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## KNOTTED FIXED POINT SETS OF SEMI-FREE $S^1$ -ACTIONS

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### 1. Introduction

In [2], Browder has shown that there are an infinite number of distinct semi-free  $S^1$ -actions on homotopy  $(p+2q)$ -spheres with  $S^p$  as untwisted fixed point set if (a)  $p+2q \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ ,  $p > 1$  and  $q > 2$ , or if (b)  $p+2q = 7, 15$  or  $31$ ,  $p$ : odd,  $p > 1$  and  $q > 1$ . As open questions, he has posed the followings:

(I) What is the knot type of the fixed point set?

(II) In the cases where his theorem does not construct an infinite number of semi-free  $S^1$ -actions, are there in reality only a finite number?

In the present paper, we shall give partial answers on these questions as follows. We shall construct semi-free  $S^1$ -actions which have knotted fixed point sets (see Theorem 2.1). As a corollary, we shall have that there are also an infinite number of distinct semi-free  $S^1$ -actions on the standard  $(p+2q)$ -sphere  $S^{p+2q}$  with knotted  $S^p$  as fixed point set when  $p \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$  and  $4q \leq p+3$  (see Theorem 2.2).

### 2. Definitions, notations and statement of results

An action  $(M, \varphi, G)$  is called *semi-free* if it is free outside the fixed point set, i.e., there are two types of orbits, fixed points and  $G$ . Let  $\Theta_n$  be the group of homotopy  $n$ -spheres and  $\theta_n$  be the order of the group  $\Theta_n$ . Let  $\Theta_n(\partial\pi)$  be the subgroup consisting of those homotopy spheres which bound parallelizable manifolds and  $\sum_{\mathcal{M}}^n$  be the generator of  $\Theta_n(\partial\pi)$  due to Kervaire and Milnor [7] (see also Milnor [9] and Kervaire [5]).  $D^n$  and  $S^{n-1}$  denote, respectively, the unit disk and the unit sphere in euclidean  $n$ -space. When  $N$  is a submanifold of  $M$ , we shall denote by  $\nu(N \subset M)$  the normal bundle of  $N$  in  $M$ . When a homotopy sphere  $\sum^p$  imbedded in  $\sum^{p+2q}$  bounds a manifold  $W^{p+1}$  in  $\sum^{p+2q}$  such that the normal bundle  $\nu(W^{p+1} \subset \sum^{p+2q})$  is trivial, we say that  $\sum^p$  bounds a  $\pi$ -submanifold  $W^{p+1}$  in  $\sum^{p+2q}$ . In [9], Milnor has constructed a manifold  $W_0^{4k}$  ( $k \geq 2$ ) which satisfies: (1)  $W_0^{4k}$  is parallelizable, (2) the index  $I(W_0^{4k})$  equals 8, (3) the boundary  $\partial W_0^{4k}$  is the homotopy sphere  $\sum_{\mathcal{M}}^{4k-1}$  and (4)  $W_0^{4k}$  is  $(2k-1)$ -connected. Let us denote by  $W^{4k}(l)$  for  $l \in \mathbb{Z}$  the manifold obtained by the boundary connected sum

$W_0^{4k} \natural \dots \natural W_0^{4k}$  of  $l$ -copies of the manifold  $W_0^{4k}$ . It is clear that the index  $I(W^{4k}(l))$  equals  $8l$ . Then we shall have the following:

**Theorem 2.1.** *There exists a semi-free  $S^1$ -action on a homotopy sphere  $\Sigma^{p+2q}$  with fixed point set  $(\prod_{i=2}^{q-1} \theta_{p+2i}) \cdot \Sigma_{\mathcal{M}}^p$  which bounds a  $\pi$ -submanifold  $W^{p+1}(\prod_{i=2}^{q-1} \theta_{p+2i})$  in  $\Sigma^{p+2q}$  for  $p \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ ,  $p \geq 7$  and  $q \geq 2$ .*

**Theorem 2.2.** *There are an infinite number of distinct semi-free  $S^1$ -actions on the standard  $(p+2q)$ -sphere  $S^{p+2q}$  with knotted  $S^p$  as fixed point set for  $p \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ ,  $4q \leq p+3$  and  $q \geq 2$ .*

