

## TOPOLOGIE IV – EXERCISE SHEET 5

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**Joins distribute over sums.** Consider two groupoids  $B$  and  $B'$  together with spherical fibrations

$$p, q: B \rightarrow \mathbf{Gpd} \quad \text{and} \quad p', q': B' \rightarrow \mathbf{Gpd}$$

Since the functors  $(-) \times (-)$  and  $(-) \star (-)$  are both associative and commutative up to homotopy as functors  $\mathbf{Gpd} \times \mathbf{Gpd} \rightarrow \mathbf{Gpd}$ , we obtain a commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 & & (B \times B') \times (B \times B') & & \\
 & \nearrow \Delta & \parallel & \nwarrow (p \star p') \star (q \star q') & \\
 B \times B' & & & & \mathbf{Gpd} \\
 & \searrow \Delta \times \Delta & & \nearrow (p \star q) \star (p' \star q') & \\
 & & (B \times B) \times (B' \times B') & & 
 \end{array}$$

and in particular a canonical identification

$$(p \star p') \oplus (q' \star q') \simeq (p \oplus q) \star (p' \oplus q')$$

As a consequence:

$$(p \star p')^{-1} \simeq p^{-1} \star (p')^{-1}$$

**Sifted categories are weakly contractible.** If  $I$  is a sifted category, for instance filtered, then:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \Pi_\infty(I) &\simeq \operatorname{colim}_I * \\
 &\simeq \operatorname{colim}_{I \times I} * \\
 &\simeq \Pi_\infty(I) \times \Pi_\infty(I)
 \end{aligned}$$

so that the diagonal map  $\Pi_\infty(I) \rightarrow \Pi_\infty(I) \times \Pi_\infty(I)$  is an equivalence. In particular either projection  $\Pi_\infty(I) \times \Pi_\infty(I) \rightarrow \Pi_\infty(I)$  must also be invertible. Since  $I$  is not empty by assumption, we can paste cartesian squares

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 \Pi_\infty(I) & \longrightarrow & \Pi_\infty(I) \times \Pi_\infty(I) & \xlongequal{\quad} & \Pi_\infty(I) \\
 \downarrow & \lrcorner & \parallel & \lrcorner & \downarrow \\
 * & \longrightarrow & \Pi_\infty(I) & \longrightarrow & *
 \end{array}$$

and  $\Pi_\infty(I) \simeq *$ .

**Loops and filtered colimits.** Since limits and weakly contractible colimits in  $\mathbf{Gpd}_*$  are computed in  $\mathbf{Gpd}$ , forming pullbacks in  $\mathbf{Gpd}_*$  commutes with all filtered colimits. In particular, given a filtered diagram  $X: I \rightarrow \mathbf{Gpd}_*$ , we have the following cartesian square

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \operatorname{colim}_I \Omega X & \longrightarrow & \Pi_\infty(I) \\
 \downarrow \lrcorner & & \downarrow \\
 \Pi_\infty(I) & \longrightarrow & \operatorname{colim}_I X
 \end{array}$$

Since  $\Pi_\infty(I) \simeq *$ , the canonical comparison map yields an isomorphism

$$\operatorname{colim}_I \Omega X \simeq \Omega(\operatorname{colim}_I X)$$

In other words, the endofunctor  $\Omega: \mathbf{Gpd}_* \rightarrow \mathbf{Gpd}_*$  preserves filtered colimits.

**Inverting an endofunctor.** Let  $\mathcal{C}$  a category with sequential colimits, equipped with an endofunctor  $T$  preserving sequential colimits and a natural transformation

$$\alpha: \operatorname{id}_{\mathcal{C}} \rightarrow T$$

satisfying  $\alpha T \simeq T\alpha$  (this condition is not automatic, as one can see on the free abelian group monad on  $\mathbf{Set}$  for instance). The full subcategory  $i: \mathcal{C}_\alpha \subseteq \mathcal{C}$  on those objects  $x$  such that  $\alpha(x): x \rightarrow T(x)$  is an isomorphism is reflexive, with left adjoint given by

$$L := \operatorname{colim} (\operatorname{id}_{\mathcal{C}} \xrightarrow{\alpha} T \xrightarrow{\alpha} T^2 \xrightarrow{\alpha} \dots)$$

