# On the Non-Existence of Kervaire Invariant One Manifolds

M. Hill<sup>1</sup>, M. Hopkins<sup>2</sup>, D. Ravenel<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of Virginia

<sup>2</sup>Harvard University

<sup>3</sup>University of Rochester

Isle of Skye, June 2009

### Theorem (H.-Hopkins-Ravenel)

There are smooth Kervaire invariant one manifolds only in dimensions 2, 6, 14, 30, 62, and maybe 126.

### Theorem (H.-Hopkins-Ravenel)

There are smooth Kervaire invariant one manifolds only in dimensions 2, 6, 14, 30, 62, and maybe 126.

### Theorem (H.-Hopkins-Ravenel)

There are smooth Kervaire invariant one manifolds only in dimensions 2, 6, 14, 30, 62, and maybe 126.

#### Exemplars:

 $\circ$   $S^1 \times S^1$ 

### Theorem (H.-Hopkins-Ravenel)

There are smooth Kervaire invariant one manifolds only in dimensions 2, 6, 14, 30, 62, and maybe 126.

- $\circ$   $S^1 \times S^1$
- $\odot$   $SU(2) \times SU(2)$

### Theorem (H.-Hopkins-Ravenel)

There are smooth Kervaire invariant one manifolds only in dimensions 2, 6, 14, 30, 62, and maybe 126.

- $\circ$   $S^1 \times S^1$
- $\odot$   $SU(2) \times SU(2)$
- $\mathfrak{S}(\mathbb{O}) \times \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{O})$

### Theorem (H.-Hopkins-Ravenel)

There are smooth Kervaire invariant one manifolds only in dimensions 2, 6, 14, 30, 62, and maybe 126.

- $\circ$   $S^1 \times S^1$
- $\odot$   $SU(2) \times SU(2)$
- $\mathfrak{S}(\mathbb{O}) \times \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{O})$

- (Bökstedt) Related to  $E_6/(U(1) \times Spin(10))$
- Possibly a similar construction.

```
1930s Pontryagin proves \{\text{framed } n-\text{manifolds}\}/\text{cobordism} \cong \pi_n^S.
```

1930s Pontryagin proves  $\{\text{framed } n-\text{manifolds}\}/\text{cobordism} \cong \pi_n^S.$ 

Tries to use surgery to reduce to spheres & misses an obstruction.

- 1930s Pontryagin proves  $\{\text{framed} n \text{manifolds}\}/\text{cobordism} \cong \pi_n^S$ .
  - Tries to use surgery to reduce to spheres & misses an obstruction.
- 1950s Kervaire-Milnor show can always reduce to case of spheres

1930s Pontryagin proves  $\{\text{framed } n - \text{manifolds}\}/\text{cobordism} \cong \pi_n^S.$ 

Tries to use surgery to reduce to spheres & misses an obstruction

1950s Kervaire-Milnor show can always reduce to case of spheres

Except possibly in dimension 4k + 2, where there is an obstruction: Kervaire Invariant.

[X, Y]

$$[X, Y] \sim \hookrightarrow \operatorname{Hom}_{\mathcal{A}}(H^*(Y), H^*(X))$$

$$[X, Y] \sim \sim \rightarrow \operatorname{Hom}_{\mathcal{A}}(H^*(Y), H^*(X))$$

Have a SS with

$$E_2 = \operatorname{Ext}_{\mathcal{A}}(H^*(Y), H^*(X))$$

and converging to [X, Y].

$$[X, Y] \sim \sim \rightarrow \operatorname{Hom}_{\mathcal{A}}(H^*(Y), H^*(X))$$

Have a SS with

$$E_2 = \operatorname{Ext}_{\mathcal{A}}(H^*(Y), H^*(X))$$

and converging to [X, Y].

• (Adem)  $\operatorname{Ext}^1(\mathbb{F}_2, \mathbb{F}_2)$  is generated by classes  $h_i$ ,  $i \geq 0$ .

$$[X, Y] \sim \sim \rightarrow \operatorname{Hom}_{\mathcal{A}}(H^*(Y), H^*(X))$$

Have a SS with

$$E_2 = \operatorname{Ext}_{\mathcal{A}}(H^*(Y), H^*(X))$$

and converging to [X, Y].

- (Adem)  $\operatorname{Ext}^1(\mathbb{F}_2, \mathbb{F}_2)$  is generated by classes  $h_i$ ,  $i \geq 0$ .
- $h_j$  survives the Adams SS if  $\mathbb{R}^{2^j}$  admits a division algebra structure.

