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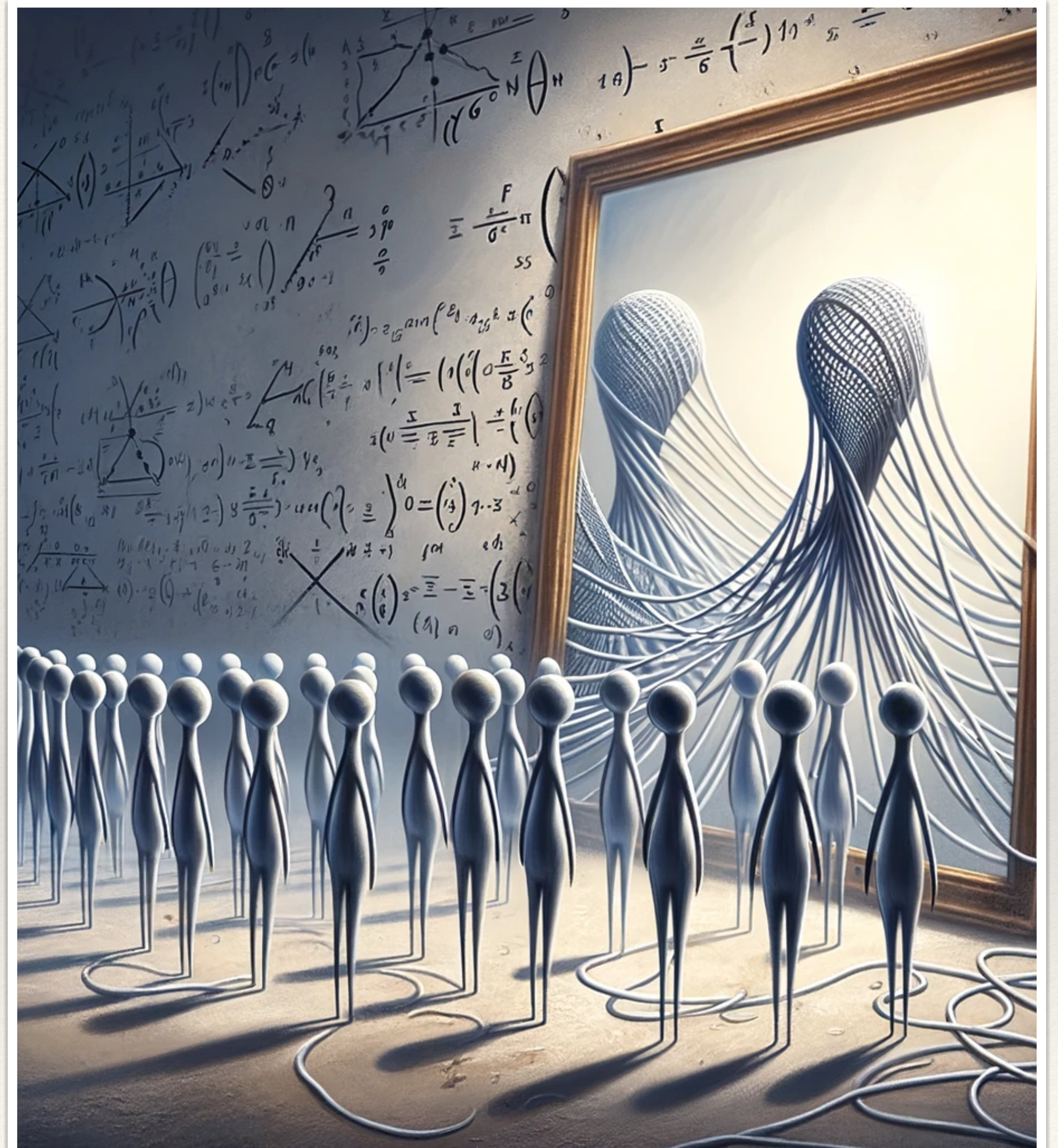


The stringor bundle and the spinor bundle on loop space

joint with Peter Kristel
and Konrad Waldorf



SFB 1085 Higher invariants
University of Regensburg



Index theory

Let M be a compact spin manifold.

$$\mathbb{Z} \ni \text{ind}(D)$$

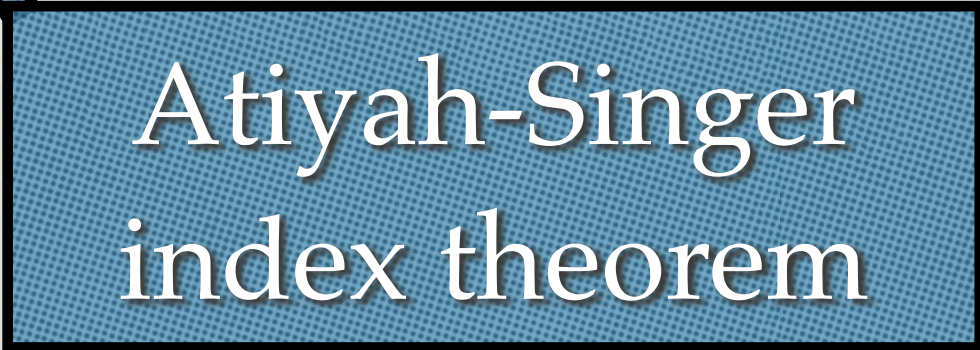

$$\dim \ker(D) - \dim \ker(D^*)$$

Index theory

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$$\mathbb{Z} \ni \text{ind}(D) = \langle \hat{A}(M), [M] \rangle$$


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Atiyah-Singer
index theorem

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... with an S^1 -action

$$\mathbb{Z}[q] \ni \text{ind}_{S^1}(D)$$

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... with an S^1 -action

$$\mathbb{Z}[q] \ni \text{ind}_{S^1}(D) = \langle \hat{A}(M^{S^1}) \smile \text{ch}(\sqrt{\text{Det}(N)} \otimes \text{Sym}(N)), [M^{S^1}] \rangle$$

Atiyah-Singer
index theorem

Atiyah-Segal
fixed point formula

normal bundle
of M^{S^1} in M

Goal: Calculate the index of the Dirac operator on $LM = C^\infty(S^1, M)$.

