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## A homotopy-theoretic rigidity property of Bott manifolds

The rigidity conjecture in toric topology posits that two toric manifolds are diffeomorphic if and only if their integral cohomology rings are isomorphic as graded rings. Only a few low dimensional cases have been resolved. We weaken the conjecture to one concerning homotopy type rather than diffeomorphism, and show that the weaker conjecture holds for Bott manifolds, once enough primes have been inverted. In particular, show that the rational homotopy type of a Bott manifold is determined by its rational cohomology ring.

The material in this paper was inspired by the mathematics discussed at the International conference «Toric Topology and Automorphic Functions» (September, 5-10th, 2011, Khabarovsk, Russia).

Key words: *Bott manifold, rigidity.*

### 1. Introduction

There has been a great deal of interest recently in the rigidity of toric manifolds. A *toric variety*  $X$  of dimension  $n$  is a normal complex algebraic variety with an action of an  $n$ -dimensional algebraic torus  $(\mathbb{C}^*)^n$  having a dense orbit. A *toric manifold* is a compact smooth toric variety. Masuda [5] showed that the variety type of a toric manifold is determined by its equivariant cohomology algebra over  $H^*(B(\mathbb{C}^*)^n)$ . Following this it was natural to ask to what extent the diffeomorphism type of the manifold is distinguished by ordinary cohomology.

**The rigidity conjecture:** Two toric manifolds are diffeomorphic if and only if their integral cohomology rings are isomorphic as graded rings.

Some partial results have been obtained in the case when the toric manifold is a Bott manifold or a generalized Bott manifold. A *Bott tower* of height  $n$  is a sequence of manifolds

$$B_n \xrightarrow{\pi_n} B_{n-1} \xrightarrow{\pi_{n-1}} \dots \xrightarrow{\pi_1} B_1 \xrightarrow{\pi_0} B_0 = \text{point}$$

where  $B_k = P(\underline{\mathbb{C}} \oplus \zeta_{k-1})$  is the projectivization of a complex line bundle  $\zeta_{k-1}$  over  $B_{k-1}$  and a trivial line bundle  $\underline{\mathbb{C}}$ , and the fibre of each map  $\pi_k$  for  $1 \leq k \leq n$  is  $S^2$ . A *Bott manifold* of height  $n$  is the total space  $B_n$  in a Bott tower. A *generalized Bott tower* is a sequence of manifolds as above where  $B_k$  is the projectivization of a Whitney sum of complex line bundles, and the fibre at each stage is  $\mathbb{C}P^{n_k}$  for some nonnegative integer  $n_k$ . The total space  $B_n$  is a *generalized Bott manifold*.

Masuda and Panov [6] showed that in the case of a Bott manifold, if  $H^*(B_n) \cong H^*(\prod_{i=1}^n S^2)$  then  $B_n$  is diffeomorphic to  $\prod_{i=1}^n S^2$ . Choi, Masuda and Suh [3] improved this to the case of

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generalized Bott manifolds: if  $H^*(B_n) \cong H^*(\prod_{i=1}^n \mathbb{C}P^{n_i})$  then  $B_n$  is diffeomorphic to  $\prod_{i=1}^n \mathbb{C}P^{n_i}$ . For the non-product cases, in [3] it was shown that the rigidity conjecture holds for generalized Bott manifolds of height 2 and for Bott manifolds of height 3, and it has recently been announced by Choi [2] that the conjecture also holds for Bott manifolds of height 4. A thorough discussion of progress to date can be found in [4].

In this paper we consider a weaker version of the rigidity conjecture.

**The homotopy-theoretic rigidity conjecture:** Two toric manifolds are homotopy equivalent if and only if their integral cohomology rings are isomorphic as graded rings.

There are advantages in weakening from a diffeomorphism to a homotopy equivalence. A positive answer in the homotopy-theoretic case would give strong evidence for a positive answer in the diffeomorphism case. A negative answer in the homotopy-theoretic case implies a negative answer in the diffeomorphism case. Further, the case-by-case progress to date in the diffeomorphism rigidity conjecture is *ad hoc*. We will obtain systematic results for the homotopy-theoretic rigidity conjecture.

We prove the following. Let  $p_1, \dots, p_l, \dots$  be the primes in  $\mathbb{N}$ , listed in increasing order. Let  $P_l = \{p_1, \dots, p_l\}$ . Let  $R_l$  be the ring of integers localized away from  $P_l$ .

