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Correction to the article

Hopf ring structure on the mod p cohomology of symmetric groups

LORENZO GUERRA

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We correct Propositions 5.4, 5.5 and 5.6 of the author’s previous article ([Algebr. Geom. Topol. 17 \(2017\) 957–982](#)).

20J06

In our previous paper [1], the formulas describing the action of the mod p Steenrod algebra on Hopf ring generators are incorrect. This is not caused by a flaw in the general argument, but by our misstatement of Hung and Minh’s theorem on mod p modular invariants. In this note, we refer to our original article for notation and conventions.

We begin by providing the accurate statement of Hung and Minh’s theorem. Although these two authors decided to compute coefficients explicitly, we believe that, for our purpose, their result is best restated using the total Steenrod class $\mathcal{P}^* = \sum_{r \geq 0} \mathcal{P}^r$.

Hung and Minh’s theorem [2, Theorem 4.1, page 42] *In $[\mathbb{Z}_p[y_1, \dots, y_n] \otimes \Lambda(x_1, \dots, x_n)]^{\text{Gl}_n(\mathbb{Z}_p)}$, the algebra of modular invariants for $\text{Gl}_n(\mathbb{Z}_p)$, for all $0 \leq s < n$ and $0 \leq s_1 < \dots < s_k < n$,*

$$\mathcal{P}^*(d_{s,n-s}) = (d_{0,n} + \dots + d_{s,n-s})(d_{0,n} + \dots + d_{n-1,1} + 1)^{p-1} - (d_{0,n} + \dots + d_{s-1,n-s+1})^p,$$

$$\mathcal{P}^*(R_{n,s_1,\dots,s_k}) = \sum_{\substack{0 \leq t_1 < t_2 < \dots < t_{k+1} \leq n \\ s_{i-1} < t_i \leq s_i}} \sum_{i=1}^{k+1} [(-1)^{k+1-i} R_{n,t_1,\dots,\hat{t}_i,\dots,t_{k+1}} d_{t_i,n-t_i}] (d_{0,n} + \dots + d_{n-1,1} + 1)^{p-2}.$$

In the expression above, we let, by convention, $s_{-1} = -1$, $s_{k+1} = n$, $R_{n,t_1,\dots,t_k,n} = 0$, and $d_{n,0} = 1$.

We now provide the corrected formulas for the Steenrod powers of generators.

Corrected version of Proposition 5.4 *Let $0 \leq k < n$. Let $\text{Outgrowth}(\gamma_{n-k,p^k})$ be the set of full-width Hopf monomials $x \in H^*(\Sigma_{p^n}; \mathbb{Z}_p)$ of type C with $\text{effsc}(x) \geq n - k$ and $\text{ht}(x) \leq p$. Then, for all $0 \leq r \leq p^n - p^k$,*

$$\mathcal{P}^r(\gamma_{n-k,p^k}) = \sum_{\substack{x \in \text{Outgrowth}(\gamma_{n-k,p^k}) \\ \deg(x) = 2(p^n - p^k + r(p-1))}} c_{n,k,x} x,$$

where $c_{n,k,x}$ is a scalar coefficient calculated as follows.

If $x = \prod_{i=1}^n \gamma_{i,p^{n-i}}^{e_i}$ ($e_i \geq 0$) is a gathered block, then

$$c_{n,k,x} = (-1)^{n-k+\sum_{i=1}^n i e_i} \frac{p!}{p \prod_{i=0}^n e_i!} \left(\sum_{i=n-k}^n e_i \right),$$

where we let by convention $e_0 = p - \sum_{i=1}^n e_i$ and we reduce $c_{n,k,x}$ mod p after calculating its expression in \mathbb{Z} first. If x is not a gathered block, we can write x as a nonzero scalar multiple of a transfer product $b_1 \odot \dots \odot b_r$, where each b_j is a column of width equal to a power p^{l_j} of p . Then, we put $c_{n,k,x} = \prod_{j=1}^r c_{l_j, l_j - n + k, b_j}$.

