BASIC CLASSES FOR FOUR-MANIFOLDS NOT OF SIMPLE TYPE

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ABSTRACT. We extend the notion of basic classes (for the Donaldson invariants) to 4-manifolds with $b^+ > 1$ which are (potentially) not of simple type or satisfy $b_1 > 0$. We also give a structure theorem for the Donaldson invariants of 4-manifolds with $b^+ > 1$, $b_1 > 0$ and of strong simple type.

1. INTRODUCTION

The primary purpose of this paper is to extend the notion of basic classes (as defined by Kronheimer and Mrowka [3] for the Donaldson invariants) to all 4-manifolds satisfying $b^+ > 1$. So we drop the conditions $b_1 = 0$ and being of simple type imposed in [3]. We give a (somewhat partial) structure theorem for the Donaldson invariants of any 4-manifold with $b^+ > 1$ (compare [4]).

Donaldson invariants for a (smooth, compact, oriented) 4-manifold X with $b^+ > 1$ (and with a homology orientation) are defined as linear functionals [3]

$$D_X^w : \mathbb{A}(X) = \operatorname{Sym}^*(H_0(X) \oplus H_2(X)) \otimes \Lambda^* H_1(X) \to \mathbb{C},$$

where $w \in H^2(X;\mathbb{Z})$. As for the grading of $\mathbb{A}(X)$, we give degree 4-i to the elements in $H_i(X)$. If $x \in H_0(X)$ denotes the class of a point, we say that X is of w-simple type when $D_X^w((x^2-4)z) = 0$, for any $z \in \mathbb{A}(X)$. When X has $b_1 = 0$ and it is of w-simple type for some $w \in H^2(X;\mathbb{Z})$, then it is of w'-simple type for any other $w' \in H^2(X;\mathbb{Z})$, and it is said to be of simple type for brevity [1]. For 4-manifolds of simple type (with $b^+ > 1$), it is customary to define [3] the formal power series (in a variable t) given by

$$\mathbb{D}_X^w(tD) = D_X^w((1+\frac{x}{2})e^{tD}),$$

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for any $D \in H_2(X)$. We introduce the following notions as in [5]

Definition 1. Let $w \in H^2(X;\mathbb{Z})$. We say that X is of w-finite type when there is some $n \geq 0$ such that $D_X^w((x^2 - 4)^n z) = 0$, for any $z \in \mathbb{A}(X)$. The order (of w-finite type) is the minimum of such n. X is of finite type if it is of w-finite type for any $w \in H^2(X;\mathbb{Z})$ and the order (of finite type) is the supremum of all the orders of w-finite type of X, with $w \in H^2(X;\mathbb{Z})$.

Also X is of w-strong simple type, for $w \in H^2(X;\mathbb{Z})$, when $D_X^w((x^2 - 4)z) = 0$, for any $z \in \mathbb{A}(X)$ and $D_X^w(\delta z) = 0$, for any $\delta \in H_1(X)$ and any $z \in \mathbb{A}(X)$. X is of strong simple type if it is of w-strong simple type for any $w \in H^2(X;\mathbb{Z})$.

Clearly strong simple type implies simple type, and the two conditions are equivalent when $b_1 = 0$. Also finite type of order 1 means simple type and order 0 means that the Donaldson invariants are identically zero. Note that by [5, theorem 7.3], all 4-manifolds with $b^+ > 1$ are of finite type. Since $D_X^{w+2\alpha} = (-1)^{\alpha^2} D_X^w$, for any $\alpha \in H^2(X;\mathbb{Z})$, the order of w-finite type only depends on w modulo $2H^2(X;\mathbb{Z})$, and hence the order of finite type is finite. We shall see later (theorem 5) that the order of w-finite type does not depend on $w \in H^2(X;\mathbb{Z})$ and hence the order of finite type is finite and equal to any order of w-finite type.

Our first result is an extension of the structure theorem for the Donaldson invariants as given in [3] [1] to 4-manifolds of strong simple type, in the form that was stated in [5, proposition 7.6] (recall that Q stands for the intersection form).

Theorem 2. Let X be a manifold with $b^+ > 1$ and of w-strong simple type for some $w \in H^2(X;\mathbb{Z})$. Then X is of strong simple type and $\mathbb{D}_X^w = e^{Q/2} \sum (-1)^{\frac{K_i \cdot w + w^2}{2}} a_i e^{K_i}$, for finitely many $K_i \in H^2(X;\mathbb{Z})$ and rational numbers a_i (the collection is empty when the invariants all vanish). These classes are lifts to integral cohomology of $w_2(X)$. Moreover, for any embedded surface $S \hookrightarrow X$ of genus g, representing a non-torsion homology class and with $S^2 \geq 0$, one has $2g - 2 \geq S^2 + |K_i \cdot S|$, for all K_i .

When we put $b_1 = 0$ we recover the structure theorem of Kronheimer and Mrowka given in [3] for the Donaldson invariants of 4-manifolds of simple type with $b_1 = 0$ and $b^+ > 1$ (see also [1] for the case of simply connected 4-manifolds). It is possible that the proof provided in [3] can be adapted to prove theorem 2, but there are difficulties as one of the starting conditions for the analysis in [3] is that of admissibility in [3, definition 2.23], which can not be removed in general. A. Stipsicz informed the author that he encountered this same problem in the computation of the Donaldson invariants of the 4-torus [6]. We have decided to include a self-contained proof of theorem 2 as it is used by the author in the determination of the Donaldson invariants of the product of two compact surfaces of genus bigger than one in [5, subsection 7.3]. It will also serve to clarify the ideas behind the proof of our more general structure theorem for the Donaldson invariants of arbitrary 4-manifolds with $b^+ > 1$ (theorem 6).

Definition 3. If X is a 4-manifold with $b^+ > 1$ and of strong simple type, then the **basic** classes of X will be the cohomology classes K_i of theorem 2 such that $a_i \neq 0$.

