our present situation when k is odd provides examples. Since M is spin, $T_0 \equiv TM_k$ has a Spin_C-structure which is defined by $\otimes_{r=1}^{(k-1)/2} \det(T_r)$ and, similarly, since V is spin, V_0 has a Spin_C-structure, defined by $\otimes_{r=1}^{(k-1)/2} \det(V_r)$.

With this understood, we need one last fact before we can write down the k odd transfer formula. Let then s be relatively prime to k and introduce representatives $\omega(r)$ in $\{1, \cdots, (k-1)/2\}$ for the mod k reductions of $s \cdot r$. Then we have

Lemma 11.3. *If k is odd and the assumptions of Proposition* 11.1 *hold, then the complex line bundle*

$$\nu_s = \bigotimes_{r=1}^{(n-1)/2} \det(V_r)^{\omega(r)} \cdot \det(T_r)^{-\omega(r)}$$

admits a kth root $\nu_s^{1/k}$ over M_k.

We defer our proof of this fact temporarily so that we can write down the transfer formula
(11.26)

$$t_{\alpha^s} \tau_q(M;E) = \tau_q \left(M_k'; \alpha^\sigma \cdot \nu_s^{1/k} \otimes \left[\frac{\Delta(V_0; \otimes_{r=1}^{(k-1)/2} \det(V_r))}{\Delta(T_0; \otimes_{r=1}^{(k-1)/2} \det(T_r))} \otimes E_0 \right] \right.$$
$$\left. \bigotimes_{r=1}^{(k-1)/2} \theta_{\alpha^{\omega(r)}}(V_r) \bigotimes_{r=1}^{(k-1)/2} \theta_{\alpha^{\omega(r)}}(T_r)^{-1} \right)$$

where $E_0 = (\otimes_{n=1}^{\infty} \Lambda_{q^n} V_0) \otimes (\otimes_{n=1}^{\infty} \Lambda_{q^n} T_0)^{-1}$. Here,

$$\sigma = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{r=1}^{(k-1)/2} \left(\frac{\omega(r)^2}{k} - \omega(r) \right) (\dim_{\mathbf{C}} V_r - \dim_{\mathbf{C}} T_r)$$

is constant on a connected component of M_k, and as before M_k' denotes M_k in the orientation given by (7.5).

Let us remark that σ is a whole number under Proposition 11.1's assumptions. Indeed, as k is *odd*, one need only verify that

$$b \equiv \sum_{r=1}^{(k-1)/2} (\dim_{\mathbf{C}} V_r - \dim_{\mathbf{C}} T_r)\omega(r)^2$$

is divisible by k. Then the *integer* 2σ is of the form $\frac{1}{k}\times$ even and hence even. To verify b/k's integrality, we fix $p \in M_k$ and introduce the section $q_p : BZ_k \to \{p\} \times BZ_k \hookrightarrow M_{Z_k}$ and calculate

$$(11.27) \qquad q_p^* \alpha(S^1 ; Z_k)^* i_S^* p_1(V_S - T_S) = -b \cdot u_k$$

where $u_k \in H^2(BZ_k ; \mathbf{Z}) \simeq Z_k$ is the generator of $H^*(BZ_k ; \mathbf{Z}) \simeq \mathbf{Z}[u_k]/(k \cdot u_k)$. Since (11.27) must vanish, by (11.11), we have $b \equiv 0 \pmod{k}$ as claimed.

To verify (11.26), we first examine the effect of translation by α^s on the left side of (11.26) by using the fixed point formula on M to equate $\tau_q(M ; E)$ with the right side of (11.12). Our computation of the α^s translation of the right side of (11.12) is facilitated by more than one use of the identity $\theta(\lambda q) = \lambda^{-1}\theta(\lambda)$; in particular, use of this identity gives

$$(11.28) \qquad t_{\alpha^s}\psi_m\theta = (\lambda^m \alpha^\omega)^{-\ell} q^{-1/2(\ell^2-\ell)}\psi_m t_{\alpha^\omega}\theta$$

where $\omega \in \{1, \ldots, k-1\}$ and $\ell \in \mathbf{Z}$ are determined by the formula $s \cdot m = \ell \cdot k + \omega$.

We will use (11.28) after introducing (ℓ_i, ω_i) and (ℓ_i', ω_i') in $\mathbf{Z} \times \{1, \cdots, k-1\}$ by the formulae $s \cdot m_i = \ell_i \cdot k_i + \omega_i$ and $s \cdot \nu_i = \ell_i' \cdot k_i + \omega_i'$. Then we find that

$$(11.29) \qquad t_{\alpha^s}f_p = \lambda^a \alpha^b \lambda^{(\sum m_i - \sum \nu_i)/2} \cdot \left(\prod_{i=1} \psi_{\nu_i} t_{\alpha^{\omega_i'}}\theta\right) \cdot \left(\prod_{i=1} \psi_{m_i} t_{\alpha^{\omega_i}} \theta\right)^{-1},$$

where $a = \sum \ell_i' \nu_i - \sum \ell_i m_i$ and
$$(11.30)$$
$$b = -\sum \left(\frac{1}{2}k(\ell_i'^2 - \ell_i') + \omega_i'\ell_i' + \frac{1}{2}s\nu_i\right) + \frac{1}{2}\sum \left(\frac{1}{2}k(\ell_j^2 - \ell_j) + \omega_j\ell_j + \frac{1}{2}sm_j\right).$$

If we use (11.29) and (11.30) with (7.10) (which gives us $t_{\alpha^s}\mu_p$), then we can sum over the fixed points to obtain a formula for the α^s translate of $\tau_q(M, E)$. To prove (11.26), we will identify the resulting expression with the formula for the right side of (11.26), which is given to us by the fixed point theorem applied on M_k. With the contents of §7 well digested, the task requires only the identification of (11.29) as the formula for the S^1-module structure of

$$(11.31) \qquad \alpha^\sigma \cdot \nu_s^{1/k} \otimes \left[\frac{\Delta(V_0 ; \otimes_{r=1}^{(k-1)/2} \det(V_r))}{\Delta(T_0 ; \otimes_{r=1}^{(k-1)/2} \det(T_r))} \otimes E_0(V_0, T_0)\right]$$

$$\bigotimes_{r=1}^{(k-1)/2} \left(\theta_{\alpha^{\omega(r)}}(V_r) \otimes \theta_{\alpha^{\omega(r)}}(T_r)^{-1}\right)$$

at the fixed point p.

