

Categorical groups in brave new algebra

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(joint work with H.-J. Baues)

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The stable homotopy category

- It is a symmetric monoidal triangulated category \mathbf{S} whose objects are called **spectra**.
- It maps onto the category of cohomology theories for finite CW-complexes.
- Monoids in \mathbf{S} yield multiplicative cohomology theories.
- $\mathbf{S} = \text{Ho } \mathbf{M}$ for many stable model categories \mathbf{M} .
- There are symmetric monoidal models \mathbf{M} . This reflects the existence of higher operations on multiplicative cohomology theories.
- A **ring spectrum** is a monoid in \mathbf{M} .
- The **homotopy groups** of a spectrum E are the cohomology of the point $\pi_*(E) = E^*(\text{pt.})$, and E is **connective** if $\pi_n(E) = 0$ for $n < 0$.

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Symmetric monoidal categories and stable homotopy

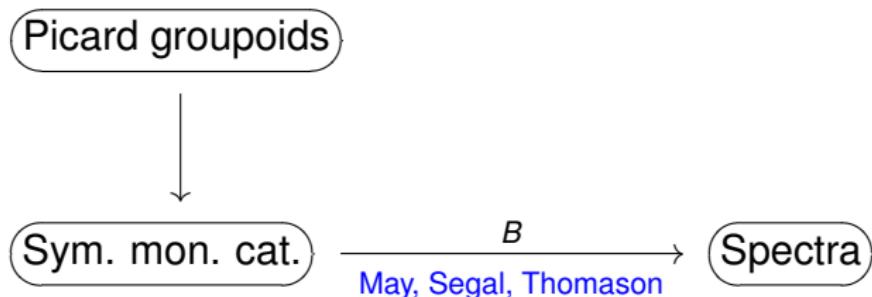


$$\text{Sym. mon. cat.} \xrightarrow[B]{\text{May, Segal, Thomason}} \text{Spectra}$$

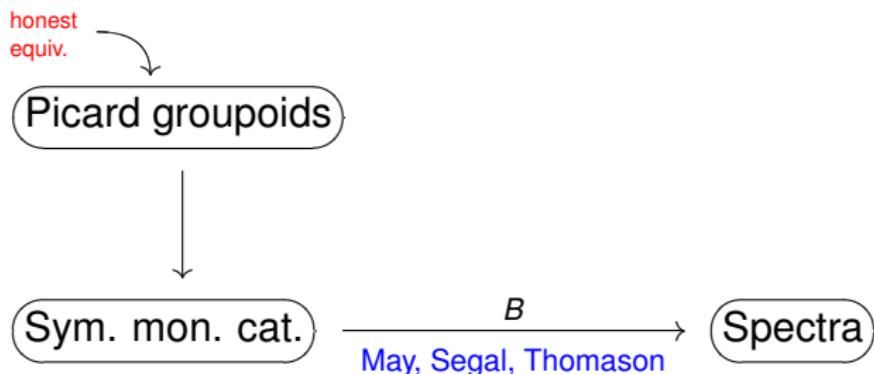
Example

- $B(\text{finite sets, bijections}, \coprod) = S$ the *sphere spectrum*.
- For R a ring, $B(\text{f. g. free left } R\text{-mod., iso.}, \oplus) = K(R)$ the *K-theory spectrum of R* .

