

## An old-fashioned elementary talk

Peter May

I will explain an easy conceptual theorem that every expert on operads should know, but that does not seem to be in the literature in its general form. Let  $L$  be the cosimplicial chain complex given by the simplicial chains of the standard simplices. The Eilenberg-Zilber operad  $EZ$  is the endomorphism operad of  $L$ . Let  $F$  be a cosimplicial commutative DGA. Then the cochain complex  $Hom(L, F)$  is an  $EZ$ -algebra. That's the "theorem".

Working  $mod p$ , this gives Steenrod operations on  $H^*(Hom(L, F))$ . Working rationally,  $Hom(L, F)$  is equivalent to a commutative DGA. As I will explain, the theorem specializes to give the action of  $EZ$  on the singular cochains of spaces, on the Čech (or Godement) cochains of sheaves, and on the cobar construction of cocommutative Hopf algebras. The ideas illustrate a general methodology, no easy variant of which can work to recover Voevodsky's Steenrod operations in motivic cohomology.

AN OLD-FASHIONED ELEMENTARY TALK

J.P. MAY

$\mathcal{C}$  an  $E_\infty$  operad over  $\mathbb{F}_p$ , structure maps  $\gamma$ .

$X$  a  $\mathcal{C}$ -algebra, action maps  $\theta$ .

$$\theta: \mathcal{C}(p) \otimes X^p \longrightarrow X$$

Pass to homology (cochains: cohomology).

Get Steenrod operations  $P^i$ .

1970: Pre-operadic framework in “A general algebraic approach to Steenrod operations”.

1971: Diagrammatic definition of operads.

1972: “The geometry of iterated loop spaces”.

# CARTAN FORMULA

$$P^k(xy) = \sum_{i+j=k} P^i(x)P^j(y)$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \mathcal{C}(p) \otimes (\mathcal{C}(2) \otimes X^2)^p & \xrightarrow{\text{id} \otimes \theta^p} & \mathcal{C}(p) \otimes X^p \\
 \text{shuffle} \downarrow & & \downarrow \theta \\
 \mathcal{C}(p) \otimes \mathcal{C}(2)^p \otimes X^{2p} & & \\
 \gamma \otimes \text{id} \downarrow & & \\
 \mathcal{C}(2p) \otimes X^{2p} & \xrightarrow{\theta} & X \\
 \gamma \otimes \text{id} \uparrow & & \uparrow \theta \\
 \mathcal{C}(2) \otimes \mathcal{C}(p)^2 \otimes X^{2p} & & \\
 \text{shuffle} \uparrow & & \\
 \mathcal{C}(2) \otimes (\mathcal{C}(p) \otimes X^p)^2 & \xrightarrow{\text{id} \otimes \theta^2} & \mathcal{C}(2) \otimes X^2
 \end{array}$$

## ADEM RELATIONS

(Cohomological version)

If  $i < pj$ , then

$$P^i P^j = \sum_k (-1)^{i+k} (\text{binom coeff}) P^{i+j-k} P^k$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \mathcal{C}(p) \otimes (\mathcal{C}(p) \otimes X^p)^p & \xrightarrow{\text{id} \otimes \theta^p} & \mathcal{C}(p) \otimes X^p \\
 \downarrow \text{shuffle} & & \downarrow \theta \\
 & & X \\
 & & \uparrow \theta \\
 \mathcal{C}(p) \otimes \mathcal{C}(p)^p \otimes X^{p^2} & \xrightarrow{\gamma \otimes \text{id}} & \mathcal{C}(p^2) \otimes X^{p^2}
 \end{array}$$

General diagram a small step from there.

Equivariance crucial to Steenrod operations,  
non-symmetric operads a simpler notion.

## The classical source of $E_\infty$ algebras

Fix a commutative ring  $R$  of coefficients.

Let  $\text{Ch}(R)$  be the category of  $\mathbb{Z}$ -graded  $R$ -cochain complexes. (Grading:  $X_q = X^{-q}$ )

Let  $L: \Delta \longrightarrow \text{Ch}(R)$  be the cosimplicial chain complex given by the (normalized) simplicial chains of the standard simplices,

$$n \mapsto L_n = C_*(\Delta_n),$$

regraded cohomologically.