To make the requisite identification, we begin with the equality $\sum_i m_i^2 = \sum_j \nu_j^2$ which implies that the numbers b in (11.30) and σ in (11.31) are the same. Also, this same equality shows that λ^a describes the complex line $\nu_s^{1/k}|_p$ as an S^1-module. Meanwhile, the S^1 module structure of

$$\Delta\left(V_0; \bigotimes_{r=1}^{(k-1)/2} \det(V_r)\right) \otimes \Delta\left(T_0; \bigotimes_{r=1}^{(k-1)/2} \det(T_r)\right)^{-1} \otimes E_0|_p$$

is given by

$$\lambda^{(\sum m_i - \sum \nu_j)/2} \cdot \prod_{\substack{i:m_i \equiv 0 \ (\mathrm{mod}\ k) \\ j:\nu_j \equiv 0 \ (\mathrm{mod}\ k)}} \psi_{\nu_i}\theta \cdot (\psi_{m_i}\theta)^{-1},$$

while that of $\theta_{\alpha^{\omega(r)}}(T_r)|_p$ is given by $\prod_{i:m_i \equiv r \ (\mathrm{mod}\ k)} \psi_{m_i} t_{\alpha^{\omega_i}}\theta$ and that of $\theta_{\alpha^{\omega(r)}}(V_r)|_P$ is given by $\prod_{i:\nu_i \equiv r \ (\mathrm{mod}\ k)} \psi_{\nu_i} t_{\alpha^{\omega_i}}\theta$. Thus, we have identified (11.29) as giving the S^1-module structure of (11.31) at p and, modulo Lemma 11.3, we are finished with establishing (11.26).

Case 2. k is even. When k is even, (11.26) gets modified and to write down the modification we need the k even analog of Lemma 11.3.

Lemma 11.4. *If the assumptions of Proposition* 11.1 *hold and if k is even and s is relatively prime to k, then*

(1) *The complex line bundle*

$$\nu_s \equiv \bigotimes_{r=1}^{k/2-1} \left[(\det (V_r))^{\omega(r)} \otimes (\det (T_r))^{-\omega(r)}\right]$$

has a $(\frac{k}{2})$th root, $\nu_s^{2/k} \to M_k$.

(2) *The vector bundle $T_0 \oplus V_0 \to M_k$ has a $\mathrm{Spin}_{\mathrm{C}}$ structure which is defined by the line bundle*

(11.32)
$$\omega \equiv \bigotimes_{r=1}^{k/2-1} \det (V_r) \bigotimes_{r=1}^{k/2-1} (\det (T_r))^{-1} \otimes \nu_s^{2/k}.$$

We will again postpone the proof of Lemma 11.4 and write down the transfer formula in the case where k is even:

(11.33)
$$t_{\alpha^s}\tau_q(M;E)$$
$$= \tau_q\left(M_k', \alpha^\sigma \cdot \nu_s^{2/k} \otimes \left[\frac{\Delta(V_0 \oplus T_0;\omega)}{\Delta(T_0 \oplus T_0)} \otimes E_0\right] \bigotimes_{r=1}^{k/2} \theta_{\alpha^{\omega(r)}}(V_r) \bigotimes_{r=1}^{k/2} \theta_{\alpha^{\omega(r)}}(T_r)^{-1}\right),$$

where E_0 is the same as before, but on a connected component of M_k,

$$\sigma = \frac{1}{2}\sum_{r=1}^{k/2-1}\left(\frac{\omega(r)^2}{k} - \omega(r)\right) \cdot (\dim_{\mathrm{C}} V_r - \dim_{\mathrm{C}} T_r).$$

Under our assumptions, σ is again an integer.

The proof of (11.33) goes as before, so we end this section with the proofs of Lemmas 11.3 and 11.4.

Proof of Lemma 11.3. Our result is obtained by studying the characteristic classes of $\alpha(S^1; \mathbf{Z}_k)^*(V_S - T_S)$ when restricted to $M_k \times B\mathbf{Z}_k$. These are easy to compute because

$$(11.34) \qquad \alpha(S^1; \mathbf{Z}_k)^* i_S^* V_S = V_0 \bigoplus_{r=1}^{(k-1)/2} (V_r \otimes_\mathbf{C} L^n)$$

where $L \to B\mathbf{Z}_k$ is the complex line bundle $(E\mathbf{Z}_k \times_{\mathbf{Z}_k} \mathbf{C})$ whose first Chern class is u_k, the generator of $H^2(B\mathbf{Z}_k; \mathbf{Z}) \simeq \mathbf{Z}_k$. The bundle T has a similar decomposition, so that the restriction to $M_k \times B\mathbf{Z}_k$ of $\alpha(S^1; \mathbf{Z}_k)^* \frac{1}{2} p_1(V_S - T_S)$ has a component in $H^2(M_k) \otimes H^2(B\mathbf{Z}_k)$, given by

$$(11.35) \qquad \sum_{r=1}^{(k-1)/2} r \cdot (c_1(V_r) - c_1(T_r)) \cdot u_k .$$

But the assumption (11.11) implies that this restriction, i.e., $\alpha(S^1; \mathbf{Z}_k) \circ i_S^* e$, be in the image of π^* and hence have no mixed term whatsoever. This implies that $c_1(\nu_S) = \sum_{r=1}^{(n-1)/2} r \ (c_1(V_r) - c_2(T_r))$ is divisible by k.   QED

Proof of Lemma 11.4. When k is even, the restriction to $M_k \times B\mathbf{Z}_k$ of $\alpha(S^1; \mathbf{Z}_k)^* V_S$ is

$$(11.36) \qquad \alpha(S^1; \mathbf{Z}_k)^* i_S^* V_S = V_0 \bigoplus_{r=1}^{(k-1)/2} (V_r \otimes_\mathbf{C} L^r) \oplus (V_{k/2} \otimes \hat{L})$$

where L^r is as in (11.34), and where $\hat{L} \to B\mathbf{Z}_k$ is the real line bundle whose complexification is $L^{k/2}$. The restriction of $\alpha(S^1; \mathbf{Z}_k)^* i_S^* \frac{1}{2} p_1(V_S - T_S)$ to $M_k \times B\mathbf{Z}_k$ has one component in $H^2(M_k) \otimes H^2(B\mathbf{Z}_k)$:

$$(11.37) \qquad \sum_{r=1}^{k/2-1} r \cdot (c_1(V_r) - c_1(T_r)) \cdot u_k + \omega_2(V_{k/2} - T_{k/2}) \cdot \left(\frac{k}{2}\right) \cdot u_k .$$

(The calculation is straightforward, though it uses Lemma 10.1 to insure that $V_{k/2}$ is orientable and Lemma 9.4 to insure that it is even dimensional.)

