# ATTI ACCADEMIA NAZIONALE DEI LINCEI

# CLASSE SCIENZE FISICHE MATEMATICHE NATURALI

# RENDICONTI

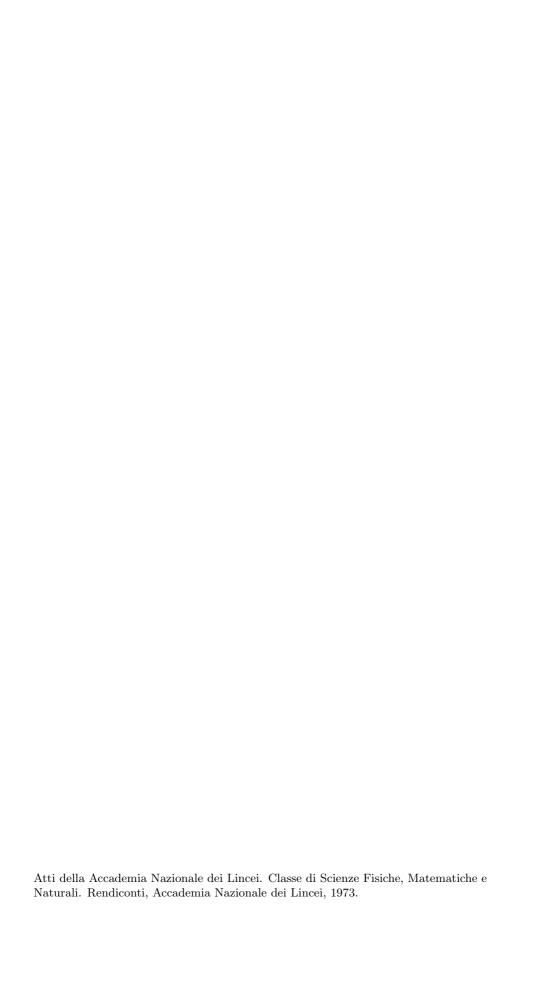
# NICOLAE TELEMAN

# Fiber bundle with involution and characteristic classes

Atti della Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei. Classe di Scienze Fisiche, Matematiche e Naturali. Rendiconti, Serie 8, Vol. **54** (1973), n.1, p. 49–56. Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei

<http://www.bdim.eu/item?id=RLINA\_1973\_8\_54\_1\_49\_0>

L'utilizzo e la stampa di questo documento digitale è consentito liberamente per motivi di ricerca e studio. Non è consentito l'utilizzo dello stesso per motivi commerciali. Tutte le copie di questo documento devono riportare questo avvertimento.



**Topologia algebrica.** — Fiber bundle with involution and characteristic classes (\*). Nota di Nicolae Teleman (\*\*\*), presentata (\*\*\*\*) dal Corrisp. E. Martinelli.

RIASSUNTO. — In questo lavoro costruisco e studio le proprietà di un sistema di classi caratteristiche  $t_i$  per fibrati localmente banali « muniti di una involuzione ». Le classi  $t_i$  generalizzano le classi di Stiefel-Whitney. Il procedimento costruttivo assomiglia alla costruzione delle operazioni coomologiche di Steenrod.

#### I. Introduction

It is known [5] that the Stiefel-Whitney characteristic classes of a real vector bundle E can be defined by the formula  $w_i = \varphi^{-1} S_q^i U$ , where  $\varphi$  is the Thom isomorphism in cohomology,  $S_q^i$  is the *i*-th Steenrod squaring operation, and U the Thom class of the vector bundle.

It is also known [1] that the Stiefel-Whitney characteristic classes can be defined by using the covering map  $S(E \oplus I) \to P(E \oplus I)$ , where S(E), resp. P(E) denotes the associated sphere, resp. projective bundle with E.

