

# Modular Forms in Topology

Mark Behrens  
(MIT)

# Algebraic Topology:

Geometry

Algebra

# Algebraic Topology:

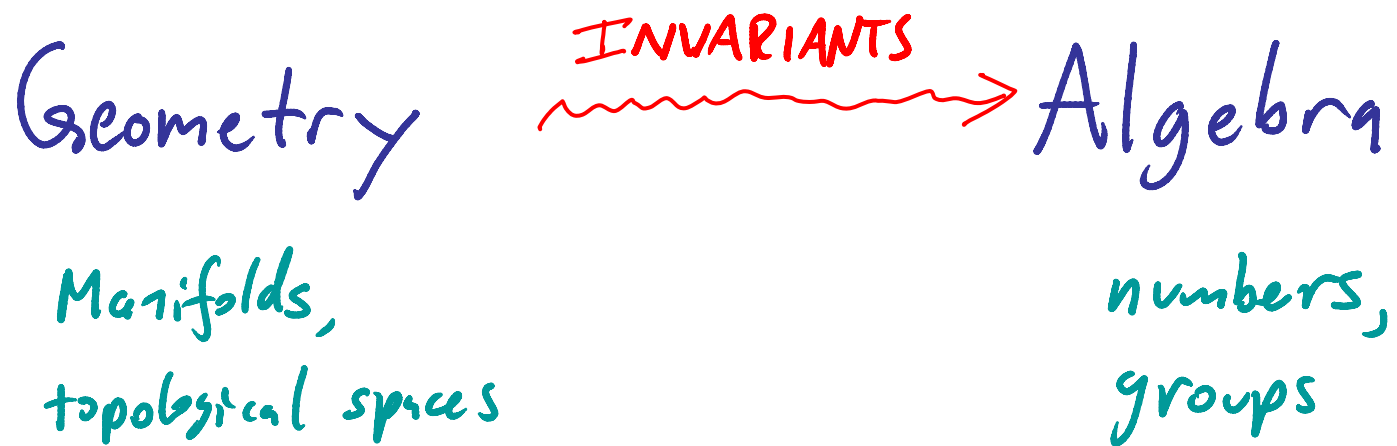
Geometry

Manifolds,  
topological spaces

Algebra

numbers,  
groups

# Algebraic Topology:



# Algebraic Topology:

Geometry  $\xrightarrow{\text{INVARIANTS}}$  Algebra

Manifolds,  
topological spaces

(continuous)

numbers,  
groups

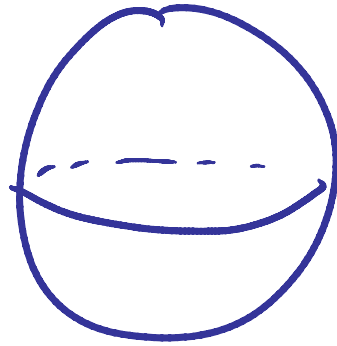
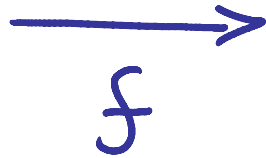
(discrete)

Homotopy  $\longrightarrow$  Equality

# Example: degree of a mapping

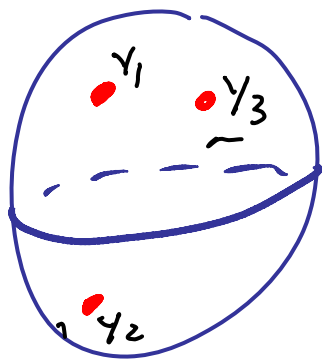


$S^n$

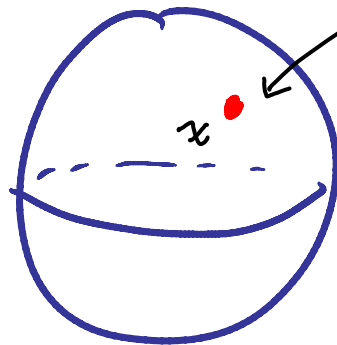
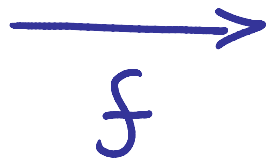


$S^n$

# Example: degree of a mapping



$S^n$



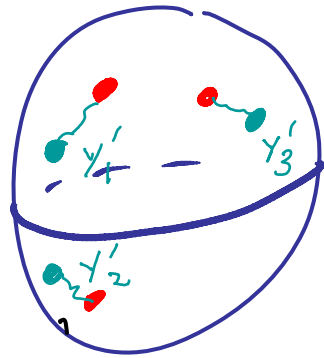
$S^n$

Regular Value

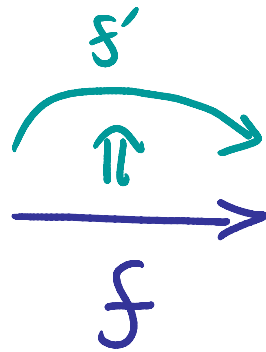
$$f^{-1}(x) = \{y_1, y_2, y_3\}$$

$$d(f) = \#|f^{-1}(x)|$$

# Example: degree of a mapping

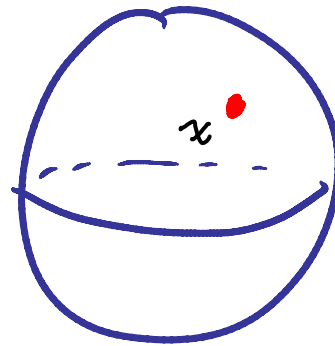


$S^n$



perturb  $f \rightsquigarrow f'$

(small homotopy)



$S^n$

$$(f')^{-1}(x) = \{y_1, y_2, y_3\}$$

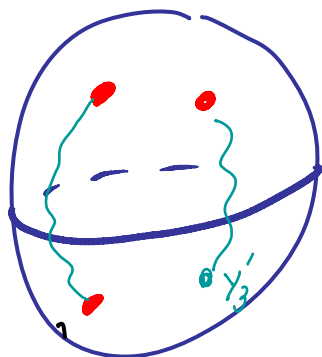
$$d(f') = d(f) = \# |f^{-1}(x)|$$



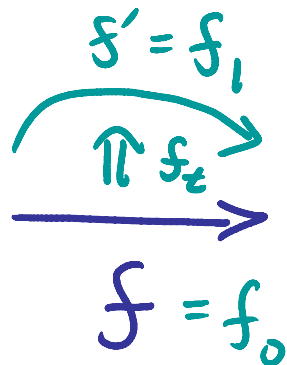
# Example: degree of a mapping

perturb  $f \rightsquigarrow f'$

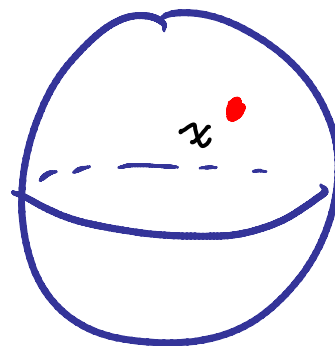
BIG  
HOMOTOPY



$S^n$

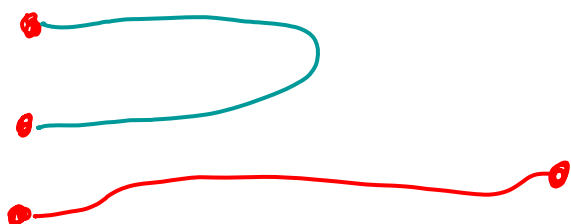


$t \in [0, 1]$



$S^n$

$f_t^{-1}(x)$



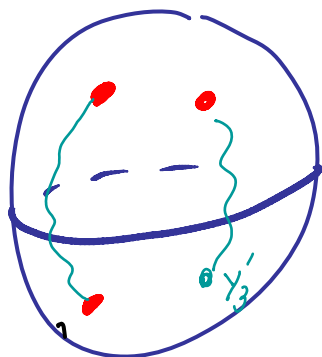
$t$



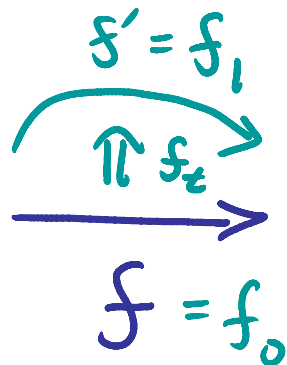
# Example: degree of a mapping

perturb  $f \rightsquigarrow f'$

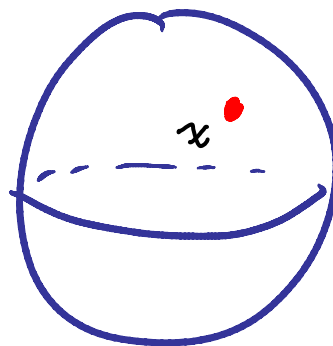
BIG  
HOMOTOPY



$S^n$

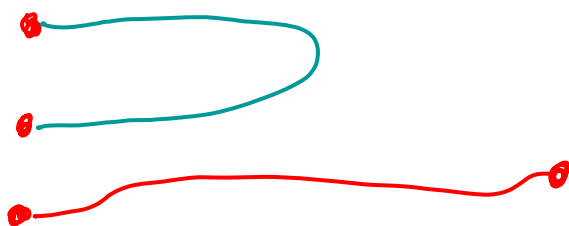


$t \in [0, 1]$

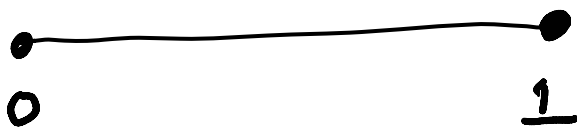


$S^n$

$f_t^{-1}(x)$



$t$



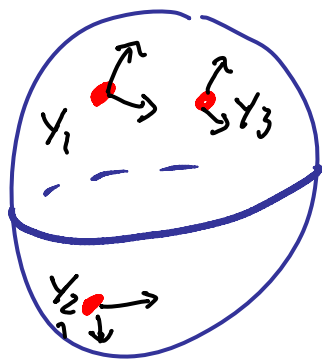
$$d(f) \equiv d(f') \pmod{2}$$

$$d \in \mathbb{Z}/2$$

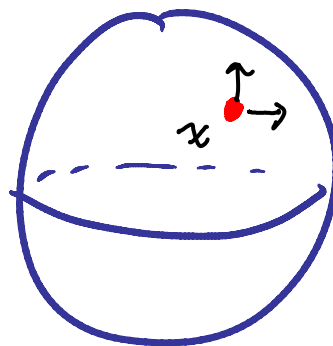
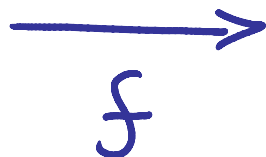
# Oriented degree:

$X = 0$ -dim'd embedded submanifold

orientation on  $S^n \rightsquigarrow$  orientation on normal bundle of  $X$



$S^n$

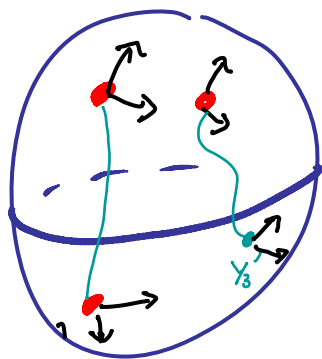


$S^n$

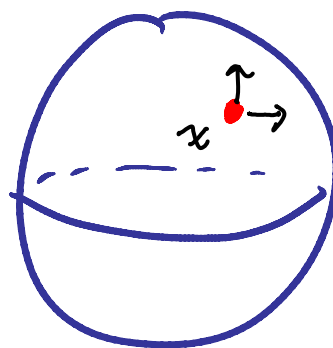
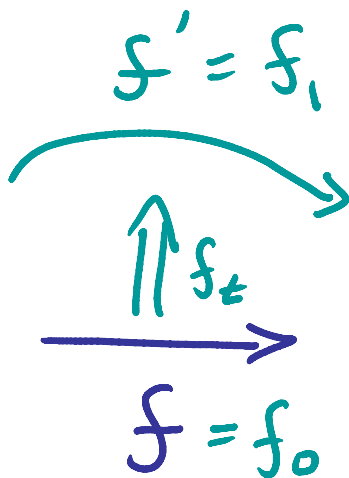
$$\tilde{d}(f) = 1 - 1 + 1$$