Loop rotation turns LM into an S^1 -manifold, with fixed point set $LM^{S^1} = \{\text{constant loops}\} \cong M$

Applying the formula

$$\langle \hat{A}(M^{S^1}) \frown \text{ch}(\sqrt{\text{Det}(N)} \otimes \text{Sym}(N)), [M^{S^1}] \rangle$$

to the normal bundle

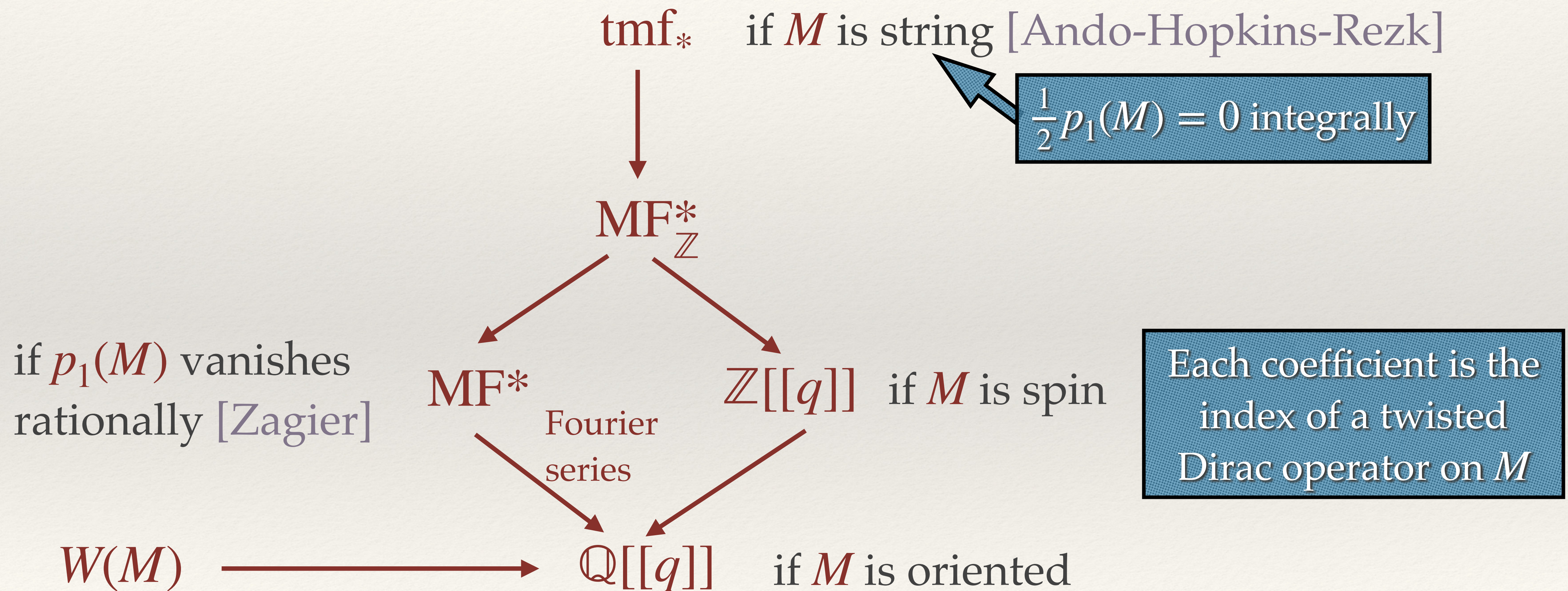
$$N = \bigoplus_{\ell \geq 0} TM^{\mathbb{C}} \cdot q^\ell,$$

of M in LM , Witten's idea leads to a formal power series

$$W(M) \in \mathbb{Q}[[q]]$$

Witten's idea: Just formally apply the fixed point formula to LM .

Witten genus and the string condition



What should this be used for?

Conjecture. [Stolz '95] If a compact string manifold M admits a metric of positive Ricci curvature, then $W(M) = 0$.

Hope: The loop space Dirac operator satisfies a „Lichnerowicz formula“ involving the Ricci curvature of M

Hope: 2 | 1-dimensional extended ETF's are cocycles for tmf .

Has been applied to string theory.
[Tachikawa-Yamashita '24]

Conjecture. [Stolz-Teichner '05] The Witten genus is the partition function of a 2 | 1-dimensional extended euclidean field theory with target M .

Problem: There is no loop space Dirac operator

This works on any spin manifold, hence cannot be used to tackle the Stolz conjecture

Taubes [’89] constructed a Dirac operator on “formal loop space” that has the correct index.

Hope: Using the string structure, one may construct an extension of Taubes’ Dirac operator to the full loop space (with the same index) which satisfies some Lichnerowicz type formula using the Ricci curvature.

spinor bundle

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In this talk: The loop space spinor bundle.

Spin structures in finite dimensions

Definition. A spin structure on an oriented manifold M is a reduction of its structure group $SO(d)$ to the spin group $Spin(d)$.

There is an irreducible graded representation S of $Spin(d)$ on which the Clifford algebra $Cl(\mathbb{R}^d)$ acts compatibly with the action of $SO(d)$ on $Cl(\mathbb{R}^d)$, the *spinor representation*.

Given a spin structure on M , we may form the spinor bundle

$$\mathcal{S} = Spin(M) \times_{Spin(d)} S,$$

which is a bundle of graded left modules for $Cl(TM)$.

The means that automorphisms of the Clifford algebra are implemented on S ,

$$\tilde{g}c(v)\tilde{g}^*\Psi = c(gv)\Psi.$$

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The Dirac operator is then given by Clifford multiplication:

$$D = \sum_{j=1}^d c(e_j) \nabla_{e_j}$$

The loop space spinor bundle

LM is a Fréchet-manifold with tangent bundle $TLM = LTM$.

The structure group of the tangent bundle of LM is canonically reduced to $LO(d)$, in the sense that

$$TLM \cong LO(M) \times_{LO(d)} L\mathbb{R}^d$$

If M is oriented or spin, it is further reduced to $LSO(d)$, resp. $LSpin(d)$.

Definition. [Killingback '87] A loop space spin structure for a spin manifold M is a lift of structure groups for the principal $LSpin(d)$ -bundle $LSpin(M)$ to the basic central extension $\widetilde{LSpin}(d)$.

Fact. [Pressley-Segal '86] If $d \geq 5$, there exists a unitary graded representation S of $\widetilde{LSpin}(d)$ on which the Clifford algebra $Cl(L\mathbb{R}^d)$ acts compatibly, called the *spinor representation*.

