SOME RECENT APPROACHES IN 4–DIMENSIONAL SURGERY THEORY

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It is well-known that an n-dimensional Poincaré complex $X^n$, $n \geq 5$, has the homotopy type of a compact topological n-manifold if the total surgery obstruction $s(X^n)$ vanishes. The present paper discusses recent attempts to prove analogous result in dimension 4. We begin by reviewing the necessary algebraic and controlled surgery theory. Next, we discuss the key idea of Quinn’s approach. Finally, we present some cases of special fundamental groups, due to the authors and to Yamasaki.

1. Introduction

Classical surgery methods of Browder–Novikov–Wall break down in dimension 4. The Wall groups, depending only on the fundamental group, do not seem to be strong enough as obstruction groups to completing the surgery. It is strongly believed that for free nonabelian fundamental groups of rank $r \geq 2$ Wall groups are not sufficient [13]. Nevertheless, one can make progress using controlled surgery theory to produce controlled embeddings of 2–spheres needed for surgery, by using results of Quinn [16]. However, this works only if the control map satisfies the $UV^1$–condition (in fact, one

* 2000 Math. Subj. Classif. Primary: 57R67, 57P99 Secondary: 55N45.
Keywords: Poincaré complex, chain duality, controlled topology, controlled surgery, homology manifold.
† Work supported by the Slovenian Research Agency grant No. P1-0292-0101-04.
needs the $UV^1(\delta)$–condition, for sufficiently small $\delta > 0)$. The obstructions belong to a controlled Wall group. Its construction is conceptual, done by means of Ranicki’s machinery (10) (11) (20) (25) (27) (29) (30).

The most important fact is that the controlled groups are homology groups, so they can be calculated. The following is a basic result in surgery theory in dimension $n \geq 5$. It is due to Ranicki (20), see §2 below:

**Theorem 1.1.** Suppose that $X^n$ is a Poincaré $n$–complex, $n \geq 5$, with total surgery obstruction $s(X^n) = 0$. Then $X^n$ is (simple) homotopy equivalent to a topological $n$–manifold.

At his talk in 2004 Quinn (19) proposed a strategy to extend Theorem 1.1 to dimension $n = 4$. More precisely, he proposed how to prove the following conjecture:

**Conjecture 1.2.** If $X^4$ is a Poincaré 4–complex with $s(X^4) = 0$, then $X^4$ is (simple) homotopy equivalent to an ANR homology 4–manifold.

We shall outline the idea of Quinn’s approach in §4, after having prepared the necessary preliminaries. We shall also prove a "stable" version of Conjecture 1.2:

**Theorem 1.3.** If $X^4$ is a Poincaré 4–complex with $s(X^4) = 0$, then $X^4 \# (\# S^2 \times S^2)$ is (simple) homotopy equivalent to a topological 4–manifold.

In the rest of §4 we shall prove special cases of Conjecture 1.2, when $\pi_1(X^4)$ is free nonabelian. We begin by establishing some notations and results which are needed for our presentation. We acknowledge the referee for comments and suggestions.

2. Notations and basic results of algebraic surgery

Let $\Lambda$ be some ring with anti–involution. Here we will only consider $\Lambda = \mathbb{Z}[\pi_1]$, the integral group ring of a fundamental group of a space with trivial orientation character. An $n$–quadratic chain complex is a pair $(C_\#, \psi_\#)$, where $C_\#$ is a free $\Lambda$–module chain complex and $\psi_\# = \{\psi_s | s = 0, 1, ...\}$ is a collection of $\Lambda$–homomorphisms $\psi_s : C^{n-r-s} \rightarrow C_r$ satisfying certain relations. Here $C^\#$ denotes the $\Lambda$–dual cochain complex of $C$ (as in (33)). The pair is a quadratic $n$–Poincaré complex if $\psi_0 + \psi_0^{\#} : C^n \rightarrow C^n$ is a chain equivalence, where $\psi_0^{\#}$ is the dual map of $\psi_0$. 
There is the notion of \((n+1)-\)quadratic (Poincaré) pairs, hence of "cobordism" between \(n\)-quadratic Poincaré complexes, which is an equivalence relation. Let \(L_n(\Lambda)\) be the set of equivalence classes of \(n\)-quadratic Poincaré complexes. It has a group structure induced by direct sum constructions.