*Proof.* Since  $T$  commutes with filtered colimits and  $\alpha T \simeq T\alpha$ , the functor  $L: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  indeed factors through  $\mathcal{C}_\alpha$  and we have a canonical identification  $\varepsilon: Li \simeq \operatorname{id}_{\mathcal{C}_\alpha}$ . Define

$$\eta: \operatorname{id}_{\mathcal{C}} \rightarrow iL$$

be the structural inclusion into the colimit. It remains to show that the triangular identities

$$\begin{array}{c} \operatorname{id}_i \\ \curvearrowright \\ i \xrightarrow{\eta i} iLi \xrightarrow{i\varepsilon} i \end{array} \quad \text{and} \quad \begin{array}{c} \operatorname{id}_L \\ \curvearrowright \\ L \xrightarrow{L\eta} LiL \xrightarrow{\varepsilon L} L \end{array}$$

are satisfied. The left one is clear, so let us focus on the right one. By definition of  $\eta$ , the natural transformation

$$L\eta: \operatorname{colim}_m T^m \longrightarrow \operatorname{colim}_{m,n} T^{m+n}$$

is induced by the structural maps  $T^m \longrightarrow \operatorname{colim}_n T^{m+n}$  for  $m \geq 0$ . Also by definition of  $\varepsilon$ , the composite

$$\operatorname{colim}_m T^m \longrightarrow \operatorname{colim}_{m,n} T^{m+n} \xrightarrow{\varepsilon L} \operatorname{colim}_m T^m$$

is the identity, where the first map is the inclusion into the colimit at induced by  $m \mapsto (m, 0)$ . This is exactly the desired triangular identity.  $\square$

**Exercise 1.** Let  $B$  and  $B'$  be two groupoids. Observe that for two completed cohomology classes  $x \in H^*(B; \mathbb{F}_2)^\wedge$  and  $y \in H^*(B'; \mathbb{F}_2)^\wedge$  one has:

$$\begin{aligned} \operatorname{Sq}(\operatorname{Sq}^{-1}(x) \times \operatorname{Sq}^{-1}(y)) &= \operatorname{Sq} \operatorname{Sq}^{-1}(x) \times \operatorname{Sq} \operatorname{Sq}^{-1}(y) \\ &= x \times y \end{aligned}$$

in  $H^*(B \times B'; \mathbb{F}_2)^\wedge$ . In other words,  $\operatorname{Sq}^{-1}$  satisfies the Cartan formula

$$\operatorname{Sq}^{-1}(x \times y) = \operatorname{Sq}^{-1}(x) \times \operatorname{Sq}^{-1}(y)$$

and from there the proof that Wu classes satisfy Cartan formula is the same as for Stiefel–Whitney classes.

Namely, if  $p$  and  $p'$  are spherical fibrations over  $B$  and  $B'$  respectively, then

$$v(p \star p') = v(p) \times v(p')$$

Furthermore, if  $B \equiv B'$ :

$$v(p \oplus p') = v(p) \cdot v(p')$$

by pulling the previous formula along the diagonal  $B \rightarrow B \times B$ .

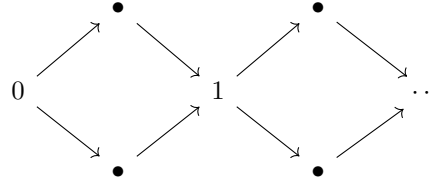
We can alternatively prove these Cartan formulas using Wu's first formula and the Cartan formula for Stiefel–Whitney classes. Indeed, one has

$$\operatorname{Sq}(v(p \star p')) = w((p \star p')^{-1})$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= w(p^{-1} \star (p')^{-1}) \\
 &= w(p^{-1}) \times w((p')^{-1}) \\
 &= \text{Sq}(v(p)) \times \text{Sq}(v(p')) \\
 &= \text{Sq}(v(p) \times v(p'))
 \end{aligned}$$

in  $H^*(B \times B'; \mathbb{F}_2)^\wedge$ , and it then suffices to apply  $\text{Sq}^{-1}$  on both sides.

