

$$\left[ \begin{array}{c} \cdots \\ \text{Diagram of a zigzag path with vertices labeled } 1, 2, \dots, h-1, h \\ \vdots \\ a \end{array} \right]_0 = p_h^a$$

The diagram inside the brackets shows a zigzag path with vertices labeled 1, 2, ..., h-1, h. The path starts with an ellipsis (...) on the left, followed by a vertex labeled 1, then a vertex labeled 2, and continues with a dotted line to a vertex labeled h-1, and finally a vertex labeled h. The path ends with an ellipsis (...) and a label 'a' below it. The entire diagram is enclosed in a large oval, and the expression is set equal to  $p_h^a$ .