If \(n = 2k\) then particular examples of quadratic Poincaré complexes are given by surgery kernels \([K_k(f), \Lambda, \mu]\) of degree 1 normal maps \((f, b) : M^n \to X^n\) (see (21) (22) (23) (26)). This gives an isomorphism of \(L_{2k}(\Lambda)\) with Wall groups \(L_{2k}(\pi_1)\). There is also an isomorphism in odd dimensions in terms of formations. There is an \(\Omega\)-spectrum \(\mathbb{L}\) with \(\pi_n(\mathbb{L}) = L_n(\{1\})\) (see (8)). We denote by \(\mathbb{L} \to L\) the connected covering spectrum, so \(\pi_n(\mathbb{L}) = \pi_n(G/TOP)\).

If \(K\) is a simplicial complex, elements \(\xi \in H_n(K, \mathbb{L})\) can be represented by equivalence classes of compatible collections of \(n\)-quadratic Poincaré complexes \(\{(C\#(\sigma), \psi\#(\sigma)) \mid \sigma \in K\}\). Gluing these individual quadratic complexes together gives a "global" \(n\)-quadratic Poincaré complex \((C\#, \psi\#)\) hence an element in \(L_n(\Lambda)\). This results in a homomorphism \(A : H_n(K, \mathbb{L}) \to L_n(\pi_1(K))\), called the assembly map. To define the structure set \(S_{n+1}(K)\), one considers compatible collections \(\{(C\#(\sigma), \psi\#(\sigma)) \mid \sigma \in K\}\) of \(n\)-quadratic Poincaré complexes which are "globally" contractible, i.e. the mapping cone of the map \(\psi_0 + \psi_0\# : C^n - \# \to C\#\) is contractible (see (24)).

Cobordism classes of such objects build the set \(S_{n+1}(K)\). It has a group structure coming from direct sum constructions.

**Theorem 2.1.** The assembly map fits into the exact sequence

\[
\cdots \to L_{n+1}(\pi_1(K)) \xrightarrow{\partial} S_{n+1}(K) \to H_n(K, \mathbb{L}) \xrightarrow{A} L_n(\pi_1(K)) \xrightarrow{\partial} S_n(K) \to \cdots .
\]

For any geometric Poincaré duality complex \(X^n\) of dimension \(n\), Ranicki defined its total surgery obstruction \(s(X^n) \in S_n(X^n)\) (see (20)).

**Theorem 2.2.** If \(n \geq 5\) then \(s(X^n) = 0\) if and only if \(X^n\) is (simple) homotopy equivalent to a topological \(n\)-manifold.

The element \(s(X)\) can be described as follows: Suppose that \(X\) is triangulated. The fundamental chain \([X] \in C_n(X)\) defines a simple chain
equivalence
\[- \cap [X] : C^n - \#(\tilde{X}) \to C_i(\tilde{X}), \quad \tilde{X} \to X\]

is the universal covering, i.e. the desuspension of the algebraic mapping cone \(S^{-1} C(- \cap [X])\) of \(- \cap [X]\) is contractible.

Let \(\sigma^*\) be the dual cell of the simplex \(\sigma \in X\) with respect of its barycentric subdivision. The global fundamental cycle \([X]\) defines local cycles \([X(\sigma)] \in C_{n-|\sigma|}(\sigma^*, \partial \sigma^*)\), hence it maps
\[- \cap [X(\sigma)] : C^{n-r-|\sigma|} (\sigma^*) \to C_r(\sigma^*, \partial \sigma^*).\]

The collection
\[\{ D_{\#}(\sigma) = S^{-1} C(- \cap [X(\sigma)]) \mid \sigma \in X\}\]

assembles to \(D = S^{-1} C(- \cap [X])\). There are \((n-1-|\sigma|)\)–quadratic Poincaré structures \(\psi_{\#}(\sigma)\) on \(D(\sigma)\), giving rise to an \((n-1)\)–quadratic structure on \(D\). Then \(\sigma(X)\) is represented by the class of the compatible collection \(\{(D_{\#}(\sigma), \psi_{\#}(\sigma)) \mid \sigma \in X\}\).

