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Citation: Chuang, J. & Lazarev, A. (2019). On the perturbation algebra. Journal of Algebra, 519, pp. 130-148. doi: 10.1016/j.jalgebra.2018.10.032

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Link to published version: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jalgebra.2018.10.032>

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ON THE PERTURBATION ALGEBRA

J. CHUANG AND A. LAZAREV

ABSTRACT. We introduce a certain differential graded bialgebra, neither commutative nor co-commutative, that governs perturbations of a differential on complexes supplied with an abstract Hodge decomposition. This leads to a conceptual treatment of the Homological Perturbation Lemma and its multiplicative version. As an application we give an explicit form of the decomposition theorem for A_∞ algebras and A_∞ modules and, more generally, for twisted objects in differential graded categories.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Homological Perturbation Lemma (HPL) is a kind of homotopy transfer theorem: it allows one to transfer a perturbed differential of a (co)chain complex onto another one, that is a strong deformation retract of it. The first published reference for HPL is probably [4] and further historic development is described in [8]. One interesting feature of HPL is that it gives explicit universal formulas, as formal power series in the original strong deformation retract data. The standard proof of HPL is based on algebraic manipulations with certain linear operators and we introduce a certain algebra A that captures the properties of these operators, leading to an abstract version of HPL, of which the ordinary HPL is a consequence. It should be noted that in [1] the term ‘Perturbation Algebra’ is reserved for a different, though closely related, algebra, that is not differential graded (the differential is viewed as its element rather than an operator). It is possible that our results could be recovered in the framework of [1], but we found that working with the smaller differential graded object is more natural.

The category of modules over A is, essentially, the category of strong homotopy retractions (in fact, we find it more convenient to work with an equivalent notion of an abstract Hodge decomposition) with a perturbed differential. This category is non-symmetric monoidal, which corresponds to a certain comultiplication on A turning it into a noncommutative and nonco-commutative bialgebra. We introduce a certain localization \hat{A} of A which turns out also to be a bialgebra. This bialgebra, despite having a simple presentation by very few generators and relations, exhibits a surprisingly rich structure; it is a central object of study in this paper. The

2010 *Mathematics Subject Classification.* 18D50, 17B55, 17B66, 16E45.

Key words and phrases. Abstract Hodge decomposition, differential graded algebra, Maurer-Cartan element. This work was partially supported by EPSRC grants EP/N015452/1 and EP/N016505/1.

algebraic structure of \hat{A} is responsible for all of the homological perturbation theory and as such, this algebra is implicitly present in many of the earlier papers dealing with this subject, e.g. [7]. We discover a certain remarkable endomorphism of \hat{A} that leads to a strengthened version of the HPL, as well as its multiplicative version [10]. As a corollary, we obtain a decomposition theorem for A_∞ algebras: every such algebra is isomorphic to the direct sum of a minimal A_∞ algebra (having zero cohomology) and a linear contractible one. A similar result is also obtained for A_∞ modules over an A_∞ algebra. The structure maps for the minimal module as well as for the A_∞ isomorphism are explicitly described in terms of summation over certain trees.

1.1. Notation and conventions. We work in the category of \mathbb{Z} -graded (dg) vector spaces over a fixed ground field \mathbf{k} ; an object in this category is a pair (V, d_V) where V is a graded vector space and d_V is a differential on it; it will always be assumed to be of cohomological type (so it raises the degree of a homogeneous element). Unmarked tensor products will be understood to be taken over \mathbf{k} ; we will abbreviate ‘differential graded’ to ‘dg’. The *suspension* of a graded vector space V is the graded vector space ΣV so that $(\Sigma V)^i = V^{i+1}$.

The graded \mathbf{k} -linear dual to a graded vector space V is denoted by V^* ; it is a *pseudo-compact* vector space, i.e. an inverse limit of finite-dimensional (graded) vector spaces. Pseudo-compact vector spaces are endowed with the topology of the inverse limit and form a category where maps are required to be continuous. The category of pseudo-compact vector spaces is anti-equivalent to that of (discrete) vector spaces via linear duality; we refer to [20] for a short account on pseudo-compact spaces. All results and constructions of this paper are valid when we work in the underlying category of pseudo-compact graded vector spaces.

A dg algebra is an associative monoid in the dg category of dg vector spaces with respect to the standard monoidal structure given by the tensor product. A dg vector space V is a (left) dg module over a dg algebra A if it is supplied with a dg map $A \otimes V \rightarrow V$ satisfying the usual conditions of associativity and unitality.

A Maurer-Cartan (to be abbreviated as MC) element in a dg algebra A is an element x of cohomological degree 1 satisfying the MC equation $d(x) + x^2 = 0$. It determines a twisted differential in A by the formula $d^x(a) := d(a) + [x, a]$ for $a \in A$; the MC equation ensures that $(d^x)^2 = 0$. We will denote the dg algebra A supplied with the differential d^x by A^x . The MC element x also determines a twisting of any dg A -module (M, d_M) ; namely the differential $d + x$ (where x is viewed as an operator on M) makes M into a left dg A^x -module as could easily be checked; we will denote this dg A -module by $M^{[x]}$. The group A_0^\times of invertible elements γ of A_0 acts on the set of MC elements in A by via the gauge action: $\gamma \cdot x := \gamma x \gamma^{-1} - d(\gamma) \gamma^{-1}$.

The paper is organized as follows. In Section 2 we recall the definition of an abstract Hodge decomposition and introduce a dg bialgebra governing this structure. In Section 3 the Perturbation Algebra, our main object of study, is introduced and studied in some detail; this is, in fact a dg bialgebra, neither commutative nor cocommutative. We formulate and prove an abstract version of the HPL, of which the ordinary HPL is a corollary. We further strengthen HPL by proving that the perturbed differential is actually conjugate to a transferred one in a suitable sense. A decomposition theorem for twisted objects in a differential graded category is a consequence of the strengthened HPL. Specializing further, we obtain an explicit form of the decomposition theorem for A_∞ modules.

2. CATEGORY OF ABSTRACT HODGE DECOMPOSITIONS

In this section we will recall the definition of an abstract Hodge decomposition on a dg vector space; this terminology was introduced in [5] but the corresponding notion was known and used for a long time, c.f. for example [18].

