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Title	The Euler characteristic of the image of a stable mapping from a closed n -manifold to a $(2n - l)$ -manifold
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Citation	Hokkaido University Preprint Series in Mathematics, 138, 2-5
Issue Date	1992-02
DOI	https://doi.org/10.14943/83282
Doc URL	https://hdl.handle.net/2115/68884
Type	departmental bulletin paper
File Information	re138.pdf



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Series #138. February 1992

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The Euler characteristic of the image of a stable mapping from a closed n -manifold to a $(2n - 1)$ -manifold

S.IZUMIYA AND W.L.MARAR

INTRODUCTION

One of the themes in the global theory of singularities of mappings $f : N \rightarrow P$ between manifolds is to study the relationship among the topology of N , P and $f(N)$ in the case when $\dim N < \dim P$ ([3]).

Recently, there appeared a considerable progress in the local theory of singularities of mappings ([4],[5],[6],[7]) mainly due to the work of David Mond. In [4] a method has been introduced to compute the Euler characteristic of the image of a stable perturbation of an $\mathcal{A}$ -finite map-germ. Here we shall apply this method to compute the Euler characteristic of the image of a stable mapping from a closed n -manifold to a $(2n - 1)$ -manifold. We also determine the set of Euler characteristics of images of stable mappings from a closed n -manifold to a $(2n - 1)$ -manifold as an application of our main theorem.

All mappings considered here are differentiable class C^∞ unless stated otherwise.

1. THE MAIN RESULT

It is well-known that a mapping $f : N \rightarrow P$ from an n -manifold to a $(2n - 1)$ -manifold is stable if and only if it is an immersion with normal crossings except at the isolated singularities of cross-caps ([8], fig.1). It follows that the number of cross-caps is finite and we denote it by $C(f)$. There also exist finitely many three-to-one points in $f(N)$ at where three sheets of regular images are in general position. Such a point (fig.2) is called triple point of f and the number of triple points is denoted by $T(f)$.

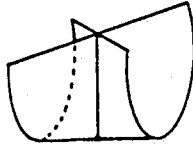


fig.1

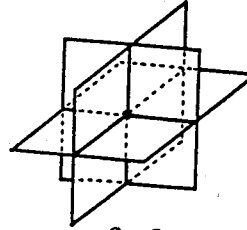


fig.2

We denote the Euler characteristic of a topological space X by $\chi(X)$. Our main result is the following:

THEOREM. (i) $\chi(f(N)) = \chi(N) + T(f) + C(f)/2$, if $n = 2$.
(ii) $\chi(f(N)) = \chi(N) + C(f)/2$, if $n \geq 3$.

PROOF: (i) Let us consider the following sets:

$$D^2(f) = cl\{x \in S \mid \#f^{-1}f(x) \geq 2\},$$

$$D^3(f) = \{x \in D^2(f) \mid \#f^{-1}f(x) = 3\} \text{ and}$$

$$D^2(f, (2)) = \{x \in D^2(f) \mid \#f^{-1}f(x) = 1\},$$

where clX is the topological closure of X . Then we have the following diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
& D^3(f) & \\
& \downarrow k & \\
D^2(f, (2)) & \xrightarrow{j} & D^2(f) \\
& \downarrow i & \\
N & \xrightarrow{f} & f(N) \subset P
\end{array}$$

where i, j, k are inclusions.

By the characterization of stable mappings ([8]), $D^2(f)$ is a union of closed curves on the n -manifold N whose set of self-intersections is $D^3(f)$, which is the inverse image of triple points, and $D^2(f, (2))$ is the set of cross-cap points of f . It follows that these are immersed submanifolds of N with $\dim D^2(f) = 1$ and $\dim D^3(f) = \dim D^2(f, (2)) = 0$, if not empty.

In order to prove the theorem, we consider the following problem: find real numbers α, β, γ and δ such that

$$(1.1) \quad \chi(f(N)) = \alpha \chi(N) + \beta \chi(D^2(f)) + \gamma \chi(D^2(f, (2))) + \delta \chi(D^3(f)).$$

We shall solve this by a purely combinatorial method.

Initially we construct a triangulation K_f of the set $f(N)$ as follows: we start to triangulate $f(N)$ by including the image of $D^2(f, (2))$ and the image of $D^3(f)$ among the vertices of K_f . After this, we build up the one-skeleton $K_f^{(1)}$ of K_f so that the image of $D^2(f)$ is a subcomplex of $K_f^{(1)}$. We complete our procedure by constructing the 2-skeleton $K_f^{(2)}$ of K_f .

Since f and its restrictions to $D^2(f)$, $D^2(f, (2))$ and $D^3(f)$ are proper and finite-to-one mappings, then we can pull back K_f to obtain triangulations for N , $D^2(f)$, $D^2(f, (2))$ and $D^3(f)$ respectively. Let C_i^X be the number of i -cells in X , where $X = f(N)$, N , $D^2(f)$, $D^2(f, (2))$ or $D^3(f)$. Then the equation (1.1) can be written by $\sum_i (-1)^i C_i^{f(N)} = \alpha \sum_i (-1)^i C_i^N + \beta \sum_i (-1)^i C_i^{D^2(f)} + \gamma \sum_i (-1)^i C_i^{D^2(f, (2))} + \delta \sum_i (-1)^i C_i^{D^3(f)}$, where $C_i^X = 0$ if $i > \dim X$. So, if we can find real numbers α, β, γ and δ such that

$$(1.2) \quad C_i^{f(N)} = \alpha C_i^N + \beta C_i^{D^2(f)} + \gamma C_i^{D^2(f, (2))} + \delta C_i^{D^3(f)}$$

for any i , then we have an answer for the problem. By the construction of the triangulation, we may concentrate on solving (1.2) in the case when $i = 0$. We remark that f is 3 to 1 over the points in the image of $D^3(f)$, 1 to 1 over the points in the image of $D^2(f, (2))$, 2 to 1 over the points in the image of $D^2(f) - (D^2(f, (2)) \cup D^3(f))$, and 1 to 1 over the points in the image of $N - D^2(f)$. It follows that the equation

$$C_0^{f(N)} = \alpha C_0^N + \beta C_0^{D^2(f)} + \gamma C_0^{D^2(f, (2))} + \delta C_0^{D^3(f)}$$

is equivalent to the system of linear equations :