**Exercise 2.** We begin by computing Hom-groupoids in  $\text{PSp}$ , by observing that  $\text{PSp}$  is equivalently described as the full subcategory of diagrams in  $\text{Gpd}_*$  indexed by



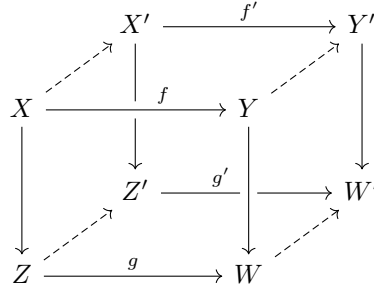
such that each  $\bullet$  is sent to  $*$ . Denoting this indexing poset by  $I$ , the decomposition

$$I \simeq I_{0//1} \amalg I_{1//2} \amalg I_2 \cdots$$

yields

$$\text{Fun}(I, \text{Gpd}_*) \simeq \text{Fun}(I_{0//1}, \text{Gpd}_*) \times_{\text{Gpd}_*} \text{Fun}(I_{1//2}, \text{Gpd}_*) \times_{\text{Gpd}_*} \cdots$$

For all  $i \geq 0$ , notice that  $I_{i//i+1} \simeq [1] \times [1]$ . But by what was done in the correction to exercise sheet 1, the space of morphisms between two commutative squares in  $\text{Gpd}_*$



is computed as

$$\text{Hom}_{[1] \times [1]}(\square, \square') \simeq \text{Hom}_{[1]}(f, f') \times_{\text{Hom}_{[1]}(f, g')} \text{Hom}_{[1]}(g, g')$$

and so is the limit of the following diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 \text{Hom}_*(X, X') & \longrightarrow & \text{Hom}_*(X, Y') & \longleftarrow & \text{Hom}_*(Y, Y') \\
 \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 \text{Hom}_*(X, Z') & \longrightarrow & \text{Hom}_*(X, W') & \longleftarrow & \text{Hom}_*(Y, W') \\
 \uparrow & & \uparrow & & \uparrow \\
 \text{Hom}_*(Z, Z') & \longrightarrow & \text{Hom}_*(Z, W') & \longleftarrow & \text{Hom}_*(W, W')
 \end{array}$$

When  $Y, Y', Z$  and  $Z'$  are contractible, this limit simplifies to

$$\text{Hom}_{[1] \times [1]}(\square, \square') \simeq \text{Hom}_*(X, X') \times_{\text{Hom}_*(X, \Omega W')} \text{Hom}_*(W, W')$$

In particular, the canonical map

$$\text{oplaxlim}(\text{Gpd}_* \xleftarrow{\Omega} \text{Gpd}_*) \rightarrow \text{Fun}([1] \times [1], \text{Gpd}_*)$$

is fully faithful, and its essential image consists exactly of commutative squares of the form

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
X & \longrightarrow & * \\
\downarrow & & \downarrow \\
* & \longrightarrow & Y
\end{array}$$

Finally, this gives an identification

$$\mathrm{PSp} \simeq \mathrm{oplaxlim} \left( \mathrm{Gpd}_* \xleftarrow{\Omega} \mathrm{Gpd}_* \xleftarrow{\Omega} \dots \right)$$

More concretely, the  $\infty$ -category  $\mathrm{PSp}$  identifies with the category of sequences  $(X_n)_{n \geq 0}$  of pointed groupoids equipped with maps  $X_n \rightarrow \Omega X_{n+1}$ . In particular the Hom groupoid  $\mathrm{Hom}_{\mathrm{PSp}}(X, Y)$  between two prespectra  $X$  and  $Y$  is computed as the limit of the following diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
\mathrm{Hom}_*(X_0, Y_0) & & \dots & & \mathrm{Hom}_*(X_n, Y_n) & & \dots \\
& \searrow & & \searrow & & \searrow & \\
& \mathrm{Hom}_*(X_0, \Omega Y_1) & & \mathrm{Hom}_*(X_{n-1}, \Omega Y_n) & & \mathrm{Hom}_*(X_n, \Omega Y_{n+1}) & \\
& & & & & & 
\end{array}$$

We are now ready to compute the required adjoints:

- (1) Consider the functor

$$\Sigma_{\mathrm{PSp}}^\infty: \mathrm{Gpd}_* \rightarrow \mathrm{PSp}$$

given by the following oplax cone:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
\mathrm{Gpd}_* & \xlongequal{\quad} & \dots & \xlongequal{\quad} & \mathrm{Gpd}_* & \xlongequal{\quad} & \mathrm{Gpd}_* \xlongequal{\quad} \dots \\
\downarrow \mathrm{id} & \searrow \eta & \downarrow \dots & \searrow \eta \Sigma^{n-1} & \downarrow \Sigma^n & \searrow \eta \Sigma^n & \downarrow \Sigma^{n+1} \\
\mathrm{Gpd}_* & \xleftarrow{\quad \Omega \quad} & \dots & \xleftarrow{\quad \Omega \quad} & \mathrm{Gpd}_* & \xleftarrow{\quad \Omega \quad} & \mathrm{Gpd}_* \xleftarrow{\quad \Omega \quad} \dots
\end{array}$$

For  $X$  a pointed groupoid and  $Y$  a prespectra, the Hom groupoid from  $\Sigma_{\mathrm{PSp}}^\infty X$  to  $Y$  is computed by the limit of

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
\mathrm{Hom}_*(X, Y_0) & & \dots & & \mathrm{Hom}_*(\Sigma^n X, Y_n) & & \dots \\
& \searrow & & \searrow & & \searrow & \\
& \mathrm{Hom}_*(X, \Omega Y_1) & & \mathrm{Hom}_*(\Sigma^{n-1} X, \Omega Y_n) & & \mathrm{Hom}_*(\Sigma^n X, \Omega Y_{n+1}) & \\
& & & & & & 
\end{array}$$

and therefore:

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathrm{Hom}_{\mathrm{PSp}}(\Sigma_{\mathrm{PSp}}^\infty X, Y) &\simeq \lim_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \mathrm{Hom}_*(\Sigma^n X, Y_n) \\
&\simeq \mathrm{Hom}_*(X, Y_0)
\end{aligned}$$

because the category  $\mathbb{N}$  has an initial object. We thus have a Bousfield colocalization

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
& \Sigma_{\mathrm{PSp}}^\infty & \\
\mathrm{Gpd}_* & \xrightleftharpoons{\quad \perp \quad} & \mathrm{PSp} \\
& \mathrm{ev}_0 & 
\end{array}$$

since the unit is the structural identification  $\mathrm{id}_{\mathrm{Gpd}_*} \simeq \mathrm{ev}_0 \circ \Sigma_{\mathrm{PSp}}^\infty$ .

- (2) Name  $\delta_n$  the structural natural transformation  $\mathrm{ev}_n \rightarrow \Omega \mathrm{ev}_{n+1}$  between functors  $\mathrm{PSp} \rightarrow \mathrm{Gpd}_*$ . The commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 \mathrm{PSp} & \xlongequal{\quad} & \cdots & \xlongequal{\quad} & \mathrm{PSp} & \xlongequal{\quad} & \mathrm{PSp} & \xlongequal{\quad} & \cdots \\
 \downarrow \Omega \mathrm{ev}_1 & \searrow \Omega \delta_1 & \downarrow & \searrow \Omega \delta_n & \downarrow \Omega \mathrm{ev}_{n+1} & \searrow \Omega \delta_{n+1} & \downarrow \Omega \mathrm{ev}_{n+2} & \searrow & \\
 \mathrm{Gpd}_* & \xleftarrow{\quad \Omega \quad} & \cdots & \xleftarrow{\quad \Omega \quad} & \mathrm{Gpd}_* & \xleftarrow{\quad \Omega \quad} & \mathrm{Gpd}_* & \xleftarrow{\quad \Omega \quad} & \cdots
 \end{array}$$

defines a translation endofunctor

$$T: \mathrm{PSp} \rightarrow \mathrm{PSp}$$

Since  $\mathrm{id}: \mathrm{PSp} \rightarrow \mathrm{PSp}$  is induced by the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 \mathrm{PSp} & \xlongequal{\quad} & \cdots & \xlongequal{\quad} & \mathrm{PSp} & \xlongequal{\quad} & \mathrm{PSp} & \xlongequal{\quad} & \cdots \\
 \downarrow \mathrm{ev}_0 & \searrow \delta_0 & \downarrow & \searrow \delta_{n-1} & \downarrow \mathrm{ev}_n & \searrow \delta_n & \downarrow \mathrm{ev}_{n+1} & \searrow & \\
 \mathrm{Gpd}_* & \xleftarrow{\quad \Omega \quad} & \cdots & \xleftarrow{\quad \Omega \quad} & \mathrm{Gpd}_* & \xleftarrow{\quad \Omega \quad} & \mathrm{Gpd}_* & \xleftarrow{\quad \Omega \quad} & \cdots
 \end{array}$$

one can define by the universal property of  $\mathrm{PSp}$  a natural transformation

$$\delta: \mathrm{id}_{\mathrm{PSp}} \rightarrow T$$

using the natural transformations  $\delta_n$  on each projection. Indeed, the naturality is exactly the data of commutative squares

