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Chromatic defect, Wood's theorem and higher real K-theories

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Using Ravenel’s Thom spectrum $X(n)$, we introduce the concept of chromatic defect, which measures how far a spectrum is from being complex-orientable. We compute the chromatic defect of various examples of interest, such as finite spectra, the Real Johnson–Wilson spectra $ER(n)$, fixed points of Morava E -theories (with respect to finite subgroups of the Morava stabilizer group), and the connective image of J spectrum. Moreover, an obstruction theory is developed for determining chromatic defect. Having finite chromatic defect is closely related to the existence of analogues of the classical Wood equivalence. We show that such equivalences exist in a wide generality and use them to construct \mathbb{Z} -indexed Adams–Novikov towers.

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1 Introduction

The chromatic approach to stable homotopy uses the complex cobordism spectrum MU to detect phenomena in stable homotopy. The MU -homology MU_*E of a spectrum E is often much more computable than its stable homotopy π_*E . However, the former is the input to the Adams–Novikov spectral sequence, which can be used to recover information about the latter. This is an extremely powerful tool that detects nilpotence and periodicity phenomena, as conjectured by Ravenel [52] and proven by Devinatz, Hopkins and Smith [19]. When E is complex-orientable, however, there is essentially no difference between π_*E and MU_*E ; the former is recovered as the comodule primitives in the latter, and thus E has no complexity from the point of view of chromatic homotopy theory.

There are many useful spectra E that are not complex-orientable, but are in some sense only finitely many steps away from being complex-orientable. Their complexity is thus small from the point of view of chromatic homotopy, which is reflected in the computability of their Adams–Novikov spectral sequence.

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The clearest example of this is ko , connective real K -theory. The classical Wood's theorem [56] states that there is an equivalence

$$\mathrm{ko} \otimes C(\eta) \simeq ku,$$

where $C(\eta)$ is the cofiber of the Hopf map $\eta : \mathbb{S}^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{S}^0$, and ku is connective complex K -theory. The spectrum ku is complex-orientable and ko is not. However, $C(\eta)$ is a 2-cell complex with chromatic type zero, in the sense of the thick subcategory theorem; see [52].

Wood's theorem is useful for calculations involving ko , and it also implies that ko is in the thick tensor ideal generated by MU , so that for example the Adams–Novikov spectral sequence of ko has a horizontal vanishing line on a finite page and ko satisfies the conditions of the telescope conjecture at all heights. We study analogues of Wood's theorem and say that a spectrum E is *Wood-type* if there is a finite BP-projective F such that $E \otimes F$ is complex-orientable (Definition 2.30).

Chromatic defect Using Bott periodicity, Ravenel [51] introduced a filtration

$$\mathbb{S} = X(1) \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow X(n) \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow X(\infty) = \mathrm{MU}$$

of MU , where $X(n)$ is a certain Thom spectrum over $\Omega\mathrm{SU}(n)$. The $X(n)$ provide a convenient interpolation between stable homotopy and MU -homology, and quite a lot is known about this filtration. In fact, the Devinatz–Hopkins–Smith proof [19] of the nilpotence theorem proceeds by induction downward along this filtration: they show that each of the maps $X(n) \rightarrow X(n+1)$ detects nilpotence, then by compactness conclude that $\mathbb{S} \rightarrow \mathrm{MU}$ detects nilpotence.

Recovering stable homotopy from MU -homology entails infinite descent along the Ravenel filtration. In general, calculating $X(n)$ -homology is much more difficult than calculating MU -homology. Typically, calculating $X(n)$ -homology is as difficult as calculating stable homotopy as, in some sense, the $X(n)$ are too close to the sphere spectrum.

We study theories E with the property that $E \otimes X(n)$ is complex-orientable for some $n < \infty$, and we say in this case that E has *chromatic defect* $\leq n$; see Definition 2.15. When E has chromatic defect $\leq n$, the role of MU -homology may be replaced by that of $X(n)$ -homology, and thus the stable homotopy of E may be recovered by a *finite* descent along Ravenel's filtration. As E has chromatic defect 1 if and only if E is itself complex-orientable, chromatic defect measures the failure of E to be complex-orientable in a precise sense. The condition of E having finite chromatic defect is closely related to that of E being Wood-type; for example ko has chromatic defect 2. In fact, finite chromatic defect is a necessary condition for being Wood-type; see Corollary 2.35.

Ravenel [51, Section 7.1] has studied extensively the process of recovering stable homotopy by descent along his filtration from a computational point of view. In fact, in an unpublished work, Hill, Hopkins and Ravenel [24] use this filtration to compute the homotopy groups of the fixed points of Morava E -theories with respect to a natural C_p -action at chromatic height $n = 2(p-1)$. We compute chromatic defect in several cases of interest, which determines precisely the stage of Ravenel's filtration at which these descent computations must begin, and we focus on more general fixed-point spectra of Morava E -theories with respect to finite subgroups of the Morava stabilizer group.

$K(n)$ -local homotopy and the Morava stabilizer group Let $K(n)$ be the n -th Morava K -theory. By a theorem of Devinatz and Hopkins [18], the $K(n)$ -local sphere can be described as the homotopy fixed-point spectrum

$$L_{K(n)}\mathbb{S} \simeq E(k, \Gamma)^{h\mathbb{G}_n},$$

where $E(k, \Gamma)$ is a height n Morava E -theory, for Γ a height n formal group over a perfect field k of characteristic p , and $\mathbb{G}_n = \text{Aut}(\Gamma) \rtimes \text{Gal}(k/\mathbb{F}_p)$ the corresponding Morava stabilizer group. It was an observation of Ravenel [50] and Hopkins and Miller [53] that $L_{K(n)}\mathbb{S}$ is approximated by the fixed points of $E(k, \Gamma)$ at finite subgroups G of \mathbb{G}_n , and that these theories are more computable. These theories

$$(1-1) \quad \text{EO}_n(G) := E(k, \Gamma)^{hG}$$

are known as the *Hopkins–Miller higher real K -theories*.

We compute the chromatic defect of higher real K -theories using a construction of Hopkins, which associates a stack \mathcal{M}_E to any homotopy commutative ring spectrum E . The stack \mathcal{M}_E is the one corresponding to the Hopf algebroid

$$(\text{MU}_{2*}E, \text{MU}_{2*}(\text{MU} \otimes E)).$$

Via the unit map $\mathbb{S} \rightarrow E$, the stack \mathcal{M}_E comes equipped with a canonical affine morphism $p_E : \mathcal{M}_E \rightarrow \mathcal{M}_{\text{FG}}(1)$ to the moduli stack of formal groups and strict automorphisms. This stack allows one to describe the E_2 -page of the Adams–Novikov spectral sequence of E from an algebrogeometric point of view, and it is the most essential tool in our analysis of chromatic defect. Indeed, applying Hopkins' stack construction to Ravenel's filtration produces the tower

$$\text{Spec}(L) \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow \mathcal{M}_{\text{FG}}(n) \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow \mathcal{M}_{\text{FG}}(1),$$

where L is the Lazard ring, and $\mathcal{M}_{\text{FG}}(n)$ is the moduli stack of formal group laws equipped with a coordinate through degree n . This often allows one to turn the question of whether E has finite chromatic defect into a rigidity question about \mathcal{M}_E : namely, whether the automorphism groups of objects in \mathcal{M}_E become trivial after fixing coordinates on the associated formal groups through some finite degree.

1.1 Main results and outline of the paper

Section 2 In the classical Wood equivalence $\text{ko} \otimes C(\eta) \simeq ku$, a priori the left-hand side has no ring structure, as $C(\eta)$ does not admit a unital multiplication. Our definition of Wood-types thus requires a more flexible definition of complex-orientability for a spectrum E that does not require that E be a ring spectrum. Therefore, we make the following definition.

Definition 1.1 (Definition 2.3) A spectrum E is complex-orientable if the map

$$E \otimes \sigma_k : E \otimes \mathbb{S}^{2k+1} \rightarrow E \otimes \mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^k$$

is nullhomotopic for all $k \geq 1$, where σ_k is the attaching map for the top cell in $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^{k+1}$.

Remark 1.2 In the literature, complex orientations are defined only for ring spectra. We say a ring spectrum E is complex-orientable if the tautological line bundle over $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^\infty$ is orientable with respect to E . In Section 2, we verify that this definition of complex-orientability is equivalent to Definition 1.1 for any homotopy associative ring spectrum.

Quillen [49] showed that a homotopy commutative ring spectrum E is complex-orientable if and only if there exists a homotopy ring map $\mathrm{MU} \rightarrow E$. We extend this result to complex-orientable spectra (in the sense of Definition 1.1) in the following way.

Theorem 1.3 (Theorem 2.9) *A spectrum E is complex-orientable if and only if it is a weak MU -module; that is, the unit map $E \rightarrow \mathrm{MU} \otimes E$ admits a retraction.*

This flexible definition of complex-orientability results in a straightforward definition of Wood-types and chromatic defect that makes sense in complete generality. In what follows, we work p -locally at a fixed prime p . We say a finite spectrum F is a finite BP-projective if BP_*F is a projective BP_* -module.

Definition 1.4 (Definitions 2.30 and 2.15) We say a spectrum E is *Wood-type* if there exists a finite BP-projective F such that $E \otimes F$ is complex-orientable.

Definition 1.5 (Definition 2.15) We say a spectrum E has *chromatic defect* $\leq n$ if $E \otimes X(n)$ is complex-orientable. In this case, we use the notation $\Phi(E) \leq n$.

We tie the notion of Wood-types to that of chromatic defect with the following result.

Theorem 1.6 (Corollary 2.35) *If E is Wood-type, then it has finite chromatic defect.*

It can be difficult to say whether a certain spectrum E is Wood-type since this requires producing a complex F such that $E \otimes F$ is complex-orientable. We will see, however, that computing chromatic defect is tractable in many cases, and when it is infinite for example, this rules out the possibility of being Wood-type; see Corollaries 3.15 and 5.19, for example.

Section 3 The mod p homology $H_*(X(n); \mathbb{F}_p)$ is determined as an \mathcal{A}_* -comodule algebra via the Thom isomorphism. We use this to describe the Adams E_2 -page of $X(n)$ and give a May spectral sequence converging to it. This recovers known results about the homotopy groups of $X(n)$, such as that the bottom odd-dimensional homotopy group of $X(n)_{(p)}$ is

$$\pi_{2p^{m+1}-3}X(n)_{(p)} = \mathbb{Z}/p\{\chi_{m+1}\},$$

where $m = \lfloor \log_p(n) \rfloor$; see also [7] for this result. The classes χ_{m+1} are shown to give a sequence of obstructions for a homotopy associative ring spectrum E to have chromatic defect $\leq n$.

Theorem 1.7 (Proposition 3.7) *Let E be a p -local homotopy associative ring spectrum. Then $\Phi(E) \leq n$ if and only if*

$$\chi_{m+1} = 0 \in \pi_{2p^{m+1}-3}E \otimes X(p^m) \quad \text{for all } m \geq \lfloor \log_p(n) \rfloor.$$

We calculate the relative dual Steenrod algebra $\mathcal{A}^{X(n)*} := \pi_*(\mathbb{F}_p \otimes_{X(n)} \mathbb{F}_p)$, and this allows us to show that finite spectra are too close to the sphere to have finite chromatic defect.

Corollary 1.8 (Corollary 3.15) *If F is a finite spectrum, then $\Phi(F) = \infty$.*

Set $m := \lfloor \log_p(n) \rfloor$. We show that, when the \mathcal{A}_* -comodule $H_*(X(n); \mathbb{F}_p)$ is restricted to $\mathcal{A}(m)_*$, it splits as a sum of finite even comodules, all of which are isomorphic to $\mathcal{P}(m-1)_*$; see Section 3 for these Hopf algebras. With an eye toward Wood equivalences, we thus construct finite complexes F that are free over $\mathcal{P}(m-1)$. This uses the idempotent construction of Jeff Smith [52], used to construct finite $\mathcal{A}(m)$ -free type $m+1$ complexes, and our proof is essentially the same.

Section 4 The spectra ko and tmf are our prototypical examples of Wood-types, the former via $C(\eta)$ in the classical Wood equivalence, and the latter (at the prime 2) via the complex $D\mathcal{A}(1)$; see [39]. These are also prototypical examples of fp spectra in the sense of Mahowald and Rezk [37], that is, a p -complete bounded below spectrum E that admits an isomorphism

$$H_*(E; \mathbb{F}_p) \cong \mathcal{A}_* \square_{\mathcal{A}(n)_*} M$$

for some $n < \infty$ and M a finite $\mathcal{A}(n)_*$ -comodule.

We show that the Wood equivalences for ko and tmf actually follow from certain evenness conditions that hold for a much broader class of fp spectra. This is obtained by using the Adams spectral sequence to sharpen the obstruction statement of Theorem 1.7 to an algebraic context. We use the $\mathcal{P}(n)$ -free complexes of Section 3 to obtain the following. Here, we use the following standard notation for certain exterior quotient Hopf algebras of the dual Steenrod algebra:

$$\mathcal{E}(n)_* := \begin{cases} E(\xi_1, \dots, \xi_{n+1}) & \text{if } p = 2, \\ E(\tau_0, \dots, \tau_n) & \text{if } p > 2. \end{cases}$$

Theorem 1.9 (Corollary 4.10) *Let E be a homotopy associative ring spectrum that is an fp spectrum, so that $H_*E \cong \mathcal{A}_* \square_{\mathcal{A}(n)_*} M$, and suppose that*

$$\text{Ext}_{\mathcal{E}(n)_*}^{s,t}(\mathbb{F}_p, M)$$

is concentrated in even stems $t - s$. Then $\Phi(E) \leq p^n$ and E is Wood-type.

Theorem 1.9 is useful because computing Ext over the exterior Hopf algebra $\mathcal{E}(n)_*$ is much more tractable than over $\mathcal{A}(n)_*$. We actually prove more specific statements by tracking the degrees of the obstructions χ_{m+1} . When E as above is assumed to have finite chromatic defect, we can prove a partial converse to Theorem 1.6 that does not necessarily require evenness conditions.

Notation 1.10 For a spectrum X , we let $\text{ASS}(X)$ and $\text{ANSS}(X)$ denote the Adams and Adams–Novikov spectral sequences of X , respectively.

Theorem 1.11 (Theorem 4.9) *Let E be a homotopy associative ring spectrum that is an fp spectrum, and suppose E has finite chromatic defect. If $\text{ASS}(E \otimes \text{BP})$ collapses on the E_2 -page, then E is Wood-type.*

Giving ourselves the mod 2 homology of ko and tmf , this gives a new proof of the following result of Hopkins [20].

Corollary 1.12 (Example 4.11) *The spectra ko and tmf are Wood-type. The chromatic defect of ko is 2, and the chromatic defect of tmf is 4.*

Remark 1.13 The spectra ko and tmf are good connective models of certain Hopkins–Miller higher real K -theories; see [15, Section 1.1] for a discussion of this. In [9], Beaudry–Hill–Shi–Zeng construct good connective models of the spectra $\mathrm{EO}_{2n-1m}(C_{2^n})$ known as the $\mathrm{BP}^{(G)}\langle m \rangle$. In work with Mike Hill [14], we show that these are fp spectra. The determination of their chromatic defect can thus be approached via the methods of Section 4, and we intend to return to this in future work.

Section 5 When E has finite chromatic defect, the E_2 -page of its Adams–Novikov spectral sequence simplifies substantially. For example, the E_2 -page in general is determined by cohomology over the group scheme $\mathrm{Spec}(\mathbb{Z}[b_1, b_2, \dots])$ corepresenting power series $x + b_1x^2 + \dots$. However, when E has chromatic defect $\leq n$, the E_2 -page is determined by cohomology over the subgroup scheme $\mathrm{Spec}(\mathbb{Z}[b_1, b_2, \dots, b_{n-1}])$, which has finite Krull dimension. Hopkins’ stacks framework allows for these sorts of change-of-rings isomorphisms to take a more conceptual form. We use this to verify our “finite subgroups” philosophy on chromatic defect in the following way.

Proposition 1.14 (Proposition 5.9) *Let E be a homotopy commutative ring spectrum with finite chromatic defect. Then, for any algebraically closed field k and any $x \in \mathcal{M}_E(k)$ such that $p_E(x) \in \mathcal{M}_{\mathrm{FG}(1)}(k)$ has finite height, the image of the homomorphism*

$$\psi : \mathrm{Aut}_{\mathcal{M}_E(k)}(x) \rightarrow \mathrm{Aut}_{\mathcal{M}_{\mathrm{FG}(1)}(k)}(p_E(x))$$

is a finite subgroup.

In other words, at finite-height geometric points, the morphism $p_E : \mathcal{M}_E \rightarrow \mathcal{M}_{\mathrm{FG}(1)}$ lands in finite subgroups. We provide various converses to this when \mathcal{M}_E has certain strong finiteness conditions. These conditions hold for example for the $\mathrm{EO}_n(G)$ and also for ko and tmf . In the following, we suppose $E \otimes X(n)$ is MU nilpotent-complete for all n sufficiently large, for example if E is connective or MU-nilpotent.

Proposition 1.15 (Proposition 5.13) *Let E be a homotopy commutative ring spectrum, and suppose there is a faithfully flat, finite morphism $\mathrm{Spec}(R) \rightarrow \mathcal{M}_E$, for some Noetherian commutative ring R . Then E has finite chromatic defect.*

Finally, we move our stacks analysis to the $K(n)$ -local category to compute the chromatic defect of the $K(n)$ -local sphere.

Theorem 1.16 (Theorem 5.16) *The spectrum $L_{K(n)}\mathbb{S}$ does not have finite chromatic defect.*

Remark 1.17 Let j be the connective image of J spectrum. Since

$$L_{K(1)}j \simeq L_{K(1)}\mathbb{S},$$

it follows also that j has infinite chromatic defect; see Theorem 5.18. This is an important example

because j is an fp spectrum, and in fact MU-nilpotent, but it does not have finite chromatic defect and thus is not Wood-type.

Section 6 We study chromatic defect in two examples where a ring spectrum E admits an equivalence $\mathcal{M}_E \simeq \text{Spec}(R)/G$ to a quotient stack by a finite group. Working at the prime 2, let $E(n)$ denote the height- n Johnson–Wilson theory. The spectrum $E(n)$ admits a natural lift to a C_2 -spectrum called $E_{\mathbb{R}}(n)$, constructed by Hu and Kriz [30], where C_2 acts by complex-conjugation. The fixed-point spectra $\text{ER}(n) := E_{\mathbb{R}}(n)^{hC_2}$ have been studied extensively by Kitchloo and Wilson [34; 33]; they used these theories to prove new nonimmersion results for real projective spaces.

Theorem 1.18 (Theorem 6.5) *The chromatic defect of $\text{ER}(n)$ is 2^n .*

This generalizes the result of Hopkins at height 1 [20], which states that $\text{KO} \otimes X(2)$ is complex-orientable, and it is a result of Atiyah [4] that $\text{ER}(1) \simeq \text{KO}$. At higher heights, some care is needed since $\text{ER}(n)$ is not known to admit a ring structure; see [32]. To compute the chromatic defect of $\text{ER}(n)$, we thus prove the following, which may be of independent interest.

Theorem 1.19 (Theorem 6.5) *For all $m \geq 2^n$, the spectrum $\text{ER}(n) \otimes X(m)$ has a (Landweber exact) homotopy commutative ring structure with respect to which the restriction map $\text{ER}(n) \otimes X(m) \rightarrow E(n) \otimes X(m)$ is one of ring spectra.*

We turn to the Hopkins–Miller theories. Fixing as before a height n formal group Γ over a perfect field k of characteristic p , we let G be a finite subgroup of $\mathbb{G}_n = \text{Gal}(k/\mathbb{F}_p) \rtimes \text{Aut}(\Gamma)$ the corresponding Morava stabilizer group. By the Goerss–Hopkins–Miller theorem [22], G acts on $E(k, \Gamma)$ by \mathbb{E}_{∞} -ring maps. The chromatic defect of the fixed points $\text{EO}_n(G)$ will be expressed in terms of the standard valuation on the endomorphism ring $\text{End}(\Gamma)$, which we recall here. Every nonzero endomorphism $f(x)$ of Γ may be expressed uniquely as $f(x) = g(x^{p^k})$, where $g(x) \in \text{End}(\Gamma)^{\times}$ is invertible. The valuation v is then defined by $v(f) = k/n$, normalized by the height n , so that $p \in \text{End}(\Gamma)$ is a uniformizer. In the statement below, we let $\pi : \mathbb{G}_n \rightarrow \text{Aut}(\Gamma)$ denote the projection map, where we identify the underlying set of the semidirect product as a cartesian product.

Theorem 1.20 (Theorem 6.7) *Let $N(G) := n \cdot \max\{v(\pi(g) - 1) : e \neq \pi(g)\}_{g \in G}$, where e is the identity element of G . The chromatic defect of $\text{EO}_n(G)$ is $p^{N(G)}$.*

When the height h is of the form $p^{n-1}(p-1)m$, there is a C_{p^n} -subgroup of \mathbb{G}_h (see Section 6 for more details), and we have the following in this case.

Example 1.21 (Corollaries 6.8 and 6.9) *The chromatic defect of $\text{EO}_{p^{n-1}(p-1)m}(C_{p^n})$ is $p^{p^{n-1}m}$.*

To apply Ravenel's method of descent to compute $\pi_*\text{EO}_n(G)$ as in [24], for example, the above theorem implies that the computation begins by tensoring with $X(p^{N(G)})$.

Remark 1.22 In fact, our methods also imply that the MU-homology of the $\text{ER}(n)$ and the $\text{EO}_n(G)$ is even and torsion-free. This implies these theories are *quasi-syntomic* in the sense of Hahn, Raksit and Wilson [23].

Section 7 One can conceive of variations on our definition of Wood-types E , for example by asking the complex F to be just a type zero instead of a BP-projective, or simply the condition of E being BP-nilpotent. Neither of these imply finite chromatic defect, but they do guarantee strong conditions on the Adams–Novikov spectral sequence of E , such as a horizontal vanishing line on a finite page. The Adams–Novikov spectral sequence of a Wood-type, however, is further restricted by way of a spectral sequence we introduce called the \mathbb{Z} -indexed Adams–Novikov spectral sequence of a Wood-type. The relationship between the ANSS and the \mathbb{Z} -ANSS of a Wood-type is very similar to that of the HFPSS and the Tate SS for a G -spectrum E with vanishing Tate spectrum E^{tG} .

Mahowald–Rezk introduced a \mathbb{Z} -indexed Adams spectral sequence for an fp spectrum E , which extends its Adams spectral sequence to a full plane spectral sequence converging to $\pi_* L_n^f E$ when E is fp type n . Our definition of Wood-types is chosen in part to make their construction work instead with the Adams–Novikov spectral sequence. Rather than $L_n^f E$, the \mathbb{Z} -ANSS of a Wood-type always converges to zero.

Theorem 1.23 (Theorem 7.9) *The \mathbb{Z} -ANSS of a Wood-type E has the following properties:*

- (1) *The \mathbb{Z} -ANSS is independent of the choice of finite BP-projective F from the E_2 -page on.*
- (2) *The natural map*

$$\text{ANSS}(E) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}\text{-ANSS}(E)$$

is an isomorphism on E_2 -pages in positive filtrations and an epi in filtration zero.

- (3) *There is a one-to-one correspondence along the map*

$$\text{ANSS}(E) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}\text{-ANSS}(E)$$

of differentials whose source is in nonnegative filtrations.

- (4) *The \mathbb{Z} -ANSS converges to zero.*

This can be very useful for example for determining differentials and vanishing lines in the ANSS of a Wood-type; cf. [21]. We run the ANSS and \mathbb{Z} -ANSS in detail for ko and use this to deduce the famous d_3 therein. We also give various descriptions of the E_2 -page of the \mathbb{Z} -ANSS of a Wood-type in terms of Tate cohomology in BP_*BP -comodules.

