

# ON MORAVA $K$ -THEORIES OF AN $S$ -ARITHMETIC GROUP

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ABSTRACT. We completely describe the Morava  $K$ -theories with respect to the prime  $p$  for the étale model of the classifying space of  $GL_m(\mathbb{Z}[\sqrt[p]{1}, 1/p])$  when  $p$  is an odd regular prime. For  $p = 3$  and  $m = 2$  (and conjecturally for  $m = \infty$ ) these cohomologies are the same as those of the classifying space itself.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

By using an Eilenberg-Moore type spectral sequence, Tanabe calculated the Morava  $K$ -theories for the classifying spaces of certain Chevalley groups. In particular, if  $K(n)$  is the  $n$ -th Morava  $K$ -theory with the ring of coefficients

$$K(n)^*(pt) = \mathbb{F}_p[v_n, v_n^{-1}]$$

where  $p$  is a prime and  $v_n$  has degree  $2(p^n - 1)$ , and if  $q$  is a power of a prime different from  $p$ , then [12]

$$(1.1) \quad K(n)^*BGL_m(\mathbb{F}_q) \approx K(n)^*BGL_m(\overline{\mathbb{F}}_q)_{\psi^q} \approx \frac{K(n)^*(pt)[[c_1, \dots, c_m]]}{(c_1 - \psi^q c_1, \dots, c_m - \psi^q c_m)}$$

i.e. a ring of formal power series in certain "Chern classes"  $c_1, \dots, c_m$  modulo an ideal given in terms of generators. Here  $\psi^q$  is the "Adams operation" induced from the Frobenius automorphism  $x \mapsto x^q$  of the algebraic closure  $\overline{\mathbb{F}}_q$  of the field  $\mathbb{F}_q$  with  $q$  elements. The same formula (1.1) holds for the  $p$ -adic version  $\hat{K}(n)$  of  $K(n)$  obtained by replacing  $K(n)^*(pt)$  with  $\hat{K}(n)^*(pt) = \mathbb{Z}_p[v_n, v_n^{-1}]$  where  $\mathbb{Z}_p$  denotes the ring of  $p$ -adic integers [12].

On the other hand, if  $A = \mathbb{Z}[\sqrt[p]{1}, 1/p]$  and  $p$  is a *regular* prime in the sense of number theory, then Dwyer and Friedlander [5, 6] calculated the mod  $p$  cohomology of a space  $BGL_m(A_{\text{ét}})$  which is naturally associated to the classifying space  $BGL_m(A)$  of the  $S$ -arithmetic group  $GL_m(A)$ . We call the space  $BGL_m(A_{\text{ét}})$  *the étale model at  $p$*  for the classifying space  $BGL_m(A)$  and recall that it is endowed with a natural map [4, 2.5]

$$(1.2) \quad f_A : BGL_m(A) \rightarrow BGL_m(A_{\text{ét}})$$

The goal of this article is to show how we can use these two calculations in order to completely describe the Morava  $K$ -theories with respect to the prime  $p$  of the étale model above. The main result is

**Theorem 1.1.** *If  $A = \mathbb{Z}[\sqrt[p]{1}, 1/p]$  with  $p$  an odd regular prime, then the  $n$ -th Morava  $K$ -theory with respect to the prime  $p$  of the étale model  $BGL_m(A_{\text{ét}})$  is an*

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exterior algebra given by the formula

$$K(n)^*BGL_m(A_{\acute{e}t}) \approx K(n)^*BGL_m(\mathbb{F}_q)\langle\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_m\rangle^{\otimes(p-1)/2}$$

where  $q$  is a prime  $\equiv 1 \pmod p$  but  $\not\equiv 1 \pmod{p^2}$ , the tensor product is over the ring  $K(n)^*BGL_m(\mathbb{F}_q)$ , and  $\sigma_i$  has degree  $2i - 3$  ( $1 \leq i \leq m$ ). Moreover, the same formula holds for the  $p$ -adic version  $\hat{K}(n)$ .

In particular, if  $m = \infty$  and  $n = 1$  (and conjecturally for  $n > 1$ ) the above theorem and (1.1) give  $K(n)$  and  $\hat{K}(n)$  theories of the classifying space  $BGL_\infty(A)$  itself for  $p$  odd and regular, according to [7]. Here  $GL_\infty$  denotes the union of all  $GL_n$  for  $n \geq 1$  with respect to the block inclusions.