Remark 4. There are many 4-manifolds with $b_1 > 0$ and $b^+ > 1$ which are of strong simple type. For instance, $X = \Sigma_g \times \Sigma_h$, where Σ_r is a compact surface of genus r and $g, h \ge 1$, are of strong simple type, as it is proved in [5, theorem 7.11]. On the other hand, there are also 4-manifolds with $b^+ > 1$ not of strong simple type. If X is any 4-manifold with $b^+ > 1$ and non-vanishing Donaldson invariants, then $X' = X \# \mathbb{S}^1 \times \mathbb{S}^3$ is not of strong simple type, as follows from [5, lemma 5.8]. Nonetheless for X of strong simple type and $X' = X \# \mathbb{S}^1 \times \mathbb{S}^3$, let δ be the image in $H_1(X')$ of the generator of $\pi_1(\mathbb{S}^1 \times \mathbb{S}^3)$. We have

$$D_{X'}^{w}(\delta(1+\frac{x}{2})e^{tD}) = D_{X}^{w}((1+\frac{x}{2})e^{tD}) = \mathbb{D}_{X}^{w}(tD)$$

which has the same shape as that provided by theorem 2.

For general 4-manifolds with $b^+ > 1$ it is not licit to suppose that $(x^2 - 4)$ and all $\delta \in H_1(X)$ kill the Donaldson invariants. In principle, there might be 4-manifolds with $b_1 = 0, b^+ > 1$ not of simple type [4] (although they have not been found so far) and, in any case, remark 4 tells us that there are examples where the 1-homology classes act non-trivially. We have the following two main results:

Theorem 5. Let X be a 4-manifold with $b^+ > 1$. Let $w, w' \in H^2(X; \mathbb{Z})$. Then the order of w-finite type and the order of w'-finite type of X are equal. This number is thus the order of finite type of X.

Theorem 6. Let X be a 4-manifold with $b^+ > 1$, $w \in H^2(X; \mathbb{Z})$ and $z \in \Lambda^* H_1(X) \subset \mathbb{A}(X)$ an homogeneous element. Then there are finitely many cohomology classes $K_i \in H^2(X; \mathbb{Z})$ and non-zero polynomials $p_i, q_i \in \text{Sym}^* H^2(X) \otimes \mathbb{Q}[\lambda]$ such that

(1)
$$D_X^w(ze^{tD+\lambda x}) = e^{Q(tD)/2+2\lambda} \sum p_i(tD,\lambda)e^{K_i \cdot tD} + e^{-Q(tD)/2-2\lambda} \sum q_i(tD,\lambda)e^{iK_i \cdot tD},$$

for any $D \in H_2(X)$. The collection of classes K_i is independent of w and K_i are lifts to integral cohomology of $w_2(X)$.

Remark 7. Let $d_0 = -w^2 - \frac{3}{2}(1 - b_1 + b^+)$ and $d = \deg(z)/2$. Here $d_0 - d \in \mathbb{Z}$. Then $D_X^w(ze^{itD-\lambda x}) = i^{d_0-d}D_X^w(ze^{tD+\lambda x}), i = \sqrt{-1}$, so $q_i(tD,\lambda) = i^{d-d_0}p_i(itD,-\lambda)$ for all *i*. Therefore the p_i determine the q_i and conversely. Also if $K_j = -K_i$ then $p_j(-tD,\lambda) = (-1)^{d_0-d}p_i(tD,\lambda)$. So the classes K_i come actually in pairs $\pm K_i$.

We finally have the following definition, which agrees with definition 3 for strong simple type manifolds.

Definition 8. Let X be a 4-manifold with $b^+ > 1$ and $z \in \Lambda^* H_1(X)$ an homogeneous element. The cohomology classes K_i of theorem 6 such that $p_i \neq 0$ are called **basic classes** for (X, z). The union of all the basic classes for (X, z) where z runs through any homogeneous basis of $\Lambda^* H_1(X)$ is the set of basic classes for X.

The proof of theorem 6 is based on two techniques. On the one hand, the Fukaya-Floer homology of the three-manifold $Y = \Sigma \times S^1$, where Σ is a compact surface, as determined in [5], which we recall in section 2 for the convenience of the reader. On the other hand, partial use of the blow-up formula in [2] which relates the Donaldson invariants of a 4manifold X and those of its blow-up $\tilde{X} = X \# \overline{\mathbb{CP}}^2$. Section 3 is devoted to prove theorem 2 and in section 4 we study the Donaldson invariants of general 4-manifolds with $b^+ > 1$ in order to prove theorems 5 and 6.

2. Fukaya-Floer homology revisited

Let Y be a 3-manifold with $b_1 > 0$ and $w \in H^2(Y; \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})$ non-zero. For any loop $\delta \subset Y$, we have defined the Fukaya-Floer homology [5]

$$HFF_*(Y,\delta),$$

which is a $\mathbb{C}[[t]]$ -module, endowed with a $\mathbb{C}[[t]]$ -bilinear pairing

$$\langle,\rangle: HFF_*(Y,\delta) \otimes HFF_*(-Y,-\delta) \to \mathbb{C}[[t]],$$

where -Y is Y with reversed orientation. For every 4-manifold X_1 with boundary $\partial X_1 = Y$ and $w_1 \in H^2(X; \mathbb{Z})$ such that $w_1|_Y = w \in H^2(Y; \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}), z \in \mathbb{A}(X_1)$ and $D_1 \subset X_1$ a 2-cycle with $\partial D_1 = \delta$, one has a relative invariant

$$\phi^w(X_1, e^{tD_1}) \in HFF_*(Y, \delta).$$

The relevant gluing theorem is:

Theorem 9 ([5]). Let $X = X_1 \cup_Y X_2$ and $w \in H^2(X;\mathbb{Z})$ such that there exists $\Sigma \in H^2(X;\mathbb{Z})$ whose Poincaré dual lies in the image of $H_2(Y;\mathbb{Z}) \to H_2(X;\mathbb{Z})$, and satisfies $w \cdot \Sigma \equiv 1 \pmod{2}$. Put $w_i = w|_{X_i} \in H^2(X_i;\mathbb{Z})$. Let $D \in H_2(X)$ decomposed as $D = D_1 + D_2$ with $D_i \subset X_i$, i = 1, 2, 2-cycles with $\partial D_1 = \delta$, $\partial D_2 = -\delta$. Choose $z_i \in \mathbb{A}(X_i)$, i = 1, 2. Then

$$D_X^{(w,\Sigma)}(z_1 z_2 e^{tD}) = \langle \phi^{w_1}(X_1, z_1 e^{tD_1}), \phi^{w_2}(X_2, z_2 e^{tD_2}) \rangle,$$

where $D_X^{(w,\Sigma)} = D_X^w + D_X^{w+\Sigma}$. When $b^+ = 1$ the invariants are calculated for metrics on X giving a long neck.

