

ANOSOV DIFFEOMORPHISMS CONSTRUCTED FROM $\pi_k(\mathbf{Diff}(\mathbf{S}^n))$

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ABSTRACT. We construct Anosov diffeomorphisms on manifolds that are homeomorphic to infranilmanifolds yet have exotic smooth structures. These manifolds are obtained from standard infranilmanifolds by connected summing with certain exotic spheres. Our construction produces Anosov diffeomorphisms of high codimension on infranilmanifolds with irreducible exotic smooth structures.

1. INTRODUCTION

Let M be a compact smooth n -dimensional Riemannian manifold. Recall that a diffeomorphism f is called *Anosov* if there exist constants $\lambda \in (0, 1)$ and $C > 0$ along with a df -invariant splitting $TM = E^s \oplus E^u$ of the tangent bundle of M , such that for all $m \geq 0$

$$\begin{aligned} \|df^m v\| &\leq C\lambda^m \|v\|, \quad v \in E^s, \\ \|df^{-m} v\| &\leq C\lambda^m \|v\|, \quad v \in E^u. \end{aligned}$$

If either fiber of E^s or E^u has dimension k with $k \leq \lfloor n/2 \rfloor$ then f is called a *codimension k Anosov diffeomorphism*. See, *e.g.*, [KH95] for background on Anosov diffeomorphisms.

The classification of Anosov diffeomorphisms is an outstanding open problem. All currently known examples of manifolds that support Anosov diffeomorphisms are homeomorphic to infranilmanifolds. It is an interesting question to study existence of Anosov diffeomorphisms on manifolds that are homeomorphic to infranilmanifolds yet have exotic smooth structure.

Farrell and Jones have constructed [FJ78] codimension one Anosov diffeomorphisms on higher dimensional exotic tori, *i.e.*, manifolds that are homeomorphic to tori but have non-standard smooth structure. The current paper should be considered as a sequel to [FJ78]. We formulate our main result below. (See Section 2 for the definitions of the Gromoll groups and expanding endomorphism.)

Theorem 1.1. *Let M be an n -dimensional ($n \geq 7$) infranilmanifold; in particular, M can be a nilmanifold. Let $L: M \rightarrow M$ be a codimension k Anosov automorphism. Assume that M admits an expanding endomorphism $E: M \rightarrow M$ that commutes with L . Let Σ be a homotopy sphere from the Gromoll group Γ_{k+1}^n , then the connected sum $M \# \Sigma$ admits a codimension k Anosov diffeomorphism.*

Remark 1.2. Not all exotic smooth structures on infranilmanifolds come from exotic spheres. For example, obstruction theory gives smooth structures on tori that are not even PL-equivalent [HsSh70] (note that by Alexander trick all exotic tori that

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come from exotic spheres are PL-equivalent). In particular, there are three different smooth structures on \mathbb{T}^5 [W70, p. 227]. It would be very interesting to see if these manifolds support Anosov diffeomorphisms.

Our construction of Anosov diffeomorphisms on exotic infranilmanifolds is different from that of Farrell and Jones and gives Anosov diffeomorphisms of high codimension. Of course, one can multiply the Anosov diffeomorphism of Farrell and Jones on $\mathbb{T}^n \# \Sigma$ by an Anosov automorphism of an infranilmanifold M to obtain a higher codimension Anosov diffeomorphism on $(\mathbb{T}^n \# \Sigma) \times M$. Then one can show using smoothing theory (in conjunction with [LR82] and [FH83]) that $(\mathbb{T}^n \# \Sigma) \times M$ is not diffeomorphic to any infranilmanifold if Σ is an exotic sphere.¹ The advantage of our construction is that it gives higher codimension Anosov diffeomorphisms on manifolds with *irreducible* smooth structure; that is, on manifolds that are not diffeomorphic to a smooth Cartesian product of two lower dimensional closed smooth manifolds. The following is a straightforward consequence of Theorem 5.1 that we prove in the appendix.

Proposition 1.3. *If M is an n -dimensional closed oriented infranilmanifold and Σ is a homotopy n -sphere such that $M \# \Sigma$ is not diffeomorphic to M then $M \# \Sigma$ is irreducible.*

If M is an n -dimensional ($n \neq 4$) nilmanifold and Σ is not diffeomorphic to the standard sphere S^n then $M \# \Sigma$ is not diffeomorphic to M [FJ94, Lemma 4]. For an infranilmanifold the situation is more involved. We have the following.

Proposition 1.4. *Let M be an n -dimensional ($n \neq 4$) orientable infranilmanifold with a q -sheeted cover N which is a nilmanifold. Let Σ be an exotic homotopy sphere of order d from the Kervaire-Milnor group Θ_n . Then $M \# \Sigma$ is not diffeomorphic to any infranilmanifold if d does not divide q . In particular, $M \# \Sigma$ is not diffeomorphic to M if d does not divide q .*

Proof. We proceed via proof by contradiction. Assume that M is diffeomorphic to $M \# \Sigma$. It was shown in [LR82] that an isomorphism between the fundamental groups of a pair of closed infranilmanifolds is always induced by a diffeomorphism. Hence, by precomposing the assumed diffeomorphism $M \rightarrow M \# \Sigma$ with an appropriate self diffeomorphism of M , we obtain that M and $M \# \Sigma$ are diffeomorphic via a diffeomorphism inducing the identity isomorphism of the fundamental group. (The fundamental groups of M and $M \# \Sigma$ are canonically identified.) By lifting this diffeomorphism to the covering space $N \rightarrow M$, we see that N and $N \# q\Sigma$ are also diffeomorphic, and hence $q\Sigma$ is diffeomorphic to S^n because of [FJ94, Lemma 4]. Therefore d divides q which is the contradiction proving that M is not diffeomorphic to $M \# \Sigma$. Also $M \# \Sigma$ is not diffeomorphic to any other infranilmanifold by the result from [LR82] cited above. \square

In the next section we provide brief background on Anosov automorphisms and the Gromoll filtration of the group of homotopy spheres. Then we proceed with the proof of Theorem 1.1. The last section is devoted to examples to which Theorem 1.1 applies. In particular, we establish the following result.

¹The authors would like to thank the referee for bringing this to our attention.

Proposition 1.5. *Let F be a finite group. Then for any sufficiently large number k there exists a flat Riemannian manifold M with holonomy group F and a homeomorphic irreducible smooth manifold N such that*

1. N supports a codimension k Anosov diffeomorphism,
2. N is not diffeomorphic to any infranilmanifold; in particular, N is not diffeomorphic to M .

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2. BACKGROUND

2.1. Anosov automorphisms and expanding endomorphisms. Let G be a simply connected nilpotent Lie group equipped with a right invariant Riemannian metric. Let $\tilde{L}: G \rightarrow G$ be an automorphism of G such that $D\tilde{L}: \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \mathfrak{g}$ is hyperbolic, *i.e.*, the absolute values of its eigenvalues are different from 1. Assume that there exists a cocompact lattice $\Gamma \subset G$ preserved by \tilde{L} , $\tilde{L}(\Gamma) = \Gamma$. Then \tilde{L} induces an *Anosov automorphism* L of the nilmanifold $M = G/\Gamma$.

If $\tilde{E}: G \rightarrow G$ is an automorphism such that the eigenvalues of $D\tilde{E}: \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \mathfrak{g}$ are all greater than 1 and $\tilde{E}(\Gamma) \subset \Gamma$ then \tilde{E} induces a finite-to-one *expanding endomorphism* of the nilmanifold M .

Existence of Anosov automorphism is a strong condition on G . Still there are plenty of non-toral examples in dimensions six, eight and higher (see *e.g.*, [DM05] and references therein).

Infranilmanifolds are finite quotients of nilmanifolds obtained through the following construction. Consider a finite group F of automorphisms of G . Then the semidirect product $G \rtimes F$ acts on G by affine transformations. Consider a torsion free cocompact lattice Γ in $G \rtimes F$. Let M be the orbit space G/Γ . This space is naturally a manifold since Γ is torsion-free. It is known that $\Gamma \cap G$ is a lattice in G and has finite index in Γ . Hence $G/\Gamma \cap G$ is a nilmanifold that finitely covers M .

