Real Bordism, Real orientations, and Lubin–Tate spectra

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K_ℝ(X): Grothendieck's construction ⇒ C₂-equivariant spectrum K_ℝ (Atiyah's Real K-theory)

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• $\pi_{\bigstar}^{G}X: RO(G)$ -graded homotopy groups of X

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- *K*_ℝ combines complex *K*-theory and real *K*-theory
 The underlying spectrum is *KU K*_ℝ^{C₂} = *K*_ℝ^{hC₂} = *KO* There are two periodicities:
 π^{C₂}_{★+ρ}*K*_ℝ = π^{C₂}_★*K*_ℝ (complex Bott periodicity)
 - $\pi_{\bigstar+8}^{C_2} K_{\mathbb{R}} = \pi_{\bigstar}^{C_2} K_{\mathbb{R}}$ (real Bott periodicity)

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- The underlying spectrum of $MU_{\mathbb{R}}$ is MU
- This spectrum is crucial in Hill–Hopkins–Ravenel's solution of the Kervaire invariant one problem (later)

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- Associated with MU is a theory of complex orientations

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(classifying tensor product of tautological line bundles)

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Theorem (Quillen)

MU itself is complex oriented and it carries the universal formal group law.

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 Formal group laws associated with elliptic curves

 Elliptic cohomology theories (topological modular forms, string orientations, Witten genus)

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Definition $\pi_k^{st}(S^0) := \varinjlim \pi_{n+k}(S^n)$

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- Describing \(\pi_*^{st} S^0\) has been fundamental to algebraic topology for the past 80 years
- Lubin-Tate spectra can isolate certain "sectors" of the computation + give connections to others areas (modular forms, geometric topology)





Theorem (Goerss-Hopkins-Miller)

The action of $\mathbb{G}(k,\Gamma_n)$ on E_{n*} can be lifted uniquely to an action of $\mathbb{G}(k,\Gamma_n)$ on E_n by commutative (\mathbb{E}_{∞}) ring maps.



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C_2 -action

From now on: p = 2
 C₂ ⊂ G(k, Γ_n): acts on E_{n*} by [-1]_{Γn}.

C_2 -action



Question



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Can we lift it?

Theorem (Hahn–S.)

The Lubin–Tate spectrum E_n is Real oriented: it receives a C_2 -equivariant map

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This opens the door to a series of computations in stable homotopy theory

Chromatic homotopy theory

Theorem (Hopkins-Ravenel, Chromatic Convergence)

$$S^0_{(p)} \xrightarrow{\simeq} \cdots \longrightarrow L_{E_n} S^0 \longrightarrow L_{E_{n-1}} S^0 \longrightarrow \cdots \longrightarrow L_{E_0} S^0.$$
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Slogan: in order to study $S^{0}_{(p)}$, we just need to study each of the K(n)-local spheres and how they "glue" together

Theorem (Hopkins–Devinatz)

$$L_{K(n)}S^{0} \xrightarrow{\simeq} E_{n}^{h\mathbb{G}_{n}}$$

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- ► In general, E_n^{hG} capture large scale periodicity phenomena in stable homotopy theory (in particular π_*S^0)
- Modern detection theorems: study elements in π_∗S⁰ by analyzing π_∗S⁰ → π_∗E^{hG}_n (Hill–Hopkins–Ravenel's solution to the Kervaire invariant)

Computing E_n^{hG} : height 1

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• Homotopy fixed point spectral sequence: $H^*(G; \pi_* E_n) \Longrightarrow \pi_* E_n^{hG}$

• Height 1:
$$E_1^{hC_2} = KO_2^{\wedge}$$

• Image of $J: \pi_* O \rightarrow \pi_* S^0$

 Captures everything above a line of slope ¹/₅ in the Adams–Novikov spectral sequence of S⁰ (Mahowald)

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- They resolve the K(2)-local sphere
- These computations rely heavily on the geometry of elliptic curves
 - Choose a specific super-singular elliptic curve
 - Have a good understanding of how G is acting on π_*E_2

