

Exotic spheres and topological modular forms

Mark Behrens (MIT)

(joint with Mike Hill, Mike Hopkins,
and Mark Mahowald)

Fantastic survey of the subject:

Milnor, “Differential topology: 46 years later”
(Notices of the AMS, June/July 2011)

<http://www.ams.org/notices/201106/>

Poincaré Conjecture

Q: Is every homotopy n -sphere homeomorphic to an n -sphere?

A: Yes!

- $n = 2$: easy.
- $n \geq 5$: (Smale, 1961) h-cobordism theorem
- $n = 4$: (Freedman, 1982)
- $n = 3$: (Perelman, 2003)

Smooth Poincaré Conjecture

Q: Is every homotopy n -sphere **diffeomorphic** to an n -sphere?

A: Depends on n .

- $n = 2$: True - easy.
- $n = 7$: (Milnor, 1956) False – produced a smooth manifold which was homeomorphic but not diffeomorphic to S^7 ! [exotic sphere]
- $n \geq 5$: (Kervaire-Milnor, 1963) – ‘often’ false.
(true for $n = 5, 6$).
- $n = 3$: (Perelman, 2003) True.
- $n = 4$: Unknown.

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← Goal for this talk

Main Question

For which n do there exist exotic n -spheres?

Kervaire-Milnor

$\Theta_n := \{\text{oriented smooth homotopy } n\text{-spheres}\}/\text{h-cobordism}$

(note: if $n \neq 4$, h-cobordant \Leftrightarrow oriented diffeomorphic)

For $n \neq 2(4)$:

$$0 \rightarrow \Theta_n^{bp} \rightarrow \Theta_n \rightarrow \frac{\pi_n^S}{Im J} \rightarrow 0$$

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Θ_n^{bp} = subgroup of those which bound a parallelizable manifold

π_n^S = stable homotopy groups of spheres
= $\pi_{n+k}(S^k)$ for $k \gg 0$

$J: \pi_n(SO) \rightarrow \pi_n^S$ is the J-homomorphism.

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We'll get back to these



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$\pi_n^S = \Omega_n^{fr}$

Framed surgery

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For $n \equiv 2(4)$:

$$0 \rightarrow \Theta_n^{bp} \rightarrow \Theta_n \rightarrow \frac{\pi_n^S}{\text{Im } J} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/2 \rightarrow \Theta_{n-1}^{bp} \rightarrow 0$$

$$\begin{array}{c} \psi \\ \downarrow \\ [M] \mapsto \Phi_k(M) \end{array}$$

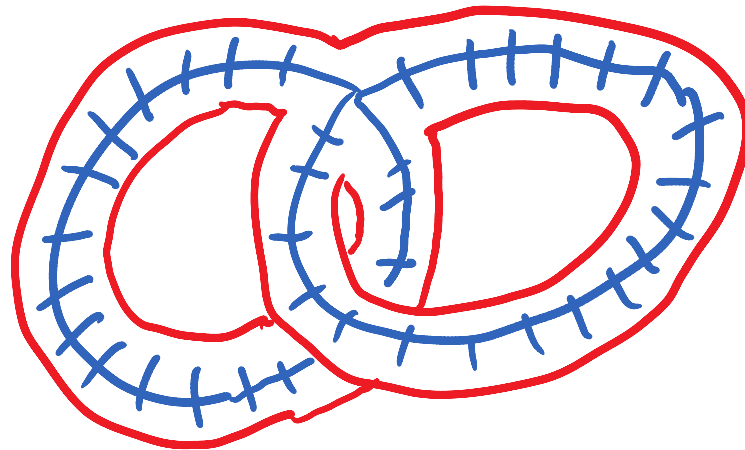
Kervaire Invariant

$$\Theta_n^{bp}$$

- Trivial for n even
- Cyclic for n odd

$$\Theta_n^{bp}$$

- Trivial for n even
- Cyclic for n odd
 - Generated by boundary of an explicit parallelizable manifold given by plumbing construction



$$\Theta_n^{bp}$$

- Trivial for n even
- Cyclic for n odd:

$$|\Theta_n^{bp}| = \begin{cases} 2^{2k} (2^{2k+1} - 1) \text{num} \left(\frac{4B_{k+1}}{k+1} \right), & n = 4k + 3 \\ \mathbb{Z}/2, & n \equiv 1(4), \exists M^{n+1} \text{ with } \Phi_K = 1 \\ 0, & n \equiv 1(4), \nexists M^{n+1} \text{ with } \Phi_K = 1 \end{cases}$$

Upshot: n even \Rightarrow bp gives no exotic spheres

$n \equiv 3(4) \Rightarrow$ bp gives exotic spheres ($n \geq 7$)

$n \equiv 1(4) \Rightarrow$ bp gives exotic sphere only if there are no M^{n+1} with $\Phi_K = 1$

J-homomorphism

$$J: \pi_n SO \rightarrow \pi_n^S \cong \Omega_n^{fr}$$

Given $\alpha: S^n \rightarrow SO$, apply it pointwise to the standard stable framing of S^n to obtain a non-standard stable framing of S^n .

Homotopy spheres are stably parallelizable, but not uniquely so – only get a well defined map

$$\Theta_n \rightarrow \frac{\pi_n^S}{Im J}$$

J-homomorphism

$$J: \pi_n SO \rightarrow \pi_n^S \cong \Omega_n^{fr}$$

||

$$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccc}
 (\mathbb{Z}/2 & 0 & \mathbb{Z} & 0 & 0 & 0 & \mathbb{Z} & \mathbb{Z}/2 & \mathbb{Z}/2 & 0 & \mathbb{Z} & 0 & 0 & 0 & \mathbb{Z} & \mathbb{Z}/2 & \dots) \\
 n: & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 & 8 & 9 & 10 & 11 & 12 & 13 & 14 & 15 & 16 & \dots
 \end{array}$$

$\mathbb{Z}/2$'s map in nontrivially

Adams, Mahowald

$$|\text{Im } J|_{4k-1} = \text{denom} \left(\frac{B_k}{4k} \right)$$

$$\pi_*^S$$

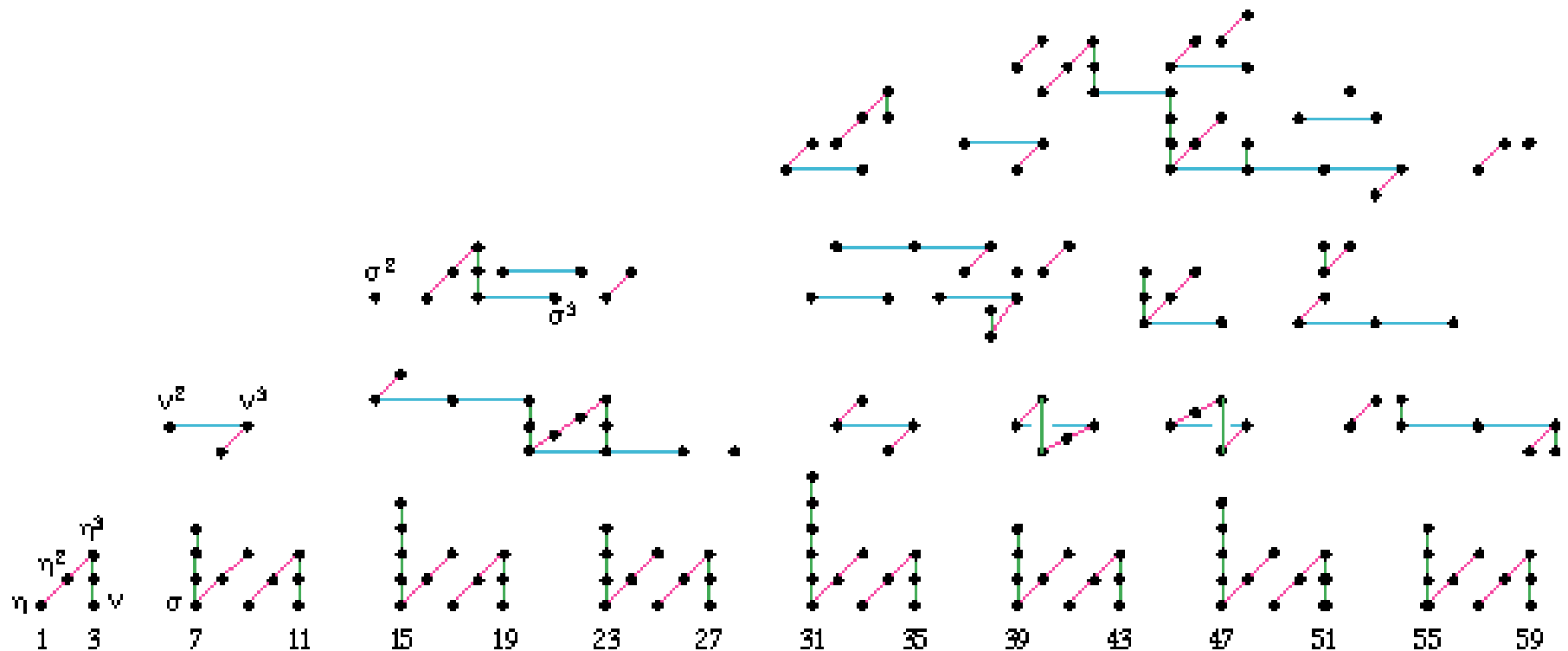
Stable homotopy groups:

$$\pi_n^S := \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \pi_{n+k}(S^k) \quad (\text{finite abelian groups for } n > 0)$$

Primary decomposition:

$$\pi_n^S = \bigoplus_{p \text{ prime}} (\pi_n^S)_{(p)} \quad \text{e.g.: } \pi_3^S = \mathbb{Z}_{24} = \mathbb{Z}_8 \oplus \mathbb{Z}_3$$

Stable Homotopy Groups of Spheres at the prime 2



Computation: Mahowald-Tangora-Kochman

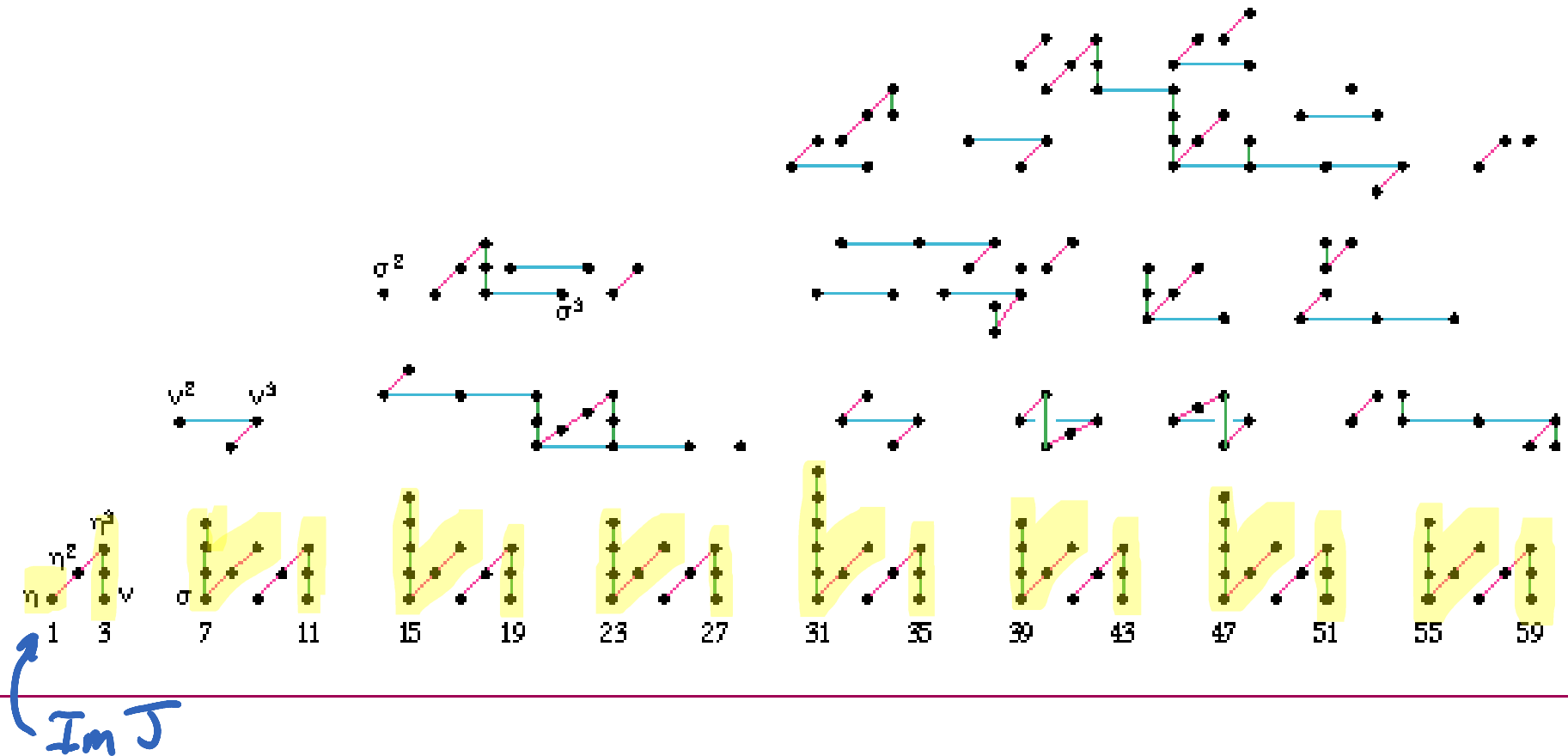
Picture: A. Hatcher

- Each dot represents a factor of 2, vertical lines indicate additive extensions

$$\text{e.g.: } (\pi_3^S)_{(2)} = \mathbb{Z}_8, \quad (\pi_8^S)_{(2)} = \mathbb{Z}_2 \oplus \mathbb{Z}_2$$

- Vertical arrangement of dots is arbitrary, but meant to suggest patterns

Stable Homotopy Groups of Spheres at the prime 2

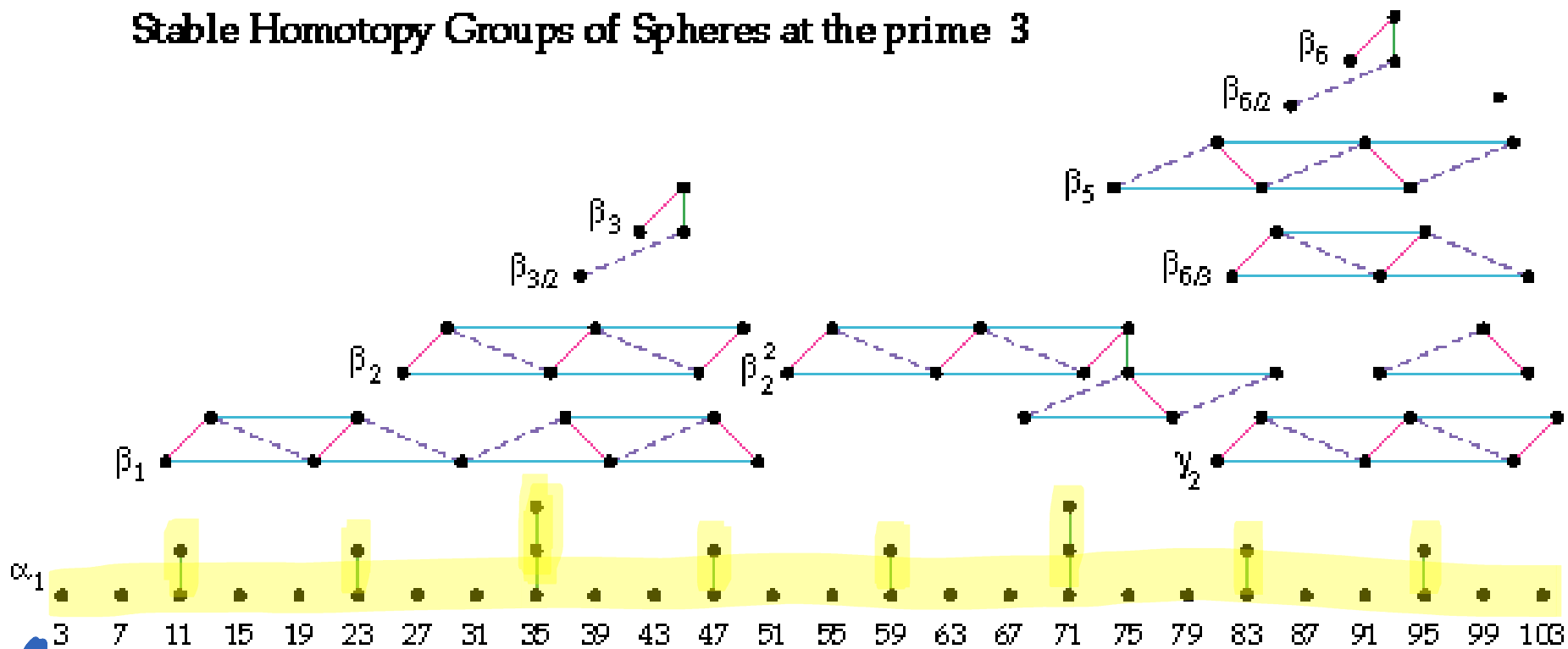


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Computation: Nakamura -Tangora