A hyperbolic automorphism $\tilde{L}: G \rightarrow G$ with $\tilde{L} \circ \Gamma \circ \tilde{L}^{-1} = \Gamma$ induces an infranilmanifold *Anosov automorphism* $L: M \rightarrow M$.

An expanding endomorphism $\tilde{E}: G \rightarrow G$ with $\tilde{E} \circ \Gamma \circ \tilde{E}^{-1} \subset \Gamma$ induces an infranilmanifold *expanding endomorphism* $E: M \rightarrow M$.

Remark 2.1. With the definitions above it is clear that the covering automorphisms \tilde{L} and \tilde{E} , of L and E from Theorem 1.1, commute as well. We will use this fact in the proof of Theorem 1.1.

Remark 2.2. More generally Anosov automorphisms (and expanding endomorphisms) can be constructed starting from affine maps $x \mapsto v \cdot \tilde{L}(x)$ for some fixed $v \in G$. In case of a single automorphism of a nilmanifold this does not give anything new as one can change the group structure of the universal cover by moving the identity element to the fixed point of the affine map. (In the case of a single automorphism of an infranilmanifold or a higher rank action, affine maps do give new examples as explained in [D11] and [H93] respectively.)

2.2. Gromoll filtration of Kervaire-Milnor group. Recall that a *homotopy n -sphere* Σ is a smooth manifold which is homeomorphic to the standard n -sphere S^n . The set of all oriented diffeomorphism classes of homotopy n -spheres ($n \geq 5$)

is a finite abelian group Θ_n under the operation $\#$ of connected sum. This group was introduced and studied by Kervaire and Milnor [KM63].

A simple way of constructing a homotopy n -sphere Σ is to take two copies of a closed disk D^n and paste their boundaries together by some orientation preserving diffeomorphism

$$f: S^{n-1} \rightarrow S^{n-1}.$$

This produces a homotopy sphere Σ_f . It is easy to see that if f is smoothly isotopic to g then Σ_f is diffeomorphic to Σ_g . Therefore, the map $f \mapsto \Sigma_f$ factors through to a map

$$F: \pi_0(\text{Diff}(S^{n-1})) \rightarrow \Theta_n,$$

which is known, due to [C61] and [S61], to be a group isomorphism for $n \geq 6$.

View S^{n-1} as the unit sphere in \mathbb{R}^n . Consider the group $\text{Diff}_k(S^{n-1})$ of orientation preserving diffeomorphisms of S^{n-1} that preserve first k coordinates. The image of this group in Θ_n is *Gromoll subgroup* Γ_{k+1}^n . Gromoll subgroups form a filtration

$$\Theta_n = \Gamma_1^n \supseteq \Gamma_2^n \supseteq \dots \supseteq \Gamma_n^n = 0.$$

Cerf [C61] has shown that $\Gamma_1^n = \Gamma_2^n$ for $n \geq 6$. Antonelli, Burghilea and Kahn [ABK70] have shown that $\Gamma_{2m-2}^{4m-1} \neq 0$ for $m \geq 4$ and that $\Gamma_{2v(m)}^{4m+1} \neq 0$ for m not of the form $2^l - 1$, where $v(m)$ denotes the maximal number of linearly independent vector fields on the sphere S^{2m+1} . For some more non-vanishing results and explicit lower bounds on the order of Γ_k^n , see [ABK70].

2.3. Connected summing with $\Sigma \in \Gamma_{k+1}^n$. Consider the group $\text{Diff}(S^{n-1-k}, B)$ of diffeomorphisms of S^{n-1-k} that are identity on an open ball B . Note that any element of $\pi_k(\text{Diff}(S^{n-1-k}, B))$ is represented by a diffeomorphism of $D^k \times D^{n-1-k}$, $D^{n-1-k} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} S^{n-1-k} \setminus B$, which preserves the first k coordinates and is the identity near the boundary. The space of such diffeomorphisms will be denoted by $\text{Diff}_k(D^k \times D^{n-1-k}, \partial)$. There are natural inclusions

$$\pi_k(\text{Diff}(S^{n-1-k}, B)) \hookrightarrow \pi_0(\text{Diff}_k(S^{n-1})) \hookrightarrow \pi_0(\text{Diff}(S^{n-1})).$$

Denote by i the composition of these inclusions.

It is not very hard to show [ABK72, Lemma 1.13] that

$$F\left(i\left(\pi_k(\text{Diff}(S^{n-1-k}, B))\right)\right) = \Gamma_{k+1}^n.$$

Thus, given $\Sigma \in \Gamma_{k+1}^n$ and a manifold M we can realize $M\#\Sigma$ in the following way. Remove a disk $D^k \times D^{n-k}$ from M . Consider the diffeomorphism $\bar{g} \in \text{Diff}_k(D^k \times D^{n-1-k}, \partial)$ which extends by the identity map to $g \in \text{Diff}_k(D^k \times \partial D^{n-k}, \partial)$ that represents Σ in $\pi_k(\text{Diff}(S^{n-1-k}, B))$. Form the connected sum $M\#\Sigma$ by gluing $D^k \times D^{n-k}$ back in using the identity map on $\partial(D^k) \times D^{n-k}$ and using g on $D^k \times \partial(D^{n-k})$.

Remark 2.3. It is important that \bar{g} is identity not only on the boundary of $D^k \times D^{n-1-k}$ but also in a neighborhood of the boundary. This is needed for the smooth structure to be well defined avoiding the problem at the corners.

3. THE PROOF OF THEOREM 1.1

3.1. The construction of the smooth structure. Recall that $M = G/\Gamma$ is an infranilmanifold and $\Sigma \in \Gamma_{k+1}^n$. First we explain our model for $M\#\Sigma$ and provide the basic construction of the diffeomorphism $f: M\#\Sigma \rightarrow M\#\Sigma$. Then we explain how to modify f to obtain an Anosov diffeomorphism.

Start with an Anosov automorphism $L: M \rightarrow M$ with k -dimensional stable distribution E^s (in case the unstable distribution is k -dimensional, consider L^{-1} instead). Choose coordinates in a small neighborhood \mathcal{U} of a fixed point that comes from the identity element id in G so that L is given by the formula

$$L(x, y) = (L_1(x), L_2(y)), \quad (x, y) \in \mathcal{U} \cap L^{-1}\mathcal{U}$$

where x is k -dimensional, L_1 is contracting and L_2 is expanding.

Next we choose a product of two disks $R_0^+ = D_0^+ \times C_0$ in the positive quadrant $\{(x, y): (x, y) > 0\}$ in the proximity of the fixed point $(0, 0)$. Here D_0^+ is k -dimensional and C_0 is $(n - k)$ -dimensional. Consider

$$R_0^- \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{(-x, y): (x, y) \in R_0^+\} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} D_0^- \times C_0$$

and $R_0 \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} D_0 \times C_0$, where D_0 is the convex hull of D_0^+ and D_0^- . Also let $\mathcal{U}_0^+, \mathcal{U}_0^-$ and $\mathcal{U}_0, \mathcal{U}_0 \supset \mathcal{U}_0^+ \cap \mathcal{U}_0^-$, be small neighborhoods of R_0^+, R_0^- and R_0 , respectively.

Define $R_i, R_i^+ = D_i^+ \times C_i, R_i^- = D_i^- \times C_i, \mathcal{U}_i^+, \mathcal{U}_i^-$ and \mathcal{U}_i as images of $R_0, R_0^+, R_0^-, \mathcal{U}_0^+, \mathcal{U}_0^-$ and \mathcal{U}_0 under $L^i, i = 1, 2$, respectively. We make our choices in such a way that $\mathcal{U}_0, \mathcal{U}_1$, and \mathcal{U}_2 are disjoint.

