

HIGHER LEFSCHETZ TRACES AND SPHERICAL EULER CHARACTERISTICS

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ABSTRACT. Higher analogs of the Euler characteristic and Lefschetz number are introduced. It is shown that they possess a variety of properties generalizing known features of those classical invariants. Applications are then given. In particular, it is shown that the higher Euler characteristics are obstructions to homotopy properties such as the TNCZ condition, and to a manifold being homologically Kähler.

The *Lefschetz number* of a self-map $f: X \rightarrow X$ of a space X with finitely generated homology,

$$L(f) = \sum_{k \geq 0} (-1)^k \text{trace}(f_k: H_k(X; \mathbb{Z})/\text{torsion} \rightarrow H_k(X; \mathbb{Z})/\text{torsion}) \in \mathbb{Z},$$

is a useful and well known invariant in algebraic topology. In case $f \equiv \text{id}$, the identity map of X , $L(\text{id}) = \chi(X) = \sum_{k \geq 0} (-1)^k \text{rank } H_k(X; \mathbb{Z})$ is the *Euler characteristic* of X . When X is a finite complex, the Lefschetz number has a geometric interpretation in terms of fixed point theory; it is a “homological count” of the fixed points of f . One consequence is the celebrated Lefschetz Fixed Point Theorem which asserts that if $L(f) \neq 0$ then f has a fixed point.

In this paper we study “higher” analogs of the Lefschetz number and the Euler characteristic. Let \mathbb{F} be a field of coefficients and let X be a space with finite dimensional homology over \mathbb{F} . Given a map $F: Y \times X \rightarrow X$, where Y is an arbitrary parameter space, define a degree 0 homomorphism $L(F): H_*(Y; \mathbb{F}) \rightarrow H_*(X; \mathbb{F})$ by:

$$L(F)(u) = \sum_{k \geq 0} (-1)^{k+n} \sum_{j=1}^{\beta_k} \bar{b}_j^k \cap F_*(u \times b_j^k)$$

where $u \in H_n(Y; \mathbb{F})$ and for each $k \geq 0$ $\{b_j^k \mid j = 1, \dots, \beta_k\}$ is a basis for $H_k(X; \mathbb{F})$ with corresponding dual basis $\{\bar{b}_j^k \mid j = 1, \dots, \beta_k\}$ for $H^k(X; \mathbb{F})$. Here, we use Spanier’s sign conventions [Sp] for the cap product and homology cross product.¹

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¹Spanier’s sign conventions for products, [Sp], differ from those of Dold, [Do₃]. In particular, writing \cap' and \cup' for the cap and cup products of [Do₃], we have $x \cap y = (-1)^{|x|(|x|-|y|)} x \cap' y$ and $u \cup v = (-1)^{|u||v|} u \cup' v$ where “|” denotes the degree of a homology or cohomology class.

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This definition of $L(F)$ (up to sign conventions and placement of the parameter space on the left) is due to R. J. Knill, [Kn], so we call it the *Knill trace*. When $Y = S^n$ with $n > 0$, the n -sphere, we can evaluate $L(F)$ on the fundamental homology class of S^n , $[S^n] \in H_n(S^n; \mathbb{F})$, to obtain $L(F)([S^n]) \in H_n(X; \mathbb{F})$. This yields a map $\Lambda_n(f; \mathbb{F}): \pi_n(X^X, f) \rightarrow H_n(X; \mathbb{F})$ which we call the n^{th} *spherical Lefschetz characteristic based at $f: X \rightarrow X$* (see Definition 5.1), where $\pi_n(X^X, f)$ is the n^{th} homotopy group of the function space X^X of self-maps of X and $f \in X^X$ is a basepoint. In case $f = \text{id}_X$, the identity map of X , we write $\chi_n(X; \mathbb{F}) \equiv \Lambda_n(\text{id}_X; \mathbb{F})$ and call $\chi_n(X; \mathbb{F})$ the n^{th} *spherical Euler characteristic of X* . Our definitions of $\Lambda_n(f; \mathbb{F})$ and $\chi_n(X; \mathbb{F})$ also make sense in case $n = 0$ with $[S^0] \in H_0(S^0; \mathbb{F})$ chosen appropriately. The pointed set $\pi_0(X^X, f)$ is the set of homotopy classes of maps $g: X \rightarrow X$ with f representing the distinguished basepoint. For X path connected, $\Lambda_0(f; \mathbb{F})([g]) = L(g)[x_0]$ where $L(g)$ is the Lefschetz number of $g: X \rightarrow X$ and $[x_0]$ is the zero-dimensional homology class represented by a basepoint $x_0 \in X$; in particular, $\chi_0(X; \mathbb{F})([g]) = L(g)[x_0]$.

In [GN], the invariant $\chi_1(X; \mathbb{F})$ was studied extensively, with applications to group theory, and its analogy to the classical Euler characteristic was elaborated.

When X is a finite complex, $L(F)$ is closely related to the fixed point theory of $F: Y \times X \rightarrow X$. The *fixed point set of F* is the set

$$\text{Fix}(F) = \{(y, x) \in Y \times X \mid F(y, x) = x\}.$$

Suppose $X \subset \mathbb{R}^m$ is a compact polyhedron, M is a regular neighborhood of X and $r: M \rightarrow X$ a strong deformation retraction. Let $F': Y \times M \rightarrow M$ be $F' = F \circ (\text{id}_Y \times r)$. Clearly, $\text{Fix}(F') = \text{Fix}(F)$ and F' has no fixed points on $Y \times \partial M$. Let $[M] \in H_m(M, \partial M; \mathbb{F})$ be the fundamental class of M and let $[\mathbb{R}^m]$ be the generator of $H_m(\mathbb{R}^m, \mathbb{R}^m - \{0\}; \mathbb{F})$ determined by the standard orientation of \mathbb{R}^m . Define

$$\Phi: (Y \times M, Y \times M - \text{Fix}(F)) \rightarrow M \times (\mathbb{R}^m, \mathbb{R}^m - \{0\})$$

by $\Phi = (F', i \circ p - i \circ F')$ where $p: Y \times M \rightarrow M$ is projection and $i: M \hookrightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ is inclusion. Following [Le] and [D₁], Knill [Kn] defines the *intersection class of F* to be the degree 0 homomorphism $I(F): H_*(Y; \mathbb{F}) \rightarrow H_*(X; \mathbb{F})$ given in degree n by the composite:

$$\begin{aligned} H_n(Y; \mathbb{F}) &\xrightarrow{\times [M]} H_{n+m}(Y \times (M, \partial M); \mathbb{F}) \rightarrow H_{n+m}(Y \times M, Y \times M - \text{Fix}(F); \mathbb{F}) \\ &\xrightarrow{\Phi_*} H_{n+m}(M \times (\mathbb{R}^m, \mathbb{R}^m - \{0\}); \mathbb{F}) \xrightarrow{\cong} H_n(M; \mathbb{F}) \xrightarrow{r_*} H_n(X; \mathbb{F}) \end{aligned}$$

where $H_{n+m}(M \times (\mathbb{R}^m, \mathbb{R}^m - \{0\}); \mathbb{F}) \xrightarrow{\cong} H_n(M; \mathbb{F})$ is the inverse of the isomorphism

$$H_n(M; \mathbb{F}) \xrightarrow{\cong} H_{n+m}(M \times (\mathbb{R}^m, \mathbb{R}^m - \{0\}); \mathbb{F}), \quad \beta \mapsto \beta \times [\mathbb{R}^m].$$

Let $S: H_*(Y; \mathbb{F}) \rightarrow H_*(Y; \mathbb{F})$ be the isomorphism $S(\beta) = (-1)^n \beta$ for $\beta \in H_n(Y; \mathbb{F})$. Knill shows [Kn, Theorem 1]:

$$I(F) = L(F) \circ S.$$

In particular, if $L(F) \neq 0$ then $I(F) \neq 0$ and consequently $\text{Fix}(F) \neq \emptyset$.

The homomorphism $I(F)$ also has a description in terms of the transfer maps of [BG], [D2]. Let $\bar{F}: Y \times X \rightarrow Y \times X$ be $\bar{F}(y, x) = (y, F(y, x))$ where X is a compact polyhedron. Consider the trivial fibration $X \rightarrow Y \times X \xrightarrow{p} Y$. Since \bar{F} is a fiber map, i.e. $p = p \circ \bar{F}$, there is an S -map $\Sigma^\infty Y_+ \xrightarrow{\tau(\bar{F})} \Sigma^\infty(Y \times X)_+$. Here, the subscript “+” indicates union with a disjoint basepoint and “ Σ^∞ ” denotes the suspension spectrum of a space. The S -map $\tau(\bar{F})$ induces a homomorphism in homology $\tau(\bar{F})_*: H_*(Y; \mathbb{F}) \rightarrow H_*(Y \times X; \mathbb{F})$. Composition of $\tau(\bar{F})_*$ with the homomorphism $p_*: H_*(Y \times X; \mathbb{F}) \rightarrow H_*(X; \mathbb{F})$ induced by projection $p: Y \times X \rightarrow X$ is $I(F)$; see [D2, (3.3)] and [BG, §9].

The first part of this paper, §§1–5, consists of generalizations to the Knill trace, $L(F)$, (and, in particular, to our spherical Lefschetz and Euler characteristics) of familiar properties of the classical Lefschetz number and Euler characteristic. We prove a “higher” algebraic analog of the Hopf trace formula (Theorem 3.1) and apply it to give a chain level formula for the Knill trace when X is a finite simplicial complex (Proposition 3.4). Theorem 4.1 is a “Sum Theorem” for $L(F)$ generalizing the formula $\chi(X) = \chi(A) + \chi(X, A)$ for a topological pair (X, A) . Theorem 4.3 is a “Product Theorem” for $L(F)$ in case X is the total space of a Serre fibration $K \rightarrow X \rightarrow B$ where $F: Y \times X \rightarrow X$ is fiber preserving, B is a finite complex and K has finite dimensional homology over \mathbb{F} . This generalizes the formula $\chi(X) = \chi(K)\chi(B)$. Another kind of product formula is given in Theorem 4.5.

The remainder of the paper is concerned with some applications. Let $E: X^X \times X \rightarrow X$ be the evaluation map, let $h: \pi_n(X^X, f) \rightarrow H_n(X^X; \mathbb{F})$ be the Hurewicz map over \mathbb{F} , and let $H_n(X^X; \mathbb{F}) \otimes H^q(X^X \times X; \mathbb{F}) \xrightarrow{\smile} H^{q-n}(X; \mathbb{F})$ be the slant product. For $\hat{\alpha} \in \pi_n(X^X, f)$ define a derivation $\lambda_{\hat{\alpha}}: H^*(X; \mathbb{F}) \rightarrow H^{*-n}(X; \mathbb{F})$ by the formula $\lambda_{\hat{\alpha}}(x) = h(\hat{\alpha}) \smile E^*(x)$. Given a basepoint $x_0 \in X$, let $\alpha_\bullet = \text{ev}_\#(\hat{\alpha}) \in \pi_n(X, f(x_0))$ where $\text{ev}: X^X \rightarrow X$ is evaluation at x_0 . For each $k \geq 0$, let $\{b_j^k\}$ be a basis for $H_k(X; \mathbb{F})$ with corresponding dual basis $\{\bar{b}_j^k\}$ for $H^k(X; \mathbb{F})$.

