

THE HOMOTOPY OF THE KU_G -LOCAL EQUIVARIANT SPHERE SPECTRUM

TANNER N. CARAWAN, REBECCA FIELD, BERTRAND J. GUILLOU, DAVID MEHRLE,
AND NATHANIEL J. STAPLETON

ABSTRACT. We compute the homotopy Mackey functors of the KU_G -local equivariant sphere spectrum when G is a finite q -group for an odd prime q , building on the degree zero case from [BGS].

1. INTRODUCTION

Work of Adams–Baird (unpublished) [Ad] and Ravenel [Ra, Theorems 8.10, 8.15], (cf. [Bo, Corollaries 4.5, 4.6]) calculates the homotopy groups of the sphere spectrum localized at complex K -theory.

Both the sphere spectrum \mathbb{S} and the complex K -theory spectrum KU admit equivariant refinements. It is natural to ask if the calculation of Adams–Baird and Ravenel can be done equivariantly. When q is an odd prime and G is a finite q -group, Bonventre and the third and fifth authors calculated the homotopy Mackey functor $\pi_0 L_{KU_G} \mathbb{S}_G$ of the localization of the equivariant sphere spectrum \mathbb{S}_G with respect to equivariant complex K -theory KU_G [BGS, Theorem 1.1]. In this paper, we calculate the remaining homotopy Mackey functors of this localization: $\pi_n L_{KU_G} \mathbb{S}_G$ for $n \neq 0$.

Theorem 1.1. *Let G be a q -group for an odd prime q , and let ℓ be any integer that is primitive mod $|G|$. The homotopy Mackey functors of the KU_G -local equivariant sphere spectrum $L_{KU_G} \mathbb{S}_G$ are as in the table below.*

n	$\pi_n L_{KU_G} \mathbb{S}_G$
0	$\underline{RQ} \otimes (\mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z}/2)^\dagger$
−2	$\text{coker}(\underline{RU} \xrightarrow{\psi^\ell - 1} \underline{RU}) \otimes \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z}$
$8k \neq 0$ or $8k + 2$	$\underline{RQ} \otimes \mathbb{Z}/2$
$2k - 1 \neq -1$	$\underline{RQ} \otimes \pi_{2k-1} L_{KU} \mathbb{S}[\frac{1}{q}] \oplus \text{coker}(\underline{RU}_q^\wedge \{\beta^k\} \xrightarrow{\psi^\ell - 1} \underline{RU}_q^\wedge \{\beta^k\})$
otherwise	0

\dagger [BGS, Theorem 1.1]

The structure of the cokernel of $\psi^\ell - 1$ is described in Proposition 3.7.

Remark 1.2. These homotopy groups are independent of the choice of ℓ , so long as it is primitive modulo $|G|$.

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To perform this computation, we make use of a fiber sequence of equivariant spectra involving Adams operations. For G any odd q -group and ℓ primitive mod $|G|$, there is a fiber sequence

$$L_{KU_G/q}\mathbb{S}_G \longrightarrow (KU_G)_q^\wedge \xrightarrow{\psi^\ell - 1} (KU_G)_q^\wedge. \quad (1.3)$$

To use this to understand the homotopy Mackey functors of $L_{KU_G/q}\mathbb{S}_G$, one must contend with the action of $\psi^\ell - 1$ on the homotopy Mackey functors of KU_G . Recall that $\pi_*KU_G \cong RU[\beta, \beta^{-1}]$, where $|\beta| = 2$ and that ψ^ℓ is a ring map with $\psi^\ell(\beta) = \ell\beta$. It is not too hard to see that the kernel of $\psi^\ell - 1: \pi_{2k}KU_G \rightarrow \pi_{2k}KU_G$ is trivial for $k \neq 0$. Thus the question is really to understand the cokernel of $\psi^\ell - 1$. We accomplish this in Section 3, where we give an explicit description of the values of the Mackey functor $\text{coker}(\psi^\ell - 1)$. With these in hand, we then use the arithmetic fracture square to obtain the global calculation in Section 4.

1.1. Conventions. Throughout this paper, we fix an odd prime q and a finite q -group G . The integer ℓ will always be assumed to be coprime to the order of G , and at times ℓ will furthermore be assumed to be primitive modulo $|G| = q^j$. For $j > 2$, this is equivalent to requiring j to be primitive modulo q^2 (see, for example, [N, Lemma 1.10]).

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2. PRELIMINARIES

2.1. Representation rings and Green functors. Recall the following commutative rings associated to G :

- The complex (resp. rational) representation ring $RU(G)$ (resp. $R\mathbb{Q}(G)$) is the Grothendieck group of isomorphism classes of finite-dimensional complex (resp. rational) G -representations under direct sum. The product is induced by the tensor product of G -representations.
- The ring of complex-valued class functions $\text{Cl}(G, \mathbb{C})$ is the ring of functions $G \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ which are constant on conjugacy classes of elements in G .

These rings are related by the following pair of ring homomorphisms:

$$R\mathbb{Q}(G) \longrightarrow RU(G) \xleftarrow{\chi} \text{Cl}(G, \mathbb{C})$$

The first of these homomorphisms is base change from \mathbb{Q} to \mathbb{C} , and the second is the character map. In particular, note that the character map $\chi: RU(G) \rightarrow \text{Cl}(G, \mathbb{C})$ is injective and embeds the complex representation ring as a subring of the ring of class functions. It will occasionally be convenient to calculate in the image of the character map rather than with complex representations themselves.