**Theorem 1.1.** *Let  $B_n$  and  $B'_n$  be Bott manifolds of height  $n$ . Suppose that all spaces and maps are localized away from  $P_l$ . If  $n < 2p_{l+1} - 1$ , then the following are equivalent:*

- (a) *there is a ring isomorphism  $H^*(B_n; R_l) \cong H^*(B'_n; R_l)$ ;*
- (b) *there is a homotopy equivalence  $B_n \simeq B'_n$ .*

Theorem 1.1 implies that the homotopy-theoretic rigidity conjecture holds for Bott manifolds, provided enough primes have been inverted. The localization hypothesis is convenient but may not be necessary. It is used to eliminate potential obstructions in constructing a homotopy equivalence  $B_n \simeq B'_n$  given an isomorphism  $H^*(B_n; R_l) \cong H^*(B'_n; R_l)$ . It is useful to observe that Theorem 1.1 implies that the homotopy-theoretic rigidity conjecture holds for  $n \leq 4$  provided 2 is inverted, and it holds for  $n \leq 8$  provided both 2 and 3 are inverted. More emphatically, Theorem 1.1 implies that the homotopy-theoretic rigidity conjecture holds rationally: there is a rational homotopy equivalence  $B_n \simeq B'_n$  if and only if there is an isomorphism of graded rings  $H^*(B_n; \mathbb{Q}) \cong H^*(B'_n; \mathbb{Q})$ .

The positive result in Theorem 1.1 raises many questions. Can the hypothesis regarding localization away from  $P_l$  be removed? As this may be difficult, perhaps a starting point is to ask whether the dimensional range  $n < 2p_{l+1} - 1$  can be improved. Can Theorem 1.1 be generalized to any toric manifold? An initial test case is whether it holds for generalized Bott manifolds. Does knowing that the homotopy type of a Bott manifold is determined by its integral cohomology ring imply that the diffeomorphism type is also determined? These questions and more deserve further investigation.

## 2. Some properties of Bott manifolds

In this section we describe some properties of Bott manifolds which will be used to prove Theorem 1.1. Note that we do *not* localize in this section. We begin with some general information.

Unless otherwise stated, cohomology is taken with  $\mathbb{Z}$  coefficients. Let  $B_n$  be a Bott manifold of height  $n$ . As in [6], the generators in cohomology can be chosen so that there is an isomorphism

$$H^*(B_n) \cong \mathbb{Z}[x_1, \dots, x_n] / \sim$$

where each  $x_k$  is of degree 2, and the relations are  $x_1^2 = 0$  and for  $1 < k \leq n$ ,

$$x_k^2 = \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} a_{i,k} x_i \otimes x_k$$

for some coefficients  $a_{i,k} \in \mathbb{Z}$ . In particular, observe that  $H^*(B_n)$  is concentrated in even degrees, and that each relation is a linear combination of degree 4 elements. Let  $(B_n)_4$  be the 4-skeleton of  $B_n$ . Then the description of  $H^*(B_n)$  implies that  $(B_n)_4$  consists of one zero-cell,  $n$  two-cells, and  $m$  four-cells, where  $m = \binom{n}{2}$ . So there is a cofibration

$$\bigvee_{j=1}^m S^3 \xrightarrow{f} \bigvee_{i=1}^n S^2 \longrightarrow (B_n)_{(4)}$$

for some map  $f$ .

Baues considered *CW*-complexes consisting of only 2-cells and 4-cells in generality. A  $(2, 4)$ -*complex* is a *CW*-complex  $C$  which is the mapping cone of a map

$$a: \bigvee_{i=1}^m S^3 \longrightarrow \bigvee_{i=1}^n S^2$$

for some integers  $m$  and  $n$ . Baues [1, Proposition 1.2.3] proved the following.

**Proposition 2.1.** *Let  $C$  and  $C'$  be two  $(2, 4)$ -complexes with corresponding attaching maps  $a$  and  $a'$ . Then the following are equivalent:*

- (a) *there is a ring isomorphism  $H^*(C) \cong H^*(C')$ ;*
- (b) *the attaching maps  $a$  and  $a'$  are homotopic;*
- (c) *there is a homotopy equivalence  $C \simeq C'$ .*

In our case, observe that if  $B_n$  is a Bott manifold then its 4-skeleton  $(B_n)_4$  is a  $(2, 4)$ -complex. As a consequence of Proposition 2.1 we obtain the following.

