

A CHROMATIC VANISHING RESULT FOR TR

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ABSTRACT. In this note, we establish a vanishing result for telescopically localized TR. More precisely, we prove that $T(k)$ -local TR vanishes on connective $L_n^{p,f}$ -acyclic \mathbb{E}_1 -rings for every $1 \leq k \leq n$ and deduce consequences for connective Morava K-theory and the Thom spectra $y(n)$. The proof relies on the relationship between TR and the spectrum of curves on K-theory together with fact that algebraic K-theory preserves infinite products of additive ∞ -categories which was recently established by Córdova Fedeli.

1. INTRODUCTION

In this note, we study the telescopic localizations of TR inspired by the work of Land–Mathew–Meier–Tamme [24] and Mathew [28]. Our starting point is the following result which follows from the main result of [24]: If R is an \mathbb{E}_1 -ring with $L_n^{p,f} R \simeq 0$, then

$$L_{T(k)} K(R) \simeq 0$$

for every $1 \leq k \leq n$. For instance, if $R = \mathbb{Z}/p^n$ for some integer $n \geq 1$, then $L_{T(1)} K(\mathbb{Z}/p^n) \simeq 0$. We consider this result as an extension of Quillen’s fundamental calculation that $K(\mathbb{F}_p)_p^\wedge \simeq H\mathbb{Z}_p$ which in particular yields that $L_{T(1)} K(\mathbb{F}_p) \simeq 0$. This particular consequence was also obtained by Bhatt–Clausen–Mathew [4] by means of a calculation in prismatic cohomology. Additionally, the vanishing result above for $T(k)$ -local K-theory can be applied to the Morava K-theories $K(n)$ and to the Thom spectra $y(n)$ considered by Mahowald–Ravenel–Shick in [27].

1.1. Results. We will be interested in similar vanishing results for $T(k)$ -local TR^1 . The invariant TR plays an instrumental role in the classical construction of topological cyclic homology in [7, 19, 6], where TC is obtained as the fixedpoints of a Frobenius operator on TR. In §3, we briefly review the construction of TR following [29] which produces TR together with its Frobenius operator entirely in the Borel–equivariant formalism of Nikolaus–Scholze [30]. Even though TR does not feature prominently in the construction of TC given in [30], TR remains an important invariant by virtue of its close relationship to the Witt vectors and the de Rham–Witt complex [18, 19, 20, 21]. In [28], Mathew proves that $T(1)$ -local TR is truncating on connective $H\mathbb{Z}$ -algebras which means that if R is a connective $H\mathbb{Z}$ -algebra, then the canonical map of spectra

$$L_{T(1)} \mathrm{TR}(R) \rightarrow L_{T(1)} \mathrm{TR}(\pi_0 R)$$

is an equivalence. This property was verified for $T(1)$ -local K-theory and $T(1)$ -local TC in [4, 24]. Our main result is a version of this at higher chromatic heights:

¹Note that $L_{T(k)} \mathrm{TR}(R) \simeq L_{T(k)} \mathrm{TR}(R, p)$, where $\mathrm{TR}(R, p)$ denotes the p -typical version of TR. Indeed, the canonical map $\mathrm{TR}(R) \rightarrow \mathrm{TR}(R, p)$ is a p -adic equivalence and $T(n)$ -localization is insensitive to p -completion. Therefore, we will not distinguish between p -typical TR and integral TR in this note.

Theorem A. *Let $n \geq 1$. If R is a connective \mathbb{E}_1 -ring such that $L_n^{p,f}R \simeq 0$, then*

$$L_{T(k)} \mathrm{TR}(R) \simeq 0$$

for every $1 \leq k \leq n$.

