

## THE RADIANCE OBSTRUCTION AND PARALLEL FORMS ON AFFINE MANIFOLDS

BY

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**ABSTRACT.** A manifold  $M$  is affine if it is endowed with a distinguished atlas whose coordinate changes are locally affine. When they are locally linear  $M$  is called radiant. The obstruction to radiance is a one-dimensional class  $c_M$  with coefficients in the flat tangent bundle of  $M$ . Exterior powers of  $c_M$  give information on the existence of parallel forms on  $M$ , especially parallel volume forms. As applications, various kinds of restrictions are found on the holonomy and topology of compact affine manifolds.

**Introduction.** An affine manifold  $M$  is a manifold with a distinguished maximal atlas of charts, all of whose coordinate changes are locally affine. On such a manifold there is an intrinsic notion of a parallel tensor: one whose components in any affine chart are constants. More generally there is the notion of a polynomial tensor field of given degree.

In 1962, L. Markus conjectured in [Mk] that a compact orientable affine  $n$ -dimensional manifold has parallel volume form if and only if it is complete (meaning that its universal covering is affinely isomorphic to Euclidean  $n$ -space  $\mathbf{R}^n$ ). The problem of constructing a parallel volume form determines an  $n$ -dimensional twisted real cohomology class originally studied by J. Smillie [Sm2]. In this paper we express this class as the  $n$ th exterior power of a twisted one-dimensional real class which we call the radiance obstruction  $c_M$ . By computing  $c_M$  in various cohomology theories—Čech, singular, de Rham, and others—we are able to exploit  $c_M$  in several ways to yield more information on the structure of affine manifolds. Some of these results will appear in a subsequent paper [GH3].

The basic tool used is a formula, proved in §2.6, which expresses the cohomology class of a parallel exterior  $k$ -form in terms of the  $k$ th exterior power of the radiance obstruction,  $\Lambda^k c_M$ . In §2.7 the special case of a parallel volume form on a compact  $n$ -dimensional manifold  $M$  is examined: the existence of such a form implies that  $\Lambda^n c_M \neq 0$ . In §2.8 we show that the affine holonomy group  $\Gamma$  of such an  $M$  cannot preserve a proper affine subspace. (In [GH3] this result will be improved by showing that  $\Gamma$  preserves no proper semialgebraic subset of  $\mathbf{R}^n$ .)

In §2.10 we show that there tend to be plenty of parallel forms on a compact affine manifold with nilpotent affine holonomy.

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In §2.11 we extend slightly a theorem due originally to J. Smillie: If an affine manifold  $M$  has a parallel  $k$ -form  $\omega$  representing a nonzero cohomology class, then the affine holonomy cannot factor through a group having real cohomological dimension less than  $k$ . In particular if  $M$  has a parallel volume form, then the real cohomological dimension (rcd) of its fundamental group is at least equal to its dimension.

§2.12 develops another theme of Smillie's: If  $M$  admits a  $k$ -form  $\omega$  as above, then any open cover  $\mathcal{U}$  of  $M$  by radiant submanifolds has nerve of dimension  $\geq k$ . (See below for the definition of radiant.)

In §2.13 we use earlier results to rule out the existence of any affine structure with parallel volume on a compact manifold of the form  $B \times N$ , where  $N$  has finite fundamental group. If also the first Betti number of  $B$  is zero, then  $B \times N$  has no affine structure whatsoever.

In §2.14 we show that the affine holonomy of a compact manifold cannot factor through certain kinds of groups studied by Margulis. For example  $SL(n, \mathbf{Z})$ , for  $n \geq 3$ , is not the fundamental group of any compact affine manifold.

The earlier sections contain a systematic development of certain topological notions related to affine manifolds. It is useful to begin with affine representations of groups. If  $\alpha: G \rightarrow \text{Aff}(\mathbf{E})$  is such a representation (where  $\mathbf{E} = \mathbf{R}^n$ ), we call  $\alpha$  radiant if  $\alpha(G)$  fixes a point of  $\mathbf{E}$ . The obstruction to  $\alpha$  being radiant is a class  $c_\alpha \in H^1(G; \mathbf{E}_\lambda)$ , where  $\lambda: G \rightarrow \text{GL}(\mathbf{E})$  is the linear part of  $\alpha$ . We call  $c_\alpha$  the radiance obstruction of  $\alpha$ .

If  $\pi$  is the fundamental group of a differentiable manifold  $M$ , then associated to an affine representation of  $\pi$  is a flat affine bundle  $\xi$  over  $M$ , and conversely. The radiance obstruction of  $\alpha$  maps into a twisted 1-dimensional class on  $M$ , called  $c(\xi)$ , the radiance obstruction of  $\xi$ . The vanishing of  $c(\xi)$  is equivalent to the bundle  $\xi$  having a global flat section; or equivalently, to  $\xi$  being isomorphic (*qua* flat affine bundle) to a flat vector bundle. When  $c(\xi) = 0$  we call  $\xi$  a radiant bundle.

These radiance obstructions for bundles and representations are the subjects of §1.

In §2 we commence the study of affine manifolds. The tangent vector bundle  $TM$  of an affine manifold  $M$  has a natural flat affine structure  $T^{\text{aff}}M$ . The radiance obstruction  $c_M$  of  $M$  is defined to be  $c(T^{\text{aff}}M)$ . Now  $TM$  also has a natural flat vector bundle structure. The latter is isomorphic *qua* flat bundle to  $T^{\text{aff}}M$  precisely when  $c_M = 0$ .

When  $c_M = 0$  we call  $M$  a radiant manifold. Geometrically this is equivalent to the existence of an atlas of affine charts whose coordinate changes are all *linear*.

These and other ideas are developed in §§2.1–2.5.

The radiance obstruction  $c_M$  was studied in the context of cohomology of groups in Hirsch [H] and in Fried, Goldman and Hirsch [FGH2]; compare also [FGH1].

In [GH3] the radiance obstruction will be examined in Lie algebra cohomology and in algebraic group cohomology, with further application to affine structures.

### 1. Flat affine bundles and cohomology.

1.1. *The radiance obstruction of an affine representation.* A map  $f: \mathbf{E} \rightarrow \mathbf{F}$  between real finite-dimensional vector spaces is *affine* if there exist a linear map  $A: \mathbf{E} \rightarrow \mathbf{F}$

and  $b \in \mathbf{F}$  such that  $f(x) = Ax + b$ . We call  $A$  the *linear part* and  $b$  the *translational part* of  $f$ .

The bijective affine maps of  $\mathbf{E}$  to itself form the group  $\text{Aff}(\mathbf{E})$  of *affine automorphisms* of  $\mathbf{E}$ . It is the semidirect product of the normal subgroup of translations (canonically identified with  $\mathbf{E}$ ) and the subgroup  $\text{GL}(\mathbf{E})$  of linear automorphisms. Notice that  $\mathbf{E}$  is the kernel of the homomorphism  $\text{Lin}: \text{Aff}(\mathbf{E}) \rightarrow \text{GL}(\mathbf{E})$  which assigns to each affine automorphism its linear part.

The map  $\text{Trans}: \text{Aff}(\mathbf{E}) \rightarrow \mathbf{E}$ , defined by taking translational parts, is not a homomorphism (unless  $\dim \mathbf{E} = 0$ ) but a crossed homomorphism, or cocycle, with values in the identity representation of  $\text{GL}(\mathbf{E})$ .

More generally let  $\alpha: G \rightarrow \text{Aff}(\mathbf{E})$  be an *affine representation* of  $G$  (i.e.  $\alpha$  is a homomorphism) with *linear part*

$$\lambda = \text{Lin} \circ \alpha: G \rightarrow \text{GL}(\mathbf{E})$$

and *translational part*

$$u = \text{Trans} \circ \alpha: G \rightarrow \mathbf{E}.$$

Then  $u$  is a 1-cocycle with values in the (linear) representation  $\lambda$  (or in the  $G$ -module  $\mathbf{E}_\lambda$ ). It therefore belongs to a cohomology class  $c_\alpha = [u] \in H^1(G; \mathbf{E}_\lambda)$ . We call  $c_\alpha$  the *radiance obstruction* of the affine representation  $\alpha$ . (Below we define radiance obstructions for affine bundles and affine manifolds.)

**PROPOSITION.** *Two affine representations having the same linear part are conjugate by a translation if and only if they have the same radiance obstruction.*

**PROOF.** Let  $\lambda: G \rightarrow \text{GL}(\mathbf{E})$  be the linear part of affine representations  $\alpha, \beta: G \rightarrow \text{GL}(\mathbf{E})$  whose translational parts are  $u, v: G \rightarrow \mathbf{E}$ . Then  $c_\alpha = c_\beta$  precisely when  $u - v$  is a principal crossed homomorphism, i.e. when there exists  $a \in \mathbf{E}$  such that  $u(g) - v(g) = a - \lambda(g)a$  for all  $g \in G$ . This is equivalent to  $\tau_a^{-1}\alpha(g)\tau_a = \beta(g)$ , where  $\tau_a$  denotes translation by  $a$ . Q.E.D.

**COROLLARY.** *An affine representation has a stationary point if and only if the radiance obstruction vanishes.*

1.2. *Holonomy of flat bundles.* Let  $\xi = (p, E, B, G, X, \Phi)$  be a fibre bundle with total space  $E$ , base  $B$ , projection  $p: E \rightarrow B$ , topological structure group  $G$  acting effectively on the standard fibre  $X$ , and structure atlas  $\Phi$ .