The loop space spinor bundle

So given a loop space spin structure P , we may form a loop space spinor bundle

$$\mathcal{S} = P \times_{\widetilde{LSpin}(d)} S,$$

a Hilbert space bundle over LM which is a bundle of graded irreducible modules for the Clifford algebra bundle

$$Cl(TLM) = LO(M) \times_{LO(d)} Cl(L\mathbb{R}^d).$$

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So what's the problem?

Finding a suitable space of sections for the Dirac operator to act on in order to establish Fredholm properties is a difficult analytic problem.

But there is a more fundamental problem:

This is weaker than the string condition!

Theorem. [McLaughlin '87] A loop space spin structure on a spin manifold M exists if and only if

$$\tau\left(\frac{1}{2}p_1(M)\right) = 0.$$

For such manifolds, the Stolz conjecture is probably not true, so we must be missing some geometric input.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & H^k(M) & \\ & \downarrow \text{ev}^* & \\ \tau & H^k(LM \times S^1) & \\ & \downarrow / [S^1] & \\ & H^{k-1}(LM) & \end{array}$$

The Spinor bundle on loop space

Stephan Stolz and Peter Teichner *

June 15, 2005

Geometric structure
on LM with fusion product

degression



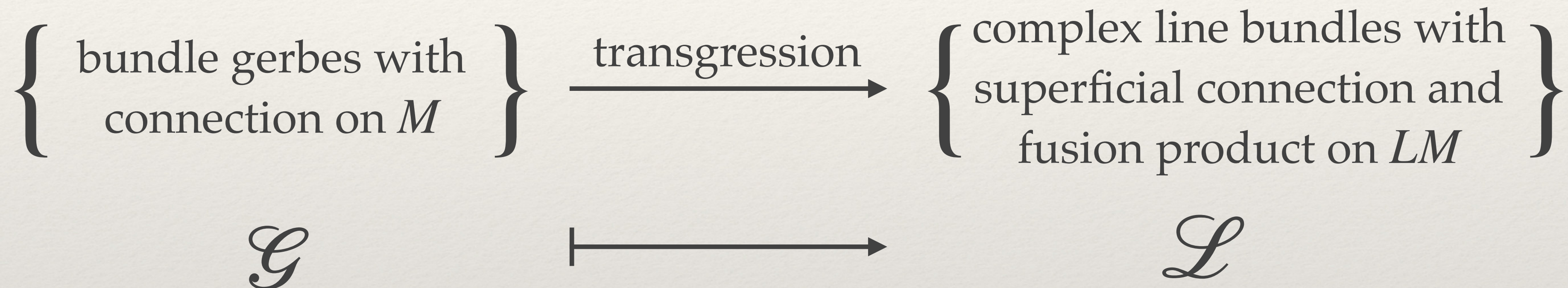
transgression

Higher geometric
structure on M

Idea: Only under the string condition, there exists a certain geometric structure (a „fusion product“) on \mathcal{S} that makes it behave „local on M “

We give $\text{Spin}(n)$ in terms of “local terms”
very explicit von Neumann algebras, the easiest example
type III_1 factors. Given a Riemannian string manifold M^n ,
with prescribed lifts of the (deriva-
tively a classical

Transgression of bundle gerbes [Waldorf '10]



Comes with the additional structure of a fusion product.

$$\mathcal{L}_\gamma = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{isomorphism classes} \\ \text{of trivializations of } \gamma^* \mathcal{G} \end{array} \right\}$$

The Spinor

Question: What kind of geometric structure should the loop space spinor bundle degress to?

Answer: A 2-vector bundle.

June 15, 2005

Idea: Only under the string condition, there exists a certain geometric structure (a „fusion product“) on \mathcal{S} that makes it behave „local on M “

we give $\text{spin}(n)$ in terms of “local terms” very explicit von Neumann algebras, the easiest example is type III factors. Given a Riemaniann string manifold M^n , with prescribed lifts of the (deriva- tions) define a classical