Also, if  $p = 3$  and  $m = 2$ , then we showed that the natural map (1.2) is a mod  $p$  equivalence [1]. Hence we deduce the following

**Corollary 1.2.** *The  $n$ -th Morava  $K$ -theory at the prime 3 of the  $S$ -arithmetic group  $GL_2(\mathbb{Z}[\sqrt[3]{1}, 1/3])$  is given by*

$$K(n)^*BGL_2(\mathbb{Z}[\sqrt[3]{1}, 1/3]) \approx \frac{\mathbb{F}_3[v_n, v_n^{-1}][[a, c_2]]}{(a^{7^n}, c_2^{(7^n+1)/2} \pmod a)} \langle\sigma_1, \sigma_2\rangle$$

where the degrees of the generators are  $|v_n| = 2(3^n - 1)$ ,  $|a| = 2$ ,  $|c_2| = 4$ ,  $|\sigma_1| = -1$ ,  $|\sigma_2| = 1$ , and the second generator of the ideal is up to an indeterminacy  $\pmod a$ . Moreover, a similar formula holds for the 3-adic version  $\hat{K}(n)$ .

*Notation 1.3.* In what follows  $p$  is an odd regular prime when not otherwise stated and  $A = \mathbb{Z}[\zeta_p, 1/p]$  where  $\zeta_p = \exp(2\pi i/p)$  is a prescribed  $p$ -th root of unity in the field  $\mathbb{C}$  of complex numbers.

## 2. ÉTALE MODELS FOR CLASSIFYING SPACES

**2.1. The original definition.** Let  $R = \mathbb{Z}[1/p]$ ,  $G$  a group scheme over  $\text{Spec}(R)$ , and  $BG$  the classifying simplicial scheme obtained by a bar construction as in [8, 1.2]. Then the classifying space  $BG(D)$  of the group  $G(D)$  of the  $D$ -points of  $G$  where  $D$  is any finitely generated  $R$ -algebra can be thought of as the connected component of a simplicial function complex [6, 1.4]

$$(2.1) \quad BG(D) = \text{Map}^0(\text{Spec}(D), BG)_{\text{Spec}(R)}$$

containing the natural base point induced by the unit map  $\text{Spec}(R) \rightarrow G$  of  $G$  over  $\text{Spec}(R)$ . We recall that  $\text{Map}(X, Y)_Z$  is a simplicial set given in dimension  $i$  by the set of simplicial scheme maps  $X \otimes \Delta[i] \rightarrow Y$  over  $Z$  where  $X$  and  $Y$  are simplicial schemes over  $Z$  (a scheme is regarded as a constant simplicial scheme) and  $\Delta[i]$  is the standard simplicial  $i$ -simplex. The tensor product between a simplicial scheme and a simplicial set is defined in [8, 1.1].

Also, we recall that the étale topological type  $X_{\acute{e}t}$  in the sense of Friedlander [8, 4.4] is a pro-space (i.e. inverse system of simplicial sets) which is naturally associated to a noetherian simplicial scheme  $X$  and reflects the étale cohomology of  $X$ . For any finitely generated  $R$ -algebra  $D$ , let  $D_{\acute{e}t}$  denote the étale topological type  $\text{Spec}(D)_{\acute{e}t}$ . By replacing  $\text{Spec}(D)$ ,  $BG$ , and  $\text{Spec}(R)$  in (2.1) by their étale topological types  $D_{\acute{e}t}$ ,  $(BG)_{\acute{e}t}$ , and  $R_{\acute{e}t}$ , the space  $BG(D_{\acute{e}t})$  is defined in [6, 1.2] as the connected component of the simplicial complex of  $p$ -adic functions over  $R_{\acute{e}t}$

$$(2.2) \quad BG(D_{\acute{e}t}) = \text{Hom}_p^0(D_{\acute{e}t}, (BG)_{\acute{e}t})_{R_{\acute{e}t}}$$

