On products of some β -elements in the homotopy of the mod 3 Moore spectrum

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ABSTRACT. By β -elements, we mean the v_2 -periodic maps on the sphere spectrum S^0 or on the mod 3 Moore spectrum M. For the prime number p > 3, we can tell many examples of non-trivial products of β -elements, since $\pi_*(L_2S^0)$ is determined in [23], where L_2 denotes the Bousfield-Ravenel localization functor. On the other hand we have no idea about $\pi_*(L_2S^0)$ at the prime 3, and so the situation is different from the case p > 3. Here we study products related to β -elements in the homotopy groups $\pi_*(M)$ of the mod 3 Moore spectrum M, using our results [1] on $H^1M_1^1$ which relates to the E_2 -term of the Adams-Novikov spectral sequence for computing $\pi_*(M)$.

1. Introduction

Let BP denote the Brown-Peterson spectrum at a prime number p. Then the coefficient ring BP_* of the BP_* -homology theory is the polynomial algebra $Z_{(p)}[v_1, v_2, \ldots]$. The Morava K-theory $K(n)_*(-)$ is characterized by the coefficient ring $K(n)_* = \mathbb{Z}/p[v_n, v_n^{-1}]$. A spectrum X is of type n if $K(n)_{*}(X) \neq 0$ and $K(n-1)_{*}(X) = 0$, and a self-map $f: X \to X$ of a type n spectrum X is said to be a v_n -map if $K(n)_*(f) \neq 0$. By the name β -element, we mean an element of the homotopy groups of the mod p Moore spectrum Mor the sphere spectrum defined by using a v_2 -map on a type 2 spectrum V. For p > 3, we take V to be Toda-Smith spectrum V(1) and v_2 -map is β with $K(2)_*(\beta) = v_2$ constructed by [24] (cf. [25]). The homotopy β -elements are given by [5], [6], [7], [8], [9], [15], [26]. The non-triviality of β -elements itself is shown by Miller, Ravenel and Wilson [4]. The non-triviality of products of β -elements at the prime > 3 is studied in [2], [3] and [22] for the mod p Moore spectrum and [10], [11], [16], [17], [18], [19], [20] for the sphere spectrum. In [23], the homotopy groups $\pi_*(L_2S^0)$ are determined and render the non-triviality of the products of two β -elements for p > 3.

At the prime 3, S. Pemmaraju [12] shows the existence of $\beta_s \in \pi_{4(3s+s-1)-2}(S^0)$ for $s \equiv 0, 1, 2, 5, 6 \mod 9$, while $\beta_s \in \pi_{(sp+s-1)q-2}(S^0)$ at the prime p > 3 exists for any s > 0. In this paper, we assume his results

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including that $\beta'_s \in \pi_{4(3s+s-1)-1}(M)$ also exists if $s \equiv 0, 1, 2, 5, 6 \mod 9$. Here M denotes the mod 3 Moore spectrum. Note that the second author shows that β_s does not exist in $\pi_*(S^0)$ if $s \equiv 4, 7, 8 \mod 9$, and further shows the existence of $\beta_t \in \pi_*(L_2S^0)$ and $\beta'_t \in \pi_*(L_2M)$ if $t \equiv 0, 1, 5 \mod 9$ [21], where L_2 denotes the Bousfield-Ravenel localization functor with respect to $v_2^{-1}BP$. As is seen in his book [14], Ravenel shows the existence of another type of β -elements $\beta_{6/3} \in \pi_{82}(S^0)$. This result also indicates the existence of another β -elements α_s 's are all seen to be non-trivial elements of $\pi_{4s-1}(S^0)$ by the existence of the Adams map $\alpha : \Sigma^4 M \to M$ such that $BP_*(\alpha) = v_1$. In this paper we show the following theorems under the assumption of Permariaju's results. The first one is on the products with α -elements:

THEOREM A. In the homotopy groups $\pi_*(M)$ of the mod 3 Moore spectrum M,

$$\alpha_s \beta'_t \neq 0$$
 if $3 \not\mid st$.