e.g. a line bundle

Geometric structure on LM with fusion product

degression

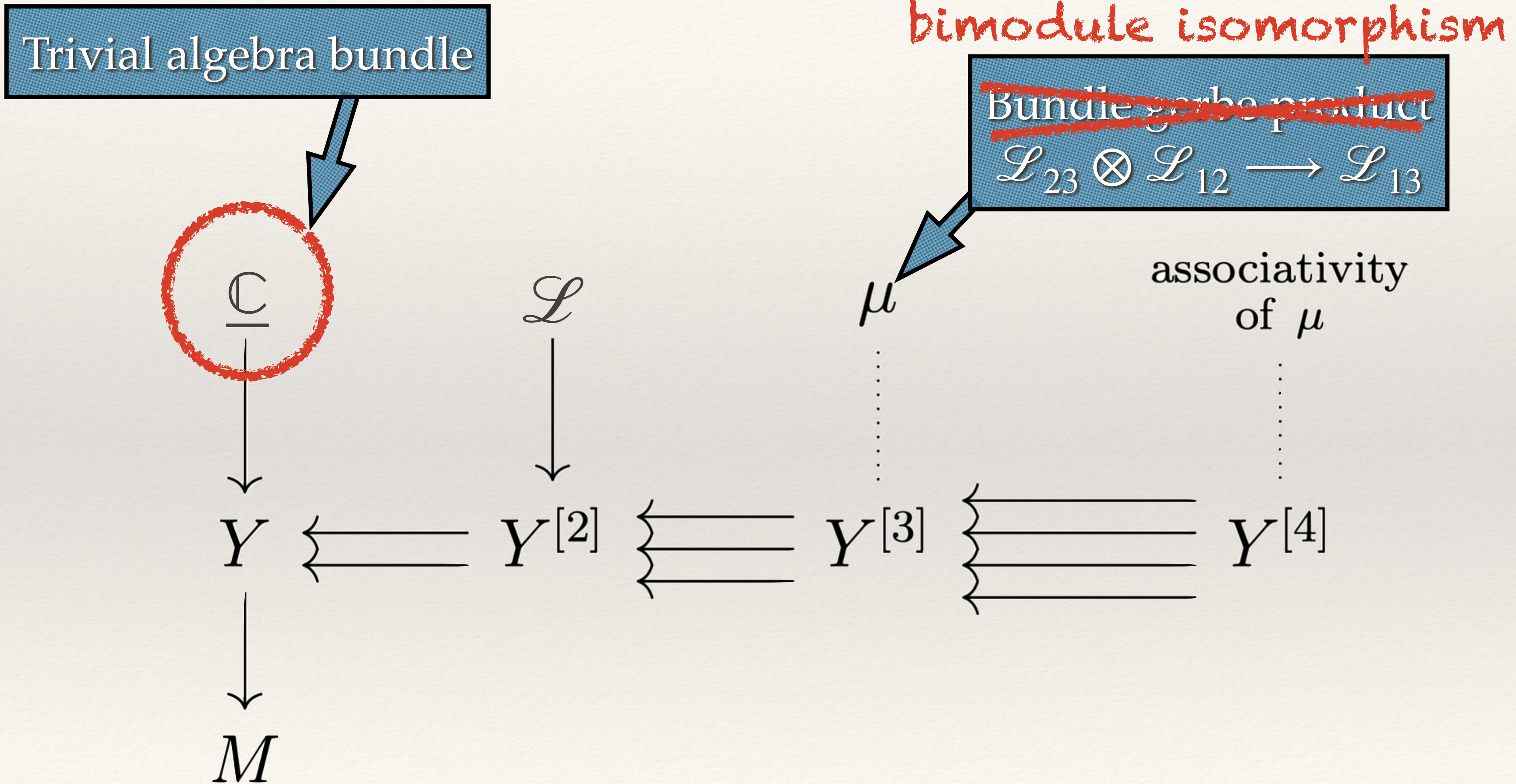


transgression

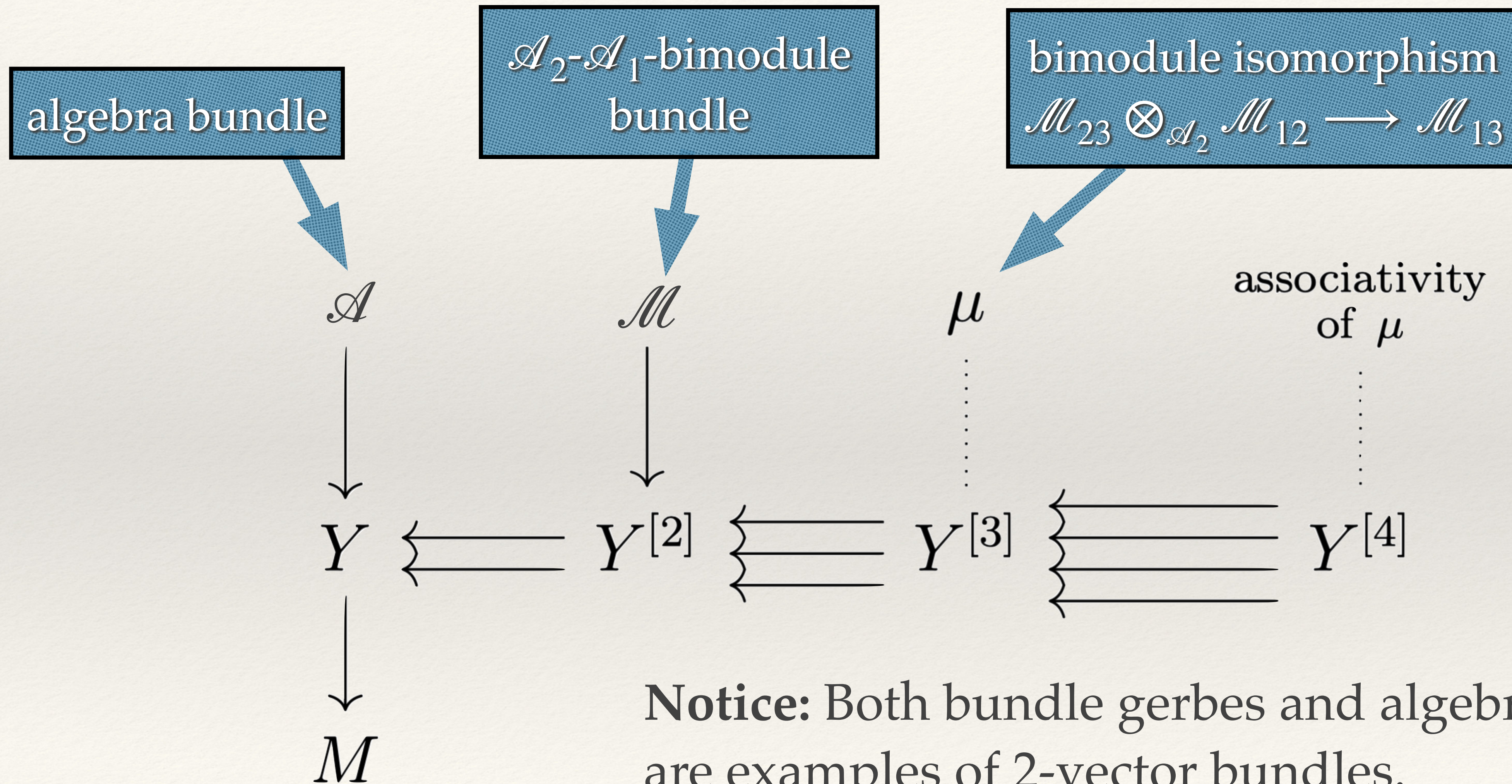
Higher geometric structure on M

e.g. a bundle gerbe

2-vector bundles



2-vector bundles

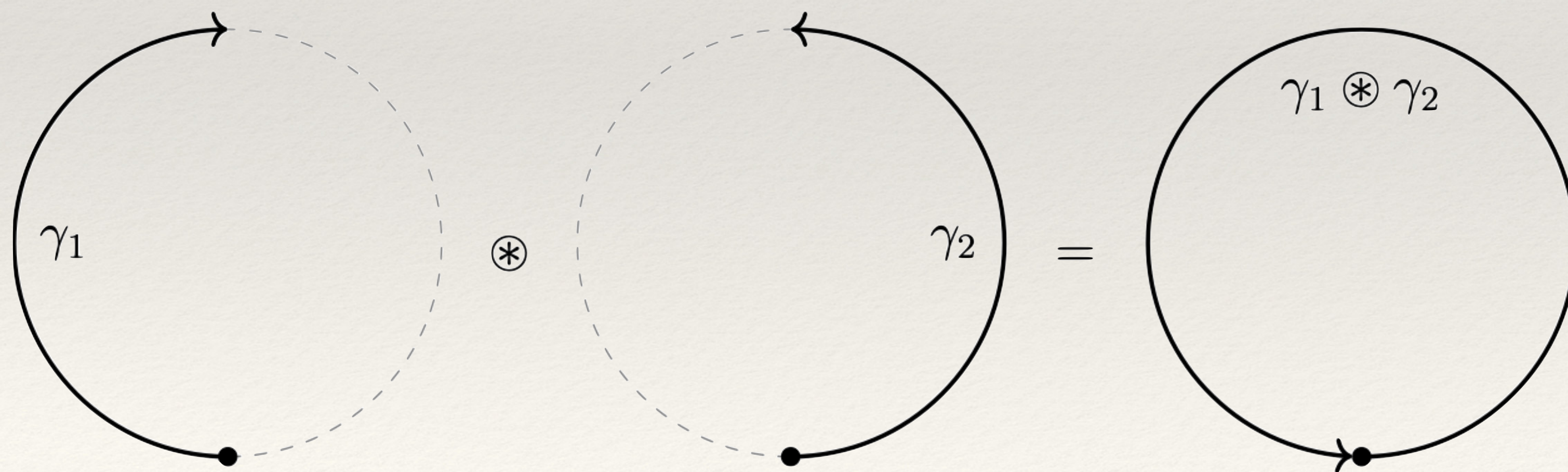


The stringor bundle

a bundle of graded $C1(TPM)_2$ - $C1(TPM)_1$ -bimodules

a bundle of graded $C1(TLM)$ -modules

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 l^* \mathcal{S} & \dashrightarrow & \mathcal{S} \\