To say that  $\Phi$  is an atlas means that  $\Phi$  is a set of homeomorphisms  $\Phi_i: p^{-1}U_i \rightarrow U_i \times X$  (indexed for convenience), where  $\{U_i\}$  is an open cover of  $B$ . For  $x \in U_i$  define  $\Phi_{i,x}: p^{-1}(x) \rightarrow X$  by  $\Phi_i(y) = (x, \Phi_{i,x}y)$ . There are continuous *transition maps*  $g_{ij}: U_i \cap U_j \rightarrow G$  such that for  $x \in U_i \cap U_j$ , the homeomorphism  $\Phi_{i,x}\Phi_{j,x}^{-1}: X \rightarrow X$  coincides with the action of  $g_{ij}(x)$ . When  $G$  acts effectively on  $X$  we have, for  $x \in U_i \cap U_j \cap U_k$ ,

$$g_{ij}(x)g_{jk}(x)g_{ki}(x) = 1 \in G$$

(the identity element) and also  $g_{ii}(x) = 1$ .

A *structure atlas* is a maximal atlas.

We call  $\xi$  a *flat bundle* if  $G$  is a discrete group. In this case the transition maps are locally constant. There is then a subatlas whose transition maps  $g_{ij}$  are constant, i.e.,  $g_{ij} \in G$ . If  $G$  acts effectively we obtain a family  $\{g_{ij}\}$  of elements of  $G$  satisfying  $g_{ij}g_{jk}g_{ki} = 1 = g_{ii}$ . We call such a family a *cocycle* with values in  $G$ .

Suppose now that  $G$  is not necessarily discrete. Let  $G^\delta$  be the group  $G$  with the discrete topology. If  $\xi$  is a bundle with structure group  $G$ , a *flat structure* on  $\xi$  is a subatlas  $\Phi_0$  of the structure atlas  $\Phi$  such that  $\Phi_0$  is the structure atlas for a  $G^\delta$  bundle. In other words, a flat structure on  $\xi$  is determined by an atlas having locally constant transition maps. The same bundle can have many inequivalent flat structures.

Let  $\xi$  be a flat bundle as above. A section  $s: U \rightarrow E$  of  $\xi$  over an open set  $U \subset B$  is called *flat (or parallel)* if for every local trivialization  $(\phi_i, U_i)$  the composition

$$U \cap U_i \rightarrow p^{-1}U_i \xrightarrow{\phi_i} U_i \times X \rightarrow X$$

is locally constant.

If  $U \subset U_i$  is a connected open set and  $y \in p^{-1}U$ , then there is a unique flat section over  $U_i$  through  $y$ , namely the composition

$$U \rightarrow U_i \xrightarrow{(\text{id}, y)} U_i \times Y \xrightarrow{\phi_i^{-1}} p^{-1}U_i.$$

It is readily proved that  $\xi$  has a global flat section if and only if its structure group can be reduced to a subgroup fixing a point of  $X$ .

Suppose now that the flat bundle  $\xi$  is a *smooth bundle*:  $E, B$  and  $X$  are manifolds,  $G$  acts on  $X$  by diffeomorphisms and the maps  $p, \phi_i$  are smooth (we need only consider the  $C^\infty$  case). Then there is a unique foliation  $\mathcal{F} = \mathcal{F}(\xi)$  of  $E$  obtained as follows: If  $(\phi_i, U_i) \in \Phi$  and  $U_i$  is connected, then  $\mathcal{F}|_{p^{-1}U_i}$  has as leaves the images of the flat sections over  $U_i$ . These foliations induce the same foliation on  $p^{-1}U_i \cap p^{-1}U_j$ ; thus  $\mathcal{F}$  is well defined.

It is easy to see that each leaf  $L$  of  $\mathcal{F}$ , in its manifold topology, is a covering space of  $B$  via  $p|_L: L \rightarrow B$ ; and the inclusion  $L \rightarrow E$  is an immersion transverse to the fibres of  $\xi$ .

Let  $\lambda: [0, 1] \rightarrow B$  be a path from  $b_0$  to  $b_1$ . Given a point  $y$  in the fibre  $E_{b_0}$  over  $b_0$ , there is a unique lift  $\lambda_y: [0, 1] \rightarrow E$  of  $\lambda$  into the leaf through  $y$  such that  $\lambda_y(0) = y$  and  $p \circ \lambda_y = \lambda$ . Define  $h_\lambda(y) = \lambda_y(1)$ . In this way a map  $h_\lambda: E_{b_0} \rightarrow E_{b_1}$  is obtained. The covering homotopy property for covering spaces ensures that  $h_\lambda$  depends only on the homotopy class (rel endpoints)  $[\lambda]$  of  $\lambda$ . In local trivializations  $h_\lambda$  appears as a diffeomorphism of  $X$  corresponding to some element of  $G$ .

It is easy to see that when  $b_0 = b_1 = b$  we obtain a homomorphism

$$h_b: \pi_1(B, b) \rightarrow \text{Diff}(E_b)$$

into the group of diffeomorphisms of  $E_b$ , defined by  $h_b([\lambda])(y) = h_\lambda(y)$ .

For  $(\phi_i, U_i) \in \Phi$  and  $b \in U_i$  we define a homomorphism

$$h_{i,b}: \pi_1(B, b) \rightarrow \text{Diff}(Y), \quad [\lambda] \mapsto \phi_{i,b} \circ h_b(\lambda) \circ \phi_{i,b}^{-1}.$$

Then the image of  $h_{i,b}$  lies in the image of  $G$ . When  $G$  acts effectively we can uniquely lift  $h_{i,b}$  into  $G$ , obtaining a homomorphism  $\pi_1(B, b) \rightarrow G$ .

Now let  $g: \tilde{B} \rightarrow B$  be a universal cover and let  $\pi \subset \text{Diff } \tilde{B}$  be its group of deck transformations. Identify  $\pi$  with  $\pi_1(B, b)$  in the usual way (recall this depends on choosing a base point in  $g^{-1}(b)$ ). There results a homomorphism  $h: \pi \rightarrow G$  which depends on the choice of  $b$  and the choice of  $(\phi_i, U_i)$ . If  $h': \pi \rightarrow G$  is the homomorphism corresponding to different choices, then there exists a unique  $g \in G$  such that  $h'$  is the composition of  $h$  with conjugation by  $g$ . By abuse of language we call  $h$  the *holonomy* of  $\xi$ .

Conversely, every homomorphism  $h: \pi \rightarrow G$  determines a canonical flat bundle  $\eta = \eta(h)$  with holonomy  $h$ : the total space  $E(\eta)$  of  $\eta$  is the quotient of  $\tilde{B} \times X$  by the diagonal action of  $\pi$ . The leaves of the foliation  $\mathcal{F}(\eta)$  are the images in  $E(\eta)$  of the sets  $\tilde{B} \times \{x\}$ . If  $h$  is the holonomy of  $\xi$ , then  $\xi$  and  $\eta(h)$  are canonically isomorphic bundles.

1.3. *Affine bundles, vector bundles, derived bundles.* Let  $\mathbf{E}$  denote the vector space  $\mathbf{R}^n$ . A bundle with standard fibre  $\mathbf{E}$  is an affine bundle if the structure group is  $\text{Aff}(\mathbf{E})$ ; it is a *vector bundle* if the group is  $\text{GL}(\mathbf{E})$ .

Fix an affine bundle  $\xi = (p, E, B)$ . A *translation* of a fibre  $E_b, b \in B$ , is a map  $E_b \rightarrow E_b$  which corresponds to a translation of  $\mathbf{E}$  when  $E_b$  and  $\mathbf{E}$  are identified by a local trivialization. The set of translations of  $E_b$  is a group under composition, isomorphic to  $\mathbf{E}$  (but not canonically) via local trivialization. Thus the translations of  $E_b$  form a vector space, denoted by  $E_b^L$ .

Let  $E^L = \bigcup_{b \in B} E_b^L$ . Define  $p^L: E^L \rightarrow B$  by sending  $E_b^L$  to  $b$ . In a natural way this map is the projection of a vector bundle, called the *derived bundle*  $\xi^L$  of  $\xi$ .

Suppose  $\xi$  is a flat affine bundle with a cocycle  $\{g_{ij}\}$  and a holonomy homomorphism  $h: \pi \rightarrow \text{Aff}(\mathbf{E})$ . Then  $\xi^L$  is a flat vector bundle, with a cocycle  $\{\text{Lin}(g_{ij})\}$  and a holonomy homomorphism  $h' = \text{Lin} \circ h: \pi \rightarrow \text{GL}(\mathbf{E})$ . We also call  $h'$  the *linear holonomy* of  $\xi$ .

1.4. *Radiant bundles.* A subtle question of structure arises here. Every vector bundle can be considered an affine bundle by means of the natural inclusion  $i: \text{GL}(\mathbf{E}) \rightarrow \text{Aff}(\mathbf{E})$ . Since the composition  $i \circ \text{Lin}: \text{Aff}(\mathbf{E}) \rightarrow \text{Aff}(\mathbf{E})$  is homotopic to the identity through homomorphisms, it follows that an affine bundle  $\xi$  is isomorphic, as an affine bundle, to its derived bundle  $\xi^L$ . An explicit affine isomorphism  $F: \xi \rightarrow \xi^L$  is easily defined. Let  $s: B \rightarrow \xi$  be any section of  $\xi$ . For  $b \in B$  and  $y \in \xi_b$  let  $F(y)$  be the unique translation of  $\xi_b$  taking  $s(b)$  to  $y$ . Then  $F: \xi \rightarrow \xi^L$  is an isomorphism of affine bundles.

When  $\xi$  is a flat affine bundle, however,  $\xi^L$  is a flat vector bundle which is *not* generally isomorphic to  $\xi$  as a flat bundle. In later sections we will measure the difference between a flat affine bundle and its derived flat vector bundle by a cohomology class. The following result describes the case where they are isomorphic:

**PROPOSITION.** *Let  $\xi$  be a flat affine bundle. Then the following conditions are equivalent:*

- (a)  $\xi$  has a flat section;
- (b)  $\xi$  is isomorphic to  $\xi^L$  as a flat affine bundle;

- (c)  $\xi$  is isomorphic to some flat vector bundle considered as an affine bundle;
- (d) the affine holonomy representation  $h: \pi \rightarrow \text{Aff}(E)$  of  $\xi$  has a stationary point in  $E$ .

