A calculation of Pin+ bordism groups

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We begin by recalling the definition of the Pin and Spin-bordism groups. For each integer $n \ge 1$ there are compact Lie groups, Spin(n), $Pin^-(n)$ and $Pin^+(n)$. Atiyah, Bott and Shapiro [ABS], described the groups Spin(n) and $Pin^-(n)$ in terms of the Clifford algebra associated to the negative definite form on \mathbb{R}^n . Lam [L], describes these as well as $Pin^+(n)$, the group coming from the Clifford algebra associated to the positive definite form on \mathbb{R}^n . Another definition is the following. The group Spin(n) is the double cover of the group SO(n). It is a Z/2 central extension of SO(n) and is classified by $w_2 \in H^2(BSO(n); Z/2)$: indeed it is the unique non-trivial Z/2 central extension. The two groups Pin^{\pm} are double covers of O(n). They are also Z/2 central extensions: Pin^- is classified by $w_2 + w_1^2 \in H^2(BO(n); Z/2)$ and Pin^+ is classified by w_2 .

There is a bordism theory of manifolds with Spin, Pin⁻, or Pin⁺ structure, and we use the term bordism groups for the bordism groups of a point. Anderson, Brown and Peterson calculated the Spin-bordism groups, [ABP1], and the Pin⁻-bordism groups, [ABP2]. We complete the story by calculating the Pin⁺-bordism groups.

Both the Pin^{\pm} -bordism groups are 2-torsion, and they have cyclic summands of order equal to an arbitrarily high power of 2. Both bordism groups are modules over the Spin bordism ring. Of the real projective spaces, the RP^{4k} 's have Pin^{+} structures and the RP^{4k+2} 's have Pin^{-} structures. The other result in this paper is that Pin^{\pm} -bordism, modulo the Spin bordism submodule generated by the real projective spaces, is a Z/2 vector space.

To describe our results in more detail, recall the 2-local decomposition of the spectrum MSpin from [ABP1].

$$\mathbf{MSpin} \to \bigvee_{k \geq 0} \pi(2k) \mathbf{bo} \langle 8k \rangle \bigvee_{k > 0} \pi(2k+1) \mathbf{bo} \langle 8k+2 \rangle \bigvee_{k > 0} \alpha(k) \mathbf{K}(\mathbb{Z}/2, k)$$

where $bo\langle r \rangle$ denotes the spectrum obtained from the usual *BO* spectrum by killing all the homotopy groups in dimensions less than r, and K(A, r) denotes the Eilenberg-MacLane spectrum with one non-zero homotopy group isomorphic to A

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for $0 \le i < 8$, $n \ge 0$ and $8n + i \ge 3$. In the case n = 0, i = 0 or 1,

$$\pi_i(\mathbf{M}(1) \wedge \mathbf{bo}\langle 2 \rangle) = \pi_i(\mathbf{M}(3) \wedge \mathbf{bo}\langle 2 \rangle) = 0.$$

In the case n = 0, i = 2,

$$\pi_2(\mathbf{M}(1) \wedge \mathbf{bo}\langle 2 \rangle) = \pi_2(\mathbf{M}(3) \wedge \mathbf{bo}\langle 2 \rangle) = \mathbb{Z}/2.$$

COROLLARY 2. The top line of the first table, with n = 0, gives the Pin-bordism groups through dimension 7; the second line of the first table, with n = 0, gives the Pin⁺ bordism groups through dimension 7.

An alternate calculation of these bordism groups through dimension 4 is given in [KT]. While trying to understand these low-dimensional calculations, we were led to the general results presented here. The proofs will be given in the second section and a short table of the bordism groups is included at the end of the paper.

Notice that Pin^- bordism is a Z/2 vector space except in dimensions congruent to 2 mod 4. Moreover, RP^n has a Pin^- structure if n is congruent to 2 mod 4. Likewise, Pin^+ bordism is a Z/2 vector space except in dimensions congruent to 0 mod 4 and RP^n has a Pin^+ structure if n is congruent to 0 mod 4.