1.2 Some numerology and questions

For a p -local homotopy commutative ring spectrum E , there are many numerical measures of E coming from chromatic homotopy that are often related. One has, for instance:

- (1) The chromatic height of E :

$$\text{ht}(E) = \min\{n \geq 0 : E \simeq L_n E\}.$$

- (2) The BP-nilpotence exponent of E ; see [41].

- (3) The chromatic defect $\Phi(E)$ of E .
- (4) For a Wood-type E , the minimum $n \geq 1$ such that there exists a finite $X(n)$ -projective F such that $E \otimes F$ is complex-orientable.
- (5) The orientation order of Bhattacharya and Chatham [11]:

$$\Theta(E) = \min\{n \geq 1 : \xi^{\oplus n} \text{ is } E\text{-orientable}\},$$

where ξ is the tautological line bundle on $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^\infty$.

At first glance, chromatic height does not fit so well in this list: if E is complex-orientable, then all the quantities (2)–(5) are equal to 1 and thus are not sensitive to the chromatic height of E . However, when E is the fixed points of a complex-oriented theory R , the quantities (2)–(5) will often be functions of the chromatic height of R , as in our Theorems 6.7 and 6.5 for example. In fact, our results suggest a heuristic that, in many cases, the chromatic defect of R^{hG} should be $\leq p^{\text{ht}(R)/(p-1)}$.

For ko and tmf at the prime 2, it can be shown that all the quantities (3)–(5) coincide and they are a lower bound for (2). In general, when E is a Wood-type, (4) is an upper bound for (3) by the proof of Corollary 2.35.

Question 1.24 *Suppose E has finite chromatic defect. Is $\Phi(E)$ a lower bound for the BP-nilpotence exponent of E ?*

Question 1.25 *Does there exist a spectrum with finite chromatic defect that is not Wood type?*

When E does not have finite chromatic defect, and is therefore not Wood-type, the quantities above don't seem to be closely related. For instance, $\Phi(j) = \infty$, but j is BP-nilpotent and therefore has finite BP-nilpotence exponent.

There are of course many other numerical quantities one may assign to E . One may speculate that various chromatic height-shifting phenomena also result in shifts of chromatic defect in certain cases.

Question 1.26 *How does chromatic defect interact with chromatic redshift?*

For instance, the computations of Angelini-Knoll, Ausoni and Rognes in [2] suggest that while $\Phi(\text{ko}) = 2$, it may be the case that $\Phi(K(\text{ko})) = 4$. Strong forms of the Ausoni–Rognes chromatic redshift conjecture state that the algebraic K-theory of an \mathbb{E}_1 -ring spectrum of fp type n is fp of type $n + 1$; the methods in Section 4 may then be useful for this question.

We finish by remarking that the quantities (3) and (5) coincide for $\text{ER}(n)$, by our Theorem 6.5 and work of Kitchloo and Wilson [34]. Tying these quantities together for EO_n -theories would allow for our Theorem 6.7 to shed light on conjectures of Bhattacharya and Chatham on the orientation orders of EO_n -theories; see for example [11, Conjecture 1.13]. The author investigates this in work in progress with Prasit Bhattacharya and Yang Hu.

2 Orientability and Ravenel’s $X(n)$

In this section, we revisit the notion of a complex-orientable spectrum and extend the usual definition for ring spectra to all spectra. The resulting class of complex-orientable spectra is in particular closed under tensoring with an arbitrary spectrum and under taking retracts. This gives us flexible notions of Wood-types and chromatic defect.

2.1 Complex-orientability

Definition 2.1 Let σ_k be the map

$$S^{2k+1} \rightarrow S^{2k+1}/S^1 \cong \mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^k,$$

where $S^{2k+1} \subset \mathbb{C}^{k+1}$ is given its usual $S^1 \subset \mathbb{C}^\times$ -action.

Remark 2.2 The cofiber of σ_k is $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^{k+1}$. In other words, σ_k is the attaching map for the top cell in $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^{k+1}$. For simplicity, since we work stably, we will not distinguish between σ_k and its double desuspension $\Sigma^{-2}\sigma_k : S^{2k-1} \rightarrow \Sigma^{-2}\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^k$.

Definition 2.3 We say a spectrum E is complex-orientable if the map

$$E \otimes \sigma_k : E \otimes S^{2k+1} \rightarrow E \otimes \mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^k$$

is nullhomotopic for all $k \geq 1$.

As we will see, when E is a homotopy associative ring spectrum, this is equivalent to the classical definition of complex orientability, as in [51]. The above definition is much more flexible, however, as it does not require E to be a ring spectrum. Moreover, it is closed under taking retracts and tensoring with an arbitrary spectrum. To be in line with this flexibility, we will work with weak forms of modules in the homotopy category, so we take care now to define our terms.

Definition 2.4 We say E is a *homotopy associative/commutative ring spectrum* if it is an associative/commutative monoid in the symmetric monoidal 1-category $\text{Ho}(\text{Sp})$. A (left/right) *homotopy E -module* is a (left/right) E -module in $\text{Ho}(\text{Sp})$.

Definition 2.5 An \mathbb{E}_0 -algebra in Sp is the data of a map of spectra $\eta_E : S \rightarrow E$. For an \mathbb{E}_0 -algebra E , a *weak E -module* is a spectrum M such that there exists $m : E \otimes M \rightarrow M$ making the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} M & \xrightarrow{\eta_E} & E \otimes M \\ & \searrow & \downarrow m \\ & & M \end{array}$$

commute up to homotopy.

Remark 2.6 M is a weak left E -module if and only if it is a weak right E -module, hence we will just say weak E -module.

Proposition 2.7 *If E is an \mathbb{E}_0 -algebra that is complex-orientable in the sense of Definition 2.3, then the unit map $\eta_E : \mathbb{S} \rightarrow E$ extends to a map $\Sigma^{-2}\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^\infty \rightarrow E$. Conversely, if E is a homotopy associative ring spectrum, and η_E extends over $\Sigma^{-2}\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^\infty$, then E is complex-orientable.*

Proof If $E \otimes \sigma_k = 0$ for all $k \geq 1$, then there is a splitting

$$E \otimes \Sigma^{-2}\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^\infty \simeq \bigoplus_{k \geq 0} \Sigma^{2k} E$$

indexed by the cells $\{b_0, b_1, \dots\}$ of $\Sigma^{-2}\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^\infty$. The composite

$$\Sigma^{-2}\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^\infty \xrightarrow{\eta_E} E \otimes \Sigma^{-2}\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^\infty \simeq \bigoplus_{k \geq 0} \Sigma^{2k} E \rightarrow E$$

extends η_E , where the last map is projection onto b_0 .

Conversely, if the unit map of E extends over $\Sigma^{-2}\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^\infty$, and E is a homotopy associative ring spectrum, then the corresponding class $x \in \pi_{-2}F(\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}_+^k, E)$ defines a map

$$\bigoplus_{0 \leq n \leq k} \Sigma^{-2n} E \rightarrow F(\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}_+^k, E)$$

which, on the n -th component, is given by

$$\Sigma^{-2n} E \xrightarrow{x^n} E \otimes F(\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}_+^k, E) \rightarrow F(\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}_+^k, E),$$

using the multiplication on E to define both maps in the sequence. Filtering the left-hand side in n and the right-hand side via the cellular filtration of $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^k$, it suffices to show the given map induces an equivalence upon taking associated graded. This follows from the fact that $H^*(\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^k; \mathbb{Z}) \cong \mathbb{Z}[x]/x^{k+1}$; see for example [36, Lecture 4, Proposition 7]. This implies in particular that $E \otimes \mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^{k-1} \rightarrow E \otimes \mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^k$ admits a splitting, so that $E \otimes \sigma_{k-1}$ is null. □

It is a classical result of Quillen that a homotopy commutative ring spectrum E is complex-orientable if and only if there is a homotopy ring map $\text{MU} \rightarrow E$. The proof breaks down if E is not homotopy commutative as the rings $E^*(\text{BU}(n))$ will not necessarily be commutative. This prevents one from constructing a system of Thom classes $u_n \in E^{2n}(\text{MU}(n))$ for the universal bundles that is compatible with the tensor product of bundles. We have the following replacement in the associative case.

Proposition 2.8 *Let E be a complex-orientable homotopy associative ring spectrum. Then E is a weak MU-module.*

Proof The differentials in the Atiyah–Hirzebruch spectral sequence (AHSS)

$$E_2 = H_*(\Sigma^{-2}\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^\infty; E_*) \implies E_*(\Sigma^{-2}\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^\infty)$$

come from the boundary maps in the cellular filtration for $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^\infty$. Definition 2.3 assumes that these become zero after tensoring with E , so this AHSS collapses on E_2 , and the universal coefficients theorem computes the E_2 -page

$$H_*(\Sigma^{-2}\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^\infty; E_*) \cong E_*\{b_0, b_1, \dots\}$$

as a left E_* -module.

The map $\Sigma^{-2}\mathbb{C}P^\infty \rightarrow \text{MU}$ induces a map of AHSS's, which takes the form

$$E_* \otimes H_*(\Sigma^{-2}\mathbb{C}P^\infty; \mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow E_* \otimes H_*(\text{MU}; \mathbb{Z})$$

on the E_2 page, as maps of left E_* -modules. The map $H_*(\Sigma^{-2}\mathbb{C}P^\infty; \mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow H_*(\text{MU}; \mathbb{Z})$ exhibits the latter as

$$H_*(\text{MU}; \mathbb{Z}) = \text{Sym}(H_*(\Sigma^{-2}\mathbb{C}P^\infty; \mathbb{Z})) / (b_0 - 1) = \mathbb{Z}[b_1, b_2, \dots].$$

Since E is a homotopy associative ring spectrum, the E -based AHSS for MU is a multiplicative spectral sequence. It is also a spectral sequence of E_* -modules, so by use of the Leibniz rule, we see it must collapse on E_2 as the b_i are permanent cycles.

Let M be a monomial basis for $\mathbb{Z}[b_1, b_2, \dots]$ and consider the map of homotopy left E -modules

$$E\{M\} \rightarrow E \otimes \text{MU}$$

given by lifting the b_i and using the multiplication in $E \otimes \text{MU}$. Giving elements of M their corresponding AHSS filtration, this map becomes a map of filtered left homotopy E -modules. Since the AHSS for $E \otimes \text{MU}$ collapses, the map on associated graded is an equivalence, so the map is an equivalence since the filtrations are bounded below and exhaustive. Now the map

$$m : E \otimes \text{MU} \simeq E\{M\} \rightarrow E$$

given by projection onto the summand indexed by $1 \in M$ exhibits E as a weak MU -module. □

Theorem 2.9 *A spectrum E is complex-orientable in the sense of Definition 2.3 if and only if E is a weak MU -module.*

Proof If E is complex-orientable, then so is $\text{End}(E) = F(E, E)$ since

$$F(E, E) \otimes \sigma_k \simeq F(E, E \otimes \sigma_k),$$

using that the domain and codomain of σ_k are dualizable. By Proposition 2.8, $\text{End}(E)$ is a weak homotopy MU -module. E is naturally an $\text{End}(E)$ -module, and in particular a weak $\text{End}(E)$ -module.

The “only if” direction of the claim then follows from the following observation. If $\eta_R : \mathbb{S} \rightarrow R$ and $\eta_T : \mathbb{S} \rightarrow T$ are \mathbb{E}_0 -algebras, and M is a weak R -module and R is a weak T -module, then M is a weak T -module. In the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 M & \xrightarrow{\eta_T \otimes 1} & T \otimes M \\
 \downarrow \eta_R \otimes 1 & & \downarrow 1 \otimes \eta_R \otimes 1 \\
 R \otimes M & \xrightarrow{\eta_T \otimes 1 \otimes 1} & T \otimes R \otimes M \\
 & \searrow & \downarrow m_R \otimes 1 \\
 & & R \otimes M \\
 & & \downarrow m_M \\
 & & M
 \end{array}$$

the clockwise composite exhibits M as a weak T -module, where m_R is a weak T -module structure on R and m_M is a weak R -module structure on M .

Conversely, if E is a weak MU-module, then the map $E \otimes \sigma_k$ is a retract of the map $\text{MU} \otimes E \otimes \sigma_k$, which is null as MU is complex-orientable. □

Corollary 2.10 *If E is complex-orientable, the Adams–Novikov spectral sequence of E collapses on the zero-line, i.e., it is concentrated in filtration zero from the E_2 -page on.*

Proof The ANSS of E comes from the coaugmented cosimplicial spectrum

$$E \rightarrow \text{MU} \otimes E \rightrightarrows \text{MU} \otimes \text{MU} \otimes E \rightrightarrows \text{MU} \otimes \text{MU} \otimes \text{MU} \otimes E \cdots .$$

If E is a weak MU-module, this admits a (-1) -st codegeneracy, so that it is equivalent to the constant cosimplicial object at E . □

Remark 2.11 If E is a weak MU-module, it is in particular MU-nilpotent, i.e., E is in the thick tensor ideal of Sp generated by MU. In fact, E is a weak MU-module if and only if E is MU-nilpotent of exponent 1, in the sense of [41, Part 1, Section 4]. As we will discuss in Section 7, this is also equivalent to asking E to be an MU-injective in the sense of MU-based Adams resolutions, which gives another proof of the preceding corollary.

2.2 $X(n)$ -orientations and chromatic defect

Theorem 2.9 tells us that the condition of being a weak homotopy MU-module is determined by the attaching maps for $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^\infty$. We may ask if there is a spectrum playing a similar role for $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^n$, i.e., for only the first $n - 1$ attaching maps of $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^\infty$. This is exactly Ravenel's Thom spectrum $X(n)$, which we now introduce. For a more thorough introduction to the $X(n)$, we strongly recommend Hopkins' thesis [27].

Definition 2.12 For $n \geq 1$, the spectrum $X(n)$ is the Thom spectrum

$$\text{Thom}(\Omega\text{SU}(n) \rightarrow \Omega\text{SU} \simeq \text{BU}),$$

where the equivalence $\Omega\text{SU} \simeq \text{BU}$ is Bott periodicity.

Remark 2.13 The equivalence $\Omega\text{SU} \simeq \text{BU}$ may be chosen to be a double loop map, so that $X(n)$ acquires the structure of an \mathbb{E}_2 -algebra in Sp. It is known that $X(n)$ is not \mathbb{E}_3 for $n > 1$ [35, Example 5.31].

The space $\Omega\text{SU}(n)$ admits a cell structure with even cells and $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^{n-1}$ as a subcomplex. Moreover, a Serre spectral sequence computation shows that

$$H_*(\Omega\text{SU}(n); \mathbb{Z}) \cong \text{Sym}(\tilde{H}_*(\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^{n-1}; \mathbb{Z})) = \mathbb{Z}[b_1, \dots, b_{n-1}]$$

as a ring, with its product from the double loop space structure on $\Omega\text{SU}(n)$. The composite $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^{n-1} \rightarrow \Omega\text{SU}(n) \rightarrow \text{BU}$ classifies $L - 1$, where L is the tautological line bundle on $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^{n-1}$, and the Thom spectrum of $L - 1$ is $\Sigma^{-2}\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^n$. Applying the Thom isomorphism, one finds that

$$H_*(X(n); \mathbb{Z}) \cong \text{Sym}(H_*(\Sigma^{-2}\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^n; \mathbb{Z})) / (b_0 - 1) = \mathbb{Z}[b_1, \dots, b_{n-1}]$$

as a ring. With these facts, the proofs of the previous subsection now may be repeated to show the following.

Proposition 2.14 *A spectrum E is a weak $X(n)$ -module if and only if $E \otimes \sigma_k = 0$ for $1 \leq k \leq n - 1$.*

The primary interest of this paper is to investigate spectra that are—in some sense—only finitely many steps away from being complex-orientable. Phrased as in [Definition 2.3](#), we are interested in spectra E that become complex-orientable after forcing finitely many of the maps $E \otimes \sigma_k$ to be null, say for $k < n$. [Proposition 2.14](#) tells us in some sense that, up to taking retracts, this passes through forming the tensor product $E \otimes X(n)$. We thus make the following definition.

Definition 2.15 A spectrum E has *chromatic defect* $\Phi(X) \leq n$ if $E \otimes X(n)$ is complex-orientable. We say $\Phi(X) = n$ if n is the smallest positive integer with this property.

Remark 2.16 The inequality appearing in the above definition is justified in the following sense. If $E \otimes X(n)$ is complex-orientable, then so is $E \otimes X(m)$ for any $m \geq n$. This follows from the definition of complex-orientability, as $X(m)$ is an $X(n)$ -module. In fact, the same argument shows that if $R \rightarrow S$ is a map of homotopy associative ring spectra, then $\Phi(R) \geq \Phi(S)$.

Example 2.17 We have $X(1) = \mathbb{S}$, so E has chromatic defect $\Phi(E) = 1$ if and only if E is complex-orientable. We give two nontrivial examples due to Hopkins [[20](#), Chapter 9]:

- $\Phi(\mathbf{ko}) = \Phi(\mathbf{KO}) = 2$,
- $\Phi(\mathbf{tmf}) = \Phi(\mathbf{Tmf}) = \Phi(\mathbf{TMF}) = 4$.

We will return frequently to these examples. The spectra \mathbf{ko} and \mathbf{tmf} are prototypical examples of fp spectra, in the sense of Mahowald and Rezk [[37](#)], and we will investigate in [Section 4](#) to what extent fp spectra admit finite chromatic defect.

If one localizes at a prime p , the spectrum \mathbf{MU} splits

$$\mathbf{MU}_{(p)} \simeq \mathbf{BP}[x_i : i \neq p^k - 1]$$

as a sum of shifts of the p -primary Brown–Peterson spectrum \mathbf{BP} , with $|x_i| = 2i$. Just as with \mathbf{MU} , maps of homotopy ring spectra $X(m) \rightarrow X(m)$ are in bijection with the set of polynomials

$$x + b_1x^2 + \cdots + b_{n-1}x^m$$

where $b_i \in \pi_{2i} X(m)$. By the Hurewicz theorem, the map $X(m) \rightarrow \mathbf{MU}$ induces an isomorphism in π_i for $i \leq 2m - 2$. It follows that the Quillen idempotent ϵ on $\mathbf{MU}_{(p)}$ that defines \mathbf{BP} restricts to an idempotent homotopy ring map $\epsilon : X(m)_{(p)} \rightarrow X(m)_{(p)}$.

Definition 2.18 We let $T(n)$ denote the spectrum $X(p^n)_{(p)}[\epsilon^{-1}]$.

Remark 2.19 $T(n)$ inherits the structure of a homotopy commutative ring spectrum from $X(p^n)$. Beardsley and Lawson [[8](#)] showed in fact that $T(n)$ is an \mathbb{E}_1 -summand of $X(p^n)$, but it is not known if it admits more structure; see [[3](#)].

Just as with BP, $X(m)$ splits p -locally. To describe this splitting, we use the following notation.

Definition 2.20 Let E be a homotopy associative ring spectrum, and let $\{x_1, x_2, \dots\}$ be a graded set. We let $E[x_1, x_2, \dots]$ denote the free E -module on the graded set given by the standard monomial basis of the polynomial ring $\mathbb{Z}[x_1, x_2, \dots]$.

Proposition 2.21 For $p^n \leq m < p^{n+1}$, there is a splitting of $T(n)$ -modules

$$X(m)_{(p)} \simeq T(n)[x_i : i \neq p^k - 1, i < m].$$

Proof See [51, 6.5.1]. □

For the same reasons that BP is often easier to work with than MU, it is often more convenient to work one prime at a time and phrase chromatic defect in terms of the $T(n)$.

Definition 2.22 For E a p -local spectrum, we let

$$\Phi_p(E) = \min\{n \geq 0 : E \otimes T(n) \text{ is complex-orientable}\}.$$

In particular,

$$\Phi_p(E) = \lfloor \log_p \Phi(E) \rfloor,$$

which follows from the previous proposition.

The filtration of BP by the $T(n)$ is especially nice for making inductive arguments due to the existence of a nice cell structure on $T(n + 1)$ as a module over the \mathbb{E}_1 -ring $T(n)$. This was an essential ingredient in the Devinatz–Hopkins–Smith proof [19, Proposition 1.5] of the nilpotence theorem. We will also see a more structured description of this filtration due to Beardsley in Theorem 3.12.

Construction 2.23 One may use the Thom isomorphism to compute $H_*(X(n); \mathbb{Z})$, using that $X(n)$ is the Thom spectrum of a complex bundle. Applying the Quillen idempotent, one may compute that $H_*(T(n); \mathbb{Z}) = \mathbb{Z}[t_1, \dots, t_n]$ with $|t_i| = 2(p^i - 1)$; see [27, Corollary 1.3.8].

This allows one to form the diagram of $T(n)$ -modules

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} T(n) & \Sigma^{|t_{n+1}|} T(n) & \Sigma^{2|t_{n+1}|} T(n) & & \\ \downarrow t_{n+1}^0 & \downarrow t_{n+1}^1 & \downarrow t_{n+1}^2 & & \\ T(n+1) & \longrightarrow X_{(1)} & \longrightarrow X_{(2)} & \longrightarrow \dots & \end{array}$$

where $X_{(k)}$ is the cofiber of t_{n+1}^{k-1} , and t_{n+1}^k is the map of $T(n)$ -modules adjoint to the map $\mathbb{S}^{k|t_{n+1}|} \rightarrow X_{(k)}$ provided by the Hurewicz theorem, using that

$$H_*(X_{(k)}; \mathbb{Z}_{(p)}) = H_*(T(n); \mathbb{Z}_{(p)})\{t_{n+1}^m : m \geq k\}.$$

Using the Hurewicz theorem, we see that $X_{(\infty)} = 0$, hence defining

$$X^{(k)} = \text{fib}(T(n+1) \rightarrow X_{(k+1)})$$

we have an exhaustive cell structure

$$X^{(0)} \rightarrow X^{(1)} \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow X^{(\infty)} = T(n+1)$$

on the $T(n)$ -module $T(n+1)$ whose associated graded is the free module $T(n)[t_{n+1}]$.

Proposition 2.24 *Let E be any spectrum with $\Phi_p(E) \leq n \leq m \leq \infty$. There is an equivalence of $T(n)$ -modules*

$$E \otimes T(m) \simeq E \otimes T(n)[t_{n+1}, t_{n+2}, \dots, t_m].$$

Proof The decomposition of the $T(n)$ -module follows inductively from the cell structure of [Construction 2.23](#) along with the fact that each of the cofiber sequences therein split after tensoring with BP. Indeed, this latter fact follows from the evenness of $\text{BP} \otimes T(n)$. \square

We finish this section with the following conjecture.

Conjecture 2.25 *Any spectrum with finite chromatic defect satisfies the condition of the telescope conjecture at all heights and primes.*

Remark 2.26 In unpublished work, Robert Burklund proves that for any k and n , there is a compact $\text{Tel}(k)$ -local spectrum $F_{n,k}$ that is a module over $L_{\text{Tel}(k)}X(n)$, where $\text{Tel}(k)$ is the v_k -telescope on a finite type k complex. This result would give a proof for the above conjecture. Indeed, if E has finite chromatic defect, then E satisfies the telescope conjecture at height k if and only if $L_{\text{Tel}(k)}(E \otimes F_{n,k})$ satisfies the telescope conjecture at height k , by use of the thick subcategory theorem. Since $F_{n,k}$ is a $L_{\text{Tel}(k)}X(n)$ -module, it follows that $L_{\text{Tel}(k)}(E \otimes F_{n,k})$ is a retract of $L_{\text{Tel}(k)}(E \otimes X(n) \otimes F_{n,k})$. The property of satisfying the telescope conjecture at height k is closed under retracts, and $L_{\text{Tel}(k)}(E \otimes X(n) \otimes F_{n,k})$ satisfies this property since it is complex-orientable by assumption.

Note that having infinite chromatic defect does not prevent a spectrum satisfying the condition of the telescope conjecture at all heights. For example, the connective image of J spectrum j satisfies the condition of the telescope conjecture at all heights since it is MU-nilpotent, but it has infinite chromatic defect by [Theorem 5.18](#).