$$\tilde{d} \in \mathbb{Z}$$

# Oriented degree:



$S^n$



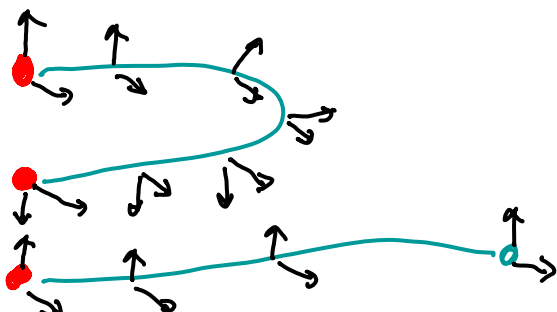
$S^n$

$$\begin{aligned} &\sim d(f') \\ &= \\ &= 1 \end{aligned}$$

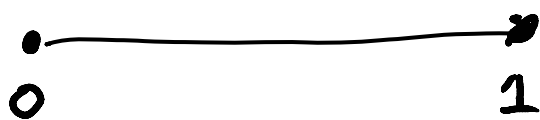
$$\sim d(f) = 1 - 1 + 1$$

$$\sim d \in \mathbb{Z}$$

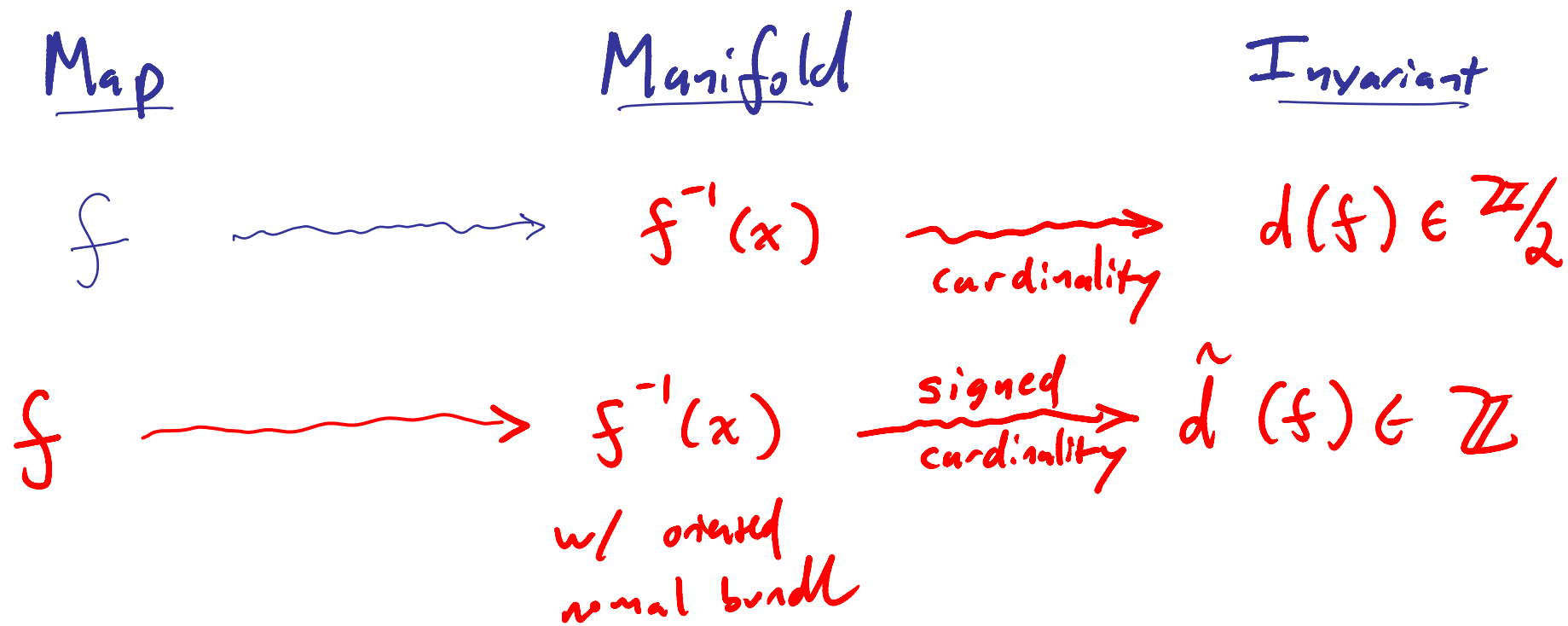
$f_t^{-1}(x)$



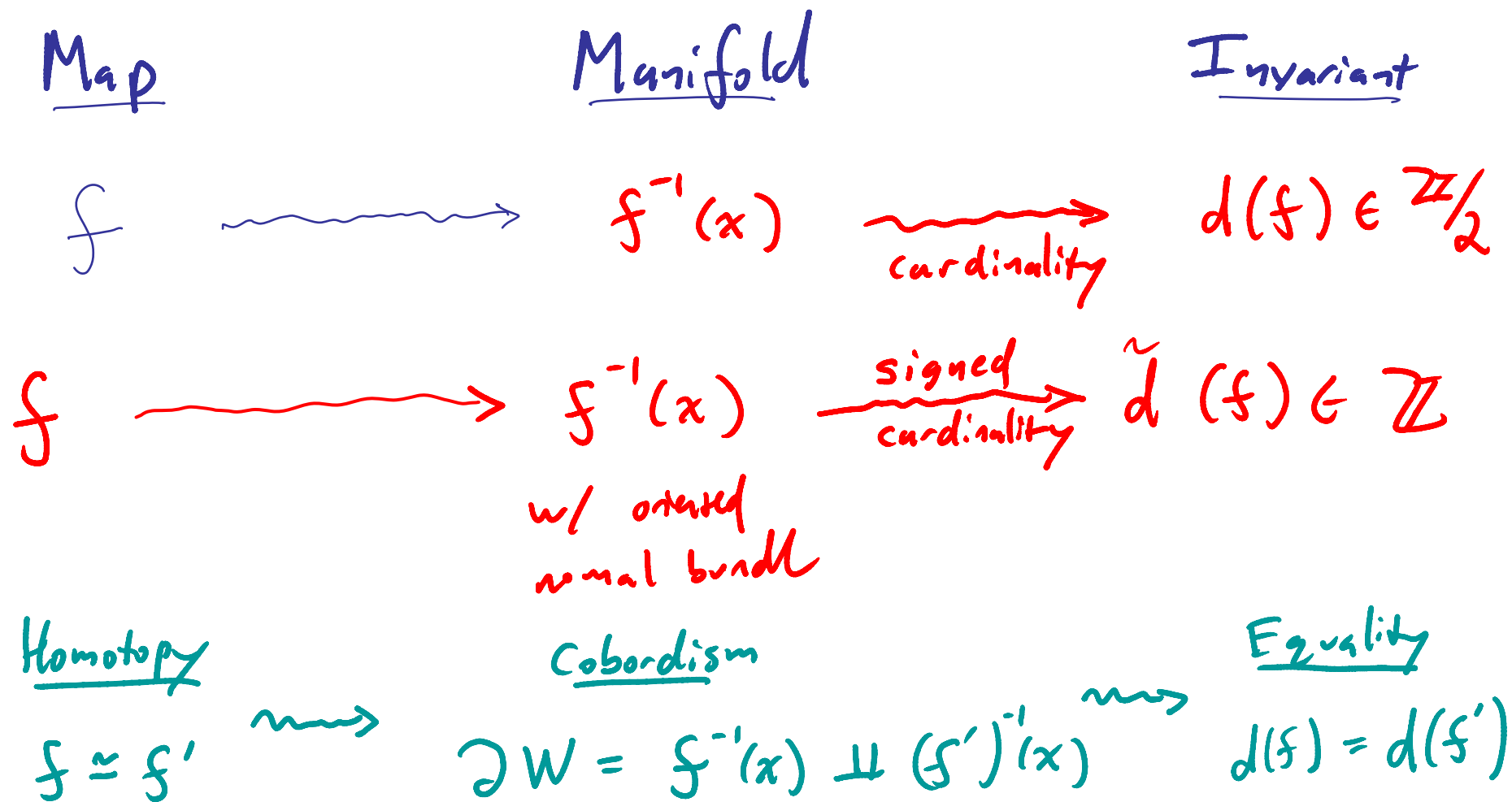
$t$



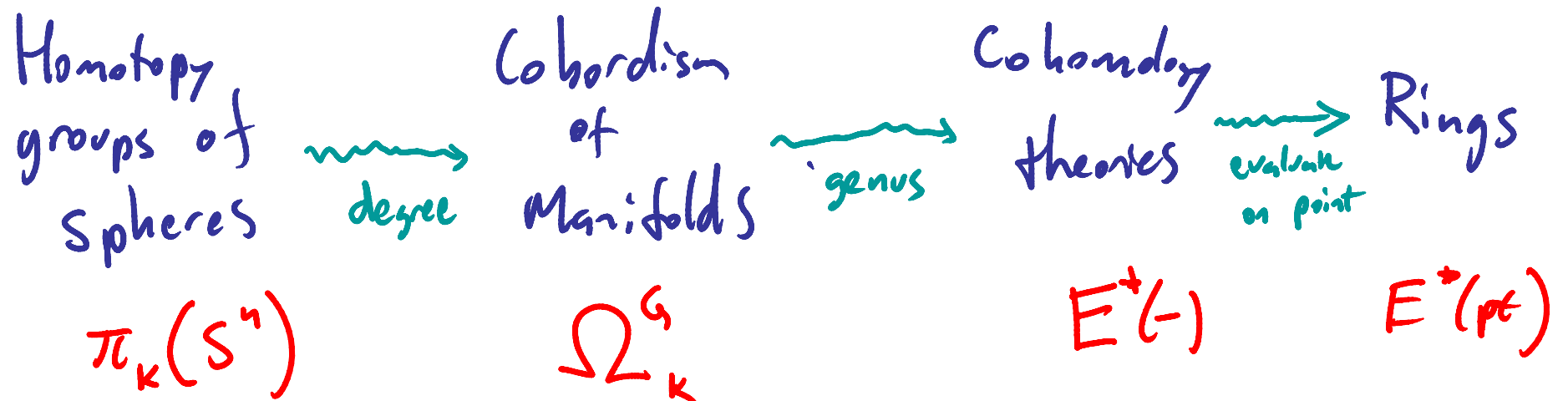
What have we done?



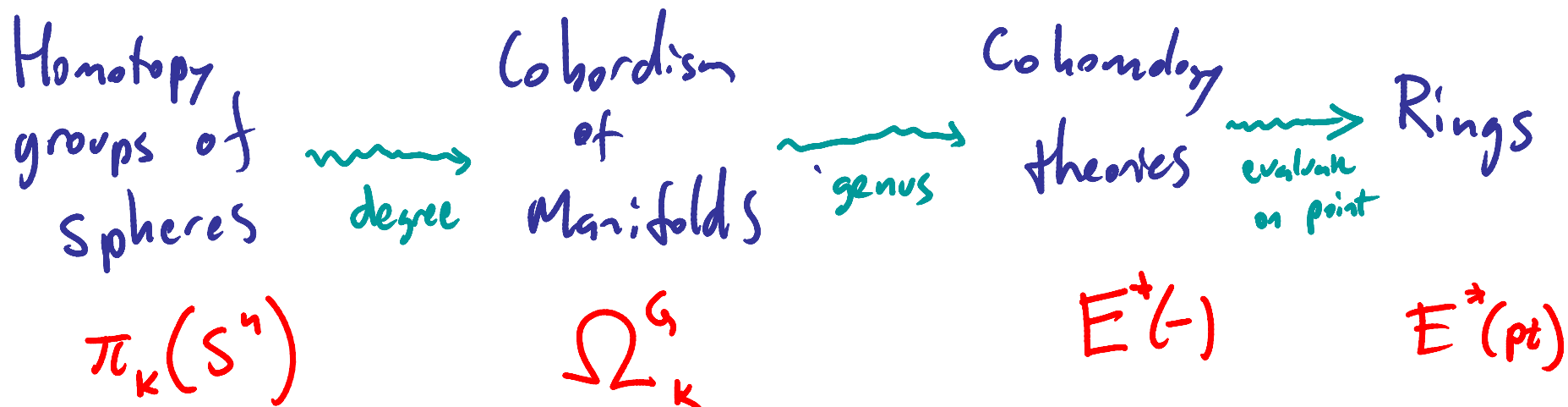
What have we done?



We will generalize this picture



We will generalize this picture



Hierarchy of structure

Periodicity

$V_0$ -periodicity

$$\Omega_+^{SO}$$

$$H^*$$

$$\mathbb{Z}$$

$V_1$ -periodicity

$$\Omega_+^{Spin}$$

$$K^*$$

$$\mathbb{Z}[\beta^{\pm 1}]$$

$V_2$ -periodicity

$$\Omega_+^{Spin\langle 7 \rangle}$$

$$TMF^*$$

Modular  
forms



# Homotopy groups

$X$  = pointed space

$S^n$  =  $n$ -sphere w/ fixed  
base point.