Recall some facts about the structure of the *Spin* bordism ring. The **bo** $\langle \rangle$ factors are indexed by partitions. For a fixed n=8k we have a different **bo** $\langle 8k \rangle$ for each partition, J, of 2k such that J has no 1's in it. For any partition, let n(J) denote the sum of the elements of J, or in other words, n(J) is the integer for which J is a partition. The **bo** $\langle 8k+2\rangle$'s are indexed by the partitions, J, with no 1's for which n(J)=2k+1. In the sequel, let $\mathbf{bo}\langle J\rangle$ denote $\mathbf{bo}\langle 4n(J)\rangle$ if n(J) is even or $\mathbf{bo}(4n(J)-2)$ if n(J) is odd. There is also a copy of $\mathbf{bo}\langle 0\rangle$. There are elements M_J in dimensions 4n(J), where J is a partition of n(J) with no 1's. These manifolds satisfy the condition that in our fixed decomposition of \mathbf{MSpin} , the bordism class of M_J is a generator of $\pi_{4n(J)}$ $\mathbf{bo}\langle J\rangle$ and maps to zero in $\pi_{4n(J)}$ of all the other summands.

Let $X(J,n) = RP^n \times M_J$ if n(J) is even. If n is even, fix a Pin^{\pm} structure on RP^n and consider X(J,n) as an element of Pin^{\pm} bordism. If n(J) is odd, $RP^n \times M_J$ will be divisible by 2 in the corresponding Pin bordism group, so let X(J,n) denote an element in Pin^{\pm} bordism such that $2X(J,n) = RP^n \times M_J$. Note that for Pin^+ bordism we are asserting that $M_J = M_J \times RP^0$ is divisible by 2. Let C(J,2n) denote a cyclic group whose order is the order of the element X(J,2n) in

the appropriate Pin bordism group. There are natural maps $C(J, 4n) \to MPin^+_{4n(J)+4n}$ and $C(J, 4n+2) \to MPin^-_{4n(J)+4n+2}$.

THEOREM 3. The order of X(J, 2n) is given as follows:

$$2n = 8k$$
 $2n = 8k + 2$ $2n = 8k + 4$ $2n = 8k + 6$
 $n(J)$ even 2^{4k+1} 2^{4k+3} 2^{4k+4} 2^{4k+4}
 $n(J)$ odd 2^{4k+2} 2^{4k+2} 2^{4k+3} 2^{4k+5}

The sum of the natural maps

$$\bigoplus_{J,n} C(J,4n) \to MPin_*^+$$

is injective with image a summand; the complementary summand is a $\mathbb{Z}/2$ vector space. The sum of the natural maps

$$\bigoplus_{J,n} C(J, 4n+2) \to MPin_*^-$$

is injective with image a summand: the complementary summand is a $\mathbb{Z}/2$ vector space. In both sums, $n \ge 0$ and J runs over all partitions with no 1's.

COROLLARY 4. The Pin⁺ bordism groups, modulo the Spin bordism submodule generated by the RP^{4n} , are Z/2 vector spaces. The Pin⁻ bordism groups, modulo the Spin bordism submodule generated by the RP^{4n+2} , are Z/2 vector spaces.

Finally, we pause to consider the standard question of the image of Pin^+ bordism in unoriented bordism, denoted \mathcal{N}_* . Using the techniques of Anderson, Brown and Peterson [ABP2], we show

COROLLARY 5. The image of the natural map $MPin_*^+ \to \mathcal{N}_*$ equals all bordism classes all of whose Stiefel-Whitney numbers involving $w_2(\tau)$ vanish, where τ denotes the tangent bundle.

After this paper was submitted, we learned of the paper of Giambalvo [G], which also calculates $MPin^+$ bordism. Giambalvo does the calculation via the Adams' spectral sequence and arrives at the same answer we do. He also attempted to analyse the role of the RP^{2n} 's in Pin^+ and Pin^- bordism, using the map ψ described below, but his results differ considerably from ours. Specifically, we claim that the order of RP^{8n+4} in Pin^+ bordism is 2^{8n+4} and that his Corollary 3.5 is

wrong (see the discussion preceding Theorem 3). The table on page 399 is also incorrect: the factor corresponding to $M(2) \wedge bo(8)$ is missing and the \mathbb{Z}_2^8 should be $\mathbb{Z}/2^8$.

We would like to thank S. Stolz for numerous conversations on the subject of *Pin* bordism.

