SOME NEW IMMERSION RESULTS FOR COMPLEX PROJECTIVE SPACE

DONALD M. DAVIS

ABSTRACT. We prove the following two new optimal immersion results for complex projective space. First, if $n \equiv 3 \mod 8$ but $n \not\equiv 3 \mod 64$, and $\alpha(n) = 7$, then CP^n can be immersed in $\mathbb{R}^{4n-14}$. Second, if n is even and $\alpha(n) = 3$, then CP^n can be immersed in $\mathbb{R}^{4n-4}$. Here $\alpha(n)$ denotes the number of 1's in the binary expansion of n. The first contradicts a result of Crabb, which said that such an immersion does not exist, apparently due to an arithmetic mistake. We combine Crabb's method with that developed by the author and Mahowald.

1. MAIN THEOREMS

We prove the following two new optimal immersion results for $2n$-dimensional complex projective space CP^n.

Theorem 1.1. *If $n \equiv 3 \mod 8$ and $n \not\equiv 3 \mod 64$, and $\alpha(n) = 7$, then CP^n can be immersed in $\mathbb{R}^{4n-14}$.*

Theorem 1.2. *If n is even and $\alpha(n) = 3$, then CP^n can be immersed in $\mathbb{R}^{4n-4}$.*

Here and throughout, $\alpha(n)$ denotes the number of 1's in the binary expansion of n. Theorem 1.1 contradicts a result of Crabb ([2]). In Section 2, we prove Theorem 1.1 by an adaptation of Crabb's argument, and point out what we believe to be his mistake, apparently arithmetic. We prove Theorem 1.2 in Section 3.

We now summarize what we feel to be the status of the immersion question for CP^n. In addition to incorporating the two new immersion results above, we list as unresolved one immersion result claimed by Crabb. We will discuss our reason for doing so in Section 4. Despite our feeling that two of Crabb's many results are

flawed, we feel that his overall approach, combining K-theory with obstruction theory, is sound; we have checked the details of his immersion results cited in Theorem 1.8. Now we begin our summary.

There are three families of results that apply to all values of $\alpha(n)$. All known nonimmersion results follow from the first two.

Theorem 1.3. ([13]) CP^n *cannot be immersed in* $\mathbb{R}^{4n-2\alpha(n)+\epsilon}$, *where*

$$\epsilon = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } n \text{ is even and } \alpha(n) \equiv 1 \pmod 4 \\ 1 & \text{if } n \text{ is even and } \alpha(n) \equiv 2,3 \pmod 4 \\ -1 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Theorem 1.4. ([14]) *If* CP^n *immerses in* $\mathbb{R}^{4n-2\alpha(n)}$, *then*

$$\nu(c_{\alpha(n)-1}) = \nu(c_{\alpha(n)}) < \nu(c_i) \quad \text{for all } i < \alpha(n) - 1,$$

where $\sum c_i t^i = ((\log(1+t))/t)^{2n+1-\alpha(n)}$.

Here and throughout, $\nu(-)$ denotes the exponent of 2 dividing an integer. The specific results obtainable from Theorem 1.4 were determined for $\alpha(n) \leq 5$ in [14] and for $\alpha(n) = 6$ and 7 (with a mistake when $\alpha(n) = 7$) in [2]. In Section 5, we derive these for $\alpha(n) = 8$; the results have been incorporated into Tables 1.7 and 1.9.

For large values of $\alpha(n)$, the best immersion results are obtained in the following embedding theorem, which relied on earlier results of Milgram.

Theorem 1.5. ([11]) CP^n *can be embedded in* $\mathbb{R}^{4n-\alpha(n)}$, *and, if* $n > 1$ *is odd,* CP^n *can be embedded in* $\mathbb{R}^{4n-\alpha(n)-1}$.

For small $\alpha(n)$, better immersion results are obtained by [6] and [2]. Crabb did not consider even values of n, and so, when n is even, the immersions are from [6] and Theorem 1.2, and the nonimmersions from [13] (stated here as 1.3) and from [14] (stated here as 1.4).

Theorem 1.6. *If* n *is even, then* CP^n *immerses in* $\mathbb{R}^{4n-d}$ *and does not immerse in* $\mathbb{R}^{4n-e}$, *where* d *and* e *are given in Table 1.7.*

Table 1.7. Immersions and nonimmersions when n is even

$\alpha(n)$		d	e
2		2	3
3		4	5
4	$n \not\equiv 10 \ (\text{mod } 16)$	7	8
4	$n \equiv 10 \ (\text{mod } 16)$	7	9
5		9	10
6		10	11
7		11	13
8	$n \not\equiv 22\,(32) \ and \ \not\equiv 132\,(256)$	14	16
8	$n \equiv 22\,(32) \ or \ \equiv 132\,(256)$	14	17
> 8		14	

Thus, when n is even, the only unresolved case for $\alpha(n) \leq 6$ occurs when $\alpha(n) = 4$ and $n \equiv 10 \bmod 16$.

We believe that the following tabulation of results and earliest proofs is accurate when n is odd. Note that the case discussed in Proposition 4.1 is the only unresolved case when n is odd and $\alpha(n) \leq 7$.