### Theorem (Browder 1969)

**1** There are no smooth Kervaire invariant one manifolds in dimensions not of the form  $2^{j+1} - 2$ .

#### Theorem (Browder 1969)

- **1** There are no smooth Kervaire invariant one manifolds in dimensions not of the form  $2^{j+1} 2$ .
- ② There is such a manifold in dimension  $2^{j+1} 2$  iff  $h_j^2$  survives the Adams spectral sequence.

#### Theorem (Browder 1969)

- There are no smooth Kervaire invariant one manifolds in dimensions not of the form  $2^{j+1} 2$ .
- 2 There is such a manifold in dimension  $2^{j+1} 2$  iff  $h_j^2$  survives the Adams spectral sequence.

Adams showed that  $h_i$  itself survives only if j < 4

#### Theorem (Browder 1969)

- There are no smooth Kervaire invariant one manifolds in dimensions not of the form  $2^{j+1} 2$ .
- ② There is such a manifold in dimension  $2^{j+1} 2$  iff  $h_j^2$  survives the Adams spectral sequence.

Adams showed that  $h_i$  itself survives only if j < 4

$$d_2(h_{j+1}) = h_0 h_j^2$$
.

 $h_1^2$ ,  $h_2^2$ , and  $h_3^2$  classically exist.

 $h_1^2$ ,  $h_2^2$ , and  $h_3^2$  classically exist.

Theorem (Mahowald-Tangora)

The class  $h_4^2$  survives the Adams SS.

 $h_1^2$ ,  $h_2^2$ , and  $h_3^2$  classically exist.

Theorem (Mahowald-Tangora)

The class  $h_4^2$  survives the Adams SS.

Theorem (Barratt-Jones-Mahowald)

The class  $h_5^2$  survives the Adams SS.

 $h_1^2$ ,  $h_2^2$ , and  $h_3^2$  classically exist.

### Theorem (Mahowald-Tangora)

The class  $h_4^2$  survives the Adams SS.

### Theorem (Barratt-Jones-Mahowald)

The class  $h_5^2$  survives the Adams SS.

### Theorem (H.-Hopkins-Ravenel)

For  $j \ge 7$ ,  $h_i^2$  does not survive the Adams SS.

There are four main steps

 Reduce to a simpler case which faithfully sees the Kervaire classes

- Reduce to a simpler case which faithfully sees the Kervaire classes
- Rigidify the problem to get more structure and less wiggle-room

- Reduce to a simpler case which faithfully sees the Kervaire classes
- Rigidify the problem to get more structure and less wiggle-room
- Show homotopy is automatically zero in dimension −2

- Reduce to a simpler case which faithfully sees the Kervaire classes
- Rigidify the problem to get more structure and less wiggle-room
- Show homotopy is automatically zero in dimension −2
- Show homotopy is periodic with period 2<sup>8</sup>

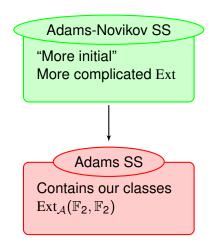
- Reduce to a simpler case which faithfully sees the Kervaire classes
- Rigidify the problem to get more structure and less wiggle-room
- $\odot$  Show homotopy is automatically zero in dimension -2
- Show homotopy is periodic with period 2<sup>8</sup>

# Reduction to Simpler Cases

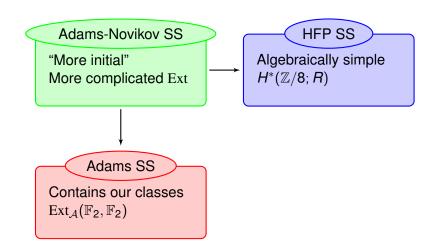
Adams SS

Contains our classes  $\operatorname{Ext}_{\mathcal{A}}(\mathbb{F}_2, \mathbb{F}_2)$ 

# Reduction to Simpler Cases



# Reduction to Simpler Cases



Browder's Algebraic Kervaire Probler Main Steps in Argument A Little Equivariant Homotopy

Reduction is purely algebraic!

Browder's Algebraic Kervaire Probler Main Steps in Argument A Little Equivariant Homotopy

Reduction is purely algebraic!
Passage from Adams to Adams-Novikov is well understood.

Browder's Algebraic Kervaire Proble

Main Steps in Argument

A Little Equivariant Homotopy

Reduction is purely algebraic!
Passage from Adams to Adams-Novikov is well understood.
Reduction from Adams-Novikov to homotopy fixed points is formal deformation theory.

Reduction is purely algebraic!

Passage from Adams to Adams-Novikov is well understood.

Reduction from Adams-Novikov to homotopy fixed points is formal deformation theory.