If X is a topological space, the involution  $T: X \times X \to X \times X$ ,  $T: (x_1, x_2) \mapsto (x_2, x_1)$  is used for the definition of the Steenrod squaring operations. The definition of the covering map  $S(E \oplus I) \to P(E \oplus I)$  requests also an involution, the antipodal involution A, defined on each sphere of the bundle  $S(E \oplus I)$ . Hence, the bide constructions of the Stiefel-Whitney characteristic classes involve an involution; while the involution T is "external" (the involution T is not defined on X, but on  $X \times X$ ), the involution A is "internal" (the involution A is defined on the space  $S(E \oplus I)$ ).

We consider fiber bundles  $\xi$  with fiber F which is (n-1,R)-simple, (R being a commutative ring with 1), i.e.  $H_i(F,R)=0$  for  $1 \leq i \leq n-1$ . In the bundle  $\xi$  we consider an arbitrary fiber preserving involution.

In these hypotheses we construct a system of characteristic classes  $t_i(\xi)$  which generalizes the Stiefel-Whitney characteristic classes. In particular, for  $F = S^n$ , and  $R = Z_2$  our classes satisfy all the axioms of Stiefel-Whitney characteristic classes less one of them; our characteristic class  $t_0(\xi)$  is not necessarily I; for example, if the base is connected by arcs and in the total space of  $\xi$  there exists a fixed point at the involution, then  $t_0(\xi) = 0$ . If there exists a continuous section of fixed points then all  $t_i(\xi)$  vanish.

<sup>(\*)</sup> Lavoro eseguito presso l'Istituto Matematico «G. Castelnuovo» dell'Università di Roma, come ricercatore straniero del C.N.R.

<sup>(\*\*)</sup> Dedico questo lavoro alla memoria di mio padre Ing. Aurelio Teleman.

<sup>(\*\*\*)</sup> Nella seduta del 13 gennaio 1973.

<sup>4. —</sup> RENDICONTI 1973, Vol. LIV, fasc. 1.

We define also a cohomological invariant of involutions, called the "index of the involution".

Connected problems are studied by I. M. James and D. W. Anderson in [2], [3], [4].

I present here a summary of the results which I have obtained. I shall give an extensive exposition in a subsequent paper.

#### 2. FIBER BUNDLES WITH INVOLUTION

2.1. DEFINITION. A "fiber bundle with involution" is a quintuple  $\xi = (E, \pi, B, F, A)$ , where  $E \xrightarrow{\pi} B$  is a local trivial fiber bundle with fiber F; and  $A: E \to E$  is a continuous, involutive, fiber-preserving map  $(\pi A = \pi, A^2 = 1)$ .

We suppose that any local trivial fiber bundle with fiber F over an arbitrary simplex is a product bundle.

2.2. Definition. If  $\xi_i=(\mathrm{E}_i$ ,  $\pi_i$ , B, F<sub>i</sub>, A<sub>i</sub>), i=1, 2, are fiber bundles with involution, then these are "equivalent" if and only if there exists a homeomorphism  $f:\mathrm{E}_1\to\mathrm{E}_2$  such that  $\pi_2f=\pi_1$ ,  $\mathrm{A}_2f=f\mathrm{A}_1$ , and f maps  $\mathrm{E}_1$  homeomorphically on  $\mathrm{E}_2$ .

Let  $\mathfrak{B}(B, F_1, Z_2)$ , denote the set of equivalence classes of fiber bundles with involution with fibers  $F_1$ .

2.3. DEFINITION. If  $\xi = (E, \pi, B, F, A) \in \mathcal{B}(B, F, Z_2)$  and  $f: B' \to B$  is a continuous map, then in the pull-back  $f^*E$ 

$$f^* E \xrightarrow{\bar{f}} E$$

$$f^* \pi \downarrow \qquad \qquad \downarrow \pi$$

$$B' \xrightarrow{f} B$$

there exists a unique involution  $f^*A$  such that  $\overline{f} \circ (f^*A) = A\overline{f}$ ; hence there exists a well defined  $f^*\xi = (f^*E, f^*\pi, B', F, f^*A) \in \mathfrak{B}(B', F, Z_2)$ .