These four commutative rings can all be upgraded to Green functors. We denote the Green functor versions of these rings by underlining them; for example, $\underline{R\mathbb{Q}}$ is the Green functor with $\underline{R\mathbb{Q}}(G/H) = R\mathbb{Q}(H)$. The same relationships hold among the Green functors as do among the commutative rings: there is a sequence of Green functor homomorphisms

$$\underline{R\mathbb{Q}} \longrightarrow \underline{RU} \xleftarrow{\chi} \underline{Cl}$$

Let $A(G)$ be the Burnside ring of G , and let \underline{A} be the Burnside ring G -functor. There is a Green functor homomorphism $\underline{A} \rightarrow \underline{R\mathbb{Q}}$ given levelwise by taking a finite G -set to the

associated permutation representation. When G is a p -group, the Ritter–Segal theorem [Ri, Seg2] says that $\underline{A} \rightarrow \underline{RQ}$ is surjective; we name its kernel \underline{J} and deduce an isomorphism $\underline{A}/\underline{J} \cong \underline{RQ}$. The ideal $J(\overline{G})$ admits a nice description as the ideal of $A(G)$ generated by all virtual G -sets X such that $|X^g| = 0$ for all $g \in G$. The article [BGS] uses the notation $\underline{A}/\underline{J}$ throughout, but here we use the simpler notation \underline{RQ} .

2.2. Equivariant homotopy theory. Let Sp^G denote the category of genuine equivariant G -spectra. Examples include the G -equivariant sphere spectrum \mathbb{S}_G and the G -spectrum of G -equivariant complex topological K -theory KU_G .

The homotopy of genuine G -spectra is naturally Mackey-functor valued. For the primary spectra in question in this paper, we have

$$\pi_0 \mathbb{S}_G = \underline{A} \quad \text{and} \quad \pi_* KU_G = \underline{RU}[\beta, \beta^{-1}] \quad \text{with} \quad |\beta| = 2.$$

If E and X are G -spectra, let $L_E X$ denote the Bousfield localization of X at E . In particular, when $E = \mathbb{S}_G/p$ and X is any spectrum, this localization is the p -completion of X , denoted by $X_p^\wedge := L_{\mathbb{S}_G/p} X$. If X is already a localization $X = L_E Y$, the localization of X at \mathbb{S}_G/p may be written

$$L_{E/p} Y = L_{\mathbb{S}_G/p} L_E Y.$$

When $E = \mathbb{S}_G \wedge H\mathbb{Q}$ is the rational equivariant sphere, we obtain the rationalization of X , denoted $X \otimes \mathbb{Q} := L_{H\mathbb{Q} \otimes \underline{A}} X$.

The p -completion and the rationalization are related by a homotopy pullback square of G -spectra, called the arithmetic fracture square. When $X = L_{KU_G} \mathbb{S}_G$, this is the square:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} L_{KU_G} \mathbb{S}_G & \longrightarrow & \prod_p L_{KU_{G/p}} \mathbb{S}_G \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \mathbb{Q} \otimes L_{KU_G} \mathbb{S}_G & \longrightarrow & \mathbb{Q} \otimes \prod_p L_{KU_{G/p}} \mathbb{S}_G. \end{array} \quad (2.1)$$

See [DFHH, Proposition 2.2 of Chapter 6] for a general version of the arithmetic square, from which (2.1) can be deduced. This is a useful tool for computing homotopy of G -spectra.

3. THE COKERNEL OF $\psi^\ell - 1$ ACTING ON $\pi_* KU_G$

Recall that for $\ell \in \mathbb{Z}$ the Adams operation $\psi^\ell: KU_G(X) \rightarrow KU_G(X)$ is a ring homomorphism natural in the G -space X . In this section, we analyze $\psi^\ell - 1$ as a map on the complex representation ring of G and on related objects. Recall Section 1.1: the integer ℓ will always be assumed to be coprime to the order of G , and at times ℓ will furthermore be assumed to be primitive modulo $|G| = q^j$. The following is Exercise 9.4 of [Ser].

Lemma 3.1. *The Adams operation $\psi^\ell: RU(G) \rightarrow RU(G)$ permutes the basis of irreducible representations if ℓ is coprime to $|G|$.*

Proof. Recall that a class function χ is the character of an irreducible representation if and only if $\chi(e) \geq 0$ and $\langle \chi, \chi \rangle = 1$. On a class function f , the Adams operation ψ^ℓ acts as $\psi^\ell(f)(g) = f(g^\ell)$. Since ℓ is coprime to $|G|$, every element has an ℓ th root, so that the ℓ th power determines a bijection on G . It follows that the Adams operation preserves the inner product. \square

Lemma 3.2. *Suppose that ℓ is coprime to $|G|$. The Adams operation ψ^ℓ on \underline{RU} is a homomorphism of Green functors.*

Proof. The Adams operation ψ^ℓ is a levelwise ring homomorphism, and it is straightforward that ψ^ℓ commutes with restriction. The main point is to show that ψ^ℓ commutes with induction of representations. To see this, we can use the character map to embed \underline{RU} into the Green functor of class functions. As this is levelwise an injection, it suffices to see that ψ^ℓ commutes with induction for class functions. Here, the formula (see [Ser, Section 7.2] is

$$\mathrm{Ind}_H^G(f)(g) = \frac{1}{|H|} \sum_{\substack{\gamma \in G, \\ \gamma^{-1}g\gamma \in H}} f(\gamma^{-1}g\gamma).$$

As $\psi^\ell(f)(g) = f(g^\ell)$, comparing the formula for $\psi^\ell \mathrm{Ind}_H^G(f)$ at g with $\mathrm{Ind}_H^G(\psi^\ell f)$ at g , one finds that they differ only in that the former sums over $\gamma^{-1}g^\ell\gamma$ in H , whereas the latter sums over $\gamma^{-1}g\gamma$ in H . Since the ℓ th power is a bijection on H , as in the proof of Lemma 3.1, the two sums are the same. \square

We next consider the endomorphism $\psi^\ell - 1$ on \underline{RU} . This will later appear as the endomorphism $\psi^\ell - 1$ on the nonnegative homotopy Mackey functors of KU_G , whose \mathbb{Z} -graded homotopy Mackey functors are $\underline{RU}[\beta^{\pm 1}]$, with β in degree 2. Recall that ψ^ℓ acts on β^d as multiplication by ℓ^d [A, Proposition 3.2.2].

