

# Modules over Real K-Theory and *TMF*

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- 1 Motivation and Setup
- 2 Classification of Modules over K-Theory
- 3 Modules over Topological Modular Forms

$\text{Ho}(\text{Spaces})$

$\mathrm{Ho}(\mathrm{Spaces})$

Slogan: If things are difficult, make them easier.

$\text{Ho}(\text{Spaces})$

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graph TD; A[Ho(Spaces)] --> B[Stable Homotopy Category = SHC]
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Stable Homotopy Category = SHC

$\mathrm{Ho}(\mathrm{Spaces})$



Stable Homotopy Category = SHC

$\mathrm{SHC} = \mathrm{Ho}(\mathrm{Spectra})$   
Triangulated category

Ho(Spaces)

Stable Homotopy Category = SHC

E-local Stable Homotopy Category

Let  $E_*$  be a homology theory.

Make all  $E_*$ -equivalences in SHC to isomorphisms.

$\rightsquigarrow$   $E$ -local stable homotopy category.

# Examples of Homology Theories

- Rational singular homology  $H\mathbb{Q}_*$ . For every spectrum  $X$ , have maps  $X \rightarrow Y \leftarrow \bigvee S^{n_i}$  of spectra which are  $H\mathbb{Q}_*$ -isomorphisms.  
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$$E(n)_*(\text{pt}) \cong \mathbb{Z}_{(p)}[v_1, \dots, v_n, v_n^{-1}], \quad |v_i| = 2p^i - 2$$

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- Set often  $E(0) = H\mathbb{Q}$ .
- $E(1)$  is a summand of  $KU_{(p)}$

$$\Rightarrow E(1)\text{-local SHC} \simeq KU_{(p)}\text{-local SHC}$$

## Theorem (Chromatic Convergence, Hopkins, Ravenel)

*We can recover a finite spectrum  $X$  from all its  $E(n)$ -localizations  $L_{E(n)}X$ .*

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- $n = 2$  for  $p > 3$  (Shimomura–Yabe).

- Many familiar spectra admit the structure of a commutative (symmetric) ring spectrum, e.g. all Eilenberg–MacLane spectra  $HR$  (for  $R$  a ring),  $KO$ ,  $KU$ , the bordism spectra ...

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- By Schwede–Shipley get a model structure on  $R$ -mod with homotopy category  $\text{Ho}(R\text{-mod})$ .

# Approximation by Module Spectra

$E(0)$ -local SHC

$E(1)$ -local SHC

$E(2)$ -local SHC

# Approximation by Module Spectra

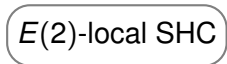
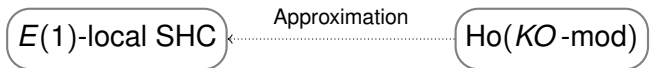
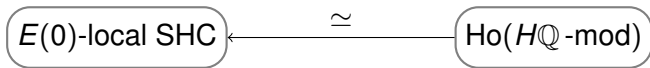
$$E(0)\text{-local SHC} \xleftarrow{\cong} \text{Ho}(H\mathbb{Q}\text{-mod})$$