Proposition 6.8. *If $n > 0$ then $\Lambda_n(f; \mathbb{F})(\hat{\alpha}) = \sum_{k \geq 0} (-1)^k \sum_j \lambda_{\hat{\alpha}}(\bar{b}_j^k) \cap b_j^k$. □*

The definition of $\Lambda_n(f; \mathbb{F})$ leads to a different formula for $\Lambda_n(f; \mathbb{F})$ in terms of $\lambda_{\hat{\alpha}}$ (Proposition 6.9). Comparison of the two yields an interesting formula which does not involve our new invariants:

Theorem 6.10. *For X path connected and $n > 0$,*

$$L(f)h(\alpha_\bullet) = (\text{id} - f_*) \left(\sum_{k \geq 0} (-1)^{k+n} \sum_j \lambda_{\hat{\alpha}}(\bar{b}_j^k) \cap b_j^k \right). \quad \square$$

In particular, this implies:

Corollary 6.12. *If $n > 0$, $f_*: H_n(X; \mathbb{F}) \rightarrow H_n(X; \mathbb{F})$ is the identity and $L(f) \neq 0 \pmod p$, where $p \geq 0$ is the characteristic of \mathbb{F} , then the composite*

$$\pi_n(X^X, f) \xrightarrow{\text{ev}_\#} \pi_n(X, f(x_0)) \xrightarrow{h} H_n(X; \mathbb{F})$$

is zero. □

The special case of Corollary 6.12 in which $f = \text{id}$, so that $L(f) = \chi(X)$, was proved in [Go2].

When $f = \text{id}$, the derivation $\lambda_{\hat{\alpha}}$ is more familiar. In that case $\hat{\alpha} \in \pi_n(X^X, \text{id}_X)$, where $n > 0$, may be viewed as a clutching map along the equator of S^{n+1} which constructs a “Wang fibration” $X \xrightarrow{i} E \rightarrow S^{n+1}$ (see §6). Such a fibration has a long exact Wang sequence associated to it:

$$\dots \rightarrow H^q(E; \mathbb{F}) \xrightarrow{i^*} H^q(X; \mathbb{F}) \xrightarrow{\lambda} H^{q-n}(X; \mathbb{F}) \rightarrow H^{q+1}(E; \mathbb{F}) \rightarrow \dots$$

and the homomorphism λ appearing in this sequence coincides with $\lambda_{\hat{\alpha}}$ above. The exactness of the Wang sequence tells us that $\lambda_{\hat{\alpha}} = 0$ if and only if the fibration $X \rightarrow E \rightarrow S^{n+1}$ is *totally non-cohomologous to zero* (see §6) and so our formula for $\chi_n(X; \mathbb{F})$ in terms of $\lambda_{\hat{\alpha}}$ (Proposition 6.8) permits us to conclude:

Theorem 7.3. *Let $\hat{\alpha} \in \pi_n(X^X, \text{id}_X)$ where $n > 0$. If the associated Wang fibration $X \rightarrow E \rightarrow S^{n+1}$ is totally noncohomologous to zero, then $\chi_n(X; \mathbb{F})(\hat{\alpha}) = 0$. \square*

Using this, we can show that spherical Euler characteristics are obstructions to interesting geometric properties of manifolds. Leaving definitions and details until §7, we simply state:

Corollary 7.5. *If X is a closed symplectic manifold and $\hat{\alpha} \in \pi_1(X^X, \text{id}_X)$ corresponds to a Hamiltonian S^1 -action, then $\chi_1(X; \mathbb{Q})(\hat{\alpha}) = 0$.²*

Proposition 7.7. *If X is homologically Kähler and simply connected then*

$$\chi_n(X; \mathbb{Q})(\hat{\alpha}) = 0 \quad \text{for all } \hat{\alpha} \in \pi_n(X^X, \text{id}_X) \text{ and } n \geq 1. \quad \square$$

For example, this proposition applies to the complex manifold $\mathbb{C}P^n$ which is Kähler and simply connected.

Conventions and Notation. Throughout this paper we use singular homology and cohomology; furthermore, all homology and cohomology groups will have coefficients in a field \mathbb{F} unless otherwise indicated, i.e. the groups $H_*(X)$ and $H^*(X)$ are understood to have coefficients in \mathbb{F} , $H_*(X; R)$ and $H^*(X; R)$ indicate coefficients in a commutative ring R . We use Spanier’s sign conventions [Sp] for cross, cup, cap and slant products. We work in a suitable category of spaces so that the “exponential rule” identifying the space of continuous maps $Y \times X \rightarrow X$ with the space of continuous maps $Y \rightarrow X^X$ is valid. Typically in this paper, X will be a space whose homology $H_*(X)$ is finite dimensional over \mathbb{F} ; in particular, we usually do *not* require X to be a finite complex.

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1. TRACES

Let V_* be a finite dimensional graded vector space over a field \mathbb{F} . The *dual* of V_* is the graded vector space, V^* , given by $V^i = \text{Hom}_{\mathbb{F}}(V_i, \mathbb{F})$. Let C_* be another (not necessarily finite dimensional) graded vector space over \mathbb{F} . Suppose we are given a *cap product with values in C_** , i.e. a collection of homomorphisms $V^r \otimes V_s \xrightarrow{\cap} C_{s-r}$. Let $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle: V^i \otimes V_i \rightarrow \mathbb{F}$ denote the natural dual pairing. There is a natural isomorphism $\Psi: V^k \otimes V_{k+n} \rightarrow \text{Hom}_{\mathbb{F}}(V_k, V_{k+n})$ given by $\Psi(g \otimes x)(y) = \langle g, y \rangle x$ for $x \in V_{k+n}$, $g \in V^k$ and $y \in V_k$.

²See note added in proof.

Definition 1.1. The *trace* of a homomorphism $f \in \text{Hom}_{\mathbb{F}}(V_k, V_{k+n})$ is the vector:

$$\text{trace}(f; \cap) \equiv \cap \circ \Psi^{-1}(f) \in C_n.$$

As the notation suggests, $\text{trace}(f; \cap)$ depends on the cap product as well as on f .

Proposition 1.2. Let $\{b_1^k, \dots, b_{m_k}^k\}$ be a basis for V_k and $\{\bar{b}_1^k, \dots, \bar{b}_{m_k}^k\}$ the corresponding dual basis for V^k . Then $\text{trace}(f; \cap) = \sum_{j=1}^{m_k} \bar{b}_j^k \cap f(b_j^k)$.

Proof. Let $\{b_1^{k+n}, \dots, b_{m_{k+n}}^{k+n}\}$ be a basis for V_{k+n} . We can write

$$f = \sum_{i,j} f_{ij} \Psi(\bar{b}_j^k \otimes b_i^{k+n})$$

where $f_{ij} \in \mathbb{F}$. It follows that $f(b_j^k) = \sum_i f_{ij} b_i^{k+n}$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} \text{trace}(f; \cap) &= \cap \circ \Psi^{-1}(f) = \sum_{ij} f_{ij} \bar{b}_j^k \cap b_i^{k+n} \\ &= \sum_j \bar{b}_j^k \cap \left(\sum_i f_{ij} b_i^{k+n} \right) = \sum_j \bar{b}_j^k \cap f(b_j^k). \quad \square \end{aligned}$$

Definition 1.3. Let V_* be a finite dimensional graded vector space equipped with a cap product taking values in the graded vector space C_* . Let $\theta: V_* \rightarrow V_*$ a be homomorphism of degree n . Then the *Lefschetz class* of θ , $L_n(\theta) \in C_n$, is the alternating sum of traces:

$$L_n(\theta) = \sum_k (-1)^{k+n} \text{trace}(\theta_k; \cap).$$

Remark 1.4. Suppose that there is $c_0 \in C_0$ such that $x \cap y = \langle x, y \rangle c_0$ for all k , $x \in V^k$ and $y \in V_k$. Then, in this case, for a degree 0 homomorphism $\theta: V_* \rightarrow V_*$ we have $\text{trace}(\theta_k; \cap) = \text{trace}(\theta_k) c_0$ and so $L_0(\theta) = L(\theta) c_0$ where $L(\theta)$ is the classical Lefschetz number.

There is an obvious “dual” formulation of the preceding theory which we now outline.

There is natural isomorphism $\bar{\Psi}: V^{k-n} \otimes V_k \rightarrow \text{Hom}_{\mathbb{F}}(V^k, V^{k-n})$ given by $\bar{\Psi}(g \otimes x)(y) = \langle y, x \rangle g$ for $g \in V^{k-n}$, $x \in V_k$ and $y \in V^k$.

Definition 1.5. The *trace* of a homomorphism $f \in \text{Hom}_{\mathbb{F}}(V^k, V^{k-n})$ is the vector:

$$\text{trace}(f; \cap) \equiv \cap \circ \bar{\Psi}^{-1}(f) \in C_n.$$

Just as in Proposition 1.2, it is easy to show:

Proposition 1.6. Let $\{b_1^k, \dots, b_{m_k}^k\}$ be a basis for V_k and $\{\bar{b}_1^k, \dots, \bar{b}_{m_k}^k\}$ the corresponding dual basis for V^k . Then $\text{trace}(f; \cap) = \sum_{j=1}^{m_k} f(\bar{b}_j^k) \cap b_j^k$. □

Definition 1.7. Let V_* be a finite dimensional graded vector space equipped with a cap product taking values in the graded vector space C_* . Let $\theta: V^* \rightarrow V^*$ a be homomorphism of degree $-n$. Then the *Lefschetz class* of θ , $L_n(\theta) \in C_n$, is the alternating sum of traces: $L_n(\theta) = \sum_k (-1)^{k+n} \text{trace}(\theta^k; \cap)$.

2. TRACES AND PARAMETRIZED MAPS

Let (X, A) be a topological pair such that $H_*(X, A)$ is finite dimensional over \mathbb{F} . Given a continuous map $F: Y \times (X, A) \rightarrow (X, A)$ of pairs, where Y is a parameter space, and $u \in H_n(Y)$, let $F_u: H_*(X, A) \rightarrow H_*(X, A)$ be the degree n homomorphism given by $F_u(x) = F_*(u \times x)$. We use the cap product $H^j(X, A) \otimes H_{j+n}(X, A) \xrightarrow{\cap} H_n(X)$ to define the Lefschetz classes $L_n(F_u) \in H_n(X)$ (see Definition 1.3).

The following definition of $L(F)$, up to sign conventions and placement of the parameter space on the left, is essentially due to R. J. Knill, [Kn].

Definition 2.1. The *Knill trace* of $F: Y \times (X, A) \rightarrow (X, A)$ is the degree 0 homomorphism $L(F): H_*(Y) \rightarrow H_*(X)$ given by $L(F)(u) = L_n(F_u) \in H_n(X)$ where $u \in H_n(Y)$.

Clearly, $L(F)$ depends only on the homotopy class of F as a map of pairs. By Proposition 1.2,

$$L(F)(u) = \sum_{k \geq 0} (-1)^{k+n} \sum_{j=1}^{\beta_k} \bar{b}_j^k \cap F_*(u \times b_j^k)$$

where $u \in H_n(Y)$ and for each $k \geq 0$ $\{b_j^k \mid j = 1, \dots, \beta_k\}$ is a basis for $H_k(X, A)$ with corresponding dual basis $\{\bar{b}_j^k \mid j = 1, \dots, \beta_k\}$ for $H^k(X, A)$.

Remark 2.2. Let $y_0 \in Y$. Define $f: (X, A) \rightarrow (X, A)$ by $f = F(y_0, \cdot)$. Suppose X is path connected and $x_0 \in X$. Then, by Remark 1.4, $L(F)([y_0]) = L(f)[x_0]$ where $L(f)$ is the classical Lefschetz number of f and $[y_0] \in H_0(Y)$ and $[x_0] \in H_0(X)$ have the obvious meaning.