Proofs

We begin with two lemmas to reduce the calculation to a diagram chase.

LEMMA 6. The ith Pin+ bordism group is isomorphic to

$$\pi_i(\mathbf{MSpin} \wedge \mathbf{M}(4k+3))$$
 for any $k \geq 0$.

The ith Pin - bordism group is isomorphic to

$$\pi_i(\mathbf{MSpin} \wedge \mathbf{M}(4k+1))$$
 for any $k \geq 0$.

In both cases, the usual transversality construction gives the isomorphism.

Proof. Let us begin with the Pin^+ case. Standard transversality constructions identify $\pi_i(\mathbf{MSpin} \wedge \mathbf{M}(4k+3))$ with the bordism theory of *i*-dimensional manifolds with a Spin structure on the bundle $\tau \oplus (4k+3) \det(\tau)$, where τ is the tangent bundle to the manifold and $\det(\tau)$ is the determinant line bundle. It is easy to check that for any bundle η , 4η has a canonical Spin structure, so the above bordism theory is equivalent to the bordism theory of *i*-dimensional manifolds with a Spin structure on the bundle $\tau \oplus 3 \det(\tau)$. Next one can compute that any bundle η has a Pin^+ structure iff $\eta \oplus 3 \det(\eta)$ has a Spin structure, and, since this is a universal relation, one can set up a one-to-one correspondence between Spin structures on $\eta \oplus 3 \det(\eta)$ and Pin^+ structures on η . Hence our bordism theory is equivalent to the bordism theory of *i*-dimensional manifolds with a Pin^+ structure on the tangent bundle.

The Pin - case is entirely similar.

Let $M(Z/2,0) = e^0 \cup e^1$ with attaching map of degree 2 and denote the homotopy ith group of $MSpin \wedge M(Z/2,0)$ by $(MSpin \wedge Z/2)_i$. These groups can largely be calculated by applying Spin bordism to the cofibration sequence $S^0 \xrightarrow{\times 2} S^0 \to M(Z/2,0)$, since the degree 2 map on S^0 induces multiplication by 2 on the Spin bordism groups.

These groups have an interpretation as $\mathbb{Z}/2$ -Spin bordism. This is the bordism theory consisting of a manifold M with a codimension-one submanifold N; an orientation on M-N which does not extend across any component of N; an orientation of the normal bundle of N in M; a Spin structure on M-N; a Spin structure on N; and diffeomorphisms which preserve the Spin structures from N to the boundary components of M-N. We do not need this interpretation in the sequel.

LEMMA 7. There exists a cofibration sequence

$$M(Z/2, 0) \to M(2r-1) \to \Sigma^2 M(2r+1)$$
 (8)

Hence we get long exact sequences

$$\cdots \to (\mathbf{MSpin} \land Z/2)_i \to MPin_i^+ \xrightarrow{\psi} MPin_{i-2}^- \to \cdots$$

$$\cdots \to (\mathbf{MSpin} \land Z/2)_i \to MPin_i^- \xrightarrow{\psi} MPin_{i-2}^+ \to \cdots$$

In both cases, the map ψ is defined by starting with a manifold M, finding a submanifold $N \subset M$ dual to ω_1 , and then forming the transverse intersection, $N \cap N$. Notice that ψ can also be described by taking the natural map $\psi \colon M(r) \to \Sigma^2 M(r+2)$ and smashing it with MSpin. In particular, the two exact sequences above decompose in the same way that MSpin does.

Proof. Recall that $T(r\xi) = RP^{\infty}/RP^{r-1}$. Indeed, $RP^n \subset RP^{n+r}$ with normal bundle $r\xi|_{RP^n}$. Hence we have a map $RP^{n+r} \to T(r\xi|_{RP^n})$ and the composite $RP^n \subset RP^{n+r} \to T(r\xi|_{RP^n})$ is the zero-section. Hence a copy of RP^{r-1} disjoint from RP^n in RP^{n+r} is null-homotopic in $T(r\xi|_{RP^n})$, so we get a map $RP^{n+r}/RP^{r-1} \to T(r\xi|_{RP^n})$ which is easily checked to be a homotopy equivalence.