3. Controlled \(L\)–groups of geometric quadratic complexes

and the controlled surgery sequence

Geometric modules were introduced by Quinn (14) (15) (17) (18) (see also (28)). We introduce here the simple version that locates bases at points in a control space \(K\) over \(B\), and morphisms without incorporating paths.

Let \(K\) be a space, \(p : K \to B\) a (continuous) map to a finite–dimensional compact metric ANR space. We assume this already here since the surgery sequence of (10) requires these properties. Let \(d : B \times B \to \mathbb{R}\) be a metric. Let \(\Lambda\) be a ring with involution and \(1 \in \Lambda\), i.e. \(\Lambda\) is a group ring.

A geometric module over \(K\) is a free \(\Lambda\)–module \(M = \Lambda[S]\), \(S\) a basis together with a map \(\varphi : S \to K\). It is required that for any \(x \in K\), \(\varphi^{-1}(x) \subset S\) is finite. A morphism \(f : M = \Lambda[S] \to N = \Lambda[T]\) is a collection \(f_{st} : M_s \to N_t\) where \(M_s = \Lambda[s], N_t = \Lambda[t]\) such that for a fixed \(s \in S\) only finitely many \(f_{st} \neq 0\). The dual is \(M^* = \Lambda^*[S]\), where \(\Lambda^* = \text{Hom}_\Lambda(\Lambda, \Lambda)\), so it is essentially the same. However, if \(f : M \to N\) is a geometric morphism, its dual is a geometric morphism \(f^* : N^* \to M^*\).

Composition of geometric modules is defined in the obvious way. We define the radius of \(f\) by \(\text{rad}(f) = \max\{d(p\varphi(s), p\psi(t)) \mid f_{st} \neq 0\}\). Here \(\psi : T \to K\) belongs to the geometric module \(N\). The map \(f\) is an \(\varepsilon\)–morphism if \(\text{rad}(f) < \varepsilon\). The composition of an \(\varepsilon\)– and a \(\delta\)–morphism is
an $(\varepsilon + \delta)$–morphism. The sum of an $\varepsilon$– and a $\delta$–morphism is a max$\{\varepsilon, \delta\}$–morphism. See [28] for further properties.

Chain complexes of geometric modules are then defined as pairs $(C_\#, \partial_\#)$ where $\partial_n$ are geometric morphisms. $(C_\#, \partial_\#)$ is an $\varepsilon$–chain complex if all $\partial_n$ are $\varepsilon$–morphisms. A chain map $f: (C_\#, \partial_\#) \to (C'_\#, \partial'_\#)$ of geometric complexes is a $\delta$–chain equivalence if there is a $\delta$–chain map $g: (C'_\#, \partial'_\#) \to (C_\#, \partial_\#)$ and chain homotopies $\{h_n: C_n \to C_{n+1}\}$, $\{h'_n: C'_n \to C'_{n+1}\}$ of $g \circ f$ and $f \circ g$ with $\text{rad } h_n < \delta$ and $\text{rad } h'_n < \delta$. The composition of a $\delta$–chain equivalence with a $\delta'$–chain equivalence is a $(\delta + \delta')$–chain equivalence. We observe that the dual $f^*$ of $f$ has the same radius.

A chain equivalence is $\varepsilon$–contractible if it is $\varepsilon$–chain equivalent to the zero complex. If $f$ is an $\varepsilon$–chain equivalence then its mapping cone is $3\varepsilon$–contractible. An $\varepsilon$–mapping $f$ is a $2\varepsilon$–equivalence if the mapping cone is $\varepsilon$–contractible. A pair $(C_\#, \psi_\#)$ is called an $\varepsilon$–quadratic geometric $\Lambda$–module complex if the maps $\psi_s: C^{n-r-s}_\# \to C_r$ have radius $< \varepsilon$. A pair $(C_\#, \psi_\#)$ is $\varepsilon$–Poincaré if the mapping cone $\psi_0 + \psi_\#^\varepsilon$ is $4\varepsilon$–contractible. An $(n+1)$–dimensional $\varepsilon$–quadratic pair $(C_\#, \psi_\#, \delta \psi_\#)$ is a quadratic pair such that $\delta \psi_s: D^{n+1-r-s}_\# \to D_r$ and $\psi_s: C^{n-r-s}_\# \to C_r$ have radius $< \varepsilon$. It is $\varepsilon$–Poincaré if $C(f)^{n+1-r} = D^{n+1-r}_\# \oplus C^{n-r} \to D_r$, given by $(\delta \psi_0 + \delta \psi_\#^\varepsilon, f \circ (\psi_0 + \psi_\#))$ has $4\varepsilon$–contractible algebraic mapping cone (note that it is a $2\varepsilon$–chain map).

