

# Chromatic cohomology of finite groups 2

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## The Lazard ring

- ▶ Consider a formal power series  $F(s, t) = \sum_{i,j} b_{ij} s^i t^j \in k[[s, t]]$ .  
When is this an FGL?
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$$F(s, t) = s + t + b_{11}st + b_{12}(st^2 + s^2t) + b_{22}s^2t^2 + b_{13}(st^3 + s^3t) + O(5)$$
- ▶ Using this we get  
$$F(F(s, t), u) - F(s, F(t, u)) = (2b_{11}b_{12} + 3b_{13} - 2b_{22})(s - u)stu + O(5)$$
- ▶ For an FGL we must have  $2b_{11}b_{12} + 3b_{13} - 2b_{22}$ . In terms of the parameters  $a_1 = b_{11}$  and  $a_2 = b_{12}$  and  $a_3 = b_{22} - b_{13}$  we get  
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- ▶ There are no more relations: any power series of the above form satisfies the FGL conditions up to errors of order 5.
- ▶ Lazard's theorem: we can continue to define  $a_4, a_5, \dots$  so that  $F(s, t)$  can be expressed in terms of the  $a_i$ , and no further relations are required to make the associativity axiom hold.
- ▶ Reformulation: over the Lazard ring  $L = \mathbb{Z}[a_1, a_2, \dots]$  there is a universal formal group law  $F_u$  such that the resulting map  $\text{Rings}(L, k) \rightarrow \text{FGL}(k)$  is bijective for all  $k$ .

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- ▶ Recall  $MP^0(X) = \lim_{\rightarrow n} [\Sigma^{2n} X, MP(n)]$  (for  $X$  a finite complex). Both  $P$  and  $MP(n)$  are defined using complex linear algebra so it is not hard to give an explicit  $x$  with  $MP^0(P) = MP^0(1)[[x]]$ .  
(We do not need to know  $MP^0(1)$  for this.)
- ▶ Using this we get a formal group law  $F$  over  $MP^0(1)$ .
- ▶ Recall that  $FGL(k) = \text{Rings}(L, k)$  so we get a ring map  $L \rightarrow MP^0(1)$ .
- ▶ Quillen's theorem: this is an isomorphism (and  $MP^1(1) = 0$ ).
- ▶ This is the heart of a close connection between formal groups and algebraic topology.

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- ▶ Fix a prime  $p$  and  $n > 0$ .
- ▶ Put  $l(x) = \sum_{k \geq 0} x^{p^{nk}} / p^k \in \mathbb{Q}[[x]]$ ,  $F(x, y) = l^{-1}(l(x) + l(y)) \in \text{FGL}(\mathbb{Q})$ .
- ▶ In fact  $F \in \text{FGL}(\mathbb{Z})$  so we can reduce mod  $p$  to get  $F_K \in \text{FGL}(\mathbb{F}_p)$ .
- ▶ There is a unique  $\phi_K: MP_0 \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_p$  carrying  $F_{MP}$  to  $F_K$ .
- ▶ Write  $x +_F y = F(x, y)$  and  $[n]_F(x) = x +_F \cdots +_F x$  ( $n$  terms).
- ▶ We find that  $[p]_K(x) = [p]_{F_K}(x) = x^{p^n}$  i.e.  $F_K$  has height  $n$ .
- ▶ Define  $E_0 = \mathbb{Z}_p[[u_1, \dots, u_{n-1}]]$  with  $u_0 = p$ ,  $u_n = 1$ .
- ▶ For  $I = (i_1, \dots, i_r)$  in  $\{1, \dots, n\}^r$  we put  $|I| = r$  and  $\|I\| = i_1 + \cdots + i_r$  and  $\pi_t(I) = \prod_{s < t} p^{i_s}$  and  $u_I = \prod_{t=1}^r u_{i_t}^{\pi_t(I)}$ . Then put  $l_E(x) = \sum_I u_I x^{p^{\|I\|}} / p^{\|I\|} \in (\mathbb{Q} \otimes E_0)[[x]]$  and  $F_E(x, y) = l_E^{-1}(l_E(x) + l_E(y))$ .
- ▶ Using the *Functional Equation Lemma*:  $F_E \in \text{FGL}(E_0)$ .
- ▶ Key fact:  $[p]_E(x) = u_k x^{p^k} \pmod{u_i \mid i < k}$ .
- ▶ There is a unique  $\phi_E: MP_0 \rightarrow E_0$  carrying  $F_{MP}$  to  $F_E$ .
- ▶ Using Landweber exactness and Brown representability: there is a commutative ring spectrum  $E$  with  $E_0 X = \pi_0(E \wedge X) = E_0 \otimes_{MP_0} (MP_0 X)$ .
- ▶ There is also a ring spectrum  $K$  with  $K^0 X = (E^0 X) / (u_0, \dots, u_{n-1})$  whenever the sequence is regular (and same for  $K_0 X$ ).