Definition 2.1. An abstract Hodge decomposition on a dg vector space (V, d) is a pair of operators t, s on V

$$t : V \rightarrow V \quad \text{and} \quad s : V \rightarrow V,$$

of degrees 0 and -1 respectively, such that

- (1) $s^2 = 0$,
- (2) $sd + ds = 1 - t$,
- (3) $dt = td$,
- (4) $t^2 = t$,
- (5) $st = ts = 0$,

We will also refer to the quadruple (V, d, s, t) (or the triple (V, s, t) if d is clear from the context) as an abstract Hodge decomposition and use the shorthand HD for it.

Remark 2.2. The notion of an HD could be reformulated as follows. Let $U := \text{Im}(t)$ be the image of the operator t . It follows from the identity (3) above that the differential on V restricts to a differential on U and that the projection $t : V \rightarrow U$ and the inclusion $i : U \hookrightarrow V$ determine chain maps between the dg spaces U and V . The conditions (2) and (4) above imply that $t \circ i = \text{id}_U$ and that $i \circ t$ is chain homotopic to the identity on V . Thus, the pair of dg vector spaces V and U constitute a strong deformation retraction data. The condition $s^2 = 0$, the so-called *side condition*, can always be imposed at no cost. It is more convenient for us to view the above as the structure on a single space V .

Let (V, t_V, s_V) and (W, t_W, s_W) be dg vector spaces with the choice of an HD. Then the operators $t \otimes t$ and $s \otimes 1 + t \otimes s$ determine an HD on the vector space $V \otimes W$. A straightforward inspection shows that this turns the category of HDs into a (non-symmetric) monoidal category. We will denote this category by \mathcal{H} .

The content of an HD is captured by a certain dg bialgebra. The following result is obvious.

Proposition 2.3. *Let H be the associative algebra spanned by three vectors s, t and 1 , with the relations $st = ts = s^2 = 0$ and $t^2 = t$ and the differential $d(s) = 1 - t$, $d(t) = 0$. There is a coassociative coproduct $\Delta : H \rightarrow H \otimes H$ so that $\Delta(t) = t \otimes t$ and $\Delta(s) = s \otimes 1 + t \otimes s$ and a counit $\epsilon : H \rightarrow \mathbf{k} : \epsilon(t) = 1, \epsilon(s) = 0$; these turn H into a bialgebra. Furthermore, the monoidal categories of dg H -modules and of HDs are isomorphic.*

□

Remark 2.4.

- (1) The bialgebra H lacks an antipode since the grouplike element t is a zero divisor, hence non-invertible.
- (2) The dg abelian group H is isomorphic to the normalized simplicial chain complex of the unit interval $[0, 1]$ with two 0-simplices and one 1-simplex; moreover, the coalgebra structure corresponds to Alexander-Whitney map; this was observed in [19], pp 503-504. The commutative product on H corresponds to the ordinary multiplication on $[0, 1]$.

Definition 2.5. We will call a monoid in \mathcal{H} a *multiplicative HD*.

Recall that given two endomorphisms $f, g \in \text{End}(B)$ of an associative algebra B , a linear map $s : B \rightarrow B$ is called an (f, g) -derivation, if $s(ab) = s(a)g(b) \pm f(a)s(b)$ for any $a, b \in B$ where the sign is determined by the standard Koszul rule; this is a so-called (f, g) -Leibniz rule. Note that $f - g$ is always both an (f, g) -derivation and a (g, f) -derivation. We can give the following characterization of multiplicative HDs:

Proposition 2.6. *A dg algebra B is a multiplicative HD if its underlying dg vector space is supplied with operators s and t satisfying the conditions of Definition 2.1, and such that t is an algebra endomorphism of B and s is a (t, id) -derivation.*

Proof. The condition that B is a multiplicative HD is equivalent to the multiplication map $B \otimes B \rightarrow B$ being an H -module map. Taking into account the comultiplication in H we see that the latter is equivalent to t being an algebra map and s being a (t, id) -derivation. □

Example 2.7. Let (V, s, t) be an HD. Then the tensor algebra $T(V) := \bigoplus_{n=0}^{\infty} V^{\otimes n}$ is a multiplicative HD where t is extended to an algebra endomorphism $t_{T(V)}$ of $T(V)$ component-wise,

$s_{T(V)}$ is extended from s by the $(t_{T(V)}, \text{id})$ -Leibniz rule and $d_{T(V)}$ is extended from d by the ordinary Leibniz rule. Indeed, the identities

$$s_{T(V)}^2 = t_{T(V)} s_{T(V)} = s_{T(V)} t_{T(V)} = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad t_{T(V)}^2 = t_{T(V)}$$

are immediate. To see that $d_{T(V)}(s_{T(V)}) = \text{id} - t_{T(V)}$, note that both sides of the last identity are $(t_{T(V)}, \text{id})$ -derivations and so it is sufficient to check on V where it is clear.

Remark 2.8. We considered the notion of an abstract Hodge decomposition in the category of dg vector spaces; one can define it, completely analogously, in the category of pseudo-compact dg vector spaces. The category of pseudo-compact dg vector spaces is symmetric monoidal, and a monoid in this category is, essentially, the same as a dg coalgebra by linear duality. There is, then, the notion of a pseudo-compact multiplicative HD analogous to Definition 2.5. We will skip the (rather obvious) details.

3. THE PERTURBATION ALGEBRA

3.1. Definition and first properties. We will now introduce our main object of study: the perturbation dg algebra A as well as its localization \hat{A} .

Definition 3.1. The perturbation algebra A is the associative dg bialgebra generated by the elements s, t and x of degrees $-1, 0$ and 1 respectively, subject to the relations

$$\begin{aligned} s^2 &= st = ts = 0 \\ t^2 &= t. \end{aligned}$$

The differential on A is specified by

$$\begin{aligned} d(s) &= 1 - t; \quad d(t) = 0 \\ d(x) &= -x^2. \end{aligned}$$

The comultiplication on A is specified by

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta(s) &= s \otimes 1 + t \otimes s; \\ \Delta(t) &= t \otimes t; \\ \Delta(x) &= x \otimes 1 + 1 \otimes x. \end{aligned}$$

Additionally, the bialgebra A possesses a counit:

$$\begin{aligned} \epsilon(s) &= \epsilon(x) = 0; \\ \epsilon(t) &= 1. \end{aligned}$$

Thus, A is obtained from H by freely adjoining the primitive element x satisfying the MC equation $dx = -x^2$. Just as H , A does not possess an antipode. Nevertheless, there exists a (unique, involutory) dg algebra anti-automorphism $\rho : A \rightarrow A$ fixing s and t , and sending x to $-x$; using ρ one can define an A -module structure on a \mathbf{k} -linear dual to an A -module. Rather than being a coalgebra anti-automorphism like a Hopf algebra antipode, ρ is a coalgebra automorphism; consequently, given A -modules V and W , the standard isomorphism of dg vector spaces $(V \otimes W)^* \cong V^* \otimes W^*$ is an isomorphism of A -modules.