Picture: A. Hatcher

Stable Homotopy Groups of Spheres at the prime 3

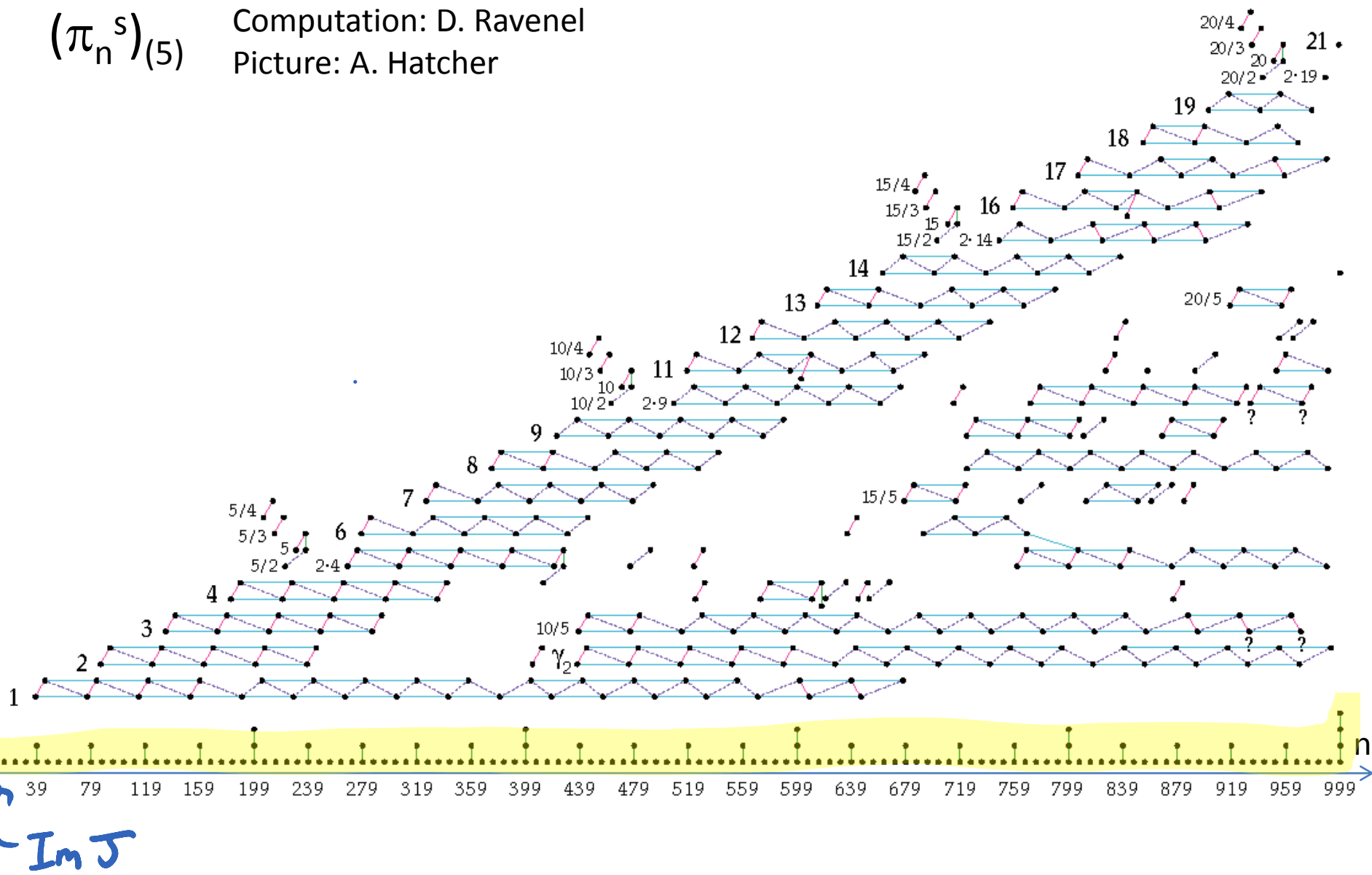


$\text{Im } J$

$$(\pi_n^s)_{(5)}$$

Computation: D. Ravenel

Picture: A. Hatcher



Adams spectral sequence

$$Ext_A^{s,t}(\mathbb{Z}/p, \mathbb{Z}/p) \Rightarrow (\pi_{t-s})_p$$

$p=2$

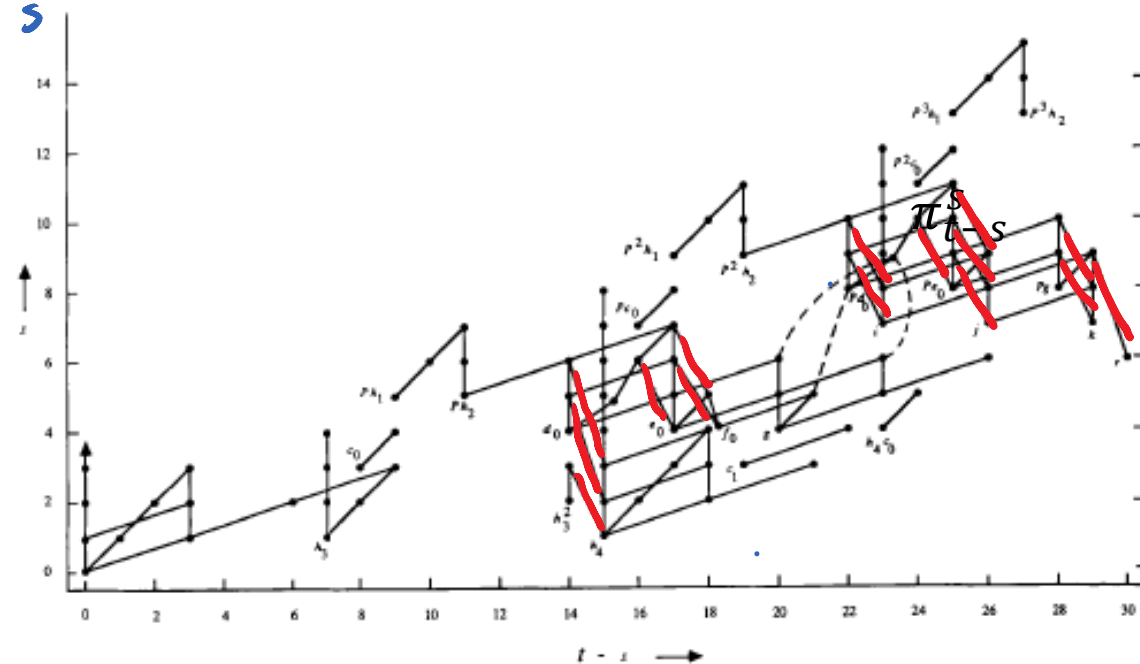
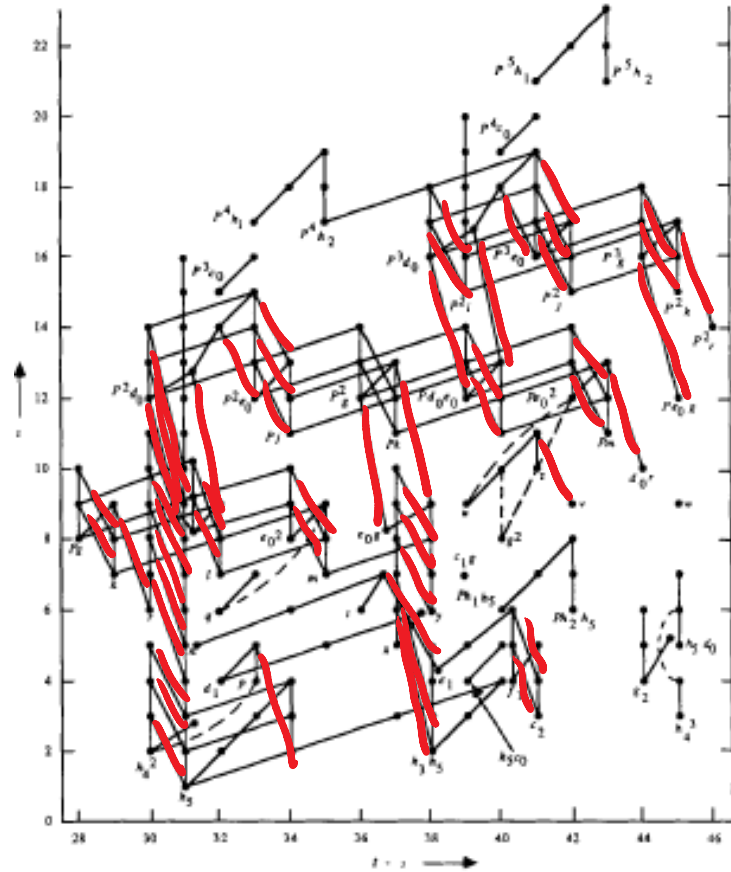


Figure A3.1a The Adams spectral sequence for $p=2$, $t-s \leq 29$.



$t-s$

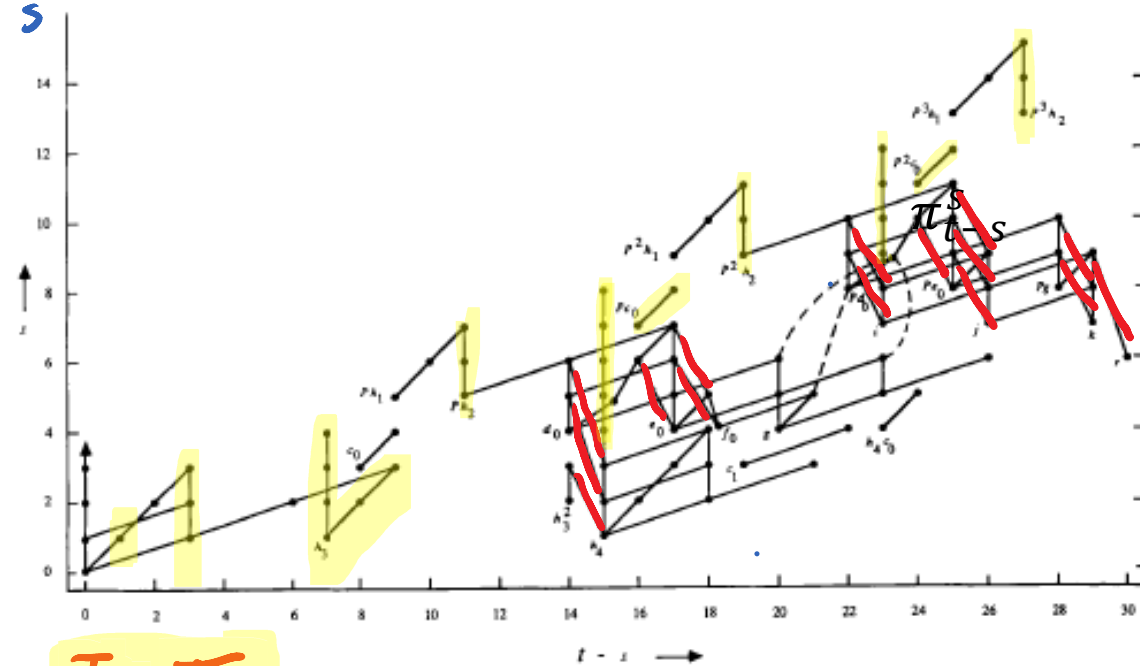
-Many differentials

$-d_r$ differentials go back by 1 and up by r

Adams spectral sequence

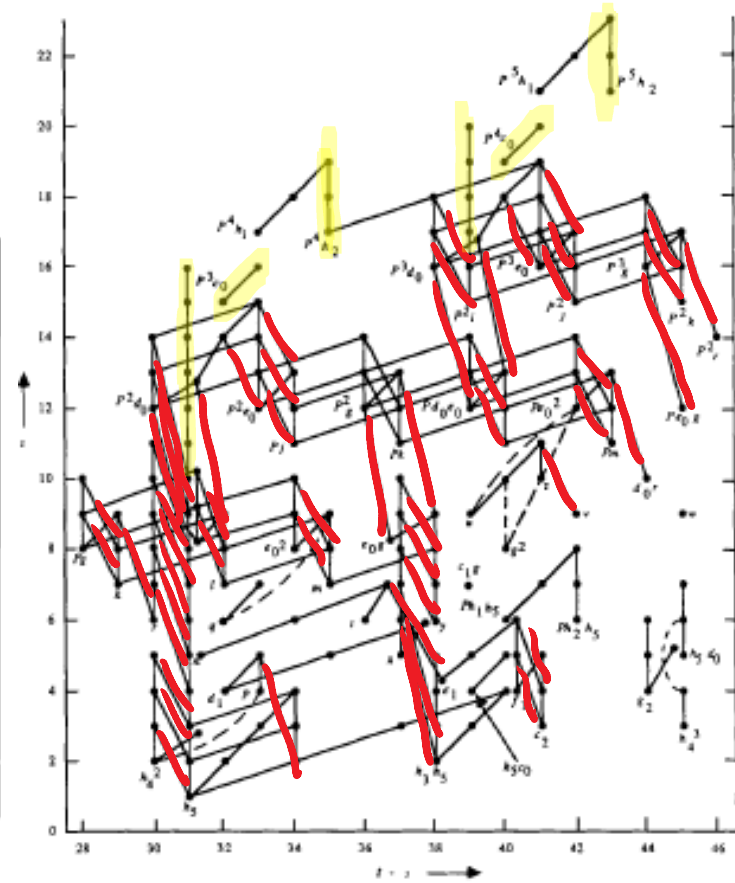
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$Im J$