We next consider products of β' -elements:

THEOREM B. In the homotopy groups $\pi_{\star}(M)$ of the mod 3 Moore spectrum M,

$$\beta'_{s}\beta'_{t} \neq 0$$
 if $3 \not\mid st$,

and

$$\beta'_s \beta'_{6/3} \neq 0$$
 if $3 \not\mid s$.

Since β'_t exists unless $t \equiv 3, 4, 7, 8 \mod 9$, these theorems are restated as:

THEOREM A'. The element $\alpha_s \beta'_t$ for s, t > 0 is essential in $\pi_*(M)$ if $s \neq 0$ mod 3 and $t \equiv 1, 2, 5 \mod 9$.

THEOREM B'. The element $\beta'_s \beta'_t$ for s, t > 0 is essential in $\pi_*(M)$ if $s, t \equiv 1, 2, 5 \mod 9$. If $s \equiv 1, 2, 5 \mod 9$, then $\beta'_s \beta'_{6/3}$ is an essential element of $\pi_*(M)$.

These follow from Theorem 3.3, which are the 2nd line phenomena. Now turn to the 3rd line phenomena.

THEOREM C. In the homotopy groups $\pi_*(M)$ of the mod 3 Moore spectrum M,

 $\beta_s'\beta_t\neq 0$

if
$$3|(s+t)$$
 and $3 \not\downarrow s$, or if $3|(s-t)$ and $3|(s-1)$, and
 $\beta'_{s}\beta_{6/3} \neq 0$ if $3 \not\downarrow s$.

This is also restated as:

THEOREM C'. The element $\beta'_s \beta_t$ is essential in $\pi_*(M)$ if $s \equiv 1 \mod 3$ and $t \equiv 1, 2, 5 \mod 9$, or if $s \equiv 2 \mod 3$ and $t \equiv 1 \mod 9$. If $s \equiv 1, 2, 5 \mod 9$, then $\beta'_s \beta_{6/3}$ is an essential element of $\pi_*(M)$.

This result follows from Theorem D below. In fact, Pemmaraju shows in [12] that β_i in the E_2 -term of the Adams-Novikov spectral sequence is a permanent cycle if $i \equiv 0, 1, 2, 5, 6^* \mod 9$. Therefore the result of the E_2 -term implies the result of the homotopy, since nothing killes the products in the spectral sequence by degree reason.

THEOREM D. In the E_2 -term of the Adams-Novikov spectral sequence for computing $\pi_*(M)$,

 $\begin{aligned} \beta_s' \beta_t &\neq 0\\ if \ 3|(s+t) \ and \ 3 \not\mid s, \ or \ if \ 3|(s-t) \ and \ 3|(s-1),\\ \beta_s' \beta_{3t/3} &\neq 0 \end{aligned}$

if $3 \nmid st$, and

$$\beta_s'\beta_{3^n t/a_s} \neq 0$$

if 3|(m+2) or 27|(m-8)(m+1), where $s = 3^{k-1}m - 3^{n-1}(3t-1)$ for k > 0 with $3 \not m$.

Here the integer a_k is $4 \cdot 3^{k-1} - 1$, and β -elements of the E_2 -term are defined in the next section. This follows from the main result of [1] immediately.

2. β -elements in the E_2 -term

Let *BP* denote the Brown-Peterson spectrum at the prime 3 whose homotopy groups $\pi_*(BP) = BP_*$ consist of a polynomial algebra $\mathbb{Z}_{(3)}[v_1, v_2, \ldots]$ over the Hazewinkel generators v_i with $|v_i| = 2(3^i - 1)$. Then $BP_*(-) = \pi_*(BP \wedge -)$ is a homology theory over the category of spectra. Moreover, the

^{*}There is a conjecture due to Ravenel that β_i exists if and only if $i \equiv 0, 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 \mod 9$. The 'only if' part is shown in [21]. In [12, Cor. 1.2], Pemmaraju claimed that the 'if' part is shown, but β_i with $i \equiv 3 \mod 9$ stays still undetermined.