PROOF. The affine isomorphism  $\xi \rightarrow \xi^L$  constructed above from a section of  $\xi$  is an isomorphism of flat bundles if the section is flat. Thus (a)  $\Rightarrow$  (b), and (b)  $\Rightarrow$  (c) is obvious. Since every flat vector bundle has a flat section, namely its zero section, (c)  $\Rightarrow$  (a). Finally (a)  $\Leftrightarrow$  (d), since flat sections correspond to stationary points of the affine holonomy representation  $\pi \rightarrow \text{Aff}(E)$ . Q.E.D.

A *radiant bundle* is defined to be a flat affine bundle  $\xi$  enjoying properties (a)–(d) of the proposition above.

It is easy to construct nonradiant flat affine bundles. An example is the bundle over the circle  $S^1$  corresponding to any homomorphism  $\pi_1(S^1) = \mathbf{Z} \rightarrow \text{Aff}(E)$  generated by an affine automorphism without a stationary point.

1.5. *Embedding affine bundles in vector bundles.* It is sometimes useful to *embed* an affine  $\xi$  bundle in a vector bundle  $\xi^J$  having one more fibre dimension. Let  $\Phi = \{ \phi_i, U_i \}$  be the affine bundle structure on  $\xi = (p, E, B, \text{Aff}(E), E, \Phi)$ . Define a bundle structure on the composite map

$$g: E \times \mathbf{R} \rightarrow E \xrightarrow{p} B$$

as follows. Given  $i$  and  $x \in U_i$  define

$$\psi_{i,x}: E_x \times \mathbf{R} \rightarrow E \times \mathbf{R}, \quad (y, t) \mapsto (t\phi_{i,x}(y), t).$$

The resulting atlas  $\{ \psi_i, U_i \}$  defines a vector bundle

$$\xi^J = \{ q, E \times \mathbf{R}, \text{GL}(E \times \mathbf{R}), E \times \mathbf{R}, \Phi \}.$$

Evidently  $\xi$  is isomorphic as an affine bundle to the subbundle whose total space is  $E \times \{1\}$ ; and the derived bundle  $\xi^L$  is isomorphic as a vector bundle to the subbundle  $E \times \{0\}$ .

When  $\xi$  is flat so is  $\xi^J$ , and the holonomy of  $\xi^J$  is the composition of the holonomy of  $\xi$  with the homomorphism

$$J: \text{Aff}(E) \rightarrow \text{GL}(E \times \mathbf{R}), \quad J(f): (x, t) \mapsto (Ax + tb, t),$$

where  $g(x) = Ax + b$ . Similarly  $J$  converts a cocycle for  $\xi$  to a cocycle for  $\xi^J$ .

1.6. *Affine spaces.* For simplicity we took the standard fibre of an affine bundle to be a vector space. In a more puristic approach it would be an *affine space*, that is, a set together with a free transitive action on it by a vector group. While this approach seems unnecessarily elaborate, the notions of affine spaces and affine maps between them are occasionally useful.

1.7. *The radiance obstruction of a flat affine bundle.* Let  $\xi$  be a flat affine bundle with holonomy  $h: \pi \rightarrow \text{Aff}(E)$ . We define the *radiance obstruction*  $c(\xi)$  to be  $c_h \in H^1(\pi; E_\lambda)$ , where  $\lambda = \text{Lin} \circ h: \pi \rightarrow \text{GL}(E)$  is the linear holonomy of  $\xi$ , and  $c_h$  is the radiance obstruction of  $h$ . As an immediate consequence of Proposition 1.5 and Corollary 1.1 we obtain

PROPOSITION.  $\xi$  has a flat section if and only if  $c(\xi) = 0$ .

Technically speaking,  $c(\xi)$  is not well defined since  $h$  and  $\lambda$  are not uniquely determined; it would be more exact to write  $c(\xi, h)$ . But the vanishing of  $c(\xi)$  is independent of the choice of  $h$ . One of our main goals is to express  $c(\xi)$  in other cohomology theories, some of which are more intrinsic.

1.8. *The singular radiance obstruction.* Let  $\xi$  be a flat affine bundle over a connected manifold  $M$ . Let  $\xi^L$  be its derived flat vector bundle. There is a sheaf  $\mathcal{S}(\xi^L) = \mathcal{S}$  of (germs of) flat sections of  $\xi^L$ . The total space of  $\mathcal{S}$ , considered as a set, can be canonically identified with the total space of  $\xi^L$ . Clearly  $\mathcal{S}$  is a locally constant sheaf of vector spaces isomorphic to  $\mathbf{E}$ .

We consider  $\mathcal{S}$  as a system of local coefficients on  $M$ . If we fix a base point  $b \in M$  and identify the stalk of  $\mathcal{S}_b$  over  $b$  with  $\mathbf{E}$ , then  $\mathcal{S}$  is determined by a homomorphism  $\pi_1(M; b) \rightarrow \text{GL}(\mathbf{E})$ . It is easy to verify that this homomorphism corresponds to the linear holonomy  $\lambda$  of  $\xi$  when  $\pi_1(M, b)$  is identified with the group  $\pi$  of deck transformations of  $\tilde{M}$ .

Such an identification also determines a homomorphism from the cohomology of  $\pi$  with coefficients in  $\mathbf{E}_\lambda$  to the singular cohomology  $H_{\text{ring}}^*(M; \mathcal{S})$  of  $M$  with coefficients in the local coefficient system. This homomorphism is an isomorphism of  $H^1$ . The radiance obstruction  $c(\xi)$  thus corresponds to an element

$$c_{\text{sing}}(\xi) \in H^1(M; \mathcal{S}).$$

It is easy to verify that  $c_{\text{sing}}(\xi)$  is intrinsically defined by  $\xi$ ; the various choices made in its definition cancel out.

1.9. *The Čech radiance obstruction.* Let  $H_{\check{\text{Cech}}}^*(M; \mathcal{S})$  denote the Čech cohomology of  $M$  with coefficients in the sheaf  $\mathcal{S}$ .

There is a canonical isomorphism

$$H_{\text{sing}}^*(M; \mathcal{S}) \approx H_{\check{\text{Cech}}}^*(M; \mathcal{S}).$$

(see Bredon [Br]). We describe a Čech 1-cocycle belonging to the image of  $c_{\text{sing}}(\xi)$ .

A Čech 1-chain with values in  $\mathcal{S}$  is determined by an open cover  $\mathcal{U}$  of  $M$  together with a function assigning to each pair  $U_i, U_j$  in  $\mathcal{U}$  a section of  $\mathcal{S}$  over  $U_i \cap U_j$ . Let  $\mathcal{U} = \{U_i\}_{i \in \Lambda}$  be a *radiant cover*: an open cover by sets  $U_i$  such that  $\xi|_{U_i}$  is radiant. For each  $i$  let  $a_i: U_i \rightarrow \xi$  be a flat section. If  $x \in U_i \cap U_j$  let  $t_{ij}(x) \in \xi_x^L$  be the translation of  $\xi_x$  which takes  $s_i(x)$  to  $s_j(x)$ . Then  $t_{ij}$  is a flat section of  $\xi^L|_{U_i \cap U_j}$ . This means  $t_{ij}$  is a section of  $\mathcal{S}$  over  $U_i \cap U_j$ .

It is not hard to verify that the collection  $\{t_{ij}\}_{i \in \Lambda}$  is a cocycle and the resulting cohomology class  $c_{\check{\text{Cech}}}(\xi)$  corresponds to  $c_{\text{sing}}(\xi)$ .

1.10. *The standard connection on a flat vector bundle.* A (linear) *connection* on  $E$  is a supplementary bundle  $\eta \subset TE$  to  $p^*\xi$ ; thus  $TE = \eta \oplus p^*\xi$ . Given a connection, for any (smooth) section  $s: M \rightarrow E$  we define a morphism (= bundle map)  $\nabla s: TM \rightarrow E$  (over the identity map  $1_M$ ), by forming the composition

$$\nabla s: TM \xrightarrow{Tf} TE \xrightarrow{j} p^*E \xrightarrow{q} E,$$

where  $j$  is the retraction with kernel  $\eta$  and  $q$  is the canonical map. In this way we obtain a linear map  $\nabla$  from sections of  $E$  to morphisms  $TM \rightarrow E$ , or equivalently, to sections of  $T^*M \otimes E$ . One often identifies the connection with the map  $\nabla$ .

The connection  $\eta$  is called *flat* if  $E$  has a foliation  $\mathcal{G}$  whose leaves are transverse to the fibres of  $E$ , such that  $\eta$  is the bundle  $T\mathcal{G}$  of tangent planes to leaves. Every such foliation of  $E$  determines a flat connection on  $E$ .

Now suppose that  $E$  is a flat vector bundle. The canonical foliation  $\mathcal{F}$  of  $E$ , corresponding to the flat structure, determines a flat connection on  $E$ . We call this the *standard connection* on the flat vector bundle  $E$ .

It is clear from the definition that if the section  $s$  is tangent at  $x \in M$  to a leaf of  $\mathcal{F}$  then  $\nabla s_x: T_x M \rightarrow E_x$  is zero. Thus  $\nabla s$  measures the deviation of  $s$  from being flat. In particular  $\nabla s$  vanishes if and only if  $s$  is a flat section.

A connection on the trivial vector bundle  $\epsilon = (M \times \mathbf{E}, M, \mathbf{E})$  is the same thing as a morphism  $\delta: TM \rightarrow \mathbf{E}$ , i.e. a map linear on fibres. To see this, recall that if  $(x, y) \in M \times \mathbf{E}$ , then  $T_{(x,y)}(M \times \mathbf{E})$  is identified with  $T_x M \oplus \mathbf{E}$ . The subspace complementary to  $0 \oplus \mathbf{E}$  is the graph of  $\delta_x$ . This connection is flat precisely when  $\delta$  is closed as an  $\mathbf{E}$ -valued 1-form on  $M$ , that is, when locally  $\delta$  coincides with differentials of maps from open sets of  $M$  into  $\mathbf{E}$ .