Theorem 1.8. *If n is odd, then CP^n immerses in $\mathbb{R}^{4n-d}$ and does not immerse in $\mathbb{R}^{4n-e}$, where d and e are given in Table 1.9.*

Table 1.9. Immersions and nonimmersions when n is odd

$\alpha(n)$	condition	d	ref	e	ref
2		3	[9]	4	[14]
3	$n \equiv 1 \pmod 4$	5	[12]	6	[14]
3	$n \equiv 3 \pmod 4$	6	[16]	7	[13]
4	$n \not\equiv 7 \pmod 8$	7	[6]	8	[14]
4	$n \equiv 7 \pmod 8$	8	[2]	9	[13]
5	$n \equiv 1 \pmod 4$	9	[6]	11	[13]
5	$n \equiv 3 \pmod 8$	9	[6]	10	[14]
5	$n \equiv 7 \pmod 8$	10	[2]	11	[13]
6	$n \equiv 1 \pmod 4$	11	[6]	12	[14]
6	$n \equiv 3 \pmod{16}$	11	[6]	12	[14]
6	$n \equiv 11 \pmod{16}$	12	[2]	13	[13]
6	$n \equiv 7 \pmod 8$	12	[2]	13	[13]
7	$n \equiv 1 \pmod 4$	13	[6]	14	[14]
7	$n \equiv 3 \pmod{64}$	13	[6]	14	[14]
7	$n \equiv 3\,(8), \not\equiv 3\,(64)$	14	Thm.1.1	15	[13]
7	$n \equiv 7 \pmod 8$	14	[2]	15	[13]
8	$n \not\equiv 15\,(16) \ and \ \not\equiv 37\,(64)$	15	[6]	16	[14]
8	$n \equiv 15\,(16) \ or \ \equiv 37\,(64)$	15	[6]	17	[13]
> 8		15	[6]		

2. Proof of Theorem 1.1

In this section we prove Theorem 1.1 and describe what we believe was Crabb's mistake when he asserted a nonimmersion in this situation.

Let $H_n^{\mathbb{C}}$ denote the Hopf bundle over CP^n. It is standard that the immersion of 1.1 is equivalent to showing that the stable normal bundle $-(n+1)H_n^{\mathbb{C}}$ is stably equivalent to a bundle of dimension $2n-14$. We let $n = 8p+3$ with $\alpha(p) = 5$. In [2, §3, esp. (3.2)], Crabb showed that a necessary condition for the immersion is that, if $\lambda(T) = (\sinh^{-1}(\sqrt{T})/\sqrt{T})^2$, and $(\lambda^{8p})_i$ denotes the coefficient of T^i in $\lambda(T)^{8p}$, then there exists an integer e such that $e(\lambda^{8p})_3 \equiv 64 \bmod 128$, $e(\lambda^{8p})_2 \equiv 0 \bmod 32$, $e(\lambda^{8p})_1 \equiv 0 \bmod 8$, and $e(\lambda^{8p})_0 \equiv 0 \bmod 2$. (For the reader wishing to compare with Crabb's notation, his $l = 14$, $j = 3$, and $k = 4p+1$.)

Working mod (T^4), we have

$$\lambda(T) = 1 - \tfrac{1}{3}T + \tfrac{8}{45}T^2 - \tfrac{4}{35}T^3,$$

and

$$\lambda(T)^8 = 1 - \tfrac{8}{3}T + \tfrac{68}{15}T^2 - \tfrac{1192}{189}T^3.$$

We then have

$$\lambda(T)^{8p} = 1 + u_1 8pT + u_2 4pT^2 + u_3 8pT^3,$$

where each u_i is an odd fraction. The first and last of Crabb's necessary conditions stated above require $ep \equiv 8 \bmod 16$ and $e \equiv 0 \bmod 2$. These (and the other conditions) can be satisfied if and only if $p \not\equiv 0 \bmod 8$. Crabb's Lemma 3.4 makes it clear that he believed that his conditions could not be satisfied in the cases which we address here.

Now we prove that the immersion exists when $p \not\equiv 0 \bmod 8$. We use modified Postnikov towers (MPTs), as introduced in [8] and employed in many papers such as [7], [6], and, more recently, [15]. We consider the lifting question

$$
\begin{array}{ccccc}
 & & \widetilde{\mathrm{BSp}}(16p-8) & & \\
 & & \downarrow{\scriptstyle q} & & (2.1) \\
CP^{8p+3} & \xrightarrow{\ h\ } & HP^{4p+1} & \xrightarrow{\ f\ } & \mathrm{BSp}
\end{array}
$$

where f classifies the stable bundle $-(4p+2)H_{4p+1}^{Sp}$ over the quaternionic projective space. The space $\widetilde{\mathrm{BSp}}(m)$ is the classifying space for symplectic vector bundles of real geometric dimension m. It is the pullback of $BO(m)$ and BSp over BO. We let

$$\widetilde{\mathrm{BSp}}(16p-8) = E_8 \to E_7 \to \cdots \to E_1 \to \mathrm{BSp}$$

denote the MPT through dimension $16p+6$. In this range, the fiber of q is the stable stunted real projective space $P_{16p-8} = RP^\infty/RP^{16p-9}$, whose homotopy groups in this range are displayed in [10, Table 8.9]. We reproduce them in Diagram 2.2, indexed as $\pi_*(\Sigma P_{16p-8})$, which is their dimensions as k-invariants in the MPT.