The algebra A governs ‘perturbations’ of the differential on a given dg vector space supplied with the choice of an HD. More precisely, the following result holds.

Proposition 3.2. *Let (V, d_V, s, t) be an HD and x be an endomorphism of V of degree 1 and such that $(d_V + x)^2 = 0$. Then V is a dg module over A ; conversely any dg A -module is of the kind just described.*

Proof. We just need to note that the equation $(d_V + x)^2 = 0$ is equivalent to $[d_V, x] + x^2 = 0$. Thus, viewing the operators x, s and t as elements in $\text{End}(V)$ determines a map of dg algebras $A \rightarrow \text{End}(V)$ where $\text{End}(V)$ is supplied with the differential $[\cdot, d_V]$. This map is equivalent to giving V the structure of an A -module. \square

We also have a multiplicative version of this result; the proof is obvious.

Proposition 3.3. *Let $(V, d_V s, t)$ be a multiplicative HD and x be a derivation of V of degree 1 and such that $(d_V + x)^2 = 0$. Then V is a dg algebra over A (i.e. the multiplication map $V \otimes V \rightarrow V$ is a dg A -module map); conversely any dg A -algebra is of the kind just described.*

□

We will also be interested in the dg algebra \hat{A} obtained from A by formally inverting the elements $1 + sx$ and $1 + xs$. In fact, invertibility of one of these elements implies that the other one is also invertible, e.g. $(1 + xs)^{-1} = x(1 + sx)^{-1}s + 1$ as was observed in [2, Remark 2.4]. Then \hat{A} turns out to be a dg bialgebra (despite $1 + sx$ and $1 + xs$ not being grouplike). The dg bialgebra \hat{A} could be realized as a dg subbialgebra of the completion of A at the two-sided ideal generated by x . The inverses of $1 + sx$ and $1 + xs$ are represented by power series $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n (sx)^n$ and $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n (xs)^n$ respectively. We will denote these inverses by $\alpha := (1 + sx)^{-1}$ and $\beta := (1 + xs)^{-1}$.

3.2. Abstract Perturbation Lemma and its consequences. We will now delve a little deeper in the structure of the algebra \hat{A} , and, in particular, prove an abstract version of the Homological Perturbation Lemma.

Note the following useful identities, to be used repeatedly in calculations:

$$(3.1) \quad \begin{aligned} \alpha s &= s\beta, & x\alpha &= \beta x, \\ s\alpha &= s, & \beta s &= s, \\ t\alpha &= t, & \beta t &= t, \\ \beta\alpha &= \alpha + \beta - 1. \end{aligned}$$

These are all obvious except, perhaps, the last one. To deduce it, note that $\alpha - 1 = -sx\alpha$ and $\beta - 1 = -\beta xs$ from which it follows that $(\beta - 1)(\alpha - 1) = 0$ or $\beta\alpha = \alpha + \beta - 1$. Furthermore, the following identities hold:

$$(3.2) \quad \begin{aligned} d(\alpha) &= (\alpha t - 1)x\alpha, \\ d(\beta) &= \beta x(1 - t\beta). \end{aligned}$$

The first formula above is given by the calculation

$$d(\alpha) = -\alpha d(\alpha^{-1})\alpha = -\alpha((1 - t)x - s(-x^2))\alpha = \alpha(t - \alpha^{-1})x\alpha,$$

and the second formula by a similar calculation, or by using the anti-involution ρ .

Proposition 3.4. *There exists a unique algebra automorphism*

$$\phi : \hat{A} \rightarrow \hat{A}$$

such that

$$\begin{aligned} \phi(s) &= \alpha s = s\beta, \\ \phi(t) &= \alpha t\beta, & \phi(x) &= -x, \\ \phi(\alpha) &= \alpha^{-1}, & \phi(\beta) &= \beta^{-1} \end{aligned}$$

It is an involution commuting with ρ . Moreover, there is a dg bialgebra structure on \hat{A} extending that on A ; with this structure ϕ is a bialgebra automorphism.

Proof. If such an endomorphism taking the stated values exists, it is clearly an involutory automorphism that commutes with ρ . To check that such a ϕ is a well-defined algebra endomorphism,

we compute, using (3.1),

$$\begin{aligned}
(\alpha s)(\alpha s) &= (\alpha s)(s\beta) = 0, \\
(\alpha t\beta)^2 &= \alpha t(\alpha + \beta - 1)t\beta = \alpha t\beta + \alpha t\beta - \alpha t\beta \\
&= \alpha t\beta, \\
(\alpha s)(\alpha t\beta) &= \alpha s t\beta = 0, \\
(\alpha t\beta)(s\beta) &= \alpha t s\beta = 0, \\
\alpha^{-1}\phi(\alpha^{-1}) &= \alpha^{-1}[1 + (\alpha s)(-x)] \\
&= \alpha^{-1} - sx = 1, \\
\phi(\beta^{-1})\beta^{-1} &= [1 + (-x)(s\beta)]\beta^{-1} \\
&= \beta^{-1} - xs = 1.
\end{aligned}$$

To deal with the comultiplication, let us embed \hat{A} into \tilde{A} , the completion of A by the two-sided ideal generated by x . Note that \tilde{A} is a (topological) dg bialgebra; it is topologically generated by s, t and x and the diagonal $\Delta : \tilde{A} \rightarrow \tilde{A} \hat{\otimes} \tilde{A}$ is continuous. Let us check compatibility of ϕ and Δ in \tilde{A} ; it suffices to check it on s, t and x .

