

Thesis

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1 Overview of Chromatic Homotopy Theory

Our goal is to motivate the introduction of Morava K-theory $K(n)$ and Morava E-theory $E(n)$, and other variants of Morava E-theory $E(k, \Gamma)$, and their connection to formal group laws. There are different views on what chromatic homotopy theory is. **TODO write some more**

1.1 The Balmer Spectrum

We will start with an algebraic motivation. Let R be a noetherian ring. Consider the symmetric monoidal stable ∞ -category $\mathrm{Ch}(R)$ of chain complexes on R . **TODO be more specific** It is then natural to ask how much information about R is encoded in the category $\mathrm{Ch}(R)$. We will try to recover $\mathrm{Spec} R$, as a topological space, from $\mathrm{Ch}(R)$.

Remark 1.1.1. Balmer's work actually recovers the structure sheaf as well. **TODO reference**

Definition 1.1.2. A *perfect complex* is a complex that is quasi-isomorphic to a bounded complex of finitely-generated projective modules. These objects are the compact objects in $\mathrm{Ch}(R)$, thus they can be defined categorically. Their full subcategory is denoted by $\mathrm{Ch}_{\mathrm{perf}}(R)$.

Definition 1.1.3. Let \mathcal{C} be some symmetric monoidal stable ∞ -category. A full subcategory \mathcal{T} is *thick* if:

- $0 \in \mathcal{T}$,
- it is closed under cofibers,
- it is closed under retracts.

Example 1.1.4. Consider the case $\mathcal{C} = \mathrm{Ch}_{\mathrm{perf}}(R)$ (e.g. over \mathbb{Z} , bounded chain complexes of finitely-generated free abelian groups). Let $K \in \mathrm{Ch}(R)$, and define $\mathcal{T}_K = \{A \in \mathrm{Ch}_{\mathrm{perf}}(R) \mid A \otimes K = 0\}$. We claim that \mathcal{T}_K is thick. Clearly $0 \in \mathcal{T}_K$. Let $A \rightarrow B$ be a morphism between two complexes in \mathcal{T} . The cofiber of $A \rightarrow B$ is the pushout $B \times_A 0$. Since tensor is left, tensoring the cofiber with K is given by the pushout $(B \otimes K) \times_{A \otimes K} (0 \otimes K) = 0 \times_0 0 = 0$, therefore the cofiber is indeed in \mathcal{T} . Lastly, if $A \rightarrow B \rightarrow A$ is the identity and $B \otimes K$, we get that $\mathrm{id}_{A \otimes K}$ factors through 0 , which implies that $A \otimes K$ is 0 , so that $A \in \mathcal{T}$.

Definition 1.1.5. A thick subcategory \mathcal{T} is an *ideal* if $A \in \mathcal{T}, B \in \mathcal{C} \implies A \otimes B \in \mathcal{T}$. Furthermore, it is a *prime ideal* if it is a proper subcategory, and $A \otimes B \in \mathcal{T} \implies A \in \mathcal{T} \text{ or } B \in \mathcal{T}$. The *spectrum* of the category is defined similarly to the classical spectrum of a ring: As a set, $\mathrm{Spec} \mathcal{C} = \{\mathcal{P} \text{ prime ideal}\}$. For any family of objects $S \subseteq \mathcal{C}$ we define $V(S) = \{\mathcal{P} \in \mathrm{Spec} \mathcal{C} \mid S \cap \mathcal{P} = \emptyset\}$. We topologize $\mathrm{Spec} \mathcal{C}$ with the Zariski topology by declaring those to be the closed subsets. We also denote $\mathrm{Supp}(A) = V(\{A\})$.

Example 1.1.6. We continue the example of \mathcal{T}_K . Clearly if $A \otimes K = 0$ then also $A \otimes B \otimes K = 0$, so it is an ideal. Let \mathfrak{p} be a prime ideal in R in the usual sense, and take $K = R_{\mathfrak{p}}$ (concentrated at degree 0), then $A \otimes K = A_{\mathfrak{p}}$ (level-wise localization). **TODO consider actually proving** We will omit the proof that \mathcal{T}_K is a prime, but we shall prove something weaker, namely only the case where A, B are bounded complexes of finitely generate projective modules (and not merely quasi-isomorphic to such complexes). Assume then that $0 = (A \otimes B)_{\mathfrak{p}} = A_{\mathfrak{p}} \otimes_{R_{\mathfrak{p}}} B_{\mathfrak{p}}$. Assume by negation that $A_{\mathfrak{p}}, B_{\mathfrak{p}} \neq 0$, i.e. $(A_n)_{\mathfrak{p}}, (B_m)_{\mathfrak{p}} \neq 0$ but $(A_n)_{\mathfrak{p}} \otimes_{R_{\mathfrak{p}}} (B_m)_{\mathfrak{p}} = 0$ for some n, m . Well, localization of projective is projective, and a projective over a local ring is free, and clearly if the tensor of two free modules vanish then one of them vanishes, so $(A_n)_{\mathfrak{p}} = 0$ or $(B_m)_{\mathfrak{p}} = 0$, which is a contradiction. Therefore $\mathcal{T}_{\mathfrak{p}}$ is a prime ideal.

