

THE IDEAL-VALUED INDEX OF FIBRATIONS WITH TOTAL SPACE A G_2 FLAG MANIFOLD

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ABSTRACT. Using the cohomology of the G_2 -flag manifolds $G_2/U(2)_\pm$, and their structure as a fiber bundle over the homogeneous space $G_2/SO(4)$, we compute their Borel cohomology and the \mathbb{Z}_2 Fadell-Husseini index of such fiber bundles, for the \mathbb{Z}_2 action given by complex conjugation.

Considering the orthogonal complement of the tautological bundle γ over $\tilde{G}_3(\mathbb{R}^7)$, we compute the \mathbb{Z}_2 Fadell-Husseini index of the pullback bundle of $s\gamma^\perp$ along the composition of the embedding between $G_2/SO(4)$ and $\tilde{G}_3(\mathbb{R}^7)$, and the fiber bundle $G_2/U(2)_\pm \rightarrow G_2/SO(4)$. Here $s\gamma^\perp$ means the associated sphere bundle of the orthogonal bundle γ^\perp . Furthermore, we derive a general formula for the n -fold product bundle $(s\gamma^\perp)^n$ for which we make the same computations.

1. INTRODUCTION.

A *generalized flag manifold* is an homogeneous space of the form $G/C(T)$, where G is a semisimple, compact and connected Lie group, and $C(T)$ is the centralizer of a torus $T \subset G$. In case that T is the maximal torus, then $T = C(T)$ and we call G/T a *complete flag manifold*.

The group in which we want to focus is the exceptional Lie group G_2 , which is the automorphism group of the \mathbb{R} -algebra homomorphisms of the octonions \mathbb{O} . From all the possible G_2 flag manifolds, we are particularly interested in the spaces $G_2/U(1) \times U(1)$ and $G_2/U(2)_\pm$. In the following diagram of fiber bundles we appreciate how they are related:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 & & G_2/U(1) \times U(1) & & \\
 & \swarrow \rho_4 & \downarrow \rho_3 & \searrow \rho_5 & \\
 G_2/U(2)_+ & & & & G_2/U(2)_- \\
 & \searrow \rho_1 & \downarrow & \swarrow \rho_2 & \\
 & & G_2/SO(4) & &
 \end{array} \tag{1.1}$$

In fact, those flag manifolds are precisely the only three twistor spaces of the homogeneous space $G_2/SO(4)$, see [15, Sec. 2.3].

Previous to this work, several authors studied the integral cohomology of all the homogeneous spaces appearing in diagram 1.1. In sections 3 and 4 we calculate their cohomology with \mathbb{F}_2 coefficients, and the Stiefel-Whitney classes of the fiber bundles ρ_1 and ρ_2 . Moreover, because of these calculations, in section 4 we show that the cohomology rings with \mathbb{F}_2 coefficients of $G_2/U(2)_+$ and $G_2/U(2)_-$ are

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isomorphic. For that reason we will not distinguish between them and we will just write $G_2/U(2)_\pm$.

Considering the action of \mathbb{Z}_2 on $G_2/U(2)_\pm$ by complex conjugation, in section 4.3 we prove our first main result.

Theorem 4.5. *The Borel cohomology of $G_2/U(2)_\pm$ is given by*

$$H^*(E\mathbb{Z}_2 \times_{\mathbb{Z}_2} G_2/U(2)_\pm; \mathbb{F}_2) = H^*(B\mathbb{Z}_2 \times G_2/SO(4); \mathbb{F}_2) / \langle t^3 + u_2t + u_3 \rangle,$$

where $H^*(\mathbb{Z}_2; \mathbb{F}_2) = \mathbb{F}_2[t]$ with $\deg(t) = 1$. Consequently, the Fadell-Husseini index of ρ_1 and ρ_2 is given by

$$\text{Index}_{\mathbb{Z}_2}^{G_2/SO(4)}(\rho_1; \mathbb{F}_2) = \text{Index}_{\mathbb{Z}_2}^{G_2/SO(4)}(\rho_2; \mathbb{F}_2) = \langle t^3 + u_2t + u_3 \rangle.$$

On the other hand, let us consider the tautological bundle over the oriented Grassmann manifold $\tilde{G}_k(\mathbb{R}^n)$:

$$\gamma_k^d = (E(\gamma_k^d), \tilde{G}_k(\mathbb{R}^d), E(\gamma_k^d) \xrightarrow{\pi} \tilde{G}_k(\mathbb{R}^d), \mathbb{R}^k),$$

and the n -fold product associated to sphere bundle $s\gamma_k^d$:

$$(s\gamma_k^d)^n = (E(s\gamma_k^d)^n, \tilde{G}_k(\mathbb{R}^d)^n, E(s\gamma_k^d)^n \xrightarrow{(s\pi)^n} \tilde{G}_k(\mathbb{R}^d)^n, (S^{k-1})^n).$$

Given the pullback bundle of $(s\gamma_k^d)^n$ along the diagonal map Δ_n :

$$\begin{array}{ccc} E(\Delta_n^*((s\gamma_k^d)^n)) & \longrightarrow & E(s\gamma_k^d)^n \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow (s\pi)^n \\ \tilde{G}_k(\mathbb{R}^d) & \xrightarrow{\Delta_n} & \tilde{G}_k(\mathbb{R}^d)^n, \end{array}$$

the total space of $\Delta_n^*((s\gamma_k^d)^n)$ has been an excellent candidate to be the configuration spaces of several geometric problems which uses the *configuration space/test map scheme*. This means that, the more we know about the pullback bundle $\Delta_n^*((s\gamma_k^d)^n)$, the better chance we have of solving any related problem.

Motivated by this situation, and by some calculations over Grassmann manifolds presented in [3] and [4], in this work we are going to study the pullback bundle over $G_2/U(2)_\pm$ induced by ρ_j and γ_3^7 , with $j \in \{1, 2\}$. Let us consider the orthogonal complement of the tautological bundle $\gamma := \gamma_3^7$ over $\tilde{G}_3(\mathbb{R}^7)$:

$$\gamma^\perp = (E(\gamma^\perp), \tilde{G}_3(\mathbb{R}^7), E(\gamma^\perp) \xrightarrow{\pi} \tilde{G}_3(\mathbb{R}^7), \mathbb{R}^4).$$

Since there is an embedding i between $G_2/SO(4)$ and $\tilde{G}_3(\mathbb{R}^7)$, we are interested in the pullback bundle of $(s\gamma^\perp)^n$ along the map $\Delta_n \circ i \circ \rho_j$:

$$\zeta_n = (E(\zeta_n) = \mathcal{S}_{\gamma^\perp}^n, G_2/U(2)_\pm, \mathcal{S}_{\gamma^\perp}^n \xrightarrow{\phi_n} G_2/U(2)_\pm, (S^3)^n).$$

An example of this kind of constructions appears in [4]. The total space $\mathcal{S}_{\gamma^\perp}^n$ considers now collections of unitary vectors inside 4-dimensional subspaces of \mathbb{R}^8 , which we will call *(non) complex-coassociative subspaces*. The specific details about the construction of $\mathcal{S}_{\gamma^\perp}^n$, as well as some topological properties of the bundle ζ_n , are discussed further in section 4.4. We will prove then the following results:

Theorem 4.7. *The cohomology $H^*(\mathcal{S}_{\gamma^\perp}^n; \mathbb{F}_2)$ is described as follows:*

$$H^*(\mathcal{S}_{\gamma^\perp}^n; \mathbb{F}_2) = [\langle 1, x \rangle \otimes \mathcal{I}] \oplus \left[\langle y, y^2, xy, xy^2 \rangle \otimes H^*((S^3)^n; \mathbb{F}_2) / \langle y^2, xy^2 \rangle \otimes \mathcal{I} \right],$$

where

$$\mathcal{I} = \left\langle \sum_{j=1}^m z_{a_1 \dots a_j \dots a_m} \middle| a_i \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}, a_i \neq a_j \forall i \neq j \text{ and } 1 \leq m \leq n \right\rangle.$$

Theorem 4.11. *Consider the action of \mathbb{Z}_2^{n+1} on $S_{\gamma_{\pm}}^n$ where the first summand acts on $G_2/U(2)_{\pm}$ by complex conjugation, and the others n summands acts antipodally on the unitary elements. Then the Fadell-Husseini index of $\phi_n: S_{\gamma_{\pm}}^n \rightarrow G_2/U(2)_{\pm}$ is given by*

$$\text{Index}_{\mathbb{Z}_2^{n+1}}^{G_2/U(2)_{\pm}}(\phi_n; \mathbb{F}_2) = \langle y^2 + yt_2^2 + t_2^4, \dots, y^2 + yt_{n+1}^2 + t_{n+1}^4 \rangle,$$

where $H^*(\mathbb{Z}_2^{n+1}; \mathbb{F}_2) = \mathbb{F}_2[t_1, \dots, t_{n+1}]$ with $\deg(t_1) = \dots = \deg(t_{n+1}) = 1$.

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2. THE EXCEPTIONAL LIE GROUP G_2 .

In this section we will recall three equivalent definitions of the real form of the exceptional Lie group G_2 . Let us fix now the notation. General references for the upcoming discussion include [2] and [8].