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- ▶ However, the group action on $MU_{\mathbb{R}}$ does come from geometry
- The Real orientation establishes a connection between these two actions!

$$MU_{\mathbb{R}} \longrightarrow E_n$$

$$\blacktriangleright d_3(u_{2\sigma}) = \bar{x}_1 a_{\sigma}^3$$

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• $d_7(u_{4\sigma}) = \bar{x}_3 a_{\sigma}^7$
• $d_{15}(u_{8\sigma}) = \bar{x}_7 a_{\sigma}^{15}$

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► $d_{15}(u_{8\sigma}) = \bar{x}_7 a_{\sigma}^{15}$
► $d_{2^{k+1}-1}(u_{2\sigma}^{2^{k-1}}) = \bar{x}_{2^k-1} a_{\sigma}^{2^{k+1}-1}$

- ► $d_3(u_{2\sigma}) = \bar{x}_1 a_{\sigma}^3$ ► $d_7(u_{4\sigma}) = \bar{x}_3 a_{\sigma}^7$ ► $d_{15}(u_{8\sigma}) = \bar{x}_7 a_{\sigma}^{15}$ ► $d_{2^{k+1}-1}(u_{2\sigma}^{2^{k-1}}) = \bar{x}_{2^k-1} a_{\sigma}^{2^{k+1}-1}$
- These differentials induce all the differentials in HFPSS(E_n)

Theorem (Hahn–S.)

The E_2 -page of the $RO(C_2)$ -graded homotopy fixed point spectral sequence of E_n is

$$E_2^{s,t}(E_n^{hC_2}) = W(\mathbb{F}_{2^n})\llbracket \overline{u}_1, \overline{u}_2, \ldots, \overline{u}_{n-1} \rrbracket [\overline{u}^{\pm}] \otimes \mathbb{Z}[u_{2\sigma}^{\pm}, a_{\sigma}]/(2a_{\sigma}).$$

The classes $\bar{u}_1, \ldots, \bar{u}_{n-1}, \bar{u}^{\pm}$, and a_{σ} are permanent cycles. All the differentials in the spectral sequence are determined by the differentials

$$\begin{array}{lll} d_{2^{k+1}-1}(u_{2\sigma}^{2^{k-1}}) & = & \bar{u}_k \bar{u}^{2^k-1} a_{\sigma}^{2^{k+1}-1}, & 1 \leq k \leq n-1, \\ d_{2^{n+1}-1}(u_{2\sigma}^{2^{n-1}}) & = & \bar{u}^{2^n-1} a_{\sigma}^{2^{n+1}-1}, & k=n, \end{array}$$

and multiplicative structures.









$E_3^{hC_2}$

Theorem (Hahn–S.)

•
$$\pi_* E_n^{hC_2}$$
 is 2^{n+2} -periodic for all n.

Theorem (Hahn–S.)

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$$MU_{\mathbb{R}}_{\bigstar}(X) \otimes_{MU_*} E_{n*} \longrightarrow E_{n\bigstar}(X)$$

is an isomorphism for every C_2 -spectrum X.



Hurewicz image

Theorem (Li–S.–Wang–Xu)

The C₂-fixed points of $MU_{\mathbb{R}}$ detects the Hopf-, Kervaire-, and $\bar{\kappa}$ -family.

Theorem (Li–S.–Wang–Xu, Hahn–S.)

The C₂-fixed points of E_n detects the first n elements of the Hopfand Kervaire-family, and the first (n - 1) elements of the $\bar{\kappa}$ -family.
• What about E_n^{hG} for higher groups?

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- $\blacktriangleright MU^{((G))} := N_{C_2}^G MU_{\mathbb{R}}$

G-orientation

Theorem (Hahn–S.)