Theorem 1.1.7. *The map $\text{Spec } R \rightarrow \text{Spec } (\text{Ch}_{\text{perf}}(R))$, given by $\mathfrak{p} \mapsto \mathcal{T}_{\mathfrak{p}} = \{A \mid A_{\mathfrak{p}} = 0\}$ is a homeomorphism.*

TODO reference

Proposition 1.1.8. *Prime ideals pullback: Let $F : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ be a reduced symmetric monoidal functor that preserves cofibers, between two symmetric monoidal stable ∞ -categories, and let \mathcal{P} be a prime ideal in \mathcal{D} , then $F^*\mathcal{P} = \{A \in \mathcal{C} \mid F(A) \in \mathcal{P}\}$ is a prime ideal.*

Proof. Clearly $F(0) = 0 \in \mathcal{P}$ since F is reduced, so $0 \in F^*\mathcal{P}$. Since F preserves cofibers, for $A, B \in F^*\mathcal{P}$, i.e. $F(A), F(B) \in \mathcal{P}$, and a map $A \rightarrow B$ we get $F(\text{cofib}(A \rightarrow B)) = \text{cofib}(F(A) \rightarrow F(B)) = \text{cofib}(F(A) \rightarrow F(B)) \in \mathcal{P}$. Let $A \rightarrow B \rightarrow A$ be a retract, that is the composition is the identity, s.t. $B \in F^*\mathcal{P}$. We know that $F(A) \rightarrow F(B) \rightarrow F(A)$ is also a retract by functoriality, thus $F(A) \in \mathcal{P}$, that is $A \in F^*\mathcal{P}$. We conclude that $F^*\mathcal{P}$ is indeed a thick subcategory.

Let $A \in F^*\mathcal{P}, B \in \mathcal{C}$, since F is monoidal, $F(A \otimes B) = F(A) \otimes F(B) \in \mathcal{P}$, so $A \otimes B \in F^*\mathcal{P}$, that is $F^*\mathcal{P}$ is an ideal.

Lastly, assume that $A \otimes B \in F^*\mathcal{P}$, again since F is monoidal, $F(A \otimes B) = F(A) \otimes F(B) \in \mathcal{P}$, so $A \in F^*\mathcal{P}$ or $B \in F^*\mathcal{P}$, that is $F^*\mathcal{P}$ is a prime ideal. \square

Now, recall that $\text{Ch}(R) \cong \text{Mod}_{HR}$, therefore we can reinterpret the above theorem as $\text{Spec } R \cong \text{Spec } (\text{Mod}_{HR}^{\text{comp}})$ (where the comp denotes the compact objects in the category). We shall turn this theorem into a definition:

Definition 1.1.9. Let R be an \mathbb{E}_∞ -ring. We define the *spectrum* of R to be $\mathrm{Spec} R = \mathrm{Spec} (\mathrm{Mod}_R^{\mathrm{comp}})$.

A natural question to ask then is what is $\mathrm{Spec} \mathbb{S}$. Recall that $\mathrm{Mod}_{\mathbb{S}} = \mathrm{Sp}$, the category of spectra, and that the compact objects in spectra are the finite spectra $\mathrm{Sp}^{\mathrm{fin}}$. So, unwinding the definitions, the question can be rephrased as finding the prime ideals in $\mathrm{Sp}^{\mathrm{fin}}$, and their topology. Chromatic homotopy theory provides an answer to this question.

1.2 MU and Complex Orientations

Throughout this section, let E be a multiplicative cohomology theory (that is, equipped with a map $E \otimes E \rightarrow E$ and $1 \in E_0$, which is associative and unital after taking homotopy groups).

Consider the map $S^2 \rightarrow \mathrm{BU}(1)$ classifying the universal complex line bundle. Concretely, under the identifications $S^2 \cong \mathbb{CP}^1$ and $\mathrm{BU}(1) \cong \mathbb{CP}^\infty$, this map can be realized as the inclusion $\mathbb{CP}^1 \subseteq \mathbb{CP}^\infty$. This map induces a map $\tilde{E}^2(\mathrm{BU}(1)) \rightarrow \tilde{E}^2(S^2) \cong \tilde{E}^0(S^0) \cong E^0(*) = E_0$. Since E is unital, there is a canonical generator $1 \in E_0$.

Definition 1.2.1. E is called *complex oriented* if the map $\tilde{E}^2(\mathrm{BU}(1)) \rightarrow E_0$ is surjective, equivalently, if 1 is in the image of that map. A choice of a lift $x \in \tilde{E}^2(\mathrm{BU}(1))$ of $1 \in E_0$ is called a *complex orientation*.

Example 1.2.2. Let R be some ring, and consider HR . It is known that $HR^*(\mathbb{CP}^n) \cong R[x]/(x^{n+1})$ and $HR^*(\mathbb{CP}^\infty) \cong R[[x]]$, where $|x| = 2$, and the maps induced by the inclusions of projective spaces maps x to x . Therefore we see that $x \in HR^2(\mathrm{BU}(1))$ is mapped to $x \in HR^2(S^2) = \mathbb{Z}\{x\}$, which is mapped to the generator of the reduced part of $HR^0(S^0) = R \oplus R$. Therefore x is a complex orientation for HR .

Example 1.2.3. Let K be complex K-theory, then we know that $K_* = \mathbb{Z}[\beta^{\pm 1}]$ where β is the Bott element, with $|\beta| = 2$. It is also known (by Atiyah-Hirzebruch spectral sequence) that $K^*(\mathbb{CP}^n) \cong K_*[t]/(t^{n+1})$ and $K^*(\mathbb{CP}^\infty) \cong K_*[[t]]$ (here $|t| = 0$), where the maps induced by the inclusions of projective spaces maps t to t . We deduce that $\beta t \in K^2(\mathrm{BU}(1))$ is mapped to $\beta t \in K^2(S^2) = \mathbb{Z}\{\beta t\}$, which is mapped to $t \in K^0(S^0) = \mathbb{Z}\{t\}$, which is indeed the generator of the reduced part. Therefore $x = \beta t$ is complex orientation for K . **TODO write the reduced thing more clearly**

Example 1.2.4. Recall that MU is constructed as the colimit $\mathrm{MU} = \mathrm{colim} \mathrm{MU}(n)$. Also, $\mathrm{MU}(1) \cong \Sigma^{\infty-2}\mathrm{BU}(1)$. Therefore we get a canonical map $\Sigma^{\infty-2}\mathrm{BU}(1) \rightarrow \mathrm{MU}$, which gives a cohomology class $x_{\mathrm{MU}} \in \mathrm{MU}^2(\mathrm{BU}(1))$.