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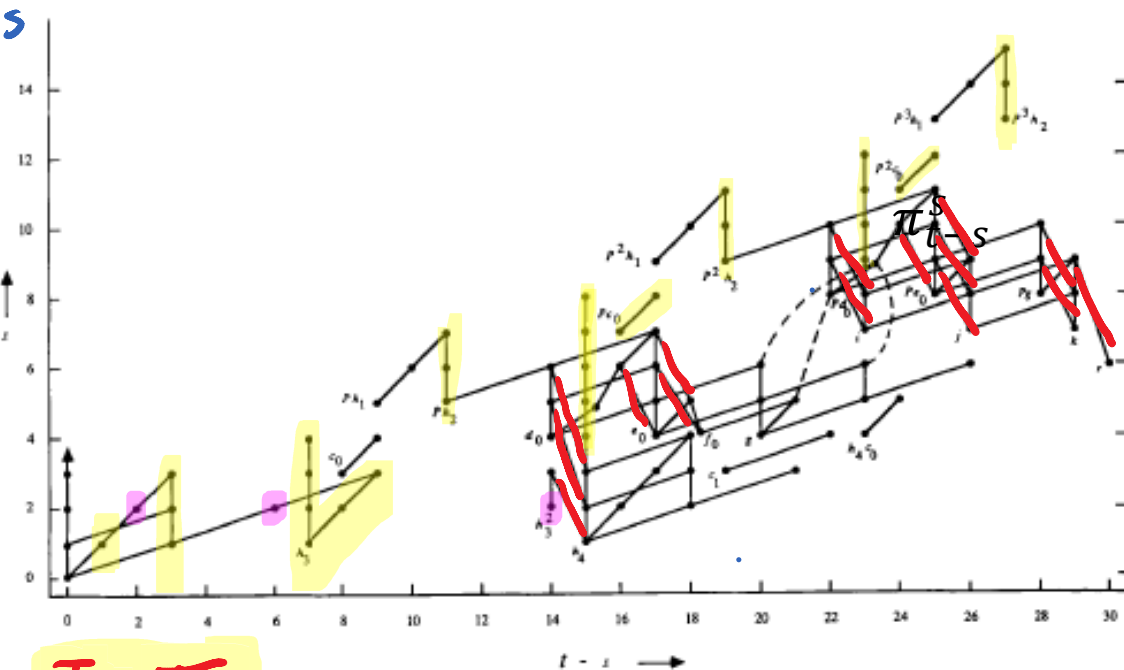
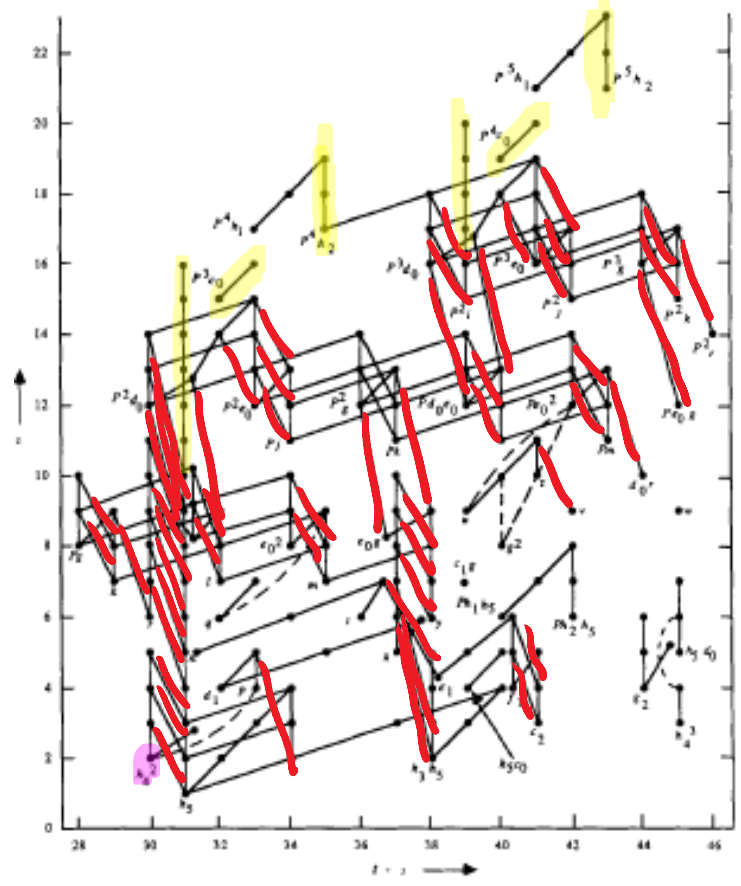


Figure A3.1a The Adams spectral sequence for $p=2, t-s \leq 29$.

$Im J$

$\square = \text{Kervaire Invariant 1}$



$t-s$

Kervaire Invariant

$$\Phi_K: \pi_n^S \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/2$$

Browder:

$$(\Phi_K \neq 0) \Rightarrow (n = 2^k - 2)$$

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Computation in ASS: $\Phi_K \neq 0$ for

$$n \in \{2, 6, 14, 30, 62\}$$

↑
Barratt-Jones-Mahowald '84

Kervaire Invariant

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Hill-Hopkins-Ravenel:

$\Phi_K = 0$ for all $n \geq 254$

(Note: the case of $n = 126$ is still open)

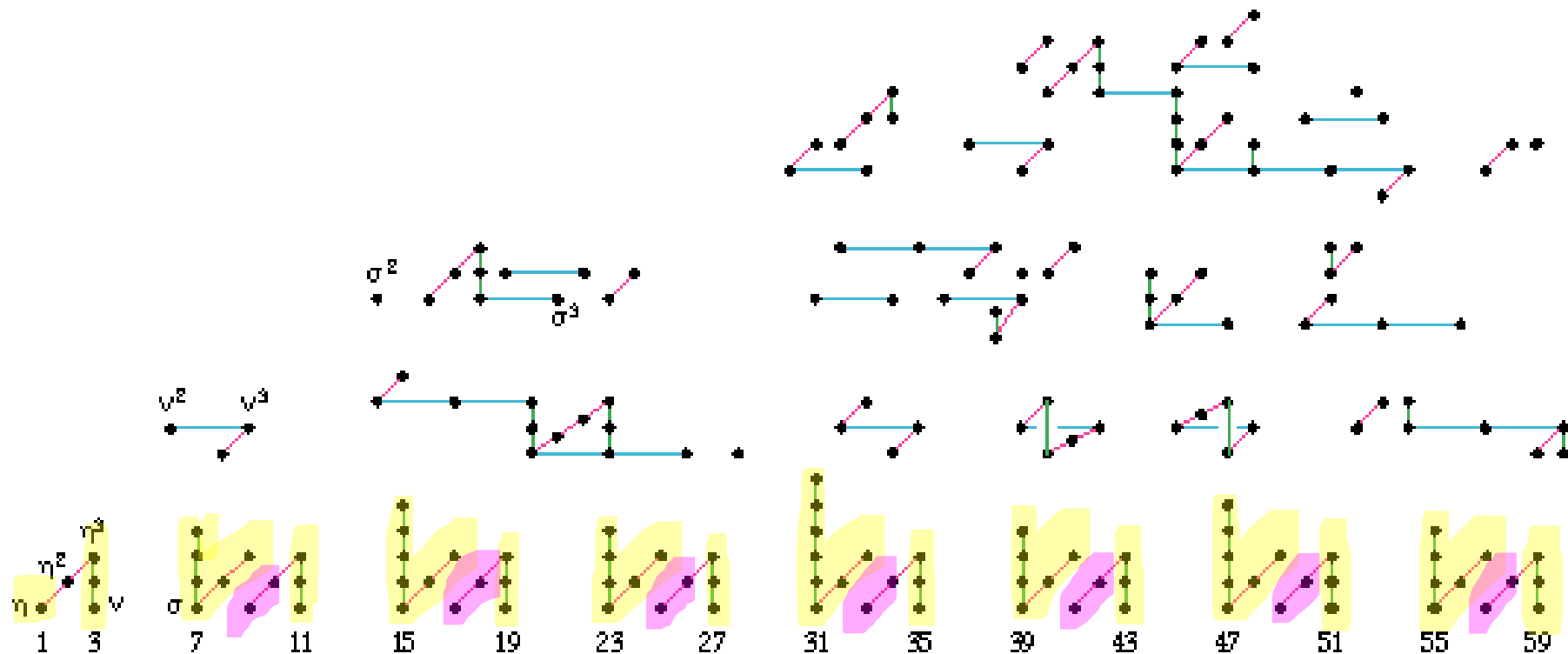
Summary: Exotic spheres

$\Theta_n \neq 0$ if:

- $\Theta_n^{bp} \neq 0$:
 - $n \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ and $n \geq 7$
 - $n \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ and $n \notin \{1, 5, 13, 29, 61, 125?\}$ [Kervaire]
- Remains to check: is $\frac{\pi_n^S}{Im J} \neq 0$ for
 - n even
 - $n \in \{1, 5, 13, 29, 61, 125?\}$



Stable Homotopy Groups of Spheres at the prime 2



 = $Im J$

 = 8-fold periodic $\Rightarrow \frac{\pi_n^S}{Im J} \neq 0$ for $n = 8k + 2$

Summary: Exotic spheres

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- $\Theta_n^{bp} \neq 0$:
 - $n \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ and $n \geq 7$
 - $n \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ and $n \notin \{1, 5, 13, 29, 61, 125?\}$
- $\frac{\pi_n^S}{Im J} \neq 0$ for $n \equiv 2 \pmod{8}$
- Remains to check: is $\frac{\pi_n^S}{Im J} \neq 0$ for
 - $n \equiv 0 \pmod{4}$ or $n \equiv -2 \pmod{8}$
 - $n \in \{1, 5, 13, 29, 61, 125?\}$

Low dimensional computations

- Limitation: only know $(\pi_n^S)_2$ for $n \leq 63$
- $\left(\frac{\pi_n^S}{Im J}\right)_p = 0$ in this range for $p \geq 7$.

Low dimensional computations

Non-trivial elements in *Coker J*:

$$n \equiv 0 \pmod{4}$$

Stem	p = 2	p = 3	p = 5
4		0	0
8	ε		0
12		0	0
16	η^4		0
20	κbar	β_1^2	0
24	$h^4 \varepsilon \eta$		0
28	$\varepsilon \kappa\text{bar}$		0
32	q		0
36	t	$\beta_2 \beta_1$	0
40	κbar^2	β_1^4	0
44	g^2		0
48	$e_0 r$		0
52	$\kappa\text{bar} q$	β_2^2	0
56	$\kappa\text{bar} t$		0
60	κbar^3		0

Low dimensional computations

Non-trivial elements in *Coker J*:

$$n \equiv -2 \pmod{8}$$

$\square = \text{Kervaire inv } 1$

Stem	p = 2	p = 3	p = 5
6	v^2	0	0
14	k	0	0
22	εk	0	0
30	θ_4	β_1^3	0
38	y	$\beta_3/2$	β_1
46	w η	$\beta_2 \beta_1^2$	0
54	$v_2^8 v^2$	0	0
62	h5 n	$\beta_2^2 \beta_1$	0

Low dimensional computations

Non-trivial elements in *Coker J*:

$n \in \{1,5,13,29,61\}$ [where $\Theta_n^{bp} = 0$ because of Kervaire classes]

Stem	p = 2	p = 3	p = 5
1	0	0	0
5	0	0	0
13		0 β_1 α_1	0
29		0 β_2 α_1	0
61		0 β_4 α_1	0

Low dimensional computations

Conclusion

For $n \leq 63$, the only n for which $\Theta_n = 0$ are:
1,2,3,4,5,6,12,61

Beyond low dimensions...



Strategy: try to demonstrate Coker J is non-zero in certain dimensions by producing infinite periodic families such as the one above.

Need to study periodicity in π_*^S

Periodicity in π_*^S

Work
in stable cat:

Mod p^i Moore Spectrum:

$$S^0 \xrightarrow{p^i} S^0 \rightarrow M(p^i)$$

Periodicity in π_*^S

Work in stable cat:

Mod p^i Moore Spectrum:

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Adams:

$M(p^i)$ has " v_i -self map"

$$\sum_{i=0}^{2^i(p-1)} M(p^i) \xrightarrow{v_i} M(p^i) \quad i \gg 0$$

[not nilpotent]

Periodicity in π_*^S

Work in stable cat:

Mod p^{i_0} Moore Spectrum:

$$S^0 \xrightarrow{p^{i_0}} S^0 \rightarrow M(p^{i_0})$$

$$\Sigma^{N_i} M(p^{i_0}) \xrightarrow{v_i^{i_0}} M(p^{i_0}) \rightarrow M(p^{i_0}, v_i^{i_0})$$

Periodicity in π_*^S

Work in stable cat:

Mod p^{i_0} Moore Spectrum:

$$S^0 \xrightarrow{p^{i_0}} S^0 \rightarrow M(p^{i_0})$$

$$\sum^{N_1} M(p^{i_0}) \xrightarrow{v_1^{i_1}} M(p^{i_0}) \rightarrow M(p^{i_0}, v_1^{i_1})$$

Devnatz - Hopkins - Smith

Generalized Adams' result

$$\exists \sum^{2^{i_2}(p^2-1)} M(p^{i_0}, v_1^{i_1}) \xrightarrow{v_2^{i_2}} M(p^{i_0}, v_1^{i_1})$$

Not nilpotent

" v_2 -self-map"

Periodicity in π_*^S

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$$\Sigma^{N_1} M(p^{i_0}) \xrightarrow{v_1^{i_1}} M(p^{i_0}) \rightarrow M(p^{i_0}, v_1^{i_1})$$

$$\Sigma^{N_2} M(p^{i_0}, v_1^{i_1}) \xrightarrow{v_2^{i_2}} M(p^{i_0}, v_1^{i_1}) \rightarrow M(p^{i_0}, v_1^{i_1}, v_2^{i_2})$$

Periodicity in π_*^S

Work in stable cat:

Mod p^{i_0} Moore Spectrum:

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$$\Sigma^{N_2} M(p^{i_0}, v_1^{i_1}) \xrightarrow{v_2^{i_2}} M(p^{i_0}, v_1^{i_1}) \rightarrow M(p^{i_0}, v_1^{i_1}, v_2^{i_2})$$

$$\Sigma^{N_3} M(p^{i_0}, v_1^{i_1}, v_2^{i_2}) \xrightarrow{v_3^{i_3}} M(p^{i_0}, v_1^{i_1}, v_2^{i_2}) \rightarrow M(p^{i_0}, v_1^{i_1}, v_2^{i_2}, v_3^{i_3})$$

$N_3 = 2i_3(p^3 - 1)$, Not Nilpotent

$|v_k| = 2(p^k - 1)$

Periodicity in π_*^S

$$M^0_{(i_0, \dots, i_k)} := \sum^{-\dim} M(p^{i_0}, v_1^{i_1}, \dots, v_k^{i_k})$$

$$\alpha \in (\pi_n^S)_p$$

Periodicity in π_*^S

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$$\alpha \in (\pi_n^S)_{(p)}$$

$$\begin{array}{c} \pi_n^S \\ \downarrow p^{i_0} \\ \pi_n^S \end{array}$$

Periodicity in π_*^S

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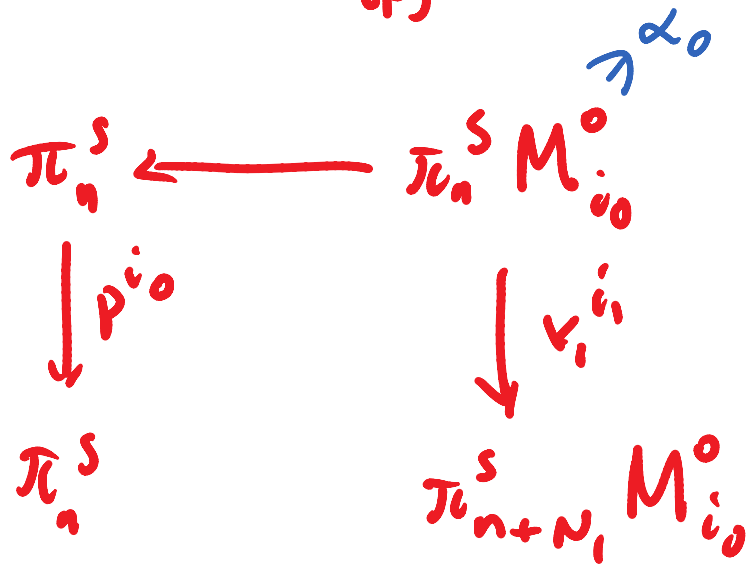
$$\alpha \in (\pi_n^S)_{(p)}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \pi_n^S & \xleftarrow{\quad} & \pi_n^S M^0_{i_0} \\ & & \nearrow \alpha_0 \\ & & \downarrow p^{i_0} \\ & & \pi_n^S \end{array}$$

