Lecture 6: The detection theorem

A solution to the Arf-Kervaire invariant problem

New Aspects of Homotopy Theory and Algebraic Geometry Tokyo City University

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Mike Hill University of Virginia Mike Hopkins Harvard University Doug Ravenel University of Rochester A solution to the Arf-Kervaire invariant problem

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The Detection Theorem

 θ_j in the Adams-Novikov spectral sequence Formal A-modules $\pi * (MU_R^{(4)})$ and R_* The proof of the Detection Theorem The proof of the Lemma

θ_i in the Adams-Novikov spectral sequence

Browder's Theorem says that θ_j is detected in the classical Adams spectral sequence by

$$h_j^2 \in \operatorname{Ext}_A^{2,2^{j+1}}(\mathbf{Z}/2,\mathbf{Z}/2).$$



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It is more convenient for us to work with the Adams-Novikov spectral sequence, which maps to the Adams spectral sequence. It has a family of elements in filtration 2, namely

$$\beta_{i/j} \in \operatorname{Ext}_{MU_*(MU)}^{2,6i-2j}(MU_*, MU_*)$$

for certain values of of *i* and *j*. When j = 1, it is customary to omit it from the notation.



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A solution to the

θ_i in the Adams-Novikov spectral sequence (continued)

Here are the first few of these in the relevant bidegrees.

θ_5 :	$\beta_{\rm 8/8}$ and $\beta_{\rm 6/2}$
θ_{6} :	$\beta_{16/16}, \beta_{12/4} \text{ and } \beta_{11}$
θ_7 :	$\beta_{32/32}, \beta_{24/8} \text{ and } \beta_{22/2}$
θ_{8} :	$eta_{{ m 64/64}},eta_{{ m 48/16}},eta_{{ m 44/4}} ext{ and }eta_{{ m 43}}$

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We need to show that any element mapping to h_j^2 in the classical Adams spectral sequence has nontrivial image the Adams-Novikov spectral sequence for Ω .



Detection Theorem

Let $x \in \operatorname{Ext}_{MU_*(MU)}^{2,2^{j+1}}(MU_*, MU_*)$ be any element whose image in $\operatorname{Ext}_A^{2,2^{j+1}}(\mathbb{Z}/2, \mathbb{Z}/2)$ is h_j^2 with $j \ge 6$.

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The Detection

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Formal A-modules $\pi_*(MU_{\rm R}^{(4)})$ and R_* The proof of the Detection Theorem

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We will prove this by showing the same is true after we map the latter to a simpler object involving another algebraic tool, the theory of formal *A*-modules, where *A* is the ring of integers in a suitable field.



Recall the a formal group law over a ring R is a power series

$$F(x,y) = x + y + \sum_{i,j>0} a_{i,j} x^i y^j \in R[[x,y]]$$

with certain properties.





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For positive integers *m* one has power series $[m](x) \in R[[x]]$ defined recursively by [1](x) = x and

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 and $[m]([n](x)) = [mn](x)$.

With these properties we can define [m](x) uniquely for all integers *m*, and we get a homomorphism τ from **Z** to End(F), the endomorphism ring of *F*.



If the ground ring *R* is an algebra over the *p*-local integers $Z_{(p)}$ or the *p*-adic integers Z_p , then we can make sense of [m](x) for *m* in $Z_{(p)}$ or Z_p .

A solution to the Arf-Kervaire invariant problem



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Now suppose R is an algebra over a larger ring A, such as the ring of integers in a number field or a finite extension of the p-adic numbers.

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 $\pi_* (MU_R^{(4)})$ and R_* The proof of the Detection Theorem

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Now suppose *R* is an algebra over a larger ring *A*, such as the ring of integers in a number field or a finite extension of the *p*-adic numbers. We say that the formal group law *F* is a formal *A*-module if the homomorphism τ extends to *A* in such a way that

$$[a](x) \equiv ax \mod (x^2)$$
 for $a \in A$.

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The theory of formal *A*-modules is well developed. Lubin-Tate used them to do local class field theory.

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The example of interest to us is $A = \mathbf{Z}_2[\zeta_8]$, where ζ_8 is a primitive 8th root of unity.