pair $(BP_*, BP_*(BP))$ is a Hopf algebroid with structure maps $\eta_R = (i \wedge BP)_*$, $\eta_L = (BP \wedge i)_*$ and $\Delta = (BP \wedge i \wedge BP)_*$, where $i: S^0 \to BP$ denotes the unit map of the ring spectrum *BP*. The unit map also defines the exact couple which yields the Adams-Novikov spectral sequence

$$E_2^s(X) = \operatorname{Ext}_{BP_*(BP)}^s(BP_*, BP_*(X)) \Longrightarrow \pi_*(X \wedge SZ_{(3)})$$

for a spectrum X and the Moore spectrum $SZ_{(3)}$ with $\pi_0(SZ_{(3)}) = Z_{(3)}$. Here the E_2 -term is defined as a cohomology of the cobar complex $(\Omega^s(X), d_s) = (\Omega^s_{BP_*(BP)}BP_*(X), d_s)$, which is defined by

$$\Omega^{s}(X) = BP_{*}(X) \otimes_{BP_{*}} BP_{*}(BP) \otimes_{BP_{*}} \cdots \otimes_{BP_{*}} BP_{*}(BP),$$

(s copies of $BP_{*}(BP)$)

$$d_{s}(x \otimes \gamma_{1} \otimes \cdots \otimes \gamma_{s}) = \eta_{R}(x) \otimes \gamma_{1} \otimes \cdots \otimes \gamma_{s}$$

$$+ \sum_{k=1}^{s} (-1)^{k} x \otimes \gamma_{1} \otimes \cdots \otimes \gamma_{k-1} \otimes \varDelta(\gamma_{k}) \otimes \gamma_{k+1} \otimes \cdots \otimes \gamma_{s}$$

$$+ (-1)^{s+1} x \otimes \gamma_{1} \otimes \cdots \otimes \gamma_{s} \otimes 1, \cdot$$

for $x \in BP_*(X)$ and $\gamma_i \in BP_*(BP)$.

First we define the β -elements in the E_2 -terms $E_2^1(M)$ and $E_2^2(S^0)$ at the prime 3 in the same way as those at the prime p > 3. Here M denotes the mod 3 Moore spectrum. Recall [4] the elements x_i of $v_2^{-1}BP_*$:

$$x_0 = v_2, \qquad x_1 = v_2^3 - v_1^3 v_2^{-1} v_3, \qquad x_2 = x_1^3 - v_1^8 v_2^7 - v_1^{11} v_2^3 v_3 \qquad \text{and} \\ x_n = x_{n-1}^3 + v_1^{a_n - 3} v_2^{3^n - 3^{n-1} + 1} \qquad \text{for } n > 2,$$

for the integer a_n with $a_0 = 1$ and

$$a_n=4\cdot 3^{n-1}-1.$$

Now consider the differential $d_0 = \eta_R - \eta_L : v_2^{-1}BP_* \to v_2^{-1}BP_*(BP)$, and it is shown [4] that

(2.1)
$$d_{0}(x_{n}) \equiv v_{1}t_{1}^{3} \qquad n = 0,$$
$$\equiv v_{1}^{3}v_{2}^{2}(t_{1} + v_{1}(v_{2}^{-1}(t_{2} - t_{1}^{4}) - \zeta_{2})) \qquad n = 1,$$
$$\equiv -v_{1}^{a_{n}}v_{2}^{2\cdot3^{n-1}}(t_{1} + v_{1}\zeta_{2}^{3^{n-1}}) \qquad n > 1.$$

Here

(2.2) ([4]) ζ_2 represents a cocycle $v_2^{-1}t_2 + v_2^{-3}(t_2^3 - t_1^{12}) - v_2^{-4}v_3t_1^3$, which is homologous to $\zeta_2^{3^i}$ for $i \ge 0$ in $\Omega_{\Gamma}^1 E(2)_*/(3, v_1)$.