Periodicity in π_*^S

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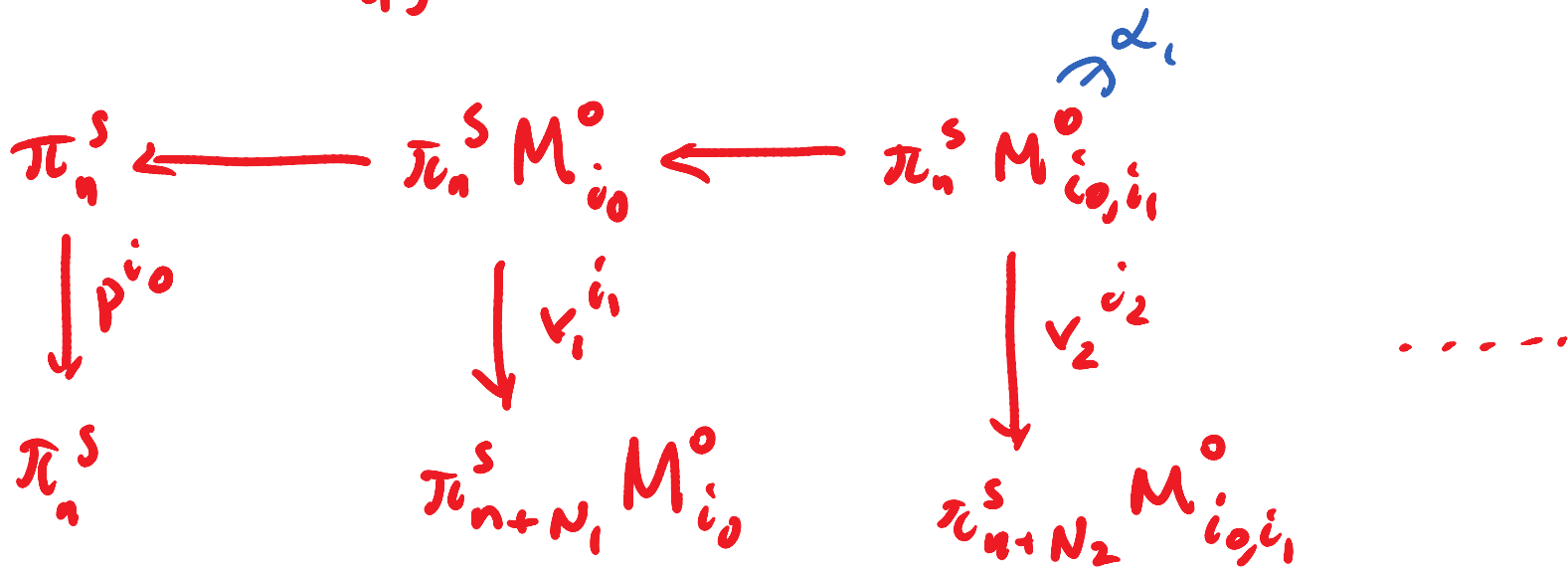
$$\alpha \in (\pi_n^S)_{(p)}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 \pi_n^S & \longleftarrow & \pi_n^S M^0_{i_0} & \longleftarrow & \pi_n^S M^0_{i_0, i_1} \\
 \downarrow p^{i_0} & & \downarrow v_1^{i_1} & & \nearrow \alpha_1 \\
 \pi_n^S & & \pi_{n+N_1}^S M^0_{i_0} & &
 \end{array}$$

Periodicity in π_*^S

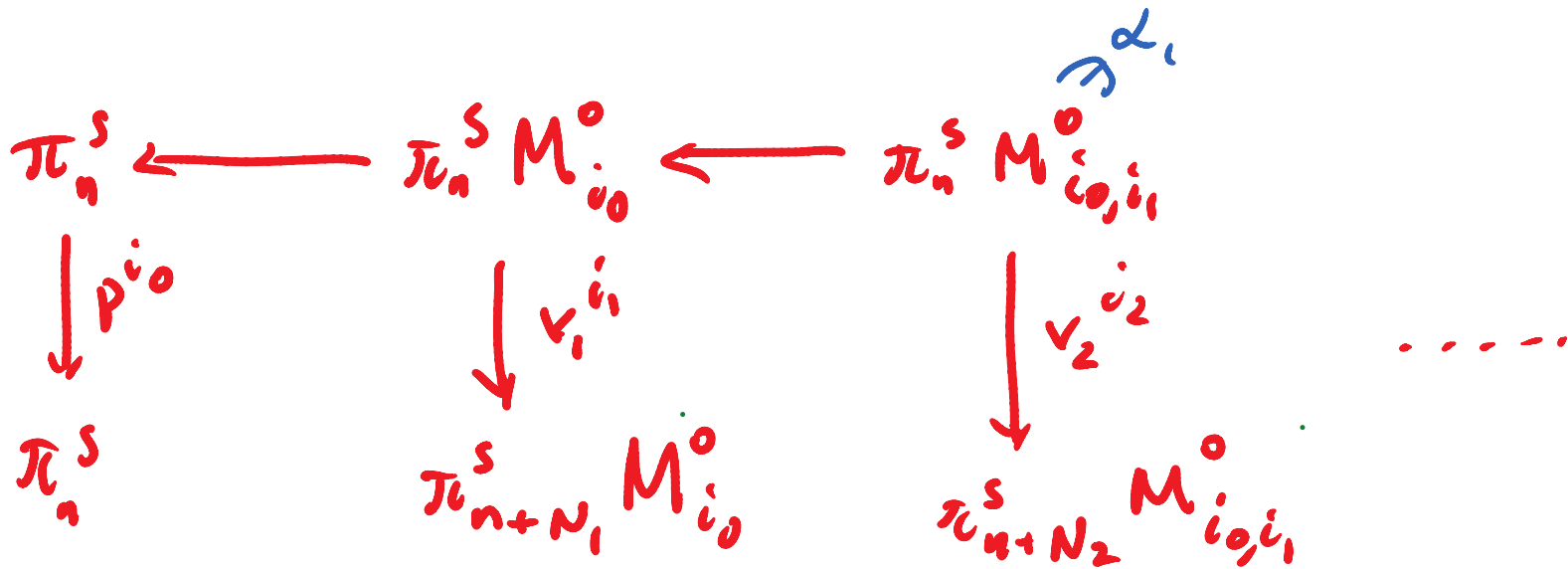
$$M^0_{(i_0, \dots, i_k)} := \sum^{-\dim} M(p^{i_0}, v_1^{i_1}, \dots, v_k^{i_k})$$

$$\alpha \in (\pi_n^S)_{(p)}$$



Periodicity in π_*^S

α lifts to $M_{i_0, \dots, i_{k-1}}^0$, no farther
 $\Rightarrow \alpha$ is v_k -periodic



Periodicity in π_*^S

α lifts to $M_{i_0, \dots, i_{k-1}}^0$, no further

$\Rightarrow \alpha$ is v_k -periodic

α generates an infinite family in π_*^S :

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 \pi_n^s M_{i_0 \dots i_{k-1}}^0 & \xrightarrow{v_k^{s i_k}} & \pi_{n+N_k}^s M_{i_0 \dots i_{k-1}}^0 & \rightarrow & \pi_{n+N_k}^s \\
 \psi & & & & \\
 \alpha_{k-1} & \xrightarrow{\quad \quad \quad} & & & v_k^{s i_k} \alpha
 \end{array}$$

period = $2i_k(p^k - 1) \quad \forall s \in \mathbb{N}$

Periodicity in π_*^S

E.g. "Greek letter elts"

$$S^{2j(p-1)-1} \xleftrightarrow{\quad} \Sigma^{2j(p-1)} M_i^0 \xrightarrow{v_i^j} M_i^0 \longrightarrow S^0$$

$\underbrace{\hspace{15em}}_{\alpha_j/i}$

Periodicity in π_*^S

E.g. "Greek letter elts"

$$S^{2j(p-1)-1} \hookrightarrow \Sigma^{2j(p-1)} M_i^0 \xrightarrow{\nu_i^j} M_i^0 \longrightarrow S^0$$



$\alpha_{j,i}$

$$S^{2k(p^2-1)-2j(p-1)-2} \hookrightarrow \Sigma^{2k(p^2-1)} M_{i,j}^0 \xrightarrow{\nu_2^k} M_{i,j}^0 \longrightarrow S^0$$



$\beta_{k,j,i}$

Periodicity in π_*^S

E.g. "Greek letter elts"

$\delta_{l/k,j,i}$
 v_3 -periodic
 \vdots

$$S^{2j(p-1)-1} \xleftrightarrow{\quad} \Sigma^{2j(p-1)} M_i^0 \xrightarrow{v_i^j} M_i^0 \longrightarrow S^0$$

$\alpha_{j,i}$

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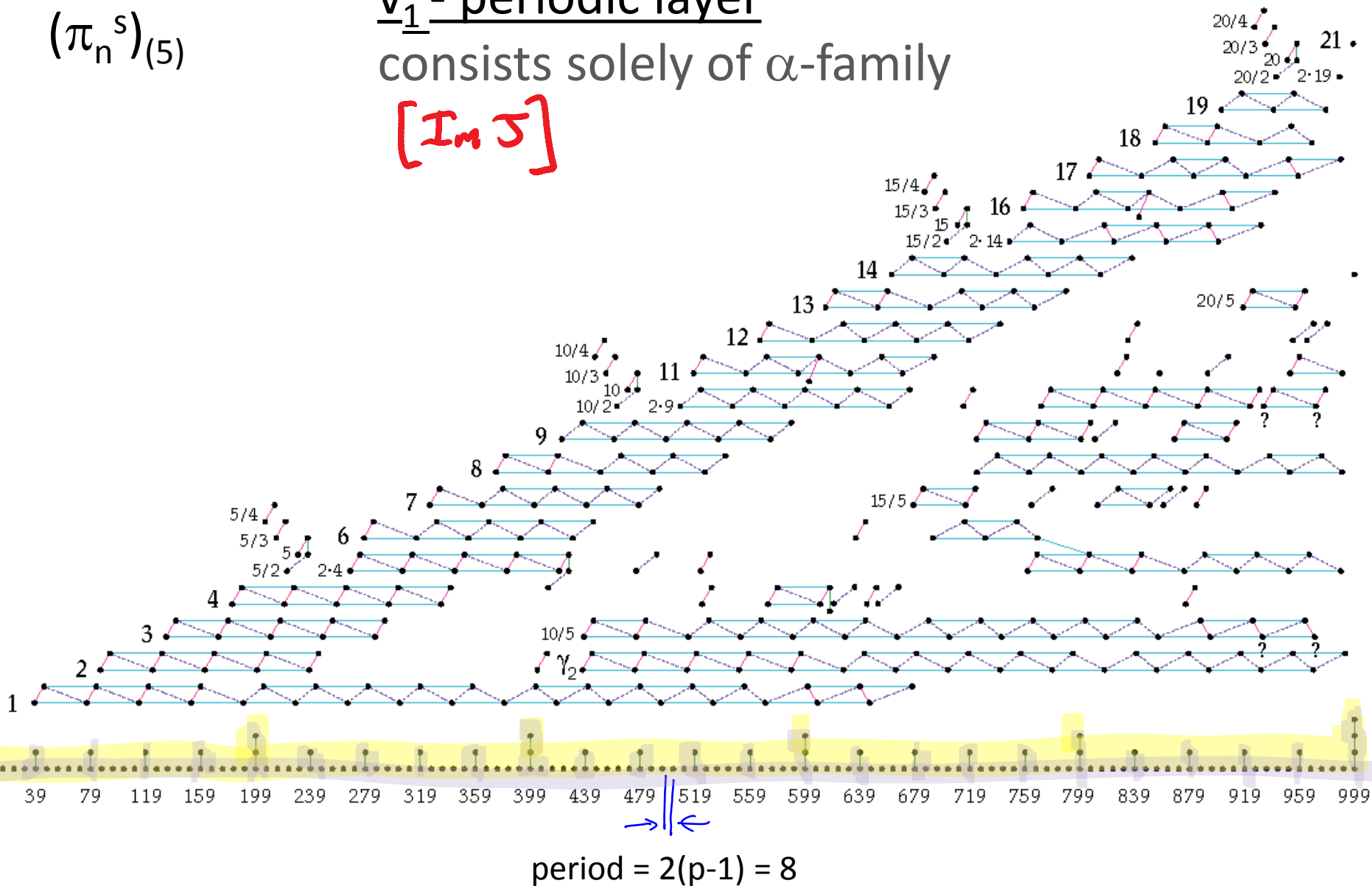
$\beta_{k,j,i}$