We remark that Theorem A is a consequence of the work of [24] in the case where R admits a more refined multiplicative structure; If R admits an \mathbb{E}_m -ring structure for $m \geq 2$, then the refined cyclotomic trace $K(R) \rightarrow \mathrm{TR}(R)$ is a map of \mathbb{E}_1 -rings. Consequently, the spectrum $L_{T(k)} \mathrm{TR}(R)$ admits the structure of a $L_{T(k)} K(R)$ -module and $L_{T(k)} K(R) \simeq 0$ by [24, Theorem 3.8]. A similar sort of reasoning has recently been employed with great success to study redshift phenomena for algebraic K-theory in [9, 11, 15, 31]. We deduce the following results from Theorem A:

Corollary B. *Let $n \geq 1$. Then $L_{T(k)} \mathrm{TR}(\mathbb{Z}/p^n) \simeq 0$ for every $k \geq 1$.*

We stress that Corollary B is a consequence of the work of [4, 24] by the reasoning above. For $n = 1$, Corollary B can also be deduced from the work of Mathew [28]. Since $T(1)$ -local TR is truncating on connective $H\mathbb{Z}$ -algebra it is in particular nilinvariant by [25], so

$$L_{T(1)} \mathrm{TR}(\mathbb{Z}/p^n) \simeq L_{T(1)} \mathrm{TR}(\mathbb{F}_p) \simeq 0,$$

where the final equivalence follows since $\mathrm{TR}(\mathbb{F}_p, p) \simeq H\mathbb{Z}_p$ by Hesselholt–Madsen [19]. As a consequence of Theorem A we deduce a new chromatic vanishing result for the connective Morava K-theories, which we denote by $k(n)$. While $k(n)$ admits the structure of an \mathbb{E}_1 -ring, it does not admit the structure of an \mathbb{E}_2 -ring so we cannot argue using the refined cyclotomic trace above.

Corollary C. *Let $n \geq 2$. Then $L_{T(k)} \mathrm{TR}(k(n)) \simeq 0$ for every $1 \leq k \leq n - 1$.*

Similarly, we obtain a chromatic vanishing result for the Thom spectra $y(n)$ considered in [27].

1.2. Methods. We end by explaining the strategy of our proof of Theorem A. The key input is the close relationship between TR and the spectrum of curves on K-theory as studied in [3, 5, 18, 29]. For every \mathbb{E}_1 -ring R , the spectrum of curves on K-theory is defined by

$$C(R) = \varprojlim_i \Omega \tilde{K}(R[t]/t^i),$$

where $\tilde{K}(R[t]/t^i)$ denotes the fiber of the map $K(R[t]/t^i) \rightarrow K(R)$ induced by the augmentation. If we assume that R is connective, then $\mathrm{TR}(R) \simeq C(R)$ by [29, Corollary 4.2.5]. This result was preceded by Hesselholt [18] and Betley–Schlichtkrull [3] who established the result for associative rings after profinite completion. Combining the theorem of the weighted heart (cf. [13, 17, 16]) with the recent result of Córdova Fedeli [12, Corollary 2.11.1] which asserts that algebraic K-theory preserves arbitrary products of additive ∞ -categories, we reduce to proving that

$$L_{T(k)} K^\oplus \left(\prod_{i \geq 1} \mathrm{Proj}_{R[t]/t^i}^\omega \right) \simeq 0$$

provided that $L_n^{p,f}R \simeq 0$, where $\mathrm{Proj}_{R[t]/t^i}^\omega$ denotes the additive ∞ -category of finitely generated projective $R[t]/t^i$ -modules and K^\oplus denotes additive algebraic K-theory. This claim can be verified explicitly by using [24, Proposition 3.6].

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2. PRELIMINARIES ON WEIGHT STRUCTURES AND K-THEORY

The main technical apparatus for deducing our chromatic vanishing result for TR is the notion of a weight structure on a stable ∞ -category in conjunction with the closely related theorem of the weighted heart (cf. [13, 16]). This will help us reduce to studying additive algebraic K-theory of additive ∞ -categories.

Definition 2.1. A weight structure on a stable ∞ -category \mathcal{C} consists of a pair of full subcategories $\mathcal{C}_{[0,\infty]}$ and $\mathcal{C}_{[-\infty,0]}$ of \mathcal{C} such that the following conditions are satisfied:

- (1) The full subcategories $\mathcal{C}_{[0,\infty]}$ and $\mathcal{C}_{[-\infty,0]}$ are closed under retracts in \mathcal{C} .
- (2) For $X \in \mathcal{C}_{[-\infty,0]}$ and $Y \in \mathcal{C}_{[0,\infty]}$, the mapping spectrum $\mathrm{map}_{\mathcal{C}}(X, Y)$ is connective.
- (3) For every $X \in \mathcal{C}$, there is a fiber sequence

$$X' \rightarrow X \rightarrow X''$$

with $X' \in \mathcal{C}_{[-\infty,0]}$ and $X''[-1] \in \mathcal{C}_{[0,\infty]}$.