The assumptions in Proposition 11.1 require this class to vanish, a condition that demands the divisibility of $\sum_{r=1}^{k/2-1} r \cdot (c_1(V_r) - c_1(T_r))$ by $\frac{k}{2}$ in $H^2(M_k; \mathbf{Z})$. Now we have proved our first assertion because $c_1(\nu_s)$ and $\sum_{r=1}^{k/2-1} r \cdot (c_1(V_r) - c_1(T_r))$ are equal mod k.

The second assertion of Lemma 11.4 also follows from the vanishing of (11.37) since (11.37) can vanish only if

$$(11.38) \qquad \left(\sum_{r=1}^{h/2-1} r \cdot (c_1(V_r) - c_1(T_r)) \right)_{\mathrm{mod}\ 2} = \mathrm{w}_2(V_{k/2} - T_{k/2}) ,$$

and when (11.38) holds, the line bundle ω in (11.32) has second Stiefel-Whitney class

$$(11.39) \qquad c_2(\omega)_{\mathrm{mod}\ 2} = \sum_{r=1}^{k/2-1} (c_2(V_r) - c_2(T_r))_{\mathrm{mod}\ 2} = w_2(V_{k/2} - T_{k/2}).$$

Now V and T are separately spin, and $\{V_i, T_i\}_{i=0}^{k/2}$ are all orientable, so the right side of (11.39) equals $w_2(V_0 - T_0) = w_2(V_0 + T_0)$ and thus the second assertion is proved.

12. THE DIRAC OPERATOR

Our presentation so far has concerned only the signature operator, but Witten has also conjectured various rigidity theorems for twists of the Dirac operator. We will show here how Witten's other conjectures follow. In [W], Witten has twisted the Dirac operator with representations $\{R'_n\}_{n=0}^\infty$ which are defined by the formal power series in the parameter $q^{1/2}$:

$$(12.1) \qquad R'_q(T) \equiv \sum_{n=1}^\infty R'_n q^{n/2} = \bigotimes_{n=0}^\infty \Lambda_{q^{n+1/2}} T \bigotimes_{m=1}^\infty S_{q^m} T,$$

and he conjectured that when S^1 acts by isometries on a spin manifold M,

$$(12.2) \qquad \tau'_q(M) \equiv \mathrm{ch} \cdot \mathrm{ind}(\partial \otimes R'_q(T))$$

is rigid.

Witten also considered generalizing (12.1) by fixing a real, oriented vector bundle $V \to M$ and defining

$$(12.3) \qquad E'_q(V/T) \equiv \left(\bigotimes_{n=1}^\infty \Lambda_{q^{n-1/2}} V \right) \left(\bigotimes_{n=1}^\infty \Lambda_{q^{n-1/2}} T \right)^{-1}.$$

Then if S^1 acts compatibly on V and if the equivariant characteristic classes of V are suitably restricted, Witten conjectures that

$$(12.4) \qquad \tau'_q(M; E'(V/T)) \equiv \mathrm{ch} \cdot \mathrm{ind}(\partial \otimes R'_q(T) \otimes E'_q(V/T))$$

is also rigid. The precise assertion is

Proposition 12.1. *Let M be a smooth, oriented, compact spin manifold on which S^1 acts isometrically. Then $\tau'_q(M)$ is rigid. Also, let $V \to M$ be a real, oriented vector bundle with $w_2(V) = 0$ on which S^1 acts compatibly, and assume Proposition 11.1's restrictions on the equivariant characteristic classes of $T - V$. Then $\tau'_q(M; E'(V/T))$ is rigid.*

Proposition 12.1 will be proved in the manner of our analysis for $\tau_q(M)$ (and $\tau_q(M; E(V/T))$), though for brevity's sake we will restrict our attention here to $\tau'_q(M)$ and leave the generalization to $\tau'_q(M, E'(V/T))$ for our capable readers.

The introduction of a covering space for our q-space, the punctured, open unit disc $D^0\backslash\{0\}$, is required in order for us to interpret the half integral powers of q in (12.1). A double cover would suffice, but it is convenient to consider the universal covering space of $D^0\backslash\{0\}$ which is the open upper half plane H. So allow us now to digress to consider complex tori parametrized by points in H.

The upper half plane parametrizes complex tori in the following way. We pick a standard torus $\mathbf{R}^2/\mathbf{Z} \times \mathbf{Z}$ with basis Euclidean coordinates (x, y) and then use $\tau \in H$ to define the complex parameter $z_\tau \equiv x + y \cdot \tau$; the resulting complex manifold we call T_τ. The projection from H to $D^0\backslash\{0\}$ sends τ to $q = e^{2\pi i \tau}$ and identifies T_τ with $T_q = \mathbf{C}^*/q$ via the exponential map which sends $z_\tau \in \mathbf{C}$ to $\lambda = e^{2\pi i z_\tau} \in \mathbf{C}^*$. For those who are more comfortable with complex tori that are defined as $\mathbf{C}/\text{lattice}$, use the linear transformation

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & \operatorname{Re} \tau \\ 0 & \operatorname{Im} \tau \end{pmatrix} : \mathbf{R}^2 \to \mathbf{R}^2$$

to define a complex analytic diffeomorphism from T_τ to $\mathbf{C}/\mathbf{Z} \times \tau \cdot \mathbf{Z}$.

