

# Power operations in Morava $E$ -theory

a survey

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<http://www.math.uiuc.edu/~rezk/midwest-2009-power-ops.pdf>

# What are power operations?

$h^*$  = multiplicative cohomology theory:  $h^p(X) \otimes h^q(X) \rightarrow h^{p+q}(X)$ .

$m$ -th power map:

$$x \mapsto x^m : h^q(X) \rightarrow h^{mq}(X).$$

If  $h$  comes from a structured commutative ring spectrum, refine  $m$ -th power map to  $P^m$ :

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & h^0(X \times B\Sigma_m) & \\ & \nearrow P^m & \downarrow [* \rightarrow B\Sigma_m] \\ h^0(X) & \xrightarrow{x \mapsto x^m} & h^0(X) \end{array}$$

$P_m$  is multiplicative, not additive.

Pairing with  $\alpha \in h_0(B\Sigma_m)$  gives an operation  $Q_\alpha : h^0(X) \rightarrow h^0(X)$ .

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$R =$  commutative  $S$ -algebra.

$M =$  an  $R$ -module. Note:  $[R, M]_R \approx [S, M]_S \approx \pi_0 M$ .

Free commutative  $R$ -algebra on  $M$ :

$$\mathbb{P}_R M = \bigvee_{m \geq 0} \mathbb{P}_R^m M \approx \bigvee_{m \geq 0} \underbrace{(M \wedge_R \cdots \wedge_R M)}_{m \text{ times}}_{h\Sigma_m}$$

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# How to build a power operation

$A =$  commutative  $R$ -algebra.

- Choose  $\alpha: S \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_R^m(R) \approx R \wedge B\Sigma_m^+$  (map of spectra).
- Represent  $x \in \pi_0 A$  by  $f_x: R \rightarrow A$ .

$$\mathbb{P}_R^m(R) \xrightarrow{\mathbb{P}_R^m(f_x)} \mathbb{P}_R^m(A)$$

Remarks:

- $Q_\alpha: \pi_0 A \rightarrow \pi_0 A$  may not be additive or multiplicative.
- Can get  $Q_\alpha: \pi_q A \rightarrow \pi_{q+r} A$  from

$$\alpha: \Sigma^{q+r} R \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_R^m(\Sigma^q R) \approx R \wedge B\Sigma_m^q V_m.$$

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$Q_\alpha(x) \in \pi_0 A$  represented by composite.

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## Example 1: $H\mathbb{F}_2$

$H = H\mathbb{F}_2 = \text{mod } 2$  Eilenberg Mac Lane spectrum.

$A = \text{commutative } H\text{-algebra spectrum.}$

$\pi_*A$  is a graded commutative  $\mathbb{F}_2$ -algebra.

### Operations on $\pi_*$ of $H$ -algebra

$Q^r: \pi_q A \rightarrow \pi_{q+r} A$  such that

- $Q^r(x + y) = Q^r(x) + Q^r(y).$
- $Q^r Q^s(x) = \sum \epsilon_{r,s}^{i,j} Q^i Q^j(x)$  if  $r > 2s$ , where  $i \leq 2j.$
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- $Q^r(x) = \begin{cases} x^2 & \text{if } r = q, \\ 0 & \text{if } r < q. \end{cases}$

$\pi_*\mathbb{P}_H(\Sigma^q H) \approx \text{free gadget (with above structure) on one generator in dimension } q.$  (See McClure in [BMMS 1986].)

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Special cases:

- **Cochains on a space.**  $A = \text{Func}(\Sigma_+^\infty X, H\mathbb{F}_2) \rightsquigarrow$   
power operations are **Steenrod operations** on  $H^*(X, \mathbb{F}_2)$ .
- **Chains on an infinite loop space.**  $A = H\mathbb{F}_2 \wedge \Sigma_+^\infty \Omega^\infty Y \rightsquigarrow$   
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## Example 2: $p$ -complete $K$ -algebras [McClure]

$K$  = complex  $K$ -theory spectrum.

**$p$ -complete  $K$ -algebra:** commutative  $K$ -algebra  $A$  such that  $A \approx A_p^\wedge$ .

Operations on  $\pi_0$  of  $p$ -complete  $K$ -algebra

$\psi^p: \pi_0 A \rightarrow \pi_0 A$  such that

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- $\psi^p(x) \equiv x^p \pmod{p}$ .