- 2.4 DEFINITION. If  $\xi = (E, \pi, B, F, A) \in \Re(B, F, Z_2)$ , let  $C\xi \in \Re(B, CF, Z_2)$  denote the associated cone bundle with the involution  $\hat{A}$  such defined:  $\hat{A}(f,t) = (Af,t)$ ,  $(f,t) \in F_x \times I/F_x \times \{o\}$ .
- 2.5. Definition. If  $\xi = (E, \pi, B, F, A) \in \mathfrak{B}(B, F, Z_2)$  let  $\Sigma \xi = (\hat{E}, \hat{\pi}, B, \Sigma F, \hat{A}) \in \mathfrak{B}(B, \Sigma F, Z_2)$  denote the bundle with involution which has fiber  $E_x = \Sigma E_x$ ,  $x \in B$ ; the involution  $\hat{A}$  is defined as follows: in  $\Sigma F = C_{-1}F \bigsqcup_F C_{+1} F$  ( $C_{\pm 1}F$  denoting the cone over F), if  $e = (f, t) \in C_{\pm 1}F$ ,  $0 \le t \le 1$ ,  $f \in F$ , then  $\hat{A}e = (Af, t) \in C_{\mp 1}F$ .

## 3. THE EILENBERG SUBCOMPLEX

Let R be a fixed commutative ring with 1. Let  $C_*(-, R)$  denote the singular chain complex (with coefficients in R) functor; let  $\partial: C_*(-, R) \rightleftarrows$  denote the boundary operator.

- 3.1. DEFINITION. If F is a topological space, we say that F is (n , R)-simple if  $H_i(F,R)=o$  for  $o< i\leq n$ .
- 3.2. Definition. Let F be a (n-1,R)-simple space and  $\xi \in \mathfrak{B}(B,F,Z_2)$ . By definition, the "Eileberg relative subcomplex" of  $C\xi$  (see 2.4) is  $\mathcal{E}^{(n-1)}_*(C\xi,R) \subset C_*(C\xi,R)$  such defined:  $\mathcal{E}^{(n-1)}_*(C\xi,R)$  is free over R; the generators of  $\mathcal{E}^{(n-1)}_*(C\xi,R)$  are that and only that singular k-simplexes  $\sigma:\Delta^k \to C\xi$  for which  $\sigma(\Delta^k)^{(n)} \subset C\xi_0 \cdot ((\Delta^k)^{(n)})$  denotes the n-dimensional skeleton of  $\Delta^k$ ).
- 3.3. PROPOSITION. If  $\xi \in \mathfrak{B}(B, F, Z_2)$  and F is (n-1, R)-simple, then the inclusion  $\mathfrak{S}_*^{(n-1)}(C\xi, R) \stackrel{i}{\hookrightarrow} C_*(C\xi, R)$  is a chain homotopy equivalence.

# 4. HOMOLOGICAL LOCAL SYSTEMS IN FIBER BUNDLE WITH INVOLUTION

Let be  $\xi = (E, \pi, B, F, A) \in \mathfrak{B}(B, F, Z_2)$ , and R a fixed commutative ring with  $\tau$ ; let n be a fixed natural number.

For any point  $b \in B$  we consider the homology R-module  $H_n(E_b, R)$ . Let  $\rho: [o, \tau] \to B$  be a path. In the total space  $\rho^*E$  of  $\rho^*\xi$  we have the natural inclusions

$$E_{\rho(0)} = (\rho^*\,E)_0 \xrightarrow{i_0} \rho^*\,E \xleftarrow{i_1} (\rho^*\,E)_1 = E_{\rho(1)}.$$

As the fiber bundle (without involution)  $\rho^* E \to I$  is equivalent to a product bundle,  $i_0$  and  $i_1$  are homotopic equivalences; hence,  $i_0$  and  $i_1$  induce isomorphisms in homology, and in consequence the well determinated isomorphism

$$|\rho| = (i_1)_*^{-1} \circ (i_0)_* : H_n(\mathcal{E}_{\rho(0)}, \mathcal{R}) \to H_n(\mathcal{E}_{\rho(1)}, \mathcal{R}).$$

The isomorphism  $|\rho|$  depends only on the homotopy class of  $\rho$ . Really, if  $\rho_{\mathfrak{T}}: I \to B$  is a homotopy with fixed ends, then a similar argument applicated to the fiber bundle  $\tilde{\rho}^* \to I \times I$ , where  $\tilde{\rho}: I \times I \to B$  is  $\tilde{\rho}(\mathfrak{T}, t) = \rho_{\mathfrak{T}}(t)$ , conducts to the assertion.