Since x and $\phi(x) = -x$ are both primitive, we just need to show that $\phi(t) = \alpha t\beta$ is group-like and $\phi(s) = \alpha s$ is skew-primitive with respect to the idempotent $\alpha t\beta$, i.e.

$$(3.3) \quad \Delta(\alpha s) = \alpha s \otimes 1 + \alpha t\beta \otimes \alpha s.$$

We compute:

$$\begin{aligned}
\Delta(\alpha^{-1})(\alpha t \otimes \alpha t) &= \Delta(1 + sx)(\alpha t \otimes \alpha t) \\
&= [(1 + sx) \otimes 1 + s \otimes x - tx \otimes s + t \otimes sx](\alpha t \otimes \alpha t) \\
&= t \otimes \alpha t + t \otimes sx\alpha t \\
&= t \otimes (1 + sx)\alpha t \\
&= t \otimes t.
\end{aligned}$$

This shows that αt is grouplike. Similarly $t\beta$ is grouplike and then $\alpha t\beta = (\alpha t)(t\beta)$ is likewise grouplike. Next,

$$\begin{aligned}
\Delta(\alpha^{-1})(\alpha s \otimes 1 + \alpha t\beta \otimes \alpha s) &= [(1 + sx) \otimes 1 + s \otimes x - tx \otimes s + t \otimes sx](\alpha s \otimes 1 + \alpha t\beta \otimes \alpha s) \\
&= s \otimes 1 + t\beta \otimes \alpha s + tx\alpha s \otimes s + t\beta \otimes sx\alpha s \\
&= s \otimes 1 + t\beta \otimes s + tx\alpha s \otimes s \\
&= s \otimes 1 + t \otimes s.
\end{aligned}$$

This implies (3.3) and shows that ϕ is a coalgebra endomorphism of \tilde{A} . Thus, $\phi \hat{\otimes} \phi \circ \Delta = \Delta \circ \phi$ and $\Delta = \phi \hat{\otimes} \phi \circ \Delta \circ \phi^{-1}$ on \tilde{A} . This allows one to restrict Δ on \hat{A} by $\Delta(\alpha) := (\phi \otimes \phi)\Delta(\alpha^{-1})$ and $\Delta(\beta) := (\phi \otimes \phi)\Delta(\beta^{-1})$. \square

The endomorphism ϕ is, however, not a dg endomorphism of \hat{A} . Consider \hat{A}^x , the algebra \hat{A} supplied with the twisted differential $d^x = d + [x, ?]$. The following result is an abstract version of the HPL.

Theorem 3.5.

(1) *The following equation of endomorphisms of \hat{A} holds:*

$$(3.4) \quad \phi d = d^x \phi.$$

Thus ϕ defines isomorphisms of dg bialgebras:

$$\begin{aligned}
\phi : \hat{A} &\rightarrow \hat{A}^x, \\
\phi : \hat{A}^x &\rightarrow \hat{A}.
\end{aligned}$$

(2) The map $tat \mapsto \alpha(tat)\beta$ determines an isomorphism of dg bialgebras

$$(t\hat{A}t, d + tx\alpha t) \xrightarrow{\cong} ((\alpha t\beta)\hat{A}(\alpha t\beta), d^x)$$

Proof. Both $\phi d\phi$ and d^x are derivations of \hat{A} , so it suffices to check (3.4) on the generators s , t and x . Then

$$\begin{aligned}\phi(d(x)) &= \phi(-x^2) \\ &= -(\phi(x))^2 \\ &= -x^2,\end{aligned}$$

and similarly,

$$\begin{aligned}d^x(\phi(x)) &= -(-(-x)^2) + [x, -x] \\ &= -x^2\end{aligned}$$

Using (3.1) and (3.2) we obtain:

$$\begin{aligned}d^x(\phi(s)) &= d^x(\alpha s) \\ &= (\alpha t - 1)x\alpha s + \alpha(1 - t) + x\alpha s + \alpha s x \\ &= \alpha t\beta x s + \alpha(1 + s x - t) \\ &= 1 - \alpha t(1 - \beta x s) \\ &= 1 - \alpha t\beta \\ &= \phi(d(s)).\end{aligned}$$

Finally,

$$\begin{aligned}d^x(\phi(t)) &= d^x(1 - \phi(d(s))) \\ &= d^x(1 - d^x(\phi(s))) \\ &= 0 = \phi(d(t)).\end{aligned}$$

This finishes the proof of the first claim. To prove the second, we note first that, since t and $\alpha t\beta$ are grouplike idempotents, the spaces $t\hat{A}t$ and $\alpha t\beta\hat{A}\alpha t\beta$ are (graded) bialgebras. To see that they are multiplicatively isomorphic, let $a, b \in \hat{A}$. Then

$$\begin{aligned}(\alpha t\beta)(\alpha t\beta) &= \alpha t\beta(\alpha t\beta) \\ &= (\alpha t\beta)(t\beta\alpha t\beta)\end{aligned}$$

as required. Next, since $d^x(\alpha t\beta) = 0$, the vector space $\alpha t\beta\hat{A}\alpha t\beta$ is closed with respect to d^x and thus is a dg algebra. Similarly, $t\hat{A}t$ is closed with respect to $d + tx\alpha t$. The following calculation shows that the actions of d^x and $d + tx\alpha t$ are compatible (and thus, $d + tx\alpha t$ squares to zero in $t\hat{A}t$). Let $a \in \hat{A}$. We compute:

$$\begin{aligned}d^x(\alpha t\beta) &= d(\alpha t\beta) + [x, \alpha t\beta] \\ &= (\alpha t - 1)x\alpha t\beta + (-1)^{|a|}\alpha t\beta x(1 - t\beta) + \alpha t d(a)t\beta + x\alpha t\beta - (-1)^{|a|}\alpha t\beta x \\ &= \alpha t(da + x\alpha t - (-1)^{|a|}at\beta x)t\beta \\ &= \alpha t(da + [a, tx\alpha t])t\beta\end{aligned}$$

as claimed. □

Corollary 3.6.

- (1) The element $\xi := tx\alpha t (= t\beta x t) \in \hat{A}$ is an MC element in \hat{A} .
- (2) It is t -primitive, i.e. $\Delta(\xi) = \xi \otimes t + t \otimes \xi$.

Proof. We saw that the twisted differential $d^\xi : a \mapsto d_A(a) + [\xi a]$ squares to zero in $t\hat{A}t$ and it follows that ξ is an MC element in the dg algebra $t\hat{A}t$. Since $t\hat{A}t$ is a retract of \hat{A} , the element ξ is also MC in \hat{A} . Furthermore,

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta(\xi) &= \Delta(tx\alpha t) \\ &= (t \otimes t)(x \otimes 1 + 1 \otimes x)(\alpha t \otimes \alpha t) \\ &= tx\alpha t \otimes t + tx\alpha t \otimes t \\ &= \xi \otimes t + t \otimes \xi.\end{aligned}$$

□

The ordinary HPL is a consequence of the abstract one:

Corollary 3.7.

