



We know that the 0-stem is  $\mathbb{Z}$  on any sphere  $S^n$  with n > 1, by the Hurewicz theorem. We know the homotopy groups of  $S^1$ , by covering space theory.



To calculate the differential  $E_{p,0}^1 \longrightarrow E_{p-1,0}^1$ , we take the element  $\iota \in \pi_p(\Omega^{p+1}S^{2p+1})$ , apply p, to obtain  $p(\iota) = w_p \in \pi_{p-1}(\Omega^p S^p)$ , and then apply h, to obtain  $h(w_p) \in \pi_{p-1}(\Omega^p S^{2p-1})$ . The Hopf invariant of the whitehead square  $w_p$  is two when p is even and zero when p is odd.

Now we are able to calculate the 1-stem. Truncating to one column calculates the 1-stem on  $S^1$ , and we see (again) that this is zero, as there is nothing in the p+q=1 diagonal. Truncating to two columns, we obtain a copy of  $\mathbb{Z}$ . Truncating at three columns, we allow an additional differential, which kills  $2\mathbb{Z} \subset \mathbb{Z}$ . After this, no more differentials will ever be involved, and so the 1-stem is stable.

Note also that the generator of  $\pi_1(\Omega^2 S^2)$  maps to  $\iota \in \pi_1(\Omega^2 S^3)$  under h. Thus it is a Hopf invariant one element on  $S^2$ , commonly denoted  $\eta$ . Moreover,  $\pi_1(\Omega^3 S^3)$  is generated by  $e\eta$ .



As we have calculated the 1-stem on  $S^3$  and all higher spheres, we can fill in  $E_{1,1}^1$  and  $E_{2,1}^1$ . Then two more differentials are possible between groups that we have written down.

Firstly, a is zero. To see this, we note that  $p(e^3\eta) = w_2 \circ (e\eta)$ , where  $w_2 \in \pi_3(S^2)$  and  $e\eta \in \pi_4(S^3)$ . Now we have calculated the 1-stem on  $S^2$  to be  $\mathbb{Z}$ , generated by the Hopf invariant one element,  $\eta$ . As  $w_2$  has Hopf invariant two,  $w_2 = 2\eta$ . Thus:

$$p(e^{3}\eta) = (2\eta) \circ (e\eta) := \eta \circ (2\iota_{3}) \circ (e\eta) \stackrel{*}{=} \eta \circ (e\eta) \circ (2\iota_{4}) =: 2(\eta \circ (e\eta)).$$

So  $d_1(e^3\eta) := h(p(e^3\eta)) = 2h(\eta \circ (e\eta))$ , and as the target is  $\mathbb{Z}_2$ , this is zero.

Note that there is a subtlety in the above, at the symbol  $\stackrel{*}{=}$ . We can only make this manipulation since  $e\eta$  is a suspension. I'll write this up later.



To see that the differential b vanishes, recall that there is an element  $\nu$  of Hopf invariant one in  $\pi_3(\Omega^4 S^4)$ , so that  $h(\nu) = \iota \in \pi_3(\omega_4 S^7)$ . In particular,  $p : \pi_3(\omega_4 S^7) \longrightarrow \pi_2(\omega_3 S^3)$  is zero, so that no nonzero differentials ever leave  $E_{3,0}^1$ .



With all of the differentials involving the p + q = 2 diagonal calculated, we can read off the 2-stem. Knowledge of the 2-stem allows us to fill in the row  $E_{*,2}^1$ , and we write in two groups soon to be of interest. We also write in another group of interest in the 1-stem, and add in all the possible nonzero differentials between groups we can see.



In order to see that these three differentials all vanish, we cheat a little, assuming that we know that the stable 3-stem is  $\mathbb{Z}_8$ . Given that information, none of these three differentials could be nonzero, as if they were, the cardinality of the stable 3-stem would have to be strictly less than 8.

The extension problems can all be solved easily given that we are aiming at  $\mathbb{Z}_8$ , so we can calculate the whole 3-stem.