Corrected version of Proposition 5.5 • Let $1 \leq j \leq k$. Let $\text{Outgrowth}(\alpha_{j,k})$ be the set of full-width Hopf monomials $x \in H^*(\Sigma_{p^k}; \mathbb{Z}_p)$ of type A with $\text{effsc}(x) \geq k$ and $\text{ht}(x) \leq p$. Then, for all $0 \leq r < p^k - p^{k-j}$,

$$\mathcal{P}^r(\alpha_{j,k}) = \sum_{\substack{x \in \text{Outgrowth}(\alpha_{j,k}) \\ \text{deg}(x) = 2p^k - 2p^{k-j} - 1 + 2r(p-1)}} c'_{k,j,x} x,$$

where $c'_{k,j,x}$ is a scalar coefficient calculated as follows.

If $x = \alpha_{t,k} \prod_{i=1}^k \gamma_{i,p^{k-i}}^{e_i}$ with $e_i \geq 0$ and $1 \leq t \leq k$ is a gathered block, then

$$c'_{k,j,x} = \begin{cases} (-1)^{j+t+\sum_{i=1}^k i e_i} ((p-1)! / \prod_{i=0}^k e_i!) (\sum_{l=j}^k e_l) & \text{if } 1 \leq t < j, \\ -(-1)^{j+t+\sum_{i=1}^k i e_i} ((p-1)! / \prod_{i=0}^k e_i!) (\sum_{l=0}^{j-1} e_l) & \text{if } j \leq t \leq k, \end{cases}$$

where we let by convention $e_0 = p - 1 - \sum_{i=1}^n e_i$. All Hopf monomials $x \in \text{Outgrowth}(\alpha_{j,k})$ have this form.

• Let $1 \leq i < j \leq k$. Let $\text{Outgrowth}(\beta_{i,j,p^{k-j}})$ be the set of full-width Hopf monomials $x \in H^*(\Sigma_{p^k}; \mathbb{Z}_p)$ of type B with $\text{effsc}(x) \geq j$ and $\text{ht}(x) \leq p$. Then, for all $0 \leq r \leq p^k - p^{k-j} - p^{k-i}$,

$$\mathcal{P}^r(\beta_{i,j,p^{k-j}}) = \sum_{\substack{x \in \text{Outgrowth}(\beta_{i,j,p^{k-j}}) \\ \text{deg}(x) = 2(p^k - p^{k-j} - p^{k-i}) + r(p-1)}} c''_{k,i,j,x} x,$$

where $c''_{k,i,j,x}$ is a scalar coefficient calculated as follows.

If $x = \beta_{t,u,p^{k-u}} \prod_{i=1}^k \gamma_{i,p^{k-i}}^{e_i}$ with $e_i \geq 0$ and $1 \leq t < u \leq k$ is a gathered block, then

$$c''_{k,i,j,x} = \begin{cases} (-1)^{i+j+t+u+\sum_{m=1}^k m e_m} ((p-1)! / \prod_{m=0}^k e_m!) (\sum_{l=j}^k e_l) & \text{if } 1 \leq t < i \leq u < j \leq k, \\ (-1)^{i+j+t+u+\sum_{m=1}^k m e_m} ((p-1)! / \prod_{m=0}^k e_m!) (\sum_{l=i}^{j-1} e_l) & \text{if } 1 \leq t < i < j \leq u \leq k, \\ -(-1)^{i+j+t+u+\sum_{m=1}^k m e_m} ((p-1)! / \prod_{m=0}^k e_m!) (\sum_{l=0}^{i-1} e_l) & \text{if } i \leq t < j \leq u \leq k, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

where we let by convention $e_0 = p - 1 - \sum_{m=1}^k e_m$. If x is not a gathered block, we can write x as a nonzero scalar multiple of a transfer product $b_1 \odot \cdots \odot b_r$, where each b_m is a column of width equal to a power p^{l_m} of p . Then, we put $c''_{k,i,j,x} = \prod_{m=1}^r c''_{l_m,i,j,b_m}$.