- (1) Let (V, d_V, s, t) be an HD and $x \in \text{End}(V)$ is such that $[d, x] + x^2 = 0$. Additionally, we assume that the operators $1 + sx$ and $1 + xs$ act invertibly on V . Then $(V, d_V + x, \alpha s, \alpha t\beta)$ is also an HD. If (V, d_V, s, t) is a multiplicative HD and x was a derivation, then $(V, d_V + x, \alpha s, \alpha t\beta)$ is also a multiplicative HD.
- (2) The operator $\alpha t \in \text{End}(V)$ restricts to an isomorphism of dg $t\hat{A}t$ -modules, which is multiplicative if the HD (V, d_V, s, t) is multiplicative:

$$\alpha t : (tV, d_V + tx\alpha t) \rightarrow (\alpha t\beta V, d_V + x),$$

where $t\hat{A}t$ acts on $(\alpha t\beta V, d_V + x)$ via the dg algebra map $t\hat{A}t \rightarrow (\alpha t\beta)\hat{A}(\alpha t\beta)$ constructed in Theorem 3.5. The inverse isomorphism is given by $t\beta \in \text{End}(V)$:

$$t\beta : (\alpha t\beta V, d_V + x) \rightarrow (tV, d_V + tx\alpha t).$$

Proof. The vector space V supplied with the perturbed differential $d + x$ is a dg module over the twisted perturbation algebra (A, d^x) . Therefore the composite map

$$H \hookrightarrow (\hat{A}, d) \xrightarrow{\phi} (\hat{A}, d^x)$$

makes V into an H -module (an H -algebra in the multiplicative case) with elements $t, s \in H$ acting on V as operators $\alpha t\beta$ and $s\alpha$ respectively. This proves statement (1). For statement (2) note first that since $d(t) = 0$ in \hat{A} , the differential d_V restricts to $tV \hookrightarrow V$, the image of the projector t , making it a dg vector space. Similarly, $\alpha t\beta V$ is a dg vector space with respect to the perturbed differential $d_V + x$. In the multiplicative case both tV and $\alpha t\beta V$ are dg algebras. Statement (2) above now follows from the corresponding statement of Theorem 3.5. The claim about the inverse isomorphism also follows, taking into account the identity $t\alpha\beta t = t$. □

Remark 3.8. The HPL is particularly useful when (V, s, t) is a *harmonious* HD, i.e. when tV carries the homology of V . In that case the differential d_V vanishes in tV and there is an isomorphism of dg vector spaces

$$(tV, tx\alpha t) \cong (\alpha t\beta d_V, V + x).$$

3.3. Minimal models for A_∞ algebras. We will now outline a standard application of the HPL, cf. for example [9], [17].

Recall that an A_∞ algebra structure on a dg vector space (V, d_V) is a continuous derivation $m = m_2 + m_3 + \dots$ of the completed tensor algebra $\hat{T}\Sigma V^*$, the free local pseudo-compact algebra on the pseudo-compact vector space V^* ; here m_i is the component of m that raises the tensor degree by $i - 1$. The derivation m is determined by its restriction on ΣV^* that we will also denote by m . Thus, $m : \Sigma V^* \rightarrow \hat{T}\Sigma V^*$ and $m_n : \Sigma V^* \rightarrow (\Sigma V^*)^{\hat{\otimes} n}$. Note that this definition is equivalent by dualization to the, perhaps, more familiar one given in terms of multilinear maps $V^{\otimes n} \rightarrow V$.

Furthermore, an A_∞ map between two A_∞ algebras (V, d_V, m_V) and (U, d_U, m_U) is a continuous algebra map $f = f_1 + f_2 + \dots : \hat{T}\Sigma U^* \rightarrow \hat{T}\Sigma V^*$ such that $f \circ (d_U + m_U) = (d_V + m_V) \circ f$;

here f_n is the component of f raising the tensor degree by $n - 1$. The map f is called a *weak equivalence* if $f_1 : \Sigma U^* \rightarrow \Sigma V^*$ is a quasi-isomorphism; there is also an appropriate notion of a homotopy between two A_∞ maps. We refer to [6, 13] for details on A_∞ algebras.

If V is supplied with an HD then so is V^* and therefore $\hat{T}V^*$, cf. Example 2.7; there the definition was given for an ordinary (non-completed) tensor algebra, but the completed case is similar, cf. Remark 2.8. Additionally, the action of A on $\hat{T}V^*$ extends to an action of \hat{A} (for this the completeness of the tensor algebra is necessary).

If the underlying space of an A_∞ algebra has vanishing differential, the corresponding A_∞ algebra is called *minimal*. The well-known result of Kadeishvili [11] states that for any A_∞ algebra (V, d_V, m_V) there is an A_∞ structure on $H^*(V)$ that is weakly equivalent to (V, d_V, m_V) . More recently, many proofs of this important result appeared, particularly those giving explicit formulas for minimal models. Perhaps the most straightforward and compact way to obtain these formulas is through the HPL. The following result was essentially formulated in [9]. Its proof is just the unwrapping of the (pseudo-compact analogue of) Corollary 3.7.

Theorem 3.9. *Let (V, d, m) be an A_∞ algebra and suppose that V is supplied with operators s, t constituting an HD on V , we will denote by \tilde{t}, \tilde{s} the corresponding operators giving a multiplicative HD on $\hat{T}\Sigma V^*$ (cf. Example 2.7 for the construction in the discrete case). Then:*

- (1) *The dg space tV supports the structure of an A_∞ algebra given by*

$$m_{t(V)} := \tilde{t}m(1 + \tilde{s}m)^{-1}\tilde{t};$$

- (2) *There are A_∞ maps between (V, m) and $tV, m_{t(V)}$ represented by*

$$(1 + \tilde{s}m)^{-1}\tilde{t} : \hat{T}\Sigma(tV)^* \rightarrow \hat{T}\Sigma V^*;$$

$$\tilde{t}(1 + m\tilde{s})^{-1} : \hat{T}\Sigma V^* \rightarrow \hat{T}\Sigma(tV)^*,$$

such that

$$\tilde{t}(1 + m\tilde{s})^{-1} \circ (1 + \tilde{s}m)^{-1}\tilde{t} = \text{id}_{tV} \quad \text{and}$$

$$\tilde{t}(1 + \tilde{s}m)^{-1} \circ (1 + m\tilde{s})^{-1}\tilde{t} = \text{id} - \tilde{s}(1 + \tilde{s}m)^{-1}.$$

□

This is a compact version of the minimal model theorem for A_∞ algebras; writing the corresponding formulas in components leads to summations over certain decorated planar trees as explained in the papers of Markl and Huebschmann cited above.