containing the corresponding natural base point. This construction is similar to (2.1) and we can associate with each  $i$ -simplex of  $BG(D)$  an  $i$ -simplex of  $BG(D_{\acute{e}t})$  regarded by definition as a map of pro-spaces over  $R_{\acute{e}t}$  from  $D_{\acute{e}t} \times \Delta[i]$  to the fibrewise  $p$ -adic completion of  $(BG)_{\acute{e}t}$  over  $R_{\acute{e}t}$  denoted by  $(\mathbb{Z}/p)^{\bullet}(BG)_{\acute{e}t}$  [4, 2.4]. This assignment is natural in both  $G$  and  $D$  and gives a map [4, 2.5]

$$f_D^G : BG(D) \rightarrow BG(D_{\acute{e}t})$$

from the classifying space of the group  $G(D)$  to its étale model  $BG(D_{\acute{e}t})$  at  $p$ . In the case when  $G = GL_m$  is the group scheme over  $SpecR$  corresponding to the general linear group  $G(R) = GL_m(R)$  and  $D = A$ , we obtain the map (1.2). These definitions actually hold for *any* prime  $p$ .

**2.2. A model structure definition.** For convenience we will give an alternative way of thinking of (2.2) pointed out by Isaksen and based on its model structure. Namely, if  $\text{pro-}\mathcal{SS}$  is the category of pro-spaces then there is a proper simplicial model structure on  $\text{pro-}\mathcal{SS}$  introduced in [9]. This means that there are three classes of morphisms in  $\text{pro-}\mathcal{SS}$  called *weak equivalences*, *cofibrations*, and *fibrations* subject to various axioms. Also there is a notion of *simplicial function complex* i.e. a natural assignment to each two pro-spaces  $X$  and  $Y$  of a simplicial set  $Map(X, Y)$  interacting appropriately with the model structure [9, 16.2].

For the purpose of this paper we will use the induced proper simplicial model structure on the over-category  $\text{pro-}\mathcal{SS}_V$  of pro-spaces over a fixed pro-space  $V$ . With respect to this model structure there is a *relative* simplicial function complex  $Map(X, Y)_V$  naturally associated with every pair of objects  $X, Y$  in  $\text{pro-}\mathcal{SS}_V$ . Keeping the same notations as in the previous subsection we have the following

**Proposition 2.1.** *For any finitely generated  $R$ -algebra  $D$ , the space  $BG(D_{\acute{e}t})$  is weakly equivalent to the connected component of the natural base point of the simplicial function complex  $Map(D_{\acute{e}t}, T_p(BG)_{\acute{e}t})_{R_{\acute{e}t}}$  in the over-category of pro-spaces over  $R_{\acute{e}t}$ ,*

$$BG(D_{\acute{e}t}) \simeq Map^0(D_{\acute{e}t}, T_p(BG)_{\acute{e}t})_{R_{\acute{e}t}}$$

Here  $T_p(BG)_{\acute{e}t}$  is a fibrant replacement of  $(\mathbb{Z}/p)^{\bullet}(BG)_{\acute{e}t}$  over  $R_{\acute{e}t}$  in the sense of the simplicial model structure of [9].

*Proof.* Let  $X = D_{\acute{e}t} = \{X_{\alpha}\}$ ,  $Y = (BG)_{\acute{e}t}$ , and  $V = R_{\acute{e}t}$ . Then  $Y \rightarrow V$  is a (strict) map of pro-spaces and let  $T'_p(Y)$  be the level-space Moore-Postnikov tower naturally associated to the fibrewise  $p$ -adic completion of  $Y$  over  $V$ . Then we can think of  $T'_p(Y) = \{T'_p(Y)_{\delta}\}$  as a pro-space over  $V = \{V_{\delta}\}$  and by definition [4, 2.3]

$$(2.3) \quad Hom_p(X, Y)_V = holim_{\delta} colim_{\alpha} Map(X_{\alpha}, T'_p(Y)_{\delta})_{V_{\delta}}$$

where  $Map$  is the usual relative simplicial function complex of simplicial sets and  $holim$  denotes the homotopy inverse functor from pro-spaces to spaces [2, §6]. By [9, 10.6], the pro-space  $T_p(Y)$  is the fibrant replacement of  $T'_p(Y)$  in the model structure of Edwards-Hastings. By standard arguments, the space (2.3) is weakly equivalent to

$$Map(X, T_p(Y))_V = lim_{\delta} colim_{\alpha} Map(X_{\alpha}, T_p(Y)_{\delta})_{V_{\delta}}$$

and the conclusion follows from (2.2).  $\square$

## 3. A HOMOTOPY FIBRE SQUARE

**3.1. Preliminaries.** We collect here a couple of known facts which will be used in the construction of a computable model for  $BGL_m(A_{\acute{e}t})$  given in the next subsection. This model is naturally associated to the action of  $\pi_1(R_{\acute{e}t})$  on the  $p$ -primary roots of unity.