Example 2.3. The Knill trace may be calculated quite easily for the multiplication map $\mu: G \times G \rightarrow G$ of a compact Lie group in the case where \mathbb{F} is of characteristic zero and the cohomology and homology are dual exterior algebras (e.g. $U(n), Sp(n), SU(n)$ [W, pp. 343–345]). Taking all cohomology and homology with coefficients in \mathbb{F} , we write

$$H^*(G) = \Lambda(\bar{x}_1, \dots, \bar{x}_n), \quad H_*(G) = \Lambda(x_1, \dots, x_n)$$

where \bar{x}_i is Kronecker dual to x_i . The monomials $x_I = x_{i_1} x_{i_2} \cdots x_{i_k}$ with $i_1 < i_2 < \cdots < i_k$ form an additive basis for homology and similarly for \bar{x}_I in cohomology. Now,

$$\bar{x}_J \cap \mu_*(x_I \times x_J) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{for } I \cap J \neq \emptyset, \\ x_I & \text{for } I \cap J = \emptyset, \end{cases}$$

since $\mu_*(x_I \times x_J) = x_I \wedge x_J$ is the exterior product. (The cap product may be computed by Kronecker duality as in [W, p. 343].) Therefore, for a monomial x_I , the only nonzero terms in $L(\mu)(x_I)$ occur for monomials x_J with J disjoint from I . These x_J 's come from a sub-exterior algebra $\bar{\Lambda} = \Lambda(x_{j_1}, \dots, x_{j_l})$ generated by the x_j which do not appear in x_I . Thus, for $x_I \neq 1$ or z (where z is the top class

$x_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge x_n$), we have

$$\begin{aligned} L(\mu)(x_I) &= \sum_{k \geq 0} (-1)^{k+|I|} \sum_{|J|=k} x_J \cap \mu_*(x_I \times x_J) \\ &= (-1)^{|I|} \sum_{k \geq 0} (-1)^k x_I \cdot \dim \bar{\Lambda}_k \\ &= (-1)^{|I|} x_I \cdot \chi(\bar{\Lambda}) \end{aligned}$$

where $\chi(\bar{\Lambda}) = \sum_{k \geq 0} (-1)^k \dim \bar{\Lambda}_k$ is the Euler characteristic of the exterior algebra $\bar{\Lambda}$. But, it is well known and easy to see that this Euler characteristic is zero. Hence, $L(\mu)(x_I) = 0$.

If $x_I = 1 \in H_0(G)$, then clearly $L(\mu)(1) = \chi(G) = 0$ as well. Since $L(\mu)$ is a homomorphism, only the case $x_I = z$ remains. For dimensional reasons, $\mu_*(z \times x_J) = 0$ for all x_J except $x_J = 1$. In that case $1 \cap \mu_*(z \times 1) = z$. Note that $z = x_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge x_n$, so $|J| = n = \dim G$. Thus, for $y \in H_m(G)$,

$$L(\mu)(y) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{for } m < \dim G, \\ (-1)^{\dim G} y & \text{for } m = \dim G. \end{cases}$$

This example generalizes [GN, Example 3.1] where it was shown that the spherical Euler characteristic of the generator $U \in H_1(S^1)$ is $-U$.

Example 2.4. Knill traces of maps $F: Y \times S^N \rightarrow S^N$ also lend themselves to calculation. For instance, consider the action $A: S^3 \times S^2 \rightarrow S^2$ given by regarding S^2 as the homogeneous space S^3/S^1 arising from the Hopf principal bundle $S^1 \rightarrow S^3 \rightarrow S^2$. As usual $L(A)(1) = \chi(S^2) = 2$ for $1 \in H_0(S^3)$. If $U \in H_3(S^3)$, however, $L(A)(U) = 0$ for dimensional reasons. Hence, the Knill trace is only nontrivial in degree 0.

Example 2.5. Similarly, the principal bundle $SU(n) \rightarrow SU(n+1) \rightarrow S^{2n+1}$ induces an action $A: SU(n+1) \times S^{2n+1} \rightarrow S^{2n+1}$. Now, over a field of characteristic zero, the map on homology $A]: H_*(SU(n+1)) \rightarrow H_*(S^{2n+1})$ is $\Lambda(x_3, x_5, \dots, x_{2n+1}) \rightarrow \Lambda(U)$, $x_i \mapsto 0$ for $i < 2n+1$ and $x_{2n+1} \mapsto U$. For these reasons, as well as dimensional considerations, it is easy to see that

$$L(A)(x_I) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{for } I \neq \{2n+1\}, \\ -U & \text{for } I = \{2n+1\}. \end{cases}$$

We can make a similar analysis for the $U(n+1)$ action on S^{2n+1} , but this will be a consequence of the following naturality property of the Knill trace:

Theorem 2.6 (Naturality). *Let $F: Y \times (X, A) \rightarrow (X, A)$, $F': Y' \times (X', A') \rightarrow (X', A)$, $g: Y \rightarrow Y'$ and $h: (X, A) \rightarrow (X', A')$ be maps such that the diagram*

$$\begin{array}{ccc} Y \times (X, A) & \xrightarrow{F} & (X, A) \\ g \times h \downarrow & & h \downarrow \\ Y' \times (X', A') & \xrightarrow{F'} & (X', A') \end{array}$$

induces a commutative diagram in relative homology. Suppose h induces an isomorphism in relative homology. Then for $y \in H_*(Y)$,

$$h_*(L(F)(y)) = L(F')(g_*(y)).$$

Proof. For $k \geq 0$, let $\{b_j^k\}$ be a basis for $H_*(X, A)$ with corresponding dual basis $\{\bar{b}_j^k\}$ for $H_*(X, A)$. Since h_* is an isomorphism $\{h_*(b_j^k)\}$ is a basis for $H_*(X', A')$ with dual basis $\overline{h_*(b_j^k)} = (h^*)^{-1}(\bar{b}_j^k)$. By hypothesis, $F_* = (h_*)^{-1}F'_*(g \times h)_*$ and so for $y \in H_n(Y)$

$$\begin{aligned} h_*(\bar{b}_j^k \cap F_*(y \times b_j^k)) &= h_*(\bar{b}_j^k \cap (h_*)^{-1}F'_*(g \times h)_*(y \times b_j^k)) \\ &= h_*((h_*)^{-1}((h^*)^{-1}(\bar{b}_j^k) \cap F'_*(g(y) \times h_*(b_j^k)))) \\ &= \overline{h_*(b_j^k)} \cap F'_*(g(y) \times h_*(b_j^k)). \end{aligned}$$

Using this expression, we have:

$$\begin{aligned} h_*(L(F)(y)) &= h_*\left(\sum_{k \geq 0} (-1)^{k+n} \sum_j \bar{b}_j^k \cap F_*(y \times b_j^k)\right) \\ &= \sum_{k \geq 0} (-1)^{k+n} \sum_j h_*(\bar{b}_j^k \cap F_*(y \times b_j^k)) \\ &= \sum_{k \geq 0} (-1)^{k+n} \sum_j \overline{h_*(b_j^k)} \cap F'_*(g(y) \times h_*(b_j^k)) \\ &= L(F')(g_*(y)). \quad \square \end{aligned}$$

Example 2.7. Suppose K is a closed subgroup of the compact Lie group G with $\dim K < \dim G$ and the map $\bar{\mu}: K \times G \rightarrow G$ is the restriction of G 's multiplication. Since $L(\mu)$ is zero except for the top class $z \in H_{\dim G}(G)$ (see Example 2.3 above) and $\dim K < \dim G$, Theorem 2.6 implies $L(\bar{\mu}) = 0$ identically.

Let $E: X^X \times X \rightarrow X$ be the evaluation map, i.e. $E(f, x) = f(x)$.

Definition 2.8. The *evaluation trace*, $\mathcal{E}: H_*(X^X) \rightarrow H_*(X)$, is the degree 0 homomorphism given by the Knill trace of the evaluation map, i.e. $\mathcal{E} \equiv L(E)$.

The evaluation trace is the “universal example” of the Knill trace in the following sense. Given any map $F: Y \times X \rightarrow X$ with adjoint $\hat{F}: Y \rightarrow X^X$ defined by $\hat{F}(y)(x) = F(y, x)$ we can write $F = E \circ (\hat{F} \times \text{id})$ and so by Theorem 2.6:

Proposition 2.9. $L(F) = \mathcal{E} \circ \hat{F}_*$. □

The evaluation trace can be expressed in terms of cohomology as follows. Define a degree 0 homomorphism $\bar{\lambda}: H_*(X^X) \rightarrow \text{Hom}(H^*(X), H^*(X))$ by $\bar{\lambda}(\beta)(z) = \beta \setminus E^*(z)$ where $\beta \in H_n(X^X)$, $z \in H^k(X)$ and $H_n(X^X) \otimes H^k(X^X \times X) \xrightarrow{\setminus} H^{k-n}(X)$ is the slant product (see [Sp, p. 351]). Observe that $\bar{\lambda}(\beta): H^*(X) \rightarrow H^*(X)$ has degree $-n$ so that we may apply Definition 1.7 to obtain $L_n(\bar{\lambda}(\beta)) \in H_n(X)$.

Theorem 2.10. For $\beta \in H_n(X^X)$, $\mathcal{E}(\beta) = (-1)^n L_n(\bar{\lambda}(\beta))$.

Proof. For $k \geq 0$, let $\{b_j^k\}$ be a basis for $H_k(X)$ and $\{\bar{b}_j^k\}$ the corresponding dual basis for $H^k(X)$. Let $\beta \in H_n(X^X)$. Then for any $z \in H^k(X)$

$$\langle \beta \setminus E^*(z), b_\ell^{k-n} \rangle = \langle E^*(z), \beta \times b_\ell^{k-n} \rangle = \langle z, E_*(\beta \times b_\ell^{k-n}) \rangle$$

and consequently

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{\lambda}(\beta)(z) &= \sum_\ell \langle \bar{\lambda}(\beta)(z), b_\ell^{k-n} \bar{b}_\ell^{k-n} \rangle = \sum_\ell \langle \beta \setminus E^*(z), b_\ell^{k-n} \bar{b}_\ell^{k-n} \rangle \\ &= \sum_\ell \langle z, E_*(\beta \times b_\ell^{k-n}) \rangle \bar{b}_\ell^{k-n}. \end{aligned}$$

Using this expression for $\bar{\lambda}(\beta)$, we obtain:

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_j \bar{\lambda}(\beta)(\bar{b}_j^k) \cap b_j^k &= \sum_j \left(\sum_\ell \langle \bar{b}_j^k, E_*(\beta \times b_\ell^{k-n}) \rangle \bar{b}_\ell^{k-n} \right) \cap b_j^k \\ &= \sum_\ell \bar{b}_\ell^{k-n} \cap \left(\sum_j \langle \bar{b}_j^k, E_*(\beta \times b_\ell^{k-n}) \rangle b_j^k \right) \\ &= \sum_\ell \bar{b}_\ell^{k-n} \cap E_*(\beta \times b_\ell^{k-n}). \end{aligned}$$

Thus

$$(-1)^n L_n(\bar{\lambda}(\beta)) = \sum_{k \geq 0} (-1)^k \sum_j \bar{\lambda}(\beta)(\bar{b}_j^k) \cap b_j^k = \sum_{k \geq 0} (-1)^k \sum_\ell \bar{b}_\ell^{k-n} \cap E_*(\beta \times b_\ell^{k-n}).$$

Since $b_\ell^{k-n} = 0$ if $k < n$, we can put $s = k - n$ yielding:

$$\sum_{k \geq 0} (-1)^k \sum_\ell \bar{b}_\ell^{k-n} \cap E_*(\beta \times b_\ell^{k-n}) = \sum_{s \geq 0} (-1)^{s+n} \sum_\ell \bar{b}_\ell^s \cap E_*(\beta \times b_\ell^s) = \mathcal{E}(\beta). \quad \square$$

Combining Theorem 2.10 with Proposition 2.9 yields the following cohomological formula for the Knill trace of a map $F: Y \times X \rightarrow X$:

Proposition 2.11. For $y \in H_n(Y)$, $L(F)(y) = (-1)^n L_n(\bar{\lambda}(\hat{F}_*(y)))$. □

3. A HIGHER HOPF TRACE FORMULA

Let (V_*, ∂) be a *finite dimensional chain complex* over a field \mathbb{F} . This means V_* is a graded vector space over \mathbb{F} , $\sum_i \dim V^i < \infty$ and $\partial: V_* \rightarrow V_*$ is a degree -1 homomorphism such that $\partial^2 = 0$. The *dual* of (V_*, ∂) is the cochain complex, (V^*, d) , defined as follows: $V^i = \text{Hom}_{\mathbb{F}}(V_i, \mathbb{F})$ and the degree 1 homomorphism $d: V^* \rightarrow V^*$ is the transpose of ∂ , i.e. $\langle dx, y \rangle = \langle x, \partial y \rangle$ for $x \in V^i$ and $y \in V_{i+1}$. Let (C_*, ∂') be another (not necessarily finite dimensional) chain complex. Suppose

V_* has a cap product taking values in C_* (see §1). We say that this cap product is *compatible* if the differential ∂' has the following derivation property:

$$\partial'(x \cap y) = x \cap \partial y + (-1)^{|y|-|x|} dx \cap y$$

where $|\cdot|$ denotes the degree of a homogeneous element of V_* or V^* . It is straightforward to verify that a compatible cap product induces a cap product $H^r(V^*) \otimes H_s(V_*) \rightarrow H_{s-r}(C_*)$.

