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Abstract This paper computes the Thom map on  $\gamma_2$  and proves that it is represented by  $2b_{2,0}h_{1,2}$  in the ASS. The authors also compute the higher May differential of  $b_{2,0}$ , from which it is proved that  $\tilde{\gamma}_s(b_0h_n - h_1b_{n-1})$  for  $2 \leq s < p-1$  are permanent cycles in the ASS.

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### 1 Introduction

Let p be a prime and let S be the sphere spectrum localized at p. To determine the stable homotopy groups  $\pi_*S$  is one of the central problems in stable homotopy. One of the main tools to reach it is the Adams spectral sequence (ASS) with  $E_2$ -term  $E_2^{s,t} = \operatorname{Ext}_A^{s,t}(Z/p, Z/p) \Rightarrow \pi_{t-s}S$ , where  $\operatorname{Ext}_A^{s,t}(Z/p, Z/p)$  denotes the cohomology of the Steenrod algebra A.

From [5] we know that for odd prime p,  $\operatorname{Ext}_{A}^{1,*}(Z/p, Z/p)$  is the Z/p-module generated by  $a_0$  and  $h_i$  for  $i \ge 0$ .  $\operatorname{Ext}_{A}^{2,*}(Z/p, Z/p)$  is the Z/p-module generated by  $a_1h_0$ ,  $a_0^2$ ,  $a_0h_i$  (i > 0),  $g_i$   $(i \ge 0)$ ,  $k_i$   $(i \ge 0)$ ,  $b_i$   $(i \ge 0)$  and  $h_ih_j$   $(j \ge i + 2 \ge 2)$ . The Ext groups  $\operatorname{Ext}_{A}^{3,*}(Z/p, Z/p)$  were detected in [2].

If a family of homology elements  $x_i$  in  $E_2^{s,*}$  converges nontrivially in the ASS, then we get a family of homotopy elements  $f_i$  in  $\pi_*S$ . In this case we say that the homotopy element  $f_i$  is represented by  $x_i$  in the ASS. So far, not so many families of homotopy elements were detected. For example, a family  $\zeta_n \in \pi_*S$  for  $n \ge 1$  was detected in [3] which is represented by  $h_0b_n \in \operatorname{Ext}_A^{3,*}(Z/p, Z/p)$  in the ASS. In this paper, we detect a family of homotopy elements which has filtration s + 3.

Let M denote the mod p Moore spectrum and  $v_1 : \Sigma^q M \to M$  denote the Adams map which is known to exist for p > 2 (cf. [9]). Then we have the cofibre sequence

$$\Sigma^q M \xrightarrow{v_1} M \longrightarrow V(1),$$

where q = 2(p-1) and V(1) is known to be the Smith-Toda spectrum. For p > 3, there exists the Smith-Toda map  $v_2 : \Sigma^{(p+1)q}V(1) \to V(1)$ , and its cofibre is denoted by V(2). For  $p \ge 7$ , there exists the Smith-Toda map  $v_3 : \Sigma^{(p^2+p+1)q}V(2) \to V(2)$  (cf. [9]). From [10] we know that

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the following composition of maps denoted by  $\gamma_s$  in  $\pi_*S$ ,

$$S^{s \cdot (p^2 + p + 1)q} \xrightarrow{i} \Sigma^{s \cdot (p^2 + p + 1)q} V(2) \xrightarrow{v_3^*} V(2) \xrightarrow{j} S^{(p+2)q+3},$$

is represented in the ASS by  $\tilde{\gamma}_s = \frac{s!}{(s-3)!} a_3^{s-3} h_{3,0} h_{2,1} h_{1,2}$  for  $s \ge 3$  and  $\not\equiv 0, 1, 2 \mod p$ .

In [4], Lin detected a new family in the stable homotopy groups of spheres and proved the following theorem:

**Theorem 1.1** (See [4, Theorem A]) Let  $p \ge 5$ ,  $n \ge 3$ . Then

(1)  $i_*(h_1h_n) \in \operatorname{Ext}_A^{2,(p+p^n)q}(H^*M, \mathbb{Z}/p)$  is a permanent cycle in the ASS and converges to a nontrivial element  $\xi_n \in \pi_{(p+p^n)q-2}M$ .

(2) For  $\xi_n \in \pi_{(p+p^n)q-2}M$  obtained in (1),  $j\xi_n \in \pi_{(p+p^n)q-3}S$  is a nontrivial element of order p represented (up to nonzero scalar) by  $(b_0h_n - h_1b_{n-1}) \in \operatorname{Ext}_A^{3,(p+p^n)q}(Z/p,Z/p)$  in the ASS.

In this paper we will prove that  $\gamma_2$  is represented by  $\tilde{\gamma}_2 = 2b_{2,0}h_{1,2} \in \operatorname{Ext}_A^{3,*}(Z/p, Z/p)$  in the ASS and from which we prove

**Theorem A** Let  $p \ge 7$  be an odd prime and  $n \ge 4$ . Then for  $3 \le s ,$ 

$$\tilde{\gamma}_s(b_0h_n - h_1b_{n-1}) \in \operatorname{Ext}_A^{s+3,q((s-2)+sp+sp^2+p^n)+(s-3)}(Z/p, Z/p)$$

and

$$\tilde{\gamma}_2(b_0h_n - h_1b_{n-1}) \in \operatorname{Ext}_A^{6,q(2p+2p^2+p^n)}(Z/p, Z/p)$$

are permanent cycles in the ASS, and then they converge to nontrivial elements in  $\pi_*S$ , where q = 2(p-1).

### 2 The Representation of $\gamma_2$ in the ASS

In this section we will consider some of the Thom maps

$$\Phi: \operatorname{Ext}_{BP_*BP}^{s,*}(BP_*, BP_*K) \longrightarrow \operatorname{Ext}_{A^*}^{s,*}(Z/p, H_*K) = \operatorname{Ext}_A^{s,*}(H^*K, Z/p)$$

for the spectrum K = V(1), M and S, from which we get the representation of  $\gamma_2$  in the classical ASS. The result might be known to many people, but we had not seen it appearing. Here we give a brief proof of the result.