Let  $D$  be a finitely generated normal  $R$ -algebra and  $pt : Spec(k) \rightarrow Spec(D)$  a geometric point corresponding to a homomorphism from  $D$  to a separable closed field  $k$ . Then  $pt$  determines a base point of  $D_{\acute{e}t}$  and we recall that  $\pi_1(D_{\acute{e}t}, pt)$  is the pro-finite Grothendieck fundamental group of  $D$  pointed by  $pt$  [8, §5]. This group classifies finite étale covering spaces of  $Spec(D)$ .

Let  $\mu_{p^\nu}$  be the set of all complex numbers  $z$  such that  $z^{p^\nu} = 1$  and  $\mu_{p^\infty}$  the union of all  $\mu_{p^\nu}$  for  $\nu \geq 0$ . Let  $R_\infty$  denote the ring obtained from  $R$  by adjoining the set  $\mu_{p^\infty}$  of all  $p$ -primary roots of unity,

$$R_\infty = R[\sqrt[p^\infty]{1}] = \mathbb{Z}[1/p, \mu_{p^\infty}],$$

and  $\Gamma$  the Galois (pro-)group

$$\Gamma = Gal(R_\infty, R) = \{Aut(\mu_{p^\nu}), \nu \geq 1\} \approx \{(\mathbb{Z}/p^\nu)^*, \nu \geq 1\}$$

In this context, observe that  $\pi_1(R_{\acute{e}t})$  is the Galois group of the maximal unramified extension of  $R$  and let

$$(3.1) \quad \theta : \pi_1(R_{\acute{e}t}) \rightarrow \Gamma$$

be the homomorphism given by the action of this Galois group on the  $p$ -primary roots of unity. In other words,  $R_{\acute{e}t}$  is provided with the natural structure map  $R_{\acute{e}t} \rightarrow K(\Gamma, 1)$  which "classifies" the finite étale extensions  $R \rightarrow R[\mu_{p^\nu}]$ . Also,  $A_{\acute{e}t}$  is provided with a natural structure map

$$A_{\acute{e}t} \rightarrow R_{\acute{e}t} \rightarrow K(\Gamma, 1)$$

If  $k$  is a field, then  $k_{\acute{e}t}$  is a pro-space of type  $K(\pi, 1)$ , where  $\pi$  is the Galois group over  $k$  of the separable algebraic closure of  $k$ . In particular,  $\mathbb{C}_{\acute{e}t}$  is contractible and  $(\mathbb{F}_q)_{\acute{e}t}$  is equivalent to the pro-finite completion of a circle. If  $R \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_q$  is a residue field map, then  $(\mathbb{F}_q)_{\acute{e}t}$  is provided with a natural structure map

$$(\mathbb{F}_q)_{\acute{e}t} \rightarrow R_{\acute{e}t} \rightarrow K(\Gamma, 1)$$

as well. This structure map sends the Frobenius element of the Galois group of  $\overline{\mathbb{F}_q}$  over  $\mathbb{F}_q$  identified with  $\pi_1((\mathbb{F}_q)_{\acute{e}t})$  to  $q \in Aut(\mu_{p^\nu}) \cong (\mathbb{Z}/p^\nu)^*$  in  $\Gamma$  [6, 3.2].

**3.2. A homotopy fibre square.** Let  $U_m$  be the Lie group of  $m \times m$  unitary matrices and  $\hat{B}U_m$  the  $p$ -completion of its classifying space. The following proposition is the unstable analogue of [5, 4.5] and its proof is almost the same. For convenience, we review here the main arguments.