We restrict to the case $Y = \Sigma \times \mathbb{S}^1$, where Σ is a surface of genus $g \ge 1$, $w = \text{P.D.}[\mathbb{S}^1]$, $\delta = \mathbb{S}^1 \subset Y$. As $Y \cong (-Y)$, we have a natural identification $HFF_*(Y, \mathbb{S}^1) \cong HFF^*(Y, \mathbb{S}^1)$ and a pairing

$$\langle,\rangle: HFF^*(Y,\mathbb{S}^1) \otimes HFF^*(Y,\mathbb{S}^1) \to \mathbb{C}[[t]].$$

Let $A = \Sigma \times D^2$ be the product of Σ times a 2-dimensional disc and consider the horizontal section $\Delta = \Sigma \times \text{pt} \subset A$. Let $\{\gamma_i\}$ be a symplectic basis for $H_1(\Sigma)$ with $\gamma_i \cdot \gamma_{g+i} = 1, 1 \leq i \leq g$. The Fukaya-Floer homology $HFF^*(Y, \mathbb{S}^1)$ is actually a $\mathbb{C}[[t]]$ -algebra [5, section 5] generated by $\alpha = 2\phi^w(A, \Sigma e^{t\Delta}), \ \beta = -4\phi^w(A, xe^{t\Delta}) \text{ and } \psi_i = \phi^w(A, \gamma_i e^{t\Delta}), \ 1 \leq i \leq 2g$, where the product is determined by $\phi^w(A, z_1 e^{t\Delta})\phi^w(A, z_2 e^{t\Delta}) = \phi^w(A, z_1 z_2 e^{t\Delta}), \ z_1, z_2 \in \mathbb{A}(\Sigma)$. In particular $\phi^w(A, ze^{t\Delta}), \ z \in \mathbb{A}(\Sigma)$, generate $HFF^*(Y, \mathbb{S}^1)$. The mapping class group of Σ acts on $HFF^*(Y, \mathbb{S}^1)$ factoring through an action of the symplectic group $\operatorname{Sp}(2g, \mathbb{Z})$ on $\{\psi_i\}$. The invariant part is generated by α, β and $\gamma = -2\sum \psi_i \psi_{g+i}$.

In general, we shall have the following situation: X is a 4-manifold with $b^+ > 1$ and $\Sigma \hookrightarrow X$ is an embedded surface of genus $g \ge 1$ and self-intersection zero such that there exists $w \in H^2(X;\mathbb{Z})$ with $w \cdot \Sigma \equiv 1 \pmod{2}$. Let A be a small tubular neighbourhood of Σ in X and denote by X_1 the complement of the interior of A, so that X_1 is a 4-manifold with boundary $\partial X_1 = Y = \Sigma \times \mathbb{S}^1$ and $X = X_1 \cup_Y A$. Take $D \in H_2(X)$ with $D \cdot \Sigma = 1$. Then D can be represented by a cycle $D = D_1 + \Delta$, where $D_1 \subset X_1$, $\partial D_1 = \mathbb{S}^1$ and $\Delta = \text{pt} \times D^2 \subset A$. Theorem 9 says

$$D_X^{(w,\Sigma)}(ze^{tD+s\Sigma+\lambda x}) = \langle \phi^w(X_1, ze^{tD_1+s\Sigma+\lambda x}), \phi^w(A, e^{t\Delta}) \rangle,$$

for any $z \in \mathbb{A}(X_1)$. Here t is a formal variable, and both terms are meant to be developed in powers of s and λ . Also Σ denotes the homology class represented by the surface and the corresponding cohomology class by Poincaré duality. The effective Fukaya-Floer homology, \widetilde{HFF}_{g}^{*} , (see [5, definition 5.10]) is the sub- $\mathbb{C}[[t]]$ -module of HFF_{g}^{*} with the property that

$$\phi^w(X_1, ze^{tD_1}) \in \widetilde{HFF}_g^* \subset HFF_g^*.$$

If R is a polynomial such that $R(\alpha, \beta) = 0$ acting on \widetilde{HFF}_q^* then

$$R(2\frac{\partial}{\partial s}, -4\frac{\partial}{\partial \lambda})\phi^w(X_1, ze^{tD_1 + s\Sigma + \lambda x}) = 0,$$

and therefore $R(2\frac{\partial}{\partial s}, -4\frac{\partial}{\partial \lambda})D_X^{(w,\Sigma)}(ze^{tD+s\Sigma+\lambda x}) = 0$. The Donaldson invariants $D_X^{(w,\Sigma)}$ satisfy thus partial differential equations coming from the polynomials vanishing on \widetilde{HFF}_g^* . We have the following result

Proposition 10. ([5, theorem 5.13]) The effective Fukaya-Floer homology is a sub- $\mathbb{C}[[t]]$ -module $\widetilde{HFF}_g^* \subset HFF_g^*$ such that there is a direct sum decomposition

$$\widetilde{HFF}_g^* = \bigoplus_{r=-(g-1)}^{g-1} R_{g,r}$$

where $R_{g,r}$ are free $\mathbb{C}[[t]]$ -modules such that, in $R_{g,r}$, $\alpha - (4ri - 2t)$, $\beta - 8$ and γ are nilpotent if r is even, $\alpha - (4r + 2t)$, $\beta + 8$ and γ are nilpotent if r is odd.

3. Strong simple type manifolds

This section is devoted to the proof of theorem 2. We start with two technical lemmas. We shall abbreviate strong simple type to "sst" in this section.

Lemma 11. Let X be a 4-manifold with $b^+ > 1$ and $w, \Sigma \in H^2(X; \mathbb{Z})$ such that $\Sigma^2 = 0$ and $w \cdot \Sigma \equiv 1 \pmod{2}$. If X is both of w-sst and of $(w + \Sigma)$ -sst and $D \in H_2(X)$ then there exist power series $f_{r,D}(t), -(g-1) \leq r \leq g-1$, such that

(2)
$$\mathbb{D}_X^w(tD + s\Sigma) = e^{Q(tD + s\Sigma)/2} \sum_{r=-(g-1)}^{g-1} f_{r,D}(t) e^{2rs},$$

i.e. $\mathbb{D}_X^w(tD + s\Sigma)$ is a solution of the differential equation $\prod_{r=-(g-1)}^{g-1} (\frac{\partial}{\partial s} - (2r + t(D \cdot \Sigma))).$ Moreover

$$\mathbb{D}_X^{w+\Sigma}(tD+s\Sigma) = e^{Q(tD+s\Sigma)/2} \sum_{r=-(g-1)}^{g-1} (-1)^{r+1} f_{r,D}(t) e^{2rs}.$$