Consider the Brown-Peterson ring spectrum BP at a prime p with  $BP_* = \pi_* BP = Z_{(p)}[v_1, v_2, \cdots, v_n, \cdots]$  (cf. [7, Chapters 4, 5]). There is the Thom map  $\Phi : BP \to KZ/p$  which induces

$$\Phi: \pi_*(BP) = BP_* \longrightarrow \pi_*(KZ/p) = Z/p$$

and

$$\Phi: \pi_*(BP \wedge BP) = BP_*BP \longrightarrow \pi_*(KZ/p \wedge KZ/p) = A^*,$$

where  $BP_*BP = BP_*[t_1, t_2, \cdots, t_n, \cdots]$ ,  $A^*$  is the dual of the Steenrod algebra A,

$$A^* = Z/p \left[\xi_1, \xi_2, \cdots, \xi_n, \cdots\right] \otimes E[\tau_0, \tau_1, \cdots, \tau_n, \cdots].$$

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The Thom map sends  $v_i$  to 0 and  $t_n$  to  $\tilde{t}_n$ , where  $\tilde{t}_n$  is the Hopf conjugate of Milnor's  $\xi_n$ . Applying the cobar construction, we get the Thom map

$$\Phi : \operatorname{Ext}_{BP_*BP}^{s,*}(BP_*, BP_*K) \longrightarrow \operatorname{Ext}_{A^*}^{s,*}(Z/p, H_*K).$$

To compute the Ext groups  $\operatorname{Ext}_{A}^{s,t}(Z/p, Z/p)$ , we have the May spectral sequence (MSS) (cf. [6] and [7, Chapter 3]) whose  $E_0^{s,t,*}$ -term is the filtrated cobar complex and the  $E_1$ -term is the cohomology of  $E_0^{s,t,*}$ ,

$$E_1^{s,t,*} = E[h_{i,j} \mid i > 0, j \ge 0] \otimes P[b_{i,j} \mid i > 0, j \ge 0] \otimes P[a_i \mid i \ge 0],$$

where  $h_{i,j}$  is the cohomology class represented by  $\xi_i^{p^j}$ ,  $b_{i,j}$  is the cohomology class represented by  $\sum_{k=1}^{p-1} {p \choose k} / p \left(\xi_i^{kp^j} \otimes \xi_i^{(p-k)p^j}\right)$  and  $a_i$  is the cohomology class represented by  $\tau_i$ . Thus the homological dimensions of  $a_i$ ,  $h_{i,j}$  and  $b_{i,j}$  are 1, 1 and 2 respectively. The inner degrees are

$$\deg(a_i) = 2(p-1)(1+p+\dots+p^{i-1})+1,$$
  

$$\deg(h_{i,j}) = 2(p-1)(p^j+p^{j+1}+\dots+p^{i+j-1}),$$
  

$$\deg(b_{i,j}) = 2(p-1)(p^{j+1}+p^{j+2}+\dots+p^{i+j}).$$
(2.1)

The May filtration M's are  $M(a_i) = 2i + 1$ ,  $M(h_{i,j}) = 2i - 1$  and  $M(b_{i,j}) = p(2i - 1)$ . For the May differentials, we have  $d_r : E_r^{s,t,M} \to E_r^{s+1,t,M-r}$ , where M denotes the May filtration. If  $x \in E_r^{s,t,*}, y \in E_r^{s',t',*}$ , then  $x \cdot y = (-1)^{(s+t)(s'+t')}y \cdot x$  and  $d_r(x \cdot y) = d_r(x) \cdot y + (-1)^{s+t}x \cdot d_r(y)$ . For the first May differential, we have

$$d_1(h_{i,j}) = \sum_{0 < k < i} h_{i-k,j+k} h_{k,j}, \quad d_1(a_i) = \sum_{0 \le k < i} h_{i-k,k} a_k, \quad d_1(b_{i,j}) = 0.$$

To compute the Ext groups  $\operatorname{Ext}_{BP_*BP}^{s,t}(BP_*, BP_*K)$ , we have the chromatic spectral sequence (cf. [7]), induced by the short exact sequences

$$0 \longrightarrow N_n^s \xrightarrow{j} M_n^s \xrightarrow{k} N_n^{s+1} \longrightarrow 0, \qquad (2.2)$$

where  $N_n^0 = BP_*/I_n$ ,  $I_n$  is the ideal of  $BP_*$  generated by  $\{p, v_1, \dots, v_{n-1}\}$  with  $I_0 = 0$ .  $M_n^s$  is inductively defined by  $M_n^s = v_{n+s}^{-1} N_n^s$ .

From [7], we jot down some of the structure maps  $\eta_R : BP_* \to BP_*BP$  and  $\Delta : BP_*BP \to BP_*BP \otimes_{BP_*} BP_*BP$ ,

$$\eta_{R}(v_{1}) = v_{1} + pt_{1},$$

$$\eta_{R}(v_{2}) = v_{2} + v_{1}t_{1}^{p} - v_{1}^{p}t_{1} \mod(p),$$

$$\eta_{R}(v_{3}) = v_{3} + v_{2}t_{1}^{p^{2}} + v_{1}t_{2}^{p} - t_{1}\eta_{R}(v_{2}^{p}) + v_{1}^{2}V \mod(p, v_{1}^{p^{2}}),$$

$$\Delta(t_{1}) = t_{1} \otimes 1 + 1 \otimes t_{1},$$

$$\Delta(t_{2}) = t_{2} \otimes 1 + 1 \otimes t_{2} + t_{1} \otimes t_{1}^{p} - v_{1}\bar{b}_{1,0}$$
(2.3)

where

$$pv_1V = v_2^p + v_1^p t_1^{p^2} - v_1^{p^2} t_1^p - (v_2 + v_1 t_1^p - v_1^p t_1)^p,$$
  
$$p\bar{b}_{1,0} = (t_1 \otimes 1 + 1 \otimes t_1)^p - (t_1^p \otimes 1 + 1 \otimes t_1^p).$$