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \mathrm{ev}_n & \xrightarrow{\delta_n} & \Omega \mathrm{ev}_{n+1} \\
 \downarrow \delta_n & & \downarrow \Omega \delta_{n+1} \\
 \Omega \mathrm{ev}_{n+1} & \xrightarrow{\Omega \delta_{n+1}} & \Omega^2 \mathrm{ev}_{n+2}
 \end{array}$$

for  $n \geq 0$ , which we fill by the identity homotopy.

Heuristically,  $T$  sends a sequence  $(X_n)_{n \geq 0}$  to the sequence  $(\Omega X_{n+1})_{n \geq 0}$ , and for  $n \geq 0$  the map  $\delta(X)_n$  is the structural morphism  $X_n \rightarrow \Omega X_{n+1}$ . In particular the fullsubcategory  $\mathrm{PSp}_\delta \subset \mathrm{PSp}$  on those prespectra  $X$  such that  $\delta(X)$  is an isomorphism identifies with  $\mathrm{Sp}$ .

(a) The natural transformations  $\mathrm{ev}_n \circ \delta T$  and  $\mathrm{ev}_n \circ T \delta$  are by definition both computed as

$$\Omega \delta_{n+1}: \Omega \mathrm{ev}_{n+1} \rightarrow \Omega^2 \mathrm{ev}_{n+2}$$

for  $n \geq 0$ , so that one can construct an homotopy  $\delta T \simeq T \delta$ .

(b) Since the inclusion  $\mathrm{PSp} \subset \mathrm{Fun}(I, \mathrm{Gpd}_*)$  preserves and reflects weakly contractible colimits, this is in particular the case for filtered colimits. Since the endofunctor  $\Omega: \mathrm{Gpd}_* \rightarrow \mathrm{Gpd}_*$  commutes with filtered colimits, we conclude that  $T$  also commutes with filtered colimits.

In particular, the above discussion applies, and we obtain a Bousfield localization

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 & L & \\
 \mathrm{PSp} & \xrightarrow{\quad} & \mathrm{Sp} \\
 & \perp & \\
 & \xleftarrow{\quad} &
 \end{array}$$

Because  $\Omega$  commutes with filtered colimits, the right adjoint is  $\omega$ -accessible and thus  $\mathrm{Sp}$  is compactly generated<sup>1</sup>, and thus has all small limits and colimits. We also obtain that the *spectrification* functor  $L$  can be computed as the following colimit in  $\mathrm{PSp}$ :

$$L \simeq \mathrm{colim} \left( \mathrm{id}_{\mathrm{PSp}} \xrightarrow{\delta} T \xrightarrow{\delta} T^2 \xrightarrow{\delta} \cdots \right)$$

In other words, we have

$$LX_n \simeq \mathrm{colim}_k \Omega^k X_{n+k}$$

for any prespectrum  $X$  and  $n \geq 0$ . Composing adjunctions, we finally obtain

<sup>1</sup>Here, we use that the inclusion  $\mathrm{PSp} \subset \mathrm{Fun}(I, \mathrm{Gpd}_*)$  preserves weakly contractible colimits and so is  $\omega$ -accessible, and that  $\mathrm{Fun}(I, \mathrm{Gpd}_*)$  is compactly generated.

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
& \xrightarrow{\Sigma^\infty} & \\
\text{Gpd}_* & \begin{array}{c} \perp \\ \hline \end{array} & \text{Sp} \\
& \xleftarrow{\Omega^\infty} &
\end{array}$$

where the right adjoint preserves filtered colimits. This is neither a localization nor a colocalization.