$$(\pi_n^s)_{(5)}$$

v_1 - periodic layer

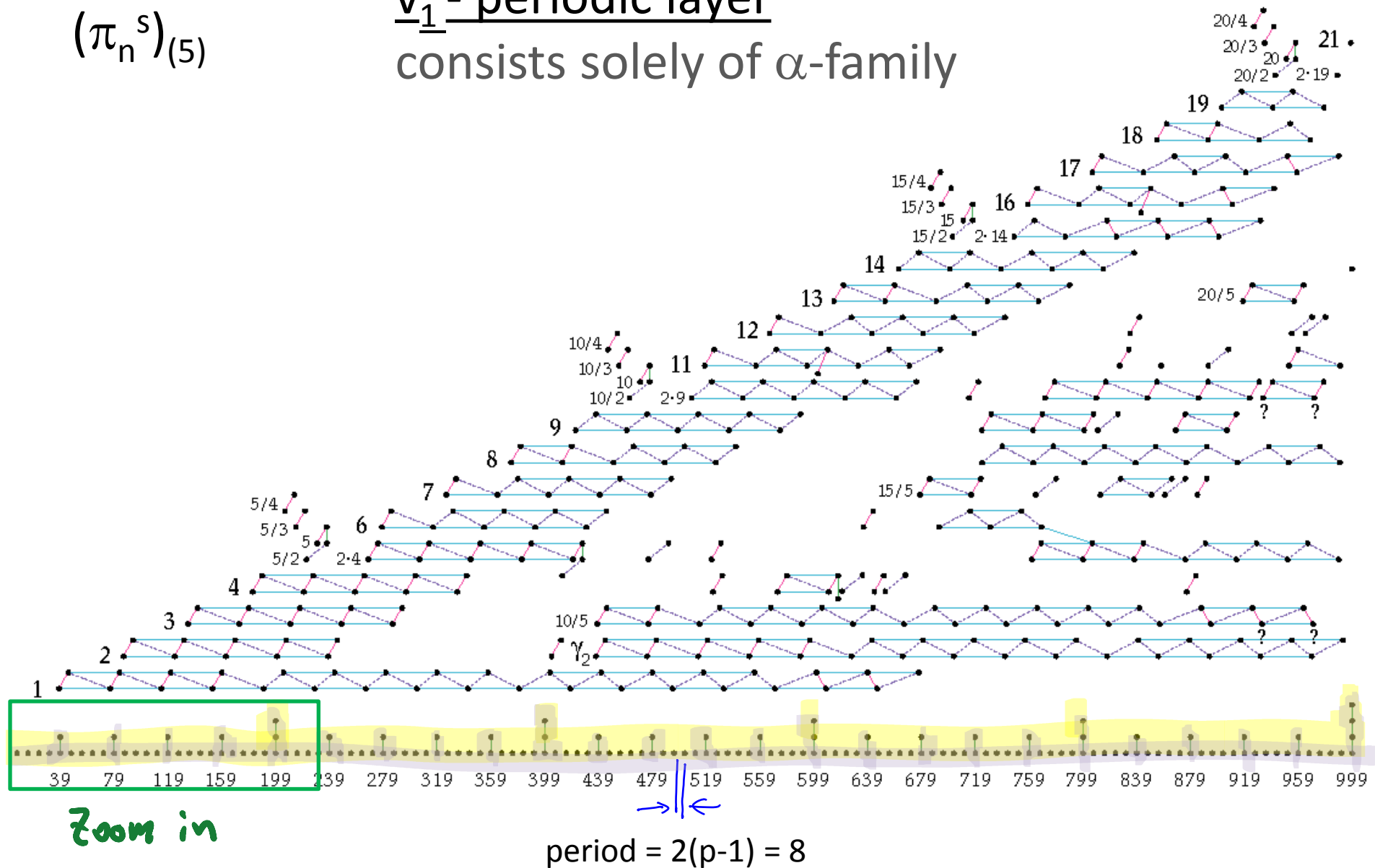
consists solely of α -family

$[Im J]$



$$(\pi_n^s)_{(5)}$$

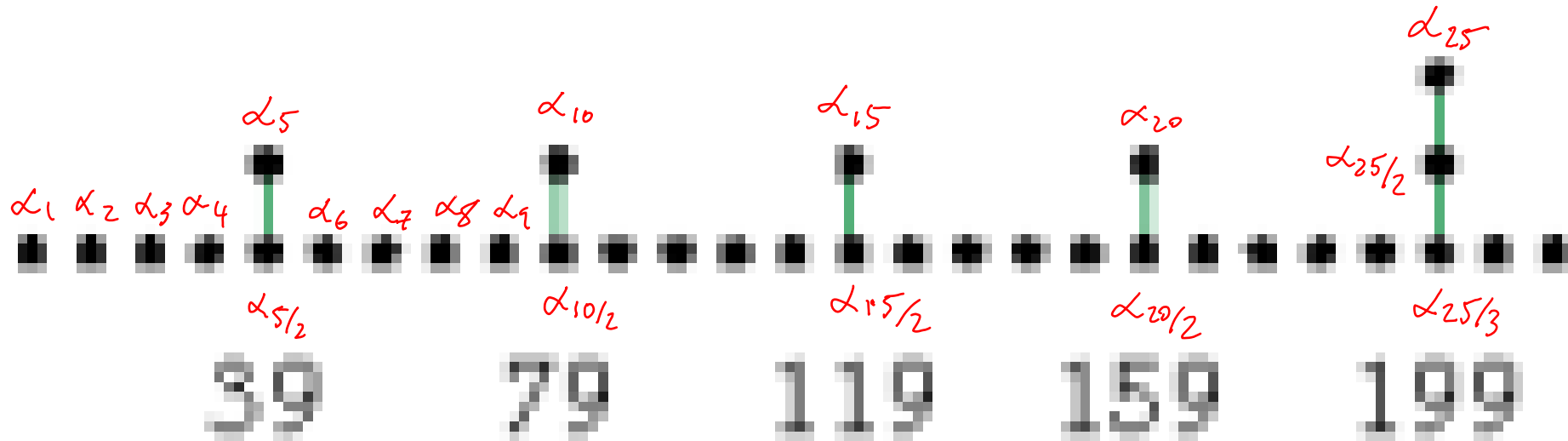
v_1 - periodic layer
 consists solely of α -family



