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Minimal Euler Characteristics for Even-Dimensional Manifolds with A Given Fundamental Group

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In this talk we will discuss estimates for the minimal Euler characteristic of even dimensional manifolds with a given fundamental group and a highly connected universal cover. In particular we strengthen the Hausmann-Weinberger invariants and extend them to higher dimensions. As an application we obtain new restrictions for non-abelian finite groups arising as fundamental groups of rational homology 4-spheres. This is joint work with Ian Hambleton.