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$X$  = pointed space

$S^n$  =  $n$ -sphere w/ fixed  
base point.

$$\pi_n(X) := \text{Map}_*(S^n, X) / \text{pointed homotopy}$$

base point preserving maps

Most fundamental computations:

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$$\pi_n(S^k)$$

# Most fundamental computations:

$$\pi_n(S^k)$$

- $\pi_n(S^n) = \mathbb{Z}$  (using  $\tilde{d} : \pi_n(S^n) \xrightarrow{\cong} \mathbb{Z}$ )
- $\pi_{<n}(S^n) = 0$
- $\pi_{>n}(S^n) = ???$

$$\pi_i(S^n)$$

		$i \rightarrow$											
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
$n$	1	$\mathbb{Z}$	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
$\downarrow$	2	0	$\mathbb{Z}$	$\mathbb{Z}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_{12}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_3$	$\mathbb{Z}_{15}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$
	3	0	0	$\mathbb{Z}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_{12}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_3$	$\mathbb{Z}_{15}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$
	4	0	0	0	$\mathbb{Z}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}_{12}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_{24} \times \mathbb{Z}_3$	$\mathbb{Z}_{15}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$
	5	0	0	0	0	$\mathbb{Z}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_{24}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_{30}$
	6	0	0	0	0	0	$\mathbb{Z}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_{24}$	0	$\mathbb{Z}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$
	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	$\mathbb{Z}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_{24}$	0	0
	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	$\mathbb{Z}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_{24}$	0

$\pi_i(S^n)$ 

		$i \rightarrow$											
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
$n$	1	$\mathbb{Z}$	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	↓	2	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_{12}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_3$	$\mathbb{Z}_{15}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$
	3	0	0	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_{12}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_3$	$\mathbb{Z}_{15}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$
	4	0	0	0	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}_{12}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_{24} \times \mathbb{Z}_3$	$\mathbb{Z}_{15}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$
	5	0	0	0	0	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_{24}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_{30}$
	6	0	0	0	0	0	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_{24}$	0	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$
	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_{24}$	0	0
	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_{24}$	0

$\pi_{<n}(S^n)$

$\pi_n(S^n)$

$\pi_{>n}(S^n)$

$$\pi_i(S^n)$$

		$i \rightarrow$											
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
$n$	1	$\mathbb{Z}$	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	↓ 2	0	$\mathbb{Z}$	$\mathbb{Z}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_{12}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_3$	$\mathbb{Z}_{15}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$
	3	0	0	$\mathbb{Z}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_{12}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_3$	$\mathbb{Z}_{15}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$
	4	0	0	0	$\mathbb{Z}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}_{12}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_{24} \times \mathbb{Z}_3$	$\mathbb{Z}_{15}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$
	5	0	0	0	0	$\mathbb{Z}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_{24}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_{30}$
	6	0	0	0	0	0	$\mathbb{Z}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_{24}$	0	$\mathbb{Z}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$
	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	$\mathbb{Z}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_{24}$	0	0
	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	$\mathbb{Z}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_{24}$	0

- finitely generated abelian groups
- mostly torsion

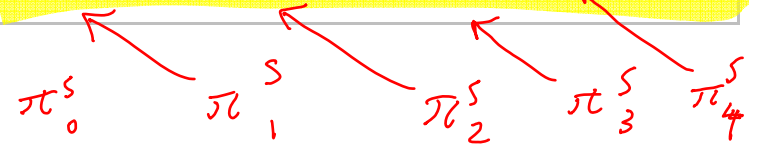
		$\pi_i(S^n)$											
		$i \rightarrow$											
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
$n$	1	$\mathbb{Z}$	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	↓ 2	0	$\mathbb{Z}$	$\mathbb{Z}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_{12}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_3$	$\mathbb{Z}_{15}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$
	3	0	0	$\mathbb{Z}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_{12}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_3$	$\mathbb{Z}_{15}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$
	4	0	0	0	$\mathbb{Z}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}_{12}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_{24} \times \mathbb{Z}_3$	$\mathbb{Z}_{15}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$
	5	0	0	0	0	$\mathbb{Z}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_{24}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_{30}$
	6	0	0	0	0	0	$\mathbb{Z}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	0	$\mathbb{Z}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$
	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	$\mathbb{Z}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_{24}$	0	0
	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	$\mathbb{Z}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_{24}$	0

- finitely generated abelian groups
- mostly torsion
- stabilizes along diagonals
- only stable non-torsion comes from  $\pi_n(S^n)$



$\pi_i(S^n)$

		$i \rightarrow$											
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
$n$	1	$\mathbb{Z}$	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	↓ 2	0	$\mathbb{Z}$	$\mathbb{Z}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_{12}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_3$	$\mathbb{Z}_{15}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$
	3	0	0	$\mathbb{Z}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_{12}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_3$	$\mathbb{Z}_{15}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$
	4	0	0	0	$\mathbb{Z}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}_{12}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_{24} \times \mathbb{Z}_3$	$\mathbb{Z}_{15}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$
	5	0	0	0	0	$\mathbb{Z}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_{24}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_{30}$
	6	0	0	0	0	0	$\mathbb{Z}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	0	0	$\mathbb{Z}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$
	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	$\mathbb{Z}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_{24}$	0	0
	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	$\mathbb{Z}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_{24}$	0



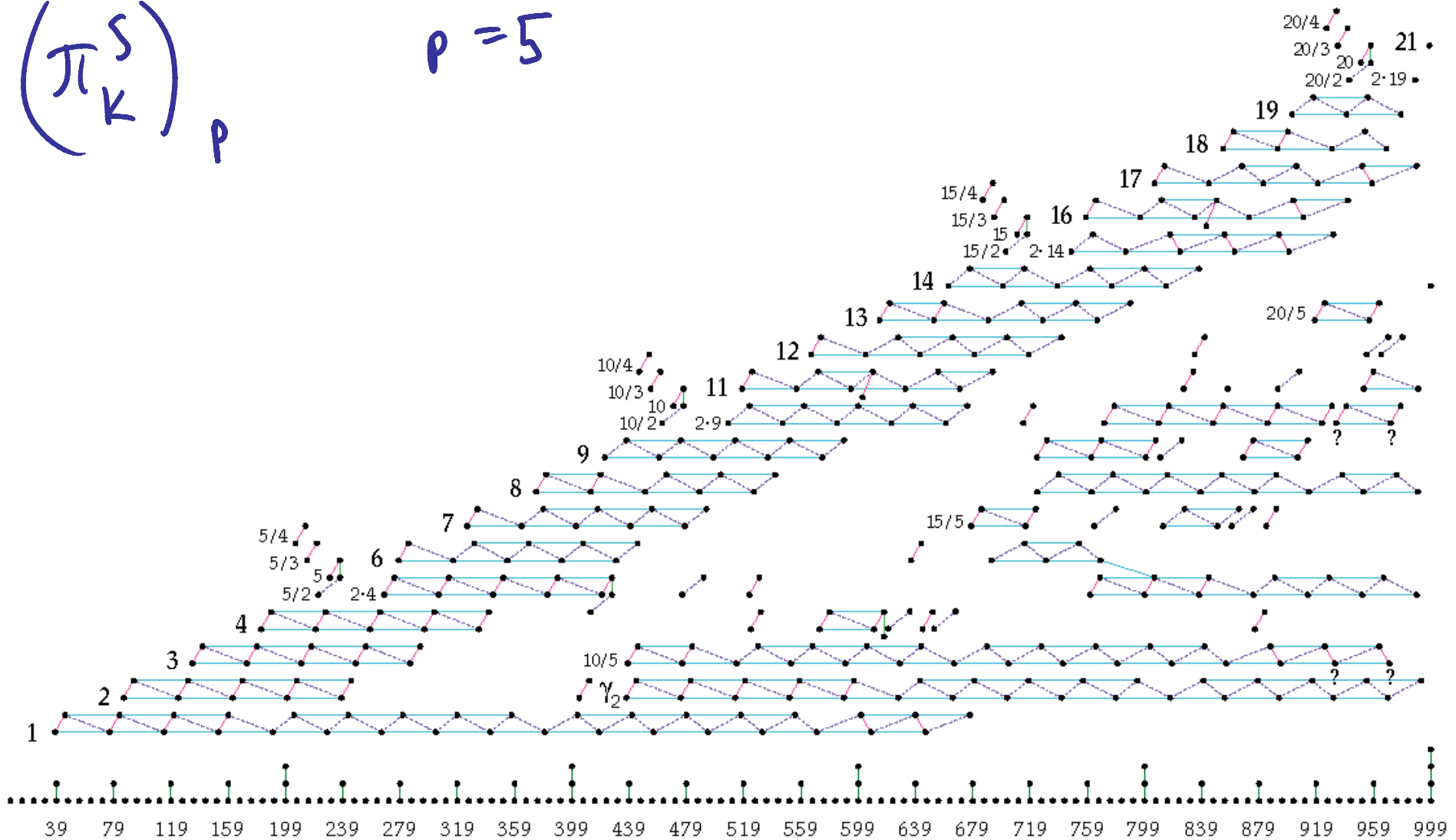
Stable homotopy groups:

$$\pi_k^S := \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \pi_{n+k}(S^n)$$

$k > 0$        $\pi_k^S \cong \bigoplus_{p \text{ prime}} (\pi_k^S)_p$  ← finite  $p$ -torsion

$$\binom{S}{\pi}_k$$

$$p = 5$$

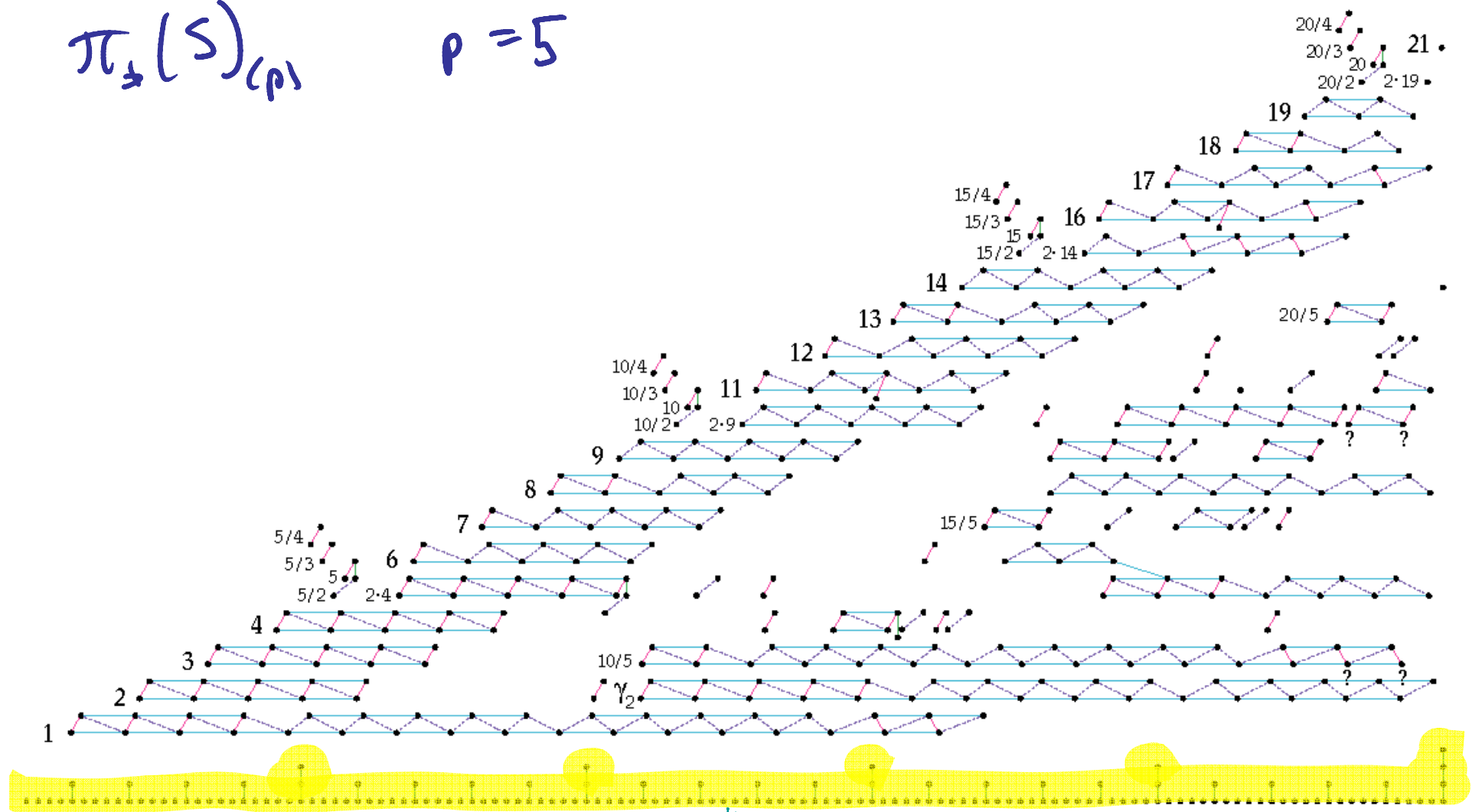


$\xrightarrow{k}$

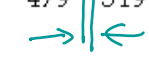
picture: Hatcher  
computation: Ravenel

$$\pi_{\pm}(S)_{(p)}$$

$$p = 5$$



39 79 119 159 199 239 279 319 359 399 439 479 519 559 599 639 679 719 759 799 839 879 919 959 999