Zoom in

$$\text{period} = 2(p-1) = 8$$

Greek letter notation: the α -family



$d_{i/j}$ is p^j -torsion

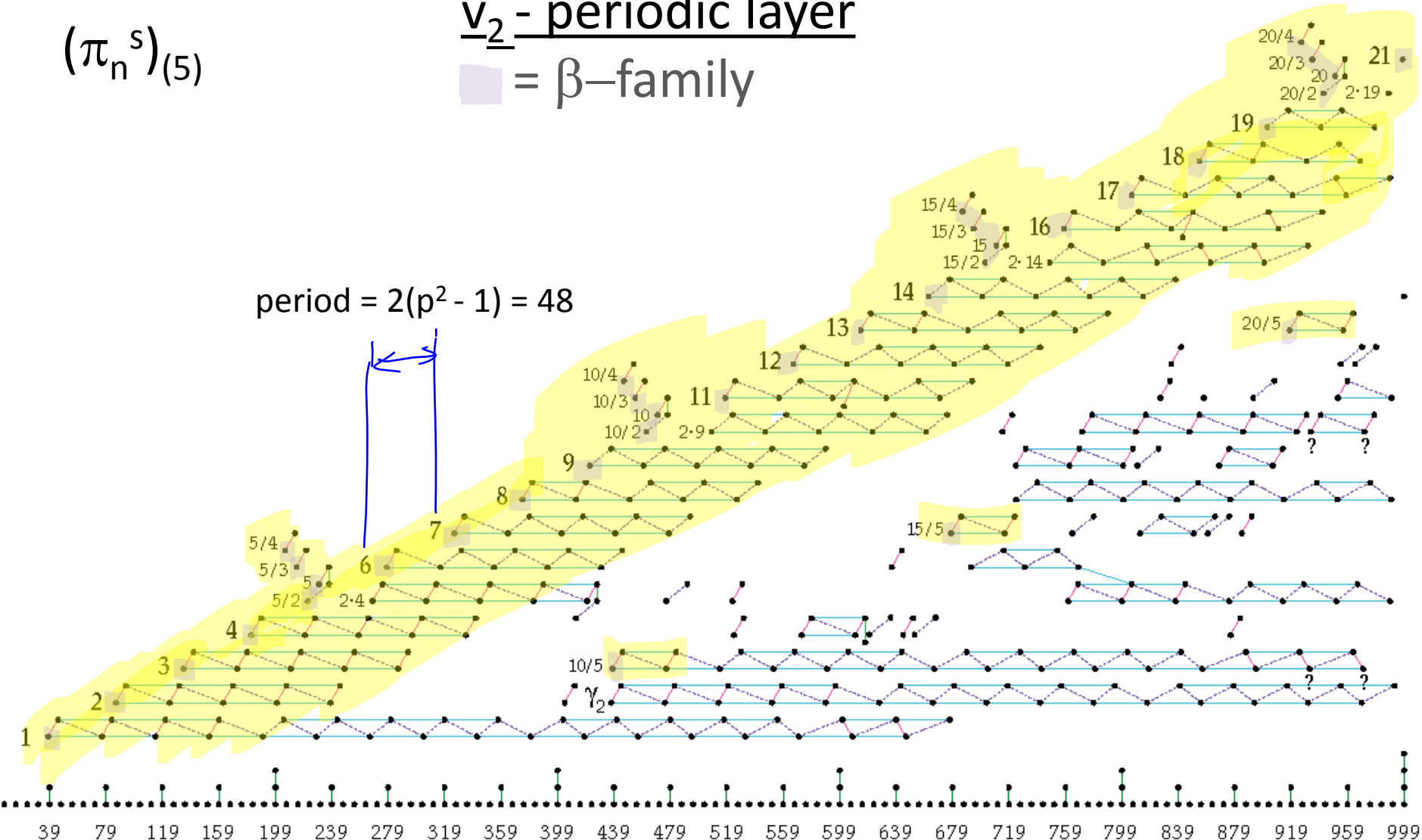
$(d_i := d_{i/1})$

$$(\pi_n^s)_{(5)}$$

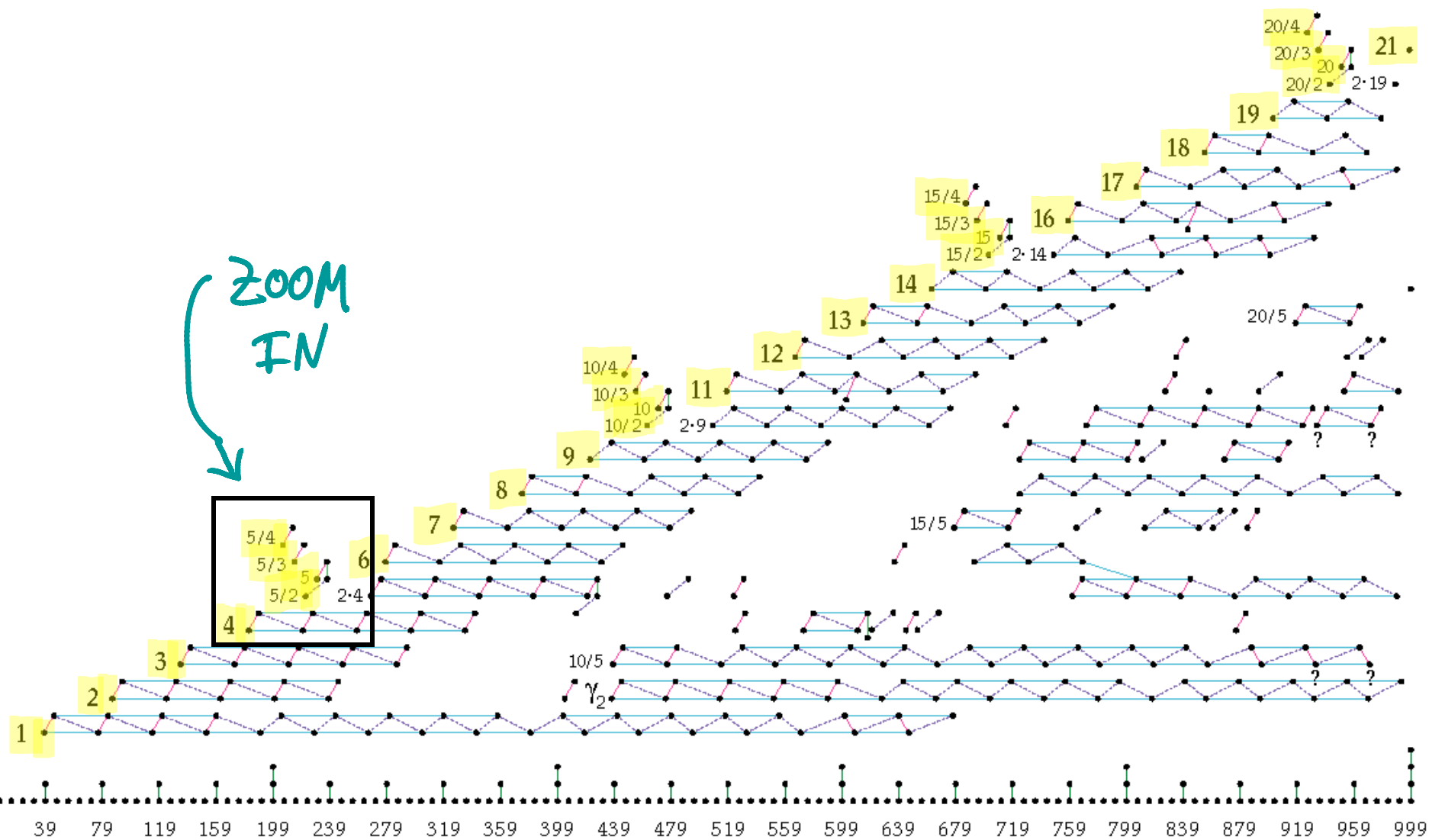
v₂ - periodic layer

■ = β-family

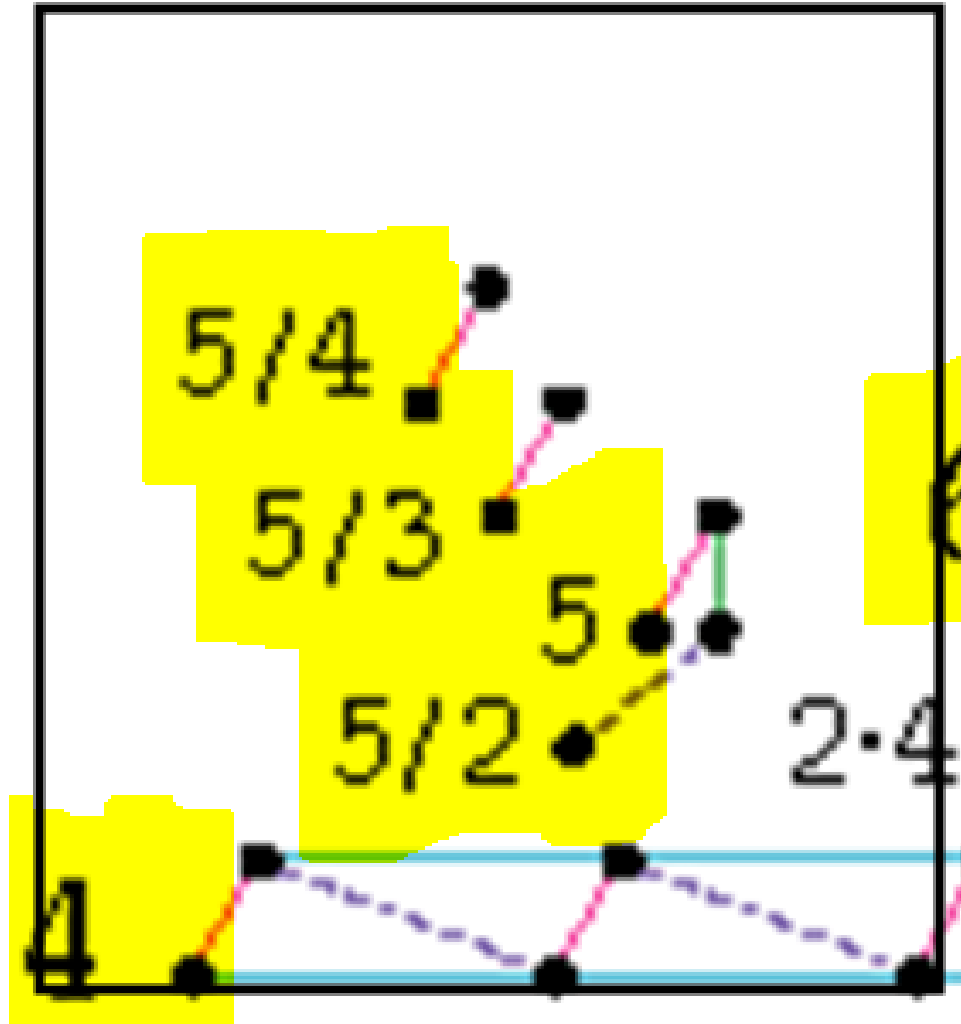
period = $2(p^2 - 1) = 48$



$$(\pi_n^s)_{(5)}$$

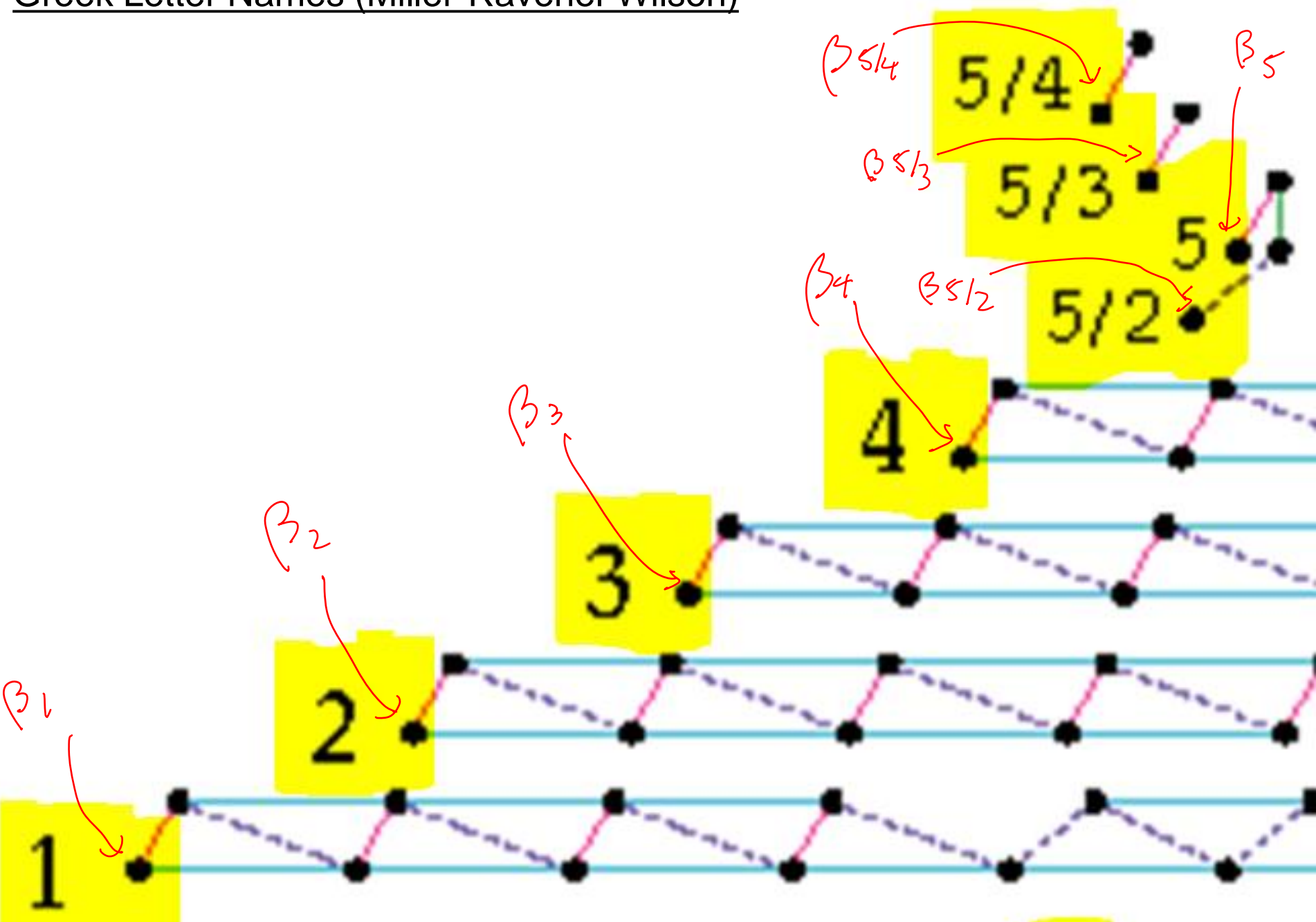


v_1 -torsion in the v_2 -family




$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 \text{"5/4"} & \xrightarrow{v_1} & \text{"5/3"} & \xrightarrow{v_1} & \text{"5/2"} & \xrightarrow{v_1} & \text{"5"} & \xrightarrow{v_1} & 0
 \end{array}$$

Greek Letter Names (Miller-Ravenel-Wilson)

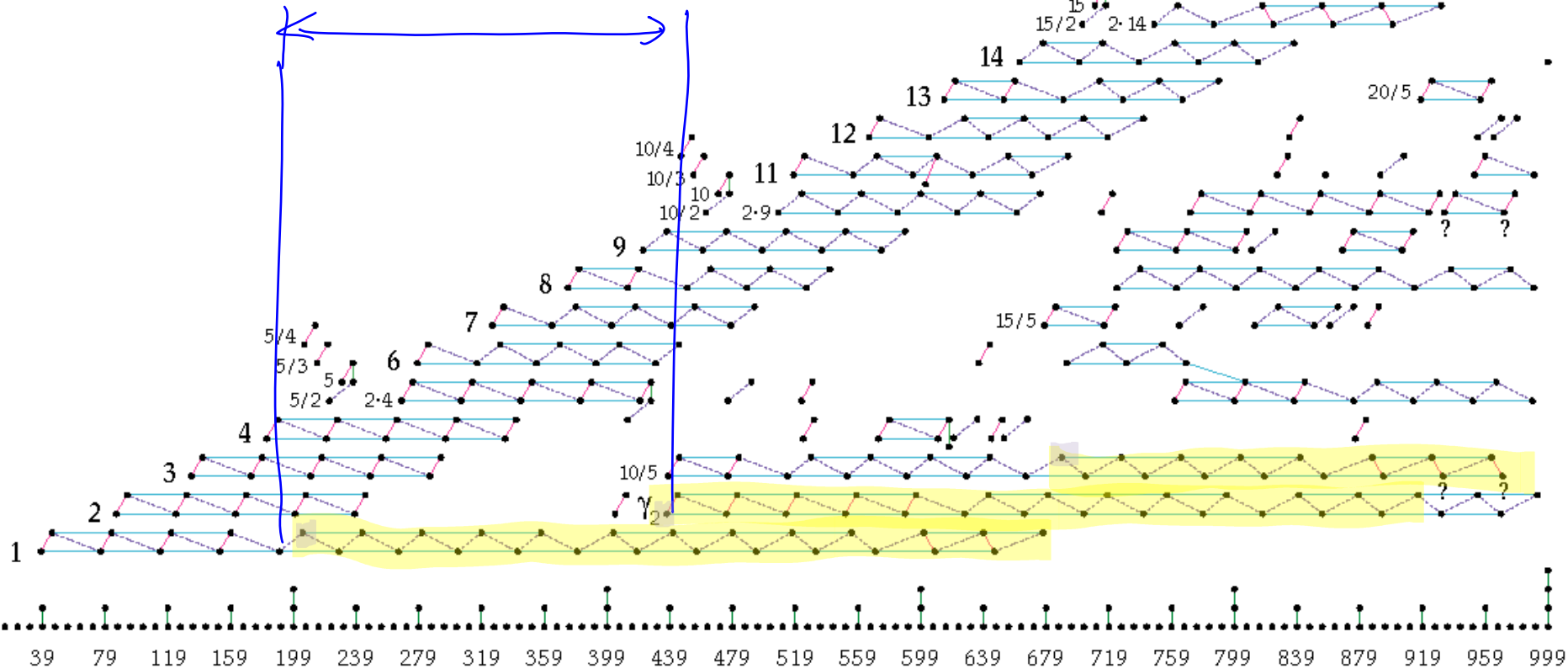


$$(\pi_n^s)_{(5)}$$

v₃ - periodic layer

 = γ -family

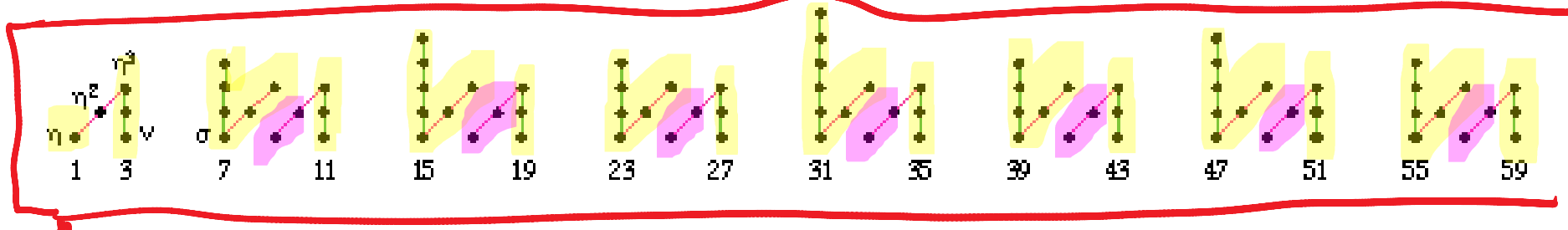
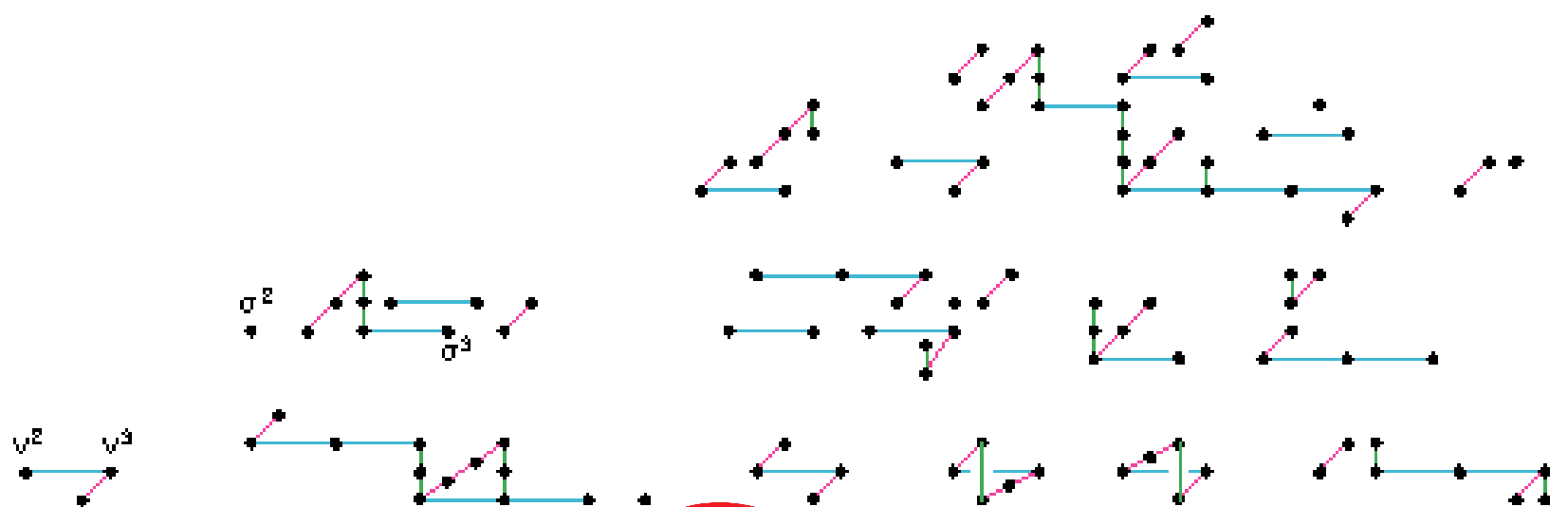
period = $2(p^3 - 1) = 248$



- v_1 -periodicity – completely understood
- v_2 -periodicity – know a lot for $p \geq 5$
 - Knowledge for $p = 2,3$ is subject of current research.
 - For Θ_n , we will see $p = 2$ dominates the discussion
- v_3 -periodicity – know next to nothing!

Back to Θ_n :

Stable Homotopy Groups of Spheres at the prime 2



v_i -periodic

= $\text{Im } J$

$\Rightarrow \Theta_n \neq 0$ for $n \equiv 2 \pmod{8}$

Exotic spheres from β -family

- $\beta_k = \beta_{k/1,1}$ exists for $p \geq 5$ and $k \geq 1$
[Smith-Toda]

$$\Theta_n \neq 0 \text{ for } n \equiv -2(p-1) - 2 \pmod{2(p^2-1)}$$

$$\sum^{2(p^2-1)} M_{1,1}^0 \xrightarrow{\vee_2} M_{1,1}^0$$

n = 0 mod 4				n = -2 mod 8 (including Kervaire Inv 1)				n = 2^k - 3 (where $\Theta_{n^k} = 0$ because of Kervaire class)			
Stem	p = 2	p = 3	p = 5	Stem	p = 2	p = 3	p = 5	Stem	p = 2	p = 3	p = 5
4	0	0	0	6	v^2	0	0	1	0	0	0
8	ε		0	14	k		0	5	0	0	0
12	0	0	0	22	εk		0	13	0	$\beta_1 \alpha_1$	0
16	η^4		0	30	θ^4	β_1^3	0	29	0	$\beta_2 \alpha_1$	0
20	kbar	β_1^2	0	38	γ	$\beta_3/2$	β_1	61	0	$\beta_4 \alpha_1$	0
24	$h^4 \varepsilon \eta$		0	46	$w \eta$	$\beta_2 \beta_1^2$	0	125?			0
28	$\varepsilon kbar$		0	54	$v^2 \varepsilon^8 v^2$		0				
32	q		0	62	$h^5 n$	$\beta_2^2 \beta_1$	0				
36	t	$\beta_2 \beta_1$	0	70			0				
40	kbar^2	β_1^4	0	78		β_2^3	0				
44	g^2		0	86		$\beta_6/2$	β_2				
48	$e^0 r$		0	94		β_5	0				
52	kbar q	β_2^2	0	102		$\beta_6/3 \beta_1^2$	0				
56	kbar t		0	110			0				
60	kbar^3		0	118			0				
64			0	126			0				
68		$\langle \alpha_1, \beta_3/2, \beta_2 \rangle$	0	134			β_3				
72		$\beta_2^2 \beta_1^2$	0	142			0				
76		0	β_1^2	150			0				
80		0	0	158			0				
84		$\beta_5 \beta_1$	0	166			0				
88			0	174			0				
92		$\beta_6/3 \beta_1$	0	182			β_4				
96			0	190			β_1^5				
100		$\beta_2 \beta_5$	0	198			0				
104			0	206			$\beta_5/4$				
108			0	214			$\beta_5/3$				
112			0	222			$\beta_5/2$				
116			0	230			β_5				
120			0	238			$\beta_2 \beta_1^4$				
124			$\beta_2 \beta_1$	246			0				
128			0	254			0				
132			0	262			0				
136			0	270			0				
140			0	278			β_1				
144			0	286			$\beta_3 \beta_1^4$				
148			0	294			0				
152			β_1^4	302			0				
156			0	310			0				
160			0	318			0				

Cohomology theories

- Use homology/cohomology to study homotopy
- A *cohomology theory* is a contravariant functor

$E: \{\text{Topological spaces}\} \longrightarrow \{\text{graded ab groups}\}$

$$X \longrightarrow E^*(X)$$

- Homotopy invariant: $f \simeq g \Rightarrow E(f) = E(g)$
- Excision: $Z = X \cup Y$ (CW complexes)

$$\cdots \rightarrow E^*(Z) \rightarrow E^*(X) \oplus E^*(Y) \rightarrow E^*(X \cap Y) \rightarrow$$

Cohomology theories

- Use homology/cohomology to study homotopy
- A *cohomology theory* is a contravariant functor

$$E: \{\text{Topological spaces}\} \longrightarrow \{\text{graded ab groups}\}$$
$$X \longrightarrow E^*(X)$$

- Homotopy groups:

$$\pi_n(E) := E^{-n}(pt)$$

(Note, in the above, n may be negative)

Cohomology theories

- Example: singular cohomology

- $E^n(X) = H^n(X)$

- $\pi_n(H) = \begin{cases} \mathbb{Z}, & n = 0, \\ 0, & \text{else.} \end{cases}$

- Example: Real K-theory

- $KO^0(X) = KO(X) =$ Grothendieck group of \mathbb{R} -vector bundles over X .

