

MANIFOLDS WITH NO PERIODIC HOMEOMORPHISMS

BY

EDWARD M. BLOOMBERG⁽¹⁾

ABSTRACT. An analysis of the ends of the universal cover of the connected sum of two aspherical manifolds leads to the construction of a class of closed manifolds with no nontrivial periodic homeomorphisms.

This paper exhibits a class of closed four dimensional manifolds on which no compact Lie group can act effectively. No assumption of smoothness is made. I have been told [5] that before any such manifold was born, it had been named "The Ugly Manifold". But the one in this paper is a simple manifold to construct. The building blocks are the manifolds, $L(k)$, constructed in [1]. These are four dimensional $K(\pi, 1)$'s with the property that any finite group that acts on one of them must act freely. Then

MAIN THEOREM. *If k and k' are distinct primes, then $L = L(k) \# L(k')$ has no compact Lie group acting effectively on it ("#" denotes connected sum).*

Here is an outline of the proof:

(1) \tilde{L} , the universal cover of L , is shown to be embeddable as a dense subset of S^4 , the four sphere, in such a way that $S^4 - \tilde{L}$ can be identified with the ends of \tilde{L} . That is, S^4 is the Freudenthal end point compactification of \tilde{L} .

(2) The outer automorphism group of $\pi_1(L)$ is calculated and shown to be torsion free.

(3) This allows us to conclude that if h were a periodic homeomorphism of L , then h would lift to a *periodic* homeomorphism, \tilde{h} , of \tilde{L} and hence \tilde{h} extends to a periodic homeomorphism, H , of S^4 .

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Furthermore, H commutes with the action of $\pi_1(L)$ that is induced on S^4 .

(4) The action of $\pi_1(L)$ on the ends of \tilde{L} is completely determined. Since H commutes with this action, this allows us to conclude that H leaves the ends of \tilde{L} pointwise fixed.

(5) Since the Z_p -cohomology of the fixed point set of H and therefore of \tilde{h} can be computed, we consider an appropriate spectral sequence relating the fixed point set of \tilde{h} with that of h . A contradiction is obtained using elementary results about the cohomology of groups.

At the time that this paper was written, Conner and Raymond had constructed the manifolds $L(k)$ on which any finite group which acted effectively acted freely. They have now extended their results, using techniques different from those in this paper, to obtain manifolds with no action in dimensions $n(n+1)/2 + 1$, $3 \leq n \leq 8$.

In conclusion, a word about motivation. (I wish that all authors would include such a paragraph in their works.) Conner and Raymond obtained their examples in [1] by examining $K(\pi, 1)$'s which were finite dimensional manifolds. For any Z_p action on a $K(\pi, 1)$, they obtained explicit formulae for the Z_p extension of π that acts on $\widetilde{K(\pi, 1)}$. They then performed their calculations on $\widetilde{K(\pi, 1)}$, which was homeomorphic to R^n , Euclidean n -space. In the example at hand, it is evident that L is a candidate for a manifold with no symmetry. But it was unclear how to handle it, since L is, of course, not a $K(\pi, 1)$. Although the universal cover of L is unmanageable, its Freudenthal end point compactification is S^4 . So instead of looking at universal covers (that is, R^n) à la Conner and Raymond, we look at the maximal zero dimensional compactification of the universal cover (that is, S^n).

I. $\text{Out}(L(k) * L(k'))$ is torsion free.

1.1. This section fixes notation and provides the algebraic background needed for the rest of the paper. The general reference for free products is [3].

If A and A' are groups, $A * A'$ denotes the free product of A and A' .

DEFINITION. $\text{Out } A$ is the quotient of the group of automorphisms of A by the group of inner automorphisms of A .

DEFINITION. A group A is called prime if it is not isomorphic to a nontrivial free product or an infinite cyclic group.

THEOREM 1.1.1. *If A and A' are prime groups, then:*

(a) *If A and A' are not isomorphic $\text{Out}(A * A') = \text{Aut } A \oplus$*

$\text{Aut } A'$.

(b) If A and A' are isomorphic $\text{Out}(A * A') = (\text{Aut } A \oplus \text{Aut } A') \circ Z_2$, the semidirect product of $(\text{Aut } A \oplus \text{Aut } A')$ and Z_2 , where Z_2 acts on $\text{Aut } A \oplus \text{Aut } A'$ by switching factors.

PROOF. (a) Let $\Gamma \in \text{Aut}(A * A')$. Then $\Gamma(A)$ and $\Gamma(A')$ are subgroups of $A * A'$. By the Kurosh subgroup theorem [3, p. 243]

$$\Gamma(A) \subset \gamma F \gamma^{-1}, \quad \Gamma(A') \subset \gamma' F' \gamma'^{-1},$$

where F and F' are either A or A' , and γ, γ' are in $A * A'$.