### 3. Proofs of theorems

Proof of Theorem 2.1. As is well-known, the homotopy sphere  $\Sigma_{\mathcal{M}}^p$  can be imbedded in  $S^{p+2}$  such that  $\Sigma_{\mathcal{M}}^p$  bounds a  $\pi$ -submanifold  $W_0^{p+1}$  of index 8 in  $S^{p+2}$  (see Kervaire [6, Theorem 1 of Appendix] and Milnor [9]). Hence, by the natural inclusion  $S^{p+2} \subset S^{p+3}$ , we can embed  $\Sigma_{\mathcal{M}}^p$  in  $S^{p+3}$  such that  $\Sigma_{\mathcal{M}}^p$  bounds a  $\pi$ -submanifold  $W_0^{p+1}$  of index 8 in  $S^{p+3}$ . Let  $a$  be a point of  $S^2$ . Then it is easy to prove that there is a diffeomorphism

$$f: \Sigma_{\mathcal{M}}^p \times S^2 \longrightarrow S^p \times S^2$$

such that  $f(\Sigma_{\mathcal{M}}^p \times a)$  bounds the  $\pi$ -submanifold  $W_0^{p+1}$  in  $D^{p+1} \times S^2$  when we regard  $S^p \times S^2$  as  $\partial(D^{p+1} \times S^2)$ .

Let

$$\xi_N: S^1 \longrightarrow S^{2N+1} \xrightarrow{\pi} CP^N$$

be the classical Hopf bundle. Let  $i: S^2 \rightarrow CP^N$  be the inclusion of the 2-skeleton of  $CP^N$ , then it is clear that  $i^! \xi_N = \xi_1$ . Let  $p_2: S^p \times S^2 \rightarrow S^2$  and  $p_2': \Sigma_{\mathcal{M}}^p \times S^2 \rightarrow S^2$  be projections. Since  $CP^N$  is the  $2N$ -skeleton of the Eilenberg MacLane complex  $K(Z, 2)$ ,  $ip_2 f$  is homotopic to  $ip_2'$  for  $N > p+2$ . Hence there exists a bundle map

$$\tilde{f}: (ip_2')^! \xi_N \longrightarrow (ip_2)^! \xi_N,$$

i.e., we have a bundle map

$$\tilde{f}: p_2'^! \xi_1 \longrightarrow p_2^! \xi_1.$$

Thus we obtain the following commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \Sigma_{\mathcal{M}}^p \times S^3 & \xrightarrow{\tilde{f}} & S^p \times S^3 \\ \downarrow p' & & \downarrow p \\ \Sigma_{\mathcal{M}}^p \times S^2 & \xrightarrow{f} & S^p \times S^2 \end{array}$$

where  $p: S^p \times S^3 \rightarrow S^p \times S^2$  (resp.  $p': \sum_{\mathcal{M}}^p \times S^3 \rightarrow \sum_{\mathcal{M}}^p \times S^2$ ) denotes the projection of the bundle  $p_2^! \xi_1$  (resp.  $p_2'^! \xi_1$ ). Set  $\sum^{\rho+4} = \sum_{\mathcal{M}}^p \times D^4 \cup D^{\rho+1} \times S^3$ . It is easy to prove that  $\sum^{\rho+4}$  is a homotopy sphere. Let  $(\sum^{\rho+4}, \tilde{\varphi}, S^1)$  be the semi-free  $S^1$ -action defined by

$$\varphi(g, (x, y)) = (x, gy) \quad \text{for } x \in \sum_{\mathcal{M}}^p, y \in D^4$$

