

0.1. **Setup of \mathcal{SH} .** In order to construct an abstract version of the Adams spectral sequence, we need to work in some axiomatic version of a stable homotopy category \mathcal{SH} which acts like the familiar classical stable homotopy category \mathbf{hoSp} (??) or the motivic stable homotopy category $\mathbf{SH}_{\mathcal{S}}$ over some base scheme \mathcal{S} (??).

Definition 0.1. Let \mathcal{C} be an additive category with arbitrary (small) coproducts. Then an object X in \mathcal{C} is *compact* if, for any collection of objects Y_i in \mathcal{C} indexed by some (small) set I , the canonical map

$$\bigoplus_i \mathcal{C}(X, Y_i) \rightarrow \mathcal{C}(X, \bigoplus_i Y_i)$$

is an isomorphism of abelian groups. (Explicitly, the above map takes a generator $x \in \mathcal{C}(X, Y_i)$ to the composition $X \xrightarrow{x} Y_i \hookrightarrow \bigoplus_i Y_i$.)

Definition 0.2. Given a tensor triangulated category $(\mathcal{C}, \otimes, S, \Sigma, e, \mathcal{D})$ (??), a *sub-Picard grading* on \mathcal{C} is the following data:

- A pointed abelian group $(A, \mathbf{1})$ along with a homomorphism of pointed groups $h : (A, \mathbf{1}) \rightarrow (\text{Pic } \mathcal{C}, \Sigma S)$, where $\text{Pic } \mathcal{C}$ is the *Picard group* of isomorphism classes of invertible objects in \mathcal{C} .¹
- For each $a \in A$, a chosen representative S^a in the isomorphism class $h(a)$ such that each S^a is a compact object (Definition 0.1) and $S^0 = S$.
- For each $a, b \in A$, an isomorphism $\phi_{a,b} : S^{a+b} \rightarrow S^a \otimes S^b$. This family of isomorphisms is required to be *coherent*, in the following sense:
 - For all $a \in A$, we must have that $\phi_{a,0}$ coincides with the right unitor $S^a \xrightarrow{\cong} S^a \otimes S$ and $\phi_{0,a}$ coincides the left unitor $S^a \xrightarrow{\cong} S \otimes S^a$.
 - For all $a, b, c \in A$, the following “associativity diagram” must commute:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} S^{a+b} \otimes S^c & \xleftarrow{\phi_{a+b,c}} S^{a+b+c} & \xrightarrow{\phi_{a,b+c}} S^a \otimes S^{b+c} \\ \phi_{a,b} \otimes S^c \downarrow & & \downarrow S^a \otimes \phi_{b,c} \\ (S^a \otimes S^b) \otimes S^c & \xrightarrow{\cong} & S^a \otimes (S^b \otimes S^c) \end{array}$$

Remark 0.3. Note that by induction the coherence conditions for the $\phi_{a,b}$ ’s in the above definition say that given any $a_1, \dots, a_n \in A$ and $b_1, \dots, b_m \in A$ such that $a_1 + \dots + a_n = b_1 + \dots + b_m$ and any fixed parenthesizations of $X = S^{a_1} \otimes \dots \otimes S^{a_n}$ and $Y = S^{b_1} \otimes \dots \otimes S^{b_m}$, there is a *unique* isomorphism $X \rightarrow Y$ that can be obtained by forming formal compositions of products of $\phi_{a,b}$, identities, associators, unitors, and their inverses (but not symmetries).

From now on we fix a monoidal closed tensor triangulated category $(\mathcal{SH}, \otimes, S, \Sigma, e, \mathcal{D})$ with arbitrary (small) (co)products and sub-Picard grading $(A, \mathbf{1}, h, \{S^a\}, \{\phi_{a,b}\})$. We also fix an isomorphism $\nu : \Sigma S \xrightarrow{\cong} S^1$ once and for all. We establish some conventions. First of all, given an object X and a natural number $n > 0$, we write

$$X^n := \overbrace{X \otimes \dots \otimes X}^{n \text{ times}} \quad \text{and} \quad X^0 := S.$$

¹Recall an object X in a symmetric monoidal category is *invertible* if there exists some object Y and an isomorphism $S \cong X \otimes Y$.