It is a well-known fact that $SL(2, \mathbf{Z})$ acts on H and so on our space of complex tori, $\{T_\tau\}_{\tau \in H}$. This action can be made explicit by introducing the linear isomorphisms

$$e_1 \equiv \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad e_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

of $\mathbf{R}^2$. Then $\{e_1, e_2\}$ preserve $\mathbf{R}^2/\mathbf{Z} \times \mathbf{Z}$, they generate $SL(2, \mathbf{Z})$, and

$$(12.5) \qquad e_1^* z_\tau = z_{\tau+1}, \qquad e_2^* z_\tau = -\tau \cdot z_{-1/\tau}$$

so e_1 and e_2 define complex analytic isomorphisms

$$(12.6) \qquad e_1 : T_\tau \overset{\sim}{\to} T_{\tau+1}, \qquad e_2 : T_\tau \overset{\sim}{\to} T_{-1/\tau}.$$

Thus, our original parameter space, $D^0\backslash\{0\}$, is given as $H/\mathbf{Z} \cdot e_1$.

Now recall that our basic object φ_q of (5.3) defines, by virtue of (5.4), a meromorphic function on $\mathbf{C}^*/q^2$. We went to the q^2-torus to avoid facing the minus sign in (5.4). To interpret φ_q on the torus $\mathbf{C}^*/q$ and by pullback on T_τ, we must come to grips with that minus sign. We do so by introducing the flat line bundle

$$(12.7) \qquad L_\tau \equiv \mathbf{R}^2 \times \mathbf{C}/\mathbf{Z} \times \mathbf{Z} \to T_\tau$$

where $\mathbf{Z} \times \mathbf{Z}$ acts on $\mathbf{R}^2$ above by translation and on $\mathbf{C}$ by sending $\{k, \ell\} \in \mathbf{Z} \times \mathbf{Z}$ and $v \in \mathbf{C}$ to $(-1)^\ell \cdot v$. Clearly, $e_1^* L_{\tau+1} = L_\tau$ so L_τ is the pullback from $\mathbf{C}^*/q$ of a flat line bundle L_q of which φ is a meromorphic section. Thus, φ pulls back to T_τ as a meromorphic section, φ_τ, of L_τ which obeys $e_1^* \varphi_{\tau+1} = \varphi_\tau$.

Up to isomorphism, there are four flat line bundles over T_τ that have trivial square. This is because $H^1(T_\tau; \mathbf{Z}_2) \simeq \mathbf{Z}_2 \times \mathbf{Z}_2$. The trivial bundle is one, L_τ is another, and a third, which we will call L_τ'', is defined as in (12.7) but with the action of $\mathbf{Z} \times \mathbf{Z}$ on $\mathbf{C}$ sending $\{k, \ell\}$ and $v \in \mathbf{C}$ to $(-1)^k \cdot v$. The fourth is $L_\tau' \simeq L_\tau \otimes L_\tau''$.

The group $SL(2, \mathbf{Z})$ permutes these line bundles since

$$(12.8) \qquad e_2^* L_{-1/\tau} = L_\tau'', \qquad e_1^* L_{\tau+1}'' = L_\tau'.$$

With all of this understood, we return to our spin manifold M with S^1 action and observe that the transfer formulae (7.5) and (7.12) imply that $\tau_q(M)$ pulls back to T_τ as a meromorphic section, $\mathscr{S}_\tau$, of L_τ^ε, with $\varepsilon = 0$ if the S^1 action lifts to the spin bundle and with $\varepsilon = +1$ if it does not. There is a similar interpretation for $\tau_q'(M)$.

Lemma 12.2. *Let M be a spin manifold on which S^1 acts, write $q = e^{2\pi i \tau}$ for $\tau \in H$, and write $\lambda = e^{2\pi i z_\tau}$ for $z_\tau = x + \tau y \in \mathbf{C}$. Then $\tau_q'(M)$ of (12.1) is naturally defined over H as a family of meromorphic sections*

$$\left\{ \mathscr{S}_\tau' : T_\tau \to (L_\tau')^\varepsilon \right\}_{\tau \in H}.$$

Our proof of Proposition 12.1 will show more or less directly that $\mathscr{S}_\tau'$ has no poles. (There is another proof of Proposition 12.1 which establishes that $\mathscr{S}_\tau'$ and $e_1^* e_2^* (\mathscr{S}_{-1/(\tau+1)}')$ are *a priori proportional*, and since $\mathscr{S}_{-1/(\tau+1)}'$ is now known to be rigid, the rigidity of $\mathscr{S}_\tau'$ is finally deduced. This argument, in the isolated fixed point case only, is given in the next section.)

We will prove Lemma 12.2 with the help of the fixed point formula for the Dirac operator, but to properly interpret this formula, we must digress to consider some special sections of L_τ'. For this purpose, fix $\tau \in H$ and $q = e^{2\pi i \tau}$ and set $q^{1/2} = e^{\pi i \tau}$. For $\xi \in \mathbf{C}$, introduce $\lambda = e^{2\pi i \xi}$ and $\lambda^{1/2} = e^{\pi i \xi}$, and then define

$$(12.9) \qquad \chi_\tau(\xi) = \frac{\lambda^{1/2}}{1 - \lambda} \cdot \prod_{n=1}^\infty \frac{(1 + q^n q^{-1/2} \lambda)(1 + q^n q^{-1/2} \lambda^{-1})}{(1 - q^n \lambda)(1 - q^n \lambda^{-1})}.$$

As a function on $\mathbf{C}$, χ_τ is observedly meromorphic, and it obeys

$$(12.10) \qquad \chi_\tau(\xi + 1) = -\chi_\tau(\xi) \quad \text{and} \quad \chi_\tau(\xi + \tau) = -\chi_\tau(\xi).$$

Thus, as a function of the complex coordinate $\xi \equiv z_\tau$, we see χ_τ descending to the τ-torus T_τ as a meromorphic section of L_τ'. In a sense, it is our basic section in that it has the minimal number of poles and zeros on T_τ—one pole at $z_\tau = 0$ and one zero at $z_\tau = \frac{1}{2}(1 + \tau)$.