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## Characteristic classes

- ▶ Let  $E$  be an even periodic ring spectrum, so we can choose  $x \in \tilde{E}^0(\mathbb{C}P^\infty)$  with  $E^0(\mathbb{C}P^\infty) = E^0[[x]]$ .
- ▶ Over  $\mathbb{C}P^\infty = (\mathbb{C}[t] \setminus \{0\})/\mathbb{C}^\times$  we have the tautological bundle  $T_{[t]} = \mathbb{C}f$ .
- ▶ For any  $\mathbb{C}$  line bundle  $L \rightarrow X$  there exists  $p: X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}P^\infty$ , unique up to homotopy, with  $L \simeq p^*(T)$ . Put  $e(L) =$  Euler class of  $L = p^*(x) \in E^0(X)$ .
- ▶ For the formal group law  $F_E$  we have  $e(L \otimes M) = e(L) +_{F_E} e(M)$ .
- ▶ Now consider a complex vector bundle  $V \rightarrow X$  of dimension  $d$ .
- ▶ Put  $PV = \{(x, L) \mid x \in X, L \leq V_x, \dim(L) = 1\}$ .
- ▶ This has a tautological bundle  $T_{(x,L)} = L$  and Euler class  $e(T) \in E^0(PV)$ .
- ▶ **Theorem:**  $\{e(T)^i \mid 0 \leq i < d\}$  is a basis for  $E^0(PV)$  as an  $E^0(X)$ -module.
- ▶ By expressing  $e(T)^d$  in terms of this basis: there is a monic polynomial  $f_V(x) = \sum_{i=0}^d c_i(V)x^{d-i}$  with  $E^0(PV) = E^0(X)[x]/f_V(x)$  via  $x \mapsto e(T)$ .
- ▶ The elements  $c_i(V) \in E^0(X)$  are the *Chern classes* of  $V$ .
- ▶ We have  $f_{V \oplus W}(x) = f_V(x)f_W(x)$  or  $c_k(V \oplus W) = \sum_{i=0}^k c_i(V)c_{k-i}(W)$ .
- ▶ For a complex representation  $V$  of a finite group  $G$  we have a vector bundle  $EG \times_G V$  over  $BG = EG/G$  and thus Chern classes in  $E^0(BG)$  which we just call  $c_i(V)$ .

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## Characteristic classes

- ▶ Let  $E$  be an even periodic ring spectrum, so we can choose  $x \in \tilde{E}^0(\mathbb{C}P^\infty)$  with  $E^0(\mathbb{C}P^\infty) = E^0[[x]]$ .
- ▶ Over  $\mathbb{C}P^\infty = (\mathbb{C}[t] \setminus \{0\})/\mathbb{C}^\times$  we have the tautological bundle  $T_{[t]} = \mathbb{C}f$ .
- ▶ For any  $\mathbb{C}$  line bundle  $L \rightarrow X$  there exists  $p: X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}P^\infty$ , unique up to homotopy, with  $L \simeq p^*(T)$ . Put  $e(L) =$  Euler class of  $L = p^*(x) \in E^0(X)$ .
- ▶ For the formal group law  $F_E$  we have  $e(L \otimes M) = e(L) +_{F_E} e(M)$ .
- ▶ Now consider a complex vector bundle  $V \rightarrow X$  of dimension  $d$ .
- ▶ Put  $PV = \{(x, L) \mid x \in X, L \leq V_x, \dim(L) = 1\}$ .
- ▶ This has a tautological bundle  $T_{(x,L)} = L$  and Euler class  $e(T) \in E^0(PV)$ .
- ▶ **Theorem:**  $\{e(T)^i \mid 0 \leq i < d\}$  is a basis for  $E^0(PV)$  as an  $E^0(X)$ -module.
- ▶ By expressing  $e(T)^d$  in terms of this basis: there is a monic polynomial  $f_V(x) = \sum_{i=0}^d c_i(V)x^{d-i}$  with  $E^0(PV) = E^0(X)[x]/f_V(x)$  via  $x \mapsto e(T)$ .
- ▶ The elements  $c_i(V) \in E^0(X)$  are the *Chern classes* of  $V$ .
- ▶ We have  $f_{V \oplus W}(x) = f_V(x)f_W(x)$  or  $c_k(V \oplus W) = \sum_{i=0}^k c_i(V)c_{k-i}(W)$ .
- ▶ For a complex representation  $V$  of a finite group  $G$  we have a vector bundle  $EG \times_G V$  over  $BG = EG/G$  and thus Chern classes in  $E^0(BG)$  which we just call  $c_i(V)$ .