Proof. It is enough to prove (2) for $D \in H_2(X)$ with $D \cdot \Sigma = 1$, using linearity and continuity. Consider an embedded surface $\Sigma \hookrightarrow X$ of genus $g \ge 1$ representing the Poincaré dual of $\Sigma \in H^2(X; \mathbb{Z})$. Then we are in the situation described in section 2 and will stick to the notations used therein. The relative Donaldson invariant

$$\phi^w(X_1, e^{tD_1}) \in HFF_*(\Sigma \times \mathbb{S}^1, \mathbb{S}^1)$$

lies in the kernels of $\beta^2 - 64$ and all ψ_i , $1 \leq i \leq 2g$. This is clear as, for instance, $\langle (\beta^2 - 64)\phi^w(X_1, e^{tD_1}), \phi^w(A, ze^{t\Delta}) \rangle = D_X^{(w,\Sigma)}(16(x^2 - 4)ze^{tD}) = 0$, for any $\phi^w(A, ze^{t\Delta})$, since X is both of w-sst and of $(w + \Sigma)$ -sst. Thus $(\beta^2 - 64)\phi^w(X_1, e^{tD_1}) = 0$.

Thus in order to compute $D_X^{(w,\Sigma)}(e^{tD+s\Sigma+\lambda x}) = \langle \phi^w(X_1, e^{tD_1}), \phi^w(A, e^{t\Delta+s\Sigma+\lambda x}) \rangle$, it only matters the projection of $\phi^w(A, e^{t\Delta+s\Sigma+\lambda x})$ to the reduced Fukaya-Floer homology (see [5, definition 5.6])

$$\overline{HFF}_g^* = HFF_g^*/(\beta^2 - 64, \psi_1, \dots, \psi_{2g})HFF_g^*.$$

By [5, theorem 5.9],

$$\overline{HFF}_{g}^{*} = \bigoplus_{r=-(g-1)}^{g-1} \overline{R}_{g,r}, \quad \text{where } \overline{R}_{g,r} = \begin{cases} \mathbb{C}[[t]][\alpha,\beta]/(\alpha - (4ri - 2t),\beta - 8) & r \text{ even} \\ \mathbb{C}[[t]][\alpha,\beta]/(\alpha - (4r + 2t),\beta + 8) & r \text{ odd} \end{cases}$$

Now we translate the relations of \overline{HFF}_g^* into partial differential equations satisfied by the Donaldson invariants. For instance, the relation

$$(\beta - 8) \prod_{\substack{-(g-1) \le r \le g-1 \\ r \text{ odd}}} (\alpha - (4r + 2t)) = 0$$

gives the differential equation

$$\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial\lambda}+2\right)\prod_{\substack{-(g-1)\leq r\leq g-1\\r \text{ odd}}}\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial s}-(2r+t)\right)D_X^{(w,\Sigma)}\left(e^{tD+s\Sigma+\lambda x}\right)=0.$$

This finally yields the existence of power series $g_r(t)$, $-(g-1) \le r \le g-1$ (we drop the D from the subindex), such that

$$D_X^{(w,\Sigma)}(e^{tD+s\Sigma+\lambda x}) = \sum_{r \text{ odd}} g_r(t)e^{st+2rs+2\lambda} + \sum_{r \text{ even}} g_r(t)e^{-st+2ris-2\lambda}.$$

If $d_0 = d_0(w) = -w^2 - \frac{3}{2}(1 - b_1 + b^+)$ denotes half the dimensions (modulo 4) of the moduli spaces of anti-self-dual connections of SO(3)-bundles determined by w, then

$$D_X^w(e^{tD+s\Sigma+\lambda x}) = \frac{1}{2} \Big(\sum_{r \text{ odd}} g_r(t) e^{st+2rs+2\lambda} + \sum_{r \text{ even}} g_r(t) e^{-st+2ris-2\lambda} + \sum_{r \text{ odd}} i^{-d_0} g_r(it) e^{-st+2ris-2\lambda} + \sum_{r \text{ even}} i^{-d_0} g_r(it) e^{st-2rs+2\lambda} \Big),$$

and hence

$$\mathbb{D}_X^w(tD+s\Sigma) = \sum f_r(t)e^{st+2rs}, \quad \text{where } f_r(t) = \begin{cases} g_r(t) & r \text{ odd} \\ i^{-d_0}g_{-r}(it) & r \text{ even} \end{cases}$$

We leave $\mathbb{D}_X^{w+\Sigma}$ to the reader upon noting that $d_0(w+\Sigma) \equiv d_0(w) + 2 \pmod{4}$. \square

Lemma 12. In the situation of lemma 11, X is of w-sst if and only if it is of $(w + \Sigma)$ -sst.

Proof. Arguing by contradiction, suppose X is of w-sst but not of $(w + \Sigma)$ -sst. Then there exists $z = (x^2 - 4)^r \delta_1 \cdots \delta_p$ with $\delta_i \in H_1(X)$ and r + p > 0 such that $D_X^w(ze^{tD + s\Sigma + \lambda x}) = 0$, $D_X^{w+\Sigma}(ze^{tD + s\Sigma + \lambda x})$ is non-zero but $D_X^{w+\Sigma}(z(x^2 - 4)e^{tD + s\Sigma + \lambda x}) = 0$ and $D_X^{w+\Sigma}(z\delta e^{tD + s\Sigma + \lambda x}) = 0$ for any $\delta \in H_1(\Sigma)$. Keeping the notations of the proof of the previous lemma, $\phi^w(X_1, ze^{tD_1})$ lies in the kernel of $\beta^2 - 64$ and γ and so, arguing as in lemma 11, it is

$$D_X^{(w,\Sigma)}(ze^{tD+s\Sigma+\lambda x}) = \sum_{r \text{ odd}} g_r(t)e^{st+2rs+2\lambda} + \sum_{r \text{ even}} g_r(t)e^{-st+2ris-2\lambda},$$

for some power series $g_r(t)$, $-(g-1) \le r \le g-1$. In particular $D_X^w(ze^{tD+s\Sigma+\lambda x})$ is non-zero, so X is not of w-sst. This contradiction proves the lemma. \square

Proof of theorem 2. Now we proceed to the proof of theorem 2 by steps.

Step 1. X is of strong simple type.