Proposition 3.3. *Suppose that ℓ is coprime to $|G|$. The Mackey functor homomorphism $\psi^\ell - 1: \underline{RU}\{\beta^d\} \rightarrow \underline{RU}\{\beta^d\}$ is injective for $d > 0$.*

Proof. This proceeds as the proof of [BGS, Proposition 6.8]. It suffices to show that this homomorphism is levelwise injective. By Lemma 3.1, ψ^ℓ acts by permuting the basis of irreducibles in $RU(G)$. If S is the associated permutation matrix, then $\psi^\ell - 1$ acts by $\ell^d S - I$, where I is the identity matrix. To show that this matrix is injective as a linear transformation, it suffices to show that it has a nonzero determinant.

If $d > 0$, this is a matrix with integer entries and $\det(\ell^d S - I) \equiv (-1)^m \pmod{\ell}$, where m is the number of rows of S . Therefore, $\det(\ell^d S - I) = a\ell + (-1)^m$ for some $a \in \mathbb{Z}$ (note that $\ell \geq 2$). In particular, it is nonzero. \square

Remark 3.4. The statement of Proposition 3.3 in the case $d = 0$ does not hold. Indeed, [BGS, Proposition 6.7] identifies the kernel of $\psi^\ell - 1$ on $RU(G)$ as $R\mathbb{Q}(G)$.

The result also holds for negative d , but there ℓ must be invertible in order to define ψ^ℓ on $\underline{RU}\{\beta^d\}$. We therefore pass to q -completion, as this will be the case in which this homomorphism is later considered.

Corollary 3.5. *Suppose that ℓ is coprime to $|G|$. The Mackey functor homomorphism $\psi^\ell - 1: \underline{RU}_q^\wedge\{\beta^d\} \rightarrow \underline{RU}_q^\wedge\{\beta^d\}$ is injective for $d \neq 0$.*

Proof. In the case that d is positive, this follows from Proposition 3.3 by flat base change along $\mathbb{Z} \hookrightarrow \mathbb{Z}_q^\wedge$. For $d < 0$, we argue as in Proposition 3.3. First, $\det(\ell^d S - I) = (\ell^d)^r \det(S - \ell^{-d}I)$, where r is the number of rows in the matrix. Now $S - \ell^{-d}I$ is an integer matrix with $\det(S - \ell^{-d}I) \equiv \det(S) \pmod{\ell}$. The permutation matrix S has nonzero determinant, so $\ell^d S - I$ does as well. \square

Having considered the kernel, we now turn to the cokernel. In order to get a closed form answer, we again pass to completions, first completing at q in Proposition 3.7 and then completing away from q in Proposition 3.11.

Notation 3.6. We will write $\underline{\text{cok}}\{d\}$ for the cokernel of $\psi^\ell - 1: \underline{RU}\{\beta^d\} \rightarrow \underline{RU}\{\beta^d\}$. We will also write $\underline{\text{cok}}_p^\wedge\{d\} = \underline{\text{cok}}\{d\} \otimes \mathbb{Z}_p^\wedge$ for the cokernel of $\psi^\ell - 1: \underline{RU}_p^\wedge\{\beta^d\} \rightarrow \underline{RU}_p^\wedge\{\beta^d\}$, and similarly for the q -complete version. When $d = 0$, we sometimes drop the degree from the notation and simply write $\underline{\text{cok}}$ or $\underline{\text{cok}}_p^\wedge$.

Proposition 3.7. *Let ℓ be primitive mod $|G| = q^j$. The Mackey functor $\underline{\text{cok}}_q^\wedge\{d\}$ is given at level G/H by:*

(a) for $d \neq 0$,

$$\underline{\text{cok}}_q^\wedge\{d\} \cong \bigoplus_{\text{cyclic } [C]} \mathbb{Z} / q^{\nu_q(\ell^{d\varphi(|C|)} - 1)},$$

where the direct sum runs over conjugacy classes of cyclic subgroups C of H , φ is Euler's totient function, and ν_q is the q -adic valuation. When $|C| = q^k$ with $k \neq 0$, then

$$\nu_q(\ell^{d\varphi(|C|)} - 1) = k + \nu_q(d).$$

(b) for $d = 0$,

$$\underline{\text{cok}}_q^\wedge \cong \bigoplus_{\text{cyclic } [C]} \mathbb{Z}_q^\wedge,$$

where the direct sum again runs over conjugacy classes of cyclic subgroups C of H .

The restriction and transfer in the cokernel are inherited from those in \underline{RU}_q^\wedge .

Proof. The cokernel is computed levelwise; at level G/H , we have

$$\psi^\ell - 1: \underline{RU}(H)_q^\wedge\{\beta^d\} \rightarrow \underline{RU}(H)_q^\wedge\{\beta^d\}.$$

By Lemma 3.1, the Adams operation ψ^ℓ permutes the basis of irreducibles of $\underline{RU}(H)$, and it continues to do so after flat base change along $\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_q^\wedge$. As in the proof of Proposition 3.3, $\psi^\ell - 1$ acts by a matrix $\ell^d S - I$, where S is a permutation matrix and I the identity matrix. Reordering the basis of irreducibles if necessary, this becomes a block-diagonal matrix with blocks

$$\begin{bmatrix} -1 & \ell^d & & & & \\ & -1 & \ell^d & & & \\ & & \ddots & \ddots & & \\ & & & -1 & \ell^d & \\ \ell^d & & & & -1 & \end{bmatrix} \sim \begin{bmatrix} 1 & & & & & \\ & 1 & & & & \\ & & \ddots & & & \\ & & & 1 & & \\ & & & & \ell^{dt} - 1 & \end{bmatrix}$$

which are equivalent to diagonal matrices as shown above, using a combination of row and column operations, where t is the number of rows in this block. When $d \neq 0$, each block contributes a factor of $\mathbb{Z}_q^\wedge / (\ell^{dt} - 1)$ to the cokernel. When $d = 0$, each block contributes a factor of \mathbb{Z}_q^\wedge .