**Definition 1.** The *Eilenberg-Zilber operad*  $\mathcal{Z}$  is the endomorphism operad of  $L$ .

**Theorem 2.** *Let  $F$  be a cosimplicial commutative DGA. Then the cochain complex  $\text{Hom}_\Delta(L, F)$  is a  $\mathcal{Z}$ -algebra.*

## Hom and the endomorphism operad of $L$

For cosimplicial objects  $L, M$  in  $\text{Ch}(R)$ ,  $\text{Hom}_\Delta(L, M)$  is the equalizer in  $\text{Ch}(R)$ :

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{Hom}_\Delta(L, M) \\ \downarrow \\ \prod_n \text{Hom}(L_n, M_n) \\ \downarrow \downarrow \\ \prod_{\alpha: m \rightarrow n} \text{Hom}(L_m, M_n) \end{array}$$

Parallel arrow components on  $(f_n)$  are

$$(f_n \circ L(\alpha)) \quad \text{and} \quad (L(\alpha) \circ f_m).$$

$\text{Hom}_\Delta$  is often denoted “Tot”.

$L^j: \Delta \longrightarrow \text{Ch}(R)$  is defined by  $n \mapsto L_n^{\otimes j}$ .

$$\mathcal{L}(j) = \text{End}(L)(j) = \text{Hom}_\Delta(L, L^j).$$

$\Sigma_j$  acts by permutations on  $L^j$ .

$\eta: R \longrightarrow \mathcal{L}(1)$  sends 1 to  $(\text{id}_n)$ .

$\gamma: \mathcal{L}(k) \otimes \mathcal{L}(j_1) \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathcal{L}(j_k) \longrightarrow \mathcal{L}(j)$ ,

$j = j_1 + \cdots + j_k$ , is the composite:

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \mathcal{L}(k) \otimes \mathcal{L}(j_1) \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathcal{L}(j_k) \\
 \downarrow \text{id} \otimes k\text{-fold } \otimes\text{-product} \\
 \mathcal{L}(k) \otimes \text{Hom}_\Delta(L^k, L^j) \\
 \downarrow \text{twist} \\
 \text{Hom}_\Delta(L^k, L^j) \otimes \text{Hom}_\Delta(L, L^k) \\
 \downarrow \text{composition} \\
 \mathcal{L}(j).
 \end{array}$$

McClure-Smith: this is a ‘functor operad’.

## Proof of Theorem 2

$$\theta: \mathcal{Z}(j) \otimes \mathrm{Hom}_\Delta(L, F)^j \longrightarrow \mathrm{Hom}_\Delta(L, F)$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
\mathrm{Hom}_\Delta(L, L^j) \otimes \mathrm{Hom}_\Delta(L, F)^j \\
\downarrow \text{id} \otimes j\text{-fold} \otimes\text{-product} \\
\mathrm{Hom}_\Delta(L, L^j) \otimes \mathrm{Hom}_\Delta(L^j, F^j) \\
\downarrow \text{twist} \\
\mathrm{Hom}_\Delta(L^j, F^j) \otimes \mathrm{Hom}_\Delta(L, L^j) \\
\downarrow \text{composition} \\
\mathrm{Hom}_\Delta(L, F^j) \\
\downarrow \mathrm{Hom}_\Delta(\mathrm{id}, \phi) \\
\mathrm{Hom}_\Delta(L, F),
\end{array}$$

where  $\phi: F^j \longrightarrow F$  is the unit map if  $j = 0$  ( $F^0 = R$ ), the identity if  $j = 1$ , and the iterated product of the DGA's  $F_n$  if  $j \geq 2$ .

**Corollary 3.**  *$\mathrm{Hom}_\Delta(L, F)$  is an  $E_\infty$ -algebra.*

## The Eilenberg-Zilber theorem

Let  $\mathcal{C}om$  be the operad  $\mathcal{C}om(j) = R$ .

$C_*(\Delta_0) \cong R$ , and restriction to cosimplicial level 0 gives  $\varepsilon: \mathcal{Z} \longrightarrow \mathcal{C}om$ .

**Theorem 4** (Eilenberg-Zilber). *The map  $\varepsilon$  is a quasi-isomorphism of operads.*

$E_\infty: \mathcal{E}(j)$  is an  $R[\Sigma_j]$ -free resolution of  $R$ .

$\mathcal{Z}(j)_q \neq 0$  for  $q < 0$  and  $\mathcal{Z}(j)$  not  $\Sigma_j$ -free.