Let S be a 4-manifold with $b^+ > 1$ and $w \in H^2(S;\mathbb{Z})$. Let $\tilde{S} = S \# \overline{\mathbb{CP}}^2$ denote its blow-up and let E stand for the cohomology class of the exceptional divisor. Therefore $H^2(\tilde{S};\mathbb{Z}) = H^2(S;\mathbb{Z}) \oplus \mathbb{Z}E$. The general blow-up formula [2] implies that S is of w-sst if and only if \tilde{S} is of w-sst if and only if \tilde{S} is of (w + E)-sst.

With this said, suppose X is of w-sst for some $w \in H^2(X;\mathbb{Z})$. We shall prove that X is of w'-sst for any other $w' \in H^2(X;\mathbb{Z})$. Consider any cohomology class $L \in H^2(X;\mathbb{Z})$ with $N = L^2 > 0$. Blow up X at N points to obtain $\tilde{X} = X \# N \overline{\mathbb{CP}}^2$, with E_1, \ldots, E_N denoting the exceptional divisors. Let $L' = L - E_1 - \ldots - E_N \in H^2(\tilde{X};\mathbb{Z})$ which has $(L')^2 = 0$. As X is of w-sst, \tilde{X} will be both of w-sst and $(w + E_1)$ -sst (recall that N > 0). Now $w \cdot L'$ and $(w + E_1) \cdot L'$ have different parity since $E_1 \cdot L' = 1$. Therefore one of them is odd. If $w \cdot L' \equiv 1 \pmod{2}$, then lemma 12 implies that \tilde{X} is of $(w + L') = (w + L - E_1 - \ldots - E_N)$ -sst, and hence X is of (w + L)-sst. Alternatively, if $(w + E_1) \cdot L' \equiv 1 \pmod{2}$, then \tilde{X} is of $(w + E_1 + L') = (w + L - E_2 - \ldots - E_N)$ -sst and X of (w + L)-sst again. In conclusion, X is of (w + L)-sst, for any $L \in H^2(X;\mathbb{Z})$ with $L^2 > 0$.

Now given w and w', take $T \in H^2(X; \mathbb{Z})$ with $T^2 > 0$. For n large, it will be $(w' - w + nT)^2 > 0$. Considering L = w' - w + nT, it follows that X is of (w + L) = (w' + nT)-sst. Now taking L = -nT, we have that X is of w'-sst, as required.

Step 2. There exists at least one $w \in H^2(X; \mathbb{Z})$ with $\mathbb{D}_X^w = e^{Q/2} \sum a_{i,w} e^{K_i}$, for finitely many cohomology classes $K_i \in H^2(X; \mathbb{Z})$ and rational numbers $a_{i,w}$.

Let S be a 4-manifold with $b^+ > 1$ and of sst. If \tilde{S} is the blow-up of S with exceptional divisor E, then the blow-up formula [2] says that $\mathbb{D}_{S}^{w}(tD) = \mathbb{D}_{\tilde{S}}^{w}(tD)$ and $\mathbb{D}_{S}^{w}(tD) = \frac{\partial}{\partial r}|_{r=0}\mathbb{D}_{\tilde{S}}^{w+E}(tD+rE)$, for $D \in H_2(X)$, so we see that it is enough to prove the claim for \tilde{S} .

After possibly blowing up, we can suppose that X has an indefinite odd intersection form of the form $Q = r(1) \oplus s(-1)$, with $r, s \ge 2$, n = r + s. Put $A_1, \ldots, A_r, B_1, \ldots, B_s$ for the corresponding basis. Then we set $\Sigma_1 = A_2 - B_1$, $\Sigma_j = A_j + B_1$, $2 \le j \le r$, $\Sigma_{r+1} = B_2 - A_1$, $\Sigma_{r+j} = B_j + A_1$, $2 \le j \le s$, and $w = A_1 + B_1$. Then we have a subgroup $H = \langle \Sigma_1, \ldots, \Sigma_n \rangle \subset \overline{H}_2(X; \mathbb{Z}) = H_2(X; \mathbb{Z})/\text{torsion}$, such that $2\overline{H}_2(X; \mathbb{Z}) \subset H$, with $\Sigma_j^2 = 0$ and $w \cdot \Sigma_j \equiv 1 \pmod{2}$, $1 \le j \le n$. We represent Σ_j by embedded surfaces of genus $g_j \geq 1$. Lemma 11 implies then

(3)
$$\mathbb{D}_X^w(t_1\Sigma_1 + \dots + t_n\Sigma_n) = e^{Q(t_1\Sigma_1 + \dots + t_n\Sigma_n)/2} \sum_{\substack{-(g_j-1) \le r_j \le g_j-1 \\ 1 \le j \le n}} a_{r_1\dots r_n,w} e^{2r_1t_1 + \dots + 2r_nt_n}$$

for complex numbers $a_{r_1...r_n,w}$. They are rational because of the rationality of the Donaldson invariants. The claim follows. K_i are integral cohomology classes since $2\bar{H}_2(X;\mathbb{Z}) \subset H$. Step 3. K_i are lifts of $w_2(X)$ to integer coefficients.

Equivalently, we need to prove that $K_i \cdot x \equiv x^2 \pmod{2}$, for any $x \in \overline{H}_2(X; \mathbb{Z})$. Clearly formula (3) implies that $K_i \cdot \Sigma_j \equiv 0 = \Sigma_j^2 \pmod{2}$, for $1 \leq j \leq n$. Take $x \in \overline{H}_2(X; \mathbb{Z}) - H$. There is some index k such that $x \cdot \Sigma_k \neq 0$. We can find an integer m such that $x' = x + m\Sigma_k$ has $N = (x')^2 \geq 0$ and $w \cdot x' \equiv 1 \pmod{2}$ (recall that $w \cdot \Sigma_j \equiv 1 \pmod{2}$ for all j). We blow up X at N points to get $\tilde{X} = X \# N \overline{\mathbb{CP}}^2$ with exceptional divisors E_1, \ldots, E_N . Then $y = x' - E_1 - \ldots - E_N$ has $y^2 = 0$ and $w \cdot y \equiv 1 \pmod{2}$. The blow-up formula [2] says

$$\mathbb{D}_{\tilde{X}}^{w} = \mathbb{D}_{X}^{w} \cdot e^{-(E_{1}^{2} + \dots + E_{N}^{2})/2} \cosh E_{1} \cdots \cosh E_{N} = e^{Q/2} \sum \frac{a_{i,w}}{2^{N}} e^{K_{i} + \sum \pm E_{l}}$$

so the basic classes of \tilde{X} are of the form $K_i + \sum \pm E_l$, with K_i basic classes for X. Now lemma 11 applied to w and y implies in particular that

$$0 \equiv (K_i + \sum \pm E_l) \cdot y \equiv K_i \cdot x' + N \pmod{2}$$

and hence $K_i \cdot x \equiv x^2 \pmod{2}$, for all K_i .