It remains to count the number of blocks and their sizes. Each block corresponds to a ψ^ℓ -orbit of irreducibles in $\underline{RU}(H)$. Since $\underline{RU}(H)$ is a free \mathbb{Z} -module of finite rank, we may base change to \mathbb{C} and view the resulting ring as a $\mathbb{C}[\psi^\ell]$ -module. Since the character map $\mathbb{C} \otimes \underline{RU}(H) \rightarrow \text{Cl}(H, \mathbb{C})$ is a map of $\mathbb{C}[\psi^\ell]$ -modules and $\mathbb{C}[\psi^\ell]$ is a PID, it suffices to understand the orbits of the ψ^ℓ action on a basis for class functions. The Adams operation acts on class functions by $\psi^\ell(f)(g) = f(g^\ell)$. Consider the basis of $\text{Cl}(H, \mathbb{C})$ given by the indicator functions $1_{[g]}$. Since ℓ is primitive mod $|H|$, two indicator functions $1_{[g]}$ and $1_{[h]}$ are in the same ψ^ℓ -orbit if and only if g and h generate conjugate cyclic subgroups of H . Hence, there are as many ψ^ℓ -orbits as the number of conjugacy classes of cyclic subgroups of

G . The size of an orbit is the number of generators for a cyclic subgroup; if C is a nontrivial cyclic subgroup of G with $|C| = q^k$, this is $\varphi(q^k) = q^k - q^{k-1} = q^{k-1}(q-1)$.

Finally, we must understand

$$\mathbb{Z}_q^\wedge / (\ell^{d(q-1)q^{k-1}} - 1) \cong \mathbb{Z} / q^{\nu_q(\ell^{d(q-1)q^{k-1}} - 1)}.$$

For this, we need to know the largest value r such that $\ell^{d(q-1)q^{k-1}} \equiv 1 \pmod{q^r}$. It helps to work additively. There is an isomorphism of abelian groups $(\mathbb{Z}/q^r)^\times \cong \mathbb{Z}/((q-1)q^{r-1})$. Since ℓ is a generator of $(\mathbb{Z}/q^r)^\times$, it maps to a generator of the right hand side. Since $dq^{k-1}(q-1) \equiv 0 \pmod{(q-1)q^{r-1}}$ when $r \leq k + \nu_q(d)$, we have

$$\nu_q(\ell^{d(q-1)q^{k-1}} - 1) = k + \nu_q(d).$$

So if C is a nontrivial cyclic subgroup of order q^k , then the ψ^ℓ -orbit corresponding to the conjugacy class of C contributes a factor of

$$\mathbb{Z}_q^\wedge / (\ell^{d(q-1)q^{k-1}} - 1) \cong \mathbb{Z} / q^{k+\nu_q(d)}.$$

The trivial cyclic subgroup contributes $\mathbb{Z}_q^\wedge / (\ell^d - 1) \cong \mathbb{Z} / q^{\nu_q(\ell^d - 1)}$. \square

Remark 3.8. The formula for the cokernel of $\psi^\ell - 1$ in the case $d = 0$ holds integrally, before passage to q -completion, as can be seen from the proof.

Levelwise, the formula for $\underline{\text{cok}}_q^\wedge$ suggests that it is a quotient of $(R\mathbb{Q})_q^\wedge$. We show in Example 3.9 that this Mackey functor is not a cyclic \underline{A}_q^\wedge -module.

Example 3.9. We calculate $\underline{\text{cok}}_q^\wedge$ for $G = C_{q^2}$. Recall the representation ring Green functor \underline{RU}_q^\wedge :

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathbb{Z}_q^\wedge[x]/(x^{q^2} - 1) & & \\ \begin{array}{c} \curvearrowright \\ x \mapsto y \\ \curvearrowleft \end{array} & & \begin{array}{c} \curvearrowright \\ y^k \mapsto \sum_{i=0}^{q-1} x^{iq+k} \\ \curvearrowleft \end{array} \\ \mathbb{Z}_q^\wedge[y]/(y^q - 1) & & \\ \begin{array}{c} \curvearrowright \\ y \mapsto 1 \\ \curvearrowleft \end{array} & & \begin{array}{c} \curvearrowright \\ 1 \mapsto \sum_{i=0}^{q-1} y^i \\ \curvearrowleft \end{array} \\ \mathbb{Z}_q^\wedge & & \end{array}$$

Here, y is the class of the C_q -representation where the generator acts on the complex plane by a q -th root of unity, and x is the class of the C_{q^2} -representation where the generator acts by a primitive q^2 root of unity. Since these are one-dimensional complex representations, the Adams operation takes y to y^ℓ and x to x^ℓ . Hence, the Mackey functor homomorphism

$\psi^\ell - 1$ takes the form

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \mathbb{Z}_q^\wedge[x]/(x^{q^2} - 1) & \xrightarrow{x^k \mapsto x^{k\ell} - x^k} & \mathbb{Z}_q^\wedge[x]/(x^{q^2} - 1) \\
 \text{res}_{C_q^{q^2}} \left(\begin{array}{c} \curvearrowright \\ \downarrow \\ \text{tr}_{C_q^{q^2}} \end{array} \right) & & \text{res}_{C_q^{q^2}} \left(\begin{array}{c} \curvearrowright \\ \downarrow \\ \text{tr}_{C_q^{q^2}} \end{array} \right) \\
 \mathbb{Z}_q^\wedge[y]/(y^q - 1) & \xrightarrow{y^k \mapsto y^{k\ell} - y^k} & \mathbb{Z}_q^\wedge[y]/(y^q - 1) \\
 \text{res}_e^{C_q} \left(\begin{array}{c} \curvearrowright \\ \downarrow \\ \text{tr}_e^{C_q} \end{array} \right) & & \text{res}_e^{C_q} \left(\begin{array}{c} \curvearrowright \\ \downarrow \\ \text{tr}_e^{C_q} \end{array} \right) \\
 \mathbb{Z}_q^\wedge & \xrightarrow{0} & \mathbb{Z}_q^\wedge \\
 \underline{RU}_q^\wedge & \xrightarrow{\psi^\ell - 1} & \underline{RU}_q^\wedge
 \end{array}$$