Let $g \in \text{Diff}_k(D_1^+ \times \partial C_1, \partial)$ be a diffeomorphism representing Σ . Glue Σ in along the boundary of R_1^+ using g as described in the previous section. Glue $-\Sigma$ in along the boundary of R_1^- using g^{-1} considered as a diffeomorphism in $\text{Diff}_k(D_1^- \times \partial C_1, \partial)$. To be more precise, we identify R_1^+ and R_1^- via a translation $t: R_1^+ \rightarrow R_1^-$ (rather than a reflection!) and glue $-\Sigma$ in using $t \circ g^{-1} \circ t^{-1}$. Finally, glue Σ in along the boundary of R_2^+ using $L \circ g \circ L^{-1}$. The resulting manifold $M\#2\Sigma\#-\Sigma$ is diffeomorphic to $M\#\Sigma$. Note that in the course of the construction of $M\#2\Sigma\#-\Sigma$ the leaves of the unstable foliation undergo some cutting and pasting which results in a smooth foliation that we call W^u . Locally the leaves of W^u are given by the same formulae $x = \text{const}$. In contrast, the stable foliation is being torn apart.

3.2. The construction of the diffeomorphism f . Consider an open set \mathcal{V}_0 which is the union of $\mathcal{U}_1^-, \mathcal{U}_2^+$ and a small tube joining them as shown in Figure 1. Let $\mathcal{V}_1 = L(\mathcal{V}_0)$.

We proceed with definition of $f: M\#2\Sigma\#-\Sigma \rightarrow M\#2\Sigma\#-\Sigma$. From now on we will be using the same notation for various regions in $M\#2\Sigma\#-\Sigma$ as that for M with a tilde on top. For example, $\tilde{\mathcal{U}}_1^+$ stands for \mathcal{U}_1^+ with homotopy sphere Σ glued in along the boundary of R_1^+ .

Let $f(p) = L(p)$ unless p belongs to $\tilde{\mathcal{U}}_0, \tilde{\mathcal{U}}_1^+$ or $\tilde{\mathcal{V}}_0$. We need to define f differently on $\tilde{\mathcal{U}}_0, \tilde{\mathcal{U}}_1^+$, and $\tilde{\mathcal{V}}_0$ as the smooth structure on $L(\mathcal{U}_0), \mathcal{U}_1^+$ and \mathcal{V}_0 has been changed.

The restriction $f|_{\tilde{\mathcal{U}}_1^+}: \tilde{\mathcal{U}}_1^+ \rightarrow \tilde{\mathcal{U}}_2^+$ can be naturally induced by $L: \mathcal{U}_1^+ \rightarrow \mathcal{U}_2^+$ because of the way $\tilde{\mathcal{U}}_1^+$ and $\tilde{\mathcal{U}}_2^+$ were defined.

To define $f|_{\tilde{\mathcal{U}}_0}: \tilde{\mathcal{U}}_0 \rightarrow \tilde{\mathcal{U}}_1$, we interpret $\tilde{\mathcal{U}}_1$ as \mathcal{U}_1 with R_1 being removed and then being glued back in via a diffeomorphism h that equals to g along the boundary of R_1^+, g^{-1} along the boundary of R_1^- and identity elsewhere.

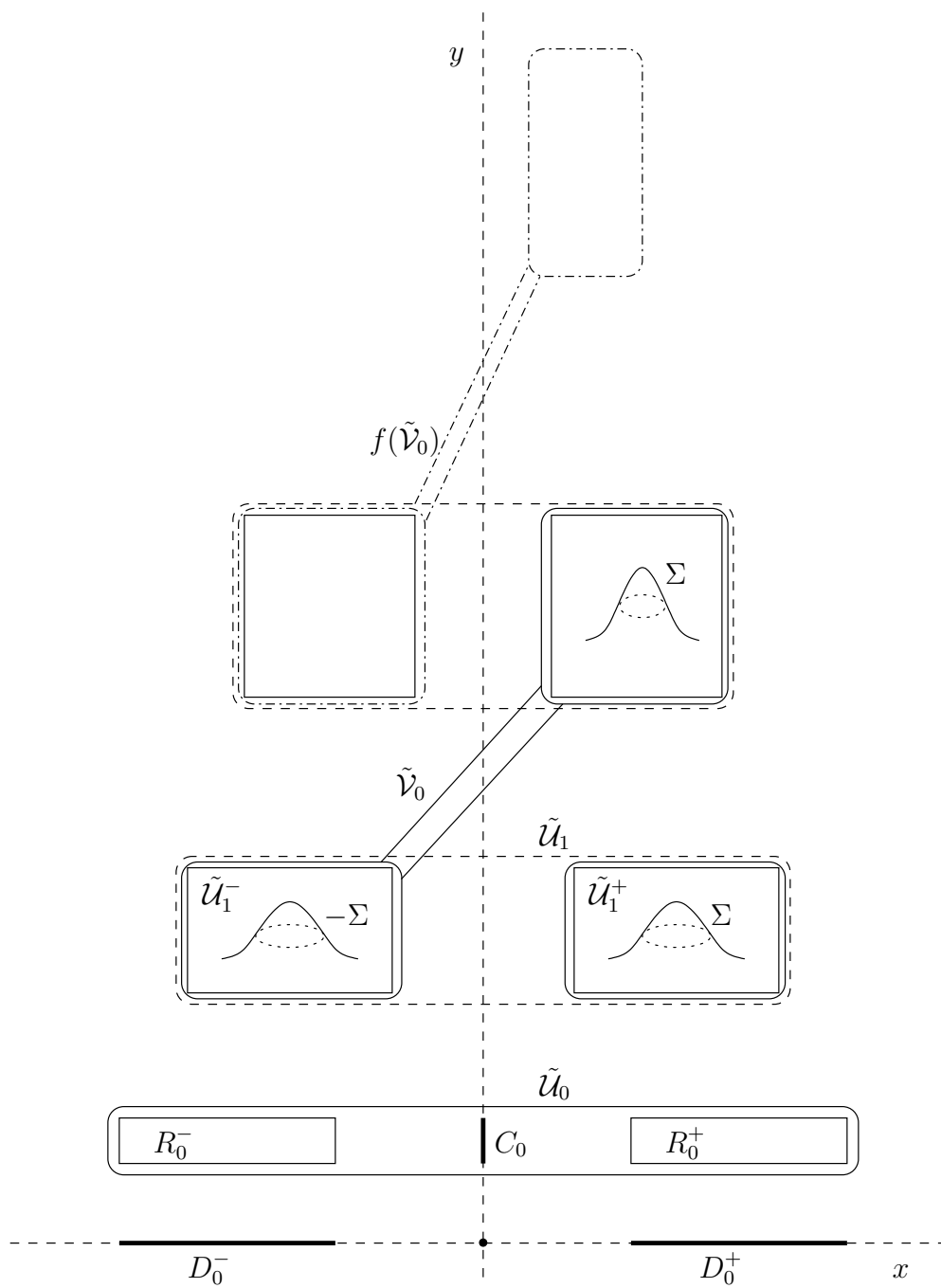


FIGURE 1

The diffeomorphism h is the concatenation of g and g^{-1} , and is easily seen to represent identity in $\pi_k(\text{Diff}(\partial C_1))$. Indeed one can explicitly construct an isotopy from h to Id in $\text{Diff}_k(R_1)$ by joining the translation $t: R_1^+ \rightarrow R_1^-$ (from the definition of $g^{-1} \in \text{Diff}_k(D_1^-, \partial C_1)$) to $Id: R_1^+ \rightarrow R_1^+$. It follows that \mathcal{U}_1 is diffeomorphic to $\tilde{\mathcal{U}}_1$ by a diffeomorphism f_1 that fixes the first k coordinates and is equal to the identity map near $\partial\mathcal{U}_1 = \partial\tilde{\mathcal{U}}_1$. Define

$$f|_{\tilde{\mathcal{U}}_0} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} f_1 \circ L.$$

Similar to above, \mathcal{V}_0 is diffeomorphic to $\tilde{\mathcal{V}}_0$ by a diffeomorphism f_2 that fixes the first k coordinates and is identity near $\partial\mathcal{V}_0 = \partial\tilde{\mathcal{V}}_0$. Define

$$f|_{\tilde{\mathcal{V}}_0} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} L \circ f_2^{-1}.$$

It is clear that our definitions coincide on the boundary of the regions so that diffeomorphism f is well defined. Also notice that f preserves foliation W^u .