Thus we have

$$d(v_3^s) = \eta_R(v_3^s) - v_3^s \equiv 0 \mod(p, v_1, v_2),$$

and in the Ext groups we have

$$v_{3}^{s}/v_{2} \in \operatorname{Ext}_{BP_{*}BP}^{0,*}(BP_{*}, N_{2}^{1}), \quad \gamma_{s}^{\prime\prime} = \delta_{1}^{\prime\prime}(v_{3}^{s}/v_{2}) \in \operatorname{Ext}_{BP_{*}BP}^{1,*}(BP_{*}, BP_{*}V(1)),$$
  

$$v_{3}^{s}/v_{1}v_{2} \in \operatorname{Ext}_{BP_{*}BP}^{0,*}(BP_{*}, N_{1}^{2}), \quad \gamma_{s}^{\prime} = \delta_{1}^{\prime}\delta_{2}^{\prime}(v_{3}^{s}/v_{1}v_{2}) \in \operatorname{Ext}_{BP_{*}BP}^{2,*}(BP_{*}, BP_{*}M),$$
  

$$v_{3}^{s}/pv_{1}v_{2} \in \operatorname{Ext}_{BP_{*}BP}^{0,*}(BP_{*}, N_{0}^{3}), \quad \gamma_{s} = \delta_{1}\delta_{2}\delta_{3}(v_{3}^{s}/pv_{1}v_{2}) \in \operatorname{Ext}_{BP_{*}BP}^{3,*}(BP_{*}, BP_{*}),$$

where

$$\begin{split} \delta_1'' &: \operatorname{Ext}_{BP_*BP}^{*,*}(BP_*, N_2^1) \longrightarrow \operatorname{Ext}_{BP_*BP}^{*+1,*}(BP_*, BP_*V(1)), \\ \delta_s' &: \operatorname{Ext}_{BP_*BP}^{*,*}(BP_*, N_1^s) \longrightarrow \operatorname{Ext}_{BP_*BP}^{*+1,*}(BP_*, N_1^{s-1}), \\ \delta_s &: \operatorname{Ext}_{BP_*BP}^{*,*}(BP_*, N_0^s) \longrightarrow \operatorname{Ext}_{BP_*BP}^{*+1,*}(BP_*, N_0^{s-1}) \end{split}$$

are the connecting homomorphisms induced by (2.2).

**Theorem 2.1** For the Thom map  $\Phi : \operatorname{Ext}_{BP_*BP}^{s,*}(BP_*K, BP_*) \to \operatorname{Ext}_A^{s,*}(H_*K, Z/p)$  we have

$$\Phi(\gamma_1'') = i_*''(-h_2) \in \operatorname{Ext}_{A^*}^{1,*}(Z/p, H_*V(1)),$$
  

$$\Phi(\gamma_2') = i_*'(2h_{2,1}h_{1,2}) \in \operatorname{Ext}_{A^*}^{2,*}(Z/p, H_*M),$$
  

$$\Phi(\gamma_2) = 2b_{2,0}h_{1,2} \in \operatorname{Ext}_{A^*}^{3,*}(Z/p, Z/p),$$

where  $h_{2,1}h_{1,2}$  represents the generator  $k_1 \in \operatorname{Ext}_A^{2,*}(Z/p, Z/p)$  (cf. [5]), and  $i''_*$ ,  $i'_*$  are the maps induced by  $i'': S \to V(1)$  and  $i': S \to M$  respectively.

**Proof** From (2.3) we see that

$$d(v_3) \equiv v_2(t_1^{p^2} - v_2^{p-1}t_1) \mod (p, v_1),$$
  

$$d(v_3^2) \equiv 2v_2v_3(t_1^{p^2} - v_2^{p-1}t_1) + v_2^2(t_1^{p^2} - v_2^{p-1}t_1)^2 \mod (p, v_1).$$

Thus we have

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma_1'' &= \delta_1''(v_3/v_2) = (t_1^{p^2} - v_2^{p-1}t_1), \\ \delta_2'(v_3^2/v_1v_2) &= (2v_3(t_1^{p^2} - v_2^{p-1}t_1) + v_2(t_1^{p^2} - v_2^{p-1}t_1)^2)/v_1, \\ \delta_3(v_3^2/pv_1v_2) &= (2v_3(t_1^{p^2} - v_2^{p-1}t_1) + v_2(t_1^{p^2} - v_2^{p-1}t_1)^2)/pv_1. \end{aligned}$$

By the Thom map, we see that  $\Phi(\gamma_1'') = \tilde{t}_1^{p^2}$  which represents  $i''_*(-h_2) \in \operatorname{Ext}_{A^*}^{1,*}(Z/p, H_*V(1))$ . The first follows.

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Similarly from (2.3), we see that mod  $(p, v_1^3, v_1^2 v_2, v_1 v_2^2)$ ,

$$d(2v_3(t_1^{p^2} - v_2^{p-1}t_1) + v_2(t_1^{p^2} - v_2^{p-1}t_1)^2) \equiv 2v_1t_2^p \otimes t_1^{p^2} + v_1t_1^p \otimes t_1^{2p^2}.$$

Thus, we have

$$\gamma_2' = \delta_1' \delta_2'(v_3^2/v_1 v_2) = 2t_2^p \otimes t_1^{p^2} + t_1^p \otimes t_1^{2p^2} + v_1^2 x + v_1 v_2 y + v_2^2 z,$$
  
$$\delta_2 \delta_3(v_3^2/p v_1 v_2) = (2t_2^p \otimes t_1^{p^2} + t_1^p \otimes t_1^{2p^2} + v_1^2 x + v_1 v_2 y + v_2^2 z)/p,$$

and the Thom map sends  $\gamma'_2$  to  $2\tilde{t}_2^p \otimes \tilde{t}_1^{p^2} + \tilde{t}_1^p \otimes \tilde{t}_1^{2p^2}$ , which represents  $i'_*(h_{2,1}h_{1,2})$ . The second follows.

