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**On definite lattices bounded by a homology 3–sphere
and Yang–Mills instanton Floer theory**

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Using instanton Floer theory, extending methods due to Frøyshov, we determine the definite lattices that arise from smooth 4–manifolds bounded by certain homology 3–spheres. For example, we show that for $+1$ surgery on the $(2,5)$ torus knot, the only nondiagonal lattices that can occur are E_8 and the indecomposable unimodular definite lattice of rank 12, up to diagonal summands. We require that our 4–manifolds have no 2–torsion in their homology.

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1 Introduction

Let X be a smooth, closed and oriented 4–manifold. The intersection of 2–cycles defines the structure of a unimodular lattice on the free abelian group $H_2(X; \mathbb{Z})/\text{Tor}$. Donaldson’s celebrated Theorem A of [8] says that if this lattice is definite, then it is equivalent over the integers to a diagonal form $\langle \pm 1 \rangle^n$. Donaldson’s original proof used instanton gauge theory, and alternative proofs were later given using Seiberg–Witten and Heegaard Floer theory (see Ozsváth and Szabó [30, Theorem 9.1]), in conjunction with a lattice-theoretic result due to Elkies [13].

For a given integer homology 3–sphere Y , which definite lattices arise as the intersection forms of smooth 4–manifolds with boundary Y ? Donaldson’s theorem may be viewed as the solution to this problem in the case of the 3–sphere. To date, there is only one result in which the set of definite lattices is determined and does not consist of only diagonal lattices: under the assumption that the 4–manifolds are simply connected, Frøyshov showed in his PhD thesis [20] that the only nondiagonalizable definite lattices bounded by the Poincaré sphere are $-E_8 \oplus \langle -1 \rangle^n$. The proof uses instanton gauge theory, and no other proofs are yet available.

In this article we extend and reformulate some of Frøyshov’s methods in [20; 22] to obtain further results in this direction. The central new application is the following.

Theorem 1.1 *Let Y be an integer homology 3–sphere $\mathbb{Z}/2$ –homology cobordant to $+1$ surgery on a knot with smooth 4–ball genus 2. If a smooth, compact, oriented and definite 4–manifold with no 2–torsion in its homology has boundary Y , then its intersection form is equivalent to one of*

$$\langle \pm 1 \rangle^n, \quad E_8 \oplus \langle +1 \rangle^n, \quad \Gamma_{12} \oplus \langle +1 \rangle^n,$$

where Γ_{12} is the unique indecomposable unimodular positive-definite lattice of rank 12.

If a nondiagonal lattice in this list occurs, then $\langle -1 \rangle^n$ for $n \geq 0$ does not: if the former arises from X_1 and the latter from X_2 , both with boundary Y , then the closed 4–manifold $X_1 \cup \bar{X}_2$ has a nondiagonal form, contradicting Donaldson’s Theorem A. An example realizing all the positive forms on the list is $+1$ surgery on the $(2, 5)$ torus knot, which is the Brieskorn sphere $-\Sigma(2, 5, 9)$.

Corollary 1.2 *If a smooth, compact, oriented and definite 4–manifold with no 2–torsion in its homology has boundary $-\Sigma(2, 5, 9)$, then its intersection form is equivalent to one of*

$$\langle +1 \rangle^n \quad \text{for some } n \geq 1, \quad E_8 \oplus \langle +1 \rangle^n \quad \text{for some } n \geq 0, \quad \Gamma_{12} \oplus \langle +1 \rangle^n \quad \text{for some } n \geq 0,$$

and all of these possibilities occur.

The realizations of these lattices are straightforward, except perhaps for the case of E_8 ; see eg Golla and Scaduto [26]. A slightly more general statement of [Theorem 1.1](#) follows from [Corollary 4.3](#) below. [Theorem 1.1](#) may be viewed as the next installment of the following, which itself is a kind of successor to Donaldson’s Theorem A cited above.

Theorem 1.3 *Let Y be an integer homology 3–sphere $\mathbb{Z}/2$ –homology cobordant to $+1$ surgery on a knot with smooth 4–ball genus 1. If a smooth, compact, oriented and definite 4–manifold with no 2–torsion in its homology has boundary Y , then its intersection form is equivalent to one of*

$$\langle \pm 1 \rangle^n, \quad E_8 \oplus \langle +1 \rangle^n.$$

A corollary is a slight improvement of Frøyshov’s theorem, obtained by applying the result to $+1$ surgery on the $(2, 3)$ torus knot, the orientation-reversal of the Poincaré sphere $\Sigma(2, 3, 5)$:

Corollary 1.4 (cf Frøyshov [20]) *If a smooth, compact, oriented and definite 4–manifold with no 2–torsion in its homology has boundary $-\Sigma(2, 3, 5)$, then its intersection form is equivalent to one of*

$$\langle +1 \rangle^n \quad \text{for some } n \geq 1, \quad E_8 \oplus \langle +1 \rangle^n \quad \text{for some } n \geq 0,$$

and all of these possibilities occur.

We give more examples in Section 5. We expect the methods used to provide further applications. A good candidate to consider next is $-\Sigma(3, 4, 11)$, which is $+1$ surgery on the $(3, 4)$ torus knot of genus 3. In [26] we show that this manifold bounds the unimodular lattices $\langle +1 \rangle$, E_8 , Γ_{12} , E_7^2 and A_{15} , the last two being the indecomposable positive-definite unimodular lattices of ranks 14 and 15, respectively; we exhibit some of these in Section 5.

A straightforward Mayer–Vietoris argument shows that the statements of both Theorems 1.1 and 1.3 hold for 3–manifolds that are not integer homology 3–spheres, as long as the lattice is assumed to be *unimodular*. In joint work with Marco Golla [26], we provide analogues of the above results for nonunimodular lattices.

Other than Donaldson’s Theorem A and Frøyshov’s work in instanton Floer theory, restrictions on the possible definite lattices bounded by a fixed homology 3–sphere have previously been established using Seiberg–Witten and Heegaard Floer theory. In particular, there is a fundamental inequality for both the Heegaard Floer d –invariant of Ozsváth and Szabó [30, Theorem 1.11] and Frøyshov’s Seiberg–Witten correction term [23, Theorem 4]. A lattice-theoretic result of Elkies [14] implies that if an integer homology 3–sphere has either of these invariants the same as that of the Poincaré sphere, then there are only 14 possible definite lattices that occur, up to diagonal summands; see Table 1. While our proofs of all results stated above depend only on instanton theory, we will see that for Theorem 1.3 these restrictions from other theories can replace some, but not all, of the instanton theoretic input of the argument. The same is true for Theorem 1.1, as discussed at the end of Section 4.

To prove Theorems 1.1 and 1.3, we provide partial analogues of Frøyshov’s instanton inequality from [22] in which the coefficients used are the integers modulo a power of 2, with an emphasis on the cases of 2 and 4. The inequalities provide new lower bounds for the genus of an embedded surface in a smooth closed 4–manifold in terms of data from the intersection form. Part of the input for these inequalities are relations in the instanton Floer cohomology ring of a circle times a surface, taken with the coefficient rings $\mathbb{Z}/2^k$. We only prove the relevant relations for low genus and small k , which is more than what is needed for our applications.

Apart from the determination of the relations just mentioned, the proofs of the inequalities we use are straightforward adaptations of the characteristic zero case from [22], as explained in Section 7. We also digress in Section 7.3 to discuss analogues of Frøyshov’s inequality for odd characteristic coefficients. However, these other variations do not appear to be useful.

Frøyshov has announced in several public lectures over the years the construction of two homology cobordism invariants, denoted by q_2 and q_3 , defined using the second and third Stiefel–Whitney classes of the basepoint fibration in the context of mod two instanton Floer theory, in a fashion similar to his construction of the h -invariant of [21]. We expect that the inequalities studied here are relevant to this framework. We rather indirectly touch upon these matters in Section 8, where we replace our first arguments with some using instanton Floer theory for homology 3–spheres.

Outline In Section 2 we state the inequalities obtained from instanton theory, our main technical tools. The proofs of these, which are adaptations of Frøyshov’s argument to the settings of $\mathbb{Z}/2^k$ coefficients, are presented in Section 7. In Section 3 we prove Theorem 1.3 and Corollary 1.4. In Section 4 we prove Theorem 1.1 and Corollary 1.2. More examples are presented in Section 5. In Section 6 we prove some relations in the instanton cohomology of a circle times a surface. An alternative proof of Corollary 1.2, closer in spirit to Frøyshov’s proof of Corollary 1.4 and emphasizing the role of instanton Floer homology for homology 3–spheres, is presented in Section 8. Finally, in Section 9, we discuss an example of a rank 14 definite unimodular lattice E_7^2 which illustrates the necessity of the mod 4 data used in the proof of Theorem 1.1.

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2 The inequalities

In this section we state partial analogues of Frøyshov’s instanton inequality from [22] when the coefficients used are the integers modulo certain powers of 2. Our primary focus will be the case of $\mathbb{Z}/4$; we also discuss the case of $\mathbb{Z}/2$, which is most relevant to Sections 8 and 9. In addition, we make one use of the case $\mathbb{Z}/8$. The proofs of the results in this section are presented in Section 7. For context, we also recall Frøyshov’s inequality of [22]. The reader interested in the applications may wish to skip this section and refer back when needed.

Let \mathbb{V}_g denote the $\mathbb{Z}/4$ -graded instanton cohomology of a circle times a surface of genus g equipped with a $U(2)$ -bundle having odd determinant line bundle. The 4D cobordism defined by a 2D pair-of-pants cobordism crossed with the surface induces a map $\mathbb{V}_g \otimes \mathbb{V}_g \rightarrow \mathbb{V}_g$ endowing \mathbb{V}_g with the structure of an associative ring with unit. Muñoz [28] determined a presentation for this ring over \mathbb{Q} which is recursive in the genus, and we will see later that \mathbb{V}_g is torsion-free. There are two distinguished elements in \mathbb{V}_g , denoted by α and β , of degrees 2 and 0 mod 4, respectively. Define

$$N_\alpha^2(g) := \min\{n \geq 1 : \alpha^n \equiv 0 \in \overline{\mathbb{V}}_g \otimes \mathbb{Z}/2\}$$

for $g \geq 1$, and $N_\alpha^2(0) = 0$. Here $\bar{\mathbb{V}}_g$ denotes the quotient of \mathbb{V}_g by relative Donaldson invariants involving μ -classes of loops; see Sections 6 and 7.2 for more details. The element $\alpha \pmod{2}$ in $\mathbb{V}_g \otimes \mathbb{Z}/2$ may be defined using the second Stiefel–Whitney class of the basepoint fibration, while $\beta \in \mathbb{V}_g$ is defined using the first Pontryagin class of the basepoint fibration. Let k be a power of 2. Define $N_\beta^k(0) = 0$ and for $g \geq 1$,

$$N_\beta^k(g) := \min\{n \geq 1 : \beta^n \equiv 0 \in \bar{\mathbb{V}}_g \otimes \mathbb{Z}/k\}.$$

In Section 6 we will see that $\alpha^2 \equiv \beta \pmod{8}$, and it follows, for example, that $2N_\beta^4(g) \geq N_\alpha^2(g)$. Further, $\beta^2 - 64$ is nilpotent in \mathbb{V}_g , and so $N_\alpha^2(g)$ is finite, as is $N_\beta^k(g)$ for k a power of 2 at most 64. Our primary focus will be on the case $k = 4$.

Given a definite lattice \mathcal{L} we define a nonnegative integer $m(\mathcal{L})$ as follows. For a subset $S \subset \mathcal{L}$ denote by $\text{Min}(S)$ the elements which have minimal absolute norm among elements in S . Note that $\text{Min}(S)$ is of even cardinality when it is not $\{0\}$ and when S is closed under negation, for in this case multiplication by -1 acts freely. We call $w \in \mathcal{L}$ *extremal* if it is of minimal absolute norm in its index-two coset, ie $w \in \text{Min}(w + 2\mathcal{L})$. If $\mathcal{L} = 0$, set $m(\mathcal{L}) = 0$. Otherwise, define

$$(1) \quad m(\mathcal{L}) := \max\{|w^2| - 1 : w \neq 0 \text{ extremal, } \frac{1}{2} \#\text{Min}(w + 2\mathcal{L}) \equiv 1 \pmod{2}\}.$$

It is straightforward to show that $m(\mathcal{L}) = 0$ for a diagonal lattice. In many examples in the sequel we bound $m(\mathcal{L})$ from below, and in some cases compute it.

Theorem 2.1 *Let X be a smooth, closed, oriented 4–manifold with no 2–torsion in its homology and $b_2^+(X) = 1$. Let $\Sigma \subset X$ be a smooth, orientable and connected surface in X of genus g with self-intersection 1. Let $\mathcal{L} \subset H^2(X; \mathbb{Z})/\text{Tor}$ be the unimodular negative-definite lattice of vectors vanishing on $[\Sigma]$. Then*

$$(2) \quad N_\beta^4(g) \geq f_4(\mathcal{L}),$$

where $f_4(\mathcal{L})$ is a nonnegative integer invariant of the unimodular lattice \mathcal{L} defined below in (7), satisfying $f_4(\mathcal{L}) \geq \lceil \frac{1}{2}m(\mathcal{L}) \rceil$, and which vanishes if and only if \mathcal{L} is diagonalizable.

As mentioned in the introduction, the proof is an adaptation of the characteristic-zero case in [22]. Replacing $\mathbb{Z}/4$ with other coefficient rings yields similar results, which we comment on below and at various points throughout the article. However, Theorem 2.1 is all that is needed to prove Theorem 1.1.

If X is negative definite, the inequality above applies to $X \# \mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^2$ with the genus-zero exceptional sphere; in this case, \mathcal{L} is the lattice of X . The vanishing of the left side of the inequality forces \mathcal{L} to be diagonal, implying Donaldson’s diagonalization theorem [8] assuming that X has no 2–torsion in its homology. In fact, the term $m(\mathcal{L})$, which also vanishes if and only if \mathcal{L} is diagonal (see Proposition 2.3), essentially appears in Fintushel and Stern’s proof [15] of Donaldson’s theorem.

The effectiveness of the inequality in Theorem 2.1 towards our applications comes from the determination of $N_\beta^4(g)$. In Section 6 we give evidence that the relations $\alpha^g \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$ and $\beta^{\lceil g/2 \rceil} \equiv 0 \pmod{4}$ hold in \mathbb{V}_g for all g . For our applications, we only need verify this for $g \leq 2$. To this end:

Proposition 2.2 For $g \leq 128$ we have $N_\alpha^2(g) = g$ and $N_\beta^4(g) = \lceil \frac{1}{2}g \rceil$.

We will in fact reduce the verification of this proposition for general g to an elementary arithmetic problem, which we do not attempt to solve in this article. The threshold $g = 128$ is insignificant, and is the extent to which we have verified the formulas with a computer.

A partial analogue of [Theorem 2.1](#) with β replaced by α , and with coefficients $\mathbb{Z}/4$ replaced by $\mathbb{Z}/2$, is obtained as follows. Below we will define a lattice invariant $f_2(\mathcal{L})$ which arises naturally when counting reducibles mod 2 in instanton moduli spaces cut down by the divisor associated to the second Stiefel–Whitney class of the basepoint fibration. The invariant $f_2(\mathcal{L})$ satisfies

$$(3) \quad 2f_4(\mathcal{L}) \geq f_2(\mathcal{L}) \geq m(\mathcal{L}).$$

Now assume the hypotheses of [Theorem 2.1](#). Then [Theorem 2.1](#), inequality (3), and [Proposition 2.2](#) imply the inequality

$$(4) \quad g \geq f_2(\mathcal{L})$$

if g is even and at most 128. If g is odd we still have $g + 1 \geq f_2(\mathcal{L})$. However, our computations suggest the possibility that (4) is true for all g . In [Section 7](#) we explain the issue with directly adapting the argument for [Theorem 2.1](#) to this case.

While the full generality of (4) is left open, we will see that the invariants $f_2(\mathcal{L})$ and $m(\mathcal{L})$ arise as sometimes more useful invariants than $f_4(\mathcal{L})$ in the setting of instanton homology with mod 2 coefficients, as is explored in [Sections 8](#) and [9](#).

We now define the lattice terms $f_2(\mathcal{L})$ and $f_4(\mathcal{L})$. Let \mathcal{L} be a definite unimodular lattice. Given $x, y \in \mathcal{L}$ write $x \cdot y \in \mathbb{Z}$ for their inner product, and x^2 for $x \cdot x$. For $w \in \mathcal{L}$ write $\mathcal{L}^w \subset \mathcal{L}$ for the sublattice of elements $x \in \mathcal{L}$ satisfying $w \cdot x \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$. Given $z \in \mathcal{L}$, define a linear form $L_z : \text{Sym}^*(\mathcal{L}) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ by first letting $L_z(a_1 \cdots a_m) = (z \cdot a_1) \cdots (z \cdot a_m)$, where each $a_i \in \mathcal{L}$, and then extending linearly over \mathbb{Z} . Next, define

$$(5) \quad f_2(\mathcal{L}) := \max\{|w^2| - m - 1 : 2^{-m}\eta \equiv 1 \pmod{2}\} \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0},$$

the maximum taken over triples (w, m, a) where $w \in \mathcal{L}$ is nonzero and extremal, $m \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$, $a \in \text{Sym}^m(\mathcal{L}^w)$ and, as indicated in (5) above, $2^{-m}\eta(\mathcal{L}, w, a, m) \equiv 1 \pmod{2}$, where

$$(6) \quad \eta(\mathcal{L}, w, a, m) := \frac{1}{2} \sum_{z \in \text{Min}(w+2\mathcal{L})} (-1)^{\binom{z+w}{2}} L_z(a).$$

In (5) we use the convention that $\max(\emptyset) = 0$. The conditions $a \in \text{Sym}^m(\mathcal{L}^w)$ and $w \neq 0$ imply that $\eta(\mathcal{L}, w, a, m)$ is an integer divisible by 2^m . The signs appearing in η do not actually matter for the definition of $f_2(\mathcal{L})$, but do matter for the definitions to follow. When $m = 0$ we interpret $L_z(a) = 1$; in this case we simply write $\eta(\mathcal{L}, w)$. Note that when \mathcal{L} is an *even* lattice the signs appearing in η are

all positive. We remark that our definition of η is essentially that of [21] and one half of that in [22], except that in those references, only $a = a_0^m$ is used. Note that $\eta(\mathcal{L}, w) \equiv 1 \pmod{2}$ is equivalent to the condition that $\frac{1}{2}\#\text{Min}(w + 2\mathcal{L}) \equiv 1 \pmod{2}$, and thus $f_2(\mathcal{L}) \geq m(\mathcal{L})$. We do not have an example for which $f_2(\mathcal{L}) > m(\mathcal{L})$, but we include $f_2(\mathcal{L})$ in our discussions because whatever we can prove for $m(\mathcal{L})$ also holds for $f_2(\mathcal{L})$.

Moving on to the lattice term in the mod 4 setting, we define

$$(7) \quad f_4(\mathcal{L}) := \max\left\{\frac{1}{2}(|w^2| - m) : 2^{-m_0}\eta \not\equiv 0 \pmod{4}\right\} \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0},$$

where the maximum is over triples (w, m, a) where $w \in \mathcal{L}$ is nonzero and extremal, $m \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ with $w^2 \equiv m \pmod{2}$, $a \in \text{Sym}^{m_0}(\mathcal{L}^w) \otimes \text{Sym}^{m_1}(\mathcal{L})$ with $m_0 + m_1 = m$, and $2^{-m_0}\eta(\mathcal{L}, w, a, m) \not\equiv 0 \pmod{4}$, as is indicated in (7). As claimed in (3), we have

$$f_4(\mathcal{L}) \geq \lceil \frac{1}{2} f_2(\mathcal{L}) \rceil.$$

This follows directly from the definitions if $f_2(\mathcal{L}) = |w^2| - m - 1$ for an extremal vector w with $a \in \text{Sym}^m(\mathcal{L}^w)$ and $\eta(\mathcal{L}, w, a, m) \equiv 1 \pmod{2}$ where $w^2 - m$ is even. If instead $w^2 - m$ is odd, we use that $\eta(\mathcal{L}, w, va, 1 + m) \equiv \eta(\mathcal{L}, w, a, m) \equiv 1 \pmod{2}$ for any vector $v \in \mathcal{L}$ with $v \cdot w$ odd.

