

# THE SIGNATURE AND THE ELLIPTIC GENUS OF EVEN 4-MANIFOLDS WITH $S^1$ ACTIONS

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ABSTRACT. We prove the vanishing of the signature of oriented smooth 4-manifolds with even intersection form and admitting circle actions. When the manifold is Spin, such a vanishing follows from the Atiyah-Hirzebruch vanishing of  $\hat{A}$ -genus regardless of the parity of the intersection form. We prove the vanishing of the signature in the *non-Spin* case by proving the vanishing of the  $\hat{A}$ -genus via the rigidity of the elliptic genus under  $S^1$  actions. As a corollary we see that the Enriques surface and its  $n$ -fold connected sums admit no smooth  $S^1$  actions.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

In the study of the topology of oriented smooth 4-manifolds, the intersection form is one of the classical invariants and determining which quadratic forms can represent such an intersection form is still a subject of central interest. In this paper we address this question on 4-manifolds with even intersection form and admitting smooth circle actions. More precisely, let  $E_8$  be the unique irreducible negative definite quadratic form of rank eight and let  $H$  be the hyperbolic quadratic form. By the classification of quadratic forms any indefinite even intersection form  $Q$  is of the form  $aE_8 \oplus bH$ . Throughout the paper, we shall assume that the manifolds are oriented, compact, connected and smooth. We prove the following theorem.

**Theorem 1.1.** *Let  $M$  be an even 4-manifold admitting smooth (isometric) circle actions, and let  $Q = aE_8 \oplus bH$  denote its intersection form. Then, the signature of  $M$  vanishes,  $\text{sign}(M) = 0$ , i.e. the intersection form is  $Q = bH$ .*

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If the 4-manifold is Spin, the vanishing of the signature follows from the Atiyah-Hirzebruch vanishing of the  $\hat{A}$ -genus [3] regardless of the parity of the intersection form. Therefore, the main goal of this paper is to prove the theorem in the non-Spin case. Note that even non-Spin manifolds are not simply-connected [1]. As an example, consider the oriented 4-manifold  $S^2 \times S^2 / (x, y) \sim (-x, -y)$ , which is oriented, non-Spin, has even intersection form  $H$ , and admits smooth  $S^1$  actions [1].

Since in dimension 4, the two characteristic numbers satisfy

$$\text{sign}(M) = -8 \hat{A}(M),$$

we prove the vanishing of the signature by proving the vanishing of the  $\hat{A}$ -genus. This, however, does not follow from index theory for the Dirac operator, since such an operator is not defined on non-Spin manifolds. In a similar fashion to that of [7, 8], we prove the vanishing of the  $\hat{A}$ -genus on even non-Spin 4-manifolds admitting circle actions by means of the rigidity of the elliptic genus.

The elliptic genus was introduced as a topological genus by Ochanine [12, 13] and reinterpreted by Witten [15, 16] in a Quantum Field Theoretical context. Witten conjectured the rigidity property under  $S^1$  actions on *Spin* manifolds which was proved by Taubes [14], Bott and Taubes [5] and Liu [11]. The rigidity theorem has been extended to  $\text{Spin}^c$  manifolds by Dessai [6] and to  $\pi_2$ -finite non-Spin manifolds by the authors [7, 8]. The latter extension allowed the authors to prove the vanishing of the  $\hat{A}$ -genus of  $\pi_2$ -finite non-Spin manifolds admitting circle actions [7, 8], therefore extending Atiyah and Hirzebruch's vanishing theorem [3].

The note is organized as follows. In Section 2 we recall the definition of the elliptic genus and prove the rigidity theorem. In Section 3 we briefly recall the argument that renders the vanishing of the  $\hat{A}$ -genus and in Section 4 we give some of applications.