Diagram 2.2. Adams spectral sequence of ΣP_{16p-8}
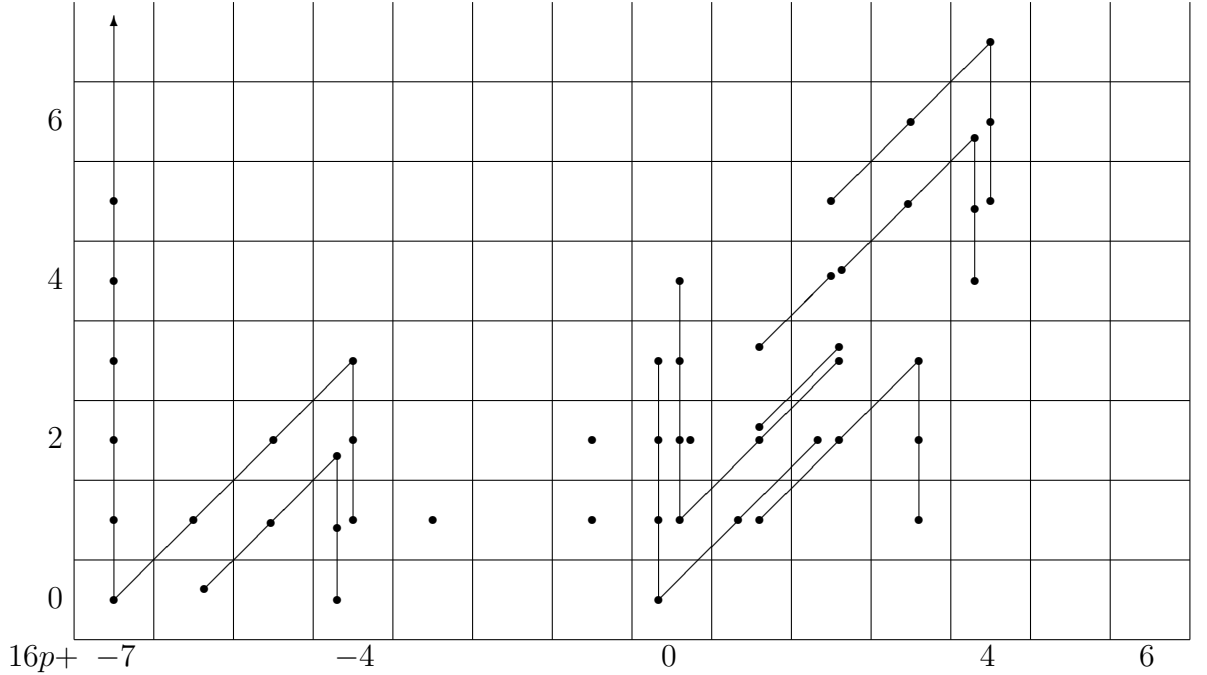
The obstructions for lifting from E_i to E_{i+1} are k-invariants in $H^j(E_i)$ corresponding to dots in position (j, i) of the diagram. All cohomology groups have coefficients in $\mathbb{Z}/2$. The bulk of our work will be in proving the following result, which states that f lifts to the fifth stage of the MPT.

Proposition 2.3. *In* (2.1), *f factors through a map $HP^{4p+1} \xrightarrow{f_5} E_5$.*

Before giving the proof of Proposition 2.3, we use it to complete the proof of Theorem 1.1. Let $\ell = f_5 \circ h : CP^{8p+3} \to E_5$. To get CP^{8p+1} to lift to $\widetilde{\mathrm{BSp}}(16p-8)$, we need only show that $\ell^*(k_2) = 0$, where $k_2 \in H^{16p+2}(E_5)$ corresponds to the dot in position $(16p + 2, 5)$. The diagonal line emanating from this dot suggests, and the computation of the MPT proves, that there is a relation in $H^*(E_5)$ of the form $\mathrm{Sq}^2 k_2 + ak_{-7} = 0$, where $k_{-7} \in H^{16p-7}(E_5)$ corresponds to the dot at height 5 in the initial tower, and a is a combination of Steenrod operations and Stiefel-Whitney classes acting on k_{-7}. Therefore, since $H^{16p-7}(CP^{8p+3}) = 0$, we must have $\mathrm{Sq}^2(\ell^*(k_2)) = 0$ in $H^*(CP^{8p+3})$. Since Sq^2 acts injectively on $H^{16p+2}(CP^{8p+3})$, this implies $\ell^*(k_2) = 0$, and hence CP^{8p+1} lifts to $\widetilde{\mathrm{BSp}}(16p-8)$.