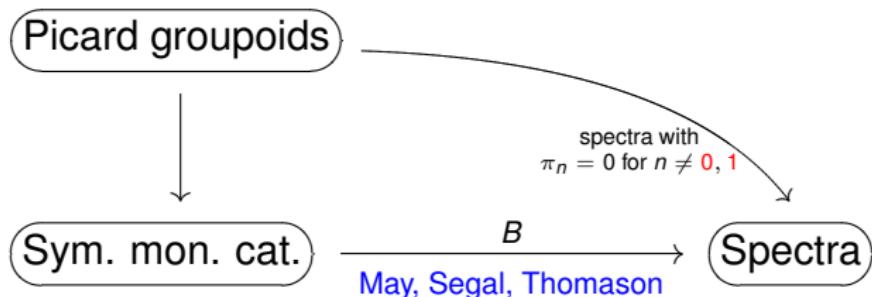
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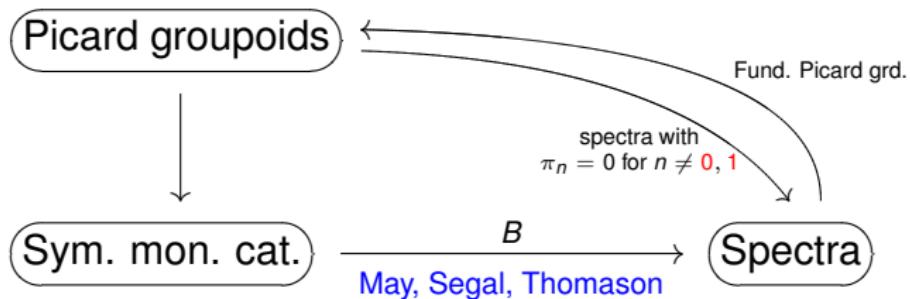
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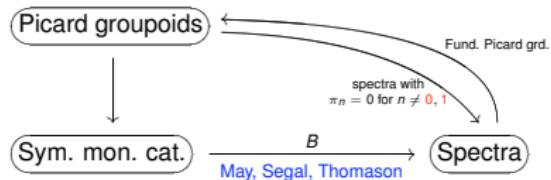
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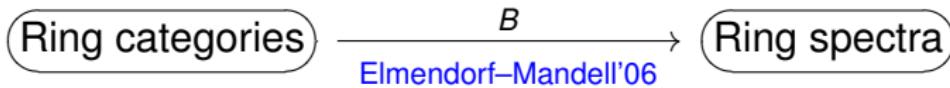
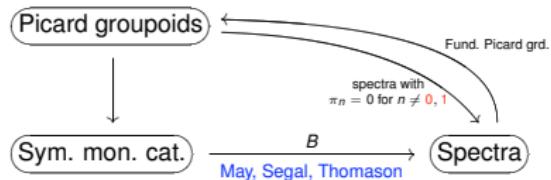
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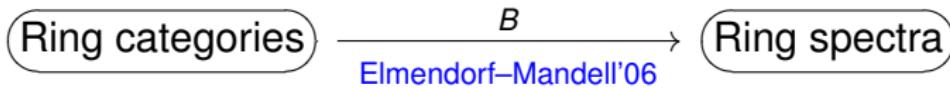
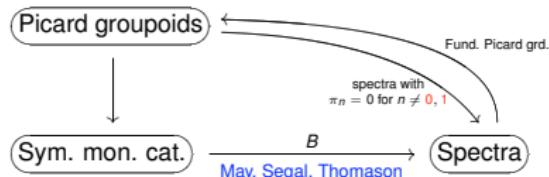
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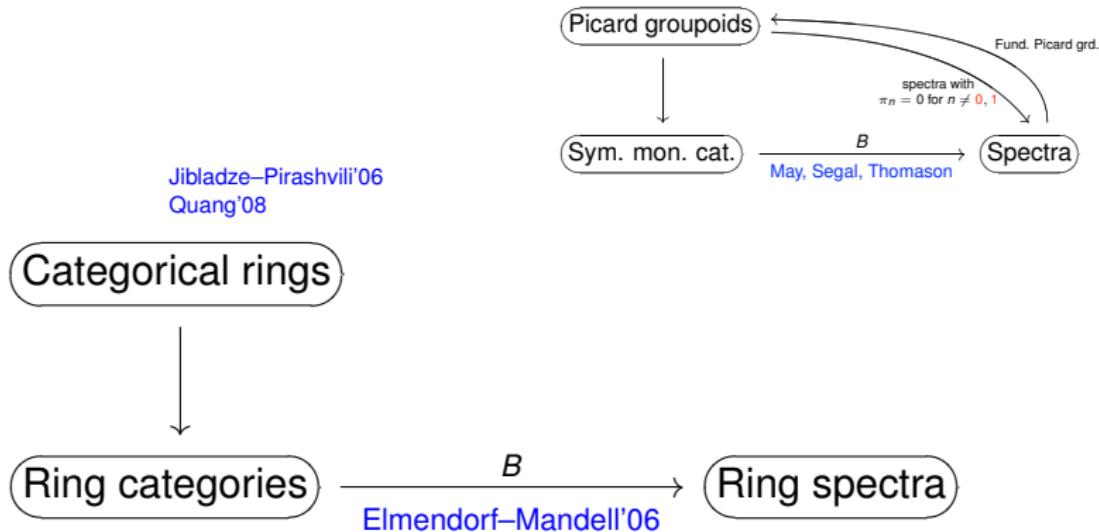
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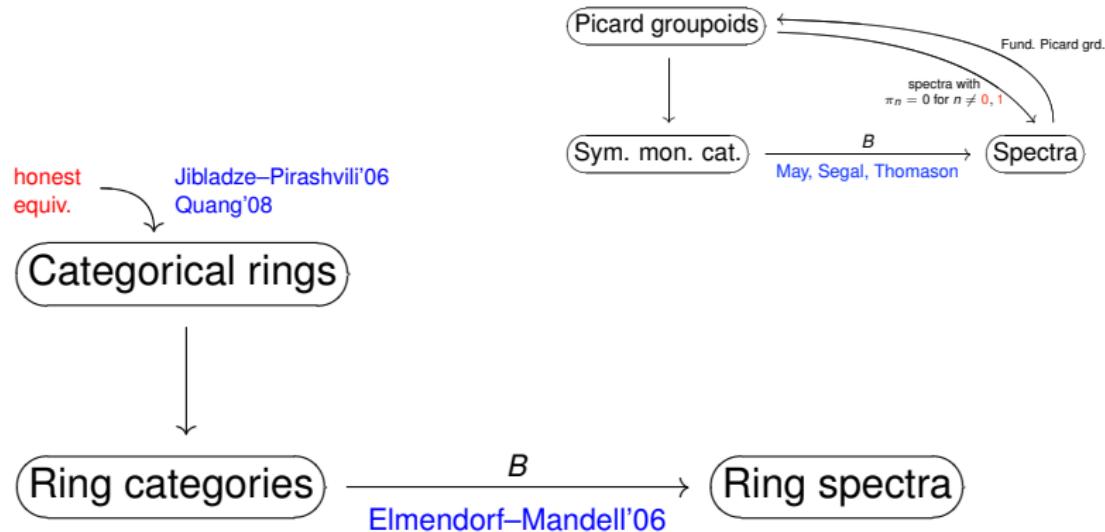
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- $B(\text{finite sets}, \text{bijections}, \coprod, \times) = S \text{ as a ring spectrum.}$
- For R commutative, $B(f.g. \text{ free } R\text{-mod.}, \text{iso.}, \oplus, \otimes_R) = K(R).$