$\psi^p$  and  $\theta$  correspond to elements of  $\alpha \in K_0^\wedge B\Sigma_p$ .

$$K_q^\wedge X \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \pi_q((K \wedge X)_p^\wedge).$$

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- $\psi^p(x + y) = \psi^p(x) + \psi^p(y)$ .
- $\psi^p(1) = 1$ .
- $\psi^p(xy) = \psi^p(x)\psi^p(y)$ .
- $\theta: \pi_0 A \rightarrow \pi_0 A$  such that  $\psi^p(x) = x^p + p\theta(x)$ .

$\psi^p$  and  $\theta$  correspond to elements of  $\alpha \in K_0^\wedge B\Sigma_p$ .

$$K_q^\wedge X \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \pi_q((K \wedge X)_p^\wedge).$$

$\psi^p$  is the  $p$ th **Adams operation**.

## Example 2: $p$ -complete $K$ -algebras [McClure]

$K$  = complex  $K$ -theory spectrum.

**$p$ -complete  $K$ -algebra**: commutative  $K$ -algebra  $A$  such that  $A \approx A_p^\wedge$ .

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## Example 3: Morava $E$ -theory ( $n = 2, p = 2$ )

- $C_0/\mathbb{F}_2 =$  supersingular elliptic curve.
- $\widehat{C}_0 =$  formal completion — formal group of height 2.
- $E =$  Landweber exact spectrum associated to universal deformation of  $\widehat{C}$ .

$$\pi_* E \approx \mathbb{Z}_2[[a]][u, u^{-1}], \quad |a| = 0, |u| = 2.$$

Note:  $K(2) \approx E/(2, a)$  (Morava  $K$ -theory).

- $E$  is a commutative  $S$ -algebra (Hopkins-Miller Theorem).
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Next slide: calculation of the algebraic structure of power operations for  $K(2)$ -local commutative  $E$ -algebras (R., prefigured by Kashiwabara 1995).

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## Example 3 (continued): The ring of power operations

### The ring $\Gamma$ of power operations

Associative ring containing  $E_0 = \mathbb{Z}_2[[a]]$  and generators  $Q_0, Q_1, Q_2$ , and subject to relations

$$Q_0 a = a^2 Q_0 - 2a Q_1 + 6 Q_2$$

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$\Gamma$  has “admissible basis” as left  $\mathbb{Z}_2[[a]]$  module:

$$Q_0^i Q_{j_1} \cdots Q_{j_r}, \quad i \geq 0, j_k \in \{1, 2\}$$

Kashiwabara (1995): gives admissible basis for  $\bar{\Gamma} = \mathbb{F}_2 \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}_2[[a]]} \Gamma$ .

Problem:  $\bar{\Gamma}$  is not a ring! (Kashiwabara knows this.)

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## Example 3 (continued): Coproduct on $\Gamma$

“Cartan formula” is encoded by a coproduct.

Cocommutative coalgebra structure on  $\Gamma$

$\epsilon: \Gamma \rightarrow E_0$  and  $\Delta: \Gamma \rightarrow E_0 \Gamma \otimes E_0 \Gamma$  by

$$\epsilon(Q_0) = 1, \quad \epsilon(Q_1) = 0 = \epsilon(Q_2)$$

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Coproduct and product “commute”.

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$\Gamma$  is a **twisted bialgebra** over  $E_0$  (like a Hopf algebra, but  $E_0$  isn't central).

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A  $\Gamma$ -**ring** is a commutative ring object in  $\Gamma$ -modules.

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An **amplified  $\Gamma$ -ring** is a  $\Gamma$ -ring  $B$  equipped with  $\theta: B \rightarrow B$  such that  $Q_0(x) = x^2 + 2\theta(x)$  (together with formulas for  $\theta(x+y)$ ,  $\theta(xy)$ ,  $\theta(ax)$ ).

In summary:

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For  $A$  a  $K(2)$ -local commutative  $E$ -algebra,  $\pi_0 A$  naturally has the structure of an amplified  $\Gamma$ -ring.

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This is the general pattern for any Morava  $E$ -theory spectrum.

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## Questions / topics

- 1 How does the formal group of  $E$  produce  $\Gamma$ ? (Ando, Hopkins, Strickland)
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$E = \text{even periodic ring spectrum} \implies \text{formal group } G_E.$

Formal group  $G_E$  of  $E$

Formal scheme  $G_E = \text{Spf}(E^0\mathbb{C}P^\infty)$  over  $\pi_0 E$ .