- (3) Since the unit map  $X \rightarrow LX$  is simply the pointwise inclusion

$$X_n \rightarrow \operatorname{colim}_k \Omega^k X_{n+k}$$

into the colimit, it induces a chain of identifications

$$\begin{aligned}
\pi_*(X) &\simeq \operatorname{colim}_n \pi_{*+n}(X_n) \\
&\simeq \operatorname{colim}_{n+k} \pi_{*+n+k}(X_{n+k}) \\
&\simeq \operatorname{colim}_n \pi_{*+n}(LX_n) \\
&\simeq \pi_*(LX)
\end{aligned}$$

For  $f: X \rightarrow Y$  a map of prespectra, the commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
\pi_*(X) & \xrightarrow{f_*} & \pi_*(Y) \\
\parallel & & \parallel \\
\pi_*(LX) & \xrightarrow{Lf_*} & \pi_*(LY)
\end{array}$$

shows that  $f$  induces an isomorphism on  $\pi_*$  if and only if  $Lf$  is, and this is the case if and only if  $Lf$  is an equivalence since  $LX$  and  $LY$  are spectra. In particular  $L$  inverts exactly those maps that are sent by  $\pi_*$  to equivalences.

- (4) Since both functors

$$\text{Sp} \hookrightarrow \text{PSp} \hookrightarrow \text{Fun}(I, \text{Gpd}_*)$$

preserve limits, it follows that  $\Omega: \text{Sp} \rightarrow \text{Sp}$  is computed pointwise either in  $\text{PSp}$  or in  $\text{Fun}(I, \text{Gpd}_*)$ . Therefore

$$\begin{aligned}
\Omega(X)_{n+1} &\simeq \Omega X_{n+1} \\
&\simeq X_n
\end{aligned}$$

for any spectrum  $X$ , and  $\Omega$  sends a spectrum  $X_0, X_1, X_2, \dots$  to the shifted sequence  $\Omega X_0, X_0, X_1, \dots$ .

- (5) For  $X$  a compact object in  $\text{Gpd}_*$  and  $Y$  another pointed groupoid:

$$\begin{aligned}
\operatorname{Hom}_{\text{Sp}}(\Sigma^\infty X, \Sigma^\infty Y) &\simeq \operatorname{Hom}_*(X, \Omega^\infty \Sigma^\infty Y) \\
&\simeq \operatorname{Hom}_*(X, \operatorname{colim}_n \Omega^n \Sigma^n Y) \\
&\simeq \operatorname{colim}_n \operatorname{Hom}_*(\Sigma^n X, \Sigma^n Y)
\end{aligned}$$

Since  $S^0$  is compact, we obtain

$$\operatorname{End}_{\text{Sp}}(\mathbb{S}) \simeq \operatorname{colim}_n \operatorname{End}_*(S^n)$$

But  $\operatorname{Aut}_*(S^n) \xrightarrow{\Sigma} \operatorname{Aut}_*(S^{n+1})$  is an isomorphism on connected components for all  $n$ , and therefore

$$\begin{aligned}
\operatorname{Aut}_{\text{Sp}}(\mathbb{S}) &\simeq \operatorname{colim}_n \operatorname{Aut}_*(S^n) \\
&\simeq \operatorname{colim}_n G(n) \\
&\simeq G
\end{aligned}$$

and BG identifies with the subcategory  $\operatorname{BAut}_{\text{Sp}}(\mathbb{S})$  of  $\text{Sp}$ . Furthermore, the proof also shows that the following squares

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \mathrm{BG}(n) & \longrightarrow & \mathrm{BG} \\
 \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 \mathrm{Gpd}_* & \xrightarrow{\Sigma^{\infty-n}} & \mathrm{Sp}
 \end{array}$$

commute for  $n \geq 0$ , where the two vertical maps are subcategory inclusions.

**Exercise 3.** Fix a stable spherical fibration  $\xi: B \rightarrow \mathrm{BG}$ .

- (1) For  $n \geq 0$ , consider the cartesian square

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 B_n & \xrightarrow{i} & B_{n+1} & \longrightarrow & B \\
 \downarrow \xi_n & \lrcorner & \downarrow \xi_{n+1} & \lrcorner & \downarrow \\
 \mathrm{BG}(n) & \xrightarrow{\Sigma} & \mathrm{BG}(n+1) & \longrightarrow & \mathrm{BG}
 \end{array}$$

The homotopy  $\Sigma\xi_n \simeq i^*\xi_{n+1}$  induces a pointed map

$$\Sigma\mathrm{Th}(\xi_n) \simeq \mathrm{Th}(\Sigma\xi_n) \rightarrow \mathrm{Th}(\xi_{n+1})$$

or equivalently

$$\mathrm{Th}(\xi_n) \rightarrow \Omega\mathrm{Th}(\xi_{n+1})$$

The resulting prespectrum is denoted  $\mathrm{Th}(\xi)$ . Writing the Thom space as a colimit, this construction can be made functorial in  $\xi$  so that we actually have a functor  $\mathrm{Th}: \mathrm{Gpd}_{/\mathrm{BG}} \rightarrow \mathrm{PSp}$ .