Recall that a degree n homomorphism $\theta: V_* \rightarrow V_*$ is a *chain map* if $\theta\partial = (-1)^n \partial\theta$ in which case θ induces a homomorphism of degree n on homology which we denote by $H_*(\theta): H_*(V_*) \rightarrow H_*(V_*)$.

Theorem 3.1 (Higher Hopf Trace Formula). *Let (V_*, ∂) be a finite dimensional chain complex over \mathbb{F} with a given compatible cap product taking values in (C_*, ∂') . Let $\theta: V_* \rightarrow V_*$ be a degree n chain map. Then $L_n(\theta) \in C_n$ is a cycle representing the homology class $L_n(H_*(\theta)) \in H_n(C_*)$.*

Proof. For each k choose vectors $e_1^k, \dots, e_{m_k}^k \in V_k$ and $f_1^k, \dots, f_{n_k}^k \in V_k$ so that

1. $\{\partial e_1^{k+1}, \dots, \partial e_{m_{k+1}}^{k+1}\}$ is a basis for $B_k \equiv \text{Im}(\partial: V_{k+1} \rightarrow V_k)$,
2. $\{\partial e_1^{k+1}, \dots, \partial e_{m_{k+1}}^{k+1}, f_1^k, \dots, f_{n_k}^k\}$ is a basis for $Z_k \equiv \ker(\partial: V_k \rightarrow V_{k-1})$,
3. $\{\partial e_1^{k+1}, \dots, \partial e_{m_{k+1}}^{k+1}, f_1^k, \dots, f_{n_k}^k, e_1^k, \dots, e_{m_k}^k\}$ is a basis for V_k .

By Proposition 1.2, we have

$$L_n(\theta) = \sum_k (-1)^{k+n} \left(\sum_{j=1}^{m_{k+1}} \overline{\partial e_j^{k+1}} \cap \theta(\partial e_j^{k+1}) + \sum_{j=1}^{n_k} \overline{f_j^k} \cap \theta(f_j^k) + \sum_{j=1}^{m_k} \overline{e_j^k} \cap \theta(e_j^k) \right).$$

Let $y = e_j^{k+1}$. Note that $d(\overline{\partial y}) = y$. We have

$$\begin{aligned} \partial'(\overline{\partial y} \cap \theta(y)) &= \overline{\partial y} \cap \partial\theta(y) + (-1)^{(k+1+n)-k} d(\overline{\partial y}) \cap \theta(y) \\ &= (-1)^n \overline{\partial y} \cap \theta(\partial y) + (-1)^{1+n} y \cap \theta(y) \\ &= (-1)^n (\overline{\partial y} \cap \theta(\partial y) - y \cap \theta(y)). \end{aligned}$$

Using this identity in the above expression for $L_n(\theta)$, we obtain

$$L_n(\theta) = \sum_k (-1)^{k+n} \sum_{j=1}^{n_k} \overline{f_j^k} \cap \theta(f_j^k) + \partial' u$$

where $u \in C_{n+1}$. Now $\partial'(\overline{f_j^k} \cap \theta(f_j^k)) = \overline{f_j^k} \cap \partial\theta(f_j^k) + (-1)^n d\overline{f_j^k} \cap \theta(f_j^k)$. Since $\partial f_j^k = 0$, $\partial\theta(f_j^k) = (-1)^n \theta(\partial f_j^k)$ and $d\overline{f_j^k} = 0$, we conclude $\partial(\overline{f_j^k} \cap \theta(f_j^k)) = 0$ and so $L_n(\theta)$ is a cycle. Observe that for each k , $\{f_1^k, \dots, f_{n_k}^k\}$ projects to a basis for $H_k(V_*) \equiv Z_k/B_k$. Using this basis for $H_*(V_*)$ and applying Proposition 1.2 to the computation $L_n(H_*(\theta))$, the conclusion of the theorem easily follows. \square

Remark. Suppose $n = 0$ and that the cap product is as in Remark 1.4. If \mathbb{F} has characteristic 0 and c_0 is a cycle projecting to a non-zero homology class in $H_0(C_*)$, then Theorem 3.1 recovers the classical Hopf trace formula.

The following “dual” version of Theorem 3.1 is proved similarly:

Theorem 3.2. *Let (V_*, ∂) be a finite dimensional chain complex over \mathbb{F} with a given compatible cap product taking values in (C_*, ∂') . Let $\theta: V^* \rightarrow V^*$ be a degree $-n$ cochain map. Then $L_n(\theta) \in C_n$ is a cycle representing the homology class $L_n(H^*(\theta)) \in H_n(C_*)$. \square*

The Lefschetz number of a cellular map $f: X \rightarrow X$ of a finite CW complex can be calculated using cellular chains: $L(f) = \sum_{i \geq 0} (-1)^i \text{trace}(f_i: C_i(X) \rightarrow C_i(X))$ where $C_i(X)$ is the free abelian group of cellular i -chains and $f_i: C_i(X) \rightarrow C_i(X)$ is the homomorphism induced by f . The Knill trace can also be computed using chains although one must employ simplicial chains because of the need for a chain level cap product.

Let K be an ordered simplicial complex (i.e. there is given a partial order of the vertex set, K_0 , such that each simplex is totally ordered). Serving as a ring of coefficients, let R be a principal ideal domain. Define the chain complex $(C'_*(K; R), \partial')$ as follows: $C'_n(K; R)$ is the free R -module generated by $n + 1$ -tuples $(v_0, \dots, v_n) \in K_0^{n+1}$ such that $\{v_0, \dots, v_n\}$ spans a simplex of K and $v_0 \leq v_1 \leq \dots \leq v_n$ in the given ordering. The boundary operator is defined in the usual way by $\partial'(v_0, \dots, v_n) = \sum_{i=0}^n (-1)^i (v_0, \dots, \hat{v}_i, \dots, v_n)$ where “ \hat{v}_i ” indicates that v_i is omitted. For nonempty K , this chain complex is always of infinite rank over R . Let $D_* \subset C'_*(K; R)$ be generated by the *degenerate simplices*, i.e. n -tuples of the form $(v_0, \dots, v_n) \in C'_n(K; R)$ where $v_i = v_{i+1}$ for some i . It is easy to check that D_* is a subcomplex. Define $C_*(K; R)$ to be the quotient complex $C'_*(K; R)/D_*$. Then $C_n(K; R)$ is a free R -module of rank equal to the number of (nondegenerate) n -simplices of K . Given two ordered simplicial complexes L and K , their *product* $L \times K$ is the ordered simplicial complex defined as follows. The vertex set of $L \times K$ is $L_0 \times K_0$ equipped with the left-to-right lexicographic ordering (i.e. $(a, b) \leq (c, d)$ if and only if $a < c$ or $a = c$ and $b \leq d$). Distinct vertices $(v_0, w_0), \dots, (v_n, w_n) \in L_0 \times K_0$ with $(v_0, w_0) < (v_1, w_1) < \dots < (v_n, w_n)$ span an n -simplex of $L \times K$ if

1. $\{v_0, \dots, v_n\}$ spans a simplex of L and $v_0 \leq v_1 \leq \dots \leq v_n$,
2. $\{w_0, \dots, w_n\}$ spans a simplex of K and $w_0 \leq w_1 \leq \dots \leq w_n$.

The shuffle product (see [M, p. 243]) provides a natural chain equivalence

$$C_*(L; R) \otimes C_*(K; R) \xrightarrow{\mathcal{S}} C_*(L \times K; R)$$

from which we obtain a natural chain map

$$C_*(L; R) \xrightarrow{\mathcal{S}} \text{Hom}(C_*(K; R), C_*(L \times K; R)).$$

Now suppose that K is finite and $F: |L| \times |K| \rightarrow |K|$ is a continuous map where “ $|$ ” denotes geometric realization. There is a natural homeomorphism $|L| \times |K| \cong |L \times K|$. Let $F': (L \times K)' \rightarrow K$ be a simplicial approximation to F where $(L \times K)'$ is a subdivision of $L \times K$. Let $F''_*: C_*(L \times K; R) \rightarrow C_*(K; R)$ be the composite of a subdivision chain map $\text{sd}: C_*(L \times K; R) \rightarrow C_*((L \times K)'; R)$ and the induced chain map $F'_*: C_*((L \times K)'; R) \rightarrow C_*(K; R)$. Let $\mu: C_*(L; R) \rightarrow \text{Hom}(C_*(K; R), C_*(K; R))$ be the composite of $\mathcal{S}: C_*(L; R) \rightarrow \text{Hom}(C_*(K; R), C_*(L \times K; R))$ and the chain map

$$\text{Hom}(C_*(K; R), C_*(L \times K; R)) \rightarrow \text{Hom}(C_*(K; R), C_*(K; R))$$

induced by F''_* . Define $C^*(K; R) = \text{Hom}_R(C_*(K; R), R)$. The cap product

$$C^k(K; R) \otimes C_{n+k}(K; R) \xrightarrow{\cap} C_n(K; R)$$

is given explicitly by

$$f \cap [v_0, \dots, v_{n+k}] = f([v_n, \dots, v_{k+n}])[v_0, \dots, v_n]$$

where we use the notation $[w_0, \dots, w_m]$ for the image in $C_m(K; R)$ of $(w_0, \dots, w_m) \in C'_m(K; R)$. The theory of §1 is clearly valid for free modules over R (in place of vector spaces over a field \mathbb{F}) and so we make the following definition.

Definition 3.3. The *chain level Knill trace* of $F': (L \times K)' \rightarrow K$ is the degree 0 homomorphism $L(F'): C_*(L; R) \rightarrow C_*(K; R)$ given by $L(F')(z) = L_n(\mu(z))$ for $z \in C_n(L; R)$.

It is straightforward to verify that $L(F')$ is a chain map. If $R = \mathbb{F}$ is a field, the Higher Hopf Trace Formula (Theorem 3.1) yields:

Proposition 3.4. *The chain level Knill trace $L(F'): C_*(L; \mathbb{F}) \rightarrow C_*(K; \mathbb{F})$ induces the Knill trace $L(F): H_*(|L|) \rightarrow H_*(|K|)$.* □

Remark. One can think of F''_* as being induced by a cellular map $F'' : |L| \times |K| \rightarrow |K|$ and of the chain level Knill trace as “ $L(F'')$ ”.

4. SUM AND PRODUCT THEOREMS

Consider a topological pair (X, A) such that $H_*(A)$ and $H_*(X)$ are both finite dimensional over \mathbb{F} . Using the homology long exact sequence for the pair (X, A) , we see that $H_*(X, A)$ is necessarily finite dimensional. Let $F: Y \times (X, A) \rightarrow (X, A)$ be a map of pairs. Write F_X for F regarded as a map $Y \times (X, \emptyset) \rightarrow (X, \emptyset)$, $F_{X,A}$ for F regarded as a map $Y \times (X, A) \rightarrow (X, A)$, and F_A for the restriction of F to $Y \times A$ regarded as a map $Y \times (A, \emptyset) \rightarrow (A, \emptyset)$. Let $i: A \hookrightarrow X$ be the inclusion. We have the following additivity property of the Knill trace.

Theorem 4.1 (Sum Theorem). $L(F_X) = i_*(L(F_A)) + L(F_{X,A})$.