3.4. Gauge equivalence and the decomposition theorem. Let V be a dg \hat{A} module, in other words a dg vector space with an HD and an MC operator $x \in \text{End}(V) : [d, x] = -x^2$, such that $1 + sx$ and $1 + xs$ act invertibly on V . We saw in Corollary 3.7 that dg spaces $(tV, d_V + taxt)$ and $(\alpha t\beta V, d_V + x)$ are isomorphic. Note that since $taxt$ is an MC element (either in $\text{End}(V)$ or \hat{A} , see Corollary 3.6), the operator $d_V + taxt$ squares to zero on the whole of V . It makes sense to ask, therefore, whether the operators $d_V + taxt$ and $d_V + x$ are conjugate or, equivalently, that the MC elements x and $taxt$ are gauge equivalent in $\text{End}(V)$. This turns out to be true (see Corollary 3.13 below), and in fact we will show that these elements are gauge equivalent in \hat{A} (Theorem 3.11 below). First we will introduce a certain invertible element in \hat{A} closely related to the idempotent $\alpha t\beta$.

Proposition 3.10. *Let $g := (1 + t - \alpha t)\beta$. Then g is invertible and*

$$g^{-1} = \phi(g) = \beta^{-1}(1 - t + \alpha t).$$

Moreover, the following identities hold

$$(\alpha t\beta)g(\alpha t\beta) = \alpha t\beta$$

$$tg = t\beta$$

$$g^{-1}t = \alpha t.$$

Proof. Using Proposition 3.4 we compute:

$$\begin{aligned}\phi(g) &= \phi(1 + t - \alpha t)\phi(\beta) \\ &= (1 + \alpha t\beta - t\beta)\beta^{-1} \\ &= \beta^{-1}(1 - t + \alpha t).\end{aligned}$$

Furthermore, taking into account the identity $t\alpha = t$ we compute

$$\begin{aligned}(1 - t + \alpha t)(1 + t - \alpha t) &= 1 + t - \alpha t - t - t - t\alpha t + \alpha t + \alpha t - \alpha t\alpha t \\ &= 1\end{aligned}$$

Then also $\phi(g)g = \phi(g\phi(g)) = \phi(1) = 1$. To prove the stated identities we compute :

$$\begin{aligned}\alpha t\beta g\alpha t\beta &= \alpha t\beta(1 + t - \alpha t)\beta\alpha t\beta \\ &= (\alpha t\beta + \alpha t - \alpha t(\alpha + \beta - 1)t)\beta\alpha t\beta \\ &= \alpha t\alpha t\beta\alpha t\beta \\ &= \alpha t\beta\alpha t\beta \\ &= \alpha t\beta.\end{aligned}$$

Next,

$$\begin{aligned}tg &= t(1 + t - \alpha t)\beta t \\ &= (2t - t\alpha t)\beta = t\beta.\end{aligned}$$

Finally,

$$\begin{aligned}g^{-1}t &= \beta^{-1}(1 - t + \alpha t)t \\ &= \beta^{-1}\alpha t = \alpha t.\end{aligned}$$

□

We will now prove the promised gauge equivalence.

Theorem 3.11. *Let $g \in \hat{A}$ be defined as above. Then the MC elements x and ξ are gauge equivalent via g , i.e. $gxg^{-1} - d(g)g^{-1} = \xi$.*

Proof. Let $k := 1 + t - \alpha t$; we have seen that $g = k\beta$. We compute, taking into account (3.2):

$$\begin{aligned}\beta \cdot x &= \beta x\beta^{-1} - d(\beta)\beta^{-1} \\ &= \beta x\beta^{-1} - \beta x(1 - t\beta)\beta^{-1} \\ &= \beta xt.\end{aligned}$$

Thus

$$\begin{aligned}g \cdot x &= k \cdot (\beta xt) \\ &= [k\beta xt - d(k)]k^{-1} \\ &= [(1 + t - \alpha t)\beta xt + (\alpha t - 1)x\alpha t](1 - t + \alpha t) \\ &= t\beta xt = \xi.\end{aligned}$$

□

Remark 3.12. Using the anti-automorphism ρ , we can construct another invertible element of \hat{A} effecting gauge equivalence of x and ξ . Indeed, since $\rho(x) = -x$ and $\rho(\xi) = -\xi$, it is easy to deduce from $g \cdot x = \xi$ that $\rho(g)^{-1} \cdot x = \xi$. As a consequence the MC element x is fixed under the gauge action of the ρ -invariant element $\rho(g)g$.

Taking $\rho(g)^{-1} = (1 - t + t\beta)(1 + sx) = 1 - t + sx + t\beta$ in place of g , one obtains slightly different versions of Corollary 3.13, Corollary 3.17, Theorem 3.14 and Proposition 3.18 below.

Corollary 3.13. *Let (V, d_V, s, t, x) be a dg \hat{A} -module. Then the following equality of operators on V holds:*

$$(1 + t - \alpha t)\beta(d_V + x)((1 + t - \alpha t)\beta)^{-1} = d_V + t\alpha x t.$$

Proof. The claimed equation is equivalent to

$$(1 + t - \alpha t)\beta x((1 + t - \alpha t)\beta)^{-1} - d_V(1 + t - \alpha t)(1 + t - \alpha t)^{-1} = d_V + t\alpha x t$$

which holds in $\text{End}(V)$ because it holds in \hat{A} . \square

We will now explain how this leads to an explicit form of the decomposition theorem for A_∞ algebras, [5, 12, 15, 16]. The latter result is a strengthened version of the minimal model theorem; for an A_∞ algebra (V, d_V, m) with a choice of an HD, it gives an A_∞ *isomorphism* (as opposed to merely a weak equivalence) between (V, d_V, m) and an A_∞ algebra that is a direct sum of one supported on tV and a linear contractible one supported on $(1 - t)V$ (a linear contractible A_∞ algebra has acyclic differential and vanishing higher products).