and

$$\varphi(g, (x, y)) = (x, gy) \quad \text{for } x \in D^{\rho+1}, y \in S^3.$$

Now we prove that the fixed point set  $\sum_{\mathcal{M}}^p \times \{0\}$  of the action  $(\sum^{\rho+4}, \varphi, S^1)$  bounds a  $\pi$ -submanifold  $W_0$  in  $\sum^{\rho+4}$ . Let  $\tilde{p}_2: D^{\rho+1} \times S^2 \rightarrow S^2$  be the projection and  $\tilde{p}: D^{\rho+1} \times S^3 \rightarrow D^{\rho+1} \times S^2$  be the projection of the bundle  $\tilde{p}_2^! \xi_1$ . Since the manifold  $W_0$  is  $(p-1)/2$ -connected, the restriction of the bundle  $\tilde{p}_2^! \xi_1$  to  $W_0$  is trivial, i.e.,  $\tilde{p}^{-1}(W_0) = W_0 \times S^1$ . It is obvious by definition that  $p'^{-1}(\sum_{\mathcal{M}}^p \times a) = \sum_{\mathcal{M}}^p \times S^1$ . Let  $b$  be a point of  $\pi^{-1}(a) \subset S^3$ . It follows from Lemma 2 of Browder [1] (see also Browder and Levine [3]) that the diffeomorphism

$$\tilde{f}|_{p'^{-1}(\sum_{\mathcal{M}}^p \times a)}: \sum_{\mathcal{M}}^p \times S^1 \longrightarrow f(\sum_{\mathcal{M}}^p \times a) \times S^1$$

is pseudo isotopic to a diffeomorphism sending  $\sum_{\mathcal{M}}^p \times b$  into

$$f(\sum_{\mathcal{M}}^p \times a) \times c \ (\subset f(\sum_{\mathcal{M}}^p \times a) \times S^1 = p^{-1}(f(\sum_{\mathcal{M}}^p \times a)))$$

where  $c$  is a point of  $S^1$ . Hence  $\tilde{f}(\sum_{\mathcal{M}}^p \times b)$  bounds the submanifold  $W_0$  in  $\tilde{p}^{-1}(W_0) = W_0 \times S^1$ . Since the normal bundle of  $W_0$  in  $D^{\rho+1} \times S^3$  is isomorphic to

$$\nu(W_0 \subset W_0 \times S^1) \oplus \nu(W_0 \subset D^{\rho+1} \times S^2)$$

where  $W_0 \subset W_0 \times S^1$ ,  $W_0 \subset D^{\rho+1} \times S^2$  are the embeddings defined above,  $W_0$  has a normal frame in  $D^{\rho+1} \times S^3$ . Let  $C: \sum_{\mathcal{M}}^p \times I \rightarrow \sum_{\mathcal{M}}^p \times D^4$  be the embedding defined by  $C(x, t) = (x, tb)$  for  $x \in \sum_{\mathcal{M}}^p, t \in I$ . By making use of the embedding  $C$  and the fact  $\sum_{\mathcal{M}}^p \times I \cup W_0 = W_0$ , we have that the fixed point set  $\sum_{\mathcal{M}}^p \times \{0\}$  bounds a  $\pi$ -submanifold  $W_0$  in  $\sum^{\rho+4} = \sum_{\mathcal{M}}^p \times D^4 \cup D^{\rho+1} \times S^3$ .

Thus we have proved the following step 1 of induction.

*Step 1.* There exists a semi-free  $S^1$ -action  $(\sum^{\rho+4}, \varphi, S^1)$  with fixed point set  $\sum_{\mathcal{M}}^p$  which bounds a  $\pi$ -submanifold  $W_0^{\rho+1}$  in  $\sum^{\rho+4}$ .

*Step 2.* Suppose there exists a semi-free  $S^1$ -action  $(\sum^{\rho+2q}, \varphi, S^1)$  with fixed point set  $(\prod_{i=2}^{q-1} \theta_{\rho+2i}) \cdot \sum_{\mathcal{M}}^p$  which bounds a  $\pi$ -submanifold  $W^{\rho+1}(\prod_{i=2}^{q-1} \theta_{\rho+2i})$  in  $\sum^{\rho+2q}$  for  $q \geq 2$ .