Proposition 2.3 *Each of $m(\mathcal{L})$, $f_2(\mathcal{L})$ and $f_4(\mathcal{L})$ vanish if and only if \mathcal{L} is diagonalizable.*

Proof Assume for simplicity that \mathcal{L} is positive definite, and write $\mathcal{L} = \langle +1 \rangle^n \oplus L$, where L contains no vectors of square 1. If \mathcal{L} is nondiagonalizable, then $L \neq 0$. Let $w \in L$ be of minimal nonzero norm in L . Suppose $v \in w + 2\mathcal{L}$ and $v \neq \pm w$. Without loss of generality suppose $v \cdot w \geq 0$. Then $(w - v)^2 = w^2 - 2w \cdot v + v^2 \leq w^2 + v^2$. On the other hand, $w - v \in 2L - \{0\}$, and so $(w - v)^2 \geq 4w^2$ since w is minimal in $L - \{0\}$. We obtain $v^2 \geq 3w^2$. We conclude that $v \notin \text{Min}(w + 2\mathcal{L})$ and $\text{Min}(w + 2\mathcal{L}) = \{w, -w\}$, and thus $m(\mathcal{L}) \geq w^2 - 1 \geq 1$, and the same holds for $f_2(\mathcal{L})$ and $f_4(\mathcal{L})$ by (3). The converse may be proved by direct computation, or we can apply Theorem 2.1 with $X = \mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^2 \# k\overline{\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^2}$ and Σ the exceptional sphere in $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^2$ to obtain that $f_2(\mathcal{L}) = f_4(\mathcal{L}) = m(\mathcal{L}) = 0$ for the diagonal lattice $\mathcal{L} = \langle +1 \rangle^k$. \square

For the proof of Theorem 1.3 we will also make use of one inequality which arises from instanton constructions in the setting of mod 8 coefficients.

Proposition 2.4 *Define $f_8(\mathcal{L})$ by replacing “mod 4” in the definition of $f_4(\mathcal{L})$ with “mod 8”. Assume the hypotheses of Theorem 2.1, and that $g = 1$. Then $f_8(\mathcal{L}) \in \{0, 1\}$.*

The proof is similar to that of Theorem 2.1, with the additional input that $N_\beta^8(g) = 1$.

The lattice terms appearing above should be compared to the analogous term appearing in Frøyshov’s inequality for the instanton h -invariant, which is defined in the setting of \mathbb{Q} coefficients. We now recall

his result. In fact, we will state a slightly more general result. We define for a definite unimodular lattice \mathcal{L} the quantity

$$(8) \quad e_0(\mathcal{L}) := \max\{\lceil \frac{1}{4}(|w^2| - m) \rceil : \eta \neq 0\} \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0},$$

where the maximum is over triples (w, m, a) where $w \in \mathcal{L}$ is extremal, $m \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$, $w^2 \equiv m \pmod{2}$, $a \in \text{Sym}^m(\mathcal{L})$ and $\eta(\mathcal{L}, w, a, m) \neq 0$, as is abbreviated in (8). From the definitions we have

$$e_0(\mathcal{L}) \geq \lceil \frac{1}{2} f_4(\mathcal{L}) \rceil \geq \lceil \frac{1}{4} f_2(\mathcal{L}) \rceil.$$

Denote by $h(Y)$ Frøyshov’s instanton h -invariant defined in [21]. We next define

$$N_\beta^0(g) := \min\{n \geq 1 : (\beta^2 - 64)^n = 0 \in \overline{\mathbb{V}}_g \otimes \mathbb{Q}\}$$

for $g \geq 1$ and $N_\beta^0(0) = 0$. The computation $N_\beta^0(g) \leq \lceil \frac{1}{2}g \rceil$ due to Muñoz [28, Proposition 20] is used in Frøyshov’s inequality, and determines the left-hand sum in the following.

Theorem 2.5 (cf [22, Theorem 2]) *Let X be a smooth, compact, oriented 4-manifold with homology 3-sphere boundary Y and $b_2^+(X) = n \geq 1$. For $1 \leq i \leq n$, let $\Sigma_i \subset X$ be smooth, orientable, connected surfaces in X of genus g_i with $\Sigma_i \cdot \Sigma_i = 1$, which are pairwise disjoint. Denote by $\mathcal{L} \subset H^2(X; \mathbb{Z})/\text{Tor}$ the unimodular lattice of vectors vanishing on the classes $[\Sigma_i]$. Then*

$$(9) \quad h(Y) + \sum_{i=1}^n \lceil \frac{1}{2}g_i \rceil \geq e_0(\mathcal{L}).$$

We have lifted the restriction in [22] that all but one of the surfaces have genus 1. This follows from a minor technical improvement of the proof, which uses the existence of a perfect Morse function on the moduli space of projectively flat $U(2)$ connections on a surface with fixed odd determinant. This is explained in Section 7.

Each of the lattice terms defined above arises from adapting the proof of Frøyshov’s inequality; each such adaptation has a choice of coefficient ring, a corresponding relation in the instanton cohomology ring of a circle times a surface, and a possible assumption on the torsion group $\mathcal{T} \subset H^2(X; \mathbb{Z})$ of the 4-manifold. We summarize the expected scheme for some of the cases considered above as follows:

lattice term	coefficients	relation	torsion assumption
$e_0(\mathcal{L})$	\mathbb{Q}	$(\beta^2 - 64)^{\lceil g/2 \rceil} = 0$	none
$f_2(\mathcal{L})$	$\mathbb{Z}/2$	$\alpha^g \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$	$2 \nmid \#\mathcal{T}$
$f_4(\mathcal{L})$	$\mathbb{Z}/4$	$\beta^{\lceil g/2 \rceil} \equiv 0 \pmod{4}$	$2 \nmid \#\mathcal{T}$
$\lceil \frac{1}{2} f_2(\mathcal{L}) \rceil$	$\mathbb{Z}/4$	$\beta^{\lceil g/2 \rceil} \equiv 0 \pmod{4}$	$4 \nmid \#\mathcal{T}$

The relations are to be understood within $\overline{\mathbb{V}}_g$, although we expect the mod 2 and mod 4 relations, which as listed are only verified for $g \leq 128$ in this paper, to hold in \mathbb{V}_g . The first row corresponds to Theorem 2.5,

the second row to inequality (4) (which is established for g even and $g \leq 128$), and the third row to [Theorem 2.1](#). The fourth row is the result of slightly relaxing the torsion assumption in the proof of [Theorem 2.1](#). However, we will make no use of it and will not mention it further.

We have only included in our discussion the variations of Frøyshov’s inequality we have found useful for our applications. However, the proof of [Theorem 2.5](#) is easily adapted to any coefficient ring. We discuss this to some extent in [Section 7.3](#).

In [Section 9](#) we show that the indecomposable unimodular positive-definite lattice of rank 14 has $f_4(\mathcal{L}) = 2$, while $e_0(\mathcal{L}) = 1$ and $f_2(\mathcal{L}) = 2$. This example shows the necessity of the inequality associated to mod 4 coefficients in proving [Theorem 1.1](#).

3 Genus 1 applications

In this section we prove [Theorem 1.3](#) and [Corollary 1.4](#) assuming the results of [Section 2](#), and using Heegaard Floer d -invariants. Next section we will show that these results can be proved without Heegaard Floer theory, using only our instanton obstructions. We begin with a corollary of our inequalities that follows [[22](#), Corollary 1].

For a knot K in an integer homology 3–sphere Y_0 , we define $g_{4,2}(K)$ to be the minimum over all $g \geq 0$ such that there exists a $\mathbb{Z}/2$ -homology 4–ball W with $\partial W = Y_0$ and an oriented, genus g surface Σ smoothly embedded in W with $\partial \Sigma = K$. If no such data exists, we set $g_{4,2}(K) = \infty$. If K is a knot in the 3–sphere, note that $g_{4,2}(K) \leq g_4(K)$, the latter quantity being the smooth 4–ball genus of K .

Corollary 3.1 *Let Y be an integer homology 3–sphere resulting from -1 surgery on a knot K in an integer homology 3–sphere. Suppose Y bounds a smooth, compact, oriented 4–manifold X with no 2–torsion in its homology and negative-definite intersection form \mathcal{L} . If $g_{4,2}(K) \leq 128$, then we have the inequality*

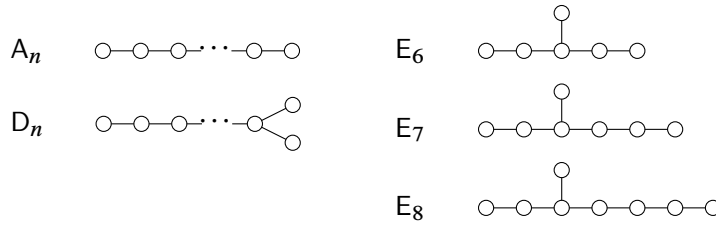
$$f_4(\mathcal{L}) \leq \lceil \frac{1}{2} g_{4,2}(K) \rceil.$$

Furthermore, if $g_{4,2}(K) = 1$, then $f_8(\mathcal{L}) \in \{0, 1\}$.

To obtain the corollary, let Z be the orientation-reversal of the negative-definite surgery cobordism from Y_0 to Y . Then apply [Theorem 2.1](#) to the closed 4–manifold $X \cup_Y Z \cup_{Y_0} W$, which has a surface of self-intersection 1 formed by capping off the component of a surface $\Sigma \subset W$ bounded by K as above with a disk from the 2–handle of the surgery cobordism Z . [Proposition 2.2](#) determines the left-hand side of (2) for $g \leq 128$, and the inequality for $f_4(\mathcal{L})$ follows. Apply [Proposition 2.4](#) to obtain the last statement regarding $f_8(\mathcal{L})$.

We recall some basic notions from the theory of lattices. Let us call a definite lattice *reduced* if there are no elements of squared norm ± 1 . A *root* in a reduced definite lattice \mathcal{L} is an element with square ± 2 .

A *root lattice* is a reduced positive-definite lattice generated by its roots. Examples are A_n , D_n , E_6 , E_7 and E_8 , each associated to a Dynkin diagram:



The root lattice is obtained by taking as basis the vertices, each having square 2; if two vertices are joined by an edge, their inner product is -1 , and is otherwise 0. For A_n we require $n \geq 1$, and for D_n , $n \geq 4$. In each case, n is the number of vertices, or the rank of the lattice. It is well known that any positive-definite root lattice can be written as a direct sum of these given lattices.

To simplify the notation below, we assume henceforth that \mathcal{L} is a positive-definite unimodular lattice. Any such lattice can be written as $\mathcal{L} = \langle +1 \rangle^n \oplus L$, where L is reduced and $n \geq 0$. We write $R \subset L$ for the root lattice generated by the roots of L , and also call R the *root lattice of \mathcal{L}* . In general, \mathcal{L} is not determined by R , but it is common in many cases to notate L by the data R ; cf [7, Chapter 16]. For example, we write A_{15} for the rank 15 unimodular positive-definite lattice whose root lattice R is isomorphic to A_{15} . For this reason we have used different fonts for unimodular lattices and root lattices, although $E_8 = \mathcal{E}_8$. The presence of an “ O ” indicates an empty root lattice; for example, the lattice O_{23} , called the shorter Leech lattice, has no roots.

Lemma 3.2 *If $f_4(\mathcal{L}) = 1$, then the root lattice $R \subset \mathcal{L}$ is indecomposable.*

Proof Write $\mathcal{L} = \langle +1 \rangle^n \oplus L$ as above, so that $R \subset L$. Suppose $w \in R$ is extremal in R and $w^2 = 4$. We first claim that $\text{Min}(w + 2\mathcal{L}) = \text{Min}(w + 2R)$. Let $v \in \text{Min}(w + 2\mathcal{L})$ with $v \notin R$, and suppose without loss of generality that $w \cdot v \geq 0$. Then $(w - v)^2 = 4 - 2w \cdot v + v^2 \leq 4 + v^2$. On the other hand, $w - v \in 2(L - R)$ implies $(w - v)^2 \geq 4 \cdot 3 = 12$, since $L - R$ has vectors only of square ≥ 3 . We conclude that $v^2 \geq 8$, contradicting the assumption that v is extremal. This proves the claim.

Now suppose R is decomposable, ie $R = R_1 \oplus R_2$. Then there are $u \in R_1$ and $v \in R_2$ both of square 2. Set $w = u + v \in R$, which has $w^2 = 4$. Then $\text{Min}(w + 2\mathcal{L}) = \{\pm u \pm v\}$ contains 4 elements, and $\eta(\mathcal{L}, w) = 2 \not\equiv 0 \pmod{4}$. Thus $f_4(\mathcal{L}) \geq \frac{1}{2}w^2 = 2$. □

The following lemma is not needed for what follows, but serves as a warmup to the computations of the next section. Furthermore, it will be used in Section 8 to give an alternative proof of Corollary 1.4.

Lemma 3.3 *If $m(\mathcal{L}) = 1$ and $R \subset \mathcal{L}$ is indecomposable, then $\mathcal{L} = E_8 \oplus \langle +1 \rangle^n$ for some $n \geq 0$.*

Proof We claim the map $\pi : R \otimes \mathbb{Z}/2 \rightarrow L \otimes \mathbb{Z}/2$ induced by inclusion is an isomorphism. (This is essentially the proof of [20, Lemma 4.3].) Suppose it is not. Choose w of minimal norm such that

n	8	12	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	E_8	D_{12}	E_7^2	A_{15}	D_8^2	$A_{11}E_6$	D_6^3, A_9^2	$A_7^2D_5$	D_4^5, A_5^4	A_3^7	A_1^{22}	O_{23}

Table 1: Elkies’ list.

$[w]$ is not in the image of π . In particular, w is extremal. Now suppose $v = w + 2u$ is extremal with $v \cdot w \geq 0$ and $v \neq \pm w$. If $[u] \notin \text{im}(\pi)$ then $2w^2 \geq w^2 - 2w \cdot v + v^2 = (w - v)^2 = 4u^2 \geq 4w^2$, the last inequality by minimality of w . This is a contradiction, and so $[u] \in \text{im}(\pi)$. In particular, $[w \pm u] \notin \text{im}(\pi)$. Then $(w \pm u)^2 \geq w^2$ implies $2|w \cdot u| \leq u^2$. But $w^2 = v^2 = w^2 + 4w \cdot u + 4u^2$ implies $|w \cdot u| = u^2$, whence $u = 0$. It follows that $\text{Min}(w + 2\mathcal{L}) = \{w, -w\}$. Then $m(\mathcal{L}) \geq w^2 - 1 \geq 2$, since w is not a root, contradicting our hypothesis on $m(\mathcal{L})$.

Thus π is an isomorphism. In particular, $\text{rank}(R) = \text{rank}(L)$ and $\det(R)$ is odd. If R is indecomposable, the latter condition implies that R is either zero, E_6 , E_8 or A_n for $n \geq 2$ even. That $m(\mathcal{L}) = 1$ when $L = R = E_8$ follows from direct computation, or by applying Corollary 3.1 to $+1$ surgery on the $(2, 3)$ torus knot, which bounds E_8 .

If R is zero, so is L , since the ranks are equal. But then \mathcal{L} is diagonal, contradicting $m(\mathcal{L}) = 1$. Next, suppose $R = A_n$. A standard model of A_n is the sublattice of \mathbb{Z}^{n+1} spanned by vectors whose coordinates add up to zero. Suppose $n \geq 3$, and let $w = (1, 1, -1, -1, 0, \dots, 0) \in A_n$. Then w is extremal in A_n with square 4, and $\text{Min}(w + 2\mathcal{L}) = \text{Min}(w + 2A_n)$ consists of the 6 vectors obtained from w by permuting the two signs. Thus $\frac{1}{2} \#\text{Min}(w + 2\mathcal{L}) = 3$, implying $m(\mathcal{L}) \geq w^2 - 1 = 3$. Finally, the cases E_6 and A_2 are ruled out by $\text{rank}(R) = \text{rank}(L)$; it is well known that there are no unimodular, nondiagonal definite lattices of rank < 8 . □

We next recall the fundamental inequality for the Heegaard Floer d -invariant of Ozsváth and Szabó [30, Theorem 1.11]. This states that if Y is an integer homology 3-sphere, and X is a smooth, negative-definite 4-manifold bounded by Y , then for any characteristic vector $\xi \in H^2(X; \mathbb{Z})/\text{Tor}$, we have

$$(10) \quad d(Y) \geq \frac{1}{4}(b_2(X) - |\xi^2|).$$

Recall that a characteristic vector ξ is an element that satisfies $\xi \cdot x \equiv x^2 \pmod{2}$ for every x in the lattice. It is classically known that the square of any characteristic vector is modulo 8 the rank of the lattice. Elkies showed in [14] that, up to adding diagonal summands $\langle +1 \rangle^n$, there are a finite number of positive-definite unimodular lattices with no characteristic vectors of squared norm less than $n - 8$, where n is the rank of the lattice. There are in fact 14; see Table 1. Thus by (10), if a nondiagonal definite lattice is bounded by Y with $d(Y) = -2$, as is the case for the orientation-reversal of the Poincaré homology 3-sphere, it must be one of these 14 lattices, possibly upon adding $\langle +1 \rangle^n$. We remark that Seiberg–Witten theory can also be used make this reduction, as Frøyshov’s monopole invariant (rescaled) also satisfies (10); see [23, Theorem 4]. It is known that if Y is $+1$ surgery on a knot of slice genus 1,

we have $d(Y) \in \{0, -2\}$; see (25). According to Elkies [13], if $d(Y) = 0$, the only possible definite lattices that Y can bound are diagonal.

We obtain the following, which, along with the observation that the statement is $\mathbb{Z}/2$ -homology cobordism invariant (see Section 5), implies Theorem 1.3.

Corollary 3.4 *Let Y be an integer homology 3-sphere resulting from $+1$ surgery on a knot K in an integer homology 3-sphere with $g_{4,2}(K) = 1$. If X is a smooth, compact, oriented and definite 4-manifold bounded by Y with nondiagonal lattice \mathcal{L} and no 2-torsion in its homology, then $\mathcal{L} = \langle +1 \rangle^n \oplus E_8$ for some $n \geq 0$.*

Proof From the above remarks regarding d -invariants and Elkies’ result, the reduced part L of \mathcal{L} is among the 14 lattices in Table 1. By Corollary 3.1 we have $f_4(\mathcal{L}) \leq 1$. We may assume $f_4(\mathcal{L}) = 1$, for otherwise \mathcal{L} is diagonal. By Lemma 3.2, L must be one of E_8 , $D_{12} = \Gamma_{12}$, A_{15} or O_{23} . We must rule out the last 3 possibilities.

Suppose $L = A_{15}$. As in Lemma 3.3, we take $w = (1, 1, -1, -1, 0, \dots, 0) \in A_{15}$, which is extremal and has $w^2 = 4$, with $\eta(\mathcal{L}, w) = 3 \not\equiv 0 \pmod{4}$. Thus $f_4(\mathcal{L}) \geq \frac{1}{2}w^2 = 2$, ruling this possibility out.

Suppose $L = O_{23}$. Minimal vectors in O_{23} have square 3. Take any $w \in O_{23}$ with $w^2 = 4$. Such vectors exist by inspecting the theta series of O_{23} , given in (7) of [7, page 443]. Then w is extremal and $\text{Min}(w + 2\mathcal{L}) = \{w, -w\}$, so again we are led to $f_4(\mathcal{L}) \geq \frac{1}{2}w^2 = 2$, eliminating O_{23} .