We denote the associator, symmetry, left unitor, and right unitor isomorphisms in \mathcal{SH} by

$$\begin{aligned}\alpha_{X,Y,Z} : (X \otimes Y) \otimes Z &\xrightarrow{\cong} X \otimes (Y \otimes Z) & \tau_{X,Y} : X \otimes Y &\xrightarrow{\cong} Y \otimes X \\ \lambda_X : S \otimes X &\xrightarrow{\cong} X & \rho_X : X \otimes S &\xrightarrow{\cong} X.\end{aligned}$$

Often we will drop the subscripts. Furthermore, by the coherence theorem for symmetric monoidal categories, we will often assume α , ρ , and λ are actual equalities. Given some integer $n \in \mathbb{Z}$, we will write a bold \mathbf{n} to denote the element $n \cdot \mathbf{1}$ in A . Note that we can use the isomorphism $\nu : \Sigma S \xrightarrow{\cong} S^1$ to construct a natural isomorphism $\Sigma \cong S^1 \otimes -$:

$$\Sigma X \xrightarrow{\Sigma \lambda_X^{-1}} \Sigma(S \otimes X) \xrightarrow{e_{S,X}^{-1}} \Sigma S \otimes X \xrightarrow{\nu \otimes X} S^1 \otimes X.$$

The first two arrows are natural in X by definition. The last arrow is natural in X by functoriality of $- \otimes -$. By abuse of notation, we will also use ν to denote this natural isomorphism.

Furthermore, under this isomorphism, $e_{X,Y} : \Sigma X \otimes Y \xrightarrow{\cong} \Sigma(X \otimes Y)$ corresponds to the associator, by commutativity of the following diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}\Sigma X \otimes Y & \xrightarrow{\Sigma \lambda_X^{-1} \otimes Y} & \Sigma(S \otimes X) \otimes Y & \xrightarrow{e_{S,X}^{-1} \otimes Y} & (\Sigma S \otimes X) \otimes Y \xleftarrow{(\nu \otimes X) \otimes Y} (S^1 \otimes X) \otimes Y \\ \downarrow e_{X,Y} & & \downarrow e_{S \otimes X, Y} & & \downarrow \alpha \\ & & \Sigma((S \otimes X) \otimes Y) & & \\ & \swarrow \Sigma(\lambda_X \otimes Y) & \downarrow \Sigma \alpha & & \downarrow \alpha \\ \Sigma(X \otimes Y) & \xrightarrow{\Sigma \lambda_{X \otimes Y}^{-1}} & \Sigma(S \otimes (X \otimes Y)) & \xrightarrow{e_{S, X \otimes Y}^{-1}} & \Sigma S \otimes (X \otimes Y) \xrightarrow{\nu \otimes (X \otimes Y)} S^1 \otimes (X \otimes Y)\end{array}$$

Commutativity of the left trapezoid is naturality of e . The bottom left triangle commutes by coherence for monoidal categories and functoriality of Σ . Commutativity of the middle square is axiom TT4 for a tensor triangulated category. Finally, the right square commutes by naturality of α .

Given some $a \in A$, we define $\Sigma^a := S^a \otimes -$ and $\Omega^a := \Sigma^{-a} = S^{-a} \otimes -$. We specifically define $\Omega := \Omega^1$. We say “the a^{th} suspension of X ” to denote $\Sigma^a X$. We will see later that for each $a \in A$, Σ^a and Ω^a form an adjoint equivalence of \mathcal{SH} (Proposition 0.5), so that in particular since Ω forms an adjoint equivalence with $\Sigma^1 \cong \Sigma$, \mathcal{SH} is canonically an *adjointly* triangulated category (??).

Given two objects X and Y in \mathcal{SH} , we will denote the hom-abelian group of morphisms from X to Y in \mathcal{SH} by $[X, Y]$, and the internal hom object by $F(X, Y)$. We can extend the abelian group $[X, Y]$ into an A -graded abelian group $[X, Y]_*$ by defining $[X, Y]_a := [S^a \otimes X, Y]$. Given an object X in \mathcal{SH} and some $a \in A$, we can define the abelian group

$$\pi_a(X) := [S^a, X],$$

which we call the a^{th} stable homotopy group of X . We write $\pi_*(X)$ for the A -graded abelian group $\bigoplus_{a \in A} \pi_a(X)$, so that in particular we have a canonical isomorphism

$$\pi_*(X) = [S^*, X] \cong [S, X]_*.$$

Given some other object E , we can define the A -graded abelian groups $E_*(X)$ and $E^*(X)$ by the formulas

$$E_a(X) := \pi_a(E \otimes X) = [S^a, E \otimes X] \quad \text{and} \quad E^a(X) := [X, S^a \otimes E].$$

