IS $SK_1(Z\pi) = 0$ FOR π A FINITE ABELIAN GROUP

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My talk was addressed to the problem of the title, discussing background and the relevant avenues of attack, and inviting further attention to it. The lecture was successful in that Roger Alperin, Keith Dennis (who attended the Conference) and Michael Stein, have since solved the problem, using the results of their recent work on K_2 of discrete valuation rings. They prove, in particular, that if π is an elementary p group of order p^n, p an odd prime and $n \geq 1$, then $SK_1(Z\pi)$ is an elementary p group of order p^e, where

$$e = \frac{p^n - 1}{p - 1} - \binom{p + n - 1}{p}$$

Hence, $SK_1(Z\pi) \neq 0$ as soon as $n \geq 3$.

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