Let $\delta \geq \varepsilon > 0$. Then $L_n(p: K \to B, \varepsilon, \delta)$ is the set of equivalence classes of $n$–dimensional $\varepsilon$–quadratic $\varepsilon$–Poincaré $\Lambda$–chain complexes on $p: K \to B$. The equivalence relation is generated by $\delta$–bordism defined in the obvious way. It is actually shown that $\delta$–bordism is an equivalence relation. The set $L_n(p: K \to B, \varepsilon, \delta)$ has a natural abelian group structure given by direct sums. As defined above, these $\varepsilon$–$\delta$–$L$–groups seem to not be calculable.

However, there are deep results identifying these groups with homology groups in certain spectra [10, 11, 29]. These spectra were constructed by Quinn in [15] (see also [30]). Here is a special case, due to Pedersen–Yamasaki [11] and Ranicki–Yamasaki [20], which is most useful in 4–dimensional surgery:

**Theorem 3.1.** Consider $\Lambda = \mathbb{Z}$. Suppose that $p: K \to B$ is a fibration with simply connected fibers. Then $L_n(p: K \to B, \varepsilon, \delta) \cong H_n(B, \mathbb{L})$, for sufficiently small $\varepsilon$ and $\delta$.

Recall that $\mathbb{L}$ is the 4–periodic (nonconnected) surgery spectrum with $\pi_n(\mathbb{L}) = L_n(\{1\})$. A particular case is $p = \text{Id}: B \to B$, proved by Pedersen–
Theorem 3.2. Let $B$ be as above, then there is an (assembly) isomorphism $L_n(B, \varepsilon, \delta) \cong H_n(B, L)$.

We now come to the controlled surgery sequence of \cite{10}. First, we will explain the surgery obstruction map. Suppose $(f, b): M^n \to X^n$ is a surgery problem, $n = 2k$. Let $p: X \to B$ be a control map. Here $X^n$ is an $n$–manifold or a $\delta$–Poincaré $n$–complex over $B$ for sufficiently small $\delta$, i.e.

$$- \cap [X]: C^{*-n}(X) \to C_*(X)$$

is a $\delta$–chain equivalence of $\Lambda$–modules over $B$, and the cells of $X$ have diameter less than $\delta$ in $B$. This holds for instance for generalized manifolds.

We want to describe the controlled surgery obstruction of $(f, b)$ in $L_n(B, \varepsilon, \delta)$. Let us assume that $p: X \to B$ is also $UV^1$. The easiest way is to consider $(f, b)$ as an element of $H_n(X, L)$, and then its image by $p_*: H_n(X, L) \to H_n(B, L)$, under the identification with $L_n(B, \varepsilon, \delta)$, gives the controlled surgery obstruction. It is however useful to write down a controlled Wall obstruction, i.e. in terms of a controlled $[K_k(f), \lambda, \mu]$. However, this must be an $\varepsilon$–quadratic $\mathbb{Z}$–chain complex over $B$.

To obtain this, one does surgeries according to the cell–structure of the relative complex $(X, M)$, i.e. one substitutes $X$ by the mapping cylinder of $f$. In the first step one gets a normal cobordism of $(f, b)$ to $(f', b')$: $M' \to X$ which is $(\varepsilon, k)$–connected, i.e. any commutative diagram of continuous maps

$$
\begin{array}{ccc}
L_0 & \xrightarrow{\alpha_0} & M' \\
\downarrow & & \downarrow f' \\
L & \xrightarrow{\alpha} & X
\end{array}
$$

where $(L, L_0)$ is a $CW$–pair with dim $L \leq k$, has an $\varepsilon$–controlled extension $\tilde{\alpha}: L \to M'$ with $\tilde{\alpha}|_{L_0} = \alpha_0$, and there is a homotopy $h: L \times I \to X$ between $\alpha$ and $f' \circ \tilde{\alpha}$, with radius $\{ph(x, t) \mid t \in I\} < \varepsilon$ for each $x \in L$.