**Lemma 2.2.** *Let  $B_n$  and  $B'_n$  be Bott manifolds. Then the following are equivalent:*

- (a) *there is a ring isomorphism  $H^*(B_n) \cong H^*(B'_n)$ ;*
- (b) *there is a ring isomorphism  $H^*((B_n)_4) \cong H^*((B'_n)_4)$ ;*
- (c) *there is a homotopy equivalence  $(B_n)_4 \simeq (B'_n)_4$ .*

*Proof.* Part (a) clearly implies part (b), and parts (b) and (c) are equivalent by Proposition 2.1. It remains to show that part (b) implies part (a). Let  $s: H^*((B_n)_4) \rightarrow H^*((B'_n)_4)$  be a ring isomorphism. Note that this is an isomorphism on the degree 2 and degree 4 cohomology of  $B_n$  and  $B'_n$ . Since the generators of  $H^*(B_n)$  and  $H^*(B'_n)$  are in degree 2 and the relations are in degree 4, by multiplicatively extending  $s$  we obtain a ring homomorphism  $\sigma: H^*(B_n) \rightarrow H^*(B'_n)$ . Since  $s$  induces an isomorphism of generating sets, the same is true of  $\sigma$ . Therefore as  $\sigma$  is a ring homomorphism, it must be a ring isomorphism.  $\square$

Next, we establish a homotopy decomposition.

**Lemma 2.3.** *Let  $B_n$  be a Bott manifold of height  $n$ . For  $1 \leq k \leq n$ , each fibration  $S^2 \rightarrow B_k \xrightarrow{\pi_k} B_{k-1}$  in the tower has the property that  $\pi_k$  has a right homotopy inverse. Consequently, there is a homotopy equivalence*

$$\Omega B_n \simeq \prod_{i=1}^n \Omega S^2.$$

*Proof.* Recall that  $B_n$  is defined as a sequence of manifolds

$$B_n \xrightarrow{\pi_n} B_{n-1} \xrightarrow{\pi_{n-1}} \cdots \xrightarrow{\pi_1} B_1 \xrightarrow{\pi_0} B_0 = \text{point}$$

where  $B_k = P(\mathbb{C} \oplus \zeta_{k-1})$  is the projectivization of a complex line bundle  $\zeta_{k-1}$  over  $B_{k-1}$  and a trivial line bundle  $\mathbb{C}$ . At each stage of the sequence there is a fibration  $S^2 \rightarrow B_k \xrightarrow{\pi_k} B_{k-1}$ . The map  $\pi_k$  has a section given by restricting  $\mathbb{C}$  to the  $+1$  fibre. The existence of this section implies that after looping there is a homotopy equivalence  $\Omega B_k \simeq \Omega S^2 \times \Omega B_{k-1}$ . Since  $B_1 = S^2$ , if we inductively assume that  $\Omega B_{k-1} \simeq \prod_{i=1}^{k-1} \Omega S^2$ , then we obtain  $\Omega B_k \simeq \prod_{i=1}^k \Omega S^2$ . The lemma now follows by induction.  $\square$

It will be useful to regard  $B_n$  as a  $CW$ -complex and filter it by its skeleta. Recall that  $H^*(B_n)$  is concentrated in even degrees, specifically, in degrees  $2k$  for  $1 \leq k \leq n$ . For  $1 \leq k \leq n$ , let  $M_k$  be the  $2k$ -skeleton of  $B_n$ . Then  $M_1 = \bigvee_{i=1}^n S^2$ ,  $M_n = B_n$ , and for  $1 \leq k \leq n-1$ , there are cofibrations

$$\bigvee_{i=1}^{s_k} S^{2k+1} \xrightarrow{f_k} M_k \rightarrow M_{k+1}$$

where  $s_k = \binom{n}{k+1}$  is the number of vector space generators of  $H^{2k+2}$ , and  $f_k$  is the map attaching the  $(2k+2)$ -cells to  $B_n$ .

Let  $m_k: M_k \rightarrow B_n$  be the skeletal inclusion. Define the space  $Q_k$  and the map  $\varphi_k$  by the homotopy fibration

$$Q_k \xrightarrow{\varphi_k} M_k \xrightarrow{m_k} B_n.$$

We determine some properties of this fibration.

**Lemma 2.4.** *For  $1 \leq k \leq n$ , the map  $\Omega M_k \xrightarrow{\Omega m_k} \Omega B_n$  has a right homotopy inverse. Consequently, there is a homotopy equivalence  $\Omega M_k \simeq \Omega B_n \times \Omega Q_k$ .*