The heart of the weight structure is the subcategory $\mathcal{C}^{\mathrm{ht}} = \mathcal{C}_{[0,0]}$, where $\mathcal{C}_{[a,b]} = \mathcal{C}_{[a,\infty]} \cap \mathcal{C}_{[-\infty,b]}$. The weight structure is said to be exhaustive if every object is bounded, in the sense that

$$\mathcal{C} = \bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \mathcal{C}_{[-n,n]}.$$

A weighted ∞ -category is a stable ∞ -category equipped with a weight structure.

Remark 2.2. The heart of a weighted ∞ -category is an additive ∞ -category ([16, Lemma 3.1.2]).

We recall the following terminology which will play an important role throughout this note. For every connective \mathbb{E}_1 -ring R , let Proj_R^{ω} denote the full subcategory of the ∞ -category $\mathrm{LMod}_R^{\geq 0}$ spanned by those connective left R -modules which are finitely generated and projective. Recall that an object of Proj_R^{ω} can be written as a retract of a finitely generated free R -module (cf. [26, Proposition 7.2.2.7]). For any not necessarily connective \mathbb{E}_1 -ring, let Perf_R denote the ∞ -category of perfect R -modules defined as the smallest stable subcategory of LMod_R which contains R and is closed under retracts. The following is our main example of interest:

Example 2.3. For a connective \mathbb{E}_1 -ring R , let $\mathrm{Perf}_{R,\geq 0}$ be the full subcategory of Perf_R spanned by those perfect R -modules which are connective, and let $\mathrm{Perf}_{R,\leq 0}$ denote the full subcategory of Perf_R spanned by those perfect R -modules M which have projective amplitude ≤ 0 . This means that every R -linear map $M \rightarrow N$ is nullhomotopic provided that N is 1-connective. The pair $(\mathrm{Perf}_{R,\geq 0}, \mathrm{Perf}_{R,\leq 0})$ defines an exhaustive weight structure on Perf_R whose heart is equivalent to the additive ∞ -category Proj_R^{ω} of finitely generated projective R -modules (cf. [17, 1.38 & 1.39]);

while the proofs therein are stated for connective \mathbb{E}_∞ -rings, the same arguments work in the \mathbb{E}_1 case.

The algebraic K-theory of a weighted ∞ -category is often determined by the additive algebraic K-theory of its heart by virtue of the theorem of the weighted heart first established by Fontes [13] but we also refer the reader to [16, Corollary 8.1.3, Remark 8.1.4]. Let \mathcal{A} denote an additive ∞ -category regarded as a symmetric monoidal ∞ -category with the cocartesian symmetric monoidal structure, so that the core \mathcal{A}^\simeq inherits the structure of an \mathbb{E}_∞ -monoid. Recall that the additive algebraic K-theory of \mathcal{A} is defined by

$$K^\oplus(\mathcal{A}) = (\mathcal{A}^\simeq)^{\text{grp}},$$

where $(\mathcal{A}^\simeq)^{\text{grp}}$ denotes the group completion of the \mathbb{E}_∞ -monoid \mathcal{A}^\simeq . We have the following result which will play an instrumental role below (cf. [13, Theorem 5.1] and [16, Corollary 8.1.3]):

Theorem 2.4. *The canonical map of spectra*

$$K^\oplus(\mathcal{C}^{\text{ht}}) \rightarrow K(\mathcal{C})$$

is an equivalence for every stable ∞ -category \mathcal{C} equipped with an exhaustive weight structure.