- (2) To prove the colimit formula for  $M(\xi) := L(\mathrm{Th}(\xi))$ , we distinguish two cases

- If  $\xi$  factorizes as

$$B \xrightarrow{\xi_n} \mathrm{BG}(n) \xrightarrow{\Sigma^{\infty-n}} \mathrm{BG}$$

for some  $n$ , then

$$\begin{aligned}
 M(\xi) &\simeq \Sigma^{\infty-n} \mathrm{Th}(\xi_n) \\
 &\simeq \Sigma^{\infty-n} \operatorname{colim}_B \xi_n \\
 &\simeq \operatorname{colim}_B \Sigma^{\infty-n} \xi_n \\
 &\simeq \operatorname{colim}_B \xi
 \end{aligned}$$

since  $\Sigma^{\infty-n} := \Omega^n \Sigma^\infty$  is cocontinuous.

- In general, then observe that

$$\mathrm{Th}(\xi) \simeq \operatorname{colim}_n \mathrm{Th}(\Sigma^{\infty-n} \xi_n)$$

Indeed, filtered colimits are computed pointwise in  $\mathrm{PSp}$ , and this diagram is pointwise eventually constant. Using now that  $L$  is a left adjoint:

$$\begin{aligned}
 M(\xi) &\simeq \operatorname{colim}_n L(\mathrm{Th}(\Sigma^{\infty-n} \xi_n)) \\
 &\simeq \operatorname{colim}_n \operatorname{colim}_{B_n} \Sigma^{\infty-n} \xi_n \\
 &\simeq \operatorname{colim}_{\operatorname{colim}_n B_n} \xi \\
 &\simeq \operatorname{colim}_B \xi
 \end{aligned}$$

The last step uses that  $B \simeq \operatorname{colim}_n B_n$ , but this is a consequence of  $\mathrm{BG} \simeq \operatorname{colim}_n \mathrm{BG}(n)$  and of the universality of weakly contractible colimits in  $\mathrm{Gpd}_*$ .

- (3) Let  $\mathcal{C}$  denote any category with  $B$ -colimits, and fix a functor  $F: B \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ . Then the diagonal map  $B \rightarrow B \times B$  induces a morphism in  $\mathcal{C}$ :

$$\operatorname{colim}_B F \rightarrow \operatorname{colim}_{B \times B} F \circ \operatorname{pr}_2 \simeq B \otimes \operatorname{colim}_B F$$

Specializing to our situation, we have a well defined diagonal map

$$\Delta_\xi: M(\xi) \rightarrow B \otimes M(\xi)$$

in  $\operatorname{Sp}$ .

**Exercise 4.** Fix an oriented stable fibration  $\xi: B \rightarrow \operatorname{BG}$ .

- (1) By adjunction

$$\begin{aligned} H^0(M(\xi)) &\simeq \pi_0 \operatorname{Hom}_{\operatorname{Sp}}(M(\xi), \mathbb{Z}) \\ &\simeq \pi_0 \operatorname{Hom}_{\operatorname{PSP}}(\operatorname{Th}(\xi), \mathbb{Z}) \end{aligned}$$

For  $n \geq 0$ , the following diagram commutes

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \operatorname{Th}(\xi_n) & \longrightarrow & \Omega \operatorname{Th}(\xi_{n+1}) \\ \downarrow u(\xi_n) & & \downarrow u(\xi_{n+1}) \\ K(\mathbb{Z}, n) & \xlongequal{\quad} & \Omega K(\mathbb{Z}, n+1) \end{array}$$