Group law  $G_E \times G_E \rightarrow G_E$  defined by

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$\mu : \mathbb{C}P^\infty \times \mathbb{C}P^\infty \rightarrow \mathbb{C}P^\infty$  classifies  $\otimes$  of line bundles.

Additive and multiplicative transformation of functors:

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where  $g = \psi: E^0(*) \rightarrow F^0(*)$ .

# Topic 1: Deformations & Morava $E$ -theory

Let  $G_0 =$  height  $n$  formal group over perfect field  $k$ ,  $\text{char} k = p$ ,  $n < \infty$ .  
Let  $R =$  complete local ring,  $\pi: R \rightarrow R/\mathfrak{m}$ .

## Definition

A **deformation** of  $G_0$  to  $R$  is  $(G, i, \psi)$ :

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*There is a universal example of a deformation of  $G_0$ , defined over  $E_0 \approx \mathbb{W}_p k[[u_1, \dots, u_{n-1}]]$ .*

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*Given  $G_0/k$ , there is a corresponding even periodic commutative  $S$ -algebra  $E = E_{G_0/k}$ , whose formal group is the universal deformation of  $G_0$ .*

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**Relative Frobenius.**  $\text{Frob}: G_0 \rightarrow \phi^* G_0$ .

## Definition

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$$\begin{array}{ccc} \pi^* G & \xrightarrow{\pi^*(f)} & \pi^* G' \\ \psi \downarrow \sim & & \sim \downarrow \psi' \\ i^* G_0 & \xrightarrow{i^*(\text{Frob}^r)} & i'^* G_0 \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{ccc} k & \xrightarrow{i'} & R/\mathfrak{m} \\ \phi^r \downarrow & \nearrow i & \\ k & & \end{array}$$

commute for some  $r \geq 0$ .

( $\pi: R \rightarrow R/\mathfrak{m}$ .)

Remark: Deformations of Frobenius with domain  $(G, i, \psi)$  correspond *exactly* to finite subgroup schemes of  $G$ . ( $f \rightsquigarrow \text{Ker}(f) \subset G$ .)

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$$\begin{array}{ccc} k & \xrightarrow{i'} & R/\mathfrak{m} \\ \phi^r \downarrow & \nearrow i & \\ k & & \end{array}$$

commute for some  $r \geq 0$ .

( $\pi: R \rightarrow R/\mathfrak{m}$ .)

Remark: Deformations of Frobenius with domain  $(G, i, \psi)$  correspond *exactly* to finite subgroup schemes of  $G$ . ( $f \rightsquigarrow \text{Ker}(f) \subset G$ .)

# Topic 1: Deformations of Frobenius

**Frobenius.**  $\phi: k \rightarrow k$  defined by  $\phi(x) = x^p$ .

**Relative Frobenius.**  $\text{Frob}: G_0 \rightarrow \phi^* G_0$ .

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$E = E_{G_0/k}$ . Power map:

$$E^0 X \xrightarrow{P^m} E^0(X \times B\Sigma_m)$$

Künneth isomorphism, if  $E^0 B\Sigma_m$  is finite and flat over  $E_0$  (true for Morava  $E$ -theory).

$I$  is the “transfer ideal”:

$$I = \sum_{0 < i < m} \text{Image} \left[ E^0 B(\Sigma_i \times \Sigma_{m-i}) \xrightarrow{\text{transfer}} E^0 B\Sigma_m \right].$$

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$\tau P^m: E^0 X \rightarrow E^0 X \otimes_{E^0} E^0 B\Sigma_m / I$  is a ring homomorphism.

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# Topic 1: The associated homomorphism

Let  $(F_m)^0(X) = E^0 X \otimes_{E^0} E^0 B\Sigma_m / I$ .

Ring homomorphisms:

- $s^*: E_0 \rightarrow (F_m)_0$ , induced by  $B\Sigma_m \rightarrow *$ .
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Using the “double coset formula”, have

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Thus

$$\pi \tau P^{p^r}(x) = x^{p^r} \quad (\text{in } E^0 X / (p)).$$

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*The homomorphism  $(\tau P_{p^r})^*: s^* G_E \rightarrow t^* G_E$  over  $(F_{p^r})_0$  is the universal example of a deformation of  $\mathrm{Frob}^r$  between deformations of  $G_0$ .*

Remember: deformations of Frobenius correspond to finite subgroups of the domain.

