

ADDENDUM TO "CHERN CHARACTERS REVISITED"

BY

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In the Mathematical Reviews, vol. 48 (1974), no. 7274, the reviewer comments as follows on my paper in the Illinois Journal of Mathematics, vol. 17 (1973), pp. 333–336. "The reviewer's one objection is with the phrase 'the case of an odd prime is similar'; he does not see how to do it by any analogous technique."

The reader may be reassured; it is now agreed by those concerned that the case $p > 2$ is as "similar" to the case $p = 2$ as could be expected. The few hints which follow give all that is needed.

(1) One has to use the fact that at an odd prime p , the spectrum bu splits as the sum of $(p - 1)$ similar summands; this step passes unnoticed for $p = 2$.

(2) The cohomology of one summand is $A/(AQ_0 + AQ_1)$; one needs to describe its homology as a subobject of A_* , the dual of the Steenrod algebra; the canonical anti-automorphism of A_* throws this subobject onto

$$E[\tau_2, \tau_3, \dots] \otimes Z_p[\xi_1, \xi_2, \dots]$$

(where the notation for the Milnor generators is as usual.)

(3) The E_2 term for the Bockstein spectral sequence is then $Z_p[\xi_1]$.

(4) Apart from (1) above, one makes only the obvious changes to my argument on pp. 334–335; it is not necessary to change reference [2] into reference [p].

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