Now we take in consideration the involution A in connection with  $|\rho|$ . If we denote in general  $A_b = A|_{E_b}$ , we have the commutative diagram for the upper path:

$$E_{\rho(0)} = (\rho^* E)_0 \xrightarrow{i_0} \rho^* E \xleftarrow{i_1} (\rho^* E)_1 = E_{\rho(1)}$$

$$A_{\rho(0)} \downarrow \qquad \downarrow (\rho^* A)_0 \qquad \downarrow \rho^* A \qquad \downarrow (\rho^* A)_1 \qquad \downarrow A_{\rho(1)}$$

$$E_{\rho(0)} = (\rho^* E)_0 \xrightarrow{i_0} \rho^* E \xleftarrow{i_1} (\rho^* E)_0 = E_{\rho(0)}$$

from which derives the commutativity in homology

$$\left| \rho \left| \left( A_{\rho(0)} \right)_* = \left( A_{\rho(1)} \right)_* \left| \rho \right|.$$

If  $b \in B$ , let be

$$\mathbf{H}_{\pmb{b}} = \mathbf{H}_{\pmb{\pi}}(\mathbf{E}_{\pmb{b}} \,,\, \mathbf{R}) \quad , \quad \mathbf{H}_{\pmb{b}}^{\pm} = \frac{\mathbf{H}_{\pmb{b}}}{(\mathbf{I} \pm (\mathbf{A}_{\pmb{b}})_{\pmb{\pi}})\, \mathbf{H}_{\pmb{b}}} \,.$$

The relation (1) shows that  $|\rho|$  induces two isomorphisms:

$$\mid \rho \mid^{\pm}: H^{\pm}_{\rho(0)} \rightarrow H^{\pm}_{\rho(1)}$$
 ,

which depend only on the homotopy class of the path ρ.

Let  $\mathcal{H}^{\pm}(\xi, R)$ , resp.  $\mathcal{H}(\xi, R)$  denote the local systems  $(H_b^{\pm}, |\rho|^{\pm})$ , resp.  $(H_b, |\rho|)$ . These two local systems are called the "homological local systems of the fiber bundle with involution  $\xi$  in dimension n".

#### 5. On the Thom isomorphism

5.1. THEOREM. Let  $E \xrightarrow{\pi} B$  be a local trivial fiber bundle with fiber F(n-1, R)-simple (see 3.1), and  $S = (S_b, |\rho|)$  a R-local system over B.

Then  $\pi^*: \mathcal{X}^r(B, S) \to \mathcal{X}^r(E, \pi^*S)$  is an isomorphism for  $0 \le r \le n-1$  and is a monomorphism for r = n.

#### 6. CHARACTERISTIC CLASSES OF FIBER BUNDLES WITH INVOLUTION

6.1. Theorem. Let be  $\xi=(E\,,\pi\,,B\,,F,A)\in\mathfrak{B}\,(B\,,F\,,Z_2)$  and F let be  $(n-1\,,R)$ -simple and connected by arcs. Then there exist the local R-homomorphisms:

i) 
$$k_p^{(r)}: C_p(E, R) \to C_{p+r}(E, R), 0 \le p+r \le n, k_p^{(9)} = id.$$

such that:

$$(\mathbf{I} + (-\mathbf{I})^r \mathbf{A}) k_b^{(r-1)} = \hat{\mathbf{a}}_{b+r} k_b^{(r)} + (-\mathbf{I})^{r+1} k_{b-1}^{(r)} \hat{\mathbf{a}}_b$$