 $\underbrace{\text{Step 4.}}_{(-1)^{-\frac{K_i \cdot w + w^2}{2}} a_i e^{K_i}} = e^{Q/2} \sum_{(-1)^{\frac{K_i \cdot w' + w'^2}{2}} a_i e^{K_i}} \text{, for any other } w' \in H^2(X; \mathbb{Z}), \text{ where we put } a_i = (-1)^{-\frac{K_i \cdot w + w^2}{2}} a_{i,w} \text{ (by step 3 the exponent is an integer).}$

Lemma 11 implies that if we have proved the claim for w' and $w' \cdot \Sigma \equiv 1 \pmod{2}$ and $\Sigma^2 = 0$, then the claim is true for $w' + \Sigma$. Now to prove the assertion for any $w' \in H^2(X; \mathbb{Z})$, it is enough to consider w' = w + L, with $N = L^2 > 0$ as in step 1. Keep those notations and suppose for instance that we are in the case $(w + E_1) \cdot L' \equiv 1 \pmod{2}$ (i.e. $w \cdot L$ is even). Then the blow-up formula again says

$$\mathbb{D}_{\tilde{X}}^{w+E_1} = -\mathbb{D}_X^w \cdot e^{-(E_1^2 + \dots + E_N^2)/2} \sinh E_1 \cosh E_2 \cdots \cosh E_N,$$

so the coefficient of the basic class $K_i + \sum a_l E_l$, where $(a_l)_{l=1}^N$ is a sequence of numbers $a_l = \pm 1$, is $(-1)^{\frac{a_1+1}{2}} a_{i,w}/2^N$. By lemma 11,

$$\mathbb{D}_{\tilde{X}}^{w+L-E_2-\ldots-E_N} = e^{Q/2} \sum c_{K_i+\sum a_l E_l} \left(a_{i,w}/2^N \right) e^{K_i + \sum a_l E_l},$$

where

$$c_{K_i+\sum a_l E_l} = (-1)^{\frac{a_1+1}{2}} (-1)^{\frac{(K_i+\sum a_l E_l) \cdot L'}{2}+1} = (-1)^{\frac{K_i \cdot L+L^2}{2}} (-1)^{\frac{a_2+1}{2}} \cdots (-1)^{\frac{a_N+1}{2}} (-1)^{N-1}.$$

Using the blow-up formula again together with the standard fact $D_X^{w+2\alpha} = (-1)^{\alpha^2} D_X^w$, we get $\mathbb{D}_X^{w+L} = e^{Q/2} \sum (-1)^{\frac{K_i \cdot L + 2w \cdot L + L^2}{2}} a_{i,w} e^{K_i}$ (since $w \cdot L$ is even), as required.

<u>Step 5</u>. The final assertion is proven as follows. Let $S \hookrightarrow X$ be an embedded surface of genus g with $N = S^2 \ge 0$ and representing a non-torsion homology class. The argument in [3, page 709] reduces to prove only the case N > 0. If the genus is g = 0 then the Donaldson invariants vanish identically and hence it is trivially true. In the case $g \ge 1$, blow-up X at N points to get $\tilde{X} = X \# N \overline{\mathbb{CP}}^2$ with exceptional divisors E_1, \ldots, E_N . Consider the proper transform \tilde{S} of S which is an embedded surface in \tilde{X} of genus g representing the homology class $S - E_1 - \ldots - E_N$. Then lemma 11 applied to \tilde{X} , \tilde{S} and $w = E_1$ gives

$$2(g-1) \ge |(K_i + \sum \pm E_l) \cdot (S - E_1 - \ldots - E_N)|$$

for all K_i basic classes of X. Therefore we have $2g - 2 \ge |K_i \cdot S| + S^2$.

4. Basic classes

We first prove theorem 5. We start with the following analogue of lemma 12.

Lemma 13. In the situation of lemma 11, X is of w-finite type of order k if and only if it is of $(w + \Sigma)$ -finite type of order k.

Proof. Arguing by contradiction, suppose X is of w-finite type of order k and of $(w+\Sigma)$ -finite type of order k + a, a > 0. Then there exists $z = (x^2 - 4)^{k+a-1}\delta_1 \cdots \delta_p$ with $\delta_i \in H_1(X)$, $p \ge 0$, such that $D_X^w(ze^{tD+s\Sigma+\lambda x}) = 0$, $D_X^{w+\Sigma}(ze^{tD+s\Sigma+\lambda x})$ is non-zero but $D_X^{w+\Sigma}(z(x^2 - 4)e^{tD+s\Sigma+\lambda x}) = 0$ and $D_X^{w+\Sigma}(z\delta e^{tD+s\Sigma+\lambda x}) = 0$, for any $\delta \in H_1(\Sigma)$. The arguments in the proof of lemma 12 now carry over verbatim. \Box

Proof of theorem 5. It goes as in step 1 of the proof of theorem 2 with the difference that we use lemma 13 and note the following: Let S be a 4-manifold with $b^+ > 1$ and $w \in H^2(S;\mathbb{Z})$. Let $\tilde{S} = S \# \overline{\mathbb{CP}}^2$ denote its blow-up and let E stand for the cohomology class of the exceptional divisor. Then S is of w-finite type of order k if and only if \tilde{S} is of w-finite type of order k if and only if \tilde{S} is of (w + E)-finite type of order k.