2.1. Octonions algebra. Given a normed division algebra A , the Cayley-Dickinson construction creates a new algebra A' with elements $(a, b) \in A^2$ and conjugation $(a, b)^* = (\bar{a}, -b)$. The addition in A' is done component-wise, and multiplication goes like

$$(a, b)(c, d) = (ac - d\bar{b}, \bar{a}d + cb),$$

where juxtaposition indicates multiplication in A . An equivalent way to define the new algebra A' is to add an independent square root of -1 , i , that multiplies the second named element on each pair (a, b) . Now the conjugation in A' uses the original conjugation of A and $i^* = -i$. Then the construction becomes an algebra of elements $a + ib$ for some $a, b \in A$.

Starting with the real numbers \mathbb{R} , the complex numbers are defined via the Cayley-Dickinson construction to be pairs of reals $a + ib$. Similarly, the quaternions are generated as a real algebra by $\{1, i, j, k\}$, subject to the relations $i^2 = j^2 = k^2 = ijk = -1$. Having this in mind, we get the following definition

Definition 2.1. The octonions are generated as a quaternionic algebra via the Cayley-Dickinson construction as $\mathbb{H} \oplus \mathbb{H}[l]$, where l denotes an independent square root of -1 .

Even if the Cayley-Dickinson construction is an excellent method to produce other normed division algebras, we lost very nice properties in the process. The multiplication in \mathbb{O} turns out to be non-commutative and non-associative. As a real vector space, \mathbb{O} is generated by $\{1, i, j, k, l, li, lj, lk\} = \{1, e_1, \dots, e_7\}$, where

e_1, e_2, \dots, e_7 are imaginary units, which square to -1 , switch sign under complex conjugation and anticommute. They span the seven dimensional real subspace which we will denote as the purely imaginary part of the octonions, $\text{Im } \mathbb{O}$.

Denote by \cdot the product furnishing the octonions with the structure of real division algebra. The product \cdot determines a cross product in \mathbb{O} , expressed as

$$x \times y := \frac{1}{2}x \cdot y - y \cdot x,$$

which contains all the non-trivial algebraic information about the octonions, and turns $\text{Im } \mathbb{O}$ into an algebra. As will be discussed below, the algebra $(\text{Im } \mathbb{O}, \times)$ provides a new definition of the group G_2 .

2.2. The exceptional Lie group G_2 : three equivalent definitions. Now that we are familiar with the \mathbb{R} -algebra \mathbb{O} , we are ready to introduce the exceptional Lie group G_2 .

Definition 2.2. The exceptional Lie group G_2 is defined to be the group of all \mathbb{R} -algebra automorphism of the octonions.

Let us consider an alternative but equivalent definition of G_2 : Given two orthogonal and unit imaginary octonions x and y , the cross product $x \times y$ is orthogonal to both of them, and the subalgebra generated by $\{1, x, y, x \times y\}$ is isomorphic to \mathbb{H} . If we consider another unit imaginary octonion z orthogonal to the subspace generated by $\{1, x, y, x \times y\} \cong \mathbb{H}$, then the subalgebra over the quaternions $\mathbb{H} \oplus \mathbb{H}[z]$ is isomorphic to the octonions. This has the consequence that an element $g \in G_2$ can be characterized by prescribing three unit imaginary octonions $\{x, y, z\}$, with z orthogonal to x, y and $x \times y$. The element g is then the unique automorphism of the imaginary part of the octonions, which sends $\{x, y, z\}$ to $\{i, j, l\}$. Then the exceptional Lie group G_2 is defined to be the automorphism group of the algebra $(\text{Im } \mathbb{O}, \times)$.

On $\text{Im } \mathbb{O}$ one can define a cross product three-form on the generators e_i, e_j, e_k as

$$\phi(e_i, e_j, e_k) = f^{ijk},$$

where $e_i \times e_j = \sum_k f^{ijk} e_k$. If we consider the dual basis $\{w^i := e_i^*\}$ of the generators $\{e_i\}$ given above, then the three-form ϕ is given by

$$\phi = w^{123} - w^{145} - w^{167} - w^{246} + w^{257} - w^{347} - w^{356},$$

where the notation w^{ijk} denotes the wedge product $e^i \wedge e^j \wedge e^k$. Notice that ϕ encodes the multiplicative structure of cross product in the imaginary part of the octonions. Then, using the above considerations, we obtain a third equivalent definition of the exceptional Lie group G_2 as follows:

$$G_2 = \{g \in GL(\text{Im } \mathbb{O}) \mid g^* \phi = \phi\}.$$

In [6, Theorem 1] Bryant presented some other facts about G_2 .

Proposition 2.3. *The Lie group G_2 is a compact subgroup of $SO_7(\mathbb{R})$, of dimension 14, which is connected, simple and simply connected.*

The following result summarizes the discussion of basic facts of the real form of G_2 .

Theorem 2.4. *The real form of the group G_2 has dimension 14. It is simple, simply connected, and is isomorphic to one and hence to all of the following Lie groups:*

- (i) *The group of all \mathbb{R} -algebra automorphisms of the octonions.*

(ii) The automorphism group of the subalgebra $(\text{Im } \mathbb{O}, \times)$.

(iii) The subgroup of SO_7 which preserves the cross product three form.

Also, as a smooth manifold, G_2 is diffeomorphic to the following closed subset of $(\mathbb{R}^7)^3$

$$\{(x_1, x_2, x_3) \mid \langle x_i, x_j \rangle = \delta_{i,j} \text{ and } \langle x_1 \times x_2, x_3 \rangle = 0\}$$

3. G_2 FLAG MANIFOLDS

The flag manifolds on G_2 have received recently a lot of attention from several viewpoints. From riemannian geometry ([6], [15]), algebraic topology relevant to global analysis [1], complex and Kähler geometry ([11], [13]), and from the classical computations of their characteristic classes via representation theory of Borel and Hirzebruch ([5], [10]). The combination of the above facts, excellently produced in [11], aroused our interest in the subject and gave us the original idea to calculate the Fadell-Husseini index of some fiber bundles over $G_2/SO(4)$ with total space a G_2 -flag manifold.

In this section we introduce some flag manifolds associated to the exceptional Lie group G_2 . Since we are particularly interested on the G_2 -flag manifolds which fibre over $G_2/SO(4)$, we are going to start introducing the G_2 -homogeneous space $G_2/SO(4)$ in order to define the fiber bundles for which we want to calculate their Fadell-Husseini indexes.

3.1. The space of associative subspaces $G_2/SO(4)$. Now that we have introduced the exceptional Lie group G_2 with some equivalent definitions, we are ready to study the G_2 -homogeneous space that we are going to use.

Definition 3.1. A 3-dimensional subspace $\xi \subset \text{Im } \mathbb{O}$ is said to be *associative* if it is the imaginary part of a subalgebra isomorphic to the quaternions.

Notice that the subspace ξ acquires a canonical orientation from that of the quaternions. On the other hand, in terms of the three-form defined in 2.2, we can also define an associative subspace as the 3-dimensional real subspace of $\mathbb{R}^7 \cong_{\mathbb{R}} \text{Im } \mathbb{O}$ in which the three form ϕ agrees with the volume form $\text{Vol}(\xi)$.

The group G_2 stabilizes 1, and since the scalar product is the real part of the octonionic multiplication \cdot , it acts by isometries on $\text{Im } \mathbb{O}$. Since also preserves the vector product, it preserves orientation so that

$$G_2 \subset SO(\text{Im } \mathbb{O}) \cong SO(7).$$

Every associative subspace ξ admits an orthonormal basis $\{e_1, e_2, e_3\}$ with $e_1 \times e_2 = e_3$. Given such a triple $\{e_1, e_2, e_3\}$, there exists a unique automorphism in $\text{Im } \mathbb{O}$ taking the ordered triple $\{i, j, l\}$ to it. This induces a transitive action of G_2 on the Grassmannian of associative 3-dimensional subspaces of $\text{Im } \mathbb{O} \cong \mathbb{R}^7$, with stabilizer $SO(4)$. Then $G_2/SO(4)$ is the set of all associative 3-dimensional subspaces of $\text{Im } \mathbb{O} \cong \mathbb{R}^7$. Since every associative subspace has a canonical orientation, there is an embedding of $G_2/SO(4)$ in the 3-dimensional oriented Grassmannian manifold $\tilde{G}_3(\mathbb{R}^7)$, with $\mathbb{R}^7 \cong \text{Im } \mathbb{O}$.

Borel and Hirzebruch studied in [5] the cohomology with \mathbb{F}_2 -coefficients and the Stiefel-Whitney classes of $G_2/SO(4)$. They proved the following result:

Proposition 3.2. *The homogeneous space of associative 3-dimensional real subspaces, denoted by G_2/SO_4 , is an 8-dimensional manifold for which $H^*(G_2/SO(4); \mathbb{F}_2)$ is generated by two elements u_2, u_3 of degrees 2 and 3 respectively, with the relations*

$$u_2^3 = u_3^2 \quad \text{and} \quad u_3 u_2^2 = 0.$$

Also, the Stiefel-Whitney classes of $G_2/SO(4)$ are non-zero only in dimensions 0, 4, 6 and 8.

On the other hand, Shi and Zhou in [14, Section 10], Thung in [11, Section 2], and Akbulut and Kalafat [1, Theorem 10.3], studied the integral cohomology of $G_2/SO(4)$, and the relations between the corresponding generators to write it as a truncated polynomial algebra.

