

If we have a fiber sequence

$$F \xrightarrow{i} E \xrightarrow{p} B$$

where all spaces are (roughly)  $n$ -connected, then dimension  $\geq 2n$  there is a LES

$$\dots \rightarrow H^i B \xrightarrow{p^*} H^i E \xrightarrow{i^*} H^i F \xrightarrow{\gamma} H^{i+1} B \rightarrow \dots$$

Suppose  $p^*$  is onto in our range of dimensions

Hence  $i^*$  is 0 and  $\gamma$  is one-to-one. Hence

we have a short exact sequence

$$\textcircled{1} \quad 0 \rightarrow H^{i-1} F \xrightarrow{\gamma} H^i B \xrightarrow{p^*} H^i E \rightarrow 0$$

Example The first step in Serre's program to find  $\pi_{n+i} S^n$  for small  $i$  is to study the fiber sequence

$$F \xrightarrow{i} S^n \xrightarrow{p} K(\mathbb{Z}, n)$$

$$0 \leftarrow H^n S^n \xleftarrow{p^*} H^n K(\mathbb{Z}, n) \leftarrow H^{n+1} F \leftarrow \dots$$

we get a short exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow H^{n+i-1} F \xrightarrow{\gamma} H^{n+i} K(\mathbb{Z}, n) \xrightarrow{p^*} H^{n+i} S^n \rightarrow 0$$

for  $0 \leq i < n-1$

We learn that  $\pi_{n+i} S^n = \pi_{n+i} F = \mathbb{Z}/2$  (for  $n \geq 2$ )

serre would look at a map

$$F' \xrightarrow{i} F \xrightarrow{p} K(\mathbb{Z}/2, n+1)$$

However  $p^*$  is not onto, so we will not get the SES of (I).

Adams: Replace  $K(\mathbb{Z}/2, n+1)$  by another space  $L$  with

- i)  $L$  is  $n$ -connected and  $\pi_{n+2} L = \mathbb{Z}/2$
- ii)  $H^* L$  is known
- iii)  $p^*$  is onto in our range

Lemma For any  $(m-1)$ -connected space there is a map  $X \xrightarrow{p} L$  with

$L$  is also  $(m-1)$ -connected,  $H^* L$  is known and  $p^*$  is onto below  $\dim \mathbb{Z}/2 \cdot m$ .

Consider the map  $S^n \rightarrow K(\mathbb{Z}/2, n)$

$$H^* K(\mathbb{Z}/2, n) = \mathbb{Z}/2 \{ Sq^I \chi_n : \text{for certain } I \}$$

Hence in our range, below  $\dim \mathbb{Z}/2 \cdot n$  it is

$$\mathbb{Z}/2 \{ Sq^I \chi_n : \sim \}$$

The  $I = (i_1, i_2, \dots, i_\ell)$  must satisfy

$i_i > 1$ ,  $e(I) < n$ . Each  $Sq^I$  with dimension  $< n$  has excess  $< n$ .

(EASY EXERCISE).

$H^* K(z, n)$  is a certain cyclic  $A$ -module  
 The Steenrod algebra  $A$  is a VERY  
 complicated noncommutative  $\mathbb{Z}/2$ -  
 algebra.

Recall it is generated by  $Sq^i$  for  $i > 0$   
 subject to the ADEM RELATIONS.

$$Sq^a Sq^b = \sum_{0 \leq i \leq a/2} \binom{b-1-i}{a-2i} Sq^{a+b-i} Sq^i \quad \text{for } a < 2b$$