Then by the equivariant connected sum

$$(\sum^{\rho+2q}, \varphi, S^1) \# \dots \# (\sum^{\rho+2q}, \varphi, S^1)$$

of  $\theta_{p+2q}$ -copies of  $(\sum^{p+2q}, \varphi, S^1)$  we have the following

**Lemma 3.1.** *There exists a semi-free  $S^1$ -action  $(S^{p+2q}, \psi, S^1)$  with fixed point set  $(\prod_{i=2}^q \theta_{p+2i}) \cdot \sum_{\mathcal{M}}^p$  which bounds a  $\pi$ -submanifold  $W^{p+1}(\prod_{i=2}^q \theta_{p+2i})$  in  $S^{p+2q}$ .*

According to Browder [2] there exists an equivariant diffeomorphism  $f: (\prod_{i=2}^q \theta_{p+2i}) \cdot \sum_{\mathcal{M}}^p \times S^{2q-1} \rightarrow S^p \times S^{2q-1}$  such that  $((\prod_{i=2}^q \theta_{p+2i}) \sum_{\mathcal{M}}^p \times D^{2q} \cup_f D^{p+1} \times S^{2q-1}, \bar{\psi}, S^1)$  is equivalent to  $(S^{p+2q}, \psi, S^1)$  where the action  $\bar{\psi}$  is defined by

$$\bar{\psi}(g, (x, y)) = (x, gy) \quad \text{for } x \in (\prod_{i=2}^q \theta_{p+2i}) \sum_{\mathcal{M}}^p, y \in D^{2q}$$

and

$$\bar{\psi}(g, (x, y)) = (x, gy) \quad \text{for } x \in D^{p+1}, y \in S^{2q-1}.$$

Since  $(\prod_{i=2}^q \theta_{p+2i}) \sum_{\mathcal{M}}^p \times D^{2q} \cup_f D^{p+1} \times S^{2q-1}$  is diffeomorphic to  $S^{p+2q}$ , we have the following lemma (c.f. Lemma 4.1 of Kawakubo [4]).

**Lemma 3.2.** *As an equivariant diffeomorphism*

$$f: (\prod_{i=2}^q \theta_{p+2i}) \sum_{\mathcal{M}}^p \times S^{2q-1} \longrightarrow S^p \times S^{2q-1},$$

*we can choose one which can be extended to a diffeomorphism*

$$F: (\prod_{i=2}^q \theta_{p+2i}) \sum_{\mathcal{M}}^p \times D^{2q} \longrightarrow S^p \times D^{2q}.$$

Now we construct an equivariant diffeomorphism

$$\hat{f}: ((\prod_{i=2}^q \theta_{p+2i}) \cdot \sum_{\mathcal{M}}^p \times S^{2q+1}, \varphi_1, S^1) \longrightarrow (S^p \times S^{2q+1}, \varphi_2, S^1)$$

where the actions  $\varphi_1$  and  $\varphi_2$  are the obvious ones.

Let us denote by

$$((\prod_{i=2}^q \theta_{p+2i}) \cdot \sum_{\mathcal{M}}^p \times S^{2q-1} \times D^2 \cup_{id} (\prod_{i=2}^q \theta_{p+2i}) \cdot \sum_{\mathcal{M}}^p \times D^{2q} \times S^1, \bar{\varphi}_1, S^1)$$

the differentiable  $S^1$ -action defined by

$$\bar{\varphi}_1(g, (x, y, z)) = (x, gy, gz) \quad \text{for } x \in (\prod_{i=2}^q \theta_{p+2i}) \cdot \sum_{\mathcal{M}}^p, \\ y \in S^{2q-1}, z \in D^2,$$

and

$$\bar{\varphi}_1(g, (x, y, z)) = (x, gy, gz) \quad \text{for } x \in (\prod_{i=2}^q \theta_{p+2i}) \cdot \sum_{\mathcal{M}}^p, \\ y \in D^{2q}, z \in S^1.$$

Let us denote by

$$(S^p \times S^{2q-1} \times D^2 \cup_{id} S^p \times D^{2q} \times S^1, \bar{\varphi}_2, S^1)$$

the similar differentiable  $S^1$ -action. Since

$$\begin{aligned} & ((\prod_{i=2}^q \theta_{p+2i}) \cdot \sum_{\mathcal{M}}^p \times S^{2q-1} \times D^2 \cup_{id} (\prod_{i=2}^q \theta_{p+2i}) \cdot \sum_{\mathcal{M}}^p \times D^{2q} \times S^1, \bar{\varphi}_1, S^1) \\ & \text{(resp. } (S^p \times S^{2q-1} \times D^2 \cup_{id} S^p \times D^{2q} \times S^1, \bar{\varphi}_2, S^1)) \end{aligned}$$