Proposition 3.3. *The integral cohomology of $G_2/SO(4)$ is a truncated polynomial algebra generated by two elements a and b , of degree 3 and 4 respectively, subject to the relations*

$$\{2b = 0, b^3 = 0, a^3 = 0, ab = 0\}.$$

3.2. The six dimensional sphere $G_2/SU(3)$. We are going to start with a G_2 -flag manifold that, even if it do not fibre over $G_2/SO(4)$, it is a good first example of this type of spaces.

Remember that, by theorem 2.4[part ii], G_2 can be characterized by triples $\{x, y, z\}$ of mutually orthogonal unitary vectors in $\text{Im } \mathbb{O}$, where z is also orthogonal to $x \times y$. This means that the six dimensional sphere, which can be seen as the unitary vectors in the seven dimensional real subspace $\text{Im } \mathbb{O}$, carries a transitive action of G_2 .

To determine the isotropy group of an element $l \in S^6$, consider the subspace V defined as the orthogonal complement of l inside $\text{Im } \mathbb{O}$, and the complex structure on V given by the left multiplication by l . The identification with \mathbb{C}^3 , equipped with its standard Hermitian scalar product, induces a scalar product on V defined as

$$\langle v, w \rangle_V = (v, w) + l(v, lw),$$

where $(-, -)$ denote the standard real product. Since $g \in (G_2)_l$ preserves $(-, -)$, it also preserves $\langle -, - \rangle_V$, and $(G_2)_l \subset U(V) \cong U(3)$. Calculating the determinant of $g \in (G_2)_l$, can be proved that actually the isotropy group is isomorphic to $SU(3)$. We have obtained the following result:

Proposition 3.4. *There is a transitive action of G_2 on S^6 with isotropy group isomorphic to $SU(3)$, i.e. $S^6 \cong G_2/SU(3)$.*

3.3. The space of complex coassociative 2-planes $G_2/U(2)_+$. We will consider now the complexification of the purely imaginary subspace of the octonions, which is isomorphic as complex vector space \mathbb{C}^7 , in symbols $\text{Im } \mathbb{O} \otimes_{\mathbb{R}} \mathbb{C} \cong_{\mathbb{C}} \mathbb{C}^7$.

Definition 3.5. We call a complex 2-dimensional subspace $W \subset \mathbb{C}^7$ *coassociative* if $v \times w = 0$ for all $v, w \in W$

Notice that the coassociative subspace W is automatically isotropic. Also, the associative three-form $\phi \otimes \text{id}$ defines a complex three-form $\phi_{\mathbb{C}}$ on the complex space \mathbb{C}^7 . So, in terms of the three-form defined in 2.2, a complex vector subspace $W \subset \mathbb{C}^7$ is called coassociative if the complexified form $\phi_{\mathbb{C}}$ vanishes on W . We will consider coassociative complex lines (1-dimensional complex subspaces) and coassociative planes (2-dimensional complex subspaces).

On the other hand, let J be an orthogonal complex structure on ξ^{\perp} with $(1, 0)$ -space W , where W is the eigenspace associated to the eigenvalue i of J . Choose now an orthonormal basis $\{e_1, e_2, e_3, e_4\}$ of ξ^{\perp} with $J(e_1) = e_2$ and $J(e_3) = e_4$. We say that J , or the corresponding $(1, 0)$ -space W , is positive (resp. negative) according as the basis of ξ^{\perp} is positive (resp. negative).

The following result, which connects the notion of complex-coassociative and positive subspaces, is proved in [15, Lemma 2.2, page 293].

Lemma 3.6. *Let ξ be an associative 3-dimensional subspace in $\text{Im } \mathbb{O}$, and let $W \subset \xi^\perp \otimes \mathbb{C}$ be a maximally isotropic subspace. Then W is positive if and only if it is complex coassociative.*

Consider the space of all complex coassociative 2-dimensional subspaces of \mathbb{C}^7 . Since such space has a transitive action of G_2 with stabilizer isomorphic to $U(2)$, then we have the following definition.

Definition 3.7. The space of complex coassociative 2-planes in $\text{Im } \mathbb{O} \otimes \mathbb{C}$ will be denoted by $G_2/U(2)_+$.

The reason for the notation comes from lemma 3.6. Moreover, there is a map

$$\rho_1 : G_2/U(2)_+ \rightarrow G_2/SO_4,$$

given by $W \mapsto (W \oplus \bar{W})^\perp$, which exhibits $G_2/U(2)_+$ as the total space of a locally trivial smooth fibration with fiber $\mathbb{C}P^1 \approx S^2$. By lemma 3.6 the fiber of any $\xi \in G_2/SO(4)$ is all positive maximally isotropic subspaces of $\xi^\perp \otimes \mathbb{C}$, equivalently, all possible orthogonal complex structures on ξ^\perp . Actually, by [15, section 4.4] there is an identification of $G_2/U(2)_+$ with a quaternionic twistor space of G_2/SO_4 .

As is exposed in [11, Prop. 3], the cohomology of $G_2/U(2)_+$ with integral coefficients is generated by classes $g_i \in H^{2i}(G_2/U(2)_+, \mathbb{Z})$, for $i = 1, \dots, 5$, and the multiplicative structure is determined by the relations

$$g_1^2 = 3g_2, \quad g_1g_2 = 2g_3, \quad g_2^2 = 2g_4, \quad g_1g_4 = g_5.$$

The cohomology with coefficients in \mathbb{F}_2 will be calculated in subsection 4.3.

3.4. The space of complex non-coassociative 2-planes $G_2/U(2)_-$.

Definition 3.8. The space of all 2-planes in $\text{Im } \mathbb{O} \otimes \mathbb{C}$ which are not complex coassociative will be denoted by $G_2/U(2)_-$.

Similarly to $G_2/U(2)_+$, the reason for the notation comes from lemma 3.6. A 2-dimensional real subspace W , which is a $(1, 0)$ -space for a negative complex structure in ξ^\perp , is said to be negative and is still a maximally isotropic subspace of $\xi^\perp \otimes \mathbb{C}$.

Alternatively, we can think the space $G_2/U(2)_-$ as follows: Let Q^5 be the complex quadric $\{(z_1 : z_2 : \dots : z_6) \in \mathbb{C}P^6 \mid \sum_{i=0}^5 z_i^2 = 0\}$ consisting of all 1-dimensional isotropic subspaces of $\text{Im } \mathbb{O} \otimes \mathbb{C}$. There is a G_2 -equivariant isomorphism from Q^5 to $G_2/U(2)_-$ given by $\ell \mapsto \ell^\perp \cap \ell^a$, with inverse $W \mapsto W \times W$, where $\ell^a = \{L \in \text{Im } \mathbb{O} \otimes \mathbb{C} \mid L \times \ell = 0\}$.

Since $\tilde{G}_2(\mathbb{R}^7)$ is also diffeomorphic to the complex quadric Q^5 , we can identify every element in $G_2/U(2)_-$ as an oriented plane P with oriented, orthonormal basis $\{x, y\}$. Then there is a well defined map $\rho_6 : G_2/U(2)_- \rightarrow S^6$ which sends $P \mapsto x \times y = xy$. Actually, the oriented plane P can be identify, via the almost complex structure of S^6 , with a complex line in $T_{xy}S^6$. On the other hand, given an element $k \in S^6$, there is a oriented orthonormal basis $\{x, y\}$ of a complex line in T_kS^6 that satisfies $k = xy$. This means that the fiber over an element $v \in S^6$ is precisely $\mathbb{P}(T_vS^6)$. This exhibits $G_2/U(2)_-$ as $\mathbb{P}(TS^6)$ with ρ_6 as the base point projection. We can also think of ρ_6 as a fibration with fibers diffeomorphic to $\mathbb{C}P^2$.

Finally, the isomorphism $TS^6 \cong T^*S^6$ as real vector bundles induces a diffeomorphism $\mathbb{P}(TS^6) \cong \mathbb{P}(T^*S^6)$. The following result resumes all the diffeomorphic definitions of $G_2/U(2)_-$. See [11, Prop. 8].

Proposition 3.9. *The following 10-dimensional manifolds are all diffeomorphic to each other:*

Similar to $G_2/U(2)_+$, there exists a map

$$\rho_2: G_2/U(2)_- \rightarrow G_2/SO_4,$$

given by $W \mapsto (W \oplus \bar{W})^\perp$, which exhibits $G_2/U(2)_-$ as the total space of a locally trivial smooth fibration with fiber $\mathbb{C}P^1 \approx S^2$. By lemma 3.6, the fiber at any $\xi \in G_2/SO(4)$ consist of all negative maximally isotropic subspaces of $\xi^\perp \otimes \mathbb{C}$, or equivalently, all negative orthogonal complex structures on ξ^\perp . Let us describe now the induced homomorphism ρ_2^* .