LEMMA. $\Gamma(A) = \gamma A \gamma^{-1}$, $\Gamma(A') = \gamma' A' \gamma'^{-1}$.

PROOF. Suppose $\Gamma(A)$ were a proper subgroup of $\gamma F \gamma^{-1}$. Then $A * A'$ would be generated by F_1 and $(\gamma^{-1} \gamma') F' (\gamma^{-1} \gamma')^{-1}$ where F_1 is a proper subgroup of F . It is elementary to see that the only possibility for $\gamma^{-1} \gamma' = aa'$ where $a \in F$ and $a' \in F'$. But then the group generated by F_1 and $(aa') F' (aa')^{-1}$ is also generated by $a^{-1} F_1 a$ and $a' F' a'^{-1} = F'$. But $a^{-1} F_1 a$ is a proper subgroup of F . Certainly $F = F'$ is impossible. But also, if A_1 is a proper subgroup of A , then $A_1 * A'$ is a proper subgroup of $A * A'$. So F_1 could not be a proper subgroup of F .

Therefore $\Gamma(A) = \gamma F \gamma^{-1}$. Since A and A' are not isomorphic, $F = A$. Similarly $\Gamma(A') = \gamma' A' \gamma'^{-1}$. \square

Let $\mu_\gamma \in \text{Aut}(A * A')$ be conjugation by γ , where $\gamma \in A * A'$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_{\gamma^{-1}} \circ \Gamma: A &\rightarrow A, \\ \mu_{\gamma^{-1}} \circ \Gamma: A' &\rightarrow (\gamma^{-1} \gamma') A' (\gamma^{-1} \gamma')^{-1}. \end{aligned}$$

Again, $\gamma^{-1} \gamma' = aa'$ for some $a \in A$, $a' \in A'$. But then

$$\alpha = \mu_{a^{-1} \gamma^{-1}} \circ \Gamma: A \rightarrow A, \quad \alpha' = \mu_{a^{-1} \gamma^{-1}} \circ \Gamma: A' \rightarrow A'.$$

For any $\alpha \in \text{Aut } A$, $\alpha' \in \text{Aut } A'$, let $[\alpha, \alpha'] \in \text{Aut}(A * A')$ be the automorphism determined by $[\alpha, \alpha']|_A = \alpha$, $[\alpha, \alpha']|_{A'} = \alpha'$. We have seen so far that for each $\Gamma \in \text{Aut}(A * A')$ there is an $\eta \in A * A'$, $\alpha \in \text{Aut } A$, $\alpha' \in \text{Aut } A'$ such that $\Gamma = \mu_\eta \circ [\alpha, \alpha']$.

LEMMA. *The above representation is unique.*

PROOF. Suppose $\mu_{\eta_1} \circ [\alpha_1, \alpha'_1] = \mu_{\eta_2} \circ [\alpha_2, \alpha'_2]$, then $[\alpha_1, \alpha'_1] = \mu_{\eta_1^{-1} \eta_2} \circ [\alpha_2, \alpha'_2]$. So the image of A under the automorphism $[\alpha_1, \alpha'_1]$ is the same as its image under $\mu_{\eta_1^{-1} \eta_2} \circ [\alpha_2, \alpha'_2]$. That is

$$A = (\eta_1^{-1} \eta_2) A (\eta_1^{-1} \eta_2)^{-1}$$

By [3, p. 187], $\eta_1^{-1}\eta_2 \in A$. Similarly, $\eta_1^{-1}\eta_2 \in A'$. So $\eta_1^{-1}\eta_2 = 1$. That is $\eta_1 = \eta_2$. But then

$$[\alpha_1, \alpha'_1] = [\alpha_2, \alpha'_2] \Rightarrow [\alpha_1, \alpha'_1] \Big|_A = [\alpha_2, \alpha'_2] \Big|_A.$$

$$\qquad \qquad \qquad \parallel \qquad \qquad \qquad \parallel$$

$$\qquad \qquad \qquad \alpha_1 \qquad \qquad \qquad \alpha_2$$

Similarly $\alpha'_1 = \alpha'_2$. \square

Therefore, any automorphism of $A * A'$ is uniquely represented by $\mu_\eta \circ [\alpha, \alpha']$ for $\eta \in A * A'$, $\alpha \in \text{Aut } A$, $\alpha' \in \text{Aut } A'$.

Define a function $\Phi: \text{Aut}(A * A') \rightarrow \text{Aut } A \oplus \text{Aut } A'$ by $\Phi(\mu_\eta \circ [\alpha, \alpha']) = (\alpha, \alpha')$.

It is straightforward to verify that Φ is an epimorphism with kernel, the group of inner automorphisms of $A * A'$. Hence the result.