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Formal A-modules $\pi_*(MU_{\rm R}^{(4)})$ and R_* The proof of the Detection Theorem

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$$\log_F(F(x,y)) = \log_F(x) + \log_F(y)$$

where

$$\log_{F}(x) = \sum_{n \ge 0} \frac{w^{2^{n}-1} x^{2^{n}}}{\pi^{n}}$$

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A solution to the Arf-Kervaire invariant problem

Mike Hill Mike Hopkins Doug Ravenel The Detection The Detection Theorem θ_j in the Adams-Novikov spectral sequence **Formal A-modules** $\pi * (MU_R^{(c)})$ and R_* The proof of the Detection The proof of the Detection The proof of the Lemma

The classifying map $\lambda : MU_* \to R_*$ for *F* factors through BP_* , where the logarithm is

$$\log(x) = \sum_{n \ge 0} \ell_n x^{2^n}.$$

Recall that $BP_* = \mathbf{Z}_{(2)}[v_1, v_2, ...]$ with $|v_n| = 2(2^n - 1)$.





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Recall that $BP_* = \mathbf{Z}_{(2)}[v_1, v_2, ...]$ with $|v_n| = 2(2^n - 1)$. The v_n and the ℓ_n are related by Hazewinkel's formula,

$$\ell_{1} = \frac{v_{1}}{2}$$

$$\ell_{2} = \frac{v_{2}}{2} + \frac{v_{1}^{3}}{4}$$

$$\ell_{3} = \frac{v_{3}}{2} + \frac{v_{1}v_{2}^{2} + v_{2}v_{1}^{4}}{4} + \frac{v_{1}^{7}}{8}$$

$$\ell_{4} = \frac{v_{4}}{2} + \frac{v_{1}v_{3}^{2} + v_{2}^{5} + v_{3}v_{1}^{8}}{4} + \frac{v_{1}^{3}v_{2}^{4} + v_{1}^{9}v_{2}^{2} + v_{2}v_{1}^{12}}{8} + \frac{v_{1}^{15}}{16}$$

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Mike Hill



What does this have to do with our spectrum $\Omega = D^{-1}MU_{R}^{(4)}$?

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The Detection Theorem

 $\boldsymbol{\theta}_{\boldsymbol{j}}$ in the Adams-Novikov spectral sequence

Formal A-modules

 $\pi_*(MU_{\mathbf{P}}^{(4)})$ and R_*

The proof of the Detection Theorem

What does this have to do with our spectrum $\Omega = D^{-1}MU_{\mathbf{R}}^{(4)}$? Recall that $D = \overline{\Delta}_1^{(8)}N_4^8(\overline{\Delta}_2^{(4)})N_2^8(\overline{\Delta}_4^{(2)})$. A solution to the Arf-Kervaire invariant problem



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Lemma

The classifying homomorphism $\lambda : \pi_*(MU) \to R_*$ for F factors through $\pi_*(MU_{\mathbf{R}}^{(4)})$ in such a way that





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- The element D ∈ π_{*}(MU⁽⁴⁾_R) that we invert to get Ω goes to a unit in R_{*}.





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The Detection Theorem

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Formal A-modules

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The proof of the Detection Theorem

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We will prove this later.
It follows that we have a map

$$H^{*}(C_{8}; \pi_{*}(D^{-1}MU_{\mathbf{R}}^{(4)})) = H^{*}(C_{8}; \pi_{*}(\Omega)) \to H^{*}(C_{8}; R_{*}).$$

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The source here is the E_2 -term of the homotopy fixed point spectral sequence for Ω , and the target is easy to calculate.

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Detection Theorem Let $x \in \operatorname{Ext}_{MU_*(MU)}^{2,2^{j+1}}(MU_*, MU_*)$ be any element whose image in $\operatorname{Ext}_A^{2,2^{j+1}}(\mathbb{Z}/2,\mathbb{Z}/2)$ is h_j^2 with $j \ge 6$. (Here A denotes the mod 2 Steenrod algebra.) Then the image of x in $H^{2,2^{j+1}}(C_8; \pi_*(\Omega))$ is nonzero. A solution to the Arf-Kervaire invariant problem Mike Hill Mike Hopkins Doug Ravenel



Formal A-modules $\pi * (MU_{\rm R}^{(4)})$ and R_* The proof of the Detection Theorem

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We will prove this by showing that the image of x in $H^{2,2^{i+1}}(C_8; R_*)$ is nonzero.