Lemma 3.11. *The induced homomorphism in cohomology, denoted by ρ_2^* , with \mathbb{F}_2 coefficients, maps the class u_2^2 to y^2 .*

Proof. Let us start analyzing the Gysin exact sequence associated to the sphere bundle ρ_2 ,

$$\begin{aligned} \cdots \rightarrow H^{i-3}(G_2/SO(4); \mathbb{F}_2) \xrightarrow{\sim w_3} H^i(G_2/SO(4); \mathbb{F}_2) \rightarrow \\ \xrightarrow{\rho_2^*} H^i(G_2/U(2)_-; \mathbb{F}_2) \rightarrow H^{i-2}(G_2/SO(4); \mathbb{F}_2) \rightarrow \cdots \end{aligned}$$

Since $H^1(G_2/SO_4, \mathbb{F}_2) = 0$, by the exactness of the sequence,

$$\rho_2^*: H^4(G_2/SO(4); \mathbb{F}_2) \rightarrow H^i(G_2/U(2)_-; \mathbb{F}_2)$$

is a monomorphism. This means that $\rho_2^*(u_2) = y$ and $\rho_2^*(u_2^2) = y^2$. \square

3.5. The full flag manifold $G_2/U(1) \times U(1)$. Given a complex isotropic line $\ell \subset \text{Im } \mathbb{O} \otimes_{\mathbb{R}} \mathbb{C}$, consider the annihilator ℓ^a , that is the subspace of $\text{Im } \mathbb{O} \otimes_{\mathbb{R}} \mathbb{C}$ described as $\{x \in \text{Im } \mathbb{O} \otimes_{\mathbb{R}} \mathbb{C} \mid x \times \ell = 0\}$. Notice that this is a complex 3-dimensional isotropic subspace of $\text{Im } \mathbb{O} \otimes_{\mathbb{R}} \mathbb{C}$. Since the maximal torus in G_2 is of rank 2, the complete flag manifold $G_2/U(1) \times U(1)$ is a smooth complex manifold of dimension 6 that can be described as follows: The space of pairs (ℓ, D) where ℓ is a complex isotropic line, D is a 2-plane containing ℓ , and both are contained in ℓ^a .

For every pair (ℓ, D) in $G_2/U(1) \times U(1)$, we write $D = \ell \oplus q$, where q is the orthogonal complement of ℓ . Then we get a fibration

$$\rho_3: G_2/U(1) \times U(1) \rightarrow G_2/SO(4)$$

given by $(\ell, D) \mapsto \xi$, where $\xi \otimes_{\mathbb{R}} \mathbb{C} = q \oplus \bar{q} \oplus (q \times \bar{q})$. The map ρ_3 factors through a fibration over $G_2/U(2)_\pm$, which sends (ℓ, D) to the positive (resp. negative) maximally isotropic subspace of $\xi^\perp \otimes_{\mathbb{R}} \mathbb{C}$ which contains ℓ , and ρ_1 (resp. ρ_2) defined above.

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} & & G_2/U(1) \times U(1) & & (3.12) \\ & \swarrow \rho_4 & \downarrow \rho_3 & \searrow \rho_5 & \\ G_2/U(2)_+ & & & & G_2/U(2)_- \cong Q_5 \\ & \searrow \rho_1 & & \swarrow \rho_2 & \searrow \rho_6 \\ & & G_2/SO(4) & & S^6 \end{array}$$

All the maps ρ_i in diagram 3.12 are locally trivial smooth fibrations, with fiber diffeomorphic to $\mathbb{C}P^1 \approx S^2$ (except ρ_3 and ρ_6 which fiber is diffeomorphic to $\mathbb{C}P^2$). This means that, using the map ρ_5 , we can also calculate the cohomology of $G_2/U(1) \times U(1)$ with \mathbb{F}_2 coefficients.

Proposition 3.13. *The cohomology of $G_2/U(1) \times U(1)$ with \mathbb{F}_2 coefficients is given by*

$$H^*(G_2/U(1) \times U(1), \mathbb{F}_2) = \mathbb{F}_2[x, y, z]/\langle x^2, y^3, z^2 \rangle$$

where $\deg(y) = 2$, $\deg(x) = 6$ and $\deg(z) = 2$.

Proof. Consider the fiber bundle

$$S^2 \hookrightarrow G_2/U(1) \times U(1) \xrightarrow{\rho_5} G_2/U(2)_-,$$

and the corresponding Serre spectral sequence, where the cohomology of the fiber is described as $H^*(S^2; \mathbb{F}_2) = \mathbb{F}_2[z]/z^2$. Since $\pi_1(G_2/U(2)_-)$ is trivial, there are no local coefficients and the E_2 -term is given by

$$E_2^{p,q} = H^p(G_2/U(2)_-; H^q(S^2; \mathbb{F}_2)).$$

For an illustration of the E_2 -term see Figure 2. The rest of the proof is similar to the one in 3.10, since all the possible differentials are trivial. \square

$H^*(S^2; \mathbb{F}_2)$	3											
	2	z		$z \otimes y$		$z \otimes y^2$		$z \otimes x$		$z \otimes xy$		$z \otimes xy^2$
1												
0		\mathbb{Z}_2		y		y^2		x		xy		xy^2
		0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
		$H^*(G_2/U(2)_-; \mathbb{F}_2)$										

FIGURE 2. $E_2^{p,q} = H^p(G_2/U(2)_-; H^q(S^2; \mathbb{F}_2)) \Rightarrow H^*(G_2/U(1) \times U(1); \mathbb{F}_2)$.

4. CALCULATIONS OF FADELL-HUSSEINI INDEX.

Before we make some calculations, we briefly recall the definition and some basic properties of the Fadell-Husseini index.

4.1. The Fadell-Husseini Index. Let G be a finite group, and let R be a commutative ring with unit. For a G -equivariant map $p: X \rightarrow B$, the *Fadell-Husseini index* of p with coefficients in R is defined to be the kernel ideal of the following induced map

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Index}_G^B(p; R) &= \ker(p_*: H^*(EG \times_G B; R) \longrightarrow H^*(EG \times_G X; R)) \\ &= \ker(p_*: H_G^*(B; R) \longrightarrow H_G^*(X; R)). \end{aligned}$$

Here $H_G^*(\cdot)$ stands for the Borel cohomology defined as the Čech cohomology of the Borel construction $EG \times_G \cdot$. The basic properties of the index are:

- *Monotonicity:* If $p: X \rightarrow B$ and $q: Y \rightarrow B$ are G -equivariant maps, and $f: X \rightarrow Y$ is a G -equivariant map such that $p = q \circ f$, then

$$\text{Index}_G^B(p; R) \supseteq \text{Index}_G^B(q; R).$$

- *Additivity:* If $(X_1 \cup X_2, X_1, X_2)$ is an excisive triple of G -spaces and $p: X_1 \cup X_2 \rightarrow B$ is a G -equivariant map, then

$$\text{Index}_G^B(p|_{X_1}; R) \cdot \text{Index}_G^B(p|_{X_2}; R) \subseteq \text{Index}_G^B(p; R).$$

- *General Borsuk-Ulam-Bourgin-Yang theorem:* Let $p: X \rightarrow B$ and $q: Y \rightarrow B$ be G -equivariant maps, and let $f: X \rightarrow Y$ be a G -equivariant map such that $p = q \circ f$. If $Z \subseteq Y$ then

$$\text{Index}_G^B(p|_{f^{-1}(Z)}; R) \cdot \text{Index}_G^B(q|_{Y \setminus Z}; R) \subseteq \text{Index}_G^B(p; R).$$

In the case when B is a point we simplify notation and write $\text{Index}_G^B(p; R) = \text{Index}_G(X; R)$. From here on we will be considering \mathbb{F}_2 coefficients. For more details see [9]

4.2. Dold's argument. In [7] Dold presented a very useful tool to deduce some differentials of the Serre spectral sequence associated to a particular kind of fiber bundles. Let us start with the general argument.

Let $E \xrightarrow{\pi} B \xleftarrow{\pi'} E'$ be vector bundles of fiber-dimension n, m over the same paracompact space B , and let $f: S(E) \rightarrow E'$ be an odd map ($f(-x) = -f(x)$), where $S(E)$ is the total space of the sphere bundle associated to π , such that

$$\begin{array}{ccc} S(E) & \xrightarrow{f} & E' \\ & \searrow s\pi & \swarrow \pi' \\ & & B \end{array}$$

commutes. Let us define $Z_f = \{x \in S(E) \mid f(x) = 0\}$, where 0 stands for the zero section of π' , and the projection maps

$$S(E) \rightarrow \bar{S}(E) = S(E)/\mathbb{Z}_2 \quad \text{and} \quad Z \rightarrow \bar{Z} = Z/\mathbb{Z}_2,$$

where we are considering the antipodal action.

Cohomology H^* is understood in the Čech sense with mod 2 coefficients, and $H^*(B)[t]$ is the polynomial ring over $H^*(B)$ in one indeterminate t of degree 1. Since the antipodal action is fixed point free in $S(E)$ and Z , the projection maps $S(E) \rightarrow \bar{S}(E)$ and $Z \rightarrow \bar{Z}$ are 2-sheeted covering maps. Their characteristic classes are denoted by u , resp. $u \mid \bar{Z}$, which can be replaced by the indeterminate t and obtain an homomorphism of $H^*(B)$ -algebras

$$\sigma: H^*(B)[t] \rightarrow H^*(\bar{S}(E)) \rightarrow H^*(\bar{Z})$$

given by $t \mapsto u \mapsto u \mid \bar{Z}$. Dold proved the following result.

Theorem 4.1. *If $q(t) \in H^*(B)[t]$ is such that $\sigma(q(t)) = 0$, then*

$$q(t)W(\pi'; t) = W(\pi; t)q'(t)$$

for some $q'(t) \in H^*(B)[t]$, where $W(\pi; t) = \sum_{j=0}^n w_j(\pi) \otimes t^{n-j}$.

The last theorem means that, under the last conditions, $W(\pi; t)$ divides $q(t)W(\pi'; t)$. We show the effectiveness of this theorem in the following remark.