3.3. Modifying f to get an Anosov diffeomorphism on $M\#\Sigma$. We fix a Riemannian metric on $M\#2\Sigma\#-\Sigma$ in the following way. On $(M\#2\Sigma\#-\Sigma) \setminus (\tilde{\mathcal{U}}_1^+ \cup \tilde{\mathcal{U}}_1^- \cup \tilde{\mathcal{U}}_2^+)$ we use a Riemannian metric induced by a right invariant Riemannian metric on G such that $F \subset \text{Iso}(G)$, where F is from 2.1. We extend it to $\tilde{\mathcal{U}}_1^+ \cup \tilde{\mathcal{U}}_1^- \cup \tilde{\mathcal{U}}_2^+$ in an arbitrary way.

Let $\mathcal{W} = \tilde{\mathcal{U}}_0 \cup \tilde{\mathcal{U}}_1^+ \cup \tilde{\mathcal{V}}_0$. The foliation W^u is uniformly expanding everywhere but in \mathcal{W} . (In fact, with a suitable choice of the Riemannian metric W^u is expanding on $\tilde{\mathcal{U}}_1^+$ as well, but we won't use this fact.) The number

$$\alpha(f) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \inf_{v \in T_x W^u, v \neq 0, x \in \mathcal{W}} \left(\frac{\|Df^3 v\|}{\|v\|} \right)$$

measures maximal possible contraction along W^u that occurs as a point passes through \mathcal{W} . Therefore, if one can guarantee that the first return time to \mathcal{W}

$$N_1(f) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \inf_{x \in \mathcal{W}} \{i: i \geq 3, f^i(x) \in \mathcal{W}\}$$

is large compared to $\alpha(f)$, then W^u will be expanding for f .

Next we will construct a cone field on $M\#2\Sigma\#-\Sigma$ that would give us the stable bundle.

Define $E_f^u \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} TW^u \subset T(M\#2\Sigma\#-\Sigma)$. Recall that $E^s \subset TM$ is the stable bundle for L . Let $\mathcal{P} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \tilde{\mathcal{V}}_0 \cup \tilde{\mathcal{U}}_1^+$. For any $x \in (M\#2\Sigma\#-\Sigma) \setminus \mathcal{P}$ define $E^s(x)$ by identifying $(M\#2\Sigma\#-\Sigma) \setminus \mathcal{P}$ and $M \setminus (\mathcal{U}_1^+ \cup \mathcal{V}_0)$. Fix a small $\varepsilon > 0$ and define the cones

$$\mathcal{C}(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{v \in T_x M : \angle(v, E^s) < \varepsilon\}$$

for $x \in (M\#2\Sigma\#-\Sigma) \setminus \mathcal{P}$. Also define

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{C}(x) &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} Df^{-1}(\mathcal{C}(f(x))), \quad x \in \tilde{\mathcal{V}}_0, \\ \mathcal{C}(x) &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} Df^{-2}(\mathcal{C}(f^2(x))), \quad x \in \tilde{\mathcal{U}}_1^+. \end{aligned}$$

Note that $Df^{-1}(\mathcal{C}(x)) \subset \mathcal{C}(f^{-1}(x))$ for $x \notin \mathcal{P}$ and $\mathcal{C}(x) \cap E_f^u(x) = \{0\}$ for all $x \in M\#2\Sigma\#-\Sigma$. Therefore for any $x \in \mathcal{P}$ the sequence of cones $Df^{-i}(\mathcal{C}(x))$,

$i > 0$, shrinks exponentially fast towards E^s until the sequence of base points $f^{-i}(x)$ enters \mathcal{P} again. We see that if the first return time

$$N_2(f) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \inf_{x \in \mathcal{P}} \{i : i \geq 2, f^{-i}(x) \in \mathcal{P}\}$$

is large enough, then there exists N that depends on ε and various choices we have made in our construction such that

1. $\forall x \in \mathcal{P}, f^{-i}(x) \notin \mathcal{P}, i = 2, \dots, N$,
2. $\forall x \in \mathcal{P}, Df^{-N}(\mathcal{C}(x)) \subset \mathcal{C}(f^{-N}(x))$,
3. $\exists \lambda > 1 : \forall x \in \mathcal{P}, \forall v \in \mathcal{C}(x), \|Df^{-N}v\| \geq \lambda\|v\|$.

Now we modify the cone field in the following way.

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{\mathcal{C}}(x) &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} Df^{-i}(\mathcal{C}(f^i(x))), \quad \text{if } x \in f^i(\mathcal{P}) \text{ for } i = 0, \dots, N-1, \\ \bar{\mathcal{C}}(x) &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathcal{C}(x), \quad \text{if } x \notin \bigcup_{i=0}^{N-1} f^i(\mathcal{P}). \end{aligned}$$

It is clear from our definitions that the new cone field is invariant

$$\forall x, Df^{-1}(\bar{\mathcal{C}}(f(x))) \subset \bar{\mathcal{C}}(x)$$

and

$$\exists \mu > 1 : \forall x \text{ and } \forall v \in \bar{\mathcal{C}}(x), \|Df^{-1}v\| \geq \mu\|v\|.$$

These properties imply [KH95, Section 6.2] that the bundle

$$E_f^s(\cdot) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \bigcap_{i \geq 0} Df^{-i}(\bar{\mathcal{C}}(f^i(\cdot)))$$

is a Df -invariant k -dimensional exponentially contracting stable bundle for f .

We summarize that f is Anosov provided that the first return times $N_1(f)$ and $N_2(f)$ are large enough: how large depends only on the choices we have made when constructing $M\#\Sigma$ and $f|_{\tilde{\mathcal{U}}}$.

Recall that M admits an expanding endomorphism E that commutes with L . Let $\tilde{E}: G \rightarrow G$ be the covering automorphism of E . The covering automorphism \tilde{L} of L preserves the lattice of affine transformations $\Gamma_m \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \tilde{E}^m \circ \Gamma \circ \tilde{E}^{-m}$, $m \geq 1$, i.e., $\tilde{L} \circ \Gamma_m \circ \tilde{L}^{-1} = \Gamma_m$. And hence induces an Anosov automorphism L_m of $M_m \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} G/\Gamma_m$. Also we have the covering map $p: M_m \rightarrow M$ induced by $id: G \rightarrow G$ and the expanding diffeomorphism $H: M \rightarrow M_m$ induced by \tilde{E}^m .

We repeat our constructions of the exotic smooth structure and the diffeomorphism on M_m using the copy \mathcal{U}_m of \mathcal{U} in $p^{-1}(\mathcal{U})$ that contains the Γ_m orbit of id . Since \mathcal{U}_m is isometric to \mathcal{U} and $L_m|_{\mathcal{U}_m} = L|_{\mathcal{U}}$ we can repeat the constructions with the same choices as before and obtain a manifold $M_m\#2\Sigma\#-\Sigma$ together with a diffeomorphism f_m . In particular, due to the same choices, $\alpha(f) = \alpha(f_m)$.

Let number r_m be the maximal radius of a ball $B(id, r_m) \subset G$ that projects injectively into M_m . Since \tilde{E} is expanding $r_m \rightarrow \infty$ as $m \rightarrow \infty$. It follows that $\min(N_1(f_m), N_2(f_m)) \rightarrow \infty$ as $m \rightarrow \infty$. Hence, f_m is Anosov for large enough m . Since $M_m\#\Sigma$ is diffeomorphic to $M\#\Sigma$ we obtain an Anosov diffeomorphism on $M\#\Sigma$ by conjugating f_m with this diffeomorphism.

4. EXAMPLES

Here we collect some examples where the conditions of Theorem 1.1 are satisfied.

4.1. Toral examples. Any Anosov automorphism of the torus \mathbb{T}^n commutes with the expanding endomorphism $s \cdot Id$, $s > 1$. Thus we obtain codimension k Anosov diffeomorphisms on $\mathbb{T}^n \# \Sigma$, where $\Sigma \in \Gamma_{k+1}^n$. If Σ is not diffeomorphic to S^n then, by the discussion in the paragraph between Propositions 1.3 and 1.4, $\mathbb{T}^n \# \Sigma$ is exotic. And hence, by Proposition 1.3, $\mathbb{T}^n \# \Sigma$ is irreducible. Therefore we obtain codimension k Anosov diffeomorphisms on exotic irreducible tori whenever Γ_{k+1}^n is non-trivial.