*Proof.* First consider  $m_1$ . We begin by constructing a different map  $J: \bigvee_{i=1}^n S^2 \rightarrow B_n$  with the property that  $\Omega J$  has a right homotopy inverse, and then compare  $J$  to  $m_1$ . Start with the fibration  $S^2 \xrightarrow{i_n} B_n \xrightarrow{\pi_n} B_{n-1}$ . By Lemma 2.3,  $\Omega i_n$  has a left homotopy inverse  $r_n: \Omega B_n \rightarrow \Omega S^2$ . Let  $j_n = i_n$ . Next, consider the fibration  $S^2 \xrightarrow{i_{n-1}} B_{n-1} \xrightarrow{\pi_{n-1}} B_{n-2}$ . Since  $\pi_n$  has a section,  $i_{n-1}$  lifts to a map  $j_{n-1}: S^2 \rightarrow B_n$ . By Lemma 2.3,  $\Omega i_{n-1}$  has a left homotopy inverse. Therefore  $\Omega j_{n-1}$  has a left homotopy inverse  $r_{n-1}: \Omega B_n \rightarrow \Omega S^2$  which factors through  $\Omega \pi_n$ . In particular, observe that  $r_{n-1} \circ \Omega j_n$  is null homotopic since it factors through  $\Omega \pi_n \circ \Omega j_n = \Omega \pi_n \circ \Omega i_n$ , and the latter composite is two consecutive maps in a homotopy fibration. Now iterate for  $1 \leq k < n-1$ . Consider the fibration  $S^2 \xrightarrow{i_k} B_k \xrightarrow{\pi_k} B_{k-1}$ . Since each map in the composite  $g_k: B_n \xrightarrow{\pi_n} B_{n-1} \xrightarrow{\pi_{n-1}} \cdots \xrightarrow{\pi_{k+1}} B_{k+1} \xrightarrow{\pi_k} B_k$  has a section, we obtain a section  $B_k \rightarrow B_n$  for  $g_k$ , implying that  $i_k$  lifts to a map  $j_k: S^2 \rightarrow B_n$ . By Lemma 2.3,  $\Omega i_k$  has a left homotopy inverse. Thus  $\Omega j_k$  has a left homotopy inverse  $r_k: \Omega B_n \rightarrow \Omega S^2$  which factors through  $\Omega g_k$ . In particular,  $r_l \circ \Omega j_k$  is null homotopic for each  $k < l \leq n$ .

Taking the wedge sum of the maps  $j_k$  for  $1 \leq k \leq n$  we obtain a map  $J: \bigvee_{i=1}^n S^2 \rightarrow B_n$ . Let  $t_k: S^2 \rightarrow \bigvee_{i=1}^n S^2$  be the inclusion of the  $k^{\text{th}}$ -wedge summand. Observe that  $J \circ t_k \simeq j_k$ . After looping the maps  $t_k$  can be multiplied to give a map  $T: \prod_{k=1}^n \Omega S^2 \rightarrow \Omega(\bigvee_{i=1}^n S^2)$ . Taking the product of the maps  $\Omega r_k$  we obtain a map  $R: \Omega B_n \rightarrow \prod_{k=1}^n \Omega S^2$ . The fact that  $r_k \circ \Omega j_k$  is a homotopy equivalence while  $r_l \circ \Omega j_k \simeq *$  for  $k < l \leq n$  implies that the composite

$$\prod_{k=1}^n \Omega S^2 \xrightarrow{T} \Omega\left(\bigvee_{i=1}^n S^2\right) \xrightarrow{J} \Omega B_n \xrightarrow{R} \prod_{k=1}^n \Omega S^2$$

is a homotopy equivalence. Thus  $\Omega J$  has a right homotopy inverse.

Finally observe that as each  $i_k$  induces the projection onto a generator in cohomology, the map  $J$ , which lifts all the  $i_k$ 's to  $B_n$ , induces an isomorphism on  $H^2$ . Thus, up to a self-equivalence of  $\bigvee_{i=1}^n S^2$ ,  $J$  is homotopic to the inclusion  $m_1$  of the 2-skeleton into  $B_n$ . Therefore as  $\Omega m_1$  has a right homotopy inverse, so does  $\Omega J$ .

The remaining cases are easier. Consider the skeletal inclusion  $M_k \xrightarrow{m_k} B_n$ . Observe that the skeletal inclusion  $\bigvee_{i=1}^n S^2 = M_1 \xrightarrow{m_1} B_n$  factors through the skeletal inclusion  $M_k \xrightarrow{m_k} B_n$ . Since  $\Omega m_1$  has a right homotopy inverse  $\Omega B_n \rightarrow \Omega M_1$ , the composite  $\Omega B_n \rightarrow \Omega M_1 \rightarrow \Omega M_k$  is a right homotopy inverse for  $\Omega m_k$ .  $\square$

Our last task in this section is to relate the fibration  $Q_k \xrightarrow{\varphi_k} M_k \xrightarrow{m_k} B_n$  to the cofibration  $\bigvee_{i=1}^{s_k} S^{2k+1} \xrightarrow{f_k} M_k \rightarrow M_{k+1}$ . We exclude the  $k = n$  case as  $M_n = B_n$  so  $Q_n \simeq *$ .