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Consider the comodules

$$N_0^0 = BP_*,$$

$$N_1^0 = BP_*/(3),$$

$$N_0^1 = BP_*/(3^{\infty}),$$

$$N_2^0 = BP_*/(3, v_1),$$

$$N_1^1 = BP_*/(3, v_1^{\infty}),$$

$$N_0^2 = BP_*/(3^{\infty}, v_1^{\infty}),$$

and $M_l^k = v_{k+l}^{-1} N_l^k$, whose comodule structures are induced from the right unit η_R . Then we have the short exact sequences

$$0 \longrightarrow N_0^0 \xrightarrow{\subset} M_0^0 \longrightarrow N_0^1 \longrightarrow 0,$$

$$0 \longrightarrow N_0^1 \xrightarrow{\subset} M_0^1 \longrightarrow N_0^2 \longrightarrow 0, \text{ and}$$

$$0 \longrightarrow N_1^0 \xrightarrow{\subset} M_1^0 \longrightarrow N_1^1 \longrightarrow 0,$$

with the associated connecting homomorphisms

$$\delta: H^s N_0^1 \to H^{s+1} N_0^0,$$

 $\delta': H^s N_0^2 \to H^{s+1} N_0^1,$
 $\delta_1: H^s N_1^1 \to H^{s+1} N_1^0.$

Here we use the abbreviation

$$H^{s}L = \operatorname{Ext}_{BP_{*}(BP)}^{s}(BP_{*},L)$$

for a comodule L. Note that $H^s N_0^0 = E_2^s(S^0)$ and $H^s N_1^0 = E_2^s(M)$. Since we compute

(2.3)
$$d_0(v_1^{3^n s}) \equiv 3^{n+1} s v_1^{3^n s-1} t_1 \mod (3^{n+2})$$

in $\Omega^1(S^0)$ by the formula $\eta_R(v_1) = v_1 + pt_1$ (cf. [14]), we see that

$$v_1^{3^n s}/3^k \in H^0 N_0^1$$

for $n \ge 0$, $s \ge 0$ and $0 < k \le n + 1$. Besides, we see by (2.1) that

$$x_n^s/v_1^j \in H^0 N_1^1$$
 and $x_n^s/3v_1^j \in H^0 N_0^2$

for $n \ge 0$, s > 0 and $0 < j \le a_n$. Now we can define the α - and β -elements:

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha_{3^n s/k} &= \delta(v_1^{3^n s}/3^k) \in H^1 N_0^0 = E_2^1(S^0). \\ \beta_{3^n s/j}' &= \delta_1(x_n^s/v_1^j) \in H^1 N_1^0 = E_2^1(M). \\ \beta_{3^n s/j} &= \delta \delta'(x_n^s/3v_1^j) \in H^2 N_0^0 = E_2^2(S^0) \end{aligned}$$

We abbreviate $\alpha_{s/1}$, $\beta_{s/1}$ and $\beta'_{s/1}$ by α_s , β_s and β'_s , respectively. Then the formula (2.3) yields immediately

(2.4)
$$\alpha_{3^n s/k} \equiv 3^{n-k+1} s v_1^{3^n s-1} h_{10} \mod (3^{n-k+2})$$

in $E_2^1(S^0)$, since h_{10} is represented by t_1 . Moreover, by definition together with (2.1), a β' -element is expressed by

(2.5)
$$\beta'_{s} \equiv sv_{2}^{s-1}h_{11} \mod (3, v_{1}),$$
$$\beta'_{3s/j} \equiv sv_{1}^{3-j}v_{2}^{3s-1}h_{10} \mod (3, v_{1}^{4-j}), \text{ and}$$
$$\beta'_{3^{k}s/j} \equiv -sv_{1}^{a_{k}-j}v_{2}^{3^{k-1}(3s-1)}h_{10} \mod (3, v_{1}^{a_{k}-j+1}) \text{ for } k > 1$$

in $E_2^1(M)$ by [4, Prop. 5.4] and β -elements are represented by the cocycles as follows (*cf.* [10]):

(2.6)
$$\beta_{s} \equiv {s \choose 2} v_{2}^{s-1} \zeta_{2} h_{11} + {s+1 \choose 2} v_{2}^{s-1} b_{0} \mod (3, v_{1}),$$
$$\beta_{3s/3} \equiv s v_{2}^{3s-3} b_{1} \mod (3, v_{1}), \text{ and}$$
$$\beta_{3^{k}s/a_{k}} \equiv -s v_{2}^{3^{k-1}(3s-1)} h_{10} \zeta \mod (3, v_{1}) \quad \text{for } k > 1$$

in $E_2^2(S^0)$. Here h_{11} and b_i are represented by t_1^3 and $-(t_1^{2\cdot 3^i} \otimes t_1^{3^i} + t_1^{3^i} \otimes t_1^{2\cdot 3^i})$, respectively. Moreover, ζ denotes the homology class which is represented by an element whose leading term is ζ_2 .