Finally, consider the case $L = D_{12}$. Here $f_4(\mathcal{L}) = 1$ (see Proposition 4.1), and we use instead the constraint from Corollary 3.1 that $f_8(\mathcal{L}) = 1$. To this end we take $w = (1, 1, 1, 1, 0, \dots, 0) \in D_{12}$ as our extremal vector. Then $\text{Min}(w + \mathcal{L}) = \text{Min}(w + D_{12})$ consists of the vectors $(\pm 1, \pm 1, \pm 1, \pm 1, 0, \dots, 0)$, where the number of signs is even. Thus $\eta(\mathcal{L}, w) = \frac{1}{2} \#\text{Min}(w + \mathcal{L}) = \frac{1}{2} \cdot 8 = 4 \not\equiv 0 \pmod{8}$. Thus $f_8(\mathcal{L}) \geq \frac{1}{2}w^2 = 2$, which rules out D_{12} and completes the proof. \square

Proof of Corollary 1.4 The manifold $-\Sigma(2, 3, 5)$ is $+1$ surgery on the $(2, 3)$ torus knot of genus 1. By Theorem 1.3 it remains to realize the listed lattices. The corresponding surgery cobordism provides the form $\langle +1 \rangle$, and $-\Sigma(2, 3, 5)$ bounds a plumbed manifold with lattice E_8 . After connect summing with copies of $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^2$ we obtain from these $\langle +1 \rangle^{n+1}$ and $\langle +1 \rangle^n \oplus E_8$ for $n \geq 0$. Finally, $\langle -1 \rangle^n$ cannot occur: for if it did, gluing the orientation reversed 4-manifold to the E_8 plumbing would yield a nondiagonal definite lattice $E_8 \oplus \langle +1 \rangle^n$, contradicting Donaldson’s diagonalization theorem. \square

As mentioned in the introduction, Corollary 1.4 is a slight improvement on the main result of Frøyshov’s PhD thesis [20]. Although the proof above used some Heegaard Floer theory, we will remove this dependency in the next section. In Section 8 we provide another proof of Corollary 1.4 which is closer to Frøyshov’s proof.

4 Genus 2 applications

In this section we prove [Theorem 1.1](#). We continue our notation of lattices from [Section 3](#). We begin with a family of examples for later reference. Using notation of [\[22\]](#) set

$$(11) \quad \Gamma_{4k} = \left\{ (x_1, \dots, x_{4k}) \in \mathbb{Z}^{4k} \cup (v + \mathbb{Z}^{4k}) : \sum x_i \equiv 0 \pmod{2} \right\},$$

where $v = (\frac{1}{2}, \dots, \frac{1}{2}) \in \mathbb{R}^{4k}$. We remark that Γ_4 is diagonalizable, and $\Gamma_8 = E_8$. The lattice Γ_{4k} is even precisely when k is even. We note that Γ_{12} is the same as D_{12} from [Table 1](#), the latter notation indicating that the root lattice of Γ_{12} is D_{12} . The lattice Γ_{4k} is isomorphic to the intersection form of the positive-definite plumbing with boundary the orientation-reversed Brieskorn sphere $-\Sigma(2, 2k - 1, 4k - 3)$: see [Figure 1](#). Via (11), the node k corresponds to the vector $(\frac{1}{2}, \dots, \frac{1}{2})$, while the other nodes correspond to $(1, 1, 0, \dots, 0)$ and $(1, -1, 0, \dots, 0), \dots, (0, \dots, 1, -1, 0)$. Replacing $(\frac{1}{2}, \dots, \frac{1}{2})$ by $(0, \dots, 0, 1, -1)$ in this collection yields the root lattice $D_{4k} \subset \Gamma_{4k}$.

Proposition 4.1 *We have $m(\Gamma_{4g+4}) \geq g$ and $N_{\beta}^4(g) \geq f_4(\Gamma_{4g+4}) \geq \lceil \frac{1}{2}g \rceil$.*

Proof It is shown in [\[17, Section 2\]](#) that $R(k) = \mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^2 \# (4k + 1)\overline{\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^2}$ can be decomposed as $W \cup N$, where W is the negative-definite plumbing of $\Sigma(2, 2k - 1, 4k - 3)$ with intersection form $-\Gamma_{4k}$ and N is obtained from attaching to the 4–ball a 0–framed 2–handle along the $(2, 2k - 1)$ torus knot and a (-1) –framed 2–handle along a meridian of the torus knot. Blowing down the meridian 2–handle yields $X(k)$ such that $R(k) = X(k) \# \overline{\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^2}$, with a decomposition $W \cup N'$, where N' is obtained by attaching only a $(+1)$ –framed 2–handle to the torus knot. Since the $(2, 2k - 1)$ torus knot has genus $k - 1$, the 2–handle can be capped off to form a surface $\Sigma(k) \subset X(k)$ of genus $k - 1$. The lattice of vectors vanishing on $[\Sigma(k)]$ is isomorphic to $-\Gamma_{4k}$.

The vector $w = (\frac{1}{2}, \dots, \frac{1}{2}) \in \mathcal{L} := \Gamma_{4g+4}$ is extremal with $w^2 = g + 1$ and $\text{Min}(w + 2\mathcal{L}) = \{w, -w\}$. Thus $m(\mathcal{L}) \geq w^2 - 1 = g$. It also follows that $f_4(\mathcal{L}) \geq \lceil \frac{1}{2}m(\mathcal{L}) \rceil \geq \lceil \frac{1}{2}g \rceil$. Now given g we take as our 4–manifold $X = X(g + 1)$ with genus g surface $\Sigma = \Sigma(g + 1)$. Then the left side of [\(2\)](#) is $N_{\beta}^4(g)$, and the result follows. □

This should be compared to [\[22, Proposition 1\]](#). There it is shown that $e_0(\Gamma_{4g+4}) = \lceil \frac{1}{2}g \rceil$. Thus the family of 4–manifolds with surface just given achieve sharpness in Frøyshov’s inequality of [Theorem 2.5](#). [Proposition 2.2](#) shows that the same family achieves sharpness in the inequality of [Theorem 2.1](#) for low g , and we expect this to be true for all g . If inequality [\(4\)](#) in the context of mod 2 coefficients were to hold

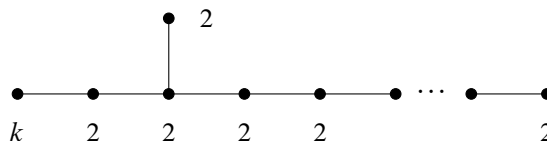


Figure 1

in general, then this family would achieve sharpness there as well. We remark that the same 4-manifolds are used by Behrens and Golla [3] in the Heegaard Floer context.

We now move on to the main line of argument for [Theorem 1.1](#). Recall that for the proof of [Theorem 1.3](#), we used [Lemma 3.2](#), which says $f_4(\mathcal{L}) = 1$ implies the root lattice of \mathcal{L} is indecomposable. The key algebraic input towards the proof of [Theorem 1.1](#) is the following upgrade.

Lemma 4.2 *If $f_4(\mathcal{L}) = 1$, then L is one of E_8 or Γ_{12} .*

Proof From [Lemma 3.2](#) we know R is indecomposable, and hence one of A_n , D_n , E_6 , E_7 , E_8 or zero. We will again use that $w \in R$ with $w^2 = 4$ has $\text{Min}(w + 2\mathcal{L}) = \text{Min}(w + 2R)$, as shown in the proof of [Lemma 3.2](#). All extremal vectors w chosen below have the property that the elements in $\text{Min}(w + 2\mathcal{L})$ have the same signs in the expression for η when $m = 0$.

Suppose $R = E_7$. A standard model for E_7 is the sublattice of $E_8 = \Gamma_8$ consisting of vectors whose coordinates add to zero. Let $w = (1, 1, -1, -1, 0, 0, 0, 0)$. Then w is extremal in E_7 of square 4, and $\text{Min}(w + 2\mathcal{L}) = \text{Min}(w + 2E_7)$ consists of the 12 vectors obtained by permuting the signs of w and those of $(0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 1, -1, -1)$. Thus $\eta(\mathcal{L}, w) = 6 \not\equiv 0 \pmod{4}$, and $f_4(\mathcal{L}) \geq \frac{1}{2}w^2 = 2$.

Suppose $R = E_6$. A standard model for E_6 is the sublattice of $E_8 = \Gamma_8$ consisting of vectors whose last three coordinates are equal. Consider $w = (1, 1, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0) \in E_6$, extremal and of square 4. Then $\text{Min}(w + 2\mathcal{L}) = \text{Min}(w + 2E_6)$ consists of the 8 vectors $(\pm 1, \pm 1, \pm 1, \pm 1, 0, 0, 0, 0)$ with an even number of signs, as well as the 2 vectors $\pm(0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 1, 1, 1)$. Thus $\eta(\mathcal{L}, w) = \frac{1}{2}(8 + 2) = 5 \not\equiv 0 \pmod{4}$, and $f_4(\mathcal{L}) \geq \frac{1}{2}w^2 = 2$.

Suppose $R = A_n$, $n \geq 3$. As in the proof of [Lemma 3.3](#), take w to be the vector $(1, 1, -1, -1, 0, \dots, 0) \in A_n$, for which $w + 2A_n$ has 6 extremal vectors. Then $\eta(\mathcal{L}, w) = 3 \not\equiv 0 \pmod{4}$, and $f_4(\mathcal{L}) \geq \frac{1}{2}w^2 = 2$.

Suppose $R = A_2$. Let $\pi: R \otimes \mathbb{Z}/2 \rightarrow L \otimes \mathbb{Z}/2$ be the map induced by inclusion. This map cannot be onto, since any unimodular lattice of rank 2 is diagonal. Choose $w \in L$ of minimal norm such that $[w] \notin \text{im}(\pi)$. We showed in the proof of [Lemma 3.3](#) that $\text{Min}(w + 2\mathcal{L}) = \{w, -w\}$. Since $w \notin R$, $w^2 \geq 3$. If $w^2 \geq 4$ then $f_4(\mathcal{L}) \geq \lfloor \frac{1}{2}w^2 \rfloor \geq 2$. So suppose $w^2 = 3$. Further suppose $w \perp R$. Then $w + r$ is extremal of square 5 and $\text{Min}(w + r + 2\mathcal{L}) = \{\pm w \pm r\}$. We compute $\eta(\mathcal{L}, w + r, w, 1) = -2w^2 = -6 \not\equiv 0 \pmod{4}$. It follows that $f_4(\mathcal{L}) \geq \frac{1}{2}((w + r)^2 - 1) = 2$. Now instead suppose w is not orthogonal to R . From $5 \pm 2w \cdot r = (w \pm r)^2 \geq 0$ and the assumption that L has no vectors of square 1 we obtain $|w \cdot r| \leq 1$ for each root r . Let r_1, r_2, r_3 be roots satisfying $r_1 + r_2 + r_3 = 0$, so that $\{\pm r_1, \pm r_2, \pm r_3\}$ is the set of all roots. The condition $|w \cdot r| \leq 1$ implies, after possibly relabeling, that $w \cdot r_1 = 0$, $w \cdot r_2 = 1$ and $w \cdot r_3 = -1$. Then $w + r_1$ is an extremal vector of square 5, $\text{Min}(w + r_1 + 2\mathcal{L}) = \{\pm w \pm r_1, \pm(w + r_1 + 2r_3)\}$, and $\eta(\mathcal{L}, w + r_1, w, 1) = -7 \not\equiv 0 \pmod{4}$, again implying $f_4(\mathcal{L}) \geq 2$.

Suppose $R = A_1$. Again, π is not onto, and its cokernel has rank at least 2, since no unimodular lattice of rank ≤ 3 has root lattice A_1 . Again choose w of minimal norm such that $[w] \notin \text{im}(\pi)$. If $w^2 \geq 4$, we are done; so suppose $w^2 = 3$. Let r be the unique root in A_1 up to sign. If $w \cdot r = 0$, then as in the

case for A_2 we can use $w + r$ to conclude $f_4(\mathcal{L}) \geq 2$. So assume $w \cdot r \neq 0$. As before, $|w \cdot r| \leq 1$, so in fact $|w \cdot r| = 1$. Let v be of minimal norm such that $[v] \notin \text{im}(\pi) + [w]$. Then the same argument as in the proof of Lemma 3.3 shows $\text{Min}(v + 2\mathcal{L}) = \{v, -v\}$. If $v^2 \geq 4$, we are done; so suppose $v^2 = 3$. If $v \cdot r = 0$, then take $v + r$ as in the case of A_2 . Suppose instead $v \cdot r \neq 0$. As with w , we have $|v \cdot r| \leq 1$, so $|v \cdot r| = 1$. Since $[v \pm w] \notin \text{im}(\pi) + [w]$, by minimality of v we have $(w \pm v)^2 \geq v^2$, from which it follows that $|w \cdot v| \leq 1$. If $w \cdot v = 0$, then for some choice of signs, $w \pm r \pm v$ has square 4; if $w \cdot v = \pm 1$, then one of $v \pm w$ has square 4. In either case we obtain a vector of square 4, and take this as our extremal vector to obtain $f_4(\mathcal{L}) \geq 2$.

Next, suppose $R = D_n$ for some $n \geq 4$. Suppose D_n has full rank within L , ie the map $\iota: D_n \otimes \mathbb{R} \rightarrow L \otimes \mathbb{R}$ induced by inclusion is an isomorphism. The only full-rank embeddings of D_n into a nondiagonal unimodular lattice L are those inside Γ_{4n} with $n \geq 2$ (see eg [12, Section 1.4]), and we have computed $f_4(\Gamma_{4n}) \geq \lfloor \frac{1}{2}n \rfloor$. If $f_4(\mathcal{L}) = 1$ then either $n = 2$, in which case $L = E_8$, contradicting the assumption that $R = D_8$, or $n = 3$, in which case $L = \Gamma_{12}$. Thus we may assume that ι is not onto. It follows also that π is not onto, since $n = \text{rank}(R) < \text{rank}(L)$. We will see that the arguments below generalize those for the cases of A_1 and A_2 given above.

We begin as in the case for A_2 . Let $w \in L$ be of minimal norm such that $[w] \notin \text{im}(\pi)$. If $w^2 \geq 4$ we are done, as argued in the above cases, and so we may assume $w^2 = 3$. We may also assume $w \notin \text{im}(\iota)$. Indeed, consider the map $L \rightarrow (L/D_n)/\text{Tor}$. The codomain here is a free abelian group of rank equal to $\text{rank}(L) - n > 0$. The argument in Lemma 3.3 shows that for a given proper subspace $S \subset L \otimes \mathbb{Z}/2$, any $w \in L$ of minimal norm among vectors such that $[w] \notin S$ has $\text{Min}(w + 2\mathcal{L}) = \{w, -w\}$; in Lemma 3.3, $S = \text{im}(\pi)$. In particular, we may choose S to be the kernel of $p: L \otimes \mathbb{Z}/2 \rightarrow (L/D_n)/\text{Tor} \otimes \mathbb{Z}/2$. By construction, $w \notin \text{im}(\iota)$.

Choose a root $r \in L$ such that $w \cdot r = 0$, following the argument as in the case of A_2 . Then $w + r$ is extremal of square 5. Let $v \in \text{Min}(w + r + 2\mathcal{L})$. Assume $v \neq \pm(w + r)$ and $v \cdot (w + r) \geq 0$. Write $v - w - r = 2u$ where $u \in L$. Then $0 \neq 4u^2 = (v - w - r)^2 \leq (w + r)^2 + v^2 = 10$ implies u is a root. Recall for any root u that from $(w \pm u)^2 \geq 0$ we have $|w \cdot u| \leq 1$, and $|r \cdot u| \leq 1$ if $u \neq \pm r$. Then

$$5 = v^2 = (w + r + 2u)^2 = 13 + 4(w \cdot u + r \cdot u)$$

implies either $w \cdot u = r \cdot u = -1$ or $u = -r$. Let N be the set of roots u such that $w \cdot u = r \cdot u = -1$. We conclude $\text{Min}(w + r + 2\mathcal{L}) = \{\pm w \pm r\} \cup \{\pm(w + r + 2u) : u \in N\}$. Let $a \in \mathcal{L}$. We compute

$$(12) \quad \eta(\mathcal{L}, w + r, a, 1) = -(2 + |N|)w \cdot a - |N|r \cdot a - 2 \sum_{u \in N} a \cdot u.$$

If we set $a = w$, using $w^2 = 3$, $w \cdot r = 0$ and the definition of N , from (12) we compute

$$(13) \quad \eta(\mathcal{L}, w + r, w, 1) = -6 - |N|.$$

If (13) is nonzero modulo 4, then $f_4(\mathcal{L}) \geq \frac{1}{2}((w + r)^2 - 1) = 2$ and we are done. So henceforth assume $|N| \equiv 2 \pmod{4}$.

We represent D_n as the sublattice of \mathbb{Z}^n of vectors whose coordinates sum to zero modulo 2. Henceforth we identify the vectors in this representation of D_n with those in the root lattice of L . We may suppose that $r = (1, 1, 0, \dots, 0) = e_1 + e_2$, since the automorphism group of D_n acts transitively on roots. Here we write e_1, \dots, e_n for the standard basis vectors of \mathbb{Z}^n . Then the vectors

$$(14) \quad r_{h,i}^\pm := -e_h \pm e_i, \quad \text{where } h \in \{1, 2\} \text{ and } 3 \leq i \leq n,$$

make up the set of roots u such that $r \cdot u = -1$. For a fixed i we have the two relations

$$(15) \quad r + r_{1,i}^+ + r_{2,i}^- = 0,$$

$$(16) \quad r + r_{1,i}^- + r_{2,i}^+ = 0.$$

Pairing (15) with w , we see that either $w \cdot r_{1,i}^+ = w \cdot r_{2,i}^- = 0$, or $w \cdot r_{1,i}^+ = -w \cdot r_{2,i}^- = \pm 1$. Similarly for (16). Thus $N_i := N \cap \{r_{1,i}^+, r_{1,i}^-, r_{2,i}^+, r_{2,i}^-\}$ has 0, 1 or 2 elements. Furthermore, $N = \bigcup_{i=3}^n N_i$.

Now let $I \subset \{3, \dots, n\}$ with $|I|$ even. Then there exists $a \in \mathcal{L}$ such that

$$(17) \quad \eta(\mathcal{L}, w + r, a, 1) \equiv 2 \sum_{i \in I} |N_i| \pmod{4}.$$

To see this, let a be the vector corresponding to $(a_1, \dots, a_n) \in D_n$, which has $a_i = 1$ if $i \in I$ and $a_i = 0$ otherwise, and then compute (17) using (12). From (17) we may assume that either

(I) $|N_i| = 1$ for all i , or

(II) $|N_i| \in \{0, 2\}$ for all i .

Indeed, if $|N_j| = 1$ and $|N_k| \in \{0, 2\}$ for some j, k , then setting $I = \{j, k\}$ in (17) yields $\eta(\mathcal{L}, w + r, a, 1) \equiv 2 \not\equiv 0 \pmod{4}$.

Case (I) Suppose $|N_i| = 1$ for all $3 \leq i \leq n$. Then $|N| = \sum |N_i| = n - 2$. Having assumed $|N| \equiv 2 \pmod{4}$, we conclude $n \equiv 0 \pmod{4}$. Set $r_1 := e_1 - e_2 \in D_n$. Since $r_1 + r_{1,i}^+ = r_{2,i}^+$, and $|N_i| = 1$ implies one of $r_{1,i}^+$ or $r_{2,i}^+$ is orthogonal to w and the other has inner product ± 1 with w , we obtain $|w \cdot r_1| = 1$. In a similar fashion, for each $3 \leq i \leq n$ let $s_i, t_i \in \{r_{1,i}^+, r_{1,i}^-\}$ be such that $|w \cdot s_i| = 1$ and $w \cdot t_i = 0$. For $2 \leq i \leq \frac{1}{2}n$ set $r_i := s_{2i-1} - t_{2i}$. This is a vector in D_n whose $(2i - 1)^{\text{th}}$ and $2i^{\text{th}}$ entries are ± 1 , with all other coordinates zero. Then $r_1, \dots, r_{n/2}$ are orthogonal roots all satisfying $|w \cdot r_i| = 1$. Since $w \notin \text{im}(t)$, its length is strictly greater than that of its projection onto the span of the subspace in $D_n \otimes \mathbb{R}$ generated by the r_i :

$$(18) \quad 3 = w^2 > \sum_{i=1}^{n/2} \frac{|w \cdot r_i|^2}{r_i^2} = \frac{1}{4}n.$$

Recalling $n \geq 4$ and $n \equiv 0 \pmod{4}$, we must have $n \in \{4, 8\}$, ie $R \in \{D_4, D_8\}$. Before considering these two cases separately, we determine one more constraint. Suppose $N_j = \{r_{1,j}^+\}$ and $N_k = \{r_{2,k}^+\}$ for some $j \neq k$; the superscripts here are not important. Then $u = r_{1,j}^+ - r_{1,k}^-$ is a root for which $u \cdot w = -2$, a contradiction. Thus $N_i = \{r_{h,i}^{\sigma_i}\}$ for each i , for some uniform $h \in \{1, 2\}$, and each $\sigma_i \in \{\pm\}$. We

Roots(D ₄)/±	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)
(1, 1, 0, 0)	0	0	0	0
(1, -1, 0, 0)	1	-1	1	-1
(-1, 0, 1, 0)	-1	1	0	0
(-1, 0, -1, 0)	0	0	-1	1
(-1, 0, 0, 1)	-1	1	0	0
(-1, 0, 0, -1)	0	0	-1	1
(0, -1, -1, 0)	1	-1	0	0
(0, -1, 1, 0)	0	0	1	-1
(0, -1, 0, -1)	1	-1	0	0
(0, -1, 0, 1)	0	0	1	-1
(0, 0, 1, 1)	-1	1	1	-1
(0, 0, 1, -1)	0	0	0	0

Table 2

conclude that after perhaps reflecting some coordinates in the range $3 \leq i \leq n$ and permuting the first two coordinates in our representation of D_n we have $N = \{r_{1,3}^+, \dots, r_{1,n}^+\}$.