**Lemma 2.5.** *For  $1 \leq k < n$ , there is a homotopy commutative diagram*

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & \bigvee_{i=1}^{s_k} S^{2k+1} & \\ \lambda_k \swarrow & \downarrow f_k & \\ Q_k & \xrightarrow{\varphi_k} & M_k \end{array}$$

where  $\lambda_k$  induces an isomorphism on  $\pi_{2k+1}$ .

*Proof.* Consider the following diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \bigvee_{i=1}^{s_k} S^{2k+1} & \xrightarrow{f_k} & M_k & \longrightarrow & M_{k+1} \\ \downarrow \lambda_k & & \parallel & & \downarrow m_{k+1} \\ Q_k & \xrightarrow{\varphi_k} & M_k & \xrightarrow{m_k} & B_n \end{array} \quad (1)$$

where the map  $\lambda_k$  is to be defined momentarily. The right square commutes since all the maps are skeletal inclusions. As the top row is a homotopy cofibration and the bottom row is a homotopy fibration, the composite  $m_k \circ f_k$  is null homotopic, so  $f_k$  lifts through  $\varphi_k$  to a map  $\lambda_k: \bigvee S^{2k+1} \rightarrow Q_k$ . Thus the entire diagram homotopy commutes. Note that the homotopy class of  $\lambda_k$  is uniquely determined, since any two choices would have a difference which lifted through the fibration connecting map  $\Omega B_n \rightarrow Q_k$ , but this map is null homotopic by Lemma 2.4. The Blakers-Massey Theorem implies that the cofibration along the top row and the fibration along the bottom row are equivalent in dimensions  $< 2k + 1$ . But it is dimension  $2k + 1$  that we care about, so we need to look more closely at how the two rows compare in this boundary dimension.

We will compare long exact sequences induced by the cofibration along the top and bottom rows of (1). First, let  $q: M_{k+1} \rightarrow \bigvee_{i=1}^{s_k} S^{2k+2}$  be the cofibration connecting map. The homotopy cofibration along the top row in (1) induces a long exact sequence

$$\cdots \rightarrow H_{2k+2}(M_{k+1}) \xrightarrow{\delta} H_{2k+1}\left(\bigvee_{i=1}^{s_k} S^{2k+1}\right) \rightarrow H_{2k+1}(M_k) \rightarrow H_{2k+1}(M_{k+1}) \rightarrow \cdots$$

where  $\delta$  is the connecting map. Explicitly,  $\delta$  is the composite

$$H_{2k+2}(M_{k+1}) \xrightarrow{q_*} H_{2k+2}\left(\bigvee_{i=1}^{s_k} S^{2k+2}\right) \xrightarrow{\cong} H_{2k+1}\left(\bigvee_{i=1}^{s_k} S^{2k+1}\right)$$

where the right map is the inverse to the suspension map.

Next, consider the homotopy fibration  $Q_k \xrightarrow{\varphi_k} M_k \xrightarrow{m_k} B_n$ . Notice that as  $H^*(B_n)$  is concentrated in even degrees, the fact that  $M_k$  is the  $2k$ -skeleton of  $B_n$  means that it also the  $(2k + 1)$ -skeleton. Thus a Serre spectral sequence calculation immediately shows that  $Q_k$  is  $2k$ -connected. So as  $B_n$  is 1-connected, the Serre exact sequence for this fibration is of the form

$$H_{2k+2}(Q_k) \rightarrow H_{2k+2}(M_k) \rightarrow H_{2k+2}(B_n) \xrightarrow{\partial} H_{2k+1}(Q_k) \rightarrow H_{2k+1}(M_k) \rightarrow \cdots$$

where  $\partial$  is the boundary map. The map  $\partial$  is the transgression in the Serre spectral sequence, which in this case can be made explicit as follows. Restrict  $B_n$  to its  $(2k+2)$ -skeleton  $M_{k+1}$ . As  $H^*(B_n)$  is concentrated in even degrees, so is its dual  $H_*(B_n)$ . In particular,  $H_{2k+3}(B_n) \cong 0$ , so the skeletal inclusion  $M_{k+1} \xrightarrow{m_{k+1}} B_n$  induces an isomorphism on  $H_{2k+2}$ . Thus  $\partial$  is determined by the composite  $H_{2k+2}(M_{k+1}) \xrightarrow{q^*} H_{2k+2}(\bigvee_{i=1}^{s_k} S^{2k+2}) \xrightarrow{\cong} H_{2k+1}(\bigvee_{i=1}^{s_k} S^{2k+1})$  where the right map is the inverse to the suspension map. In particular,  $\partial = \delta$ .