Proposition 1.2.5 ([Rav86, 4.1.3]). *x_{MU} is a complex orientation for MU .*

Theorem 1.2.6. *MU is the universal complex oriented cohomology theory: Let E be a multiplicative cohomology theory, then there is a bijection between (homotopy classes of) multiplicative maps $\mathrm{MU} \rightarrow E$ and complex orientations on E . The bijection is given in one direction by pulling back x_{MU} along a multiplicative map.*

Assume that E is complex oriented with a complex orientation x .

Theorem 1.2.7 ([Rav86, 4.1.4]). *As E_* -algebras, $E^*(\mathrm{BU}(1)) \cong E^*[[x]]$ and $E^*(\mathrm{BU}(1) \times \mathrm{BU}(1)) \cong E^*[[y, z]]$.*

TODO maybe indicate the use of AHSS

The tensor product of complex line bundles is classified by a universal map $\mathrm{BU}(1) \times \mathrm{BU}(1) \rightarrow \mathrm{BU}(1)$. Therefore we get a map $E^*(\mathrm{BU}(1)) \rightarrow E^*(\mathrm{BU}(1) \times \mathrm{BU}(1))$, which is completely determined by the image of $x \in E^*[[x]]$ in $E^*[[y, z]]$ as above. Therefore, a choice of a complex orientation on E gives rise to an element $F_E(y, z) \in E^*[[y, z]]$.

Proposition 1.2.8 ([Rav86, 4.1.4]). *F_E is a formal group law on E_* . We call the height of F_E the height of E .*

Example 1.2.9. We continue with HR from 1.2.2. It is known that the tensor of complex line bundles induces the map $R[[x]] = \mathrm{HR}^*(\mathrm{BU}(1)) \rightarrow \mathrm{HR}^*(\mathrm{BU}(1) \times \mathrm{BU}(1)) = R[[y, z]]$ given by $x \mapsto y + z$. This is the additive formal group law. It is immediate that $[p] = px$. So for $R = \mathbb{Q}$ we get that the height of $\mathrm{H}\mathbb{Q}$ is 0, while for $R = \mathbb{F}_p$ we have $px = 0$ so the height of $\mathrm{H}\mathbb{F}_p$ is ∞ .

Example 1.2.10. We return to the example of complex K-theory 1.2.3. It is known that the tensor of complex line bundles induces the map $\mathrm{K}_*[[t]] = \mathrm{K}^*(\mathrm{BU}(1)) \rightarrow \mathrm{K}^*(\mathrm{BU}(1) \times \mathrm{BU}(1)) = \mathrm{K}_*[[u, v]]$ given by $t \mapsto u + v + uv$. Note that to comply with the definition of the formal group law, we should use the isomorphism $\mathrm{K}^*(\mathrm{BU}(1)) \cong \mathrm{K}_*[[x]]$, i.e. the element $x = \beta t$. We get that $x = \beta t \mapsto \beta u + \beta v + \beta uv = y + z + \beta^{-1}yz = F_K(y, z)$. By induction we prove that the n -series is $[n](x) = \beta(1 + \beta^{-1}x)^n - \beta$. This is clear for

$n = 1$, and we have:

$$\begin{aligned}
[n+1](x) &= x + [n](x) + \beta^{-1}x[n](x) \\
&= x + \beta(1 + \beta^{-1}x)^n - \beta + x(1 + \beta^{-1}x)^n - x \\
&= \beta(1 + \beta^{-1}x)(1 + \beta^{-1}x)^n - \beta \\
&= \beta(1 + \beta^{-1}x)^{n+1} - \beta
\end{aligned}$$

TODO consider discussing the computation of $\mathrm{BU}(1)$, maybe as part of complex K-theory example?

Example 1.2.11. By taking the cofiber of the multiplication-by- p map, we get a spectrum K/p , mod- p K-theory, with coefficients $(K/p)_* = \mathbb{F}_p[\beta^{\pm 1}]$. It is evident that $F_{K/p}(y, z) = y + z + \beta^{-1}yz$ as well. From the result above, it follows that $[p](x) = \beta(1 + \beta^{-1}x)^p - \beta = \beta(1^p + \beta^{-p}x^p) - \beta = \beta^{-(p-1)}x^p$ which shows that the height is exactly 1.

A formal group law on E_* is the same data as a map from the Lazard ring L , so the complex orientation gives a map $L \rightarrow E_*$. In particular, since MU is complex oriented, there is a canonical map $L \rightarrow \mathrm{MU}_*$.

Theorem 1.2.12 (Quillen, [Rav86, 4.1.6]). *The canonical map $L \rightarrow \mathrm{MU}_*$ is an isomorphism.*

TODO consider adding something about the $X(n)$, and the obstruction to lifting to a complex orientation, with obstructions living in odd E_k , so even are automatically orientable

1.3 BP, Morava K-Theory and Morava E-Theory

A good principle in homotopy theory (and many other areas in math) is to do study it one prime at a time. This is possible in homotopy theory due to the arithmetic square **TODO reference**. So, let us fix a prime p . We can form $\mathrm{MU}_{(p)}$, the p -localization of MU .

Theorem 1.3.1 ([Ada74, II 15]). *There exists a map of ring spectra $\varepsilon : \mathrm{MU}_{(p)} \rightarrow \mathrm{MU}_{(p)}$ (which depends on the prime p), which is an idempotent $\varepsilon^2 = \varepsilon$ (moreover, once the action on homotopy groups is specified, it is unique).*

The map $\varepsilon : \mathrm{MU}_{(p)} \rightarrow \mathrm{MU}_{(p)}$ gives a cohomology operation, for every X we have $\varepsilon^* : \mathrm{MU}_{(p)}^*(X) \rightarrow \mathrm{MU}_{(p)}^*(X)$. Denote by $\mathrm{BP}_{(p)}^*(X)$ the image of ε^* .