- $\pi_* KO = (\mathbb{Z}, \mathbb{Z}/2, \mathbb{Z}/2, 0, \mathbb{Z}, 0, 0, 0, \mathbb{Z}, \mathbb{Z}/2, \mathbb{Z}/2, 0, \mathbb{Z}, 0, 0, 0 \dots)$

Hurewicz Homomorphism

- A cohomology theory E is a (commutative) *ring theory* if its associated cohomology theory has “cup products”

$E^*(X)$ is a graded commutative ring

- Such cohomology theories have a *Hurewicz homomorphism*:

$$h_E: \pi_*^S \rightarrow \pi_* E$$

Example: H detects $\pi_0^S = \mathbb{Z}$.

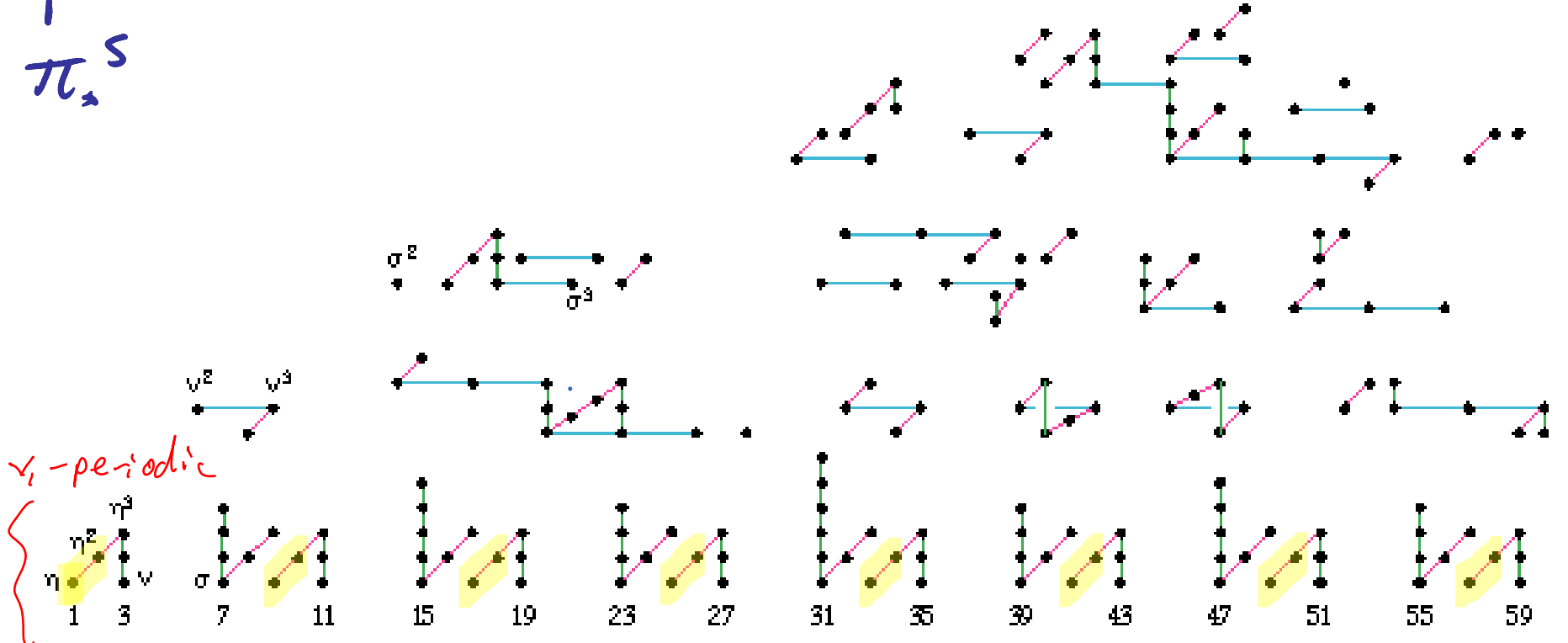
Example: KO (real K-theory)

$$\pi_* KO = \mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z}/2 \oplus \mathbb{Z}/2 \oplus 0 \oplus \mathbb{Z} \oplus 0 \oplus 0 \oplus 0 \oplus \mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z}/2 \oplus \mathbb{Z}/2 \oplus 0 \oplus \mathbb{Z} \dots$$

Stable Homotopy Groups of Spheres at the prime 2

π_*^S
 $\uparrow h_{KO}$
 $\pi_* KO$

v₁-periodic



- To get more elements of Θ_n , need to start looking at v_2 -periodic homotopy.
- Need a cohomology theory which sees a bunch of v_2 -periodic classes in its Hurewicz homomorphism
- $tmf^*(X)$ - topological modular forms!

Topological Modular Forms

KO

- v_1 -periodic
 - 8-periodic
- Multiplicative group
- Bernoulli numbers

TMF

- v_2 -periodic
 - 576-periodic
- Elliptic curves
- Eisenstein series
(modular forms)



192-periodic at $p = 2$

144-periodic at $p = 3$

Topological Modular Forms

- There is a **descent spectral sequence**:

$$H^s(\mathcal{M}_{ell}; \omega^{\otimes t}) \Rightarrow \pi_{2t-s}TMF$$

- Edge homomorphism:

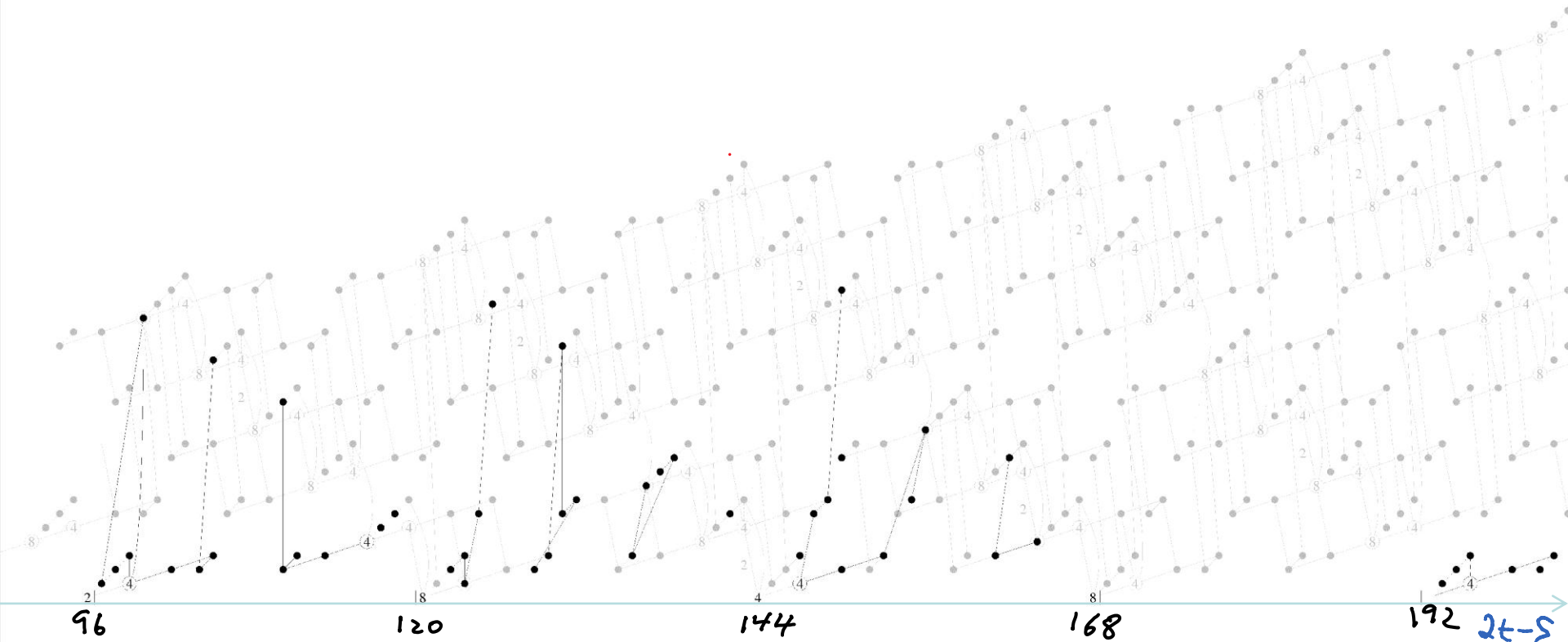
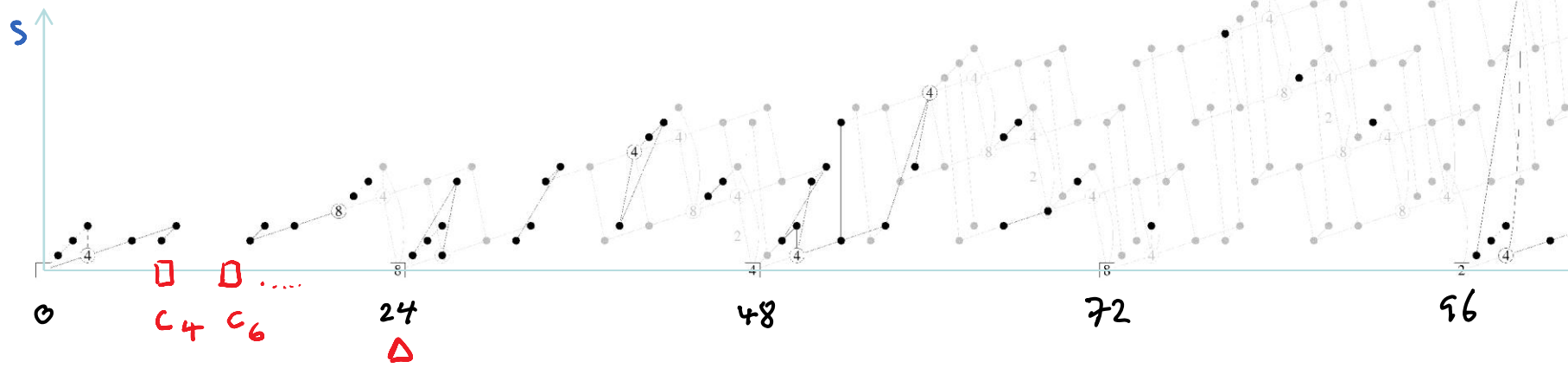
$$\pi_{2k}TMF \rightarrow \text{Ring of integral modular forms}$$

(rationally this is an iso)

- π_*TMF has a bunch of 2 and 3-torsion, and the descent spectral sequence is highly non-trivial at these primes.

The decent spectral sequence for TMF
(p=2)

$$H^s(\mathcal{M}_{ell}; \omega^{\otimes t}) \Rightarrow \pi_{2t-s} TMF$$



Exotic spheres from β -family

- $\beta_k = \beta_{k/1,1}$ exists for $p \geq 5$ and $k \geq 1$
[Smith-Toda]

$$\Theta_n \neq 0 \text{ for } n \equiv -2(p-1) - 2 \pmod{2(p^2-1)}$$

- β_k exists for $p = 3$ and $k \equiv 0, 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 \pmod{9}$
[B-Pemmaraju]

↑ Shimomura

$$\Theta_n \neq 0 \text{ for } n \equiv -6, 10, 26, 42; 74, 90 \pmod{144}$$

$$\sum_{i=0}^{144} M_{i,1}^0 \xrightarrow{v_2} M_{1,1}^0 \quad [\text{uses TMF}]$$

Exotic spheres from β -family

- $\beta_k = \beta_{k/1,1}$ exists for $p \geq 5$ and $k \geq 1$
[Smith-Toda]

$$\Theta_n \neq 0 \text{ for } n \equiv -2(p-1) - 2 \pmod{2(p^2-1)}$$

- β_k exists for $p = 3$ and $k \equiv 0, 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 \pmod{9}$
[B-Pemmaraju]

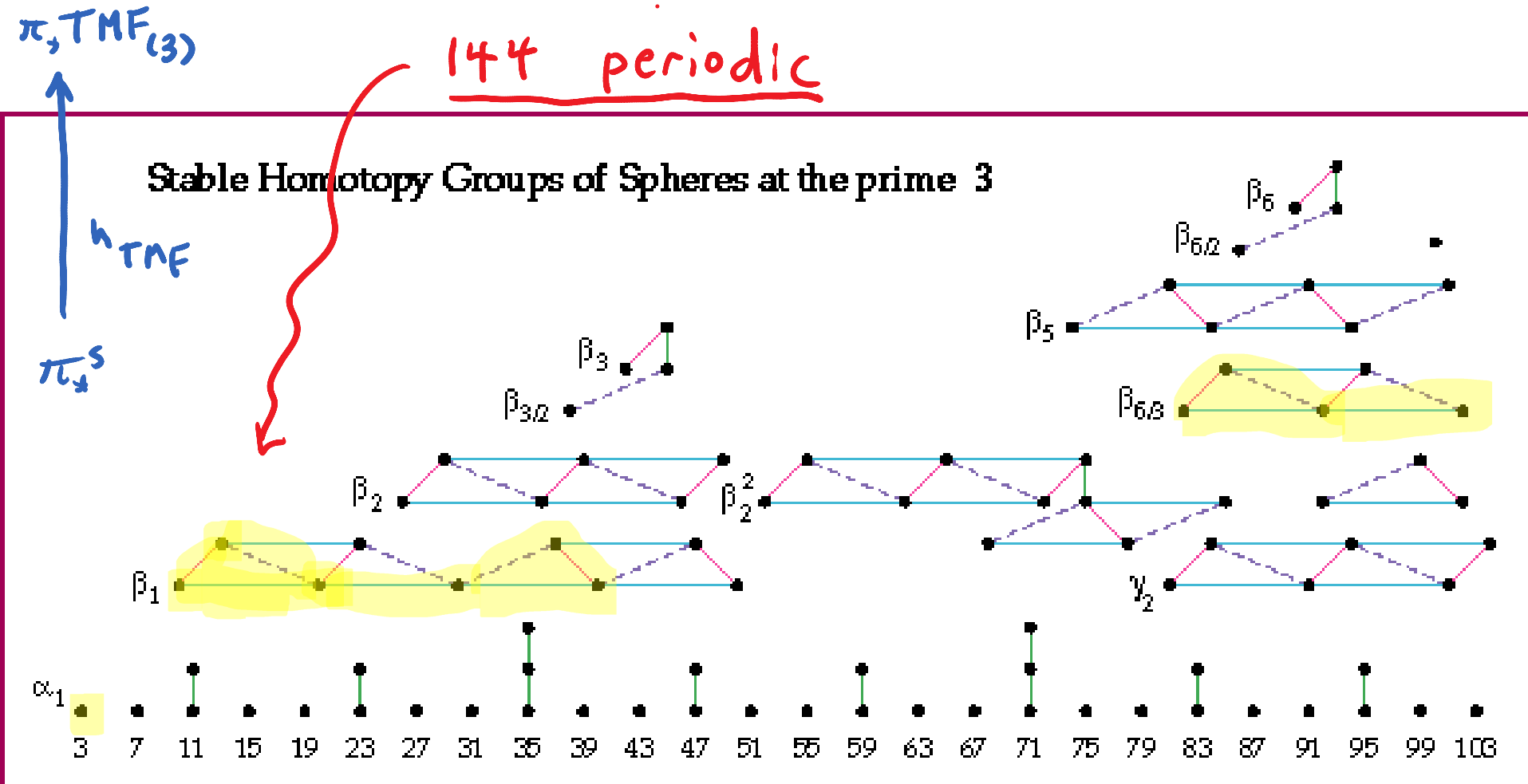
$$\Theta_n \neq 0 \text{ for } n \equiv -6, 10, 26, 42; 74, 90 \pmod{144}$$