Corrected version of Proposition 5.6 *The following formulas hold:*

- $\beta(\alpha_{j,k}) = \gamma_{k,1}$ if $j = k$ and is equal to 0 otherwise.
- $\beta(\beta_{i,j,p^k}) = \alpha_{i,j} \odot \beta_{i,j,p^{k-1}}$.
- $\beta(\gamma_{j,p^k}) = 0$.

The proof of these propositions is essentially unchanged from the author's original article, except that we use the correct statement of Hung and Mihn's theorem to compute coefficients.

References

- [1] **L Guerra**, *Hopf ring structure on the mod p cohomology of symmetric groups*, *Algebr. Geom. Topol.* 17 (2017) 957–982 [MR](#) [Zbl](#)
- [2] **N H V Hung, P A Minh**, *The action of the mod p Steenrod operations on the modular invariants of linear groups*, *Vietnam J. Math.* 23 (1995) 39–56 [MR](#) [Zbl](#)

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ALGEBRAIC & GEOMETRIC TOPOLOGY

Volume 24 Issue 4 (pages 1809–2387) 2024

Möbius structures, quasimetrics and completeness	1809
MERLIN INCERTI-MEDICI	
$\mathbb{Z}/p \times \mathbb{Z}/p$ actions on $S^n \times S^n$	1841
JIM FOWLER and COURTNEY THATCHER	
\mathbb{Z}_k -stratifolds	1863
ANDRÉS ÁNGEL, CARLOS SEGOVIA and ARLEY FERNANDO TORRES	
Relative systoles in hyperelliptic translation surfaces	1903
CORENTIN BOISSY and SLAVYANA GENINSKA	
Smooth singular complexes and diffeological principal bundles	1913
HIROSHI KIHARA	
Natural symmetries of secondary Hochschild homology	1953
DAVID AYALA, JOHN FRANCIS and ADAM HOWARD	
The shape of the filling-systole subspace in surface moduli space and critical points of the systole function	2011
YUE GAO	
Moduli spaces of geometric graphs	2039
MARA BELOTTI, ANTONIO LERARIO and ANDREW NEWMAN	
Classical shadows of stated skein representations at roots of unity	2091
JULIEN KORINMAN and ALEXANDRE QUESNEY	
Commensurators of thin normal subgroups and abelian quotients	2149
THOMAS KOBERDA and MAHAN MJ	
Pushouts of Dwyer maps are $(\infty, 1)$ -categorical	2171
PHILIP HACKNEY, VIKTORIYA OZORNOVA, EMILY RIEHL and MARTINA ROVELLI	
A variant of a Dwyer–Kan theorem for model categories	2185
BORIS CHORNY and DAVID WHITE	
Integral generalized equivariant cohomologies of weighted Grassmann orbifolds	2209
KOUSHIK BRAHMA and SOUMEN SARKAR	
Projective modules and the homotopy classification of (G, n) -complexes	2245
JOHN NICHOLSON	
Realization of Lie algebras of derivations and moduli spaces of some rational homotopy types	2285
YVES FÉLIX, MARIO FUENTES and ANICETO MURILLO	
On the positivity of twisted L^2 -torsion for 3-manifolds	2307
JIANRU DUAN	
An algebraic C_2 -equivariant Bézout theorem	2331
STEVEN R COSTENOBLE, THOMAS HUDSON and SEAN TILSON	
Topologically isotopic and smoothly inequivalent 2-spheres in simply connected 4-manifolds whose complement has a prescribed fundamental group	2351
RAFAEL TORRES	
Remarks on symplectic circle actions, torsion and loops	2367
MARCELO S ATALLAH	
Correction to the article Hopf ring structure on the mod p cohomology of symmetric groups	2385
LORENZO GUERRA	