2.3 Wood-types

In this section, we work p -locally. First we recall the following standard definition.

Definition 2.27 *A finite BP-projective is a finite spectrum F such that BP_*F is a projective BP_* -module.*

In fact, we may as well work just with finite BP-frees, due to the following lemma.

Lemma 2.28 *Every finite BP-projective F is finite BP-free. That is, $\text{BP} \otimes F$ is a finite free BP-module.*

Proof By finite typeness, it suffices to prove the claim after p -completion. Since BP_*F is projective, one uses Brown representability to exhibit $\text{BP} \otimes F$ as a retract of $\text{BP}\{T\}$, for some finite graded indexing set T .

Since the \mathbb{F}_p -based ASS of BP collapses on E_2 , it follows that that of $\text{BP} \otimes F$ does as well. It follows from the indecomposability of the \mathcal{A}_* -comodule $H_*(\text{BP}; \mathbb{F}_p)$ that the inclusion $H_*(\text{BP} \otimes F; \mathbb{F}_p) \rightarrow H_*(\text{BP}\{T\}; \mathbb{F}_p)$ is of the form $H_*(\text{BP}; \mathbb{F}_p)\{T'\} \rightarrow H_*(\text{BP}; \mathbb{F}_p)\{T\}$ for some $T' \subset T$. The corresponding statement thus holds on E_∞ -pages and on homotopy groups. \square

Remark 2.29 Lemma 2.28 may also be proven inductively using a cell structure on F . In fact, all of the examples we will discuss concern finite complexes F with only even-dimensional cells, which are automatically BP-free since BP_* is concentrated in even degrees.

Definition 2.30 A p -local spectrum E is said to be *Wood-type* if there exists a finite BP-projective F such that $E \otimes F$ is complex-orientable.

Example 2.31 Fix a height- n formal group Γ over a perfect field k of characteristic p and a finite subgroup $G \subset \mathbb{G}_n$ of the corresponding Morava stabilizer group, and we let $\text{EO}_n(G)$ denote the fixed points of $E(k, \Gamma)$ with respect to G . It is a theorem of Meier, Naumann and Noel that $\text{EO}_n(G)$ is Wood-type; see [16, Appendix B].

Example 2.32 The above example gives higher height generalizations of Wood's theorem for the periodic theory KO , which becomes $\text{EO}_1(C_2)$ after 2-completion. Wood equivalences for connective theories like ko are harder to come by, and we revisit this in Section 4 in the context of fp spectra.

Some known examples beyond ko include the equivalence

$$\text{tmf} \otimes D\mathcal{A}(1) \simeq \text{tmf}_1(3)$$

at the prime 2, and the equivalence

$$\text{tmf} \otimes X_2 \simeq \text{tmf}_1(2)$$

at the prime 3, where X_2 is the 8-skeleton of $T(1)$; see [39]. The spectra $\text{tmf}_1(3)$ and $\text{tmf}_1(2)$ are complex-orientable, so these equivalences imply that tmf is Wood-type.

As before, the thick subcategory theorem implies the following.

Proposition 2.33 *If E is Wood-type, then E is BP-nilpotent.*

The notion of Wood-types is closely tied to that of chromatic defect via the following useful fact.

Proposition 2.34 *Every finite BP-free F is a finite $T(n)$ -free for some $0 \leq n < \infty$.*

Proof If F is a BP-free, there is an equivalence of BP-modules $\text{BP} \otimes F \simeq \text{BP}\{T\}$ for some finite graded indexing set T . For each $\alpha \in T$, the corresponding map $\mathbb{S}^{|\alpha|} \rightarrow \text{BP} \otimes F$ factors through $T(n) \otimes F$ for some n , since $T(n) \rightarrow \text{BP}$ is a $(2p^{n+1}-4)$ -equivalence. Since T is finite, we may choose n such that such a factorization exists for all $\alpha \in T$, and this defines a map

$$T(n)\{T\} \rightarrow T(n) \otimes F.$$

Applying $\text{BP} \otimes_{T(n)} -$, this map becomes an equivalence, thus it is an equivalence as BP is a free $T(n)$ -module by Proposition 2.24. \square

This gives a necessary condition for E to be Wood-type.

Corollary 2.35 *If E is Wood-type, then E has finite chromatic defect.*

Proof By the proposition, there is some finite $T(n)$ -free F such that $E \otimes F$ is complex-orientable. It follows that $E \otimes T(n)$ is a retract of the complex-orientable spectrum $E \otimes F \otimes T(n)$. \square

Corollary 2.36 *For any $E(k, \Gamma)$ and $G \subset \mathbb{G}_n$ as in Example 2.31, the spectrum $EO_n(G)$ has finite chromatic defect.*

In Section 6 we will return to this example and compute the chromatic defect $\Phi(EO_n(G))$ precisely in terms of the valuation on the ring $\text{End}(\Gamma)$.

3 The $T(n)$ and \mathbb{F}_p -homology

In this section, we use the Thom isomorphism to analyze the $T(n)$ and chromatic defect from the point of view of the Adams spectral sequence.

3.1 The Adams spectral sequence of $T(n)$

We fix a prime p and let $T(n)$ be the summand of $X(p^n)_{(p)}$ as in Definition 2.18. The Thom isomorphism implies that the map $T(n) \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_p$ induces an injection of \mathcal{A}_* -comodule algebras

$$H_*(T(n); \mathbb{F}_p) \rightarrow H_*(\mathbb{F}_p; \mathbb{F}_p) = \mathcal{A}_*,$$

with image $\mathbb{F}_2[\zeta_1^2, \dots, \zeta_n^2]$ for $p = 2$ and $\mathbb{F}_p[\zeta_1, \dots, \zeta_n]$ for p odd. This can be described as a coinduced comodule.

Proposition 3.1 *There is an isomorphism of \mathcal{A}_* -comodule algebras*

$$H_*(T(n); \mathbb{F}_p) \cong \begin{cases} \mathcal{A}_* \square_{\mathcal{A}_*/(\xi_1^2, \dots, \xi_n^2)} \mathbb{F}_2 & \text{if } p = 2, \\ \mathcal{A}_* \square_{\mathcal{A}_*/(\xi_1, \dots, \xi_n)} \mathbb{F}_p & \text{if } p > 2. \end{cases}$$

The quotient Hopf algebra $\mathcal{A}_*/(\xi_1^2, \dots, \xi_n^2)$ at $p = 2$ is given by

$$E(\xi_1, \dots, \xi_n) \otimes P(\xi_{n+1}, \xi_{n+2}, \dots)$$

and, at odd primes, $\mathcal{A}_*/(\xi_1, \dots, \xi_n)$ is given by

$$E(\tau_1, \tau_2, \dots) \otimes P(\xi_{n+1}, \xi_{n+2}, \dots).$$

A change-of-rings isomorphism then gives the following.

Corollary 3.2 *The E_2 -page of the Adams spectral sequence for $T(n)$ is given by*

$$\text{Ext}_{\mathcal{A}_*}(\mathbb{F}_p, H_* T(n)) \cong \begin{cases} \text{Ext}_{E(\xi_1, \dots, \xi_n) \otimes P(\xi_{n+1}, \xi_{n+2}, \dots)}(\mathbb{F}_2, \mathbb{F}_2) & \text{if } p = 2, \\ \text{Ext}_{E(\tau_1, \tau_2, \dots) \otimes P(\xi_{n+1}, \xi_{n+2}, \dots)}(\mathbb{F}_p, \mathbb{F}_p) & \text{if } p > 2. \end{cases}$$

We now define an increasing filtration on these quotient Hopf algebras to obtain a corresponding May spectral sequence. This is the usual May filtration on \mathcal{A}_* (see [51, Section 3.2]) projected to the quotient. For $p = 2$, this is obtained by giving $\xi_i^{2^j}$ filtration $2i - 1$, and for $p > 2$ by giving $\xi_i^{2^j}$ and τ_{i-1} filtration $2i - 1$, and extending multiplicatively. At $p = 2$, the associated graded of this filtration is a tensor product of primitively generated exterior algebras. At odd primes, it is a tensor product of primitively generated exterior algebras and primitively generated truncated polynomial algebras of height p . As in the case for the sphere, we deduce the following.

Proposition 3.3 *There is a May spectral sequence converging to the E_2 -page of the Adams spectral sequence for $T(n)$.*

- When $p = 2$, the May SS has signature

$$E_1^{s,t,w} = \mathbb{F}_2[h_{i,j} : j = 0 \text{ if } i \leq n] \implies \text{Ext}_{\mathcal{A}_*}^{s,t}(\mathbb{F}_2, H_*T(n)),$$

where $h_{i,j} = [\xi_i^{2^j}]$. In (s, t, w) tridegrees, we have $|h_{i,j}| = (1, 2^j(2^i - 1), 2i - 1)$.

- When $p > 2$, the May SS has signature

$$E_1^{s,t,w} = E(h_{i,j} : i > n) \otimes \mathbb{F}_p[b_{i,j} : i > n] \otimes \mathbb{F}_p[a_i] \implies \text{Ext}_{\mathcal{A}_*}^{s,t}(\mathbb{F}_p, H_*T(n)),$$

where $h_{i,j} = [\xi_i^{p^j}]$, $a_i = [\tau_i]$ and $b_{i,j}$ is the p -fold Massey power of $h_{i,j}$, which is represented explicitly by the cocycle

$$\sum_{k=1}^p \frac{1}{p} \binom{p}{k} [\xi_i^{p^{jk}} | \xi_i^{p^{j(p-k)}}].$$

The (s, t, w) tridegrees of the generators are $|h_{i,j}| = (1, 2p^j(p^i - 1), 2i - 1)$, $|a_i| = (1, 2p^i - 1, 2i - 1)$ and $|b_{i,j}| = (2, 2p^{pj}(p^i - 1), 4i - 2)$.

This spectral sequence may be used to compute the E_2 -page of the Adams spectral sequence for $T(n)$ through a range. We plot in Figure 1 the E_1 -page for $T(1)$ at $p = 2$. When working with the May spectral sequence, it can be convenient to ignore the May filtration degree, and plot the spectral sequence in Adams bigrading $(t - s, s)$ for a class in $\text{Ext}^{s,t}$, where s is the cohomological degree and t is the internal degree. In this grading, all May differentials have the signature of an Adams d_1 . By direct use of the coproduct formula and Nakamura's lemma [47], one can compute some May differentials for $T(1)$ in low stems.

Proposition 3.4 *In the May SS for $T(1)$ at $p = 2$, we have the differentials*

$$d_1(h_{3,0}) = h_{1,0}h_{2,1}, \quad d_1(h_{4,0}) = h_{1,0}h_{3,1} + h_{2,0}h_{2,2}, \quad d_2(h_{3,0}^2) = h_{1,0}^2h_{2,2}.$$

The May SS for $T(n)$ in general exhibits a similar pattern. The following comes by a degree check on the generators of the E_1 -page, and the differential follows from the coproduct formula.

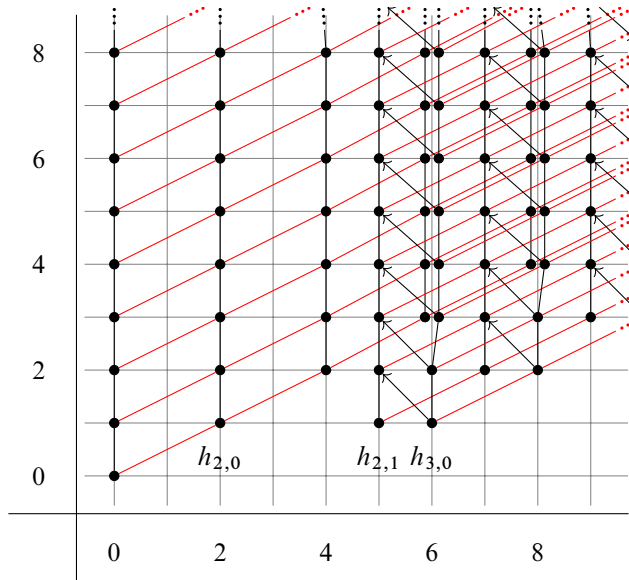


Figure 1: The E_1 -page of the May SS for $T(1)$ at $p = 2$.

Proposition 3.5 *The inclusion*

$$\mathbb{F}_2[h_{i,0}, h_{n+1,1} : i \leq n + 2] \rightarrow E_1\text{-May}(T(n))$$

is an isomorphism in stems $t - s \leq 2^{n+2} - 2 = \text{stem}(h_{n+2,0})$ at $p = 2$. There is a differential $d_1(h_{n+2,0}) = h_{1,0}h_{n+1,1}$.

The inclusion

$$E(h_{n+1,0}) \otimes \mathbb{F}_p[a_i : i \leq n + 2] \rightarrow E_1\text{-May}(T(n))$$

is an isomorphism in stems $t - s \leq 2p^{n+1} - 2 = \text{stem}(a_{n+1})$ for $p > 2$. There is a differential $d_1(a_{n+1}) = h_{1,0}h_{n+1,0}$.

Proof We give the proof for $p = 2$, the odd prime case being analogous. The inclusion in question is the canonical inclusion

$$\mathbb{F}_2[h_{i,0}, h_{n+1,1} : i \leq n + 2] \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_2[h_{i,j} : j = 0 \text{ if } i \leq n].$$

In particular, the polynomial generators not in the image of this inclusion consist of $h_{n+1,j}$ where $j > 1$, $h_{n+2,j}$ where $j > 0$, and $h_{n+k,j}$ for $k > 2$ and for all j . The $t - s$ degree of each of these generators exceeds that of $h_{n+2,0}$, so these generators do not contribute to the range in question.

The May differential $d_1(h_{n+2,0}) = h_{1,0}h_{n+1,1}$ follows from the coproduct formula

$$\Delta(\xi_{n+2}) = \xi_{n+2} \otimes 1 + 1 \otimes \xi_{n+2} + \xi_{n+1}^2 \otimes \xi_1 + \sum_{j=2}^{n+1} \xi_{n+2-j}^2 \otimes \xi_j$$

so that, in the cobar complex, $d([\xi_{n+2}]) = [\xi_{n+1}^2 | \xi_1]$ modulo higher May filtration terms. □

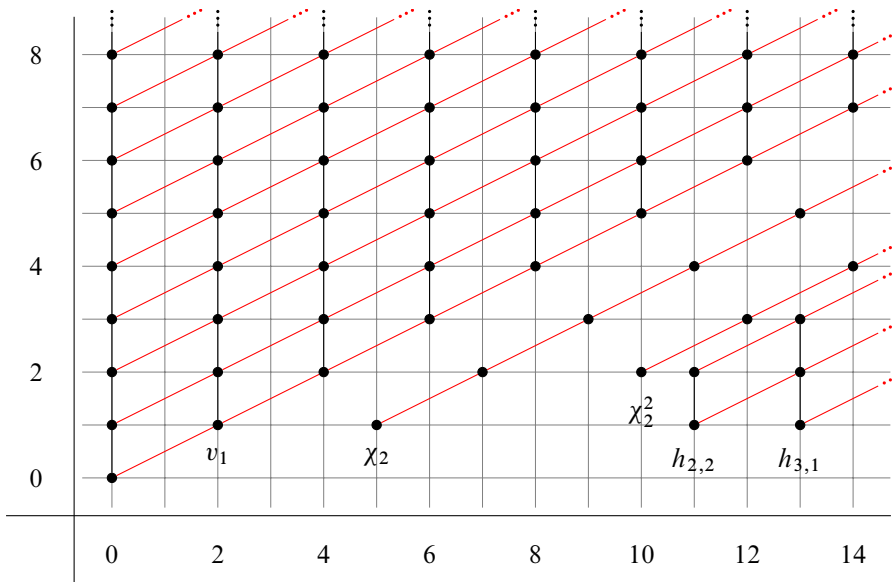


Figure 2: The E_2 -page of the Adams SS for $T(1)$ at $p = 2$.

Corollary 3.6 *The first nonzero odd homotopy group of $T(n)$ is*

$$\pi_{2p^{n+1}-3}T(n) = \mathbb{Z}/p.$$

A generator is detected by $h_{n+1,1}$ at $p = 2$, and $h_{n+1,0}$ at $p > 2$. The same is true for $X(m)_{(p)}$ whenever $p^n \leq m < p^{n+1}$.

Proof By Proposition 3.5, the $2p^{n+1} - 3$ stem of the E_2 -page of the May SS for $T(n)$ has a single nonzero bidegree $(2p^{n+1} - 3, 1)$ generated by $h_{n+1,1}$ when $p = 2$ and by $h_{n+1,0}$ when $p > 2$. The $2p^{n+1} - 4$ stem is $h_{1,0}$ -torsion free and $h_{1,0}h_{n+1,1} = 0$ (resp. $h_{1,0}h_{n+1,0} = 0$ at $p > 2$), so the generator of the $2p^{n+1} - 3$ stem cannot support a differential. The May SS thus collapses on E_2 in this stem, and the same argument shows the generator cannot support an Adams differential.

The statement about $X(m)$ then follows immediately from the splitting of Proposition 2.21. □

In fact, the attaching maps σ_k discussed in the previous section identify for us a canonical generator of $\pi_{2p^{n+1}-3}T(n)$. Since $T(n)$ is a weak $X(p^{n+1}-1)$ -module, one has a splitting

$$T(n) \otimes \Sigma^{-2}\mathbb{C}P^{p^{n+1}-1} \simeq T(n)\{b_0, \dots, b_{p^{n+1}-1}\}.$$

Since the odd homotopy groups of $T(n)$ vanish in degrees less than $2p^{n+1} - 3$, the attaching map

$$\sigma_{p^{n+1}-1} : \mathbb{S}^{2p^{n+1}-3} \rightarrow T(n) \otimes \Sigma^{-2}\mathbb{C}P^{p^{n+1}-1}$$

has nonzero component at b_i if and only if $i = 0$. This component defines an element of $\pi_{2p^{n+1}-3}T(n)$ which we call χ_{n+1} .

Proposition 3.7 *The element χ_{n+1} is a generator of $\pi_{2p^{n+1}-3}T(n) = \mathbb{Z}/p$.*

Proof The above discussion shows that $\chi_{n+1} = 0$ if and only if $T(n) \otimes \sigma_{p^{n+1}-1}$ is null. If this is the case, then $T(n)$ is a weak $X(p^{n+1})$ -module by [Proposition 2.14](#), and therefore a weak $T(n+1)$ -module. However, the map $T(n+1) \rightarrow \text{BP}$ is $(2p^{n+2}-3)$ -connected, hence the same is true for the map

$$T(n) \otimes T(n+1) \rightarrow T(n) \otimes \text{BP}.$$

The homotopy groups of $T(n) \otimes \text{BP}$ are concentrated in even degrees, thus $\pi_{2p^{n+1}-3}(T(n) \otimes T(n+1)) = 0$, contradicting that $\pi_{2p^{n+1}-3}T(n)$ is a retract. □

Remark 3.8 The source $h_{n+2,0}$ (resp. a_{n+1} at $p > 2$) of the May d_1 of [Proposition 3.5](#) detects the class

$$v_{n+1} \in \pi_{2(p^{n+1}-1)}T(n+1) \cong \pi_{2(p^{n+1}-1)}\text{BP}.$$

This implies in fact that $v_{n+1} \in \pi_{2(p^{n+1}-1)}(T(n+1)/p)$ lifts to a class in

$$\pi_{2(p^{n+1}-1)}(T(n)/p),$$

whose Bockstein is χ_{n+1} . This gives a Toda bracket description in $T(n+1)$

$$v_{n+1} \in \langle p, \chi_{n+1}, 1 \rangle,$$

as one can show using, for example, [\[42, Lemma 4.6.1\]](#).

The element χ_{n+1} gives a convenient criterion to compute the chromatic defect of a homotopy associative ring spectrum E , namely an explicit sequence of obstructions in $T(n)$ homology to $\Phi_p(E)$ being $\leq n$. We continue to work in the p -local setting.

Proposition 3.9 *Let E be a p -local homotopy associative ring spectrum. Then $\Phi_p(E) \leq n$ if and only if*

$$(3-1) \quad \chi_{m+1} = 0 \in \pi_{2p^{m+1}-3}(E \otimes T(m))$$

for all $m \geq n$.

Proof By [Proposition 2.14](#) and the discussion preceding [Proposition 3.7](#), $E \otimes T(m)$ is a weak $T(m+1)$ -module if and only if

$$E \otimes T(m) \otimes \sigma_{p^{m+1}-1} = 0,$$

whose only potentially nonzero component is $E \otimes \Sigma^{2p^{m+1}-3}T(m) \xrightarrow{E \otimes \chi_{m+1}} E \otimes T(m)$. Since $E \otimes T(m)$ is a homotopy associative ring spectrum, this is null if and only if (3-1) holds. By induction, if (3-1) holds for all $m \geq n$, then $E \otimes T(m)$ is a weak $T(m)$ -module for all $m \geq n$, hence complex-orientable. □

3.2 The chromatic defect of finite spectra

We begin this section with a toy example, on which we will elaborate to show that the chromatic defect of any finite spectrum is infinite. In this example, we will show that the finite spectrum $C(\eta)$ is not complex-orientable; i.e., that $\Phi(C(\eta)) > 1$. The fact that $C(\eta)$ has infinite chromatic defect is the claim that $\Phi(C(\eta)) > n$ for all n , which follows by a completely analogous argument in the category of $X(n)$ -modules; see [Corollary 3.15](#).

We work 2-locally throughout this example. We have $X(1) = \mathbb{S}$, and $T(0) = X(1)_{(p)} = \mathbb{S}_{(p)}$. The attaching map $\sigma_1 : \mathbb{S}^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{S}$ is by definition the Hopf map η , which corresponds to the element χ_1 when $p = 2$. The quotient $\mathbb{S}/\eta = C(\eta)$ does not admit a unital multiplication. Indeed, if it did, the endomorphism

$$\eta : \Sigma C(\eta) \rightarrow C(\eta)$$

must be null. Taking the cofiber, this would give an equivalence

$$C(\eta) \otimes C(\eta) \simeq C(\eta) \oplus \Sigma^2 C(\eta),$$

but the mod 2 cohomology of the left-hand side admits a nontrivial Sq^4 -action, while the right-hand side does not.

We may instead embed the quotient $C(\eta)$ into a ring spectrum by forming the \mathbb{E}_1 -quotient of \mathbb{S} by η as the pushout

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Free}_{\mathbb{E}_1}(\mathbb{S}^1) & \xrightarrow{\bar{\eta}} & \mathbb{S} \\ \bar{0} \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \mathbb{S} & \longrightarrow & \mathbb{S} // \eta \end{array}$$

in the category of \mathbb{E}_1 -rings, where $\bar{0}$ and $\bar{\eta}$ denote the adjoint maps with respect to the free-forget adjunction. This quotient is in fact $T(1)$.

Proposition 3.10 *There is an equivalence of \mathbb{E}_1 -rings*

$$\mathbb{S} // \eta \rightarrow T(1)$$

2-locally, and an equivalence of \mathbb{E}_1 -rings

$$\mathbb{S} // \alpha \rightarrow T(1)$$

p -locally for odd primes p .

Proof We give the proof for $p = 2$, the odd primary case being analogous. Choosing a nullhomotopy of η in $\pi_* T(1)$ determines a map $\mathbb{S} // \eta \rightarrow T(1)$ by universal property, and since both sides are finite type, we may check that is an isomorphism in mod 2 cohomology. Since η is zero in mod 2 homology, when we tensor this pushout diagram up to \mathbb{F}_2 , we have a pushout

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Free}_{\mathbb{E}_1 - \mathbb{F}_2}(\mathbb{S}^1) & \xrightarrow{\text{Free}_{\mathbb{E}_1 - \mathbb{F}_2}(0)} & \text{Free}_{\mathbb{E}_1 - \mathbb{F}_2}(\ast) \\ \text{Free}_{\mathbb{E}_1 - \mathbb{F}_2}(0) \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \text{Free}_{\mathbb{E}_1 - \mathbb{F}_2}(\ast) & \longrightarrow & \mathbb{S} // \eta \otimes \mathbb{F}_2 \end{array}$$

Since the Free functor preserves pushouts, one has

$$\pi_*(\mathbb{S} // \eta \otimes \mathbb{F}_2) = \pi_*(\text{Free}_{\mathbb{E}_1 - \mathbb{F}_2}(\mathbb{S}^2)) = \mathbb{F}_2[x_2],$$

where $|x_2| = 2$.