By [2, Prop.3.2], the KO-theoretic obstruction to extending this lifting over CP^{8p+2} is given by the conditions on λ^{8p} described above, which are satisfied under our hypotheses, and hence this KO-theoretic obstruction is 0. The total obstruction to this extension lies in $\pi_{16p+4}(\Sigma P_{16p-8}) \approx \mathbb{Z}/8 \oplus \mathbb{Z}/8$, depicted in Table 2.2, but in this case the total obstruction is entirely KO-theoretic, as described in [3, Prop 4.6]. See also row 3 of [3, Table 4.1], which states explicitly that the kernel of reduction from total obstruction to KO-theoretic obstruction is zero. From our viewpoint, the non-KO-theoretic obstructions are irregular classes such as the one in position $(16p, 2)$ in Diagram 2.2, which must be dealt with in the proof of Proposition 2.3.

Thus CP^{8p+2} lifts to $\widetilde{\mathrm{BSp}}(16p - 8)$. Since, by Diagram 2.2, $\pi_{16p+6}(\Sigma P_{16p-8}) = 0$, this lifting extends over CP^{8p+3}, as required for Theorem 1.1.

We complete the proof of Theorem 1.1 by proving Proposition 2.3. We will use the bo-primary classifying spaces $B^o(m)$ constructed in [7]. There is a map of fibrations through dimension $2m - 2$

$$
\begin{array}{ccc}
P_m & \longrightarrow & P_m \wedge bo \\
\downarrow & & \downarrow \\
\widetilde{\mathrm{BSp}}(m) & \longrightarrow & B^o(m) \\
\downarrow & & \downarrow \\
\mathrm{BSp} & \xrightarrow{\ =\ } & \mathrm{BSp,}
\end{array}
$$

and there are natural maps of MPTs for these fibrations. We will consider the maps of MPTs for the following spaces over BSp.

$$
\begin{array}{ccc}
\widetilde{\mathrm{BSp}}(16p - 11) & \longrightarrow & \widetilde{\mathrm{BSp}}(16p - 9) \\
\downarrow & & \downarrow \\
B^o(16p - 11) & \longrightarrow & B^o(16p - 9).
\end{array}
\tag{2.4}
$$

We depict in Diagram 2.5 the portion of the Adams spectral sequences in dimensions $\equiv 0 \bmod 4$ (which is all that is relevant for maps from HP^{4p+1}) for ΣP_{16p-11}, ΣP_{16p-9}, $\Sigma P_{16p-11} \wedge bo$, and $\Sigma P_{16p-9} \wedge bo$, which correspond to the k-invariants for liftings to each of the spaces in (2.4).

Diagram 2.5. Possible obstructions for liftings
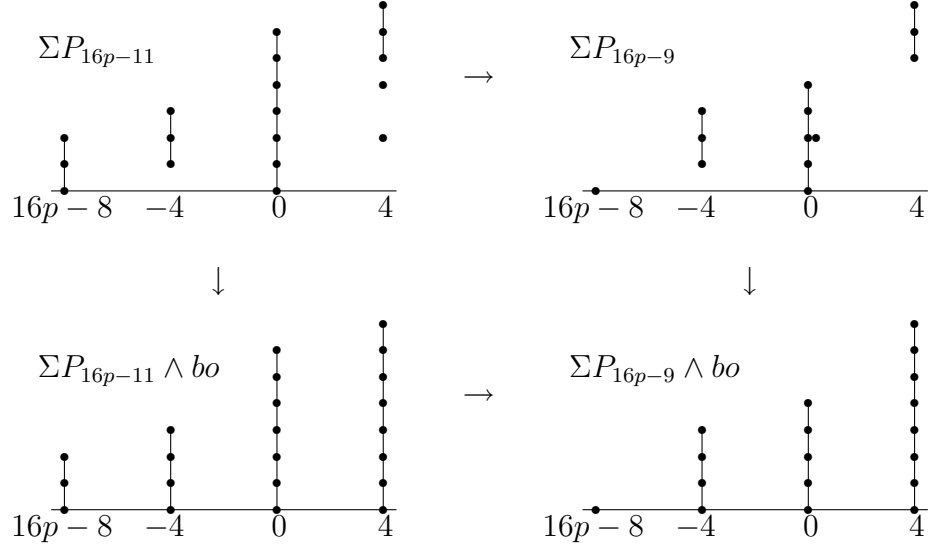
By [7, 1.8], nH_t^{Sp} lifts to $B^o(m)$ if and only if for all $i \le t$, $\nu(\binom{n}{i}) \ge \nu(\pi_{4i}(\Sigma P_m \wedge bo))$. By standard methods, one finds

$$\nu\left(\binom{-(4p+2)}{4p+\epsilon}\right) = \begin{cases} \alpha(p) - 1 & \epsilon = -2 \\ 2 + \alpha(p) + \nu(p) & \epsilon = -1 \\ \alpha(p) & \epsilon = 0 \\ \alpha(p) + 1 & \epsilon = 1. \end{cases}$$