Now by iterating (12.10), we see that $(\psi_m \chi_\tau)(z_\tau) \equiv \chi_\tau(m \cdot z_\tau)$ defines, for integer m, either a meromorphic section of L_τ' (if m is odd) or a meromorphic function on T_τ (if m is even). Of course $\psi_m \chi_\tau$ has $|m|$ poles and $|m|$ zeros.

Additional meromorphic sections of L'_τ can be constructed if we remember that the meromorphic sections of L'_τ form a module for the ring of meromorphic functions on T_τ. Of course, the product of two meromorphic sections is a meromorphic function.

At this point, we have enough meromorphic sections of L'_τ to identify $\tau'_q(M)$, at least when S^1 acts with isolated fixed points, because the fixed point formula for $\eth \otimes R'_q$ is summarized by

Lemma 12.3. *Let S^1 act on M by isometry with isolated fixed points. Write $q = e^{2\pi i \tau}$ for $\tau \in H$. Then the fixed point formula applied to $\eth \otimes R'_q$ yields*

$$\text{ch} \cdot \text{ind}(\eth \otimes R'_q)(e^{i\theta}) = \sum_{\{p\}} \mu'_p(e^{i\theta})$$

where

$$\mu'_p(e^{i\theta}) = \prod_{i=1}^{d} (\psi_{m_i} \chi_\tau)|_{z_\tau = \theta}.$$

To prove the lemma, we return to (3.7) to get the multiplicity for $\eth$ and then use (4.1) to generalize to $\eth \otimes R'_q$.

Note that the lemma exhibits the multiplicity at an isolated fixed point p as a meromorphic section of $(L'_\tau)^{\sum_i m_i}$. Also, Lemma 9.3 insures that $(\sum_i m_i)_{\text{mod } 2}$ is the same at each fixed point, so when S^1 acts with only isolated fixed points, Lemma 12.3 identifies $\tau'_q(M)$ as a meromorphic section of $(L'_\tau)^\varepsilon$, as claimed in Lemma 12.2.

Now suppose that S^1 acts with fixed point sets $\{P\}$, not necessarily points. To understand how to generalize Lemma 12.3, consider first just the fixed point formula for the Dirac operator—no twists. For this, remember that the normal bundle to P decomposes as

$$(12.11) \qquad\qquad N_P = \bigoplus_i E_i^{\#}$$

with $E_i^{\#} \to P$ being the realization of a complex vector bundle on which S^1 acts by $\lambda \to \lambda^{m_i}$. We will use (12.11) to define the orientation on N_P and hence T_P when dim $P > 0$. Also, since M is spin, the complex line bundle

$$(12.12) \qquad\qquad \det N_P = \bigotimes_i \det E_i$$

makes TP a Spin_C-bundle so we can introduce the bundle of spinors $\Delta(TP; \det N_P) \to P$.

With this understood, the fixed point formula for the Dirac operator reads

$$(12.13) \qquad\qquad \text{ch} \cdot \text{ind} \, \eth = \sum_{\{P\}} \mu_{P,\eth}$$

with

$$(12.14) \qquad \mu_{P,\partial} = \text{ch} \cdot \text{ind} \left(d_S^P \otimes \Delta(TP \, ; \det N_P)^{-1} \bigotimes_i \lambda^{m_i/2} (\Lambda_{-\lambda^{m_i}} E_i)^{-1} \right),$$

where d_S^P is the signature operator on P.

Let us remark here that $d_S^P \otimes \Delta(TP \, ; \det N_P)^{-1}$ plays the role of the Dirac operator on P, for if P should be a bona fide spin manifold, we can use (2.11) to write

$$(12.15) \qquad d_S^P \otimes \Delta(TP \, ; \det N_P)^{-1} = \partial^P \otimes \det N_P^{1/2}.$$

To step from (12.14) to the fixed point formula for $\partial \otimes R_q'$, let us introduce a generalization of $\partial \otimes R_q'$ to an oriented manifold X whose tangent bundle has a Spin$_c$-structure from a complex line bundle, $L \to X$. Thus we set

$$(12.16) \qquad \tau_q'(X_L) = \text{ch} \cdot \text{ind}(d_S \otimes \Delta(TX \, ; L)^{-1} \otimes R_q'(TX)).$$

Further generalize (12.16) so that when E_q is a formal power seres in q with coefficients in $K(X)$, we have

$$(12.17) \qquad \tau_q'(X_L \, ; E) = \text{ch} \cdot \text{ind}(d_S \otimes \Delta(TX \, ; L)^{-1} \otimes R_q'(TX) \otimes E_q).$$

Remark now that when E_q is a finite sum of convergent power series in q on $0 \le |q| < 1$ with coefficients in $K(X)$, then so is $R_q'(TX) \otimes E_q$. This can be seen by writing TX as constant + nilpotent in $K(X)$.

Before returning to $\partial \otimes R_q'$, let us introduce one extra bit of notation. Let E be a complex vector bundle over a space X. Then write $\lambda^{1/2} = e^{\pi i z}$ for $z \in \mathbf{C}$, and define

$$(12.18)$$

$$\hat{\chi}_\tau(E)(z) = \lambda^{1/2} (\Lambda_{-\lambda} E)^{-1} \bigotimes_{m=1}^{\infty} (\Lambda_{\lambda q^{m-1/2}} E \otimes \Lambda_{\lambda^{-1} q^{m-1/2}} E^*) \bigotimes_{m=1}^{\infty} (S_{\lambda q^m} E \otimes S_{\lambda^{-1} q^m} E^*)$$

which is a formal power series in $q^{1/2}$ whose coefficients are vector bundles $\otimes$ finite Laurent series in $\lambda^{1/2} = e^{i\pi z}$. However, when E is a *line bundle*, we can introduce as in §8 the nilpotent $\log E \in K(X)$ and then we have in $K(X)$ the identity

$$(12.19) \qquad \hat{\chi}_\tau(E)(z) = \sum_{k \ge 0} \hat{\chi}_\tau^{(k)}(z) \cdot \frac{1}{k!} (\log E)^k$$

where

$$(12.20) \qquad \hat{\chi}_\tau^{(k)} = e^{i\pi z} \left(\frac{d}{dz} \right)^k (e^{-i\pi z} \chi_\tau)$$

with χ_τ as defined in (12.9).