We claim now that in mod 2 cohomology, Sq^2 of the nonzero class in degree 0 is equal to the nonzero class in degree 2 for both $H^*(\mathbb{S} // \eta)$ and $H^*(T(1))$. With this in place, by linearity over the Steenrod algebra, the map $\mathbb{S} // \eta \rightarrow T(1)$ must induce an isomorphism on $H^{\leq 2}(-; \mathbb{F}_2)$, and therefore also on $H_{\leq 2}(-; \mathbb{F}_2)$. Since the map induced on homology is a ring map, it is therefore an isomorphism.

To establish the claim about Sq^2 , note that for a ring spectrum R , there is an extension of the unit map $\mathbb{S} \rightarrow R$ over $C(\eta)$. If R is connective and $H^0(R; \mathbb{F}_2) = \mathbb{F}_2$, then the map $C(\eta) \rightarrow R$ must induce an isomorphism on $H^0(-; \mathbb{F}_2)$ since it extends the unit. But then since Sq^2 is nonzero on $H^0(C(\eta); \mathbb{F}_2)$ it must be nonzero on $H^0(R; \mathbb{F}_2)$. Note now that $\mathbb{S} // \eta$ and $T(1)$ satisfy the conditions on R . □

Remark 3.11 It follows that if E is any p -local spectrum, then E admits the structure of a $T(1)$ -module if and only if $E \otimes \eta$ is null for $p = 2$ and if and only if $E \otimes \alpha_1$ is null if $p > 2$. Indeed, if $E \otimes \eta$ (resp. $E \otimes \alpha_1$ for $p > 2$) is null, then the \mathbb{E}_1 -ring map $\mathbb{S} \rightarrow \text{End}(E)$ factors canonically through an \mathbb{E}_1 -ring map $T(1) \rightarrow \text{End}(E)$ by universal property, giving E a $T(1)$ -module structure. Conversely, the map η (resp. α_1 for $p > 2$) acts by zero on any $T(1)$ -module.

We finish the toy example by noting the following: if $C(\eta)$ were complex-orientable, then the map η must act by zero on $C(\eta)$. The above proposition would then provide a ring map

$$f : T(1) \rightarrow \text{End}(C(\eta)).$$

This map f would send $1 \mapsto 1$ in mod 2 homology. However, in $H_*T(1) = \mathbb{F}_2[x_2]$, there is a coaction formula

$$\psi(x_2^{2^n}) = \zeta_1^{2^{n+1}} \otimes 1 + 1 \otimes x_2^{2^n}.$$

Since $H_*(f)$ is a map of comodule algebras, this implies that $x_2^{2^n}$ must be sent to a nonzero element for all n , contradicting the boundedness of $H_*\text{End}(C(\eta))$.

We adapt this argument now to a general finite spectrum and to the more general notion of finite chromatic defect. This hinges on a theorem of Beardsley [7], which may be shown by adapting Proposition 3.10 to the category of $X(p^n)_{(p)}$ -modules, with χ_{n+1} in place of η .

Theorem 3.12 (Beardsley) *Let $p^n \leq m < p^{n+1}$. If $m < p^{n+1} - 1$, then*

$$X(m+1)_{(p)} \simeq X(m)_{(p)}[b_m]$$

is the free \mathbb{E}_1 - $X(m)_{(p)}$ -algebra on a class in degree $2m$.

If $m = p^{n+1} - 1$, $X(m+1)_{(p)}$ is the free \mathbb{E}_1 - $X(m)_{(p)}$ -algebra with a nullhomotopy of χ_{n+1} . That is, there is a pushout

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Free}_{\mathbb{E}_1 - X(p^{n+1}-1)_{(p)}}(\mathbb{S}^{2p^{n+1}-3}) & \xrightarrow{\overline{\chi_{n+1}}} & X(p^{n+1}-1)_{(p)} \\ \bar{0} \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ X(p^{n+1}-1)_{(p)} & \longrightarrow & X(p^{n+1}) \end{array}$$

in \mathbb{E}_1 - $X(p^{n+1}-1)_{(p)}$ -algebras.

Essentially, Beardsley's theorem says if one attaches an \mathbb{E}_1 - $T(n)$ -cell to $T(n)$ to kill χ_{n+1} , one gets $T(n + 1)$. However, since $T(n)$ is not known to be an \mathbb{E}_2 -ring, it doesn't make sense to speak of \mathbb{E}_1 - $T(n)$ -algebras, so we must state things in terms of the \mathbb{E}_2 -rings $X(m)_{(p)}$.

The discussion following [Proposition 3.10](#) may be repeated in the category of $X(p^n)_{(p)}$ -modules, using the relative dual Steenrod algebra. We will only need the following piece of information.

Lemma 3.13 *Let $p^n \leq m < p^{n+1}$. The map*

$$\mathcal{A}_* = \pi_*(\mathbb{F}_p \otimes \mathbb{F}_p) \rightarrow \pi_*(\mathbb{F}_p \otimes_{X(m)} \mathbb{F}_p) =: \mathcal{A}_*^{X(m)}$$

sends $\zeta_{n+1}^{p^k}$ to a nonzero coalgebra primitive for all k when $p > 2$. When $p = 2$, the map sends $\zeta_{n+1}^{2^k}$ to a nonzero coalgebra primitive for all $k > 0$.

Proof We have an isomorphism

$$\pi_*(\mathbb{F}_p \otimes_{X(m)} \mathbb{F}_p) \cong \pi_*((\mathbb{F}_p \otimes \mathbb{F}_p) \otimes_{\mathbb{F}_p \otimes_{X(m)} \mathbb{F}_p} \mathbb{F}_p) \cong \mathcal{A}_* \otimes_{H_*X(m)} \mathbb{F}_p.$$

Indeed, the map $H_*T(n) \rightarrow \mathcal{A}_*$ is identified with the flat inclusion

$$\mathbb{F}_2[\zeta_1^2, \dots, \zeta_n^2] \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_2[\zeta_1, \zeta_2, \dots].$$

Moreover, $H_*T(n)$ is flat over $H_*X(m)$ as it is a retract of a free module. This implies \mathcal{A}_* is flat over $H_*X(m)$, and the above isomorphism follows from collapse of the corresponding Künneth spectral sequence.

The splitting $H_*X(m) \cong H_*T(n)[x_i : i \neq p^k - 1, i < m]$ implies that

$$\mathcal{A}_* \otimes_{H_*X(m)} \mathbb{F}_p \cong (\mathcal{A}_* \otimes_{H_*T(n)} \mathbb{F}_p)[x_i : i \neq p^k - 1, i < m].$$

It follows from [Proposition 3.1](#) that

$$\mathcal{A}_* \otimes_{H_*T(n)} \mathbb{F}_p \cong \begin{cases} E(\xi_1, \dots, \xi_n) \otimes P(\xi_{n+1}, \xi_{n+2}, \dots) & \text{when } p = 2, \\ E(\tau_1, \tau_2, \dots) \otimes P(\xi_{n+1}, \xi_{n+2}, \dots) & \text{when } p > 2, \end{cases}$$

from which the claim now follows. □

Proposition 3.14 *Suppose $p^n \leq m < p^{n+1}$, and $p^{n+1} \leq m + k \leq \infty$. There are no nontrivial compact $X(m)_{(p)}$ -modules that are weak $X(m+k)_{(p)}$ -modules.*

Proof In what follows, we implicitly work p -locally and drop this from the notation. If F is a compact $X(m)$ -module that is a weak $X(m+k)$ -module, then by [Theorem 3.12](#) there is an \mathbb{E}_1 - $X(m)$ -algebra map

$$f : X(p^{n+1}) \rightarrow \text{End}_{X(m)}(F)$$

as $0 = \chi_{n+1} \in \pi_*X(m+k)$.

The relative homology

$$H_*^{X(m)}(\text{End}_{X(m)}(F)) = \pi_*(\mathbb{F}_p \otimes_{X(m)} \text{End}_{X(m)}(F))$$

is a comodule over the relative dual Steenrod algebra $\mathcal{A}_*^{X(m)}$. These relative homology groups are bounded above as $\text{End}_{X(m)}(F)$ is compact, and $H_*^{X(m)}(X(m))$ is bounded above.

Via the map of Hopf algebras $\mathcal{A}_* \rightarrow \mathcal{A}_*^{X(m)}$, any \mathcal{A}_* -comodule may be regarded as an $\mathcal{A}_*^{X(m)}$ -comodule, and the composite

$$H_*T(n+1) \rightarrow H_*(X(p^{n+1})) \rightarrow H_*^{X(m)}(X(p^{n+1})) \xrightarrow{f_*} H_*^{X(m)}(\text{End}_{X(m)}(F))$$

is a map of $\mathcal{A}_*^{X(m)}$ -comodules sending $1 \mapsto 1$. By Lemma 3.13, one has the coaction formula

$$\psi(\zeta_{n+1}^{p^k}) = 1 \otimes \zeta_{n+1}^{p^k} + \zeta_{n+1}^{p^k} \otimes 1$$

in the $\mathcal{A}_*^{X(m)}$ -comodule $H_*T(n+1)$ at odd primes, and similarly at $p = 2$ with ζ_{n+1}^2 in place of ζ_{n+1} .

The above composite must therefore send $\zeta_{n+1}^{p^k}$ (resp. $\zeta_{n+1}^{2^{k+1}}$ at $p = 2$) to a nonzero element for all $k \geq 0$. This gives a contradiction if $1 \neq 0 \in \pi_0(\text{End}_{X(m)}(F))$ by boundedness. □

Corollary 3.15 *If F is a nontrivial finite spectrum, then $\Phi(F) = \infty$. Working p -locally, if F is a nontrivial finite p -local spectrum, then $\Phi_p(F) = \infty$.*

Proof If F is a nontrivial finite spectrum, then $F_{(p)}$ is nontrivial for some prime p , so the latter claim implies the former. The $X(m)_{(p)}$ -module $F \otimes X(m)_{(p)}$ is compact, so if $F \otimes X(m)_{(p)}$ is complex-orientable, it is a weak MU-module, contradicting Proposition 3.14 if $m < \infty$. □

3.3 $\mathcal{P}(n)$ -free complexes

An important fact in stable homotopy is the existence of type $n + 1$ finite complexes. To construct a type $n + 1$ finite complex, it suffices to construct a finite complex F such that $H^*(F; \mathbb{F}_p)$ is free over the subalgebra $\mathcal{A}(n)$ of the Steenrod algebra \mathcal{A} . The Steenrod algebra has an even variant \mathcal{P} and corresponding subalgebras $\mathcal{P}(n)$. We mimic the $\mathcal{A}(n)$ case to construct even cell complexes whose cohomologies are free over $\mathcal{P}(n)$. We discuss also the structure of $H^*T(n)$ as a module over $\mathcal{A}(n)$; this will allow us to more closely relate chromatic defect with Wood-types.

Definition 3.16 We define the following Hopf algebras.

- Let $\mathcal{A}(n)$ be the subalgebra of the Steenrod algebra \mathcal{A} generated by $\{\text{Sq}^{2^i} : 0 \leq i \leq n\}$ for $p = 2$ and $\{\beta, P^{p^i} : 0 \leq i \leq n - 1\}$ for $p > 2$.
- Let $\mathcal{P} = \mathcal{A}/\langle \text{Sq}^1 \rangle$ where $\langle \text{Sq}^1 \rangle$ is the 2-sided ideal generated by Sq^1 for $p = 2$, and let \mathcal{P} be the subalgebra of \mathcal{A} generated by the P^i for $p > 2$.
- Let $\mathcal{P}(n)$ be the subalgebra of \mathcal{P} generated by $\{\text{Sq}^{2^i} : 1 \leq i \leq n + 1\}$ for $p = 2$ and $\{P^{p^i} : 0 \leq i \leq n\}$ for $p > 2$.

The algebras \mathcal{A} and \mathcal{P} are both Hopf algebras and $\mathcal{A}(n)$ and $\mathcal{P}(n)$ are subHopf algebras. The description of their duals is standard, and we recall this below. As is standard with the Steenrod algebra and its dual, we use the notation $\mathcal{A}(n)_*$ and $\mathcal{P}(n)_*$ to denote the dual of $\mathcal{A}(n)$ and $\mathcal{P}(n)$, respectively.

Proposition 3.17 *The inclusion $\mathcal{A}(n) \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$ is dual to the quotient*

$$\begin{cases} \mathbb{F}_2[\xi_1, \xi_2, \dots] \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_2[\xi_1, \dots, \xi_{n+1}] / (\xi_1^{2^{n+1}}, \xi_2^{2^n}, \dots, \xi_{n+1}^2) & \text{when } p = 2, \\ \mathbb{F}_p[\xi_1, \xi_2, \dots] \otimes E(\tau_0, \tau_1, \dots) \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_p[\xi_1, \dots, \xi_n] / (\xi_1^{p^n}, \xi_2^{p^{n-1}}, \dots, \xi_n^p) \otimes E(\tau_0, \dots, \tau_n) & \text{when } p > 2. \end{cases}$$

The inclusion $\mathcal{P}(n) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}$ is dual to the quotient

$$\begin{cases} \mathbb{F}_2[\xi_1^2, \xi_2^2, \dots] \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_2[\xi_1^2, \dots, \xi_{n+1}^2] / ((\xi_1^2)^{2^{n+1}}, (\xi_2^2)^{2^n}, \dots, (\xi_{n+1}^2)^2) & \text{when } p = 2, \\ \mathbb{F}_p[\xi_1, \xi_2, \dots] \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_p[\xi_1, \dots, \xi_{n+1}] / (\xi_1^{p^{n+1}}, \xi_2^{p^n}, \dots, \xi_{n+1}^p) & \text{when } p > 2. \end{cases}$$

Remark 3.18 When $p = 2$, the Hopf algebra $\mathcal{P}(n)$ is sometimes referred to as $D\mathcal{A}(n)$ — or the “double” of $\mathcal{A}(n)$ — as there is a degree-doubling isomorphism of Hopf algebras $\mathcal{A} \cong \mathcal{P}$ that restricts to a degree-doubling isomorphism of Hopf algebras $\mathcal{A}(n) \cong \mathcal{P}(n)$.

The key fact that allows one to construct $\mathcal{A}(n)$ - and $\mathcal{P}(n)$ -free complexes is the following theorem of Adams and Margolis [1] at $p = 2$ and Miller and Wilkerson [45] at $p > 2$; see also [52, Section 6.2]. We let P_t^s be the element of \mathcal{A} dual to $\xi_t^{p^s} \in \mathcal{A}_*$ with respect to the monomial basis, and for $p > 2$ we let Q_t denote the element dual to τ_t .

Theorem 3.19 *Let \mathcal{B} be a Hopf subalgebra of the Steenrod algebra \mathcal{A} . At $p = 2$, a \mathcal{B} -module M is free if and only if the Margolis homologies $H_*(M; P_t^s) = 0$ for all $P_t^s \in \mathcal{B}$, and for $p > 2$, M is free if and only if $H_*(M; P_t^s) = H_*(M; Q_t) = 0$ for all $P_t^s, Q_t \in \mathcal{B}$.*

The theorem applies verbatim to $\mathcal{B} = \mathcal{A}(n)$ for any prime p and to $\mathcal{B} = \mathcal{P}(n)$ for $p > 2$. For $p = 2$, the theorem also applies to $\mathcal{B} = \mathcal{P}(n) \subset \mathcal{P}$ because the degree-doubling isomorphism of Hopf algebras $\mathcal{A} \cong \mathcal{P}$ sends P_t^s to P_t^{s+1} . As outlined by Ravenel [52], Jeff Smith used idempotents in the group algebra of the symmetric group to construct finite $\mathcal{A}(n)$ -free complexes by way of **Theorem 3.19**, and we adapt this argument to $\mathcal{P}(n)$.

Proposition 3.20 *Let M be an \mathcal{A} -module on which P_t^0 acts nontrivially for $1 \leq t \leq n$. Then there is an $N \gg 0$ and an idempotent $e \in \mathbb{Z}_{(p)}[\Sigma_N]$ such that*

$$H_*(eM^{\otimes N}; P_t^s) = 0$$

for $s + t \leq n + 1$ and $(s, t) \neq (0, n + 1)$ when $p = 2$, and for $s + t \leq n$ when $p > 2$.

Proof By [52, Appendix C.3.1], each P_t^s and Q_t generates a subalgebra of \mathcal{A} of the form $E(x) = \mathbb{F}_p[x]/x^2$ or $T(x) = \mathbb{F}_p[x]/x^{p^n}$. If M is a free module over $E(x)$ or $T(x)$, the corresponding Margolis homology $H_*(M; x)$ vanishes. The claim now follows immediately as in the proof of [52, Appendix C.3.2], replacing $H^*(X)$ throughout with M . □

Taking $M = H^*\mathbb{C}P^{p^{n+1}}$, it follows from the Künneth formula that a retract of a smash power of $\mathbb{C}P^{p^{n+1}}$ is free over $\mathcal{P}(n)$.

Theorem 3.21 *There is a finite complex F such that F is a retract of $(\mathbb{C}P^{p^{n+1}})^{\otimes N}$ for some N , and $H^*(F; \mathbb{F}_p)$ is a free $\mathcal{P}(n)$ -module.*

Proof For $p > 2$, P_t^0 acts nontrivially on $H^*(\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^{p^{n+1}}; \mathbb{F}_p)$ for $t \leq n + 1$, hence by combining Proposition 3.20 and Theorem 3.19, there exists a retract F of $(\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^{p^{n+1}})^{\otimes N}$ for some N such that $H^*(F; \mathbb{F}_p)$ is free over $\mathcal{P}(n)$.

For $p = 2$, P_t^0 acts nontrivially on $H^*(\mathbb{R}\mathbb{P}^{2^{n+1}}; \mathbb{F}_2)$ for $t \leq n + 1$, and hence there exists a retract F of $(\mathbb{R}\mathbb{P}^{2^{n+1}})^{\otimes N}$ for some N such that $H^*(F; \mathbb{F}_2)$ is free over $\mathcal{A}(n)$. Now, there is a degree-doubling symmetric-monoidal equivalence of categories $\text{Mod}(\mathcal{A}) \simeq \text{Mod}(\mathcal{P})$ which sends $H^*(\mathbb{R}\mathbb{P}^{2^{n+1}}; \mathbb{F}_2)$ to $H^*(\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^{2^{n+1}}; \mathbb{F}_2)$. Since the degree-doubling isomorphism $\mathcal{A} \cong \mathcal{P}$ sends $\mathcal{A}(n)$ to $\mathcal{P}(n)$, it follows that using the same idempotent to split $(\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^{2^{n+1}})^{\otimes N}$ gives a $\mathcal{P}(n)$ -free summand. \square

Remark 3.22 This theorem constructs *some* complex F whose cohomology is free over $\mathcal{P}(n)$, but it can be difficult to work with F in a direct manner. However, in some cases one can do better via a direct construction. The 2-cell complex \mathbb{S}/η at $p = 2$ and \mathbb{S}/α_1 at $p > 2$ has cohomology free of rank 1 over $\mathcal{P}(0)$. At $p = 2$, one may construct a complex called $D\mathcal{A}(1)$ which is free of rank 1 over $\mathcal{P}(1)$; see [39].

These complexes may be used to construct Wood equivalences for certain fp spectra in a wide generality, which we will study in Section 4. The main fact we use is that, as an $\mathcal{A}(n)_*$ -comodule, $\mathcal{P}(n-1)_*$ is coinduced from an exterior algebra. In the following, recall that $\mathcal{E}(n)_*$ denotes the quotient Hopf algebra of the dual Steenrod algebra given by $E(\xi_1, \dots, \xi_{n+1})$ when $p = 2$, and $E(\tau_0, \dots, \tau_n)$ when $p > 2$.

Proposition 3.23 *Suppose that M is an \mathcal{A}_* -comodule concentrated in even degrees and that M is cofree as a $\mathcal{P}(n-1)_*$ -comodule, i.e., that there is an isomorphism of $\mathcal{P}(n-1)_*$ -comodules $M \cong \mathcal{P}(n-1)_* \otimes V$ for some \mathbb{F}_p -vector space V . Then there is an isomorphism of $\mathcal{A}(n)_*$ -comodules*

$$M \cong \mathcal{A}(n)_* \square_{\mathcal{E}(n)_*} V.$$

Proof Note that an $\mathcal{A}(n)_*$ -comodule concentrated in even degrees is the same data as a $\mathcal{P}(n-1)_*$ -comodule concentrated in even degrees. The inclusion of $\mathcal{A}(n)_*$ -comodules $\mathcal{P}(n-1)_* \rightarrow \mathcal{A}(n)_*$ factors through an isomorphism

$$\mathcal{P}(n-1)_* \rightarrow \mathcal{A}(n)_* \square_{\mathcal{E}(n)_*} \mathbb{F}_p$$

of $\mathcal{A}(n)_*$ -comodules, as follows from Proposition 3.17. One now uses the isomorphism

$$\left(\mathcal{A}(n)_* \square_{\mathcal{E}(n)_*} \mathbb{F}_p \right) \otimes V \cong \mathcal{A}(n)_* \square_{\mathcal{E}(n)_*} V. \quad \square$$

Note that the $\mathcal{P}(n-1)$ -free complexes constructed in Theorem 3.21 are in fact $T(n)$ -projectives, since $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^{p^n}$ is $T(n)$ -free. This relationship is reflected on homology as follows. When $H_*T(n)$ is restricted to $\mathcal{A}(n)_*$, since it is concentrated in even degrees, it is equivalently a $\mathcal{P}(n-1)_*$ -comodule. Just like our $\mathcal{P}(n-1)$ -free complexes, $H_*T(n)$ is cofree as a $\mathcal{P}(n-1)_*$ -comodule.

Proposition 3.24 *There is an isomorphism of $\mathcal{A}(n)_*$ -comodules*

$$H_*T(n) \cong \mathcal{P}(n-1)_* \otimes \mathbb{F}_p[t_1^{2^n}, t_2^{2^{n-1}}, \dots, t_n^2] \cong \mathcal{A}(n)_* \square_{\mathcal{E}(n)_*} \mathbb{F}_p[t_1^{2^n}, t_2^{2^{n-1}}, \dots, t_n^2],$$

where both appearances of $\mathbb{F}_p[t_1^{2^n}, t_2^{2^{n-1}}, \dots, t_n^2]$ have trivial coactions.

Proof As before, we regard all $\mathcal{A}(n)_*$ -comodules concentrated in even degrees equivalently as $\mathcal{P}(n-1)_*$ -comodules. The map of $\mathcal{A}(n)_*$ -comodule algebras

$$H_*T(n) \rightarrow H_*\mathbb{F}_p = \mathcal{A}_* \rightarrow \mathcal{A}(n)_*$$

has image $\mathcal{P}(n-1)_*$, and thus factors through a surjection of $\mathcal{P}(n-1)_*$ -comodules $H_*T(n) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(n-1)_*$. By the Milnor–Moore theorem (see for instance [51, A1.1.20]), there is an isomorphism of $\mathcal{P}(n-1)_*$ -comodules $H_*T(n) \cong \mathcal{P}(n-1)_* \otimes (H_*T(n) \square_{\mathcal{P}(n-1)_*} \mathbb{F}_p)$, where the latter has the extended comodule structure (i.e., $H_*T(n) \square_{\mathcal{P}(n-1)_*} \mathbb{F}_p$ is simply regarded as a vector space).