Proof of theorem 6. Now we proceed to the proof of theorem 6. The analogue of lemma 11 is the following:

Lemma 14. Let X be a 4-manifold with $b^+ > 1$ and $w, \Sigma \in H^2(X; \mathbb{Z})$ such that $\Sigma^2 = 0$ and $w \cdot \Sigma \equiv 1 \pmod{2}$. Let $z \in \Lambda^* H_1(X)$ homogeneous. Take $D \in H_2(X)$. Then

$$D_X^w(ze^{tD+s\Sigma+\lambda x}) = e^{Q(tD+s\Sigma)/2+2\lambda} \sum_{r=-(g-1)}^{g-1} P_r(t,s,\lambda) + e^{-Q(tD+s\Sigma)/2-2\lambda} \sum_{r=-(g-1)}^{g-1} Q_r(t,s,\lambda),$$

where $P_r(t, s, \lambda)$ is a solution of the differential equations $\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial s} - 2r\right)^N$, $\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial \lambda}\right)^N$, and $Q_r(t, s, \lambda)$ is a solution of $\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial s} - 2ri\right)^N$, $\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial \lambda}\right)^N$, for N sufficiently large. Moreover

$$D_X^{w+\Sigma}(ze^{tD+s\Sigma+\lambda x}) = e^{Q(tD+s\Sigma)/2+2\lambda} \sum_{r=-(g-1)}^{g-1} (-1)^{r+1} P_r(t,s,\lambda) + e^{-Q(tD+s\Sigma)/2-2\lambda} \sum_{r=-(g-1)}^{g-1} (-1)^r Q_r(t,s,\lambda).$$

Proof. We proceed as in the proof of lemma 11, but in this case we have $\phi^w(X_1, ze^{tD_1 + s\Sigma + \lambda x}) \in \widetilde{HFF}_g^* \subset HFF_g^*$. Now the eigenvalues of (α, β, γ) in \widetilde{HFF}_g^* given by proposition 10 yield that

$$D_X^{(w,\Sigma)}(ze^{tD+s\Sigma+\lambda x}) = e^{Q(tD+s\Sigma)/2+2\lambda} \sum_{\substack{-(g-1) \le r \le g-1 \\ r \text{ odd}}} P_r(t,s,\lambda) + e^{-Q(tD+s\Sigma)/2-2\lambda} \sum_{\substack{-(g-1) \le r \le g-1 \\ r \text{ even}}} Q_r(t,s,\lambda),$$

where P_r and Q_r satisfy the differential equations in the statement. Then put $d_0 = d_0(w) = -w^2 - \frac{3}{2}(1 - b_1 + b^+)$, so

$$D_X^w(e^{tD+s\Sigma+\lambda x}) = \frac{1}{2} \Big(e^{Q(tD+s\Sigma)/2+2\lambda} \Big(\sum_{\substack{-(g-1) \le r \le g-1 \\ r \text{ odd}}} P_r(t,s,\lambda) + i^{-d_0} \sum_{\substack{-(g-1) \le r \le g-1 \\ r \text{ even}}} Q_r(it,is,-\lambda) \Big) + e^{-Q(tD+s\Sigma)/2-2\lambda} \Big(\sum_{\substack{-(g-1) \le r \le g-1 \\ r \text{ even}}} Q_r(t,s,\lambda) + i^{-d_0} \sum_{\substack{-(g-1) \le r \le g-1 \\ r \text{ odd}}} P_{-r}(it,is,-\lambda) \Big) \Big).$$

We leave $D_X^{w+\Sigma}$ to the reader. \square

<u>Step 1</u>. Suppose X is a 4-manifold with $b^+ > 1$, $w \in H^2(X; \mathbb{Z})$, $z \in \Lambda^* H_1(X)$ homogeneous and that there is a subgroup $H = \langle \Sigma_1, \ldots, \Sigma_n \rangle \subset \overline{H}_2(X; \mathbb{Z})$ such that $2\overline{H}_2(X; \mathbb{Z}) \subset H$, with $\Sigma_j^2 = 0$ and $w \cdot \Sigma_j \equiv 1 \pmod{2}$, $1 \leq j \leq n$. Then (1) holds.

We represent Σ_j by embedded surfaces of genus $g_j \ge 1$. Lemma 14 implies that

$$D_X^w(ze^{t_1\Sigma_1+\dots+t_n\Sigma_n+\lambda x}) = e^{Q(t_1\Sigma_1+\dots+t_n\Sigma_n)/2+2\lambda} \sum_{\substack{-(g_j-1)\leq r_j\leq g_j-1\\1\leq j\leq n}} P_{r_1\dots r_n,w}(s_1,\dots,s_n,\lambda) e^{2r_1t_1+\dots+2r_nt_n} + e^{-Q(t_1\Sigma_1+\dots+t_n\Sigma_n)/2-2\lambda} \sum_{\substack{-(g_j-1)\leq r_j\leq g_j-1\\1\leq j\leq n}} Q_{r_1\dots r_n,w}(s_1,\dots,s_n,\lambda) e^{i(2r_1t_1+\dots+2r_nt_n)},$$

where P's and Q's are polynomials. This finishes the step, noting again that K_i are integral cohomology classes since $2\bar{H}_2(X;\mathbb{Z}) \subset H$.

Step 2. Fix an arbitrary $w \in H^2(X; \mathbb{Z})$. Then (1) holds for X and w.

First note that if $w, \Sigma \in H^2(X; \mathbb{Z})$ with $w \cdot \Sigma \equiv 1 \pmod{2}$ and $\Sigma^2 = 0$ then (1) holds for w implies (1) holds for $w + \Sigma$.

The relationship of the Donaldson invariants of a 4-manifold S and the blow-up $\tilde{S} = S \# \overline{\mathbb{CP}}^2$ is not as straightforward as in the simple type case, therefore the strategy of proving that (1) holds for one $w \in H^2(X; \mathbb{Z})$ implies that it holds for any other $w' \in H^2(X; \mathbb{Z})$ by blowing-up does not work easily. Instead we fix $w \in H^2(X; \mathbb{Z})$ and shall look for a blow-up $\tilde{X} = X \# m \overline{\mathbb{CP}}^2$ with exceptional divisors E_1, \ldots, E_m such that there exists $\tilde{w} \in H^2(\tilde{X}; \mathbb{Z})$ of the form $\tilde{w} = w + \sum a_i E_i$, a_i integers, with (\tilde{X}, \tilde{w}) satisfying the conditions in step 1. This is enough since $D_X^w(ze^{tD+\lambda x}) = D_{\tilde{X}}^w(ze^{tD+\lambda x})$ and $D_X^w(ze^{tD+\lambda x}) = \frac{\partial}{\partial r}|_{r=0} D_{\tilde{X}}^{w+E}(ze^{tD+rE+\lambda x})$, for $D \in H_2(X)$.