We denote $(f', b')$: $M' \to X$ again by $(f, b): M \to X$. Note that $(\varepsilon, 2)$–connectedness is the $UV^1(\varepsilon)$–property. Let $K_\#(f)$ be the kernel chain complex of $f$. By the above we can assume that it is $\varepsilon'$–chain equivalent to a geometric complex $E_\#$ over $B$ with $E_i = 0$ for $i \leq k - 1$, for some $\varepsilon'$ depending on $\varepsilon$. We emphasize that $K_\#(f)$ is the kernel complex of $M \to X$, not of the universal covering.
Since $X$ is a $\delta$–Poincaré complex over $B$, $K_\#(f)$ has the structure of an $\varepsilon''$–quadratic geometric Poincaré chain complex over $B$. The next step is to apply controlled cell–trading and folding to get a chain complex $F_\#$ which is $\varepsilon'''$–equivalent to $E_\#$ and $F_{\#} = 0$ for $l \neq k$. For doing this, one needs that $p : X \to B$ is $UV^1$. $F_\#$ is an $\varepsilon'''$–quadratic geometric Poincaré complex with quadratic structure given by intersection – and self intersection numbers $\lambda_\#, \mu_\# \text{induced from } (f,b) : M \to X$.

The triple $(F_\#, \lambda_\#, \mu_\#)$ represents the controlled surgery obstruction of $(f,b)$. If it is zero in $L_n(B, \varepsilon, \delta)$ then controlled surgery can be completed if $n \geq 5$ using the $UV^1$–property of $p : X \to B$ to find small Whitney disks to remove self–intersection numbers of immersed spheres $S_k \to M$, representing generators in $F_k$. Completing these surgeries one applies the controlled Hurewicz–Whitehead theorem (14) (15) to get a controlled homotopy equivalence $F'' : M'' \to X$.

This also works in dimension $2k = 4$, since one can apply the Controlled Disk Embedding Theorem of Quinn (16), cf. Disk Deployment Lemma 3.2). The following is the full statement from Pedersen–Quinn–Ranicki (10):

**Theorem 3.3.** Suppose that $B$ is as above. Then there is $\varepsilon_0 > 0$ such that for any $\varepsilon_0 > \varepsilon > 0$ there is $\delta > 0$ with the following property: If $X^n$ is a $\delta$–Poincaré complex with respect to a $UV^1(\delta)$ map $p : X^n \to B$ and $n \geq 4$, then there is a controlled surgery exact sequence

$$H_{n+1}(B, \mathbb{L}) \to S_{\varepsilon, \delta}(X^n) \to [X^n, G/TOP] \xrightarrow{\Omega} H_n(B, \mathbb{L}).$$

Here we must additionally assume, that there is a $TOP$ reduction of $\nu_X$. Recall that $S_{\varepsilon, \delta}(X)$ consists of pairs $(M, f)$ where $M^n$ is an $n$–manifold, $f : M \to X$ a $\delta$–homotopy equivalence over $p : X \to B$, modulo the equivalence relation: $(M, f) \sim (M', f')$ if there is a homeomorphism $h : M \to M'$ such that $f$ and $f' \circ h$ are $\varepsilon$–homotopic over $B$. To define the Wall realization map $H_{n+1}(B, \mathbb{L}) \to S_{\varepsilon, \delta}(X)$, one needs $S_{\varepsilon, \delta}(X) \neq \emptyset$.

**Remark.** Ranicki and Yamasaki worked out, in a conceptual way, the controlled surgery obstruction, using a controlled version of the quadratic construction (27).

**Summary.** Consider a surgery problem $(f,b) : M \to X$ with control map $p : X \to B$. If $X$ is a $\delta$–Poincaré complex for sufficiently small $\delta > 0$ over $B$, then one can construct as above the controlled surgery obstruction...
belonging to $L_n(B, \varepsilon, \delta)$. If $p$ is additionally $UV^1(\delta)$ for sufficiently small $\delta > 0$, then the controlled surgery sequence holds.