(b) The proof of part (b) is similar, but since it will not be used in this paper it is omitted. \square

COROLLARY 1.1.2. *If A and A' are nonisomorphic prime groups and $\text{Aut } A$ and $\text{Aut } A'$ are torsion free, then $\text{Out}(A * A')$ is torsion free.*

II. The Freudenthal end point compactification of connected sums.

2.1. This section provides a convenient indexing of the universal cover of the connected sum of two manifolds of dimension greater than two.

Suppose M and M' are manifolds of dimension greater than two. Let M_1 (resp. M'_1) denote M - open disk (resp. M' - open disk). Denote by A (resp. A') the fundamental group of M (resp. M'); then $A * A'$ is isomorphic to the fundamental group of $M \# M'$. Let $A * A'/A$ be the set of left cosets of A . Let $[\]: A * A' \rightarrow A * A'/A$, $\gamma \rightarrow [\gamma]$ be the projection map.

Similarly for $[\]': A * A' \rightarrow A * A'/A'$. For each $[\gamma] \in A * A'/A$, let $\tilde{M}_{[\gamma]}$ denote a copy of M_1 . For each $[\gamma]' \in A * A'/A'$, let $\tilde{M}'_{[\gamma]'}$ denote a copy of M'_1 .

Choose a sphere in $\partial\tilde{M}_1$ and call it S_1 . For each $a \in A$, let $S_a = a(S_1)$, where A acts on \tilde{M}_1 on the left as covering transformations. Since $\tilde{M}_{[\gamma]}$ is homeomorphic to \tilde{M}_1 , let $S_{\gamma a} \in \tilde{M}_{[\gamma]}$ correspond to S_a , where $\gamma \in A * A'$ has reduced form ending with an element in A' . Similarly, index $S'_\gamma \in \tilde{M}'_{[\gamma]'}$.

Choose a homeomorphism $\phi_1: S_1 \rightarrow S'_1$. Then there is a unique homeomorphism $\phi_\gamma: S_\gamma \rightarrow S'_\gamma$, $\gamma \in A * A'$ compatible with the identifications of $\tilde{M}_\gamma, \tilde{M}'_\gamma$ and ϕ_1 .

PROPOSITION 2.1.1. $X = \tilde{M}_{[\gamma]} \cup_{\phi_\gamma; \gamma \in A * A'} \tilde{M}'_{[\gamma]'}$, is the universal cover of $M_1 \cup_{\phi_1} M'_1 = M \# M'$.

PROOF. The projection map from X to $M \# M'$ is the obvious one.

To describe the action of $A * A'$ on X : For each $[\gamma] \in A * A'/A$, there is a unique $\gamma_0 \in A * A'$ such that $[\gamma_0] = [\gamma]$ and the (syllable) length of γ_0 is minimal. Denote the homeomorphism from $\tilde{M}_{[\gamma]}$ to \tilde{M}_1 by H_{γ_0} . For $a \in A$, define $H_{\gamma_0 a}$ to be the composite

$$\tilde{M}_{[\gamma]} \xrightarrow{H_{\gamma_0}} \tilde{M}_1 \xrightarrow{a^{-1}} \tilde{M}_1.$$

Then H_γ is defined for all $\gamma \in A * A'$. Similarly for $H'_\gamma: \tilde{M}'_{[\gamma]} \rightarrow \tilde{M}'_1$. Then the action of $A * A'$ on X is defined by: if $\alpha \in A * A'$, then $\nu_\alpha: X \rightarrow X$ is given by

$$\nu_\alpha|_{\tilde{M}_{[\gamma]}} = H_{\alpha[\gamma]}^{-1} \circ H_{[\gamma]}, \quad \nu_\alpha|_{\tilde{M}'_{[\gamma]'}} = H_{\alpha[\gamma]}'^{-1} \circ H'_{[\gamma]'}$$

It is a straightforward calculation to verify that X is the universal cover of $M \# M'$ and the ν_α give the left action of $A * A'$ on X as covering transformations. \square

2.2. Assume now that \tilde{M} and \tilde{M}' are Euclidean n -space, $n > 2$. This section provides an embedding of $\tilde{M} \# \tilde{M}'$ in S^n in such a way that S^n can be identified with the Freudenthal end point compactification of $\tilde{M} \# \tilde{M}'$.

Since \tilde{M} is homeomorphic to R^n and S^n is the one point compactification of R^n , there is an embedding of \tilde{M}_1 in S^n . Similarly there is an embedding of \tilde{M}'_1 in S^n . Recall that $\partial\tilde{M}_1 = \bigcup_{a \in A} S_a^{n-1}$. Each S_a^{n-1} bounds a disk in $S^n - \tilde{M}_1$. Call the disk bounded by S_a^{n-1} , D_a^n . Embed \tilde{M}'_1 in D_1 so that the embedding of $S'_1 \subset \tilde{M}'_1$ in S^n is compatible with the embedding of $S_1 \subset \tilde{M}_1$ in S^n . Then

$$S^n - (\tilde{M}_1 \cup_{\phi_1} \tilde{M}'_1) = \left(\bigcup_{\substack{a \in A \text{ or} \\ a \in A': a \neq 1}} D_a \right) \cup P_{[1]} \cup P_{[1]'}$$

where $P_{[1]}$ and $P_{[1]'}$ are points.