period  
=  $2(p-1) = 8$

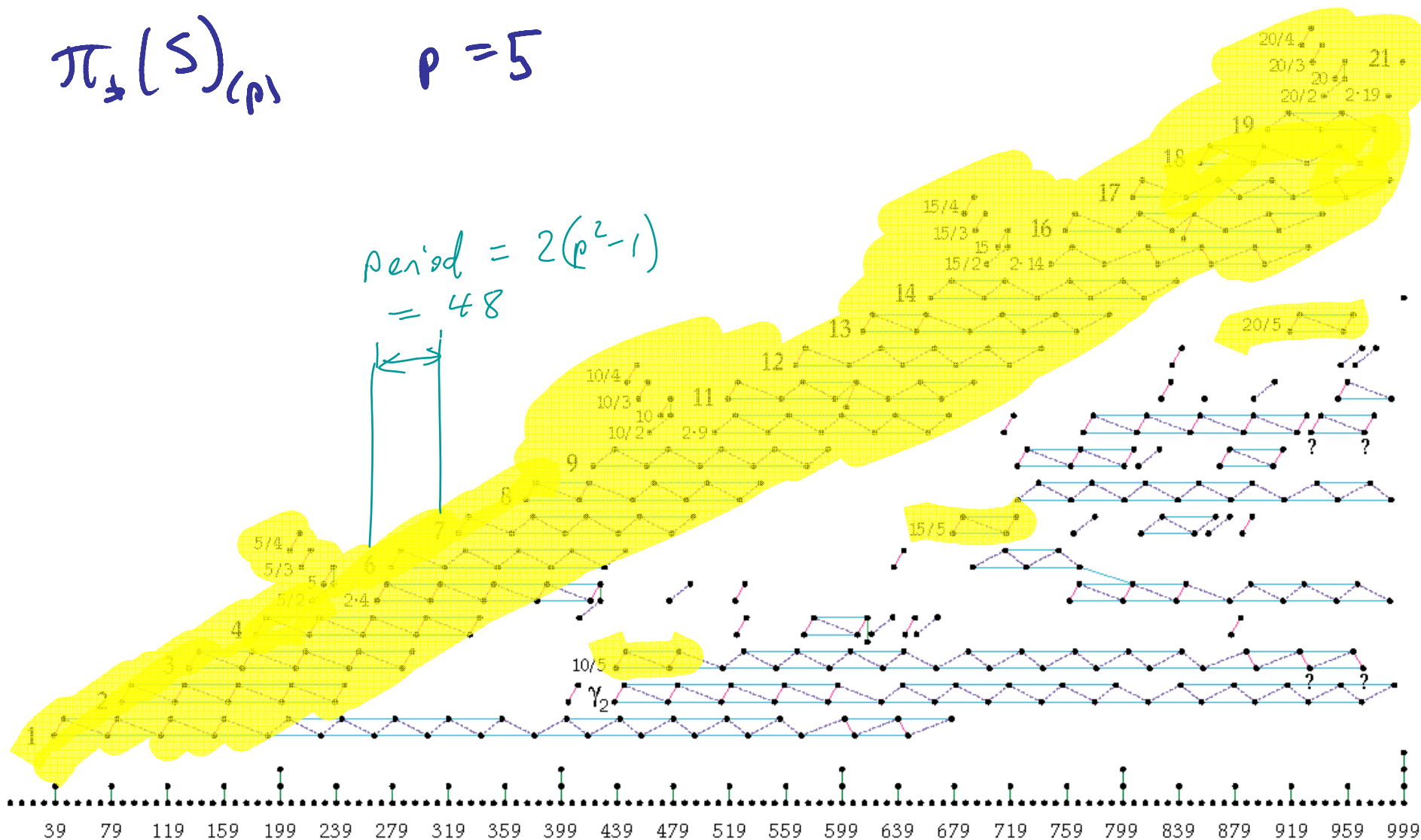
$v_1$ -periodic

picture! Hatcher  
computation! Ravenel

$$\pi_2(S)_{(p)}$$

$$p = 5$$

$$\text{period} = 2(p^2 - 1) = 48$$

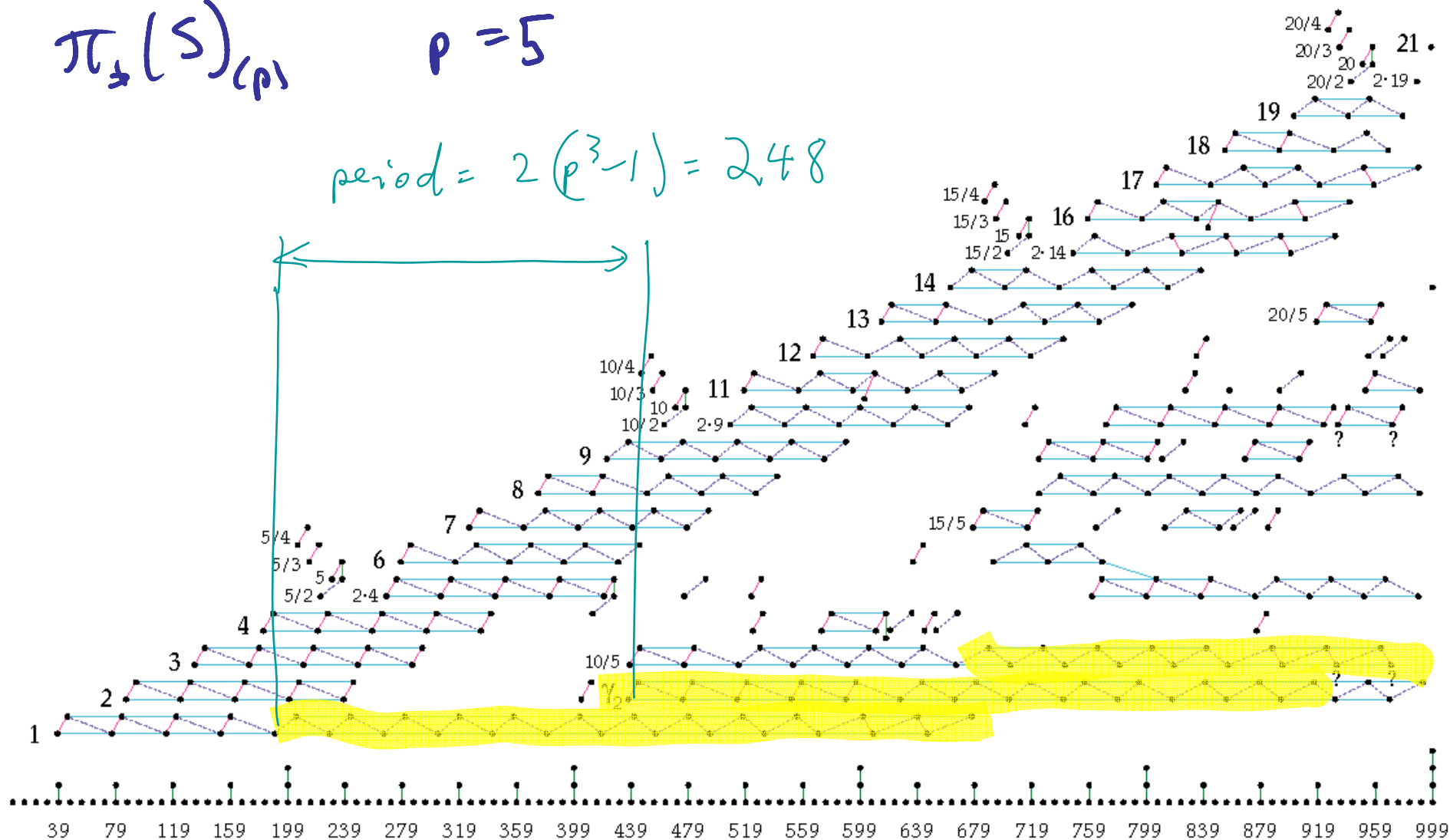


$V_2$ -periodic

picture: Hatcher  
computation: Ravenel

$$\pi_2(S)_{(p)} \quad p=5$$

$$\text{period} = 2(p^3 - 1) = 248$$



$v_3$ -periodic

picture: Hatcher  
computation: Ravenel

# Cobordism

$\{G_n\}$  = sequence of  
" topological gps  
G

$$G_n \longrightarrow O_n(\mathbb{R})$$

# Cobordism

$\{G_n\}$  = sequence of topological groups  
 $\parallel$   
 $G$

$$G_n \longrightarrow O_n(\mathbb{R})$$

Transition functions

$$g_{ij} : U_i \cap U_j \longrightarrow O_n(\mathbb{R})$$

$V$  rank  $k$   
 $\downarrow$  vector bundle

$X \xleftarrow{\text{cover}} \{U_k\}$

Def: A  $G$ -structure on  $V$

is a lift

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \tilde{g}_{ij} & \dashrightarrow & G_n \\
 & & \downarrow \\
 U_i \cap U_j & \xrightarrow{g_{ij}} & O_n(\mathbb{R})
 \end{array}$$

# Cobordism

$\{G_n\}$  = sequence of  
 " " topological gps  
 $G$

$$G_n \longrightarrow O_n(\mathbb{R})$$

Transition functions

$$g_{ij} : U_i \cap U_j \longrightarrow O_n(\mathbb{R})$$

$V$  rank  $k$   
 $\downarrow$  vector bundle

$X \longleftarrow \{U_k\}$   
 cover

Def: A  $G$ -structure on  $V$

is a lift

"Stable"  $G$ -structure =  $G$ -structure on  $V \oplus \mathbb{R}^N, N \gg 0$

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \tilde{g}_{ij} & \dashrightarrow & G_n \\
 & & \downarrow \\
 U_i \cap U_j & \xrightarrow{g_{ij}} & O_n(\mathbb{R})
 \end{array}$$



# Cobordism

$M$  = manifold

$M \hookrightarrow \mathbb{R}^N$  embedding

$\nu_M$  = normal bundle of embedding

Def: A  $G$ -structure on  $M$  is a  
stable  $G$ -structure on  $\nu_M$

# Examples

$$SO = \{SO_n\}$$

orientation  
on  $M$   $\rightsquigarrow$   $SO$ -structure

$$U = \{U_n\}$$

complex structure  
on  $M$   $\rightsquigarrow$   $U$ -structure

$$Spin = \{Spin_n\}$$

"Spin manifolds"

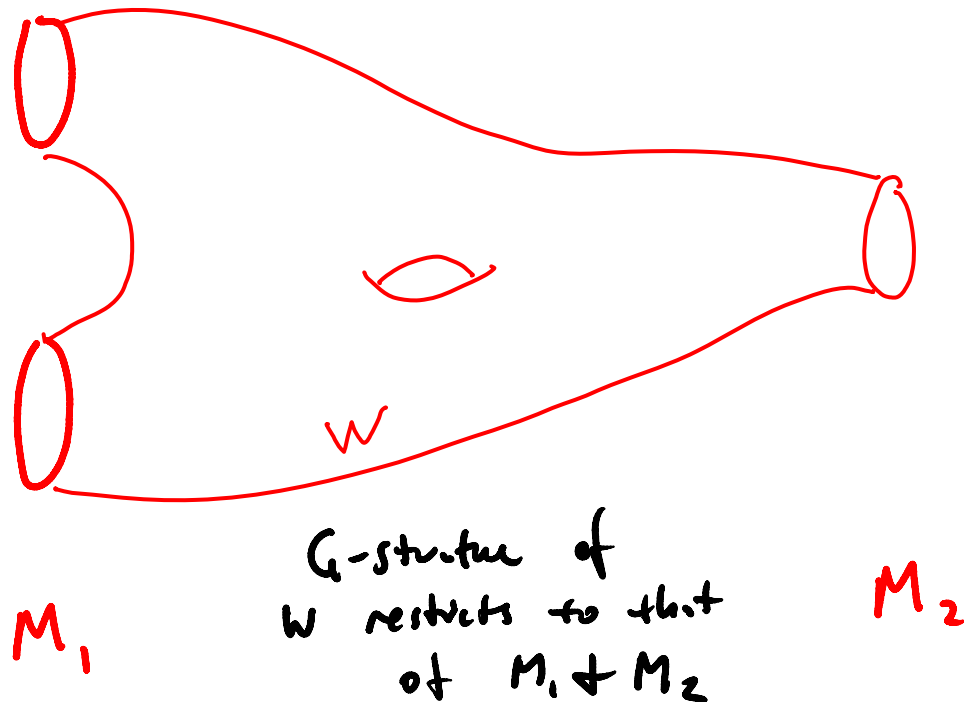
$$e = \{e\}$$

"framed manifolds"  
(trivialization of  $\gamma_M$ )