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 2 & 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 3 & 3 & 0 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \alpha \\ \beta \\ \gamma \\ \delta \end{pmatrix}.$$

Then we have the solutions $\alpha = 1$, $\beta = -1/2$, $\gamma = 1/2$ and $\delta = -1/6$ so that

$$(1.3) \quad \chi(f(S)) = \chi(S) - \chi(D^2(f))/2 + \chi(D^2(f, (2)))/2 - \chi(D^3(f))/6.$$

By the definition, $\chi(D^2(f, (2))) = C(f)$ and $\chi(D^3(f)) = 3T(f)$. Since $D^2(f)$ is a union of closed curves on the surface N with $3T(f)$ crossings and circles, then we can triangulate it with $3T(f) + n$ 0-cells and $6T(f) + n$ 1-cells, where n is the number of circles. It follows that $\chi(D^2(f)) = -3T(f)$. Finally, substituting these on the equation (1.3), we get

$$\chi(f(N)) = \chi(N) + T(f) + C(f)/2.$$

This completes the proof of (i).

(ii) When $n \geq 3$ then $D^k(f) = \emptyset$, for any $k \geq 3$. So, following the same arguments as above we get

$$\chi(f(N)) = \chi(N) + C(f)/2.$$

2. AN APPLICATION

In this section we shall determine the set of Euler characteristics of images of stable mappings from a connected closed n -manifold to a $(2n - 1)$ -manifold as an application of the theorem.

We now define $\chi(N, P) = \{\chi(f(N)) | f : N \rightarrow P \text{ is stable}\}$. Then we have the following :

PROPOSITION 2.1. (1) Suppose that $n = 2$.

(i) If N is not homeomorphic to the connected sum of a projective plane and an orientable surface, then

$$\chi(N, P) = \{n \in \mathbb{Z} | n \geq \chi(N)\}$$

(ii) If N is homeomorphic to the connected sum of a projective plane and an orientable surface, then

$$\chi(N, P) = \{n \in \mathbb{Z} | n \geq \chi(N) + 1\}.$$

(2) Suppose that $n \geq 3$, then

$$\chi(N, P) = \{n \in \mathbb{Z} | n \geq \chi(N)\}.$$

PROOF: (1) (i) In this case we can always construct an immersion $f : N \rightarrow P$ with normal crossings without triple points. Then we have $\chi(f(N)) = \chi(N)$. We now define a stable mapping $g : D \rightarrow P$ by $g(x, y) = (x, y^2, yx^2 + y^3 - r^2y)$ in suitable local coordinates, where

D is a disc centred at the origin of $\mathbb{R}^2$ and r is any positive number smaller than the radius of D . Then g has two cross-caps (fig.3).

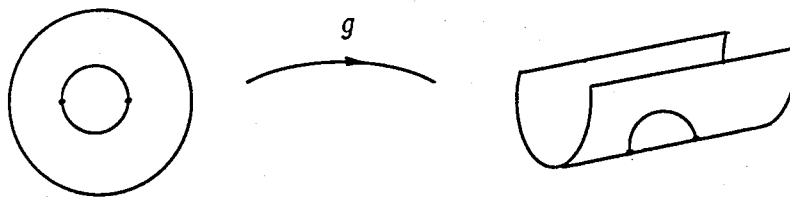


fig.3

If we consider the connected sum of f and g , then we have a stable mapping $f \# g : N \rightarrow P$ with $C(f \# g) = 2$ and $T(f \# g) = 0$. It follows that $\chi(f \# g(N)) = \chi(N) + 1$. By this procedure, we can construct a stable mapping $h : N \rightarrow P$ such that $\chi(h(N)) = n$, for any $n \geq \chi(N)$.

(ii) It is enough to consider the case when $N = \mathbb{P}^2$. In this case we cannot construct an immersion with normal crossings without triple points [1]. If we consider $f(\mathbb{P}^2)$ as the Boy surface, then the number of triple points is 1 ([2]) and $\chi(f(\mathbb{P}^2)) = \chi(\mathbb{P}^2) + 1$. Now, by exactly the same procedure as that of case (i), we can get the result.

(2) By the immersion theorem [8], we have an immersion with normal crossing $f : N \rightarrow P$. Since $n \geq 3$, then f has not triple points. Then, if we use the mapping

$$g : D^n \rightarrow P ; g(x_1, \dots, x_n) = (x_1, x_2^2, x_3, \dots, x_n, (x_1^2 + x_2^2 - r)x_2, x_1x_3, \dots, x_1x_n)$$

in suitable local coordinates like as in the case (1) (ii), we can complete the proof.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT. This work has been done during the authors' stay at the University of Liverpool. The authors would like to thank the department of Pure Mathematics especially Professors J. W. Bruce and C. T. C. Wall for helpful conversations. The first author acknowledges the financial support of JSPS and the second author the financial support of CAPES.

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