Suppose we have embedded $(\bigcup \tilde{M}_{[\gamma]}) \cup (\bigcup \tilde{M}'_{[\gamma]'})$ in S^n where the union is taken over all $[\gamma]$ with the length of γ_0 , $|\gamma_0|$, less than or equal to k . (See §2.1 for the definition of γ_0 .) Then

$$S^n - (\bigcup \tilde{M}_{[\gamma]}) \cup (\bigcup \tilde{M}'_{[\gamma]'}) = \left(\bigcup_{|\gamma_0|=k+1} D_{[\gamma]} \right) \cup \left(\bigcup_{|\gamma_0|=k+1} D_{[\gamma]}' \right) \\ \cup \left(\bigcup_{|\gamma_0| \leq k} P_{[\gamma]} \right) \cup \left(\bigcup_{|\gamma_0| \leq k} P_{[\gamma]}' \right).$$

There is, then, an obvious embedding of $\tilde{M}_{[\gamma]}$ and $\tilde{M}'_{[\gamma]}$ in $D_{[\gamma]}$ where $|\gamma_0| = k + 1$, which is compatible with the identifications in X . If the embeddings of $\tilde{M}_{[\gamma]}$ and $\tilde{M}'_{[\gamma]}$ in S^n are such that the disks formed at the k th stage have diameter $\leq \epsilon_k$ where $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \epsilon_k = 0$, then $S^n - X = K$ is a cantor set. Further $K = P \cup D$ where

$$P = \left(\bigcup_{[\gamma] \in A * A' / A} P_{[\gamma]} \right) \cup \left(\bigcup_{[\gamma]' \in A * A' / A'} P_{[\gamma]'} \right)$$

and

$$D = \bigcup_{\{\gamma_i\}_{i=1}^{\infty}} \left(\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} D_{\gamma_i} \right)$$

where the union in the latter set is taken over all sequences $\{\gamma_i\}_{i=1}^{\infty}$ where $\gamma_i \in A * A'$, $|\gamma_i| = i$ and $\gamma_{i+1} = \gamma_i a$ or $\gamma_{i+1} = \gamma_i a'$, $a \in A$, $a' \in A'$ —whichever one is in reduced form. Call such a sequence $\{\gamma_i\}$ admissible. Notice that P is dense in K . We shall consider $P_{[1]}$ as the base point of K .

Finally notice that the action of $A * A'$ on $\widetilde{M \# M'}$ extends naturally to an action on K by the formulae: if $\alpha \in A * A'$, then

$$\begin{aligned} \nu_{\alpha}(P_{[\gamma]}) &= P_{[\alpha\gamma]}, & \nu_{\alpha}(P_{[\gamma]'}) &= P_{[\alpha\gamma]'}, \\ \nu_{\alpha} \left(\bigcap_i D_{\gamma_i} \right) &= \bigcap_{i>k} D_{\alpha\gamma_i} & \text{where } k &\text{ is such that } |\alpha\gamma_k| \text{ is the minimal length} \\ & & &\text{of any } \alpha\gamma_i. \end{aligned}$$

The following results will be needed later.

PROPOSITION 2.2.1. *Let $\alpha \in A * A'$ act on K as above. Then the fixed point set of α restricted to K is*

- (i) *if $\alpha = \beta a \beta^{-1}$ for some $1 \neq a \in A$, then the fixed point set is $P_{[\beta]}$;*
- (ii) *if $\alpha = \beta a' \beta^{-1}$ for some $1 \neq a' \in A'$, then the fixed point set is $P_{[\beta]'}$;*
- (iii) *if $\alpha = \beta \omega \beta^{-1}$ for some $\omega \in A * A'$, where $|\omega| > 1$ and $|\beta|$ is maximal for such a representation then the fixed point set is $\bigcap_i D_{\gamma_i}$ where $\{\gamma_i\}$ is the admissible sequence containing the words $\gamma \omega^i$ for all i .*