Remark 4.2. Under the same hypothesis, consider the fiber bundles

$$\begin{array}{ccc} S^{n-1} \hookrightarrow S(E) & & \{0\} \hookrightarrow B \times \{0\} \\ \downarrow s\pi & & \downarrow \text{proj}_1 \\ B & & B \end{array}$$

where \mathbb{Z}_2 acts antipodally on $S(E)$ and trivial on B . Let $f: S(E) \rightarrow B \times \{0\}$ be

a \mathbb{Z}_2 -equivariant map given by $f(e) = (\pi(e), 0)$, such that the following diagram commutes:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} SE & \xrightarrow{f} & B \times \{0\} \\ & \searrow s\pi & \swarrow \text{proj}_1 \\ & & B \end{array}$$

Since $Z_f = S(E)$ and $W(\text{proj}_1, t) = 1$, if we consider $q(t)$ as the image of the transgression map $d_n^{0, n-1}$ of the Serre spectral sequence associated to the sphere bundle

$$S^{n-1} \hookrightarrow E\mathbb{Z}_2 \times_{\mathbb{Z}_2} E \rightarrow B\mathbb{Z}_2 \times B,$$

by theorem 4.1,

$$q(t) = d_n^{0, n-1}(z) = \sum_{j=0}^n w_j(\pi) \otimes t^{n-j},$$

where $H^*(S^{n-1}) = \mathbb{F}_2[z]/\langle z^2 \rangle$.

We are going to use Dold's argument in some of the computations that we present.

4.3. The Fadell-Husseini index of ρ_1 and ρ_2 . Following the idea presented in section 4.2, we are going to compute the Stiefel-Whitney classes of ρ_1 and ρ_2 to deduce their corresponding Serre spectral sequences. Since we already know the cohomology of $G_2/U(2)_-$, we are going to start with the characteristic classes of ρ_2 .

Lemma 4.3. *The Stiefel-Whitney classes of the fiber bundle $\rho_2: G_2/U(2)_- \rightarrow G_2/SO(4)$ are non-zero in dimensions 0, 2 and 3.*

Proof. Consider the Gysin exact sequence applied to the sphere bundle ρ_2

$$\begin{aligned} \dots \rightarrow H^{i-3}(G_2/SO(4); \mathbb{F}_2) &\xrightarrow{w_3} H^i(G_2/SO(4); \mathbb{F}_2) \xrightarrow{\rho_2^*} H^i(G_2/U(2)_-; \mathbb{F}_2) \rightarrow \\ &\rightarrow H^{i-2}(G_2/SO(4); \mathbb{F}_2) \rightarrow \dots \end{aligned}$$

Since $H^3(G_2/U(2)_-; \mathbb{F}_2) = 0$, we get an epimorphism

$$H^0(G_2/SO(4); \mathbb{F}_2) \twoheadrightarrow H^3(G_2/SO(4); \mathbb{F}_2)$$

that by proposition 3.2 can be seen as $\mathbb{Z}_2 \rightarrow \langle u_3 \rangle$. Hence, $w_3(\rho_2) = u_3$. Considering the definition of the Stiefel-Whitney classes, this means that

$$\phi^{-1} \circ Sq^3(th) \neq 0,$$

where th is the Thom class associated to ρ_2 . Then, since

$$Sq^3 = Sq^1 \circ Sq^2,$$

$Sq^2(th) \neq 0$ and consequently $w_2 \neq 0$. Is not hard to see that $w_2(\rho_2) = u_2$. \square

Consider now the Serre spectral sequence associated to the sphere bundle

$$S^2 \hookrightarrow G_2/U(1) \times U(1) \xrightarrow{\rho_4} G_2/U(2)_+.$$

Since $H^2(G_2/U(1) \times U(1); \mathbb{F}_2) = \langle z, y \rangle$ and $H^3(G_2/U(1) \times U(1); \mathbb{F}_2) = 0$, we get that $H^3(G_2/U(2)_+; \mathbb{F}_2) = 0$. Because of that, using the same arguments in lemma 4.3, ρ_1 has the same Stiefel-Whitney classes than ρ_2 .

Now that we know the Stiefel-Whitney classes of ρ_1 , we can calculate the cohomology of $G_2/U(2)_+$ with \mathbb{F}_2 coefficients as follows: Consider the Serre spectral sequence associated to ρ_1 , with E_2 -term

$$E_2^{p,q} = H^p(G_2/SO(4); H^q(S^2; \mathbb{F}_2)).$$

For an illustration of the E_2 -term see Figure 3. Notice that, for the same reason exposed in 3.10, there are no local coefficients. Then, applying the Gysin sequence to ρ_1 [12, Example 5.C], and by lemma 4.3, we get that

$$d_3^{0,2}(z) = w_3(\rho_1) = u_3,$$

where $H^2(S^2; \mathbb{F}_2) = \langle z \rangle$. Finally, using the Leibniz rule, $d_3^{0,2}$ determinen the complete cohomology of $G_2/U(2)_+$. We conclude then the following result.

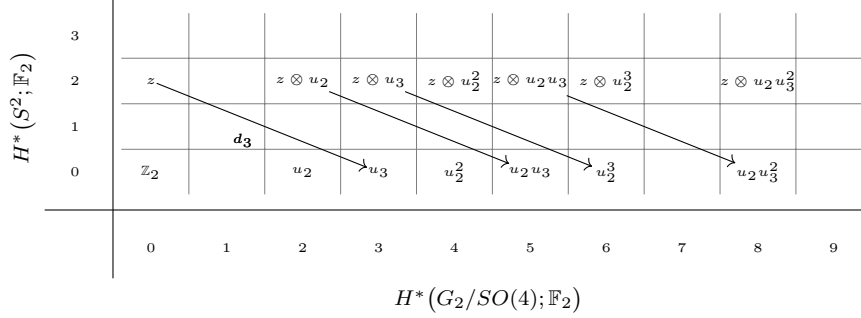


FIGURE 3. $E_2^{p,q} = H^p(G_2/SO(4); H^q(S^2; \mathbb{F}_2)) \Rightarrow H^*(G_2/U(2)_+; \mathbb{F}_2)$.

Corollary 4.4. *The G_2 flag manifolds $G_2/U(2)_+$ and $G_2/U(2)_-$ have isomorphic cohomology rings when we consider \mathbb{F}_2 coefficients. Moreover, the result in lemma 3.11 applies in the same way to ρ_1^* .*

From now on, since ρ_1 and ρ_2 have the same topological properties considering \mathbb{F}_2 coefficients, we will not make any distinction between them and we will write $G_2/U(2)_\pm$ and ρ_j . As shown in [11], the similarity mentioned in corollary 4.4 does not happens if we consider the cohomology rings with integer coefficients.

Consider the action of \mathbb{Z}_2 on $G_2/U(2)_\pm$ by complex conjugation. Since $\rho_j(W) = \rho_j(\bar{W})$ for every coassociative subspace W , and $j \in \{1, 2\}$, then both maps are \mathbb{Z}_2 -equivariant, with \mathbb{Z}_2 acting trivial on $G_2/SO(4)$. This means that we can ask for the Fadell-Husseini index of such bundles. Before we prove our first main result, we fix the notation for the cohomology of the group \mathbb{Z}_2 as

$$H^*(B\mathbb{Z}_2; \mathbb{F}_2) = \mathbb{F}_2[t],$$

with $\deg(t) = 1$.

Theorem 4.5. *The Borel cohomology of $G_2/U(2)_\pm$ is given by*

$$H^*(E\mathbb{Z}_2 \times_{\mathbb{Z}_2} G_2/U(2)_\pm; \mathbb{F}_2) = H^*(B\mathbb{Z}_2 \times G_2/SO(4); \mathbb{F}_2) / \langle t^3 + u_2 t + u_3 \rangle.$$

Consequently, the Fadell-Husseini index of ρ_1 and ρ_2 with respect to the introduced \mathbb{Z}_2 action is given by

$$\text{Index}_{\mathbb{Z}_2}^{G_2/SO(4)}(\rho_1; \mathbb{F}_2) = \text{Index}_{\mathbb{Z}_2}^{G_2/SO(4)}(\rho_2; \mathbb{F}_2) = \langle t^3 + u_2 t + u_3 \rangle.$$

Proof. Consider the Borel construction of the bundle ρ_i , for $i \in \{1, 2\}$,

$$\begin{array}{ccc} S^2 & \hookrightarrow & E\mathbb{Z}_2 \times_{\mathbb{Z}_2} G_2/U(2)_\pm \\ & & \downarrow \rho_i \\ & & E\mathbb{Z}_2 \times_{\mathbb{Z}_2} G_2/SO(4), \end{array}$$

where the base space can be written as $B\mathbb{Z}_2 \times G_2/SO(4)$. Since the fundamental group

$$\pi_1(B\mathbb{Z}_2 \times G_2/SO(4)) \cong \pi_1(B\mathbb{Z}_2) \times \pi_1(G_2/SO(4)) \cong \pi_1(B\mathbb{Z}_2) \cong \mathbb{Z}_2$$

acts trivially on the cohomology of the fiber, then the E_2 -terms of the associated Serre spectral sequence looks as follows:

$$E_2^{p,q} = H^p(B\mathbb{Z}_2 \times G_2/SO(4); H^q(S^2; \mathbb{F}_2)).$$

Using theorem 4.1 and lemma 4.3, we get that the transgression map $d_3^{0,2}$ is given by

$$d_3^{0,2}(z) = t^3 + u_2t + u_3,$$

where $H^2(S^2; \mathbb{F}_2) = \langle z \rangle$. Finally, by the Leibniz rule, $d_3^{0,2}$ determines the complete cohomology of $E\mathbb{Z}_2 \times_{\mathbb{Z}_2} G_2/U(2)_{\pm}$ and the Fadell-Husseini index of ρ_1 and ρ_2 with coefficients in \mathbb{F}_2 . \square