We have $\alpha(p) = 5$. Thus $-(4p+2)H_{4p-1}^{Sp}$ lifts to $B^o(16p-11)$, and $-(4p+2)H_{4p}^{Sp}$ lifts to $B^o(16p-9)$. By considering the induced map of MPTs for $B^o(16p-11) \to B^o(16p-9)$, we deduce that $-(4p+2)H_{4p}$ lifts to E_5 in the MPT for $B^o(16p-11)$. Then, since all k-invariants for $\widetilde{BSp}(16p-11)$ which are relevant for HP^{4p} map injectively to those of $B^o(16p-11)$, we infer that HP^{4p} lifts to E_5 of the MPT for $\widetilde{BSp}(16p-11)$. We follow this into E_5 of the MPT for $\widetilde{BSp}(16p-9)$. Since this MPT has no k-invariants in dimension $16p+4$ in filtration less than 5, the map $HP^{4p} \to E_5(16p-9)$ extends over HP^{4p+1}, establishing Proposition 2.3.
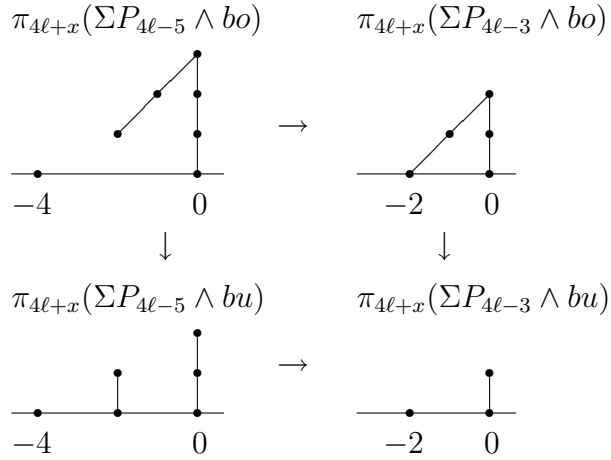
3. Proof of Theorem 1.2

Proof of Theorem 1.2. Let $n = 2\ell$ with $\alpha(\ell) = 3$. We must show that the map $CP^{2\ell} \xrightarrow{f} BU \to BSO$ which classifies the stable normal bundle $-(2\ell+1)H_{2\ell}^{\mathbb{C}}$ factors

through $BSO(4\ell-4)$. The fiber in $P_{4\ell-4} \to BSO(4\ell-4) \to BSO$ has an ASS chart that looks like the first four dimensions of Diagram 2.2, except that if ℓ is even, 2 times the bottom class in what appears in that chart as dimension $16p-4$ equals the sum of the two dots in the box above it. We will show that the map lifts to level 3 in the MPT for this fibration, and that the level-3 k-invariant is in primary indeterminacy, which implies that the lifting exists. The reason that we did not notice this result in [6] is apparently that we were hesitant to consider liftings to $BSO(m)$ when m is divisible by 4 and the bundle is an odd multiple of the complex Hopf bundle. (See Tables 1.8 and 1.9 of [6].)

We let $\widetilde{BU}(m)$ denote the classifying space for stably almost complex vector bundles of real geometric dimension m; i.e., it is the pullback of BU and $BO(m)$ over BO. As in [6], we use spaces $\widetilde{BU}(m) \to B_m^{\mathrm{o}} \to B_m^{\mathrm{u}}$ over BU with fibers through dimension $2m-2$ given by $P_m \to P_m \wedge bo \to P_m \wedge bu$. We need the following charts of homotopy groups.

Diagram 3.1. Some homotopy groups

$$\pi_{4\ell+x}(\Sigma P_{4\ell-5} \wedge bo) \qquad\qquad \pi_{4\ell+x}(\Sigma P_{4\ell-3} \wedge bo)$$

$$\pi_{4\ell+x}(\Sigma P_{4\ell-5} \wedge bu) \qquad\qquad \pi_{4\ell+x}(\Sigma P_{4\ell-3} \wedge bu)$$

We also need the easy fact that, for $\epsilon = 0, 1, 2$, $\nu\left(\binom{-(2\ell+1)}{2\ell-\epsilon}\right) = 3, 2, 2$, respectively. We use [6, 1.7b], which states that, if p is odd, then $pH_n^{\mathbb{C}}$ lifts to B_m^{o} if and only if for all $i \leq n$, $\nu\left(\binom{p}{i}\right) \geq \nu(\pi_{2i}(\Sigma P_m \wedge bu))$, and, for all even $i \leq n$, $\nu\left(\binom{p}{i}\right) \geq \nu(\pi_{2i}(\Sigma P_m \wedge bo))$. This implies that our map $f : CP^{2\ell} \to BU$ lifts to $B_{4\ell-3}^{\mathrm{o}}$, and $f|CP^{2\ell-1}$ lifts to $B_{4\ell-5}^{\mathrm{o}}$. Thus f lifts to level 3 in the MPT for $B_{4\ell-5}^{\mathrm{o}}$. By [10, Tables 8.4,8.12], for $* \leq 4\ell$,

$\pi_*(\Sigma P_{4\ell-5}) \to \pi_*(\Sigma P_{4\ell-5} \wedge bo)$ is surjective with kernel consisting of a single class in $* = 4\ell - 1$. Since $H^{4\ell-1}(CP^{2\ell}) = 0$, we conclude that f lifts to level 3 in the MPT for $\widetilde{BU}(4\ell - 5)$, and hence also in those for $\widetilde{BU}(4\ell - 4)$ and $BSO(4\ell - 4)$, using the maps of MPTs induced by $\widetilde{BU}(4\ell - 5) \to \widetilde{BU}(4\ell - 4) \to BSO(4\ell - 4)$.