One may now use Proposition 3.17 to compute that

$$H_*T(n) \square_{\mathcal{P}(n-1)_*} \mathbb{F}_p \cong \mathbb{F}_p[t_1^{2^n}, t_2^{2^{n-1}}, \dots, t_n^2]$$

to obtain the first claimed isomorphism, and directly apply Proposition 3.23 to obtain the second. □

Remark 3.25 The splitting of the proposition cannot be made into an isomorphism of \mathcal{A}_* -comodules because $H^*T(n)$ supports arbitrarily many Sq^{2^i} for $p = 2$ and P^{p^i} for $p > 2$.

4 Chromatic defect and Wood equivalences for fp spectra

In this section, we will discuss the behavior of chromatic defect on a special class of spectra called fp spectra, which we now recall.

Definition 4.1 [37, Proposition 3.2] A p -complete, bounded below spectrum E is said to be an fp spectrum if it satisfies one of the following equivalent conditions:

- There exists a finite p -local spectrum F such that $E \otimes F$ is π -finite. That is, $|\pi_*(E \otimes F)| < \infty$.
- There exists a finite p -local spectrum F such that $E \otimes F$ is a finite sum of shifts of \mathbb{F}_p .
- There exists a finite $\mathcal{A}(n)_*$ -comodule M and an isomorphism of \mathcal{A}_* -comodules

$$H_*(E; \mathbb{F}_p) \cong \mathcal{A}_* \square_{\mathcal{A}(n)_*} M.$$

- $H^*(E; \mathbb{F}_p)$ is a finitely presented \mathcal{A} -module.

One often considers fp spectra, such as ko and tmf for example, because they are connective spectra with strong finiteness properties that make them amenable to computation. The isomorphisms in Definition 4.1 give rise to change-of-rings isomorphisms for the Adams spectral sequence (ASS) that give one considerable computational control. The resulting computations are interesting in their own right (see [12] for example) and allow for naturality arguments to deduce behavior in the Adams spectral sequence for more complicated theories, such as the sphere. Moreover, these theories often provide connective models for key finite-height chromatic spectra of interest, such as the $\text{EO}_n(G)$, which are otherwise inaccessible from the point of view of the Adams spectral sequence because their mod p homology vanishes.

It is difficult, however, to say things in general about the behavior of the Adams–Novikov spectral sequence of an fp spectrum, such as the existence of vanishing lines or change-of-rings isomorphisms. We discuss some results of this form in this section in certain nice cases of fp spectra, by giving obstructions in the Adams spectral sequence to an fp spectrum having finite chromatic defect, and by using the $\mathcal{P}(n)$ -free complexes of [Theorem 3.21](#) to give sufficient conditions for an fp spectrum to be Wood-type.

4.1 Chromatic defect for fp spectra

[Proposition 3.24](#) allows us to use a change-of-rings isomorphism to identify the homology of $E \otimes T(n)$ when E is an fp spectrum.

Proposition 4.2 *Suppose that E is an fp spectrum such that $H_*(E; \mathbb{F}_p) \cong \mathcal{A}_* \square_{\mathcal{A}(n)_*} M$. There is an isomorphism of \mathcal{A}_* -comodules*

$$H_*(E \otimes T(n)) \cong \left(\mathcal{A}_* \square_{\mathcal{E}(n)_*} M \right) \otimes \mathbb{F}_p[t_1^{2^n}, t_2^{2^{n-1}}, \dots, t_n^2],$$

where $\mathbb{F}_p[t_1^{2^n}, t_2^{2^{n-1}}, \dots, t_n^2]$ has trivial coaction. In particular, the ASS of $E \otimes T(n)$ has signature

$$E_2 = \text{Ext}_{\mathcal{E}(n)_*}(\mathbb{F}_p, M) \otimes \mathbb{F}_p[t_1^{2^n}, t_2^{2^{n-1}}, \dots, t_n^2] \implies \pi_*(E \otimes T(n)).$$

Proof The first claimed isomorphism follows directly from the Künneth isomorphism and [Proposition 3.24](#). A change-of-rings isomorphism (as in [\[51, A1.3.13\]](#)) for the Hopf algebra quotient $\mathcal{A}_* \rightarrow \mathcal{E}(n)_*$ now implies an isomorphism

$$\text{Ext}_{\mathcal{A}_*}(\mathbb{F}_p, \left(\mathcal{A}_* \square_{\mathcal{E}(n)_*} M \right) \otimes \mathbb{F}_p[t_1^{2^n}, t_2^{2^{n-1}}, \dots, t_n^2]) \cong \text{Ext}_{\mathcal{E}(n)_*}(\mathbb{F}_p, M \otimes \mathbb{F}_p[t_1^{2^n}, t_2^{2^{n-1}}, \dots, t_n^2]).$$

Finally, since $\mathbb{F}_p[t_1^{2^n}, t_2^{2^{n-1}}, \dots, t_n^2]$ has trivial coaction, it follows directly from the cobar complex that

$$\text{Ext}_{\mathcal{E}(n)_*}(\mathbb{F}_p, M \otimes \mathbb{F}_p[t_1^{2^n}, t_2^{2^{n-1}}, \dots, t_n^2]) \cong \text{Ext}_{\mathcal{E}(n)_*}(\mathbb{F}_p, M) \otimes \mathbb{F}_p[t_1^{2^n}, t_2^{2^{n-1}}, \dots, t_n^2]. \quad \square$$

The upshot of this change-of-rings isomorphism is that computing Ext over the exterior algebra $\mathcal{E}(n)_*$ is much easier than over $\mathcal{A}(n)_*$. If E is a homotopy associative ring spectrum, we can fit the obstructions of [Proposition 3.9](#) into this picture and obtain the following.

Corollary 4.3 *If E is an fp homotopy associative ring spectrum such that $H_*(E; \mathbb{F}_p) \cong \mathcal{A}_* \square_{\mathcal{A}(n)_*} M$, and*

$$\text{Ext}_{\mathcal{E}(n)_*}^{s, 2p^{m+1}-3-2(p-1)*+s}(\mathbb{F}_p, M) = 0$$

for $s \geq 2$ and $m \geq n$, then $\Phi_p(E) \leq n$.

Proof The obstructions to having $\Phi_p(E) \leq n$ lie in the $2p^{m+1}-3$ stems for $m \geq n$ by [Proposition 3.9](#), and the graded vector space $\mathbb{F}_p[t_1^{2^n}, t_2^{2^{n-1}}, \dots, t_n^2]$ is concentrated in degrees $2(p-1)*$, so by [Proposition 4.2](#), it remains only to explain why one may take $s \geq 2$. This is because the obstruction χ_{m+1} is detected by $h_{m+1,1}$ when $p = 2$, and $h_{m+1,0}$ when $p > 2$ in the cobar complex for $H_*T(m)$. The map

$$\text{Ext}_{\mathcal{A}_*}(\mathbb{F}_p, H_*T(m)) \rightarrow \text{Ext}_{\mathcal{A}(n)_*}(\mathbb{F}_p, H_*T(m))$$

sends this class to zero when $m \geq n$. Indeed, this follows from the fact that the quotient map $\mathcal{A}_* \rightarrow \mathcal{A}(n)_*$ sends $\xi_{m+1}^2 \mapsto 0$ when $p = 2$ and $\xi_{m+1} \mapsto 0$ when $p > 2$ for $m \geq n$, by [Proposition 3.17](#). Since χ_{m+1} has Adams filtration 1 in $\pi_* T(m)$, it must therefore be detected in filtration > 1 in $\pi_* E \otimes T(m)$. \square

Remark 4.4 In the preceding proposition and corollary, and throughout this section, we often fix an isomorphism $H_*(E; \mathbb{F}_p) \cong \mathcal{A}_* \square_{\mathcal{A}(n)_*} M$ for an fp spectrum E and study the condition that $\Phi_p(E) \leq n$. Asking that these two numbers agree does not result in much loss of generality: indeed, if there is an isomorphism $H_*(E; \mathbb{F}_p) \cong \mathcal{A}_* \square_{\mathcal{A}(n)_*} M$, then for any $m \geq n$, there is an isomorphism $H_*(E; \mathbb{F}_p) \cong \mathcal{A}_* \square_{\mathcal{A}(m)_*} M'$. Similarly, of course, if $\Phi_p(E) \leq n$, then $\Phi_p(E) \leq m$ as in [Remark 2.16](#).

Example 4.5 Suppose that E is an fp homotopy associative ring spectrum and that M is concentrated in even degrees. It follows that M has trivial coaction as an $\mathcal{E}(n)_*$ -comodule, since the generators of $\mathcal{E}(n)_*$ are in odd degrees. Therefore

$$\text{Ext}_{\mathcal{E}(n)_*}(\mathbb{F}_p, M) \cong \text{Ext}_{\mathcal{E}(n)_*}(\mathbb{F}_p, \mathbb{F}_p) \otimes M,$$

and since M is concentrated in even degrees t and $s = 0$, and $\text{Ext}_{\mathcal{E}(n)_*}(\mathbb{F}_p, \mathbb{F}_p)$ is concentrated in bidegrees (s, t) where $t - s$ is even, it follows that $\text{Ext}_{\mathcal{E}(n)_*}^{s,t}(\mathbb{F}_p, M) = 0$ bidegrees (s, t) where $t - s$ is even. By [Corollary 4.3](#), we then have that $\Phi_p(E) \leq n$.

We can in this way immediately recover Hopkins' examples from [Example 2.17](#) using that

$$H_*\text{ko} = \mathcal{A}_* \square_{\mathcal{A}(1)_*} \mathbb{F}_2 \quad \text{and} \quad H_*\text{tmf} = \mathcal{A}_* \square_{\mathcal{A}(2)_*} \mathbb{F}_2.$$

Example 4.6 One may take the spectrum $\text{BP}_{\mathbb{R}}\langle 2 \rangle^{C_2}$ — where $\text{BP}_{\mathbb{R}}\langle 2 \rangle$ is any form of the second truncated Real Brown–Peterson spectrum (e.g., $\text{tmf}_0(3) = \text{tmf}_1(3)^{C_2}$ by [\[26\]](#)) — as an example where M is not itself even but $\text{Ext}_{\mathcal{E}(n)_*}(\mathbb{F}_p, M)$ is concentrated in even stems. Indeed, by [\[15, Theorem 1.9\]](#), we have a decomposition

$$H_*(\text{BP}_{\mathbb{R}}\langle 2 \rangle^{C_2}) \cong \mathcal{A}_* \square_{\mathcal{A}(2)_*} M,$$

where M is a certain 10-dimensional comodule described in [\[loc. cit.\]](#) It can be checked by hand or with an Ext resolver that $\text{Ext}_{\mathcal{E}(2)_*}(\mathbb{F}_p, M)$ is even.

4.2 Wood-type fp spectra

The description of $H_*(E \otimes T(n))$ of [Proposition 4.2](#) may be used to give an algebraic Wood equivalence for any fp spectrum E with finite chromatic defect. In this section, we discuss these algebraic equivalences and a sufficient condition to lift them to the spectrum level. The algebraic equivalence is a simple consequence of [Proposition 3.23](#). In the following statement, we fix an \mathcal{A}_* -comodule structure extending the canonical $\mathcal{A}(n)_*$ -comodule structure on $\mathcal{P}(n-1)_*$. Such structures exist by [\[46, Theorem A\]](#).

Proposition 4.7 *Let E be an fp spectrum so that $H_*E \cong \mathcal{A}_* \square_{\mathcal{A}(n)_*} M$. Then there is an isomorphism of \mathcal{A}_* -comodules*

$$H_*E \otimes \mathcal{P}(n-1)_* \cong \mathcal{A}_* \square_{\mathcal{E}(n)_*} M.$$

In particular, by Proposition 3.24, $H_*E \otimes \mathcal{P}(n-1)_*$ is a retract of $H_*(E \otimes T(n))$ via the projection $\mathbb{F}_p[t_1^{2^n}, t_2^{2^{n-1}}, \dots, t_n^2] \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_p\{1\}$. Hence if E has finite chromatic defect, H_*E is Wood-type in the sense that $\mathcal{P}(n-1)_*$ is a finite comodule concentrated in even degrees, and $H_*(E) \otimes \mathcal{P}(n-1)_*$ is a weak $H_*\text{MU}$ -module.

Remark 4.8 This algebraic Wood equivalence can be given a proper home in Hovey’s category $\text{Stable}(\mathcal{A})$, equivalently, by working mod τ in $\text{Syn}_{\mathbb{F}_p}$, Pstrągowski’s category [48]. However, we will not make use of this, and therefore comment on it only briefly.

Indeed one may define complex-orientability in terms of the attaching maps $\sigma_k : \mathbb{S}^{2k+1,1} \rightarrow \nu\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^k$ as in Definition 2.3, and one has an immediate analog of Theorem 2.9 in both $\text{Syn}_{\mathbb{F}_p}$ and $\text{Stable}(\mathcal{A})$ with νMU . According to the analogous definition of Wood-types using compact νBP -projectives, if E is an fp spectrum with finite chromatic defect, the above proposition then implies that $\nu E/\tau$ is Wood-type in $\text{Stable}(\mathcal{A})$.

To lift these algebraic Wood equivalences to the spectrum level, we will need two main ingredients. First we must lift the comodule $\mathcal{P}(n-1)_*$ to a finite BP-projective; this is accomplished, up to taking shifts and direct sums, by the complexes of Theorem 3.21. Then we must lift the classes in $\mathbb{F}_p[t_1^{2^n}, \dots, t_n^2]$. Such lifts are guaranteed by the collapse of $\text{ASS}(E \otimes \text{BP})$.

Theorem 4.9 *Let E be an fp homotopy associative ring spectrum with finite chromatic defect. If $\text{ASS}(E \otimes \text{BP})$ collapses on E_2 , then E is Wood-type.*

Proof Since E is an fp spectrum, we have an isomorphism $H_*E \cong \mathcal{A}_* \square_{\mathcal{A}(n)_*} M$, and we have assumed $\Phi_p(E) \leq m$ for some m . As in Remark 4.4, we can take $m = n$. By Proposition 2.24, we have a splitting $E \otimes \text{BP} \simeq E \otimes T(n)[t_{n+1}, t_{n+2}, \dots]$ so that $\text{ASS}(E \otimes \text{BP})$ collapses on E_2 if and only if $\text{ASS}(E \otimes T(n))$ does.

Now we fix a finite complex F with the property that F is a retract of $(\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^{p^n})^{\otimes N}$ for some N and that $H^*(F; \mathbb{F}_p)$ is a free $\mathcal{P}(n-1)$ -module, using Theorem 3.21. As a retract of $(\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^{p^n})^{\otimes N}$, F is a finite BP-projective, and the AHSS computing $[F, T(n)]$ collapses on E_2 , as it is a retract of the corresponding spectral sequence for $(\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^{p^n})^{\otimes N}$. Fixing a basis $\{b_1, \dots, b_k\}$ of the free $\mathcal{P}(n-1)$ -module $H^*(F; \mathbb{F}_p)$ with $|b_i| = n_i$, we thereby fix a map $\iota : F \rightarrow T(n)\{b_1, \dots, b_k\}$ lifting the element in

$$\bigoplus_j H^j(F; T(n)\{b_1, \dots, b_k\}^{-j}) \cong \bigoplus_j \text{Hom}_{\mathbb{Z}}(H_j(F), T(n)\{b_1, \dots, b_k\}_j)$$

that sends $b_i \mapsto b_i$, and is zero on all other basis elements, using that $H_j(F)$ is a finitely generated free abelian group.

One may determine the effect of the map ι in homology as follows. The composition

$$\Sigma^{n_i} \mathcal{P}(n-1)_* \xrightarrow{b_i} H_*F \xrightarrow{\iota_*} H_*T(n)\{b_1, \dots, b_k\} \xrightarrow{b_j} \Sigma^{n_j} H_*T(n)$$

is either zero or an isomorphism in the bottom dimension of the target. Over $\mathcal{A}(n)_*$, the target is cofree on $\mathbb{F}_p[t_1^{2^n}, \dots, t_n^2]$, so when the above map is nonzero, its projection onto the cocyclic summand indexed

by 1 must agree with that of the canonical inclusion $\Sigma^{n_i} \mathcal{P}(n-1)_* \rightarrow \Sigma^{n_i} H_* T(n)$ of Proposition 3.24. Using this map along with the ring structure of $H_* T(n)$, we have a map $\Sigma^{n_i} \mathcal{P}(n-1)_*[t_1^{2^n}, \dots, t_n^{2^n}] \rightarrow H_* T(n)\{b_i\}$, which is therefore surjective by Proposition 3.24 and hence an isomorphism for dimension reasons.

Finally, since $\text{ASS}(E \otimes T(n))$ collapses on E_2 , there are classes $t_1^{2^n}, \dots, t_n^{2^n} \in \pi_*(E \otimes T(n))$ lifting the corresponding classes in homology provided by Proposition 4.2. Using these classes, the map ι , and the multiplication on $E \otimes T(n)$, we may define a map

$$(E \otimes F)[t_1^{2^n}, \dots, t_n^{2^n}] \rightarrow E \otimes T(n)\{b_1, \dots, b_k\}$$

that induces an isomorphism in homology by the above argument, and it is thus an equivalence. It follows that $E \otimes F$ is a retract of $E \otimes T(n)\{b_1, \dots, b_k\}$ and therefore complex-orientable. \square

Corollary 4.10 *Let E be an fp homotopy associative ring spectrum so that $H_* E \cong \mathcal{A}_* \square_{\mathcal{A}(n)_*} M$ and suppose that*

$$\text{Ext}_{\mathcal{E}(n)_*}^{s,t}(\mathbb{F}_p, M) = 0$$

whenever $t - s$ is odd. Then $\Phi_p(E) \leq n$ and E is Wood-type.

Proof The evenness conditions guarantee that $\Phi_p(E) \leq n$ by Corollary 4.3, and therefore $E \otimes \text{BP}$ is a sum of shifts of $E \otimes T(n)$ by Proposition 2.24. The latter implies that if $\text{ASS}(E \otimes T(n))$ collapses, so does $\text{ASS}(E \otimes \text{BP})$. To see that $\text{ASS}(E \otimes T(n))$ collapses, by Proposition 4.2 $\text{Ext}_{\mathcal{A}_*}^{s,t}(\mathbb{F}_p, H_*(E \otimes T(n))) = 0$ unless $t - s$ is even, so there is no room for differentials. \square

Example 4.11 As explained in the previous section, ko , tmf and $\text{BP}_{\mathbb{R}}\langle 2 \rangle^{C_2}$ all satisfy the conditions of Corollary 4.10, and thus are seen to be Wood-type. As a nonexample, the connective image of J spectrum j is an fp spectrum, but is not Wood-type as it does not have finite chromatic defect; we will show this in Section 5.

Remark 4.12 The conditions of the above Theorem 4.9, however, are not necessary. For example, the spectrum $ku/4$ is a Wood-type (complex-orientable, in fact) fp spectrum with the property that $\text{ASS}(E \otimes \text{BP})$ has nonzero differentials. It seems plausible that the conditions of the theorem may be relaxed to asking for collapse on a finite page.

5 Hopkins' stacks and the $X(n)$

An fp spectrum E admits a change-of-rings isomorphism

$$\text{Ext}_{\mathcal{A}_*}(\mathbb{F}_p, H_* X) \cong \text{Ext}_{\mathcal{A}(n)_*}(\mathbb{F}_p, M)$$

on the E_2 -page of the classical Adams spectral sequence of E , for some n and M . We will see in this section that spectra with finite chromatic defect play a similar role with respect to the Adams–Novikov spectral sequence. In this setting, the relevant change-of-rings isomorphisms take a more conceptual form, via the language of stacks.

5.1 Chromatic defect and the Adams–Novikov spectral sequence

Hopkins observed that many of the known change-of-rings isomorphisms in the Adams–Novikov spectral sequence could be reinterpreted and more conceptually derived in the language of stacks [20, Chapter 9]. To any homotopy commutative ring spectrum E , we may associate a stack \mathcal{M}_E equipped with a canonical \mathbb{G}_m -action and a \mathbb{G}_m -equivariant affine morphism $p_E : \mathcal{M}_E \rightarrow \mathcal{M}_{\text{FG}}(1)$, where $\mathcal{M}_{\text{FG}}(1)$ is the moduli stack of formal group laws and strict isomorphisms, viewed as a \mathbb{G}_m -torsor over \mathcal{M}_{FG} , the moduli stack of formal group laws and *all* isomorphisms.

Definition 5.1 Let E be a homotopy commutative ring spectrum. We let the \mathbb{G}_m -stack \mathcal{M}_E be the one associated to the graded Hopf algebroid

$$(\text{MU}_{2*}E, \text{MU}_{2*}(\text{MU} \otimes E)).$$

Remark 5.2 It is often useful to mod out by the \mathbb{G}_m -action and get an affine morphism

$$\mathcal{M}_E / \mathbb{G}_m \rightarrow \mathcal{M}_{\text{FG}}.$$

We will instead primarily work \mathbb{G}_m -equivariantly so that when E is complex-orientable, \mathcal{M}_E is an affine scheme, as opposed to a stack of the form $\text{Spec}(E_{2*}) / \mathbb{G}_m$. This is convenient as we wish to capture more general, non-even-periodic cases, such as those arising from Johnson–Wilson theories $E(n)$.

By Quillen’s theorem [49] on MU_* , one has a \mathbb{G}_m -equivariant equivalence $\mathcal{M}_{\mathbb{S}} \simeq \mathcal{M}_{\text{FG}}(1)$, whereby the map p_E is induced by the unit map $\mathbb{S} \rightarrow E$ for E a homotopy commutative ring spectrum. More generally, *any* spectrum E gives rise to a pair of \mathbb{G}_m -equivariant quasicoherent sheaves $\mathcal{F}_0(E)$ and $\mathcal{F}_1(E)$ on $\mathcal{M}_{\text{FG}}(1)$, corresponding to the comodules $\text{MU}_{2*}E$ and $\text{MU}_{2*+1}E$. When E is a homotopy-commutative ring spectrum, the stack \mathcal{M}_E is realized as a relative Spec construction on the sheaf of algebras $\overline{\mathcal{F}}_0(E)$, and the sheaves $\mathcal{F}_0(E)$ and $\mathcal{F}_1(E)$ are pushed forward from sheaves on \mathcal{M}_E . This gives our change-of-rings isomorphisms.

Proposition 5.3 *There is a graded isomorphism of the E_2 -page of $\text{ANSS}(E)$*

$$E_2^{*,*} \cong H^*(\mathcal{M}_{\text{FG}}(1); \mathcal{F}_0(E) \oplus \mathcal{F}_1(E)) \cong H^*(\mathcal{M}_E; \mathbb{C}_{\mathcal{M}_E} \oplus \mathbb{C}_1),$$

where \mathbb{C}_1 is the \mathbb{G}_m -equivariant quasicoherent sheaf on \mathcal{M}_E defined by the comodule $\text{MU}_{2*+1}E$.

Proof This follows by directly analyzing the cobar complex, whose cohomology is the E_2 -page of the ANSS of E and arises from the cosimplicial object

$$\text{MU}_*E \rightrightarrows \text{MU}_*\text{MU} \otimes_{\text{MU}_*} \text{MU}_*E \rightrightarrows \dots$$

Since the Hopf algebroid $(\text{MU}_*, \text{MU}_*\text{MU})$ is concentrated in even degrees, this cosimplicial object splits into an even piece

$$\text{MU}_{2*}E \rightrightarrows \text{MU}_*\text{MU} \otimes_{\text{MU}_*} \text{MU}_{2*}E \rightrightarrows \dots$$

and an odd piece

$$\text{MU}_{2*+1}E \rightrightarrows \text{MU}_*\text{MU} \otimes_{\text{MU}_*} \text{MU}_{2*+1}E \rightrightarrows \dots$$

The identification $\mathcal{M}_{FG}(1) \simeq \mathcal{M}_{(\text{MU}_*, \text{MU}_* \text{MU})}$ gives the first isomorphism.