From  $d(v_1^2) \equiv d(v_1v_2) \equiv d(v_2^2) \equiv 0 \mod (p^2, v_1, v_2)$  we see that

$$d(2t_2^p \otimes t_1^{p^2} + t_1^p \otimes t_1^{2p^2} + v_1^2 x + v_1 v_2 y + v_2^2 z) \equiv -2p(\bar{b}_{2,0} \otimes t_1^{p^2} - t_2^p \otimes \bar{b}_{1,1} + \bar{b}_{1,0} \otimes t_1^{2p^2} + \cdots) + p(v_1 \tilde{x} + v_2 \tilde{y}) \mod (p^2),$$

where

$$p\bar{b}_{2,0} = (t_2 \otimes 1 + t_1 \otimes t_1^p + 1 \otimes t_2)^p - t_2^p \otimes 1 - t_1^p \otimes t_1^{p^2} - 1 \otimes t_2^p,$$
  

$$p\bar{b}_{1,1} = (t_1 \otimes 1 + 1 \otimes t_1)^{p^2} - t_1^{p^2} \otimes 1 - 1 \otimes t_1^{p^2},$$
  

$$p\bar{b}_{1,0} = (t_1 \otimes 1 + 1 \otimes t_1)^p - t_1^p \otimes 1 - 1 \otimes t_1^p.$$
(2.4)

Thus

$$\gamma_2 = \delta_1 \delta_2 \delta_3 (v_3^2 / p v_1 v_2) = -2\bar{b}_{2,0} \otimes t_1^{p^2} + 2t_2^p \otimes \bar{b}_{1,1} + \cdots$$

and the Thom map sends it to  $-2\bar{b}_{2,0} \otimes \tilde{t}_1^{p^2} + 2\tilde{t}_2^p \otimes \bar{b}_{1,1} + \cdots$  which represents  $2b_{2,0}h_{1,2}$  in the MSS. The third follows.

**Corollary 2.1** For  $p \ge 7$ , the homotopy class  $\gamma_2$  is represented by  $\tilde{\gamma}_2 \in \operatorname{Ext}_A^{3,*}(Z/p, Z/p)$ in the classical ASS and  $\tilde{\gamma}_2$  is represented by  $2b_{2,0}h_{1,2}$  in the MSS.

# 3 The $E_1^{s,t,M}$ -Term of the MSS with Specialized s and t

Consider the MSS  $E_1^{s,t,M} \Rightarrow \operatorname{Ext}_A^{s,t}(Z/p, Z/p)$ , whose  $E_1$ -term is

$$E_1^{s,t,*} = E[h_{i,j} \mid i > 0, j \ge 0] \otimes P[b_{i,j} \mid i > 0, j \ge 0] \otimes P[a_i \mid i \ge 0].$$

The generators of  $E_1^{s,t,\ast}$  are denoted by monomials

$$g = (x_1 \cdots x_b) \cdot (y_1 \cdots y_l) \cdot (z_1 \cdots z_m), \tag{3.1}$$

where  $x_i$  is of the elements  $a_i$ ,  $y_i$  is of the elements  $h_{i,j}$  and  $z_i$  is of  $b_{i,j}$ . In this section, we will compute some  $E_1^{s,t,*}$  with specialized s and t, from which we will prove the Theorem A in the next section.

To compute  $E_1^{s,t,*}$  with specialized s and t, denote t by  $\bar{t} + b$  where  $\bar{t} = 2(p-1)(\bar{c}_0 + \bar{c}_1p + \cdots + \bar{c}_np^n)$  with  $0 \le \bar{c}_i < p$  and  $0 < \bar{c}_n < p$ . Thus  $b \equiv t \mod 2(p-1)$ . If a monomial  $x_1 \cdots x_b \cdot y_1 \cdots y_l \cdot z_1 \cdots z_m$  of the form (3.1) is a generator of  $E_1^{s,t,*}$ , then b + l + 2m = s.

Notice from (2.1), the inner degrees of  $x_i$ ,  $y_i$  and  $z_i$  could be uniquely expressed as

$$deg(x_i) = 2(p-1)(x_{i,0} + x_{i,1}p + \dots + x_{i,n}p^n) + 1,$$
  

$$deg(y_i) = 2(p-1)(y_{i,0} + y_{i,1}p + \dots + y_{i,n}p^n),$$
  

$$deg(z_i) = 2(p-1)(0 + z_{i,1}p + \dots + z_{i,n}p^n),$$

where the number sequence  $(x_{1,0}, x_{1,1}, \dots, x_{1,n})$  is the form of  $(1, \dots, 1, 0, \dots, 0)$ , the sequences  $(y_{i,0}, y_{i,1}, \dots, y_{i,n})$  and  $(0, z_{i,1}, \dots, z_{i,n})$  are the form of  $(0, \dots, 0, 1, \dots, 1, 0, \dots, 0)$ . Thus a generator of the form (3.1) determines a matrix

$$\begin{pmatrix} x_{1,0} & \cdots & x_{b,0} & y_{1,0} & \cdots & y_{l,0} & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ x_{1,1} & \cdots & x_{b,1} & y_{1,1} & \cdots & y_{l,1} & z_{1,1} & \cdots & z_{m,1} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ x_{1,n} & \cdots & x_{b,n} & y_{1,n} & \cdots & y_{l,n} & z_{1,n} & \cdots & z_{m,n} \end{pmatrix}.$$
(3.2)

And from the property of the p-adic number, we have

$$\begin{cases} \sum_{\substack{1 \le i \le b}} x_{i,0} + \sum_{\substack{1 \le i \le l}} y_{i,0} &= \bar{c}_0 + k_1 p = c_0, \\ \sum_{\substack{1 \le i \le b}} x_{i,1} &+ \sum_{\substack{1 \le i \le l}} y_{i,1} &+ \sum_{\substack{1 \le i \le m}} z_{i,1} &= \bar{c}_1 + k_2 p - k_1 = c_1, \\ \vdots &\vdots &\vdots &\vdots \\ \sum_{\substack{1 \le i \le b}} x_{i,n-1} + \sum_{\substack{1 \le i \le l}} y_{i,n-1} + \sum_{\substack{1 \le i \le m}} z_{i,n-1} = \bar{c}_{n-1} + k_n p - k_{n-1} = c_{n-1}, \\ \sum_{\substack{1 \le i \le b}} x_{i,n} &+ \sum_{\substack{1 \le i \le l}} y_{i,n} &+ \sum_{\substack{1 \le i \le m}} z_{i,n} &= \bar{c}_n - k_n = c_n. \end{cases}$$
(3.3)

From the commutativity of  $E_1^{s,t,*}$ , the monomial of the form (3.1) is arranged in the following way:

- (a) If i > j, we put  $a_i$  on the left side of  $a_j$ ;
- (b) We put  $h_{i,j}$  on the left side of  $h_{m,k}$  if j < k;
- (c) If i > k, we put  $h_{i,j}$  on the left side of  $h_{k,j}$ ;
- (d) Apply the same rules (b) and (c) to  $b_{i,j}$ .