1.11. *De Rham cohomology with coefficients in a flat vector bundle.* Let  $\mathbf{E}, \mathbf{F}$  be real, finite-dimensional vector spaces and  $U \subset \mathbf{F}$  an open set. Sections of  $U \times \mathbf{E}$  correspond to maps  $U \rightarrow \mathbf{E}$ . The standard connection assigns to such a map  $f$  a morphism  $TU = U \times \mathbf{F} \rightarrow U \times \mathbf{E}$ , which corresponds to a map from  $U$  to the vector space  $L(\mathbf{E}, \mathbf{F})$  of linear maps from  $\mathbf{E}$  to  $\mathbf{F}$ . This map  $U \rightarrow L(\mathbf{E}, \mathbf{F})$  is just the differential  $df$ .

For each integer  $k \geq 0$  the exterior differential operator defines a linear map

$$d(k, U, \mathbf{E}) = d_k: C^\infty(U, (\Lambda^k \mathbf{F}^*) \otimes \mathbf{E}) \rightarrow C^\infty(U, (\Lambda^{k+1} \mathbf{F}^*) \otimes \mathbf{E})$$

such that  $d_{k+1} \circ d_k = 0$ ; here  $C^\infty$  indicates the vector space of  $C^\infty$  maps.

Now let  $p: E \rightarrow M$  be a flat vector bundle. By identifying fibres of  $E$  with  $\mathbf{E}$ , and coordinate neighborhoods in  $M$  with open sets  $V_i$  in  $\mathbf{F}$ , we can piece together the exterior differentials  $d(k, V_i, \mathbf{F})$  to obtain a family of linear maps

$$(d_\nabla)_k: \Lambda^k(M; E) \rightarrow \Lambda^{k+1}(M; E)$$

for each integer  $k \geq 0$ . Here  $\Lambda^k(M; E)$  is the vector space of  $E$ -valued exterior  $k$ -forms on  $M$ , that is, the space of sections of the vector bundle  $\Lambda^k(T^*M) \otimes E$ .

Notice that  $\Lambda^0(M; E)$  is the space of sections of  $E$ ,  $\Lambda^1(M; E)$  is the space of morphisms  $TM \rightarrow E$ , and  $(d_\nabla)_0$  is just the connection  $\nabla$ . Thus we have extended  $\nabla$  to a sequence of linear maps

$$\begin{aligned} 0 \rightarrow \Lambda^0(M; E) \xrightarrow{\nabla} \cdots \rightarrow \Lambda^k(M; E) \xrightarrow{(d_\nabla)_k} \Lambda^{k+1}(M; E) \\ \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow \Lambda^n(M; E) \rightarrow 0 \quad (n = \dim M). \end{aligned}$$

Working locally one sees that  $(d_\nabla)_{k+1} \circ (d_\nabla)_k = 0$ , since this holds for the exterior differential. (This uses flatness of  $E$ .) Therefore the sequence above is a cochain complex. Its cohomology is, by definition, the de Rham cohomology of  $M$  with coefficients in the flat vector bundle  $E$ , denoted by  $H^*(M; E)$ .

1.12. *The covariant differential for flat affine bundles.* Let  $p: E \rightarrow M$  be a flat affine bundle, with its derived flat vector bundle  $E^L$ . Although  $E$  is not a vector bundle we can still define a covariant differential

$$\nabla: C^\infty(E) \rightarrow C^\infty(T^*M \otimes E^L) = \Lambda^1(M; E^L)$$

from sections of  $E$  to morphisms  $TM \rightarrow E^L$ , in a generalization of §1.10. There is a natural affine structure (see §1.6) on  $C^\infty(E)$ , and  $\nabla$  is an affine map.

We split  $TE = T\mathcal{F} \oplus T\mathcal{G}$  as in the preceding section, and remark that  $T\mathcal{G}$  is naturally isomorphic to  $p^*E^L$ . For an element of  $T\mathcal{G}$  is a tangent vector to a fibre  $E_x$  of  $E$ . This fibre is an affine space (see §1.6) and a tangent vector to an affine space corresponds naturally to a translation via affine identifications with a vector space. Thus for  $y \in E_x$  there is a natural identification  $T_y E_x = (E_x)^L$ . Noting that  $x = p(\mathcal{G})$ , in this way we identify  $T\mathcal{G} = p^*E^L$ .

Now define  $\pi_\nabla$  to be the composite vector bundle morphism

$$\pi_\nabla: TE = T\mathcal{F} \oplus T\mathcal{G} \rightarrow T\mathcal{G} = p^*E^L \rightarrow E^L.$$

For any section  $s: M \rightarrow E$  define  $\nabla s$  to be the composite morphism

$$\nabla s: TM \xrightarrow{T_s} TE \xrightarrow{\pi_\nabla} E^L.$$

As before  $\nabla s = 0$  precisely when  $s$  is flat.

1.13. *Computation of  $\nabla$  for a special flat affine bundle.* Fix a smooth map  $g: M \rightarrow \mathbf{E}$ . There is a flat affine bundle  $E(g)$  whose projection is the natural one,  $p: M \times \mathbf{E} \rightarrow M$ , but whose foliation  $\mathcal{F}$  has as leaves the graphs of the maps  $g + \text{constant}$ . It is easy to see that there is a canonical identification of the derived flat vector bundle  $E(g)^L$  with the trivial flat vector bundle  $M \times \mathbf{E}$  (whose foliation has for leaves the graphs of constant maps).

Let  $s: M \rightarrow E(g)$  be a section corresponding to  $f: M \rightarrow \mathbf{E}$ . It turns out that  $\nabla s: TM \rightarrow M \times \mathbf{E}$  is given as follows: If  $x \in M$  and  $y \in T_x M$ , then

$$(\nabla s)_x y = (x, df_x y - dg_x y).$$

This is proved first for the case where  $g$  is identically 0. The general case follows by considering the isomorphism of flat affine bundles

$$E(g) \rightarrow E(0) = M \times \mathbf{E}, \quad (x, y) \mapsto (x, y - g(x))$$

and pulling back the information on  $E(0)$ .

In the special case where  $M = U \subset \mathbf{E}$  is an open set and  $g: U \rightarrow \mathbf{E}$  is  $g(x) = -x$ , it follows that  $\nabla s: TU = U \times \mathbf{E} \rightarrow U \times \mathbf{E}$  is given by  $(x, y) \mapsto (x, df_x(y) + y)$ , where  $s(x) = (x, f(x)) \in U \times \mathbf{E}$ . In particular, when  $s$  is the zero section,  $\nabla s$  is the identity map of  $U \times \mathbf{E}$ .

1.14. *The de Rham radiance obstruction.* Let  $\xi = (p, E, M)$  be a flat affine bundle,  $E^L$  its derived flat vector bundle, and  $\mathcal{S}$  the sheaf of flat sections of  $E^L$ . The singular radiance obstruction  $c_{\text{sing}}(\xi)$  is a class in  $H_{\text{sing}}^*(M; \mathcal{S})$  (see §1.8). In this section we compute the image of  $c_{\text{sing}}(\xi)$  in de Rham cohomology  $H^*(M; E^L)$  (see §1.11) under the canonical isomorphism. We denote this image by  $c_\xi \in H^1(M; E^L)$ ; in most later computations we shall use this form of the radiance obstruction.

Recall from §1.11 that  $H^*(M; E^L)$  is the cohomology of a cochain complex

$$\Lambda^k(M; E^L) \xrightarrow{d_\nabla} \Lambda^{k+1}(M; E^L).$$

From §1.12 let  $\nabla: C^\infty(E) \rightarrow \Lambda^1(M; E^L)$  be the covariant differential.

**THEOREM.** *Let  $s: M \rightarrow E$  be any section. Then  $\nabla s$  is a cocycle whose cohomology class  $[\nabla s]$  is  $c_\xi$ .*

**PROOF.** Locally  $\nabla s$  is the differential of a map  $U \rightarrow \mathbf{E}$ . Thus  $\nabla s$  is locally exact, so it is closed.

The cohomology of  $M$  pulls back injectively to that of its 1-skeleton. Therefore to prove  $[\nabla s] = c_\xi$  it suffices to prove  $g^*[\nabla s] = g^*c_\xi$  for every map  $g: S^1 \rightarrow M$  of a circle into  $M$ . Now  $\nabla$  and  $c_\xi$  behave naturally for induced bundles. Therefore it suffices to prove the theorem for the special case where  $M = S^1$ .

Let  $h: \pi_1(S^1) \rightarrow \text{Aff}(\mathbf{E})$  be the holonomy of  $\xi$ . We may assume  $\xi$  is the canonical flat bundle with holonomy  $h$  (see §1.2). Thus we take the total space  $E$  to be the identification space of  $\mathbf{R} \times \mathbf{E}$  by the relation

$$(x + m, y) = (x, A^m y) \quad (m \in \mathbf{Z})$$

for some  $A \in \text{GL}(\mathbf{E})$ . A section  $s: S^1 \rightarrow E$  lifts to a map  $\mathbf{R} \rightarrow \mathbf{R} \times \mathbf{E}$  of the form  $x \mapsto (x, f(x))$ , where  $f: \mathbf{R} \rightarrow \mathbf{E}$  satisfies  $f(x + 1) = Af(x)$ . The  $\xi^L$ -valued 1-form  $\nabla s$  corresponds to an  $\tilde{E}$ -valued 1-form on  $\mathbf{R}$ , namely  $dx \otimes df/ds$ . The de Rham homomorphism on cochains carries the 1-cocycle  $\nabla s$  to the singular 1-cocycle  $z$  which when applied to a differentiable singular 1-simplex  $\sigma: [0, 1] \rightarrow M$  gives

$$\begin{aligned} z(\sigma) &= \int_{[0,1]} \sigma^*(\nabla s) = \int_0^1 \frac{\partial(f \circ \sigma)}{\partial t} dt \\ &= \int_0^1 \frac{\partial \tilde{f}}{\partial r} dr = \tilde{f}(\sigma(1) - \sigma(0)). \end{aligned}$$

If  $\sigma$  is the fundamental 1-cycle  $[0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbf{R}/\mathbf{Z}$  induced by the restriction of the identity map, then  $z(\sigma) = \tilde{f}(1) - \tilde{f}(0) = b$  is the translational part of the affine holonomy of  $\xi$ . By §1.8,  $\nabla s$  represents the radiance obstruction  $c_\xi$  in de Rham theory. Q.E.D.