Strickland actually proved the following statement:

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*The data  $(s^* G_E, \mathrm{Ker}(\tau P_{p^r})^*)$  over  $(F_{p^r})_0$  is the universal example of a pair  $(G, H)$  consisting of a deformation  $G$  of  $G_0$  and a finite subgroup scheme  $H \subset G$  of rank  $m = p^r$ .*



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# Topic 1: Descent (Ando-Hopkins-Strickland (mid 90s?))

$$\mathcal{D}(R) = \begin{cases} \text{Objects: deformations } (G, i, \phi) \text{ of } G_0/k \text{ to } R, \\ \text{Morphisms: deformations of Frobenius.} \end{cases}$$
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## Definition

A **sheaf of modules**  $M$  on  $\mathcal{D} = \{\mathcal{D}(R)\}$  consists of

- functors  $M_R: \mathcal{D}(R)^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \text{Mod}_R$ ,
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satisfying obvious “coherence” axioms.

$\implies$  symmetric monoidal category  $\text{Mod}_{\mathcal{D}}$  of sheaves of modules.

Let  $\Gamma =$  ring of **additive power operations** for  $E$ .

That is,  $\Gamma \subset \bigoplus_{m \geq 0} E_0^\wedge B\Sigma_m$  consisting of  $\alpha$  such that  $Q_\alpha$  is additive.

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## Example 3, revisited: Definition of $Q_i$

- $C_0/\mathbb{F}_2 =$  elliptic curve in  $\mathbb{P}^2$  defined by  $Y^2Z + YZ^2 = X^3$ .  
 $\implies E = E_{\widehat{C_0/\mathbb{F}_2}}$ .

### Proposition

$$(F_2)_0 = E^0 B\Sigma_2/I \approx (\mathbb{Z}_2[[a]])[d]/(d^3 - ad - 2).$$

- Write

$$E^0 X \xrightarrow{\tau P^2} (E^0 X)[d]/(d^3 - ad - 2)$$

as

$$x \mapsto \tau P^2(x) = Q_0(x) + Q_1(x)d + Q_2(x)d^2.$$

- $\tau P^2$  is a ring homomorphism  $\implies$  Cartan formulas.

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$$Q_0(x) \equiv x^2 \pmod{2}.$$

Remember:

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$$\text{Frob}: G \rightarrow \phi^* G$$

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Universal example of  $\text{Frob}: G \rightarrow \phi^* G$  is determined by

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*There is a functor*

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# Topic 3: Koszul algebras

$A = \bigoplus_{r \geq 0} A_r$  graded associative ring,  $A_0 = R$  commutative.

## Definition

$A$  is **Koszul** if there exist  $R$ -modules  $C_r$  with  $C_0 = R$ , and an exact sequence (a “Koszul complex”)

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of left  $A$ -modules such that  $d$  raises degree by 1.

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If  $A$  is Koszul, then

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- Back to the example:  $\Gamma \approx \bigoplus \Gamma_r \approx T_{E_0}(\Gamma_1)/(U)$ , where  $\Gamma_1 = E_0\{Q_0, Q_1, Q_2\}$ ,  $U = \text{Adem relations}$ .
- **PBW Theorem** (Priddy (1970)): if  $\Gamma$  has a “nice” admissible basis, then  $\Gamma$  is Koszul.
- $\implies$  Exact sequence.

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$C_i$  are free modules over  $E_0$ :  $\text{rank} C_1 = 3$ ,  $\text{rank} C_2 = 2$ .

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### Conjecture (Ando-Hopkins-Strickland (mid 90s?))

*For all  $E = E_{G_0/k}$ , the associated ring  $\Gamma$  of power operations is Koszul.  
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- They developed a program to prove the result, using interesting ideas about a kind of “Bruhat-Tits building” formed using flags of certain finite subgroup schemes of  $G_E$ .
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Theorem (Ando-Hopkins-Strickland(?), R.)

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Here are some of the ideas in the proof.

## Definition

Given a (nonadditive) functor  $F: \text{Mod}_{E_0} \rightarrow \text{Mod}_{E_0}$ , the **linearization**  $\mathcal{L}[F]: \text{Mod}_{E_0} \rightarrow \text{Mod}_{E_0}$  is

$$\mathcal{L}[F](M) = \text{Cok} \left[ \begin{array}{ccc} F(M \oplus M) & \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{F(\pi_1 + \pi_2)} \\ \xrightarrow{F(\pi_1) + F(\pi_2)} \end{array} & F(M) \end{array} \right].$$

$\mathcal{L}[F]$  is initial additive quotient functor of  $F$ .