4.2. A nilmanifold example. Let $L_1: M_1 \rightarrow M_1$ be the Borel-Smale example of Anosov automorphism of a six dimensional nilmanifold M_1 which is a quotient of the product of two copies of Heisenberg group (see [KH95], section 4.17, for a detailed construction). It is easy to check that

$$\tilde{E}_1: \begin{pmatrix} 1 & x_1 & z_1 \\ 0 & 1 & y_1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \times \begin{pmatrix} 1 & x_2 & z_2 \\ 0 & 1 & y_2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2x_1 & 4z_1 \\ 0 & 1 & 2y_1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \times \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2x_2 & 4z_2 \\ 0 & 1 & 2y_2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

induces an expanding endomorphism $E_1: M_1 \rightarrow M_1$ that commutes with L_1 .

Also let $L_2: \mathbb{T}^{15} \rightarrow \mathbb{T}^{15}$ be a codimension two Anosov automorphism and let $E_2: \mathbb{T}^{15} \rightarrow \mathbb{T}^{15}$ be a conformal the expanding endomorphism as in 4.1.

We get that $L = L_1 \times L_2$ is a codimension five Anosov automorphism that commutes with the expanding endomorphism $E = E_1 \times E_2$. It is known that $|\Gamma_6^{21}| \geq 508$. Hence, Theorem 1.1 applies non-trivially to L giving codimension five Anosov diffeomorphisms on 21-dimensional exotic nilmanifolds $(M_1 \times \mathbb{T}^{15}) \# \Sigma$, $\Sigma \in \Gamma_6^{21}$. The discussion at the end of Section 4.1 gives a reason why these manifolds are exotic and irreducible.

4.3. Infrnilmanifold examples. Here the main goal is to show that Theorem 1.1 can be used to produce Anosov diffeomorphisms of high codimension on exotic infratorii. We use the term “*infratorus*” as a synonym to “closed flat Riemannian manifold”.

By a theorem of Auslander and Kuranishi [AK57] there exists an infratorus with holonomy group F for any finite group F . There are only finitely many groups of a given order q . Hence, there exists a positive integer $k(q)$ such that for any finite group F of order q there is an infratorus with holonomy group F of dimension $k(q)$.

Proposition 4.1. *Given a finite group F of order q and an integer $k > k(q)$, there exists an (orientable) infratorus M with holonomy group F and a homeomorphic irreducible smooth manifold N such that*

1. N supports a codimension k Anosov diffeomorphism,
2. N is not diffeomorphic to any infranilmanifold; in particular, N is not diffeomorphic to M .

Clearly, Proposition 4.1 implies Proposition 1.5.

4.3.1. Existence of a commuting expanding endomorphism. We start our proof of Proposition 4.1 by showing that the assumption from Theorem 1.1 about the existence of a commuting expanding endomorphism is satisfied for some positive power of a given Anosov automorphism.

Proposition 4.2. *Let M be an infratorus of dimension n and $L: M \rightarrow M$ be an Anosov automorphism. Then there exists an expanding affine transformation (cf.*

Remarks 2.2 and 4.7) that commutes with some positive power of L and has a fixed point in common with this power of L .

The proof. Let Γ be the fundamental group of M . Then Γ can be identified with the group of deck transformations of \mathbb{R}^n . By classical Bieberbach theorems we know that the intersection of Γ and the group of translations of \mathbb{R}^n is a normal free abelian group of finite index in Γ . We pick our basis for \mathbb{R}^n so that this group is $\mathbb{Z}^n \subset \mathbb{R}^n$. The finite quotient group $F = \Gamma/\mathbb{Z}^n$ is the holonomy group of M . The holonomy representation of F into $GL_n(\mathbb{R})$ is faithful and contained in $GL_n(\mathbb{Z})$. Thus we can identify F with a subgroup of $GL_n(\mathbb{Z})$.

We have the corresponding exact sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow \mathbb{Z}^n \longrightarrow \Gamma \longrightarrow F \longrightarrow 1.$$

Every element $\gamma \in \Gamma$ has the form $x \mapsto g_\gamma x + u_\gamma$, where $g_\gamma \in F$, $u_\gamma \in \mathbb{R}^n$.

Claim 4.3. *Let q be the order of F . There exists $u_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$ such that if we denote by t the translation $x \mapsto x + u_0$ then*

$$t \circ \Gamma \circ t^{-1} \subseteq \left(\frac{1}{q} \mathbb{Z} \right)^n \rtimes GL_n(\mathbb{Z}).$$

The proof of Claim 4.3. Since $(u_\gamma \bmod \mathbb{Z}^n) \in \mathbb{T}^n$ depends only on g_γ the function $\gamma \mapsto (u_\gamma \bmod \mathbb{Z}^n)$ factors through to a function

$$\bar{u}: F \rightarrow \mathbb{T}^n.$$

This function can be easily seen to be a crossed homomorphism, that is, $\bar{u}(gh) = g\bar{u}(h) + \bar{u}(g)$ for all $g, h \in F$.

Let $\pi: \mathbb{T}^n \rightarrow \frac{1}{q}\mathbb{T}^n \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathbb{R}^n/\frac{1}{q}\mathbb{Z}^n$ be the natural projection. The class of \bar{u} in $H^1(F, \mathbb{T}^n)$ vanishes after projecting to $H^1(F, \frac{1}{q}\mathbb{T}^n)$. This can be seen as follows. Define

$$u_0 \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} -\frac{1}{q} \sum_{g \in F} u_{\hat{g}},$$

where \hat{g} is any lift of g to Γ . Then a direct computation shows that

$$\left(gu_0 - u_0 \bmod \frac{1}{q}\mathbb{Z}^n \right) = \pi(\bar{u}(g))$$

for any $g \in F$. This means that $\pi \circ \bar{u}$ is a principal crossed homomorphism. Now take any $\gamma \in \Gamma$,

$$t \circ \Gamma \circ t^{-1}(x) = g_\gamma x - g_\gamma u_0 + u_\gamma + u_0.$$

But

$$\left(u_\gamma - g_\gamma u_0 + u_0 \bmod \frac{1}{q}\mathbb{Z}^n \right) = \pi(\bar{u}(g_\gamma)) - \left(g_\gamma u_0 - u_0 \bmod \frac{1}{q}\mathbb{Z}^n \right) = 0$$

and the claim follows. \square

Therefore, by changing the origin of \mathbb{R}^n , we may assume from now on that Γ is a subgroup of $\left(\frac{1}{q}\mathbb{Z} \right)^n \rtimes GL_n(\mathbb{Z})$.

Fix an integer $s \equiv 1 \pmod{q}$, $s > 1$. Using group cohomology Epstein and Shub [EpSh68] showed that there exists a monomorphism $\varphi: \Gamma \rightarrow \Gamma$ that fits into the commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & \mathbb{Z}^n & \longrightarrow & \Gamma & \longrightarrow & F & \longrightarrow & 1 \\ & & \downarrow s \cdot Id & & \downarrow \varphi & & \downarrow Id_F & & \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & \mathbb{Z}^n & \longrightarrow & \Gamma & \longrightarrow & F & \longrightarrow & 1. \end{array}$$

This implies that there exists an expanding map of M that is covered by an affine map of the form $x \mapsto s \cdot x + e_0$. Our goal is to find an expanding map of M that lifts to an origin preserving expanding conformal map.

Define a function $\theta: F \rightarrow \frac{1}{q}\mathbb{Z}^n$ by

$$\theta(g) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} s \cdot u_{\hat{g}} - u_{\varphi(\hat{g})},$$

where \hat{g} is any lift of g to Γ .