ii) if  $k_p^{(r)}$ ,  $\tilde{k}_p^{(r)}$  are two such systems of local homomorphisms which satisfy i), then there exists the system of local R-homomorphisms:

$$\varphi_{\rho}^{(r)}: C_{\rho}(E, R) \to C_{\rho+r+1}(E, R), \qquad \rho+r+1 \leq n,$$

such that, if we denote  $K_b^{(r)} = k_b^{(r)} - \tilde{k}_b^{(r)}$ , we have:

$$K_{\rlap{\scriptsize p}}^{(r)} = (\mathbf{1} + (-\mathbf{1})^r \mathbf{A}) \, \phi_{\rlap{\scriptsize p}}^{(r-1)} + \partial \phi_{\rlap{\scriptsize p}}^{(r)} + (-\mathbf{1})^r \, \phi_{\rlap{\scriptsize p}-1}^{(r)} \, \partial \; .$$

iii) There exist the local R-homomorphisms

$$\mu_{n-r}^{(r)}: C_{n-r}(E, R) \rightarrow C_n(E, R)$$

such that:

$$\mathbf{K}_{n-r}^{(r)} = (\mathbf{I} + (-\mathbf{I})^r \mathbf{A}) \, \varphi_{n-r}^{(r-1)} + (-\mathbf{I})^r \, \varphi_{n-r-1}^{(r)} \, \partial + \mu_{n-r}^{(r)} \,, \qquad \partial \mu_{n-r}^{(r)} = 0 \,.$$

6.2. We know from the preceding considerations that:

$$(\mathbf{I}) \qquad (\hat{\omega}_r(\xi, k_p^{(r)}))(\sigma) = ((\mathbf{I} + (-\mathbf{I})^r \mathbf{A}) k_{n-r+1}^{(r-1)} - (-\mathbf{I})^{r+1} k_{n-r}^{(r)} \partial)(\sigma)$$

is a cycle; let be, for an arbitrary singular simplex  $\sigma \in \nabla_{n-r+1}(E)$ 

$$(\omega_r(\xi , \textit{k}_{\textit{p}}^{(\textit{r})})) \, (\sigma) = [(\hat{\omega}_r(\xi , \textit{k}_{\textit{p}}^{(\textit{r})})) \, (\sigma)]$$

where  $[\gamma]$  denotes the homology class of the cycle  $\gamma$ . Therefore  $\omega_r(\xi, k_p^{(r)}) \in C^{n-r+1}(E, \pi^* \mathcal{K}_n(\xi, R)) = \text{the } R\text{-module of } (n-r+1)\text{-singular cochains}$  with coefficients in the local system  $\pi^* \mathcal{K}_n(\xi, R)$ .

The coboundary of  $\omega_r(\xi, k_p^{(r)})$  is

$$(\mathrm{d}w_r(\xi\ ,\ k_p^{(r)}))\ (\mathbf{s}) = ((-\ \mathbf{1})^{r-1} - \mathbf{A}_{\mathbf{x}})\ (\omega_{r-1}(\xi\ ,\ k_p^{(r)}))\ (\mathbf{s})\ .$$

6.3. *Notation*. Let  $\chi^{\pm}$  denote the canonical epimorphisms of local systems:

$$\chi^{\pm}: \mathcal{H}_n(\xi, R) \to \mathcal{H}_n^{\pm}(\xi, R);$$

in consequence we have the exact sequences:

(I) 
$$0 \to (I \pm A_*) \mathcal{H}_n(\xi, R) \hookrightarrow \mathcal{H}_n(\xi, R) \xrightarrow{\chi^{\pm}} \mathcal{H}_n^{\pm}(\xi, R) \to 0$$
.