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## 2. RIGIDITY OF THE ELLIPTIC GENUS

Let  $D: \Gamma(E) \rightarrow \Gamma(F)$  be an elliptic operator acting on sections of the vector bundles  $E$  and  $F$  over the manifold  $M$ . The index of  $D$  is the

virtual vector space  $\text{ind}(D) = \ker(D) - \text{coker}(D)$ . If  $M$  admits a circle action preserving  $D$ , i.e. such that  $S^1$  acts on  $E$  and  $F$ , and commutes with  $D$ ,  $\text{ind}(D)$  admits a Fourier decomposition into complex 1-dimensional irreducible representations of  $S^1$   $\text{ind}(D) = \sum a_m L^m$ , where  $a_m \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $L^m$  is the representation of  $S^1$  on  $\mathbb{C}$  given by  $e^{i\theta} \mapsto e^{im\theta}$ . The elliptic operator  $D$  is called *rigid* if  $a_m = 0$  for all  $m \neq 0$ , i.e.  $\text{ind}(D)$  consists only of the trivial representation with multiplicity  $a_0$ . The elliptic operator  $D$  is called *universally rigid* if it is rigid under any  $S^1$  action on  $M$  by isometries.

Let  $\Lambda_c^\pm$  be the even and odd complex differential forms on the oriented, compact, smooth 4-manifold  $M$  under the Hodge  $*$ -operator, respectively. The signature operator

$$d_s^M = d - *d* : \Lambda_c^+ \longrightarrow \Lambda_c^-$$

is elliptic and the virtual dimension of its index equals the signature of  $M$ ,  $\text{sign}(M)$ . If  $W$  is a complex vector bundle on  $M$  endowed with a connection, we can *twist* the signature operator to forms with values in  $W$

$$d_s^M \otimes W : \Lambda_c^+(W) \longrightarrow \Lambda_c^-(W).$$

This operator is also elliptic and the virtual dimension of its index is denoted by  $\text{sign}(M, W)$ .

**Definition 2.1.** Let  $T = TM \otimes \mathbb{C}$  denote the complexified tangent bundle of  $M$  and let  $R_i$  be the sequence of bundles defined by the formal series

$$R(q, T) = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} q^i R_i = \bigotimes_{i=1}^{\infty} \Lambda_{q^i} T \otimes \bigotimes_{j=1}^{\infty} S_{q^j} T,$$

where  $S_t T = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} t^k S^k T$ ,  $\Lambda_t T = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} t^k \Lambda^k T$ , and  $S^k T$ ,  $\Lambda^k T$  denote the  $k$ -th symmetric and exterior tensor powers of  $T$ , respectively. The elliptic genus of  $M$  is defined as

$$\Phi(M) = \text{ind}(d_s^M \otimes R(q, T)) = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} q^i \cdot \text{sign}(M, R_i). \quad (1)$$

The first few terms of the sequence  $R(q, T)$  are  $R_0 = 1$ ,  $R_1 = 2T$ ,  $R_2 = 2(T^{\otimes 2} + T)$ , etc. In particular, the constant term of  $\Phi(M)$  is  $\text{sign}(M)$ .

**Theorem 2.1.** Let  $M$  be an oriented, compact, connected, even, smooth 4-manifold admitting smooth  $S^1$  actions. Then, each of the operators  $d_s \otimes R_i$  is *universally rigid*.

*Proof.* Without loss of generality let us assume that the  $S^1$  action is effective.

The proof is carried out along the lines of [5] from which we recall the main arguments and give appropriate modifications. By the Atiyah-Segal  $G$ -signature theorem [4]

$$\Phi(M) = \sum_{\{P\}} \mu(P)$$

where  $P$  runs over the connected components of the fixed point set of the  $S^1$  action [5, p. 155]. Note that in this dimension the connected components  $P$  are oriented, totally geodesic submanifolds of even codimension, i.e. oriented surfaces or isolated fixed points. The contribution  $\mu(P)$  of  $P$  to  $\Phi(M)$  is given by the index of the signature operator on  $P$  twisted by an appropriate power series of vector bundles on  $P$ ; namely,

$$\begin{aligned} \mu(P) &= \frac{(1 + \lambda^{m_1})}{(1 - \lambda^{m_1})} \prod_{l=1}^{\infty} \frac{(1 + q^k \lambda^{m_1})(1 + q^k \lambda^{-m_1})}{(1 - q^k \lambda^{-m_1})(1 - q^k \lambda^{m_1})} \\ &\times \frac{(1 + \lambda^{m_2})}{(1 - \lambda^{m_2})} \prod_{l=1}^{\infty} \frac{(1 + q^k \lambda^{m_2})(1 + q^k \lambda^{-m_2})}{(1 - q^k \lambda^{-m_2})(1 - q^k \lambda^{m_2})}, \end{aligned}$$