It is straightforward to check that θ is well defined and, actually, a crossed homomorphism. It is also easy to see that θ , in fact, takes values in \mathbb{Z}^n . Indeed, recall that $s \equiv 1 \pmod{q}$. Therefore

$$\theta(g) \equiv u_{\hat{g}} - u_{\varphi(\hat{g})} \equiv u_{\hat{g} \circ \varphi(\hat{g})^{-1}} \pmod{\mathbb{Z}^n}.$$

The latter expression is zero because $\hat{g} \circ \varphi(\hat{g})^{-1}$ is a pure translation.

Since the inclusion $\mathbb{Z}^n \hookrightarrow \frac{1}{q}\mathbb{Z}^n$ induces multiplication by q on cohomology and the abelian group $H^1(F, \frac{1}{q}\mathbb{Z}^n)$ has exponent q (see [B82, p.85, 10.2]), the composite

$$\theta: F \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}^n \hookrightarrow \frac{1}{q}\mathbb{Z}^n$$

is a principal crossed homomorphism; *i.e.*, there exists a vector $v \in \frac{1}{q}\mathbb{Z}^n$ such that

$$\theta(g) = gv - v.$$

In fact, by a direct computation one can check that

$$v = -\frac{1}{q} \sum_{g \in F} \theta(g).$$

Now consider the conformal expanding affine transformation E of \mathbb{R}^n defined by

$$E(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} s \cdot x + v.$$

Claim 4.4. *Conjugation by E restricted to Γ is φ ; *i.e.*,*

$$\varphi(\gamma) = E \circ \gamma \circ E^{-1}$$

for each $\gamma \in \Gamma$.

The proof of Claim 4.4. We have the following sequence of equalities.

$$\begin{aligned} E \circ \gamma \circ E^{-1} &= (s \cdot x + v) \circ (g_\gamma x + u_\gamma) \circ \left(\frac{1}{s} \cdot x - \frac{v}{s} \right) = g_\gamma x - g_\gamma v + v + s \cdot u_\gamma \\ &= g_\gamma x - \theta(g_\gamma) + s \cdot u_\gamma = g_\gamma x + s \cdot u_\gamma - (s \cdot u_\gamma - u_{\varphi(\gamma)}) = \varphi(\gamma). \end{aligned}$$

□

Consider the q -fold composition

$$E^q(x) = s^q \cdot x + \hat{v}, \quad \text{where } \hat{v} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (s^{q-1} + s^{q-2} + \dots + 1)v.$$

Denote by \mathcal{E} the map of M induced by E^q . Since $s^{q-1} + s^{q-2} + \dots + 1 \equiv 0 \pmod{q}$ we have that $\hat{v} \in \mathbb{Z}^n$. Hence $\mathcal{E}(\mathbf{o}) = \mathbf{o}$, where \mathbf{o} denotes the image of the new origin of \mathbb{R}^n (after applying Claim 4.3) under the covering projection $\mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow M$.

Now let $\tilde{L}: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ be a lift of L . It has the form $x \mapsto Ax + x_0$ with respect to the new origin for \mathbb{R}^n (after applying Claim 4.3), where $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and $A \in GL_n(\mathbb{Z})$ is a hyperbolic matrix. Conjugation by \tilde{L} induces an automorphism $\psi: \Gamma \rightarrow \Gamma$ yielding the following commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & \mathbb{Z}^n & \longrightarrow & \Gamma & \longrightarrow & F & \longrightarrow & 1 \\ & & \downarrow A & & \downarrow \psi & & \downarrow & & \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & \mathbb{Z}^n & \longrightarrow & \Gamma & \longrightarrow & F & \longrightarrow & 1. \end{array}$$

Since F is finite, by replacing L and \tilde{L} by some finite powers, we can assume that the induced automorphism of F is identity. This implies that

$$\forall \gamma \in \Gamma, \quad A \circ g_\gamma = g_\gamma \circ A. \quad (*)$$

Proceeding analogously to how we defined θ using φ , we define $\omega: F \rightarrow \frac{1}{q}\mathbb{Z}^n$ by

$$\omega(g) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} Au_{\hat{g}} - u_{\psi(\hat{g})}.$$

Again, it is straightforward to check that ω is well defined and, due to $(*)$, a crossed homomorphism.

Let \bar{A} be the image of A in the finite group $GL_n(\mathbb{Z}_q)$. By replacing L (and \tilde{L} accordingly) by a further positive power, we may also assume that $\bar{A} = Id$. We can check that the image of ω is contained in \mathbb{Z}^n . Indeed, write

$$Au_\gamma - u_{\psi(\gamma)} = (Au_\gamma - u_\gamma) + (u_\gamma - u_{\psi(\gamma)}).$$

The first summand is in \mathbb{Z}^n because $u_\gamma \in \frac{1}{q}\mathbb{Z}^n$ and $\bar{A} = Id$. The second summand equals to $u_{\gamma \circ \psi(\gamma)^{-1}}$ and belongs to \mathbb{Z}^n since $\gamma \circ \psi(\gamma)^{-1}$ is a pure translation.

Hence, just as for θ , we get that

$$\forall g \in F, \quad \omega(g) = gw - w,$$

where $w \in \frac{1}{q}\mathbb{Z}^n$.

Now consider the affine Anosov diffeomorphism \mathbb{A} of \mathbb{R}^n defined by

$$\mathbb{A}(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} Ax + w.$$

Claim 4.5. *Conjugation by \mathbb{A} restricted to Γ is ψ , i.e.,*

$$\psi(\gamma) = \mathbb{A} \circ \gamma \circ \mathbb{A}^{-1}$$

for each $\gamma \in \Gamma$.

The proof of Claim 4.5. The claim follows from the computation below that uses the commutativity property $(*)$.

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{A} \circ \gamma \circ \mathbb{A}^{-1} &= (Ax + w) \circ (g_\gamma x + u_\gamma) \circ (A^{-1}x - A^{-1}w) \\ &= A \circ g_\gamma \circ A^{-1}x - A \circ g_\gamma \circ A^{-1}w + Au_\gamma + w = g_\gamma x - g_\gamma w + w + Au_\gamma \\ &= g_\gamma x - \omega(g) + Au_\gamma = g_{\psi(\gamma)} x - (Au_\gamma - u_{\psi(\gamma)}) + Au_\gamma = \psi(\gamma). \end{aligned}$$

□

Consider the q -fold composition

$$\mathbb{A}^q(x) = A^q x + \hat{w}, \quad \text{where } \hat{w} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} A^{q-1}w + A^{q-2}w + \dots + w.$$

Denote by \mathcal{A} the Anosov diffeomorphism of M induced by \mathbb{A}^q . Since $\bar{A} = Id$ we have that $Au \equiv u \pmod{\mathbb{Z}^n}$ for any $u \in \frac{1}{q}\mathbb{Z}^n$. Thus $\hat{w} \equiv 0 \pmod{\mathbb{Z}^n}$; i.e., $\hat{w} \in \mathbb{Z}^n$ and hence $\mathcal{A}(\mathbf{o}) = \mathbf{o}$. (Recall that $\mathbf{o} \in M$ is the image of $0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$.)

Therefore the conformal expanding endomorphism $\mathcal{E}: M \rightarrow M$ and the Anosov diffeomorphism $\mathcal{A}: M \rightarrow M$ have a common fixed point \mathbf{o} , and hence commute.

Claim 4.6. *The diffeomorphism \mathcal{A} is affinely conjugate to a positive power of L .*

The proof of Claim 4.6. It is clearly sufficient to find a vector $a \in \mathbb{R}^n$ such that the translation $T: x \mapsto x + a$ has the following properties:

1. $T \circ \mathbb{A}^q \circ T^{-1} = \tilde{L}^q$,
2. $T \circ \gamma = \gamma \circ T$ for every $\gamma \in \Gamma$.