The cofibration sequence is now clear since RP^{2r}/RP^{2r-2} is homotopy equivalent to $T((2r-1)\xi|_{RP^1})$ and this is $\Sigma^{2r-1}\mathbf{M}(Z/2,0)$.

The description of the map ψ also follows. Consider a *Spin* boundary M^{m+2r-1} and a map $f: M \to T((2r-1)\xi)$. The map ψ sends f to the composite $M \to T((2r+3)\xi)$ of f and the map $g: T((2r+1)\xi) \to T((2r+3)\xi)$. To see what happens to the underlying Pin manifolds, we can assume that f lands in $T((2r-1)\xi|_{RP^N})$ for some large N, and we get a cofibration sequence like (8) but taking place inside of RP^{N+2r+1} instead of RP^{∞} . We make the new map transverse to the zero-section to get out Pin manifold, P. The map g becomes a map $g: T((2r+1)\xi|_{RP^N}) \to T((2r+3)\xi|_{RP^{N-2}})$, so to get $\psi(P)$ we make the map

The other cases are similar so we only discuss the key points. Begin with the next case, 8k + 2 and start with k = 0. This means we are trying to identify RP^2 in $MPin_2^- = Z/8$. Applying ψ and consulting the first table from Proposition 9, we see that it is a generator. We can now use induction and the four-fold iterate of ψ to handle the case n(J) even. In the case n(J) is odd, we need to identify $M_J \times RP^2$. It lives in a group of order 4, and table one of Proposition 10, shows that ψ is an isomorphism, so $M_J \times RP^2$ is of order 2 in Pin^- bordism, since M_J has order 2 in Pin^+ bordism. Hence we define X(s, J, 8k + 2) as above using the four-fold iterate of ψ . The cases 8k + 4 and 8k + 6 are done in the same way.

Now let us define X(J, 2n) = Y(J, 2n) if n(J) is even; for n(J) odd, define $X(J, 2n) = X(2^{\phi(2n)+1} - (2n+1), J, 2n)$. From the above discussion, we know the orders of each of the X(J, 2n)'s: let C(J, 2n) denote a cyclic group of this order with a fixed generator and map C(J, 2n) to $MPin^{\pm}$ by sending the fixed generator to X(J, 2n). We get maps

$$\bigoplus_{J,n} C(J, 4n) \rightarrow MPin_*^+ \text{ and } \bigoplus_{J,n} C(J, 4n+2) \rightarrow MPin_*^-.$$

For n fixed we see from above that $\bigoplus_{J,n} C(J, 4n) \to MPin_*^+$ and $\bigoplus_{J,n} C(J, 4n+2) \to MPin_*^-$ are split injective. Theorem 3 asserts that these maps are still split injective when we also sum over the n.

We do the Pin^+ case. Fix a dimension r = 8k. Note that C(J, 4n) lands in dimension r iff r = 4n(J) + 4n. If n(J) is even, then C(J, 4n) has order 2^{2n+1} and if n(J) is odd, C(J, 4n) has order 2^{2n+2} . In particular, two C(J, 4n)'s which land in the same dimension and have the same order have the same n and the same n(J). If r = 8k + 4 we get different numbers but the same conclusion. Finally note that both $\bigoplus_{r=4n(J)+4n} C(J, 4n)$ and $Mpin_r^+$ have the same number of $Z/2^k$ summands for all k > 1, and if we restrict the map $\bigoplus_{r=4n(J)+4n} C(J, 4n) \to MPin_r^+$ to the summands of order 2^k we get a split injection. It is an elementary algebra exercise to verify that this means that the map is a split injection and the complementary summand is a Z/2 vector space.

The Pin - case is entirely similar.