if  $P$  is an isolated fixed point and  $TM|_P = E_{m_1}^{\#} \oplus E_{m_2}^{\#}$ , where  $E_{m_i}^{\#}$  denotes the canonical underlying real bundle of the complex bundle  $E_{m_i}$  on which  $S^1$  acts by sending  $\lambda$  to  $\lambda^{m_i}$ ; or

$$\mu(P) = \text{ind} \left( d_s^P \otimes \frac{\bigwedge_{\lambda^{m_2}} E_{m_2}}{\bigwedge_{-\lambda^{m_2}} E_{m_2}} \right),$$

when  $P$  is 2-dimensional, where  $TM|_P = TP \oplus E_{m_2}^{\#}$ , i.e.  $E_{m_1}$  is now a trivial representation ( $m_1 = 0$ ) and  $d_s^P$  is the signature operator on  $P$ .

The contributions  $\mu(P)$  are meromorphic functions on the 2-dimensional torus  $\mathbb{T}_{q^2} = \mathbb{C}^*/q^2$  considered as the quotient of the multiplicative group of non-zero complex numbers  $\mathbb{C}^*$  by the subgroup generated by the element  $q^2 \neq 0$ . The rigidity of the elliptic genus is equivalent to the function  $\Phi(M) = \sum_{\{P\}} \mu(P)$  having no poles at all on  $\mathbb{T}_{q^2}$ .

Define the translation  $t_a \Phi(M)$  of  $\Phi(M)$  with  $a \in \mathbb{C}^*$ , by the map at the character level  $\lambda \mapsto a\lambda$ . The rigidity theorem for  $\Phi(M)$  follows from showing that none of the translations  $t_a \Phi(M)$ , by points  $a \in \mathbb{T}_{q^2}$  of finite order, has a pole on the circle  $|\lambda| = 1$ . Let  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $a$  be any root of the form

$$a = \alpha^s, \quad \alpha^k = q,$$

with  $k$  and  $s$  relatively prime. Define the formal power series

$$\varphi_a(F) = \frac{\bigwedge_a F}{\bigwedge_{-a} F} \otimes \bigotimes_{n=1}^{\infty} \left( \frac{\bigwedge_{aq^n} F}{\bigwedge_{-aq^n} F} \otimes \frac{\bigwedge_{a^{-1}q^n} F^*}{\bigwedge_{-a^{-1}q^n} F^*} \right)$$

where  $F$  denotes a complex vector bundle and  $F^*$  its complex dual bundle, and define

$$\varphi_{\pm q^{1/2}}(E) = \frac{\bigotimes_{n=1}^{\infty} \bigwedge_{\pm q^{n-1/2}} E}{\bigotimes_{n=1}^{\infty} \bigwedge_{\mp q^{n-1/2}} E}$$

for a real vector bundle  $E$ . The translations  $t_{\alpha^s} \Phi(M)$  can be expressed as *twists* of  $\Phi$  on the connected components  $M_k$  of the fixed point submanifold of the subgroup  $\mathbb{Z}_k = \{e^{2\pi il/k} | l = 1, \dots, k\} \subset S^1$  which *do contain fixed points of the  $S^1$  action*, as follows

$$t_{\alpha^s} \Phi(M) = \text{ind} \left( d_s^{M'_k} \otimes R(q, TM'_k \otimes \mathbb{C}) \otimes \varphi_{\alpha^{\omega_{r_1}}} (T_{r_1}) \otimes \varphi_{\alpha^{\omega_{r_2}}} (T_{r_2}) \right), \quad (2)$$

where  $M'_k$  is the submanifold  $M_k$  with a specific orientation and the bundles  $T_r$  are defined below.