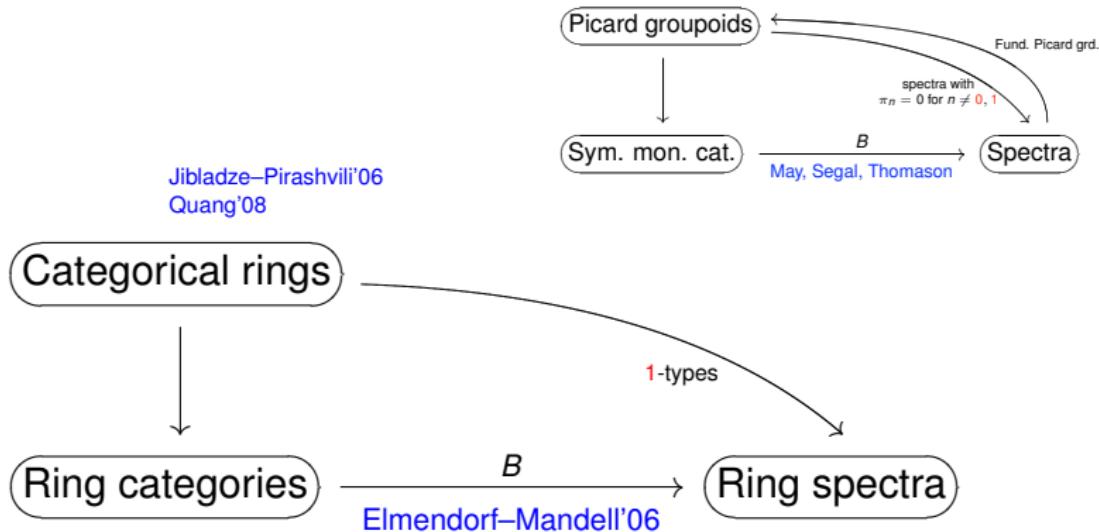
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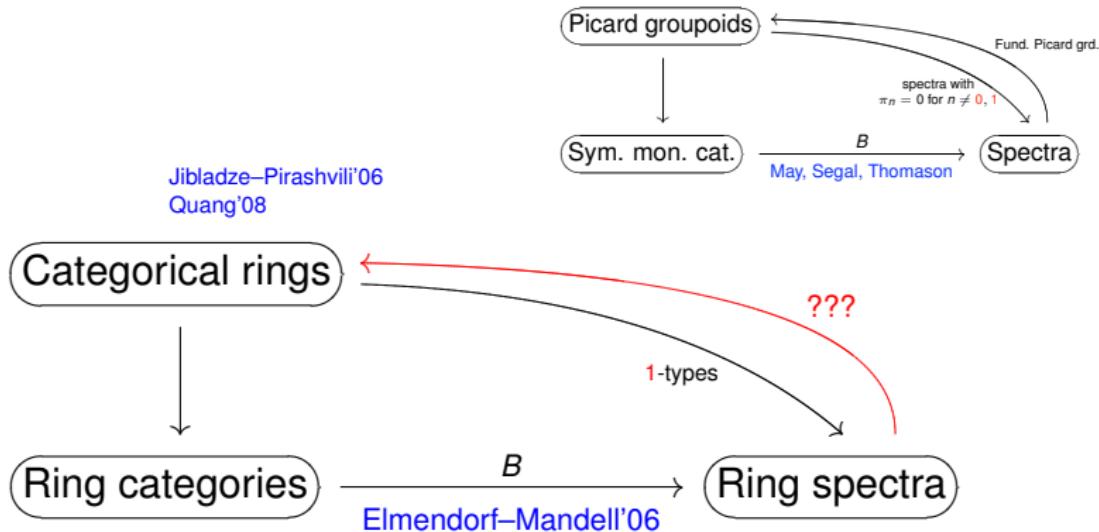
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Symmetric monoidal categories and stable homotopy



How shall we do it?

- 1 Define a symmetric monoidal ‘replacement’ for the 2-category of Picard groupoids.
- 2 Construct a ‘lax symmetric monoidal’ 2-functor



and more generally, $n \geq 0$,



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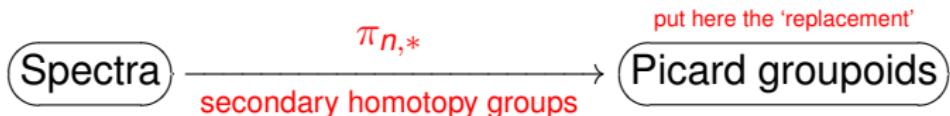
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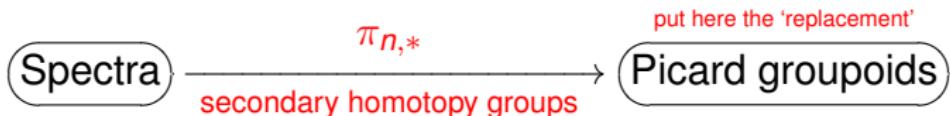
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All-strict Picard groupoids

A Picard groupoid is **strict** if \otimes is strictly associative and unital. It is **all-strict** if \otimes is also strictly commutative.

Any Picard groupoid \mathbf{P} can be *strictified* but not *all-strictified*.

Proposition

The following are equivalent:

- \mathbf{P} can be all-strictified.
- $B(\mathbf{P})$ has trivial Postnikov invariants.
- The *stable Hopf map* $\eta \in \pi_1(S) \cong \mathbb{Z}/2$ acts trivially on $\pi_0(B(\mathbf{P}))$,

$$0 = \pi_0(B(\mathbf{P})) \cdot \eta \subset \pi_1(B(\mathbf{P})).$$

Example

The Picard groupoid $\mathbf{Pic}(X)$ of line bundles over a scheme X can be all-strictified.