Define vector \hat{u} by the equation

$$\tilde{L}^q x = A^q x + \hat{u}.$$

Set $a = (Id - A^q)^{-1}(\hat{u} - \hat{w})$. (Recall that A has no eigenvalues of length 1.) A straightforward calculation verifies the first property. Another straightforward calculation shows that the second property is equivalent to

$$\forall \gamma \in \Gamma, \quad g_\gamma a = a.$$

Using (*) this is equivalent to

$$\forall \gamma \in \Gamma, \quad g_\gamma(\hat{u} - \hat{w}) = \hat{u} - \hat{w}.$$

To verify this we use that

$$\tilde{L}^q \circ \gamma = \psi^q(\gamma) \circ \tilde{L}^q \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{A}^q \circ \gamma = \psi^q(\gamma) \circ \mathcal{A}^q$$

for all $\gamma \in \Gamma$. Expanding these equations yields

$$\hat{u} + A^q u_\gamma = g_{\psi^q(\gamma)} \hat{u} + u_{\psi^q(\gamma)} \quad \text{and} \quad \hat{w} + A^q u_\gamma = g_{\psi^q(\gamma)} \hat{w} + u_{\psi^q(\gamma)}$$

for all $\gamma \in \Gamma$. And by subtracting the second equation from the first yields

$$\hat{u} - \hat{w} = g_{\psi^q(\gamma)}(\hat{u} - \hat{w}) = g_\gamma(\hat{u} - \hat{w}).$$

□

Denote by \mathcal{T} the conjugacy between \mathcal{A} and L^q induced by T . To complete the proof we expand $\mathcal{E} \circ \mathcal{A} = \mathcal{A} \circ \mathcal{E}$ as

$$\mathcal{E} \circ T^{-1} \circ L^q \circ T = T^{-1} \circ L^q \circ T \circ \mathcal{E},$$

which means that L^q commutes with the expanding endomorphism $\mathcal{T} \circ \mathcal{E} \circ \mathcal{T}^{-1}$. □

Remark 4.7. In the course of the proof of Proposition 4.2 we have passed to a positive finite power of L twice (without changing the notation for L) to guarantee that the induced homomorphism of F is identity and $\bar{A} \in GL_n(\mathbb{Z}_q)$ is the identity matrix. Therefore the actual power of the initial Anosov diffeomorphism that commutes with the constructed expanding endomorphism may be larger than q . Note also that if we change for a second time the origin of \mathbb{R}^n to a point lying over $\mathcal{T}(\mathbf{o})$ then $\mathcal{T} \circ \mathcal{E} \circ \mathcal{T}^{-1}$ and L^q are an expanding endomorphism and an Anosov automorphism, respectively.

4.3.2. *The construction of an Anosov automorphism of an infratorus with holonomy group F .* Here we present a construction of a codimension $k - 1$ Anosov automorphism. This is a generalization of a construction in [P72], where an equivalent construction for $s = 2$ (see below) was carried out.

Let $m \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} k - 1$. Since $m \geq k(q)$ we can find an infratorus of dimension m whose holonomy group is F . Let Γ be its fundamental group. Then, as before, we have an exact sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow \mathbb{Z}^m \longrightarrow \Gamma \longrightarrow F \longrightarrow 1.$$

Fix an integer $s > 1$ and let $A_1 \in GL_s(\mathbb{Z})$ be a matrix representing a codimension one Anosov automorphism of \mathbb{T}^s . See [FJ78, Lemma 1.1] where such a matrix A_1 is constructed. Then the m -fold product

$$A_m \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} Id \otimes A_1 : \mathbb{Z}^m \otimes \mathbb{Z}^s \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}^m \otimes \mathbb{Z}^s$$

is an Anosov matrix $A_m \in GL_{ms}(\mathbb{Z})$ representing a codimension m Anosov automorphism of \mathbb{T}^{ms} .

The group F acts faithfully on $\mathbb{Z}^m \otimes \mathbb{Z}^s$ by $g \otimes Id$ for each $g \in F$ and A_m obviously commutes with this action.

The matrix A_m induces an automorphism

$$(A_m)_* : H^2(F, \mathbb{Z}^m \otimes \mathbb{Z}^s) \rightarrow H^2(F, \mathbb{Z}^m \otimes \mathbb{Z}^s),$$

which has a finite order since $H^2(F, \mathbb{Z}^m \otimes \mathbb{Z}^s)$ is a finite group. Therefore some positive power of $(A_m)_*$ is identity. Hence, after replacing A_1 by some positive power, we may assume that $(A_m)_* = Id$.

Now consider an s -fold product $\Gamma^s = \Gamma \times \Gamma \times \dots \times \Gamma$. It fits into an exact sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow (\mathbb{Z}^m)^s \longrightarrow \Gamma^s \xrightarrow{p} F^s \longrightarrow 1.$$

Let $\Gamma^{(s)} = p^{-1}(F)$, where F is identified with the diagonal subgroup of F^s .

Then we have a short exact sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow \mathbb{Z}^{ms} \longrightarrow \Gamma^{(s)} \longrightarrow F \longrightarrow 1, \quad (\star)$$

where $\Gamma^{(s)}$ is torsion free and the diagonal action of F on $(\mathbb{Z}^m)^s$ is faithful. Also note that \mathbb{Z}^{ms} can be identified with $\mathbb{Z}^m \otimes \mathbb{Z}^s$ in such a way that the diagonal action of F becomes the action described above on $\mathbb{Z}^m \otimes \mathbb{Z}^s$. Recall that the extension (\star) determines an element $\theta \in H^2(F, \mathbb{Z}^k)$. And, since $(A_m)_*(\theta) = \theta$, there is an automorphism $A : \Gamma^{(s)} \rightarrow \Gamma^{(s)}$ such that the following diagram commutes

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & \mathbb{Z}^m \otimes \mathbb{Z}^s & \longrightarrow & \Gamma^{(s)} & \longrightarrow & F \longrightarrow 1 \\ & & \downarrow A_m & & \downarrow A & & \downarrow Id_F \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & \mathbb{Z}^m \otimes \mathbb{Z}^s & \longrightarrow & \Gamma^{(s)} & \longrightarrow & F \longrightarrow 1 \end{array}$$

(see p. 94 of [B82]).

By the Bieberbach theorems $\Gamma^{(s)} = \pi_1(M_F)$, where M_F is a ms -dimensional infratorus with holonomy group F . Furthermore, A is induced by a codimension m affine Anosov diffeomorphism of M_F which we denote by A as well. After changing, if needed, the origin 0 of the affine space \mathbb{R}^n , $A(0) = 0$. Hence A induces an Anosov automorphism of M_F .

Note that if s is even then $\Gamma^{(s)}$ acts by orientation preserving transformations. Therefore M_F is orientable when s is even.

4.3.3. *The proof of Proposition 4.1.* It follows from the proof of Theorem 3''' of [FO09] that given $k, u \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ there exists $d(k, u)$ such that for all integers $d > d(k, u)$ there is an element in the Gromoll group Γ_{k+1}^{4d+3} of an odd order larger than u .

Take $u = q$ and apply construction of the previous subsection with $sm = s(k - 1) > 4d(k, u)$ and s even. This gives a codimension $k - 1$ Anosov automorphism $A: M_F \rightarrow M_F$. Let $L_1: \mathbb{T}^\sigma \rightarrow \mathbb{T}^\sigma$ be a codimension 1 Anosov automorphism. Choose $\sigma \in \{2, 3, 4, 5\}$ so that $s(k - 1) + \sigma \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$.

Let $M \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} M_F \times \mathbb{T}^\sigma$ and $L = A \times L_1$. Then L is a codimension k Anosov automorphism of the orientable infratorus M with holonomy group F . By the construction, $\Gamma_{k+1}^{\dim M}$ has an element Σ of order larger than q .

Let $N \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} M \# \Sigma$, then N is not diffeomorphic to M as well as to any other infranilmanifold by Proposition 1.4. By Theorem 1.1 and Proposition 4.2, N supports a codimension k Anosov diffeomorphism; cf. Remark 4.7. Finally, Proposition 1.3 yields that N is irreducible.

5. APPENDIX: IRREDUCIBLE SMOOTH STRUCTURES

This additional section is devoted to proving the following result.

Theorem 5.1. *Let M be an n -dimensional closed oriented infranilmanifold, $n \geq 7$, and Σ be an exotic n -sphere. If $M \# \Sigma = N_1 \times N_2$, i.e., is a smooth Cartesian product, where $\dim N_i \geq 1$, $i = 1, 2$, then $M \# \Sigma$ is diffeomorphic to M .*

Before proving this result, we need some pertinent facts from smoothing theory which can be found in [KS77].