Thus the entries of matrix (3.2) are 0 or 1, and satisfy

$$\begin{array}{l} (1) \ x_{1,j} \ge x_{2,j} \ge \dots \ge x_{b,j}, \ x_{i,0} \ge x_{i,1} \ge \dots \ge x_{i,n} \text{ for } i \le b, \ j \le n; \\ (2) \ \text{if } \ y_{i,j} \ne 0 \ \text{and } \ y_{i,j-1} = 0 \ \text{then for all } k < j, \ y_{i,k} = 0; \\ (3) \ \text{if } \ y_{i,j} \ne 0 \ \text{and } \ y_{i,j+1} = 0 \ \text{then for all } k > j, \ y_{i,k} = 0; \\ (4) \ y_{1,0} \ge y_{2,0} \ge \dots \ge y_{l,0}; \\ (5) \ \text{if } \ y_{i,0} = \ y_{i+1,0}, \ y_{i,1} = \ y_{i+1,1}, \ \dots \ y_{i,j} = \ y_{i+1,j}, \ \text{then } \ y_{i,j+1} \ge \ y_{i+1,j+1}; \\ (6) \ \text{Apply the same rules } (2) - (5) \ \text{to } \ z_{i,j}. \end{array}$$

It is easy to see that a matrix solution of (3.3) satisfying (3.4) determines a unique generator of the form  $g = (x_1 \cdots x_b) \cdot (y_1 \cdots y_l) \cdot (z_1 \cdots z_m) \in F_1^{b+l+2m,\bar{t}+b,*}$ , where

$$F_1^{s,t+b,*} = P[h_{i,j} \mid i > 0, j \ge 0] \otimes P[b_{i,j} \mid i > 0, j \ge 0] \otimes P[a_i \mid i \ge 0].$$

The  $E_1$ -term of the MSS is  $F_1^{s,\bar{t}+b,*}/\{h_{i,j}^2\}$ .

**Remark 3.1** The matrix solution of (3.3) does not always induce a generator of  $E_1^{s,t,*}$ .

(1) If two columns in the  $y_{i,j}$  part are the same, it deduces  $h_{i,j}^2$  in the monomial.

(2) If all the entries of a column are 0 in the  $y_{i,j}$  or  $z_{i,j}$  parts, it deduces none. But it deduces  $a_0$  while in the  $x_{i,j}$  part.

**Proposition 3.1** Let p > 5 be an odd prime and  $t = 2(p-1)(2p+2p^2+p^n)$  with  $n \ge 4$ . Then the  $E_1$ -terms of the MSS  $E_1^{6-r,t-r+1,M}$  are zero except for r = 1, which are the Z/p modules generated by

$b_{2,0}^2 h_{1,n}$		with $M = 6p + 1;$
$b_{2,0}h_{2,1}b_{1,n-1}$		with $M = 4p + 3;$
$b_{2,0}h_{1,2}h_{1,1}h_{1,n}$		with $M = 3p + 3;$
$\begin{cases} h_{2,1}h_{1,2}h_{1,1}b_{1,n-1} \\ h_{2,1}h_{1,1}h_{1,n}b_{1,1} \end{cases}$	$\left. h_{2,1}h_{1,2}h_{1,n}b_{1,0} \right\}$	with $M = p + 5$ .

**Proof** Suppose we have a generator of the form (3.1)  $g = (x_1 \cdots x_b) \cdot (y_1 \cdots y_l) \cdot (z_1 \cdots z_m)$ in  $E_1^{6-r,t-r+1,M}$ . Then from b + l + 2m = 6 - r and  $b \equiv -r + 1 \mod 2(p-1)$  we would have that  $b = 2(p-1) - r + 1 \ge p$  for r > 1. Thus  $E_1^{6-r,2(p-1)(2p+2p^2+p^n)-r+1,M} = 0$  for r > 1.

For r = 1, we see that b = 0 from 6 - r = 5,  $t - r + 1 = 2(p - 1)(2p + 2p^2 + p^n)$  and  $b \equiv t - r + 1 \mod 2(p - 1)$ . Suppose we have a generator of the form (3.1)  $g = (y_1 \cdots y_l) \cdot (z_1 \cdots z_m)$  in  $E_1^{5,2(p-1)(2p+2p+p^n),*}$ . Then we see from l + 2m = 5 that (0, l, m) could be (0, 1, 2), (0, 3, 1) or (0, 5, 0).

For (0, l, m) = (0, 1, 2), the corresponding equation (3.3) becomes

1	$y_{1,0}$			= 0 + k	$_1p$	$= c_0,$
	$y_{1,1}$	$+ z_{1,1}$	$+ z_{2,1}$	= 2 + k	$k_2 p - k_1$	$= c_1,$
	$y_{1,2}$	$+ z_{1,2}$	$+ z_{2,2}$	$= 2 + k_{1}$	$k_{3}p - k_{2}$	$= c_2,$
ł	$y_{1,3}$	$+ z_{1,3}$	$+ z_{2,3}$	= 0 + k	$k_4 p - k_3$	$= c_3,$
		÷			:	
	$y_{1,n-1}$	$+ z_{1,n-1}$	$+z_{2,n-1}$	= 0 + k	$k_n p - k_{n-1}$	$= c_{n-1},$
	$y_{1,n}$	$+ z_{1,n}$	$+ z_{2,n}$	= 1 - k	n	$= c_n.$

To solve it, we firstly determine that the carrying numbers  $k_1, k_2, \dots, k_n$  are 0 from all of  $y_{1,j}$  and  $z_{i,j}$  being 0 or 1. Then applying the rule (3.4), list the matrix entries row by row so that the sum of rows are  $c_0 = 0$ ,  $c_1 = 2$ ,  $c_2 = 2$ ,  $c_3 = 0$ ,  $\dots$ ,  $c_{n-1} = 0$  and  $c_n = 1$  respectively.