We now employ a standard indeterminacy argument, as explained clearly in [15], to show that the final obstruction in $H^{4\ell}(E_3)$ can be varied, if necessary. Let E_i denote the spaces in the MPT of $BSO(4\ell - 4) \to BSO$. The fiber F of $E_3 \to E_2$ is $K_{4\ell-4} \times K_{4\ell-2} \times K_{4\ell-1} \times K_{4\ell-1}$, corresponding to elements at height 2 in Diagram 2.2, desuspended once. Here $K_i = K(\mathbb{Z}/2, i)$. If $f_3 : CP^{2\ell} \to E_3$ sends the k-invariant $k_3 \in H^{4\ell}(E_3)$ trivially, then the lifting to $BSO(4\ell - 4)$ exists, since there are no more even-dimensional k-invariants. If $f_3^*(k_3) \neq 0$, then we will show that the composite

$$CP^{2\ell} \xrightarrow{\iota_{4\ell-4} \times f_3} F \times E_3 \xrightarrow{\mu} E_3, \qquad (3.2)$$

which is also a lifting of f, sends k_3 to 0, and hence the lifting to $BSO(4\ell - 4)$ exists. Here μ denotes the action of the fiber on the total space in the principal fibration, and $\iota_{4\ell-4} : CP^{2\ell} \to F$ is the map which is nontrivial into the first factor of F. This will follow because a computation of the relations in the MPT, performed below, shows that

$$
\begin{aligned}
\mu^*(k_3) &= 1 \times k_3 + \mathrm{Sq}^1\, \iota'_{4\ell-1} \times 1 + \mathrm{Sq}^2\, \iota_{4\ell-2} \times 1 + \iota_{4\ell-2} \times w_2 \\
&\quad + \mathrm{Sq}^4\, \iota_{4\ell-4} \times 1 + \iota_{4\ell-4} \times (w_4 + w_2^2). \qquad (3.3)
\end{aligned}
$$

Thus the composite (3.2) sends k_3 to

$$f_3^*(k_3) + \mathrm{Sq}^4(x^{2\ell-2}) + x^{2\ell-2} \cdot (w_4 + w_2^2)(-(2\ell+1)H).$$

Here x denotes the generator of $H^2(CP^{2\ell})$. Since $w_2(-(2\ell+1))H = x$, and $\mathrm{Sq}^4(x^{2\ell-2})$ and $w_4(-(2\ell+1))$ are either both nonzero (ℓ even) or both zero (ℓ odd), we deduce that $f_3^*(k_3)$ can be varied, if necessary, establishing the lifting.

We conclude the proof by listing the relations in the MPT of $BSO(4\ell-4) \to BSO$, the last of which yields the crucial fact (3.3). These are computed by the method initiated in [8] and utilized in such papers as [6], [12], and [15]. It is a matter of building a minimal resolution using Massey-Peterson algebras. In this table, $\epsilon = 1$ if ℓ is even, and 0 if ℓ is odd.

$w_{4\ell-3}$	
$w_{4\ell-2}$	
$w_{4\ell}$	
$k_{4\ell-3}^1$:	$\mathrm{Sq}^1 w_{4\ell-3}$
$k_{4\ell-2}^1$:	$(\mathrm{Sq}^2 + w_2)w_{4\ell-3}$
$k_{4\ell-1}^1$:	$(\mathrm{Sq}^2 + w_2)w_{4\ell-2}$
$k_{4\ell}^1$:	$\mathrm{Sq}^1 w_{4\ell} + (\mathrm{Sq}^2 + w_2)\,\mathrm{Sq}^1 w_{4\ell-2}$
$\widetilde{k}_{4\ell}^1$:	$\epsilon\,\mathrm{Sq}^1 w_{4\ell} + (\mathrm{Sq}^4 + w_4)w_{4\ell-3} + (w_2\,\mathrm{Sq}^1 + w_3)w_{4\ell-2}$
$k_{4\ell-3}^2$:	$\mathrm{Sq}^1 k_{4\ell-3}^1$
$k_{4\ell-1}^2$:	$(\mathrm{Sq}^2 + w_2)k_{4\ell-2}^1 + (\mathrm{Sq}^3 + w_3)k_{4\ell-3}^1$
$k_{4\ell}^2$:	$\mathrm{Sq}^1 k_{4\ell}^1 + (\mathrm{Sq}^2 + w_2)k_{4\ell-1}^1$
$\widetilde{k}_{4\ell}^2$:	$\mathrm{Sq}^1 \widetilde{k}_{4\ell}^1 + (\mathrm{Sq}^2\,\mathrm{Sq}^1 + w_3)k_{4\ell-2}^1 + (\mathrm{Sq}^4 + w_4 + w_2^2 + w_2\,\mathrm{Sq}^2)k_{4\ell-3}^1$
$k_{4\ell-3}^3$:	$\mathrm{Sq}^1 k_{4\ell-3}^2$
$k_{4\ell}^3$:	$\mathrm{Sq}^1 \widetilde{k}_{4\ell}^2 + (\mathrm{Sq}^2 + w_2)k_{4\ell-1}^2 + (\mathrm{Sq}^4 + w_4 + w_2^2)k_{4\ell-3}^2$