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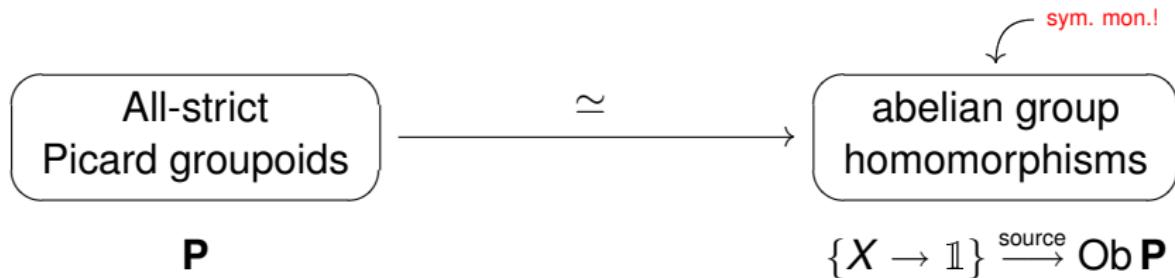
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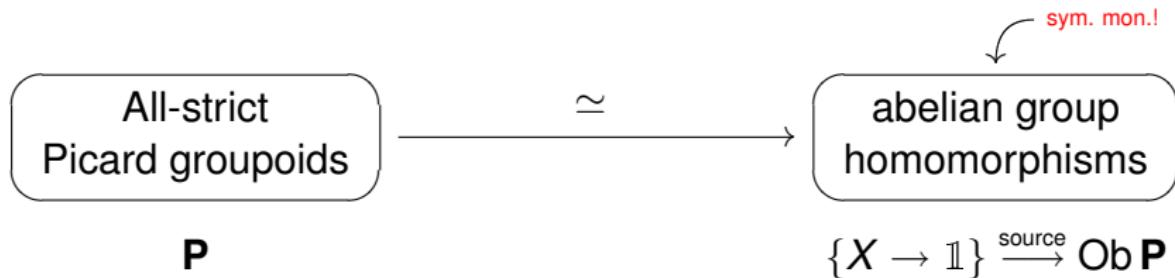
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$$\begin{array}{ccc} A_1 & & B_1 \\ \downarrow \partial_A & \otimes & \downarrow \partial_B \\ A_0 & & B_0 \end{array}$$

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$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{All-strict} & & \text{sym. mon.!} \\ \text{Picard groupoids} & \xrightarrow{\sim} & \text{abelian group} \\ & & \text{homomorphisms} \\ \mathbf{P} & & \{X \rightarrow \mathbb{1}\} \xrightarrow{\text{source}} \mathbf{Ob} \mathbf{P} \end{array}$$

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Crossed bimodules

A monoid in this category is a **crossed bimodule** C_* ,

$$C_1 \xrightarrow[\text{bimod. hom.}]{\partial} C_0$$

C_0 -bimod. ring

satisfying

$$c_1 \cdot \partial(c'_1) = \partial(c_1) \cdot c'_1.$$

Theorem (Baues-Pirashvili'06)

For R a ring and M an R -bimodule,

$$SH^3(R, M), \quad \text{Shukla cohomology},$$

classifies crossed bimodules C_* with $h_0 C_* = R$ and $h_1 C_* = M$.

One can similarly consider **graded** crossed bimodules.

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Theorem (Baues-M'06)

There are 2-functors, $n \geq 0$,

$$\text{Spectra} \xrightarrow{\bar{\pi}_{n,*}} \text{Abelian group hom.}$$

$$0 \rightarrow \frac{\pi_{n+1}(X)}{\pi_n(X) \cdot \eta} \rightarrow \bar{\pi}_{n,1}(X) \xrightarrow{\partial} \bar{\pi}_{n,0}(X) \rightarrow \pi_n(X) \rightarrow 0.$$

They extend (up to natural quasi-iso.) to a 2-functor

$$\text{Ring spectra} \xrightarrow{\bar{\pi}_{*,*}} \text{Graded crossed bim.}$$

$$0 \rightarrow \frac{\pi_*(R)}{(\eta)}[1] \rightarrow \bar{\pi}_{*,1}(R) \xrightarrow{\partial} \bar{\pi}_{*,0}(R) \rightarrow \pi_*(R) \rightarrow 0.$$

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The all-strict ‘ $\pi_{*,*}$ ’

The functors $\bar{\pi}_{n,*}$ are good enough for spectra X *neglecting the Hopf map*, i.e. such that $\pi_*(X) \cdot \eta = 0$.

Remark

If R is a ring spectrum neglecting η ,

$$\{\bar{\pi}_{0,*}(R)\} \in SH^3(\pi_0 R, \pi_1 R) \subset THH^3(\pi_0 R, \pi_1 R)$$

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Massey products

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 $xy = 0$
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$-a\bar{z} + \bar{x}b$ $\bar{x}, \bar{y}, \bar{z}$ \mapsto x, y, z
 $\in \langle x, y, z \rangle$ a \mapsto $\bar{x}\bar{y}$ \mapsto $xy = 0$
Massey product b \mapsto $\bar{y}\bar{z}$ \mapsto $yz = 0$

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$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} -a\bar{z} + \bar{x}b & & & \bar{x}, \bar{y}, \bar{z} & \mapsto & x, y, z \\ \in \langle x, y, z \rangle & a & \mapsto & \bar{x}\bar{y} & \mapsto & xy = 0 \\ \text{Massey product} & b & \mapsto & \bar{y}\bar{z} & \mapsto & yz = 0 \end{array}$$

For R a ring spectrum neglecting η and $C_* = \bar{\pi}_{*,*}(R)$ if we have $x, y, z \in \pi_*(R)$ then

$$\langle x, y, z \rangle \subset \pi_{|x|+|y|+|z|+1}(R)$$

is the **Toda bracket**.

Example

The ring spectrum $H\mathbb{F}_2 \wedge H\mathbb{F}_2$ neglects the Hopf map, and $\bar{\pi}_{*,*}(H\mathbb{F}_2 \wedge H\mathbb{F}_2)$ is (quasi-iso. to) the dual secondary Steenrod algebra.

The **secondary Steenrod algebra** \mathcal{B} is a graded crossed bimodule

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{A}[-1] \rightarrow \mathcal{B}_1 \xrightarrow{\partial} \mathcal{B}_0 \xrightarrow[\text{Steenrod algebra}]{} \mathcal{A} \rightarrow 0,$$

actually a **2-Hopf algebra**, computed by [Baues'06](#). The cohomology of \mathcal{B} leads to a direct computation of E_3 of Adams SS [[Baues-Jibladze'06](#)].