A solution to the Arf-Kervaire invariant problem



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There is a map from this Hopf algebroid to one associated with $H^*(C_8; R_*)$ in which t_n maps to an R_* -valued function on C_8 (regarded as the group of 8th roots of unity) determined by

$$[\zeta](x) = \sum_{n\geq 0}^{F} \langle t_n, \zeta \rangle x^{2^n}.$$



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An easy calculation shows that the function t_1 sends a primitive root in C_8 to a unit in R_* .



A solution to the

Arf-Kervaire invariant

Let

$$b_{1,j-1} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{0 < i < 2^{j}} \binom{2^{j}}{i} \left[t_{1}^{i} | t_{1}^{2^{j}-i} \right] \in \operatorname{Ext}^{2,2^{j+1}}$$

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It is is known to be cohomologous to $\beta_{2^{j-1}/2^{j-1}}$ and to have order 2. We will show that its image in $H^{2,2^{j+1}}(C_8; R_*)$ is nontrivial for $j \ge 2$.

 $H^*(C_8; R_*)$ is the cohomology of the cochain complex

$$R_*[C_8] \xrightarrow{\gamma-1} R_*[C_8] \xrightarrow{\text{Trace}} R_*[C_8] \xrightarrow{\gamma-1} \cdots$$

where Trace is multiplication by $1 + \gamma + \cdots + \gamma^7$.

A solution to the Arf-Kervaire invariant problem



The cohomology groups $H^{s}(C_{8}; R_{*})$ for s > 0 are periodic in s with period 2.

A solution to the Arf-Kervaire invariant problem

> Mike Hill Mike Hopkins Doug Ravenel



The Detection Theorem

 θ_j in the Adams-Novikov spectral sequence Formal A-modules $\pi_*(MU^{(4)})$ and R_*

The proof of the Detection Theorem

The cohomology groups $H^{s}(C_{8}; R_{*})$ for s > 0 are periodic in s with period 2. We have

$$H^{1}(C_{8}; R_{2m}) = \ker (1 + \zeta_{8}^{m} + \dots + \zeta_{8}^{7m}) / \operatorname{im} (\zeta_{8}^{m} - 1)$$

A solution to the Arf-Kervaire invariant problem



Formal A-modules $\pi_*(MU_{\rm R}^{(4)})$ and R_* The proof of the Detection Theorem

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$$= \begin{cases} w^{m} A / (\pi) & \text{for } m \text{ odd} \\ w^{m} A / (\pi^{2}) & \text{for } m \equiv 2 \mod 4 \\ w^{m} A / (2) & \text{for } m \equiv 4 \mod 8 \\ 0 & \text{for } m \equiv 0 \mod 8 \end{cases}$$

A solution to the Arf-Kervaire invariant problem



 $\pi_* (MU_R^{(*)})$ and R_* The proof of the Detection Theorem

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A solution to the Arf-Kervaire invariant problem

> Mike Hill Mike Hopkins Doug Ravenel

The Detection Theorem

 $\begin{array}{l} \theta_{j} \text{ in the Adams-Novikov} \\ \text{spectral sequence} \\ \text{Formal A-modules} \\ \pi_{*}\left(\textit{MU}_{\textit{R}}^{(4)}\right) \text{ and } \textit{R}_{*} \\ \text{The proof of the Detection} \\ \text{Theorem} \end{array}$

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An easy calculation shows that $b_{1,j-1}$ maps to $4w^{2^{j}}$, which is the element of order 2 in $H^{2}(C_{8}; R_{2^{j+1}})$.

A solution to the Arf-Kervaire invariant problem



To finish the proof we need to show that the other β s in the same bidegree map to zero. We will do this for $j \ge 6$.



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where $c(j, k) = 2^{j-1-2k}(1+2^{2k+1})/3$.



Formal A-modules $\pi_*(MU_{\rm R}^{(4)})$ and R_* The proof of the Detection

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We will see in the proof of the Lemma below that v_1 and v_2 map to unit multiples of $\pi^3 w$ and $\pi^2 w^3$ respectively. This means we can define a valuation on BP_* compatible with the one on A in which ||2|| = 1, $||\pi|| = 1/4$, $||v_1|| = 3/4$ and $||v_2|| = 1/2$.

A solution to the Arf-Kervaire invariant problem

Mike Hill



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We will see in the proof of the Lemma below that v_1 and v_2 map to unit multiples of $\pi^3 w$ and $\pi^2 w^3$ respectively. This means we can define a valuation on BP_* compatible with the one on A in which ||2|| = 1, $||\pi|| = 1/4$, $||v_1|| = 3/4$ and $||v_2|| = 1/2$. We extend the valuation on A to R_* by setting ||w|| = 0.