 \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 PM^{[2]} & \xrightarrow{l} & LM
 \end{array}$$



\implies Get inclusion

$$C1(TPM)_2 \otimes C1(TPM)_1^{op}$$

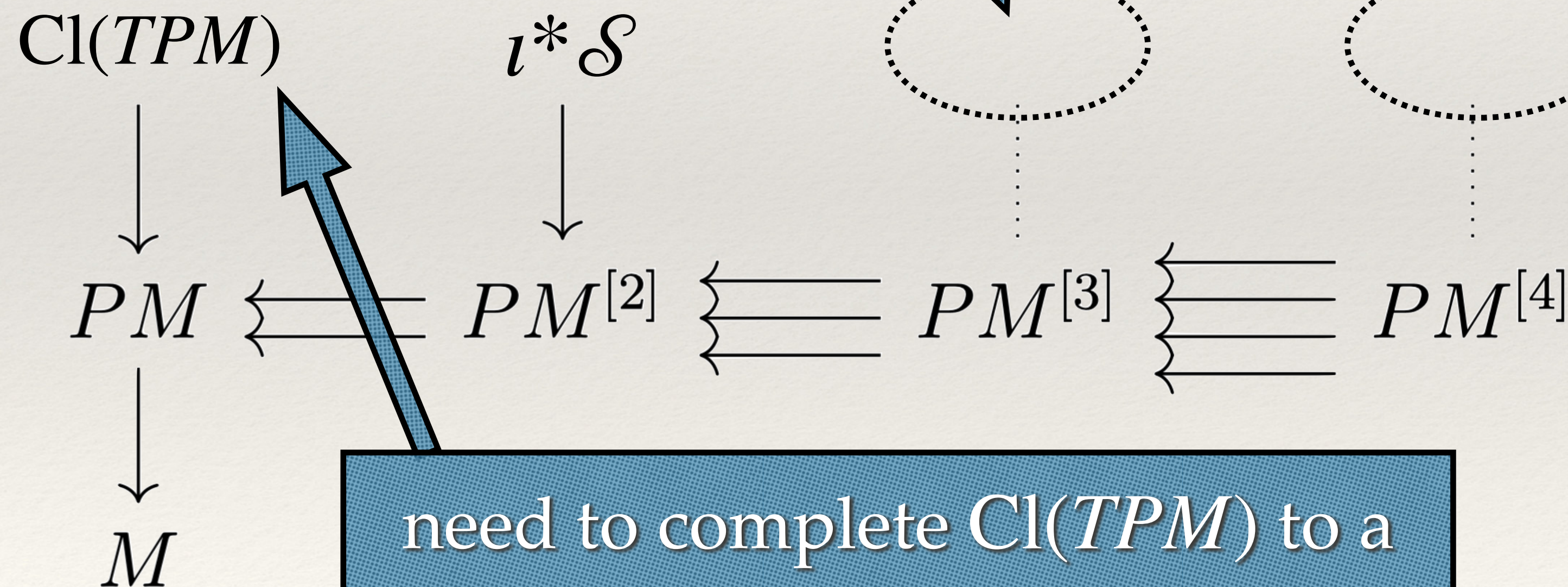
$$\begin{array}{c}
 \downarrow l_* \\
 C1(TLM)
 \end{array}$$

The stringor bundle

need an associative bimodule isomorphism

$$l^* \mathcal{S}_{23} \otimes_{Cl(TPM)_2} l^* \mathcal{S}_{12} \longrightarrow l^* \mathcal{S}_{13}$$

Problem: These bimodules are not isomorphic!