Given (2), [5, Proposition 6.1] says that the translations  $t_{\alpha^s} \Phi(M)$  converge on some annulus containing the unit circle  $|\lambda| = 1$  to the Laurent series of a meromorphic function on  $\mathbb{T}_{q^2}$  which has no poles on the unit circle. The function  $t_{\alpha^s} \tau_q(M)$  on the variable  $q$  is regular on an annulus containing the unit circle for all  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ , so that  $t_{\alpha^s} \Phi(M)$  has no poles on the unit circle  $|\lambda| = 1$ . Hence,  $\Phi(M)$  has no poles at all on  $\mathbb{T}_{q^2}$ , and must be constant, i.e. the rigidity theorem follows.

In order to define the aforementioned twists, the submanifolds  $M_k$  must be orientable. The connected components of  $M_k$  that we are interested in are only those that contain  $S^1$ -fixed points since they are intermediate steps between  $M$  and the  $S^1$ -fixed point submanifolds  $P$ . The orientability of such components is confirmed as follows.

Since the transformations in  $\mathbb{Z}_k \subset S^1$  are orientation-preserving, the codimension of the components of  $M_k$  is even, so that in our case, they are isolated points or surfaces. The surfaces containing  $S^1$ -fixed points are orientable since they either coincide with a  $S^1$ -fixed component  $P$ , or are  $S^1$ -invariant with positive Euler characteristic, i.e. they are 2-dimensional spheres. The subgroup  $\mathbb{Z}_k$  acts on the normal bundle of  $M_k$  in  $M$

$$\begin{cases} T|_{M_k} = T_{r_1}^{\#} \oplus T_{r_2}^{\#} & \text{if } M_k \text{ is an isolated fixed point, or} \\ T|_{M_k} = TM_k \oplus T_{r_2}^{\#} & \text{if } M_k \text{ is a surface,} \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

where  $T_r^{\#}$  is an irreducible real representation of  $\mathbb{Z}_k$  with  $1 \leq r \leq [k/2]$ ,  $[k/2]$  is the greatest integer smaller than or equal to  $k/2$ , and  $TM_k$  is a trivial representation. The  $S^1$  action on  $M$  induces an  $S^1$  action on  $M_k$ , whose differential induces an action on  $T|_{M_k}$  preserving the decomposition, and making each  $T_r^{\#}$  an  $S^1$  bundle over  $M_k$ , for  $1 \leq r \leq [(k-1)/2]$ . Each  $T_r^{\#}$ , with  $r \neq k/2$  if  $k$  is even, is endowed with a complex structure such that  $\lambda \in S^1$  acts by  $\lambda^r$ , for  $1 \leq r \leq [(k-1)/2]$ . Hence,  $T_r^{\#}$  comes from a complex vector bundle  $T_r$ . For  $k$  even, the action on  $T_{k/2}^{\#} = T_{k/2}$  is multiplication

by  $-1$ , and it does not necessarily come from a complex vector bundle, while the  $T_r^\#$  inherit an orientation from the complex structure on  $T_r$ , for  $r = 1, \dots, [(k-1)/2]$ . Hence, if  $k$  is odd,  $TM_k$  has an induced orientation. If  $k$  is even, however, we only know that  $TM_k \oplus T_{k/2}$  is orientable, if  $T_{k/2}$  does appear in (3). On the other hand, we know that  $M_k$  is also orientable. Let us, therefore, choose an orientation. In this way,  $T_{k/2}$  inherits an orientation from  $M$  and  $M_k$ .

We must choose the orientation of  $M'_k$  to be compatible with the orientations of the  $S^1$ -fixed point submanifolds  $P$  as follows. Recall the decomposition of  $TM$  along  $P$

$$\begin{cases} TM|_P = E_{m_1} \oplus E_{m_2} & P \text{ is isolated fixed point,} \\ TM|_P = TP \oplus E_{m_2} & P \text{ is a surface.} \end{cases} \quad (4)$$