**Proposition 3.1.** *Let  $p$  be an odd regular prime,  $A = \mathbb{Z}[\zeta_p, 1/p]$ , and  $q$  a rational prime  $\equiv 1 \pmod{p}$  but  $\not\equiv 1 \pmod{p^2}$ . Then there is a homotopy fibre square*

$$\begin{array}{ccc} BGL_m(A_{\acute{e}t}) & \longrightarrow & \hat{B}U_m^W \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \hat{B}GL_m(\mathbb{F}_q) & \longrightarrow & \hat{B}U_m \end{array}$$

where  $W$  is the wedge of  $(p-1)/2$  circles,  $\hat{B}U_m^W$  denotes the simplicial function complex of unpointed maps from  $W$  to  $\hat{B}U_m$ , and the right-hand vertical map is the evaluation at the base-point.

*Proof.* As in [5, p. 145] we construct a map

$$(\mathbb{F}_q)_{\acute{e}t} \vee W \rightarrow K(\Gamma, 1)$$

by sending the first summand via the natural structure map and mapping the other summand trivially. By a class-field argument (assuming the properties of  $q$  from hypothesis), there exists a map

$$g : (\mathbb{F}_q)_{\acute{e}t} \vee W \rightarrow A_{\acute{e}t}$$

over  $K(\Gamma, 1)$  which is a mod  $p$  cohomology equivalence [5, p. 145]. In other words  $g$  is a "good mod  $p$  model" for  $A$  in the sense of [6, 1.9]. This means that by a spectral sequence argument [4, 2.11] and using 2.1 for  $G = GL_m$  the map  $g$  induces a homotopy equivalence

$$\text{Map}^0(A_{\acute{e}t}, T_p(BGL_m)_{\acute{e}t})_{R_{\acute{e}t}} \simeq \text{Map}^0((\mathbb{F}_q)_{\acute{e}t} \vee W, T_p(BGL_m)_{\acute{e}t})_{R_{\acute{e}t}}$$

which can be reformulated by saying that we get a homotopy fibre square

$$\begin{array}{ccc} BGL_m(A_{\acute{e}t}) & \longrightarrow & \text{Map}^0(W, T_p(BGL_m)_{\acute{e}t})_{R_{\acute{e}t}} \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ BGL_m((\mathbb{F}_q)_{\acute{e}t}) & \longrightarrow & \text{Map}^0(pt, T_p(BGL_m)_{\acute{e}t})_{R_{\acute{e}t}} \end{array}$$

where the right-hand vertical map is the evaluation at the base-point (the map  $pt \rightarrow R_{\acute{e}t}$  is induced from  $R \subset \mathbb{C}$  recalling that  $\mathbb{C}_{\acute{e}t}$  is contractible). To finish the proof, we need only to identify the appropriate corners of this square.

For the two right-hand corners, we start with the fibration sequence [3, 2.3]

$$(3.2) \quad \{(\mathbb{Z}/p)_s(BGL_{m, \bar{\mathbb{F}}_q})_{\acute{e}t}\}_s \rightarrow (\mathbb{Z}/p)^\bullet(BGL_m)_{\acute{e}t} \rightarrow R_{\acute{e}t}$$

where  $\{(\mathbb{Z}/p)_s(-)\}_s$  denotes the Bousfield-Kan  $p$ -completion tower and  $BGL_{m, \bar{\mathbb{F}}_q}$  is the classifying object of  $GL_m$  over  $\bar{\mathbb{F}}_q$ . Hence we get that

$$\text{Map}^0(pt, T_p(BG)_{\acute{e}t})_{R_{\acute{e}t}} \simeq \text{holim}\{(\mathbb{Z}/p)_s BGL_{m, \bar{\mathbb{F}}_q}\}_{\acute{e}t}\}_s \simeq \hat{B}U_m$$

where the last equivalence is proved in [8, 8.8]. Because the composite map

$$\pi_1(W) \rightarrow \pi_1(A_{\acute{e}t}) \rightarrow \pi_1(R_{\acute{e}t}) \xrightarrow{\theta} \Gamma$$

is trivial by construction, as in [4, p. 146] we get a homotopy equivalence

$$\text{Map}^0(W, T_p(BGL_m)_{\acute{e}t})_{R_{\acute{e}t}} \simeq \hat{B}U_m^W$$

where  $\hat{B}U_m^W$  denotes the function complex of unpointed maps from  $W$  to  $\hat{B}U_m$  (basically  $\pi_1(R_{\acute{e}t})$  acts on the fibre of (3.2) via  $\theta$ ).