Let $G \subset \mathbb{G}(k, \Gamma_n)$ be a finite subgroup containing the central subgroup C_2 . There is a *G*-equivariant map

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Motivation: $MU^{((G))}$ is crucial in Hill–Hopkins–Ravenel's solution of the Kervaire invariant one problem

• *M*: framed (4k + 2)-dimensional manifold

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Kervaire used the framing to construct a quadratic form

$$\phi: H^{2k+1}(M; \mathbb{Z}/2) \longrightarrow \mathbb{Z}/2$$
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A fundamental invariant in differential and algebraic topology

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A homotopy n-sphere: closed manifold $\Sigma^n \simeq S^n$

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 - ► Smale (1962): n ≥ 5
 - ▶ Freedman (1982): *n* = 4
 - ▶ Perelman (2002): *n* = 3

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- Kervaire and Milnor (1963) computed the groups of exotic *n*-spheres (n > 4) in terms of πst_nS⁰, modulo the Kervaire invariant

Kervaire-Milnor

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Theorem (Kervaire-Milnor)

For $n \ge 5$, the subgroup Θ_n^{bp} is cyclic,

$$|\Theta_n^{bp}| = \begin{cases} 1, & n \text{ even} \\ 1 \text{ or } 2, & n = 4k+1 \\ b_k, & n = 4k-1 \end{cases}$$

 $b_k = 2^{2k-2}(2^{2k-1}-1) \cdot numerator \text{ of } \frac{4B_{2k}}{k}$ B_{2k} : Bernoulli number

Theorem (Kervaire–Milnor)

For
$$n \not\equiv 2 \pmod{4}$$
, there is an exact sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow \Theta_n^{bp} \longrightarrow \Theta_n \longrightarrow \pi_n/J \longrightarrow 0$$

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The Kervaire invariant problem is the last missing piece of this puzzle

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- Next piece of the puzzle was unlocked by Browder

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- However, the Adams spectral sequence gets very hard at higher dimensions
- What about the fate of the higher θ_i's?

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- Gap Theorem: $\pi_i \Omega = 0$ for i = -1, -2, -3

$\mathsf{Baby}\ \Omega$





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- Originally, Hill–Hopkins–Ravenel didn't plan to use MU^{((C8))}
- $E_4^{hC_8}$ also detects θ_j
- However, its HFPSS is HARD!
- ▶ In the end, they settled with $MU^{((C_8))}$

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- Genuine equivariant homotopy theory (rigid).
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The Real orientation combines the pros and gets rid of the cons! We can now use the slice spectral sequence to compute E_n^{hG} !

The detection tower



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- As we move up the tower, the Hurewicz images increase and the theories become more powerful
- Goal: analyze this tower as much as possible

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• The formal group laws associated with $BP\langle n \rangle$ give models for E_n

Models of Lubin-Tate spectra



Theorem (Beaudry-Hill-S.-Zeng)

The equivariant formal group laws associated with $BP^{((C_{2^m}))}(n)$ give good models of $E_{2^{m-1}\cdot n}$, equipped with a C_{2^m} -action.

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These models are great for doing computations

 $BP^{(\!(C_4)\!)}\langle 1 \rangle$



 $BP^{((C_4))}\langle 1\rangle$



- \blacktriangleright TMF₀(5)
- Behrens–Ormsby, Hill–Hopkins–Ravenel, Beaudry–Bobkova–Hill–Stojanoska

$SliceSS(BP^{((C_4))}(1))$



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Hill–S.–Wang–Xu

First height > 2 computation where the group is bigger than C_2

$SliceSS(BP^{((C_4))}\langle 2 \rangle)$



$\mathsf{SliceSS}(\mathit{BP}^{(\!(\mathit{C_4})\!)}\langle 2\rangle): \mathit{E_{\infty}}$



Periodicity Theorem

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Theorem (Beaudry–Hill–S.–Wang–Xu–Zeng, Periodicity Theorem)

The spectrum E^{hC_{2m}}_{n.2^{m-1}} is periodic with period 2^{n·2^{m-1}+m+1}.
 The spectrum E^{hQ₈}_{4n+2} is periodic with period 2⁴ⁿ⁺⁶.

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• This resolves the periodicity of E_n^{hG} at all heights and all G