is clearly equivalent to

$$\begin{aligned} & ((\prod_{i=2}^q \theta_{p+2i}) \cdot \sum_{\mathcal{M}}^p \times S^{2q+1}, \varphi_1, S^1) \\ & \text{(resp. } (S^p \times S^{2q+1}, \varphi_2, S^1)), \end{aligned}$$

we use them confusedly. Let  $F_1: (\prod_{i=2}^q \theta_{p+2i}) \cdot \sum_{\mathcal{M}}^p \times D^{2q} \rightarrow S^p$  and  $F_2: (\prod_{i=2}^q \theta_{p+2i}) \cdot \sum_{\mathcal{M}}^p \times D^{2q} \rightarrow D^{2q}$  be the differentiable maps defined by

$$\begin{aligned} (F_1(x, y), F_2(x, y)) = F(x, y) \quad \text{for } x \in (\prod_{i=2}^q \theta_{p+2i}) \cdot \sum_{\mathcal{M}}^p, \\ y \in D^{2q}, \end{aligned}$$

then we construct an equivariant diffeomorphism

$$\hat{f}: (\prod_{i=2}^q \theta_{p+2i}) \cdot \sum_{\mathcal{M}}^p \times S^{2q+1} \longrightarrow S^p \times S^{2q+1}$$

by

$$\hat{f}|_{(\prod_{i=2}^q \theta_{p+2i}) \cdot \sum_{\mathcal{M}}^p \times S^{2q-1} \times D^2} = f \times id$$

and

$$\hat{f}(x, y, z) = (F_1(x, z^{-1}y), zF_2(x, z^{-1}y), z)$$

$$\text{for } x \in (\prod_{i=2}^q \theta_{p+2i}) \cdot \sum_{\mathcal{M}}^p, \quad y \in D^{2q}, \quad z \in S^1.$$

**Lemma 3.3.**  *$\hat{f}$  is well-defined and an equivariant diffeomorphism.*

Proof of Lemma 3.3. First we shall prove that  $\hat{f}$  is well-defined. Let  $f_1: (\prod_{i=2}^q \theta_{p+2i}) \cdot \sum_{\mathcal{M}}^p \times S^{2q-1} \rightarrow S^p$  and  $f_2: (\prod_{i=2}^q \theta_{p+2i}) \cdot \sum_{\mathcal{M}}^p \times S^{2q-1} \rightarrow S^{2q-1}$  be differentiable maps defined by

$$(f_1(x, y), f_2(x, y)) = f(x, y) \quad \text{for } x \in (\prod_{i=2}^q \theta_{p+2i}) \cdot \sum_{\mathcal{M}}^p, \quad y \in S^{2q-1}.$$

Since  $f$  is equivariant,  $f_1(x, gy) = f_1(x, y)$  and  $f_2(x, gy) = gf_2(x, y)$  for  $x \in (\prod_{i=2}^q \theta_{p+2i}) \cdot \sum_{\mathcal{M}}^p, y \in S^{2q-1}$ .

Hence, for  $x \in (\prod_{i=2}^q \theta_{p+2i}) \cdot \sum_{\mathcal{M}}^p, y \in \partial D^{2q} = S^{2q-1}, z \in S^1$ , we have that  $F_1(x, z^{-1}y) = f_1(x, z^{-1}y) = f_1(x, y)$  and  $zF_2(x, z^{-1}y) = zf_2(x, z^{-1}y) = f_2(x, y)$ , i.e.,  $\hat{f}$  is well-defined. If we take  $F$  carefully,  $\hat{f}$  becomes a differentiable map.