We end this section with explaining about the homotopy elements $\beta'_i \in \pi_{4(3t+3-1)-1}(L_2M)$. In [21], the existence is shown of $B_j: S^{16j} \to L_2V(1)$ for $j \equiv 0, 1, 5 \mod 9$ such that $BP_*(B_j) = v_2^j$. Here V(1) denotes the Toda-Smith spectrum, which is a cofiber of the Adams map $\alpha: \Sigma^4M \to M$. Now define

$$\beta_j' = \pi(B_j) \in \pi_*(L_2M),$$

where $\pi: V(1) \to \Sigma^5 M$ is the canonical projection. Then the Geometric Boundary Theorem (cf. [14]) shows that the β -elements of the E_2 -term converge to the same named homotopy elements in the Adams-Novikov spectral sequence.

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3. The non-triviality of products in $H^2 BP_*/3$

We have the exact sequence

$$H^1M_1^0 \to H^1N_1^1 \stackrel{\partial_1}{\longrightarrow} H^2BP_*/3,$$

in which $H^{1,t}M_1^0 = 0$ unless t = 0 by [4]. Therefore, δ_1 is monomorphic at t > 0. Moreover, (2.4) and (2.5) show the equations:

$$(3.1) \qquad \alpha_{3^{n}s/n+1}\beta'_{3^{m}t/j} = \delta_{1}(x_{m}^{t}\alpha_{3^{n}s/n+1}/v_{1}^{j}) = s\delta_{1}(v_{2}^{3^{m}t}h_{10}/v_{1}^{j-3^{n}s+1}) \beta'_{3^{n}s/k}\beta'_{3^{m}t/j} = \delta_{1}(x_{m}^{t}\beta'_{3^{n}s/k}/v_{1}^{j}) = \begin{cases} s\delta_{1}(v_{2}^{3^{m}t+s-1}h_{11}/v_{1}^{j}+\cdots) & n=0, \\ s\delta_{1}(v_{2}^{3^{m}t+3s-1}h_{10}/v_{1}^{j-3+k}+\cdots) & n=1, \\ -s\delta_{1}(v_{2}^{3^{m}t+3^{n-1}(3s-1)}h_{10}/v_{1}^{j-a_{n}+k}+\cdots) & n>1. \end{cases}$$

Recall [1, Th. 6.1] the structure of $H^1M_1^1$:

(3.2) $H^1M_1^1 = A \oplus B$. Here B is the direct sum of cyclic $k(1)_*$ -modules generated by the elements represented by the cocycles whose leading terms are:

$$v_2^{3^k(3t+1)}h_{10}/v_1^{a(k)}, \quad v_2^{3^k(9t-1)}h_{10}/v_1^{a'(k)}, \quad v_2^{3t-1}h_{11}/v_1^2 \quad and \quad v_2^{3^k u}\zeta/v_1^{a_k}$$

for $k \ge 0$ and $t, u \in \mathbb{Z}$ with $3 \not\downarrow u$. Here $k(1)_* = \mathbb{Z}/3[v_1]$ and the integers a(k), a'(k) and a_k are given by a(0) = 2, a'(0) = 10, $a_0 = 1$, $a(k) = 6 \cdot 3^{k-1} + 1$, $a'(k) = 28 \cdot 3^{k-1}$ and $a_k = 4 \cdot 3^{k-1} - 1$ for k > 0.

These facts show the following

THEOREM 3.3. In the E_2 -term of the Adams-Novikov spectral sequence for computing $\pi_*(M)$,

 $\alpha_{3^n s/n+1}\beta'_{3^m t/j} \neq 0 \quad if \quad 3 \not\prec st \quad and \quad 3 \not\prec t+1 \quad or \quad 9|t+1.$

$$\beta'_s \beta'_{3^m t/j} \neq 0$$
 if $3 \not\mid s$ for $m > 0$, or if $3 \not\mid st$ for $m = 0$.