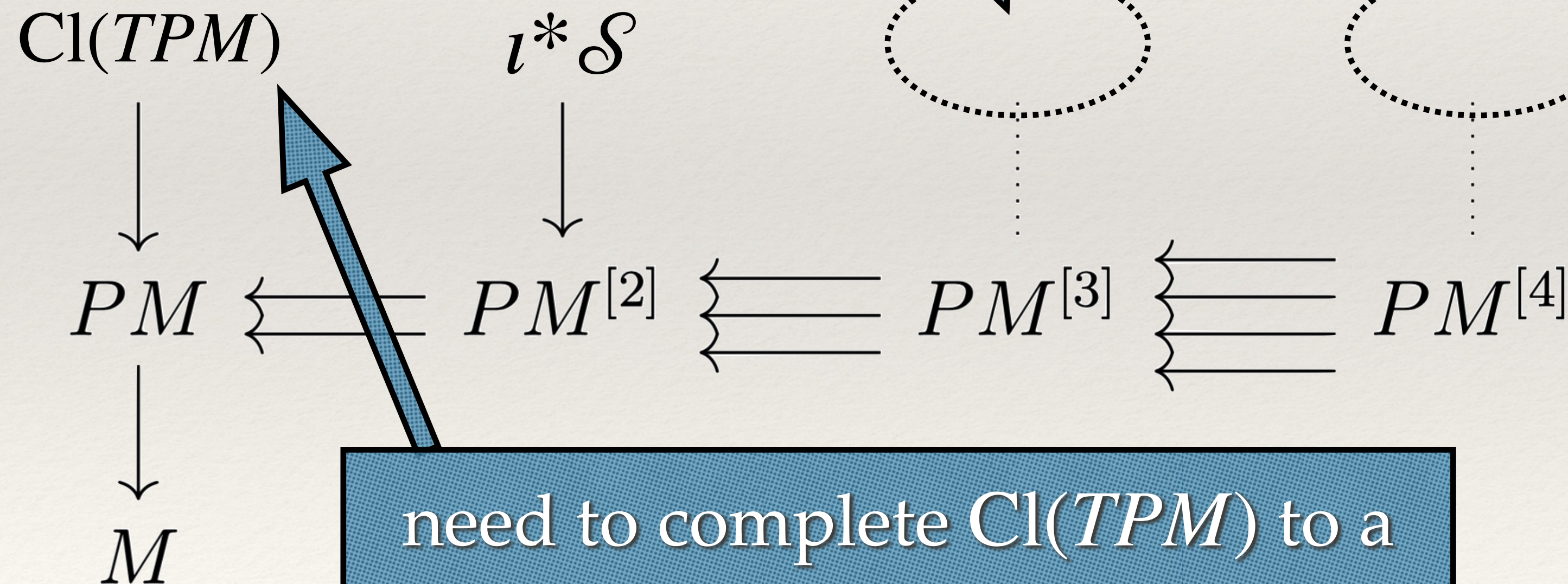
need to complete $Cl(TPM)$ to a von Neumann algebra bundle!

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Conjecture. [S-T] After passing to vN-completions, a fusion product exists if and only if M is string.

need to complete $Cl(TPM)$ to a von Neumann algebra bundle!

The Spinor bundle on loop space

Stephan Stolz and Peter Teichner *

June 15, 2005

Von Neumann algebra bundles

What we did: Developed a theory of vN-algebra bundles and Hilbert bimodule bundles.

Upshot: They form a prestack of bicategories and may be stackified to yield the stack of *2-Hilbert bundles*.

Slogan: A 2-Hilbert space is a von Neumann algebra.

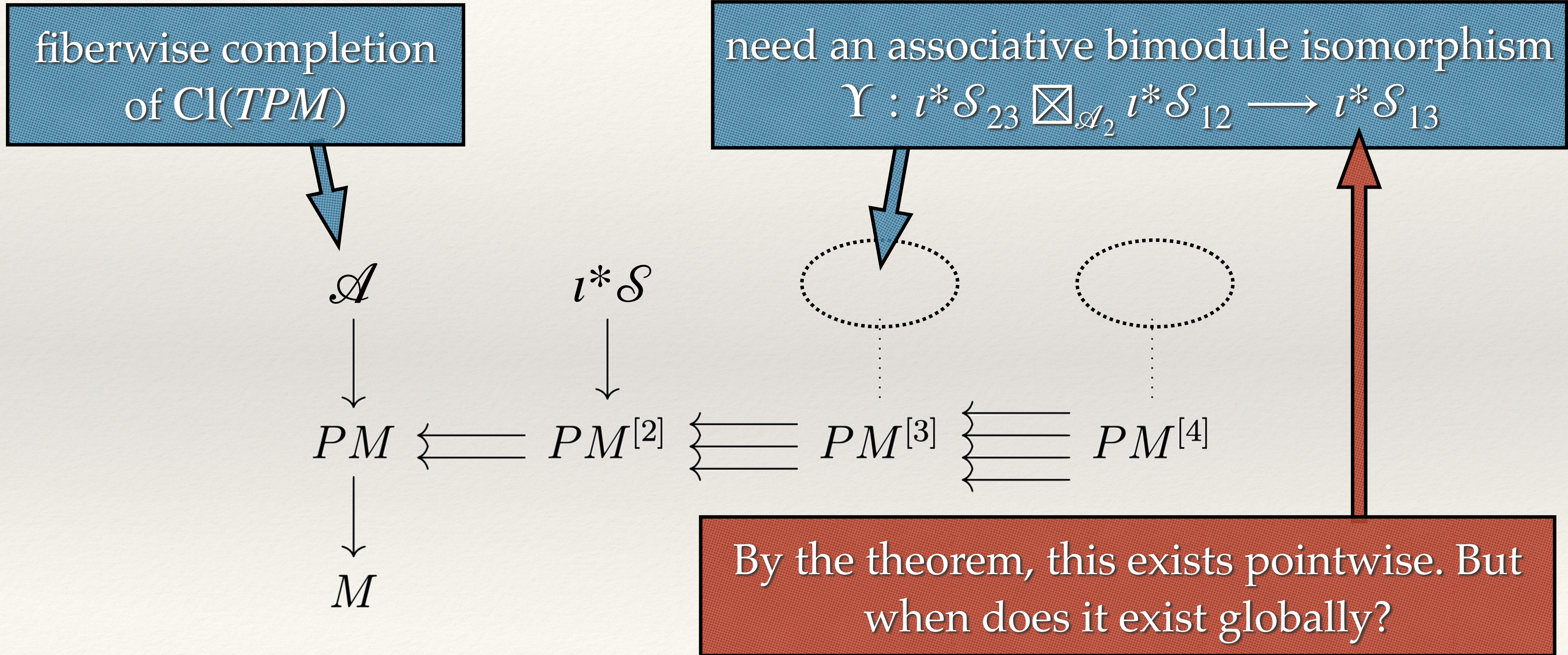
Given any γ_1 , we may complete $\text{Cl}(T_{\gamma_2} PM)$ in $\mathcal{S}_{\gamma_1 \circledast \gamma_2}$. This gives many different von Neumann completions!

Theorem 1. All these completions are canonically isomorphic and one gets a bundle \mathcal{A} of vN-algebras over PM .