Now suppose $R = D_4$. Setting $w_1 = w$, we choose w_2, \dots, w_k of minimal norm such that $[w_i] \notin \ker(p) + \sum_{j < i} [w_j]$. We may suppose each $w_i^2 = 3$, or else we are done. Our previous arguments show $|w_i \cdot w_j| \leq 1$ for $i \neq j$ and $|w_i \cdot u| \leq 1$ for all roots u . We only need to do this for $k = 3$, which is possible because there are no definite unimodular lattices of rank $< 4 + 3$ with root lattice D_4 ; the first nondiagonal definite unimodular lattice, by rank, is E_8 . By our assumption from the previous paragraph, $N = \{r_{1,3}^+, r_{1,4}^+\}$. Define the dual lattice $D_n^* = \{x \in D_n \otimes \mathbb{R} : x \cdot y \in \mathbb{Z} \text{ for all } y \in D_n\}$, and let

$$L \rightarrow D_n^*, \quad w \mapsto \bar{w},$$

denote projection. The values $w \cdot u$ for all roots $u \in D_4$ are determined and given by column (i) in Table 2, which lists one root for each pair $\{u, -u\} \in \text{Roots}(D_4)/\pm$. In particular, we see that $\bar{w} = (\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}) \in D_4^*$. Note w is orthogonal to exactly half the roots in D_4 . We may also assume case (I) for w_2 and w_3 , each with respect to some orthogonal root. (If either is case (II), move to case (II).) Then, just as was established for w , each of w_2, w_3 is orthogonal to half the roots of D_4 . Thus two of w_1, w_2, w_3 are orthogonal to a common root. Without loss of generality, suppose these two vectors are $w = w_1$ and $v \in \{w_2, w_3\}$, and that the orthogonal root is r . Recalling $|N| \equiv 2 \pmod{4}$, formula (12) yields

$$(19) \quad \eta(\mathcal{L}, w + r, v, 1) \equiv 2(r_{1,3}^+ + r_{1,4}^+) \cdot v \pmod{4}.$$

Thus we may assume that v is either orthogonal to N or pairs nontrivially to ± 1 with both of its vectors. Combining this with the constraints for v previously determined for w , the pairings of v with the roots of D_4 must be given by one of columns (i)–(iv) in Table 2. In particular, $\bar{v} = \pm \bar{w}$ or $\bar{v} = \pm(\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2})$.

The case of D_4 will now be completed by constructing an extremal vector x of square 4 such that $\eta(\mathcal{L}, x) \not\equiv 0 \pmod{4}$, following the cases of A_1 and A_2 above. There are two cases to consider: $w \cdot v = 0$ and $w \cdot v = \pm 1$.

First, suppose $w \cdot v = 0$. Upon possibly replacing v with $-v$, the pairings of v with D_4 are given by either (i) or (iii) in Table 2. Then $x = w + v + s$ is of square 4, where $s = -r_1 = e_2 - e_1$. As usual, if $x + 2u$ is extremal, then u is a root, and the condition $(x + 2u)^2 = 4$ implies $u \cdot x = -2$, and thus

$$(20) \quad \text{Min}(x + 2\mathcal{L}) = \{\pm x\} \cup \{\pm(x + 2u) : u \cdot (w + v + s) = -2, u^2 = 2, u \in L\}.$$

Now each of $y \in \{w, v, s\}$ has $|y \cdot u| \leq 1$ for any root $u \neq \pm r_1$, and so u in (20) must be orthogonal to one of the three, and have pairing -1 with the other two. If v has pairings given by (i) in Table 2, then the set of such u is given by $\{e_3 + e_4\}$. Thus $\text{Min}(x + 2\mathcal{L})/\pm$ has 2 elements, implying $f_4(\mathcal{L}) \geq 2$. If instead v corresponds to column (iii) in Table 2, then there are no solutions to $u \cdot (w + v + s) = -2$, and $\text{Min}(x + 2\mathcal{L})/\pm$ has 1 element, again implying $f_4(\mathcal{L}) \geq 2$.

Next, suppose $|w \cdot v| = 1$. Upon possibly replacing v with $-v$ we may suppose $w \cdot v = -1$. Then $x = w + v$ is extremal of square 4. Further, if $w + v + 2u$ is extremal, then $(w + v + 2u)^2 = 4$ implies $u \cdot (w + v) = -2$. Since for $y \in \{w, v\}$ and any root u we have $|y \cdot u| \leq 1$, it follows that

$$(21) \quad \text{Min}(x + 2\mathcal{L}) = \{\pm x\} \cup \{\pm(x + 2u) : u \cdot w = u \cdot v = -1, u^2 = 2, u \in L\}.$$

If v has pairings with D_4 the same as that of w , in (i) of Table 2, then there are 6 such roots u ; for (ii) there are zero; and for (iii) and (iv) there is 1. Thus $\text{Min}(x + 2\mathcal{L})/\pm$ has either 7, 1 or 2 elements, all nonzero modulo 4. Thus $f_4(\mathcal{L}) \geq 2$. This completes the case of D_4 within case (I).

Now suppose $R = D_8$. In this case we have assumed $N = \{r_{1,3}^+, r_{1,4}^+, r_{1,5}^+, r_{1,6}^+, r_{1,7}^+, r_{1,8}^+\}$. This implies in particular that $\bar{w} = (\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}) \in D_8^*$. As in the case of D_4 we can find $v \in L$ of minimal squared norm, which we may assume is 3, such that $[v] \notin \ker(p) + [w]$ and $v \cdot r = 0$. Indeed, to adapt the above argument, where $v \in \{w_2, w_3\}$, we only need to note that there are no unimodular definite lattices of rank $< 8 + 3$ with root system D_8 ; this is well known, and is verified, for example, by [7, Table 16.7]. The analogue of (19) here is

$$(22) \quad \eta(\mathcal{L}, w + r, v, 1) \equiv 2 \sum_{i=3}^8 r_{1,i}^+ \cdot v \pmod{4}.$$

The constraint that (22) is zero modulo 4, along with the constraints previously determined for w , imply, after possibly an automorphism of our representation of D_8 permuting and reflecting coordinates, that $\bar{w} = v_1$ and $\bar{v} \in \{\pm v_1, \pm v_2, \pm v_3, \pm v_4\}$, where

$$\begin{aligned} v_1 &= \left(+\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}\right), \\ v_2 &= \left(+\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}, +\frac{1}{2}, +\frac{1}{2}\right), \\ v_3 &= \left(+\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}, +\frac{1}{2}, +\frac{1}{2}, +\frac{1}{2}, +\frac{1}{2}\right), \\ v_4 &= \left(+\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}, +\frac{1}{2}, +\frac{1}{2}, +\frac{1}{2}, +\frac{1}{2}, +\frac{1}{2}, +\frac{1}{2}\right). \end{aligned}$$

Observe that $w - \bar{w} \in L \otimes \mathbb{R}$ has square 1, and is orthogonal to $\text{im}(\iota)$. Projecting v onto the subspace spanned by $\text{im}(\iota)$ and $w - \bar{w}$ we obtain

$$(23) \quad 3 = v^2 > (v \cdot (w - \bar{w}))^2 + \bar{v}^2 = (v \cdot w - \bar{v} \cdot \bar{w})^2 + 2.$$

First suppose $w \cdot v = 0$. Then (23) implies $\bar{w} \cdot \bar{v} = 0$. We must have $\bar{v} = \pm v_3$. Upon possibly replacing v by $-v$ we may assume $\bar{v} = v_3$. Then $x = w + v + s$ with $s = -r_1$ is extremal of square 4. The only root $u \in D_8$ satisfying $u \cdot (w + v + s) = -2$ is $e_3 + e_4$, and by (20) we have that $\text{Min}(x + 2\mathcal{L})/\pm$ is of cardinality 2, implying $\eta(\mathcal{L}, x) \equiv 2 \not\equiv 0 \pmod{4}$ and $f_4(\mathcal{L}) \geq 2$.

Now suppose $|w \cdot v| = 1$. Upon possibly replacing v with $-v$ we may assume $w \cdot v = -1$. Then (23) implies $\bar{v} = -v_2$ or $\bar{v} = v_4$. When $\bar{w} = v_1$ and $\bar{v} = -v_2$ the only root $u \in D_8$ satisfying $u \cdot w = u \cdot v = -1$ is $e_7 + e_8$. When $\bar{w} = v_1$ and $\bar{v} = v_4$, the only such root is $-e_1 + e_2$. In either case, (21) implies that $\text{Min}(w + v + 2\mathcal{L})/\pm$ has 2 elements, and thus $\eta(\mathcal{L}, w + v) \equiv 2 \not\equiv 0 \pmod{4}$ and $f_4(\mathcal{L}) \geq 2$. This completes the case of D_8 within case (I), and of case (I) entirely.

Case (II) Suppose $|N_i| \in \{0, 2\}$ for $3 \leq i \leq n$. Let $I_w \subset \{3, \dots, n\}$ be the set of i such that $|N_i| = 2$. Since $|N| = 2|I_w| \equiv 2 \pmod{4}$, I_w is nonempty. Recall $r_1 = e_1 - e_2$. Let $i \in I_w$. As w pairs nontrivially with all of $r_{1,i}^+, r_{1,i}^-, r_{2,i}^+, r_{2,i}^-$, and $r_1 + r_{1,i}^+ = r_{2,i}^+$, we have $w \cdot r_1 = 0$. Then $w \cdot r = w \cdot r_1 = 0$ implies $w \cdot e_1 = w \cdot e_2 = 0$, the latter computation holding in $L \otimes \mathbb{R}$. As $e_i = e_1 + r_{1,i}^+$, we have $|w \cdot e_i| = 1$ for $i \in I_w$ within $L \otimes \mathbb{R}$. Because $w \notin \text{im}(\iota)$ we have the strict inequality

$$(24) \quad 3 = w^2 > \bar{w}^2 = \sum_{i \in I_w} |w \cdot e_i|^2 = |I_w|.$$

With the constraint that $|I_w|$ is odd, this implies $|I_w| = 1$. Without loss of generality we may assume $N = N_3$. After an automorphism of our representation of D_n we may assume $N = \{r_{1,3}^+, r_{2,3}^+\}$. In particular, $\bar{w} = -e_3 = (0, 0, -1, 0, \dots, 0) \in D_n^*$.

Next, we claim $L \otimes \mathbb{Z}/2 \neq \text{im}(\pi) + [w]$. Suppose to the contrary equality holds here. Then, since by assumption $\text{rank}(L) > n$, as follows from ι having kernel, we must have $\text{rank}(L) = n + 1$, and that π is injective. Note, however, that $[2e_1] \neq 0 \in D_n \otimes \mathbb{Z}/2$ and $\pi([2e_1])$ pairs trivially with $\text{im}(\pi) + [w]$, contradicting the nondegeneracy of the pairing on $L \otimes \mathbb{Z}/2$, the latter of which follows from the unimodularity of L . This verifies the claim. Thus we may choose a vector v of minimal norm such that $[v] \notin \text{im}(\pi) + [w]$, which, as usual, we may suppose has $v^2 = 3$. We assume v has the type of case (II) as well; otherwise move to the paragraph following case (II).

Now v satisfies (24) with the provision that strict inequality may not hold, and with $|I_v|$ on the right side defined using some root orthogonal to v in place of r . The inequality is not necessarily strict because we have not claimed $v \notin \text{im}(\iota)$. We conclude $|I_v| \in \{1, 3\}$. If $|I_v| = 3$, then $v = \bar{v}$. Furthermore, after an automorphism of D_n , we may suppose $\bar{v} = e_i - e_j - e_k$ for some distinct i, j, k , similar to the determination $\bar{w} = -e_3$ above. But then $v + e_j + e_k = \bar{v} + e_j + e_k$ is a vector of square 1 in L , a contradiction. Thus we may assume $|I_v| = 1$.

Let R_w be the number of roots orthogonal to w . Then $\bar{w} = -e_3$ implies $R_w = 2(n - 1)(n - 2)$. Similarly, since $|I_v| = 1$, we have $R_v = R_w$. If $n \geq 5$, then $R_w + R_v = 4(n - 1)(n - 2) > 2n(n - 1)$, the total number of roots in D_n , so that w and v must share a common orthogonal root. If $n = 4$ we may argue as in case (I), using that there are no unimodular lattices with root lattice D_n of rank less than $3 + 4$, to sequentially choose w_2, w_3 and then choose $v \in \{w_2, w_3\}$. Thus without loss of generality, v and w are both orthogonal to a common root, which we may suppose is r .

It follows then that $\bar{v} = \pm e_i$ for some $3 \leq i \leq n$. First suppose $i \neq 3$. Without loss of generality we may assume $\bar{v} = -e_4$. Our minimality assumption on v implies $|w \cdot v| \leq 1$. Suppose $w \cdot v = 0$. Consider the extremal vector $x = w + v + s$ of squared norm 4, where $s = e_3 + e_4$. There are no roots u satisfying $u \cdot (w + v + s) = -2$, and so (20) implies $\text{Min}(x + 2\mathcal{L})/\pm$ has 1 element, whence $f_4(\mathcal{L}) \geq \frac{1}{2}x^2 = 2$. If instead $|w \cdot v| = 1$, then consider $x = w \pm v$, with the sign chosen so that x is extremal of square 4. There is only one root u such that $u \cdot w = u \cdot v = -1$, and so (21) implies $\text{Min}(x + 2\mathcal{L})/\pm$ has 2 elements, whence $f_4(\mathcal{L}) \geq 2$.

Now suppose $\bar{v} = \pm e_3$. Consider the case $w \cdot v = 0$. Upon perhaps replacing v by $-v$ we may assume $\bar{v} = -e_3$. Then $x = w + v + s$, with s as before, is an extremal vector of square 4. The only root u satisfying $u \cdot (w + v + s) = -2$ is $e_3 - e_4$, so (20) implies $\text{Min}(x + 2\mathcal{L})/\pm$ has 2 elements, whence $f_4(\mathcal{L}) \geq \frac{1}{2}x^2 = 2$. Now consider $\bar{v} = \pm e_3$ and $|w \cdot v| = 1$. Upon perhaps replacing v with $-v$ we may suppose $w \cdot v = -1$. Then $x = w + v$ is an extremal vector of square 4. The roots u satisfying $u \cdot v = u \cdot w = -1$ are (i) none, if $\bar{v} = +e_3$, or (ii) $e_3 \pm e_i$ for $i \neq 3$, if $\bar{v} = -e_3$, of which there are $2(n - 1)$ many. Then (21) implies $\text{Min}(x + 2\mathcal{L})/\pm$ has either (i) 1 element or (ii) $1 + 2(n - 1)$ elements, both of which are odd numbers, and hence imply $f_4(\mathcal{L}) \geq 2$. This completes case (II).

In the above treatment we assumed the vectors of square 3 used were all in either case (I) or case (II). Suppose we encounter at least one of each type. Then by the argument in case (I), $n \in \{4, 8\}$. As there are no unimodular definite lattices with root lattice D_4 or D_8 of rank < 16 other than E_8 and Γ_{12} , we can sequentially choose square 3 extremal vectors so that we have 3 such vectors in either case (I) or case (II), which is enough to make either of the above arguments go through. This completes the case D_n for $n \geq 4$ entirely.

Finally, suppose L has no roots. Let $w \in L$ be of minimal nonzero norm. Then $w^2 \geq 3$ and by the usual argument $\text{Min}(w + 2\mathcal{L}) = \{w, -w\}$. If $w^2 \geq 4$ then $f_4(\mathcal{L}) \geq \lceil \frac{1}{2}f_2(\mathcal{L}) \rceil \geq 2$. So suppose $w^2 = 3$. Let $v \in L$ be of minimal norm such that $[v] \notin \{0, [w]\} \subset L \otimes \mathbb{Z}/2$. Then v is extremal and $\text{Min}(v + 2L) = \{v, -v\}$ as in the proof of Lemma 3.3. If $v^2 \geq 4$ we are again done. So suppose $v^2 = 3$.

For $s, t \in L$ of square 3 and $s \cdot t \leq 0$ we have $(s + t)^2 = 6 + 2s \cdot t \leq 6$. Because L has no vectors of square 2, the vector $s + t$ has square 4 or 6. In the former case, $\text{Min}(s + t + 2\mathcal{L}) = \{\pm(s + t)\}$ and $f_4(\mathcal{L}) \geq 2$. So we may assume $(s + t)^2 = 6$, or equivalently $s \cdot t = 0$. In particular, we may assume that any two vectors $s, t \in L$ of square 3 with $s \neq \pm t$ are orthogonal.

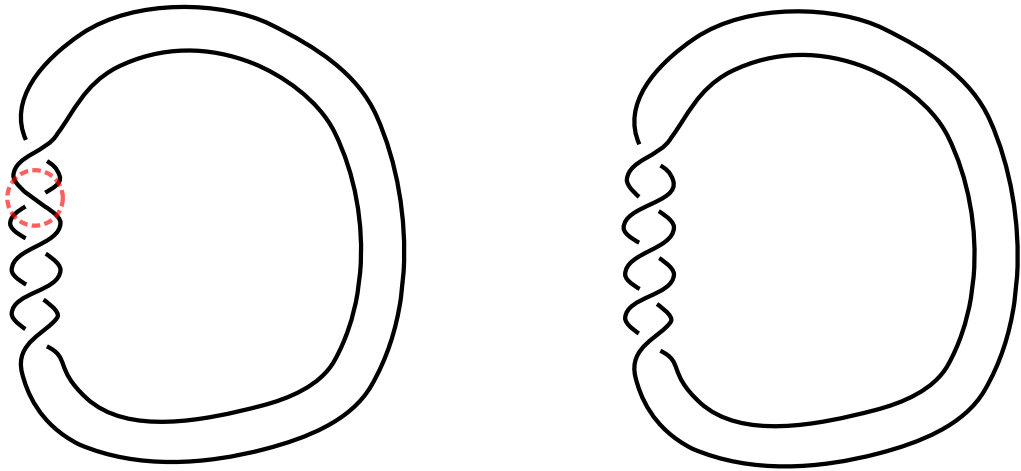


Figure 2: The (2,3) torus knot, depicted on the left, is transformed into the (2,5) torus knot, on the right, by changing the encircled negative crossing to a positive one.