Let Y be a smooth n -dimensional manifold, where $n \geq 5$. A *smooth structure* on Y is a homeomorphism $\varphi: X \rightarrow Y$, where X is a smooth manifold. Two such structures

$$\varphi_i: X_i \rightarrow Y, i = 1, 2$$

are *concordant*, if there exists a smooth manifold W and a homeomorphism

$$\Phi: W \rightarrow Y \times [0, 1],$$

such that $\partial W = X_1 \sqcup X_2$ and $\Phi|_{X_i} = \varphi_i$.

Let $[\varphi]$ denote the concordance class of φ and $\mathcal{S}(Y)$ be the set of all such classes. Then $\mathcal{S}(Y)$ is in natural bijective correspondence with $[Y, Top/O]$, where Top/O is an infinite loop space and $[Y, Top/O]$ denotes the set of all homotopy classes of continuous maps from Y to Top/O . Note that $[Y, Top/O]$ is an abelian group. In this way, $\mathcal{S}(Y)$ acquires an abelian group structure. Given a smooth structure $\varphi: X \rightarrow Y$, we let $\widehat{\varphi}: Y \rightarrow Top/O$ denote a representative of the corresponding homotopy class. Here are some properties of this correspondence.

1. \widehat{Id}_Y is homotopic to a constant map and $[Id_Y] = 0$.
2. Let $\sigma: \Sigma \rightarrow S^n$ be an exotic sphere and $\sigma_Y: Y \# \Sigma \rightarrow Y$ be the usual homeomorphism then $[\widehat{\sigma}_Y] = [\widehat{\sigma} \circ f_Y]$, where $f_Y: Y \rightarrow S^n$ is a degree one map.
3. Let $\alpha: U \rightarrow Y$ denote the inclusion of an open subset $U \subset Y$, then $[\widehat{\varphi} \circ \alpha] = [\widehat{\varphi}_U]$, where $\varphi_U: \varphi^{-1}(U) \rightarrow U$ is the restriction of φ to $\varphi^{-1}(U)$.
4. **Product Structure Theorem.** The homeomorphism $\varphi \times Id_{\mathbb{R}^m}: X \times \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow Y \times \mathbb{R}^m$ is a smooth structure on $Y \times \mathbb{R}^m$, and the map $[\varphi] \rightarrow [\varphi \times Id_{\mathbb{R}^m}]$ is a bijection of smooth structure sets $\mathcal{S}(Y) \rightarrow \mathcal{S}(Y \times \mathbb{R}^m)$. Furthermore,

$[\widehat{\varphi \times Id_{\mathbb{R}^m}}] = p^*[\widehat{\varphi}]$, where $p: Y \times \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow Y$ denotes projection onto the first factor.

We now start the proof of Theorem 5.1. Since $\pi_1(M) = \pi_1(N_1) \times \pi_1(N_2)$ and $\pi_1(M)$ is torsion-free, finitely generated and virtually nilpotent group, it follows that $\pi_1(N_1)$ and $\pi_1(N_2)$ are also torsion-free, finitely generated and virtually nilpotent groups. By Mal'cev's work [M49] (cf. [W70, p.231]) any such group is the fundamental group of a closed infranilmanifold. Hence there exist closed infranilmanifolds M_1 and M_2 with $\pi_1(M_i) = \pi_1(N_i)$, $i = 1, 2$. Note that N_i , $i = 1, 2$, are aspherical. Therefore, using [FH83, Theorem 6.3], we obtain homeomorphisms $f_i: N_i \rightarrow M_i$. (Theorem 5.1 of [FH83] (of which Theorem 6.3 is a corollary) was extended to dimension 4 by [FQ90, Section 11.5] and follows from results of Perelman (see *e.g.*, [CZ06]) in dimension 3.) Note that M and $M_1 \times M_2$ are both closed infranilmanifolds with a specified isomorphism between their fundamental groups. Now the smooth rigidity result of Lee and Raymond [LR82] yields a diffeomorphism $M_1 \times M_2 \rightarrow M$ which makes the following diagram commute up to homotopy:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} M \# \Sigma & \xrightarrow{\sigma_M} & M \\ \parallel & & \uparrow \\ N_1 \times N_2 & \xrightarrow{f_1 \times f_2} & M_1 \times M_2 \end{array}$$

We also orient N_i and M_i , $i = 1, 2$, so that all pertinent maps are orientation preserving and identify $M_1 \times M_2$ with M by the vertical diffeomorphism in the diagram. Using [FH83] again, we see that σ_M is concordant to $f_1 \times f_2$; that is,

$$[\sigma_M] = [f_1 \times f_2] \quad \text{in } \mathcal{S}(M).$$

We now complete the proof under the additional assumption that $\dim N_i \geq 5$ for $i = 1$ and $i = 2$. After doing this, we will indicate the modifications needed to prove Theorem 5.1 when this assumption is dropped.

Identify \mathbb{R}^s with an open ball in M_2 , where $s = \dim M_2$. We intend to apply property 3 to the inclusion

$$\alpha: U \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} M_1 \times \mathbb{R}^s \rightarrow M_1 \times M_2 = M$$

and the smooth structure

$$\varphi \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} f_1 \times f_2: N_1 \times N_2 \rightarrow M_1 \times M_2.$$

Notice, in this situation, that

$$\varphi_U: \varphi^{-1}(U) \rightarrow U$$

is the same as

$$f_1 \times (f_2|_V): N_1 \times V \rightarrow M_1 \times \mathbb{R}^s,$$

where $V = f_2^{-1}(\mathbb{R}^s)$. Moreover the Product Structure Theorem (property 4) yields that

$$[f_1] = 0 \quad \text{if and only if} \quad [f_1 \times f_2|_V] = 0.$$

To see that $[f_1 \times f_2|_V] = 0$, we recall that $f_1 \times f_2$ is concordant to σ_M . This fact together with property 2 yields that

$$[\widehat{f_1 \times f_2}] = [\widehat{\sigma}_M] = [\widehat{\sigma} \circ f_M] \quad \text{in} \quad [M, Top/O].$$

Therefore property 3 yields that

$$[f_1 \times \widehat{(f_2|_V)}] = [\widehat{f_1 \times f_2} \circ \alpha] = [\widehat{\sigma} \circ f_M \circ \alpha] \quad \text{in } [M_1 \times V, \text{Top}/O].$$

But $f_M \circ \alpha: M_1 \times V \rightarrow S^n$ is homotopic to a constant map since V is homotopic to a point and $\dim M_1 < n$. Therefore $[f_1 \times \widehat{(f_2|_V)}] = 0$ and consequently $[f_1] = 0$. Property 1 implies that f_1 is homotopic to a diffeomorphism $\bar{f}_1: N_1 \rightarrow M_1$. And a completely analogous argument shows that f_2 is also homotopic to a diffeomorphism $\bar{f}_2: N_2 \rightarrow M_2$. Consequently, $N_1 \times N_2 = M \# \Sigma$ is diffeomorphic to $M_1 \times M_2 = M$ which is the posited result.

We finish by briefly indicating how to modify the above argument to complete the proof in general; *i.e.*, after dropping the assumption that $\dim N_1 \geq 5$, $i = 1, 2$.

For this purpose, consider the smooth structure

$$(M \# \Sigma) \times \mathbb{R}^{10} \xrightarrow{\sigma_M \times Id_{\mathbb{R}^{10}}} M \times \mathbb{R}^{10}.$$

Because of the Product Structure Theorem, it suffices to show that $[\sigma_M \times Id_{\mathbb{R}^{10}}] = 0$ in $S(M \times \mathbb{R}^{10})$. This is accomplished by showing that

$$[f_i \times Id_{\mathbb{R}^5}] = 0 \quad \text{in } S(M_i \times \mathbb{R}^5), \quad i = 1, 2,$$

which is proven by an argument similar to the one given above which verified that $[f_i] = 0$ in $S(M_i)$ when $\dim M_i \geq 5$, $i = 1, 2$.

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