1.15. *Exterior powers of the radiance obstruction.* Let  $E \rightarrow M$  be a flat vector bundle. For any integers  $k, l \geq 0$  there is a natural morphism  $(\Lambda^k E) \otimes (\Lambda^l E) \rightarrow \Lambda^{k+l} E$ . These fit together to induce bilinear maps

$$H^k(M; \Lambda^k E) \times H^l(M; \Lambda^l E) \rightarrow H^{k+l}(M; \Lambda^{k+l} E),$$

and similarly with more factors on the left. In particular there is a  $k$ -linear map

$$H^1(M; E) \times \cdots \times H^1(M; E) \rightarrow H^k(M; \Lambda^k E).$$

Preceding this with the diagonal map

$$H^1(M; E) \rightarrow H^1(M; E) \times \cdots \times H^1(M; E)$$

gives the exterior  $k$ th power map  $\Lambda^k: H^1(M; E) \rightarrow H^k(M; \Lambda^k E)$ .

Now, changing notation, let  $\xi = (p, E, M)$  be a flat affine bundle and consider  $\Lambda^k c_\xi \in H^k(M; \Lambda^k(E^L))$  in de Rham theory.

**THEOREM.** *If  $\xi$  has a flat affine subbundle of fibre dimension  $j$ , then  $\Lambda^k c_\xi = 0$  for all  $k > j$ .*

**PROOF.** Let  $\eta = (p, F, M)$  be the subbundle. Viewing the inclusion  $i: F^L \subset E^L$  as a coefficient homomorphism, we derive an induced homomorphism

$$i_\# : H^*(M; F^L) \rightarrow H^*(M; E^L).$$

One easily verifies that  $i_{\#}c_{\eta} = c_{\xi}$ , for example by using §1.14. Since  $\Lambda^k F^L$  has zero-dimensional fibres for  $k > j$ , the theorem follows. Q.E.D.

Below we give various conditions ensuring  $\Lambda^k c_{\xi} \neq 0$ .

**2. The radiance obstruction of an affine manifold.** Now we apply the preceding theory of flat affine bundles to affine manifolds. Recall that an *affine structure* on a (differentiable) manifold  $M$  is defined as follows. Let  $E$  be a fixed vector space having the same dimension as  $M$ . Let  $U \subset M$  be an open set and let  $\psi: U \rightarrow E$  be a coordinate chart for the manifold structure on  $M$ . Two coordinate charts  $\psi_i: U_i \rightarrow E$  ( $i = 1, 2$ ) are said to be (affinely) *compatible* if on each component of  $\psi_1(U_1) \cap \psi_2(U_2)$  the map  $\psi_2^{-1} \circ \psi_1$  extends to an affine automorphism of  $E$ . In other words, the coordinate change  $g_{12} = \psi_1 \psi_2^{-1}: \psi_2(U_1 \cap U_2) \rightarrow \psi_1(U_1 \cap U_2)$  is *locally affine*. An *affine structure* is defined to be a maximal atlas of compatible affine coordinate charts. An *affine manifold* is a manifold with an affine structure.

Throughout the rest of this work,  $M$  denotes a connected affine manifold modeled on the vector space  $E = \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $n > 0$ .

**2.1. Flat structures on the tangent bundle.** Let  $M$  be an affine manifold. As a differential manifold,  $M$  has a tangent vector bundle  $TM$ . To the affine structure we shall associate two other bundle structures on  $TM$ : a flat affine bundle  $T^{\text{aff}}M$ , and a flat vector bundle canonically identified with the derived bundle  $(T^{\text{aff}}M)^L$ . Thus  $TM$  has three bundle structures; it is important to keep them conceptually distinct.

If  $f: M \rightarrow N$  is an affine map between affine manifolds then we will see that the tangent map  $Tf: TM \rightarrow TN$  is a morphism for each of the three bundle structures. It also turns out that the natural (identity) map  $TM \rightarrow T^{\text{aff}}M$  is an isomorphism of affine bundles, while the natural map  $(T^{\text{aff}}M)^L \rightarrow TM$  is an isomorphism of vector bundles. The natural map  $T^{\text{aff}}M \rightarrow (T^{\text{aff}}M)^L$  is an isomorphism of affine bundles; it is *not* an isomorphism of *flat* bundles unless  $M$  is radiant.

We now define a flat affine structure for  $TM$ . Let  $\{\phi_i, U_i\}$  be an affine atlas for  $M$  modeled on  $E = \mathbb{R}^n$ . For each  $i$  and each  $x \in U_i$  define an affine isomorphism

$$\theta_{i,x}: T_x M \rightarrow E, \quad v \mapsto \phi_i(x) + d\phi_i(x)v.$$

Define the *natural affine trivializations*

$$\theta_i: TU_i \rightarrow U \times E, \quad v \mapsto (x, \theta_{i,x}(v)) \quad \text{if } v \in T_x M.$$

One easily sees that  $\{\theta_i, U_i\}$  is an atlas for a flat affine bundle structure on  $TM$  which is completely determined by the affine structure of  $M$ . The resulting flat affine bundle is called  $T^{\text{aff}}M$ .

Suppose  $f: M \rightarrow N$  is an affine map (i.e.  $N$  is an affine manifold and  $f$  is affine in local charts). Then  $Tf$ , considered as a map  $T^{\text{aff}}M \rightarrow T^{\text{aff}}N$ , is affine in each fibre, and  $Tf: T^{\text{aff}}M \rightarrow T^{\text{aff}}N$  is a morphism of flat affine bundles. (Note that in natural affine trivializations,  $T_x f$  does *not* appear to be linear.)

Now assume that the affine atlas  $\{\theta_i, U_i\}$  on  $M$  is such that each nonempty map  $q_{i,j} = \phi_i \circ \phi_j^{-1}$  extends to a (global) affine automorphism of  $E$  (as when  $U_i \cap U_j$  are connected). Then the collection  $\{g_{i,j}\}$  is a cocycle for the flat affine bundle  $T^{\text{aff}}M$ ; and the collection of linear parts  $\{\text{Lin}(g_{i,j})\}$  is a cocycle for the flat vector bundle  $TM$ .

We now describe the canonical flat *vector bundle* structures on  $TM$ . Each fibre  $T_x M$  coincides in a natural way with the group of translations of  $T_x M = T^{\text{aff}}_x M$ . Therefore we identify  $T_x M$  with the fibre over  $x$  of  $(T^{\text{aff}}M)^L$ , the derived bundle of  $T^{\text{aff}}M$  (see §1.3). Thus  $TM$  is canonically isomorphic, as a vector bundle, to the flat vector bundle  $(T^{\text{aff}}M)^L$ .

2.2. *Developing sections.* Since  $T^{\text{aff}}M$  is a flat bundle, it has a canonical foliation  $\mathcal{F}$  transverse to its fibres. For  $U$  an open set in  $\mathbf{E}$ , the foliation of  $T^{\text{aff}}U = U \times \mathbf{E}$  has as leaves the sets defined by  $x + y = \text{constant}$ . Notice that these leaves are transverse to the submanifold  $U \times \{0\}$ .

It follows that the leaves of  $\mathcal{F}$  are transverse to the zero section of  $TM$ . To emphasize its role in the affine structure we refer to this zero section as the *developing section* of  $T^{\text{aff}}M$ , denoted by  $\sigma_M: M \rightarrow T^{\text{aff}}M$ . See Goldman [G] for another treatment.

Let  $(\phi_i, U_i)$  be an affine chart on  $M$ . In terms of the natural trivialization  $\theta_i$  of  $T^{\text{aff}}U_i$  induced by  $\phi_i$  (see §2.1), the developing section  $\sigma_M$  corresponds to the map

$$U_i \rightarrow U_i \times \mathbf{E}, \quad x \mapsto (x, \phi_i(x)).$$

Thus the image  $\sigma_M(U_i)$  corresponds to the graph of  $\phi_i$ .

To an affine manifold  $M$  we have associated a flat affine bundle structure  $T^{\text{aff}}M$  on  $TM$  with its corresponding foliation  $\mathcal{F}$ , together with a section  $\sigma_M$  of  $T^{\text{aff}}M$  transverse to  $\mathcal{F}$ . Conversely, let  $N$  be a differentiable manifold and suppose  $TN$  has a flat affine bundle structure  $\alpha$  with corresponding foliation  $\mathcal{F}^\alpha$ , and that  $\sigma: N \rightarrow TN$  is a smooth section transverse to  $\mathcal{F}^\alpha$ . Let  $U_i \subset N$  be a connected open set over which  $T^\alpha N$  is trivial, so that there is a flat affine bundle map

$$f_i: T^{\text{aff}}U_i \approx U_i \times \mathbf{E}.$$

For each leaf  $L$  of  $\mathcal{F}^\alpha$ ,  $f_i$  takes each component of  $L \cap T^\alpha U_i$  into a set of the form  $U_i \times \{y\}$ . From transversality of  $\sigma$  to  $\mathcal{F}^\alpha$  it follows that the composition

$$\phi_i: U_i \xrightarrow{\sigma} T^\alpha U_i \xrightarrow{f_i} U_i \times \mathbf{E} \rightarrow \mathbf{E}$$

is an immersion. Give  $U_i$  the affine manifold structure induced from  $\mathbf{E}$  by  $\phi_i$ . Because  $T^\alpha N$  is a flat affine bundle,  $U_i \cap U_j$  inherits the same affine structure from  $U_i$  and  $U_j$ . Thus to  $T^\alpha N$  and  $\sigma$  we have associated an affine structure on  $N$ .