↑ Shimomura

all $\equiv 2 \pmod{8}$



Hurewicz image of TMF (p = 3)



Coker J

n = 0 mod 4				n = -2 mod 8 (including Kervaire Inv 1)				n = 2^k - 3 (where $\Theta_n \neq 0$ because of Kervaire class)			
Stem	p = 2	p = 3	p = 5	Stem	p = 2	p = 3	p = 5	Stem	p = 2	p = 3	p = 5
4	0	0	0	6	v^2	0	0	1	0	0	0
8	ϵ	0	0	14	k	0	0	5	0	0	0
12	0	0	0	22	ϵk	0	0	13	0	$\beta_1 \alpha_1$	0
16	η^4	0	0	30	θ^4	β_1^3	0	29	0	$\beta_2 \alpha_1$	0
20	kbar	β_1^2	0	38	y	$\beta_3/2$	β_1	61	0	$\beta_4 \alpha_1$	0
24	$h^4 \epsilon \eta$	0	0	46	w η	$\beta_2 \beta_1^2$	0	125?			0
28	$\epsilon kbar$	0	0	54	$v^2 \wedge^8 v^2$	0	0				
32	q	0	0	62	$h^5 n$	$\beta_2^2 \beta_1$	0				
36	t	$\beta_2 \beta_1$	0	70		0	0				
40	kbar^2	β_1^4	0	78		β_2^3	0				
44	g^2	0	0	86		$\beta_6/2$	β_2				
48	$e^0 r$	0	0	94		β_5	0				
52	kbar q	β_2^2	0	102		$\beta_6/3 \beta_1^2$	0				
56	kbar t	0	0	110			0				
60	kbar^3	0	0	118			0				
64		0	0	126			0				
68		$\langle \alpha_1, \beta_3/2, \beta_2 \rangle$	0	134			β_3				
72		$\beta_2^2 \beta_1^2$	0	142			0				
76		0	β_1^2	150			0				
80		0	0	158			0				
84		$\beta_5 \beta_1$	0	166			0				
88		0	0	174		β_1^3	0				
92		$\beta_6/3 \beta_1$	0	182		$\beta_3/2$	β_4				
96		0	0	190		$\beta_2 \beta_1^2$	β_1^5				
100		$\beta_2 \beta_5$	0	198			0				
104			0	206		$\beta_2^2 \beta_1$	$\beta_5/4$				
108			0	214			$\beta_5/3$				
112			0	222		β_2^3	$\beta_5/2$				
116			0	230		$\beta_6/2$	β_5				
120			0	238		β_5	$\beta_2 \beta_1^4$				
124			$\beta_2 \beta_1$	246		$\beta_6/3 \beta_1^2$	0				
128			0	254			0				
132			0	262			0				
136			0	270			0				
140			0	278			β_1				
144			0	286			$\beta_3 \beta_1^4$				
148			0	294			0				
152			β_1^4	302			0				
156			0	310			0				
160			0	318		β_1^3	0				

v_2 -periodicity at the prime 2

Thm [B-Hill-Hopkins - Mahowald]

$$\exists v_2^{32} : \sum^{192} M_{1,4}^0 \longrightarrow M_{1,4}^0$$

Uses TMF

v_2 -periodicity at the prime 2

Thm [B-Hill-Hopkins-Mahowald]

$$\exists v_2^{32} : \Sigma^{192} M_{1,4}^0 \longrightarrow M_{1,4}^0$$

Uses TMF

Thm [B-Mahowald]

$$\exists v_2^{32} : \Sigma^{192} M_{3,8}^0 \longrightarrow M_{3,8}^0$$

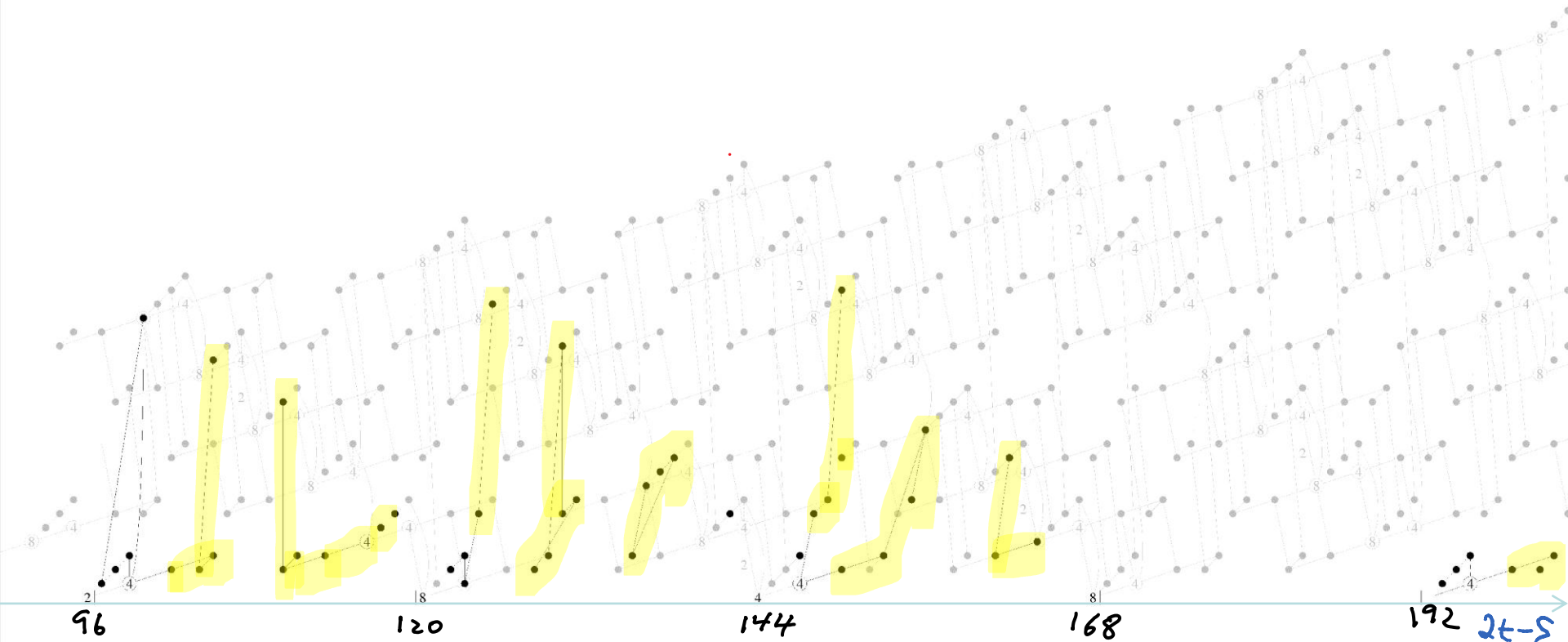
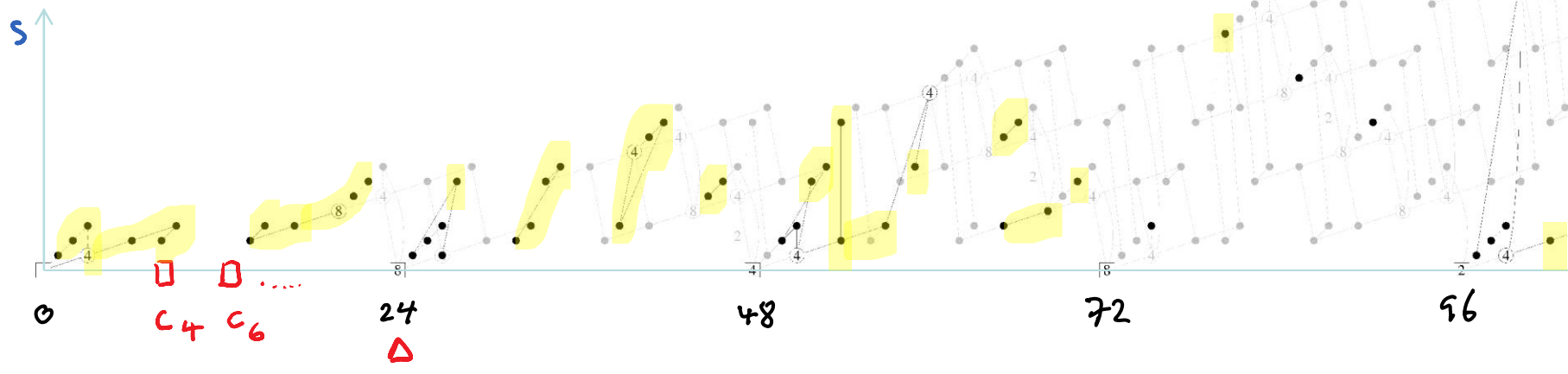
Allows for complete determination
of Hurewicz image $p \equiv 2$

The decent spectral sequence for TMF

(p=2)

Thm: (B-Mahowald)

The complete Hurewicz image.⁸⁴



Hurewicz image of TMF (p = 2)

$\pi_* \text{TMF}_{(2)}$



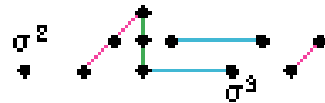
h_{TMF}

π_*^S

Stable Homotopy Groups of Spheres at the prime 2

192-periodic

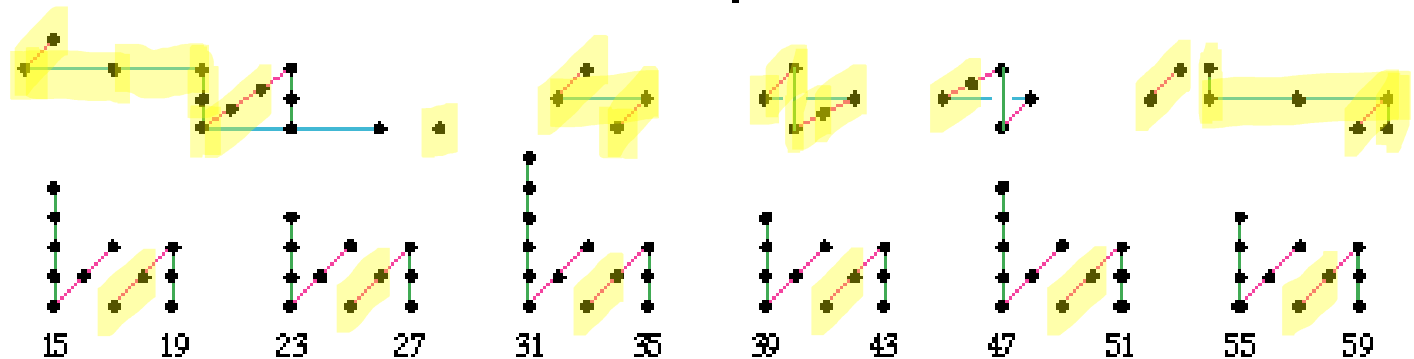
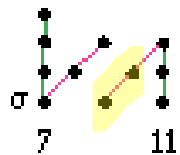
v_2 -periodic



v_2 v_3

v_1 -periodic

η η^2 η^3 v



n = 0 mod 4

n = -2 mod 8 (including Kervaire Inv 1)

n = 2^k - 3 (where $\Theta_n = 0$ because of Kervaire class)

Stem	p = 2	p = 3	p = 5	Stem	p = 2	p = 3	p = 5	Stem	p = 2	p = 3	p = 5
4	0	0	0	6	v^2	0	0	1	0	0	0
8	ϵ	0	0	14	k	0	0	5	0	0	0
12	0	0	0	22	ϵk	0	0	13	0	$\beta_1 \alpha_1$	0
16	η^4	0	0	30	θ^4	β_1^3	0	29	0	$\beta_2 \alpha_1$	0
20	kbar	β_1^2	0	38	γ	$\beta_3/2$	β_1	61	0	$\beta_4 \alpha_1$	0
24	$h^4 \epsilon \eta$	0	0	46	w η	$\beta_2 \beta_1^2$	0	125?	w kbar^4	0	0
28	ϵ kbar	0	0	54	$v^2 \epsilon^8 v^2$	0	0		= in tmf		
32	q	0	0	62	$h^5 n$	$\beta_2^2 \beta_1$	0		= not in tmf, not known to be v2-periodic		
36	t	$\beta_2 \beta_1$	0	70	$\langle \text{kbar } w, v, \eta \rangle$	0	0		= not in tmf, but v2-periodic		
40	kbar^2	β_1^4	0	78		β_2^3	0		= Kervaire		
44	g2	0	0	86		$\beta_6/2$	β_2		= trivial		
48	$e^0 r$	0	0	94		β_5	0				
52	kbar q	β_2^2	0	102	$v^2 \epsilon^{16} v^2$	$\beta_6/3 \beta_1^2$	0				
56	kbar t	0	0	110	$v^2 \epsilon^{16} k$		0				
60	kbar^3	0	0	118	$v^2 \epsilon^{16} \eta^2 \text{ kbar}$		0				
64		0	0	126			0				
68	$v^2 \epsilon^8 k v^2$	$\langle \alpha_1, \beta_3/2, \beta_2 \rangle$	0	134			β_3				
72		$\beta_2^2 \beta_1^2$	0	142	$v^2 \epsilon^{16} \eta w$		0				
76		0	β_1^2	150	$(v^2 \epsilon^{16} \epsilon \text{ kbar}) \eta^2$	$v^2 \epsilon^9$	0				
80	kbar^4	0	0	158			0				
84		$\beta_5 \beta_1$	0	166			0				
88		0	0	174	$\beta_{32}/8$	β_1^3	0				
92		$\beta_6/3 \beta_1$	0	182	$\beta_{32}/4$	$\beta_3/2$	β_4				
96		0	0	190		$\beta_2 \beta_1^2$	β_1^5				
100	kbar^5	$\beta_2 \beta_5$	0	198	$v^2 \epsilon^{32} v^2$		0				
104	$v^2 \epsilon^{16} \epsilon$		0	206	k	$\beta_2^2 \beta_1$	$\beta_5/4$				
108			0	214	ϵk		$\beta_5/3$				
112			0	222		β_2^3	$\beta_5/2$				
116	$2v^2 \epsilon^{16} \text{ kbar}$		0	230		$\beta_6/2$	β_5				
120			0	238	w η	β_5	$\beta_2 \beta_1^4$				
124	$v^2 \epsilon^{16} k^2$		$\beta_2 \beta_1$	246	$v^2 \epsilon^8 v^2$	$\beta_6/3 \beta_1^2$	0				
128	$v^2 \epsilon^{16} q$		0	254			0				
132			0	262	$\langle \text{kbar } w, v, \eta \rangle$		0				
136	$\langle v^2 \epsilon^{16} k \text{ kbar}, 2, v^2 \rangle$		0	270			0				
140			0	278			β_1				
144		$v^2 \epsilon^9$	0	286			$\beta_3 \beta_1^4$				
148	$v^2 \epsilon^{16} \epsilon \text{ kbar}$		0	294	$v^2 \epsilon^{16} v^2$	$v^2 \epsilon^{18}$	0				
152			β_1^4	302	$v^2 \epsilon^{16} k$		0				
156	$\langle \Delta^6 v^2, 2v, \eta^2 \rangle$		0	310	$v^2 \epsilon^{16} \eta^2 \text{ kbar}$		0				
160			0	318		β_1^3	0				