PROOF. Suppose that $\alpha \in A * A'$ satisfies $\alpha(P_{[\gamma]}) = P_{[\gamma]}$, then $P_{[\alpha\gamma]} = \alpha P_{[\gamma]} = P_{[\gamma]}$ implies there exists $a \in A$ such that $\alpha\gamma = \gamma a$; that is $\alpha = \gamma a \gamma^{-1}$. Similarly, $\alpha(P_{[\gamma]'}) = P_{[\gamma]'}$ implies there exists an $a' \in A'$ such that $\alpha = \gamma a' \gamma^{-1}$. So the only elements $\alpha \in A * A'$ that fix an element of P are of the form $\gamma x \gamma^{-1}$ for $x \in A$ or $x \in A'$. Suppose $\alpha(\bigcap_i D_{\gamma_i}) = \bigcap_i D_{\gamma_i}$ for $\{\gamma_i\}$ an admissible sequence, and $\alpha = \gamma x \gamma^{-1}$, $x \in A$ or $x \in A'$. Then, since $|\alpha^2| = |\alpha|$, we would have for some i large enough, $\alpha^2 \gamma_i = \alpha \gamma_i$. This

implies that $\alpha = 1$. This proves parts (i) and (ii). Suppose $\alpha = \beta\omega\beta^{-1}$ where $|\omega| > 1$ and $|\beta|$ is maximal. Then, by the above, α does not fix any point of P . If $\alpha(\bigcap_i D_{\gamma_i}) = \bigcap_i D_{\gamma_i}$, let n be an integer such that $\{\alpha\gamma_i\}_{i=n}^\infty$ is an admissible sequence. Then the sequence $\{\alpha\gamma_i\}_{i=n}^\infty$ contains the sequence $\{\alpha^k\gamma_n\}_{k=1}^\infty$. Since $|\omega| > 1$, this implies that $\{\alpha\gamma_i\}_{i=n}^\infty$ contains the sequence $\{\gamma\omega^i\}_{i=1}^\infty$. \square

COROLLARY 2.2.2. $\tilde{H}^0(K; Z)$ is isomorphic to $Z(A * A')$ as $Z(A * A')$ modules, where \tilde{H}^* denotes reduced Čech cohomology with $Z(A * A')$ module structure induced by the action of $A * A'$ on K , and $Z(A * A')$ is a $Z(A * A')$ module by left multiplication.

PROOF. We interpret $\tilde{H}^0(X, Z)$ as the Z -module of locally constant functions from X to Z whose value on the base point of X is 0. The $Z(A * A')$ structure is given by: if $\alpha \in A * A'$ and $f: X \rightarrow Z$ is locally constant, then $\alpha f(x) = f(\alpha x)$.

Notation. If $1 \neq \alpha \in A * A'$ let $(\alpha) \in A * A'$ be the word obtained from α by deleting the last syllable in the reduced form of α . (If $\alpha \in A$ or A' , define $(\alpha) = 1$.)

Let $f \in \tilde{H}^0(K, Z)$ be a locally constant function from K to Z . Define

$$\chi: \tilde{H}^0(K, Z) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_Z(Z(A * A'), Z)$$

by $\chi(f)(1) = f(P_1)$, $\chi(f)(\alpha) = f(P_\alpha) - f(P_{(\alpha)})$ for $\alpha \neq 1$. (I am abusing notation here. I should write $\chi(f)(\alpha) = f(P_{[\alpha]}) - f(P_{[(\alpha)]})$ if α ends with an element of A' , $= f(P_{[\alpha]}) - f(P_{[(\alpha)]})$ if α ends with an element of A .)

LEMMA. Image $\chi \subset \text{Hom}_Z^c(Z(A * A'), Z)$ —the submodule of functions $\phi: Z(A * A') \rightarrow Z$ such that $\phi(\alpha) = 0$ for all but a finite number of $\alpha \in A * A'$.

PROOF. If $P_{\gamma_1}, P_{\gamma_2}, \dots$ is an infinite sequence of distinct points in P such that $\chi(f)(\gamma_i) \neq 0$ for each i , then some subsequence of P_γ 's converges to a point $k \in K$. To avoid cumbersome notation call this new sequence $P_{\gamma_1}, P_{\gamma_2}, \dots$. Then $\{P_{\gamma_i}\}$ lies eventually in any disk D_γ , $k \in D_\gamma$. Then $\{P_{\gamma_i}\}$ and $\{P_{(\gamma_i)}\}$ lie eventually in any disk D_γ containing k .

Since f is locally constant, we may choose D_γ small enough so that $f|_{D_\gamma}$ is constant. Then $f(P_{\gamma_i}) = f(P_{(\gamma_i)})$ for i large enough. So $\chi(f)(\gamma_i) = f(P_{(\gamma_i)}) - f(P_{(\gamma_i)}) = 0$ for i large enough, contradicting the choice of γ_i . \square

Claim. χ is an isomorphism of $Z(\pi)$ modules:

(a) χ is one to one: If $f \neq g$, $f, g \in \tilde{H}^0(K, Z)$, then $f|_P \neq g|_P$ since P is dense in K . So there exists a $P_\gamma \in P$, $|\gamma|$ minimal such that $f(P_\gamma) \neq g(P_\gamma)$. If $\gamma = 1$, then $\chi(f)(1) = f(P_1) \neq g(P_1) = \chi(g)(1)$. If $|\gamma| \geq 1$, then, $f(P_{(\gamma)}) = g(P_{(\gamma)})$ from the choice of γ . So

$$\chi(f)(\gamma) = f(P_\gamma) - f(P_{(\gamma)}) = f(P_\gamma) - g(P_{(\gamma)}) \neq g(P_\gamma) - g(P_{(\gamma)}) = \chi(g)(\gamma).$$

That is $\chi(f) \neq \chi(g)$.