Finally, for the lower left-hand corner, there is a homotopy equivalence

$$\hat{B}GL_m(\mathbb{F}_q) \simeq BGL_m((\mathbb{F}_q)_{\acute{e}t})$$

given in [3, 2.11] by exploiting the action of the Frobenius element on the fibre of (3.2) via the composite

$$\pi_1((\mathbb{F}_q)_{\acute{e}t}) \rightarrow \pi_1(R_{\acute{e}t}) \xrightarrow{\theta} \Gamma$$

and Quillen's homotopy fix point description of  $\hat{B}GL_m(\mathbb{F}_q)$  [10].  $\square$

## 4. THE PROOF OF THE MAIN THEOREM AND ITS COROLLARY

4.1. **Proof of 1.1.** The proof of the main theorem is based on Strickland's analysis of unitary bundles in [11] applied to the homotopy fibre square 3.1.

Let  $V$  be a complex vector bundle over a space  $X$  and write  $PV$  for the associated bundle of projective spaces and  $U(V)$  for the associated bundle of unitary groups

$$U(V) = \{(x, g) | x \in X \text{ and } g \in U(V_x)\}$$

Let  $EU(V)$  denote the geometric realization of the simplicial space  $\{U(V)^{n+1}\}_{n \geq 0}$  and put  $BU(V) = EU(V)/U(V)$  the usual simplicial model for the classifying space of  $U(V)$ .

Let  $E^*$  be an even periodic cohomology theory with complex orientation  $x \in \tilde{E}^0 \mathbb{C}P^\infty$ . We are interested in describing  $E^*U(V)$  as a Hopf algebra over  $E^*X$  (using the group structure on  $U(V)$ ). The main result involves the exterior algebra over the ring  $E^*X$  generated by the module  $E^*PV$  which we denote by  $\lambda_{E^*X}^* E^{*-1}PV$  and which is a Hopf algebra over  $E^*X$  by declaring  $E^*PV$  to be primitive.

**Proposition 4.1** ([11, 4.4]). *There is a natural isomorphism of Hopf algebras over  $E^*X$*

$$\lambda_{E^*X}^* E^{*-1}PV \approx E^*U(V)$$

We apply this proposition to the tautological bundle

$$V = \gamma_m = EU_m \times_{U_m} \mathbb{C}^m$$

over  $X = BU_m$ . In this case, we have

$$E^*P\gamma_m \approx \frac{E^*BU_m[x]}{(x^m + c_1x^{m-1} + \dots + c_m)} \approx E^*BU_m\langle 1, \dots, x^{m-1} \rangle$$

where  $c_i$  is the  $i$ -th Chern class of  $\gamma_m$  and the last isomorphism indicates that  $E^*P\gamma_m$  is a free module over  $E^*BU_m$  with basis  $1, x, \dots, x^{m-1}$ . In particular,

$$(4.1) \quad E^*U(\gamma_m) \approx \lambda_{E^*BU_m}^* E^{*-1}P\gamma_m \approx E^*BU_m\langle \sigma(1), \dots, \sigma(x^{m-1}) \rangle$$

where  $\sigma$  lowers the degree by 1.

Going back to the homotopy fibre square 3.1, we observe that  $\hat{B}U_m^W$  is the  $(p-1)/2$ -fold fibre product of  $\hat{B}U_m^{S^1} = \hat{U}(\gamma_m)$  over  $\hat{B}U_m$  and for  $E^* = K(n)$  or  $\hat{K}(n)$  and any space  $X$  we have  $E^*\hat{X} = E^*X$ . In this case, if we apply  $E^*$  to  $\hat{B}U_m^W$  and use (4.1) we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} E^*(\hat{B}U_m^W) &\approx (\lambda_{E^*BU_m}^* E^{*-1}P\gamma_m)^{\otimes (p-1)/2} \\ &\approx E^*BU_m\langle \sigma(1), \dots, \sigma(x^{m-1}) \rangle^{\otimes (p-1)/2} \end{aligned}$$