Let (V, d, m) be an A_∞ algebra with an HD as above. Recall that there are also operators \tilde{s} and \tilde{t} giving a multiplicative HD on $\hat{T}\Sigma V^*$. Consider the operator $m_{t(V)} = \tilde{t}m(1 + \tilde{s}m)^{-1}\tilde{t} \in \text{End}(\hat{T}\Sigma V^*)$. It is equivalent to the original m via the gauge transformation $g = (1 + \tilde{t} - (1 + \tilde{s}m)^{-1}\tilde{t})(1 + m\tilde{s})^{-1} \in \text{End}(\hat{T}\Sigma V^*)$. This is not yet the statement we are looking for. Firstly, $m_{t(V)}$ not a derivation of $\hat{T}\Sigma V^*$, but a \tilde{t} -derivation, i.e. for $a, b \in \hat{T}\Sigma V^*$ it holds that $m_{tV}(ab) = m_{tV}a\tilde{t}(b) + (-1)^{|a|}\tilde{t}(a)m_{tV}(b)$. Secondly, g is not a multiplicative automorphism of $\hat{T}\Sigma V^*$. Nevertheless it turns out, rather surprisingly, that a small modification to g does produce the desired multiplicative isomorphism as we will now explain.

For any (continuous, possibly non-multiplicative) endomorphism h of $\hat{T}\Sigma V^*$, denote by \bar{h} the *multiplicative* endomorphism of $\hat{T}\Sigma V^*$ such that $\bar{h}|_{V^*} = h|_{V^*}$; this clearly determines \bar{h} unambiguously. It is easy to see that $\bar{g}^{-1}(v) = v + \text{terms of tensor degree } > 1 \text{ for any } v \in V^*$. It follows that \bar{g}^{-1} is a multiplicative *automorphism* of $\hat{T}\Sigma V^*$. As such, it acts by gauge transformations on derivations of $\hat{T}\Sigma V^*$ having degree quadratic or higher, i.e. A_∞ structures on V .

Furthermore, for an endomorphism (not necessarily a derivation) f of $\hat{T}\Sigma V^*$ denote by \check{f} the *derivation* of $\hat{T}\Sigma V^*$ such that $\check{f}|_{V^*} = f|_{V^*}$. Note that the derivation $\check{m} := \check{m}_{tV}$ of $\hat{T}\Sigma V^*$ is an A_∞ structure on V that is a direct sum of a minimal A_∞ structure on V and a linear contractible one.

Then we can formulate the following result, the promised decomposition theorem for A_∞ algebras.

Theorem 3.14. *The multiplicative automorphism \bar{g}^{-1} determines a canonical (with respect to the HD on V) A_∞ isomorphism $(V, m) \rightarrow (V, \check{m})$. More precisely, the following identity holds:*

$$(3.5) \quad m = \bar{g}^{-1}\check{m}\bar{g}^{-1-1} - d\bar{g}^{-1}\bar{g}^{-1-1}.$$

Proof. The automorphism g determines a gauge equivalence between m_{tV} and m :

$$m_{tV} = gmg^{-1} - dg g^{-1}.$$

Evaluating this on an element $v \in V^*$ and multiplying through, we obtain:

$$(3.6) \quad g^{-1}m_{tV}(v) = mg^{-1}(v) + d(g^{-1})(v)$$

Since $m_{tV} = \tilde{t}m_{tV}$ and $g^{-1}\tilde{t} = \alpha\tilde{t}$, which is a multiplicative automorphism of $T\hat{\Sigma}V^*$, and since $m_{tV}(v) = \check{m}(v)$, we can rewrite (3.6) as

$$\bar{g}^{-1}\check{m}(v) = m\bar{g}^{-1}(v) + d(\bar{g}^{-1})(v).$$

or, equivalently, as

$$\check{m}(v) = \bar{g}^{-1-1}m\bar{g}^{-1}(v) + \bar{g}^{-1-1}d(\bar{g}^{-1})(v)$$

Since the last equality holds for any $v \in V^*$, it follows that

$$\check{m} = \overline{g^{-1}}^{-1} m \overline{g^{-1}} + \overline{g^{-1}}^{-1} d(\overline{g^{-1}})$$

which is clearly equivalent to (3.5). □

3.5. Decomposition theorem in categories of twisted objects. Let \mathcal{C} be a dg category, i.e. a category enriched in dg \mathbf{k} -vector spaces.

Definition 3.15. The dg category $\text{tw}(\mathcal{C})$ of twisted objects in \mathcal{C} is defined as follows. Its objects are pairs (M, x) , where $M \in \mathcal{C}$ and x is a MC element in the dga $\text{End}_{\mathcal{C}}(M)$, and the morphism spaces are given by $\text{Hom}_{\text{tw}(\mathcal{C})}((M, x), (M', x')) = \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(M, M')$ as graded spaces, with differential $d_{\text{tw}(\mathcal{C})}$ defined by $d_{\text{tw}(\mathcal{C})}(f) = d_{\mathcal{C}}(f) + x' \circ f - (-1)^{|f|} f \circ x$.

Note that the full subcategory of $\text{tw}(\mathcal{C})$ consisting of objects of the form $(M, 0)$ is equivalent to \mathcal{C} . Our definition differs to the standard one originally given in [3] in that the latter is obtained by first adding formally all direct sums to \mathcal{C} and then forming the tw-construction.

Example 3.16. Let B be a dg algebra.

- (1) Viewing B as a dg category with one object, we see that $\text{tw}(B)$ has MC elements in B as objects. The dg space of morphisms between two MC elements x and y is $B^{[x,y]}$, whose underlying vector space is B and the differential is $d^{[x,y]}$ is specified by the formula $d^{[x,y]}(b) = d_B(b) + yb - (-1)^{|b|} bx$ for $b \in B$. Note that $B^{[x,y]}$ is identified with the dg space of right B -module morphisms between $B^{[x]}$ and $B^{[y]}$.
- (2) Take \mathcal{C} to be the category of free B -modules. Then $\text{tw}(\mathcal{C})$ is what is normally called the category of twisted complexes of B -modules. Its objects are free B -modules with twisted differentials, and morphisms are the usual dg Hom-spaces of B -module morphisms.

Then the following general decomposition theorem holds.