**Proposition 5.** *There is a quasi-isomorphism  $\mathcal{E} \longrightarrow \mathcal{Z}$ , where  $\mathcal{E}$  is an  $E_\infty$ -operad.*

- (1) Mandell: truncate, tensor with  $\mathcal{E}$ .
- (2) McClure-Smith: beautiful example.
- (3) Tutti: Cofibrant approximation.

## Example: simplicial cochains

DGA's with terms concentrated in degree 0, so zero differential, are just commutative  $R$ -algebras.

Let  $X$  be a simplicial set,  $R[X]$  the free simplicial  $R$ -module generated by  $X$ , and

$$R^{[X]} = \text{Hom}_R(R[X], R),$$

the dual cosimplicial  $R$ -module. Its  $n$ th term  $R^{X_n}$  is an  $R$ -algebra via the product of  $R$ . Diagonal  $X_n \longrightarrow X_n \times X_n$  used implicitly.

$$C^*(X; R) \cong \text{Hom}_\Delta(L, R^{[X]})$$

*Proof.*

$$C_*(X; R) \cong L \otimes_{\Delta^{\text{op}}} R[X]$$

In degree  $n$ , the right side is  $R$ -free on  $i_n \otimes X_n$ , and the differentials agree.

$$\text{Hom}_R(L \otimes_{\Delta^{\text{op}}} R[X], R) \cong \text{Hom}_\Delta(L, R^{[X]})$$

□

## Example: Čech cochains of sheaves

Let  $X$  be a space,  $\mathcal{U}$  an open cover indexed on an ordered set  $I$ . Let  $\mathcal{U}_n$  be the set of ordered  $(n + 1)$ -tuples

$$S = \{U_{i_0}, \dots, U_{i_n}\}$$

(allowing repeats) of sets in  $\mathcal{U}$  whose intersection  $U_S$  is non-empty.  $\mathcal{U}_\bullet$  is a simplicial set. The  $q$ th face deletes the  $q$ th set. The  $q$ th degeneracy repeats the  $q$ th set.

Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be a presheaf of  $R$ -modules on  $X$ . Define a cosimplicial  $R$ -module  $\mathcal{F}_\bullet^\mathcal{U}$  by

$$\mathcal{F}_\mathcal{U}^n = \prod_{S \in \mathcal{U}_n} \mathcal{F}(U_S).$$

The cofaces and codegeneracies are induced by restriction maps associated to the faces and degeneracies of  $\mathcal{U}_\bullet$ . Čech cochains:

$$\check{C}^*(\mathcal{U}, \mathcal{F}) = \text{Hom}_\Delta(L, \mathcal{F}_\bullet^\mathcal{U}).$$

Since  $C_*(\Delta_n)$  is normalized, the products implicit on the right have coordinates 0 when  $S$  contains repeats. This agrees with the usual definition of Čech cochains. Pass to colimits over refinements of covers to obtain a cosimplicial  $R$ -module  $\mathcal{F}^\bullet$ . Then

$$\check{C}^*(X, \mathcal{F}) = \text{Hom}_\Delta(L, \mathcal{F}^\bullet).$$

**Proposition 6.** *If  $\mathcal{F}$  is a presheaf of commutative  $R$ -algebras,  $\mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{U}}^\bullet$  and  $\mathcal{F}^\bullet$  are cosimplicial commutative  $R$ -algebras.*

*Proof.* The product on  $\mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{U}}^n$  is

$$\begin{array}{c} (\prod_{S \in \mathcal{U}_n} \mathcal{F}(U_S)) \otimes (\prod_{T \in \mathcal{U}_n} \mathcal{F}(U_T)) \\ \downarrow \\ \prod_{S \in \mathcal{U}_n} (\mathcal{F}(U_S) \otimes \mathcal{F}(U_S)) \\ \downarrow \\ \mathcal{F}(U_S) \end{array}$$

First arrow is projection on diagonal factors.

Pass to colimits for  $\mathcal{F}^\bullet$ .  $\square$

Get Steenrod operations when  $R = \mathbb{F}_p$ .

Usual properties?

Cartan formula, Adem relations, but:

*Remark 7.*  $C_{pq-i}(\Delta^q) = 0$  if  $pq - i > q$  implies  $P^s = 0$  for  $s < 0$  in  $\check{H}^*(X, \mathcal{F})$ . Not true in hypercohomology.  $P^0 \neq \text{Id}$  in  $\check{H}^*(X, \mathcal{F})$ ; rather  $P^0$  is the Frobenius operator obtained by applying the  $p$ th power in the algebras  $\mathcal{F}(U)$  to the coordinates of representative cocycles of cohomology classes.