We refer to the functor $E_*(-)$ as the *homology theory represented by E* , or just E -homology, and we refer to $E^*(-)$ as the *cohomology theory represented by E* , or just E -cohomology. Finally, we state the following definition in \mathcal{SH} :

is this characterization of ν and e needed?

Definition 0.4. Define the class of *cellular* objects in \mathcal{SH} to be the smallest class of objects such that:

- (1) For all $a \in A$, S^a is cellular.
- (2) If we have a distinguished triangle

$$X \rightarrow Y \rightarrow Z \rightarrow \Sigma X$$

such that two of the three objects X , Y , and Z are cellular, then the third object is also cellular.

- (3) Given a collection of cellular objects X_i indexed by some (small) set I , the object $\bigoplus_{i \in I} X_i$ is cellular (recall we have chosen \mathcal{SH} to have arbitrary coproducts).

0.2. Miscellaneous facts about \mathcal{SH} .

what do I call this subsection?

Proposition 0.5. For each $a \in A$, the functors Σ^a and Ω^a canonically form an adjoint equivalence of \mathcal{SH} . In particular, Ω and $\Sigma \cong \Sigma^1$ form an adjoint equivalence, so that \mathcal{SH} is an adjointly tensor triangulated category (??).

Proof. See ??.

□

Lemma 0.6. Let X and Y be two isomorphic objects in \mathcal{SH} . Then X is cellular iff Y is cellular.

Proof. Assume we have an isomorphism $f : X \xrightarrow{\cong} Y$ and that X is cellular. Then consider the following commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} X & \xrightarrow{f} & Y & \longrightarrow & 0 & \longrightarrow & \Sigma X \\ \parallel & & \downarrow f^{-1} & & \parallel & & \parallel \\ X & \xlongequal{\quad} & X & \longrightarrow & 0 & \longrightarrow & \Sigma X \end{array}$$

The bottom row is distinguished by axiom TR1 for a triangulated category. Hence since X is cellular, 0 is also cellular, since the class of cellular objects satisfies two-of-three for distinguished triangles. Furthermore, since the vertical arrows are all isomorphisms, the top row is distinguished as well, by axiom TR0. Thus again by two-of-three, since X and 0 are cellular, so is Y , as desired. □

Lemma 0.7. Let X and Y be cellular objects in \mathcal{SH} . Then $X \otimes Y$ is cellular.

Proof. Let E be a cellular object in \mathcal{SH} , and let \mathcal{E} be the collection of objects X in \mathcal{SH} such that $E \otimes X$ is cellular. First of all, suppose we have a distinguished triangle

$$X \rightarrow Y \rightarrow Z \rightarrow \Sigma X$$

such that two of three of X , Y , and Z belong to \mathcal{E} . Then since \mathcal{SH} is tensor triangulated, we have a distinguished triangle

$$E \otimes X \rightarrow E \otimes Y \rightarrow E \otimes Z \rightarrow \Sigma(E \otimes X).$$

Per our assumptions, two of three of $E \otimes X$, $E \otimes Y$, and $E \otimes Z$ are cellular, so that the third is by definition. Thus, all three of X , Y , and Z belong to \mathcal{E} if two of them do.

Second of all, suppose we have a family X_i of objects in \mathcal{E} indexed by some (small) set I , and set $X := \bigoplus_i X_i$. Then we'd like to show X belongs to \mathcal{E} , i.e., that $E \otimes X$ is cellular. Indeed,

$$E \otimes X = E \otimes \left(\bigoplus_i X_i \right) \cong \bigoplus_i (E \otimes X_i),$$

where the isomorphism is given by the fact that \mathcal{SH} is monoidal closed, so $E \otimes -$ preserves arbitrary colimits as it is a left adjoint. Per our assumption, since each $E \otimes X_i$ is cellular, the rightmost object is cellular, since the class of cellular objects is closed under taking arbitrary coproducts, by definition. Hence $E \otimes X$ is cellular by [Lemma 0.6](#).