3. CHROMATIC VANISHING RESULTS

The main goal of this section is to prove Theorem A from §1 and discuss various consequences. As explained, our proof of this result relies on the close relationship between TR and the spectrum of curves in K-theory (cf. [3, 18, 29]). We will regard TR as a functor $\text{TR} : \text{Alg}_{\mathbb{E}_1}^{\text{cn}} \rightarrow \text{Sp}$ given by

$$\text{TR}(R) \simeq \text{map}_{\text{CycSp}}(\widehat{\text{THH}}(\mathbf{S}[t]), \text{THH}(R))$$

following [29] and this agrees with the classical construction of TR by [29, Theorem 3.3.12]. By virtue of our assumption that R is connective, there is an equivalence of spectra

$$\text{TR}(R) \simeq \varprojlim \Omega \tilde{K}(R[t]/t^i),$$

where $\tilde{K}(R[t]/t^i)$ denotes the fiber of the map $K(R[t]/t^i) \rightarrow K(R)$ induced by the augmentation. In this generality, the result was obtained by the second author in [29] preceded by Hesselholt [18] and Betley–Schlichtkrull [3] who proved the result for associative rings after profinite completion. With this equivalence at our disposal, we prove the following result:

Theorem 3.1. *Let $n \geq 1$. If R is a connective \mathbb{E}_1 -ring such that $L_n^{p,f} R \simeq 0$, then*

$$L_{T(k)} \text{TR}(R) \simeq 0$$

for every $1 \leq k \leq n$.

The limit in the definition of the spectrum of curves on K-theory above does not commute with $T(k)$ -localization. Instead, the proof of Theorem 3.1 relies on the following result, which is proved by combining the theorem of the weighted heart and a recent result which asserts that additive algebraic K-theory preserves infinite products of additive ∞ -categories, due to Córdova Fedeli [12].

Proposition 3.2. *Let R be a connective \mathbb{E}_1 -ring which vanishes after $L_n^{p,f}$ -localization. If $\{S_i\}_{i \in I}$ is collection of connective \mathbb{E}_1 -rings with a map of \mathbb{E}_1 -rings $R \rightarrow S_i$ for every $i \in I$, then*

$$L_{T(k)}\left(\prod_{i \in I} K(S_i)\right) \simeq 0$$

for every $1 \leq k \leq n$.

Proof. For $i \in I$, the stable ∞ -category Perf_{S_i} admits an exhaustive weight structure whose heart is equivalent to the additive ∞ -category $\text{Proj}_{S_i}^\omega$ by Example 2.3. The canonical composite

$$K^\oplus\left(\prod_{i \in I} \text{Proj}_{S_i}^\omega\right) \rightarrow \prod_{i \in I} K^\oplus(\text{Proj}_{S_i}^\omega) \rightarrow \prod_{i \in I} K(\text{Perf}_{S_i})$$

is an equivalence by [12, Corollary 2.11.1] and Theorem 2.4, so we have reduced to proving that

$$L_{T(k)} K^\oplus\left(\prod_{i \in I} \text{Proj}_{S_i}^\omega\right) \simeq 0$$

for $1 \leq k \leq n$. By [24, Proposition 3.6], it suffices to prove that the endomorphism \mathbb{E}_1 -rings of

$$\mathcal{A} = \prod_{i \in I} \text{Proj}_{S_i}^\omega$$

vanish after $L_n^{p,f}$ -localization. If $P \in \mathcal{A}$, then the endomorphism \mathbb{E}_1 -ring of P is given by

$$\text{End}_{\mathcal{A}}(P) \simeq \prod_{i \in I} \text{map}_{S_i}(P_i, P_i),$$

where $\text{map}_{S_i}(P_i, P_i)$ denotes the mapping spectrum in LMod_{S_i} . For each $i \in I$, we may choose a positive integer $n_i \geq 1$ such that P_i is a retract of $S_i^{\oplus n_i}$ by virtue of our assumption that P_i is a finitely generated projective S_i -module. Consequently, we obtain a retract diagram of spectra

$$\text{End}_{\mathcal{A}}(P) \rightarrow \prod_{i \in I} S_i^{\oplus n_i} \rightarrow \text{End}_{\mathcal{A}}(P)$$

which proves the desired statement since the middle term is a left R -module, hence vanishes after $L_n^{p,f}$ -localization by virtue of our assumption that R is $L_n^{p,f}$ -acyclic. \square

Remark 3.3. In general, E -acyclic spectra are not closed under infinite products; for each $n \geq 0$, the n th Postnikov truncation $\tau_{\leq n} \mathbb{S}$ is $K(1)$ -acyclic, whereas $\prod_{n \geq 0} \tau_{\leq n} \mathbb{S}$ is not, else $L_{K(1)} \mathbb{S} \simeq 0$. The assumptions of Proposition 3.2 should be viewed as a uniformity condition on the spectra $K(S_i)$, forcing their product to become acyclic.