Indeed, from  $c_0 = c_3 = \cdots = c_{n-1} = 0$  we could determine that all the entries in the 1<sup>st</sup> and the 4<sup>th</sup> ~  $(n-1)^{\text{th}}$  rows are 0. Then from  $c_n = 1$  we see that the last row is one of (0|0 1),

 $(0|1\ 0)$  or  $(1|0\ 0)$ , here we use (\*|\*\*) to distinguish the  $y_{i,j}$  part from  $z_{i,j}$  part. Yet we see that the last row could not be  $(0|1\ 0)$ . If so, then from  $z_{1,n} = 1, z_{1,n-1} = 0$  and rule (3.4) (2), we see that  $z_{1,1} = 0$ . Now  $z_{1,0} = z_{2,0} = 0$ ,  $z_{1,1} = 0$ , applying rule (3.4) (5) we see that  $0 = z_{1,1} \ge z_{1,2}$ , this contradicts  $y_{1,1} + z_{1,1} + z_{1,2} = 2$ . From the analysis above, we get two matrix solutions

( 0	)	0	0 \	0		0	0	0 \	0
1		1	0	2		0	1	1	2
1		1	0	2		0	1	1	2
0		0	0	0		0	0	0	0
		:	:	:		:	:	:	:
		0	0	0		0	0	0	0
	)	0	1 /	1		$\setminus 1$	0	0 /	1

which induce respectively the generators

$$h_{2,1}b_{2,0}b_{1,n-1}$$
 and  $h_{1,n}b_{2,0}^2$ .

Similarly solving the corresponding equation (3.3) for (0, l, m) = (0, 3, 1), we get the generators

$$h_{1,2}h_{1,1}h_{1,n}b_{2,0}, \quad h_{2,1}h_{1,1}h_{1,n}b_{1,1}, \quad h_{2,1}h_{1,2}h_{1,n}b_{1,0}, \quad h_{2,1}h_{1,2}h_{1,1}b_{1,n-1}$$

in  $E_1^{5,t,*}$ . Solving the corresponding equation (3.3) for (0, l, m) = (0, 5, 0), we get the generator  $h_{1,1}^2 h_{1,2}^2 h_{1,n} \in F_1^{5,t,*}$ . But it is sent to 0 in  $E_1^{5,t,*}$ .

Compute the May filtrations of the generators given above, we get the proposition.

**Proposition 3.2** Let  $3 \le s < p-1$  be a positive integer,  $t_s = 2(p-1)((s-2) + sp + sp^2 + p^n) + s - 3$  with  $n \ge 4$ . Then the  $E_1$ -term of the MSS  $E_1^{s-r+3,t_s-r+1,*}$  is zero except for r = 1.  $E_1^{s+2,2(p-1)((s-2)+sp+sp^2+p^n)+s-3,M}$  are the Z/p-modules generated by

$$a_3^{s-3}h_{3,0}h_{2,1}h_{1,n}b_{2,0} \qquad \text{with } M = 7s + 3p - 12,$$
  
$$a_3^{s-3}h_{3,0}h_{2,1}h_{1,2}h_{1,1}h_{1,n} \qquad \text{with } M = 7s - 10.$$

**Proof** For r = 1,  $t_s - r + 1 = 2(p-1)((s-2) + sp + sp^2 + p^n) + s - 3$ , suppose we have a generator  $g = (x_1 \cdots x_b) \cdot (y_1 \cdots y_l) \cdot (z_1 \cdots z_m)$  of the form (3.1) in  $E_1^{s+2,t_s,*}$ . Then from  $b + l + 2m = s + 2 and <math>b \equiv t_s \mod 2(p-1)$ , we see that b = s - 3 and then (b, l, m) is one of (s - 3, 5, 0), (s - 3, 3, 1) and (s - 3, 1, 2).

For (b, l, m) = (s - 3, 5, 0), the corresponding equation (3.3) becomes

$$\begin{cases} x_{1,0} + \dots + x_{s-3,0} + y_{1,0} + \dots + y_{5,0} = s - 2 + k_1 p = c_0, \\ x_{1,1} + \dots + x_{s-3,1} + y_{1,1} + \dots + y_{5,1} = s + k_2 p - k_1 = c_1, \\ x_{1,2} + \dots + x_{s-3,2} + y_{1,2} + \dots + y_{5,2} = s + k_3 p - k_2 = c_3, \\ x_{1,3} + \dots + x_{s-3,3} + y_{1,3} + \dots + y_{5,3} = 0 + k_4 p - k_3 = c_3, \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ x_{1,n-1} + \dots + x_{s-3,n-1} + y_{1,n-1} + \dots + y_{5,n-1} = 0 + k_n p - k_{n-1} = c_{n-1}, \\ x_{1,n} + \dots + x_{s-3,n} + y_{1,n} + \dots + y_{5,n} = 1 - k_n = c_n. \end{cases}$$
(3.5)

To solve the equation (3.5), noticing that each row has s + 2 entries, we firstly determine that  $k_1 = k_2 = \cdots = k_n = 0$  for s . In the case <math>s = p - 2, notice that each row has pentries which may cause carry on the fourth row. Thus the carrying numbers  $k_1, k_2, \cdots , k_n$  have another possibility  $k_1 = k_2 = k_3 = 0, k_4 = \cdots = k_n = 1$ .

For  $k_1 = k_2 = \cdots = k_n = 0$ , similarly to the proof of Proposition 3.1, we see that all the entries in the 4<sup>th</sup> ~  $(n-1)^{th}$  rows are 0, and then the last row is  $(0 \cdots 0 \mid 0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 1)$  or  $(0 \cdots 0 \mid 0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 1 \ 0)$ .

(1) The last row is  $(0 \cdots 0 \mid 0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 1 \ 0)$ . In this case the equation (3.5) has a solution, but it deduces none by Remark 3.1(2).

(2) The last row is  $(0 \cdots 0 | 0 0 0 0 1)$ . In this case the equation (3.5) has 6 solutions, and they deduce the following generators in  $F_1^{s+2,t_s,*}$ :

But only the generator  $a_3^{s-3}h_{3,0}h_{2,1}h_{1,1}h_{1,2}h_{1,n}$  is sent to a nonzero generator of  $E_1^{s+2,t_s,*}$ .