(b) χ is onto.

If $F \in \text{Hom}_Z^c(Z(A * A'), Z)$, define, for $P_\gamma \in P$, $f(P_\gamma) = \sum_\alpha F(\alpha)$ where the sum is taken over all α obtained from γ by successively deleting the last n terms of γ where $0 \leq n \leq |\gamma|$. It is elementary to show that f has an extension to K that is a locally constant map from K to Z . Then

$$\chi(f)(\gamma) = f(P_\gamma) - f(P_{(\gamma)}) = F(\gamma)$$

that is $\chi(f) = F$.

(c) χ is a $Z(A * A')$ homomorphism. The proof is straightforward. This completes the proof since of course $\text{Hom}_Z^c(Z(A * A'), Z) \approx Z(A * A')$ as $Z(A * A')$ modules. \square

2.3. This section completes the demonstration that if $\widetilde{M} = R^n$ and $\widetilde{M}' = R^n$, then the Freudenthal end point compactification of $\widetilde{M} \# \widetilde{M}'$ is S^n . The general reference for this is [4].

In [4], Raymond constructs a natural topology on the ends $E(X)$ of a space X and characterizes the natural topology on $X \cup E(X) = F(X)$, the Freudenthal end point compactification of X . Using this result [4, p. 949] it is easy to see that $S^n = X \cup K$ is the Freudenthal end point compactification of X , where X and K are as in §2.2.

The primary feature of the end point compactification that we will use is:

PROPOSITION 2.3.1 (RAYMOND). *Let X be a connected, locally connected, locally compact Hausdorff space. Let $h: X \rightarrow X$ be a homeomorphism. Then h has a unique extension $H: F(X) \rightarrow F(X)$.*

PROOF (using the notation of [4]). Define H as follows:

If V_α is an open set with compact closure, then so is $h(V_\alpha) = V_{\alpha'}$. h takes the unbounded components of $X - \overline{V}_\alpha$ onto the unbounded components of $X - \overline{V}_{\alpha'}$. Furthermore, we have the commutative diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A_\beta & \xrightarrow{\pi_\alpha^\beta} & A_\alpha \\ \downarrow h & & \downarrow h \\ A_{\beta'} & \xrightarrow{\pi_{\alpha'}^{\beta'}} & A_{\alpha'} \end{array}$$

We thus have a map $h': B \rightarrow B$ which is one to one, onto and continuous, since $h|_{A_\alpha}$ is. Since B is compact, h' is a homeomorphism.

Define $H: F(X) \rightarrow F(X)$ by $H|_X = h$, $H|_B = h'$, H is clearly the unique extension of h . \square

III. The example.

3.1. In [1], Conner and Raymond constructed closed four dimensional manifolds, $L(k)$, $k \geq 2$, with the property that every finite group which acts on an $L(k)$ must act freely. These manifolds are $K(\pi, 1)$'s—Eilenberg-Mac Lane spaces of type $(\pi, 1)$. Set $\pi_1 L(k) = L(k)$. The properties of these manifolds that we will use are summarized in

PROPOSITION 3.1.1 (SEE [1]). (1) $\widetilde{L}(k) = R^4$. (2) $\text{Aut } L(k)$ is torsion free. (3) $L(k)$ and $L(k')$ are not isomorphic for $k \neq k'$.

Main Theorem. If $h: L(k) \# L(k') \rightarrow L(k) \# L(k')$, $k \neq k'$ is a periodic homeomorphism, then $h = \text{id}$. Hence no compact Lie group acts effectively on $L(k) \# L(k')$.

PROOF. Suppose h is a nontrivial periodic homeomorphism of $L(k) \# L(k')$ of period p , a prime. Then h lifts to a homeomorphism \tilde{h} of $X = \widetilde{L(k) \# L(k')}$. The discussion in II established that $F(X) = S^4$; i.e. S^4 is the Freudenthal end point compactification of X . So by Proposition 2.3.1, \tilde{h} extends uniquely to a homeomorphism H of S^4 . (H is a homeomorphism, since \tilde{h}^{-1} has a unique extension, H^{-1} to S^4 .) That is we have the following commutative diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 S^4 & \xrightarrow{H} & S^4 \\
 \downarrow \text{J} & & \downarrow \text{J} \\
 \widetilde{L(k) \# L(k')} & \xrightarrow{\tilde{h}} & \widetilde{L(k) \# L(k')} \\
 \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 L(k) \# L(k') & \xrightarrow{h} & L(k) \# L(k')
 \end{array}$$