Therefore, when E is a line bundle, we can view $\hat{\chi}_\tau(E)$ as an element of the tensor product of $K(X)$ with the meromorphic sections over T_τ of L_τ'. If

E is a sum of line bundles $L_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus L_k$, then we have $\hat{\chi}_\tau(E) = \bigotimes \hat{\chi}_\tau(L_k)$ and so, by the splitting principle, we can, for general E, view $\hat{\chi}_\tau(E)$ as an element of $K(X) \bigotimes_{\mathbb{Z}}$ {meromorphic sections over T_τ of $(L_\tau')^{\dim_{\mathbb{C}} E}$}.

With all of this understood, the fixed point formula for $\tau_q'(M)$ reads

$$(12.21) \qquad \mathrm{ch} \cdot \mathrm{ind}(\emptyset \otimes R_q') = \sum_{\{P\}} \tau_q'(P_{\det N_P}; \bigotimes_i \psi_{m_i} \hat{\chi}_\tau(E_i))$$

where ψ_m acts on T_τ by $z \to m \cdot z$. Now we see (12.21) exhibiting $\tau_q'(M)$ as a meromorphic section $\mathscr{S}_\tau'$ of $(L_\tau')^\varepsilon$ where $\varepsilon = 0$ if the S^1 action lifts to the spin bundle, and otherwise $\varepsilon = \pm 1$. (Note that ε is computed at any component of the fixed point set by $\varepsilon = (\sum_i m_i \cdot \dim E_{m_i})_{\mathrm{mod}\ 2}$ and Lemma 9.3 guarantees that this computation is independent of the choice of component.) Thus we have verified Lemma 12.2.

Actually, (12.21) does more for us. We can conclude, as in §§7 and 8, that $\mathscr{S}_\tau'(M)$ has no poles on the circle $|\lambda = e^{2\pi i z_\tau}| = 1$ since the left-hand side of (12.21) is, a priori, a power series in q with coefficients that are finite Laurent series in $\lambda^{1/2}$.

The possible poles of $\mathscr{S}_\tau'(M)$ can occur only at points on T_τ where $\psi_m \chi_\tau$ has poles and thus only on circles in T_τ of the form

$$(12.22) \qquad a = \alpha^s \quad \text{with} \quad \alpha = e^{2\pi i \tau/k}.$$

Furthermore, a transfer formula that is analogous to (7.5) and (7.12) will insure the regularity of $\mathscr{S}_\tau'$ on these circles by identifying the translation of $\mathscr{S}_\tau'$ by α^s with the Chern character of the index of an appropriate elliptic operator on the submanifold $M_k \subseteq M$ fixed by $\mathbb{Z}_k \subset S^1$. Once the transfer formula is exhibited, the argument goes just as for $\tau_q(M)$. With this clear, we complete the rigidity proof by giving the transfer formula.

Once again, the formulae for k even and for k odd are slightly different, so we will treat these cases separately. When k is odd, (7.4) describes the decomposition of T along M_k, and since T is spin, (7.4) insures that TM_k is $\mathrm{Spin}_{\mathbb{C}}$ with complex line bundle $L = \bigotimes_{r=1}^{(k-1)/2} \det T_r \to M_k$. For each $r \in \{1, \ldots, (k-1)/2)\}$ and integer s relatively prime to k, we set

$$(12.23) \qquad \omega(r) = (s \cdot r)_{\mathrm{mod}\ k} \in \{1, \ldots, k-1\}.$$

Then the k odd transfer formula is

$$(12.24) \qquad t_{\alpha^s} \mathscr{S}_\tau' = \alpha^b \cdot \tau_q' \left(M_{kL}'; \bigotimes_{r=1}^{(k-1)/2} \hat{\chi}_\tau(T_r)|_{z=(\omega(r)/k)\cdot\tau} \right),$$

where $b = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{r=1}^{(h-1)/2} \omega(r) \cdot \dim_{\mathbb{C}} T_r$ and where the oriented manifold M_k' is defined to be the manifold M_k but oriented as in (8.13).

The proof of (12.24) goes just like the proof of the k odd case of (8.13). Indeed, the crucial identity for (8.13) was the periodicity relation $\varphi(\lambda\varphi) = -\varphi(\lambda)$ which has its analogue for χ_τ in (12.10).

When k is even, the proof is more complicated because of how $T|_{M_k}$ decomposes in (7.11). Here $TM_k \oplus T_{k/2}$ is $\text{Spin}_{\mathbf{C}}$ using the line bundle $L = \bigotimes_{r=1}^{k/2-1} \det T_r \to M_k$, but TM_k itself may not be $\text{Spin}_{\mathbf{C}}$ for any line bundle over M_k. Thus, in the k even case, we must replace the possibly nonexistent $\text{Spin}_{\mathbf{C}}$ Dirac operator $d_S \otimes \Delta(TM_k';L)^{-1}$ that appears in (12.16) and (12.17) by

$$(12.25) \qquad\qquad d_S \otimes \Delta(TM_k' \oplus T_{k/2};L)^{-1}.$$

With this replacement implicitly understood, the k even transfer formula is

$$(12.26) \qquad t_{\alpha^s} \mathscr{S}_\tau' = \alpha^b \cdot \tau_q' \left(M_{kL}'; \bigotimes_{r=1}^{k/2-1} \hat{\chi}_\tau(T_r)|_{z=(\omega(r)/k)\cdot\tau} \otimes R_q''(T_{k/2}) \right)$$

where $b = \frac{1}{2}\sum_{r=1}^{k/2-1} \omega(r)\dim_{\mathbf{C}} T_r + \frac{1}{4}\omega(k/2)\dim_{\mathbf{R}} T_{k/2}$ and where

$$(12.27) \qquad R_q''(T_{k/2}) = \Delta(T_{k/2} \otimes_{\mathbf{R}} \mathbf{C}) \bigotimes_{n=1}^{\infty} \Lambda_{q^n} T_{k/2} \bigotimes_{m=1}^{\infty} S_{q^{m-1/2}} T_{k/2}.$$

Also, the oriented manifold M_k' in (12.26) is the manifold M_k, but oriented as in (8.13).

The proof of (12.26) goes like the proof of (8.13), and we leave it to the reader.