$E(1)$ -local SHC

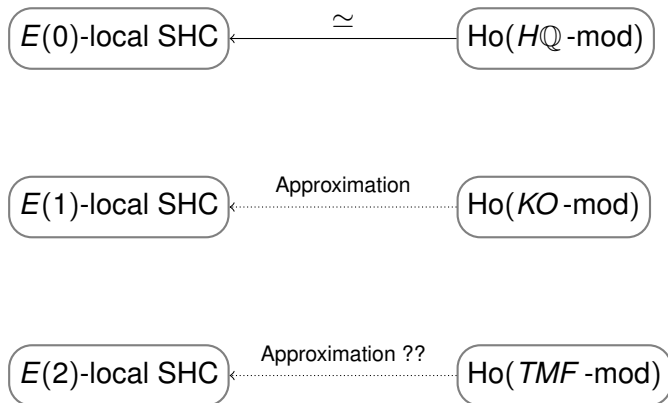
$E(2)$ -local SHC



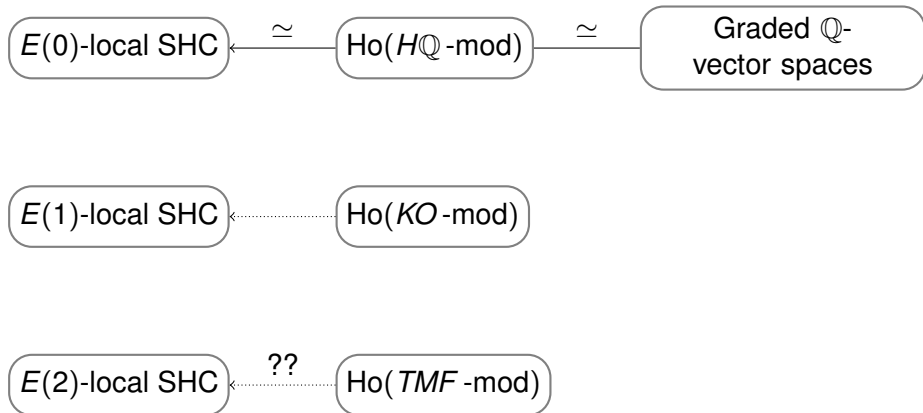
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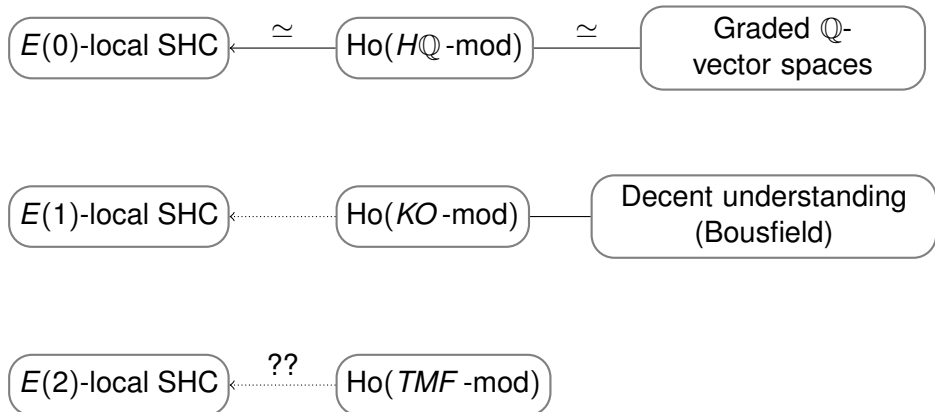
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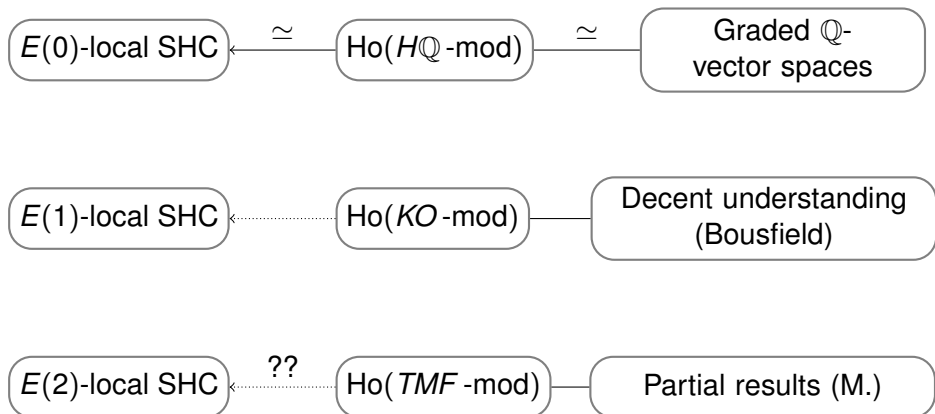
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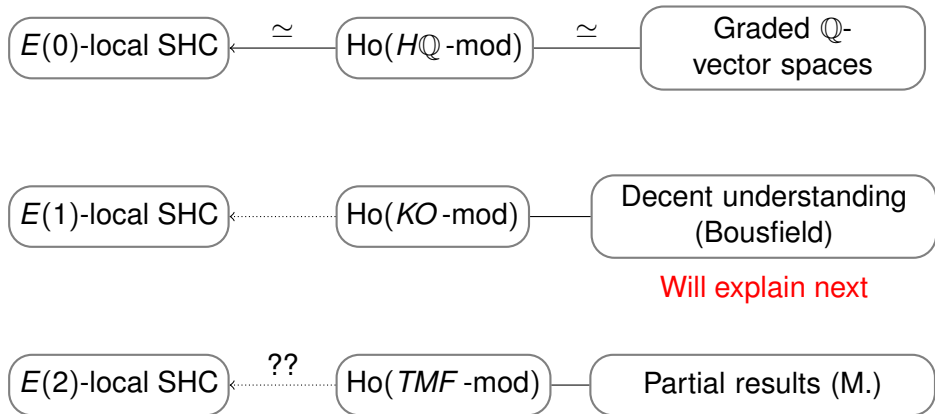
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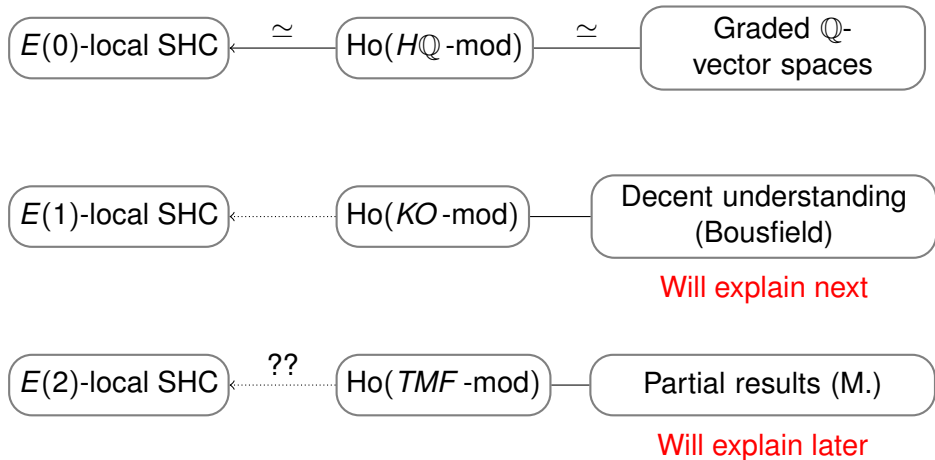
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## Definition