## Example: Hypercohomology

Generalize. For a presheaf  $\mathcal{F}$  of cochain complexes on  $X$ , get cosimplicial cochain complexes  $\mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{U}}^{\bullet}$  and Čech hypercochains

$$\check{C}^*(\mathcal{U}, \mathcal{F}) = \text{Hom}_{\Delta}(L, \mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{U}}^{\bullet}).$$

Passing to colimits over covers, get  $\mathcal{F}^{\bullet}$  and

$$\check{C}^*(X, \mathcal{F}) = \text{Hom}_{\Delta}(L, \mathcal{F}^{\bullet}).$$

**Proposition 8.** *If  $\mathcal{F}$  is a presheaf of commutative DGA's, then  $\mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{U}}^{\bullet}$  and  $\mathcal{F}^{\bullet}$  are cosimplicial commutative DGA's.*

## Operadic generalization

We may encounter  $E_\infty$  algebras rather than commutative DGA's. For operads  $\mathcal{O}$  and  $\mathcal{P}$ ,  $(\mathcal{O} \otimes \mathcal{P})(j) = \mathcal{O}(j) \otimes \mathcal{P}(j)$ , with structure maps determined by those of  $\mathcal{O}$  and  $\mathcal{P}$ .

**Theorem 9.** *If  $F$  is a cosimplicial  $\mathcal{O}$ -algebra with structure maps  $\theta$ , then  $\text{Hom}_\Delta(L, F)$  is an algebra over  $\mathcal{O} \otimes \mathcal{L}$  with action maps*

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \mathcal{O}(j) \otimes \mathcal{L}(j) \otimes \text{Hom}_\Delta(L, F)^j \\
 \downarrow \text{id} \otimes \xi \\
 \mathcal{O}(j) \otimes \text{Hom}_\Delta(L, F^j) \\
 \downarrow \zeta \\
 \text{Hom}_\Delta(L, \mathcal{O}(j) \otimes F^j) \\
 \downarrow \text{Hom}_\Delta(\text{id}, \theta) \\
 \text{Hom}_\Delta(L, F).
 \end{array}$$

$\xi$ : tensor, twist, and compose, as before.

$\zeta$ : induced from  $\zeta(x \otimes f)(y) = x \otimes f(y)$ ,

$\zeta: X \otimes \text{Hom}(Y, Z) \longrightarrow \text{Hom}(Y, X \otimes Z)$ .

**Theorem 10.** *If  $\mathcal{F}$  is a presheaf of  $\mathcal{O}$ -algebras,  $\check{C}^*(\mathcal{U}, \mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{U}})$  and  $\check{C}^*(X, \mathcal{F})$  are  $\mathcal{O} \otimes \mathcal{L}$ -algebras.*

**Proposition 11.** *If  $\mathcal{O}$  is acyclic, there is an  $E_{\infty}$  operad  $\mathcal{E}$  and a quasi-isomorphism  $\mathcal{E} \longrightarrow \mathcal{O} \otimes \mathcal{L}$ .*

*Remark 12.* Let  $\mathcal{S}$  be a site. Modifying the Čech construction to deal with covers  $\mathcal{U}$  of objects  $X$  in the site, everything adapts to the Čech cochain complexes of  $X$  with coefficients in sheaves on  $\mathcal{S}$  of the specified algebraic types. Just replace intersections with finite limits and observe, e.g., that finite limits of  $\mathcal{O}$ -algebras are  $\mathcal{O}$ -algebras.

## Example: Cocommutative Hopf algebras $A$

$B_n(A) = A^n$  gives  $n$ -th term of simplicial bar construction  $B_\bullet(A) = B_\bullet(R, A, R)$ .

$\psi: A \longrightarrow A \otimes A$  induces

$$B_\bullet(A) \longrightarrow B_\bullet(A \otimes A).$$

Shuffling tensor factors gives

$$B_\bullet(A \otimes A') \longrightarrow B_\bullet(A) \otimes B_\bullet(A').$$

Composing,  $B_\bullet(A)$  is a simplicial coalgebra, cocommutative since  $A$  is cocommutative.