Indeed, this is evident if  $B_n$  is empty, and if not, consider the restrictions

$$S^{n+1} \simeq \Sigma \operatorname{Th}(S^{n-1} \rightarrow *) \longrightarrow \Sigma \operatorname{Th}(\xi_n) \longrightarrow \operatorname{Th}(\xi_{n+1})$$

induced by the inclusion of any point  $* \rightarrow B_n$ . The classes  $u(\xi_n)$  therefore assemble into a map

$$u(\xi): M(\xi) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$$

- (2) Given a point  $x: * \rightarrow B$ , consider the following diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \operatorname{Th}(\xi(x)) & \longrightarrow & M(\xi(x)) & \xlongequal{\quad} & \mathbb{S} \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow M(i) & & \downarrow \\ \operatorname{Th}(\xi) & \longrightarrow & M(\xi) & \xrightarrow{u(\xi)} & \mathbb{Z} \end{array}$$

Since restriction along the left most map sends each  $u(\xi_n)$  on  $[S^n]$  as soon as  $B_n$  contains  $x$ , it follows that

$$M(i)^* u(\xi) \simeq 1$$

in  $\mathbb{S}$ .

- (3) We distinguish between two cases.

- Assume first that  $\xi$  factors through  $\operatorname{BG}(n)$  for some  $n \geq 1$ , and compute for  $k \geq 0$ :

$$\begin{aligned} H^k(M(\xi); \mathbb{Z}) &\simeq \pi_0 \operatorname{Hom}_{\operatorname{PSP}}(\operatorname{Th}(\xi), \Sigma^k \mathbb{Z}) \\ &\simeq \pi_0 \left( \lim_{m \geq n} \operatorname{Hom}_*(\operatorname{Th}(\xi_m), K(\mathbb{Z}, m+k)) \right) \\ &\rightarrow \lim_{m \geq n} \pi_0 \operatorname{Hom}_*(\Sigma^{m-n} \operatorname{Th}(\xi_n), K(\mathbb{Z}, m+k)) \end{aligned}$$

where the second line uses the computation of  $\operatorname{Hom}$  groupoids in  $\operatorname{PSP}$  and the fact that  $\mathbb{Z}$  is a spectrum. But by Thom isomorphism, the last sequential limit is constant on  $H^k(B; \mathbb{Z})$ , so that the last map admits an inverse. Finally one obtains an identification

$$H^k(B; \mathbb{Z}) \simeq H^k(M(\xi); \mathbb{Z})$$

More explicitly, it is given by taking the limit of the following (eventually constant) cone



$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 H^k(B; \mathbb{Z}) & \xlongequal{\quad} & \cdots & \xlongequal{\quad} & H^k(B; \mathbb{Z}) & \xlongequal{\quad} & \cdots \\
 \downarrow (-) \cdot u(\xi_n) & & \downarrow \cdots & & \downarrow (-) \cdot u(\xi_m) & & \\
 H^{n+k}(\text{Th}(\xi_n); \mathbb{Z}) & \xlongequal{\quad} & \cdots & \xlongequal{\quad} & H^{m+k}(\text{Th}(\xi_m); \mathbb{Z}) & \xlongequal{\quad} & \cdots
 \end{array}$$

Unwinding definitions, it is given by applying  $\pi_{-k}(-)$  to the following composite

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 \text{Hom}_{\mathbb{Z}}(B \otimes \mathbb{Z}, \mathbb{Z}) & \xrightarrow{u(\xi)^*} & \text{Hom}_{\mathbb{Z}}(B \otimes M(\xi), \mathbb{Z}) & \xrightarrow{\Delta_{\xi}^*} & \text{Hom}_{\mathbb{Z}}(M(\xi), \mathbb{Z}) \\
 \parallel & & & & \parallel \\
 C^{-*}(B; \mathbb{Z}) & \xrightarrow{(-) \cdot u(\xi)} & & & C^{-*}(M(\xi); \mathbb{Z})
 \end{array}$$

which must therefore be an equivalence between coconnective spectra.

- In general, the first case implies that we have equivalences

$$(-) \cdot u(\xi_n): C^{-*}(B_n; \mathbb{Z}) \simeq C^{-*}(M(\Sigma^{\infty-n} \xi_n); \mathbb{Z})$$

natural in  $n$ . Taking limits on both sides shows that

$$(-) \cdot u(\xi): C^{-*}(B; \mathbb{Z}) \simeq C^{-*}(M(\xi); \mathbb{Z})$$

and this is exactly Thom isomorphism.