At the C_q -level, the quotient by the image of $\psi^\ell - 1$ identifies all nontrivial representations because ℓ is primitive mod q . At the top level, the quotient places the nontrivial representations into two classes: the class of x and the class of x^q . Hence, the cokernel is:

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \mathbb{Z}_q^\wedge\{1, x, x^q\} \\
 \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \left(\begin{array}{c} \curvearrowright \\ \downarrow \\ \text{tr}_{C_q^{q^2}} \end{array} \right) \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & q \\ q-1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \\
 \mathbb{Z}_q^\wedge\{1, y\} \\
 \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \left(\begin{array}{c} \curvearrowright \\ \downarrow \\ \text{tr}_e^{C_q} \end{array} \right) \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ q-1 \end{pmatrix} \\
 \mathbb{Z}_q^\wedge \\
 \underline{\text{cok}}_3^\wedge
 \end{array}$$

This Mackey functor is not free; it contains a copy of the Burnside Mackey functor generated by the element 1 at the top level, and the quotient by this subfunctor has q -torsion.

If H is not cyclic, there exists a surjection $\theta: H \rightarrow C_q \times C_q$. In Lemma 3.14, we will show that $q \in RU(C_q \times C_q)$ lies in the image of transfers from proper subgroups. A double coset formula yields the commuting diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \bigoplus_{C \not\leq C_q \times C_q} RU(C) & \xrightarrow{\theta^*} & \bigoplus_{C \not\leq C_q \times C_q} RU(\theta^{-1}C) \\ \downarrow \text{tr} & & \downarrow \text{tr} \\ RU(C_q \times C_q) & \xrightarrow{\theta^*} & RU(H). \end{array}$$

Since θ^* is a ring homomorphism, $\theta^*(q) = q$. This shows that $q \in RU(H)$ lies in the image of transfers from proper subgroups. Since q becomes a unit after p -completion, $V_H(\underline{RU}_p^\wedge)$ is the quotient of $\underline{RU}_p^\wedge(H)$ by the unit ideal and therefore vanishes. The rational version of this statement appears, for example, in [T, Section 9].

We have seen that

$$V_H(\underline{RU}_p^\wedge) = \begin{cases} \mathbb{Z}_p^\wedge[x]/\phi_{q^k}(x) & H \text{ cyclic and } |H| = q^k, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

where $\phi_{q^k}(x)$ is the q^k -th cyclotomic polynomial. Hence, it remains to determine the cokernel of

$$\mathbb{Z}_p^\wedge[x]/\phi_{q^k}(x) \xrightarrow{\psi^\ell - 1} \mathbb{Z}_p^\wedge[x]/\phi_{q^k}(x) \quad (3.13)$$

We may write $\mathbb{Z}_p^\wedge[x]/\phi_{q^k}(x) \cong \mathbb{Z}_p^\wedge\{x, x^2, x^3, \dots, x^{(q-1)q^{k-1}}\}$. The Adams operation ψ^ℓ cyclically permutes the $q-1$ powers of $x^{q^{k-1}}$ in this basis. Thus we may decompose

$$\mathbb{Z}_p^\wedge[x]/\phi_{q^k}(x) \cong A \oplus B$$

as a $\mathbb{Z}_p^\wedge[\psi^\ell]$ -module, where

$$A = \mathbb{Z}_p^\wedge\{x^{iq^{k-1}} \mid 1 \leq i \leq q-1\}$$

and

$$B = \mathbb{Z}_p^\wedge\{x^n \mid q^{k-1} \text{ does not divide } n, 1 \leq n < (q-1)q^{k-1}\}.$$

It then follows that the cokernel of $\psi^\ell - 1$ on A gives \mathbb{Z}_p^\wedge . We claim that on B the cokernel vanishes.

Primitivity of ℓ ensures that in $RU(C_{q^k}) \cong \mathbb{Z}[x]/(x^{q^k} - 1)$, two monomials x^{n_1} and x^{n_2} are in the same ψ^ℓ -orbit if and only if n_1 and n_2 have the same q -adic valuation, where n_1 and n_2 are both assumed to be less than q^k . It then follows that in the cokernel of $\psi^\ell - 1$ on $RU(C_{q^k})$, the polynomial $\phi_{q^k}(x) \cdot x^n$ is equivalent to $q \cdot x^n$, so long as n is not divisible by q^{k-1} . Thus in the cokernel of $\psi^\ell - 1$ on the quotient ring $\mathbb{Z}[x]/\phi_{q^k}(x)$, there is a relation $q \cdot x^n = 0$ when n is not divisible by q^{k-1} . In particular, after completing at p , which is different from q , it follows that x^n vanishes in the cokernel of $\psi^\ell - 1$ on $\mathbb{Z}[x]/\phi_{q^k}(x)$.

Hence, cok_p^\wedge corresponds to \mathbb{Z}_p^\wedge supported on the cyclic subgroups, and under the equivalence of categories, this is the same as $(\underline{RQ})_p^\wedge$. Since the equivalence (3.12) preserves and creates cokernels, we are done. \square

Lemma 3.14. *The ideal of $RU(C_q \times C_q)$ generated by transfers from proper subgroups contains q .*

Proof. Let $H = C_q \times C_q$. The representation ring of H is isomorphic as a commutative ring to $\mathbb{Z}[x, y]/(x^q - 1, y^q - 1)$, where x and y are the classes of rotation representations of the left and right factors, respectively. If K is the subgroup of H generated by an element (γ^i, γ^j) with $i \neq 0$, then

$$\mathrm{tr}_K^H(1) = \sum_{k=0}^{q-1} (x^i y^j)^k.$$

We claim that

$$q = \sum_{K \leq H} \mathrm{tr}_K^H(1) - \mathrm{tr}_L^H(1) \cdot \mathrm{tr}_R^H(1),$$

where L is the subgroup generated by (γ, e) and R is the subgroup generated by (e, γ) . This is a calculation. Recall that H has $q + 1$ distinct subgroups of order q : the subgroup R generated by (e, γ) , and subgroups generated by elements (γ, γ^j) for $j = 0, 1, \dots, q - 1$.