The proof of Corollary 5

We begin with a general discussion of characteristic numbers. Let BG be a space such as BSO, $BPin^+$, etc. equipped with a map to BO. Let M be a manifold with a G structure; i.e. the tangent bundle map $M \to BO$ has a fixed lift to a map $\tau: M \to BG$. Then M^n determines a homomorphism $H^n(BG; \mathbb{Z}/2) \to \mathbb{Z}/2$ given by sending $x \in H^n(BG; \mathbb{Z}/2)$ to $\tau^*(x)$ evaluated on the fundamental class of M. This defines a homomorphism $T: \Omega_n^G \to \operatorname{Hom}(H^n(BG; \mathbb{Z}/2), \mathbb{Z}/2)$. If we let M(G) denote the Thom spectrum for the inverse to the universal bundle over BO pulled-back to

BG, the Thom isomorphism shows that we can equally regard T as a homomorphism $T: \Omega_n^G \to \operatorname{Hom}(H^n(M(G); \mathbb{Z}/2), \mathbb{Z}/2)$. If a homomorphism $b: H^n(M(G); \mathbb{Z}/2) \to \mathbb{Z}/2$ is to be in the image of T, then b(ax) = 0 for any a in the mod 2 Steenrod algebra of dimension at least 1 and any $x \in H^*(M(G); \mathbb{Z}/2)$. If we let \mathscr{A} denote the mod 2 Steenrod algebra, we can turn $\mathbb{Z}/2$ into an \mathscr{A} module by letting all the Sq^i act trivially. Then $\operatorname{Hom}_{\mathscr{A}}(H^n(M(G); \mathbb{Z}/2), \mathbb{Z}/2) \subset \operatorname{Hom}(H^n(M(G); \mathbb{Z}/2), \mathbb{Z}/2)$ is precisely the set of homomorphisms satisfying our condition and Condition P of [ABP2] merely says that the image of T is precisely $\operatorname{Hom}_{\mathscr{A}}(H^n(M(G); \mathbb{Z}/2), \mathbb{Z}/2)$. (It is also true that $\operatorname{Hom}_{\mathscr{A}}(H^n(M(G); \mathbb{Z}/2), \mathbb{Z}/2) = E_2^{0,n}(M(G))$ in the Adams spectral sequence for $\pi_*(M(G))$. Moreover, $E_\infty^{0,n}(M(G)) \subset E_2^{0,n}(M(G))$ is precisely the image of T. Hence the collapse of the Adams spectral sequence is sufficient for M(G) to have Property P.)

Now $\operatorname{Hom}_{\mathscr{A}}(H^n(M(G); \mathbb{Z}/2), \mathbb{Z}/2)$ behaves like any other Hom , so we can apply it to the short exact sequences of cohomology groups coming from (8). It is not hard to see directly that $E_2^{0,r}(\mathbf{M}(\mathbb{Z}/2,0) \wedge \mathbf{bo}(0)) = \mathbb{Z}/2$ if r = 0; $E_2^{0,r}(\mathbf{M}(\mathbb{Z}/2,0) \wedge \mathbf{bo}(2)) = \mathbb{Z}/2$ if r=2 and both groups are 0 otherwise. Theorem 4.4 of [ABP2] says that $E_2^{0,r}(\mathbf{M}(1) \wedge \mathbf{bo}(0)) = \mathbb{Z}/2$ if r = 0 or $r \equiv 2 \pmod{4}$; $E_2^{0,r}(\mathbf{M}(1) \wedge \mathbf{bo}(2)) = \mathbb{Z}/2$ if r = 2 or $r \equiv 0 \pmod{4}$ and both groups are 0 otherwise. One can also check by hand that $E_2^{0,r}(\mathbf{M}(3) \wedge \mathbf{bo}(0)) = \mathbb{Z}/2$ if r = 0 and is 0 for r < 3 and that $E_2^{0,r}(\mathbf{M}(3) \wedge \mathbf{bo}(2)) = \mathbb{Z}/2$ if r = 2 and is 0 otherwise for r < 5. By comparing the two exact sequences coming from (8) we can compute $E_2^{0,r}(\mathbf{M}(3) \wedge \mathbf{bo}(0))$ and $E_2^{0,r}(\mathbf{M}(3) \wedge \mathbf{bo}(2))$. More importantly, we can see that $\psi: E_2^{0,r}(\mathbf{M}(1) \wedge \mathbf{bo}(0)) \to E_2^{0,r-2}(\mathbf{M}(3) \wedge \mathbf{bo}(0))$ and $\psi: E_2^{0,r}(\mathbf{M}(1) \wedge \mathbf{bo}(2)) \to \mathbf{bo}(2)$ $E_2^{0,r-2}(\mathbf{M}(3) \wedge \mathbf{bo}(2))$ are both epic. Since $\mathbf{M}(1) \wedge \mathbf{bo}(0)$ and $\psi : E_2^{0,r}(\mathbf{M}(1) \wedge \mathbf{bo}(0))$ $\mathbf{bo}(2) \rightarrow E_2^{0,r-2}(\mathbf{M}(3) \wedge \mathbf{bo}(2))$ are both epic. Since $\mathbf{M}(1) \wedge \mathbf{bo}(0)$ and $M(1) \land bo(2)$ satisfy Property P by [ABP2], this shows that $M(3) \land bo(0)$ and $M(3) \wedge bo(2)$ also satisfy Property P. The Eilenberg-MacLane summands also satisfy Property P, hence so does MPin⁺.