The commutative case

A **commutative crossed bimodule** C_* ,

$$C_1 \xrightarrow[\text{module hom.}]{\partial} C_0$$

C_0 -mod. comm. ring

They are not enough! We need graded shc crossed bimodules,

$$C_{*,1} \xrightarrow[\text{graded crossed bim.}]{\partial} C_{*,0}$$

$$\smile_1: C_{*,0} \otimes C_{*,0} \longrightarrow C_{*,1}$$

$$\partial(c_0 \smile_1 c'_0) = c_0 c'_0 - (-1)^{|c_0||c'_0|} c'_0 c_0,$$

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$$\partial(c_0 \smile_1 c'_0) = c_0 c'_0 - (-1)^{|c_0||c'_0|} c'_0 c_0,$$

$$\partial(c_1) \smile_1 c_0 = c_1 c_0 - (-1)^{|c_1||c_0|} c_0 c_1,$$

$$0 = c_0 \smile_1 c'_0 + (-1)^{|c_0||c'_0|} c_0 \smile_1 c'_0,$$

$$(c_0 c'_0) \smile_1 c''_0 = (-1)^{|c'_0||c''_0|} (c_0 \smile_1 c''_0) c'_0 + c_0 (c'_0 \smile_1 c''_0).$$

The commutative case

A **commutative crossed bimodule** C_* ,

$$C_1 \xrightarrow[\text{module hom.}]{\partial} C_0$$

C_0 -mod. comm. ring

They are not enough! We need graded shc crossed bimodules,

$$C_{*,1} \xrightarrow[\text{graded crossed bim.}]{\partial} C_{*,0} \longrightarrow h_0 C_* \longrightarrow 0$$

graded comm. ring

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graded $h_0 C_*$ -mod. graded comm. ring

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Theorem (Baues-M'06)

The 2-functor $\bar{\pi}_{*,*}$ above extends (up to natural quasi-iso.) to a 2-functor

$$\text{Comm. ring spectra} \xrightarrow{\bar{\pi}_{*,*}} \text{Graded shc crossed bim.}$$

$$0 \rightarrow \frac{\pi_*(R)}{(\eta)}[1] \rightarrow \bar{\pi}_{*,1}(R) \xrightarrow{\partial} \bar{\pi}_{*,0}(R) \rightarrow \pi_*(R) \rightarrow 0,$$

$$\smile_1 : \bar{\pi}_{*,0}(R) \otimes \bar{\pi}_{*,0}(R) \longrightarrow \bar{\pi}_{*,1}(R).$$

A commutative example

For the 3-local sphere commutative ring spectrum $S_{(3)}$,

n	0	2	3	6	7	9	10	11	12	13
π_n	$\mathbb{Z}_{(3)}$	0	$\mathbb{Z}/3$	0	$\mathbb{Z}/3$	0	$\mathbb{Z}/3$	$\mathbb{Z}/9$	0	$\mathbb{Z}/3$
$\pi_{n,*}$	$\mathbb{Z}_{(3)}$	0	$\mathbb{Z}_{(3)}$?						

Arrows indicate the action of the differential ∂ :

- From $\mathbb{Z}_{(3)}$ to $\mathbb{Z}/3$: a_1 , a_2 , a_3 .
- From $\mathbb{Z}/3$ to $\mathbb{Z}_{(3)}$: \bar{a}_1 , \bar{a}_2 , \bar{a}_3 .
- From $\mathbb{Z}_{(3)}$ to $\mathbb{Z}_{(3)}$: 3 .
- From $\mathbb{Z}_{(3)}$ to $\mathbb{Z}_{(3)}$: $(1, 0)$.
- From $\mathbb{Z}_{(3)}$ to $\mathbb{Z}_{(3)}$: α_1 , α_2 .
- From $\mathbb{Z}_{(3)}$ to $\mathbb{Z}_{(3)}$: β_1 .
- From $\mathbb{Z}_{(3)}$ to $\mathbb{Z}_{(3)}$: α'_3 .
- From $\mathbb{Z}_{(3)}$ to $\mathbb{Z}_{(3)}$: ∂ .
- From $\mathbb{Z}_{(3)}$ to $\mathbb{Z}_{(3)}$: $\bar{\alpha}'_3$.
- From $\mathbb{Z}_{(3)}$ to $\mathbb{Z}_{(3)}$: $\bar{a}_{1,2}$, $\bar{a}_{2,1}$, \bar{b}_1 .
- From $\mathbb{Z}_{(3)}$ to $\mathbb{Z}_{(3)}$: \bar{a}_1 , \bar{a}_2 , \bar{a}_3 .
- From $\mathbb{Z}_{(3)}$ to $\mathbb{Z}_{(3)}$: $\alpha_1[1]$, $\alpha_2[1]$, $\beta_1[1]$.
- From $\mathbb{Z}_{(3)}$ to $\mathbb{Z}_{(3)}$: $\alpha'_3[1]$.
- From $\mathbb{Z}_{(3)}$ to $\mathbb{Z}_{(3)}$: 9 .
- From $\mathbb{Z}_{(3)}$ to $\mathbb{Z}_{(3)}$: $(1, 0)$.
- From $\mathbb{Z}_{(3)}$ to $\mathbb{Z}_{(3)}$: $\mathbb{Z}_{(3)} \oplus \mathbb{Z}/3$.
- From $\mathbb{Z}_{(3)}$ to $\mathbb{Z}_{(3)}$: $\alpha_1 \bar{a}_1$, $\alpha_2 \bar{a}_1$.
- From $\mathbb{Z}_{(3)}$ to $\mathbb{Z}_{(3)}$: $\alpha_1 \bar{a}_1 \bar{a}_2$.
- From $\mathbb{Z}_{(3)}$ to $\mathbb{Z}_{(3)}$: $\alpha_1 \bar{a}_1 \bar{a}_2 \bar{a}_1$.
- From $\mathbb{Z}_{(3)}$ to $\mathbb{Z}_{(3)}$: $\alpha_1 \bar{a}_1 \bar{a}_2 \bar{a}_1 \bar{a}_2$.

$$a_1 \bar{a}_2 = 3\bar{a}_{1,2} + x\alpha'_3[1],$$

$$\bar{a}_1 a_2 = 3\bar{a}_{1,2} + (x-3)\alpha'_3[1],$$

$$a_1 \smile_1 a_1 = 2\bar{a}_1,$$

$$a_1 \smile_1 a_2 = \bar{a}_{1,2} + \bar{a}_{2,1},$$

$$\partial = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

where $x \in \mathbb{Z}/9$ is an unknown constant!