We obtain the following:

6.4. THEOREM. If  $\xi = (E, \pi, B, F, Z_2) \in \mathfrak{B}(B, F, Z_2)$ , the fiber F being (n-1,R)-simple and connected by arcs, then for any  $0 \le r \le n$  we can define the cochain  $\omega_r(\xi, k_p^{(r)}) \in \mathbb{C}^{n-r+1}(E, \pi^* \mathfrak{K}_n(\xi, R))$ , where  $k_p^{(r)}$  are defined in the Theorem 6.1 i). The coboundary of  $\omega_r(\xi, k_p^{(r)})$  is:

$$d\omega_r(\xi, k_p^{(r)}) = ((-1)^{r-1} - A_{\omega}) \omega_{r-1}(\xi, k_p^{(r)}),$$

and, in consequence

$$\tilde{\omega}_r(\xi, k_p^{(r)}) = \chi^{\epsilon_r} \omega_r(\xi, k_p^{(r)})$$
,  $\epsilon_r = \text{sign} (-1)^r$ 

is a cocycle.

- 6.5. THEOREM. The cohomology class  $[\tilde{\omega}_r(\xi, k_p^{(r)})] \in \mathbb{R}^{n-r+1}(E, \mathbb{R}_n^{\varepsilon_r}(\xi, R))$  is independent of the choice of the local homomorphisms  $k_p^{(r)}$  from Theorem 6.1.
- 6.6. THEOREM. The cohomology class  $[\tilde{\omega}_r(\xi, k_p^{(r)})]$  defined in the Theorem 6.4. is a basic class, i.e.

$$\left[\tilde{\omega}_r(\xi, k_p^{(r)})\right] \in \pi^* \mathcal{H}^{n-r+1}(\mathbf{B}, \mathcal{H}_n^{\varepsilon_r}(\xi, \mathbf{R})).$$

6.7. Definition. If  $\xi \in \mathfrak{B}(B,F,Z_2)$  and if  $\Sigma F$  is (n-r,R)-simple, we shall write  $\xi \in \mathfrak{B}^n_R(B,F,Z_2)$ . The suspension  $\Sigma F$  is connected by arcs, and in  $\Sigma \xi$  there exist two canonical sections: the zero sections  $s_{\pm 1}:B \to E_{\pm 1} \hookrightarrow \hat{E}$ , where  $E_{\pm 1}=C_{\pm}\,\xi$ .

6.8. Definition. If  $\xi \in \mathfrak{B}^n(B, F, Z_2)$ , then the R-characteristic classes  $t_i(\xi)$  of  $\xi = (E, \pi, B, F, A)$  are

$$\begin{split} t_i(\xi) &= s_{+1}^* \left[ \tilde{\omega}_{n-i+1}(\Sigma \xi \;,\; k_p^{(r)}) \right] \in \\ &\in \mathcal{H}^i(\mathbf{B} \;,\; \mathcal{H}_n^{\varepsilon_{n-i+1}}(\Sigma \xi \;,\; \mathbf{R})) \quad \; , \quad \; \mathbf{0} \leq i \leq n \quad \; , \quad \; \varepsilon_r = \mathrm{sign} \left( - \; \mathbf{1} \right)^r. \end{split}$$

6.9. Let be  $\xi \in \mathbb{B}^n(B, F, Z_2)$ ; then  $\Sigma \xi \in \mathbb{B}^{n+1}_R(B, F, Z_2)$ . For the calculation of  $t_i(\xi)$ , resp.  $t_i(\Sigma \xi)$ , we must consider the local systems:

$$\mathfrak{N}_{n+1}^{\,\pm}(\Sigma\xi\;,\;R)\;,\qquad \text{resp. } \mathfrak{N}_{n+1}^{\,\pm}(\Sigma^2\xi\;,\;R)\;.$$

We remark that by the suspension isomorphism theorem in homology, which is natural, we have the equivalence of local systems

$$\mathfrak{N}_{n+1}^{\pm}(\Sigma^2\xi, R) \xrightarrow{\Sigma} \mathfrak{N}^{\mp}(\Sigma\xi, R)$$
.