Secondly, we shall prove that  $\hat{f}$  is equivariant. Obviously  $\hat{f}|_{(\prod_{i=2}^q \theta_{p+2i}) \cdot \sum_{\mathcal{M}}^p \times S^{2q-1} \times D^2}$  is equivariant. For  $x \in (\prod_{i=2}^q \theta_{p+2i}) \cdot \sum_{\mathcal{M}}^p, y \in D^{2q}, z \in S^1$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} & \hat{f}(\varphi_1(g, (x, y, z))) \\ &= \hat{f}(x, gy, gz) \\ &= (F_1(x, (gz)^{-1}gy), gzF_2(x, (gz)^{-1}gy), gz) \\ &= (F_1(x, z^{-1}y), gzF_2(x, z^{-1}y), gz) \\ &= \varphi_2(g, (F_1(x, z^{-1}y), zF_2(x, z^{-1}y), z)) \\ &= \varphi_2(g, \hat{f}(x, y, z)), \end{aligned}$$

i.e.,  $f$  is equivariant.

Thirdly, we shall prove that  $\hat{f}$  is a diffeomorphism. For this purpose, we show that  $\hat{f}$  has a differentiable inverse map. Let  $\bar{F}_1: S^p \times D^{2q} \rightarrow (\prod_{i=2}^q \theta_{p+2i}) \cdot \sum_{\mathcal{M}}^p$  and  $\bar{F}_2: S^p \times D^{2q} \rightarrow D^{2q}$  be the differentiable maps defined by

$$(\bar{F}_1(x, y), \bar{F}_2(x, y)) = F^{-1}(x, y) \quad \text{for } x \in S^p, y \in D^{2q}.$$

Define a differentiable map

$$\hat{f}: S^p \times S^{2q+1} \longrightarrow (\prod_{i=2}^q \theta_{p+2i}) \cdot \sum_{\mathcal{M}}^p \times S^{2q+1}$$

by

$$\hat{f}|_{S^p \times S^{2q-1} \times D^2} = f^{-1} \times id$$

and

$$\hat{f}(x, y, z) = (\bar{F}_1(x, z^{-1}y), z\bar{F}_2(x, z^{-1}y), z)$$

$$\text{for } x \in S^p, y \in D^{2q}, z \in S^1.$$

It is easy to prove by the same way as in the case of  $\hat{f}$  that  $\hat{f}$  is well-defined and a differentiable map. It is clear that

$$\hat{f} \circ \hat{f}|_{(\prod_{i=2}^q \theta_{p+2i}) \cdot \sum_{\mathcal{M}}^p \times S^{2q-1} \times D^2} = id.$$

For  $x \in (\prod_{i=2}^q \theta_{p+2i}) \cdot \sum_{\mathcal{M}}^p, y \in D^{2q}, z \in S^1$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}
 \hat{f} \circ \hat{f}(x, y, z) &= \hat{f}(F_1(x, z^{-1}y), zF_2(x, z^{-1}y), z) \\
 &= (\bar{F}_1(F_1(x, z^{-1}y), z^{-1}(zF_2(x, z^{-1}y))), z\bar{F}_2(F_1(x, z^{-1}y), z^{-1}(zF_2(x, z^{-1}y))), z) \\
 &= (\bar{F}_1(F_1(x, z^{-1}y), F_2(x, z^{-1}y)), z\bar{F}_2(F_1(x, z^{-1}y), F_2(x, z^{-1}y))), z) \\
 &= (x, z(z^{-1}y), z) \\
 &= (x, y, z),
 \end{aligned}$$

i.e.,  $\hat{f} \circ \hat{f} = \text{identity}$ .

Similarly we can prove that  $f \circ \hat{f} = \text{identity}$ . Hence  $f$  is a diffeomorphism. This completes the proof of Lemma 3.3.

Set  $\Sigma^{\rho+2q+2} = (\prod_{i=2}^q \theta_{\rho+2i}) \cdot \Sigma_{\mathcal{M}}^{\rho} \times D^{2q+2} \cup D^{\rho+1} \times S^{2q+1}$ . It is easy to prove that  $\Sigma^{\rho+2q+2}$  is a homotopy sphere. Then we construct a semi-free  $S^1$ -action  $(\Sigma^{\rho+2q+2}, \phi, S^1)$  by

$$\phi(g, (x, y)) = (x, gy) \quad \text{for } x \in (\prod_{i=2}^q \theta_{\rho+2i}) \cdot \Sigma_{\mathcal{M}}^{\rho}, y \in D^{2q+2}$$

and

$$\phi(g, (x, y)) = (x, gy) \quad \text{for } x \in D^{\rho+1}, y \in S^{2q+1}.$$

Since  $\hat{f}$  is equivariant with respect to  $\phi$ , the above action is well-defined.