Proof of Theorem 3.1. Since R is a connective \mathbb{E}_1 -ring, there is an equivalence of spectra $\text{TR}(R) \simeq C(R)$ by [29, Corollary 4.2.5]. Thus, the spectrum $\Sigma \text{TR}(R)$ is the fiber of a suitable map

$$\prod_{i \geq 1} \tilde{K}(R[t]/t^i) \rightarrow \prod_{i \geq 1} \tilde{K}(R[t]/t^i)$$

which proves the desired statement as these products vanish after $T(k)$ -localization for $1 \leq k \leq n$ by virtue of Theorem 3.2. \square

Remark 3.4. As remarked above, we have used work by Córdova Fedeli [12] in a crucial way. This result on K-theory of additive ∞ -categories is part of a long tradition of examining the interaction of algebraic K-theory and infinite products of categories. One of the first results of this kind is due to Carlsson, who showed that K-theory preserves infinite products of exact 1-categories with a cylinder functor [10]. In [23], Kasprowski–Winges proved that K-theory

preserves infinite products of additive categories. Furthermore, Kasprowski–Winges [22] used a characterization of Grayson [14] to prove that non-connective algebraic K-theory preserves infinite products of stable ∞ -categories and this was used in [8] with Bunke to prove the analogous statement of prestable ∞ -categories.

Remark 3.5. Another attempt to prove Proposition 3.2 proceeds by invoking the recent result of Kasprowski–Winges [22], which asserts that the canonical map of spectra

$$K\left(\prod_{i \in I} \text{Perf}(S_i)\right) \rightarrow \prod_{i \in I} K(S_i)$$

is an equivalence (cf. Remark 3.5). Proceeding as in the proof of Proposition 3.2, it suffices to prove that the endomorphism \mathbb{E}_1 -rings of the product of the stable ∞ -categories $\text{Perf}(S_i)$ vanish after $L_n^{p,f}$ -localization. This is closely related to the following assertion:

(*) Let E denote the endomorphism \mathbb{E}_1 -ring of a finite spectrum V of type n . If $v : \Sigma^k E \rightarrow E$ is the associated v_n self-map of E , then there is a canonical lift of v to a map of E - E -bimodules.

By the description of the \mathbb{E}_1 -center as Hochschild cohomology, the statement (*) is equivalent to asking for a lift of the class $v \in \pi_*(E)$ to a class $\tilde{v} \in \pi_* \mathcal{Z}_{\mathbb{E}_1}(E)$ along the \mathbb{E}_1 -map $\mathcal{Z}_{\mathbb{E}_1}(E) \rightarrow E$. Classes which do lift in this way can be viewed as “homotopically central” elements of E , and we remark that such lifts exist for all \mathbb{E}_2 -rings, by the universal property of the \mathbb{E}_1 -center.

However, the assertion (*) is false as we learned from Maxime Ramzi, and we thank him for help with the following argument. If such a lift exists, then we obtain an equivalence of $L_{K(n)}$ - $L_{K(n)}$ -bimodules

$$\varphi : \Sigma^k L_{K(n)} E \rightarrow L_{K(n)} E,$$

and there is an equivalence of \mathbb{E}_1 -rings $\text{End}_{K(n)}(L_{K(n)} V) \simeq L_{K(n)} E$ since V is a finite spectrum. The ∞ -category of $K(n)$ -local spectra is equivalent to the ∞ -category $\text{Mod}_{L_{K(n)} E}(\text{Sp}_{K(n)})$ since $L_{K(n)} V$ is a compact generator of $\text{Sp}_{K(n)}$. As a consequence, for every $K(n)$ -local spectrum X , we obtain an equivalence $\Sigma^k X \rightarrow X$ by base-changing along φ . This is a contradiction since the homotopy groups of a $K(n)$ -local spectrum are not periodic. We indicate an example of this at every height $n \geq 1$. Let k be a perfect field of characteristic p , let \mathbb{G} be a 1-dimensional formal group of height n , and let E_n denote the associated Lubin–Tate theory which canonically carries the structure of an \mathbb{E}_∞ -ring. For every topological generator g of \mathbb{Z}_p^\times , there is a map of \mathbb{E}_∞ -rings $\psi_g : E_n \rightarrow E_n$, and we let F_n denote the fiber of the map

$$E_n \xrightarrow{1-\psi_g} E_n.$$

A calculation reveals that the homotopy groups of F_n are not periodic. For instance, if $n = 1$, then $F_1 \simeq L_{K(1)} \mathbb{S}$ since the map ψ_g is induced by Adams operations on $E_1 \simeq \text{KU}_p^\wedge$.