13. ON THE MODULAR PROPERTY OF $\tau_q(M)$ AND $\tau_q'(M)$

At this time there are already several fine accounts explaining the modular nature of $\tau_q(M)$, see [Br, C-C, La*, M, S, Z]. Nevertheless, it might be appropriate to explain this phenomenon in our context at least in the isolated fixed point case.

Let us then assume that M is spin so that $\tau_q(M)$ is constant on T_{q^2}.

From the fixed point formula we know that this constant can be computed by summing the values of the fixed point contributions $\mu_p(a)$ at any point $a \in T_{q^2}$. *Of course if μ_p has a pole at a, $\mu_p(a)$ must be taken to be the constant term* in its Laurent series at a. To apply this procedure at $\lambda = 1$ we introduce $e^z = \lambda$ so that z is a local parameter near $\lambda = 1$ and recall here that φ has a pole of order 1 at $\lambda = 1$ and is odd in the sense that $\varphi(\lambda^{-1}) = -\varphi(\lambda)$. So it follows that

$$(13.1) \qquad\qquad \varphi(e^z) = \frac{K}{z}\{1 + a_2 z^2 + a_4 z^4 + \cdots\}$$

near $z = 0$.

Now recall that

$$(13.2) \qquad\qquad \mu_p(e^z) = \bigotimes_1^d \psi_{m_i}\varphi(e^z) = \bigotimes_1^d \varphi(e^{m_i z}),$$

so after expanding to obtain the constant term, one finds that

$$(13.3) \qquad \mu_p(1) = K^d \cdot \sum_\alpha \frac{L_\alpha(m)}{\prod m_i} \cdot a^\alpha ,$$

where a^α is a monomial of weight dim $M = 2d$ in the a_j, *those being weighted by $2j$*, and $L_\alpha(\cdot)$ is a universal symmetric polynomial in m_j^2 of weight $2d$. Now the sums

$$(13.4) \qquad L_\alpha(M) = \sum_p \frac{L_\alpha(m)}{m_1 \cdots m_d}$$

are known to yield the characteristic numbers, associated by the polynomial $L_\alpha(\cdot)$ to M. (See [A-B *] or [B].) Hence this procedure establishes $\tau_q(M) \cdot K^{-d}$ as a universal polynomial in the a_j with *integral coefficients* that are *Pontrjagin numbers of M*:

$$(13.5) \qquad \tau_q(M) \cdot K^{-d} = \sum_\alpha L_\alpha(M) a^\alpha .$$

Here K is a normalizing factor which we already computed in §5. It is

$$(13.6) \qquad K = 2 \cdot \frac{\prod(1 + q^n)^2}{\prod(1 - q^n)^2} .$$

For example, when dim $M = 4$, the constant term of μ_p at 1 is clearly $\{(m_1^2 + m_2^2)/m_1 m_2\} \cdot a_2$. Hence in that case

$$(13.7) \qquad \tau_q(M) \cdot K^{-2} = p_1(M) \cdot a_2 .$$

In dimension 8 one calculates similarly to find

$$(13.8) \qquad \begin{aligned} \tau_q(M) \cdot K^{-4} &= p_2 \cdot a_2^2 + (p_1^2 - 2p_2) a_4 \\ &= p_1^2 a_4 + p_2(a_2^2 - 2a_4) , \end{aligned}$$

etc.

Now the formula (13.5) immediately establishes $\tau_q(M) \cdot K^{-d}$ as a modular form for the subgroup $\Gamma_0(2)$, of $SL(2, \mathbf{Z})$, of matrices with even lower left entry.

Indeed, the function $\varphi_* = \varphi/K$ is canonical, up to a scalar multiple, on tori with a singled out point of order 2. Therefore, the coefficients of its Laurent expansion near its pole, in short our a_j, are modular forms for $\Gamma_0(2)$, whose weight can be read off to be $2j$ by simply keeping track of how they transform under $z \to \lambda z$.

Actually, more is true. When $p_1(M) = 0$ then $\tau_q(M) \cdot K^{-d}$ is actually modular for all of $SL(2, \mathbf{Z})$. To see this, note that the Weierstrass $\mathscr{P}$-function is the canonical elliptic function on a torus T which near $1 \in T$ has the behavior

$$(13.9) \qquad \mathscr{P}(z) = \frac{1}{z^2} + b_2 z^2 + b_4 z^6 + \cdots .$$

Because $\mathscr{P}(z)$ is *so* canonical, we see that the b_k are automorphic forms of degree $2(k+2)$ for all of $SL(2,\mathbf{Z})$. Thus, b_2 is of degree 4 and b_4 of degree 6.

But note now that φ_*, when squared, has the polar behavior of the $\mathscr{P}$ function when constructed with our local parameter z of the torus T_q. Hence

$$(13.10) \qquad \varphi_*^2 = \mathscr{P} - e$$

where $e = \mathscr{P}(-1)$. Equating powers of z we get equalities

$$2a_2 = -e,$$

$$2a_4 + a_2^2 = b_4,$$

$$(13.11)$$

$$2\left(a_{2k} + \sum_{r+s=k} a_{2r} \cdot a_{2s}\right) + a_{k/2}^2 = b_{2k}, \qquad k > 2.$$

From these we observe inductively that modulo the ideal generated by $e = 2a_2$, the higher a's are determined by the b's.

$$2a_4 \equiv b_4, \qquad 2a_6 \equiv b_6, \ldots.$$

But from this it is not difficult to argue that if $p_1(M) = 0$ then $K^{-\dim M/2} \cdot \tau_q(M)$ is a linear combination of the b_{2j} and hence a modular form for all of $SL(2,\mathbf{Z})$.

When S^1 acts with isolated fixed points, the effect of $SL(2,\mathbf{Z})$ on $\tau'_q(M)$ can be analyzed by similar methods. For this, we go to our covering space, the upper half plane H, and we label complex tori as $T_\tau, \tau \in H$. Then the square of our section χ_τ of L_τ in (12.10) is a meromorphic function on T_τ with a zero of order 2 at $(1+\tau)/2$ and a pole of order 2 at 0 with residue K'^2 where

$$(13.12) \qquad K' = \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(1+q^{n-1/2})^2}{(1-q^n)^2}.$$

Thus, we can write $\chi_{\tau *} = \chi_\tau/K'$ in terms of the Weierstrass $\mathscr{P}$-function as

$$(13.13) \qquad \chi_{\tau *}^2 = \mathscr{P} - e'$$

where $e' = \mathscr{P}(z_\tau = (1+\tau)/2)$. Now a repeat of our analysis for φ_* shows that $(K')^{-\dim M/2} \cdot \tau'_q(M)$ is also fully modular under $SL(2,\mathbf{Z})$ when $p_1(M) = 0$.