$\square$

4. Discussion of one of Crabb's proofs

In [2, 0.2], Crabb presented many new immersions of complex projective spaces. About his proof, he wrote "Details will be omitted," although sketched arguments for each case were presented. We have checked the details of his arguments, and found what appears to be a flaw in one case. This case was of particular interest to us, because, if true, it would have implied a new immersion result for real projective space which would be an addition to [5]. We present here our analysis of this case.

Proposition 4.1. *The argument for the portion of* [2, 0.2] *which states that if k is even and $\alpha(k) = 4$ then CP^{2k+1} immerses in $\mathbb{R}^{8k-6}$ is invalid. The question of whether this immersion exists is unresolved.*

Proof. Let $k = 2K$. To obtain the immersion, one must prove that $-(4K+2)H_{4K+1}^{\mathbb{C}}$ lifts to $\widetilde{\mathrm{BSp}}(8K-8)$. The KO-theoretic obstruction for lifting this bundle, calculated similarly to the one in Section 1, is 0. However, there are several elements in the kernel of the reduction from the total obstruction to the KO-theoretic obstruction which cannot be ruled out. In [3, Table 4.1], these are the three $\mathbb{Z}/2$'s in row 1, column 9. In our Diagram 2.2, which, after a slight reindexing, serves as the obstructions for

this lifting question as well as the one considered in Section 1, these correspond to three of the many dots in column $16p + 2$.

Crabb realized that these could cause a problem, and so he hoped to utilize the factorization through HP^{2K}, similarly to what we did in Section 1. In fact, he wrote in his proof on page 166 that in several cases, including this one, it can be shown that the bundle over the quaternionic projective space is stably equivalent to a bundle of the desired dimension. In this case, he would be saying that $-(2K + 1)H_{2K}^{Sp}$ lifts to $\widetilde{\mathrm{BSp}}(8K - 8)$. However, this lifting does not exist; its KO-theoretic obstruction is nonzero.

This can be seen similarly to our calculation in Section 1. We use [2, Prop 2.5]. With $\lambda(T)$ as in Section 1, the necessary condition is that there exists an integer e such that $e(\lambda^{4K-1})_2 \equiv 16 \bmod 32$, $e(\lambda^{4K-1})_1 \equiv 8 \bmod 16$, and $e(\lambda^{4K-1})_0 \equiv 0 \bmod 2$. Since

$$(1 - \tfrac{1}{3}T + \tfrac{8}{45}T^2)^{4K-1} = 1 + \mathrm{od} \cdot T + \mathrm{od} \cdot T^2$$

mod (T^3), where od denotes an odd fraction, we require e to satisfy both $e \equiv 16 \bmod 32$, and $e \equiv 8 \bmod 16$, which is clearly impossible. □

We close by commenting on the relationship between Crabb's necessary conditions for immersion involving powers of $\lambda(T) = (\sinh^{-1}(\sqrt{T})/\sqrt{T})^2$, which we have used above, and the Sigrist-Suter necessary condition involving powers of $\log(1 + t)/t$ in Theorem 1.4. These conditions involving power series can be directly related to one another by a slight extension of [1, 1.5], which was proved using a proof suggested to the authors by Crabb, and based on his earlier topological work described in [4, §4].

5. Evaluation of a Sigrist-Suter condition

In Theorem 1.4, a general statement of a necessary condition for CP^n to immerse in $\mathbb{R}^{4n-2\alpha(n)}$ is presented. We evaluate this explicitly when $\alpha(n) = 8$ in the following result, which we have incorporated into Tables 1.7 and 1.9.

Proposition 5.1. *If $\alpha(n) = 8$ and CP^n immerses in $\mathbb{R}^{4n-2\alpha(n)}$, then $\nu(n - 7) = 3$ or $\nu(n - 6) = 4$ or $\nu(n - 5) = 5$ or $\nu(n - 4) = 7$.*

This follows readily from Theorem 1.4 and the following lemma.

Lemma 5.2. *Let* $(\log(1 + t)/t)^m = \sum c_{m,i} t^i$. *Then*

$$\nu(c_{m,7}) = \nu(c_{m,8}) < \nu(c_{m,i}) \ \text{for all } i < 7$$

if and only if $\nu(m - 7) = 4$ *or* $\nu(m - 5) = 5$ *or* $\nu(m - 3) = 6$ *or* $\nu(m - 1) = 8$.

Proof. Let

$$v(m) = (v_0(m), \dots, v_1(m)) = (\nu(c_{m,0}), \dots, \nu(c_{m,8})).$$

Also define a function, for which some of its values are only specified to satisfy an inequality, by

$$\nu(k, e) = \begin{cases} \nu(k) & \text{if } \nu(k) < e \\ \geq e & \text{if } \nu(k) \geq e. \end{cases}$$

The lemma follows immediately from the following, which we will prove for $v(m)$ by induction on m. Note that some components are only asserted to satisfy an inequality.