Since $H^*(BO; Z/2) \to H^*(BPin^+; Z/2)$ is onto, it follows formally that a manifold, M^n , is unoriented bordant to a Pin^+ manifold iff all the characteristic numbers in the kernel of $H^n(BO; Z/2) \to H^n(BPin^+; Z/2)$ vanish on M. This kernel is the ideal in $H^*(BO; Z/2)$ generated by w_2 and its images under the Steenrod algebra: e.g. w_3 is in the kernel. It is always the case however that, if all the characteristic BO-numbers of a manifold which involve $x \in H^r(BO; Z/2)$ vanish, then all the numbers involving a(x) for any $a \in \mathcal{A}$ also vanish. Hence M is bordant to a Pin^+ manifold iff all tangential characteristic numbers involving w_2 vanish.

We may as well finish by remarking that MSpin \wedge $\mathbb{Z}/2$ satisfies Property P and that a manifold is unoriented bordant to an element in MSpin \wedge $\mathbb{Z}/2$ iff all the numbers involving ω_2 and ω_1^2 vanish.

The tables

Here are the promised Pin^+ bordism groups through dimension 95, arranged in two tables. The second table gives A(n), the number of Z/2 summands in $MPin_n^+$. The first table gives numbers $\pi(n)$ which enable us to find the other summands in dimensions congruent to 0 mod 4. For $MPin_{8n+4}^+$, the summands of order greater than 2 are $\oplus \pi(i)Z/2^{4n+4-2i}$ beginning with i=0 and continuing until 4n+4-2i=2. For $MPin_{8n+8}^+$, the summands of order greater than 2 are $\oplus \pi(i)Z/2^{4n+5-2i}$ beginning with i=0 and continuing until 4n+4-2i=3. As an example, $28=8\cdot 3+4$ so $MPin_{28}^+=4Z/2\oplus (1Z/2^{16}\oplus 0Z/2^{14}\oplus 1Z/2^{12}\oplus 1Z/2^{10}\oplus 2Z/2^8\oplus 2Z/2^6\oplus 4Z/2^4\oplus 4Z/2^2)$

				$n \pi(n)$	•••		
	0 1	4 2	8 7	12 21	16 55	20 137	
	1 0	5 2	9 8	13 24	17 66	21 165	
	2 1	6 4	10 12	14 34	18 88	22 210	
	3 1	7 4	11 14	15 41	19 105	23 253	
		•		n A(n)			
0 1	12 o	24 6	36 17	48 113	60. 394	72 1556	84 4965
1 0	13 1	25 5 .	37 34	49 130	61 526	73 1764	85 5843
2 1	14 1	26 20	38 41	50 244	62 606	74 2440	86 6541
3 1	15 o	27 17	39 27	51 222	63 548	75 2423	87 6605
4 0	16 2	28 4	40 43	52 152	64 673	76 2224	88 7536
5 o	17 i	29 12	41 49	53 220	65 771	77 2694	89 8412
6 0	18 8	30 15	42 109	54 258	66 1150	78 3041	90 10515
7 0	19 7	31 8	43 96	55 218	67 1114	79 2995	91 10814
8 1	20 1	32 16	44 54	56 281	68 959	80 3475	92 10730
9 o	21 4	33 17	45 89	57 324	69 1209	81 3907	93 12365
10 з	22 5	34 48	46 106	58 534	70 1378	82 5103	94 13750
11 3	23 2	35 41	47 81	59 503	71 1310	83 5168	95 14135

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