6.10. THEOREM. The characteristic classes t, have the properties:

(o) for 
$$\xi \in \mathfrak{B}^n_R(B,F,Z_2)$$
,  $t_i(\xi) \in \mathfrak{X}^i(B,\mathcal{Y}^{\epsilon_{n-i+1}}_n(\xi,R))$ ,  $0 \leq i \leq n$ ,

- (i) if  $\xi \in \mathfrak{B}^n_R(B, F, Z_2)$  and  $f: B_1 \to B$  is a continuous map, then  $t_i(f^*\xi) = f^*(t_i(\xi))$ .
- (ii) if  $\xi \in \mathcal{B}_R^n(B, F, Z_2)$ , then  $\Sigma \xi \in \mathcal{B}_R^{n+1}(B, F, Z_2)$  and, by respect the equivalence of the local systems defined by the suspension isomorphism

$$t_i(\Sigma \xi) = (-1)^{n-i} A_* t_i(\xi)$$
,  $0 \le i \le n$ ,  $t_{n+1}(\Sigma \xi) = 0$ ;

(iii) (the "Whitney duality formula") if  $\xi_1 \in \mathfrak{B}_R^m(B, F_1, Z_2)$ ,  $\xi_2 \in \mathfrak{S}_R^n(B, F_2, Z_2)$  and if we denote by resp.  $\chi_1, \chi_2, \chi$  the corresponding epimorphisms from 7.3 for resp.  $\xi_1, \xi_2, \xi_1 \oplus \xi_2$ , then there exist the cocycles

$$\begin{split} &\alpha_{p} \in \operatorname{C}^{p}(\operatorname{B}\,,\, \mathfrak{K}_{m}(\xi_{1}\,,\,\operatorname{R}))\,, \qquad \operatorname{o} \leq p \leq m\;, \\ &\beta_{q} \in \operatorname{C}^{q}(\operatorname{B}\,,\, \mathfrak{K}_{n}(\xi_{2}\,,\,\operatorname{R})) \qquad \operatorname{o} \leq q \leq n\;, \end{split}$$

such that

$$t_s(\xi_1 \oplus \xi_2) = \chi \left[ \sum_{p+q=S} (-1)^{\varepsilon(p,q)} A_{1*}^{n-q} \, \alpha_p \oplus A_{2*} \, \beta_q \right]$$

and

$$\begin{split} \chi_1 & \alpha_p = t_p(\xi_1) \\ \chi_2 & \beta_q = t_q(\xi_2) \;. \end{split}$$

where

$$\varepsilon(p,q) = p(n-q+1) + m + n + 1.$$

(iv) if in  $\xi \in \mathfrak{B}^n_R(B, F, Z_2)$  there exists a continuous section of fixed points for the involution in  $\xi$ , then:

$$t_i(\xi) = 0$$
 for  $0 \le i \le n$ .

### 7. The index of an involution

If F is a topological space with involution such that  $\Sigma$ F is (n-1, R)-simple, then we can consider F as a fiber space with involution over a point.

Hence 
$$t_0(\mathbf{F}) \in \frac{\mathbf{H}_n(\mathbf{F}, \mathbf{R})}{(\mathbf{I} + (-\mathbf{I})^{n+1} \mathbf{A}_*) \mathbf{H}_n(\mathbf{F}, \mathbf{R})}$$

- 7.1. DEFINITION. If F is a topological space with involution such that  $\Sigma F$  is (n-1,R)-simple, then  $t_0(F)$  will be called the index of the involution, and will be denoted  $I_R^n(F,A)$ .
  - 7.2. Theorem. The index of the involution has the properties:
- (i) if  $A_t: F \to F$  is a continuous deformation of the involution  $A_0$  in the involution  $A_1$ , then

$$I_R^n(F, A_0) = I_R^n(F, A_1)$$
.