# Cobordism

$$\Omega_k^G := \frac{\{\text{smooth cpt } k\text{-manifolds w/ } G\text{-structure}\}}{\text{cobordism}}$$

A cobordism between  $M_1$  and  $M_2$



# Cobordism

$$\Omega_k^G := \frac{\{\text{smooth cpt } k\text{-manifolds w/ } G\text{-structure}\}}{\text{cobordism}}$$

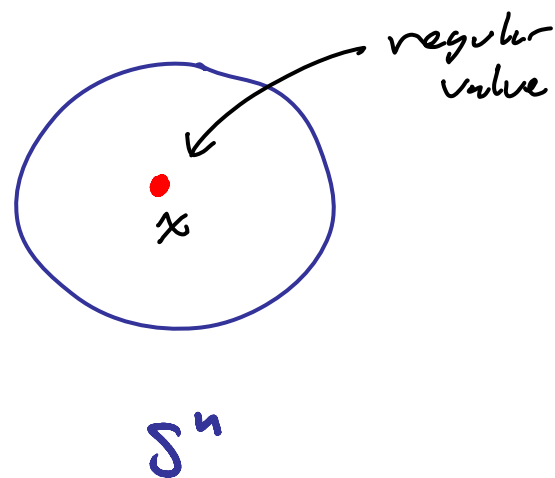
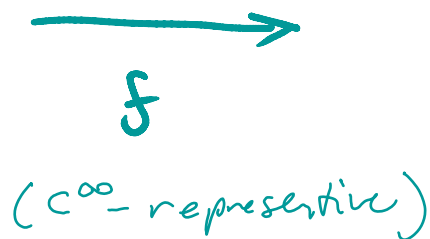
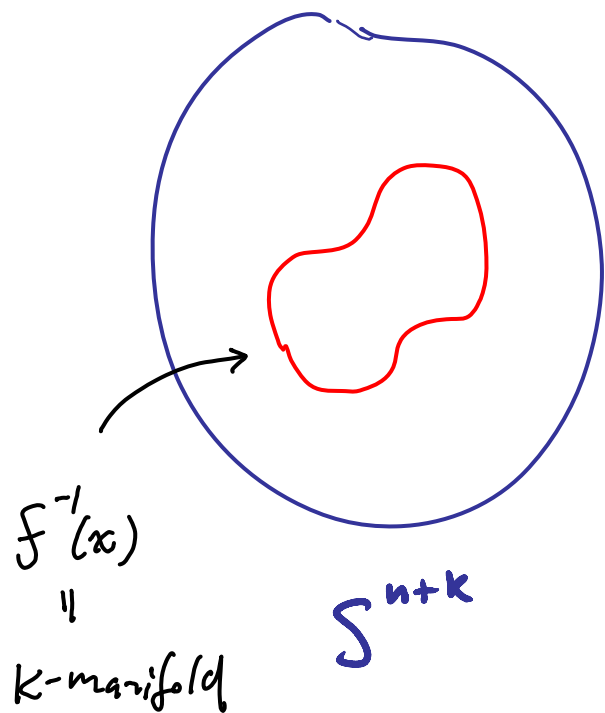
$\Omega_*^G$  is a graded ring:

$$[M_1] + [M_2] := [M_1 \sqcup M_2]$$

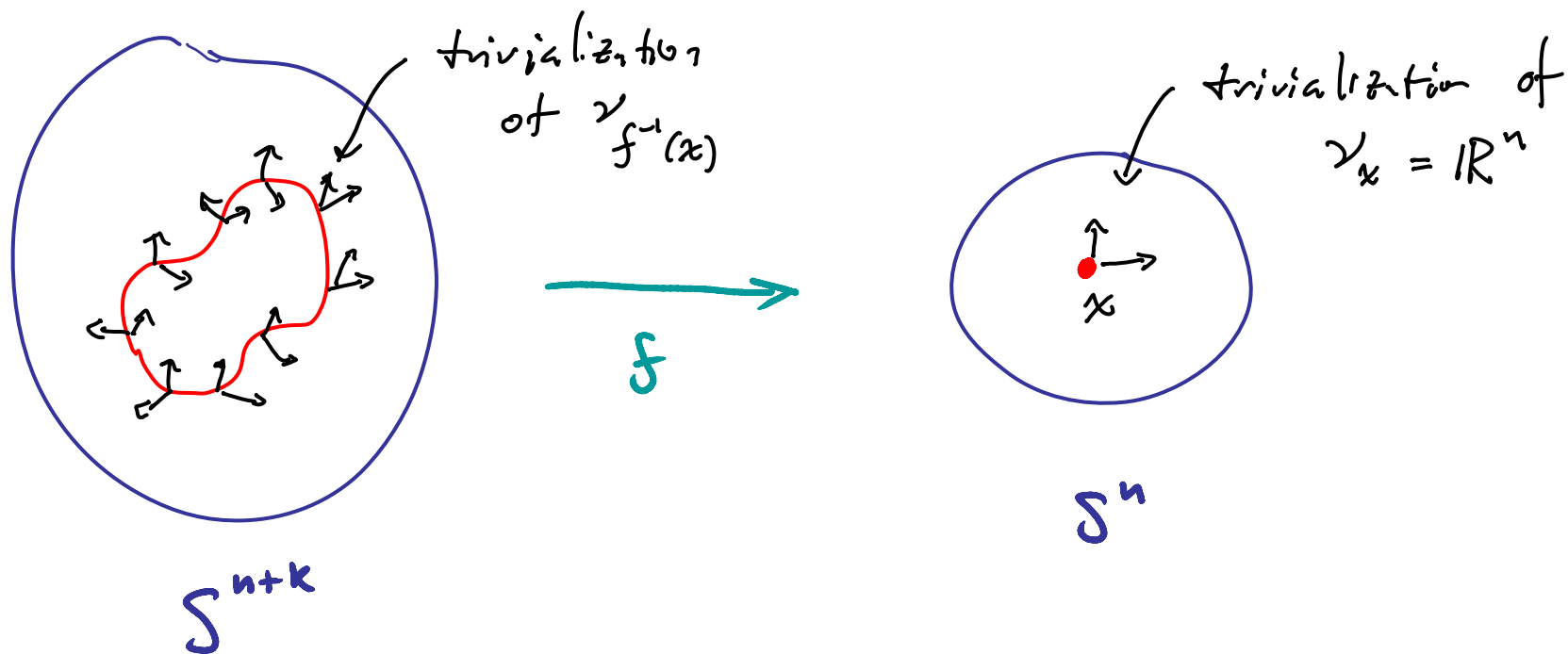
$$[M_1][M_2] := [M_1 \times M_2]$$

# Homotopy $\rightsquigarrow$ Cobordism

$$[f] \in \pi_k^S$$

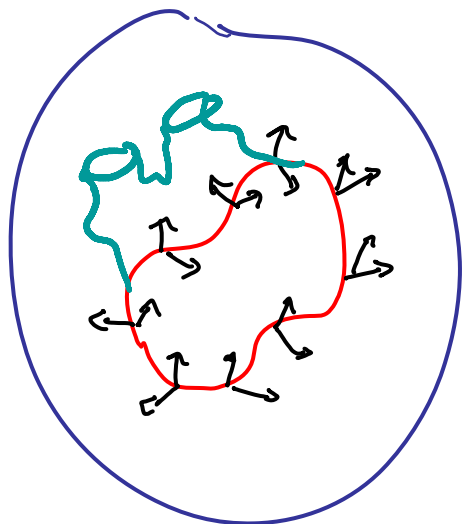


# Homotopy $\rightsquigarrow$ Cobordism

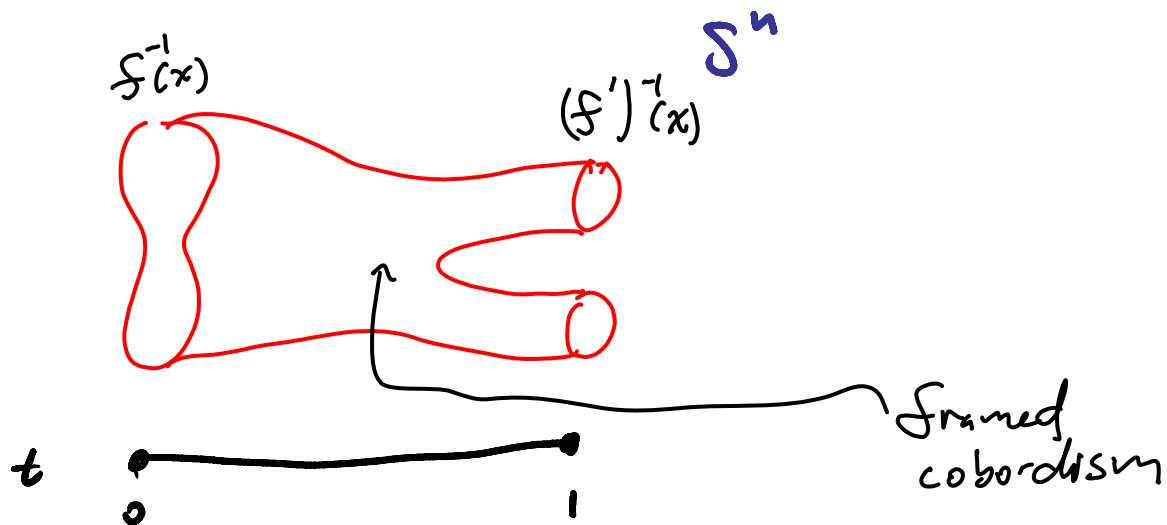
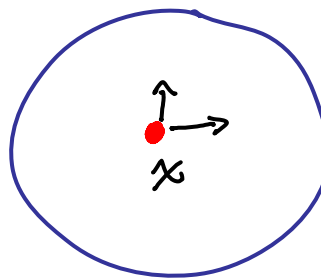
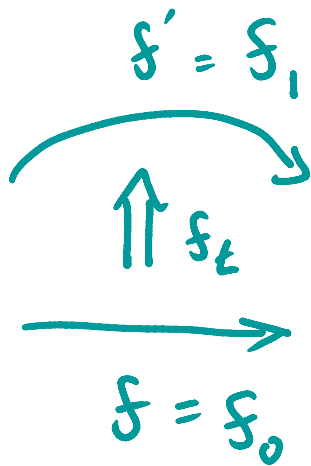


$\Rightarrow f^{-1}(x)$  is a framed  $k$ -manifold

# Homotopy $\rightsquigarrow$ Cobordism



$S^{n+k}$



We get:

stable htpy

$$\pi_k^s$$



framed cobordism

$$\Omega_k^e$$

$$[f]$$



$$[f^{-1}(x)]$$



We get:

stable htpy

framed cobordism

$$\pi_k^s$$



$$\Omega_k^e$$

$$[f]$$



$$[f^{-1}(x)]$$

Thm (Pontryagin)

This gives an isomorphism

$$\pi_k^s$$



$$\Omega_k^e$$

## Bad News

$\Omega_*^e$  is really complicated!