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{K \leq H} \mathrm{tr}_K^H(1) - \mathrm{tr}_L^H(1) \cdot \mathrm{tr}_R^H(1) \\ &= \sum_{j=0}^{q-1} \mathrm{tr}_{\langle(\gamma, \gamma^j)\rangle}^H(1) + \mathrm{tr}_R^H(1) - \mathrm{tr}_L^H(1) \cdot \mathrm{tr}_R^H(1) \\ &= \sum_{j=0}^{q-1} \mathrm{tr}_{\langle(\gamma, \gamma^j)\rangle}^H(1) + \mathrm{tr}_R^H(1) \cdot (1 - \mathrm{tr}_L^H(1)) \\ &= \sum_{j=0}^{q-1} \left(1 + xy^j + x^2 y^{2j} + \dots + x^{q-1} y^{j(q-1)} \right) + \\ & \quad (1 + y + y^2 + \dots + y^{q-1}) (-x - x^2 - \dots - x^{q-1}) \\ &= q + \sum_{j=0}^{q-1} \left(xy^j + x^2 y^{2j} + \dots + x^{q-1} y^{j(q-1)} \right) \\ & \quad - \sum_{k=0}^{q-1} (xy^k + x^2 y^{2k} + \dots + x^{q-1} y^k) \\ &= q. \end{aligned}$$

The last equality follows by a reindexing, recalling that these equations live in the ring $\mathbb{Z}[x, y]/(x^q - 1, y^q - 1)$. \square

Example 3.15. Let $H = C_3 \times C_3$, and let $L = \langle(\gamma, e)\rangle$, $C = \langle(\gamma, \gamma)\rangle$, $D = \langle(\gamma, \gamma^2)\rangle$, and $R = \langle(e, \gamma)\rangle$ be its four subgroups of order 3. Consider the representation ring Green functor for $C_3 \times C_3$. In this Green functor, we have:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathrm{tr}_L^H(1) &= 1 + x + x^2 \\ \mathrm{tr}_C^H(1) &= 1 + xy + x^2 y^2 \\ \mathrm{tr}_D^H(1) &= 1 + x^2 y + xy^2 \\ \mathrm{tr}_R^H(1) &= 1 + y + y^2 \end{aligned}$$

We can directly see that 3 is contained in the ideal of $RU(H)$ generated by images of transfers from proper subgroups of H :

$$\begin{aligned}
& \sum_{K \leq H} \mathrm{tr}_K^H(1) - \mathrm{tr}_L^H(1) \cdot \mathrm{tr}_R^H(1) \\
&= (\mathrm{tr}_L^H(1) + \mathrm{tr}_R^H(1) + \mathrm{tr}_C^H(1) + \mathrm{tr}_D^H(1)) - \mathrm{tr}_L^H(1) \cdot \mathrm{tr}_R^H(1) \\
&= (1 + x + x^2) + (1 + y + y^2) + (1 + xy + x^2y^2) + (1 + x^2y + y^2x) \\
&\quad - (1 + x + x^2)(1 + y + y^2) \\
&= (4 + x + y + x^2 + xy + y^2 + x^2y + y^2x + x^2y^2) \\
&\quad - (1 + x + x^2 + y + xyx^2y + y^2 + y^2x + y^2x^2) \\
&= 3.
\end{aligned}$$

4. THE HOMOTOPY MACKEY FUNCTORS OF $L_{KU_G}\mathbb{S}_G$

Our strategy for understanding $L_{KU_G}\mathbb{S}_G$ is to use the fracture square (2.1). We begin by describing the homotopy Mackey functors of the local factors $L_{KU_G/p}\mathbb{S}_G$, both in the case $p = q$ and $p \neq q$, using the work of Section 3. With the local computations in hand, we then use the long exact sequence

$$\cdots \rightarrow \mathbb{Q} \otimes \prod_p \pi_{n+1} L_{KU_G/p}\mathbb{S}_G \rightarrow \pi_n L_{KU_G}\mathbb{S}_G \rightarrow \pi_n \mathbb{Q} \otimes L_{KU_G}\mathbb{S}_G \times \prod_p \pi_n L_{KU_G/p}\mathbb{S}_G \rightarrow \cdots \quad (4.1)$$

arising from the fracture square (2.1) to obtain the homotopy Mackey functors $\pi_n L_{KU_G}\mathbb{S}_G$. We will use the fact that the rationalization $\mathbb{Q} \otimes L_{KU_G}\mathbb{S}_G$ is the Eilenberg-Mac Lane spectrum for the rational Mackey functor $\mathbb{Q} \otimes \underline{R}\mathbb{Q}$ [BGS, Lemma 9.1].

4.1. Local computations for $p = q$. In this section, we compute the homotopy Mackey functors for $L_{KU_G/q}\mathbb{S}_G$. The key tool is the following.

Proposition 4.2 ([BGS, Propositions 5.3, 6.3]). *If ℓ is primitive modulo $|G|$, then the Adams operation $\psi^\ell: (KU_G)_q^\wedge \rightarrow (KU_G)_q^\wedge$ is a well-defined map of G -spectra that participates in a fiber sequence*

$$L_{KU_G/q}\mathbb{S}_G \longrightarrow (KU_G)_q^\wedge \xrightarrow{\psi^\ell - 1} (KU_G)_q^\wedge. \quad (4.3)$$

Note that the fiber is independent of ℓ in the fiber sequence above.

Remark 4.4. The original proposition 5.3 in [BGS] contains the assumption that ℓ is primitive mod $|G|$, but by [HiKo, Corollary 2.5], in order to show that ψ^ℓ extends to a map of G -spectra, it suffices to assume that ℓ is coprime to $|G| = q^k$. On the other hand, in order to identify the fiber as the KU_G/q -local equivariant sphere, the additional primitivity assumption is required.