The identities in (13.10) and (13.13) are important for another reason. They indicate a proof of a general relationship (noted by Witten) between $\tau_q(M)$ and $\tau'_q(M)$. To state the relationship, we write $q = e^{2\pi i \tau}$ and $q^* = e^{-2\pi i/(\tau+1)}$. Then recall that the generators of $SL(2,\mathbf{Z})$ on $\mathbf{R}^2/\mathbf{Z} \times \mathbf{Z}$, e_1 and e_2 of (12.6), act so that $e_1^* e_2^* L_{-1/(\tau+1)} = L'_\tau$ as an identification of flat line bundles over T_τ.

With this in mind, the relationship between τ_q and τ'_q is

$$(13.14) \qquad e_1^* e_2^*(K^{-\dim M/2} \cdot \tau_{q*}(M)) = K'^{-\dim M/2} \cdot \tau'_q(M).$$

Note that (13.14) verifies the rigidity of $\tau_q'(M)$ given the rigidity of $\tau_q(M)$.

Now a proof of (13.14) will take us too far afield to present, except for the case when S^1 acts on M with isolated fixed points. In this case, both sides of (13.14) are expressed, using the fixed point formulae, in terms of φ_τ or χ_τ, and (13.10) and (13.13) suggest that $SL(2, \mathbf{Z})$ relates these two objects. Indeed, one has

$$(13.15) \qquad e_1^* e_2^* (K^{-1} \varphi_{-1/(\tau+1)}) = K'^{-1} \chi_\tau,$$

as can be verified by comparing the zeros and poles of both sides. Furthermore, the action of $SL(2, \mathbf{Z})$ on $\mathbf{R}^2/\mathbf{Z} \times \mathbf{Z}$ commutes with multiplication by integers, so (13.15) remains true with $\psi_m \varphi$ and $\psi_m \chi$ replacing φ and χ. With the fixed point formulae, these observations immediately yield (13.14) in the isolated fixed point case.

14. REMARKS ON THE ALMOST COMPLEX CASE

We close with a few indications of how the preceding discussion extends to S^1 actions on almost complex manifolds. Essentially one finds new rigidity phenomena once $c_1(M)$ is divisible by N.

Recall that on such a manifold the cocomplexified tangent bundle splits,

$$(14.1) \qquad T^* \otimes \mathbf{C} = T' \oplus T'',$$

into a "holomorphic" and "antiholomorphic" part and that the deRham d splits correspondingly into

$$(14.2) \qquad d = \partial' + \partial''.$$

On such manifolds

$$(14.3) \qquad \partial'' : \Lambda^{0,\mathrm{even}} \to \Lambda^{0,\mathrm{odd}}$$

can be taken to be the dominant operator in the sense that $d + d^*, d_S$, and $\partial\!\!\!/$, where defined, are now appropriate twists of $\bar{\partial}$. Namely,

$$(14.4) \qquad \partial\!\!\!/ = \partial'' \otimes (\det(T'))^{1/2}, \qquad d_S = \partial'' \otimes \Lambda_1(T')$$

and

$$(14.5) \qquad d + d^* = \partial'' \otimes \Lambda_{-1}(T').$$

The factorization of d_S leads one to suspect that the operators

$$(14.6) \qquad d_S^{(\alpha)} = \bar{\partial} \otimes \Lambda_\alpha T'$$

with α a root of 1 should now be amenable to a similar treatment as d_S was. This is indeed the case. Namely, consider the θ-function

$$(14.7) \qquad \theta_\alpha(\lambda) = (1 + \alpha\lambda) \bigotimes_{n=1}^{\infty} (1 + \alpha q^n \lambda)(1 + \alpha^{-1} q^n \lambda^{-1}).$$

We then have

(14.8) $\theta_\alpha(q\lambda) = \alpha^{-1}\lambda^{-1}\theta(\lambda)$

so that the expression

(14.9) $\varphi_\alpha(\lambda) \equiv \theta_\alpha(\lambda)/\theta_{-1}(\lambda)$

transforms by

(14.10) $\varphi_\alpha(q\lambda) = -\alpha^{-1}\varphi_\alpha(\lambda).$

Hence if $-\alpha$ is an Nth root of 1 then $\varphi_\alpha(\lambda)$ naturally descends to a rational function on T_{q^N}. So interpreted, φ^N becomes canonical, up to a constant, on tori with a singled out Nth root, ω, of 1. It is characterized by the fact that it has poles only at the powers of ω and that translation by ω multiplies the function by $-\alpha^{-1}$.

These considerations now lead us to define the following auxiliary q-bundle R_q^α on almost complex manifolds

(14.11) $$R_q^\alpha = \Lambda_\alpha T' \bigotimes_{n=1}^{\infty} (\Lambda_{\alpha q^n} T' \otimes \Lambda_{\alpha^{-1} q^n} T'^* \otimes S_{q^n} T' \otimes S_{q^n} T'^*).$$

The rigidity phenomenon, also essentially predicted by Witten, in this context is now given by

Theorem. *On an almost complex manifold M with $c_1 \equiv 0 \bmod N$, the operators $\partial'' \otimes R_q^\alpha$ are rigid provided $(-\alpha)^N = 1$.*

Note that for $\alpha = 1$, $N = 2$, we recover the rigidity of $\tau_q(M)$ in this almost complex case.

There is also an R_q' rigid relative to the operator $\partial'' \otimes (\det T')^{1/N}$ defined on almost complex manifolds with $c_1 \equiv 0 \bmod N$. It generalizes R_q' of (2.11) and is given by

$$R_q'^N = R_q^N,$$

but with $(-\alpha)^N = q$.

We will discuss the details, which run entirely parallel to our discussion so far, at some other time.

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