## Good News

Given any  $G$ , get  $e \rightarrow G$

$\Rightarrow$   
there is  
a homomorphism

$$\pi_*^s \xrightarrow{\cong} \Omega_*^e \longrightarrow \underbrace{\Omega_*^G}_{\text{Simpler}}$$

# Genera

$R = \text{ring}$

An  $R$ -valued genus is a ring homomorphism

$$\Phi : \Omega_*^G \longrightarrow R$$

"Study  $\Omega_*^G$  through its genera"

# Complex Generators

Thm (Milnor)

$$\Omega_*^U \otimes \mathbb{Q} \cong \mathbb{Q}[\mathbb{C}P^1, \mathbb{C}P^2, \mathbb{C}P^3, \dots]$$

polynomial ring

# Complex Genera

Thm (Milnor)

$$\Omega_*^4 \otimes \mathbb{Q} \cong \mathbb{Q}[\mathbb{C}P^1, \mathbb{C}P^2, \mathbb{C}P^3, \dots]$$

polynomial ring

Consequence: If  $R \subset R \otimes \mathbb{Q}$

a genus

$$\Phi: \Omega_*^4 \rightarrow R$$

is determined by  $\{\Phi(\mathbb{C}P^n)\}_n$

$\Phi$  is determined by:

$$\log_{\Phi}(x) = \sum_i \frac{\Phi(p^{n-1})}{n} x^n \quad (\text{logarithm})$$

-or equivalently by -

$$F_{\Phi}(x, y) = \log_{\Phi}^{-1}(\log_{\Phi}(x) + \log_{\Phi}(y)) \quad (\text{Formal group})$$

$\Phi$  is determined by:

$$\log_{\Phi}(x) = \sum_i \frac{\Phi(p^{n-1})}{n} x^n \in R \otimes R[[x]] \text{ (logarithm)}$$

-or equivalently by -

$$F_{\Phi}(x, y) = \log_{\Phi}^{-1}(\log_{\Phi}(x) + \log_{\Phi}(y))$$

(Formal group)

$$F_{\Phi}(x, y) \in R[[x, y]] \leftarrow \text{(integral)}$$

- $F_{\Phi}(0, x) = F_{\Phi}(x, 0) = x$
- $F_{\Phi}(x, y) = F_{\Phi}(y, x)$
- $F_{\Phi}(x, F_{\Phi}(y, z)) = F_{\Phi}(F_{\Phi}(x, y), z)$

unital  
commutative  
associative

# Cohomology theories

Def: a cohomology theory is a contravariant functor:

$$E^* : \text{Spaces} \longrightarrow \mathbb{Z}\text{-graded Rings}$$
$$X \longmapsto E^*(X)$$

Sub

$$(1) \quad f \cong g \implies E^*(f) = E^*(g)$$

$$(2) \text{ Meyer Vietoris} \quad X = U \cup V, \quad A = U \cap V$$

$$\dots \rightarrow E^n(X) \rightarrow E^n(U) \oplus E^n(V) \rightarrow E^n(A) \rightarrow E^{n+1}(X) \rightarrow \dots$$



## Examples

1) Singular Cohomology  $E = HR$

$$R = \text{Ring}$$

$$HR^n(X) = H^n(X; R)$$

2) K-theory  $E = K$

$$K^0(X) = \{ \text{stable complex vector bundles on } X \}$$

(Can also define  $K_{\mathbb{R}}$   $\leftrightarrow$  stable real vector bundles)

Cohomology  
theories



Rings

$E^*$



$E^*$  (point)

Cohomology  
theories



Rings

$E^*$



$E^*(\text{point})$

$$HR^*(\text{point}) = \dots \underset{-2}{0} \underset{-1}{0} \underset{0}{\mathbb{R}} \underset{1}{0} \underset{2}{0} \dots$$

$$K^*(\text{point}) = \dots \underset{-2}{\mathbb{Z}} \underset{-1}{0} \underset{0}{\mathbb{Z}} \underset{1}{0} \underset{2}{\mathbb{Z}} \underset{3}{0} \dots \text{2-periodic}$$

$$K_{\mathbb{R}}^*(\text{pt}) = \dots \underset{0}{\mathbb{Z}} \underset{1}{\mathbb{Z}/2} \underset{2}{\mathbb{Z}/2} \underset{3}{0} \underset{4}{\mathbb{Z}} \underset{5}{0} \underset{6}{0} \underset{7}{0} \underset{8}{\mathbb{Z}} \dots \text{8-periodic}$$

# Genus of families

$E^n =$  cohomology theory

$M$   
 $\downarrow$   
 $S$

family of  $n$ -dim'd  $G$ -manifolds  
(parameterized by  $S$ )

$$\Phi(M/S) \in E^{-n}(S)$$

Note:

Get a genus when  $S = \text{point}$

$$\Phi: \Omega_+^G \longrightarrow E^{-n}(\text{point})$$

$$\Phi(M) = \Phi(M/\text{point}) \in E^{-n}(\text{point})$$

# Examples

$$1) \text{Card} : \Omega_*^0 \longrightarrow \mathbb{H}\mathbb{Z}/2^{-*}$$

cardinality mod 2  
of 0-manifolds

$$2) \tilde{\text{Card}} : \Omega_*^{\text{SO}} \longrightarrow \mathbb{H}\mathbb{Z}^{-*}$$

signed cardinality  
of oriented 0-manifolds

$$3) \text{Todd} : \Omega_*^4 \longrightarrow \mathbb{K}^{-*}$$

$$4) \hat{A} : \Omega_*^{\text{Spin}} \longrightarrow \mathbb{K}_{\mathbb{R}}^{-*}$$

# Examples

1) Card:  $\Omega_*^0 \rightarrow \mathbb{H}\mathbb{Z}/2^{-*}$   
cardinality mod 2  
of 0-manifolds

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} F_{\text{Card}}(x, y) \\ F_{\tilde{\text{Card}}}(x, y) \end{array} \right\} = x + y$$

additive

2)  $\tilde{\text{Card}}: \Omega_*^{\text{SO}} \rightarrow \mathbb{H}\mathbb{Z}^{-*}$   
signed cardinality  
of oriented 0-manifolds

$$F_{\text{Todd}}(x, y) = x + y - xy$$

multiplicative

3) Todd:  $\Omega_*^4 \rightarrow \mathbb{K}^{-*}$

4)  $\hat{A}: \Omega_*^{\text{Spin}} \rightarrow \mathbb{K}_{\mathbb{R}}^{-*}$

# Elliptic Curves

• An elliptic curve  $C$  is a genus 1  
algebraic curve over a ring  $R$   
(with basepoint)

• Elliptic curves are abelian groups.  
basepoint = identity

•  $C \rightsquigarrow F_C(x, y) \in R[[x, y]]$  (formal gp)  
power series expansion of  $x: C \times C \rightarrow C$   
at basepoint

# Elliptic cohomology

A cohomology theory  $E^*$  is elliptic if

- $C/R$  elliptic curve

- $E^{-*}(\text{point}) = \dots \underset{-2}{R} \underset{-1}{0} \overset{(\mathbb{Z}\text{-periodic})}{\underset{0}{R}} \underset{1}{0} \underset{2}{R} \underset{3}{0} \dots$

- $\Phi: \Omega_*^4 \longrightarrow E^{-*}$  gens of  $S_n$ 's

$$F_\Phi = F_c$$



# Modular forms

A modular form  $f$  of weight  $k$   
is an assignment

$$\begin{array}{ccc} C/R & \xrightarrow{\quad} & f(c) \in \mathbb{R} \\ \text{elliptic curve} & & \end{array}$$

such that

$$\alpha: C \xrightarrow{\cong} C'$$

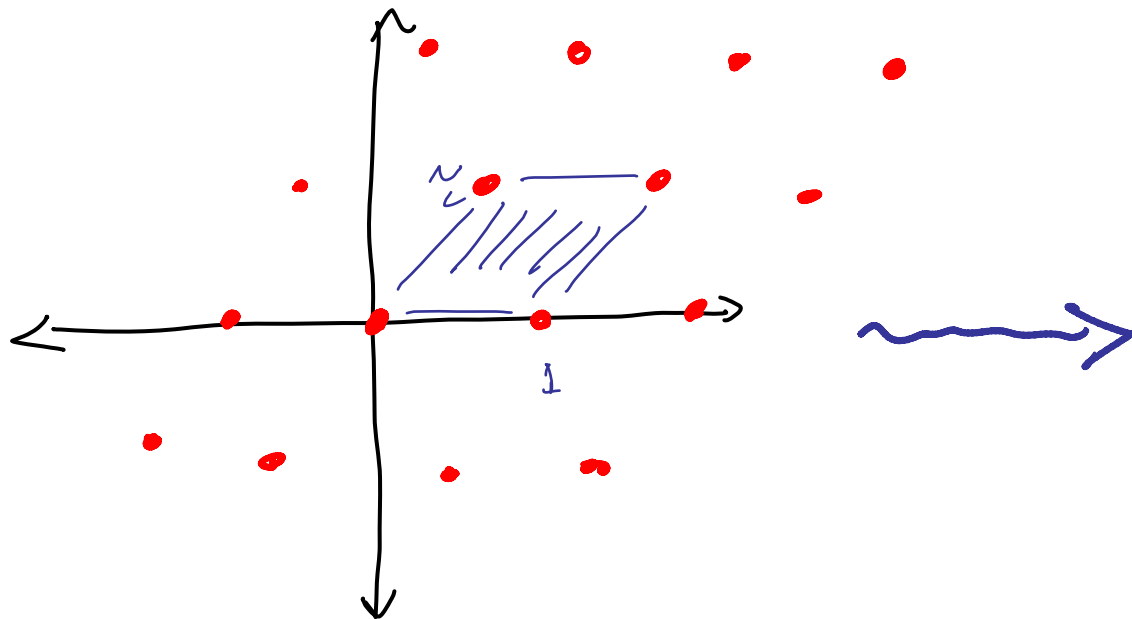
$$\alpha'(c_0)^k f(c') = f(c)$$

# Analytic theory

$\tau \in \mathcal{H} \rightsquigarrow$   
(upper half plane)

$$\Lambda_\tau = \mathbb{Z}\tau + \mathbb{Z}\sigma$$

$\mathbb{C} \ni \rightsquigarrow \mathcal{H} \subset \mathbb{C}$



$\mathbb{C} / \Lambda_\tau$   
elliptic curve /  $\mathbb{C}$

$$f(z) = f(\mathbb{C} / \Lambda_\tau)$$

$$\frac{1}{(c\tilde{z}+d)^k} f\left(\frac{a\tilde{z}+b}{c\tilde{z}+d}\right) = f(\tilde{z})$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \in SL_2(\mathbb{Z})$$

## $\tau$ -expansion

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & \\ & 1 \end{pmatrix} \in SL_2(\mathbb{Z}) \implies f(z) = f(z+1)$$

$\implies$  Fourier expansion:

$$f(z) = \sum_n a_n q^n$$

$$q = e^{2\pi i z}$$

## $\tau$ -expansion

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & \\ & 1 \end{pmatrix} \in SL_2(\mathbb{Z}) \implies f(z) = f(z+1)$$

$\implies$  Fourier expansion:

$$f(z) = \sum_n a_n q^n$$

$$q = e^{2\pi i z}$$

Example: Eisenstein series

$$E_{2k}(z) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{(c,d)=1} \frac{1}{(cz+d)^{2k}}$$

weight  
 $2k$

$$= -\frac{B_{2k}}{4k} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left( \sum_{d|n} d^{2k-1} \right) q^n$$

$B_{2k}$  = Bernoulli  
number

# Topological Modular Forms

A topological modular form  $f$  of weight  $k$   
is an assignment

$$(E^*, C, \Phi) \longmapsto f(E^*, C, \Phi) \in E^{-2k}(\text{point})$$

Elliptic cohomology  
theory

such that

$$\alpha: C \xrightarrow{\cong} C'$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \Omega_2 & \xrightarrow{\Phi} & E^{-*} \\ & \searrow \Phi' & \uparrow \alpha^* \\ & & \mathbb{F}^{-*} \end{array}$$