In some cases, including ours,  $\mathcal{L}[F \circ G] \rightarrow \mathcal{L}[F] \circ \mathcal{L}[G]$  is an isomorphism.

- $F: \text{Mod}_{E_0} \rightarrow \text{Mod}_{E_0}$  the free amplified  $\Gamma$ -ring functor.
- For  $E$ -module  $M$  with  $\pi_* M =$  free  $E_*$ -module concentrated in even degree,

$$F(\pi_0 M) \approx \bigoplus_{m \geq 0} \pi_0 L_{K(n)} \mathbb{P}_E^m(M).$$

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$$\mathcal{L}[F](E_0) = \Delta.$$

$$\mathcal{L}[F \circ \dots \circ F](E_0) = \Delta \otimes_{E_0} \dots \otimes_{E_0} \Delta.$$

$\Delta$  is a ring, non-canonically isomorphic to  $\Gamma$ .

- Monadic bar construction  $\mathcal{B}_\bullet(F, F, F)$ .

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(Priddy 1970):

- If  $\Delta$  is a graded ring, filter  $\mathcal{B}_\bullet(M, \Delta, N)$  according to grading on  $\Delta$ .
- $\Delta$  is **Koszul** if  $\text{gr}_q \mathcal{B}_\bullet(E_0, \Delta, E_0)$  has homology concentrated in degree  $q$ .
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$$\mathcal{B}_q(F, F, F)(E_0) \approx (F \circ \dots \circ F)(E_0) \approx \bigoplus_{m \geq 0} E_0^\wedge(K_q(m)_{h\Sigma_m}).$$

$K_\bullet(m)$  is the **partition complex**:

$$K_\bullet(m) = \text{nerve} \{ \text{poset of partitions of } \{1, \dots, m\} \}.$$



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# Topic 3: The idea of the proof

- $\overline{K}_\bullet(m) = K_\bullet(m) / \sim$ , associated to  $\mathcal{B}_\bullet(E_0, \Delta, E_0) \approx \mathcal{B}_\bullet(\Delta, \Delta, \Delta) / \sim$ .
- $Q_m(\overline{K}_\bullet(m)) = 0$  if  $m \neq p^r$ .
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- $A \subset \Sigma_{p^r}$  maximal abelian subgroup:

$$K_\bullet(p^r)^A = \text{nerve} \{ \text{poset of subgroups of } A \}.$$

For  $A \approx (\mathbb{Z}/p)^r$ , the quotient  $\overline{K}_\bullet(p^r)^A$  is (a 2-fold suspension of) the Tits building for  $GL(r, \mathbb{F}_p)$ .

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- $\Psi \in \Gamma$  is element corresponding to the operation:

$$E^0 X \xrightarrow{\tau P^4} E^0 X \otimes_{E_0} (F_4)_0 \xrightarrow{\text{id} \otimes \rho} E^0 X \otimes_{E_0} E_0$$

where  $\rho: (F_4)_0 \rightarrow E_0$  classifies  $[-2]: G_E \rightarrow G_E$   
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- If  $x \in B^\times$ , then  $N(x) \in B^\times$ , so  $N(x) \equiv x^2 \Psi(x) \pmod{2}$  implies

$$\frac{x^2 \Psi(x)}{N(x)} \equiv 1 \pmod{2}.$$

- For any 2-complete amplified  $\Gamma$ -ring, get a homomorphism

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Now  $E$  is a general Morava  $E$ -theory (height  $n$ , prime  $p$ ).

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Different construction of  $\tilde{T}(p^k)$ , due to Ganter.

$G =$  finite group.

- The  $K(n)$ -local Tate homology of  $BG$  vanishes (Hovey-Strickland (1999)):

$$L_{K(n)}BG_+ \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathcal{F}(BG_+, L_{K(n)}S).$$

- $\implies L_{K(n)}BG_+$  is a **commutative Frobenius algebra** in the  $K(n)$ -local homotopy category (Strickland (2000)).  
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- $\sigma^m: B \rightarrow B$  are non-additive functions, analogous to symmetric powers of representations.

Theorem (Ganter (2004))

$$\exp \left( \sum_{k \geq 0} \frac{\tilde{T}(p^k)(x)}{p^k} \cdot U^{p^k} \right) = \sum_{m \geq 0} \sigma^m(x) \cdot U^m.$$

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