A solution to the Arf-Kervaire invariant problem



Hence for $k \ge 1$ and $j \ge 6$ we have

 $\|\beta_{c(j,k)/2^{j-1-2k}}\|$



Hence for $k \ge 1$ and $j \ge 6$ we have

$$||\beta_{c(j,k)/2^{j-1-2k}}|| = \left| \frac{v_2^{c(j,k)}}{2v_1^{2^{j-1-2k}}} \right|$$



Hence for $k \ge 1$ and $j \ge 6$ we have

$$||\beta_{c(j,k)/2^{j-1-2k}}|| = \left\| \frac{v_2^{c(j,k)}}{2v_1^{2^{j-1-2k}}} \right\|$$
$$= \frac{c(j,k)}{2} - \frac{3 \cdot 2^{j-1-2k}}{4} - 1$$



Hence for $k \ge 1$ and $j \ge 6$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} ||\beta_{c(j,k)/2^{j-1-2k}}|| &= \left| \left| \frac{v_2^{c(j,k)}}{2v_1^{2^{j-1-2k}}} \right| \right| \\ &= \frac{c(j,k)}{2} - \frac{3 \cdot 2^{j-1-2k}}{4} - 1 \\ &= \frac{2^j + 2^{j-1-2k}}{6} - \frac{3 \cdot 2^{j-1-2k}}{4} - 1 \\ &= (2^{j-1} - 7 \cdot 2^{j-3-2k})/3 - 1 \\ &\ge 5. \end{aligned}$$



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Arf-Kervaire invariant

The proof of the Lemma

This means $\beta_{c(j,k))/2^{j-1-2k}}$ maps to an element that is divisible by 8 and therefore zero.

We have to make a similar computation with the element $\alpha_1\alpha_{2^j-1}.$





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We have to make a similar computation with the element $\alpha_1\alpha_{2^j-1}.$ We have

$$\begin{aligned} ||\alpha_{2^{j}-1}|| &= \left\| \frac{v_{1}^{2^{j}-1}}{2} \right\| \\ &= \frac{3(2^{j}-1)}{4} - 1 \\ &\geq \frac{21}{4} - 1 \ge 4 \quad \text{for } j \ge 3. \end{aligned}$$

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A solution to the

This completes the proof of the Detection Theorem modulo the Lemma.

The proof of the Lemma

Here it is again.



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Lemma

The classifying homomorphism $\lambda : \pi_*(MU) \to R_*$ for F factors through $\pi_*(MU_{\mathbf{B}}^{(4)})$ in such a way that

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The Detection Theorem

 $\begin{array}{l} \theta_{j} \text{ in the Adams-Novikov} \\ \text{spectral sequence} \\ \text{Formal A-modules} \\ \pi_{*} \left(\textit{MU}_{\rm R}^{(4)} \right) \text{ and } \textit{R}_{*} \\ \text{The proof of the Detection} \\ \text{Theorem} \end{array}$
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The Detection Theorem

Mike Hill Mike Hopkins

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The proof of the Lemma

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- the homomorphism λ⁽⁴⁾ : π_{*}(MU⁽⁴⁾_R) → R_{*} is equivariant, where C₈ acts on π_{*}(MU⁽⁴⁾_R) as before, it acts trivially on A and γw = ζ₈w for a generator γ of C₈.
- The element D ∈ π_{*}(MU⁽⁴⁾_R) that we invert to get Ω goes to a unit in R_{*}.

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 θ_{j} in the Adams-Novikov spectral sequence Formal A-modules $\pi*(\mathit{MU}_{\rm R}^{\left(4\right)})$ and $\mathit{R}*$ The proof of the Detection Theorem

To prove the first part, consider the following diagram for an arbitrary ring K.



Mike Hill

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The maps λ_1 and λ_2 classify two formal group laws F_1 and F_2 over K.



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The maps λ_1 and λ_2 classify two formal group laws F_1 and F_2 over K. The Hopf algebroid $MU_*(MU)$ represents strict isomorphisms between formal group laws.



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The maps λ_1 and λ_2 classify two formal group laws F_1 and F_2 over K. The Hopf algebroid $MU_*(MU)$ represents strict isomorphisms between formal group laws. Hence the existence of $\lambda^{(2)}$ is equivalent to that of a compatible strict isomorphism between F_1 and F_2 .