Finally, we would like to show that each S^a belongs to \mathcal{E} , i.e., that $S^a \otimes E$ is cellular for all $a \in A$. When $E = S^b$ for some $b \in A$, this is clearly true, since $S^b \otimes S^a \cong S^{a+b}$, which is cellular by definition, so that $S^b \otimes S^a$ is cellular by [Lemma 0.6](#). Thus by what we have shown, the class of objects X for which $S^a \otimes X$ is cellular contains every cellular object. Hence in particular $E \otimes S^a \cong S^a \otimes E$ is cellular for all $a \in A$, as desired. \square

Lemma 0.8. *Let W be a cellular object in \mathcal{SH} such that $\pi_*(W) = 0$. Then $W \cong 0$.*

Proof. Let \mathcal{E} be the collection of all X in \mathcal{SH} such that $[\Sigma^n X, W] = 0$ for all $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ (where for $n > 0$, $\Sigma^{-n} := \Omega^n = (S^{-1} \otimes -)^n$). We claim \mathcal{E} contains every cellular object in \mathcal{SH} . First of all, each S^a belongs to \mathcal{E} , as

$$[\Sigma^n S^a, W] \cong [(\Sigma^1)^n S^a, W] \cong [S^{a+n}, W] \leq \pi_*(W) = 0.$$

Furthermore, suppose we are given a distinguished triangle

$$X \rightarrow Y \rightarrow Z \rightarrow \Sigma X$$

such that two of three of X , Y , and Z belong to \mathcal{E} . By [??](#), for all $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ we get an exact sequence

$$[\Sigma^{n+1} X, W] \rightarrow [\Sigma^n Z, W] \rightarrow [\Sigma^n Y, W] \rightarrow [\Sigma^n X, W] \rightarrow [\Sigma^{n-1} Z, W].$$

Clearly if any two of three of X , Y , and Z belong to \mathcal{E} , then by exactness of the above sequence all three of the middle terms will be zero, so that the third object will belong to \mathcal{E} as well. Finally, suppose we have a collection of objects X_i in \mathcal{E} indexed by some small set I . Then

$$\left[\Sigma^n \bigoplus_i X_i, W \right] \cong \left[\bigoplus_i \Sigma^n X_i, W \right] \cong \prod_i [\Sigma^n X_i, W] = \prod_i 0 = 0,$$

where the first isomorphism follows by the fact that Σ^n is a part of an adjoint equivalence ([Proposition 0.5](#)), so it preserves arbitrary colimits.

Thus, by definition of cellularity, \mathcal{E} contains every cellular object. In particular, \mathcal{E} contains W , so that $[W, W] = 0$, meaning in particular that $\text{id}_W = 0$, so we have a commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & 0 & \\ \nearrow & \xlongequal{\quad} & \searrow \\ W & \xlongequal{\quad} & W \end{array}$$

Hence the diagonals exhibit isomorphisms between 0 and W , as desired. \square

Theorem 0.9. *Let X and Y be cellular objects in \mathcal{SH} , and suppose $f : X \rightarrow Y$ is a morphism such that $f_* : \pi_*(X) \rightarrow \pi_*(Y)$ is an isomorphism. Then f is an isomorphism.*

Proof. By axiom TR2 for a triangulated category (??), we have a distinguished triangle

$$X \xrightarrow{f} Y \xrightarrow{g} C_f \xrightarrow{h} \Sigma X.$$

First of all, note that by definition since X and Y are cellular, so is C_f . Now, we claim $\pi_*(C_f) = 0$. Indeed, given $a \in A$, by ?? we have the following exact sequence:

$$[S^a, X] \xrightarrow{f_*} [S^a, Y] \xrightarrow{g_*} [S^a, C_f] \xrightarrow{h_*} [S^a, \Sigma X] \xrightarrow{-(\Sigma f)_*} [S^a, \Sigma Y],$$