4.4. The Fadell-Husseini index of the pullback bundle ζ_n . Let us consider the tautological bundle of the oriented Grassmann manifold $\tilde{G}_3(\mathbb{R}^7)$:

$$\gamma = (E(\gamma), \tilde{G}_3(\mathbb{R}^7), E(\gamma) \xrightarrow{\pi} \tilde{G}_3(\mathbb{R}^7), \mathbb{R}^3),$$

and the sphere bundle associated to the orthogonal complement of γ :

$$s\gamma^{\perp} = (E(s\gamma^{\perp}), \tilde{G}_3(\mathbb{R}^7), E(s\gamma^{\perp}) \xrightarrow{s\pi} \tilde{G}_3(\mathbb{R}^7), S^3).$$

Using the embedding $i : G_2/SO(4) \hookrightarrow \tilde{G}_3(\mathbb{R}^7)$, and the fiber bundle ρ_j defined in 3.3 and 3.4, we construct the following commutative squares:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \mathcal{S}_{\gamma^{\perp}}^1 & \longrightarrow & E(i^*(s\gamma^{\perp})) & \longrightarrow & E(S\gamma^{\perp}) \\ \phi_1 \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow s\pi \\ G_2/U(2)_{\pm} & \xrightarrow{\rho_j} & G_2/SO(4) & \xrightarrow{i} & \tilde{G}_3(\mathbb{R}^7), \end{array}$$

where the map on the left is the pullback bundle of $s\gamma^{\perp}$ along the map $i \circ \rho_j$,

$$\zeta_1 = (E(\zeta_1) = \mathcal{S}_{\gamma^{\perp}}^1, G_2/U(2)_{-}, \mathcal{S}_{\gamma^{\perp}}^1 \xrightarrow{\phi_1} G_2/U(2)_{-}, S^3).$$

To be more precise, the total space of ζ_1 is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{S}_{\gamma^{\perp}}^1 & := E(\zeta_1) \\ & = \{(W; \xi, v) \mid W \in G_2/U(2)_{\pm}, \rho_j(W) = \xi, v \in \xi^{\perp} \text{ and } \deg(v_1) = 1\}. \end{aligned}$$

The construction of the bundle ζ_1 can be easily generalized as follows: Consider the n -fold product bundle $(s\gamma^{\perp})^n$, and the pullback along the diagonal map $\Delta_n : \tilde{G}_3(\mathbb{R}^7) \rightarrow \tilde{G}_3(\mathbb{R}^7)^n$:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} E(\Delta_n^*(s\gamma^{\perp})^n) & \longrightarrow & E(s\gamma^{\perp})^n \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow (s\pi)^n \\ \tilde{G}_3(\mathbb{R}^7) & \xrightarrow{\Delta_n} & \tilde{G}_3(\mathbb{R}^7)^n. \end{array}$$

Applying the last construction to the fiber bundle $\Delta_n^*(s\gamma^{\perp})^n$, we get a new bundle

$$\zeta_n = (E(\zeta_n) = \mathcal{S}_{\gamma^{\perp}}^n, G_2/U(2)_{-}, \mathcal{S}_{\gamma^{\perp}}^n \xrightarrow{\phi_n} G_2/U(2)_{\pm}, (S^3)^n).$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{S}_{\gamma^\perp}^n &:= E(\zeta_n) \\ &\cong \{(W; \xi, v_1, \dots, v_n) \mid W \in G_2/U(2)_\pm, \rho_2(W) = \xi, \\ &\quad v_1, \dots, v_n \in \xi^\perp \text{ and } \deg(v_1) = \dots = \deg(v_n) = 1\}. \end{aligned}$$

Notice that, since W is contained in $\xi^\perp \otimes_{\mathbb{R}} \mathbb{C}$, we can actually consider the unitary elements inside the (non) complex-coassociative subspace. Because of that we rewrite the space $\mathcal{S}_{\gamma^\perp}^n$ as follows:

$$\mathcal{S}_{\gamma^\perp}^n \cong \{(W; v_1, \dots, v_n) \mid W \in G_2/U(2)_\pm, v_1, \dots, v_n \in W \text{ and } \deg(v_1) = \dots = \deg(v_n) = 1\}.$$

To describe the cohomology of $\mathcal{S}_{\gamma^\perp}^n$, the first step is to calculate the Stiefel-Whitney classes of ζ_1 . Notice that since $H^1(G_2/U(2)_\pm; \mathbb{F}_2) = H^3(G_2/U(2)_\pm; \mathbb{F}_2) = 0$, we are just looking for $w_2(\zeta_1)$ and $w_4(\zeta_1)$. Then we have the following result.

Lemma 4.6. *The Stiefel-Whitney classes of the pullback bundle ζ_1 are non-zero only in the dimensions 0, 2 and 4. Moreover, $w_2(\zeta_1) = y$ and $w_4(\zeta_1) = y^2$.*

Proof. By the naturality of the Stiefel-Whitney classes is enough to describe the image of $w_2(\gamma^\perp)$ and $w_4(\gamma^\perp)$ along the composition

$$G_2/U(2)_\pm \xrightarrow{\rho_j} G_2/SO(4) \xrightarrow{i} \tilde{G}_3(\mathbb{R}^7).$$

Akbulut and Kalafat in [1, Theorem 2.11] proved that the embedding $i : G_2/SO(4) \rightarrow \tilde{G}_3(\mathbb{R}^7)$ maps the euler class of γ^\perp , which reduces to $w_4(\gamma^\perp)$, to the integral generator in dimension 4, which corresponds to u_2^2 . Also, since $w_4(\gamma_+^\perp) = w_2(\gamma_+^\perp)^2$, i^* maps $w_2(\gamma_+^\perp)$ to u_2 .

On the other hand, by lemma 3.11, $\rho_j^*(u_2) = y$ and $\rho_j^*(u_2^2) = y^2$. This means that

$$w_2(\zeta_1) = (i \circ \rho_j)^*(w_2(\gamma_+^\perp)) = y$$

and

$$w_4(\zeta_1) = (i \circ \rho_j)^*(w_4(\gamma_+^\perp)) = y^2,$$

for $j \in \{1, 2\}$. □

This lead us to our second main result. For the cohomology of $(S^3)^n$ we fix the following notation

$$\begin{aligned} H^*((S^3)^n; \mathbb{F}_2) &\cong H^*(S^3; \mathbb{F}_2)^{\otimes n} \\ &\cong \mathbb{F}_2[z_1]/\langle z_1^2 \rangle \otimes \dots \otimes \mathbb{F}_2[z_n]/\langle z_n^2 \rangle \\ &\cong \mathbb{F}_2[z_1, \dots, z_n]/\langle z_1^2, \dots, z_n^2 \rangle, \end{aligned}$$

where $\deg(z_1) = \dots = \deg(z_n) = 1$.

Theorem 4.7. *The cohomology ring $H^*(\mathcal{S}_{\gamma^\perp}^n; \mathbb{F}_2)$ is described as follows:*

$$H^*(\mathcal{S}_{\gamma^\perp}^n; \mathbb{F}_2) = \left[\langle 1, x \rangle \otimes \mathcal{I} \right] \oplus \left[\langle y, y^2, xy, xy^2 \rangle \otimes H^*((S^3)^n; \mathbb{F}_2) / \langle y^2, xy^2 \rangle \otimes \mathcal{I} \right],$$

where

$$\mathcal{I} = \left\langle \sum_{j=1}^m z_{a_1 \dots a_j \dots a_m} \mid a_i \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}, a_i \neq a_j \forall i \neq j \text{ and } 1 \leq m \leq n \right\rangle.$$

Proof. Consider the sphere bundle

$$S^3 \hookrightarrow \mathcal{S}_{\gamma^\perp}^1 \xrightarrow{\phi_1} G_2/U(2)_\pm,$$

and the corresponding Serre spectral sequence with E_2 -term given by

$$E_2^{p,q}(\phi_1) = H^p(G_2/U(2)_\pm; \mathcal{H}^q(S^3; \mathbb{F}_2)).$$

Since the fundamental group $\pi_1(G_2/U(2)_\pm)$ is trivial, the E_2 -term simplifies and become

$$E_2^{p,q}(\phi_1) = H^p(G_2/U(2)_\pm; \mathbb{F}_2) \otimes H^q(S^3; \mathbb{F}_2).$$

Notice that the first non-trivial differential appears on page E_4 . Also, as a consequence of the Gysin exact sequence applied to ϕ_j [12, Example 5.C], the trasgression map on E_4 is given by $d_4^{0,3}(z_1) = w_4(\zeta_1) = y^2$.