Cosimplicial cobar construction

$$C^\bullet(A) = \text{Hom}_R(B_\bullet(A), R)$$

is a cosimplicial commutative  $R$ -algebra.

$$B(A) = L \otimes_{\Delta^{op}} B_\bullet(A)$$

$$C(A) = \text{Hom}_\Delta(L, C^\bullet(A))$$

Steenrod operations in  $\text{Ext}_A^{*,*}(\mathbb{F}_p, \mathbb{F}_p)$ .  
Used to study classical Adams spectral  
sequence and homotopical  $\cup_i$  products.

More generally, if  $A$  is a cocommutative  
DG-Hopf algebra,  $C^\bullet(A)$  is a cosimplicial  
commutative DGA. Hyperext  $\text{Ext}_A^{*,*}(\mathbb{F}_p, \mathbb{F}_p)$   
also has Steenrod operations.

## Characteristic zero

**Theorem 13.** *Let  $R$  be a field of characteristic 0. Then  $E_\infty$  algebras are quasi-isomorphic to commutative DGA's.*

$$A \xleftarrow{\cong} B(E, E, A) \xrightarrow{\cong} B(\text{Com}, E, A)$$

This uses the passage from operads  $\mathcal{E}$  to monads  $E$  that led to the name “operad”. It is a portmanteau of “operations” and “monad”.

## Relationship with topological spaces

Consider connected  $E_\infty$  algebras  $A$ ;  
 $A^q = 0$  if  $q < 0$ ,  $A^0 = R$ .

Quillen-Sullivan and Mandell:

$R = \mathbb{Q}$ : Homotopy category of nilpotent rational spaces embeds as a full subcategory of the homotopy category of DGA's.

Can apply rational homotopy theory to algebraic geometry (mixed Hodge structures Morgan, Hain, Navarro Aznar).

$R = \bar{\mathbb{F}}_p$ : Homotopy category of nilpotent  $p$ -complete spaces of finite type embeds as a full subcategory of the homotopy category of  $\mathcal{E}$ -algebras,  $\mathcal{E}$  an  $E_\infty$  operad.

Applications of  $p$ -adic homotopy theory to algebraic geometry?

## Symmetric sequences

A permutative category  $\mathcal{P}$  is a category with an associative and unital product and a natural commutativity isomorphism  $\tau$ .

**Definition 14.** Let  $\Sigma$  be the category with objects  $\mathbf{q} = \{1, \dots, q\}$  and morphisms the symmetric groups. It is permutative under concatenation of sets,  $(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{r}) \mapsto \mathbf{q} + \mathbf{r}$ , and induced homomorphisms  $\Sigma_q \times \Sigma_r \longrightarrow \Sigma_{q+r}$ ;  $\mathbf{0}$  is the unit and  $\tau$  is given by the block transpositions  $\tau_{q,r} \in \Sigma_{q+r}$ .

Fix a symmetric monoidal category  $(\mathcal{C}, \otimes, \kappa)$ .

Symmetric sequence in  $\mathcal{C}$ :  $F: \Sigma \longrightarrow \mathcal{C}$ .

## Example: Symmetric spectra

$\mathcal{C}$  = based spaces or simplicial sets under the smash product  $\wedge$ .

$$F(\mathbf{q}) \wedge S^r \longrightarrow F(\mathbf{q} + \mathbf{r})$$

Natural:  $F \wedge S \longrightarrow F \circ \oplus$ .

## Example: Symmetric monoids in $\mathcal{C}$

$$\begin{aligned} \phi: F(\mathbf{q}) \otimes F(\mathbf{r}) &\longrightarrow F(\mathbf{q} + \mathbf{r}), \\ \lambda: \kappa &\longrightarrow T(0) \end{aligned}$$

Associative, unital, and

$$\begin{array}{ccc} F(q) \otimes F(r) & \xrightarrow{\phi} & F(q + r) \\ \tau \downarrow & & \downarrow F(\tau_{q,r}) \\ F(r) \otimes F(q) & \xrightarrow{\phi} & F(q + r). \end{array}$$

Symmetric ring spectra are examples.

## Caterads versus PROP's

**Definition 15.** A *caterad* in  $\mathcal{C}$  is an enriched permutative category  $\mathcal{A}$  over  $\mathcal{C}$  with a permutative functor  $\iota: \Sigma \longrightarrow \mathcal{A}_0$  that is a bijection on objects.