When  $k$  is odd, the decomposition (3) determines an orientation on  $TM_k$  denoted by  $+1$ . If  $P \subset M_k$ , choose the exponents along  $P$  so that each  $m_j \not\equiv 0 \pmod{k}$  is congruent to some  $r \in \{1, \dots, (k-1)/2\}$ . Choose the orientation of  $TP$  and the sign of those  $m_j \equiv 0 \pmod{k}$  so that the induced orientation on  $TM|_P$  is the given one. The induced orientation on  $TM_k|_P$  will be the  $+1$  orientation. For  $m_1$  and  $m_2$  let  $(l_1, \omega_1), (l_2, \omega_2) \in \mathbb{Z} \times \{1, \dots, k-1\}$  be such that

$$s \cdot m_1 = l_1 \cdot k + \omega_1, \quad s \cdot m_2 = l_2 \cdot k + \omega_2 \quad (5)$$

and define

$$\varepsilon(P) = l_1 + l_2. \quad (6)$$

The orientation for  $M'_k$  is now defined as  $(+1) \cdot (-1)^{\varepsilon(P)}$ , if  $M_k \supseteq P$ . Lemma 2.1 below ensures that this orientation is well defined. When  $k$  is even,  $TM|_{M_k}$  decomposes according to (3), so that  $TM_k \oplus T_{k/2}$  always inherits an orientation if the summand  $T_{k/2}$  does appear in (3). Let us choose an orientation for  $TM_k$  and call it  $+1$ , which induces an orientation on  $T_{k/2}$ . If  $P \subset M_k$ , select the exponents at  $P$  as follows. If  $m_j \not\equiv 0, k/2 \pmod{k}$ , make the choice as before so that  $(m_j)_{\text{mod } k} \in \{1, \dots, k/2 - 1\}$ . Choose the signs for those  $m_j \equiv 0, k/2 \pmod{k}$  and the orientation of  $TP$  to make the induced orientation of  $(TM_k \oplus T_{k/2})|_P$  correct. This ensures that the induced orientation of  $TM|_P$  is correct. The induced orientation of  $TM_k|_P$ , however, *may not* be the correct one  $(+1)$ . Let  $\varepsilon_0 = 0, 1$ , with  $\varepsilon_0 = 0$  if the induced orientation on  $TM_k|_P$  is correct, and  $\varepsilon_0 = +1$  if the induced orientation on  $TM_k|_P$  is incorrect. For each  $m_j$ , define  $(l_j, \omega_j)$  by (5) and set

$$\varepsilon(P) = \varepsilon_0 + l_1 + l_2. \quad (7)$$

The orientation of  $M'_k$  is given by  $(+1) \cdot (-1)^{\varepsilon(P)}$ , if  $M_k \supset P$ . The orientation of  $M'_k$  is well defined by the following lemma.

**Lemma 2.1.** *Let  $M$  be an oriented, compact, connected, even smooth 4-manifold admitting a smooth  $S^1$  action. Let  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $M_k$  be a connected component of the fixed point set of  $\mathbb{Z}_k$ . Let  $s \in \mathbb{Z}$  be relatively prime to  $k$ , and  $P, P' \subset M_k$  be connected components of the  $S^1$ -fixed point set. Use the prescription (6) or (7) above to define the numbers  $\varepsilon(P)$  and  $\varepsilon(P')$ . Then  $(-1)^{\varepsilon(P)} = (-1)^{\varepsilon(P')}$ .*

*Proof.* Lemma 2.1 is analogous to [5, Lemma 8.1], so we shall concentrate in the relevant changes to the proof. Let  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $P$  be a connected fixed point submanifolds of  $S^1$  contained in a connected component of  $M_k$ , which we shall also denote also by  $M_k$ . Just as before, given that we are working in dimension 4, there are three cases: (i)  $\dim M_k = \dim P = 2$ ; (ii)  $\dim M_k = 2, \dim P = 0$ ; (iii)  $\dim M_k = \dim P = 0$ . In (i) and (iii) the components  $P$  and  $M_k$  coincide so that we do not have to check any compatibility of the exponents  $\varepsilon(P)$ . In case (ii), we can have two isolated  $S^1$ -fixed points  $p$  and  $p'$ . Consider a path joining  $p$  and  $p'$  which avoids other  $S^1$ -fixed points. Let the path flow with the  $S^1$  action to generate a sphere  $S \cong S^2$  with “north” and “south” poles  $p$  and  $p'$  respectively (which, in fact, coincides with the component of  $M_k$ ). Let the sets of integers  $\{m_1, m_2\}$  and  $\{m'_1, m'_2\}$  denote the exponents of the  $S^1$  action on  $T_p M$  and  $T_{p'} M$  respectively.