Regarding  $S^{\rho+2q}$  as  $(\prod_{i=2}^q \theta_{\rho+2i}) \cdot \Sigma_{\mathcal{M}}^{\rho} \times D^{2q} \cup D^{\rho+1} \times S^{2q-1}$  and  $\Sigma^{\rho+2q+2}$  as  $(\prod_{i=2}^q \theta_{\rho+2i}) \cdot \Sigma_{\mathcal{M}}^{\rho} \times D^{2q} \times D^2 \cup (D^{\rho+1} \times S^{2q-1} \times D^2 \cup D^{\rho+1} \times D^{2q} \times S^1)$ ,

we obtain an embedding  $e: S^{\rho+2q} \rightarrow \Sigma^{\rho+2q+2}$  by identifying

$$(\prod_{i=2}^q \theta_{\rho+2i}) \cdot \Sigma_{\mathcal{M}}^{\rho} \times D^{2q} \quad \text{with} \quad (\prod_{i=2}^q \theta_{\rho+2i}) \cdot \Sigma_{\mathcal{M}}^{\rho} \times D^{2q} \times \{0\}$$

and

$$D^{\rho+1} \times S^{2q-1} \quad \text{with} \quad D^{\rho+1} \times S^{2q-1} \times \{0\}.$$

It is clear that the embedding  $e$  is well-defined and equivariant with respect to  $\psi$  and  $\bar{\varphi}$  by definition, i.e.,  $(S^{\rho+2q}, \psi, S^1)$  is an invariant submanifold of  $(\Sigma^{\rho+2q+2}, \phi, S^1)$ . Since  $S^{\rho+2q}$  is  $(\rho+2q-1)$ -connected,  $\nu(e(S^{\rho+2q}) \subset \Sigma^{\rho+2q+2})$  is trivial and since the normal bundle of  $e(W^{\rho+1}(\prod_{i=2}^q \theta_{\rho+2i}))$  in  $\Sigma^{\rho+2q+2}$  is isomorphic to  $\nu(W^{\rho+1}(\prod_{i=2}^q \theta_{\rho+2i}) \subset S^{\rho+2q}) \oplus \nu(e(S^{\rho+2q}) \subset \Sigma^{\rho+2q+2})|_{e(W^{\rho+1}(\prod_{i=2}^q \theta_{\rho+2i}))}$ , the normal bundle  $\nu(e(W^{\rho+1}(\prod_{i=2}^q \theta_{\rho+2i})) \subset \Sigma^{\rho+2q+2})$  is trivial. Thus we have proved that there exists a semi-free  $S^1$ -action  $(\Sigma^{\rho+2q+2}, \phi, S^1)$  with fixed point set  $(\prod_{i=2}^q \theta_{\rho+2i}) \cdot \Sigma_{\mathcal{M}}^{\rho}$  which bounds a  $\pi$ -submanifold  $W^{\rho+1}(\prod_{i=2}^q \theta_{\rho+2i})$  in  $\Sigma^{\rho+2q+2}$ , completing the induction.



This makes the proof of Theorem 2.1 complete.

Proof of Theorem 2.2. It follows from Theorem 2.1 that there exists a semi-free  $S^1$ -action  $(S^{p+2q}, \varphi, S^1)$  with fixed point set the natural sphere  $S^p$  which bounds a  $\pi$ -submanifold of non zero index constructed by the equivariant connected sum operation with itself. Denote by  $l(S^{p+2q}, \varphi, S^1)$  the action induced by the equivariant connected sum

$$(S^{p+2q}, \varphi, S^1) \# \cdots \# (S^{p+2q}, \varphi, S^1)$$

of  $l$ -copies of  $(S^{p+2q}, \varphi, S^1)$ . Because of the difference of the indices of the  $\pi$ -submanifolds bounded by the fixed point sets,  $l(S^{p+2q}, \varphi, S^1)$  is not equivalent to  $m(S^{p+2q}, \varphi, S^1)$  for  $l \neq m$  (see Levine [8 Theorem 6.7]). This completes the proof of Theorem 2.2.

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