Theorem 1.3.2 ([Ada74, II 16], [Rav86, 4.1.12]). *BP is a cohomology theory, represented by an associative commutative ring spectrum BP (which depends on the prime p), which is a retract of $\mathrm{MU}_{(p)}$. The homotopy groups of BP are $\mathrm{BP}_* = \mathbb{Z}_{(p)}[v_1, v_2, \dots]$ where $|v_n| = 2(p^n - 1)$.*

For convenience we denote $v_0 = p$ (and indeed $|v_0| = 2(p^0 - 1) = 0$). Since BP is a retract of MU it comes with a map $\mathrm{MU} \rightarrow \mathrm{BP}$, that is a complex orientation.

Proposition 1.3.3. *[TODO reference] The p -series of the formal group law associated to BP is $[p](x) = \sum v_n x^{p^n}$.*

Once we have BP, we can turn to the definition of Morava K-theory and Morava E-theory

Definition 1.3.4. Let $0 < n < \infty$. *Morava K-theory at height n and prime p , denoted by $K(p, n)$ or $K(n)$ when the prime is clear, is the spectrum obtained by killing $p = v_0, \dots, v_{n-1}, v_{n+1}, \dots$ in BP and inverting v_n . Therefore $K(n)_* = \mathbb{F}_p[v_n^{\pm 1}]$. We also define $K(0) = \mathrm{H}\mathbb{Q}$ and $K(\infty) = \mathrm{H}\mathbb{F}_p$. Similarly, *Morava E-theory at height n and prime p , denoted by $E(p, n)$ or $E(n)$, is the spectrum obtained by killing v_{n+1}, v_{n+2}, \dots in BP and inverting v_n . Therefore $E(n)_* = \mathbb{Z}_{(p)}[v_1, \dots, v_{n-1}, v_n^{\pm 1}]$.**

Since Morava K-theory and E-theory are obtained from BP by cofibers and filtered colimits, they are equipped with a map from BP, so they are also equipped with a complex orientation. Then, from 1.3.3, we get:

Corollary 1.3.5. *The p -series associated to the formal group laws of $K(n)$ and $E(n)$ are $v_n x^{p^n}$ and $v_0 x + \dots v_n x^{p^n}$ respectively, and are therefore of height exactly n and height $\leq n$ respectively. (Note that by the example of $\mathrm{H}R$, this is also true for $K(0)$ and $K(\infty)$.)*

We want to describe some properties of Morava K-theory. To do so we first need some definitions.

Definition 1.3.6. Let R be an evenly graded ring. R is called a *graded field* if every non-zero homogenous element is invertible, equivalently it is a field F concentrated at degree 0, or $F[\beta^{\pm 1}]$ for β of positive even degree. An \mathbb{A}_∞ -ring E is a *field* if E_* is a graded field.

Example 1.3.7. Clearly $K(n)$ for $0 \leq n \leq \infty$ is a field.

Proposition 1.3.8. *A field E has Kunnet, i.e. $E_*(X \otimes Y) \cong E_*(X) \otimes_{E_*} E_*(Y)$ for any spectra X, Y .*

Proposition 1.3.9 ([Lur10, 24]). *Let $E \neq 0$ be a complex oriented cohomology theory, whose formal group law has height exactly n , then $E \otimes K(n) \neq 0$. Let E be a field s.t. $E \otimes K(n) \neq 0$, then E admits the structure of a $K(n)$ -module. (Here $0 \leq n \leq \infty$.)*

Example 1.3.10. As we have seen before mod- p K -theory, K/p , has height exactly 1 and coefficients $(K/p)_* = \mathbb{F}_p[\beta^{\pm 1}]$. It is also known that K , and K/p , are A_∞ ring spectra, from which it follows that K/p is a field. Therefore, we deduce that K/p is a $K(1)$ -module. Since $|\beta| = 2$ and $|v_1| = 2(p-1)$ it is free of rank $p-1$.

From this we also deduce some form of uniqueness for Morava K -theory:

Corollary 1.3.11. *Let E be a field with $E_* \cong \mathbb{F}_p[v_n^{\pm 1}]$, which is also complex oriented with height exactly n , then $E \cong K(n)$ (as spectra).*

1.4 $\text{Spec } \mathbb{S}_{(p)}$ and $\text{Spec } \mathbb{S}$

We are now in a position to state the answer for $\text{Spec } \mathbb{S}$. However, it will be easier to state it first for $\text{Spec } \mathbb{S}_{(p)}$, and then pullback prime ideals. We know that $\text{Mod}_{\mathbb{S}_{(p)}} = \text{Sp}_{(p)}$, and the compact objects there are $\text{Sp}_{(p)}^{\text{fin}}$, the p -localizations of finite spectra.

Proposition 1.4.1. *Let $\mathcal{T}_E = \ker E_* = \{X \in \text{Sp}_{(p)}^{\text{fin}} \mid E_*(X) = 0\}$ (equivalently $X \otimes E = 0$) i.e. the E -acyclics, then \mathcal{T}_E is thick.*

Proof. The exact same proof from $\text{Ch}_{\text{perf}}(R)$ works. □

Definition 1.4.2. We define $\mathcal{C}_{p,n} = \mathcal{T}_{K(n)}$, the $K(n)$ -acyclics. By the above it is thick. Also, $\mathcal{C}_{p,\infty} = \{0\}$, which are trivially thick. When the prime is clear, we will denote by \mathcal{C}_n .

Proposition 1.4.3 ([Lur10, 26]). *For $X \in \text{Sp}_{(p)}^{\text{fin}}$, if $K(n)_*(X) = 0$ then $K(n-1)_*(X) = 0$.*

Definition 1.4.4. We say that a spectrum $X \in \text{Sp}_{(p)}^{\text{fin}}$ is of *type n* (possibly ∞), if its first non-zero Morava K -theory homology is $K(n)$.

Corollary 1.4.5. \mathcal{C}_n is the full subcategory of finite p -local spectra of type $> n$, that is $\mathcal{C}_n = \left\{ X \in \mathrm{Sp}_{(p)}^{\mathrm{fin}} \mid \forall m \leq n : K(m)_*(X) = 0 \right\}$. Thus clearly $\mathcal{C}_{n+1} \subseteq \mathcal{C}_n$.