So good choice of R gives us something that is

Reduction is purely algebraic!

Passage from Adams to Adams-Novikov is well understood.

Reduction from Adams-Novikov to homotopy fixed points is formal deformation theory.

So good choice of R gives us something that is

easily computable

Browder's Algebraic Kervaire Probler Main Steps in Argument A Little Equivariant Homotopy

Reduction is purely algebraic!

Passage from Adams to Adams-Novikov is well understood.

Reduction from Adams-Novikov to homotopy fixed points is formal deformation theory.

So good choice of R gives us something that is

- easily computable
- strong enough to detect the classes.

Homotopy fixed point spectral sequence is still too complicated.

- Homotopy fixed point spectral sequence is still too complicated.
- Simplify computation by adding extra structure:

- Homotopy fixed point spectral sequence is still too complicated.
- Simplify computation by adding extra structure: equivariance.

- Homotopy fixed point spectral sequence is still too complicated.
- Simplify computation by adding extra structure: equivariance.
- Here have fixed points, rather than homotopy fixed points.

- Homotopy fixed point spectral sequence is still too complicated.
- Simplify computation by adding extra structure: equivariance.
- Here have fixed points, rather than homotopy fixed points.
- And there are spheres for every real representation.

- Homotopy fixed point spectral sequence is still too complicated.
- Simplify computation by adding extra structure: equivariance.
- Here have fixed points, rather than homotopy fixed points.
- And there are spheres for every real representation.

#### Example

If 
$$G = \mathbb{Z}/2$$
, then have  $S^{\rho_2} = \mathbb{C}^+$  and  $S^2$ .

Focus now on  $G = \mathbb{Z}/8$ .

Focus now on  $G = \mathbb{Z}/8$ .  $RO(\mathbb{Z}/8)$  is rank 5 over  $\mathbb{Z}$ ,

Focus now on  $G = \mathbb{Z}/8$ .

 $RO(\mathbb{Z}/8)$  is rank 5 over  $\mathbb{Z}$ , generated by 1-dim reps:

Focus now on  $G = \mathbb{Z}/8$ .  $RO(\mathbb{Z}/8)$  is rank 5 over  $\mathbb{Z}$ , generated by 1-dim reps:

trivial rep 1

Focus now on  $G = \mathbb{Z}/8$ .  $RO(\mathbb{Z}/8)$  is rank 5 over  $\mathbb{Z}$ , generated by 1-dim reps:

- trivial rep 1
- sign rep  $\sigma$

Focus now on  $G = \mathbb{Z}/8$ .  $RO(\mathbb{Z}/8)$  is rank 5 over  $\mathbb{Z}$ , generated by 1-dim reps:

- trivial rep 1
- sign rep  $\sigma$

and 2-dim reps:  $L, L^2, L^3$ .

```
Focus now on G = \mathbb{Z}/8.
```

 $RO(\mathbb{Z}/8)$  is rank 5 over  $\mathbb{Z}$ , generated by 1-dim reps:

- trivial rep 1
- sign rep  $\sigma$

```
and 2-dim reps: L, L^2, L^3.
```

We care only about  $\rho_8 = 1 \oplus \sigma \oplus L \oplus L^2 \oplus L^3$ .

Focus now on  $G = \mathbb{Z}/8$ .

 $RO(\mathbb{Z}/8)$  is rank 5 over  $\mathbb{Z}$ , generated by 1-dim reps:

- trivial rep 1
- sign rep  $\sigma$

and 2-dim reps:  $L, L^2, L^3$ .

We care only about  $\rho_8 = 1 \oplus \sigma \oplus L \oplus L^2 \oplus L^3$ . Plus the regular reps for subgroups.

**Q** Begin with MU with  $\mathbb{Z}/2$  given by complex conjugation.

- **1** Begin with MU with  $\mathbb{Z}/2$  given by complex conjugation.
- ② "induce" up to a  $\mathbb{Z}/8$  spectrum:

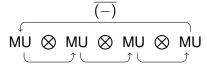
- **1** Begin with MU with  $\mathbb{Z}/2$  given by complex conjugation.
- ② "induce" up to a  $\mathbb{Z}/8$  spectrum:

MU ⊗ MU ⊗ MU ⊗ MU

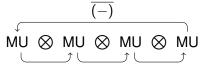
- **1** Begin with MU with  $\mathbb{Z}/2$  given by complex conjugation.
- ② "induce" up to a  $\mathbb{Z}/8$  spectrum:



- **1** Begin with MU with  $\mathbb{Z}/2$  given by complex conjugation.
- ② "induce" up to a  $\mathbb{Z}/8$  spectrum:

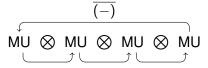


- **1** Begin with MU with  $\mathbb{Z}/2$  given by complex conjugation.
- ② "induce" up to a  $\mathbb{Z}/8$  spectrum:



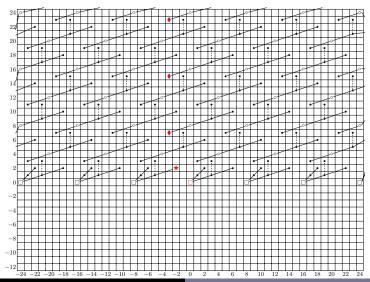
**1** The "fixed points" for the  $\mathbb{Z}/8$ -action is geometric.

- **1** Begin with MU with  $\mathbb{Z}/2$  given by complex conjugation.
- ② "induce" up to a  $\mathbb{Z}/8$  spectrum:

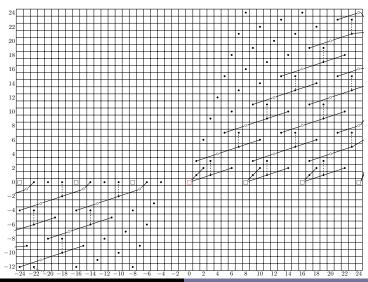


- **1** The "fixed points" for the  $\mathbb{Z}/8$ -action is geometric.
- Inverting an equivariant class  $\Delta$  makes the fixed points and homotopy fixed points agree.

# Advantages of the Slice SS



# Advantages of the Slice SS



Want to decompose *X* into computable pieces.

Want to decompose *X* into computable pieces. Similar to Postnikov tower.

Want to decompose X into computable pieces.

Similar to Postnikov tower.

Key difference: don't use all spheres!

Want to decompose *X* into computable pieces.

Similar to Postnikov tower.

Key difference: don't use all spheres!

### Acceptable Ones



Want to decompose *X* into computable pieces.

Similar to Postnikov tower

Key difference: don't use all spheres!

#### Acceptable Ones

- ①  $S^{k\rho_8}$ ,  $S^{k\rho_8-1}$ ②  $\mathbb{Z}/8_+ \wedge_{\mathbb{Z}/4} S^{k\rho_4}$

- $2 \mathbb{Z}/8_+ \wedge_{\mathbb{Z}/4} S^{\sigma}$

Want to decompose *X* into computable pieces.

Similar to Postnikov tower

Key difference: don't use all spheres!

#### Acceptable Ones

- ②  $\mathbb{Z}/8_+ \wedge_{\mathbb{Z}/4} S^{k\rho_4}$ ③  $\mathbb{Z}/8_+ \wedge_{\mathbb{Z}/2} S^{k\rho_2}$

Want to decompose X into computable pieces.

Similar to Postnikov tower

Key difference: don't use all spheres!

#### Acceptable Ones

$$2 \mathbb{Z}/8_+ \wedge_{\mathbb{Z}/4} S^{k\rho_4}$$

② 
$$\mathbb{Z}/8_+ \wedge_{\mathbb{Z}/4} S^{k\rho_4}$$
  
③  $\mathbb{Z}/8_+ \wedge_{\mathbb{Z}/2} S^{k\rho_2}$ 

$$\bigcirc$$
  $\mathbb{Z}/8_+ \wedge S^k$ 

$$\bullet$$
  $S^k$ 

# Computing with Slices

### Key Fact

For spectra like *MU*, slices can be computed from equivariant simple chain complexes.

# Computing with Slices

### Key Fact

For spectra like *MU*, slices can be computed from equivariant simple chain complexes.

These algebraically describe the fixed points of the acceptable spheres.

# Computing with Slices

### Key Fact

For spectra like *MU*, slices can be computed from equivariant simple chain complexes.

These algebraically describe the fixed points of the acceptable spheres.

#### Cellular Chains for $S^{\rho_4-1}$

Gives the chain complex

 $= C_{\bullet}$ .

## Key Fact

For spectra like *MU*, slices can be computed from equivariant simple chain complexes.

These algebraically describe the fixed points of the acceptable spheres.

### Cellular Chains for $S^{\rho_4-1}$

Gives the chain complex

$$\mathbb{Z} = C_{\bullet}$$
.

### Key Fact

For spectra like *MU*, slices can be computed from equivariant simple chain complexes.

These algebraically describe the fixed points of the acceptable spheres.