REMARK. An older approach to affine structures on manifolds is through the idea of a linear connection on  $TM$  (as in §1.10) whose curvature and torsion vanish. The developing section is then viewed as an “integral” of the tensor which is the identity endomorphism of  $TM$ . This interpretation may be found in Matsushima [Mt], where it is attributed to J. L. Koszul.

2.3. *Developing maps.* Let  $p: \tilde{M} \rightarrow M$  be a universal covering of an affine manifold  $M$  modeled on  $\mathbf{E}$ . We give  $M$  the induced affine structure (making  $p$  an affine map). Let  $\pi$  denote the group of deck transformations of  $\tilde{M}$ .

A *developing map* for  $M$  is an affine immersion  $\tilde{M} \rightarrow \mathbf{E}$ .

The following basic result is well known; we include a proof for the reader's convenience.

**THEOREM.** (a) *There exists a developing map.*

(b) *For any developing map  $f$  there is a unique holonomy homomorphism  $h: \pi \rightarrow \text{Aff}(E)$  for which  $f$  is equivariant, that is,*

$$f \circ g = h(g) \circ f \quad (g \in \pi).$$

(c) *If  $f'$  is another developing map, then  $f' = \gamma \circ f$  for a unique  $\gamma \in \text{Aff}(E)$ .*

**PROOF.** (a) Let  $\psi: T^{\text{aff}}\tilde{M} \rightarrow E$  be a trivialization. Let  $\sigma_{\tilde{M}}: \tilde{M} \rightarrow T^{\text{aff}}M$  be the developing section (= zero section). Then the composition  $f = \psi \circ \sigma_{\tilde{M}}: \tilde{M} \rightarrow E$  is an immersion because the zero section  $\sigma_{\tilde{M}}: \tilde{M} \rightarrow T\tilde{M}$  is transverse to leaves of the foliation  $\tilde{\mathcal{F}}$  of  $T^{\text{aff}}\tilde{M}$  (see §2.2). Since  $f$  is easily seen to be affine in local coordinates,  $f$  is a developing map.

(b) Let  $h: \pi \rightarrow \text{Aff}(E)$  be the holonomy of the flat affine bundle  $T^{\text{aff}}M$  (see §1.2). It is readily proved that  $f$  as constructed above is  $h$ -equivariant. The general case of (b) now follows from (c), and the proof of (c) is trivial. Q.E.D.

We call a homomorphism  $h$  as in (b) an *affine holonomy homomorphism* for  $M$ . When  $\tilde{M}$  is given,  $h$  is uniquely determined up to a composition with an inner automorphism of  $\text{Aff}(E)$ .

It is easy to see that an affine holonomy homomorphism for  $M$  is also a holonomy homomorphism for the flat affine bundle  $T^{\text{aff}}M$  as defined in §1.2.

We generally pretend the developing map is unique and denote it by  $\text{dev}: \tilde{M} \rightarrow E$ . By a similar abuse of language the image  $h(\pi)$  of the corresponding holonomy homomorphism is called the *affine holonomy group*  $\Gamma$  of  $M$ . The image  $\text{Lin}(\Gamma) \subset \text{GL}(E)$  is called the *linear holonomy group* of  $M$ .

An affine manifold  $M$  is *complete* if its developing map is bijective. Equivalently,  $M$  is complete if its universal covering is affinely isomorphic to  $E$ . For a general discussion of complete affine manifolds we refer to Milnor [Mi] and Fried and Goldman [FG1]; in the latter paper all such structures on compact manifolds of dimension  $\leq 3$  are classified. If  $M$  is a compact complete affine manifold, then its affine holonomy group  $\Gamma$  acts freely and properly discontinuously on  $E$  with compact fundamental domain. It is an amusing exercise to show that the converse holds.

**2.4. The radiance obstruction of an affine manifold.** It will be convenient to denote the flat affine bundle  $T^{\text{aff}}M$  by  $\tau$  or  $\tau_M$ , and the flat vector bundle  $(T^{\text{aff}}M)^L$  by  $E$  or  $E_M$  (see §2.1).

As a vector bundle  $E_M$  is the same as  $TM$ , but  $E_M$  has a flat structure. In particular the de Rham cohomology group  $H^*(M; E)$  and related groups will be important.

The radiance obstruction of  $M$  is defined to be  $c_M = c_\tau \in H^1(M; E)$ ; thus  $c_M$  is the de Rham radiance obstruction of  $\tau$ . Since  $E$  and  $TM$  are the same as vector bundles,  $c_M$  is represented by a  $TM$ -valued 1-form on  $M$ , that is, by an endomorphism of  $TM$ . By §1.14 this endomorphism is  $\nabla\sigma_M$ , the covariant differential of the zero section of  $TM$ . From §§2.1 and 1.13,  $\nabla\sigma_M$  is the identity isomorphism of  $TM$ .

This proves

**THEOREM.** *The radiance obstruction of  $M$  is the de Rham class  $c_M \in H^1(M; E)$  represented by the identity endomorphism of  $TM$ , where  $E$  denotes the flat vector bundle structure on  $TM$ .*

**2.5. Parallel and polynomial tensors.** A tensor (field) on a connected affine manifold  $M$  is called *parallel* if in affine coordinates each component of the tensor is constant. Alternatively, a parallel tensor field on  $M$  is a flat section of the bundle of tensors on  $M$ , which is given the flat vector bundle structure induced from  $(T^{\text{aff}}M)^L$ .

Let  $t$  be a parallel tensor on  $M$  and  $\bar{t}$  the induced form on the universal cover  $\tilde{M}$ . Fix a developing map  $\text{dev}: \tilde{M} \rightarrow E$ . Let the corresponding holonomy homomorphism be  $h: \pi \rightarrow \text{Aff}(E)$ . Let  $\Gamma \subset \text{Aff}(E)$  and  $\Lambda \subset \text{GL}(E)$  denote the affine and linear holonomy groups.

It is easy to prove (see e.g. [GH2]) that there is a unique (constant) tensor  $t_E$  on  $E$  which is related to  $\bar{t}$  by  $\text{dev}$ ; and  $t_E$  is invariant under the induced action of  $\Lambda$  on tensors. Conversely, for any  $\Lambda$ -invariant tensor  $t'$  on  $E$  there is a unique parallel tensor  $t$  on  $M$  such that  $t' = t_E$  (defined as above).

More generally any tensor  $s$  on  $M$  corresponds to a unique  $\Gamma$ -invariant tensor  $s'$  on  $\text{dev}(\tilde{M})$  which is related by  $\text{dev}$  to the lift  $\bar{s}$  of  $s$  to  $\tilde{M}$ . In particular if the components of  $s$  are given by polynomial maps  $E \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$  in local affine coordinates, then  $s'$  extends to a  $\Gamma$ -invariant polynomial tensor field on  $E$ .

**2.6. Parallel differential forms and the evaluation formula.** From §2.5 it follows that a parallel exterior  $k$ -form  $\omega$  on  $M$  corresponds to a linear map  $\Lambda^k E \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$  which is invariant under the action of the linear holonomy group of  $M$  on  $\Lambda^k E^*$ . Thus the vector space of parallel  $k$ -forms on  $M$  is  $H(M; \Lambda^k E^*)$ , where  $E$  is the flat tangent vector bundle of  $M$  (see §§2.1, 2.4),  $\Lambda^k E^*$  is the (fibrewise)  $k$ th exterior power of its dual bundle (also a flat vector bundle over  $M$ ), and  $H^0$  denotes the vector space of flat sections (equivalently, the zeroth de Rham cohomology).

There is a natural fibrewise pairing of bundles  $\Lambda^k E^* \otimes \Lambda^k E \rightarrow M \times \mathbf{R}$  which over  $x \in M$  is simply the duality pairing. Considering this as a coefficient pairing to the trivial flat line bundle, we obtain a natural pairing

$$K: H^0(M; \Lambda^k E^*) \times H^k(M; \Lambda^k E) \rightarrow H^k(M; \mathbf{R}),$$

also denoted  $K(\alpha, \beta) = \langle \alpha, \beta \rangle$ .

The following useful formula combining parallel forms, the radiance obstruction, and the real cohomology of  $M$ , will be applied many times. We call it the *evaluation formula*: it says the cohomology class of a parallel differential  $k$ -form  $\omega$  is obtained by evaluating (via  $K$ )  $\omega$  on the  $k$ th exterior power of the radiance obstruction:

**PROPOSITION.** *Let  $\omega \in H^0(M; \Lambda^k E^*)$  be a parallel  $k$ -form. Then  $\langle \omega, \Lambda^k c_M \rangle = [\omega]$ , the de Rham cohomology class of  $\omega$ .*

**PROOF.** By Theorem 2.4,  $\Lambda^k c_M$  is represented by the identity endomorphism of  $\Lambda^k(TM)$ . The lemma follows from this by working through the definition of  $K$ . Q.E.D.

The following corollary is a basic principle which will be used throughout the rest of this work.

**THEOREM.** *Let  $\omega$  be a parallel  $k$ -form on the affine manifold  $M$  with nonzero cohomology class  $[\omega] \in H^k(M; \mathbf{R})$ . Then the  $k$ th exterior power of the radiance obstruction*

$$\Lambda^k c_M \in H^k(M; \Lambda^k \mathbf{E})$$

*is nonzero. Q.E.D.*

Theorem 3.2 of [FGH2] treats the special case of  $k = 1$  in this theorem. The same paper exhibits a compact affine 3-manifold having a nonzero parallel 2-form, but whose radiance obstruction vanishes (the case  $k = 1/2$  on p. 511 of [FGH2]). By the theorem above the cohomology class of such a form must vanish; compare [GH2 and GHL].

In the next three sections we give some applications of the evaluation formula.