Proof. Let $j: (X, \emptyset) \hookrightarrow (X, A)$ be the inclusion. Let $\partial: H_*(X, A) \rightarrow H_*(A)$ denote the degree -1 boundary operator. Using the homology long exact sequence for the pair (X, A) , for $k \geq 0$ choose linearly independent sets of vectors: $d_1^k, \dots, d_{m_k}^k \in H_k(A)$, $f_1^k, \dots, f_{n_k}^k \in H_k(X)$ and $v_1^k, \dots, v_{p_k}^k \in H_k(X, A)$ so that for each $k \geq 0$:

$$\begin{aligned} &\partial v_1^{k+1}, \dots, \partial v_{p_{k+1}}^{k+1}, d_1^k, \dots, d_{m_k}^k \text{ is a basis for } H_k(A), \\ &i_*(d_1^k), \dots, i_*(d_{m_k}^k), f_1^k, \dots, f_{n_k}^k \text{ is a basis for } H_k(X) \text{ and} \\ &j_*(f_1^k), \dots, j_*(f_{n_k}^k), v_1^k, \dots, v_{p_k}^k \text{ is a basis for } H_k(X, A). \end{aligned}$$

Notation. Given a basis w_1, \dots, w_m for a homology group, let $\bar{w}_1, \dots, \bar{w}_m$ denote the dual basis for the corresponding cohomology group, i.e. $\langle \bar{w}_k, w_\ell \rangle = \delta_{k,\ell}$ (Kronecker delta).

Let $u \in H_n(Y)$. Then by Proposition 1.2:

$$L(F_X)(u) = \sum_{k \geq 0} (-1)^{k+n} \left(\sum_{\ell=1}^{m_k} \overline{i_*(d_\ell^k)} \cap (F_X)_*(u \times i_*(d_\ell^k)) + \sum_{\ell=1}^{n_k} \overline{j_*(f_\ell^k)} \cap (F_X)_*(u \times f_\ell^k) \right),$$

$$L(F_A)(u) = \sum_{k \geq 0} (-1)^{k+n} \left(\sum_{\ell=1}^{p_{k+1}} \overline{\partial v_\ell^{k+1}} \cap (F_A)_*(u \times \partial v_\ell^{k+1}) + \sum_{\ell=1}^{m_k} \overline{d_\ell^k} \cap (F_A)_*(u \times d_\ell^k) \right),$$

$$L(F_{X,A})(u) = \sum_{k \geq 0} (-1)^{k+n} \left(\sum_{\ell=1}^{n_k} \overline{j_*(f_\ell^k)} \cap (F_{X,A})_*(u \times j_*(f_\ell^k)) + \sum_{\ell=1}^{p_k} \overline{v_\ell^k} \cap (F_{X,A})_*(u \times v_\ell^k) \right).$$

Note that $jF_X = F_{X,A} \circ (\text{id} \times j)$. We have:

$$\begin{aligned} \overline{j_*(f_\ell^k)} \cap (F_{X,A})_*(u \times j_*(f_\ell^k)) &= \overline{j_*(f_\ell^k)} \cap j_*(F_X)_*(u \times f_\ell^k) \\ &= j^*(\overline{j_*(f_\ell^k)}) \cap (F_X)_*(u \times f_\ell^k) \\ &= \overline{f_\ell^k} \cap (F_X)_*(u \times f_\ell^k). \end{aligned}$$

Note that $iF_A = F_X \circ (\text{id} \times i)$. We have:

$$\begin{aligned} \overline{i_*(d_\ell^k)} \cap (F_X)_*(u \times i_*(d_\ell^k)) &= \overline{i_*(d_\ell^k)} \cap i_*(F_A)_*(u \times d_\ell^k) \\ &= i^*(\overline{i_*(d_\ell^k)}) \cap (F_A)_*(u \times d_\ell^k) \\ &= \overline{d_\ell^k} \cap (F_A)_*(u \times d_\ell^k). \end{aligned}$$

The naturality of the homology long exact sequence of a pair implies $(F_A)_*(u \times \partial x) = (-1)^n \partial(F_{X,A})_*(u \times x)$ for all $x \in H_*(X, A)$. Let $d: H^*(A) \rightarrow H^*(X, A)$ denote the degree 1 coboundary operator; it has the properties: $\langle dz, w \rangle = \langle z, \partial w \rangle$ for all $z \in H^k(X)$ and $w \in H_{k+1}(X, A)$, and $d(i^*(z) \cup \beta) = (-1)^k z \cup d\beta$ for all $z \in H^k(X)$ and $\beta \in H^*(A)$ (see [Sp, 5.6.12]). For all $z \in H^n(X)$ we have:

$$\begin{aligned} \langle z, i_*(\overline{\partial v_\ell^{k+1}} \cap (F_A)_*(u \times \partial v_\ell^{k+1})) \rangle &= (-1)^n \langle z, i_*(\overline{\partial v_\ell^{k+1}} \cap \partial(F_{X,A})_*(u \times v_\ell^{k+1})) \rangle \\ &= (-1)^n \langle i^*(z) \cup \overline{\partial v_\ell^{k+1}}, \partial(F_{X,A})_*(u \times v_\ell^{k+1}) \rangle \\ &= (-1)^n \langle d(i^*(z) \cup \overline{\partial v_\ell^{k+1}}), (F_{X,A})_*(u \times v_\ell^{k+1}) \rangle \\ &= (-1)^n (-1)^n \langle z \cup d(\overline{\partial v_\ell^{k+1}}), (F_{X,A})_*(u \times v_\ell^{k+1}) \rangle \\ &= \langle z \cup \overline{v_\ell^{k+1}}, (F_{X,A})_*(u \times v_\ell^{k+1}) \rangle \\ &= \langle z, \overline{v_\ell^{k+1}} \cap (F_{X,A})_*(u \times v_\ell^{k+1}) \rangle. \end{aligned}$$

It follows that $i_*(\overline{\partial v_\ell^{k+1}} \cap (F_A)_*(u \times \partial v_\ell^{k+1})) = \overline{v_\ell^{k+1}} \cap (F_{X,A})_*(u \times v_\ell^{k+1})$.

Combining the above identities, we have:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & i_*(L(F_A))(u) + L(F_{X,A})(u) \\
 &= \sum_{k \geq 0} (-1)^{k+n} \left(\sum_{\ell=1}^{p_{k+1}} i_* (\overline{\partial v_\ell^{k+1}} \cap (F_A)_*(u \times \partial v_\ell^{k+1})) + \sum_{\ell=1}^{m_k} i_* (\overline{d_\ell^k} \cap (F_A)_*(u \times d_\ell^k)) \right) \\
 & \quad + \sum_{k \geq 0} (-1)^{k+n} \left(\sum_{\ell=1}^{n_k} j_* (\overline{f_\ell^k} \cap (F_{X,A})_*(u \times j_*(f_\ell^k))) + \sum_{\ell=1}^{p_k} \overline{v_\ell^k} \cap (F_{X,A})_*(u \times v_\ell^k) \right) \\
 &= \sum_{k \geq 0} (-1)^{k+n} \left(\sum_{\ell=1}^{p_{k+1}} \overline{v_\ell^{k+1}} \cap (F_{X,A})_*(u \times v_\ell^{k+1}) + \sum_{\ell=1}^{m_k} i_* (\overline{d_\ell^k} \cap (F_X)_*(u \times i_*(d_\ell^k))) \right) \\
 & \quad + \sum_{k \geq 0} (-1)^{k+n} \left(\sum_{\ell=1}^{n_k} \overline{f_\ell^k} \cap (F_X)_*(u \times f_\ell^k) + \sum_{\ell=1}^{p_k} \overline{v_\ell^k} \cap (F_{X,A})_*(u \times v_\ell^k) \right) \\
 &= \sum_{k \geq 0} (-1)^{k+n} \left(\sum_{\ell=1}^{m_k} i_* (\overline{d_\ell^k} \cap (F_X)_*(u \times i_*(d_\ell^k))) + \sum_{\ell=1}^{n_k} \overline{f_\ell^k} \cap (F_X)_*(u \times f_\ell^k) \right) \\
 &= L(F_X)(u). \quad \square
 \end{aligned}$$

Let X be a space with a finite filtration $\emptyset = X_{-1} \subset X_0 \subset \dots \subset X_m = X$ such that for each $0 \leq j \leq m$, $H_*(X_j, X_{j-1})$ is finite dimensional. Suppose $F: Y \times X \rightarrow X$ is filtration preserving, i.e. $F(Y \times X_j) \subset X_j$. Let $F_{j,j-1}$ denote the restriction of F to $Y \times X_j$ regarded as a map of pairs $Y \times (X_j, X_{j-1}) \rightarrow (X_j, X_{j-1})$ and let $i_j: X_j \hookrightarrow X$ be the inclusion. Then repeated application of the Sum Theorem (Theorem 4.1) yields:

Corollary 4.2. $L(F) = \sum_{j=0}^m (i_j)_*(L(F_{j,j-1}))$. □

Let $F: Y \times X \rightarrow X$ and $p: X \rightarrow B$ be maps. We say F is a *fiber map* if $p \circ F = p \circ p'$ where $p': Y \times X \rightarrow X$ is projection. We also say B is *homology equivalent over \mathbb{F} to a finite complex* if there is a map $B' \rightarrow B$, where B' is a finite CW complex, inducing an isomorphism on homology with \mathbb{F} coefficients. As an application of Corollary 4.2, we prove the following product theorem for $L(F)$.

Theorem 4.3 (Product Theorem). *Let $K \xrightarrow{i} X \xrightarrow{p} B$ be an orientable Serre fibration where B is homology equivalent over \mathbb{F} to a finite complex and $H_*(K)$ is finite dimensional. Let $F: Y \times X \rightarrow X$ be a fiber map. Then*

$$L(F) = \chi(B) i_*(L(F|_{Y \times K}))$$

where $\chi(B) \equiv \sum_{i \geq 0} (-1)^i \dim H_i(B)$ is the Euler characteristic of B .

Note that the hypotheses of the theorem imply that $H_*(X)$ is finite dimensional.

Proof. By pulling back the fibration p via a map $B' \rightarrow B$, where B' is a finite CW complex, inducing an isomorphism on homology with \mathbb{F} coefficients, we can assume without loss of generality that B is a finite CW complex. Define a finite filtration of X by $X_k = p^{-1}(B_k)$ where B_k is the k -skeleton of B . Since F is a fiber map, it preserves the filtration $\{X_k\}$. By Corollary 4.2, $L(F) = \sum_{j \geq 0} (i_j)_*(L(F_{j,j-1}))$.

From the construction of the Serre spectral sequence (e.g. [W]), there is an isomorphism $H^k(X_j, X_{j-1}) \cong H^{k-j}(K) \otimes C^j(B)$, where $C^j(B)$ denotes the vector space with basis the j -cells of B . Moreover, because F is a fiber map over $1_B : B \rightarrow B$, $F_{j,j-1*} = F_{0*} \otimes 1_{C^j(B)}$, where $F_0 = F|_{Y \times K}$. For j fixed, let $\{\bar{\gamma}_i^r \times \bar{b}_l^j\}$ be a basis for $H^{r+j}(X_j, X_{j-1})$, where the γ 's and b 's are bases for $H^r(K)$ and $C^j(B)$ respectively. For $y \in H_n(Y)$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{\gamma}_i^{k-j} \times \bar{b}_l^j \cap F_{j,j-1*}(y \times (\gamma_i^{k-j} \times b_l^j)) &= \bar{\gamma}_i^{k-j} \times \bar{b}_l^j \cap F_{0*}(y \times \gamma_i^{k-j}) \times b_l^j \\ &= (-1)^{(k-j)(j-j)} \gamma_i^{k-j} \cap F_{0*}(y \times \gamma_i^{k-j}) \times \bar{b}_l^j \cap b_l^j \\ &= \gamma_i^{k-j} \cap F_{0*}(y \times \gamma_i^{k-j}) \times 1. \end{aligned}$$