- (ii) If  $F_1$  resp.  $F_2$  are two topological spaces with involutions  $A_1$ , resp.  $A_2$ , and  $\Sigma F_1$ , resp.  $\Sigma F_2$  are (m-1,R)-simple, resp. (n-1,R)-simple, then  $I_R^{m+n+1}(F_1\oplus F_2,A_1\oplus A_2)=(-1)^{m+n+1}A_{1*}^n\ I_R^m(F_2,A_1)\cdot A_{2*}\ I_R^n(F_2,A_2)$ .
- (iii) If A is an involution in F, and if A has at least a fixed point, then  $I_R^n(F,A) = o$ .
- 7.3. COROLLARY. If  $\xi \in \mathfrak{B}_{R}^{n}(B, F, Z_{2})$  and if B is connected by arcs, if there exists at least a fixed point in the total space of  $\xi$ , then  $t_{0}(\xi) = 0$ .

#### 8. Characteristic classes of involutions in sphere bundles

In this section we particularize the coefficients to  $Z_2$  and we consider only spherical fibers. Then the Theorem 6.10 becomes:

- 8.1. Theorem. The characteristic classes of sphere bundles with involution have the properties:
  - (o) for  $\xi \in \mathfrak{B}^n_{Z_2}(B, S^{n-1}, Z_2)$ ,  $t_i(\xi) \in H^i(B, Z_2)$ ,  $0 \le i \le n$ ,
  - (i) if  $\xi \in \mathfrak{B}^n_{Z_2}(B,F,Z_2)$  and  $f:B_1 \to B$  is a continuous map, then  $t_i(f^*\xi) = f^*(t_i(\xi)),$
  - (ii) if  $\xi \in \mathfrak{B}^n_{Z_2}(B, S^{n-1}, Z_2)$ , then  $t_i(\Sigma \xi) = t_i(\xi) \qquad 0 \le i \le n$   $t_{n+1}(\Sigma \xi) = 0$ ,
  - (iii) if  $\xi_1 \in \mathcal{B}_{Z_2}^m(B, S^{m-1}, Z_2)$ ,  $\xi_2 \in \mathcal{B}_{Z_2}^n(B, S^{n-1}, Z_2)$ ,

then

$$t_i(\xi_1 \oplus \xi_2) = \sum_{p+q=i} t_p(\xi_1) t_q(\xi_2) ,$$

(iv) if in  $\xi \in \mathcal{B}^n_{Z_a}(B,S^{n-1},Z_2)$  there exists a continuous section of fixed points, then

$$t_i(\xi) = 0$$
,  $0 \le i \le n$ ,

(v) if  $\xi \in \mathcal{B}_{Z_2}^n(B, S^{n-1}, Z_2)$ , then

$$t_n(\xi) = w_n(\xi)$$

- 8.2. Remark. The classes  $t_i$  satisfy all Stiefel-Whitney axioms less one of them:  $t_0(\xi)$  can be o, while  $w_0(\xi)$  is ever 1.
- 8.3. Remark. For the classes  $t_i$  the relation  $t_i(\xi) = w_i(\xi) \cdot t_0(\xi)$  is generally false.
- 8.4. Theorem. If  $\xi \in \mathfrak{B}^n_{Z_2}(B, S^{n-1}, Z_2)$  and if  $\xi$  is in addition an Euclidean sphere bundle (associated with a real vector bundle) provided with the antipodal involution, then

$$t_i(\xi) = w_i(\xi) .$$

#### REFERENCES

- [1] R. Bott, Lectures on K(X), Benjamin, New York, Amsterdam, 1969.
- [2] I. M. JAMES, Bundles with special structure, I, « Annals of Math. », 89 (2), 359-390 (1969).
- [3] D. W. Anderson and I. M. James, Bundles with special structure, II, « Proceedings London Math. Soc. Third Series », 24, 324-330 (1972).
- [4] I.M. JAMES, On sphere-bundles with certain properties, «The Quarterly J. of Math. », 22 (87), 353-370 (1971).
- [5] J. MILNOR, Lectures on characteristic classes. Notes by J. Stasheff. Princeton, 1957.
- [6] E. SPANIER, Algebraic Topology. McGraw-Hill, New York, 1966.
- [7] N. STEENROD, The topology of fiber bundles. Princeton U.P. 1951.