**2.7. Parallel volume.** The  $n$ -dimensional affine manifold  $M$  is said to have a *parallel volume form*  $\omega$  if  $M$  is orientable and  $\omega$  is a parallel nonzero exterior form of degree  $n$ . In any affine chart,  $\omega$  appears as a nonzero constant multiple of the Euclidean volume form  $dx_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge dx_n$ . The existence of  $\omega$  is equivalent to the linear holonomy group lying in  $SL(\mathbf{E})$ .

If  $M$  is nonorientable, then we say  $M$  has *parallel volume* if its oriented double covering has a parallel volume form.

The following old and unsolved conjecture of L. Markus motivates many of the results of this paper.

**L. MARKUS' CONJECTURE.** A compact affine manifold is complete if and only if it has parallel volume.

In [FGH2] Markus' conjecture was proved for the case of nilpotent holonomy, generalizing an earlier result of Smillie [Sm2] for abelian holonomy. Further cases of the conjecture are proved below.

Applying the evaluation formula (see §2.6) to a parallel volume form proves the following important fact.

**THEOREM.** *If  $M$  is an orientable  $n$ -dimensional compact affine manifold with parallel volume, then  $\Lambda^n c_M \neq 0$ . Q.E.D.*

This sharpens Theorem 3.1 of [FGH2] which concludes only that  $c_M \neq 0$ .

The following well known result is useful.

**PROPOSITION.** *Suppose the linear holonomy of  $M$  factors through a group  $G$  which admits no nontrivial homomorphism to the group  $\mathbf{R}$  of real numbers. Then  $M$  has parallel volume. In particular if the first Betti number of  $M$  is zero then  $M$  has parallel volume.*

**PROOF.** Let the linear holonomy  $\pi \rightarrow GL(\mathbf{E})$  factor through  $G$  and consider the composition

$$\pi \xrightarrow{f} G \xrightarrow{g} GL(\mathbf{E}) \xrightarrow{j} \mathbf{R},$$

where  $j(\gamma) = \log|\text{Det } \gamma|$  and  $gf$  is the linear holonomy. Since  $fg = 0$  it follows that every element of the linear holonomy group has determinant  $\pm 1$ . Q.E.D.

**REMARK.** Markus' conjecture implies nontrivial information on the topology of affine manifolds. Suppose  $M$  is a compact manifold which admits an affine structure. Then Markus' conjecture has the surprising consequence that either the first Betti number of  $M$  is nonzero or  $M$  is an aspherical space (and indeed covered by Euclidean space).

**2.8. Irreducible affine holonomy.** An affine representation  $h: \pi \rightarrow \text{Aff}(\mathbf{E})$  is *irreducible* if no proper affine subspace is invariant under  $h(\pi)$ .

**LEMMA.** *Let  $M$  be an affine manifold having a parallel  $k$ -form which represents a nonzero cohomology class in  $H^k(M; \mathbf{R})$ . Then the affine holonomy group  $\Gamma$  of  $M$  cannot preserve any affine subspace of dimension  $m < k$ .*

**PROOF.** If  $\Gamma$  preserves an  $m$ -dimensional affine subspace, then  $T^{\text{aff}}M$  has a flat affine subbundle of fibre dimension  $m$ , and by §1.15 we then have  $\Lambda^j c_M = 0$  for all  $j > m$ . Since  $\Lambda^k c_M \neq 0$  by Theorem 2.7, it follows that  $k \leq m$ . Q.E.D.

**THEOREM.** *The affine holonomy of a compact affine manifold  $M$  with parallel volume is irreducible.*

**PROOF.** Passing to an oriented covering we assume  $M$  has a parallel volume form. Then  $\Lambda^n c_M \neq 0$  by §2.7 and the theorem follows from the lemma above. Q.E.D.

This theorem was proved in [FGH2] under the extra assumption that  $\Gamma$  is nilpotent. In [GH3] we generalize it by showing that no proper semialgebraic set is invariant under  $\Gamma$ .

In [FGH2, p. 496], it is shown that the affine holonomy is irreducible for any compact *complete* affine manifold.

**2.9. Radiant manifolds.** The affine manifold  $M$  is called *radiant* when  $c_M = 0$ .

Suppose  $M$  is radiant. Then  $T^{\text{aff}}M$  has a global flat section. Therefore by §1.5 any affine holonomy group  $\Gamma$  has at least one stationary point in  $\mathbf{E}$ .

Let  $p: \tilde{M} \rightarrow M$  be a universal covering. We can always choose a developing map  $\text{dev}: \tilde{M} \rightarrow \mathbf{E}$  so that the corresponding holonomy group has the origin in  $\mathbf{E}$  as a stationary point. In this case the affine and linear holonomy representations coincide.

Suppose  $\Gamma$  fixes the origin. Let  $\{U_i\}$  be an open covering of  $M$  such that there are open sets  $V_i \subset \tilde{M}$  which map diffeomorphically onto  $U_i$  by  $p$ , and which map diffeomorphically by  $\text{dev}$ . For each  $i$  define an affine chart

$$\phi_i = \text{dev} \circ (p|_{V_i})^{-1}: U_i \rightarrow \mathbf{E}.$$

These charts form an affine atlas for  $M$  whose coordinate changes are *linear*. The existence of such an atlas is equivalent to the radiance of  $M$ .

There are radiant manifolds diffeomorphic to  $S^1 \times V$ , where  $V = S^{n-1}$  (the Hopf manifolds), or  $V$  is any compact surface (see [FGH2, p. 502]).

**THEOREM.** *Let  $M$  be a compact radiant manifold. Then:*

- (a)  $M$  does not have parallel volume;
- (b) the first Betti number of  $M$  is nonzero;
- (c) every parallel 1-form on  $M$  is zero;

- (d) the Euler characteristic of  $M$  is zero;
- (e) the developing map of  $M$  is not surjective.

Parts (a), (c), (d), and (e) are proved in [FGH2, §3]. The proofs all involve the radial vector field on  $\mathbf{E}$  which is  $\Gamma$ -invariant and vanishes only at the origin. In [FGH2] compactness of  $M$  is used to show that the induced vector field  $R_M$  on  $M$  is nonsingular. This proves (d) and (e). Further use of the vector field  $R_M$  proves (a) and (c). Part (b) follows from (a) and Proposition 2.7. Q.E.D.

2.10. *Parallel forms and nilpotent holonomy.* Let  $M$  be a compact affine manifold. In this section we assume the affine holonomy group  $\Gamma$  of  $M$  is nilpotent. For background on this class of affine manifolds, see [FGH2].

**THEOREM.** *Suppose  $M$  has a parallel  $k$ -form  $\omega$  whose cohomology class  $[\omega] \in H^k(M; \mathbf{R})$  is nonzero. Then  $M$  has a nonzero parallel  $j$ -form for all  $j \leq k$ .*

**PROOF.** By the evaluation formula (§2.6) we know  $\Lambda^k c_M \neq 0$ , so  $\Lambda^j c_M \neq 0$  for all  $j \leq k$ . For these  $j$ , therefore,  $H^j(\Gamma; \Lambda^j \mathbf{E}) \neq 0$ , where  $\mathbf{E}$  is considered as a  $\Gamma$ -module via the linear representation  $\Gamma \subset \text{Aff}(\mathbf{E}) \rightarrow \text{GL}(\mathbf{E})$ .

For any  $\Gamma$ -module  $\mathbf{V}$  it is known that, because of nilpotency of  $\Gamma$ ,  $H^j(\Gamma; \mathbf{V}) \neq 0$  implies  $H^0(\Gamma; \mathbf{V}^*) \neq 0$  (see [FGH2, §1]; also Hirsch [H] and Dwyer [Dw]). Taking  $\mathbf{V} = \Lambda^j \mathbf{E}$  completes the proof. Q.E.D.

In [GHL] it is proved that when  $M$  is nonradiant there always exists a cohomologically nontrivial parallel  $k$ -form, where  $k > 0$  is the *Fitting dimension* of  $M$ : the dimension of the largest invariant linear subspace of  $\mathbf{E}$  on which the linear holonomy is unipotent. In [GH3] we study the Fitting dimension in terms of orbits of algebraic groups.

The parallel  $j$ -form in the theorem cannot always be taken to be nonzero in cohomology. For example consider the complete, compact affine 3-manifold  $M = \mathbf{R}^3/\Gamma$ , where  $\Gamma$  is the nilpotent subgroup of  $\text{Aff}(\mathbf{R}^3)$  of all affine transformations of the form

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 6c & 18c^2 \\ 0 & 1 & 6c \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \end{bmatrix},$$

where  $a, b, c$  are integers. Every  $\Gamma$ -invariant parallel 2-form on  $\mathbf{R}^3$  is a constant multiple of  $dy \wedge dz$ , where  $(x, y, z)$  are the linear coordinates in  $\mathbf{R}^3$ . Now  $6dy \wedge dz = d(\omega)$ , where  $\omega = dx - 6zdy + 18z^2dz$  is  $\Gamma$ -invariant. Therefore every parallel 2-form on  $M$  is exact.

2.11. *Cohomological dimension.* In this section and the next we prove some results due in essence to J. Smillie. The top-dimensional cohomology class, which we call  $\Lambda^n c_M$ , was discovered independently by him; see [Sm2]. At this writing some of Smillie's results have not been published.

The real cohomological dimension  $\text{rcd}(G)$  of a group  $G$  is the smallest integer  $k$  such that  $H^i(G; \mathbf{F}) = 0$  for all  $i > k$  whenever  $\mathbf{R}$  is a finite-dimensional real vector space with a  $G$ -module structure.

It can be shown that  $[G: H] < \infty$  implies  $\text{rcd}(G) \leq \text{rcd}(H)$ , and that  $\text{rcd}(F * G) \leq \max\{\text{rcd}(F), \text{rcd}(G)\}$ , where  $*$  denotes free product. If there is an Eilenberg-Mac Lane complex  $K(G, 1)$  of dimension  $\leq k$  then  $\text{rcd}(G) \leq k$ .

It is easy to see that  $\text{rcd}(G)$  is less than or equal to the virtual cohomological dimension of  $G$  (see Serre [Se]).