Don't neglect $\eta!$

stable quadratic
modules



Picard groupoids

▶ sqm ▶ jump

Don't neglect η !

stable quadratic modules $\xrightarrow{\simeq}$ Picard groupoids

$$\begin{array}{ccc} C_0^{ab} \otimes C_0^{ab} & & \\ \downarrow \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle & & \\ C_1 & \xrightarrow{\partial} & C_0 \end{array}$$

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stable quadratic
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$$\xrightarrow{\simeq}$$

Picard groupoids

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PC_{*}

Object set: C_0

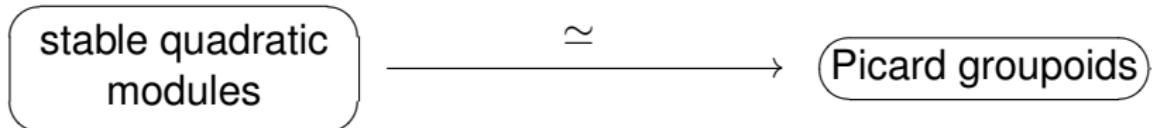
Maps: $c_0 + \partial(c_1) \xrightarrow{c_1} c_0$
 $\otimes = +$

$$c_0 + c'_0 \xrightarrow{\langle c_0, c'_0 \rangle} c'_0 + c_0$$

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not symmetric monoidal



$$C_0^{ab} \otimes C_0^{ab}$$

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symmetric monoidal!

$$\text{quadratic pair modules} \xrightarrow{\simeq} \text{Picard groupoids}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} C_0^{ab} \otimes C_0^{ab} & \xleftarrow{H} & \\ \downarrow \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle & & \\ C_1 & \xrightarrow{\partial} & C_0 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \partial \langle c_0, c'_0 \rangle &= [c'_0, c_0] \\ \langle \partial(c_1), \partial(c'_1) \rangle &= [c'_1, c_1] \\ \langle c_0, c'_0 \rangle &= -\langle c'_0, c_0 \rangle \\ H(c_0 + c'_0) &= H(c_0) + H(c'_0) + c'_0 \otimes c_0 \end{aligned}$$

\mathbf{PC}_*

Object set: C_0

Maps: $c_0 + \partial(c_1) \xrightarrow{c_1} c_0$
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symmetric monoidal! Baues-M'06, Baues-Jibladze-Pirashvili'08

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$\mathbf{P}C_*$

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We may want to assume that $\text{Ker } H \subset C_0 \rightarrow h_0 C_*$ is surjective.

The 2-category of stable quadratic modules

A **morphism** $f: C_* \rightarrow D_*$ is a chain morphism with $\langle f_0, f_0 \rangle = f_1 \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$

◀ back

$$\begin{array}{ccc} C_1 & \xrightarrow{f_1} & D_1 \\ \partial \downarrow & & \downarrow \partial \\ C_0 & \xrightarrow{f_0} & D_0 \end{array}$$

The 2-category of stable quadratic modules

A **morphism** $f: C_* \rightarrow D_*$ is a chain morphism with $\langle f_0, f_0 \rangle = f_1 \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ [◀ back](#)

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The 2-category of stable quadratic modules

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$$\begin{array}{ccc} & g_1 & \\ & \swarrow f_1 \quad \downarrow & \\ C_1 & & D_1 \\ \downarrow \partial & \nearrow \alpha & \downarrow \partial \\ C_0 & \xrightarrow{f_0} & D_0 \\ & \searrow & \\ & g_0 & \end{array}$$

A **track**, homotopy or 2-morphism $\alpha: f \Rightarrow g$ is a map such that

$$\partial \alpha(c_0) = -g_0(c_0) + f_0(c_0),$$

$$\alpha \partial(c_1) = -g_1(c_1) + f_1(c_1),$$

$$\alpha(c_0 + c'_0) = \alpha(c_0) + \alpha(c'_0) + \langle g_0(c'_0), \partial \alpha(c_0) \rangle.$$

Example

Let C_*

$$\begin{array}{ccc} C_0^{ab} \otimes C_0^{ab} & & \\ \downarrow \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle & & \\ C_1 & \xrightarrow{\partial} & C_0 = \langle E \rangle^{\text{nil}} \end{array}$$

be a stable quadratic module such that $C_0 = \langle E \rangle^{\text{nil}}$ is freely generated by a set E as a group of nilpotency class 2.

There exists a unique map H satisfying $H(e) = 0$ for any $e \in E$ which turns C_* into a quadratic pair module.

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Quadratic pair algebras

A quadratic pair algebra is,

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \otimes^2 C_0^{ab} & \xleftarrow{\quad} & \\ P = \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle \downarrow & & H \\ C_1 & \xrightarrow[\text{bimod. hom.}]{{\partial}} & C_0 \\ C_0\text{-bimod.} & & \text{monoid} \end{array}$$

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Theorem (Baues-Jibladze-Pirashvili'06)

For R a ring and M an R -bimodule,

$\text{THH}^3(R, M)$, *topological Hochschild cohomology*,

classifies quadratic pair algebras C_* with $h_0 C_* = R$ and $h_1 C_* = M$.