Of course, neither \tilde{h} nor H need be, a fortiori, periodic. However \tilde{h} does provide a Z_p extension, Λ , of $L(k) * L(k')$, that does act on S^4 ; namely $0 \rightarrow L(k) * L(k') \rightarrow \Lambda \rightarrow Z_p \rightarrow 1$ with data

$$\Phi: Z_p \rightarrow \text{Out}(L(k) * L(k')), \text{ a homomorphism,}$$

$$f: Z_p \times Z_p \rightarrow L(k) * L(k'), \text{ a function,}$$

satisfying certain compatibility conditions (see [1] and [2]). Φ is determined by:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \Phi(1) = h_*: \pi_1(L(k) \# L(k'), x) & \rightarrow & \pi_1(L(k) \# L(k'), h(x)) \\
 \cong & & \cong \\
 L(k) * L(k') & & L(k) * L(k')
 \end{array}$$

Notice that since h does not have, in general, a fixed point, h_* is only determined up to an inner automorphism of $L(k) * L(k')$.

Congruence classes of extensions are classified by

$$H^2_{\mathbb{Q}}(Z_p, \text{Center}(L(k) * L(k'))) = 0,$$

since $\text{center}(A * B) = 0$ for any nontrivial A and B .

LEMMA. $\Phi: Z_p \rightarrow \text{Out}(L(k) * L(k'))$ is the zero map.

PROOF. Certainly $L(k)$ and $L(k')$ are prime groups (see §1.1 for definition). Then Proposition 3.1.1 and Corollary 1.1.2 show that $\text{Out}(L(k) * L(k'))$ is torsion free. \square

Therefore Λ is the unique Z_p extension of $L(k) * L(k')$ with data $\Phi = 0$. Therefore $\Lambda \approx (L(k) * L(k')) \oplus Z_p$, i.e. Z_p acts on S^4 . Hence

PROPOSITION 3.1.2. *There exists a lift \tilde{h} of h , and therefore an H that is periodic with period p and that commutes with the action of $L(k) * L(k')$.*

Using the notation of §2.2: $S^4 = F(X) = X \cup K$ and $K = P \cup D$.

PROPOSITION 3.1.3. $H|_K = \text{identity}$.

PROOF. We only use the fact that H commutes with the action of $L(k) * L(k')$ on K .

Consider $P_{[1]} \in P$.

Case 1. $H(P_{[1]}) \in P$ and $H(P_{[1]'}) \in P$.

(a) Suppose $H(P_{[1]}) = P_{[\alpha]}$ and $H(P_{[1]'}) = P_{[\alpha]'}$. Then for $l \in L(k)$:

$$P_{[l\alpha]} = \nu_l P_{[\alpha]} = \nu_l H(P_{[1]}) = H\nu_l P_{[1]} = HP_{[l]} = HP_{[1]} = P_{[\alpha]}.$$

That is $[\alpha] = [l\alpha]$. This implies that there exists an $l_1 \in L(k)$ such that $\alpha = l\alpha_1^{-1}$; that is $\alpha l_1 \alpha^{-1} \in L(k)$. By [3, p. 187] $\alpha \in L(k)$; that is $[\alpha] = [1]$. Therefore $H(P_{[1]}) = P_{[1]}$. Similarly $H(P_{[1]'}) = P_{[1]'}$. Then

$$H(P_{[\gamma]}) = H\nu_{\gamma} P_{[1]} = \nu_{\gamma} H(P_{[1]}) = \nu_{\gamma} P_{[1]} = P_{[\gamma]}$$

and $H(P_{[\gamma]'}) = P_{[\gamma]'}$, $\forall \gamma \in L(k) * L(k')$. So $H|_P = \text{identity}$. Since P is dense in K , $H|_K = \text{identity}$.

(b) Suppose $H(P_{[1]}) = P_{[\alpha]'}$. A similar argument to part (a) establishes that this case never occurs.

Case 2. Suppose $H(P_{[1]}) \in D$. Notice by Proposition 2.2.1; if $l \in L(k)$ then $\nu_l(\bigcap_i D_{\gamma_i}) \neq (\bigcap_i D_{\gamma_i})$. Then, if $H(P_{[1]}) = \bigcap_i D_{\gamma_i}$; $\nu_l(\bigcap_i D_{\gamma_i}) = \nu_l H(P_{[1]}) = H\nu_l(P_{[1]}) = HP_{[l]} = HP_{[1]} = \bigcap_i D_{\gamma_i}$. Contradiction. So $H(P_{[1]}) \notin D$. \square

Since H is periodic of period p , a prime, Smith theory implies that F , the fixed point set of H , is a generalized Z_p cohomology manifold, with the

Z_p -cohomology of a k -sphere, $k < 4$.