Smillie [Sm2] shows that  $\text{rcd}(G) \leq 1$  if  $G$  is built up from finite and infinite cyclic groups by a finite number of free products and finite extensions. He used this fact to exclude certain manifolds from having affine structures with parallel volume, e.g. a connected sum of manifolds homeomorphic to  $S^1 \times S^2$ .

The following result generalizes Smillie's theorem.

**THEOREM.** *If an affine manifold  $M$  has a nonzero cohomology class represented by a parallel exterior  $k$ -form  $\omega$ , then its affine holonomy  $h$  cannot factor through a group  $G$  having  $\text{rcd}(G) < k$ .*

**PROOF.** The existence of  $\omega$  implies by §2.6 that  $\Lambda^k c_h \neq 0$ . Suppose  $h$  is a composite homomorphism

$$h: \pi \xrightarrow{f} G \xrightarrow{g} \text{Aff}(\mathbf{E}).$$

Then  $f^*(\Lambda^k c_g) = \Lambda^k c_h \neq 0$ , whence  $\Lambda^k c_g$  is a nonzero cohomology class of  $G$  with coefficients in the  $G$ -module defined by the linear part of  $g$ . Therefore  $\text{rcd}(G) \geq k$ . Q.E.D.

Taking  $\omega$  in the theorem above to be a parallel volume form proves

**COROLLARY.** *Let  $M$  be a compact affine manifold having parallel volume. Then the affine holonomy of  $M$  cannot factor through a group  $G$  having  $\text{rcd}(G) < \dim M$ .*

This result can be used to rule out various groups from being the fundamental or holonomy groups of certain kinds of affine manifolds. For example, the fundamental group of a surface has  $\text{rcd} \leq 2$ . Therefore, it cannot be the fundamental or holonomy group of a compact manifold  $M$  with parallel volume if  $\dim M > 2$  (as is seen by taking  $\omega$  to be a volume form).

2.12. *Radiance dimension and parallel cohomology.* Let  $H_{\text{par}}^k(M; \mathbf{R})$  denote the subspace of  $H^k(M; \mathbf{R})$  of de Rham classes which contain parallel  $k$ -forms. Let  $\mathcal{U}$  be a radiant cover of  $M$ , i.e.  $\mathcal{U}$  is a cover by open sets, each of which is radiant in its induced affine structure. Let  $N\mathcal{U}$  denote the simplicial complex which is the nerve of  $\mathcal{U}$ .

**THEOREM.** *The inclusion  $H_{\text{par}}^k(M; \mathbf{R}) \hookrightarrow H^k(M; \mathbf{R})$  factors through the natural map  $H^k(N\mathcal{U}; \mathbf{R}) \rightarrow H^k(M; \mathbf{R})$ .*

**PROOF.** By §1.9 the radiance obstruction  $c_M \in H^1(M; E)$  comes from a Čech class  $c_{\mathcal{U}} \in H^1(\mathcal{U}; E)$ .

Let a class  $[\omega] \in H_{\text{par}}^k(M; \mathbf{R})$  be represented by the parallel  $k$ -form  $\omega$ . We consider  $\omega$  as lying in  $H^0(M; \Lambda^k E^*)$ . Since each element of  $\mathcal{U}$  is radiant,  $\omega$  also corresponds to a Čech class  $\omega_{\mathcal{U}} \in H^0(\mathcal{U}; \Lambda^k E^*)$ . There is a natural pairing

$$H^k(\mathcal{U}; \Lambda^k E) \otimes H^c(\mathcal{U}; \Lambda^k E^*) \rightarrow H^k(\mathcal{U}; \mathbf{R})$$

corresponding to the coefficient pairing  $\Lambda^k E \otimes \Lambda^k E^* \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$ . This pairing takes  $\Lambda^k(c_M) \otimes \Omega_{\mathcal{Q}}$  to an element  $j[\omega] \in H^k(\mathcal{Q}; \mathbf{R}) = H^k(N\mathcal{Q}; \mathbf{R})$  which depends only on  $[\omega]$ . One can show that the image of  $j[\omega]$  in  $H^k(M; \mathbf{R})$  is just  $[\omega]$ ; compare §2.6. Q.E.D.

Define the *radiance dimension*  $\text{rad}(M)$  to be the smallest integer  $d$  such that there exists a radiant cover  $\mathcal{Q}$  of  $M$  with  $H^i(N\mathcal{Q}; \mathbf{R}) = 0$  for  $i > d$ .

**COROLLARY.** *If  $M$  admits a parallel  $k$ -form which is nonzero in cohomology then  $\text{rad}(M) \geq k$ .* Q.E.D.

It seems likely that the resulting inclusion  $H_{\text{par}}^*(M) \rightarrow H^*(N\mathcal{Q})$  constructed above is a homomorphism of graded algebras; but we have not proved this.

2.13. *Fibrations with radiant fibres.* Throughout this section  $f: M \rightarrow B$  denotes a locally trivial fibration of an affine manifold  $M$  over a topological manifold  $B$ . We assume that the affine holonomy homomorphism of  $M$  vanishes on the image of the fundamental group of the fibre.

The definition of  $\text{rad}(M)$  is given in §2.12.

**PROPOSITION.** (a) *The affine holonomy of  $M$  factors through  $\pi_1(B)$ ;*  
 (b)  $\text{rad}(M) \leq \dim B$ .

**PROOF.** (a) follows from part of the exact homotopy sequence of the fibration  $f$ :

$$\pi_1(f^{-1}(x)) \rightarrow \pi_i(M) \rightarrow \pi_i(B) \rightarrow 0.$$

(b) follows by considering covers of  $M$  having the form  $\{f^{-1}V_i\}$ , where  $\{V_i\}$  is a covering of  $B$  by simply connected open sets over each of which the fibration is trivial, and whose nerve has the same dimension as  $B$ . Q.E.D.

**COROLLARY.** *Let  $\omega$  be a parallel  $k$ -form on  $M$ . Then  $\omega$  is zero in cohomology if either*  
 (a)  $k > \text{rcd}(\pi_1(B))$ , or  
 (b)  $k > \dim B$ .

**PROOF.** (a) follows from (a) of the proposition and §2.11, while (b) follows from (b) of the proposition and §2.12. Q.E.D.

As an application we obtain

**THEOREM.** *Let  $B$  and  $N$  be compact manifolds, with  $\pi_1(N)$  finite. Then:*

(a)  $B \times N$  cannot have an affine structure with parallel volume.  
 (b) Assume also that  $H^1(B; \mathbf{R}) = 0$ . Then  $B \times N$  cannot have any affine structure.

**PROOF.**  $\pi_1(N)$  being finite means the product fibration  $B \times N \rightarrow B$  fulfills the hypothesis of this section. Therefore (a) follows from (b) of the proposition and §2.12. And (b) now follows because if  $H^1(B \times N; \mathbf{R}) = 0$  then any affine structure on  $B \times N$  would necessarily have parallel volume, contradicting (a). Q.E.D.

In a forthcoming paper [FG2], Proposition 2.13 is used to show that a 3-dimensional Seifert manifold admits a flat Lorentz metric if and only if it is covered by a  $T^2$ -bundle over  $S^1$ . See also [FG1].

2.14. *Affinely rigid groups.* We call a discrete group  $\Pi$  *affinely rigid* if  $H^1(\Pi; E) = 0$  for all real finite-dimensional  $\Pi$ -modules  $E$ ; a simple example is provided by any finite group.

In [Mg] Margulis proved a remarkable theorem which implies that  $\Pi$  is affinely rigid if it is an irreducible lattice in a semisimple Lie group  $G$  of  $\mathbf{R}$ -rank  $\geq 2$ . We call such groups  $\Pi$  *Margulis groups*. An example is  $SL(\mathbf{Z}, n)$  for any  $n \geq 3$ .

Margulis proved that any linear representation of such a  $\Pi$  either takes values in a compact subgroup, or else extends to a representation of  $G$ ; and the same holds for affine representations (see §1.7). (For another proof of Margulis' theorem see Zimmer [Z].) Now every representation of a compact group, or of a semisimple group (see Milnor [Mi]), is radiant; and this property is equivalent to affine rigidity.

By taking  $E = \mathbf{R}$  we see that any affine representation of an affinely rigid group must be volume-preserving.

**THEOREM.** *The affine holonomy of a compact affine manifold cannot factor through an affinely rigid group. In particular it cannot factor through a Margulis group.*

**PROOF.** If the holonomy did so factor, the manifold would have to be radiant, and would have to have parallel volume by Proposition 2.7. But it is impossible for a compact radiant manifold to have parallel volume (see [FGH2, 3.1]). Q.E.D.

By an obvious extension of a theorem of J. Smillie about free products of finite groups [Sm2] one obtains a nonfactoring theorem for free products of affinely rigid groups:

**PROPOSITION.** *Let  $M$  be a compact affine manifold. If  $\dim M > m$  then the affine holonomy of  $M$  cannot factor through the free product of  $m$  affinely rigid groups.*

**PROOF.** Suppose the holonomy factors through  $\Pi = \Pi_1 * \cdots * \Pi_m$ , each  $\Pi_i$  being affinely rigid. The classifying space  $B\Pi$  for  $\Pi$  can be taken as the one-point union (wedge) of those for the  $\Pi_i$ . A well-known construction using a classifying map  $f: M \rightarrow B\Pi_1 \vee \cdots \vee B\Pi_m$  for  $T^{\text{aff}}M$  produces an open cover  $\{U_1, \dots, U_m\} = \mathcal{U}$  of  $M$  such that  $f(U_i) \subset B\Pi_i$ . This implies that the affine holonomy of  $U_i$  factors through  $\Pi_i$ . Therefore  $\mathcal{U}$  is a radiant cover. Thus  $\text{rad}(M) < \dim M$  so  $M$  cannot have parallel volume by §2.12. But any homomorphism  $\Pi \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$  must vanish on each  $\Pi_i$ , so  $M$  must have parallel volume by Proposition 2.7. This contradiction completes the proof. Q.E.D.

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