In the case  $k_1 = k_2 = k_3 = 0$ ,  $k_4 = \cdots = k_n = 1$ , notice that the fourth equation is

$$x_{1,3} + \dots + x_{p-5,3} + y_{1,3} + \dots + y_{5,3} = 0 + p = p.$$

Thus the fourth row must be  $(1 \cdots 1 | 1 1 1 1)$ , from which we see that the beginning four rows are

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & \cdots & 1 & | & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & \cdots & 1 & | & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & \cdots & 1 & | & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & \cdots & 1 & | & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{array}{c} p-4 \\ p-2 \\ p-2 \\ p. \end{array}$$

Then since the sum of the fifth row is 0 + p - 1, we get 4 solutions, which deduce the following generators of  $F_1^{p,t_{p-2},*}$ :

$$a_n^{p-5}h_{n,0}h_{n-1,1}^2h_{n-3,3}h_{1,3}, \quad a_n^{p-5}h_{n,0}h_{n-1,1}h_{3,1}h_{n-3,3}^2, a_n^{p-5}h_{4,0}h_{n-1,1}^2h_{n-3,3}^2, \qquad a_n^{p-6}a_4h_{n,0}h_{n-1,1}^2h_{n-3,3}^2.$$

But they are all sent to zero in  $E_1^{p,t_{p-2},*}$ .

For (b, l, m) = (s - 3, 3, 1), the corresponding equation (3.3) becomes

$$\begin{cases} \sum_{1 \le i \le s-3} x_{i,0} + y_{1,0} + y_{2,0} + y_{3,0} &= s-2+k_1p = c_0, \\ \sum_{1 \le i \le s-3} x_{i,1} + y_{1,1} + y_{2,1} + y_{3,1} + z_{1,1} &= s+k_2p-k_1 = c_1, \\ \sum_{1 \le i \le s-3} x_{i,2} + y_{1,2} + y_{2,2} + y_{3,2} + z_{1,2} &= s+k_3p-k_2 = c_3, \\ \sum_{1 \le i \le s-3} x_{i,3} + y_{1,3} + y_{2,3} + y_{3,3} + z_{1,3} &= 0+k_2p-k_1 = c_3, \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \sum_{1 \le i \le s-3} x_{i,n-1} + y_{1,n-1} + y_{2,n-1} + y_{3,n-1} + z_{1,n-1} = 0 + k_np - k_{n-1} = c_{n-1}, \\ \sum_{1 \le i \le s-3} x_{i,n} + y_{1,n} + y_{2,n} + y_{3,n} + z_{1,n} &= 1-k_n &= c_n. \end{cases}$$

Similarly we determine that  $k_1 = k_2 = \cdots = k_n = 0$ . Then all the entries in the 4<sup>th</sup> ~ (n-1)<sup>th</sup> rows are 0, and the last row is  $(0 \cdots 0 \mid 0 \ 0 \ 0 \mid 1)$  or  $(0 \cdots 0 \mid 0 \ 0 \ 1 \mid 0)$ , from which we get the following two solutions

1	1		1	1	0	0	0)	s-2	/ 1		1	1	0	0	0 \	s-2
1	1	• • •	1	1	1	1	0	s	1	• • •	1	1	1	0	1	s
	1	• • •	1	1	1	1	0	s	1	• • •	1	1	1	0	1	s
	0	• • •	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	• • •	0	0	0	0	0	0
	:		:	:	:	:	:	:	:		:	:	:	:	:	:
	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	· ·		•	•	•	•	· ·	•
	0	• • •	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	• • •	0	0	0	0	0	0
	0	• • •	0	0	0	0	1/	1	$\int 0$	• • •	0	0	0	1	0/	1

and they deduce the generators  $a_3^{s-3}h_{3,0}h_{2,1}^2b_{1,n-1}$  and  $a_3^{s-3}h_{3,0}h_{2,1}h_{1,n}b_{2,0}$  of  $F_1^{s+2,t_s,*}$  respectively. But the former one is sent to zero in  $E_1^{s+2,t_s,*}$ .

For (b, l, m) = (s - 3, 1, 2), the corresponding equation (3.3) has no solution.

For r > 1,  $t_s - r + 1 = 2(p-1)((s-2) + sp + sp^2 + p^n) + s - r - 2$ , suppose we have a generator  $g = (x_1 \cdots x_b) \cdot (y_1 \cdots y_l) \cdot (z_1 \cdots z_m)$  of the form (3.1) in  $E_1^{s-r+3,t_s-r+1,*}$ . Similarly we see that b = s - r - 2, and (b, l, m) is the one in (s - r - 2, 1, 2), (s - r - 2, 3, 1) and (s - r - 2, 5, 0). Considering the corresponding equations (3.3), we see that they all have no solution except for r = 2 and (b, l, m) = (s - r - 2, 5, 0) = (s - 4, 5, 0). In this case, the corresponding equation (3.5) has one solution which induces the generator  $a_3^{s-4}h_{3,0}^2h_{2,1}^2h_{1,n}$  of  $F_1^{s+1,t_s-1,*}$ .

Computing the May filtrations of the generators above we get the proposition.

### 4 The Proof of Theorem A

From [4, 10] and Corollary 2.1, we see that the homotopy elements  $\gamma_2$ ,  $\gamma_s$  for  $3 \leq s < p$  and  $j\xi_n$  are represented by  $2b_{2,0}h_{1,2}$ ,  $\tilde{\gamma}_s$  and  $b_0h_n - h_1b_{n-1}$  respectively. Thus  $\tilde{\gamma}_s(b_0h_n - h_1b_{n-1})$  and  $2b_{2,0}h_{1,2}(b_0h_n - h_1b_{n-1})$  are permanent cycles if:

(1)  $\tilde{\gamma}_s(b_0h_n - h_1b_{n-1})$  and  $2b_{2,0}h_{1,2}(b_0h_n - h_1b_{n-1})$  are not zero in the Ext groups. This could be proved by showing that no May differentials hit  $\tilde{\gamma}_s(b_0h_n - h_1b_{n-1})$  and  $2b_{2,0}h_{1,2}(b_0h_n - h_1b_{n-1})$  in the MSS.

(2) No Adams differentials hit  $\tilde{\gamma}_s(b_0h_n - h_1b_{n-1})$  and  $2b_{2,0}h_{1,2}(b_0h_n - h_1b_{n-1})$ . This could be proved by showing that

$$\operatorname{Ext}_{A}^{s-r+3,\bar{t}_{s}+s-r-2}(Z/p,Z/p) = 0 \quad \text{for } r \ge 2,$$
$$\operatorname{Ext}_{A}^{6-r,2(p-1)(2p+2p^{2}+p^{n})-r+1}(Z/p,Z/p) = 0 \quad \text{for } r \ge 2.$$

This was done in Proposition 3.1 and Proposition 3.2 by showing that the corresponding  $E_1$ -terms of the MSS are zero.