For the second identification, the cohomology of the even piece is also $H^*(\mathcal{M}_E; \mathbb{C}_{\mathcal{M}_E})$ by definition of \mathcal{M}_E , and the odd piece is identified with the cohomology of a sheaf on \mathcal{M}_E whose underlying $\text{MU}_{2*}E$ -module is $\text{MU}_{2*+1}E$ via the isomorphism

$$\text{MU}_* \text{MU} \otimes_{\text{MU}_*} \text{MU}_{2*+1}E \cong (\text{MU}_* \text{MU} \otimes_{\text{MU}_*} \text{MU}_{2*}E) \otimes_{\text{MU}_{2*}E} \text{MU}_{2*+1}E \quad \square$$

Example 5.4 When $E = \text{ko}$, the stack \mathcal{M}_{ko} is given by the moduli stack of quadratic equations $\mathcal{M}_{\text{quad}}$ with strict coordinate transformations. When $E = \text{tmf}$, the stack \mathcal{M}_{tmf} is given by the moduli stack of cubic equations \mathcal{M}_{cub} with strict coordinate transformations; see [20, Chapter 9] or [39]. These spectra have the property that $\text{MU}_{2*+1}E = 0$, so that for instance ANSS(tmf) takes the form

$$H^*(\mathcal{M}_{\text{cub}}; \mathbb{C}_{\mathcal{M}_{\text{cub}}}) \implies \pi_* \text{tmf},$$

which, in this form, is sometimes called the elliptic spectral sequence.

The construction of Definition 5.1 has two features that are especially useful. It has the property that it relates vanishing lines on the E_2 -page of the ANSS to cohomological vanishing of sheaves over \mathcal{M}_E , and it can often be used to determine the E_2 -page of the ANSS of a tensor product of spectra in terms of the corresponding stacky pullback over $\mathcal{M}_{FG}(1)$.

Proposition 5.5 *Let E and E' be homotopy commutative ring spectra.*

- (1) *If E is complex-orientable, $\mathcal{M}_E \simeq \text{Spec}(E_{2*})$, and p_E is the map classifying the formal group over E_* .*
- (2) *Suppose that $\text{MU}_{2*}E'$ is a flat MU_* -module. Then one has a pullback square*

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{M}_{E \otimes E'} & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{M}_{E'} \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow p_{E'} \\ \mathcal{M}_E & \xrightarrow{p_E} & \mathcal{M}_{FG}(1) \end{array}$$

Proof The first claim follows as in Corollary 2.10 from the (-1) -st codegeneracy furnished by the MU -module structure in the coaugmented cosimplicial object

$$E \rightarrow \text{MU} \otimes E \implies \text{MU} \otimes \text{MU} \otimes E \implies \text{MU} \otimes \text{MU} \otimes \text{MU} \otimes E \dots$$

The second claim follows by a Hopf algebroid manipulation using that $p_{E'}$ is an affine morphism; see [13, Proposition 6.1.6] or [10, 1.6.6]. □

Claim (1) in Proposition 5.5 implies in particular that the stackiness of \mathcal{M}_E is a measure of the failure of E to be complex-orientable, and indeed our chromatic defect of Definition 2.15 gives a way of quantifying this. In fact, the definition of chromatic defect is chosen precisely to reflect a specific algebrogeometric measure of the stackiness of \mathcal{M}_E over $\mathcal{M}_{FG}(1)$, and the connection comes via an identification of $\mathcal{M}_{X(n)}$.

Definition 5.6 We let $\mathcal{M}_{\text{FG}}(n)$ denote the moduli stack of formal groups together with an n -jet. That is,

$$\mathcal{M}_{\text{FG}}(n)(R) = \begin{cases} \text{objects:} & \text{formal group laws over } R, \\ \text{morphisms:} & f : F \rightarrow G \text{ such that } f(x) \equiv x \pmod{x^{n+1}}. \end{cases}$$

Proposition 5.7 *There is a \mathbb{G}_m -equivariant equivalence of stacks $\mathcal{M}_{\text{FG}}(n) \simeq \mathcal{M}_{X(n)}$ over $\mathcal{M}_{\text{FG}}(1)$. In particular, the map $\mathcal{M}_{\text{FG}}(n) \rightarrow \mathcal{M}_{\text{FG}}(1)$ is a faithfully flat affine morphism with the property that*

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{M}_{E \otimes X(n)} & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{M}_{\text{FG}}(n) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \mathcal{M}_E & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{M}_{\text{FG}}(1) \end{array}$$

is a pullback, for E a homotopy commutative ring spectrum.

Proof By the Thom isomorphism, one has an isomorphism of Hopf algebroids

$$(\text{MU}_* X(n), \text{MU}_*(\text{MU} \otimes X(n))) \cong (\text{MU}_*[b_1, \dots, b_{n-1}], \text{MU}_*\text{MU}[b_1, \dots, b_{n-1}])$$

The map of Hopf algebroids

$$(\text{MU}_* X(n), \text{MU}_*(\text{MU} \otimes X(n))) \rightarrow (\text{MU}_*\text{MU}, \text{MU}_*(\text{MU} \otimes \text{MU})).$$

is an inclusion, so we may compute $\eta_R(b_i)$ in the latter. In MU_*MU , the b_i are by definition the coefficients of the canonical strict isomorphism $\eta_L^* F \rightarrow \eta_R^* F$, where F is the universal formal group law over MU_* . Note that a map of rings

$$\phi : \text{MU}_*\text{MU} \otimes_{\text{MU}_*} \text{MU}_*\text{MU} \rightarrow R$$

corresponds to a sequence

$$F_1 \xrightarrow{g} F_2 \xrightarrow{f} F_3$$

of isomorphisms of formal group laws over R , where F_i is the pushforward of F_{MU} along the map $\text{MU} \rightarrow \text{MU} \otimes \text{MU} \otimes \text{MU}$ including MU as the i -th tensor factor. Since η_R in the Hopf algebroid $(\text{MU}_*\text{MU}, \text{MU}_*(\text{MU} \otimes \text{MU}))$ is induced by the map

$$\text{MU} \otimes \text{MU} \simeq \text{MU} \otimes \mathbb{S} \otimes \text{MU} \rightarrow \text{MU} \otimes \text{MU} \otimes \text{MU},$$

we have that $\phi(\eta_L(b_i))$ are the coefficients of g , and $\phi(\eta_R(b_i))$ are the coefficients of $f \circ g$. Therefore, if $\eta_L(b_i) = \eta_R(b_i)$ for $i \leq m - 1$, then $f(x) \equiv x \pmod{x^{n+1}}$. It follows that the map

$$\mathcal{M}_{X(n)} \rightarrow \mathcal{M}_{\text{FG}}(1)$$

factors through an equivalence onto the substack $\mathcal{M}_{\text{FG}}(n)$. □

Corollary 5.8 *Let E be a homotopy commutative ring spectrum. If $\Phi(E) \leq n$, then the pullback*

$$\mathcal{M}_E \times_{\mathcal{M}_{\text{FG}}(1)} \mathcal{M}_{\text{FG}}(n)$$

is an affine scheme. Conversely, if $E \otimes X(n)$ is MU nilpotent complete, and the above pullback is an affine scheme, then $\Phi(E) \leq n$.

Proof The first claim follows from Proposition 5.5(1) and Proposition 5.7. For the second, since the above pullback is an affine scheme, we see that $\text{ANSS}(\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^k \otimes E \otimes X(n))$ collapses on the zero line for all k by Proposition 5.3. Since $\text{MU} \otimes \sigma_k = 0$ for all k , the class σ_k has Adams–Novikov filtration > 0 , and hence must be zero in $\pi_*\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^k \otimes E \otimes X(n)$ since $\text{ANSS}(\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^k \otimes E \otimes X(n))$ converges, as $E \otimes X(n)$ is MU nilpotent complete. This implies that $E \otimes X(n)$ is complex-orientable by definition since $E \otimes X(n)$ is a ring spectrum. \square

5.2 Chromatic defect and quotient stacks

We would like sufficient algebrogeometric conditions on the morphism $\mathcal{M}_E \rightarrow \mathcal{M}_{\text{FG}}(1)$ that guarantee finite chromatic defect for E , by way of Corollary 5.8. One can give various finiteness conditions to guarantee this, which apply in particular when \mathcal{M}_E is a quotient stack by a finite group action and also in various connective cases such as \mathcal{M}_{ko} and \mathcal{M}_{tmf} from Example 5.4. We begin with a necessary condition.

Proposition 5.9 *Let E be a homotopy commutative ring spectrum with finite chromatic defect. Then, for any algebraically closed field k and any $x \in \mathcal{M}_E(k)$ such that $p_E(x) \in \mathcal{M}_{\text{FG}}(1)(k)$ has finite height, the image of the homomorphism*

$$\psi : \text{Aut}_{\mathcal{M}_E(k)}(x) \rightarrow \text{Aut}_{\mathcal{M}_{\text{FG}}(1)(k)}(p_E(x))$$

is a finite subgroup.

Proof First suppose k has characteristic zero; then $p_E(x)$ is isomorphic to $\widehat{\mathbb{G}}_a$, which has a trivial and therefore finite strict automorphism group. If k has characteristic $p > 0$, then since $k = \bar{k}$, Lazard's theorem implies that $p_E(x)$ is isomorphic to the Honda formal group law F_n for some height $n < \infty$, all of whose automorphisms are defined over the finite field \mathbb{F}_{p^n} ; see [36, Lecture 19].

Since E has finite chromatic defect, it follows from Corollary 5.8 that for some $N > 0$, the stack

$$\mathcal{M}_E \times_{\mathcal{M}_{\text{FG}}(1)} \mathcal{M}_{\text{FG}}(N)$$

is an affine scheme, and therefore a discrete stack. This implies in particular that if $f(x)$ is in the image of ψ , and $f(x) \equiv x \pmod{x^{N+1}}$, then $f(x) = x$. Suppose for the sake of contradiction that the image of ψ is infinite. Since all the automorphisms of F_n are defined over the finite field \mathbb{F}_{p^n} , it follows that for any m , there are two *distinct* automorphisms $f_1(x) \neq f_2(x)$ in the image of ψ such that $f_1(x) \equiv f_2(x) \pmod{x^{m+1}}$. Indeed, were this not true, then each automorphism in the image of ψ would be uniquely determined by its truncation $\pmod{x^{m+1}}$, which contradicts that the image of ψ is infinite, as there are only finitely many such polynomials over a finite field.

Letting $m = N$, and choosing f_1, f_2 as above, the automorphism $g := f_1 \circ f_2^{-1}$ has the property that $g(x) \equiv x \pmod{x^{N+1}}$, but $g(x) \neq x$, contradicting discreteness of the above pullback. \square

To obtain a converse, one must ask for conditions on the morphism $p_E : \mathcal{M}_E \rightarrow \mathcal{M}_{\text{FG}}(1)$ guaranteeing that

$$\mathcal{P}(n) := \mathcal{M}_E \times_{\mathcal{M}_{\text{FG}}(1)} \mathcal{M}_{\text{FG}}(n)$$

is an affine scheme for some n . If the image of the map ψ appearing in Proposition 5.9 is always finite, $\mathcal{P}(n)$ still may not be discrete. For instance, if \mathcal{M}_E has height ∞ points, or if the size of the image of ψ is not uniformly bounded above, the stack $\mathcal{P}(n)$ may not be discrete. One strong condition that guarantees affineness, however, is when \mathcal{M}_E is the quotient of a Noetherian ring by a finite group.

Proposition 5.10 *Let E be a homotopy commutative ring spectrum such that $E \otimes X(n)$ is MU-nilpotent complete for all n sufficiently large. Suppose there is an equivalence $\mathcal{M}_E \simeq \text{Spec}(R)/G$ for G a finite group and R a Noetherian commutative ring. Then E has finite chromatic defect.*

Proof Each $g \in G$ acts on the formal group over R via a power series

$$[g](x) = x + \sum_{n \geq 0} b_n(g)x^{n+1},$$

and the image of any automorphism of $\text{Spec}(R)/G$ in $\mathcal{M}_{\text{FG}}(1)$ is obtained from these power series by base change. For each g and n , consider the ideal in R

$$J_n(g) := (b_i(g) : i < n).$$

Since R is Noetherian, the $J_n(g)$ must stabilize for each g . It follows from the fact that G is finite that, by taking n large enough, if after base change to any ring S one has $[g](x) \equiv x \pmod{x^{n+1}}$, then $[g](x) = x$ over S . This implies the stack

$$\mathcal{M}_E \times_{\mathcal{M}_{\text{FG}}(1)} \mathcal{M}_{\text{FG}}(n)$$

is discrete. However, if \mathcal{M} is any discrete stack with an affine morphism to $\text{Spec}(R)/G$, then \mathcal{M} is affine. This follows for example from [31, Theorem A7.1.1]; see also [13, Lemma 6.2.6]. The claim then follows from Corollary 5.8. □

An identification $\mathcal{M}_E \simeq \text{Spec}(R)/G$ suitable to apply Proposition 5.10 often corresponds to an identification $E = R^{hG}$, for R a homotopy commutative ring spectrum with G -action. In fact, the former identification follows from the latter under the following assumptions.

Proposition 5.11 *Let $R \in \text{Sp}^{BG}$ be a homotopy commutative ring spectrum with G -action so that R is complex-orientable as a spectrum, and set $E = R^{hG}$. Suppose the map p in the diagram*

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Spec}(R_{2*}) & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{M}_{\text{FG}}(1) \\ \downarrow & \nearrow p & \\ \text{Spec}(R_{2*})/G & & \end{array}$$

is affine. Then if $\text{MU}^{\otimes s} \otimes E \simeq (\text{MU}^{\otimes s} \otimes R)^{hG}$ for $s = 1, 2$, there is an equivalence of stacks $\mathcal{M}_E \simeq \text{Spec}(R_{2})/G$.*

Proof Set $\mathcal{N} := \text{Spec}(R_{2*})/G$. By affineness of p , we have a diagram of pullback squares

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \text{Spec}(\Gamma(\mathcal{N} \times_{\mathcal{M}_{\text{FG}}(1)} \text{Spec}(L) \times_{\mathcal{M}_{\text{FG}}(1)} \text{Spec}(L); \mathbb{O})) & \longrightarrow & \text{Spec}(\Gamma(\mathcal{N} \times_{\mathcal{M}_{\text{FG}}(1)} \text{Spec}(L); \mathbb{O})) \\
 \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 \text{Spec}(\Gamma(\mathcal{N} \times_{\mathcal{M}_{\text{FG}}(1)} \text{Spec}(L); \mathbb{O})) & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{N} \\
 \downarrow & & \downarrow p \\
 \text{Spec}(L) & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{M}_{\text{FG}}(1)
 \end{array}$$

and

$$\Gamma(\mathcal{N} \times_{\mathcal{M}_{\text{FG}}(1)} \text{Spec}(L); \mathbb{O}) \cong \Gamma(\mathcal{N}; p^* \mathcal{F}_{\text{MU}}) \cong H^0(G; \text{MU}_{2*} R) = \text{MU}_{2*} E.$$

The last identification follows from the HFPSS

$$H^*(G; \text{MU}_* R) \implies \text{MU}_* E$$

using the equivalence $\text{MU} \otimes E \simeq (\text{MU} \otimes R)^{hG}$. Indeed, the higher cohomology on this E_2 -page vanishes by a change-of-rings isomorphism using affineness of the pullback $\mathcal{N} \times_{\mathcal{M}_{\text{FG}}(1)} \text{Spec}(L)$. Similar considerations apply to the pullback in the upper left corner.

The top right stack is thereby identified with $\mathcal{M}_{\text{MU} \otimes E}$, and the top left stack with $\mathcal{M}_{\text{MU} \otimes \text{MU} \otimes E}$. This gives the identification

$$\mathcal{N} \simeq \mathcal{M}_{((\text{MU} \otimes E)_{2*}, (\text{MU} \otimes \text{MU} \otimes E)_{2*})} = \mathcal{M}_E. \quad \square$$

As remarked in [40, Section 6.2], if R is a Landweber exact \mathbb{E}_∞ -ring, then the map p in Proposition 5.11 is affine precisely when, for every field valued point x of $\text{Spec}(R_{2*})$, the stabilizer of x in G acts faithfully on $p(x)$. Moreover, the map $E \rightarrow R$ must then be a faithful Galois extension so that the condition $\text{MU}^{\otimes s} \otimes E \simeq (\text{MU}^{\otimes s} \otimes R)^{hG}$ holds automatically by [40, Theorem 5.10], and we have the following.

Corollary 5.12 *Let R be an even-periodic, Landweber exact \mathbb{E}_∞ -ring with G -action for a finite group G and R_0 Noetherian. Suppose for every field valued point $x : \text{Spec}(k) \rightarrow \text{Spec}(R_0)$, the stabilizer of x in G acts faithfully on the corresponding formal group over k . Then $E = R^{hG}$ has finite chromatic defect.*

For example, we recover immediately Corollary 2.36. We finish by giving a more general converse to Proposition 5.9, for a class of stacks \mathcal{M}_E that behave in many ways like a quotient by a finite group.

Proposition 5.13 *Let E be a homotopy commutative ring spectrum such that $E \otimes X(n)$ is MU-nilpotent complete for all n sufficiently large. Suppose there is a faithfully flat, finite morphism $q : \text{Spec}(R) \rightarrow \mathcal{M}_E$ for some Noetherian commutative ring R . Then E has finite chromatic defect.*

Proof The argument for Proposition 5.10 needs only slight modification. An automorphism in \mathcal{M}_E is given by a point of the affine scheme

$$\text{Spec}(T) = \text{Spec}(R) \times_{\mathcal{M}_E} \text{Spec}(R),$$

which is finite over $\text{Spec}(R)$, and therefore Noetherian. The morphism $\mathcal{M}_E \rightarrow \mathcal{M}_{\text{FG}}(1)$ determines a morphism

$$\text{Spec}(T) \rightarrow \text{Spec}(L[b_1, b_2, \dots]) = \text{Spec}(L) \times_{\mathcal{M}_{\text{FG}}(1)} \text{Spec}(L),$$

and we may consider the chain of ideals

$$(b_1) \subset (b_1, b_2) \subset (b_1, b_2, b_3) \subset \dots$$

in T , which must stabilize. As before we conclude that

$$\mathcal{P}(n) := \mathcal{M}_E \times_{\mathcal{M}_{\text{FG}}(1)} \mathcal{M}_{\text{FG}}(n)$$

is discrete for some n . Under the conditions above, it follows that $\mathcal{P}(n)$ is an Artin stack, and pulling back the cover q to $\mathcal{P}(n)$, we may apply [55, Lemma 69.17.3] to see that $\mathcal{P}(n)$ is affine. \square

Example 5.14 The stacks associated to ko and tmf as in Example 5.4 satisfy the conditions of Proposition 5.13. Indeed, one has the finite flat covers discussed by Hopkins in [20, Chapter 9]. For ko this cover is the morphism $\mathcal{M}_{ku} \rightarrow \mathcal{M}_{\text{ko}}$, and for tmf this is given 2-locally by the morphism $\mathcal{M}_{\text{tmf}_1(3)} \rightarrow \mathcal{M}_{\text{tmf}}$, 3-locally by $\mathcal{M}_{\text{tmf}_1(2)} \rightarrow \mathcal{M}_{\text{tmf}}$, and \mathcal{M}_{tmf} is itself affine p -locally for $p > 3$. These finite covers predict the Wood equivalences of Example 2.32.

5.3 $K(n)$ -local stacks and the image of J spectrum

Yet another very useful aspect of Hopkins’ stack construction of Definition 5.1 is that it allows one to access information about various chromatic localizations of a homotopy commutative ring spectrum E in terms of the stack \mathcal{M}_E . We refer the reader to [10, Section 1.6] for an excellent discussion of this aspect. Behrens’ framework in [loc. cit.] can be used to compute chromatic defect $K(n)$ - or $E(n)$ -locally, and we use this to verify that $\Phi(j) = \infty$.

Behrens extends Hopkins’ stack definition to include more general descent spectral sequences into this framework, such as that of Tmf , which do not coincide with the corresponding ANSS. We will not need this, however, and all our stacks are in the ordinary sense of Definition 5.1. Behrens gives the following pullback formula following Proposition 5.5(2) for $K(n)$ -localizations, where as before we work instead with the \mathbb{G}_m -torsors over his stacks.

Proposition 5.15 *Let $(\mathcal{M}_{\text{FG}})_{(p)}^{[n]}(1)$ be the formal neighborhood of the locus of formal group laws in characteristic p of exact height n in $\mathcal{M}_{\text{FG}}(1)$. Let E be a homotopy commutative ring spectrum such that MU_*E is flat over MU_* . Then there is a pullback of (formal) stacks*

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{M}_{L_{K(n)}E} & \longrightarrow & (\mathcal{M}_{\text{FG}})_{(p)}^{[n]}(1) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \mathcal{M}_E & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{M}_{\text{FG}}(1) \end{array}$$

In particular, if $E = X(n)$, one may place $\mathcal{M}_{\text{FG}}(n)$ in the bottom left corner, and if $L_{K(n)}E$ is complex-orientable, the pullback will be affine. This yields the following.

Theorem 5.16 *The $K(n)$ -local sphere $L_{K(n)}\mathbb{S}$ has infinite chromatic defect.*

Proof Suppose $L_{K(n)}\mathbb{S}$ has finite chromatic defect. Then there exists a homotopy ring map $\text{MU} \rightarrow (L_{K(n)}\mathbb{S}) \otimes X(m)$ for some $m < \infty$, and by composing, a homotopy ring map

$$\text{MU} \rightarrow (L_{K(n)}\mathbb{S}) \otimes X(m) \rightarrow L_{K(n)}X(m).$$

By Proposition 5.15, it follows that the pullback

$$\mathcal{M}_{\text{FG}}(n) \times_{\mathcal{M}_{\text{FG}}(1)} (\mathcal{M}_{\text{FG}})_{(p)}^{[n]}(1)$$

is affine and therefore discrete. As in the proof of Proposition 5.9, this implies that the automorphism group of the Honda formal group law F_n must be finite, but the Morava stabilizer group \mathbb{G}_n is infinite. \square

We finish the section with a connective version of this result at height 1, regarding Mahowald's connective image of J spectrum j . Working p -locally, one has Adams operations ψ^{p+1} acting on ko when $p = 2$, and on the Adams summand ℓ when $p > 2$. When $p = 2$, the map $\psi^3 - 1 : \text{ko} \rightarrow \text{ko}$ factors through the connective cover $\tau_{\geq 4}\text{ko}$, and when $p > 2$, the map $\psi^{p+1} - 1 : \ell \rightarrow \ell$ factors through $\tau_{\geq 2p-2}\ell$; see for example [17].

Definition 5.17 When $p = 2$, we define

$$j = \text{fib}(\psi^3 - 1 : \text{ko} \rightarrow \tau_{\geq 4}\text{ko}),$$

and when $p > 2$,

$$j = \text{fib}(\psi^{p+1} - 1 : \ell \rightarrow \tau_{\geq 2p-2}\ell).$$

The spectrum j is an fp spectrum in the sense of Definition 4.1 and in fact admits an \mathbb{E}_∞ -structure. One of its claims to fame is that it is a connective model of the $K(1)$ -local sphere; that is, $L_{K(1)}j = L_{K(1)}\mathbb{S}$ as \mathbb{E}_∞ -rings at all primes; see for example [29, Lemma 2.2].

Theorem 5.18 *The connective image of J spectrum j does not have finite chromatic defect, at any prime p .*

Proof If $j \otimes X(n)$ were complex-orientable for some n , then so would be $L_{K(1)}j = L_{K(1)}\mathbb{S}$, contradicting Theorem 5.16. \square

Immediately from Corollary 2.35, we have the following.

Corollary 5.19 *The connective image of J spectrum j is not Wood-type. That is, there is no finite BP-projective F such that $j \otimes F$ is complex-orientable.*

6 Real-oriented theories and higher real K -theories

We compute the chromatic defect of the Real Johnson–Wilson theories $ER(n)$ and Goerss–Hopkins–Miller theories $EO_n(G)$, using [Corollary 5.12](#). As in [Proposition 5.11](#), this comes down to understanding the quotient stacks $\text{Spec}(E(n)_*)/C_2$ and $\text{Spec}((E_n)_*)/G$, and in particular showing that the corresponding morphisms to $\mathcal{M}_{FG}(1)$ are affine.