Now consider $x = w + v$. This is extremal of square 6. If $z = x + 2u \in \text{Min}(x + 2\mathcal{L})$ and $z \neq \pm x$, $z \cdot x \geq 0$, then $0 \neq 4u^2 = (x - z)^2 \leq 12$ implies $u^2 = 3$, and $6 = (x + 2u)^2$ implies $u \cdot w + u \cdot v = -3$. By the assumption made at the end of the previous paragraph, we must have $u = -w$ or $u = -v$. Thus $\text{Min}(x + 2\mathcal{L}) = \{\pm w \pm v\}$. We then compute

$$\begin{aligned} \eta(\mathcal{L}, x, wv, 2) &= (-1)^{((x+w+v)/2)^2} (w \cdot (w+v))(v \cdot (w+v)) + (-1)^{((x+w-v)/2)^2} (w \cdot (w-v))(v \cdot (w-v)) \\ &= 9 + 9 = 18 \not\equiv 0 \pmod{4}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus $f_4(\mathcal{L}) \geq \frac{1}{2}(x^2 - 2) = 2$. This completes the case of L having no roots, and, having completed all cases, concludes the proof of the lemma. □

We obtain the following, which implies [Theorem 1.1](#).

Corollary 4.3 *Suppose Y is an integer homology 3–sphere which is $+1$ surgery on a knot K in an integer homology 3–sphere with $g_{4,2}(K) = 2$. If X is a smooth, compact, oriented and definite 4–manifold bounded by Y with nondiagonal lattice \mathcal{L} and no 2–torsion, then the reduced part of \mathcal{L} is either E_8 or Γ_{12} .*

Proof [Corollary 3.1](#) implies $f_4(\mathcal{L}) \leq 1$. Since \mathcal{L} is not diagonal, $f_4(\mathcal{L}) = 1$. By [Lemma 4.2](#), the reduced part of \mathcal{L} must be one of E_8 or Γ_{12} . □

Proof of Corollary 1.2 The manifold $-\Sigma(2, 5, 9)$ is $+1$ surgery on the (2, 5) torus knot of genus 2. The corresponding surgery cobordism provides the form $\langle +1 \rangle$. As we saw at the start of this section, the canonical positive-definite plumbing bounded by $-\Sigma(2, 5, 9)$ is isomorphic to Γ_{12} . Next, we observe from [Figure 2](#) that the (2, 5) torus knot is obtained from the (2, 3) torus knot by a positive crossing

change. This induces a cobordism from $+1$ surgery on the latter to that of the former with intersection form $\langle +1 \rangle$. (This is a technique used extensively in [5].) Attaching to this cobordism the E_8 plumbing bounded by $-\Sigma(2, 3, 5)$ yields $E_8 \oplus \langle +1 \rangle$. Finally, connect summing these three examples with copies of $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^2$ yields all lattices listed in [Theorem 1.1](#), except for E_8 .

The author is aware of two constructions realizing E_8 . The first has been communicated to the author by Motoo Tange and uses Kirby calculus. The second appears in the author's work with Golla [26], and uses the topology of rational cuspidal curves. \square

The proof of [Theorem 1.1](#) only uses input from instanton theory and some algebra. It is now clear that Heegaard Floer d -invariants were not necessary to prove [Theorem 1.3](#): starting from [Theorem 1.1](#), the extra input is our computation $f_8(\Gamma_{12}) \geq 2$ from the previous section, and the constraint for $f_8(\mathcal{L})$ given in [Corollary 3.1](#).

On the other hand, some of the work in proving [Theorem 1.1](#) may be supplemented by the d -invariant, as done in the previous section for [Theorem 1.3](#). Combining work of Ni and Wu [29, Proposition 1.6] and Rasmussen [31, Theorem 2.3] gives the inequalities

$$(25) \quad 0 \leq -\frac{1}{2}d(Y) \leq \lceil \frac{1}{2}g_4(K) \rceil,$$

where Y is $+1$ surgery on the knot K . If $g_4(K) = 2$, then as in the case $g_4(K) = 1$, the only possible nondiagonal definite lattices that can occur, up to diagonal summands, are the 14 listed in [Table 1](#). Using [Corollary 3.1](#) and [Lemma 3.2](#), of those 14 only E_8 , $D_{12} = \Gamma_{12}$, A_{15} and O_{23} can possibly occur. As already listed in the proof of [Theorem 1.3](#) of the previous section, we have $f_4(A_{15}), f_4(O_{23}) \geq 2$, both of which are special cases of the computations in the proof of [Lemma 4.2](#).

5 More examples

The question of which unimodular definite lattices arise from smooth 4-manifolds with no 2-torsion in their homology bounded by a fixed homology 3-sphere Y only depends on the $\mathbb{Z}/2$ -homology cobordism class of Y . It is natural to wonder whether we can find linearly independent elements in the $\mathbb{Z}/2$ -homology cobordism group $\Theta_{\mathbb{Z}/2}^3$ all of which bound the same set of definite unimodular lattices. If one restricts to homology cobordism classes that only bound diagonal lattices, one needs only examine the infinitely generated kernels of the invariants d and h , for example.

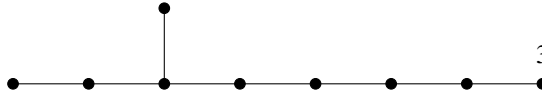
We may then consider classes that bound the same lattices as the Poincaré sphere. For this, recall that Furuta [25] and Fintushel and Stern [16] used instantons to show that the family $[\Sigma(2, 3, 6k - 1)]$ for $k \geq 1$ is an infinite linearly independent set in $\Theta_{\mathbb{Z}/2}^3$. The manifold $-\Sigma(2, 3, 6k - 1)$ is $+1$ surgery on a genus 1 twist knot with $2k - 1$ half twists. However, not all of these classes can bound the same lattices as $[\Sigma(2, 3, 5)]$. Indeed, the Rochlin invariant of $-\Sigma(2, 3, 6k - 1)$ is congruent to $k \pmod{2}$, so the lattice E_8 cannot occur when k is even. In fact, here is an example where the list of lattices is the same as that of the Poincaré sphere except for E_8 :

Corollary 5.1 *If a smooth, compact, oriented and definite 4–manifold with no 2–torsion in its homology has boundary $-\Sigma(2, 3, 11)$, then its intersection form is equivalent to one of*

$$\langle +1 \rangle^n \quad \text{for some } n \geq 1, \quad E_8 \oplus \langle +1 \rangle^n \quad \text{for some } n \geq 1,$$

and all of these possibilities occur.

There are two ways to see that $-\Sigma(2, 3, 11)$ bounds the lattice $E_8 \oplus \langle +1 \rangle$. For one, its canonical positive-definite plumbing graph is given as follows:



The unmarked nodes represent vectors of square 2, and together form a sublattice isomorphic to E_8 ; thus the lattice must be isomorphic to $E_8 \oplus \langle +1 \rangle$. Alternatively, we note that the twist knot with 3 half twists is obtained from the $(2, 3)$ torus knot by a changing a positive crossing to a negative crossing, and argue as in the proof of [Corollary 4.3](#). We note that both arguments generalize to show that $-\Sigma(2, 3, 6k - 1)$ bounds $E_8 \oplus \langle +1 \rangle^{k-1}$.

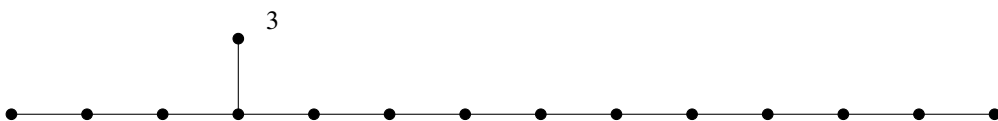
One might hope for examples of $-\Sigma(2, 3, 6k - 1)$ bounding E_8 when k is odd other than $k = 1$. The determination of all such k seems to be an open problem, but has been studied by Tange, who shows in [\[33, Theorem 1.7\]](#) that this is the case for $k = 3, 5, \dots, 23, 25$ and $k = 29$.

Corollary 5.2 *The linearly independent elements $[\Sigma(2, 3, 12n + 5)] \in \Theta^3_{\mathbb{Z}/2}$ for $0 \leq n \leq 12, n = 14$ bound the same definite unimodular lattices arising from smooth 4–manifolds with no 2–torsion.*

Tange has informed the author that this list may be enlarged to include $n = 13, 15$. Yet another example that bounds the same set of lattices as the Poincaré sphere $-\Sigma(2, 3, 5)$ is the Brieskorn sphere $-\Sigma(3, 4, 7)$, whose positive-definite plumbing graph has associated lattice isomorphic to E_8 , and which is $+1$ surgery on the knot 10_{132} of smooth 4–ball genus 1.

In the introduction it was mentioned that $-\Sigma(3, 4, 11)$, obtained from $+1$ surgery on the $(3, 4)$ torus knot of genus 3, is a natural candidate to consider beyond [Theorem 1.1](#). Here the Heegaard Floer d –invariant is -2 , so the only possible nondiagonal reduced definite lattices that can occur are those in [Table 1](#). We expect most of these lattices are ruled out by our obstructions. We show in [\[26\]](#) that the lattices $\langle +1 \rangle$, E_8 , Γ_{12} , E_7^2 and A_{15} occur. As the proofs there use the topology of rational cuspidal curves, here we only explain how to realize $\langle +1 \rangle$, $E_8 \oplus \langle +1 \rangle$, $\Gamma_{12} \oplus \langle +1 \rangle$ and A_{15} .

First, $\langle +1 \rangle$ is realized by the surgery cobordism as in all previous examples. Next, the rank 15 lattice A_{15} arises as the lattice of the positive-definite plumbing bounded by $-\Sigma(3, 4, 11)$, given by



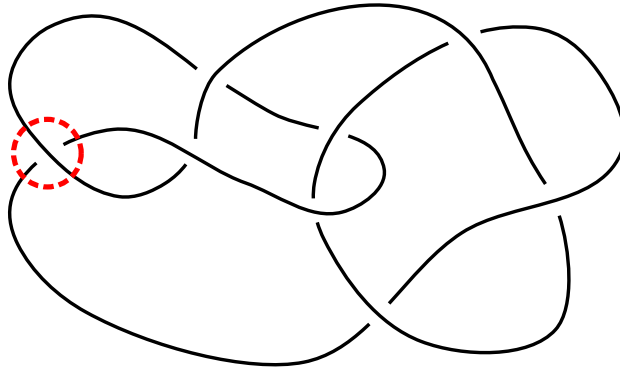


Figure 3: The (3,4) torus knot, also known as 8_{19} in Rolfsen notation, is transformed into the (2,5) torus knot by changing the encircled positive crossing to a negative crossing.

The unmarked nodes have weight 2. Indeed, viewing A_{15} as the subset of \mathbb{Z}^{16} consisting of vectors whose coordinates sum to zero, the lattice A_{15} may be defined as

$$A_{15} = A_{15} \cup (g + A_{15}) \cup (2g + A_{15}) \cup (3g + A_{15}),$$

where $g = \frac{1}{4}(-1^{12}, 3^4) \in A_{15}^*$ and superscripts denote repeated entries. Then the top weight 3 node in the plumbing graph represents g , and the other nodes are the 14 roots of A_{15} of the form

$$(0, \dots, 0, 1, -1, 0, \dots, 0)$$

with the far left entry equal to zero. Finally, the lattices $E_8 \oplus \langle +1 \rangle$ and $\Gamma_{12} \oplus \langle +1 \rangle$ occur because there is a 2-handle cobordism from $-\Sigma(2, 5, 9)$ to $-\Sigma(3, 4, 11)$ with intersection form $\langle +1 \rangle$. Indeed, the (3,4) torus knot is transformed into the (2, 5) torus knot by changing a positive crossing as in Figure 3, as similarly done in the proof of Corollary 1.4.

Finally, consider again the family $-\Sigma(2, 2k - 1, 4k - 3)$, obtained from $+1$ surgery on the family of $(2, k)$ torus knots. The initial cases $k = 2$ and $k = 3$ provided our main examples for Theorems 1.1 and 1.3. The methods in this article alone seem unable to treat the general case. However, we know that the definite lattices

$$(26) \quad \langle +1 \rangle \quad \text{and} \quad \Gamma_{4(k-i)} \oplus \langle +1 \rangle^i \quad \text{for } 0 \leq i \leq k$$

and their sums with $\langle +1 \rangle^n$ are bounded by $-\Sigma(2, 2k - 1, 4k - 3)$; the first is the surgery cobordism, and the rest follow from the fact that the $(2, k - i)$ torus knot is obtained from the $(2, k)$ torus knot by changing i positive crossings. These are certainly not all the possible lattices: because $-\Sigma(2, 5, 9)$ bounds $\Gamma_8 = E_8$, for $k \geq 3$ the 3-manifold $-\Sigma(2, 2k - 1, 4k - 3)$ bounds $\Gamma_8 \oplus \langle +1 \rangle^{k-3}$. Even if we ignore the issue of diagonal summands, the list is not complete. For example, it is shown in [26, Proposition 4.14] that $-\Sigma(2, 7, 13)$ bounds the lattice A_{15} .

6 Relations for a circle times a surface

In this section we discuss the relations that appear in the table of [Section 2](#) and in the proof of [Theorem 2.1](#). In particular, we prove [Proposition 2.2](#), and reduce the verification of the general relations $\alpha^g \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$ and $\beta^{\lceil g/2 \rceil} \equiv 0 \pmod{4}$ to a concrete arithmetic problem.

We define \mathbb{V}_g to be the instanton homology, with integer coefficients, of a circle times a surface Σ of genus g with a $U(2)$ –bundle that has second Stiefel–Whitney class Poincaré dual to the circle factor. More precisely, \mathbb{V}_g is the $\mathbb{Z}/4$ –graded group of Muñoz, which is the quotient of the $\mathbb{Z}/8$ –graded group \mathbb{V}'_g by an involution τ ; see the discussion in [\[22, Section 10\]](#). Each of these is endowed with a ring structure using the maps induced by pairs of pants cobordisms times Σ . There is a map

$$(27) \quad \Psi : \text{Sym}^*(H_0(\Sigma; \mathbb{Z}) \oplus H_2(\Sigma; \mathbb{Z})) \otimes \Lambda^*(H_1(\Sigma; \mathbb{Z})) \rightarrow \mathbb{V}_g,$$

which defines relative Donaldson invariants for the 4–manifold $\Sigma \times D^2$ with suitable bundle data. Let $x \in H_0(\Sigma; \mathbb{Z})$ be the point class and $\{\gamma_i\}_{i=1}^{2g}$ be a symplectic basis of $H_1(\Sigma; \mathbb{Z})$ such that $\gamma_i \cdot \gamma_{i+g} = 1$. The mapping class group of Σ acts on \mathbb{V}_g , and the three elements

$$(28) \quad \alpha = 2\Psi([\Sigma]), \quad \beta = -4\Psi(x) \quad \text{and} \quad \gamma = -\sum_{i=1}^g \Psi(\gamma_i \gamma_{i+g})$$

generate the invariant part over the rationals; Muñoz [\[28, Section 4\]](#) gives a presentation which is recursive in the genus. Our definition of γ is one half of that from loc. cit.; see [Section 7.2](#) for this justification. The ring \mathbb{V}'_g has similarly defined elements, which we denote by α', β', γ' , of $\mathbb{Z}/8$ –gradings 2, 4, 6, respectively. The involution τ acting on \mathbb{V}'_g is a module homomorphism and shifts gradings by 4 (mod 8); the equivalence classes of α', β', γ' in \mathbb{V}_g are of course α, β, γ .

Lemma 6.1 *Suppose a polynomial $r(\alpha, \beta, \gamma)$ is a relation in \mathbb{V}_g . If the corresponding polynomial $r(\alpha', \beta', \gamma')$ in \mathbb{V}'_g is of homogeneous $\mathbb{Z}/8$ –grading, then it is a relation in \mathbb{V}'_g .*

Proof If the quotient polynomial $r(\alpha, \beta, \gamma)$ is a relation, $r(\alpha', \beta', \gamma') = (1 - \tau)\phi$ for some ϕ within \mathbb{V}'_g . Since τ is of degree 4, and $r(\alpha', \beta', \gamma')$ has homogeneous $\mathbb{Z}/8$ –grading, $\phi = 0 \in \mathbb{V}'_g$. □

When proving our inequalities, we will need to use relations in \mathbb{V}'_g . [Lemma 6.1](#) says that so long as they are homogeneously $\mathbb{Z}/8$ –graded in \mathbb{V}'_g it suffices to show the corresponding relations in \mathbb{V}_g . This is the case for the relations we consider, and henceforth we restrict our attention to \mathbb{V}_g .

Let N_g be the moduli space of projectively flat connections on a $U(2)$ –bundle with fixed odd determinant over a surface of genus g . Muñoz’s work shows that $\mathbb{V}_g \otimes \mathbb{C}$ is isomorphic to $H^*(N_g; \mathbb{C})$, and in fact the ring structure of the former is a deformation of the latter. More precisely, the product in \mathbb{V}_g is equal to the cup product in $H^*(N_g; \mathbb{C})$ up to lower-order terms of equal mod 4 gradings. Furthermore, the isomorphism is well defined over the rationals, so we may replace \mathbb{C} by \mathbb{Q} . There is also a Morse–Bott spectral sequence, due to Fukaya [\[24\]](#), starting at $H^*(N_g; \mathbb{Z})$ and converging to \mathbb{V}_g . Since $H^*(N_g; \mathbb{Z})$ is

torsion-free, as proven by Atiyah and Bott [2, Theorem 9.10], and the spectral sequence collapses over \mathbb{Q} , it must collapse for all coefficient fields. Thus we obtain:

Proposition 6.2 \mathbb{V}_g is torsion-free.

However, the ring structure of \mathbb{V}_g is substantially more complicated than that of $\mathbb{V}_g \otimes \mathbb{Q}$, since α, β, γ do not generate the invariant part of \mathbb{V}_g . This is already true for $H^*(N_g; \mathbb{Z})$, which requires more generators than does $H^*(N_g; \mathbb{Q})$; see [2, Section 9]. Nonetheless, the relations we are interested in can be extracted from Muñoz's presentation, which we now recall: set $\zeta_0 = 1$, and recursively define

$$\zeta_{r+1} = \alpha\zeta_r + r^2(\beta + (-1)^r 8)\zeta_{r-1} + 4r(r-1)\gamma\zeta_{r-2}.$$

Each $\zeta_r = \zeta_r(\alpha, \beta, \gamma)$ is a polynomial with integer coefficients in α, β, γ . Then the ideal $(\zeta_g, \zeta_{g+1}, \zeta_{g+2})$ is a complete set of relations for the invariant part of $\mathbb{V}_g \otimes \mathbb{Q}$; see [28, Theorem 16, Proposition 20].

Lemma 6.3 $\beta \equiv \alpha^2 \pmod{8}$.

Proof The corresponding relation holds in $H^4(N_g; \mathbb{Z})$. Indeed, the degree 4 element

$$\binom{g-1}{2}\alpha^2 + (2g-1) \cdot \frac{1}{8}(\alpha^2 - \beta)$$

is integral, see [32, Equation (7), Proposition 2.4]; it is the second Chern class of the pushforward of a universal bundle. Multiplying both sides by 8, and a mod 8 inverse for $(2g-1)$, yields $\beta \equiv \alpha^2 \pmod{8}$ in the ring $H^4(N_g; \mathbb{Z})$. Since the product in \mathbb{V}_g is a deformation of the product in $H^*(N_g; \mathbb{Z})$ respecting mod 4 gradings, within \mathbb{V}_g we have $\alpha^2 - \beta + c \equiv 0 \pmod{8}$, where c is some constant. There is a map $r_k: \mathbb{V}_g \rightarrow \mathbb{V}_{g-k}$ induced by a cobordism which contracts k handles; cf [28, Lemma 9]. For $g \geq 1$, we have $0 \equiv r_{g-1}(\alpha^2 - \beta + c) \equiv c \pmod{8}$ since in \mathbb{V}_1 the relations $\alpha = 0$ and $\beta = 8$ follow from ζ_1 and ζ_2 . Thus $c \equiv 0 \pmod{8}$ and the relation follows. \square

This lemma allows us to write $\beta = \alpha^2 + 8\varepsilon$ for some element $\varepsilon \in \mathbb{V}_g$. Define the double factorial $n!! = n(n-2)(n-4)\cdots 1$ for $n > 0$ odd. We propose the following.

Conjecture 6.4 The expression $(2g-3)!!\zeta_g(\alpha, \alpha^2 + 8\varepsilon, \gamma)/g!$ is a polynomial in α, ε and γ with integer coefficients. Furthermore, the reduction of this polynomial mod 4 is congruent to $\pm\alpha^g$.