Proposition 1.4.6 (TODO reference). The inclusions are proper $\mathcal{C}_{n+1} \subsetneq \mathcal{C}_n$.

Proposition 1.4.7. If $X \in \mathrm{Sp}_{(p)}^{\mathrm{fin}}$ is not contractible, then X has a finite type. Therefore $\bigcap_{n < \infty} \mathcal{C}_n = \{0\} = \mathcal{C}_\infty$.

Proof. Let X be non-contractible. Then $H\mathbb{Z}_*(X) \neq 0$. Let m be the first non-zero degree. Using the universal coefficient theorem and the fact that the spectrum is p -local we get that $(H\mathbb{F}_p)_m(X) \neq 0$, thus $(H\mathbb{F}_p)_*(X) \neq 0$. Since X is finite, $(H\mathbb{F}_p)_*(X)$ is bounded. Atiyah-Hirzebruch spectral sequence for X with cohomology $K(n)$ has E^2 -page given by $E_{p,q}^2 = H_p(X; K(n)_q)$. Since $K(n)_q = \mathbb{F}_p$ for $q = 0 \bmod 2(p^n - 1)$ and 0 otherwise, we see that the rows $q = 0 \bmod 2(p^n - 1)$ are $(H\mathbb{F}_p)_*(X)$, and the others are 0. Therefore if we take n such that the period $2(p^n - 1)$ is larger than the bound on $(H\mathbb{F}_p)_*(X)$, then all differentials have either source or target 0. Thus, the spectral sequence collapses at the E^2 -page, and since $(H\mathbb{F}_p)_*(X) \neq 0$, we get that $K(n)(X) \neq 0$, i.e. X has type $< n$. \square

Proposition 1.4.8. \mathcal{C}_n is a prime ideal.

Proof. For X, Y by Kunneth we have $K(n-1)_*(X \otimes Y) = K(n-1)_*(X) \otimes K(n-1)_*(Y)$. Therefore, if $X \in \mathcal{C}_n$, i.e. the homology vanishes, then so does the homology of $X \otimes Y$, i.e. $X \otimes Y \in \mathcal{C}_n$, so \mathcal{C}_n is an ideal. If $X \otimes Y \in \mathcal{C}_n$ then the homology of the product vanishes, therefore one in the right side must vanish (they are graded vector spaces), so \mathcal{C}_n is a prime ideal. \square

Theorem 1.4.9 (Thick Subcategory Theorem [HS98]). If \mathcal{T} is a proper thick subcategory of $\mathrm{Sp}_{(p)}^{\mathrm{fin}}$, then $\mathcal{T} = \mathcal{C}_n$ for some $0 \leq n \leq \infty$.

Remark 1.4.10. The proof relies on a major theorem called the Nilpotence Theorem.

Corollary 1.4.11. $\mathrm{Spec} \mathbb{S}_{(p)} = \{\mathcal{C}_0, \mathcal{C}_1, \dots, \mathcal{C}_\infty\}$, and the topology is such that the closed subsets are chains $\{\mathcal{C}_k, \mathcal{C}_{k+1}, \dots, \mathcal{C}_\infty\}$ for some $0 \leq k \leq \infty$.

Proof. Follows immediately from the previous results. \square

We now want to move to finding $\text{Spec } \mathbb{S}$. Note that the p -localization functor $L_{(p)}$ is a Bousfield localization. As such it is left (its right adjoint is the inclusion), and in particular preserves cofibers. It also clearly sends 0 to 0, i.e. reduced. Now, since $L_{(p)}$ is smashing, i.e. $L_{(p)}X = X \otimes \mathbb{S}_{(p)}$, we also get that it is symmetric monoidal. As we have seen in 1.1.8, under these conditions we can pullback primes. Therefore $\mathcal{P}_{p,n} = L_{(p)}^* \mathcal{C}_{p,n} = \left\{ X \in \text{Sp}^{\text{fin}} \mid K(n)_*(X_{(p)}) = 0 \right\}$ and $\mathcal{P}_{p,\infty} = L_{(p)}^* \mathcal{C}_{p,\infty} = \left\{ X \in \text{Sp}^{\text{fin}} \mid X_{(p)} = 0 \right\}$ are prime ideals. Note that $\mathcal{P}_{p,0} = \left\{ X \in \text{Sp}^{\text{fin}} \mid \text{H}\mathbb{Q}_*(X_{(p)}) = 0 \right\} = \left\{ X \in \text{Sp}^{\text{fin}} \mid \text{H}\mathbb{Q}_*(X) = 0 \right\}$ **TODO explain** so it is independent of p , and we will denote it by $\text{Sp}_{\text{tor}}^{\text{fin}}$.

Theorem 1.4.12 (TODO explain/reference). $\text{Spec } \mathbb{S} = \left\{ \text{Sp}_{\text{tor}}^{\text{fin}} \right\} \cup \bigcup_p \left\{ \mathcal{P}_{p,1}, \dots, \mathcal{P}_{p,\infty} \right\}$, and the topology is such that the closed subsets finite unions of chains $\left\{ \mathcal{P}_{p,k}, \mathcal{P}_{p,k+1}, \dots, \mathcal{P}_{p,\infty} \right\}$ for some $0 \leq k \leq \infty$ (i.e. they may include $\text{Sp}_{\text{tor}}^{\text{fin}}$). **TODO diagram**

TODO regarding the topology, maybe I should prove that the pullback is also continuous?

1.5 The Stacky Point of View and the Relationship Between Morava K-Theory and Morava E-Theory

First we will describe, without being precise, another point of view on what chromatic homotopy theory is about.

There is a stack of formal groups, denoted by \mathcal{M}_{fg} . It can be described as the stack that sends a ring R to the groupoid of formal group laws, with isomorphisms between them. Quillen theorem 1.2.12 tells us that MU_* is the Lazard ring, that is the universal ring that carries the universal formal group law. It turns out that this theorem has a second part, which says that $(\text{MU} \otimes \text{MU})_*$ is the universal ring that carries two formal group laws and an isomorphism between them. Therefore, \mathcal{M}_{fg} is represented by $(\text{MU}_*, (\text{MU} \otimes \text{MU})_*)$.