By [5, Lemmas 9.1, 9.2], the number

$$\varepsilon(P) - \varepsilon(P') \equiv c \cdot (m_1 + m_2 - m'_1 - m'_2) \pmod{2},$$

where  $c$  is a constant, while

$$(m_1 + m_2 - m'_1 - m'_2) = \int_S c_1(TM|_S),$$

so that the lemma is reduced to finding the parity of the integer represented by the last integral. Notice that

$$TM|_S = TS \oplus \nu,$$

where  $\nu$  is the (real rank 2) normal bundle of  $S$  in  $M$ . The three bundles on  $S$  can be considered as complex vector bundles over  $S$  (cf. [5, p. 159]). Hence,

$$c_1(TM|_S) = c_1(TS) + c_1(\nu),$$

and

$$\int_S c_1(TM|_S) = \int_S c_1(TS) + \int_S c_1(\nu) = 2 + \int_S c_1(\nu),$$

so that the parity depends on the last integral only. Given that we are working in dimension 4

$$\int_S c_1(\nu) = S \cdot S \equiv 0 \pmod{2},$$

the self-intersection number of this sphere, which by the hypothesis on the intersection form is an even number.  $\square$

### 3. VANISHING OF THE SIGNATURE

*Proof of Theorem 1.1.* Since in dimension 4

$$\text{sign}(M) = -8 \widehat{A}(M)$$

we shall prove Theorem 1.1 by proving the vanishing of  $\widehat{A}(M)$ .

Since we are also considering the case when  $M$  may be non-Spin,  $\widehat{A}(M)$  may only be defined as a characteristic number and may not represent the index of an elliptic operator. Thus,  $\widehat{A}(M)$  may, in principle, be a rational number.

Since  $S^1$  acts on  $M$ , the equivariant genus  $\Phi(M)_g$  is defined for any  $g \in S^1$  as

$$\Phi(M)_g = \sum \text{sign}(M, R_i)_g \cdot q^i,$$

where  $\text{sign}(M, R_i)_g = \text{tr}|_g \ker(d_s \otimes R_i) - \text{tr}|_g \text{coker}(d_s \otimes R_i)$ . The coefficients of its  $q$ -development are now equivariant twisted signatures. Thus, according to Theorem 2.1, the value of  $\Phi(M)_g$  does not depend on  $g$ . Applying the Atiyah-Bott fixed point theorem [2],  $\Phi(M)_g$  can be expressed in terms of the fixed point set  $M^g$  of  $g$  and the action of  $g$  on the normal bundle of  $M^g \subset M$ . In particular, let  $g$  be the orientation preserving involution in  $\mathbb{Z}_2 \subset S^1$ . We denote the transversal self-intersection of  $M_2$  by  $M_2 \circ M_2$ . In [10, p. 315], Hirzebruch and Slodowy showed that

$$\Phi(M)_g = \Phi(M_2 \circ M_2).$$

On the other hand, applying Theorem 2.1,  $\Phi(M) = \Phi(M)_g$ , i.e.

$$\Phi(M) = \Phi(M_2 \circ M_2). \quad (8)$$

The codimension of  $M_2$  is positive and even, so that the elliptic genus  $\Phi(M)$  can now be computed from the elliptic genera of submanifolds of  $M$  of codimension at least 4, i.e. isolated points.

Let us now recall the expansion of  $\Phi(M)$  at the other cusp [9]

$$\tilde{\Phi}(M) = \frac{1}{q^{\dim(M)/8}} \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \widehat{A}(M, R'_j) \cdot q^j,$$

where  $R'_j$  is the sequence of virtual tensor bundles given by

$$R'(q, T) = \bigotimes_{k=2m+1} \bigwedge_{-q^k} T \otimes \bigotimes_{k=2m+2} S_{q^k} T,$$