(1) If $e \geq 3$, then $v(2^e(2a + 1)) = (0, e - 1, e - 3, e - 3, e - 6, e - 5, e - 7, e - 7, e - 11)$.

(2) $v(7 + 8k) = (0, -1, -2, -3, -4, -5, -6, -7, -8 + \nu(k, 2))$.

(3) $v(5 + 8k) = (0, -1, -1, \geq -1, -4, -5, \geq -4, -6, -8 + \nu(k, 3))$.

(4) $v(3 + 32k) = (0, -1, -2, -3, \geq -1, -4, -4, -5, -6 + \nu(k, 2))$.

(5) $v(19 + 32k) = (0, -1, -2, -3, -2, -4, \geq -3, \geq -4, -7)$.

(6) $v(11 + 16k) = (0, -1, -2, -3, -3, \geq -3, -5, -6, -8)$.

(7) $v(9 + 16k) = (0, -1, \geq -1, -2, -3, -4, -4, \geq -3, -8)$.

(8) $v(17 + 32k) = (0, -1, 0, -2, -2, -3, -3, \geq -2, -7)$.

(9) $v(1 + 32k) = (0, -1, 0, -2, \geq -1, \geq -2, \geq -2, -3, -6 + \nu(4, k))$.

We begin by using `Maple` to verify $v(m)$ for $m = 8, 7, 5, 3, 19, 11, 9, 17$, and 1. The induction proof for $v(2^e)$ is obtained using

$$\sum c_{2^{e+1},i} t^i = \left(\sum c_{2^e,i} t^i \right)^2.$$

We have

$$v_i(2^{e+1}) = 1 + v_i(2^e), \tag{5.3}$$

since, as is easily verified, the RHS of (5.3) is strictly less than $1 + v_j(2^e) + v_{i-j}(2^e)$ for $1 \leq j \leq i/2$.

Next we obtain the claim for $v(2^e(2a+1))$ from $(\sum c_{2^e,i}t^i)(\sum c_{2^{e+1}a,i}t^i)$. From this, we obtain $v_i(2^e(2a+1)) = v_i(2^e)$ since the strict minimum of $v_j(2^e) + v_{i-j}(2^{e+1}a)$ is obtained when $j = i$, essentially the same verification as the previous one.

The cases in which the asserted $v_i(u + 2^e k)$ is not of the form $\geq t$ or $\nu(k,t)$ are, except for $v_7(1+32k)$ with k odd, obtained from $v_i(u)+v_0(2^e k)$ which, in these cases, is strictly less than other values of $v_j(u) + v_{i-j}(2^e k)$. Quite a few verifications are required for this. For example, since $v_4(2^e k) = e + \nu(k) - 6$, it is relevant that

$$v_i(u) < v_{i-4}(u) - \begin{cases} 3 & u = 7,5 \\ 2 & u = 11,9 \\ 1 & u = 3, 19, 17, 1 \end{cases}$$

in the cases in which the asserted value of $v_i(u)$ is a single integer. These cases are differentiated according to whether the argument of v is $u + 8k$, $u + 16k$, or $u + 32k$. If k is odd, then $v_7(1 + 32k) = -3$ comes from having each of $v_7(1) + v_0(32k)$, $v_3(1) + v_4(32k)$, and $v_1(1) + v_6(32k)$ equal -3.

In the cases in which the asserted $v_i(u+2^e k)$ is of the form $\geq t$, one verifies, unless $i = 7$ and $u = 9$ or 17, that $v_j(u) + v_{i-j}(2^e k) \geq t$ for all j, with the possibility of equality for several values of j. For example, $v_6(5 + 8k) \geq -4$ comes from $v_6(5) + v_0(8k) \geq -4$, $v_4(5) + v_2(8k) \geq -4$, and $v_2(5) + v_4(8k) \geq -4$, while $v_j(5) + v_{6-j}(8k) > -4$ for $j = 0, 1, 3$, and 5. If k is odd, the exceptional case $v_7(9 + 16k) \geq -3$ comes from $v_1(9) + v_6(16k) = -4$ and $v_3(9) + v_4(16k) = -4$, with other values ≥ -3. The case $v_7(17 + 32k)$ is similar.

Finally, for $\nu(k) = 0$ or 1, $v_8(7 + 8k) = -8 + \nu(k)$ comes from $v_0(7) + v_8(8k)$, which is strictly less than all other $v_j(7) + v_{8-j}(8k)$, while if $\nu(k) \geq 2$, we have $v_0(7) + v_8(8k) = \nu(k) - 8$ and $v_8(7) + v_0(8k) \geq -6$ with other terms larger. The same argument works for $v_8(5 + 8k)$, $v_8(3 + 32k)$, and $v_8(1 + 32k)$. $\qquad\square$

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Department of Mathematics, Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA 18015, USA
E-mail address: dmd1@lehigh.edu