The geometric points of the stack \mathcal{M}_{fg} are describe precisely the same as $\text{Spec } \mathbb{S}$, that is because for an algebraically closed field of characteristic 0 there is a unique (up to isomorphism) formal group law which is of height 0 namely the additive formal group law, and for characteristic p there is a unique (up to isomorphism) formal group law of each height $1 \leq n \leq \infty$.

For a spectrum X , $\mathrm{MU}_*(X)$ is a $(\mathrm{MU}_*, (\mathrm{MU} \otimes \mathrm{MU})_*)$ -comodule, which is the same as a sheaf over $\mathcal{M}_{\mathrm{fg}}$. From this point of view, chromatic homotopy theory lets us study a spectrum by decomposing it over the stack $\mathcal{M}_{\mathrm{fg}}$.

We can restrict ourselves to the stack only over rings of characteristic p , $\mathcal{M}_{\mathrm{fg},p}$, which is then represented by $\left((\mathrm{MU}_{(p)})_*, (\mathrm{MU}_{(p)} \otimes \mathrm{MU}_{(p)})_*\right)$. **TODO I think it's true, is it?** Similarly to MU , BP is universal ring with the universal p -typical formal group law, and $(\mathrm{BP} \otimes \mathrm{BP})_*$ is the universal ring with two p -typical formal group laws and an isomorphism between them **TODO I didn't say this before**. Since every formal group law is isomorphic to a p -typical one, we know that the stack $\mathcal{M}_{\mathrm{fg},p}$ is also represented by $(\mathrm{BP}_*, (\mathrm{BP} \otimes \mathrm{BP})_*)$.

It is now reasonable that $K(n)$, obtained from BP by killing the v_m 's for $m \neq n$ and inverting v_n , sees the n -th level, and that $E(n)$ obtained in the same way but only killing v_m for $m > n$, sees the levels $\leq n$.

Let us now claim a precise statement, formalizing this description.

Theorem 1.5.1 (TODO reference). *$E(n)$ and $K(0) \oplus \cdots \oplus K(n)$ are Bousfield equivalent. That is, they have the same acyclics, locals, and their localization functors are the same.*

TODO chromatic square and chromatic tower, maybe another subsection?

1.6 Landweber Exact Functor Theorem

As we have seen, a complex orientation on a cohomology theory, which is described by a map $\mathrm{MU} \rightarrow E$, has an associated formal group law, which is described by the map $L = \mathrm{MU}_* \rightarrow E_*$. Note that this formal group law is of degree -2 , by virtue of the grading on $L = \mathrm{MU}_*$ **TODO say more?**. One can ask whether the converse is true, namely given a graded ring R and a formal group law F of degree -2 given by $L \rightarrow R$, is there a complex oriented cohomology theory whose coefficients are R and the associated formal group law is F .

A strategy is to define $(E_{R,F})_*(X) = \mathrm{MU}_*(X) \otimes_{\mathrm{MU}_*} R$. Unfortunately, this is not always a homology theory. However there is a condition which one can check which guarantees that it is.

Definition 1.6.1. $L \rightarrow R$ is called *Landweber flat* if for every prime p , the

image of the sequence $p = v_0, v_1, v_2, \dots$ in R , which are the coefficients of the p -series, is regular. That is, for each p and $n \geq 0$, v_n is not a zero divisor in $R/(v_0, v_1, \dots, v_{n-1})$.

Remark 1.6.2. If p is invertible in R , then p is invertible, and R/p is already 0, so we don't need to check v_1, v_2, \dots .

Theorem 1.6.3 (Landweber Exact Functor Theorem (LEFT), [Lur10, 15, 16]). *If $L \rightarrow R$ is Landweber flat, then $E_{R,F}$ defined above is a homology theory. Moreover, there are no phantom maps between such spectra, so $E_{R,F}$ is represented by a spectrum. This spectrum is complex oriented, has coefficients R and associated formal group law F .*

Example 1.6.4. We return to complex K-theory, from 1.2.3 and 1.2.10. We can take the completion at the element $p \in K_*$, which gives the spectrum K_p^\wedge . This spectrum has coefficients $(K_p^\wedge)_* = (K_*)_p^\wedge = (\mathbb{Z}[\beta^{\pm 1}])_p^\wedge = \mathbb{Z}_p^\wedge[\beta^{\pm 1}]$. The formal group law, as we have seen, is given by $F_{K_p^\wedge}(y, z) = y + z + \beta^{-1}yz$. We claim that $F_{K_p^\wedge}/K_p^\wedge$ is Landweber flat. Clearly $p = v_0$ is invertible in $\mathbb{Z}_p^\wedge[\beta^{\pm 1}]$, thus not a zero divisor. As we have seen in 1.2.11, mod- p the p -series is $\beta^{-(p-1)}x^p$, so that $v_1 = \beta^{-(p-1)}$ which is not a zero divisor $\mathbb{F}_p[\beta^{\pm 1}]$. Modulo v_1 the ring is already 0, and we are done. For other primes, by 1.6.2 we are done. Therefore, by 1.6.8 we get that $K_p^\wedge \cong E_{K_p^\wedge, F_{K_p^\wedge}}$.

Example 1.6.5. Morava E-theory is Landweber flat, since by 1.3.5, the p -series has coefficients $p = v_0, v_1, \dots, v_n$. p is not a zero divisor in $E(n)_* = \mathbb{Z}_{(p)}[v_1, \dots, v_{n-1}, v_n^{\pm 1}]$. Then v_i is not a zero divisor in $E(n)_*/(p, v_1, \dots, v_{i-1}) \cong \mathbb{F}_p[v_i, \dots, v_{n-1}, v_n^{\pm 1}]$. After v_n the ring becomes 0 and we are done. For other primes, by 1.6.2 we are done.