Suppose that m > 0. Then,

$$\beta'_{3s/k}\beta'_{3^mt/j}$$
 if $j + k > 3$, $3 \not z$ su and $3 \not z u + 1$ or
 $9|u+1$ for $3^l u = 3^m t + 3s - 1$.

Suppose that $m \ge n$. Then,

$$\beta_{3^n s/k}' \beta_{3^m t/j}' \quad if \ j+k > a_n, \quad 3 \not su \quad and \quad 3 \not u+1 \quad or 9|u+1 \quad for \quad 3^l u = 3^m t + 3^{n-1}(3s-1).$$

PROOF. Consider the localization map $\lambda : H^1 N_1^1 \to H^1 M_1^1$ induced from the canonical localization map $N_1^1 \to M_1^1$. Let x denote the element found in $\delta_1(x)$ on the right hand side of (3.1). If we show that $\lambda(x) \neq 0$, then $x \neq 0$, and so is the product of the left hand side of (3.1). The non-triviality of $\lambda(x)$ follows from (3.2), immediately. q.e.d.

4. The non-triviality of products in $H^3 BP_*/3$

Consider the short exact sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow M_2^0 \xrightarrow{\varphi} M_1^1 \xrightarrow{v_1} M_1^1 \longrightarrow 0$$

of comodules, and denote the connecting homomorphism by $\partial : H^s M_1^1 \to H^{s+1} M_2^0$. Here φ is defined by $\varphi(x) = x/v_1$.

LEMMA 4.1. If $v_2^s \beta_{t/i}$ is not in $\operatorname{Im} \{\partial : H^s M_1^1 \to H^{s+1} M_2^0\}$, then

$$\beta'_s \beta_{t/j} \neq 0 \in E_2^3(M).$$

PROOF. Consider the diagram

$$H^{2}M_{1}^{0} \longrightarrow H^{2}N_{1}^{1} \xrightarrow{\delta_{1}} H^{3}N_{1}^{0} = E_{2}^{3}(M)$$

$$\downarrow^{\lambda}$$

$$H^{1}M_{1}^{1} \xrightarrow{\partial} H^{2}M_{2}^{0} \xrightarrow{\varphi_{*}} H^{2}M_{1}^{1}$$

in which both sequences are exact, and λ denotes the localization map used in the proof of Proposition 3.3. It is shown that $H^2 M_1^0 = 0$ in [13] (cf. [14]), and so the map δ_1 in the diagram is a monomorphism. Since $H^* N_0^0$ acts on $H^* L$ for a comodule L naturally,

$$\beta'_{s}\beta_{t/j} = \delta_{1}(v_{2}^{s}/v_{1})\beta_{t/j} = \delta_{1}(v_{2}^{s}\beta_{t/j}/v_{1}).$$

Therefore, the non-triviality of the element $v_2^s \beta_{t/j}/v_1$ implies the desired non-triviality of the product of the β -elements.

Note that $\lambda(v_2^s \beta_{t/j}/v_1) = v_2^s \beta_{t/j}/v_1$ in $H^2 M_1^1$. Furthermore, $v_2^s \beta_{t/j}/v_1 = \varphi_*(v_2^s \beta_{t/j})$. Thus, if $v_2^s \beta_{t/j}$ is not in Im ∂ , then $\varphi_*(v_2^s \beta_{t/j}) \neq 0$ and so $v_2^s \beta_{t/j}/v_1 \neq 0$.

PROOF OF THEOREM D. By the result of [1], we see that Im ∂ is generated by the following elements:

 $\begin{array}{cccc} (\ {\rm I} \) & v_2^{3t}b_0 & (t \in {\pmb Z}), \\ & v_2^{9t-4}b_0 + v_2^{9t-4}h_{11}\zeta & (t \in {\pmb Z}), \end{array}$

Here, integers $i(n) = \frac{1}{2}(3^n - 1)$ for $n \ge 0$, and i'(t; 0) = 9t - 4 and $i'(t; n) = 3^{n-1}(9(3t-1)-1)$. Now Theorem D follows from (2.6) and Lemma 4.1. q.e.d.

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