Theorem 2. For $(\gamma_1, \gamma_2, \gamma_3) \in PM^{[3]}$,

$$\mathcal{S}_{\gamma_2 \circledast \gamma_3} \boxtimes_{\mathcal{A}_{\gamma_2}} \mathcal{S}_{\gamma_1 \circledast \gamma_2} \cong \mathcal{S}_{\gamma_1 \circledast \gamma_3}$$

The stringor bundle



The stringor bundle

Results:

- Kristel-Waldorf [’20] constructed a fusion product on \mathcal{S} from a *fusive* loop space spin structure.
- Fusive loop structures were known to be equivalent to string structures from the work of Waldorf [’15].

need an associative bimodule isomorphism

$$\Upsilon : l^* \mathcal{S}_{23} \boxtimes_{\mathcal{A}_2} l^* \mathcal{S}_{12} \longrightarrow l^* \mathcal{S}_{13}$$

By the theorem, this exists pointwise. But when does it exist globally?

The stringor bundle

Results:

- Kristel-Waldorf ['20] constructed a fusion product on \mathcal{S} from a *fusive* loop space spin structure.
- Fusive loop structures were known to be equivalent to string structures from the work of Waldorf ['15].

Open: Converse direction.

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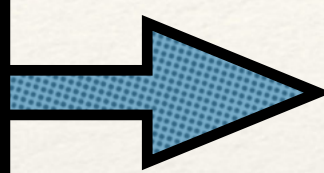
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The Spinor bundle on loop spaces
Stephan Stolz and Peter Teichner
June 15, 2020

We have a definition
in (n) in terms of
explicit

The fusion 2-gerbe

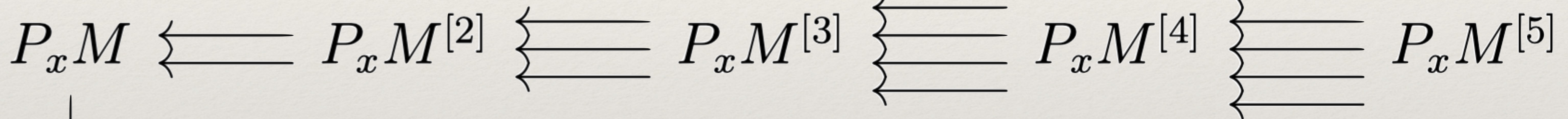
The fusion line bundle
 $\mathbb{Fus} = \text{Hom}(\mathcal{S}_{23} \boxtimes_{\mathcal{A}_2} \mathcal{S}_{12}, \mathcal{S}_{13})$



\mathbb{Fus}

μ

cocycle condition
 \vdots



This gives a bundle 2-gerbe $\mathbb{Fus}(\mathcal{S})$ over M .

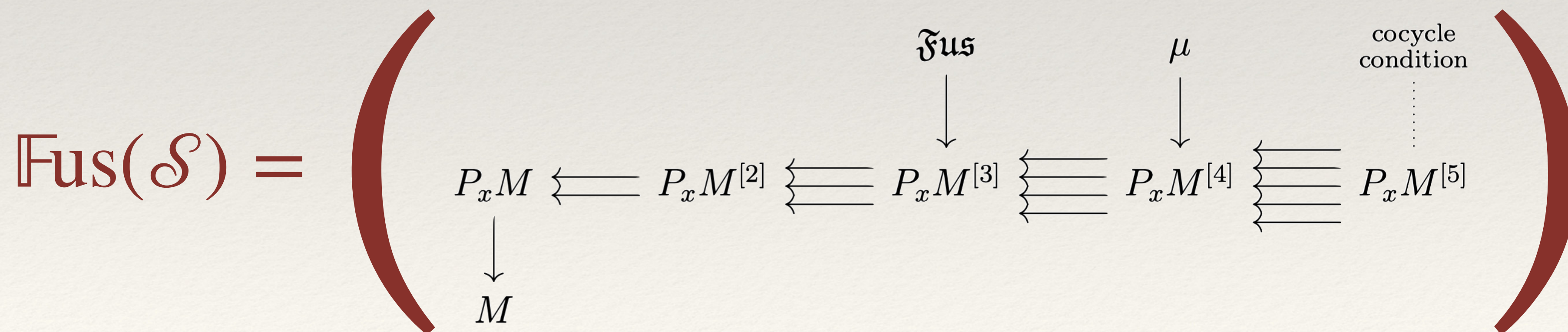
Lemma. A fusion product Υ gives a trivialization of $\mathbb{Fus}(\mathcal{S})$.
 Conversely, if $\mathbb{Fus}(\mathcal{S})$ is trivial, then there exists a line bundle \mathcal{L} on LM such that $\mathcal{S} \otimes \mathcal{L}$ admits a fusion product.

The fusion 2-gerbe

Theorem. [L '23] The characteristic 4-class of the fusion gerbe is

$$CC(\mathbb{Fus}(\mathcal{S})) = \frac{1}{2}p_1(M).$$

Corollary. A fusion product exists if and only if M admits a spin structure.



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Still a mystery: How does the fusion product influence or help with the construction of the loop space Dirac operator?

The stringor representation

With Kristel and Waldorf, we constructed a representation of the string group on a certain von Neumann algebra A , the hyperfinite type III₁ factor.

$$\text{String}(d) \xrightarrow{\sigma} \text{Aut}(A)$$

automorphism
2-group of A

Note: Everything in this construction is strict.

This should be viewed as a unitary representation of $\text{String}(d)$ on a 2-Hilbert space.