$$\alpha^* f(E^*, C, \Phi) = f(E^*, C', \Phi')$$

TMF

{ Topological Modular Forms }

Then is a cohomology theory  $TMF^*$

$$\mathcal{F} \in TMF^*(S)$$

Hopkins

Miller

Goerss

Lurie

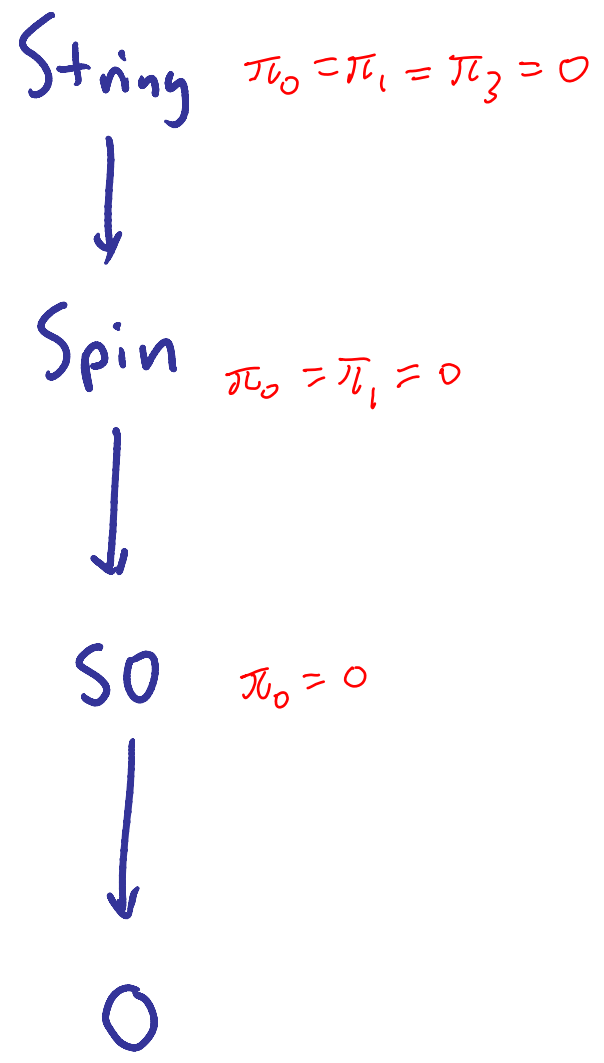
Mahowald

$$\rightsquigarrow \mathcal{F}(E^*, C, \Phi) \in E^*(S)$$

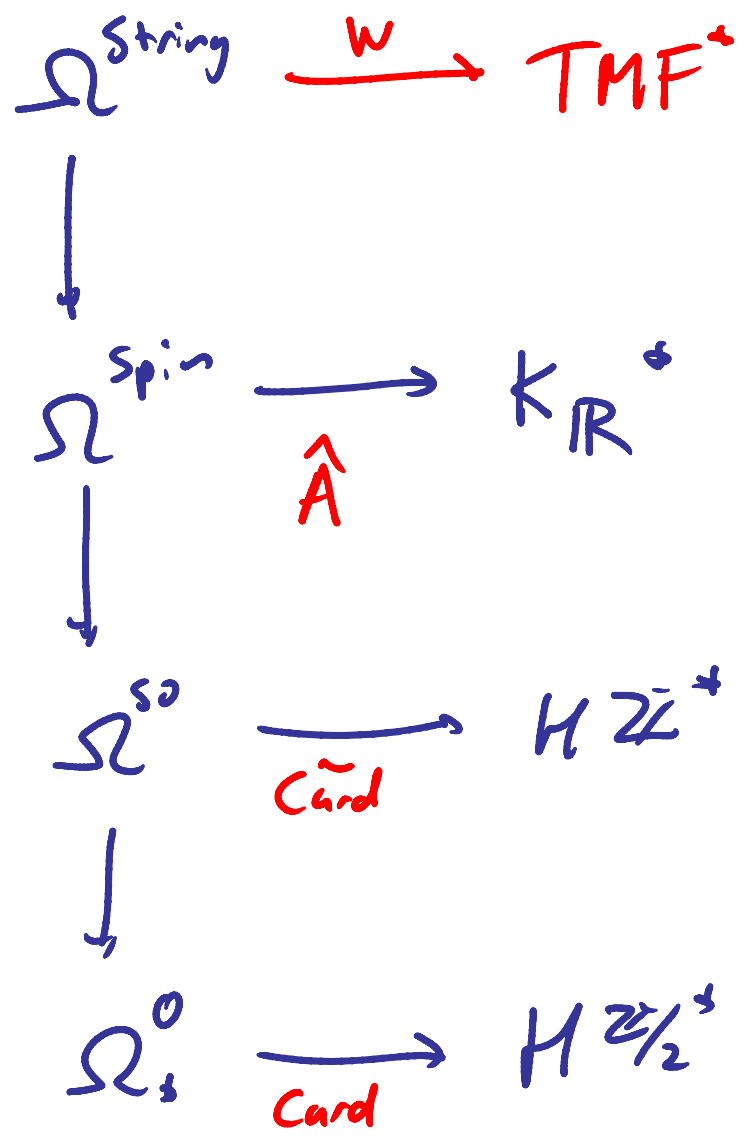
$\forall$  elliptic  $(E, C, \Phi)$

$$C \xrightarrow[\alpha]{\alpha'} C' \rightsquigarrow \alpha^* \mathcal{F}(E^*, C', \Phi') = \mathcal{F}(E^*, C, \Phi)$$

# Witten Genus



# "Birth of Tmf"



- Witten
- Landweber
- Ravenel
- Stong
- Ando
- Hopkins
- Strickland
- Rezk

# Generalized degree

Start with:  $E^+$  = cohomology theory

$$\Phi: \Omega_+^n \longrightarrow E^{-n} \quad \text{gens}$$

$$\pi_n^S \xrightarrow{d_E} E^{-n}(\text{point})$$

$$f: S^{n+k} \rightarrow S^n \quad \rightsquigarrow \quad M = f^{-1}(x) \quad \rightsquigarrow \quad \Phi(M)$$



$$(E, \Phi) = (K_{\mathbb{R}}, \hat{A})$$

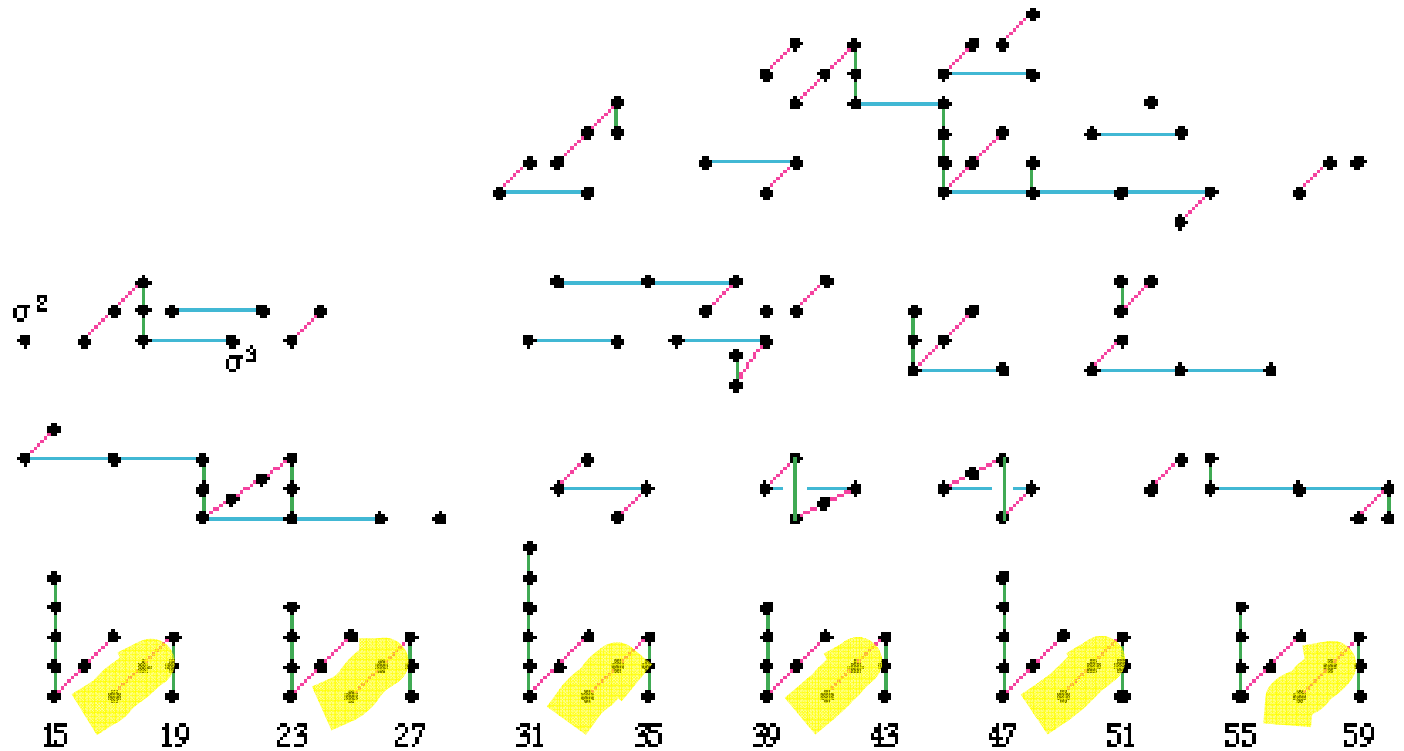
$$K_{\mathbb{R}}^{-*}(pt) = \mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z}/2 \oplus \mathbb{Z}/2 \oplus 0 \oplus \mathbb{Z} \oplus 0 \oplus 0 \oplus 0 \oplus \mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z}/2 \oplus \mathbb{Z}/2 \oplus 0 \oplus \mathbb{Z} \dots$$

**Stable Homotopy Groups of Spheres at the prime 2**

$\uparrow d_{K_{\mathbb{R}}}$   
 $\pi_n^S$

$v_2$ -periodic

$v_1$ -periodic

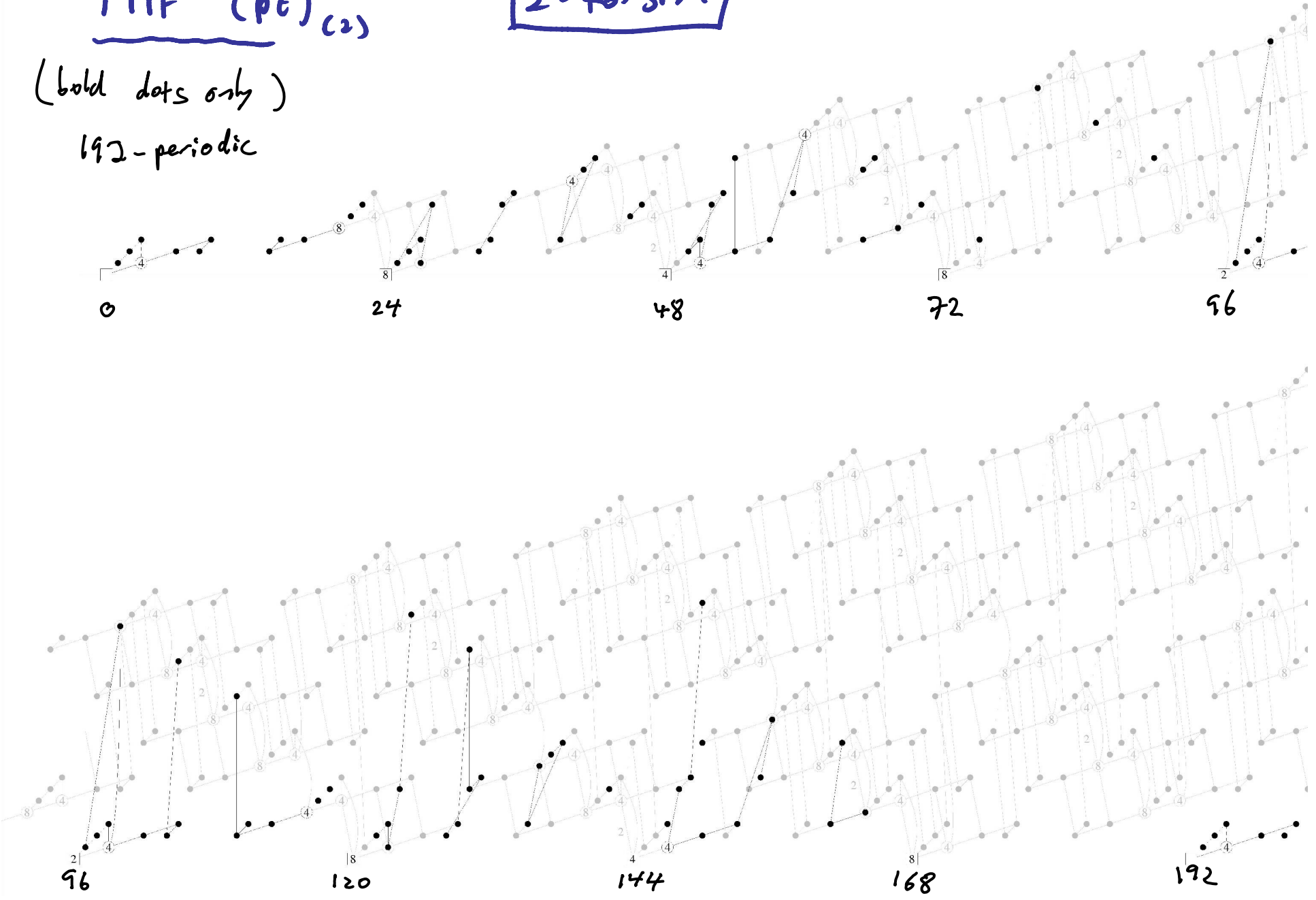


TMF<sup>-</sup>(pt)<sub>(2)</sub>

**2-torsion**

(bold dots only)