Since this is true for each \bar{b}_l^j , we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{j_k(X_j, X_{j-1})} \bar{\gamma}_i^{k-j} \times \bar{b}_l^j \cap F_{j,j-1*}(y \times (\gamma_i^{k-j} \times b_l^j)) \\ = \sum_{j_k(X_j, X_{j-1})} \bar{\gamma}_i^{k-j} \cap F_{0*}(y \times \gamma_i^{k-j}) \cdot \dim C^j(B) \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} L(F_{j,j-1})(y) &= \sum_{k \geq 0} (-1)^{k+n} \sum_{j_k(X_j, X_{j-1})} \bar{\gamma}_i^{k-j} \times \bar{b}_l^j \cap F_{j,j-1*}(y \times (\gamma_i^{k-j} \times b_l^j)) \\ &= \sum_{k \geq 0} (-1)^{k+n} \sum_{j_{k-j}(K)} \bar{\gamma}_i^{k-j} \cap F_{0*}(y \times \gamma_i^{k-j}) \cdot \dim C^j(B). \end{aligned}$$

Finally, using $L(F) = \sum_{j \geq 0} (i_j)_*(L(F_{j,j-1}))$ and noting that the isomorphism above identifies $(i_j)_*(L(F_{j,j-1}))$ with $i_*(\sum_{k \geq 0} (-1)^{k+n} \sum_{j_{k-j}(K)} \bar{\gamma}_i^{k-j} \cap F_{0*}(y \times \gamma_i^{k-j}) \cdot \dim C^j(B))$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} L(F) &= \sum_{j \geq 0} \sum_{k \geq 0} (-1)^{k+n} \sum_{j_{k-j}(K)} i_*(\bar{\gamma}_i^{k-j} \cap F_{0*}(y \times \gamma_i^{k-j})) \cdot \dim C^j(B) \\ &= \sum_{j \geq 0} (-1)^j \dim C^j(B) \sum_{k \geq 0} (-1)^{k-j+n} \sum_{j_{k-j}(K)} i_*(\bar{\gamma}_i^{k-j} \cap F_{0*}(y \times \gamma_i^{k-j})) \\ &= \sum_{j \geq 0} (-1)^j \dim C^j(B) \sum_{k-j \geq 0} (-1)^{k-j+n} \sum_{j_{k-j}(K)} i_*(\bar{\gamma}_i^{k-j} \cap F_{0*}(y \times \gamma_i^{k-j})) \end{aligned}$$

since nonzero terms occur only for $k - j \geq 0$;

$$\begin{aligned} &= \chi(B) \cdot i_*L(F_0) \\ &= \chi(B) \cdot i_*L(F|_{Y \times K}). \quad \square \end{aligned}$$

Remark 4.4. Suppose that, in the above theorem, $F : Y \times X \rightarrow X$ lies over $f : B \rightarrow B$. Then the proof given above goes through with a slight change in the first equality

$$\bar{\gamma}_i^{k-j} \times \bar{b}_l^j \cap F_{j,j-1*}(y \times (\gamma_i^{k-j} \times b_l^j)) = \bar{\gamma}_i^{k-j} \times \bar{b}_l^j \cap F_{0*}(y \times \gamma_i^{k-j}) \times f_*(b_l^j).$$

The only effect this has on the calculations is to introduce terms such as $\bar{b}_l^j \cap f_*(b_l^j)$ in place of 1. But it is easy to see that these terms produce the Lefschetz number of B instead of the Euler characteristic. Hence, for $F : Y \times X \rightarrow X$ lying over $f : B \rightarrow B$, we have the formula $L(F) = L(f) \cdot i_*L(F|_{Y \times K})$.

We also have the following general product theorem:

Theorem 4.5. *Let Y_1 and Y_2 be parameter spaces. Let X_1 and X_2 be spaces with finite dimensional homology over \mathbb{F} . For any maps $F_1: Y_1 \times X_1 \rightarrow X_1$, $F_2: Y_2 \times X_2 \rightarrow X_2$ there is a commutative diagram:*

$$\begin{CD} H_*(Y_1 \times Y_2) @>L((F_1 \times F_2) \circ C)>> H_*(X_1 \times X_2) \\ @VVV @VVV \\ H_*(Y_1) \otimes H_*(Y_2) @>L(F_1) \otimes L(F_2)>> H_*(X_1) \otimes H_*(X_2). \end{CD}$$

where $C: Y_1 \times Y_2 \times X_1 \times X_2 \rightarrow Y_1 \times X_1 \times Y_2 \times X_2$ is the map which interchanges the middle factors and the vertical arrows are given by the Künneth isomorphism.

Proof. We must show $L((F_1 \times F_2) \circ C)(u \times v) = L(F_1)(u) \times L(F_2)(v)$ where $u \in H_p(Y_1)$ and $v \in H_q(Y_2)$. For each $k \geq 0$, let $b_1^k, \dots, b_{m_k}^k$ be a basis for $H_k(X_1)$ and let $c_1^k, \dots, c_{n_k}^k$ be a basis for $H_k(X_2)$. The corresponding dual bases for cohomology will be denoted by $\bar{b}_1^k, \dots, \bar{b}_{m_k}^k$ and $\bar{c}_1^k, \dots, \bar{c}_{n_k}^k$ respectively. Then $\{b_i^s \times c_j^{k-s} \mid 0 \leq s \leq k, 1 \leq i \leq m_s, 1 \leq j \leq n_{k-s}\}$ is a basis for $H_k(X_1 \times X_2)$; the corresponding dual basis for $H^k(X_1 \times X_2)$ is $\{\bar{b}_i^s \times \bar{c}_j^{k-s}\}$. We have:

$$\begin{aligned} &L((F_1 \times F_2) \circ C)(u \times v) \\ &= \sum_{k \geq 0} (-1)^{k+p+q} \sum_{s,i,j} (\bar{b}_i^s \times \bar{c}_j^{k-s}) \cap ((F_1 \times F_2) \circ C)_*((u \times v) \times (b_i^s \times c_j^{k-s})) \\ &= \sum_{k \geq 0} (-1)^{k+p+q} \sum_{s,i,j} (-1)^{qs} (\bar{b}_i^s \times \bar{c}_j^{k-s}) \cap ((F_1)_*(u \times b_i^s) \times (F_2)_*(v \times c_j^{k-s})) \\ &= \sum_{k \geq 0} (-1)^{k+p+q} \sum_{s,i,j} (-1)^{qs} (-1)^{sq} (\bar{b}_i^s \cap (F_1)_*(u \times b_i^s)) \\ &\quad \times (\bar{c}_j^{k-s} \cap (F_2)_*(v \times c_j^{k-s})) \\ &= \left(\sum_{k \geq 0} (-1)^{k+p} \sum_i \bar{b}_i^k \cap (F_1)_*(u \times b_i^k) \right) \\ &\quad \times \left(\sum_{k \geq 0} (-1)^{k+q} \sum_j \bar{c}_j^k \cap (F_2)_*(v \times c_j^k) \right) \\ &= L(F_1)(u) \times L(F_2)(v). \quad \square \end{aligned}$$

5. SPHERICAL LEFSCHETZ AND EULER CHARACTERISTICS

For a space X and a self-map $f: X \rightarrow X$, consider the homotopy groups $\pi_n(X^X, f)$, $n > 0$, and the pointed set $\pi_0(X^X, f)$. The evaluation map $ev: X^X \rightarrow X, g \mapsto g(x_0)$, induces $ev_n: \pi_n(X^X, f) \rightarrow \pi_n(X, f(x_0))$. We define, for $n \geq 1$, the higher Jiang group $J_n(X, f) \subset \pi_n(X, f(x_0))$ to be the image of $ev_n: \pi_n(X^X, f) \rightarrow \pi_n(X, f(x_0))$. When $f = id$ we write $G_n(X)$ for $J_n(X, f)$ and note that this is the n^{th} Gottlieb group of X .

For $n > 0$, choose the generator of $H_n(S^n; \mathbb{Z}) \cong \mathbb{Z}$ corresponding to the “standard” orientation of S^n ; more precisely, an ordered basis $\{b_1, \dots, b_n\}$ for the tangent

space of $S^n \subset \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$ at the point $v \in S^n$ is positively oriented if $\{e, b_1, \dots, b_n\}$ is a positively oriented basis for the tangent space at v of \mathbb{R}^{n+1} where e is an outward unit normal vector and \mathbb{R}^{n+1} has the orientation determined by the standard basis. Let $U \in H_n(S^n)$ be the image of this standard generator under the coefficient homomorphism $H_n(S^n; \mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow H_n(S^n)$. In case $n = 0$, $S^0 = \{-1, 1\} \subset \mathbb{R}$ and we choose $1 \in S^0$ as the basepoint and define $U \in H_0(S^0) \cong \mathbb{F} \oplus \mathbb{F}$ to be the homology class represented by $-1 \in S^0$. The class $U \in H_n(S^n)$, denoted by $[S^n]$ in the introduction, is called the *fundamental homology class* of S^n .

Definition 5.1. Suppose $H_*(X)$ is finite dimensional. The n^{th} *spherical Lefschetz characteristic of X based at $f: X \rightarrow X$* is the function $\Lambda_n(f; \mathbb{F}): \pi_n(X^X, f) \rightarrow H_n(X)$ given by $\Lambda_n(f; \mathbb{F})([\hat{\gamma}]) = L(\gamma)(U)$ where $\hat{\gamma}: S^n \rightarrow X^X$ determines $\gamma: S^n \times X \rightarrow X$ via $\hat{\gamma}(s)(x) = \gamma(s, x)$. In case $f = \text{id}_X$, the identity map of X , we write $\chi_n(X; \mathbb{F}) \equiv \Lambda_n(\text{id}_X; \mathbb{F})$ and call $\chi_n(X; \mathbb{F})$ the n^{th} *spherical Euler characteristic of X* .

By Proposition 1.2, $\Lambda_n(f; \mathbb{F})([\hat{\gamma}])$ is given by the formula:

$$\Lambda_n(f; \mathbb{F})([\hat{\gamma}]) = \sum_{k \geq 0} (-1)^{k+n} \sum_{j=1}^{\beta_k} \bar{b}_j^k \cap \gamma_*(U \times b_j^k)$$

where for each $k \geq 0$, $\{b_j^k \mid j = 1, \dots, \beta_k\}$ is a basis for $H_k(X)$ with corresponding dual basis $\{\bar{b}_j^k \mid j = 1, \dots, \beta_k\}$ for $H^k(X)$.

The pointed set $\pi_0(X^X, f)$ is just the set of homotopy classes of maps $g: X \rightarrow X$ with f representing the distinguished basepoint. For X path connected,

$$\Lambda_0(f; \mathbb{F})([g]) = L(g)[x_0]$$

where $L(g)$ is the Lefschetz number of $g: X \rightarrow X$ and $[x_0] \in H_0(X)$ is represented by any point $x_0 \in X$ (see Remark 2.2).

The invariant $\chi_1(X; \mathbb{F})$ was extensively studied in [GN] where applications to group theory were given.

Let $h: \pi_n(X^X, f) \rightarrow H_n(X^X)$ be the composite of the Hurewicz map $\pi_n(X^X, f) \rightarrow H_n(X^X; \mathbb{Z})$ and the coefficient homomorphism $H_n(X^X; \mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow H_n(X^X)$. We call h the *Hurewicz map over \mathbb{F}* . Note that h is a homomorphism when $n > 0$.