**Lemma 4.1** In the cobar complex  $\Omega^2(A)$  we have the cochain  $\tilde{b}_{2,0}$  such that

$$d(\tilde{b}_{2,0}) = -\tilde{b}_{1,1} \otimes \xi_1^p + \xi_1^{p^2} \otimes \tilde{b}_{1,0},$$

where

$$p \tilde{b}_{2,0} = (\xi_2 \otimes 1 + \xi_1^p \otimes \xi_1 + 1 \otimes \xi_2)^p - \xi_2^p \otimes 1 - \xi_1^{p^2} \otimes \xi_1^p - 1 \otimes \xi_2^p,$$
  

$$p \tilde{b}_{1,0} = (\xi_1 \otimes 1 + 1 \otimes \xi_1)^p - \xi_1^p \otimes 1 - 1 \otimes \xi_1^p,$$
  

$$p \tilde{b}_{1,1} = (\xi_1 \otimes 1 + 1 \otimes \xi_1)^{p^2} - \xi_1^{p^2} \otimes 1 - 1 \otimes \xi_1^{p^2}.$$

Thus in the MSS we have  $d_{2p-1}(b_{2,0}) = -b_{1,1}h_{1,1} + h_{1,2}b_{1,0}$ .

**Proof** In the cobar complex for  $BP_*BP$ , consider the differential  $d(c(t_2^p))$ , where  $c : BP_*BP \to BP_*BP$  is the conjugation of  $BP_*BP$ . Then from the commutativity of the following diagram

and (2.3), we see that

$$d(c(t_2^p)) \equiv -p\,\tilde{b}_{2,0} - c(t_1^{p^2}) \otimes c(t_1^p) \qquad \text{mod}\,(p^2, p\,v_1, v_1^p),$$
  
$$d(d(c(t_2^p))) \equiv -p\,d(\tilde{b}_{2,0}) - d(c(t_1^{p^2}) \otimes c(t_1^p)) \equiv 0 \quad \text{mod}\,(p^2, p\,v_1, v_1^p).$$

Thus we have  $d(\tilde{b}_{2,0}) = \tilde{b}_{1,1} \otimes c(t_1^p) - c(t_1^{p^2}) \otimes \tilde{b}_{1,0} \mod (p, v_1)$ , where

$$p \tilde{b}_{2,0} = (c(t_2) \otimes 1 + c(t_1^p) \otimes c(t_1) + 1 \otimes c(t_2))^p - c(t_2^p) \otimes 1 - c(t_1^{p^2}) \otimes c(t_1^p) - 1 \otimes c(t_2^p),$$
  

$$p \tilde{b}_{1,1} = (c(t_1) \otimes 1 + 1 \otimes c(t_1))^{p^2} - c(t_1^{p^2}) \otimes 1 - 1 \otimes c(t_1^{p^2}),$$
  

$$p \tilde{b}_{1,0} = (c(t_1) \otimes 1 + 1 \otimes c(t_1))^p - c(t_1^p) \otimes 1 - 1 \otimes c(t_1^p).$$

Applying the Thom map, we get the lemma from  $\Phi \cdot d = -d \cdot \Phi$ .

**Proposition 4.1** For  $n \ge 4$ , no May differentials hit  $2b_{2,0}h_{1,2}(b_0h_n - h_1b_{n-1})$  in the MSS, and then  $\tilde{\gamma}_2(b_0h_n - h_1b_{n-1})$  is a permanent cycle in the ASS.

**Proof** Consider the May differential  $d_r: E_r^{5,*,M+r} \to E_r^{6,*,M}$ , we see that  $\tilde{\gamma}_2(b_0h_n - h_1b_{n-1})$  is represented by  $2b_{2,0}h_{1,2}(b_{1,0}h_{1,n} - h_{1,1}b_{1,n-1})$  in  $E_r^{6,*,M}$  with May filtration M = 4p+2. From Proposition 3.1, we see that only the generators  $b_{2,0}^2h_{1,n}$  and  $b_{2,0}h_{2,1}b_{1,n-1}$  have May filtration > 4p+2. From Lemma 4.1, we see that

$$d_{2p-1}(b_{2,0}^2h_{1,n}) = 2b_{2,0}(-b_{1,1}h_{1,1} + h_{1,2}b_{1,0})h_{1,n},$$
  
$$d_1(b_{2,0}h_{2,1}b_{1,n-1}) = b_{2,0}h_{1,2}h_{1,1}b_{1,n-1}.$$

Thus

$$d_{2p-1}(b_{2,0}^2h_{1,n} - 2b_{2,0}h_{2,1}b_{1,n-1}) = 2b_{2,0}h_{1,2}(b_{1,0}h_{1,n} - h_{1,1}b_{1,n-1}) - 2b_{2,0}b_{1,1}h_{1,1}h_{1,n}.$$

The proposition follows.

**Proposition 4.2** For  $n \ge 4$  and  $3 \le s , no May differentials hit <math>a_3^{s-3}h_{3,0}h_{2,1}h_{1,2}$  $(b_0h_n - h_1b_{n-1})$  in the MSS, and then  $\tilde{\gamma}_s(b_0h_n - h_1b_{n-1})$  is a permanent cycle in the ASS.

**Proof** It is easy to see that  $a_3^{s-3}h_{3,0}h_{2,1}h_{1,2}(b_0h_n - h_1b_{n-1}) \in E_r^{s+3,*,M}$  has May filtration M = 7s + p - 11. From Proposition 3.2, we see that in  $E_1^{s+2,*,M+r}$ , only the generator  $a_3^{s-3}h_{3,0}h_{2,1}h_{1,n}b_{2,0}$  has May filtration

$$M + r = 7s + 3p - 12 > 7s + p - 11.$$

Notice that

$$d_1(a_3^{s-3}h_{3,0}h_{2,1}h_{1,n}b_{2,0}) = -a_3^{s-3}h_{3,0}h_{1,2}h_{1,1}h_{1,n}b_{2,0} + \dots \neq 0.$$

Thus the corresponding  $E_2^{s+2,*,M+r} = 0$  and no May differentials hit  $a_3^{s-3}h_{3,0}h_{2,1}h_{1,2}(b_0h_n - h_1b_{n-1})$ . The proposition follows.

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