The verification of this conjecture implies the relations $\alpha^g \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$ and $\beta^{\lceil g/2 \rceil} \equiv 0 \pmod{4}$ within \mathbb{V}_g . Indeed, the polynomial in the conjecture is a relation in \mathbb{V}_g , since according to Muñoz it is a relation in $\mathbb{V}_g \otimes \mathbb{Q}$, and \mathbb{V}_g is torsion-free. Its reduction modulo 4 implies the relation $\alpha^g \equiv 0 \pmod{4}$, which by Lemma 6.3 implies the two desired relations.

In fact, for some of our applications in mind, less is required. For example, we consider what is required to prove the conjectural inequality obtained from Theorem 2.1 by replacing the left-hand side with $\lceil \frac{1}{2}g \rceil$. Define $N_\beta^4(g)'$ to be the nilpotency degree of β in the ring $(\overline{\mathbb{V}}_g/\text{Tor}) \otimes \mathbb{Z}/4$. The argument given for Theorem 2.1 in the next section is easily seen to work for $N_\beta^4(g)'$ in place of $N_\beta^4(g)$. Of course

g	$(2g-3)!!\zeta_g(\alpha, \alpha^2 + 8\varepsilon, \gamma)/g!$
1	α
2	$\alpha^2 + 4\varepsilon - 4$
3	$3\alpha^3 + 20\alpha\varepsilon + 12\alpha + 4\gamma$
4	$15\alpha^4 + 160\alpha^2\varepsilon - 120\alpha^2 + 20\alpha\gamma + 360\varepsilon^2 - 720\varepsilon + 360$
5	$105\alpha^5 + 1456\alpha^3\varepsilon + 840\alpha^3 + 224\alpha^2\gamma + 4984\alpha\varepsilon^2 + 6160\alpha\varepsilon + 1232\gamma\varepsilon + 3192\alpha + 560\gamma$
6	$945\alpha^6 + 16884\alpha^4\varepsilon - 11340\alpha^4 + 2016\alpha^3\gamma + 93576\alpha^2\varepsilon^2 - 146160\alpha^2\varepsilon + 14448\alpha\gamma\varepsilon + 151200\varepsilon^3$ $+ 74088\alpha^2 - 5040\alpha\gamma + 840\gamma^2 - 453600\varepsilon^2 + 453600\varepsilon - 151200$
7	$10395\alpha^7 + 221364\alpha^5\varepsilon + 124740\alpha^5 + 28116\alpha^4\gamma + 1558392\alpha^3\varepsilon^2 + 1851696\alpha^3\varepsilon + 342672\alpha^2\gamma\varepsilon$ $+ 3621024\alpha\varepsilon^3 + 957528\alpha^3 + 144144\alpha^2\gamma + 9240\alpha\gamma^2 + 6852384\alpha\varepsilon^2 + 978912\gamma\varepsilon^2$ $+ 7061472\alpha\varepsilon + 931392\gamma\varepsilon + 1929312\alpha + 522720\gamma$
8	$135135\alpha^8 + 3418272\alpha^6\varepsilon - 2162160\alpha^6 + 365508\alpha^5\gamma + 31141968\alpha^4\varepsilon^2 - 43531488\alpha^4\varepsilon + 5319600\alpha^3\gamma\varepsilon$ $+ 118472640\alpha^2\varepsilon^3 + 22177584\alpha^4 - 1873872\alpha^3\gamma + 264264\alpha^2\gamma^2 - 285597312\alpha^2\varepsilon^2 + 19260384\alpha\gamma\varepsilon^2$ $+ 151351200\varepsilon^4 + 288699840\alpha^2\varepsilon - 14030016\alpha\gamma\varepsilon + 1633632\gamma^2\varepsilon - 605404800\varepsilon^3 - 89945856\alpha^2$ $+ 7948512\alpha\gamma - 480480\gamma^2 + 908107200\varepsilon^2 - 605404800\varepsilon + 151351200$

Table 3

$N_\beta^4(g)' \leq N_\beta^4(g)$, although they are likely equal. The point of using this alternative definition is as follows. We may set $\gamma = 0$ in the recursive equation to define $\zeta'_{r+1} = \zeta'_r + r^2(\beta + (-1)^r 8)\zeta'_{r-1}$ with $\zeta'_0 = 1$. Then $\xi_r = \zeta'_r(\alpha, \alpha^2 + 8\varepsilon)$ is a polynomial only in α and ε . As we only are concerned with relations mod 4, to prove that $N_\beta^4(g)' = \lceil \frac{1}{2}g \rceil$ it suffices to show that the rational coefficients of $\xi_r/r!$ all have reduced fraction forms with odd denominators, and have numerators divisible by 4, except for the coefficient in front of α^g , which should be odd.

Proof of Proposition 2.2 The first few instances of Conjecture 6.4 are verified by hand, and we verify the rest of the cases $g \leq 128$ by computer. The first 8 polynomials defined in Conjecture 6.4 are given in Table 3 for illustration. □

Finally, we remark that $\alpha^g \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$ is a relation in the ring $H^*(N_g; \mathbb{Z}/2)$ by work of the author with M Stoffregen [32]. The above scheme suggests an alternative route to proving this relation. Indeed, the ring $H^*(N_g; \mathbb{Q})$ has its own recursive presentation, which inspired the work of Muñoz; in the recursive definition of ζ_r above, simply remove the term $(-1)^r 8$. Then Conjecture 6.4 may be formulated with these modified polynomials. In particular, we suspect that the relation $\alpha^g \equiv 0 \pmod{4}$ also holds in $H^*(N_g; \mathbb{Z}/4)$.

In [32] it is also proven that $\alpha^{g-1} \not\equiv 0 \pmod{2}$ within $H^*(N_g; \mathbb{Z}/2)$. This implies $N_\alpha^2(g) \geq g$, which aligns with the first part of Proposition 4.1 and inequality (4). Indeed, since $\mathbb{V}_g \otimes \mathbb{Z}/2$ is a deformation of the ring $H^*(N_g; \mathbb{Z}/2)$, the deformations being of lower degree but homogeneous mod 4, then because α^{g-1} is nonzero in the latter, it must also be so in the former.

7 Adapting Frøyshov's argument

We now proceed to the proofs of [Theorem 2.1](#) and [Proposition 2.4](#). These are adaptations of Frøyshov's argument as given in [\[22\]](#), which we closely follow and modify accordingly to our choices of coefficient rings. For most of the technical details we refer to *loc. cit.* In the final subsection we discuss some other adaptations.

7.1 Proofs of [Theorem 2.1](#) and [Proposition 2.4](#)

Let X be a smooth, closed, oriented 4-manifold. For now we also assume $b_1(X) = 0$. Suppose $b_2^+(X) = n \geq 1$ and let $\Sigma_1, \dots, \Sigma_n$ be pairwise disjoint connected and oriented embedded surfaces with Σ_i of genus g_i such that $\Sigma_i \cdot \Sigma_i = 1$. We will eventually specialize to the case $n = 1$. Let W be the result of replacing a tubular neighborhood U_i of $\Sigma_i \subset X$ with $U_i \# \overline{\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^2}$ for each i . Upon orienting the exceptional sphere S_i in the corresponding copy of $\overline{\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^2}$, we form two internal connected sums Σ_i^\pm between Σ_i and S_i , one preserving the orientation of S_i , the other reversing it. Now define a smooth n -dimensional family of metrics $g(t)$, where $t = (t_1, \dots, t_n) \in \mathbb{R}^n$ on the closed 4-manifold W , which as $t_i \rightarrow \pm\infty$ stretches along a link of Σ_i^\pm . Since $\Sigma_i^\pm \cdot \Sigma_i^\pm = 0$, each such link may be identified with $S^1 \times \Sigma_i^\pm$.

Let $s_i = \text{PD}[S_i]$, and let $E_k \rightarrow W$ be the $U(2)$ -bundle with $c_1(E_k) = w + \sum s_i$ and $c_2(E_k) = k$. Write $\mathcal{L} \subset H^2(X; \mathbb{Z})/\text{Tor}$ for the lattice of vectors vanishing on the $[\Sigma_i]$. We choose w so that modulo torsion it is an element in \mathcal{L} which is extremal. Denote by $\mathcal{M}_{k,t}$ the moduli space of projectively $g(t)$ -antiselfdual connections on E_k , and let \mathcal{M}_k denote the disjoint union of $\mathcal{M}_{k,t}$ over $t \in \mathbb{R}^n$. After perturbing, the irreducible stratum $\mathcal{M}_k^* \subset \mathcal{M}_k$ is a smooth and possibly noncompact manifold of dimension $8c_2 - 2c_1^2 - 3(1 - b_1 + b_2^+) + n$. Thus,

$$(29) \quad \dim \mathcal{M}_k^* = 8k + 2|w^2| - 3.$$

If $k < 0$, then \mathcal{M}_k has no reducibles, while \mathcal{M}_0 contains a finite number. Denote by \mathcal{M}'_k the result of removing small neighborhoods of each reducible; in particular, $\mathcal{M}'_k = \mathcal{M}_k$ if $k < 0$. The assumption that w is extremal rules out bubbling off of reducible solutions in these moduli spaces.

Recall from [\[11, Section 5.1.2\]](#) that the μ -map is given by

$$(30) \quad \mu: H_i(W; \mathbb{Q}) \rightarrow H^{4-i}(\mathcal{B}_E^*; \mathbb{Q}), \quad \mu(a) = -\frac{1}{4}p_1(\mathbb{E})/a.$$

Here E is a $U(2)$ -bundle over a 4-manifold W , and \mathbb{E} is the universal adjoint $\text{SO}(3)$ -bundle over $\mathcal{B}_E^* \times W$, where \mathcal{B}_E^* is the configuration space of connections on E . The basepoint fibration associated to $x \in W$ is the restriction of \mathbb{E} to a slice $\mathcal{B}_E^* \times \{x\}$. For later use, we also introduce notation for the second Stiefel–Whitney class:

$$(31) \quad \nu(x) = w_2(\mathbb{E})/1 \in H^2(\mathcal{B}_E^*; \mathbb{Z}/2).$$

When defining (relative) Donaldson invariants on 4–manifolds, one cuts down moduli spaces inside \mathcal{B}_E^* using geometrically constructed divisors representing μ –classes. Henceforth we write $x \in H_0(W; \mathbb{Z})$ for the point class.

Returning to our setup above, to any $a_1, \dots, a_k \in \{x\} \cup H_2(W; \mathbb{Z})$ which descend to \mathcal{L}^* , subset $S \subset \mathcal{M}'_k$, and nonnegative integers $j_i \geq 0$ for $i = 1, \dots, k$, we use the shorthand $\mu(a_1)^{j_1} \dots \mu(a_k)^{j_k} S$ for the intersection of S with j_i generic geometric representatives for $\mu(a_i) = -p_1(\mathbb{E})/4a_i$ supported away from where $g(t)$ varies, as i runs over $1, \dots, k$. Also, let $\mu(x)_i^j S$ denote the intersection of S with a geometric representative depending on t for $-p_1(\mathbb{E})/4\text{pt}$, where the basepoint is in the location of the stretched link of Σ_i^\pm as $t_i \rightarrow \pm\infty$. For the constructions see [22, Section 7], where $\mu(x)_i$ is called x_i . The following lemma is for a general 4–manifold W with $U(2)$ –bundle E .

Lemma 7.1 *For $a \in H_2(W; \mathbb{Z})$, $2\mu(a)$ defines a class in $H^2(\mathcal{B}_E^*; \mathbb{Z})$. If, further, $\langle w_2(E), a \rangle \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$, then $\mu(a)$ defines a class in $H^2(\mathcal{B}_E^*; \mathbb{Z})$.*

Proof This follows from [1, Lemma 3]. The proof is short so we include it. If $\langle w_2(E), a \rangle \equiv 0$, we can lift $\mathbb{E} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}_E^* \times W$ to a $U(2)$ –bundle \mathbb{F} such that $\langle c_1(\mathbb{F}), a \rangle = 0$. Now use $-p_1(\mathbb{E}) = 4c_2(\mathbb{F}) - c_1^2(\mathbb{F})$ and the decomposition $c_1(\mathbb{F}) = c_1(\mathbb{F}|_{\mathcal{B}^*}) \times 1 + 1 \times c_1(E)$ to compute $-p_1(\mathbb{E})/a = 4c_2(\mathbb{F})/a$. In general, $2\mu(a)$ is integral, as $-p_1(\mathbb{E})/a = 4c_2(\mathbb{F})/a - 2c_1(\mathbb{F}|_{\mathcal{B}^*}) \times c_1(E)/a$ is even. □

This lemma reduces to Corollary 5.2.7 of [11] when $w_2(E) \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$. When cutting down moduli spaces by $\mu(a)$, for a as in the lemma, the geometric representatives we have in mind are those constructed as in loc. cit. using line bundles of coupled twisted Dirac operators over the surface.

Proof of Theorem 2.1 Assume the setup above. Let $a_1, \dots, a_{m_0}, a'_1, \dots, a'_{m_1} \in H_2(W; \mathbb{Z})$ be such that each class descends to \mathcal{L}^* , and $\langle w, a_i \rangle \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$ for each a_i . Further, setting $m = m_0 + m_1$, assume $w^2 \equiv m \pmod{2}$. Lemma 7.1 says each $\mu(a_i)$ and $2\mu(a'_i)$ are integral. Suppose as in the definition of $f_4(\mathcal{L})$ that $2^{-m_0}\eta(\mathcal{L}, w, a, m) \not\equiv 0 \pmod{4}$, where $a = a_1 \dots a_{m_0} a'_1 \dots a'_{m_1}$. Suppose for contradiction that

$$(32) \quad \sum_{i=1}^n N_\beta^4(g_i) < \frac{1}{2}(|w^2| - m).$$

Set $n_i = N_\beta^4(g_i)$. We define the following smooth, orientable 1–manifold with boundary and a finite number of noncompact ends:

$$(33) \quad \widehat{\mathcal{M}} := (4\mu(x))^{(|w^2|-m)/2-1-\sum n_i} \prod_{k=1}^{m_0} \mu(a_k) \prod_{j=1}^{m_1} 2\mu(a'_j) \prod_{i=1}^n (4\mu(x)_i)^{n_i} \mathcal{M}'_0.$$

Here it is important that we cut down by divisors associated to integral cohomology classes. The boundary points of $\widehat{\mathcal{M}}$ arise from the deleted neighborhoods of reducibles in \mathcal{M}_0 . Denote by \mathcal{T} the torsion subgroup of $H^2(X; \mathbb{Z})$. Then each pair $\{z, -z\} \subset \text{Min}(w + 2\mathcal{L})$ corresponds to $2^n \cdot \#\mathcal{T}$ many reducibles. Indeed, as

shown in [22, Lemma 1], the family of metrics may be chosen such that the reducibles in \mathcal{M}_0 correspond to splittings $E_0 = L_1 \oplus L_2$ into line bundles such that

$$(34) \quad c_1(L_1 \otimes L_2^{-1}) = \bar{z} - \sum_{i=1}^n \epsilon_i s_i,$$

where each $\epsilon_i = \pm 1$ and the projection of \bar{z} to $H^2(W; \mathbb{Z})/\mathcal{T}$ is some $z \in \text{Min}(w + 2\mathcal{L})$. The symmetry of swapping L_1, L_2 in (34) leads to the consideration of the pair $\{z, -z\}$, and for each such pair the freedom of torsion multiplies the number of reducibles by $\#\mathcal{T}$, while the possibilities for the signs ϵ_i multiply the number by 2^n .

The neighborhood of each reducible in \mathcal{M}_0 is a cone on a complex projective space of dimension $d = 2|w^2| - 4$. To a reducible associated to a class r as in (34), let h be the degree-two generator of the projective space $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^d$ which is the link of this cone. Then by [11, Proposition 5.1.21] we have

$$(35) \quad \mu(x)|_{\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^d} = \pm \frac{1}{4} h^2 \quad \text{and} \quad \mu(a_i)|_{\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^d} = \pm \frac{1}{2} \langle r, a_i \rangle h,$$

where the second relation of course also holds for a'_i . Frøyshov shows that the moduli space can be oriented such that each of the $2^n \cdot \#\mathcal{T}$ reducibles in (34) associated to $\{z, -z\} \subset \text{Min}(w + 2\mathcal{L})$ have the same orientations for their cones. We compute

$$(36) \quad \#\partial \hat{\mathcal{M}} = 2^{n-m_0} \cdot \#\mathcal{T} \cdot \eta(\mathcal{L}, w, a, m),$$

which is a rescaling of [22, Proposition 5].

Now we discuss the ends of the moduli space (33). These arise as the metric family parameters t_i go off to $\pm\infty$. Transversality ensures that at most one such parameter can stay unbounded for a given sequence of instantons in $\hat{\mathcal{M}}$. The part of $\hat{\mathcal{M}}$ with fixed $\pm t_i = \tau \gg 0$ is a finite number of points, which by gluing theory is a product of instantons over $\mathbb{R}^2 \times \Sigma_i^\pm$ and over $W \setminus \Sigma_i^\pm$. We may write

$$(37) \quad \#\hat{\mathcal{M}}_{\pm t_i = \tau} = \phi_i^\pm \cdot \psi_i^\pm,$$

where $\phi_i^\pm \in \mathbb{V}'_{g_i}$ counts instantons over $\mathbb{R}^2 \times \Sigma_i^\pm$, and $\psi_i^\pm \in (\mathbb{V}'_{g_i})^*$ over $W \setminus \Sigma_i^\pm$ in the family of metrics with $\pm t_i = \tau$ fixed. Here \mathbb{V}'_g is the $\mathbb{Z}/8$ -graded instanton cohomology of a circle times a surface as discussed in Section 6.

A priori, the elements ϕ_i^\pm and ψ_i^\pm only define cochains in their Floer cochain complexes. The unperturbed Chern–Simons functional for the restricted bundle over $S^1 \times \Sigma_i^\pm$ is Morse–Bott along its critical set, which is two copies of N_g , where $g = g_i$. According to Thaddeus [34], the manifold N_g has a perfect Morse function. We perturb the Chern–Simons functional so that its critical set consists of two copies of the critical points of such a function. (See for example [4, Proposition 6] and the surrounding discussion for this sort of perturbation.) The rank of the instanton Floer cochain complex coincides with that of \mathbb{V}_g , and so has zero differential. Thus ϕ_i^\pm and ψ_i^\pm may also be viewed as Floer cohomology classes, as claimed in the previous paragraph. In this way we remove the restriction in [22] that all but one of the surfaces have genus 1.