We can blow up to ensure that $Q = r(1) \oplus s(-1)$, $r \ge 2$, $s \ge 1$, with corresponding basis $A_1, \ldots, A_r, B_1, \ldots, B_s$ and $w \cdot B_n \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$. There are several cases:

• Suppose that (up to reordering) $w \cdot A_1 \equiv 1 \pmod{2}$, $w \cdot A_2 \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$. Then blow up once, $\tilde{X} = X \# \overline{\mathbb{CP}}^2$, with *E* the exceptional divisor. Set

$$\Sigma_{j} = \begin{cases} A_{j} + E & \text{if } w \cdot A_{j} \equiv 0 \pmod{2} \\ A_{j} + B_{n} & \text{if } w \cdot A_{j} \equiv 1 \pmod{2} \end{cases}$$
$$\Sigma_{r+j} = \begin{cases} B_{j} - A_{1} & \text{if } w \cdot B_{j} \equiv 0 \pmod{2} \\ B_{j} - A_{2} & \text{if } w \cdot B_{j} \equiv 1 \pmod{2} \end{cases}$$
$$\Sigma_{n+1} = E - A_{2}$$

Then the subgroup $H = \langle \Sigma_1, \ldots, \Sigma_{n+1} \rangle \subset H_2(\tilde{X}; \mathbb{Z})$ and $\tilde{w} = w + E$ satisfy the required properties in step 1.

- Suppose that $w \cdot A_j \equiv 1 \pmod{2}$, for all j. Then put $\Sigma = A_1 + B_n$ and $w' = w + \Sigma$. Then w' satisfies the conditions of the previous case so (1) holds for w'. Now $w' \cdot \Sigma \equiv 1 \pmod{2}$ and $\Sigma^2 = 0$, so (1) also holds for w.
- Suppose that $w \cdot A_j \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$, for all j and that there exists B_1 such that $w \cdot B_1 \equiv 1 \pmod{2}$. Then put $\Sigma = A_1 + B_1$ and $w' = w + \Sigma$, and work as in the previous case.
- Suppose $w \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$. Blow-up once and put $\tilde{w} = w + E$. It reduces to the previous case.

Before carrying on with the proof of theorem 6, let us pause to give a characterization of the basic classes of X. So far we only can say that the basic classes are relative to a particular $w \in H^2(X;\mathbb{Z})$. So we define a basic class for (X, z, w) to be a cohomology class K_i provided by step 2, such that $p_i \neq 0$.

Proposition 15. Let X be a 4-manifold with $b^+ > 1$, $z \in \Lambda^* H_1(X)$ homogeneous and $w \in H^2(X;\mathbb{Z})$. Then $K \in H^2(X;\mathbb{Z})$ is a basic class for (X, z, w) if and only if there exists $z' \in \mathbb{A}_{\text{even}}(X) = \text{Sym}^*(H_0(X) \oplus H_2(X))$ such that $D^w_X(zz'e^{tD+\lambda x}) = e^{Q(tD)/2+2\lambda+K\cdot tD}$.

Proof. Take N larger than the order of finite type of X. Then $D_X^w(z(1+\frac{x}{2})^N e^{tD+\lambda x}) = e^{Q(tD)/2+2\lambda} \sum p_i(tD,\lambda)e^{K_i \cdot tD}$. Consider a basis $\{D_1, \ldots, D_n\}$ of $\bar{H}_2(X;\mathbb{Z})$. Let $\alpha_j = K \cdot D_j$, $j = 1, \ldots, n$. Then take

$$z' = \prod_j \prod_{\beta_j \neq \alpha_j} (D_j - \beta_j)^N,$$

for a large enough N (just take it larger than the degrees of the polynomials p_i). Then $D_X^w(z(1+\frac{x}{2})^N z' e^{tD+\lambda x}) = e^{Q(tD)/2+2\lambda} p(tD,\lambda) e^{K \cdot tD}$, for a polynomial p. Take some $z'' = c(1-\frac{x}{2})^m (D_1-\alpha_1)^{m_1} \cdots (D_n-\alpha_n)^{m_n}$, for appropriate exponents and constant c, to get $D_X^w(z(1+\frac{x}{2})^N z' z'' e^{tD+\lambda x}) = e^{Q(tD)/2+2\lambda} e^{K \cdot tD}$. The converse is obvious. \Box

We leave the following characterization of basic classes in terms of the blow-up to the reader.

Corollary 16. Let X be a 4-manifold with $b^+ > 1$, $z \in \Lambda^* H_1(X)$ homogeneous and $w \in H^2(X;\mathbb{Z})$. Let $\tilde{X} = X \# \overline{\mathbb{CP}}^2$ be its blow-up with exceptional divisor E. Then $K \in H^2(X;\mathbb{Z})$ is a basic class for (X, z, w) if and only if there exists $z' \in \mathbb{A}_{even}(X)$ such that $D^w_{\tilde{X}}(zz'e^{tD+\lambda x}) = e^{Q(tD)/2+2\lambda+K\cdot tD} \cosh(E \cdot tD)$ if and only if there exists $z' \in \mathbb{A}_{even}(X)$ such that $D^{w+E}_{\tilde{X}}(zz'e^{tD+\lambda x}) = -e^{Q(tD)/2+2\lambda+K\cdot tD} \sinh(E \cdot tD)$.

Now we resume the proof of theorem 6.

Step 3. The basic classes of (X, z) are independent of $w \in H^2(X; \mathbb{Z})$.

By lemma 14 the basic classes for (X, z, w) and $(X, z, w + \Sigma)$ are the same for any Σ such that $\Sigma^2 = 0$ and $w \cdot \Sigma \equiv 1 \pmod{2}$. The argument runs as in step 4 of section 3 using the characterization of basic classes gathered in corollary 16. We need to use lemma 14 in the blow-up manifold \tilde{X} with an extra $z' \in \mathbb{A}_{\text{even}}(\Sigma)$, but it is easy to see that its statement still holds.

Step 4. Any basic class K_i is a lift of $w_2(X)$ to integer coefficients.

This is as in step 3 of section 3 by noting that corollary 16 implies in particular that $K \pm E$ are basic classes of the blow-up of X.

Note also the following corollary to corollary 16

Corollary 17. If $K \in H^2(X; \mathbb{Z})$ is a basic class for X then $K \pm E$ are basic classes for the blow-up $\tilde{X} = X \# \overline{\mathbb{CP}}^2$.

Remark 18. It is natural to expect that there are more basic classes K + mE, m odd, $m \neq \pm 1$.

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