4. Some conclusions and comments

In this section we present Quinn’s approach and then we consider Poincaré 4–complexes with free fundamental groups. We mentioned in the introduction Ranicki’s main result in high–dimensional surgery theory: If $X^n$ is a Poincaré $n$–complex with vanishing total surgery obstruction $s(X^n)$, then $X^n$ is (simple) homotopy equivalent to topological $n$–manifold $M^n$. Here $n \geq 5$. One of the main objectives is to extend this result to dimension 4.

Here are the key ideas of Quinn’s approach (11): Let $X^4$ be a 4–dimensional Poincaré complex.

(1) We investigate the algebraic surgery sequence explained in §2.

$$\cdots \to L_4(\pi_1(X^4)) \to S_4(X^4) \to H_3(X^4, \hat{L}) \to \cdots$$

with $s(X^4) \in S_4(X^4)$.

(2) We consider the image of $s(X^4)$ under the composite map

$$S_4(X^4) \to H_3(X^4, \hat{L}) \to H_3(X^4, L)$$

and use the identification (§3)

$$H_3(X^4, L) \cong L_3(X^4, \varepsilon, \delta), \forall \varepsilon < \varepsilon_0.$$ 

Thus $s(X^4)$ determines an element $[s(X^4)] \in L_3(X^4, \varepsilon, \delta)$, i.e. $(D_#, \psi_#) = (S^{-1}C(- \cap [X^4]), \psi_#)$ as described in §2, carries an $\varepsilon$–quadratic Poincaré structure, unique up to $\delta$–bordism.

(3) If $[s(X^4)] = 0$, there is a $\delta$–null–bordism $(D_#, \psi_#) \to (E_#, \delta \psi_#)$.

In fact, since we have assumed $s(X^4) = 0$, $E_#$ is contractible.

(4) This bordism can be topologically realized by a $\delta'$–homotopy equivalence $X'^4 \to X^4$, where $X'^4$ is an $\varepsilon'$–Poincaré 4–complex. Here, $(\delta', \varepsilon')$ depends on $(\delta, \varepsilon)$, and becomes arbitrary small as $(\delta, \varepsilon)$ becomes small. Ideas of surgery on Poincaré and normal spaces are used here (see (13)).

(5) Choose a sequence $\{\varepsilon_n\} \to 0$ and iterate the above construction to produce a sequence $\{X'^4_n \to X'^4_{n-1}\}_n$. Its limit in the sense of (11) is an ANR homology 4–manifold $X'^4$ which is homotopy equivalent to $X^4$. 
This approach can be summarized as follows: Suppose $X^4$ is a Poincaré 4–complex with $s(X^4) = 0$. Then $X^4$ is (simple) homotopy equivalent to an ANR homology 4–manifold $X'^4$.

**Remarks.** (1) The topological realization step (4) requires a highly $\delta$–connected null bordism $(E_{\#}, \delta \psi_{\#})$, which is not guaranteed when $n$ is even.

(2) Starting with a relative Poincaré complex $(X^4, \partial X^4)$ such that $\partial X^4$ is a topological 4–manifold, the 4–dimensional resolution theorem (16) implies that $X'^4$ is a topological 4–manifold.

For the rest of this section we consider Poincaré 4–complexes $X^4$ with free nonabelian fundamental groups, i.e. $\pi_1(X^4) \cong \tilde{\mathbb{Z}}$. We benefit from the special topology of such complexes, in particular:

**Theorem 4.1.**

(a) $X^4$ is (simple) homotopy equivalent to \{ $\tilde{\mathbb{P}}(S^1 \vee S^3) \vee (\tilde{\mathbb{P}}S^2) \} \cup D^4$; and

(b) If the $\Lambda$–intersection form

$$
\lambda_{\Lambda}: H_2(X^4, \Lambda) \times H_2(X^4, \Lambda) \to \Lambda
$$

is extended from the $\mathbb{Z}$–intersection form

$$
\lambda_{\mathbb{Z}}: H_2(X^4, \mathbb{Z}) \times H_2(X^4, \mathbb{Z}) \to \mathbb{Z}
$$

then $X^4$ is (simple) homotopy equivalent to $Q^4 \# M'^4$, where $Q^4 = \tilde{\mathbb{P}}\#(S^1 \times S^3)$, and $M'^4$ is a simply connected topological 4–manifold determined by $\lambda_{\mathbb{Z}}$.