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- For every projective module  $P_0$  over  $\pi_*R$ , there is an  $R$ -module  $P$  with  $\pi_*P \cong P_0$ .
- Let  $P$  be a projective  $R$ -module and  $M$  be an arbitrary one. Then every  $\pi_*R$ -linear map  $\pi_*P \rightarrow \pi_*M$  is induced by a map  $P \rightarrow M$ , which is unique up to homotopy.

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Upshot: The homotopy category of projective  $R$ -modules is equivalent to the category of projective  $\pi_*R$ -modules.

# Modules over $KU$

We have  $\pi_* KU \cong \mathbb{Z}[B_C, B_C^{-1}]$  with  $|B_C| = 2$ . So for  $M$  a  $KU$ -module, we have two-term free resolutions

$$0 \longrightarrow F_1 \longrightarrow F_0 \longrightarrow \pi_* M \longrightarrow 0.$$

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$\rightsquigarrow$  Understanding of  $KU$ -modules:

- $\text{Ho}(KU\text{-mod}) \simeq \mathcal{D}(\pi_* KU\text{-grmod})$
- Two  $KU$ -modules are isomorphic in  $\text{Ho}(KU\text{-mod})$  iff their homotopy groups agree.

## Question:

How about  $KO$ -modules?

$$\pi_* KO \cong \mathbb{Z}[\eta, \xi, B_R^{\pm 1}] / (\xi^2 = 4B_R, \eta^3 = 0, \eta\xi = 0, 2\eta = 0)$$

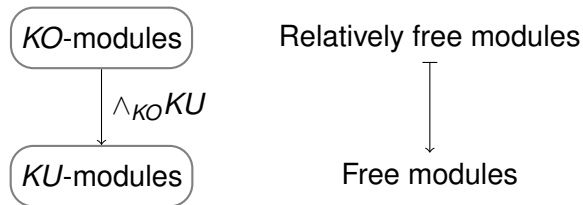
8-periodic

8	□	$B_R$
7		
6		
5		
4	□	$\xi$
3		
2	•	$\eta^2$
1	•	$\eta$
0	□	1

This has infinite homological dimension, so projective resolutions may be arbitrarily long.