where the first arrow is an isomorphism, per our assumption that f_* is an isomorphism. To see the last arrow is an isomorphism, consider the following diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} [S^a, \Sigma X] & \xrightarrow{(\Sigma f)_*} & [S^a, \Sigma Y] \\ (\nu_X)_* \downarrow & & \downarrow (\nu_Y)_* \\ [S^a, S^1 \otimes X] & \xrightarrow{(S^1 \otimes f)_*} & [S^a, S^1 \otimes Y] \\ \cong \downarrow & & \downarrow \cong \\ [S^{-1} \otimes S^a, X] & \xrightarrow{f_*} & [S^{-1} \otimes S^a, Y] \\ (\phi_{-1,a})_* \downarrow & & \downarrow (\phi_{-1,a})_* \\ [S^{a-1}, X] & \xrightarrow{f_*} & [S^{a-1}, Y] \end{array}$$

where the middle vertical arrows are the adjunction natural isomorphisms specified by **Proposition 0.5**. The bottom arrow is an isomorphism per our assumptions, so the top arrow is likewise an isomorphism, as desired. Thus $\text{im } h_* = \ker -(\Sigma f)_* = 0$, and $\ker g_* = \text{im } f_* = [S^a, Y]$, so that $\ker h_* = \text{im } g_* = 0$. It is only possible that $\ker h_* = \text{im } h_* = 0$ if $[S^a, C_f] = 0$. Thus, we have shown $\pi_*(C_f) = 0$, and C_f is cellular, so by **Lemma 0.8** there is an isomorphism $C_f \cong 0$. Now consider the following commuting diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} X & \xrightarrow{f} & Y & \longrightarrow & C_f & \longrightarrow & \Sigma X \\ \downarrow f & & \parallel & & \downarrow \cong & & \downarrow \Sigma f \\ Y & \xlongequal{\quad} & Y & \longrightarrow & 0 & \longrightarrow & \Sigma Y \end{array}$$

The top row is distinguished by assumption. The bottom row is distinguished by axiom TR2. Then since the middle two vertical arrows are isomorphisms, by ??, f is an isomorphism as well, as desired. \square

Proposition 0.10. *Let $e : X \rightarrow X$ be an idempotent between cellular objects in \mathcal{SH} , so by ?? there is a diagram*

$$X \xrightarrow{r} Y \xrightarrow{\iota} X$$

with $r \circ \iota = \text{id}_Y$. Then Y is cellular.

Proof. It is a general categorical fact that an idempotent splits up to unique isomorphism, so by **Lemma 0.6**, it suffices to show that e has some cellular splitting. In ??, it is shown that we may take Y to be the homotopy colimit of the sequence

$$X \xrightarrow{e} X \xrightarrow{e} X \xrightarrow{e} X \xrightarrow{e} \dots,$$

so there is a distinguished triangle

$$\bigoplus_{i=0}^{\infty} X \rightarrow \bigoplus_{i=0}^{\infty} X \rightarrow Y \rightarrow \Sigma \left(\bigoplus_{i=0}^{\infty} X \right).$$

Since X is cellular, by definition $\bigoplus_{i=0}^{\infty} X$ is as well. Thus by 2-of-3 for distinguished triangles, Y is cellular as desired. \square

Proposition 0.11. *Suppose we are given a distinguished triangle*

$$X \xrightarrow{f} Y \xrightarrow{g} Z \xrightarrow{h} \Sigma X$$

and some object W in \mathcal{SH} . Then there is an infinite long exact sequence of A -graded abelian groups:

$$\cdots \rightarrow [W, Z]_{*+n+1} \xrightarrow{\partial} [W, X]_{*+n} \xrightarrow{f_*} [W, Y]_{*+n} \xrightarrow{g_*} [W, Z]_{*+n} \xrightarrow{\partial} [W, Z]_{*+n-1} \rightarrow \cdots,$$

where $\partial : [W, Z]_{+n+1} \rightarrow [W, X]_{*+n}$ sends a class $x : S^{a+n+1} \otimes W \rightarrow Z$ to the composition*

$$S^{a+n} \otimes W \cong S^{-1} \otimes S^{a+n+1} \otimes W \xrightarrow{S^{-1} \otimes x} S^{-1} \otimes Z \xrightarrow{S^{-1} \otimes h} S^{-1} \otimes \Sigma X \xrightarrow{S^{-1} \otimes \nu_X} S^{-1} \otimes S^1 \otimes X \xrightarrow{\phi_{-1,1}^{-1} \otimes X} X.$$