192-periodic



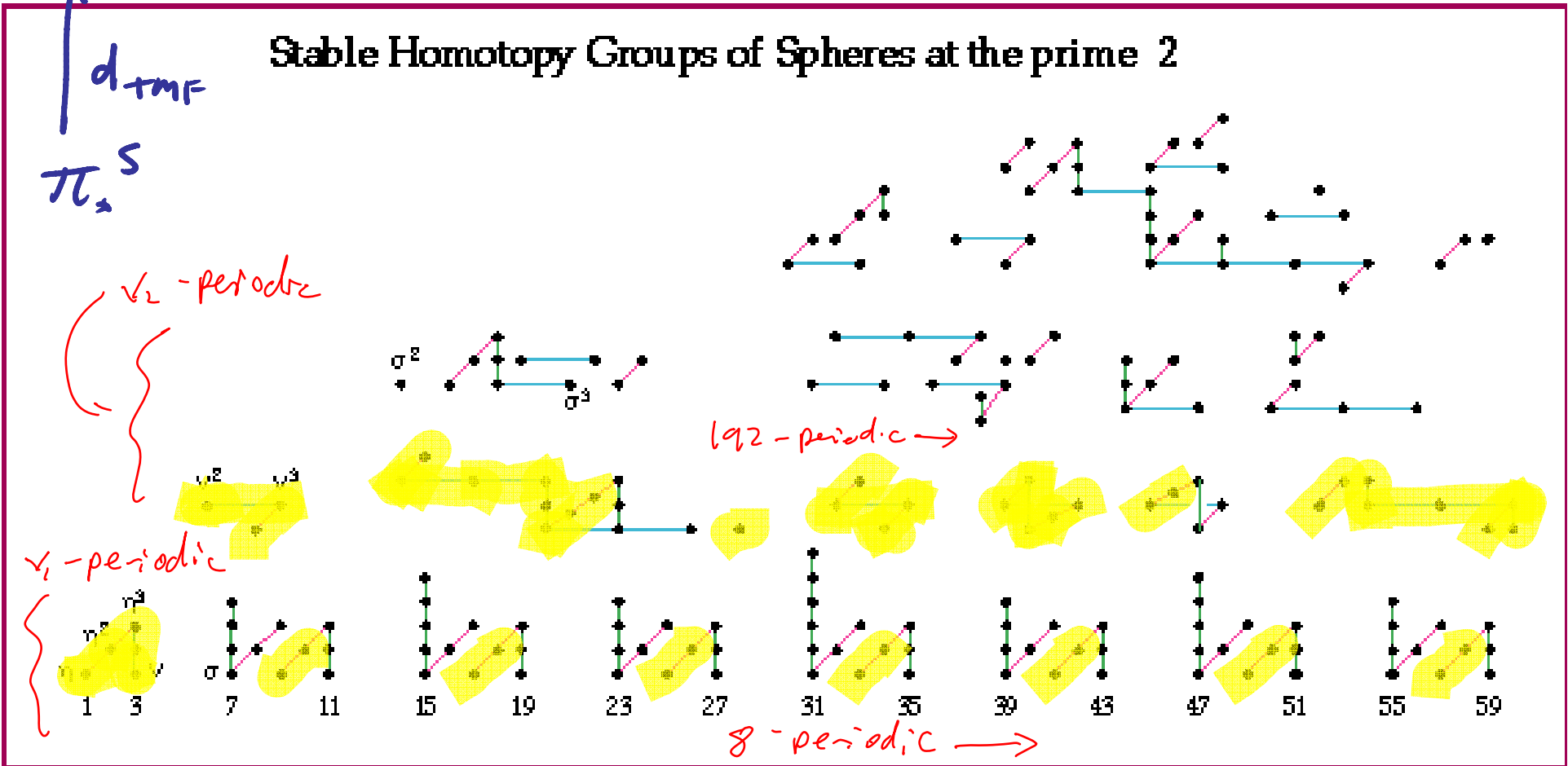
$$(E, \Phi) = (TMF, \text{witten})$$

$TMF^{-*}(pE)$

$d_{TMF}$

$\pi_*^S$

### Stable Homotopy Groups of Spheres at the prime 2



# Torsion invariants

①

$$[\mathcal{F}] \in \pi_n^S, \quad N[\mathcal{F}] = 0, \quad N \in \mathbb{Z}$$

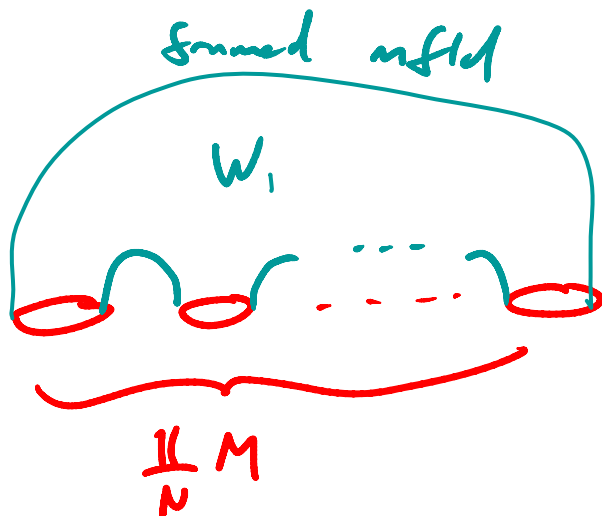
Suppose

$$M = \mathcal{F}^{-1}(x)$$

$$[M] \in \Omega_n^G$$

$$\overset{\circ}{0} \quad \text{②}$$

①



## Torsion invariants

$$[\mathcal{F}] \in \pi_n^S, \quad N[\mathcal{F}] = 0, \quad N \in \mathbb{Z}$$

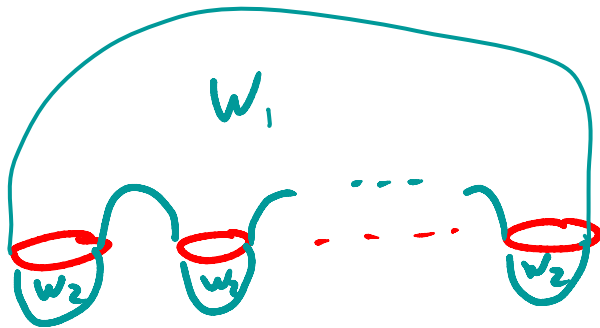
Suppose

$$M = \mathcal{F}^{-1}(x)$$

$$[M] \in \Omega_n^G$$

$$= 0$$

$$\in \Omega_{n+1}^G$$



$$d'_E : (\pi_n^S)_{\text{torsion}} \longrightarrow \Omega_{n+1}^G \otimes \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z} \longrightarrow E_{(pt)}^{-(n+1)} \otimes \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z}$$

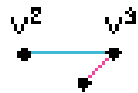
$$(E, \Phi) = (K_{\mathbb{R}}, \hat{A})$$

$$K_{\mathbb{R}}(pt) \otimes_{\mathbb{R}} \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z} = \mathbb{Z}/2 \quad \mathbb{Z}/2 \quad 0 \quad \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z} \quad 0 \quad 0 \quad 0 \quad \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z} \quad \mathbb{Z}/2 \quad \mathbb{Z}/2 \quad 0 \quad \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z} \dots$$

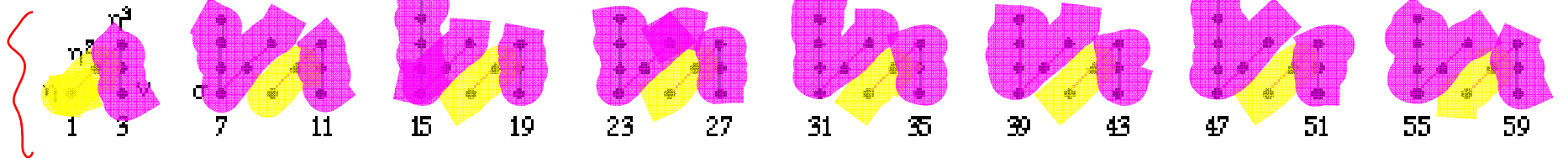
### Stable Homotopy Groups of Spheres at the prime 2

$d'_{K_{\mathbb{R}}}$   
 $\pi_n^S$

$v_2$ -periodic



$v_1$ -periodic

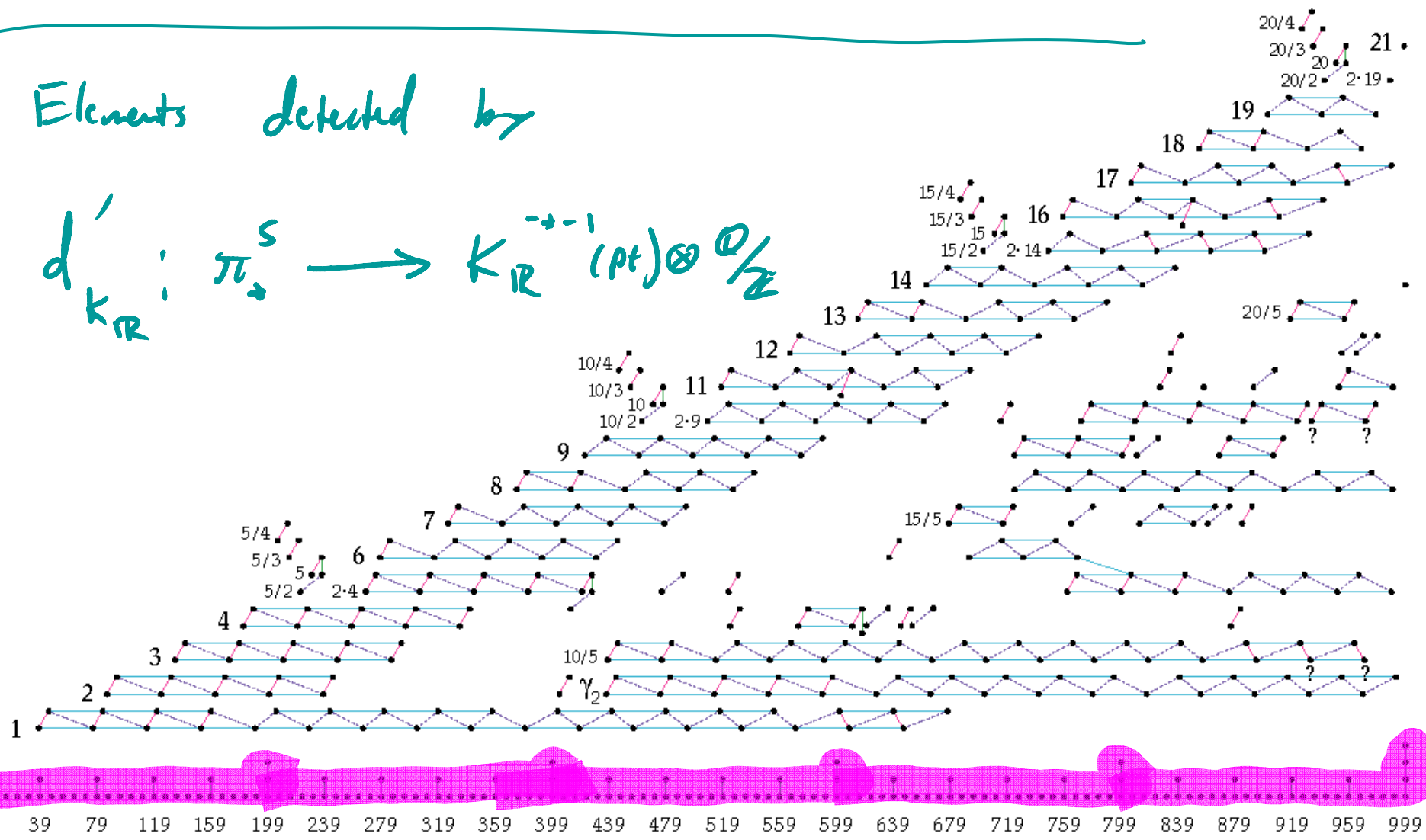


S-torsion

$$\left(\pi_{\rightarrow}^S\right)_{(5)}$$

Elements detected by

$$d'_{K_{\mathbb{R}}} : \pi_{\rightarrow}^S \rightarrow K_{\mathbb{R}}^{-\rightarrow -1}(\rho) \otimes \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z}$$



Thm (Laves, Baker)

Image  $d'_{\text{TMF}} : \left( \pi_{2k-1}^S \right)_{\text{torsion}} \longrightarrow \text{TMF}^{-2k}(\text{pt}) \otimes \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z}$

is generated by

$$G_{2k}(z) = \frac{B_{2k}}{4k} E_{2k}(z) = \frac{B_{2k}}{4k} - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left( \sum_{d|n} d^{2k-1} \right) q^n$$

Consequence (originally due to Adams)

$v_1$ -periodic  $(\pi_*^S)$   
(odd primary)



denominators of  
Bernoulli numbers



## Similar techniques (Laures, B)

$$d_{TMF}'' : \nu_2\text{-periodic } (\pi_+^S)_{(p)} \longrightarrow \frac{\text{Modular forms}}{\text{congruence of } q\text{-expansion}}$$

### Thm (B)

$f \in \text{image } d_{TMF}''$

$$\langle l \rangle = \mathbb{Z}_p^\times$$



$f$  NOT congruent mod  $p^i$  to form of lower weight

$g(z) = f(z) - f(\ell z)$   
 $f$  IS congruent mod  $p^i$  to a form of lower weight

Elements of  $(\pi_{1,2}^S)_{(5)}$   
detected by  $d''_{TMF}$