Associated 2-vector bundles

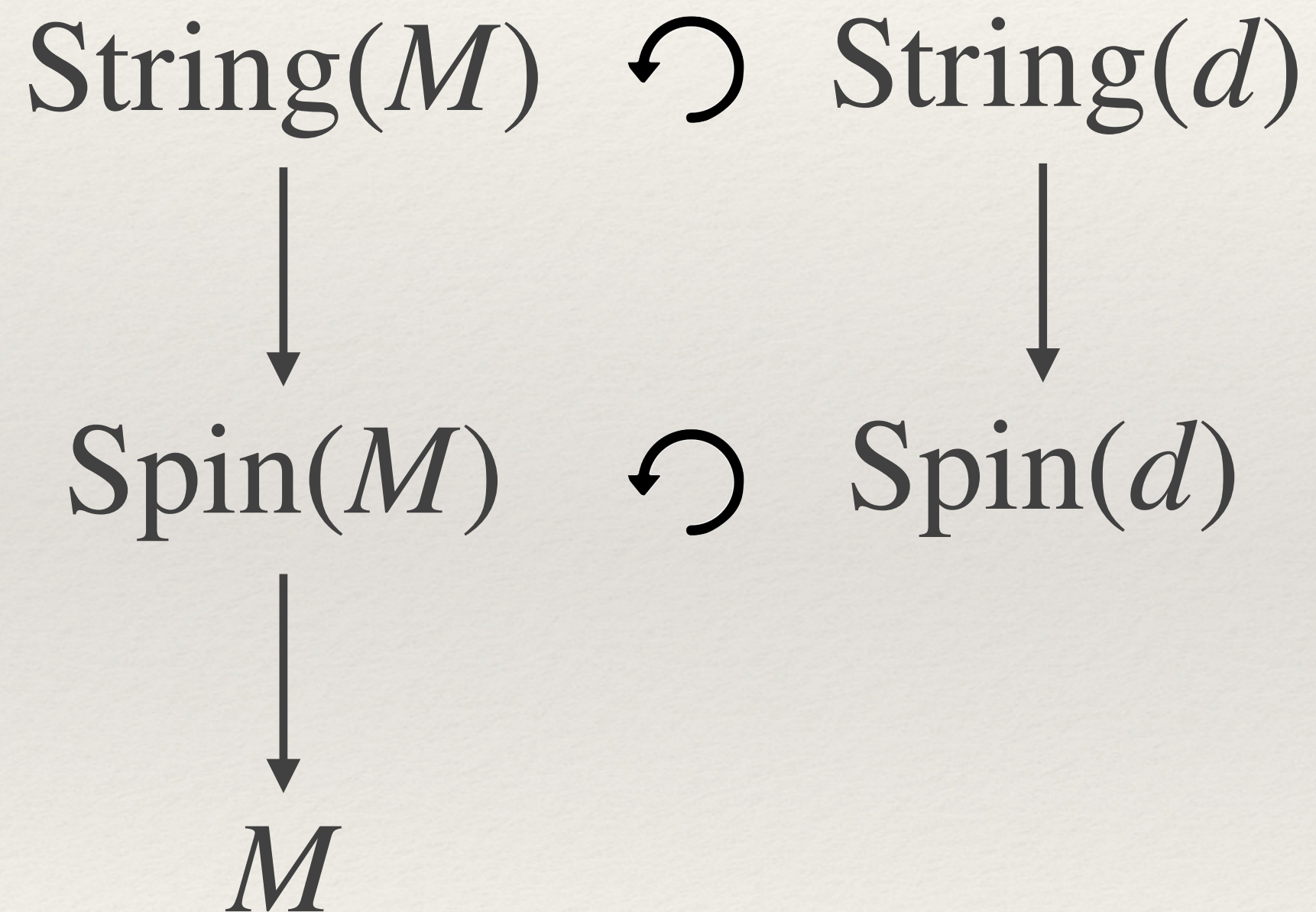
Let σ be a strict representation of a strict topological 2-group \mathcal{G} on a 2-Hilbert space.

$$\mathcal{G} \xrightarrow{\sigma} \text{Aut}(A)$$

Construction. [Kristel-Waldorf '23] There exists an associated 2-Hilbert bundle construction, which is a morphism of 2-stacks

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{principal} \\ \mathcal{G}\text{-2-bundles} \end{array} \right\} \longrightarrow \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{2-Hilbert} \\ \text{bundles} \end{array} \right\} .$$

The stringor bundle as an associated bundle

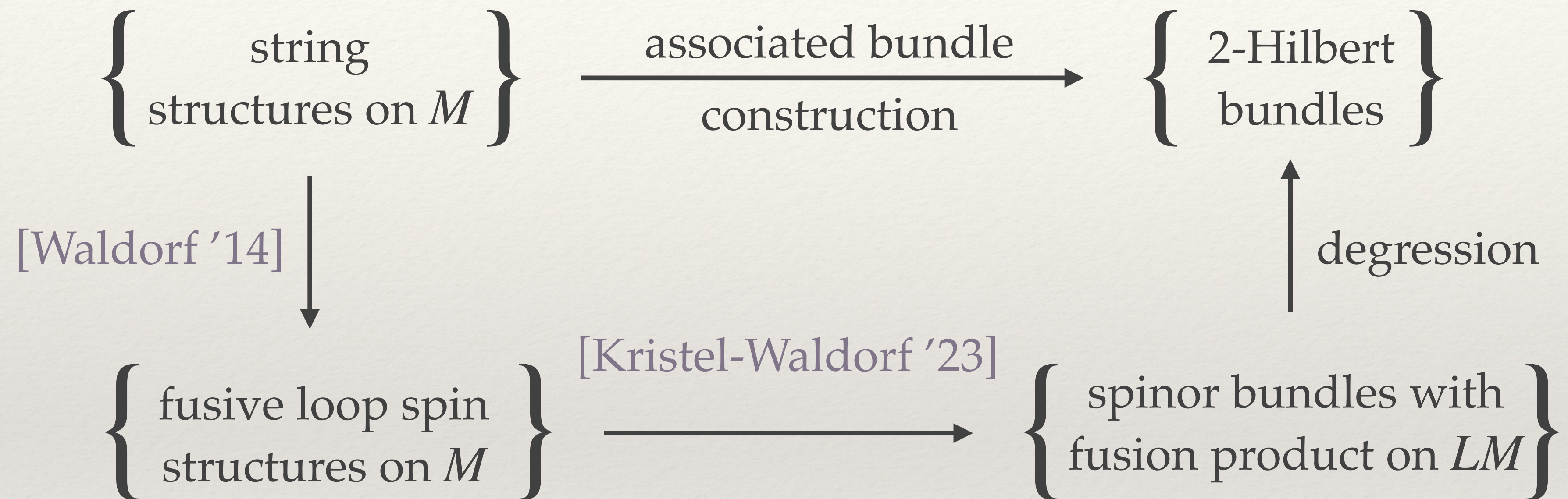


Definition. A string structure on M is a lift of structure groups to $\text{String}(d)$.

Theorem. [Waldorf '15] The datum of a string structure on M is equivalent* to that of a fusive loop space spin structure for M .

* on the level of isomorphism classes

The stringor bundle



Theorem. [Kristel-L.-Waldorf '24] The diagram commutes*.

Thank you for your attention