6.1 The Real Johnson–Wilson theories

The fixed points $ER(n) = (E(n))^{hC_2}$ with respect to the complex conjugation action give higher-height versions of periodic real K -theory $KO = ER(1)$. At higher heights, however, the C_2 -action on $E(n)$ is not known to give an equivariant ring spectrum, and hence the fixed-point spectrum $ER(n)$ is not known to be a ring spectrum. Kitchloo, Lorman and Wilson [\[32\]](#) show that $ER(n)$ has a homotopy commutative ring structure, up to phantom maps, but no more than this is known at the moment. We will show that $ER(n) \otimes X(2^n)$ has homotopy groups concentrated in even degrees; its complex-orientability follows from [Proposition 3.7](#) if it is a homotopy associative ring spectrum, so we will instead verify a ring structure on $ER(n) \otimes X(2^n)$.

The lack of ring structure also makes it difficult to apply the methods of Mathew and Meier [\[40\]](#), say, to obtain equivalences such as

$$MU^{\otimes s} \otimes ER(n) \simeq (MU^{\otimes s} \otimes E(n))^{hC_2},$$

as in [Proposition 5.11](#). We can use a trick from genuine equivariant homotopy to get around this.

Lemma 6.1 *Let E be a Borel-complete genuine C_p -spectrum, X a spectrum, and let $i_* : \text{Sp} \rightarrow \text{Sp}^{C_p}$ denote the unique symmetric monoidal colimit preserving functor. Then the natural map*

$$E^{hC_p} \otimes X \rightarrow (E \otimes i_* X)^{hC_p}$$

is an equivalence if and only if $E \otimes i_ X$ is also Borel complete. This is always true if E is a module over a C_p -ring spectrum R such that $\Phi^{C_p}(R) \simeq *$.*

Proof This is immediate from the fact that $E^{C_p} \simeq E^{hC_p}$ and $(-)^{C_p}$ commutes with colimits. For the second claim, note that $\Phi^{C_p}(E \otimes i_* X)$ and $(E \otimes i_* X)^{tC_p}$ are both modules over $\Phi^{C_p}(R)$. □

We now state the crucial algebrogeometric input necessary to compute $\Phi(ER(n))$.

Proposition 6.2 *Suppose that the pullback stack*

$$\text{Spec}(E(n)_*)/C_2 \times_{\mathcal{M}_{FG}(1)} \mathcal{M}_{FG}(m)$$

is an affine scheme. Then $ER(n) \otimes X(m)'$ admits a Landweber exact homotopy commutative ring structure for all $m' \geq m$, and in particular, $\Phi(ER(n)) \leq m$.

Proof Let $\text{Spec}(R_*)$ be the affine scheme given by the above pullback; then the map $\text{Spec}(R_*) \rightarrow \mathcal{M}_{FG}(1)$ is flat. Indeed this follows from the fact that $\mathcal{M}_{FG}(n) \rightarrow \mathcal{M}_{FG}(1)$ is flat and $\text{Spec}(E(n)_*)/C_2 \rightarrow \mathcal{M}_{FG}(1)$

is flat. The former is [Proposition 5.7](#) and the latter follows from the facts that $\text{Spec}(E(n)_*) \rightarrow \text{Spec}(E(n)_*)/C_2$ is faithfully flat and $\text{Spec}(E(n)_*) \rightarrow \mathcal{M}_{\text{FG}}(1)$ is flat as $E(n)$ is Landweber exact.

There is therefore a Landweber exact homotopy commutative ring spectrum R whose formal group induces the above map $\text{Spec}(R_*) \rightarrow \mathcal{M}_{\text{FG}}(1)$. We can identify the spectra R and $\text{ER}(n) \otimes X(m)$ by producing an isomorphism of homology theories

$$\text{MU}_*(Z) \otimes_{\text{MU}_*} R_* \rightarrow (\text{ER}(n) \otimes X(m))_*(Z).$$

Since

$$\text{Spec}(E(n)_*)/C_2 \times_{\mathcal{M}_{\text{FG}}(1)} \mathcal{M}_{\text{FG}}(m)$$

is an affine scheme, the homotopy fixed-point spectral sequence

$$H^*(C_2; (E(n) \otimes X(m))_* Z) \implies (\text{ER}(n) \otimes X(m))_*(Z)$$

is concentrated on the zero-line, where we have used [Lemma 6.1](#) to identify the target of the spectral sequence. The natural map

$$(\text{ER}(n) \otimes X(m))_*(Z) \rightarrow ((E(n) \otimes X(m))_*(Z))^{C_2}$$

is then an isomorphism. Note now that the map

$$\text{Spec}((E(n) \otimes X(m))_*) \rightarrow \text{Spec}(R_*)$$

is a C_2 -torsor, as it is the base change of the C_2 -torsor $\text{Spec}(E(n)_*) \rightarrow \text{Spec}(E(n)_*)/C_2$ along the map $\mathcal{M}_{\text{FG}}(m) \rightarrow \mathcal{M}_{\text{FG}}(1)$. This gives a natural identification

$$((E(n) \otimes X(m))_*(Z))^{C_2} \cong (\text{MU}_* Z \otimes_{\text{MU}_*} (E(n) \otimes X(m))_*)^{C_2} \cong \text{MU}_* Z \otimes_{\text{MU}_*} R_*,$$

using in the first identification that $E(n) \otimes X(m)$ is Landweber exact.

Since $\mathcal{M}_{\text{FG}}(m') \rightarrow \mathcal{M}_{\text{FG}}(m)$ is an affine morphism for $m' \geq m$, if the pullback in the statement of the proposition is an affine scheme, then so is

$$\text{Spec}(E(n)_*)/C_2 \times_{\mathcal{M}_{\text{FG}}(1)} \mathcal{M}_{\text{FG}}(m'),$$

and the same argument now applies to $\text{ER}(n) \otimes X(m)'$. □

Under the assumptions of [Proposition 6.2](#), we can let $m = \infty$, and we deduce that $\text{ER}(n) \otimes \text{MU}$ is a Landweber exact homotopy commutative ring spectrum, and hence we can associate a stack to $\text{ER}(n)$ exactly as in [Definition 5.1](#). We set

$$\mathcal{M}_{\text{ER}(n)} := \mathcal{M}_{(\text{MU}_{2*} \text{ER}(n), \text{MU}_{2*} \text{MU} \otimes_{\text{MU}_{2*}} \text{MU}_{2*} \text{ER}(n))}.$$

All the usual properties for \mathcal{M}_E hold as well for $\mathcal{M}_{\text{ER}(n)}$, such as [Proposition 5.5](#), since these properties only ever make use of the ring structure on $\text{MU}_{2*} E$.

Proposition 6.3 *Assuming that, for some m ,*

$$\mathrm{Spec}(E(n)_*)/C_2 \times_{\mathcal{M}_{\mathrm{FG}}(1)} \mathcal{M}_{\mathrm{FG}}(m)$$

is an affine scheme, there is an equivalence of \mathbb{G}_m -stacks

$$\mathcal{M}_{\mathrm{ER}(n)} \simeq \mathrm{Spec}(E(n)_*)/C_2$$

over $\mathcal{M}_{\mathrm{FG}}(1)$.

Proof Since the morphism $\mathcal{M}_{\mathrm{FG}}(m) \rightarrow \mathcal{M}_{\mathrm{FG}}(1)$ is faithfully flat, the assumptions imply that the map $p : \mathrm{Spec}(E(n)_*)/C_2 \rightarrow \mathcal{M}_{\mathrm{FG}}(1)$ is affine. This, along with [Lemma 6.1](#), imply that the conditions of [Proposition 5.11](#) are satisfied. \square

Remark 6.4 Hopkins gives a description of $\mathcal{M}_{\mathrm{KO}}$ as the moduli stack of nonsingular quadratic equations and strict coordinate transformations, as in [Example 5.4](#). In fact, this description falls immediately out of [Proposition 6.3](#) using that $\mathrm{KO} \simeq \mathrm{ER}(1)$. It is possible to make similar identifications to give a modular description of $\mathcal{M}_{\mathrm{ER}(n)}$ for all heights n , which we give in [\[13\]](#) and intend to return to in future work.

We turn now to proving that the pullback in [Proposition 6.2](#) is indeed affine.

Theorem 6.5 *For all $m \geq 2^n$, $\mathrm{ER}(n) \otimes X(m)$ is a Landweber exact homotopy commutative ring spectrum. Moreover, $\Phi(\mathrm{ER}(n)) = 2^n$.*

Proof We begin by showing that $\Phi(\mathrm{ER}(n)) \leq 2^n$; we need to show that the pullback

$$\mathcal{P} := \mathrm{Spec}(E(n)_*)/C_2 \times_{\mathcal{M}_{\mathrm{FG}}(1)} \mathcal{M}_{\mathrm{FG}}(2^n)$$

is an affine scheme. As in the proof of [Proposition 5.10](#) following [\[31, Theorem A7.1.1\]](#), since $\mathrm{Spec}(E(n)_*)/C_2$ is a quotient stack, it suffices to show \mathcal{P} is discrete. An object $P \in \mathcal{P}(R)$ has a nontrivial automorphism if and only if the nontrivial element $\gamma \in C_2$ acts on the formal group F_P over R by a power series $f(x)$ with the property that $f(x) \equiv x \pmod{x^{2^n+1}}$.

The element γ , however, acts by formal inversion on F_P . More specifically, the complex-conjugation action map $\gamma : \mathrm{MU} \rightarrow \mathrm{MU}$ induces the map on homotopy groups classifying the conjugate of the universal formal group law F_{univ} by $-[-1]_{F_{\mathrm{univ}}}(x)$; see [\[25, Example 11.19\]](#). Thus if P has a nontrivial automorphism, then

$$[-1]_{F_P}(x) \equiv x \pmod{x^{2^n+1}}.$$

Now since v_n is a unit in R , and $\gamma^* F_P = F_P$, it follows from the fact that $\gamma(v_n) = -v_n$ that $2v_n = 0 \in R$, so R is an \mathbb{F}_2 -algebra, and in particular $-[-1]_{F_P}(x) = [-1]_{F_P}(x)$. This implies that

$$0 = F_P(x, [-1]_{F_P}(x)) \equiv F_P(x, x) \pmod{x^{2^n+1}},$$

but the right-hand side is $[2]_{F_P}(x)$, and F_P has height $\leq n$, a contradiction for a nonzero ring R .

To see that $\Phi(\mathrm{ER}(n)) \geq 2^n$, suppose to the contrary that $\mathrm{ER}(n) \otimes X(2^n - 1)$ is complex orientable. By [Proposition 6.3](#) it follows that there is a pullback square

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{M}_{\mathrm{ER}(n) \otimes X(2^n - 1)} & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{M}_{\mathrm{FG}(2^n - 1)} \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \mathrm{Spec}(E(n)_*)/C_2 & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{M}_{\mathrm{FG}(1)} \end{array}$$

If the pullback $\mathcal{M}_{\mathrm{ER}(n) \otimes X(2^n - 1)}$ were affine, it would be discrete. This is a contradiction because we can consider the point of the pullback at the ring $\mathbb{F}_2[v_n^{\pm}]$ determined by the ring map $E(n)_* \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_2[v_n^{\pm}]$ which kills $(2, v_1, \dots, v_{n-1})$. This has a nontrivial automorphism because

$$[-1]_{F_{\mathrm{univ}}}(x) \equiv x \pmod{(2, v_1, \dots, v_{n-1}, v_n x^{2^n});}$$

see [\[9, Proposition 3.5\]](#). □

6.2 Higher real K -theories

We turn now to the determination of the chromatic defect of Goerss–Hopkins–Miller higher real K -theories. As before we fix a height n formal group Γ over a perfect field k of characteristic p and a finite subgroup $G \subset \mathbb{G}_n$ of the corresponding Morava stabilizer group, and we let $\mathrm{EO}_n(G)$ denote the fixed points of $E(k, \Gamma)$ with respect to G . This follows a similar path to the previous subsection: we identify $\mathcal{M}_{\mathrm{EO}_n(G)}$ with a quotient stack and then use a hands-on stacks argument to determine the minimum m such that the stack becomes affine after pulling back to $\mathcal{M}_{\mathrm{FG}(m)}$. We have already made the first observation in the previous section, which we recall here.

Proposition 6.6 *There is a \mathbb{G}_m -equivariant equivalence of stacks*

$$\mathcal{M}_{\mathrm{EO}_n(G)} \simeq \mathrm{Spec}((E_n)_*)/G$$

over $\mathcal{M}_{\mathrm{FG}(1)}$.

Proof As in [\[40, Theorem 5.10\]](#), the stabilizer of any point $x \in \mathrm{Spec}((E_n)_*)/G$ acts faithfully on the formal group since G is a subgroup of the Morava stabilizer group, thus the morphism $\mathrm{Spec}((E_n)_*)/G \rightarrow \mathcal{M}_{\mathrm{FG}(1)}$ is affine, and $\mathrm{EO}_n(G) \rightarrow E_n$ is a G -Galois extension. The latter implies that $(\mathrm{MU}^{\otimes s} \otimes E_n)^{hG} \simeq \mathrm{MU}^{\otimes s} \otimes \mathrm{EO}_n(G)$, and [Proposition 5.11](#) applies. □

We will use the valuation on $\mathrm{End}(\Gamma)$ to calculate the chromatic defect of $\mathrm{EO}_n(G)$ in the following way. Fix a p -typical universal deformation $\tilde{\Gamma}$ of Γ , and an automorphism $g \in \mathrm{End}(\Gamma)^\times$ of Γ . By universal property, there is an induced isomorphism

$$[g] : \tilde{\Gamma} \rightarrow [g]^* \tilde{\Gamma}$$

of formal group laws over $W(k)[[u_1, \dots, u_{n-1}]]$. Since we have chosen a p -typical coordinate, we may write

$$[g](x) = x + {}_{g^* \tilde{\Gamma}} \sum_{i \geq 1} {}^{g^* \tilde{\Gamma}} t_i(g) x^{p^i},$$

and thus

$$[g - 1](x) = \sum_{i \geq 1} g^{*\tilde{\Gamma}} t_i(g) x^{p^i}.$$

Working mod the maximal ideal \mathfrak{m} in $W(k)[[u_1, \dots, u_{n-1}]]$ we have an expression

$$[g - 1](x) = \sum_{i \geq 1} \Gamma t_i(g) x^{p^i},$$

so that $n \cdot v(g - 1)$ is the minimum i such that $t_i(g) \not\equiv 0 \pmod{\mathfrak{m}}$. Since $W(k)[[u_1, \dots, u_{n-1}]]$ is a complete local ring, this is equivalent to asking that $t_i(g)$ be a unit. In the statement below, we let $\pi : \mathbb{G}_n \rightarrow \text{Aut}(\Gamma)$ denote the projection map, where we identify the underlying set of the semidirect product as a cartesian product.

Theorem 6.7 *Let $N(G) := n \cdot \max\{v(\pi(g) - 1) : e \neq \pi(g)\}_{g \in G}$, where e is the identity element of G . Then $\Phi(\text{EO}_n(G)) = p^{N(G)}$.*

Proof Our proof closely follows that of [Theorem 6.5](#), namely to see that $\Phi(\text{EO}_n(G)) \leq p^{N(G)}$, we need to show that the stack

$$\mathcal{P} := \text{Spec}((E_n)_*) / G \times_{\mathcal{M}_{\text{FG}}(1)} \mathcal{M}_{\text{FG}}(p^{N(G)})$$

is an affine scheme, for which it suffices to show in this case that it is discrete. An object $P \in \mathcal{P}(R)$ has a nontrivial automorphism if and only if a nontrivial element $g \in G$ acts on the formal group Γ_P on R by a power series $[\pi(g)](x)$ with the property that $[\pi(g)](x) \equiv x \pmod{x^{p^{N(G)}+1}}$. However, by definition of $N(G)$, we have that

$$[\pi(g)](x) = x + g^{*\tilde{\Gamma}} \sum_{i \geq 1} t_i(g) x^{p^i}$$

and $t_i(g) \not\equiv 0 \pmod{\mathfrak{m}}$ for some $i \leq N(G)$, so that $t_i(G)$ is a unit in $(E_n)_*$ and therefore in R , which gives a contradiction for a nonzero ring R .

As before, to see that $\Phi(\text{EO}_n(G)) \geq p^{N(G)}$ it suffices to show that

$$\text{Spec}((E_n)_*) / G \times_{\mathcal{M}_{\text{FG}}(1)} \mathcal{M}_{\text{FG}}(p^{N(G)} - 1)$$

is not discrete. A nontrivial automorphism in this stack is found over $k[u^\pm]$ at Γ by taking g so that $N(G) = nv(\pi(g) - 1)$. □

Computing this valuation is a purely number-theoretic problem, and can be done with ease in many cases using general facts about valuations on division algebras, for which we refer the reader to [\[54\]](#). At a given height n we let F_n be the Honda formal group law over $\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p$. When $n = k(p - 1)$, there is a tower of division algebras

$$\mathbb{Q}_p \subset \mathbb{Q}_p(\zeta_p) \subset \text{End}(F_n) \left[\frac{1}{p} \right].$$

The element $\zeta_p \in \mathbb{Q}_p(\zeta_p)^\times$ has order p and has positive valuation, therefore giving a copy of C_p in $\text{Aut}(F_n)$ and a C_p -action on E_n .

Corollary 6.8 $\Phi(\mathrm{EO}_{k(p-1)}(C_p)) = p^k$.

Proof For all $0 < k < p$, $\zeta^k - 1$ is a uniformizer of $\mathbb{C}_{\mathbb{Q}_p}(\zeta_p)$, and since $\mathbb{Q}_p(\zeta_p)/\mathbb{Q}_p$ is totally ramified, we therefore have $v(\zeta^k - 1) = 1/(p - 1)$, so that $N(C_p) = k$. \square

More generally, $D = \mathrm{End}(F_h)[1/p]$ is the central \mathbb{Q}_p -division algebra with Hasse invariant $1/h$, and Serre [54] showed that a field extension K/\mathbb{Q}_p is contained in D if and only if $[K : \mathbb{Q}_p]$ divides h . Letting $h = p^{n-1}(p - 1)m$, we have that

$$[\mathbb{Q}_p(\zeta_{p^n}) : \mathbb{Q}_p] = \phi(p^n) = p^{n-1}(p - 1),$$

so a choice of embedding of $\mathbb{Q}_p(\zeta_{p^n})$ gives as before a C_{p^n} -action on E_n .

Corollary 6.9 $\Phi(\mathrm{EO}_{p^{n-1}(p-1)m}(C_{p^n})) = p^{p^{n-1}m}$.

Proof Again $\mathbb{Q}_p(\zeta_{p^n})/\mathbb{Q}_p$ is a totally ramified extension. One thus computes the valuations

$$v(\zeta_{p^n} - 1) = \frac{1}{p^{n-1}(p - 1)}, \quad \dots, \quad v(\zeta_{p^n}^{p^{n-1}} - 1) = \frac{1}{p - 1},$$

so that $N(C_{p^n}) = p^{n-1}m$. \square

Remark 6.10 When $p = 2$, the $\mathrm{ER}(n)$'s $K(n)$ -localize to $\mathrm{EO}_n(C_2)$'s, and thus the agreement of the numbers in Theorem 6.5 and Corollary 6.8 does not come as a surprise. In fact, Beaudry, Hill, Shi and Zeng [9] construct genuine C_{2^n} -spectra known as the $D^{-1}\mathrm{BP}^{(G)}\langle m \rangle$, whose fixed points $K(n)$ -localize to the $\mathrm{EO}_{2^{n-1}m}(C_{2^n})$ of Corollary 6.9. In this way the fixed-point spectra $(D^{-1}\mathrm{BP}^{(G)}\langle m \rangle)^G$ give generalizations of the $\mathrm{ER}(n)$'s that capture larger cyclic 2-groups in the Morava stabilizer group. It can be shown that their chromatic defect coincides with the number given in Corollary 6.8; we would like to return to these and their associated stacks in a future work.

7 \mathbb{Z} -indexed Adams–Novikov spectral sequences

In their study of fp spectra, Mahowald and Rezk observed that the ASS of an fp spectrum E of type n could be extended to a full plane SS converging to the homotopy groups of the chromatic localization $L_n^f E$. The essential idea is that, choosing a type $n + 1$ complex F so that $E \otimes F$ is an \mathbb{F}_p -module as in Definition 4.1, one can form an Adams tower for E using F in place of \mathbb{F}_p . Since F is finite, the entire tower may be dualized, thus forming a \mathbb{Z} -indexed Adams tower, resulting in a full plane spectral sequence.

Our definition of a Wood-type E gives E precisely the properties necessary to emulate this construction with the Adams–Novikov spectral sequence. Unlike the Adams case, the \mathbb{Z} -indexed ANSS will instead converge to 0. We develop the basics of these \mathbb{Z} -ANSSs in this section, relate their E_2 -pages to various forms of Tate cohomology, and then plug in our motivating example, ko .

There is an obvious generalization of the notion of Wood-types and \mathbb{Z} -indexed Adams spectral sequences to a general ring spectrum E in place of BP or \mathbb{F}_p , producing full plane spectral sequences which converge to $L_n^f E$, whenever E is an E -Wood-type via a finite type $n + 1$ complex F , but we do not pursue this here.

7.1 The ANSS for a Wood-type

We recall a general framework for Adams towers and their associated spectral sequences developed by Haynes Miller; see [44] as well as [28, Section 4]. For an \mathbb{E}_0 -algebra R , Miller defines an R -injective exactly as we define a weak R -module in Definition 2.5. Using this, he defines R -injective resolutions and relates them to R -based ASSs, from which the following may be deduced.

Proposition 7.1 *Let R be an \mathbb{E}_0 -algebra and E a spectrum, and suppose we are given a tower*

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \cdots & \longrightarrow & E_2 & \longrightarrow & E_1 & \longrightarrow & E \\ & & \downarrow i_2 & & \downarrow i_1 & & \downarrow i_0 \\ & & C_2 & & C_1 & & C_0 \end{array}$$

where $E_j = \text{fib}(i_{j-1})$, $R \otimes i_j$ is a split monomorphism, and C_j is a weak R -module for all j . Then the spectral sequence obtained by applying $\pi_*(-)$ to this tower coincides with the R -based ASS of E from the E_2 -page on.

Suppose then that F is an \mathbb{E}_0 -algebra, and E a spectrum, and form the F -based Adams tower of E :

$$(7-1) \quad \begin{array}{ccccc} \cdots & \longrightarrow & E \otimes \bar{F} \otimes \bar{F} & \longrightarrow & E \otimes \bar{F} & \longrightarrow & E \\ & & \downarrow i_2 & & \downarrow i_1 & & \downarrow i_0 \\ & & E \otimes \bar{F} \otimes \bar{F} \otimes F & & E \otimes \bar{F} \otimes F & & E \otimes F \end{array}$$

Suppose now that R is a homotopy associative ring spectrum. If $E \otimes F$ is a weak R -module, and F is an R -projective, it follows from the proposition that the associated spectral sequence recovers the R -based ASS of E from the E_2 -page on. Using that $F = T(n)$ is a $R = \text{BP}$ -free, we have the following.

Corollary 7.2 *Suppose $\Phi_p(E) \leq n$, so that $E \otimes T(n)$ is complex-orientable. Then the $T(n)$ -based ASS of E coincides with the ANSS of E from the E_2 -page on.*

We have the following further simplification when E is Wood-type, setting now F to be a finite BP-projective and $R = \text{BP}$. Here we shift F so that its bottom cells are in degree zero and fix a cell $\mathbb{S} \rightarrow F$, thereby equipping F with an \mathbb{E}_0 -algebra structure.