Recall that the evaluation trace $\mathcal{E}: H_*(X^X) \rightarrow H_*(X)$ was defined to be the Knill trace of the evaluation map $E: X^X \times X \rightarrow X$ (see Definition 2.8). Proposition 2.9 implies:

Proposition 5.2. *The n^{th} spherical Lefschetz characteristic is the composite of the Hurewicz map over \mathbb{F} and the evaluation trace, i.e. $\Lambda_n(f; \mathbb{F}) = \mathcal{E} \circ h$. \square*

Corollary 5.3. *For $n > 0$, $\Lambda_n(f; \mathbb{F}): \pi_n(X^X, f) \rightarrow H_n(X)$ is a homomorphism. \square*

The product theorems of §4 (see Theorems 4.3 and 4.5) immediately yield:

Theorem 5.4 (Product Theorem for Λ_n). *Let $K \xrightarrow{i} X \xrightarrow{p} B$ be an orientable Serre fibration where B is homology equivalent over \mathbb{F} to a finite complex and $H_*(K)$ is finite dimensional. Let $\gamma: S^n \times X \rightarrow X$ be a fiber map with $\gamma|_{\{v\} \times X} = f$ and let $\hat{\gamma} \in \pi_n(X^X, f)$ be the associated homotopy element. Let $\hat{\gamma}_K \in \pi_n(K^K, f|_K)$ be the*

homotopy element corresponding to the restriction, $\gamma|_{S^n \times K} : S^n \times K \rightarrow K$, of γ to the fiber. Then, if $\chi(B)$ is the Euler characteristic of B ,

$$\Lambda_n(f; \mathbb{F})(\hat{\gamma}) = \chi(B) i_*(\Lambda_n(f|_K, \mathbb{F})(\hat{\gamma}_K)).$$

If, in addition, the fibration p is trivial (i.e. p is fiber homotopy equivalent to the projection $K \times B \rightarrow B$) then the hypothesis on B can be weakened to the assumption that $H_*(B)$ is finite dimensional. □

In case $f = \text{id}_X$, the conclusion of Theorem 5.4 is:

Corollary 5.5. $\chi_n(X; \mathbb{F})(\hat{\gamma}) = \chi(B) i_*(\chi_n(K; \mathbb{F})(\hat{\gamma}_K)).$ □

6. THE $\lambda_{\hat{\alpha}}$ -INVARIANT AND $\Lambda_n(f; \mathbb{F})$

In [LO], a new homotopy invariant was defined to mimic certain obstructions arising in symplectic geometry. This invariant, denoted by $\lambda_{\hat{\alpha}}$, is closely related to the spherical Lefschetz and Euler characteristic. In this section, we first recall the definition of $\lambda_{\hat{\alpha}}$ as well as several of its important properties, and then show that the spherical Lefschetz characteristic may be written in terms of $\lambda_{\hat{\alpha}}$ (see Propositions 6.8 and 6.9). In particular, we show that $\lambda_{\hat{\alpha}}$ is a homomorphism of negative degree whose trace (as in Definition 1.5) is the spherical Lefschetz characteristic. Using this, we will show in §7 how the 1st spherical Euler characteristic (also called the *first order Euler characteristic* in [GN]) may be applied in symplectic geometry.

(A) The $\lambda_{\hat{\alpha}}$ -invariant.

Choose basepoints $v \in S^n$ and $x_0 \in X$. An element of $\pi_n(X^X, f)$ is represented by a map $\hat{\alpha} : (S^n, v) \rightarrow (X^X, f)$. We abuse notation by also denoting by $\hat{\alpha}$ the corresponding element in $\pi_n(X^X, f)$. By the exponential law (which holds by assumption), there is a map $\alpha : S^n \times X \rightarrow X$ given by $\hat{\alpha}(s)(x) = \alpha(s, x)$. Let $\alpha_{\bullet} : (S^n, v) \rightarrow (X, f(x_0))$ be defined by $\alpha_{\bullet}(u) = \alpha(u, x_0)$. Then $\text{ev}_*(\hat{\alpha}) = \alpha_{\bullet}$ where $\text{ev} : X^X \rightarrow X$ is evaluation at the basepoint. Note that this notation differs from that of [LO], but is consistent with our notation in §2.

We define a homomorphism $\lambda_{\hat{\alpha}} : H^q(X) \rightarrow H^{q-n}(X)$, using the Künneth Formula, by:

$$(6.1) \quad \alpha^*(y) = 1 \times f^*(y) + \bar{U} \times \lambda_{\hat{\alpha}}(y),$$

where $y \in H^q(X)$, $\bar{U} \in H^n(S^n)$ is the generator such that $\langle \bar{U}, U \rangle = 1$ and $U \in H_n(S^n)$ is the fundamental homology class (see §5).

Since α^* preserves cup products, we easily conclude:

Proposition 6.2. *If $n > 0$ then $\lambda_{\hat{\alpha}}$ is a derivation of the graded algebra $H^*(X)$ of degree $-n$, i.e. $\lambda_{\hat{\alpha}}(x \cup y) = \lambda_{\hat{\alpha}}(x) \cup y + (-1)^{n|x|} x \cup \lambda_{\hat{\alpha}}(y).$ □*

In particular, $\lambda_{\hat{\alpha}}$ is a degree $-n$ homomorphism, $H^*(X) \rightarrow H^*(X)$ and thus has a trace as in Definition 1.5.

Next, we express $\lambda_{\hat{\alpha}}$ in terms of the homomorphism

$$\bar{\lambda} : H_*(X^X) \rightarrow \text{Hom}(H^*(X), H^*(X))$$

of §2. There is a commutative diagram:

$$\begin{CD} S^n \times X @>\hat{\alpha} \times \text{id}_X>> X^X \times X \\ @V\alpha VV @VV E V \\ X @= X \end{CD}$$

where $E: X^X \times X \rightarrow X$ is the evaluation map.

Proposition 6.3. *If $n > 0$ and $y \in H^q(X)$ then*

$$\lambda_{\hat{\alpha}}(y) = h(\hat{\alpha}) \backslash E^*(y) = \bar{\lambda}(h(\hat{\alpha}))(y)$$

where $H_n(X^X) \otimes H^q(X^X \times X) \xrightarrow{\lambda} H^{q-n}(X)$ is the slant product and $h: \pi_n(X^X, f) \rightarrow H_n(X^X)$ is the Hurewicz map over \mathbb{F} .

Proof. Let $y \in H^q(X; \mathbb{Z})$. By definition, $\bar{\lambda}(h(\hat{\alpha}))(y) = h(\hat{\alpha}) \backslash E^*(y)$. Since $\deg U = n > 0$, $U \backslash (1 \times f^*(y)) = 0$ and so, by (6.1),

$$U \backslash \alpha^*(y) = U \backslash (1 \times f^*(y)) + U \backslash (\bar{U} \times \lambda_{\hat{\alpha}}(y)) = 0 + \langle \bar{U}, U \rangle \lambda_{\hat{\alpha}}(y) = \lambda_{\hat{\alpha}}(y)$$

and thus:

$$\lambda_{\hat{\alpha}}(y) = U \backslash \alpha^*(y) = U \backslash (\hat{\alpha} \times \text{id}_X)^* E^*(y) = \hat{\alpha}_*(U) \backslash E^*(y) = h(\hat{\alpha}) \backslash E^*(y). \quad \square$$

Essentially the same calculation in the case $f = \text{id}_X$ appears in [Go₃, (10.3)].

One immediate consequence is:

Corollary 6.4. *Suppose $n > 0$ and \mathbb{F} has characteristic 0. If $\hat{\alpha} \in \pi_n(X^X, f)$ has finite order then $\lambda_{\hat{\alpha}} = 0$. □*

Since $\bar{\lambda}$ is a homomorphism, we have:

Corollary 6.5. *For $n > 0$, the function $\lambda: \pi_n(X^X, f) \rightarrow \text{Hom}(H^*(X), H^{*-n}(X))$, $\hat{\alpha} \mapsto \lambda_{\hat{\alpha}}$, is a homomorphism. □*

Consider the special case $f = \text{id}_X$ with $\hat{\alpha} \in \pi_n(X^X, \text{id}_X)$ where $n > 0$. Following [Go₃], the associated map α or, equivalently, the element $\hat{\alpha} \in \pi_n(X^X, \text{id}_X)$ may be viewed as a clutching map [Sp, p. 455] along the equator of S^{n+1} which constructs a fibration

$$X \xrightarrow{i} E \rightarrow S^{n+1}$$

with $\alpha_{\bullet} = \partial_{\#}(1) \in \text{im}(\partial_{\#}: \pi_{n+1}S^{n+1} \rightarrow \pi_n X)$. Such a fibration has a Wang sequence associated to it:

$$\dots \rightarrow H^q(E) \xrightarrow{i^*} H^q(X) \xrightarrow{\lambda_{\hat{\alpha}}} H^{q-n}(X) \rightarrow H^{q+1}(E) \rightarrow \dots$$

and the homomorphism $\lambda_{\hat{\alpha}}$ appearing in this sequence coincides with the $\lambda_{\hat{\alpha}}$ -invariant above. By Proposition 6.2, the homomorphism $\lambda_{\hat{\alpha}}$ is a derivation on $H^*(X)$. In the above context, $X \rightarrow E \rightarrow S^{n+1}$ is called the *Wang fibration* associated to $\hat{\alpha}$ and $\lambda_{\hat{\alpha}}$ is called the *Wang derivation*.

Another way to think of this is as follows. There is a classifying space $B \text{Aut}(X)$ for fibrations with fiber X which obeys $\pi_{i+1} B \text{Aut}(X) = \pi_i(X^X, \text{id}_X)$. Therefore, $\hat{\alpha} \in \pi_n(X^X, \text{id}_X)$ corresponds to an element in $\pi_{n+1} B \text{Aut}(X)$ represented by a map $S^{n+1} \rightarrow B \text{Aut}(X)$. The fibration $X \rightarrow E \rightarrow S^{n+1}$ above is simply the pullback via this map of the classifying fibration over $B \text{Aut}(X)$.

Exactness of the Wang sequence gives:

Proposition 6.6. *For $\omega \in H^q(X)$, $\lambda_{\hat{\alpha}}(\omega) = 0$ if and only if there exists $\bar{\omega} \in H^q(E)$ with $i^*\bar{\omega} = \omega$. \square*

Of particular interest is the case where $\lambda_{\hat{\alpha}}$ vanishes. Recall that a fibration $K \rightarrow Z \rightarrow B$ is *totally non-cohomologous to zero* (or TNCZ) over a field \mathbb{F} if any of the following three equivalent conditions holds:

1. The Serre spectral sequence associated to the fibration collapses to the E_2 -term.
2. $H^*(Z) \rightarrow H^*(K)$ is surjective (or, equivalently, $H_*(K) \rightarrow H_*(Z)$ is injective).
3. $H^*(Z) \cong H^*(K) \otimes H^*(B)$ as $H^*(B)$ -modules.

The equivalence of the first two conditions follows from an examination of the edge homomorphism $H^*(Z) \rightarrow H^*(K)$ together with the derivation property of differentials in the Serre spectral sequence ([Mc, p. 138]). The third condition is a straightforward modification of the Leray-Hirsch theorem. The TNCZ condition has proven especially important in the subject of transformation groups ([Bo, §XII], [Br]). Indeed, we relate our spherical Euler characteristic to the TNCZ condition by displaying the former as an obstruction to the latter in the case of a compact Lie group action. The exactness of the Wang sequence allows us to formulate a global version of Proposition 6.6: For a Wang fibration $X \xrightarrow{i} E \rightarrow S^{n+1}$, if $H^*(E) \rightarrow H^*(X)$ is surjective, then $\lambda_{\hat{\alpha}} = 0$ identically since it is the “boundary” homomorphism in the Wang sequence. Clearly, the converse holds as well. We record this observation as:

Corollary 6.7. *$\lambda_{\hat{\alpha}} = 0$ if and only if the Wang fibration associated to $\hat{\alpha}$ is TNCZ. \square*

(B) Cohomological computation of $\Lambda_n(f; \mathbb{F})$.

We now establish the relationship between the spherical Lefschetz characteristic $\Lambda_n(f; \mathbb{F})$ of §5 and the $\lambda_{\hat{\alpha}}$ -invariant of §6(A).

Let $\hat{\alpha} \in \pi_n(X^X, f)$ with associated maps $\alpha: S^n \times X \rightarrow X$ and $\alpha_{\bullet}: S^n \rightarrow X$.