where the tensor product is over  $E^*BU_m$ . In particular,  $E^*(\hat{B}U_m^W)$  is a free module over  $E^*\hat{B}U_m = E^*BU_m$  and therefore 1.1 follows from the above formula by a base-change induced from 3.1:

$$E^*BGL_m(A_{\text{ét}}) \approx E^*\hat{B}GL_m(\mathbb{F}_q) \otimes_{E^*\hat{B}U_m} E^*(\hat{B}U_m^W)$$

where  $q$  can be always chosen with the prescribed properties (by Dirichlet's density theorem for instance).

**4.2. Proof of 1.2.** This has been already explained in the Introduction, except for the analysis of the formula (1.1) in the case  $p = 3$ ,  $m = 2$ , and  $q = 7$ . The goal of this subsection is to complete this analysis.

**Proposition 4.2.** *Let  $p$  be an odd rational prime and  $\mathbb{F}_q$  a finite field with  $q$  elements such that  $q \equiv 1 \pmod{p^r}$  but  $\not\equiv 1 \pmod{p^{r+1}}$  for some integer  $r > 0$ . Then*

$$K(n)^* BGL_2(\mathbb{F}_q) \approx \frac{K(n)^*(pt)[[a, c_2]]}{(a^{p^{nr}}, c_2^{(p^{nr}+1)/2}) \pmod{a}}$$

*Proof.* According to Tanabe's formula

$$(4.2) \quad K(n)^* BGL_2(\mathbb{F}_q) \approx (K(n)^* BU_2)_\psi$$

where the co-invariants are calculated with respect to the  $q$ -th Adams operation  $\psi$  [12]. Recall that

$$(4.3) \quad K(n)^* BU_2 \approx K(n)^*(pt)[[c_1, c_2]]$$

where  $c_1 = x + y$  and  $c_2 = xy$  are expressed in terms of the generators of the ring

$$K(n)^*(\mathbb{C}P^\infty \times \mathbb{C}P^\infty) \approx K(n)^*(pt)[[x, y]]$$

which are induced by a complex orientation on  $K(n)^*(\mathbb{C}P^\infty)$  [12, 2.12]. It is easy to see that we can replace  $c_1$  in (4.3) by the formal group sum  $a = x + {}^{K(n)}y$  of  $x$  and  $y$  (induced from the tensor product of complex line bundles). Then the proposition follows from (4.2) and the following lemmas

**Lemma 4.3.**  $a - \psi(a) = (\text{unit}) \times a^{p^{nr}}$

**Lemma 4.4.**  $c_2 - \psi(c_2) \equiv (\text{unit}) \times c_2^{(p^{nr}+1)/2} \pmod{a}$

where "unit" means invertible element in (4.3). □

*Proof of 4.3.* Let us expand  $q$  in the ring  $\mathbb{Z}_p$  of  $p$ -adic integers as

$$q = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \alpha_k p^k$$

where the coefficients  $\alpha_k \in \mathbb{Z}$  are subject to  $0 \leq \alpha_k < p$ ,  $\alpha_0 = 1$ ,  $\alpha_r \neq 0$ , and  $\alpha_k = 0$  for  $0 < k < r$ . Then for  $t = x$  or  $y$  we have

$$\psi(t) = [q](t) = \sum {}^{K(n)}[\alpha_k](t^{p^{nk}}) = t + \alpha_r t^{p^{nr}} + \dots$$

where  $[q](t)$  means the formal group  $q$ -multiple of  $t$ . Hence,

$$\psi(a) = \psi(x) + {}^{K(n)}\psi(y) = \sum {}^{K(n)}[\alpha_k](a^{p^{nk}}) = a + \alpha_r a^{p^{nr}} + \dots$$

and the conclusion follows. □

*Proof of 4.4.* With the same notations as in the previous proof, we have

$$x \equiv [-1](y) \equiv -y \pmod{a}$$

and hence

$$c_2 - \psi(c_2) \equiv -x^2 + \psi(x)\psi(x) \equiv (\text{unit}) \times x^{p^{nr}+1} \equiv (\text{unit}) \times c_2^{(p^{nr}+1)/2} \pmod{a}$$

□

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