Finally, we explore some immediate consequences of Theorem 3.1.

Corollary 3.6. *Let R be a connective \mathbb{E}_1 -algebra over \mathbb{Z}/p^j . If $n \geq 1$, then $L_{T(n)} \text{TR}(R) \simeq 0$.*

Proof. Note that $L_n^{p,f} R$ is a module over $L_n^{p,f} \mathbb{Z}/p^j \simeq 0$, so the assertion follows from Theorem 3.1. \square

Recall that Corollary 3.6 above also follows from [4, 24, 28] as discussed in the introduction. We deduce some consequence for connective Morava K-theory. Let $k(n)$ denote the connective cover of the n th Morava K-theory $K(n)$. The spectrum $k(n)$ carries the structure of an \mathbb{E}_1 -ring but not the structure of an \mathbb{E}_2 -ring. We have the following:

Corollary 3.7. *If $n \geq 2$, then $L_{T(k)} \mathrm{TR}(k(n)) \simeq 0$ for every $1 \leq k \leq n - 1$.*

Proof. For $n \geq 2$, the canonical map $k(n) \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_p$ is a $L_{n-1}^{p,f}$ -local equivalence by [24, Lemma 2.2], so the assertion follows from Theorem 3.1. \square

Remark 3.8. There is a fiber sequence of spectra

$$\mathrm{K}(\mathbb{F}_p) \rightarrow \mathrm{K}(k(n)) \rightarrow \mathrm{K}(K(n)),$$

by [1, Proposition 4.4] preceded by [2]. We consider this as an analogue of Quillen's dévissage theorem for algebraic K-theory of ring spectra. One might ask whether we can establish a similar fiber sequence for TR. In particular, this would allow us to deduce an analogue of Corollary 3.7 for the non-connective Morava K-theory.

Let $y(n)$ denote the Thom spectrum considered in [27, Section 3]. This is the Thom spectrum associated to the map of \mathbb{E}_1 -spaces

$$\Omega J_{p^{n-1}} S^2 \hookrightarrow \Omega^2 S^3 \rightarrow \mathrm{BGL}_1(\mathbb{S}_p^\wedge)$$

where $J_{p^{n-1}} S^2$ is the $2(p^{n-1})$ -skeleton of $\Omega^2 S^3$, which has a single cell in each even dimension. The map $\Omega^2 S^3 \rightarrow \mathrm{BGL}_1(\mathbb{S}_p^\wedge)$ is the spherical fibration constructed by Mahowald (for $p = 2$) and Hopkins (for p odd) whose Thom spectrum is $H\mathbb{F}_p$. We have the following:

Corollary 3.9. *If $n \geq 2$, then $L_{T(k)} \mathrm{TR}(y(n)) \simeq 0$ for every $1 \leq k \leq n - 1$.*

Proof. This follows immediately by combining Theorem 3.1 with [24, Lemma 4.14]. \square

Remark 3.10. If R is a connective $H\mathbb{Z}$ -algebra, then the canonical map

$$L_{T(1)} \mathrm{K}(R) \rightarrow L_{T(1)} \mathrm{K}(R[1/p])$$

is an equivalence by [4, 24]. The analogue of this result does not hold for TC as explained in [24, Remark 4.27], which in particular means that the result also does not prolong to TR. However, at chromatic heights $n \geq 2$, TC does satisfy a version of chromatic purity (cf. [24, Corollary 4.5]). In particular, if $A \rightarrow B$ is an $L_n^{p,f}$ -local equivalence of \mathbb{E}_1 -rings, then the induced map

$$L_{T(n)} \mathrm{TC}(\tau_{\geq 0} A) \xrightarrow{\simeq} L_{T(n)} \mathrm{TC}(\tau_{\geq 0} B).$$

is an equivalence. One can wonder whether such a statement is true of $T(n)$ -local TR, but our methods here do not seem to shed light on this problem.

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