Now we make a further simplification, which effectively removes a factor of 2 appearing in (36). Fix $1 \leq i \leq n$. Let ρ_i be a diffeomorphism of W which is reflection in the exceptional class in $\overline{\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^2} \setminus B^4 \subset U_i \# \overline{\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^2}$ and is the identity elsewhere. We arrange that ρ_i interchanges Σ_i^+ and Σ_i^- , and fixes all other Σ_j^\pm . We may choose the family of metrics such that for $|t_i| \geq \tau$, the map ρ_i interchanges the metrics $g(t_1, \dots, t_i, \dots, t_n)$ and $g(t_1, \dots, -t_i, \dots, t_n)$. Consequently, ρ_i interchanges $\mathcal{M}_{+t_i \geq \tau}$ and $\mathcal{M}_{-t_i \geq \tau}$ in an orientation-preserving fashion. To see this last point, we note that ρ_i^* preserves the orientation of $H^+(W; \mathbb{R})$, reverses the orientation of the metric family, and reverses the orientation rule for the moduli space with a fixed metric constructed in [9]:

$$(-1)^{((\rho_i^*(c_1(E_0)) - c_1(E_0))/2)^2} = (-1)^{s_i^2} = -1.$$

We may arrange that cutting down the moduli space by the divisors is also compatible with ρ_i , so that ρ_i also interchanges $\phi_i^+ \cdot \psi_i^+$ and $\phi_i^- \cdot \psi_i^-$ in a sign-preserving way. The number of ends of $\widehat{\mathcal{M}}$ is then counted to be

$$(38) \quad \sum_{i=1}^n \phi_i^- \cdot \psi_i^- + \phi_i^+ \cdot \psi_i^+ = 2 \sum_{i=1}^n \phi_i^+ \cdot \psi_i^+.$$

The number of boundary points and the number of ends of the 1-manifold $\widehat{\mathcal{M}}$ counted with signs must be zero, and so from (36) and (38) we obtain the relation

$$2^{n-m_0} \cdot \#\mathcal{T} \cdot \eta(\mathcal{L}, w, a, m) + 2 \sum_{i=1}^n \phi_i^+ \cdot \psi_i^+ = 0.$$

Now take $n = 1$ and divide this relation by 2. Then we have

$$(39) \quad 2^{-m_0} \cdot \#\mathcal{T} \cdot \eta(\mathcal{L}, w, a, m) + \phi_1^+ \cdot \psi_1^+ = 0.$$

The class ϕ_1^+ comes from $4\mu(x)_1^{n_1}$ in the expression (33), and so $\phi_1^+ = (\beta')^{n_1}$, in the notation of Section 6. By the definition of $n_1 = N_\beta^4(g_1)$ and Lemma 6.1, the element ϕ_1^+ is in the ideal of $\mathbb{V}'_g \otimes \mathbb{Z}/4$ generated by μ -classes of loops. Here $g = g_1$. Similarly to the argument of [22, Section 10], we conclude $\phi_1^+ \cdot \psi_1^+$ vanishes mod 4, essentially because (relative) Donaldson invariants involving μ -classes of loops vanish for 4-manifolds with $b_1 = 0$; see Section 7.2 for this justification. But the left term in (39) is by assumption nonzero mod 4, a contradiction.

We make two final remarks. First, we have worked with a homogeneous element $a = a_1 \cdots a_{m_0} a'_1 \cdots a'_{m_1}$ such that $\langle a_i, w \rangle \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$ but the argument easily extends to any linear combination of such elements. This allows the argument to go through for all the data included in the definition of $f_4(\mathcal{L})$. Second, the general case reduces to that of $b_1(X) = 0$ by surgering loops as in [22, Proposition 2]. □

Proof of Proposition 2.4 The proof is almost the same, except that every instance of mod 4 coefficients is replaced with mod 8 coefficients. We are led to the inequality $N_\beta^8(g) \geq f_8(\mathcal{L})$, and $N_\beta^8(1) = 1$ because β is multiplication by 8 on \mathbb{V}_1 . □

As the proof of Theorem 2.1 is not particular to $\mathbb{Z}/4$, we may also apply it to the case of $\mathbb{Z}/2$ coefficients. However, our computations suggest that $N_\beta^4(g) = N_\beta^2(g)$, in which case the resulting inequality is implied by Theorem 2.1.

On the other hand, in the setting of mod 2 coefficients, we may replace the role of β with α , which is implemented by replacing every instance of the class $4\mu(x)$ with $\nu(x)$, including the metric-dependent divisors. However, in this case, the cut down moduli space is not a priori naturally oriented, and the division by 2 in obtaining (39) is problematic. Perhaps further insights or other methods can overcome this obstacle. Nonetheless, in Section 8 we will exhibit instances where cutting down by the second Stiefel–Whitney class gives rise to useful inequalities in the setting of mod 2 instanton homology for homology 3–spheres.

7.2 μ –classes of loops

We now take a moment to make more precise which geometric representatives for μ –classes of loops are to be used in the above constructions. We refer to the simplified situation described in [22, Section 11]. There, a Riemannian 4–manifold X with tubular end $[0, \infty) \times Y$ is considered, equipped with a $U(2)$ –bundle that restricts to some oriented surface nontrivially within the tubular end. Fix a loop $\lambda: S^1 \rightarrow X$. Following constructions from [27], Frøyshov then associates to λ three classes $\Phi, \Psi_+, \Psi_- \in I^*(P; \mathbb{Z})$ in the instanton Floer cohomology of $P \rightarrow Y$, the restriction of the bundle over X to Y . Roughly, Φ cuts down moduli by the locus of connection classes with holonomy $1 \in \text{SO}(3)$, and Ψ_{\pm} cuts down by holonomy $\pm 1 \in \text{SU}(2)$. These classes satisfy the relation $\Phi = \Psi_+ + \Psi_-$. It is observed in [22, Section 11] that $\Psi_+ = \Psi_-$ and $\Phi = 2\Psi_{\pm}$ modulo 2–torsion. However, in our constructions above, $I^*(P; \mathbb{Z})$ arises as \mathbb{V}'_g , which is torsion-free. Thus $\Phi/2 = \Psi_{\pm}$ is an unambiguously defined class over the integers, and is the one which we have in mind when cutting down by μ –classes of loops over arbitrary coefficient rings.

According to [27, Section 2(ii)], with rational coefficients Φ is equal to what is usually denoted by $2\mu(\lambda)$. Thus Ψ_{\pm} is an integral class that agrees with $\mu(\lambda)$, the latter, in general, a priori only defined over the rationals. The map Ψ of (27) on a 1–dimensional homology class $[\lambda]$ is now more precisely defined using $\Psi_{\pm} = \Psi_{\pm}(\lambda)$, from the 4–manifold $D^2 \times \Sigma$ with appropriate bundle. The independence of the chosen representative λ for the class follows from [22, Proposition 7]. We have now justified our claim, in Section 6, that the class γ , as we have normalized it, is integral.

We can now also be more precise about the definition of the ring $\overline{\mathbb{V}}_g$ from Sections 2 and 6: it is the quotient of \mathbb{V}_g by the ideal generated by elements $\Psi_{\pm}(\lambda) = \Psi(\lambda)$, defined using the 4–manifold $D^2 \times \Sigma$ with appropriate bundle, and allowing λ to range over a symplectic basis of loops $\{\gamma_i\}$ for the surface Σ . In particular, this ideal contains γ .

Finally, we note that with these conventions the proof that ϕ_i^{\pm} vanishes mod 4 in the proof of Theorem 2.1 now adapts from the argument in [22]: by definition of $N_{\alpha}^4(g)$, we have $\phi_i^+ \equiv \sum \Psi_{\pm}(\lambda_i)\chi_i \pmod{4}$ for some loops λ_i in the 4–manifold at hand, and from [22, Proposition 7] the latter quantity vanishes. Indeed, in our proof it is assumed that $b_1(X) = 0$ and thus λ_i torsion; then $\Psi_{\pm}(\lambda_i)$ is torsion in \mathbb{V}_g , so must be zero.

7.3 Other adaptations

Let us first compare the above arguments to that of [Theorem 2.5](#). We return to the setup in the proof of [Theorem 2.1](#), before specializing to $n = 1$. Set $n_i = N_\beta^0(g_i)$. We then consider the 1–dimensional part of the \mathbb{Q} –linear combination of oriented manifolds

$$(40) \quad \mu(x)^{(|w^2|-m)/2-1-2\sum n_i} \prod_{j=1}^m \mu(a_j) \prod_{i=1}^n (\mu(x)_i^2 - 64)^{n_i} \sum_{k \leq 0} \mathcal{M}'_k.$$

The number of boundary points, which only appear within \mathcal{M}'_0 , is equal to a power of two times $\#\mathcal{T} \cdot \eta(\mathcal{L}, w, a, m)$, while the number of ends is zero. Here $a = a_1 \cdots a_m$, where each a_j mod torsion is in \mathcal{L}^* . With these modifications, the argument is much the same as before. This handles the case of [Theorem 2.5](#) for a closed 4–manifold. The more general case follows from this with minor modifications as in [\[22\]](#). Note that we have slightly improved Frøyshov’s [Theorem 2](#) from [\[22\]](#) by removing the restriction that all but one of the surfaces has genus 1.

The above argument is also easily adapted to the case in which \mathbb{Q} is replaced by \mathbb{Z}/p for p an odd integer. To begin, we define

$$N_\beta^p(g) := \min\{n \geq 1 : (\beta^2 - 64)^n \equiv 0 \in \overline{\mathbb{V}}_g \otimes \mathbb{Z}/p\}$$

for $g \geq 1$ and $N_\beta^p(0) = 0$. Upon setting $n_i = N_\beta^p(g_i)$, we may consider the 1–dimensional part of [\(40\)](#) a formal \mathbb{Z}/p –linear combination of 1–manifolds; the powers of two in the definitions of the μ –classes are invertible modulo p . The number of boundary points is again $\#\mathcal{T} \cdot \eta(\mathcal{L}, w, a, m)$ up to a power of two, and the number of ends is zero mod p . Define $e_p(\mathcal{L})$ by modifying the condition in the definition of $e_0(\mathcal{L})$ that $\eta \neq 0$ to $\eta \not\equiv 0 \pmod{p}$. Then under the hypotheses of [Theorem 2.5](#), if $\#\mathcal{T}$ is relatively prime to the odd integer p , we obtain

$$\sum_{i=1}^n N_\beta^p(g_i) \geq e_p(\mathcal{L}).$$

Furthermore, if p is prime, and the 4–manifold has instead a homology 3–sphere boundary Y , then the same inequality holds upon adding to the left side $h_p(Y)$, Frøyshov’s instanton invariant defined over \mathbb{Z}/p . The modifications needed to deduce the case with a homology 3–sphere boundary from the closed 4–manifold case are completely analogous to those in [\[22\]](#). However, $e_0(\mathcal{L}) \geq e_p(\mathcal{L})$, and the following shows that we do not improve upon what is already known from [Theorem 2.5](#).

Proposition 7.2 *Let p be an odd integer. Then $N_\beta^p(g) \geq \lceil \frac{1}{2}g \rceil$. Equality holds if p is prime and $p > g$.*

Proof The proof of the first statement is similar to that of [Proposition 4.1](#). It suffices to show that $e_p(\mathcal{L}) \geq \lceil \frac{1}{2}g \rceil$, where $\mathcal{L} = \Gamma_{4g+4}$. We follow [\[22, Proposition 1\]](#). Consider the extremal vector $w = (1, \dots, 1, 0, \dots, 0) \in \mathcal{L}$ having $4\lceil \frac{1}{2}g \rceil$ entries equal to 1. If g is odd then $\text{Min}(w + 2\mathcal{L})$ consists of $(\pm 1, \dots, \pm 1, 0, \dots, 0)$ and $(0, \dots, 0, \pm 1, \dots, \pm 1)$, where the number of signs is even; if g is even it consists of $(\pm 1, \dots, \pm 1, 0, \dots, 0)$, where again the number of signs is even. In either case, the signs

in $\eta(\mathcal{L}, w)$ are all equal, and $\eta(\mathcal{L}, w) = \pm \frac{1}{2} \# \text{Min}(w + 2\mathcal{L})$ is a power of 2, and in particular nonzero mod p . Since $w^2 = 4 \lceil \frac{1}{2}g \rceil$, we conclude that $e_p(\mathcal{L}) \geq \lceil \frac{1}{4}w^2 \rceil = \lceil \frac{1}{2}g \rceil$.

For the second statement, we follow [28, Proposition 20], and use our notation from Section 6. The recursive equation defining ζ_{g+1} yields $g^2(\beta + (-1)^g)\zeta_{g-1} \equiv \zeta_{g+1} - \alpha\zeta_g \pmod{\gamma}$. Thus we have $g^2(\beta + (-1)^g 8)J_{g-1} \subset J_g + (\gamma)$, where $J_g = (\zeta_g, \zeta_{g+1}, \zeta_{g+2})$. Inductively, in \mathbb{V}_g we obtain the relation

$$\prod_{r=1}^g r^2(\beta + (-1)^r 8) = \gamma\phi$$

for some $\phi \in \mathbb{V}_g$. Now since p is prime and $p > g$, the factor $1^2 2^2 \cdots g^2$ has an inverse mod p . After multiplying both sides by this inverse, and, if g is odd, multiplying by $(\beta + 8)$, we obtain the relation $(\beta^2 - 64)^{\lceil g/2 \rceil} \equiv 0 \pmod{\gamma}$ within $\mathbb{V}_g \otimes \mathbb{Z}/p$, implying $N_\beta^p(g) \leq \lceil \frac{1}{2}g \rceil$. \square

8 Alternative proofs

The only instanton Floer theory used in the above proofs of Theorems 1.1 and 1.3 is the input from certain relations in the instanton Floer cohomology of a circle times a surface via Theorem 2.1 and Proposition 2.4; the instanton homology of homology 3–spheres is not required at all. In this section we deduce Corollaries 1.2 and 1.4 with this latter framework at heart, with some help from Floer’s exact triangle. While the two approaches complement one another, they also perhaps belong together in a more natural framework as suggested by Frøyshov’s inequality in characteristic zero, Theorem 2.5; we merely scratch the surface here for $\mathbb{Z}/2$ and $\mathbb{Z}/4$ coefficients.

For an integer homology 3–sphere Y , denote by $I^*(Y; \mathbb{F}_2)$ Floer’s instanton (co)homology from [18], defined with $\mathbb{F}_2 = \mathbb{Z}/2$ coefficients, and using the conventions of [21]. This is a $\mathbb{Z}/8$ –graded vector space over \mathbb{F}_2 . There are elements $\delta_2 \in I^4(Y; \mathbb{F}_2)^*$ and $\delta'_2 \in I^1(Y; \mathbb{F}_2)$ defined using moduli spaces of instantons with a trivial flat limit at either end of $Y \times \mathbb{R}$. There is also a degree 2 endomorphism on $I^*(Y; \mathbb{F}_2)$, denoted by v_2 , and defined using the second Stiefel–Whitney class of the $\text{SO}(3)$ basepoint fibration, analogous to how the degree 4 endomorphism u is defined in [21] on $I^*(Y; \mathbb{Z})$ for certain gradings using the first Pontryagin class.

The elements $\delta_2 \in I^4(Y; \mathbb{F}_2)^*$ and $\delta'_2 \in I^1(Y; \mathbb{F}_2)$ are induced by (co)chains $\delta \in CI^4(Y; \mathbb{F}_2)^*$ and $\delta' \in CI^1(Y; \mathbb{F}_2)$ defined just as in [21, Section 2.1], but with \mathbb{F}_2 coefficients, which we now review. Recall that the cochain complex $CI^*(Y; \mathbb{F}_2)$ is generated by (perturbed) flat irreducible $\text{SU}(2)$ connections mod gauge. We will follow the notation of [21] and write $M(\alpha, \beta)$ for the moduli space of finite-energy instantons on $\mathbb{R} \times Y$ with flat limit α at $+\infty$ and β at $-\infty$, and with expected dimension lying in $[0, 7]$. Write $\check{M}(\alpha, \beta) = M(\alpha, \beta)/\mathbb{R}$. The cochain δ' is then defined to be $\sum \# \check{M}(\beta, \theta)\beta$, where β runs through the generators of $CI^1(Y; \mathbb{F}_2)$, and θ is the trivial connection. Similarly, $\delta\alpha = \# \check{M}(\theta, \alpha)$ for a generator $\alpha \in CI^4(Y; \mathbb{F}_2)$.

The map v_2 is induced by a degree 2 cochain map v on $CI^*(Y; \mathbb{F}_2)$, defined as follows. Let α and β be generators such that $M(\alpha, \beta)$ is 2–dimensional. Let $\mathbb{E}_0 \rightarrow M(\alpha, \beta)$ be the natural euclidean 3–plane bundle associated to a basepoint $(0, y_0)$. Choose sections σ_1 and σ_2 of this bundle which are pulled back from the basepoint fibration over the configuration space of connections on $(-1, 1) \times Y$. We arrange that σ_1 and σ_2 are linearly dependent at finitely many points, and transversely. Set

$$(41) \quad \langle v(\beta), \alpha \rangle = \#\{[A] \in M(\alpha, \beta) : \sigma_1([A]) \in \mathbb{R} \cdot \sigma_2([A])\}.$$

That v is a chain map, and is independent of any choices made, follows the proof of [21, Theorem 4], except there are no trajectories that break at the reducible. Indeed, since $\dim M(\alpha, \beta) = 2$, the relation $dv + vd = 0$ comes from counting the ends of a 3–dimensional moduli space, cut down by two sections as above; such a moduli space has ends approaching trajectories broken at a trivial connection if its dimension is ≥ 5 (see [10, Section 5.1]). The construction of v_2 and its interactions with the analogous map for the third Stiefel–Whitney class of \mathbb{E}_0 was sketched by Frøyshov in a 2016 lecture at the University of Regensburg.

Proposition 8.1 *Let X be a smooth, compact, oriented 4–manifold with negative-definite lattice $\mathcal{L} = H^2(X; \mathbb{Z})/\text{Tor}$ and boundary an integer homology 3–sphere Y . If $H^*(X; \mathbb{Z})$ has no 2–torsion,*

$$\min\{j \geq 0 : \delta_2 v_2^j = 0\} \geq f_2(\mathcal{L}).$$

The proof is an adaptation of Proposition 1 in [21], which uses the additional assumption $b_1(X) = 0$. Fix $w \in H^2(X; \mathbb{Z})$ descending to an extremal vector of the same name in \mathcal{L} , and $a \in \text{Sym}^m H_2(X; \mathbb{Z})$ descending to an element of the same name in $\text{Sym}^m(\mathcal{L}^w)$ for some $m \geq 0$. For simplicity assume $a = a_1 \cdots a_m$, where $a_i \in H_2(X; \mathbb{Z})$. Form X^+ by attaching a cylindrical end $[0, \infty) \times Y$ to the boundary of X , and fix a metric g on X^+ which is a product along the end. Consider the moduli space \mathcal{M}_0 of suitably perturbed instantons on (X^+, g) on a $U(2)$ –bundle, with $c_1 = w$ and relative second Chern number $k = 0$, which are asymptotic to the trivial connection. Removing neighborhoods of reducibles we have a smooth moduli space \mathcal{M}'_0 of dimension $2|w^2| - 3$. Cut this down as follows, to obtain an unoriented 1–manifold:

$$v(x)^{|w^2|-m-2} \prod_{k=1}^m \mu(a_k) \mathcal{M}'_0.$$

Similar to [21], counting the boundary points yields $2^{-m} \eta(\mathcal{L}, w, a, m) \pmod{2}$. The ends contribute the term $\delta_2 v_2^j \cdot D_X^w(a)$, where $D_X^w(a)$ is a relative Donaldson invariant $D_X^w(a) \in I^{4-4n}(Y; \mathbb{F}_2)$, where $n = |w^2| - m - 2$. We obtain the second equality in

$$(42) \quad \delta_2 v_2^j \cdot D_X^w(a) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{for } 0 \leq j < n, \\ 2^{-m} \eta(\mathcal{L}, w, a, m) \pmod{2} & \text{for } j = n. \end{cases}$$

The first equality follows from the same argument but with $k < 0$, where there are no reducibles (and in some cases is true for degree reasons). The statement of Proposition 8.1 follows for $b_1(X) = 0$ from this formula and the definition of $f_2(\mathcal{L})$; the condition that $b_1(X) = 0$ is then handled by surgering loops; cf [22, Proposition 2].

We have a similar inequality for $\mathbb{Z}/4$ coefficients. Here we let u denote the degree 4 map defined on $CI^*(Y; \mathbb{Z})$ as in [21], which in general is not a chain map, but satisfies $du - ud + 2\delta \otimes \delta' = 0$. The map $\delta u^n : CI^{4-4n}(Y; \mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ is a chain map, and we denote by $\delta_4 u_4^n$ the map $I^{4-4n}(Y; \mathbb{Z}/4) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/4$ obtained after tensoring with $\mathbb{Z}/4$ and taking homology. This may depend on auxiliary choices, such as perturbation and metric; in the following we assume such choices are fixed.