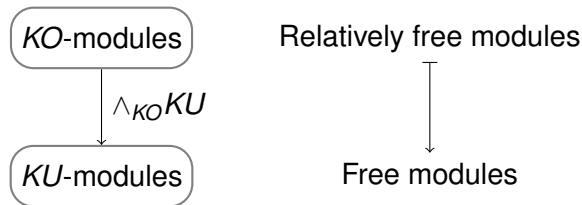
Strategy doesn't work!

# Relatively Free Modules



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Easy to see: For every  $M \in KO\text{-mod}$  exists cofiber sequence

$$R_1 \longrightarrow R_0 \longrightarrow M$$

with  $R_0, R_1$  relatively free.



# Examples of Relatively Free Modules

Recall:  $\eta \in \pi_1 KO$ . Multiplication by  $\eta$  gives cofiber sequence

$$\Sigma KO \xrightarrow{\eta} KO \longrightarrow KO \wedge C(\eta) \longrightarrow \Sigma^2 KO$$

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Since  $\pi_* KU$  is torsionfree and  $\eta$  is torsion,  $\eta_{KU} = 0$

$\Rightarrow$  The cofiber sequence splits:  $KU \wedge C(\eta) \simeq KU \oplus \Sigma^2 KU$

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$\Rightarrow KO \wedge C(\eta)$  is **relatively free**.

In general: If we cone off a torsion element from a relatively free module, get a relatively free module again.

# Classification of Relatively Free Modules

## Theorem (Bousfield)

*Every relatively free (finite)  $KO$ -module can be obtained by iteratively coning off torsion elements.*

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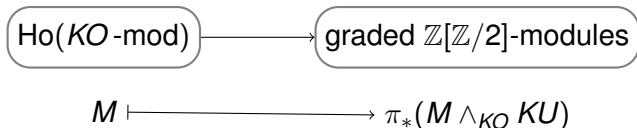
*All such modules are sums of suspensions of  $KO$ ,  $KO \wedge C(\eta)$  and  $KO \wedge C(\eta^2)$ .*

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Crucial:



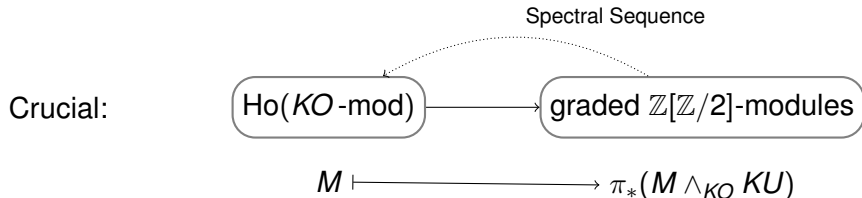
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- We get  $TMF$  as the global sections  $\mathcal{O}^{top}(\mathcal{M}^{ell})$ . This is the **spectrum of topological modular forms**.
- We have a morphism

$$\pi_* TMF \longrightarrow \begin{array}{c} \text{Ring of modular forms} \\ \mathbb{Z}[c_4, c_6, \Delta^{\pm 1}] / (c_4^3 - c_6^2 = 1728\Delta). \end{array}$$

This becomes an isomorphism after inverting 2 and 3.

# Homological Dimensions

- For  $p > 3$ , the ring  $\pi_* TMF_{(p)} \cong \mathbb{Z}_{(p)}[c_4, c_6, \Delta^{-1}]$ , has homological dimension 2. This can be used to show:  
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$KO$	$TMF$
$KU$	$TMF(2)$

$$\pi_* TMF(2) \cong \mathbb{Z}_{(3)}[x_2, y_2, \Delta^{-1}]$$



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For every  $TMF$ -module  $M$ , there exist cofiber sequences

$$N \longrightarrow R_0 \longrightarrow M$$

$$R_2 \longrightarrow R_1 \longrightarrow N$$

such that  $R_0$ ,  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are relatively projective.