$\mathcal{A}_0$  is the underlying category. Morphism objects  $\mathcal{A}(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q})$  and morphism sets  $\mathcal{A}_0(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q})$ .

Portmanteau of categories and operads.

PROP: Take  $\mathcal{C}$  to be sets.

Topological PROP: Take  $\mathcal{C}$  to be spaces.

PACT: Take  $\mathcal{C}$  to be  $Ch(R)$ .

## Non-example: presheaf singular chains

Let  $\mathcal{S} = \text{Sm}/k$  be the category of smooth separated schemes of finite type over a field  $k$ . Let  $\text{Pre}(\mathcal{S})$  be the category of presheaves on  $\mathcal{S}$ . Let  $\Delta^\bullet$  be the standard cosimplicial object in  $\mathcal{S}$ . Its  $n$ th scheme is

$$\Delta^n = \text{Spec}(k[t_0, \dots, t_n]/(\sum t_i - 1)),$$

with faces and degeneracies like those of the standard simplices  $\Delta^n$ .

**Definition 16.** For a presheaf  $\mathcal{F}$  on  $\mathcal{S}$ , define a simplicial presheaf  $\mathcal{F}_\bullet$  by

$$\mathcal{F}_n(X) = \mathcal{F}(X \times \Delta^n)$$

for  $X \in \mathcal{S}$ , with faces and degeneracies induced by those of  $\Delta^\bullet$ . If  $\mathcal{F}$  is Abelian,  $\mathcal{F}_\bullet$  is a simplicial Abelian presheaf. Applying the simplicial chain functor to  $\mathcal{F}_\bullet$  then gives the “singular chains”  $C_*(\mathcal{F})$ .

Now let  $\mathcal{F} = \{\mathcal{F}(q)\}$  be a sequence of Abelian presheaves with ‘external’ pairings

$$\mathcal{F}(q)(X) \otimes \mathcal{F}(r)(Y) \xrightarrow{\phi} \mathcal{F}(q+r)(X \times Y)$$

for  $X, Y \in \mathcal{S}$ . These give products

$$\begin{array}{c} \mathcal{F}(q)(X \times \Delta^n) \otimes \mathcal{F}(r)(X \times \Delta^n) \\ \downarrow \\ \mathcal{F}(q+r)(X \times \Delta^n \times X \times \Delta^n). \end{array}$$

Pull back along the diagonal of  $X \times \Delta^n$  to get an internal product

$$\phi: \mathcal{F}(q)_\bullet \otimes \mathcal{F}(r)_\bullet \longrightarrow \mathcal{F}(q+r)_\bullet$$

of simplicial Abelian presheaves.

Symmetric monoid  $\mathcal{F}_\bullet$  in  $\Delta^{\text{op}}\text{AbPre}(\mathcal{S})$ .

Pass to chains and compose with the shuffle map  $g$  to get a product map of presheaves of chain complexes

$$\begin{array}{c}
 C_*(\mathcal{F}(q)) \otimes C_*(\mathcal{F}(r)) \\
 \downarrow g \\
 C_*(\mathcal{F}(q) \otimes \mathcal{F}(r)) \\
 \downarrow \phi \\
 C_*(\mathcal{F}(q+r)).
 \end{array}$$

Choosing  $\mathcal{F}$  appropriately and reindexing cohomologically with a shift of grading, this is how products are defined formally on motivic cochains. The chain level product is not commutative because the pairing  $\phi$  is not commutative. *Symmetric monoids are not commutative.* This has nothing to do with the Eilenberg-Zilber operad.

*Voevodsky's Steenrod operations are like Steenrod operations: Eilenberg-MacLane objects central. But also like Dyer-Lashof operations: the shuffle chain map rather than the Eilenberg-Zilber map is used.*

Operad action? Yes and no. One yes answer (Kriz-May) gives Steenrod operations. The no answer says they can't be Voevodsky's operations for dimensional reasons.

**Theorem 17.** *Partial commutative DG-algebras have associated quasi-isomorphic  $E_\infty$ -algebras.*

**Theorem 18.** *Bloch's higher Chow complexes give a partial commutative DG-algebra under the intersection product.*

By a deep theorem of Suslin, the resulting  $E_\infty$ -algebras usually compute Voevodsky's motivic cohomology.

There is a coperad action on Voevodsky's cochains, but the coperad known to work is not acyclic (Guillou-May).