Theorem 3.17. *Let (M, x) be an object of $\text{tw}(\mathcal{C})$. Suppose that M is equipped with a Hodge decomposition, i.e. elements $t, s \in \text{End}_{\mathcal{C}}(M)$ of degrees 0 and -1 , respectively, satisfying the relations in Definition 2.1, and assume that $1 + xs$ (equivalently $1 + sx$) is invertible. Suppose further that the image of t in \mathcal{C} splits: there exists a direct sum decomposition $M = H \oplus K$ with $\text{End}_{\mathcal{C}}(H) = t \text{End}_{\mathcal{C}}(M) t$ and $\text{End}_{\mathcal{C}}(K) = (1 - t) \text{End}_{\mathcal{C}}(M) (1 - t)$. Then the automorphism $(1 + t - (1 - sx)^{-1}t)(1 - xs)^{-1}$ of M induces an isomorphism $(M, x) \cong (H, tx(1 + sx)^{-1}t) \oplus (K, 0)$ in $\text{tw}(\mathcal{C})$, and therefore an isomorphism $(M, x) \cong (H, tx(1 + sx)^{-1}t)$ in $H^0(\text{tw}(\mathcal{C}))$.*

Proof. Because the element $1 + xs$ is invertible as an endomorphism of M , the action of the dg algebra A on M extends to that of \hat{A} , i.e. there is a dg algebra map $\hat{A} \rightarrow \text{End}_{\mathcal{C}}(M)$. Since $\xi = tx\alpha t \in \hat{A}$ is an MC element, its image $tx(1 + sx)^{-1}t$ is an MC element in $\text{End}_{\mathcal{C}}(M)$. Thus, (M, x) and $(M, tx(1 + sx)^{-1}t)$ are objects in $\text{tw}(\mathcal{C})$.

Furthermore, by Theorem 3.11 it holds that $\xi = gxg^{-1} - dg \cdot g^{-1}$ where $g = (1 + t - \alpha t)\beta$; this implies that $dg + \xi \cdot g - gx = 0$. It follows that the element g , viewed as an endomorphism of M , determines a morphism $(M, tx(1 + sx)^{-1}t) \rightarrow (M, x)$ in $\text{tw}(\mathcal{C})$, which is an isomorphism since g is invertible. Finally, by assumption, there is an isomorphism $(M, tx(1 + sx)^{-1}t) \cong (H, tx(1 + sx)^{-1}t) \oplus (K, 0)$ and we are done. □

We finish by applying our results to constructing an explicit minimal model for A_{∞} modules. Let (V, m) be an A_{∞} algebra and (M, d^M) be a dg vector space. The structure of an A_{∞} module over V on M is a $\hat{T}\Sigma V^*$ -linear differential m^M on $\hat{T}\Sigma V^* \otimes M^*$ having the form $m^M = m_2^M + m_3^M + \dots$ where $m_i^M : M^* \rightarrow \hat{T}^{i-1}\Sigma V^* \otimes M^*$. We will refer to a pair (M, m^M) as an A_{∞} module over (V, m) . A map between A_{∞} modules (M, m^M) and (N, m^N) is a morphism of the corresponding $\hat{T}\Sigma V^*$ modules. Such a map will necessarily have the form $f = f_1 + f_2 + \dots$ where $f_i : N^* \rightarrow \hat{T}^{i-1}\Sigma V^* \otimes M^*$; it is a weak equivalence if $f_1 : N^* \rightarrow M^*$ is a quasi-isomorphism. We refer to [13, 14] for a more detailed discussion of A_{∞} modules.

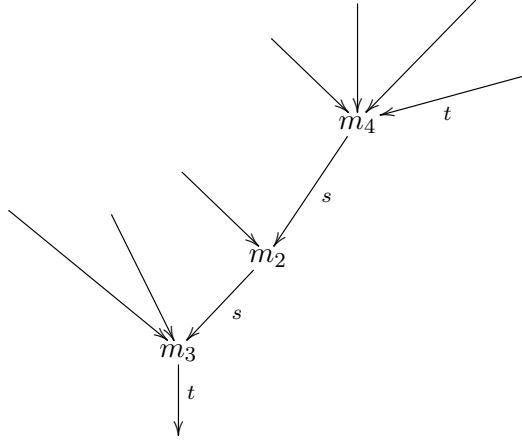


FIGURE 1. Definition of m_Γ .

An A_∞ module (M, m^M) is *minimal* if the differential d^M vanishes. Similarly to the case of A_∞ algebras, a weak equivalence between minimal A_∞ modules is necessarily an isomorphism. On the opposite end of the spectrum there is a *linear contractible* A_∞ module: one having the form $(M, 0)$ and with a contractible differential d_M .

Then the following decomposition result for A_∞ modules holds as a direct consequence of Theorem 3.17.

Proposition 3.18. *Let (M, m) be an A_∞ module over an A_∞ algebra V . Suppose that the dg vector space (M, d^M) is supplied with operators s, t turning it into an HD. Then the automorphism $(1 + t - (1 - sm)^{-1}t)(1 - ms)^{-1}$ of the dg space (M, d_M) determines an isomorphism of (M, m) to the direct sum of a minimal A_∞ module $(tM, tm(1 + sm)^{-1}t)$ and a linear contractible A_∞ module $((1 - t)M, d_M)$.*

□

The (dual) structure maps $(m_i^{tM})^*: T^{i-1}\Sigma^{-1}V \otimes tM \rightarrow tM$ for the minimal model tM can be described explicitly as follows. Let Γ be a planar rooted tree with $i + 1$ extremities with the property that every branching has valence at least three and is below the rightmost leaf; such trees will be called *admissible*. Label the root and the rightmost leaf by t , all other leaves by id and all internal edges by s . The following picture illustrates one such labelled tree. Define the map $m_\Gamma: T^{i-1}\Sigma^{-1}V \otimes tM \rightarrow tM$ by composing labels in an obvious manner, working from the leaves down to the root. For the tree pictured in Figure 1,

$$m_\Gamma = tm_3(\text{id}^{\otimes 2} \otimes sm_2)(\text{id}^{\otimes 3} \otimes sm_4)(\text{id}^{\otimes 6} \otimes t).$$

We then put $(m_i^{tM})^* = \sum m_\Gamma$, with the sum taken over all admissible trees. Note that no signs appear in this formula, since the action of the perturbation algebra \hat{A} on $\hat{T}\Sigma V^* \otimes M^*$ dualises to an action of its opposite dg algebra \hat{A}^{op} on $T\Sigma^{-1}V \otimes M$; the latter is then converted to an action of \hat{A} via ρ . Explicit formulae for the structure maps of the A_∞ -isomorphism $g: (M, m) \cong (tM, tm(1 + sm)^{-1}t) \oplus ((1 - t)M, d_M)$ and its inverse can be obtained in a similar manner; we will refrain from giving details.

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