Since $\pi_* KU_G \cong \underline{RU}[\beta, \beta^{-1}]$ with β in degree 2, the long exact sequence of homotopy Mackey functors associated to the fiber sequence (4.3) splits into four-term exact sequences:

$$0 \longrightarrow \pi_{2d} L_{KU_G/q}\mathbb{S}_G \longrightarrow \underline{RU}_q^\wedge\{\beta^d\} \xrightarrow{\psi^\ell - 1} \underline{RU}_q^\wedge\{\beta^d\} \longrightarrow \pi_{2d-1} L_{KU_G/q}\mathbb{S}_G \longrightarrow 0$$

Thus the homotopy Mackey functors of $L_{KU_G/q}\mathbb{S}_G$ follow from the work of Section 3.

Proposition 3.3 immediately implies the following.

Corollary 4.5. *For $d \neq 0$, $\pi_{2d} L_{KU_G/q}\mathbb{S}_G = 0$.*

The $d = 0$ case was previously computed:

Proposition 4.6. [BGS, Proposition 6.8] $\pi_0 L_{KU_G/q} \mathbb{S}_G \cong (R\mathbb{Q})_q^\wedge$.

Corollary 4.7. *The Mackey functor $\pi_{2d-1} L_{KU_G/q} \mathbb{S}_G$ is*

$$\pi_{2d-1} L_{KU_G/q} \mathbb{S}_G \cong \text{cok}_q^\wedge \{d\} = \text{coker} \left(\underline{RU}_q^\wedge \{\beta^d\} \xrightarrow{\psi^\ell - 1} \underline{RU}_q^\wedge \{\beta^d\} \right).$$

This cokernel was computed in Proposition 3.7.

Example 4.8. The Mackey functors $\text{cok}_3^\wedge \{1\}$ and $\text{cok}_3^\wedge \{2\}$ were computed for $G = C_9$ in Example 3.10. According to Corollary 4.7, these agree with the homotopy Mackey functors $\pi_1 L_{KU_{C_9}/3} \mathbb{S}_{C_9}$ and $\pi_3 L_{KU_{C_9}/3} \mathbb{S}_{C_9}$.

4.2. Local computations for $p \neq q$. Let p be a prime that does not divide $|G| = q^k$. The calculation of the nonzero p -local homotopy groups of $L_{KU_G} \mathbb{S}_G$ was done in [BGS]. For an odd prime p , recall the homotopy groups of $L_{KU/p} \mathbb{S}$ as originally calculated by Adams–Baird [Ad] and Ravenel [Ra] and described more recently in [Z, Equation 2.3.8]:

$$\pi_n L_{KU/p} \mathbb{S} \cong \begin{cases} \mathbb{Z}_p^\wedge & \text{if } n \in \{0, -1\}, \\ \mathbb{Z}/p^{\nu_p(k)+1} & \text{if } n = 2k - 1 \text{ and } (p-1) \mid k, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

For $p = 2$, the homotopy groups of $L_{KU/2} \mathbb{S}$ are in [Z, Equation 2.3.13]:

$$\pi_n L_{KU/2} \mathbb{S} \cong \begin{cases} \mathbb{Z}_2^\wedge \oplus \mathbb{Z}/2 & \text{if } n = 0, \\ \mathbb{Z}_2^\wedge & \text{if } n = -1, \\ \mathbb{Z}/2 \oplus \mathbb{Z}/2 & \text{if } n \equiv 1 \pmod{8}, \\ \mathbb{Z}/2 & \text{if } n \equiv 0, 2 \pmod{8}, \text{ and } n \neq 0, \\ \mathbb{Z}/2^{\nu_2(k)+3} & \text{if } n = 4k - 1 \text{ and } n \neq -1, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Proposition 4.9 ([BGS, Proposition 8.5]). *Let $p \neq q$. There is an isomorphism of graded Green functors*

$$\pi_* L_{KU_G/p} \mathbb{S}_G \cong R\mathbb{Q} \otimes \pi_* L_{KU/p} \mathbb{S}.$$

The above is a complete description of the p -complete homotopy Mackey functors of $L_{KU_G} \mathbb{S}_G$, but Proposition 3.11 then gives the following description in the case $n = -1$:

Corollary 4.10. *For $p \neq q$, we have $\pi_{-1} L_{KU_G/p} \mathbb{S}_G \cong R\mathbb{Q} \otimes \mathbb{Z}_p^\wedge \cong \text{cok}_p^\wedge$.*

4.3. Local to global reassembly. Here we use the work of Section 4.1 and Section 4.2, in combination with the long exact sequence (4.1), to deduce the homotopy Mackey functors $\pi_n L_{KU_G} \mathbb{S}_G$. The case $n = 0$ was the focus of [BGS]. The cases $n = -1$ and $n = -2$ behave quite differently from the rest, so we begin by considering the cases of n different from 0, -1 , or -2 .

Proposition 4.11. *Let $n = 2k$ be different from 0 and -2 . Then*

$$\pi_{2k} L_{KU_G} \mathbb{S}_G \cong R\mathbb{Q} \otimes \pi_{2k} L_{KU} \mathbb{S} \cong R\mathbb{Q} \otimes \mathbb{Z}/2$$

for $2k \equiv 0, 2 \pmod{8}$. This Mackey functor vanishes otherwise.

Proof. Fix $2k$ different from 0 and -2 . By Corollary 4.5 and Proposition 4.9, we have that for p any odd prime (including $p = q$), then $\pi_{2k}(L_{KU_G/p}\mathbb{S}_G)$ vanishes. In the case of $p = 2$, we have

$$\pi_{2k}(L_{KU_G/2}\mathbb{S}_G) \cong \begin{cases} \underline{RQ} \otimes \mathbb{Z}/2 & 2k \equiv 0, 2 \pmod{8}, \\ 0 & \text{else.} \end{cases}$$

Similarly, we find that $\pi_{2k+1}L_{KU_G/p}\mathbb{S}_G$ is nonzero (and levelwise finite) only for finitely many primes p . It follows that $\mathbb{Q} \otimes \prod_p \pi_{2k+1}L_{KU_G/p}\mathbb{S}_G$ vanishes. The result now follows from (4.1). \square

In the case of n odd and different from -1 , the answer is stated in terms of the cokernel of $\psi^\ell - 1$, where as usual ℓ is primitive modulo the order of G .