The right $\pi_{n,*}$

Theorem (Baues-M'06)

There are 2-functors, $n \geq 0$,

$$\text{Spectra} \xrightarrow{\pi_{n,*}} \text{quadratic pair mod.}$$

$$0 \rightarrow \pi_{n+1}(X) \rightarrow \pi_{n,1}(X) \xrightarrow{\partial} \pi_{n,0}(X) \rightarrow \pi_n(X) \rightarrow 0.$$

They extend (up to natural quasi-iso.) to a 2-functor

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Quadratic pair algebras

Remark

If R is a ring spectrum,

$$\{\pi_{0,*}(R)\} \in THH^3(\pi_0 R, \pi_1 R)$$

can be identified with the **1st Postnikov invariant** of R .

Example

The quadratic pair algebra $\pi_{0,*}(S)$ is equivalent to

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathbb{Z} & \xleftarrow{\quad} & \\ \downarrow \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle & & \curvearrowright H(n) = \frac{n(n-1)}{2} \\ \mathbb{Z}/2 & \xrightarrow[\partial=0]{} & \mathbb{Z} \end{array}$$

which generates $THH^3(\mathbb{Z}, \mathbb{Z}/2) \cong \mathbb{Z}/2$.

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$H(n) = \frac{n(n-1)}{2}$

which generates $THH^3(\mathbb{Z}, \mathbb{Z}/2) \cong \mathbb{Z}/2$.

Quadratic pair algebras

Example

If F is a field, the quadratic pair algebra $\pi_{0,*}(K(F))$ is equivalent to

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathbb{Z} & \xleftarrow{\quad} & \\ \downarrow 1 \mapsto -1 & & \\ F^\times & \xrightarrow[\partial=0]{} & \mathbb{Z} \end{array}$$

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Let \mathbf{C} be a monoidal exact or Waldhausen category, $\pi_{0,*}(K(\mathbf{C}))$ in the next talk!

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$\pi_{n,*}$ for spaces

Let X be a pointed space, $n > 2$,

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \otimes^2 \pi_{n,0}(X)^{ab} & \xleftarrow{\quad} & \\ \downarrow \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle & & \\ \pi_{n,1}(X) & \xrightarrow{\partial} & \pi_{n,0}(X) = \langle \{S^n \rightarrow X\} \rangle^{nil} \end{array}$$

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An element $[f, F] \in \pi_{n,1}(X)$ is represented by $f: S^1 \rightarrow \bigvee_{S^n \rightarrow X} S^1$ and

$$S^n \xrightarrow[S^{n-1} \wedge f]{} S^n \bigvee_{S^n \rightarrow X} S^n \xrightarrow{ev} X.$$

0
↑
 F

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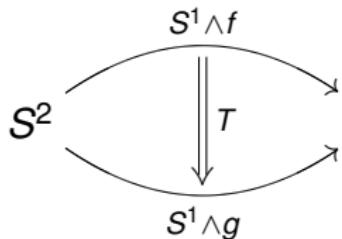
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The Hopf invariant for tracks

For $n = 2$,



$$\text{Hopf}(T) \in \otimes^2 \mathbb{Z}^k \cong \mathbb{Z}^{k^2}$$

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$$\begin{matrix} \cong \\ \mathbb{Z} \\ 1 \end{matrix} \qquad \qquad \qquad \begin{matrix} \text{Pontryagin} \\ \cong \\ \otimes^2 \mathbb{Z}^k \end{matrix}$$

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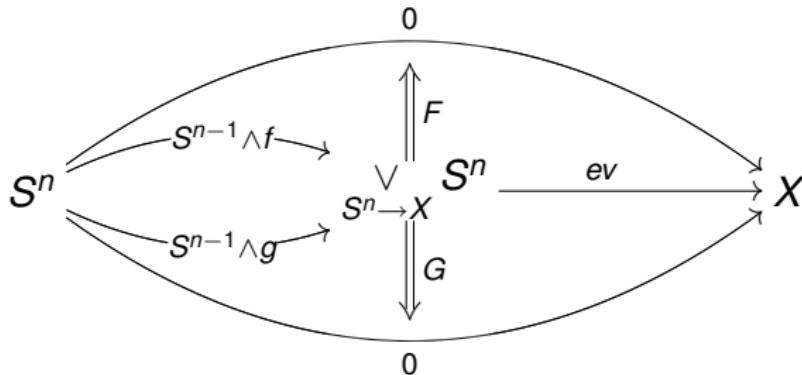
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For $n > 2$ we need the reduced tensor square $\hat{\otimes}^2 A = \frac{A \otimes A}{(a \otimes b + b \otimes a)}$,

$$\text{Hopf}(T) \in \hat{\otimes}^2 \mathbb{Z}^k \cong \mathbb{Z}^{\frac{k(k-1)}{2}} \oplus (\mathbb{Z}/2)^k.$$

$\pi_{n,*}$ for spaces

Two elements $[f, F] = [g, G] \in \pi_{n,1}(X)$ coincide iff

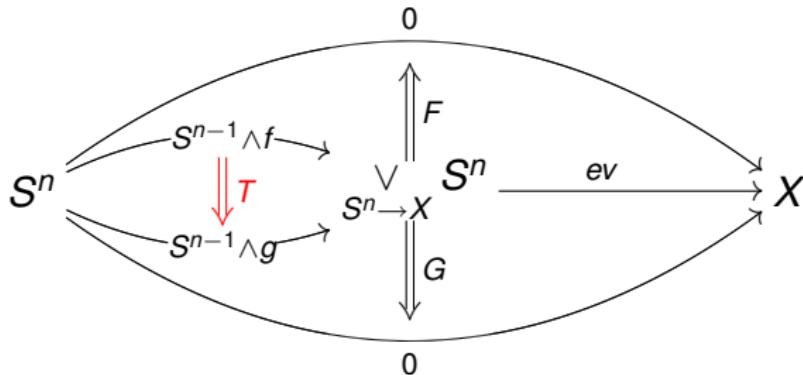


there exists a track T such that $\text{Hopf}(T) = 0$ and the pasting of the diagram is the identity track.