$$Sq^1 Sq^{2n} = Sq^{2n+1} \quad \text{for } n \geq 0$$

$$Sq^2 Sq^{4n} = \sum \binom{4n-1-i}{2-2i} Sq^{4n+2-i} Sq^i$$

$$= \binom{4n-1}{2} Sq^{4n+2} + \binom{4n-2}{0} Sq^{4n+1} Sq^1$$

LUCAS

Wilson's Theorem

$$\text{Let } n = \sum c_i 2^i \quad \text{for } c_i = 0, 1$$

$$k = \sum b_i 2^i \quad b_i = 0, 1$$

$$\text{Then } \binom{n}{k} \equiv \prod_i \binom{c_i}{b_i} \pmod{2}$$

$$Sq^2 Sq^{4n} = Sq^{4n+2} + Sq^{4n+1} Sq^1$$

$$Aq^{4n+2} = Aq^{4n+2} + Aq^1 Aq^{4n} Aq^1$$

$$Aq^{4n+2} = Aq^2 Aq^{4n} + Aq^1 Aq^{4n} Aq^1 \quad \text{for } n \geq 0$$

We learn that  $A$  is generated as  $\mathbb{Z}/2$ -algebra by  $\{Aq^{2^j} : j \geq 0\}$

Why is Serre's map  $F \rightarrow K(\mathbb{Z}/2, n+1)$  NOT onto in  $H^*$ ?

We have a SES

$$0 \rightarrow H^{n+1} F \rightarrow H^{n+1} K(\mathbb{Z}/2, n) \rightarrow H^{n+1} S \rightarrow 0$$

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 & & & & x_n & \longrightarrow & x_n \\
 & & & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 Y = Y_{n+1} = \text{bottom class} & \longrightarrow & Aq^2 x_n & \longrightarrow & 0 & & \\
 & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 Aq^1 Y_{n+1} & \longrightarrow & Aq^3 x_n & \longrightarrow & 0 & & \\
 & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 \{Y_{n+2}^j : j \geq 0\} & & Y_{n+2} & \longrightarrow & Aq^4 x_n & \longrightarrow & 0 \\
 & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 Aq^1 Y_{n+2} & \longrightarrow & Aq^5 x_n & \longrightarrow & 0 & & \\
 & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 & & & \longrightarrow & Aq^6 x_n, Aq^4 Aq^2 x_n & \longrightarrow & 0
 \end{array}$$

$Y_{n+2}$  is not in the image of  $f^x$  for Serre's map  $F \rightarrow K(\mathbb{Z}/2, n+1)$ .

How to fix this (ADAMS). Choose a set  $\{z_1, z_2, \dots\}$  in  $H^* F$  that generate

set  $\{z_1, z_2, \dots\}$  in  $H^*F$  that generate it as an  $A$ -module. Each determines a map to some  $K(Z/2, \mathbb{Z})$ , so collectively they give a map  $p$  to  $\prod K(Z/2, \mathbb{Z})$ . Since the set  $\{z_i\}$  generates  $H^*F$  as an  $A$ -module,  $p^*$  is onto.

Lemma For any  $n$ -connected space  $X$  there is a map  $p: X \rightarrow L$  where  $L$  is a product of  $K(Z/2, i)$ 's and  $p^*$  is onto.

Proof as above.

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 X_0 = S^n & \xrightarrow{p_0} & K(Z, n) = L_0 \\
 \uparrow & & \\
 X_1 = \text{fiber} & \xrightarrow{p_1} & L_1 = \text{product of } K(Z/2, \sim) \\
 \uparrow & & \\
 X_2 & \xrightarrow{p_2} & L_2 = \dots \\
 \uparrow & & \\
 X_3 & & \dots
 \end{array}$$

Each  $p_i$  induces surjection in  $H^*$

This is an ADAM: RESOLUTION

We get a collection of SES of

A-modules

DIMENSION SHIFT

$$0 \leftarrow H^* X_0 \leftarrow H^* L_0 \leftarrow H^* X_1 \leftarrow 0$$

$$0 \leftarrow H^* X_1 \leftarrow H^* L_1 \leftarrow H^* X_2 \leftarrow 0$$

$$0 \leftarrow H^* X_0 \leftarrow H^* L_0 \leftarrow H^* X_{n+1} \leftarrow 0$$

to be continued.