Hence the morphism of long exact sequences in homology induced by (1) is actually an equivalence in dimensions  $\leq 2k+1$ . Thus  $\lambda_k$  induces an isomorphism in  $H_{2k+1}$ . Since  $\bigvee_{i=1}^{s_k} S^{2k+1}$  and  $Q_k$  are both  $2k$ -connected, the Hurewicz Theorem therefore implies that  $\lambda_k$  induces an isomorphism on  $\pi_{2k+1}$ .  $\square$

### 3. Some localized properties of Bott manifolds

Recall that  $P_l$  is the set consisting of the first  $l$  primes, and  $R_l$  is the ring of integers localized away from  $P_l$ . We begin with a localized version of Proposition 2.1, which is a straightforward consequence of [1, Theorem 1.3.8].

**Proposition 3.1.** *Let  $C$  and  $C'$  be two  $(2, 4)$ -complexes with corresponding attaching maps  $a$  and  $a'$ . Then the following are equivalent:*

- (a) *there is a ring isomorphism  $H^*(C; R_l) \cong H^*(C'; R_l)$ ;*
- (b) *localized away from  $P_l$ , the attaching maps  $a$  and  $a'$  are homotopic*
- (c) *localized away from  $P_l$ , there is a homotopy equivalence  $C \simeq C'$ .*

Note that as  $H^*(B_n)$  is torsion-free, so is  $H^*(B_n; R_l)$ . Therefore, arguing just as in Lemma 2.2, we obtain the following.

**Lemma 3.2.** *Let  $B_n$  and  $B'_n$  be Bott manifolds. Then the following are equivalent:*

- (a) *there is a ring isomorphism  $H^*(B_n; R_l) \cong H^*(B'_n; R_l)$ ;*
- (b) *there is a ring isomorphism  $H^*((B_n)_4; R_l) \cong H^*((B'_n)_4; R_l)$ ;*
- (c) *localized away from  $P_l$ , there is a homotopy equivalence  $(B_n)_4 \simeq (B'_n)_4$ .*

Next, we turn to the homotopy groups of Bott manifolds. We begin integrally. The homotopy decomposition in Lemma 2.3 immediately implies the following.

**Corollary 3.3.** *Let  $B_n$  be a Bott manifold of height  $n$ . Then for each  $m \geq 1$  there is an isomorphism  $\pi_m(B_n) \cong \bigoplus_{i=1}^n \pi_m(S^2)$ .*

Next, we recall some information about the homotopy groups of  $S^2$ . Classically, Serre showed that there is a homotopy equivalence  $\Omega S^2 \simeq S^1 \times \Omega S^3$ . Consequently, since  $S^1$  is the Eilenberg-MacLane space  $K(\mathbb{Z}, 1)$ , we obtain an isomorphism  $\pi_m(S^2) \cong \pi_m(S^3)$  for every  $m > 2$ . In particular,  $\pi_3(S^2) \cong \pi_3(S^3) \cong \mathbb{Z}$ , and  $\pi_m(S^2)$  is a torsion group for every  $m > 3$ . These torsion groups were calculated through a range by Toda [7, 8]. Let  $p$  be a prime. Then for  $3 < m \leq 4p-3$  the  $p$ -component of  $\pi_m(S^3)$  is as follows:

$$\pi_m(S^3)_{(p)} \cong \begin{cases} \mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z} & m = 2p, 4p - 3 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

We now use Toda's calculations to obtain the following statement about the *odd dimensional* homotopy groups of  $S^2$ .

**Lemma 3.4.** *Localize away from  $P_l$ . If  $3 < 2m + 1 < 4p_{l+1} - 3$  then  $\pi_{2m+1}(S^2) \cong 0$ .*

*Proof.* For any prime  $p$ , by (2) the least dimensional nonvanishing homotopy group of  $S^3$  occurs in dimension  $2p$ , and the least dimensional nonvanishing homotopy group of  $S^3$  in an odd dimension occurs in dimension  $4p - 3$ . So if we localize away from  $P_l$ , the least dimensional nonvanishing homotopy group of  $S^3$  in an odd dimension occurs in dimension  $4p_{l+1} - 3$ . The lemma now follows from the fact that  $\pi_k(S^2) \cong \pi_k(S^3)$  for any  $k > 2$ .  $\square$

Let  $B_n$  be a Bott manifold of height  $n$ . By Corollary 3.3, for any  $m > 3$  there is an isomorphism  $\pi_m(B_n) \cong \bigoplus_{i=1}^n \pi_m(S^2)$ . Hence Lemma 3.4 immediately implies the following.