and the  $\widehat{A}(M, R'_j) = \langle \widehat{A}(M) \cdot \text{ch}(R'_j), [M] \rangle$  may only be defined as characteristic numbers. The first few terms of the sequence are  $R'_0 = 1$ ,  $R'_1 = -T$ ,  $R'_2 = \bigwedge^2 T + T$ , etc. This expansion is obtained by considering  $q = e^{\pi i t}$  and changing the  $t$  coordinate in (1) by  $t \rightarrow -1/t$ , and then by  $t \rightarrow 2t$  (cf. [9]). This expansion has, a priori, a pole of order  $1/2$ . On the other hand, by (8) we also have

$$\widetilde{\Phi}(M) = \widetilde{\Phi}(M_2 \circ M_2), \quad (9)$$

whose right hand side has a pole of order at most  $1/2 - 1/2 = 0$ , since the dimension of any connected component of  $M_2 \circ M_2$  is at most 0. Therefore (9) implies that the first coefficient on the left hand side vanishes,

$$\widehat{A}(M) = 0,$$

i.e.

$$\text{sign}(M) = 0.$$

□

#### 4. APPLICATIONS

In dimension 4, given the modular nature of the elliptic genera,  $\Phi$  and  $\widetilde{\Phi}$  satisfy

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi(M) &= \frac{\delta}{\varepsilon^{1/2}} \text{sign}(M) = \frac{-8\delta}{\varepsilon^{1/2}} \widehat{A}(M), \\ \widetilde{\Phi}(M) &= \frac{-8\delta}{(\delta^2 - \varepsilon)^{1/2}} \widehat{A}(M) = \frac{\delta}{(\delta^2 - \varepsilon)^{1/2}} \text{sign}(M), \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \delta &= \frac{1}{4} + 6(q + q^2 + 4q^3 + q^4 + 6q^5 + 4q^6 + \dots), \\ \varepsilon &= \frac{1}{16} - q + 7q^2 - 28q^3 + 71q^4 - 126q^5 + 196q^6 \pm \dots, \end{aligned}$$

are the generators of degree 2 and 4 respectively of the space of modular forms for the subgroup

$$\Gamma_0(2) = \left\{ A \in SL_2(\mathbb{Z}) \mid A \equiv \begin{pmatrix} * & * \\ 0 & * \end{pmatrix} \pmod{2} \right\} \subset SL_2(\mathbb{Z}).$$

Hence, we have also proved the following.

**Corollary 4.1.** *Let  $M$  be an oriented, compact, connected even 4-manifold admitting smooth  $S^1$  actions. Then, the elliptic genus vanishes identically on  $M$*

$$\Phi(M) = \text{sign}(M) = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \widetilde{\Phi}(M) = 0.$$

Furthermore, every genus vanishes on  $M$  and, in particular, the Witten genus [9]

$$\varphi_W(M) = \text{ind} \left( d_s^M \otimes \bigotimes_{n=1}^{\infty} S_{q^n} T \right) = 0$$

vanishes on  $M$ .  $\square$

**Corollary 4.2.** *The Enriques surface and the  $n$ -fold sum of Enriques surfaces admit no smooth  $S^1$ -actions.*

*Proof.* The Enriques surface has intersection form  $E_8 \oplus H$ , so it is incompatible with Theorem 1.1. Similarly for the  $n$ -fold connected sum of Enriques surfaces which have intersection form  $nE_8 \oplus nH$ .  $\square$

Finally, let us remark that the arguments in Sections 2 and 3, and particularly equation (2), prove the rigidity of the elliptic genus and the vanishing of the signature in a wider class of *non-Spin* 4-manifolds, including non-Spin  $\pi_2$ -finite manifolds [7, 8].

**Theorem 4.1.** *Let  $M$  be an oriented, compact, connected, smooth 4-manifold admitting a smooth  $S^1$  action. Furthermore, assume that the normal bundle to every  $S^1$ -invariant 2-sphere contained in  $M$  is topologically trivial. Then,*

- (1) *the elliptic genus  $\Phi(M)$  of  $M$  is rigid under the  $S^1$  action;*
- (2) *the signature and  $\widehat{A}$ -genus of  $M$  vanish*

$$\text{sign}(M) = 0, \quad \widehat{A}(M) = 0;$$

- (3) *the elliptic genus  $\Phi(M)$  and all other genera vanish on  $M$ .*

$\square$

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