Example 1.6.6. Morava K-theory $K(n)$ for $n > 0$ is not Landweber flat since $p = v_0$ is not invertible in $K(n)_* = \mathbb{F}_p[v_n^{\pm 1}]$.

Example 1.6.7. $H\mathbb{Z}$ is not Landweber flat since although $p = v_0$ is invertible, as we have seen in 1.2.9 the p -series is px , so v_1 is 0 in $\mathbb{Z}/p = \mathbb{F}_p$, which is a zero divisor.

We can also ask the following question: given complex oriented cohomology theory $MU \rightarrow E$, such that $L \rightarrow E_*$ is Landweber flat, is $E_{R,F}$ equivalent to E ? The answer is yes, at least in some cases.

Theorem 1.6.8. *Let E be as above, which is also evenly graded (i.e. E_* is an evenly graded ring), then there is an equivalence $E_{R,F} \rightarrow E$.*

Proof. This is a slight variation on [Lur10, 18, proposition 11]. First note that for every spectrum X we have $\mathrm{MU} \otimes X \rightarrow E \otimes X$, which induces $\mathrm{MU}_*(X) \rightarrow E_*(X)$, a map of MU_* -modules. Moreover, since $E_* \rightarrow E_*(X)$ is a map of E_* -module, the map $\mathrm{MU}_* \rightarrow E_*$ makes it a map of MU_* -modules. Together this gives a map $(E_{R,F})_*(X) = \mathrm{MU}_*(X) \otimes_{\mathrm{MU}_*} E_* \rightarrow E_*(X)$. This map is a map of homology theories. **TODO should I explain why?** By [Lur10, 17, theorem 6] **TODO does it follow?**, this map lifts to a map of spectra $E_{R,F} \rightarrow E$. Since by construction when $X = \mathbb{S}$ the map above is $E_* \rightarrow E_*$ which is an isomorphism, we see that the map $E_{R,F} \rightarrow E$ is an equivalence. \square

1.7 Lubin-Tate Deformation Theory

The Morava E-theory we have considered until now $E(n)$, also called Johnson-Wilson spectrum was constructed from BP. As we noted, it is Landweber flat, which indicates that there is another approach to constructing it. Indeed there is a way to construct a related spectrum, which will be called the Lubin-Tate spectrum.

To that end, we first define the category $\mathrm{CompRing}$ as the category of complete local rings. The objects are complete local rings (R, \mathfrak{m}) , we also denote by $\pi : R \rightarrow R/\mathfrak{m}$ the projection. Morphisms $\varphi : (R, \mathfrak{m}) \rightarrow (S, \mathfrak{n})$ are local homomorphisms, i.e. a homomorphism $\varphi : R \rightarrow S$ s.t. $\varphi(\mathfrak{m}) \subseteq \mathfrak{n}$. In particular it induces a homomorphism $\varphi/\mathfrak{m} : R/\mathfrak{m} \rightarrow S/\mathfrak{n}$, which satisfies $\varphi/\mathfrak{m} \circ \pi_R = \pi_S \circ \varphi$.

We fix k be a perfect field of characteristic p (i.e. the Frobenius is an isomorphism), and Γ a formal group law over k of height $n < \infty$. Lubin and Tate [LT] considered a moduli problem associated to Γ/k , described by a functor $\mathrm{Def} : \mathrm{CompRing} \rightarrow \mathrm{Grpds}$.

Definition 1.7.1. Let (R, \mathfrak{m}) be a complete local ring and denote by $\pi : R \rightarrow R/\mathfrak{m}$ the quotient. A *deformation* of Γ/k to (R, \mathfrak{m}) , is (G, i) , where G is a formal group law over R , $i : k \rightarrow R/\mathfrak{m}$ is a homomorphism of fields, such that $i^*\Gamma = \pi^*G$. A *\star -isomorphism* between two deformations to (R, \mathfrak{m}) , $f : (G_1, i_1) \rightarrow (G_2, i_2)$, is defined only when $i_1 = i_2$, and consists of an isomorphism $f : G_1 \rightarrow G_2$, such that $\pi^*f : i^*\Gamma = \pi^*G_1 \rightarrow \pi^*G_2 \rightarrow i^*\Gamma$ is the identity, i.e. $f(x) = x \bmod \mathfrak{m}$. These assemble to a groupoid $\mathrm{Def}(R, \mathfrak{m})$, whose objects are deformations to (R, \mathfrak{m}) , and morphisms are \star -isomorphisms.

Remark 1.7.2. $\text{Def}(R, \mathfrak{m})$ can be seen as the pullback of the groupoids $\text{FGL}(R)$ and $\coprod_{i:k \rightarrow R/\mathfrak{m}} \{\Gamma\}$ over $\text{FGL}(R/\mathfrak{m})$ (where the maps are $G \mapsto q^*G$ and $i \mapsto i^*\Gamma$ respectively).

Proposition 1.7.3 (/definition). *The construction $\text{Def}(R, \mathfrak{m})$ is functorial.*

Proof. Let $\varphi : (R, \mathfrak{m}) \rightarrow (S, \mathfrak{n})$ be a local homomorphism.

For a deformation (G, i) to (R, \mathfrak{m}) , we define $\text{Def}(\varphi)(G, i) = (\varphi^*G, \varphi/\mathfrak{m} \circ i)$. Note that φ^*G is a formal group law over S , and $\varphi/\mathfrak{m} \circ i : k \rightarrow R/\mathfrak{m} \rightarrow S/\mathfrak{n}$ is a homomorphism. Moreover, $(\varphi/\mathfrak{m} \circ i)^*\Gamma = (\varphi/\mathfrak{m})^*i^*\Gamma = (\varphi/\mathfrak{m})^*\pi_R^*G = (\varphi/\mathfrak{m} \circ \pi_R)^*G = (\pi_S \circ \varphi)^*G = \pi_S^*\varphi^*G$, which shows that $\text{Def}(\varphi)(G, i)$ is a deformation to (S, \mathfrak{n}) .