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Similarly consider the diagram



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A solution to the

Similarly consider the diagram



The existence of $\lambda^{(4)}$ is equivalent to that of compatible strict isomorphisms between the formal group laws F_j classified by the λ_j .



A solution to the



Now suppose that *K* has a C_8 -action and that $\lambda^{(4)}$ is equivariant with respect to the previously defined C_8 -action on $MU_{\mathbf{R}}^{(4)}$.

A solution to the

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The proof of the Lemma



Now suppose that *K* has a C_8 -action and that $\lambda^{(4)}$ is equivariant with respect to the previously defined C_8 -action on $MU_{\mathbf{R}}^{(4)}$. Then the isomorphism induced by the fourth power of a generator $\gamma \in C_8$ is the isomorphism sending *x* to its formal inverse on each of the F_j .

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This means that the existence of an equivariant $\lambda^{(4)}$ is equivalent to that of a formal $\mathbf{Z}[\zeta_8]$ -module structure on each of the F_i , which are all isomorphic.

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The proof of the Lemma



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This means that the existence of an equivariant $\lambda^{(4)}$ is equivalent to that of a formal $\mathbf{Z}[\zeta_8]$ -module structure on each of the F_j , which are all isomorphic. This proves the first part of the Lemma.

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The proof of the Lemma

For the second part, recall that $D = \overline{\Delta}_1^{(8)} N_4^8 (\overline{\Delta}_2^{(4)}) N_2^8 (\overline{\Delta}_4^{(2)})$, where

$$\overline{\Delta}_k^{(g)} = \left\{ egin{array}{cc} x_{2^k-1} & ext{for } g=2 \ N_4^g(r_{2^k-1}) & ext{otherwise.} \end{array}
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Since our formal *A*-module is 2-typical we can do the calculations using *BP* in place of *MU*. Hence we can replace x_{2^k-1} by v_k and r_{2^k-1} by t_k . We have $\overline{\Delta}_k^{(2)} = v_k$.

A solution to the

Using Hazewinkel's formula we find that



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$$\begin{array}{c} \textbf{Mike Hill}\\ \textbf{Mike Hopkins}\\ \textbf{Doug Ravenel}\\ \hline \\ \hline \\ \textbf{The Detection}\\ \textbf{The Detection}\\ \textbf{The otherwise}\\ \theta_{j} \text{ in the Adams-Novikov}\\ \text{spectral sequence}\\ Formal A-modules\\ \pi_{\star}\left(Mu_{k}^{(4)}\right) \text{ and } R_{\star}\\ \textbf{The proof of the Detection}\\ \textbf{Theorem} \end{array}$$

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where each unit is in *A*. It follows that v_4 (but not v_n for n < 4) and therefore $N_2^8(\overline{\Delta}_4^{(2)})$ maps to a unit.



A solution to the

We have $\overline{\Delta}_k^{(2)} = t_k$. We consider the equivariant composite

$$BP^{(2)}_*
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under which

$$\eta_R(\ell_n)\mapsto \frac{\zeta_8^2 W^{2^n-1}}{\pi^n}.$$





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Using the right unit formula we find that

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This means t_2 (but not t_1) and therefore $N_4^8(\overline{\Delta}_2^{(4)})$ maps to a unit.

A solution to the Arf-Kervaire invariant problem

Finally, we have $\overline{\Delta}_n^{(8)} = t_n(1) \in BP_*^{(4)}$,

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Finally, we have $\overline{\Delta}_n^{(8)} = t_n(1) \in BP_*^{(4)}$, where $t_n(1)$ is the analog of $r_{2^n-1}(1)$.

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Mike Hill

 $\label{eq:heat} \begin{array}{c} \mbox{Mike Hopkins} \\ \mbox{Doug Ravenel} \\ \hline \\ \mbox{Doug Ravenel} \\ \hline \\ \mbox{Precession} \\ \hline \\ \mbox{Precession} \\ \mbox$

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Formal A-modules $\pi_* (MU_R^{(4)})$ and R_* The proof of the Detection Theorem

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Thus we have shown that each factor of

$$D = \overline{\Delta}_1^{(8)} N_4^8 (\overline{\Delta}_2^{(4)}) N_2^8 (\overline{\Delta}_4^{(2)})$$

and hence D itself maps to a unit in R_* , thus proving the lemma.

A solution to the

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