Proposition 4.12. *Let $2k - 1 \neq -1$. Then*

$$\pi_{2k-1}L_{KU_G}\mathbb{S}_G \cong \underline{RQ} \otimes \pi_{2k-1}L_{KU}\mathbb{S}[\frac{1}{q}] \oplus \text{cok}_q^\wedge\{k\}.$$

Proof. According to Section 4.2, the homotopy Mackey functors of $L_{KU_G/p}\mathbb{S}_G$ are levelwise finite in degrees $2k$ and $2k - 1$. Corollary 4.5 gives that $\pi_{2k}L_{KU_G/q}\mathbb{S}_G$ vanishes, while Corollary 4.7 identifies $\pi_{2k-1}L_{KU_G/q}\mathbb{S}_G$ with $\text{cok}_q^\wedge\{d\}$. By Proposition 3.7, this is levelwise finite. \square

We now turn our attention to the case $n = -1$.

Proposition 4.13. $\pi_{-1}L_{KU_G}\mathbb{S}_G = 0$.

Proof. By Proposition 3.7(b) and Corollary 4.7, the Mackey functor $\pi_{-1}L_{KU_G/q}\mathbb{S}_G$ is torsion-free. The same is true of $\pi_{-1}L_{KU_G/p}\mathbb{S}_G$ for $p \neq q$ by Section 4.2. It follows that the map

$$\prod_p \pi_{-1}L_{KU_G/p}\mathbb{S}_G \longrightarrow \mathbb{Q} \otimes \left(\prod_p \pi_{-1}L_{KU_G/p}\mathbb{S}_G \right)$$

is injective. The long exact sequence (4.1) then shows that $\pi_{-1}L_{KU_G}\mathbb{S}_G$ is the cokernel of

$$\mathbb{Q} \otimes \underline{RQ} \times \prod_p \pi_0 L_{KU_G/p}\mathbb{S}_G \longrightarrow \mathbb{Q} \otimes \left(\prod_p \pi_0 L_{KU_G/p}\mathbb{S}_G \right),$$

which may be rewritten as

$$\mathbb{Q} \otimes \underline{RQ} \oplus \mathbb{Z}/2 \otimes \underline{RQ} \oplus \prod_p (\underline{RQ})_p^\wedge \longrightarrow \mathbb{Q} \otimes \left(\prod_p (\underline{RQ})_p^\wedge \right).$$

It suffices to show that this is levelwise surjective. As the values of the Mackey functor \underline{RQ} are all free abelian groups of finite rank, the result follows from Lemma 4.14. \square

Lemma 4.14. *Let B be a free abelian group of finite rank. Then the map*

$$f: (\mathbb{Q} \otimes B) \oplus \prod_p B_p^\wedge \longrightarrow \mathbb{Q} \otimes \left(\prod_p B_p^\wedge \right)$$

defined by

$$f\left(\frac{b_0}{n}, (b_p)\right) = \frac{1}{n}(b_0 - nb_p)$$

is surjective.

Proof. Left to the reader. \square

Finally, we deal with the case $n = -2$.

Proposition 4.15. $\pi_{-2}L_{KU_G}\mathbb{S}_G \cong \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z} \otimes \underline{\text{cok}}$.

Proof. By Corollary 4.5 and Section 4.2, the Mackey functors $\pi_{-2}L_{KU_G/p}\mathbb{S}_G$ vanish for all primes p . It follows from the long exact sequence (4.1) that $\pi_{-2}L_{KU_G}\mathbb{S}_G$ is the cokernel of the rationalization map

$$\prod_p \pi_{-1}L_{KU_G/p}\mathbb{S}_G \longrightarrow \mathbb{Q} \otimes \left(\prod_p \pi_{-1}L_{KU_G/p}\mathbb{S}_G \right).$$

In other words, we have that

$$\pi_{-2}L_{KU_G}\mathbb{S}_G \cong \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z} \otimes \left(\prod_p \pi_{-1}L_{KU_G/p}\mathbb{S}_G \right).$$

By Corollary 4.7 and Corollary 4.10, this may be rewritten as

$$\pi_{-2}L_{KU_G}\mathbb{S}_G \cong \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z} \otimes \left(\prod_p \underline{\text{cok}}_p^\wedge \right).$$

Each Mackey functor $\underline{\text{cok}}_p^\wedge$ is (levelwise) p -local, so that according to Lemma 4.16 we have an isomorphism

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z} \otimes \left(\prod_p \underline{\text{cok}}_p^\wedge \right) &\cong \bigoplus_p (\mathbb{Q}_p/\mathbb{Z}_p \otimes \underline{\text{cok}}_p^\wedge) \cong \bigoplus_p (\mathbb{Q}_p/\mathbb{Z}_p \otimes \underline{\text{cok}}) \\ &\cong \left(\bigoplus_p \mathbb{Q}_p/\mathbb{Z}_p \right) \otimes \underline{\text{cok}} \cong \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z} \otimes \underline{\text{cok}}. \end{aligned}$$

□

Lemma 4.16. *Suppose for each prime p , A_p is an abelian group such that all primes different than p act invertibly on A_p . Then*

$$\mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z} \otimes \left(\prod_p A_p \right) \cong \bigoplus_p (\mathbb{Q}_p/\mathbb{Z}_p \otimes A_p).$$

Proof. This follows from the decomposition of \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z} as $\bigoplus_r \mathbb{Q}_r/\mathbb{Z}_r$ as r runs over primes, the expression of $\mathbb{Q}_r/\mathbb{Z}_r$ as $\text{colim}_k \mathbb{Z}/r^k$, and the fact that tensor product commutes with colimits. □

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TANNER N. CARAWAN

Email address: tc2bb@virginia.edu

REBECCA FIELD

Email address: fieldre@jmu.edu

BERTRAND J. GUILLOU

Email address: bertguillou@uky.edu

DAVID MEHRLE

Email address: davidm@uky.edu

NATHANIEL J. STAPLETON

Email address: nat.j.stapleton@uky.edu