For proofs see [4, 5, 11, 13]. We note here that the first Postnikov invariant for $X^4$ vanishes. Theorem 4.1 implies (what is much easier to see) that there is a degree 1 map $p: X^4 \to Q^4$.

**Lemma 4.2.** The assembly maps satisfy the following properties:

(a) $A: H_4(X^4, \Lambda) \to L_4(\pi_1(X^4))$ is onto; and

(b) $A: H_3(X^4, \Lambda) \to L_3(\pi_1(X^4))$ is injective.

**Proof.** Assembly is a natural construction so we have the commutative diagram
A spectral sequence argument shows that \( p_*: H_4(X, \mathbb{L}) \to H_4(Q, \mathbb{L}) \) is onto, and \( p_*: H_3(X, \mathbb{L}) \to H_3(Q, \mathbb{L}) \) is an isomorphism. If \( B = B(\pi_1(X^4)) \) is the classifying space, \( c: Q^4 \to B \) the classifying map, then \( c_*: H_l(Q^4, \mathbb{L}) \to H_l(B, \mathbb{L}) \) is an isomorphism for \( l = 3, 4 \) by similar arguments. However, for free fundamental groups, \( A: H_l(B, \mathbb{L}) \to L_l(\pi_1(x)) \) is an isomorphism. This proves the lemma.

**Corollary 4.3.** If \( X^4 \) is a Poincaré 4–complex, then \( s(X^4) \) is zero. In fact, the same holds for the algebraic structure set \( S_4(X^4) = \{0\} \).

**Proof.** This follows from Lemma 4.2 and the algebraic surgery sequence

\[
\begin{array}{c}
H_4(X^4, \mathbb{L}) \xrightarrow{p_*} H_4(Q, \mathbb{L}) \\
\downarrow A & \downarrow A \\
L_4(\pi_1(X)) & \\
\end{array}
\]

By the discussion above it is plausible to conjecture:

**Conjecture 4.4.** Any Poincaré 4–complex \( X^4 \), such that \( \pi_1(X^4) \cong \mathbb{Z} \), is (simple) homotopy equivalent to an ANR homology 4–manifold.

Part (b) of the above theorem confirms Conjecture 4.4 for the case when \( \lambda_\lambda \) is extended from \( \lambda_\Sigma \). Indeed, in this case \( X^4 \) is homotopically a manifold. In general case we obtain a ”stable” result:

**Corollary 4.5.** If \( X^4 \) has a free nonabelian fundamental group, then \( X^4 \#(\# S^2 \times S^2) \) is (simple) homotopy equivalent to a topological 4–manifold.

**Proof.** Since \( s(X^4) = 0 \), there is a degree 1 normal map \((f, b): M^4 \to X^4\) whose Wall obstruction is zero. This means that \((K_2(f), \lambda, \mu)\) is stably hyperbolic. The result then follows from [6].

**Remark.** \( X^4 \#(\# S^2 \times S^2) \) is the connected sum made inside a 4–cell in \( X^4 \).
The controlled surgery method also works for certain other fundamental groups. We have proved this for those Poincaré complexes whose fundamental group is that of a torus knot (5):

**Theorem 4.6.** Let $X^4$ be a 4-dimensional Poincaré complex such that $\pi_1(X^4) \cong \pi_1(S^3 \setminus K)$, where $K \subset S^3$ is a torus knot, and suppose that $s(X^4) = 0$. Then $X^4$ is (simple) homotopy equivalent to a closed topological 4–manifold.

Yamasaki (31) has recently proved that Theorem 4.6 holds also for hyperbolic knots $K \subset S^3$. Note that in order to verify Theorem 4.6 for all knots $K \subset S^3$ it would suffice, by Thurston’s theorem, to answer in affirmative the following question:

**Question 4.7.** Does Theorem 4.6 hold also if $K \subset S^3$ is a satellite knot?

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