### Cellular Chains for $S^{\rho_4-1}$

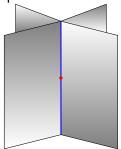
Gives the chain complex

$$\mathbb{Z}^2 \to \mathbb{Z} = C_{\bullet}$$
.

### Key Fact

For spectra like *MU*, slices can be computed from equivariant simple chain complexes.

These algebraically describe the fixed points of the acceptable spheres.



### Cellular Chains for $S^{\rho_4-1}$

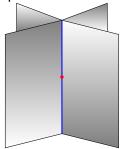
Gives the chain complex

$$\mathbb{Z}^4 \to \mathbb{Z}^4 \to \mathbb{Z}^2 \to \mathbb{Z} = \textit{C}_{\bullet}.$$

### Key Fact

For spectra like *MU*, slices can be computed from equivariant simple chain complexes.

These algebraically describe the fixed points of the acceptable spheres.



### Cellular Chains for $S^{\rho_4-1}$

Gives the chain complex

$$\mathbb{Z}^4 \to \mathbb{Z}^4 \to \mathbb{Z}^2 \to \mathbb{Z} = \textit{C}_{\bullet}.$$

Maps determined by

$$H_*(C_{\bullet}) = H_*(S^3).$$

## Gaps

### Theorem

For any non-trivial subgroup H of  $\mathbb{Z}/8$  and for any slice sphere  $\mathbb{Z}/8_+ \wedge_H S^{\rho_H}$ ,

$$H_{-2}(C_*^{\mathbb{Z}/8})=0$$

## Gaps

### Theorem

For any non-trivial subgroup H of  $\mathbb{Z}/8$  and for any slice sphere  $\mathbb{Z}/8_+ \wedge_H S^{\rho_H}$ ,

$$H_{-2}(C_*^{\mathbb{Z}/8})=0$$

The proof is an easy direct computation:

#### Theorem

For any non-trivial subgroup H of  $\mathbb{Z}/8$  and for any slice sphere  $\mathbb{Z}/8_+ \wedge_H S^{\rho_H}$ ,

$$H_{-2}(C_*^{\mathbb{Z}/8})=0$$

The proof is an easy direct computation:

① If  $k \ge 0$ , then we are looking at something connected.

#### Theorem

For any non-trivial subgroup H of  $\mathbb{Z}/8$  and for any slice sphere  $\mathbb{Z}/8_+ \wedge_H S^{\rho_H}$ ,

$$H_{-2}(C_*^{\mathbb{Z}/8})=0$$

The proof is an easy direct computation:

- ① If  $k \ge 0$ , then we are looking at something connected.
- ② If  $k \le 0$ , then we look at the associated *co*chain algebra.

#### Theorem

For any non-trivial subgroup H of  $\mathbb{Z}/8$  and for any slice sphere  $\mathbb{Z}/8_+ \wedge_H S^{\rho_H}$ ,

$$H_{-2}(C_*^{\mathbb{Z}/8})=0$$

The proof is an easy direct computation:

- If  $k \ge 0$ , then we are looking at something connected.
- ② If  $k \le 0$ , then we look at the associated *co*chain algebra.
- In the relevant degrees, the complex is  $\mathbb{Z} \to \mathbb{Z}^2$  by  $1 \mapsto (1,1)$ .

## Theorem

$$\pi_{-2}(R)=0.$$

## Theorem

$$\pi_{-2}(R) = 0.$$

## Proof.

### Theorem

$$\pi_{-2}(R) = 0.$$

### Proof.

• Slices of  $MU \otimes MU \otimes MU \otimes MU$  are all of the form

$$H\mathbb{Z}\otimes (\mathbb{Z}/8\otimes_{H}\mathcal{S}^{k
ho_{H}}).$$

#### Theorem

$$\pi_{-2}(R) = 0.$$

#### Proof.

• Slices of  $MU \otimes MU \otimes MU \otimes MU$  are all of the form

$$H\mathbb{Z}\otimes (\mathbb{Z}/8\otimes_{H}S^{k\rho_{H}}).$$

• Class we are inverting is carried by an  $S^{k\rho_8}$ .

#### Theorem

$$\pi_{-2}(R) = 0.$$

#### Proof.

• Slices of  $MU \otimes MU \otimes MU \otimes MU$  are all of the form

$$H\mathbb{Z}\otimes (\mathbb{Z}/8\otimes_{H}S^{k\rho_{H}}).$$

- Class we are inverting is carried by an  $S^{k\rho_8}$ .
- Inversion is a colimit and first steps show  $\pi_{-2} = 0$ .

# Take Home Message

## Take Home Message

Happy  $A_5$  Birthday, Bob and Ron!