**Lemma 3.5.** *Let  $B_n$  be a Bott manifold of height  $n$ . Localize away from  $P_l$ . If  $3 < 2m + 1 < 4p_{l+1} - 3$  then  $\pi_{2m+1}(B_n) \cong 0$ .*

Note that the condition on homotopy groups in Lemma 3.5 holds for any  $n$ . In the next Lemma the dimension of  $B_n$  does play a role. Recall the homotopy fibration  $R_k \xrightarrow{\varphi_k} M_k \xrightarrow{m_k} B_n$  induced by including the  $2k$ -skeleton  $M_k$  into  $B_n$ .

**Corollary 3.6.** *Localize away from  $P_l$ . If  $n < 2p_{l+1} - 1$  then for any  $2 \leq k < n$ , the map  $Q_k \xrightarrow{\varphi_k} M_k$  induces an isomorphism on  $\pi_{2k+1}$ .*

*Proof.* As  $2 \leq k \leq n - 1$ , we have  $3 < 2k + 1 \leq 2n - 1$ . Since  $n < 2p_{l+1} - 1$ , we have  $2n - 1 < 4p_{l+1} - 3$ . Thus Lemma 3.5 implies that  $\pi_{2k+1}(B_n) \cong 0$ . Therefore the homotopy equivalence  $\Omega M_k \simeq \Omega B_n \times \Omega Q_k$  in Lemma 2.4 implies that  $\pi_{2k+1}(R_k) \cong \pi_{2k+1}(M_k)$ , with the isomorphism induced by  $\varphi_k$ .  $\square$

Combining Lemma 2.5 and Corollary 3.6 we immediately obtain the following.

**Corollary 3.7.** *Localize away from  $P_l$ . If  $n < 2p_{l+1} - 1$  then for any  $2 \leq k < n$ , the map  $\bigvee_{i=1}^{s_k} S^{2k+1} \xrightarrow{f_k} M_k$  induces an isomorphism  $\pi_{2k+1}$ .*

## 4. The proof of Theorem 1.1

We now combine the results of the previous two sections to prove Theorem 1.1.

*Proof of Theorem 1.1.* Fix  $n$  and let  $p_{l+1}$  be the smallest prime  $> \frac{n+1}{2}$ . Localize spaces away from  $P_l$ .

*Part (b) implies part (a).* This is clear, since a homotopy equivalence  $B_n \simeq B'_n$  induces an isomorphism  $H^*(B_n; R_l) \cong H^*(B'_n; R_l)$ .

*Part (a) implies part (b).* Suppose that  $H^*(B_n; R_l) \cong H^*(B'_n; R_l)$ . By Lemma 3.2, this implies that there is a homotopy equivalence  $(B_n)_4 \rightarrow (B'_n)_4$ . In terms of the skeletal filtrations on  $B_n$  and  $B'_n$ , we have a homotopy equivalence  $g_2: M_2 \rightarrow M'_2$ . Assume inductively that there is a homotopy equivalence  $M_k \xrightarrow{g_k} M'_k$ . We wish to show that there is a homotopy equivalence  $M_{k+1} \xrightarrow{g_{k+1}} M'_{k+1}$ . If so, then by induction we obtain a homotopy equivalence  $B_n = M_n \xrightarrow{g_n} M'_n = B'_n$ , proving the theorem.

To construct  $g_{k+1}$ , for each  $1 \leq k \leq n - 1$ , we will show that there is a homotopy commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \bigvee_{i=1}^{s_k} S^{2k+1} & \xrightarrow{f_k} & M_k \\ \downarrow h_k & & \downarrow g_k \\ \bigvee_{i=1}^{s_{k+1}} S^{2k+1} & \xrightarrow{f'_k} & M'_k \end{array} \quad (3)$$



where  $h_k$  is a homotopy equivalence. Granting this, we obtain a homotopy cofibration diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \bigvee_{i=1}^{s_k} S^{2k+1} & \xrightarrow{f_k} & M_k & \longrightarrow & M_{k+1} \\ \downarrow h_k & & \downarrow g_k & & \downarrow g_{k+1} \\ \bigvee_{i=1}^{s_k} S^{2k+1} & \xrightarrow{f'_k} & M'_k & \longrightarrow & M'_{k+1} \end{array}$$

for some induced map  $g_{k+1}$  of cofibres. This cofibration diagram induces a morphism of long exact sequences of homology groups. Since  $h_k$  and  $g_k$  are homotopy equivalences, they induce isomorphisms in homology. So when the five-lemma is applied to the morphism of long exact sequences of homology groups, we obtain that  $(g_{k+1})_*$  is also an isomorphism. Hence  $g_{k+1}$  is a homotopy equivalence.