Proposition 6.8. *If $n > 0$ then $\Lambda_n(f; \mathbb{F})(\hat{\alpha}) = (-1)^n L_n(\lambda_{\hat{\alpha}})$.*

Proof. By Proposition 2.11, $\Lambda_n(f; \mathbb{F})(\hat{\alpha}) \equiv L(\alpha)(U) = (-1)^n L_n(\bar{\lambda}(h(\hat{\alpha})))$ and by Proposition 6.3 $\bar{\lambda}(h(\hat{\alpha})) = \lambda_{\hat{\alpha}}$. \square

Another formula for $\Lambda_n(f; \mathbb{F})$ is given by:

Proposition 6.9. *Suppose X is path connected and $n > 0$. Then*

$$(-1)^n \Lambda_n(f; \mathbb{F})(\hat{\alpha}) = L(f)h(\alpha_{\bullet}) + f_*(L_n(\lambda_{\hat{\alpha}})).$$

Proof. Let $\{b_j^k\}$ be a basis for $H_k(X)$ with corresponding dual basis $\{\bar{b}_j^k\}$ for $H^k(X)$. From (6.1), $\alpha^*(x) = 1 \times f^*(x) + \bar{U} \times \lambda_{\hat{\alpha}}(x)$. We have

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha^*(\bar{b}_j^k) \cap U \times b_j^k &= (1 \times f^*(\bar{b}_j^k)) \cap (U \times b_j^k) + \bar{U} \times \lambda_{\hat{\alpha}}(\bar{b}_j^k) \cap (U \times b_j^k) \\ &= U \times f^*(\bar{b}_j^k) \cap b_j^k + (-1)^{n((k-n)-k)} (\bar{U} \cap U) \times (\lambda_{\hat{\alpha}}(\bar{b}_j^k) \cap b_j^k) \\ &= U \times \langle f^*(\bar{b}_j^k), b_j^k \rangle [x_0] + (-1)^n [v] \times (\lambda_{\hat{\alpha}}(\bar{b}_j^k) \cap b_j^k) \end{aligned}$$

where $[v] \in H_0(S^n)$ and $[x_0] \in H_0(X)$ are the classes represented by the basepoints. Now, $\alpha_*(U \times [x_0]) = h(\alpha_{\bullet})$ and $\alpha_*([v] \times y) = f_*(y)$. Thus

$$\bar{b}_j^k \cap \alpha_*(U \times b_j^k) = \alpha_*(\alpha^*(\bar{b}_j^k) \cap U \times b_j^k) = \langle f^*(\bar{b}_j^k), b_j^k \rangle h(\alpha_{\bullet}) + f_*((-1)^n (\lambda_{\hat{\alpha}}(\bar{b}_j^k) \cap b_j^k)).$$

Taking an alternating sum over k and invoking Proposition 1.6 yields the conclusion. \square

Assume X is path connected. Combining Propositions 6.8 and 6.9, we obtain a result of some interest:

Theorem 6.10. *If $n > 0$ then $L(f)h(\alpha_\bullet) = (\text{id} - f_*)(L_n(\lambda_{\hat{\alpha}}))$.* \square

Corollary 6.11. *Let $\hat{\alpha} \in \pi_n(X^X, f)$ with evaluation image $\text{ev}_\#(\hat{\alpha}) = \alpha_\bullet \in \pi_n(X)$ where $n > 0$. If $f_*(L_n(\lambda_{\hat{\alpha}})) = L_n(\lambda_{\hat{\alpha}})$, then either α_\bullet is in the kernel of the Hurewicz map over \mathbb{F} or $L(f) = 0 \pmod p$ where $p \geq 0$ is the characteristic of \mathbb{F} .* \square

In particular, we obtain:

Corollary 6.12. *If $n > 0$, $f_*: H_n(X) \rightarrow H_n(X)$ is the identity and $L(f) \neq 0 \pmod p$ then $J_n(X, f) \subset \ker(h)$, i.e. the composite*

$$\pi_n(X^X, f) \xrightarrow{\text{ev}_\#} \pi_n(X, f(x_0)) \xrightarrow{h} H_n(X)$$

is zero. \square

The special case in which $f = \text{id}$, so that $L(f) = \chi(X)$ and $J_n(X, f) = G_n(X)$, is a result of Gottlieb, [Go₂, Theorem 4.4].

7. SOME COMPUTATIONS OF $\chi_n(X; \mathbb{F})$

The description of $\chi_n(X; \mathbb{F})(\hat{\alpha})$ in terms of $\lambda_{\hat{\alpha}}$ (Proposition 6.8) allows us to calculate the former in cases where the latter is known.

Example 7.1. By [Go₂, Theorem 5.4], the Gottlieb groups of spheres (in their dimensions) are: $G_{2n}(S^{2n}) = 0$ and $G_{2n+1}(S^{2n+1}) = 2\mathbb{Z} \subset \mathbb{Z} = \pi_{2n+1}(S^{2n+1})$ except for the cases $G_1(S^1) = \mathbb{Z}$, $G_3(S^3) = \mathbb{Z}$, $G_7(S^7) = \mathbb{Z}$. If $\hat{\alpha} \in \pi_m(S^m, \text{id}_{S^m})$ and $\bar{U} \in H^m(S^m; \mathbb{F})$ is dual to the fundamental homology class, then (as shown in [LO]),

$$\lambda_{\hat{\alpha}}(\bar{U}) = \langle \bar{U}, h(\alpha_\bullet) \rangle$$

where $\alpha_\bullet = \text{ev}_\#(\hat{\alpha})$ as above. Since $h(\alpha_\bullet) = 0$ for all even dimensional spheres,

$$\chi_{2n}(S^{2n}; \mathbb{F}) = 0.$$

For odd dimensional spheres (excluding S^1, S^3 and S^7),

$$\chi_{2n+1}(S^{2n+1}; \mathbb{F})(\hat{\alpha}) = -2U,$$

where $\alpha_\bullet = \text{ev}_\#(\hat{\alpha})$ generates $G_{2n+1}(S^{2n+1}) = 2\mathbb{Z}$, $U \in H_{2n+1}(S^{2n+1}; \mathbb{F})$ is the fundamental homology class and $h(\alpha_\bullet) = 2U$. If $2n + 1 = 1, 3, 7$, then

$$\chi_{2n+1}(S^{2n+1}; \mathbb{F})(\hat{\alpha}) = -U.$$

This last calculation generalizes [GN, Example 3.1].

Corollary 5.5 and the above calculation yield:

Example 7.2. Let $X = S^n \times Y$, where n is an odd number. If $n \neq 1, 3, 7$, then $\chi_n(X; \mathbb{F})(\hat{\alpha}) = -\chi(Y)h(\alpha_\bullet) = -2\chi(Y)U$, where α_\bullet generates $G_n(S^n) = 2\mathbb{Z}$ and $U \in H_n(S^n; \mathbb{F})$ is the fundamental homology class. If $n = 1, 3, 7$, then $\chi_n(X; \mathbb{F})(\hat{\alpha}) = -\chi(Y)U$, where α_\bullet generates $G_n(S^n) = \mathbb{Z}$.

Combining Proposition 6.8 (in the case $f = \text{id}_X$) with Corollary 6.7, we obtain:

Theorem 7.3. *Let $\hat{\alpha} \in \pi_n(X^X, \text{id}_X)$ where $n > 0$. If the associated Wang fibration $X \rightarrow E \rightarrow S^{n+1}$ is totally noncohomologous to zero (TNCZ), then $\chi_n(X; \mathbb{F})(\hat{\alpha}) = 0$. \square*

This observation can be applied to group actions. Suppose $G \times X \rightarrow X$ is an action of a compact Lie group on X . Let $S^n \rightarrow G$ represent a nontrivial element of $\pi_n(G)$, $n > 0$, and form the composition $S^n \rightarrow G \rightarrow (X^X, \text{id}_X)$. Denote the class of this map by $\hat{\alpha} \in \pi_n(X^X, \text{id}_X)$. Now, $\pi_n(G) \cong \pi_{n+1}(BG)$, so we obtain a pullback of the Borel fibration $X \xrightarrow{j} EG \times_G X \rightarrow BG$ associated to the action,

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} X & \xrightarrow{j} & EG \times_G X & \longrightarrow & BG \\ \parallel & & \phi \uparrow & & \uparrow \\ X & \xrightarrow{i} & E & \longrightarrow & S^{n+1} . \end{array}$$

The fibration $X \xrightarrow{i} E \rightarrow S^{n+1}$ is precisely that associated to $\hat{\alpha}$, so the associated Wang derivation is $\lambda_{\hat{\alpha}}$. By the commutativity of the diagram, if the Borel fibration is TNCZ, then so is the Wang fibration. From Theorem 7.3 we then obtain:

Corollary 7.4. *If $n > 0$ and the Borel fibration of the action is TNCZ, then $\chi_n(X; \mathbb{F})(\hat{\alpha}) = 0$. \square*

A particularly important case where a group action has a TNCZ Borel fibration (over \mathbb{Q}) is when X is a closed symplectic manifold with a Hamiltonian circle action (see [Kir]). Recall that X^{2n} is *symplectic* if there is a closed 2-form ω on X with the property that the wedge product ω^n is a volume form for X . An S^1 -action on X is *Hamiltonian* if the 1-form $i_Y\omega$ is exact where Y is the fundamental vector field associated to the action and $i_Y\omega$ is defined by $i_Y\omega(Z) = \omega(Y, Z)$. Thus,

Corollary 7.5. *If X is a closed symplectic manifold and $\hat{\alpha} \in \pi_1(X^X, \text{id}_X)$ corresponds to a Hamiltonian S^1 -action, then $\chi_1(X; \mathbb{Q})(\hat{\alpha}) = 0$.³ \square*

In [LO] it was shown that the 1-form $i_Y\omega$ is exact if and only if $\lambda_{\hat{\alpha}}(\omega) = 0$ (where we use ω here to denote the cohomology class). In fact, any S^1 -action on a *cohomologically symplectic* manifold X (i.e. X is a closed $2n$ -dimensional manifold with a class $\omega \in H^2(X; \mathbb{Q})$ such that $\omega^n \neq 0$) is said to be *c-Hamiltonian* if $\lambda_{\hat{\alpha}}(\omega) = 0$. It was also shown in [LO] that the condition $\lambda_{\hat{\alpha}}(\omega) = 0$ implies that $\lambda_{\hat{\alpha}}|_{H^1(X; \mathbb{Q})} = 0$. Indeed, these two conditions are equivalent if X is “homologically Kähler”. Recall that X^{2n} is *homologically Kähler* if it is cohomologically symplectic and $\omega \in H^2(X; \mathbb{Q})$ has the “Hard Lefschetz Property”: for $j \leq n$ the homomorphism $H^j(X; \mathbb{Q}) \rightarrow H^{2n-j}(X; \mathbb{Q})$ given by multiplication by ω^{n-j} is an isomorphism. For homologically Kähler spaces, it is known (see [B]) that any cohomology derivation of negative degree which is zero on $H^1(X; \mathbb{Q})$ is identically zero. By Propositions 6.2 and 6.8,

³See note added in proof.

Proposition 7.6. *Suppose X is homologically Kähler. If $\hat{\alpha} \in \pi_1(X^X, \text{id}_X)$ is c -Hamiltonian (i.e. $\lambda_{\hat{\alpha}}(\omega) = 0$), then $\chi_1(X; \mathbb{Q})(\hat{\alpha}) = 0$. In particular, if an S^1 -action on X (with associated $\hat{\alpha}$) is c -Hamiltonian, then $\chi_1(X; \mathbb{Q})(\hat{\alpha}) = 0$. \square*

If X is simply connected and homologically Kähler then $H^1(X; \mathbb{Q}) = 0$ and so any derivation of $H^*(X; \mathbb{Q})$ of negative degree is trivial. By Propositions 6.2 and 6.8,

Proposition 7.7. *If X is homologically Kähler and simply connected then*

$$\chi_n(X; \mathbb{Q}) = 0 \text{ for all } n \geq 1. \quad \square$$

Example 7.8. Let $X = \mathbb{C}P^n$. The complex manifold $\mathbb{C}P^n$ is Kähler and simply connected. By Proposition 7.7, $\chi_n(\mathbb{C}P^n; \mathbb{Q}) = 0$ for all $n \geq 1$.

From these results, we see that the spherical Euler characteristics may be thought of as obstructions to homotopy properties such as the TNCZ condition, and to a manifold being homologically Kähler.

Added in proof. In a forthcoming paper and using different methods the first two authors have obtained the conclusion of Corollary 7.5 for any smooth circle action on any even-dimensional closed manifold. This also holds with integer coefficients.

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