Let $g_i: \mathcal{S}_{\gamma^\perp}^n \rightarrow \mathcal{S}_{\gamma^\perp}^1$ be the projection map given by $(W; \xi, v_1, \dots, v_n) \mapsto (W; \xi, v_i)$, for $i = 1, \dots, n$, which induces a morphism of bundles

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{S}_{\gamma^\perp}^n & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{S}_{\gamma^\perp}^1 \\ \phi_n \downarrow & & \downarrow \phi_1 \\ G_2/U(2)_\pm & \xrightarrow{\text{id}} & G_2/U(2)_\pm. \end{array}$$

This morphism of bundles induces a morphism between the corresponding Serre spectral sequences, which on the zero column is a monomorphism. Then, by the commutativity of the differentials, the map $d_4^{0,3}$ in $E_4^{*,*}(\phi_n)$ is given by

$$d_4^{0,3}(z_1) = \dots = d_4^{0,3}(z_n) = y^2.$$

Moreover, by the the Leibniz rule we can prove that all the differentials in $E_4^{*,*}(\phi_n)$ are trivial except for

- $d_4^{0,3m}(z_{a_1 \dots a_m}) = y^2 \otimes (\sum_{j=1}^m z_{a_1 \dots \hat{a}_j \dots a_m})$,
- $d_4^{6,3m}(x \otimes z_{a_1 \dots a_m}) = xy^2 \otimes (\sum_{j=1}^m z_{a_1 \dots \hat{a}_j \dots a_m})$,

for $1 \leq m \leq n$, where $z_{a_1 \dots a_m} = z_{a_1} \cdots z_{a_m}$, and $a_i \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ with $a_i \neq a_j$ for all $i \neq j$. Here \hat{a}_j means that we are removing the element a_j , and $z_{\hat{a}_j} = 1$. For an illustration of the page E_4 see Figure 4. Since there are no more differentials, the term E_5 describes the cohomology of $\mathcal{S}_{\gamma^\perp}^n$. \square

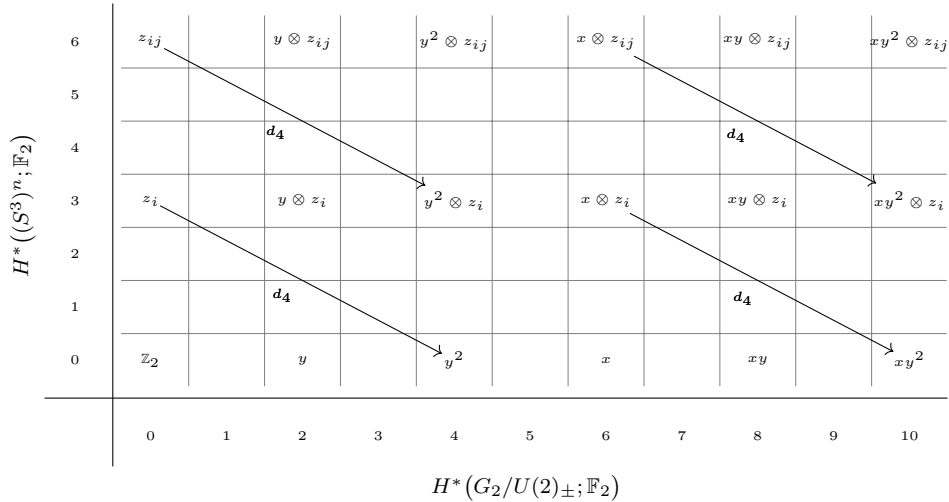


FIGURE 4. $E_4^{p,q} = E_2^{p,q} = H^p(G_2/U(2)_\pm; \mathbb{F}_2) \otimes H^q((S^3)^n; \mathbb{F}_2)$.

A more pleasant description of $H^*(\mathcal{S}_{\gamma^\perp}^n; \mathbb{F}_2)$ happens when $n = 2$.

Corollary 4.8. *The cohomology $H^*(\mathcal{S}_{\gamma^\perp}^2; \mathbb{F}_2)$ is described as follows:*

$n=0$	$n=1$	$n=2$	$n=3$	$n=4$	$n=5$
\mathbb{Z}_2	0	$\langle y \rangle$	$\langle z_1 + z_2 \rangle$	0	$\langle y \otimes z_1, y \otimes z_2 \rangle$
$n=6$	$n=7$	$n=8$	$n=9$	$n=10$	$n=11$
$\langle x \rangle$	$\langle y^2 \otimes z_1 \rangle$	$\langle xy, y \otimes z_1 z_2 \rangle$	$\langle x \otimes (z_1 + z_2) \rangle$	$\langle y^2 \otimes z_1 z_2 \rangle$	$\langle xy \otimes z_1, xy \otimes z_2 \rangle$
$n=12$	$n=13$	$n=14$	$n=15$	$n=16$	
0	$\langle xy^2 \otimes z_1 \rangle$	$\langle xy \otimes z_1 z_2 \rangle$	0	$\langle xy^2 \otimes z_1 z_2 \rangle$	

There is an action of \mathbb{Z}_2^{n+1} on $\mathcal{S}_{\gamma^\perp}^n$ defined as follows: The first copy of \mathbb{Z}_2 acts on $G_2/U(2)_\pm$ by complex conjugation, while the other n copies of \mathbb{Z}_2 acts antipodally on the corresponding sphere S^3 . To be more precise, let $(\beta_0, \beta_1, \dots, \beta_n) \in \mathbb{Z}_2^{n+1}$ and $(W; \xi, v_1, \dots, v_n) \in \mathcal{S}_{\gamma^\perp}^n$, then

$$(\beta_0, \beta_1, \dots, \beta_n) \cdot (W; \xi, v_1, \dots, v_n) = (c^{\beta_0}(W); \xi, (-1)^{\beta_1} v_1, \dots, (-1)^{\beta_n} v_n),$$

where $c^0 = id$ and c^1 represent the complex conjugation. Considering the action of \mathbb{Z}_2^{n+1} on $G_2/U(2)_\pm$ by complex conjugation with the first copy of \mathbb{Z}_2 , the projection map ϕ_n is \mathbb{Z}_2^{n+1} -equivariant and we can ask for its Fadell-Husseini index. For the cohomology of the group \mathbb{Z}_2^{n+1} we fix the notation

$$H^*(B\mathbb{Z}_2^{n+1}; \mathbb{F}_2) = \mathbb{F}_2[t_1, \dots, t_{n+1}],$$

where $\deg(t_1) = \dots = \deg(t_{n+1}) = 1$. We will start with the case $n = 1$.

Proposition 4.9. *Consider the action of \mathbb{Z}_2^2 on $\mathcal{S}_{\gamma^\perp}^1$ introduced before. Then the Borel cohomology of $\mathcal{S}_{\gamma^\perp}^1$ is described as follows:*

$$H^*(EZ_2^2 \times_{\mathbb{Z}_2^2} \mathcal{S}_{\gamma^\perp}^1; \mathbb{F}_2) = H^*(EZ_2^2 \times_{\mathbb{Z}_2^2} G_2/U(2)_\pm; \mathbb{F}_2) / \langle y^2 + yt_2^2 + t_2^4 \rangle.$$

Consequently, the Fadell-Husseini index of $\phi_1: \mathcal{S}_{\gamma^\perp}^1 \rightarrow G_2/U(2)_\pm$ is given by

$$\text{Index}_{\mathbb{Z}_2^2}^{G_2/U(2)_\pm}(\phi_1; \mathbb{F}_2) = \langle y^2 + yt_2^2 + t_2^4 \rangle.$$

Proof. Consider the morphism of bundles

$$\begin{array}{ccc} EZ_2 \times_{\mathbb{Z}_2} \mathcal{S}_{\gamma^\perp}^1 & \longrightarrow & EZ_2^2 \times_{\mathbb{Z}_2^2} \mathcal{S}_{\gamma^\perp}^1 \\ \text{id} \times_{\mathbb{Z}_2} \phi_1 \downarrow & & \downarrow \text{id} \times_{\mathbb{Z}_2^2} \phi_1 \\ EZ_2 \times_{\mathbb{Z}_2} G_2/U(2)_\pm & \longrightarrow & EZ_2^2 \times_{\mathbb{Z}_2^2} G_2/U(2)_\pm, \end{array} \quad (4.10)$$

induced by the inclusion into the second factor $i_2: \mathbb{Z}_2 \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_2^2$. This morphism, actually of Borel constructions, induces a morphism of the corresponding Serre spectral sequences which on the zero column of the E_2 -term is an isomorphism. Notice that, since

$$EZ_2 \times_{\mathbb{Z}_2} G_2/U(2)_\pm \cong B\mathbb{Z}_2 \times G_2/U(2)_\pm,$$

and $\pi_1(B\mathbb{Z}_2 \times G_2/U(2)_\pm) \cong \mathbb{Z}_2$ acts trivially on the fiber, by theorem 4.1 and lemma 4.6,

$$d_4^{0,3}(z) = y^2 + yt_2^2 + t_2^4.$$

For an illustration of the E_4 -term of the Serre spectral sequence associated to $\text{id} \times_{\mathbb{Z}_2} \phi_1$ see Figure 5.