Proof. See ?? \square

Remark 0.12. Expressed more compactly, the above proposition says that each object W in \mathcal{SH} and distinguished triangle

$$X \xrightarrow{f} Y \xrightarrow{g} Z \xrightarrow{h} \Sigma X$$

gives rise to the following diagram of A -graded abelian groups

$$\begin{array}{ccc} [W, X]_* & \xrightarrow{f_*} & [W, Y]_* \\ & \swarrow \partial & \downarrow g_* \\ & & [W, Z]_* \end{array}$$

which is exact at each vertex, and where f_* , g_* , and ∂ are A -graded homomorphisms of degree 0, 0, and -1 , respectively. Explicitly, ∂ sends a class $x : S^a \otimes W \rightarrow Z$ to the composition

$$S^{a-1} \otimes W \cong S^{-1} \otimes S^a \otimes W \xrightarrow{S^{-1} \otimes x} S^{-1} \otimes Z \xrightarrow{S^{-1} \otimes h} S^{-1} \otimes \Sigma X \xrightarrow{S^{-1} \otimes \nu_X} S^{-1} \otimes S^1 \otimes X \xrightarrow{\phi_{-1,1}^{-1} \otimes X} X.$$

Proposition 0.13. *Let (E, μ, e) be a monoid object in \mathcal{SH} (?). Then $\pi_*(E)$ is canonically an A -graded ring via the assignment $\pi_*(E) \times \pi_*(E) \rightarrow \pi_*(E)$ which takes classes $x : S^a \rightarrow E$ and $y : S^b \rightarrow E$ to the composition*

$$S^{a+b} \xrightarrow{\phi_{a,b}} S^a \otimes S^b \xrightarrow{x \otimes y} E \otimes E \xrightarrow{\mu} E.$$

In particular, the unit for this ring is the element $e \in [S, E] = \pi_0(E)$.

Proof. See ?? \square

Proposition 0.14. *Let (E, μ, e) be a monoid object in \mathcal{SH} . Then $E_*(-)$ is a functor from \mathcal{SH} to left A -graded $\pi_*(E)$ -modules, where given some X in \mathcal{SH} , $E_*(X)$ may be endowed with the structure of a left A -graded $\pi_*(E)$ -module via the map*

$$\pi_*(E) \times E_*(X) \rightarrow E_*(X)$$

which given $a, b \in A$, sends $x : S^a \rightarrow E$ and $y : S^b \rightarrow E \otimes X$ to the composition

$$x \cdot y : S^{a+b} \cong S^a \otimes S^b \xrightarrow{x \otimes y} E \otimes (E \otimes X) \cong (E \otimes E) \otimes X \xrightarrow{\mu \otimes X} E \otimes X.$$

Similarly, the assignment $X \mapsto X_(E)$ is a functor from \mathcal{SH} to right A -graded $\pi_*(E)$ -modules, where the structure map*

$$X_*(E) \times \pi_*(E) \rightarrow X_*(E)$$

sends $x : S^a \rightarrow X \otimes E$ and $y : S^b \rightarrow E$ to the composition

$$x \cdot y : S^{a+b} \cong S^a \otimes S^b \xrightarrow{x \otimes y} (X \otimes E) \otimes E \cong X \otimes (E \otimes E) \xrightarrow{X \otimes \mu} X \otimes E.$$

Finally, $E_*(E)$ is a $\pi_*(E)$ -bimodule, in the sense that the left and right actions of $\pi_*(E)$ are compatible, so that given $y, z \in \pi_*(E)$ and $x \in E_*(E)$, $y \cdot (x \cdot z) = (y \cdot x) \cdot z$.

Proof. See ??.

□

Lemma 0.15. *Let E and X be objects in \mathcal{SH} . Then for all $a \in A$, there is an A -graded isomorphism of A -graded abelian groups*

$$t_X^a : E_*(\Sigma^a X) \cong E_{*-a}(X)$$

Furthermore this isomorphism is natural in X , and if E is a monoid object in \mathcal{SH} then it is a natural isomorphism of left $\pi_(E)$ -modules.*

Proof. See ??.

□

Definition 0.16. Given a monoid object E in \mathcal{SH} , we say E is *flat* if the canonical right $\pi_*(E)$ -module structure on $E_*(E)$ (see the above proposition) is that of a flat module.