We still have to define $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle: \otimes^2 \pi_{n,0}(X)^{ab} \longrightarrow \pi_{n,1}(X)$.

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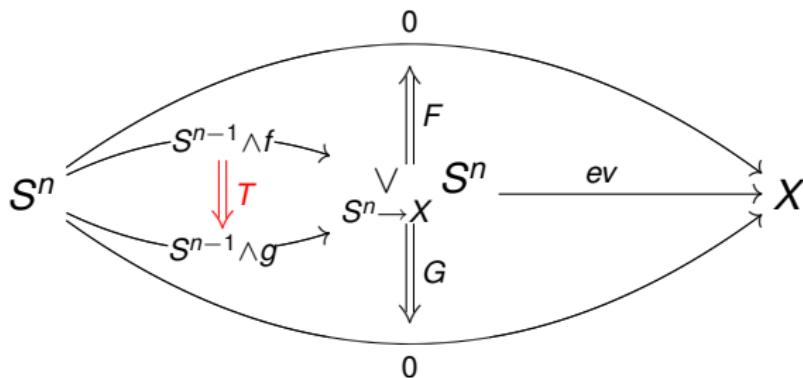
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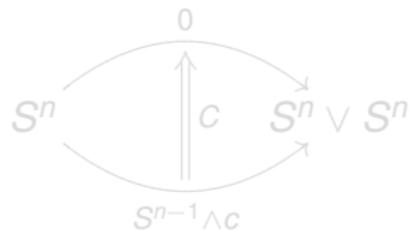
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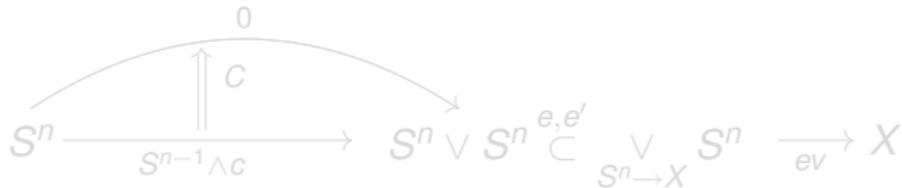
Let $c: S^1 \rightarrow S^1 \vee S^1$ be a map such that $\pi_1(c): \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \langle i_1, i_1 \rangle: 1 \mapsto [i_2, i_1]$.

For $n > 2$, there exists a unique track C



with $\text{Hopf}(C) = i_1 \otimes i_2 \in \hat{\otimes}^2 \langle i_1, i_2 \rangle^{\text{ab}}$.

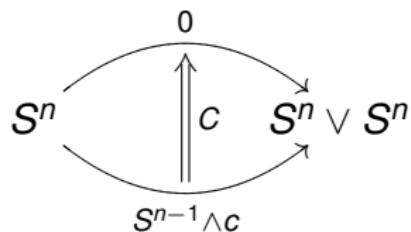
Given $e, e': S^n \rightarrow X$ in $\pi_{n,0}(X)$, the element $\langle e, e' \rangle \in \pi_{n,1}(X)$ is



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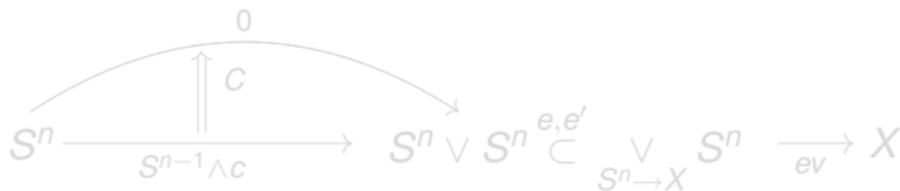
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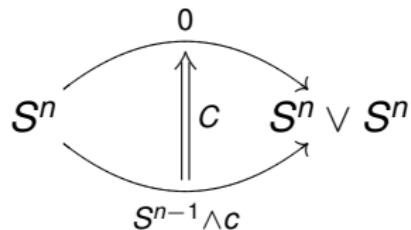
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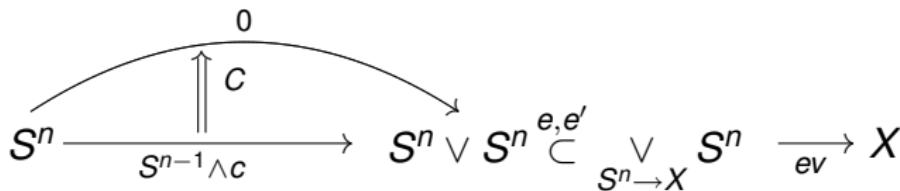
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Example

For $n > 2$, $\pi_{n,*}(S^n \vee \cdots \vee S^n)$ is quasi-isomorphic to

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \otimes^2 \mathbb{Z}^k & \xleftarrow{H} & \\ \downarrow \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle & & \\ \hat{\otimes}^2 \mathbb{Z}^k & \xrightarrow[\partial]{\text{anticommutator}} & \langle i_1, \dots, i_k \rangle^{nil} \end{array}$$

An element $a \in \hat{\otimes}^2 \mathbb{Z}^k$ can be identified with

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} & 0 & & & \\ S^n & \xrightarrow[S^{n-1} \wedge f]{} & S^n \vee \cdots \vee S^n & \xrightarrow[i_j]{} & S^n \xrightarrow{ev} X = S^n \vee \cdots \vee S^n \\ & \uparrow F & & & \end{array}$$

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The End

Thanks for your attention!