Consider now the Serre spectral sequence associated to the bundle

$$S^3 \hookrightarrow EZ_2^2 \times_{\mathbb{Z}_2^2} \mathcal{S}_{\gamma^\perp}^1 \xrightarrow{\text{id} \times_{\mathbb{Z}_2^2} \phi_1} EZ_2^2 \times_{\mathbb{Z}_2^2} G_2/U(2)_\pm,$$

with E_2 -term given by

$$E_2^{p,q} = H^p(E\mathbb{Z}_2^2 \times_{\mathbb{Z}_2^2} G_2/U(2)_\pm; \mathcal{H}^q(S^3; \mathbb{F}_2)).$$

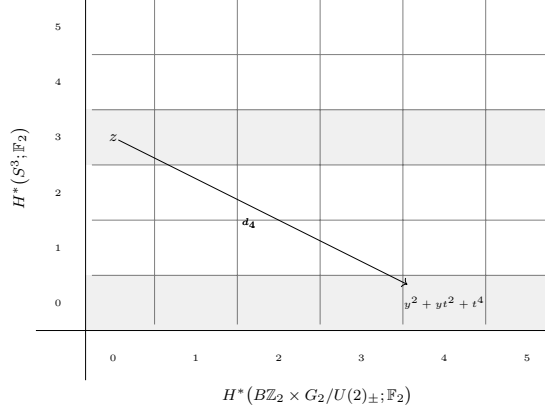


FIGURE 5. $E_4^{p,q} = E_2^{p,q} = H^p(B\mathbb{Z}_2 \times G_2/U(2)_\pm; H^q(S^3; \mathbb{F}_2))$

Since the fundamental group $\pi_1(E\mathbb{Z}_2^2 \times_{\mathbb{Z}_2} G_2/U(2)_\pm) \cong \mathbb{Z}_2^2$ acts trivially on the cohomology of the fiber, then the E_2 -terms simplify and looks as follows:

$$E_2^{p,q} = H^p(E\mathbb{Z}_2^2 \times_{\mathbb{Z}_2} G_2/U(2)_\pm; H^q(S^3; \mathbb{F}_2)).$$

Also, by theorem 4.5, since the second summand of \mathbb{Z}_2^2 acts trivially on $G_2/U(2)_\pm$, and \mathbb{Z}_2^2 also acts trivially on $G_2/SO(4)$,

$$H^*(E\mathbb{Z}_2^2 \times_{\mathbb{Z}_2} G_2/U(2)_\pm; \mathbb{F}_2) = H^*(B\mathbb{Z}_2^2 \times G_2/SO(4); \mathbb{F}_2) / \langle t_1^3 + u_2 t_1 + u_3 \rangle.$$

Notice that the first differential of the spectral sequence associated to $id \times_{\mathbb{Z}_2} \phi_1$ appears on the E_4 -term. Then, by the commutativity of the differentials between $E_4^{*,*}(id \times_{\mathbb{Z}_2} \phi_1)$ and $E_4^{*,*}(id \times_{\mathbb{Z}_2} \phi_1)$, $d_4^{0,3}$ is given by

$$d_4^{0,3}(\xi) = y^2 + yt_2^2 + t_2^4.$$

Using the Leibniz rule, this describes the complete cohomology of $E\mathbb{Z}_2^2 \times_{\mathbb{Z}_2} S_{\gamma_\perp}^1$ and the Fadell-Husseini index of $\phi_1: S_{\gamma_\perp}^1 \rightarrow G_2/U(2)_\pm$. \square

Using the projection of $\mathcal{S}_{\gamma_\perp}^n$ on $\mathcal{S}_{\gamma_\perp}^1$, and proposition 4.9, we can prove now our third main result.

Theorem 4.11. *Consider the action of \mathbb{Z}_2^{n+1} on $\mathcal{S}_{\gamma_\perp}^n$ introduced before. Then the Fadell-Husseini index of $\phi_n: \mathcal{S}_{\gamma_\perp}^n \rightarrow G_2/U(2)_\pm$ is given by*

$$\text{Index}_{\mathbb{Z}_2^{n+1}}^{G_2/U(2)_\pm}(\phi_n; \mathbb{F}_2) = \langle y^2 + yt_2^2 + t_2^4, \dots, y^2 + yt_{n+1}^2 + t_{n+1}^4 \rangle.$$

Proof. Let $i_k: \mathbb{Z}_2^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_2^{n+1}$ be the inclusion into the first and k th summand, with $2 \leq k \leq n+1$. The map i_k induces a morphism between Borel constructions

$$\begin{array}{ccc} E\mathbb{Z}_2^{n+1} \times_{\mathbb{Z}_2^{n+1}} \mathcal{S}_{\gamma_\perp}^1 & \longleftarrow & E\mathbb{Z}_2^2 \times_{\mathbb{Z}_2} \mathcal{S}_{\gamma_\perp}^1 \\ id \times_{\mathbb{Z}_2^{n+1}} \phi_1 \downarrow & & \downarrow id \times_{\mathbb{Z}_2} \phi_1 \\ E\mathbb{Z}_2^{n+1} \times_{\mathbb{Z}_2^{n+1}} G_2/U(2)_\pm & \longleftarrow & E\mathbb{Z}_2^2 \times_{\mathbb{Z}_2} G_2/U(2)_\pm, \end{array}$$

where \mathbb{Z}_2^{n+1} acts on $\mathcal{S}_{\gamma_\perp}^1$ as follows: The first summand acts on $G_2/U(2)_\pm$ by complex conjugation, and the k th summand acts antipodally on the unitary element. We will refer to this action as the one induced by i_k . This morphism of Borel constructions induces a morphism between the corresponding Serre spectral sequences,

which on the zero column of the E_2 -term is an isomorphism. Then, by proposition 4.9, the transgression map $d_4^{0,3}$ of the spectral sequence associated to $id \times_{\mathbb{Z}_2^{n+1}} \phi_1$ is given by

$$d_4^{0,3}(z) = y^2 + yt_k^2 + t_k^4,$$

for every $2 \leq k \leq n+1$.

Consider now the projection $p_k: \mathcal{S}_{\gamma^\perp}^n \rightarrow \mathcal{S}_{\gamma^\perp}^1$ given by

$$p_k(W; \xi, v_1, \dots, v_n) = (W; \xi, v_{k-1}),$$

for $2 \leq k \leq n+1$. With respect to the \mathbb{Z}_2^{n+1} -action on $\mathcal{S}_{\gamma^\perp}^1$ induced by i_k , the map p_k induces a morphism of Borel constructions

$$\begin{array}{ccc} E\mathbb{Z}_2^{n+1} \times_{\mathbb{Z}_2^{n+1}} \mathcal{S}_{\gamma^\perp}^n & \xrightarrow{E(id) \times_{\mathbb{Z}_2^{n+1}} p_k} & E\mathbb{Z}_2^{n+1} \times_{\mathbb{Z}_2^{n+1}} \mathcal{S}_{\gamma^\perp}^1 \\ id \times_{\mathbb{Z}_2^{n+1}} \phi_n \downarrow & & \downarrow id \times_{\mathbb{Z}_2^{n+1}} \phi_1 \\ E\mathbb{Z}_2^{n+1} \times_{\mathbb{Z}_2^{n+1}} G_2/U(2)_\pm & \xrightarrow{E(id) \times_{\mathbb{Z}_2^{n+1}} id} & E\mathbb{Z}_2^{n+1} \times_{\mathbb{Z}_2^{n+1}} G_2/U(2)_\pm. \end{array}$$

This morphism of Borel constructions, in turn, induces a morphism between the corresponding Serre spectral sequences, which on the zero column of the E_2 -term is a monomorphism. For an illustration of the morphism between the corresponding Serre spectral sequences see Figure 6. Then, by the commutativity of the differentials, the map $d_4^{0,3}$ of the spectral sequences associated to $id \times_{\mathbb{Z}_2^{n+1}} \phi_n$ is given by

$$d_4^{0,3}(z_{k-1}) = d_4^{0,3}(p_k^*(z)) = id(d_4^{0,3}(z)) = y^2 + yt_k^2 + t_k^4,$$

for every generator z_{k-1} in $H^3((S^3)^n; \mathbb{F}_2)$, with $2 \leq k \leq n+1$. Then, by the Leibnitz rule, this describes the Fadell-Husseini index of $\phi_n: \mathcal{S}_{\gamma^\perp}^n \rightarrow G_2/U(2)_\pm$.

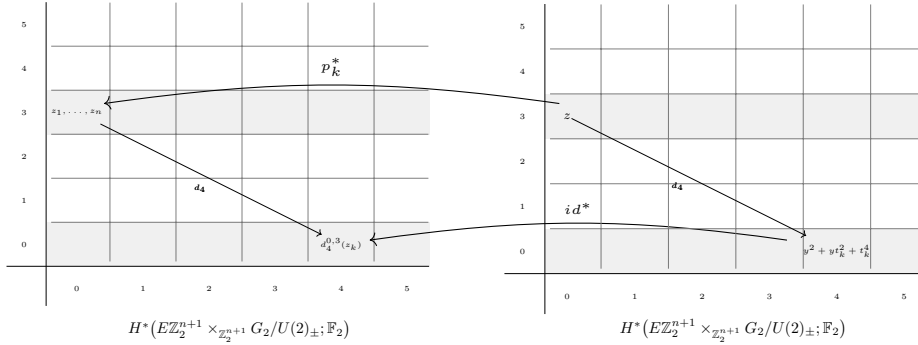


FIGURE 6. Morphism of spectral sequences induced by p_k .

□

Finally, following the same idea in 4.11, we get the Borel cohomology of the total space of the fiber bundle ϕ_2 .

Corollary 4.12. *The cohomology of $E\mathbb{Z}_2^3 \times_{\mathbb{Z}_2^3} \mathcal{S}_{\gamma^\perp}^2$ is given by*

$$H_{\mathbb{Z}_2^3}^*(\mathcal{S}_{\gamma^\perp}^2; \mathbb{F}_2) = H_{\mathbb{Z}_2^3}^*(G_2/U(2)_\pm; \mathbb{F}_2) / \langle y^2 + yt_2^2 + t_2^4, y^2 + yt_3^2 + t_3^4 \rangle.$$

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