It remains to show the existence of (3) for each  $2 \leq k \leq n-1$ . Fix  $k$  and consider the composite  $\bigvee S^{2k+1} \xrightarrow{f_k} M_k \xrightarrow{g_k} M'_k \xrightarrow{m'_k} B'_n$ . By hypothesis,  $n < 2p_{l+1} - 1$ . So Corollary 3.6 implies that the fibre  $Q'_k \xrightarrow{\varphi'_k} M'_k$  of  $m'_k$  induces an isomorphism on  $\pi_{2k+1}$ . That is,  $m'_k$  induces the zero map on  $\pi_{2k+1}$ . Thus  $m_k \circ g_k \circ f_k$  is null homotopic. Therefore we obtain a lift

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \bigvee_{i=1}^{s_k} S^{2k+1} & \xrightarrow{f_k} & M_k & & \\ \downarrow \gamma_k & & \downarrow g_k & & \\ Q'_k & \xrightarrow{\varphi'_k} & M'_k & \xrightarrow{m'_k} & B'_n. \end{array}$$

for some map  $\gamma_k$ . Since  $\gamma_k$  represents a homotopy class in  $\pi_{2k+1}(Q'_k)$  and Lemma 2.5 states that the map  $\bigvee_{i=1}^{s_k} S^{2k+1} \xrightarrow{\lambda'_k} Q'_k$  induces an isomorphism on  $\pi_{2k+1}$ , we have  $\gamma_k$  factoring as a composite  $\bigvee_{i=1}^{s_k} S^{2k+1} \xrightarrow{h_k} \bigvee_{i=1}^{s_k} S^{2k+1} \xrightarrow{\lambda'_k} Q'_k$  for some map  $h_k$ . By Lemma 2.5, the composite  $\bigvee_{i=1}^{s_k} S^{2k+1} \xrightarrow{\lambda'_k} Q'_k \xrightarrow{\varphi'_k} M'_k$  is homotopic to  $f'_k$ . Thus the previous homotopy commutative diagram can be refined to a homotopy commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \bigvee_{i=1}^{s_k} S^{2k+1} & \xrightarrow{f_k} & M_k \\ h_k \downarrow & & \downarrow g_k \\ \bigvee_{i=1}^{s_k} S^{2k+1} & \xrightarrow{f'_k} & M'_k. \end{array} \tag{4}$$

Applying  $\pi_{2k+1}$  to (4) we obtain a commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \pi_{2k+1}(\bigvee_{i=1}^{s_k} S^{2k+1}) & \xrightarrow{(f_k)_*} & \pi_{2k+1}(M_k) \\ \downarrow (h_k)_* & & \downarrow (g_k)_* \\ \pi_{2k+1}(\bigvee_{i=1}^{s_k} S^{2k+1}) & \xrightarrow{(f'_k)_*} & \pi_{2k+1}(M'_k). \end{array}$$

By Corollary 3.7 both  $(f_k)_*$  and  $(f'_k)_*$  are isomorphisms. By inductive hypothesis,  $g_k$  is a homotopy equivalence so  $(g_k)_*$  is an isomorphism. The commutativity of the diagram therefore implies that  $(h_k)_*$  is also an isomorphism. Hence  $h_k$  is a homotopy equivalence. Therefore (4) establishes the  $k > 2$  case of (3), as required, thereby completing the induction.  $\square$

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### АННОТАЦИЯ

Гипотеза жёсткости в торической топологии утверждает, что два торических многообразия диффеоморфны тогда и только тогда, когда их кольца целочисленных когомологий изоморфны как градуированные кольца. Гипотеза доказана лишь для некоторых случаев малой размерности. Мы рассматриваем ослабленный вариант гипотезы, в котором диффеоморфизм заменяется на гомотопическую эквивалентность, и показываем, что в этой ослабленной версии гипотеза верна для многообразий Ботта, если обратить достаточное количество простых чисел. В частности, мы показываем, что рациональный гомотопический тип многообразия Ботта определяется его рациональным кольцом когомологий. Материалы статьи своим появлением обязаны дискуссиям, проходившим на Международной конференции «Торическая топология и автоморфные функции» (5-10 сентября 2011 г., г. Хабаровск, Россия).

Ключевые слова: *многообразие Ботта, жёсткость.*