Proposition 8.2 *Let X be a smooth, compact, oriented 4-manifold with negative-definite lattice $\mathcal{L} = H^2(X; \mathbb{Z})/\text{Tor}$ and boundary an integer homology 3-sphere Y . If $H^*(X; \mathbb{Z})$ has no 2-torsion,*

$$\min\{j \geq 0 : \delta_4 u_4^j = 0\} \geq f_4(\mathcal{L}).$$

The proof is similar to that of Proposition 8.1, but more directly uses the formula of [21, Proposition 1], the statement of which is the following, assuming $b_1(X) = 0$; the proposition uses its mod 4 reduction. For $w \in H^2(X; \mathbb{Z})$ descending to an extremal vector of the same name in \mathcal{L} , and $a \in \text{Sym}^m H_2(X; \mathbb{Z})$ descending to an element of the same name in $\text{Sym}^m(\mathcal{L})$ for $m \geq 0$, there is a relative invariant $D_X^w(a) \in I^{4-4n}(Y; \mathbb{Z}[1/2^m])$, where $n = \frac{1}{2}(|w^2| - m) - 1$, and

$$(43) \quad \delta u^j \cdot D_X^w(a) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{for } 0 \leq j < n, \\ 2^{-m} \#\mathcal{T} \cdot \eta(\mathcal{L}, w, a, m) & \text{for } j = n. \end{cases}$$

For both Propositions 8.1 and 8.2 we use the knowledge from Section 7.1 of what kinds of classes a can cut down moduli spaces when working over the appropriate coefficient ring. For example, if $a \in \text{Sym}^m(\mathcal{L}^w)$ then $D_X^w(a)$ is an element in $I^{4-4n}(Y; \mathbb{Z})$, and the factor $1/2^m$ is unnecessary in the coefficient ring.

We expect that the left-hand sides of the inequalities of Propositions 8.1 and 8.2 can be replaced by more natural quantities. For example, the first of these should be a weaker form of a general inequality involving Frøyshov’s homology cobordism invariant q_2 mentioned in the introduction. Similarly, the second is related to Frøyshov’s framework as developed in [21], but with $\mathbb{Z}/4$ coefficients. We are now in a position to give an alternative proof of Corollary 1.4.

Another proof of Corollary 1.4 Let $Y = \Sigma(2, 3, 5)$. It is well known that $CI^*(Y; \mathbb{Z})$ is generated by two flat $SU(2)$ connections in degrees 0 and 4. The differential on $CI^*(Y; \mathbb{Z})$ is zero, and hence u is a chain map, and induces a map on $I^*(Y; \mathbb{Z})$ which we also call u . By [21, Proposition 2], δu is divisible by 8, and in particular $\delta_4 u_4 \equiv \delta u \pmod{4}$ vanishes. The degree-two map v_2 on $I^*(Y; \mathbb{Z}/2)$ is zero for grading reasons. Thus the left-hand sides of the inequalities in Propositions 8.1 and 8.2 are equal to 1, and the result follows from Lemmas 3.2 and 3.3. □

Alternatively, we can also formulate the mod 8 analogue of Proposition 8.2 together with the computation $f_8(\Gamma_{12}) = 2$, and use this with Proposition 8.2 and Lemma 4.2. However, the above proof illustrates that constraints from inequalities arising from the mod 2 and mod 4 coefficient cases are sufficient. Further, the use of only Lemmas 3.2 and 3.3 shows that there is a minimal amount of algebra needed.

The computation $\delta u \equiv 0 \pmod{8}$ in the proof of Corollary 1.4 is computed in [21] via basic gluing formulas for relative Donaldson invariants, using an embedding of the negative-definite E_8 plumbing into

a $K3$ surface. The same procedure may be attempted for $\Sigma(2, 5, 9)$, the boundary of a negative-definite plumbing with intersection form $-\Gamma_{12}$ which itself embeds in the elliptic surface $E(3)$, as follows from [17, Section 2], and builds on the construction explained at the beginning of Section 4. However, we can obtain the congruence $\delta u \equiv 0 \pmod{8}$ for the Poincaré sphere by another method, which will also lead to another proof of Corollary 1.2 for $\Sigma(2, 5, 9)$, without reverting to gluing formulas for Donaldson invariants. We proceed to explain this.

As in the above proof, let $Y = \Sigma(2, 3, 5)$, and denote by P the nontrivial $SO(3)$ –bundle over 0 surgery on the $(2, 3)$ torus knot. Then for any coefficient ring we have the long exact sequence

$$(44) \quad \dots \rightarrow I^*(S^3) \rightarrow I^*(Y) \xrightarrow{W_*} I^*(P) \rightarrow I^*(S^3) \rightarrow \dots$$

This is Floer’s exact triangle [19; 4]. The map W_* is induced by a surgery 2–handle cobordism $W : Y \rightarrow Y_0$. Because the instanton cohomology of the 3–sphere vanishes, W_* is an isomorphism. For the nontrivial bundle P , the map u is also defined on instanton cohomology. The map W_* does not commute with u ; in fact $W_*u - uW_* = 2\delta \otimes \delta'_W$, where δ'_W counts isolated instantons on W with trivial limit at Y . (This follows from a version of [21, Theorem 6].) From this it follows, however, that $W_*u = uW_*$ on $I^0(Y; \mathbb{Z})$. Thus to show that $\delta u \equiv 0 \pmod{8}$ on $I^0(Y; \mathbb{Z})$ it suffices to show that $u \equiv 0 \pmod{8}$ on $I^*(P; \mathbb{Z})$.

The $(2,3)$ torus knot has genus 1. Consequently, there is a genus 1 surface embedded in the 0 surgery over which the bundle P restricts nontrivially; this is formed by capping off a Seifert surface in the complement of the surgery neighborhood with a disk glued in from 0 surgery. Following [21, Section 6] we stretch along a link of this surface in \mathbb{R} cross the 0 surgery diffeomorphic to a 3–torus T^3 to conclude that u factors through the corresponding map on \mathbb{V}'_1 . However, on this latter group, $u = \beta' \equiv 0 \pmod{8}$, establishing the claim. We note that essentially the same argument shows that $\delta u \equiv 0 \pmod{8}$ for the family of Brieskorn spheres $\Sigma(2, 3, 6k \pm 1)$, and so we obtain alternative proofs for Corollaries 5.1 and 5.2 as well.

Another proof of Corollary 1.2 Let $Y = \Sigma(2, 5, 9)$. The exact sequence (44) now applies to surgery on the $(2,5)$ torus knot. As for $\Sigma(2, 3, 5)$, the Floer complex for Y has zero differential and u is a chain map. Again, although u and W_* do not commute in general, they do on $I^0(Y; \mathbb{Z})$. Furthermore, v_2 and the mod 2 reduction of W_* commute. Next, the $(2, 5)$ torus knot is of genus 2, and $I^*(P; \mathbb{Z})$ has $u \equiv 0 \pmod{4}$ and $v_2^2 \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$ since $\beta' \equiv 0 \pmod{4}$ and $(\alpha')^2 \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$ within \mathbb{V}'_2 . Now the left-hand sides of the inequalities in Propositions 8.1 and 8.2 are 2 and 1, respectively, and with Lemma 4.2 the result follows. □

9 The lattice E_7^2

The root lattice E_7 may be described as the subset of $\frac{1}{2}\mathbb{Z}^8$ consisting of vectors $x = (x_1, \dots, x_8)$ with $\sum x_i = 0$ and all x_i in one of \mathbb{Z}^8 or $\frac{1}{2} + \mathbb{Z}^8$. The positive-definite unimodular lattice E_7^2 is defined by

$$E_7^2 = E_7 \oplus E_7 \cup (g + E_7 \oplus E_7), \quad g = \left(\left(\frac{3}{4}, -\frac{1}{4} \right)^6, \left(\frac{3}{4}, -\frac{1}{4} \right) \right) \in E_7^*.$$

We note that E_7^*/E_7 is cyclic of order 2 generated by $[g]$. In this section we show:

Proposition 9.1 We compute $e_0(E_2^7) = 1$, $f_2(E_2^7) = 2$ and $f_4(E_2^7) = 2$.

These computations show that even if the mod 2 inequality (4) were true in general, it would not be sufficient to prove Theorem 1.1. In the course of the proof to follow we leave some of the computations to the reader.

Proof We need to understand the index-two cosets of \mathcal{L} and their extremal vectors. We divide the cosets into two types: those in the image of the inclusion-induced map

$$\pi: \frac{E_7 \oplus E_7}{2(E_7 \oplus E_7)} \rightarrow \frac{\mathcal{L}}{2\mathcal{L}}$$

and those that are not. To better understand the former case, we list the index-two cosets of E_7 . These are easily found by hand, and are also listed in [7, page 169]. First define

$$x = (1, -1, 0^6), \quad y = (1^2, -1^2, 0^4), \quad z = \left(\frac{3^2}{2}, -\frac{1^6}{2}\right).$$

Note that $x^2 = 2$, $y^2 = 4$ and $z^2 = 6$. Consider the cosets $w + 2E_7$ for $w \in \{0, x, y, z\}$. After applying automorphisms of E_7 to these we obtain all cosets in $E_7/2E_7$. There are 63 cosets in the orbit of $x + 2E_7$, each represented by a vector of square 2, unique up to sign, and there are similarly 63 cosets in the orbit of $y + 2E_7$, each having 12 square 4 vectors. There are only two other cosets, represented by 0 and z , which are fixed under the action of the automorphism group. Thus the total number of cosets is $1 + 63 + 63 + 1 = 2^7$, as expected.

The cosets in \mathcal{L} that lie in the image of π are therefore represented by (u, v) for $u, v \in \{0, x, y, z\}$ and some cosets obtained from these by applying automorphisms. The case (z, z) can be ignored; indeed, $(z, z) = 2g$, so this vector represents the zero coset. Next we note $(y, z) - 2g = (t, 0)$ where $t = (-1/2^4, 1/2^4)$ has square 2, and $(y, y) - 2g = (t, t)$, a vector of square 4. Similarly, (x, z) is mod 2 equivalent to a vector of square 4 supported in $E_7 \oplus 0$. Thus by symmetry, when maximizing over the data defining $e_0(\mathcal{L})$, $f_2(\mathcal{L})$ and $f_4(\mathcal{L})$ which has w extremal and $w + 2\mathcal{L}$ contained in the image of π , we may restrict our attention to w being among $(x, 0)$, $(y, 0)$, $(z, 0)$, (x, x) and (x, y) .

Now we consider cosets not contained in the image of π . We claim that upon defining

$$a = \left(\frac{3^2}{4}, -\frac{1^6}{4}\right), \quad b = \left(\frac{3^3}{4}, -\frac{5}{4}, -\frac{1^4}{4}\right), \quad c = \left(\frac{7^1}{4}, -\frac{1^7}{4}\right),$$

all elements in $\mathcal{L}/2\mathcal{L} - \text{im}(\pi)$ are obtained from the cosets represented by (a, a) , (a, b) , (a, c) , (b, b) , (b, c) and (c, c) after perhaps applying an automorphism of \mathcal{L} . The claim is verified by counting. First note that π has 1-dimensional kernel. Indeed, a basis for E_7^2 is given by the rows of the following matrix:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{4} & \frac{1}{4} & \frac{1}{4} & \frac{1}{4} & \frac{1}{4} & \frac{1}{4} & -\frac{3}{4} & -\frac{3}{4} & \frac{1}{4} & \frac{1}{4} & \frac{1}{4} & \frac{1}{4} & \frac{1}{4} & \frac{1}{4} & -\frac{3}{4} & -\frac{3}{4} \\ \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Every row in the matrix except for the first lies in $E_7 \oplus E_7$, and the first row is equivalent modulo $2\mathcal{L}$ to the vector $g \in \mathcal{L}$. Thus every coset not in the image of π is of the form $[g] + [w]$ where $[w] \in \text{im}(\pi)$, and there are $2^{13} = 8192$ such cosets.

We consider orbits of the automorphism group acting on $[w] = w + 2\mathcal{L}$ as w varies through the above representatives. Let G be the subgroup of $\text{Aut}(\mathcal{L})$ generated by automorphisms that permute the first 8 or last 8 coordinates, the automorphism that swaps the first and last 8 coordinates, and the automorphism σ that negates the first 8 coordinates. First consider

$$w = (a, a) = \left(\left(\frac{3}{4}, \frac{3}{4}, -\frac{1}{4}, -\frac{1}{4}, -\frac{1}{4}, -\frac{1}{4}, -\frac{1}{4}, -\frac{1}{4} \right), \left(\frac{3}{4}, \frac{3}{4}, -\frac{1}{4}, -\frac{1}{4}, -\frac{1}{4}, -\frac{1}{4}, -\frac{1}{4}, -\frac{1}{4} \right) \right).$$

Then $G \cdot w$ consists of vectors obtained from w by permuting the placement of the $\frac{3}{4}$ terms within each E_7 -factor and changing signs on each E_7 -factor. Thus $\#G \cdot w = 4 \cdot \binom{8}{2} \cdot \binom{8}{2} = 3136$. The only mod 2 congruences among $v \in G \cdot w$ are $v \equiv -v$, and so $\#G \cdot [w] = \frac{1}{2} \#G \cdot w = 1568$. Next, consider

$$w = (a, b) = \left(\left(\frac{3}{4}, \frac{3}{4}, -\frac{1}{4}, -\frac{1}{4}, -\frac{1}{4}, -\frac{1}{4}, -\frac{1}{4}, -\frac{1}{4} \right), \left(\frac{3}{4}, \frac{3}{4}, \frac{3}{4}, -\frac{5}{4}, -\frac{1}{4}, -\frac{1}{4}, -\frac{1}{4}, -\frac{1}{4} \right) \right).$$

We compute $\#G \cdot w = 4 \cdot 2 \cdot \binom{8}{2} \cdot 4 \binom{8}{4}$. However, the stabilizer for G acting on $[w]$ consists of σ , the automorphism swapping the first and last 4 coordinates of the second E_7 -factor, and any permutation preserving the first 12 coordinates. Taking this into account, we compute $\#G \cdot [w] = 2 \cdot \binom{8}{2} \cdot \binom{8}{4} = 3920$. We proceed in this manner to find that $\#G \cdot [w]$ for w among (a, a) , (a, b) , (a, c) , (b, b) , (b, c) and (c, c) is equal to 1568, 3920, 112, 2450, 140 and 2, respectively. These add up to 8192, and this verifies the claim stated in the previous paragraph.

In summary, when maximizing over the data defining $e_0(\mathcal{L})$, $f_2(\mathcal{L})$ and $f_4(\mathcal{L})$ we may restrict our attention to computing $\eta(\mathcal{L}, w, a, m)$ for which w is in the following table:

w	$(x, 0)$	(a, a)	(x, x)	$(y, 0)$	(a, b)	(a, c)	(x, y)	$(z, 0)$	(b, b)	(b, c)	(c, c)
w^2	2	3	4	4	5	5	6	6	7	7	7

In each case w is extremal. We next claim the following, where in each case w runs over the vectors in the table:

- (i) $\eta(\mathcal{L}, w) = 0$ for $w \in \{(x, y), (z, 0)\}$ and $\eta(\mathcal{L}, w, e, 1) = 0$ for $w \in \{(b, b), (b, c), (c, c)\}$ as e runs over a basis for \mathcal{L} ; and
- (ii) $2^{-m}\eta(\mathcal{L}, w, e_1 \cdots e_m, m) \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$ for each $m \geq 0$ with $w^2 - m \geq 4$, where e_1, \dots, e_m are arbitrary elements of a basis for \mathcal{L}^w .

It is straightforward to verify these claims by computer once one knows $\text{Min}(w + 2\mathcal{L})$ for each w above. For example, if $w = (c, c)$, this set consists of the 64 vectors obtained by permuting the placement of the $\frac{7}{4}$ terms within each E_7 -summand. Claim (i) implies $e_0(\mathcal{L}) = 1$ and $f_4(\mathcal{L}) = 2$. More precisely, for the latter, it establishes that $f_4(\mathcal{L}) \leq 2$, and Lemma 3.2 implies equality. Claim (ii) implies $f_2(\mathcal{L}) = 2$. \square

The following result collects the lattices that occur in Elkies' list, Table 1, under the constraint $f_2(\mathcal{L}) \leq 2$. In terms of our topological tools, it combines the restrictions of having d -invariant 2 and the inequality of Proposition 8.1 having left-hand side equal to 2. We do not know if the lattice E_7^2 ever occurs under the hypotheses given.

Proposition 9.2 *Suppose that Y is an integer homology 3-sphere with $d(Y) = 2$ and $\delta_2 v_2 = 0$. If a smooth, compact, oriented 4-manifold with no 2-torsion in its homology has boundary Y and reduced negative-definite nondiagonal intersection form \mathcal{L} , then $-\mathcal{L}$ is one of E_8, Γ_{12} or E_7^2 .*

Proof By Proposition 8.1, it suffices to show that $m(\mathcal{L}) \geq 3$ for the lattices in Table 1 other than the three given. As in the proof of Lemma 3.3, if the root lattice $R \subset \mathcal{L}$ contains A_n for $n \geq 3$, then $w = (1, 1, -1, -1, 0, \dots, 0) \in A_n$ shows that $m(\mathcal{L}) \geq 3$. This leaves $D_8^2, D_6^3, D_4^5, A_1^{22}, O_{23}$ in Table 1. The following descriptions of the first three of these lattices are from [6].

Suppose $\mathcal{L} = D_8^2$. This lattice is generated by $D_8 \oplus D_8$ along with $g_1 = ((1/2^8), (-1^1, 0^7))$ and $g_2 = ((-1^1, 0^7), (1/2^8))$. As before, superscripts denote repeated entries. Then $w = g_1 + g_2$ is extremal of square 4, and $\text{Min}(w + 2\mathcal{L}) = \{w, -w\}$, implying $m(\mathcal{L}) \geq w^2 - 1 = 3$.

Next suppose $\mathcal{L} = D_6^3$. Then \mathcal{L} is generated by the root lattice $D_6 \oplus D_6 \oplus D_6$ and $g_1 = (0, (1/2^6), (1/2^5, -1/2^1)), g_2 = ((1/2^5, -1/2^1), 0, (1/2^6)), g_3 = ((1/2^6), (1/2^5, -1/2^1), 0)$.

Then $w = g_1 - g_2$ is extremal of square 4 and as before $m(\mathcal{L}) \geq 3$.

Next, suppose $\mathcal{L} = D_4^5$. Then \mathcal{L} is generated by $D_4 \oplus D_4 \oplus D_4 \oplus D_4 \oplus D_4$ along with $g = ((1/2^4)^5)$ and $g_1 = (0, (0^3, 1^1), (1/2^3, -1/2^1), (1/2^3, -1/2^1), (0^3, 1^1))$, and cyclic permutations g_2, g_3, g_4, g_5 of g_1 . Then $w = g$ is extremal of square 5 with $\text{Min}(w + 2\mathcal{L}) = \{w, -w\}$, implying $m(\mathcal{L}) \geq 4$.

Now suppose $\mathcal{L} = A_1^{22}$. We sketch the construction of this lattice following [7, Construction A, Chapter 7] using the shortened Golay code C_{22} . Let S be the subspace of the Golay code C_{24} consisting of vectors with first two coordinates 00 or 11, where $C_{24} \subset \mathbb{F}_2^{24}$ is spanned by the rows of Figure 3.4 in [7, page 84].

Then C_{22} is the subspace of \mathbb{F}_2^{22} obtained by projecting S onto the last 22 coordinates, and A_1^{22} is the subset of \mathbb{R}^{22} consisting of vectors $\vec{x}/\sqrt{2}$ such that $\vec{x} \pmod{2}$ lies in C_{22} . Let $\vec{v} \in \{0, 1\}^{22}$ descend to the code word $\vec{v} \pmod{2}$ in C_{22} with 10 entries equal to 1, obtained by summing the first 11 rows of Figure 3.4 in [7, page 84], ignoring the first two coordinates. Then $w = \vec{v}/\sqrt{2} \in A_1^{22}$ is extremal of square 5. It is straightforward to verify that any extremal vector equivalent to w is of the form $w + 2r$ for a root r . The roots are the elements with one nonzero entry equal to $\pm 2/\sqrt{2}$. From this we obtain $\text{Min}(w + 2\mathcal{L}) = \{w, -w\}$, implying $m(\mathcal{L}) \geq 4$.

Finally, suppose $\mathcal{L} = O_{23}$, the shorter Leech lattice. Let w be any vector of square 5; such a vector exists by inspecting the theta-series of O_{23} , see (7) in [7, page 443]. Using that O_{23} has no roots, $\text{Min}(w + 2\mathcal{L}) = \{w, -w\}$ and $m(\mathcal{L}) \geq 4$. \square

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