For a \star -isomorphism $f : (G_1, i) \rightarrow (G_2, i)$, which is the data of an isomorphism $f : G_1 \rightarrow G_2$ such that $\pi_R^*f = \text{id}_{i^*\Gamma}$ is the identity, we need to define a \star -isomorphism $\text{Def}(\varphi)(G, i_1) \rightarrow \text{Def}(\varphi)(G, i_2)$. Take it to be the isomorphism $\varphi^*f : \varphi^*G_1 \rightarrow \varphi^*G_2$, which satisfies $\pi_S^*\varphi^*f = (\varphi/\mathfrak{m})^*\pi_R^*f = (\varphi/\mathfrak{m})^*\text{id}_{i^*\Gamma} = \text{id}_{(\varphi/\mathfrak{m})^*i^*\Gamma} = \text{id}_{(\varphi/\mathfrak{m} \circ i)^*\Gamma}$. The identity $\text{id}_G : (G, i) \rightarrow (G, i)$ is clearly sent to id_{φ^*G} , and compositions are sent to compositions.

This shows that $\text{Def}(\varphi) : \text{Def}(R, \mathfrak{m}) \rightarrow \text{Def}(S, \mathfrak{n})$ is indeed a functor. Moreover, it is clear that $\text{Def}(\text{id}_R)$ is the identity and compositions are sent to compositions, which shows that $\text{Def} : \text{CompRing} \rightarrow \text{Grpds}$ is indeed a functor. \square

Remark 1.7.4. We recall quickly that the Witt vectors Wk is a ring of characteristic 0, with maximal ideal (p) , and residue field $Wk/p \cong k$. For example, $W\mathbb{F}_p = \mathbb{Z}_p^\wedge$.

Theorem 1.7.5 ([Rez, 4.4, 5.10], originally due to [LT]). *The functor Def lands in discrete groupoids (i.e. $\text{Def}(R, \mathfrak{m})$ has 0 or 1 morphisms between objects). Furthermore the functor Def is co-represented, that is there exists a universal deformation, and the complete local ring can be chosen (non-canonically) to be $Wk[[u_1, \dots, u_{n-1}]]$.*

Let us unravel what that means. First note that the quotient of $Wk[[u_1, \dots, u_{n-1}]]$ by the maximal ideal (p, u_1, \dots, u_{n-1}) is k . The universal deformation can be chosen such that the formal group law over it Γ_U over $Wk[[u_1, \dots, u_{n-1}]]$ satisfies $\pi^*\Gamma_U$ is Γ . The universality means that for (R, \mathfrak{m}) , the assignment

$$\text{hom}_{\text{CompRing}}(Wk[[u_1, \dots, u_{n-1}]], R) \rightarrow \text{Def}(R, \mathfrak{m}), \quad \varphi \mapsto \varphi^*\Gamma_U$$

is an equivalence.

Now, we can form the graded ring $Wk[[u_1, \dots, u_{n-1}]] [u^{\pm 1}]$ where $|u| = 2$. We can define the formal group law $(u\Gamma_U)(x, y) = u^{-1}\Gamma_U(uy, uz)$, which is of degree -2 , thus we get a map $L \rightarrow Wk[[u_1, \dots, u_{n-1}]] [u^{\pm 1}]$.

Proposition 1.7.6 ([Rez, 6.9]). $L \rightarrow Wk[[u_1, \dots, u_{n-1}]] [u^{\pm 1}]$ is Landweber flat.

Using LEFT 1.6.3, we immediately get:

Corollary 1.7.7. *There is a complex oriented cohomology theory $E(k, \Gamma) = E_{Wk[[u_1, \dots, u_{n-1}]] [u^{\pm 1}], u\Gamma_U}$, called Lubin-Tate spectrum, with coefficients $E(k, \Gamma)_* = Wk[[u_1, \dots, u_{n-1}]] [u^{\pm 1}]$ and associated formal group law $u\Gamma_U$.*

Example 1.7.8. We continue the complex K-theory saga from 1.6.4. Take the field $k = \mathbb{F}_p$ and the formal group law $\Gamma(y, z) = y + z + yz$, of height $n = 1$. By the above construction, the ring of the universal deformation is $W\mathbb{F}_p = \mathbb{Z}_p^\wedge$. The universal formal group law of the universal deformation can be taken to be $\Gamma_U(y, z) = y + z + yz$ (this follows from the proof at [Rez, 5.10], since here $n = 1$ so there are no u_i 's). We look at the ring $\mathbb{Z}_p^\wedge [u^{\pm 1}]$, and at the formal group law over it $(u\Gamma_U)(y, z) = u^{-1}(uy + uz + u^2yz) = y + z + uyz$. It is clear that the isomorphism $\mathbb{Z}_p^\wedge [u^{\pm 1}] \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_p^\wedge [\beta^{\pm 1}]$, sends $u\Gamma_U$ to $F_{K_p^\wedge}$. It follows that $K_p^\wedge \cong E_{K_p^\wedge, F_{K_p^\wedge}} \cong E(\mathbb{F}_p, \Gamma)$, i.e. p -complete K-theory K_p^\wedge is a Lubin-Tate spectrum at height 1.

This concludes the construction of the Lubin-Tate variant of Morava E-theory. To compare this version with the previous, we define another variant of Morava E-theory.

Definition 1.7.9. Let $I \leq E(n)_* = \mathbb{Z}_{(p)} [v_1, \dots, v_{n-1}, v_n^{\pm 1}]$ be the ideal $I = (p = v_0, v_1, \dots, v_{n-1})$. We define the spectrum $\widehat{E(n)} = E(n)_I^\wedge$, called completed Johnson-Wilson spectrum.

Theorem 1.7.10. *The following three forms of Morava E-theory are Bousfield equivalent:*

1. Johnson-Wilson $E(n)$,
2. completed Johnson-Wilson $\widehat{E(n)}$,
3. Lubin-Tate $E(k, \Gamma)$.

TODO reference Hovey Strickland Morava K-Theories and Localization 5.3

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