Corollary 7.3 *Suppose that E is Wood-type, and choose a finite BP-projective F so that $E \otimes F$ is complex-orientable. Then the F -based ASS of E coincides with the ANSS of E from the E_2 -page on.*

Example 7.4 Let $E = \text{ko}$ and $F = C(\eta)$, i.e., the classical Wood equivalence. Corollary 7.3 gives an identification of ANSS(ko) with the η -Bockstein spectral sequence for ko.

Similar statements apply to the cases $E = \text{tmf}$ with $F = D\mathcal{A}(1)$ at the prime 2 and $F = X_2$ at the prime 3 from Example 2.32. The identification of the E_2 -page of the ANSS this provides corresponds to the stack-theoretic identifications of the descent SS for tmf as in [6], using the 2- and 3-local covers of \mathcal{M}_{eII} by $\mathcal{M}_1(3)$ and $\mathcal{M}_1(2)$, respectively.

Remark 7.5 It is often the case, as in the example above, that for a Wood-type \mathbb{E}_∞ -ring spectrum E , the corresponding complex-oriented spectrum $T := E \otimes F$ has the structure of an E -algebra, as in with $ko \rightarrow ku \simeq ko \otimes C(\eta)$. In this case, $\text{ANSS}(E)$ may be identified with relative Adams spectral sequence for the ring map $E \rightarrow T$ of [5]. This has the advantage of endowing the spectral sequence of (7-1) with the structure of a spectral sequence of algebras from the E_1 -page on.

7.2 \mathbb{Z} -indexed ANSS and Tate cohomology

As above we fix a bottom cell $S \rightarrow F$, and we let $\bar{F} := \text{fib}(S \rightarrow F)$. The tower of (7-1) extends to the right whenever F is dualizable:

$$(7-2) \quad \begin{array}{ccccccc} \cdots & \longrightarrow & E \otimes \bar{F} & \longrightarrow & E & \longrightarrow & E \otimes \mathbb{D}\bar{F} \longrightarrow \cdots \\ & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ & & E \otimes \bar{F} \otimes F & & E \otimes F & & E \otimes \Sigma \mathbb{D}F \end{array}$$

Definition 7.6 If E is Wood-type, fix a finite BP-projective F with $E \otimes F$ complex-orientable. The \mathbb{Z} -indexed Adams–Novikov spectral sequence of E (\mathbb{Z} -ANSS(E)) is the spectral sequence associated to the tower of (7-2).

We will show now that the \mathbb{Z} -ANSS of a Wood-type E almost completely determines the ANSS of E . For this, we will need some terminology introduced by Meier, Shi and Zeng [43, Definition 2.5].

Definition 7.7 Let $f : \mathcal{E} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}'$ be a morphism of spectral sequences. We say f is an *isomorphism of spectral sequences in nonnegative filtrations* if the following statements hold:

- (1) On the E_2 -page, f induces an isomorphism in positive filtrations and an epimorphism in filtration zero.
- (2) For all $r \geq 2$, every nonzero d_r -differential in \mathcal{E} whose source is in nonnegative filtration is mapped via f to a nonzero d_r -differential in \mathcal{E}' .
- (3) For all $r \geq 2$, every nonzero d_r -differential in \mathcal{E}' whose source is in nonnegative filtration is the image along f of a nonzero d_r -differential in \mathcal{E} .

In fact, conditions (2) and (3) of Definition 7.7 are redundant; they follow from condition (1). Indeed, this may be shown using an induction argument given in [43, Proof of Theorem 2.6], which we now briefly recall; see also [21, Proof of Theorem 3.3].

Proposition 7.8 Let $f : \mathcal{E} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}'$ be a morphism of spectral sequences such that, on the E_2 -page, f induces an isomorphism in positive filtrations and an epimorphism in filtration zero. Then f is an **isomorphism of spectral sequences in nonnegative filtrations**.

Proof Conditions (2) and (3) of Definition 7.7 follow for $r = 2$ immediately from condition (1) of Definition 7.7, i.e., from the assumption of the proposition. We then let $r > 2$ and suppose that conditions (2) and (3) of Definition 7.7 hold for all $r' < r$.

Suppose $d_r(x) = y$ is a nonzero differential in \mathcal{E} . We claim that $d_r(f(x)) = f(y)$ is a nonzero differential in \mathcal{E}' . If not then $f(y) = 0$ on the E_r -page. However, since $f(y) \neq 0$ on the E_2 -page, there must be a differential $d_{r'}(z) = f(y)$ in \mathcal{E}' for $r' < r$. By induction using condition (3), this differential must lift to \mathcal{E} , contradicting that y is nonzero on E_r . This establishes condition (2).

Similarly, suppose $d_r(x) = y$ is a nonzero differential in \mathcal{E}' . Since x admits a lift \tilde{x} to \mathcal{E} on the E_2 -page, if the differential does not lift on the E_r -page, then there must be a nonzero differential $d_{r'}(\tilde{x}) = z$ for $r' < r$. By induction using condition (2), it follows that x supports a nonzero $d_{r'}$ -differential in \mathcal{E}' , contradicting that x survives to the E_r -page. □

Theorem 7.9 *The \mathbb{Z} -ANSS of a Wood-type E has the following properties:*

- (1) *The \mathbb{Z} -ANSS is independent of the choice of finite BP-projective F from the E_2 -page on.*
- (2) *The natural map*

$$\text{ANSS}(E) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}\text{-ANSS}(E)$$

is an isomorphism of spectral sequences in nonnegative filtrations in the sense of Definition 7.7.

- (3) *The \mathbb{Z} -ANSS converges to zero.*

Proof For (1), as in [28, Lemma 4.8], the BP-injective resolutions

$$E \rightarrow E \otimes F_i \rightarrow \Sigma E \otimes \bar{F}_i \otimes F_i \rightarrow \dots$$

corresponding to the towers (7-2) for any pair of finite BP-projectives F_1, F_2 with the property that $E \otimes F_i$ is BP-injective are chain homotopy equivalent, since they are Adams resolutions. One may dualize the chain maps and chain homotopies to see that the resolutions of E

$$\dots \rightarrow \Sigma^{-1} E \otimes \mathbb{D}\bar{F}_i \otimes \mathbb{D}F_i \rightarrow E \otimes \mathbb{D}F_i \rightarrow E$$

are chain homotopy equivalent. The two spectral sequences arise by splicing these resolutions together and thus must be isomorphic from the E_2 -page on.

For (2), note that condition (1) of Definition 7.7 follows by construction of the tower. The claim then follows immediately from Proposition 7.8.

For (3), we first show that the colimit of the tower of (7-2) becomes zero after tensoring with F . Each of the downward maps in (7-2) admits a section after tensoring with F . Indeed, since $E \otimes F$ is complex-orientable, the map $E \otimes F \rightarrow E \otimes F \otimes F$ is a retract of the map $E \otimes F \otimes \text{BP} \rightarrow E \otimes F \otimes F \otimes \text{BP}$. Since F is a BP-projective, the map $F \otimes \text{BP} \rightarrow F \otimes F \otimes \text{BP}$ admits a section. It follows that all of the horizontal maps in (7-2) become zero after tensoring with F , as desired.

Since F is a type-zero complex, a spectrum X is zero if and only if $X \otimes F = 0$, as follows from the thick subcategory theorem. Indeed, the set of finite spectra K such that $X \otimes K = 0$ is a thick subcategory of finite spectra, and if it contains a type zero complex, it contains \mathbb{S} . It follows that the colimit of the tower of (7-2) is zero, so that the \mathbb{Z} -ANSS converges to zero. □

Remark 7.10 Readers familiar with the homotopy fixed-point spectral sequence (HFPSS) and the Tate spectral sequence (TateSS) will notice similarities between these and the ANSS and \mathbb{Z} -ANSS of a Wood-type. Indeed, for a G -spectrum E , the canonical map $\text{HFPSS}(E) \rightarrow \text{TateSS}(E)$ is given on the E_2 -page by the map

$$H^*(G; \pi_* E) \rightarrow \widehat{H}^*(G; \pi_* E)$$

from group cohomology to Tate cohomology. This map is an isomorphism in positive filtrations and a surjection in filtration zero, and hence the map $\text{HFPSS}(E) \rightarrow \text{TateSS}(E)$ is an isomorphism of spectral sequences in nonnegative filtrations in the sense of [Definition 7.7](#).

When $E^{tG} = 0$, the Tate SS of E converges to zero, as in condition (3) of [Theorem 7.9](#). This vanishing is often used to deduce vanishing lines and differentials in the HFPSS; see [\[21\]](#) for example.

We turn now to identifying the E_2 page of \mathbb{Z} -ANSS(E). In the following statements we will assume that E is a Wood-type and choose a corresponding complex F equipped with an \mathbb{E}_1 -multiplication. Since the \mathbb{Z} -ANSS(E) does not depend on the choice of F , this results in no loss of generality since we may replace F with its endomorphism ring $F \otimes \mathbb{D}F$. The E_2 -page is computed via a certain localization in Hovey's category $\text{Stable}(\text{BP}_*\text{BP})$ -comodules, equivalently mod τ in Pstragowski's category Syn_{BP} [\[48\]](#). We will need to recall some terminology from [\[41, Section 3.1\]](#).

Definition 7.11 Let \mathcal{C} be a presentably symmetric-monoidal stable ∞ -category, and $A \in \text{Alg}(\mathcal{C})$ a dualizable algebra.

- Let $\mathcal{C}_{A\text{-tors}}$ — the category of A -torsion objects — be the localizing subcategory of \mathcal{C} generated by objects of the form $A \otimes X$, where X is dualizable.
- Let $\mathcal{C}_{A^{-1}\text{-local}}$ — the category of A^{-1} -local objects — be the subcategory of \mathcal{C} consisting of objects Y with the property that $\text{Map}_{\mathcal{C}}(Z, Y) \simeq *$ for all $Z \in \mathcal{C}_{A\text{-tors}}$.

Any object $E \in \mathcal{C}$ fits into a natural cofiber sequence

$$Z_{A^{-1}} E \rightarrow E \rightarrow L_{A^{-1}} E,$$

where $Z_{A^{-1}} E \in \mathcal{C}_{A\text{-tors}}$ and $L_{A^{-1}} E \in \mathcal{C}_{A^{-1}\text{-local}}$. Mathew, Naumann and Noel [\[41, Proposition 3.5\]](#) give an explicit description of the localization functor $L_{A^{-1}}(-)$ as follows.

Proposition 7.12 Let $\text{CB}(A)$ denote the cosimplicial object

$$A \rightrightarrows A \otimes A \rightrightarrows A \otimes A \otimes A \cdots,$$

i.e., the cobar complex of A . Then for any $X \in \mathcal{C}$, the map $Z_{A^{-1}} E \rightarrow E$ is equivalent to the map

$$|\mathbb{D}(\text{CB}(A)) \otimes E| \rightarrow E$$

given by dualizing the cobar complex.

As above we fix an \mathbb{E}_1 -ring F such that $E \otimes F$ is complex-orientable, and we let

$$\nu(-)/\tau : \mathrm{Sp} \rightarrow \mathrm{Stable}(\mathrm{BP}_*\mathrm{BP})$$

denote the functor sending a spectrum E to the $\mathrm{BP}_*\mathrm{BP}$ -comodule BP_*E regarded as a discrete object in $\mathrm{Stable}(\mathrm{BP}_*\mathrm{BP})$.

Proposition 7.13 *The E_2 -page of the \mathbb{Z} -ANSS of a Wood-type E is given by*

$$E_2^{*,*} = \pi_{*,*}L_{(\nu F/\tau)^{-1}}(\nu E/\tau)$$

in $\mathrm{Stable}(\mathrm{BP}_*\mathrm{BP})$.

Proof Mathew [38, Theorem 2.4] gives a similar categorical description of Tate cohomology, and the proof carries over to our setting without much change. The key point is to show that $\pi_{*,0}L_{(\nu F/\tau)^{-1}}(\nu E/\tau)$ coincides with the zero line on our E_2 -page, which is the cohomology of the complex

$$\pi_*(E \otimes \mathbb{D}F) \rightarrow \pi_*(E \otimes F) \rightarrow \pi_*(\Sigma E \otimes \bar{F} \otimes F).$$

Since $E \otimes F$ and therefore also $E \otimes \mathbb{D}F$ are weak BP-modules, this is isomorphic to

$$\mathrm{Ext}_{\mathrm{BP}_*\mathrm{BP}}^{0,*}(\mathrm{BP}_*(E \otimes \mathbb{D}F)) \rightarrow \mathrm{Ext}_{\mathrm{BP}_*\mathrm{BP}}^{0,*}(\mathrm{BP}_*(E \otimes F)) \rightarrow \mathrm{Ext}_{\mathrm{BP}_*\mathrm{BP}}^{0,*}(\mathrm{BP}_*(\Sigma E \otimes \bar{F} \otimes F)),$$

which is isomorphic to

$$\pi_{*,0}(\nu E/\tau \otimes \mathbb{D}\nu F/\tau) \rightarrow \pi_{*,0}(\nu E/\tau \otimes \nu F/\tau) \rightarrow \pi_{*,0}(\Sigma \nu E/\tau \otimes \overline{\nu F/\tau} \otimes \nu F/\tau).$$

The kernel of the second map, by Corollary 7.3, is isomorphic to $\mathrm{Ext}_{\mathrm{BP}_*\mathrm{BP}}^{0,*}(\mathrm{BP}_*(E)) \cong \pi_{*,0}(\nu E/\tau)$. Since $\nu E/\tau$ and $\nu F/\tau$ are connective objects in $\mathrm{Stable}(\mathrm{BP}_*\mathrm{BP})$, it follows that

$$\pi_{*,0}(|\mathbb{D}(\mathrm{CB}(\nu F/\tau)) \otimes \nu E/\tau|) \cong \pi_{*,0}(\nu E/\tau \otimes \mathbb{D}\nu F/\tau),$$

and now the result follows from Proposition 7.12. □

The description of the E_2 -page resembles Tate cohomology, as the latter is given by $\pi_*L_{k[G]^{-1}}(-)$ in the stable module category associated to a finite group G . However, our description rings a bit hollow at this level of generality, as one would hope for a description in terms of $L_{\mathrm{BP}_*\mathrm{BP}^{-1}}(-)$. The analogous description does hold in the Mahowald–Rezk context replacing BP with \mathbb{F}_p (see [37, Section 2]), where one may use the fact that \mathcal{A}_* is projective in the category of finitely presented \mathcal{A}_* -comodules, and we see no direct analog of this in our setting.

In practice, however, we often find ourselves in the situation of Remark 7.5, namely when E is an \mathbb{E}_∞ ring spectrum and $E \otimes F$ is a finite Adams-flat E -algebra. In this setting, the E_2 -page of the \mathbb{Z} -ANSS(E) can be viewed more aptly as an instance of Tate cohomology. The proof of the following is exactly as in the previous proposition.

Proposition 7.14 *Let E be an E_∞ -ring and $T \in \text{Alg}(E)$ with the property that $\Gamma := \pi_*(T \otimes_E T)$ is flat over $A = \pi_*T$. For any $X \in \text{Mod}(E)$, the spectral sequence associated to the \mathbb{Z} -indexed tower*

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} \cdots & \longrightarrow & X \otimes_E \bar{T} & \longrightarrow & X & \longrightarrow & X \otimes_E D\bar{T} \longrightarrow \cdots \\ & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ & & X \otimes_E \bar{T} \otimes_E T & & X \otimes_E T & & X \otimes_E \Sigma DT \end{array}$$

has E_2 -page given by $\pi_{*,*}L_{\Gamma^{-1}}(\nu X/\tau)$ in $\text{Stable}(A, \Gamma)$.

Setting $T = E \otimes F$ and $X = E$ as in Remark 7.5, one recovers a description of the E_2 -page of \mathbb{Z} -ANSS(E) as $\pi_{*,*}L_{\Gamma^{-1}}\mathbb{1}$.

7.3 The \mathbb{Z} -ANSS for ko

We begin by calculating ANSS(ko), which by Corollary 7.3 can be identified with the η -Bockstein SS from the E_2 -page on, equivalently, with the relative ASS for the map of commutative ring spectra $ko \rightarrow ku$, in the sense of [5]. From this latter perspective, one sees that the spectral sequence has the structure of a spectral sequence of algebras, with associative E_1 -page and commutative E_r -page for $r > 1$. Since $ku_* = \mathbb{Z}[u]$ with $|u| = 2$, one has an additive isomorphism

$$E_1 = \pi_*(ko/\eta)[\eta] = \mathbb{Z}[u, \eta].$$

The class η is a permanent cycle, and the differential d_1 is thus determined by the following.

Proposition 7.15 *In ANSS(ko), the d_1 -differential satisfies*

$$d_1(u^n) = \begin{cases} 2\eta u^{2k} & \text{when } n = 2k + 1, \\ 0 & \text{when } n = 2k. \end{cases}$$

Proof By the Leibniz rule, it suffices to establish $d_1(u) = 2\eta$ and $d_1(u^2) = 0$. These both follow from the Wood sequence: we have an exact sequence

$$\pi_2ku \xrightarrow{\partial} \pi_0ko \xrightarrow{\eta} \pi_1ko \rightarrow 0.$$

Since $\pi_0ko = \mathbb{Z}$ is generated by trivial bundles and $\pi_1ko = \mathbb{Z}/2$ via the Mobius bundle, we see that $\partial(u) = 2$, which implies that $d_1(u) = 2\eta$. Since ∂ is thus a monomorphism on π_2ku , the exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \pi_1ko \xrightarrow{\eta} \pi_2ko \rightarrow \pi_2ku \xrightarrow{\partial} \pi_0ko$$

implies π_2ko is generated by classes divisible by η , which implies that $d_1(u^2) = 0$, since d_1 is given by the composite

$$\pi_4ku \xrightarrow{\partial} \pi_2ko \rightarrow \pi_2ku,$$

and the latter map has kernel those elements divisible by η . □

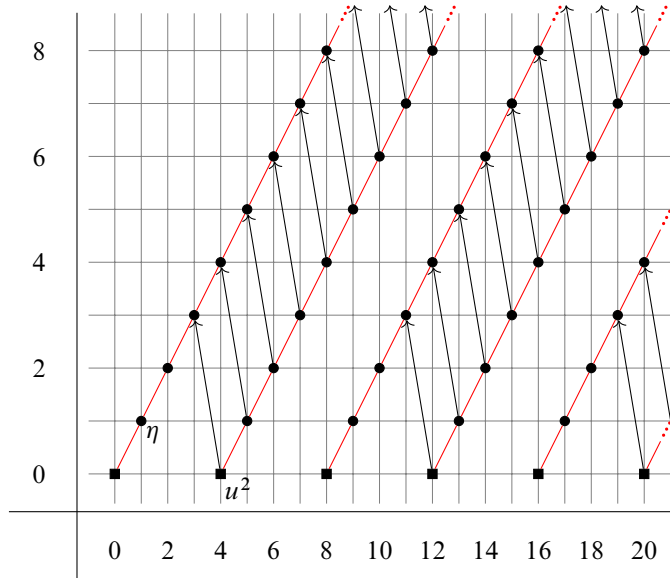


Figure 3: The ANSS for ko .

As a consequence of the Leibniz rule and the fact that $d_1(u^2) = 0$, we see that in fact $u\eta = -\eta u$ on E_1 . In any case it follows that $E_2 = \mathbb{Z}[u^2, \eta]/(2\eta)$, as a ring. It follows from the Leibniz rule that either this spectral sequence collapses on E_2 or there is a differential $d_3(u^2) = \eta^3$. We will use the \mathbb{Z} -ANSS to show that this differential must happen. By construction \mathbb{Z} -ANSS(ko) satisfies

$$E_1 = \mathbb{Z}[u, \eta^\pm]$$

as a module over ANSS(ko). It follows that d_1 is determined by the same formulae as in Proposition 7.15, and we have the following.

Proposition 7.16 *The E_2 -page of the \mathbb{Z} -ANSS(ko) is given as a module over that of ANSS(ko) by*

$$E_2 = \mathbb{F}_2[u^2, \eta^\pm].$$

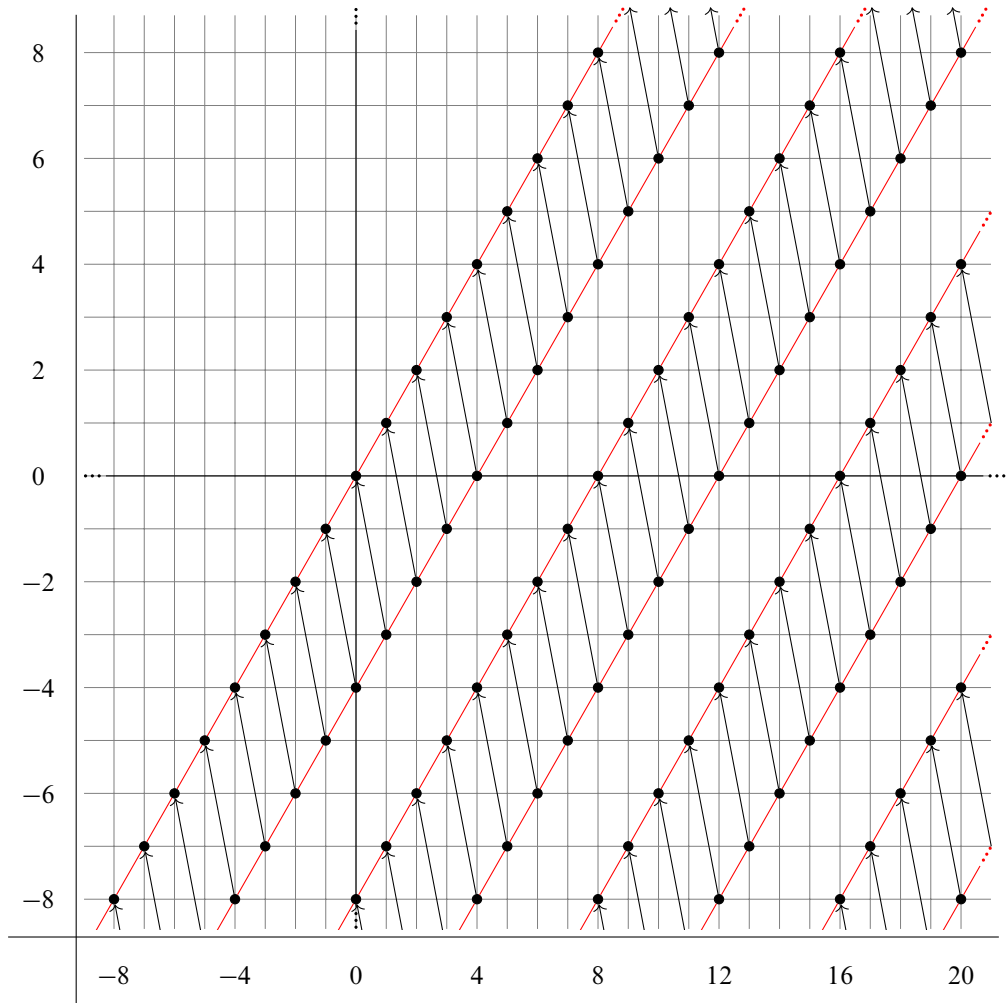
Corollary 7.17 *There is a differential*

$$d_3(u^2) = \eta^3$$

in both ANSS(ko) and \mathbb{Z} -ANSS(ko).

Proof If the claimed differential does not happen in ANSS(ko), then the spectral sequence collapses on E_2 . Indeed if $d_3(u^2) = 0$, then u^2 is a permanent cycle for degree reasons, as is clear from Figure 3. Since ANSS(ko) is a multiplicative spectral sequence with E_2 generated as an algebra by u^2 and η , if u^2 is a permanent cycle, then there are no nonzero differentials in the spectral sequence, since η is also a permanent cycle.

By η -linearity it follows that \mathbb{Z} -ANSS(ko) collapses on E_2 . This contradicts Theorem 7.9, namely that the latter spectral sequence must converge to zero. □

Figure 4: The \mathbb{Z} -ANSS for ko .

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