Proposition 3.1.3 may be restated as $K \subset F$. That is, the fixed point set of \tilde{h} is $F - K$. Since H and $L(k) * L(k')$ commute (Proposition 3.1.2), $F - K$ is invariant under the action of $L(k) * L(k')$, and hence $L(k) * L(k')$ acts freely on $F - K$. So

$$\begin{array}{ccc} L(k) * L(k') \rightarrow F - K & \text{is a covering, where} & \\ \downarrow & N \text{ is the fixed point set} & \\ N & \text{of } h. & \end{array}$$

The spectral sequence of this covering has

$$E_{s,t}^2 = H_s(L(k) * L(k'); H_t(F - K; Z_p)) \Rightarrow H_{s+t}(N; Z_p)$$

where the homology of spaces is Čech homology and $H_t(F - K; Z_p)$ is a module over $Z(L(k) * L(k'))$ in the obvious manner. Alexander duality implies $\tilde{H}_t(F - K; Z_p) = \tilde{H}^{k-t-1}(K; Z_p)$ where the tilde denotes reduced Čech homology or cohomology. By Corollary 2.2.2 and since K is zero dimensional

$$\tilde{H}_t(F - K; Z_p) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } t \neq k - 1, \\ Z(L * L') \otimes Z_p & \text{if } t = k - 1. \end{cases}$$

LEMMA. $H_r(L(k) * L(k'); H_{k-1}(F - K; Z_p)) = 0$ for $r \geq 1$.

PROOF. This follows easily from the fact that $H_r(\pi; Z(\pi)) = 0$ for $r \geq 1$ where $Z(\pi)$ is a free $Z(\pi)$ module by multiplication on the left. For then the short exact sequence of $Z(L(k) * L(k'))$ modules

$$0 \rightarrow Z(L(k) * L(k')) \xrightarrow{\mu} Z(L(k) * L(k')) \rightarrow Z_p(L(k) * L(k')) \rightarrow 0$$

(μ is induced by multiplication by $p: Z \rightarrow Z$) yields a long exact sequence with low terms

$$0 \rightarrow H_1(L(k) * L(k'); H_{k-1}(F - K; Z_p)) \rightarrow Z \xrightarrow{\times p} Z \rightarrow \dots$$

so that $H_1(L(k) * L(k'), H_{k-1}(F - K; Z_p)) = 0$. For higher values of r , the result is, of course, easier. \square

Assume $k = \dim F > 1$. Then the only possible nonzero terms in the spectral sequence are $E_{s,t}^2$, where (a) $t = 0$ or (b) $s = 0$ and $t = k - 1$. Since $L(k) * L(k')$ acts trivially on $H_0(F - K; Z_p) = Z_p$, $E_{s,0}^2 = H_s(L(k) * L(k'); Z_p)$. In particular $E_{4,0}^2 \neq 0$. The only possibly nonzero differential from $E_{4,0}^2$ is $d^2: E_{4,0}^2 \rightarrow E_{4-k,k-1}^2$. But since $k < 4$, $4 - k \neq 0$, so $E_{4-k,k-1}^2 = 0$ and $d^2 = 0$. Therefore $0 \neq E_{4,0}^2 = E_{4,0}^\infty = H_4(N; Z_p)$. On the other hand, N , the fixed point set of h , is a generalized manifold of dimension $k < 4$, so that $H_4(N; Z_p) = 0$. Contradiction.

Assume, now, that $k = \dim F = 1$ (notice: $K \subset F \Rightarrow \dim F \geq 1$). Then the only possibly nonzero terms at the E^2 level are $E_{s,0}^2$. Again $E_{s,0}^2 = 0$ for $s \geq 1$; in particular $E_{1,0}^2 = 0$. On the other hand, $H_1(N; Z_2) \neq 0$, since N is a (nonempty) bouquet of 1-spheres. But this is a contradiction, since $E_{1,0}^2 = E_{1,0}^\infty = H_1(N; Z_2)$. Thus the assumption that $\dim F = k < 4$ is incorrect. That is, h is the identity. \square

REMARKS. 1. Glen Bredon has observed that a proof that no periodic map exists on L can avoid any mention of the Freudenthal end point compactification. Indeed it is an elementary computation. I have felt justified in presenting this proof because the results and calculations of the ends seemed intrinsically interesting and also because it seemed to be in the spirit of the Smith approach to understanding periodic maps on covering spaces.

2. Conner and Raymond's example, $L(k)$, can easily be generalized to all higher dimensions, as can the construction and proof of the present paper. That is closed manifolds without any symmetry exist in all dimensions higher than three. I feel it would be interesting to construct a three dimensional example. A three dimensional example like those of Conner and Raymond would surely suffice.

3. All the examples known to me depend upon a result of Borel on aspherical spaces. This forces the present methods to yield examples with non-trivial fundamental group. Entirely different methods would be needed to construct simply connected manifolds.

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DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS, UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA, CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA 22903