# Types of Relatively Projective Modules

## Two moves

- If  $M$  is a relatively projective module,  $a \in \pi_* M$  torsion, the cone of  $\Sigma^{|a|} TMF \xrightarrow{a} M$  is a relatively projective module of one rank higher.
- There may be a map  $\Sigma^{|x|} TMF \rightarrow M$  such that its cone is a relatively projective module of rank less.

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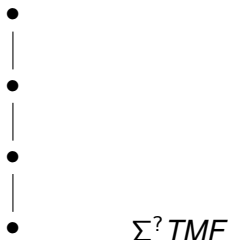
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- If  $M$  is a relatively projective module,  $a \in \pi_* M$  torsion, the cone of  $\Sigma^{|a|} TMF \xrightarrow{a} M$  is a relatively projective module of one rank higher.
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Coning off torsion elements



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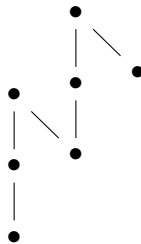
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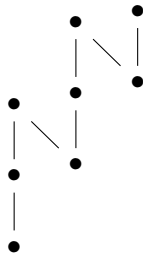
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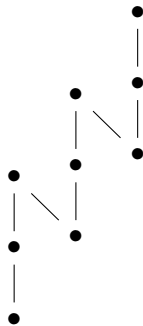
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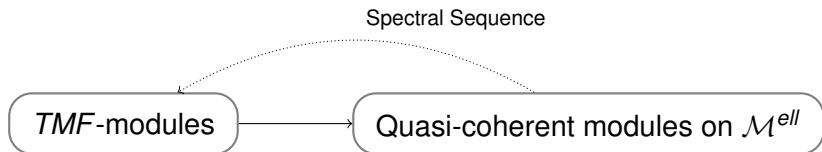


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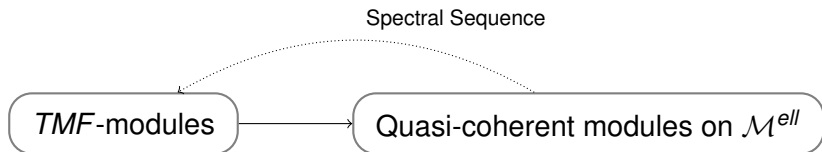


# Vector Bundles



Relatively projective modules  $\dashrightarrow$  Vector bundles on  $\mathcal{M}^{ell}$

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Relatively projective modules  $\longmapsto$  Vector bundles on  $\mathcal{M}^{ell}$

- Here, a quasi-coherent module is called a **vector bundle** if it is locally free.

# Towards a Classification of Relatively Projective Modules?

## Theorem (Hook Theorem)

*Let  $M$  be a relatively projective finite  $TMF$ -module. Assume that the vector bundle associated to  $M$  is “nice”. Then  $M$  is a hook module.*

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Thank you for your attention!

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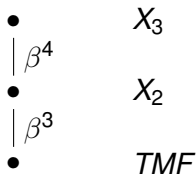
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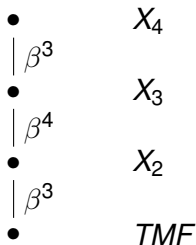
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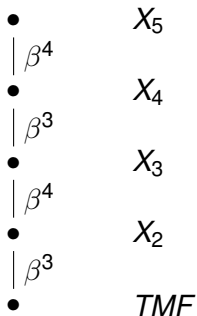
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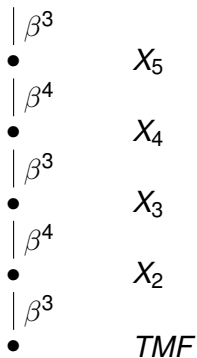
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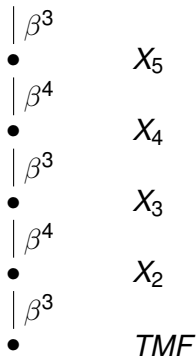
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- $X_k$  is not decomposable into modules of smaller rank that one gets by coning off iteratively torsion elements from  $\Sigma^? TMF$ .
- If  $X_k$  is decomposable, then into hook modules.